



# Final Results from the MAJORANA DEMONSTRATOR



**INDIANA UNIVERSITY**

Walter C. Pettus

On behalf of the MAJORANA collaboration

CIPANP 2022  
3 September 2022



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

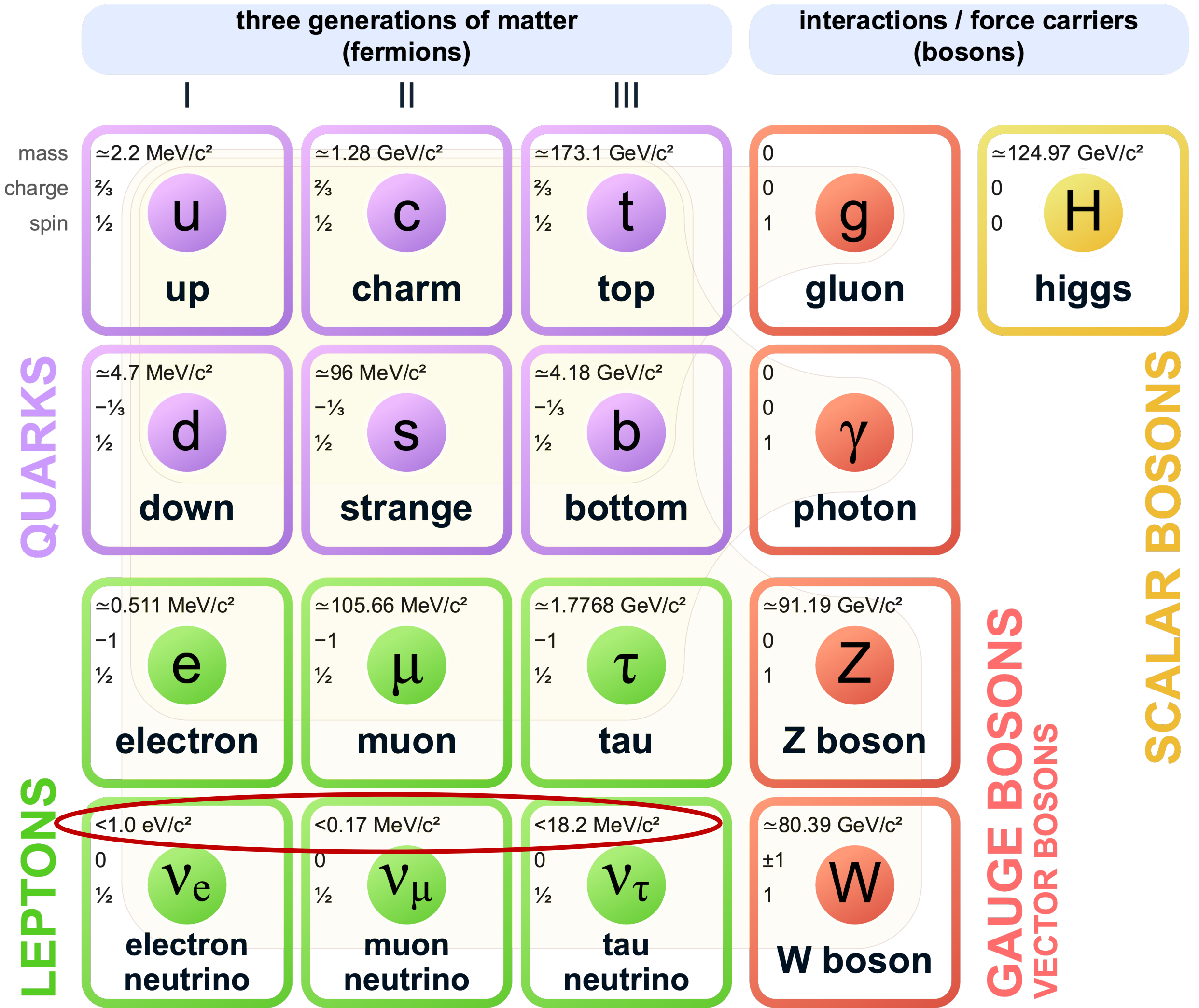
Office of  
Science



**Sanford**  
Underground  
Research  
Facility



# Neutrino Mass ~~Problem~~ Opportunity



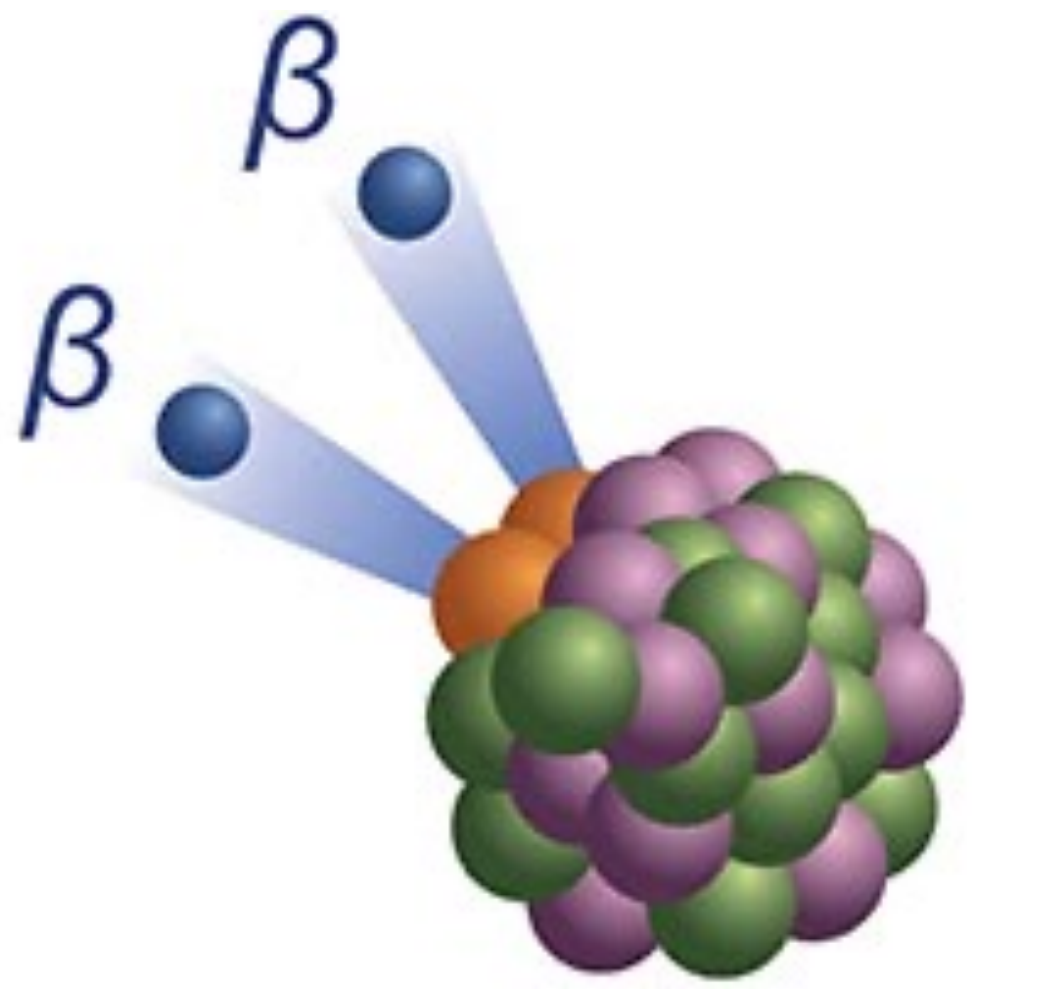
Neutrino mass is missing number for completing Standard Model checklist of properties

Neutrino mass at a widely disparate scale from other fermions

At a conference on “Intersections,” neutrino mass appears in nuclear, particle, astrophysics, cosmology...

Connected to big open questions across these fields

# Neutrinoless Double Beta Decay ( $0\nu\beta\beta$ )



Searching for theoretical process:

$$(A, Z) \rightarrow (A, Z + 2) + 2e^-$$

Contrast with observed  $2\nu\beta\beta$  :  $(A, Z) \rightarrow (A, Z + 2) + 2e^- + 2\bar{\nu}_e$

$0\nu\beta\beta$  necessarily requires new physics

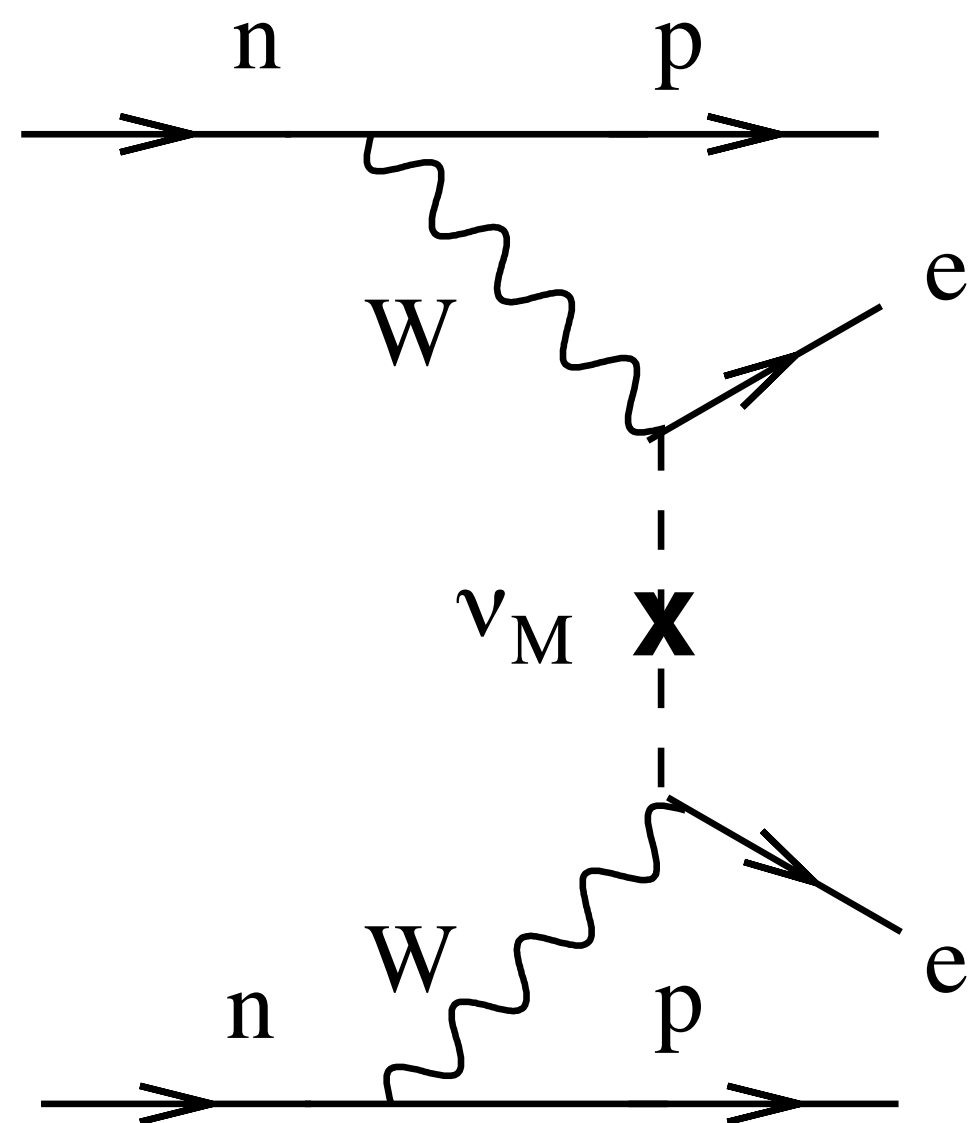
Lepton number is not conserved

Fundamental Majorana particles exist

$0\nu\beta\beta$  related to other exciting physics

Majorana neutrinos help explain small observed neutrino masses via see-saw mechanism

Leptogenesis as ingredient for explaining matter-antimatter asymmetry



# $0\nu\beta\beta$ Detection



Signature of  $0\nu\beta\beta$  is monoenergetic peak at Q-value

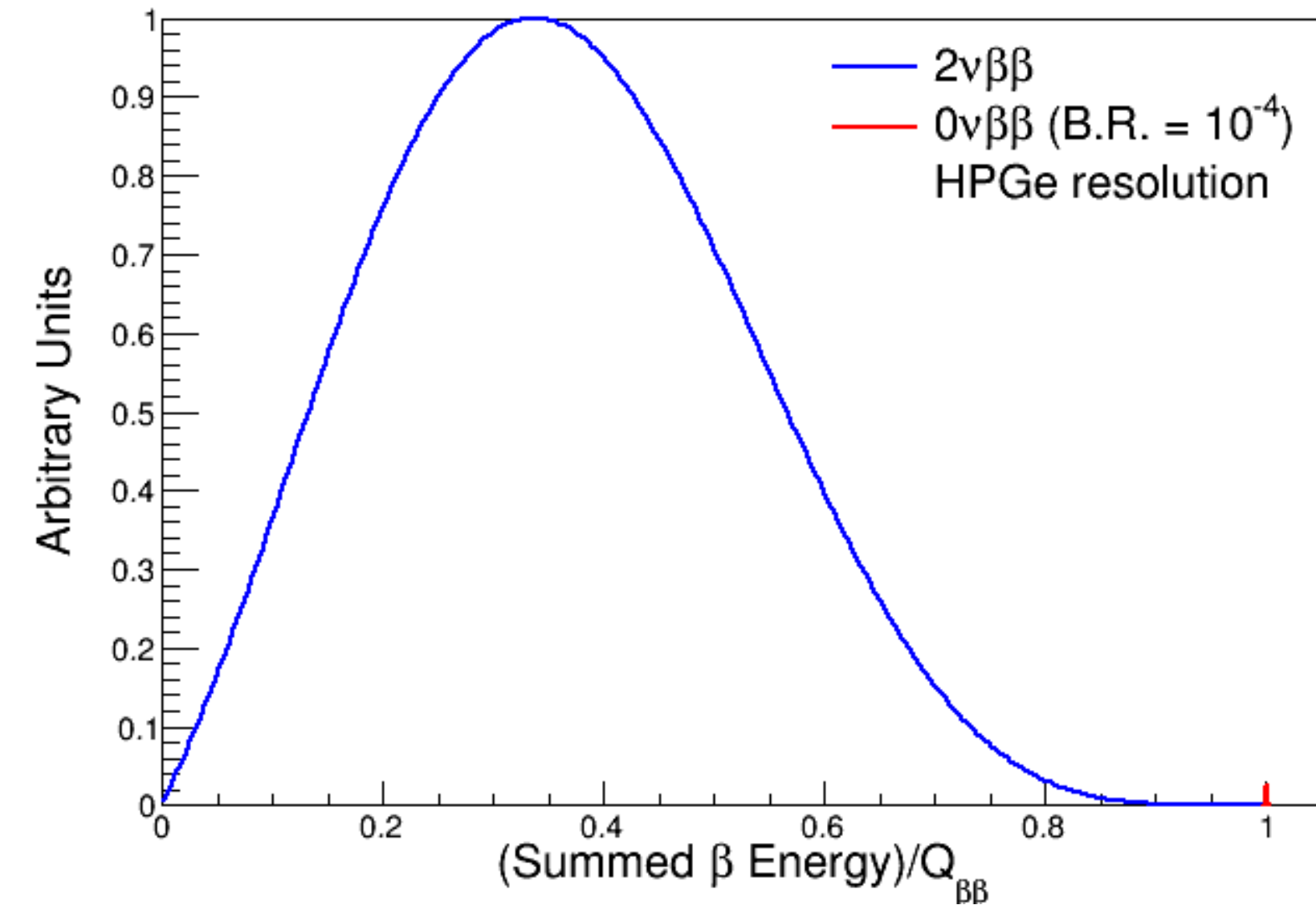
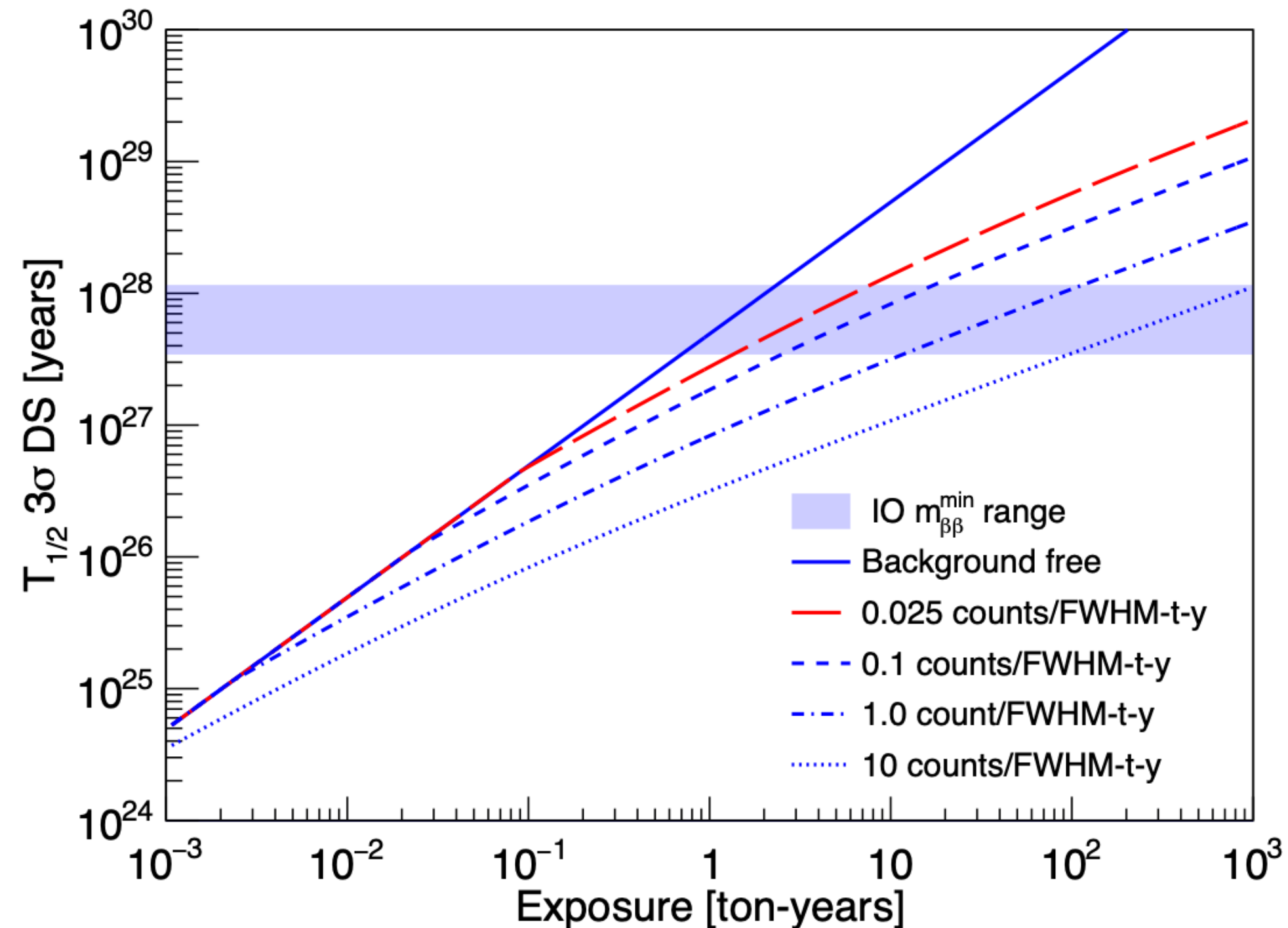
- Half-life greater than  $1.8 \times 10^{26}$  yr ( $^{76}\text{Ge}$ ) [1]

Intrinsic background from continuous  $2\nu\beta\beta$  spectrum at lower energy

- Half-life of  $1.9 \times 10^{21}$  yr ( $^{76}\text{Ge}$ ) [2]

[1] M. Agostini et al. (GERDA Collaboration), PRL **125**, 252502 (2020)

[2] M. Agostini et al. (GERDA Collaboration), EPJC **75**, 416 (2015)



## Experimental Challenges

*More Exposure*

*Less Background*

Mass scaling

Material Cleanliness

Detection Efficiency

Background Rejection

Energy Resolution

*Also ... unambiguous signal detection*

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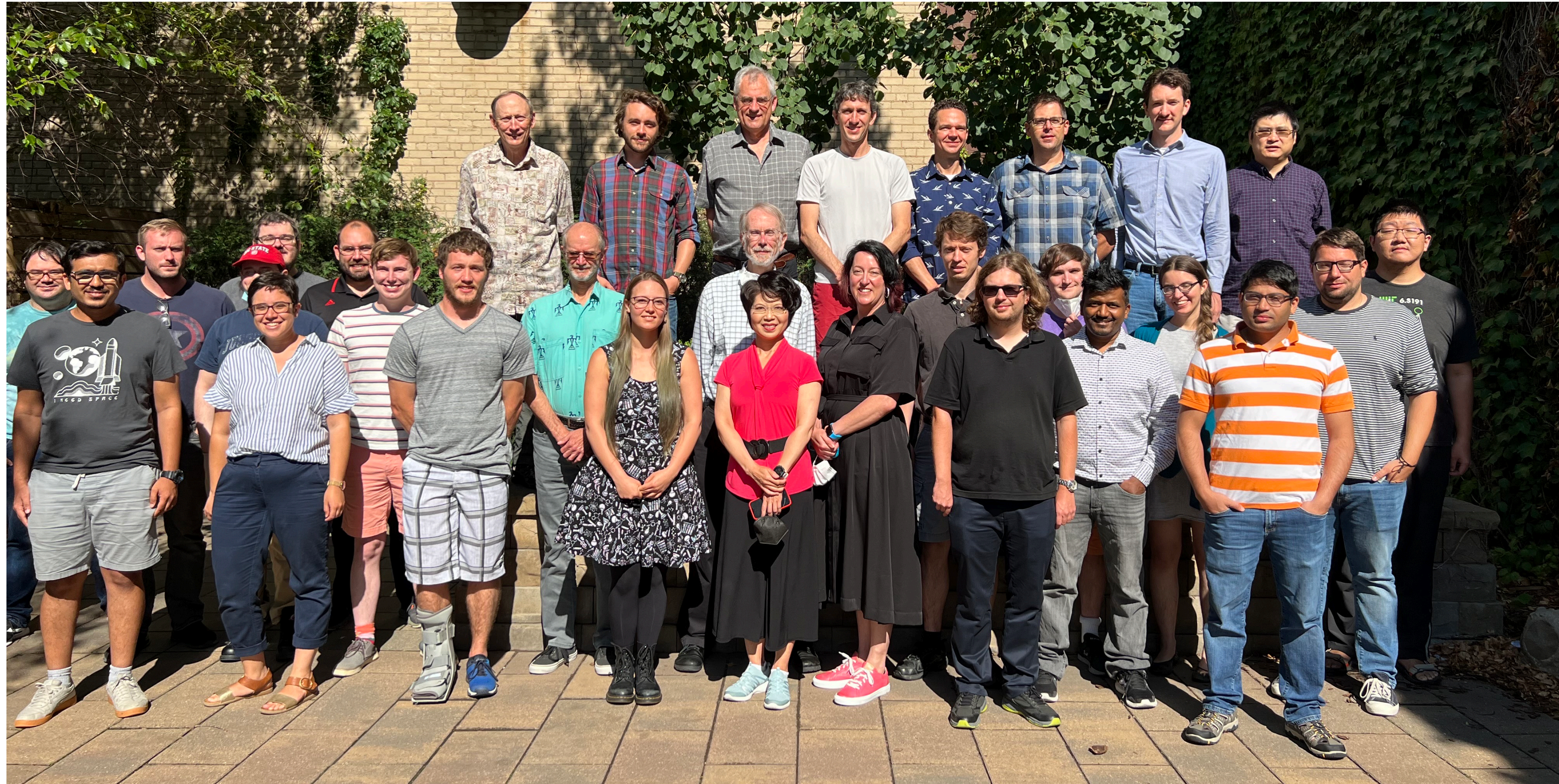
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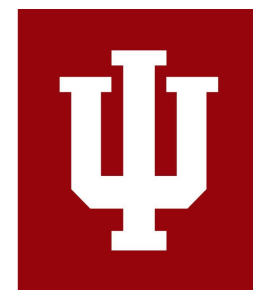
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CIPANP 2022

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Technische Universität München



Tennessee TECH

TUNL



THE UNIVERSITY of NORTH CAROLINA at CHAPEL HILL



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA

THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE KNOXVILLE



Williams

# MAJORANA DEMONSTRATOR



Searching for neutrinoless double-beta decay of  $^{76}\text{Ge}$  in HPGe detectors, probing additional physics beyond the standard model, and informing the design of the next-generation LEGEND experiment

**Source & Detector:** Array of p-type, point contact detectors

30 kg of 88% enriched  $^{76}\text{Ge}$  crystals - 14 kg of natural Ge crystals

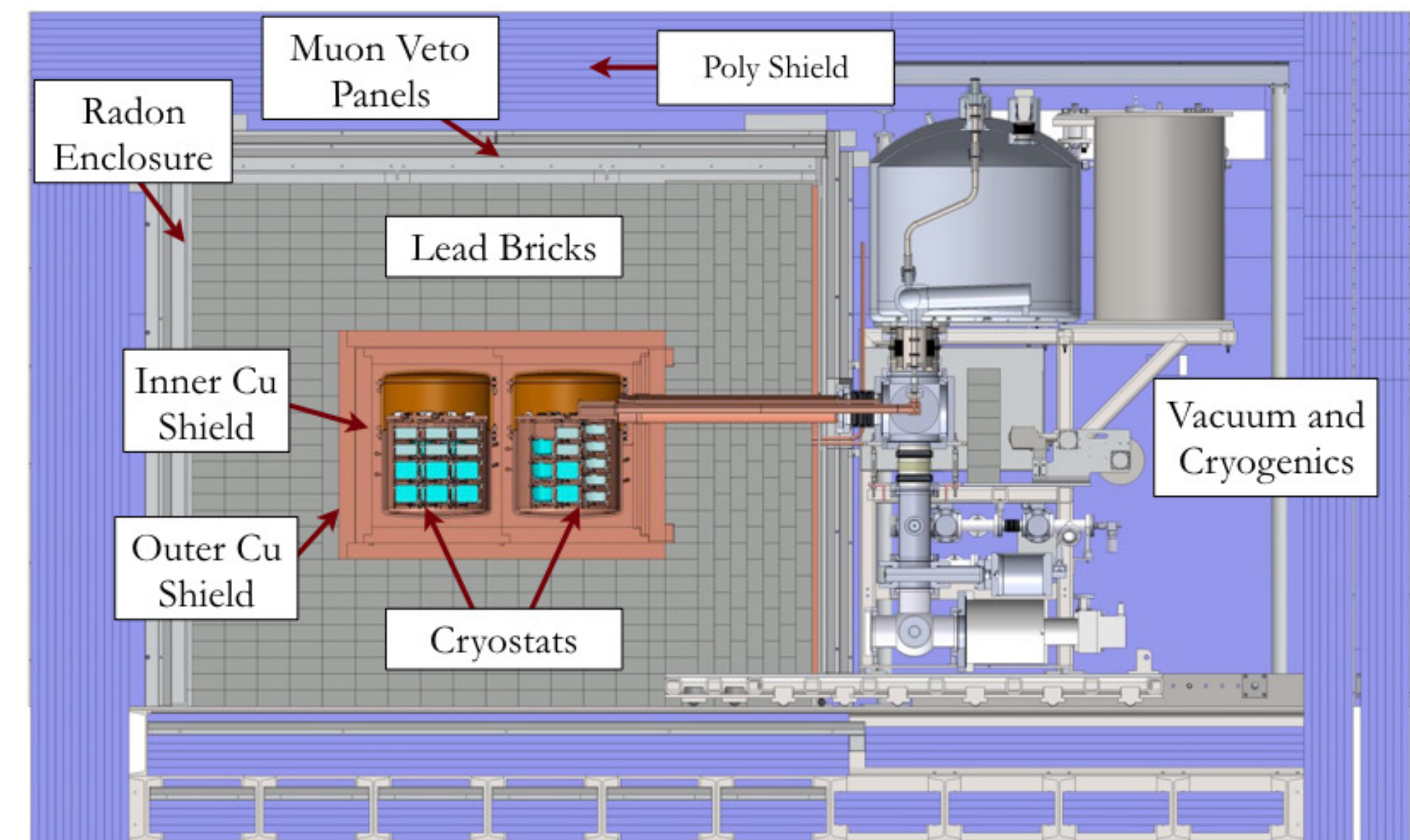
Included 6.7 kg of  $^{76}\text{Ge}$  inverted coaxial, point contact detectors in final run

**Excellent Energy Resolution:** 2.5 keV FWHM @ 2039 keV

and **Analysis Threshold:** 1 keV

**Low Background:** 2 modules within a compact graded shield and active muon veto using ultra-clean materials

**Reached an exposure of ~65 kg-yr** before removal of the enriched detectors for the LEGEND-200 experiment at LNGS

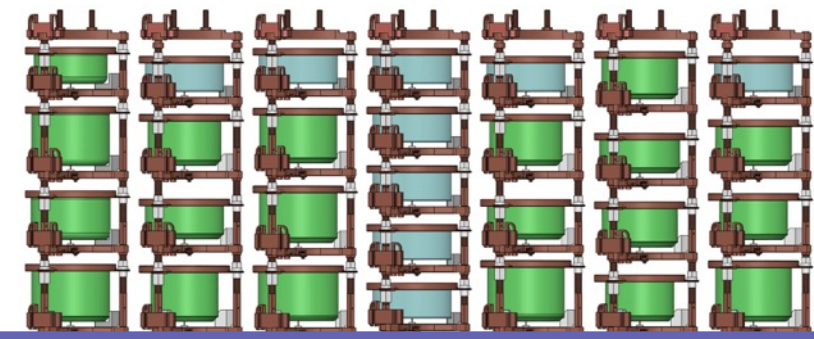


Continuing to operate at the Sanford Underground Research Facility with natural detectors for background studies and other physics

# MAJORANA Run Configuration & Timeline



## Module 1



Deploy Module 1 in shield

**Mar. 2021:**  
Stopped  $^{enr}Ge$  Operation  
Removed all  $^{enr}Ge$  for  
LEGEND-200

2015

2016

2017

2018

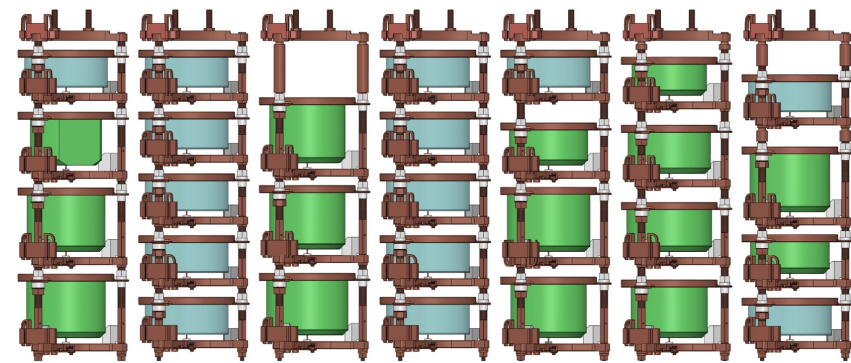
2019

2020

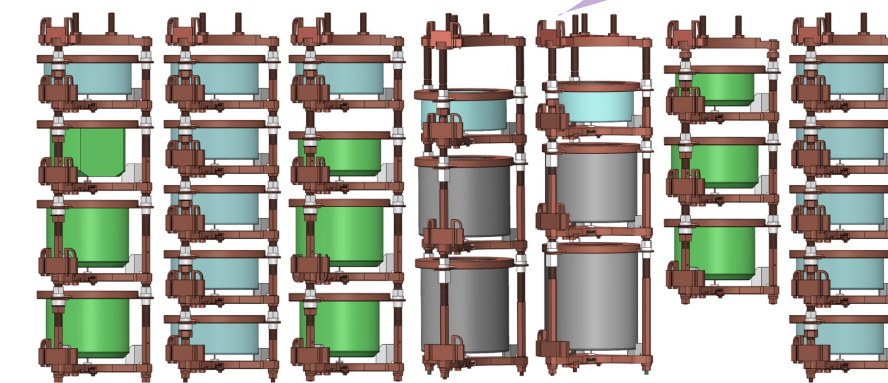
2021

2022

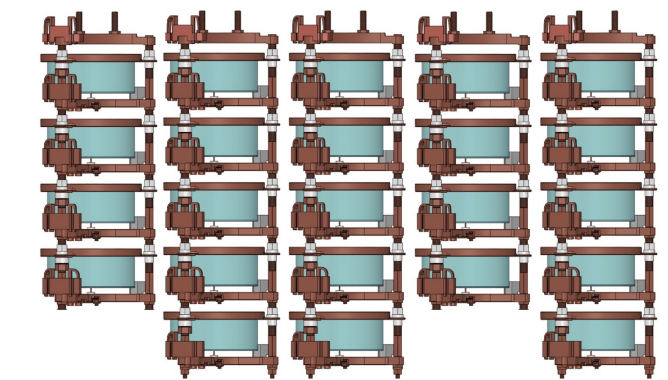
## Module 2



Deploy Module 2 in shield

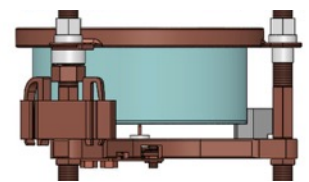


Cable/Connector Upgrade of Module 2  
Removed 5 PPC detectors for LEGEND Testing  
Installed 4 LEGEND ICPC Detectors

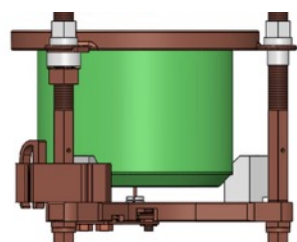


Continuing operation of  
Module 2 only with  
natural Ge detectors

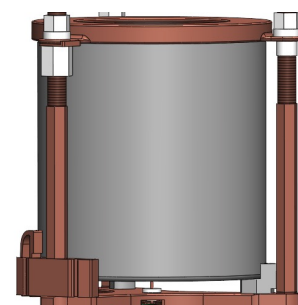
Mirion/Canberra  
BEGe  
natGe



Ortec  
PPC  
 $^{enr}Ge$

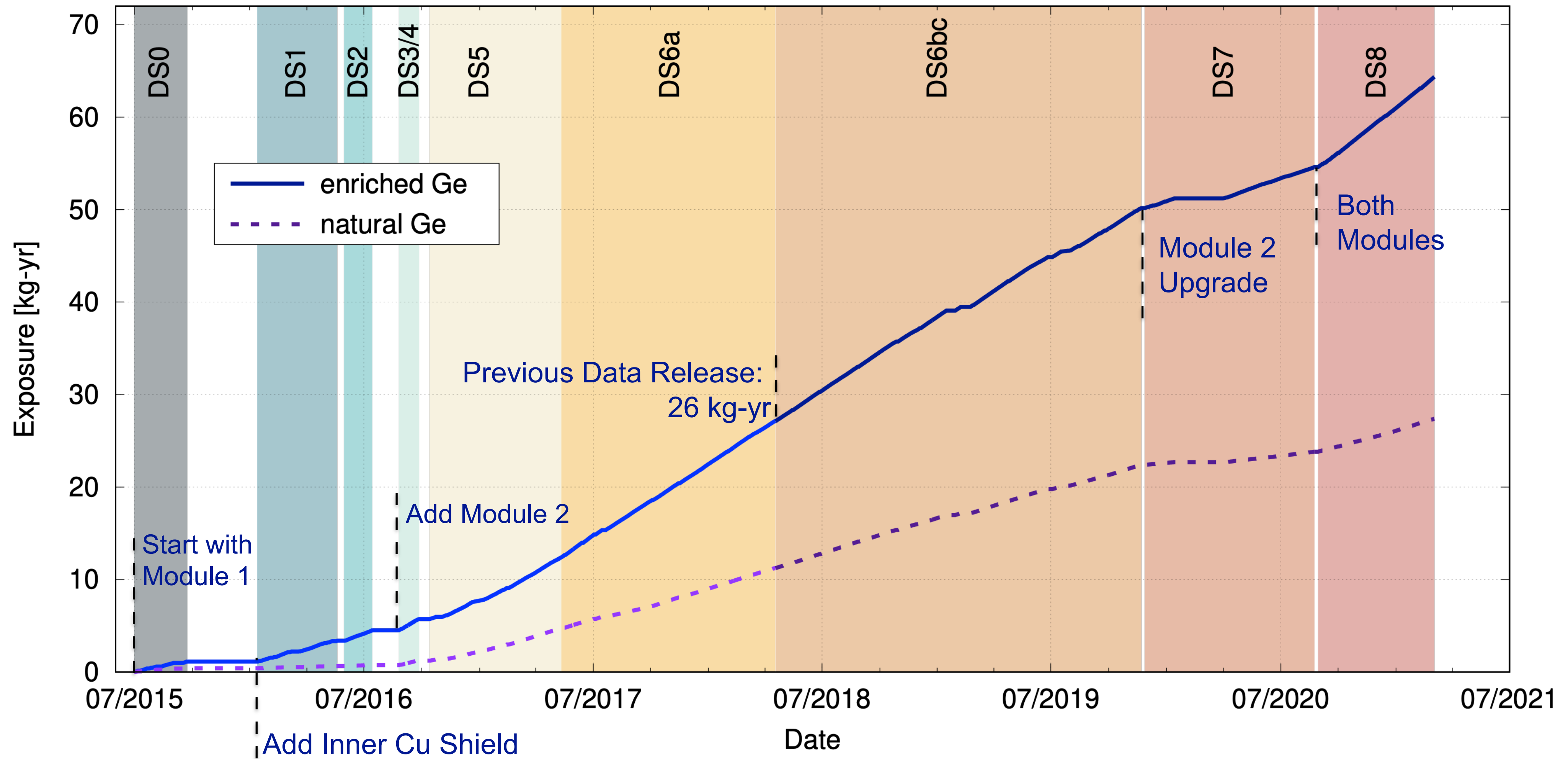


Ortec ICPC  
 $^{enr}Ge$





# MAJORANA Active Exposure



# Material Selection and Cleanliness



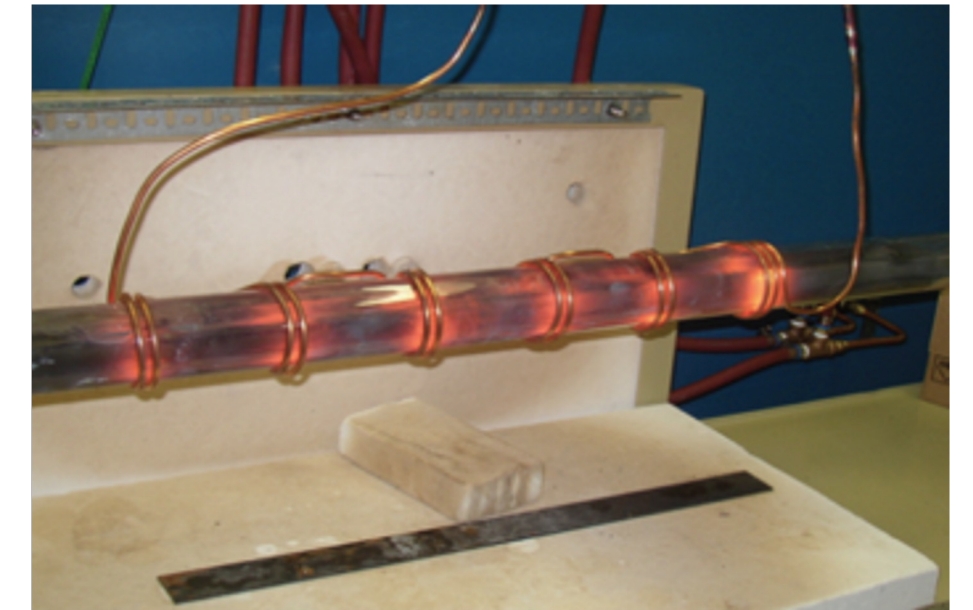
Germanium detector material is enriched, zone-refined, and pulled into crystals

Enrichment to 88% in  $^{76}\text{Ge}$   $\beta\beta$  isotope of interest

Removal of impurities to HPGe level

Limit above-ground exposure to prevent cosmic activation

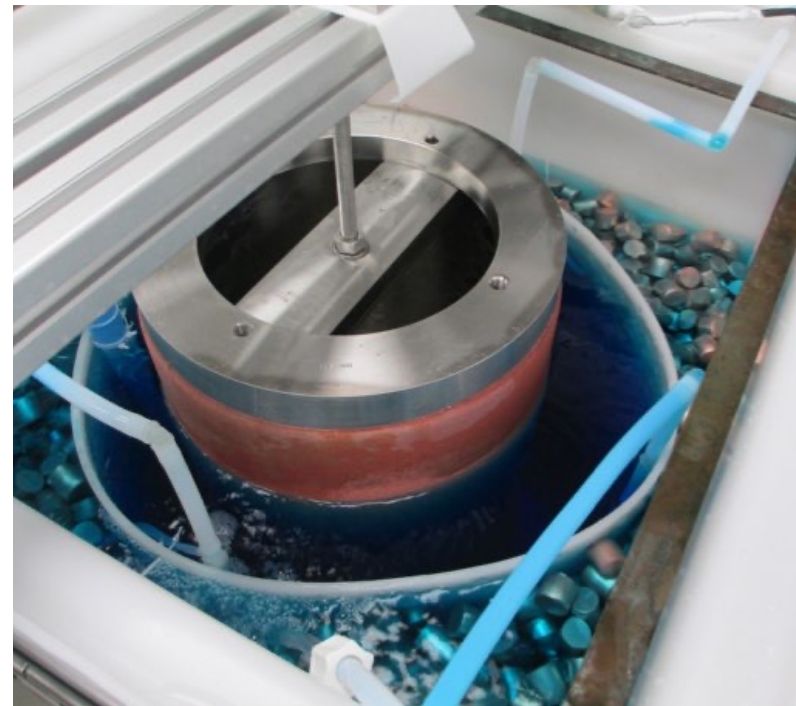
NIM A 877 314 (2018)



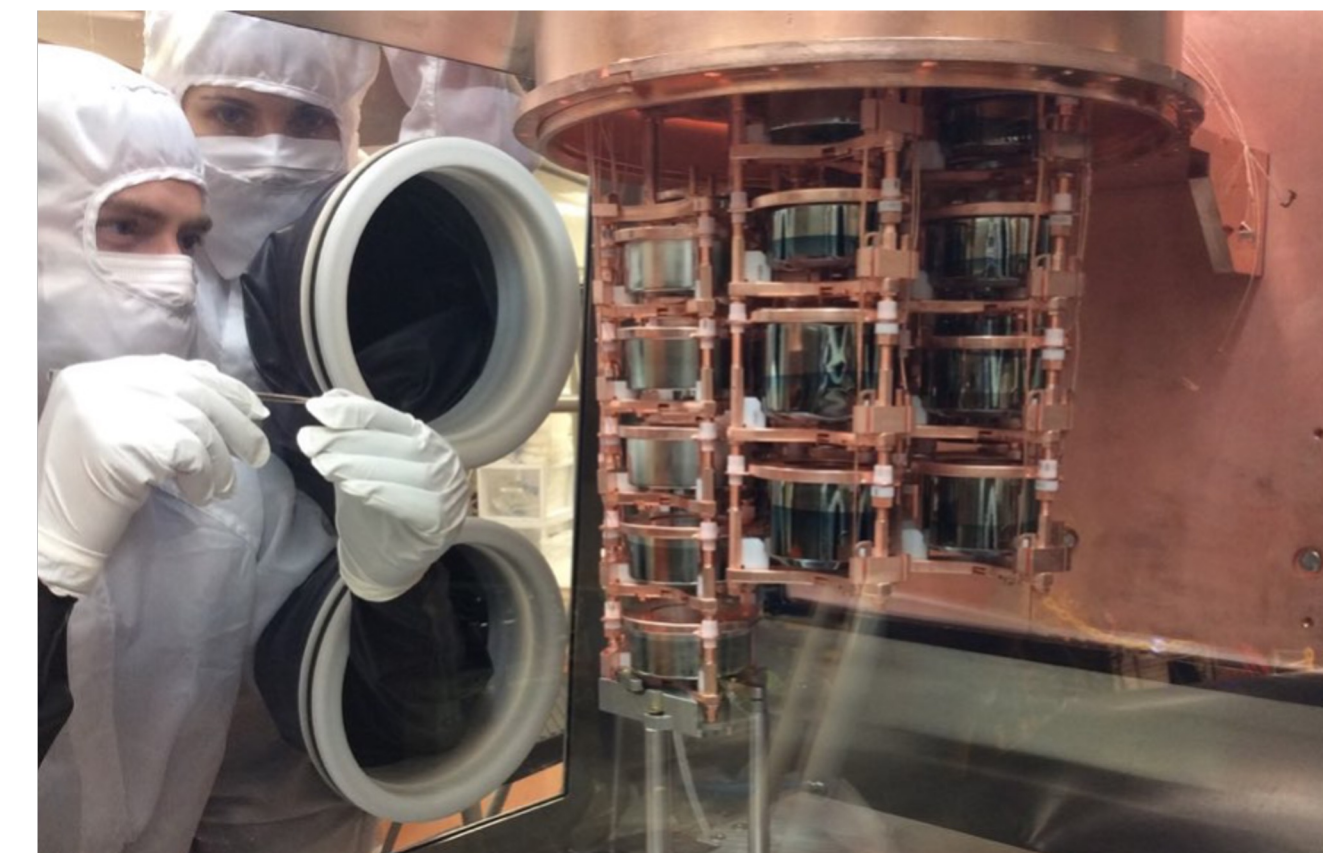
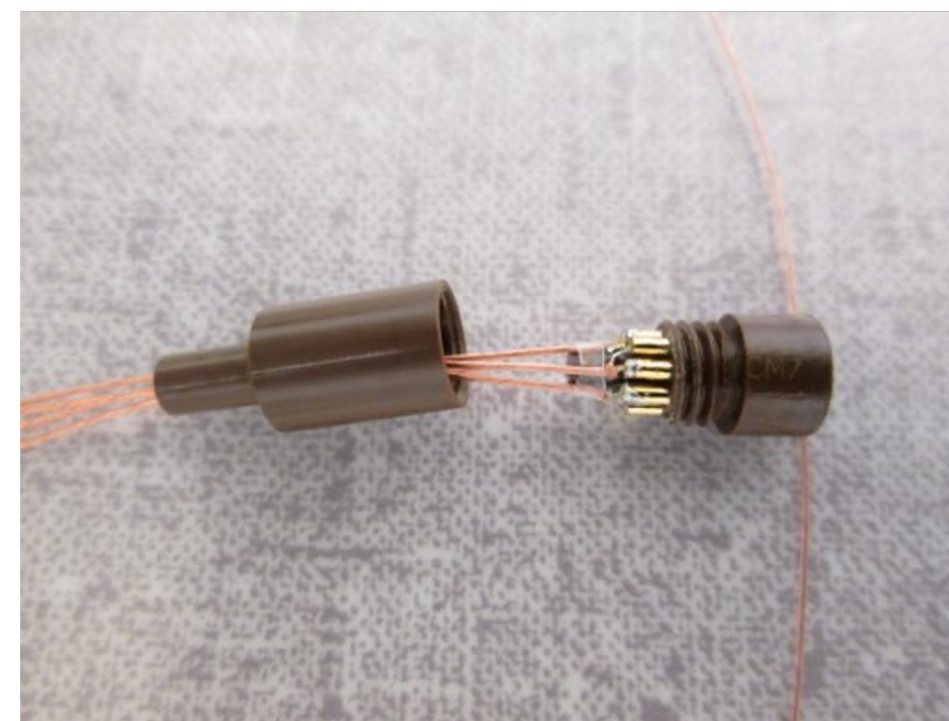
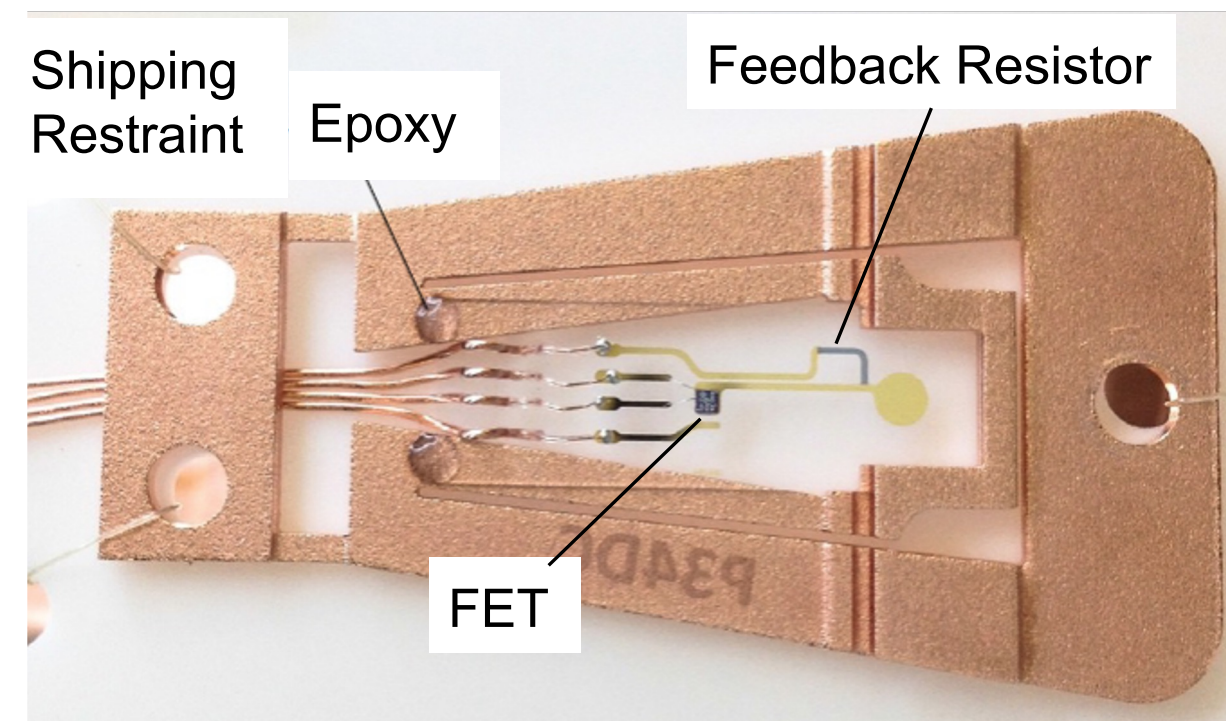
Structural components and shielding produced from ultra-pure underground electroformed copper

No above-ground exposure to prevent cosmic activation

NIM A 828 22 (2016)



Nearby components low mass and selected for material cleanliness



# Best-in-Class Energy Performance



Energy resolution (2.5 keV FWHM) and linearity ( $<0.2$  keV up to 3 MeV) a record for neutrinoless double-beta decay searches

Less than 0.1 keV energy scale offset at low energy 1 keV~10keV

First-stage JFET amplification located  $\sim 1$  cm from detector

JINST 17 (2022) 05, T05003

Calibrated on weekly  $^{228}\text{Th}$  calibration data, retuned on full data set

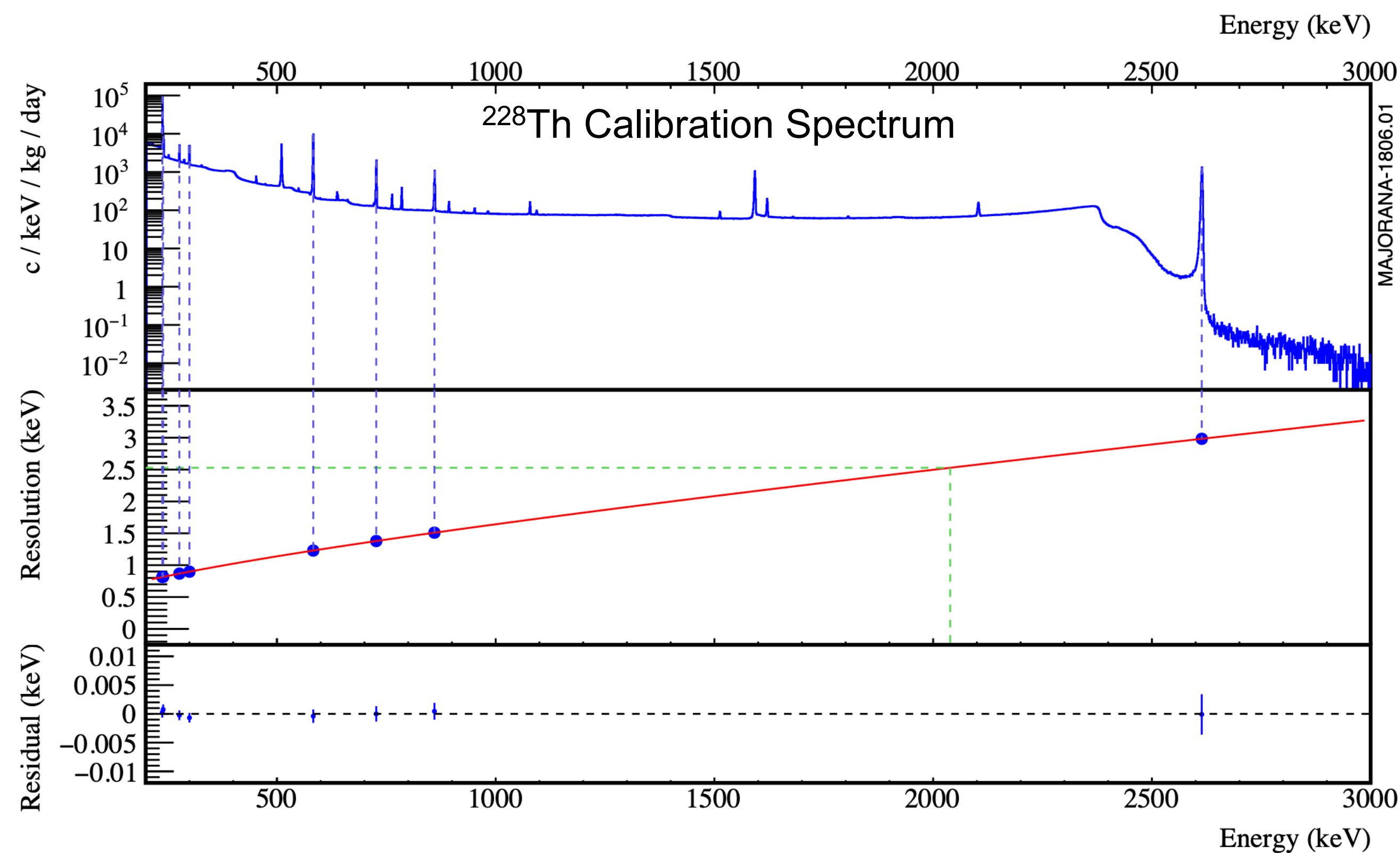
NIM A 872,16 (2017)

Energy estimated via optimized trapezoidal filter of ADC-nonlinearity-corrected\* traces with charge-trapping correction# and fixed-time pickoff from "t<sub>0</sub>"



\* IEEE Trans. Nucl. Sci.  
68 359 (2021)

# arXiv:2208.03424



# Analysis Techniques for Reducing Backgrounds



$0\nu\beta\beta$  is dominantly single-site and located in the bulk of the detector.

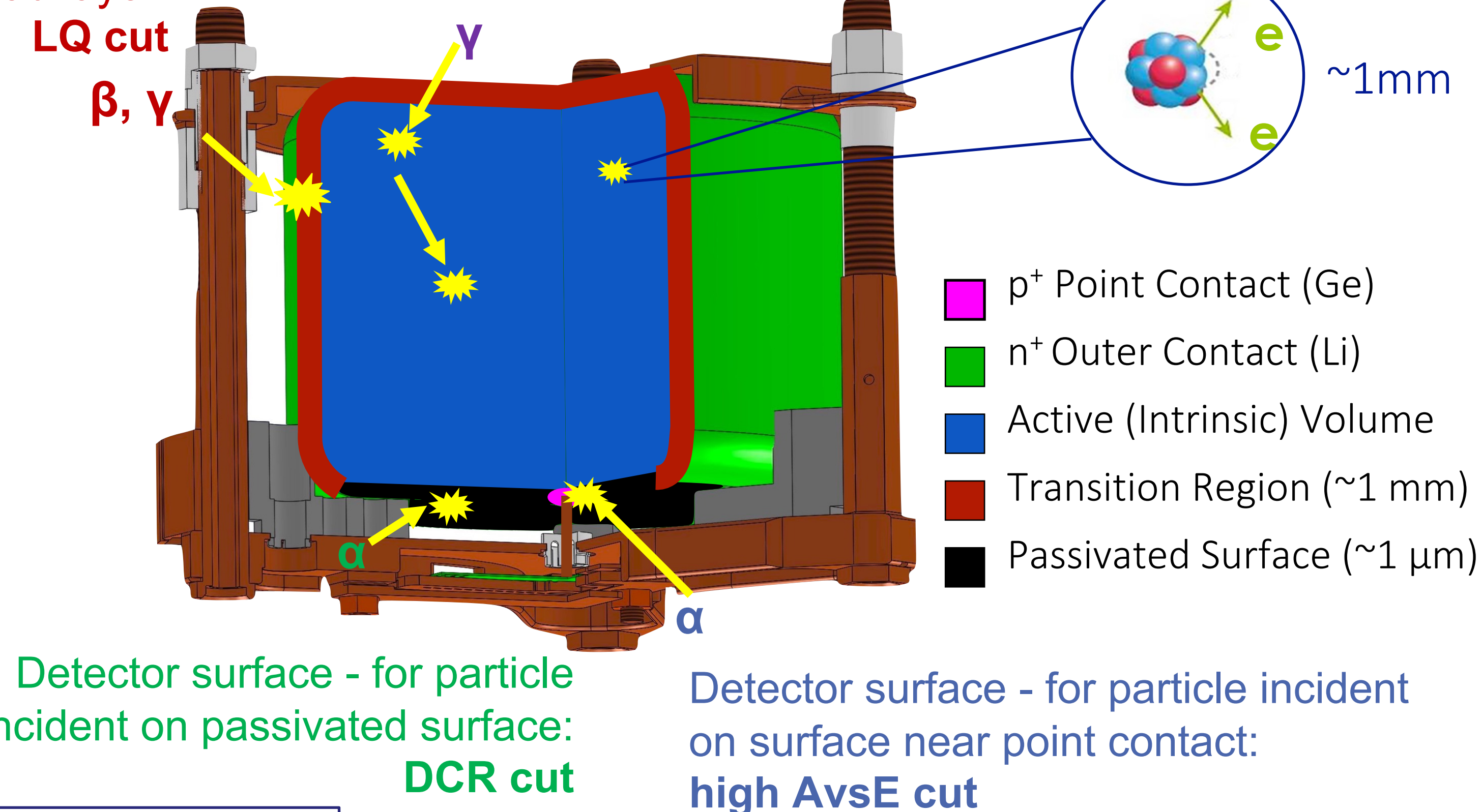
Many backgrounds are multi-site or located near detector surfaces.

Pulse-shape discrimination is used to distinguish between these event topologies.

Detector surface: for partial charge deposition in transition dead layer: **LQ cut**

Multi-site events in active volume: **AvsE cut**

PRC **99** 065501 (2019)



Detector surface - for particle incident on passivated surface: **DCR cut**

Detector surface - for particle incident on surface near point contact: **high AvsE cut**

EPJC 82 (2022) 226

# Background Rejection: Multi-Site Events



Signal strongly localized in time to charge drift near point contact

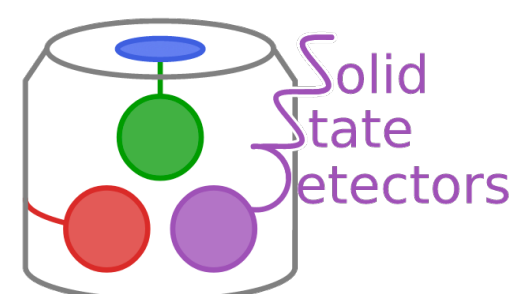
Provides excellent discrimination of single-site (electron-like) from multi-site (gamma-like) events

Cut maintains 90% signal efficiency

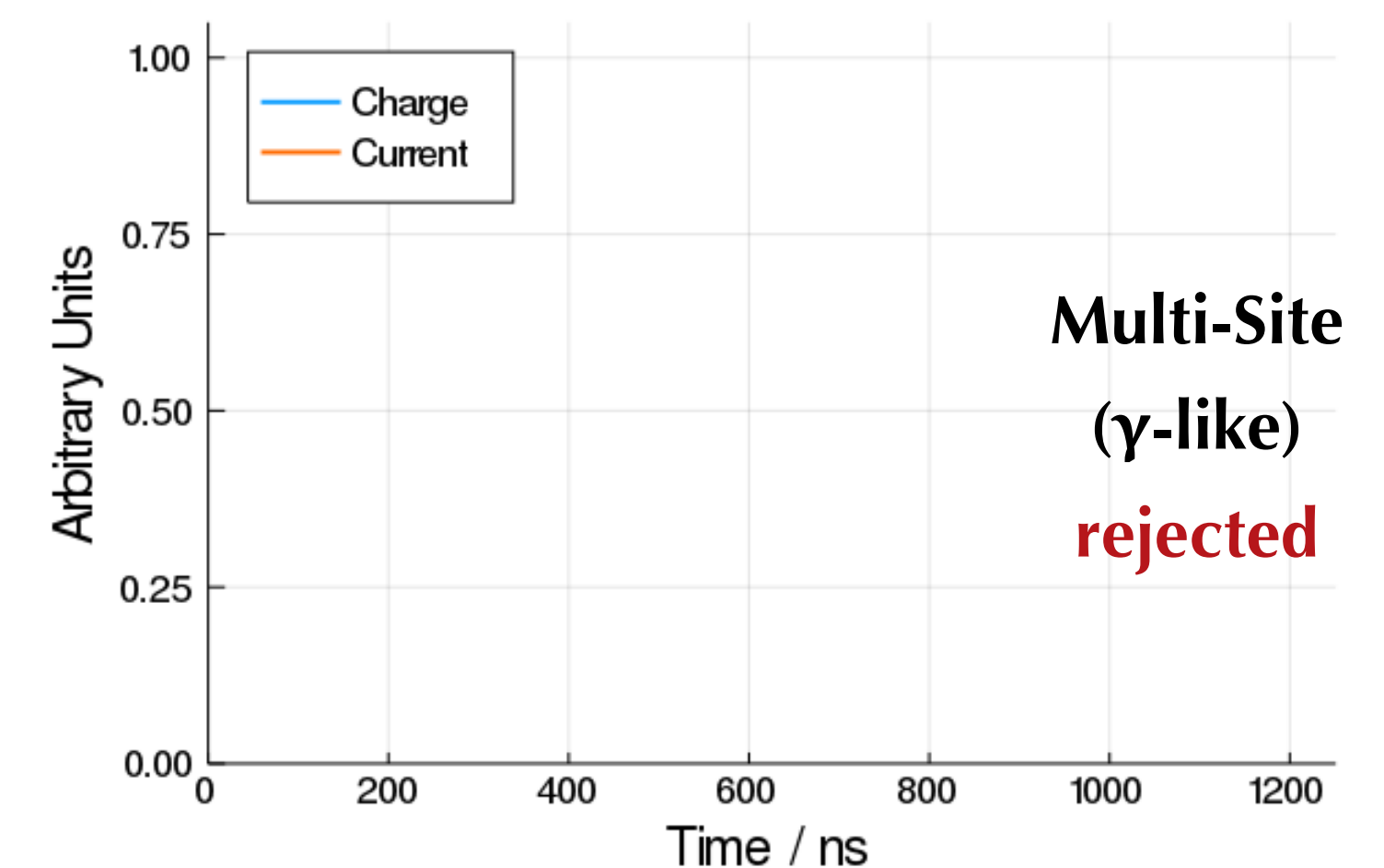
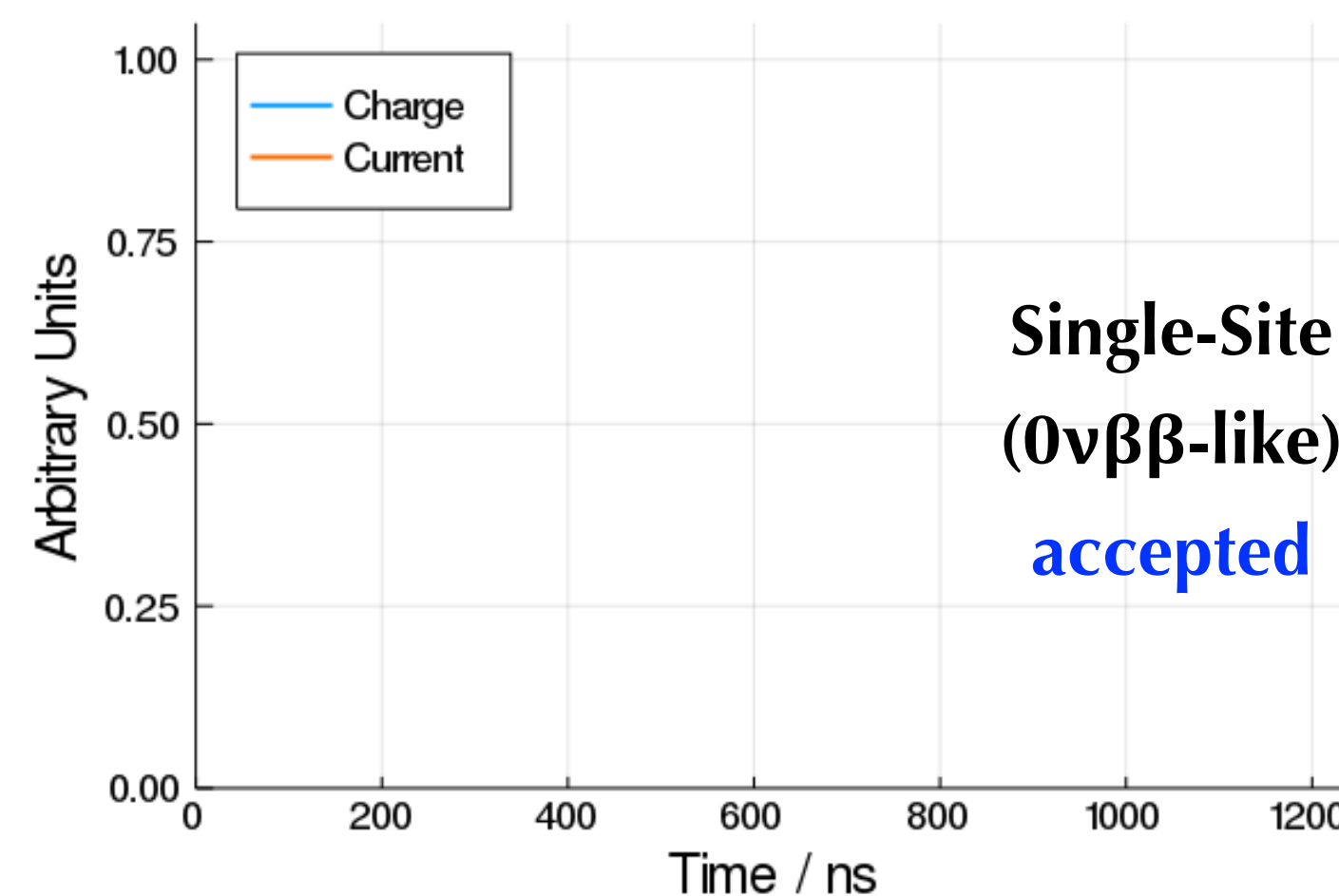
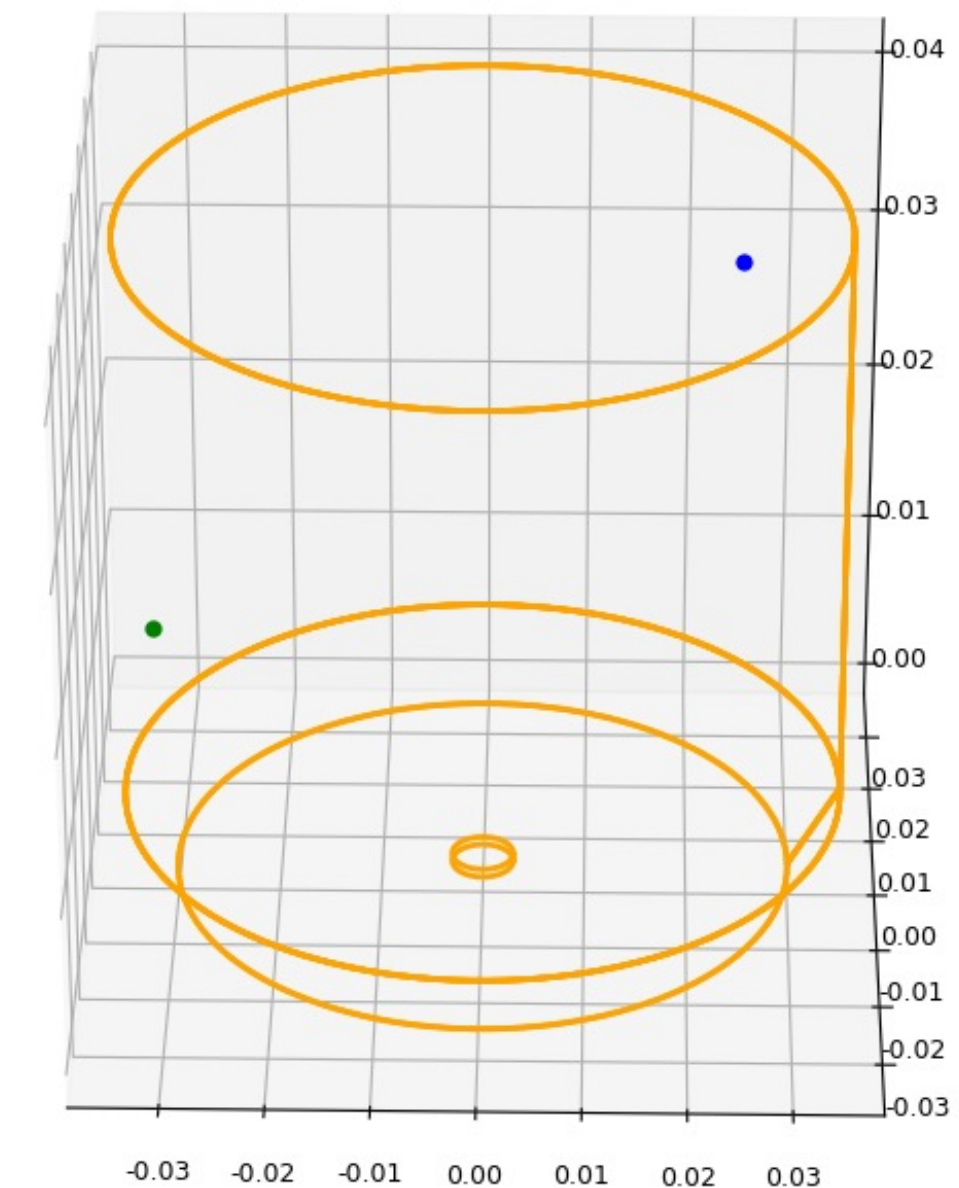
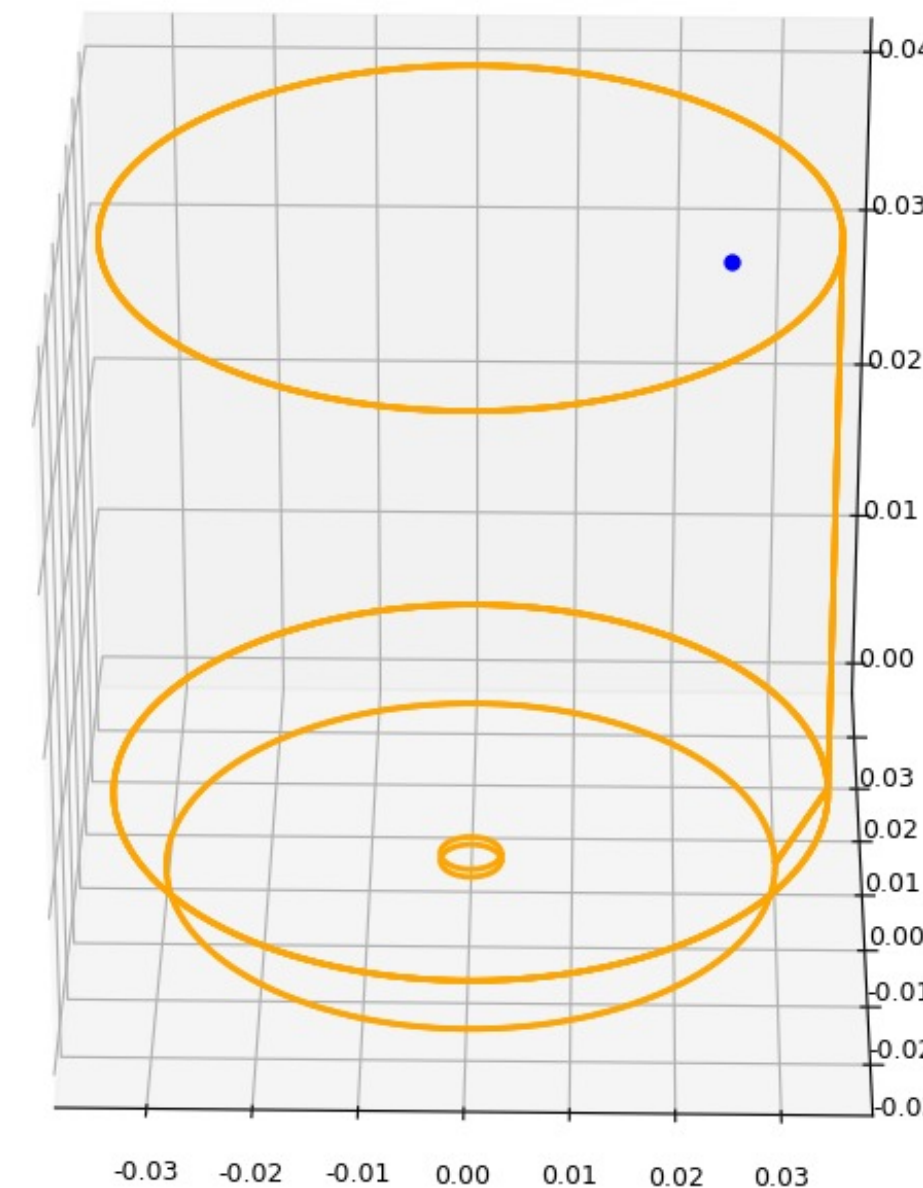
Removes >90% of true multi-site

Cleans >50% of ROI Compton background

Recent upgrades ensure energy-independent performance, improve stability and consistency



PRC 99 065501 (2019)



# Background Rejection: Surface Events



Surface energy depositions have characteristic features enabling discrimination

~98-99% signal acceptance with minimal background remaining

arXiv:2207.07638

Strongly overlapping event selections

Three distinct topologies identified

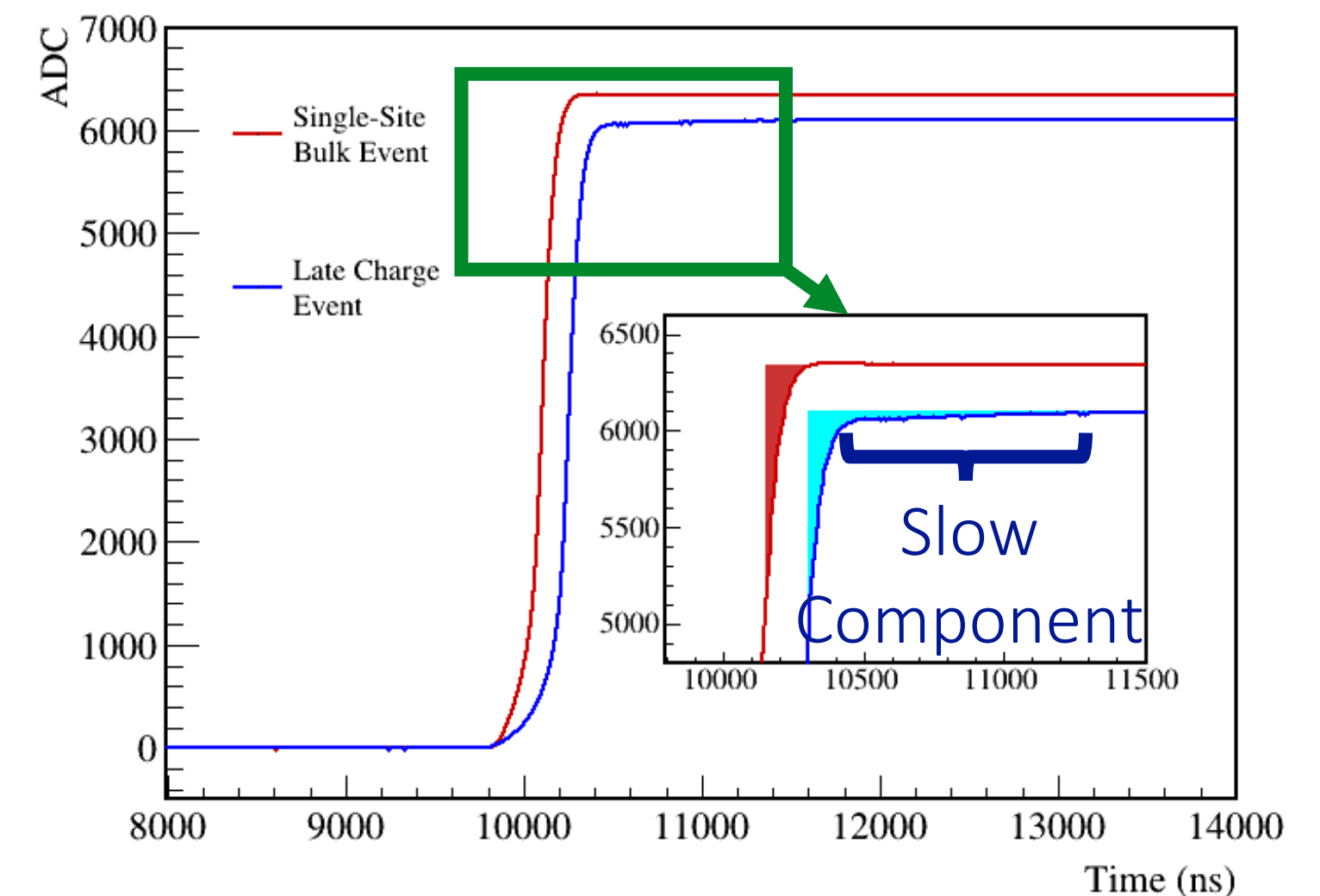
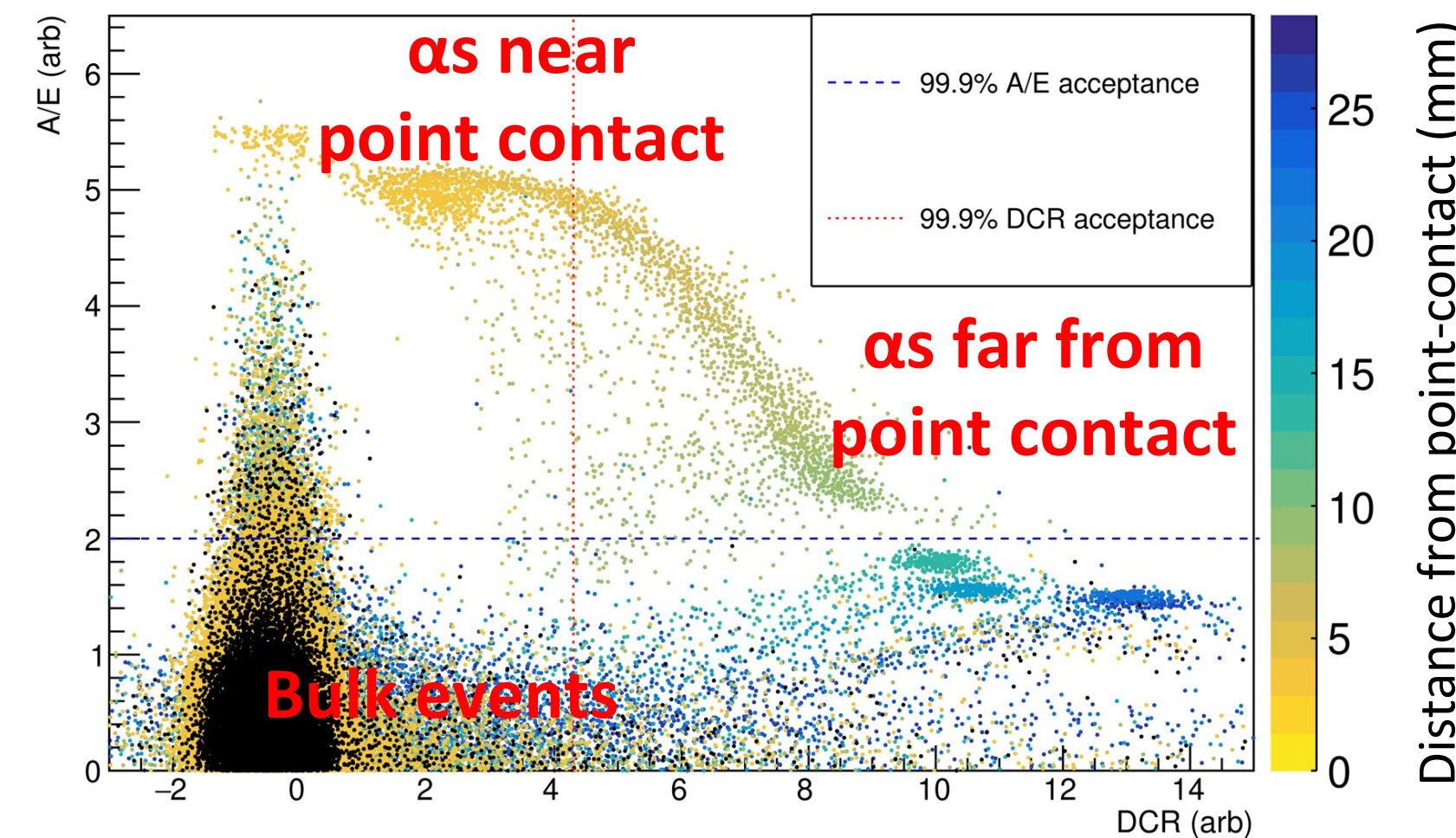
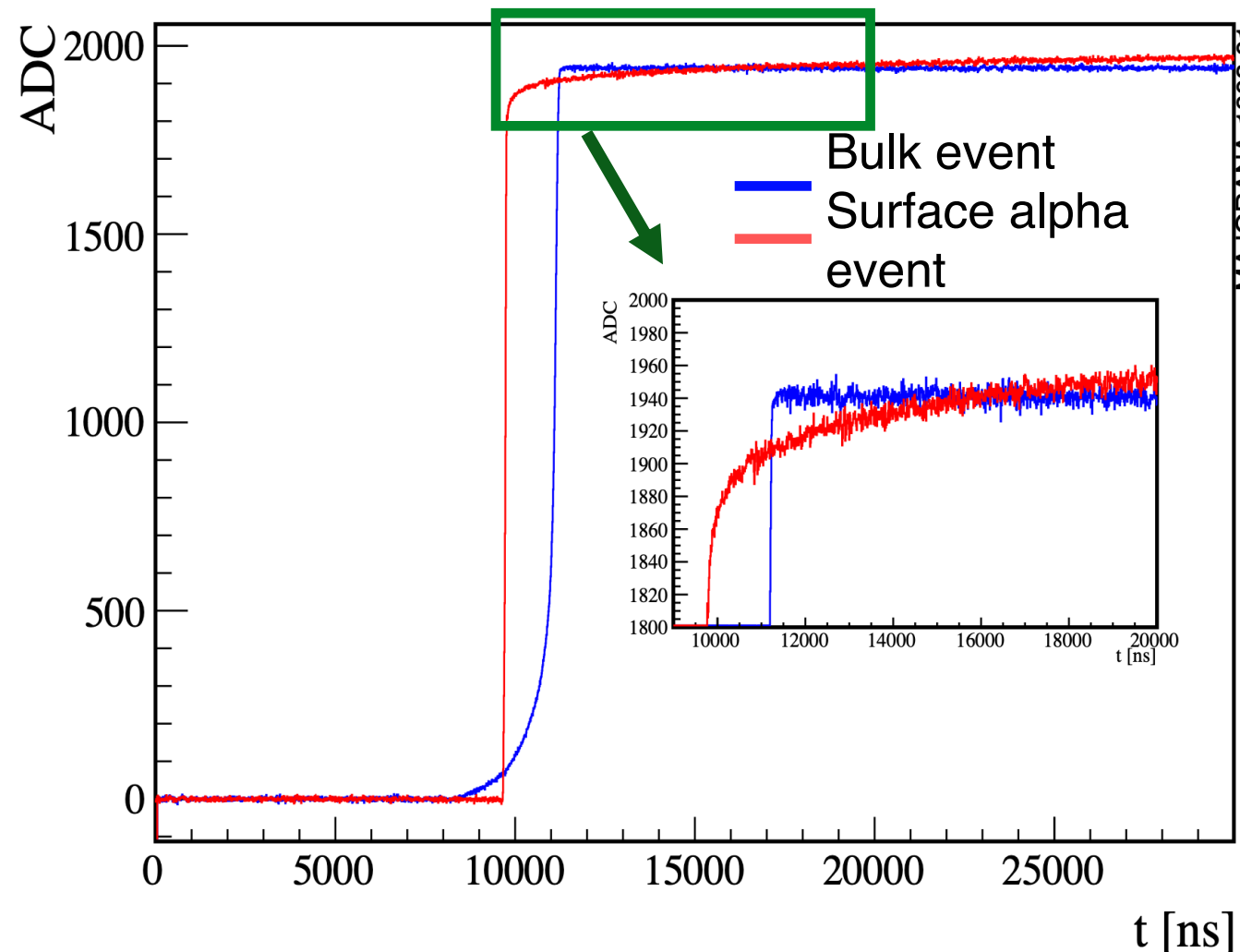
Passivated surface alphas have slow charge trapping and re-release (~10s of  $\mu\text{s}$ ) component

EPJC 82 (2022) 226

Near point-contact surface events have anomalously fast rising edge

Transition dead layer events have charge trapping with moderate re-release component (~1-2  $\mu\text{s}$ )

Charge trapping leads to degraded energy estimation, critical to identify and reject



“God made the bulk, the surface was invented by the devil.” – Pauli

# Inverted Coaxial Point Contact Detectors

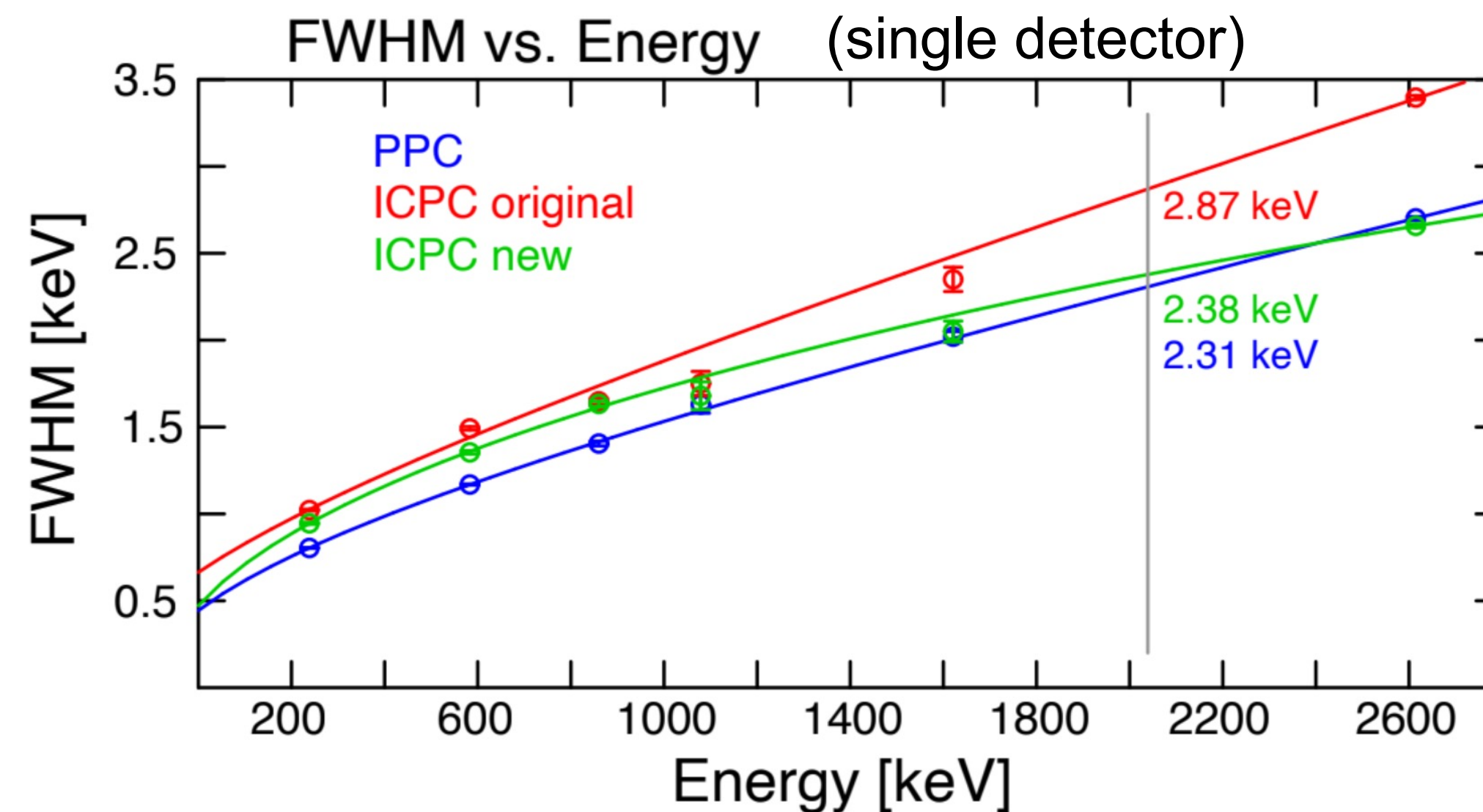
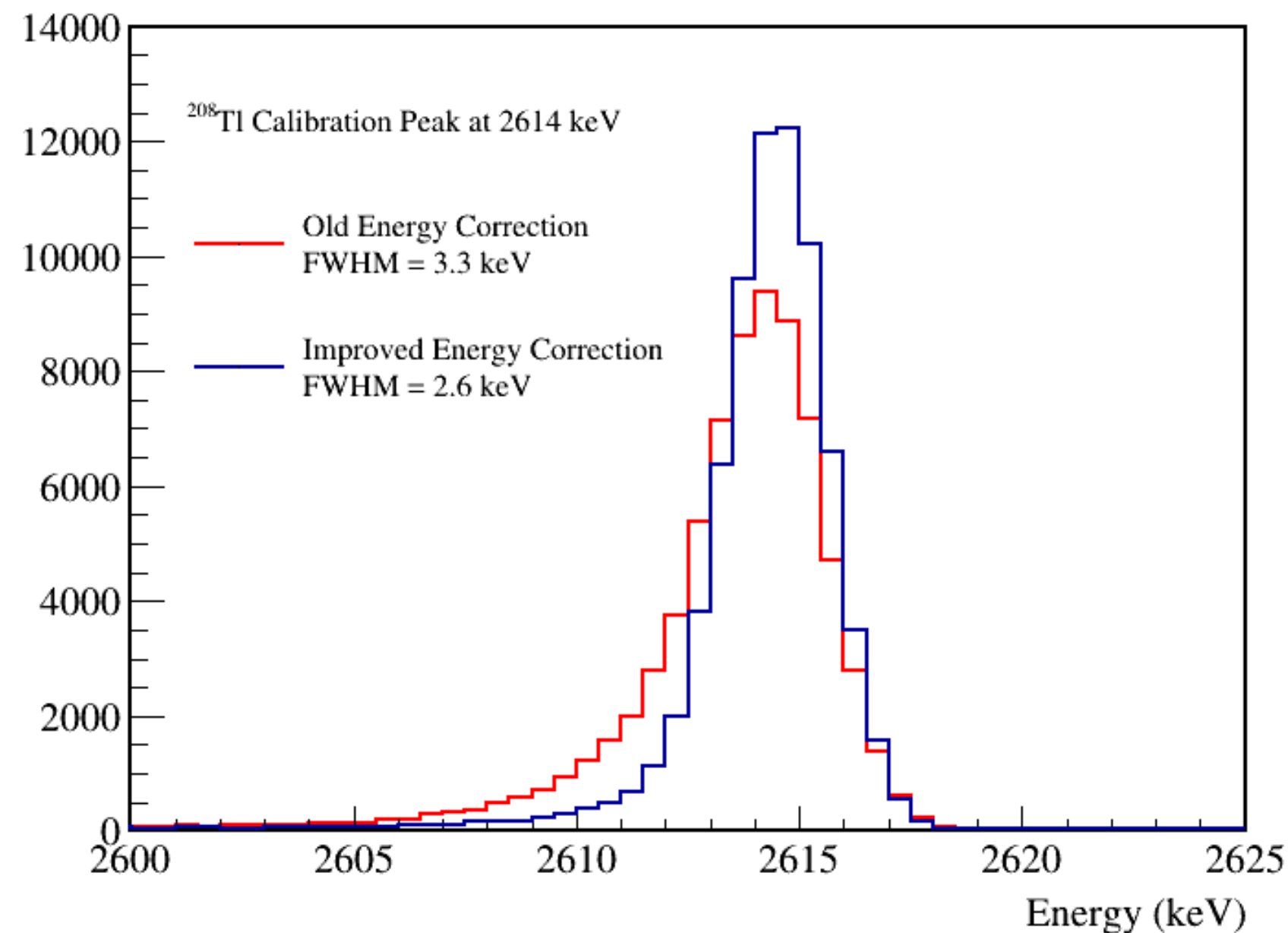
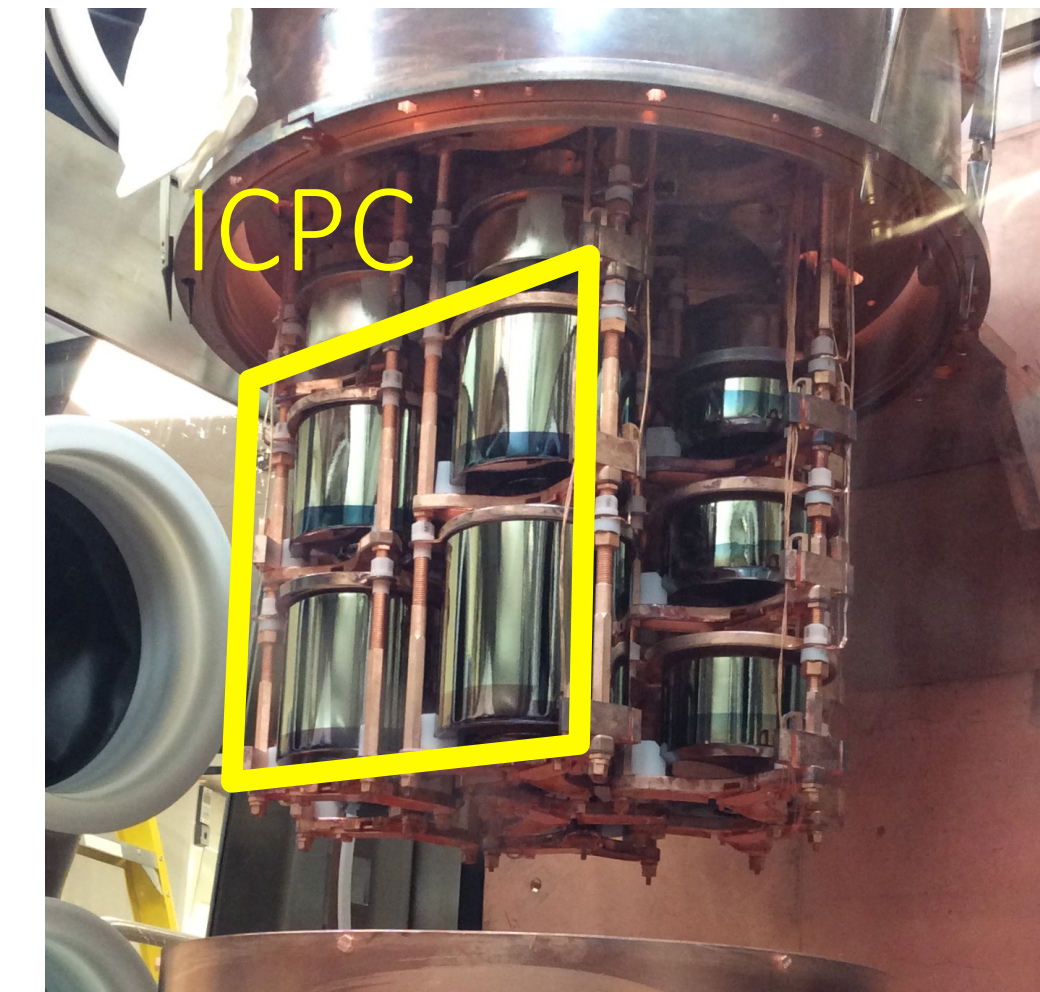


Inverted coaxial point contact (ICPC) detectors are larger (>3 kg) than PPC detectors (up to 1.2 kg). MAJORANA operated 4 ICPCs from Aug. 2020 to Mar 2021

Beneficial for background reduction in LEGEND

Larger range of drift times requires more refined analysis techniques

MAJORANA has demonstrated comparable performance with ICPCs and PPCs. Best energy resolution for ICPCs to date!

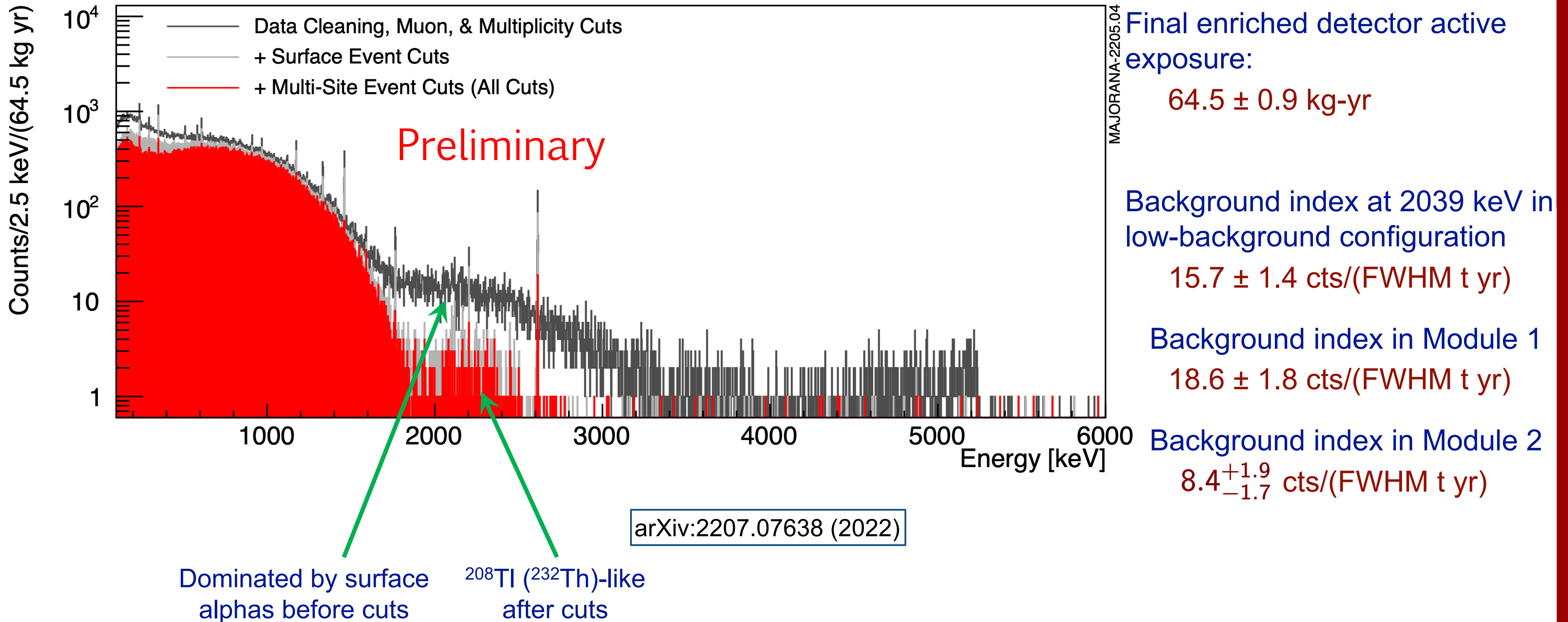


New analysis techniques improve combined energy resolution of ICPCs to 2.55 keV FWHM at  $Q_{\beta\beta}$   
Comparable to PPC performance

# MAJORANA DEMONSTRATOR 2022 $0\nu\beta\beta$ Result

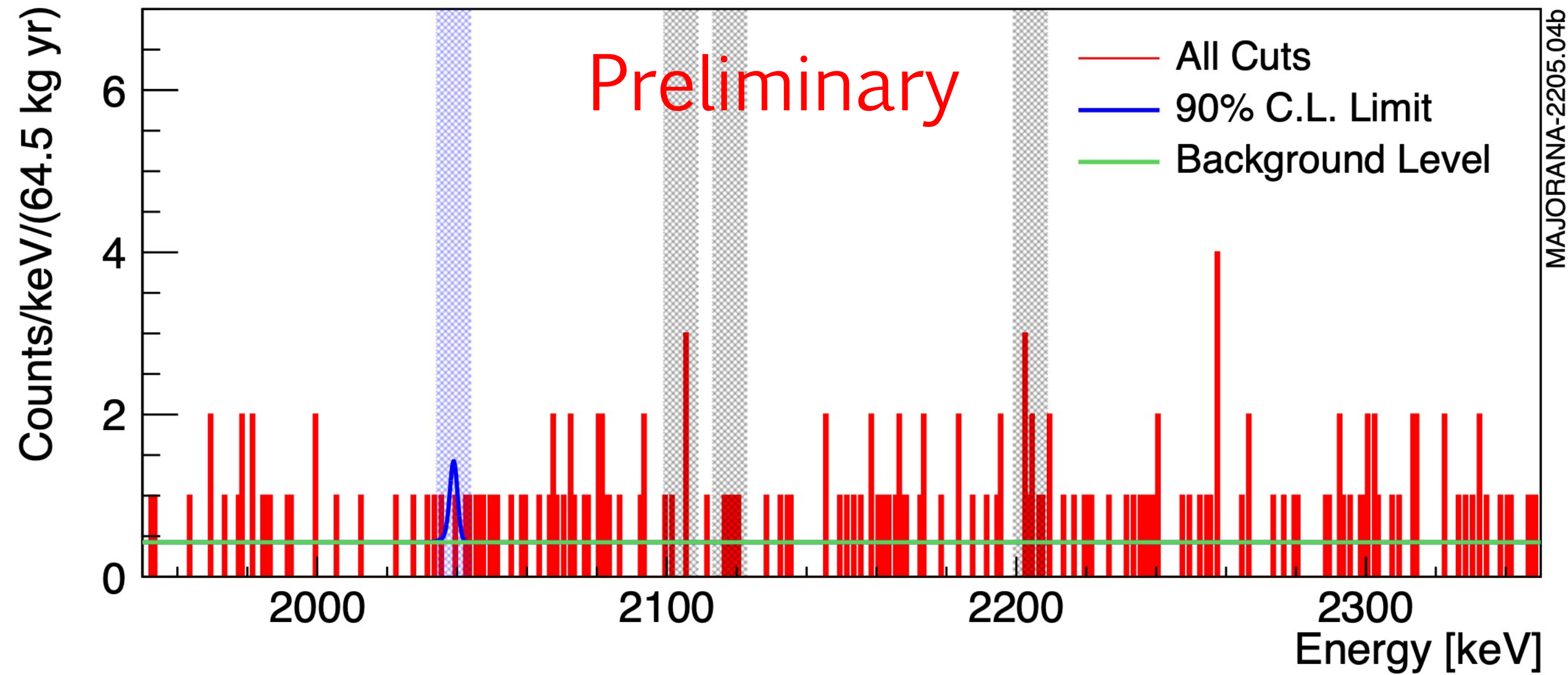


Operating in a low background regime and benefiting from excellent energy resolution





# MAJORANA DEMONSTRATOR 2022 $0\nu\beta\beta$ Result



Background Index:

$$(6.2 \pm 0.6) \times 10^{-3} \text{ cts}/(\text{keV kg yr})$$

Energy resolution: 2.5 keV FWHM @  $Q_{\beta\beta}$

Frequentist Limit:

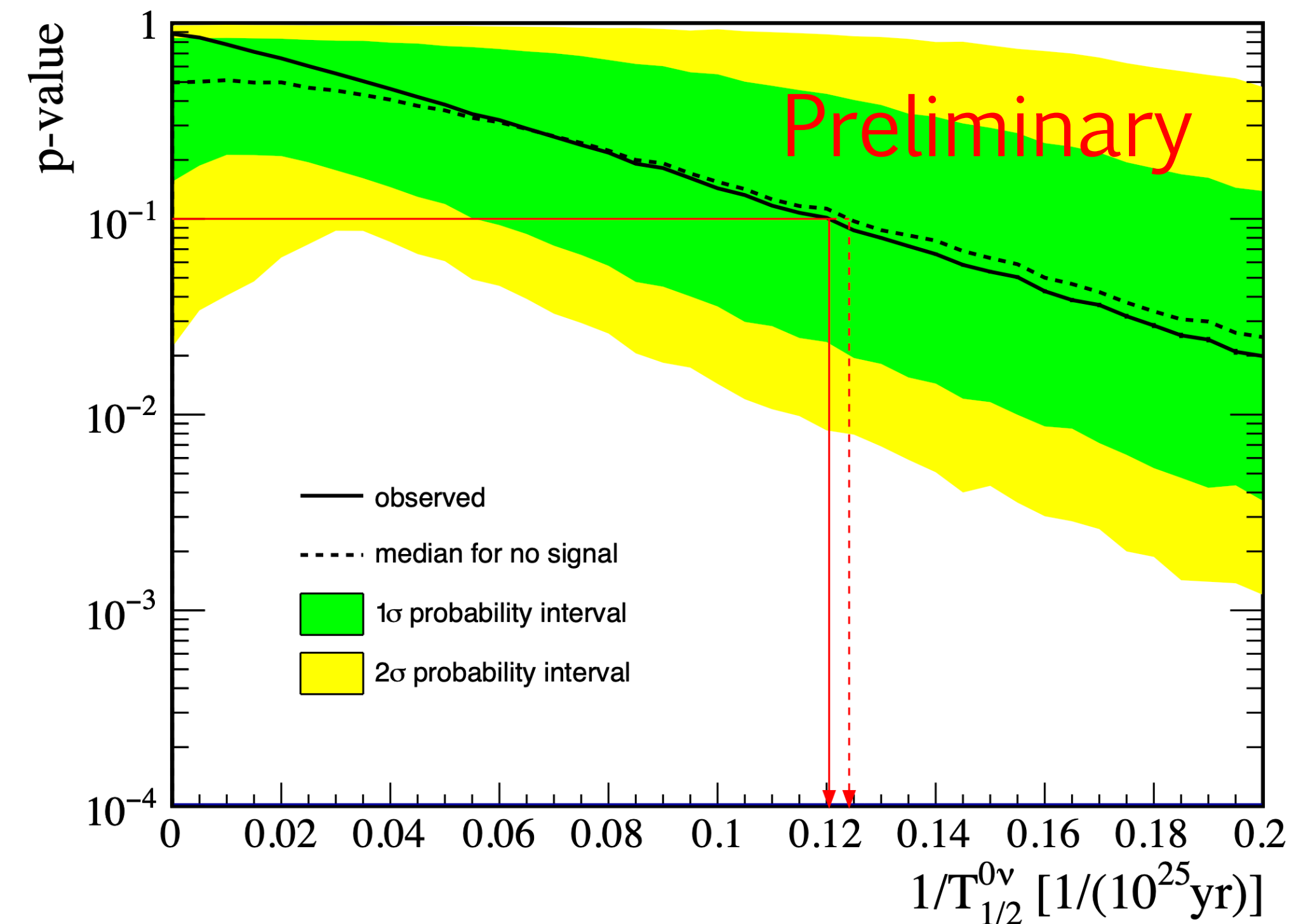
$$\text{Median } T_{1/2} \text{ Sensitivity: } 8.1 \times 10^{25} \text{ yr (90\% C.I.)}$$

$$65 \text{ kg-yr Exposure Limit: } T_{1/2} > 8.3 \times 10^{25} \text{ yr (90\% C.I.)}$$

Bayesian Limit: (flat prior on rate)

$$65 \text{ kg-yr Exposure Limit: } T_{1/2} > 7.0 \times 10^{25} \text{ yr (90\% C.I.)}$$

arXiv:2207.07638 (2022)



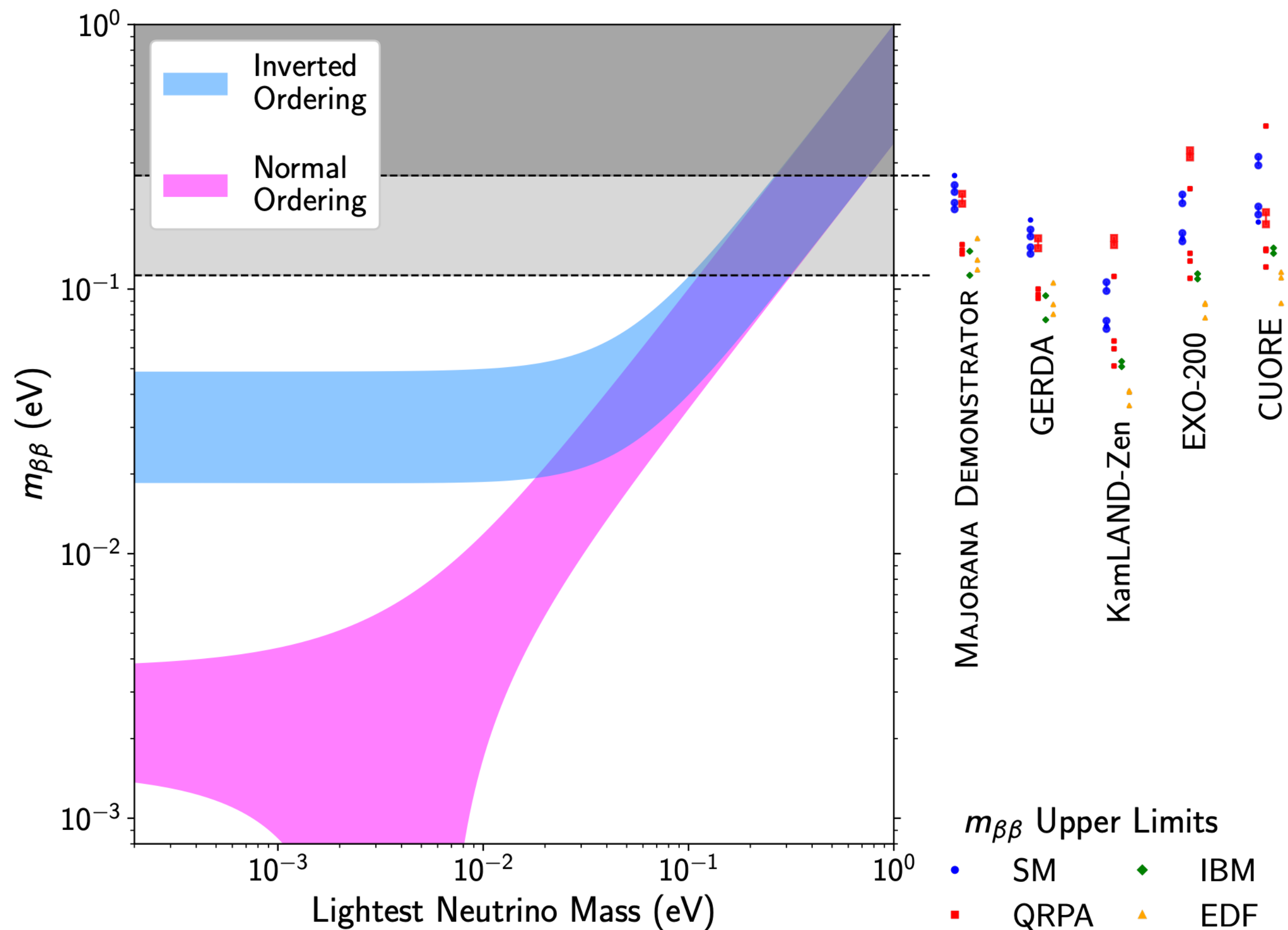
$$m_{\beta\beta} < 113 - 269 \text{ meV}$$

Using  $M_{0\nu} = 2.66 - 6.34$

# MAJORANA DEMONSTRATOR 2022 $0\nu\beta\beta$ Result



With significantly lower exposure, germanium experiments set competitive limits on  $0\nu\beta\beta$   
 Both GERDA and MAJORANA DEMONSTRATOR are nearly background free, so half-life limits add ~linearly



Experiment	Half-Life Limit (yr)	Exposure (kg*yr)
MAJORANA DEMONSTRATOR	8.3e25	65
GERDA [1]	1.8e26	127
KamLAND-Zen800 [2]	2.3e26	970
EXO-200 [3]	3.5e25	234
CUORE [4]	3.2e25	373

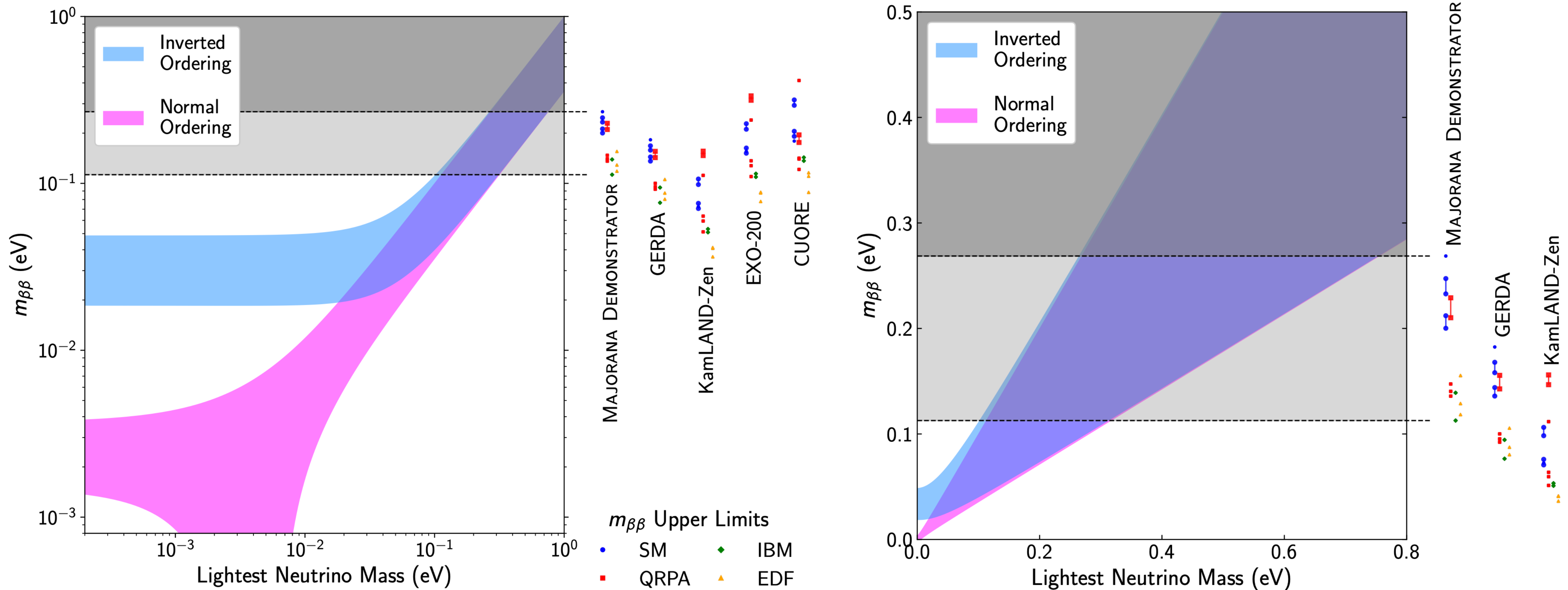
- [1] M. Agostini et al. (GERDA Collaboration), PRL **125**, 252502 (2020)  
 [2] S. Abe et al (KamLAND-Zen Collaboration), arXiv:2203.02139  
 [3] G. Anton et al. (EXO-200 Collaboration), PRL **123**, 161802 (2019)  
 [4] D. Q. Adams et al. (CUORE Collaboration) PRL **124**, 122501 (2019)

# MAJORANA DEMONSTRATOR 2022 $0\nu\beta\beta$ Result



With significantly lower exposure, germanium experiments set competitive limits on  $0\nu\beta\beta$

Both GERDA and MAJORANA DEMONSTRATOR are nearly background free, so half-life limits add ~linearly



# Rich and Broad Physics Programs



Tests of Fundamental Symmetries and Conservations  
 Lepton number violation via  $0\nu\beta\beta$   
 Baryon number violation  
 Pauli Exclusion Principle violation

arXiv:2208.03424 (2022)

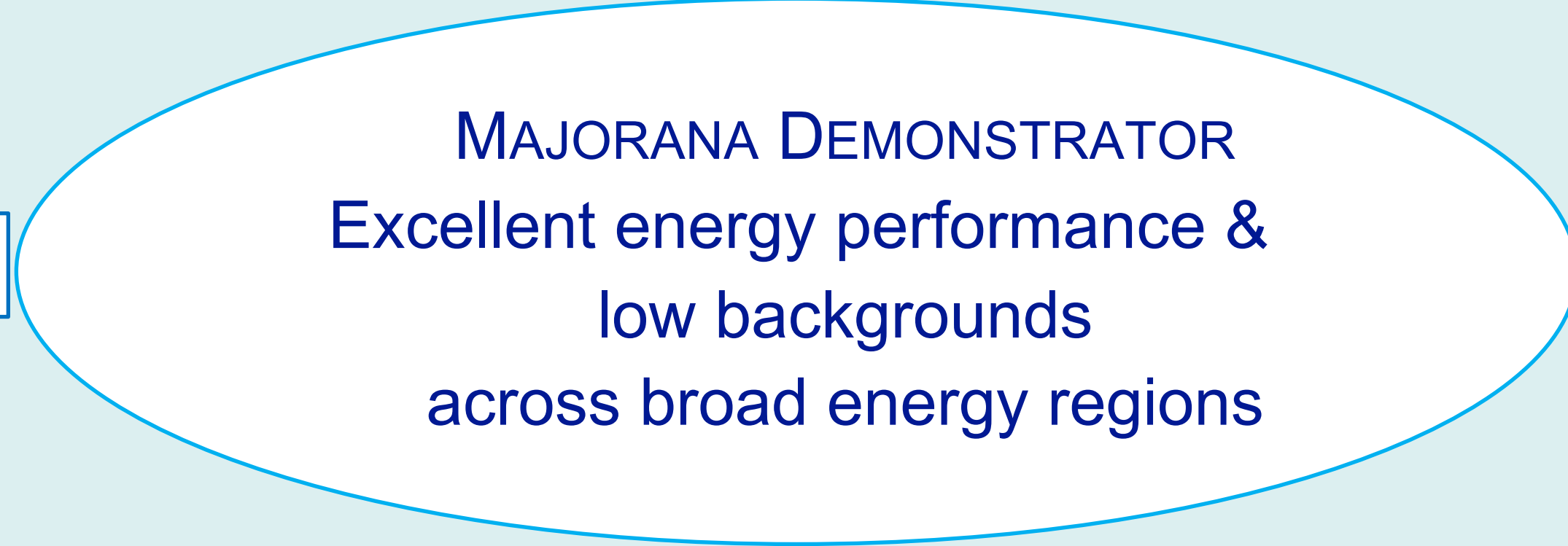
PRC **100** 025501 (2019)

PRD **99** 072004 (2019)

arXiv:2203.02033 (2022)

Standard Model Physics

BSM Physics



Low-mass dark matter signatures  
 Pseudoscalar dark matter  
 Vector dark matter  
 Fermionic dark matter  
 Sterile neutrino  
 Primakoff solar axion  
 14.4-keV solar axion

PRL **118** 161801 (2017)

PRL **129** 081803 (2022)

arXiv:2206.10638 (2022)

Exotic Physics

Quantum wavefunction collapse  
 Lightly ionization particle

PRL **129** 080401 (2022)

PRL **120** 211804 (2018)

Standard Model Physics,  
 particular backgrounds  
 $2\nu\beta\beta$  to excited states  
 In situ cosmogenics  
 (alpha, n) reactions

PRC **103** 015501 (2021)

PRC **105** 014617 (2022)

PRC **105** 064610 (2022)

# Double Beta Decay to Excited States

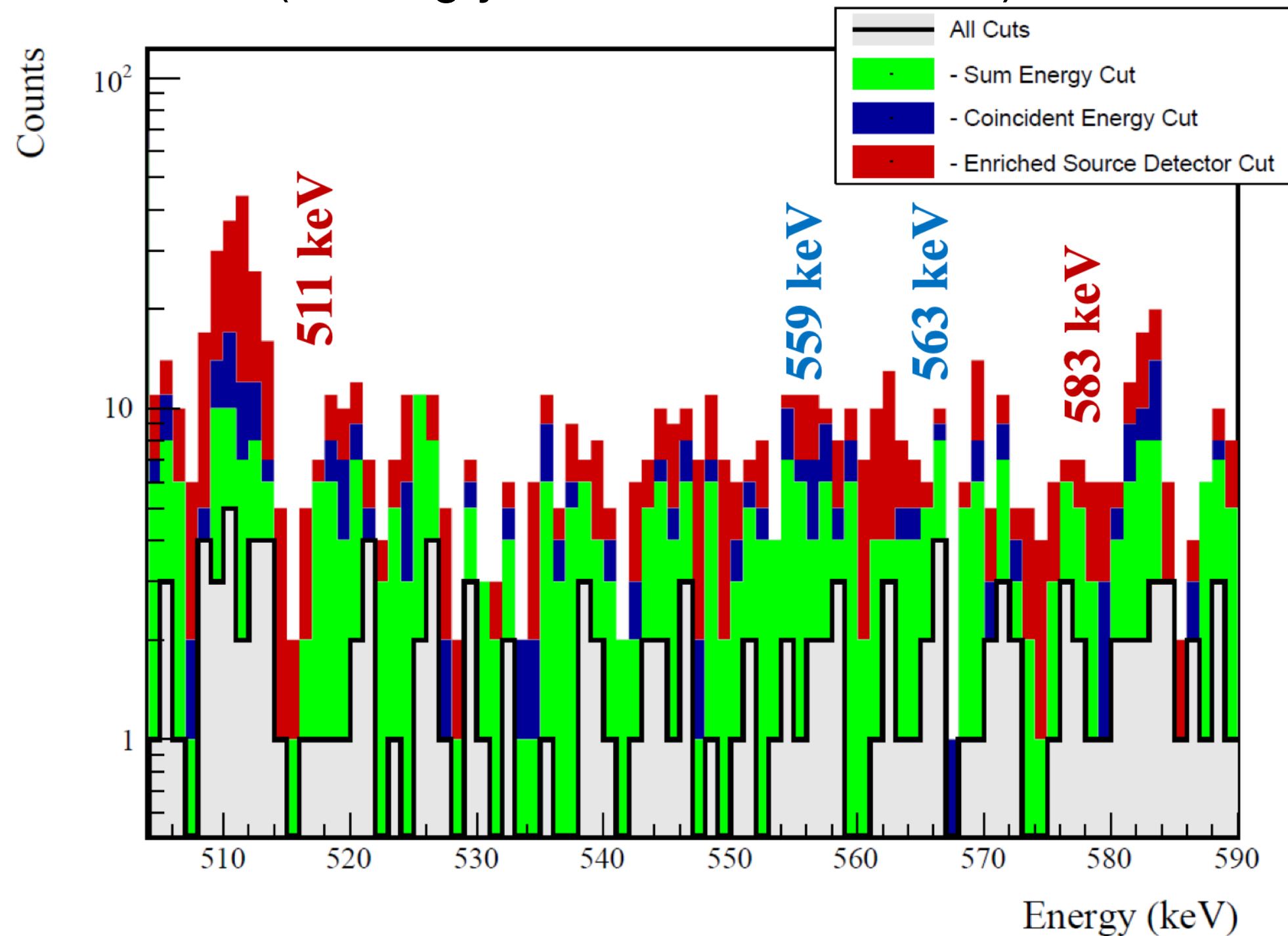


An inherently multi-site signal topology:

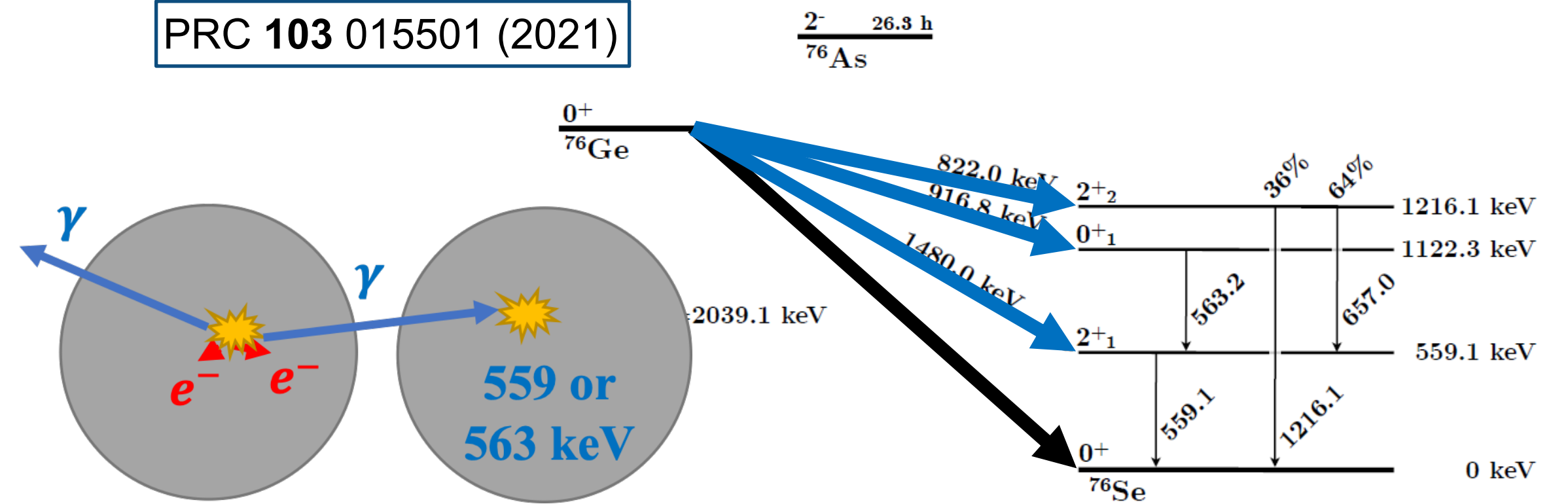
A “source” detector will have a broad energy spectrum from  $\beta\beta$

The “gamma” detector will measure energy peaked at the  $\gamma$  energies

**41.9 kg y of isotopic exposure**  
(20.6 kg y of which was blinded)



PRC 103 015501 (2021)



Decay Mode	Det. efficiency (M1, M2)	$T_{1/2}$ prev. limit (90% CI)	$T_{1/2}$ new limit (90% CI)	$T_{1/2}$ sensitivity (90% CI)
$0^+_{g.s.} \xrightarrow{2\nu\beta\beta} 0^+_1$	2.4%, 1.0%	$> 3.7 \cdot 10^{23} \text{ y}$ [1]	$> 7.5 \cdot 10^{23} \text{ y}$	$> 10.5 \cdot 10^{23} \text{ y}$
$0^+_{g.s.} \xrightarrow{2\nu\beta\beta} 2^+_1$	1.4%, 0.6%	$> 1.6 \cdot 10^{23} \text{ y}$ [1]	$> 7.7 \cdot 10^{23} \text{ y}$	$> 10.2 \cdot 10^{23} \text{ y}$
$0^+_{g.s.} \xrightarrow{2\nu\beta\beta} 2^+_2$	2.2%, 0.8%	$> 2.3 \cdot 10^{23} \text{ y}$ [1]	$> 12.8 \cdot 10^{23} \text{ y}$	$> 8.2 \cdot 10^{23} \text{ y}$
$0^+_{g.s.} \xrightarrow{0\nu\beta\beta} 0^+_1$	3.0%, 1.2%	$> 1.3 \cdot 10^{22} \text{ y}$ [2]	$> 39.9 \cdot 10^{23} \text{ y}$	$> 39.9 \cdot 10^{23} \text{ y}$
$0^+_{g.s.} \xrightarrow{0\nu\beta\beta} 2^+_1$	1.6%, 0.7%	$> 1.3 \cdot 10^{23} \text{ y}$ [3]	$> 21.2 \cdot 10^{23} \text{ y}$	$> 21.2 \cdot 10^{23} \text{ y}$
$0^+_{g.s.} \xrightarrow{0\nu\beta\beta} 2^+_2$	2.3%, 1.0%	$> 1.4 \cdot 10^{21} \text{ y}$ [4]	$> 9.7 \cdot 10^{23} \text{ y}$	$> 18.6 \cdot 10^{23} \text{ y}$

The most stringent limits to date for  $\beta\beta$  to each excited state of  $^{76}\text{Se}$  due to:

- Operating an array in vacuum: high detection efficiency
- Exquisite energy resolution for identifying peaks
- Low environmental backgrounds & analysis cuts

[1] M. Agostini et al. (GERDA Collaboration), J. Phys. G 43, 044001 (2015).  
 [2] A. Morales, et al., Nuovo Cim. A 100, 525 (2008).  
 [3] B. Maier (Heidelberg Moscow Collaboration), Nucl. Phys. B – Proc. Suppl. 35, 358 (1994).  
 [4] A. S. Barabash, A. V. Derbin, L. A. Popeko, and V. I. Umatov, Z. Phys. A 352, 231 (1995).

# Beyond the Standard Model Searches



Excellent energy resolution:  $\sim 0.4$  keV FWHM at 10.4 keV

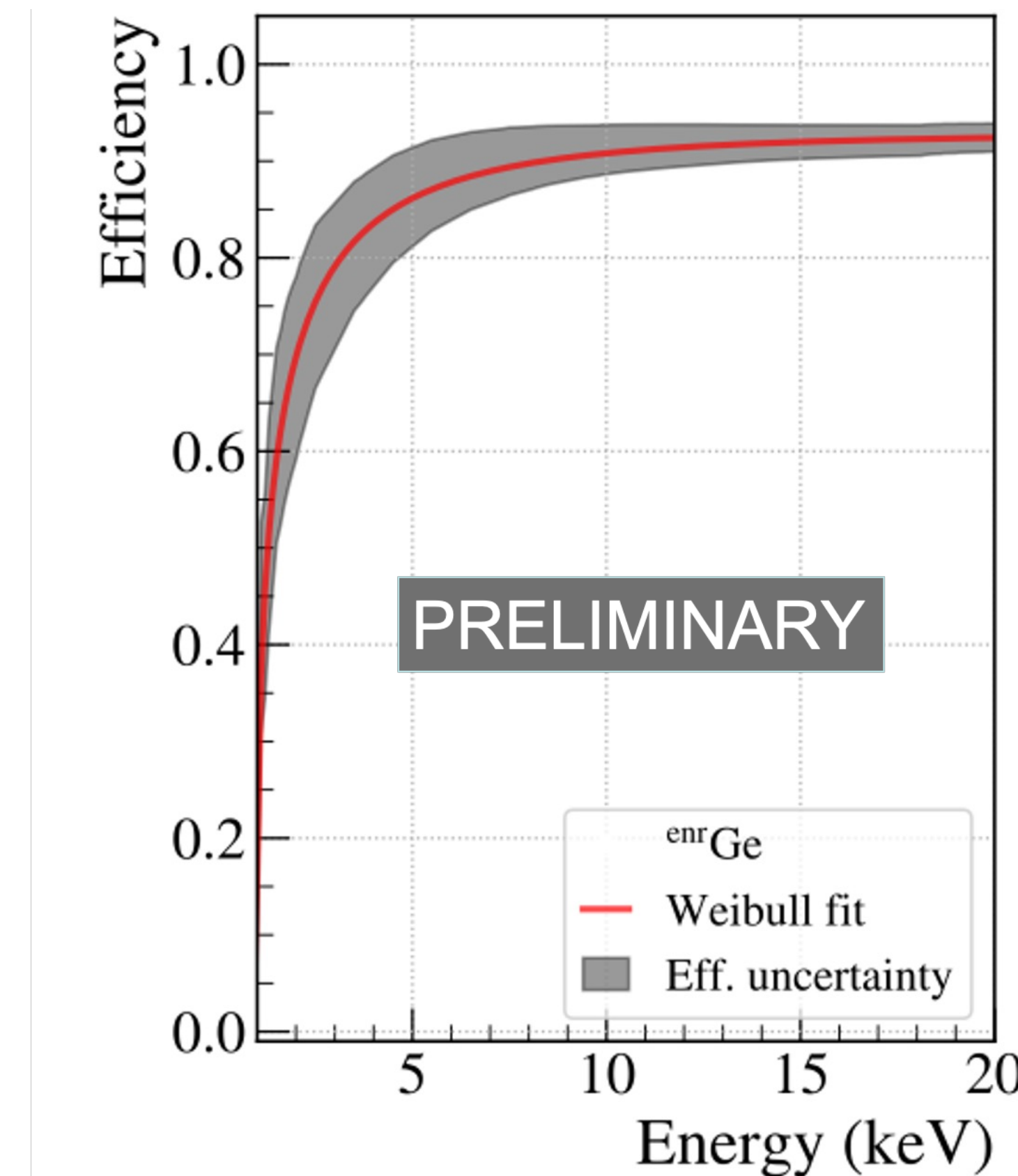
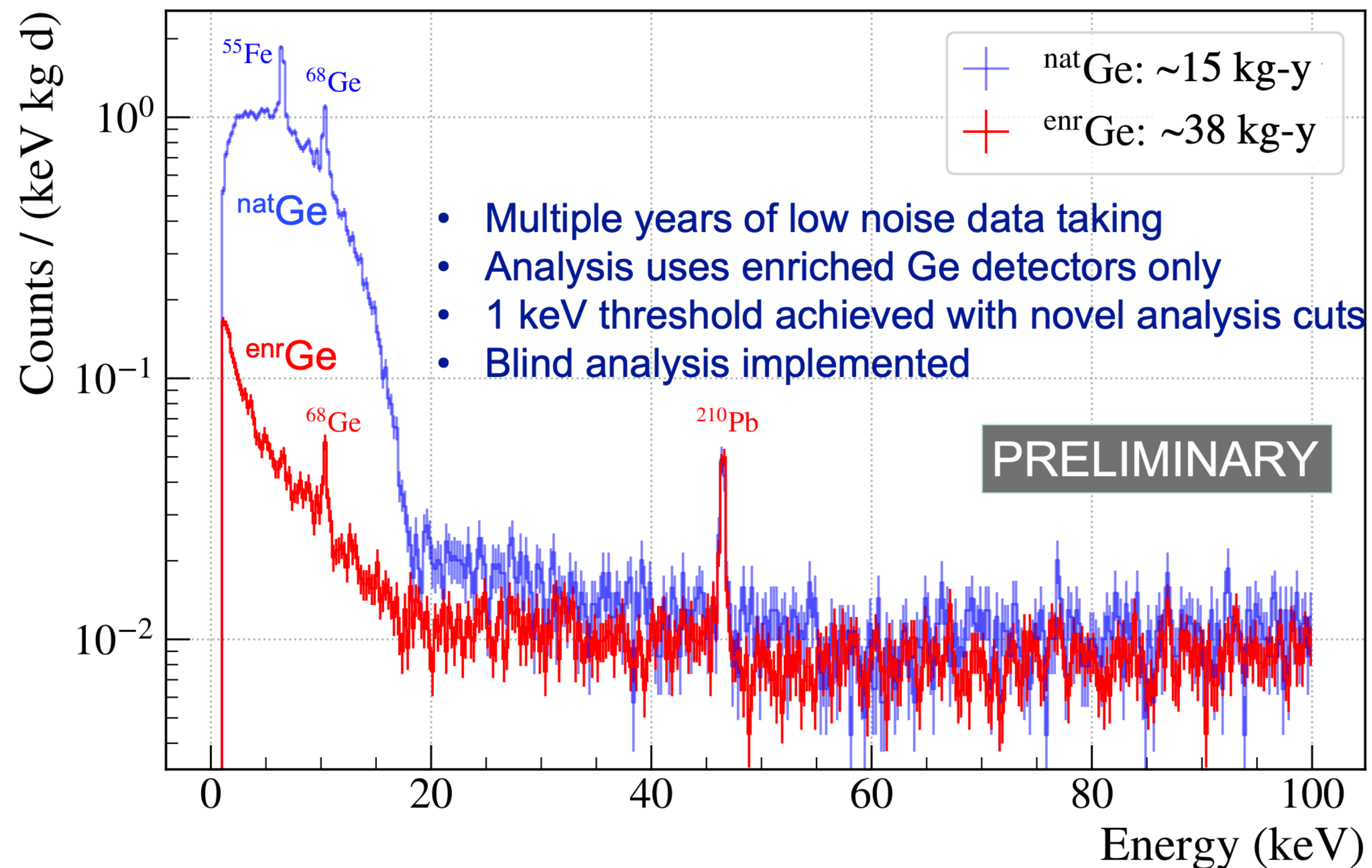
Progress towards a low-E background model

The low backgrounds, low threshold, high resolution spectra allows additional physics searches

Controlled surface exposure of enriched material to minimize cosmogenics

Low Energy Physics is enabled by low-capacitance of PPC detectors and low-noise electronics

JINST 17 (2022) 05, T05003



See Clint Wiseman's talk  
Tuesday afternoon

# Rich and Broad Physics Program



On the Cover

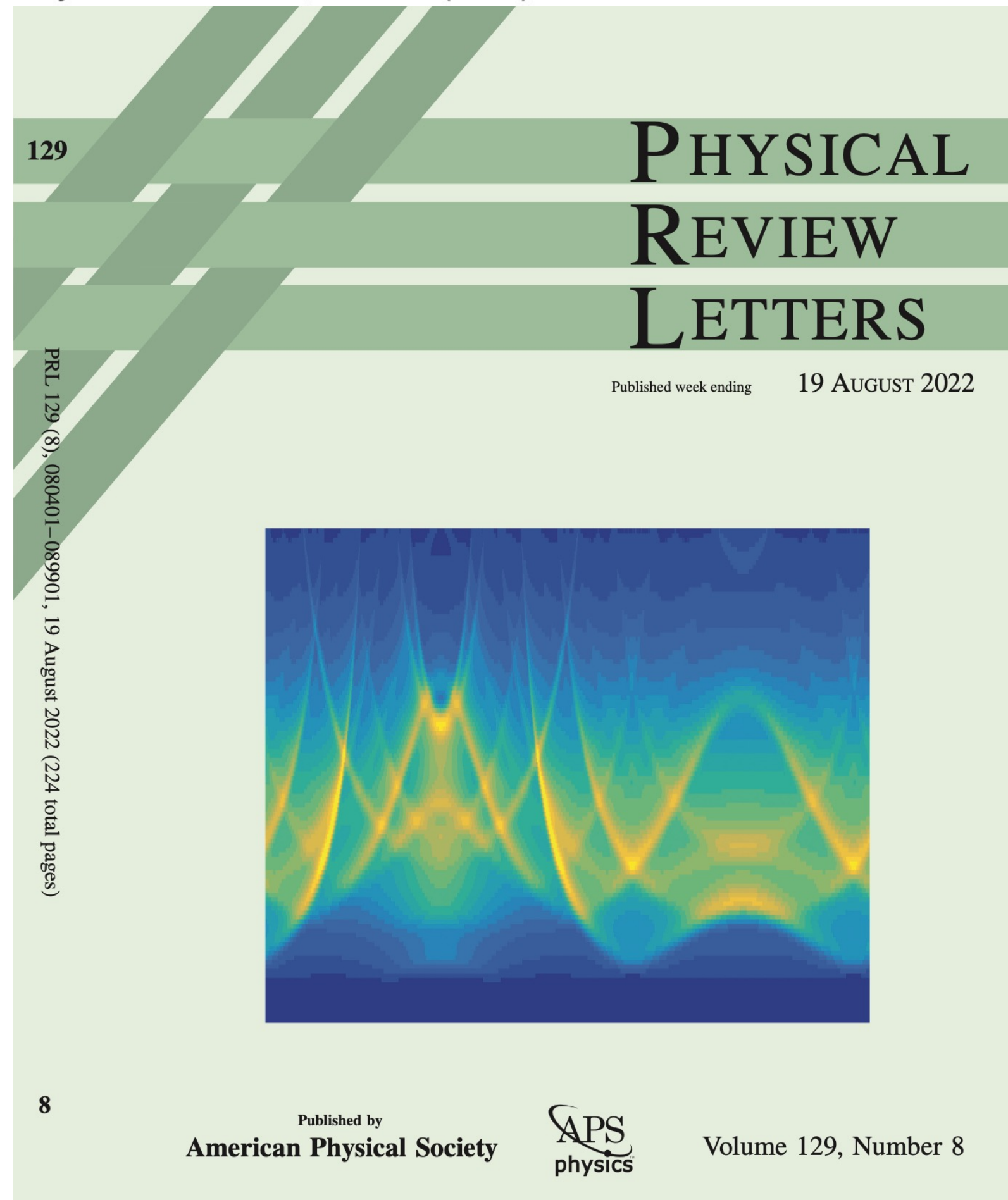
Axion signatures from coherent Primakoff-Bragg scattering over a 24-hour period.

From the article:

[Search for Solar Axions via Axion-Photon Coupling with the MAJORANA DEMONSTRATOR](#)

I.J. Arnquist *et al.* (MAJORANA Collaboration)

Phys. Rev. Lett. **129**, 081803 (2022)



PRL 129 (8), 080401–089901, 19 August 2022 (224 total pages)

8

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Volume 129, Number 8

## PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

*Contents*

*Articles published 13 August–19 August 2022*

VOLUME 129, NUMBER 8

19 August 2022

### General Physics: Statistical and Quantum Mechanics, Quantum Information, etc.

Search for Spontaneous Radiation from Wave Function Collapse in the MAJORANA DEMONSTRATOR ..... I. J. Arnquist <i>et al.</i> (MAJORANA Collaboration)	080401
Floquet Engineering a Bosonic Josephson Junction ..... Si-Cong Ji, Thomas Schweigler, Mohammadamin Tajik, Federica Cataldini, João Sabino, Frederik S. Møller, Sebastian Erne, and Jörg Schmiedmayer	080402
Measurement-Induced Power-Law Negativity in an Open Monitored Quantum Circuit ..... Zack Weinstein, Yimu Bao, and Ehud Altman	080501
☞ Solitons in Overdamped Brownian Dynamics ..... Alexander P. Antonov, Artem Ryabov, and Philipp Maass	080601

### Gravitation and Astrophysics

Impact of Dynamical Tides on the Reconstruction of the Neutron Star Equation of State ..... Geraint Pratten, Patricia Schmidt, and Natalie Williams	081102
--	--------

### Elementary Particles and Fields

Perfect Fluid Hydrodynamic Picture of Domain Wall Velocities at Strong Coupling ..... Romuald A. Janik, Matti Järvinen, Hesam Soltanpanahi, and Jacob Sonnenschein	081601
Measurement of the Coherent Elastic Neutrino-Nucleus Scattering Cross Section on CsI by COHERENT ..... D. Akimov <i>et al.</i> (COHERENT Collaboration)	081801
Search for Higgs Boson Pair Production in the Four <i>b</i> Quark Final State in Proton-Proton Collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV ..... A. Tumasyan <i>et al.</i> (CMS Collaboration)	081802
Search for Solar Axions via Axion-Photon Coupling with the MAJORANA DEMONSTRATOR ..... I. J. Arnquist <i>et al.</i> (MAJORANA Collaboration)	081803

Learning Uncertainties the Frequentist Way: Calibration and Correlation in High Energy Physics ..... Rikab Gambhir, Benjamin Nachman, and Jesse Thaler	082001
Renormalization of Transverse-Momentum-Dependent Parton Distribution on the Lattice ..... Kuan Zhang, Xiangdong Ji, Yi-Bo Yang, Fei Yao, and Jian-Hui Zhang [Lattice Parton Collaboration (LPC)]	082002

### Atomic, Molecular, and Optical Physics

Measurement of the Electric Dipole Moment of $^{171}\text{Yb}$ Atoms in an Optical Dipole Trap ..... T. A. Zheng, Y. A. Yang, S.-Z. Wang, J. T. Singh, Z.-X. Xiong, T. Xia, and Z.-T. Lu	083001
Tuning Long-Range Fermion-Mediated Interactions in Cold-Atom Quantum Simulators ..... Javier Argüello-Luengo, Alejandro González-Tudela, and Daniel González-Cuadra	083401
☞ Observing the Influence of Reduced Dimensionality on Fermionic Superfluids ..... Lennart Sobirey, Hauke Biss, Niclas Luick, Markus Bohlen, Henning Moritz, and Thomas Lompe	083601

<https://journals.aps.org/prl/issues/129/8>

CIPANP 2022

Walter C. Pettus

22

# Solar Axion



On the Cover

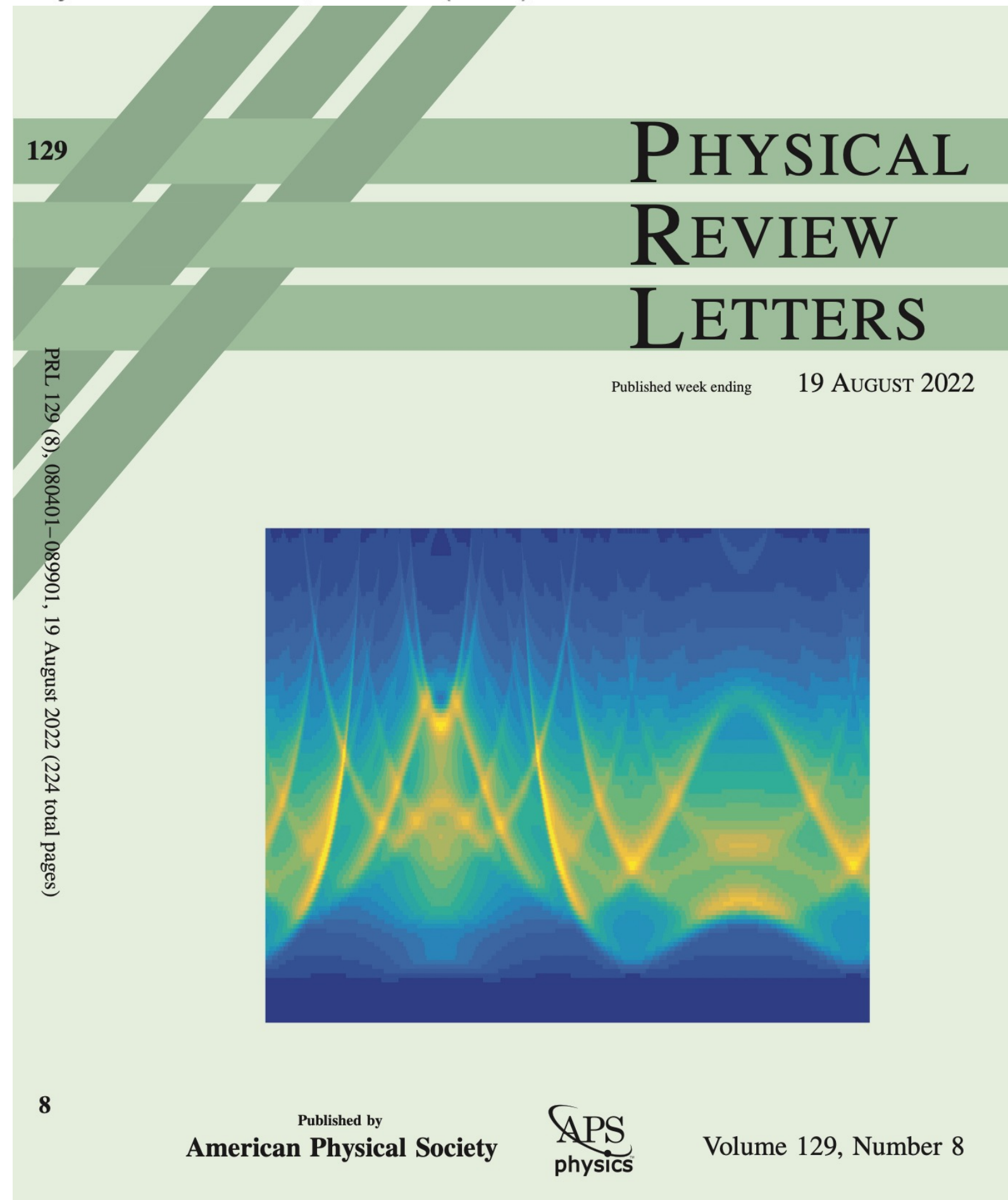
Axion signatures from coherent Primakoff-Bragg scattering over a 24-hour period.

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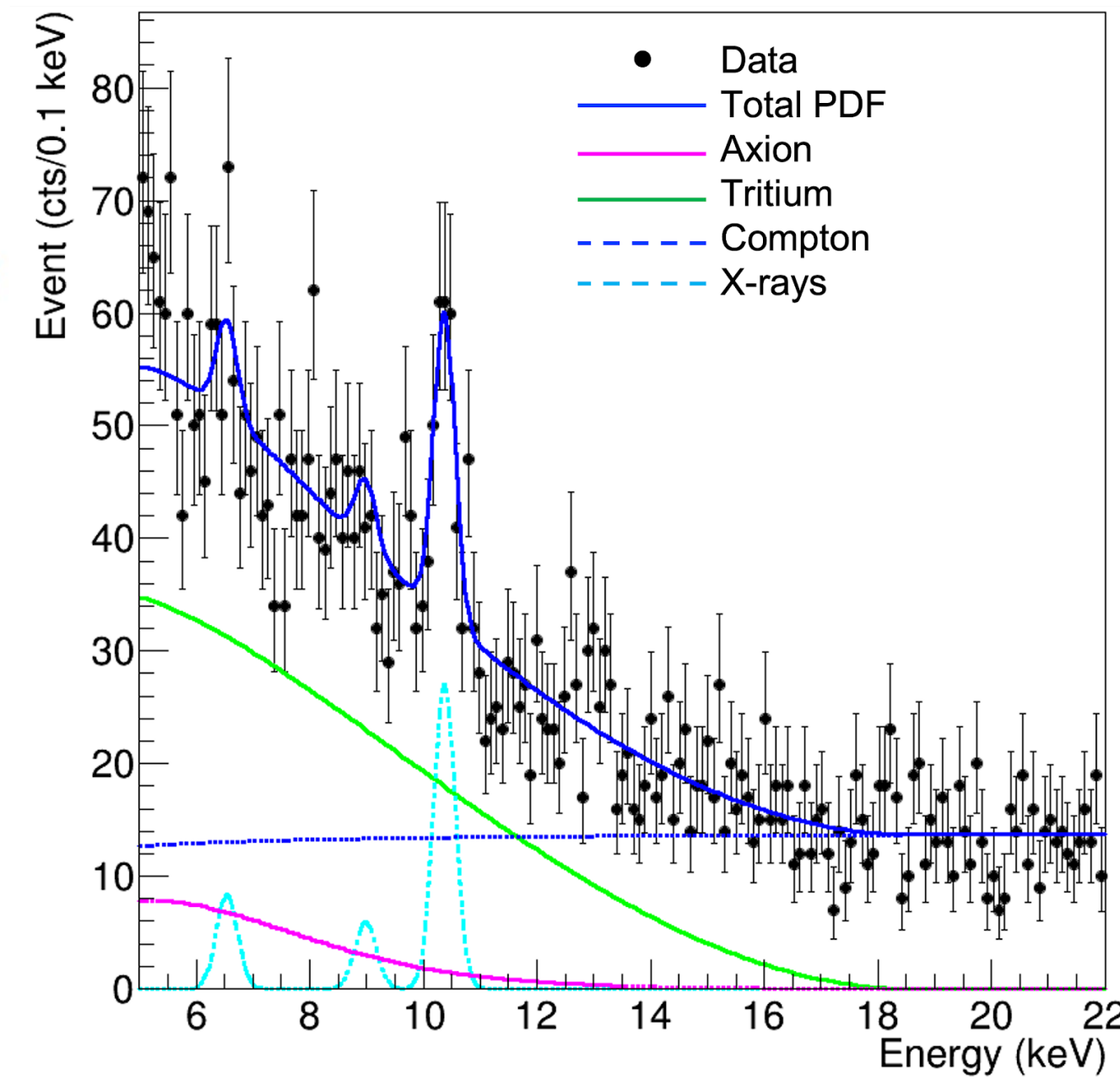
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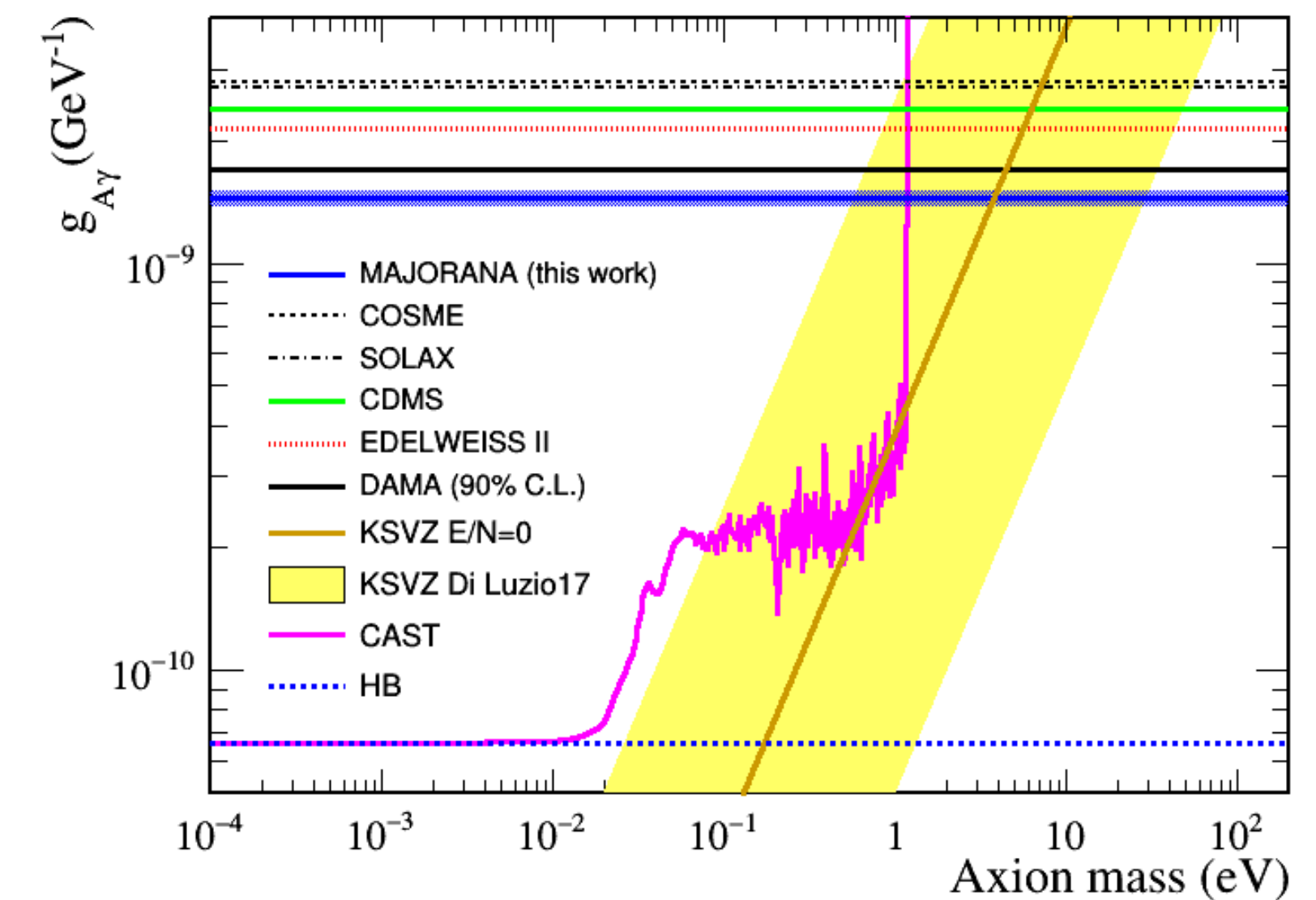
Axions produced by reverse-Primakoff effect in Sun

Perform 2-D search in time and energy for signature

- 5 min bins over 3 year dataset

Best lab-based limit for  $m_A = 1.2 \sim 100$  eV

Improves on 21-year old DAMA limit



<https://journals.aps.org/prl/issues/129/8>



# Wavefunction Collapse



## PHYSICS TODAY

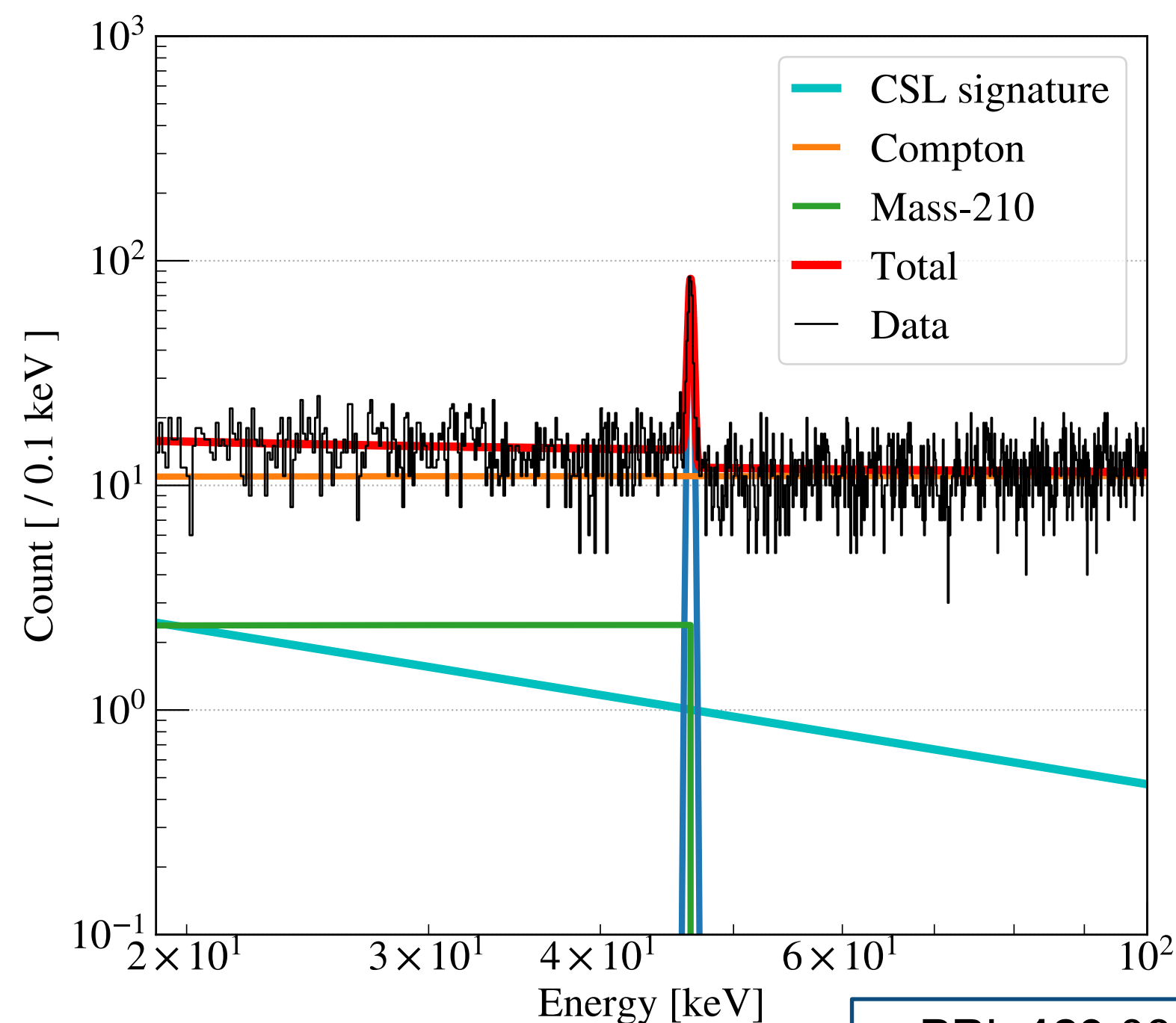
### Addressing the quantum measurement problem

Attempts to solve the problem have led to a number of well-defined competing theories. Choosing between them might be crucial for progress in fundamental physics.

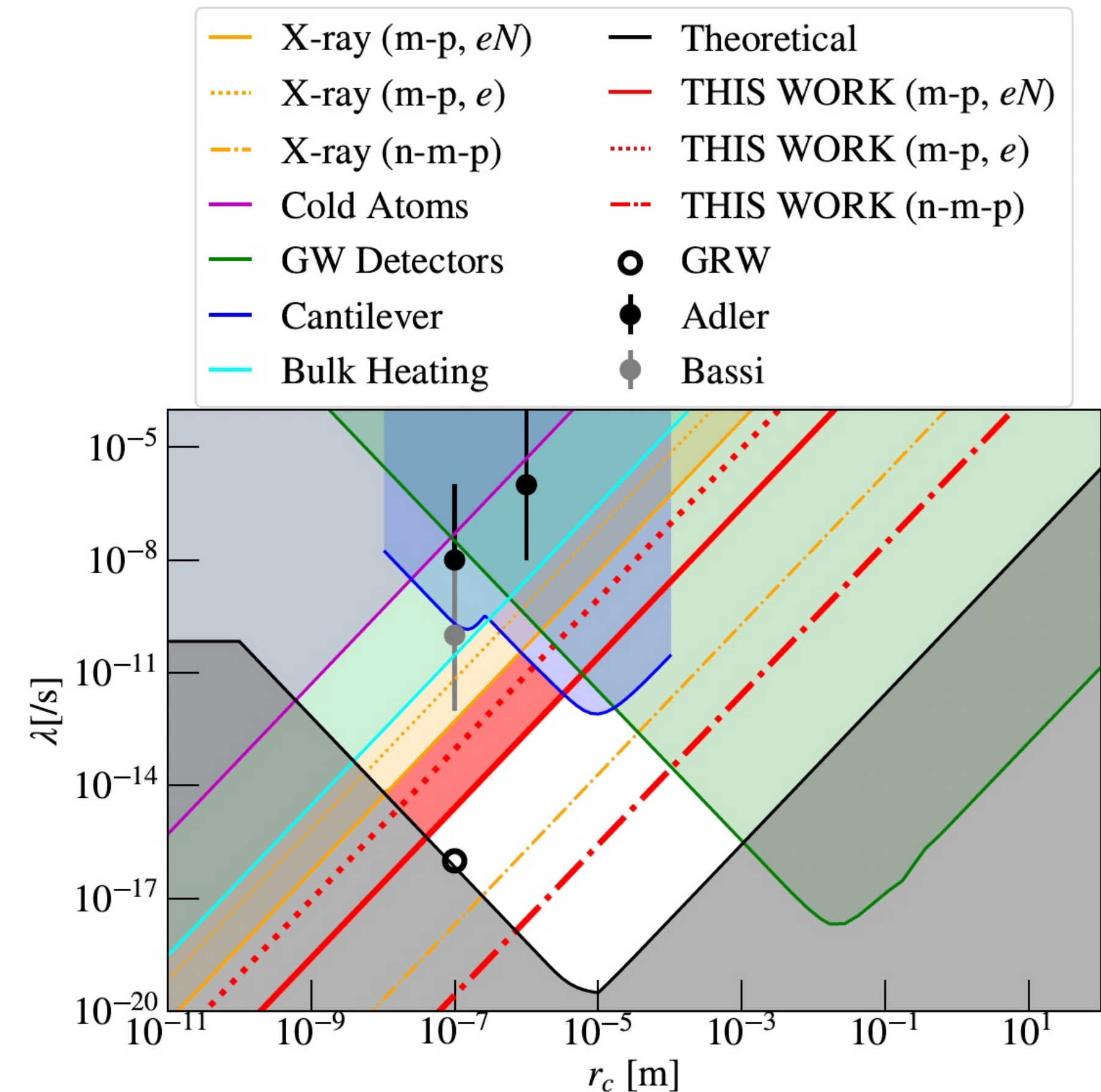


**Sean Carroll** (seancarroll@gmail.com) is the Homewood Professor of Natural Philosophy at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, and a member of the Fractal Faculty at the Santa Fe Institute in New Mexico.

Theory of quantum wavefunction collapse yields  $1/E$  prediction for spectral signature



PRL 129 080401 (2022)



Low-background low-energy spectrum of MAJORANA leads to significant improvement in sensitivity to process

*This and much more, see Clint Wiseman's talk Tuesday afternoon*

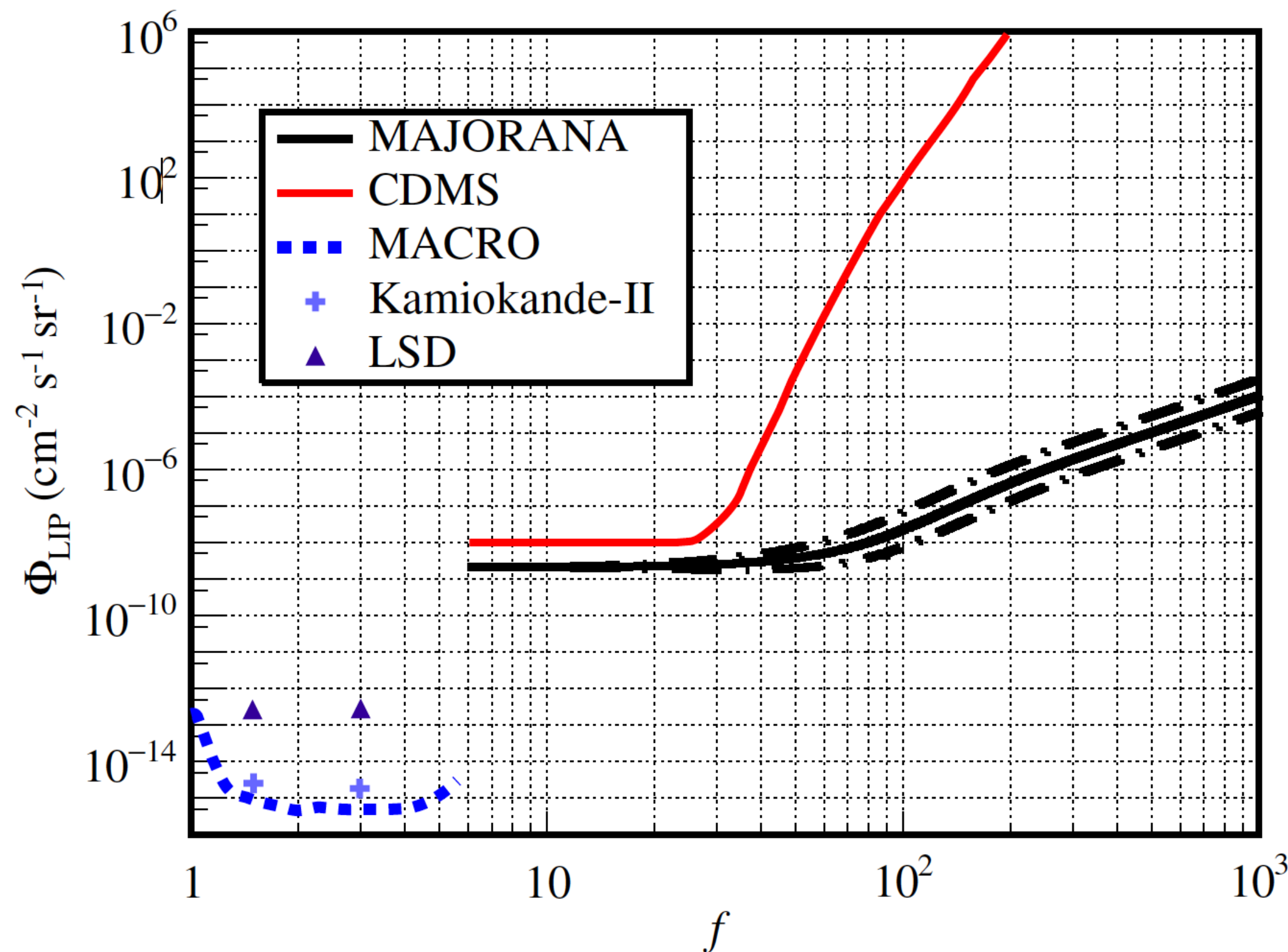
# Beyond the Standard Model Searches



The low backgrounds, low threshold, high-resolution spectra allows additional searches

First Limit on the direct detection of Lightly Ionizing Particles for Electric Charge as Low as  $e/1000$

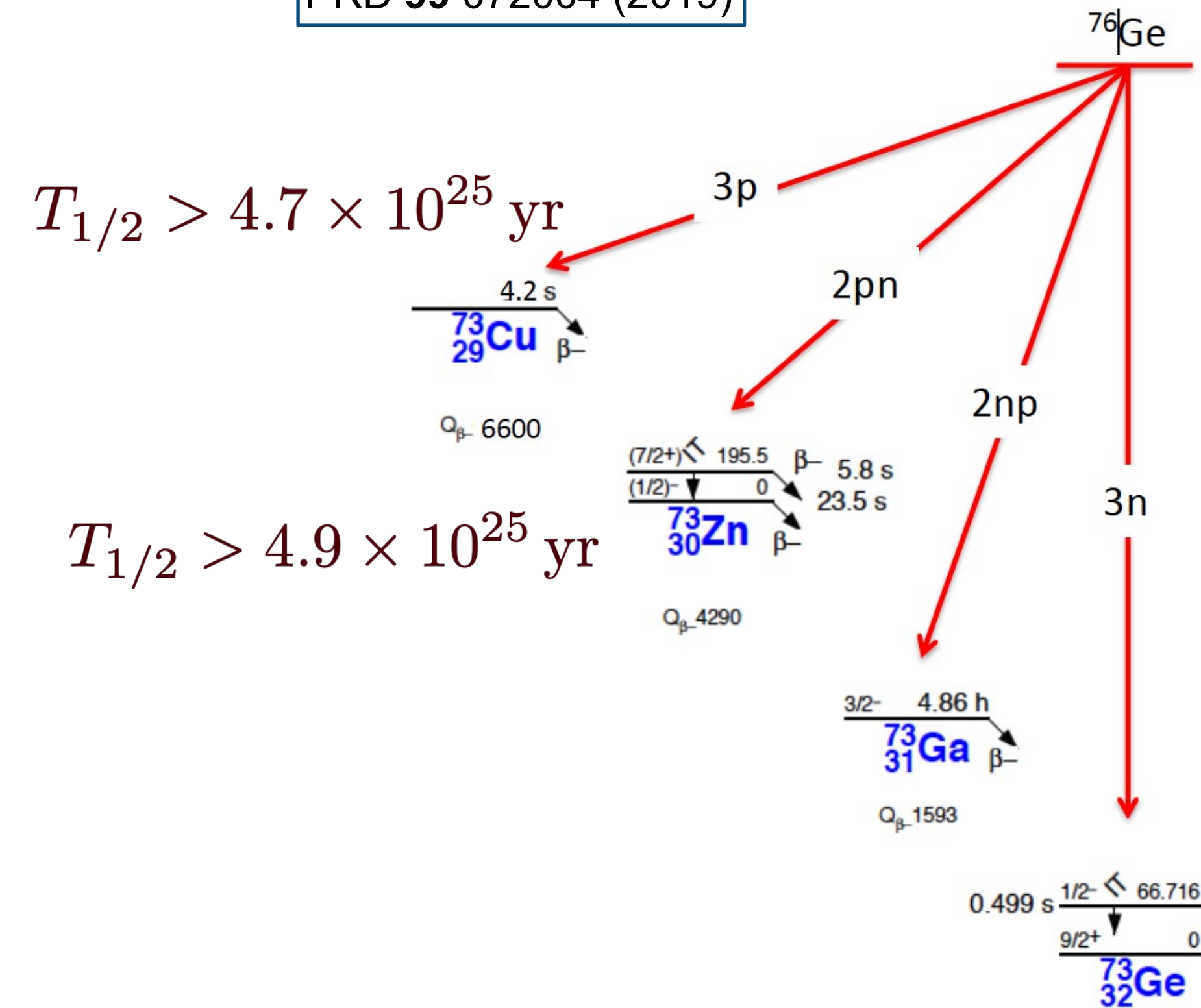
PRL 120 211804 (2018)



The 90% UL on the Lightly Ionizing Particle flux with  $1\sigma$  uncertainty bands

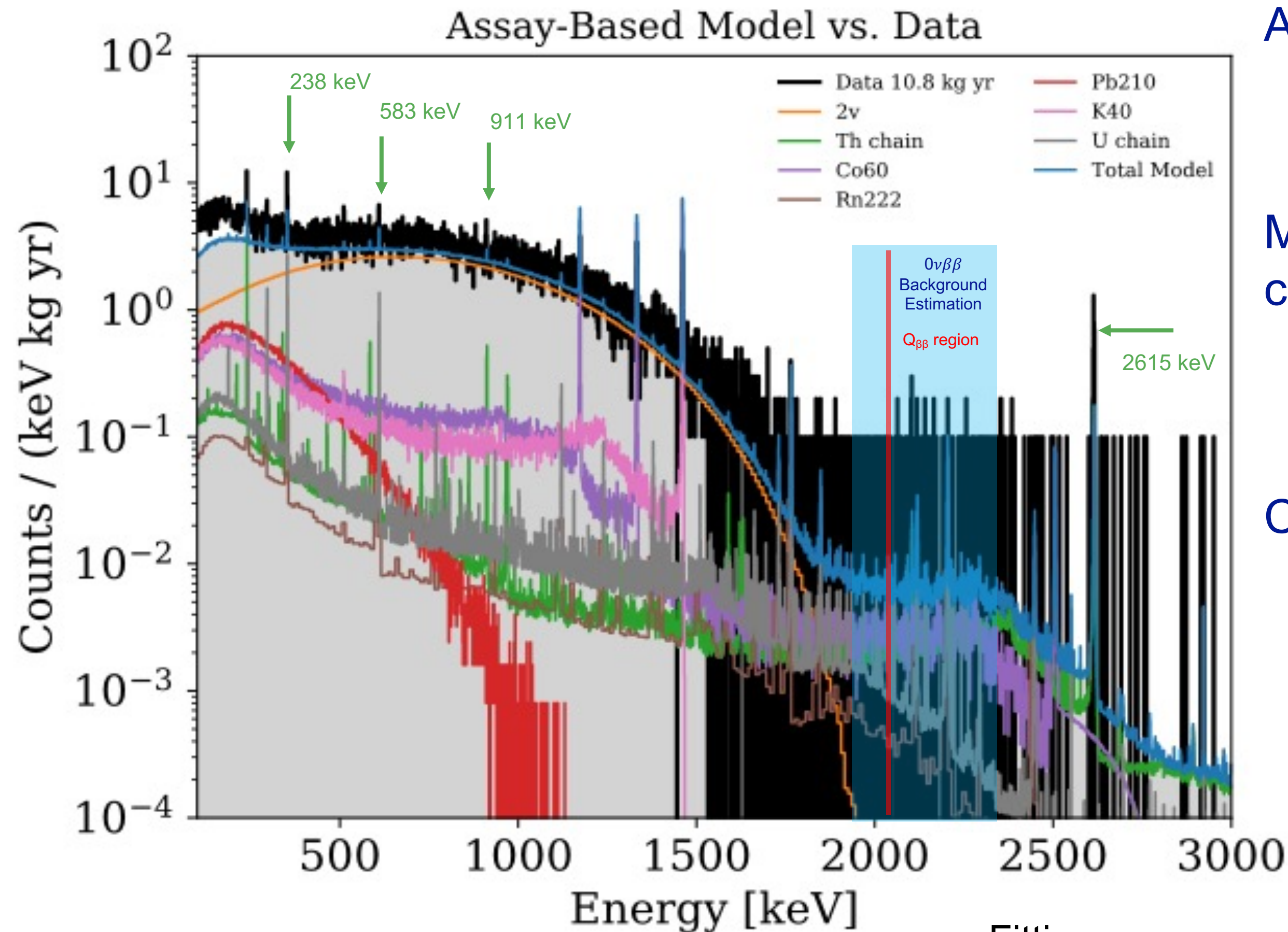
Search for Tri-Nucleon Decay:  
A test of baryon number violation

PRD 99 072004 (2019)



The 90% UL for two tri-nucleon decay-specific modes

# Background Modeling and Investigation



Assay-based prediction:  $2.9 \pm 0.14$  cts/ (FWHM t y)

Updated to match as-built geometry, new assay information, and more refined uncertainties

Measured Background in lowest background configuration:  $15.7 \pm 1.4$  cts/(FWHM t y) [PRELIMINARY]

Module 1:  $18.6 \pm 1.8$  cts/(FWHM t yr)

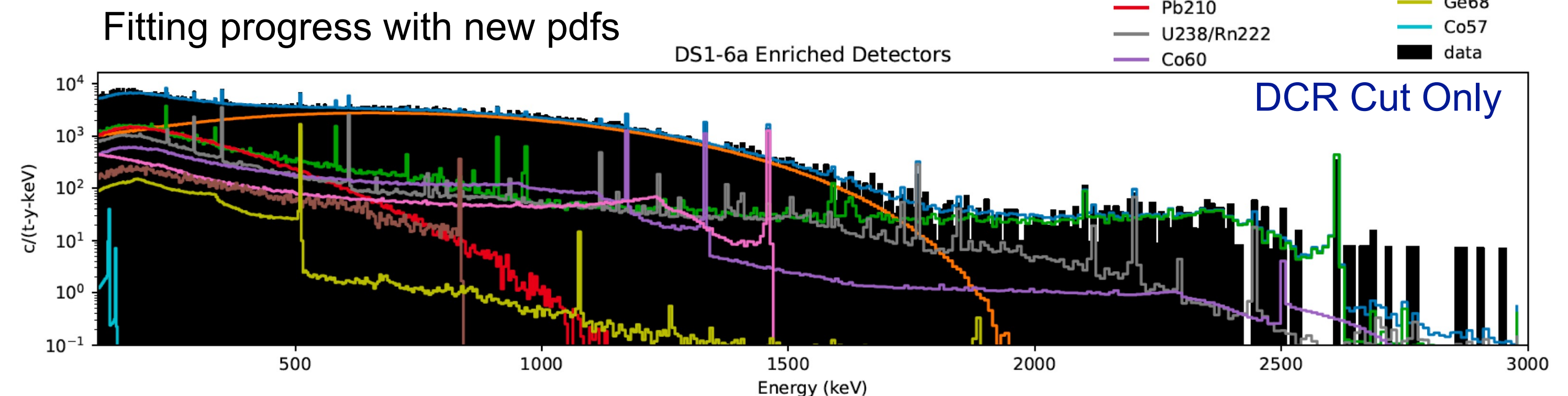
Module 2:  $8.4^{+1.9}_{-1.7}$  cts/(FWHM t yr)

Characteristics of background excess:

Dominated by  $^{232}\text{Th}$  decay chain — excess apparent at  $^{208}\text{Tl}$ , especially 238 keV and 2615 keV

Does not indicate a source within the Ge detector array (front end electronics, detector holders, etc.).

Improved Frequentist and Bayesian fitting efforts underway in order to more precisely locate source of excess  $^{232}\text{Th}$  background and complete the background model

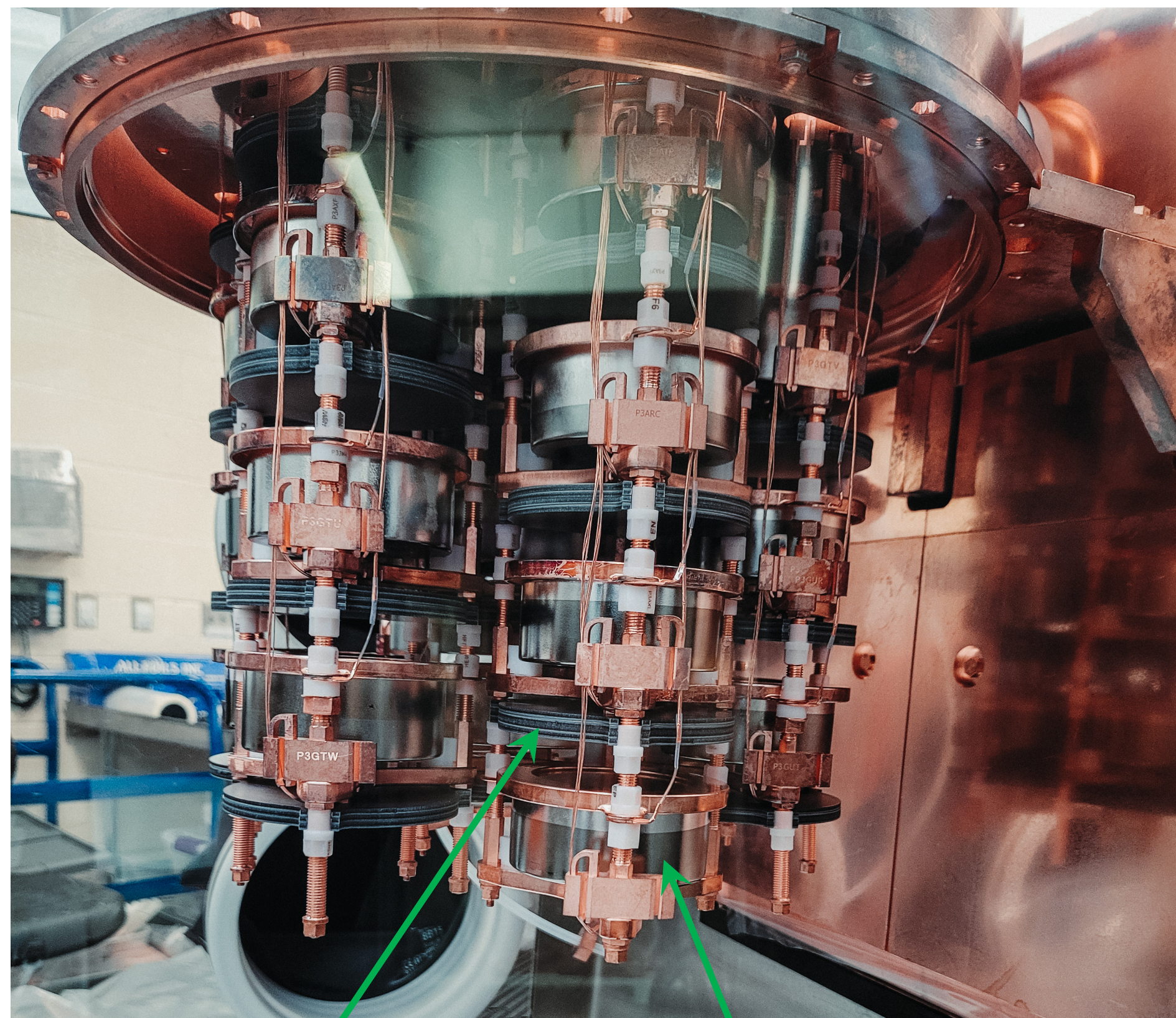


# Tantalum: The Next DEMONSTRATOR Chapter



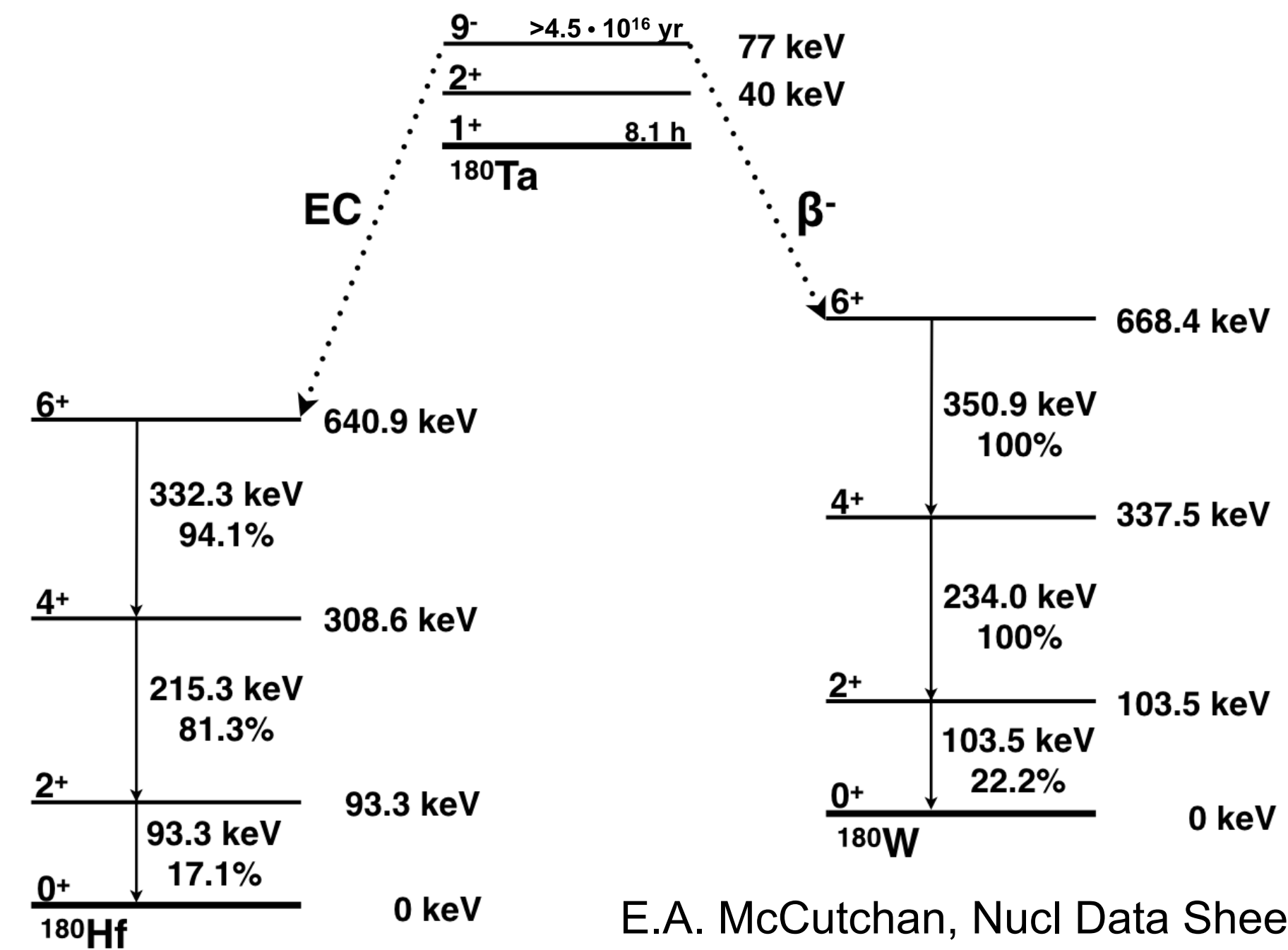
MAJORANA DEMONSTRATOR has been reconfigured with single module of natural detectors only

Searching for decay of  $^{180m}\text{Ta}$ , nature's longest lived metastable isotope



17 kg tantalum disks  
2 g  $^{180m}\text{Ta}$

23  $^{\text{nat}}\text{Ge}$  BEGe detectors



E.A. McCutchan, Nucl Data Sheets (2015)  
B. Lehnert *et al.* Phys. Rev. C (2017)

MAJORANA search will be sensitive to theory-favored half-lives of  $10^{17}$ – $10^{18}$  yr

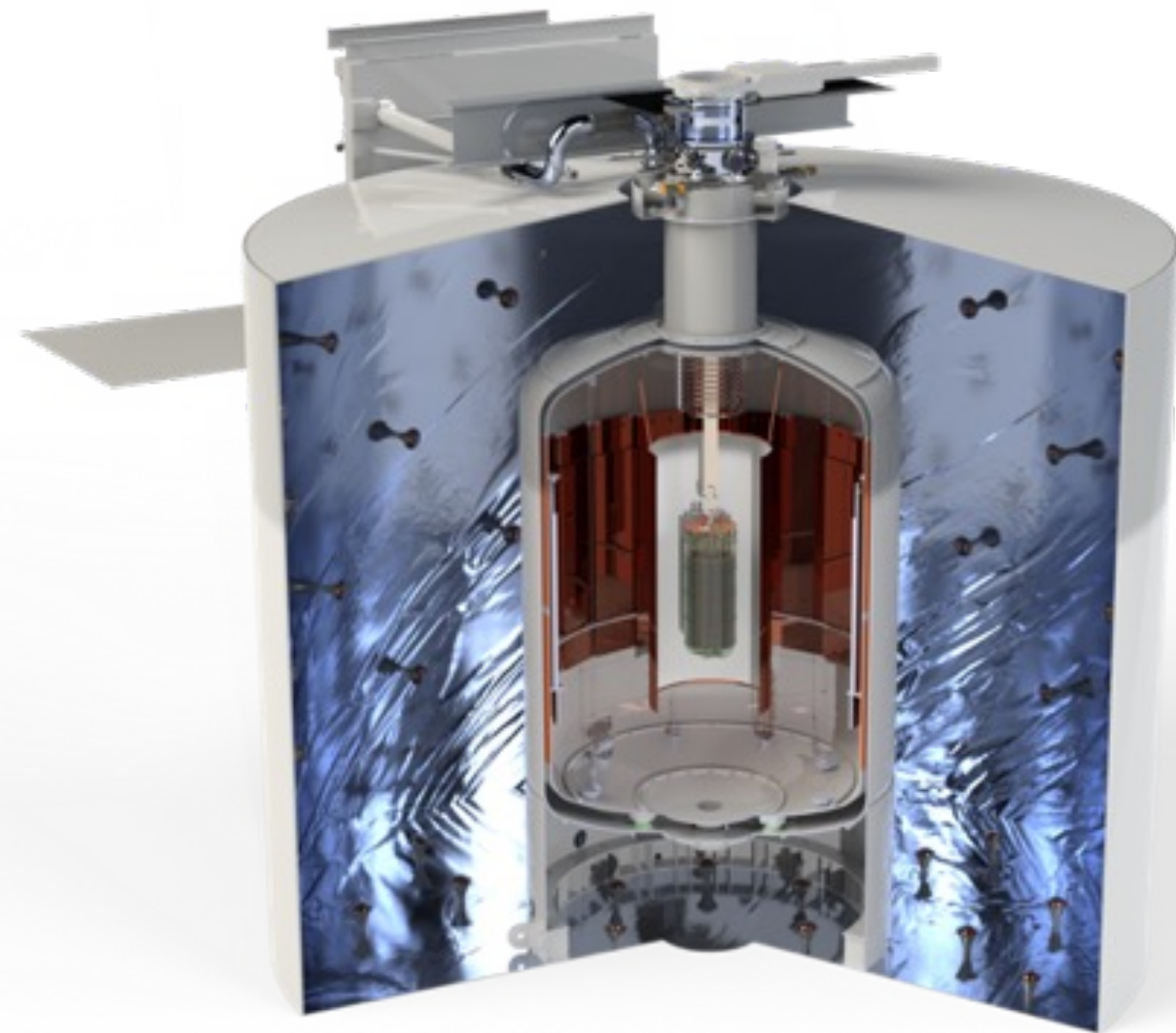
- Order of magnitude more  $^{180m}\text{Ta}$  than previous searches
- Many more detectors for coincidence gammas
- Ultra-low background DEMONSTRATOR environment
- Two orders of magnitude improvement in sensitivity

# LEGEND: The Future of $^{76}\text{Ge}$ $0\nu\beta\beta$

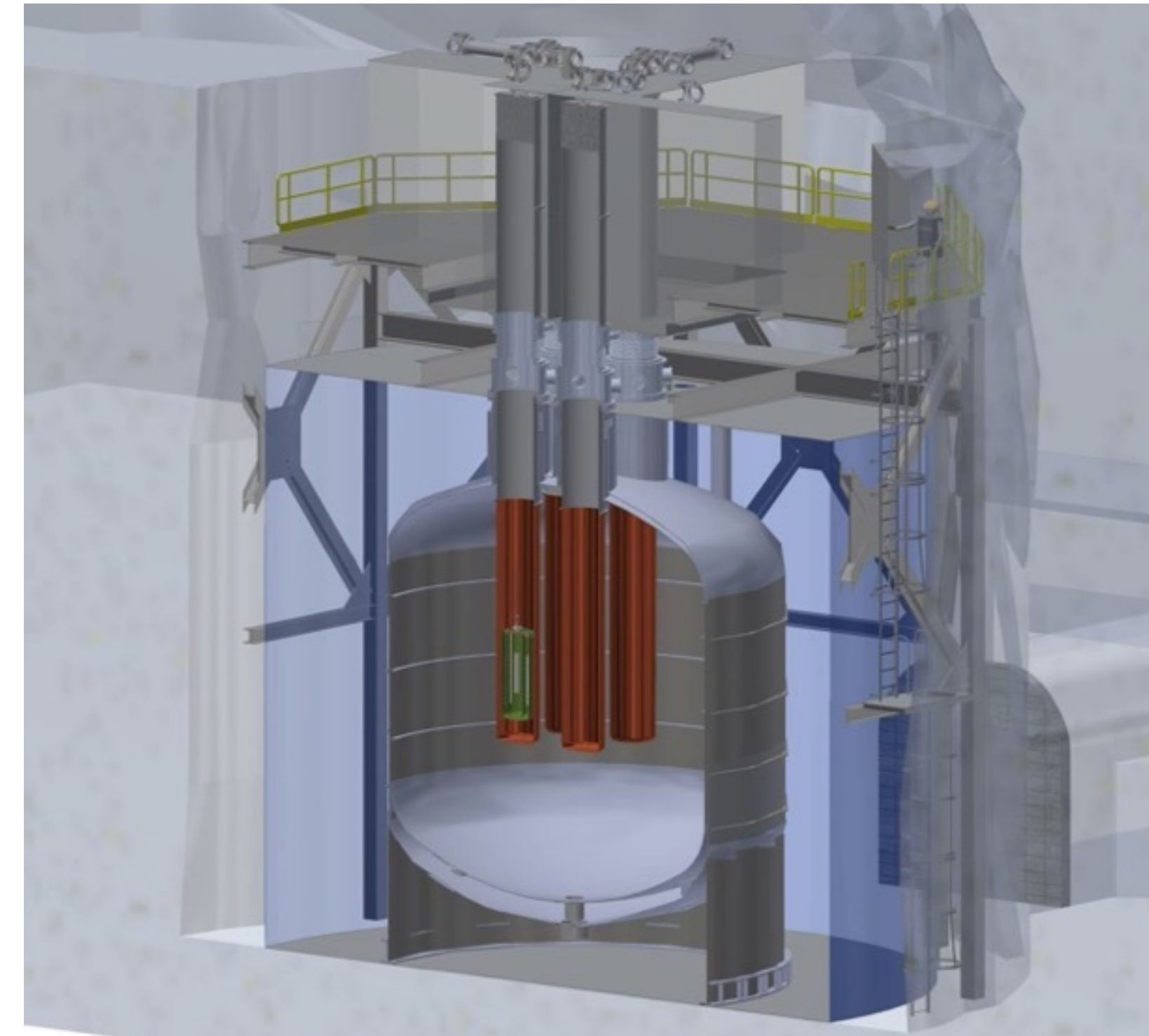


Germanium-based  $0\nu\beta\beta$  efforts from both sides of the Atlantic (MAJORANA and GERDA) have come together to form one collaboration, LEGEND with the mission:

The collaboration aims to develop a phased,  $^{76}\text{Ge}$  based double-beta decay experimental program with discovery potential at a half-life beyond  $10^{28}$  years, using existing resources as appropriate to expedite physics results.



LEGEND-200: Commissioning Now!



LEGEND-1000: Pursuing CD-1

*See Wenqin Xu parallel talk this afternoon*

Several postdoctoral opportunities on MAJORANA and LEGEND open now, see <https://legend-exp.org>

# MAJORANA DEMONSTRATOR Summary and Outlook



Started taking data with first module in 2015 and has completed enriched Ge data-taking in 2021

Excellent energy resolution of 2.5 keV FWHM @ 2039 keV, best of all  $0\nu\beta\beta$  experiments

**Latest limit on  $0\nu\beta\beta$  of  $T_{1/2} > 8.3 \times 10^{25}$  yr (90% C.I.) from 64.5 kg-yr exposure**

Leading limits in the search for double-beta decay of  $^{76}\text{Ge}$  to excited states

Background model being investigated and refined

Initial background fits are informing possible distribution of background sources

Low background + energy resolution + multiple years of high-quality data allows for broad physics program, yielding many new results

BSM physics results extracted in wide energy range with various analysis techniques

Search for neutron and cosmogenic signatures at high energy

Continuing operation with natural detectors for background studies, tantalum decay, and other physics

The technologies, analysis techniques, and people involved in MAJORANA will continue to play a major role in searching for  $0\nu\beta\beta$  with LEGEND

This material is supported by the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Science, Office of Nuclear Physics, the Particle Astrophysics and Nuclear Physics Programs of the National Science Foundation, and the Sanford Underground Research Facility.