

# Pushing Rare Event Search to the New Limit with Model- and Data-Centric AI

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CAS IHEP Seminar, 07/12/2024

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HALICIOĞLU DATA SCIENCE INSTITUTE



# Physics in Rare Event Search

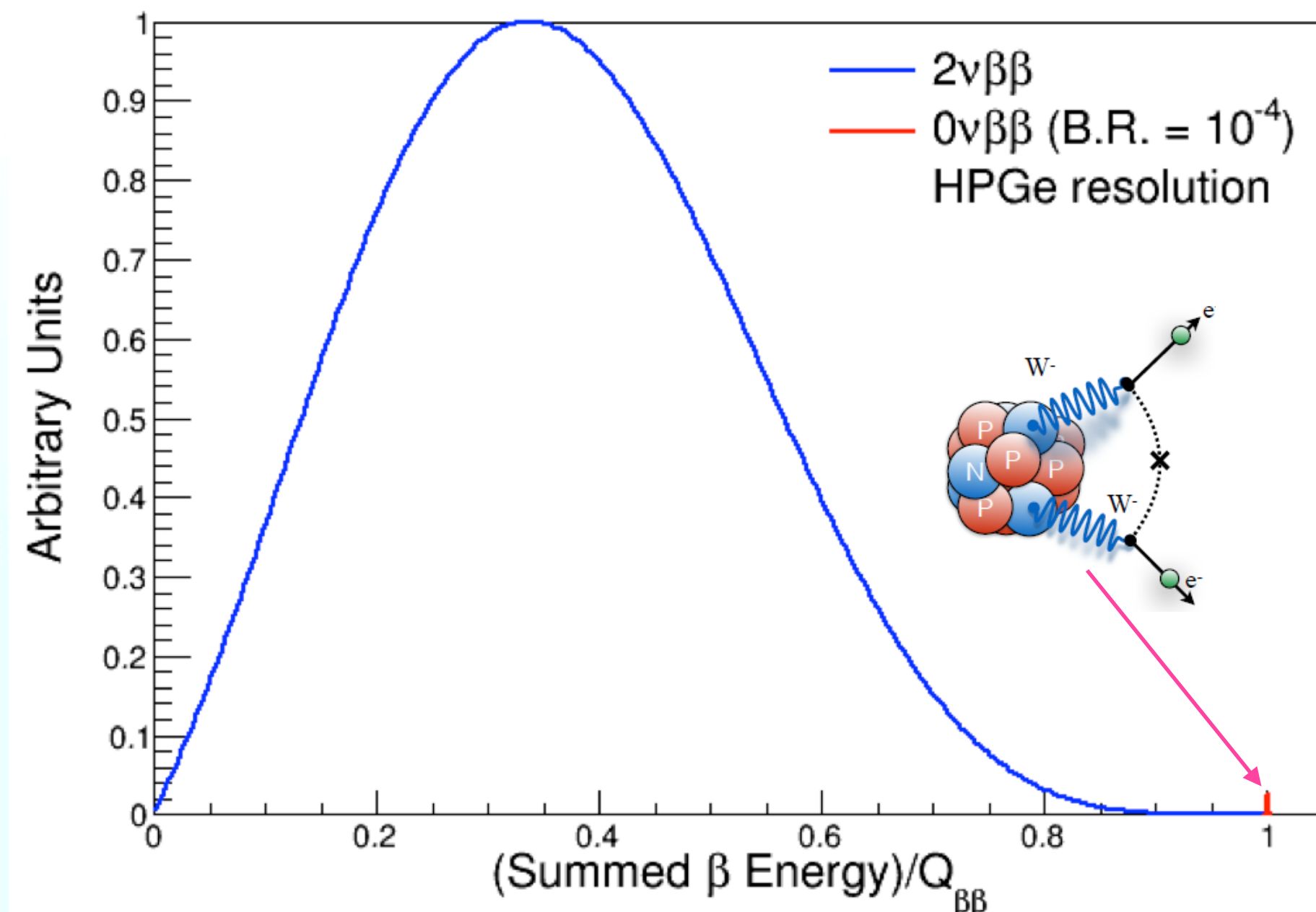
## Neutrinoless Double-Beta Decay (NLDBD)

$\Delta L = 2$  lepton number violation process

Prove that neutrinos are **Majorana particle**

Explain the **matter-antimatter asymmetry** in our universe

Has not been observed at  $T_{1/2} > 10^{26}$  yrs



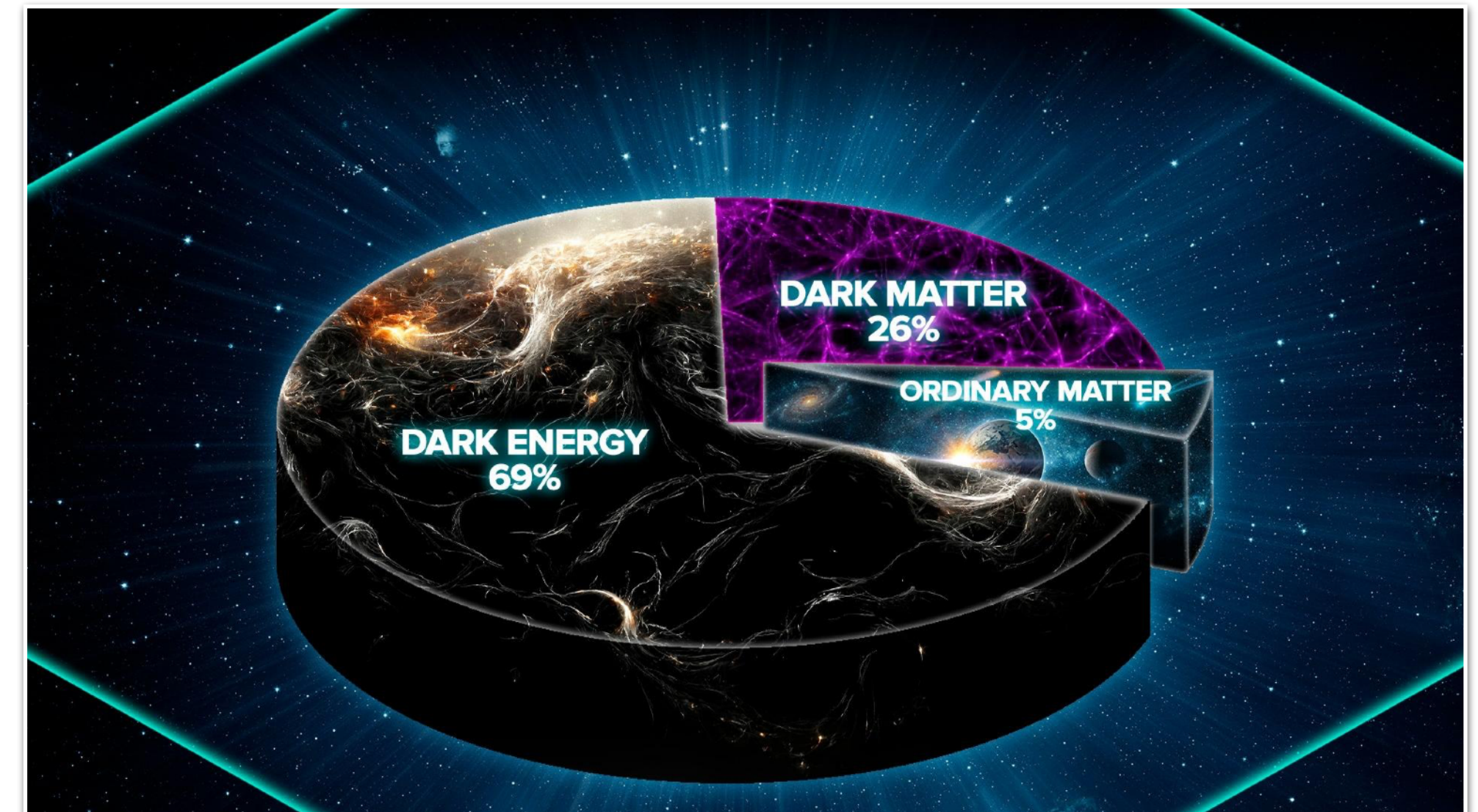
## Dark Matter (DM)

**Strong astrophysical evidence**, no observation on earth

We don't know which particle makes up dark matter:

- Heavy, particle-like DM candidate: **WIMP**
- Light, wave-like DM candidate: **Axion**

WIMP has not been observed at  $\sigma < 10^{-47} \text{ cm}^2$



# Rare Event Search in 2024

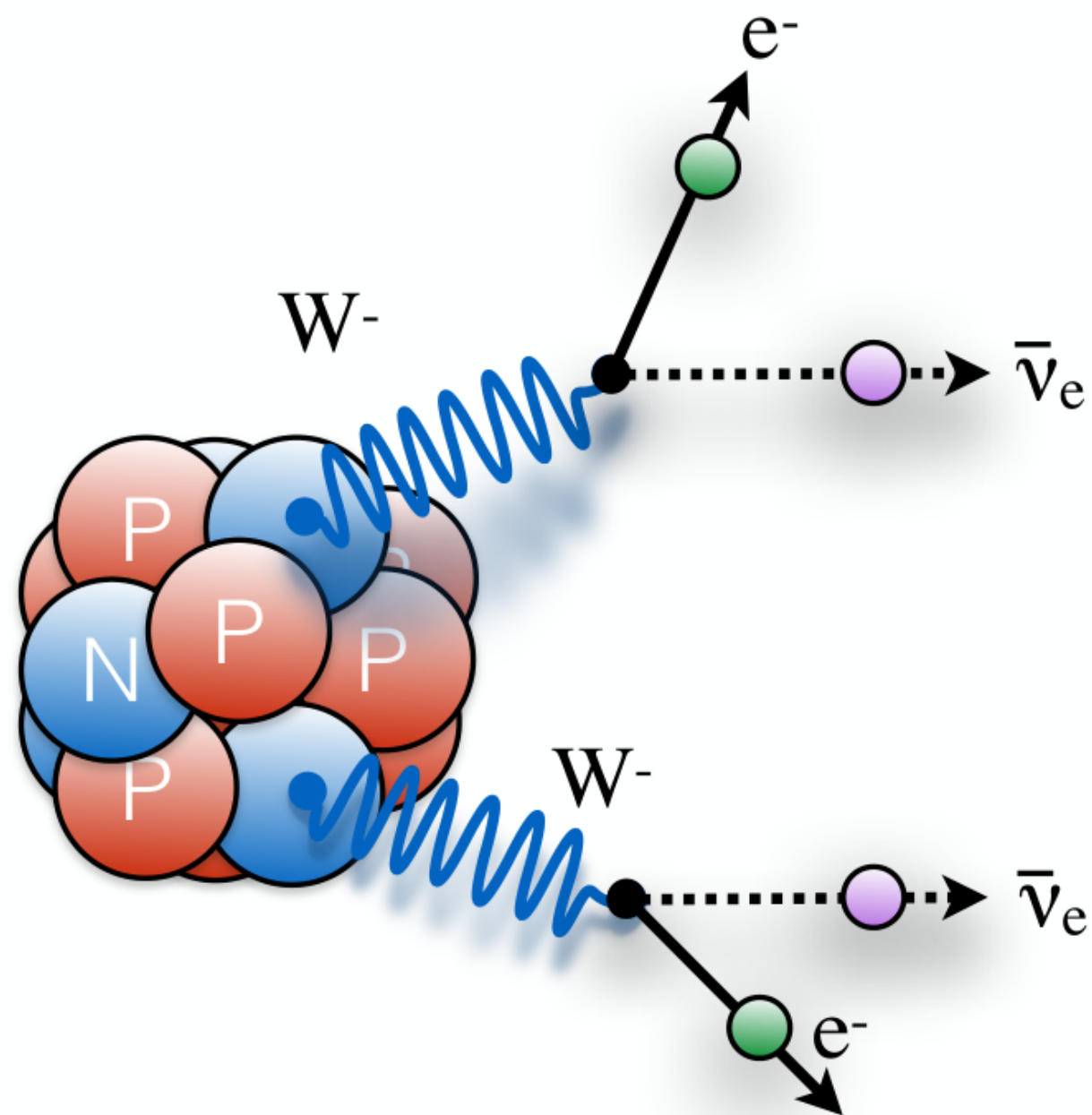
## Double Beta Decay ( $2\nu\beta\beta$ )

First proposed by Maria Goeppert Mayer in 1935

First detection by Elliott, Hahn, Moe, in 1987

Decay half-life  $T_{\frac{1}{2}} \sim 10^{14} - 10^{24} \text{ yrs}$

Much longer than the age of universe!



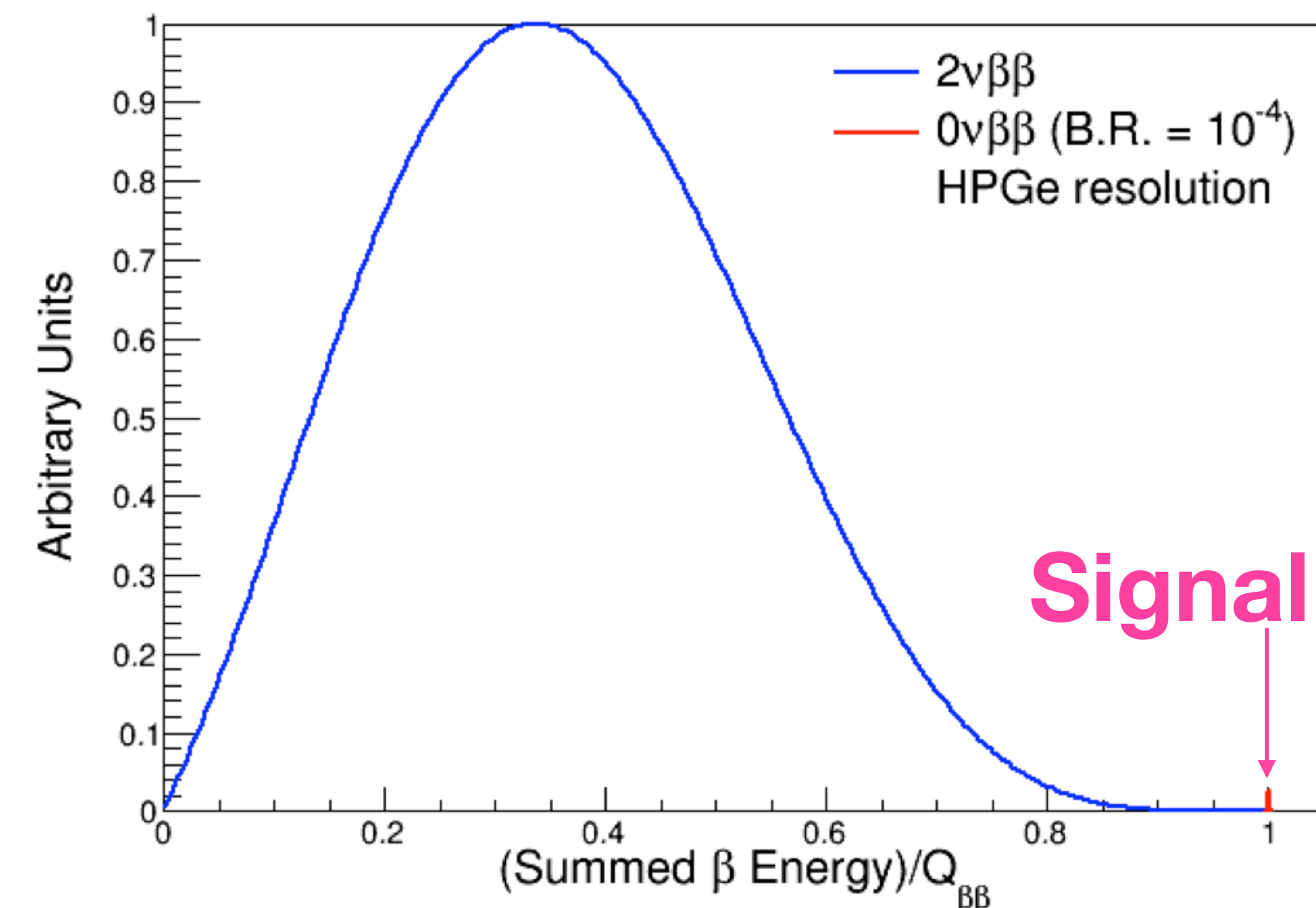
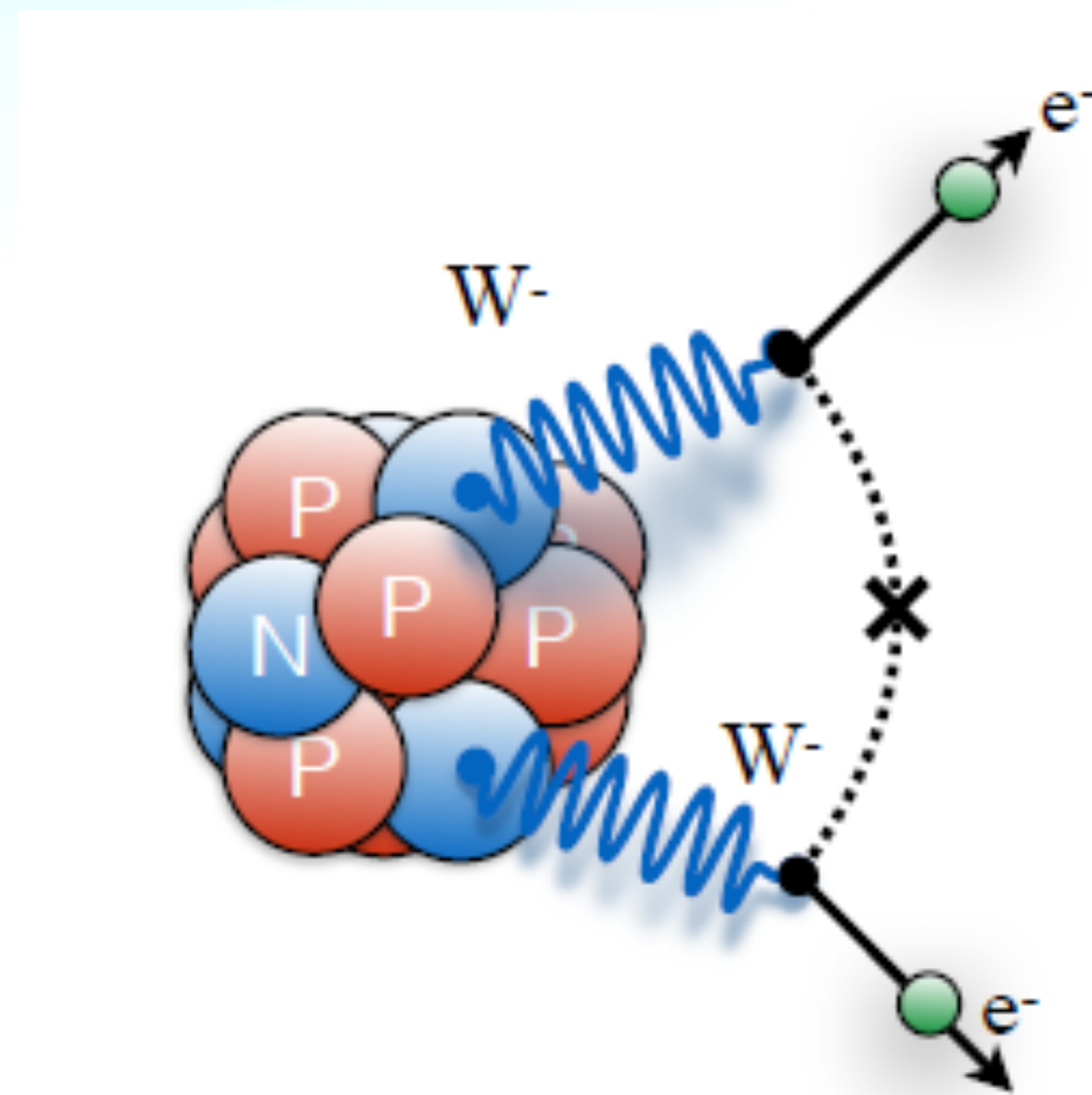
## Neutrinoless Double-Beta Decay ( $0\nu\beta\beta$ )

$\Delta L = 2$  lepton number violation process

Explain the **matter-antimatter asymmetry** in our universe

**Changes our fundamental understanding of particle physics**

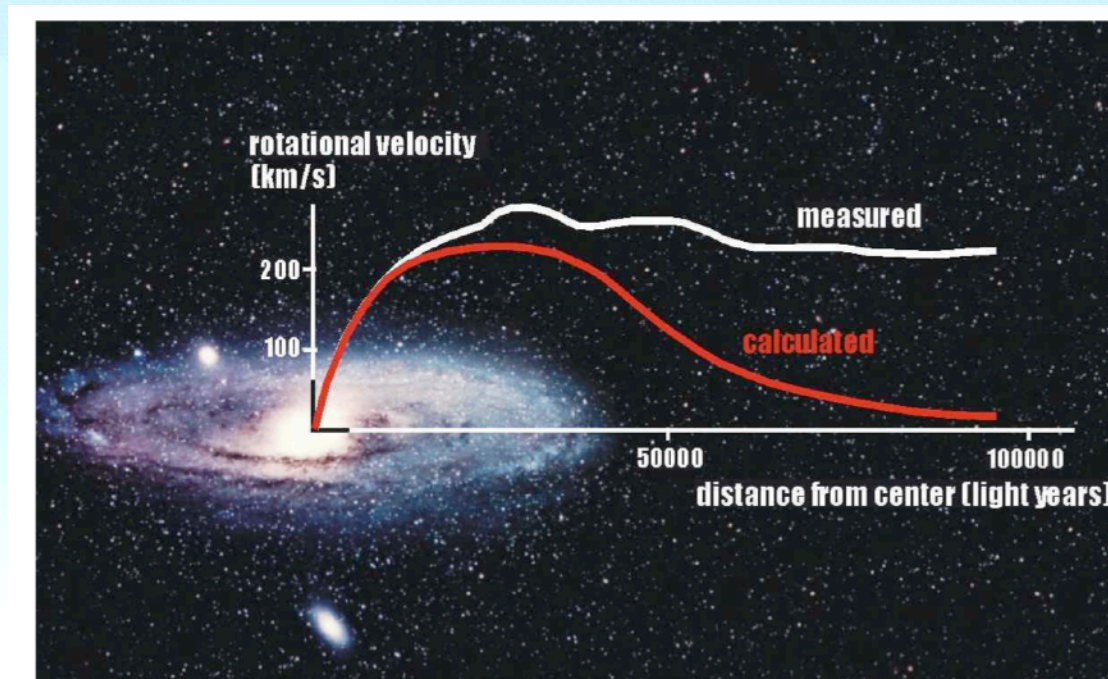
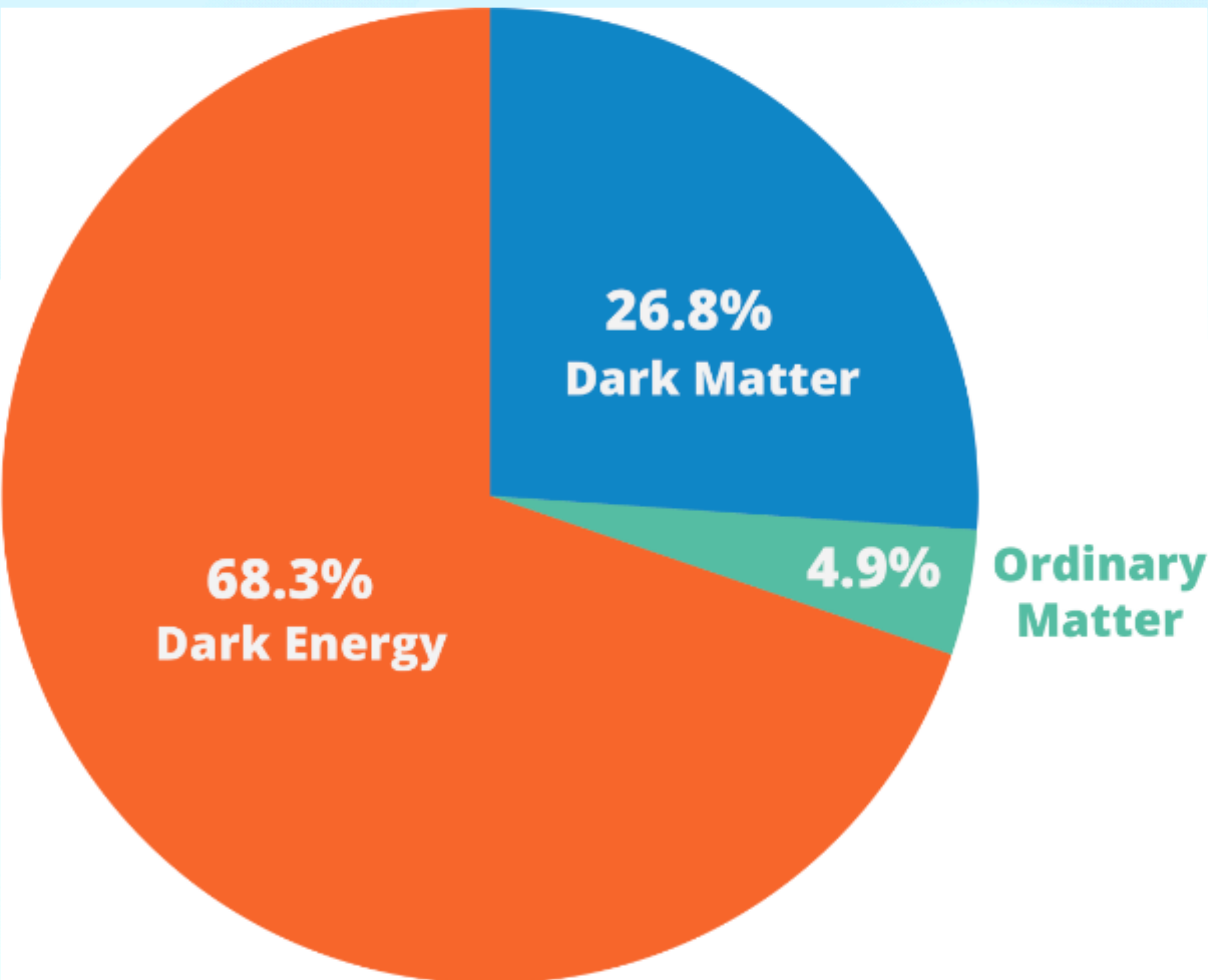
Has not been observed at  $T_{\frac{1}{2}} > 10^{26} \text{ yrs}$



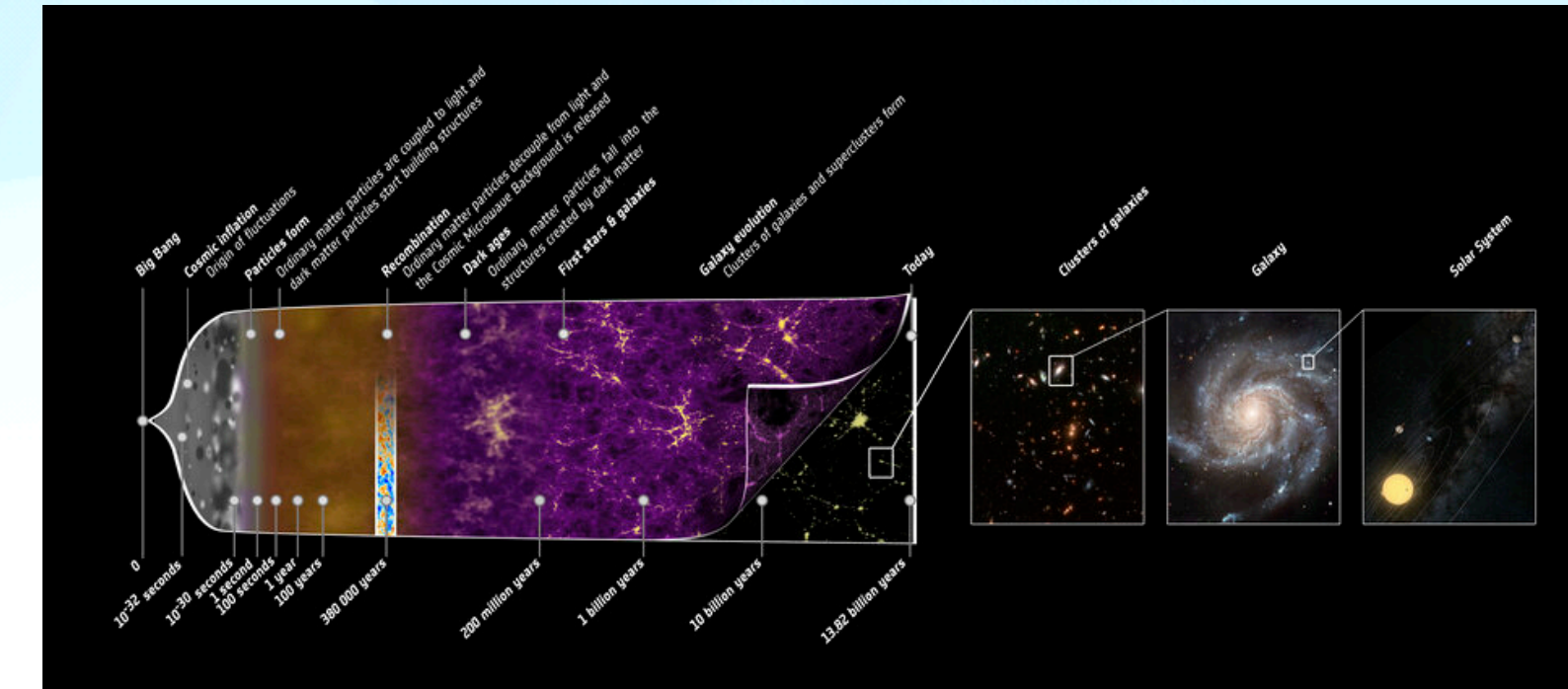
# Rare Event Search in 2024

## Dark Matter

The evidence for the existence of dark matter has been plenty



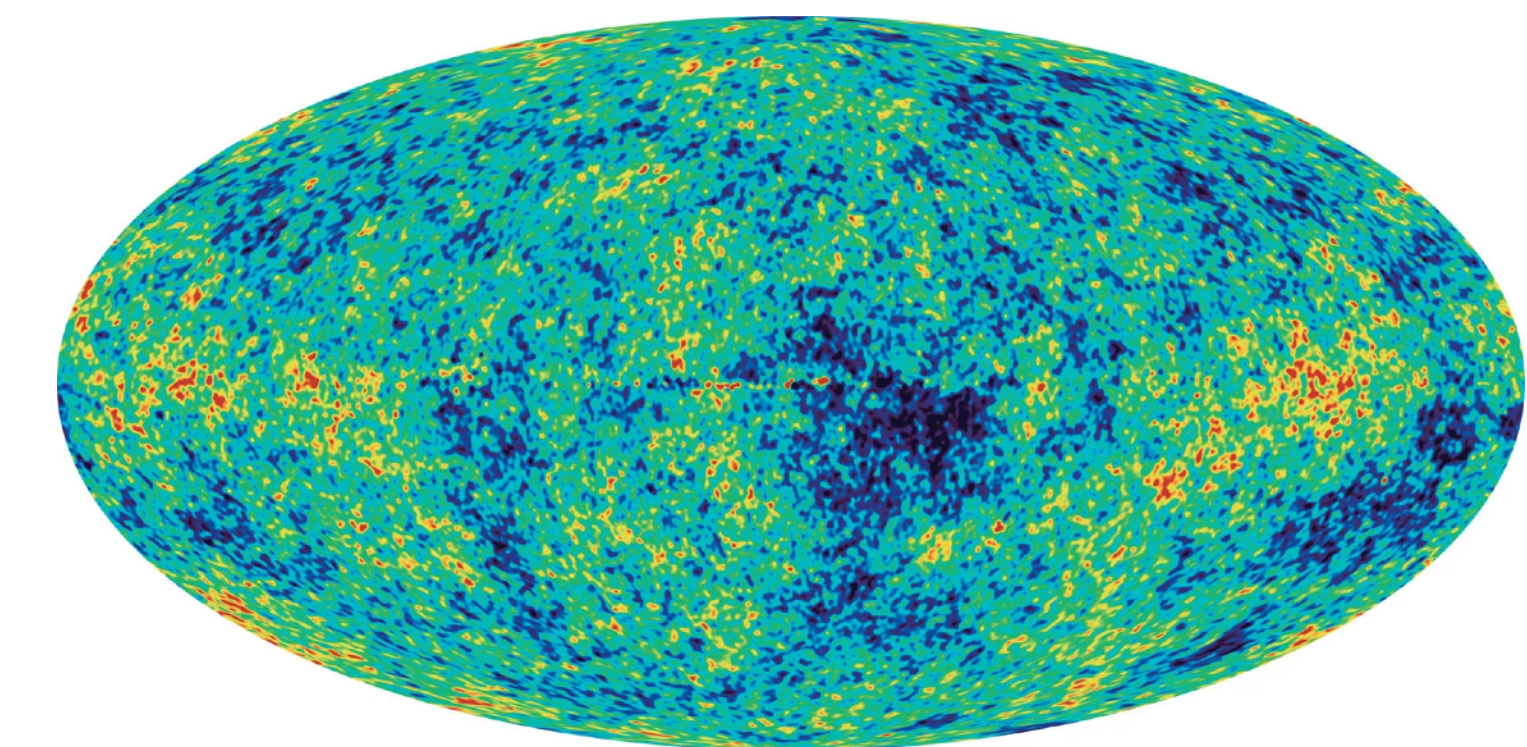
Galaxy Rotation Curve



Large Scale Structure Formation



Gravitational Lens



Cosmic Microwave Background

# Rare Event Search in 2024

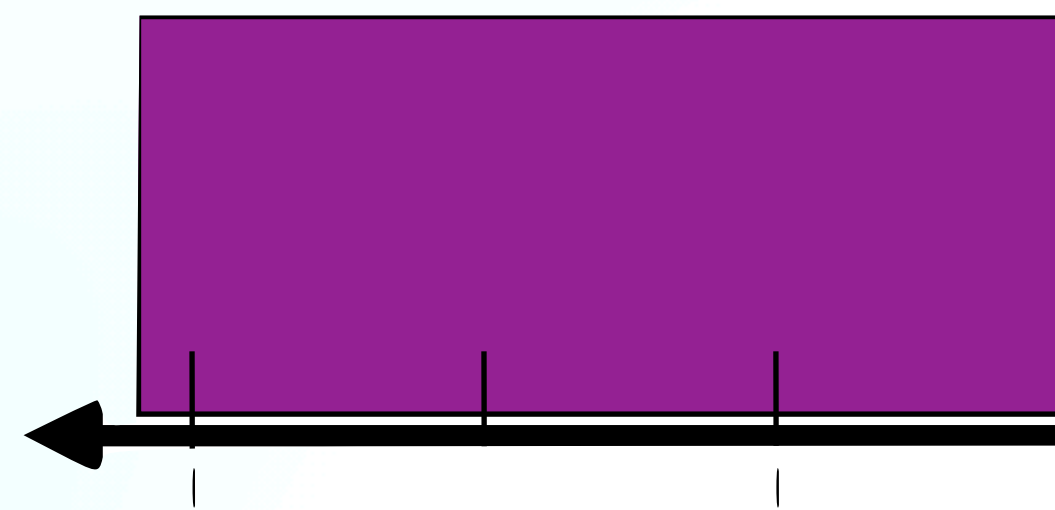
## Dark Matter

The evidence for the existence of dark matter has been plenty  
Many DM candidates have been proposed (WIMP, Axion, etc.)  
None has been observed.

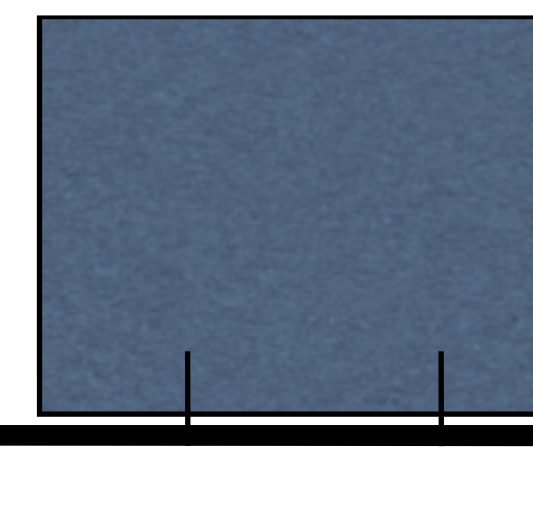
*Dark Matter can feel like a zoo.*

*—Prof. Lindley Winslow*

### Axion Dark Matter



### WIMP Dark Matter



$10^{-12}$

$10^{-6}$

$10^6$

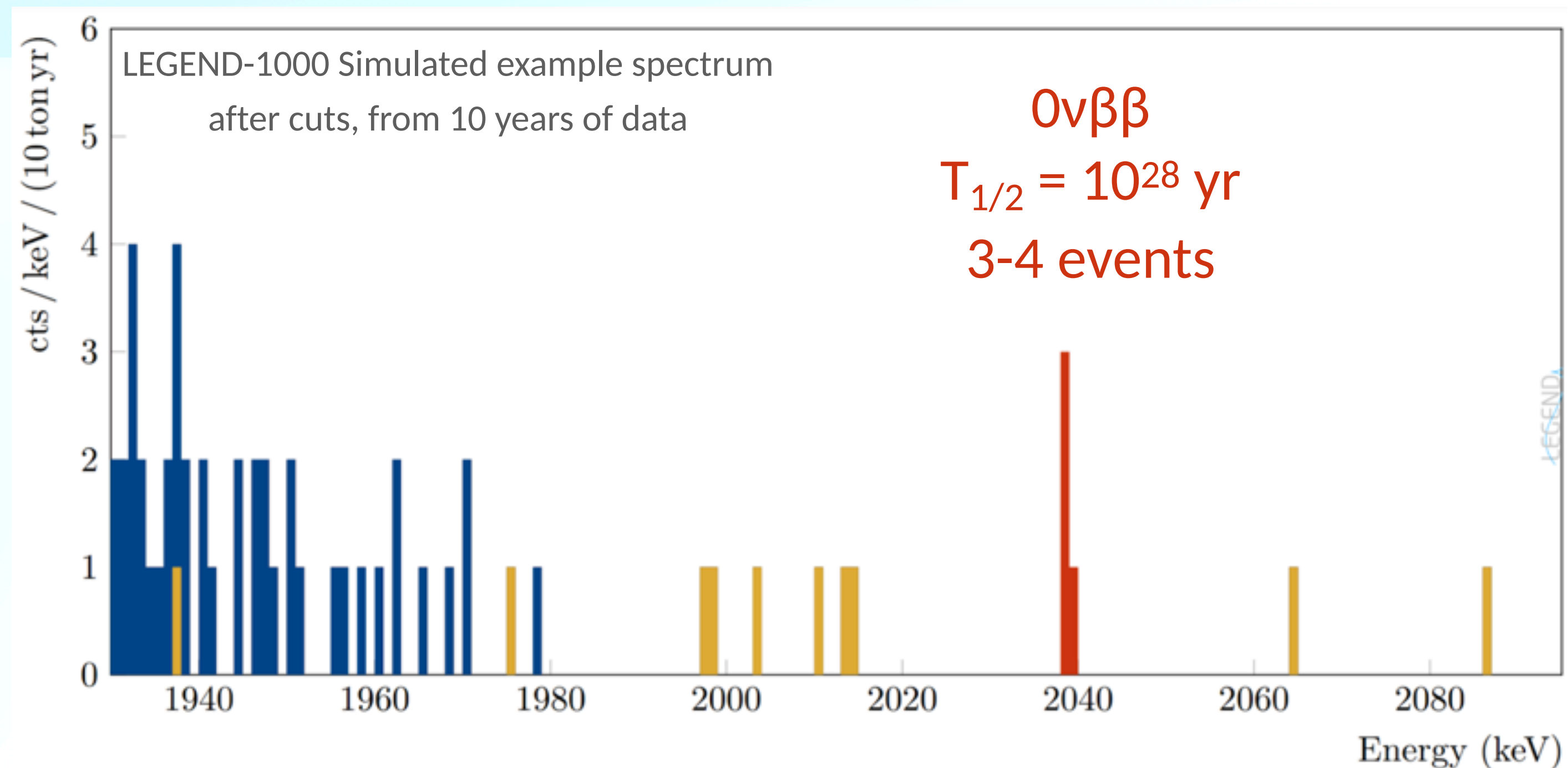
$10^{12}$

mass [eV]

# What Makes Rare Event Search Hard?

It is extremely rare! Using  $0\nu\beta\beta$  as an example ...

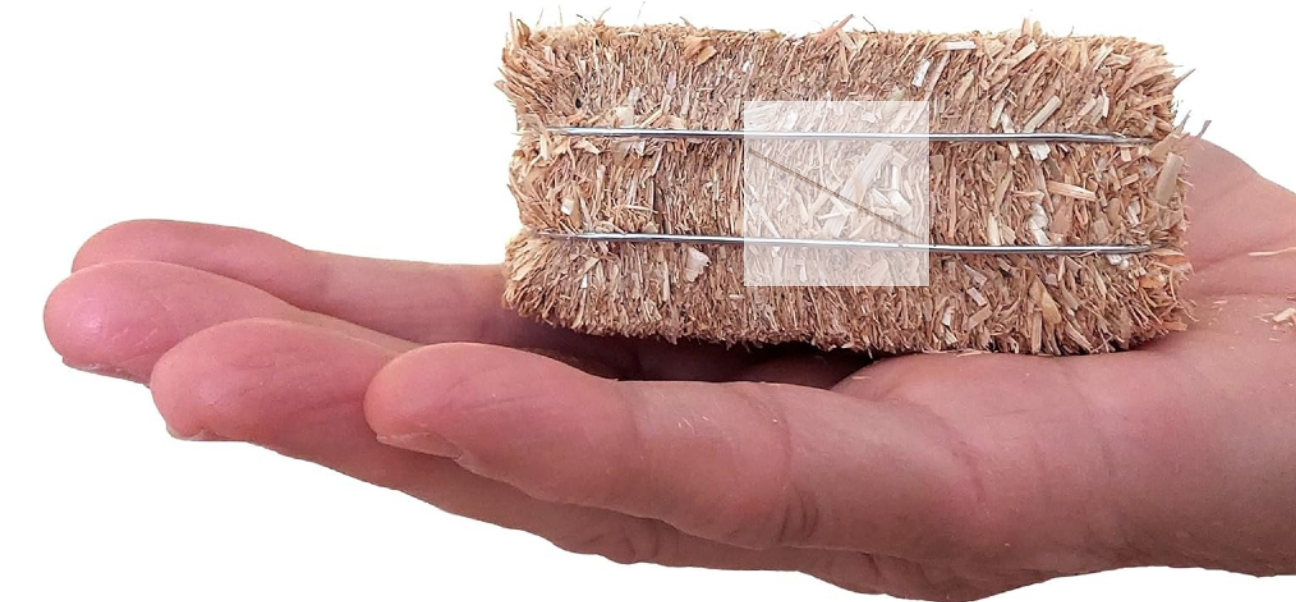
- We have not seen  $0\nu\beta\beta$  at half life of  $T_{\frac{1}{2}} > 10^{26}$  yrs
- Next-generation experiments typically aims at  $T_{\frac{1}{2}} > 10^{28}$  yrs ( $\times 100$  improvement)
- Correspond to **3-4 event** after **10 years** of data taking



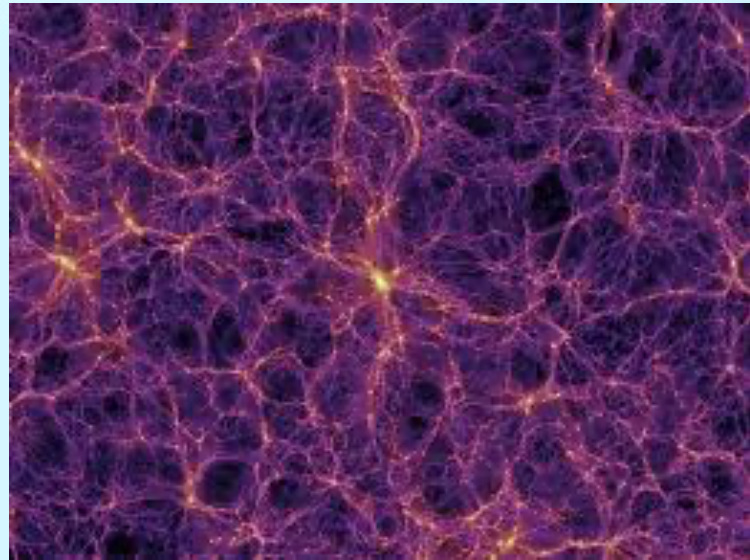
# What Makes Rare Event Search Hard?

- **1 event** every **2.5-3.3 year**, we need ultra-sensitive detector to capture every event
- As our detector gets more sensitive, we also collect lots of events that are not  $0\nu\beta\beta$ /WIMP DM

**Search for needle in a haystack**



# The Rare Event Search Pipeline

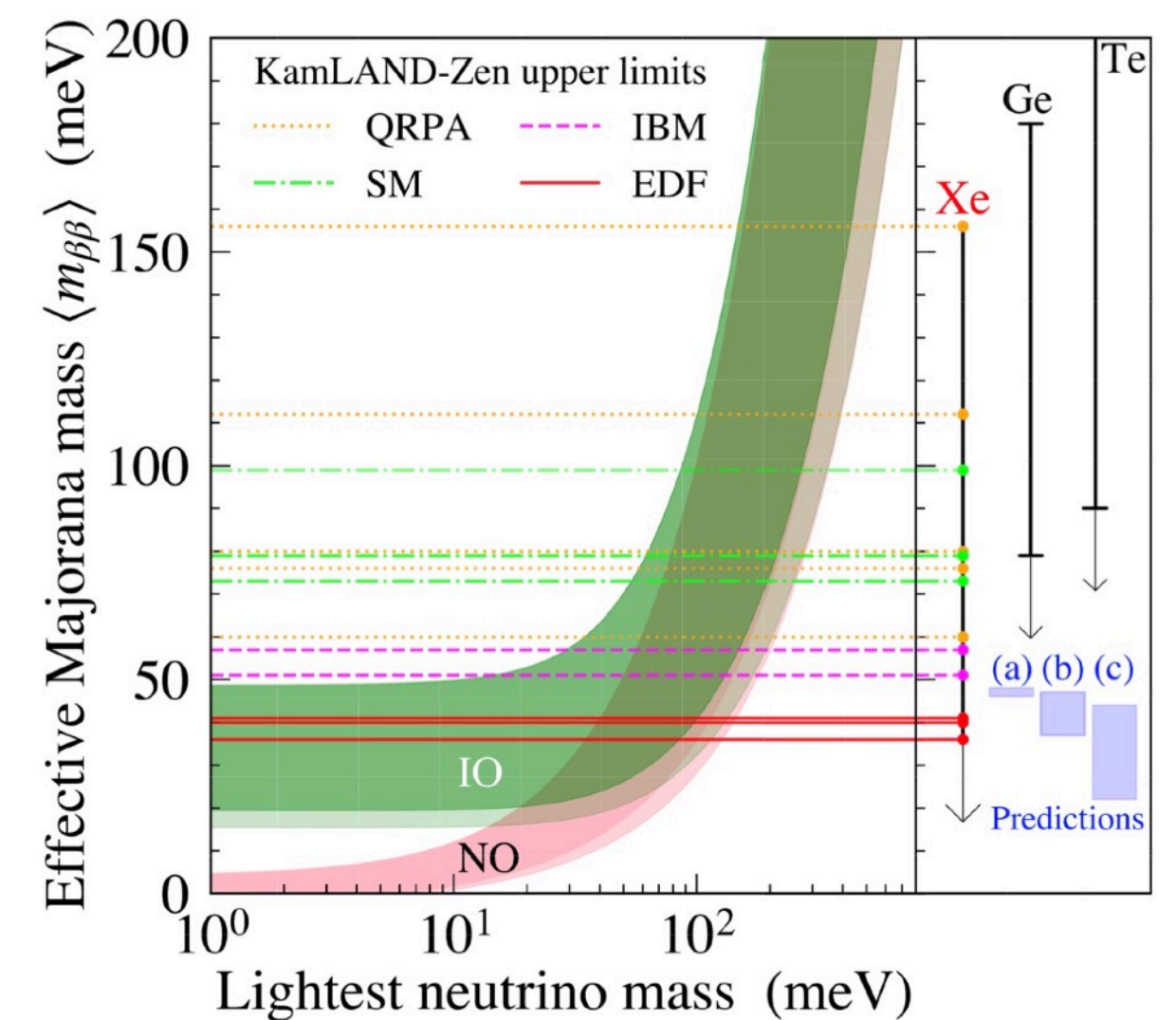
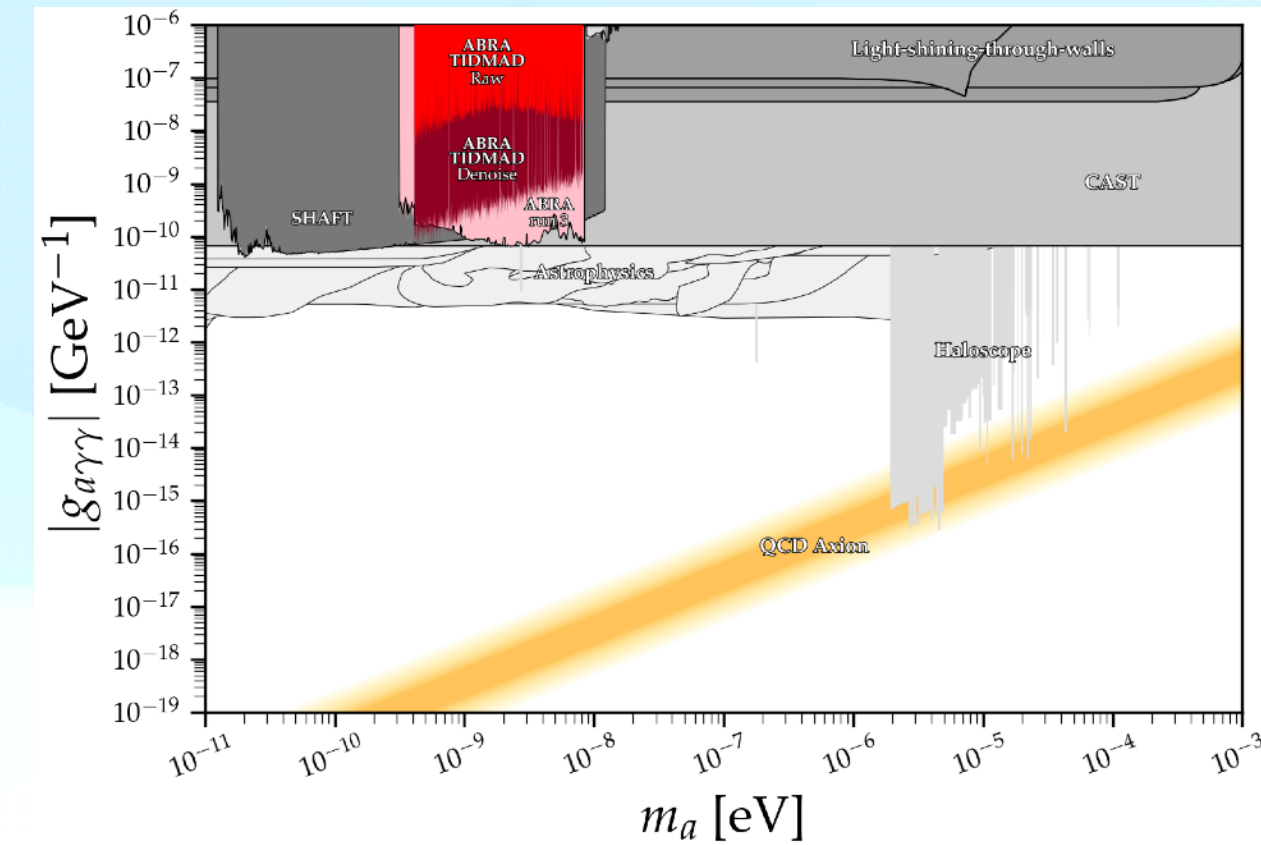
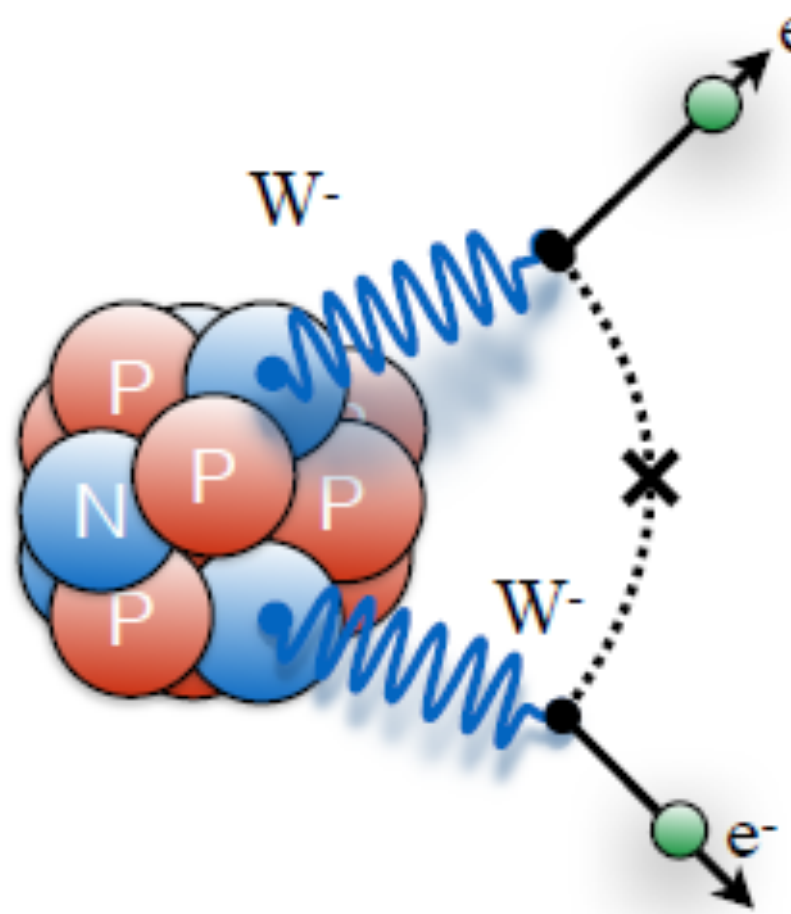
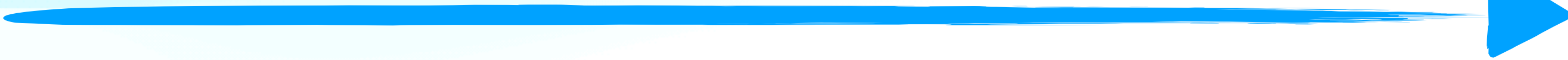


## Radiation Detector

The “magnifying glass” that help finding the needle

## AI/ML

The “forklift” that help removing the haystack







# Model-Centric AI for KamLAND-Zen

## Monolithic Liquid Scintillator Detector for $0\nu\beta\beta$ Search



From Left to Right:

- **Dr. Christopher Grant (BU Co-PI)**
- Hasung Song (BU)
- **Dr. Lindley Winslow (MIT, Co-PI)**
- Dr. Spencer Axani (MIT/UDelaware)
- Dr. Zhenghao Fu (MIT/Jump Trading)
- Dr. Joseph Smolsky (MIT/CSU)
- Dr. Aobo Li (BU/UCSD)

Not on this photo:

- Dr. Sumita Ghosh (MIT)
- Dr. Omer Penek (MIT)
- So Young Jeon (BU)

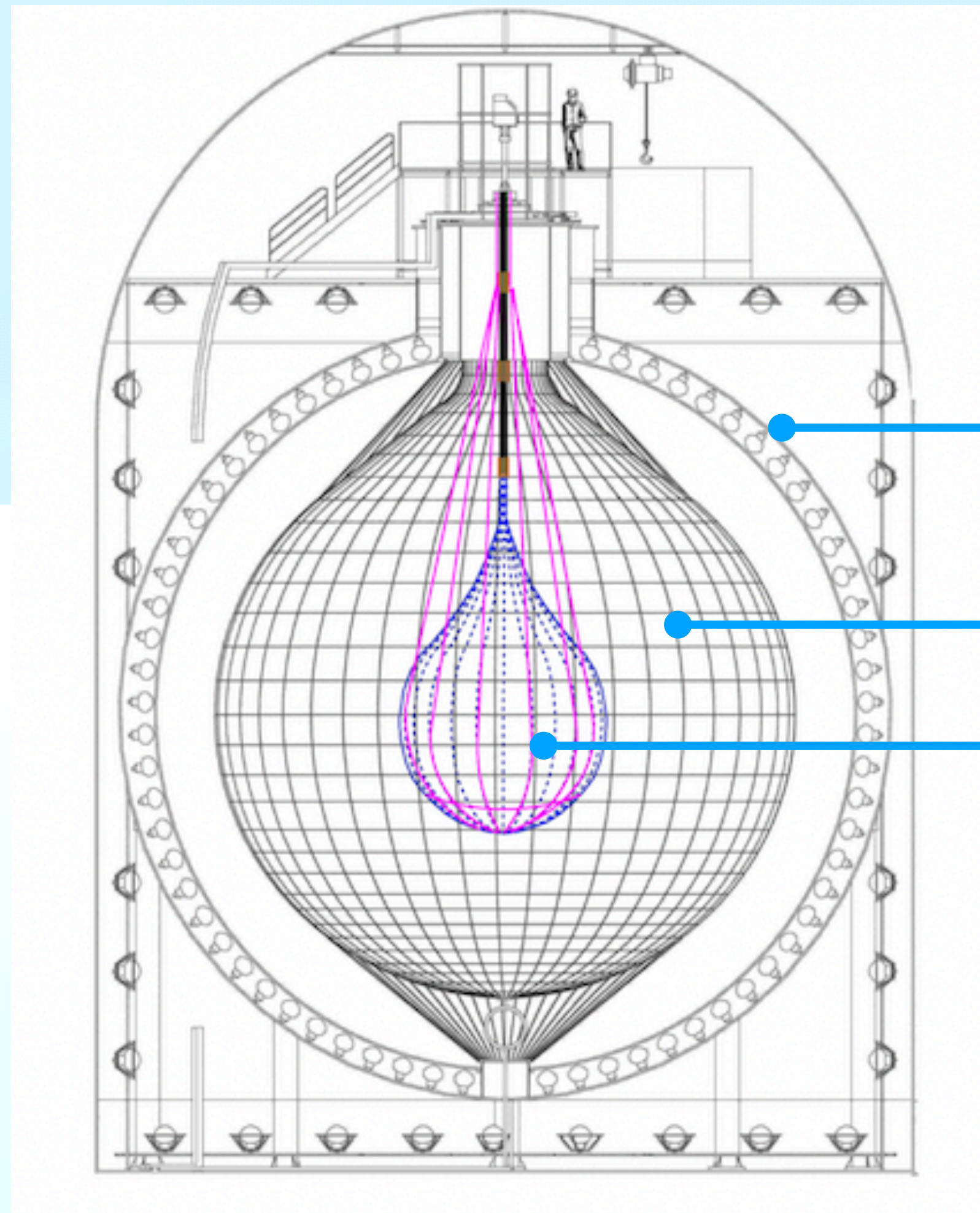


**The MIT-BU Analysis Group**



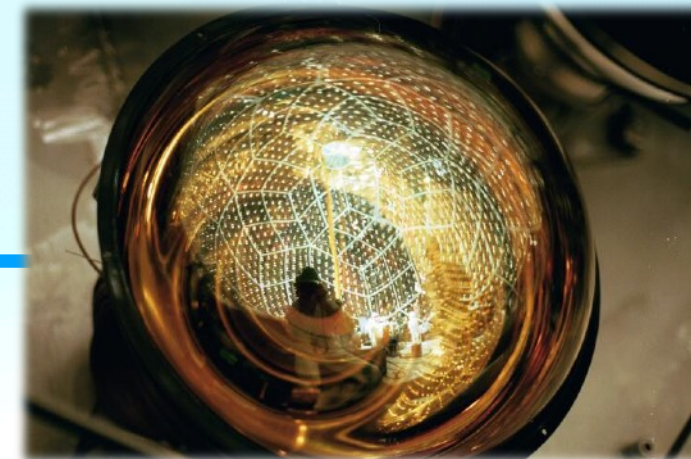
# KamLAND-Zen

Monolithic Liquid Scintillator Detector for  $0\nu\beta\beta$  Search



## Inner Detector PMTs

1325 17inch + 554 20inch



## Liquid Scintillator

### Inner Balloon

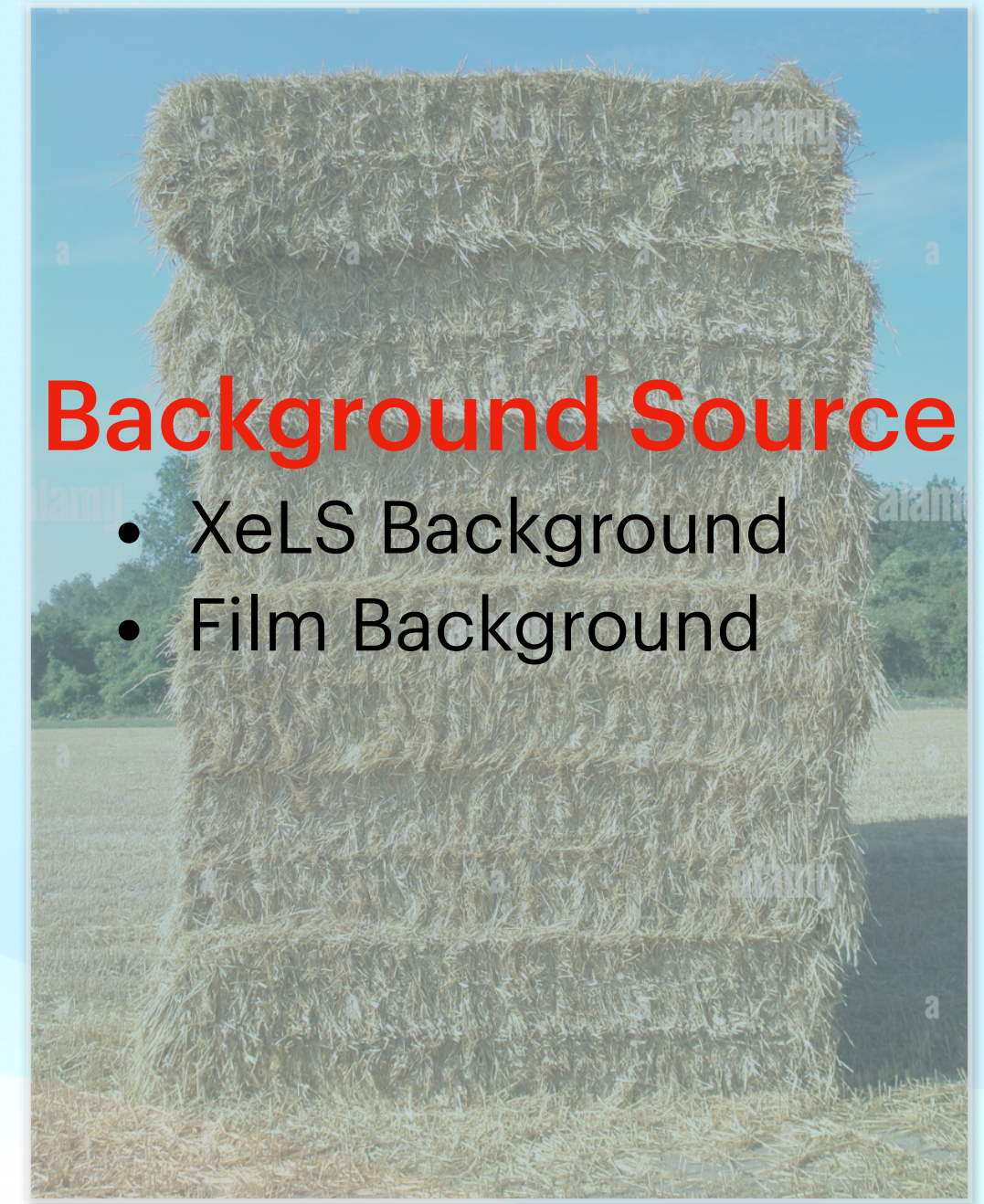
25- $\mu\text{m}$ -thick transparent nylon film

### Xenon Loading

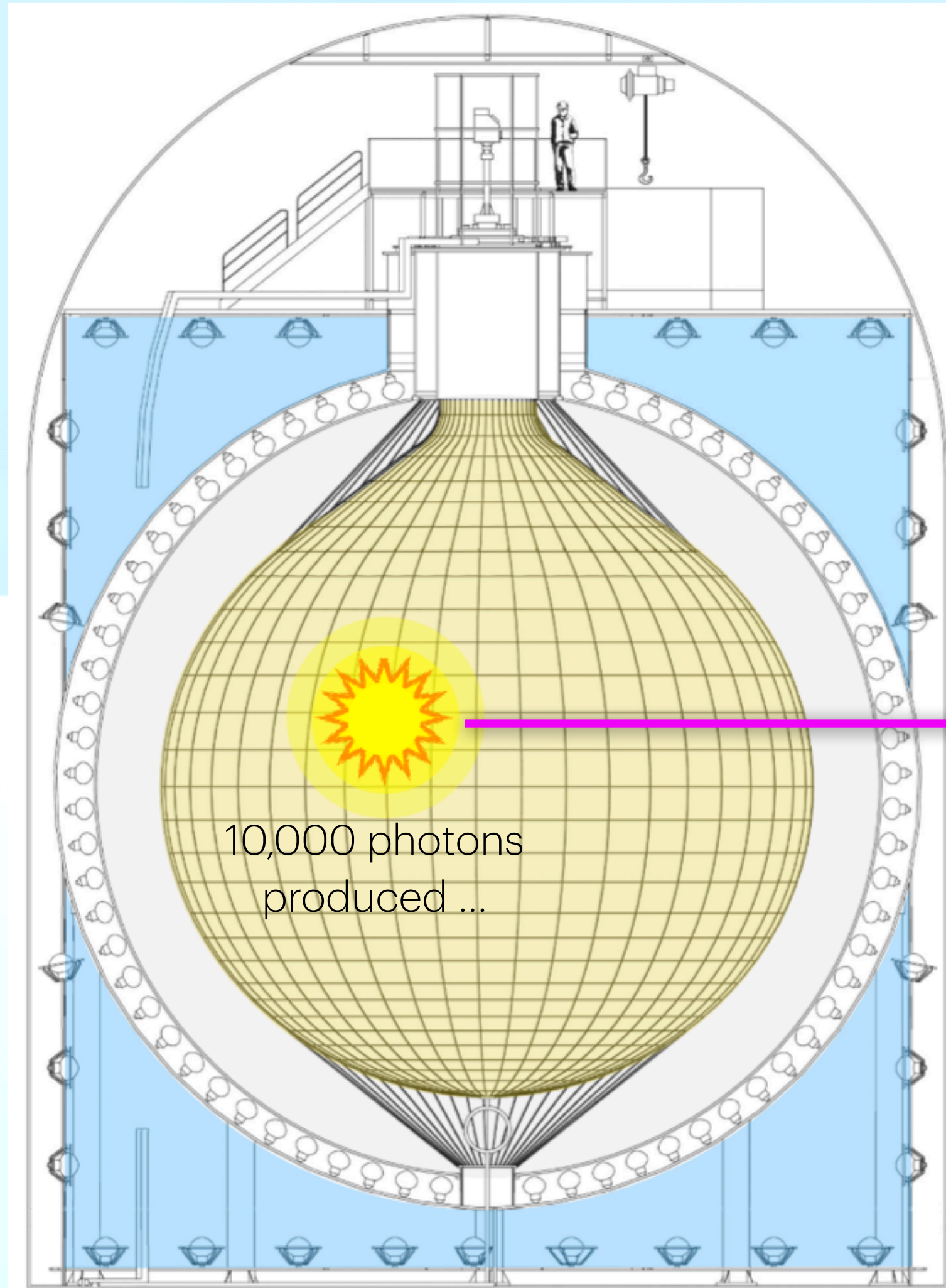
Load 745 kg of double beta decay isotope  $^{136}\text{Xe}$  (90% enriched) in LS inside inner balloon (XeLS)

## Background Source

- XeLS Background
- Film Background



# KamLAND-Zen Data



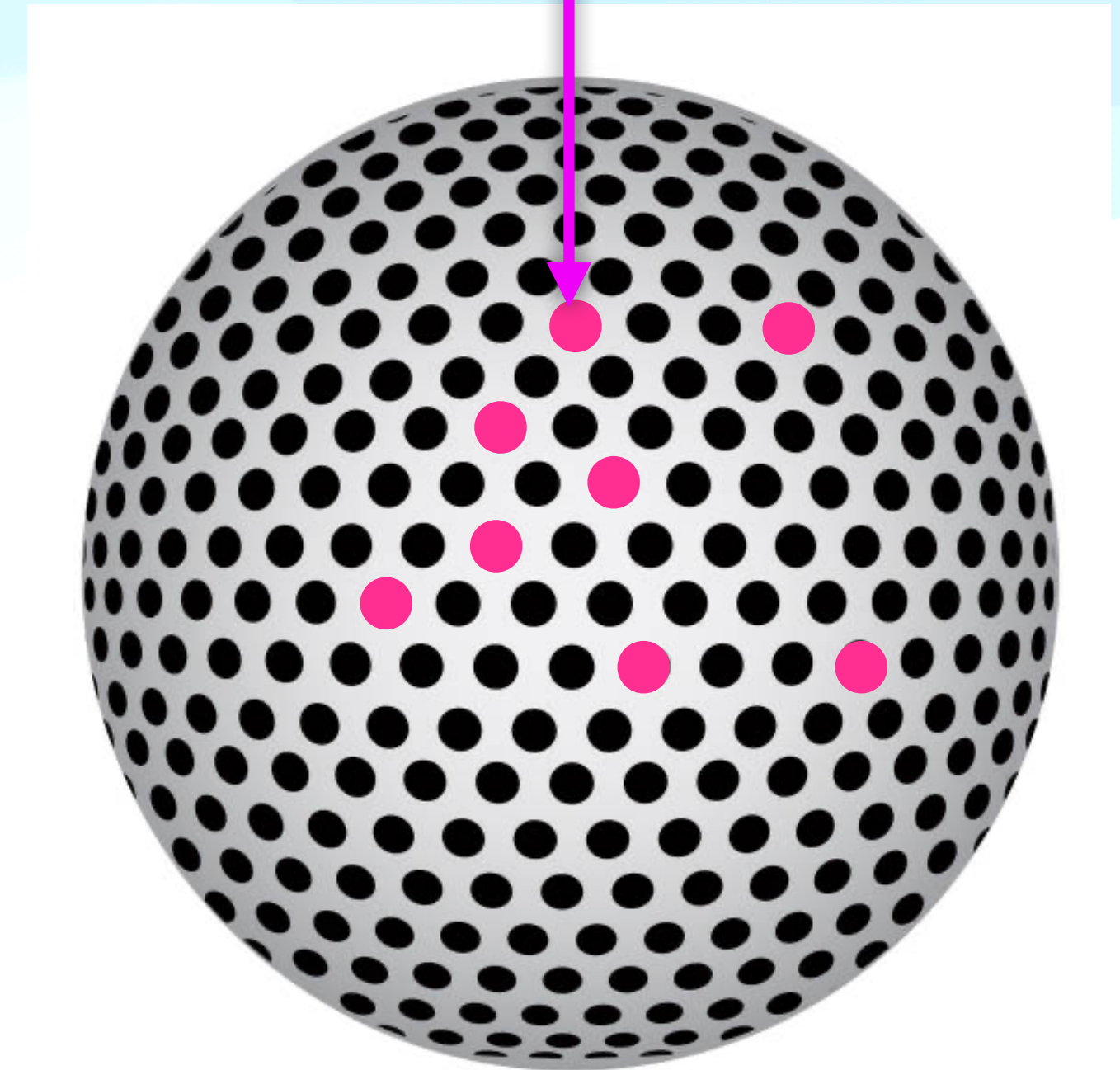
**23% Quantum Efficiency**

... 500 photons will produce a signal (photoelectron).

**Triggered PMT**

**22% Photocoverage**

... 2,200 photons will reach PMT ...



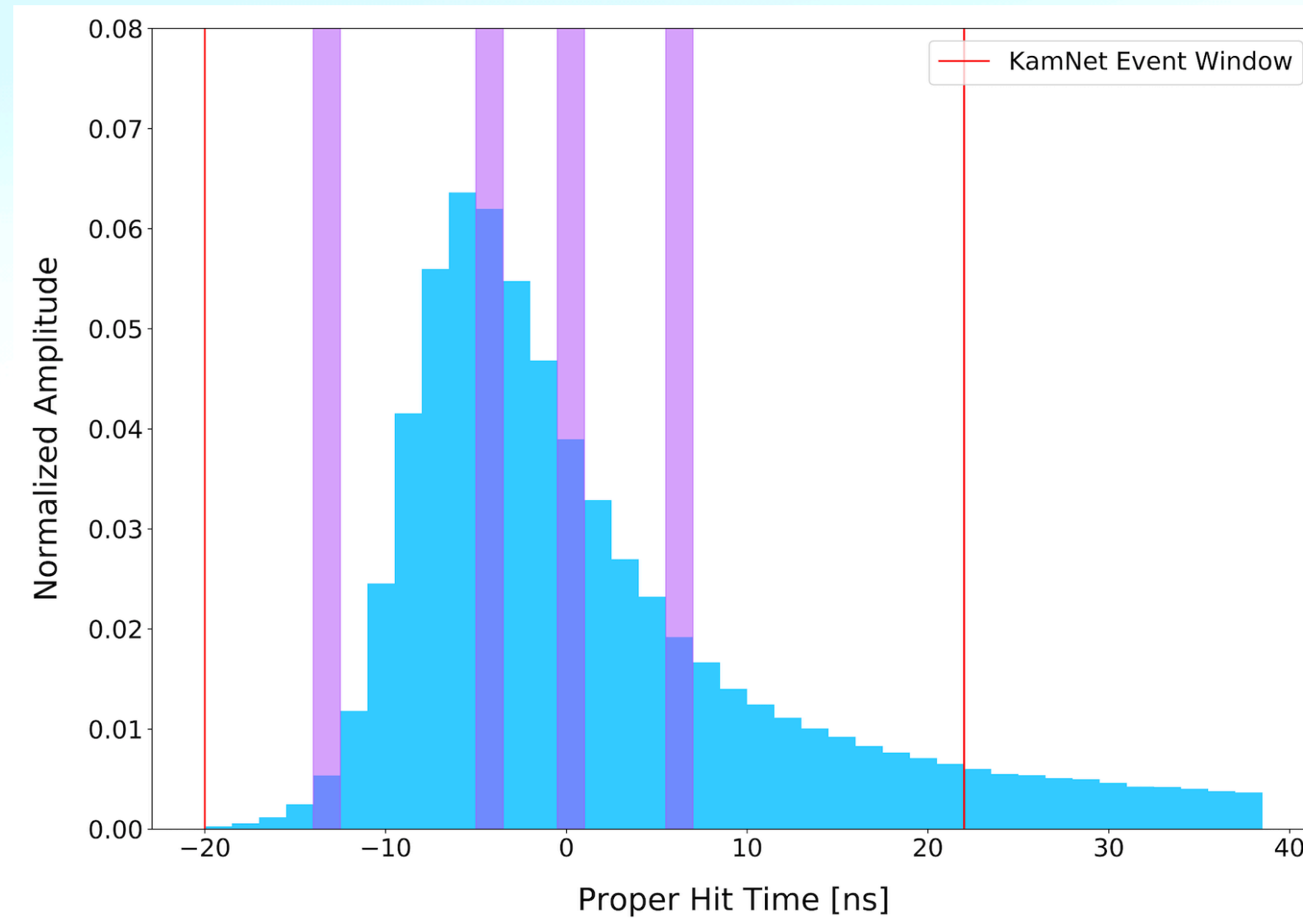
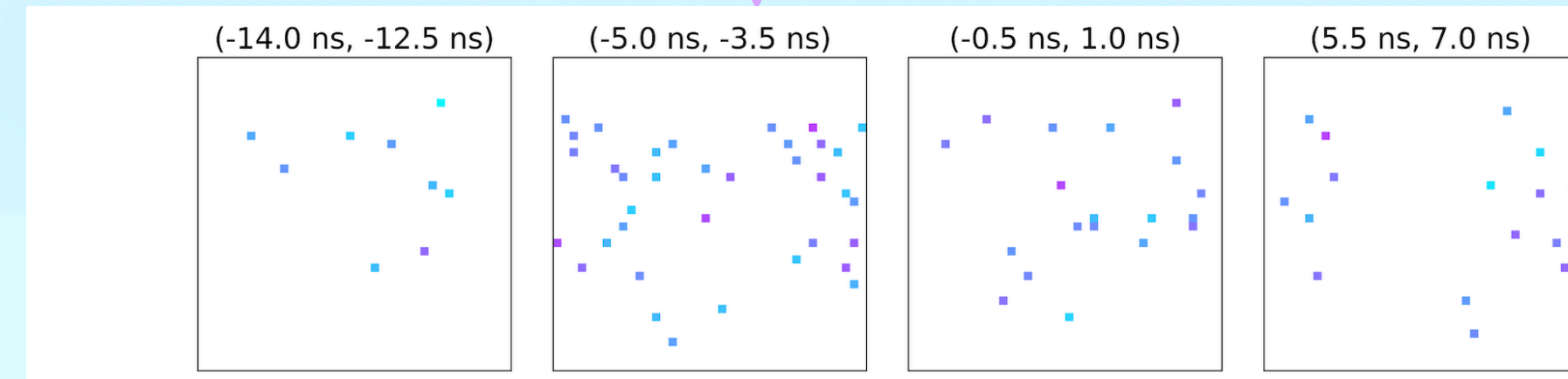
# KamLAND-Zen Data

Triggered PMT

$\theta$ - $\phi$  Sphere Map

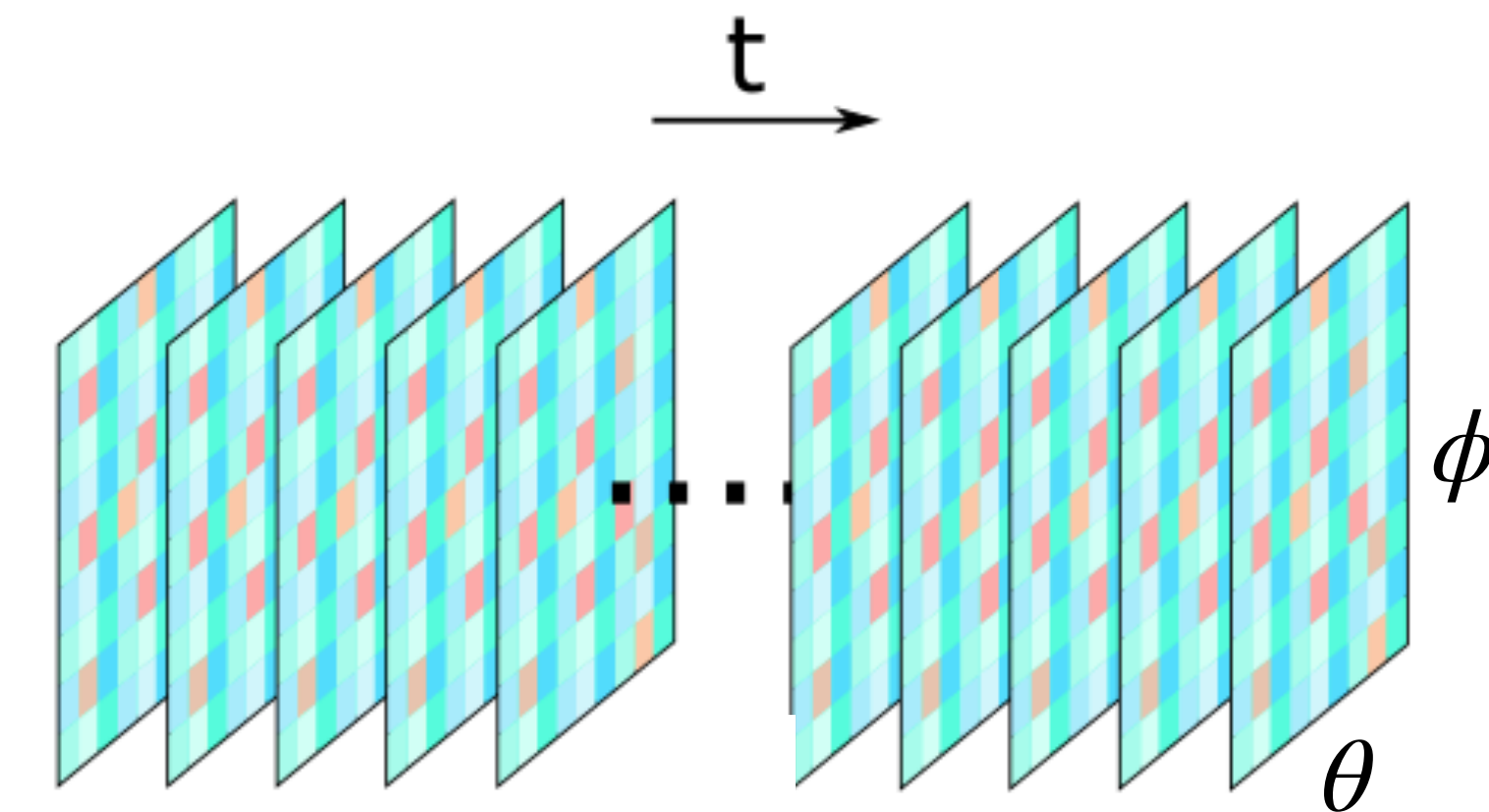
$$(R, \theta, \phi, t, q) \rightarrow E = \sum q$$

Scintillation Time Profile



## Spatiotemporal Data

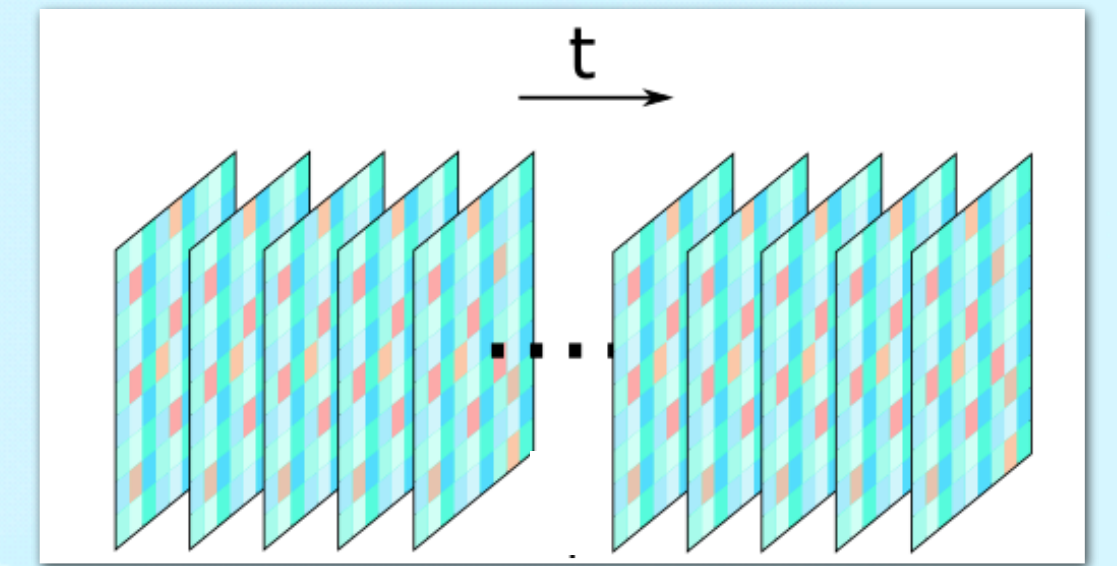
A time series of 2D images, projected onto sphere (A spherical video)



# Simulating Spatiotemporal Data

Perfect Detector

Realistic KamLAND-Zen Hardware

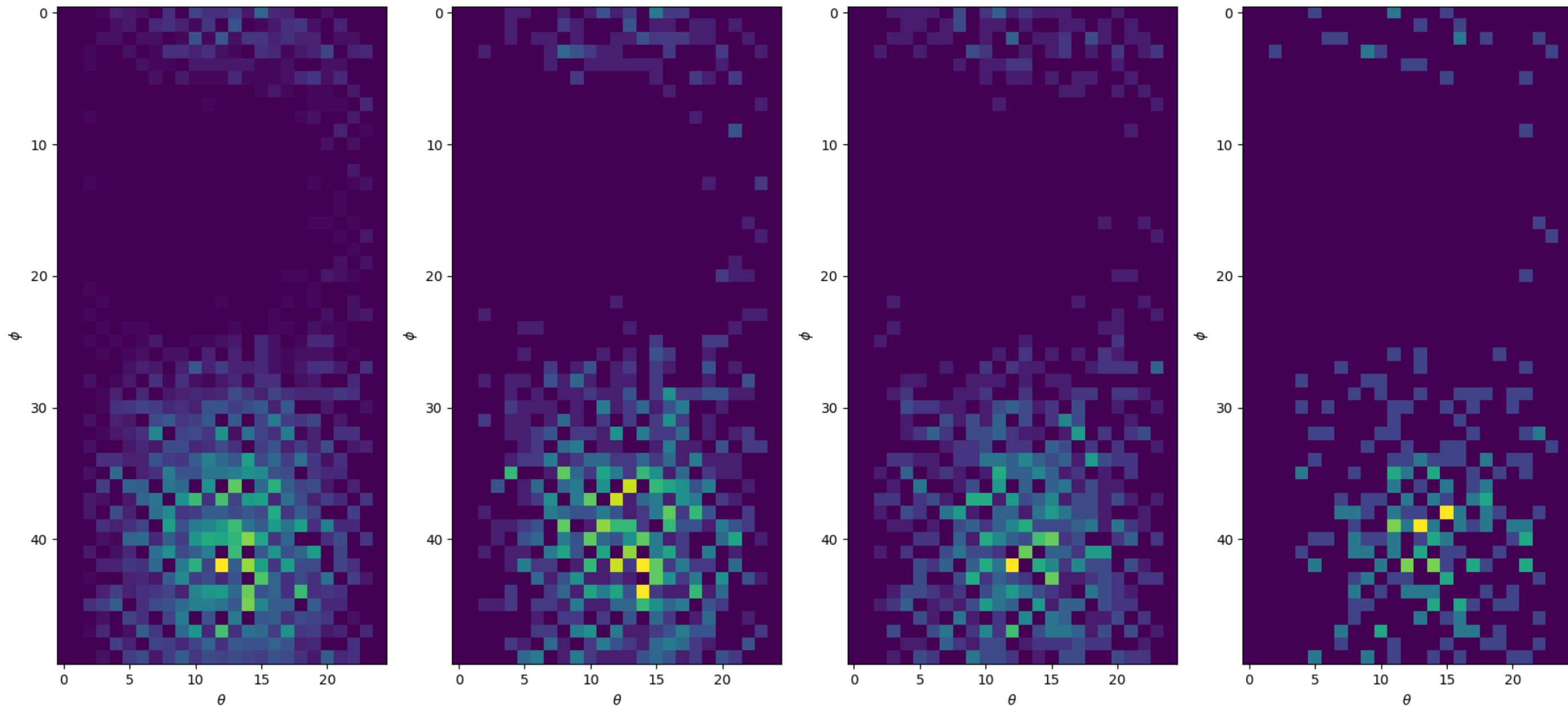


100% PC, 100% QE

20% PC, 100% QE

100% PC, 23% QE

20% PC, 23% QE



Computer simulation for neutrinoless double beta decay signal and  $^{10}\text{C}$  background events

Wrote PMT model that allows us to vary two **Information**

**Parameters:**

- **Photocoverage (PC)**
- **Quantum Efficiency (QE)**

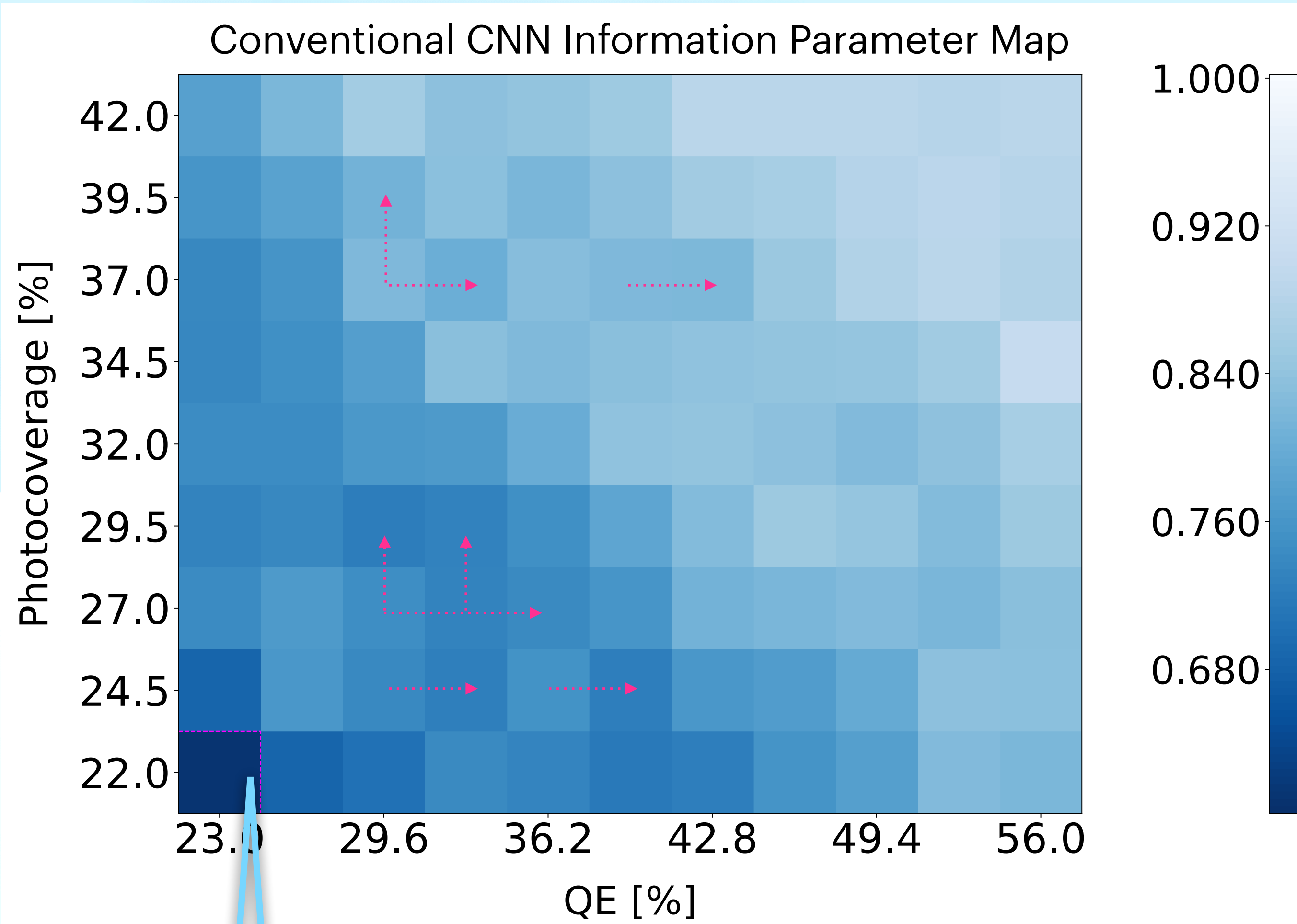
Benchmark model performance under different input conditions

← better detector, more information in data

Project network performance onto future experiments with better PC and QE

# Convolutional Neural Network

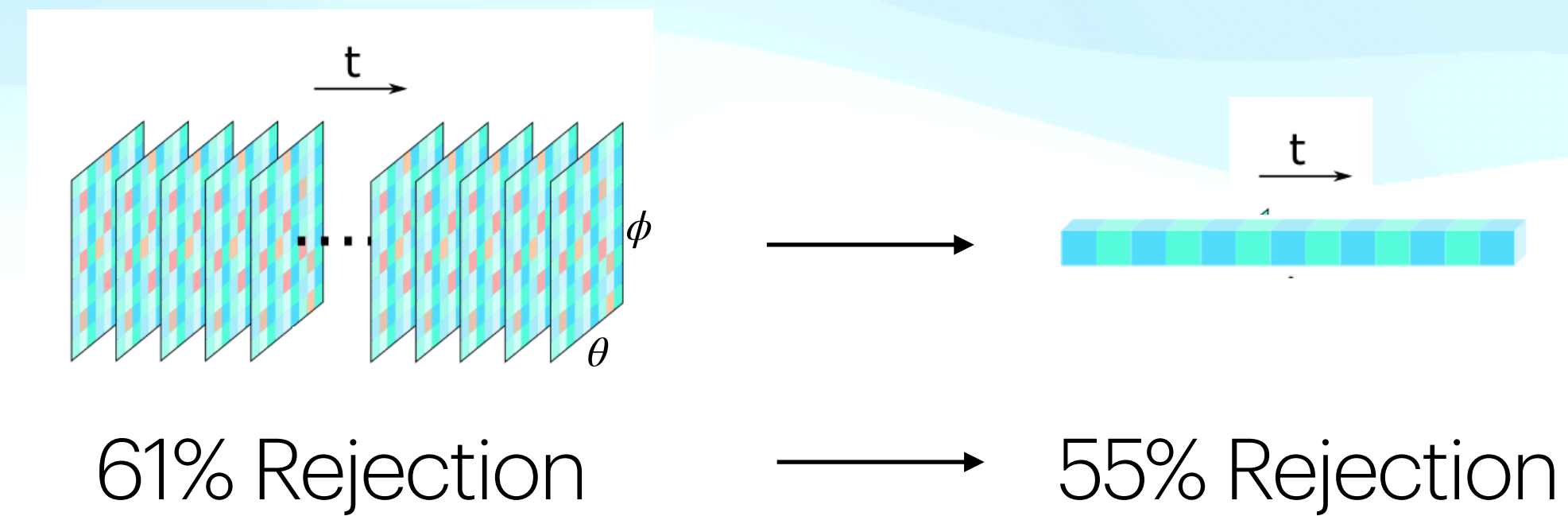
A. Li et al.,  
DOI: 10.1016/j.nima.2019.162604



At KamLAND-Zen hardware status, CNN rejects 61% of background while retaining 90% of the signal



**Alarm 1:** Background rejection performance decrease as we increase information parameter!



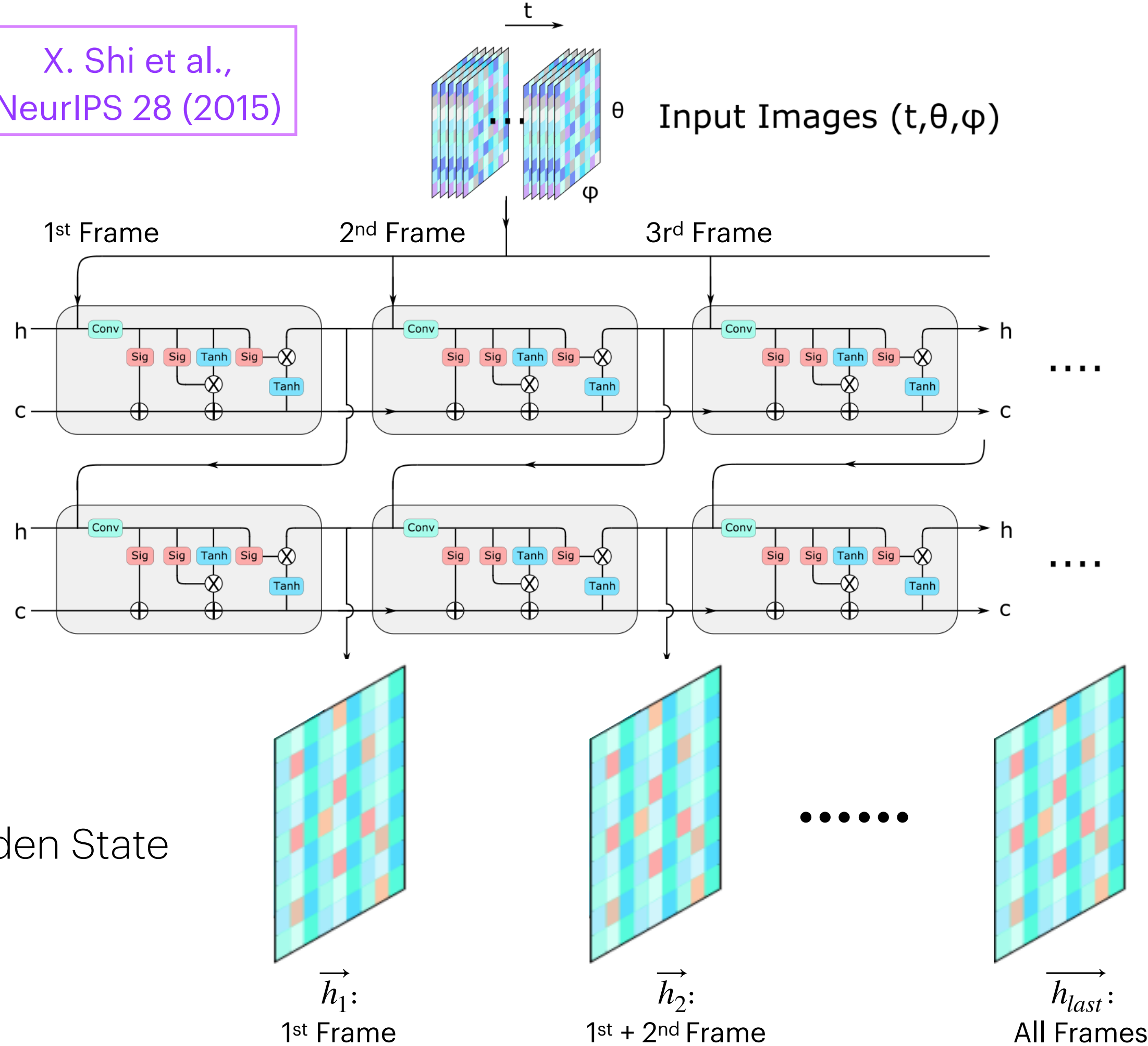
**Alarm 2:** Conventional CNN is not powerful enough to **harness all symmetries** in spatiotemporal data!

# A Time Series of 2D Images ...

## ConvLSTM

Convolutional Long-Short Term Memory (LSTM) Network

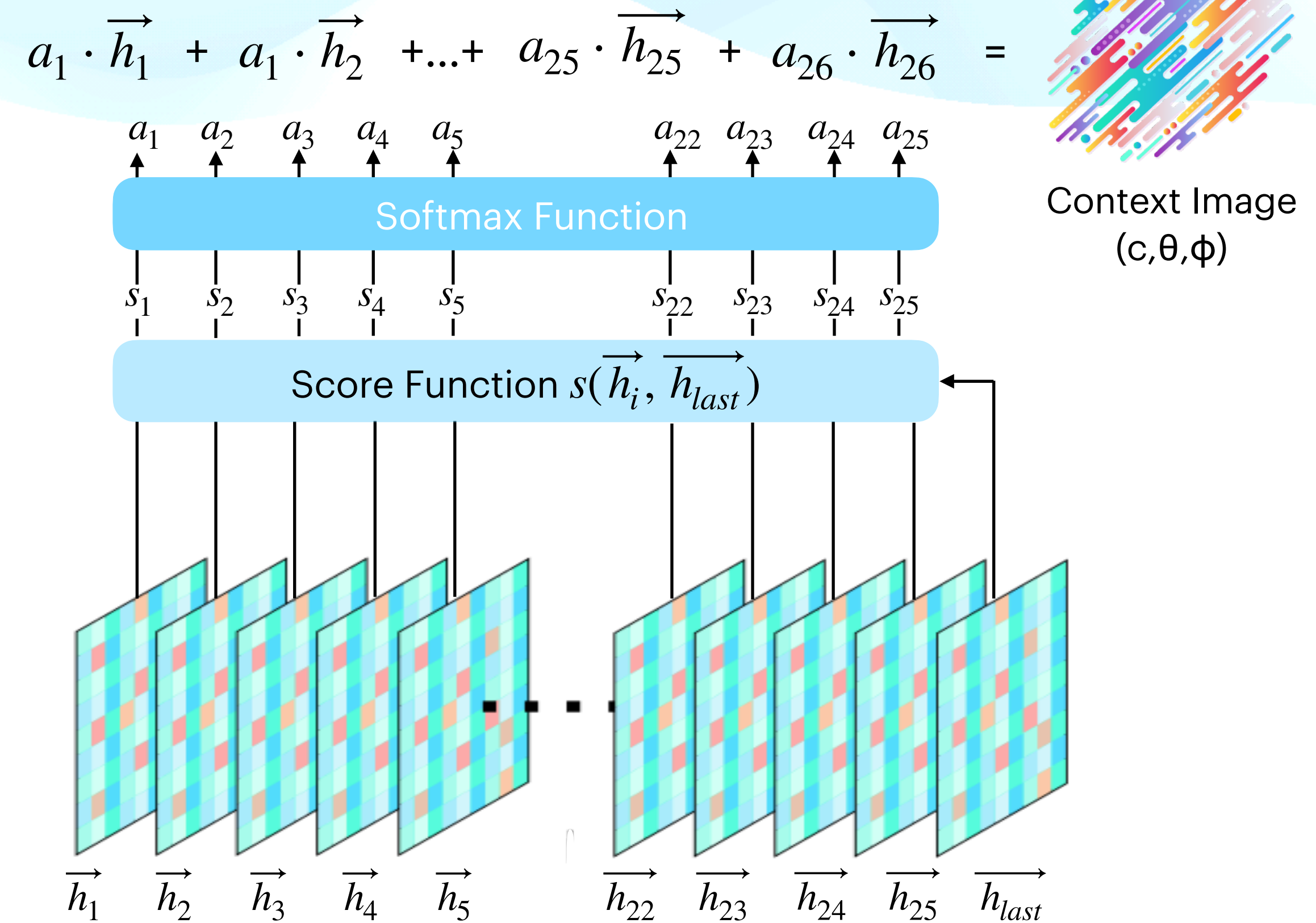
X. Shi et al.,  
NeurIPS 28 (2015)



## Attention Mechanism

Produce context images & provide interpretability

D Bahdanau et al.,  
ICLR 2015



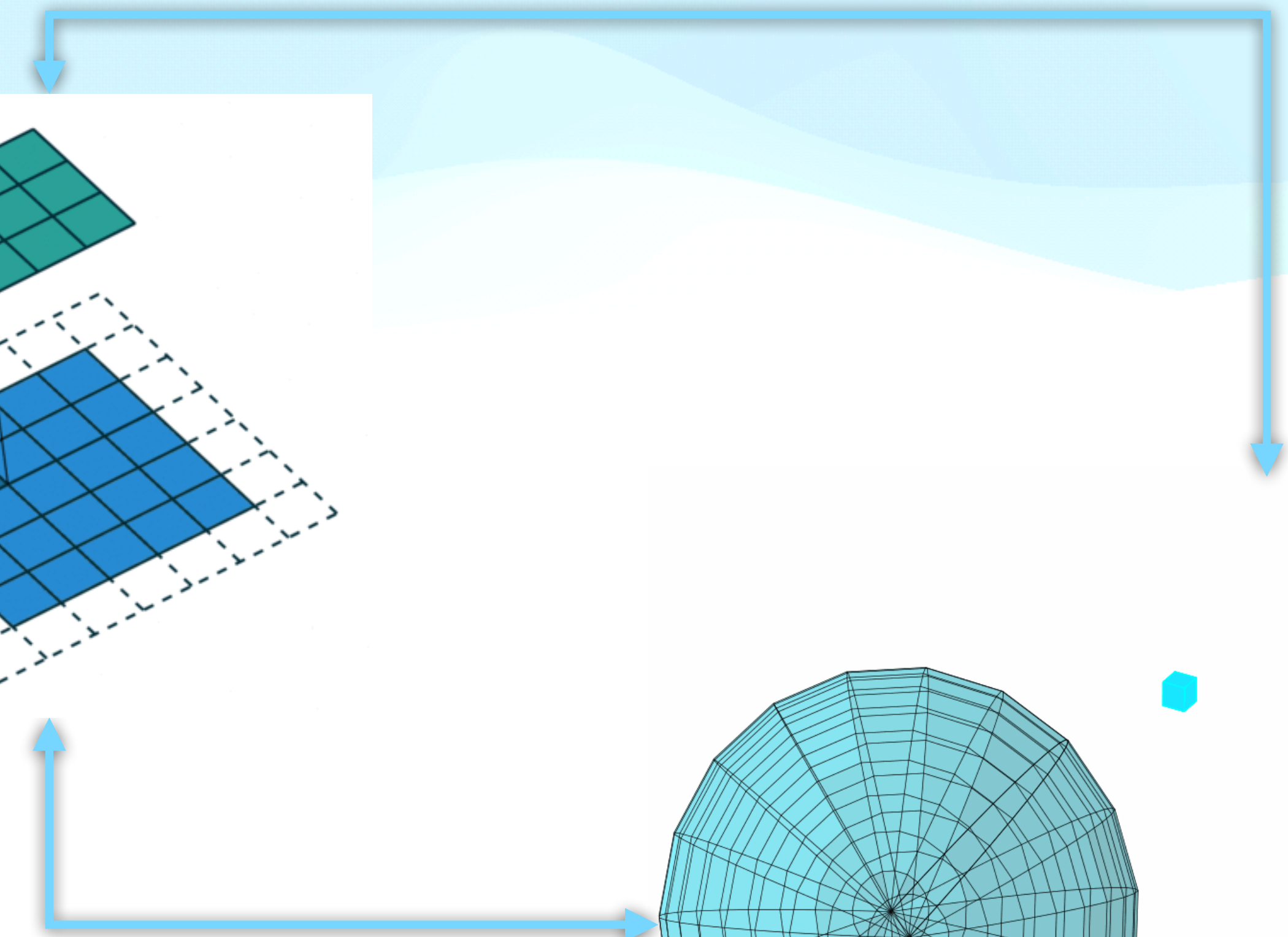
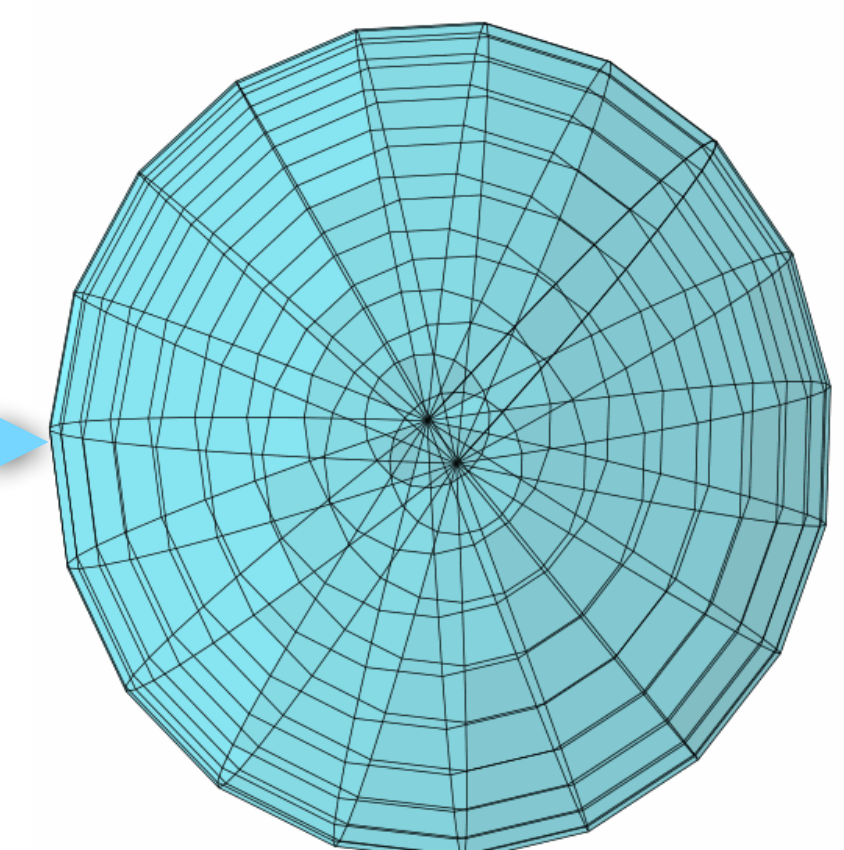
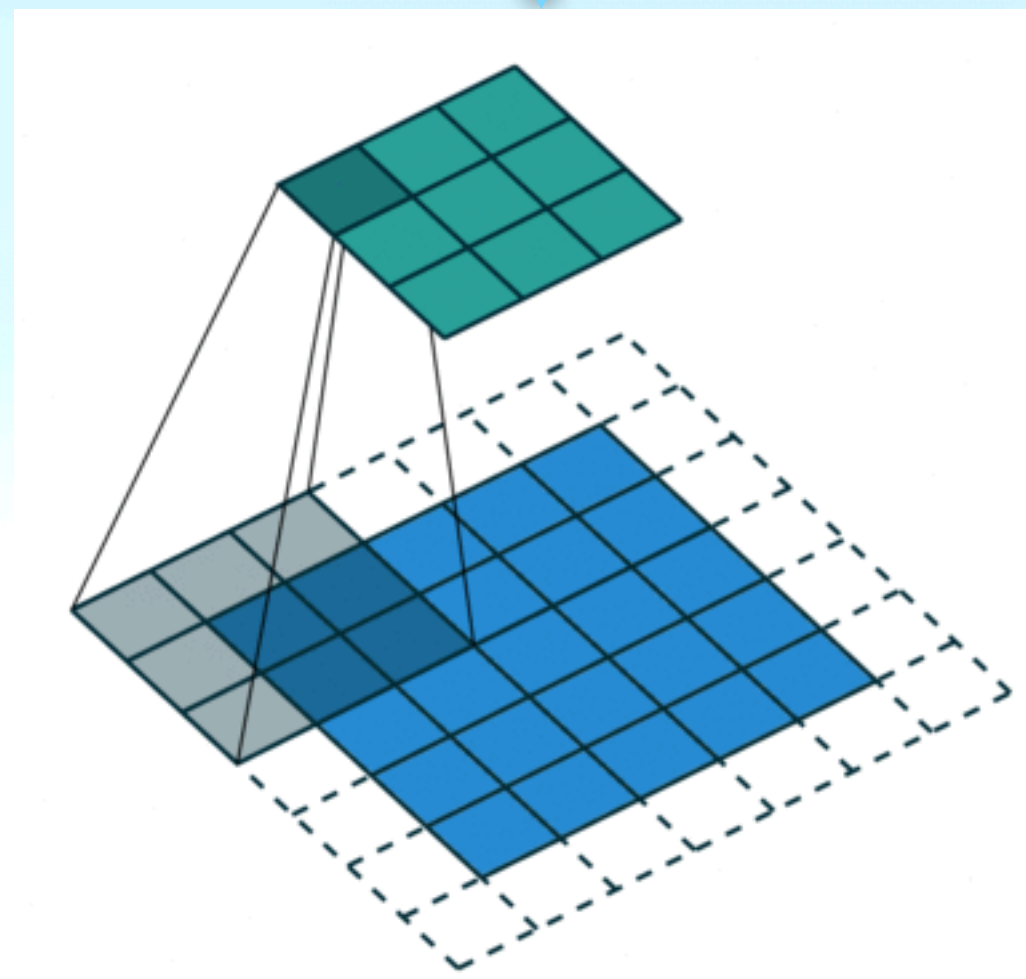
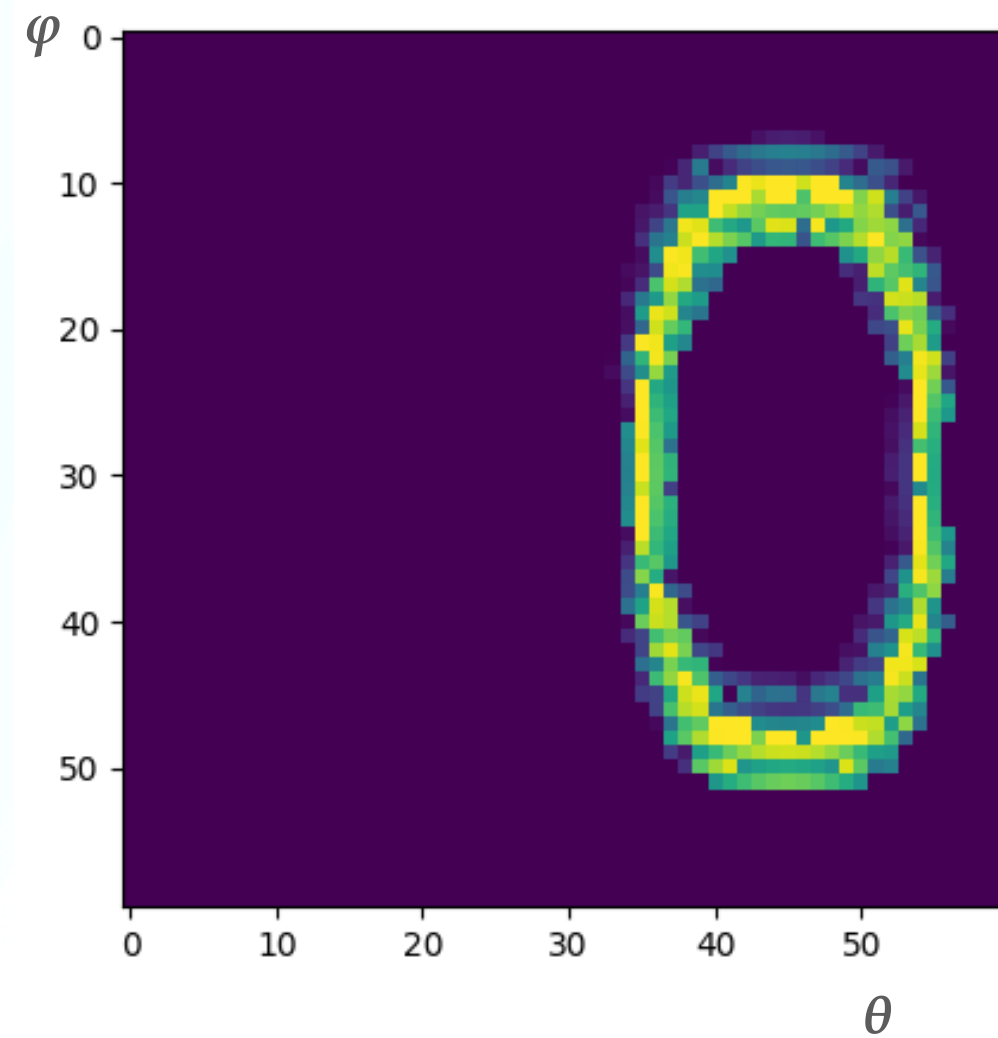
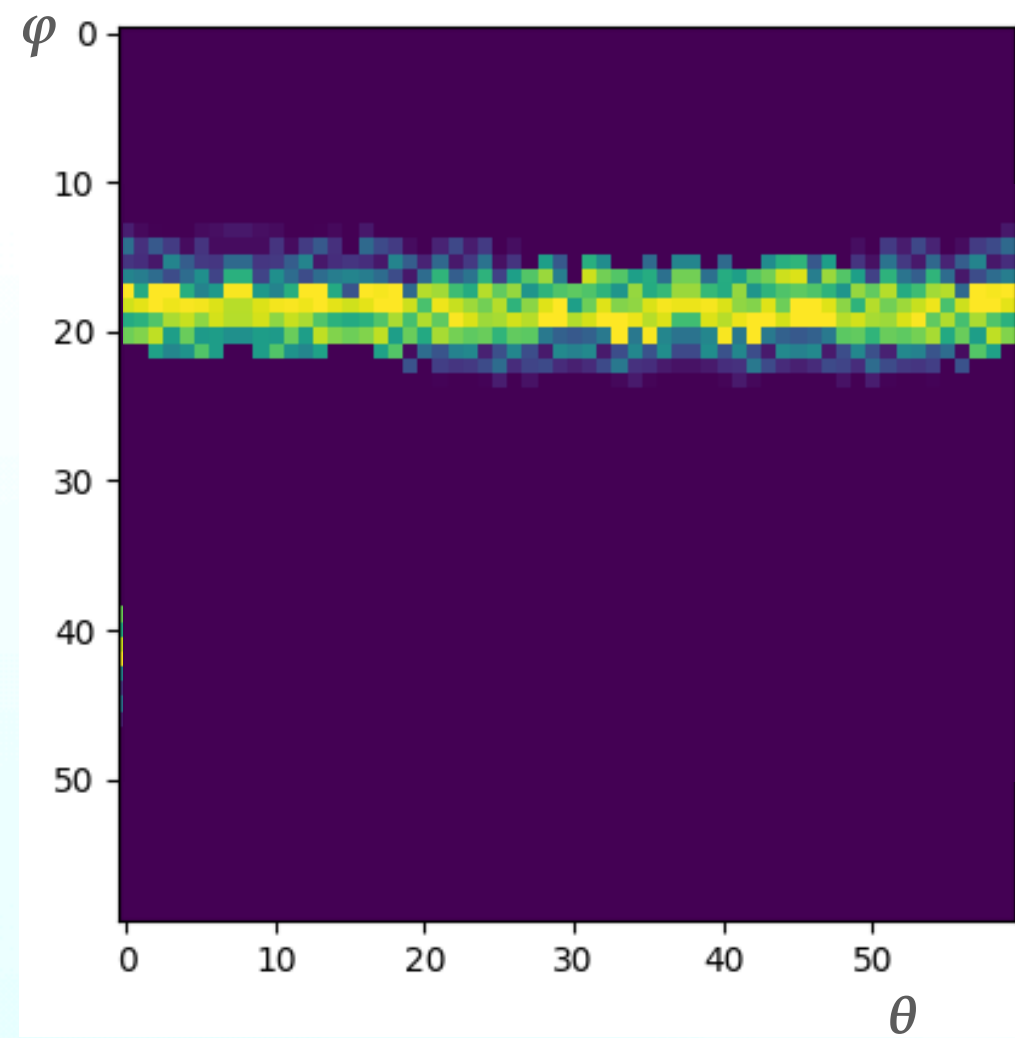
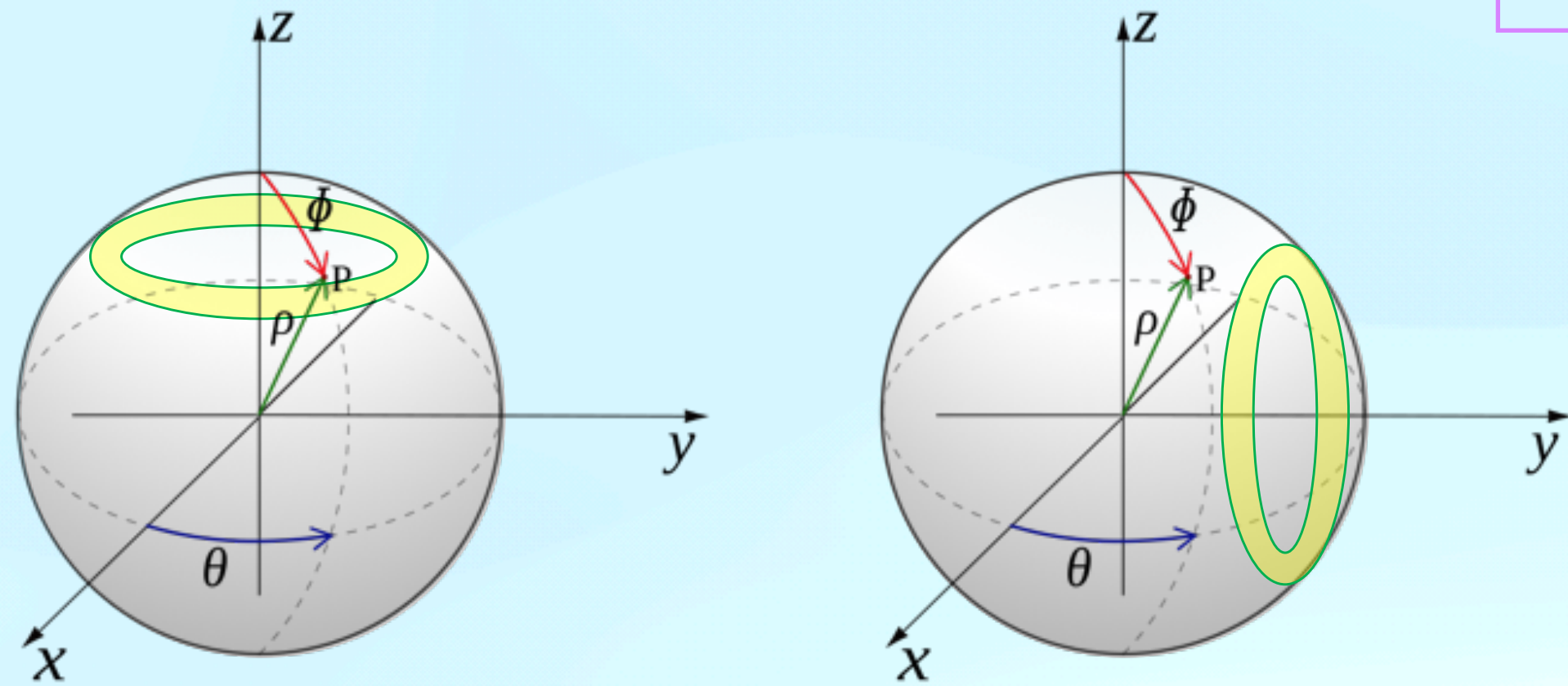


# ... Project onto A Sphere

Cohen, Taco et al. "Spherical CNNs." ICLR 2018

## Spherical CNN

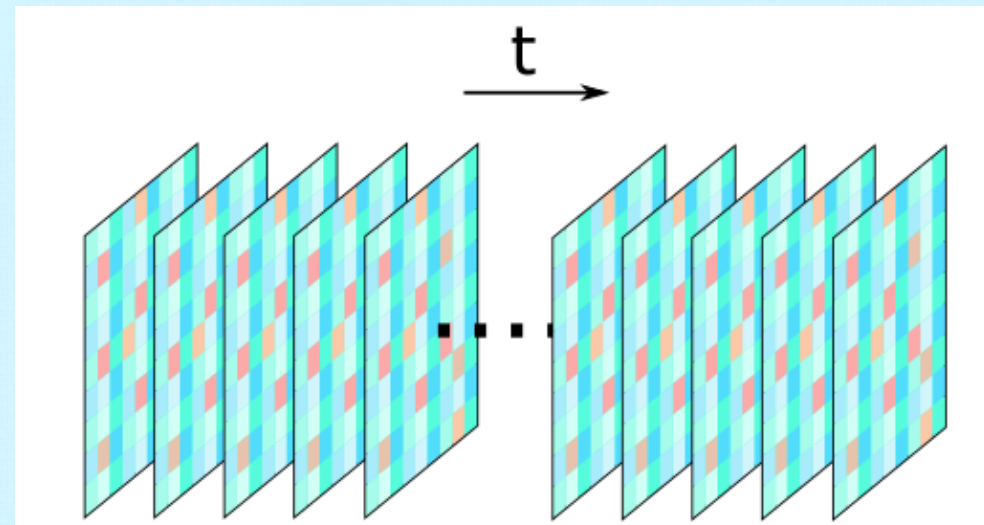
SO(3) symmetry & rotational invariance



# KamNet: An Integrated Spatiotemporal Neural Network

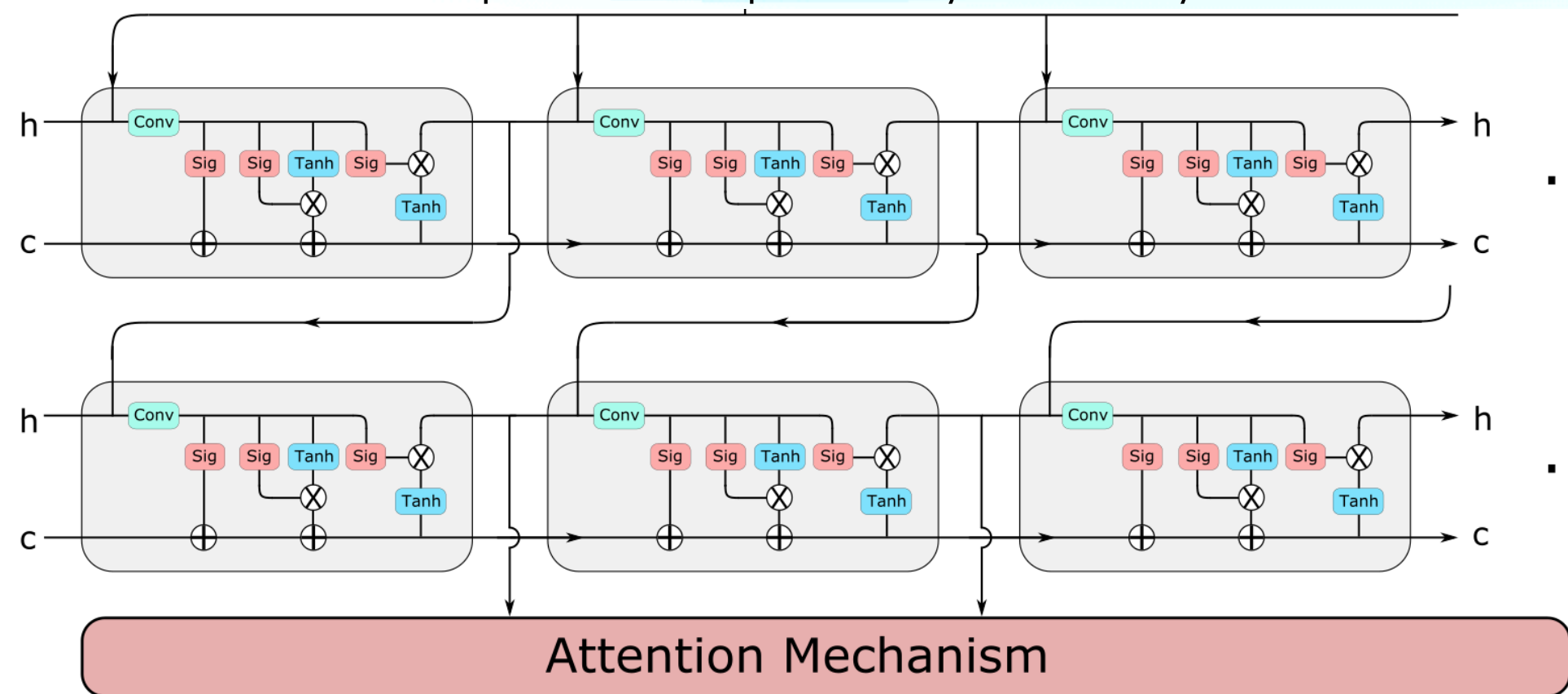
## Spatiotemporal Data

A time series of images projected onto Sphere



## AttentionConvLSTM

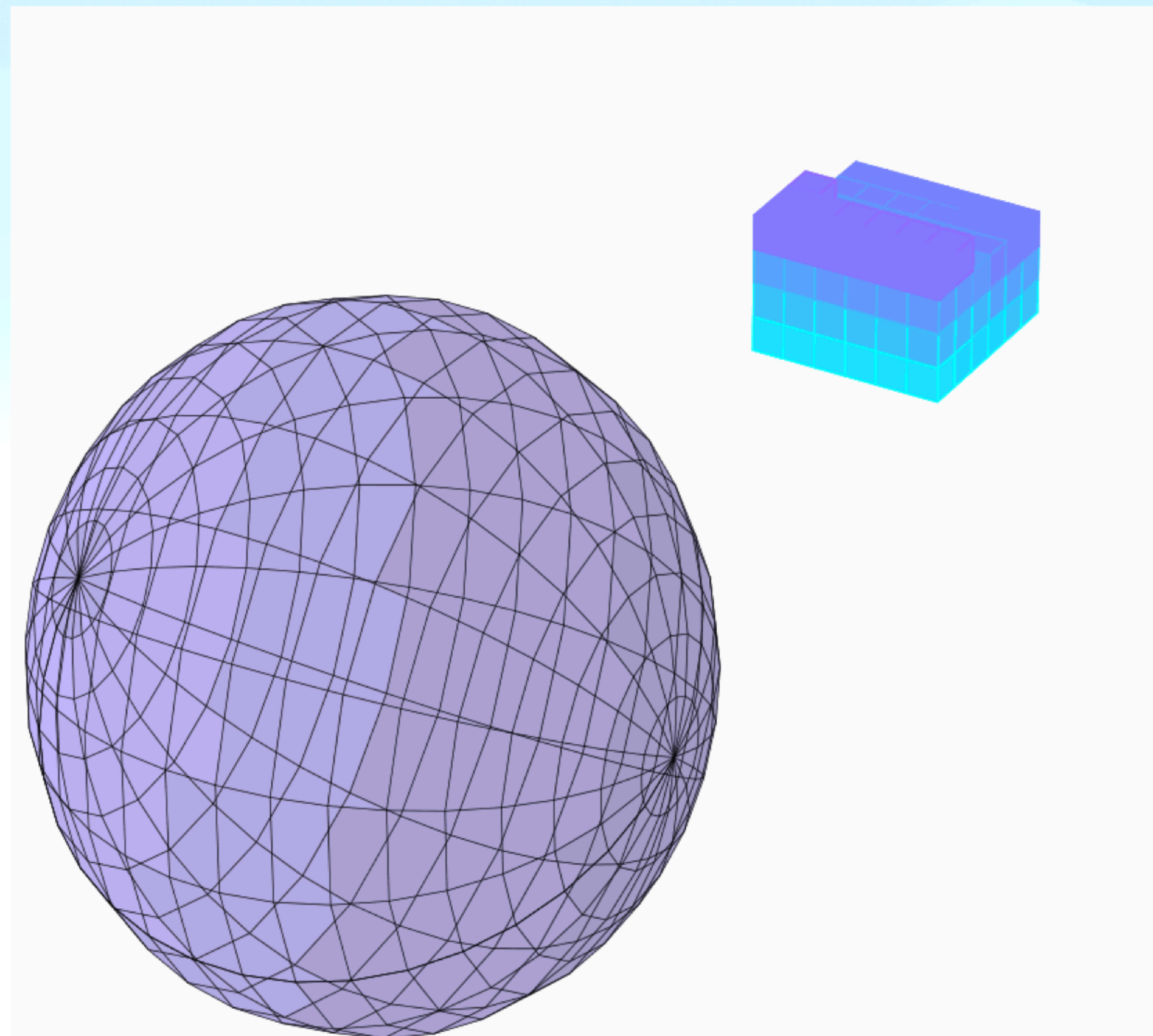
for Spatiotemporal symmetry



Context Images ( $c, \theta, \varphi$ )

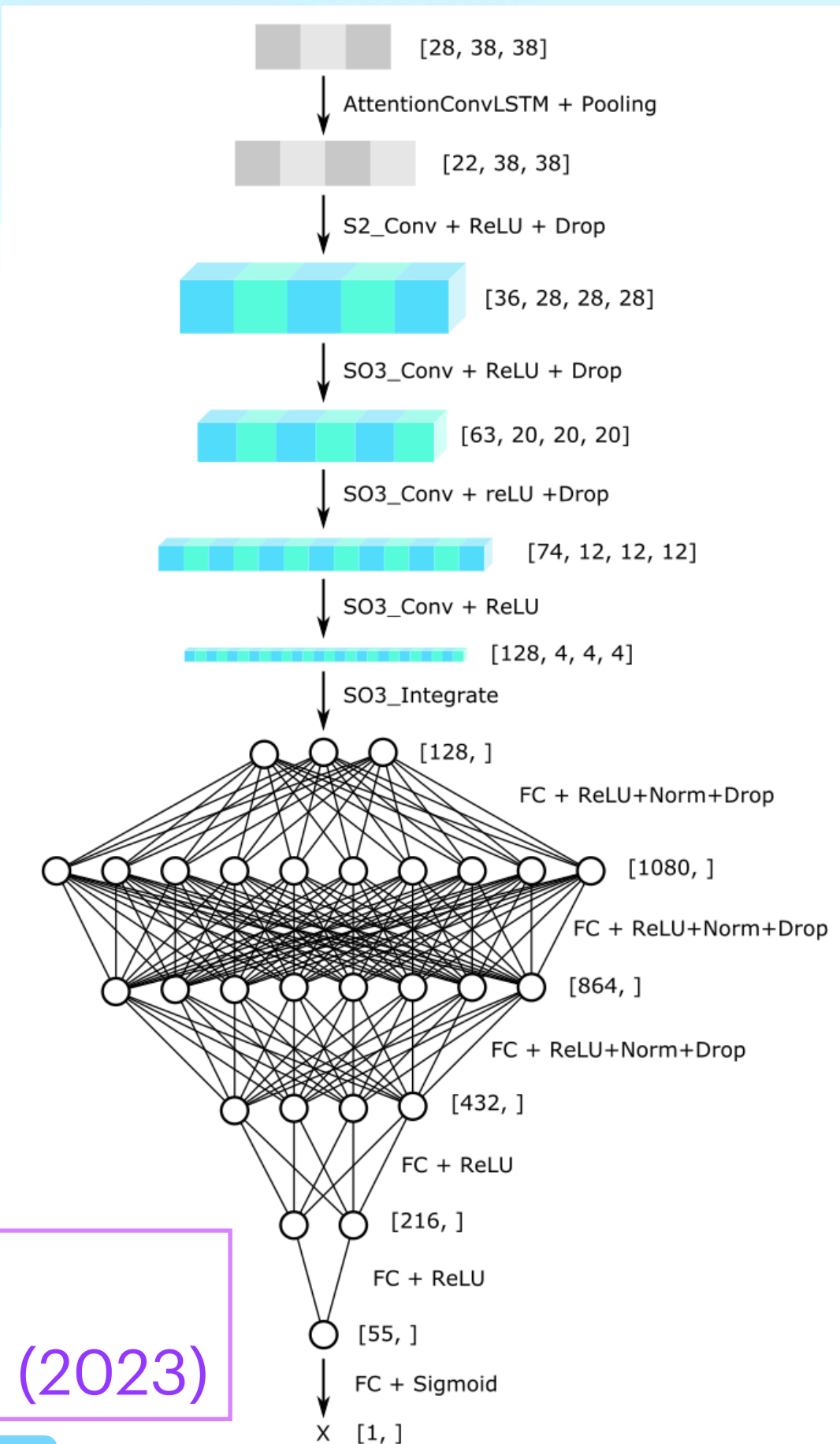
## Spherical CNN

SO(3) symmetry & rotational equivariance



## KamNet

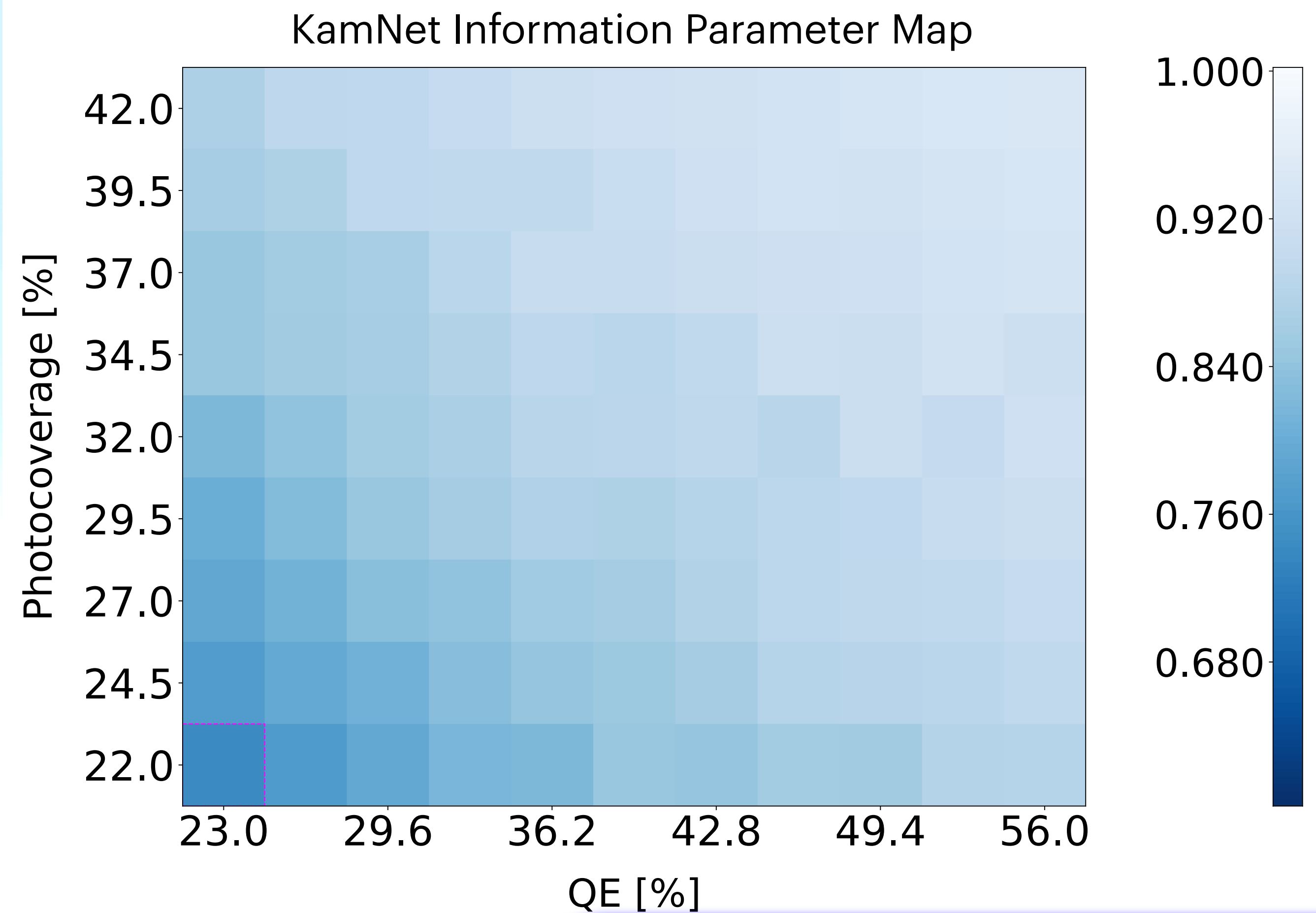
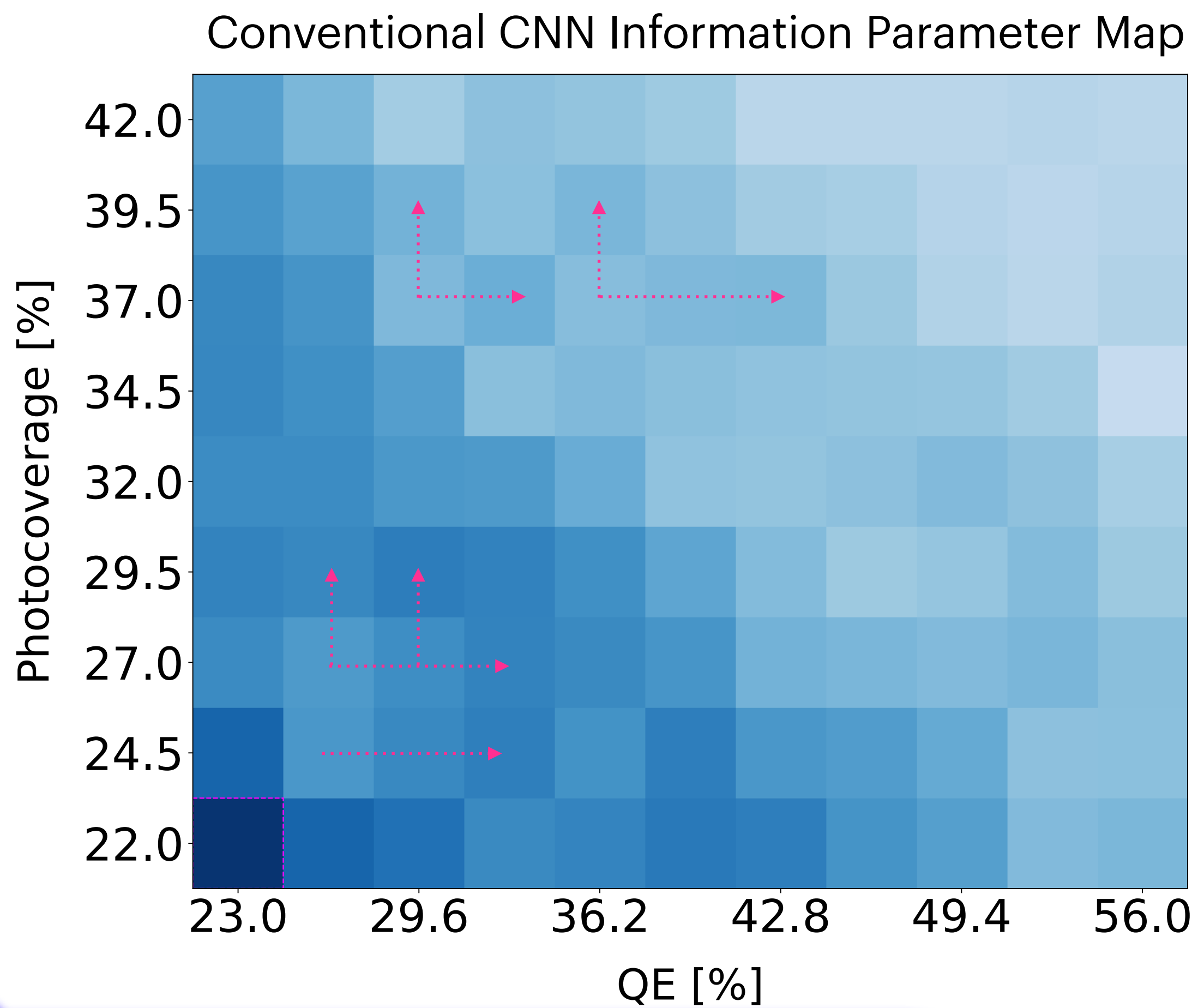
Maximal Information Extraction in KamLAND-Zen



A. Li et al,  
Phys. Rev. C **107**, 014323 (2023)

Editor's Suggestion

# KamNet vs. CNN



## More Robust

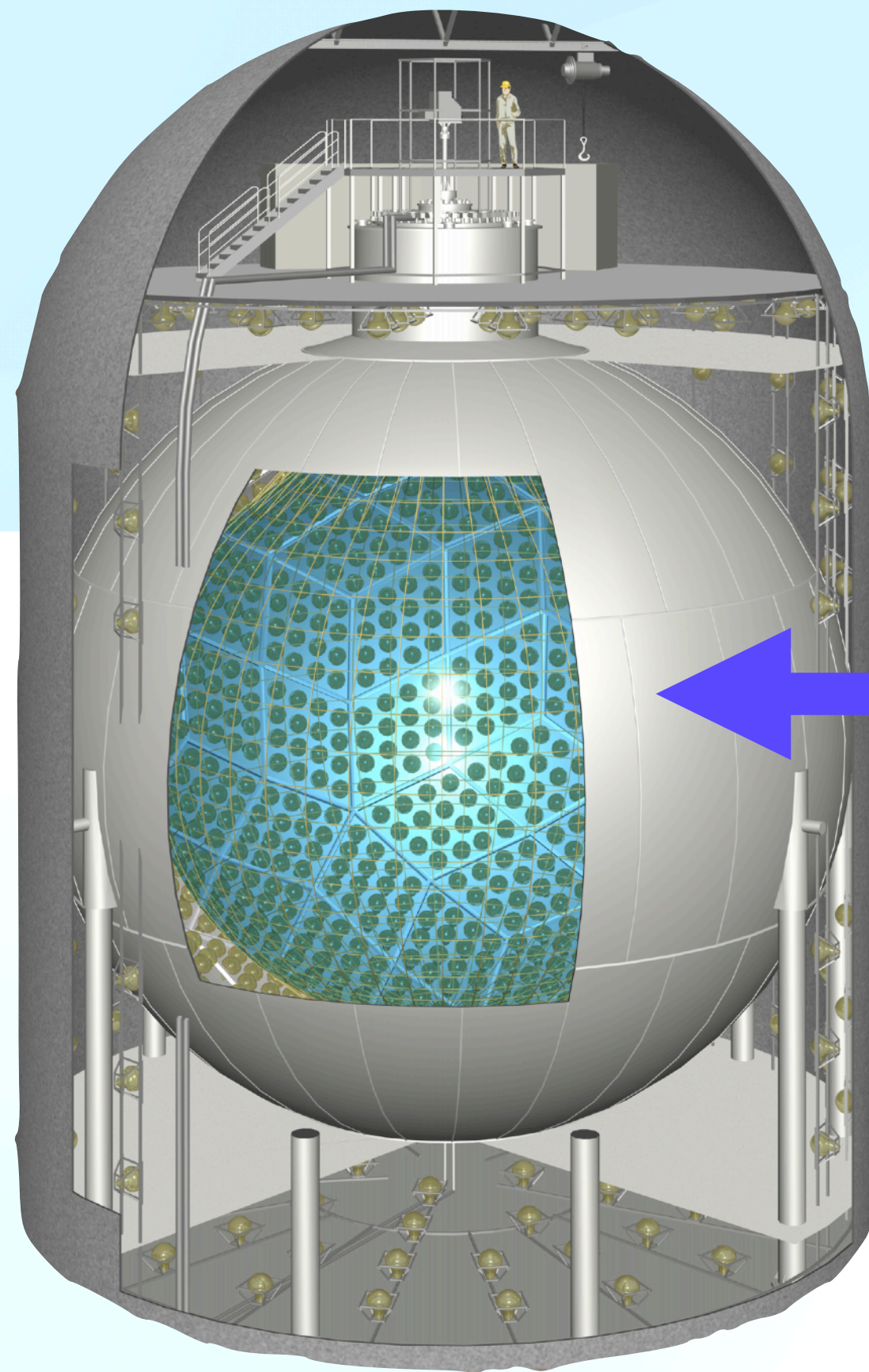
Smoother transition from low to high information parameters  
Every bit of additional information is absorbed by KamNet

## Better Performance

Across entire map, 61% → 74%  $^{10}\text{C}$  rejection at  
KamLAND-Zen hardware configuration

# KamNet-enabled Background Rejection

Monolithic LS detector has been at the heart of many great discoveries in neutrino physics ...

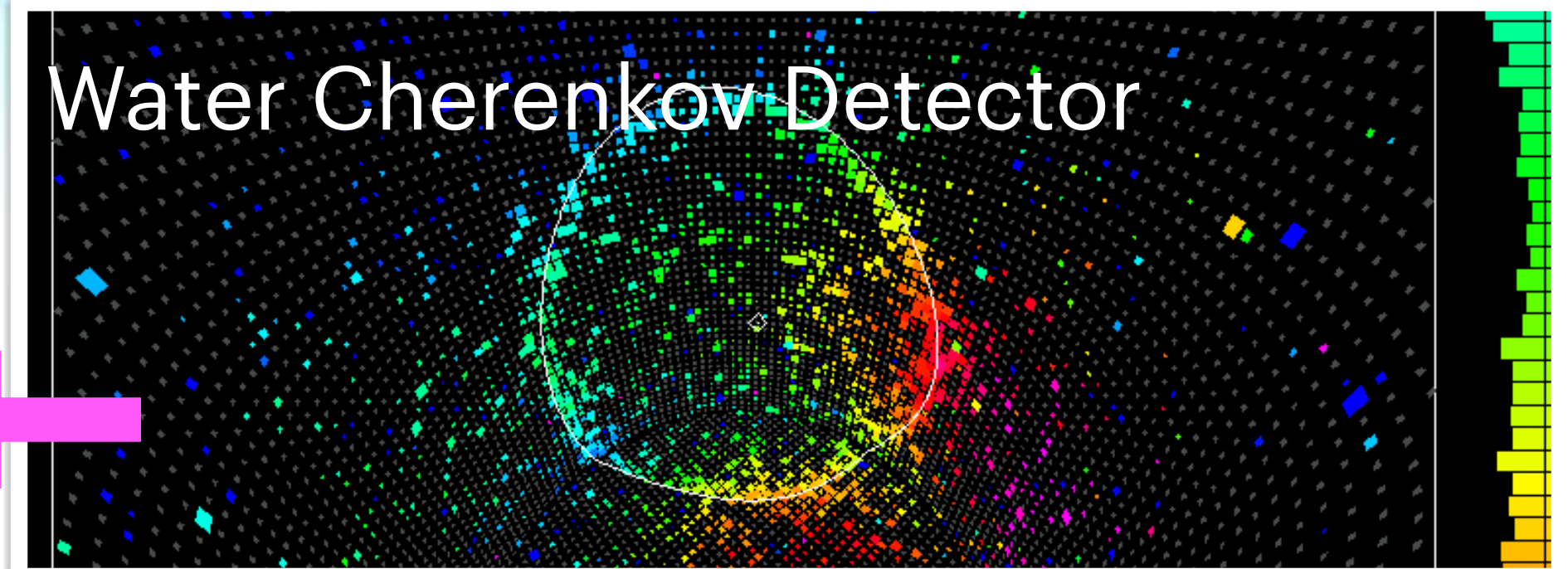


“ Enhancing **monolithic LS detectors** with the capability to discriminate between different event types based on **tracking** and/or **event topology** would be a revolutionary advancement ”

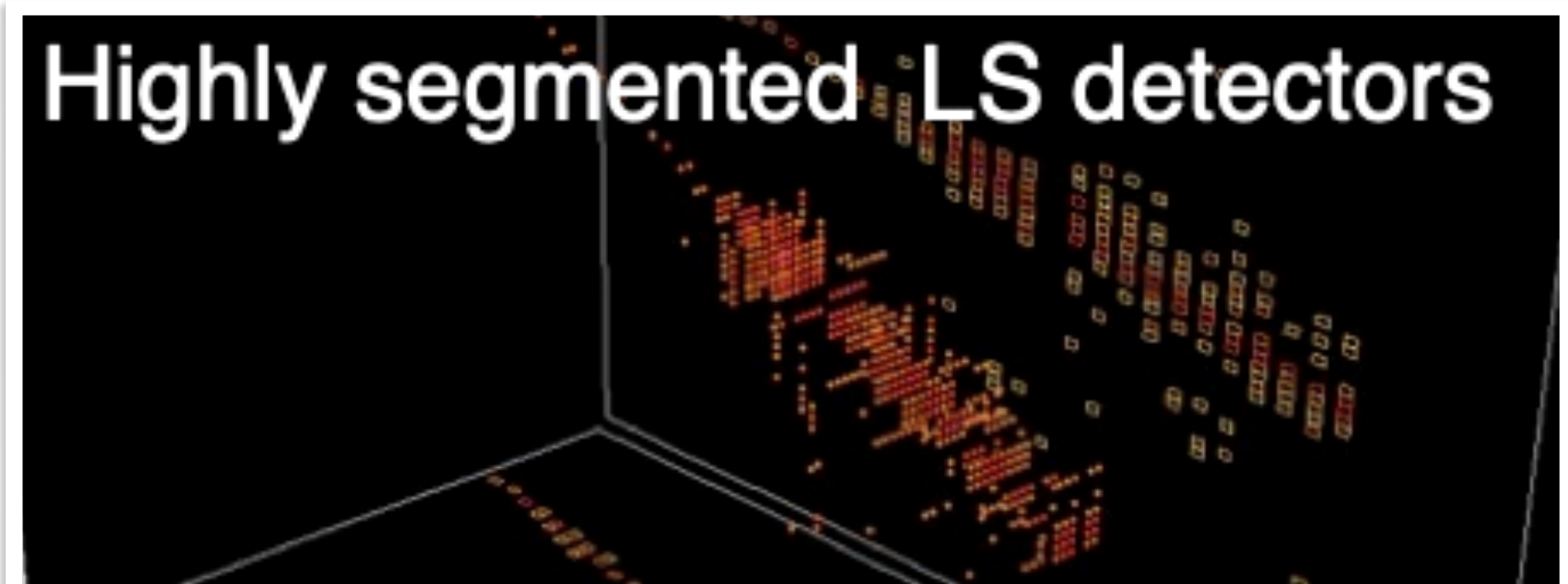
Time Projection Chamber



Water Cherenkov Detector

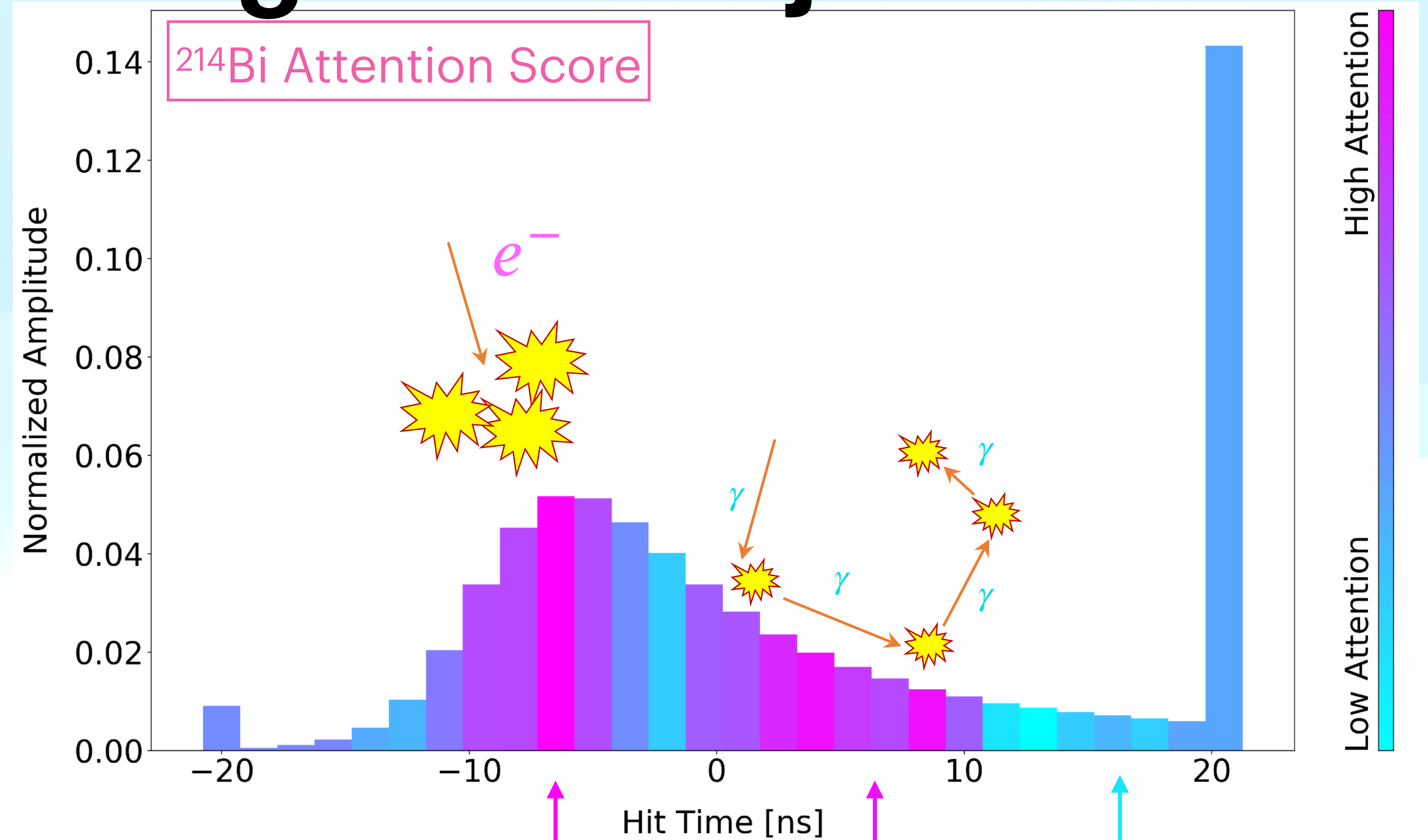
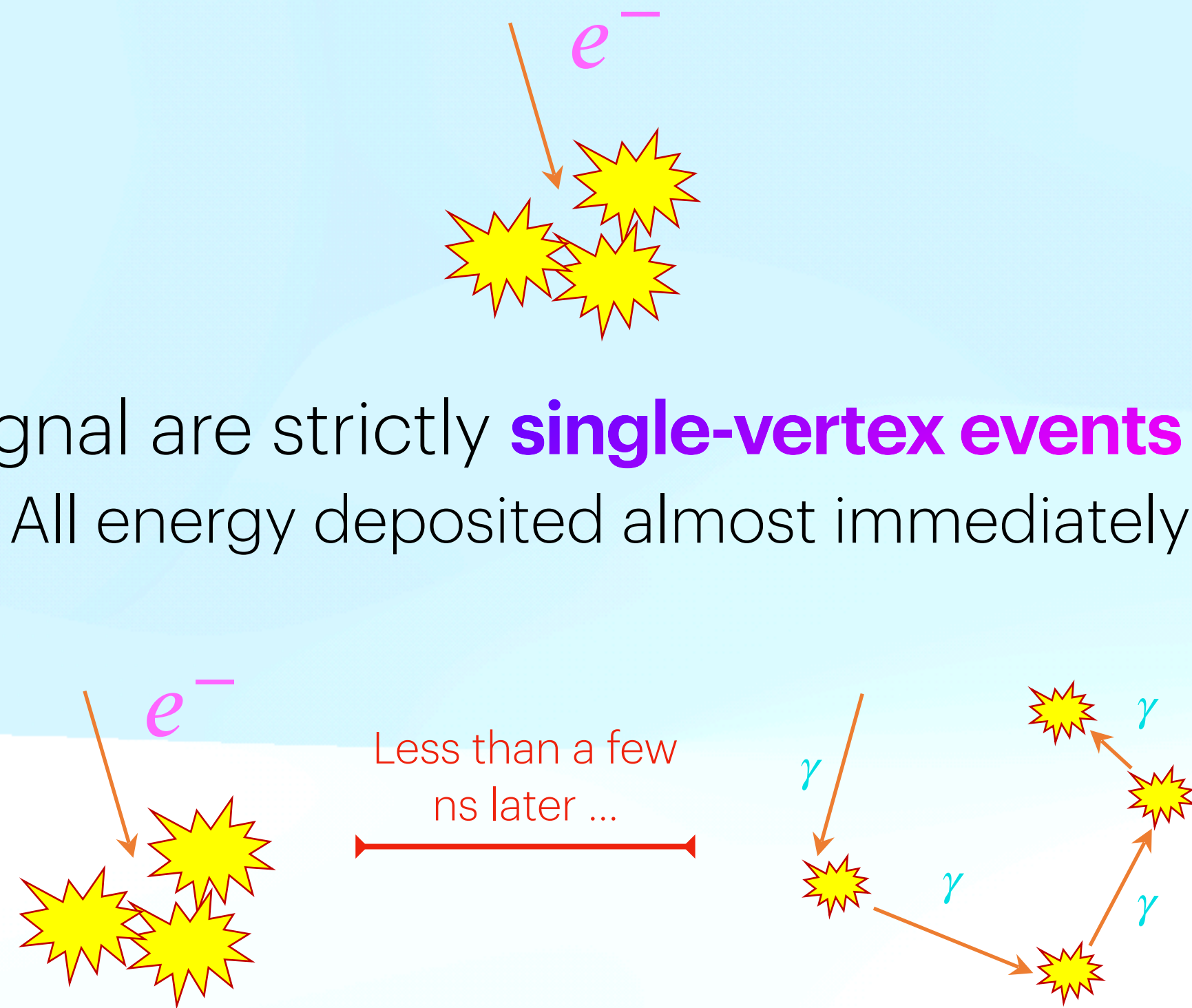


Highly segmented LS detectors



# KamNet-enabled Background Rejection

- Signal are strictly **single-vertex events**
  - All energy deposited almost immediately



- Most backgrounds are **closely-spaced multi-vertex events**
  - part of event energy is deposited by cascading  $\gamma$ s that slightly alter event topology

High Attention: Important

Low Attention: Unimportant

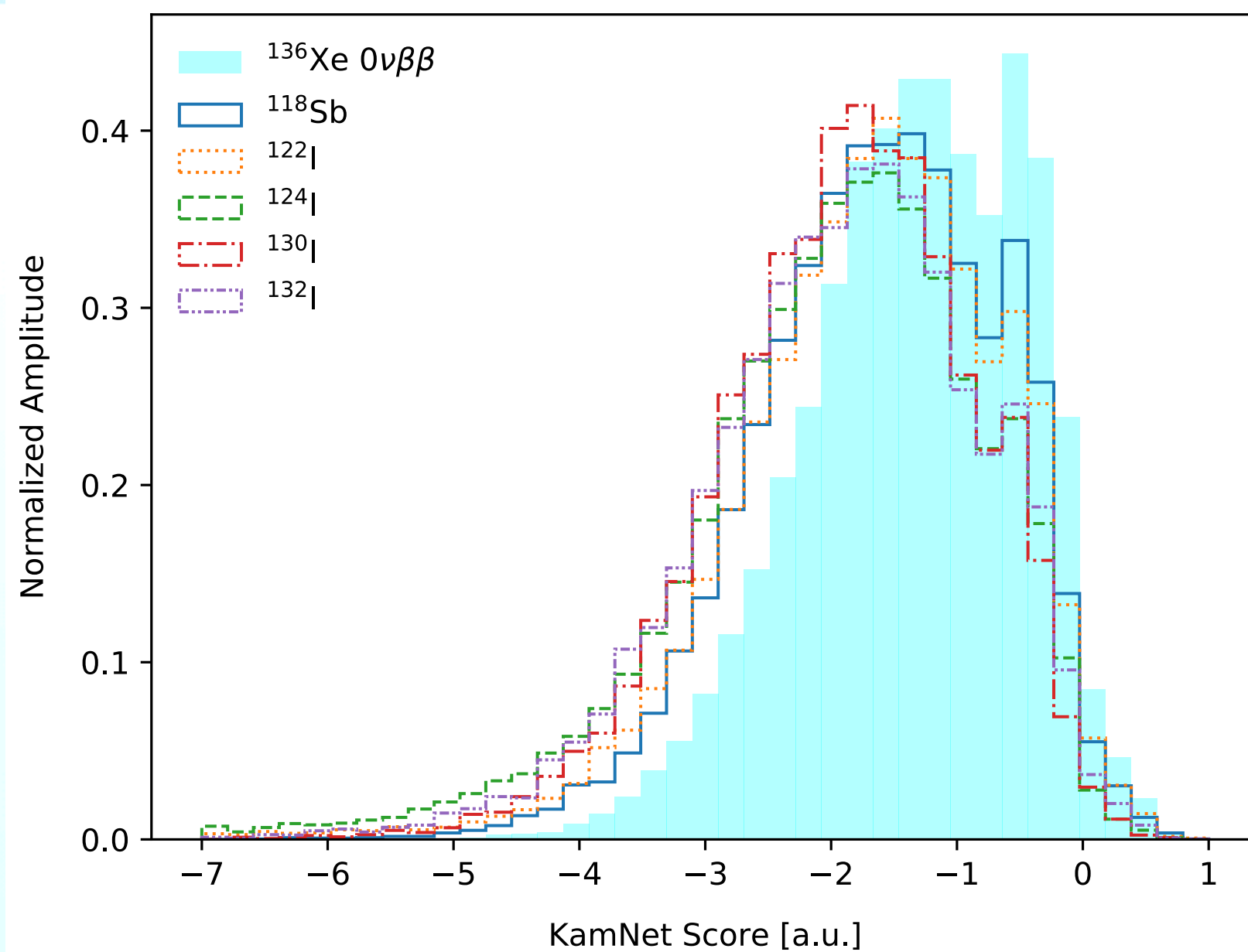
**KamNet captures this tiny alteration in event topology to efficiently reject most backgrounds in KamLAND-Zen!**

# KamNet-enabled Background Rejection

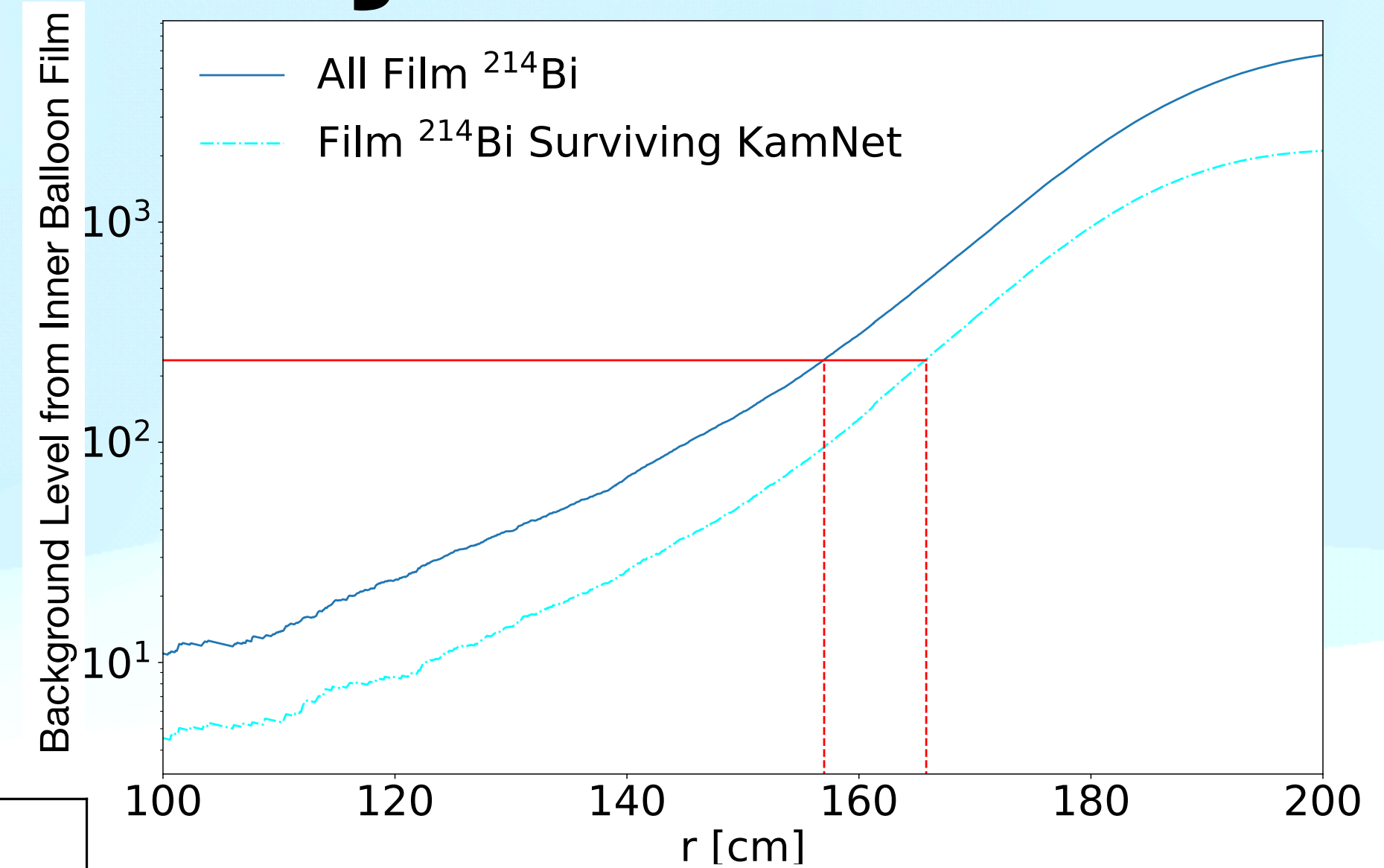
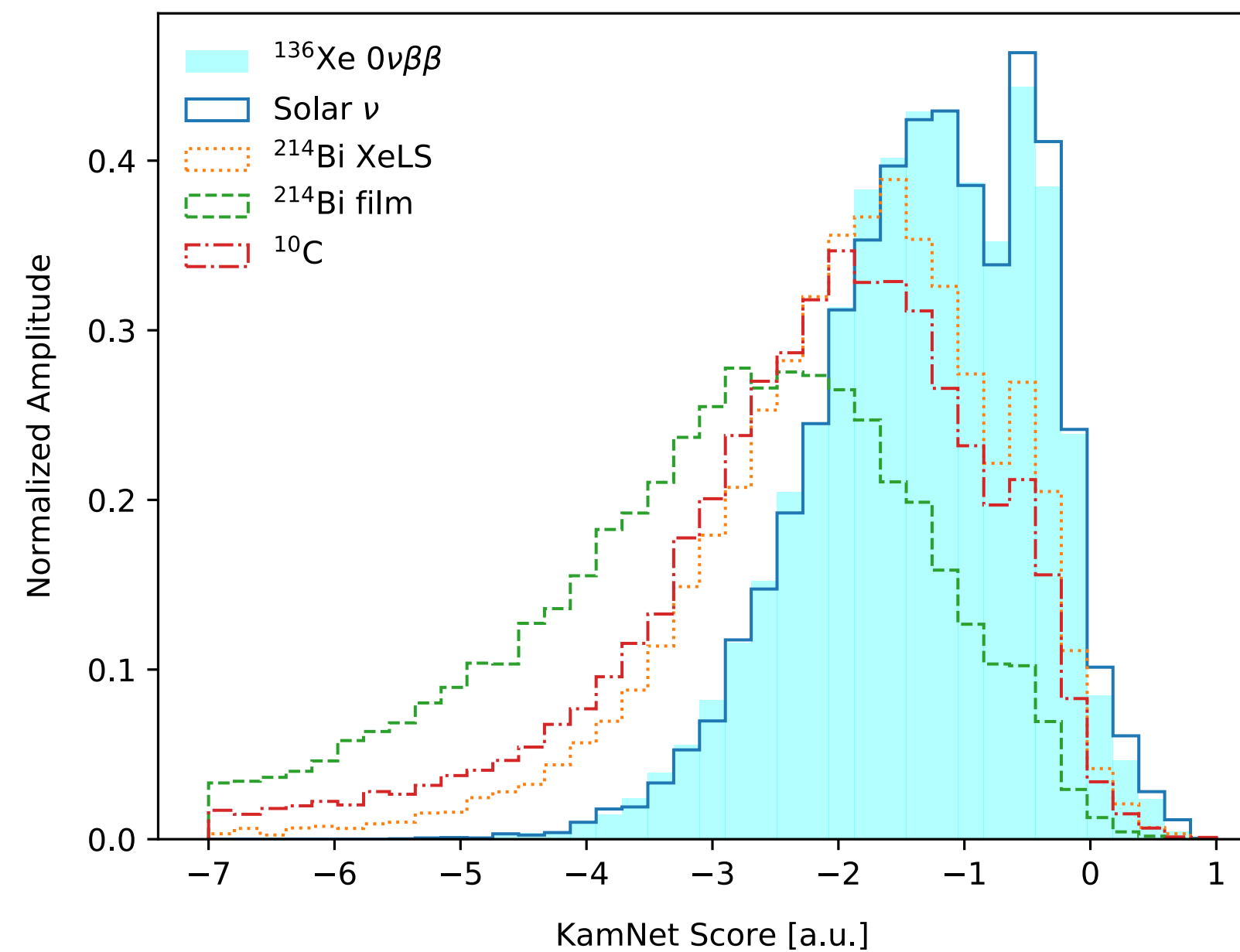
While accepting **90%** of  $0\nu\beta\beta$  events, KamNet rejects **~27%** of XeLS backgrounds and **~59%** of film backgrounds

KamNet is **independent** and **multiplicative** to all existing background rejection methods in KamLAND-Zen

## Long-Lived Spallation



## Other Backgrounds



The increased rejection of film backgrounds allows for the expansion of the fiducial volume from 157cm to 165.8cm, resulting in **17.7% gain** on exposure

# KamNet-enabled New Search

Exposure Before KamNet:

2.097 ton·yr

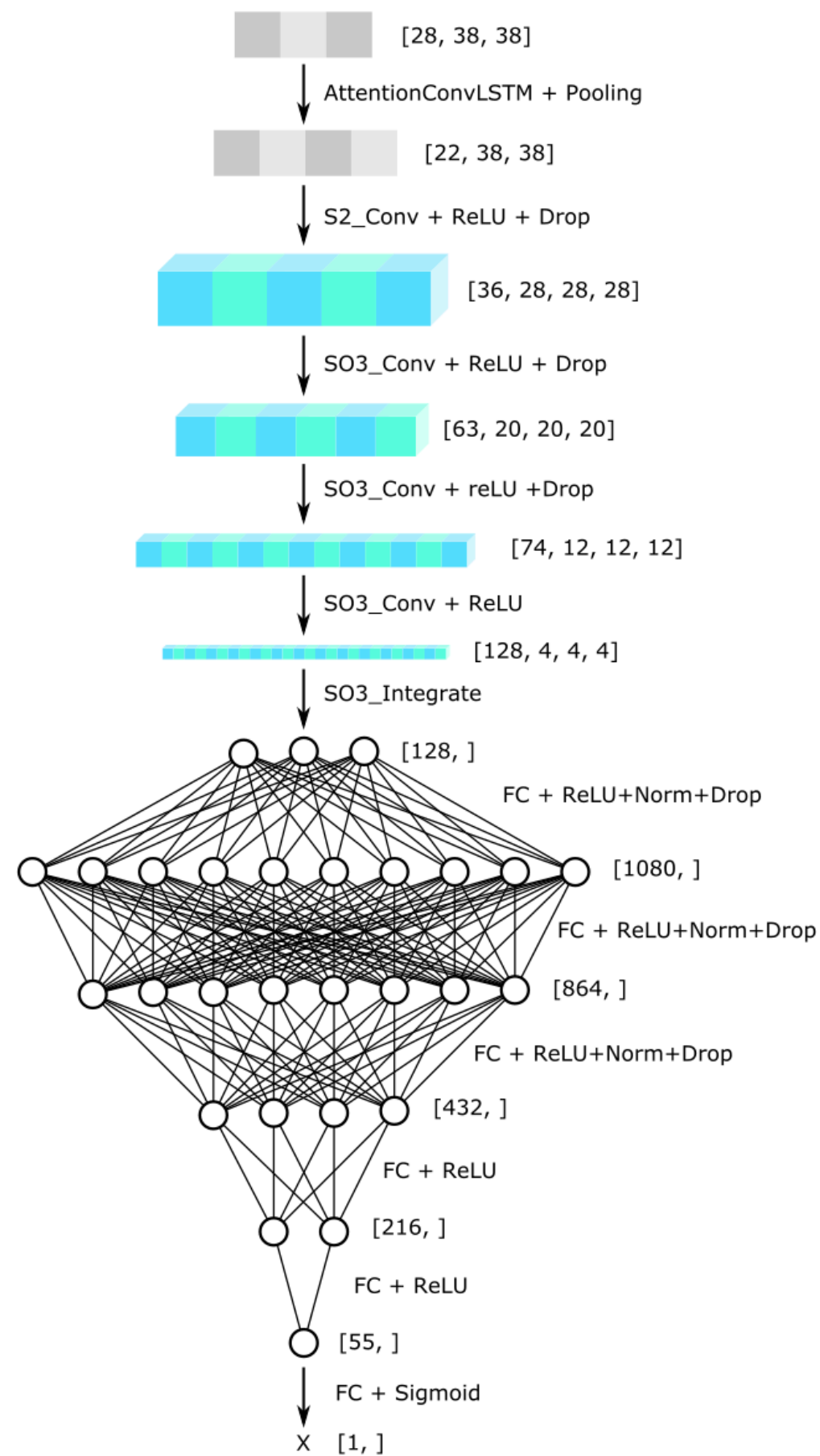
Apply KamNet to High-Background  
Period Only:

- Conservative use of KamNet
- Veto critical backgrounds that passes all traditional methods

Previous KamLAND-Zen 800 Limit:

$$T_{1/2}^{0\nu\beta\beta} > 2.0 \times 10^{26} \text{yr (90 \% C.L.)}$$

American Physical Society  
2023 Dissertation Awards  
In Nuclear Physics



Exposure After KamNet:

2.453 ton·yr

**+17.7%**

$0\nu\beta\beta$  Half-life Lower Limit with  
Complete KamLAND-Zen Dataset:

$$T_{1/2}^{0\nu\beta\beta} > 3.8 \times 10^{26} \text{yr (90 \% C.L.)}$$

Apply KamNet to All Data:

$$T_{1/2}^{0\nu\beta\beta} > 2.7 \times 10^{26} \text{yr (90 \% C.L.) } **+35%**$$

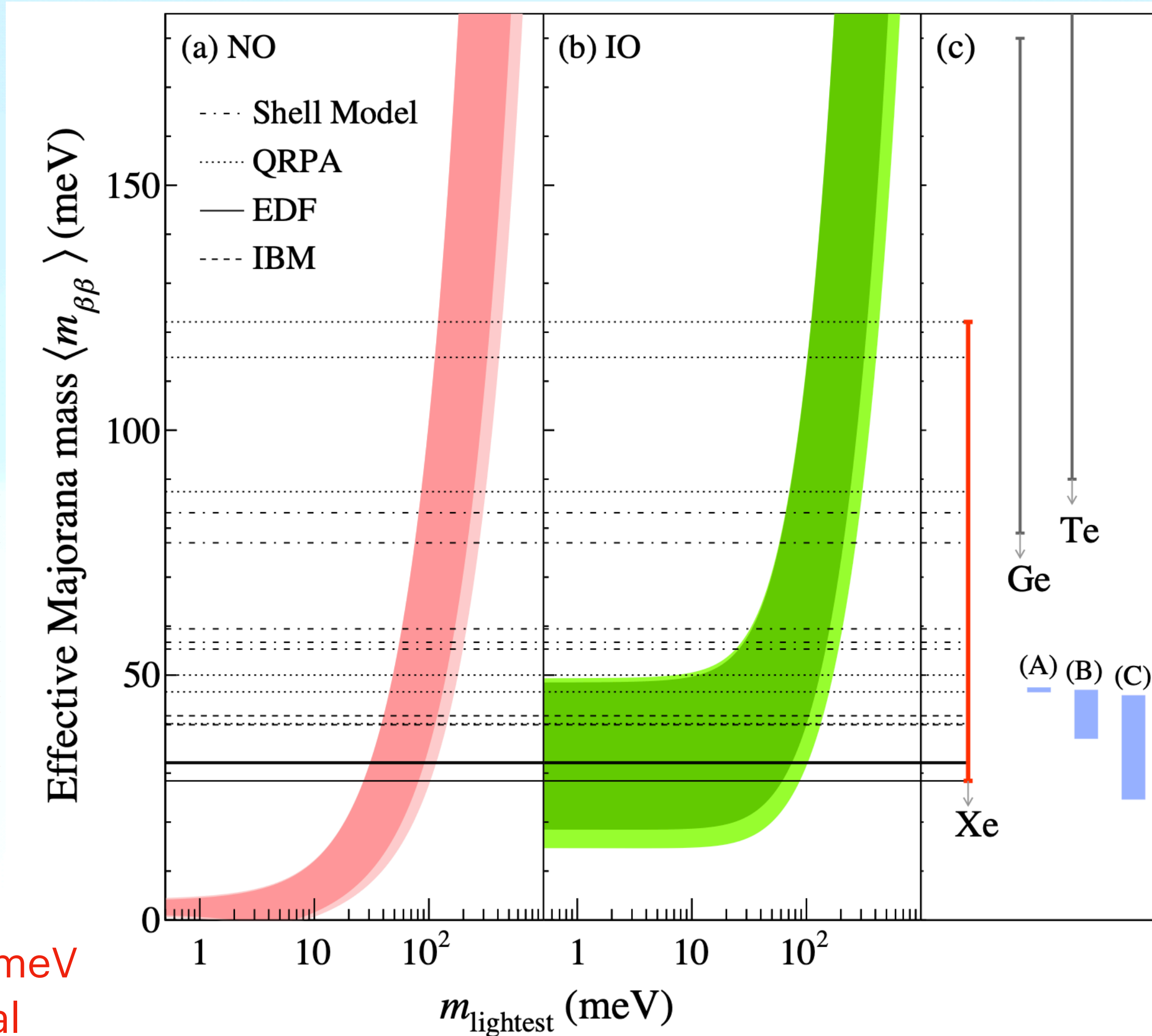
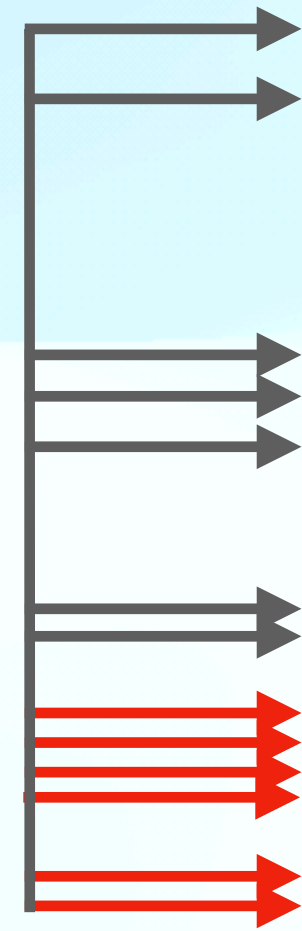
# World-leading $0\nu\beta\beta$ Results

$$(T_{1/2}^{0\nu})^{-1} = G^{0\nu} |M^{0\nu}|^2 m_{\beta\beta}^2$$

$$T_{1/2}^{0\nu\beta\beta} > 3.8 \times 10^{26} \text{ yr}$$

$$\langle m_{\beta\beta} \rangle < 23\text{--}122 \text{ meV}$$

Result dependent on individual NMEs



This Xe  $0\nu\beta\beta$  search represents the **worlds most stringent limit** on the effective Majorana mass

KamLAND-Zen Collaboration  
ArXiv: 2406.11438

KamLAND-Zen Collaboration  
Phys. Rev. Lett. 130, 051801

A. Li et al,  
Phys. Rev. C **107**, 014323 (2023)

First tests of theoretical predictions.

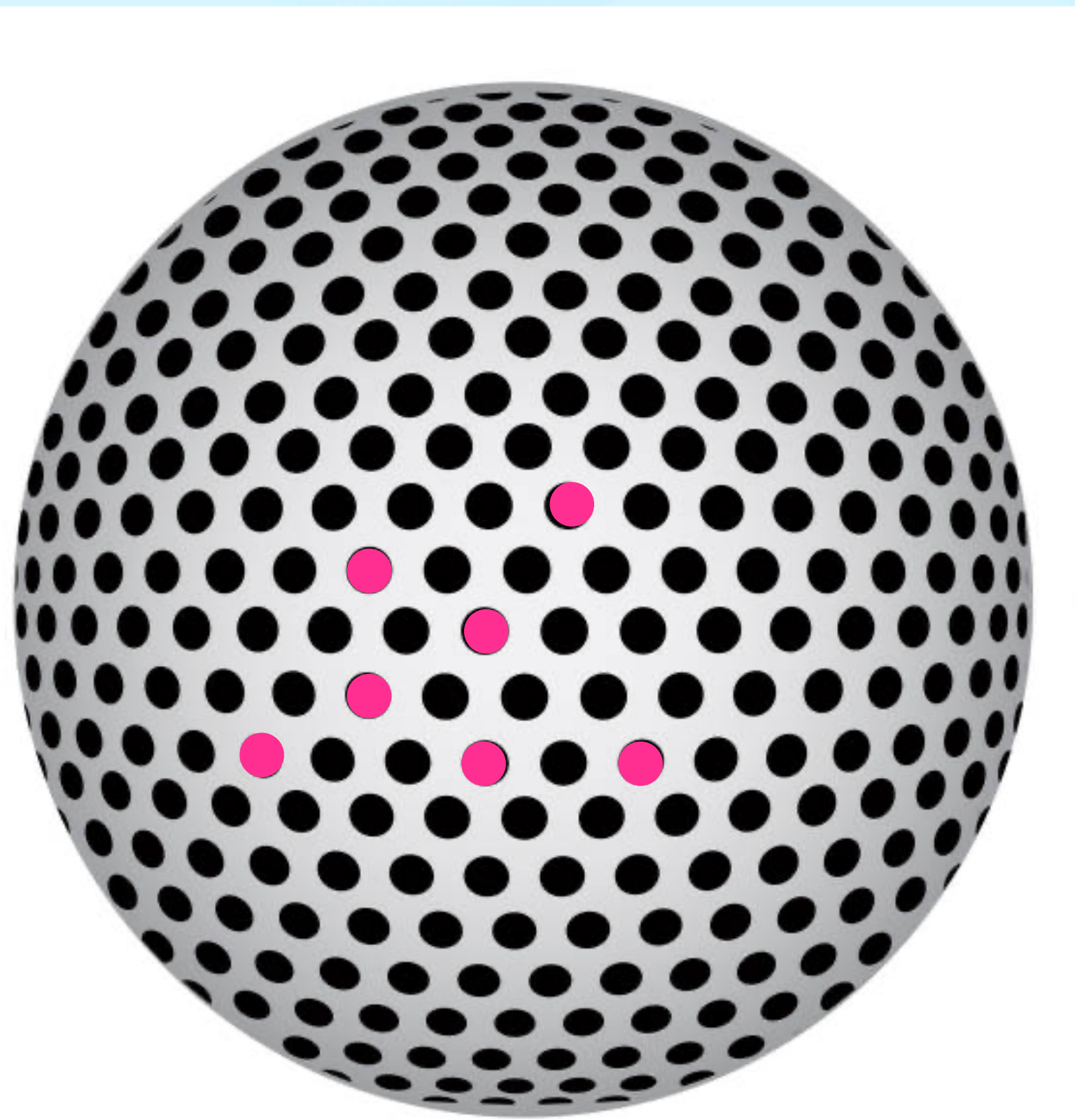
(a) K Harigaya, Phys. Rev. D 86, 013002  
(b) T Asaka, Phys. Lett.B 811, 135956  
(c) K. Asai, Euro.Phys.J.C 80, 76

This search reaches the **inverted mass ordering region** below 50 meV with half of the phenomenological NME calculations!



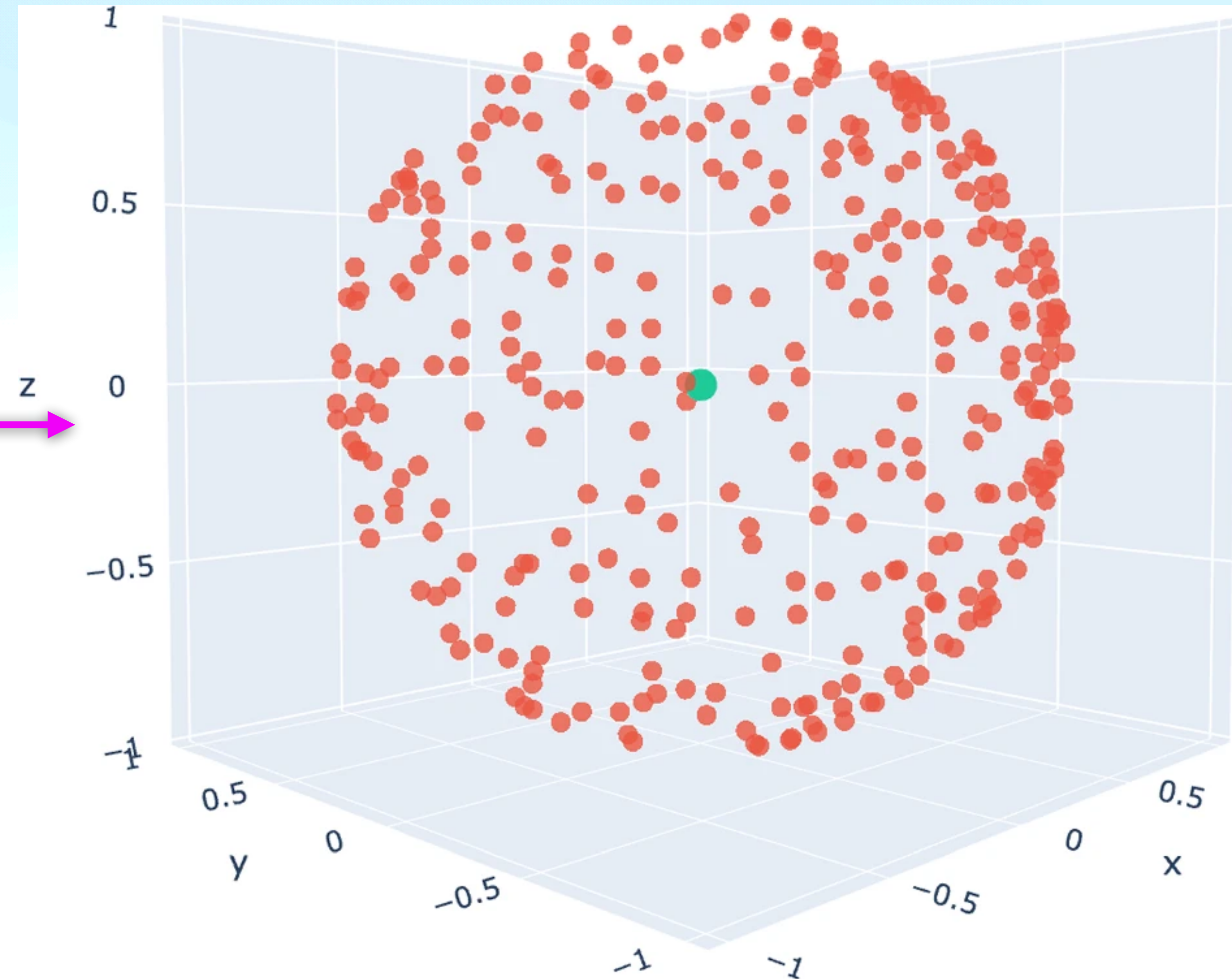
# KamLAND-Zen Data as Point Cloud

Z. Fu et al.,  
*Eur. Phys. J. C* **84**, 651 (2024)  
<https://doi.org/10.1140/epjc/s10052-024-12980-7>



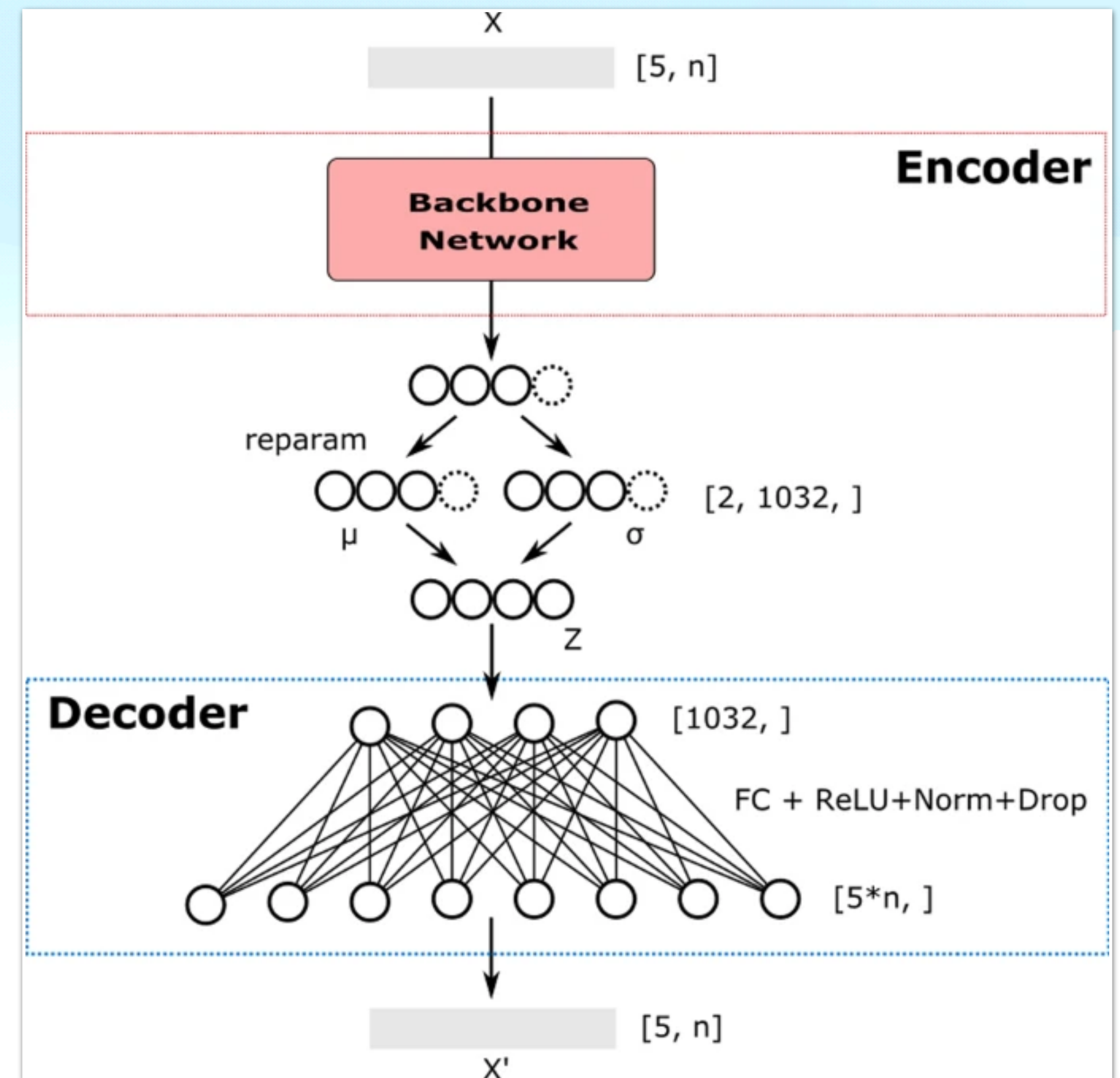
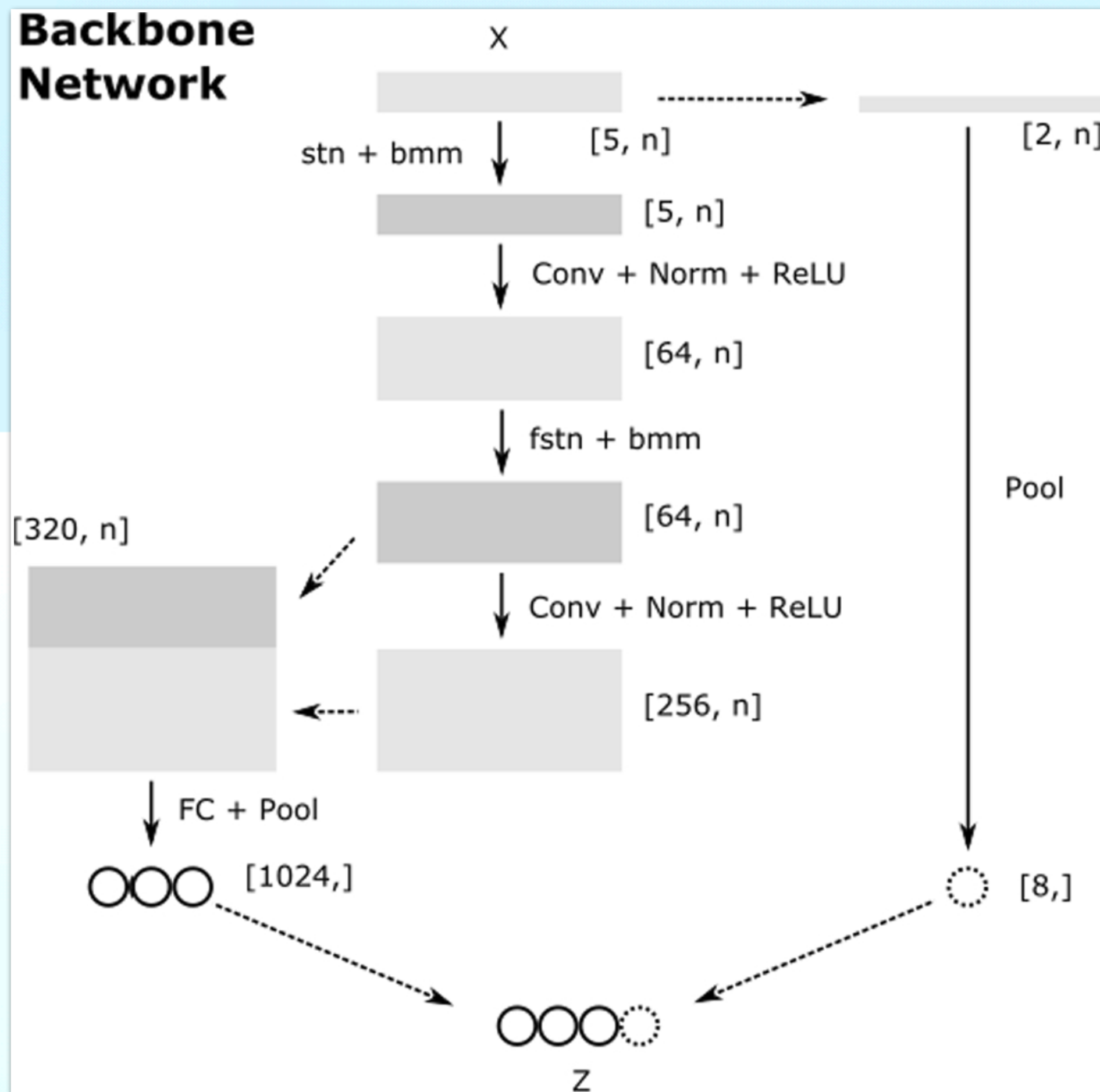
Triggered PMT

$(x, y, z, t, q)$



# PointNet-VAE Model for Event Generation

Z. Fu et al.,  
*Eur. Phys. J. C* **84**, 651 (2024)  
<https://doi.org/10.1140/epjc/s10052-024-12980-7>

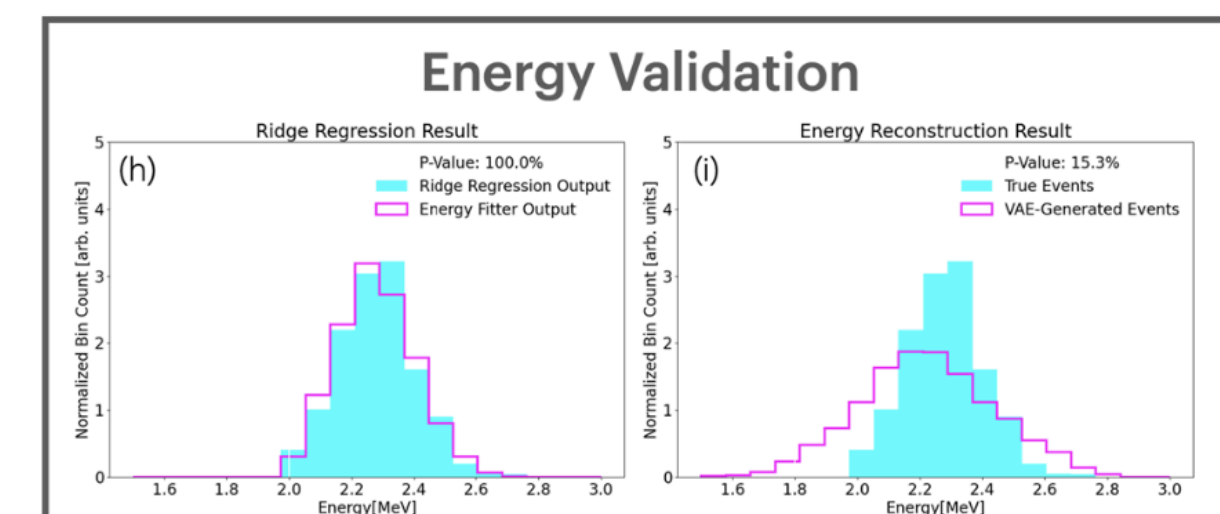
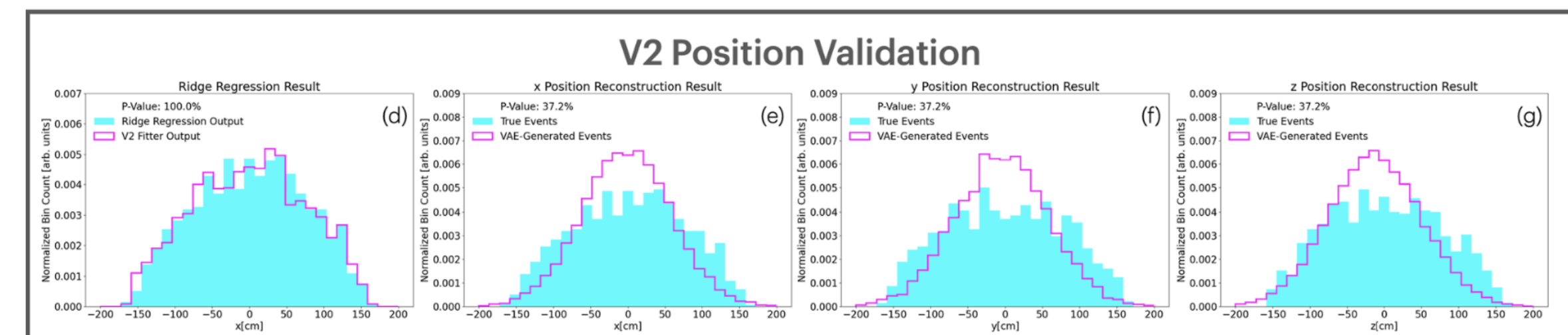
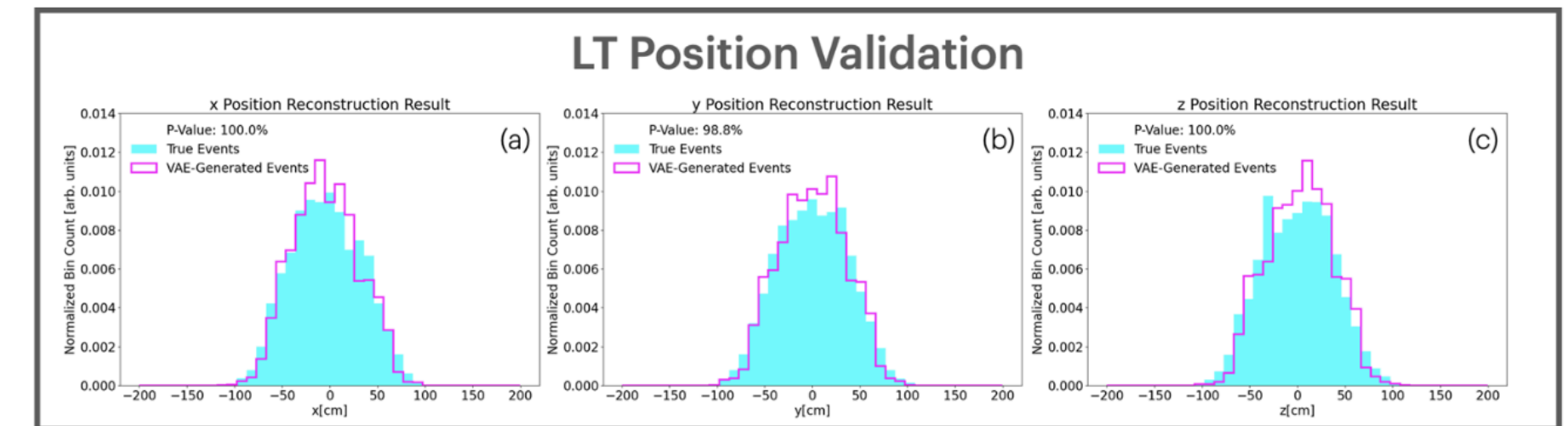
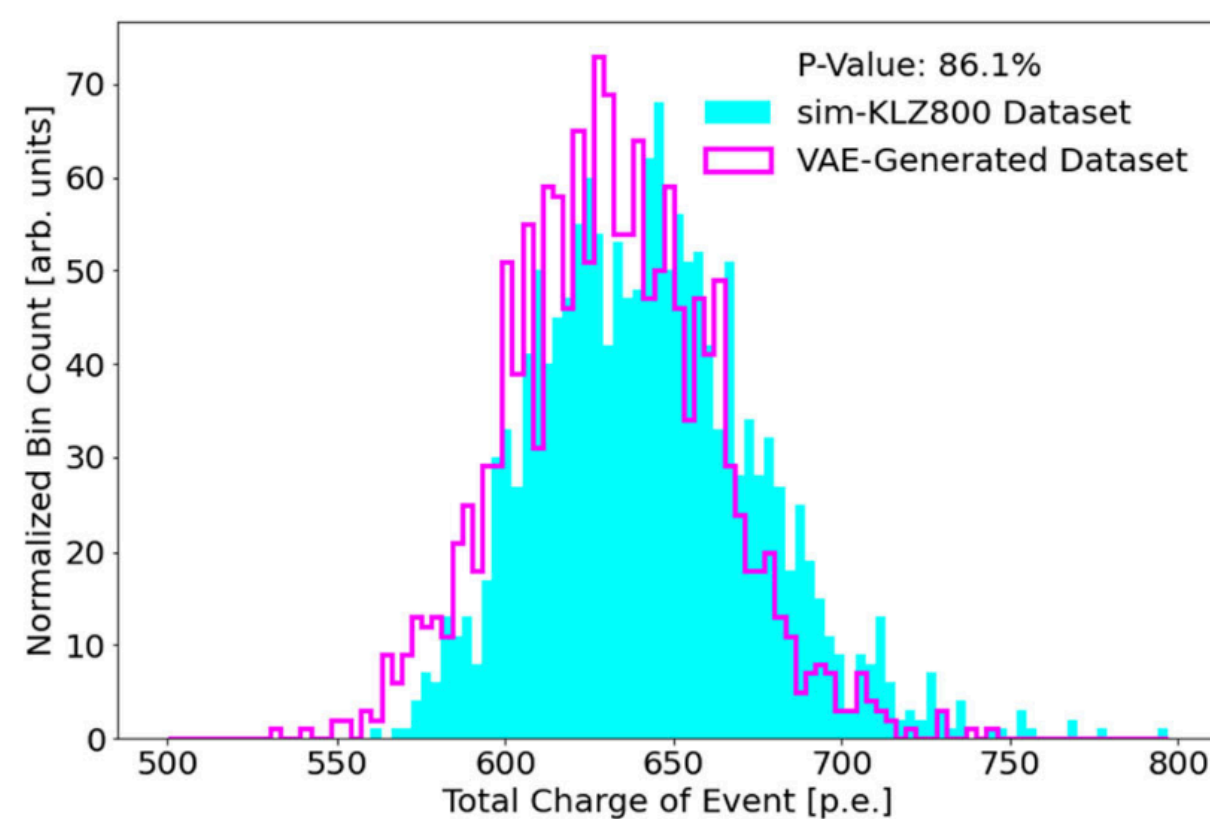
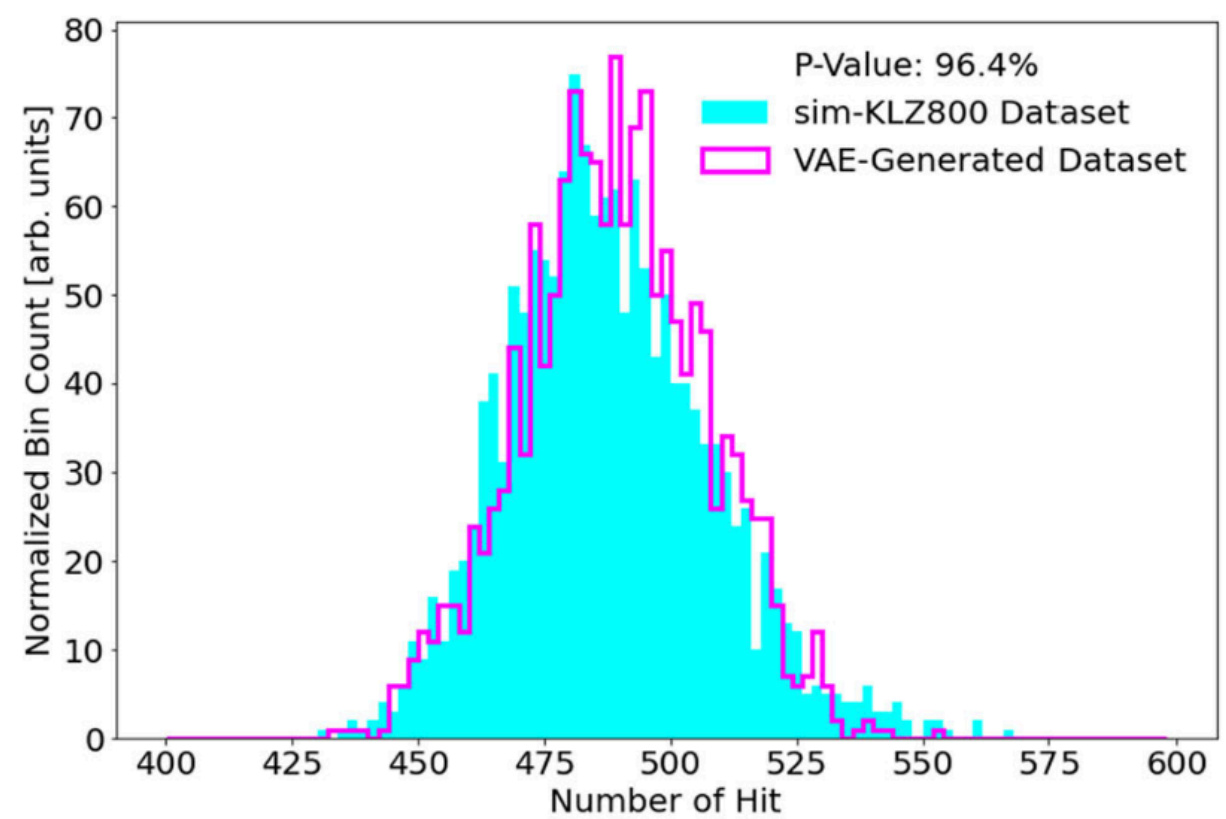
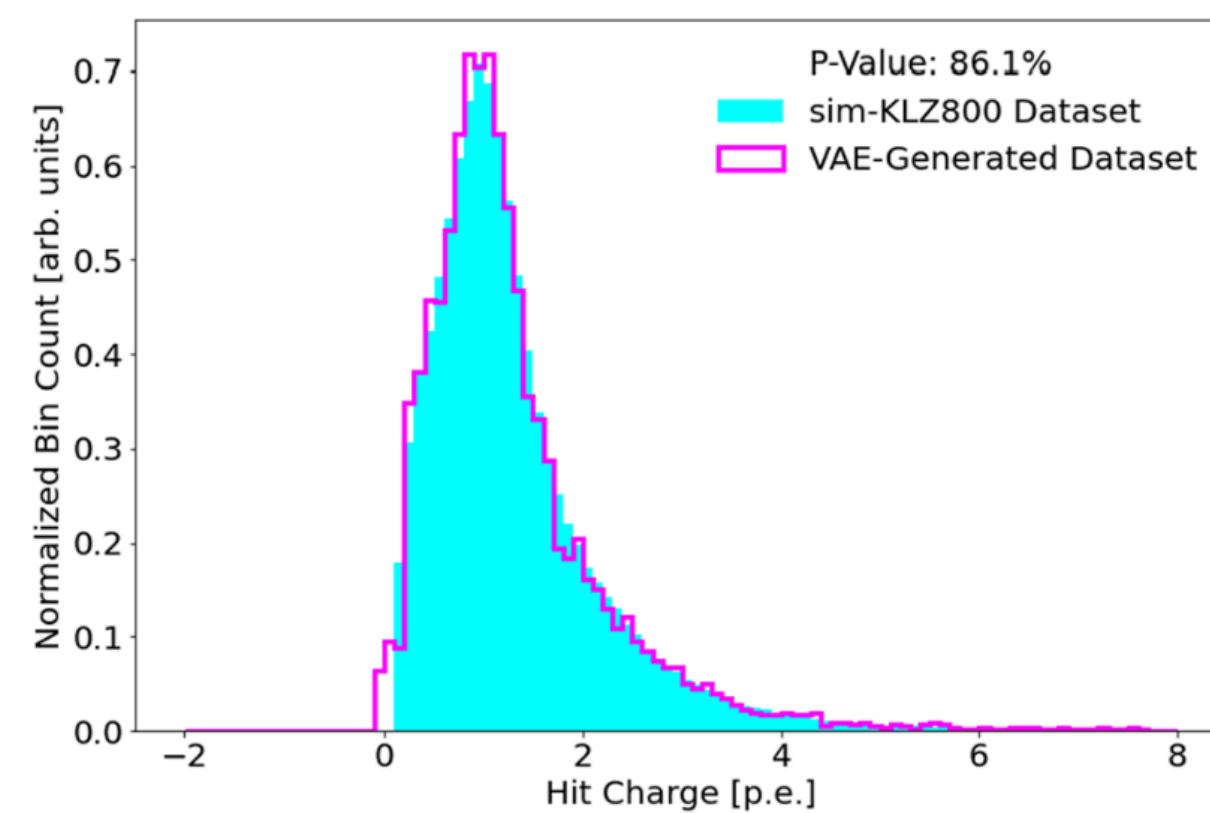
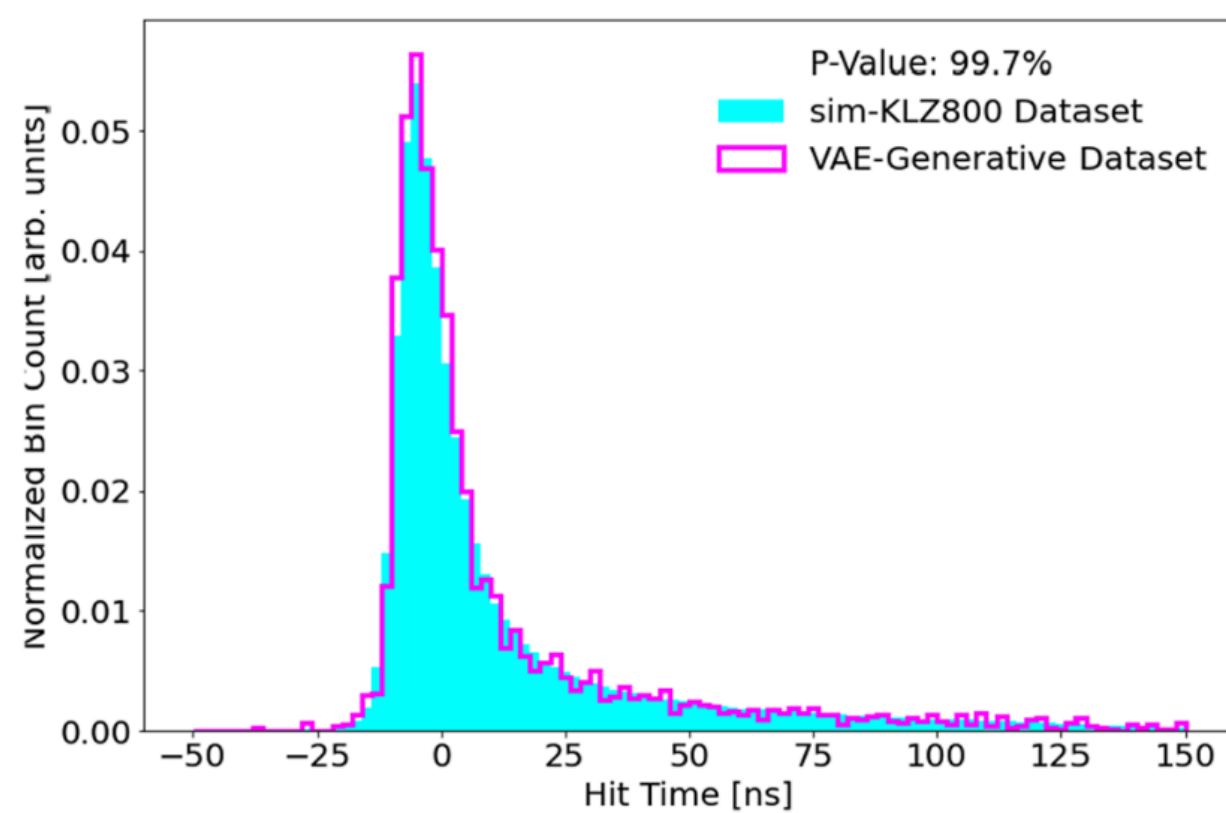


# Event Generation Result

Z. Fu et al.,  
*Eur. Phys. J. C* **84**, 651 (2024)  
<https://doi.org/10.1140/epjc/s10052-024-12980-7>

## Basic Parameters

## Reconstruction Parameters





# ABRACADABRA

Y. Kahn, B. R. Safdi, and J. Thaler,  
Phys. Rev. Lett. 117, 141801

J. L. Ouellet et al.  
Phys. Rev. Lett. 122, 121802 (2019)

C. P. Salemi et al.  
Phys. Rev. Lett. 127, 081801 (2021)

## Broadband Axion Dark Matter Search with Toroidal Magnet

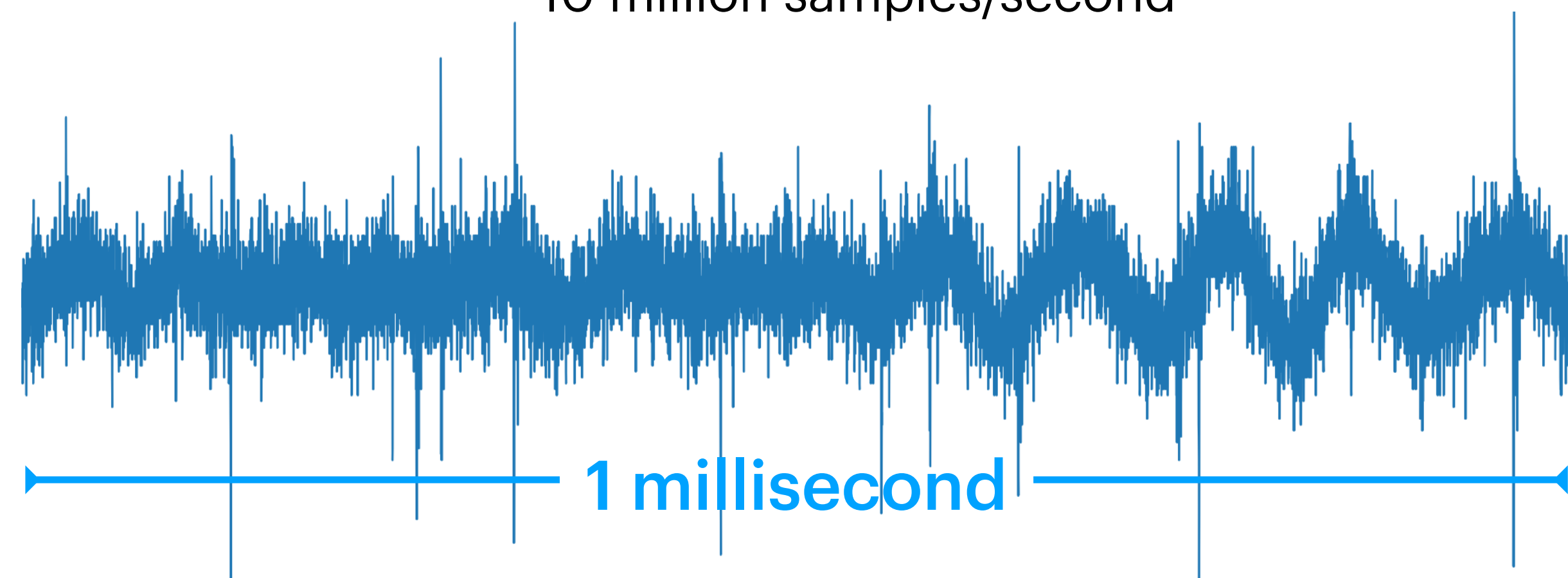
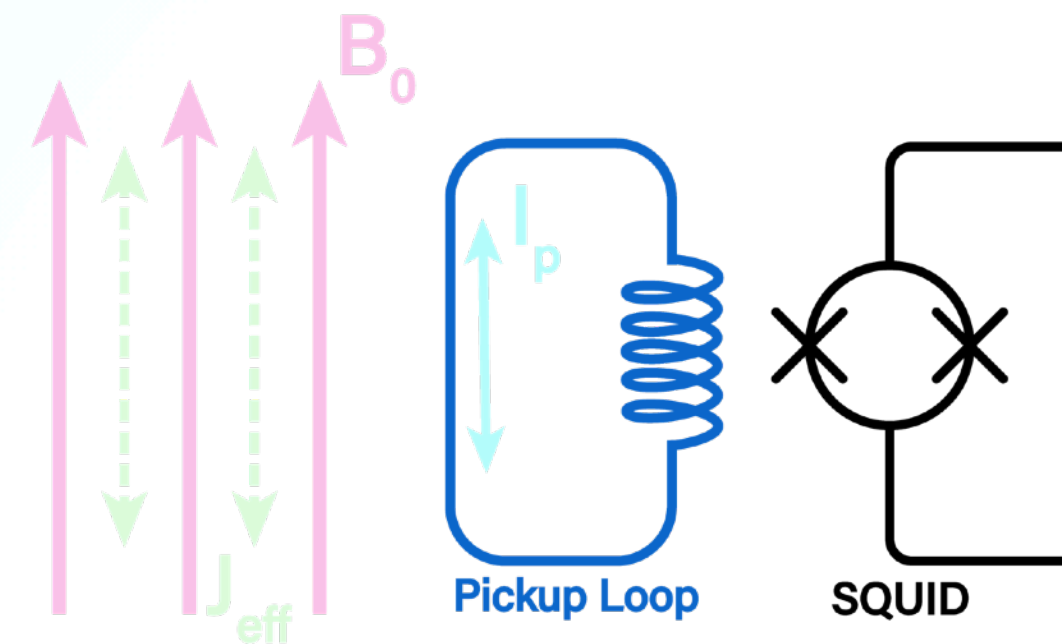
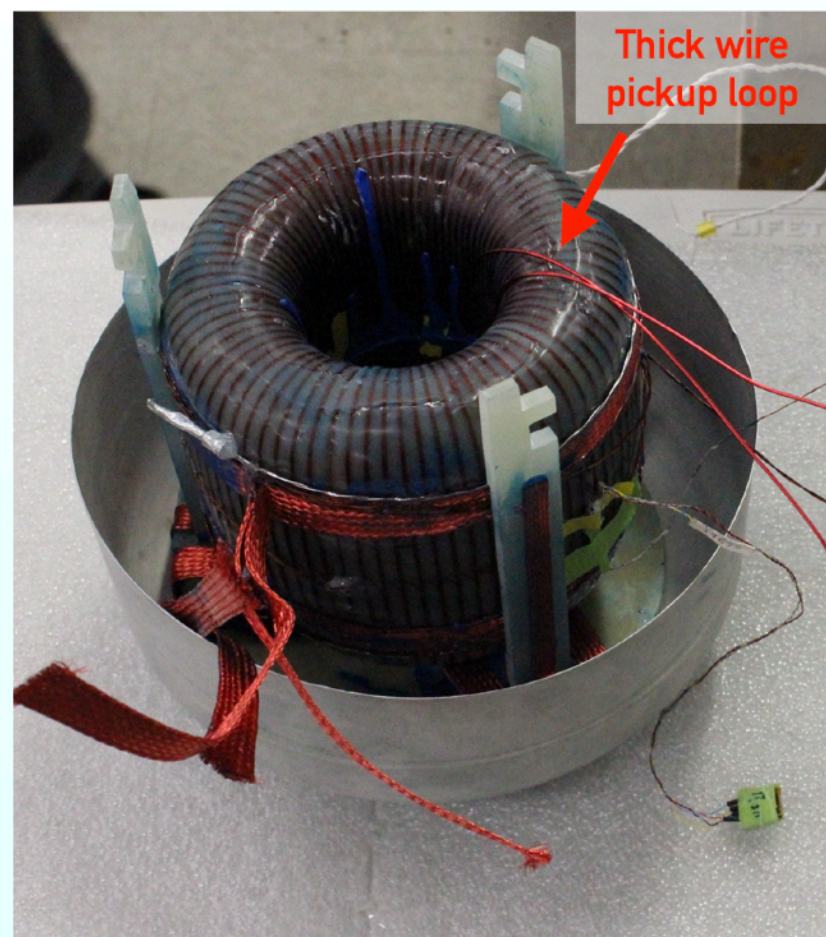


**Axion-Modified Maxwell's Equation:**

$$\nabla \times B = \frac{\partial E}{\partial t} - g_{a\gamma\gamma} \left( E \times \nabla a - \frac{\partial a}{\partial t} B \right)$$

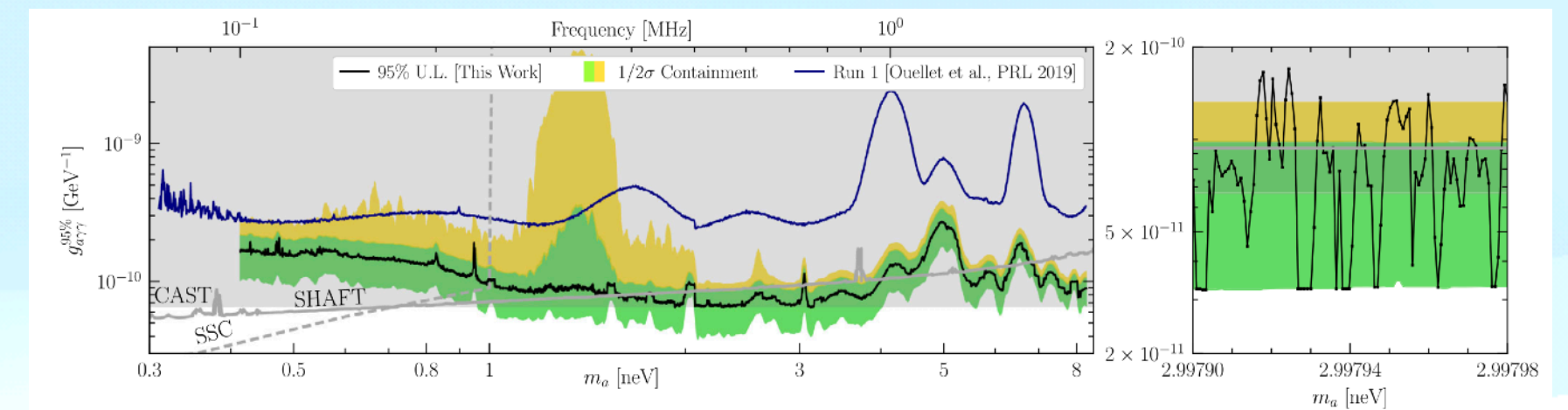


$$J_{eff} = g_{a\gamma\gamma} \sqrt{2\rho_{DM}} \cos(m_a t) B$$



### Frequency Spectrum

Broadband search for axion DM



### Ultra-long Time Series

10 million samples/second

**Experimental Apparatus Constructed by Winslow Lab at MIT**



J. T. Fry et al, arXiv:2406.04378  
Submitted to NeurIPS Dataset & Benchmarking Track

## TIDMAD: Time Series Dataset for Discovering Dark Matter with AI Denoising

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### TIDMAD: Time Series Dataset for Discovering Dark Matter with AI Denoising

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**Lindley Winslow**<sup>1</sup>  
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hopefu@mit.edu

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fuzh@mit.edu

**Kalirae M. W. Pappas**<sup>1</sup>  
kalirae@mit.edu

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#### Open Data

Release dark matter detector data for AI/ML algorithms

#### Easy Benchmarking

Design a quantitative benchmarking score to quantify the performance of different algorithms

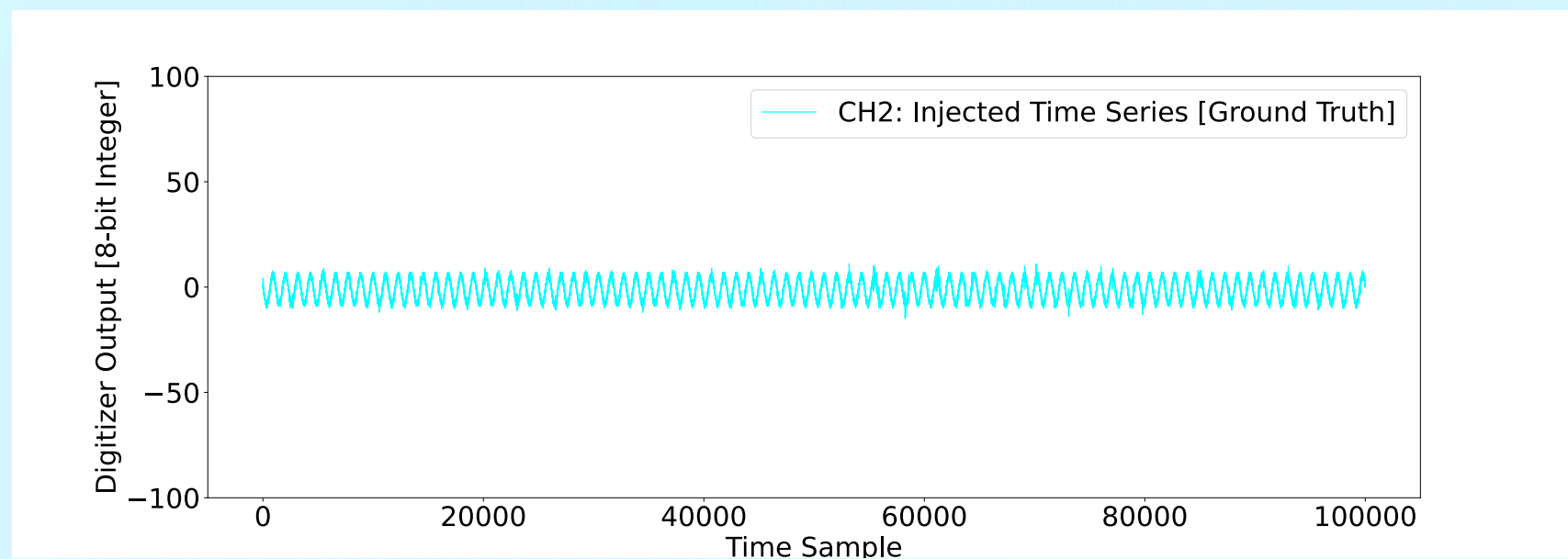
#### AI for Science

Enables core AI algorithms to extract the signal and produce real physics results thereby advancing fundamental science

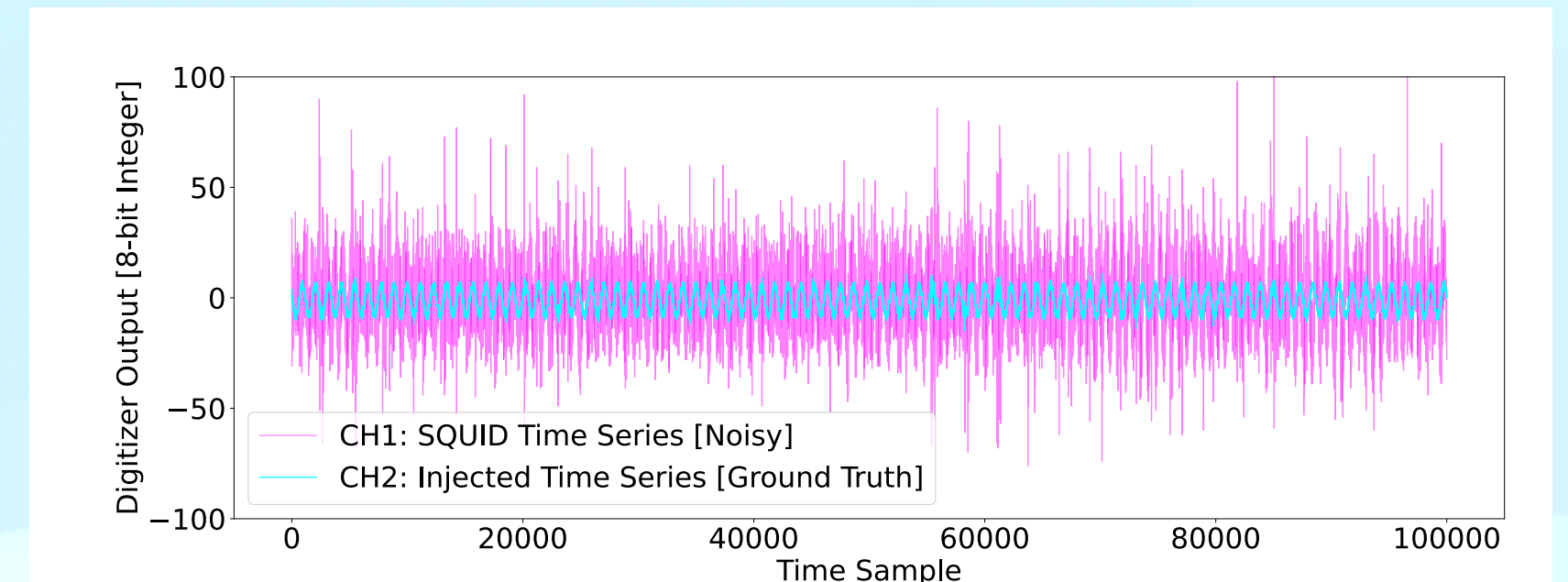
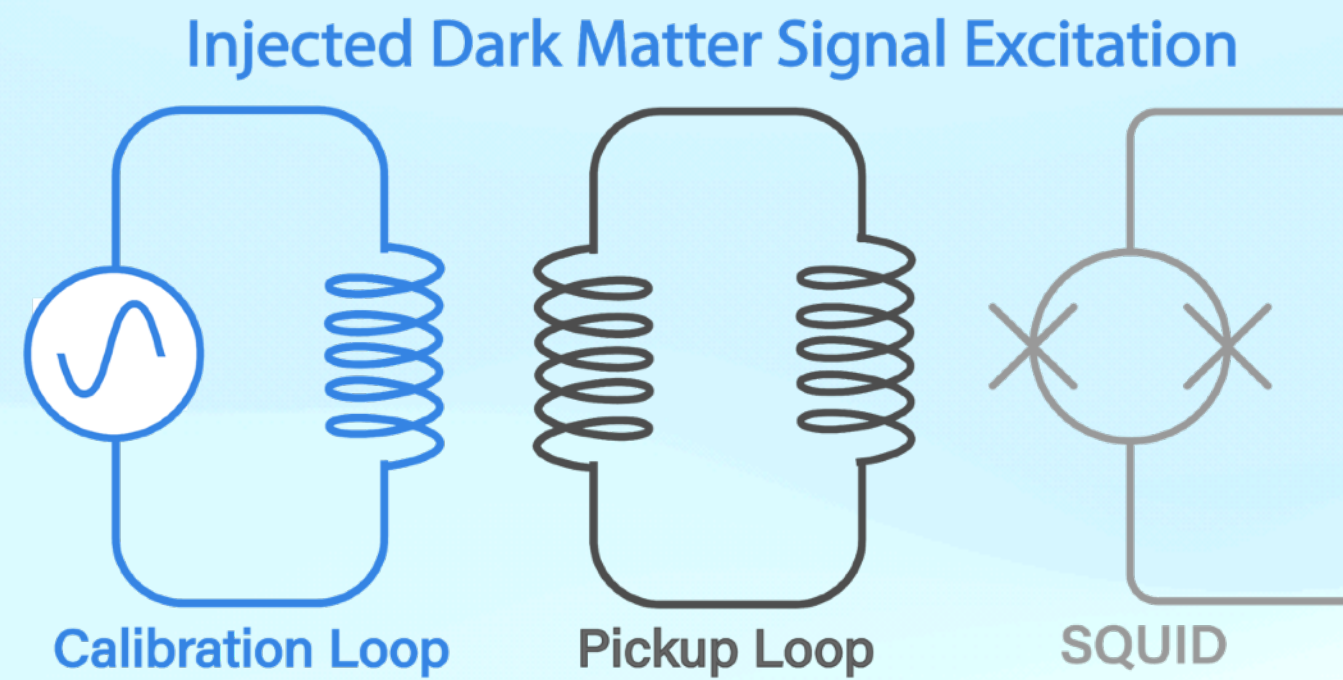


J. T. Fry et al, arXiv:2406.04378  
Submitted to NeurIPS Dataset & Benchmarking Track

# TIDMAD: Time Series Dataset for Discovering Dark Matter with AI Denoising



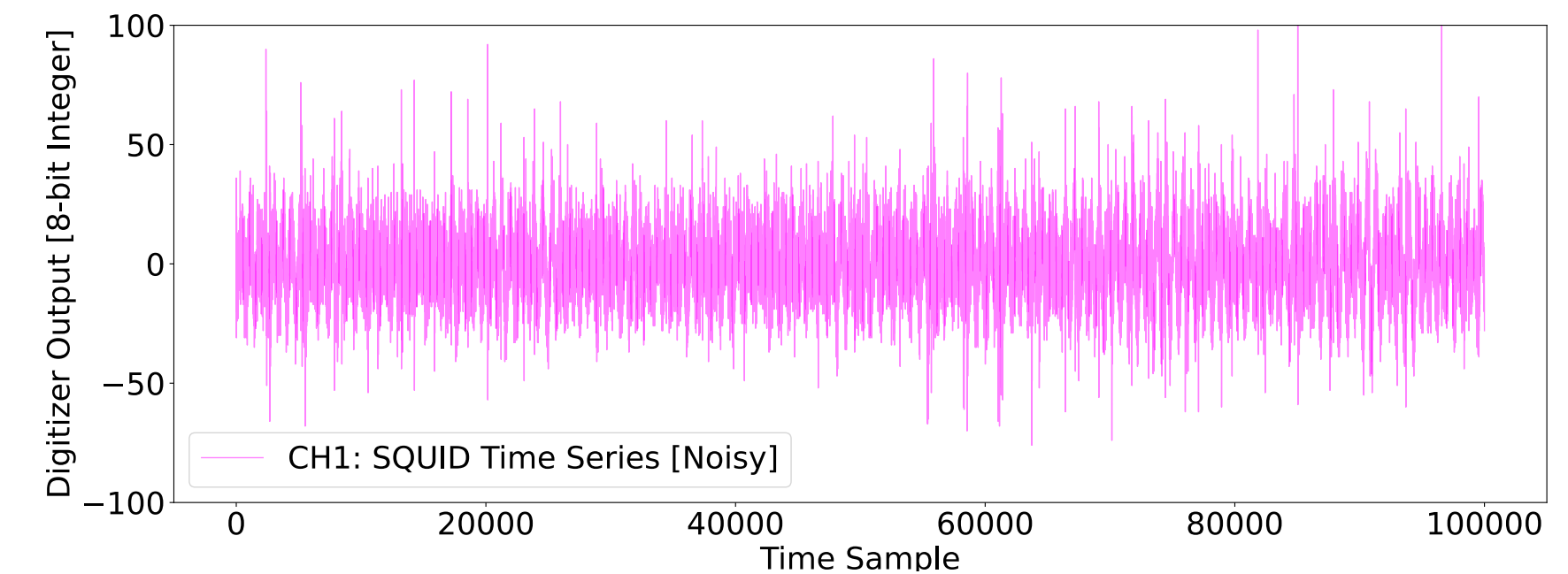
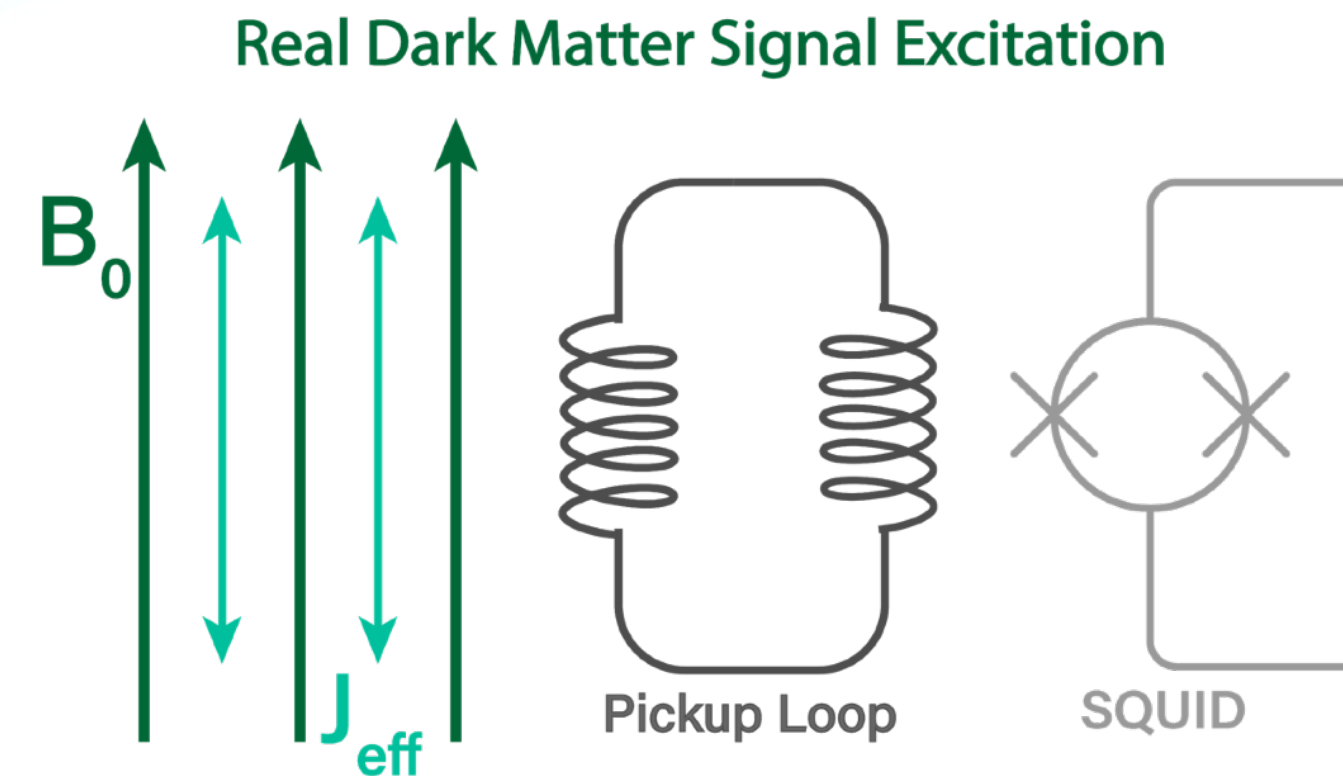
CH2: Injected Time Series [Ground Truth]



CH1: SQUID Time Series [Noisy]

Train AI denoising model to recover...

No Signal Injected



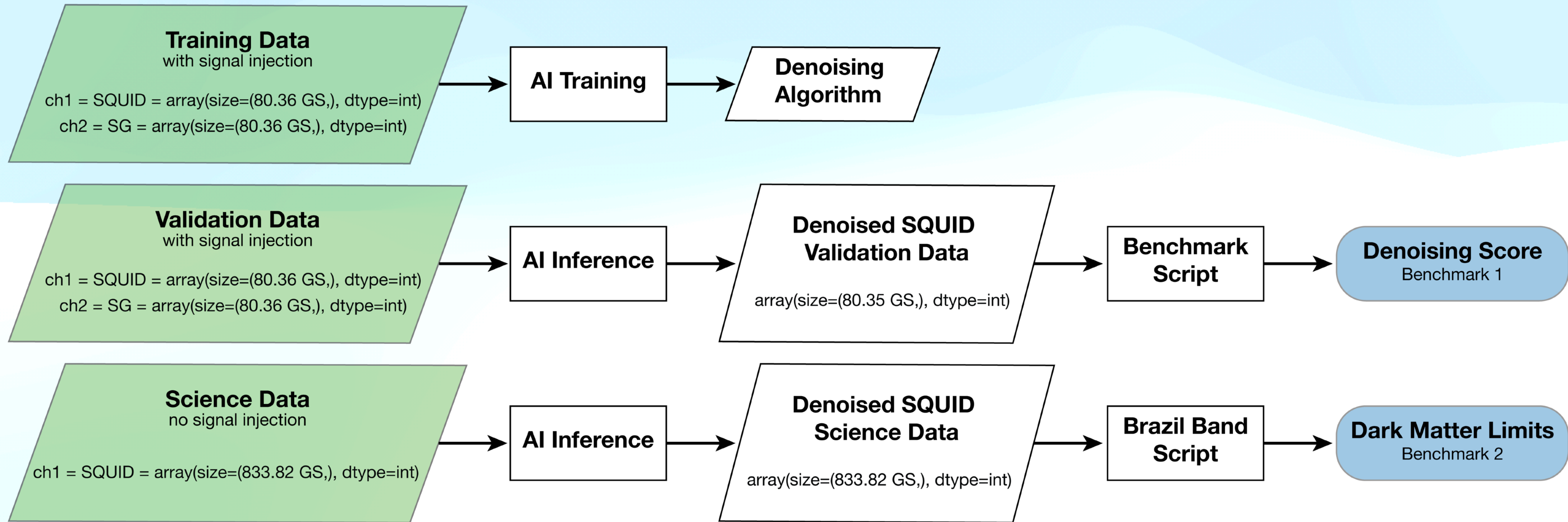
CH1: SQUID Time Series [Noisy]

Use trained AI model to denoise...



J. T. Fry et al, arXiv:2406.04378  
Submitted to NeurIPS Dataset & Benchmarking Track

# TIDMAD: Time Series Dataset for Discovering Dark Matter with AI Denoising

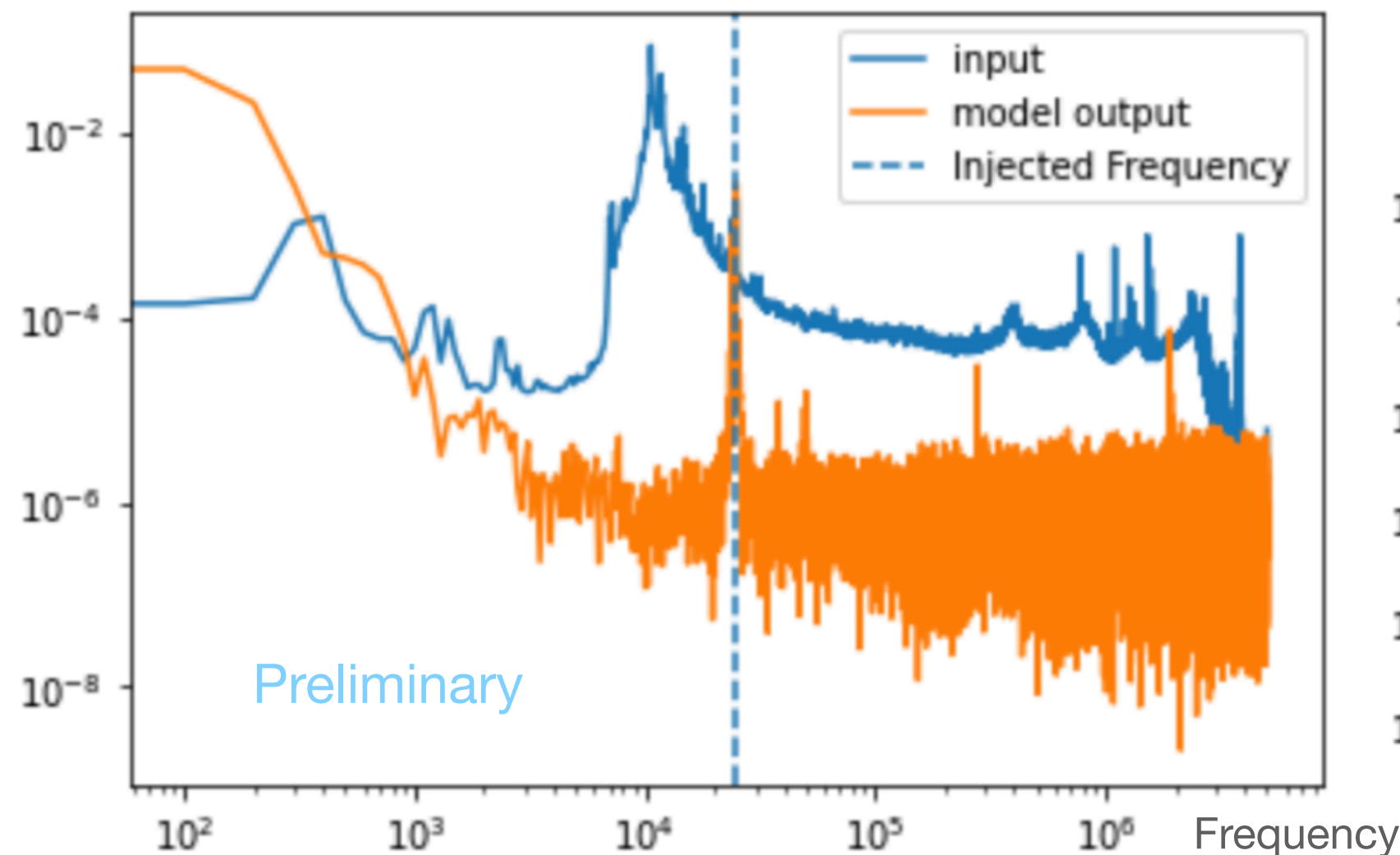
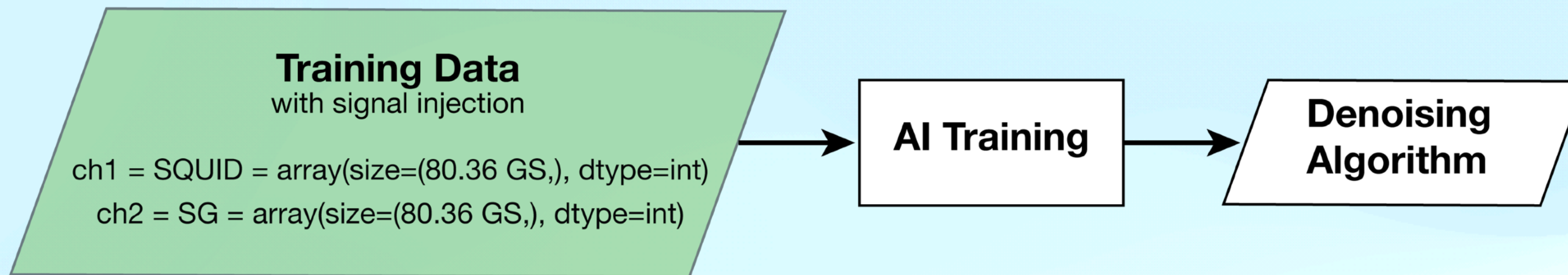




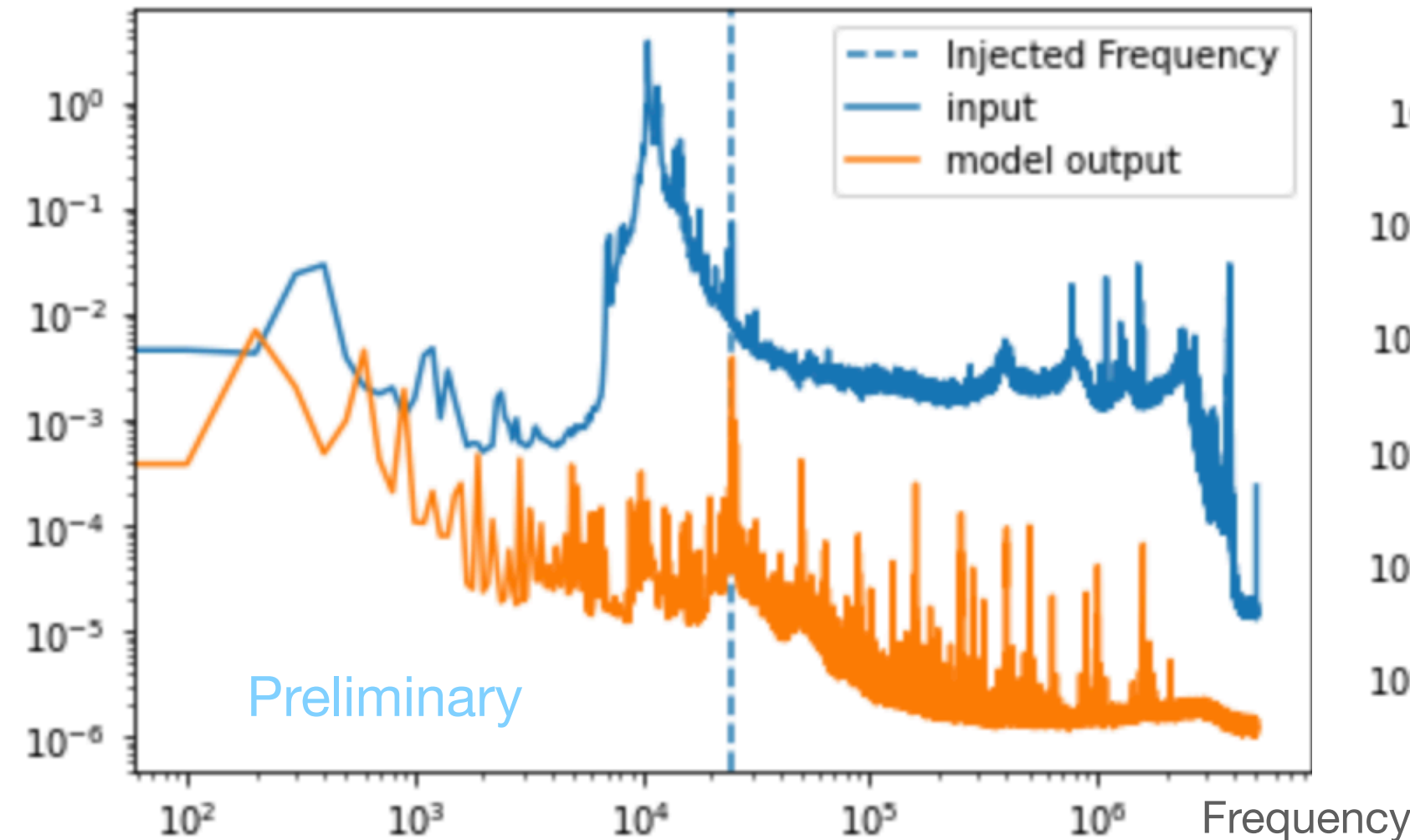


J. T. Fry et al, arXiv:2406.04378  
Submitted to NeurIPS Dataset & Benchmarking Track

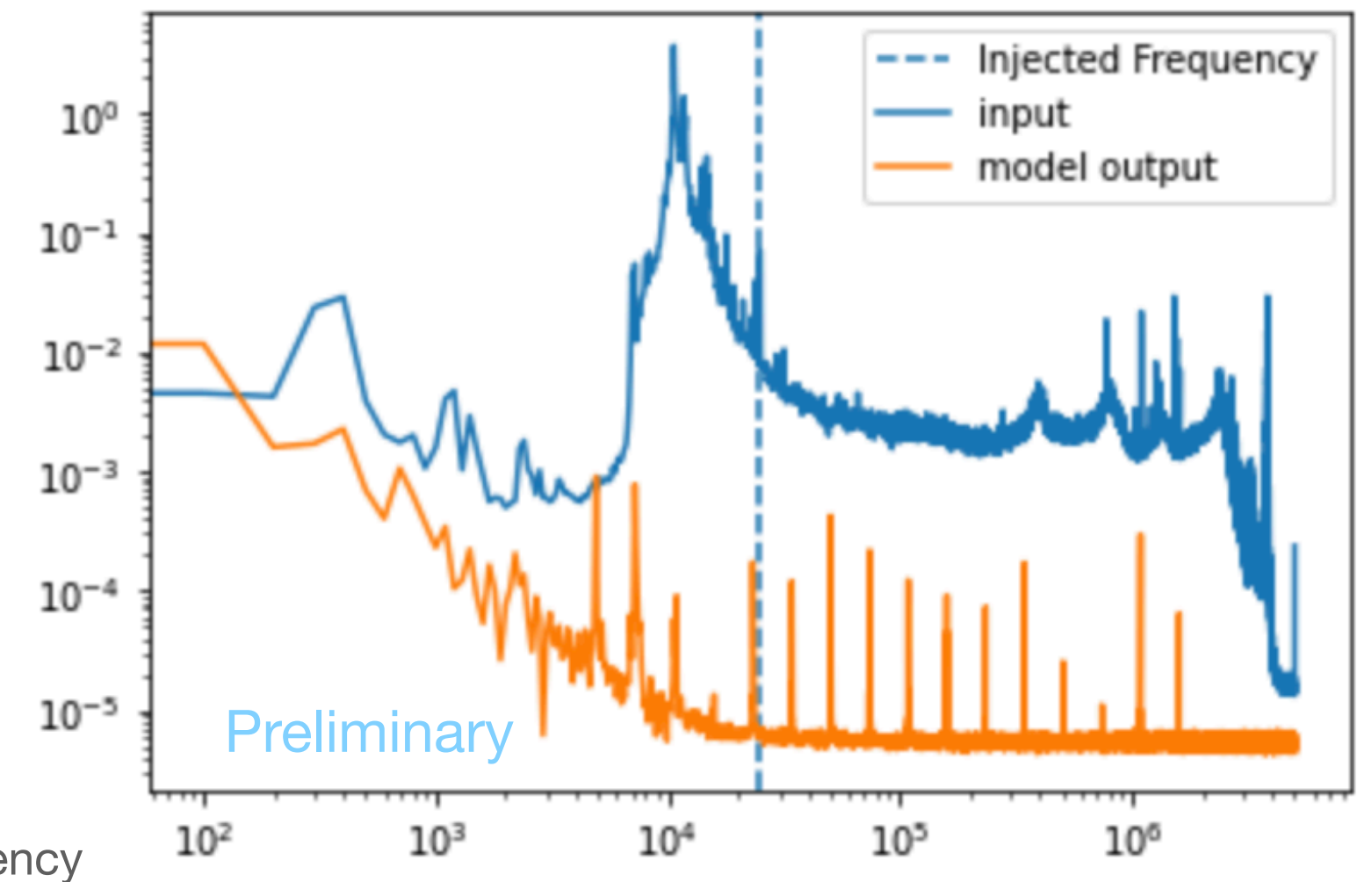
# TIDMAD: Time Series Dataset for Discovering Dark Matter with AI Denoising



Fully Connected NN



Positional U-Net

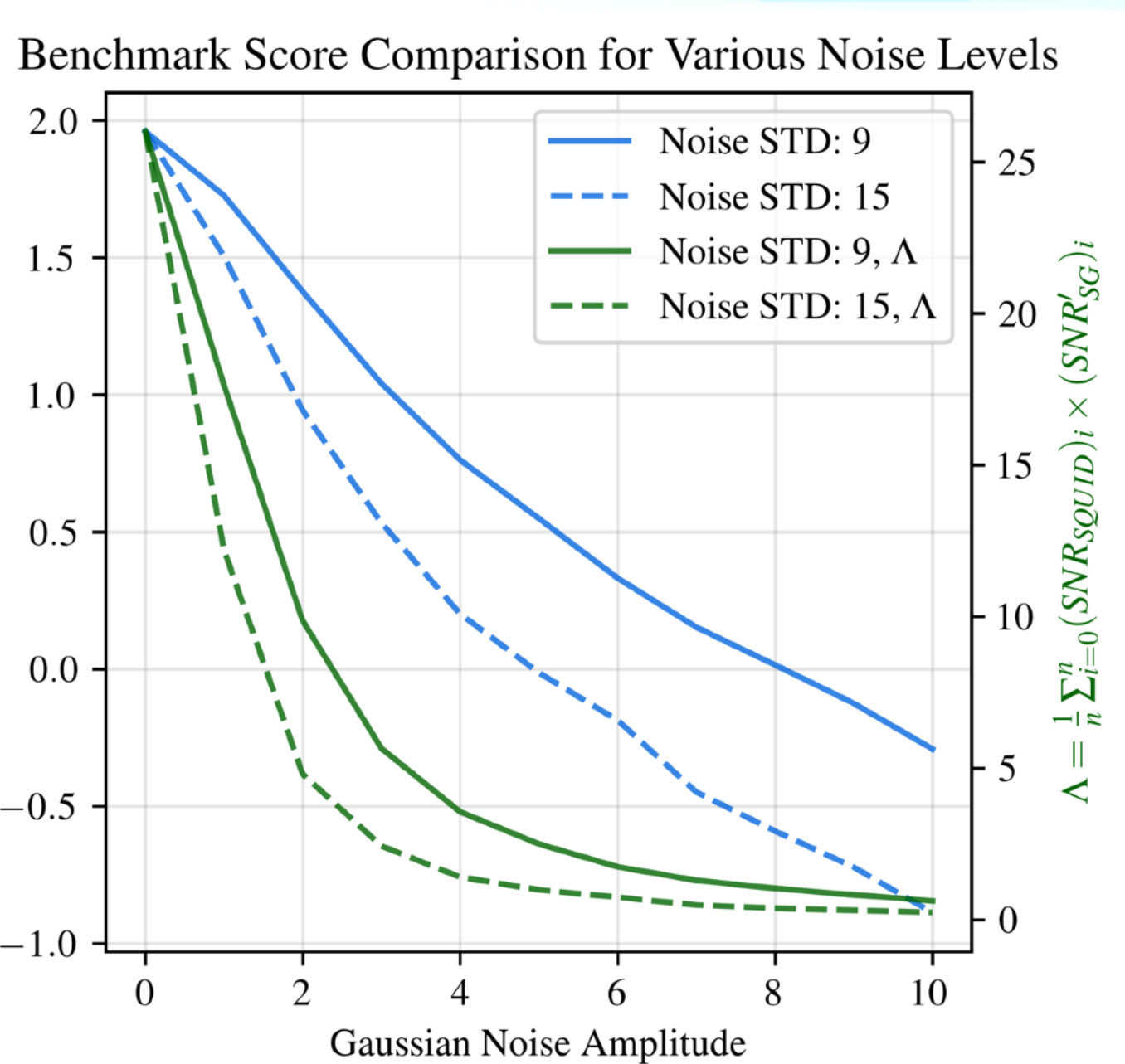
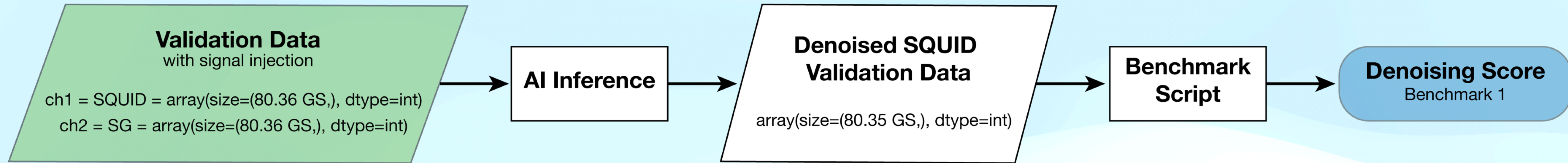


Transformer



J. T. Fry et al, arXiv:2406.04378  
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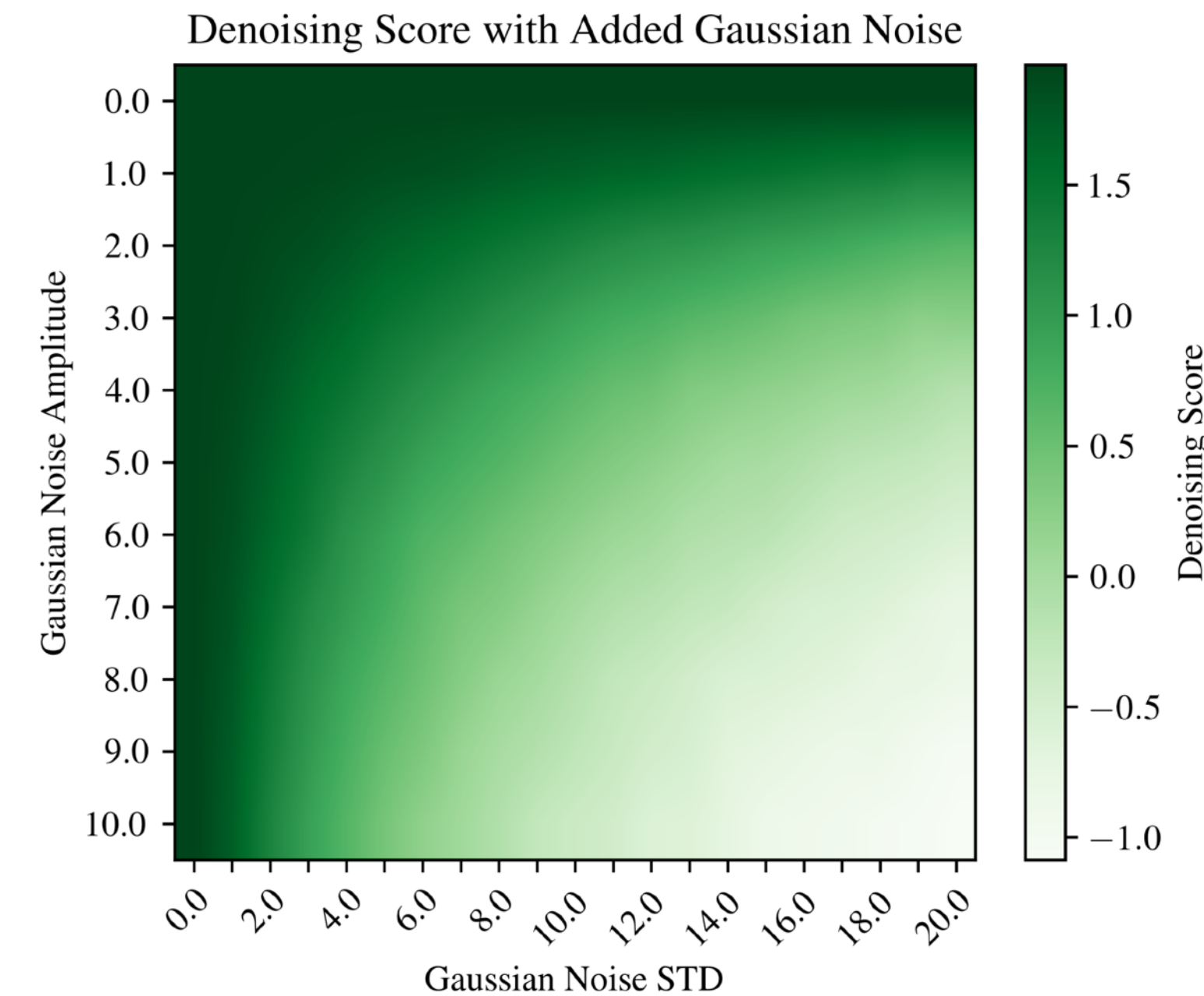
# TIDMAD: Time Series Dataset for Discovering Dark Matter with AI Denoising



$$\Lambda = \left( \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=0}^n (SNR_{SQUID})_i \times (SNR'_{Injected})_i \right)$$

$$\text{Denoising Score} = \log_{5.27} \Lambda$$

Test the denoising score by doping gaussian noise into Time Series





J. T. Fry et al, arXiv:2406.04378  
 Submitted to NeurIPS Dataset & Benchmarking Track

## TIDMAD: Time Series Dataset for Discovering Dark Matter with AI Denoising

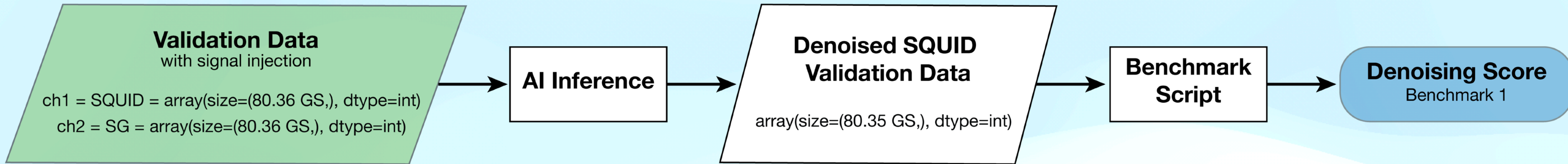
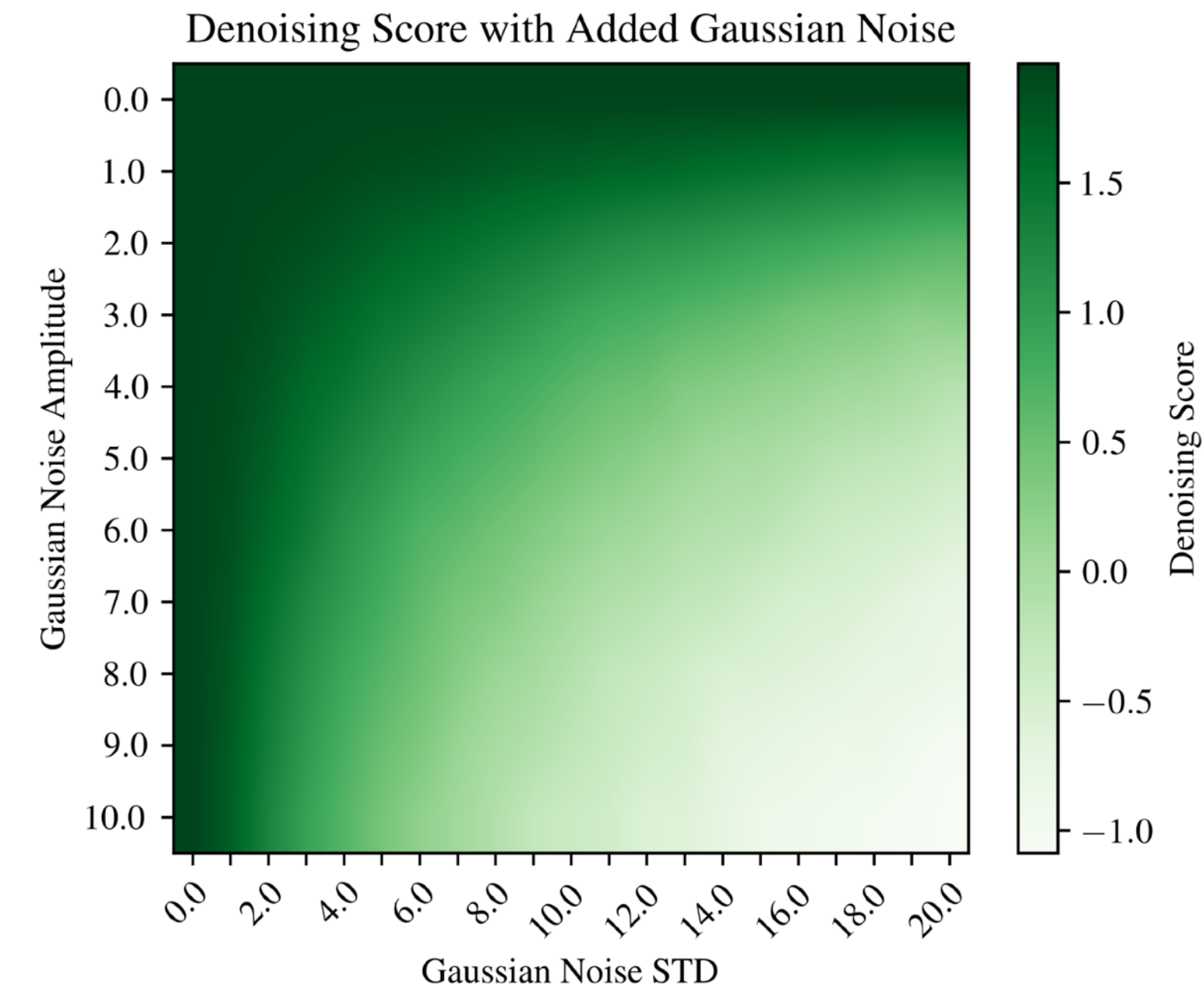


Table 1: Fine and coarse denoising score for raw data, traditional algorithms, and trained ML models

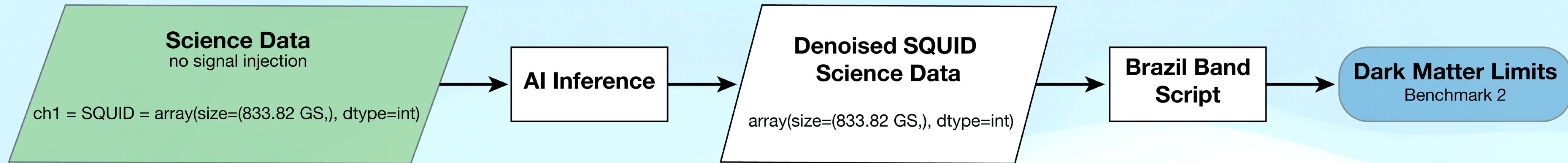
Algorithms	Segment Size	Parameters	Fine Score	Coarse Score
None			1.00	1.10
Moving Average	$1 \times 10^6$	window = 100	0.52	0.64
SG Filter	$1 \times 10^6$	window = 100, order = 11	-2.77	-2.35
FC Net	$4 \times 10^4$	See Appendix <b>A</b>	6.43	6.55
PU Net	$4 \times 10^4$	See Appendix <b>A</b>	3.69	3.84
Transformer	$2 \times 10^4$	See Appendix <b>A</b>	3.95	4.18





J. T. Fry et al, arXiv:2406.04378  
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## TIDMAD: Time Series Dataset for Discovering Dark Matter with AI Denoising



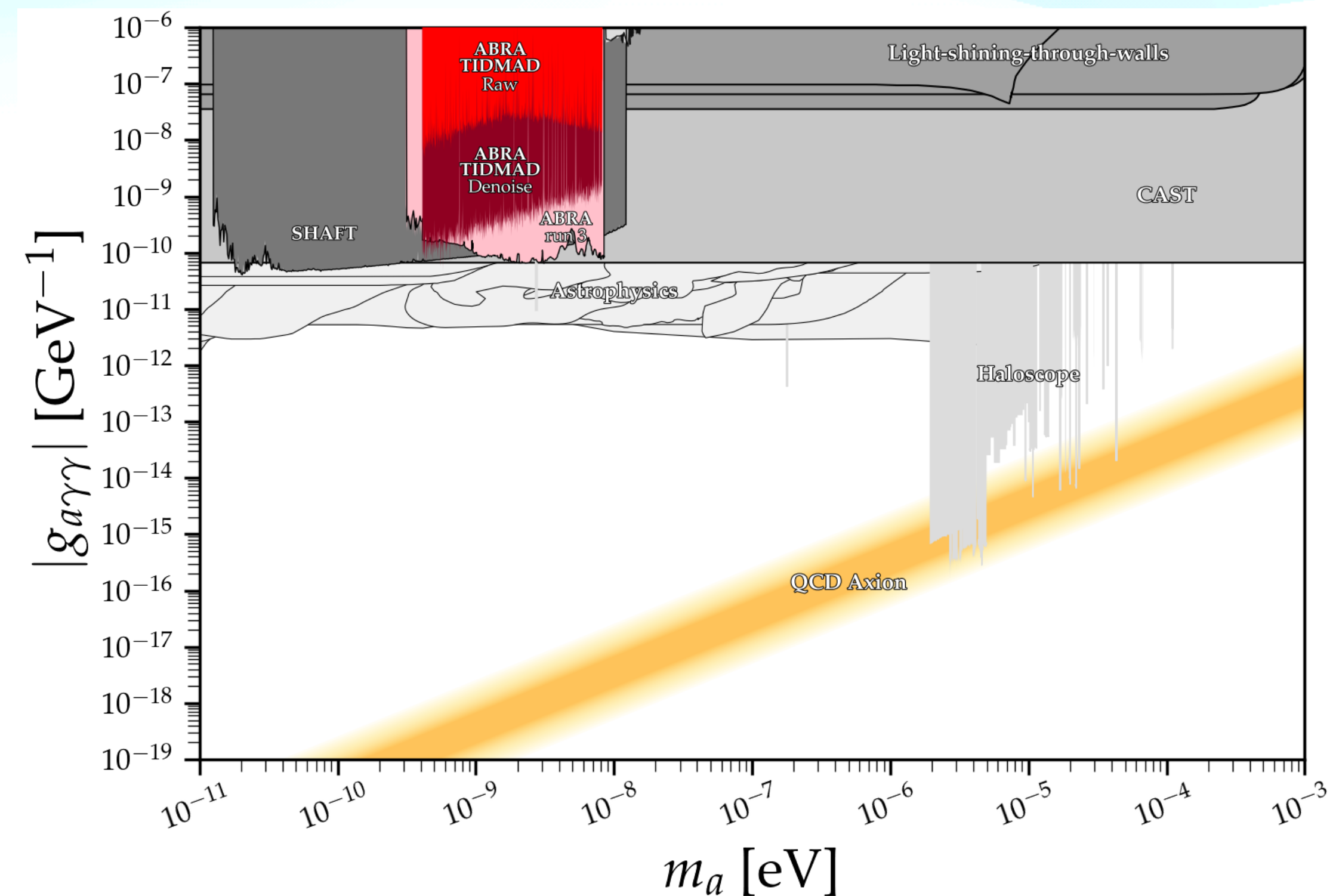
### ⚡ Axion Limit Boost

**ABRA TIDMAD Raw:** 24 hr data, no denoising

**ABRA TIDMAD Denoised:** 24 hr data with FCNet denoising

**ABRA Run 3:** 2,400 hr data, no denoising

Efficient denoising algorithms increased Axion search limit by **1-2 orders of magnitude**, approaching the previous world-leading ABRA run 3 results with only **1%** of statistics





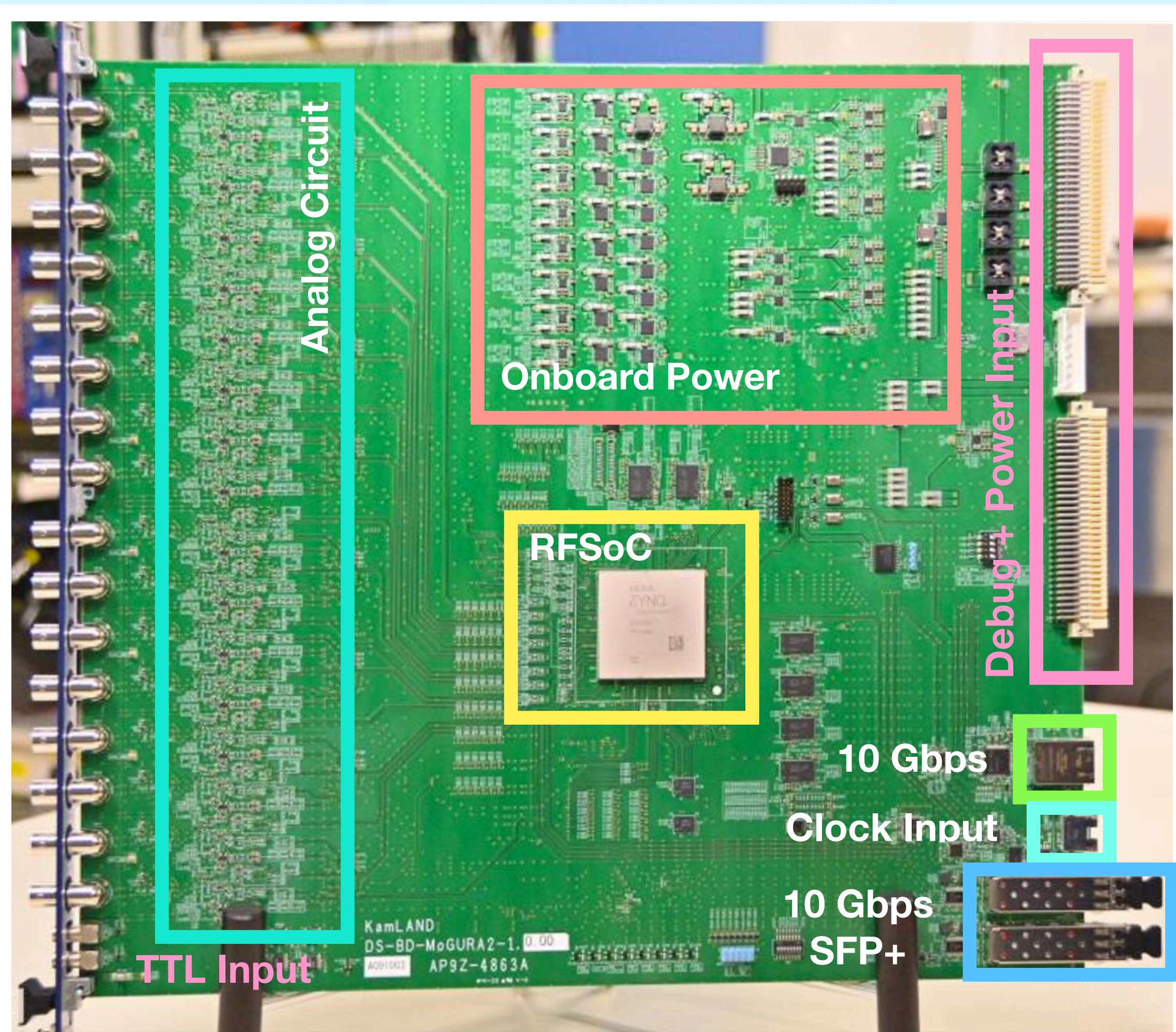
PAST

PRESENT

FUTURE

# New Electronics for KamLAND-Zen

16-channel prototype for KamLAND2-Zen



## Primary Goals:

1. Digitize waveform during the chaotic period after a muon passes through the detector in order to record all neutrons, allowing us to reduce the Long-Lived spallation background.
2. Streaming data (deadtime free system), large data throughput.
3. Large memory buffers.

**Reduction in  
PCB footprint**

**Machine  
learning on  
FPGA**

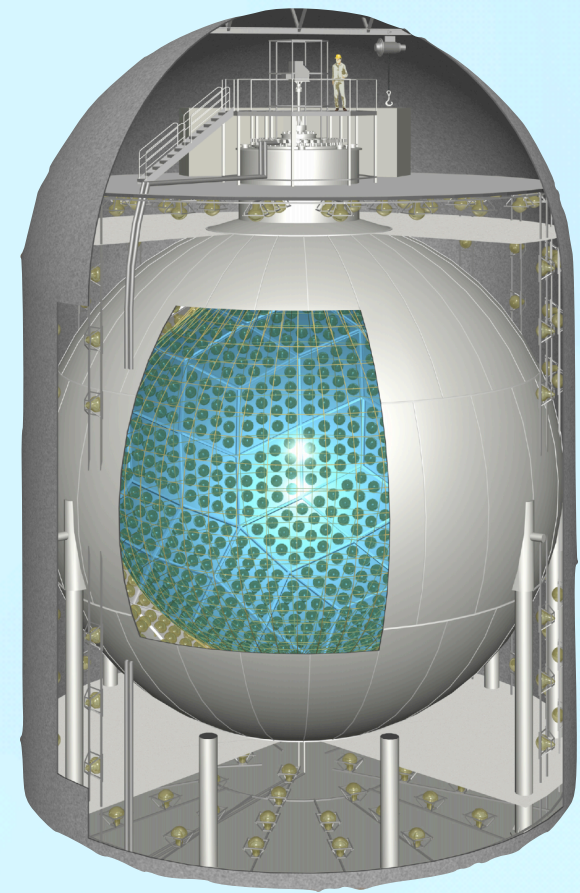
**\*50% cost  
savings**

**\*30-40% power  
consumption  
savings**

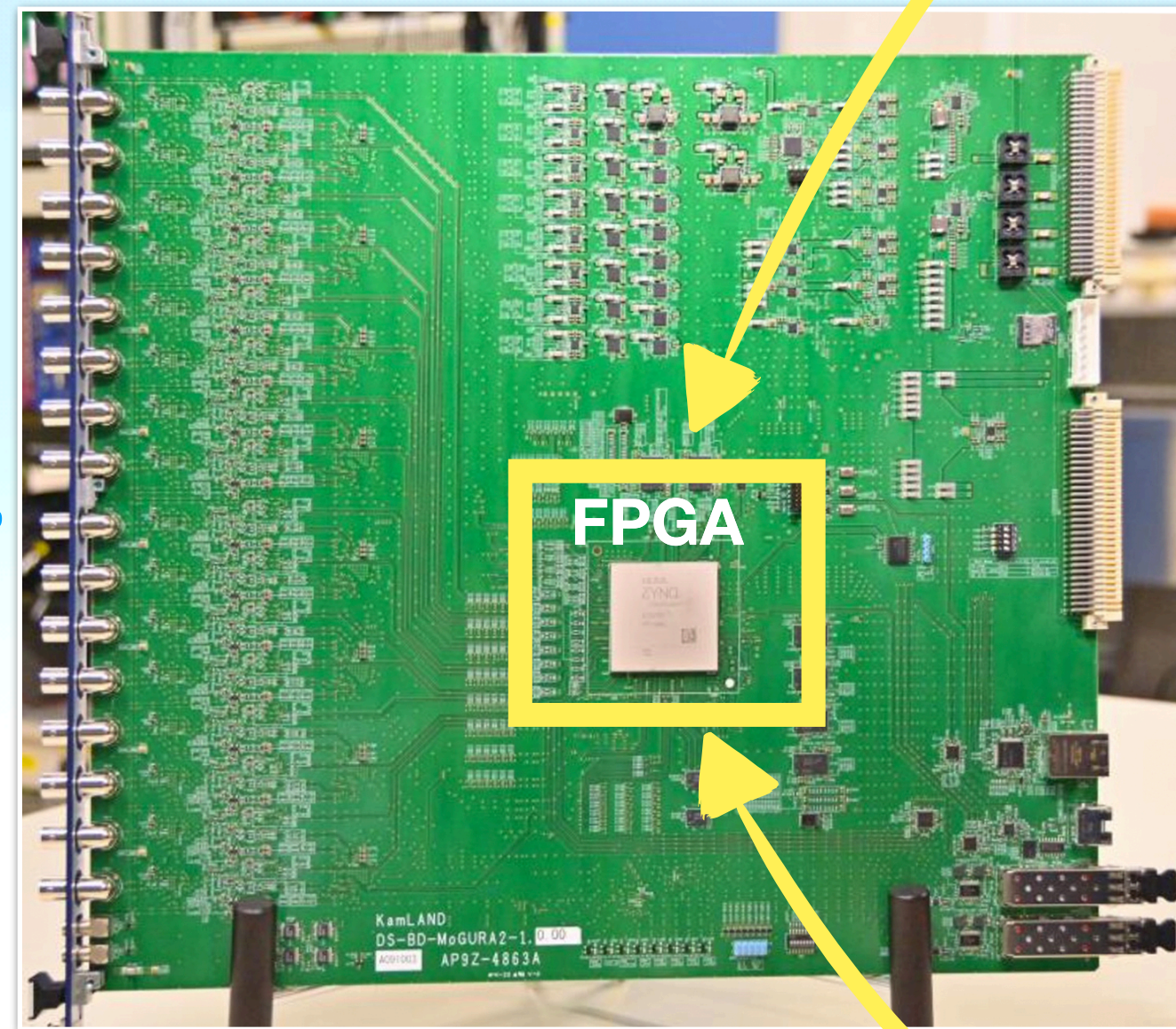
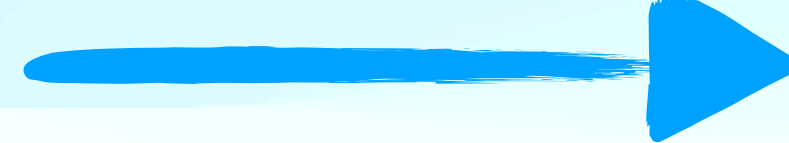
\* compared to standard RF signal chain

# Hardware-AI Codesign

Deploy ML model onto FPGA to produce these in real-time



Data Stream



Offline Analysis



Energy

Position

Particle Type

Detector Response



Online model update to account for detector status change

# Summary

“AI and Data Science has shaped rare event search, it’s an accelerator for new physics results”

- **KamLAND-Zen:** KamNet, PointNet-VAE
- **ABRACADABRA:** TIDMAD Data Set



“It will continue to evolve and foster discovery in next-generation experiments”

- **AI for Rare Event Lab:** <https://aobol.github.io/AoboLi/>
- **Email:** aol002@ucsd.edu