

The XENON project @INFN-LNGS: new results from XENON1T and prospects with XENONnT

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INFN Bologna
(on behalf of the
XENON collaboration)

Korea-Italy
Bi-lateral Symposium

Daejeon - October 1st, 2018



The XENON Collaboration: ~165 scientists



UCSD



Tokyo

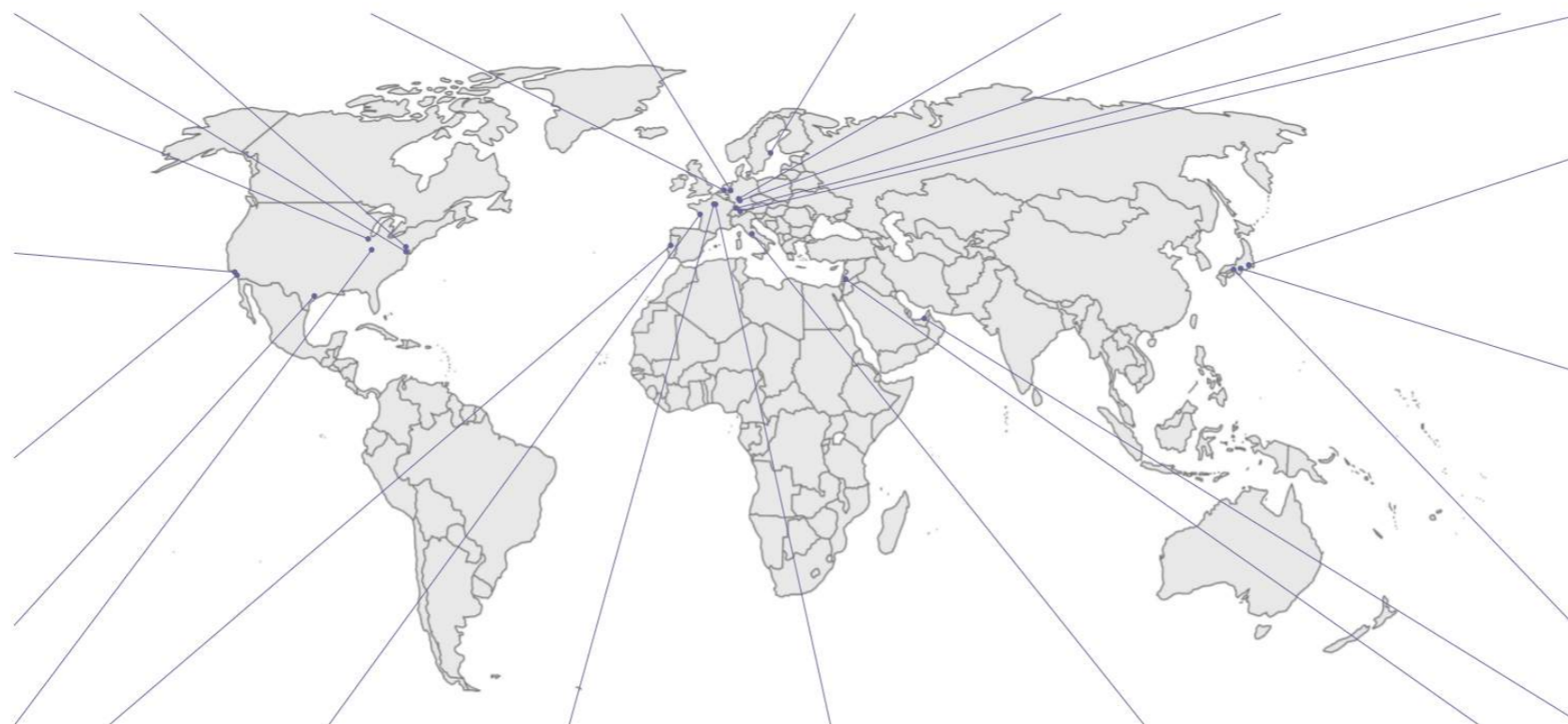


NAGOYA UNIVERSITY

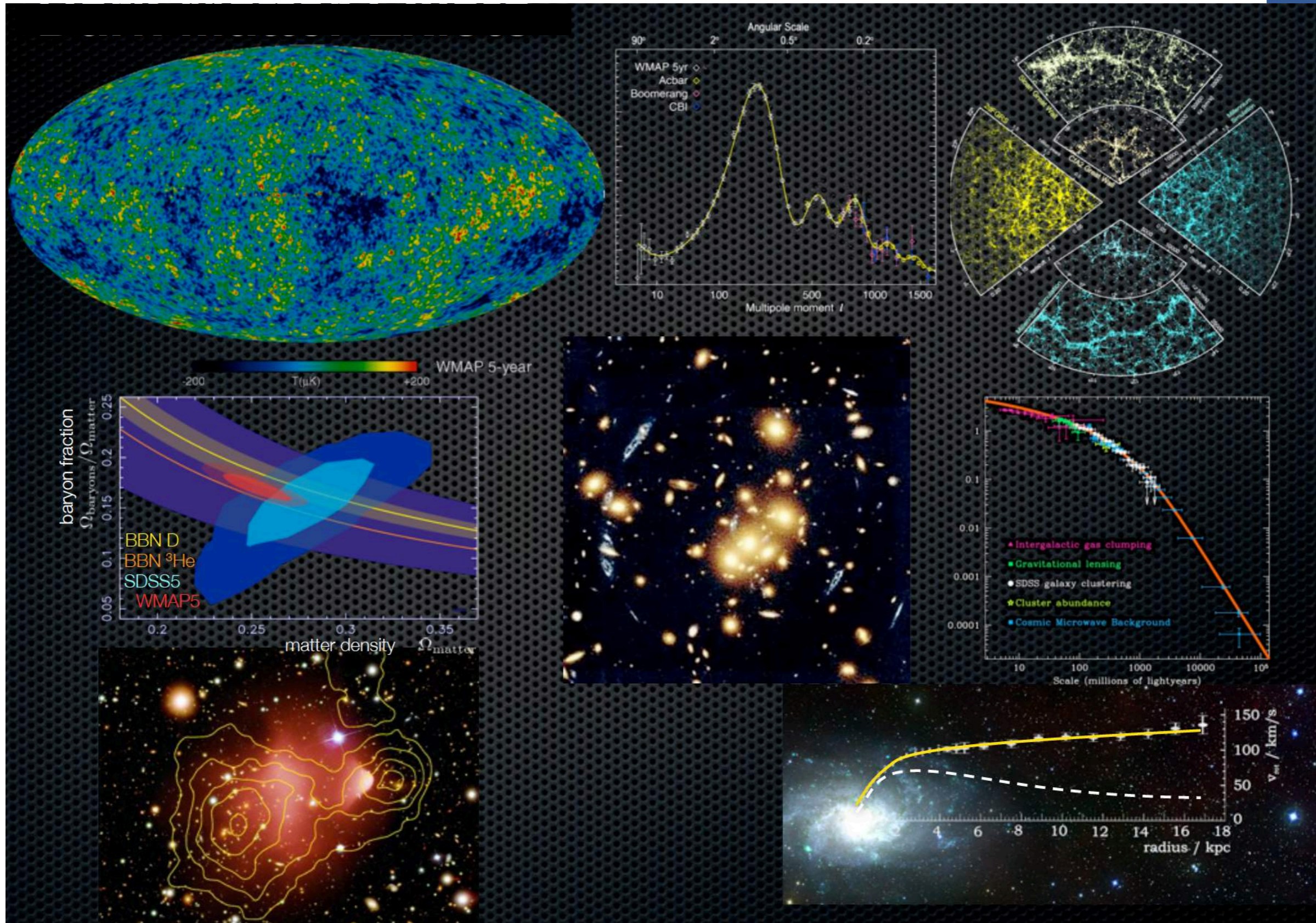
Nagoya



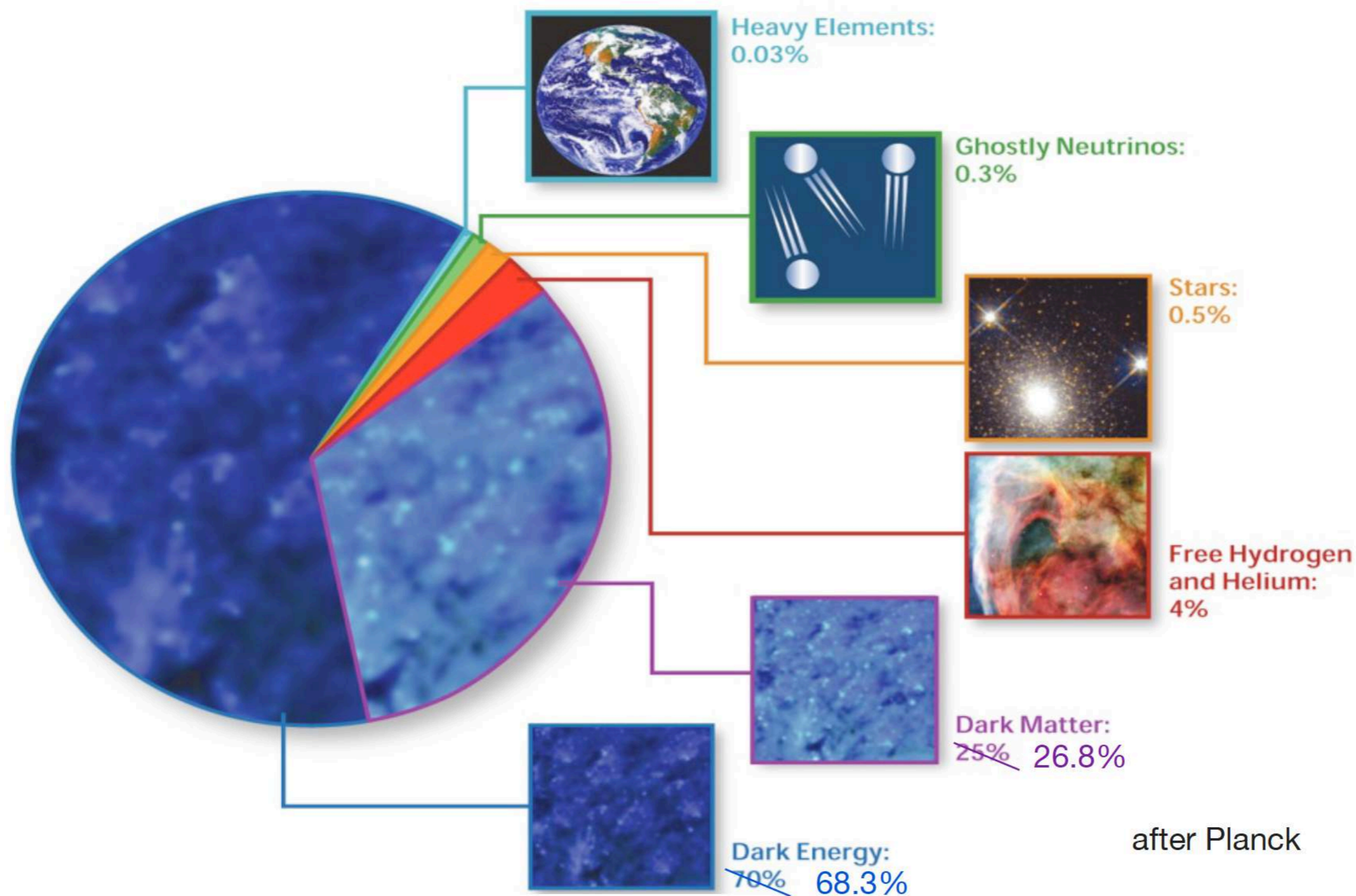
Kobe



Dark Matter exists



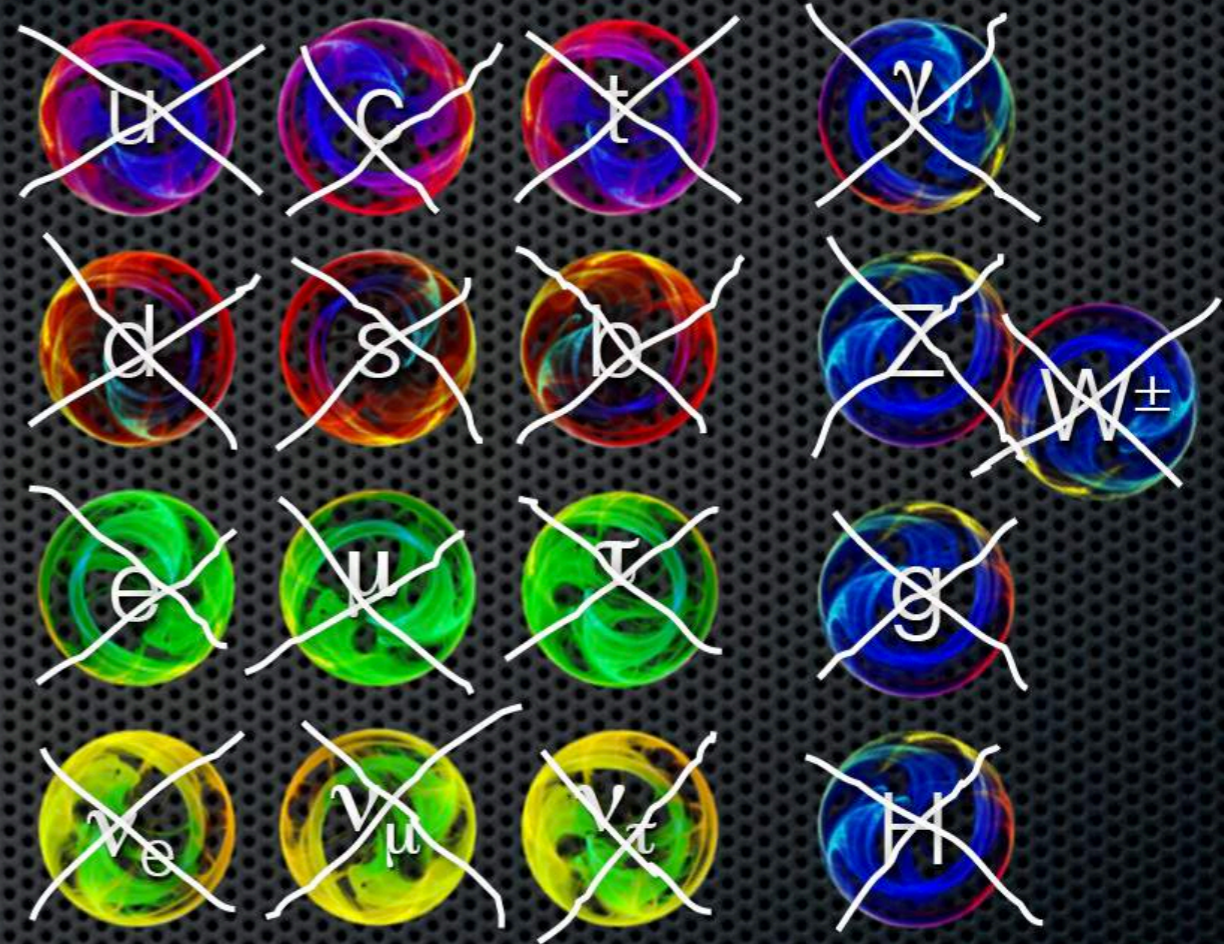
... and it dominates the Universe Matter budget



... but what is it made of ?

We know Dark Matter has to be

- neutral
- cold
- stable
- no EM interaction
- non-baryonic
- correct density

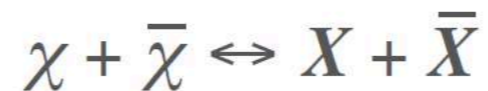


-> No Standard Model Candidate

The WIMP hypothesis

Weakly Interacting Massive particle

- if a **neutral, massive, weakly interacting particle** (WIMP) existed in the early Universe



- it was in equilibrium as long as the **reaction rate** was larger than the **expansion rate**

$$\Gamma \gg H$$

- after Γ drops below $H \Rightarrow$ “freeze-out”, we are left with a **relic density**

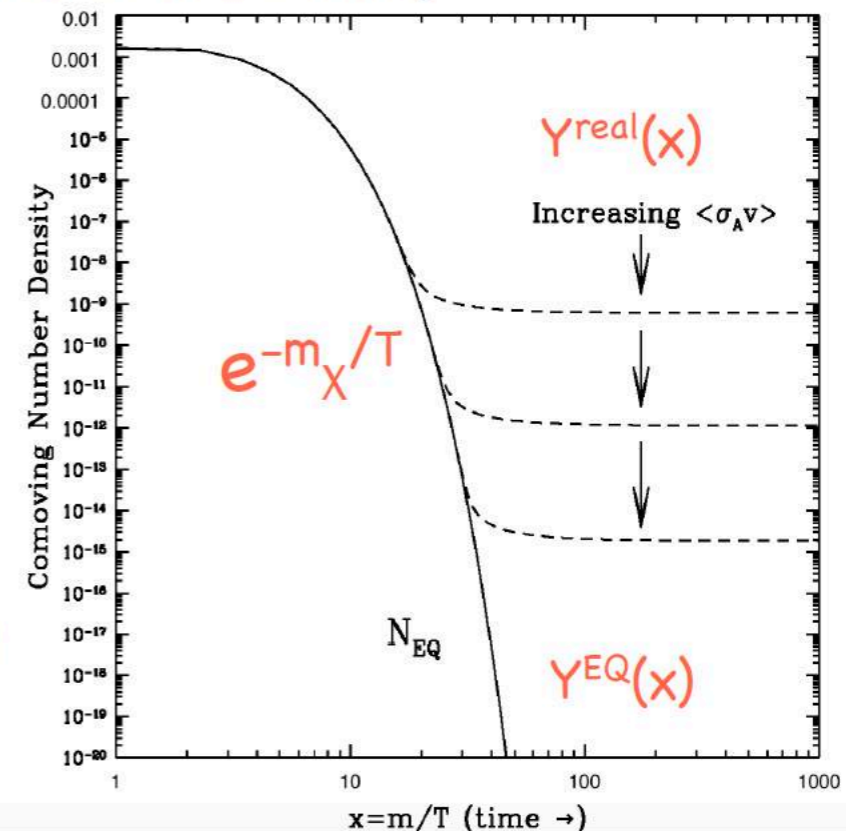
$$\frac{dn}{dt} = -3Hn - \langle \sigma_{eff} v \rangle (n^2 - n_{eq}^2)$$

decrease due to expansion
of the Universe

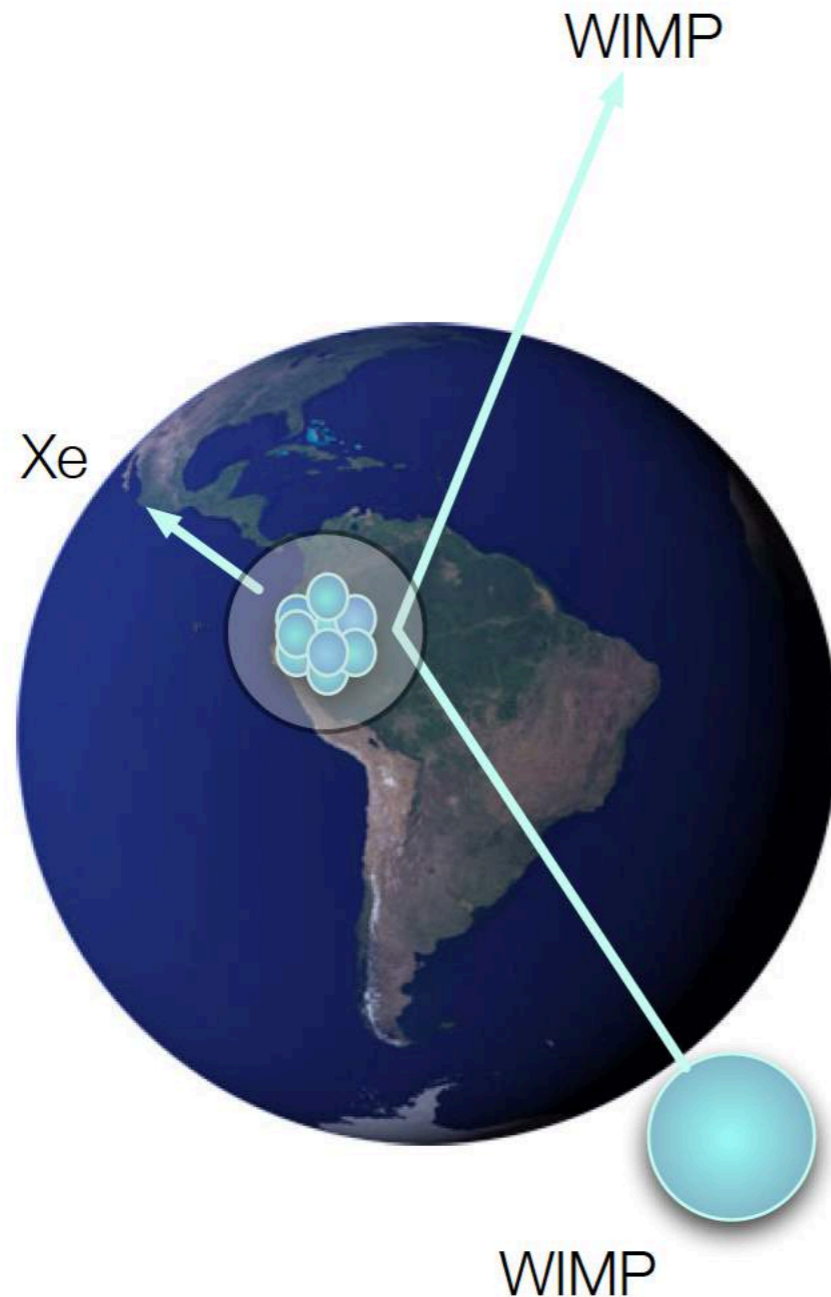
change due to annihilation
and creation

Number density now: **integrate from freeze-out to present**

$$\Omega_{\chi} \propto \langle \sigma_A v \rangle^{-1}$$



WIMP direct detection



- Elastic collisions with nuclei
- The recoil energy is:

$$E_R = \frac{|\vec{q}|^2}{2m_N} = \frac{\mu^2 v^2}{m_N} (1 - \cos \theta) \leq 50 \text{ keV}$$

- and the expected rate:

$$R \propto N \frac{\rho_\chi}{m_\chi} \langle \sigma_{\chi N} \rangle \quad \mu = \frac{m_\chi m_N}{m_\chi + m_N}$$

N = number of target nuclei in detector

ρ_χ = local WIMP density, m_χ = WIMP mass

$\langle \sigma_{\chi N} \rangle$ = scattering cross section

Which target ?

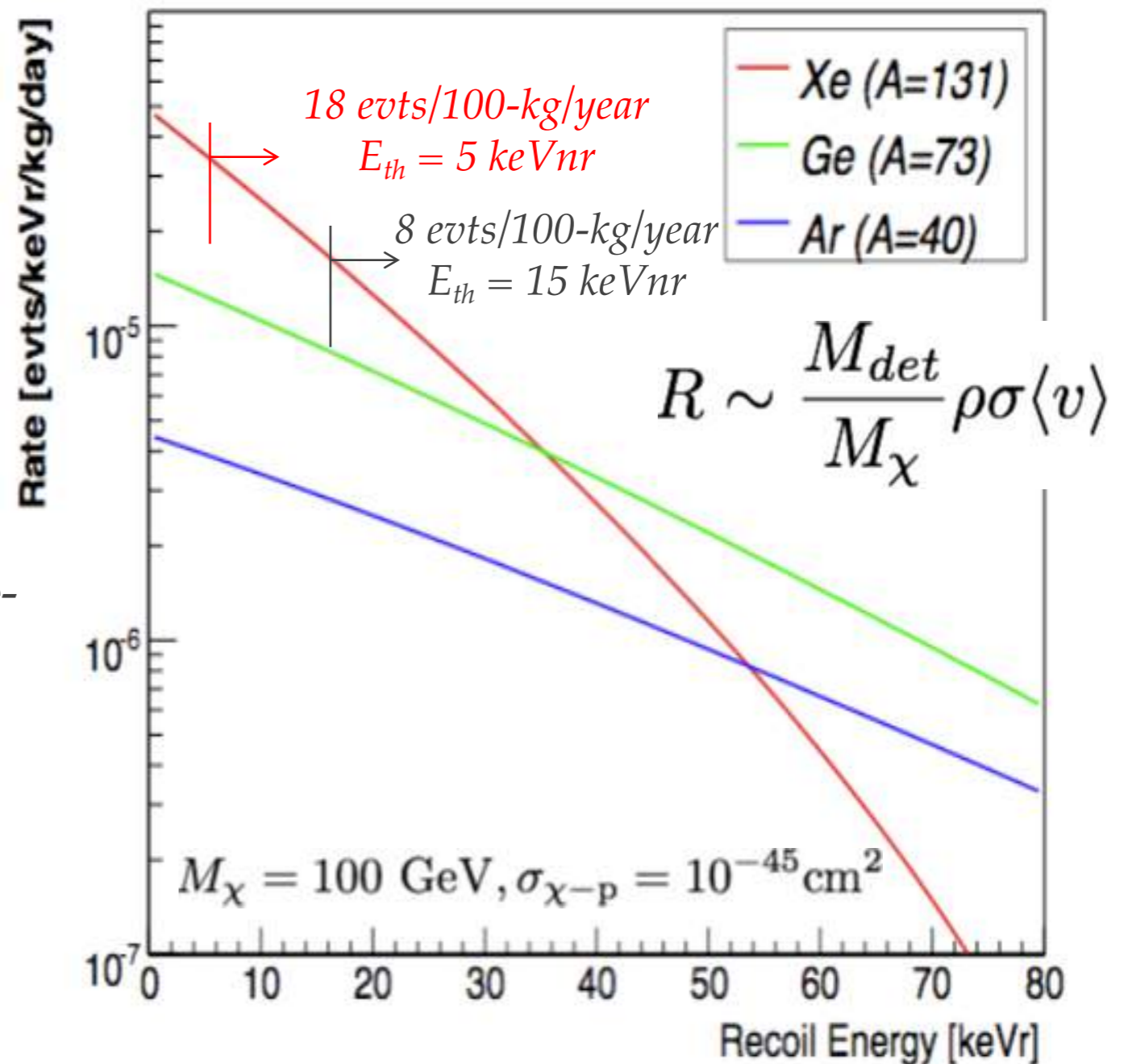


... choose Xenon !!

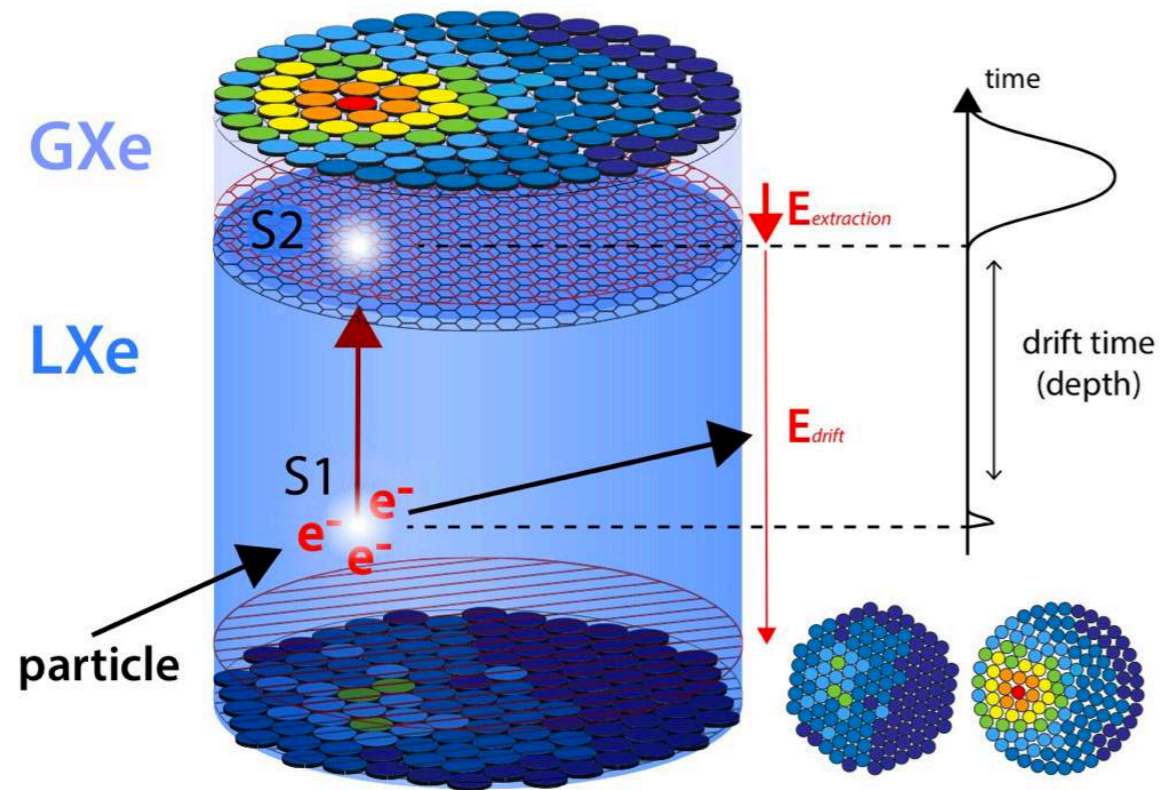


Xenon properties

- **High A**: large number of SI interactions
- **Self shielding**: high $Z=54$ and high density $\rho=2.83 \text{ kg/l}$
- **Scalability**: possibility to build compact detectors, scalable to larger dimensions
- **Odd-nucleon isotopes**: high $A=131$ with $\sim 50\%$ of odd isotopes. Good for SD.
- **Wavelength 178 nm**: no need for a wavelength shifter
- **Intrinsically pure**: ^{136}Xe has very small decay rate; Kr can be removed to $< \text{ppt}$
- **Charge & light**: highest yield among the noble liquids
- **“Easy” cryogenics**: -100°C



Two-phase Xe TPC as WIMP detector



► S1 Light signal

Prompt scintillation photons

► S2 Charge signal

Secondary scintillation in GXe from drifted electrons

👍 Energy reconstruction from combined S1 and S2

► 3D vertex reconstruction

X,Y from S2 pattern in top PMT array

Z from drift time

👍 Volume fiducialization

👍 Single/multiple scatters discrimination

► NR (Nuclear Recoils)

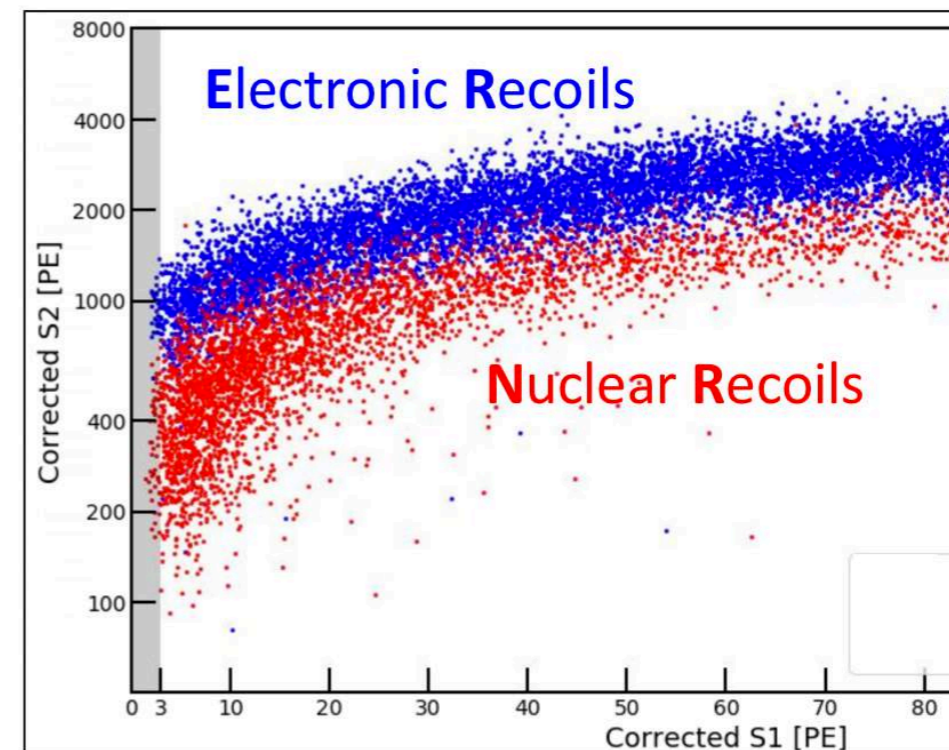
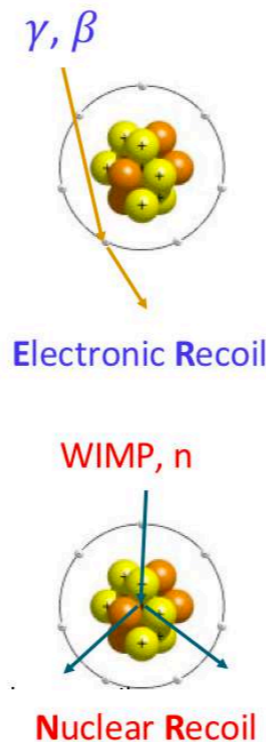
WIMP signal, neutrons, CNNS

► ER (Electronic Recoils)

γ , β backgrounds

👍 Recoil type identification from S2/S1

Larger for ER than NR



The phases of XENON

XENON10



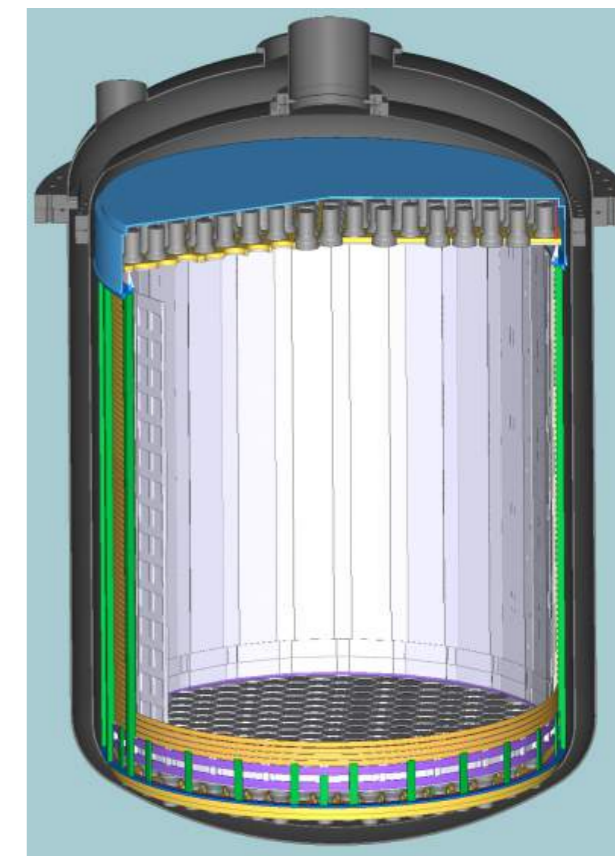
XENON100



XENON1T



XENONnT



2005-2007

25 kg - 15cm drift

$\sim 10^{-43} \text{ cm}^2$

2008-2016

161 kg - 30 cm drift

$\sim 10^{-45} \text{ cm}^2$

2012-2018

3.2 ton - 1 m drift

$\sim 10^{-47} \text{ cm}^2$

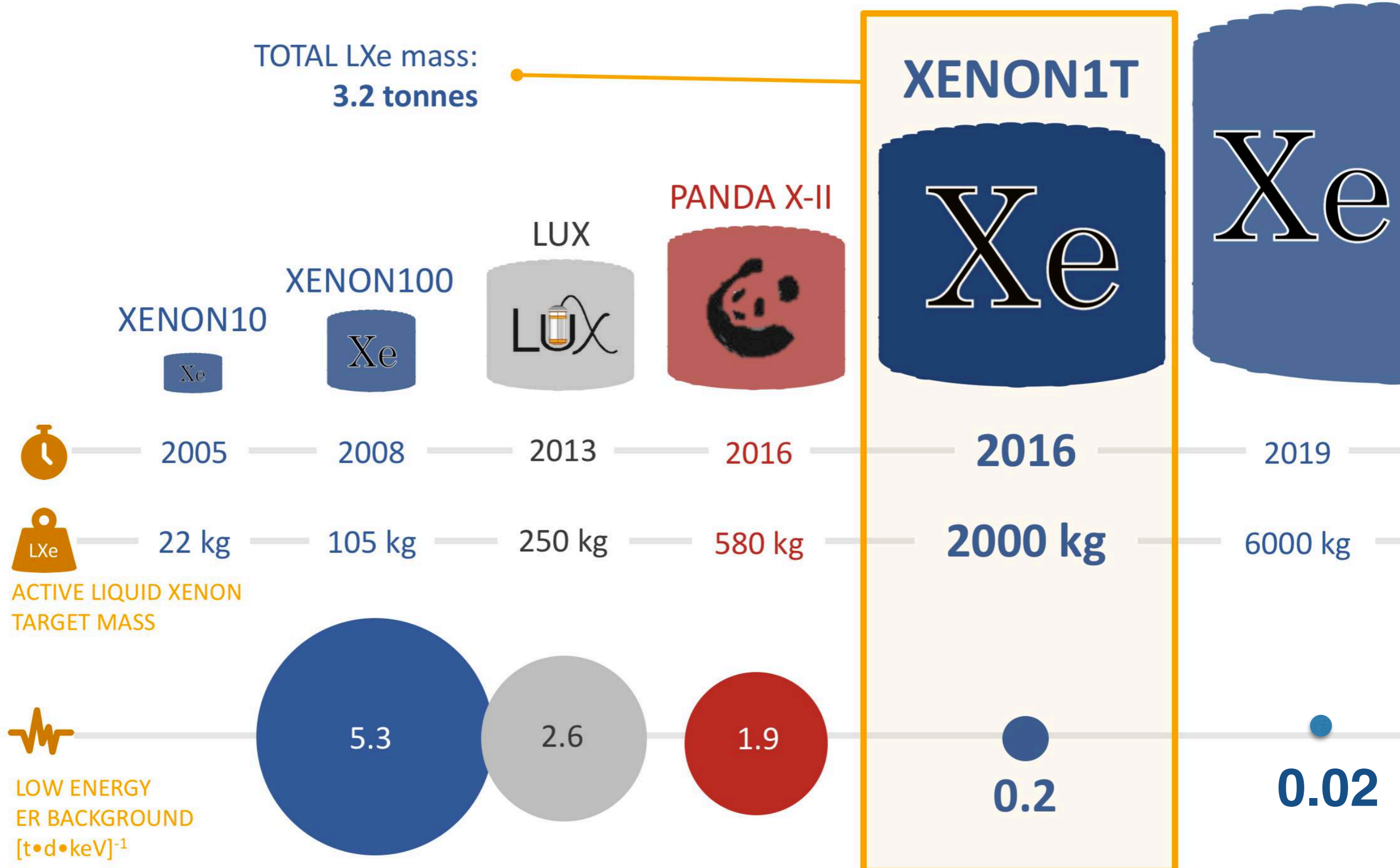
2019-2023

8 ton - 1.5 m drift

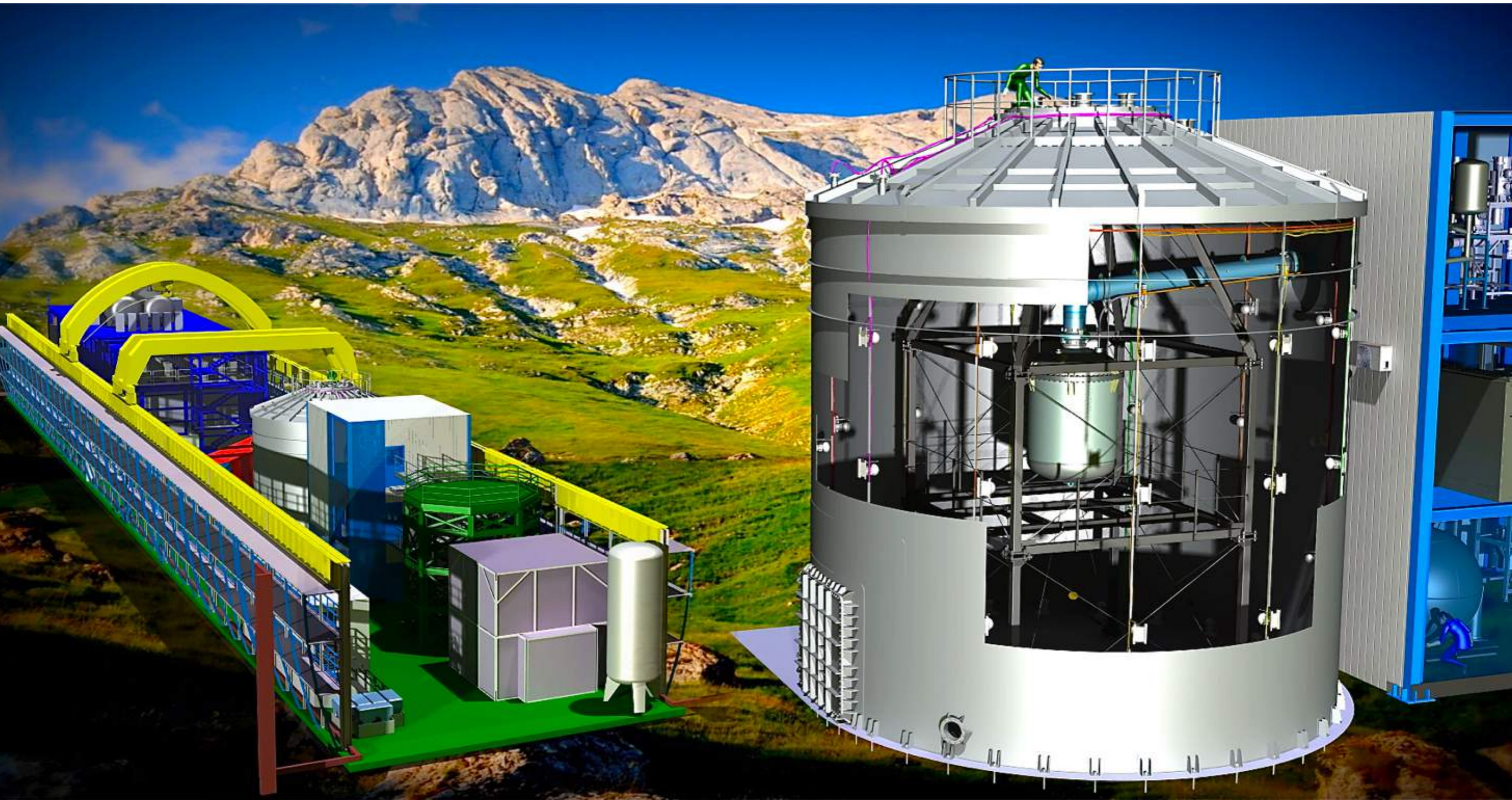
$\sim 10^{-48} \text{ cm}^2$

Impressive evolution of LXeTPCs

THE EVOLUTION OF SPECIES



The XENON1T Experiment @ LNGS

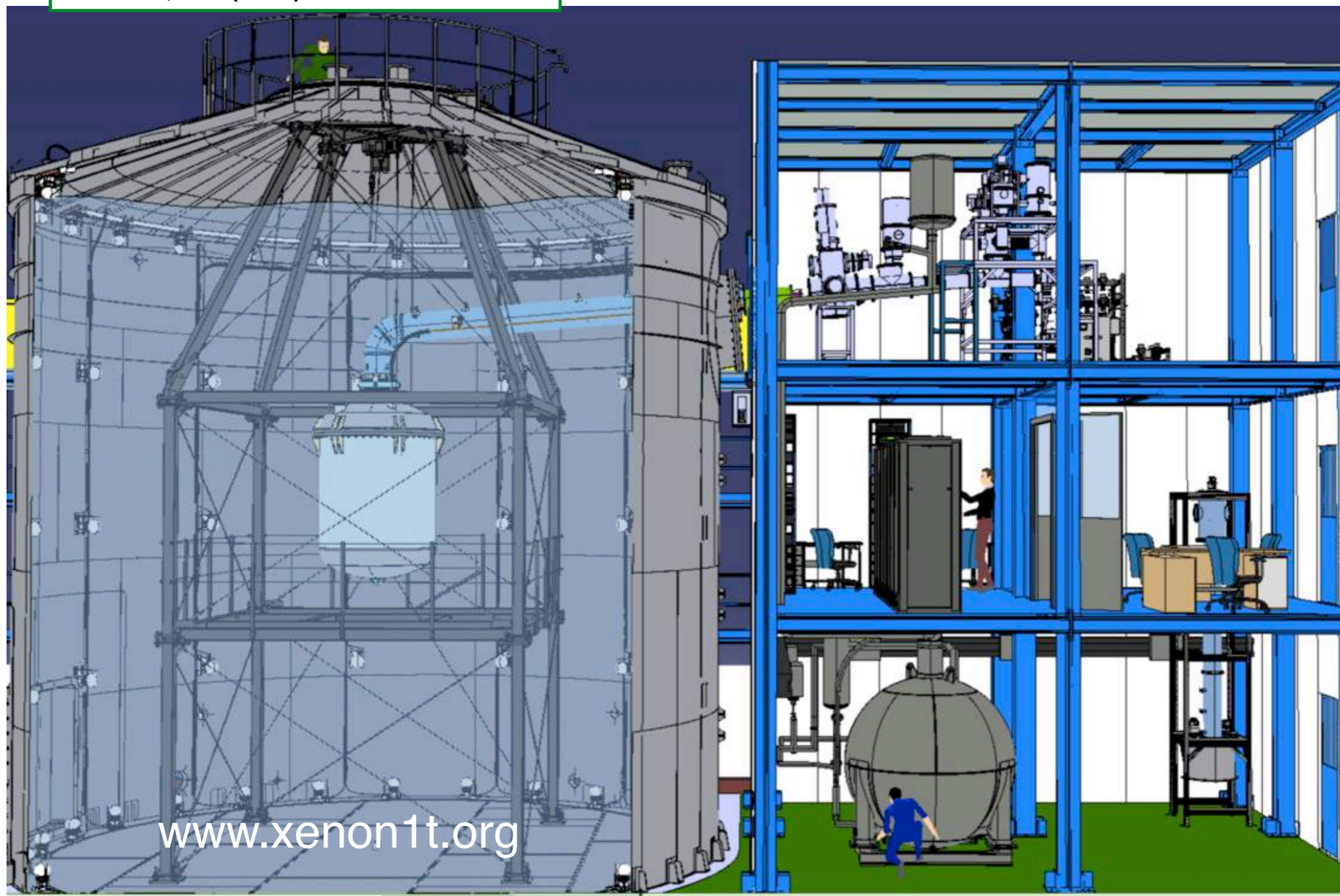


The XENON1T Experiment @ LNGS



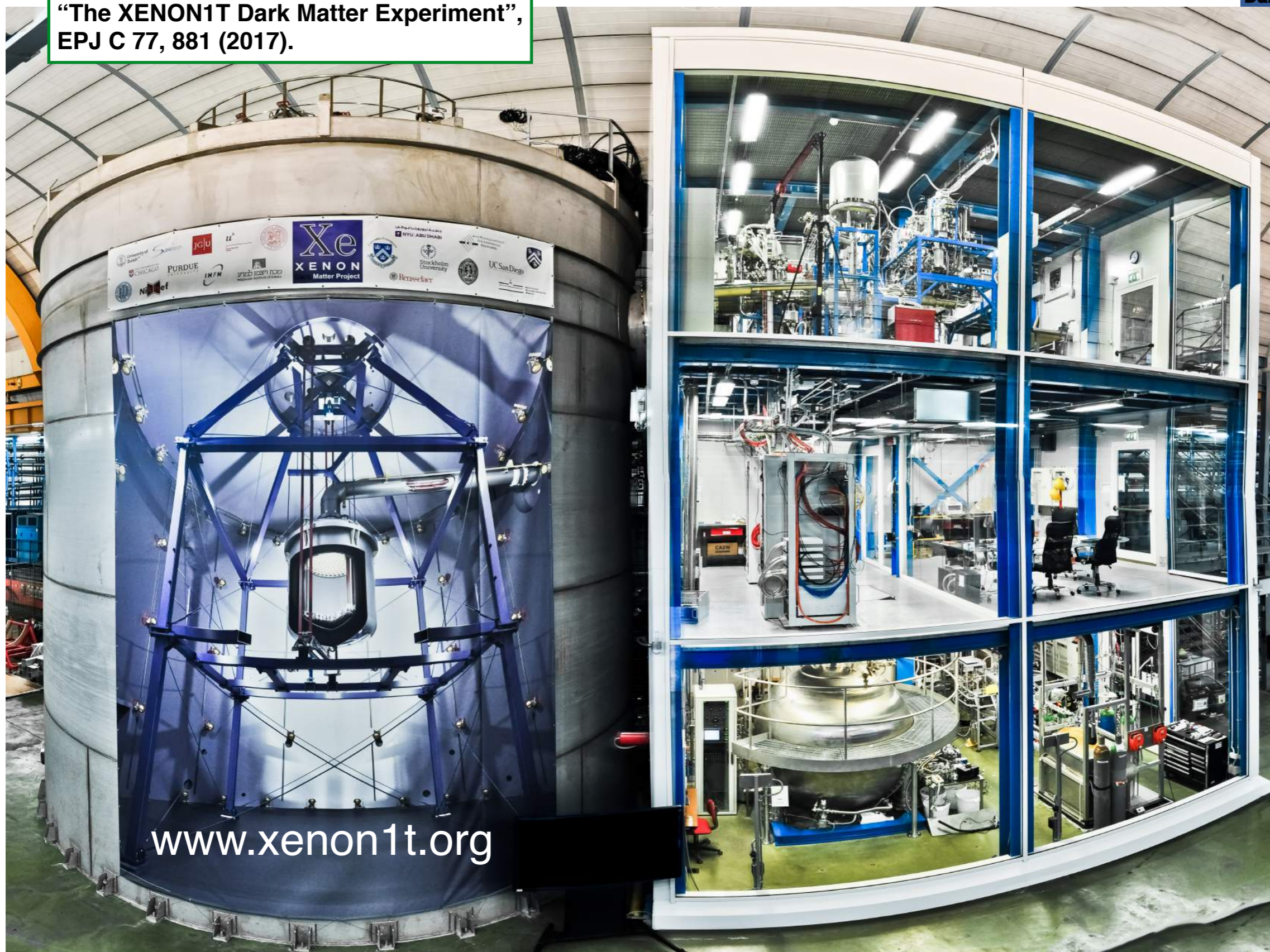
XENON1T: All Systems

E. Aprile et al.,
“The XENON1T Dark Matter Experiment”,
EPJ C 77, 881 (2017).



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www.xenon1t.org

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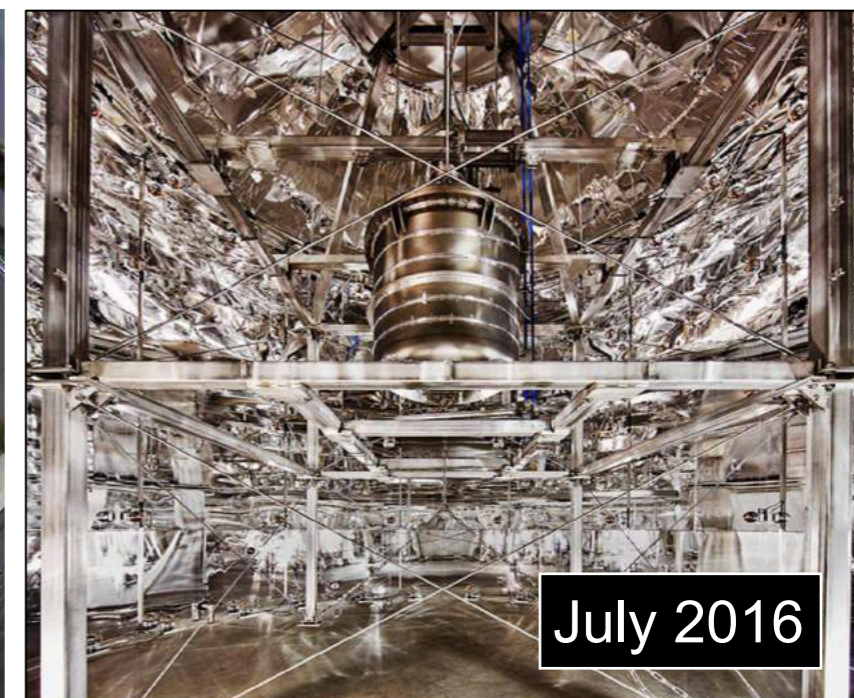


XENON1T: All Systems

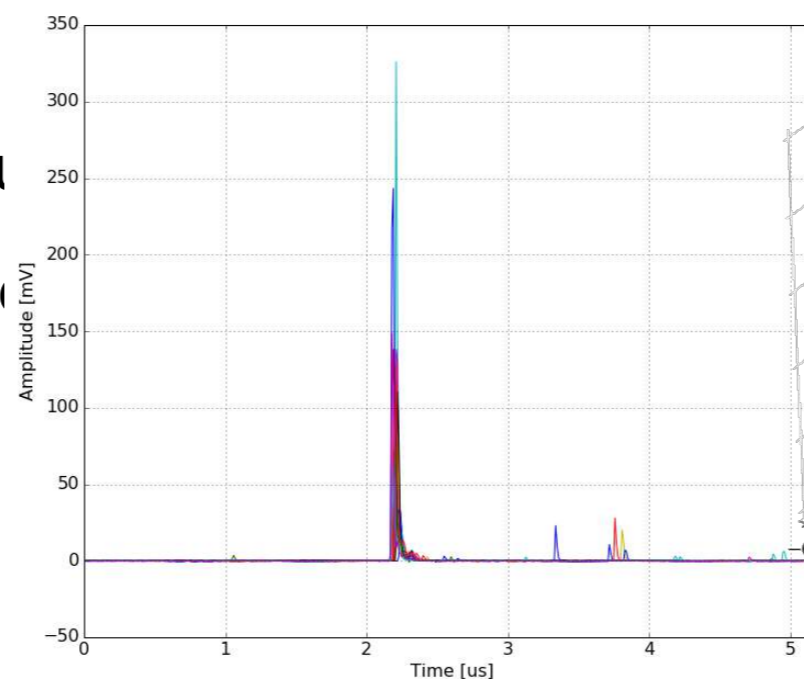
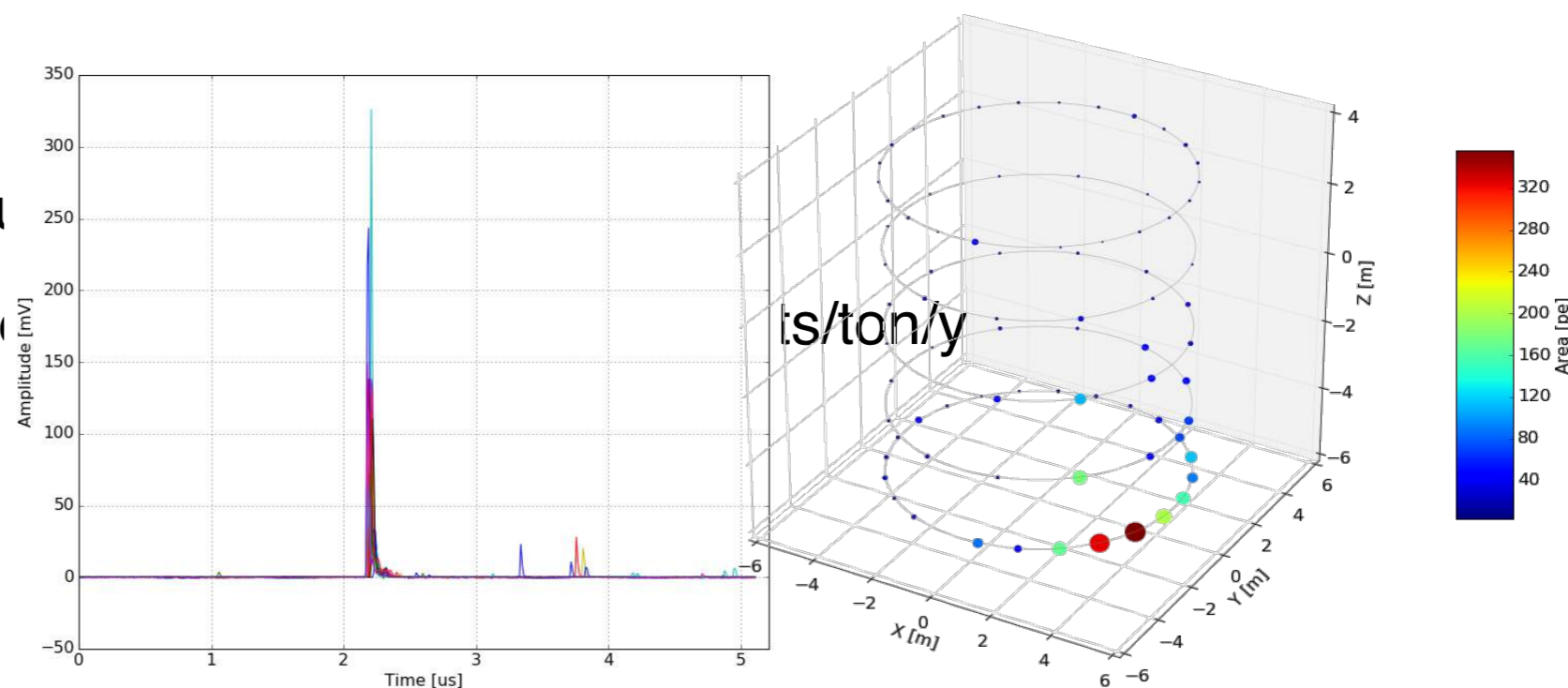
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“The XENON1T Dark Matter Experiment”,
EPJ C 77, 881 (2017).



Water Cherenkov Muon Veto



- 700 ton pure water instrumented
- Active shield against muons
- Trigger efficiency $> 99.5\%$ for muons
- Cosmogenic neutron background



JINST 9, 11007 (2014)

The XENON1T Time Projection Chamber



Understanding the Detector



The XENON1T Light Detection System

- 248 3-inch low-radioactivity Hamamatsu R11410-21 PMTs arranged in two arrays.
- 35% QE @ 178 nm
- each PMT digitized at 100MHz
- operating gain $1-5 \times 10^6$ @ 1.5kV stable within 1-2 %
- SPE acceptance ~94%
- High reflectivity PTFE lining of entire inner volume
- Highly-transparent (>90%) grid electrodes

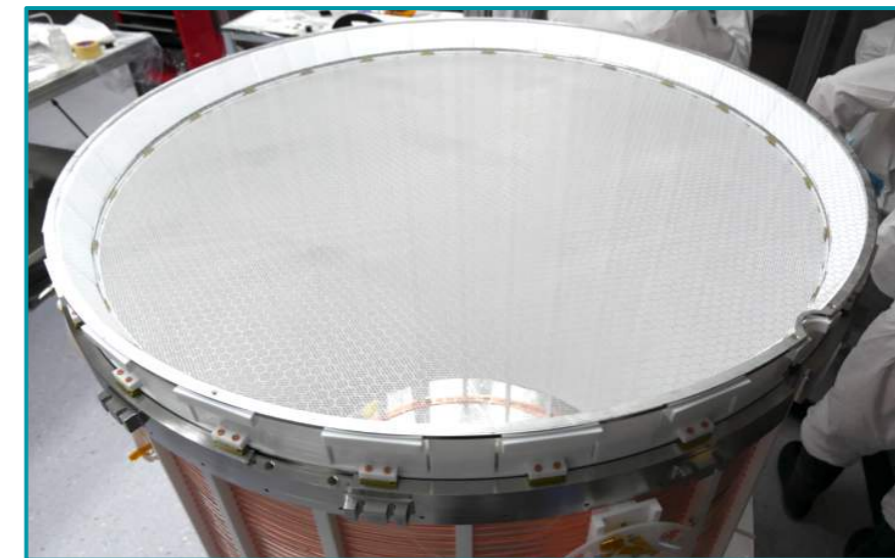
EPJC 75 (2015) 11, 546



127 PMTs in the top array



121 PMTs in the bottom array



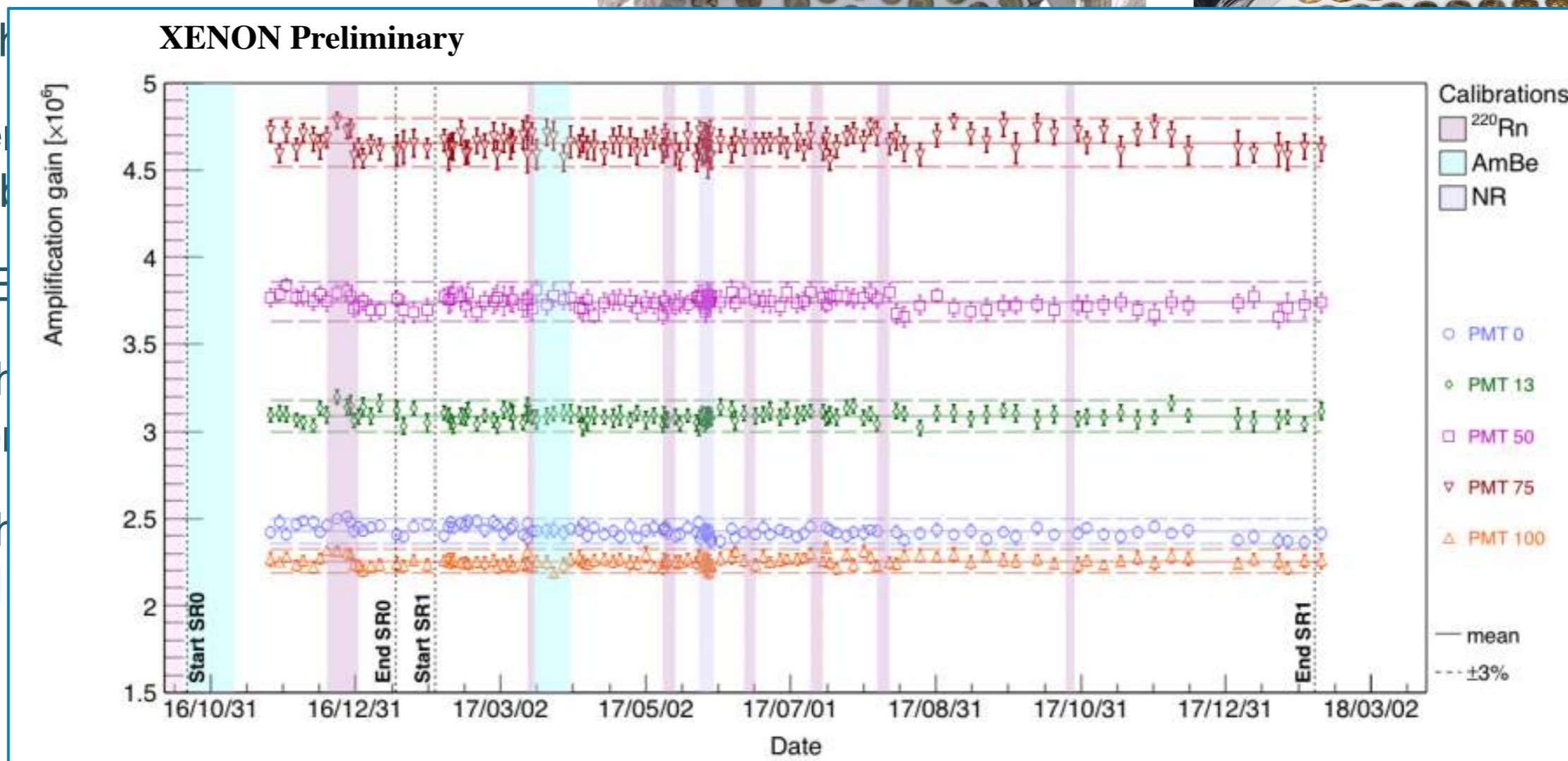
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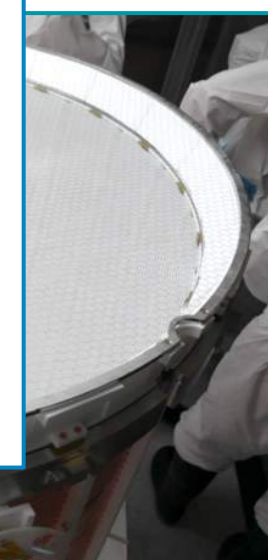


EPJC 75 (2015) 11, 546

- each
- open
- stable
- SPE
- High
- of e
- High
- grid

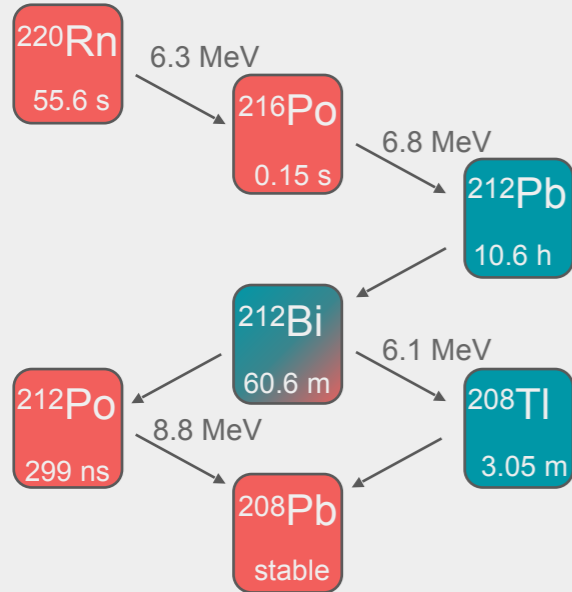


n array



Calibration Sources

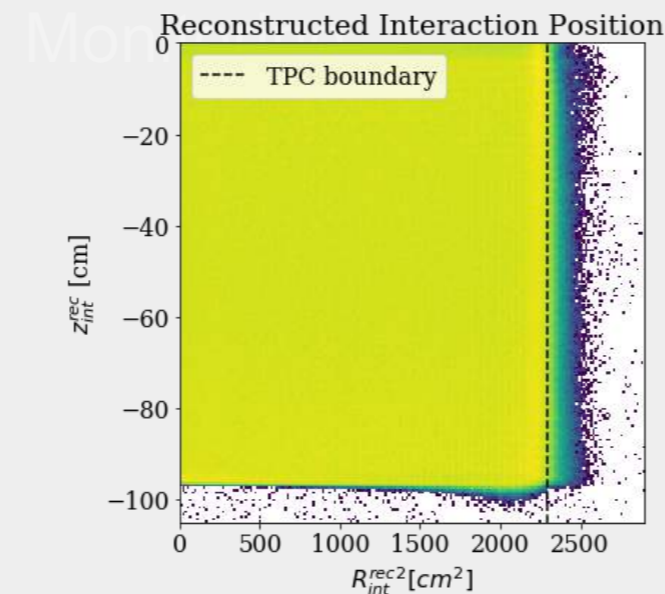
^{220}Rn : Low Energy ER



Type: Internal
Freq: 1-2 Months
Length: Few days

Stable background conditions after a couple days (10.6h longest $T_{1/2}$)

$^{83\text{m}}\text{Kr}$: Stability and

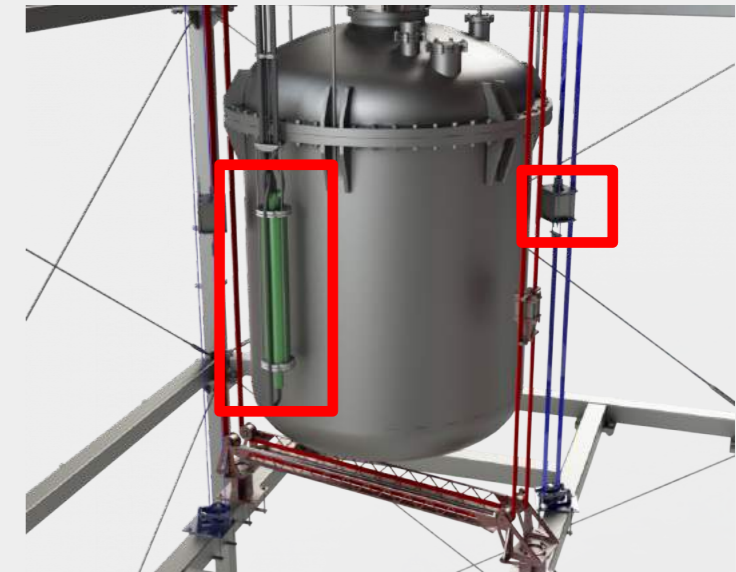


Type: Internal
Freq: 2-3 weeks
Length: 1 day
Half life: 1.83h

*9.4 keV and 32.1 keV lines
(~150 ns delay)
homogeneous in volume*

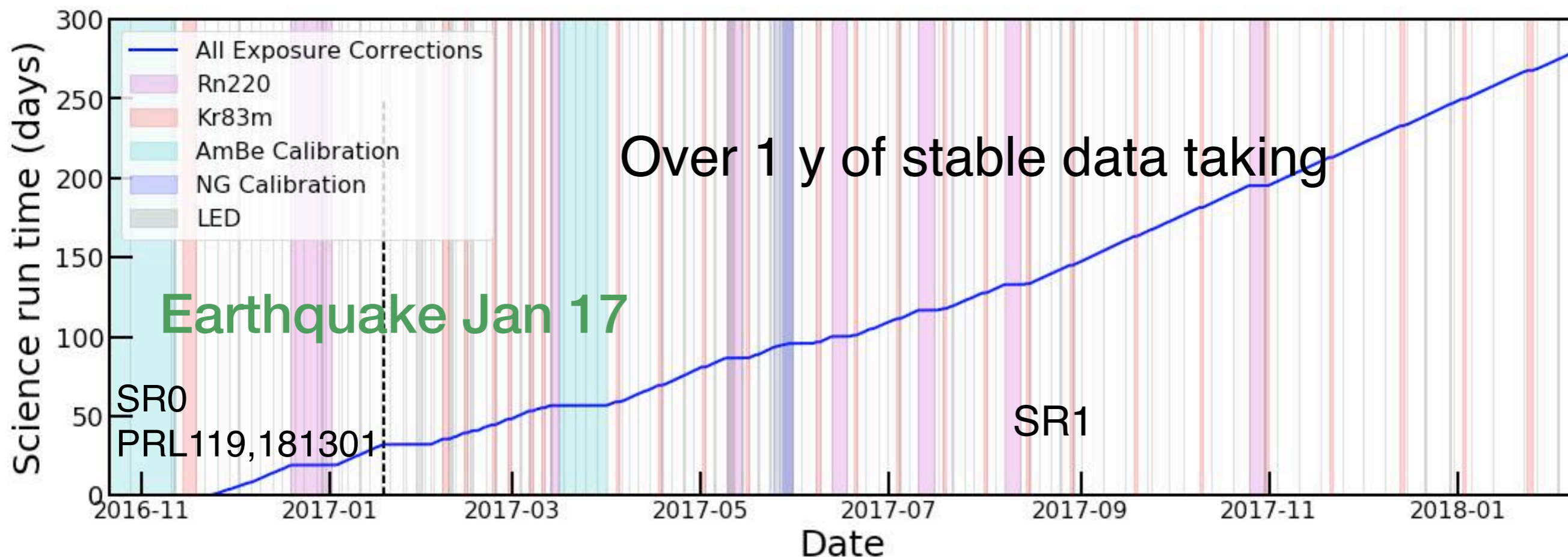
Neutrons: Signal

Response

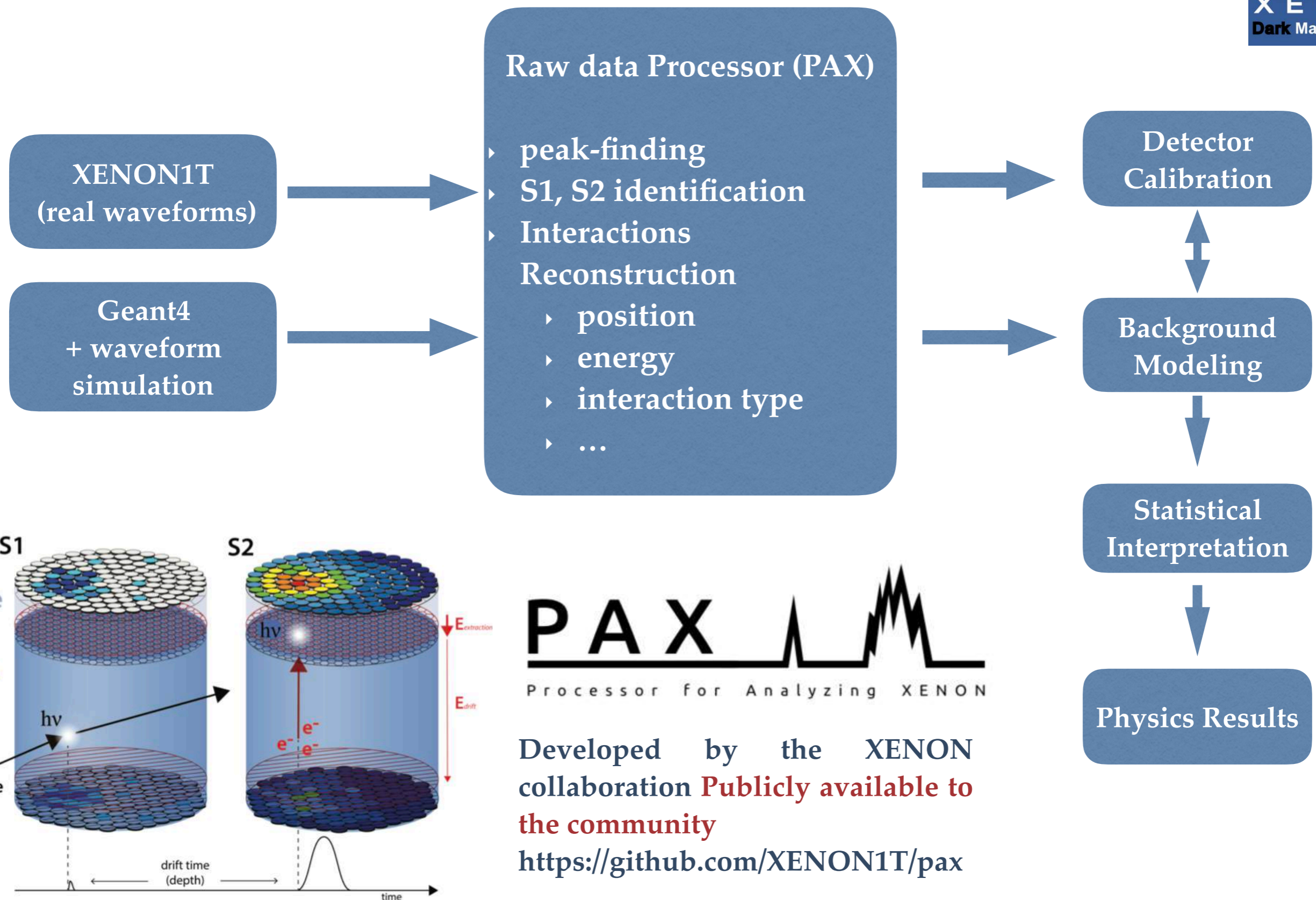


Type: External
Freq: As needed
Length: 6 weeks (AmBe)
2 days (generator)

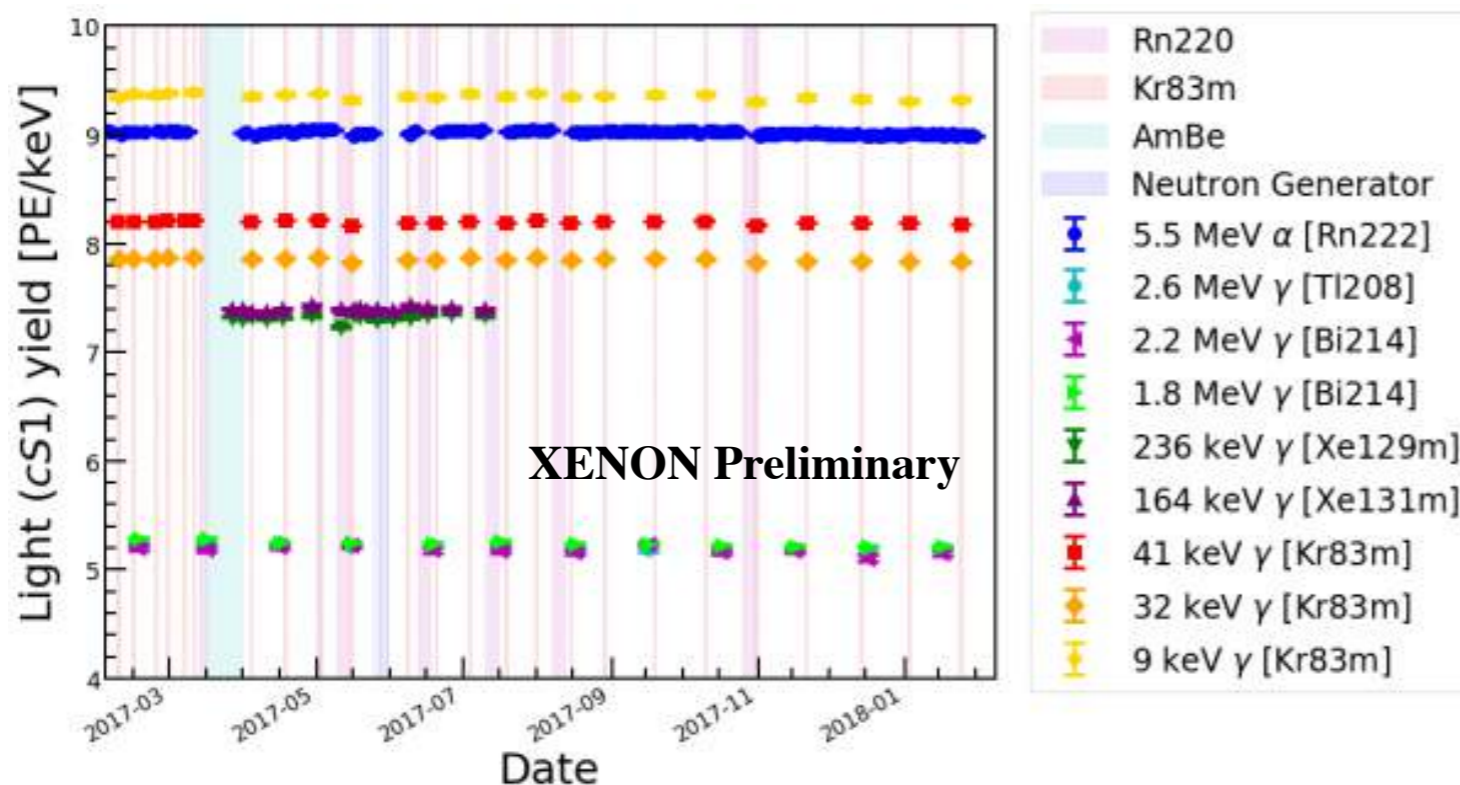
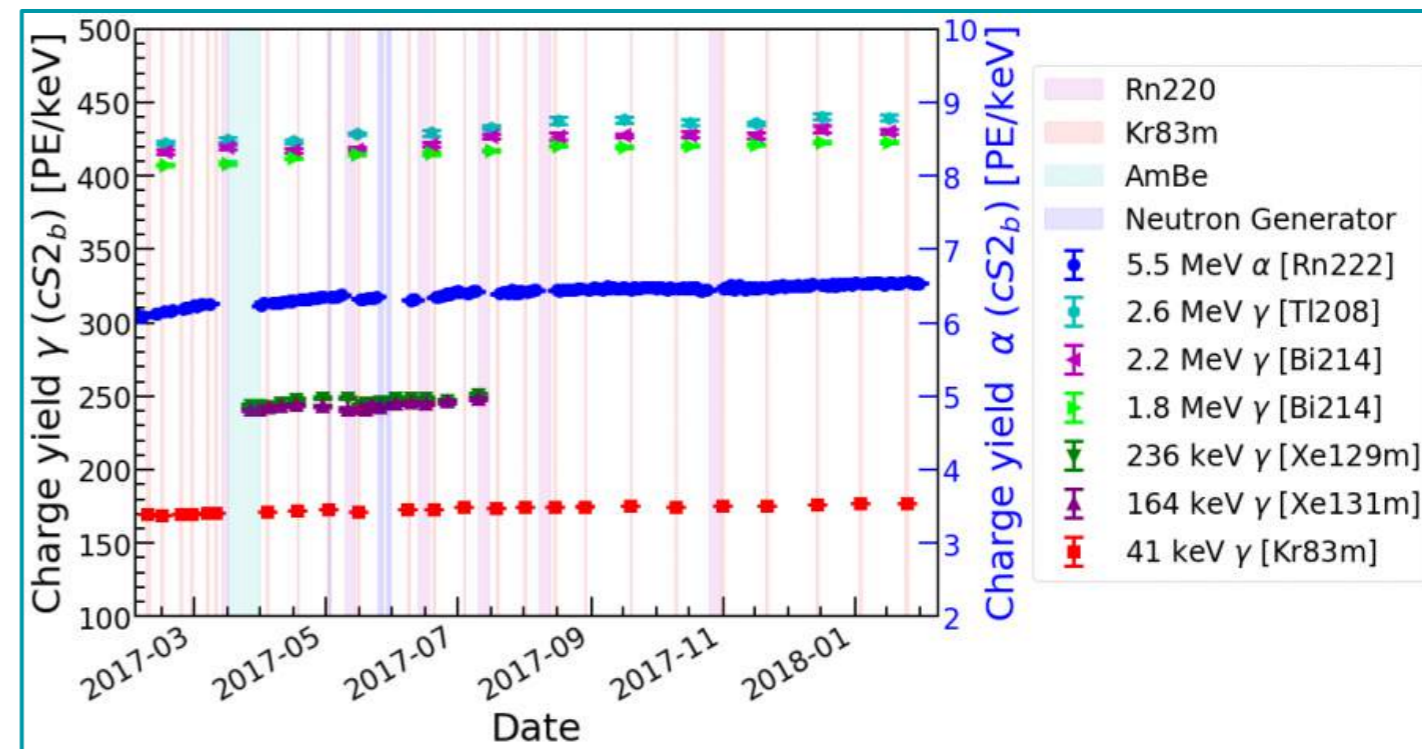
- 279 days high quality data (lifetime-corrected) spanning more than 1 year of stable detector's operation. The LXeTPC has been “cold” since Spring 2016
- 1 tonne x year exposure given 1.3 tonne fiducial volume: the largest reported to-date with this type of detector
- Experiment still running smoothly and collecting more data



Data Analysis: overview



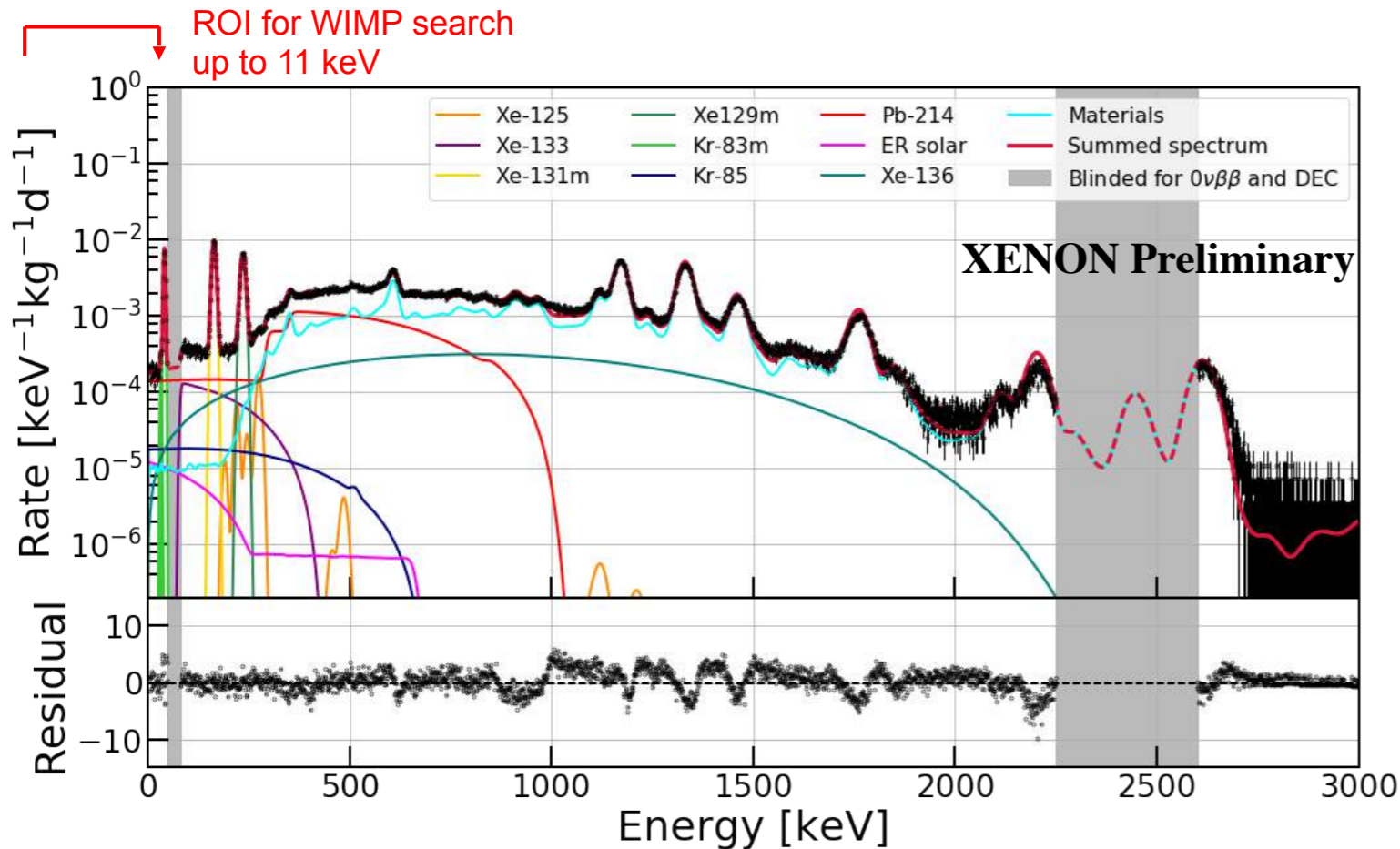
Position dependence of light (solid angle) and charge (attenuation length) signals very well understood through measurement with $^{83\text{m}}\text{Kr}$, ^{222}Rn alphas. Excellent agreement with optical Monte Carlo simulations and with model of purity evolution



Light and charge yield stability monitored with several sources:

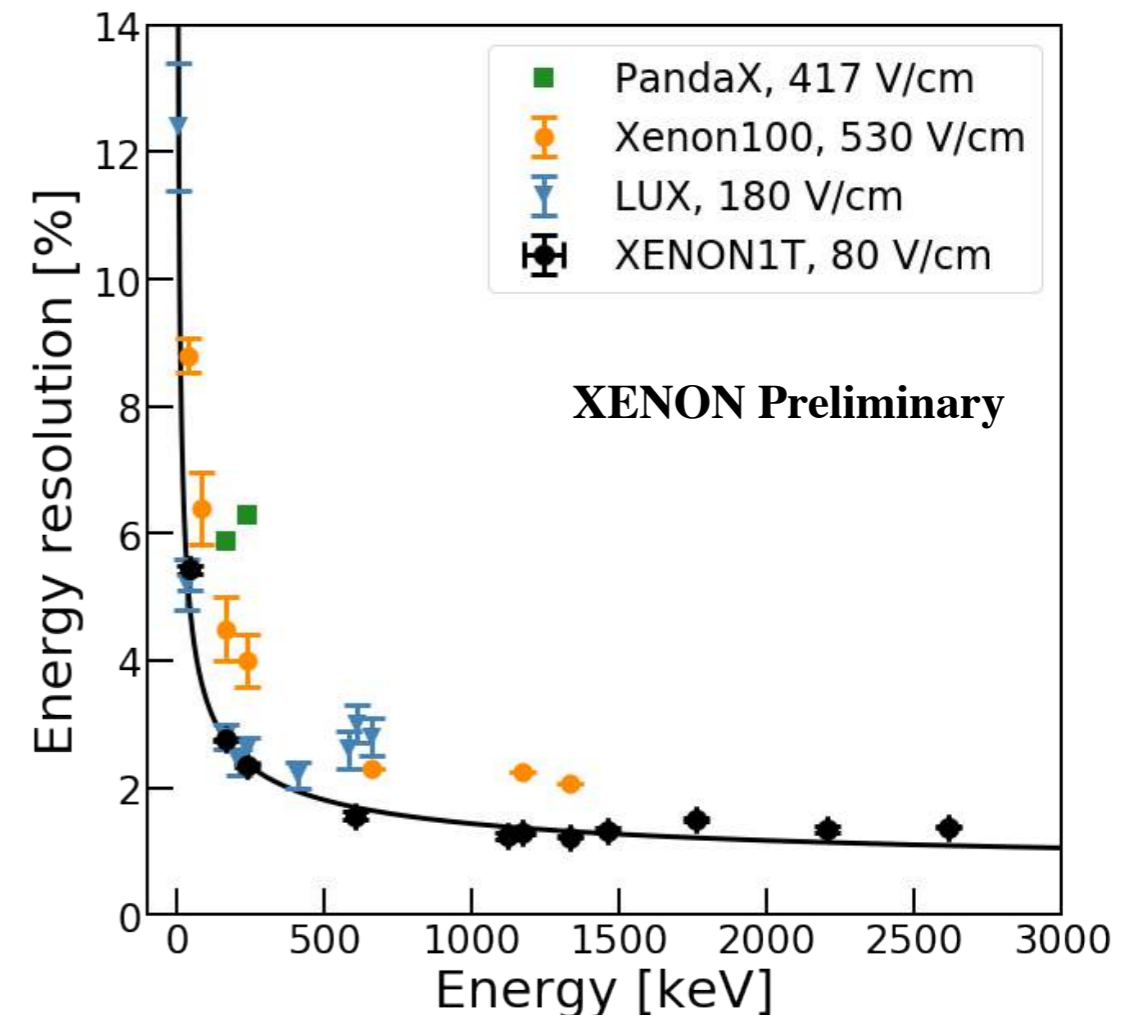
- ^{222}Rn daughters
- Activated Xe after neutron calibrations
- $^{83\text{m}}\text{Kr}$ calibrations
- Stability is within a few %

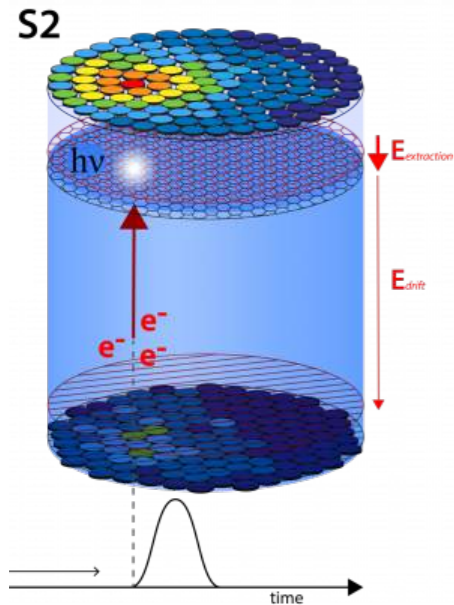
Energy Resolution



- Good agreement between predicted and measured background spectrum
- Kr: 0.66 ppt; Pb214: ~ 10 μ Bq/kg
- Gammas based on screening measurements

- Energy reconstructed from anti correlated S1 and S2. Excellent linearity from keV to MeV
- Best energy resolution measured with this large LXeTPC ~1.6% resolution (sigma) at 2.5 MeV





X-Y reconstruction via **neural network**:

- **Input:** charge/channel top array
- **Training:** Monte Carlo simulation

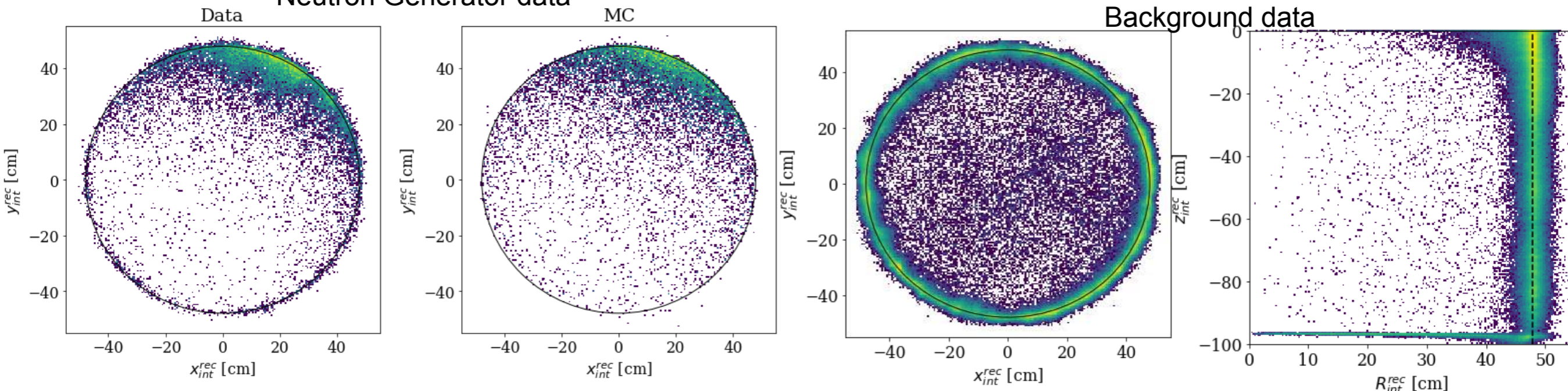
Position resolution using ^{83}mKr

- Two interactions (9, 31 keV), same x-y
- Position resolution (1-2 cm)
- PMT diameter (7.62 cm)

Position corrections using ^{83}mKr

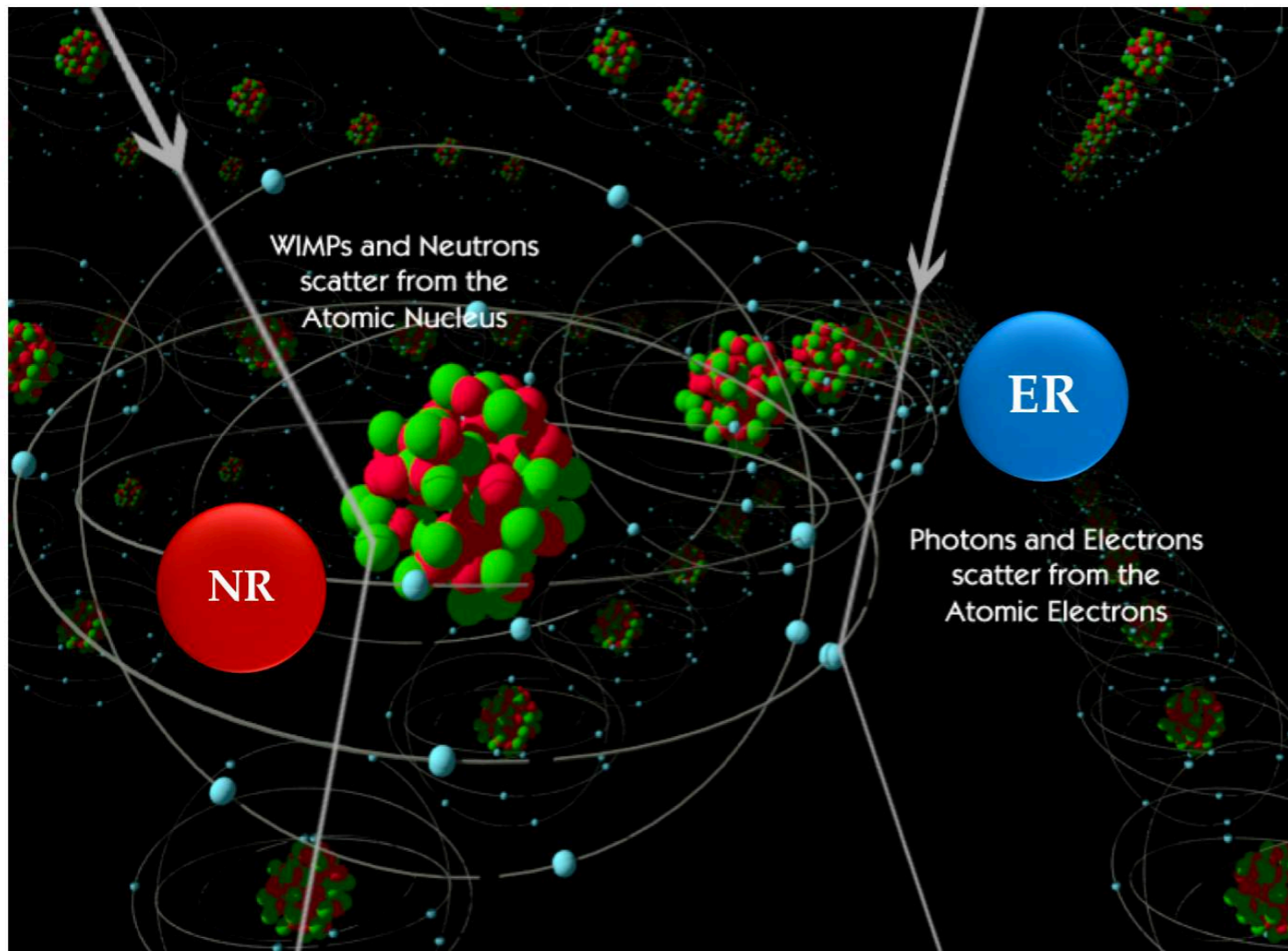
- **Drift field distortion**
- Localized inhomogeneities from inactive PMTs
- Data-derived correction verified by comparison to MC with several event sources

Neutron Generator data



Understanding the Backgrounds





Electron recoils (ER):

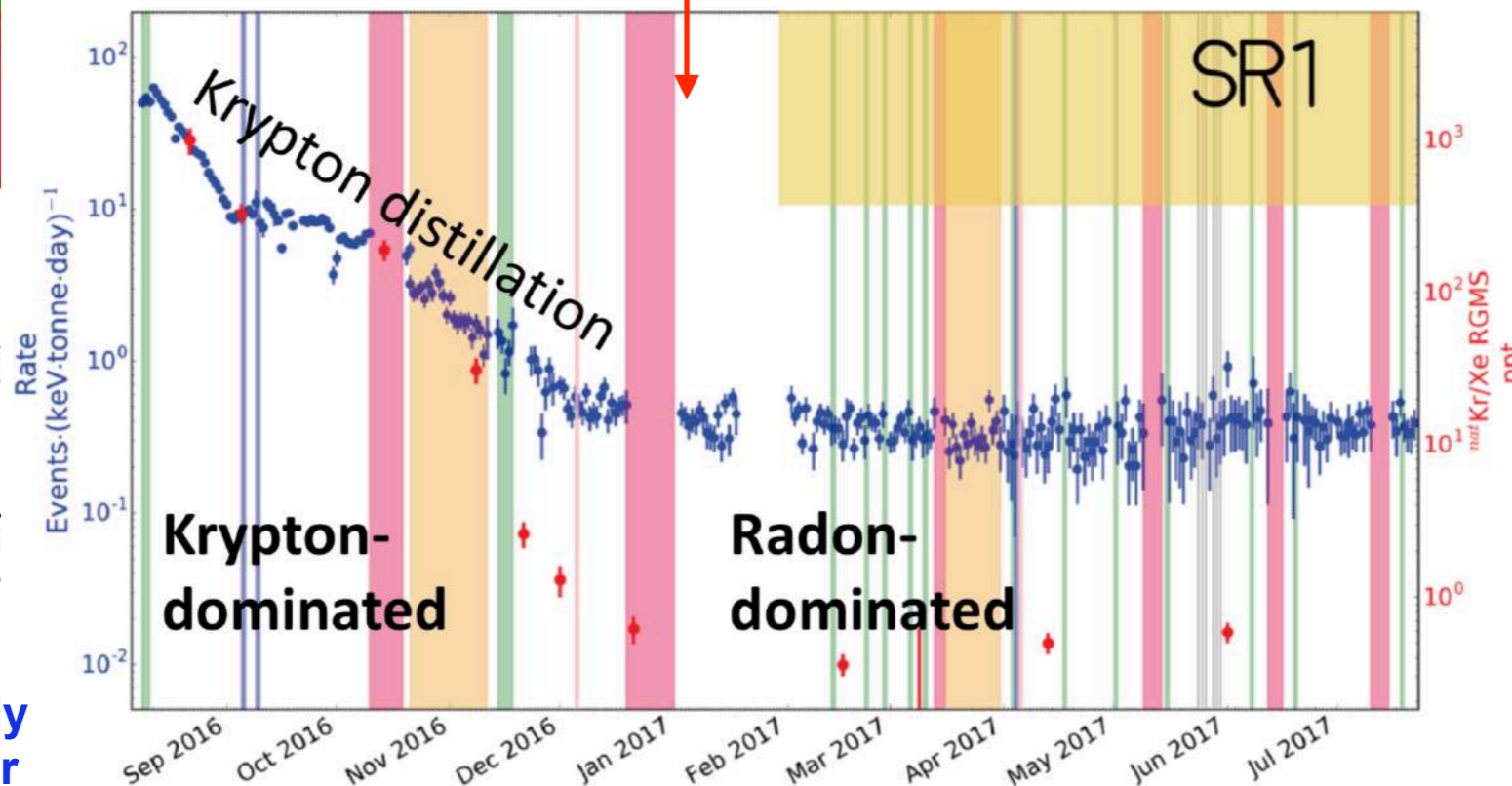
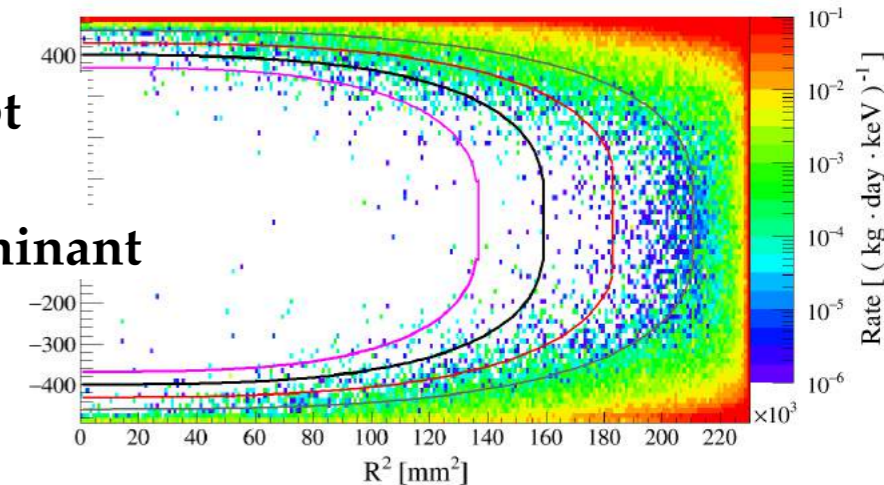
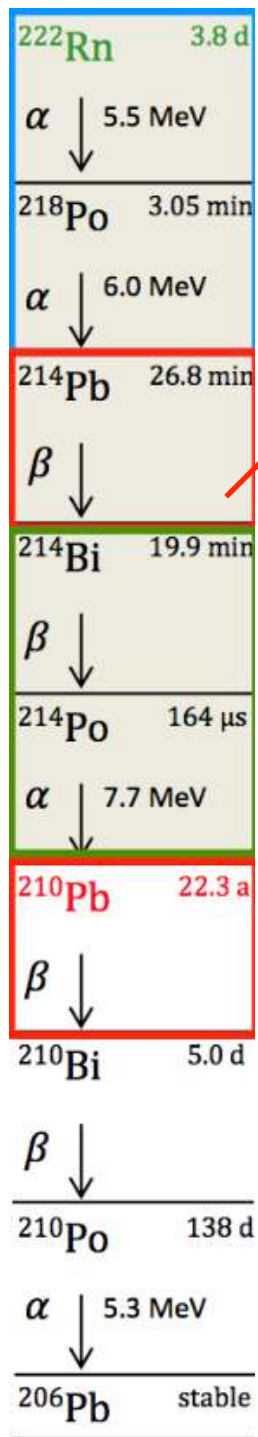
- low energy Compton scatters from the radioactive contaminants in the detector components: U and Th chains, ^{40}K , ^{60}Co , ^{137}Cs .
- Intrinsic contaminants: β decays of ^{222}Rn daughters, ^{85}Kr , ^{136}Xe .
- Elastic scattering of solar neutrinos off electrons.

Nuclear Recoils (NR):

- Radiogenic neutrons: spontaneous fission and (α, n) reaction from the U and Th chains in the detector components.
- Muon-induced neutrons.
- Coherent scattering of neutrinos (mostly solar) off the Xe nuclei.

Electronic Recoil Backgrounds

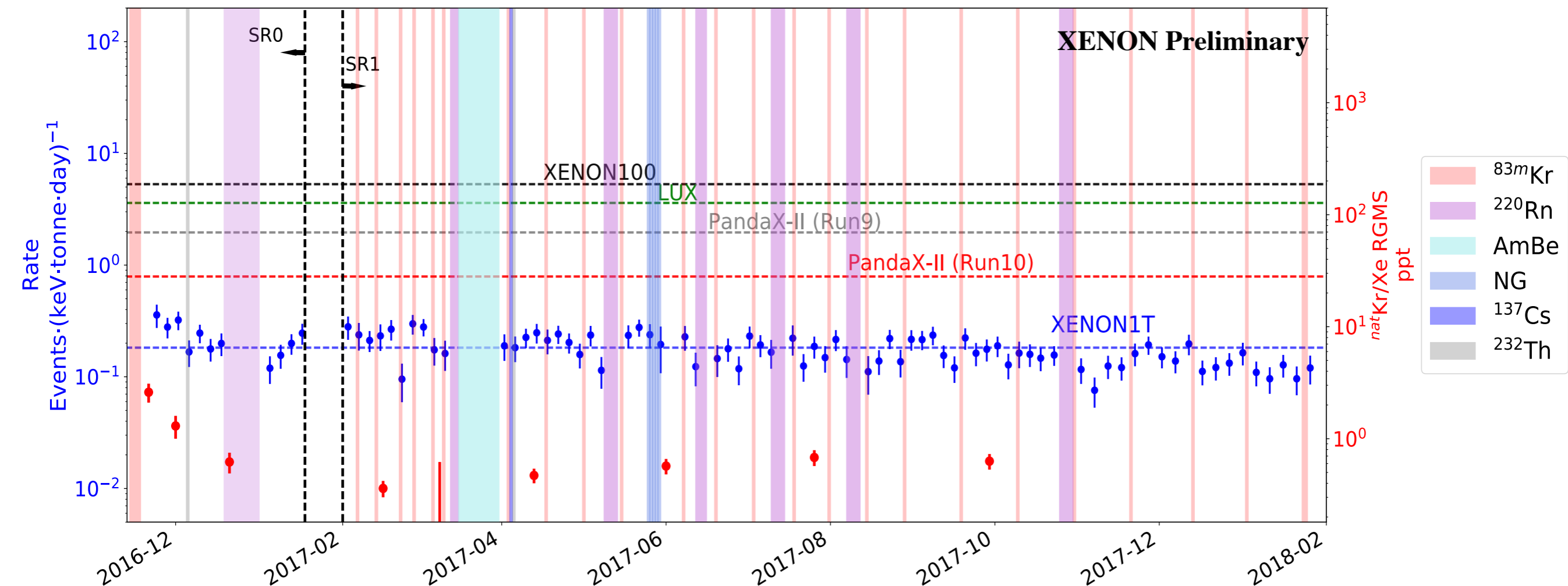
- Rn222 : 10 uBq/kg
 - Achieved with careful surface emanation control and measurements
 - Further reduction with online cryogenic distillation
- Kr85 : sub-ppt Kr/Xe
 - Achieved with online cryogenic distillation to 0.66 ppt
- Materials radioactivity (HPGe gamma screening): subdominant



Source	Rate [t ⁻¹ y ⁻¹]	Fraction [%]
^{222}Rn	620 ± 60	85,4
^{85}Kr	31 ± 6	4,3
Solar ν	36 ± 1	4,9
Materials	30 ± 3	4,1
^{136}Xe	9 ± 1	1,4
Total	720 ± 60	

Successfully
distilled Kr
to ~0.66 ppt

ER Background Evolution



Predicted: (considering 10 uBq/kg of ^{214}Pb , and on average 0.66 ppt of Kr):

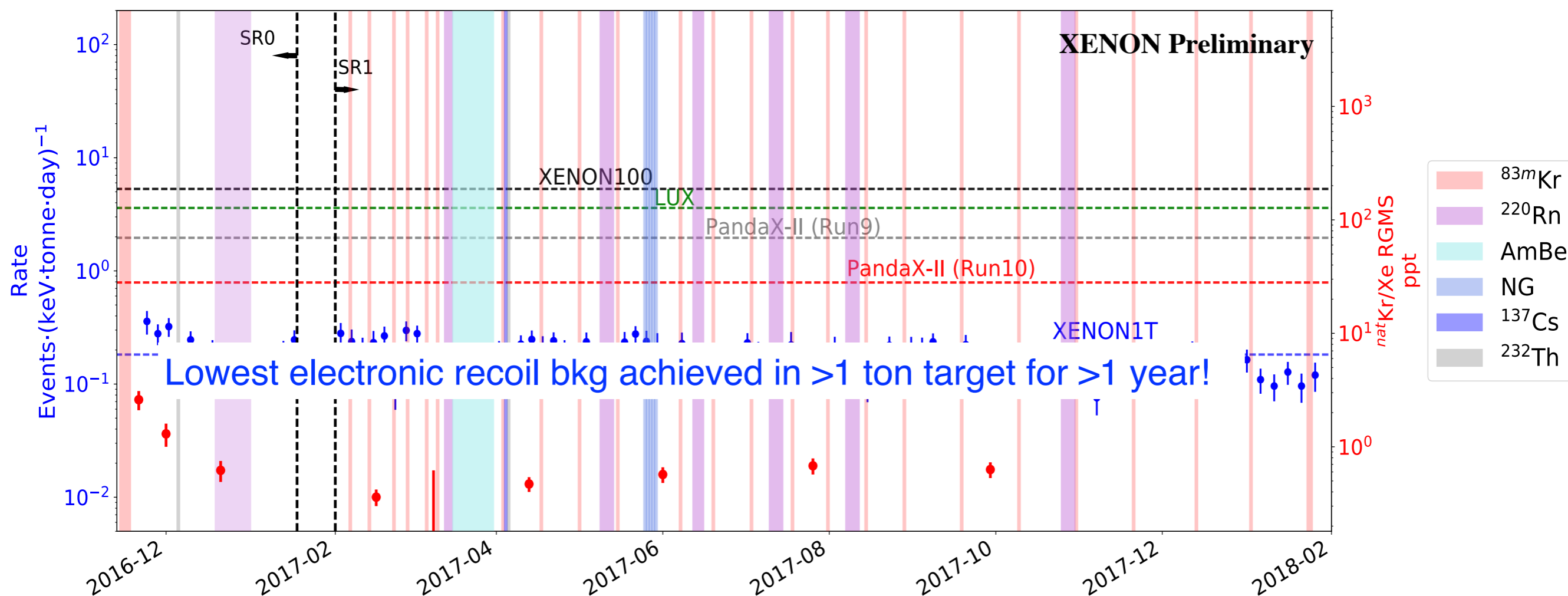
(75 ± 6) events / (ton·year·keV)

Measured:

$(82^{+5}_{-3} \text{ (syst.)} \pm 3 \text{ (stat)})$ events / (ton·year·keV)

Lowest ER background ever achieved in a DM detector !

ER Background Evolution



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Lowest ER background ever achieved in a DM detector !

Nuclear Recoil Backgrounds

Cosmogenic μ -induced neutrons significantly reduced by rock overburden and muon veto

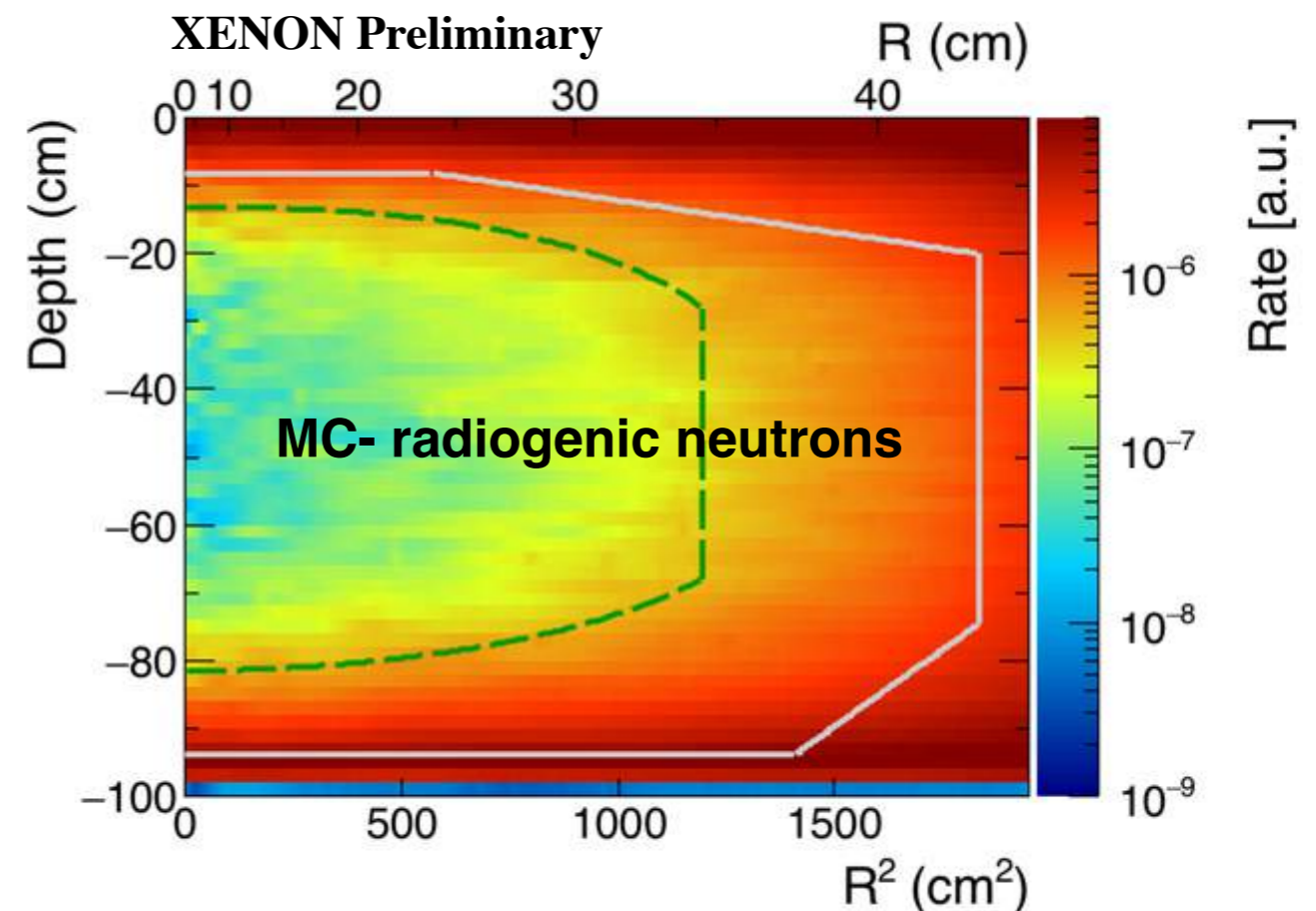
Coherent elastic ν -nucleus scattering, constrained by ^8B neutrino flux and measurements, is an irreducible background at very low energy (1 keV)

Radiogenic neutrons from (α, n) reactions and fission from ^{238}U and ^{232}Th : reduced via careful materials selection, event multiplicity and fiducialization

Source	Rate [$\text{t}^{-1} \text{y}^{-1}$]	Fraction [%]
Radiogenic n	0.6 ± 0.1	96,5
$\text{CE}\nu\text{NS}$	0,012	2,0
Cosmogenic n	< 0.01	< 2.0

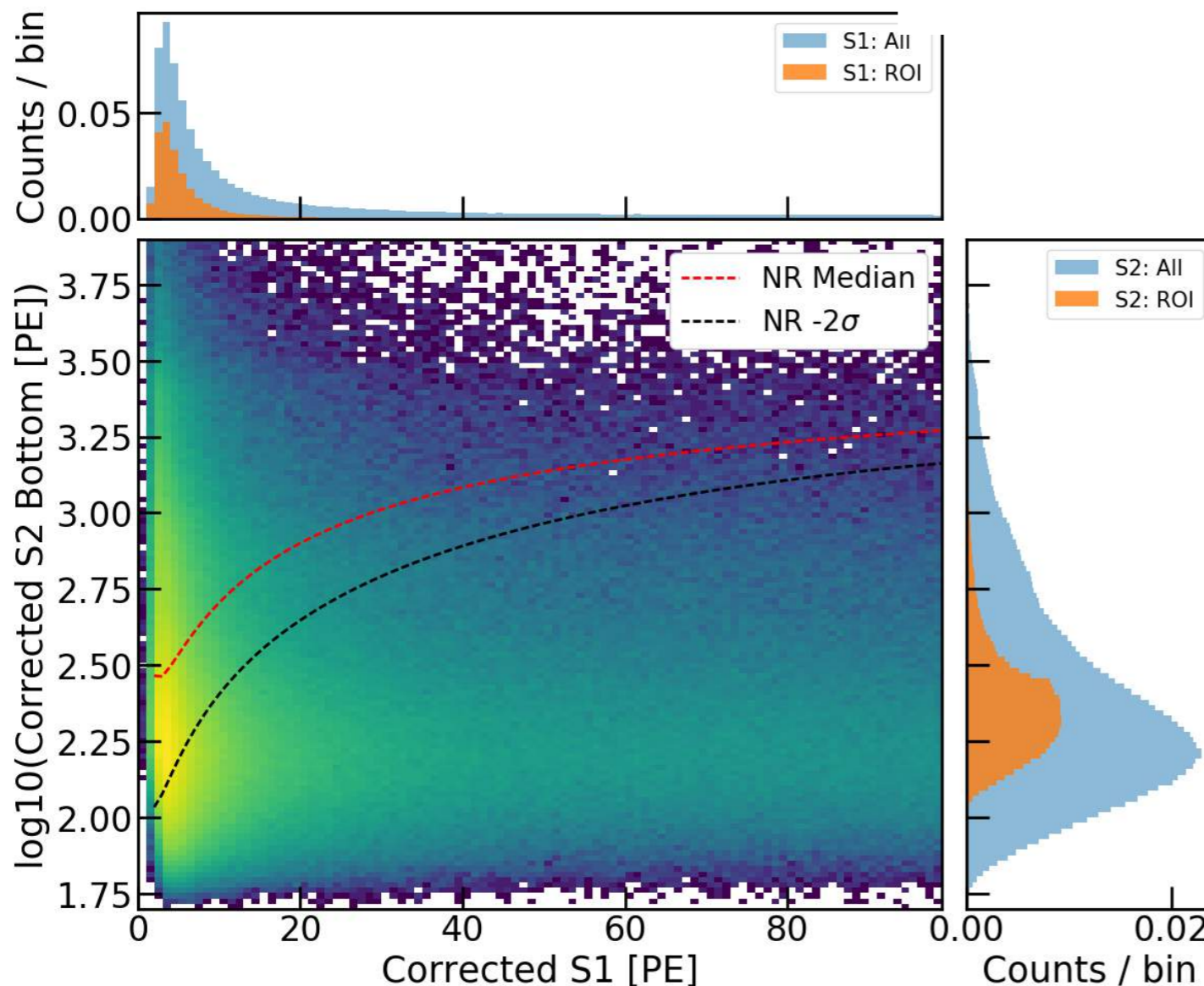
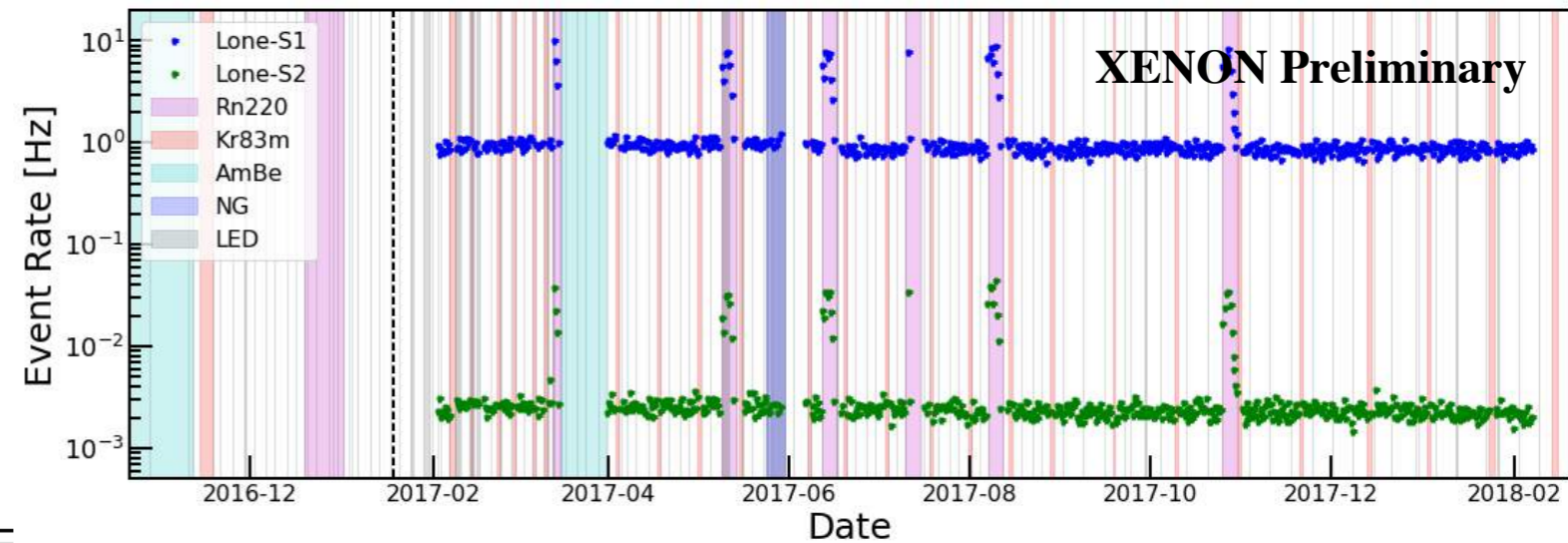
(Expectations in 4-50 keV search window, 1t FV, single scatters)

JCAP04 (2016) 027



Accidental Coincidence Background

A “lone” S1 or S2 signal produced in light and charge insensitive regions of the TPC may be accidentally combined to produce fake events in signal region



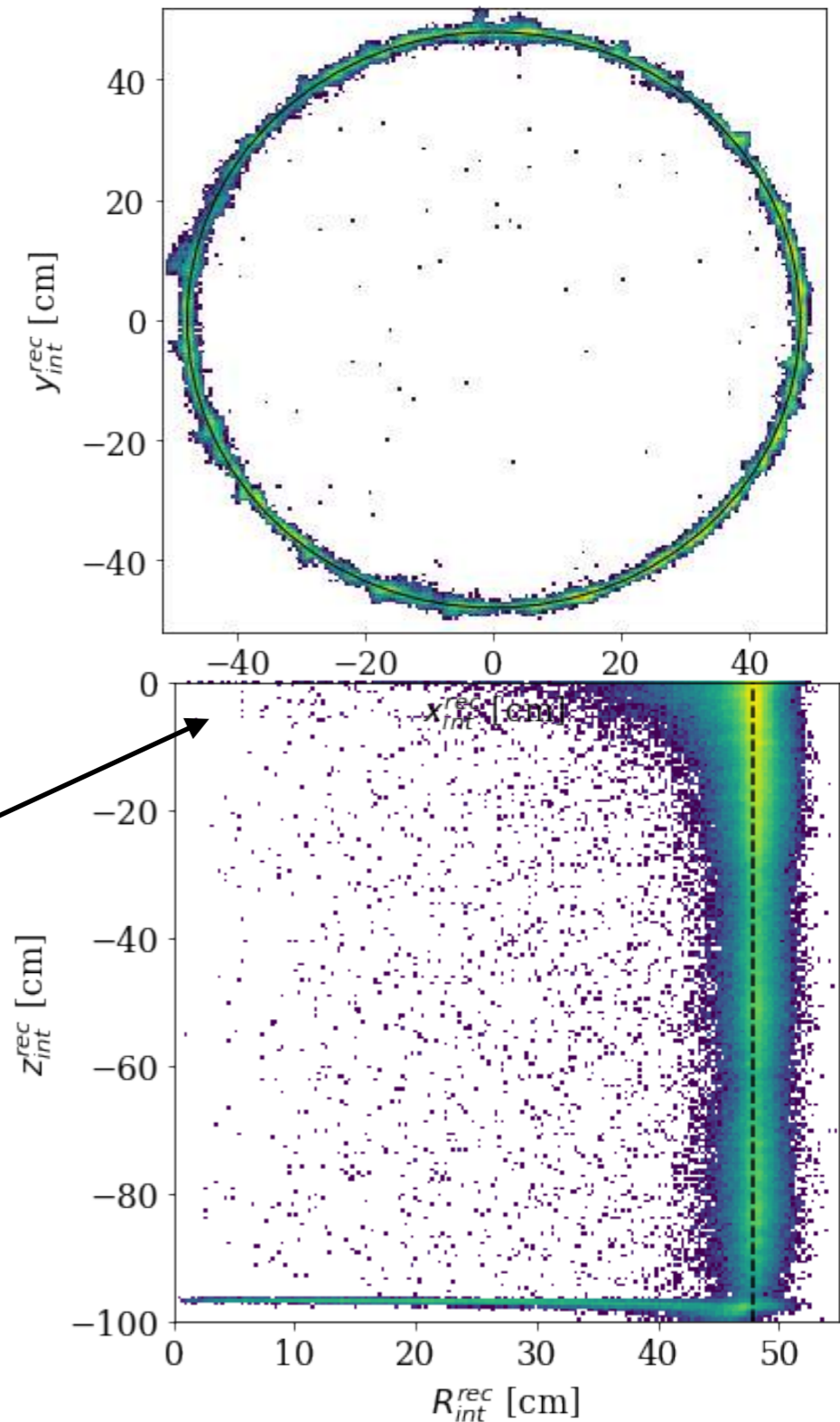
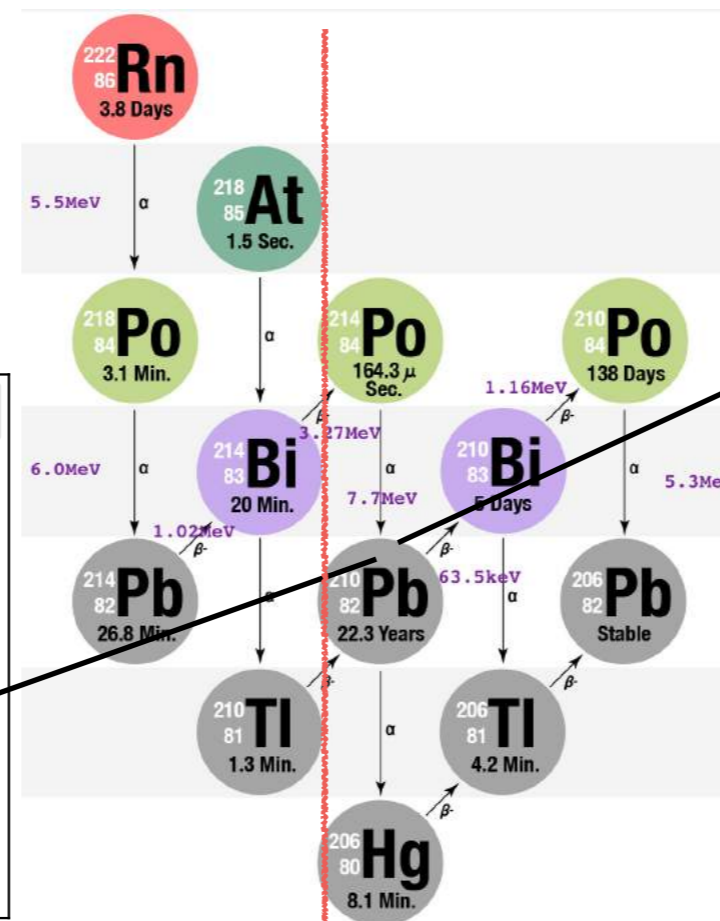
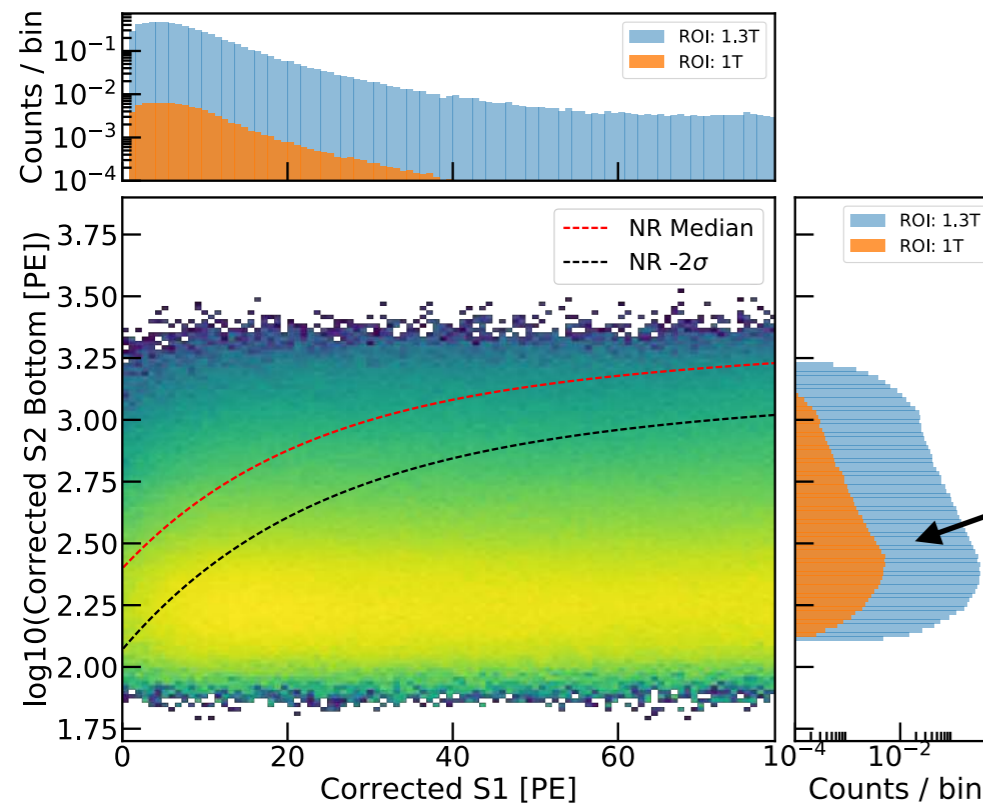
Empirical model shows an overall small rate in the ROI for NRs

- Select unpaired S1/S2 from data
- Randomly pair to form events
- Apply selection conditions from analysis
- Performance verified with ^{220}Rn data and background sidebands

Surface Background

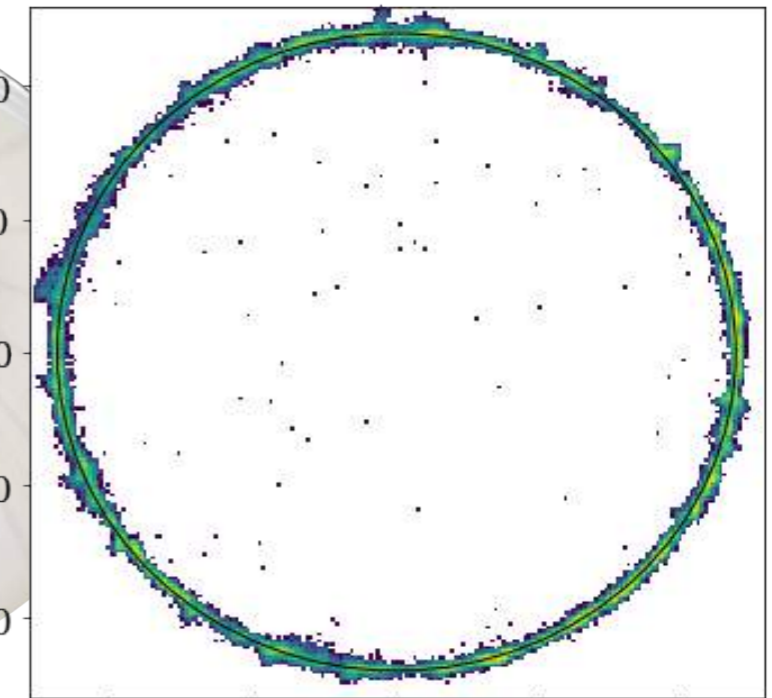
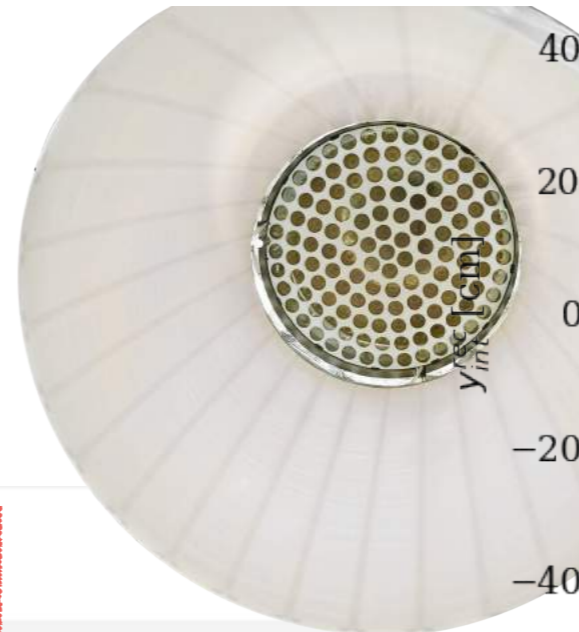
- Pb210 and Po210 plate-out on PTFE surface produce events with reduced S2 -> can be mis-reconstructed into NR signal region
- Suppressed by fiducialization of volume
- Data-driven model derived from surface event control samples

XENON Preliminary

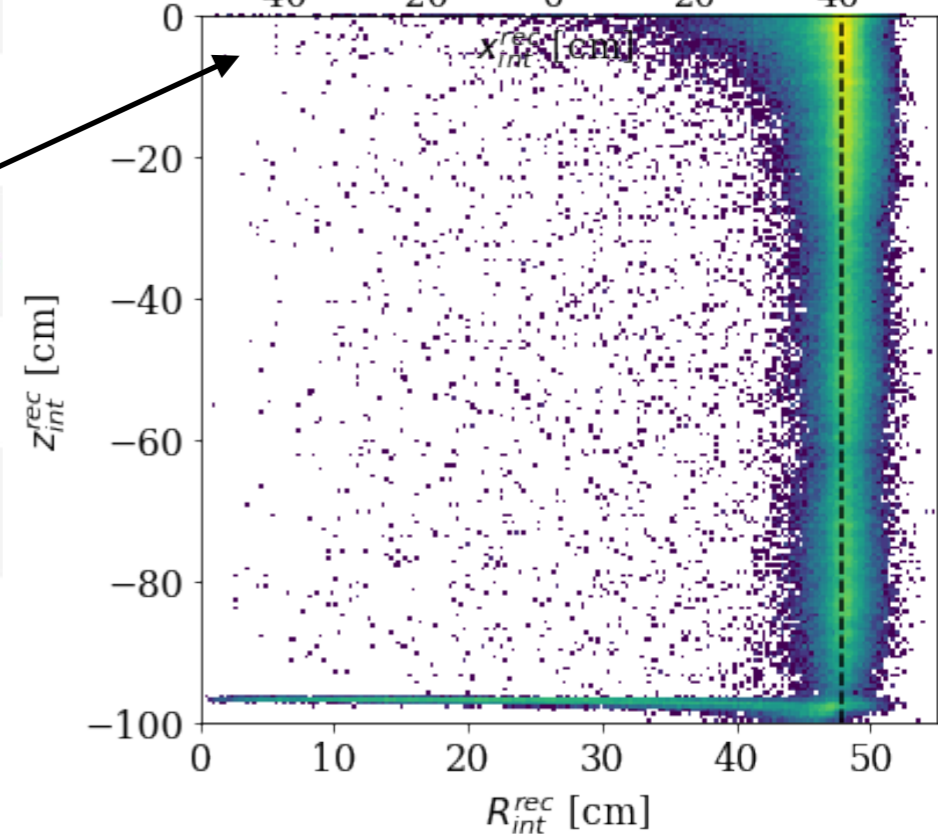
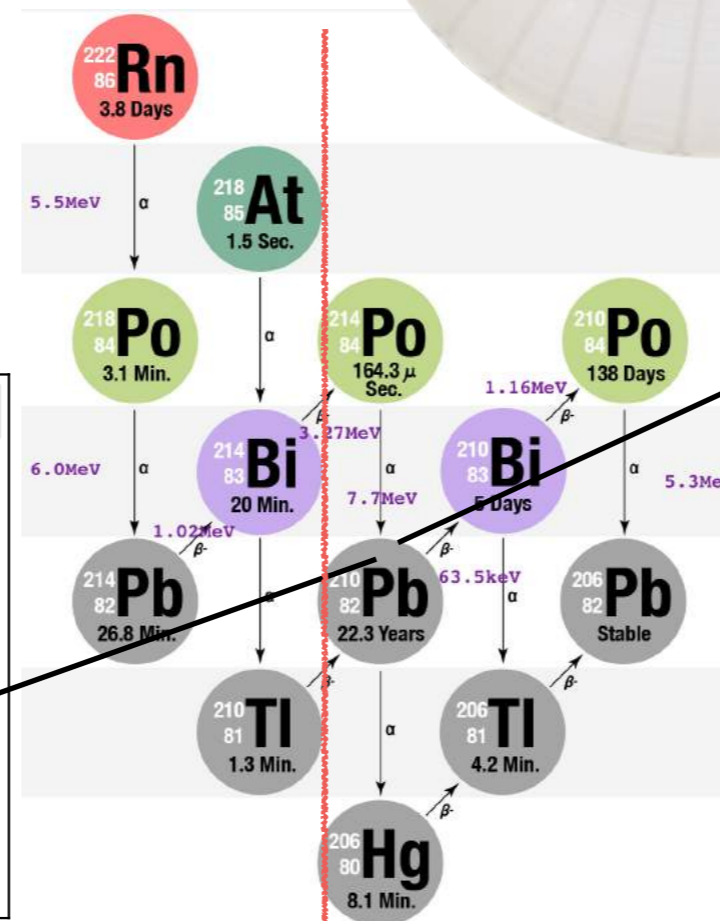
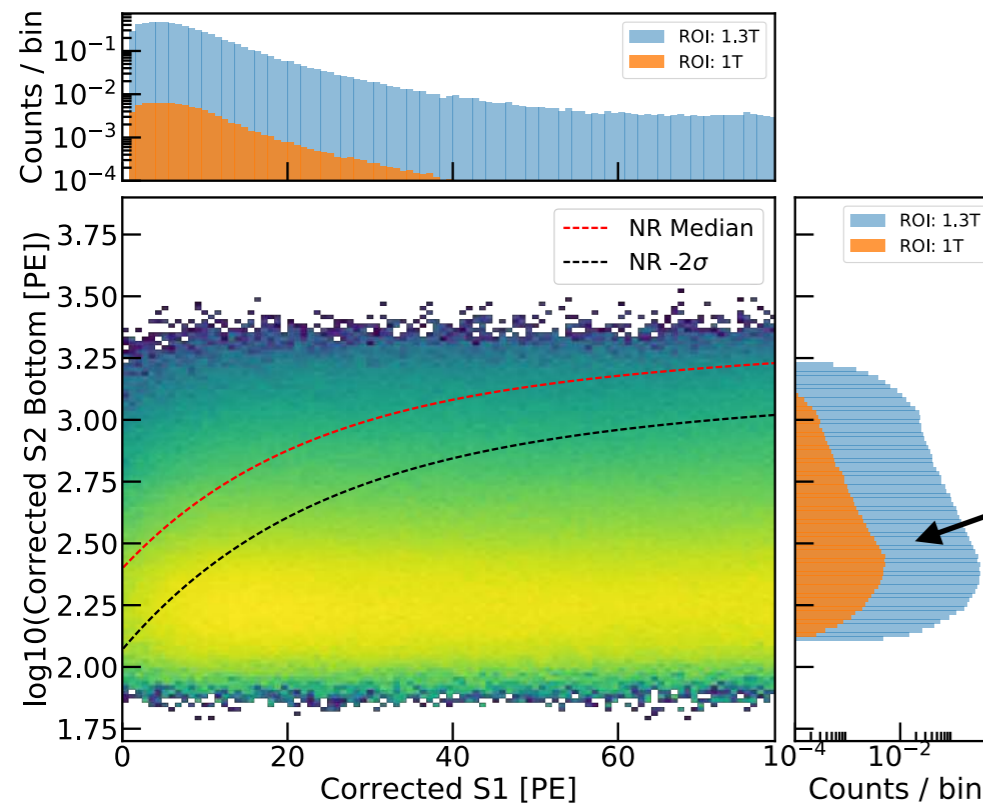


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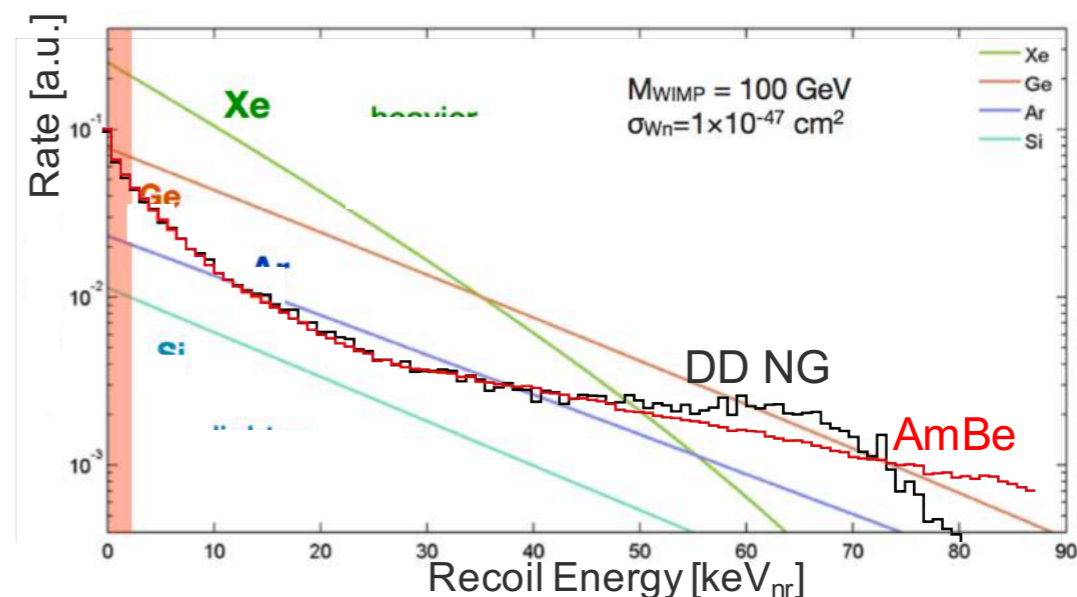
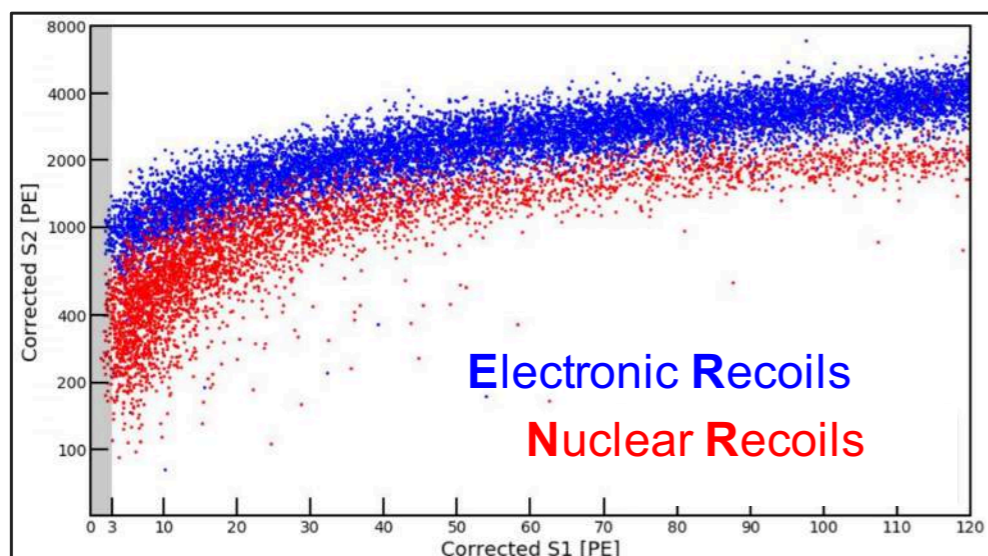


XENON Preliminary

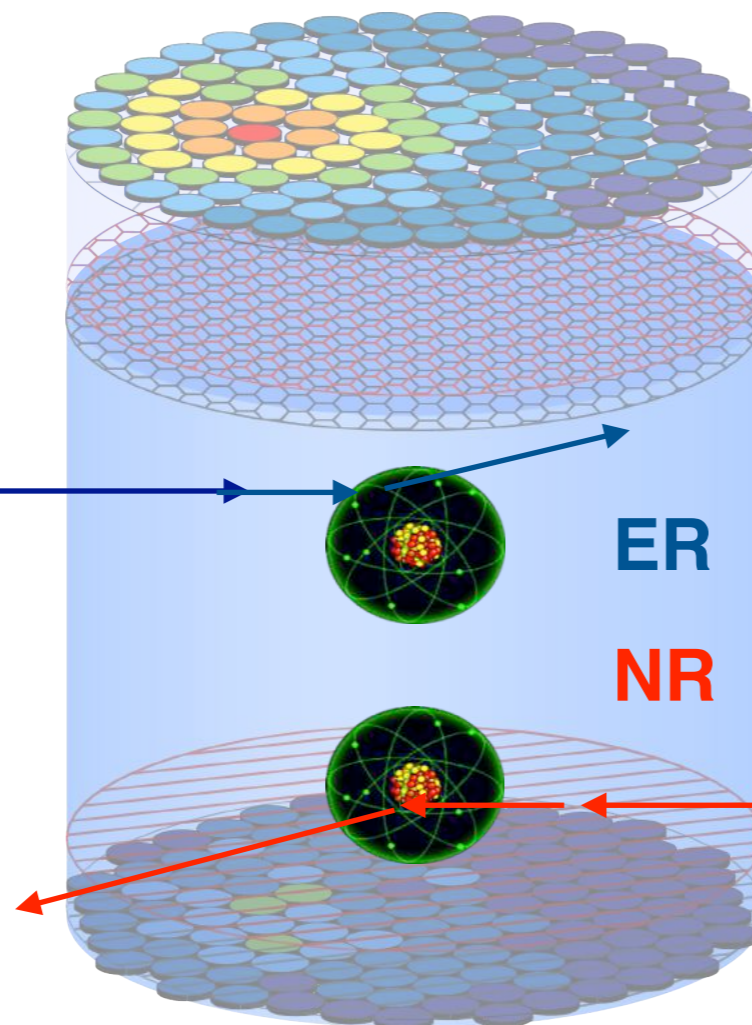




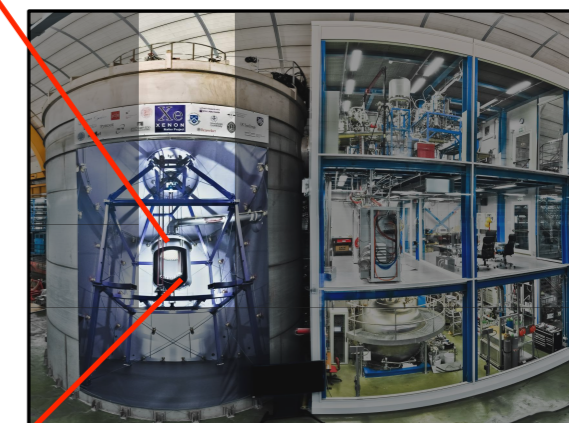
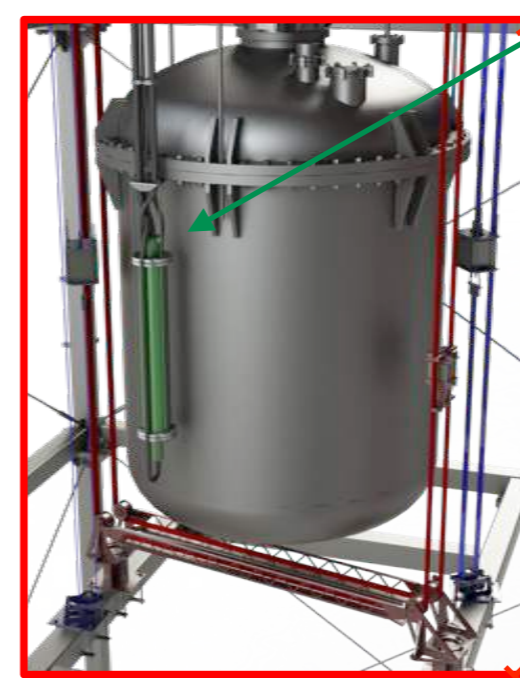
Calibrating ERs and NRs



^{222}Rn 3.8 d	^{220}Rn 56 s
$\alpha \downarrow 5.5 \text{ MeV}$	$\alpha \downarrow 5.5 \text{ MeV}$
^{218}Po 3.05 min	^{216}Po 0.2 s
$\alpha \downarrow 6.0 \text{ MeV}$	$\alpha \downarrow 6.0 \text{ MeV}$
^{214}Pb 26.8 min	^{212}Pb 11 h
$\beta \downarrow$	$\beta \downarrow$
^{214}Bi 19.9 min	^{212}Bi 61 min
$\beta \downarrow$	$\beta \downarrow$
^{214}Po 164 μs	^{212}Po 0.3 μs
$\alpha \downarrow 7.7 \text{ MeV}$	$\alpha \downarrow 7.7 \text{ MeV}$
^{210}Pb 22.3 a	^{208}Pb stable
$\beta \downarrow$	$\beta \downarrow$

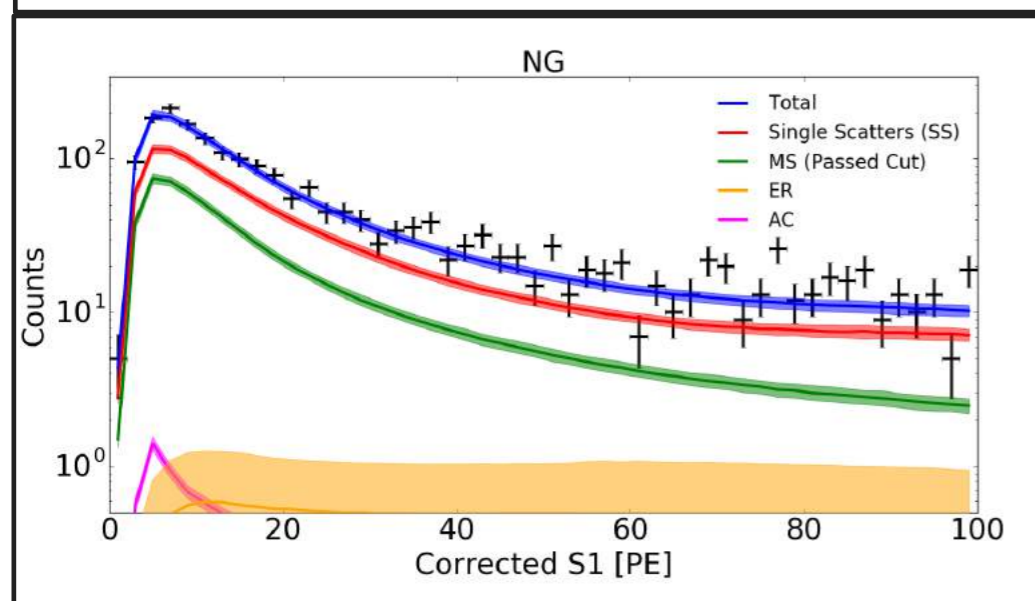
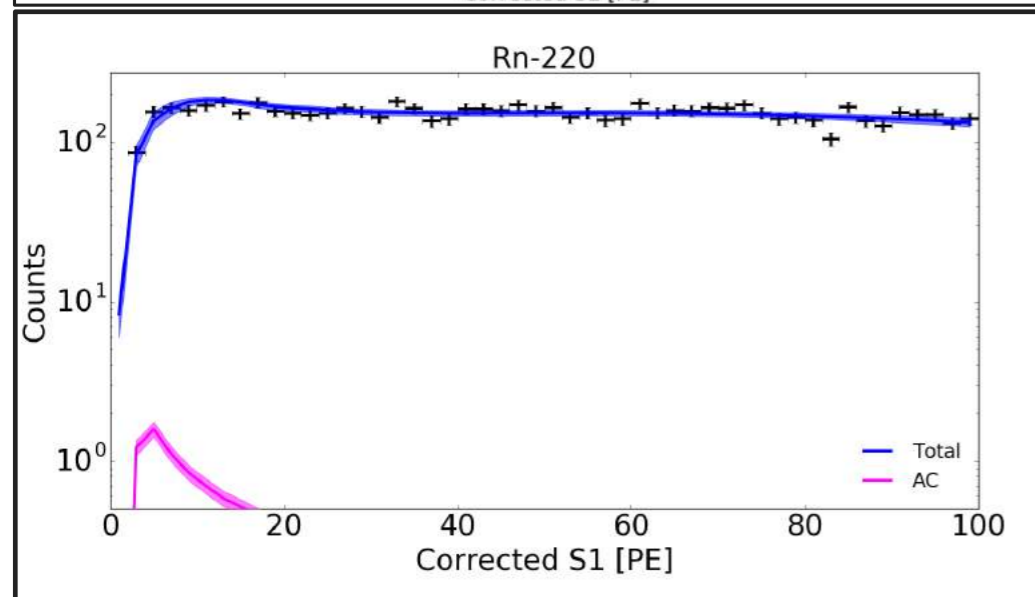
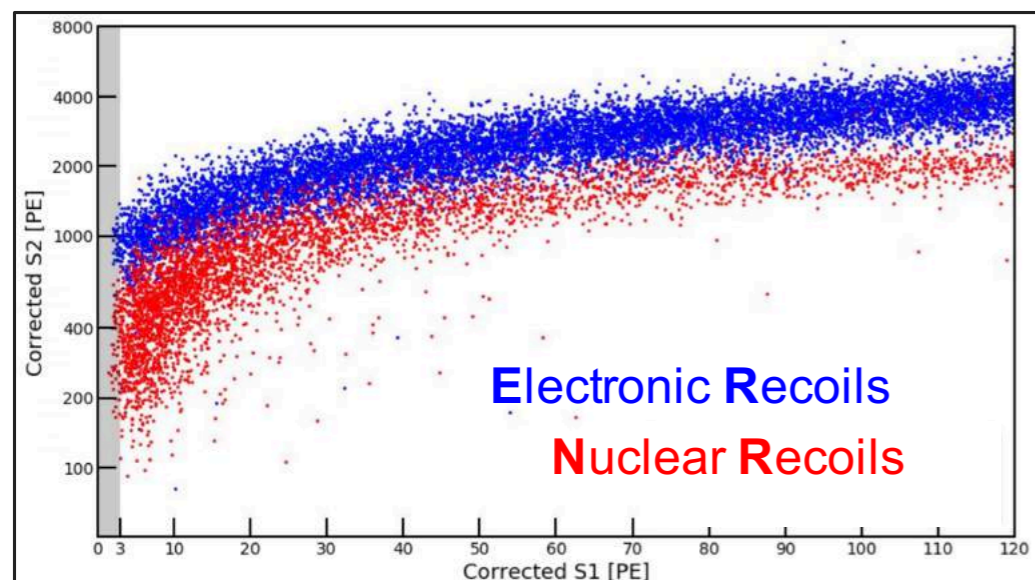


1), DD fusion neutron generator

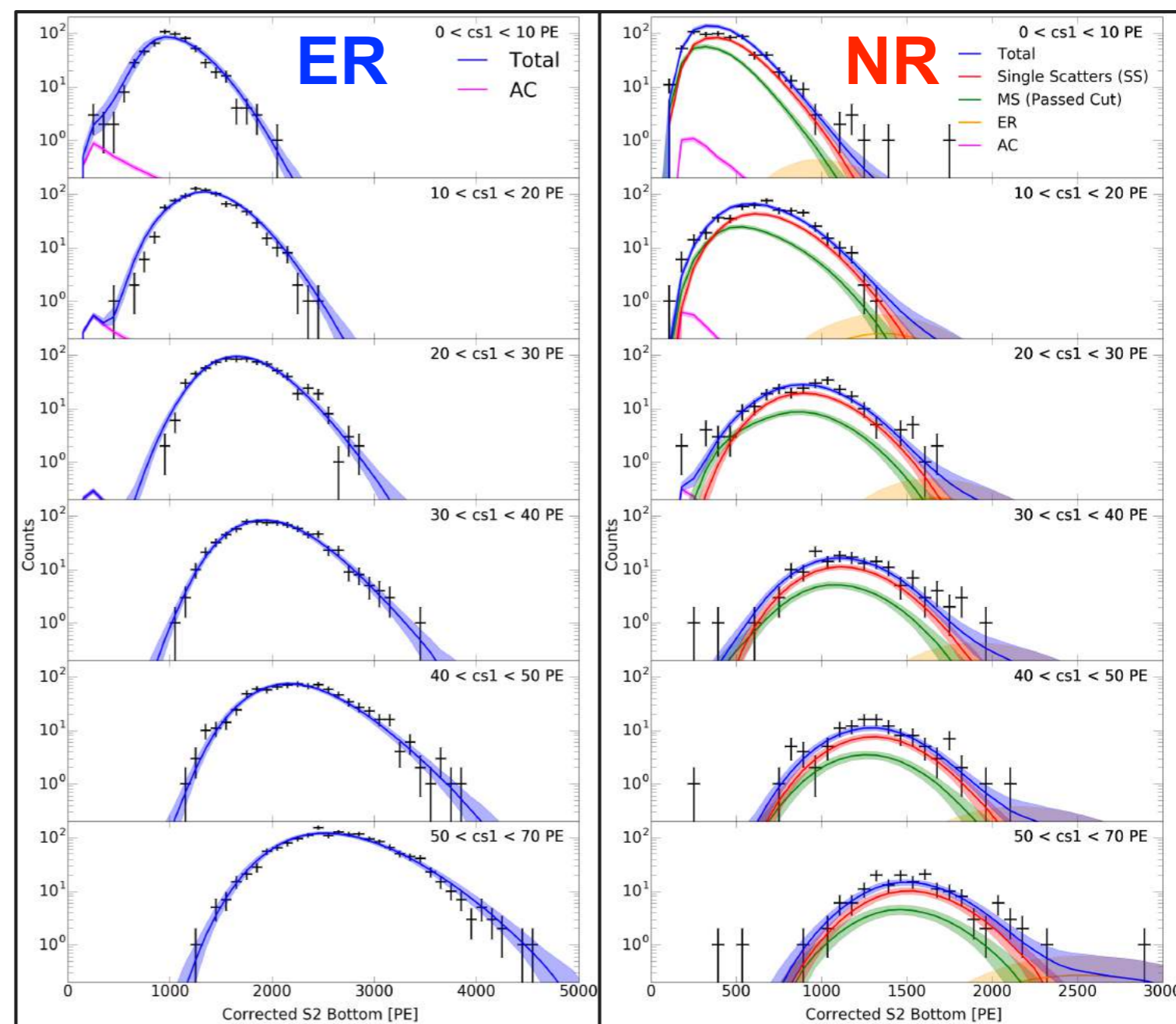


2), AmBe radioactive source

Calibrating ERs and NRs

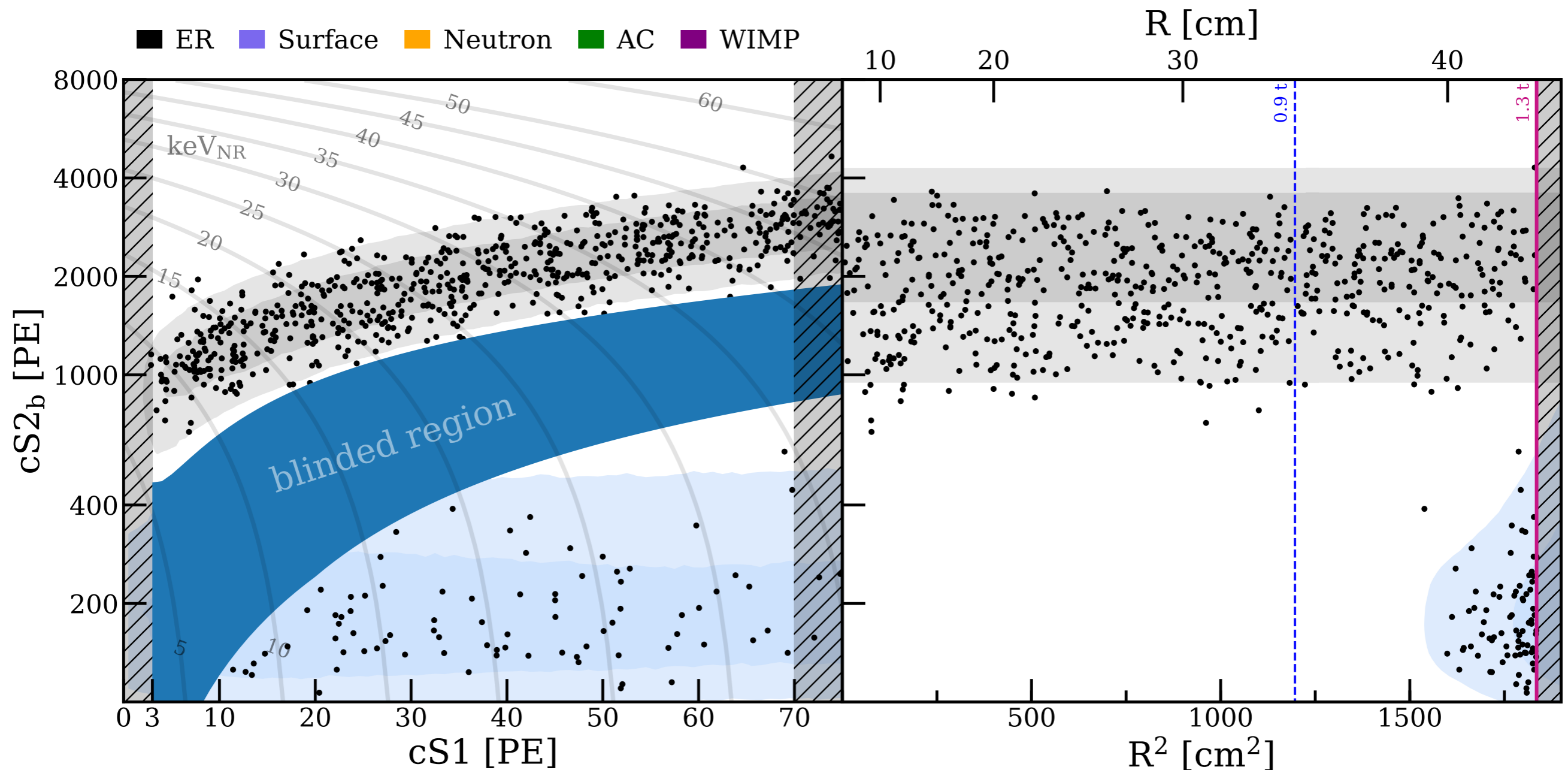


Particle propagation with detailed detector geometry and physics modeled
Parameters tuned and constrained by calibration data



ER rejection: ~99.7% with NR acceptance within $[-2\sigma, \text{median}]$ for both runs.

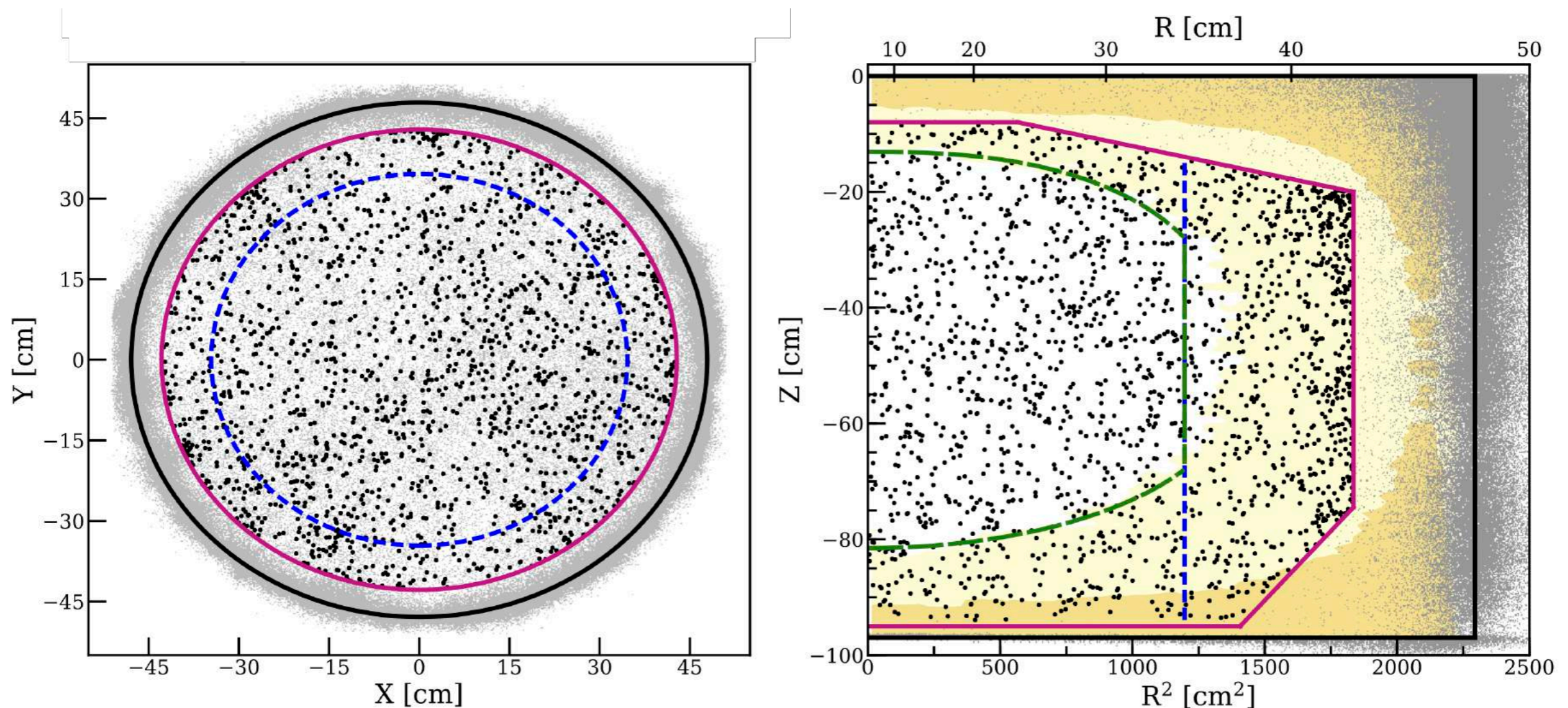
- Blinding: to avoid potential bias in event selection and the signal/background modeling the nuclear recoil ROI (S2 vs S1 only) was blinded from the start of SR1 analysis (and SR0 re-analysis).
- Salting: to protect against post-unblinding tuning of cuts and background models, an undisclosed number and type of event was added to data



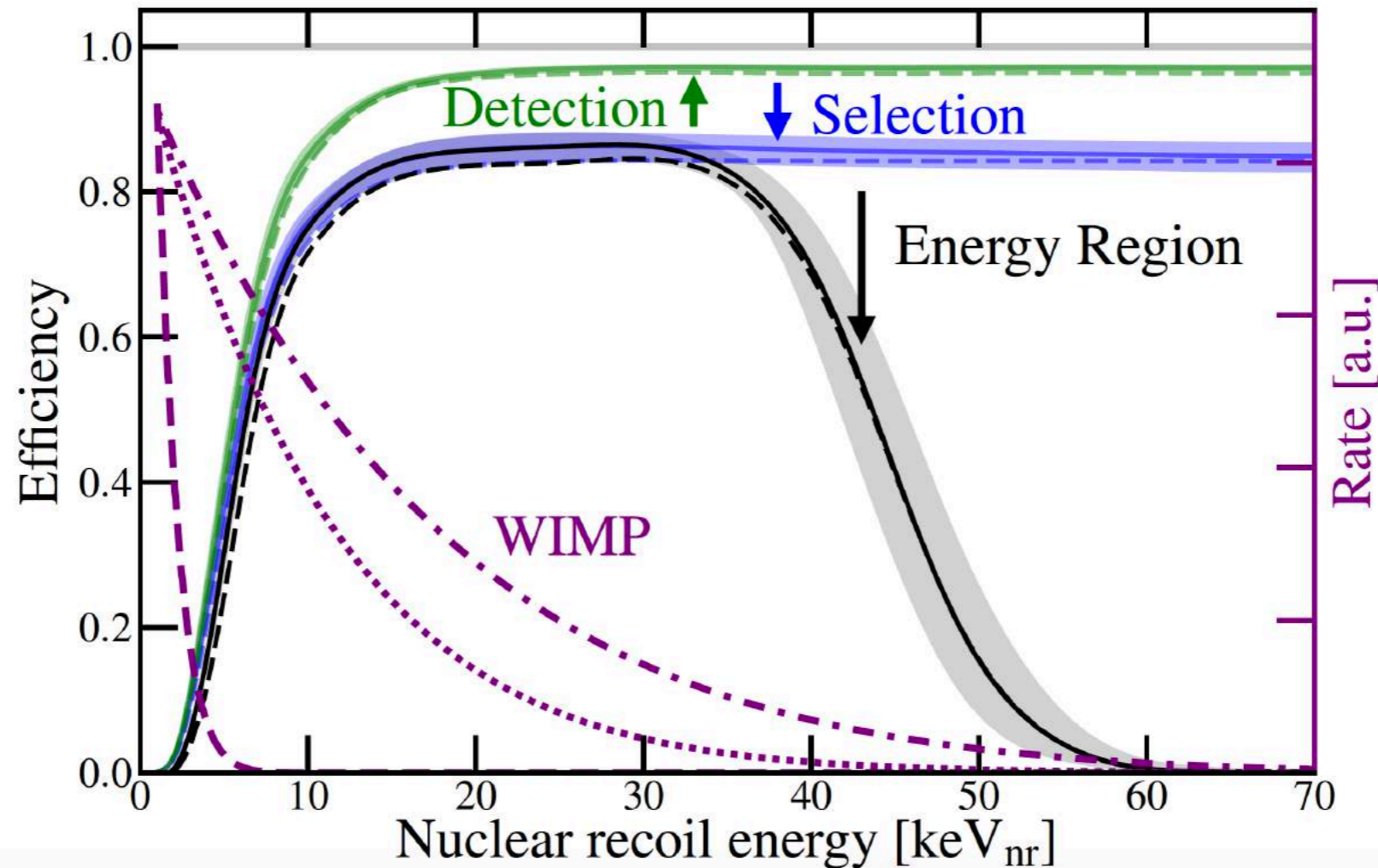
Fiducial Volume Optimization

Optimize FV prior to unblinding to reduce materials and surface background

- FV volume increased from 1 tonne (in SR0 First Result) to 1.3 tonne thanks to improvements in position reconstruction, including PTFE charge-up and field corrections
- new surface background model allowed inclusion of radius, R , in statistical inference to maximize useful volume. Analysis space became cS1, cS2b, R and Z



Event Selection & Detection Efficiency



- Detection efficiency dominated by 3-fold coincidence requirement
 - Estimated via novel waveform simulation including systematic uncertainties
- Selection efficiencies estimated from control or MC data samples
- Search region defined within 3-70 PE in cS1
- 10 GeV (dashed), 50 GeV (dotted) and 200 GeV (dashed-dotted) WIMP spectra shown

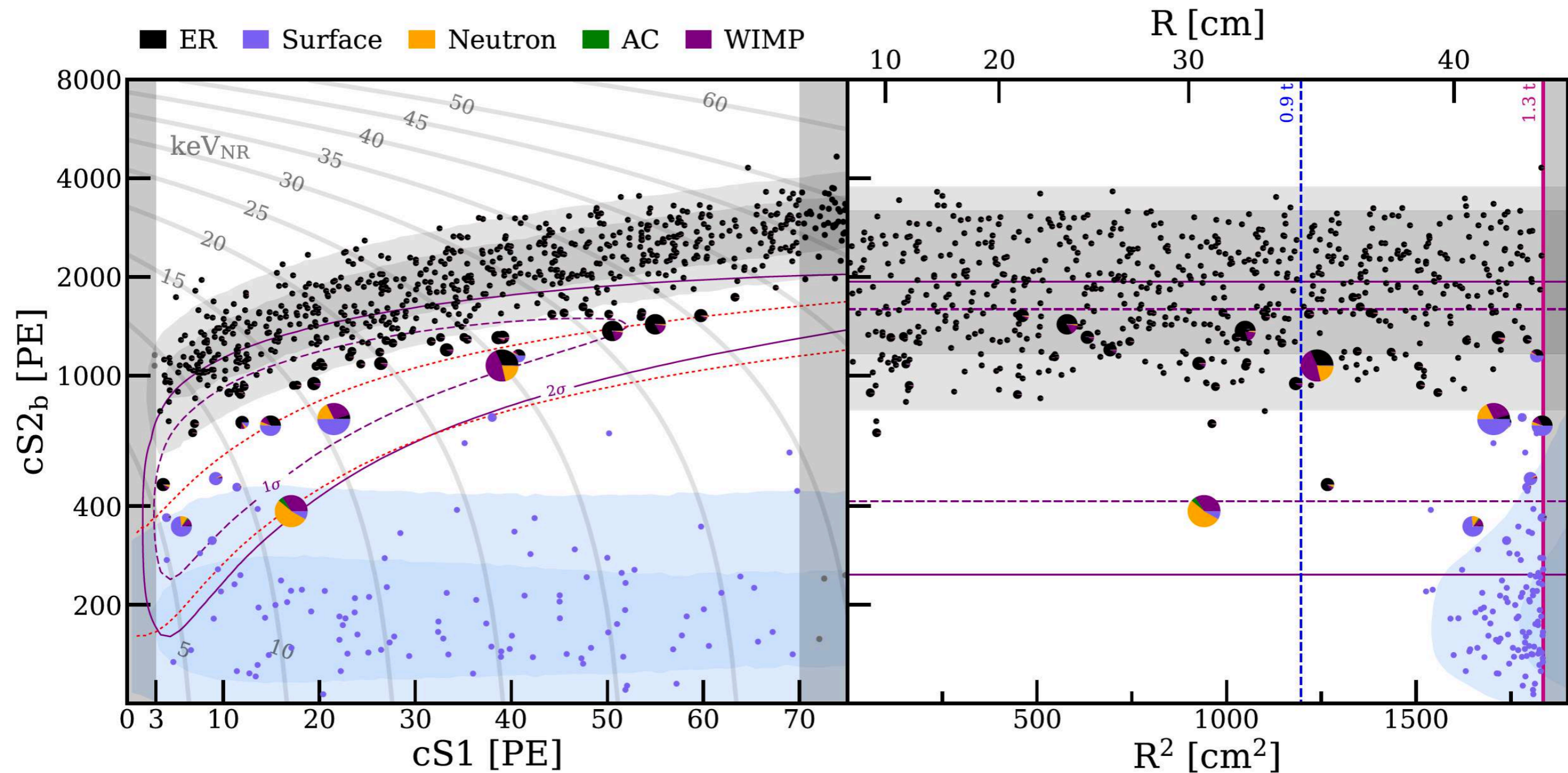
Background prediction and Unblinding

Mass	1.3 t	1.3 t
(S2, S1)	Full	Reference
ER	627 ± 18	1.62 ± 0.30
Neutron	1.43 ± 0.66	0.77 ± 0.35
CENNS	0.05 ± 0.01	0.03 ± 0.01
AC	0.47 ± 0.27	0.10 ± 0.06
Surface	106 ± 8	4.84 ± 0.40
BG	735 ± 20	7.36 ± 0.61

- Reference region is defined as between NR median and NR -2sigma
- ER is the most significant background and uniformly distributed in the volume
- Surface background contributes most in reference region, but its impact is subdominant in inner R
- Neutron background is less than one event, and impact is further suppressed by position information
- Other background components are completely sub-dominant
- Numbers in the table are just for illustration, statistical interpretation is done based on profile likelihood analysis

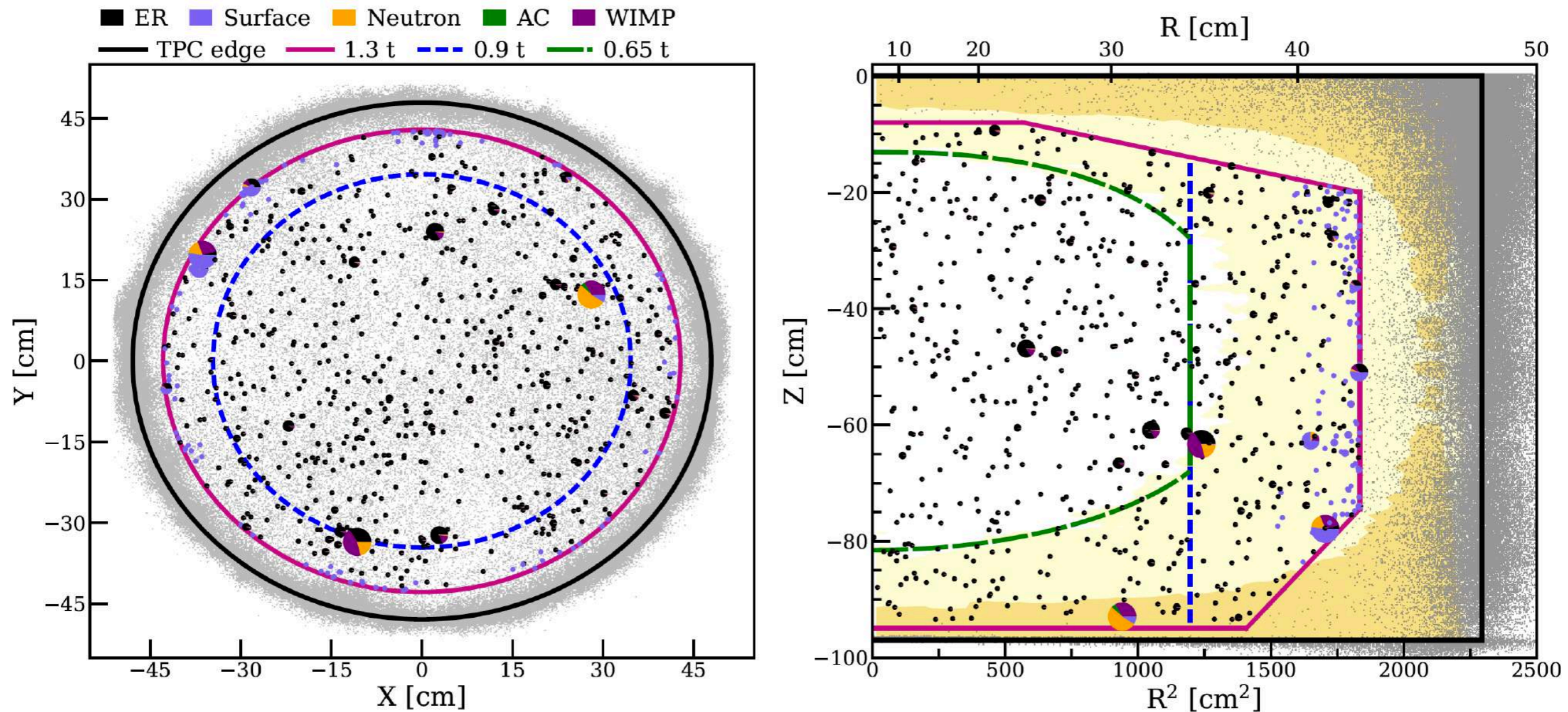
Dark Matter Search Results

- Results interpreted with unbinned profile likelihood analysis in cs1, cs2, r space
- piechart indicate the relative PDF from the best fit of $200 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ WIMPs with a cross-section of $4.7 \times 10^{-47} \text{ cm}^2$

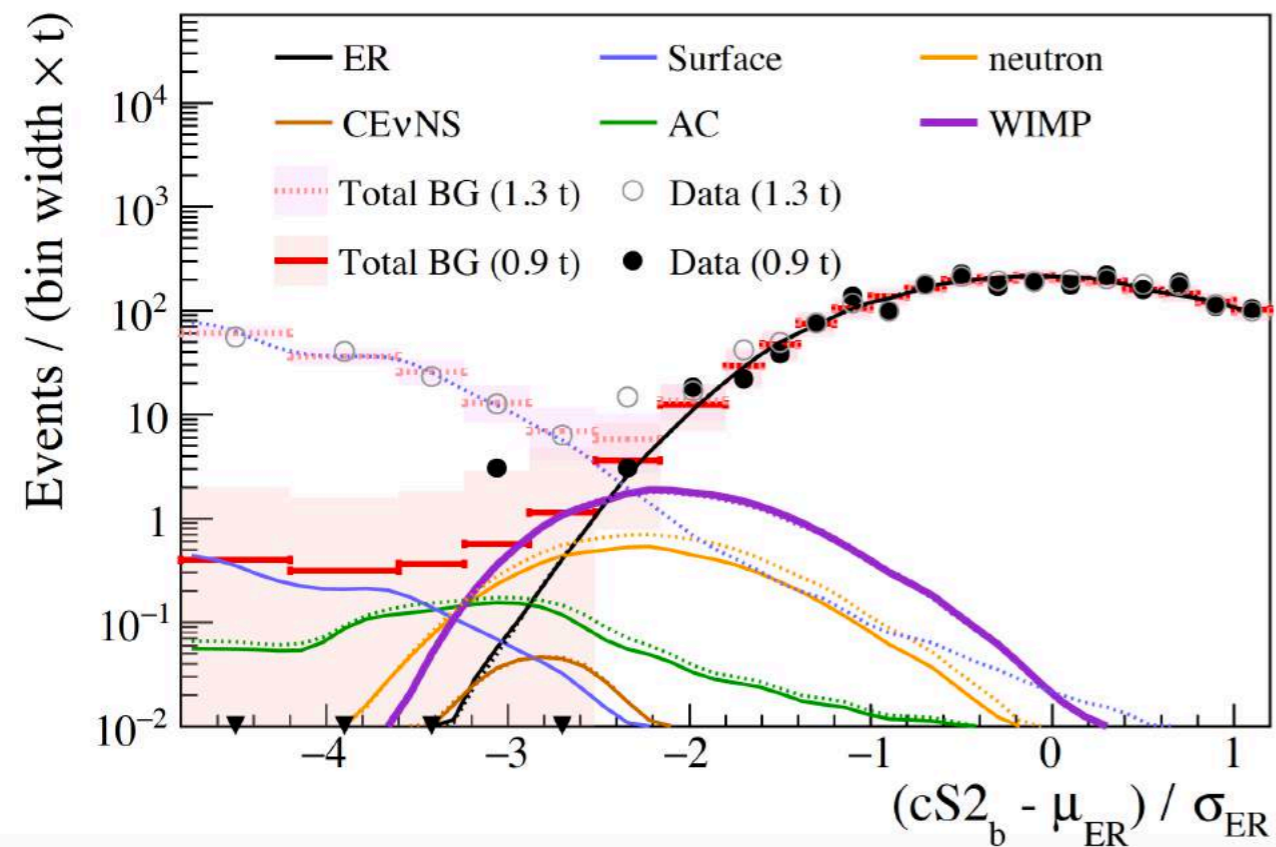


Spatial Distribution of Dark Matter Search Data

- Results interpreted with unbinned profile likelihood analysis in cS1, cS2, r space
- **Core volume** to distinguish WIMPs over neutron background

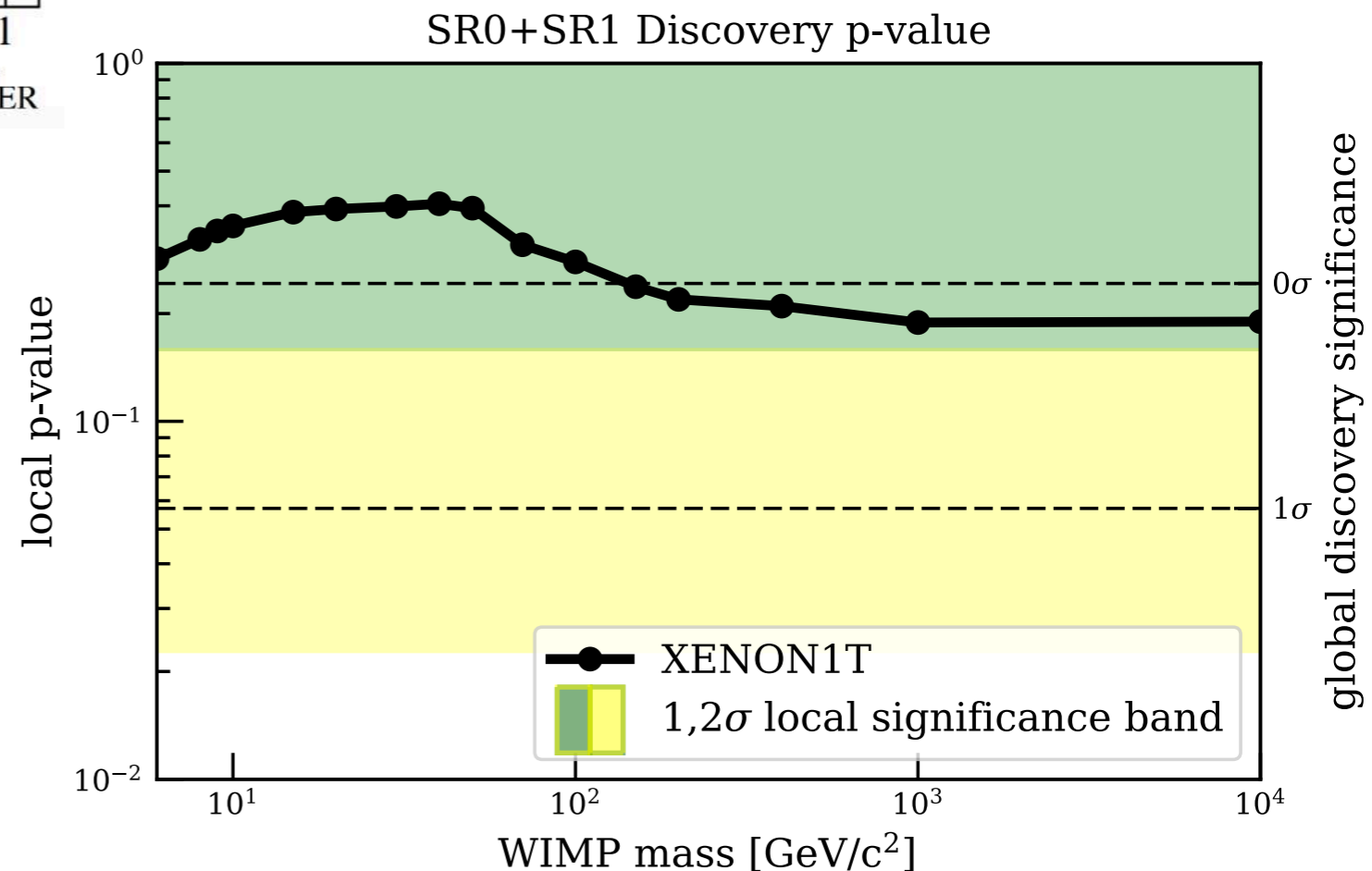


Statistical Interpretation



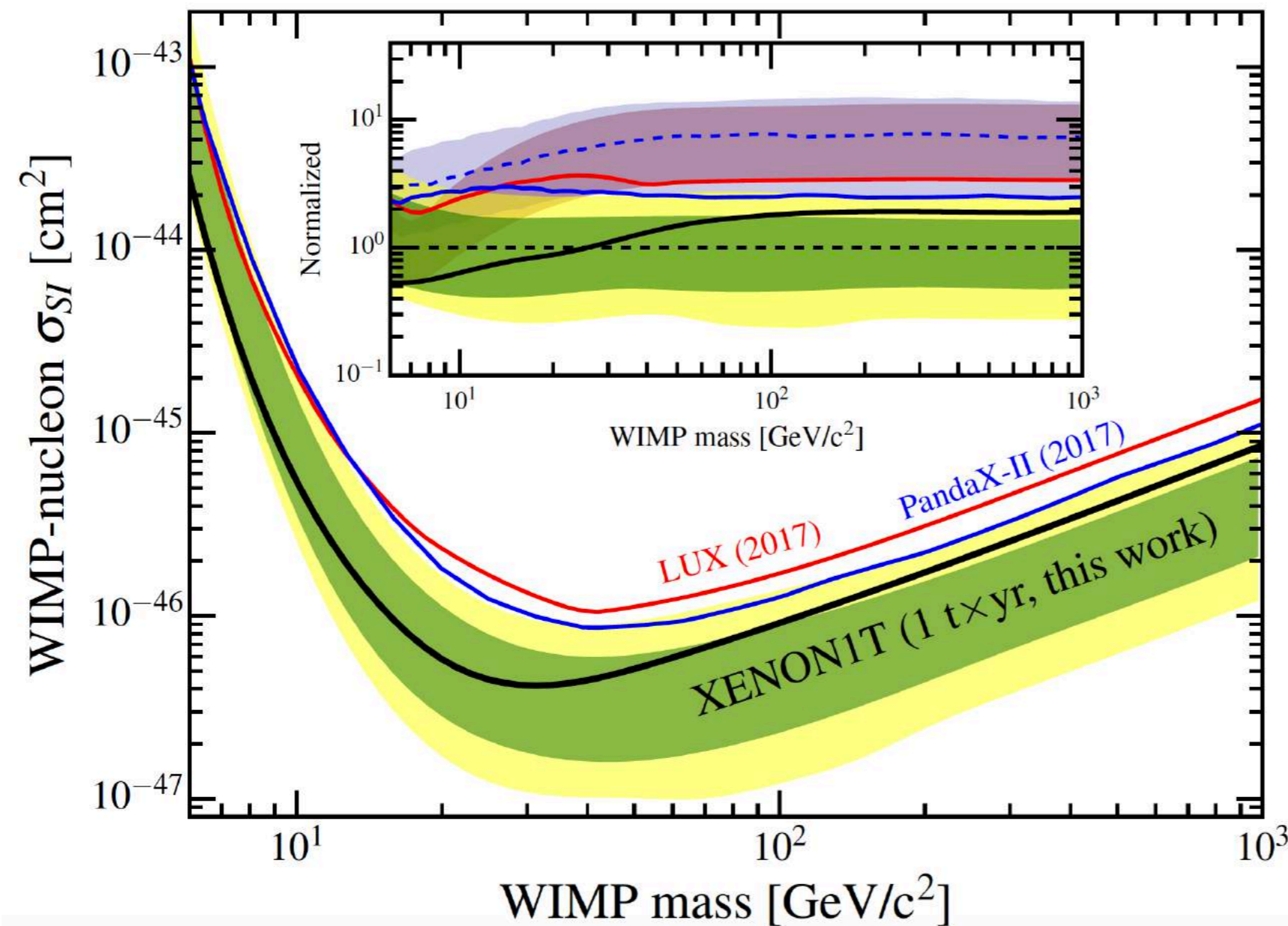
- No significant (>3 sigma) excess at any scanned WIMP mass
- Background only hypothesis is accepted although the p-value of ~ 0.2 at high mass (200 GeV and above) does not disfavor a signal hypothesis either

- Extended unbinned profile likelihood analysis
- Example left: Background and 200 GeV WIMP signal best-fit predictions, assuming $4.7 \times 10^{-47} \text{ cm}^2$, compared to data in 1.3 t and 0.9 t
- Most significant ER & Surface backgrounds shape parameters included
- Safeguard to protect against spurious mis-modeling of background



XENON1T Dark Matter Search Results

Phys. Rev. Lett. **121**, 111302



- Most stringent 90% CL upper limit on WIMP-nucleon cross section at all masses above 6 GeV
- Factor of 7 more sensitivity compared to previous experiments (LUX, PandaX-II)
- ~ 1sigma upper fluctuation at high WIMP masses, could be due to background or signal

Minimum at 4.1×10^{-47} cm² for a WIMP of 30 GeV/c²

The next step: **XENONnT**

Aprile et al., Eur. Phys. J. C (2017) 77: 881. *XENON1T sub-systems*

Aprile et al., JCAP 77 (2016), 358. *online Rn-removal*

Aprile et al., Eur. Phys. J. C (2017) 77: 275. *online Kr-removal*

Aprile et al., JCAP 4 (2016), 27. *sensitivity*



Minimal Upgrade

The XENON1T infrastructure and sub-systems were originally designed to **accommodate a larger LXe TPC**.

Fiducial Xe Target

XENONnT TPC

features:

total Xe mass = 8 t

target mass = 5.9 t

fiducial mass = ~4 t



Background

Record low-back levels in XENON1T dominated by ^{222}Rn -daughters.

Identified strategies to effectively **reduce ^{222}Rn by ~ a factor 10**.

Decrease neutron background thanks to new active neutron veto.



Fast Turnaround

Use **XENON1T sub-systems**, already tested

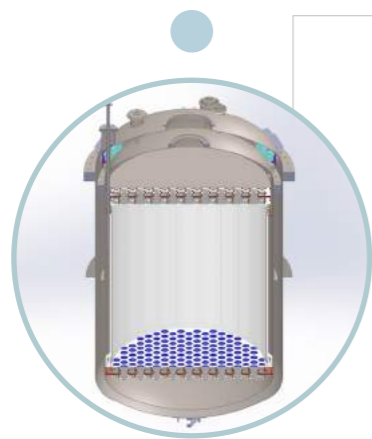
Fast pace:

Installation spring 2019, commissioning by end 2019

XENON1T Infrastructure and sub-Systems (already operative)

Aprile et al., Eur. Phys. J. C (2017) 77: 881

The next step: **XENONnT**



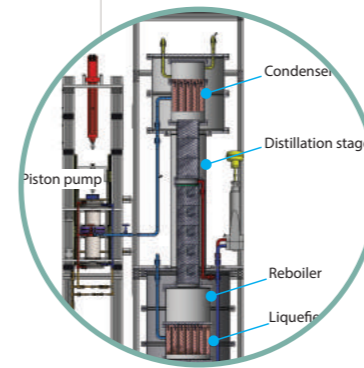
New TPC

5.9-ton Time Projection
Chamber



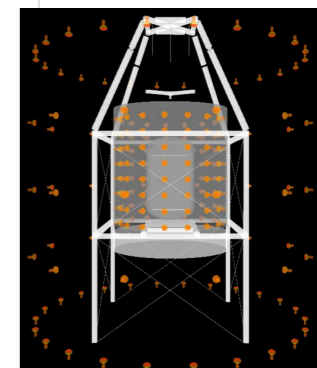
LXe Purification

To achieve fast cleaning of the large
LXe volume (5000 SLPM)



Radon Distillation

To online remove the
 ^{222}Rn emanated inside
the detector

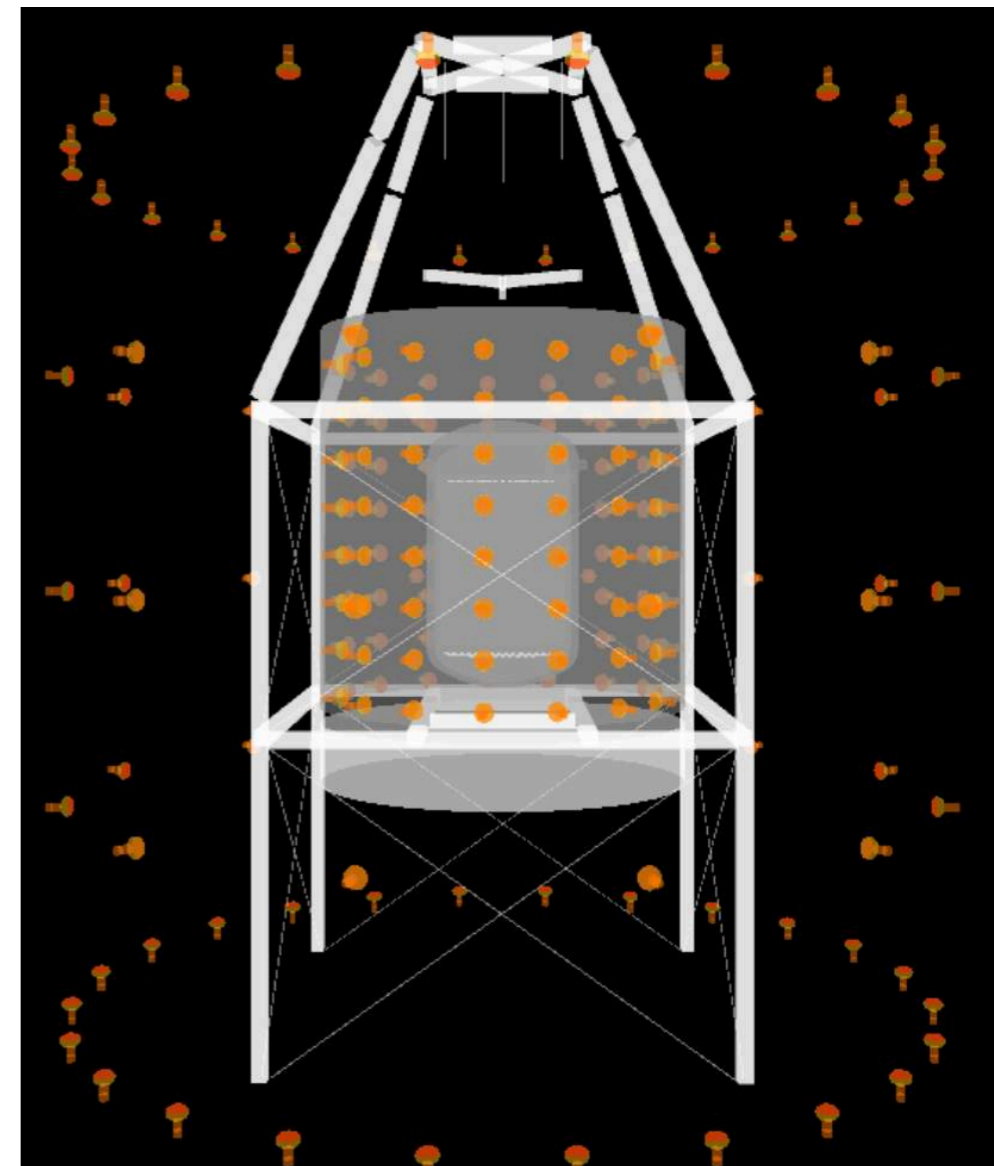


Neutron Veto

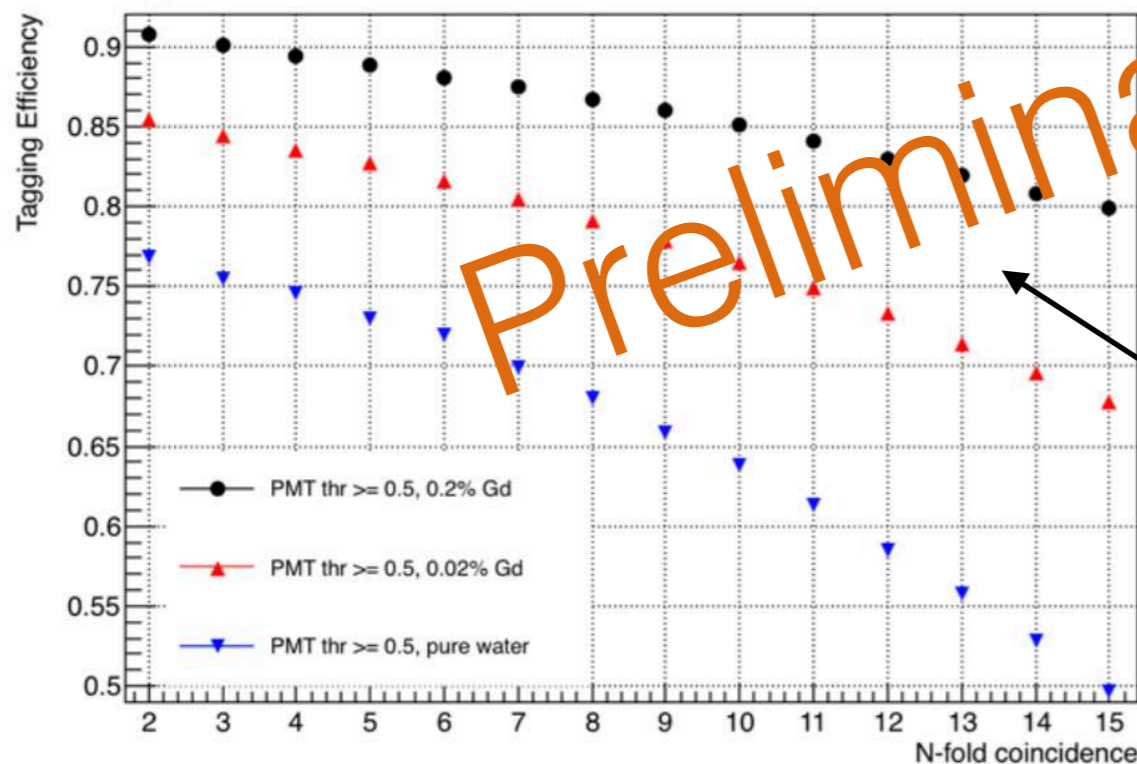
To tag and measure in situ
neutron-induced background

Gd-H₂O neutron veto

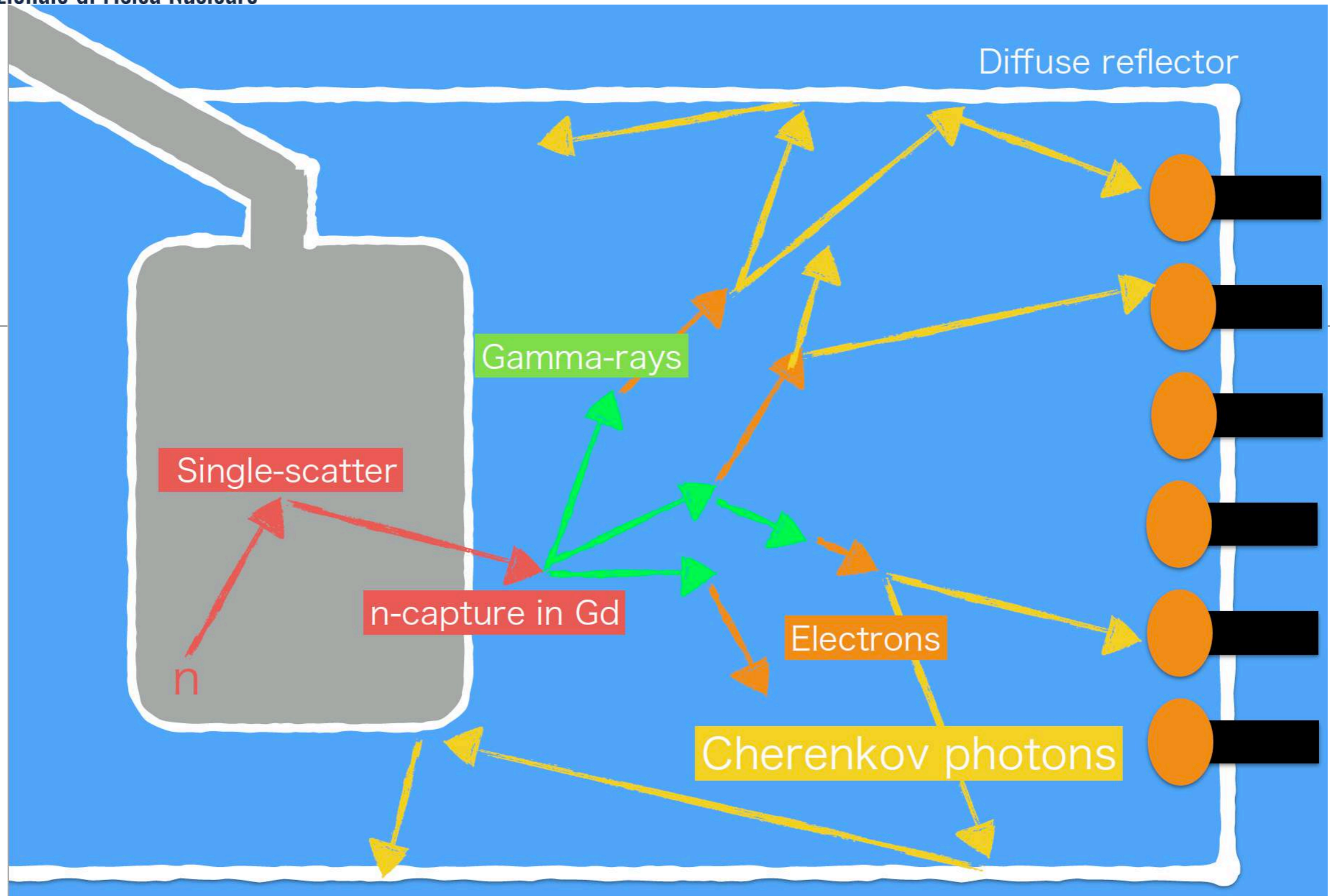
- Gd in the Water of the whole tank:
0.5% of Gd₂(SO₄)₃
(Know-how from SuperK colleagues)
- Inner region, optically separated from the outer Muon Veto, with high LCE
(120 PMTs + Tyvec reflector).



N-tag eff vs n-fold coincidence for case1



Neutron tagging
efficiency from MC: > 80%



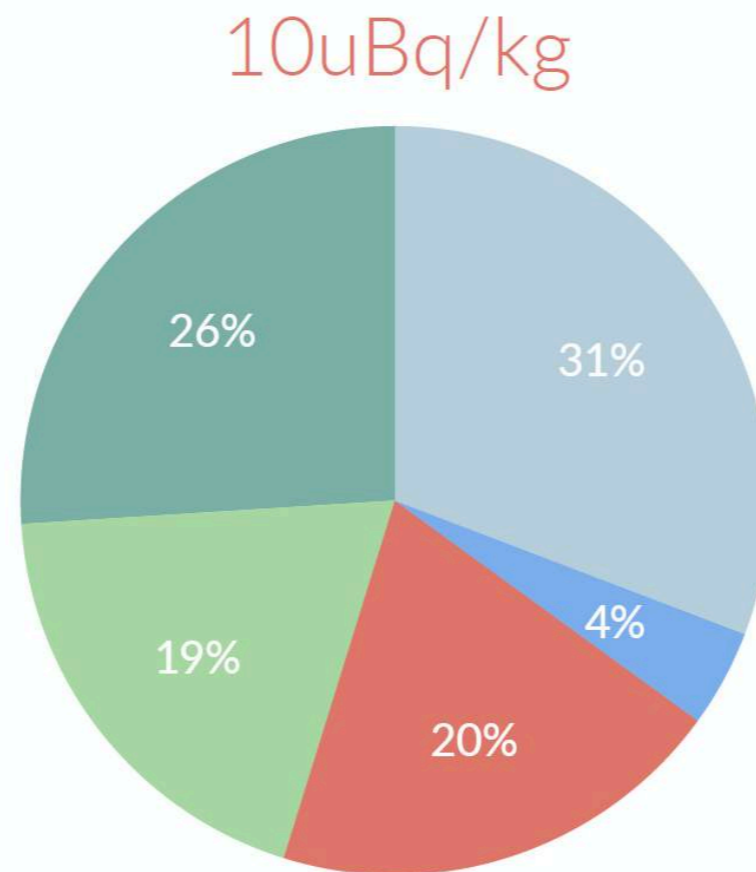
XENON1T RN-BACKGROUND

Rn-budget breakdown: emanations measured in XENON1T

TPC+Cryostat

²²²Rn emanated by materials inside the TPC

Type-I Sources



Is the source emanating around the active volume?

Piping + Cables

²²²Rn emanated by materials within the recirculation and cable pipes

Cryopipe

²²²Rn emanated within the cryogenic pipe used to transfer LXe

Hot Getter

²²²Rn emanated by the hot getter used to remove electronegative impurities

QDrive Pumps

²²²Rn emanated by plastic materials within the recirculation pumps

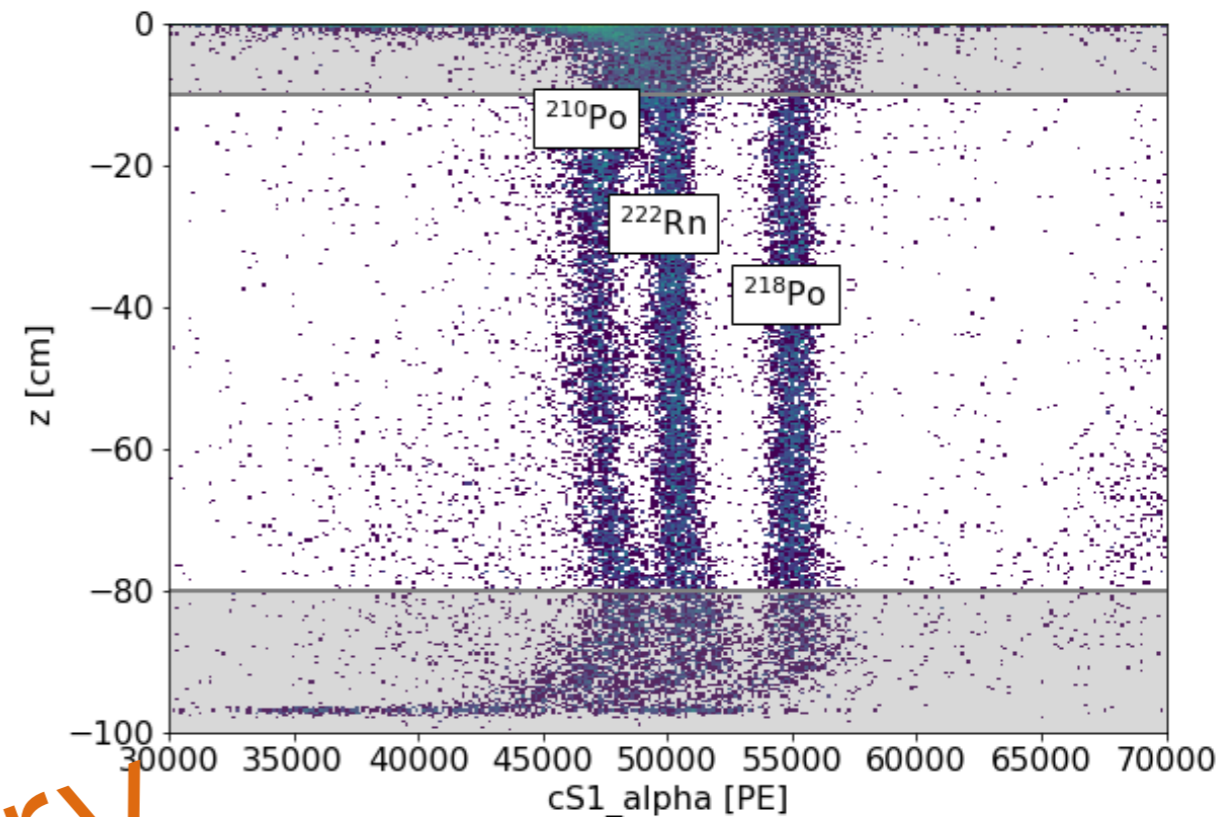
Type-II Sources

Rn reduction

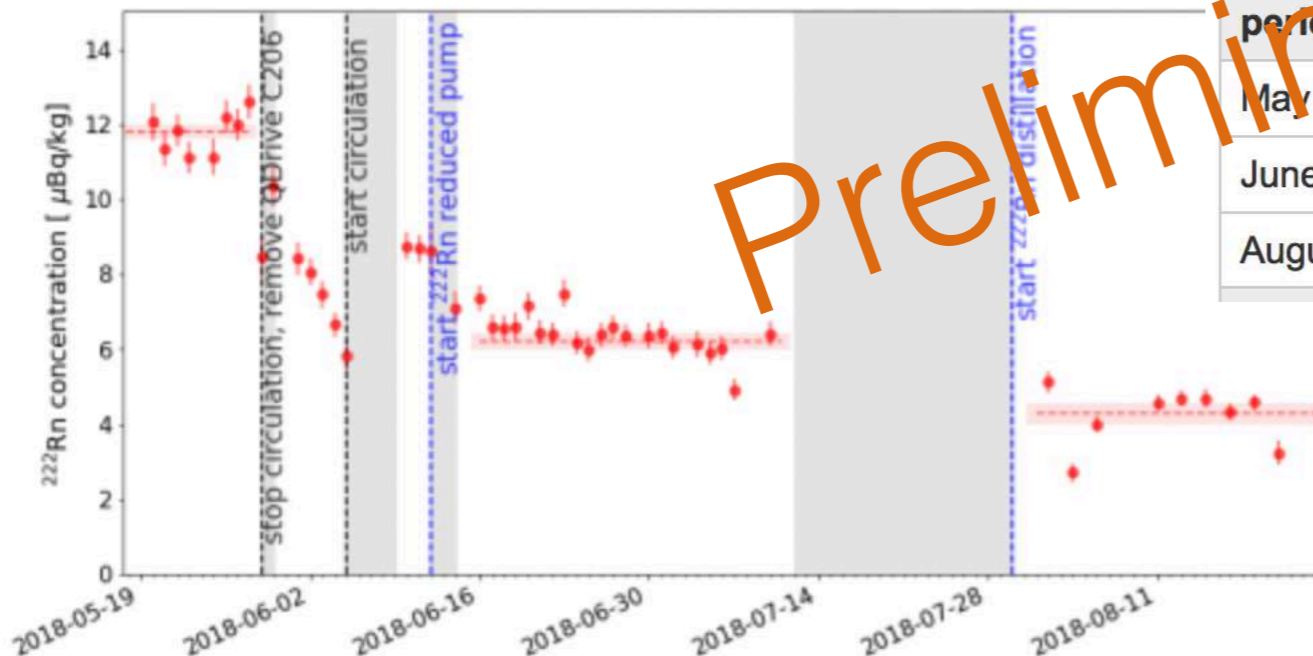
Rn reduction towards XENONnT:
factor of 10 \rightarrow 1 $\mu\text{Bq/kg}$

Removed the Q-Drive pump, replaced by
the new magnetic piston pump: -50%
(Eur. Phys. J. C (2018) 78: 604)

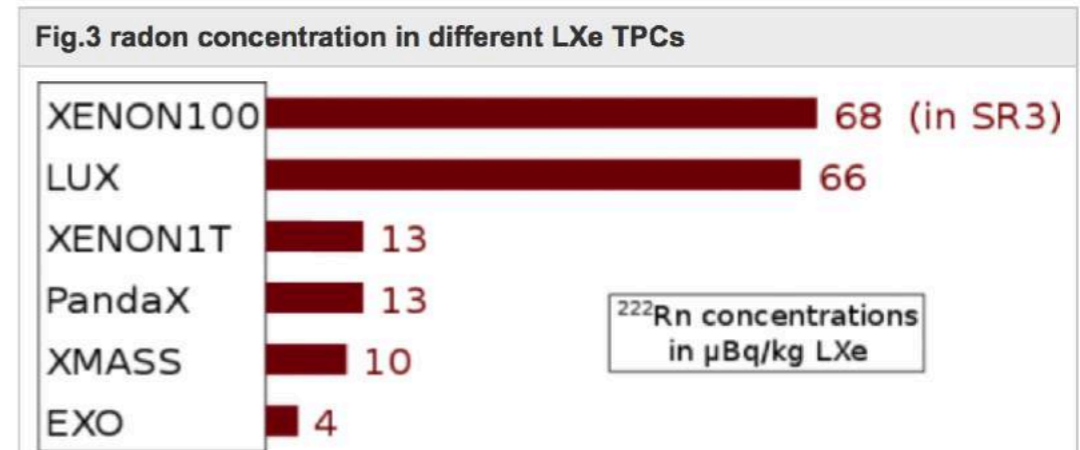
Another -30% with (not yet optimised) online
distillation



Preliminary



period	concentration [microBq/kg]	comment
May 19 - May 28	(11.8 \pm 0.2)	standard rate during SR0/SR1
June 16 - July 11	(6.3 \pm 0.1)	after exchange of QDrives with
August 1 - August 22	(4.3 \pm 0.2)	during Rn222 distillation



Already close to XENONnT goal !

Marco Selvi - The XENON Project



Low en. ER with ^{37}Ar

^{37}Ar decays via electron capture (EC) according to the decay reaction



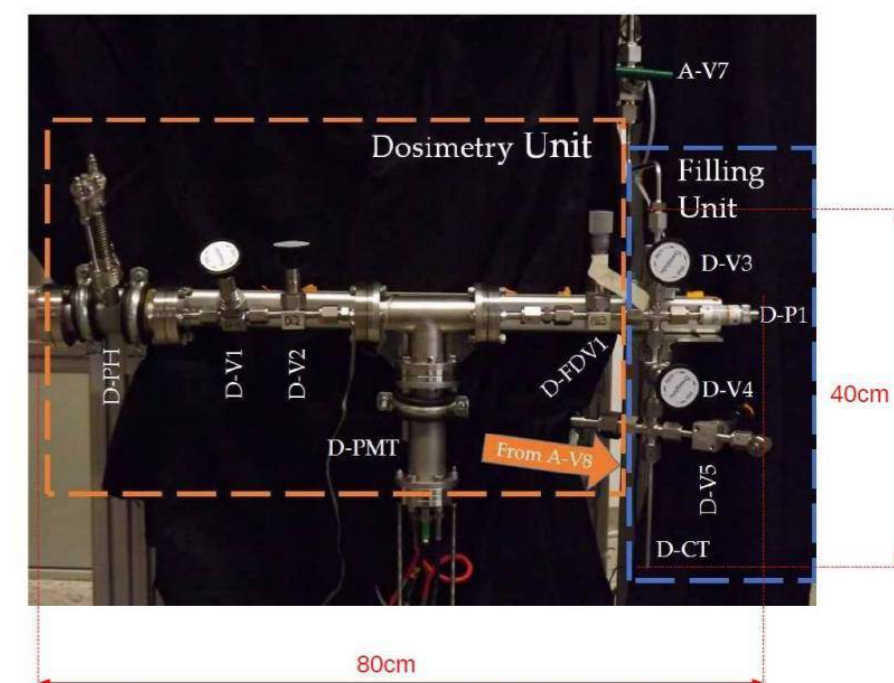
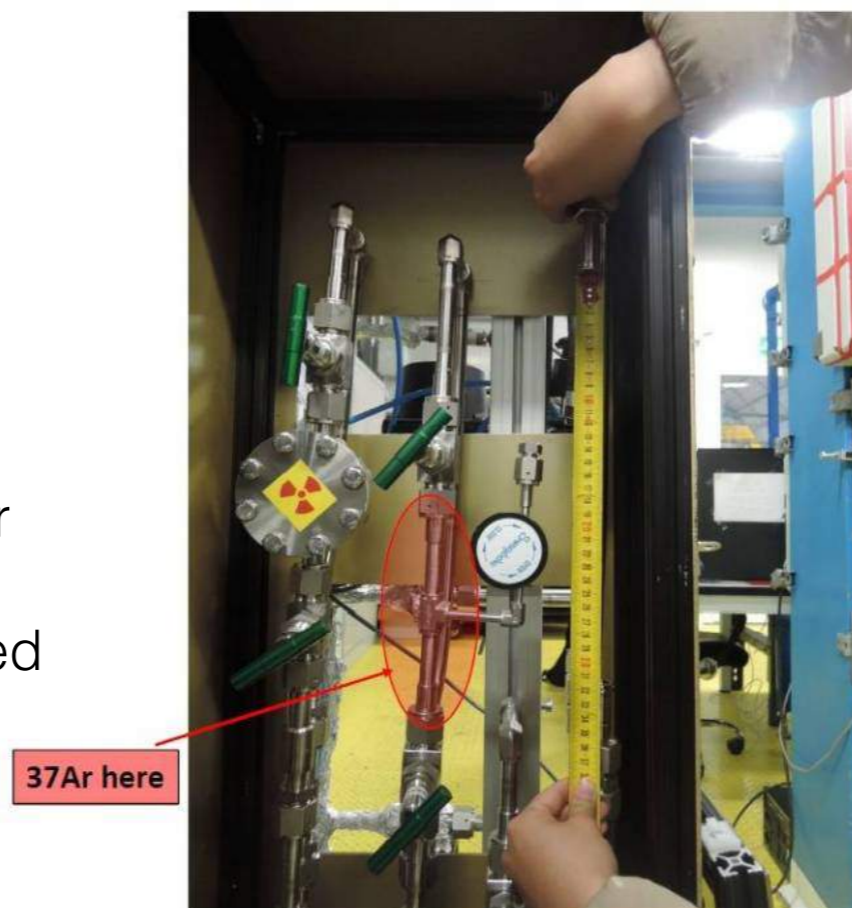
and releases x-rays from the capture of the K-shell, L-shell, and M-shell electrons at 2.8224 keV, 0.2702 keV, and 0.0175 keV with branching ratios of 0.90, 0.09, and 0.009 [26]. These x-rays are photoabsorbed in the xenon bulk producing an electron recoil.

^{37}Ar is produced at the TRIGA research reactor @Mainz via $^{36}\text{Ar}(n,\gamma)^{37}\text{Ar}$

The ampulla is then connected with the XENON1T recirculation system.

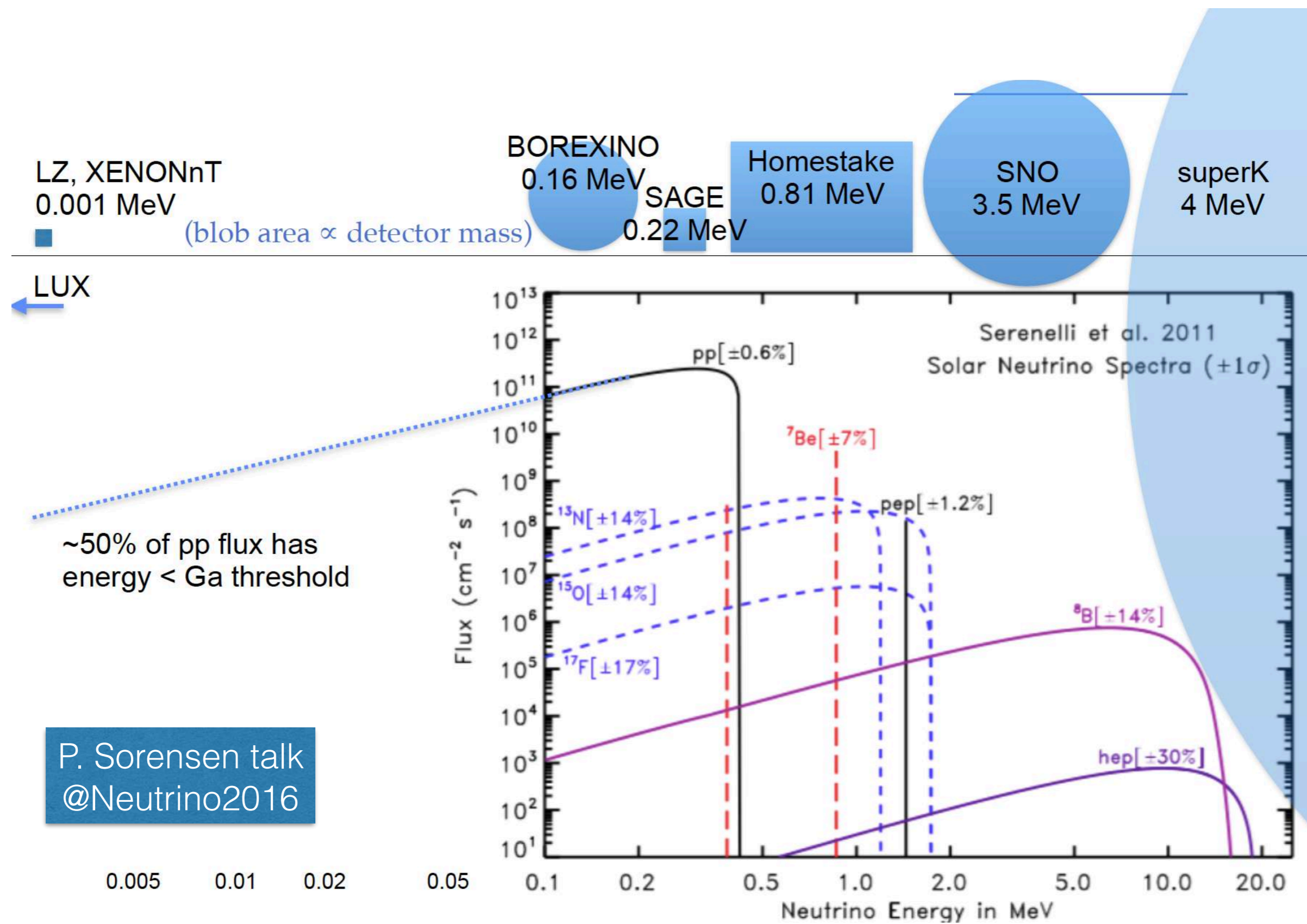
^{37}Ar removal:

- half-life 35 days
- cryogenic distillation (in principle performances better than for Kr), to be tested in XENON1T, to be used in XENONnT as a “regular” calibration.



- Jan19: Quit XENON1T operations, decommissioning
- Spring19: Complete installation of new TPC+Cryostat
- July19: Complete installation of the nVeto system
- Sept19: Start TPC Commissioning
- Dec19: Start Science Run

Solar neutrino & detectors



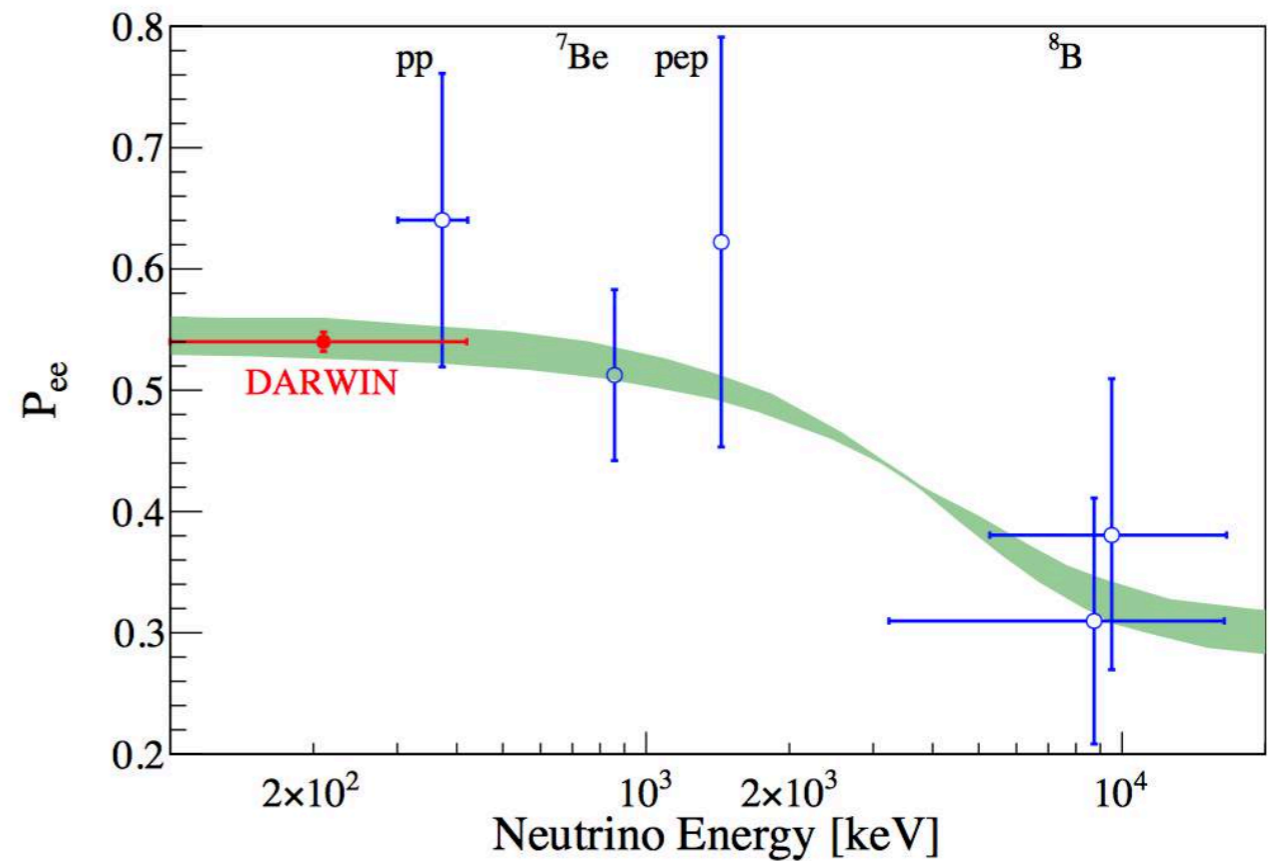
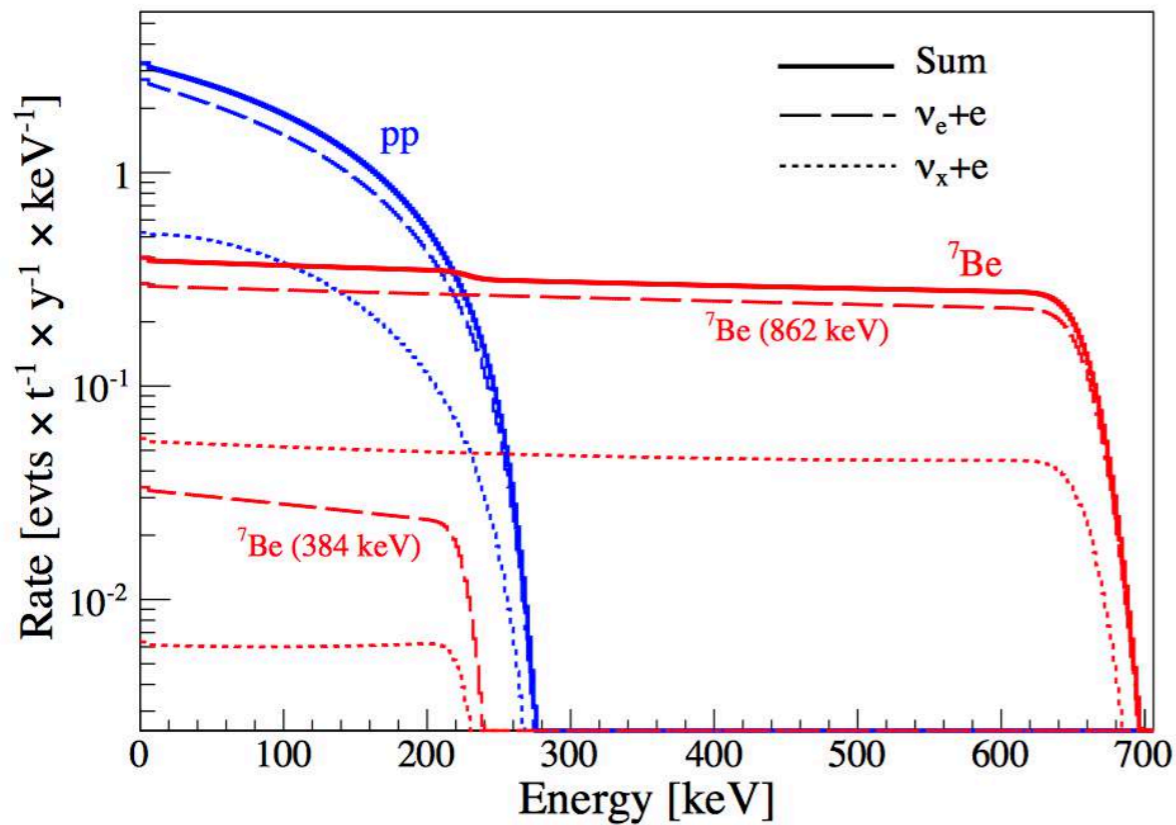
LUX

~50% of pp flux has energy < Ga threshold

P. Sorensen talk @Neutrino2016

Measuring pp neutrinos

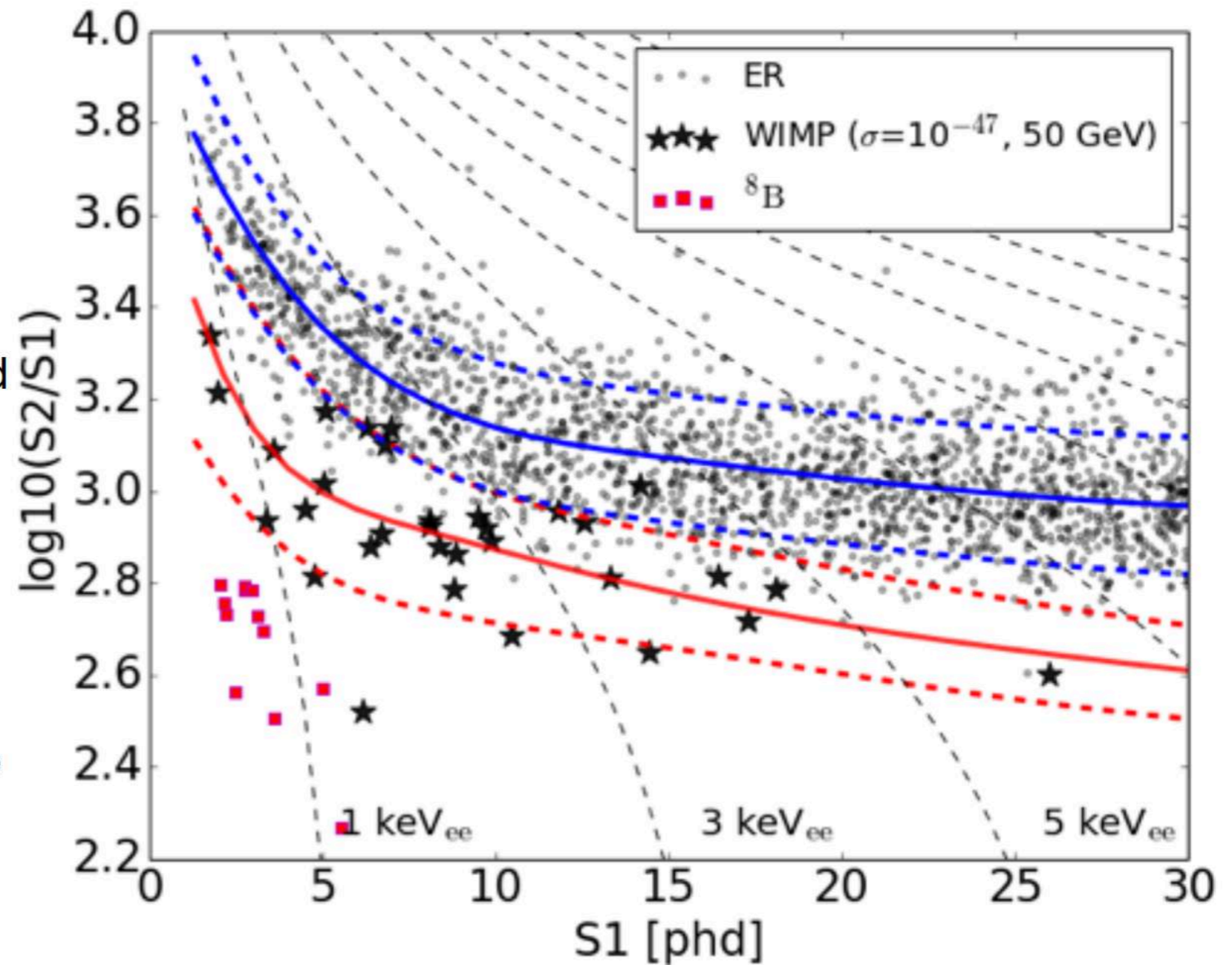
JCAP 1611 (2016) no.11, 017



- XENONnT/LZ could reduce the uncertainty on the pp flux to 2.2% (currently Borexino is @10%)
- DARWIN (50t LXe) could bring this down further, to ~1%
- Need to reduce Rn by a factor >10

- Expect commissioning in 2019
- experiment goal is 1000 days live and 5.6 tonnes fiducial mass
- solar neutrino ER counts (window defined by plot axes): 233 pp, 19 ^7Be , a few ^{13}N
- Rn O(100)—O(1000) optimistic and pessimistic cases
 - both compatible with dark matter search goals, but the former makes neutrino physics much more convenient...
- solar neutrino NR counts: 7-70 ^8B

as seen by LZ / XENONnT



R. Lang, C. McCabe, S. Reichard, M.S., I. Tamborra,
 "Supernova neutrino physics with xenon dark matter detectors", Phys. Rev. D 94 (2016) no.10, 103009.

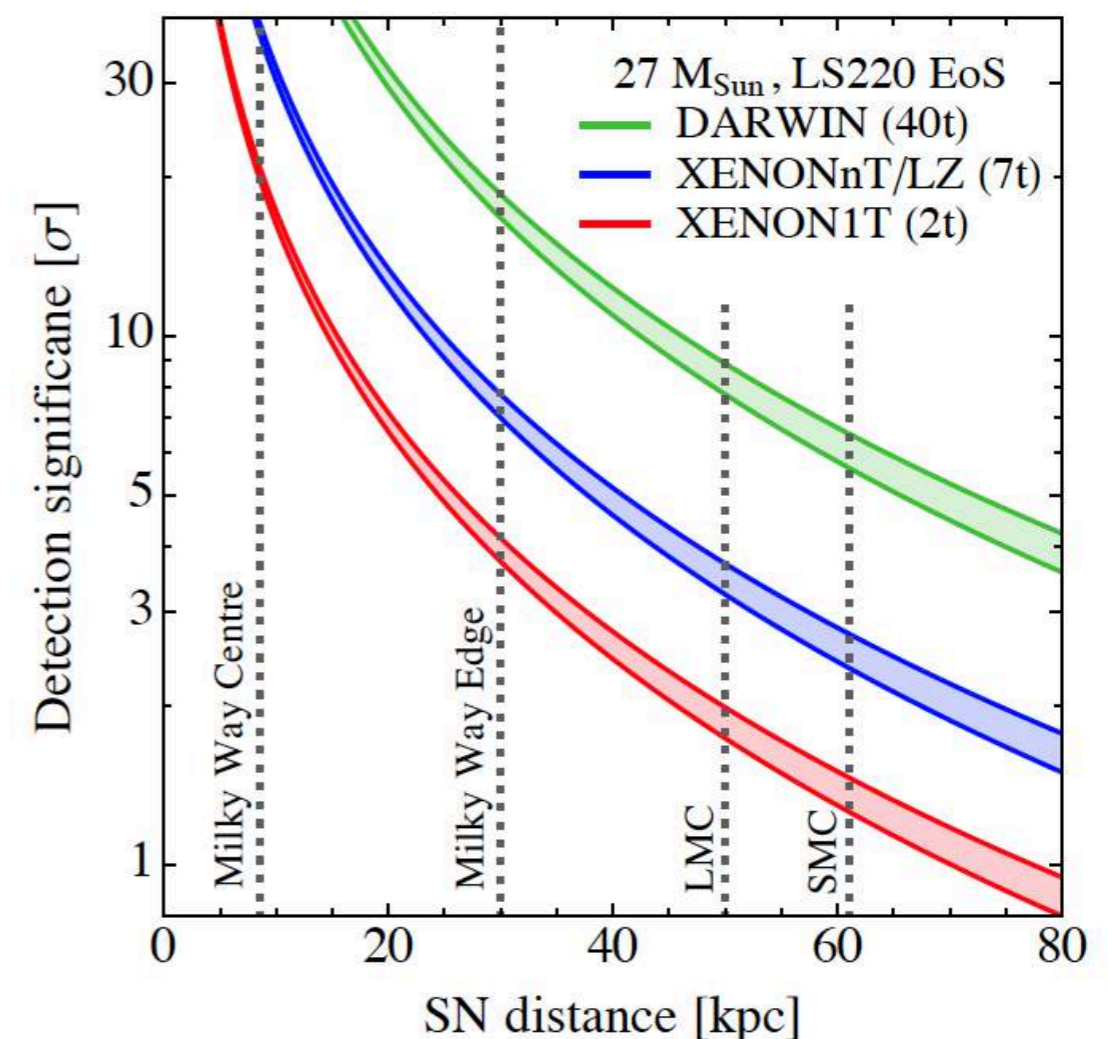
CEvNS with xenon nuclei: not affected by neutrino oscillation

Low energy events -> S2-only analysis

(in the few s burst duration the background rate is small enough: $0.02 / (t \text{ s})$)

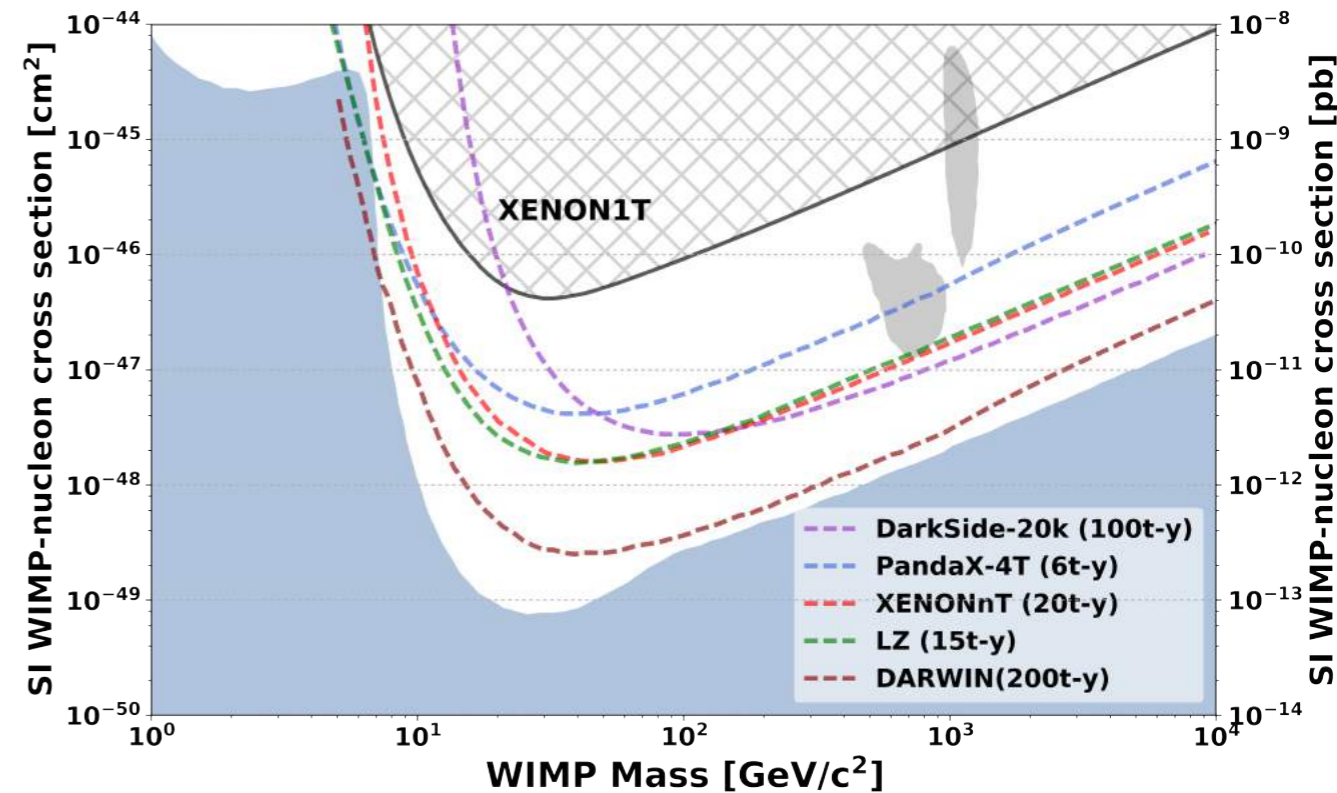
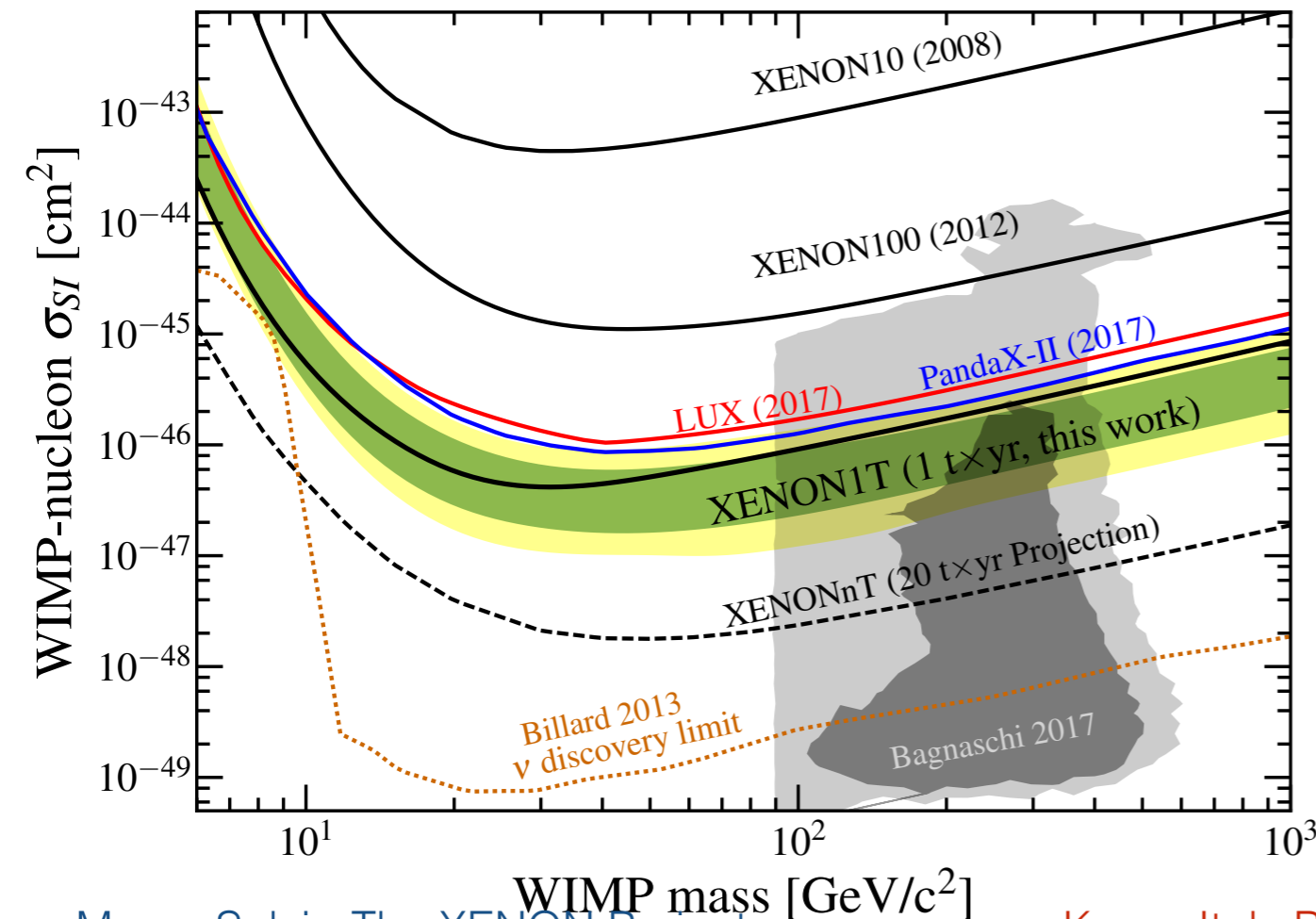
Events per ton of Xe

		27 M _⊙		11 M _⊙	
		LS220	Shen	LS220	Shen
S1 _{th} [PE]	$\langle N_{\text{ph}} \rangle$				
≥ 0	0	26.9	21.4	15.1	12.3
> 0	0	13.3	9.8	6.9	5.2
1	8.3	11.0	8.0	5.6	4.1
2	16.7	7.3	5.1	3.6	2.6
3 (★)	25	5.2	3.5	2.4	1.7
S2 _{th} [PE]	$\langle N_{\text{el}} \rangle$				
≥ 0	0	26.9	21.4	15.1	12.3
> 0	0	18.5	14.0	9.9	7.6
20	1.2	18.4	14.0	9.8	7.6
40	2.4	18.1	13.7	9.7	7.4
60 (★)	3.6	17.6	13.3	9.4	7.2
80	4.8	17.0	12.8	9.0	6.9
100	6.0	16.3	12.2	8.6	6.5



Summary

- Successfully operated the first multi-ton scale LXeTPC for > 1 year
- Achieved lowest background in any DM detector: 0.2 events / (t keV d)
- The result from a blind analysis of 1 tonne x year data places strongest limit above 6 GeV/c² on WIMP-nucleon SI cross-section at $4.1 \times 10^{-47} \text{ cm}^2$ for a WIMP of 30 GeV/c²
- The search with XENON1T continues with a larger and better detector, XENONnT, to enable another boost in sensitivity by an order of magnitude
- Nice prospects of using LXe detectors for neutrino physics in the “near” future



Thanks !

Marco Selvi - INFN Bologna
(on behalf of the
XENON collaboration)

