

2023/06/27

Underground Science - Day 2

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Last Time:

- Discussed the need for particle dark matter.
- Worked out details of expected event rates, pointing out where uncertainties in calculations could arise.
- Discussed characteristics of a dark matter signal
- Started considering different backgrounds that come into play in underground physics

Event Signatures

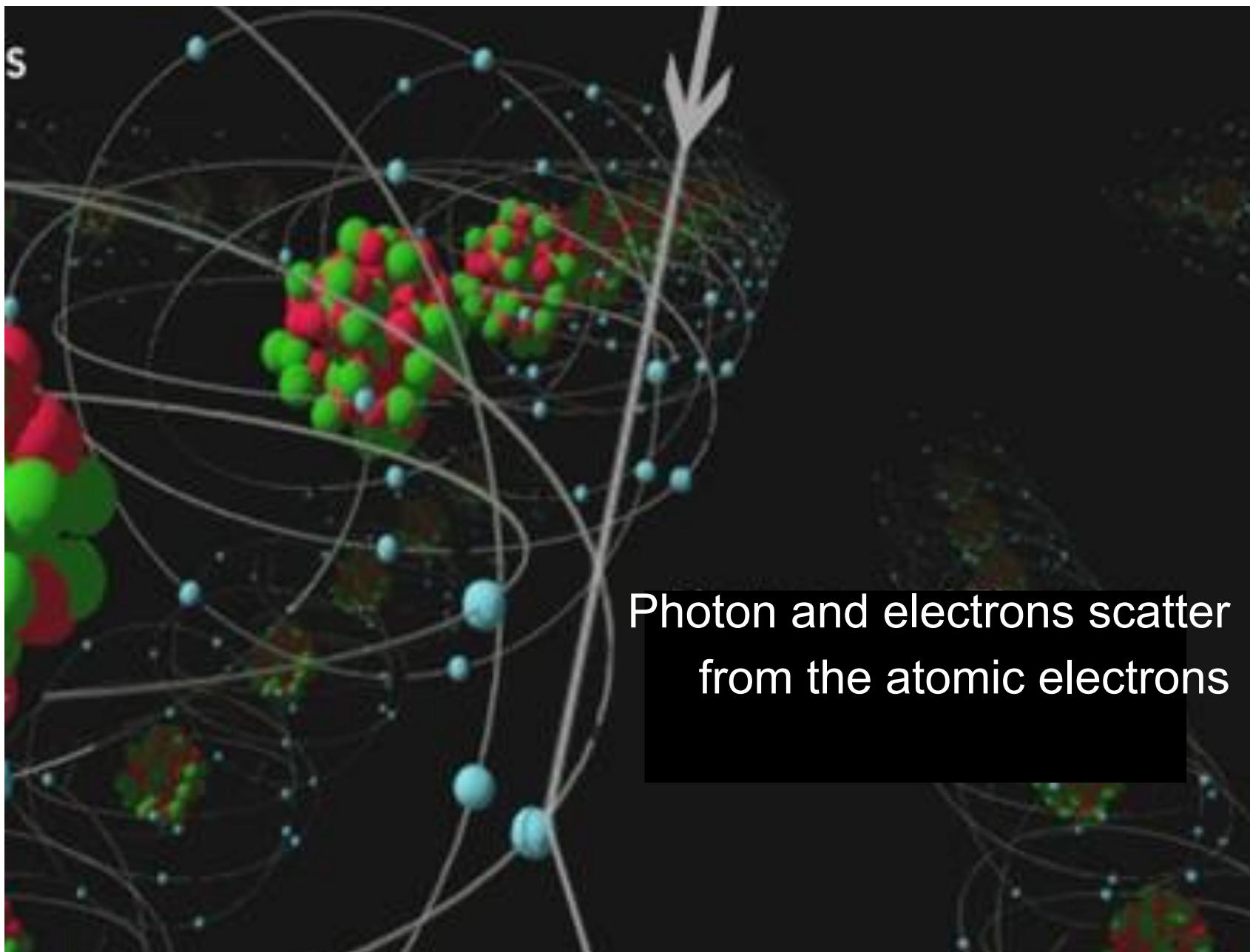


The most problematic backgrounds are interactions from neutrons that result from (α, n) and fission reactions from ^{238}U and ^{232}Th decays in detector components and in close vicinity of target materials.

Electron Recoils (ER)

Gamma: Most prevalent background

Beta: on surface or in bulk

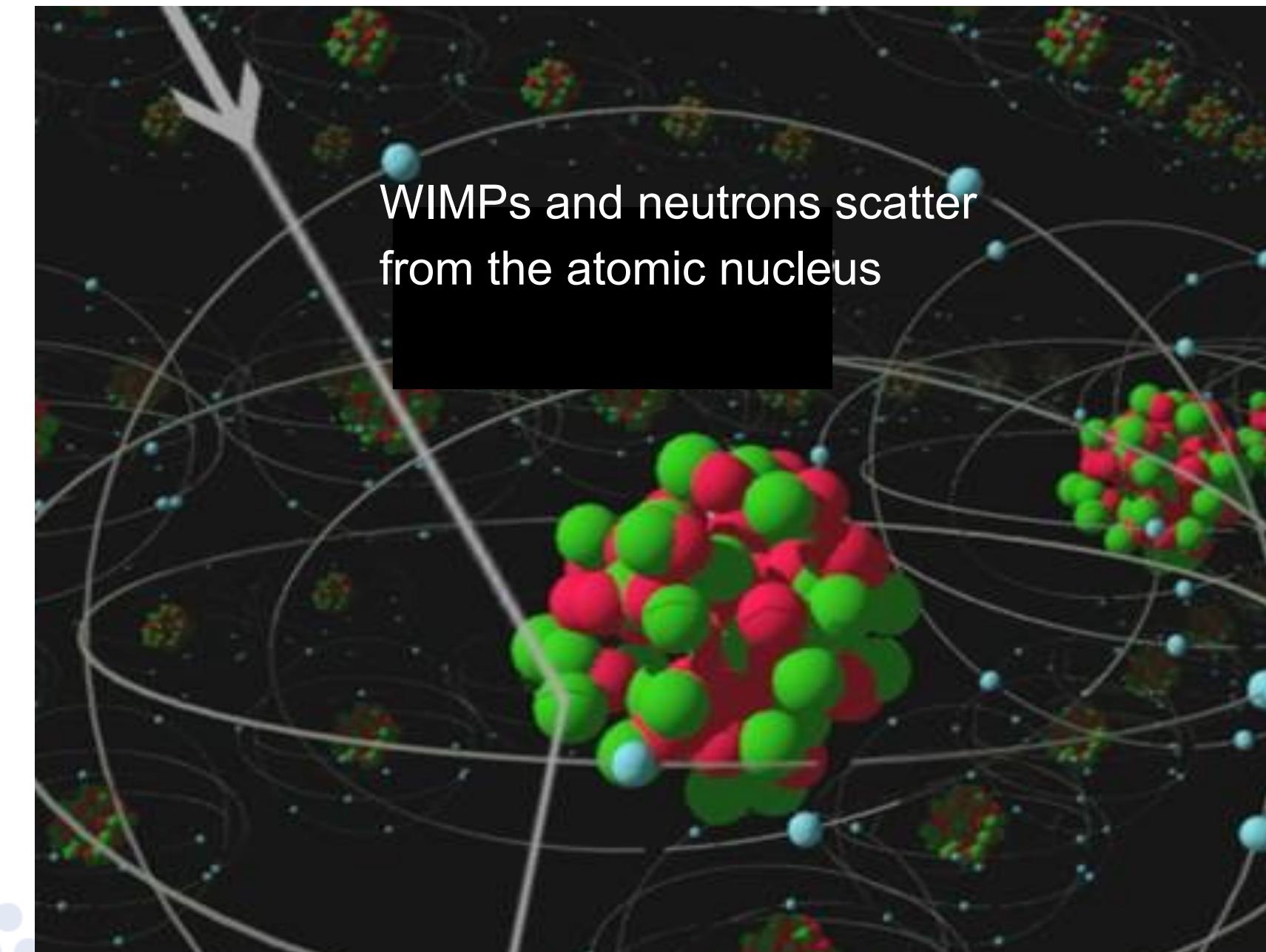


NUCLEAR Recoils (NR)

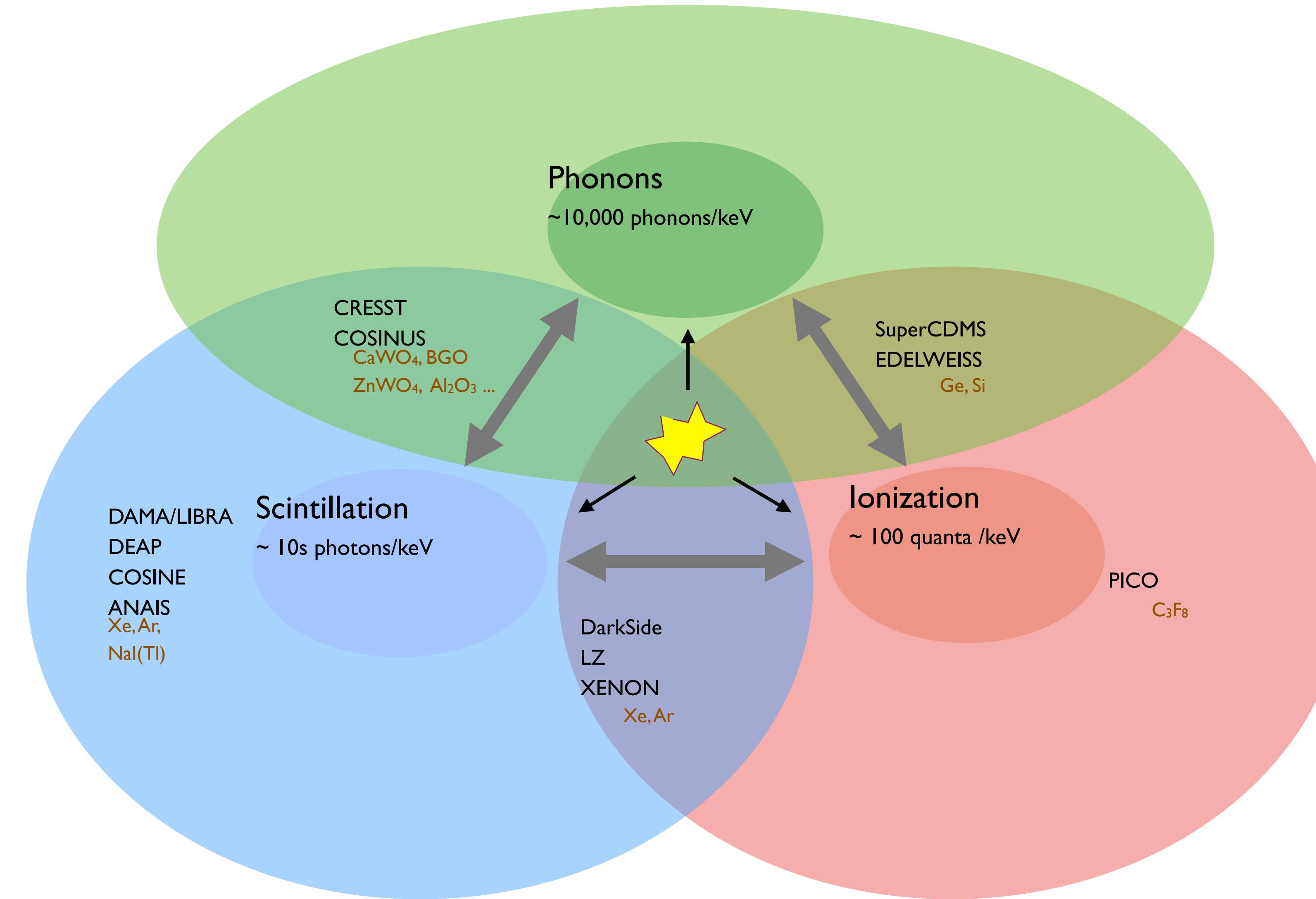
Neutron: NOT distinguishable from WIMP

Alpha: almost always a surface event

Recoiling Parent Nucleus: surface event



Detector Response



Quenching Factor and Discrimination



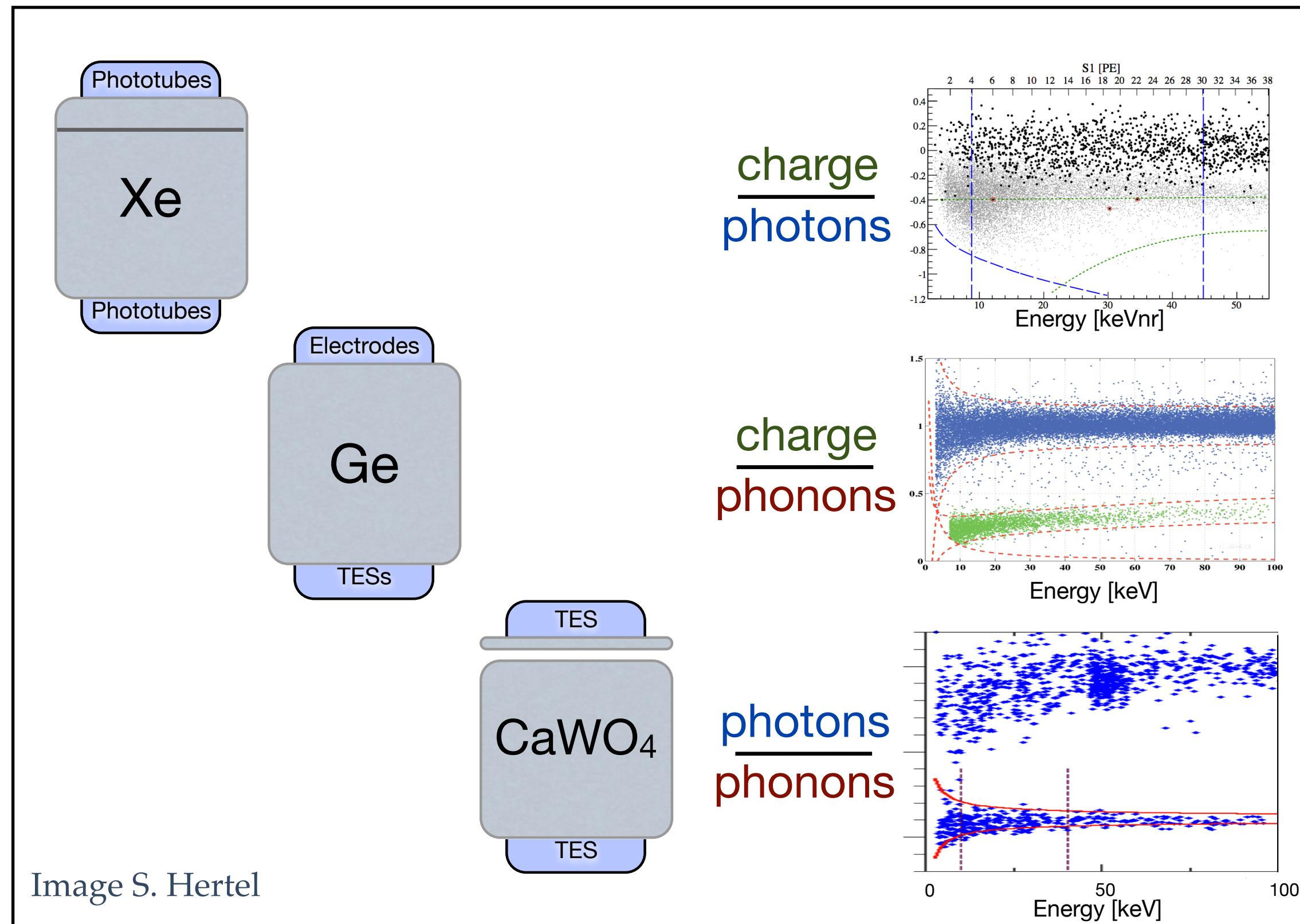
- WIMPs (and neutrons) scatter off nuclei (NR).
- Most backgrounds scatter off electrons (ER).
- Detectors have different responses to NR than ER.
- Quenching Factor (QF): describes the difference in the amount of visible energy in a detector to these two classes of events.
 - keVee = measured signal from ER
 - keVnr = measured signal from NR
- For NR events

$$E_{visible}(keVee) = QF \times E_{recoil}keV_{nr}$$

*Calibration sources (gamma and neutron) are used to calibrate the two energy scales.

Particle Dependent Response

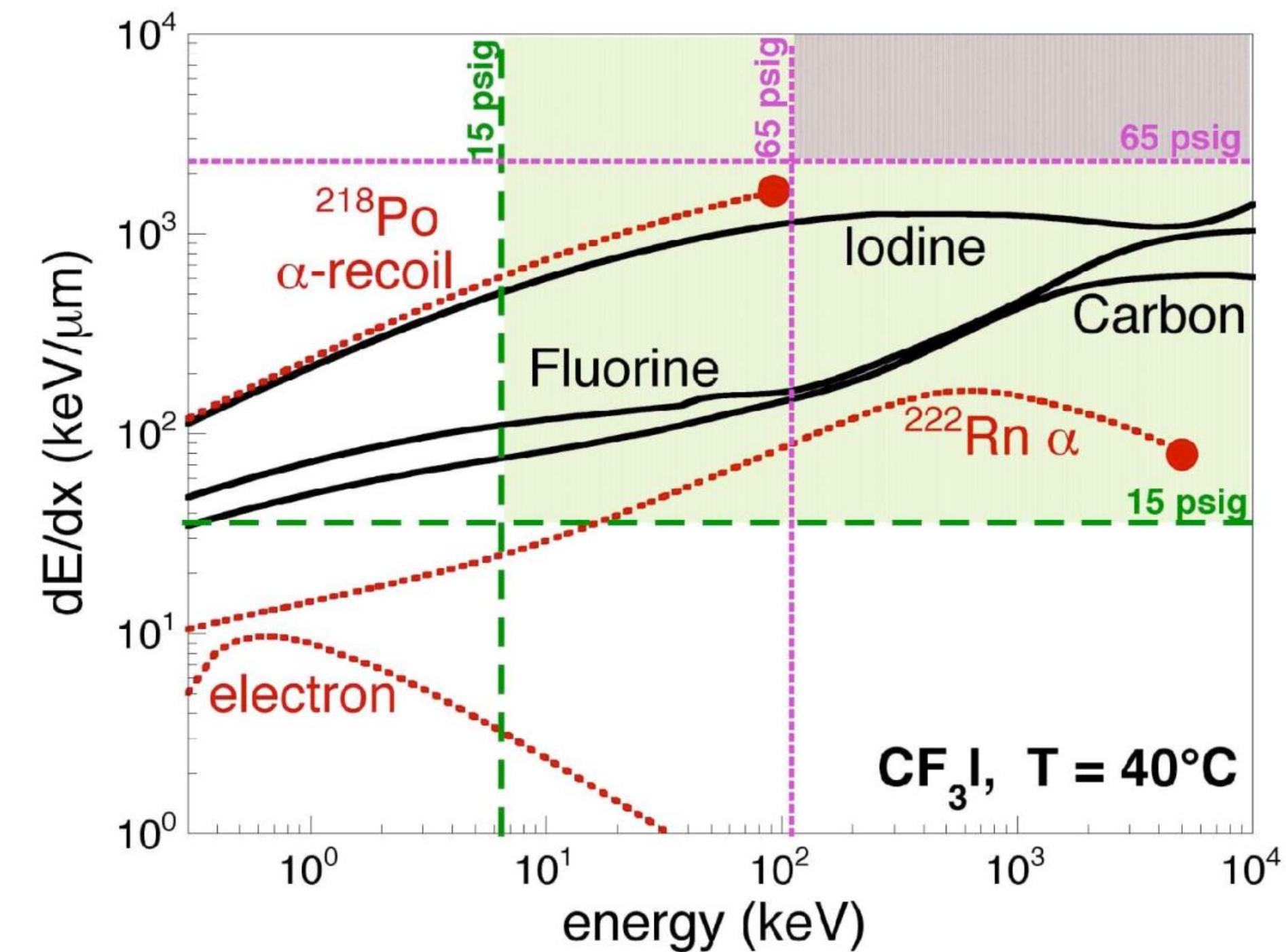
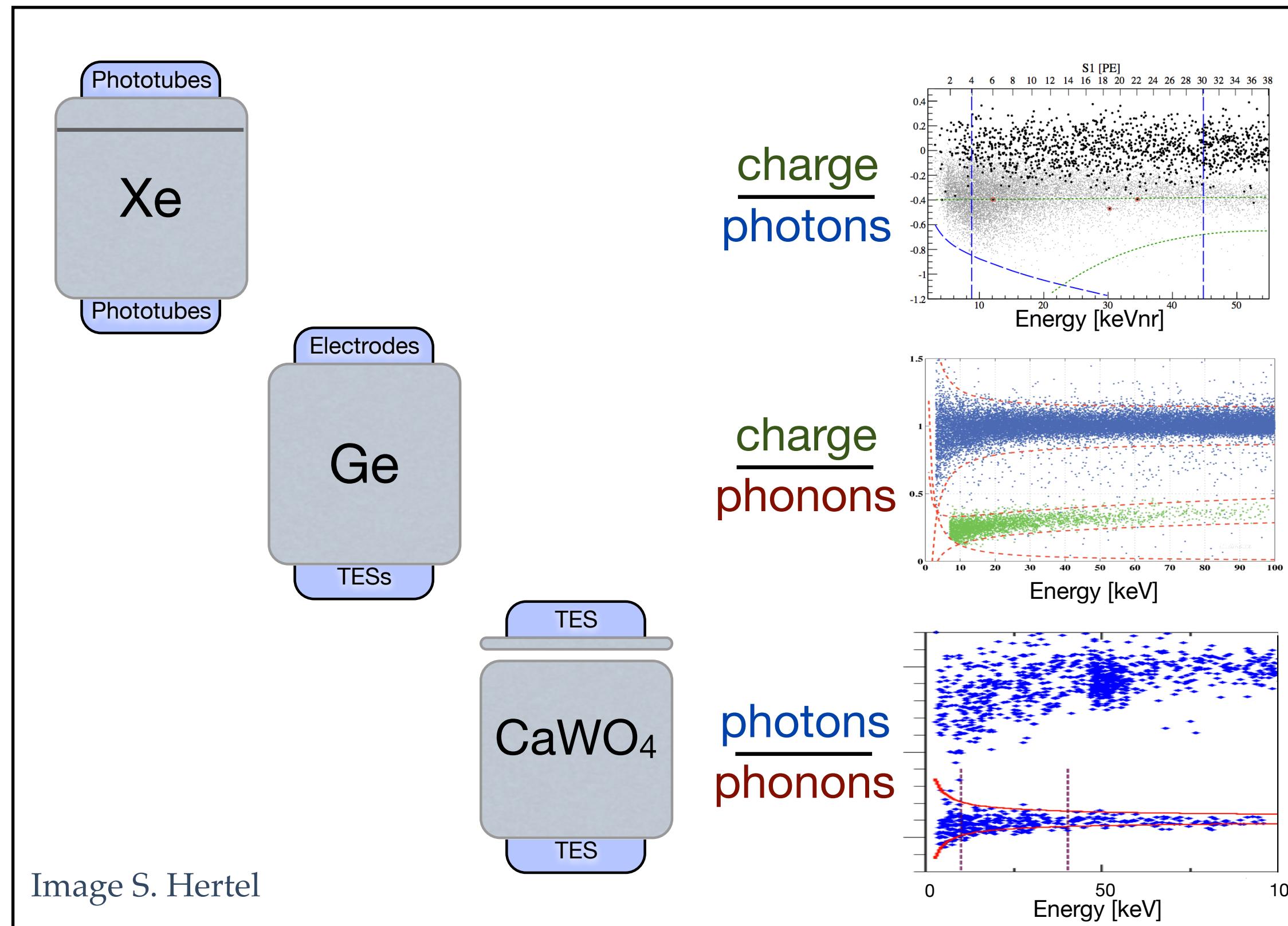
- Simultaneous measurement of energy in two channels allows discrimination of ER from NR



- Example: Charge and phonons in Ge
 - $E_{visible} \sim 1/3 E_{recoil}$ for NR
 - QF $\sim 30\%$ in Ge

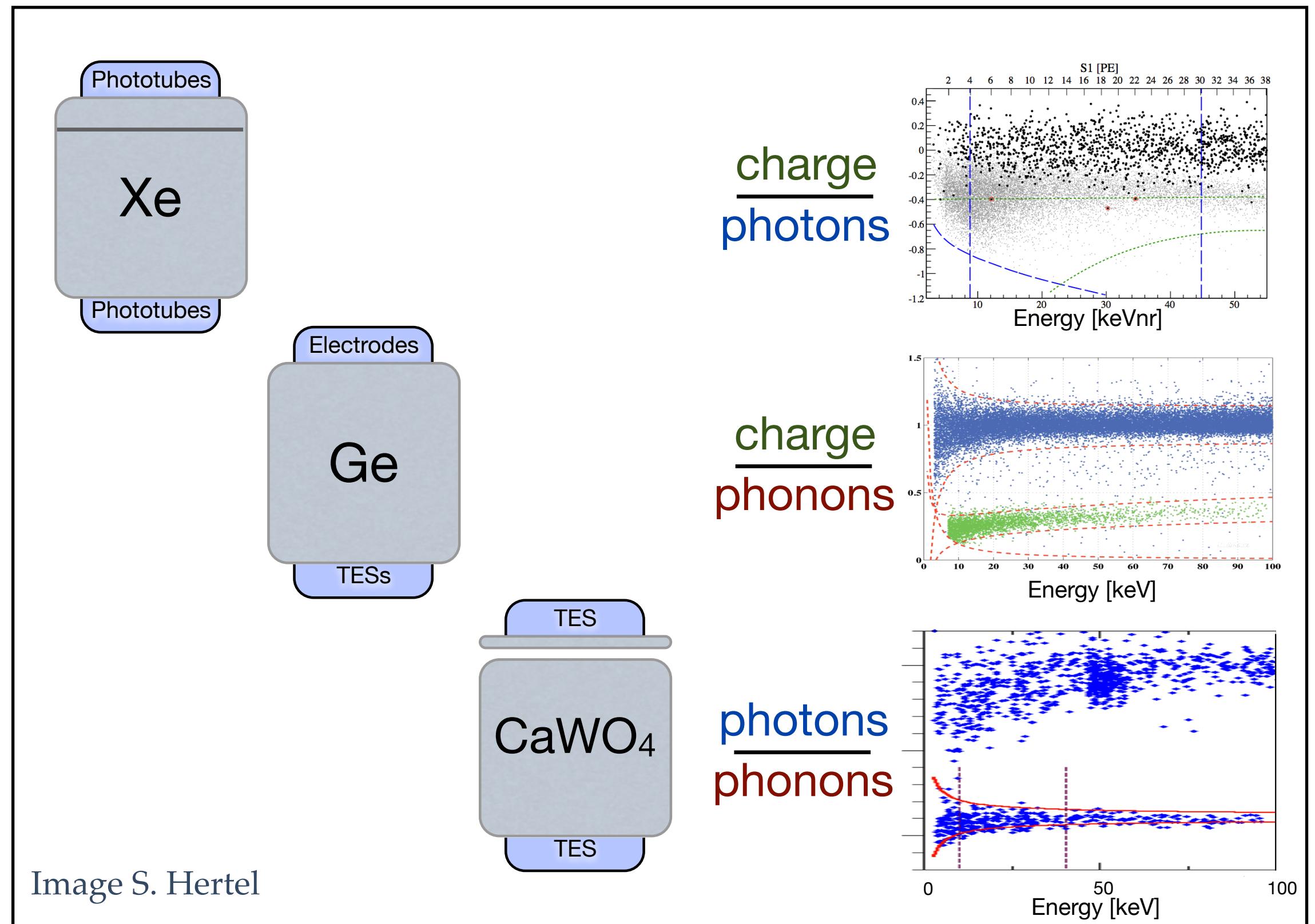
Particle Dependent Response

- Simultaneous measurement of energy in two channels allows discrimination of ER from NR

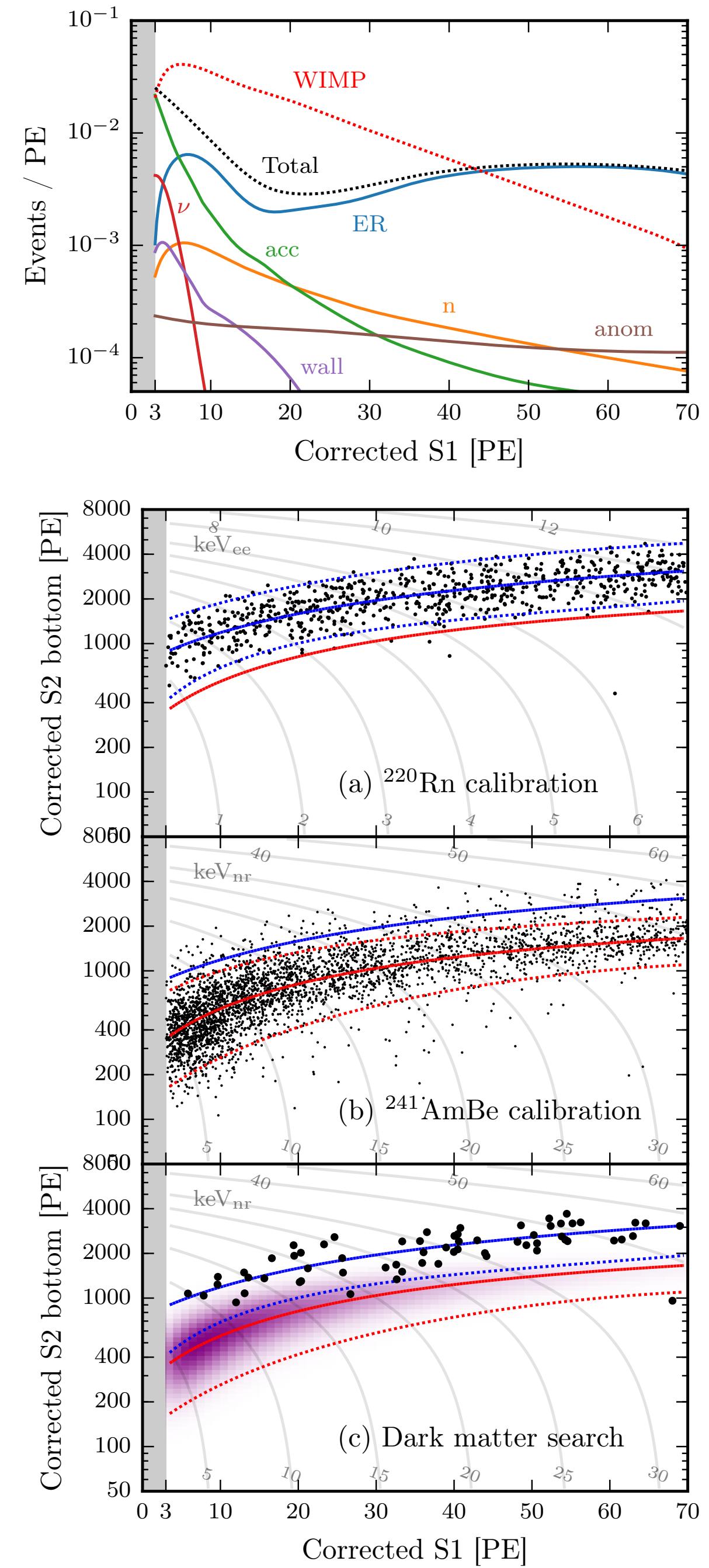


Particle Dependent Response

- Simultaneous measurement of energy in two channels allows discrimination of ER from NR



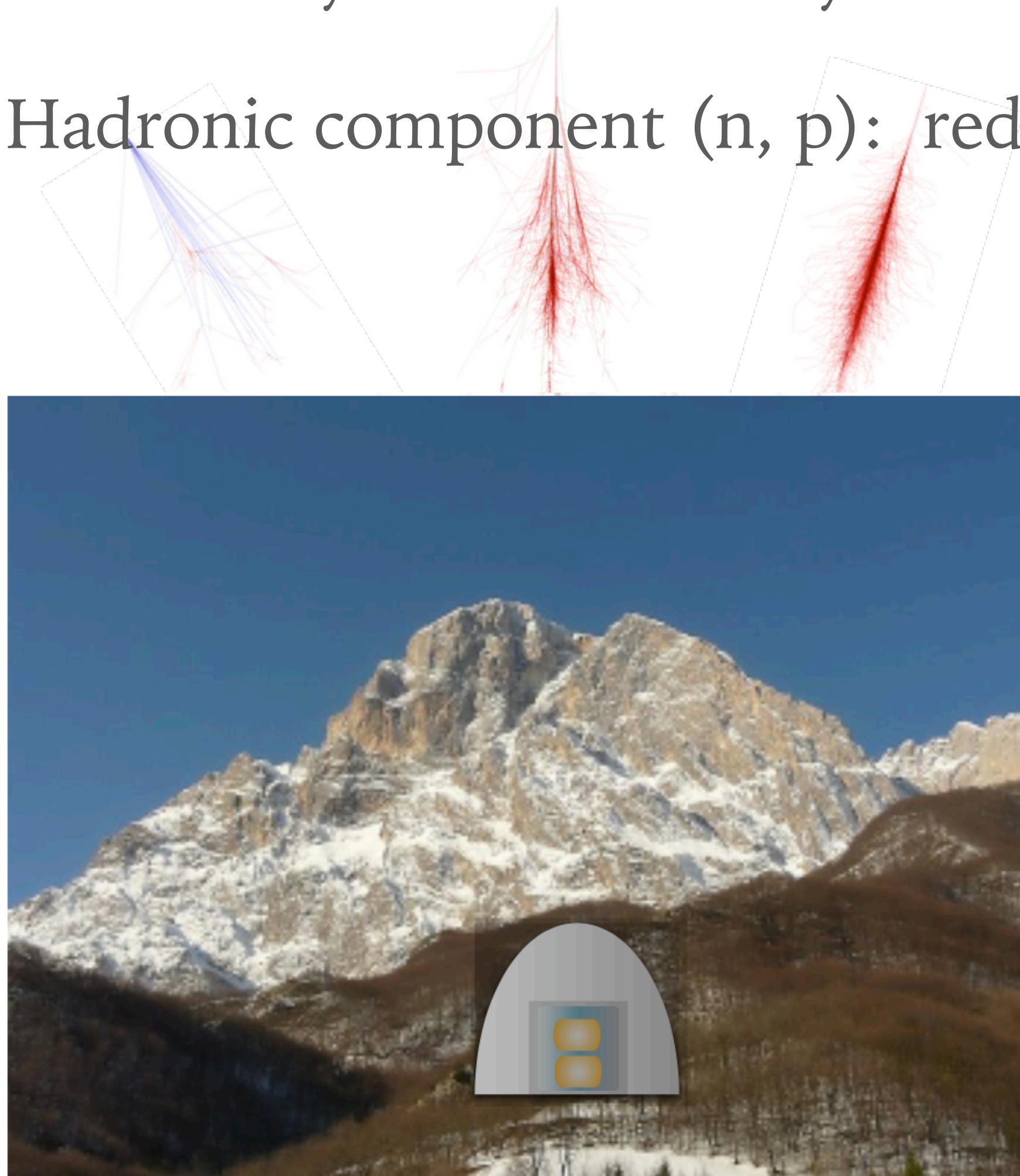
- Cut-and-count analysis methods no longer deliver required sensitivity.
- Profile likelihood and other multivariate analysis techniques that rely on accurate background models are now standard.



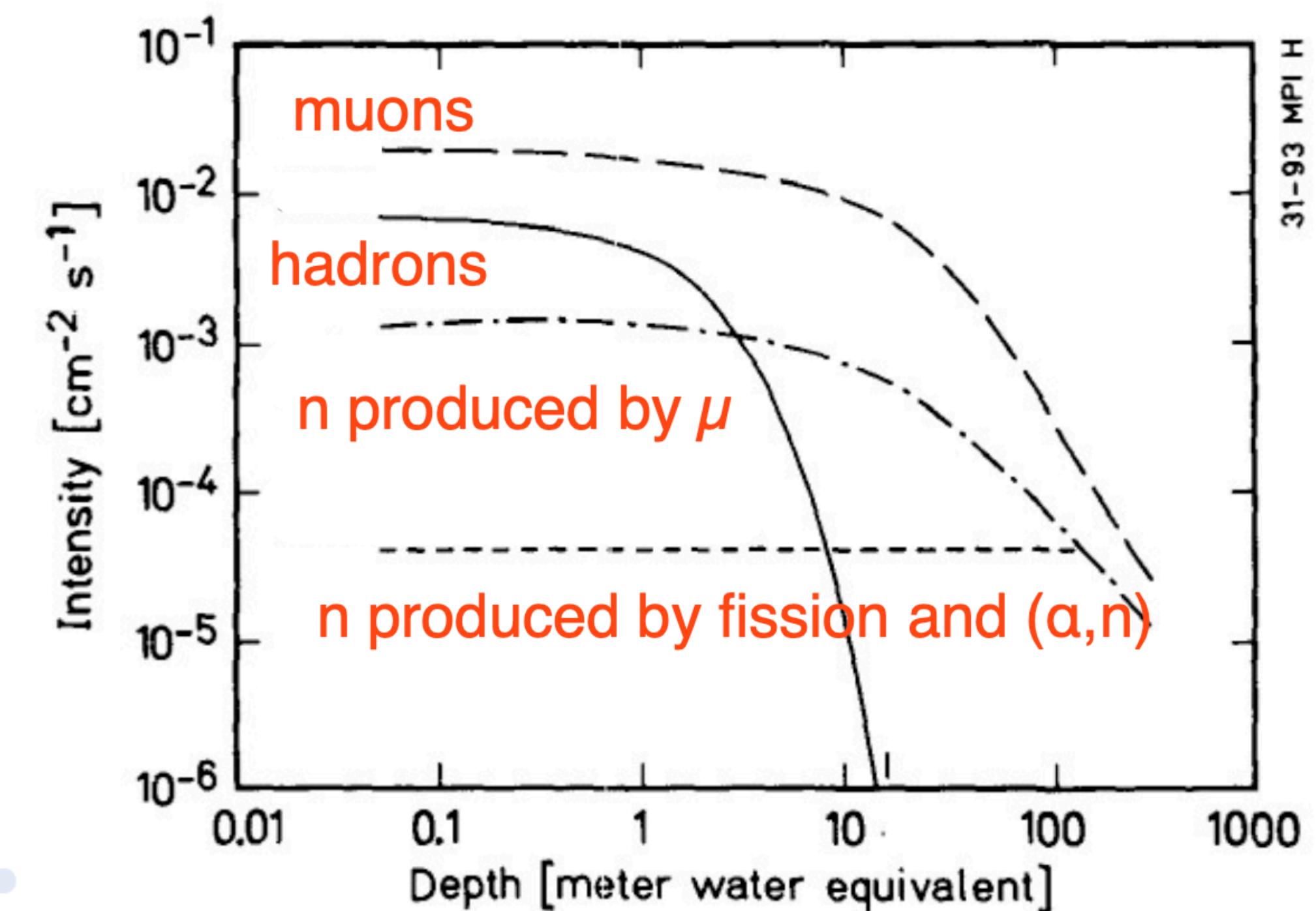
Cosmic Ray Induced Backgrounds



- Cosmic rays and secondary/tertiary particles can be problematic!
- Hadronic component (n, p): reduced by a few meters water equivalent (mew)



Flux of cosmic ray secondaries and tertiary-produced neutrons in a typical Pb shield vs shielding depth
Gerd Heusser, 1995

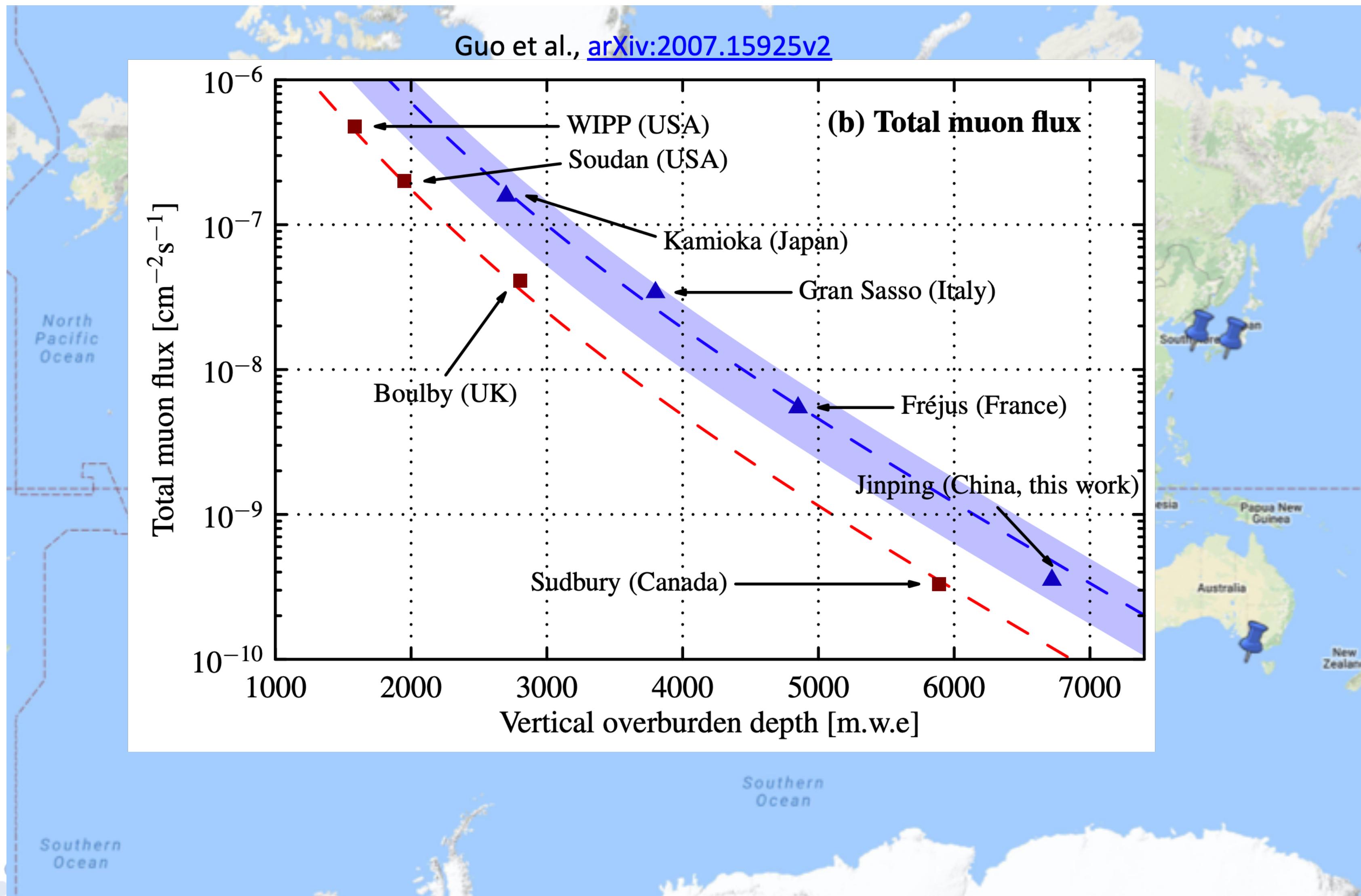


Underground Facilities



- Worldwide 17 underground sites for physics research

Underground Facilities



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- Hadronic component of the cosmic ray flux is negligible with a few 10 mwe overburden.
- Muons that penetrate deep and produce high energy neutrons (fast neutrons) can produce keV recoils in detectors when attenuated by rock or shields.
- Processes to produce fast neutrons include:
 - negative muon capture
 - photo-nuclear reactions in associated EM showers
 - deep-inelastic muon-nucleus scatters
 - hadronic interactions of nucleons, pions and kaons

Activation of Detector Materials

- Activation of a detector or materials close to the detector during production or transportation at Earth's surface is another concern.
- CR spectrum varies with geomagnetic latitude and the flux varies with height above Earth.
- Cross section for production of isotopes — not all are measured
- Production is dominated by (n, x) reactions (95%) and (p, x) reactions (5%)

Isotope	Decay	Half life	Energy in Ge [keV]	Activity [$\mu\text{Bq/kg}$]
^3H	β^-	12.33 yr	$E_{\max(\beta^-)}=18.6$	2
^{49}V	EC	330 d	$E_{K(\text{Ti})} = 5$	1.6
^{54}Mn	EC, β^+	312 d	$E_{K(\text{Cr})} = 5.4$, $E_\gamma=841$	0.95
^{55}Fe	EC	2.7 yr	$E_{K(\text{Mn})} = 6$	0.66
^{57}Co	EC	272 d	$E_{K(\text{Fe})}=6.4$, $E_\gamma=128$	1.3
^{60}Co	β^-	5.3 yr	$E_{\max(\beta^-)}=318$, $E_\gamma=1173,1333$	0.2
^{63}Ni	β^-	100 yr	$E_{\max(\beta^-)}=67$	0.009
^{65}Zn	EC, β^+	244 d	$E_{K(\text{Cu})} = 9$, $E_\gamma=1125$	9.2
^{68}Ge	EC	271 d	$E_{K(\text{Ga})} = 10.4$	172

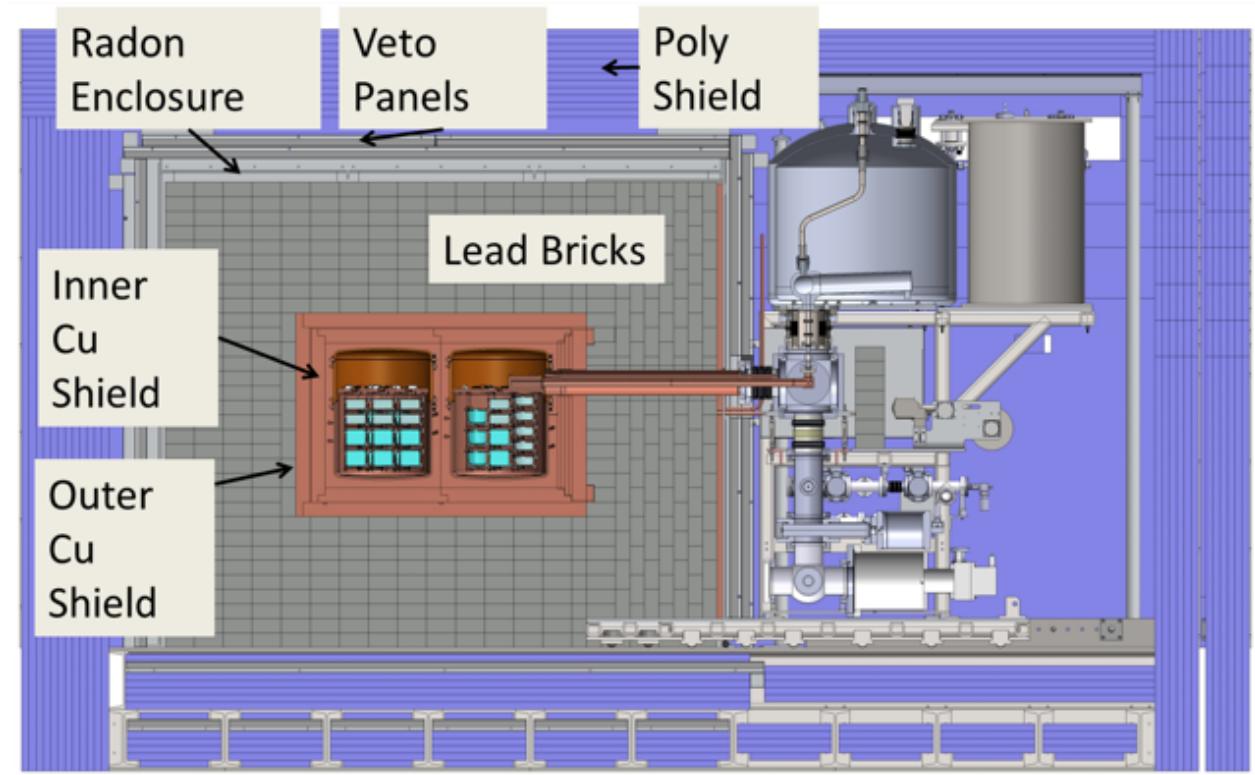
Environmental Backgrounds



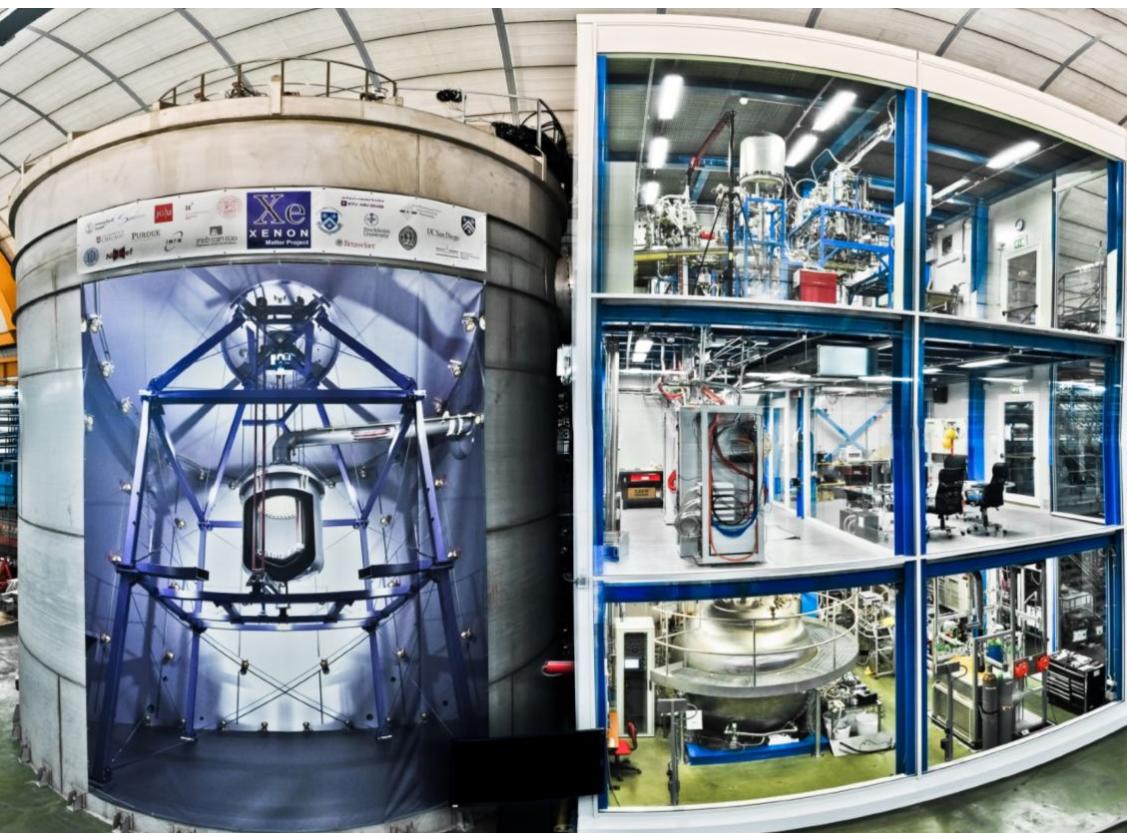
LUX/LZ Muon Veto



SuperCDMS Soudan Passive Shield



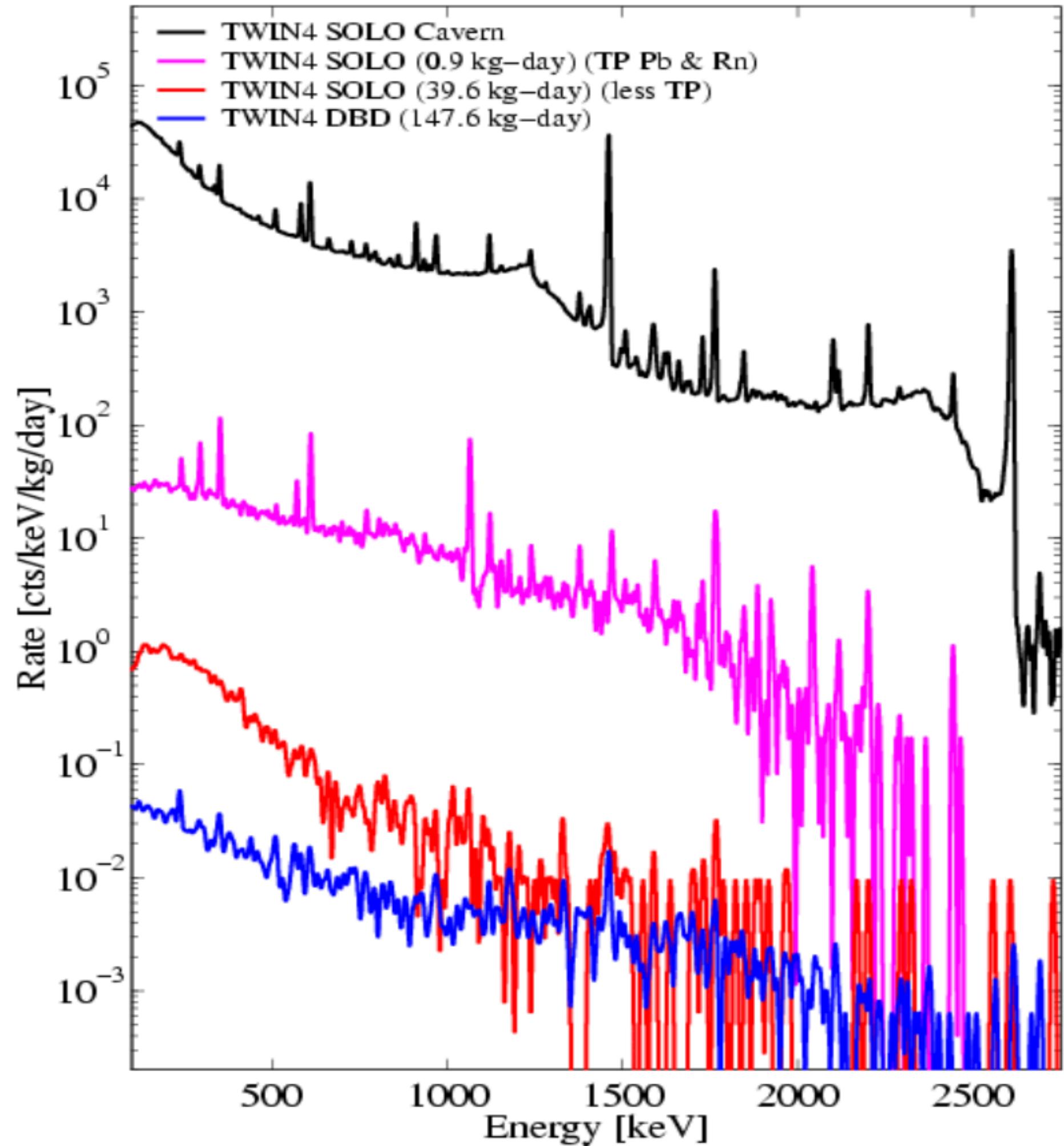
MAJORANA Demonstrator Passive Shield



XENON1T water shield & infrastructure

- A combination of high-Z and low-Z materials are employed to diminish the neutron and gamma fluxes.
 - Lead, polyethelyne, copper
- Nitrogen purge of shield structures to reduce backgrounds induced by airborne radon decays
- Large water shields
 - passively reduce environmental radioactivity and muon-induced neutrons
 - can reduce underground fluxes of gamma and radiogenic fluxes by a factor of $\sim 10^6$ by employing a 1 - 3 m water shield
- Active muon vetos using doped scintillator (ie boron) can be used to identify events related to both cosmogenic and radiogenic neutrons.

Environmental Backgrounds



**Ge detector
underground,
no shield**

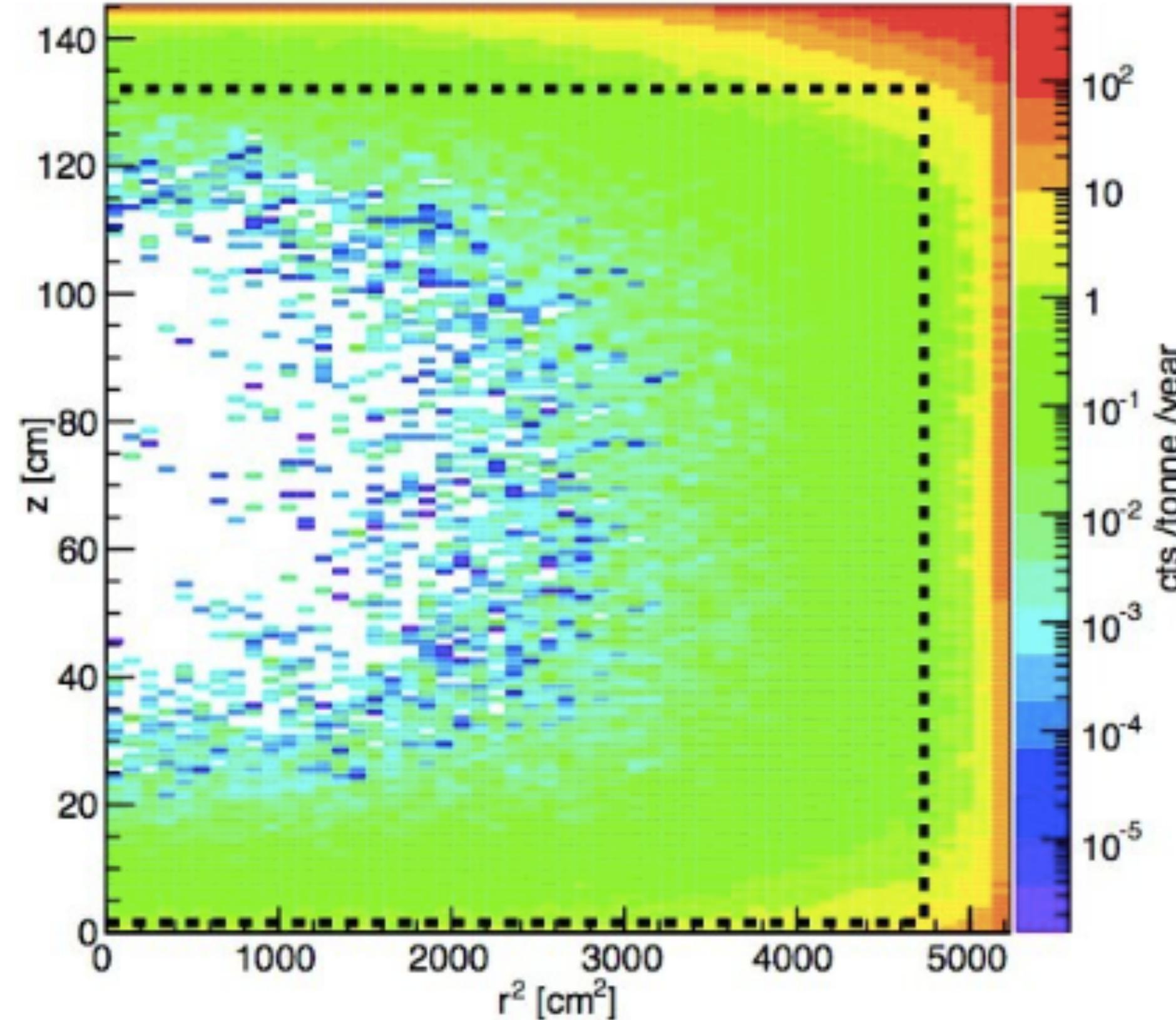
**Ge detector
underground,
Pb shield and
purge for Rn**

- A combination of high-Z and low-Z materials are employed to diminish the neutron and gamma fluxes.
 - Lead, polyethelyne, copper
 - Nitrogen purge of shield structures to reduce backgrounds induced by airborne radon decays
 - Large water shields
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Self Shielding Properties

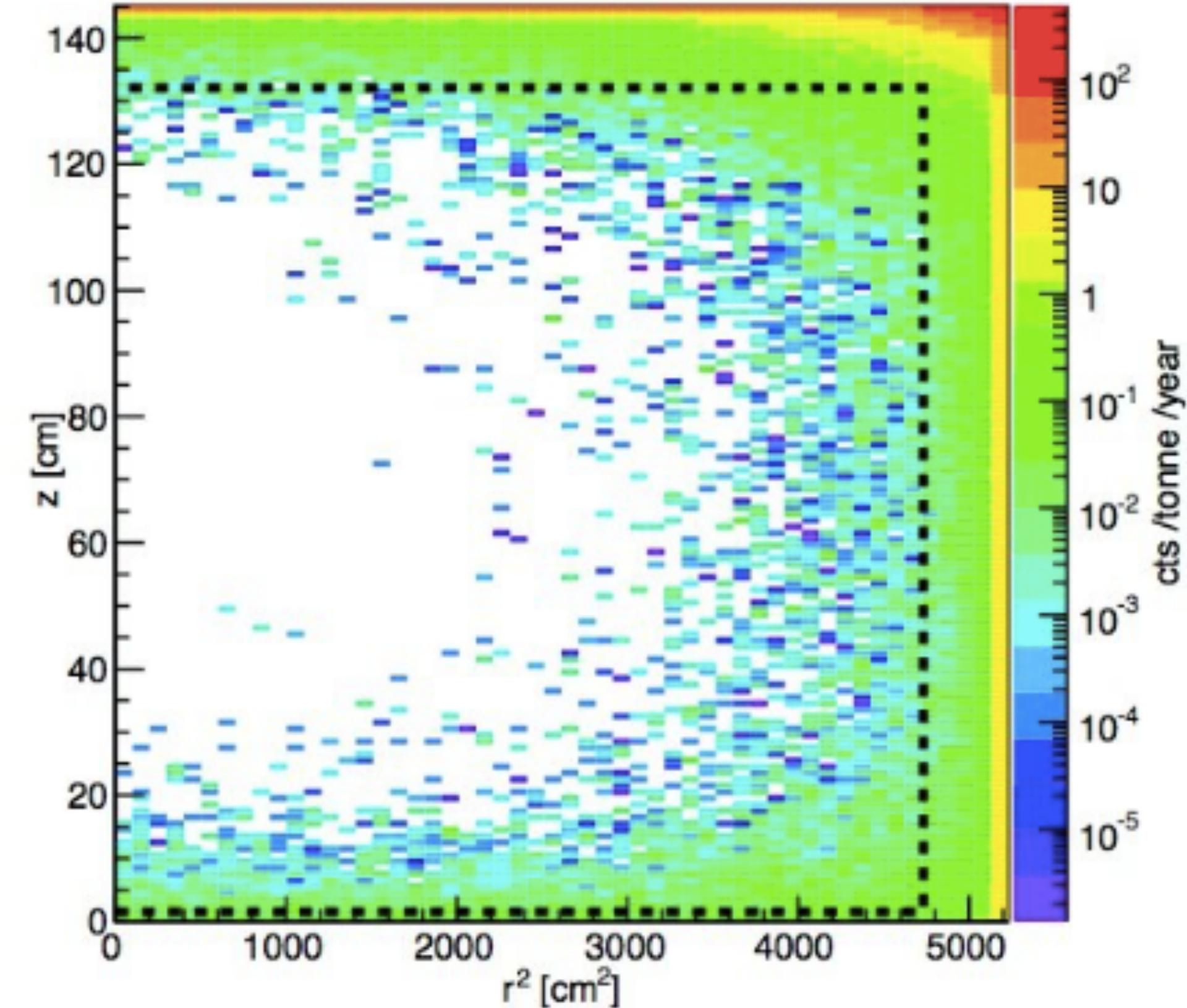
Example: LZ Dark Matter Experiment

K. Palladino, TAUP 2017



LXe TPC only

3.8 T fiducial mass

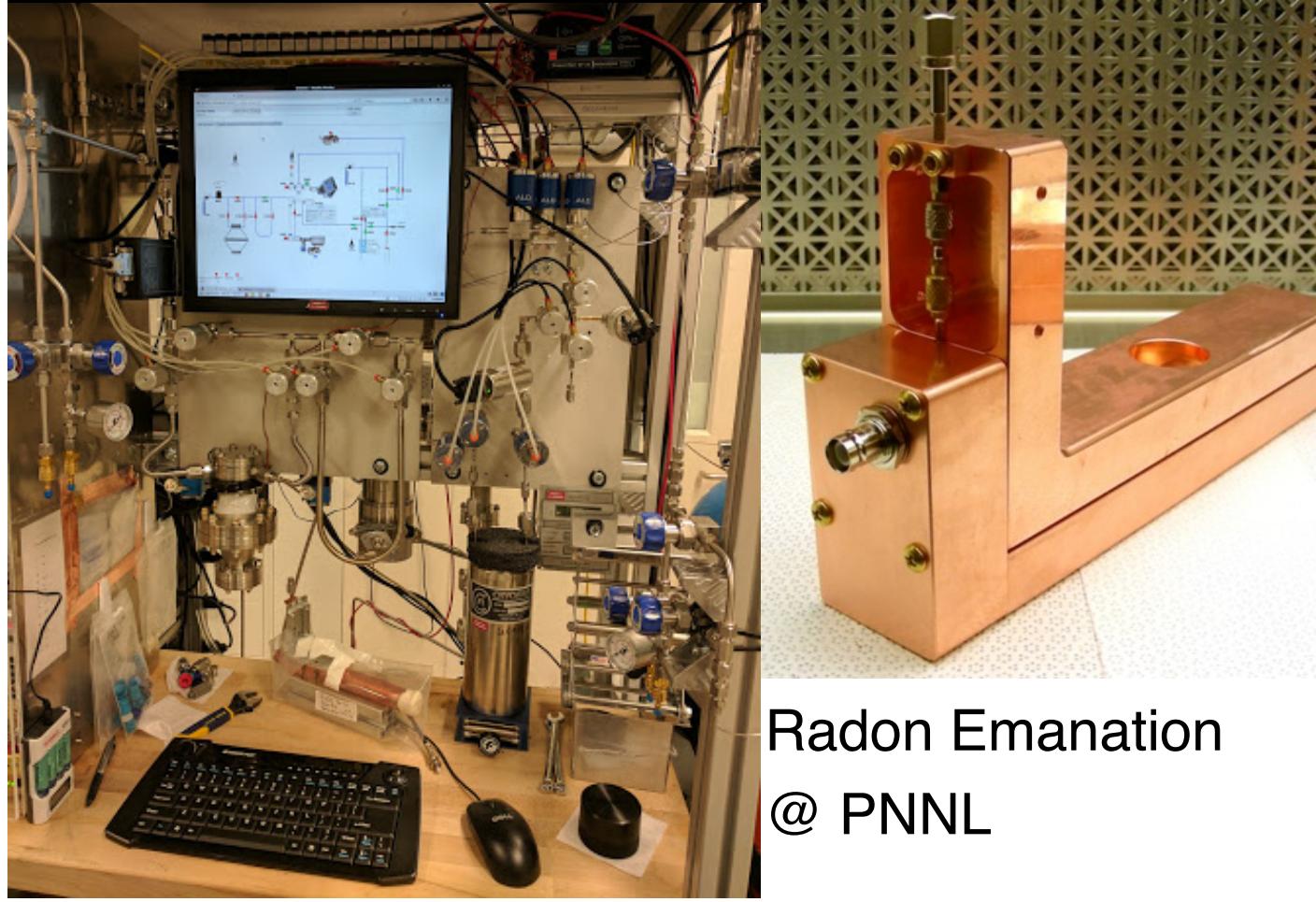
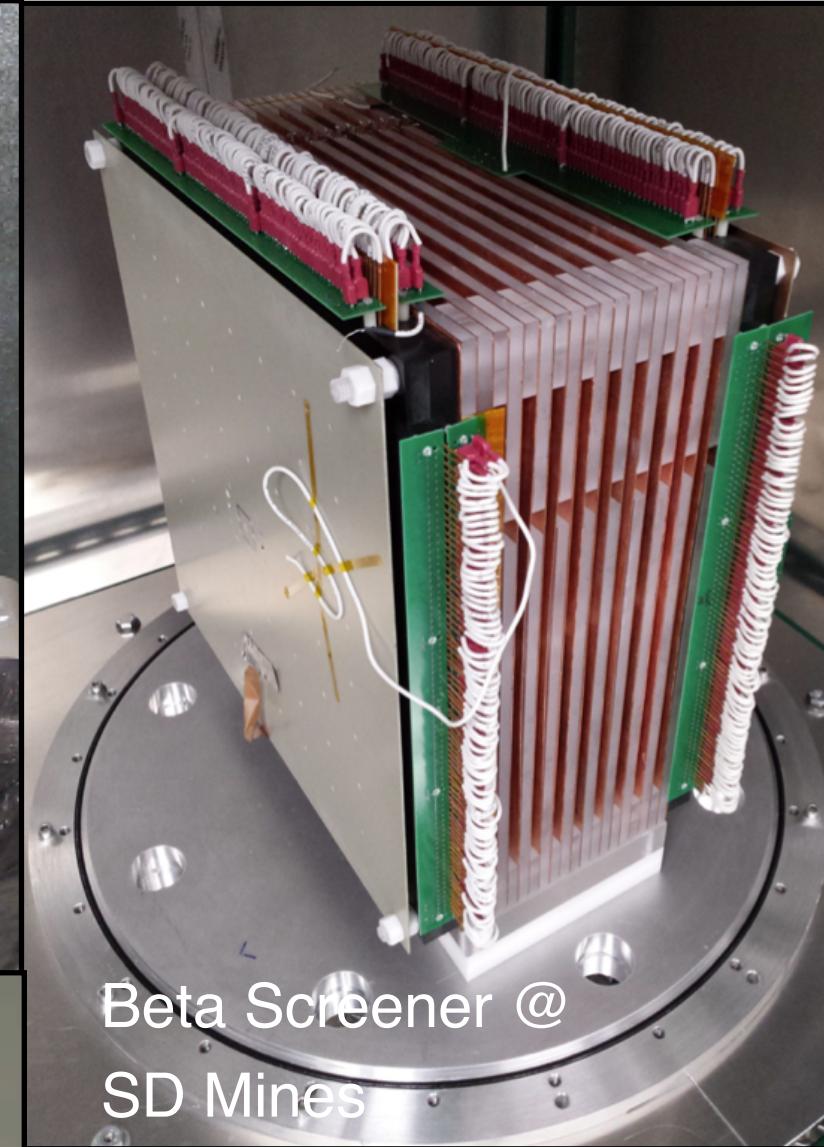
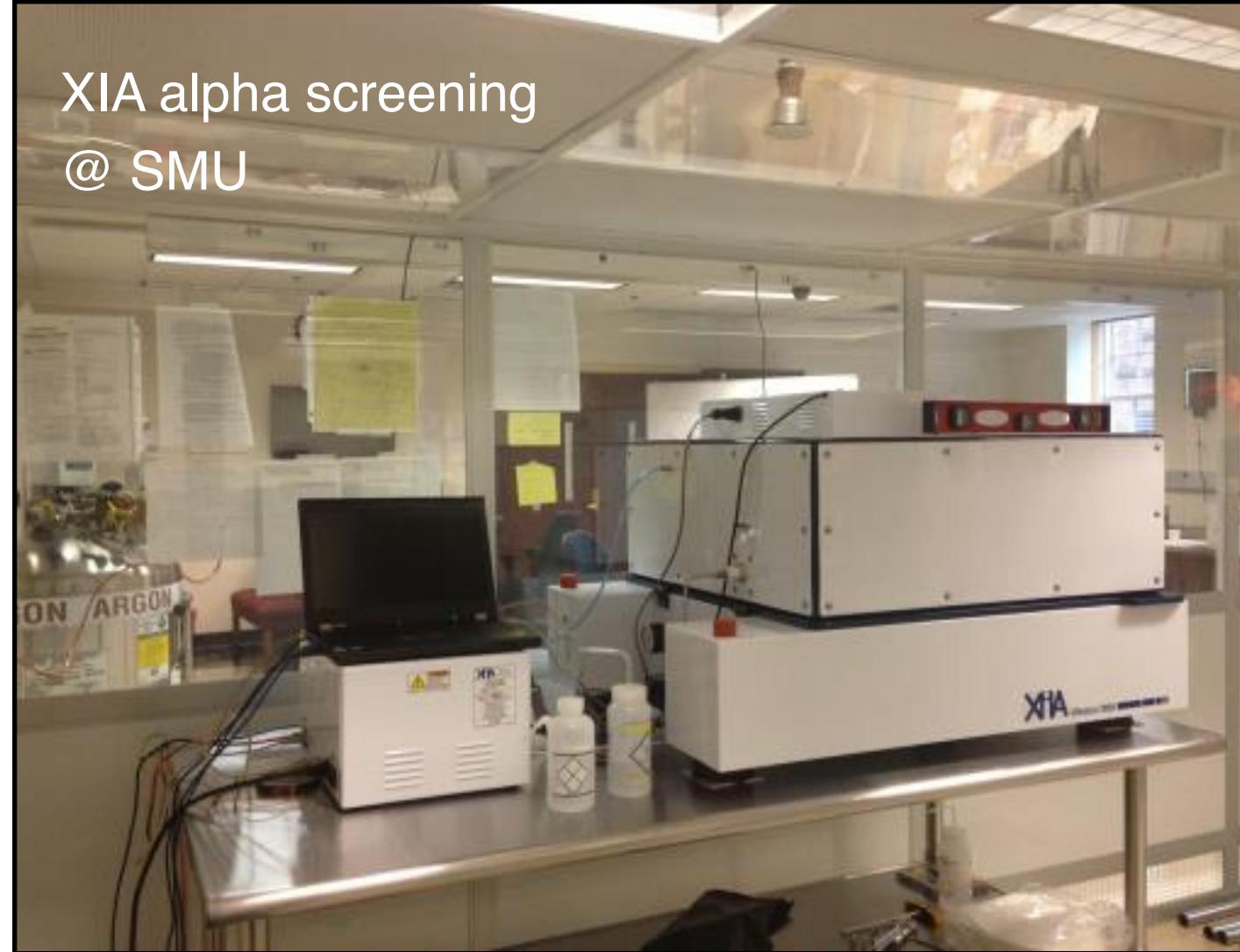


LXe TPC + Skin + OD
5.6 T fiducial mass

Internal Radioactivity

- ^{238}U , ^{238}Th , ^{40}K , ^{137}Cs , ^{60}Co , ^{39}Ar , ^{85}Kr , decays in the detector target, materials surrounding the target medium and shield
- A number of methods are employed to characterize materials before using them as detector components.
- In most cases, looking for materials at levels of < 1 ppb.

Internal Radioactivity



In most cases, looking for materials at levels of < 1 ppb.

How Well Can We Do?



Augmented Commercial Systems:

Commercially purchased High-Purity Ge detector is placed in a custom designed shield (Pb, copper, neutron moderation and capture materials, active cosmic ray veto, underground location)

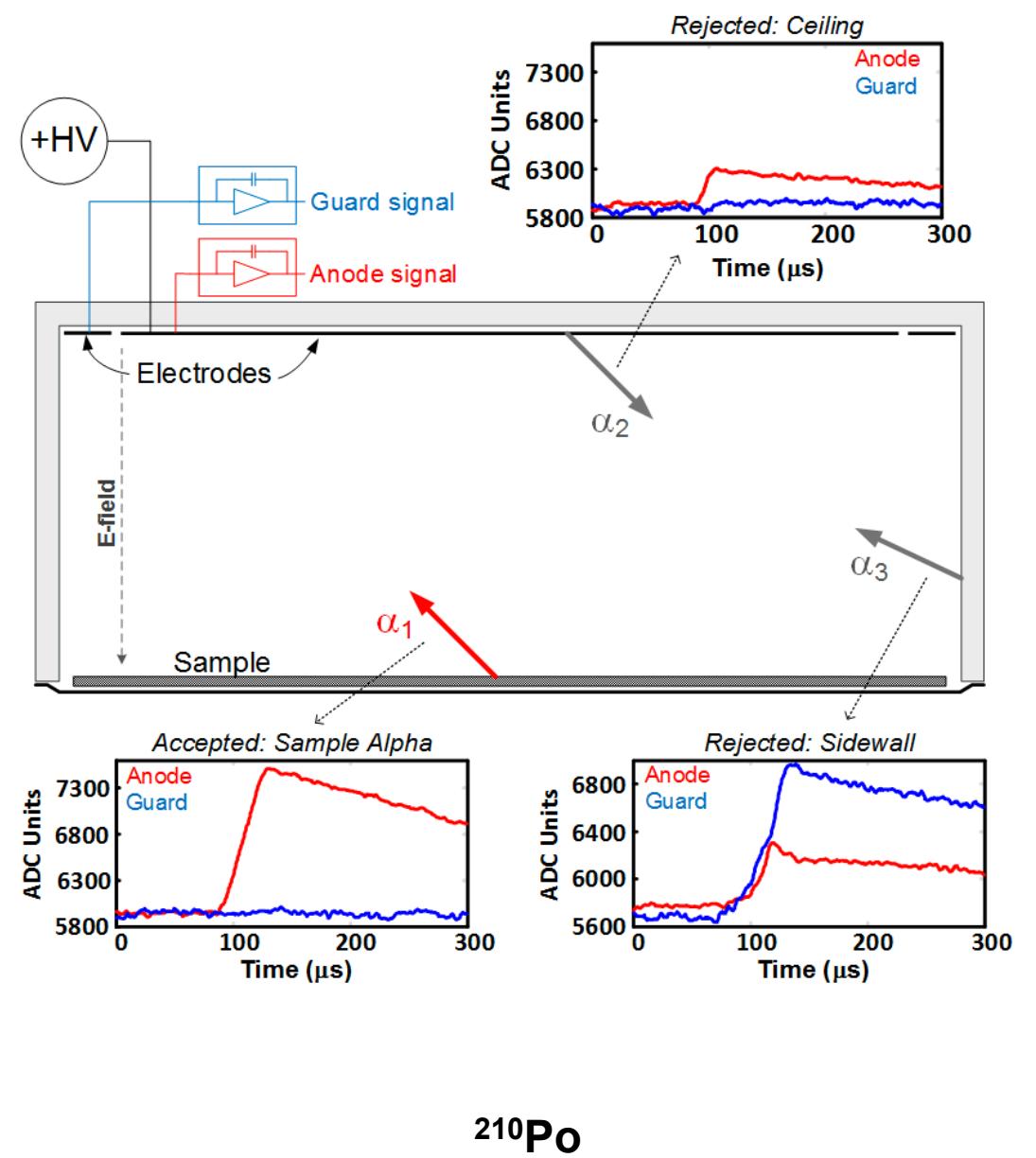
Fully Custom Systems:

In addition to a custom shield, a custom cryostat design with attention to design of and placement of electronics to minimize background sources (U/Th/K).

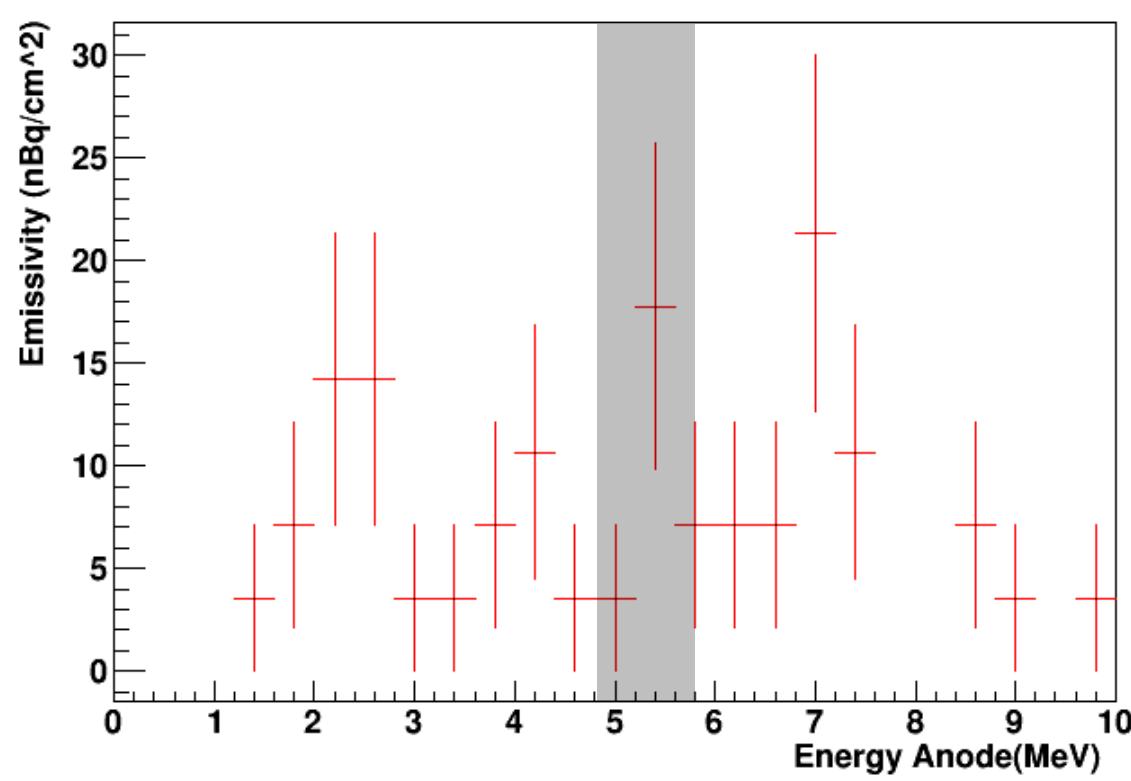
HPGe Counting:

Isotope/Chain	Standard Size (ppb) I (mBq/kg)	Large Size & Long Count (ppb)
^{238}U	~0.1	~1.0
^{232}Th	~0.3	~1.5
^{40}K	~700	~21
^{238}U	0.001	0.12
^{232}Th	0.001	0.004
^{40}K	1	0.031

Surface Alpha Screening:



XIA uses pulse shape to reject events not originating from sample tray.



Ultra-pure PNNL Copper

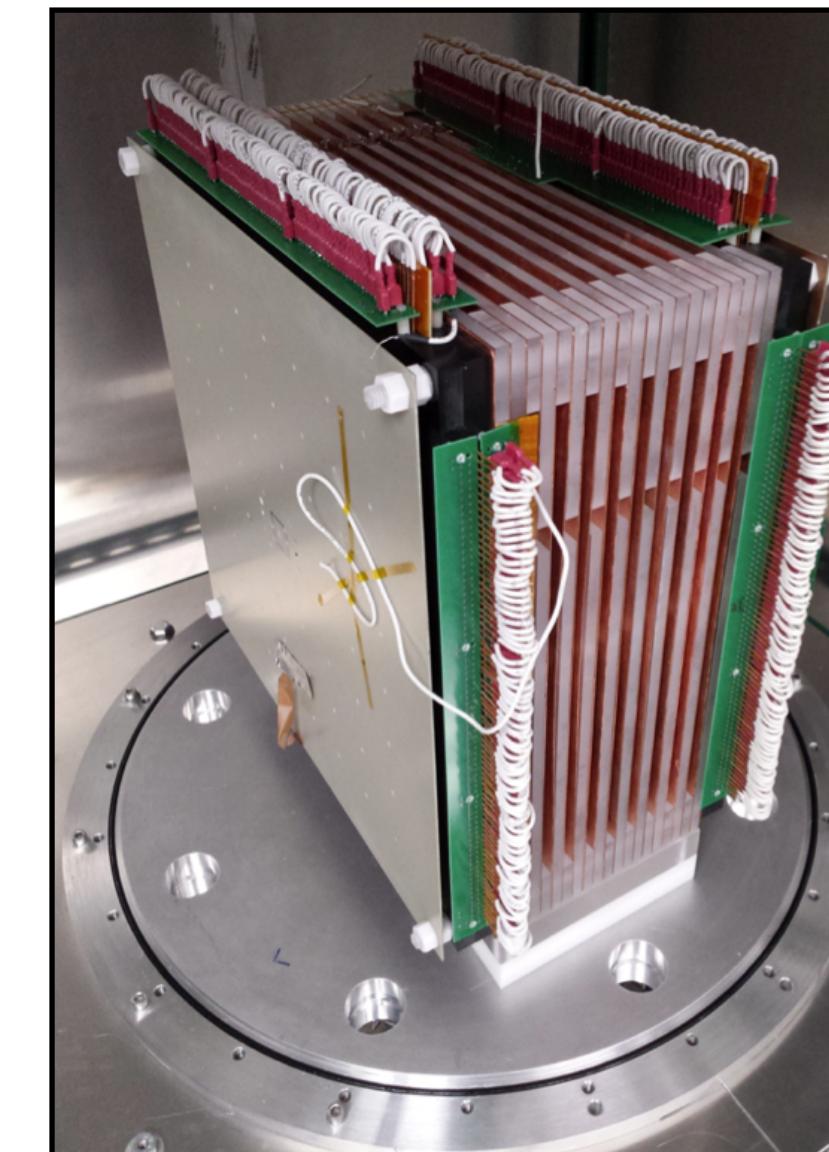
- $\sim 25 \text{ nBq/cm}^2$ in ^{210}Po ROI

indicative of instrument background

Surface Beta Screening:

BetaCage:

South Dakota Mines, Caltech, PNNL U Alberta



Expected Sensitivity:

- $0.1 \beta \text{ keV}^{-1} \text{ m}^{-2} \text{ day}^{-1}$
- $0.1 \text{ a m}^{-2} \text{ day}$
- (0.1 a nBq/cm^2)

Many other Options



Technique	Sensitivity
Radon Emanation	0.1-10 $\mu\text{Bq}/\text{kg}$ (Ra)
Immersion Whole Body Counters	$10^{-13}\text{-}10^{-14} \text{ g/g}$ (U/Th)
ICPMS <small>(Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry)</small>	ppt to ppt (U/Th/K)
SIMS/GDMS <small>(Secondary Ion & Glow Discharge Mass Spectroscopy)</small>	1 ppb (SIMS) 10-100ppt (GDMS)
AMS <small>(Accelerator Mass Sepctroscopy)</small>	< 1 ppt
Neutron Activation Analysis	100 pg (U), 10 ng (K)

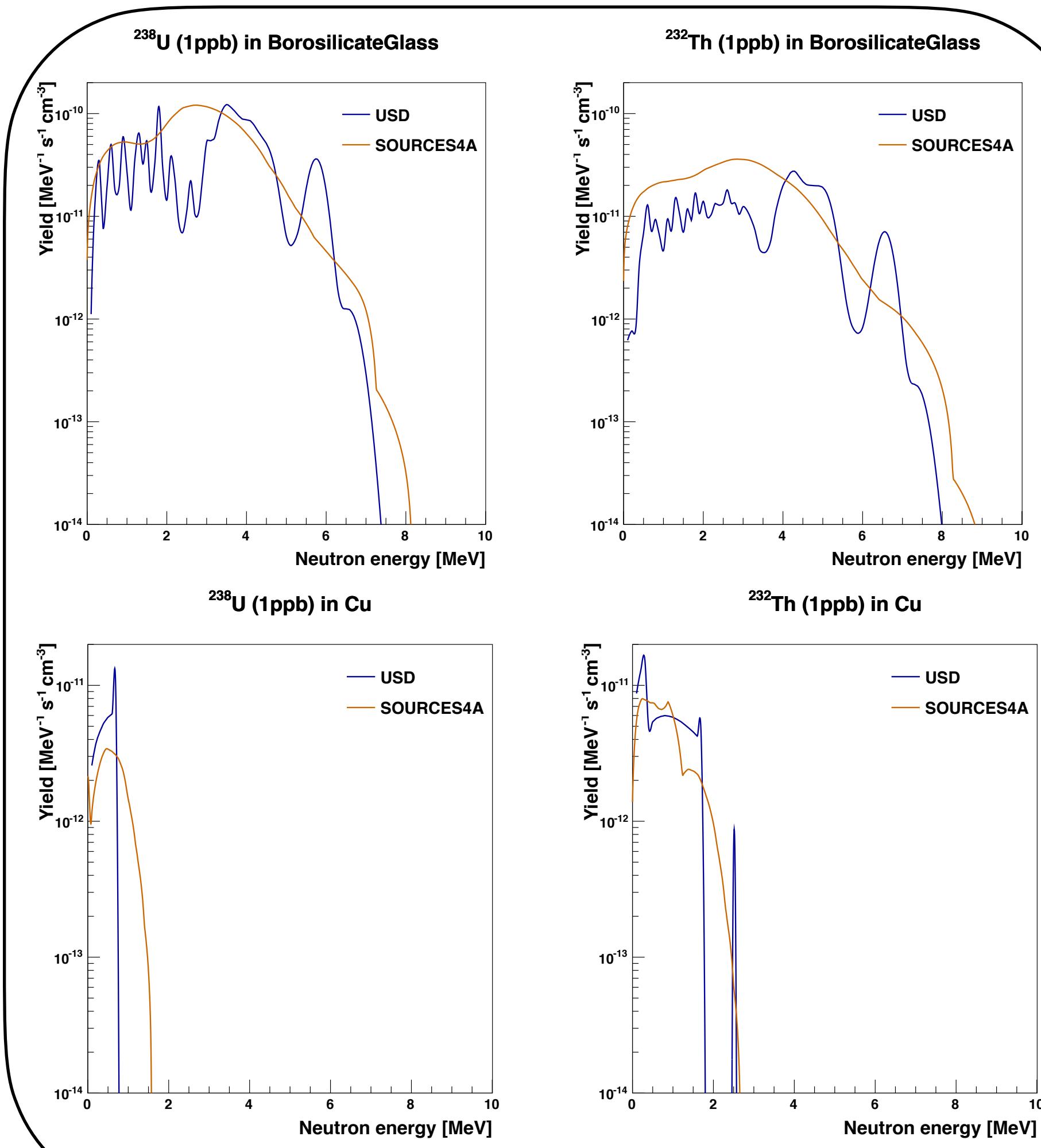
Modeling Backgrounds

- Three software frameworks exist to calculate the spectra of neutrons produced by (a-n) interactions.
- SOURCES - (EMPIRE2.19 libraries for cross section inputs)
- USD WebTool (TENDL 2012 libraries which are validated by TALYS for cross section inputs)
- NeuCBOT (TALYS for cross section inputs)
- TENDL is a validated library and EMPIRE is recommended by the International Atomic Energy Agency, but neither can properly calculate all resonant behavior that is experimentally observed.
- Those spectra can be used in simulation to predict the number of background events from neutrons in an experiment.



Framework Comparisons: USD Webtool vs Sources-4C

Calculated Radiogenic Neutron Spectra

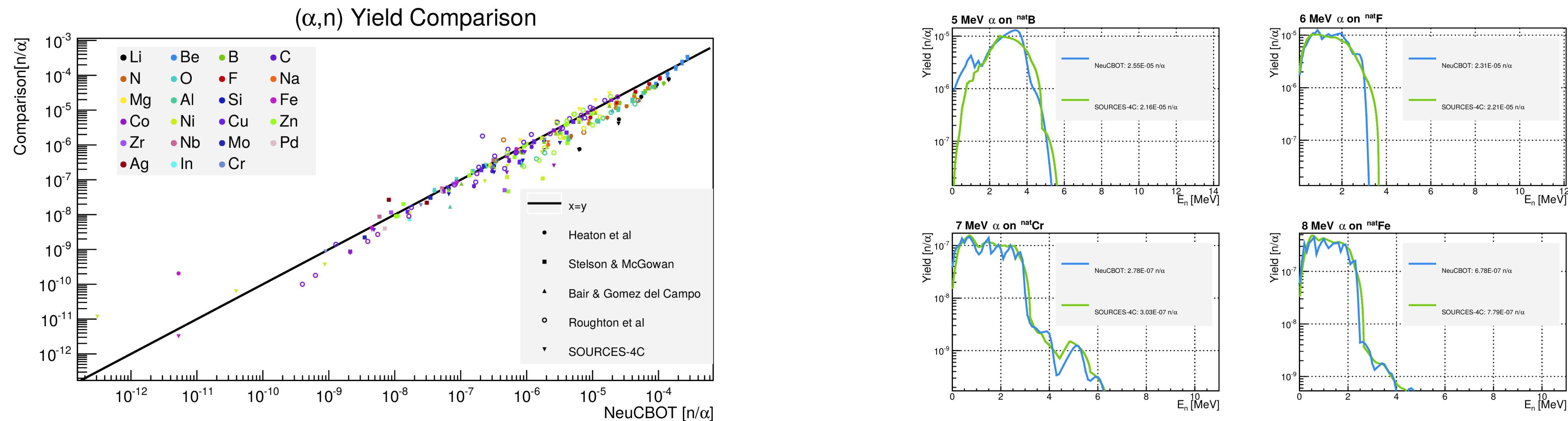


Material	Chain	Neutron Yield (n·s ⁻¹ ·cm ⁻³)		Diff %
		SOURCES-4A	USD	
Cu	²³⁸ U	2.84 10 ⁻¹²	3.46 10 ⁻¹²	20
	²³² Th	9.49 10 ⁻¹²	1.11 10 ⁻¹¹	16
PE (CH ₂)	²³⁸ U	1.26 10 ⁻¹¹	9.56 10 ⁻¹²	-27
	²³² Th	5.28 10 ⁻¹²	2.87 10 ⁻¹²	-59
Titanium	²³⁸ U	1.04 10 ⁻¹⁰	1.99 10 ⁻¹⁰	-63
	²³² Th	9.29 10 ⁻¹¹	1.24 10 ⁻¹⁰	-28
Stainless Steel	²³⁸ U	3.10 10 ⁻¹¹	5.95 10 ⁻¹¹	-63
	²³² Th	4.05 10 ⁻¹¹	6.80 10 ⁻¹¹	-51
Pyrex	²³⁸ U	2.30 10 ⁻¹⁰	1.61 10 ⁻¹⁰	36
	²³² Th	8.66 10 ⁻¹¹	4.59 10 ⁻¹¹	61
Borosilicate Glass	²³⁸ U	3.48 10 ⁻¹⁰	2.45 10 ⁻¹⁰	35
	²³² Th	1.27 10 ⁻¹⁰	6.98 10 ⁻¹¹	58
PTFE (CF ₂)	²³⁸ U	1.81 10 ⁻⁹	1.60 10 ⁻⁹	12
	²³² Th	7.76 10 ⁻¹⁰	5.42 10 ⁻¹⁰	36

$$\text{Diff \%} = \frac{\text{SOURCES} - \text{USD}}{(\text{SOURCES} + \text{USD})/2}$$

- Study found no major systematic differences between the two in terms input spectra, output spectra and yield.
- Both have errors in cross sections and outputs that may require a human eye to catch.

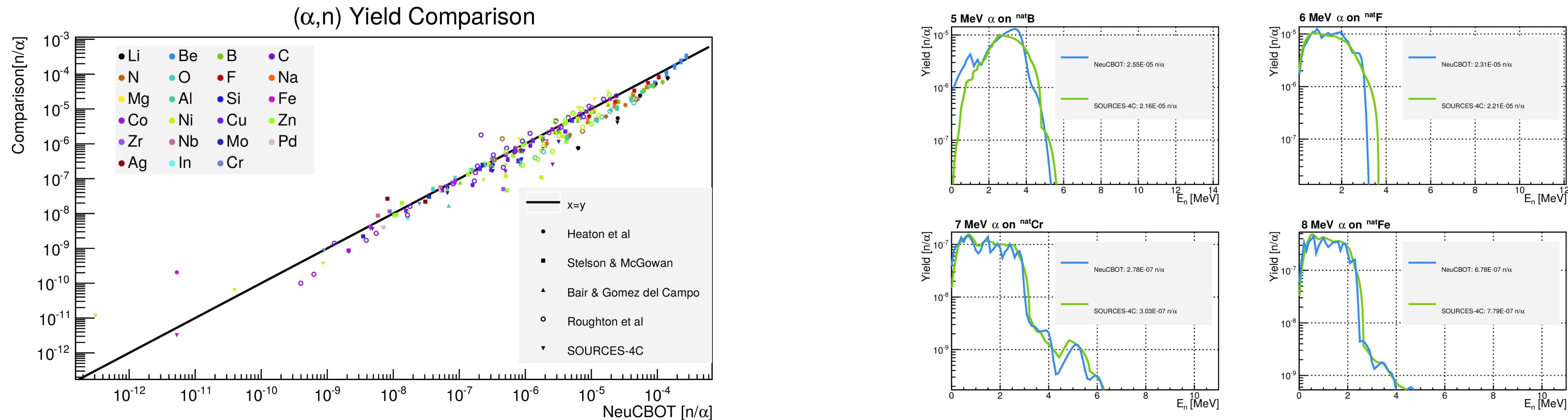
Framework Comparisons: NeuCBOT vs SOURCES-4C



NeuCBOT used by DEAP to predict Neutrons in materials of interest.

NeuCBOT		n/s/Bq			
Material		U238 upper	U238 lower	U235	Th232
Borosilicate Glass		3.93E-06	1.76E-05	2.56E-05	2.43E-05
Acrylic		2.19E-07	9.72E-07	1.42E-06	1.33E-06
Invar		2.06E-12	2.58E-07	1.84E-07	1.08E-06
TPB		3.15E-07	1.35E-06	1.96E-06	1.84E-06
Polyethylene		2.52E-07	1.09E-06	1.58E-06	1.49E-06
Polystyrene		3.01E-07	1.29E-06	1.88E-06	1.77E-06
Stainless Steel		1.31E-09	5.52E-07	4.42E-07	1.96E-06
Argon		8.82E-08	1.41E-05	1.72E-05	2.64E-05

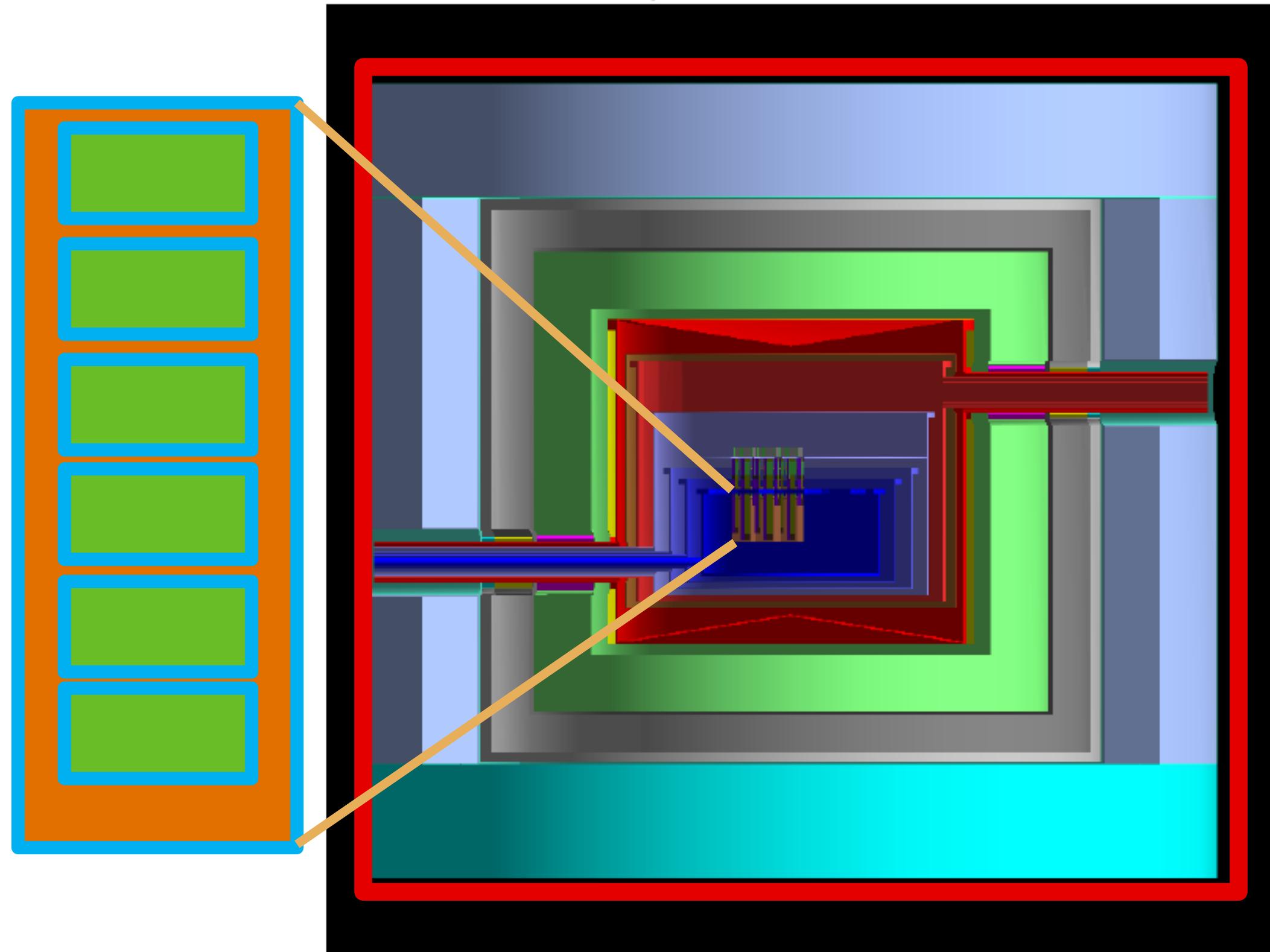
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Acrylic		.19E-0			1.33E-06
Invar		.06E-1			1.08E-06
TPB		.15E-0			1.84E-06
Polyethylene		.52E-0			1.49E-06
Polystyrene		.01E-0			1.77E-06
Stainless Steel		.31E-0			1.96E-06
Argon		8.82E-08	1.41E-05	1.72E-05	2.64E-05

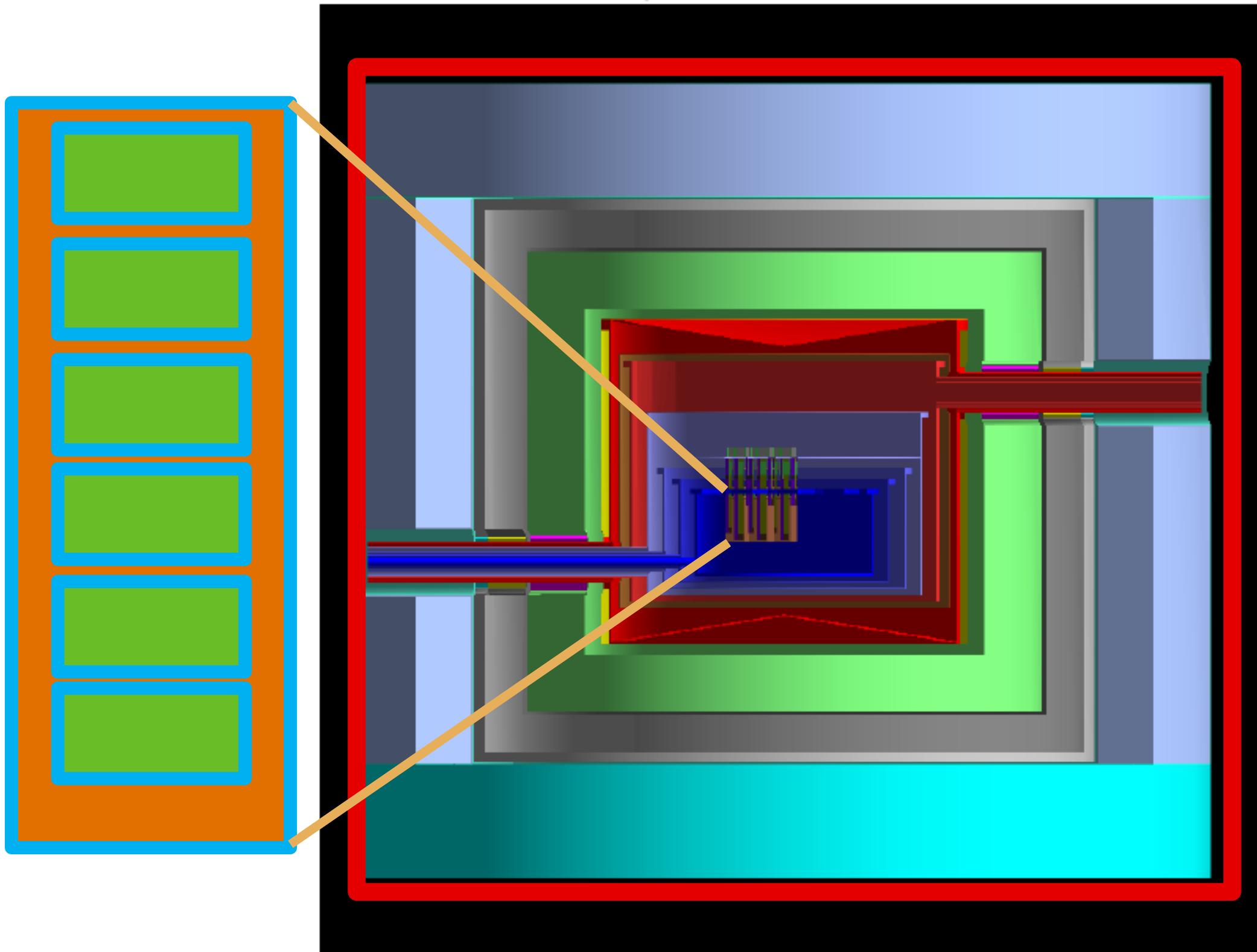
Simulation Tools



- Geant4 simulations of backgrounds based on assay information

SuperCDMS Geometry in Geant4

Simulation Tools



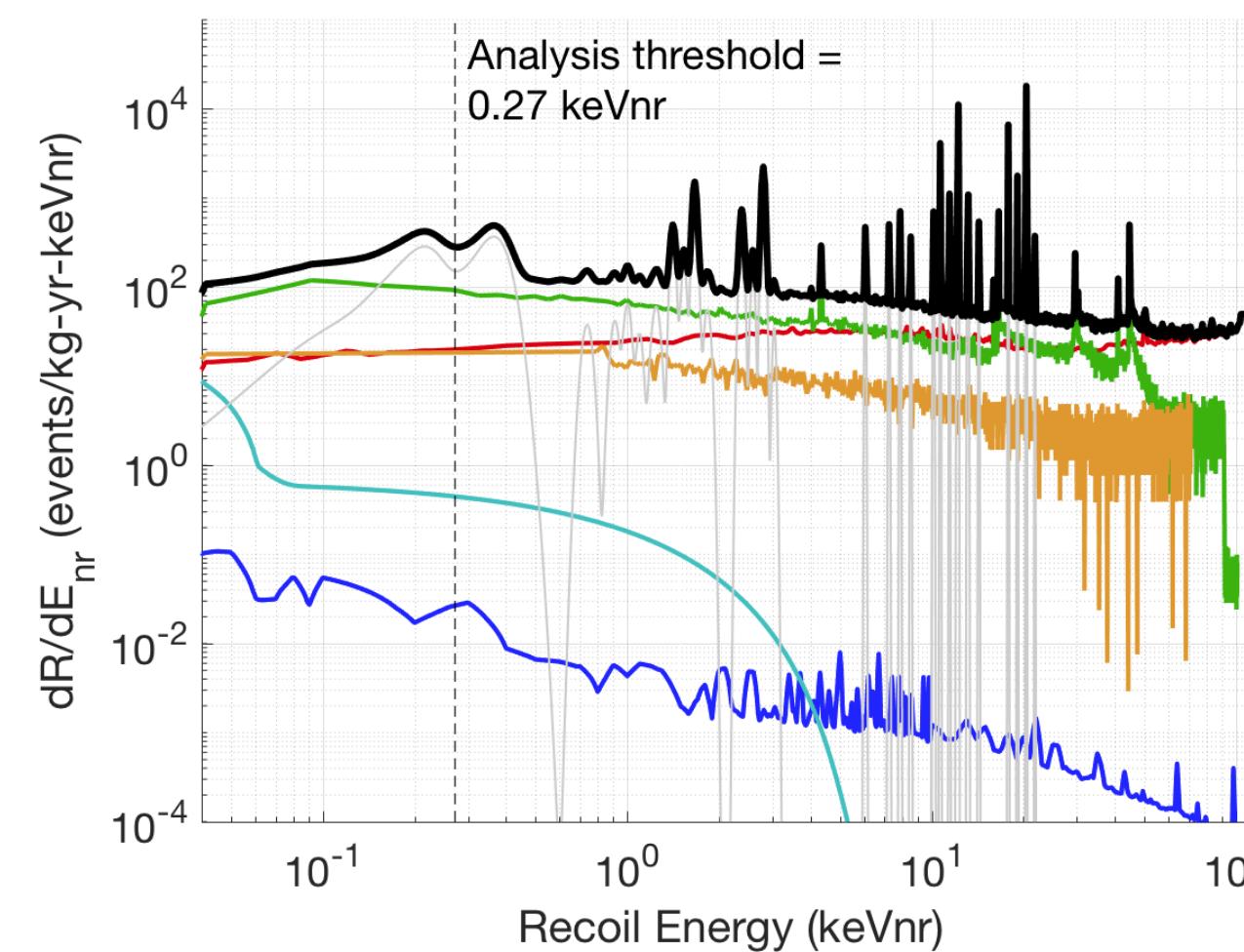
SuperCDMS Geometry in Geant4

- Geant4 simulations of backgrounds based on assay information
- Produce anticipated background spectra

SuperCDMS anticipated background spectra (Ge iZIPs)

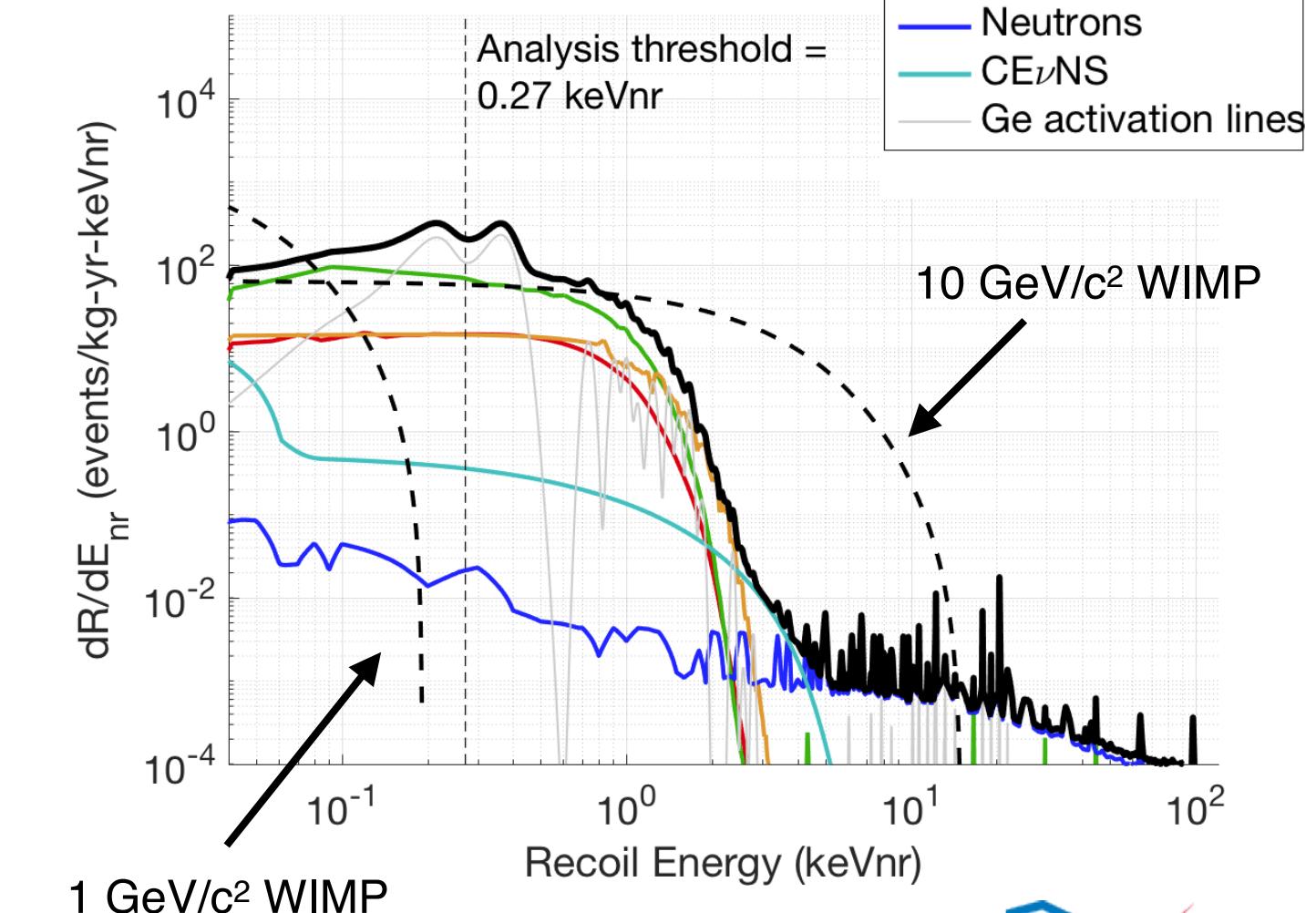
Raw Singles Event Rate

Includes yield model and energy resolution



Events after Cuts

Adds ionization yield and fiducial cuts



Background Inventory

SuperCDMS Background Inventory

Category	Ge HV ERsingles	Si HV ERsingles	Ge iZIP ERsingles	Si iZIP ERsingles	Ge iZIP NRsingles	Si iZIP NRsingles
	(x10 ⁻⁶)	(x10 ⁻⁶)				
-Total	48.	360.	50.	400.	3200.	2300.
Coherent Neutrinos					2300.	1600.
-Detector Internal Contamination	24.	280.	4.7	250.	0	0
Tritium	24.	33.	4.7	6.6	0	0
Silicon-32	0	250.	0	250.	0	0
Other						
-Material Internal Contamination	17.	66.	36.	120.	370.	460.
+Housing and Towers	6.5	34.	19.	65.	51.	66.
+Readout Cables	0.31	0.46	0.39	0.80	11.	15.
+SNOBOX Cans	4.0	13.	6.5	22.	68.	75.
Kevlar Ropes	2.1	5.1	2.7	8.3	3.6	4.0
+Calibration	0.92	3.0	1.2	3.6	0.05	0.05
+Shield Materials	3.5	10.	5.3	17.	240.	300.
Bulk Pb-210 in Lead	0.07	0	0.22	0.75		
-Material Internal Activation	2.3	8.4	3.9	13.		
Housing and Towers	0.64	2.5	1.0	4.1		
+SNOBOX	1.5	5.6	2.8	8.9		
Shield	0.07	0.28	0.14	0.41		
Other						
+Non-line-of-sight Surfaces	1.6	5.0	2.9	9.3	35.	41.
Prompt Interstitial Radon	0.61	1.8	0.87	2.7		
+Cavern Environment	2.3	3.5	2.0	9.6	330.	160.
Cosmic Ray Flux	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	85.	99.

LZ Background Inventory

Detector components from assays

Intrinsic Contamination Backgrounds	Mass (kg)	Composite	U early (mBq/kg)	U late (mBq/kg)	Th early (mBq/kg)	Th late (mBq/kg)	Co60 (mBq/kg)	K40 (mBq/kg)	n/yr (inc. S.F. rej.)	ER (cts)	NR (cts) (w/ SF rej.)
Upper PMT Structure	46.7	Y	5.32	0.80	1.08	0.72	0.03	3.81	5.23	0.14	0.001
Lower PMT Structure	71.7	Y	2.62	0.24	0.41	0.30	0.00	1.33	6.57	0.08	0.001
R11410 3" PMTs *	91.9	Y	71.63	3.20	3.12	2.99	2.91	15.41	81.98	1.47	0.013
R11410 PMT Bases *	2.8	Y	369.62	75.87	38.91	33.07	0.97	50.58	1.28	0.37	0.003
R8778 2" PMTs	6.1	Y	138.02	59.39	16.93	16.90	16.25	412.67	44.98	0.13	0.008
R8520 Skin 1" PMTs	2.1	Y	62.17	5.29	4.91	4.85	24.44	324.00	53.71	0.02	0.006
R8520 Skin PMT Bases *	0.2	Y	212.95	108.46	42.19	37.62	2.23	1.81	3.62	0.00	0.000
PMT Cabling	62.5	Y	5.81	7.05	1.24	1.62	0.01	6.30	0.75	0.68	0.000
TPC PTFE	184.0	N	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.00	0.12	22.54	0.06	0.008
Grid Wires	0.18	N	1.20	0.27	0.33	0.49	1.60	0.40	0.00	0.00	0.000
Grid Holders	92.3	Y	2.86	0.83	0.94	1.02	1.42	2.82	20.71	0.97	0.008
Field Shaping Rings	92.5	Y	5.49	1.14	0.72	0.85	0.00	2.00	41.04	0.98	0.016
TPC Sensors	4.45	Y	21.17	5.04	1.81	1.56	1.36	9.36	4.96	0.02	0.000
TPC Thermometers	0.57	Y	26.57	11.84	0.77	4.31	0.99	462.60	1.79	0.06	0.000
Xe Recirculation Tubing	15.1	Y	0.79	0.18	0.23	0.33	1.05	0.30	0.64	0.00	0.000
HV Conduits and Cables	137.7	Y	3.6	0.6	0.8	1.4	2.5	26.5	0.05	0.006	
HX and PMT Conduits	199.6	Y	3.36	0.48	0.48	0.58	1.24	1.47	5.23	0.05	0.001
Cryostat Vessel	2705.0	Y	1.6	0.11	0.40	0.40	0.18	0.54	159.44	0.94	0.017
Cryostat Seals	33.7	Y	0.79	27.56	3.50	5.93	9.76	140.80	127.08	0.54	0.006
Cryostat Insulation	13.8	Y	65.84	36.55	11.44	9.15	3.40	78.87	35.33	0.48	0.004
Cryostat Teflon Liner	26.0	Y	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.00	0.12	3.18	0.00	0.000
Outer Detector Tanks	4299.3	Y	3.28	0.60	0.54	0.57	0.03	4.78	200.65	0.96	0.002
Liquid Scintillator	17640.3	Y	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	14.28	0.03	0.000
Outer Detector PMTs	204.7	Y	570	470	395	388	0.00	534	7.587	0.01	0.000
Outer Detector PMT Supports	770.0	N	12.35	12.35	4.07	4.07	9.62	9.29	258.83	0.00	0.000
Subtotal (Detector Components)									8.01	0.101	
222Rn (1.63 µBq/kg)									588	-	
220Rn (0.08 µBq/kg)									99	-	
natKr (0.015 ppt g/g)									24.5	-	
natAr (0.45 pb g/g)									2.47	-	
210Bi (0.1 µBq/kg)									40.0	-	
Laboratory and Cosmogenics									4.3	0.06	
Fixed Surface Contamination									0.19	0.39	
Subtotal (Non-v counts)									767	0.55	
Physics Backgrounds											
136Xe 2vββ									67	0	
Astrophysical ν counts (pp+7Be+13N)									255	0	
Astrophysical ν counts (BB)									0	0**	
Astrophysical ν counts (Hep)									0	0.21	
Astrophysical ν counts (diffuse supernova)									0	0.05	
Astrophysical ν counts (atmospheric)									0	0.46	
Subtotal (Physics backgrounds)									322	0.72	
Total									1 090	1.27	
Total (with 99.5% ER discrimination, 50% NR efficiency)									5.44	0.63	
										6.08	

Xenon contaminants
External backgrounds

Physics: Neutrinos!

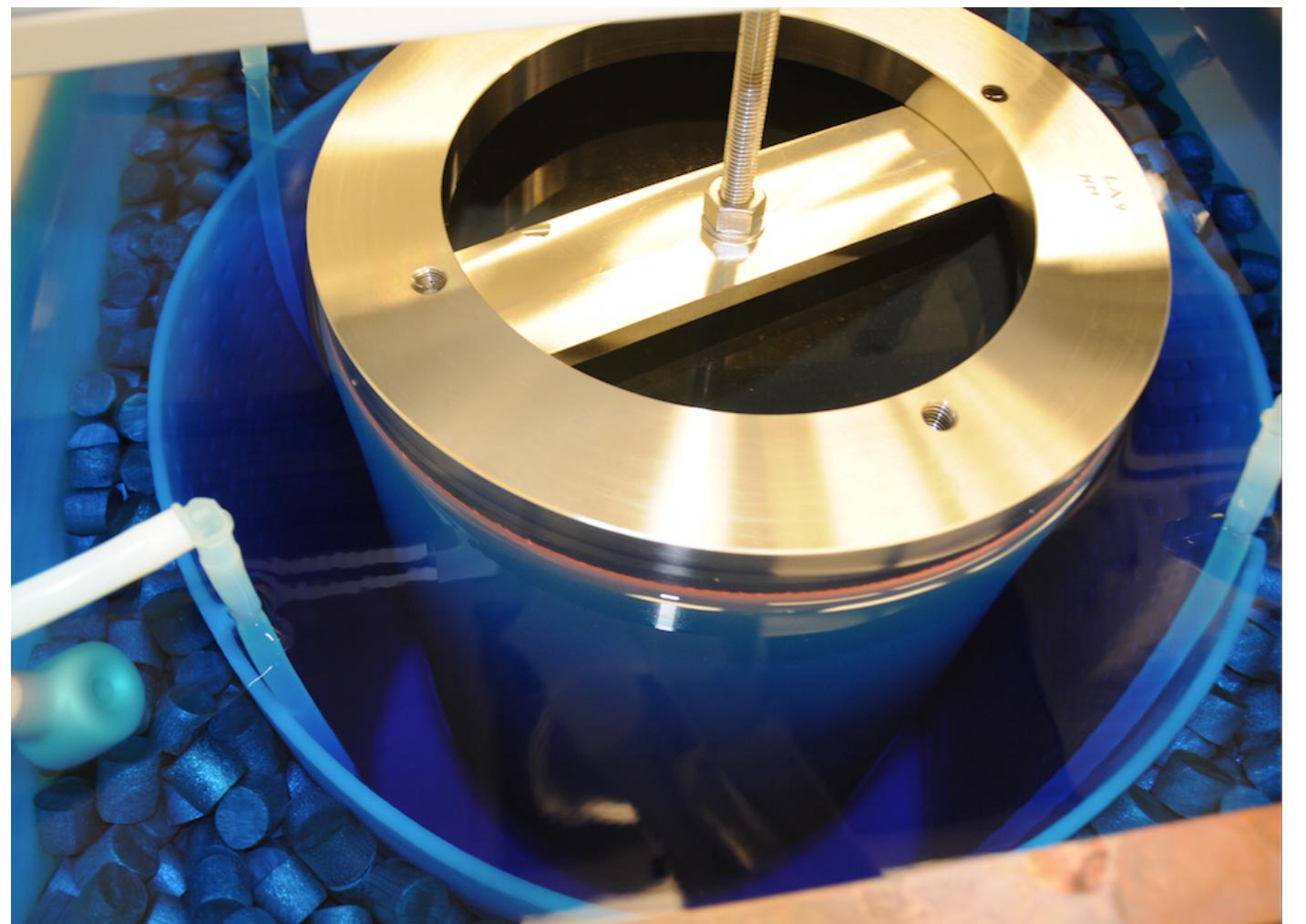
- Background inventories of components and their required purity can be made.
- Provides a tool that can be used for material and vendor selection.

Background Inventory

Electroformed copper at PNNL

Th decay chain (ave) $\leq 0.1 \mu\text{Bq/kg}$

U decay chain (ave) $\leq 0.1 \mu\text{Bq/kg}$



XENON1T Gas Purification System and Distillation Column

- Commercial Xe: 1 ppm - 10 ppb of Kr
- XENON1T sensitivity demands: 0.2 ppt
- 5.5 m distillation column, 6.5 kg/h throughput

Aprile, UCLA 2018

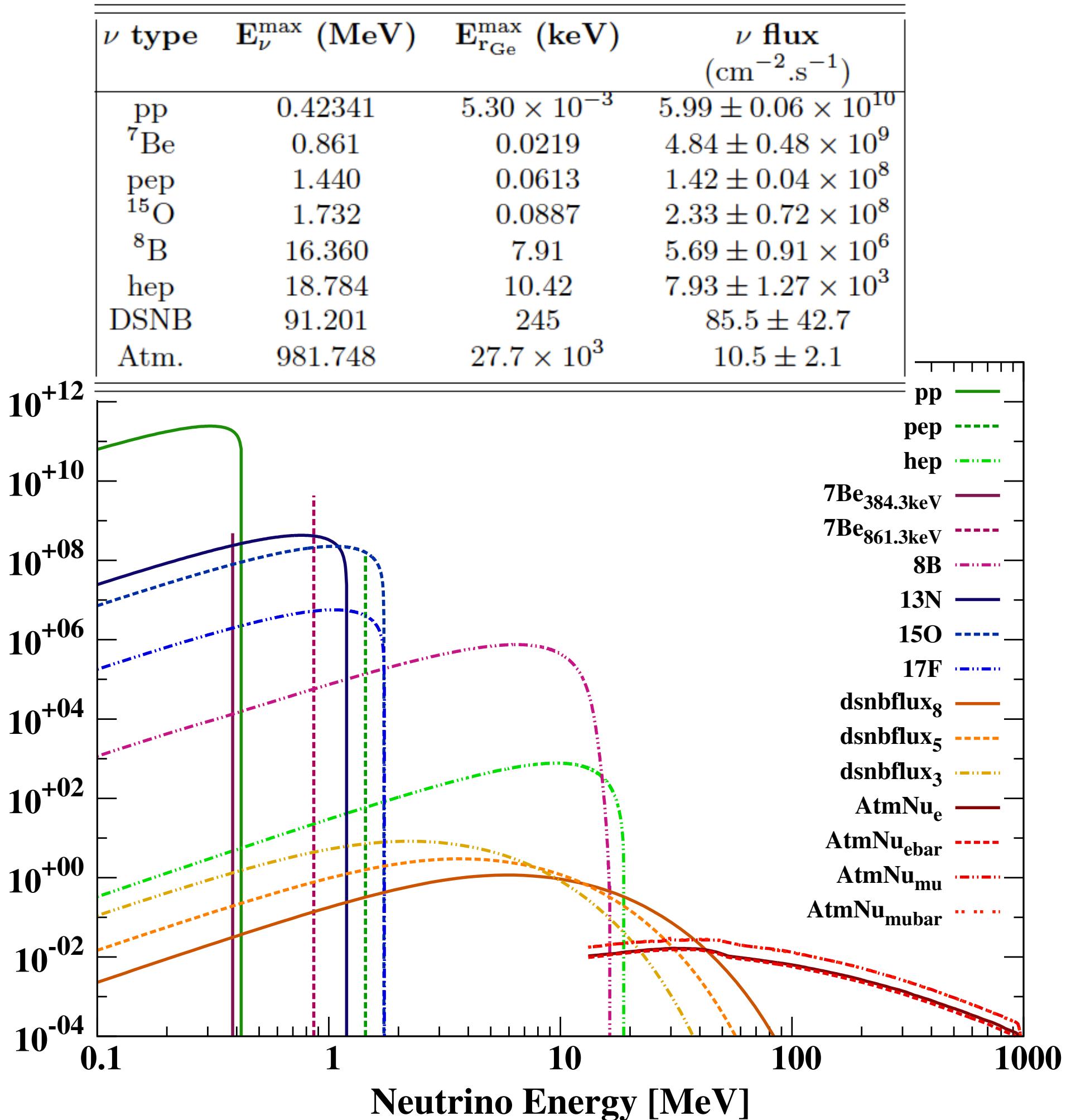


DarkSide Cryogenic distillation column for purification of ^{39}Ar



Neutrino Backgrounds

- Solar pp-neutrinos
 - low energies, high fluxes
 - contribute to the ER background via ν -e scattering at a level of 10 - 25 event per(ton x year)at low energies
- Neutrino-induced NR can not be distinguished from WIMP signals (8B solar neutrinos)
 - $\sim 10^3$ events per(ton x year) for heavy targets
 - Atmospheric Neutrinos and Diffuse Supernovae Neutrinos
 - $\sim 1\text{-}5$ events per (100 ton x year)

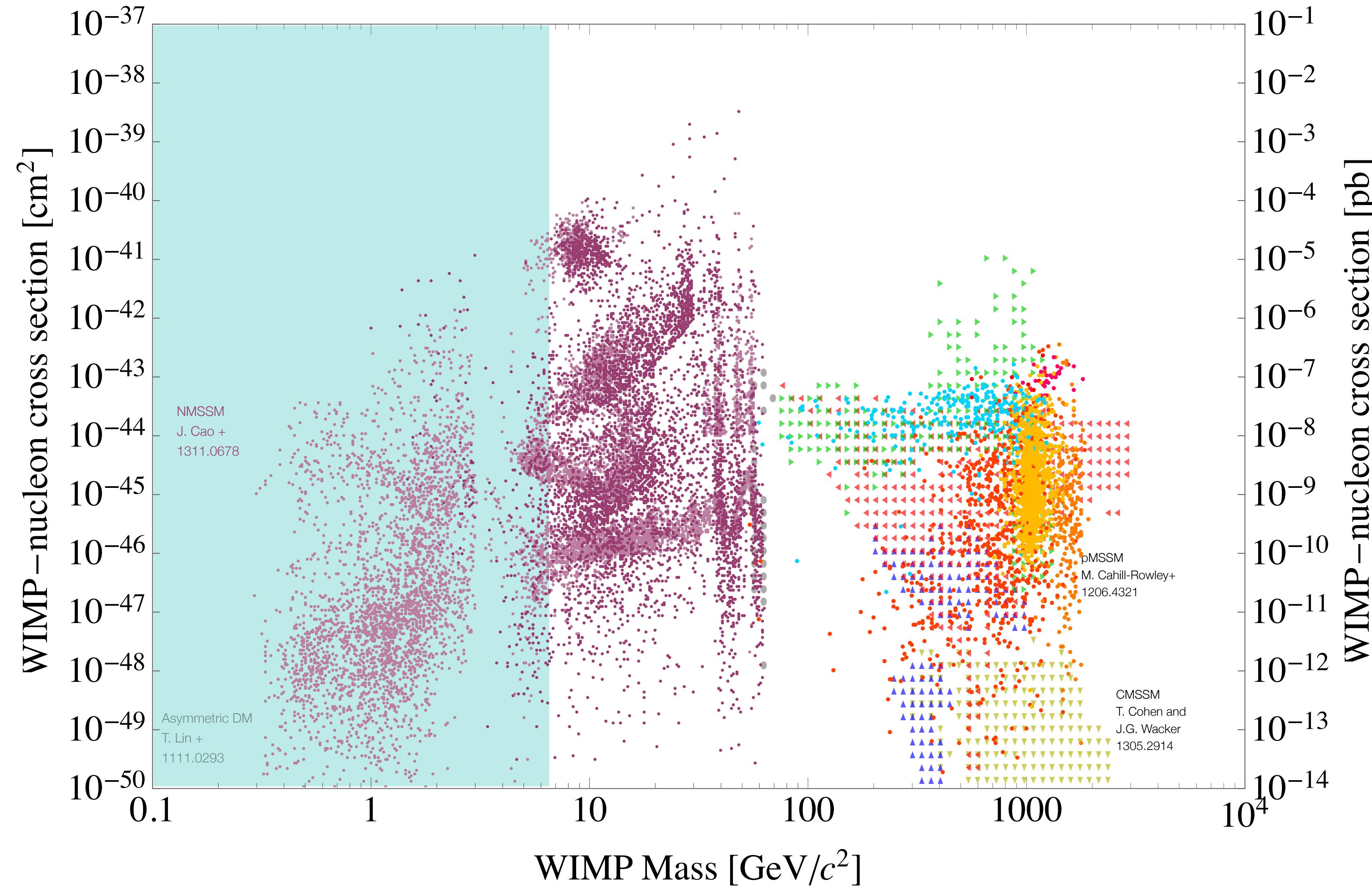


Direct Detection Needs

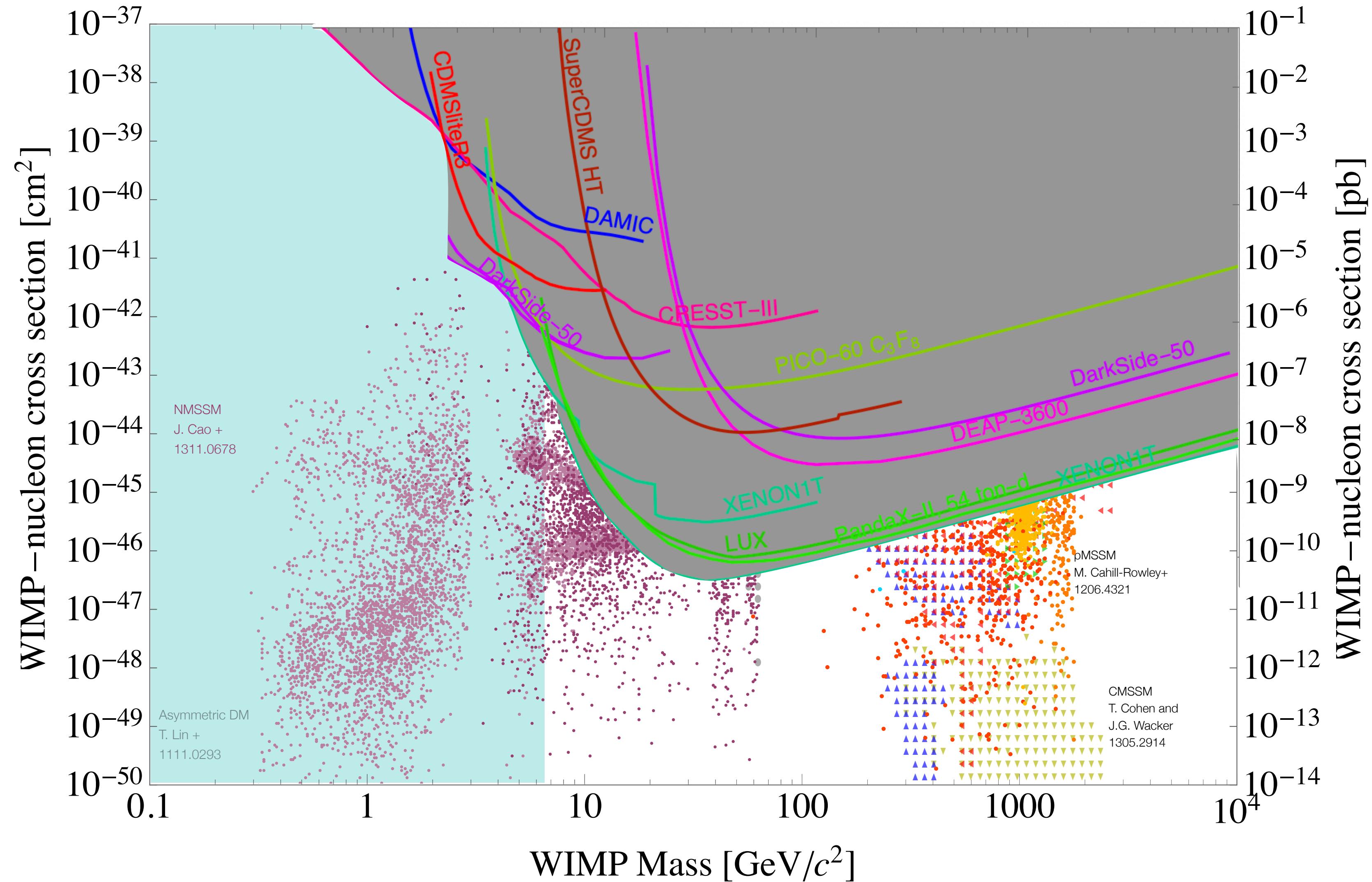
- Ability to see low energy WIMP induced recoils ($>10 \text{ keV} - 10\text{s keV}$)
 - Radiogenically pure
 - Low threshold
- Ability to distinguish nuclear recoils
 - Difference between electronic recoils & nuclear recoils
 - Difference between alphas and nuclear recoils
- Radiogenic and cosmogenic backgrounds mitigation
 - Passive and/or Active shielding from these backgrounds
 - Position reconstruction and fiducialization
 - Characterization of these backgrounds
- Long exposures with long term stability
 - Especially for annual and diurnal modulation



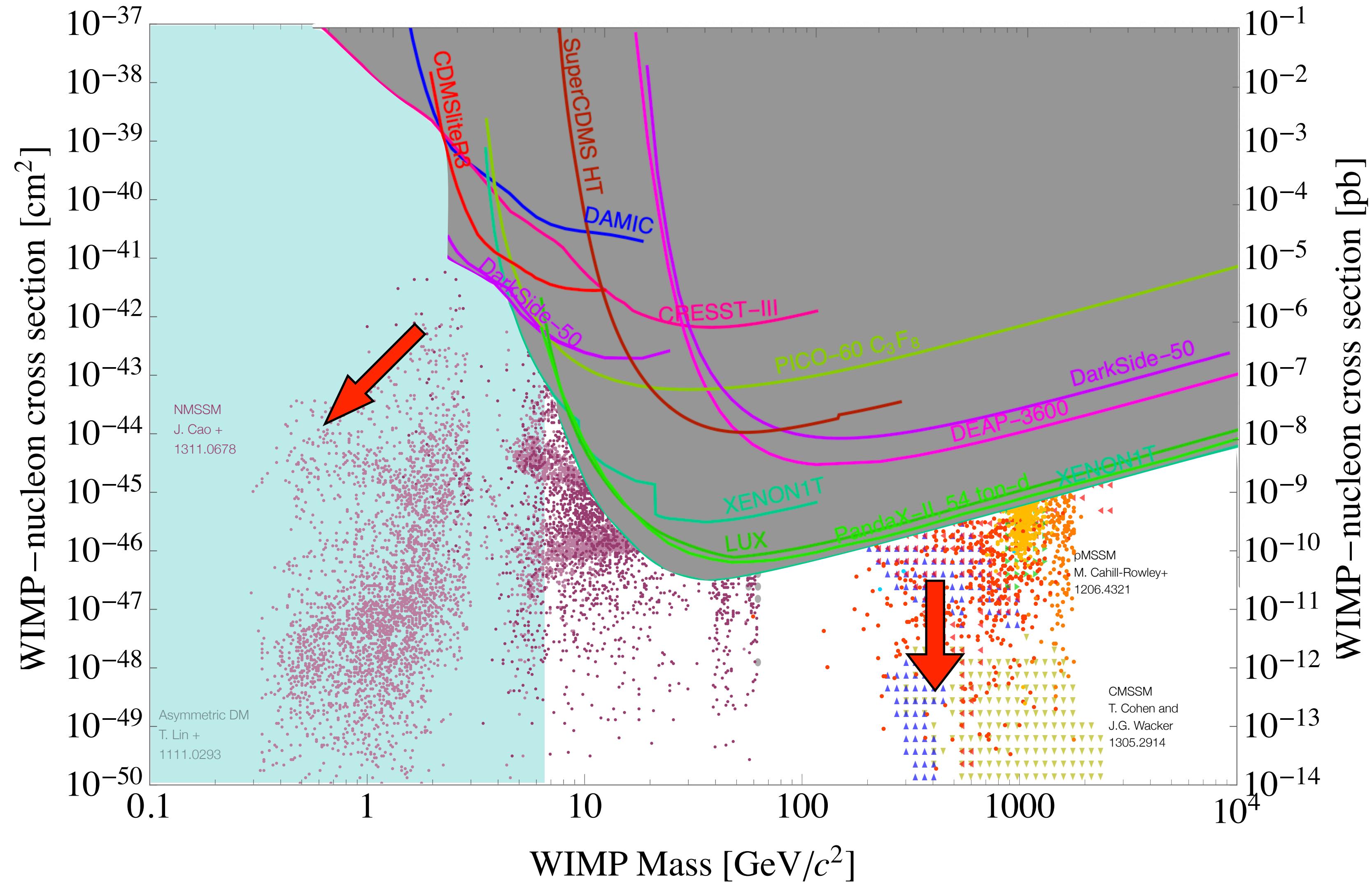
The Search Space



The Search Space



The Search Space

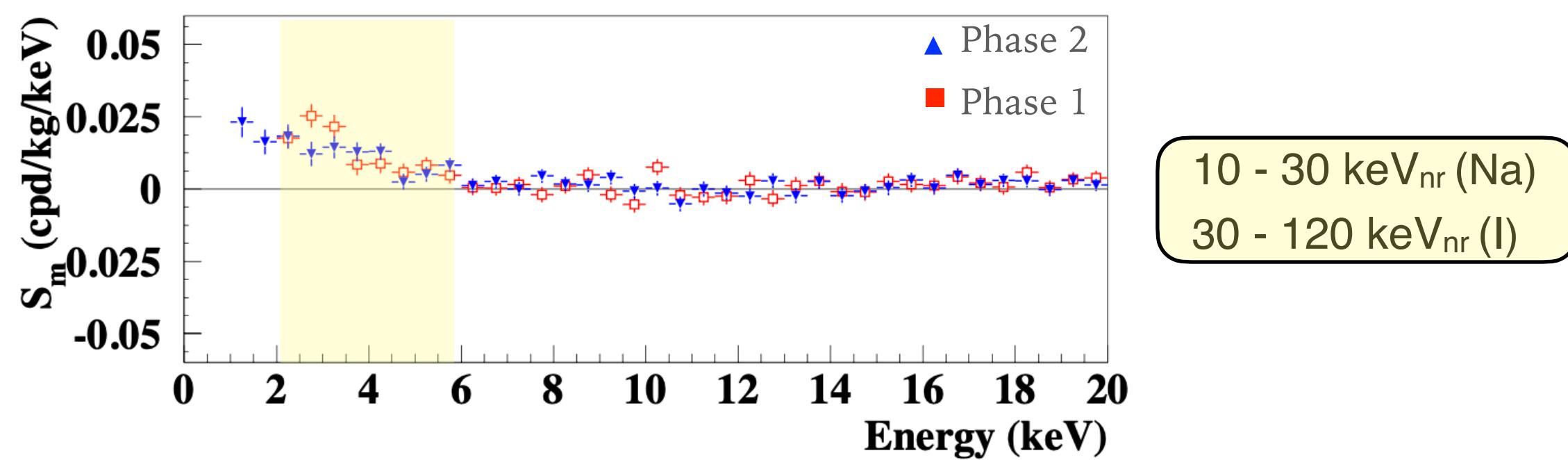
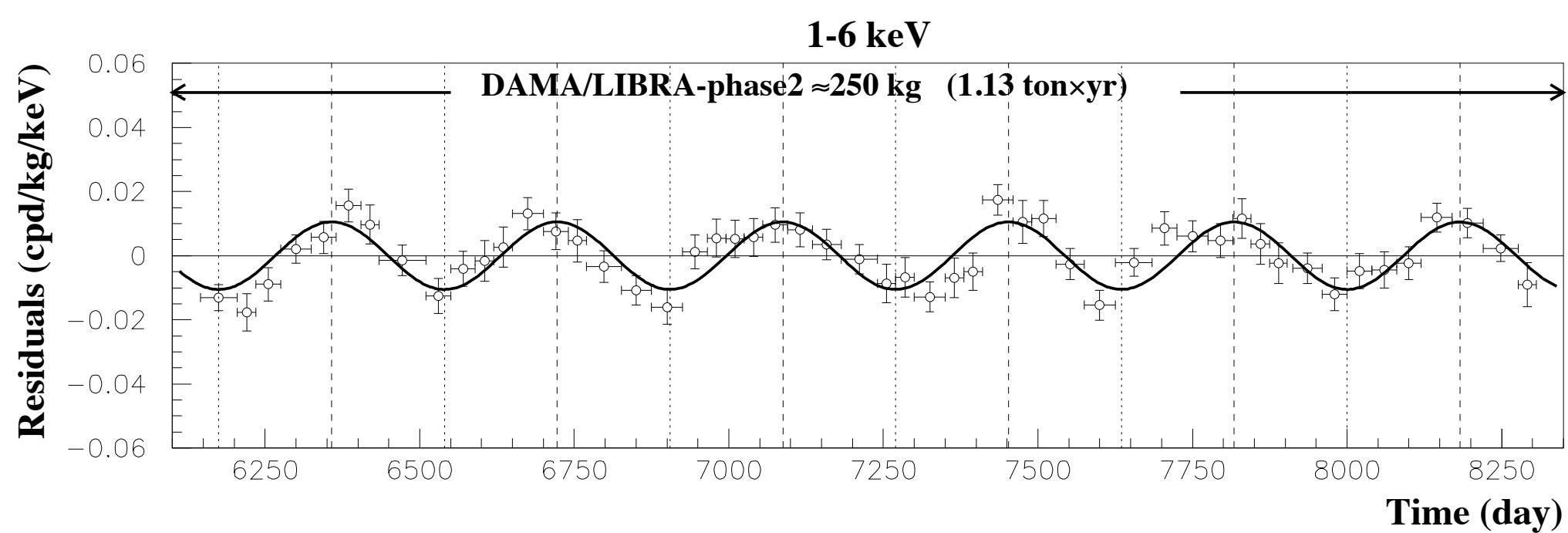
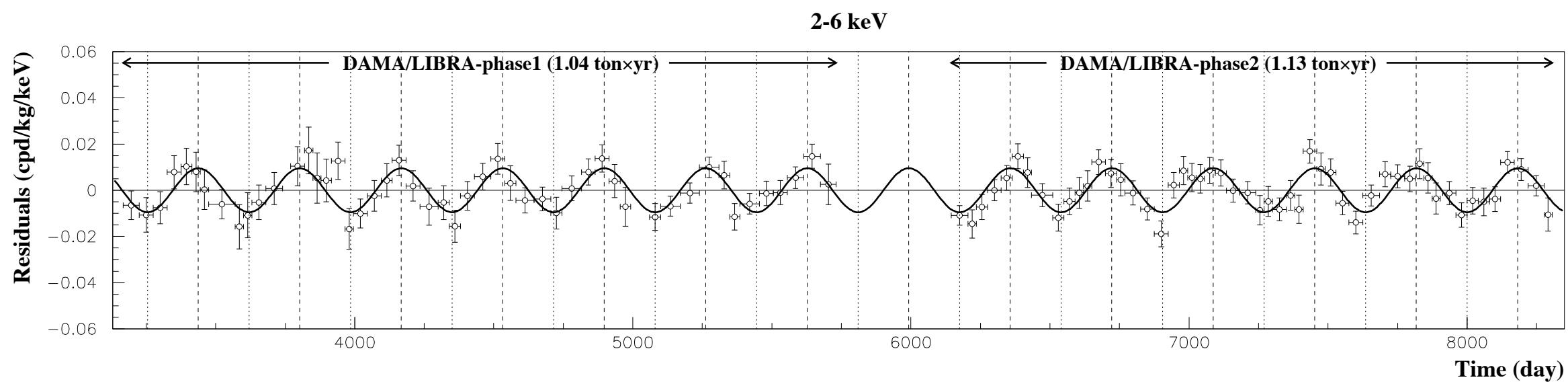


Have We Already Seen a Dark Matter Signal?



- DAMA/LIBRA have been reporting positive results reported since 1998
- DAMA
 - 100 kg NaI array operated in Laboratori Nazionali del Gran Sasso (1996 - 2002)
- LIBRA
 - 250 kg array operating since 2003 with first results in 2008
 - Measures scintillation from particle interactions in detectors.
 - No discrimination between nuclear and electron recoils

Have We Already Seen a Dark Matter Signal?



- Signal observed over 14 cycles at 12.9σ in the 2-6 keV bin. Phase two signal at 9.5σ for single scatter events in the 1 - 6 keV energy bin observed over 6 cycles.
- No background/signal discrimination.
- Debate over background or dark matter interpretation
 - DM interpretation is in tension with other experimental results.
 - Disagreements on background models.
 - The release of 3 keV x-rays and Auger electrons associated with the rare EC decay of ^{40}K shows up
 - Radioactive Ar from impurities in Ni purge
 - Radon-included neutron or gamma ray flux from cavern

Worldwide Effort to Test DAMA/Libra

