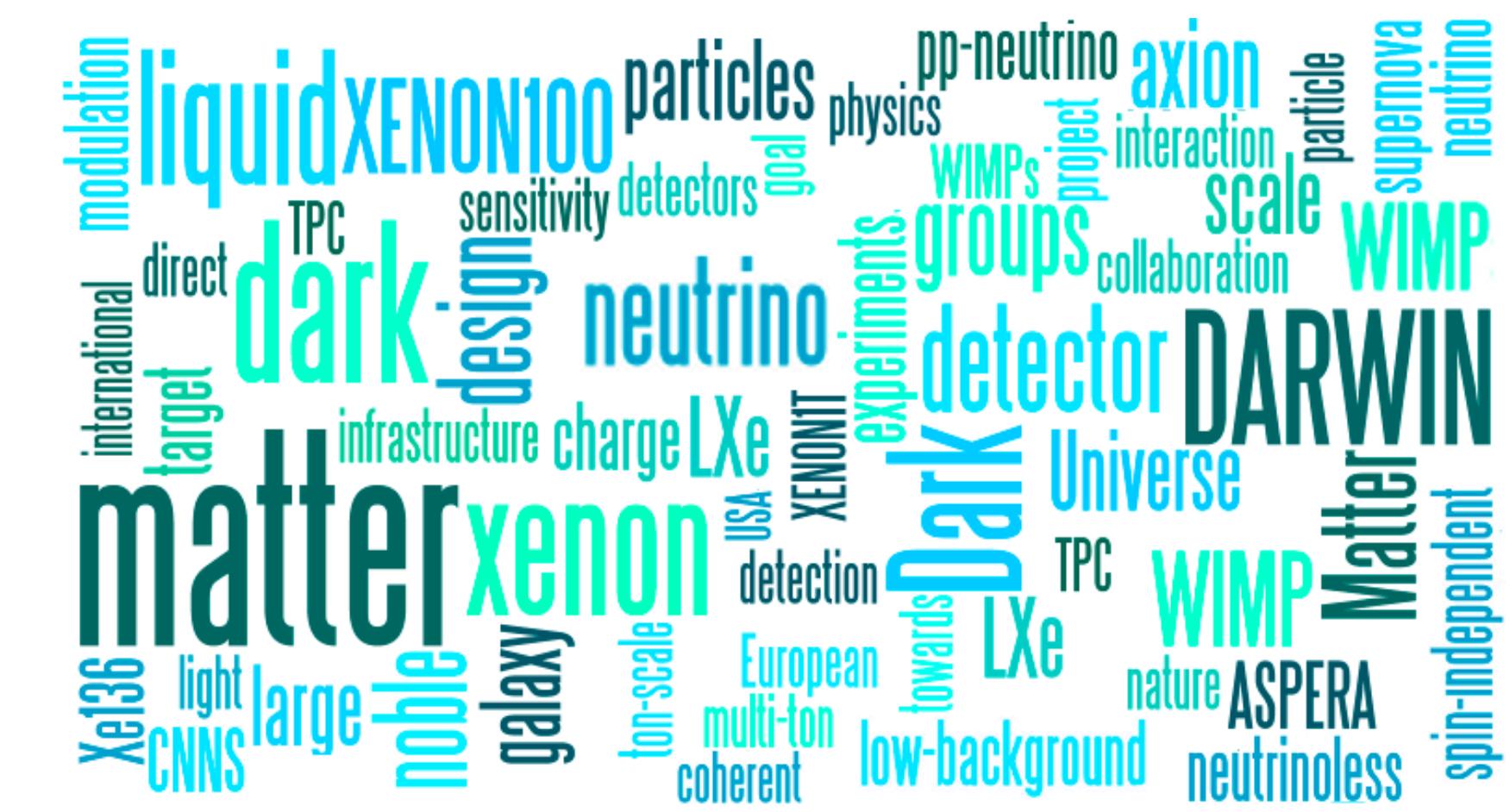


# DARWIN: a next-generation liquid xenon observatory for dark matter and neutrino physics

*Yanina Biondi on behalf of the DARWIN collaboration,  
Universität Zürich  
09.10.2019*



**University of  
Zurich**<sup>UZH</sup>



[www.darwin-observatory.org](http://www.darwin-observatory.org)



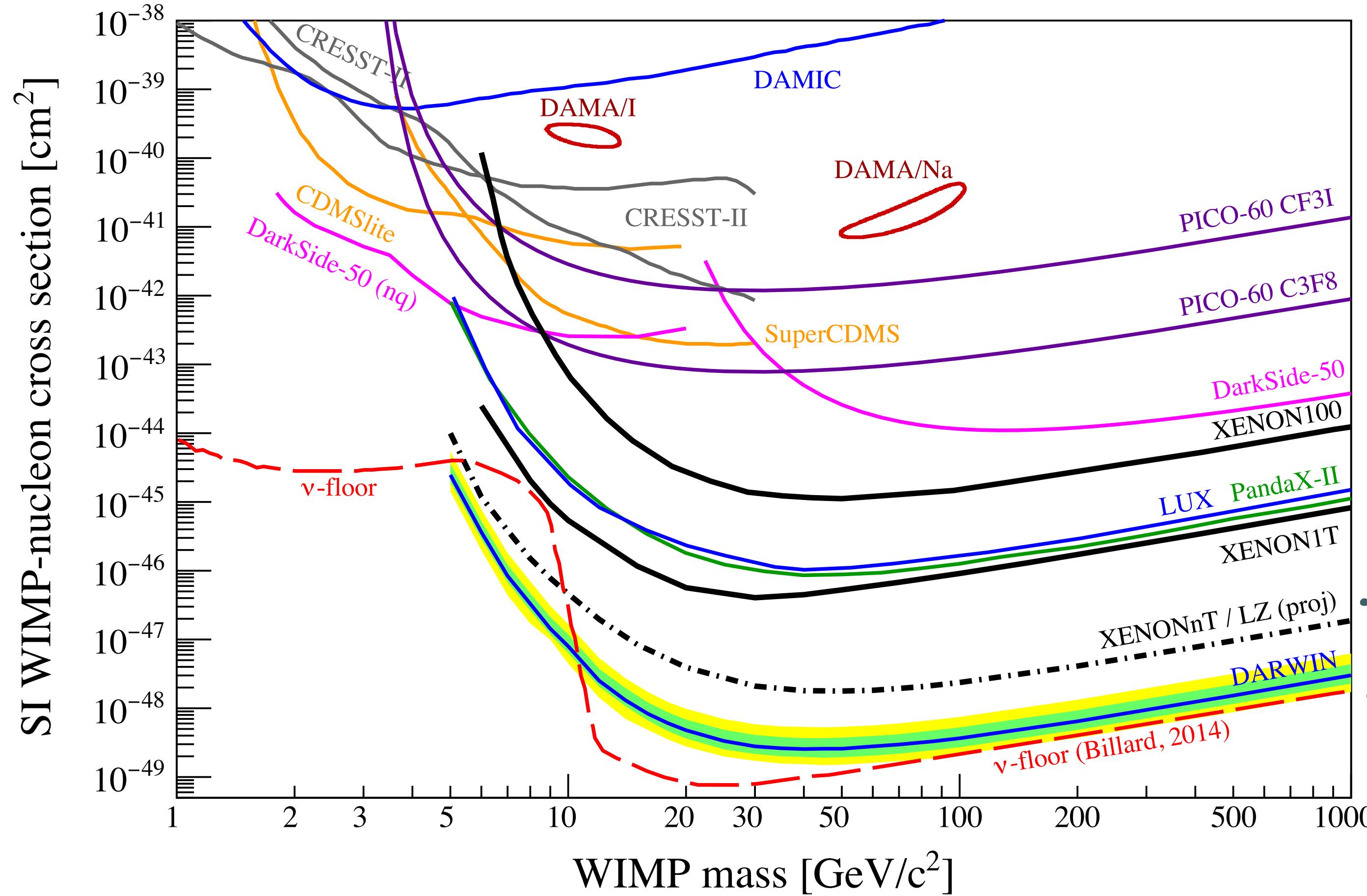
# CONTENTS

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- DARWIN design and goals
- Design challenges
- R&D at UZH
- Neutrinoless double beta decay dedicated study

# THE WIMP LANDSCAPE 2019

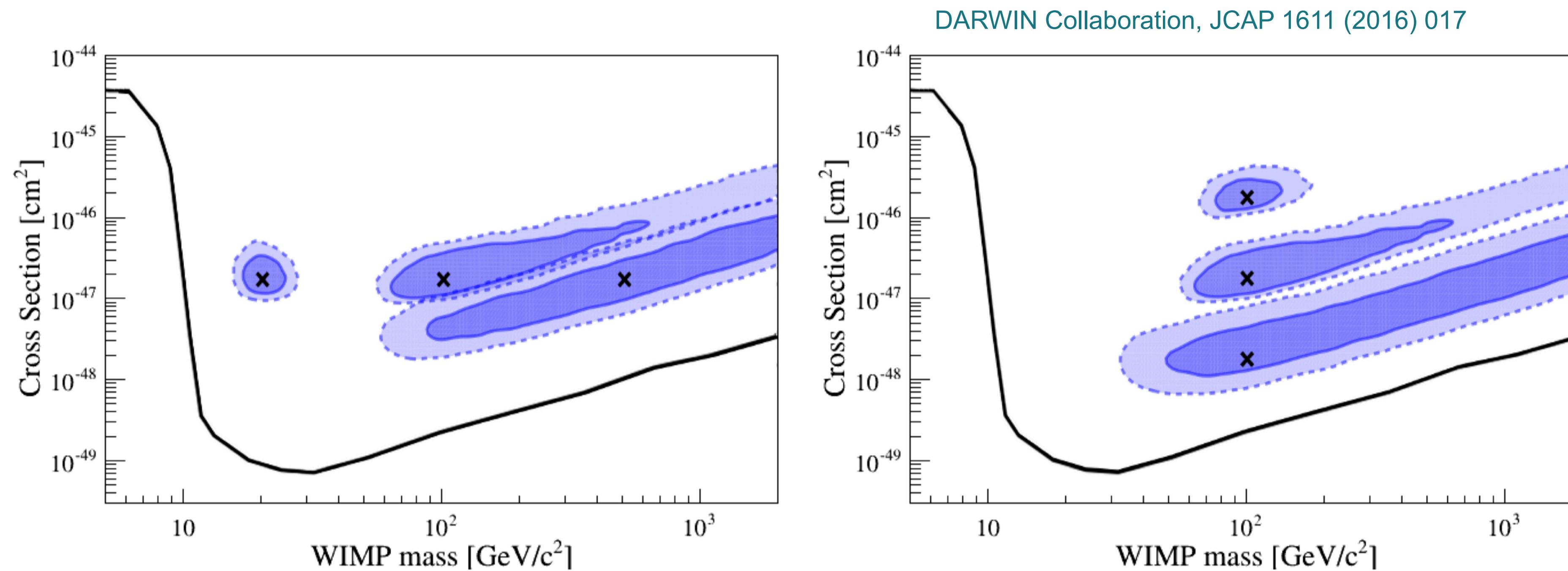
## *Spin independent cross section for WIMPs*



- The highest sensitivity to WIMPs above 5GeV/C<sup>2</sup> comes from experiments using liquid noble gases as target (Xe,Ar).
  - Lower cross sections will require much larger detectors. **DARWIN** with 40t aims to increase 100-fold the current sensitivity
- Current limits  
 → Future sensitivities  
 → Ultimate reach before reaching the neutrino floor

# SPIN INDEPENDENT INTERACTIONS

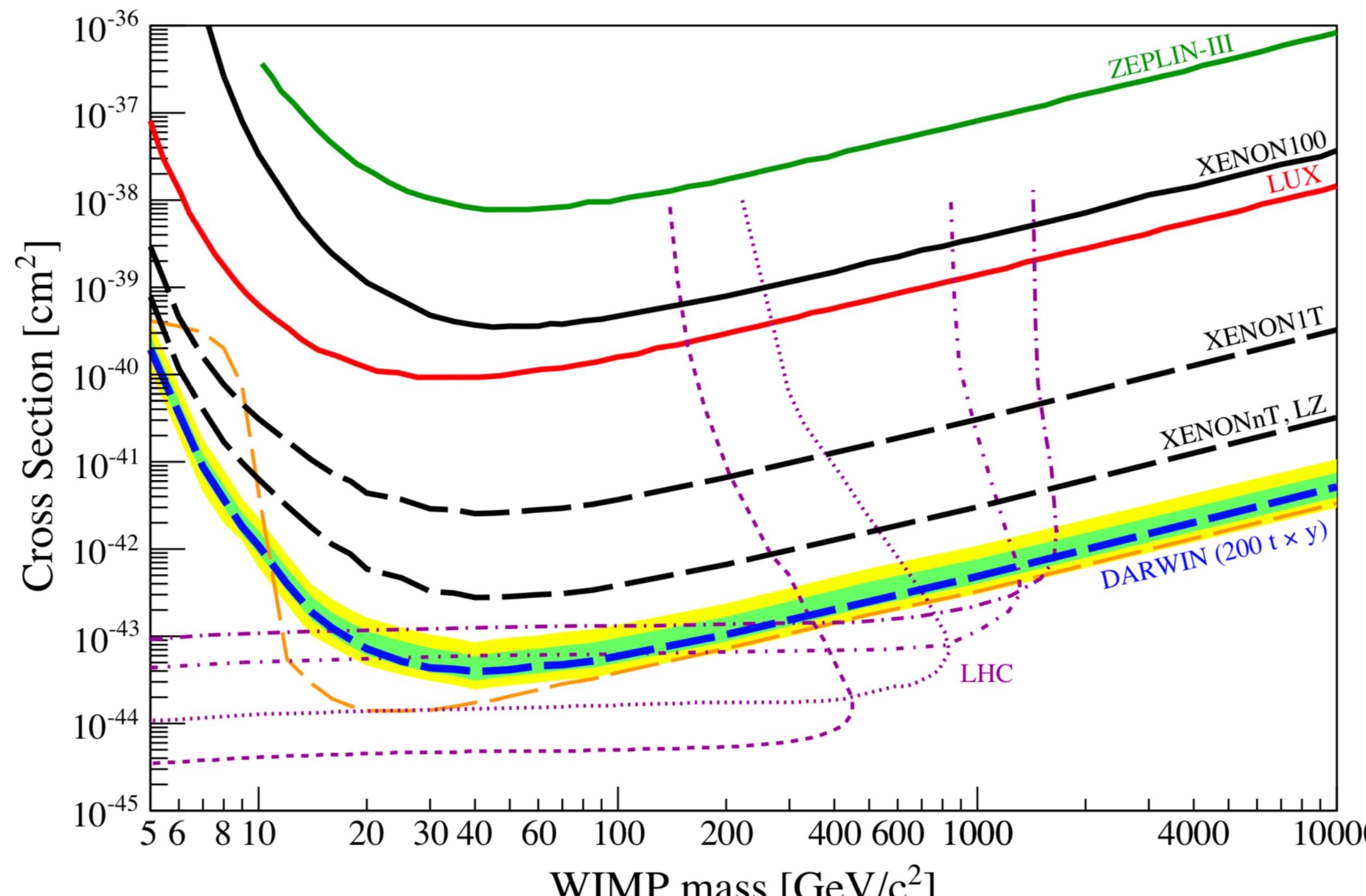
Left: Reconstruction for three different WIMP masses of  $20 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ ,  $100 \text{ GeV}/c^2$  and  $500 \text{ GeV}/c^2$  and a cross section of  $2 \times 10^{-47} \text{ cm}^2$ , close to the sensitivity limit of XENON1T.



Right: Reconstruction for cross sections of  $2 \times 10^{-46} \text{ cm}^2$ ,  $2 \times 10^{-47} \text{ cm}^2$  and  $2 \times 10^{-48} \text{ cm}^2$  for a WIMP mass of  $100 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ . The black curve indicates where the WIMP sensitivity will start to be limited by neutrino-nucleus coherent scattering.

# THE WIMP LANDSCAPE 2019

DARWIN would have an excellent sensitivity to **spin-dependent** interactions, especially for  $^{129}\text{Xe}$ , that can be extended to axial vector couplings as well.



DARWIN Collaboration, JCAP 1611 (2016) 017

- Most of the spin in xenon is carried by neutrons, WIMP neutron scattering dominates.
- Constrain a new region in WIMP mass-mediator mass space
- Assumption: Dirac fermion and an s-channel interaction with quarks, mediated by a spin-1 particle of mass mmed with an axial-vector coupling to both the WIMP and the quarks (mediator couples equally to all quark flavors )

# XENON EVOLUTION



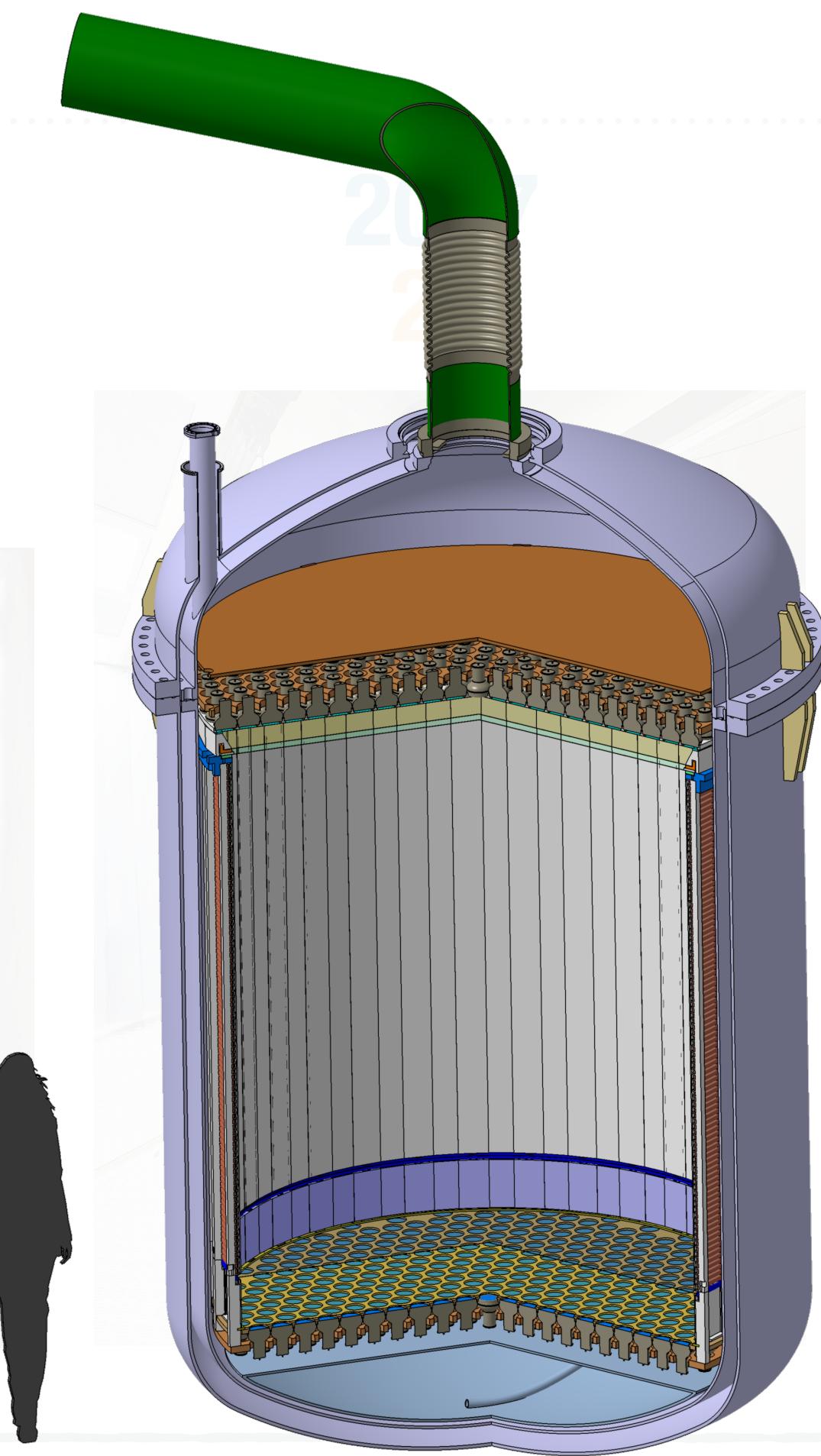
**2008  
10 kg**

**XENON10**



**2012  
100 kg**

**XENON100**

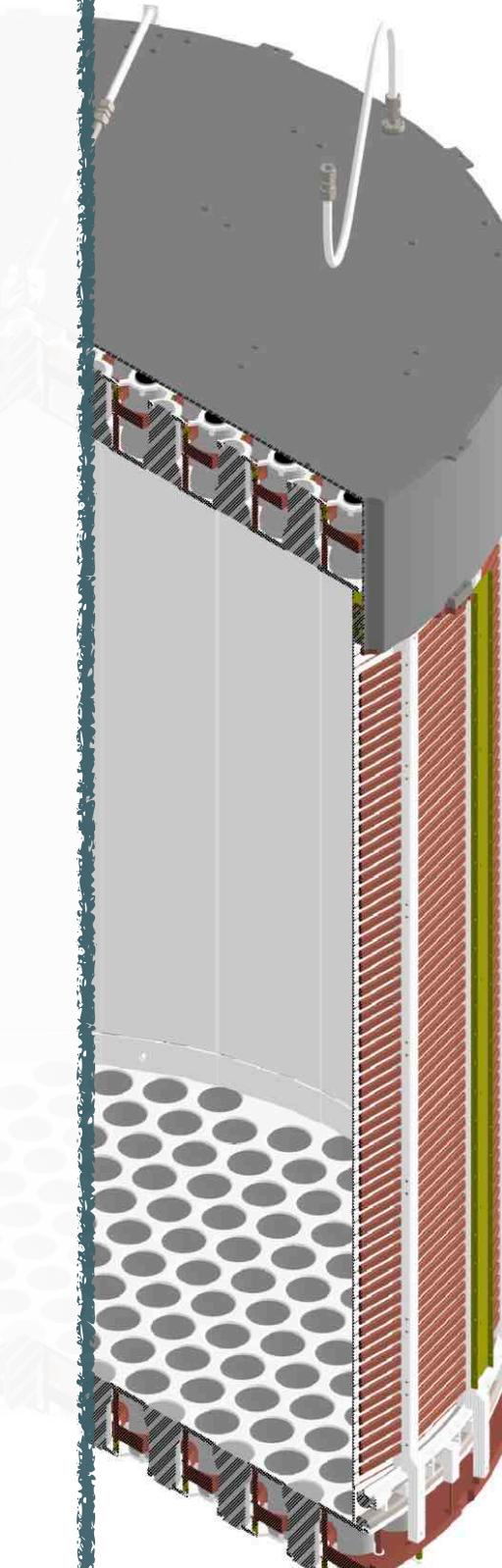


**2025  
40 t**

**DARWIN**

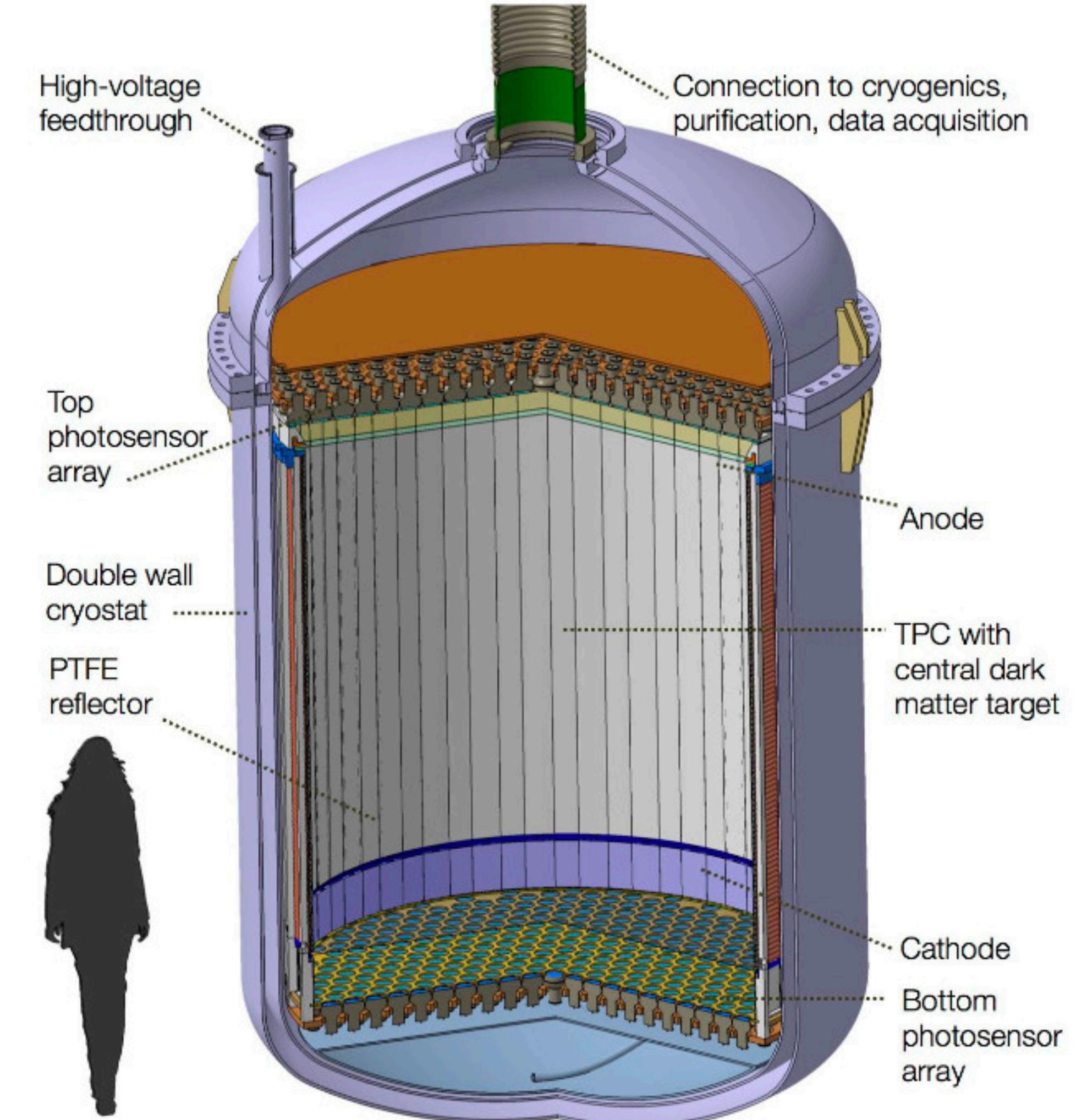
**2019  
5.9 t**

**XENONnt**

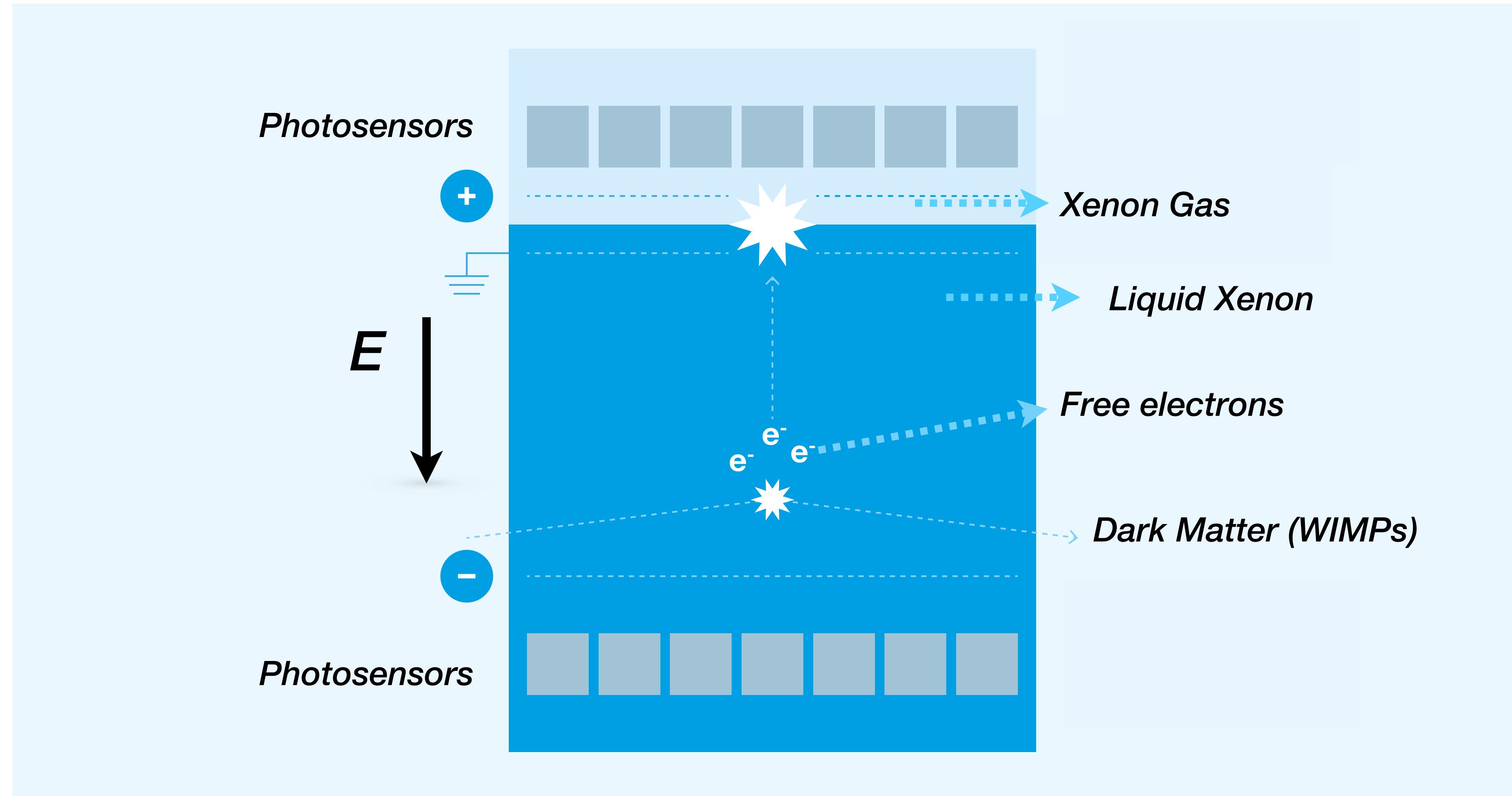


# DARWIN DESIGN: AMBITIOUS 50 TONS LXE TPC OBSERVATORY

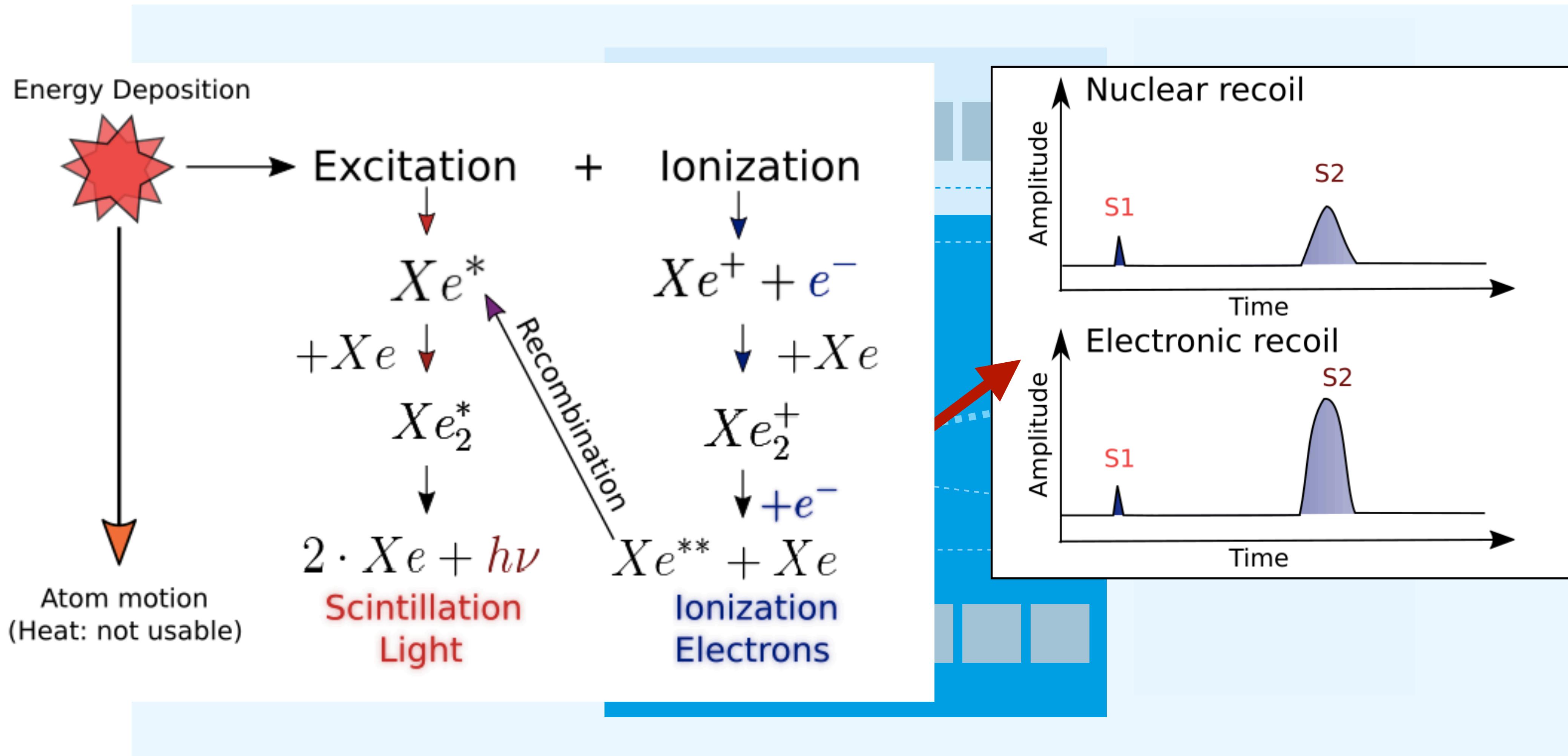
- ◆ Dual-phase Time Projection Chamber (TPC).
- ◆ 50t total (40 t active) of liquid xenon (LXe).
- ◆ Dimensions : 2.6 m diameter and 2.6 m height.
- ◆ Two arrays of photosensors (top and bottom).
- ◆ PMTs, SiPM and other technologies are being considered
- ◆ Drift field  $\sim 0.5$  kV/cm.
- ◆ Low-background double-wall cryostat.
- ◆ PTFE reflector panels & copper shaping rings.
- ◆ Outer shield filled with water (14 m diameter)
- ◆ Neutron veto



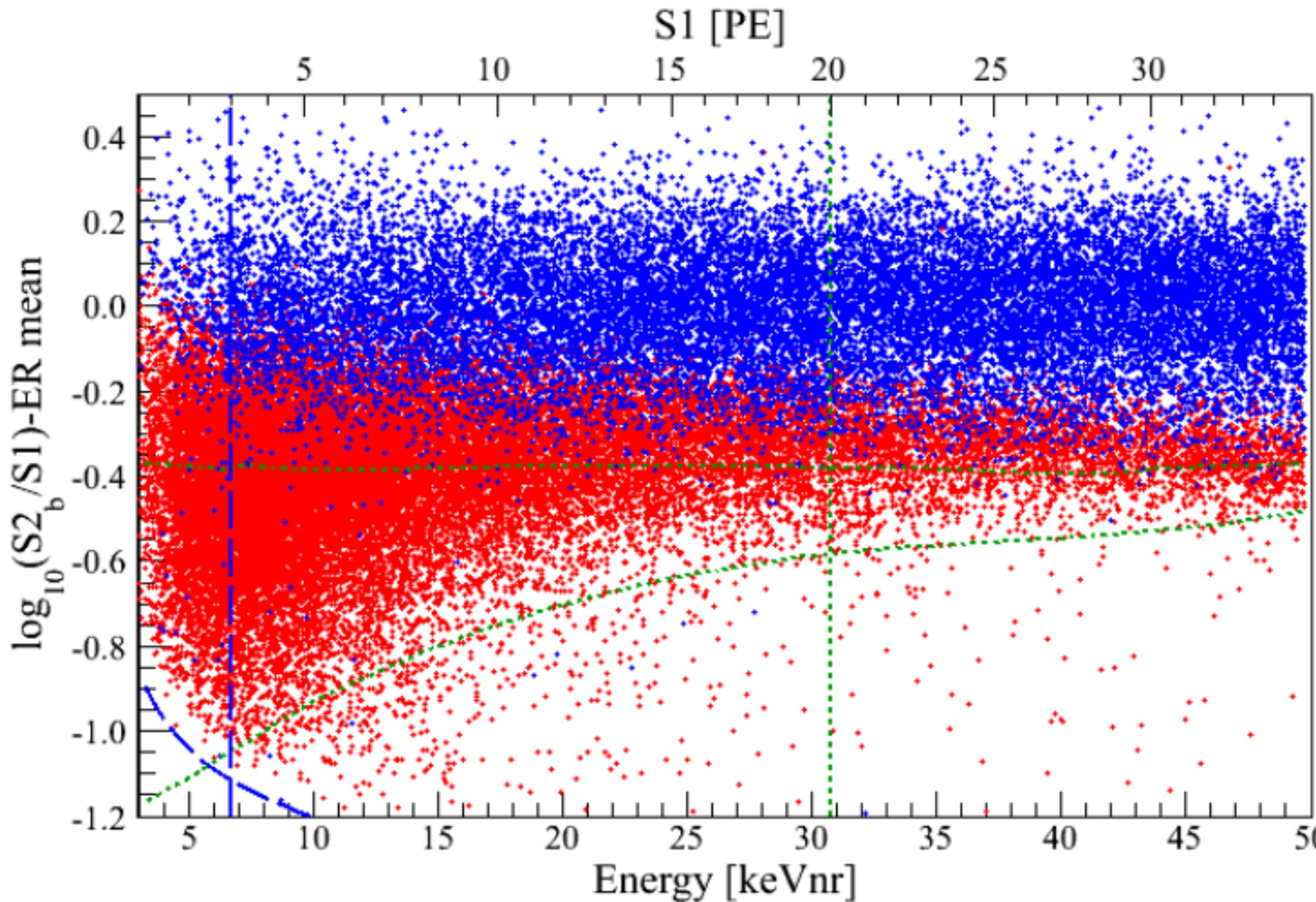
# DUAL PHASE XENON TIME PROJECTION CHAMBER



# DUAL PHASE XENON TIME PROJECTION CHAMBER



# INTERACTIONS IN LIQUID XENON



Scattering off atomic electrons,  
excitations, etc  
Electronic Recoil (ER)

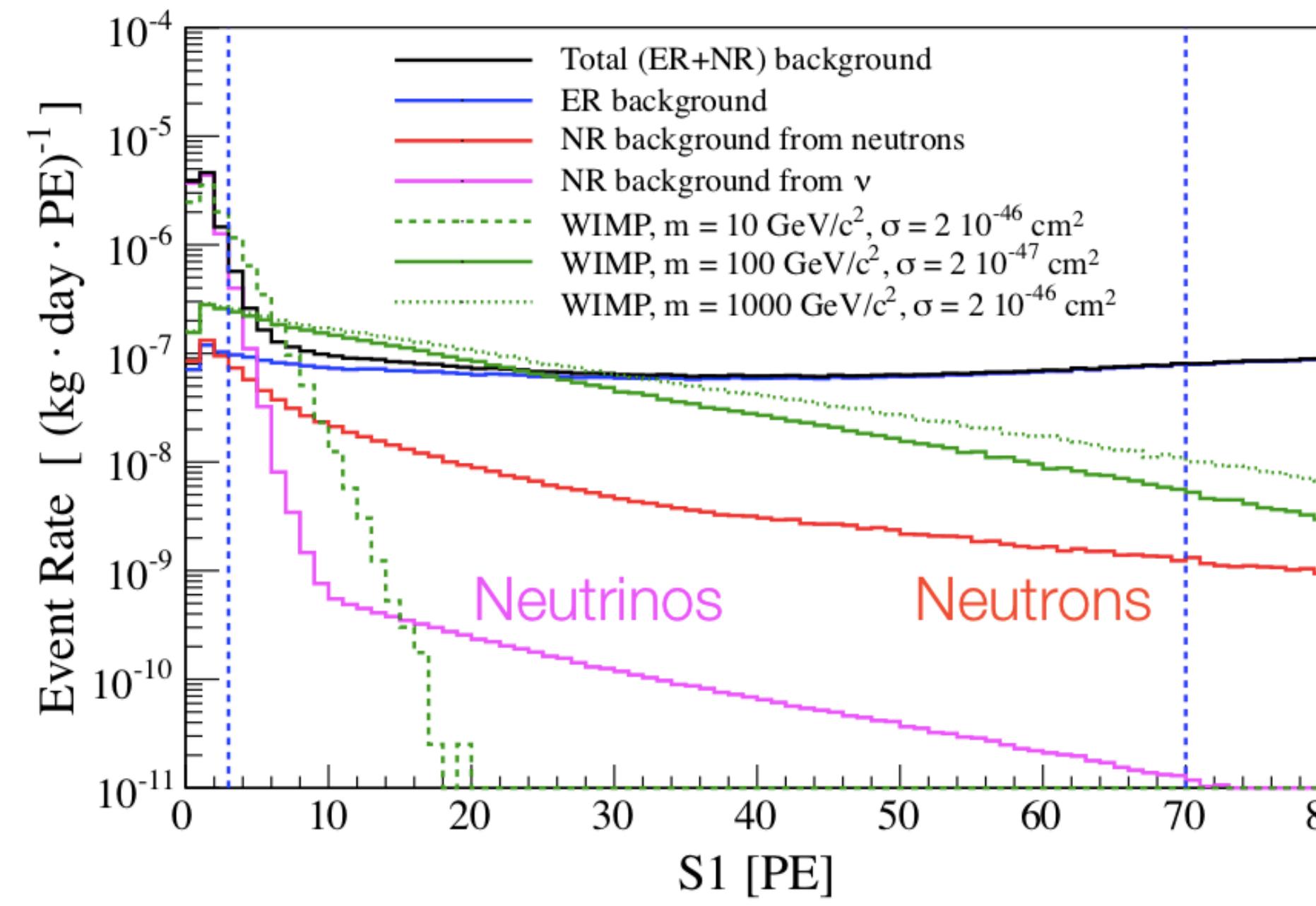
Coherent Scattering off Xe nucleus  
Nuclear Recoil (NR)

DARWIN aims for 99.98 ER  
rejection with 30% NR acceptance

From XENON100: Low energy calibration of liquid xenon detectors,  
Teresa Marrodán Undagoitia, MPIK Heidelberg, May 2013

# ELECTRONIC AND NUCLEAR RECOILS IN LIQUID XENON

The background budget is given by:



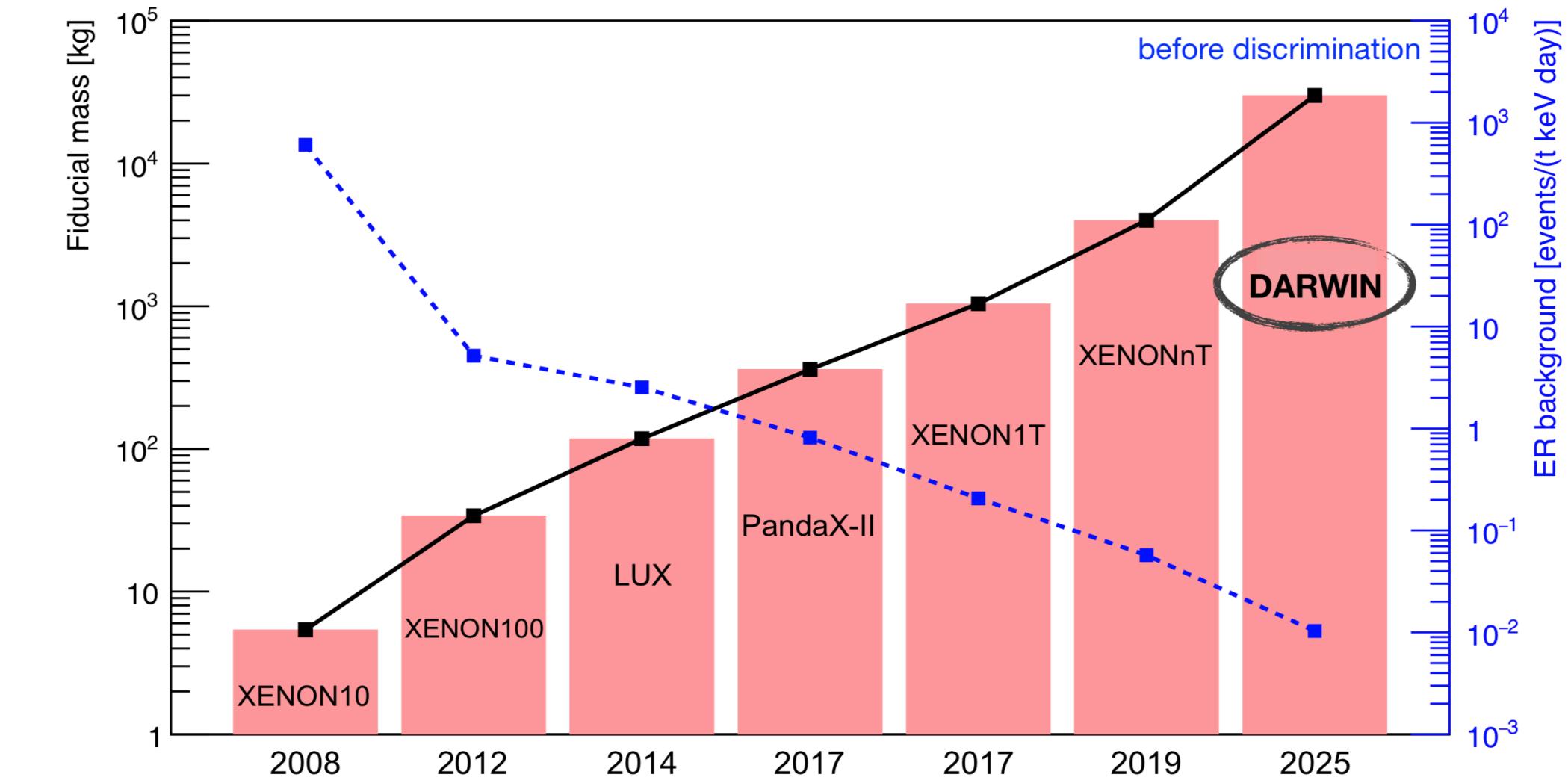
Physics reach of the XENON1T dark matter experiment

XENON Collaboration (E. Aprile (Columbia U.) et al.) CAP 1604 (2016)

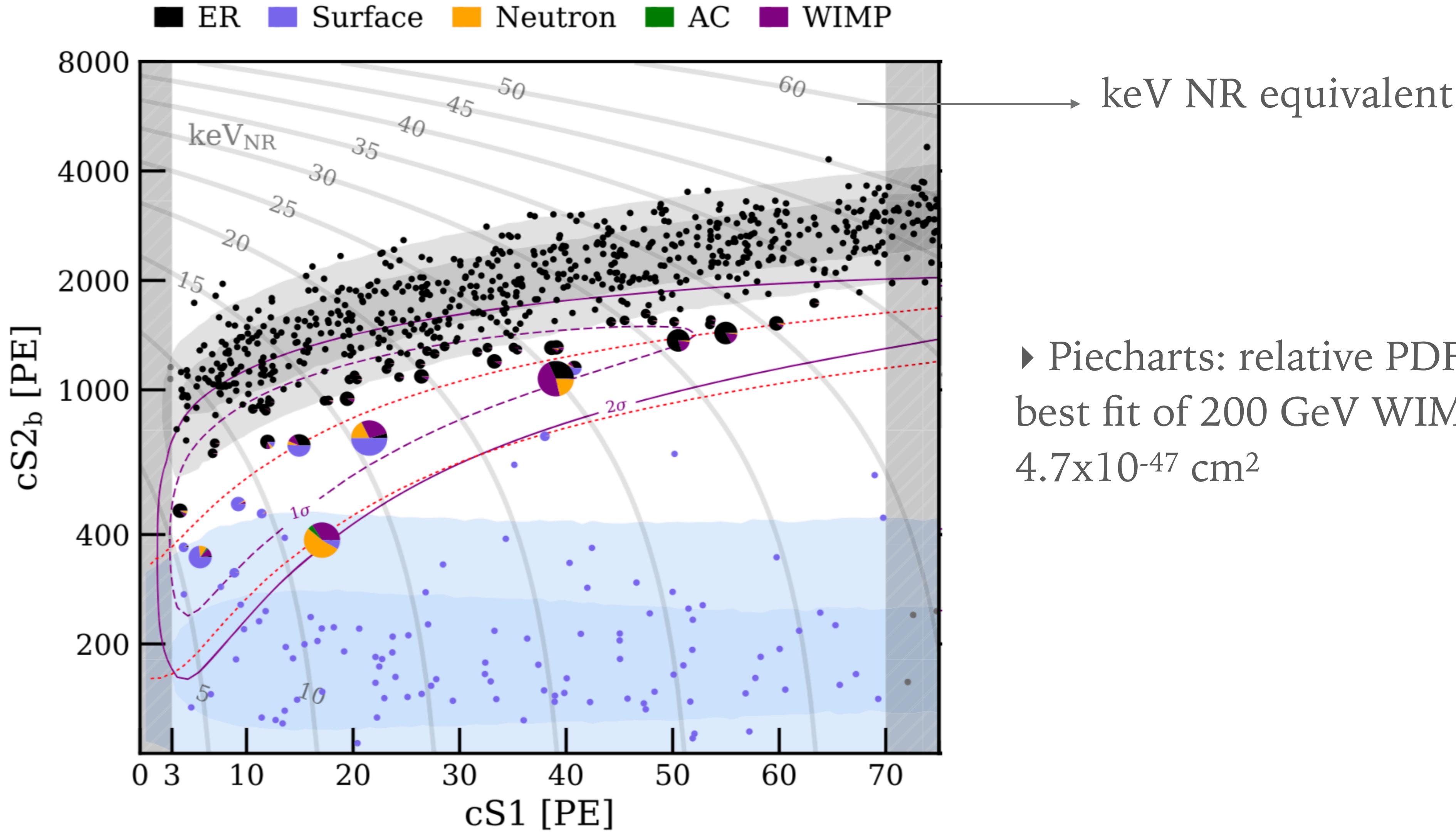
Electronic recoil  
Extrinsic from materials  
Intrinsic from LXe  
Solar Neutrinos

Nuclear recoil  
Neutrons from materials  
Cosmogenic activation  
CNNS

Self shielding from LXe and fiducialization  
help to reduce most backgrounds



# WHICH SIGNALS DO WE EXPECT TO SEE IN EACH S1-S2 REGION?



- Piecharts: relative PDF from the best fit of 200 GeV WIMPs with  $4.7 \times 10^{-47} \text{ cm}^2$

# DARWIN SCIENCE PROGRAM: MORE THAN DARK MATTER SEARCHES

Given its projected low background and large mass, DARWIN will be sensitive to other rare physics processes such as:

Solar Axions and Axion Like Particles

ER  
Low energy Solar Neutrinos: pp,  ${}^7\text{Be}$

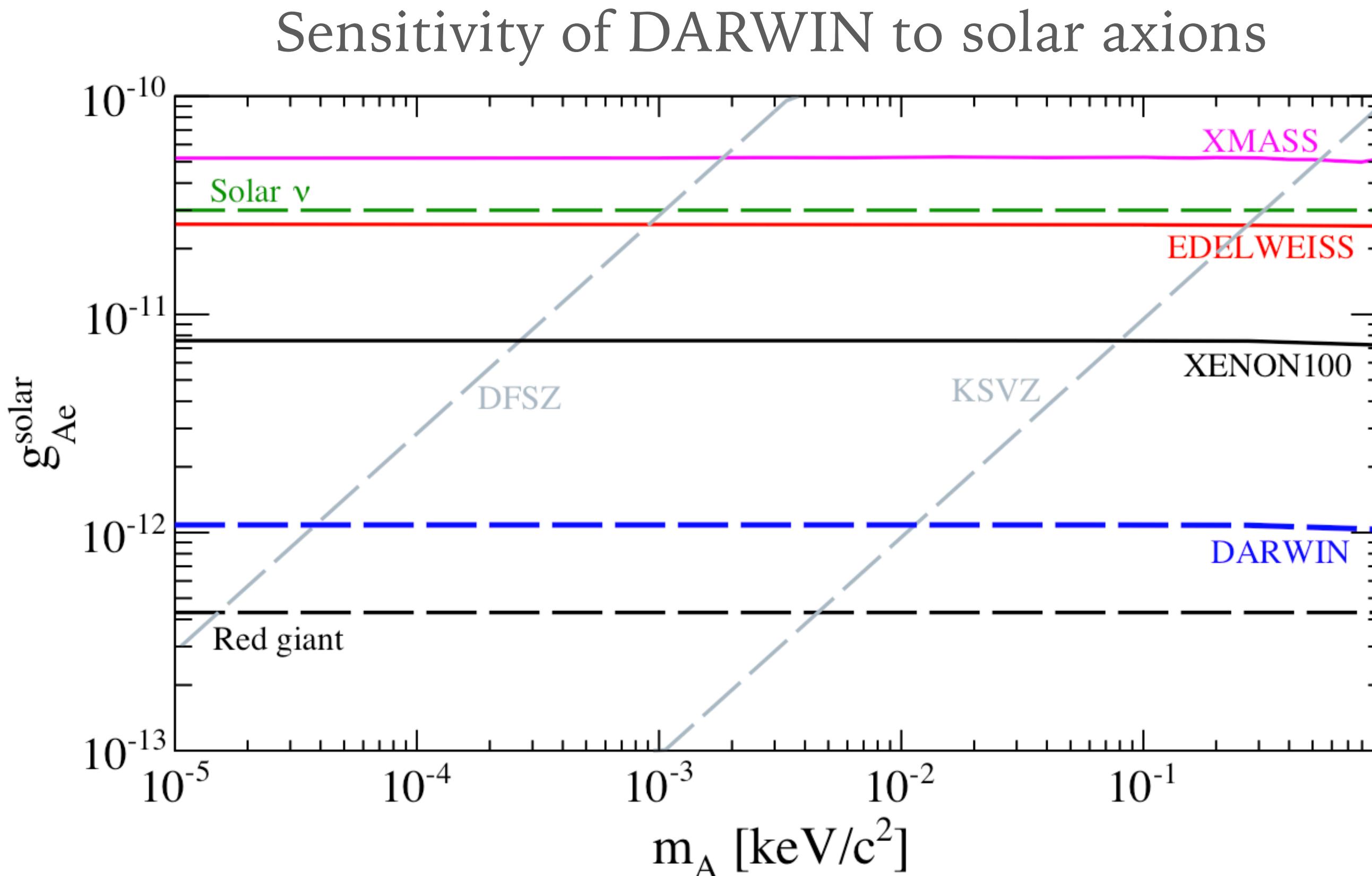
Neutrinoless Double Beta Decay

Coherent Neutrino Nucleus Scattering

NR  
Supernova Neutrinos

## Solar Axions and Axion Like Particles

Axions couple with electrons and lead to atomic ionisation  $\Rightarrow$  ER  
 Galactic Axions and ALPs are well-motivated DM candidates

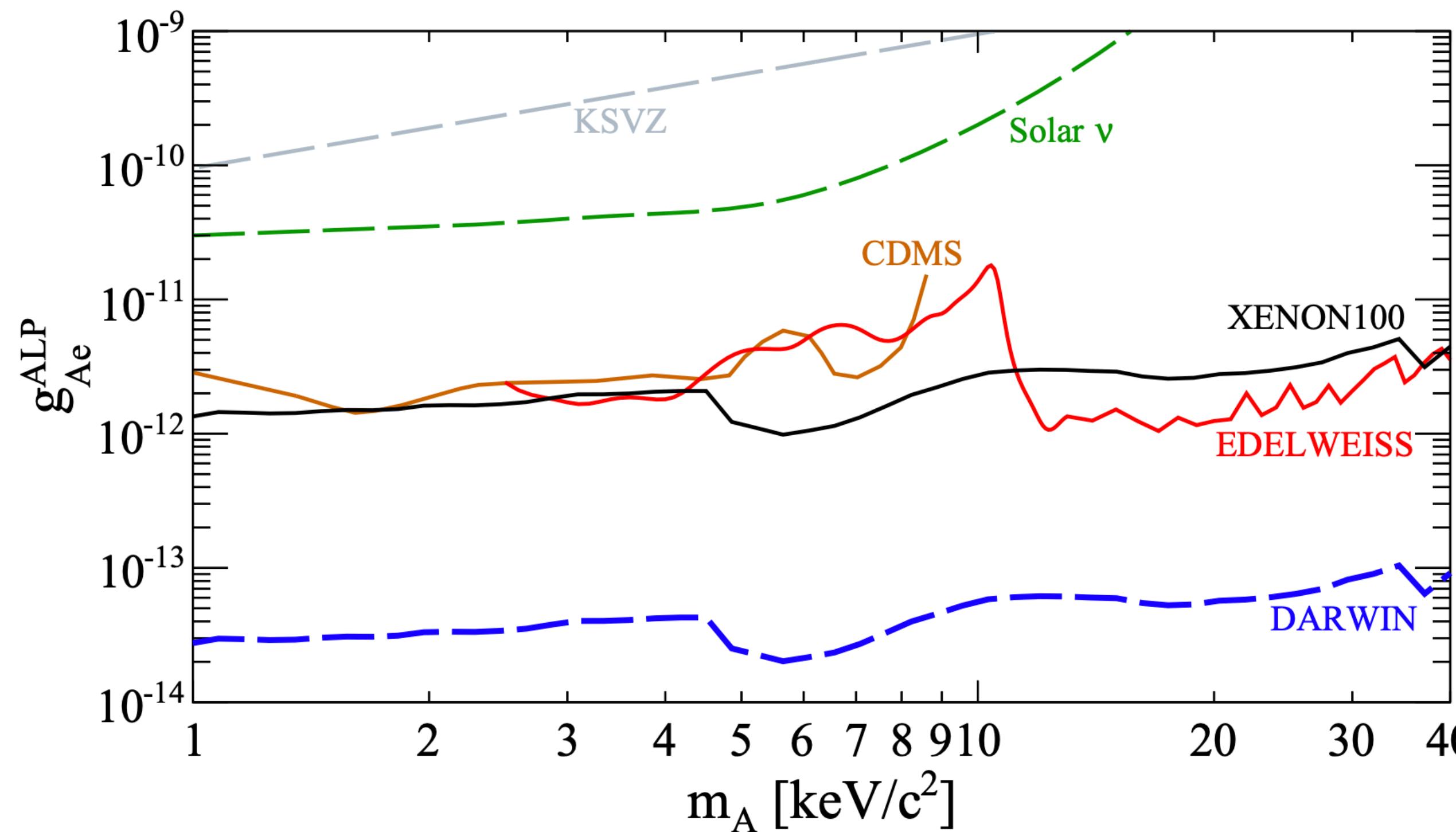


Solar axions can be produced via Bremsstrahlung, Compton scattering, axio-recombination and axio-deexcitation

## Solar Axions and Axion Like Particles

Axions couple with electrons and lead to atomic ionisation  $\Rightarrow$  ER  
Galactic Axions and ALPs are well-motivated DM candidates

Sensitivity of DARWIN to ALPs

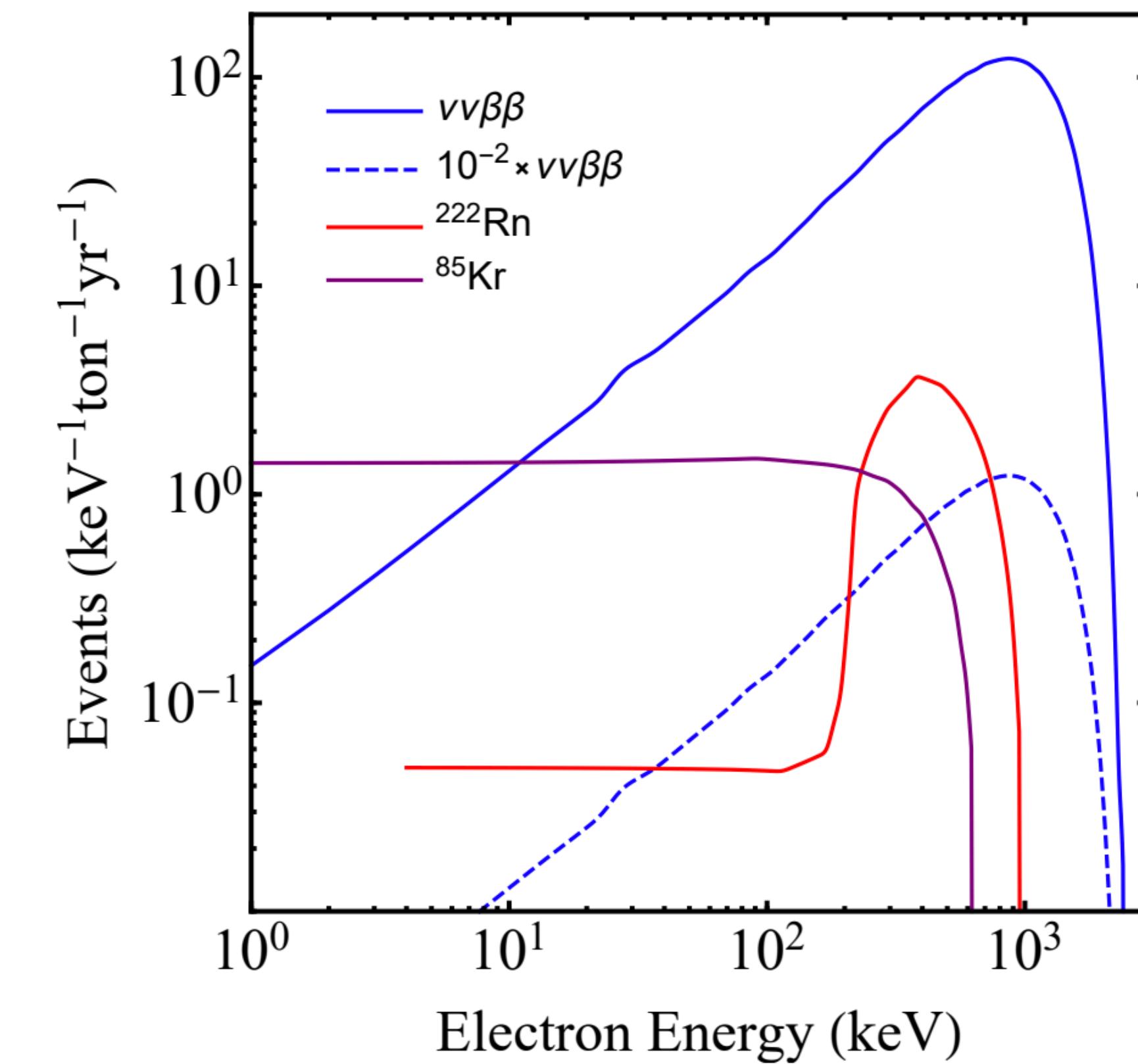
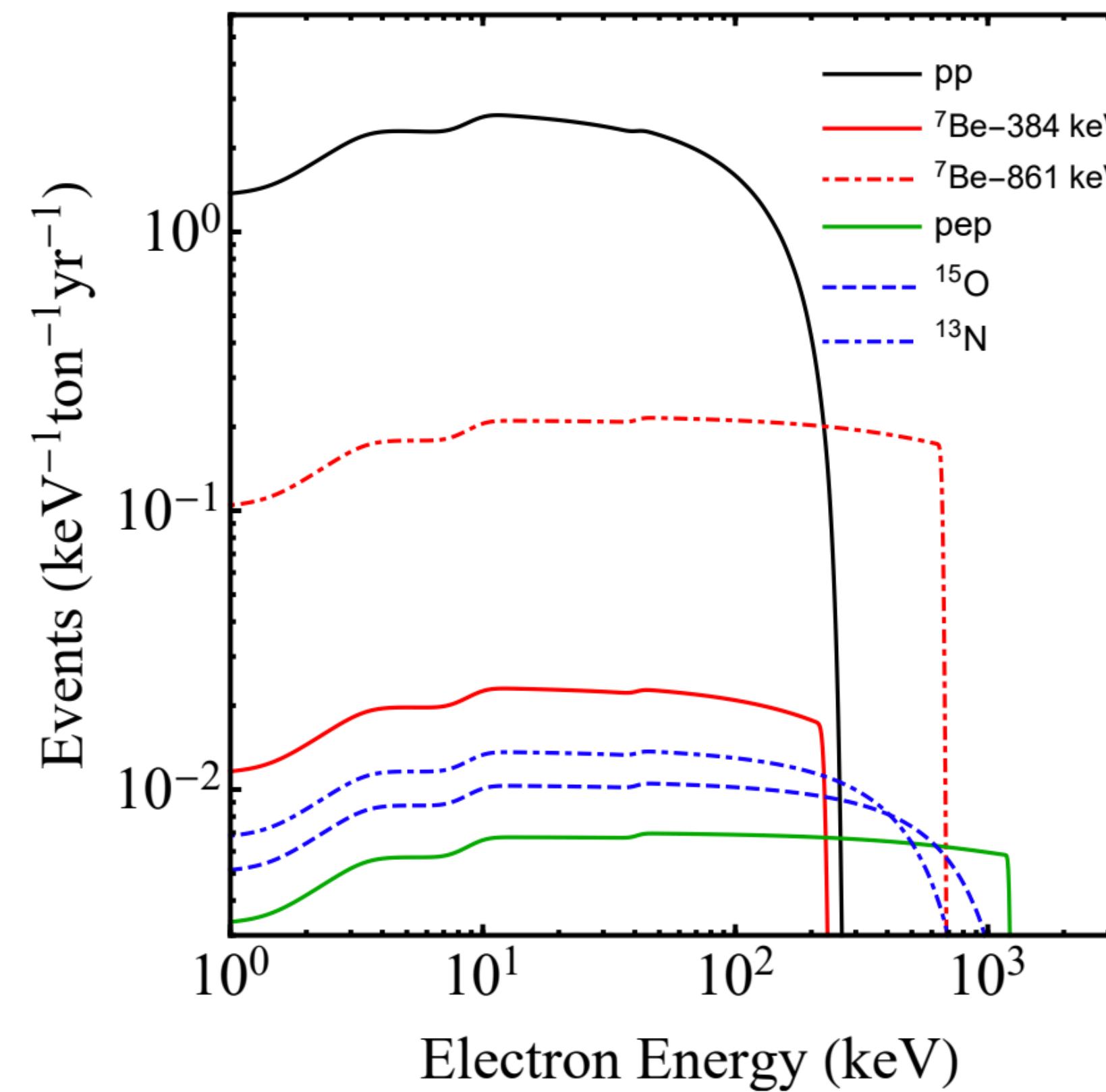


Solar axions can be produced via Bremsstrahlung, Compton scattering, axio-recombination and axio-deexcitation

Low energy Solar Neutrinos: pp,  $^7\text{Be}$ 

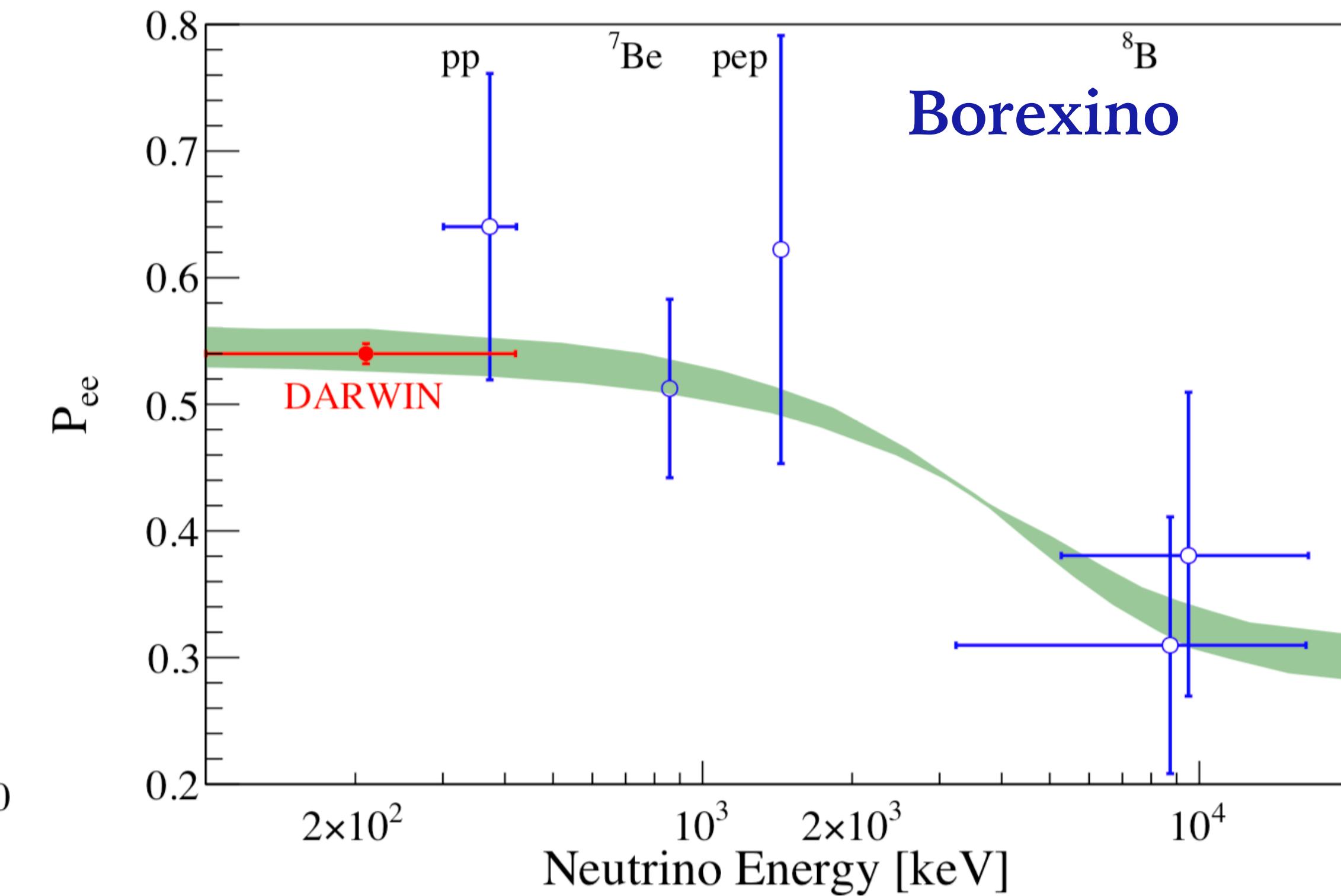
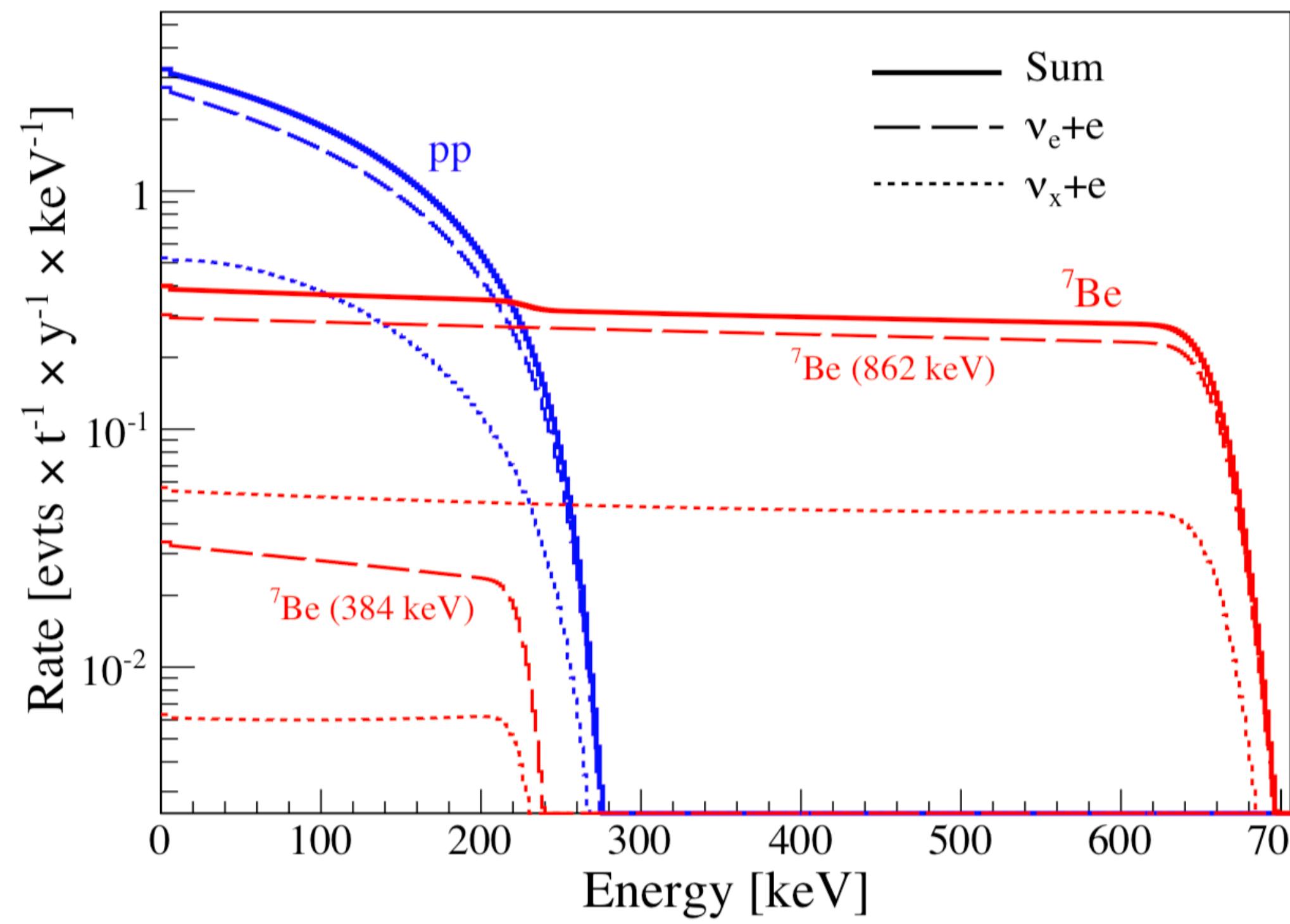
pp and  $^7\text{Be}$ -neutrinos more than 98% of the total neutrino flux predicted by the SSM

$$\nu + e \rightarrow \nu + e$$



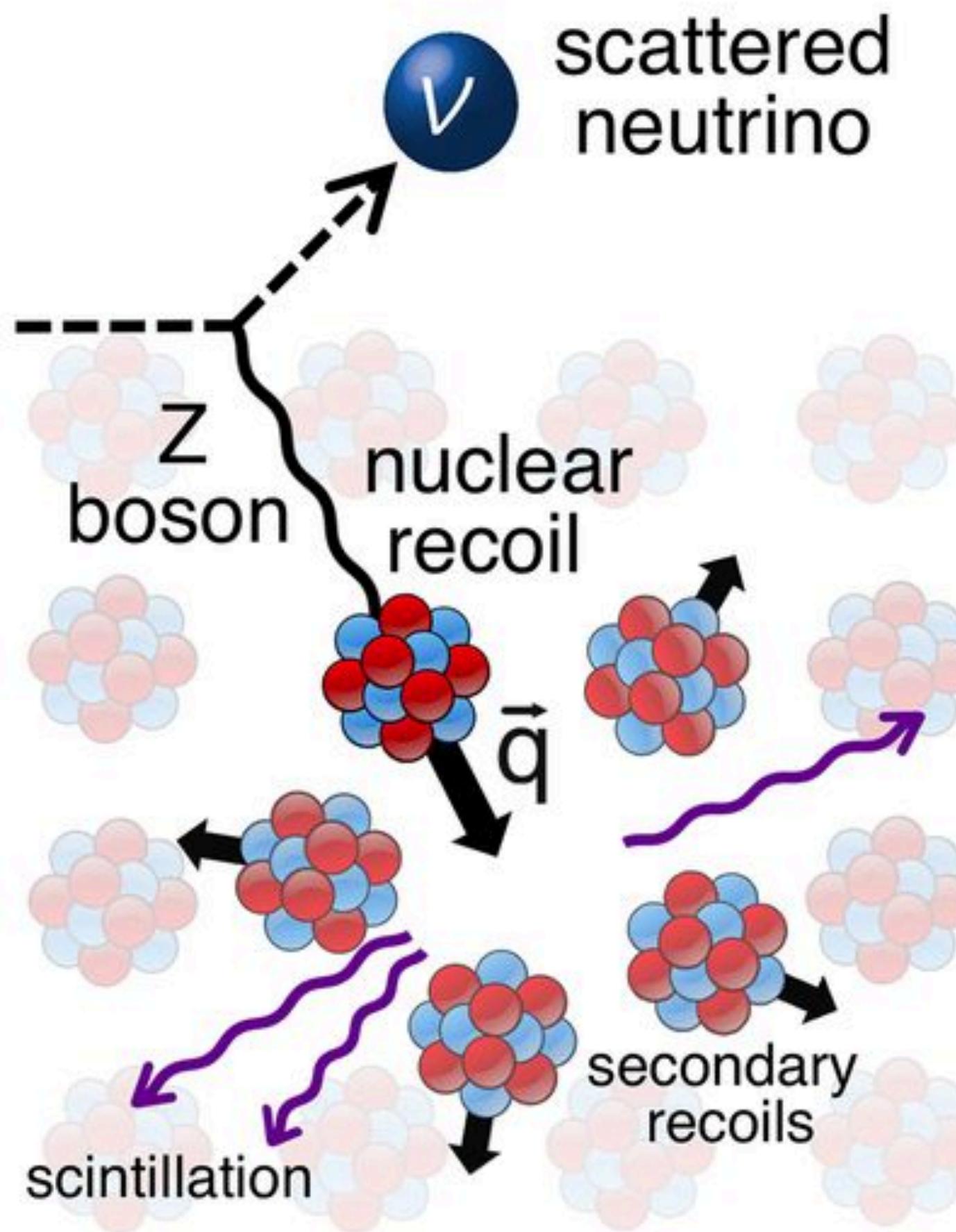
Low energy Solar Neutrinos: pp,  $^7\text{Be}$ 

pp and  $^7\text{Be}$ -neutrinos more than 98% of the total neutrino flux predicted by the SSM



5 years of data taking for precision  $\sim 1\%$

## Coherent Neutrino Nucleus Scattering



E. Strigari, Neutrino Coherent Scattering Rates at Direct Dark Matter Detectors, New J. Phys.

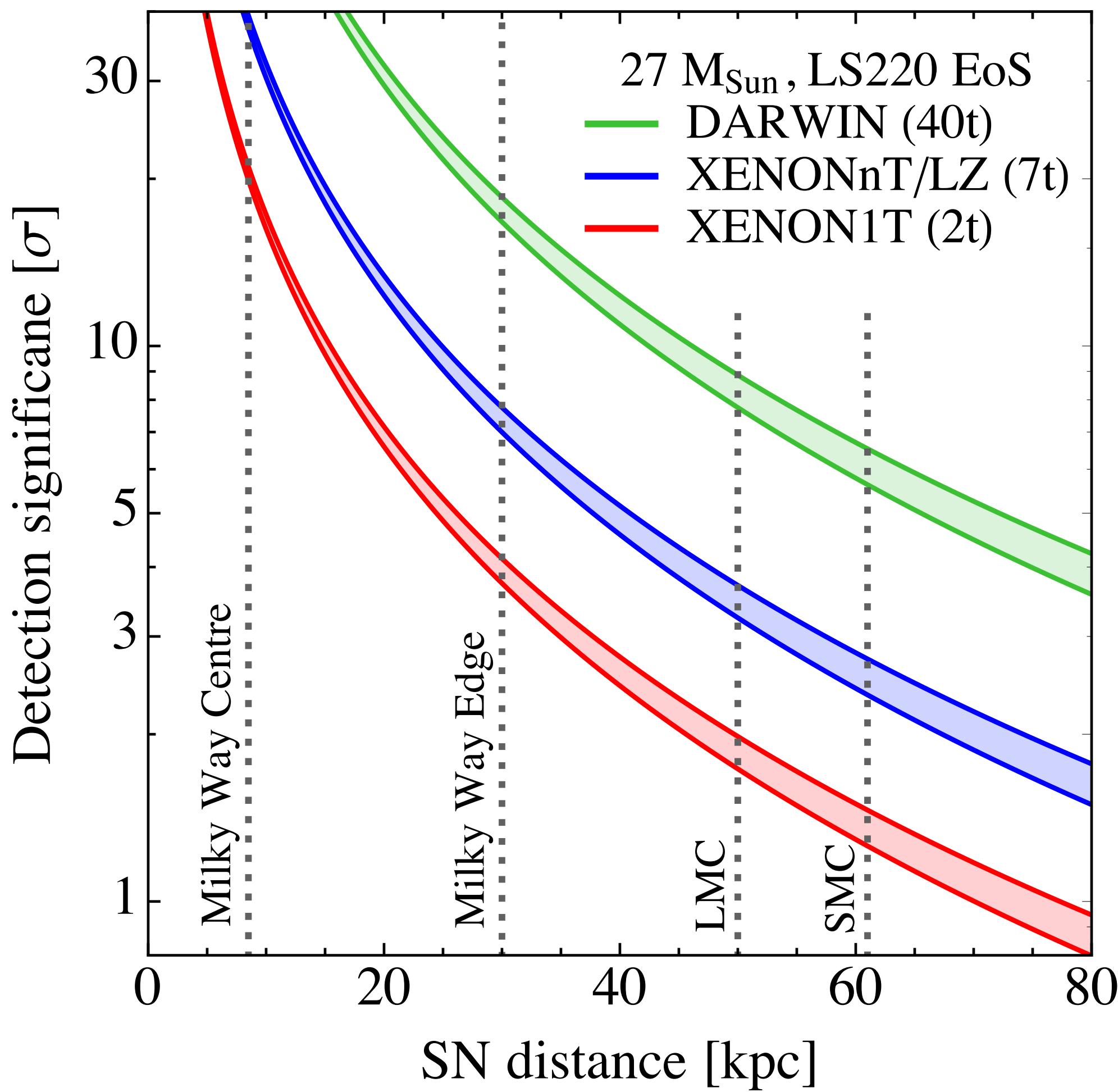
The rate of low-energy signals in all multi-ton WIMP detectors will eventually be dominated by interactions of cosmic neutrinos via CNNS

The largest CNNS rate comes from the relatively high-energy  $^{8}\text{B}$  solar neutrinos which produce nuclear recoils  $\leq 3 \text{ keV}_{\text{nr}}$ .

**DARWIN will be able to detect and study this process**

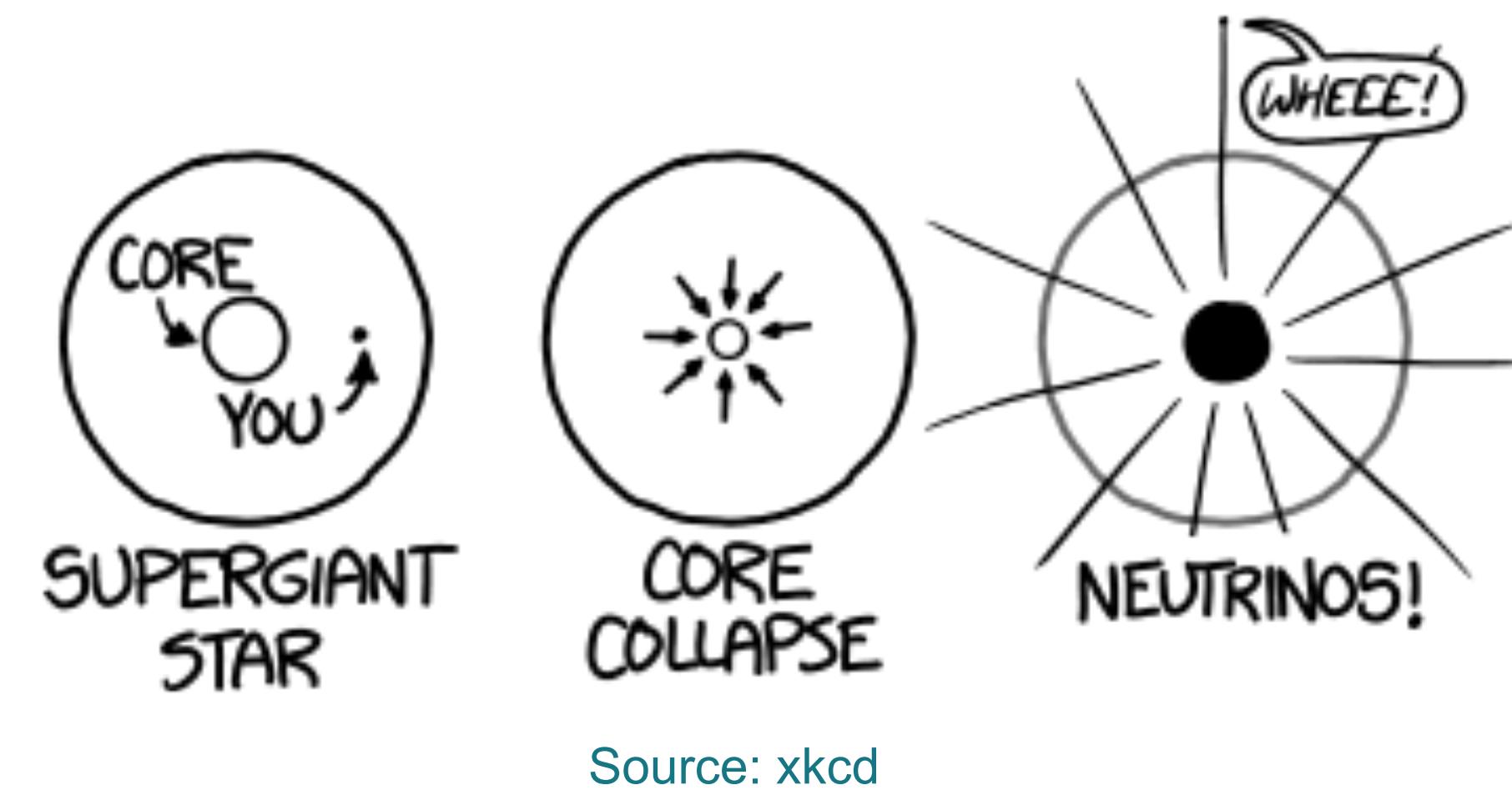
Observation of coherent elastic neutrino-nucleus scattering 10.1126/science.aa0990

## Coherent Neutrino Nucleus Scattering

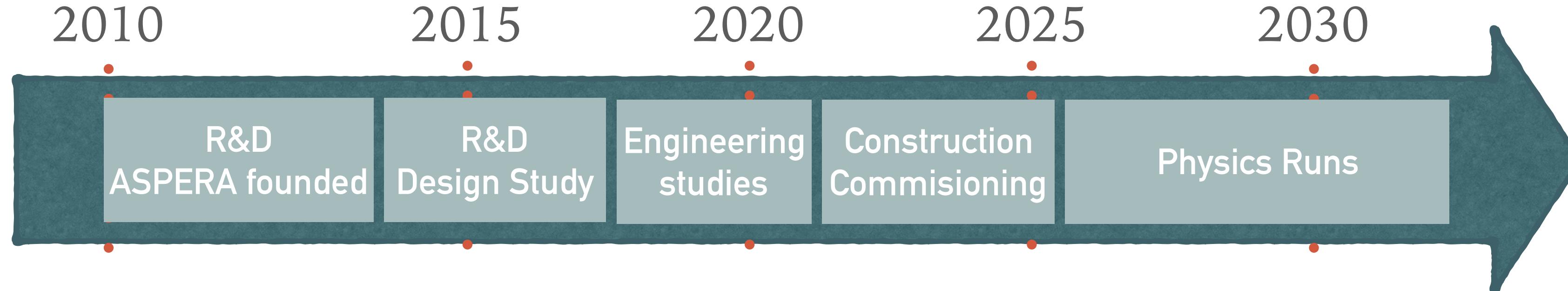


DARWIN would be sensitive to **all six neutrino species** via neutral current interactions

Including **neutrinos** and **anti-neutrinos** that are emitted by **core-collapse supernovae** in a burst lasting a few tens of seconds



# CURRENT STATUS OF DARWIN

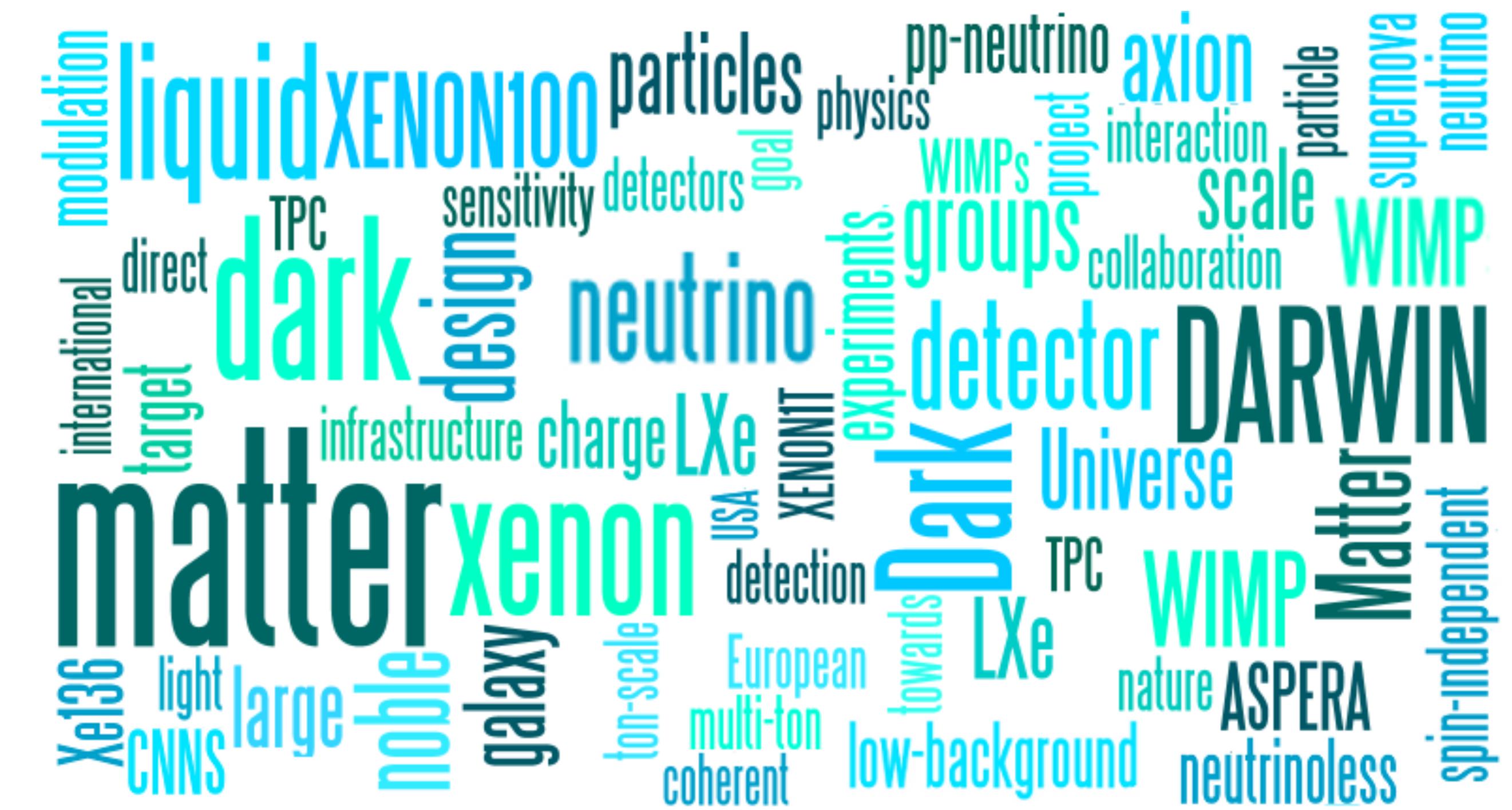


29 groups from 12 countries

DARWIN is on the APPEC roadmap

Working towards a CDR and TDR

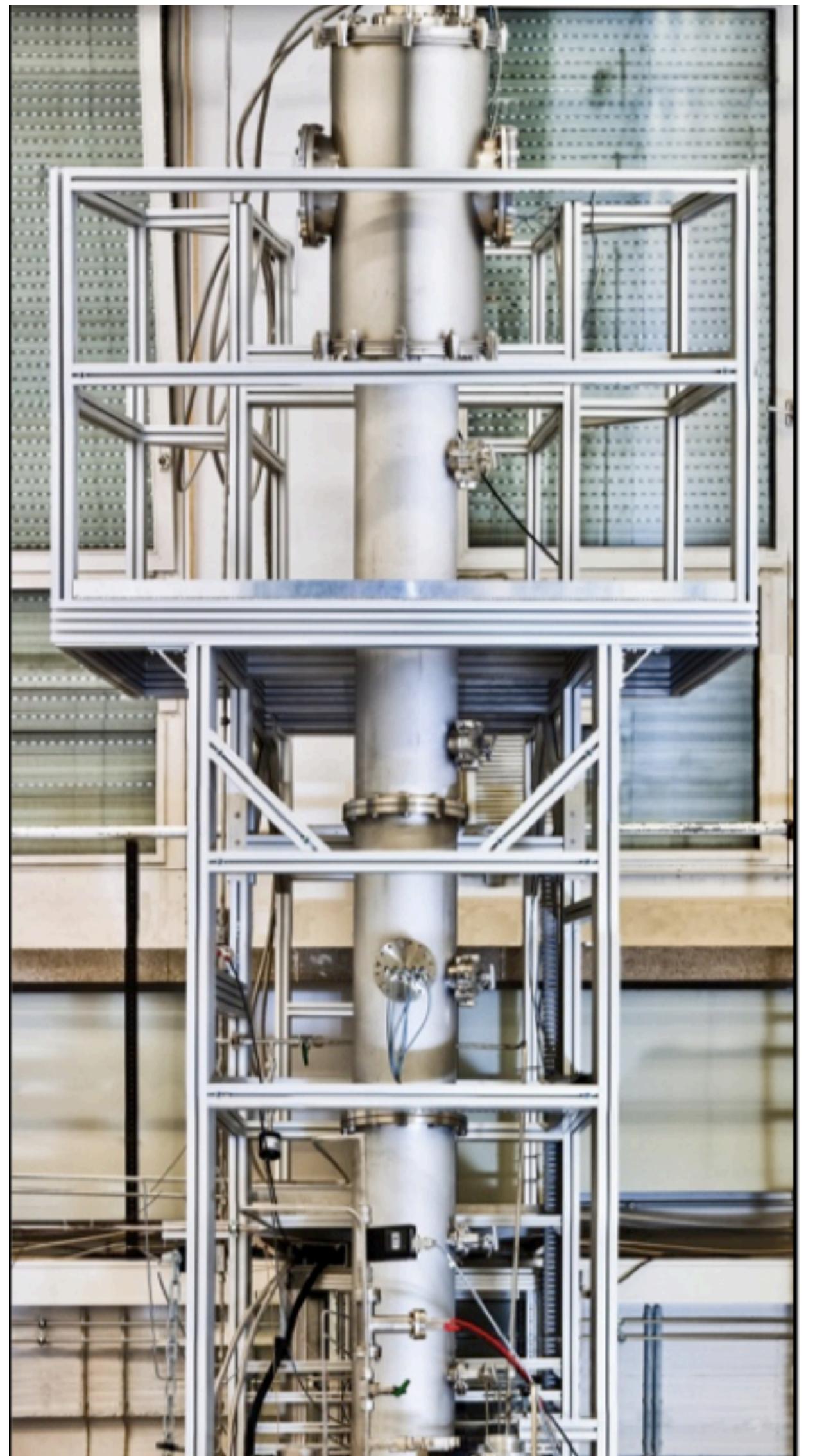
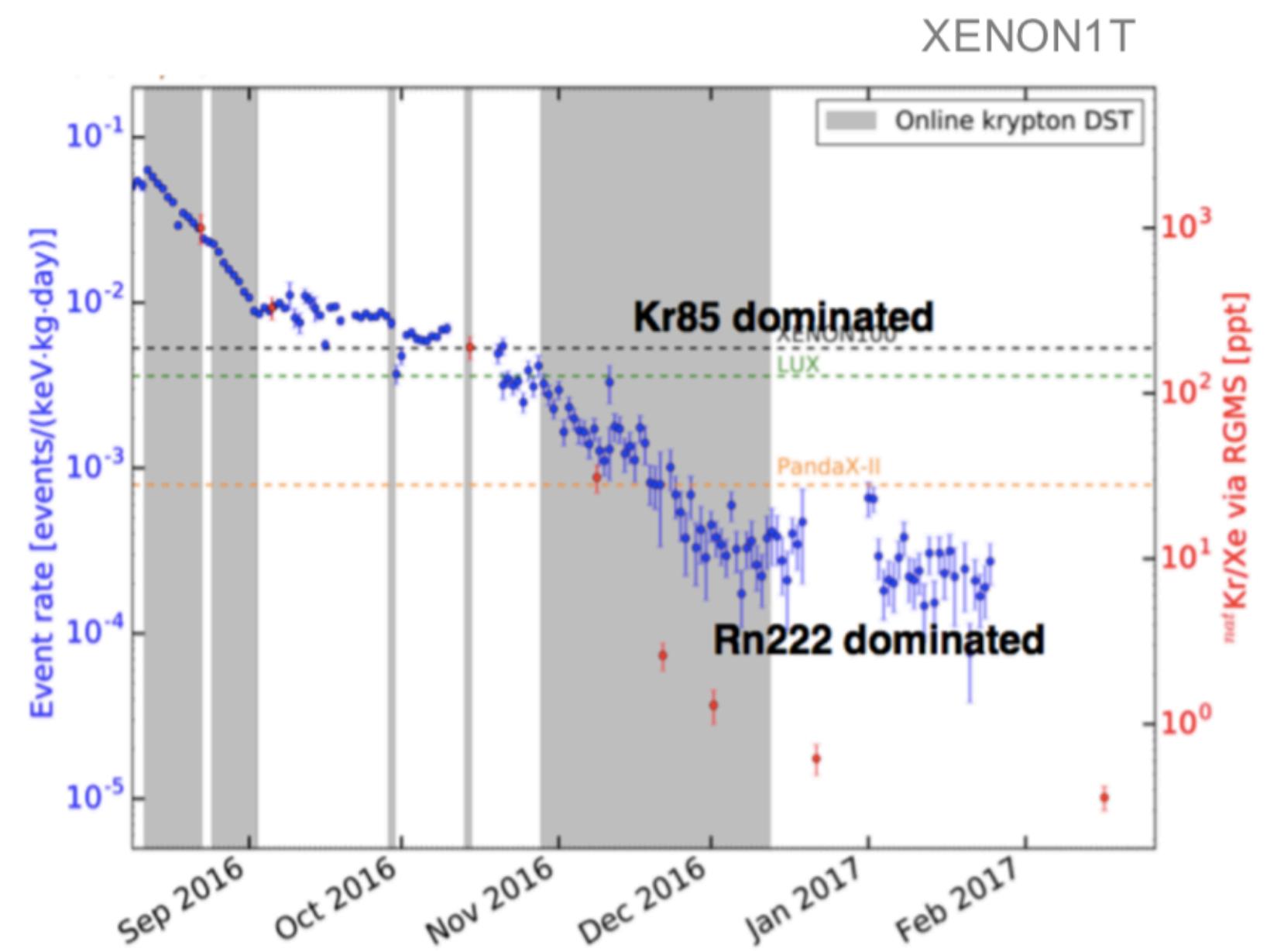
Synergy with XENONnT R&D



# DESIGN CHALLENGES

Scale related :

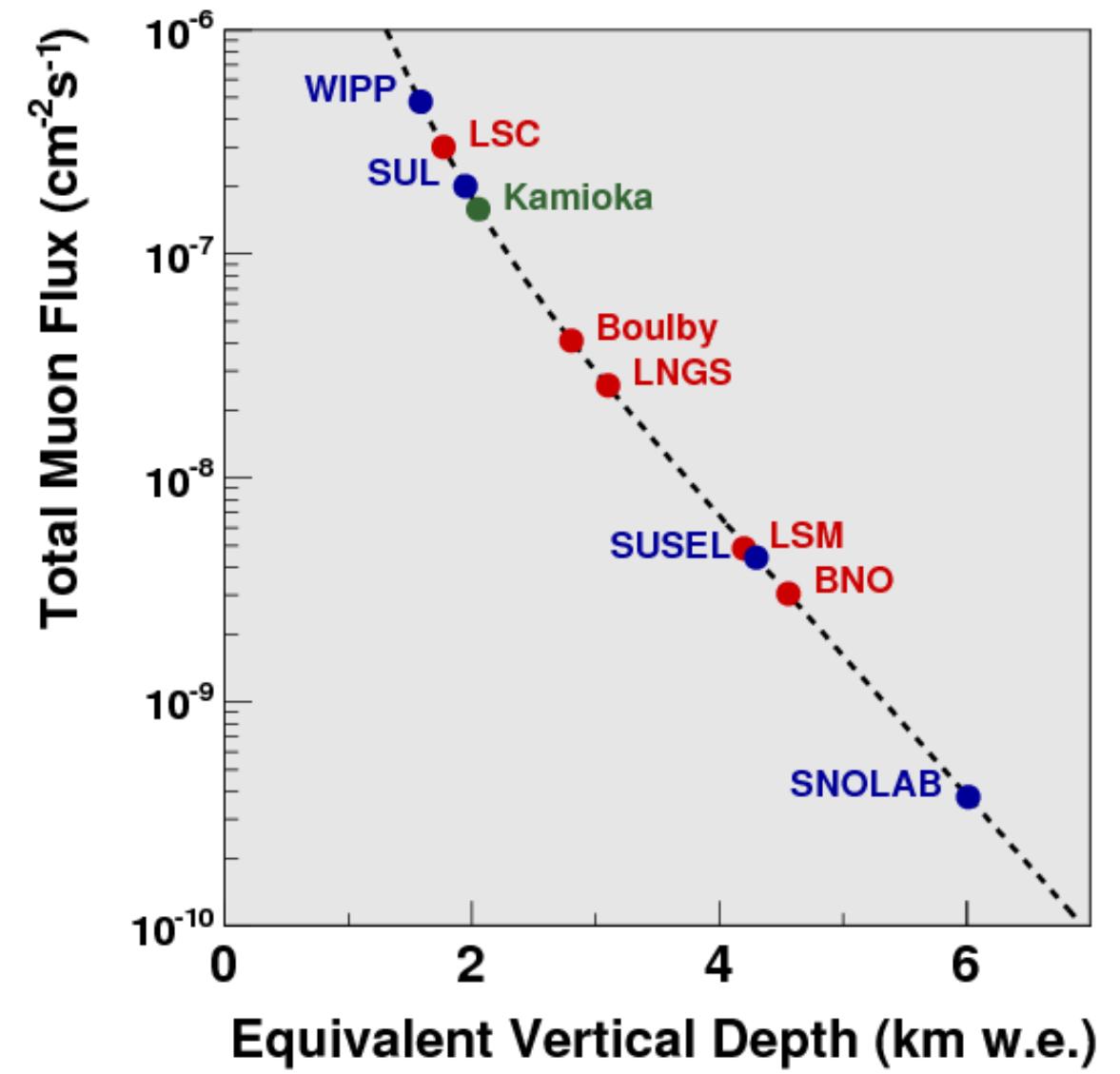
- Longer drift length  $\Rightarrow$  Deliver the necessary HV
- Increased mass  $\Rightarrow$  Cryogenics, LXe purification...
- Detector response  $\Rightarrow$  Calibration, Corrections, Readout
- Optimization of Cryostat Design



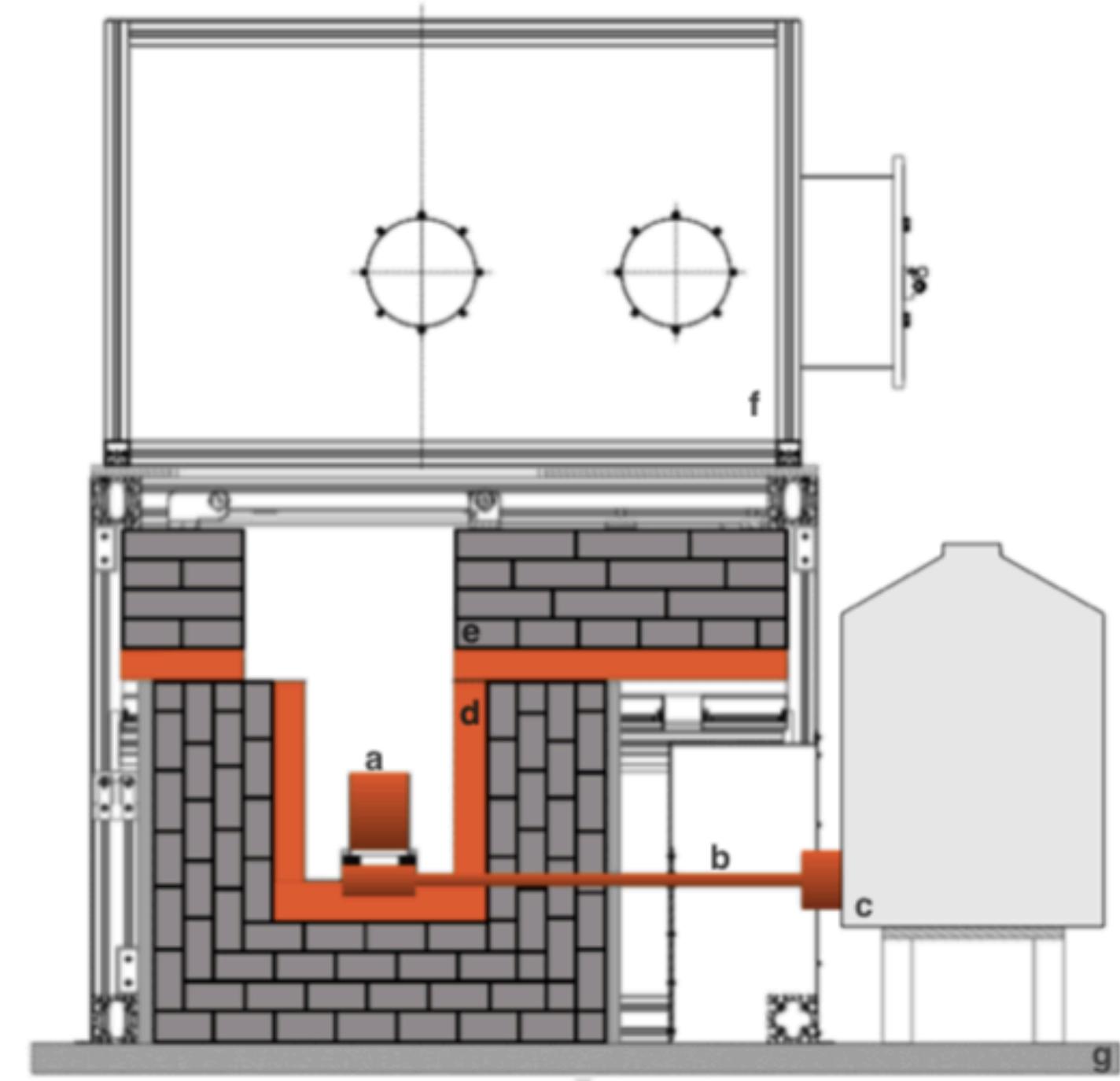
# DESIGN CHALLENGES

Backgrounds:

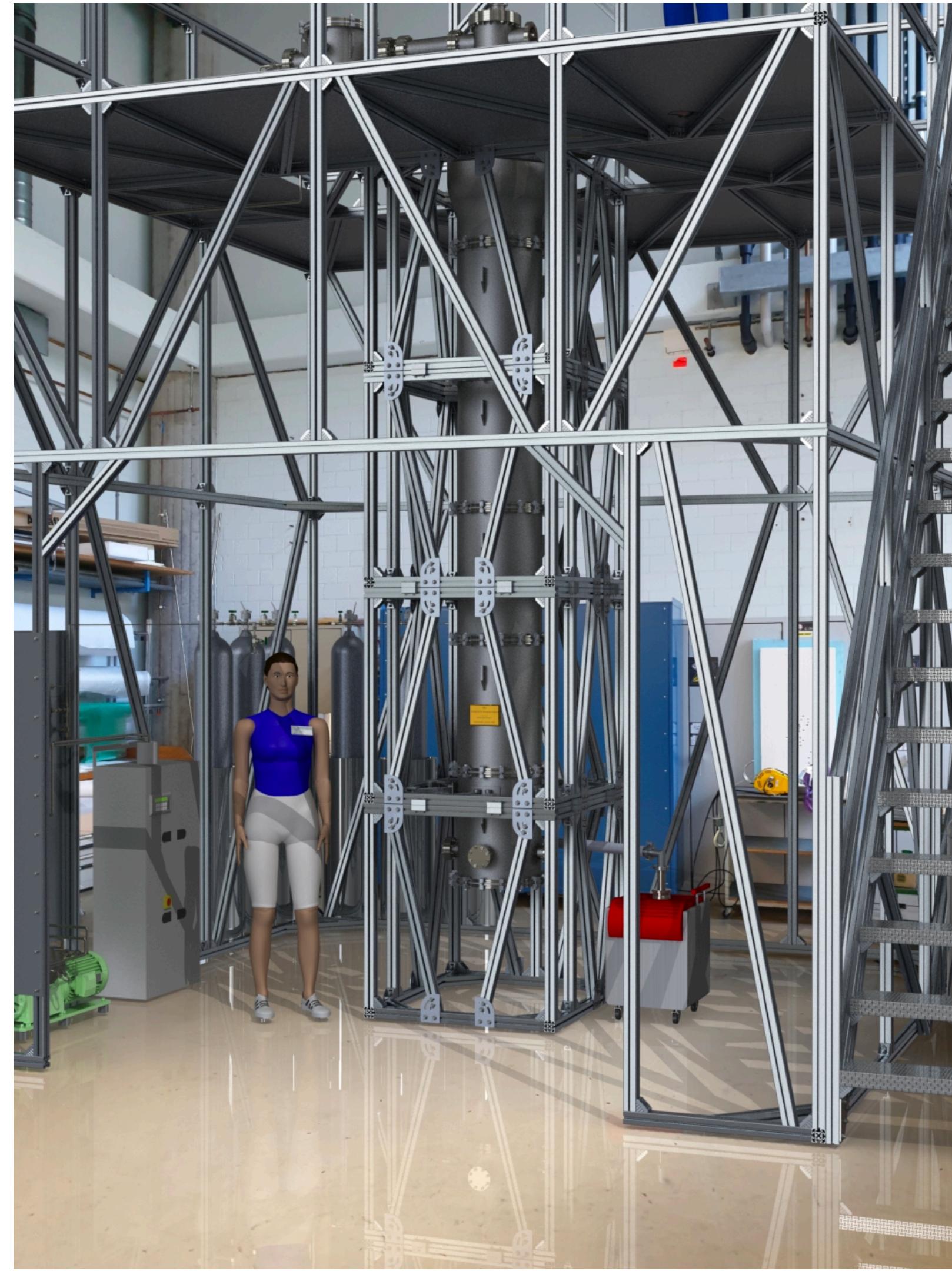
- Active background suppression  $\Rightarrow$  distillation
- Techniques to select clean materials  $\Rightarrow$  gamma and Rn screening
- Techniques to monitor LXe purity at required level
- Cosmogenic background  $\Rightarrow$  go deep enough, add  $\mu$ -veto and n-veto



GATOR facility at LNGS

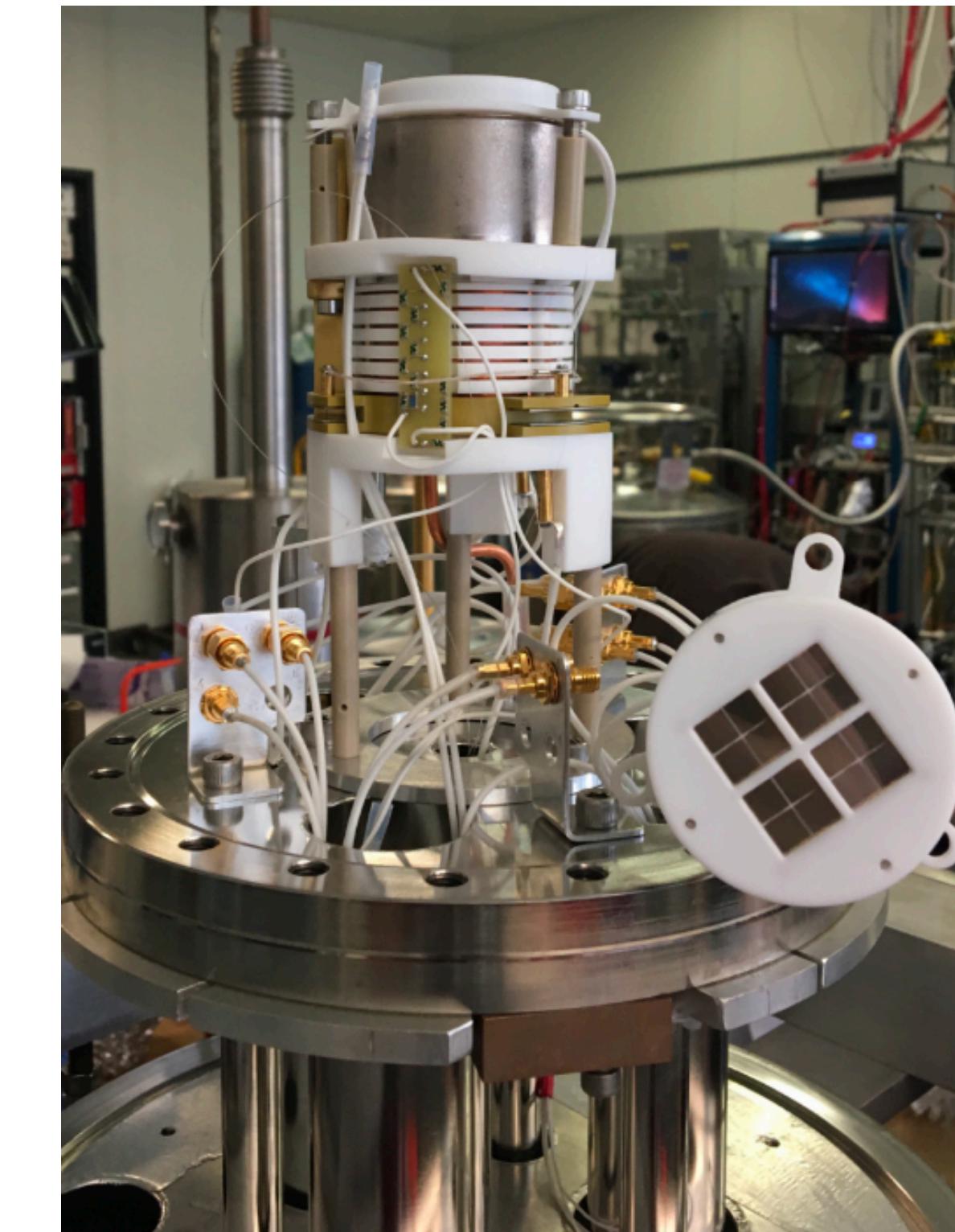


# LOCAL R&D SETUPS FOR DARWIN AT U. ZURICH



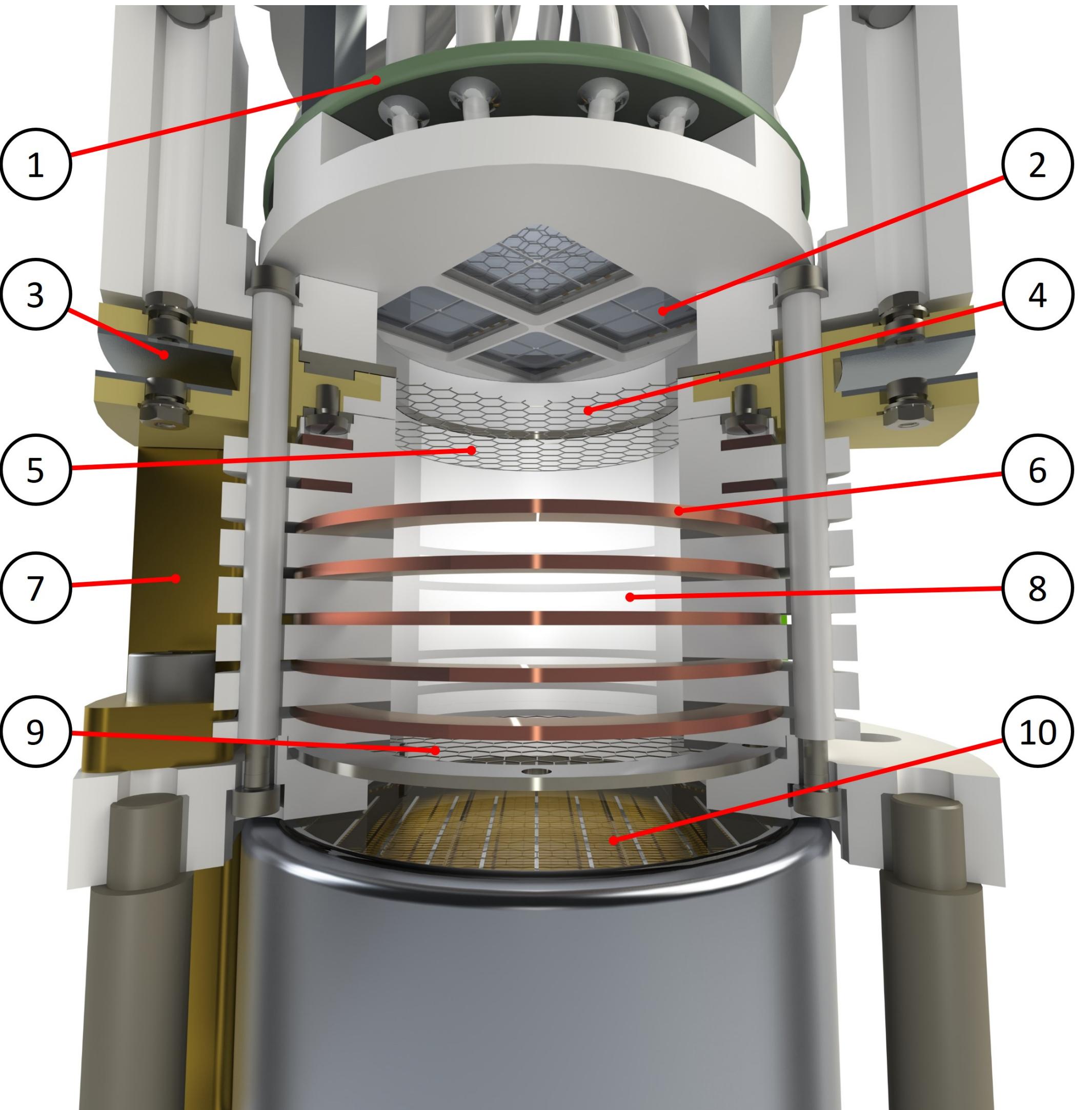
DARWIN Demonstrator – A 2.6m height TPC for electron drift proof of principle and future facility for testing

XURICH II – First dual-phase xenon TPC with SiPM readout and ultra-low energy calibration with  $^{37}\text{Ar}$



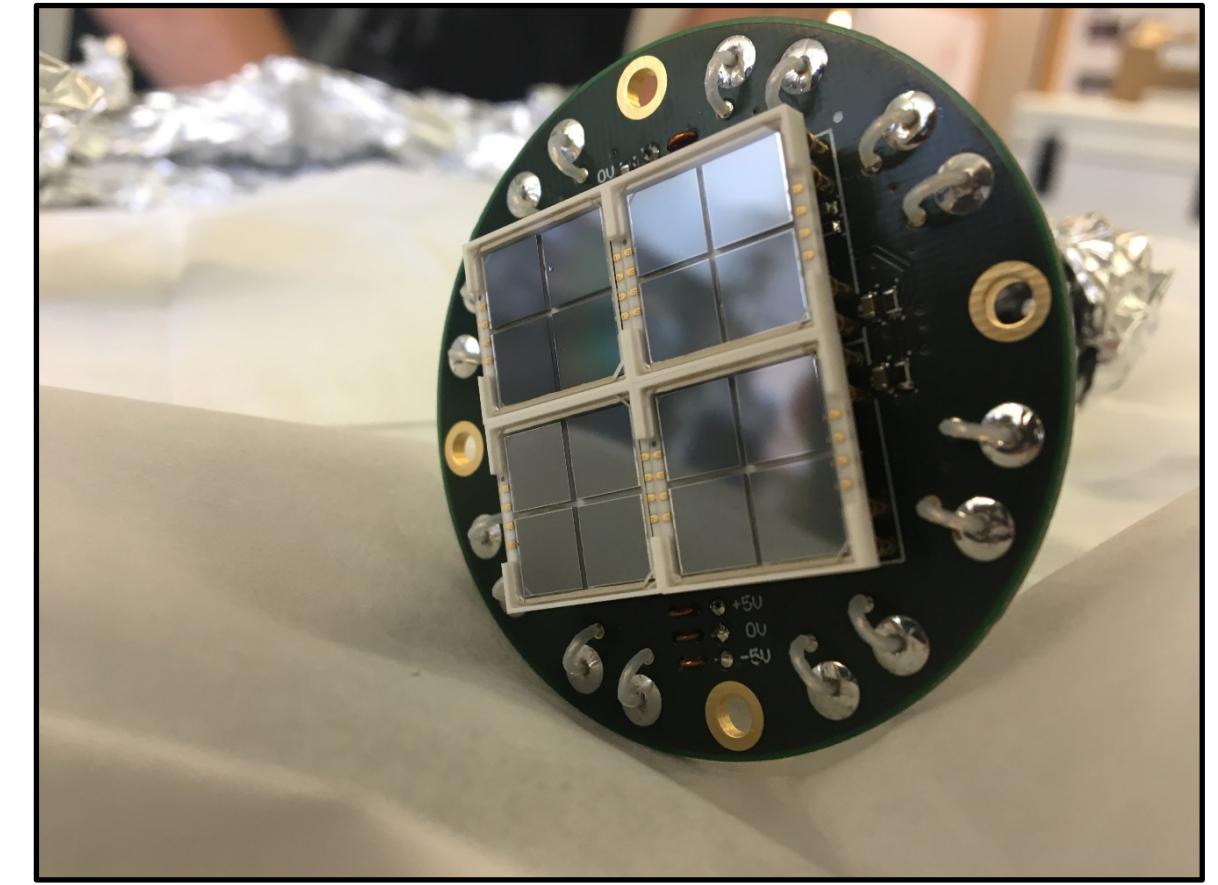
# LOCAL R&D SETUPS AT U. ZURICH : XURICH II

- Small-scale (31 mm (d)  $\times$  31 mm (h)) dual-phase TPC designed to study interactions in LXe < 50 keV
- $2 \times 2$  S13371 VUV-4 MPPCs from Hamamatsu in the top array – 16 channels!
- Mounted on  $\times 10$  pre-amplifier board
- 2-inch R9869 PMT from Hamamatsu at the bottom
- Up to 1 kV/cm drift field
- 10 kV/cm extraction field
- SiPM upgrade in Summer 2018, since then 12 months of stable operation

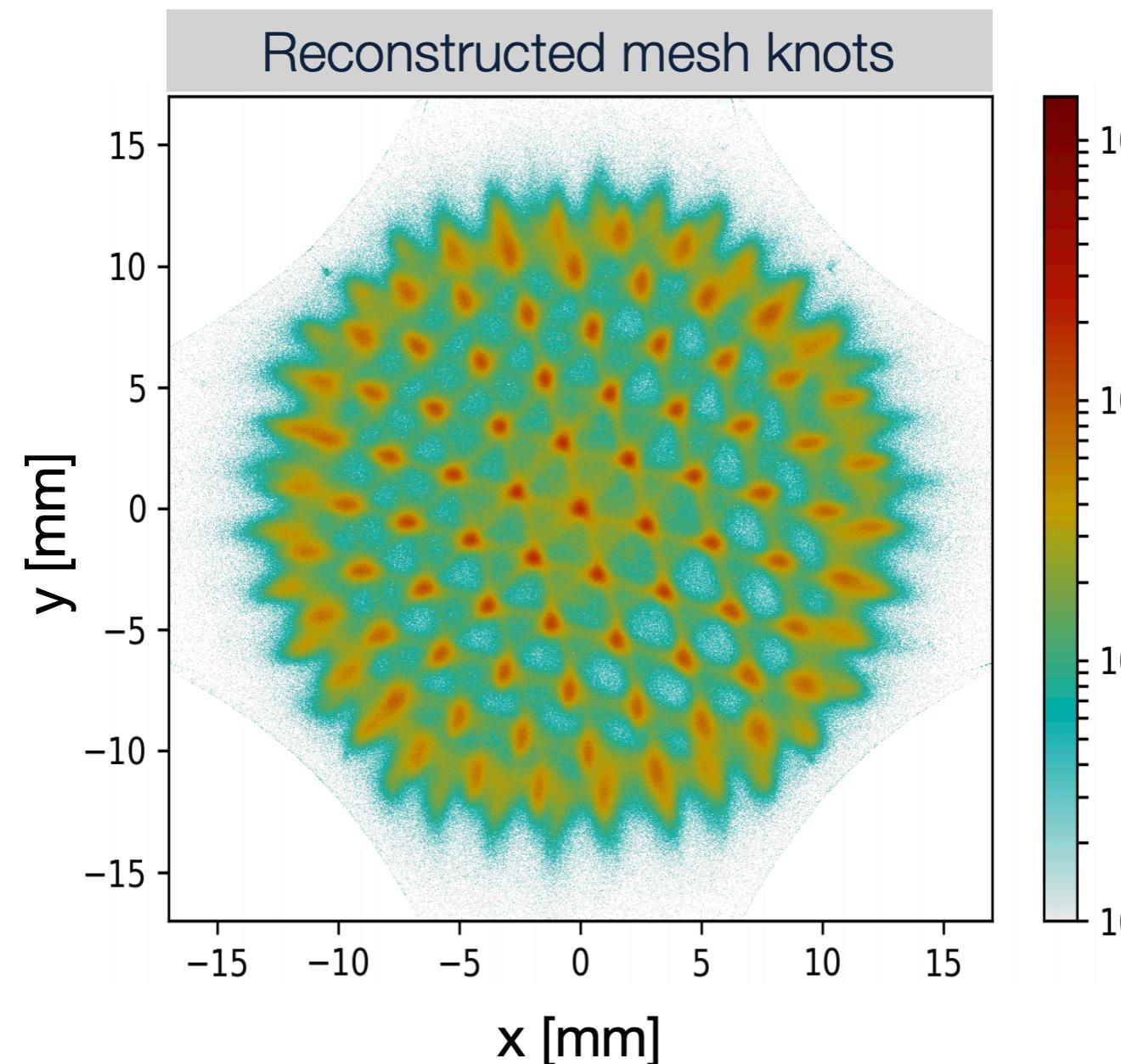


# LOCAL R&D SETUPS AT U. ZURICH : XURICH II

- $2 \times 2$  S13371 VUV-4 MPPCs ( $12 \times 12$ ) mm $^2$  from Hamamatsu, each has  $4 (6 \times 6)$  mm $^2$  independent segments,  $(50 \times 50)$   $\mu\text{m}^2$  cells
- Operational voltage: 51.5 V
- Photon detection efficiency  $\sim 24\%$  at 178 nm
- Dark Count Rate: 0.8 Hz/mm $^2$  at LXe temperature
- Optical Crosstalk Probability  $\sim 3\%$

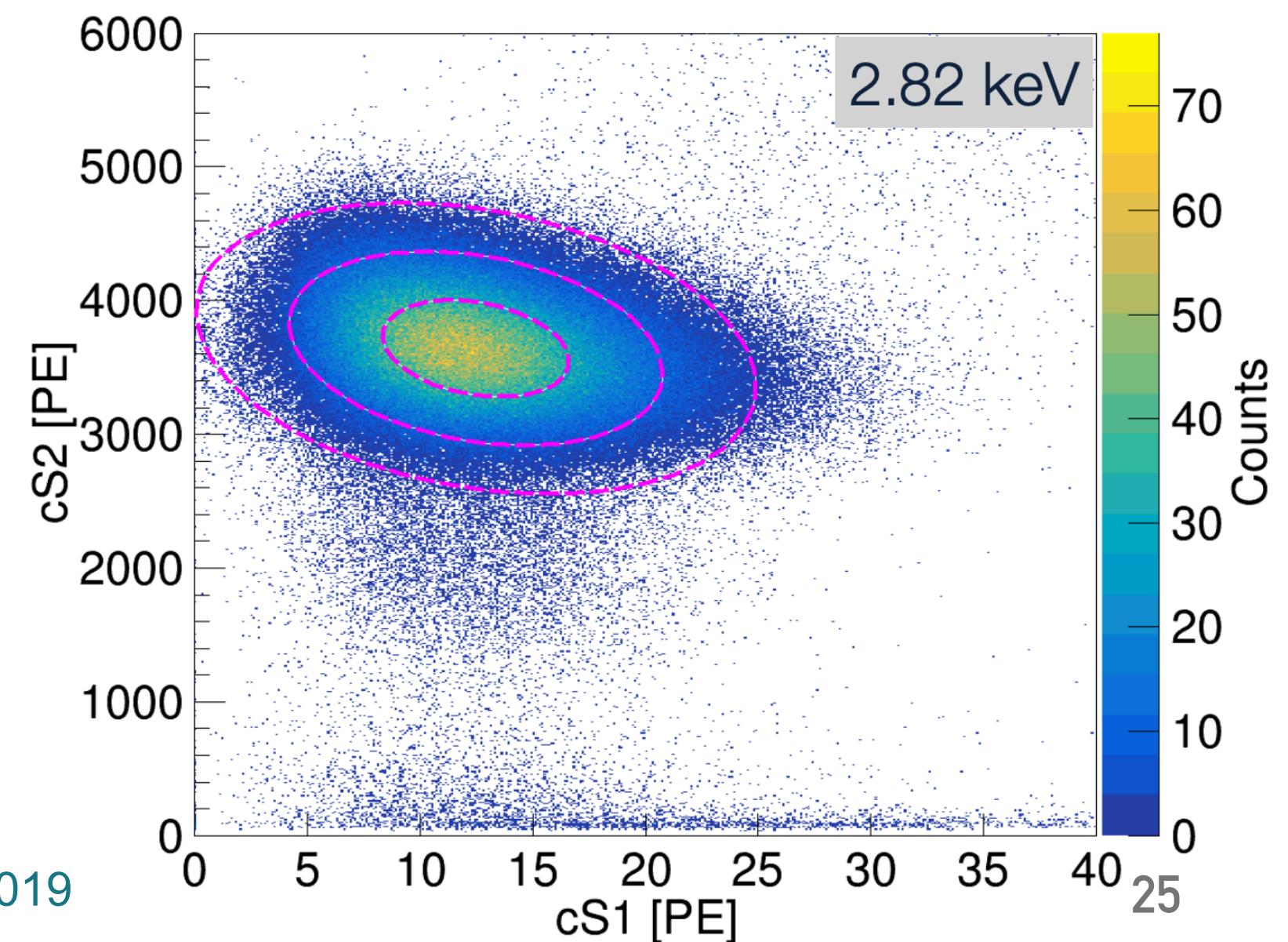


SiPM arrays of Xurich-II with custom-made pre-amplified base



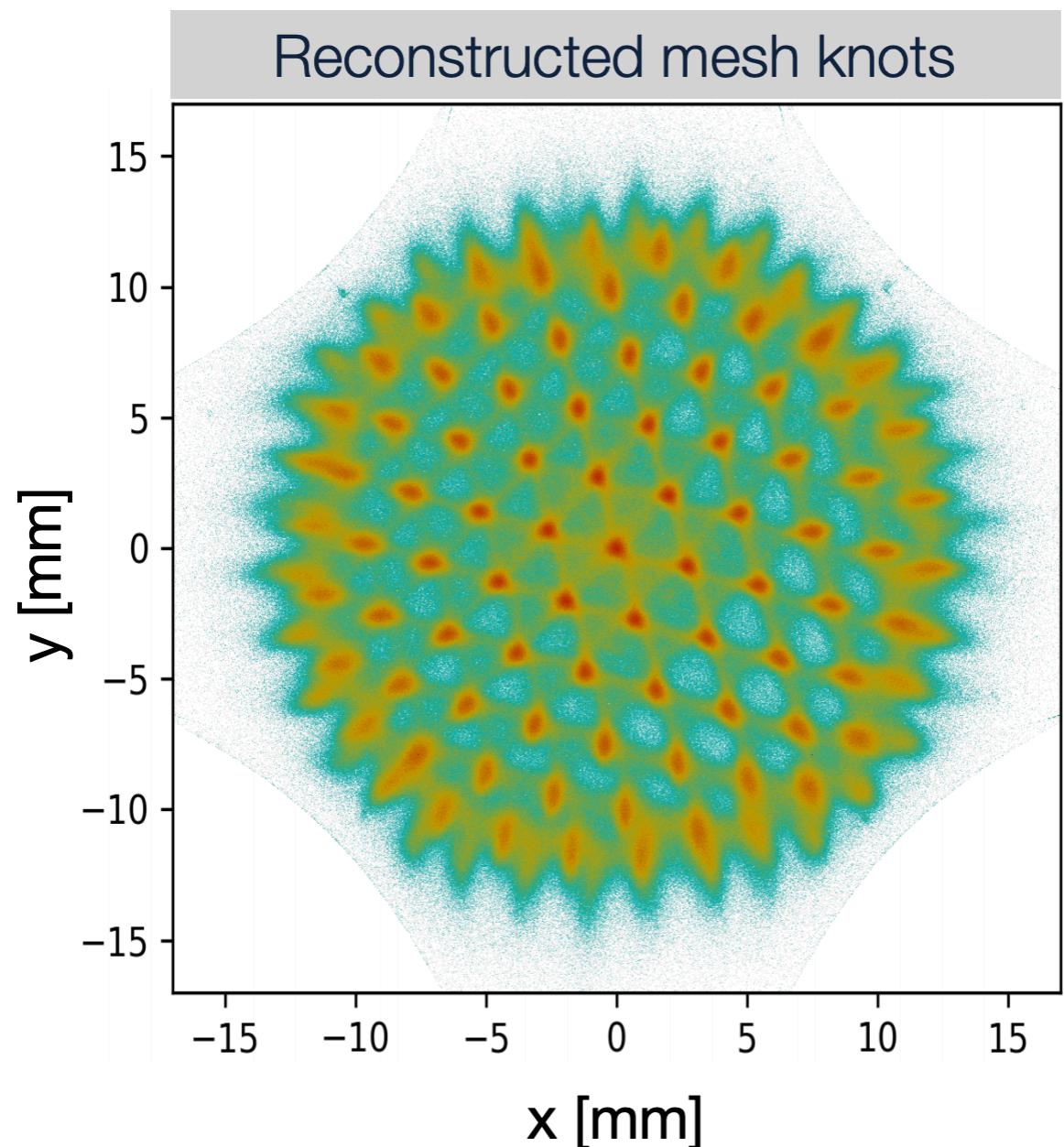
$^{37}\text{Ar}$  calibration preliminary results!

More about Xurich II:  
Kevin Thieme, LIDINE 2019



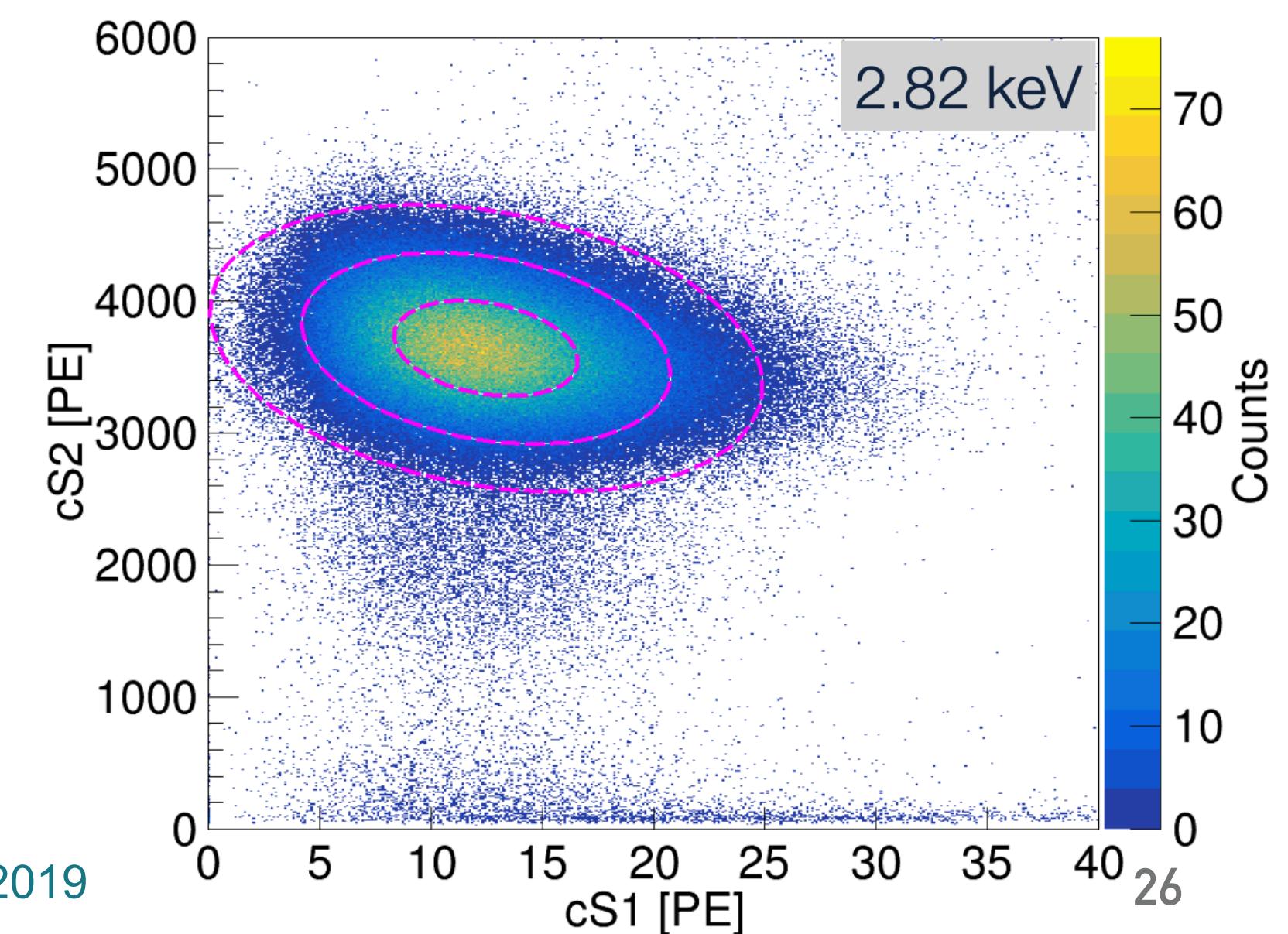
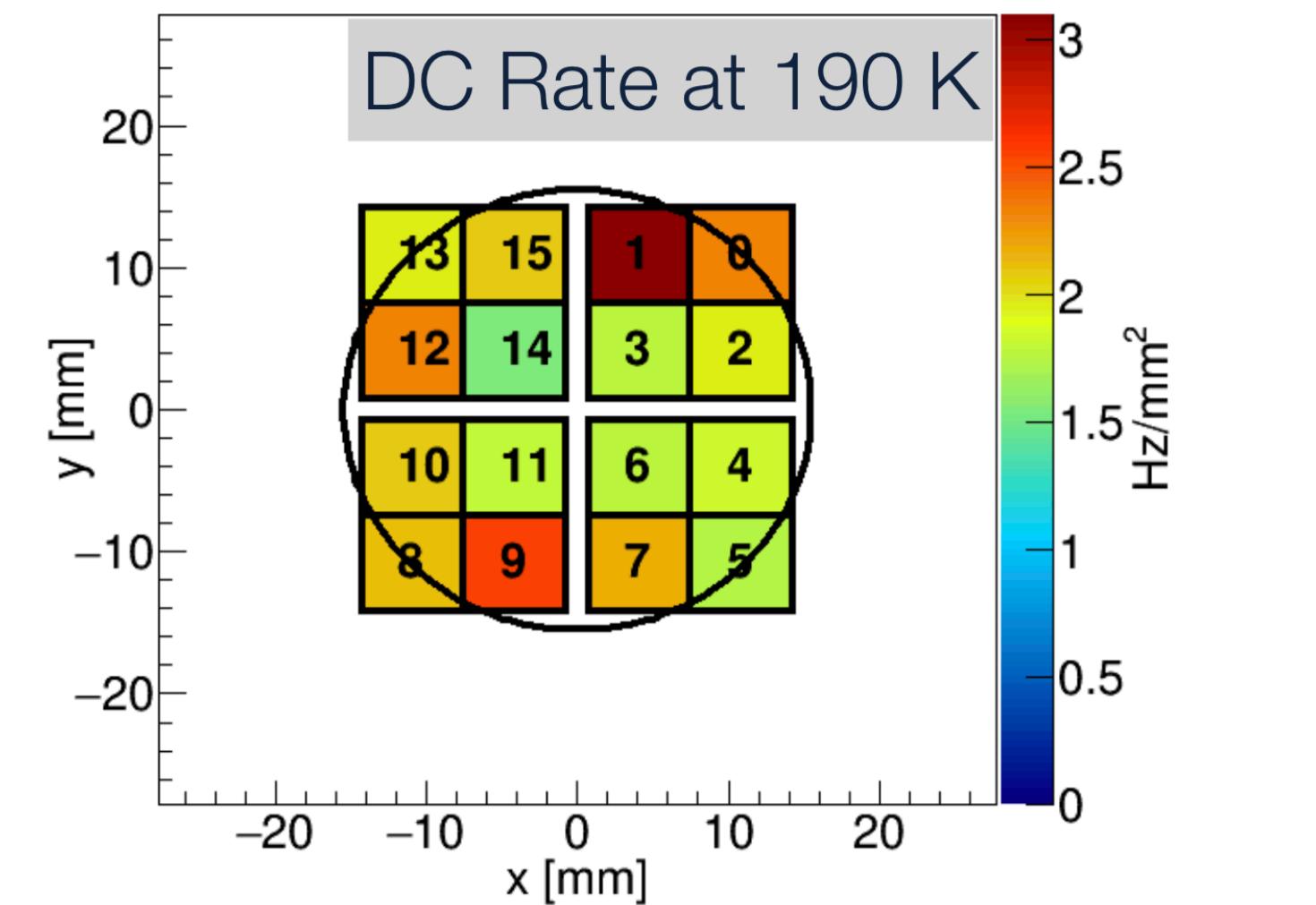
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$^{37}\text{Ar}$  calibration preliminary results!

More about Xurich II:  
Kevin Thieme, LIDINE 2019



# LOCAL R&D SETUPS AT U. ZURICH : DARWIN DEMOSTRATOR

Construction and commissioning of a 2.6m height Xenon TPC

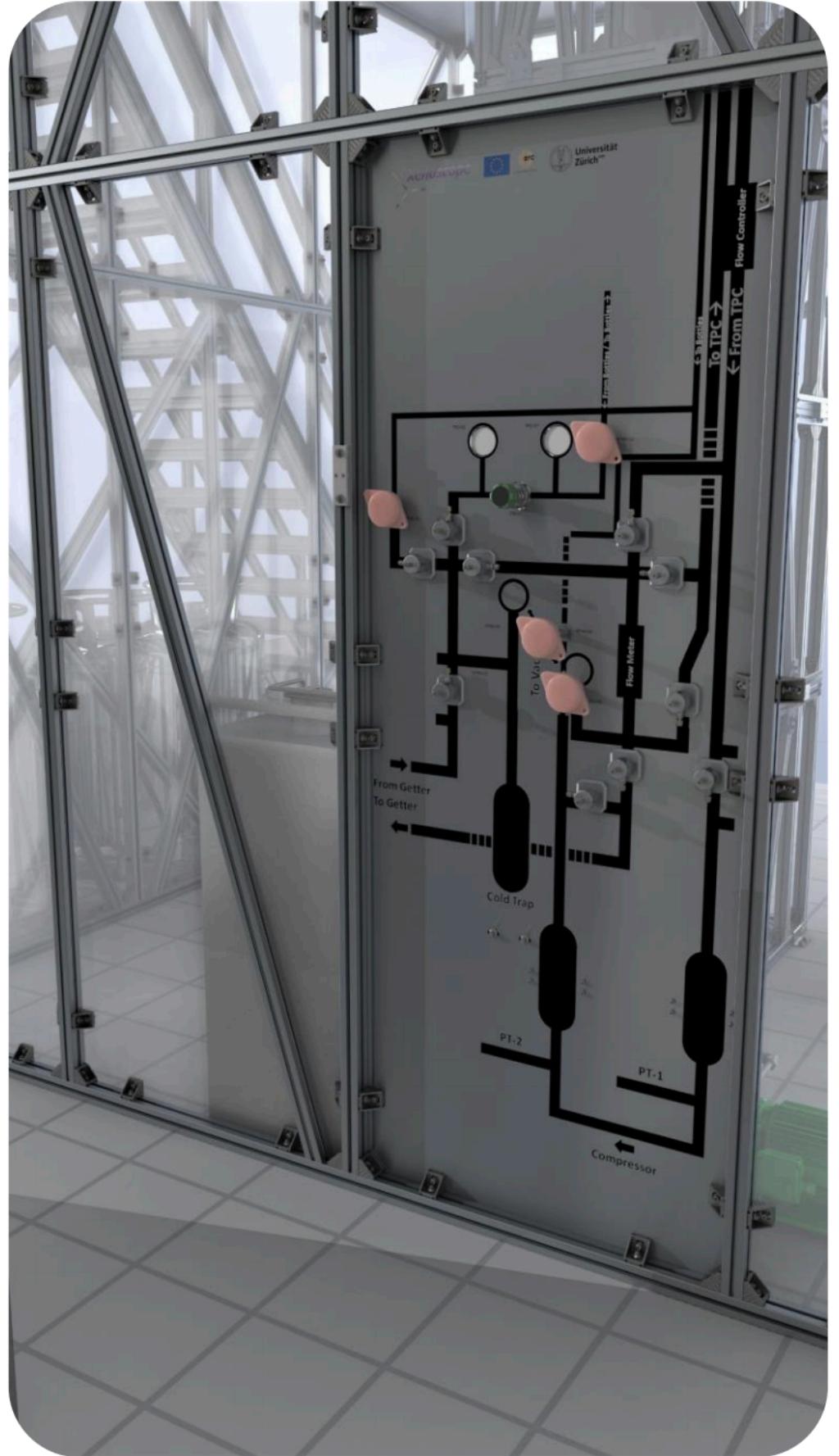


Plan: Render from beginning this year



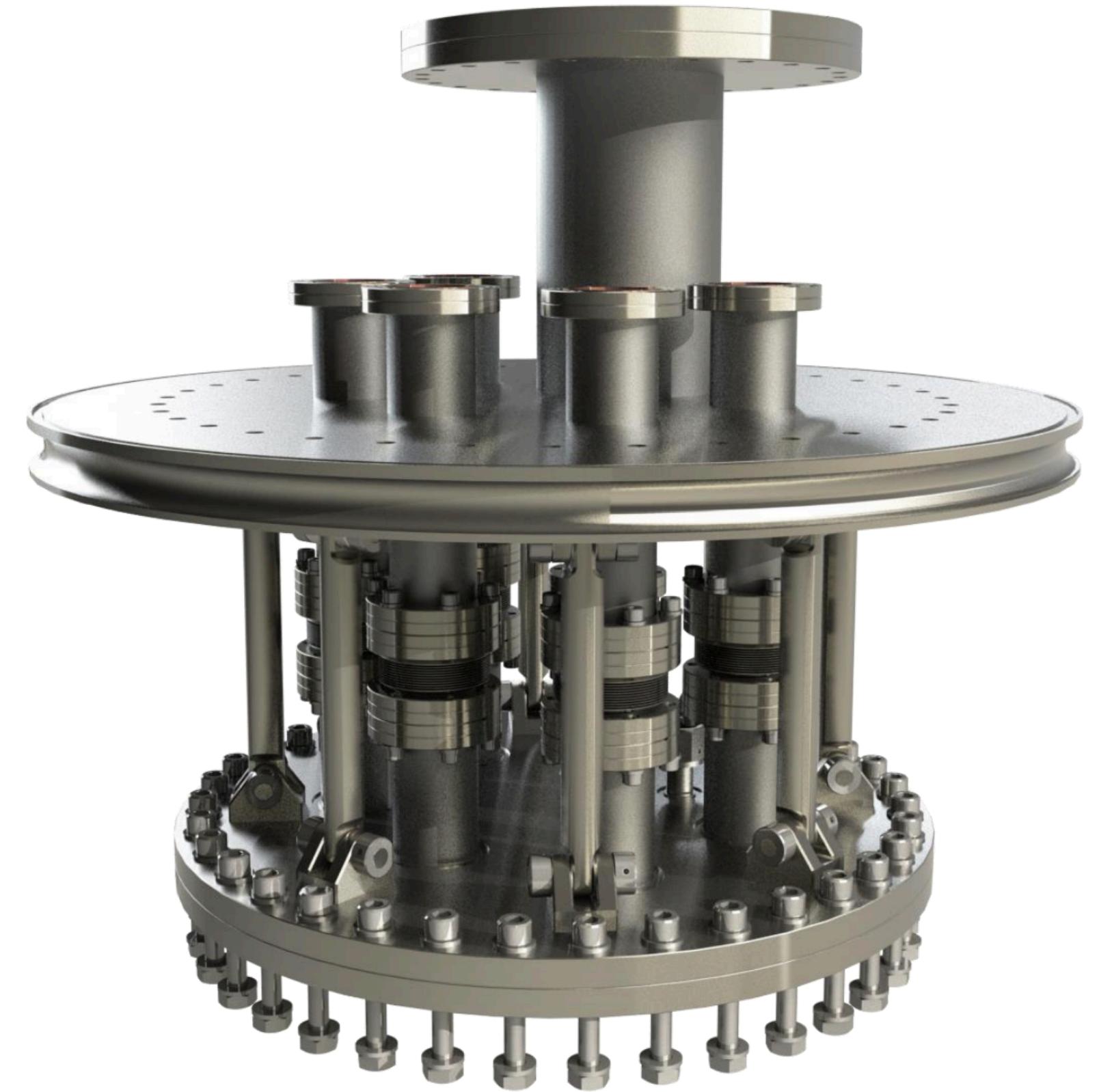
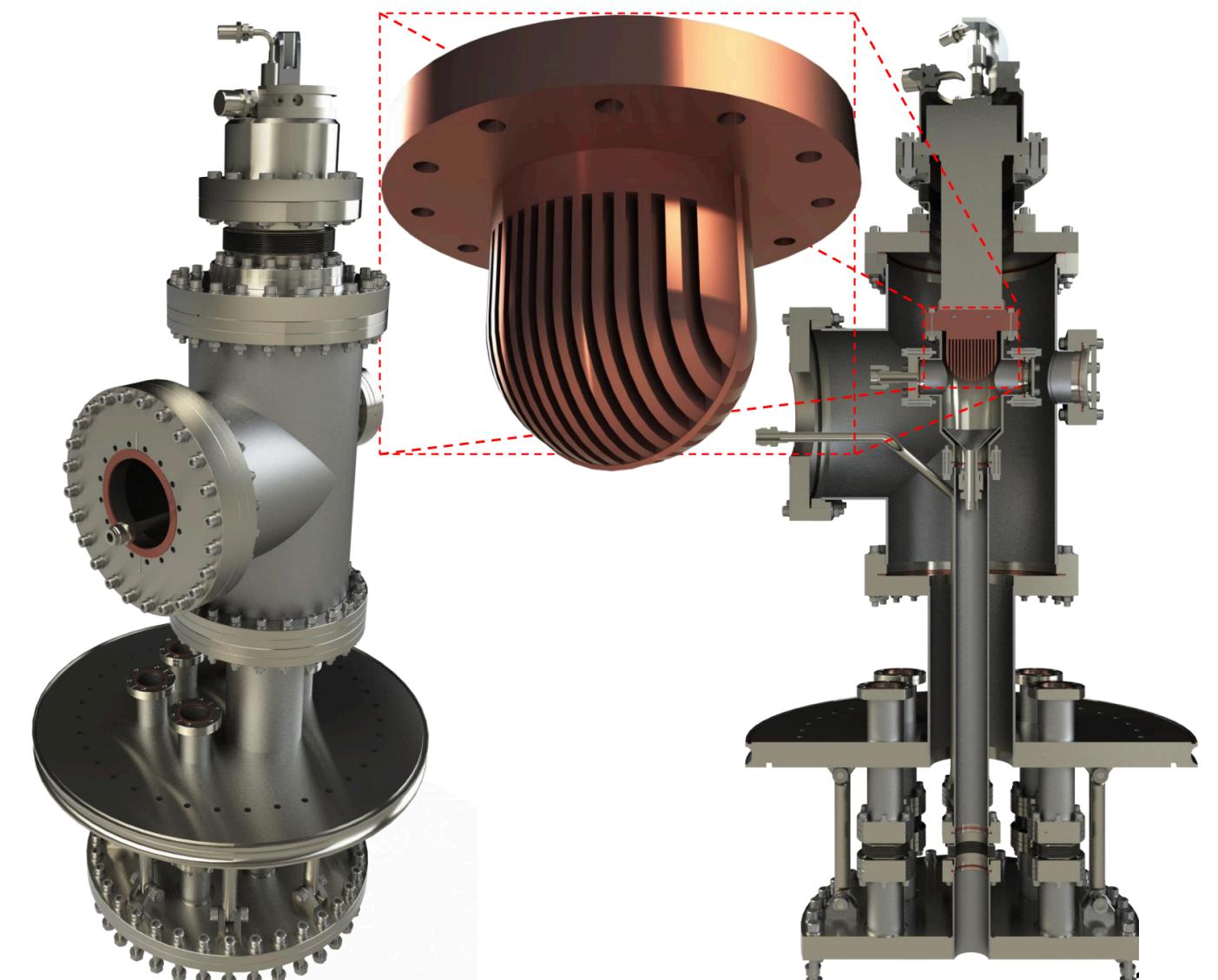
Frame built August 2019!

# LOCAL R&D SETUPS AT U. ZURICH : DARWIN DEMOSTRATOR



Gas system will be completed by the end of the year

- The cooling tower houses a PC-150 PTR from Iwatani
- Spherical cold head to maximise LXe contact time
- Work in progress  
Currently performing various simulations and designs.



Top flange revised with engineering group for thermal and mechanical stability

# SUMMARY DARWIN DESIGN, GOALS AND CHALLENGES

---

- DARWIN will be the ultimate liquid xenon dark matter detector
- DARWIN will also provide a unique opportunity for other rare event searches such as:
  - Low Energy solar neutrinos**
  - Neutrinoless double-beta decay**
  - CNNS**
  - Axions and axion-like particles**
- DARWIN : growing collaboration, currently **29 groups from 12 countries**.

# DARWIN SCIENCE PROGRAM: MORE THAN DARK MATTER SEARCHES

Given its projected low background and large mass, DARWIN will be sensitive to other rare physics processes such as:

Solar Axions and Axion Like Particles

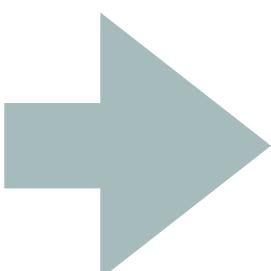
Low energy Solar Neutrinos: pp,  ${}^7\text{Be}$

Neutrinoless Double Beta Decay

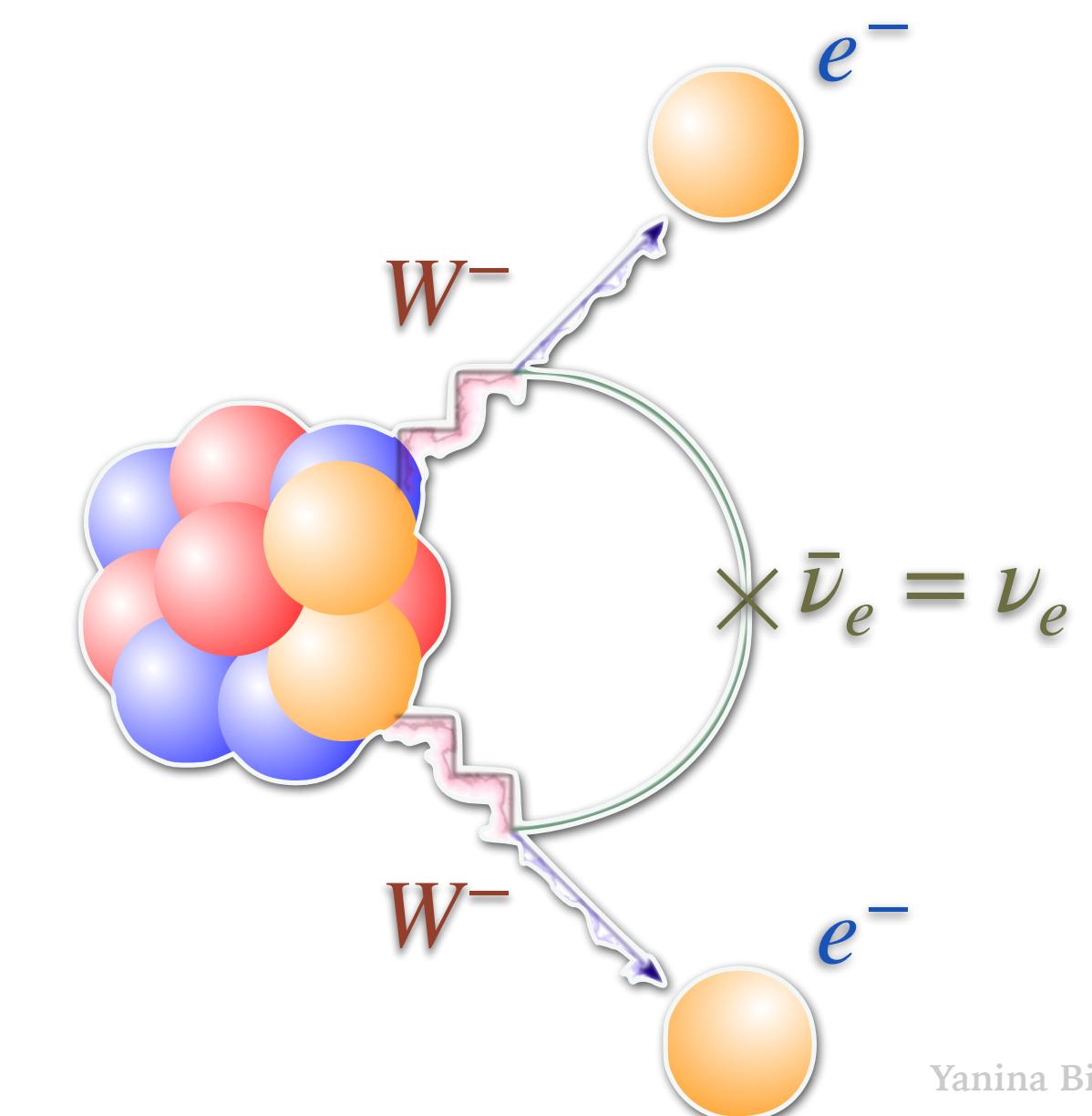
Coherent Neutrino Nucleus Scattering

Supernova Neutrinos

ER



NR

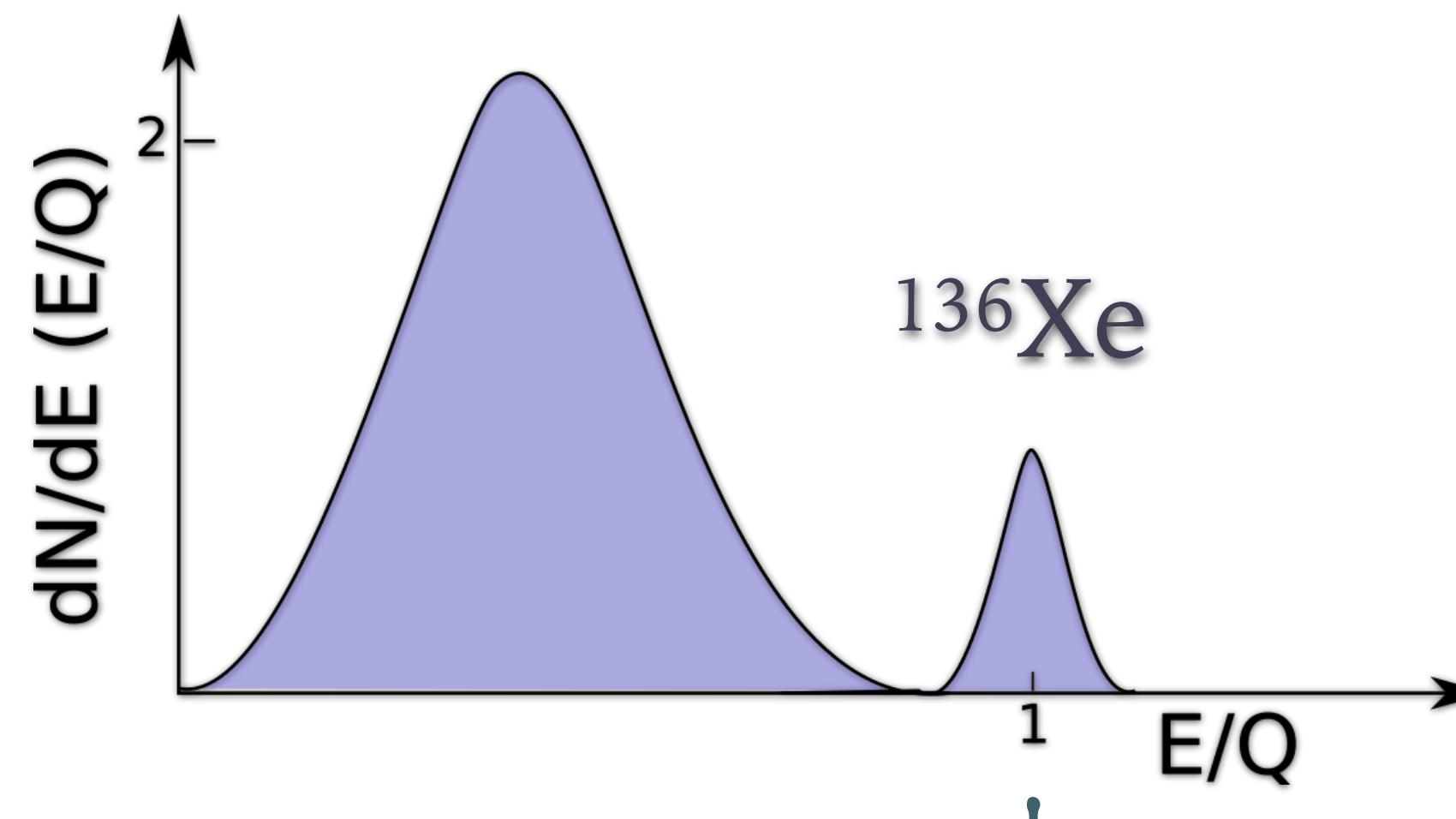


Exchange of a Majorana neutrino

$$\mathcal{L}^L(x) = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{l',l} \bar{\nu}_{l'L}(x) M_{l'l}^L (\nu_{lL})^c(x) + \text{h.c.}$$

# NEUTRINOLESS DOUBLE BETA DECAY: A WINDOW TO NEW PHYSICS

DARWIN provides the opportunity to study this process for free



- ⌘  $^{136}\text{Xe}$  has a natural abundance of 8.9% in natural Xe,  $\sim 3.5$  t in 40t

$$Q = (2457.83 \pm 0.37)\text{keV}$$

Above the region of interest for WIMPs

$$T_{1/2}^{0\nu} \propto f \cdot a \cdot \epsilon \cdot \sqrt{\frac{M \cdot t}{B \cdot \Delta E}}$$

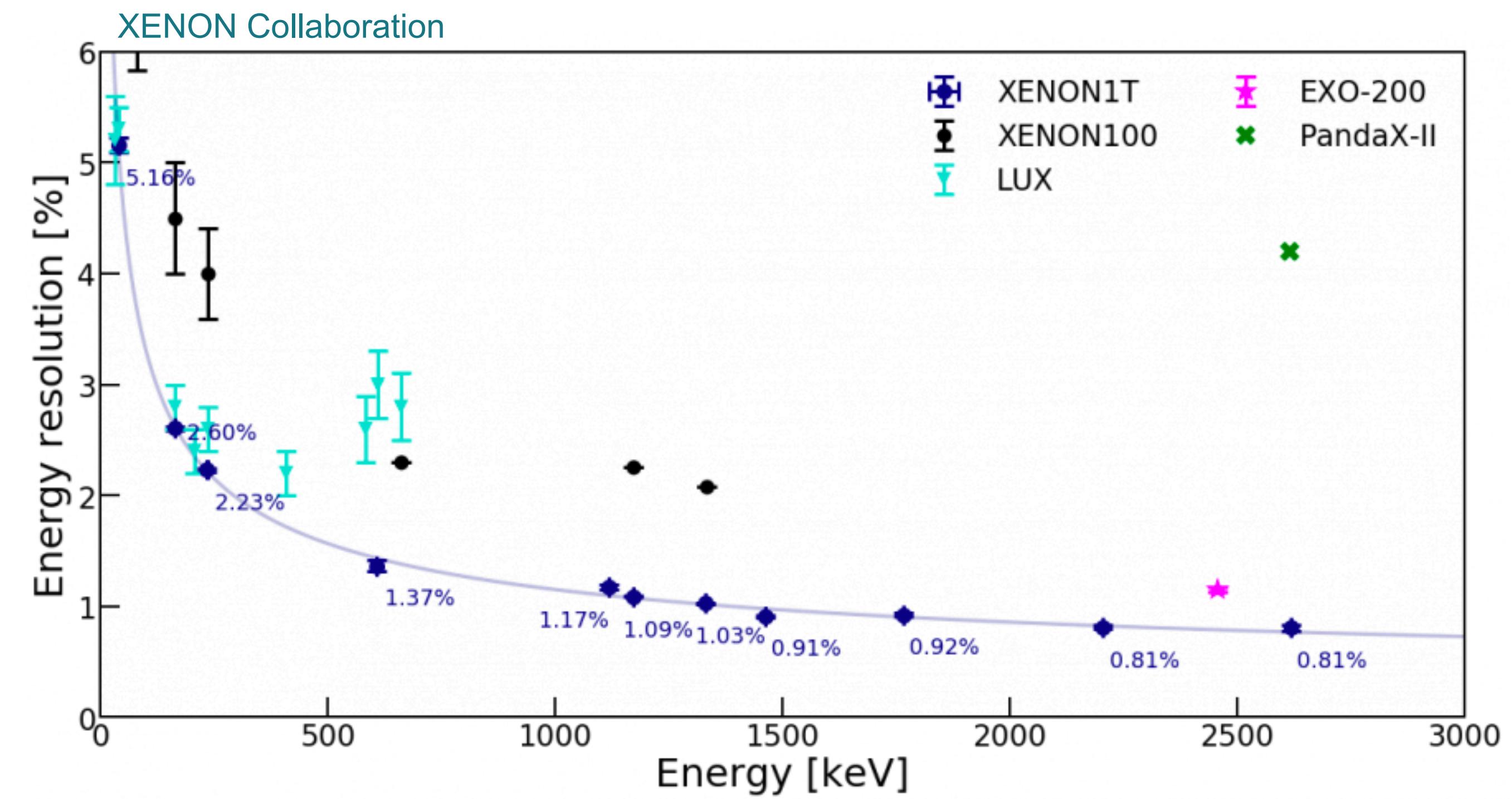
- ⌘ Expected Energy resolution of  $\sim 0.8\%$  at 2.5 MeV
- ⌘ Ultra-low background environment achieved via xenon purification and screening campaigns

Signal coverage  $\sim 0.76$  for FWHM  
Natural abundance 8.9% Efficiency 90%

# ENERGY RESOLUTION IN LXE TPC

The XENON1T Collaboration reached an unprecedented energy resolution, below 1% at Q-value, in a dual phase TPC.

- ❖ Improvements for high-energies:
  - Saturation Correction
  - Peak clustering
  - After-pulse removal



Energy resolution fit

$$\frac{\sigma}{E} = \frac{a}{\sqrt{E[keV]}} + b$$

# BACKGROUND CONTRIBUTIONS AROUND $^{136}\text{XE}$ Q-VALUE

Materials

Mostly gammas from detector components  
with low attenuation in LXe due to their  
energy

$^{222}\text{Rn}$  in the LXe

$2\nu\beta\beta$

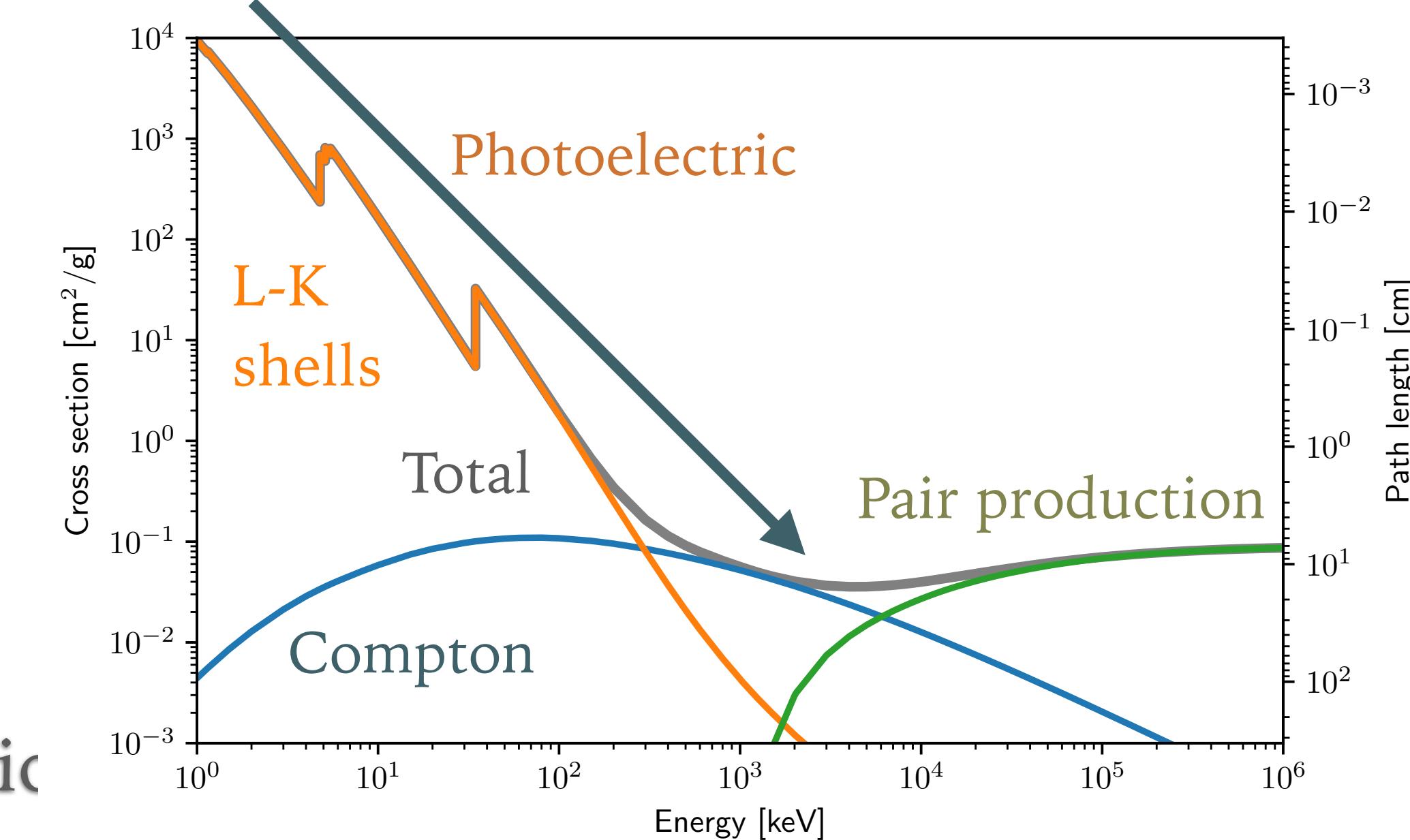
Cosmogenic

$$T_{1/2} = (2.165 \pm 0.075) \times 10^{21} \text{y}$$

$^{137}\text{Xe}$  from cosmogenic activation

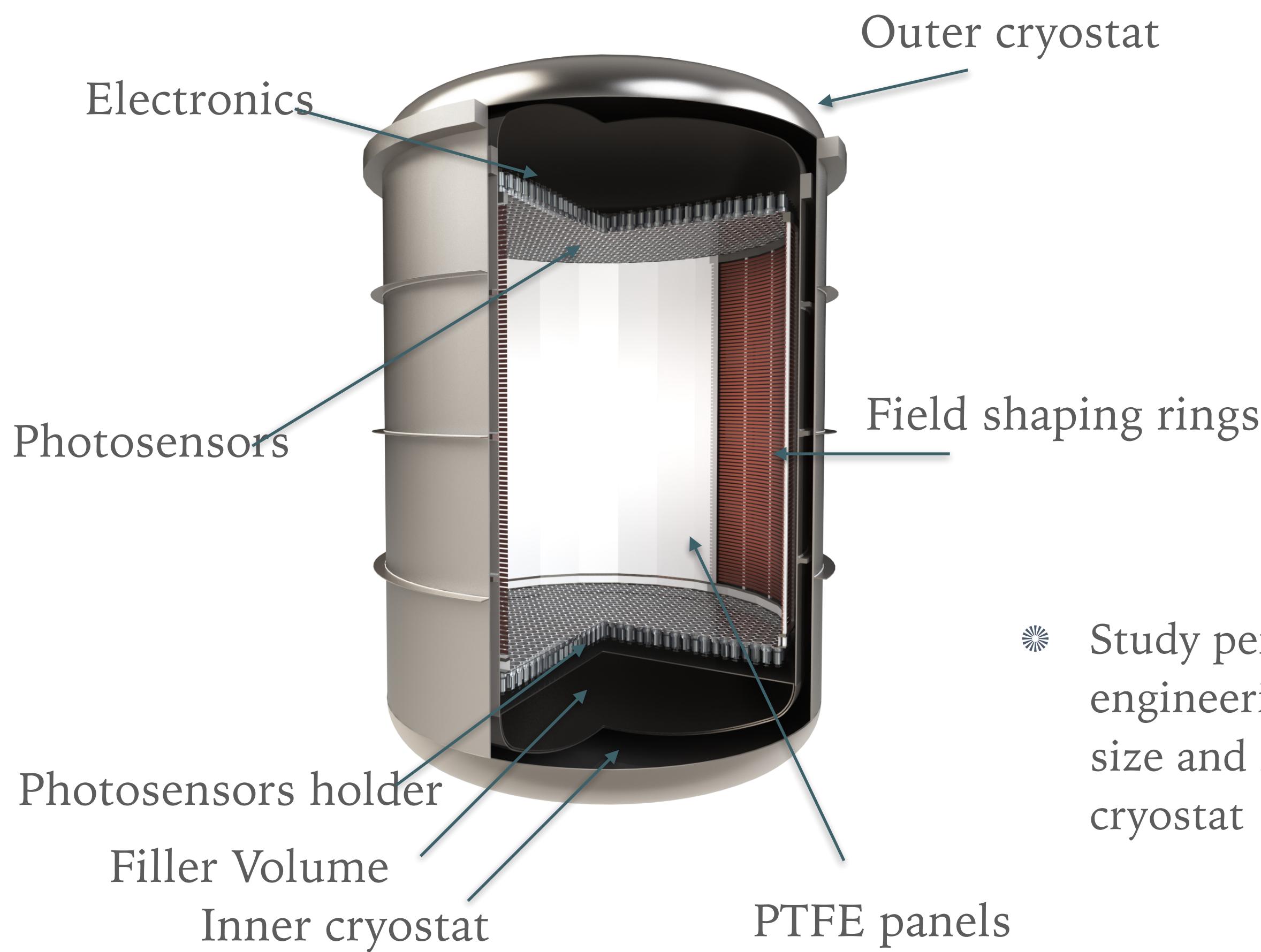
Solar neutrinos

Irreducible  $^8\text{B}$  solar neutrinos



# BACKGROUND CONTRIBUTIONS AROUND $^{136}\text{XE}$ Q-VALUE

## Materials

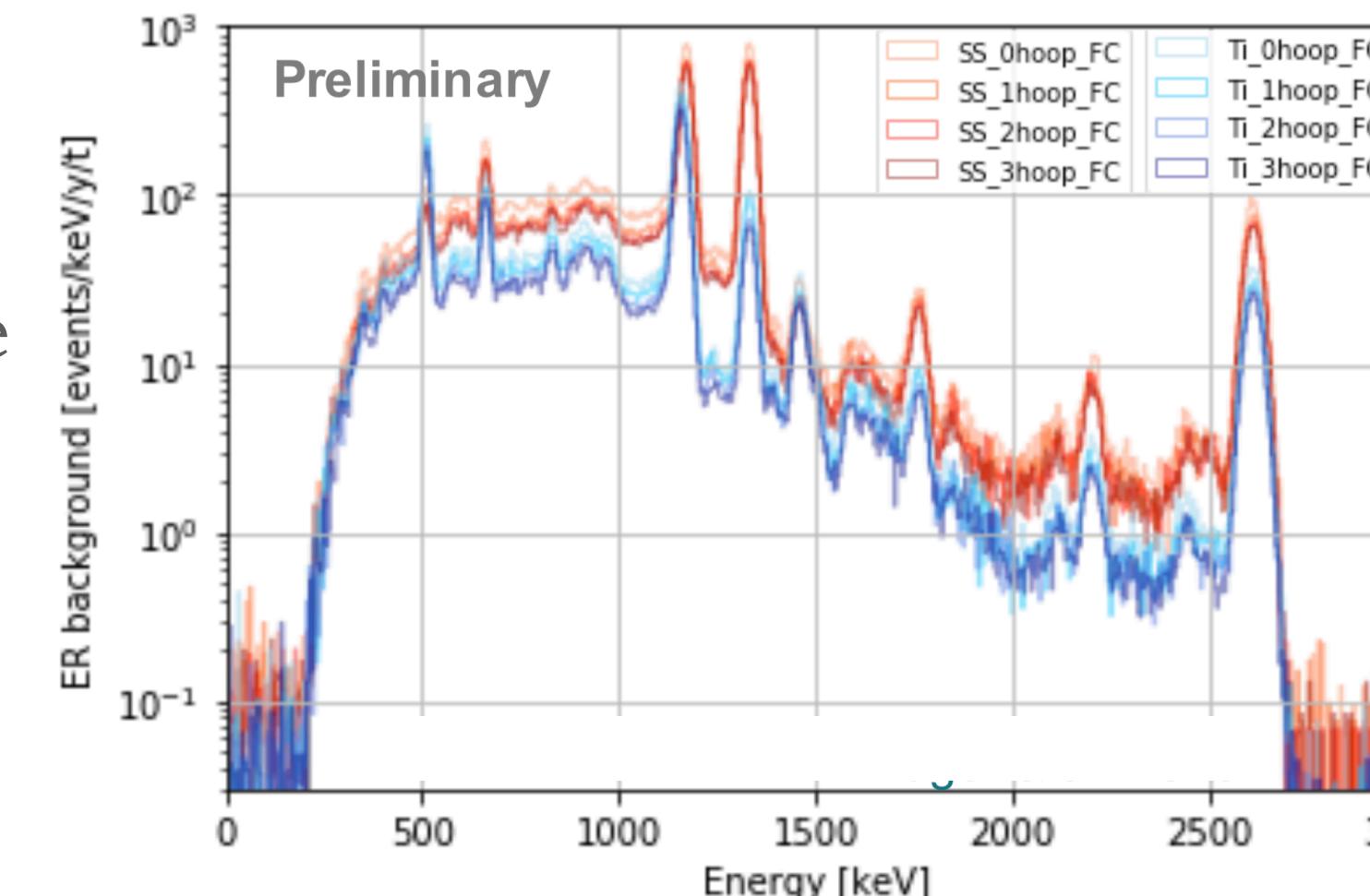


Critical components for the background are fully simulated in detail  
Elements under consideration: Photosensors (PMT, SiPM,...)

XENON Collaboration, Eur. Phys. J. C (2017) 77: 881.

Materials	Mass [kg]	$^{226}\text{Ra}^*$	$^{228}\text{Th}^*$	$^{60}\text{Co}^*$	per cm <sup>2</sup>
Ti	5717.7	<0.09	0.23	<0.03	<sup>1</sup> per cm <sup>2</sup>
PTFE	301.2	0.07	<0.06	<0.02	<sup>2</sup> per unit
Cu	1199.3	<0.035	<0.026	<0.02	mBq/kg
Cirlex	7.6	17.7	3	<0.10	
SiPM <sup>1</sup>	5.7	<0.0075	<0.0092	-	
PMT <sup>2</sup>	378.8	0.6	0.6	0.84	

- ★ Study performed by the engineering group to optimise size and materials for the cryostat



# BACKGROUND CONTRIBUTIONS AROUND $^{136}\text{XE}$ Q-VALUE

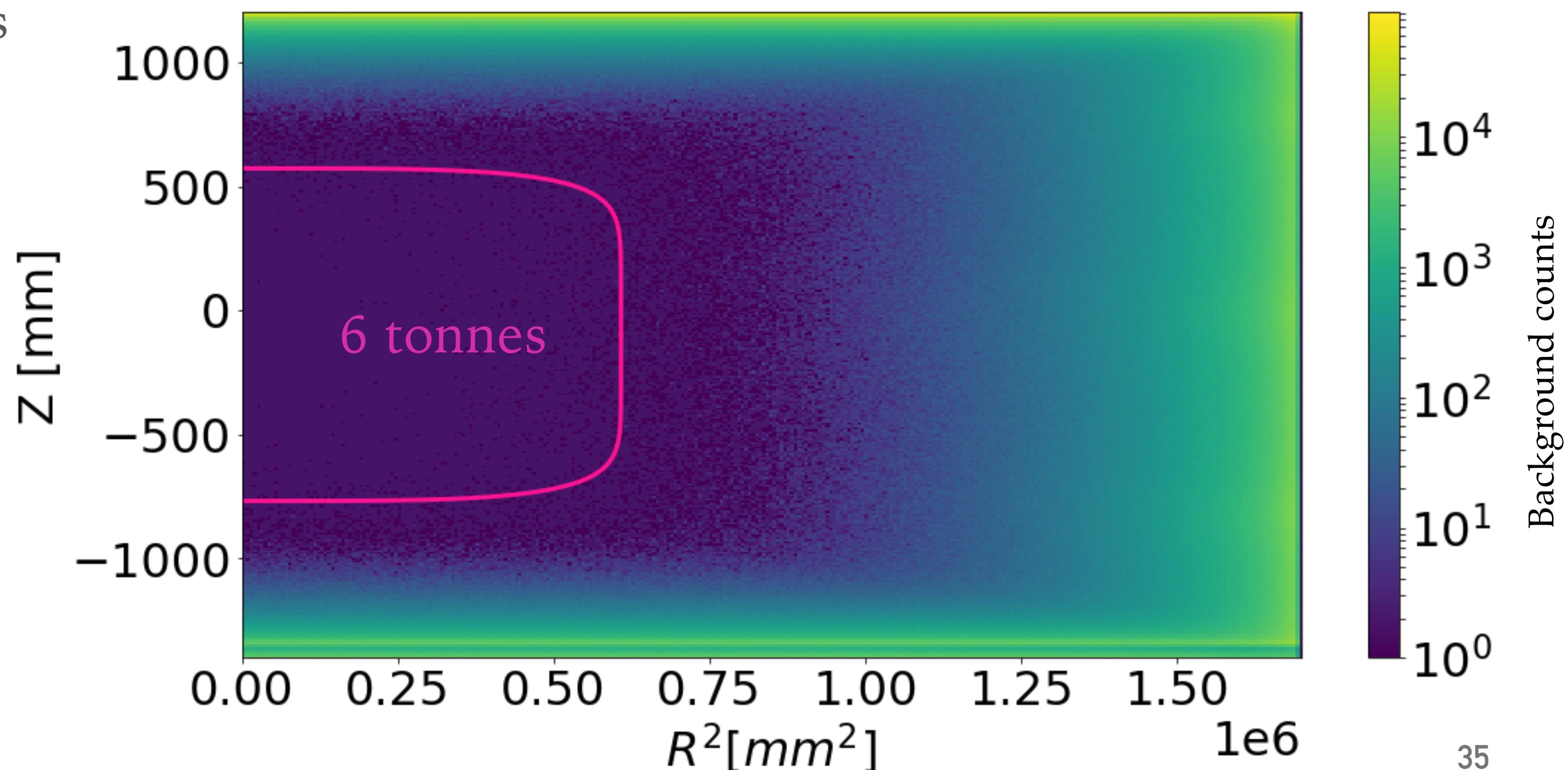
## Materials

- Cryostat was optimised with Ti material and stiffeners for low mass
- Different photosensors: SiPM, PMTs (shown below)
- Superellipsoid fiducial volume cut

Single Scatter  $\sim 15$  mm resolution  
 (very conservative)  
 $\sim 99\%$  of signal events end in SS  
 spectra

## Background contribution per material component

Preliminary

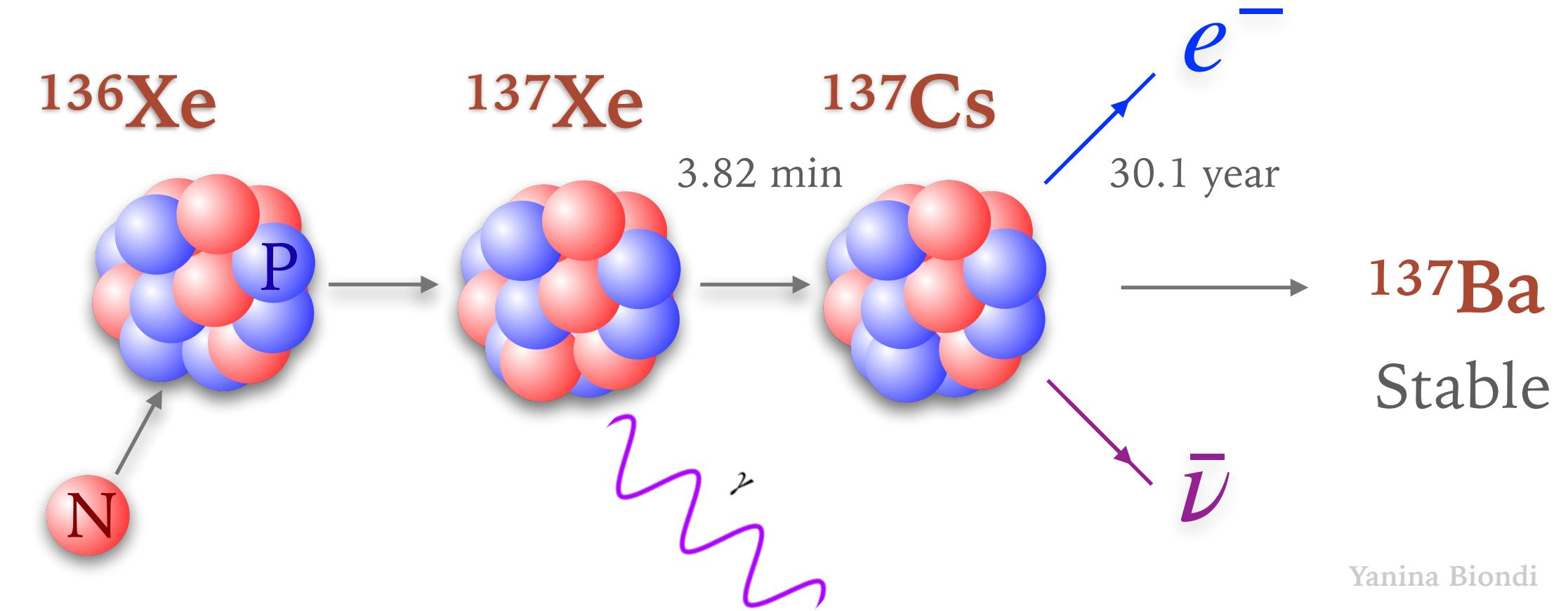


# BACKGROUND CONTRIBUTIONS AROUND $^{136}\text{Xe}$ Q-VALUE

## Cosmogenic

### $^{137}\text{Xe}$ from cosmogenic activation underground

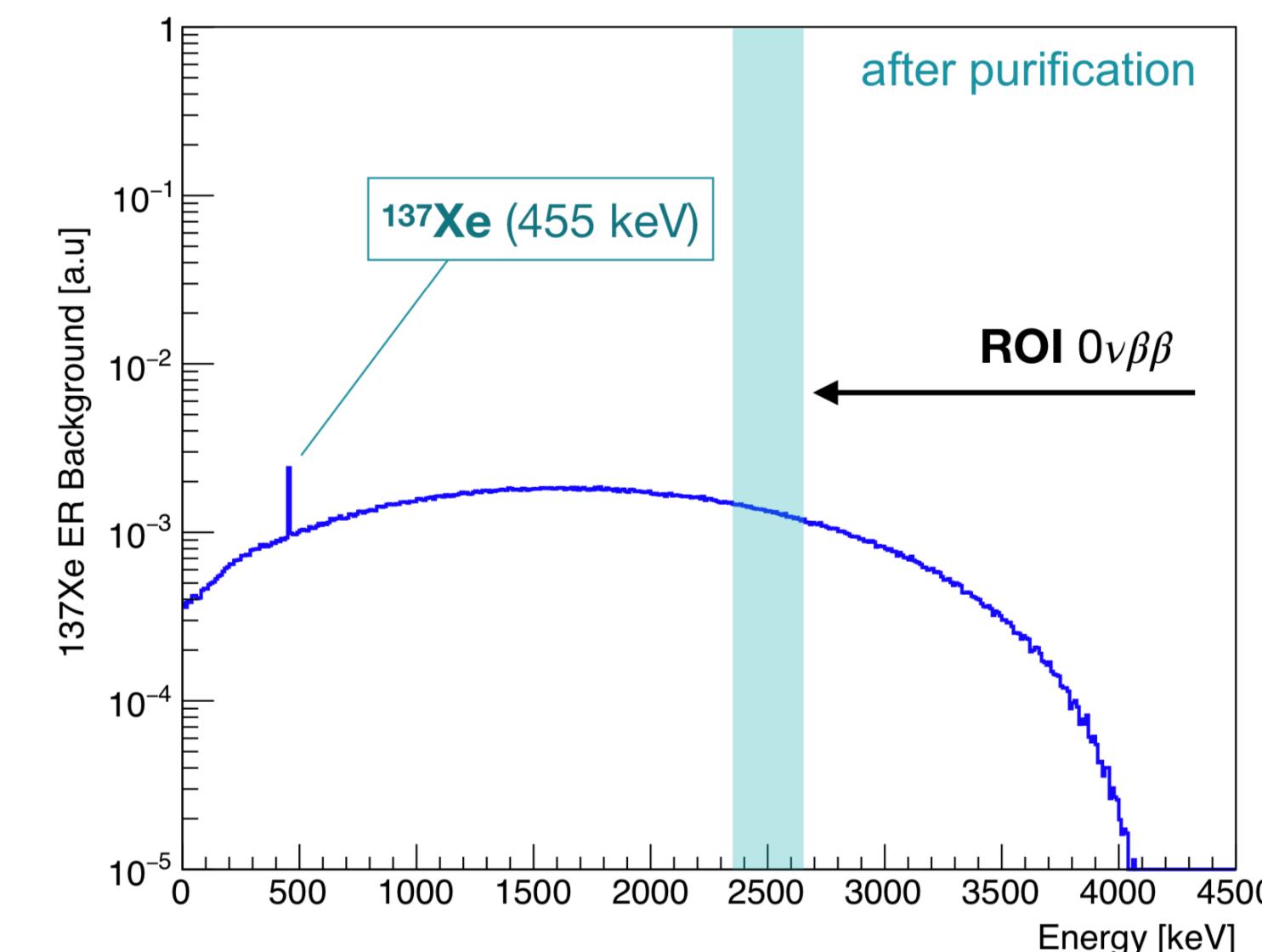
- $^{137}\text{Xe}$  beta decays with a Q-value of 4173 keV
- Uniform background inside the detector
- Primary background from betas



Yanina Biondi

- Neutrons from natural radioactivity in the rock/concrete ✗
- Neutron from natural radioactivity in detector's materials ✗
- Muon induced neutrons in the rock and concrete ✗
- Muon induced neutrons in the materials of the detector

$^{137}\text{Xe}$  is mainly produced when muon-induced neutrons are captured by  $^{136}\text{Xe}$

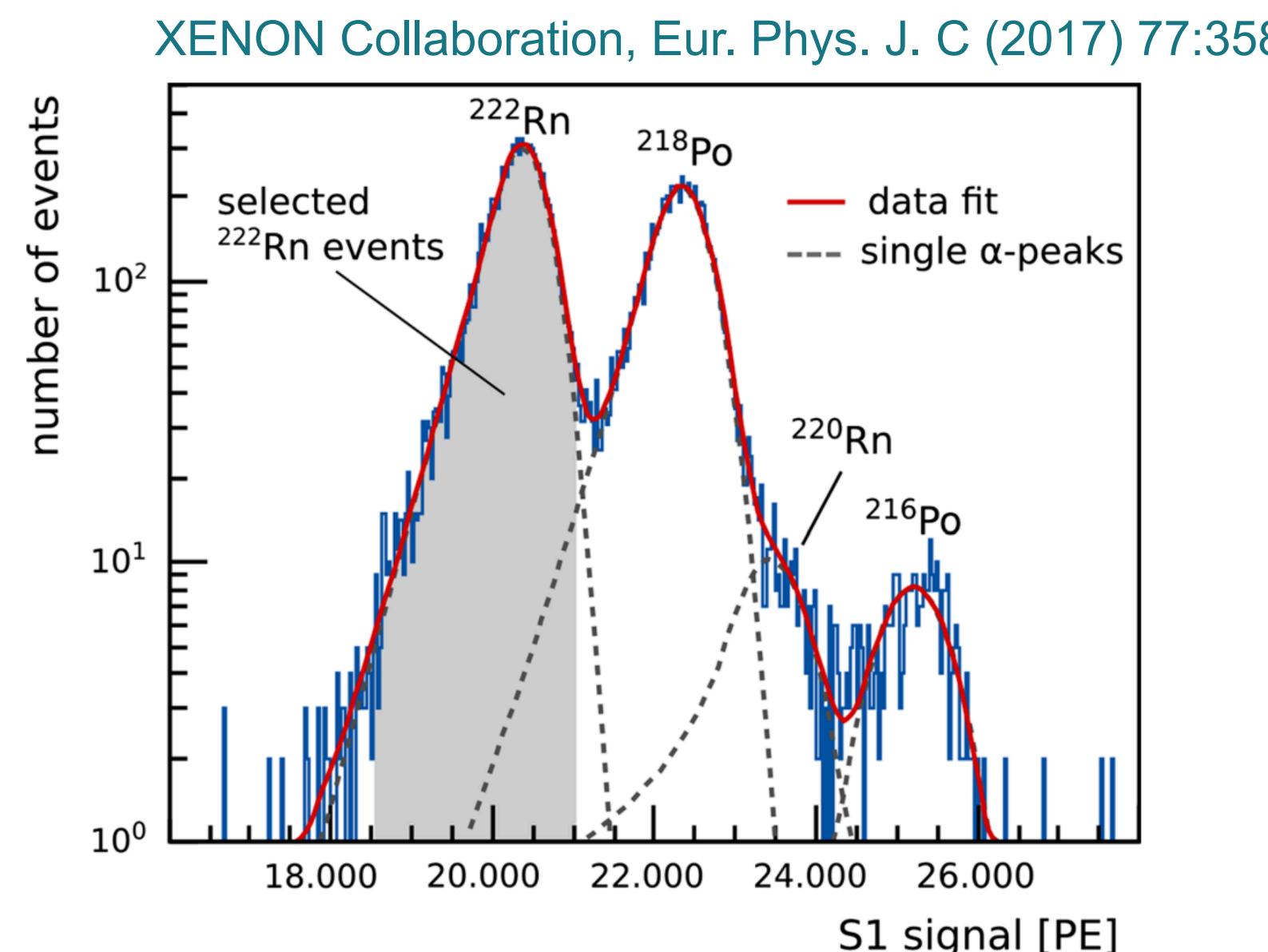


Production rate for  $^{137}\text{Xe}$  in LNGS:  
6.7 atoms/t/y

# BACKGROUND CONTRIBUTIONS AROUND $^{136}\text{XE}$ Q-VALUE

## Contaminants in LXe

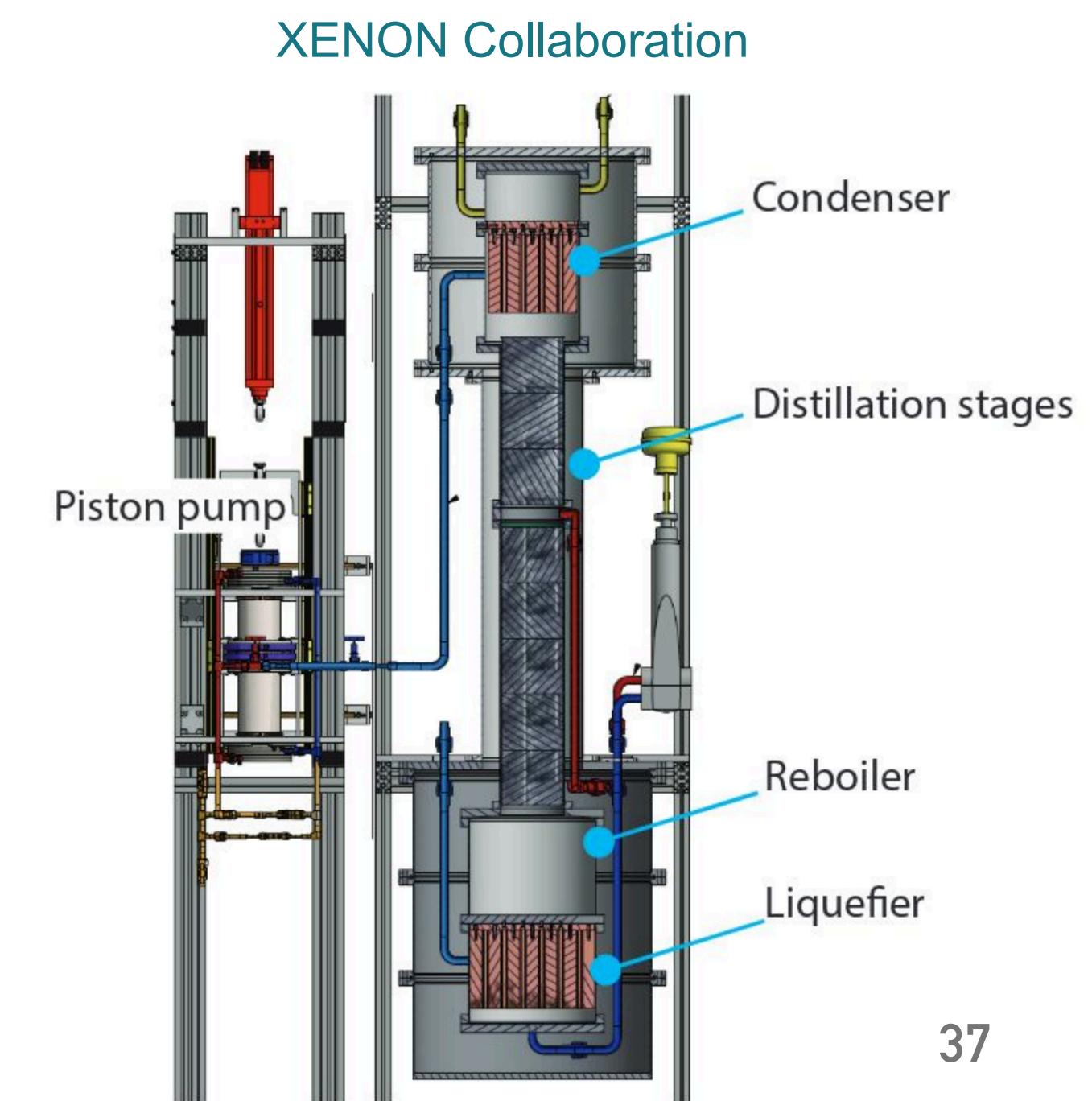
- ✿ The noble gas  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  ( $T_{1/2} \approx 3.8$  days) from  $^{226}\text{Ra}$  ( $T_{1/2} \approx 1600$  years), mixes with the xenon with beta decays from this chain.
- ✿  $^{214}\text{Pb}$  and daughters adhere to material surfaces (plate-out) and can lead to (a, n) reactions
- ✿ Contamination assumption  $0.1\mu\text{Bq}/\text{kg}$



Bi-Po : 99.8% tagging efficiency and suppression

Removal by cryo-distillation columns

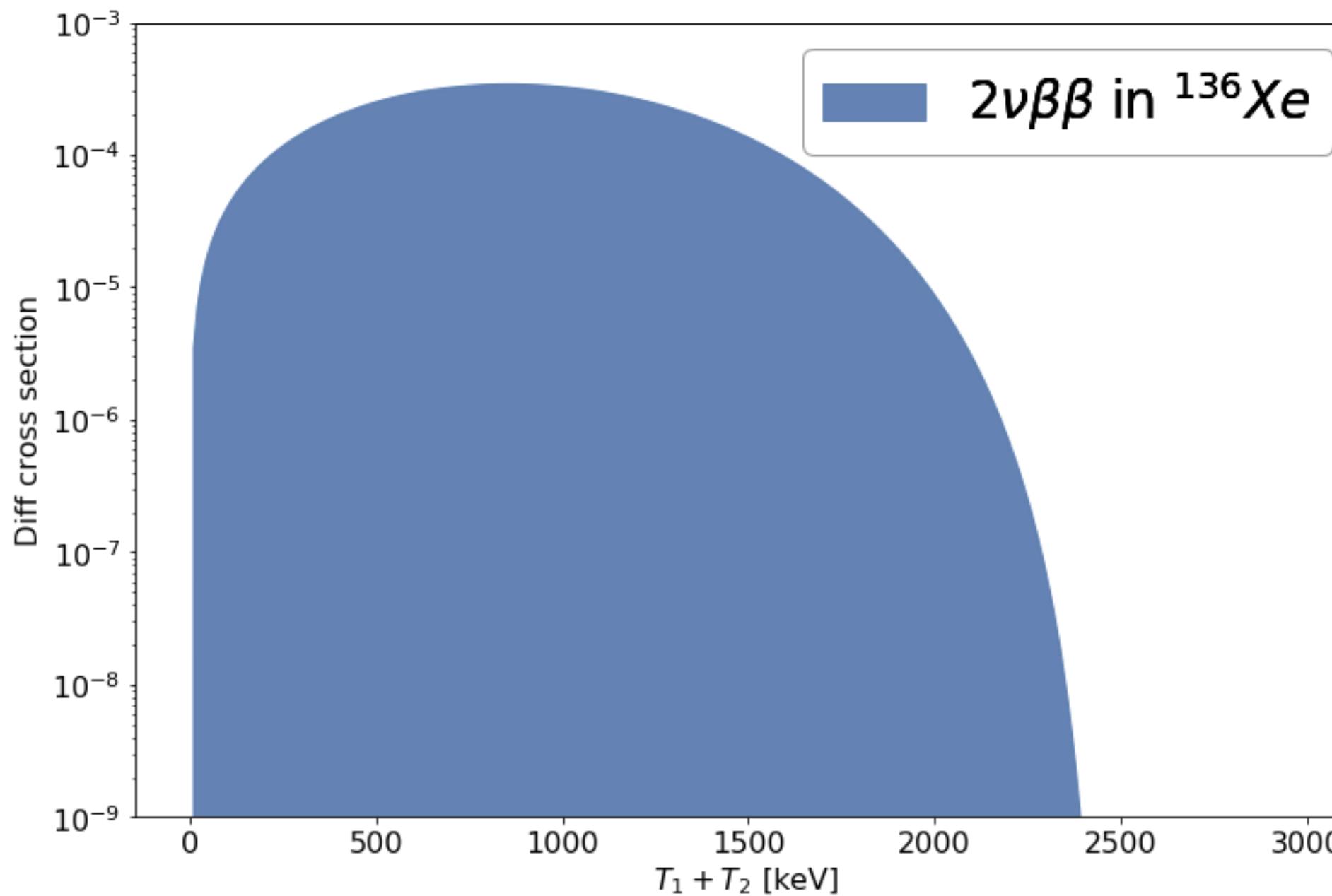
More info in Michael Murra's Poster



# BACKGROUND CONTRIBUTIONS AROUND $^{136}\text{Xe}$ Q-VALUE

$2\nu\beta\beta$

Double beta decay of two neutrons:



Solar neutrinos

Irreducible  $^8\text{B}$  solar neutrinos



Neutrino electron scattering with the target LXe

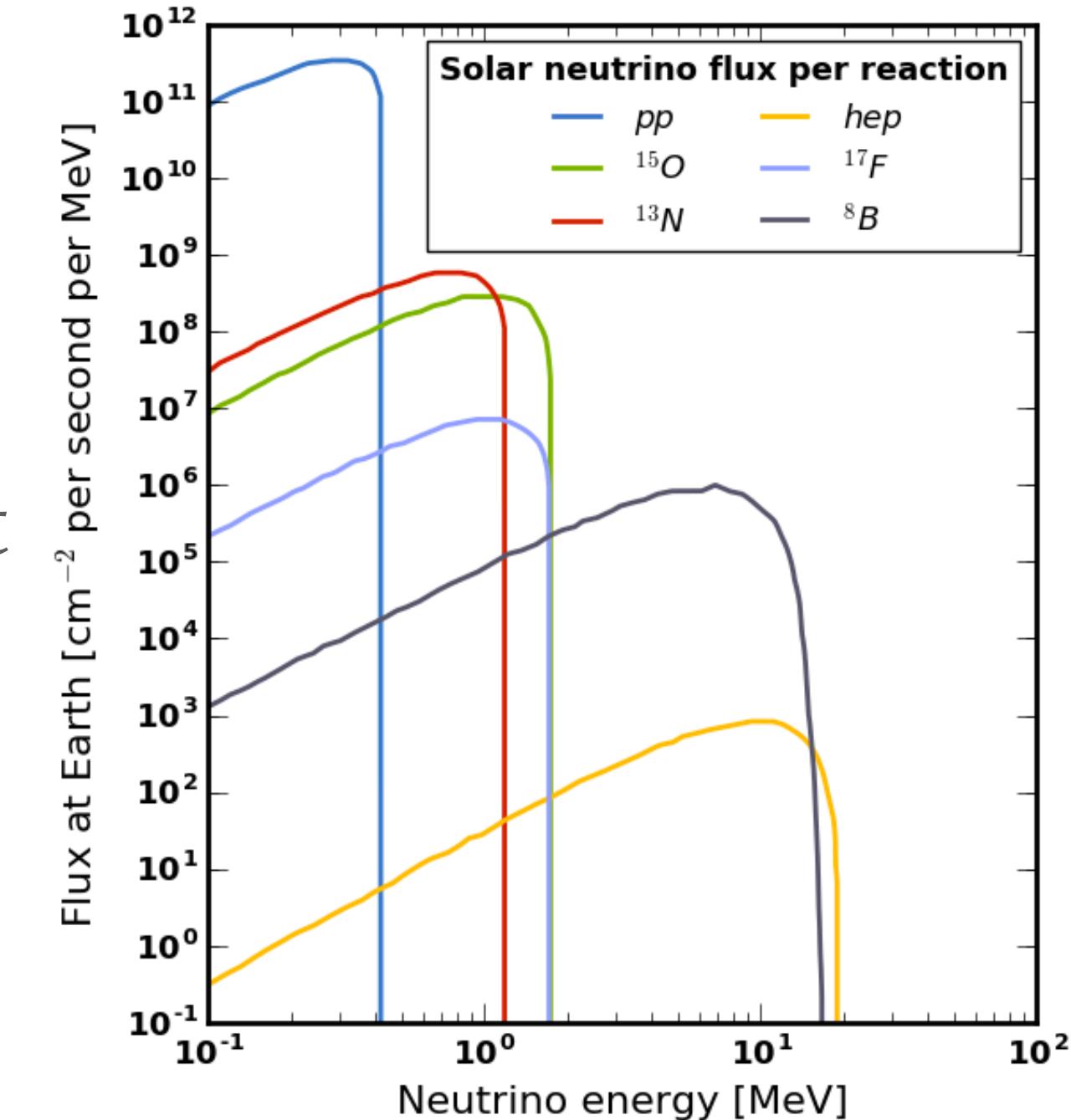
$$\phi_{\nu e} = 5.82 \times 10^6 \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

$$P_e = 0.534$$

$$\sigma_{\nu e}(\sigma_{\nu \mu}) = 59.4 \times 10^{-45} (10.6 \times 10^{-45}) \text{ cm}^2$$

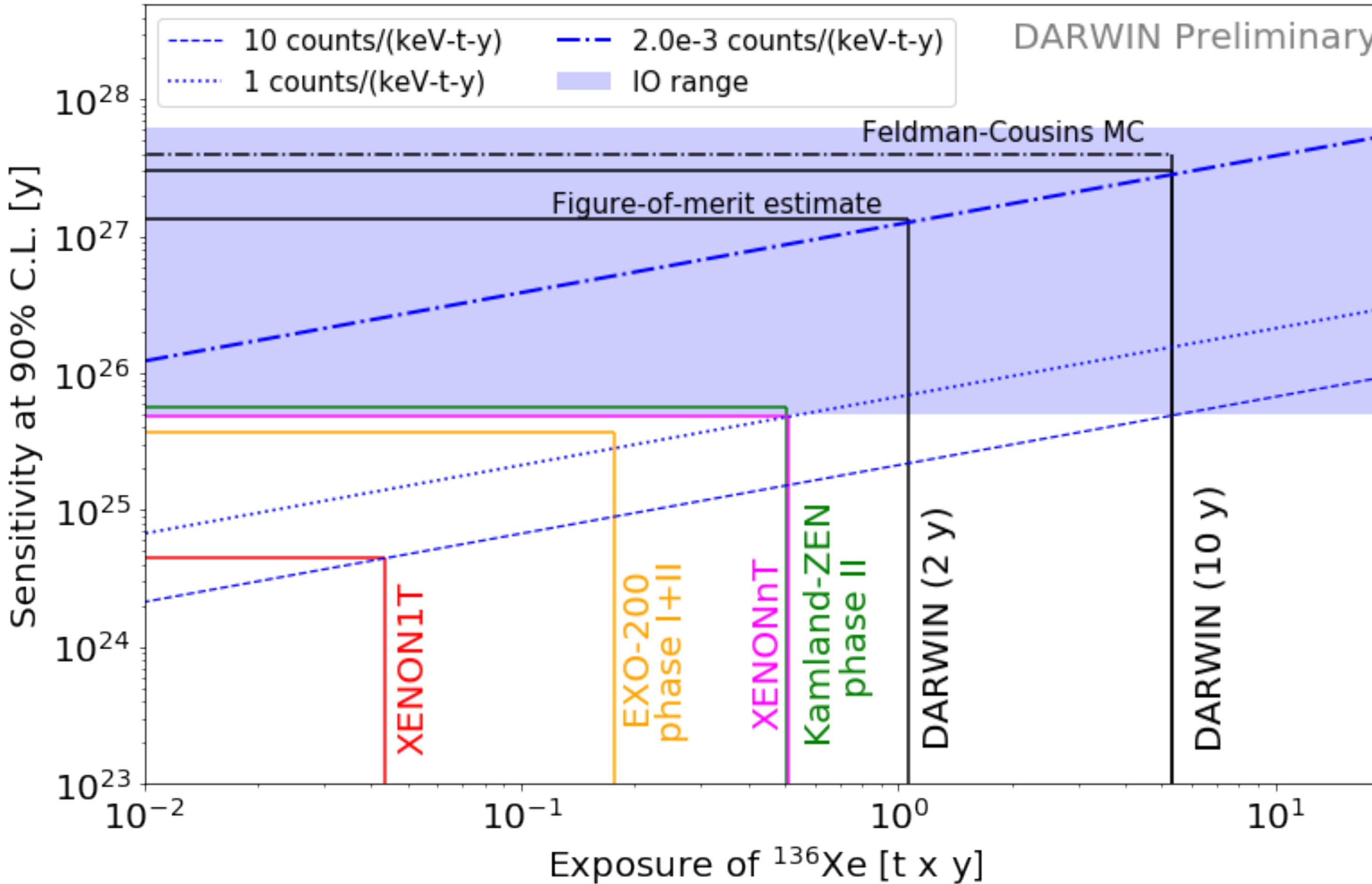
Bahcall, J., Serenelli, A., Basu, S

*Astrophys. J.* **621**: L85–L88



Baudis, L., et al. "Neutrino physics with multi-ton scale liquid xenon detectors." *JCAP* 2014.01 (2014): 044.

# DARWIN'S BACKGROUND BUDGET



Contributions in  
ROI 2435-2481 keV\* SS spectra:

Background	Events/(t y keV)
$^8\text{B}$	$2.4 \times 10^{-4}$
$^{137}\text{Xe}$	$1.4 \times 10^{-3}$
$^{136}\text{Xe}$	$3.7 \times 10^{-7}$
$^{222}\text{Rn}$	$3.0 \times 10^{-4}$
Materials	$f(M_{fiducial})$

\* FWHM with energy resolution 0.8%,  
PMT for both arrays scenario  
~15 mm resolution x-y-z

# SUMMARY NEUTRINOLESS DOUBLE BETA DECAY IN DARWIN

- ⌘ Full assessment of background contribution for the neutrino-less double beta decay channel successfully performed
- ⌘  $^{137}\text{Xe}$  was calculated and simulated for the first time as a background in Laboratori Nazionali del Gran Sasso, one of the potential locations of DARWIN
- ⌘ SiPM are strong alternative candidates for photosensors that imply less background
- ⌘ The study will continue performing simulations for SiPM(and/or other lower activity photosensors) scenario
- ⌘ Statistical tests for the sensitivity are being performed

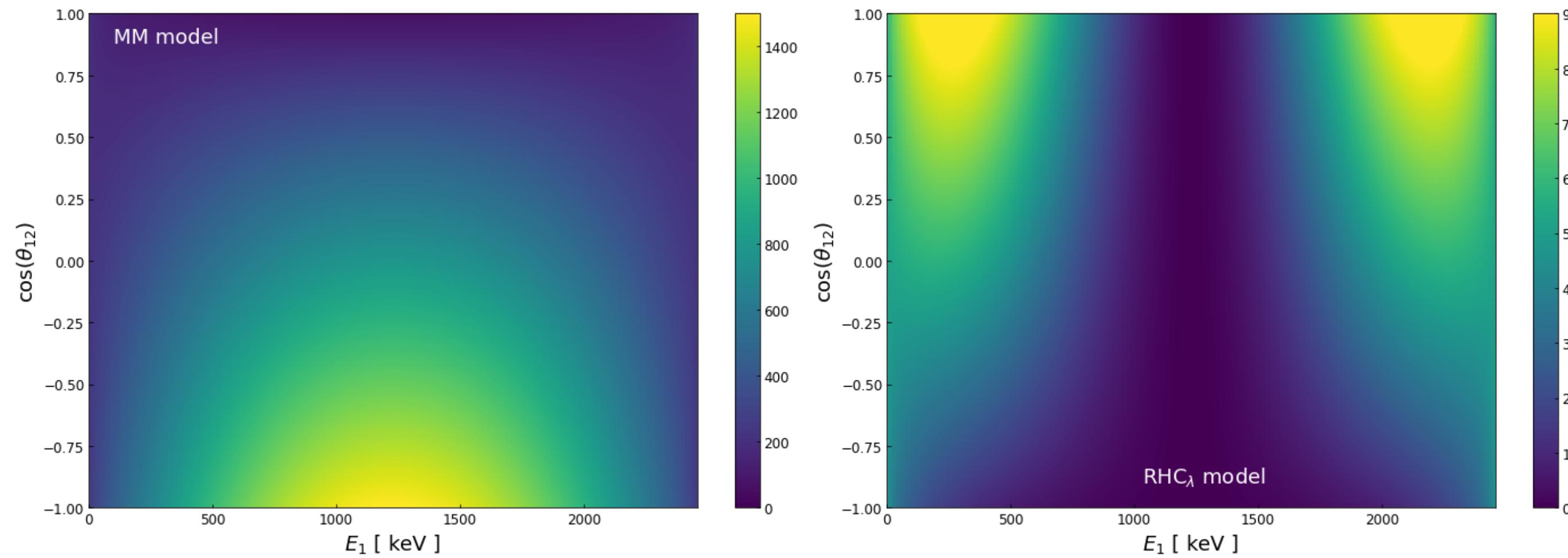
Thanks for your attention!

# **BACK UP SLIDES**

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# TOPOLOGY OF NEUTRINOLESS DOUBLE BETA DECAY IN LXe

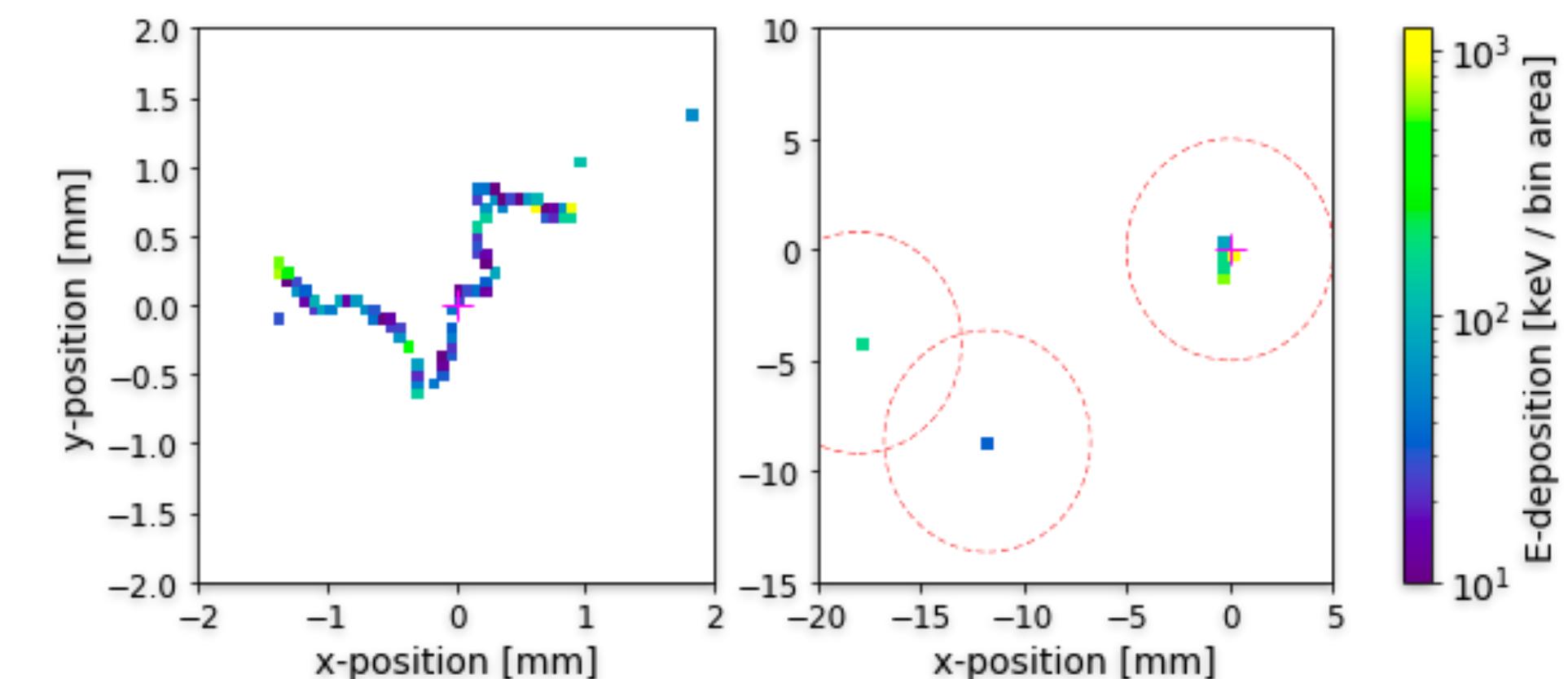
Energy per electron and angle between the two depends on the yet unknown decay mechanism.

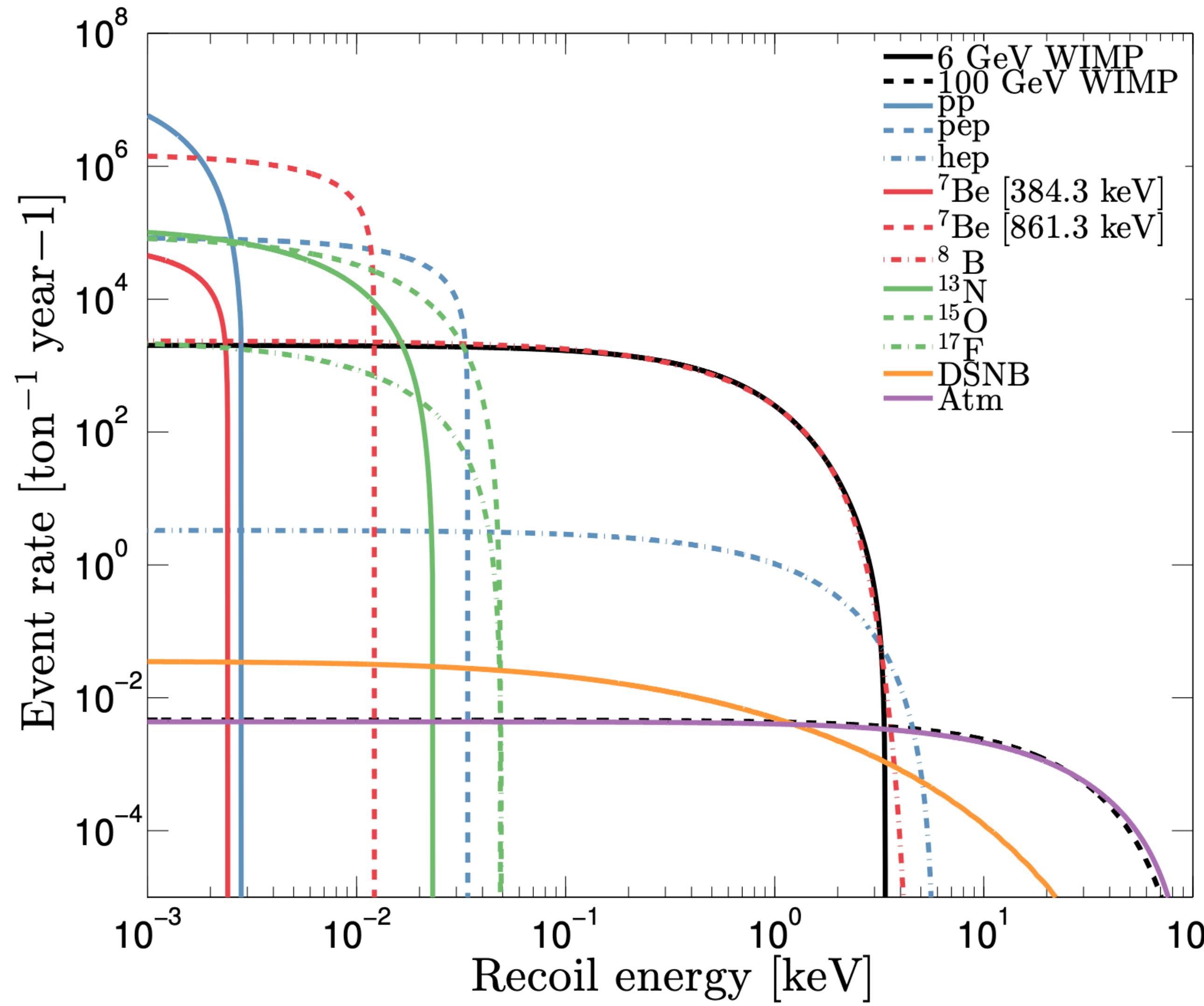


Model assuming mixing mechanism and emission back to back

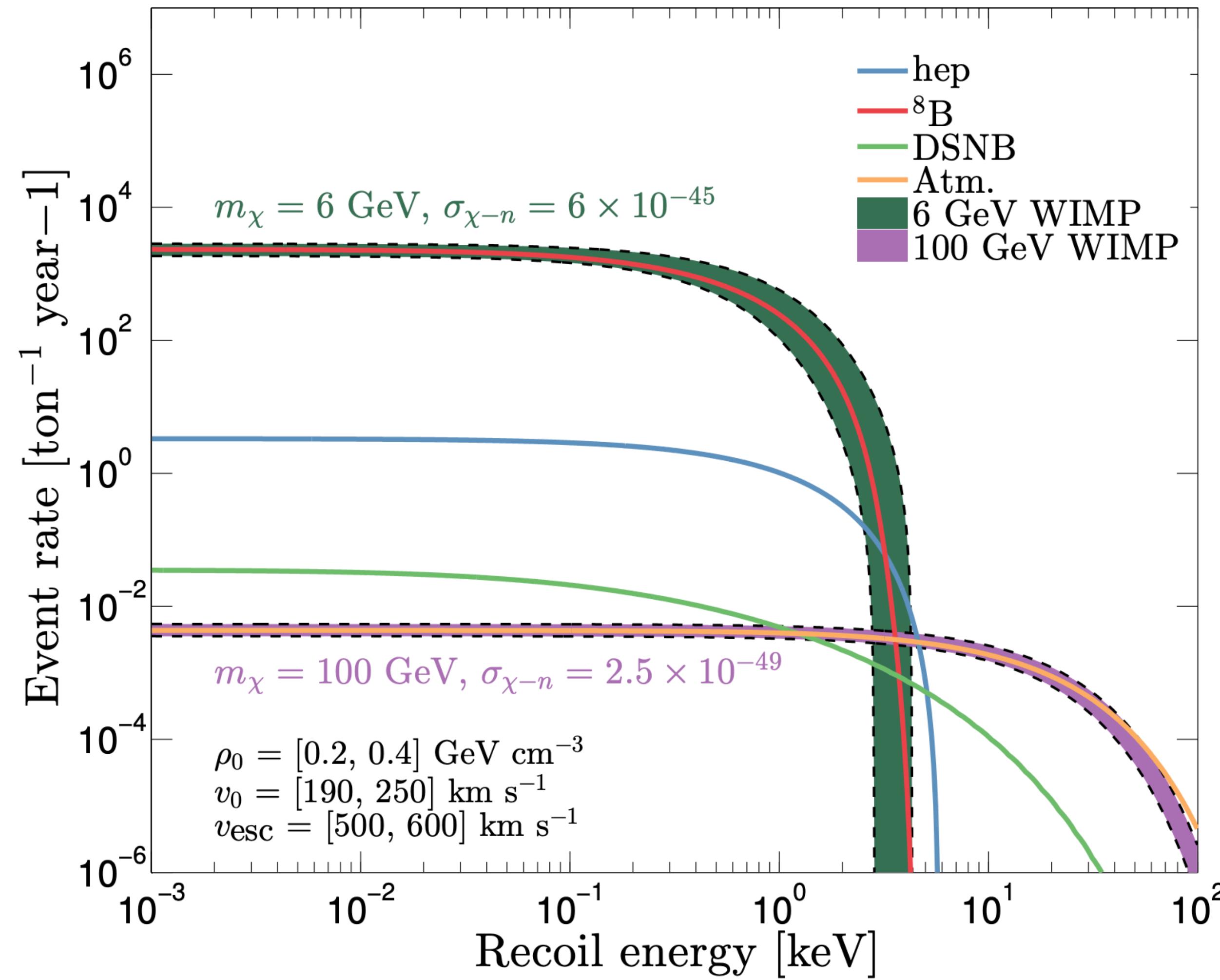
In liquid xenon the electrons thermalise within O(mm) resulting in a single-site (SS) signal topology

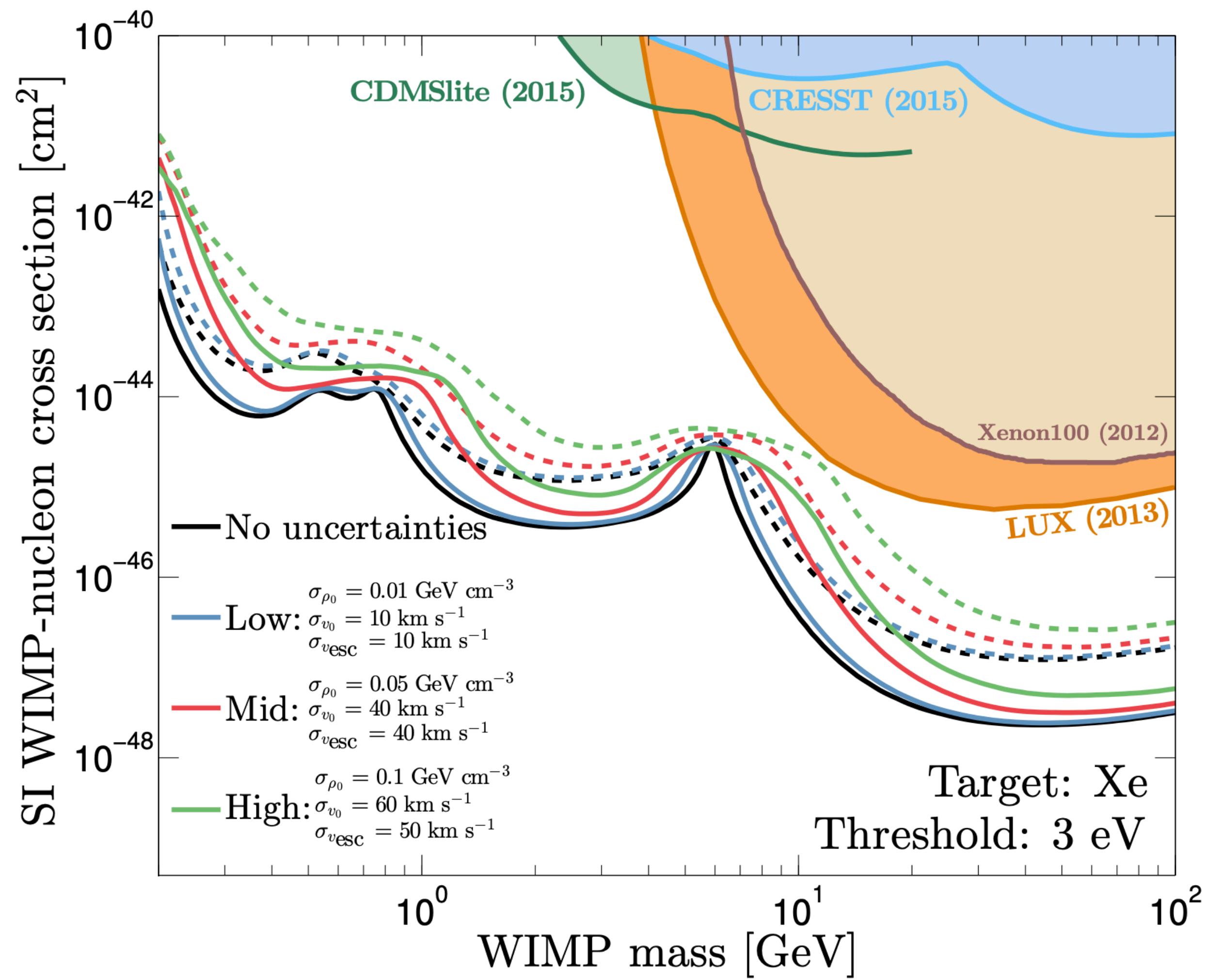
Bremsstrahlung photons emitted during electron thermalisation. Infrequently photons with energies above a few 100 keV can cross O(cm) distances before interacting





O'Hare, Dark Matter Astrophysical uncertainties and  
the neutrino floor





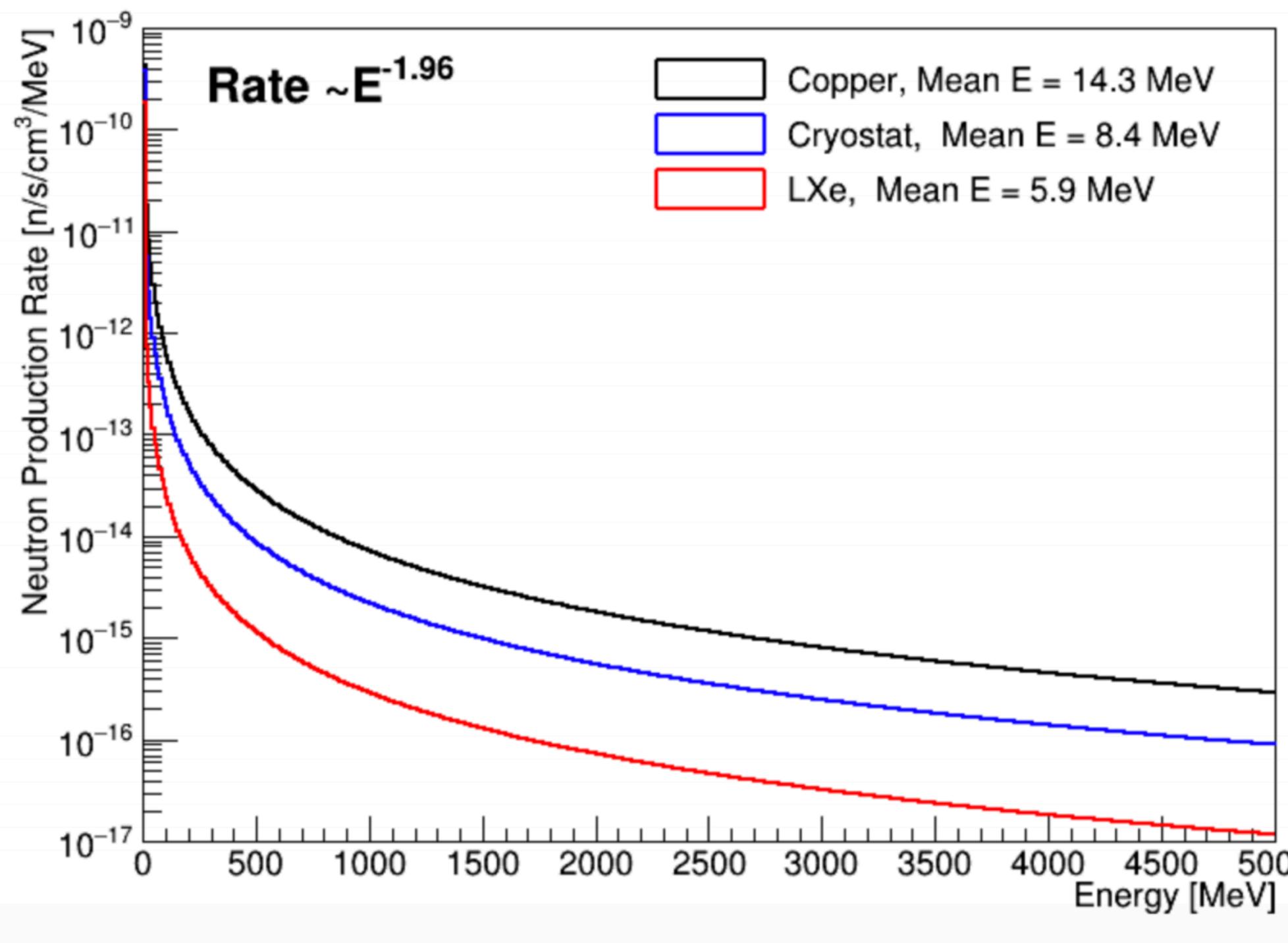
O'Hare, Dark Matter Astrophysical uncertainties and  
the neutrino floor

# MUON-INDUCED NEUTRONS: MORE REALISTIC MODEL

**NEW**

- We simulate the neutrons following a power-law energy spectrum
- The total neutron production rates per material still from XENON100

Several references propose a power law for this spectrum,  
quoting values from  $E^{-1}$  to  $E^{-2}$  [1].



**Approach:** reproduce at the same time the total neutron production rate and the mean energy

Material	n Production Rate [ $n/s/cm^3$ ]	Mean Energy [MeV]
Copper	$0.47 \times 10^{-8}$	14.8
Cryostat	$0.39 \times 10^{-8}$	8.3
LXe	$0.19 \times 10^{-8}$	5.7

$\sim E^{-1.96}$

# MUON-INDUCED NEUTRONS: NEW SIMULATIONS

We repeat the same process with the new energy spectrum

- simulate neutrons
- propagate them through the detector until the LXe
- count number of  $\text{Xe}^{137}$

## Comparison with the previous results

**Table 2:  $\text{136Xe}$  Neutron Captures in DARWIN**

Material	Volume in DARWIN [m <sup>3</sup> ]	#simulated neutrons	$\text{137Xe}$ Isotopes (Previous Result)	$\text{137Xe}$ Isotopes(NEW)
Copper	0.07604	1e6	247	234
Cryostat	1.07684	1e6	72	89
LXe	16.9740	1e6	247	252

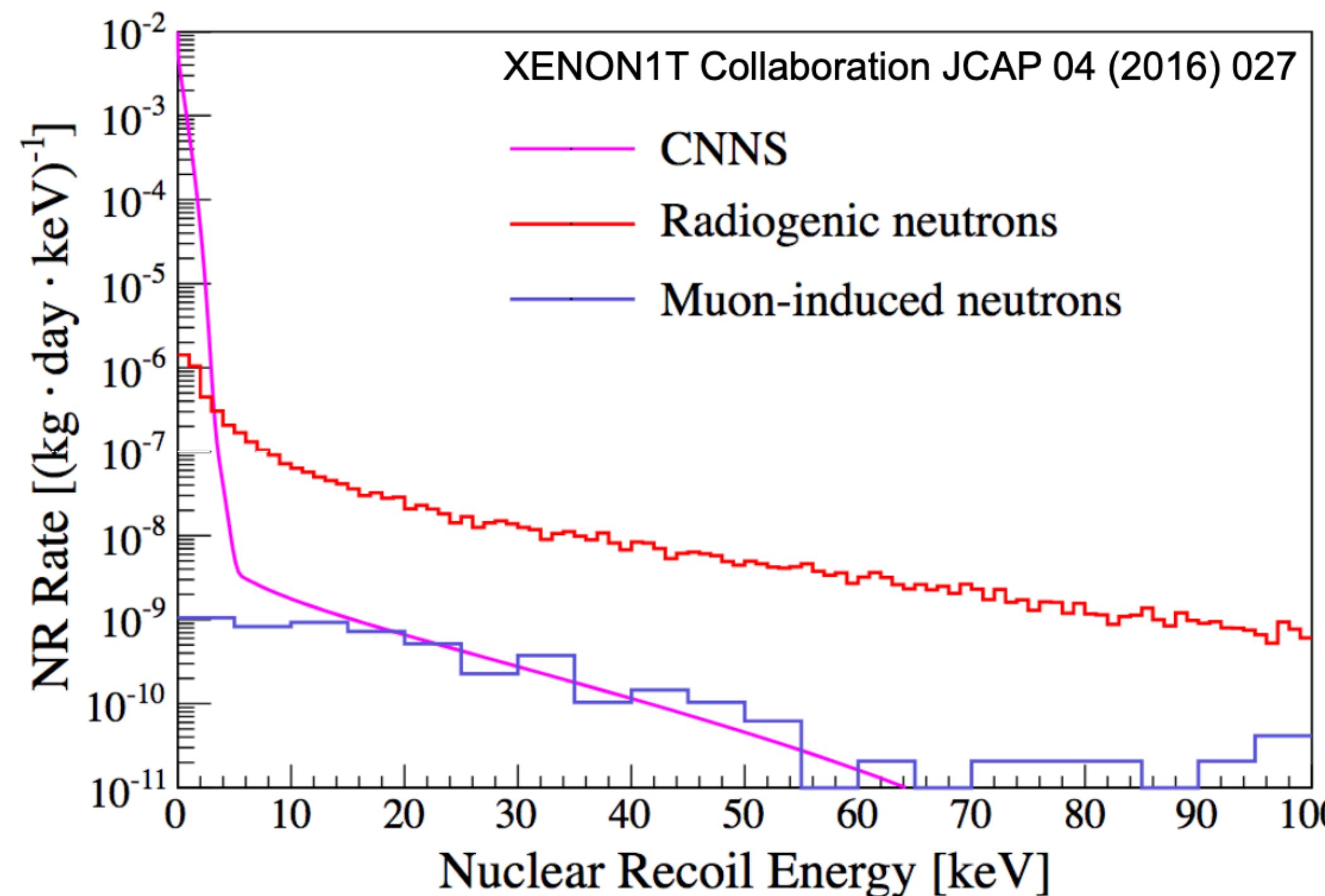
**Table 3:  $\text{137Xe}$  Production Rate**

Material	Production Rate [atoms/kg/year] (OLD RESULT)	Production Rate [atoms/kg/year] (NEW RESULT)
Cooper	$7.39 \cdot 10^{-5}$	$6.72 \cdot 10^{-5}$
SS	$2.40 \cdot 10^{-4}$	$2.97 \cdot 10^{-4}$
LXe	$6.34 \cdot 10^{-3}$	$6.50 \cdot 10^{-3}$
<b>Total</b>	$6.66 \cdot 10^{-3}$	$6.86 \cdot 10^{-3}$

the power law spectrum accounts for **an increase of 3%** in the production rate of the  $\text{Xe}^{137}$

# QUESTION:

Why are the muon-induced neutrons the main contribution here while for the dark matter search they are negligible?



- This is not the number of muon-induced neutrons in the detector
  - Nuclear recoils in 1t FV
  - Single scatter events
  - 99.5% reduction of NRs in coincidence with a muon crossing the water tank
  - 70% reduction of NRs in coincidence with a muon shower (muon outside the tank)



However

## Muon-induced neutrons in the materials:

Their production is abundant, but they are mainly created inside an hadronic shower. They will enter the FV with a large number of gammas or other particles and the probability to produce a single scatter is extremely low

- Although the reduction the neutrons still inside
- Neutrons multi-scatter