

XENON1T and Beyond: the Search for *Heavy* and *Light* Dark Matter Particles

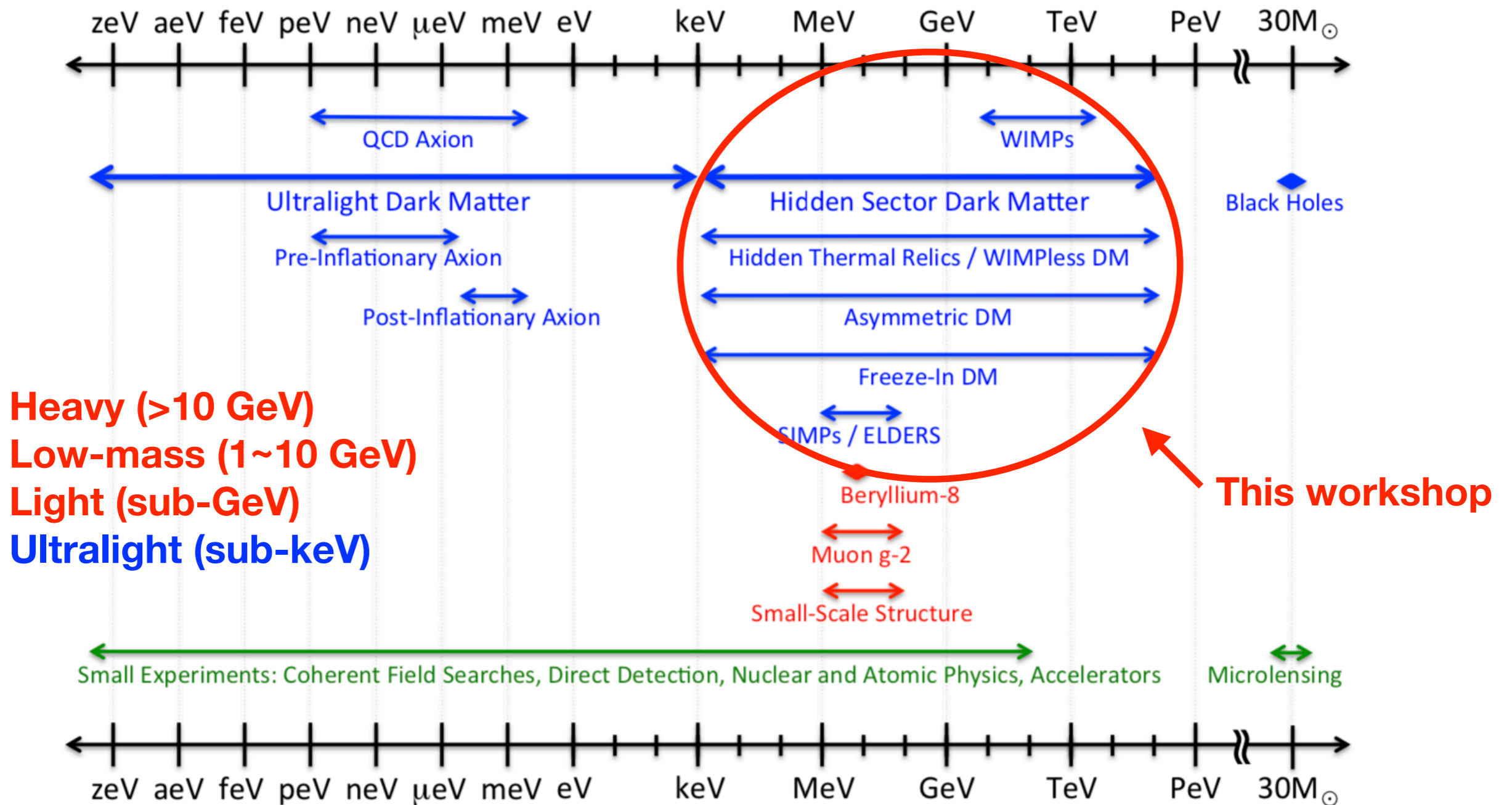
Kaixuan Ni

University of California San Diego

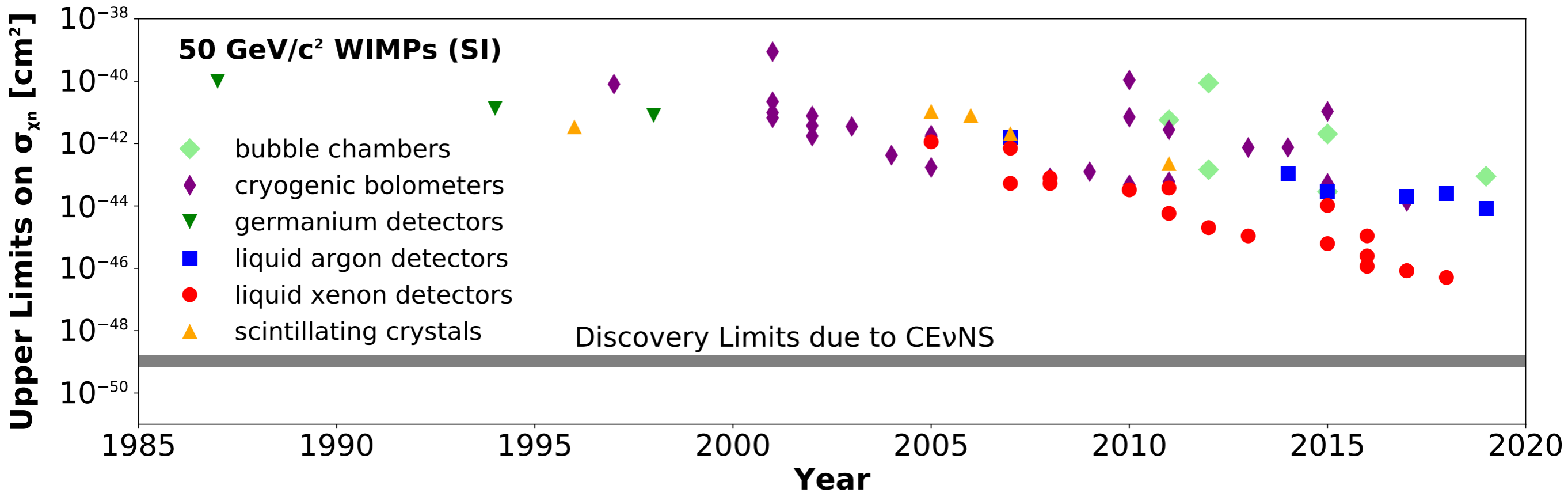
(on behalf of the XENON Collaboration)

Heavy, Low-mass and Light Dark Matter

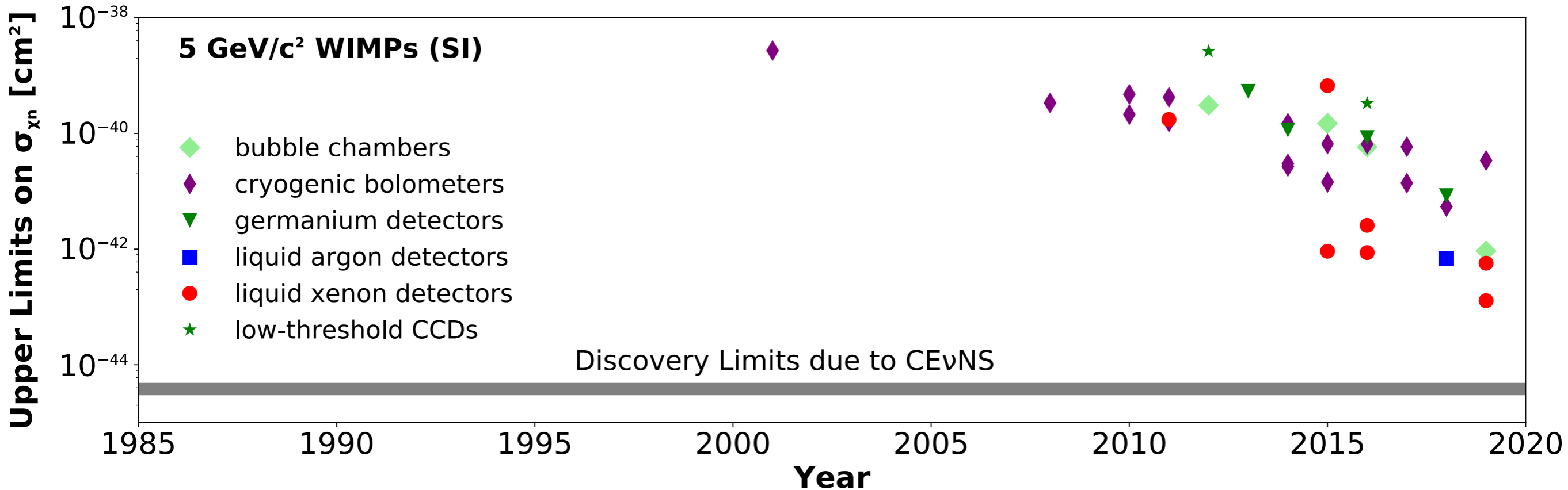
Dark Sector Candidates, Anomalies, and Search Techniques



Heavy DM: limits improved by 5 orders of magnitude in the last 20 years

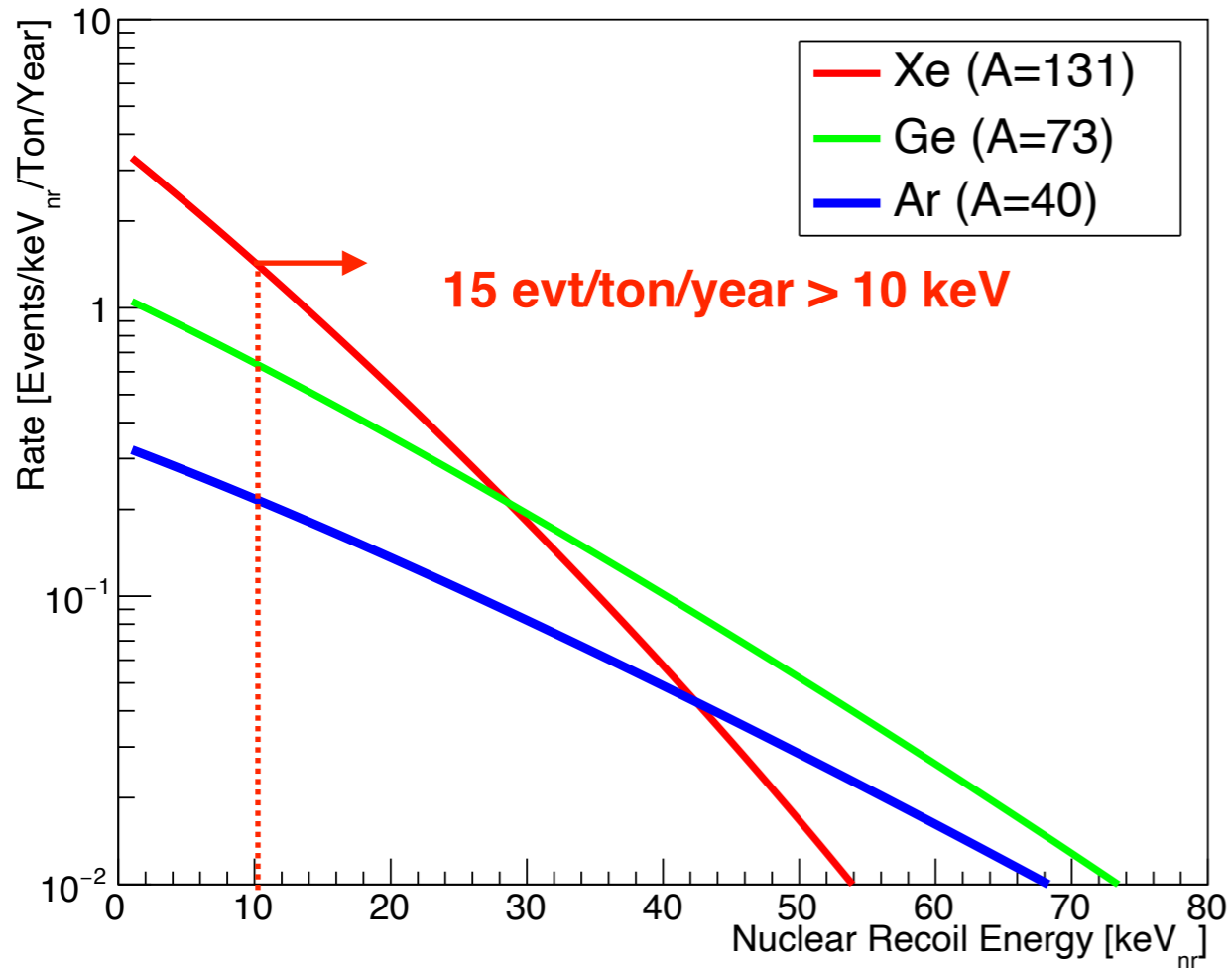


Low-mass DM: limits improved by 4 orders of magnitude in the last 10 years



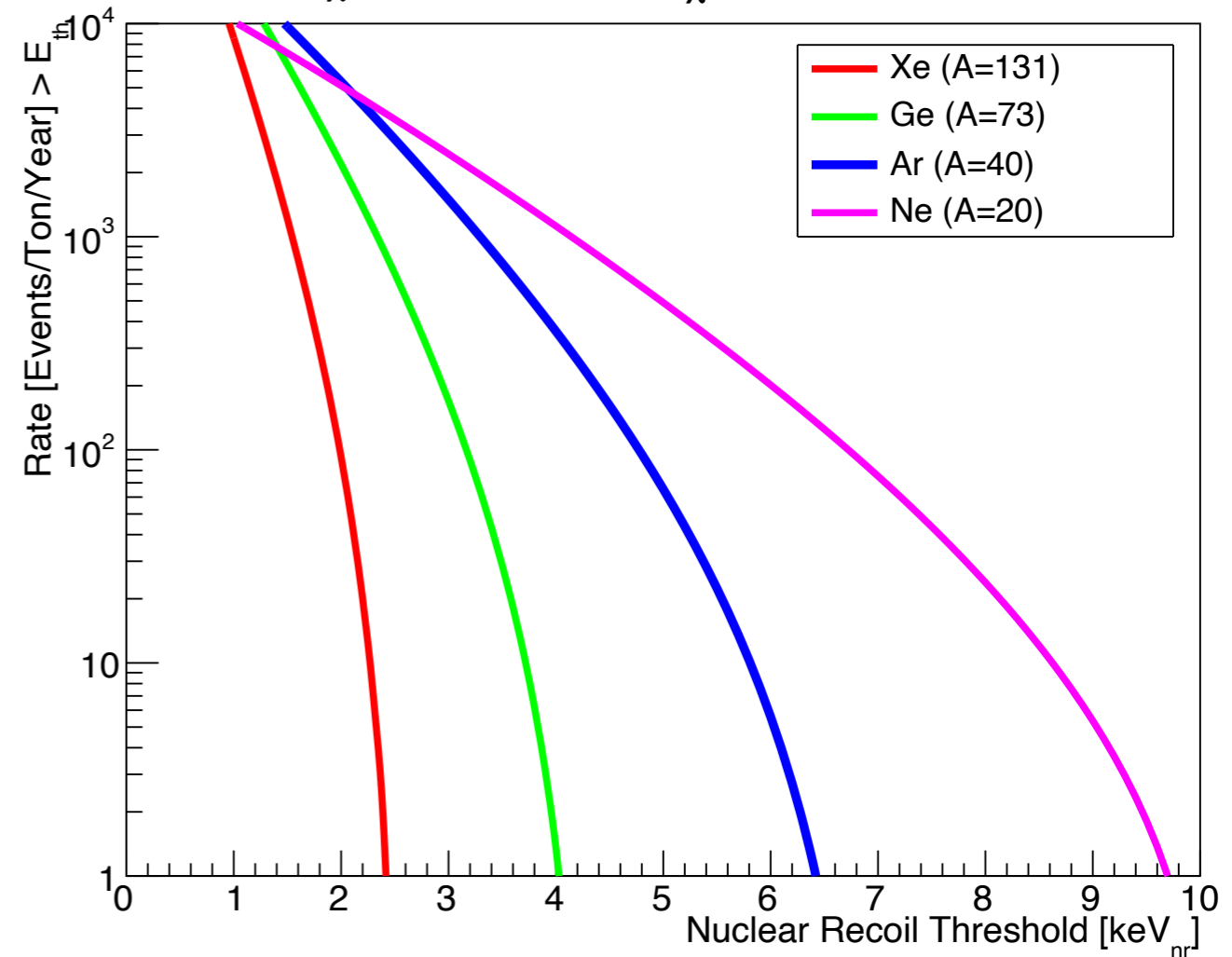
Expected nuclear recoil event rates from WIMPs

$$M_\chi = 50 \text{ GeV}/c^2, \sigma_{\chi-n} = 1e-46 \text{ cm}^2$$



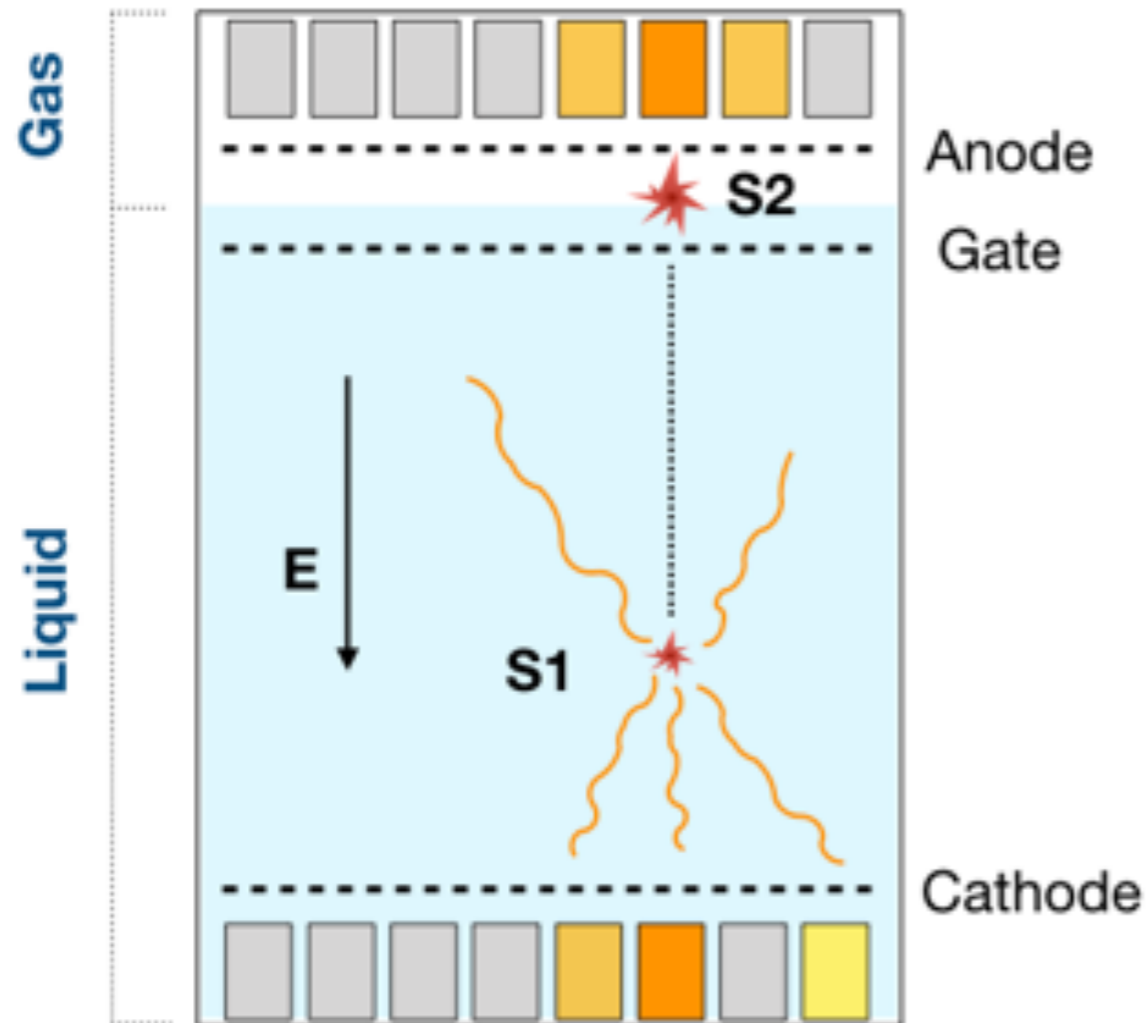
Heavy WIMPs

$$M_\chi = 5 \text{ GeV}/c^2, \sigma_{\chi-n} = 1e-42 \text{ cm}^2$$



Low-mass WIMPs

Two-phase Xenon detectors for both **Heavy** and **Light** Dark Matter

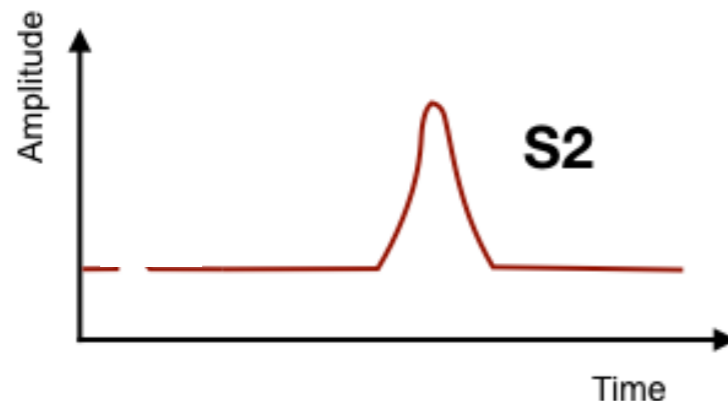


With both S1 and S2 signals (TPC mode):

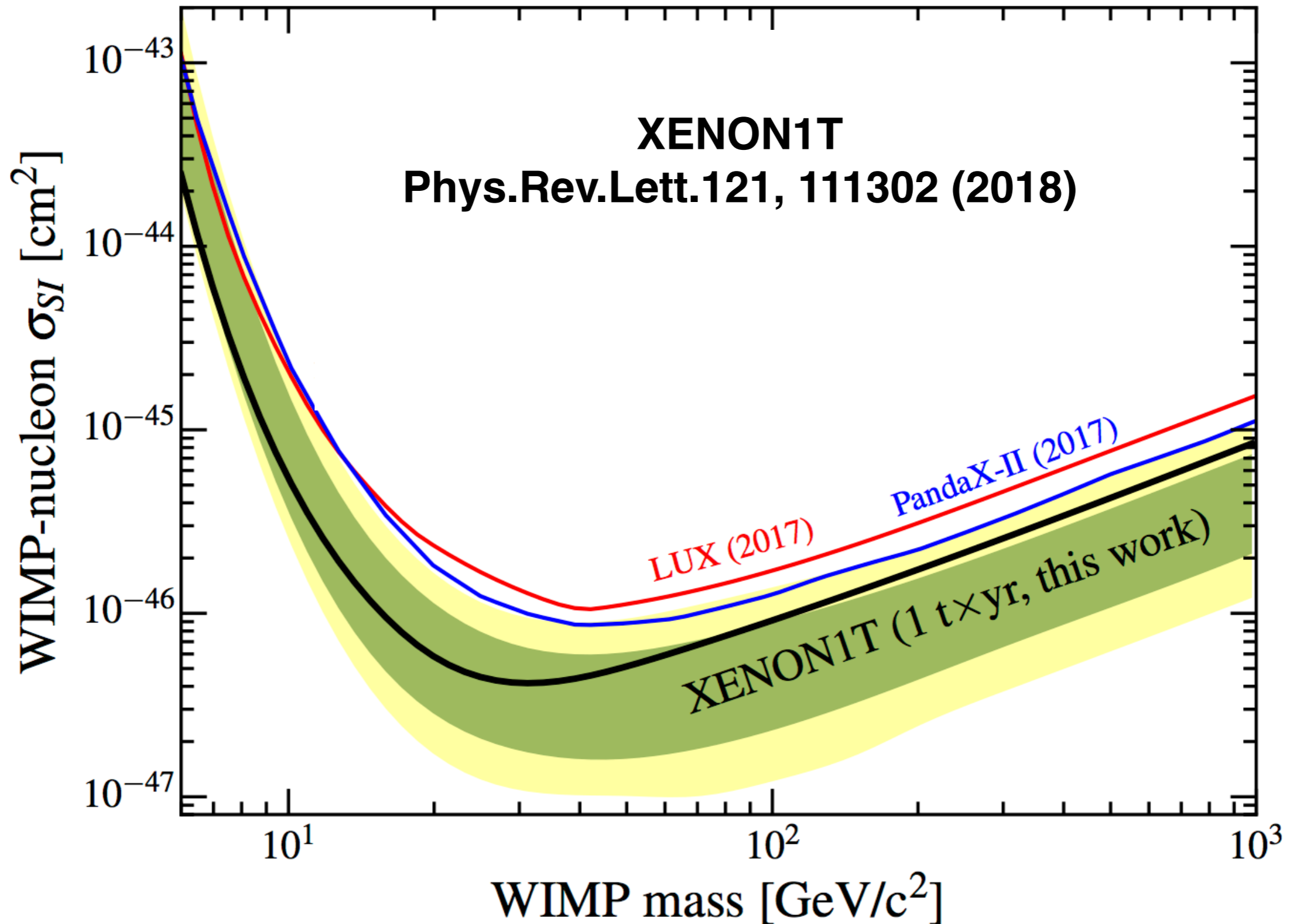
- **Low threshold: keV** (set by S1: 2-3 PE)
- Corresponding S2: > 200 PE
- **Ultra-low background**
 - 3D fiducialization
 - ER/NR discrimination with S2/S1

With S2-only signal (EC - Electron Counting mode):

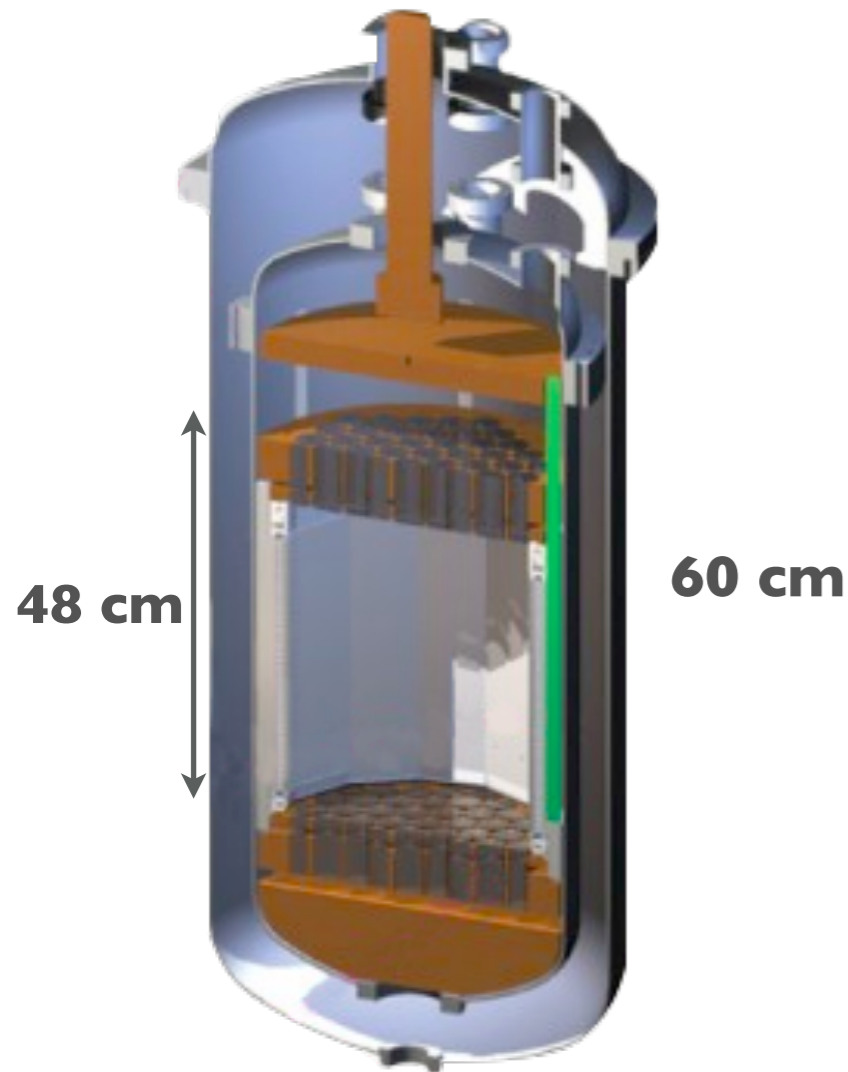
- **Ultra-low threshold: 10-100 eV** (set by S2)
- single e- signal: 10~100 PE
- Background control a challenge:
 - No ER/NR discrimination
 - Only XY position determined, no Z
 - Known/unknown source of single/few electrons



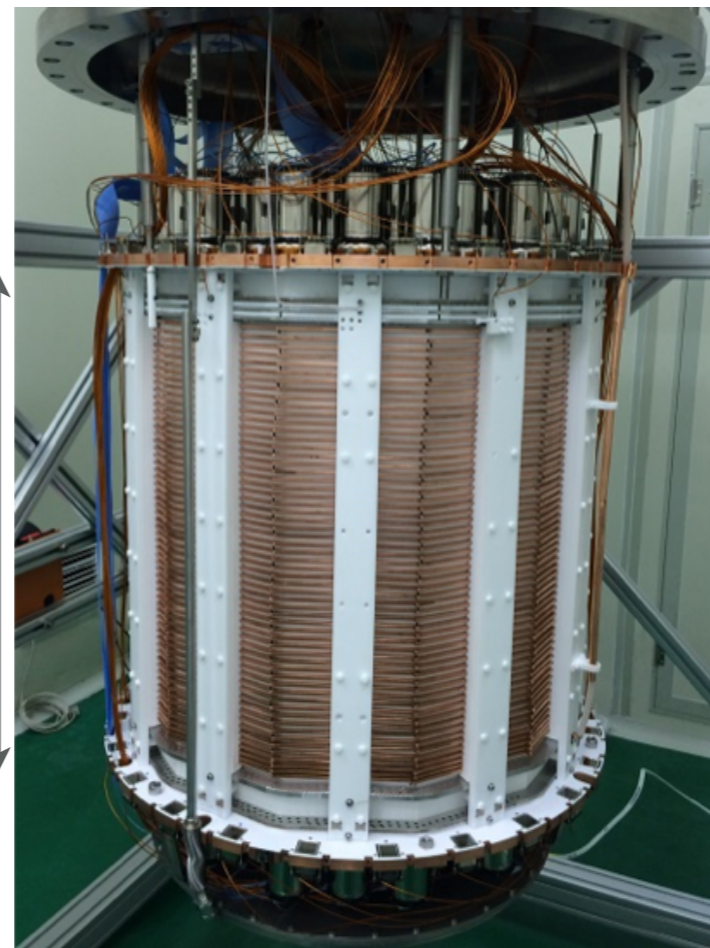
The **three most constraining limits** for **heavy** dark matter interaction are **all from liquid xenon based experiments**.



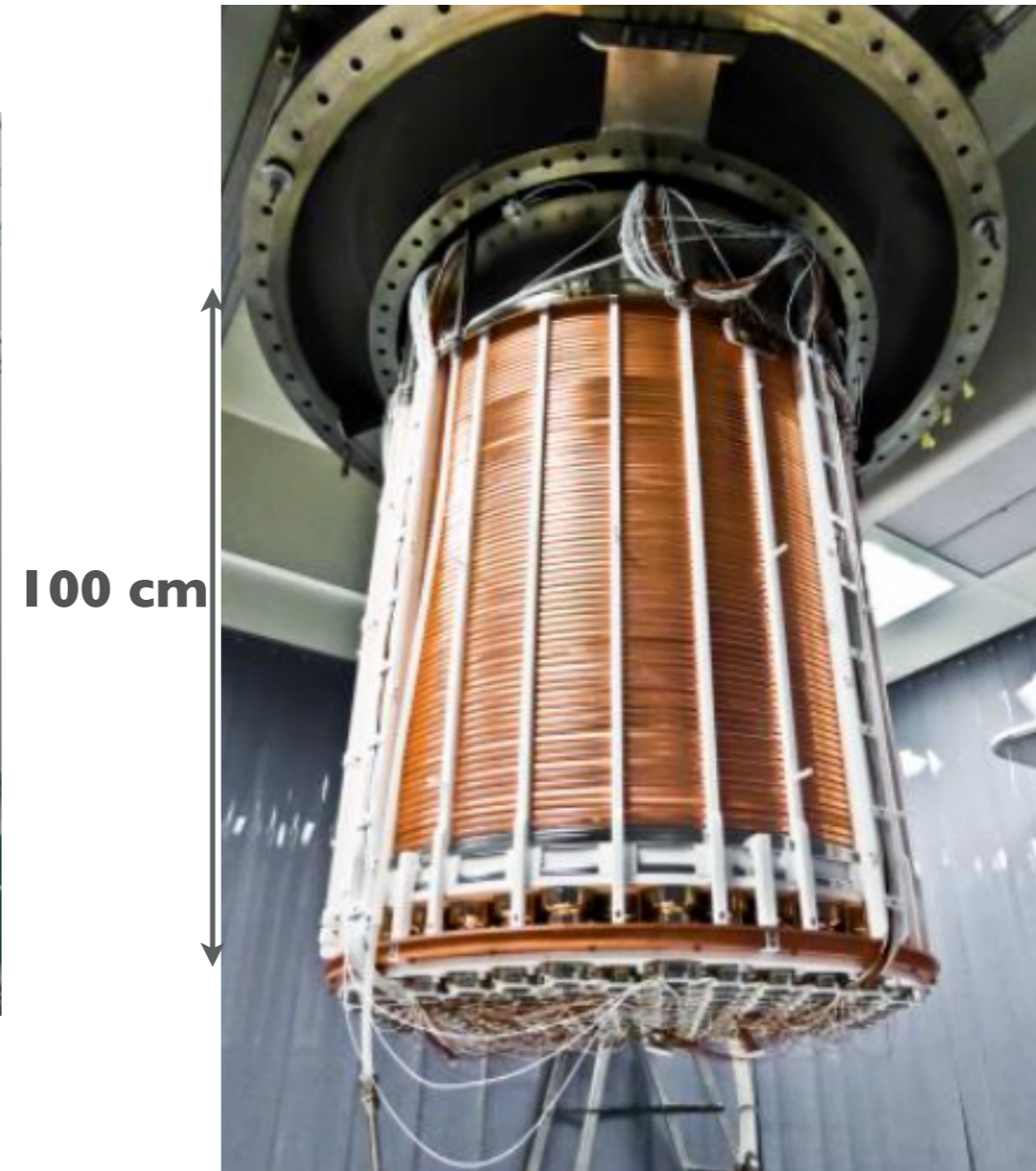
The Era of Liquid Xenon Time Projection Chambers



LUX
Active Target: ~250 kg
Location: US
decommissioned



PandaX-II
Active Target: ~580 kg
Location: China
Data-taking: 2016-2019
finished data taking



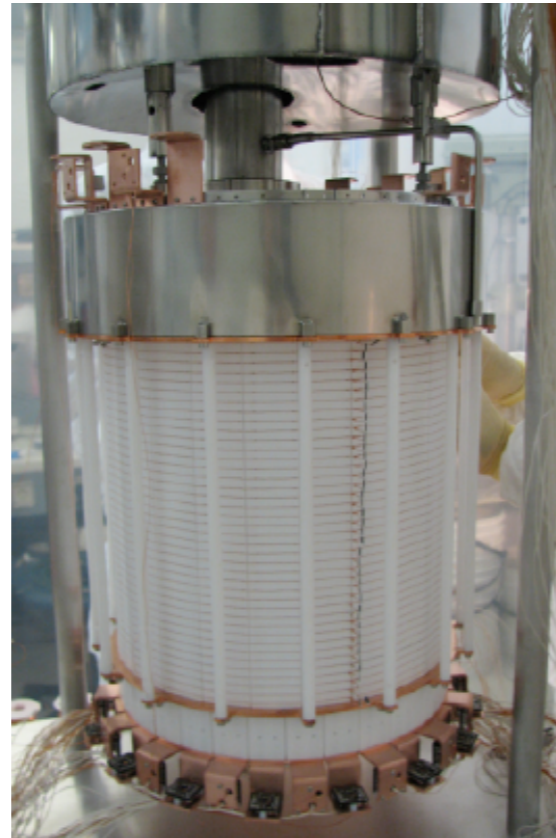
XENONIT
Active Target: 2000 kg
Location: Italy
Data-taking: 2016-2018
decommissioned

The XENON Dark Matter Search Program

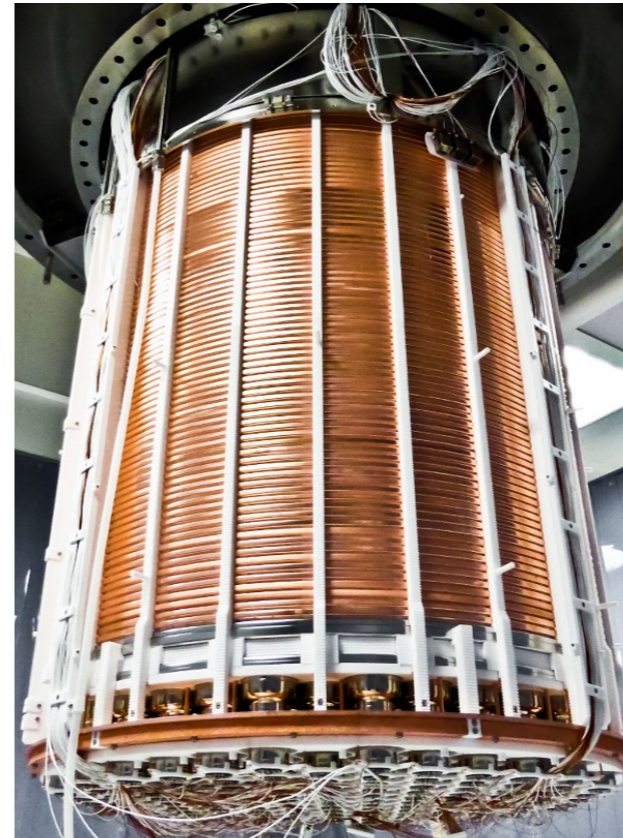
XENON10



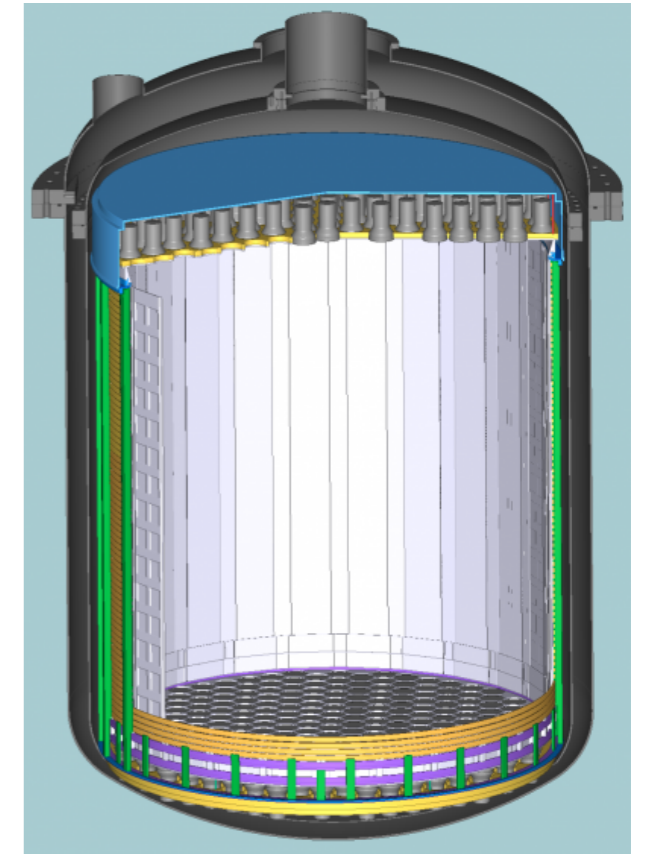
XENON100



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

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

2019-2025

8 ton - 1.5 m drift

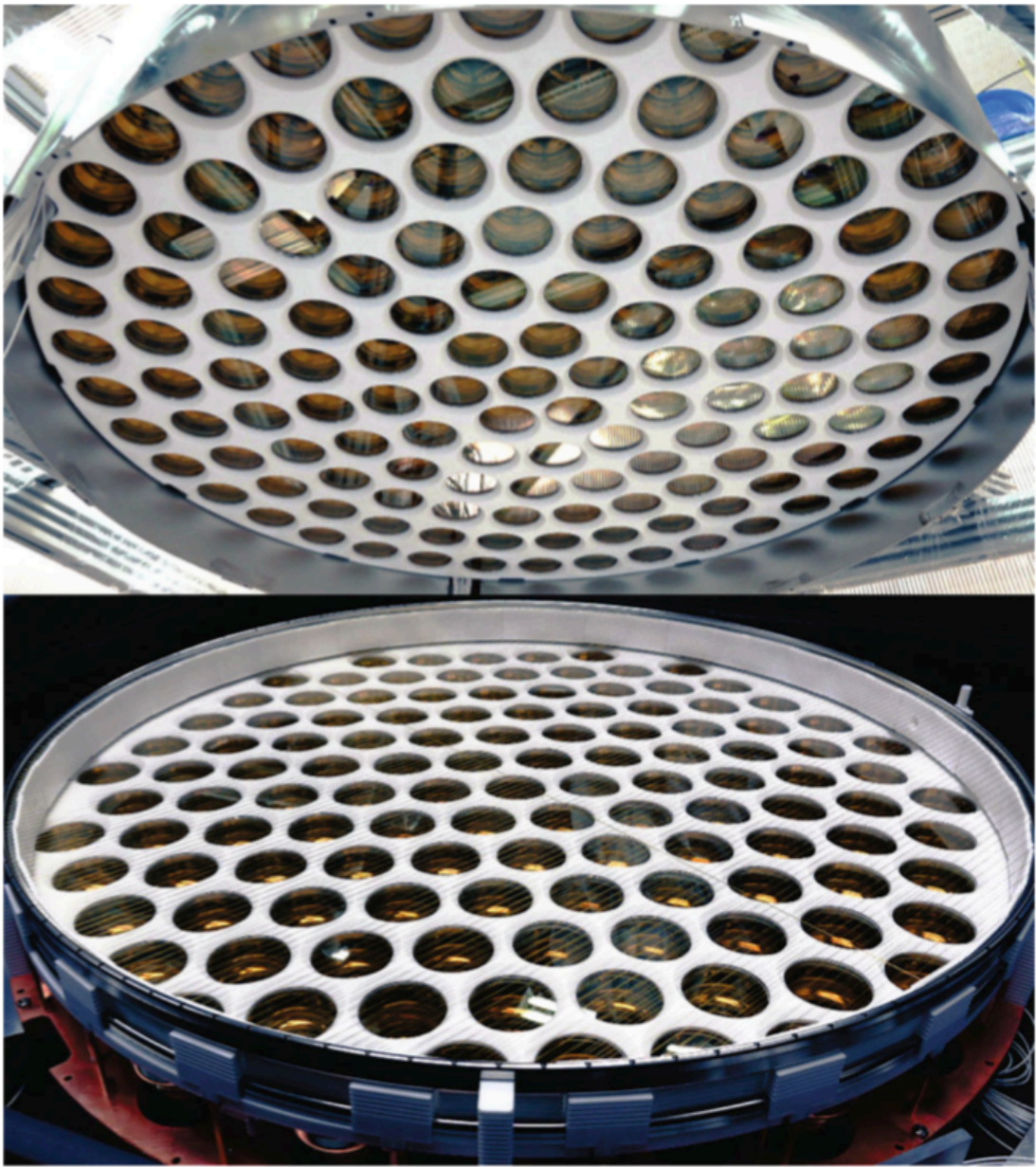
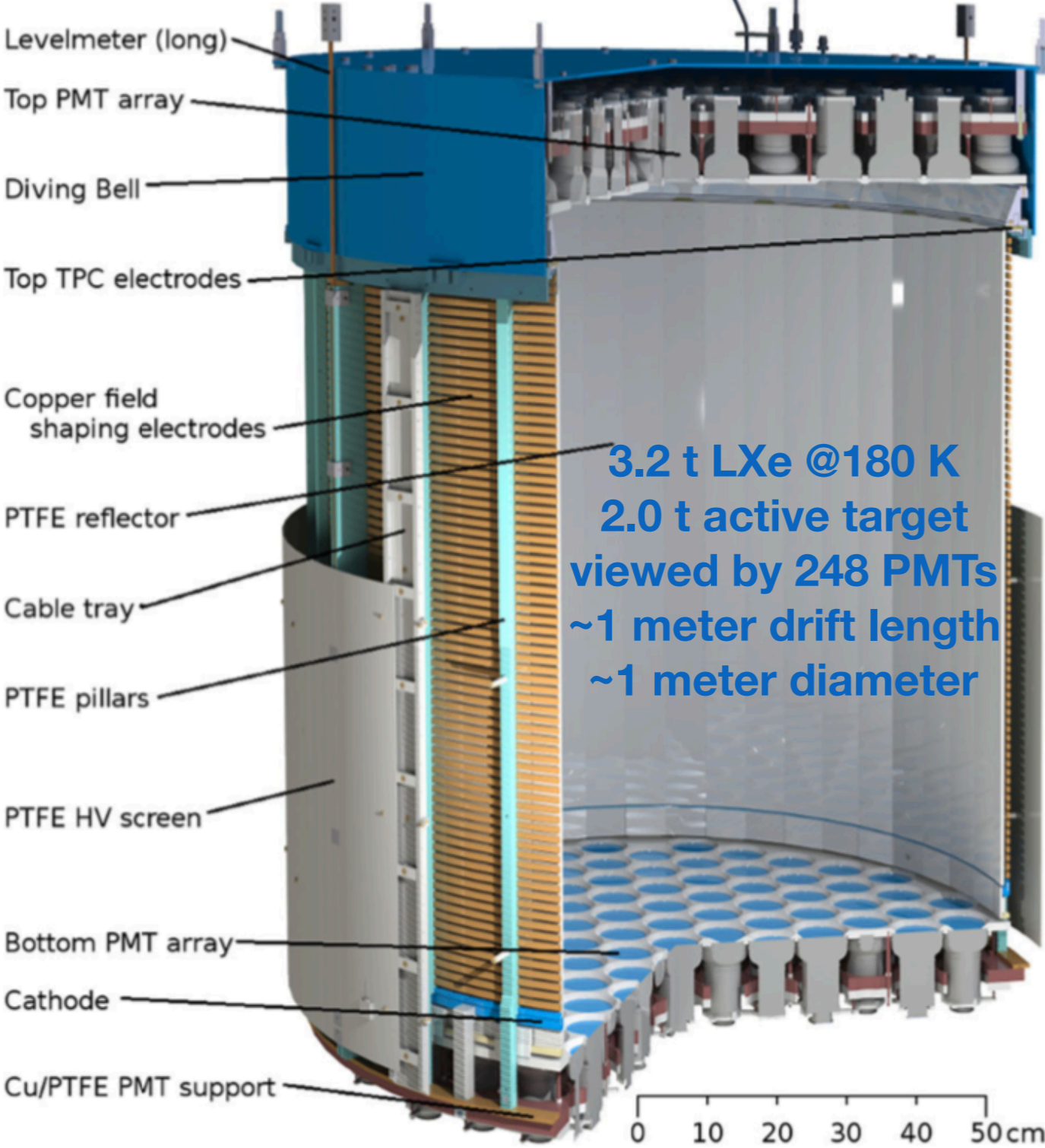
$\sim 10^{-48} \text{ cm}^2$

The XENON International Collaboration



3 continents, 26 institutions, 165 members

Central Detector Components



The XENON1T Detector and Water Shield/Veto



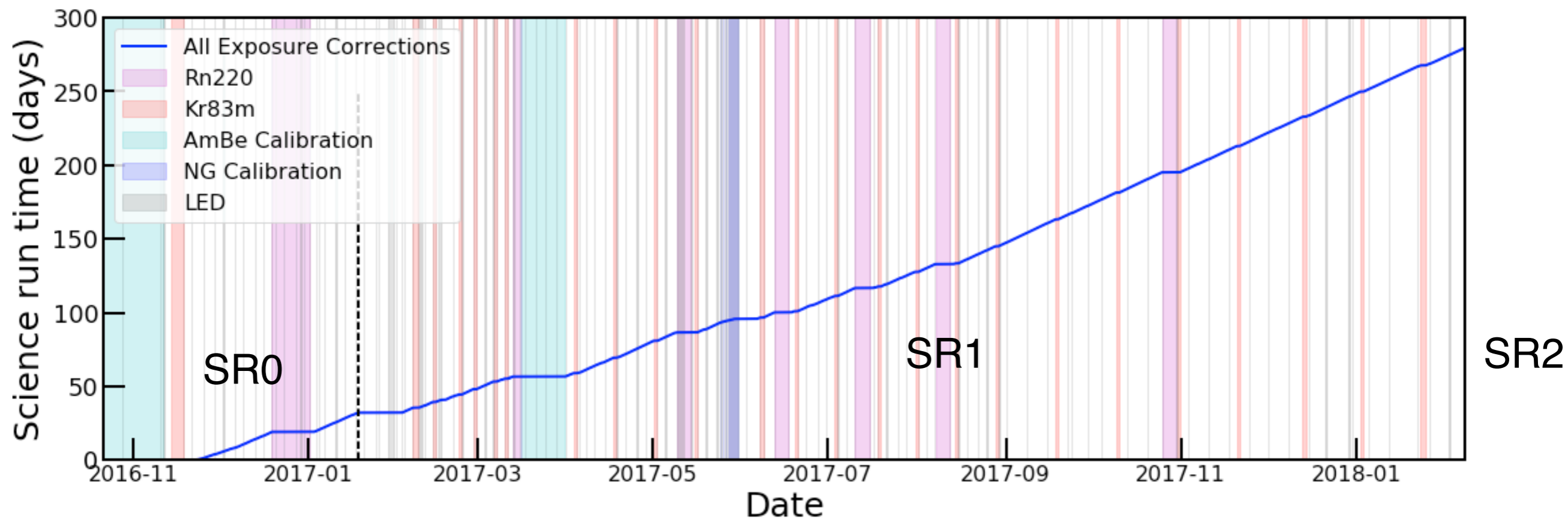
The XENON1T Dark Matter Experiment

EPJ (2017), arXiv:1708.07051



XENON1T Data taking

279 live-days low background physics data collected between Nov. 2016 and Feb. 2018. More data (SR2) collected until end of 2018.



Instrument & Projection

JCAP 04, 027 (2016), 1512.07501

EPJ C 77, 881 (2017), 1708.07051

Analysis papers:

PRD 99, 112009 (2019), 1902.11297

PRD 100, 052014 (2019), 1906.04717

Physics results:

PRL 119,181301 (2017): first result

PRL121, 111302 (2018): SI

PRL 122, 071301 (2019): WIMP-pion

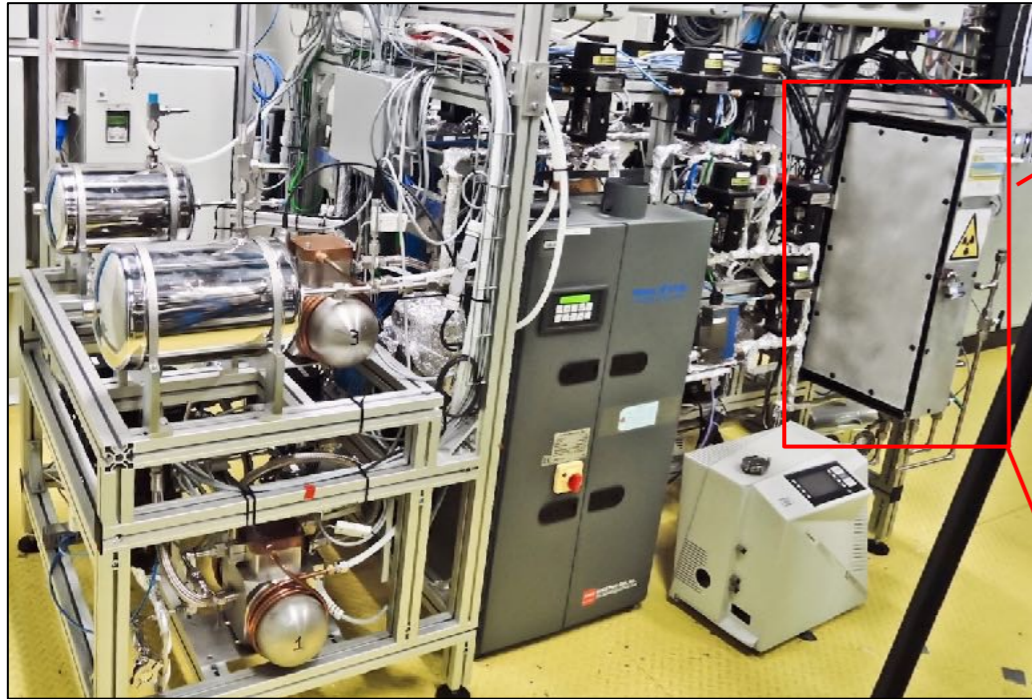
PRL 122, 141301 (2019): SD

Nature, 568, 532 (2019): Xe124 DEC

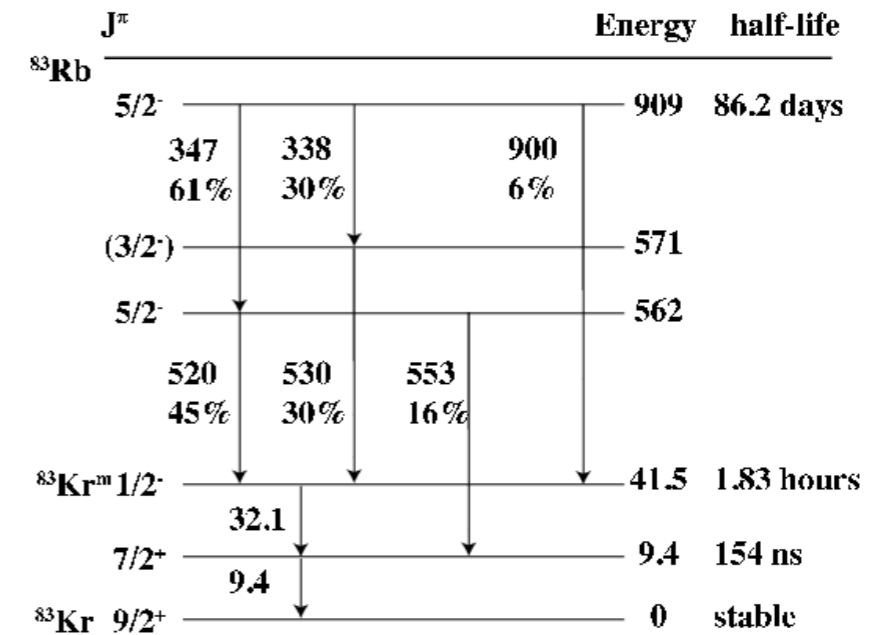
[arXiv:1907.11485 \(PRL\): light DM](#)

[arXiv:1907.12771 \(PRL\): Migdal effect](#)

Detector Calibrations



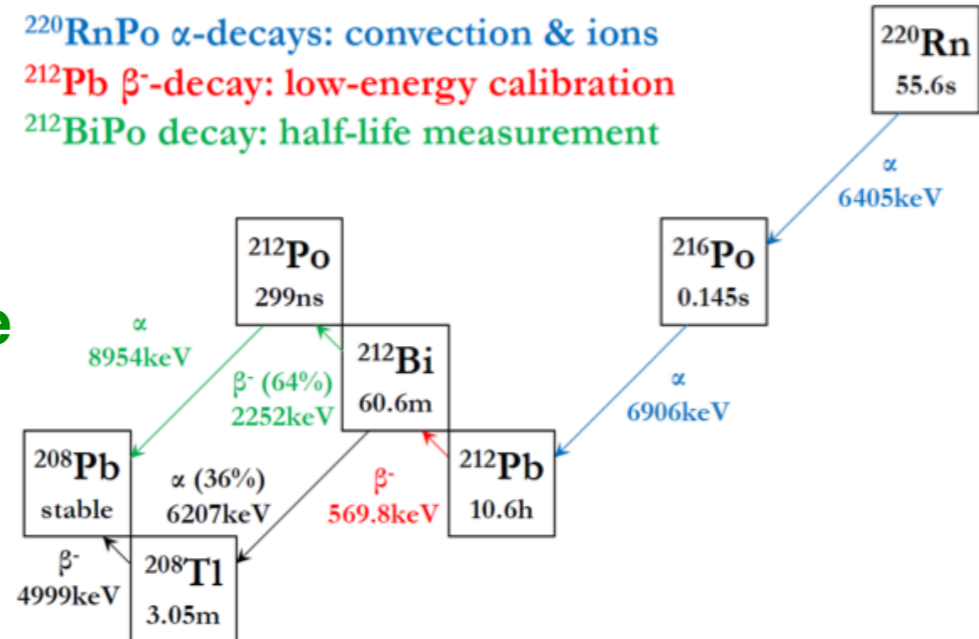
^{83m}Kr : to calibrate the energy response



AmBe neutrons

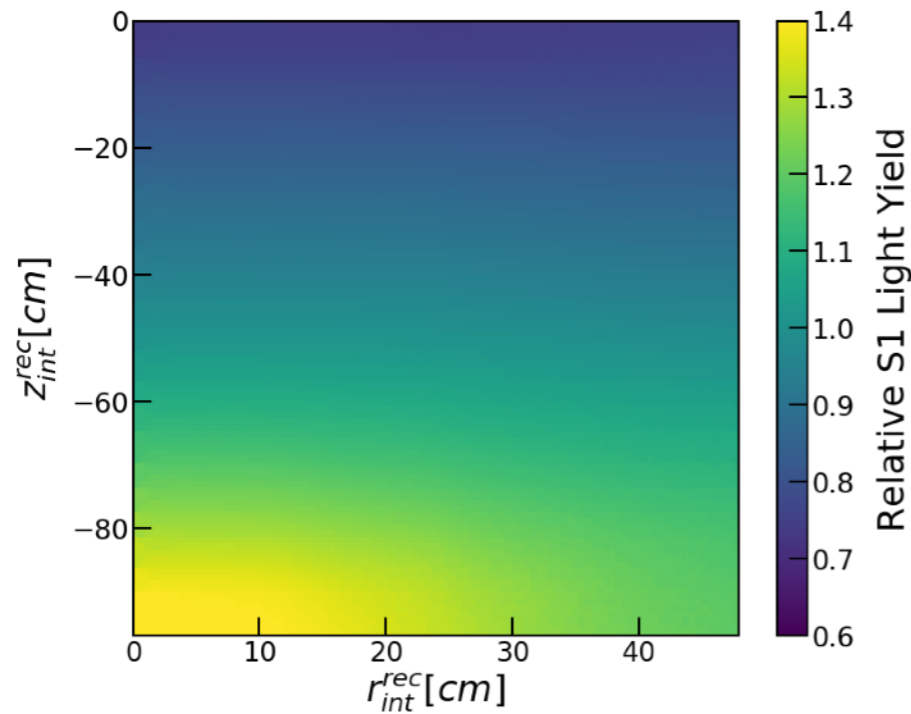
use neutrons to calibrate the Nuclear Recoil (NR) signals

^{220}Rn : to calibrate the Electronic Recoil (ER) background from ^{222}Rn

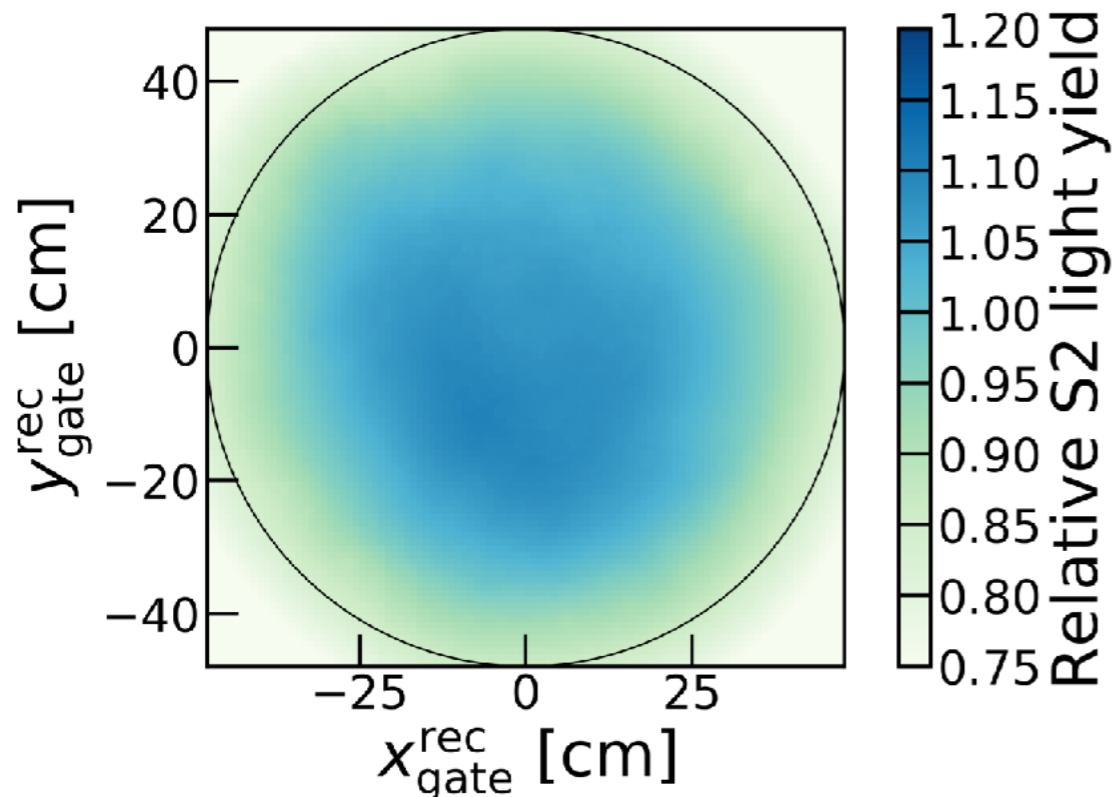


Energy response with fixed energy gammas

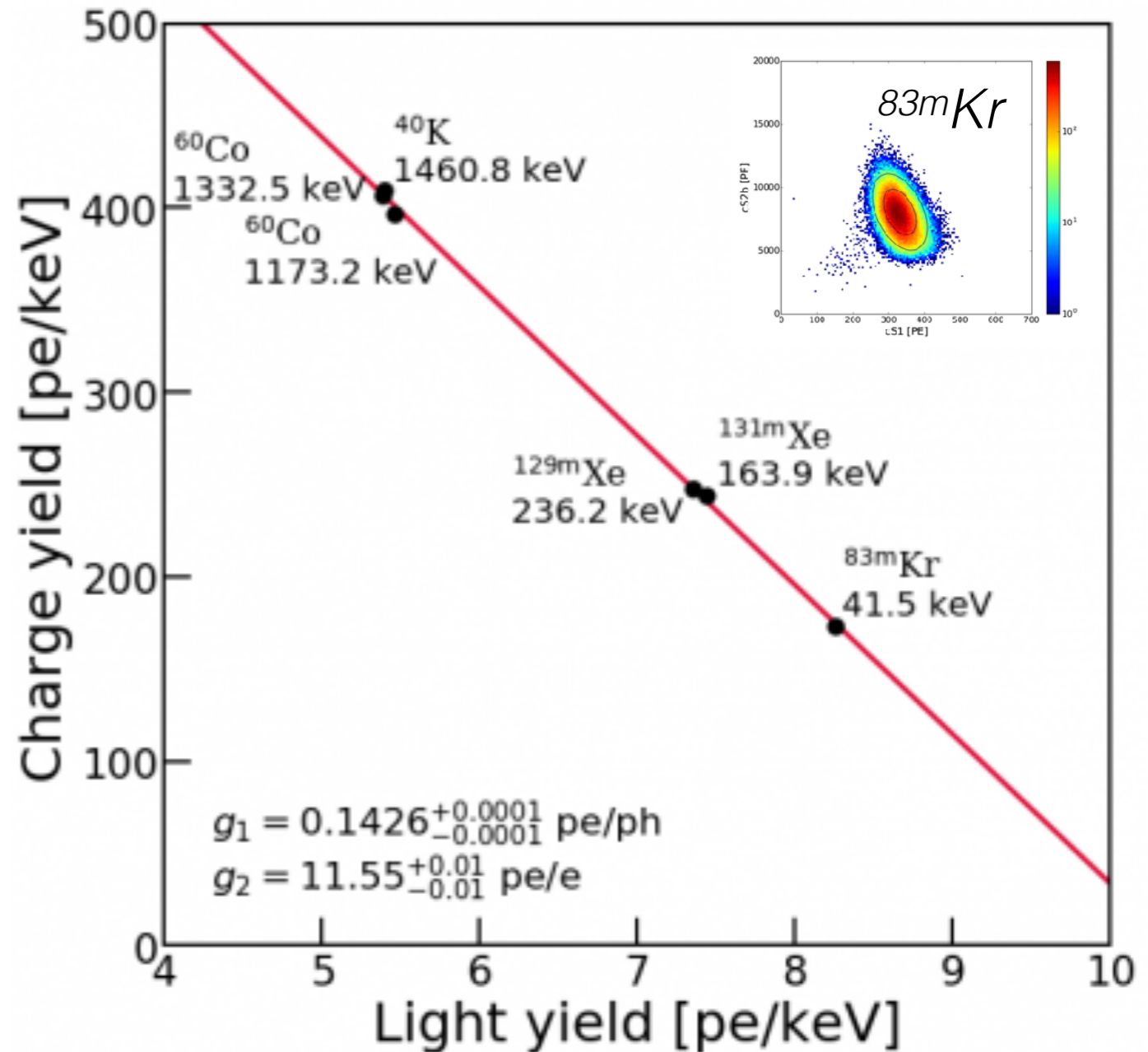
S1 Position Dependence



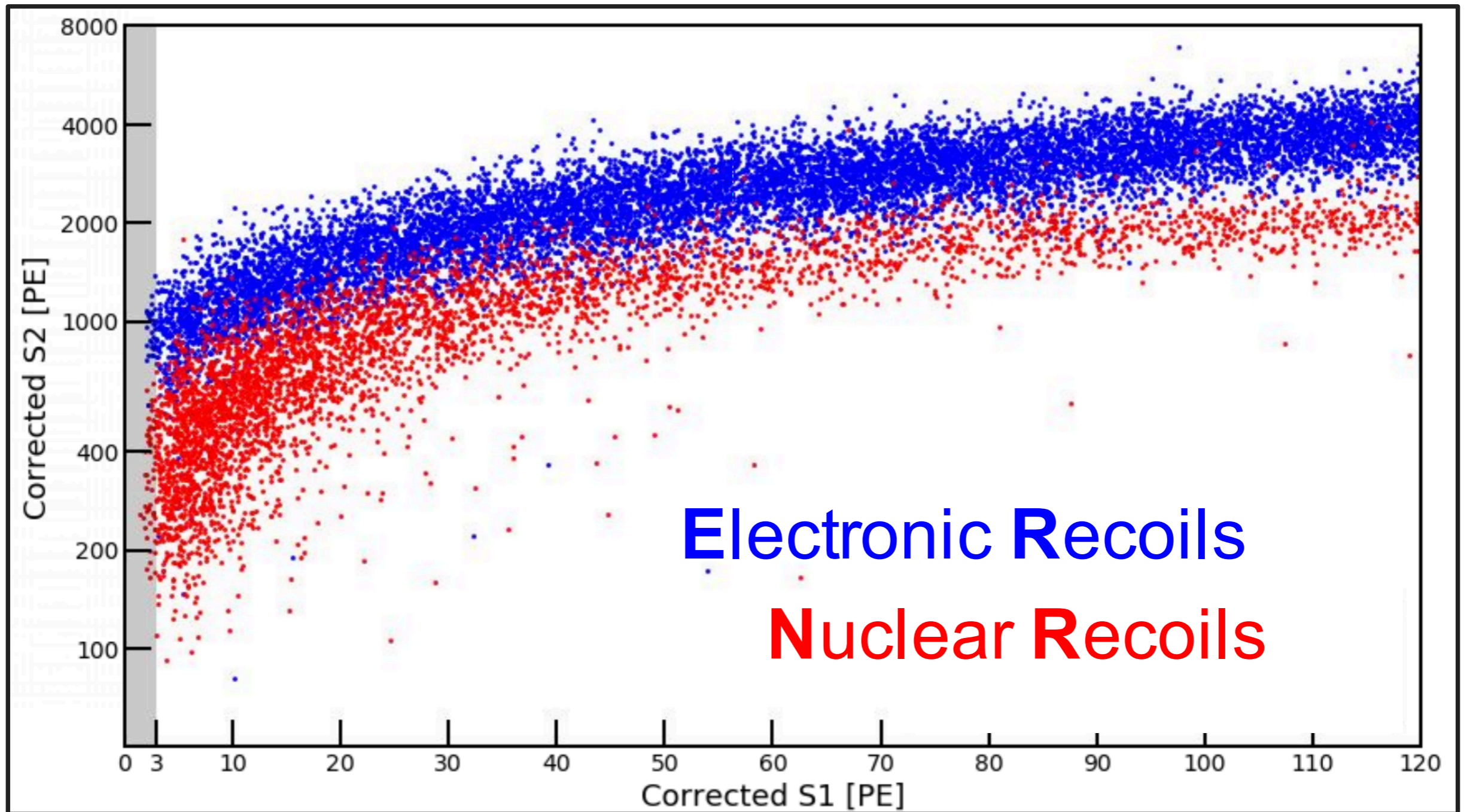
S2 Position Dependence



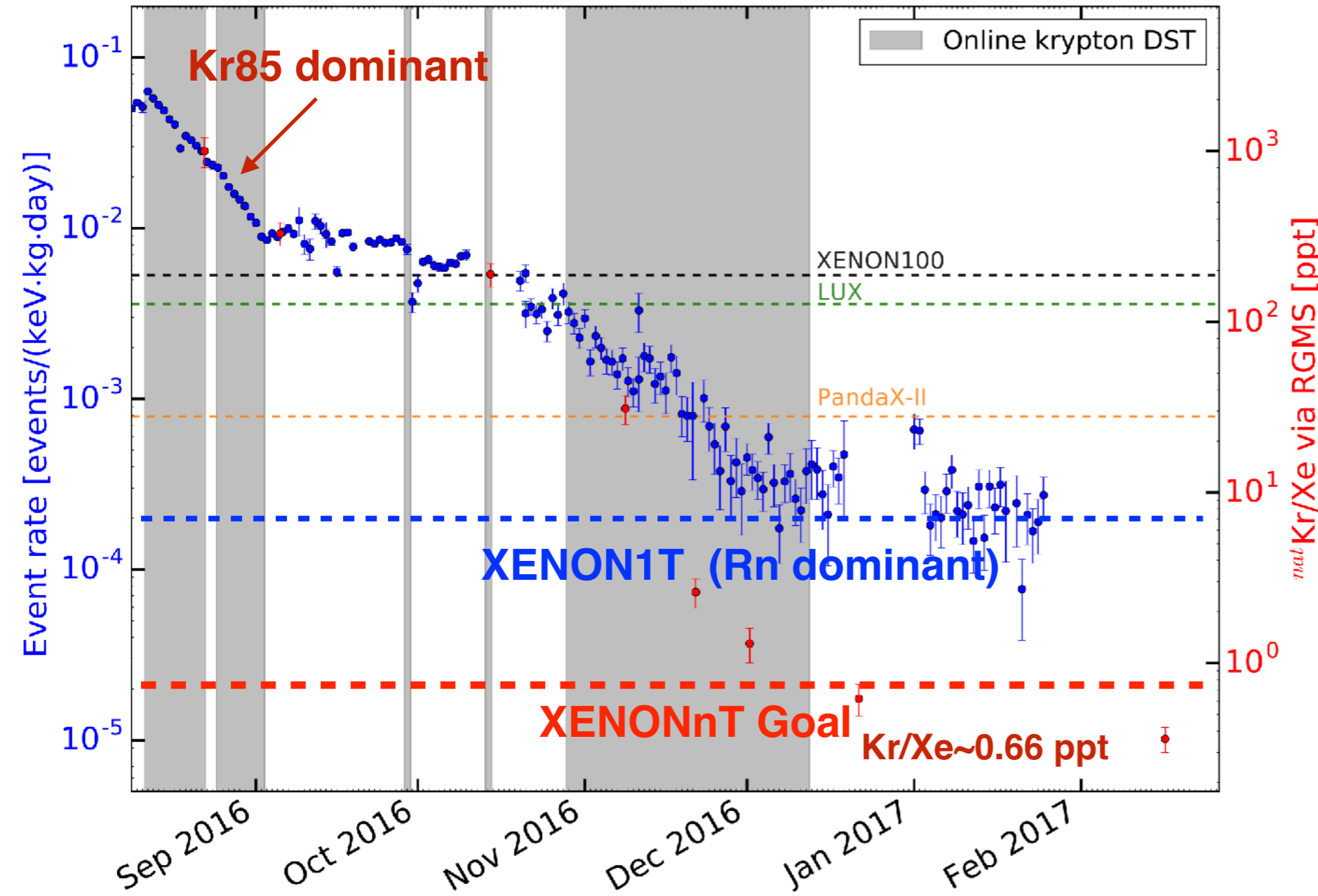
$$E = (n_{ph} + n_e) \cdot W = \left(\frac{S1}{g1} + \frac{S2}{g2} \right) \cdot W$$



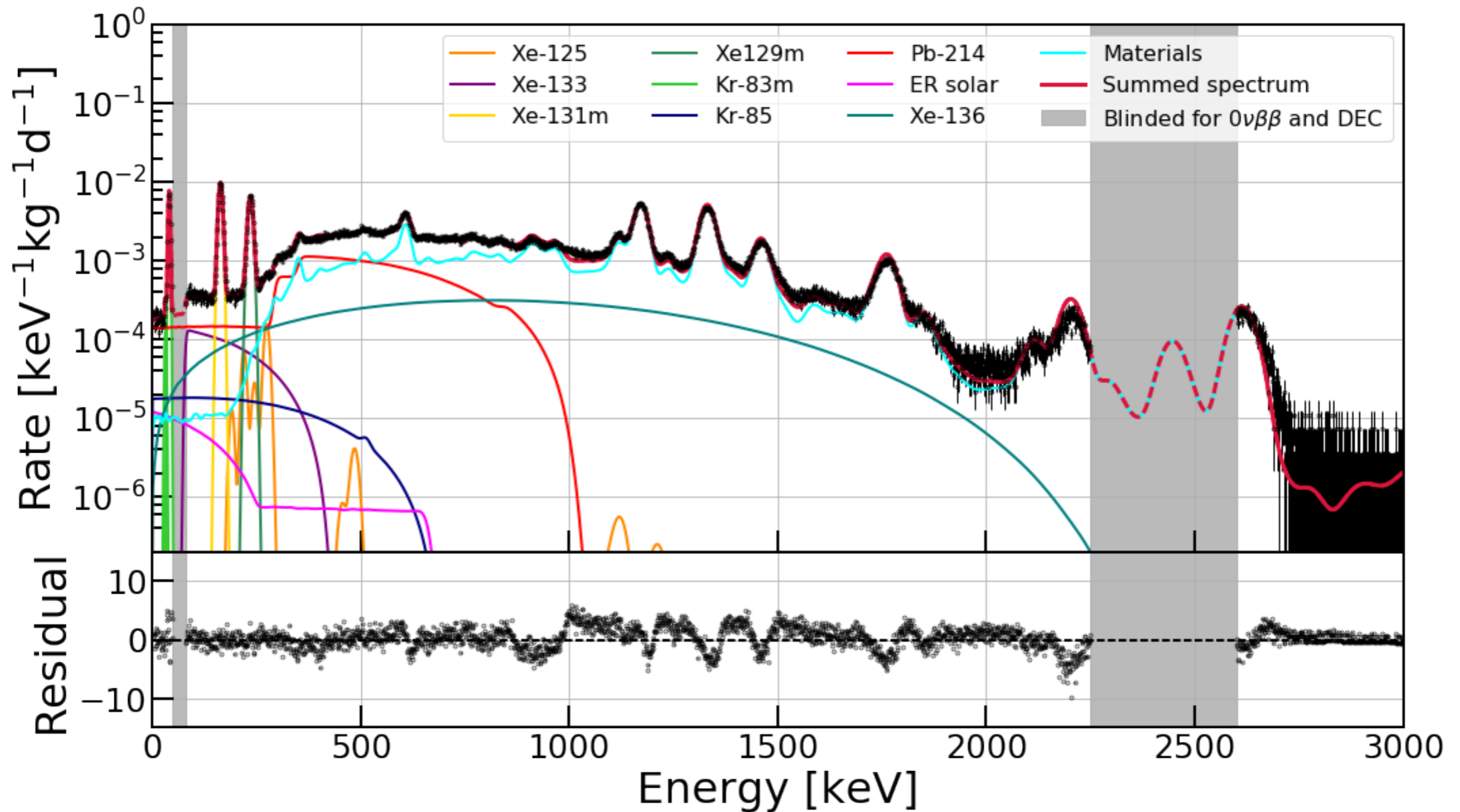
Calibrating Electronic and Nuclear Recoils



XENON1T achieved the lowest electronic recoil background, with major contribution from remaining Radon-222 ($\sim 10 \mu\text{Bq/kg}$)



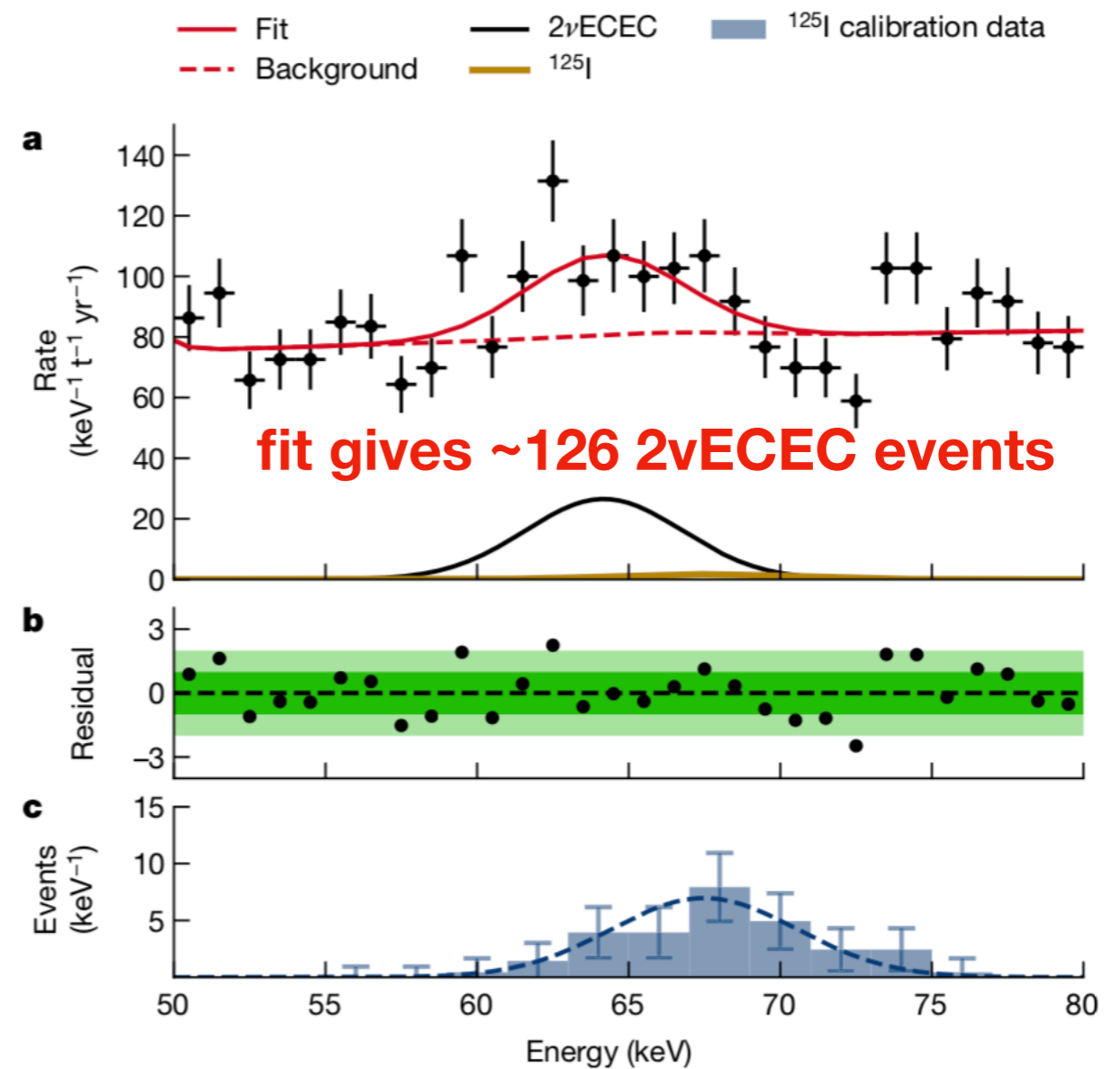
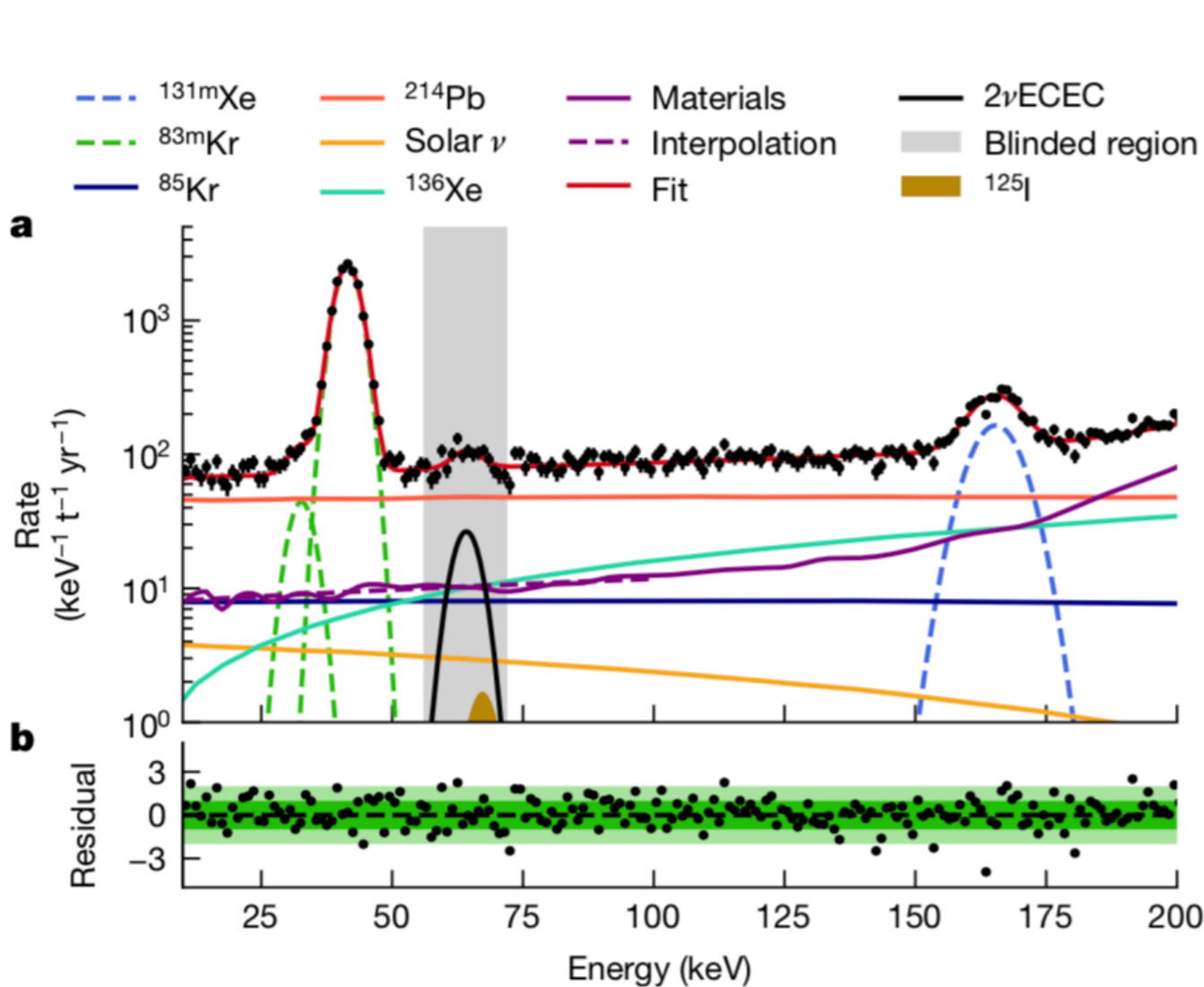
The ultra-low **Electronic recoils (ER)** background allows the search for other rare processes in nature.



Other three main types of background: **Surface**, **Accidental Coincidence**, **Radiogenic neutrons**

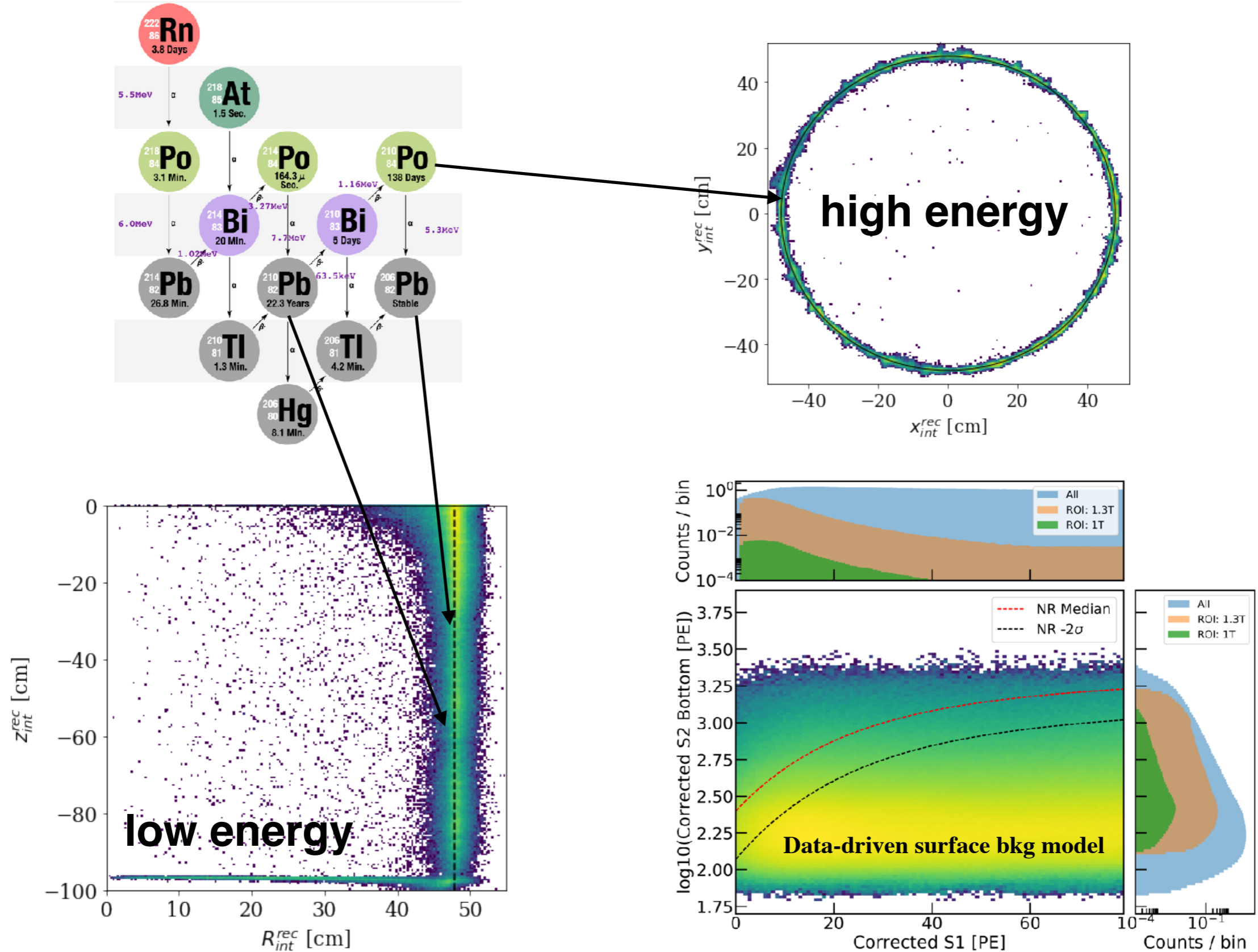
Observation of two-neutrino double electron capture in Xe-124 with XENON1T

Nature, 568 (2019)

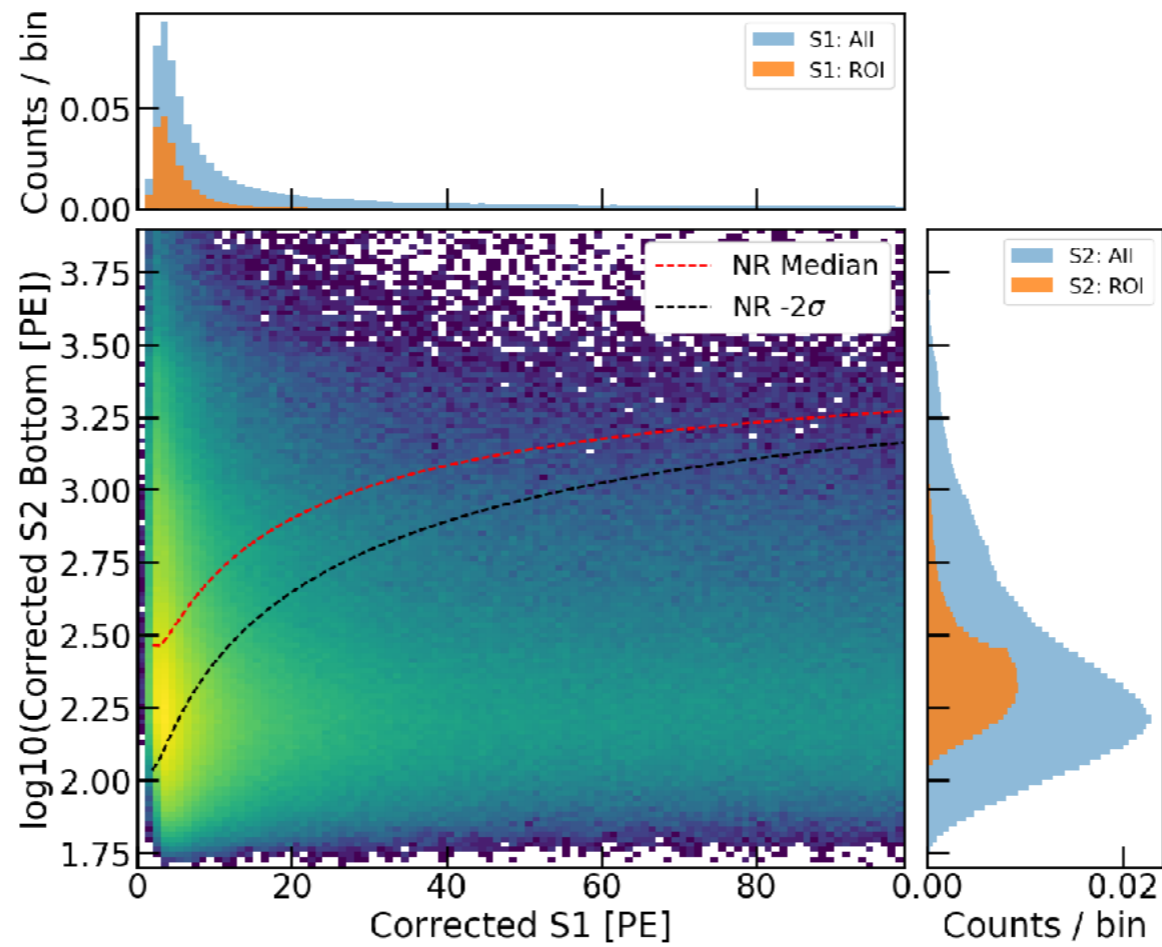
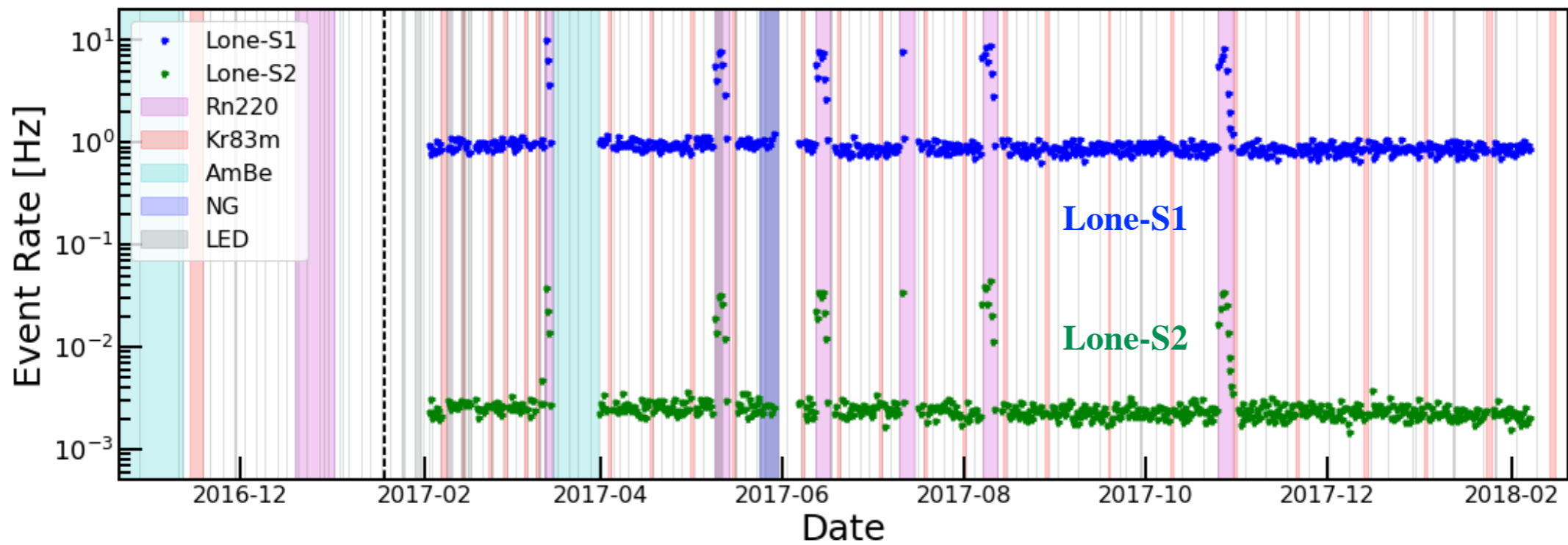


Xe-124 2νECEC half-life measured: $[1.8 \pm 0.5(\text{sys}) \pm 0.1(\text{stat})] \times 10^{22}$ years

Surface Background, from reduced-S2 events from Rn-daughters on the PTFE surface



Accidental Coincidence (AC)



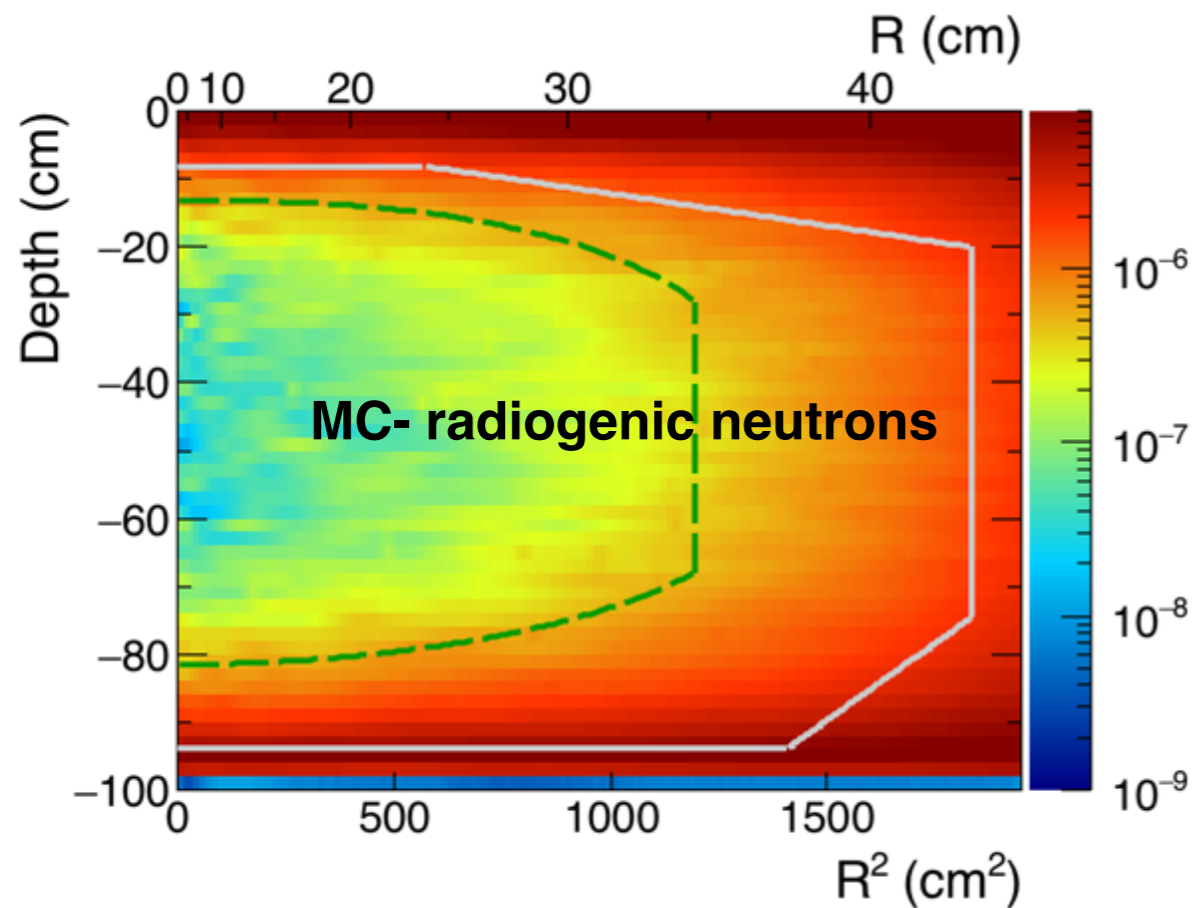
Radiogenic neutrons

Simulated NR single-scatter rate

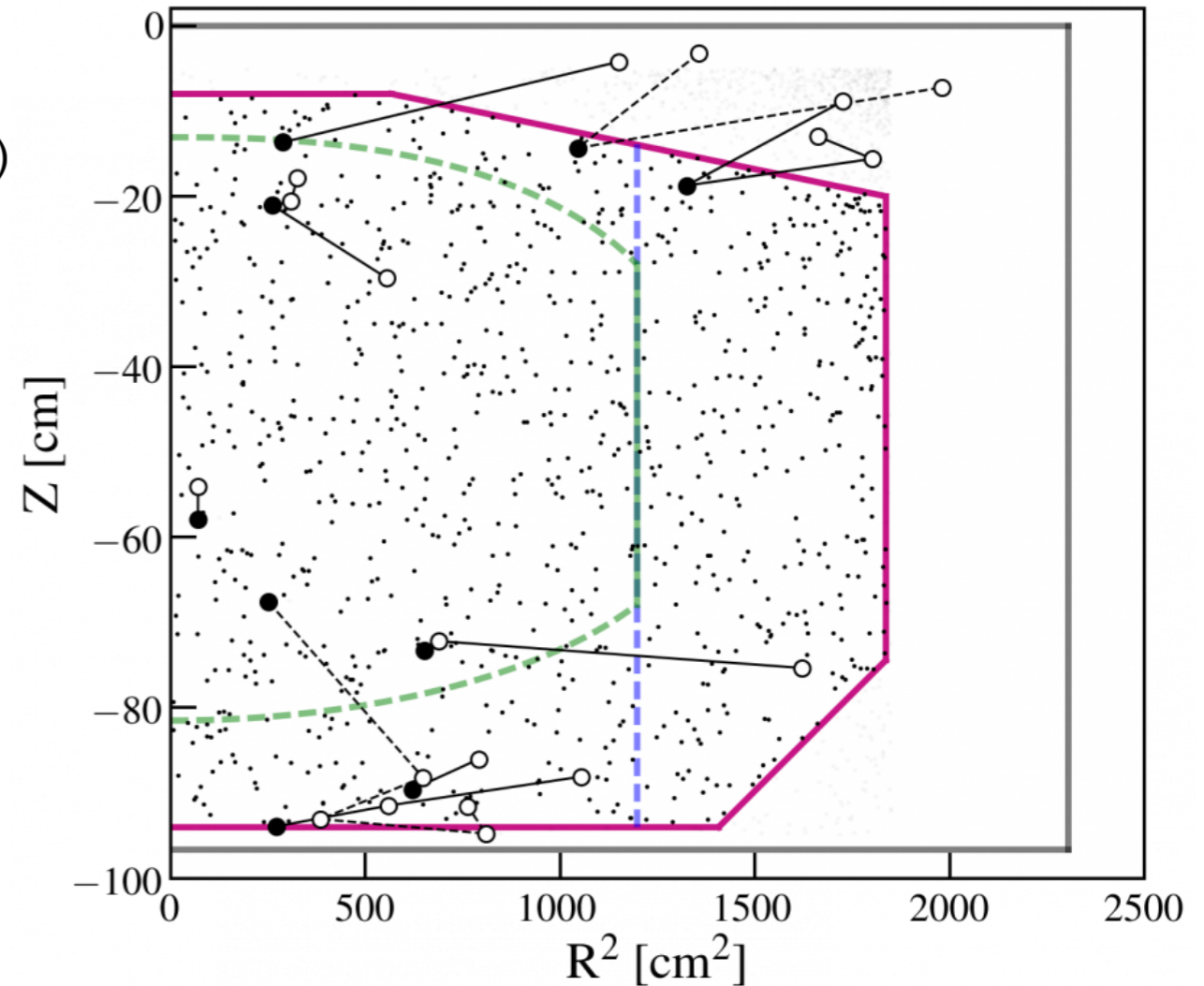
Source	Rate [$t^{-1} y^{-1}$]	Fraction [%]
Radiogenic n	0.6 ± 0.1	96.5
CE ν NS	0.012	2.0
Cosmogenic n	< 0.01	< 2.0

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

JCAP04 (2016) 027

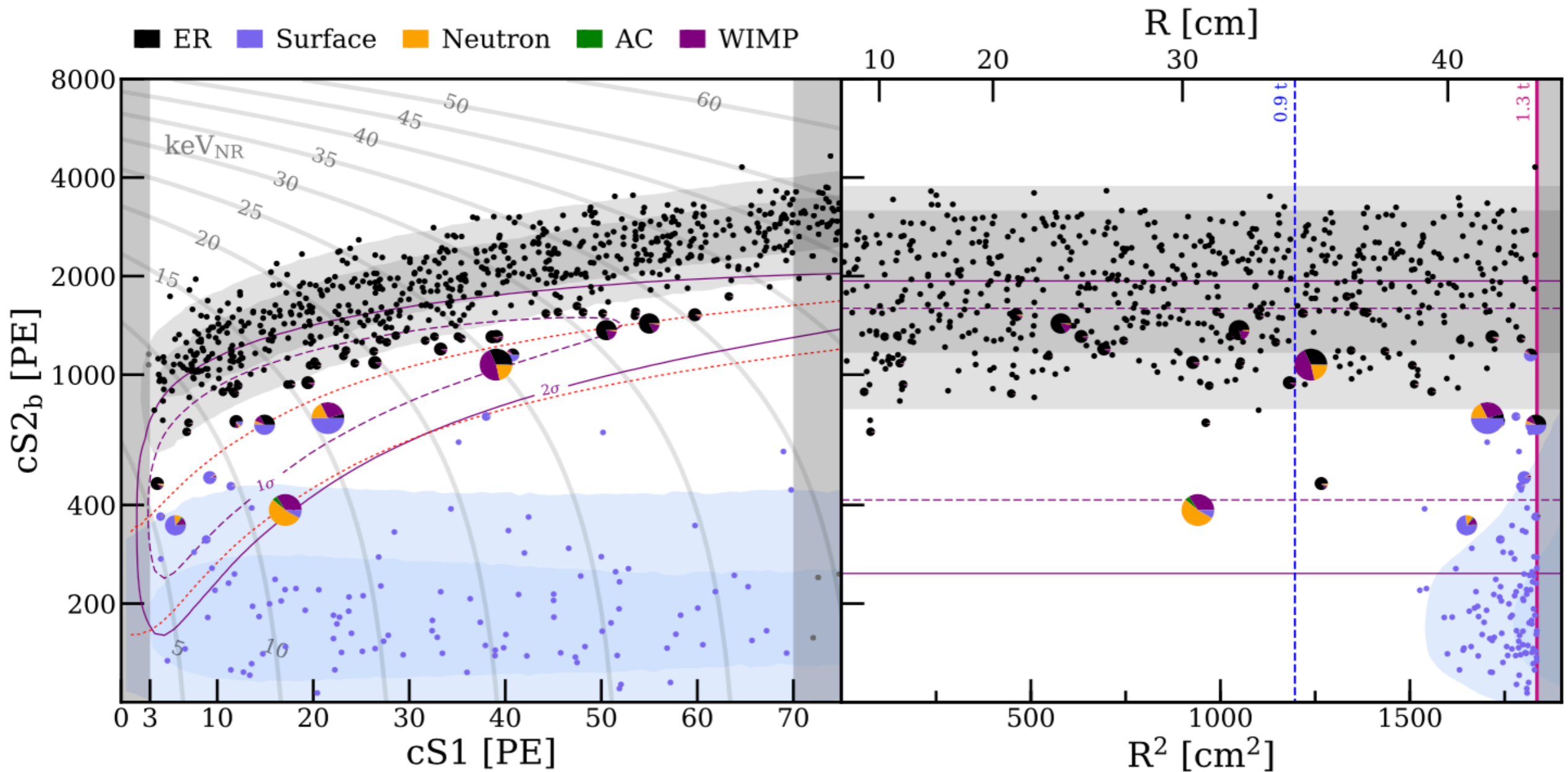


verify the neutron rate with multiple scattered NR events in **data**



One ton-year of data, after unblinding

Phys.Rev.Lett.121, 111302 (2018)
(arXiv:1805.12562)

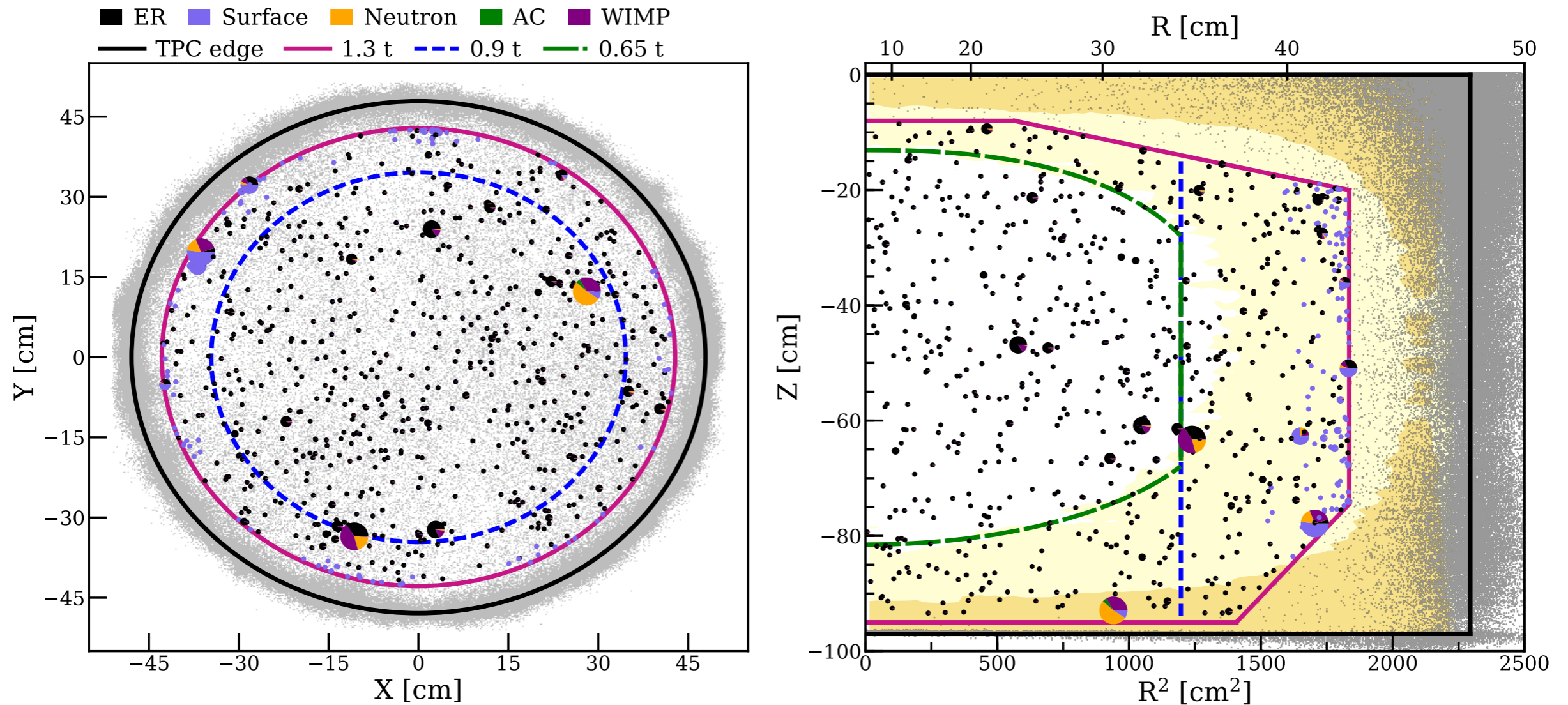


Piecharts indicate the relative PDF of background and the best-fit
of **200 GeV/c² WIMPs at cross-section of 4.7x10⁻⁴⁷ cm²**

One ton-year of data, after unblinding

Phys.Rev.Lett.121, 111302 (2018)

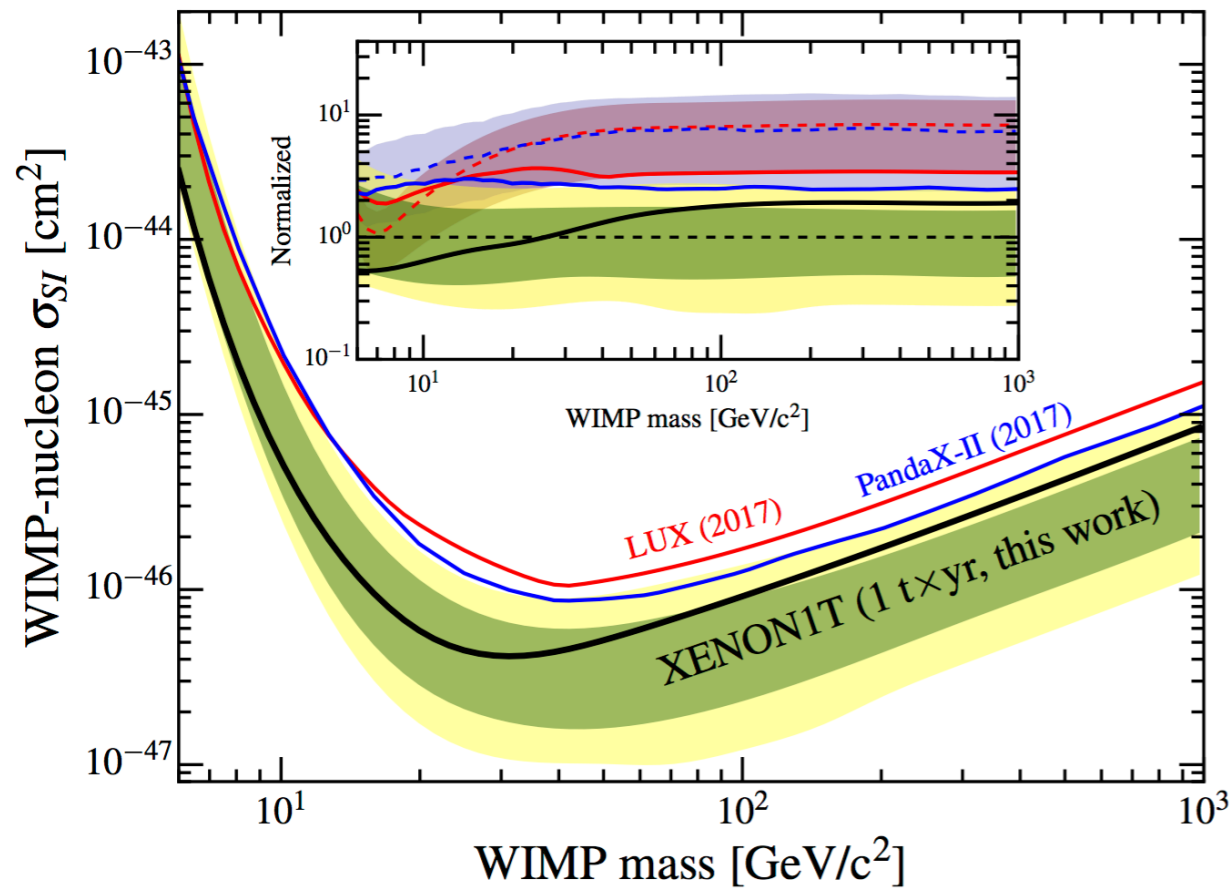
(arXiv:1805.12562)



XENON1T

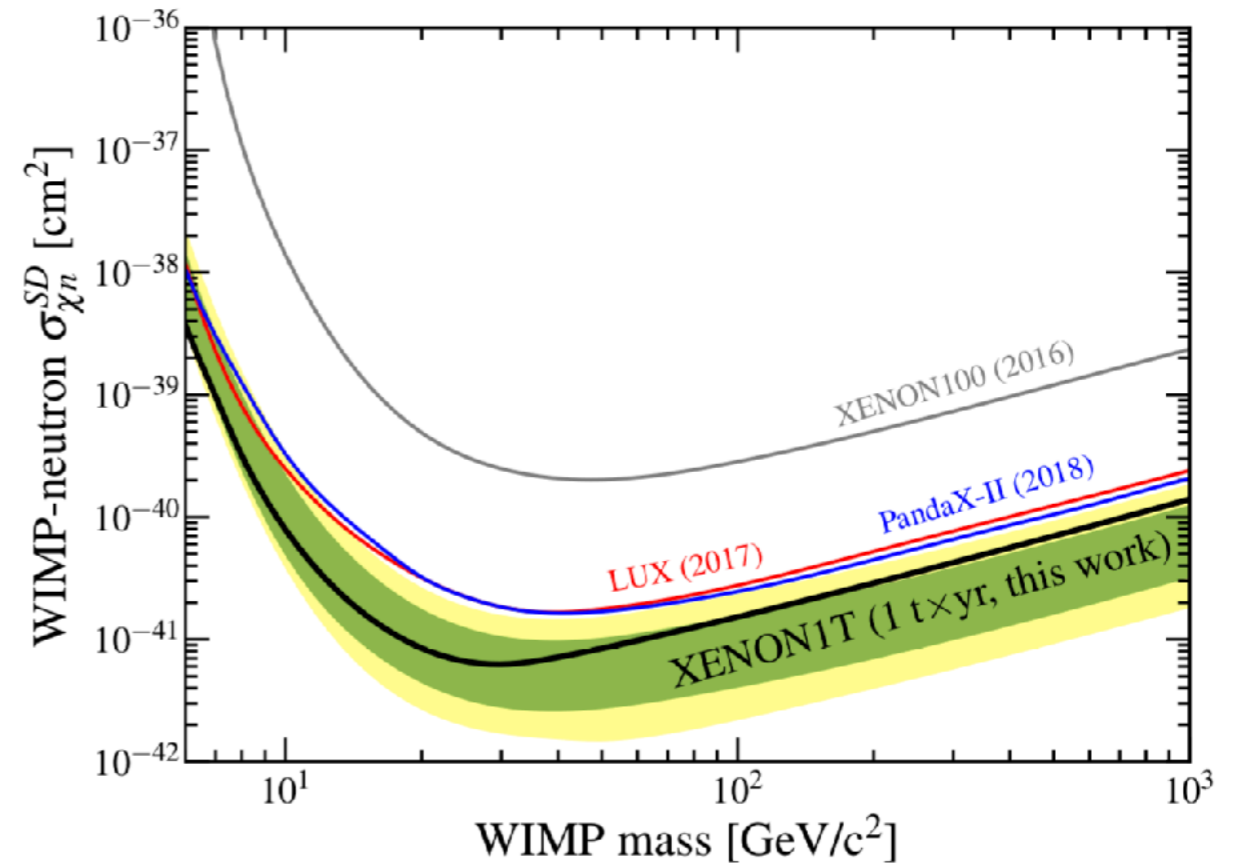
placed the most stringent constraints for **heavy WIMPs** above 6 GeV/c²

Spin-independent
PRL 121, 111302 (2018)



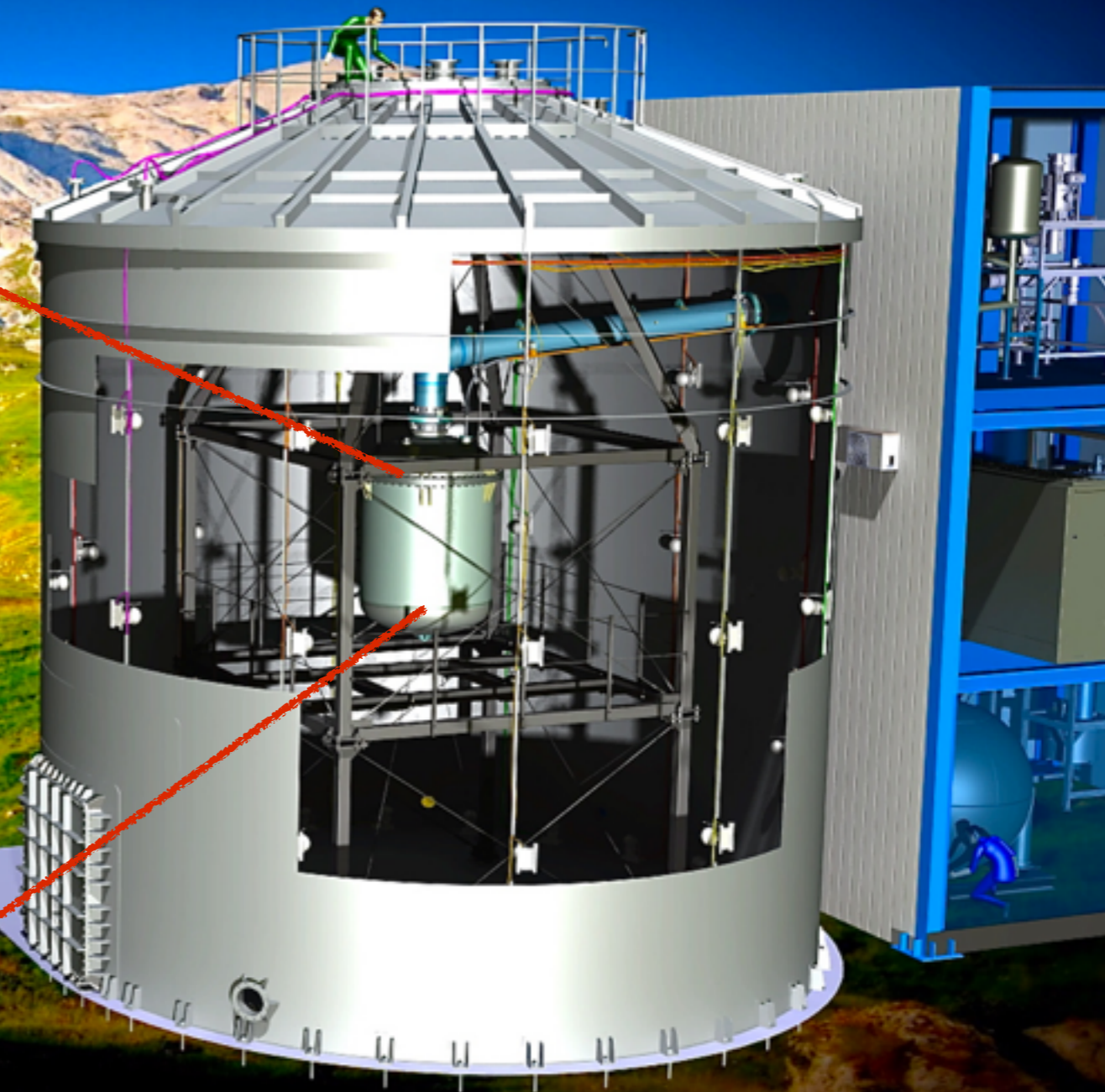
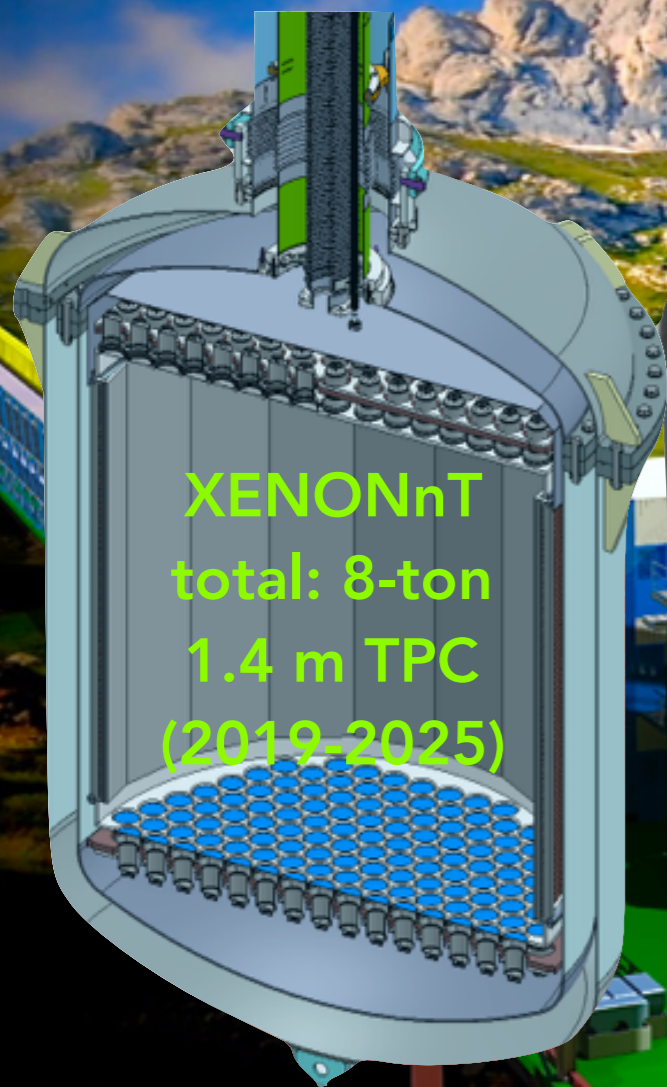
- 279 days data in 1.3 ton (1.0 ton yr)
- Energy region: 5-41 keVnr (1.4-10.6 keVee)
- ER background: 82 evts/ton/yr/keVee
- Best SI limit: 4.1 x10⁻⁴⁷ cm² at 30 GeV/c²

Spin-dependent
PRL 122, 141301 (2019)

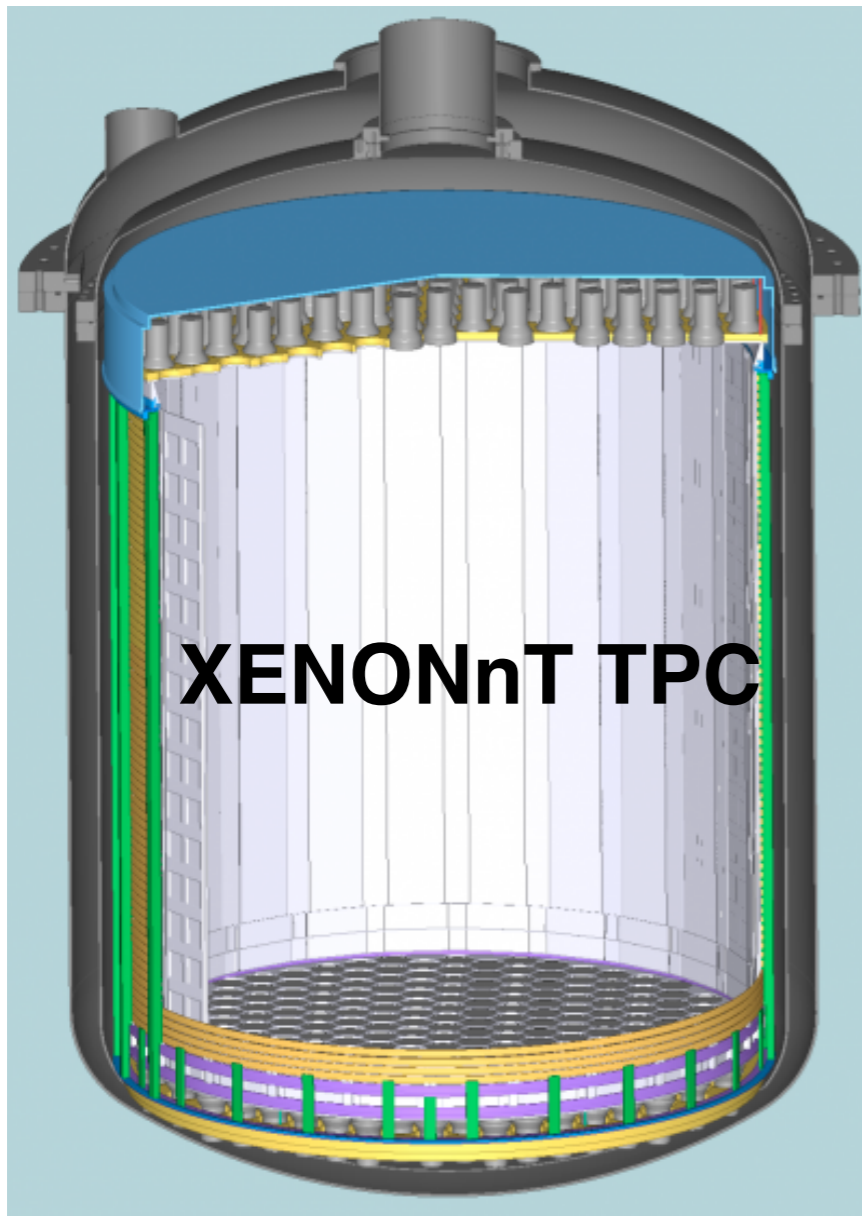


- same data as for the SI search
- Xe129 (29.5%), Xe131 (23.7%)
- best SD-neutron limit: 6.3x10⁻⁴² cm² at 30 GeV/c²

From XENON1T to XENONnT



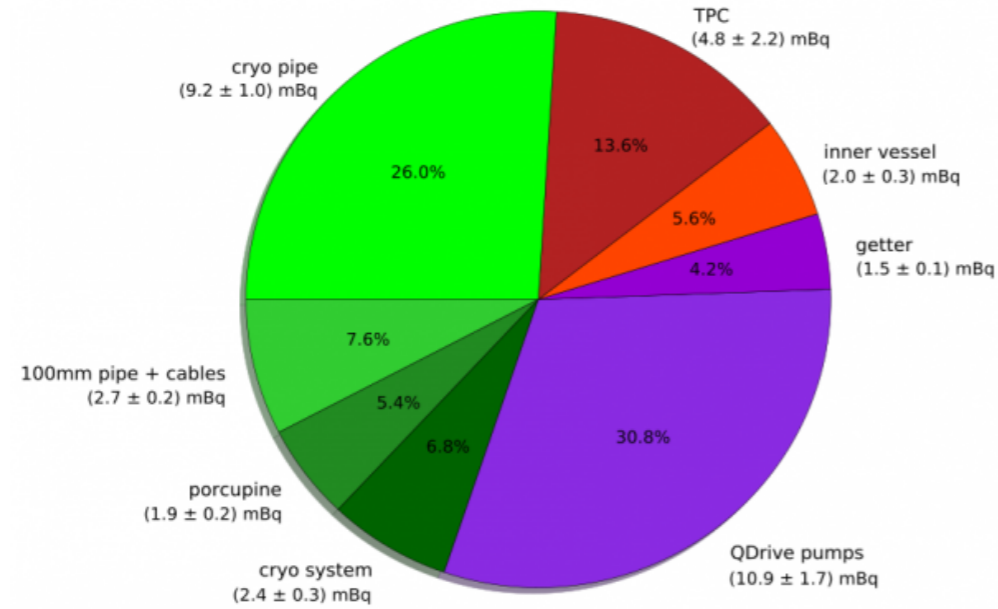
Upgrade from XENON1T to XENONnT



Basic characteristics of XENON1T & nT TPCs

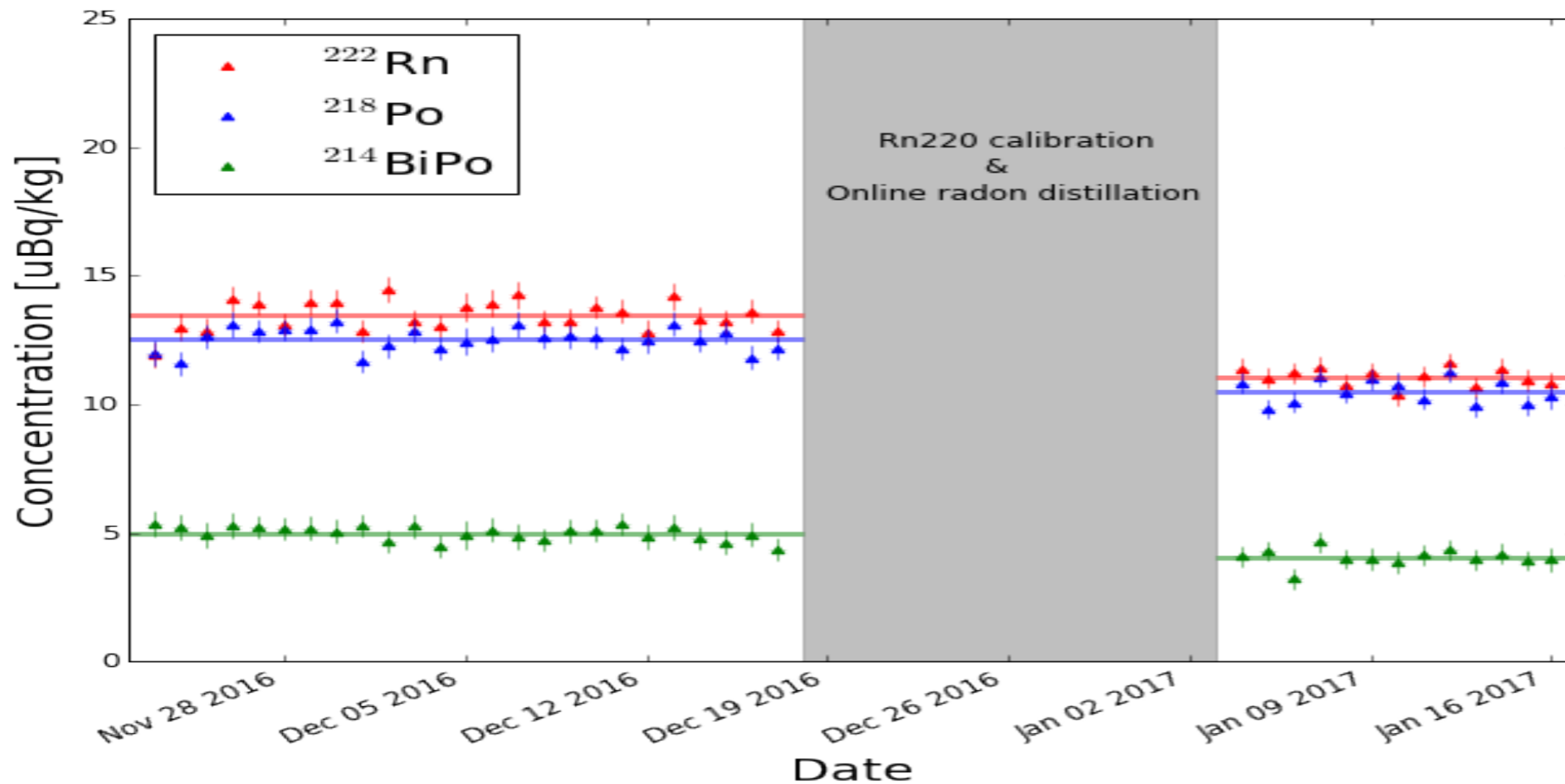
	XENON1T	XENONnT
Drift (cm)	97	148
Diameter (cm)	96	133
# of PMTs (R11410)	248	494
Active Mass (tonne)	2.0	5.9
Total Mass (tonne)	3.2	8.4

XENONIT to XENONnT: Reduce Rn background by 1/10



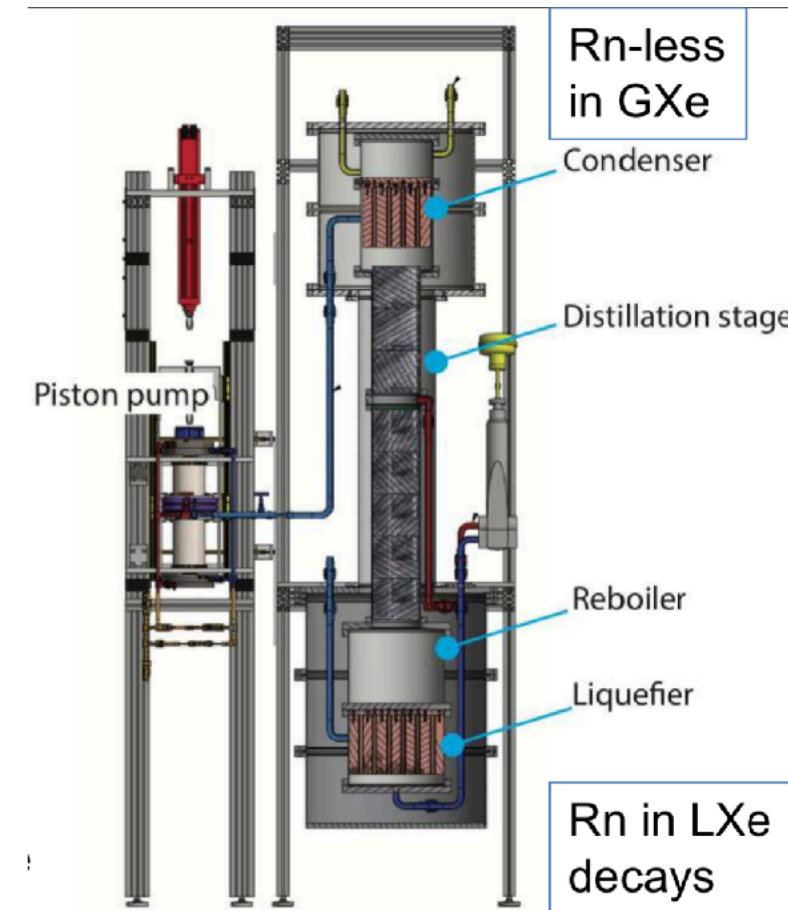
Radon source identified in XENONIT

- Material selection with ^{222}Rn screening
 - screening facilities with few atoms/probe sensitivity
- Replace parts with large Rn contribution
- Post-manufacturing surface treatment
- Reduction with high through-put online distillation
- Goal: 1 $\mu Bq/kg$



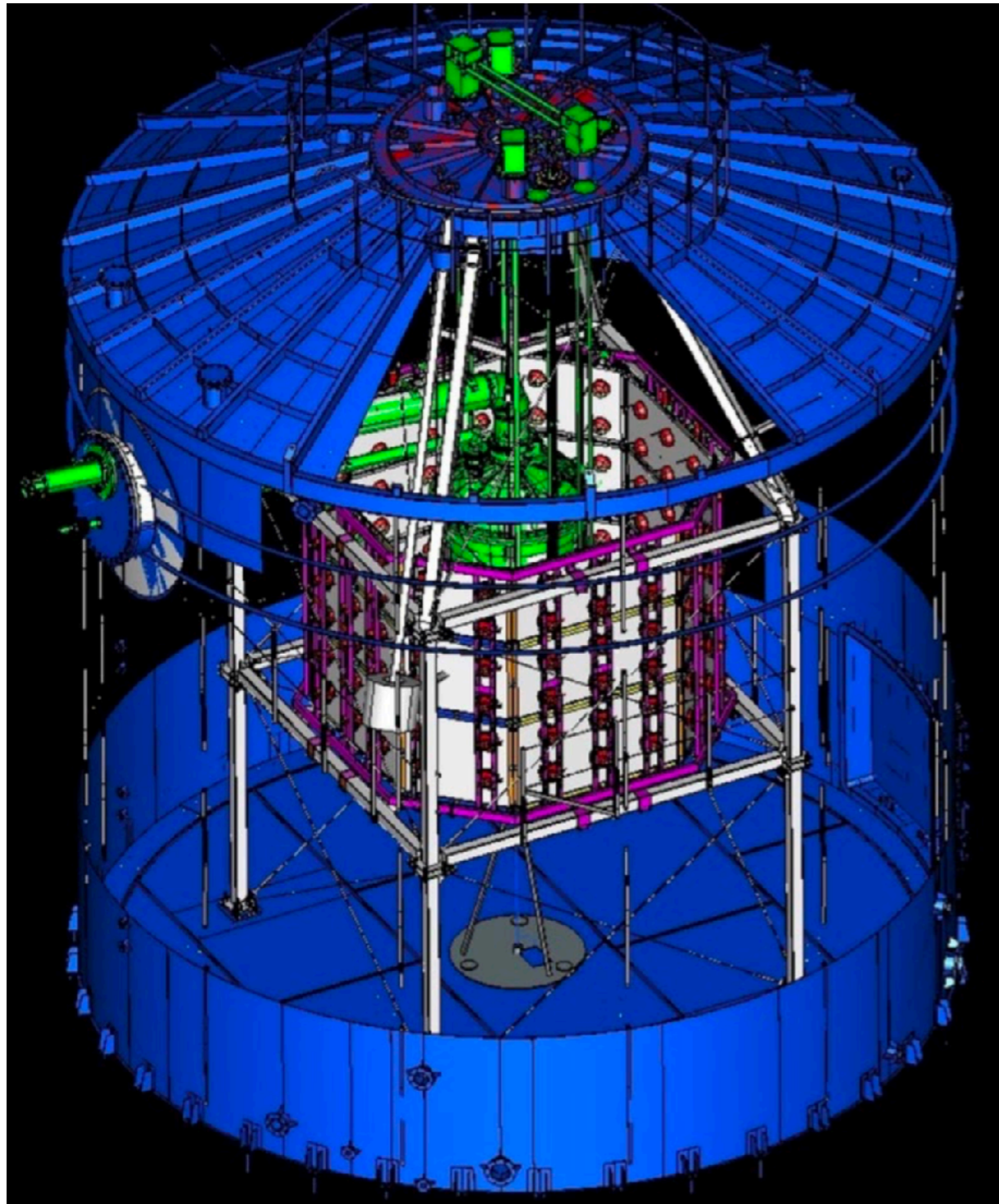
Online Rn removal with distillation tested in XENON100 and XENONIT

(Eur. Phys. J. C, 77:358, 2017)

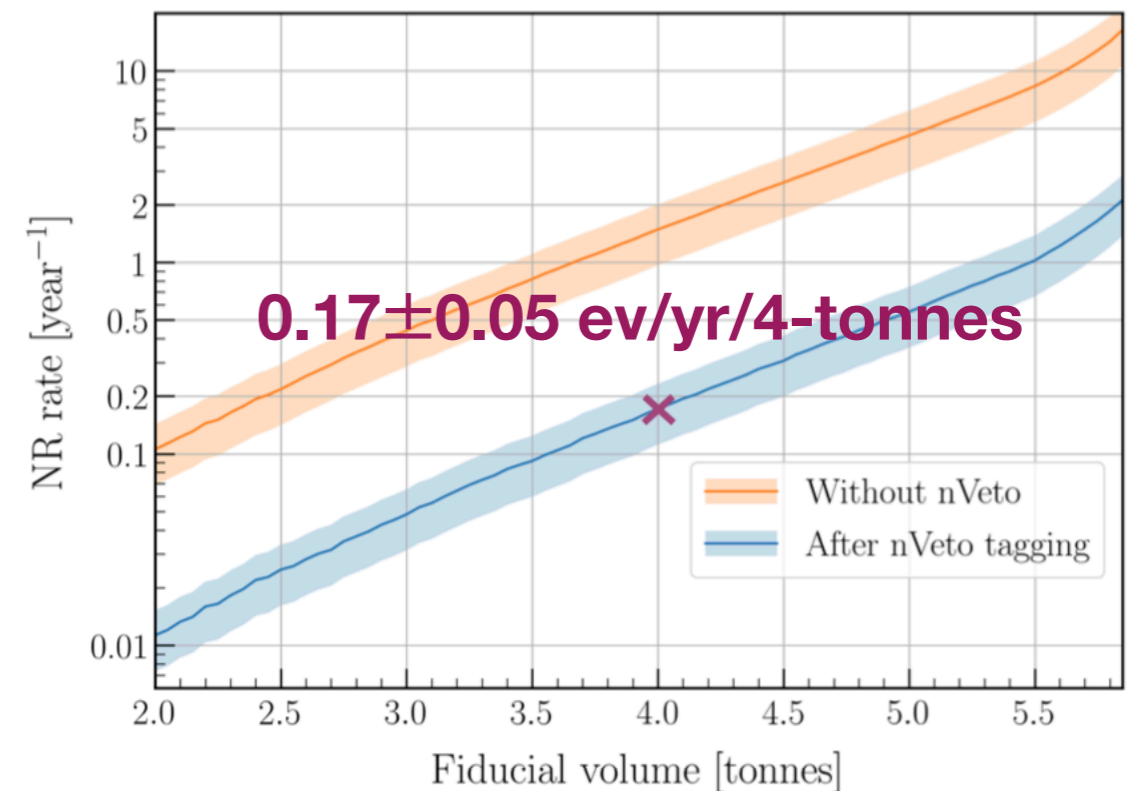
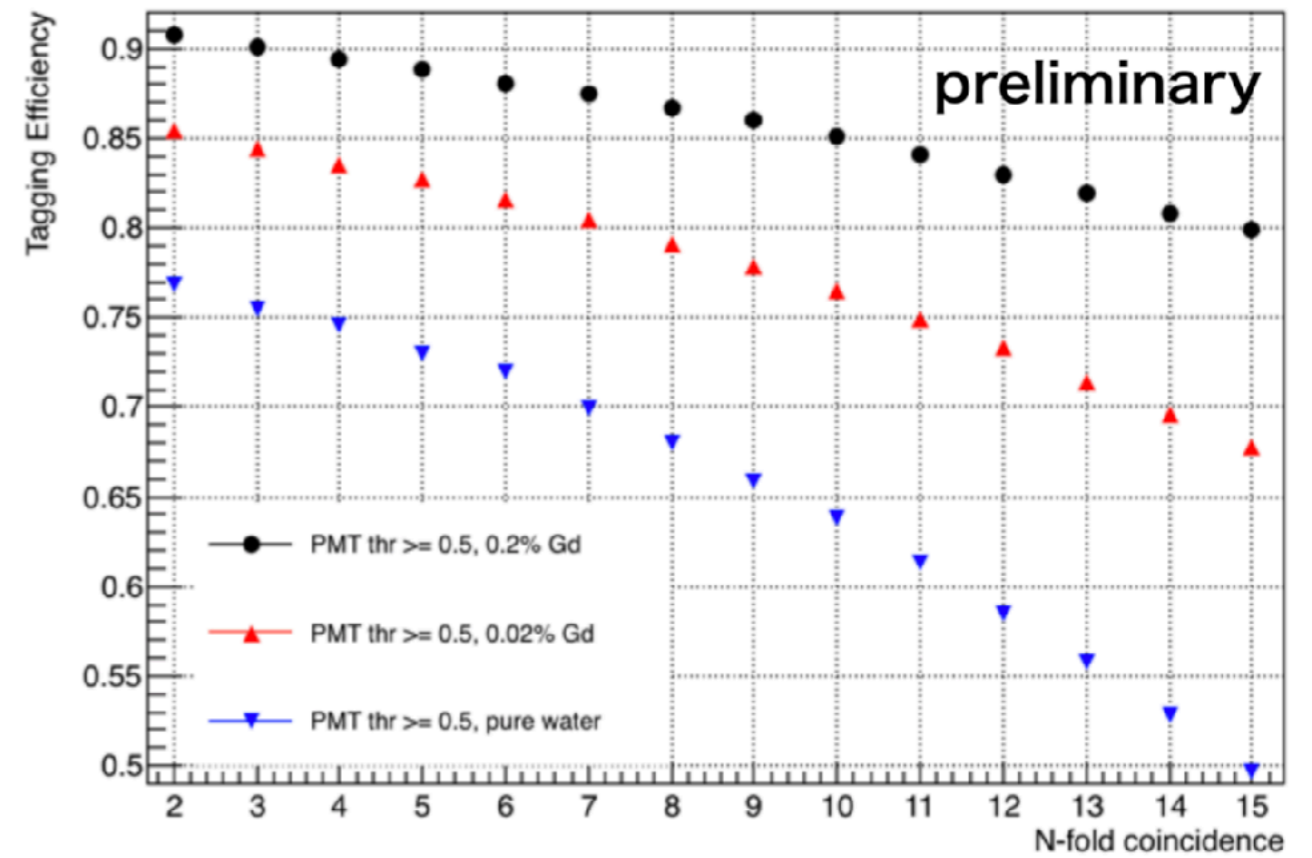


Dedicated Rn distillation column

XENONIT to XENONnT: reduce nuclear recoil background



Neutron-veto efficiency

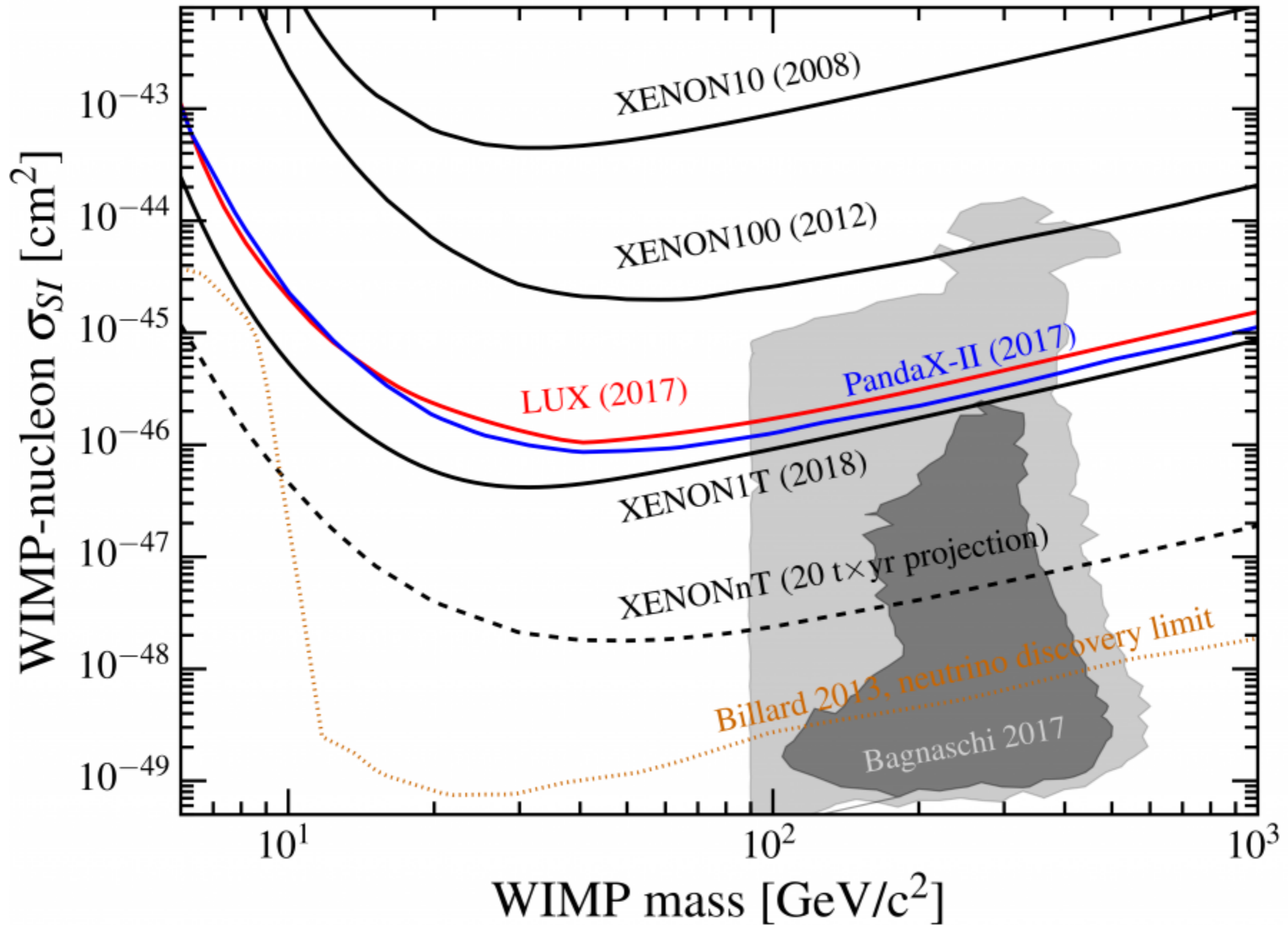


0.2% Gd-loaded water neutron-veto

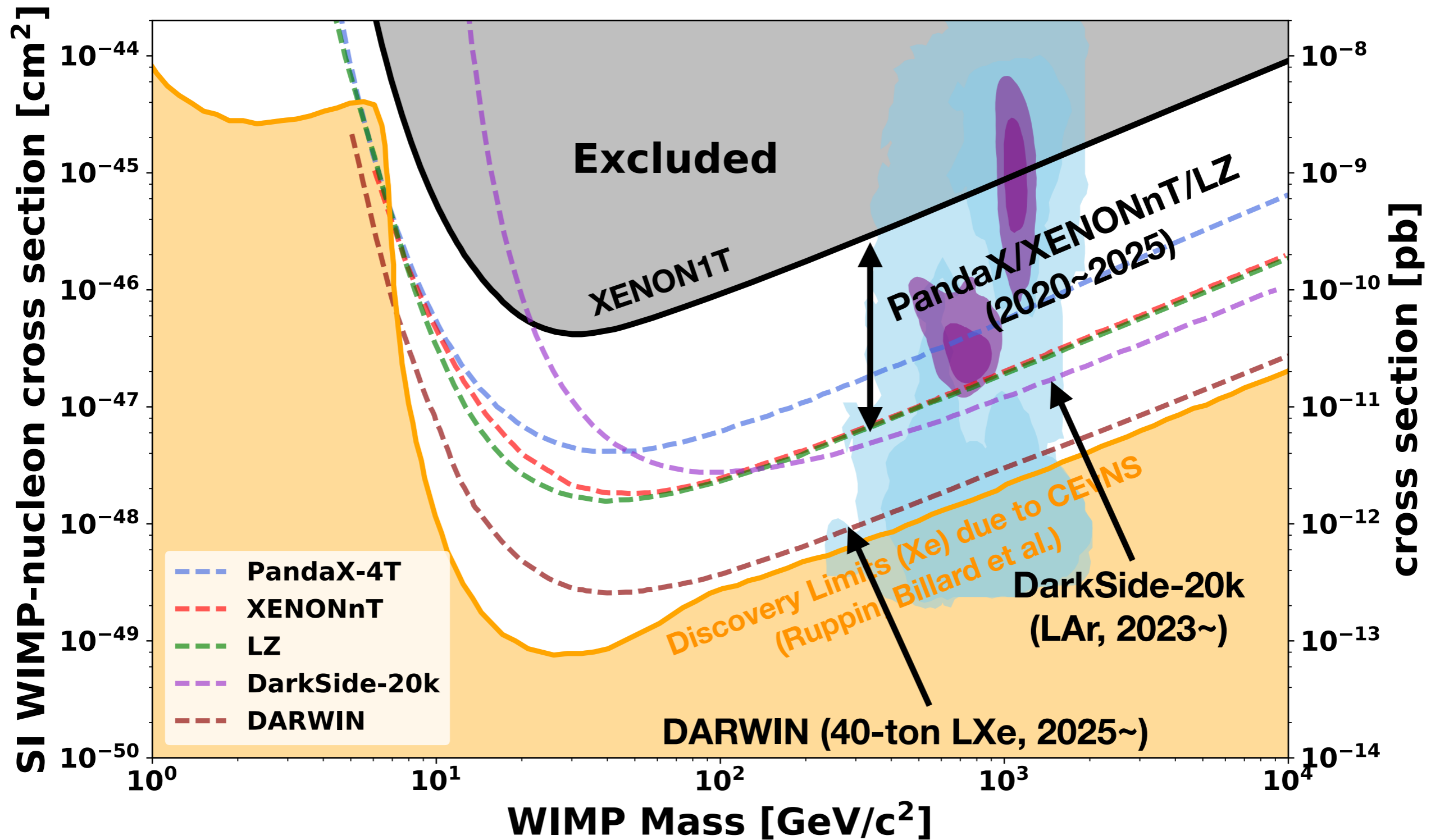
Upgrade in the making



Great discovery potential

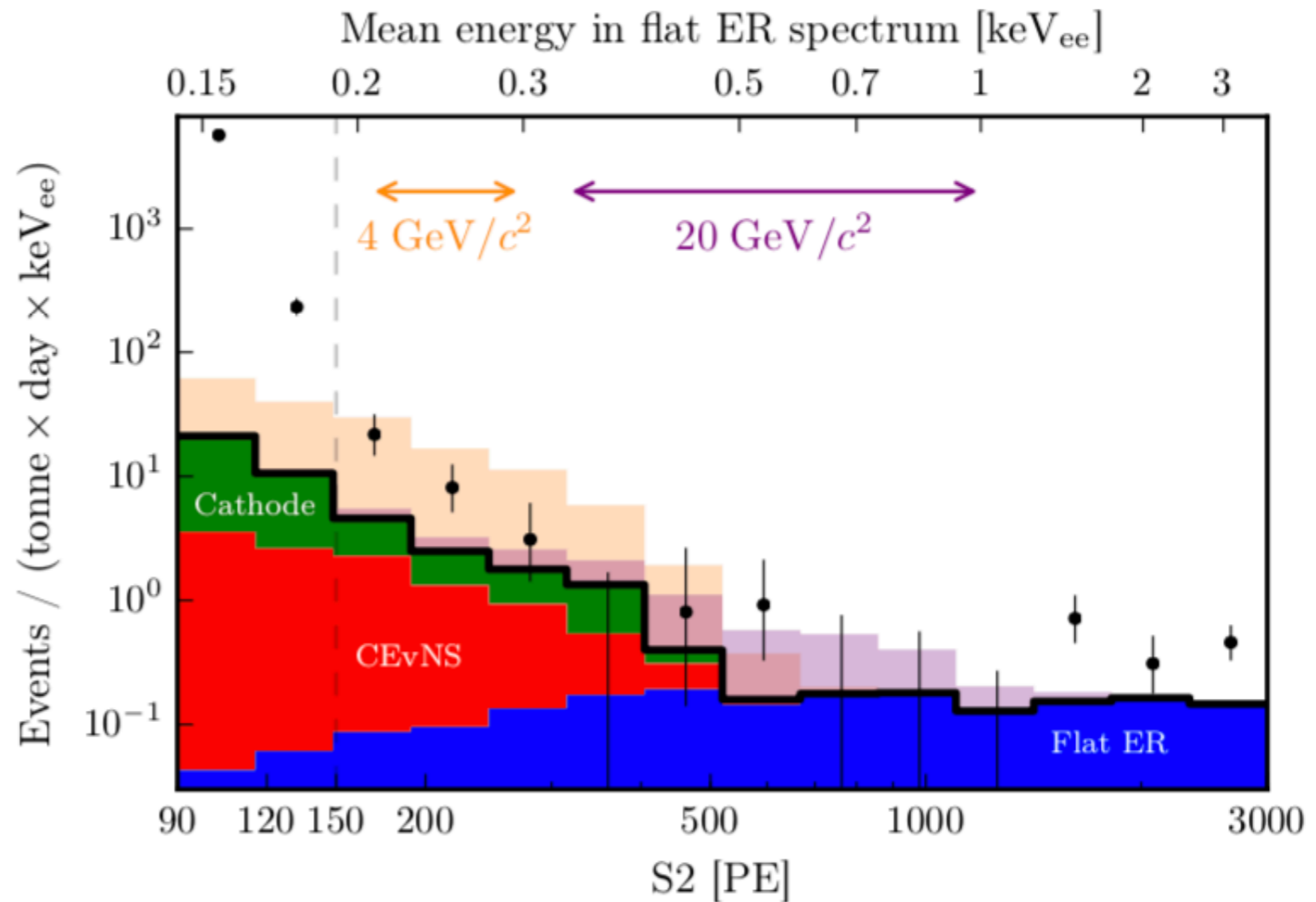
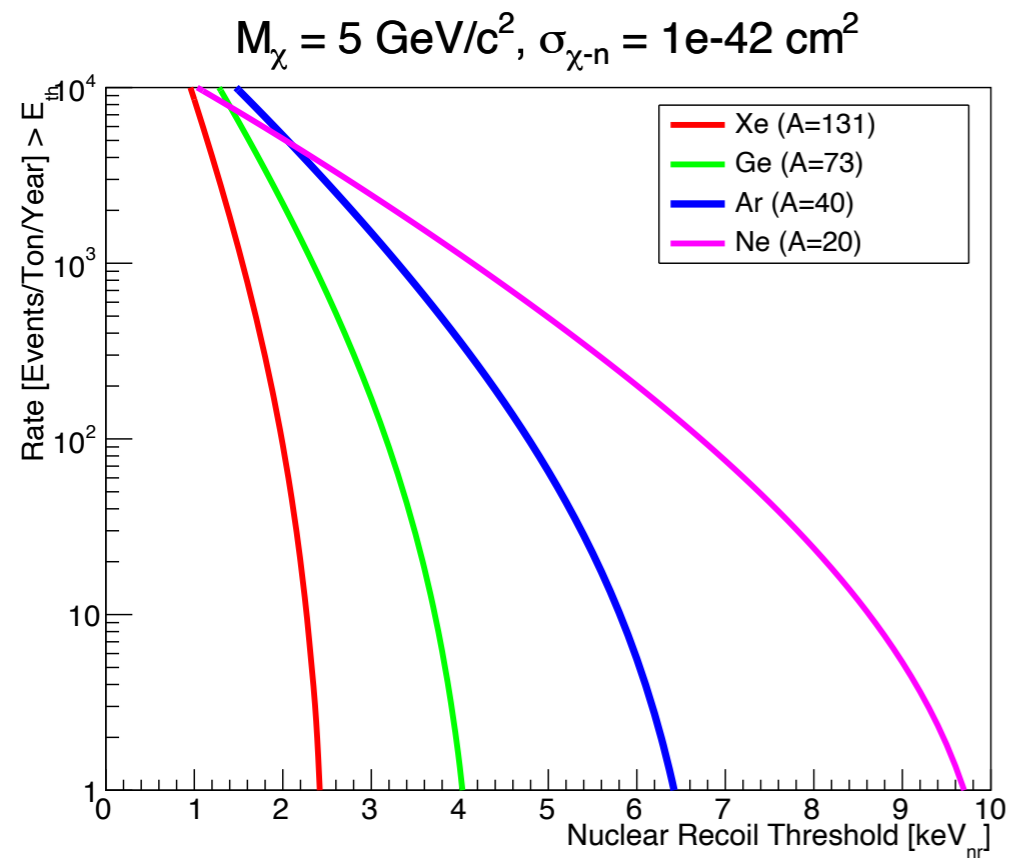


Prospect of the global heavy dark matter search



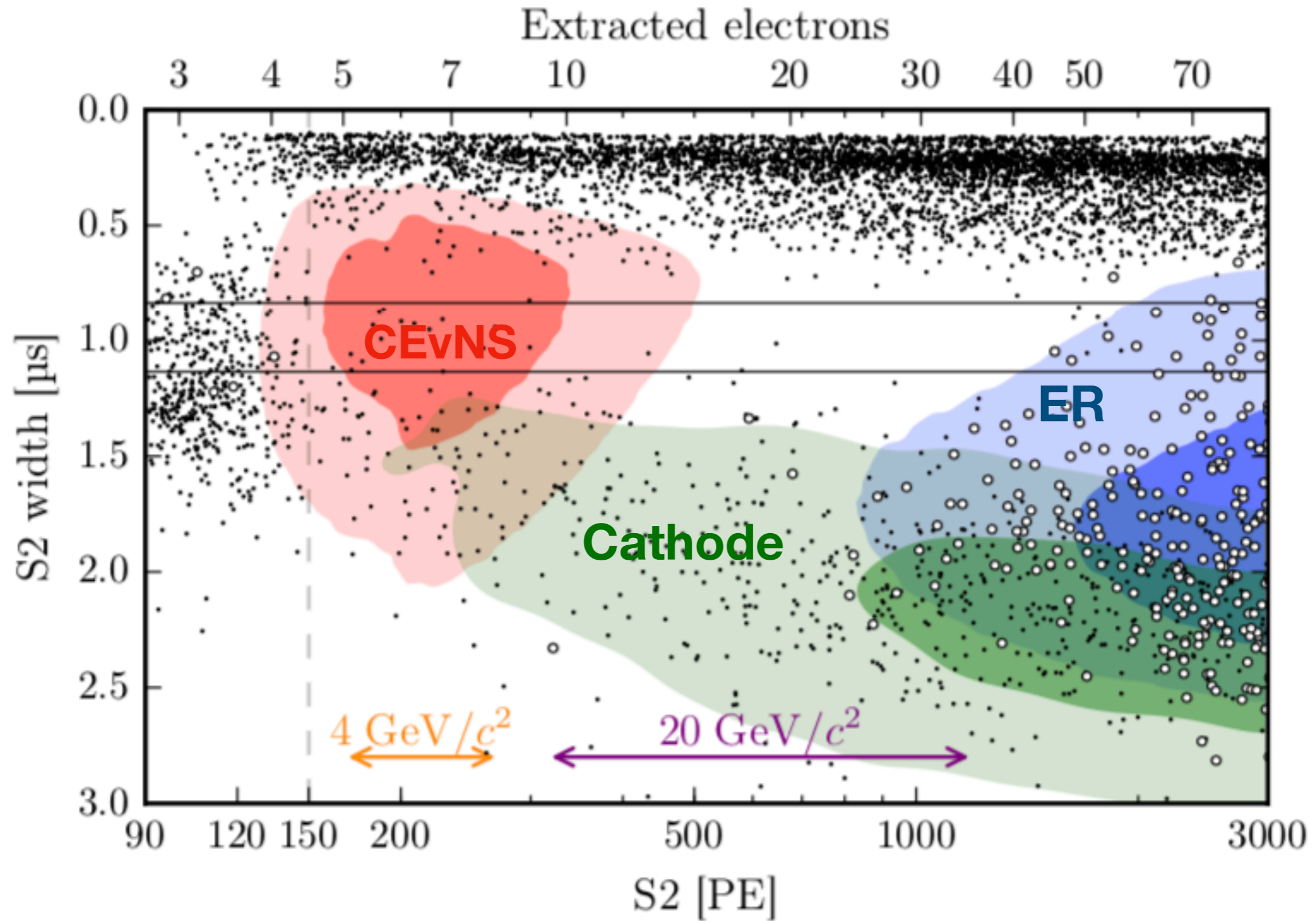
XENON1T's S2-only results for **Low-Mass** Dark Matter Nuclear Recoil Scattering

arXiv:1907.11485

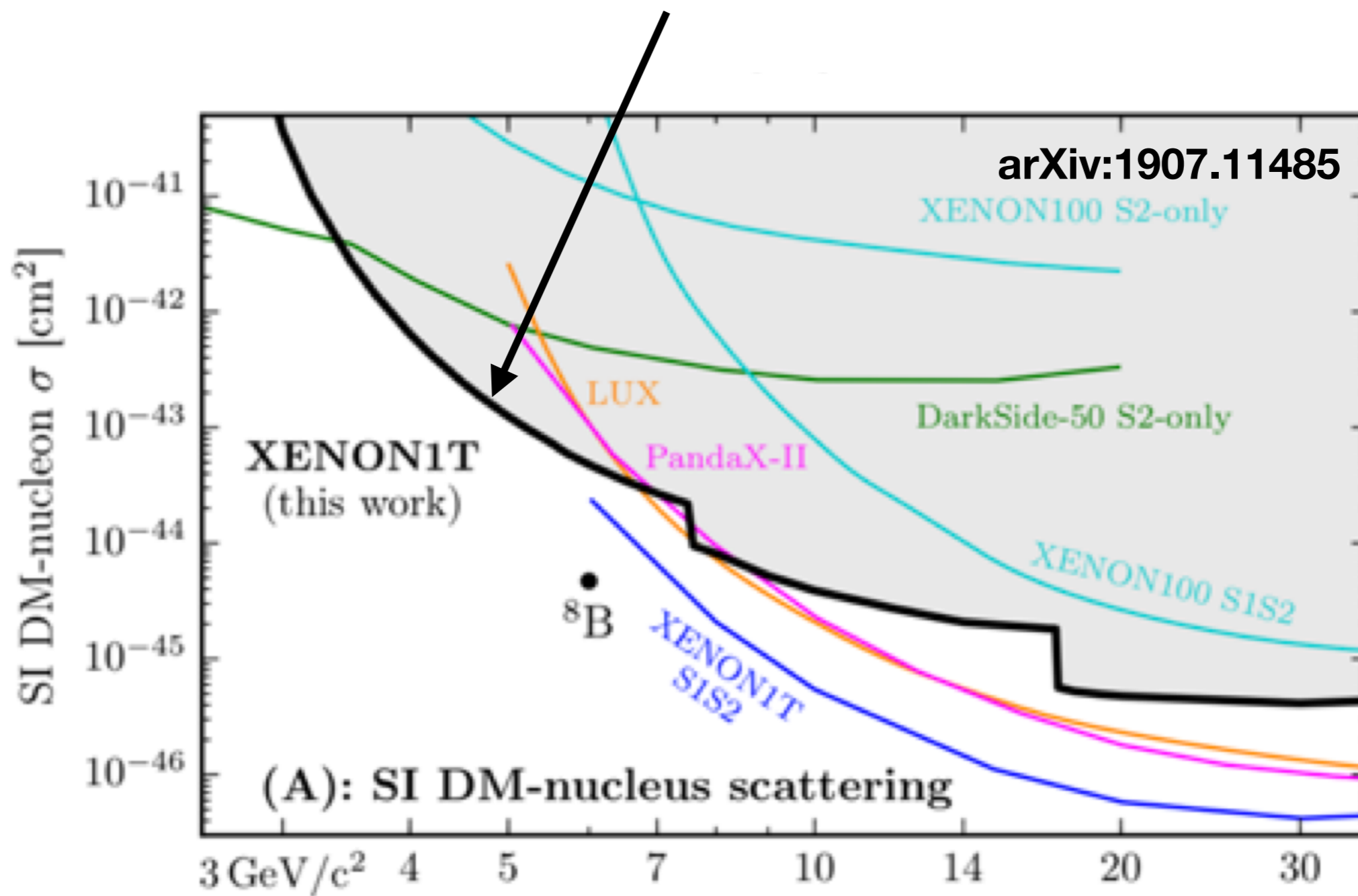


- **Threshold:** ~200 eVee (4~5 e-)
- **Exposure:** 22 tonne-days (60 kg-year)
- **Background:** ~1 event/keVee/tonne/day (>400 eVee)

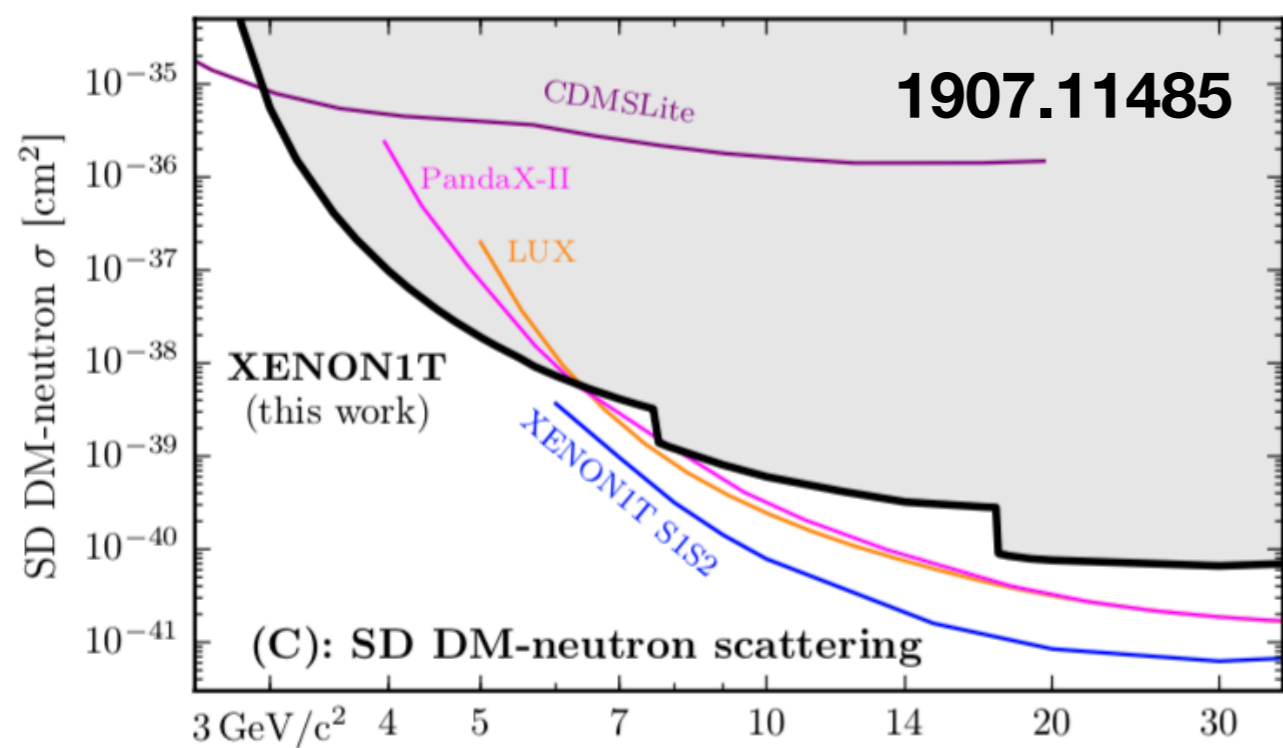
Background for S2-only Events



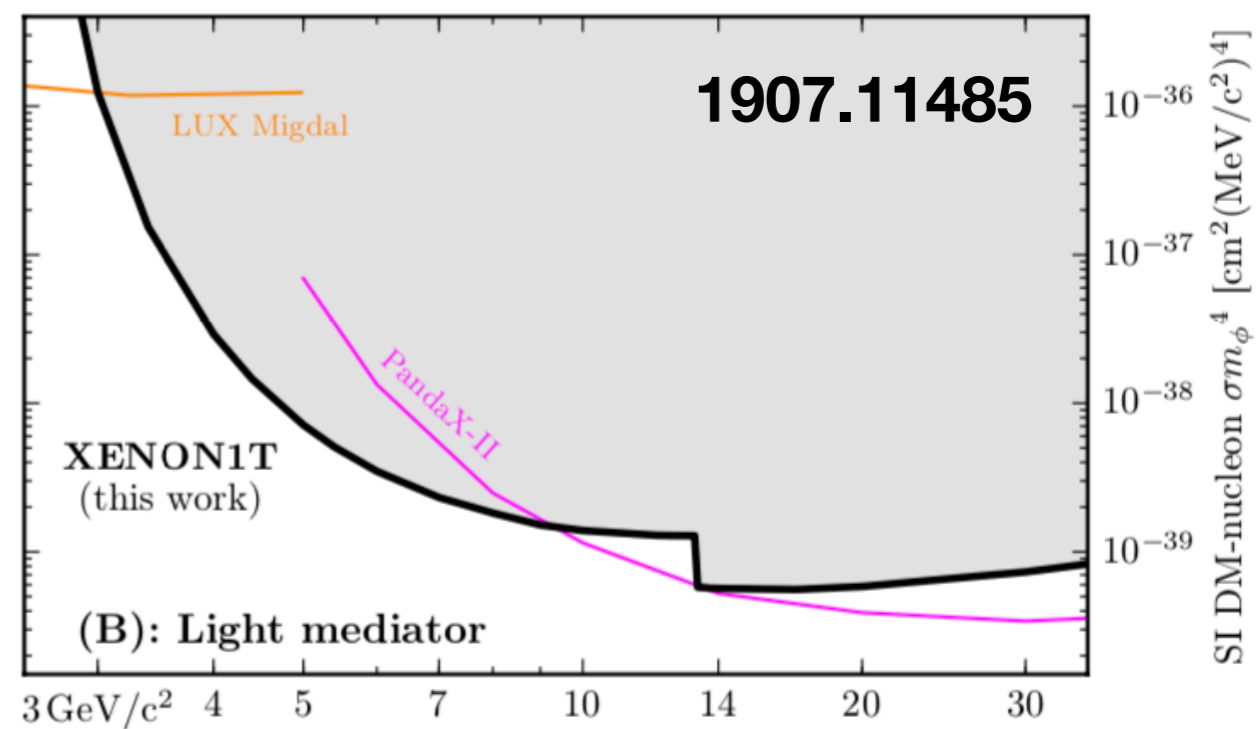
The lowered S2 threshold further
constrained WIMP mass below 6 GeV



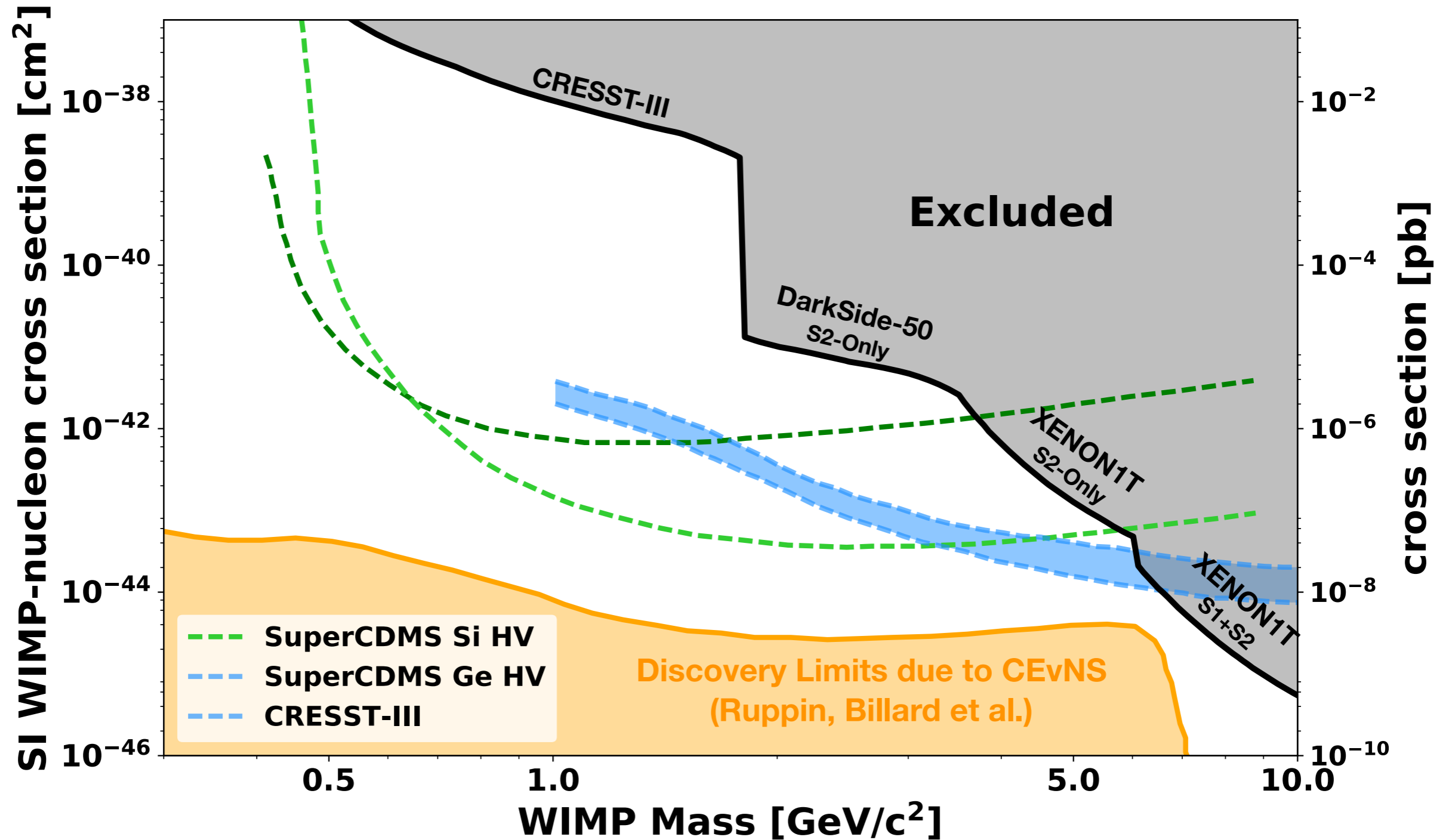
SD-neutron scattering



SI with light mediator



Status of the Low-mass (GeV-scale) Dark Matter Searches



For future:

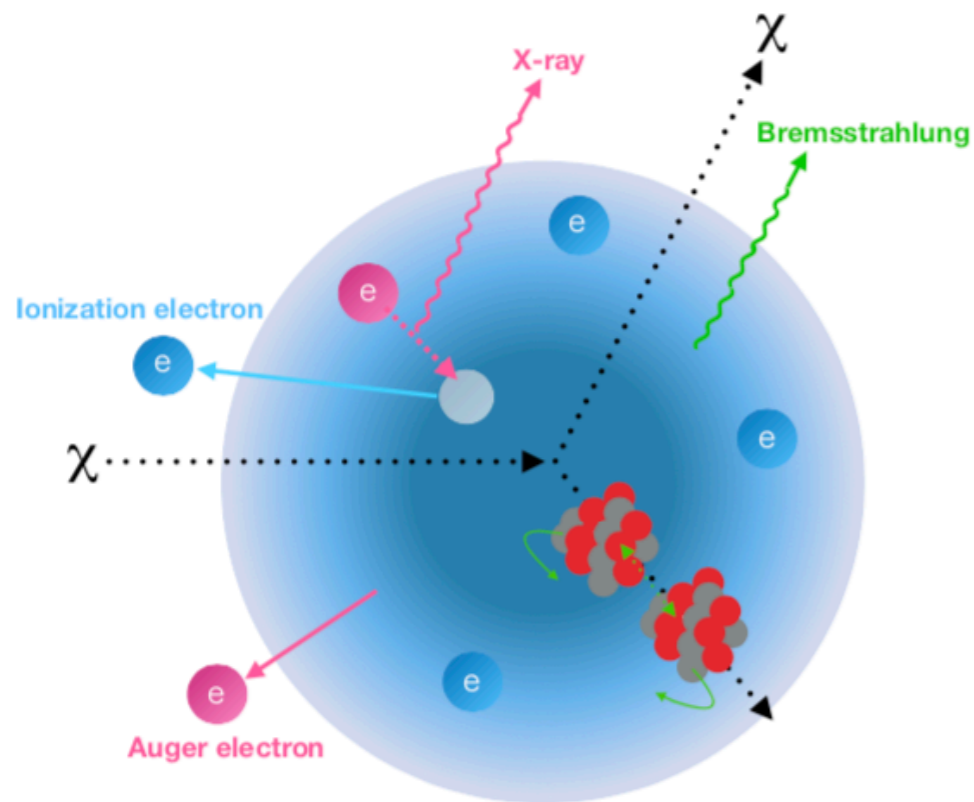
Need improvement to suppress the background.

Need a reasonable large target mass (~100 kg).

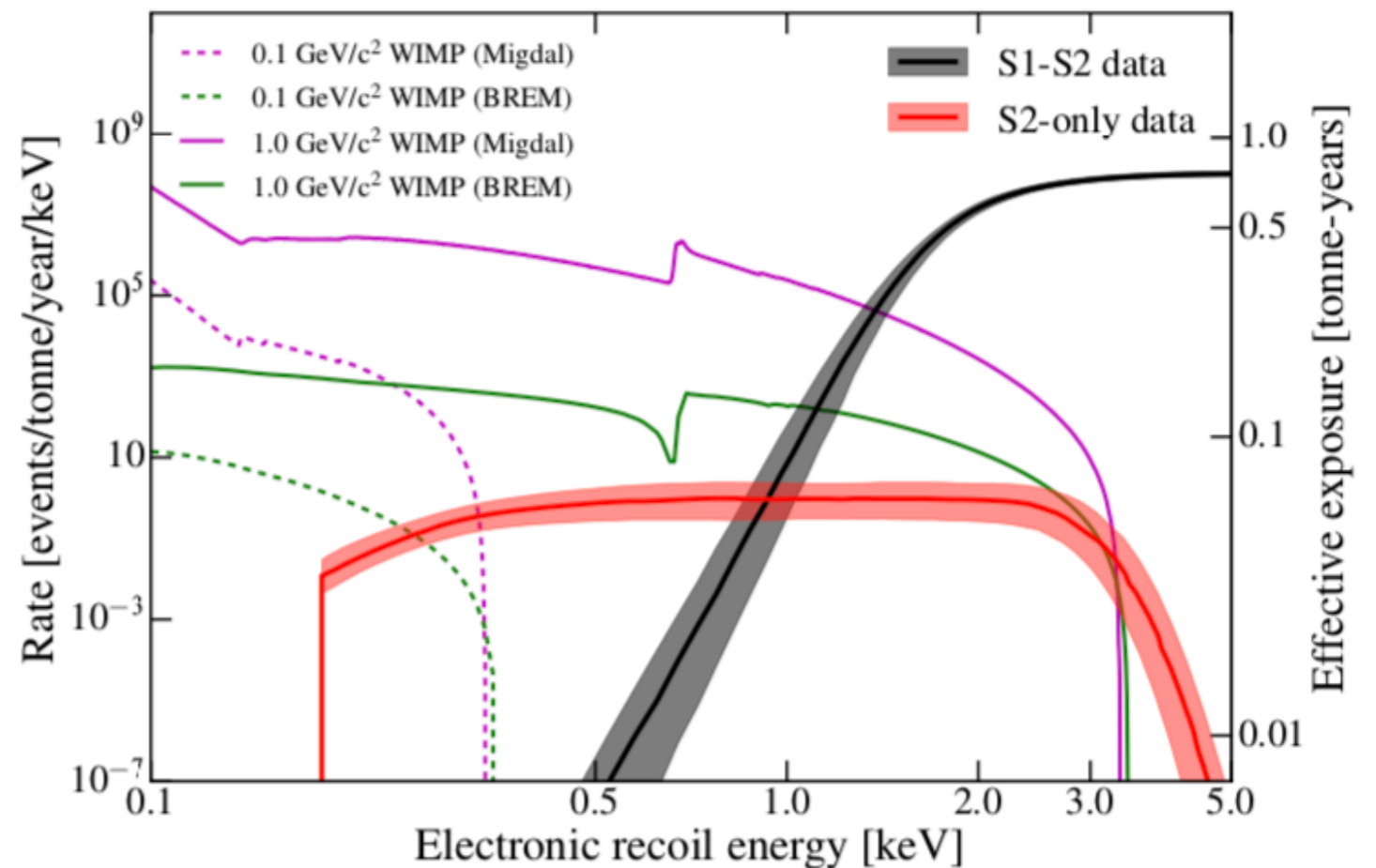
Light DM Search with the Migdal effect

- Migdal effect in dark matter detection

- Masahiro Ibe et al, arXiv:1707.07258, Dolan et al., 1711.09906
- **atomic electrons** lags behind **recoil nucleus** resulting in ionization/excitation of atoms



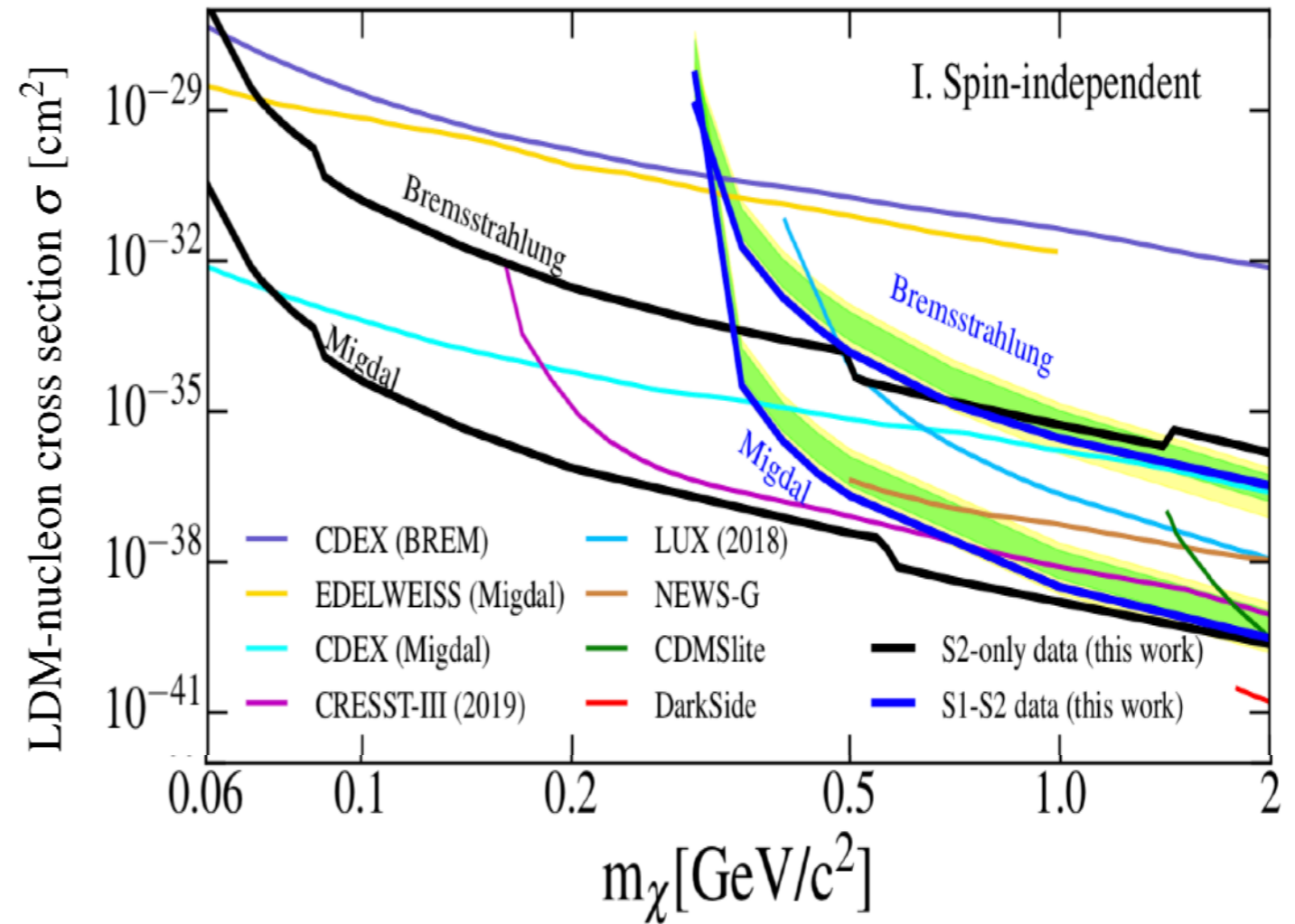
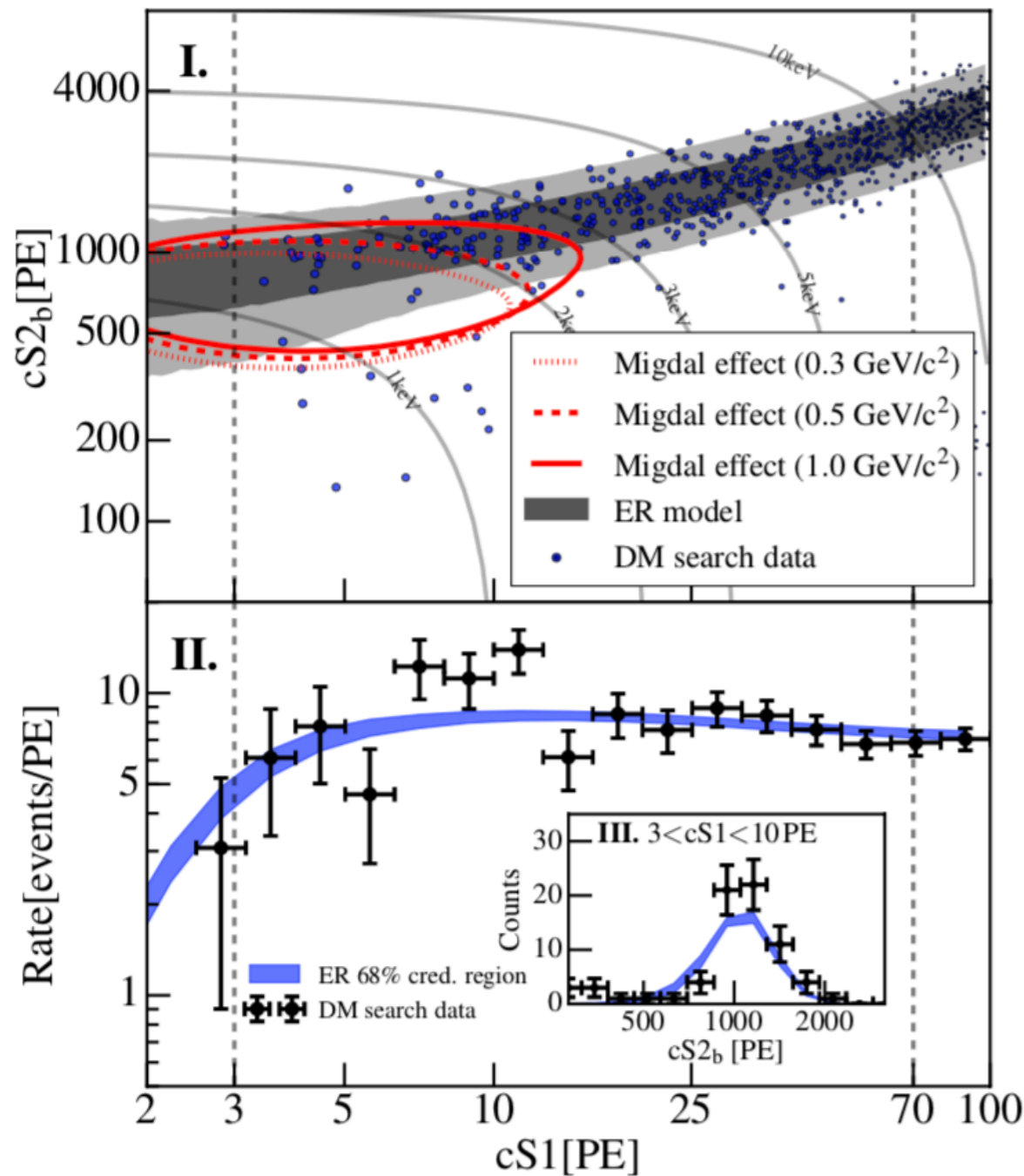
XENON1T, arXiv:1907.12771



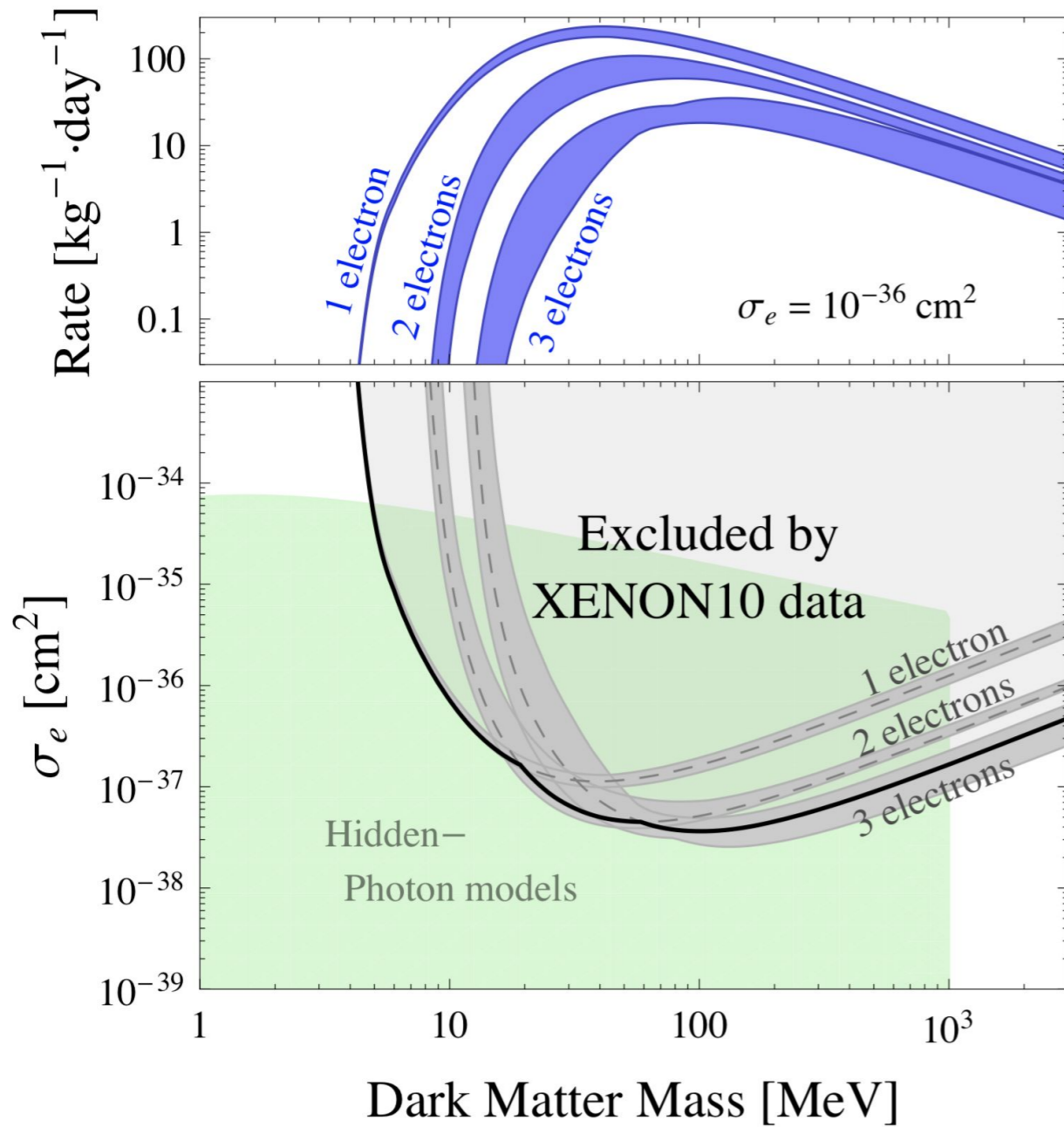
Expected rate for SI cross section of 10^{-35} cm^2

Looking for “Migdal” electron recoil signals from sub-GeV DM produced nuclear recoils

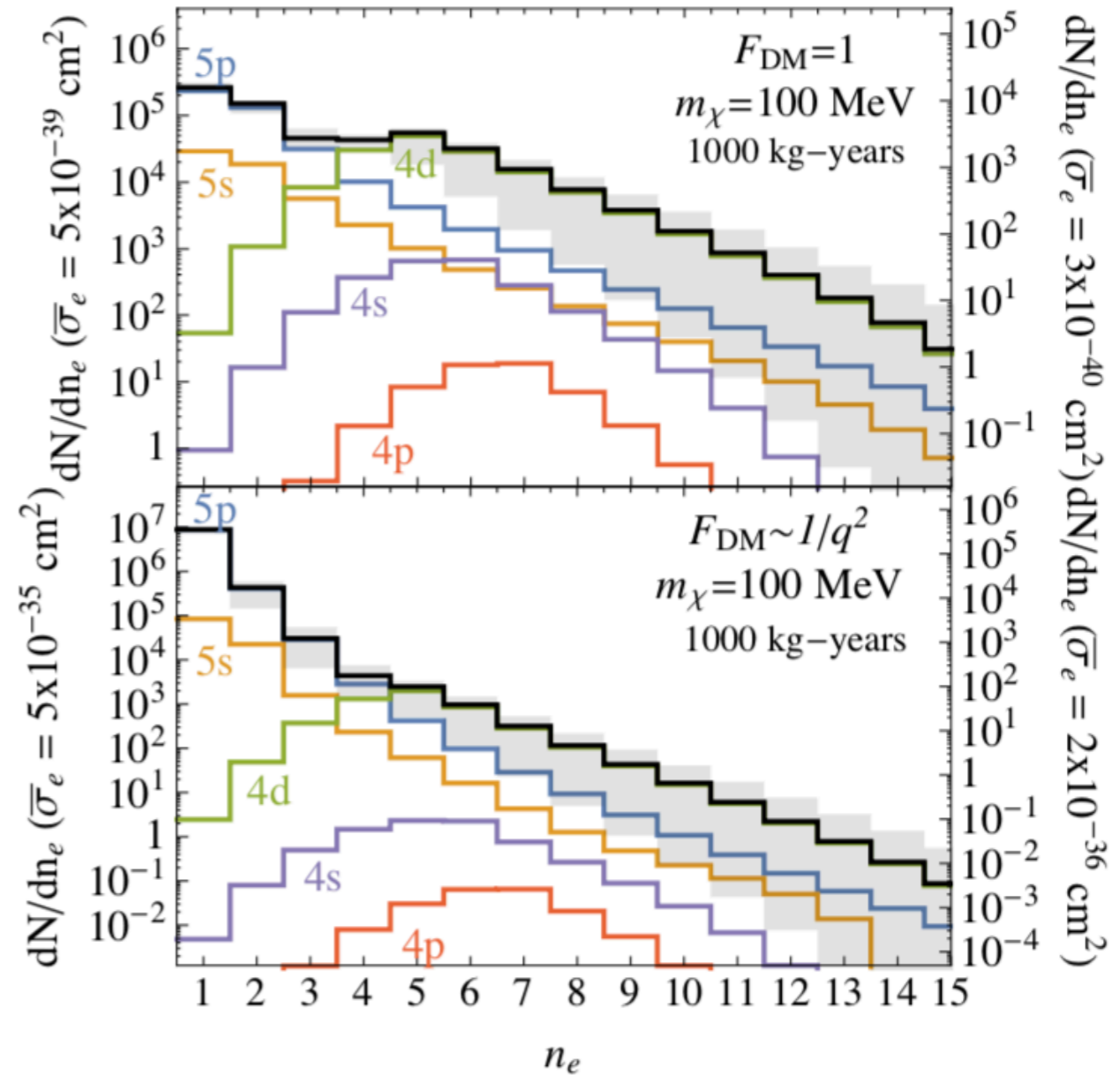
XENON1T, arXiv:1907.12771



Searching for **light dark matter** interaction with **electrons**



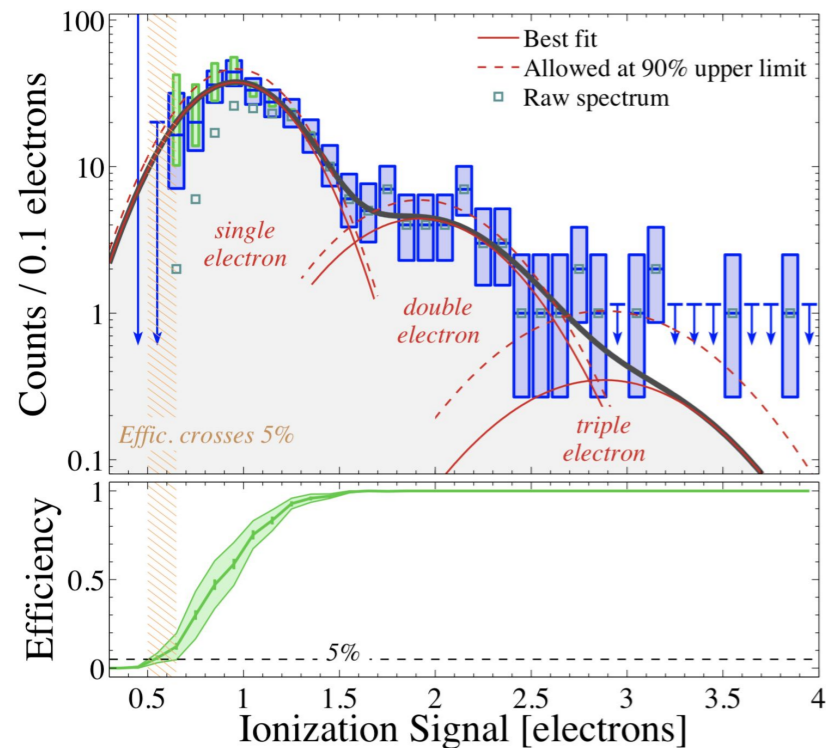
Essig et al., arXiv:1206.2644



Essig et al., 1703.00910

Single and a few electron rate in the LXe bulk

XENON10, arXiv:1206.2644

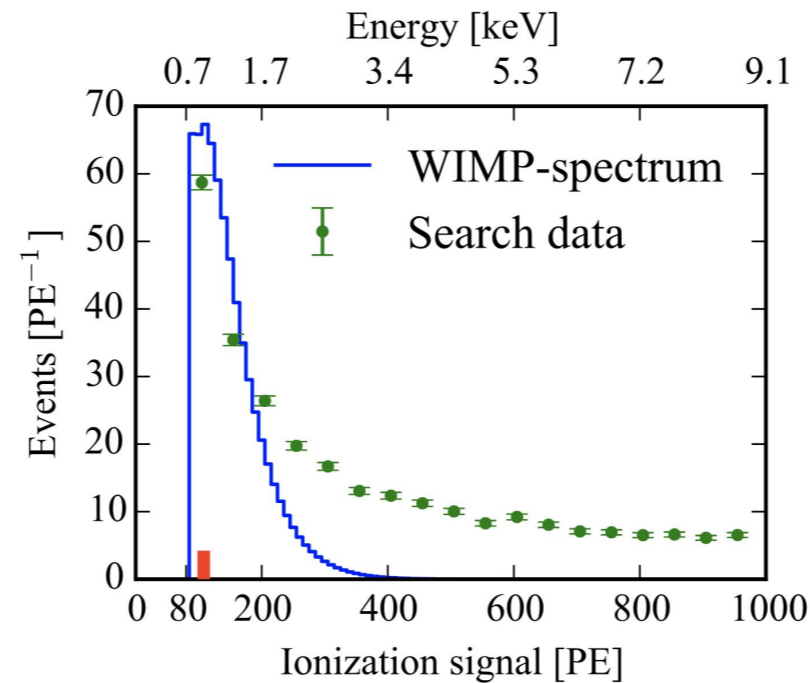


15 kg-day

Rate: 0.1~10/kg/day at 2~3 e-

10~100/kg/day at single e-

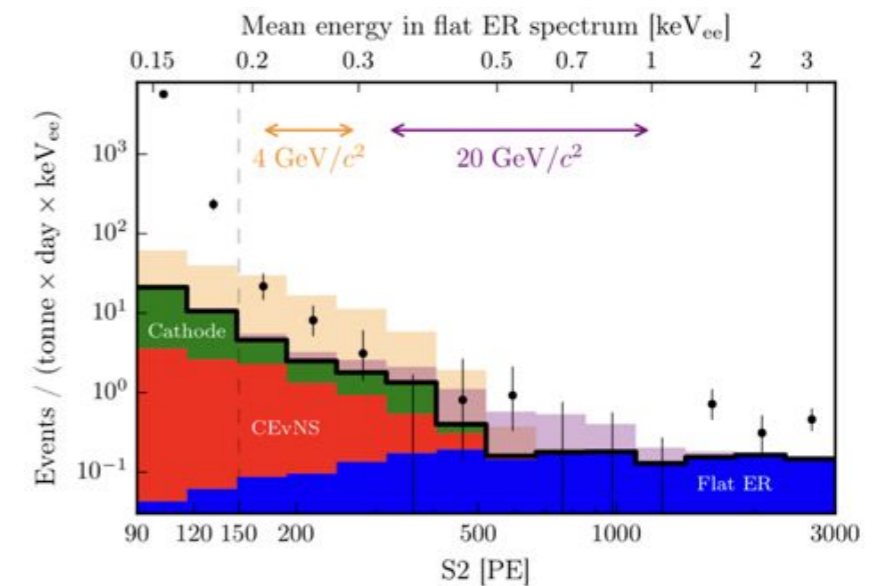
XENON100, arXiv:1605.06262



11,000 kg-day

Rate: 0.1/kg/day at ~4 e-

XENON1T, arXiv:1907.11485



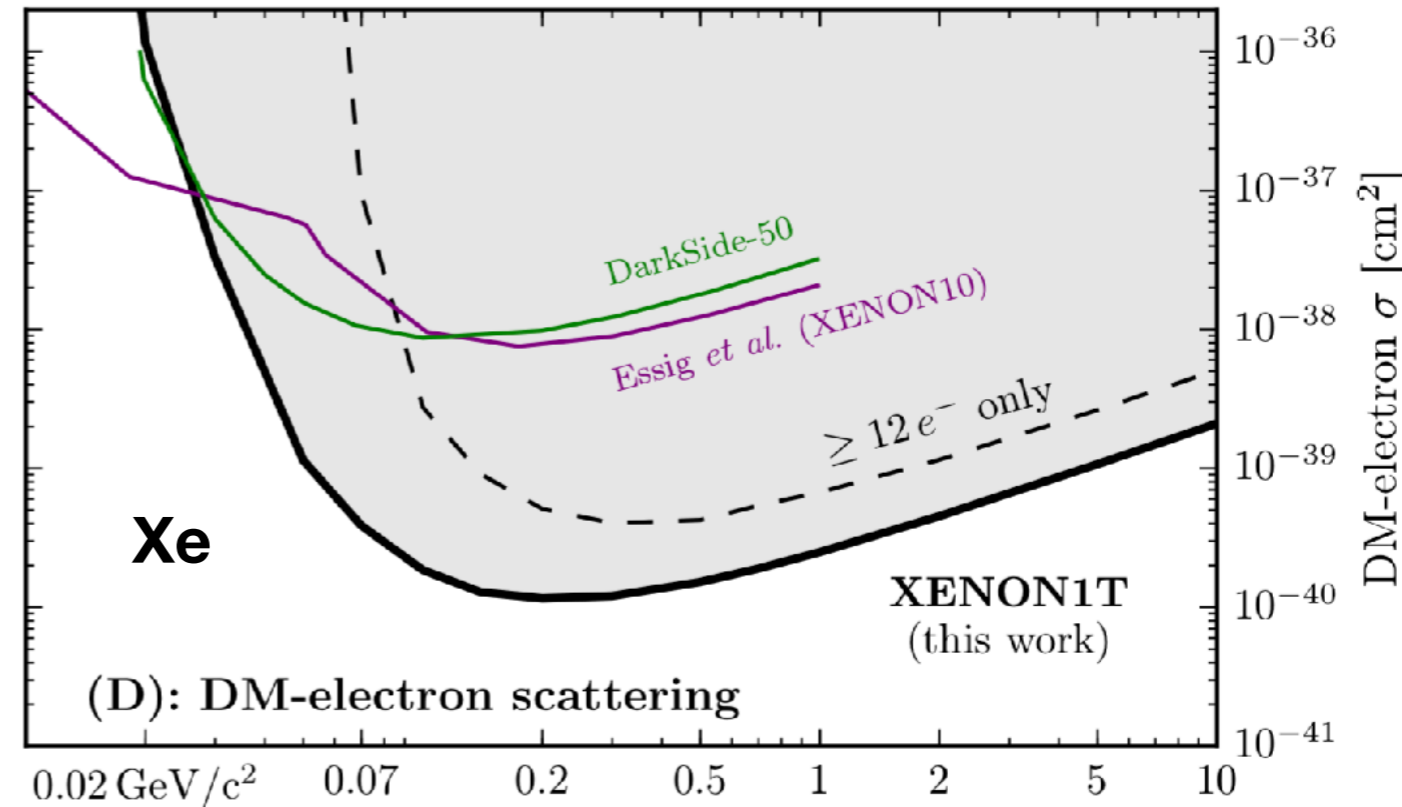
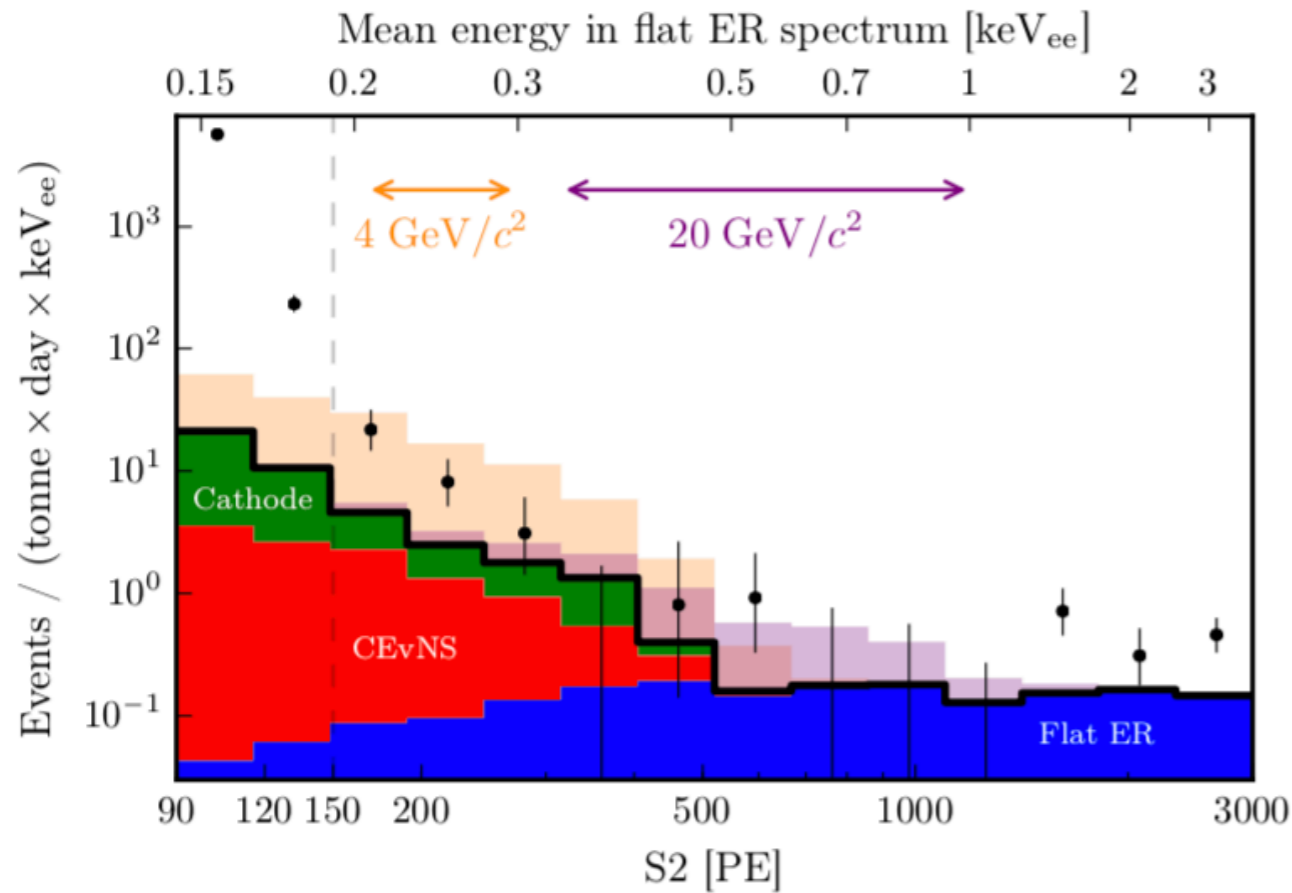
22,000 kg-day

0.01~1/kg/day at 3~4 e-

- **Background at a few electron level is not always going down with increasing target mass.**
- **We now understood much better the sources of these background electrons.**

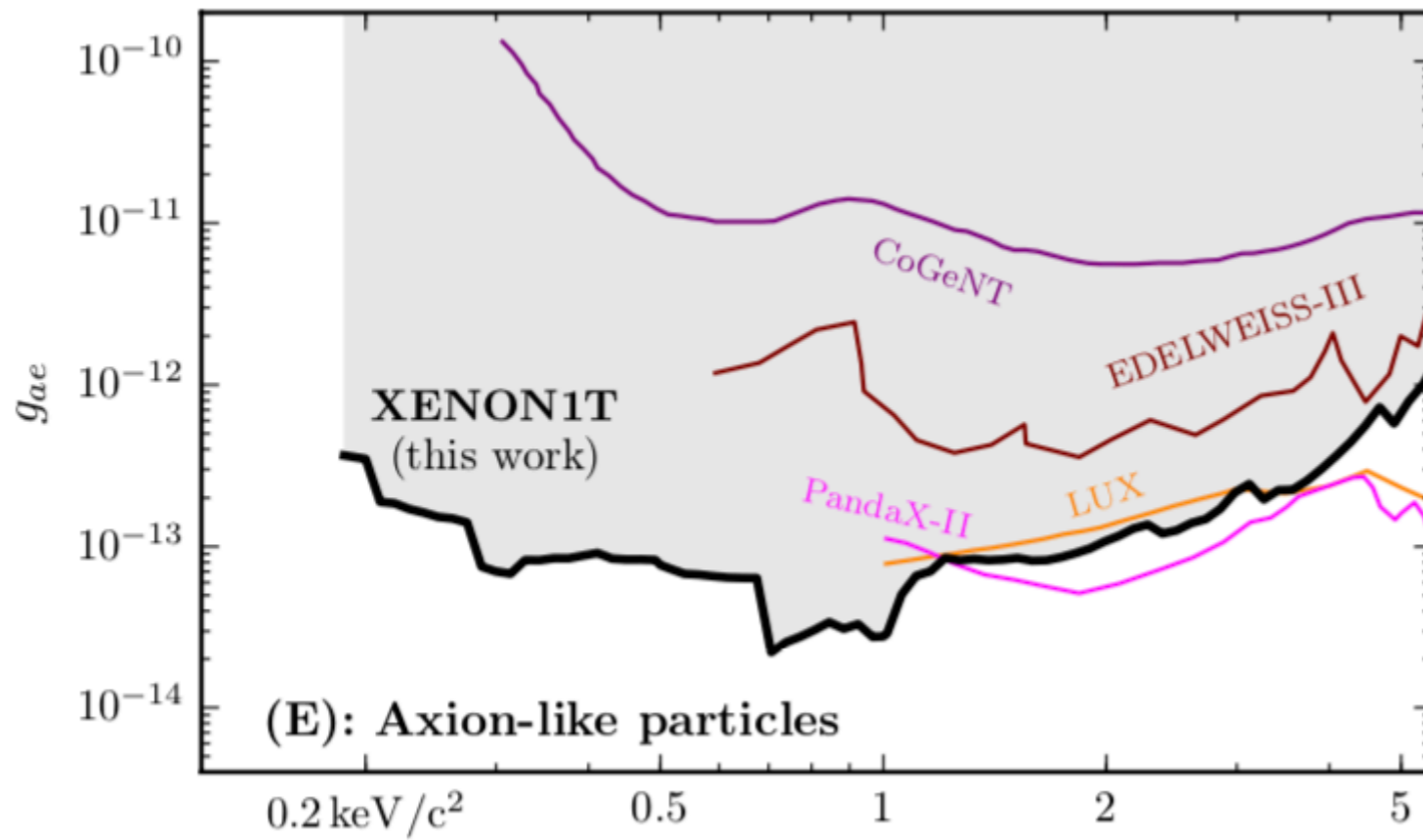
XENON1T S2-only search for dark matter electron scattering

arXiv:1907.11485

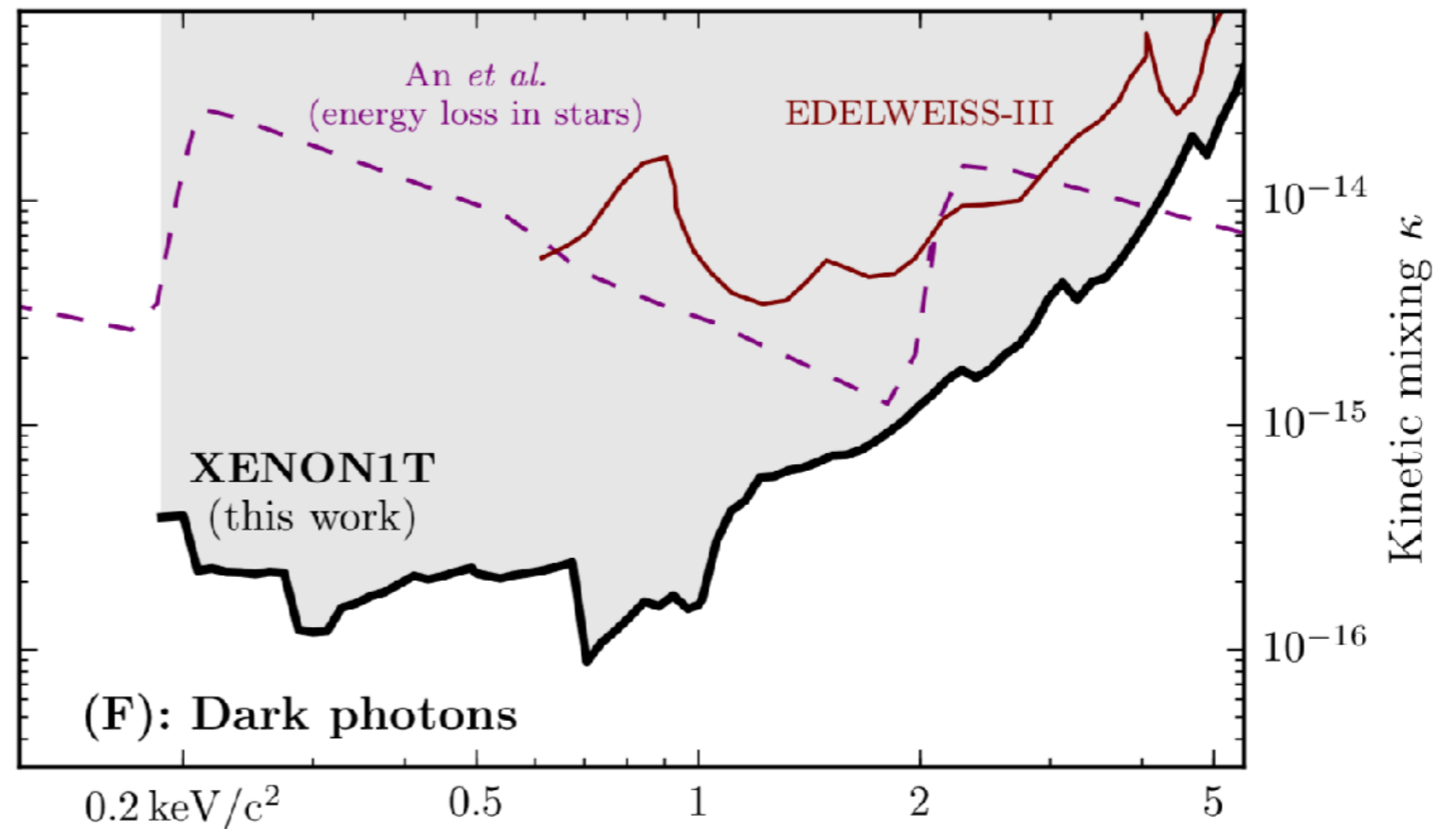


**The search is limited by background (not target mass or threshold).
For future: background understanding and suppression needed**

Dark photon dark matter absorption & Axion-like particles



XENON1T S2-only
arXiv:1907.11485



Summary

- XENON1T achieved **the lowest background among any DM search experiments** with more than one-tonne of target
- XENON1T has **set the most constraining limits** across a large mass range for heavy DM, low-mass DM, light DM, dark photon and axion-like particles.
- With the upcoming XENONnT, together with PandaX-4T, LZ and DarkSide-20k, **the next few years of dark matter hunting will be VERY exciting!**