

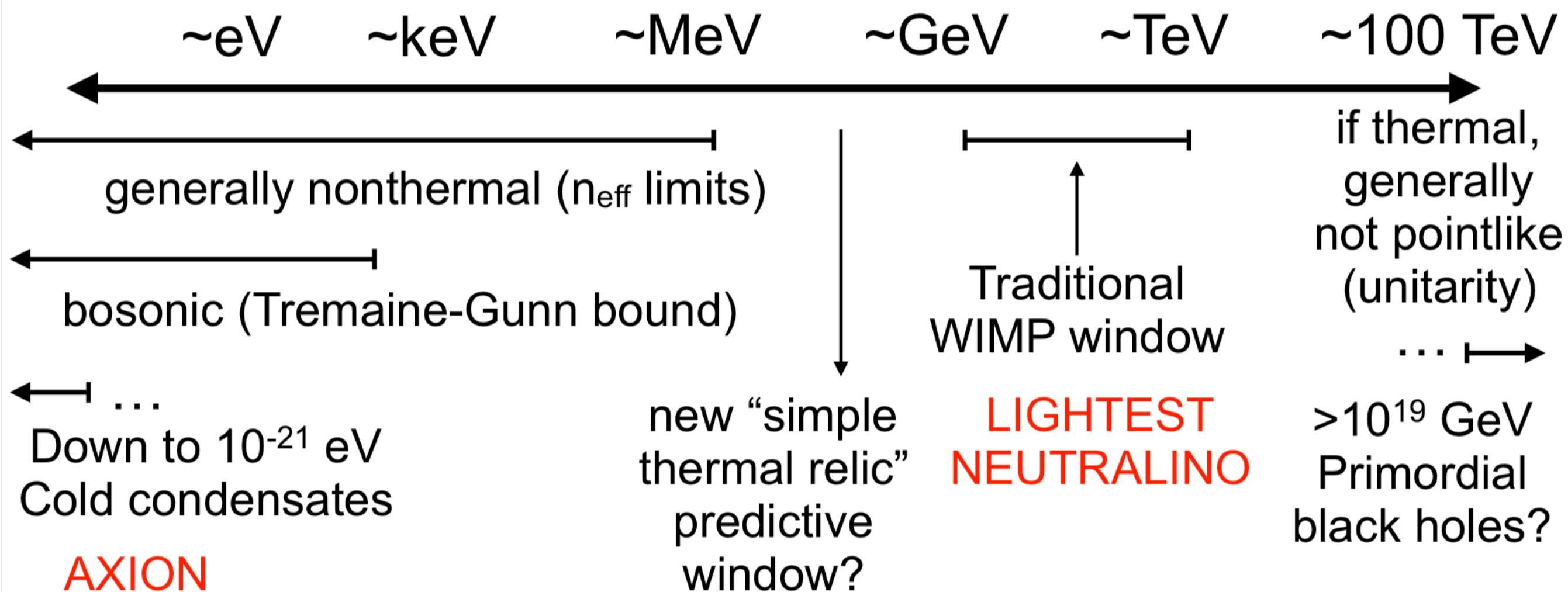
# To the neutrino floor... ...and beyond...



Walter M. Bonivento, INFN Cagliari, Italy

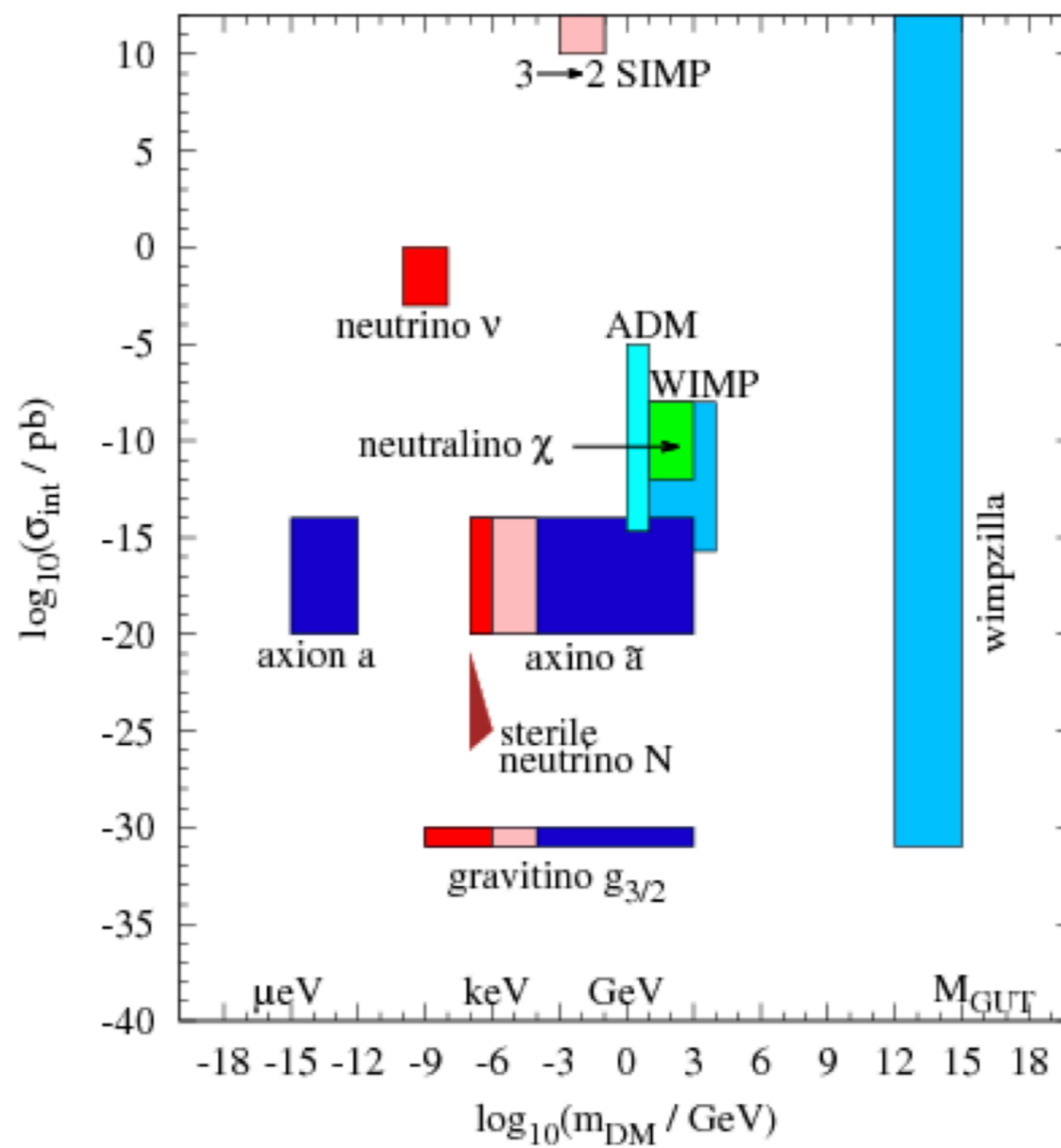
**Low Mass DM searches  
in underground labs**

# Dark matter mass scales





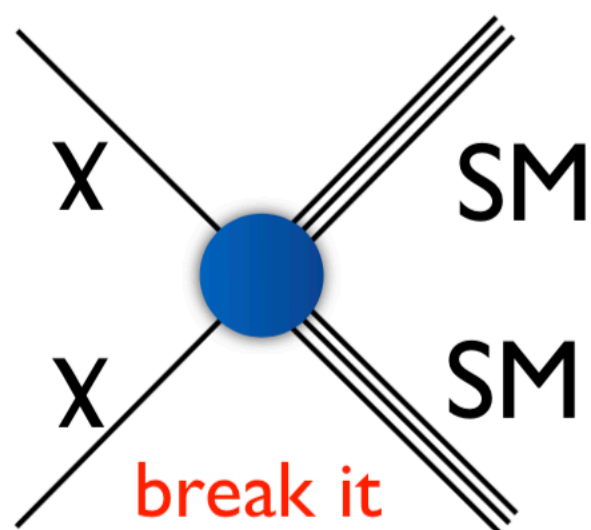
Baer et al. 2014



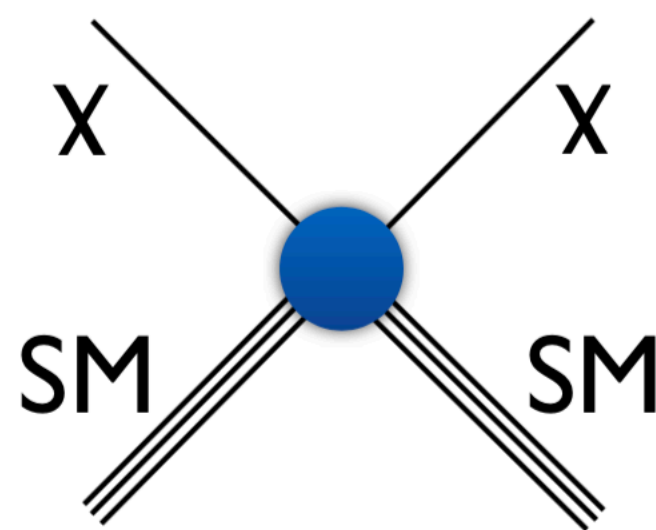
# you are free to choose your preferred one...



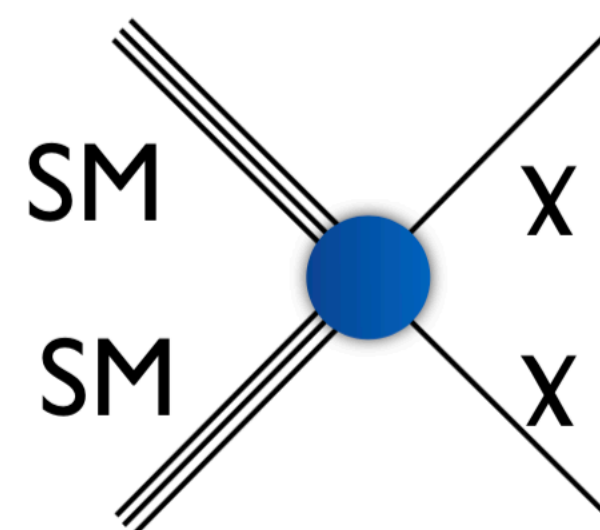
# WIMP searches



Indirect detection



Direct detection

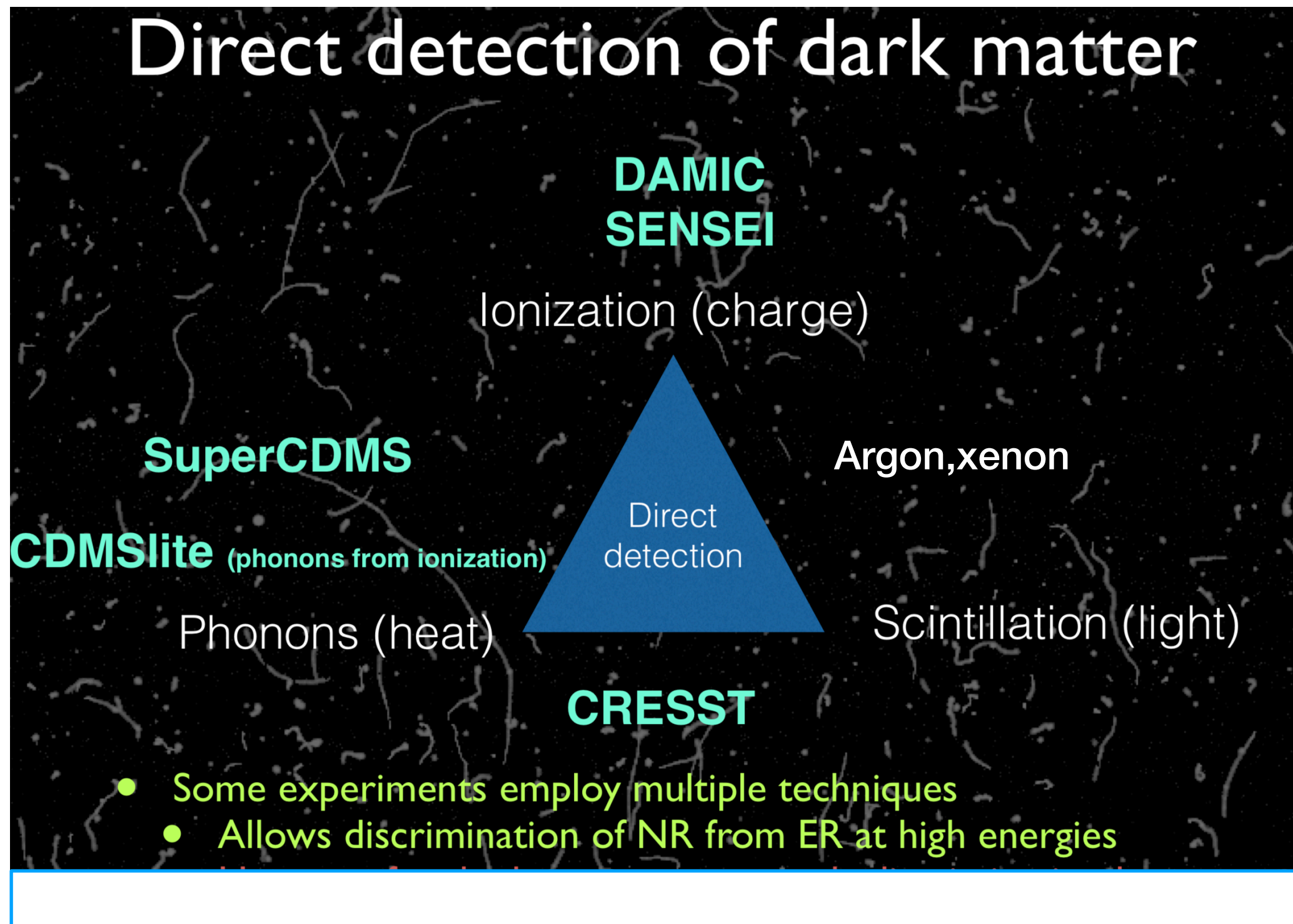


Collider

→  
Time

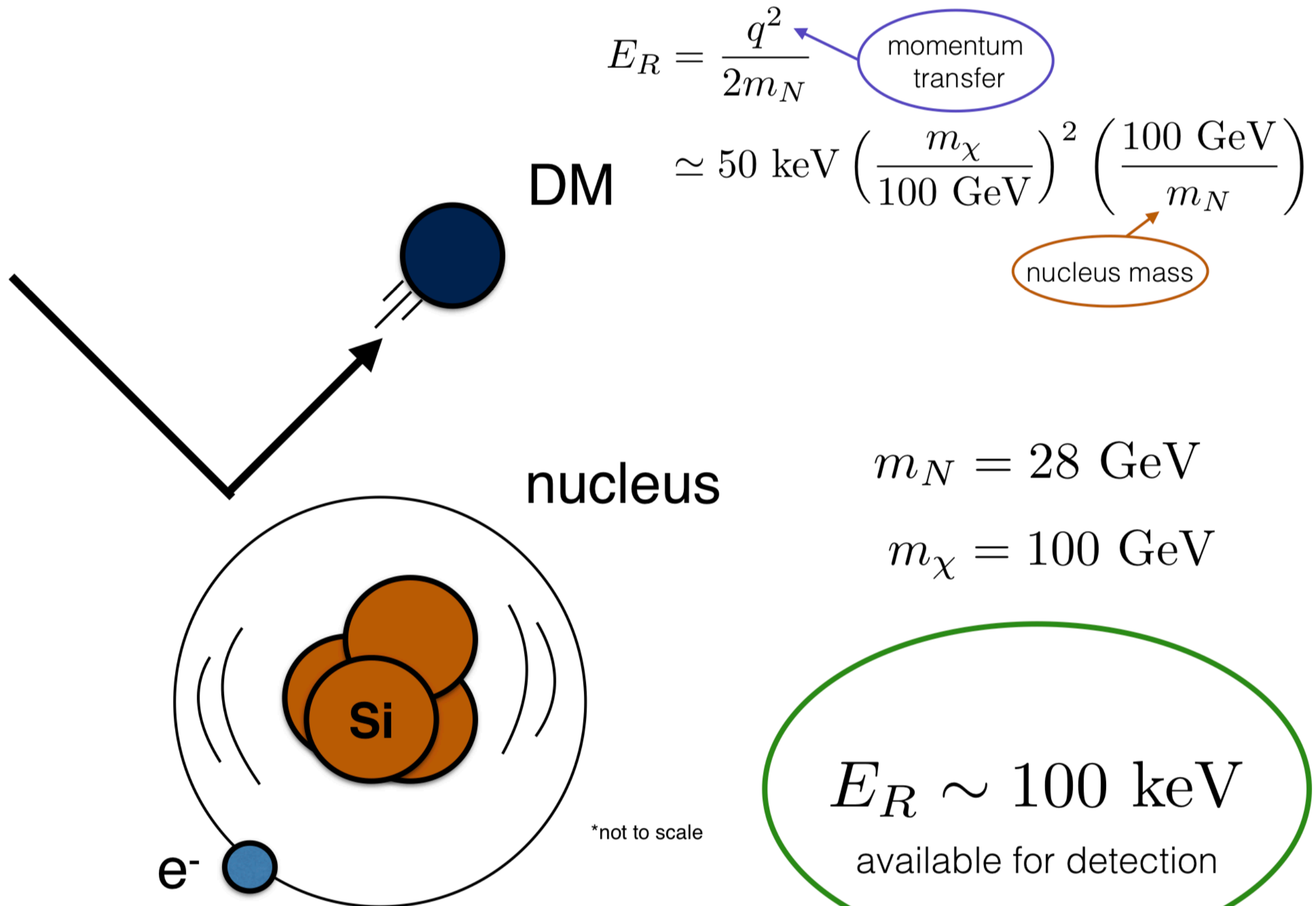


# The triangle of WIMP detection

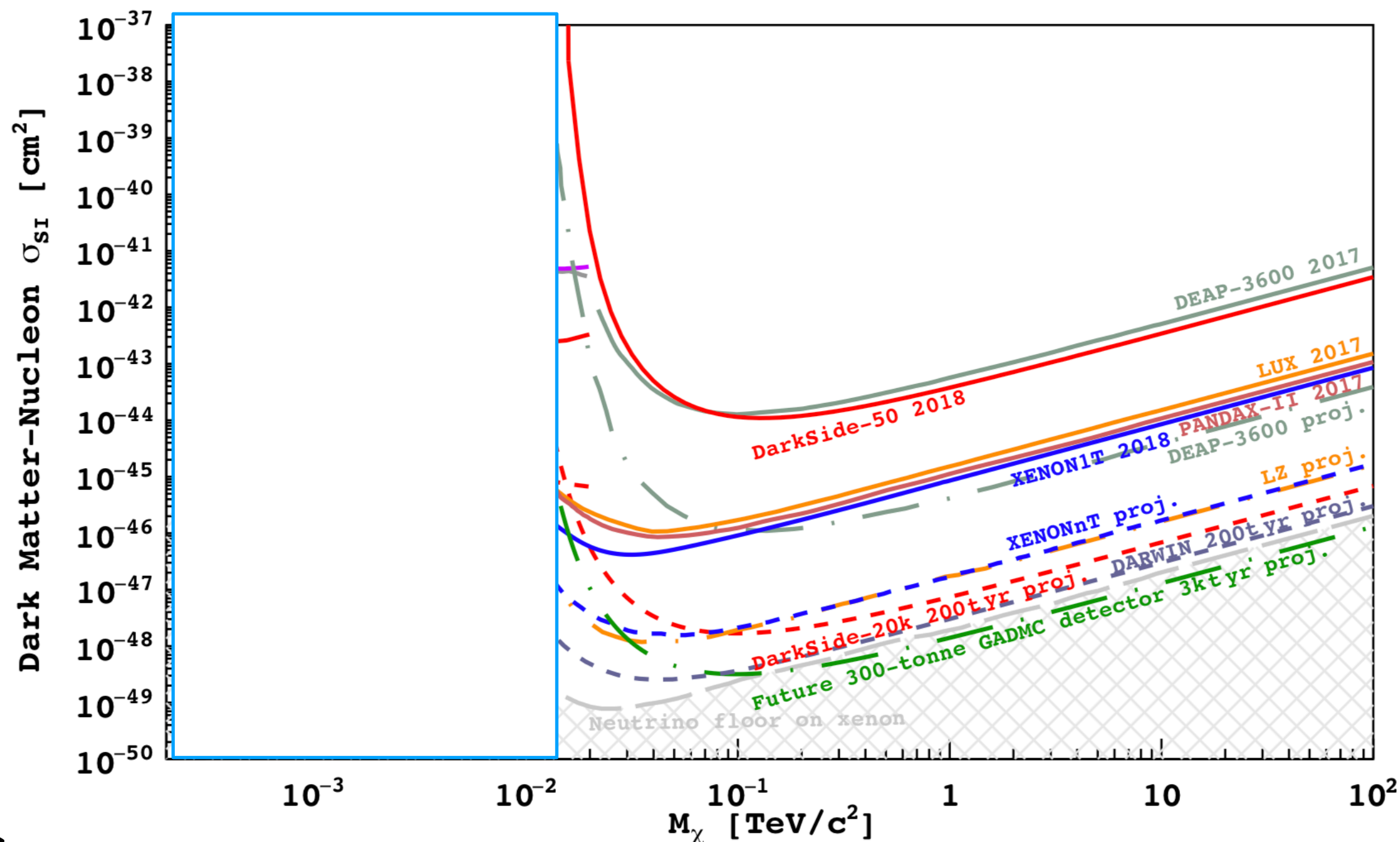


# The high mass searches





# High mass status and prospects



A “real” bottom level for DM searches, since CENNS is really indistinguishable from WIMP scattering.

“Real” after the discovery of CENNS by COHERENT at ORNLL

At low masses it is dominated by solar neutrinos ( $^8\text{B}$ ). The floor comes from the uncertainty on fluxes and CENNS cross sections. At best it will be a few %.

Could go lower by directional techniques, but those developed so far (mostly at low DM mass) have little mass (gas detectors, emulsions, carbon nano-tubes), while to go beyond the neutrino floor one needs large detector mass (exposures).

At present it is not something to worry about. It will be in the future. Some techniques may overcome the others since the floor depends on the material.

# The low mass searches

$$E_R = \frac{q^2}{2m_N}$$

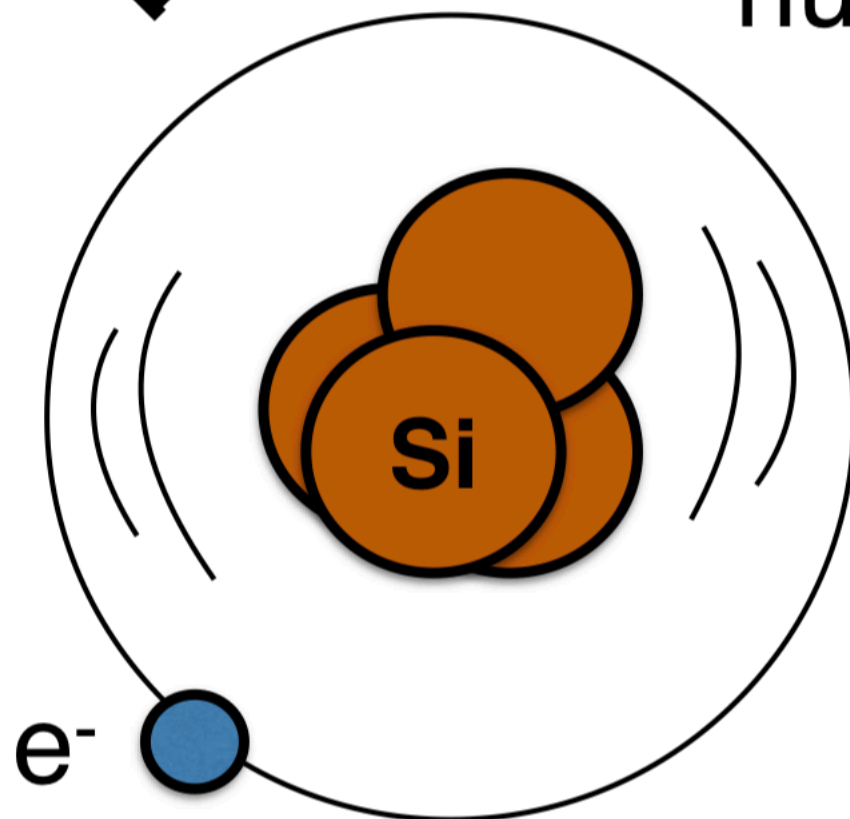
momentum transfer

$$\simeq 50 \text{ keV} \left( \frac{m_\chi}{100 \text{ GeV}} \right)^2 \left( \frac{100 \text{ GeV}}{m_N} \right)$$

nucleus mass

DM

nucleus



\*not to scale

$$m_N = 28 \text{ GeV}$$

$$m_\chi = 100 \text{ MeV}$$

$$E_R \sim 0.1 \text{ eV}$$

available for detection



# detecting sub-GeV DM in 2 easy steps

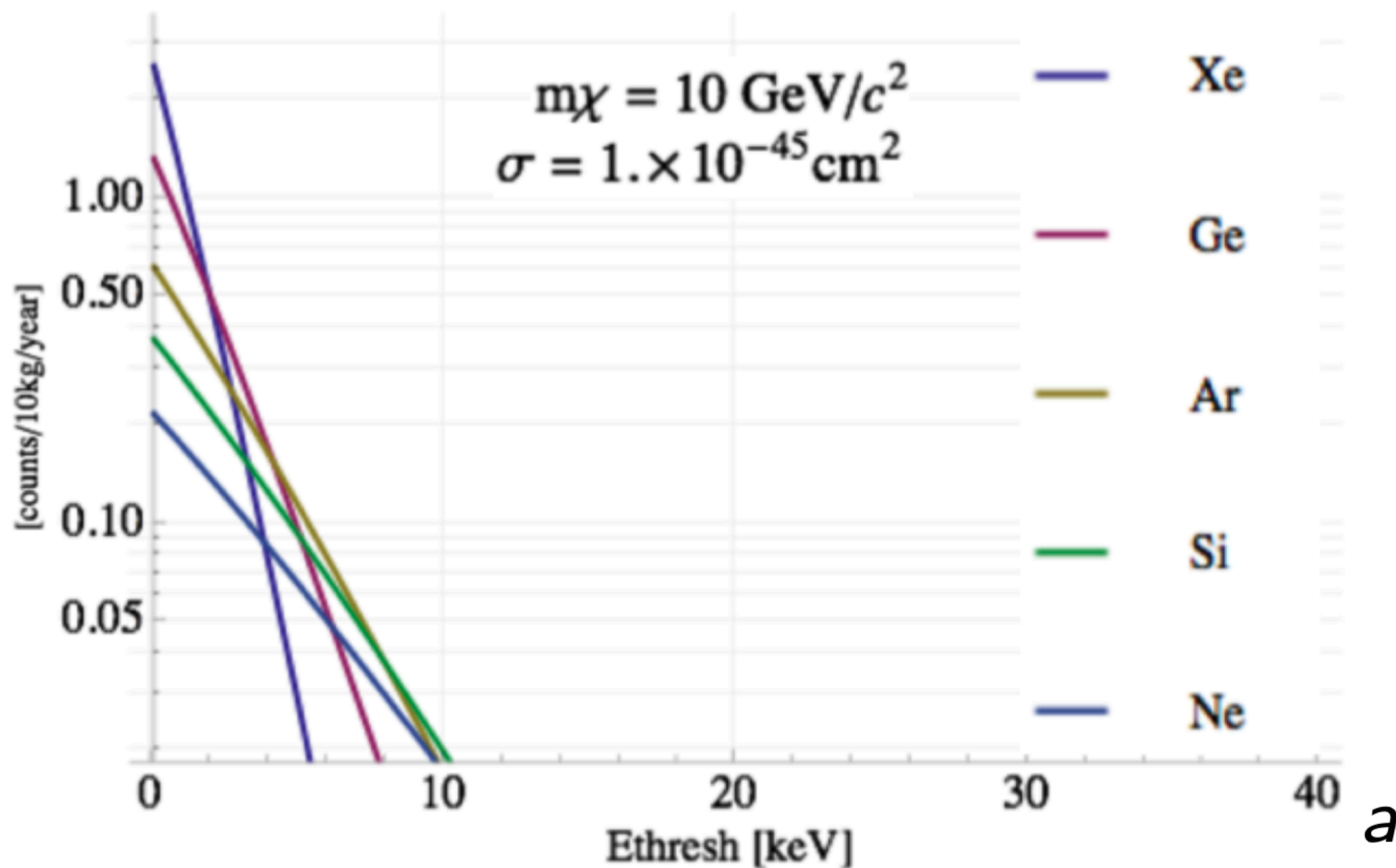
1. decrease energy threshold or increase sensitivity

***consider a variety of materials***

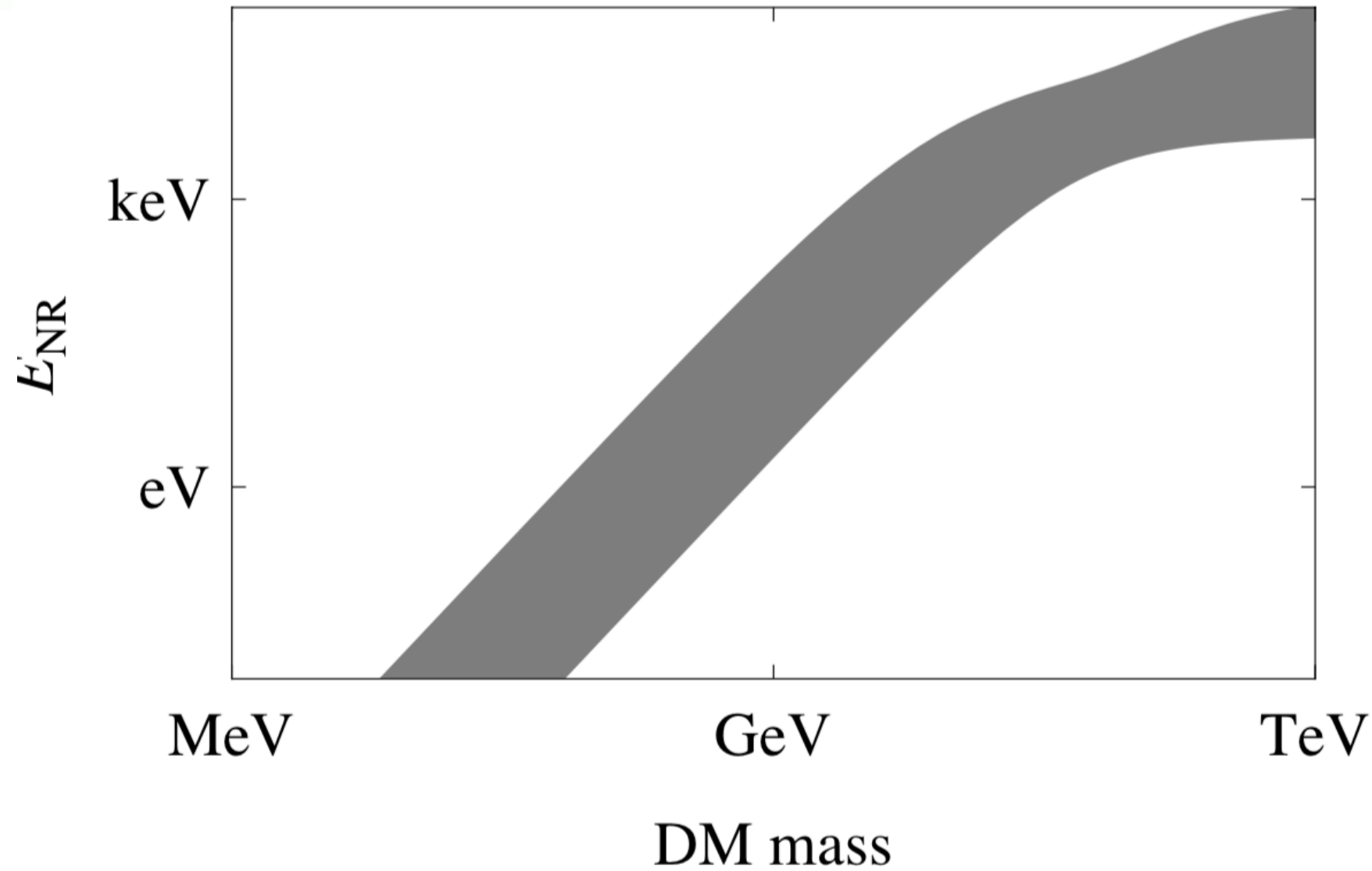
2. increase amount of detectable energy

***consider different physical processes***

# Recoil spectra



<sup>a</sup>Mirabolfathi - arXiv:1308.0044



Exp	$E_{th} \text{ (keV}_{NR})$	Ref
<b>LUX</b>	$\sim 3$	1512.03506
<b>DAMIC</b>	$\sim 0.5$	1510.00044
<b>CDMSlite</b>	$\sim 0.3$	1509.02448
<b>CRESST-II</b>	$\sim 0.3$	1509.01515

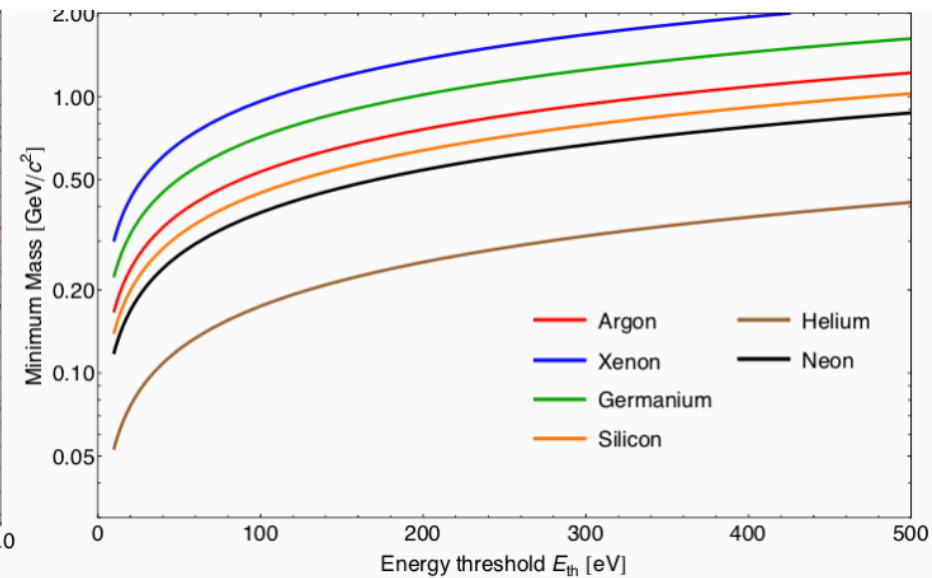
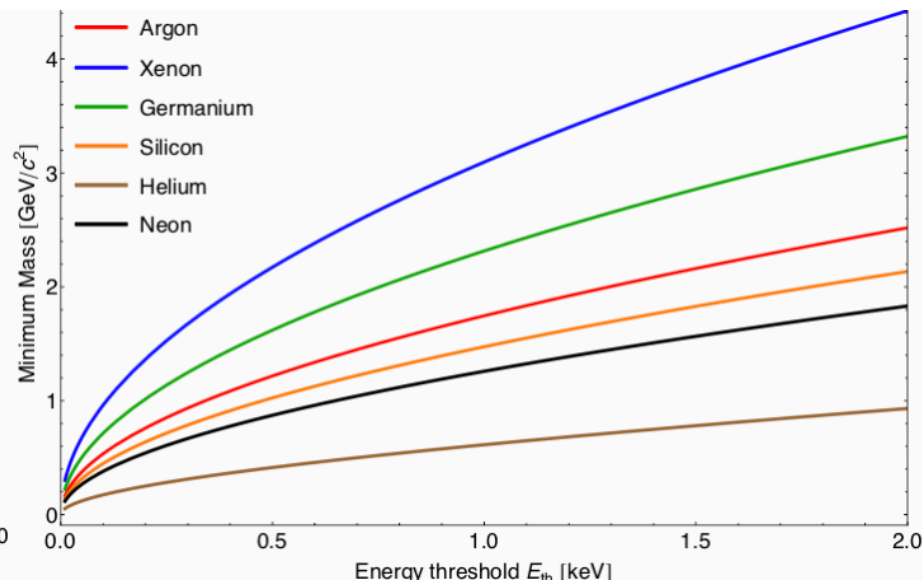
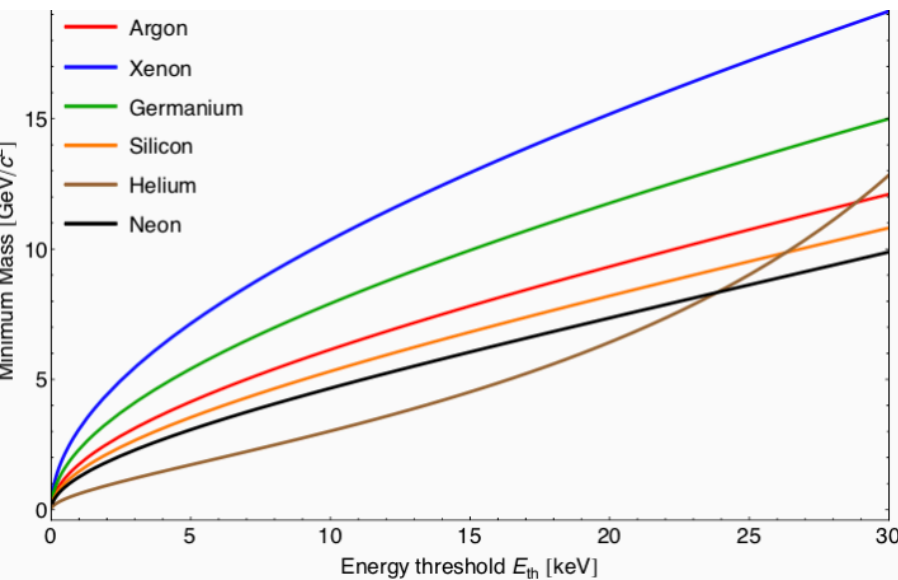
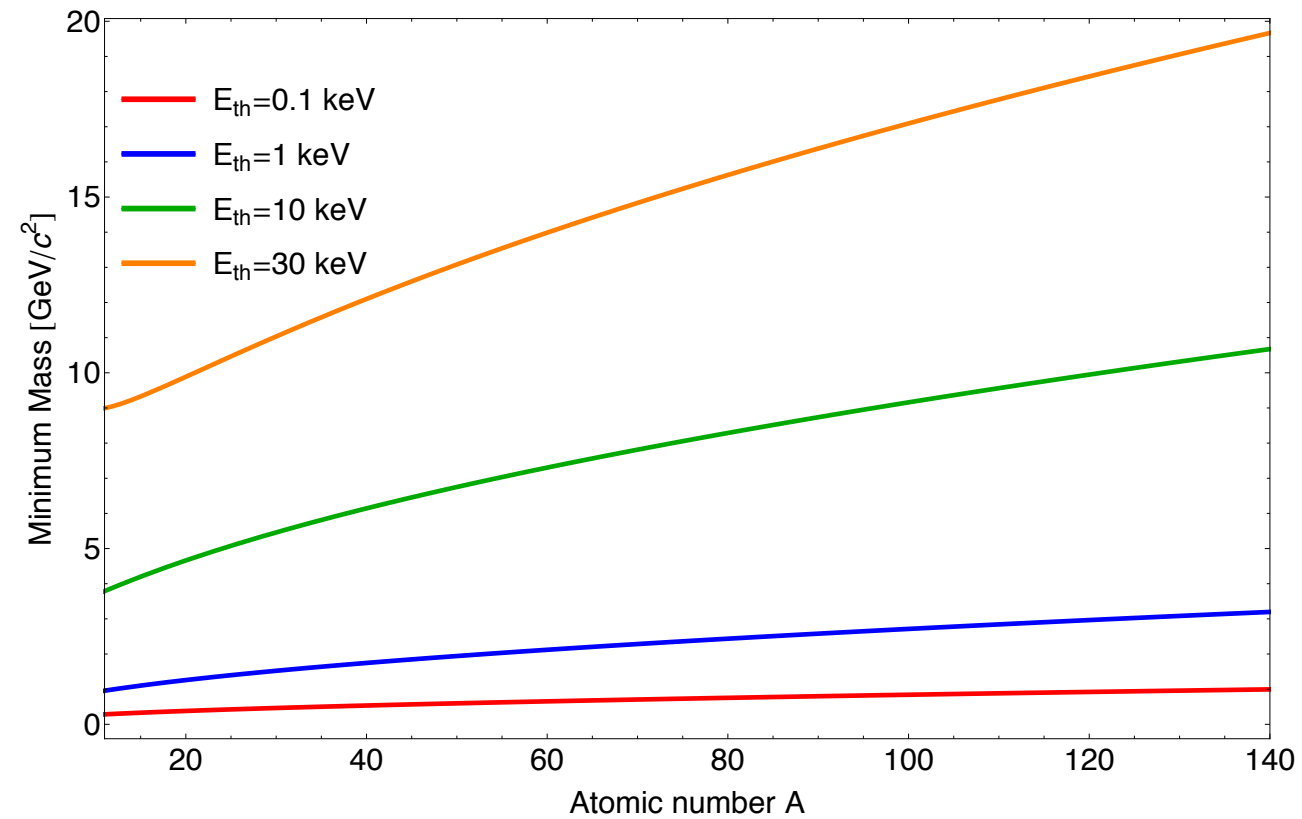
SuperCDMS  $\rightarrow 40\text{eV}$  in prospect

CRESST-III  $30\text{eV} \rightarrow 10\text{eV}$  in prospect

DARKSIDE 50

0.6

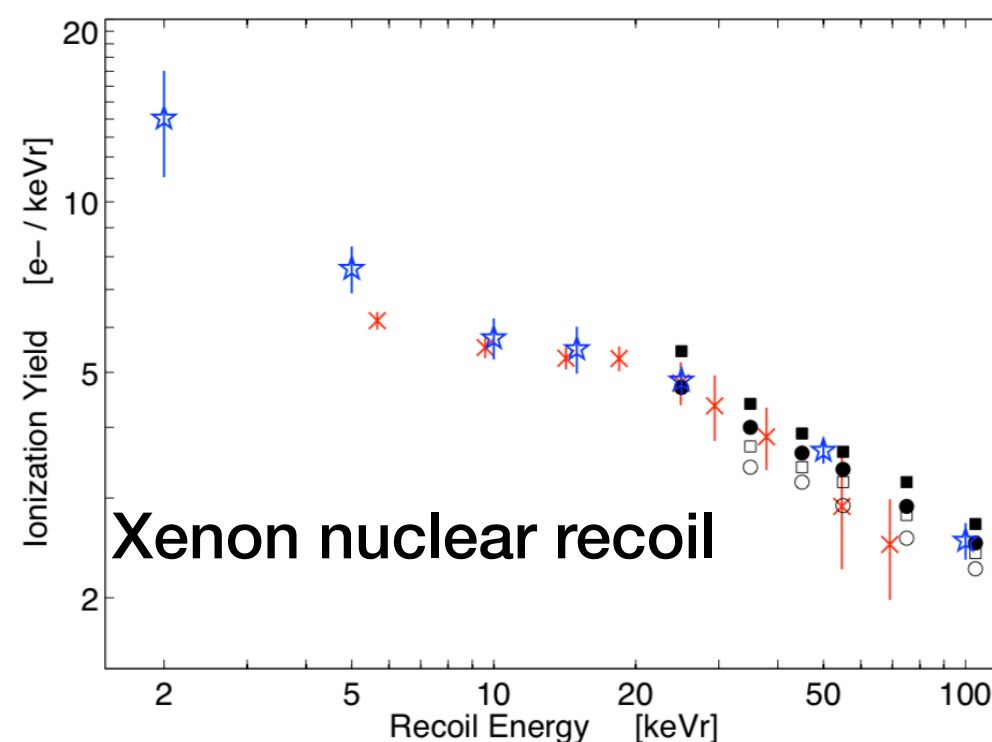
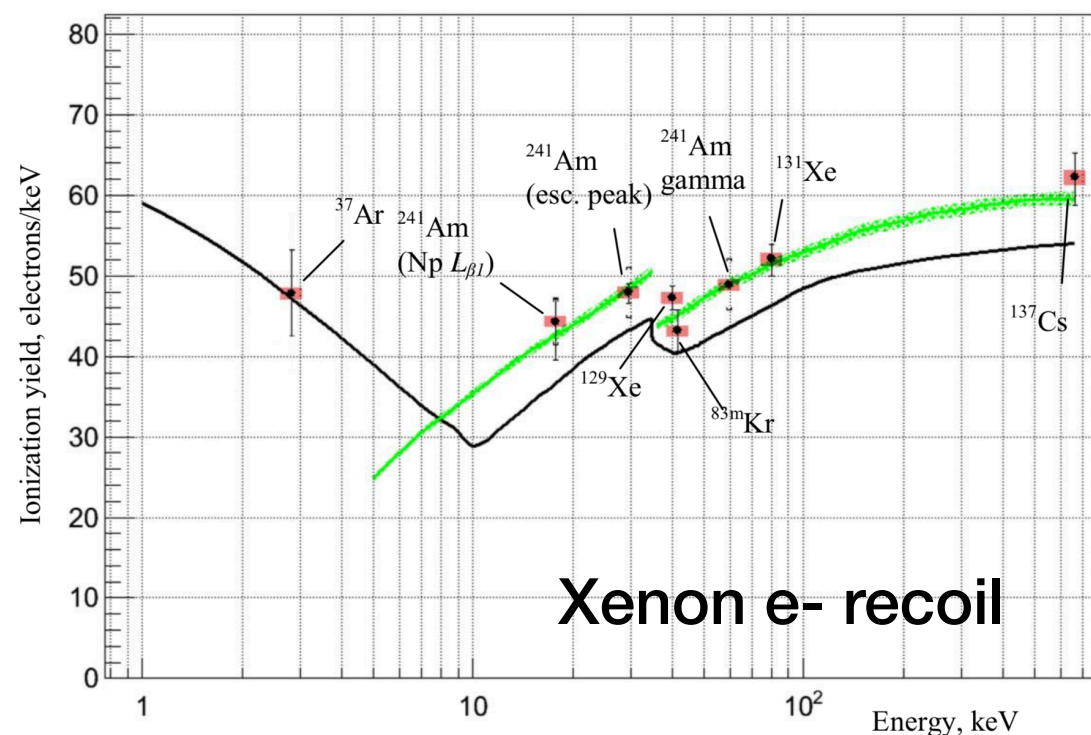
# Thresholds vs minimum DM mass





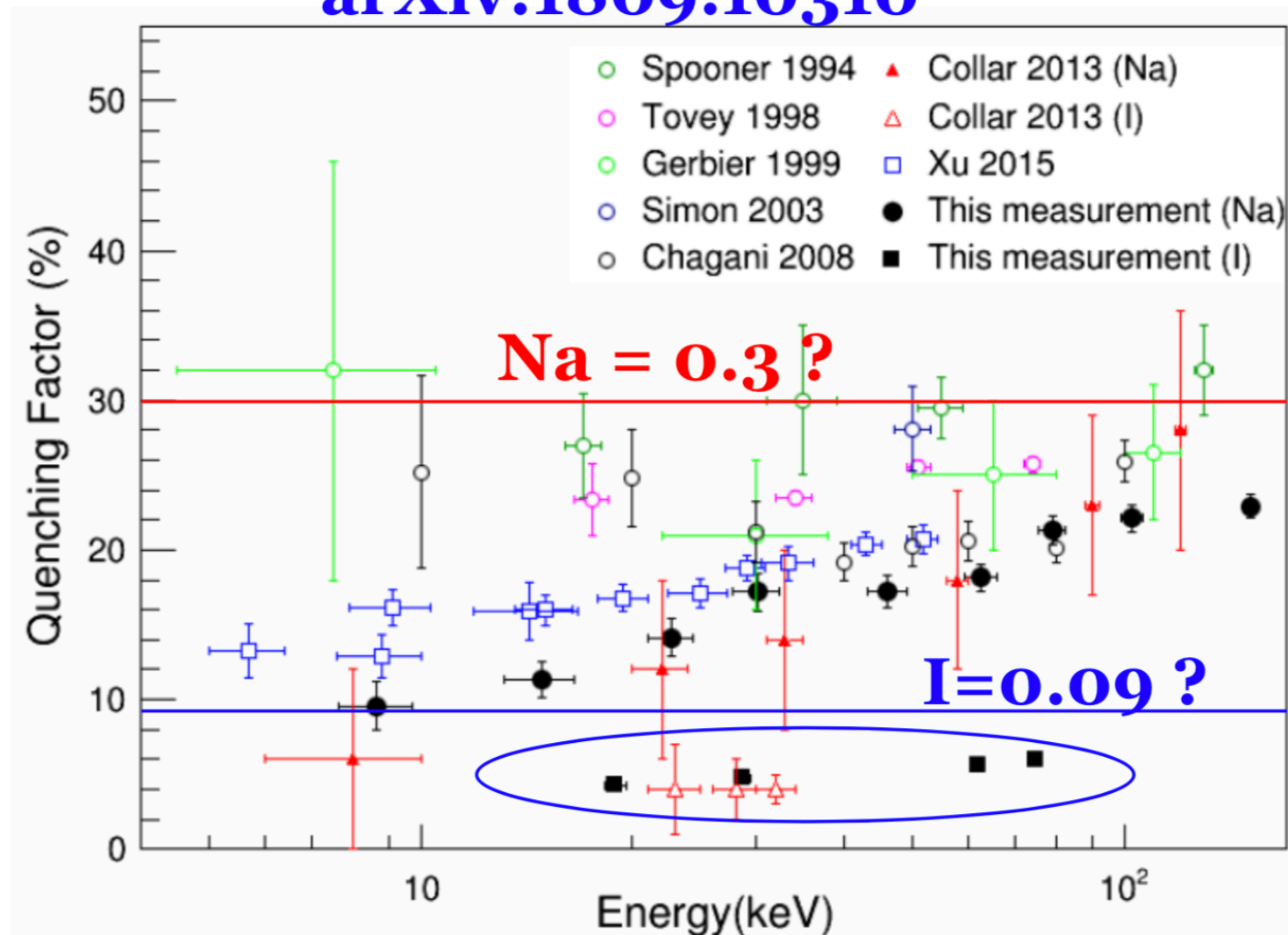


# Issues a): ionisation response calibration



# Issues a): scintillation response calibration; nuclear quenching!

arXiv:1809.10310



Very difficult measurements, in particular at low energies, that require real side experiments that last for years!

# Issues b):

## background suppression

Backgrounds to DM searches are:

- cosmogenic activation or n-induced (not really direct cosmic rays) —> going underground
- radiogenic (material radioactivity)
  - shielding
  - material screening (experiments in the experiments)

For the low mass DM searches the particle id capabilities are generally lost (due to the low recoil energy)

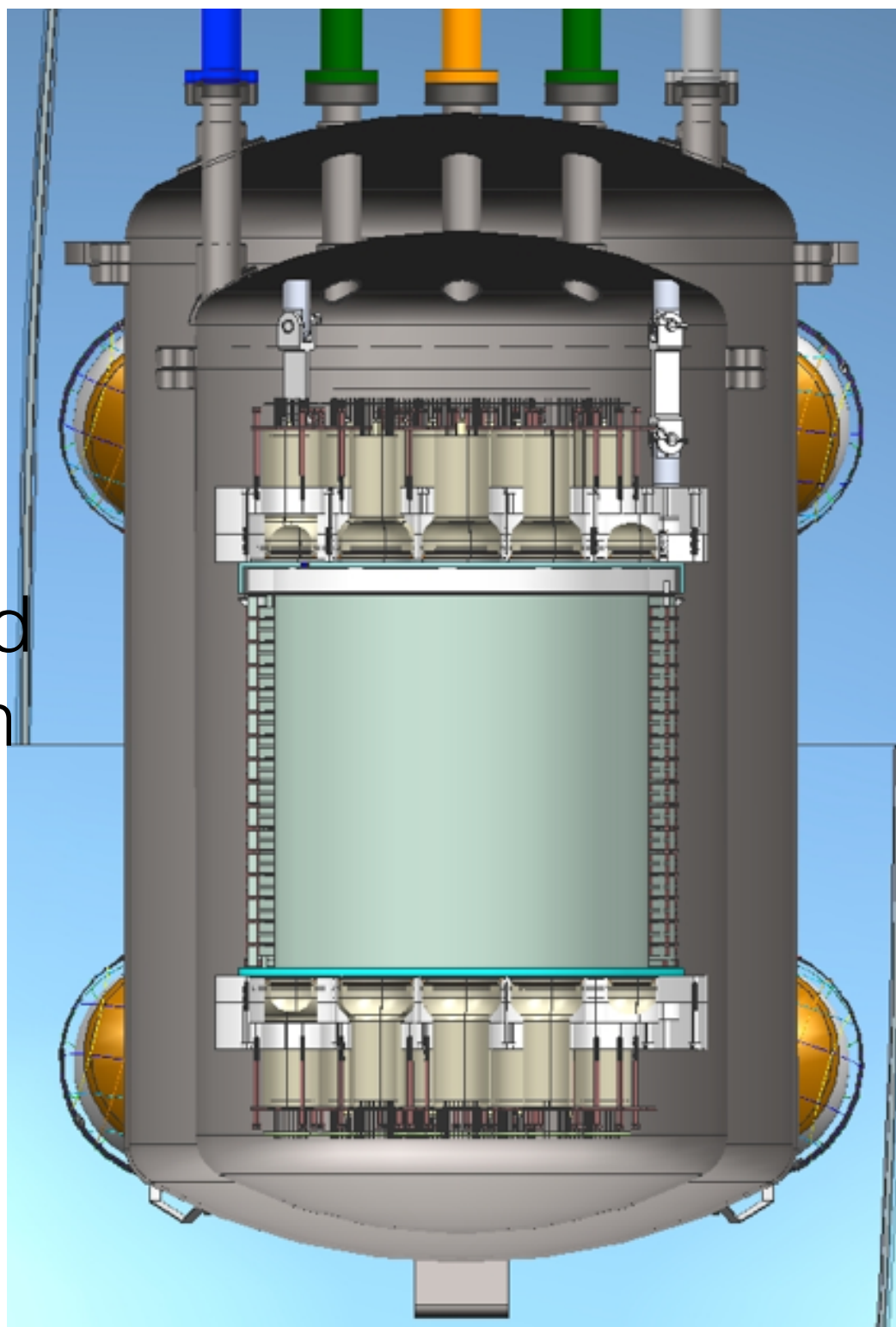
Therefore the dominant backgrounds are by far the electron recoils (e.g.  $^{40}\text{K}$  in NaI crystals)

New backgrounds appear that are not present at high masses:

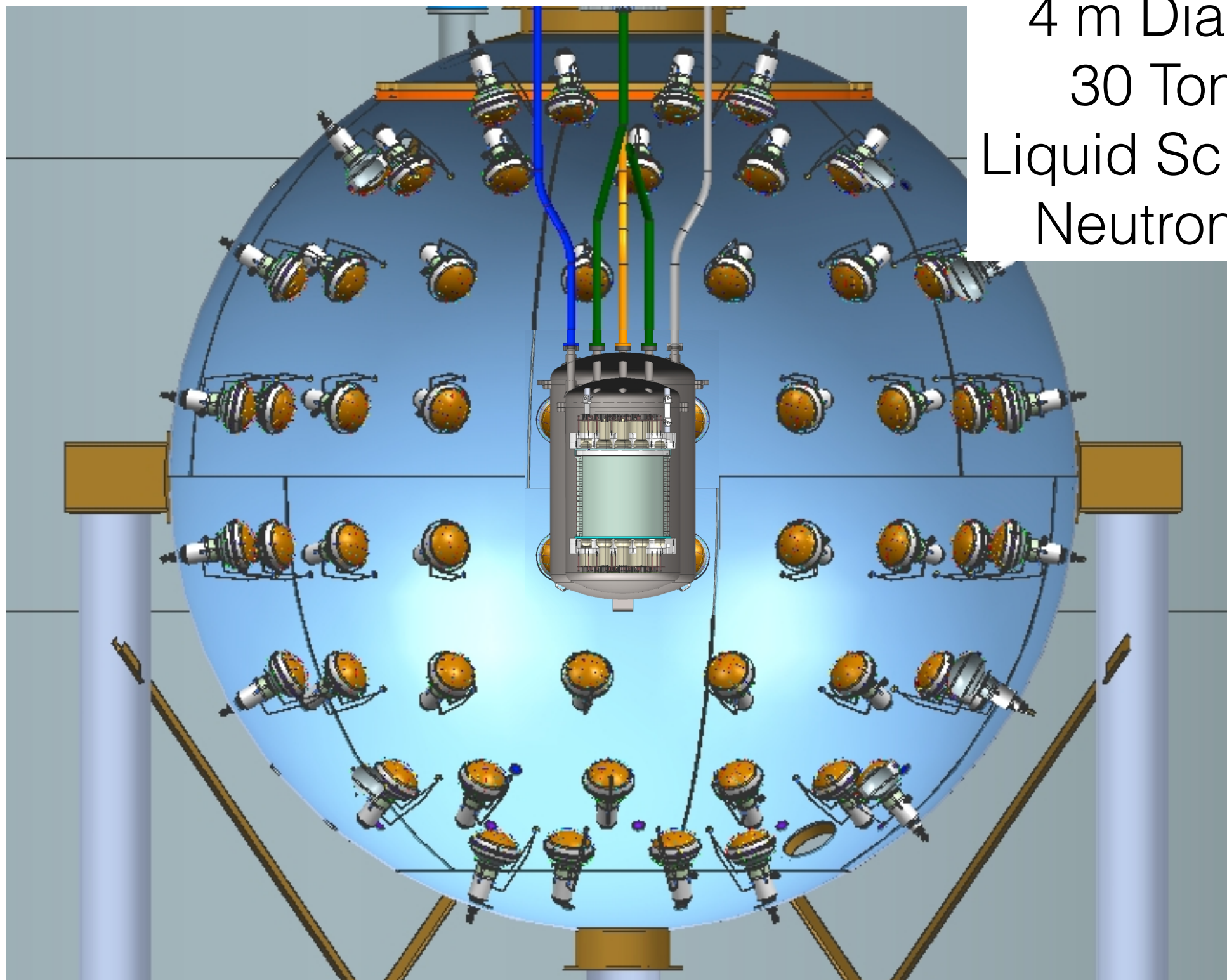
- single electrons trapped (noble liquids)
- unknown stuff (e.g. CRESST-III)

# Setting the stage: DarkSide-50 results

Liquid Argon TPC  
153 kg  $^{39}\text{Ar}$ -Depleted  
Underground Argon  
Target

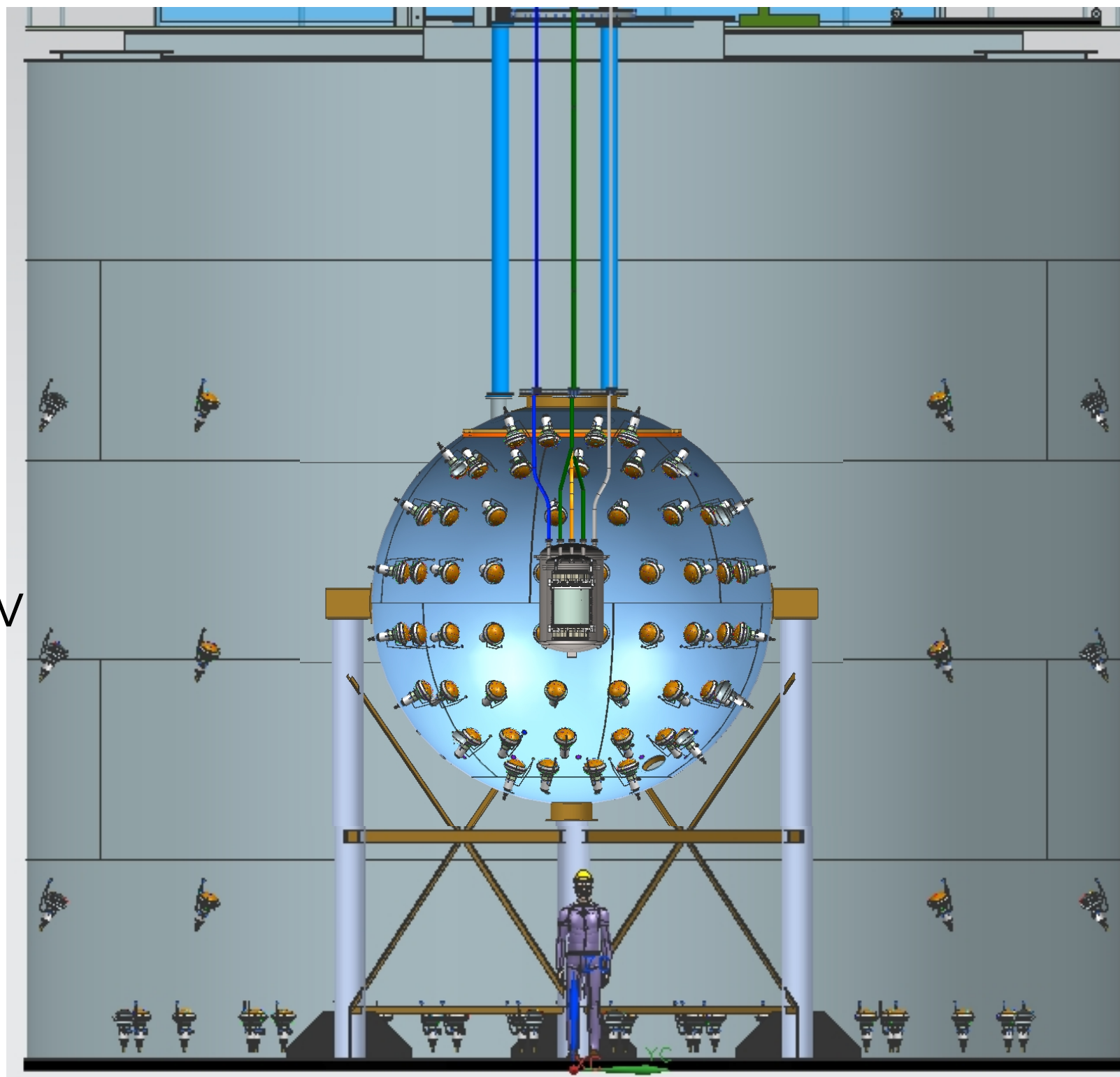






4 m Diameter  
30 Tonnes  
Liquid Scintillator  
Neutron Veto

10 m Height  
11 m Diameter  
1,000 Tonnes  
Water Cherenkov  
Muon Veto

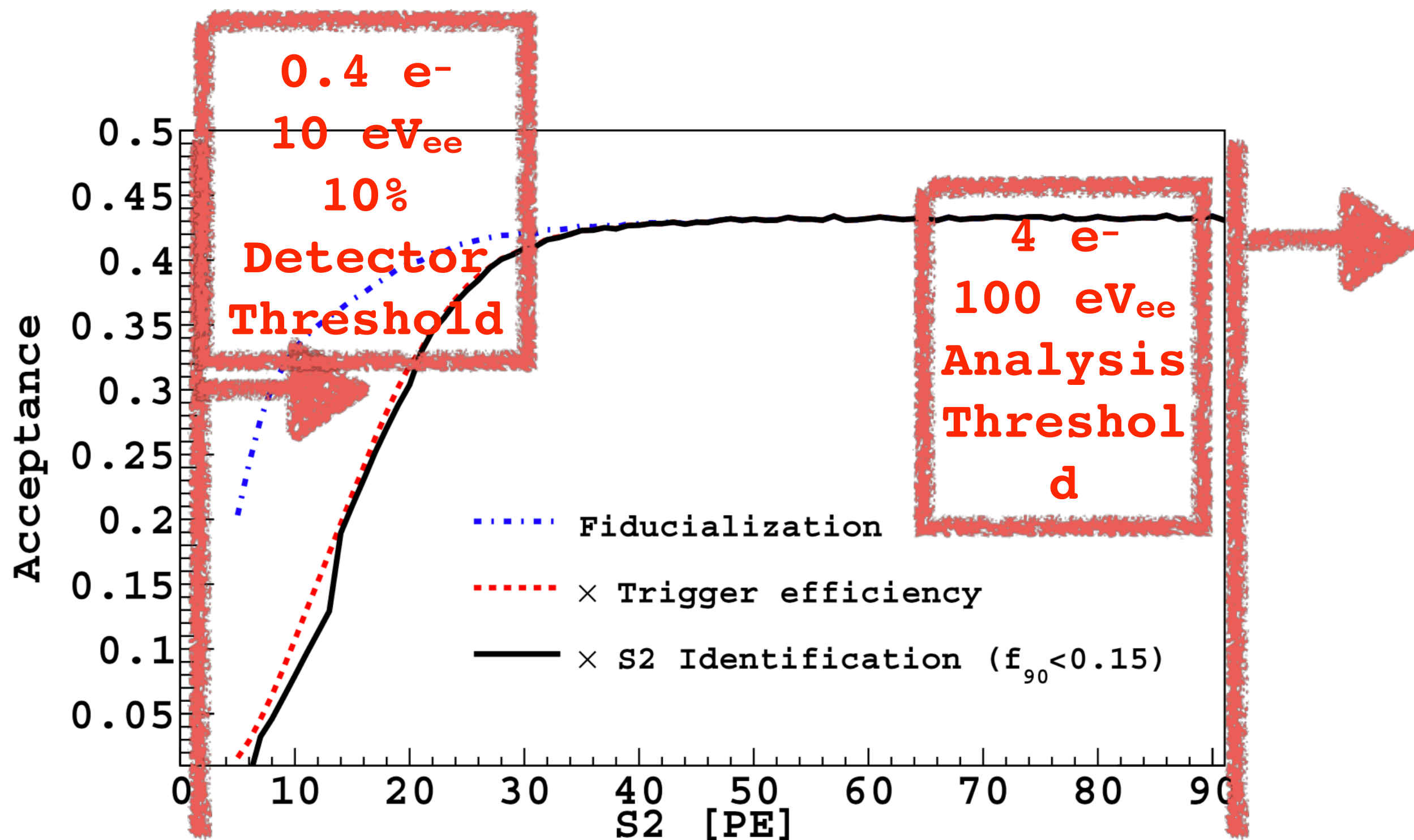


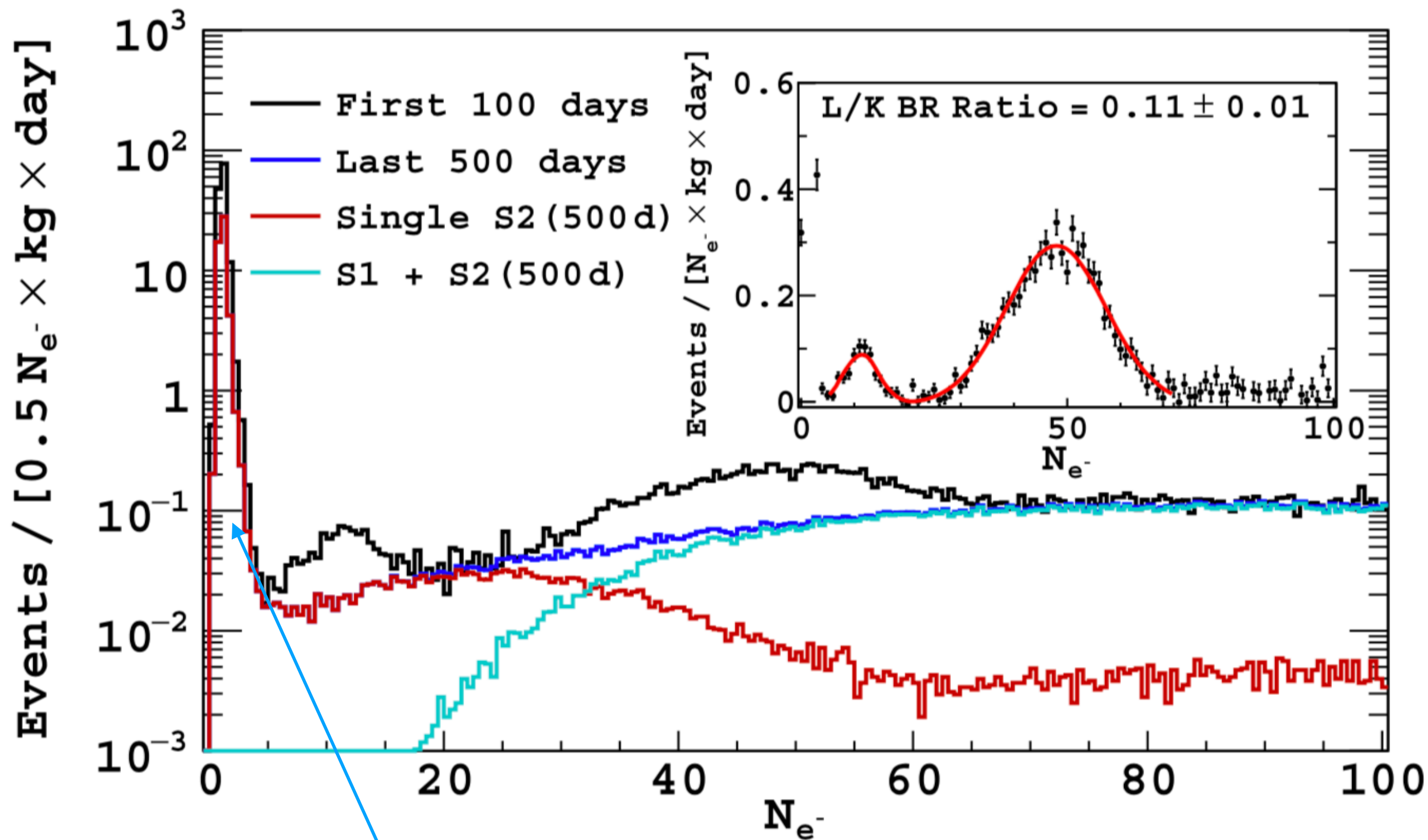






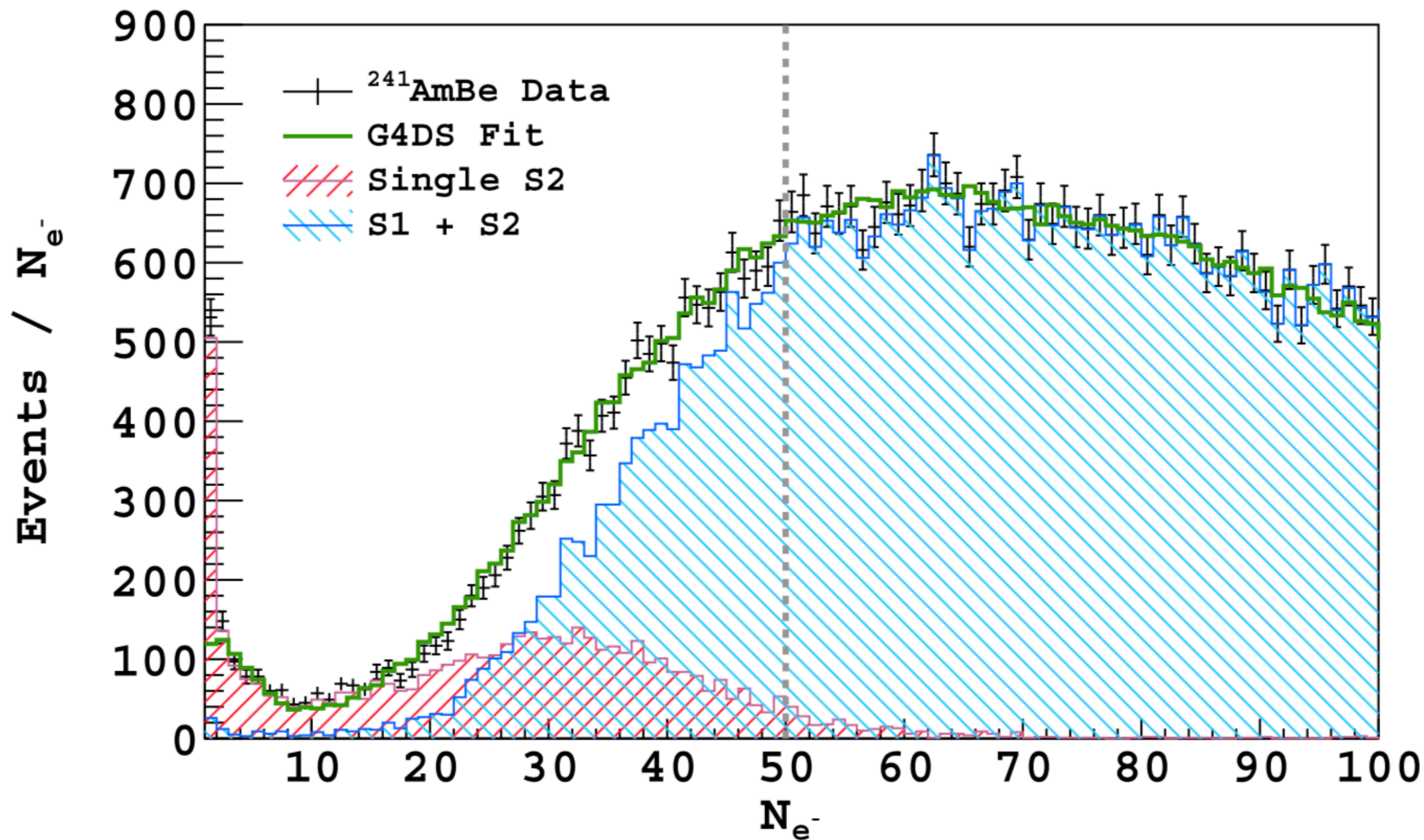
# DM-nucleon low-mass

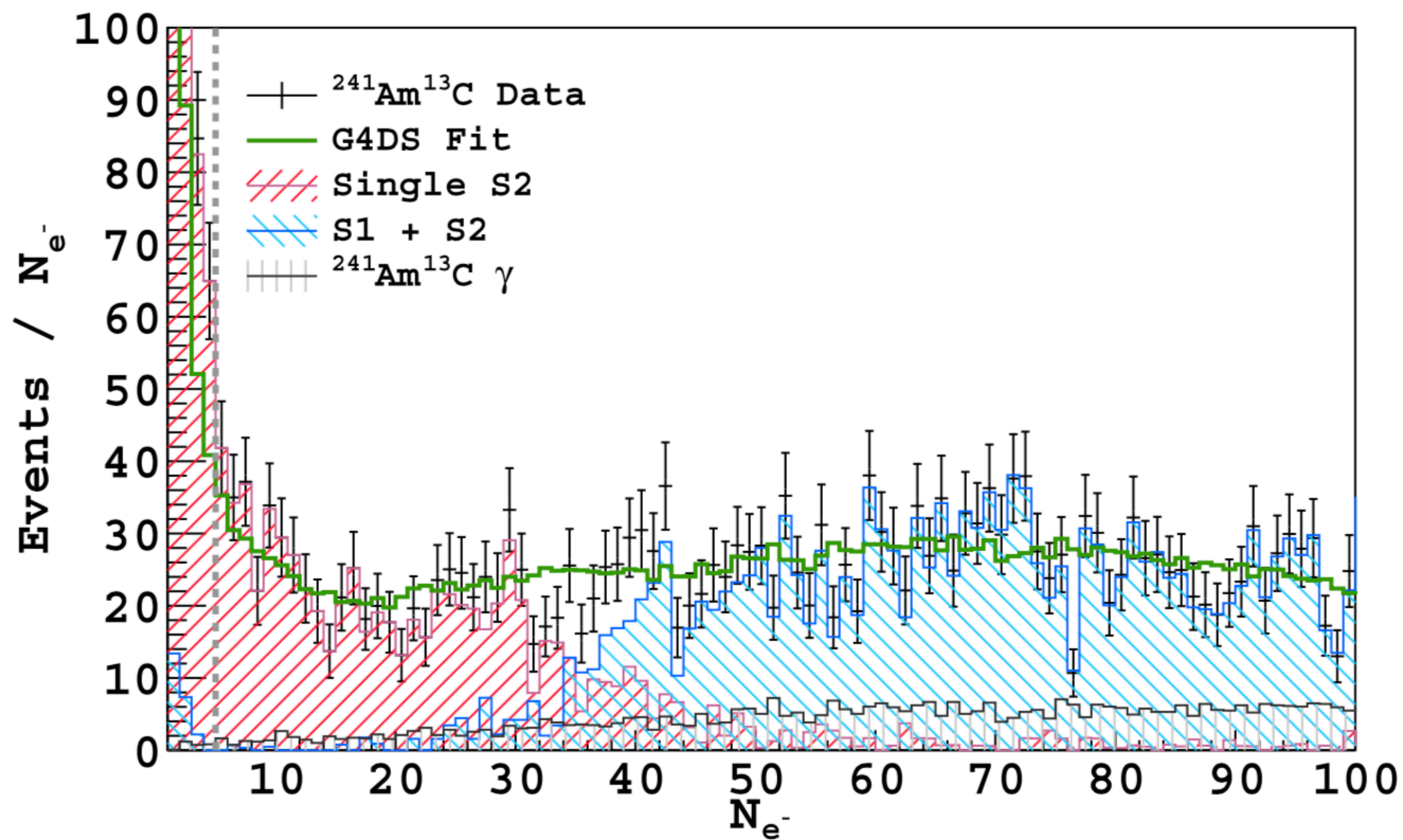


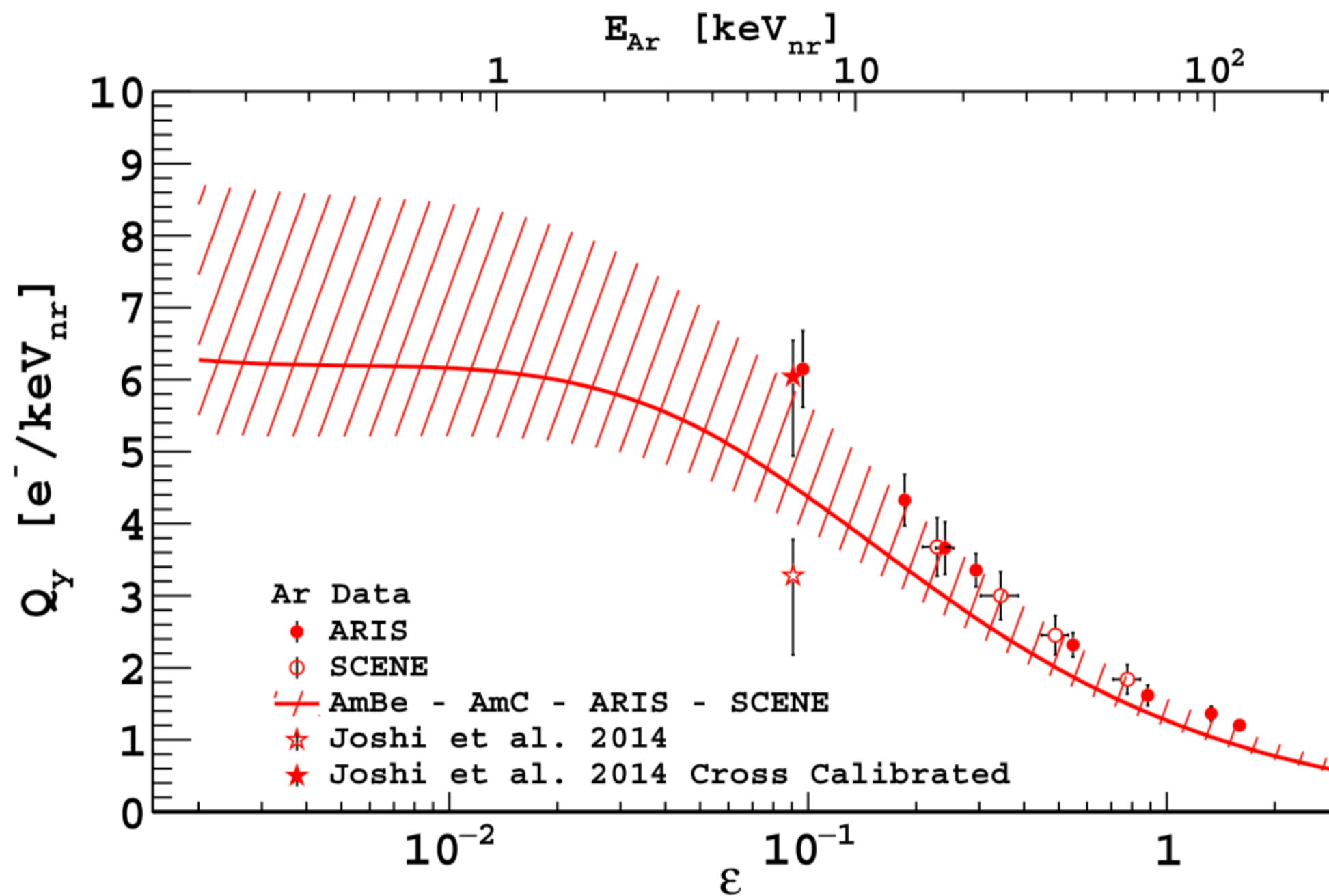


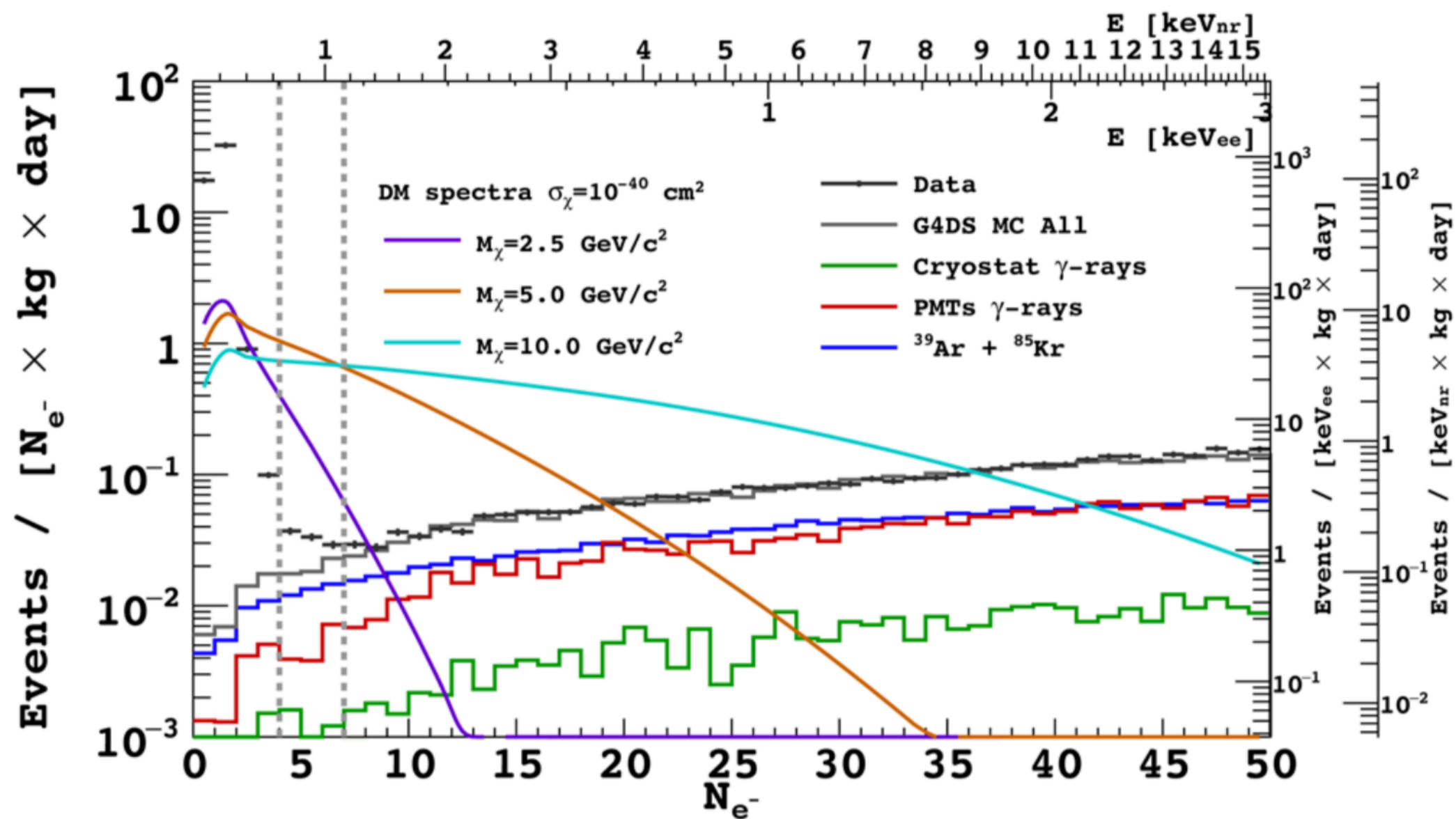
electrons trapped by impurities and late-released



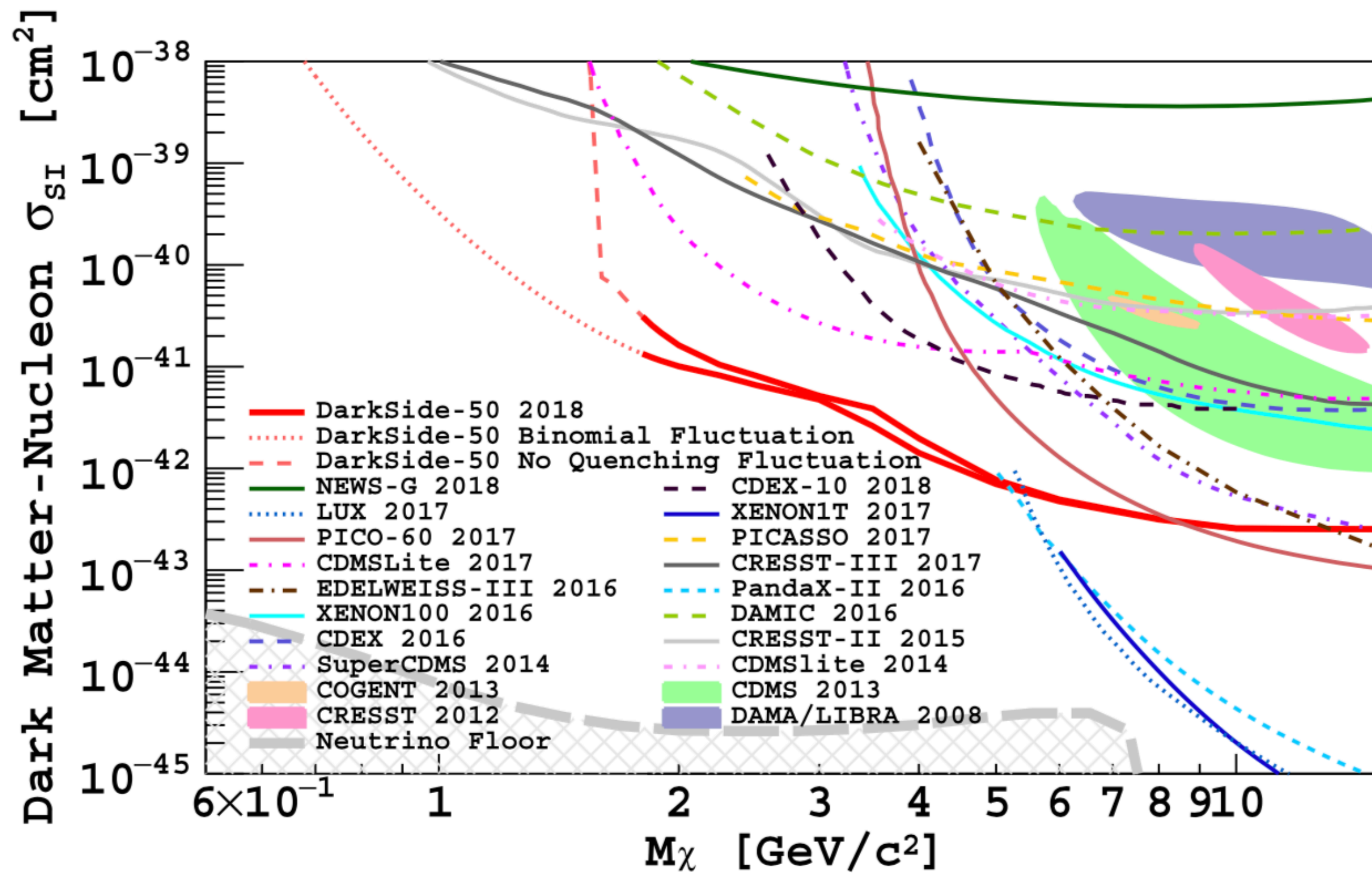








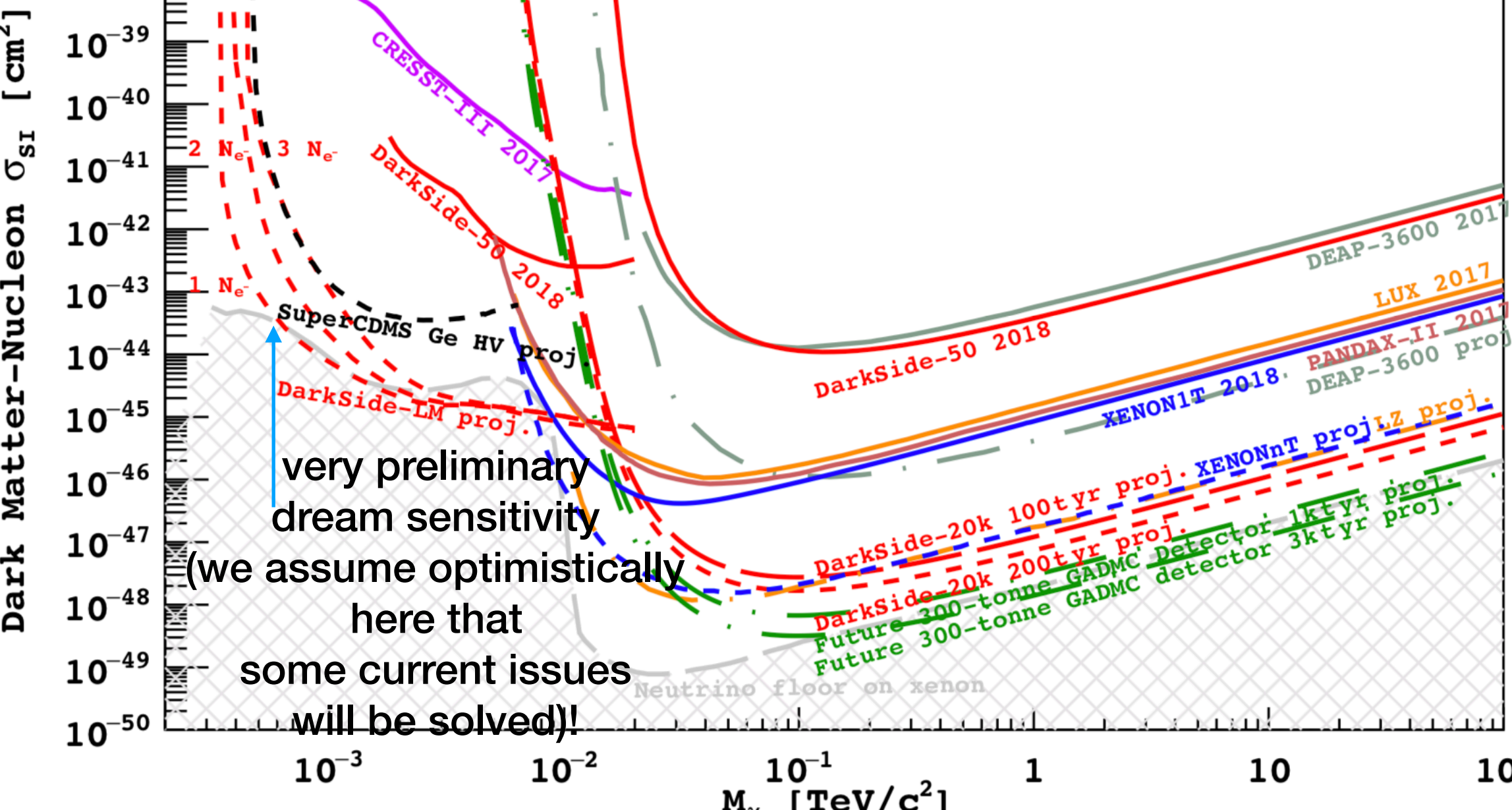


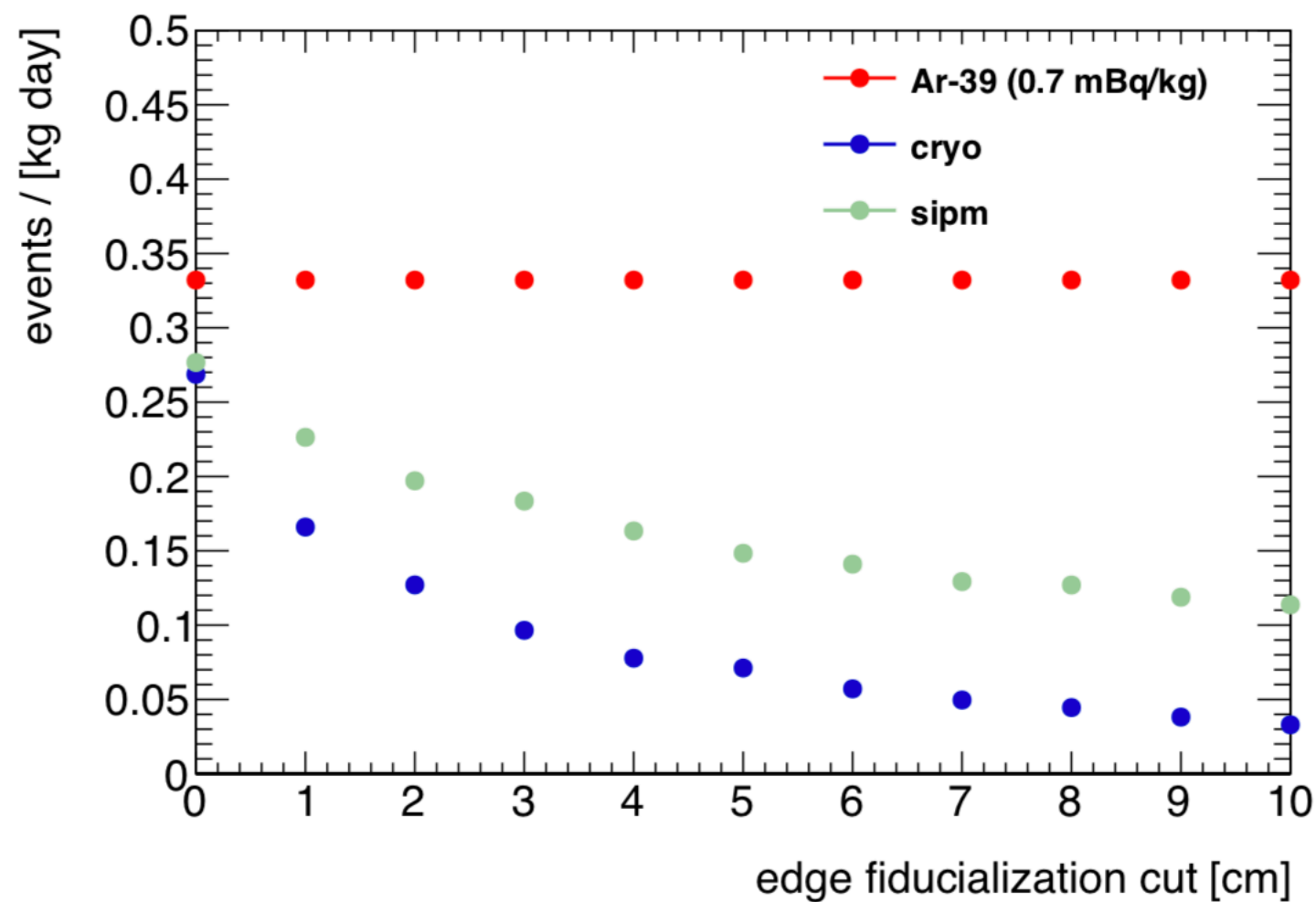




# DarkSide-LM

**Basic Research Needs Workshop on Dark Matter Small Projects  
New Initiatives October 15 – 18, 2018**





To be compared to DS50

$^{39}\text{Ar} + ^{85}\text{Kr}$ : 1.75 ev/kg/day

cryo: 0.27 ev/kg/day

PMT: 1.57 ev/kg/day





## Two crucial technologies

*Liquid argon target depleted in the radioactive  $^{39}\text{Ar}$ , with respect to the 1Bq/Kg of the atmospheric argon (AAr)*

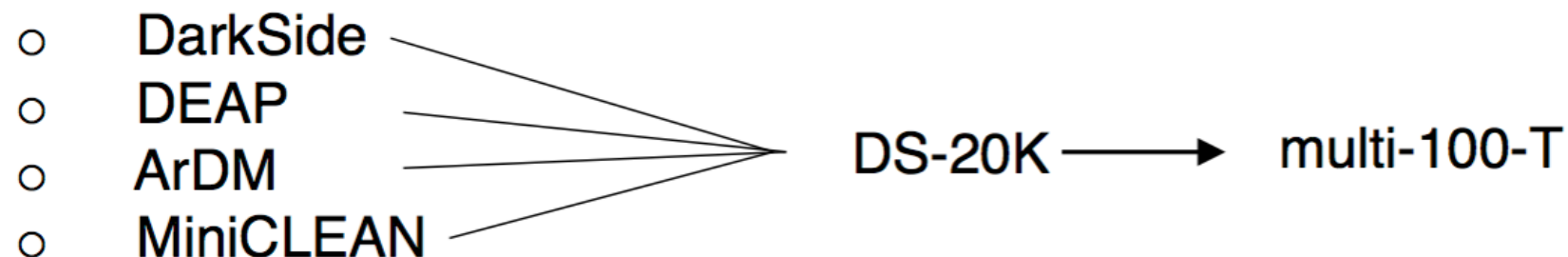
### Cryogenic SiPMs replacing PMTs

—> higher light yield (#PE/KeV), low cost for large areas, very low dark noise, very low radioactivity background (with radio-pure substrates), long term stability



## (New) Argon Collaboration

Researchers from

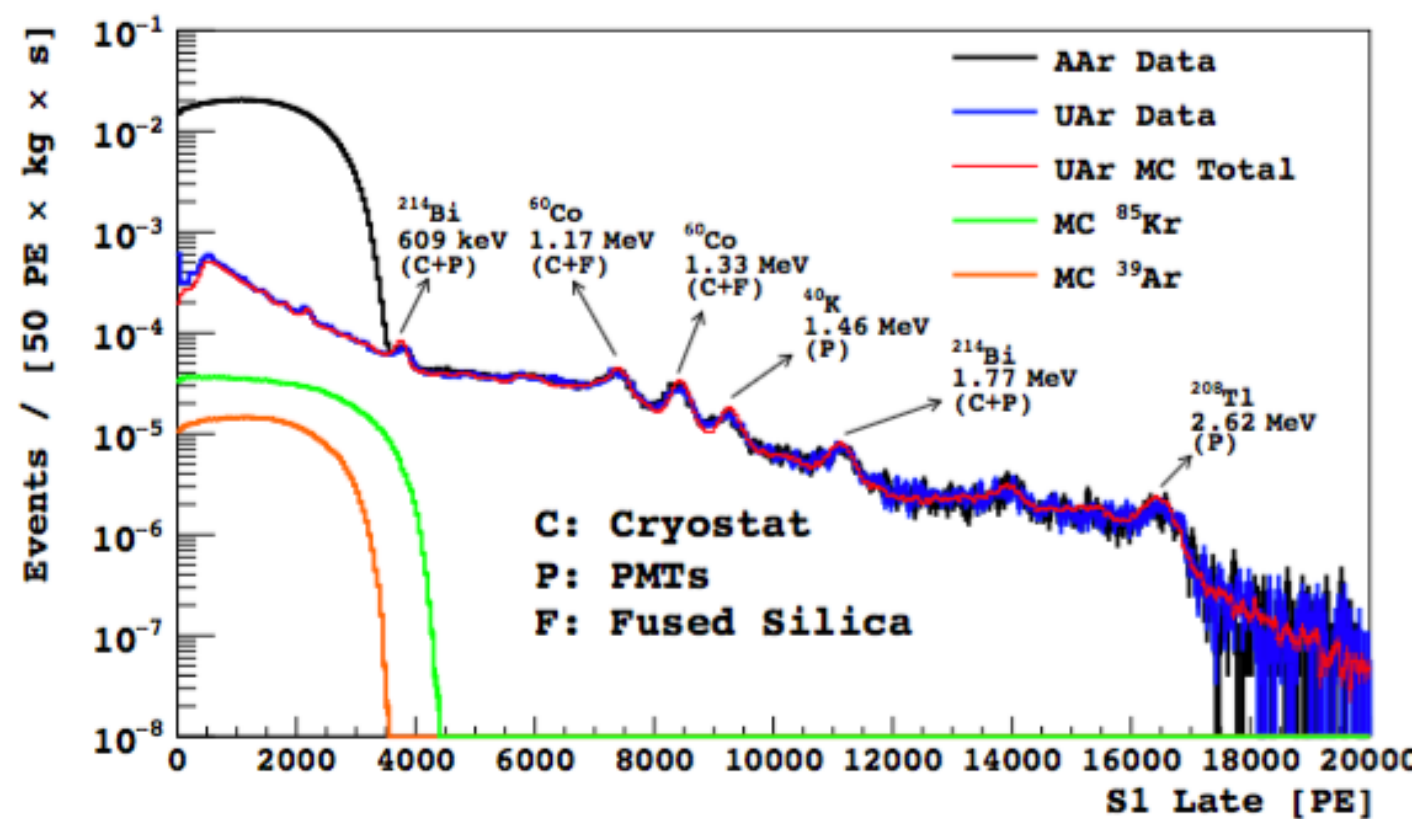


planning to collaborate on future program:

- Completion of current science and R&D programs by each collaboration (DS-50, DEAP-3600, MiniCLEAN, ArDM)
- Joint collaboration on DS-20K at LNGS, including Low Radioactivity Argon (operation starting 2021) and SiPM photodetectors
- Joint collaboration on future multi-hundred-tonne LAr detector, site TBD (mid-2020's)

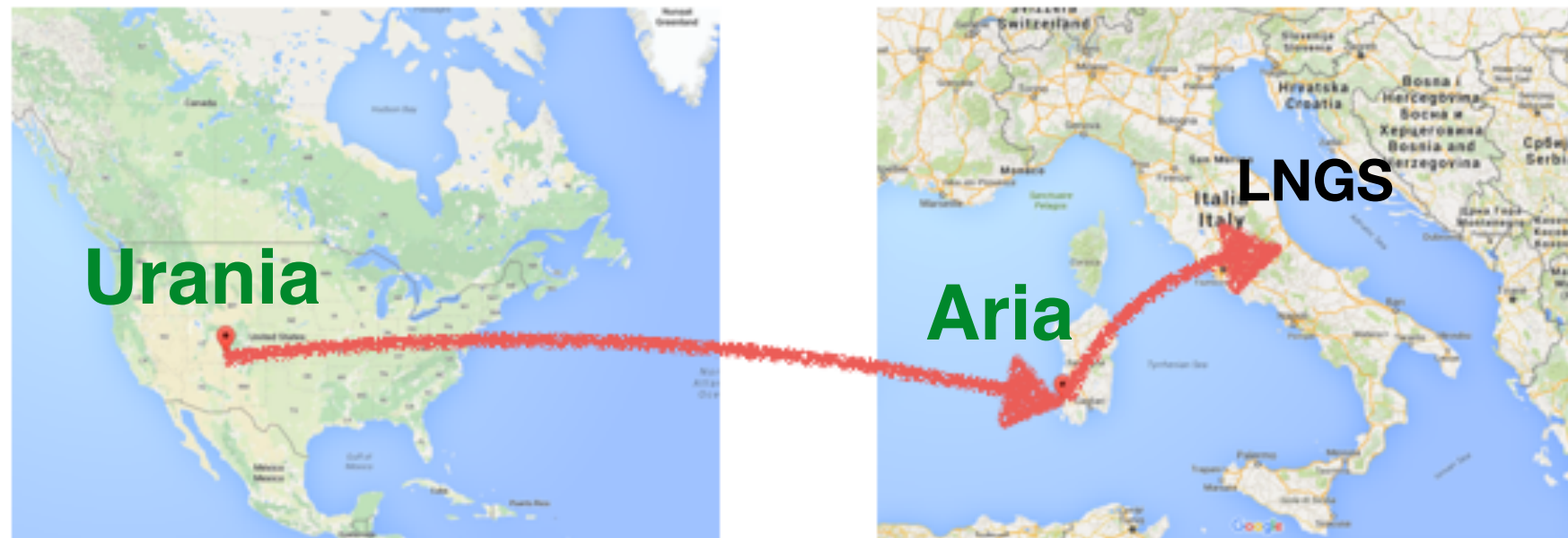






For DarkSide-50, about 70Kg of underground argon (UAr) were extracted with a pilot plant

UAr vs AAr in DS-50:  $(0.73 \pm 0.11) \times 10^{-3} \text{Bq/Kg}$  vs 1Bq/Kg



## The argon path

## The Urania project@Kinder Morgan Doe Canyon Facility, CORTEZ,CO (USA)

extraction of 50t of UAr from CO<sub>2</sub>  
deep wells where cosmic rays  
hardly make any <sup>39</sup>Ar

Starting from 95% CO<sub>2</sub> and 440ppm  
of UAr!

New plant, funded, under tendering





**The Aria project: includes regional funds from Sardinia, Italy**

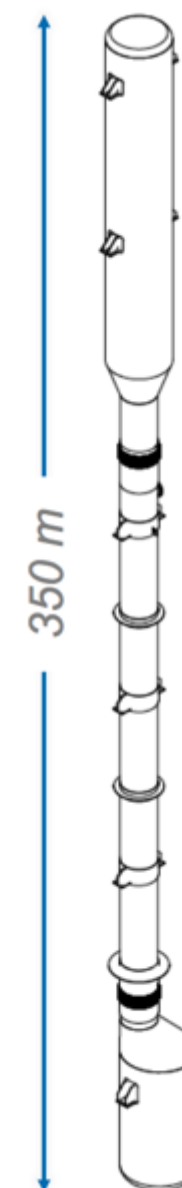
**$^{39}\text{Ar}$  isotopic separation with cryogenic distillation  $\rightarrow$  factor 10 suppression per pass (from UAr to DAr)**

**CarboSulcis mine in**

**Nuraxi-Figus**

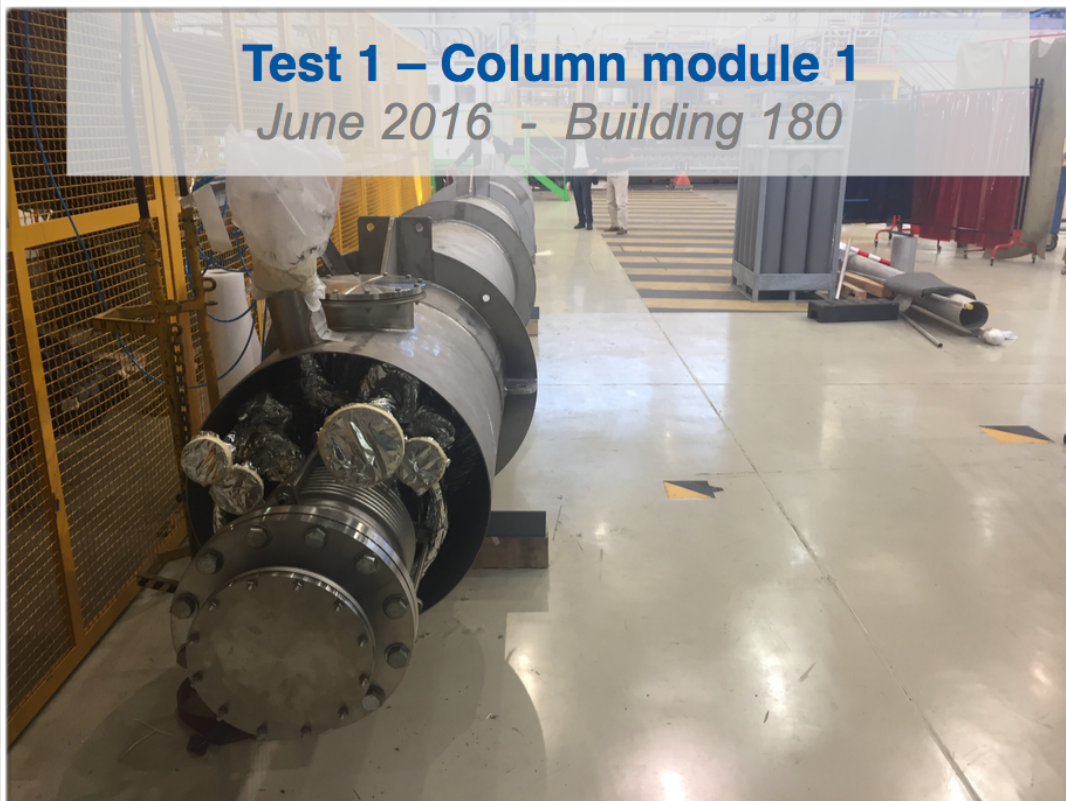
**The Seruci-I column:**

**350m height, 30cm diameter**





**Test 1 – Column module 1**  
June 2016 - Building 180



**Test 2 – Top&Bottom**  
August 2016 - Building SMI2



## ARIA at CERN



**Test 3 – Bottom cryo test**  
March 2017 - Building 185

**CERN : leak tests**

**first step : installation and test of a  
28m tall test column Seruci-0 in a  
surface building at the mine**

























## For DarkSide-20k:

Seruci I → removal of chemical impurities to make the UAr detector grade with 2 passes at 1t/day with 85% recovery → inlet purity required by DS20k getters of order 0.25-1ppm

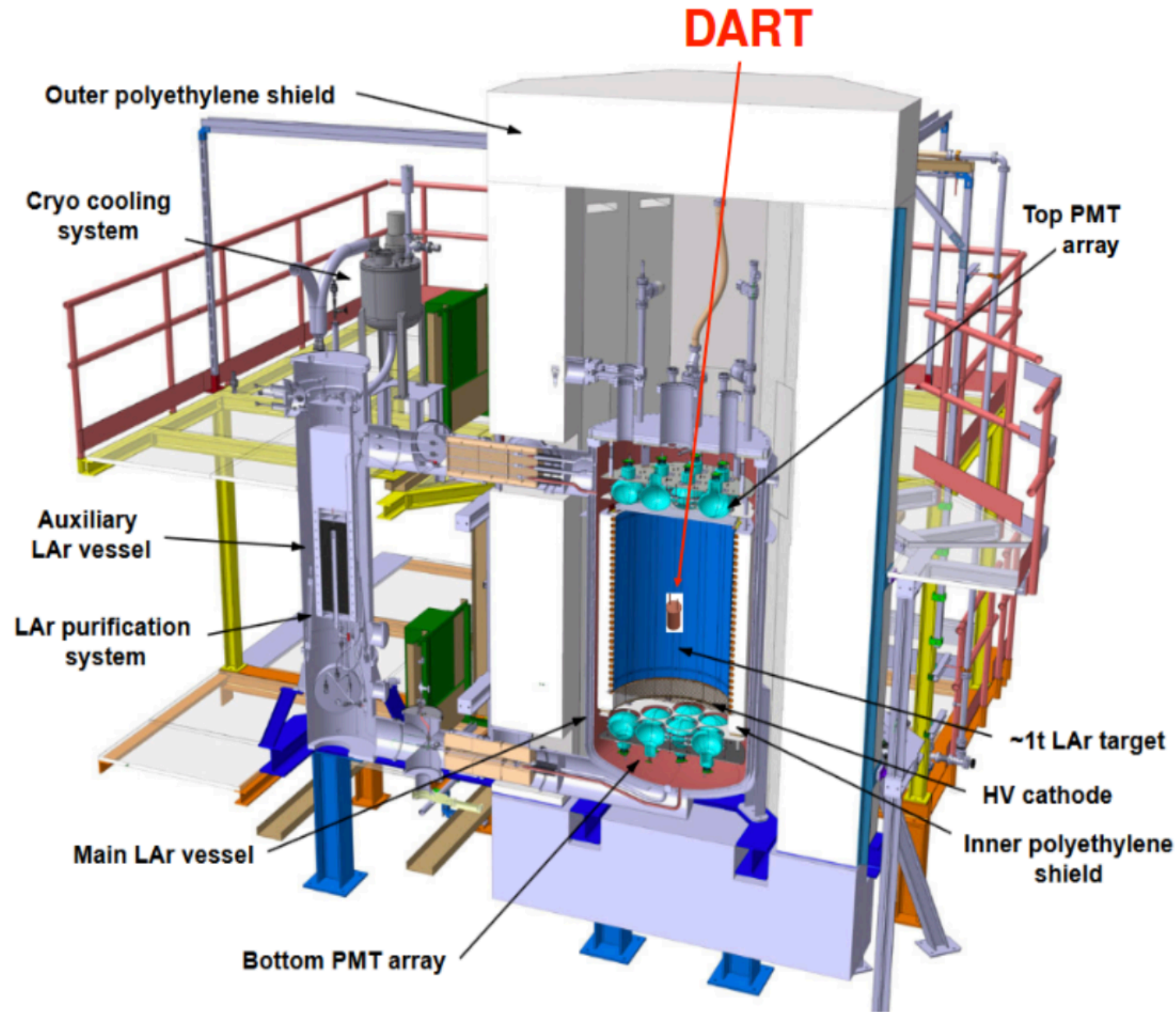
## For DarkSide low-mass:

10Kg/day isotopic distillation of  $^{39}\text{Ar}$  and chemical purification

## A measuring device:

The measurement of  $^{39}\text{Ar}$  content in the argon coming from Urania and Aria is planned with a specific innovative device named DART based on LAr active vetoing approach

# EXPERIMENTAL SET-UP USING THE ARDM FACILITY



Insertion of active small chamber in ArDM. Use ArDM as veto(single phase).

Dissipated power and condensation heat to be absorbed by ArDM cryogenic system.

**At LSC  
Spain**

3



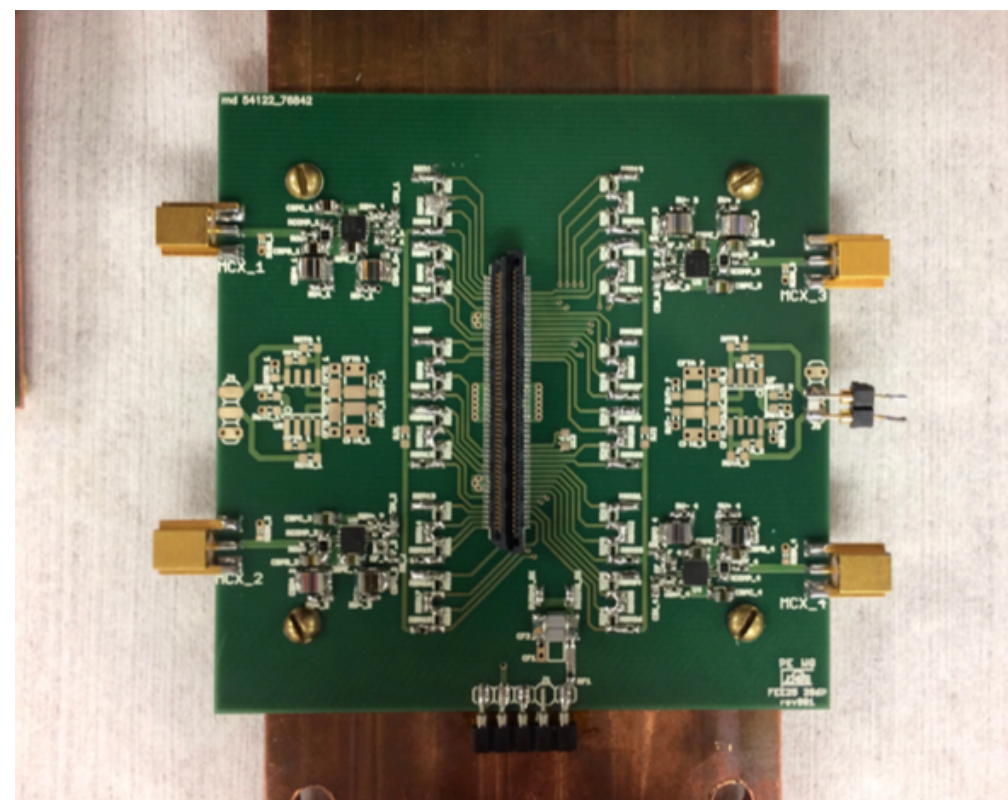
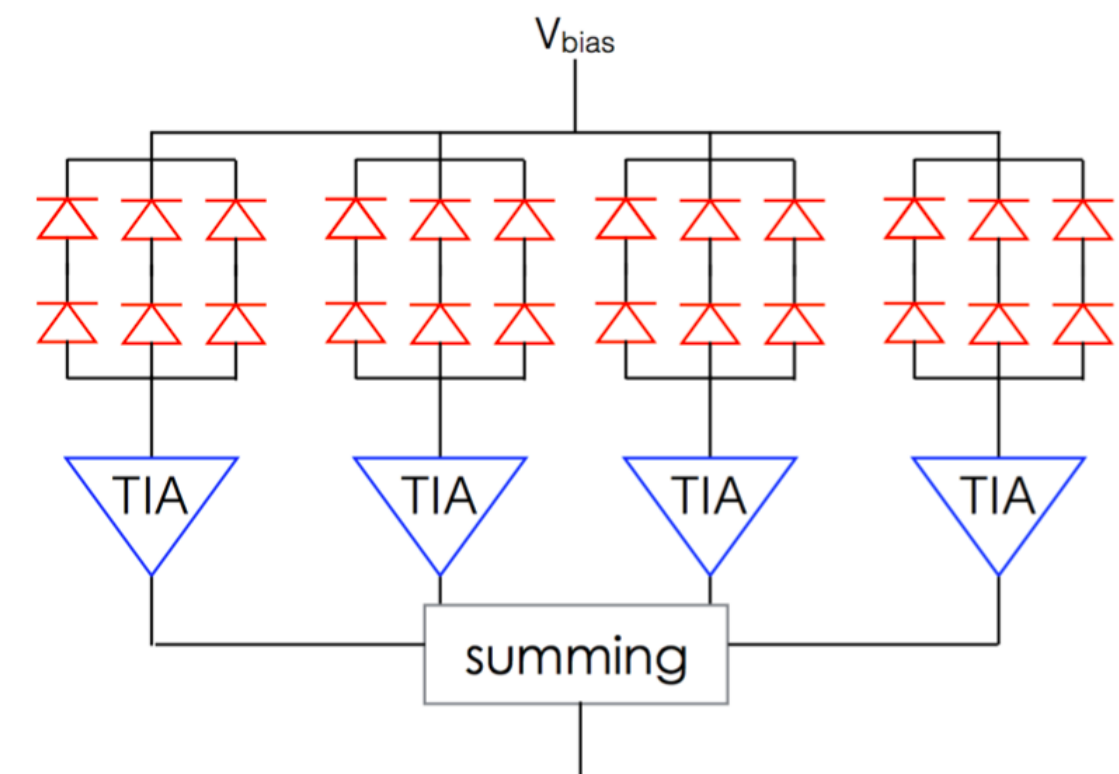
## A new SiPM production chain

**NUV-HD-LF working at cryogenic temperatures**

**Low field SPADs, near UV (410nm) peak efficiency, 25 $\mu$ m cell size**

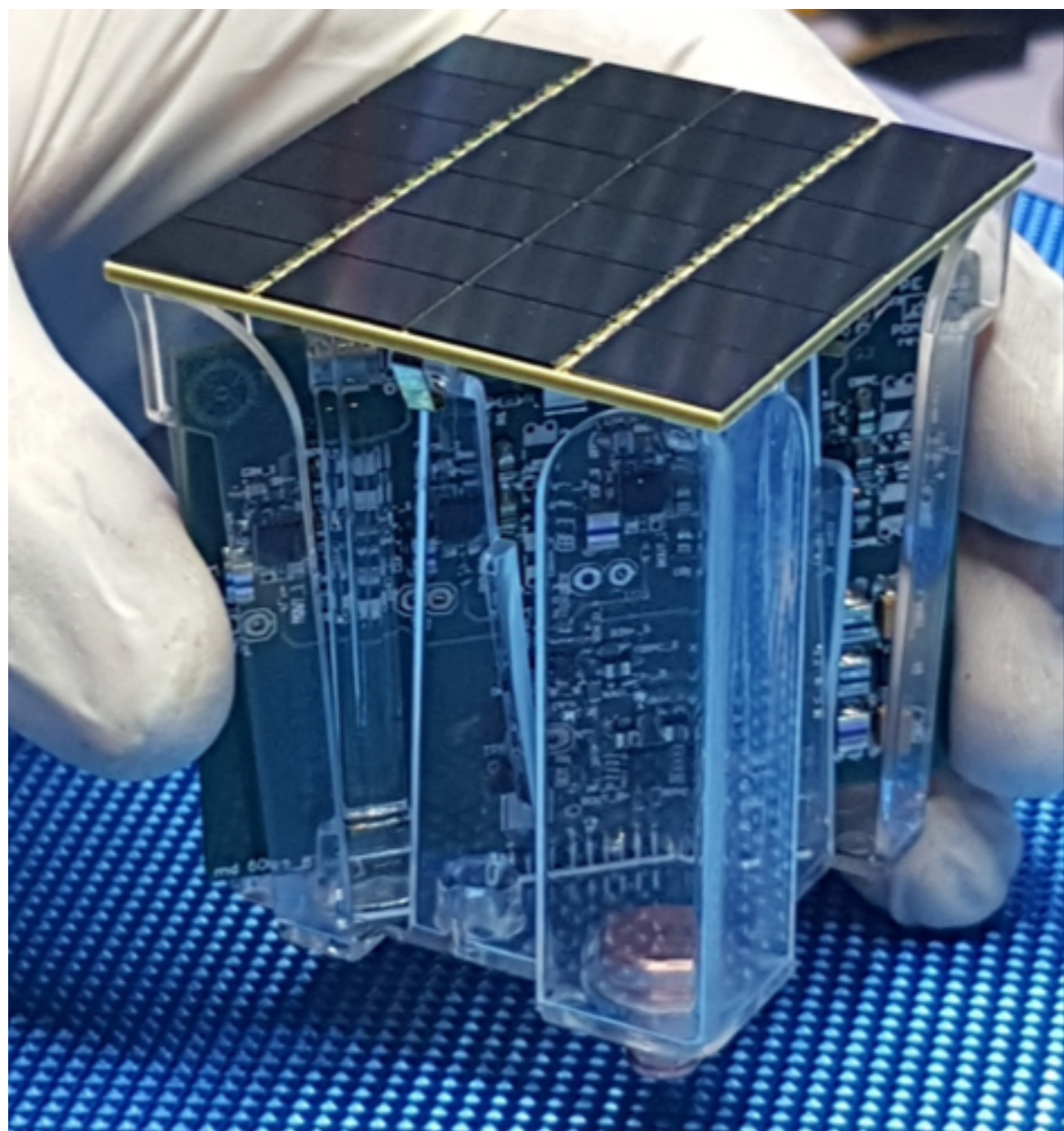
**Regional funds from Abruzzo, Italy—>**

- SiPM large scale production at LFoundry, Avezzano (AQ) after successful R&D and design by FBK, Trento (TN)
- NuovaOfficinaAssergi at l'Aquila Tecnopolo for packaging and module assembly



**The tile is readout by 4  
TransImpedanceAmplifiers (large detector C of  
50 pF/mm<sup>2</sup>) with discrete components  
mounted on radio-pure substrates**

## 24 cm<sup>2</sup> tiles equipped with 1x1cm<sup>2</sup> SiPMs fully working



**Need 8280**

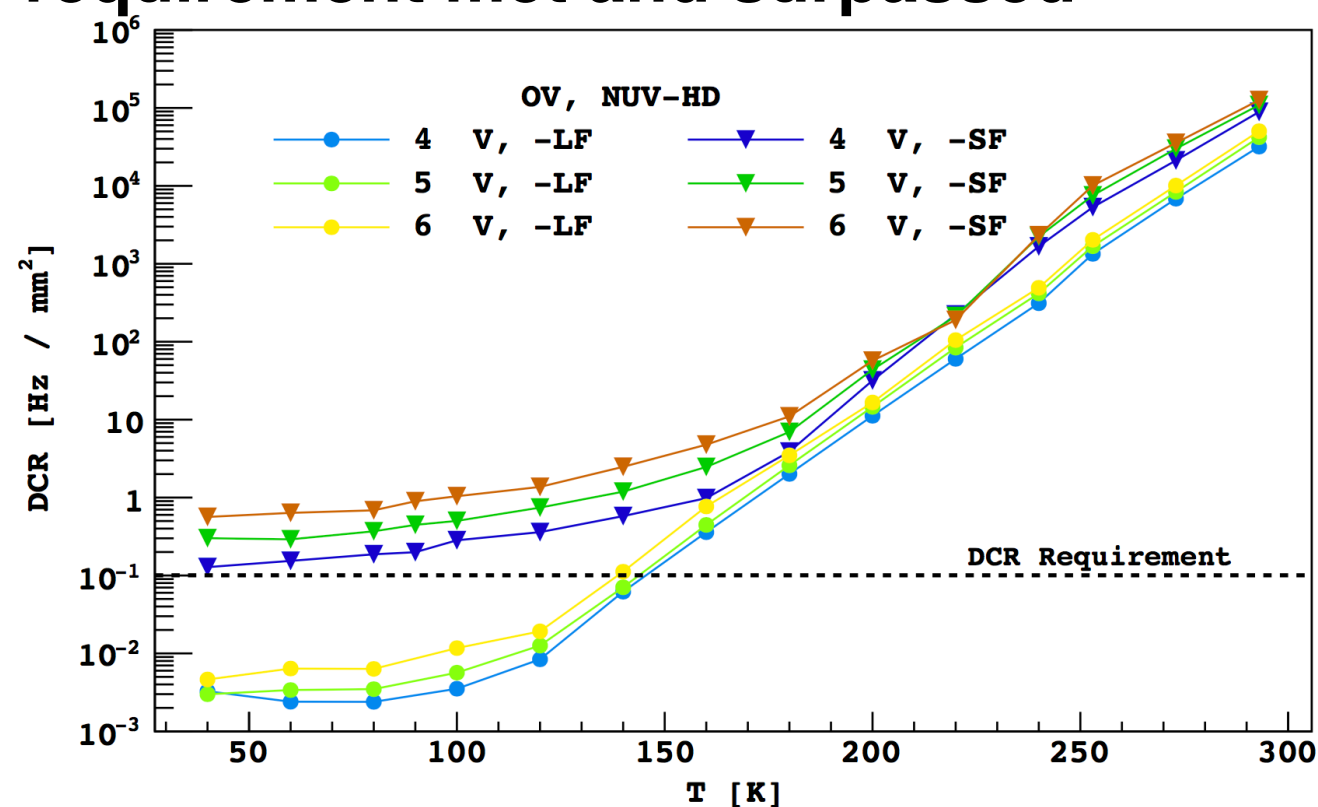
**... assembled as self-consistent one-channel units  
PhotonDetectorModules, replacing 3" PMTs**

**Photon Detection Efficiency (PDE): 45% requirement met and surpassed**

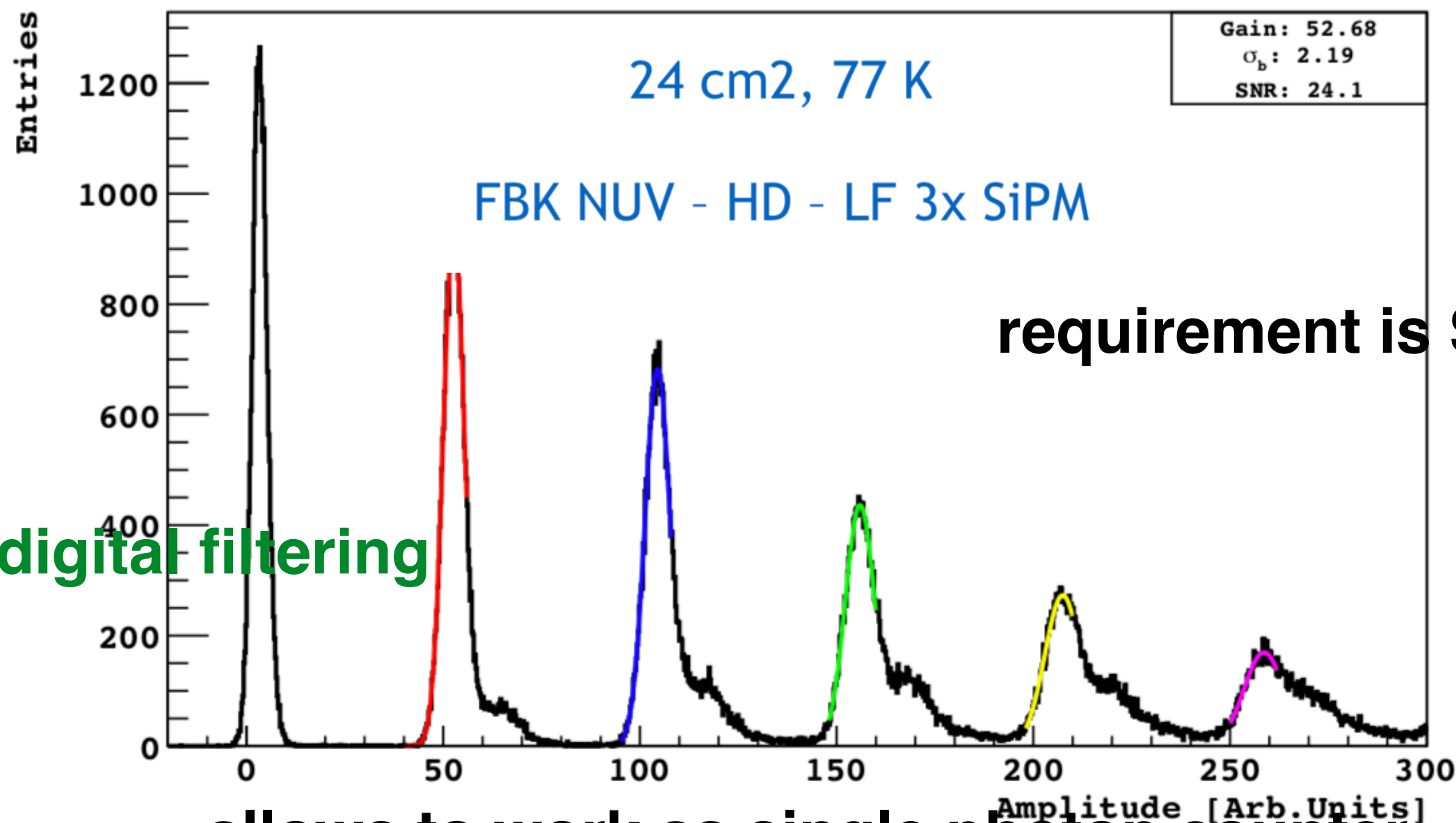
**Dark Count Rate (DCR): 0.1 Hz/mm<sup>2</sup> requirement met and surpassed**

**250mW power/consumption/PDM**

**20ns time resolution**







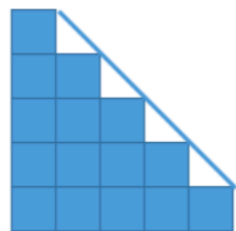
requirement is  $\text{SNR} > 8$

after digital filtering

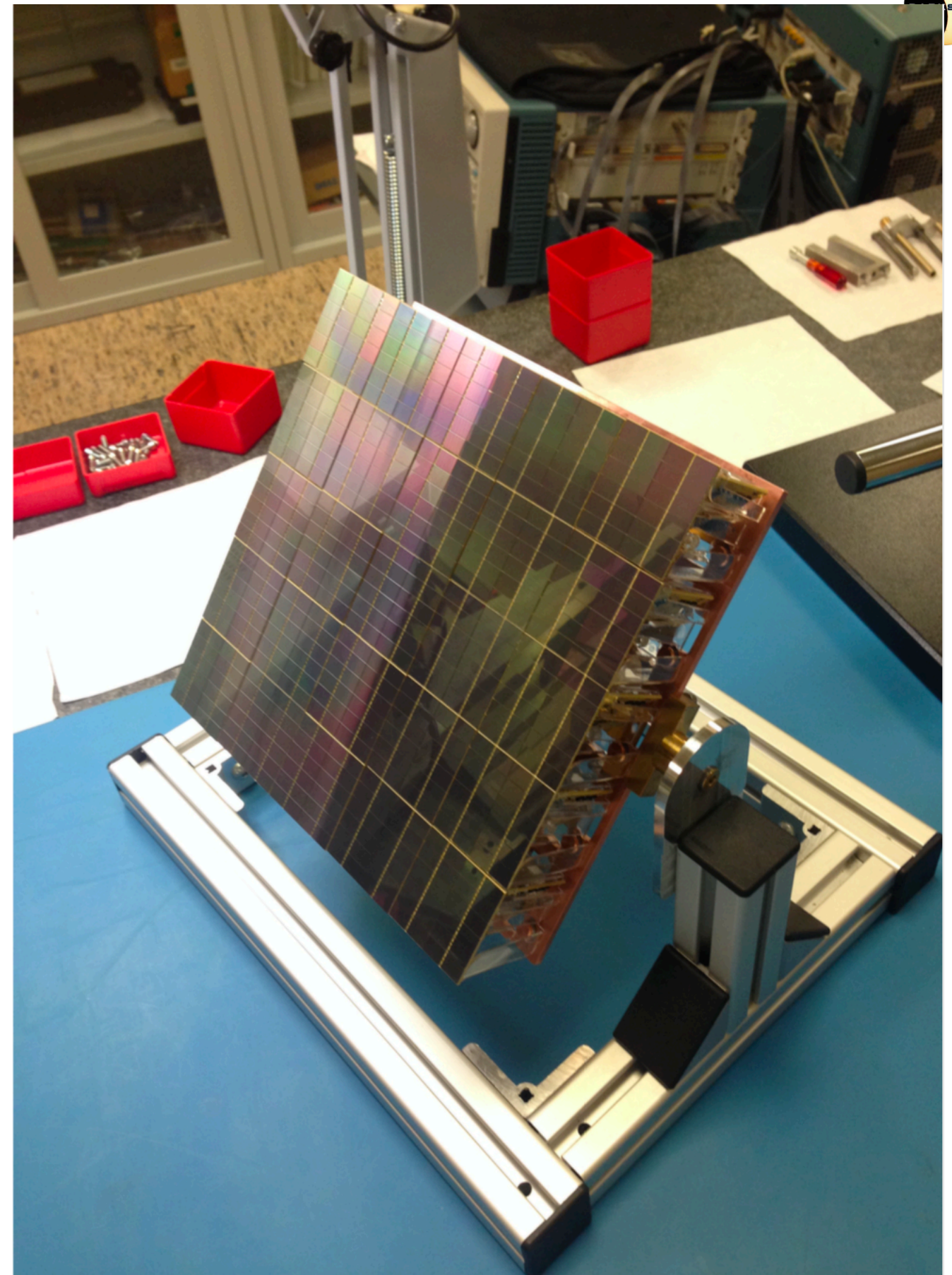
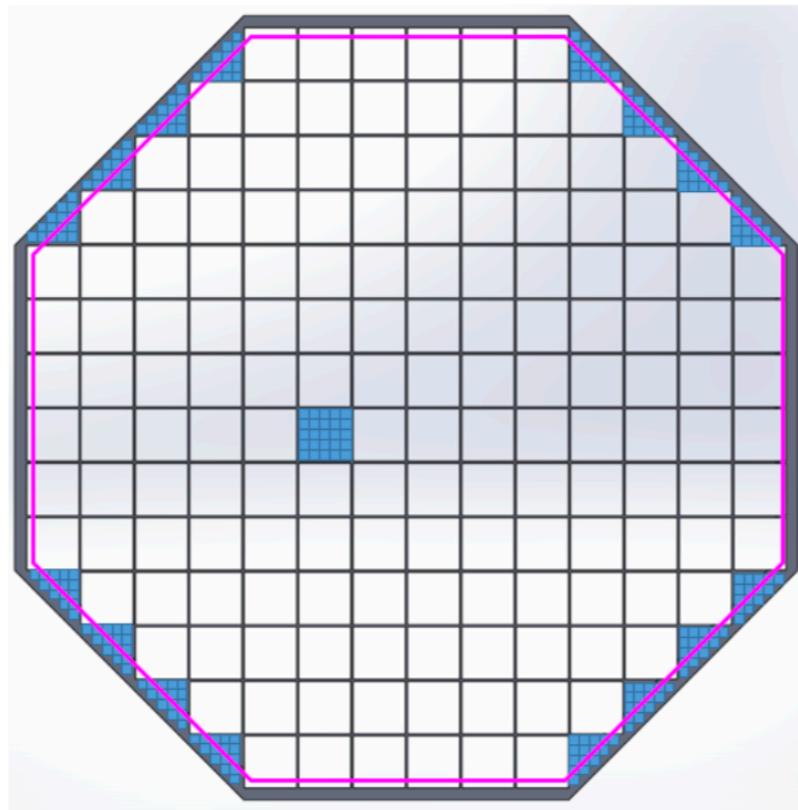
allows to work as single photon counter



SQB



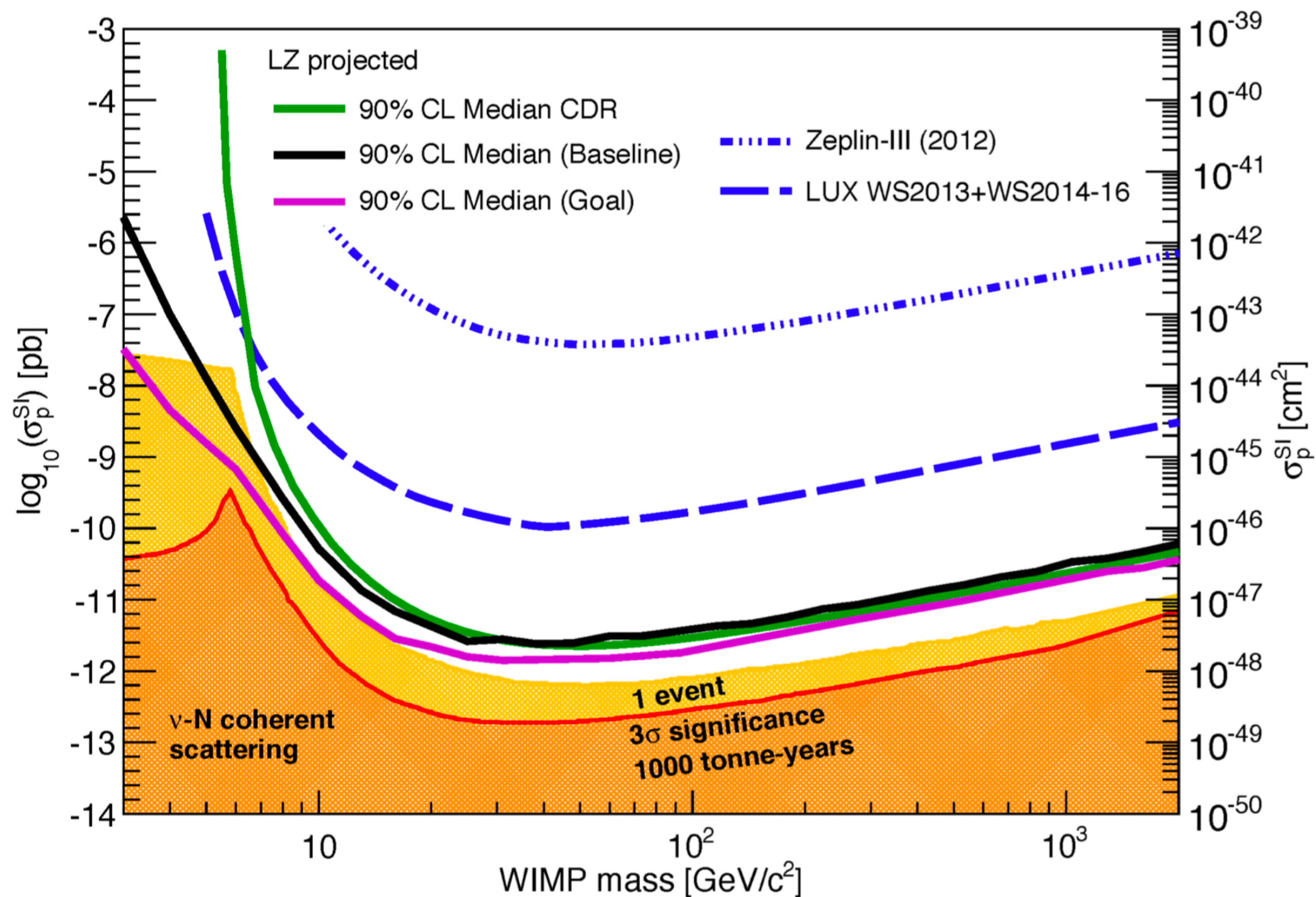
TRB



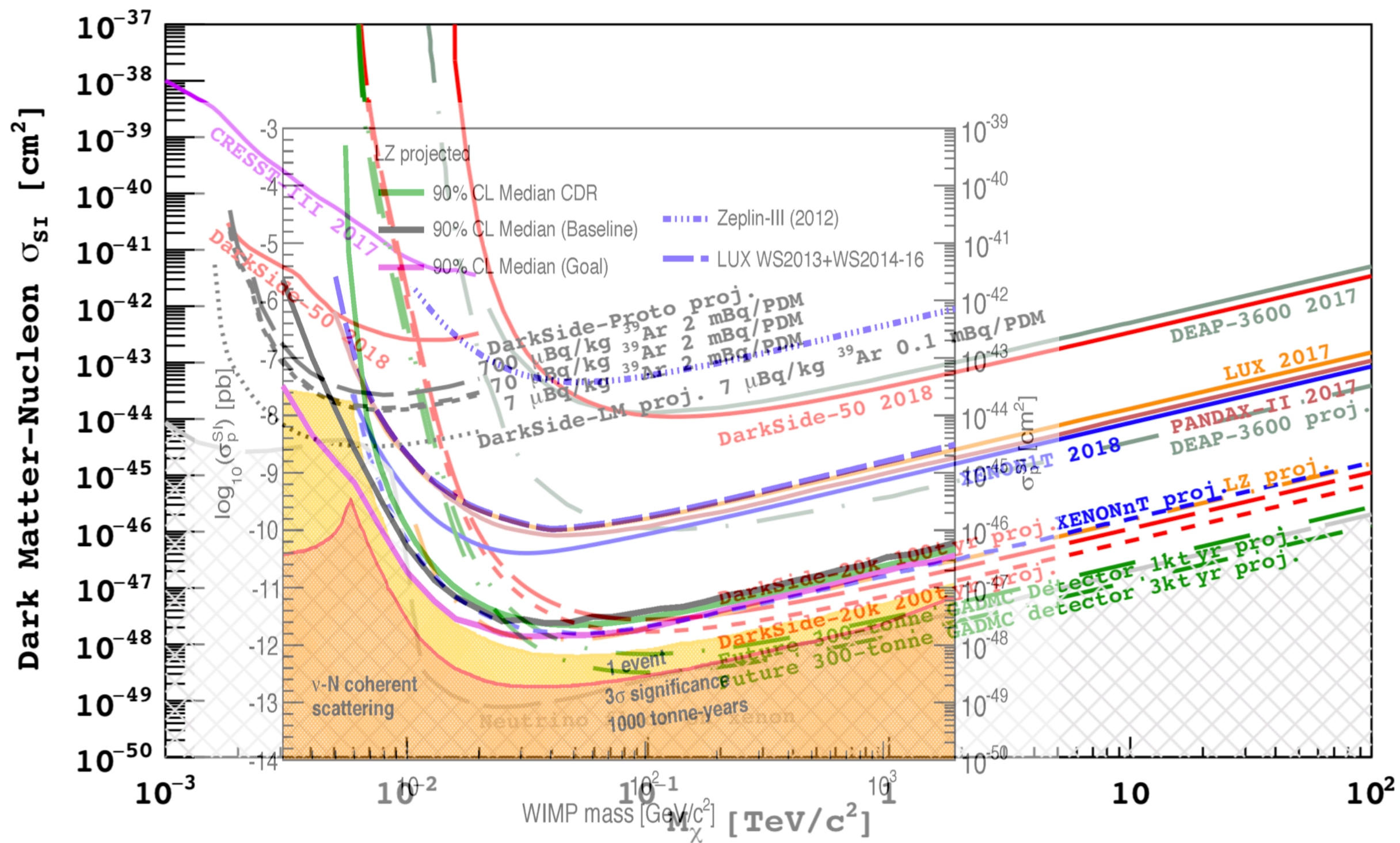
# Competing technologies?



# LZ xenon TPC







Detector Parameter	Reduced	Baseline	Goal
Light collection (PDE)	0.05	0.075	0.12
Drift field (V/cm)	160	310	650
Electron lifetime ( $\mu$ s)	850	850	2800
PMT phe detection	0.8	0.9	1.0
N-fold trigger coincidence	4	3	2
$^{222}\text{Rn}$ (mBq in active region)	13.4	13.4	0.67
Live days	1000	1000	1000

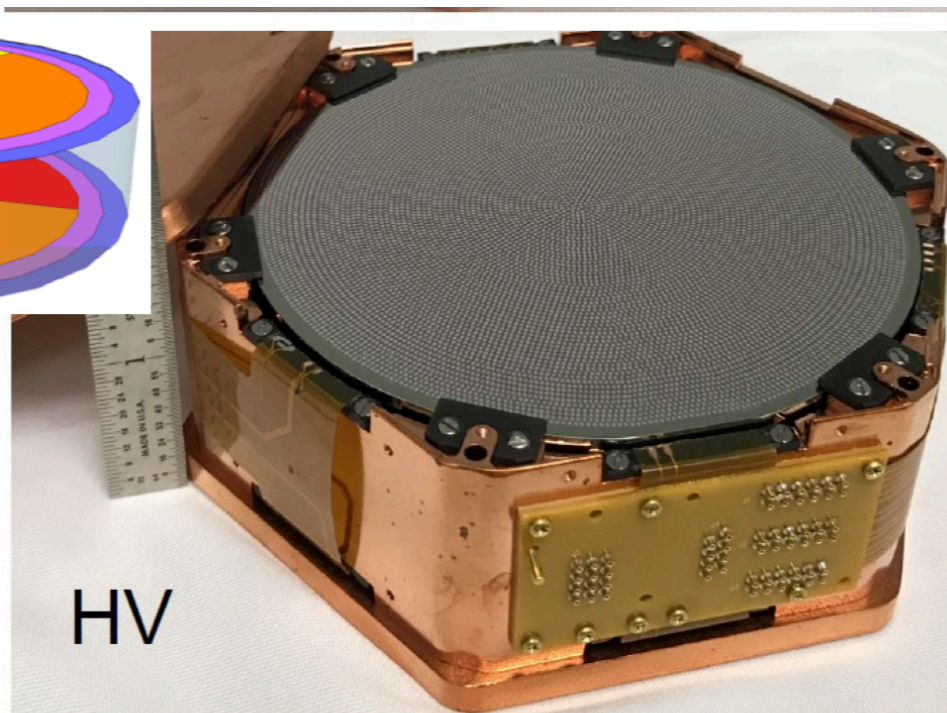
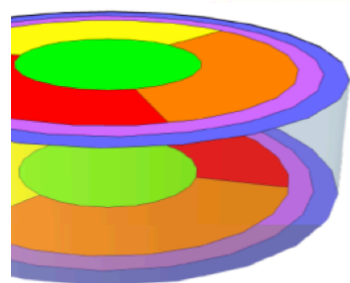
THE ULTIMATE GOAL, VERY CHALLENGING

# **Going to lower thresholds (sure you already heard of them)**



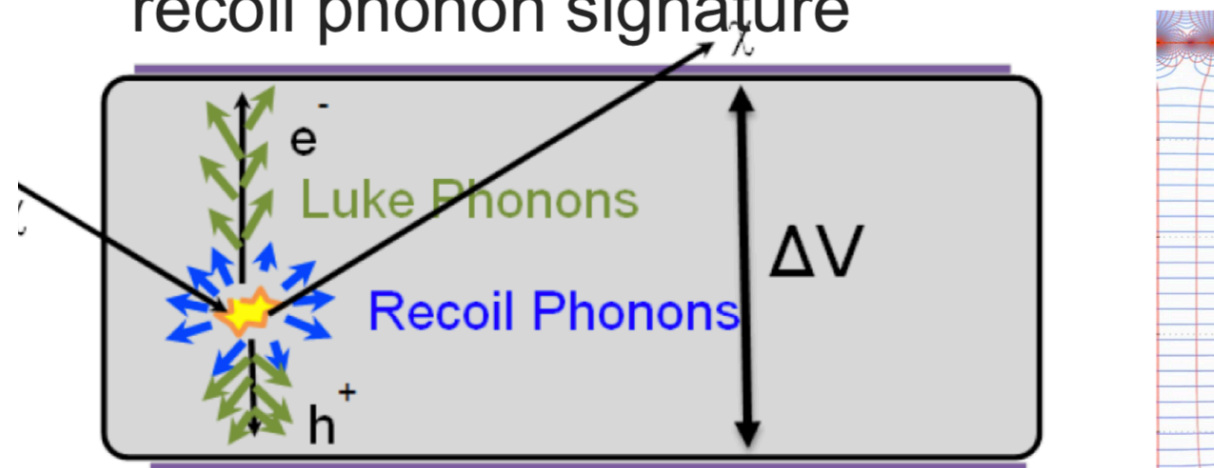
# SuperCDMS (SNOLAB)

- ▶ Ultra-pure ~kg Ge and Si crystals
- ▶ Operate at 10's of mK
- ▶ Measure athermal phonon signal via transition edge sensor



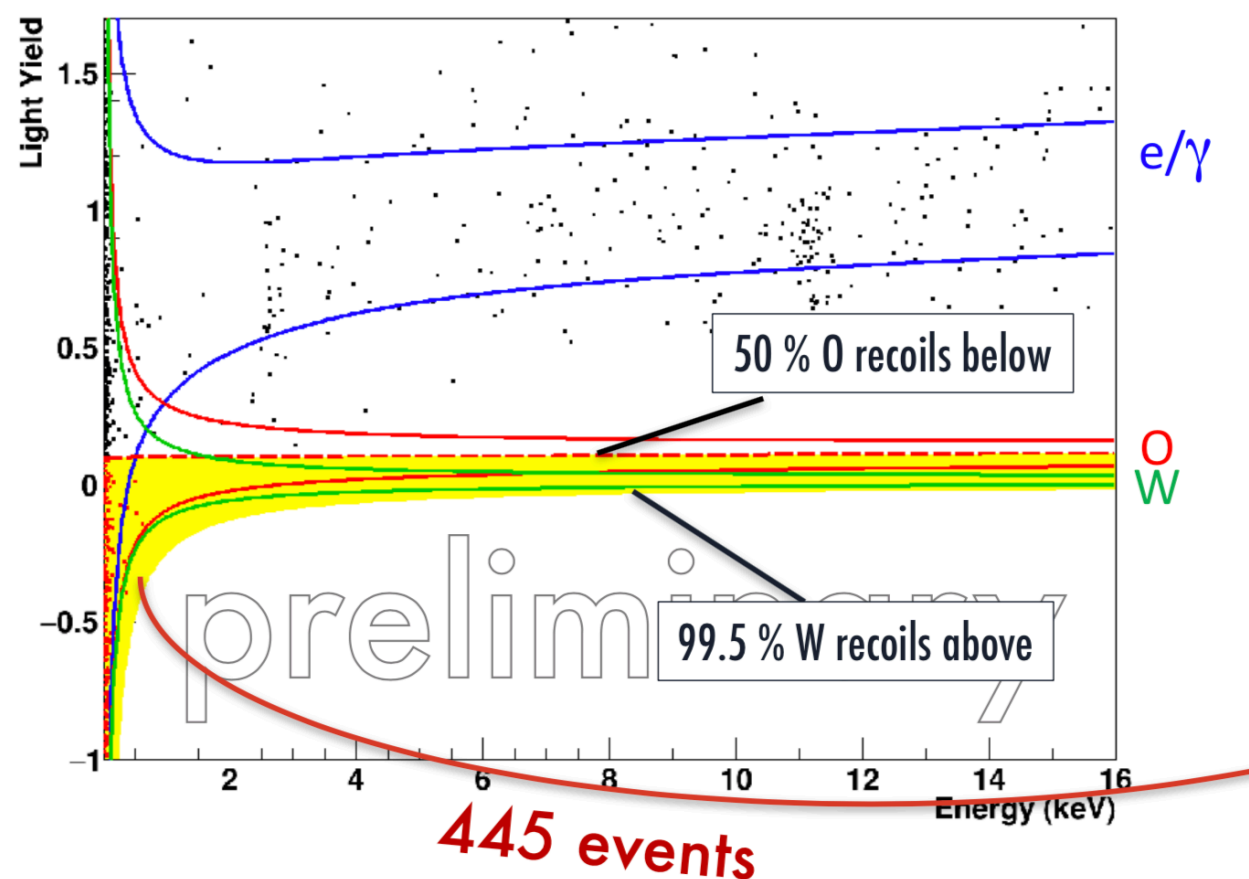
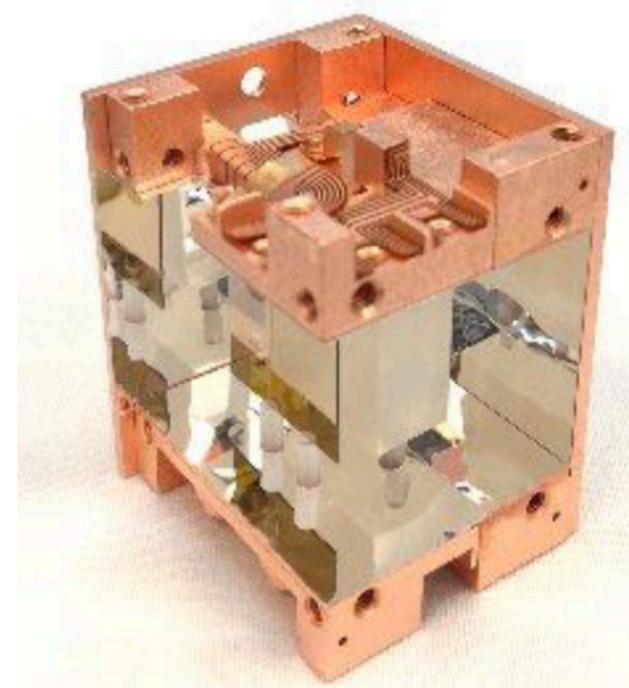
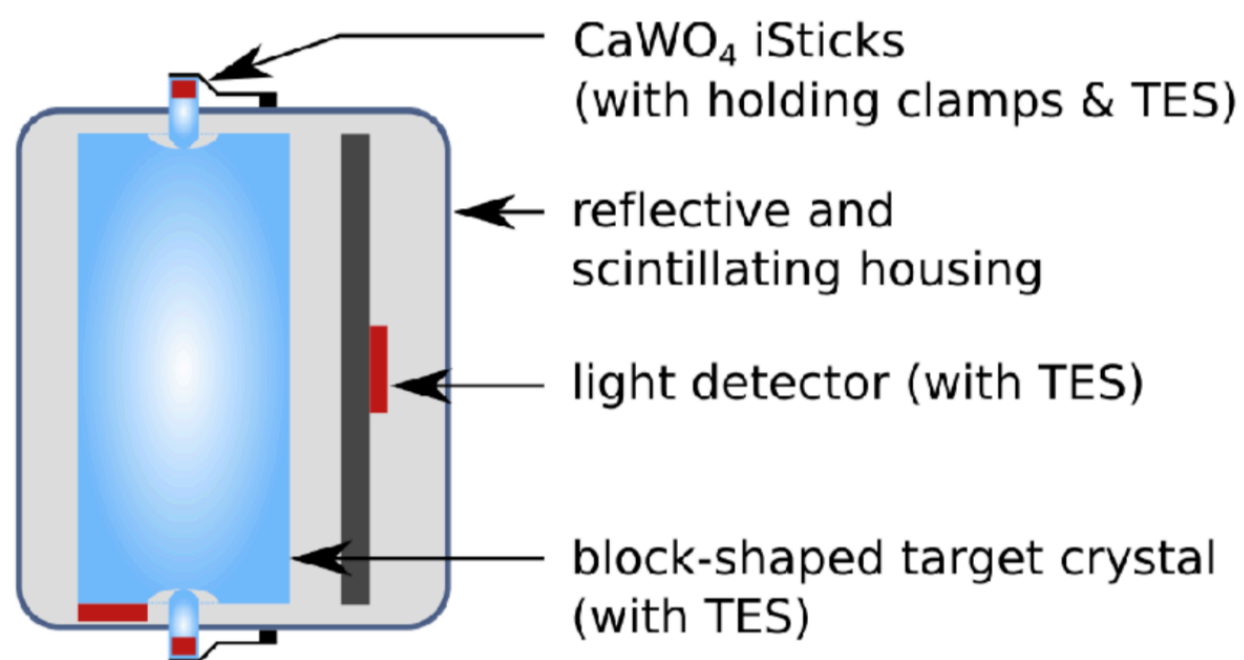
## High Voltage (CDMSlite)

- ▶ Free e/h ionization from interaction gains energy from large potential (~100 V)
- ▶ Emits Luke-Neganov phonons from scattering on lattice
- ▶ Analogous to electroluminescence gain (S2 production) in TPC
- ▶ Luke phonons drown out intrinsic recoil phonon signature



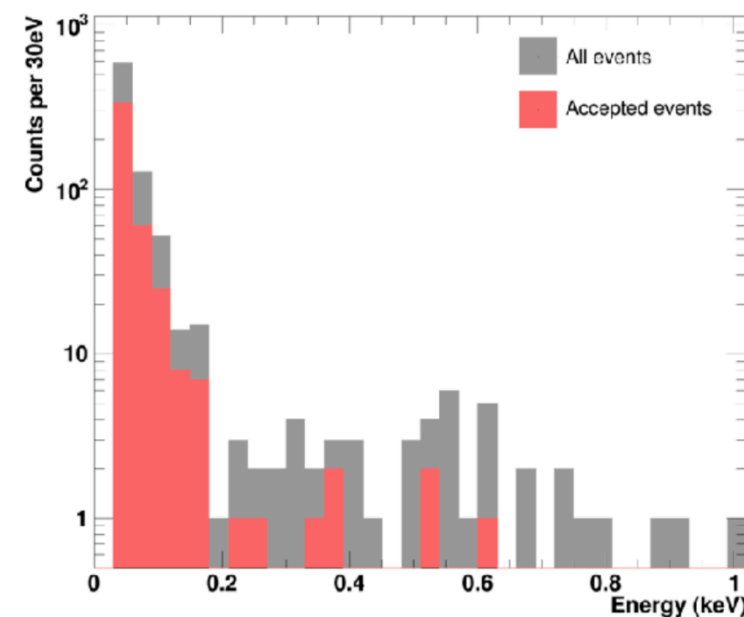
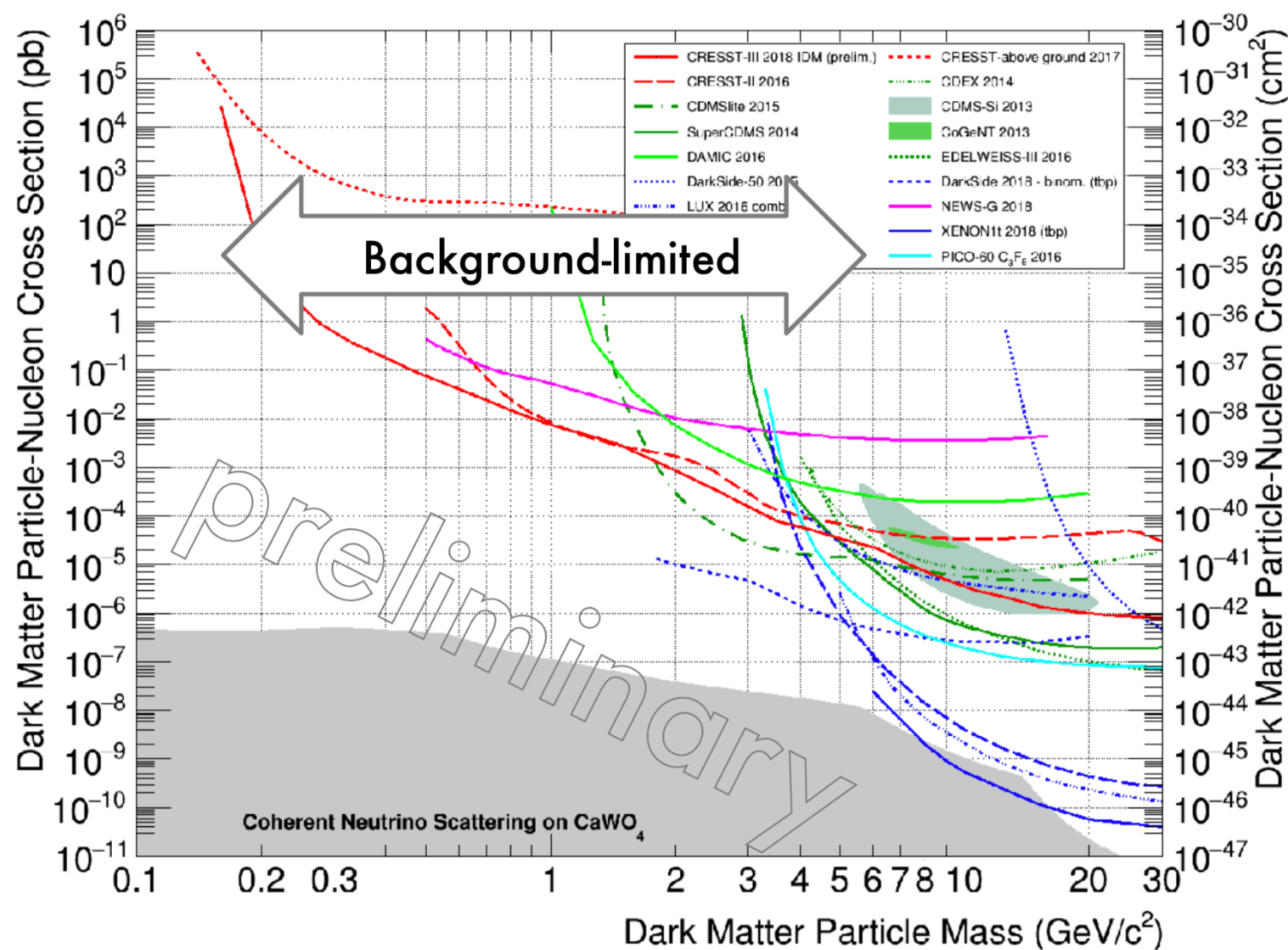


# CRESST-III scintillating bolometer



# CRESST-II scintillating bolometer

(Preliminary) Result



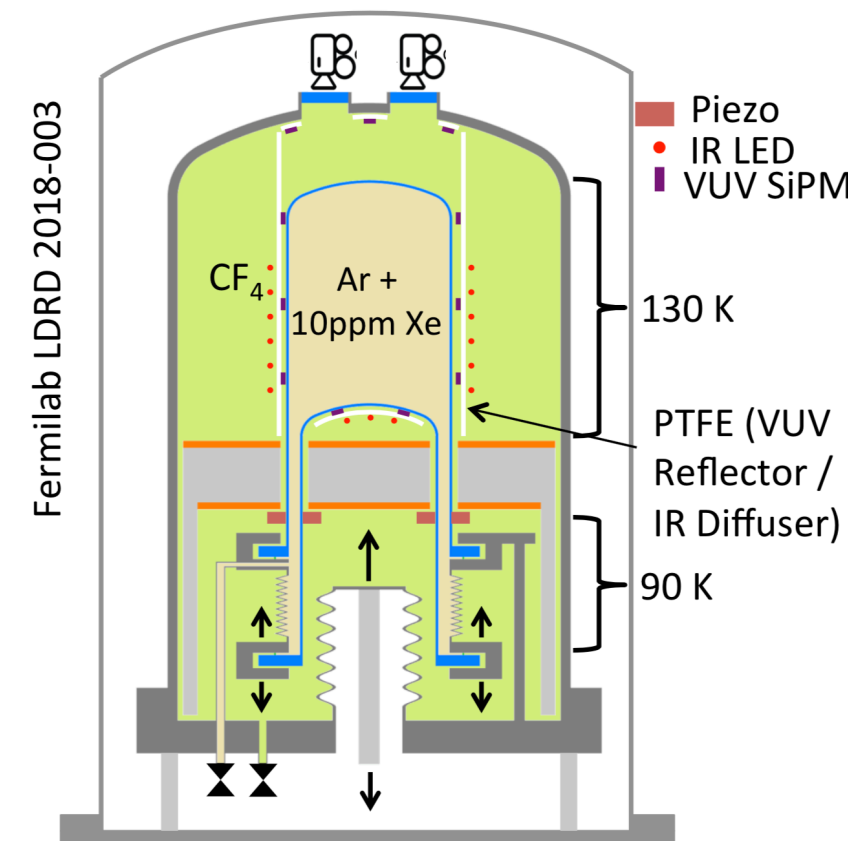
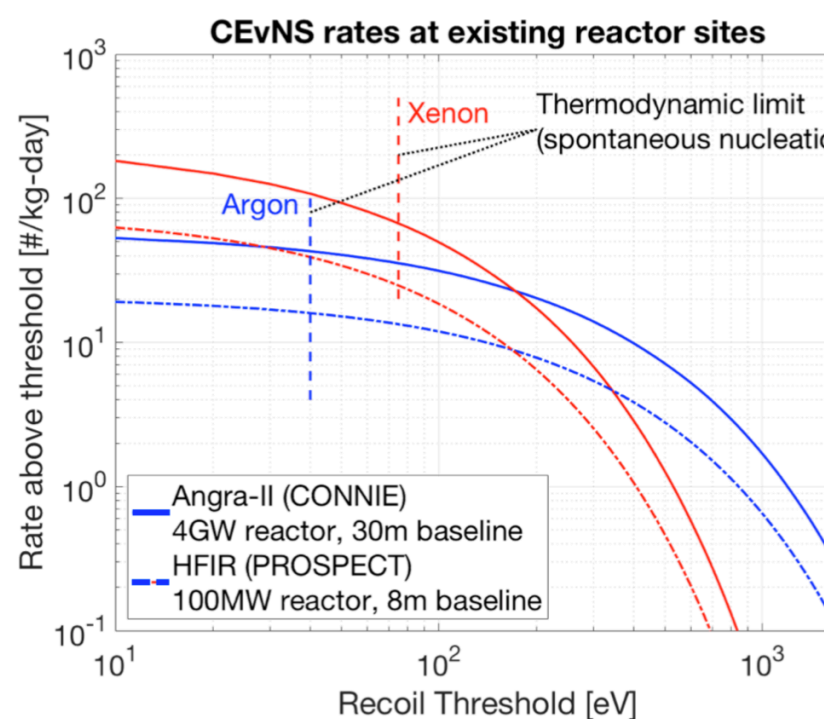
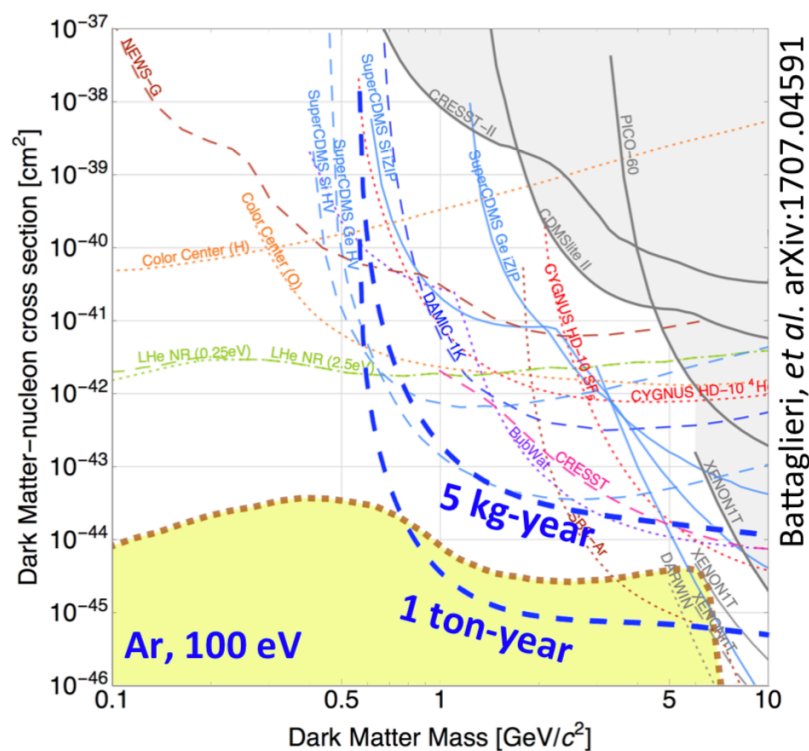
Unexpected rise of event rate  $< 200\text{eV}$

# Some new stuff



40eV threshold for bubble formation  
no e- recoil background

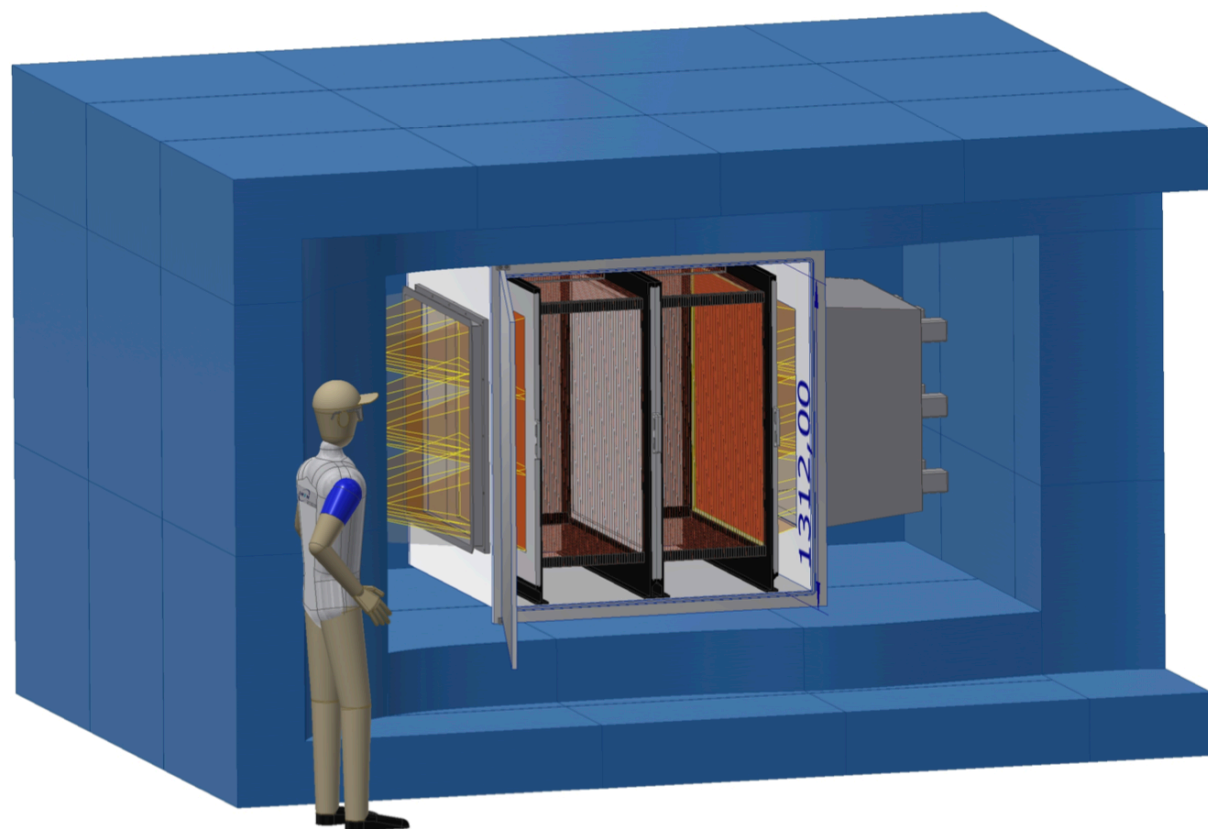
# Physics with an Argon Bubble Chamber



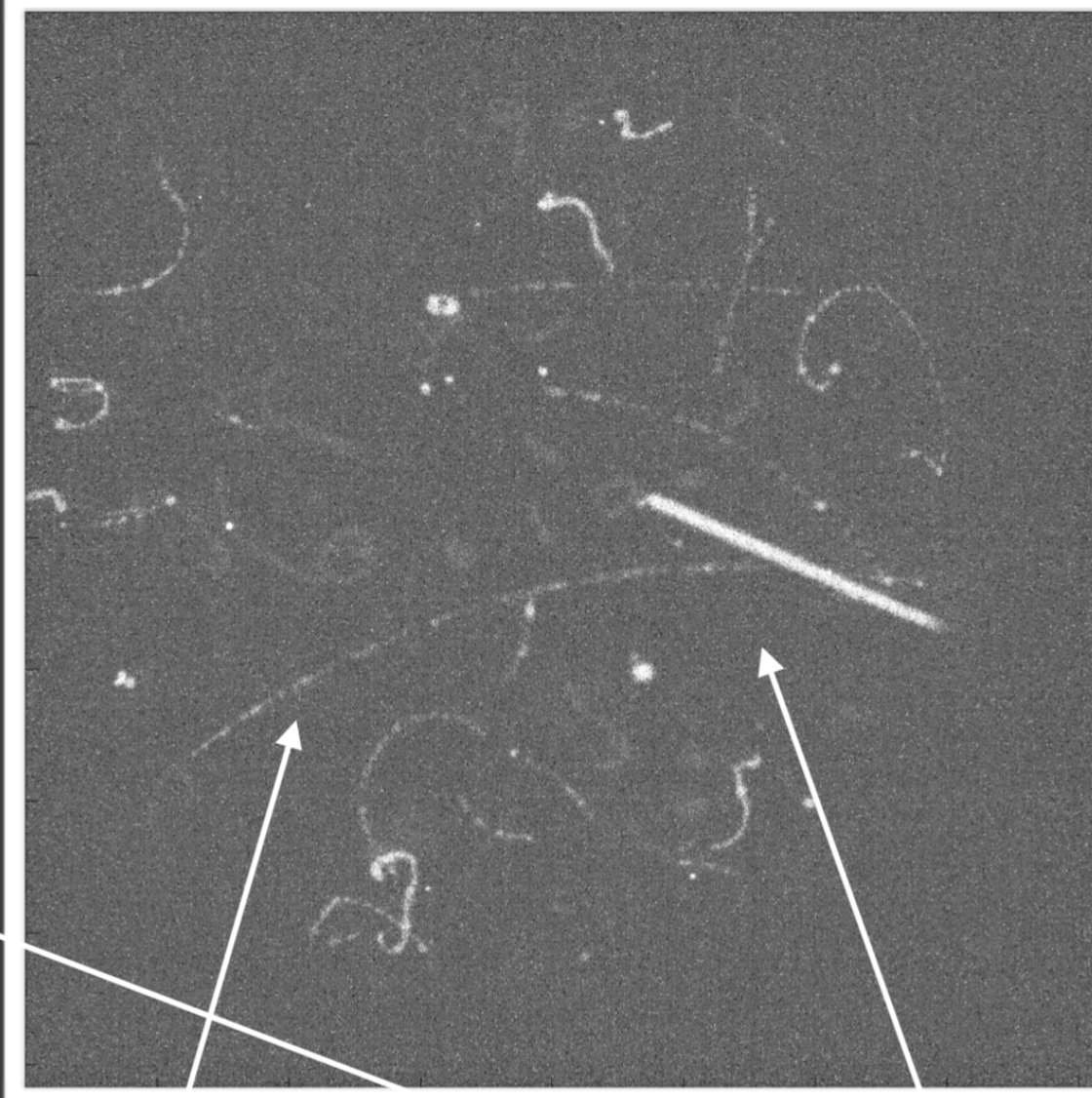
- WIMP searches to solar  $\nu$ -floor (1 – 7 GeV)
  - $O(10)$  CEvNS events / kg-day @ reactor
- Follows Calibration @ FNAL

screenshot  
significant CEvNS  
Dani, 11/3/2018

# CYGNUS

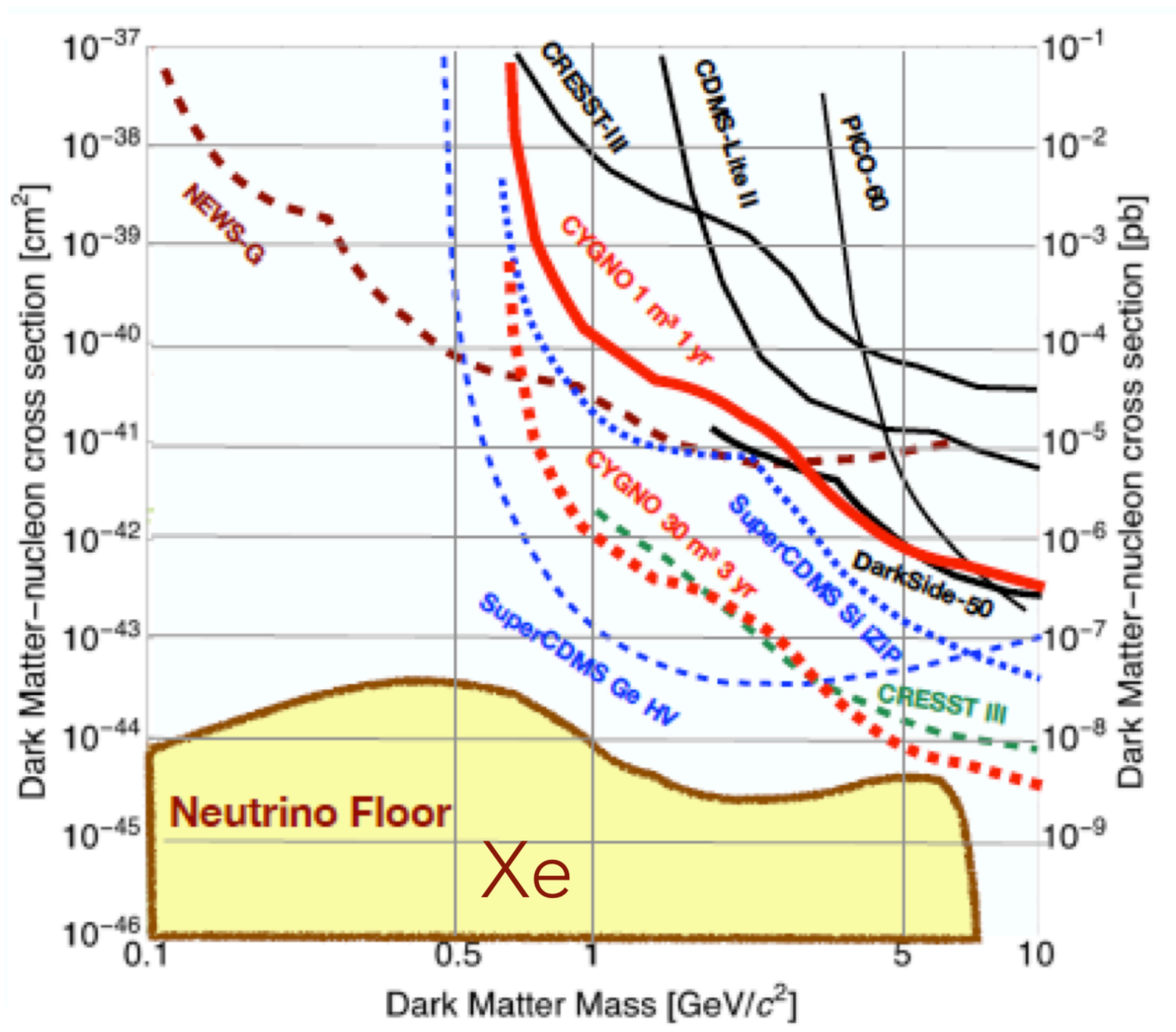


Roma1-GSSI...  
He gas TPC  
optical readout

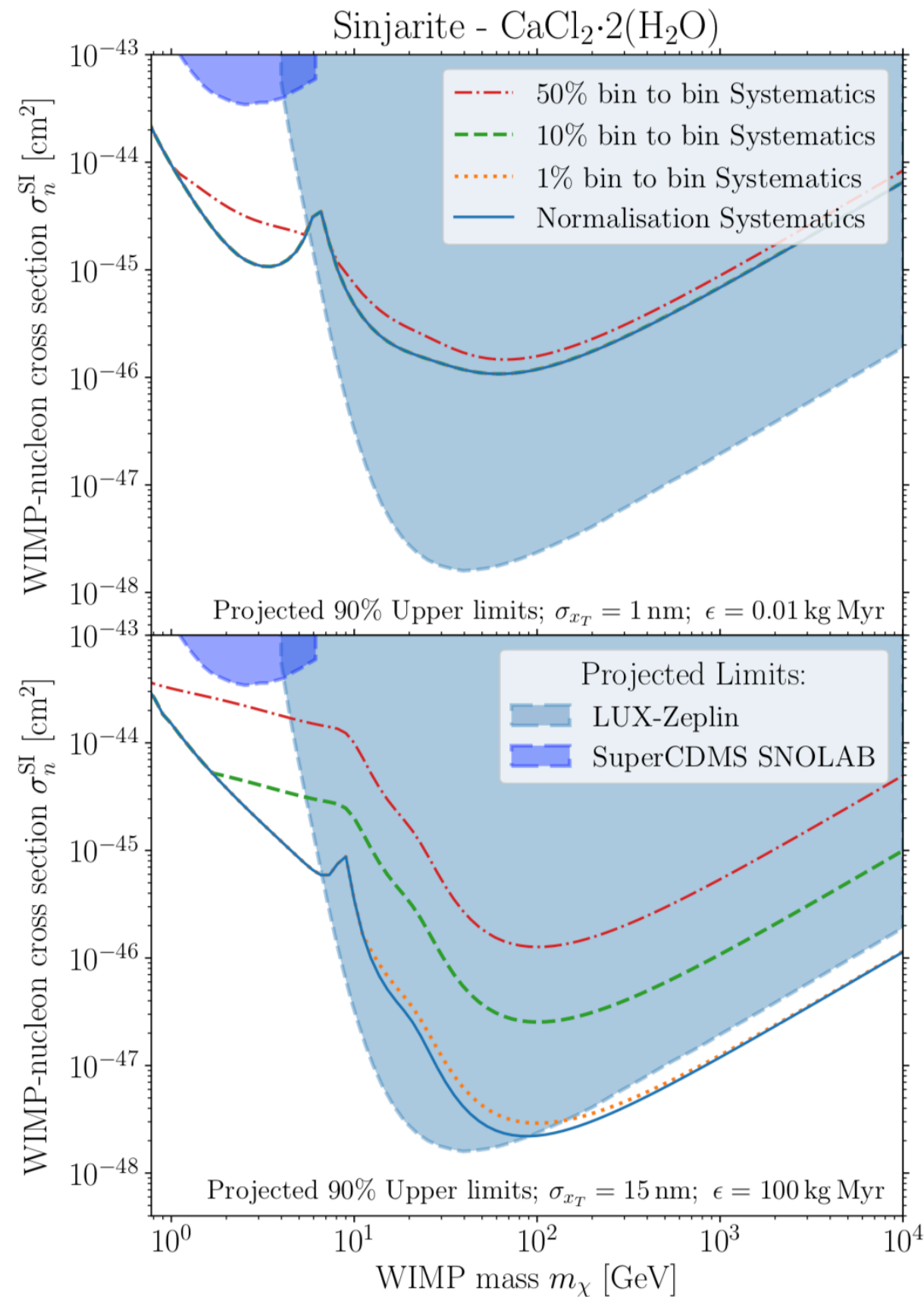


MeV electrons  
due to 4 MeV  $\gamma$

Nuclear  
recoils







# Can I say anything new about DAMA?



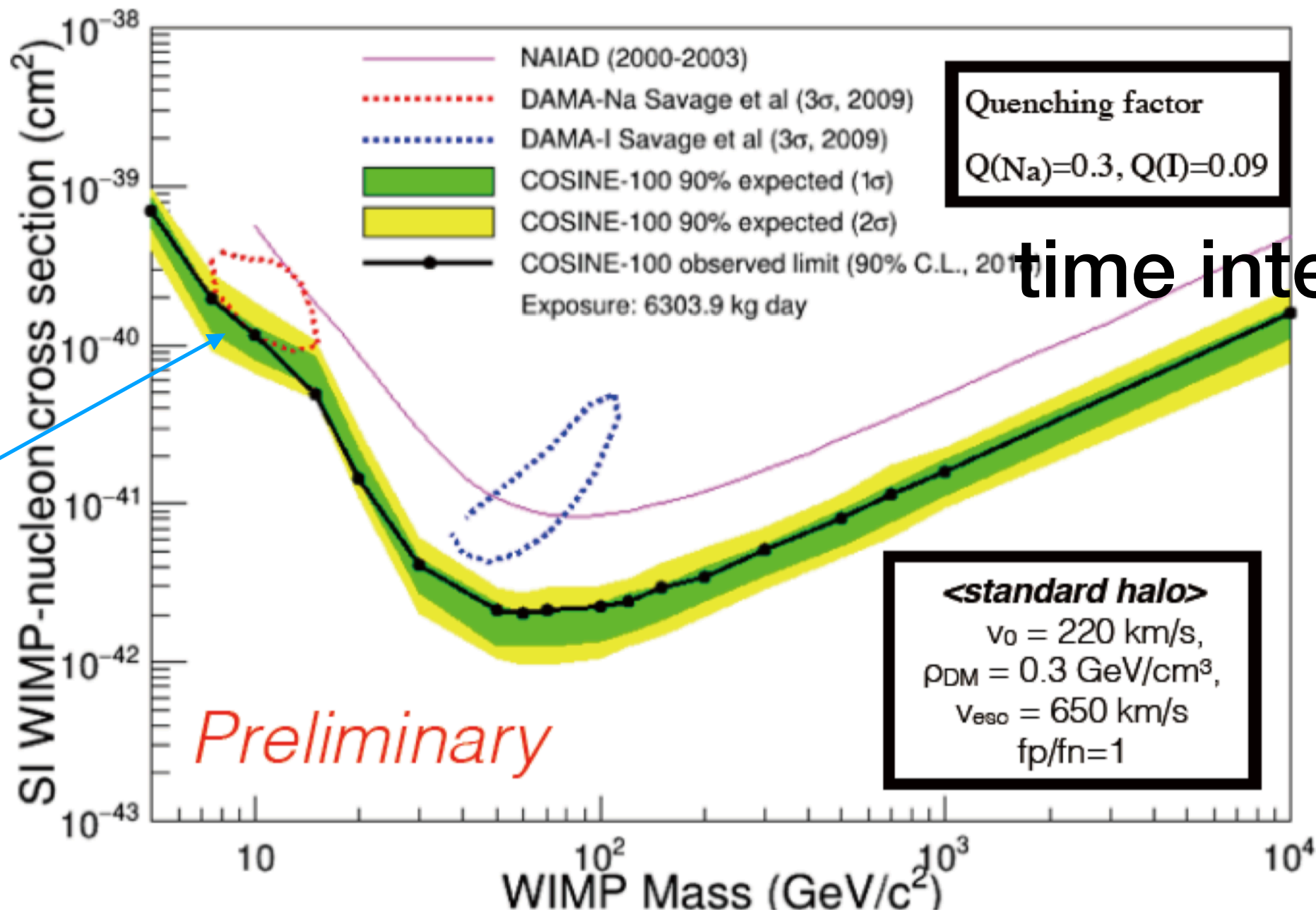
COSINE-100 NaI(Tl) crystals

# New result from the COSINE Collaboration

8 crystals, 106 kg in total



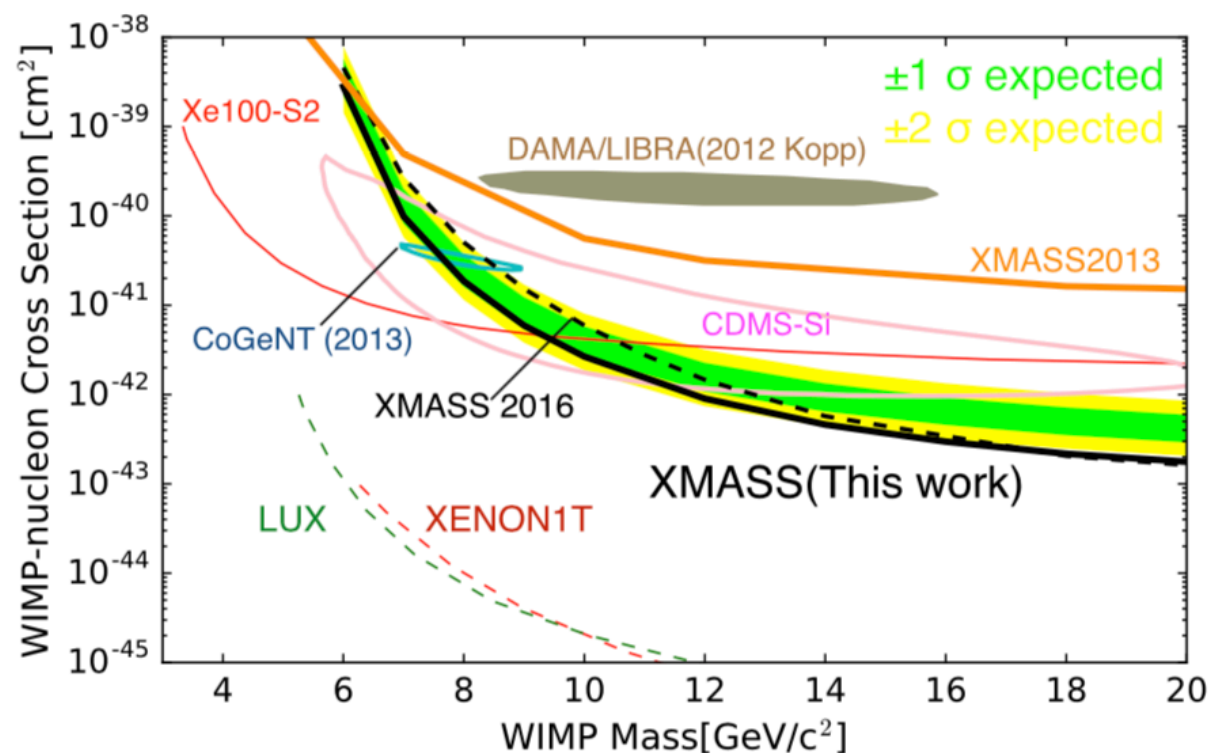
# Limit on WIMP-nucleon cross section



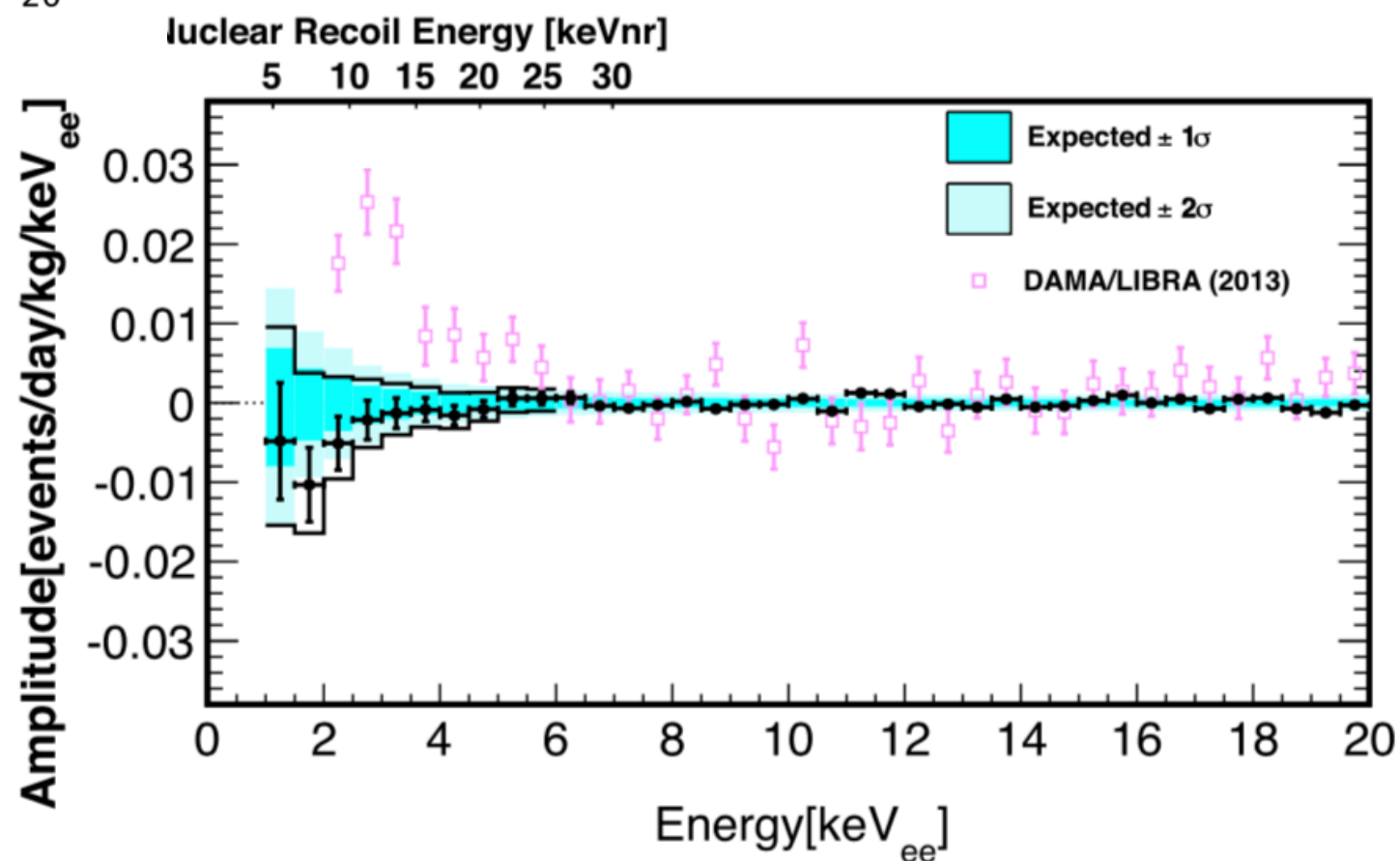
COSINE-100 excludes DAMA/LIBRA-phase1's interpretation with the spin-independent WIMP interaction in Standard Halo Model

**First time with same NaI(Tl) target**

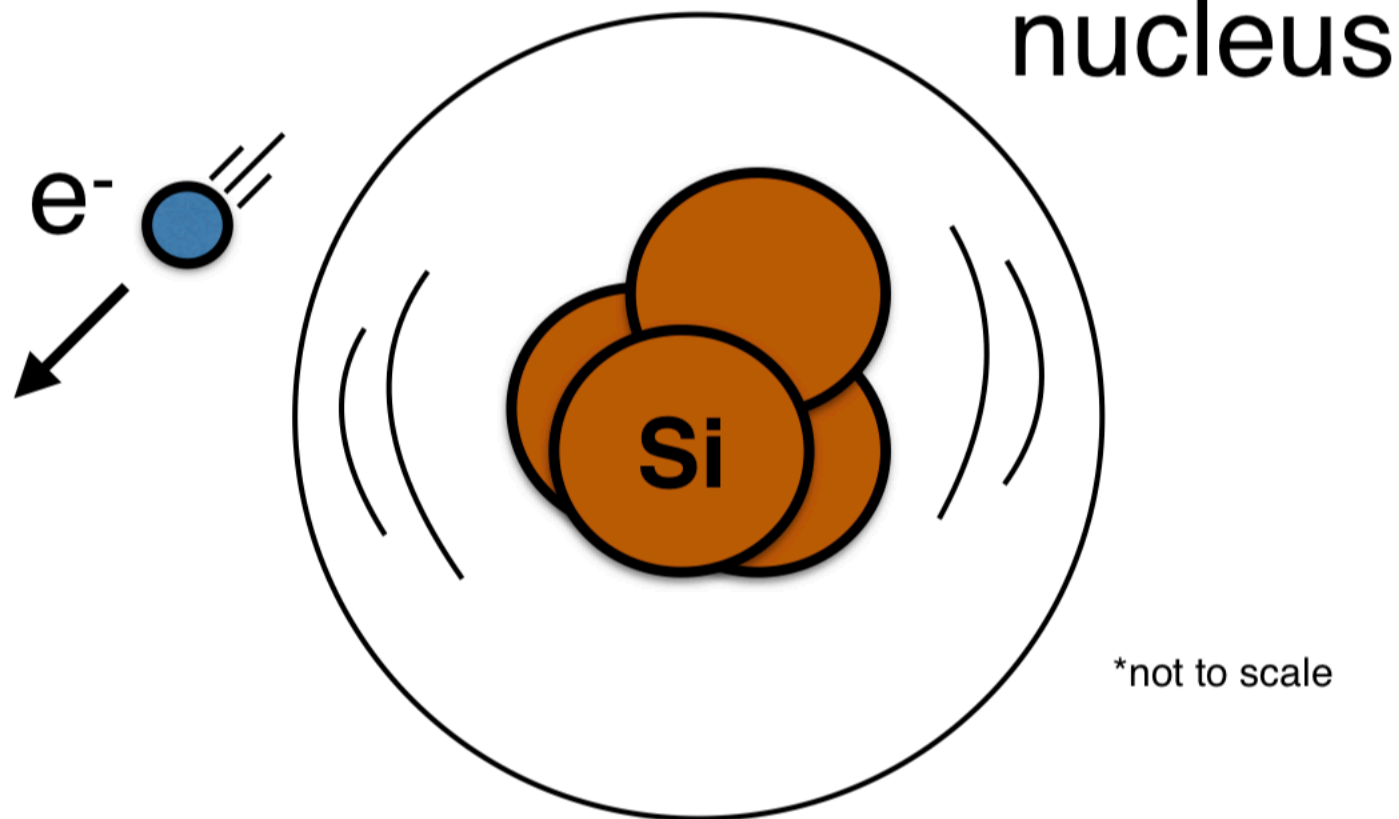
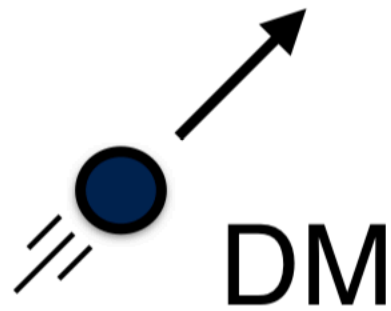
Consistent with other null experiments



# XMASS (xenon) 2018 annual modulation analysis



# DM-electron scattering



\*not to scale

$$E_R = \vec{q} \cdot \vec{v} - \frac{q^2}{2\mu_{\chi N}} \\ \sim \frac{1}{2} \text{eV} \times \left( \frac{m_\chi}{\text{MeV}} \right)$$

$$m_N = 28 \text{ GeV}$$

$$m_\chi = 100 \text{ MeV}$$

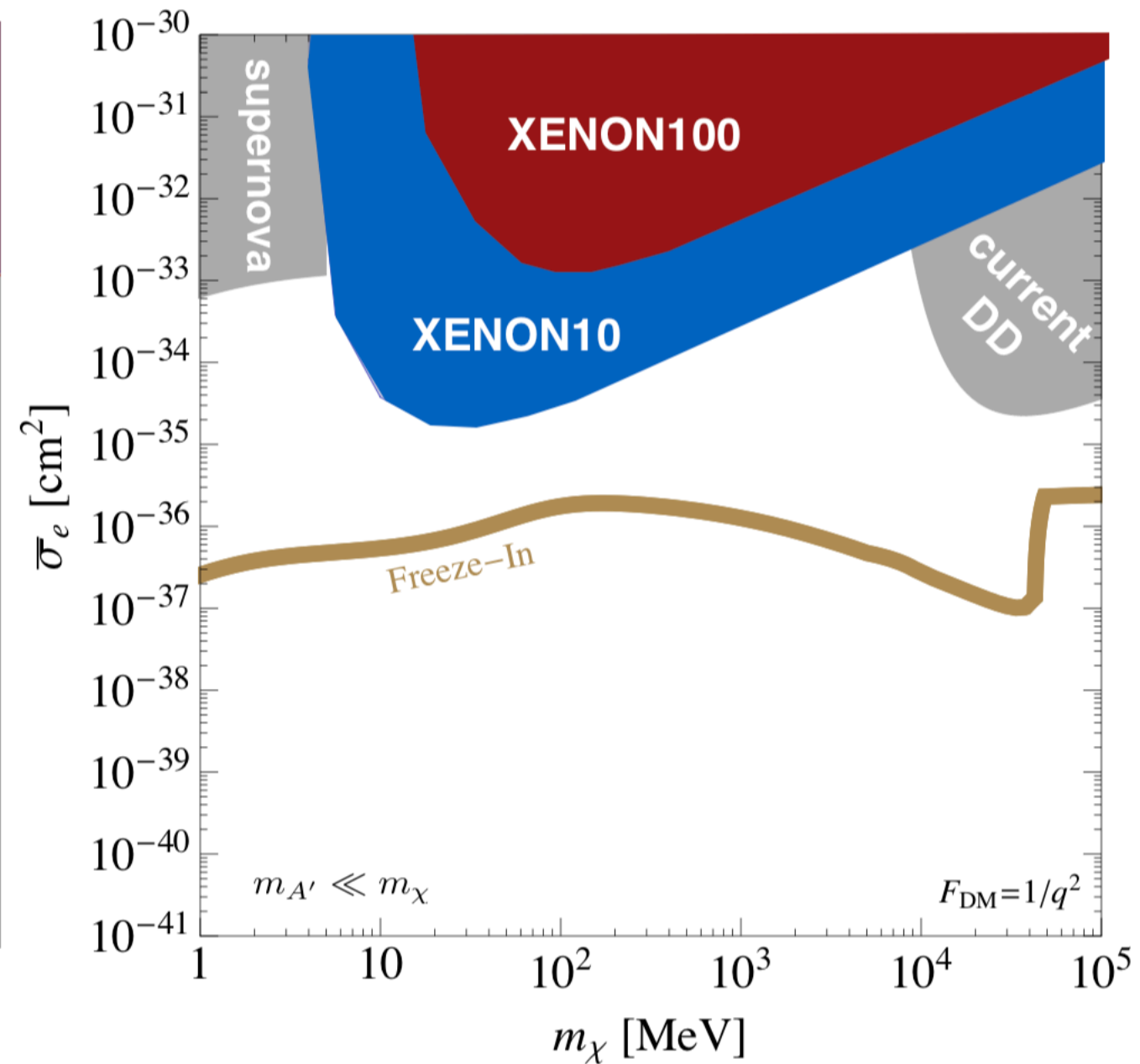
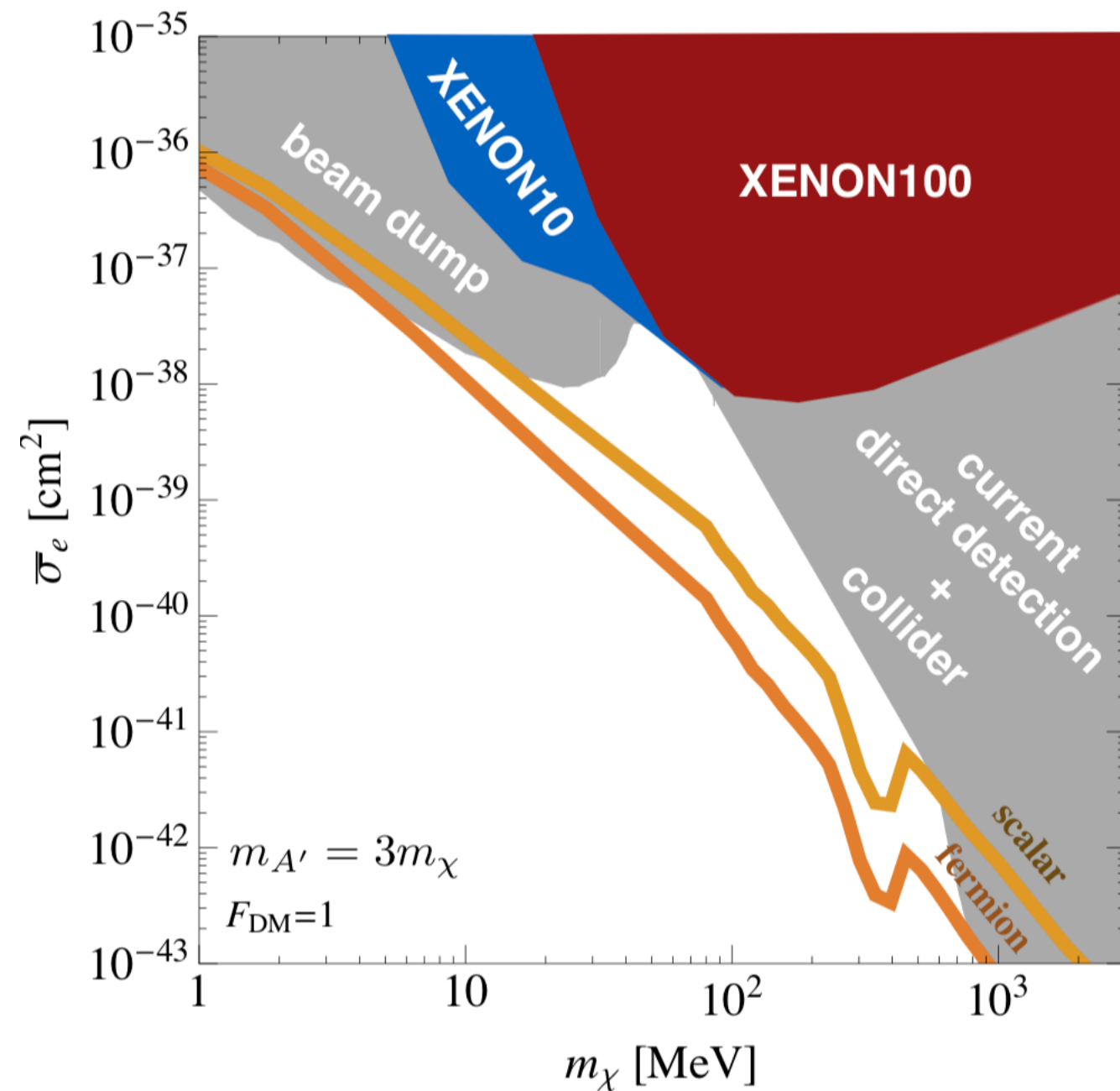
$$E_R \sim 50 \text{ eV}$$

available for detection

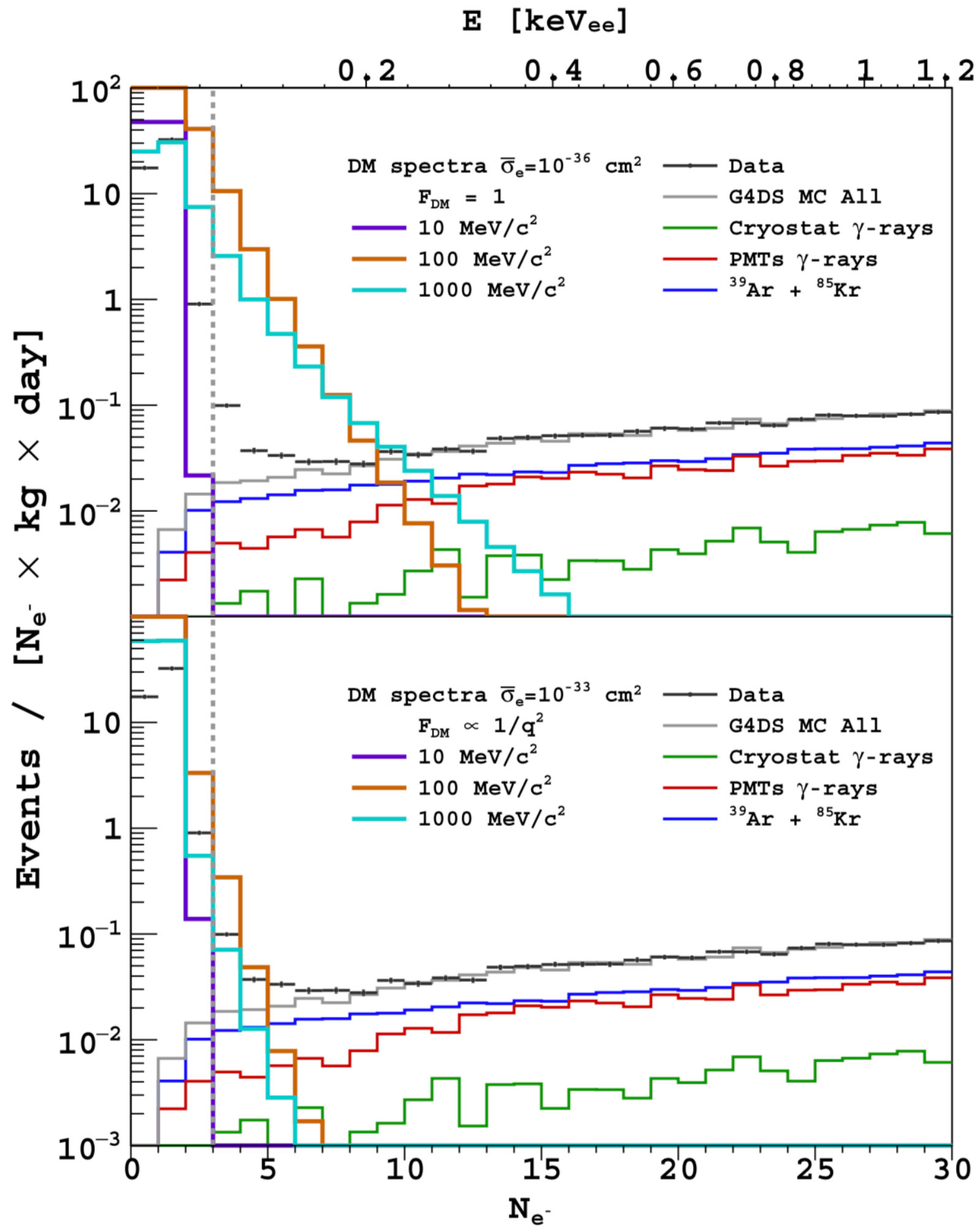


Type	Examples	$E_{\text{th}}$ (eV)	$m_{\text{DM, th}}$ (MeV)	Status
Noble liquids	xenon argon helium	$\sim 10$ eV (atom)	$\sim 5$ MeV	Done w/ XENON10+100 data; improvements possible
Semi-conductors	germanium silicon	$\sim 1$ eV (bandgap)	$\sim 200$ keV	$\sim 40$ - $50$ eV (SuperCDMS, DAMIC); improvements need further R&D
Scintillators	GaAs, NaI, CsI, ...	$\sim 1$ eV (bandgap)	$\sim 200$ keV	Requires R&D, but probably feasible soon
Super-conductors	aluminum	$\sim 1$ meV	$\sim 1$ keV	Requires R&D

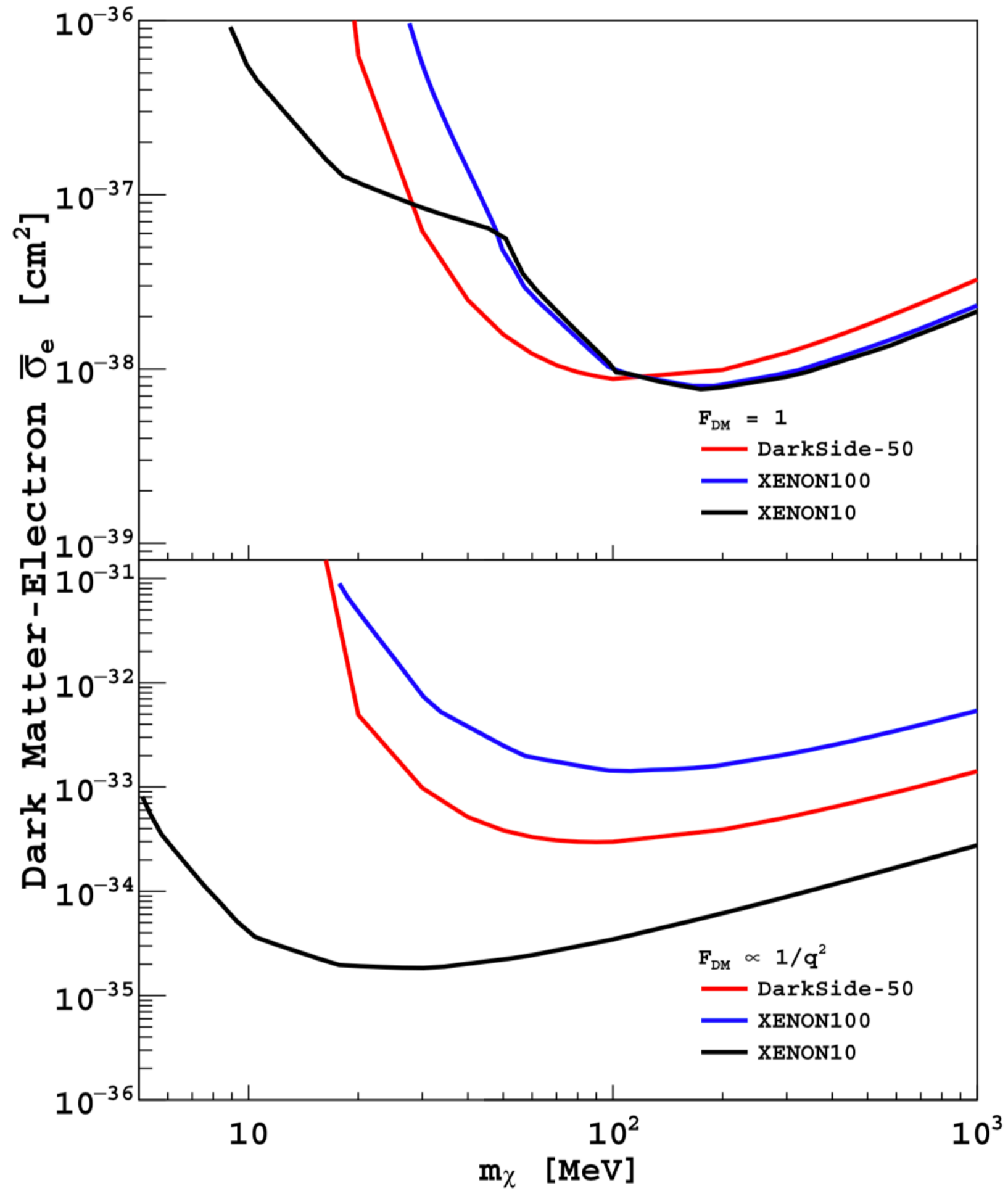
# DM-electron scattering

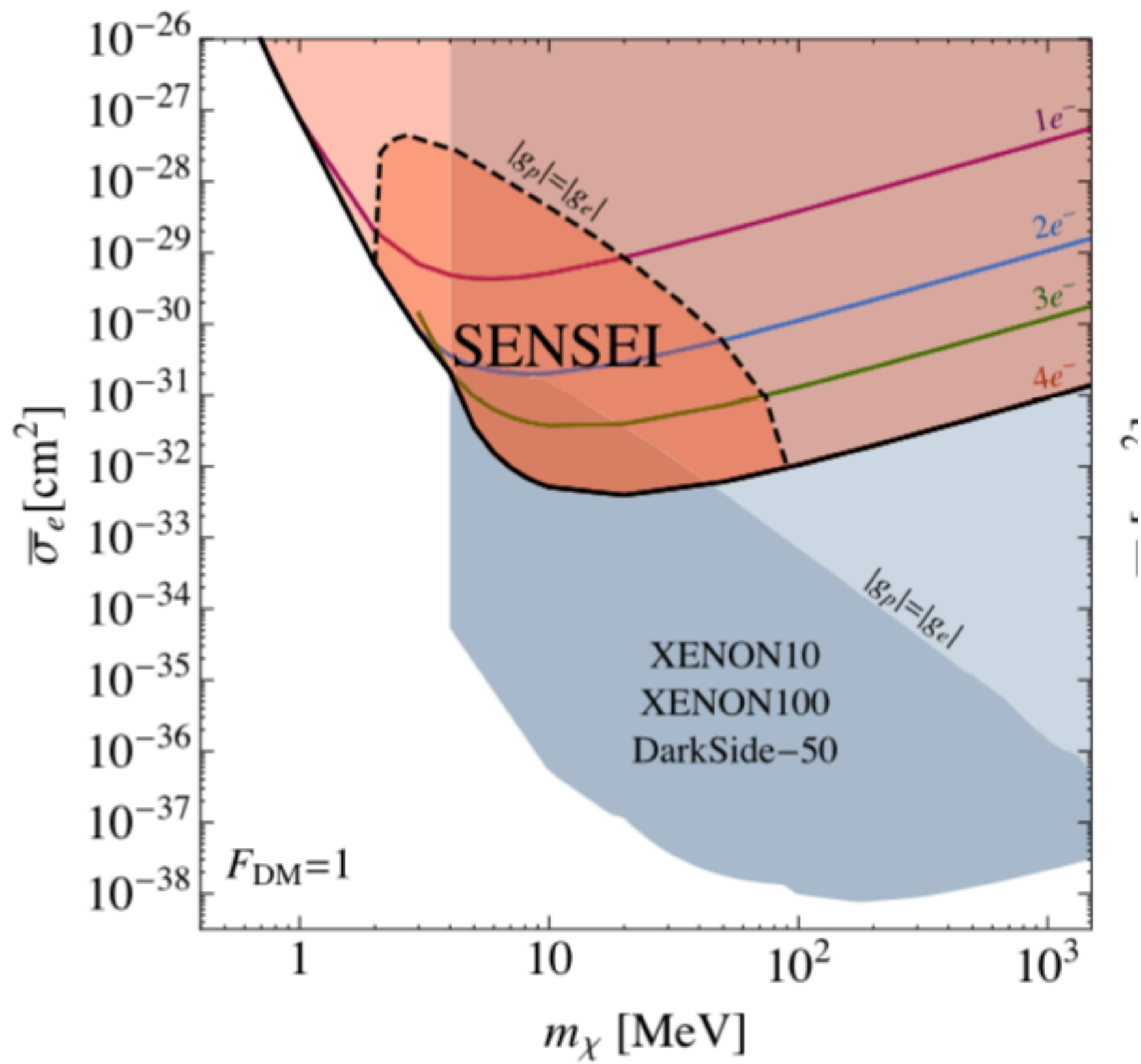


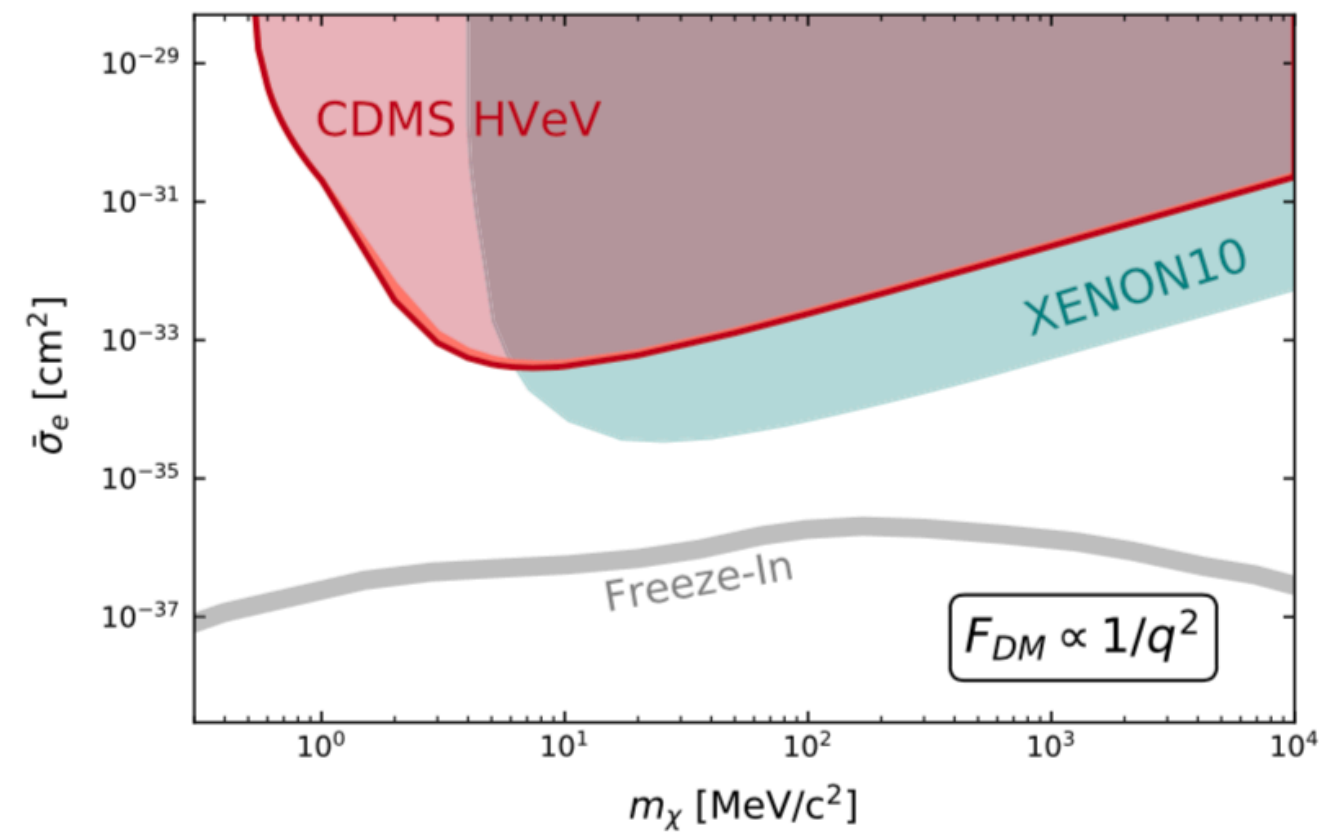
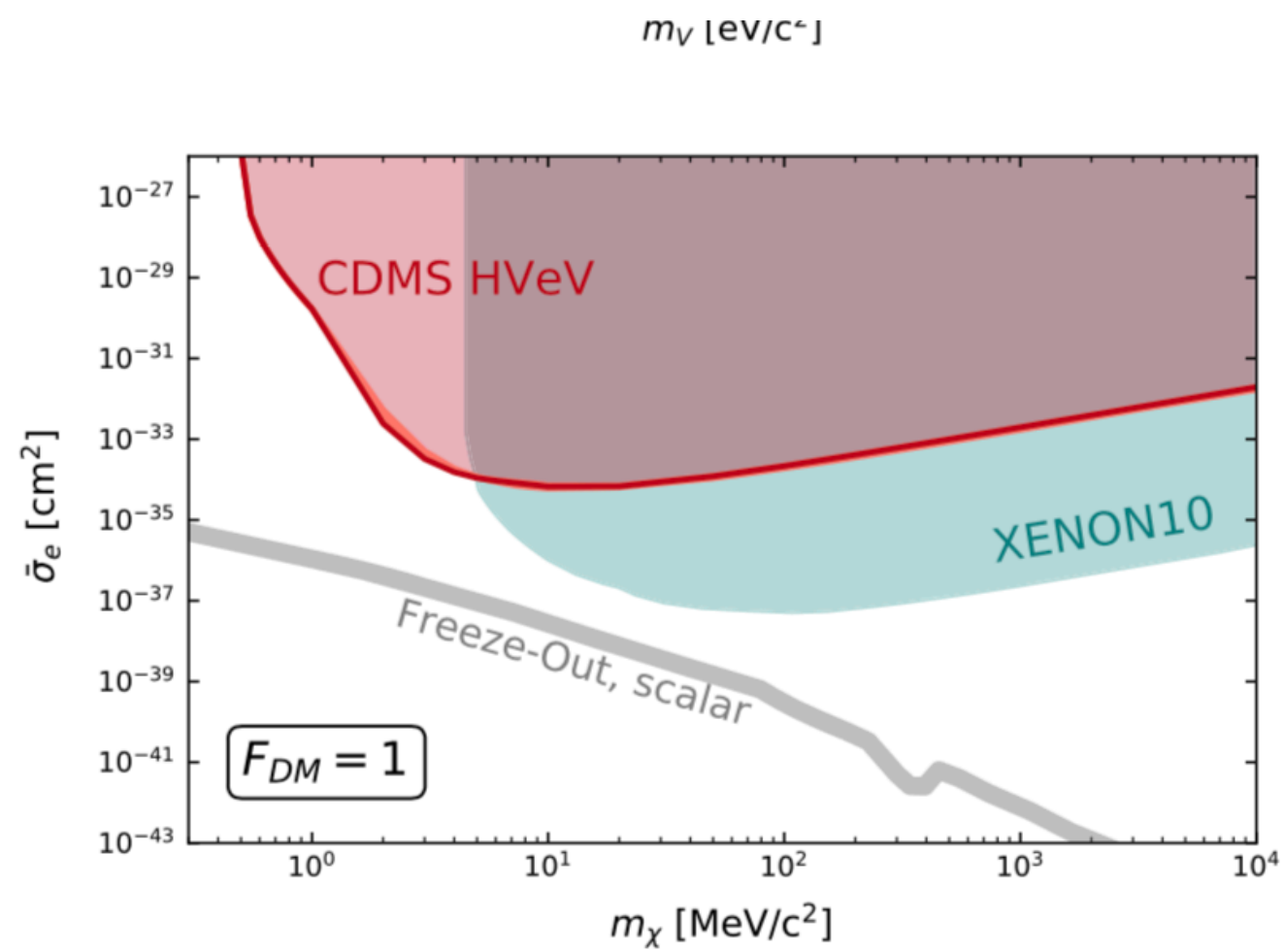
# DARKSIDE50





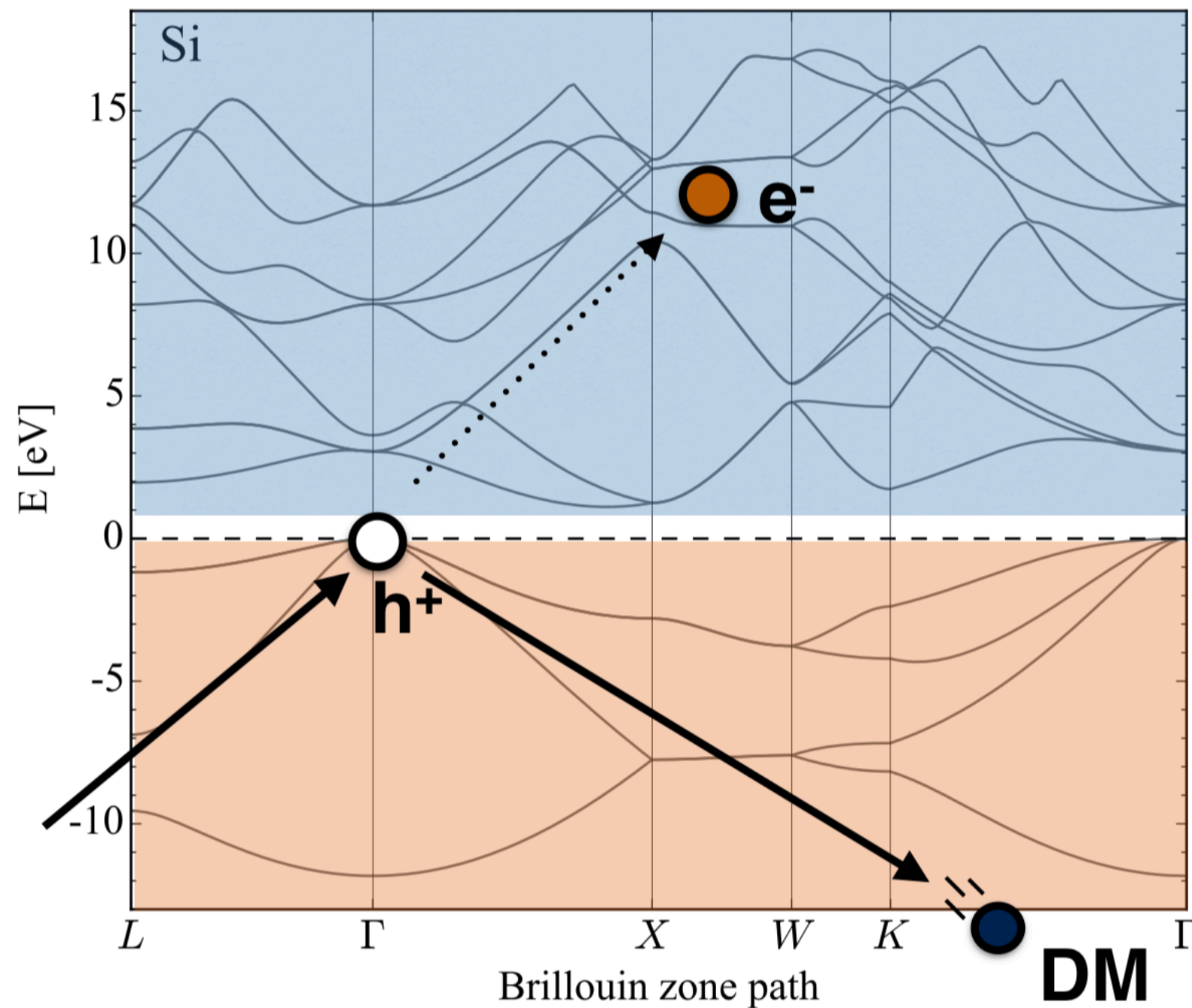








# semiconductor targets



**detect the electron(s)**

**sensitive to ~eV energy  
depositions**

**i.e. silicon,  
germanium**

Essig, Mardon, Volansky [1108.5383]

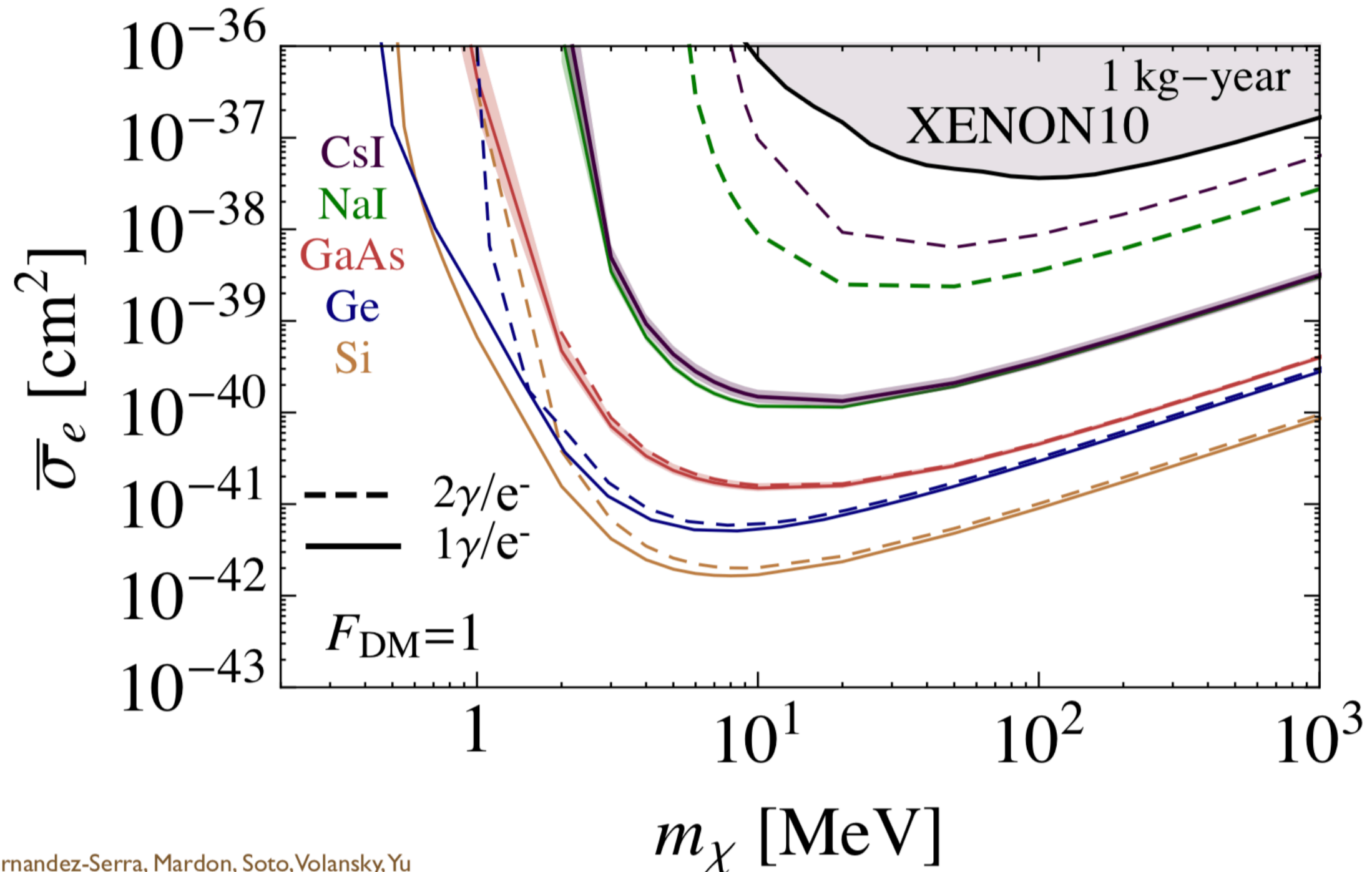
Graham, Kaplan, Rajendran, Walters [1203.2531]

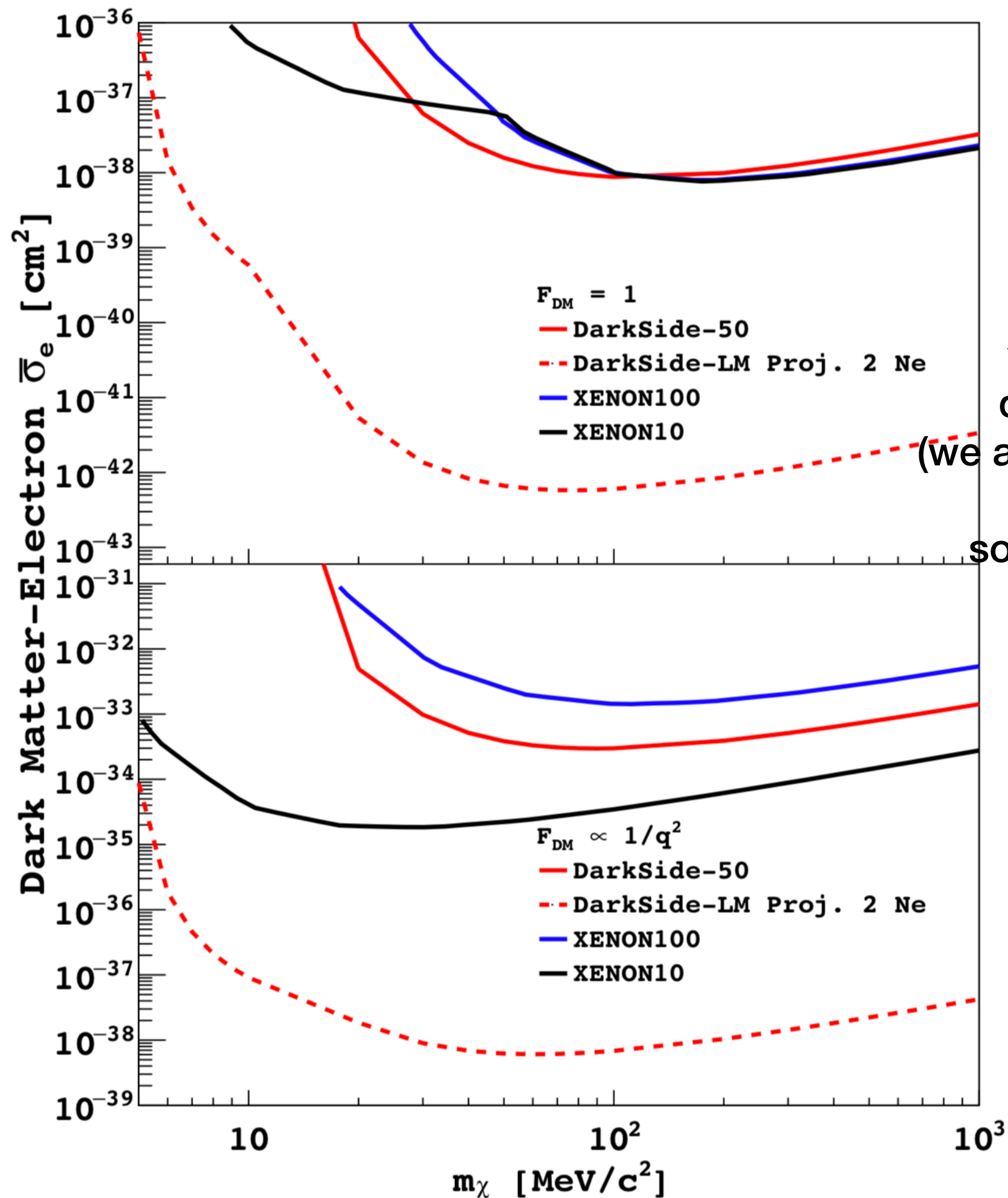
Lee, Lisanti, Mishra-Sharma, Safdi [1508.07361]

Essig, Fernandez-Serra, Mardon, Soto, Volansky, TTY [1509.01598]

# Prospects?

95% c.l. for zero background (i.e. 3.6 DM events)





very preliminary  
dream sensitivity  
(we assume optimistically  
here that  
some current issues  
will be solved)!



# Conclusions

**A very active and competitive research field with many new ideas emerging almost every year**

**The first one reaching the neutrino floor gets a beer! (if she/he sees something beforehand, she/he gets  $>1\text{M}\$$ , this is well known)**