

# Probing New Physics Beyond the Neutrinoless Double-Beta Decay of Ge-76



Sofia Calgaro – for the GERDA collaboration



Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare  
Sezione di Padova

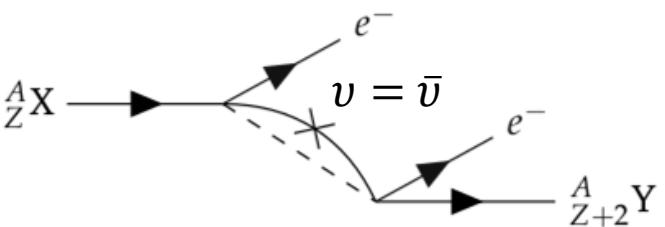
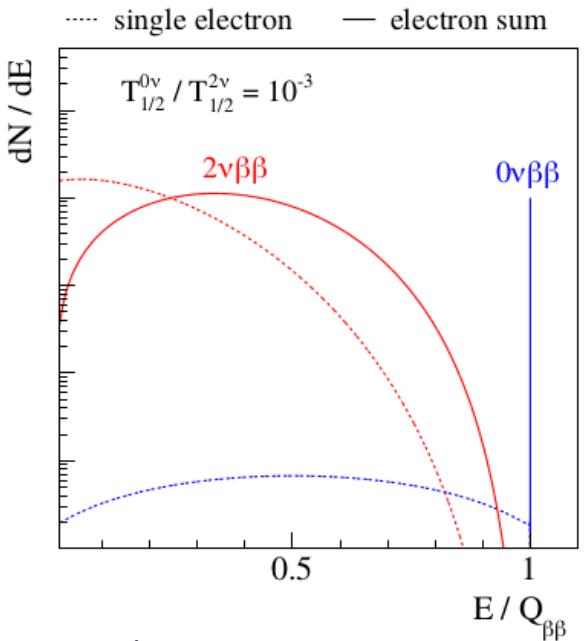
[sofia.calgaro@pd.infn.it](mailto:sofia.calgaro@pd.infn.it)

XX NeuTel 2023, October 25, 2023

# Searching for $0\nu2\beta$

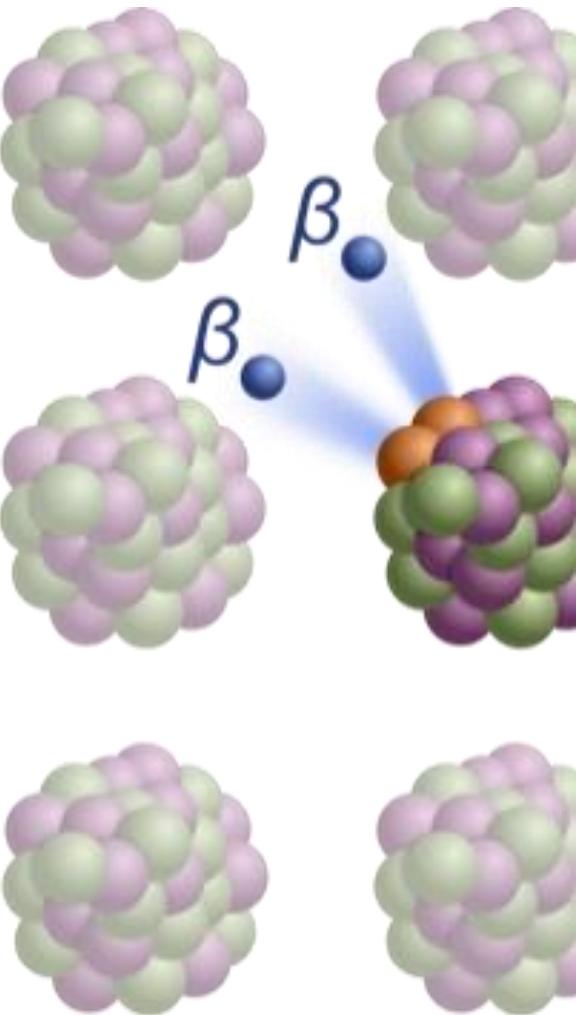
## Signature

- $2\nu2\beta$  (SM): continuous, broad spectrum
- $0\nu2\beta$  (BSM): peak at  $Q_{\beta\beta}$  (electrons energy)



## Physics Implications

- Violation of lepton number
- Nature of neutrinos (Dirac/Majorana)
- Neutrino mass scale & ordering (normal/inverted)
- Matter-antimatter asymmetry in the Universe



# Searching for $0\nu2\beta$

## $0\nu2\beta$ half-life

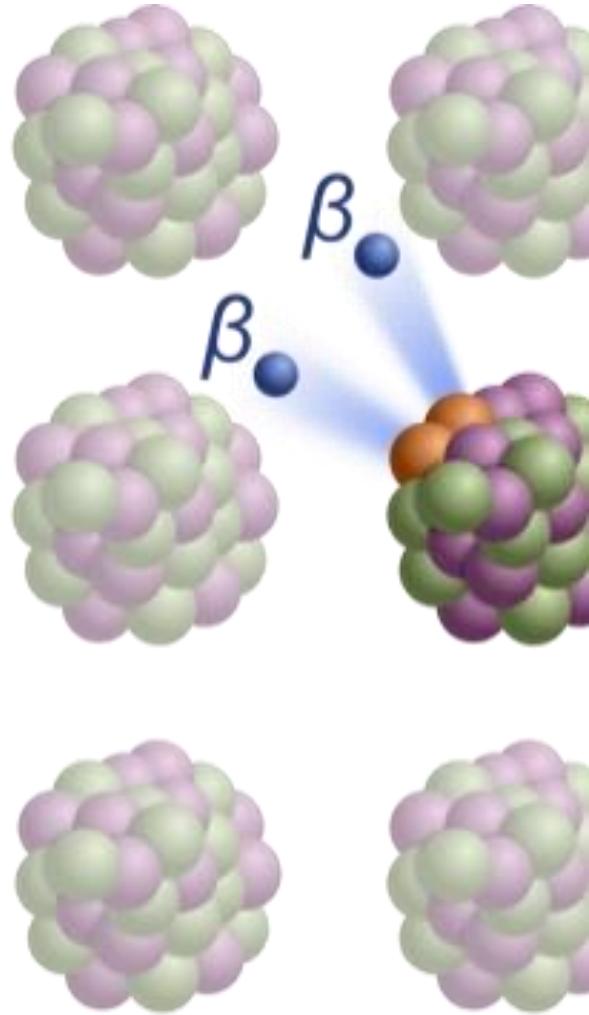
Phase-space  
integral

$$(T_{1/2}^{0\nu})^{-1} = G^{0\nu}(Q_{\beta\beta}, Z) |M^{0\nu}|^2 \left(\frac{m_{\beta\beta}}{m_e}\right)^2$$

Nuclear  
Matrix  
Element

$m_{\beta\beta} = |\sum_i U_{ei}^2 m_i| \rightarrow$  to compare results  
obtained with different isotopes

Effective  
Majorana  
neutrino Mass



# Searching for $0\nu2\beta$

$0\nu2\beta$  half-life

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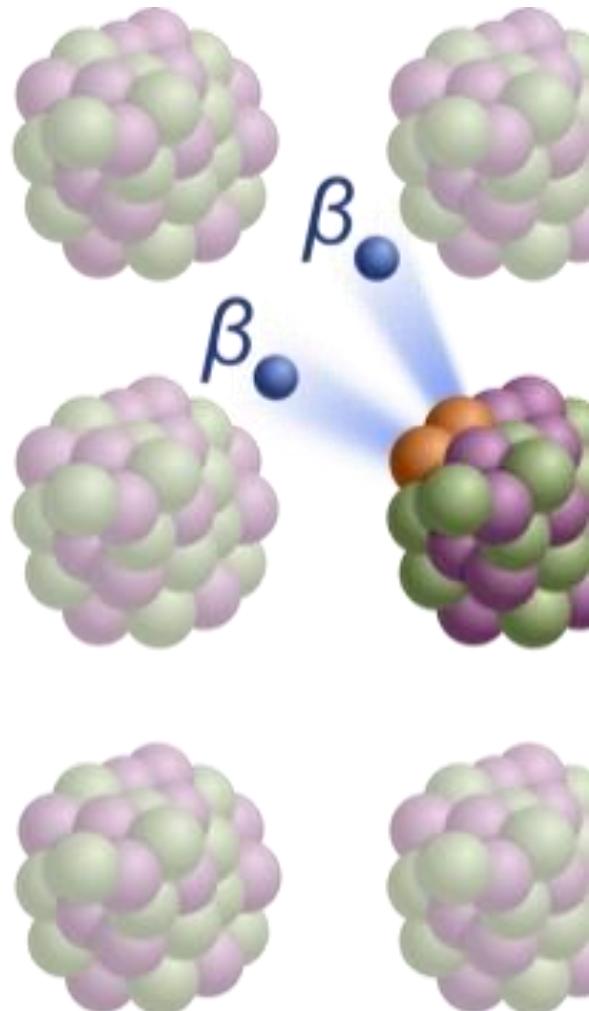
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*GERmanium Detector Array*  
demonstrated that operating  
bare germanium detectors in LAr  
is feasible and leads to a significant bkg reduction



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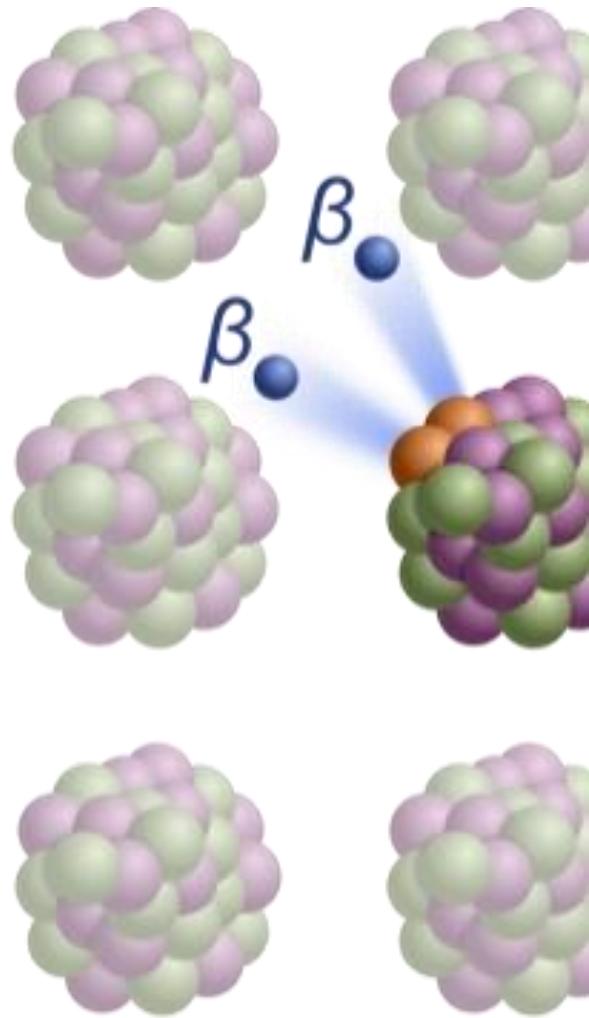
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Nuclear Matrix Element

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**Effective Majorana neutrino Mass**



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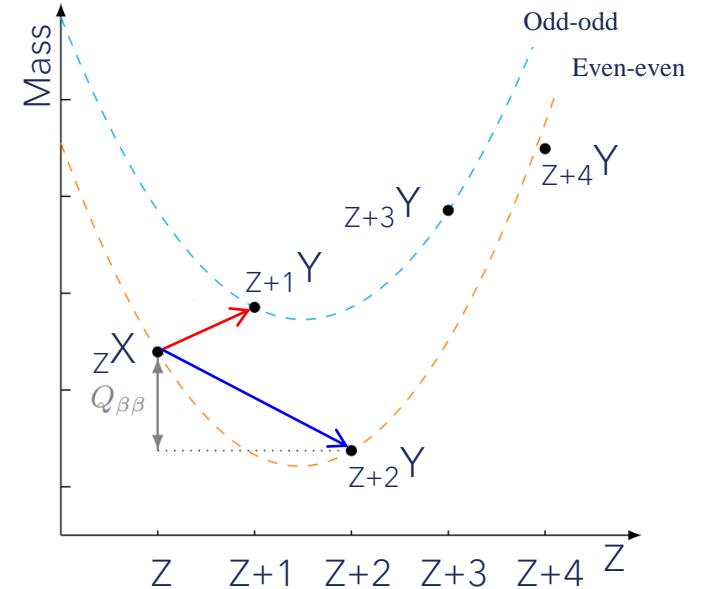
## $0\nu2\beta$ half-life sensitivity

$$T_{1/2}^{0\nu} \propto \begin{cases} \epsilon \cdot f \cdot \sqrt{\frac{\epsilon}{BI \cdot \Delta E}} & \text{with bkg} \\ \epsilon \cdot f \cdot \epsilon & \text{without bkg} \end{cases}$$

$\epsilon$ : efficiency  
 $f$ : isotopic fraction  
 $\epsilon = M \cdot t$ : exposure  
 $\Delta E$ : energetic resolution at  $Q_{\beta\beta}$   
 $BI$ : bkg index

# GERDA Approach

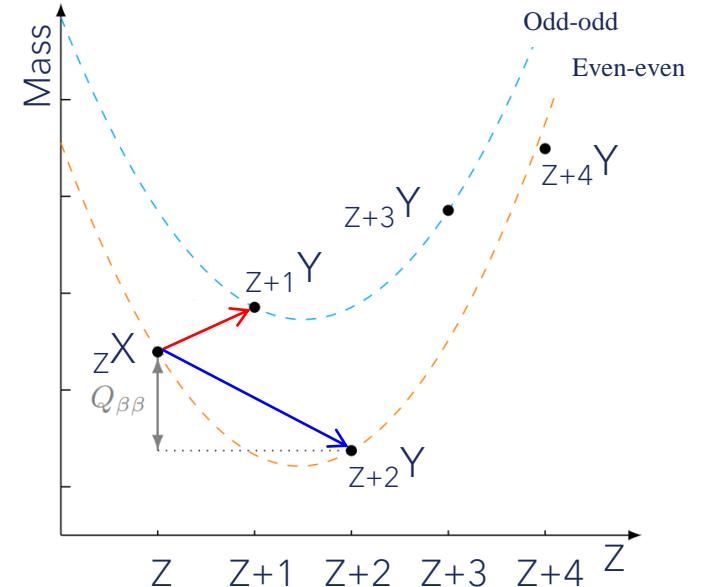
GERMANIUM,  ${}_{32}^{76}\text{Ge} \rightarrow {}_{34}^{76}\text{Se} + 2\text{e}^- [+2\bar{\nu}_e]$   
 $Q_{\beta\beta}({}^{76}\text{Ge}) = 2039.061 \pm 0.007 \text{ keV}$



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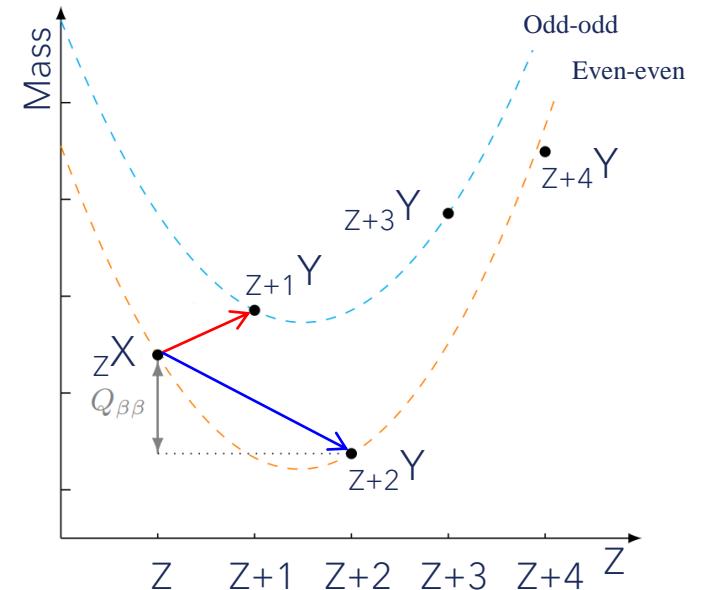
- Source  $\equiv$  detector  $\Rightarrow$  **high detection efficiency**
- Ge: high purity  $\Rightarrow$  **low intrinsic background**
- Excellent energetic resolution  $\Rightarrow$  **FWHM  $\sim 0.1\%$  @  $Q_{\beta\beta}$**



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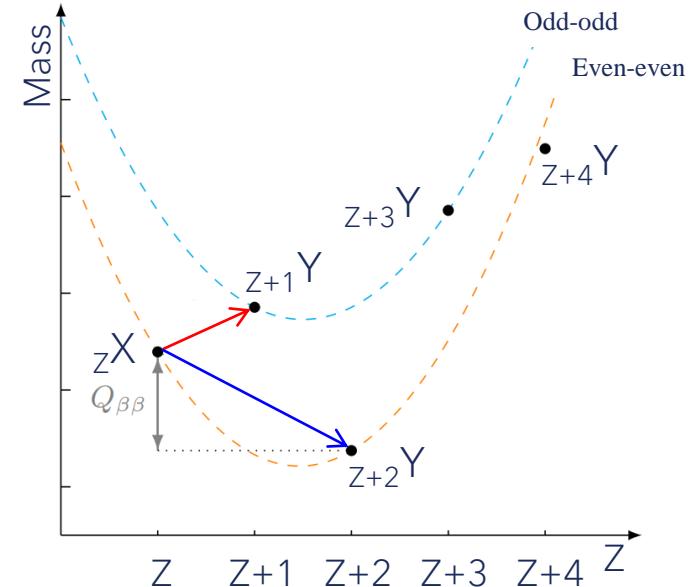
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- **Low  $Q_{\beta\beta}$**   $\Rightarrow$  difficult to reach low bkg levels
- **$f_{76}^{nat} \sim 8\%$**   $\Rightarrow$  enrichment in Ge-76 is necessary



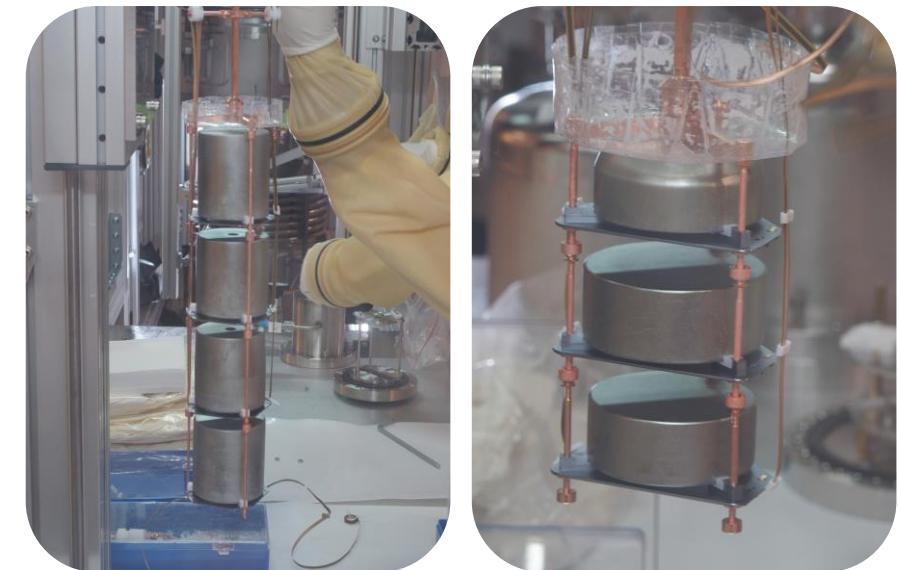
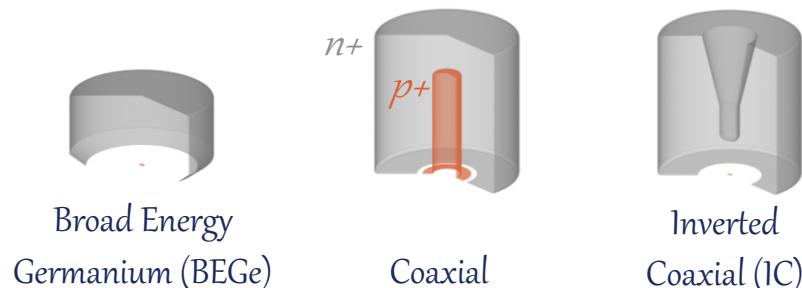
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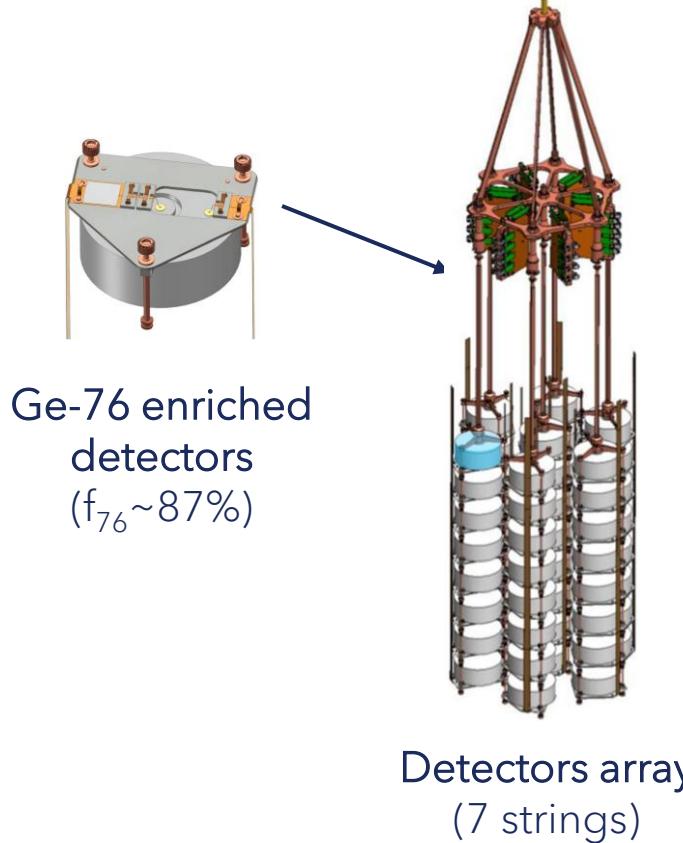
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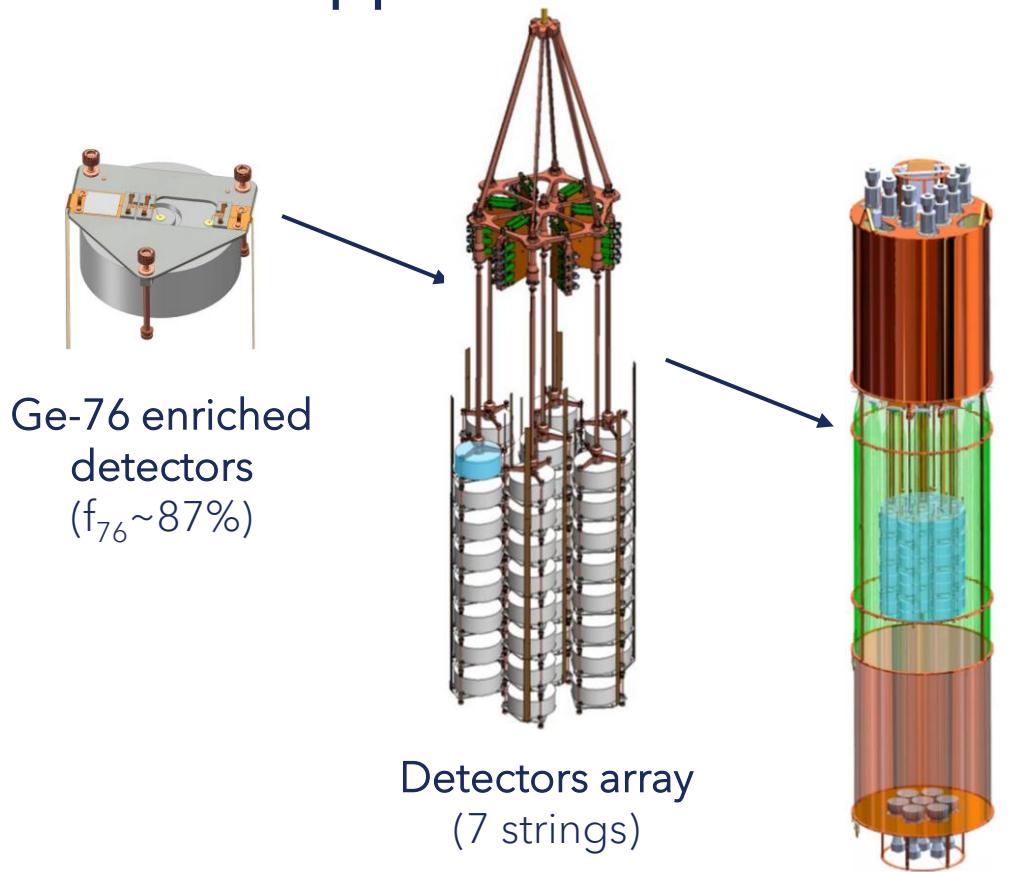
- p+ (implanted B) & n+ (diffused Li), passivated groove
- Fully depleted crystals
- Different geometries: BEGe, coaxials, IC
- Mass:  $\sim 0.4\text{-}3 \text{ kg}$
- Event topology discrimination: Pulse Shape Discrimination (PSD)



# GERDA Approach

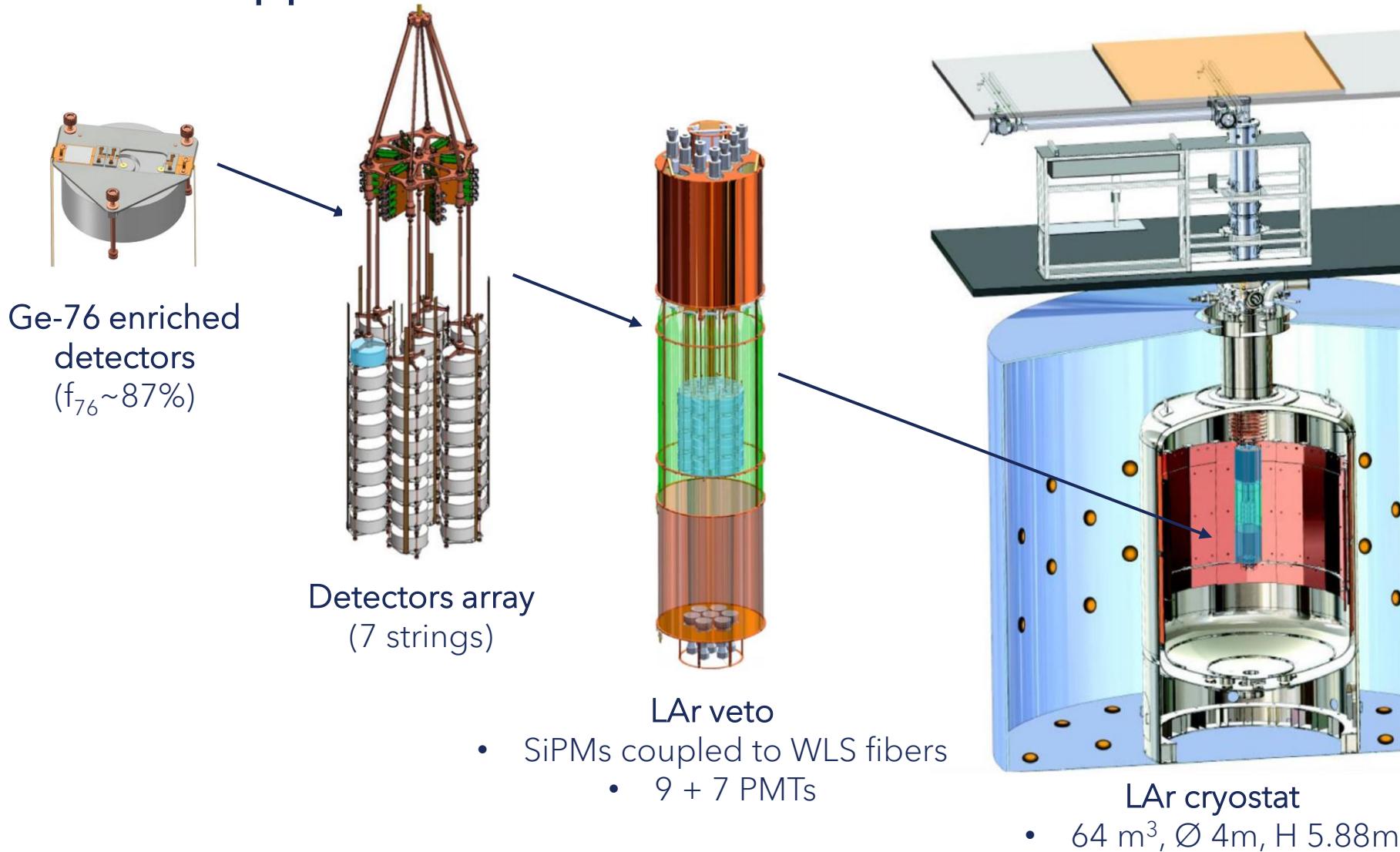


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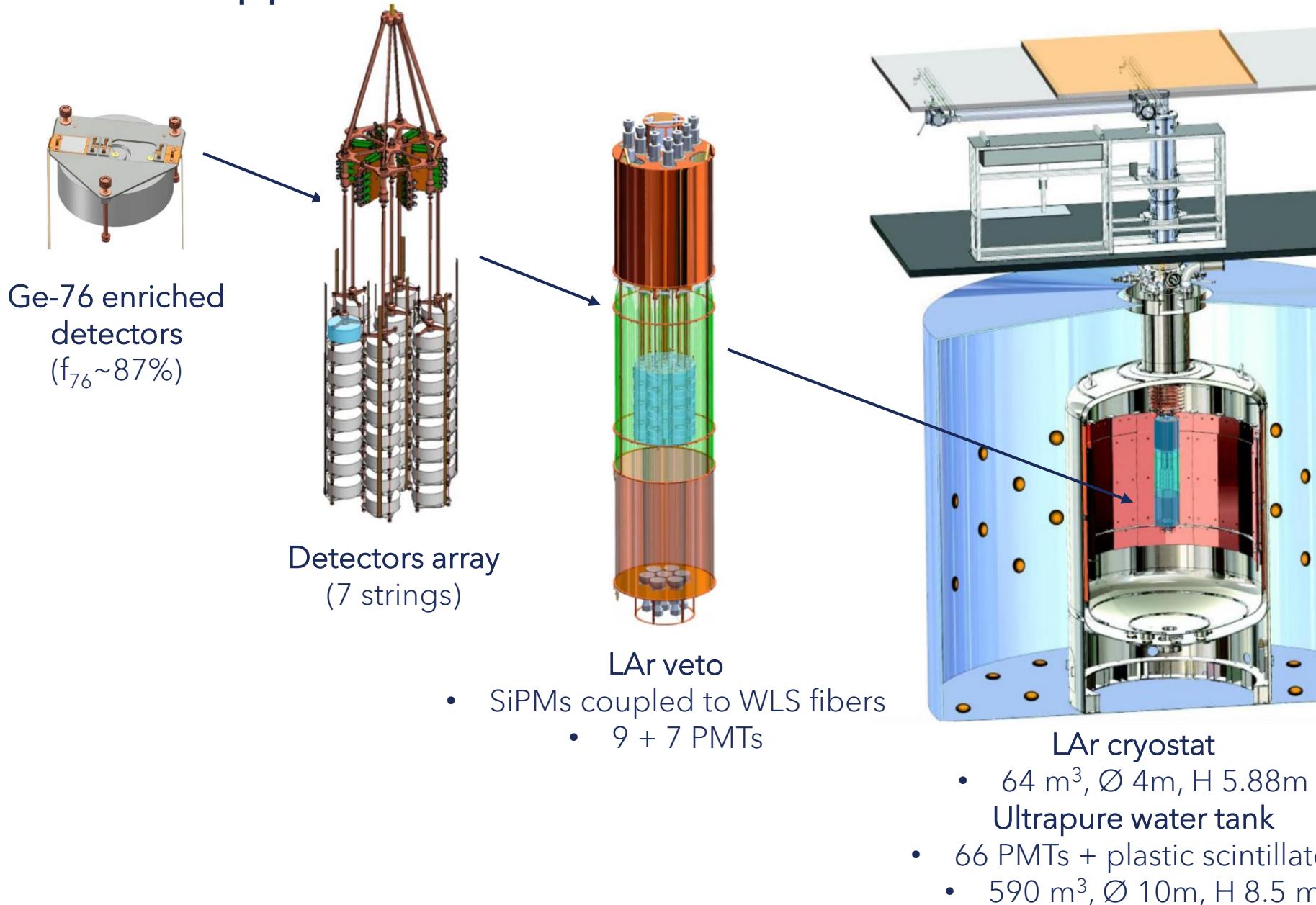


- SiPMs coupled to WLS fibers
  - 9 + 7 PMTs

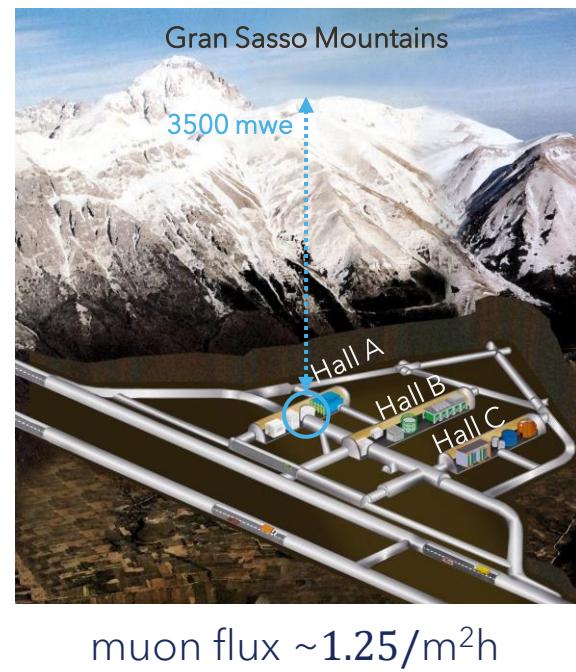
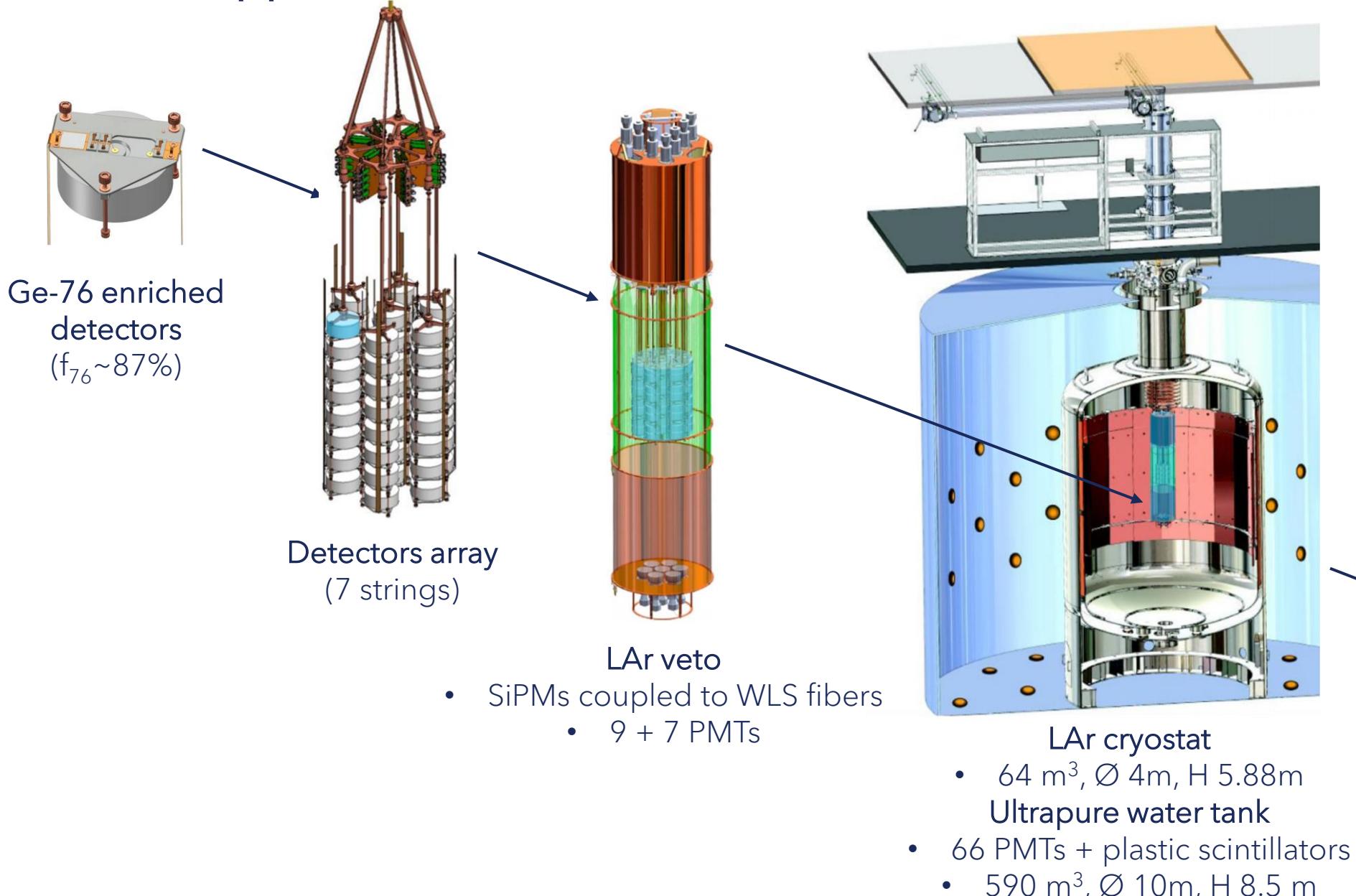
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# Background Reduction Efficiencies

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## Analysis Cuts

- Quality cuts (no baselines, test pulses R=0.05 Hz, pile-ups) ~99.9%

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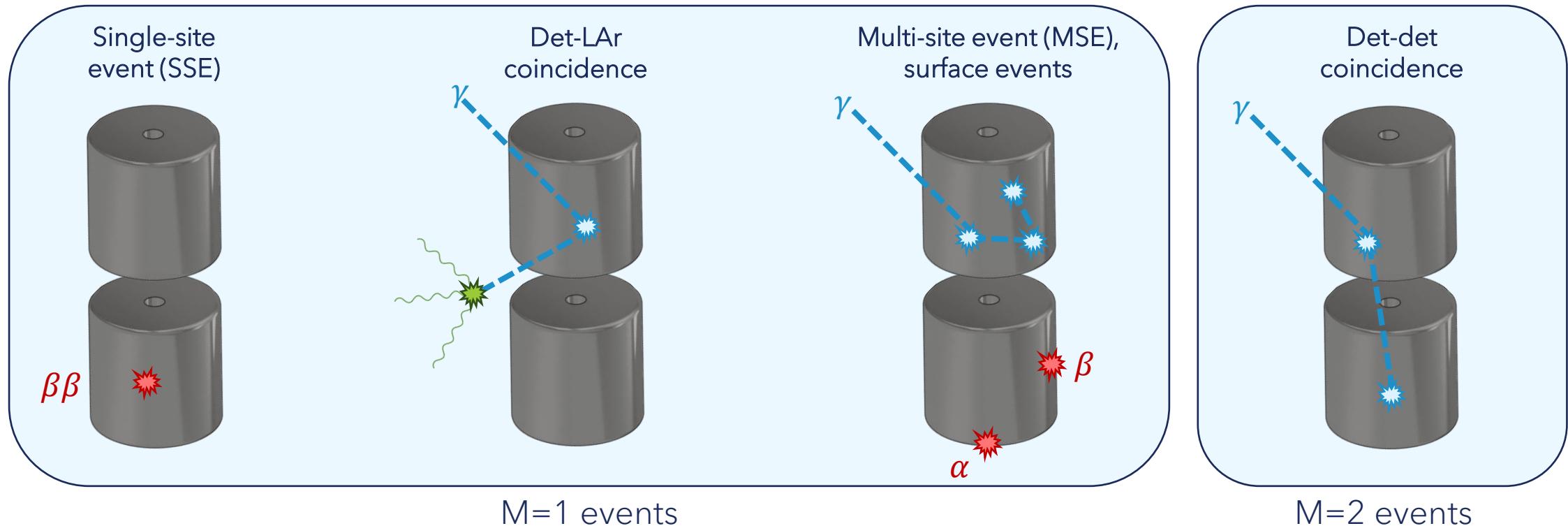
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- LAr veto ~98%

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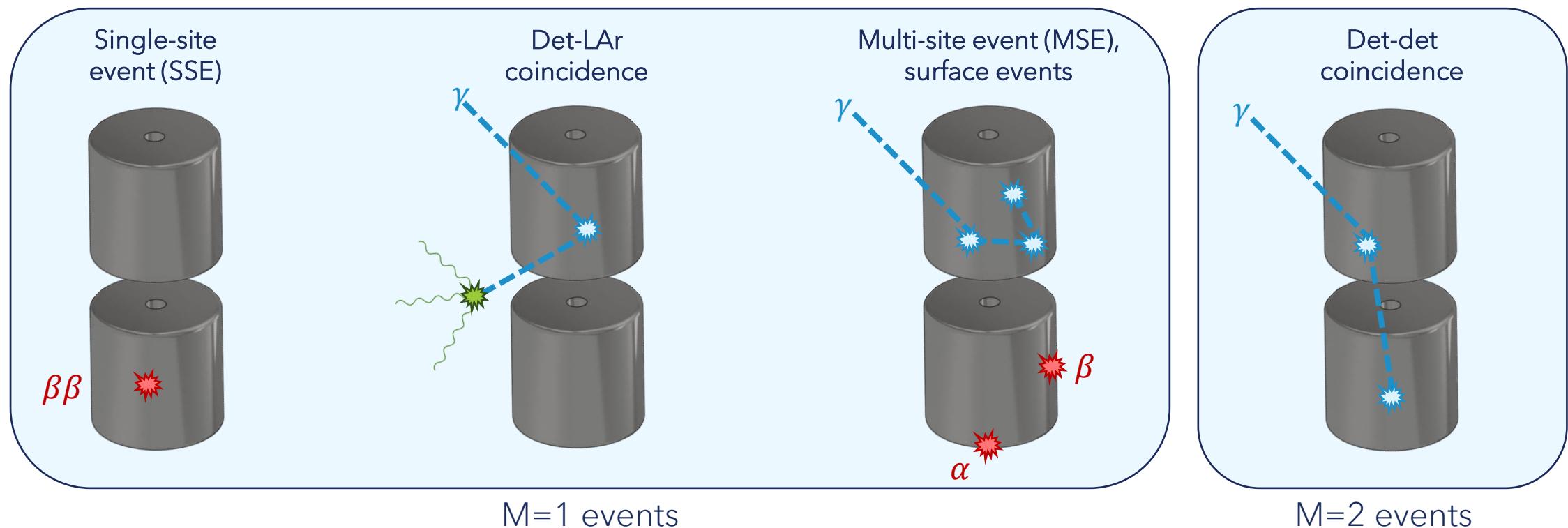
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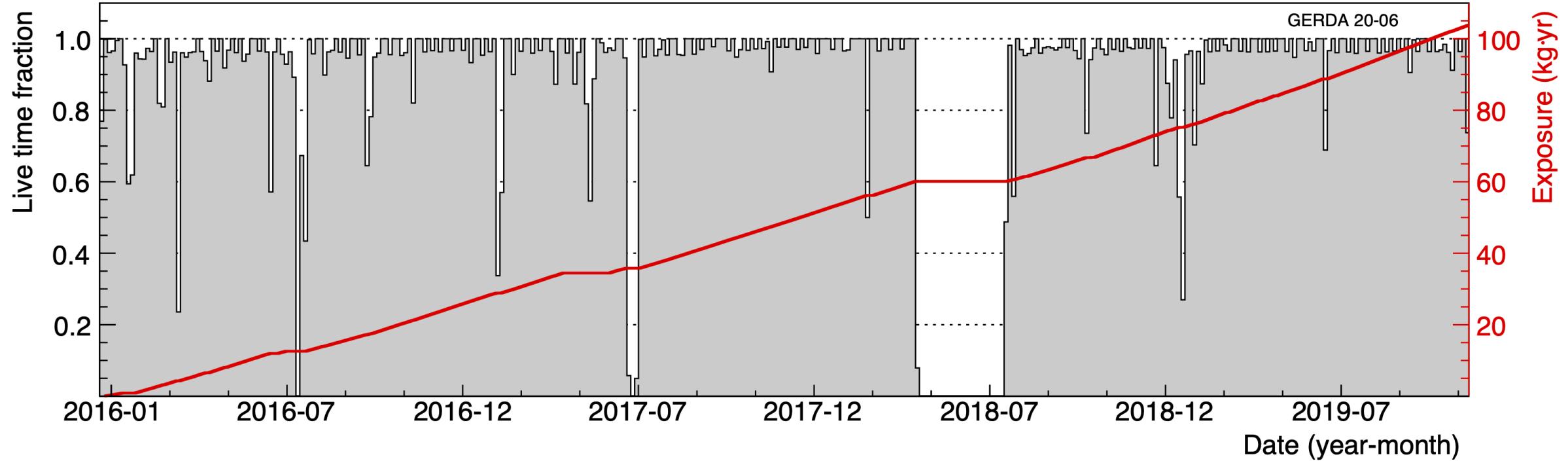
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- Multiplicity (M) 1 events ~100%
- PSD cut for  $0\nu2\beta$  ~69-90%



# Exposure

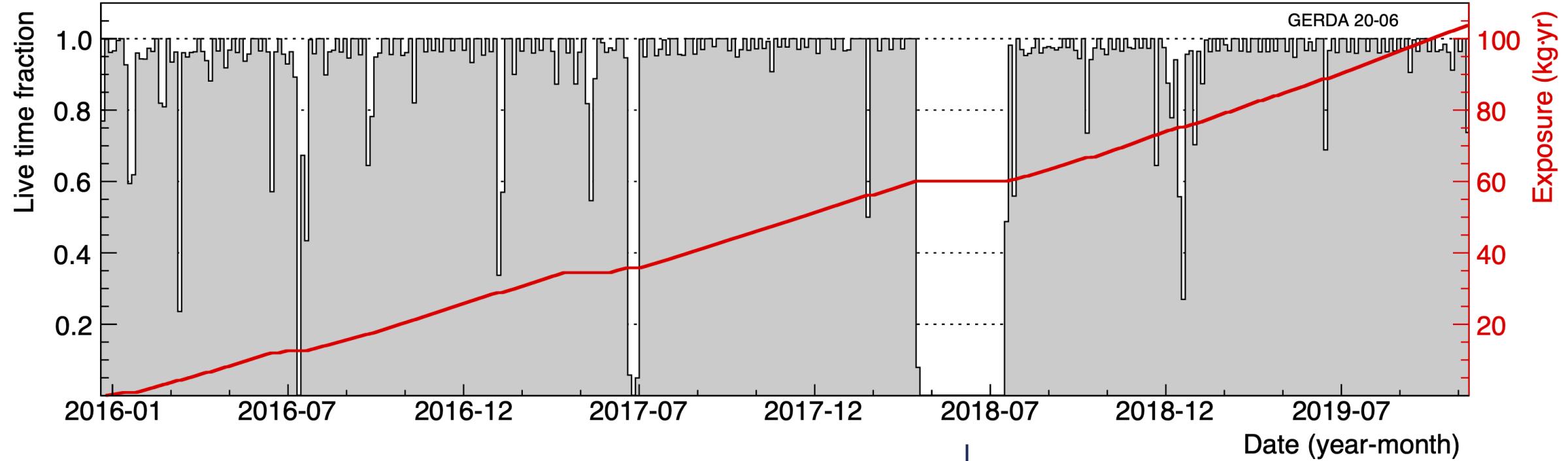


Phase I (Nov. 2011 - Sep. 2013): 23.5 kg yr

Phase II (Dec. 2015 - Nov. 2019): 103.7 kg yr

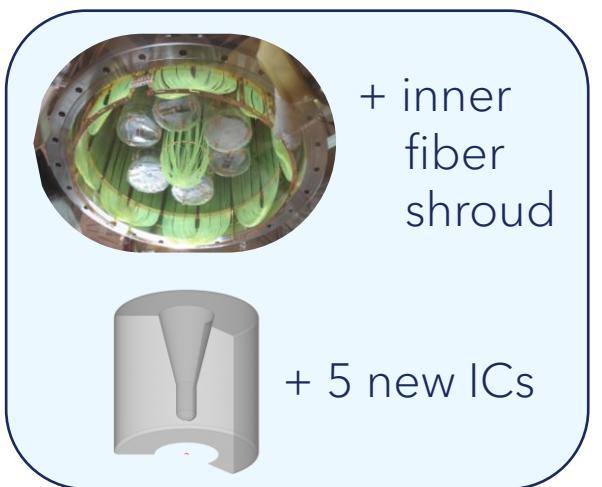
Total: 127.2 kg yr

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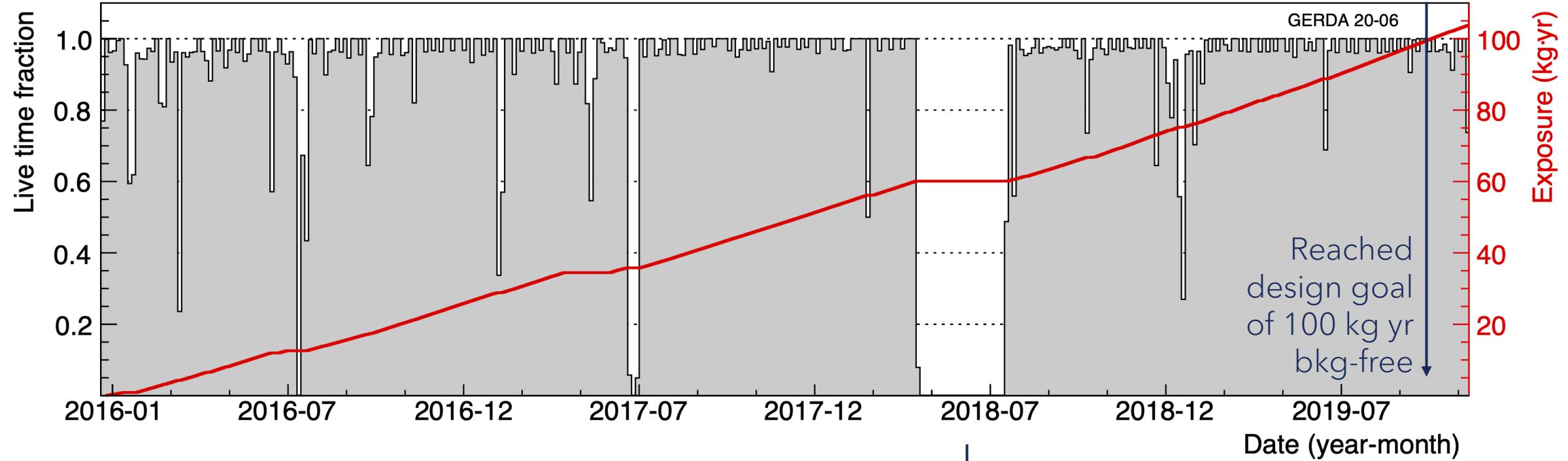


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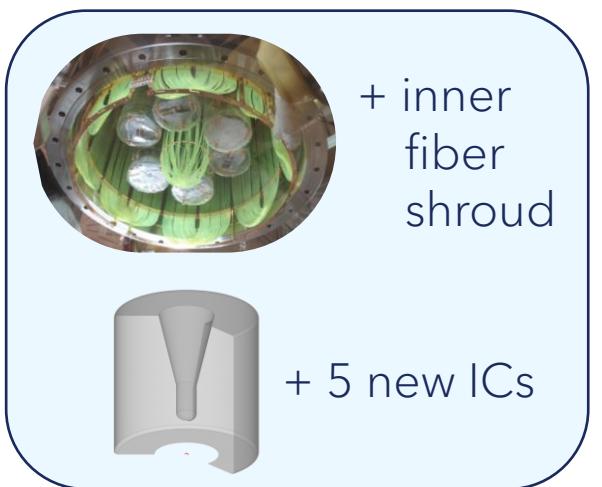


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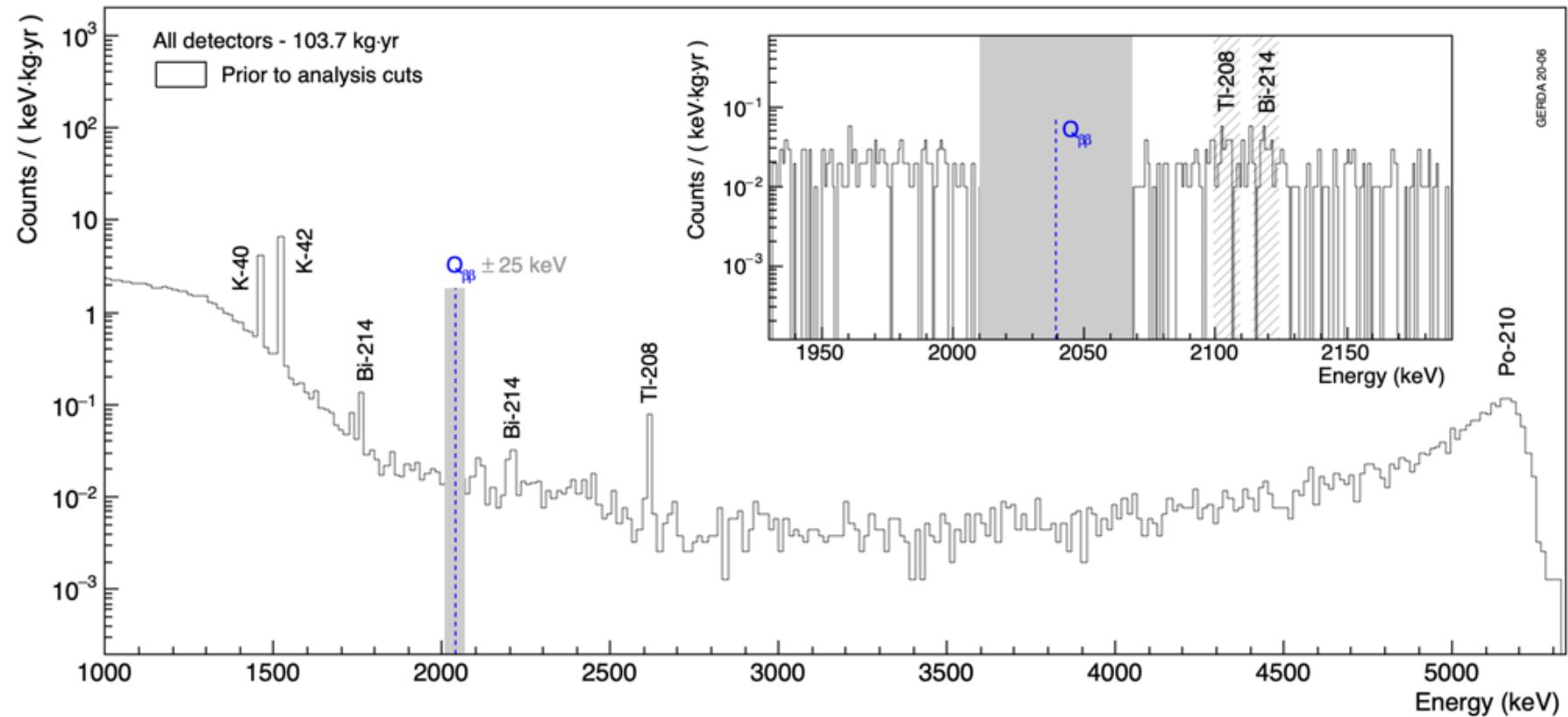


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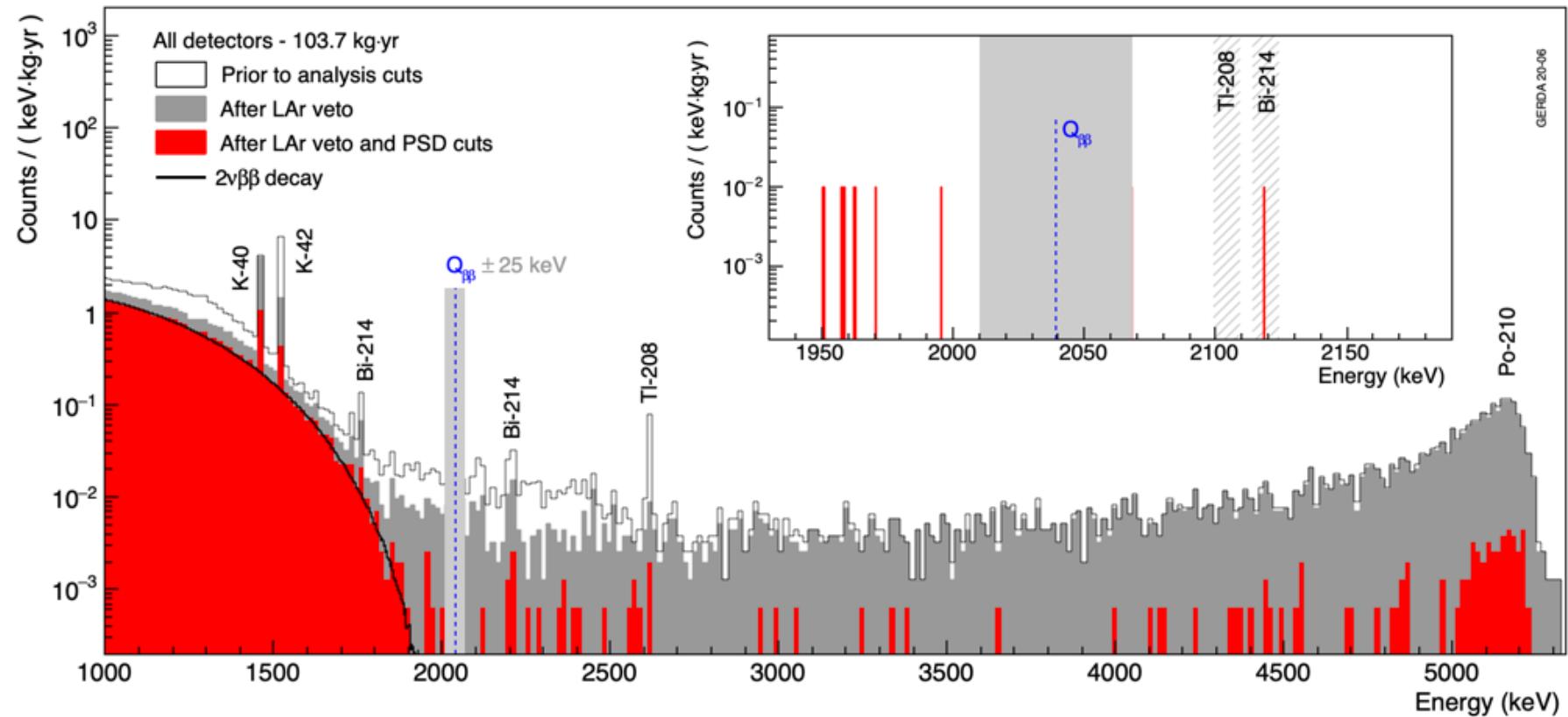


# Final $0\nu 2\beta$ Results



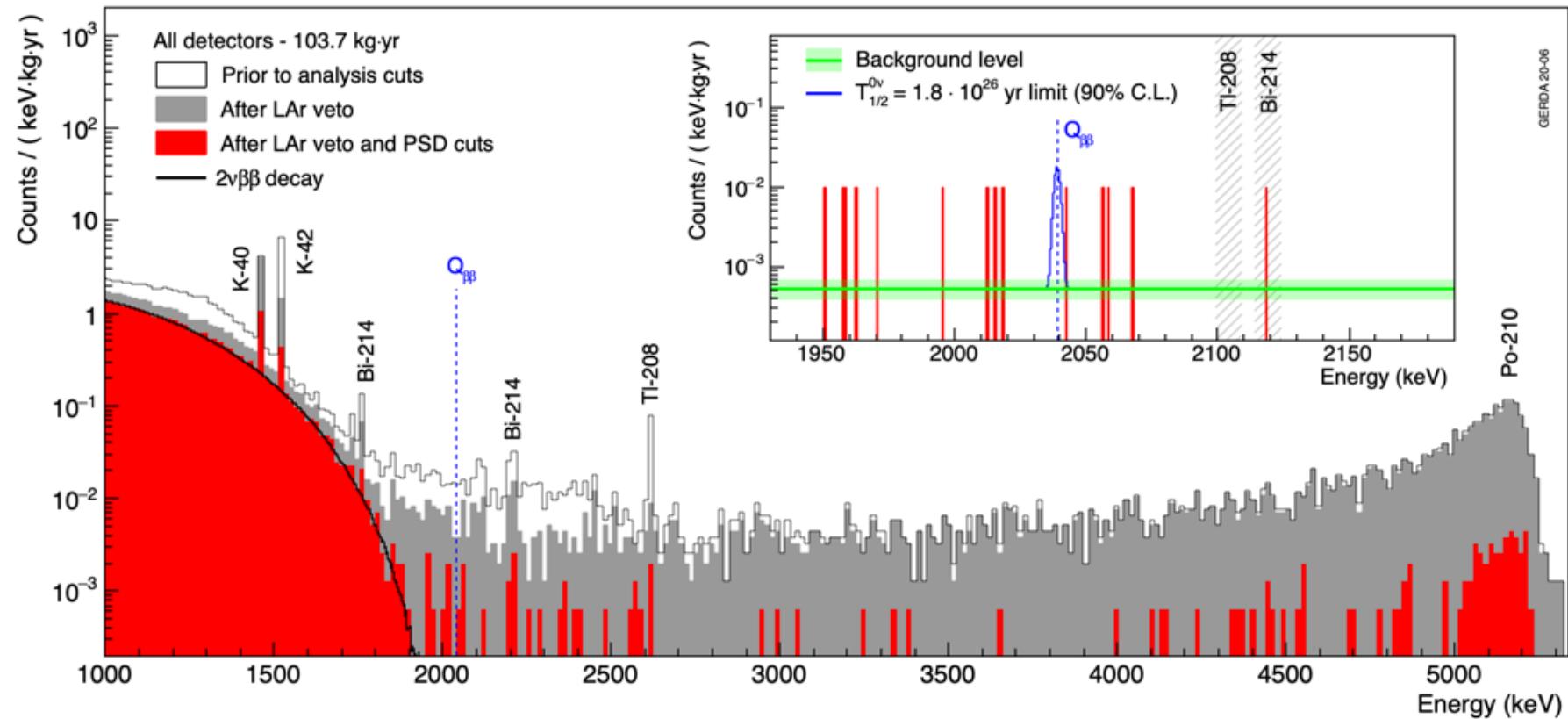
Blind analysis in  $Q_{\beta\beta}({}^{76}\text{Ge}) \pm 25 \text{ keV}$

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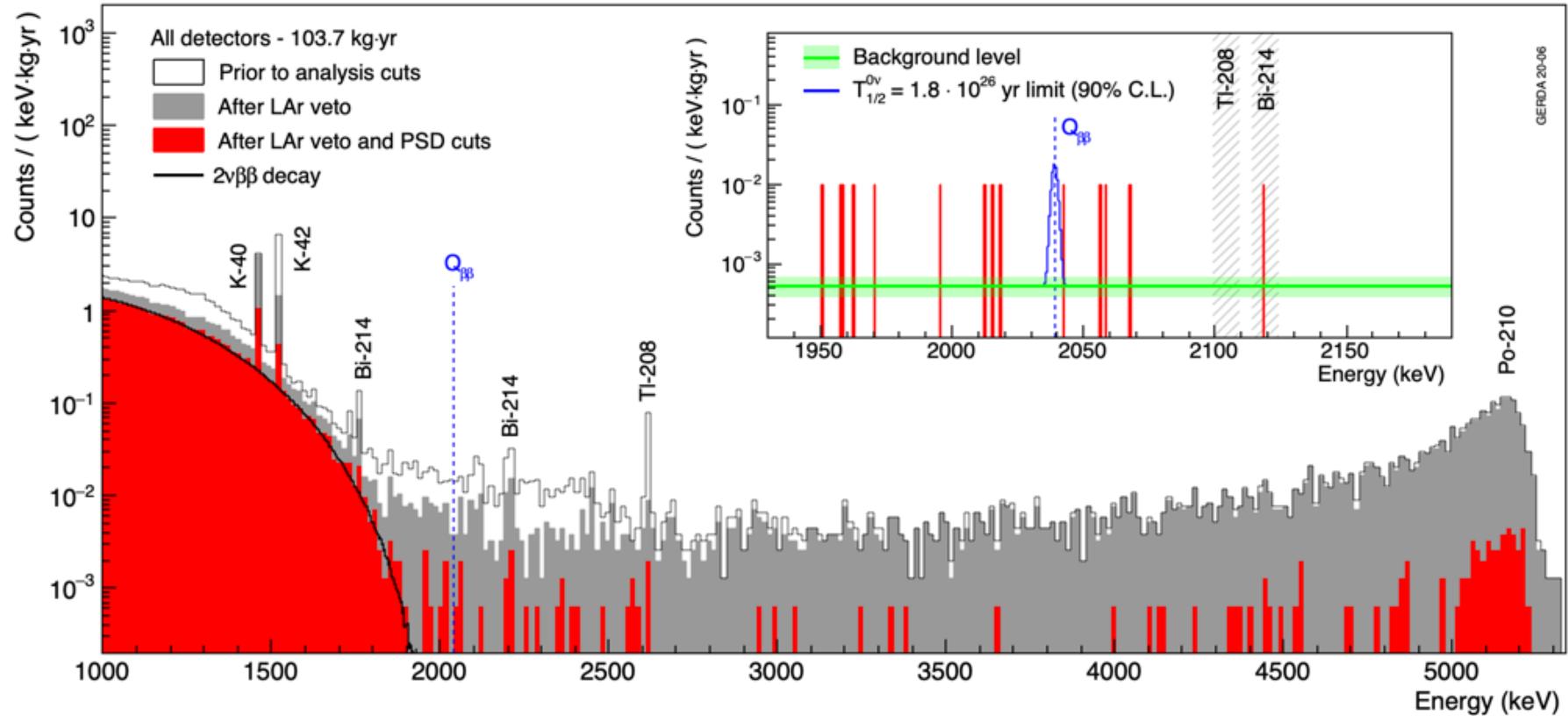
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PRL 125 (2020) 252502

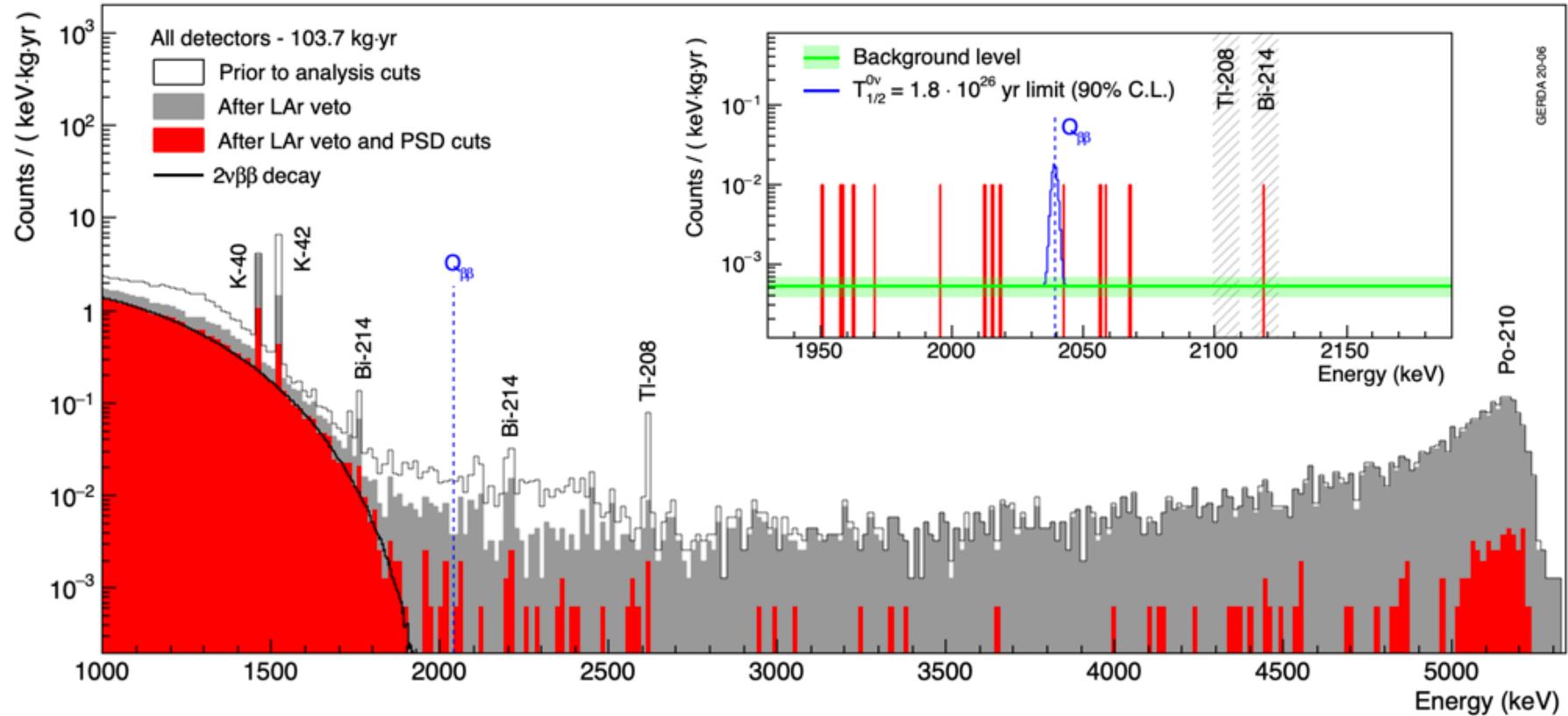
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	Goal	Results
Background	$< 10^{-3}$ cts/(keV · kg · yr)	$5.2^{+1.6}_{-1.3} \cdot 10^{-4}$ cts/(keV · kg · yr)
Exposure	$> 100$ kg yr	103.7 kg yr
$T_{1/2}$ sensitivity	$10^{26}$ yr	$1.8 \times 10^{26}$ yr @ 90% CL $m_{\beta\beta} < 79 - 180$ meV @ 90% CL

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All design goals were reached and surpassed

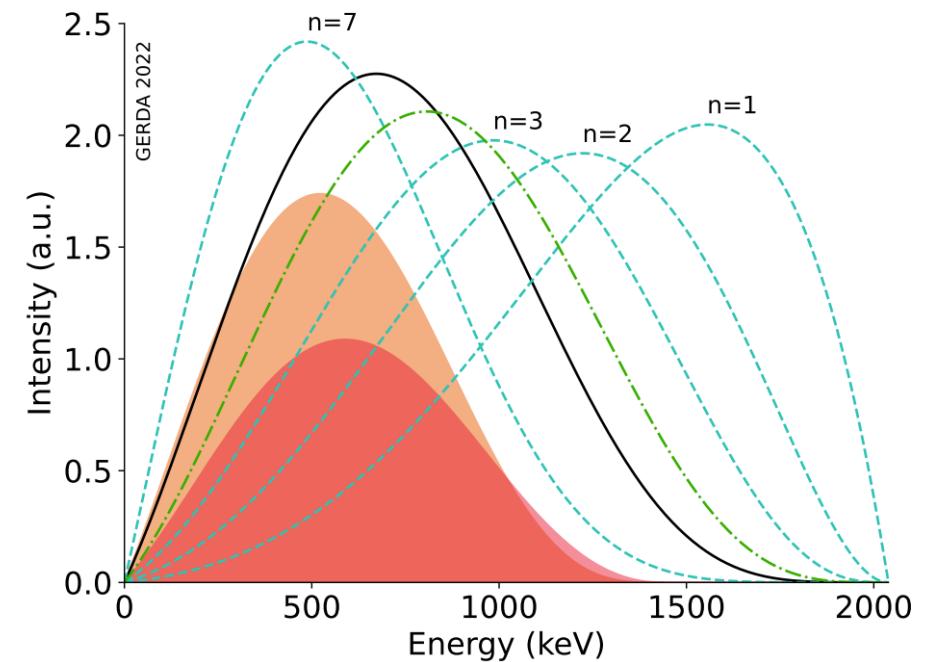
PRL 125 (2020) 252502

# Exotic Searches in $2\nu 2\beta$ Decays

$$T_{1/2}^{2\nu}({}^{76}\text{Ge}) = (2.022 \pm 0.018_{\text{stat}} \pm 0.038_{\text{syst}}) \times 10^{21} \text{ yr}$$

PRL 131 (2023) 142501

- Standard Model  $2\nu\beta\beta$  decay
- - - Majoron emission ( $n=1,2,3,7$ )
- · - Lorentz violation
- Sterile neutrino emission,  $m_N=600$  keV
- Double fermions emission,  $m_\chi=300$  keV



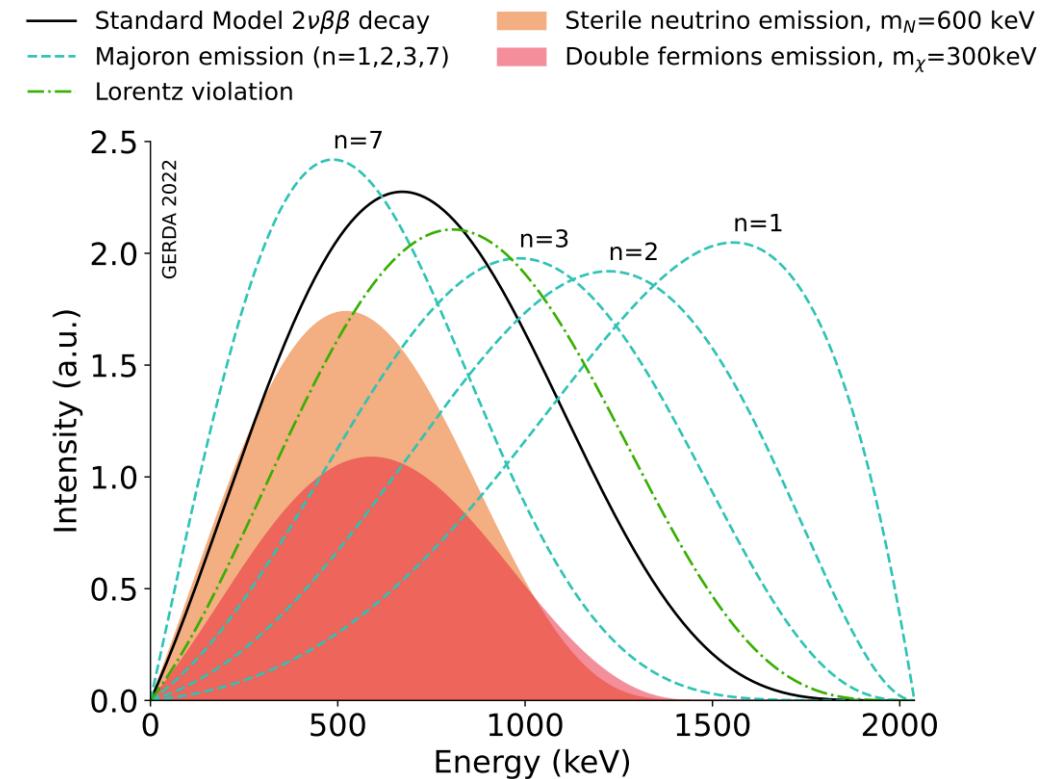
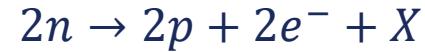
JCAP 12 (2022) 012

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[PRL 131 \(2023\) 142501](#)

- Study of  $\beta\beta$  decay modes with different final states:



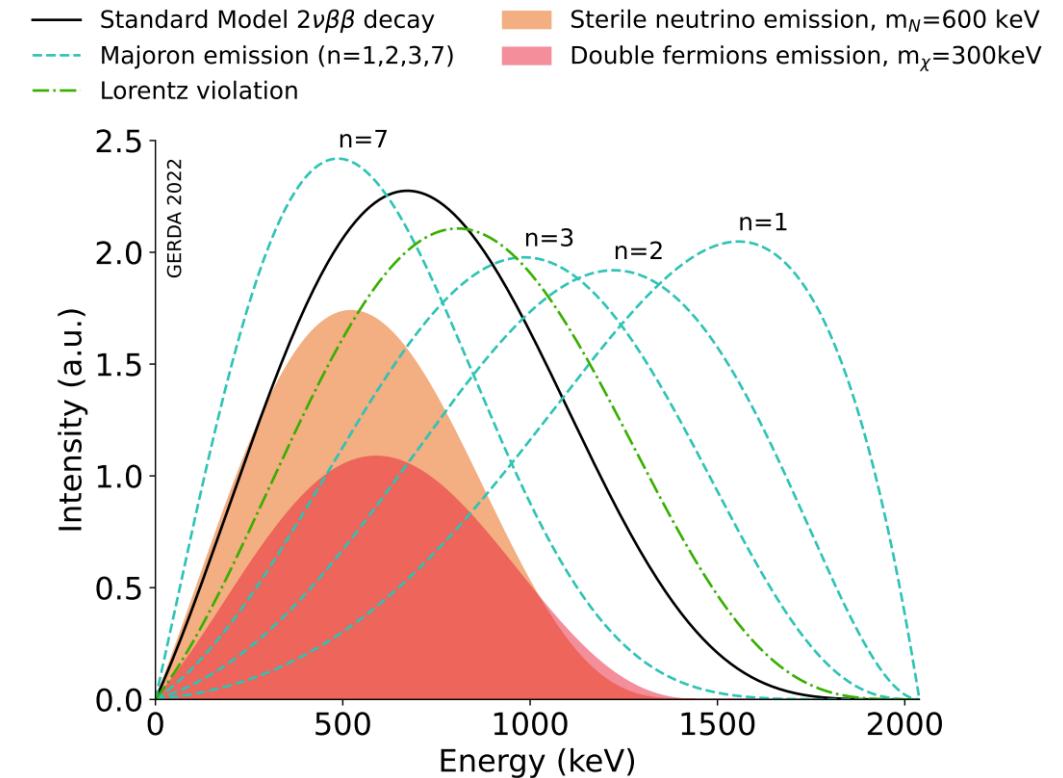
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[PRL 131 \(2023\) 142501](#)

- Study of  $\beta\beta$  decay modes with different final states:  
 $2n \rightarrow 2p + 2e^- + X$
- Continuous distribution in  $[0; Q_{\beta\beta}]$ :  
 $2n \rightarrow 2p + 2e^- + 2\bar{\nu}_e$



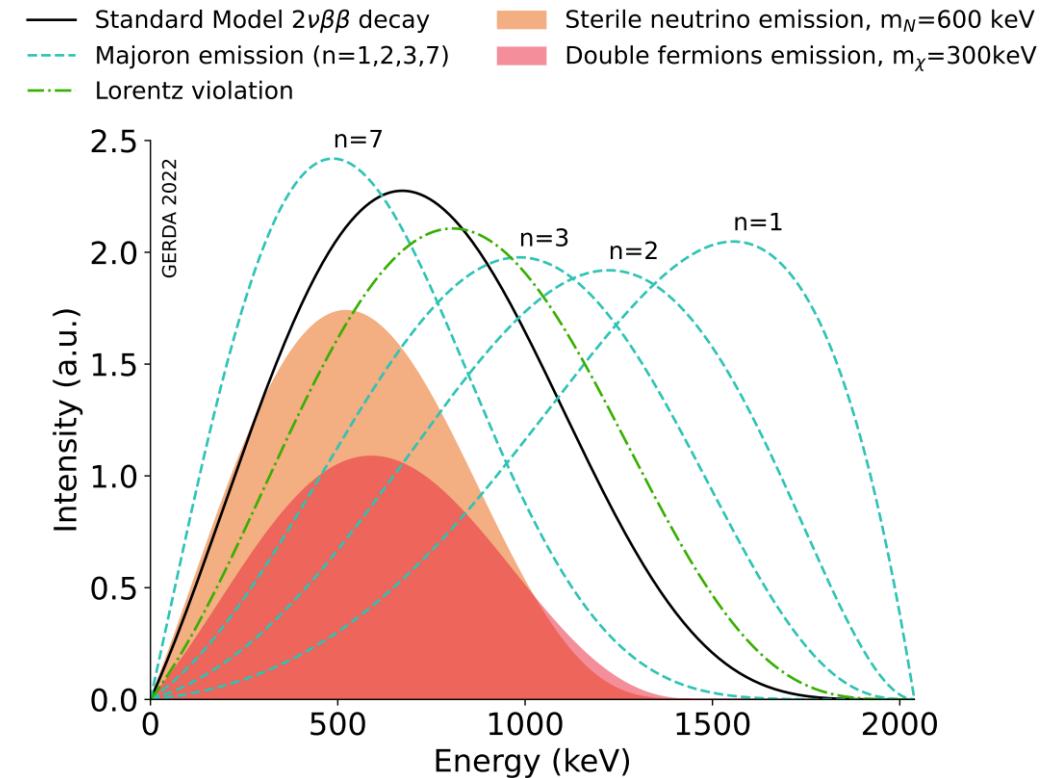
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[PRL 131 \(2023\) 142501](#)

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 $2n \rightarrow 2p + 2e^- + X$
- Continuous distribution in  $[0; Q_{\beta\beta}]$ :  
 $2n \rightarrow 2p + 2e^- + 2\bar{\nu}_e$
- Different distributions depending on the nature of the emitted  $X$  that deviate from the SM prediction



[JCAP 12 \(2022\) 012](#)

# Exotic Searches in $2\nu 2\beta$ Decays

- Majoron emissions

$$2n \rightarrow 2p + 2e^- + J (JJ)$$

Phase space factor  $G \sim (Q_{\beta\beta} - E)^n$ , n=spectral index

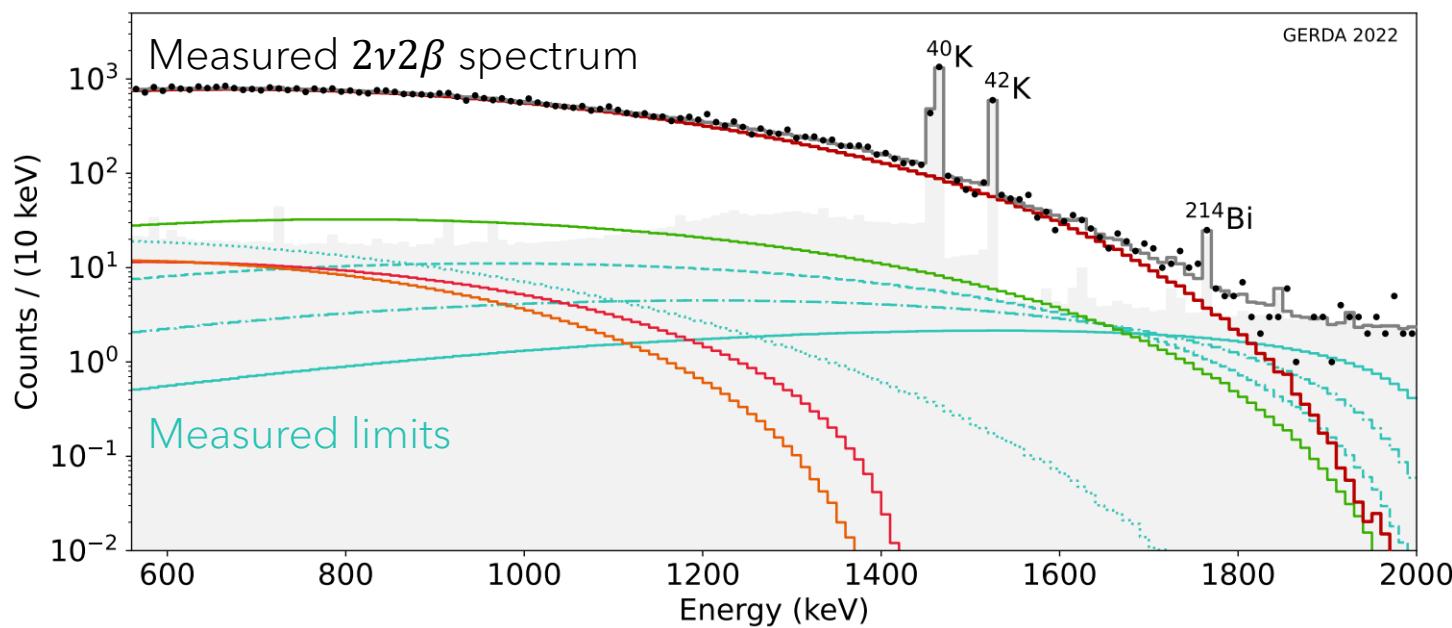
$$J, \quad n = (1, 2, 3) : T_{1/2} > (6.4, 2.9, 1.2) \times 10^{23} \text{ yr}$$

$$g_J < (1.8 - 4.4) \times 10^{-5}, \quad 0.017$$

$$JJ, \quad n = (3, 7) : T_{1/2} > (1.2, 1.0) \times 10^{23} \text{ yr}$$

$$g_J < 1.2, 1.0$$

- BEGe detectors - 32.8 kg yr
- Best-fit model (no exotic physics signal)
- Standard Model  $2\nu\beta\beta$  decay
- Background
- $0\nu\beta\beta J$  (n=1) 90% C.L.
- $0\nu\beta\beta J$  (n=2) 90% C.L.
- $0\nu\beta\beta J / 0\nu\beta\beta JJ$  (n=3) 90% C.L.
- $0\nu\beta\beta JJ$  (n=7) 90% C.L.
- $0\nu\beta\beta\chi\chi$  ( $m_\chi = 300$  keV) 90% C.L.
- Sterile neutrino ( $m_N = 600$  keV) 90% C.L.
- Lorentz Violation 90% C.L.



Results shown as  
90% CL limits

JCAP 12 (2022) 012

# Exotic Searches in $2\nu 2\beta$ Decays

- Majoron emissions

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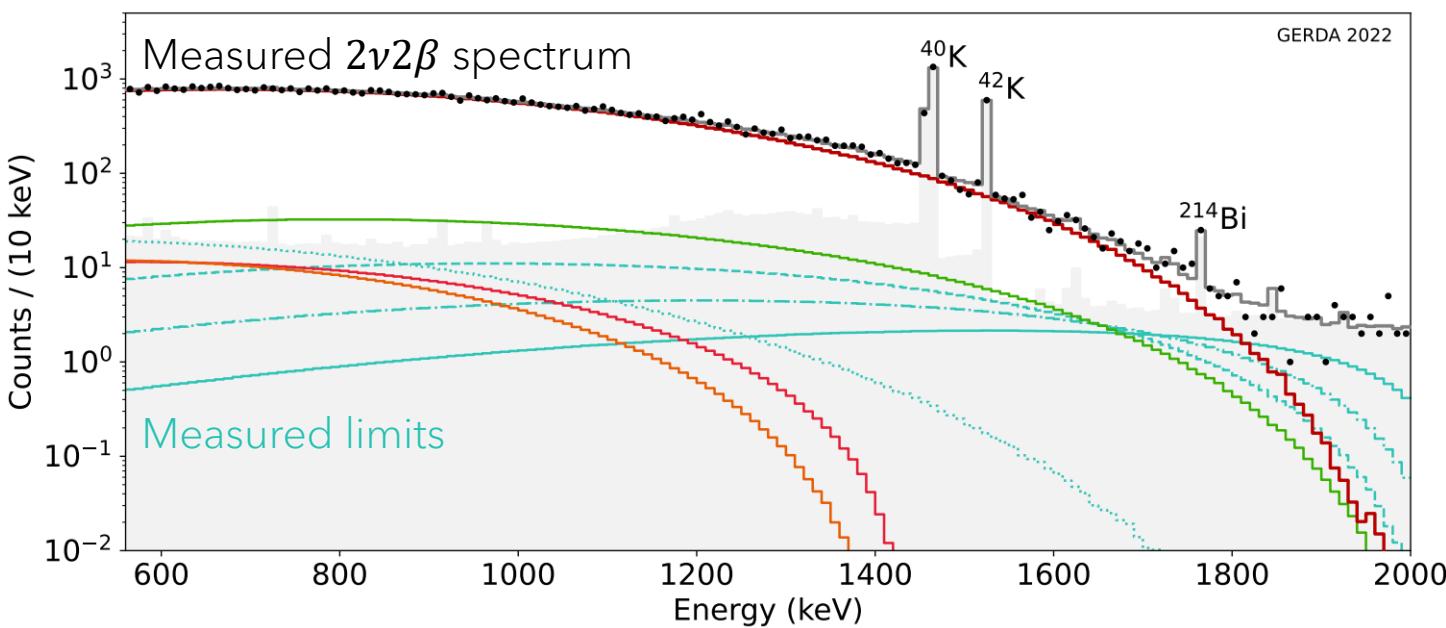
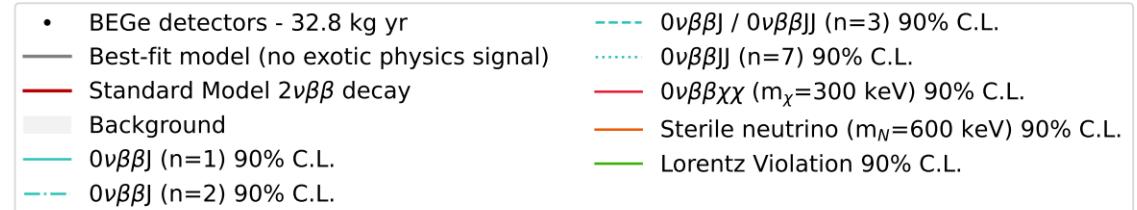
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$$JJ, n = (3, 7) : T_{1/2} > (1.2, 1.0) \times 10^{23} \text{ yr}$$

$$g_J < 1.2, 1.0$$

- ✓ Improvement of a factor  $\sim 10^2$  compared to previous GERDA Phase I result ([EPJ C 75 \(2015\) 416](#))
- ✓ Results comparable with limits obtained with other  $\beta\beta$  decay isotopes ( $\sim {}^{136}\text{Xe}$ ,  ${}^{100}\text{Mo}$ ,  ${}^{116}\text{Cd}$ )



Results shown as  
90% CL limits

[JCAP 12 \(2022\) 012](#)

# Exotic Searches in $2\nu 2\beta$ Decays

- $Z_2$ -odd fermion emission

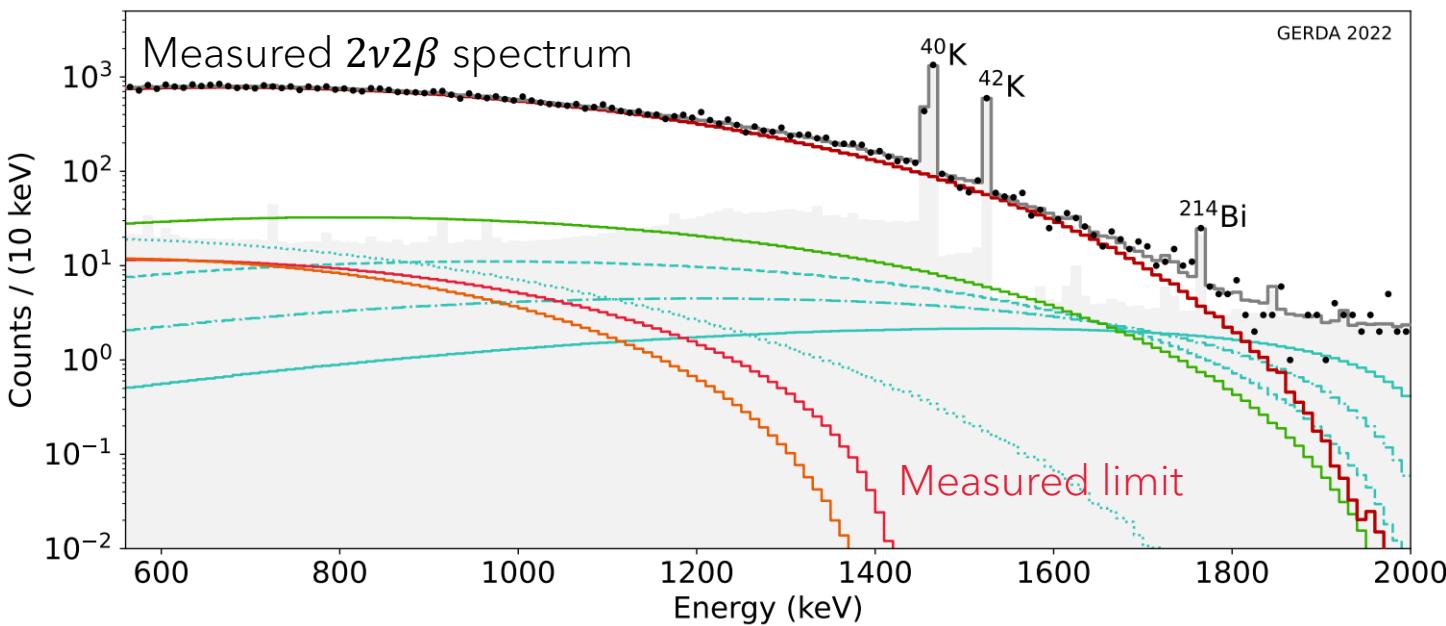
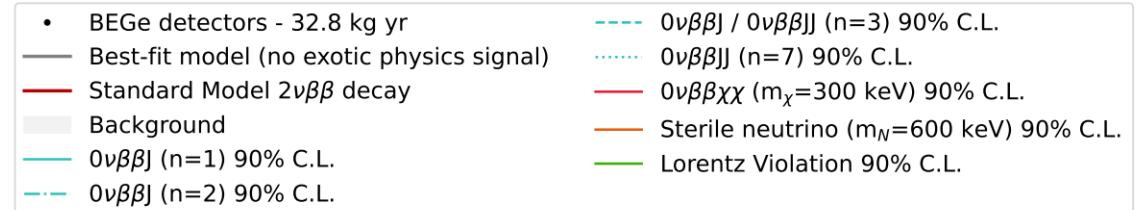
$$2n \rightarrow 2p + 2e^- + 2\chi$$

$$m_\chi = 100 \text{ keV}: T_{1/2} > 0.18 \times 10^{23} \text{ yr}$$

$$g_\chi < (1.4 - 3.2) \times 10^{-3} \text{ MeV}^{-2}$$

$$m_\chi = 700 \text{ keV}: T_{1/2} > 0.25 \times 10^{23} \text{ yr}$$

$$g_\chi < (7.4 - 17) \times 10^{-3} \text{ MeV}^{-2}$$



- ✓ First experimental constraints on light exotic fermions

Results shown as  
90% CL limits

JCAP 12 (2022) 012

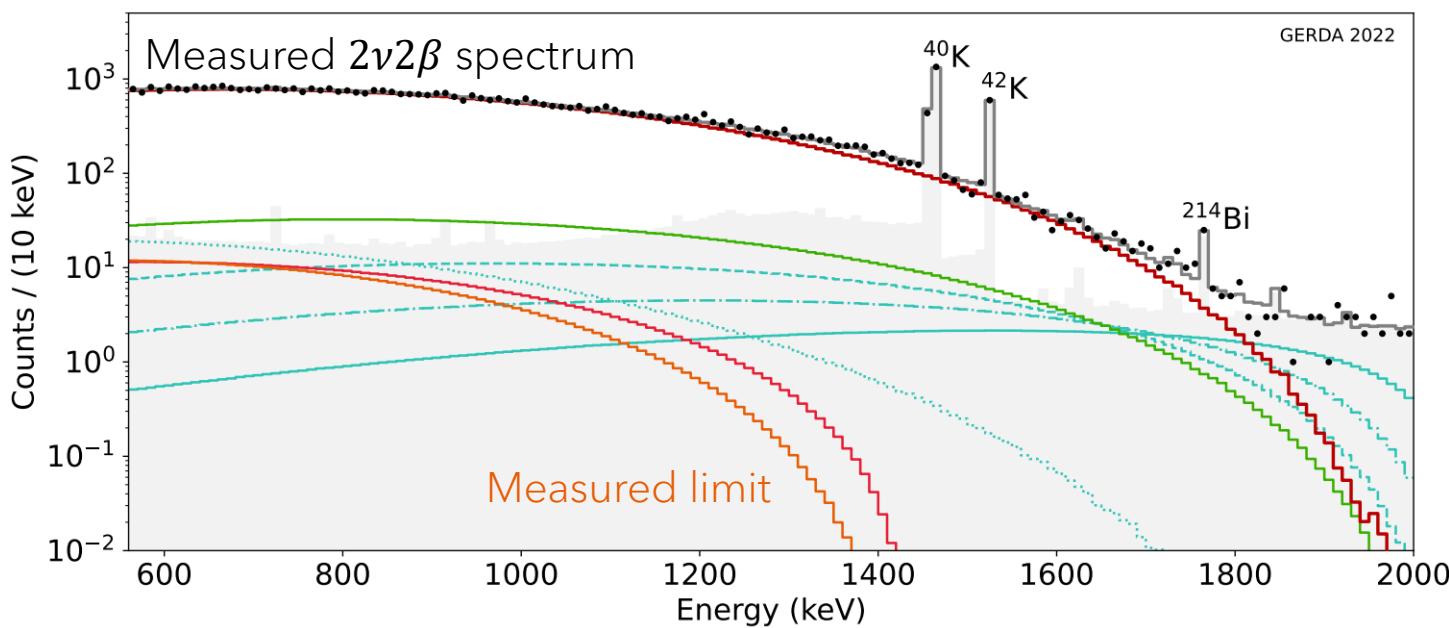
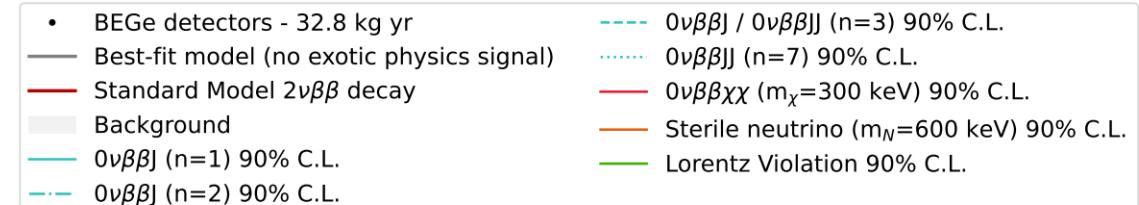
# Exotic Searches in $2\nu 2\beta$ Decays

- Sterile neutrino emission

$$2n \rightarrow 2p + 2e^- + \bar{\nu}_e + N$$

$$m_N = 100 \text{ keV} \Rightarrow \sin^2 \theta < 0.15$$

$$m_N = 900 \text{ keV} \Rightarrow \sin^2 \theta < 0.05$$



Results shown as  
90% CL limits

JCAP 12 (2022) 012

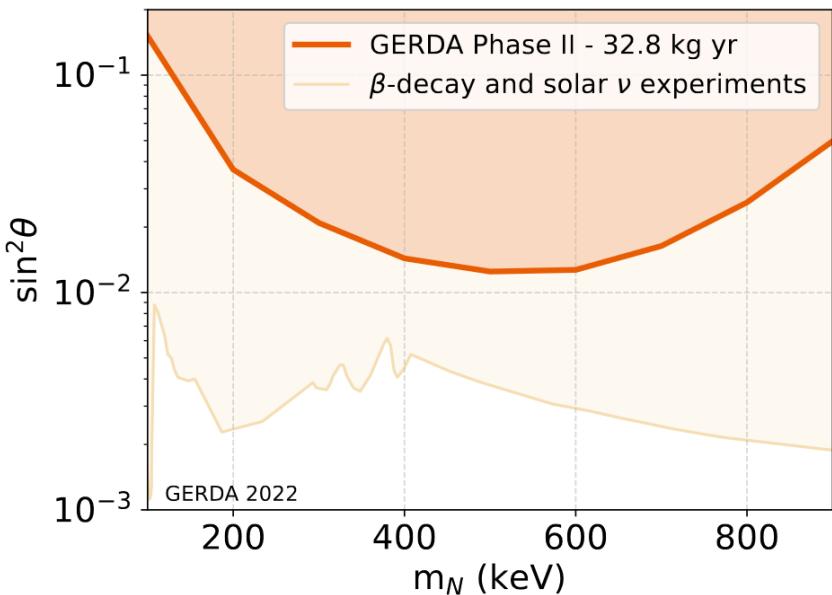
# Exotic Searches in $2\nu 2\beta$ Decays

- Sterile neutrino emission

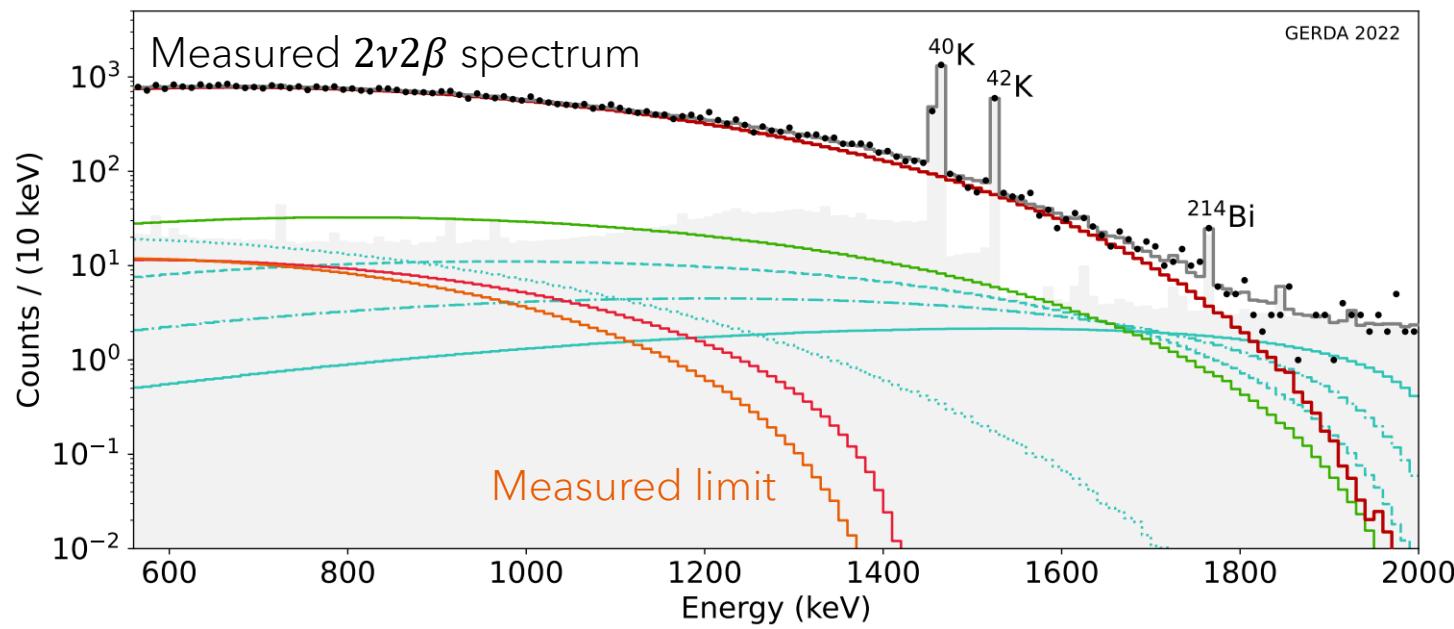
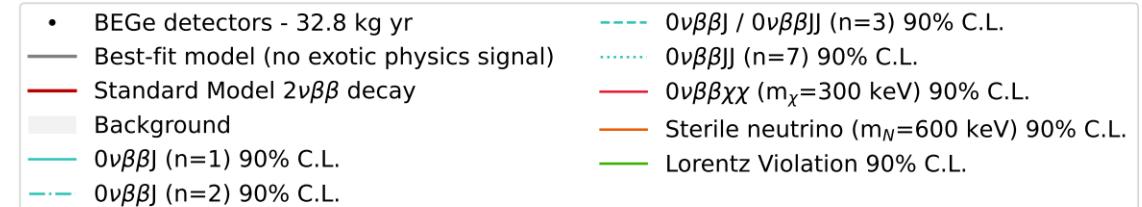
$$2n \rightarrow 2p + 2e^- + \bar{\nu}_e + N$$

$$m_N = 100 \text{ keV} \Rightarrow \sin^2 \theta < 0.15$$

$$m_N = 900 \text{ keV} \Rightarrow \sin^2 \theta < 0.05$$



- ✓ Constraints are not competitive with single- $\beta$  decay on sterile neutrinos
- ✓ Potential of  $\beta\beta$  decay experiments to search for sterile neutrinos



Results shown as  
90% CL limits

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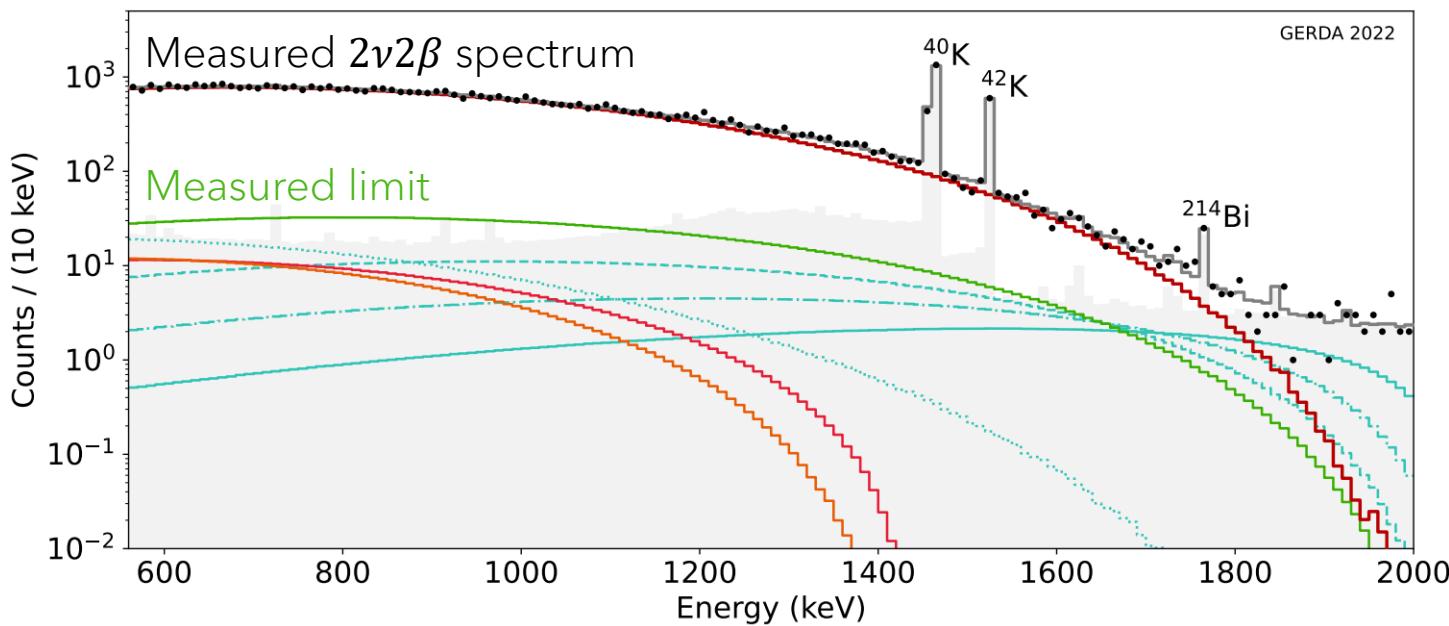
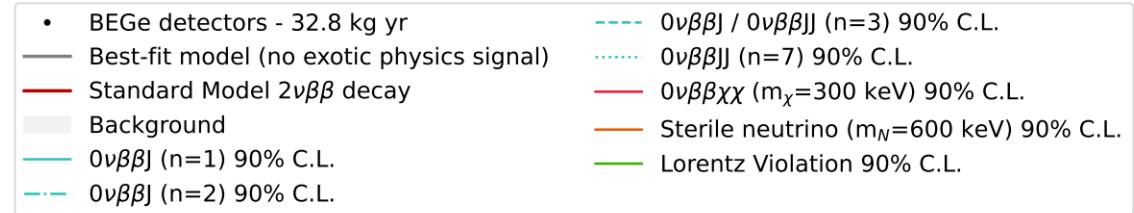
# Exotic Searches in $2\nu 2\beta$ Decays

- Lorentz violation in neutrino sector

$$2n \rightarrow 2p + 2e^- + 2\bar{\nu}_{LV}$$

Coefficient  $a_{of}^{(3)}$  affecting the kinematics ( $n=4$ ) and regulating the size of the breaking  $(-2.7 < a_{of}^{(3)} < 6.2) \times 10^{-6}$  GeV

- ✓ First constraint with Ge-76
- ✓ Results comparable to limits obtained with other  $\beta\beta$  decay isotopes ( $^{136}\text{Xe}$ ,  $^{100}\text{Mo}$ ,  $^{116}\text{Cd}$ ,  $^{82}\text{Se}$ )
- ✓ Single- $\beta$  decay experiments  $\sim 10^{-8}$  GeV



Results shown as  
90% CL limits

JCAP 12 (2022) 012

Probes of baryon number, charge, lepton number conservation

# BSM Decays

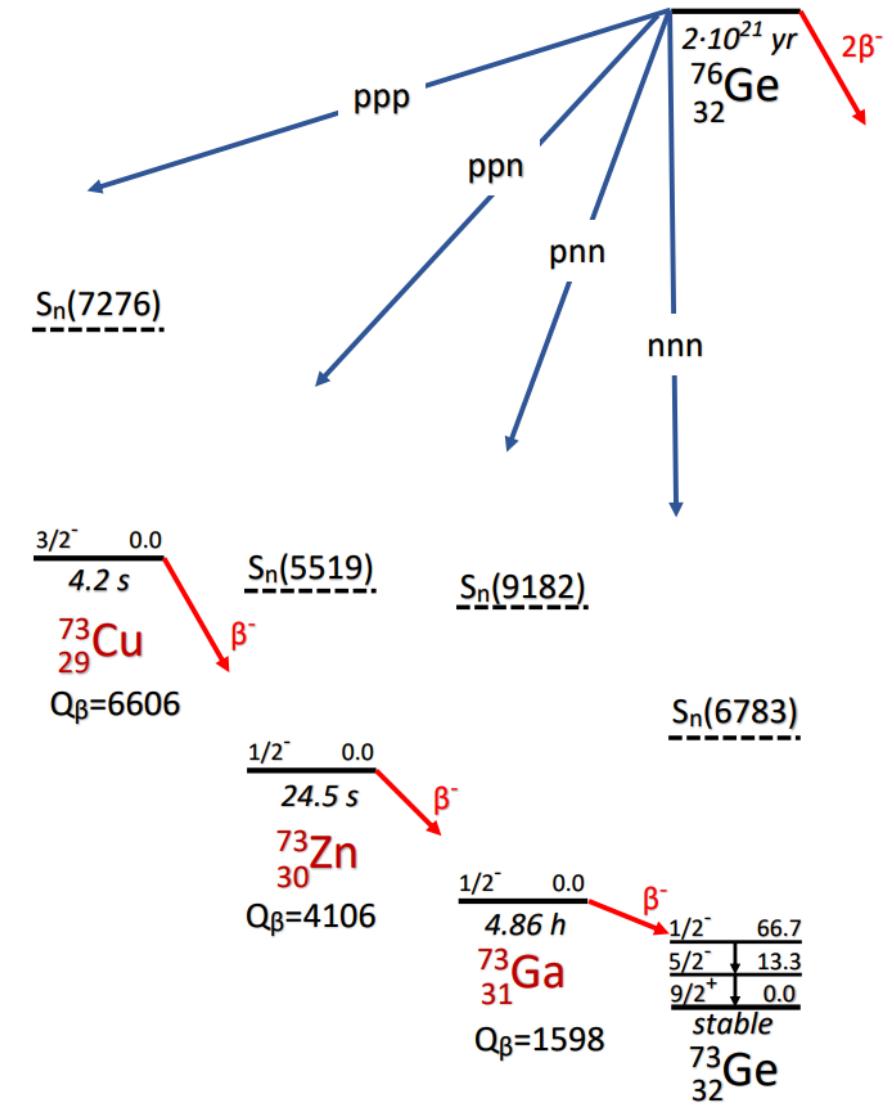
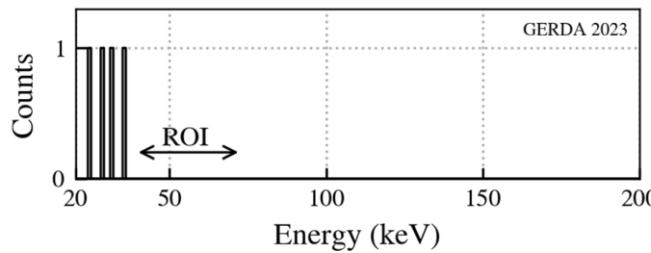
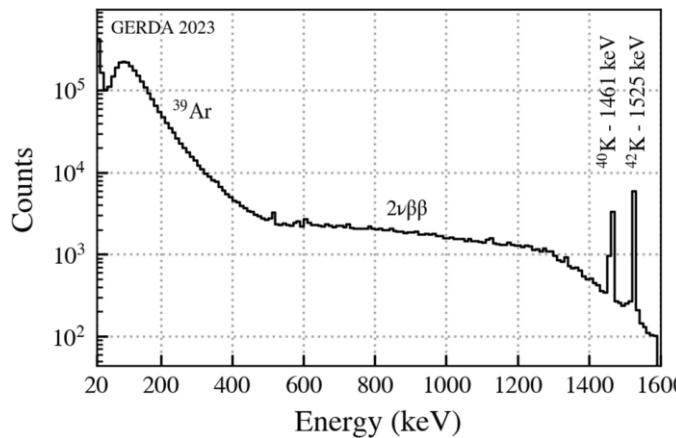
Probes of baryon number, charge, lepton number conservation

- Inclusive tri-nucleon decays (ppp, ppn, pnn, nnn) of  $^{76}\text{Ge}$   
66.7 keV  $\gamma$  from de-excitation in  $^{73}\text{Ge}$  following  $\beta$  decay(s)

$$\tau_{\text{ppp,ppn,pnn}} > 1.2 \times 10^{26} \text{ yr} @ 90\% \text{ CI}$$

$$\tau_{\text{nnn}} > k \times 10^{26} \text{ yr} @ 90\% \text{ CI}$$

$k$ =fraction of states decaying  
to the 66.7 keV state



# BSM Decays

Probes of baryon number, charge, lepton number conservation

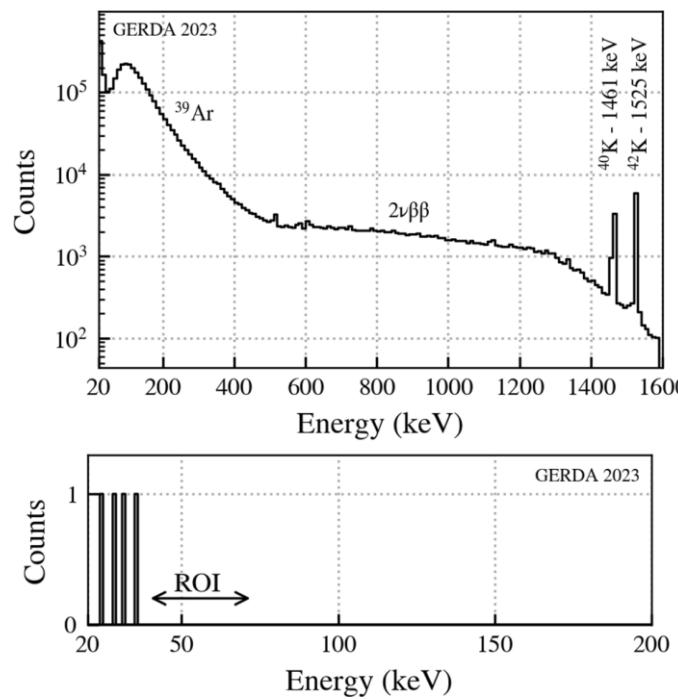
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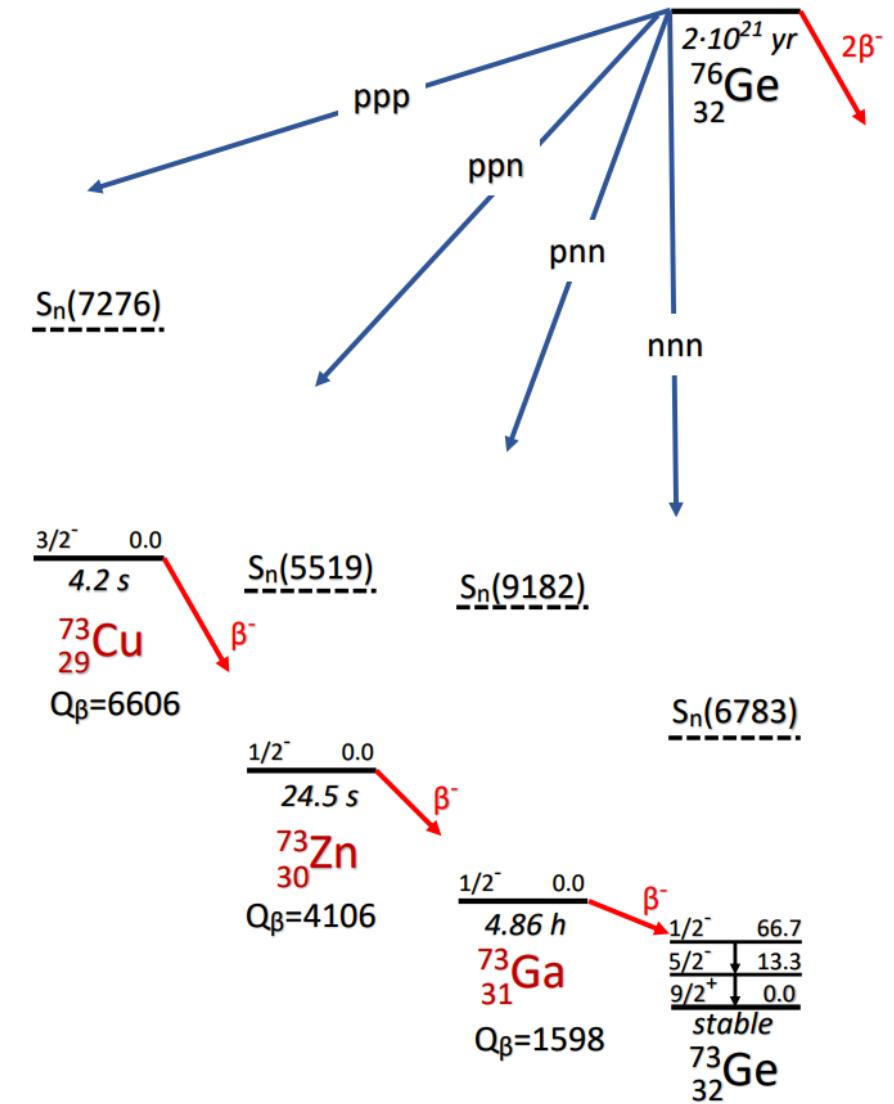
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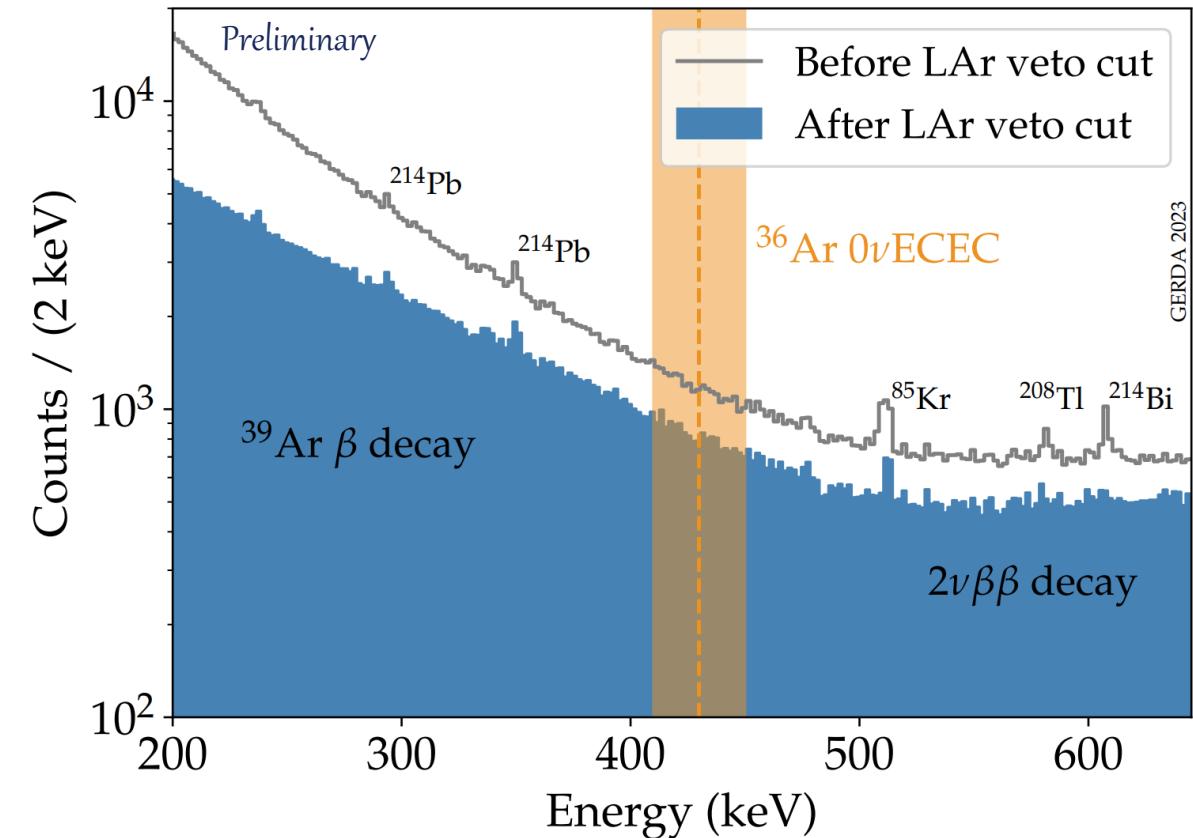
- ✓ Improvement of a factor  $\sim 10-10^3$  compared to previous tri-nucleon limits
- ✓ First limits on the inclusive Zn and Ga channels
- ✓ Most stringent limits on inclusive tri-nucleon decays using  $\gamma$  cascade de-excitation in  $^{73}\text{Ge}$



# BSM Decays

Probes of baryon number, charge, lepton number conservation

- Radiative neutrinoless double electron capture ( $0\nu\text{ECEC}$ ) in  $^{36}\text{Ar}$   
 $^{36}\text{Ar} \rightarrow ^{36}\text{S} + \gamma + \text{X}_K(2.47 \text{ keV}) + \text{X}_L(0.23 \text{ keV})$  :  $\gamma$ -line signal at  $\sim 429 \text{ keV}$   
 $T_{1/2} > 1.5 \times 10^{22} \text{ yr}$  @ 90% CL



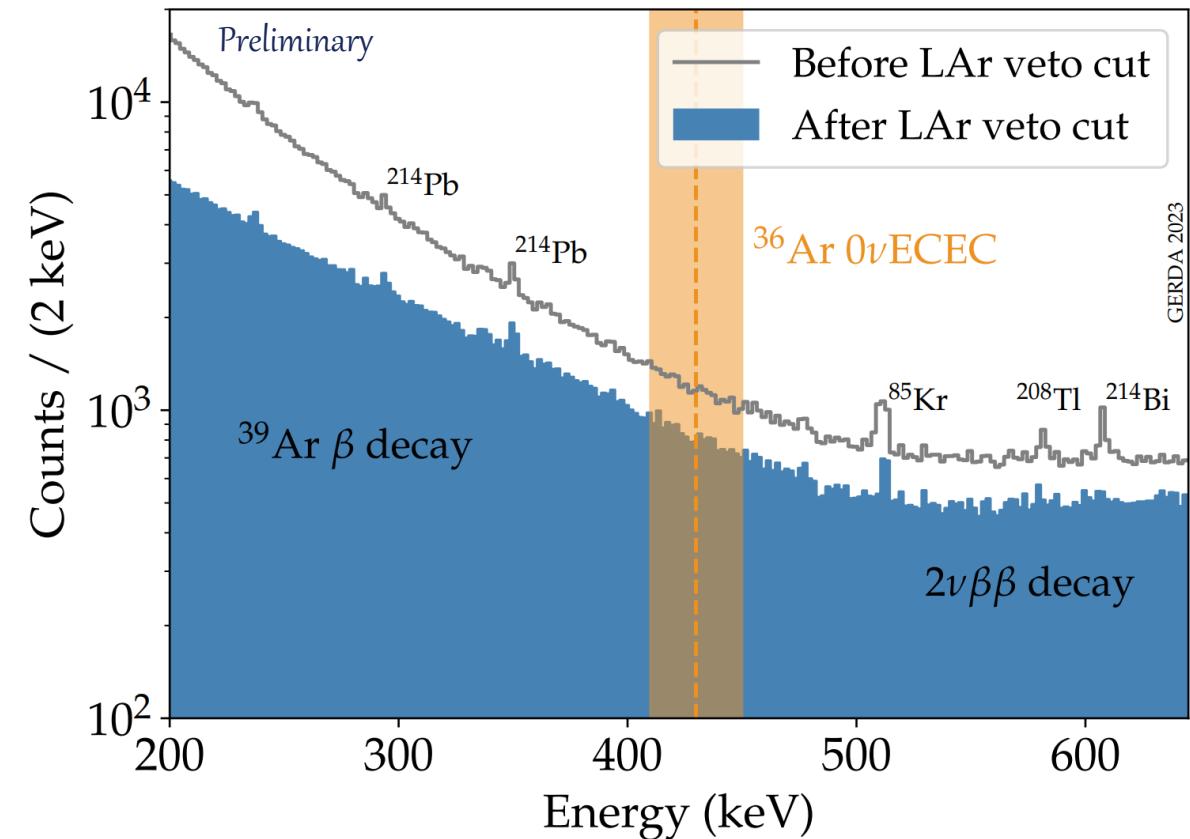
Paper submitted to EPJ C

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 $T_{1/2} > 1.5 \times 10^{22} \text{ yr}$  @ 90% CL

- Preliminary
- ✓ Improvement of a factor  $\sim 4$  compared to previous GERDA Phase I result ([EPJ C 76 \(2016\) 652](#))
  - ✓ Most stringent limit on  $T_{1/2}(0\nu\text{ECEC})$  of  $^{36}\text{Ar}$

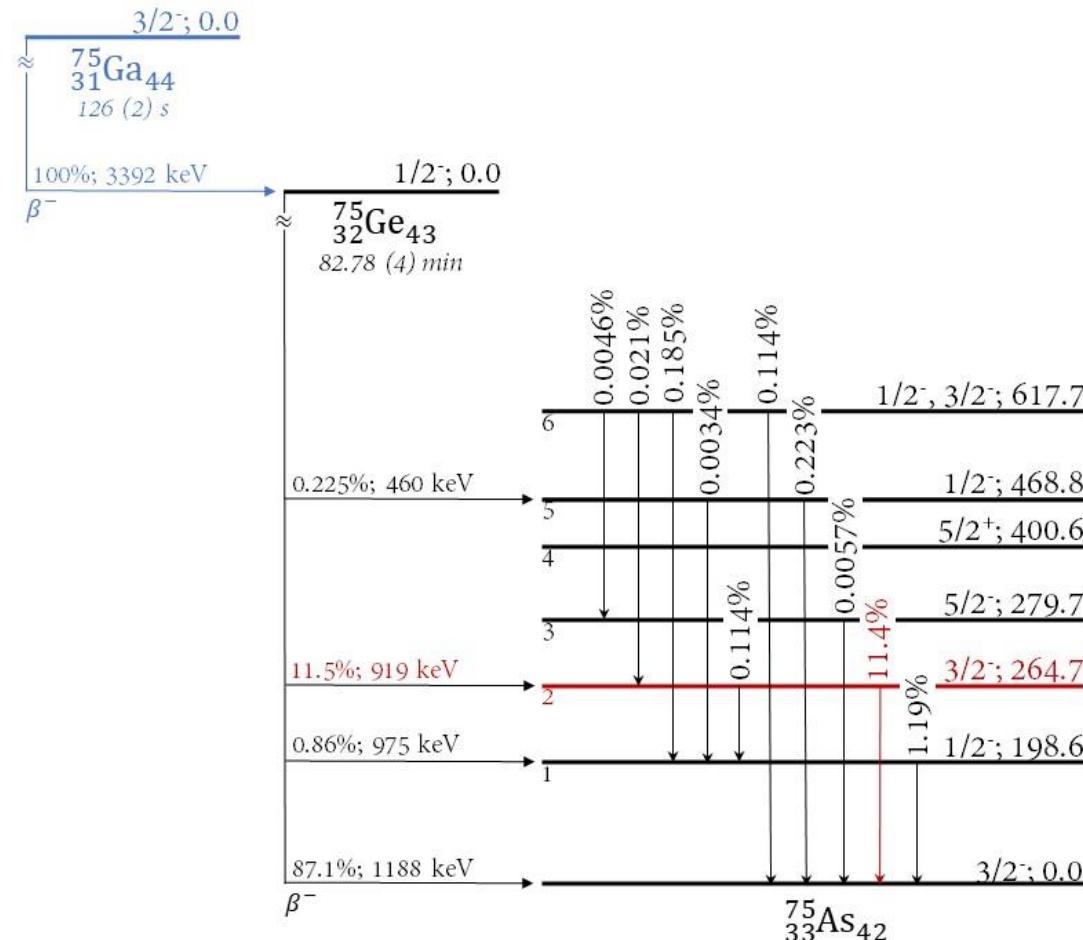


Paper submitted to EPJ C

# BSM Decays

Probes of baryon number, charge, lepton number conservation

- Inclusive neutron/proton decays of  $^{76}\text{Ge}$   
(n [16]:  $^{76}\text{Ge} \rightarrow ^{75}\text{Ge}$ , p [14]:  $^{76}\text{Ge} \rightarrow ^{75}\text{Ga} \rightarrow ^{75}\text{Ge}$ )  
 $e^-$  &  $\gamma$  signal from  $^{75}\text{Ge}$  decay to  $^{75}\text{As}$  + de-excitation



Paper in preparation

## Probes of baryon number, charge, lepton number conservation

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Experiment	Decay	$N_{\text{eff}}$	$\tau_{\text{low}}, 90\% \text{ CL (yr)}$
GERDA	$^{76}\text{Ge} \xrightarrow{n} ^{75}\text{Ge} + X$	16	$1.6 \times 10^{24}, 1.5 \times 10^{24}$ 90% CI
	$^{76}\text{Ge} \xrightarrow{p} ^{75}\text{Ga} + X$	14	$1.4 \times 10^{24}, 1.3 \times 10^{24}$ 90% CI
SNO [46] <sup>(a)</sup>	$^{16}\text{O} \xrightarrow{n} ^{15}\text{O} + \text{inv.}$	8	$1.9 \times 10^{29}$
	$^{16}\text{O} \xrightarrow{p} ^{15}\text{N} + \text{inv.}$	8	$2.1 \times 10^{29}$
SNO+ [47] <sup>(a)</sup>	$^{16}\text{O} \xrightarrow{n} ^{15}\text{O} + \text{inv.}$	8	$2.5 \times 10^{29}$
	$^{16}\text{O} \xrightarrow{p} ^{15}\text{N} + \text{inv.}$	8	$3.6 \times 10^{29}$
Borexino [48] <sup>(b)</sup>	$^{12}\text{C} \xrightarrow{n} ^{11}\text{C} + \text{inv.}$	4	$1.8 \times 10^{25}$
	$^{13}\text{C} \xrightarrow{p} ^{12}\text{B} + \text{inv.}$	4	$1.1 \times 10^{26}$
DAMA/LXe [37]	$^{136}\text{Xe} \xrightarrow{n} ^{135}\text{Xe} + X$	32	$3.3 \times 10^{23}$
	$^{136}\text{Xe} \xrightarrow{p} ^{135}\text{I} + X$	26	$4.5 \times 10^{23}$
DAMA [38]	$^{129}\text{Xe} \xrightarrow{p} ^{128}\text{I} + X$	24	$1.9 \times 10^{24}$
NaI(Tl) [39]	$^{127}\text{I} \xrightarrow{n} ^{126}\text{I} + X$	34	$1.5 \times 10^{24}$
	$^{127}\text{I} \xrightarrow{p} ^{126}\text{Te} + X$	20	$3.0 \times 10^{24}$
Geochemical [40, 49]	$^{130}\text{Te} \xrightarrow{n} ^{129}\text{Te} + X$	28	$8.6 \times 10^{24}$
	$^{130}\text{Te} \xrightarrow{p} ^{129}\text{Sb} + X$	24	$7.4 \times 10^{24}$

<sup>(a)</sup> Searches for  $\gamma$  rays coming from the de-excitation of a residual excited nucleus following the disappearance of a nucleon in  $^{16}\text{O}$ .

<sup>(b)</sup> Searches for decays of unstable nuclei left after nucleon decays of parent  $^{12}\text{C}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$  nuclei.

Paper in preparation

# BSM Decays

Probes of baryon number, charge, lepton number conservation

- Semi-visible electron decay,  $e^- \rightarrow \nu_e \gamma$

Ge&Ar Doppler-broadened  $\gamma$ -line signal at  $\sim 256$  keV

Author	Mode	$\tau_e, 90\% \text{ CL (yr)}$
GERDA	$e^- \rightarrow \nu_e \gamma$	$1.6 \times 10^{26}$ $8.5 \times 10^{25}$ 90% CI
Borexino [52]	$e^- \rightarrow \nu_e \gamma$	$6.7 \times 10^{28}$
H.V. Klapdor et al. [14]	$e^- \rightarrow \nu_e \gamma$	$9.4 \times 10^{25}$
MAJORANA [53]	$e^- \rightarrow 3\nu_e$	$1.2 \times 10^{24}$
EDELWEISS-III [29]	$e^- \rightarrow 3\nu_e$	$1.2 \times 10^{24}$

# Bosonic Dark Matter Interactions

- Bosonic dark matter candidates
  - vector DM (*dark photons*),  $\mathcal{L}_V = g_V V_\mu \bar{\psi} \gamma^\mu \psi$
  - pseudoscalar DM (*axion-like particles*),  $\mathcal{L}_a = g_a a \bar{\psi} i\gamma_5 \psi$
- Mass range 65-1022 keV/c<sup>2</sup>

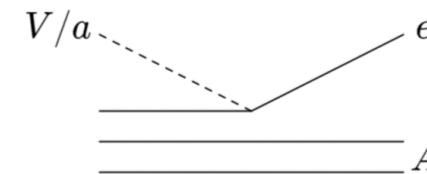
Preliminary

Results shown as  
90% CI limits

Paper in preparation

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  - $e^-$ : photoelectric-like absorption [PRL 125, 011801, 2020](#)



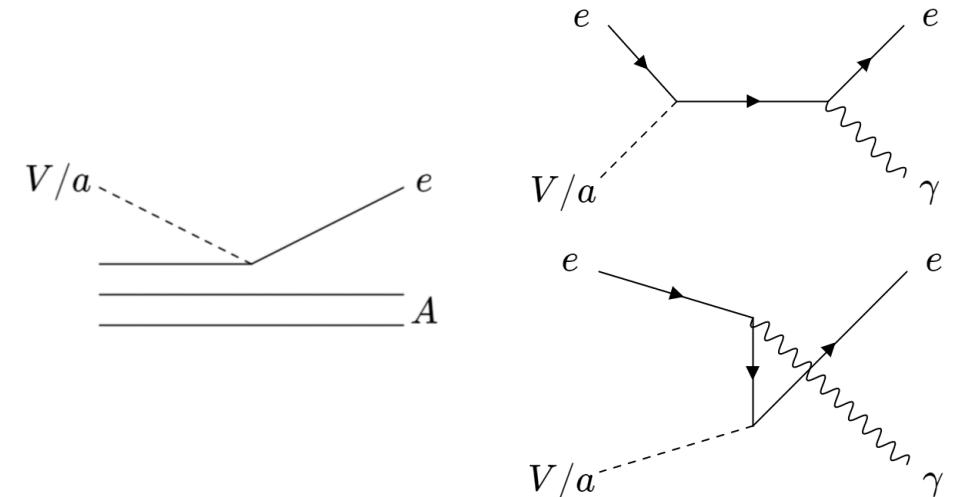
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Paper in preparation

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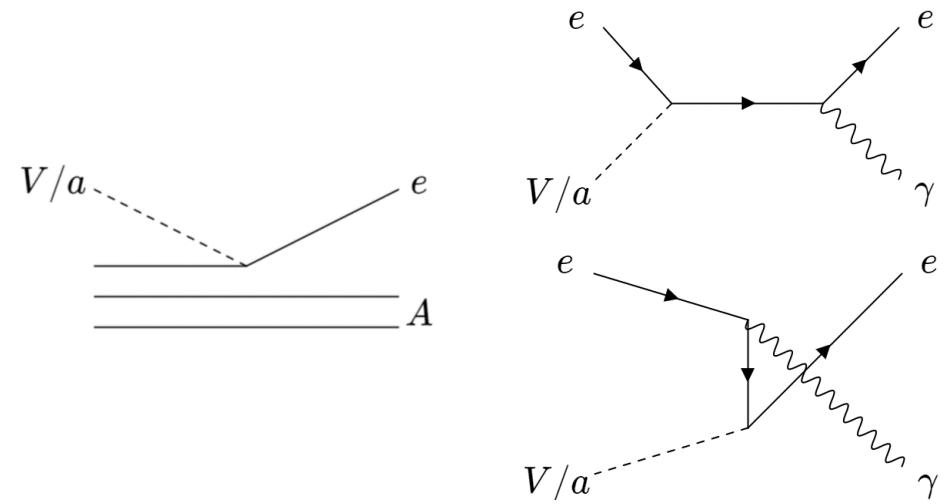
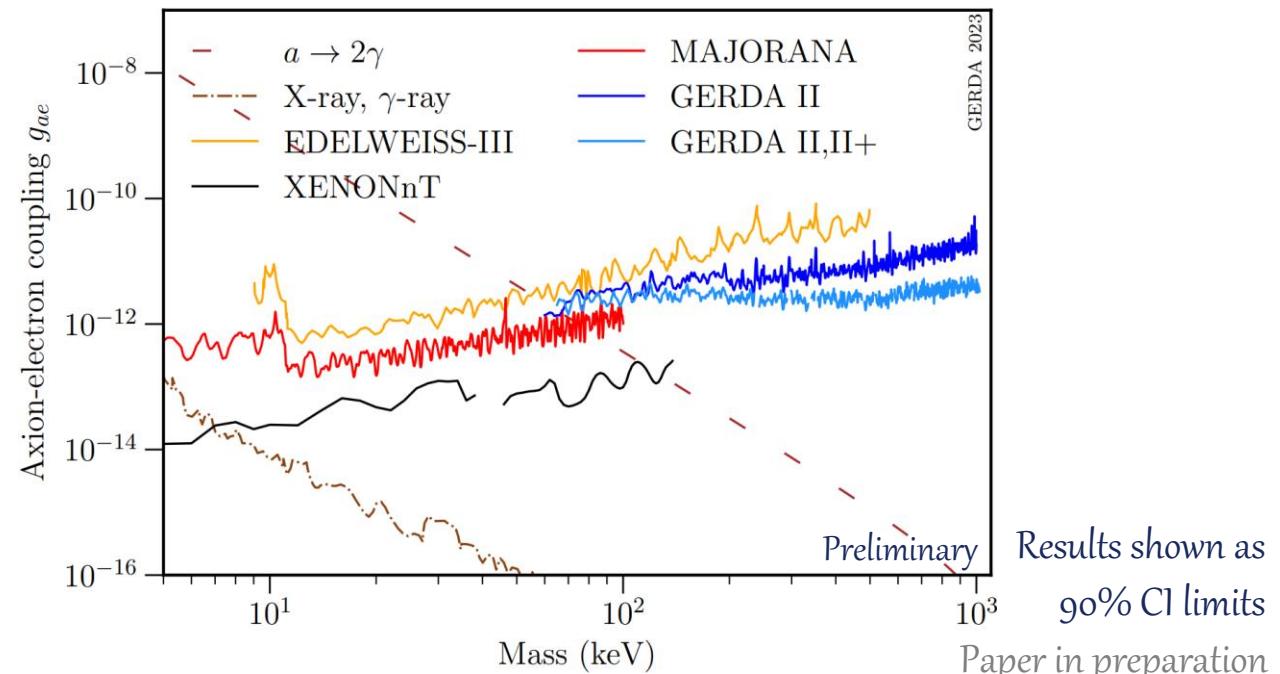
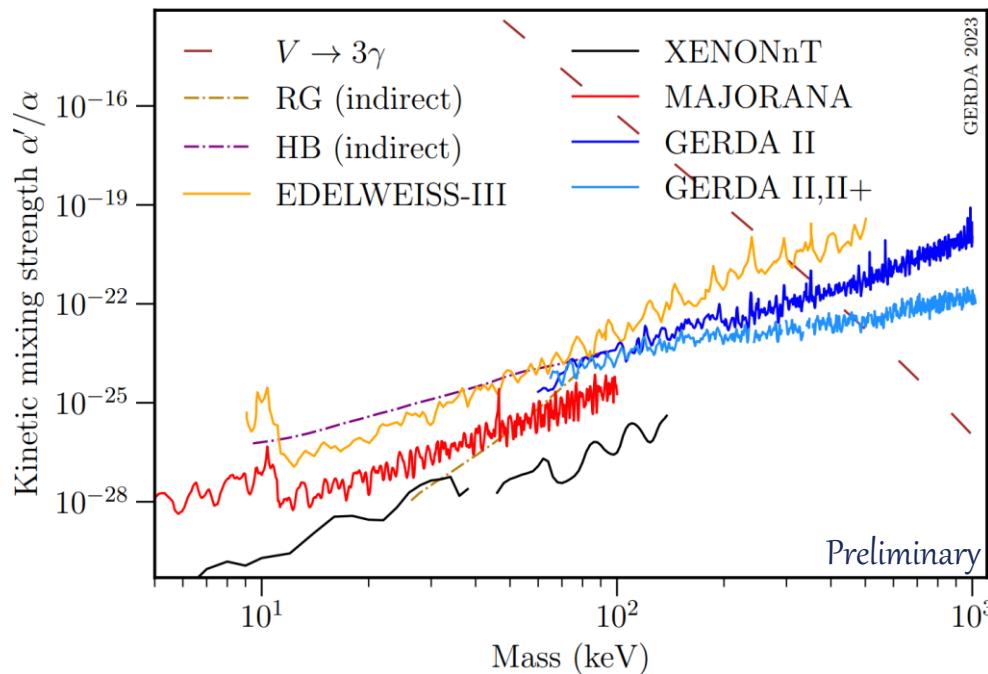


Results shown as  
90% CI limits  
Paper in preparation

# Bosonic Dark Matter Interactions

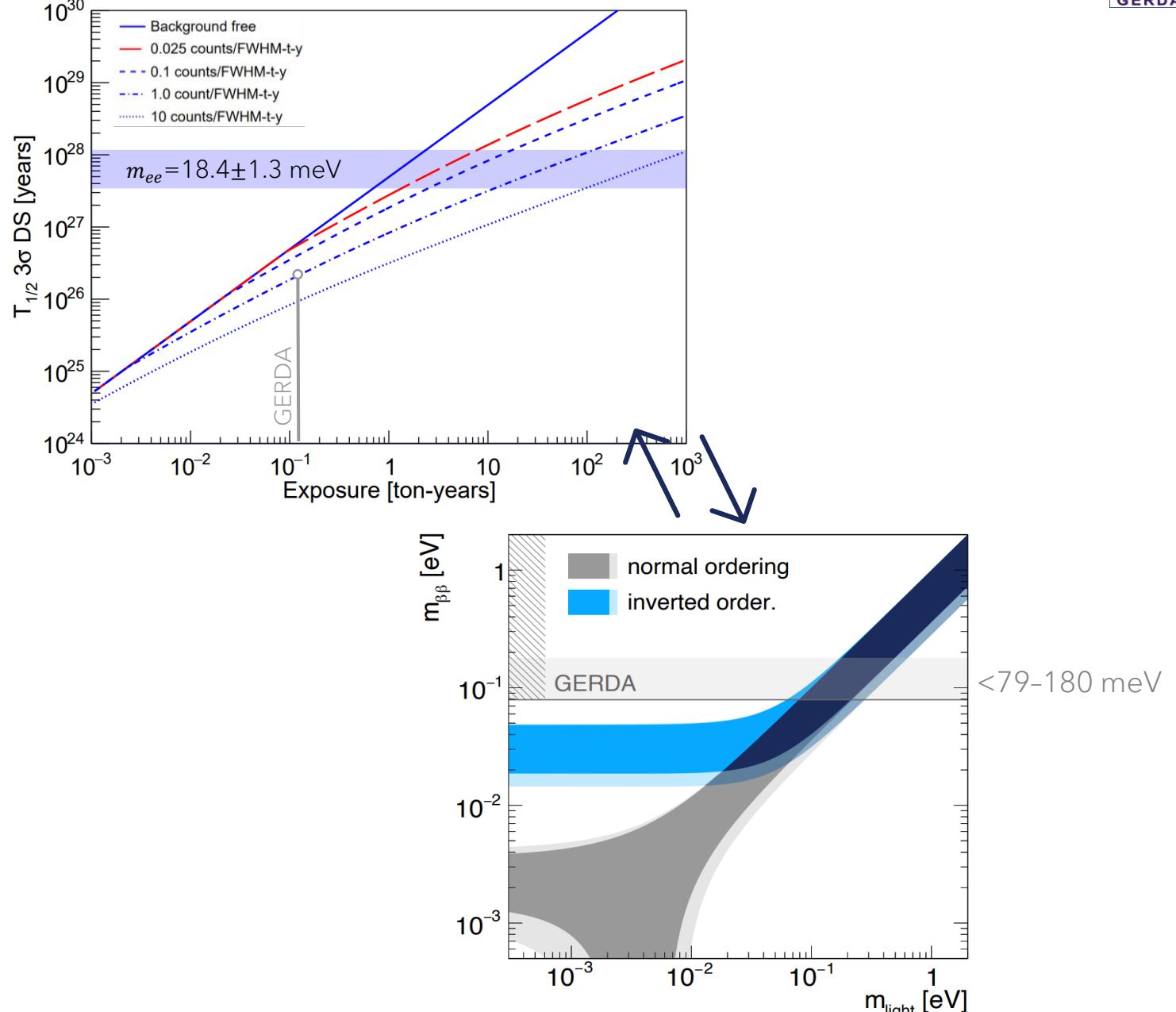
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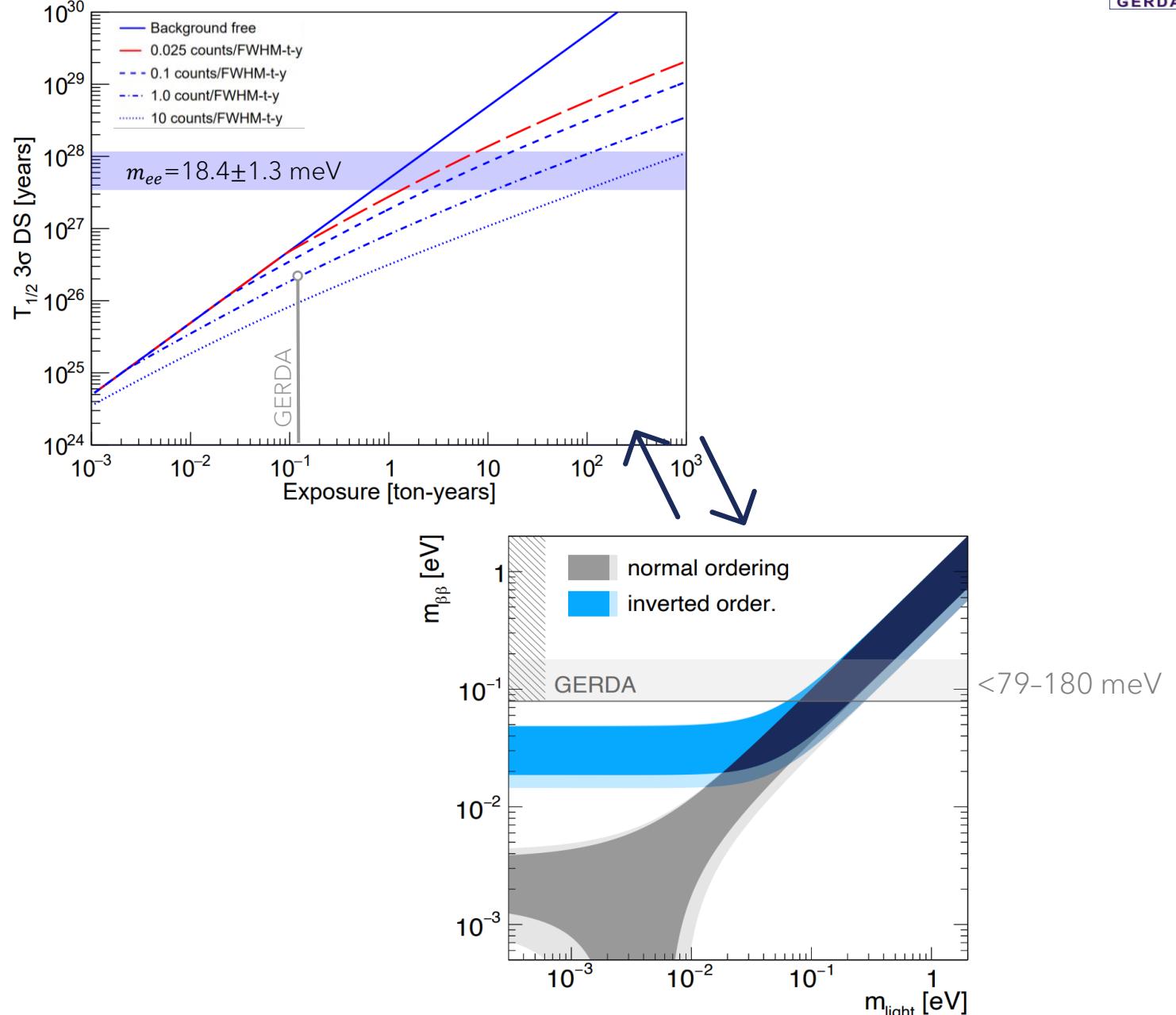
# Conclusions

- GERDA: up to 43.6 kg of HPGe detectors enriched in Ge-76 to search for  $0\nu 2\beta$ 
  - $T_{1/2} > 1.8 \times 10^{26}$  yr @ 90% CL
  - $m_{\beta\beta} < 79 - 180$  meV @ 90% CL



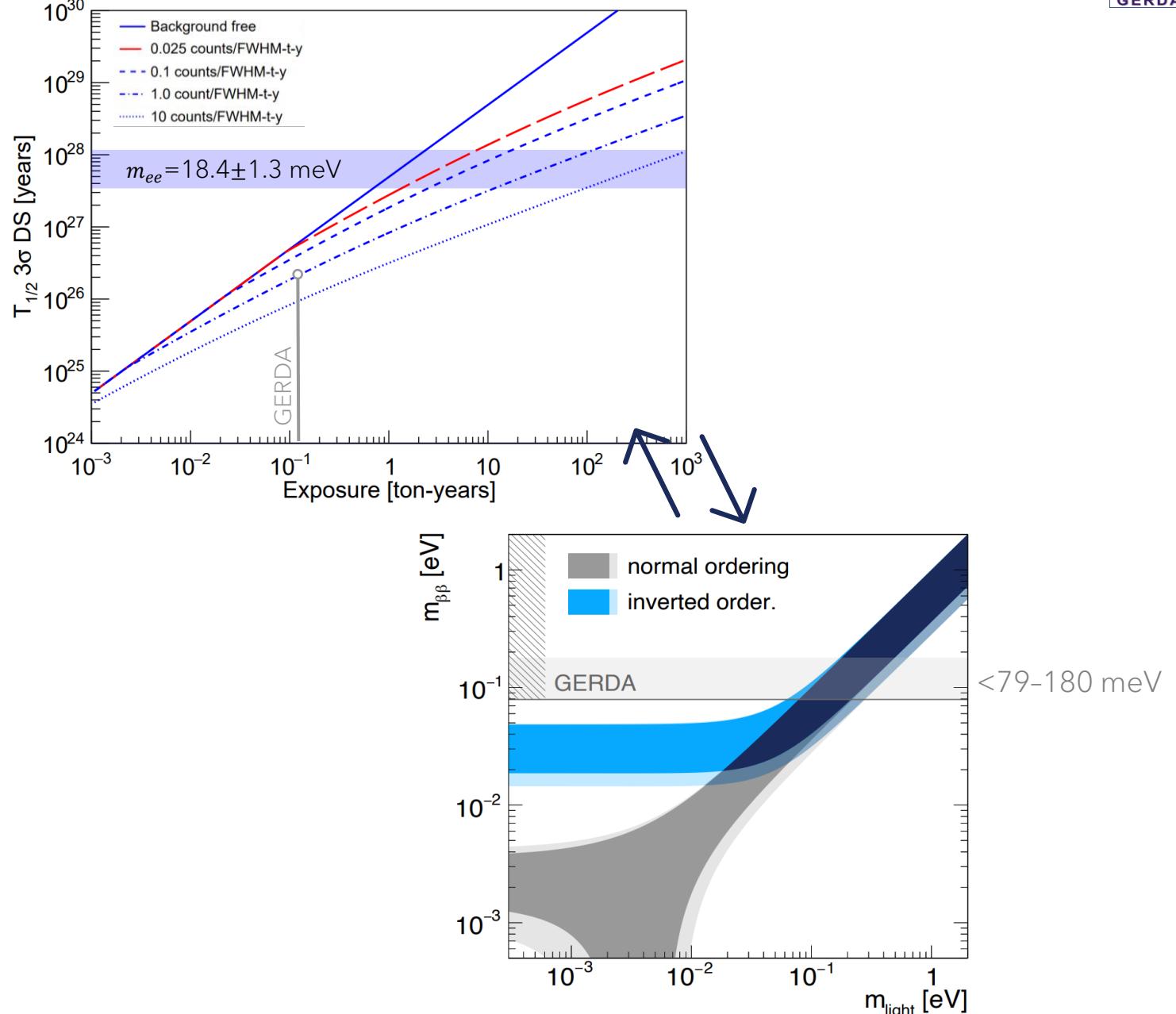
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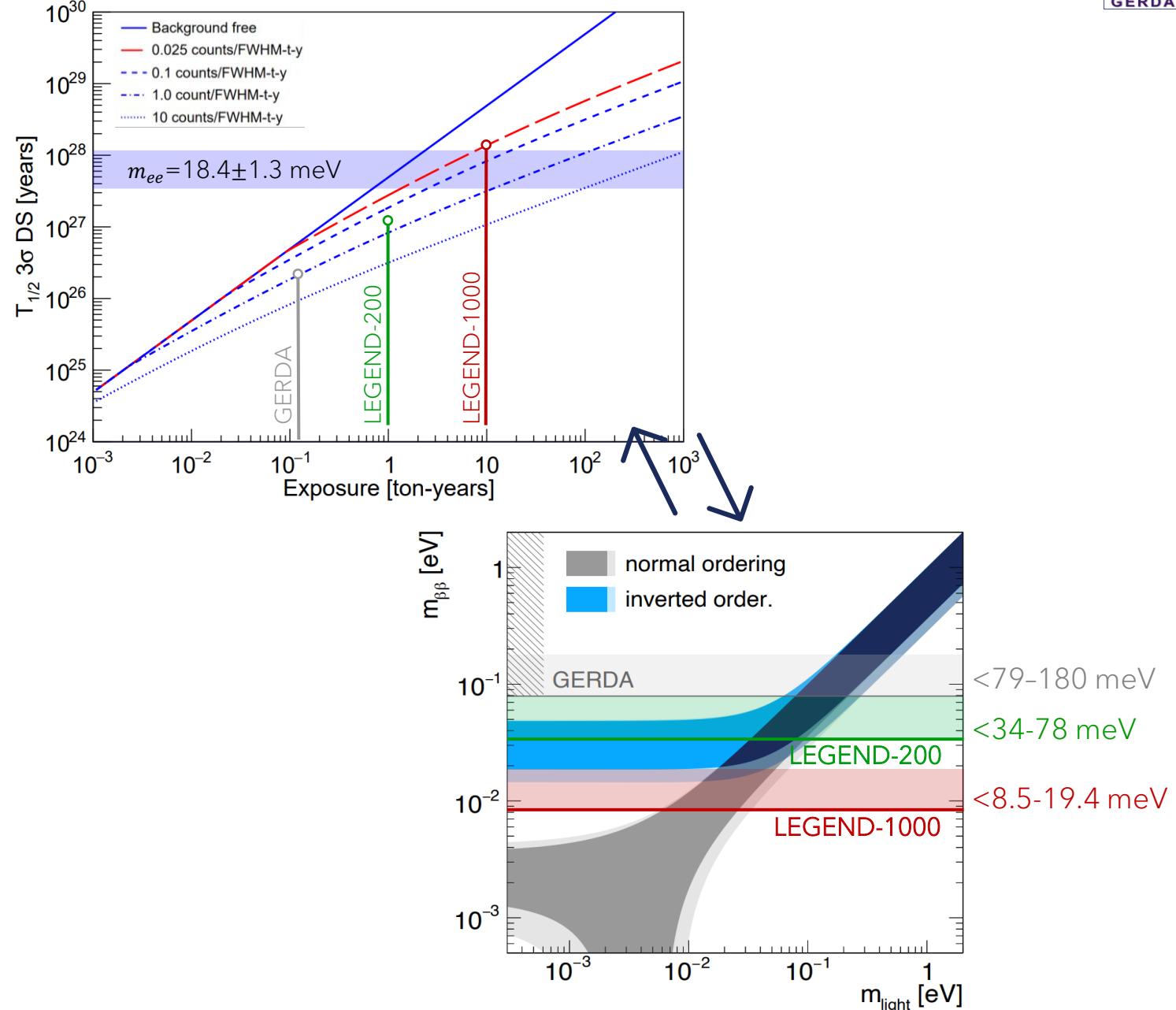
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# Conclusions

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- Excellent energy resolution + low background level = ideal environment to probe other BSM physics
- BSM physics: exotic particle emissions or decays + DM interactions
- LEGEND: up to 200 kg and 1000 kg of HPGe detectors in two stages, probing  $T_{1/2}(0\nu2\beta)$  sensitivities beyond  $10^{27,28}$  yr





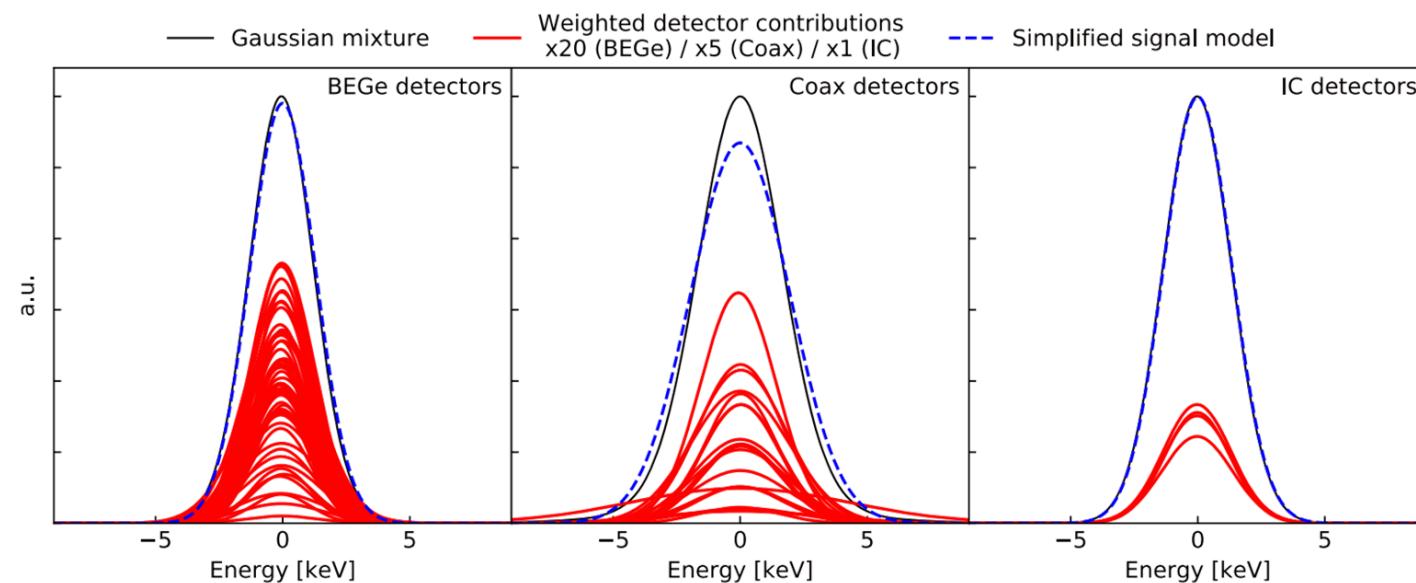
THANK YOU!

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# BACKUP SLIDES

Energy resolution  
 $FWHM \simeq 2.355\sqrt{a + b \cdot E}$   
 $a \rightarrow$  electronic noise  
 $b \rightarrow$  statistical fluctuations

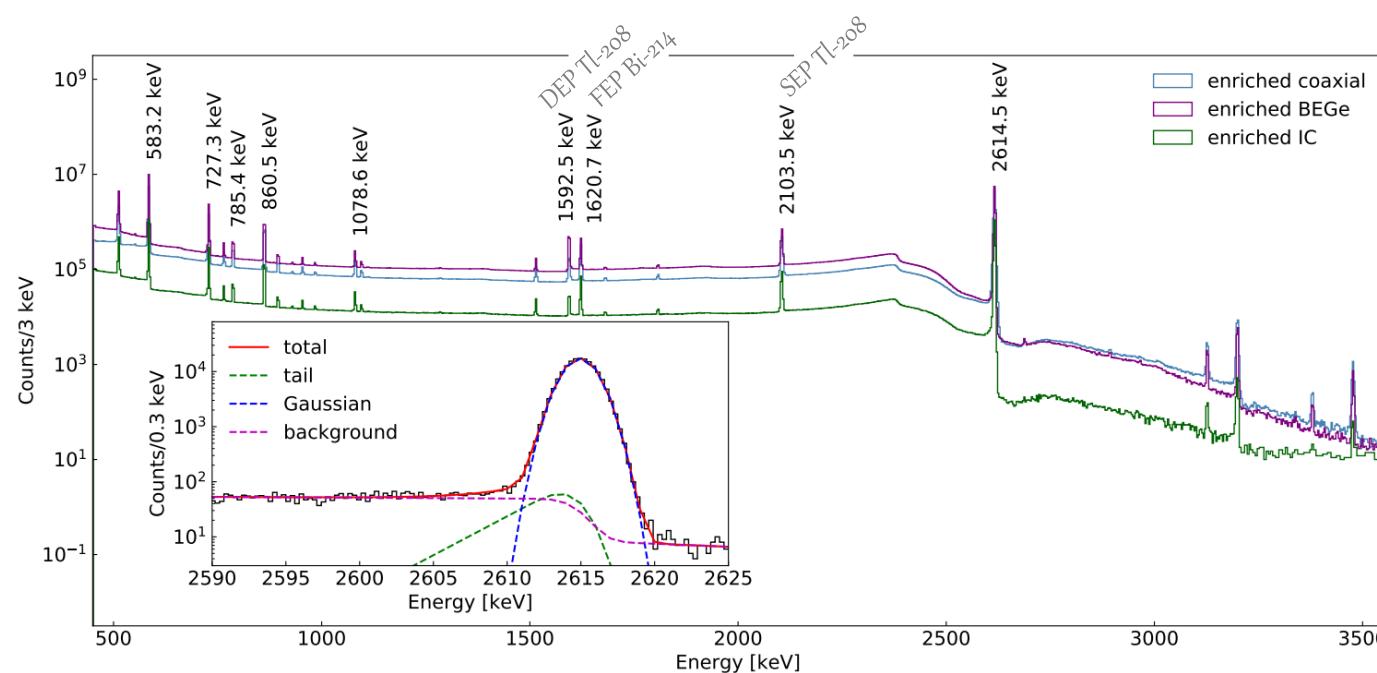
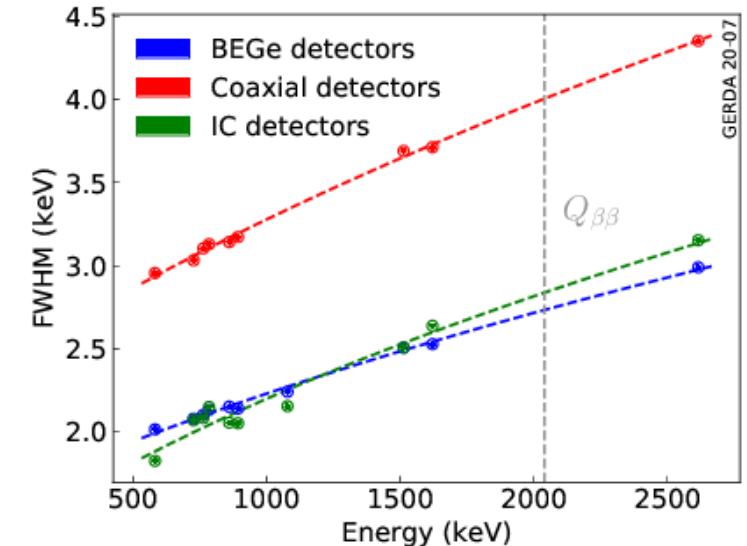
Detector type	Period	$a$ [keV $^2$ ]	$b$ [10 $^{-4}$ keV]
BEGe	pre upgrade	$0.681 \pm 0.001$	$4.27 \pm 0.01$
	post upgrade	$0.363 \pm 0.001$	$4.32 \pm 0.01$
	all Phase II	$0.551 \pm 0.001$	$4.294 \pm 0.009$
Coaxial	pre upgrade	$1.025 \pm 0.002$	$6.47 \pm 0.02$
	post upgrade	$0.898 \pm 0.006$	$20.00 \pm 0.06$
	all Phase II	$0.985 \pm 0.002$	$10.73 \pm 0.02$
IC	all Phase II	$0.280 \pm 0.002$	$5.83 \pm 0.02$



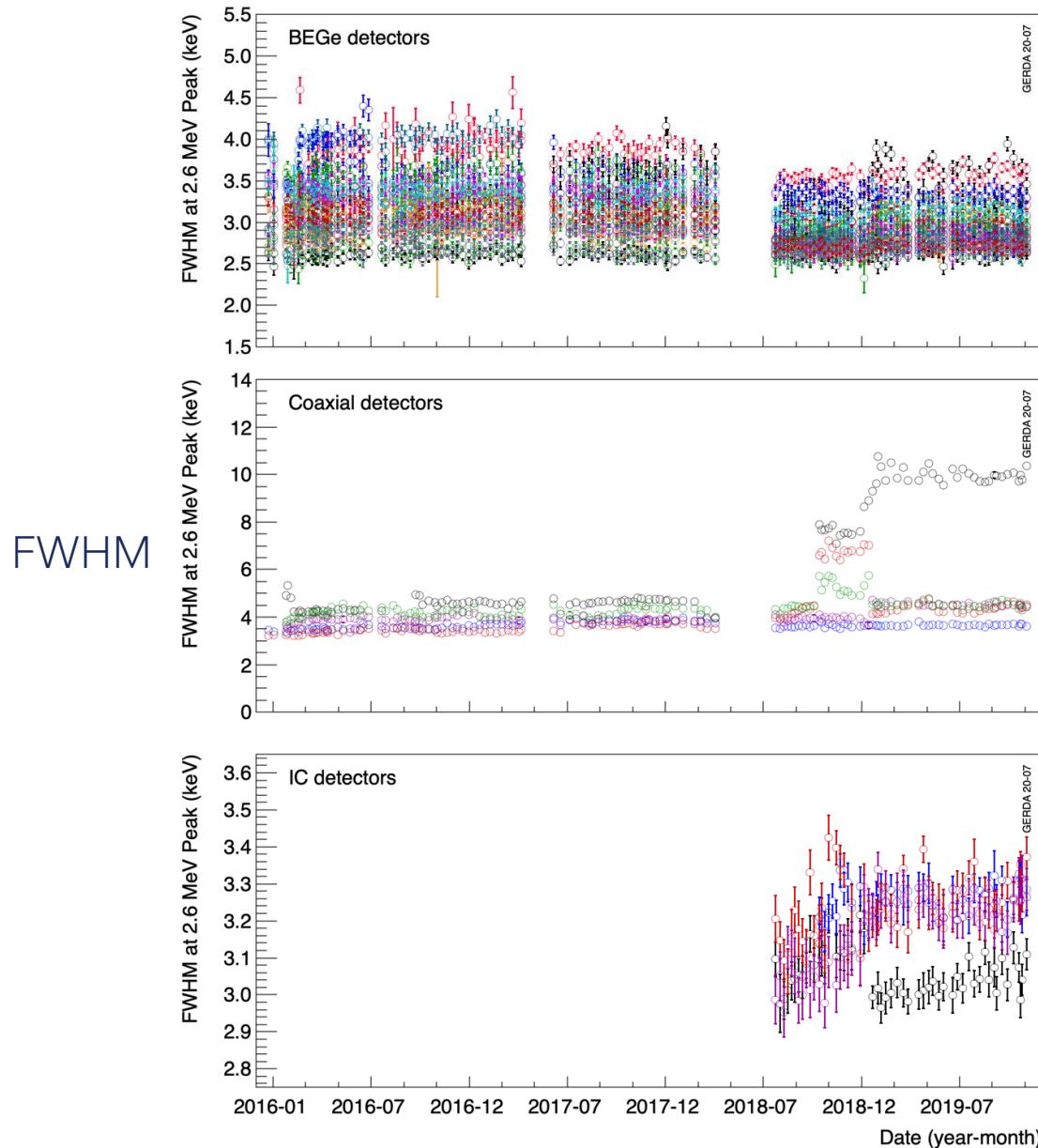
Gaussian mixture models to determine resolution per detector type

# Calibration Procedure

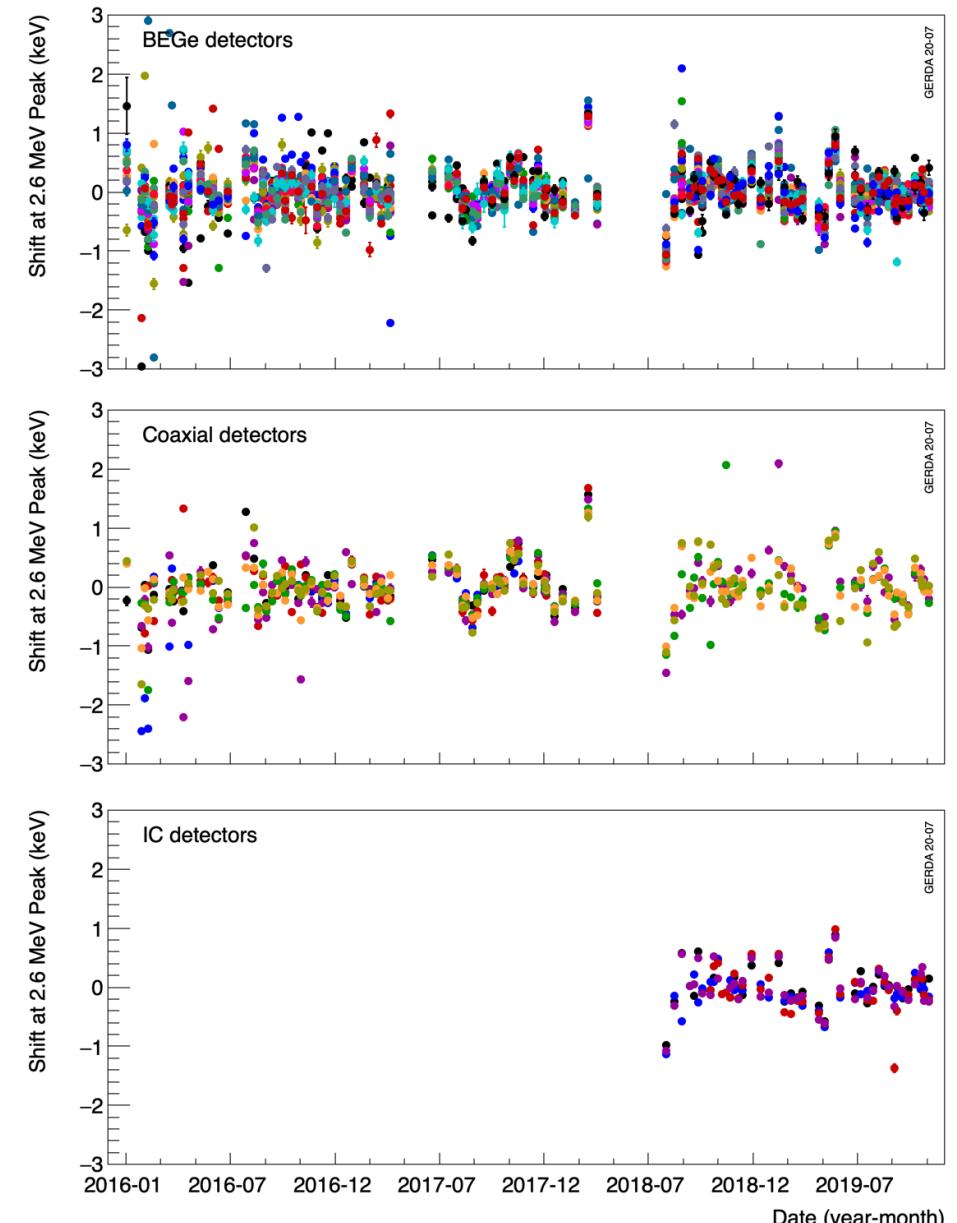
- Weekly calibrations with 3 Th-228 sources
- Use  $\gamma$  lines of known energies to pass from ADC to keV (physical unit)
- Peak fitting algorithm to extract each detector's resolution
- 3 terms:
  - Signal = gaussian
  - Bkg #1= linear + step (flat bkg below/above the peak derived from multiple Compton scatterings)
  - Bkg #2 = tail at low energies (due to incomplete charge collection effects + pile-up events residuals)



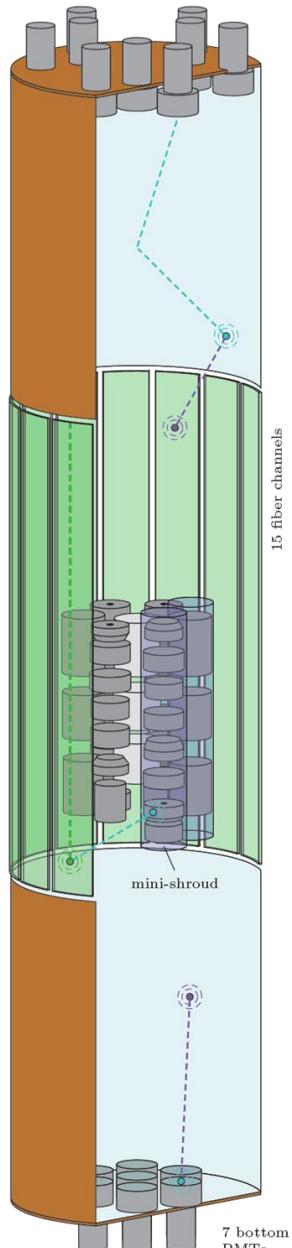
# Stability Over Time



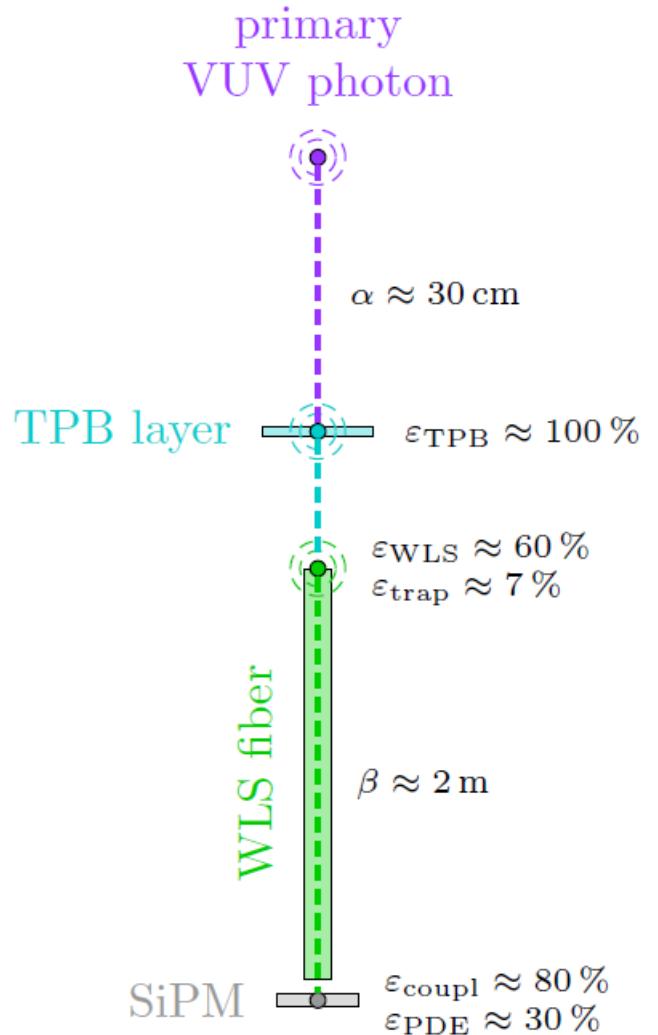
## Energy shifts

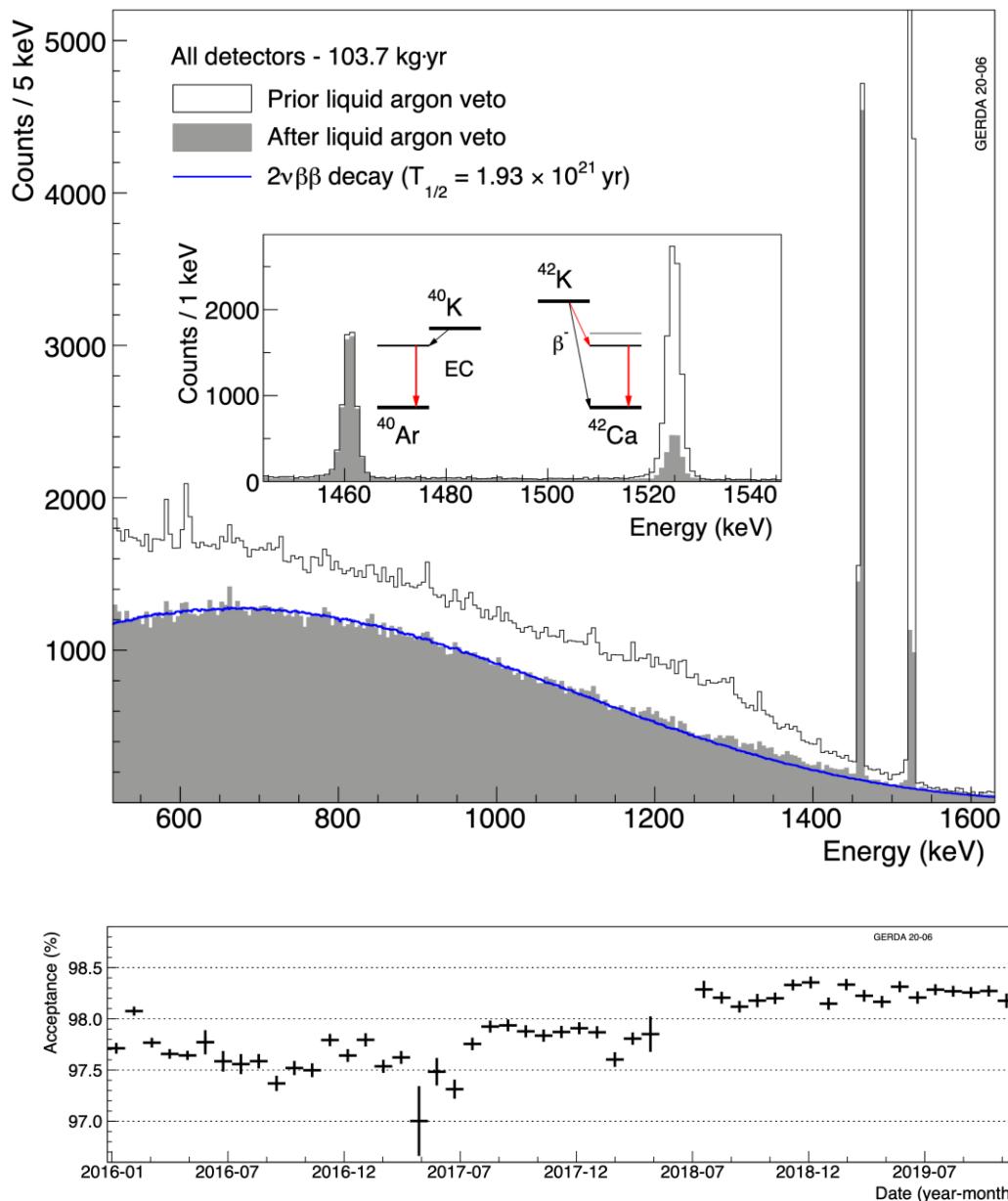
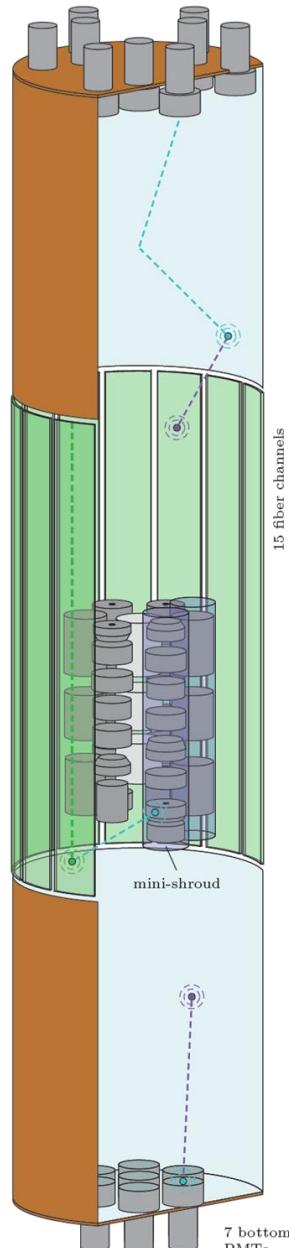


# LAr Instrumentation



- Two barrels in LAr @  $\sim 88\text{K}$ 
  - $\varnothing 590 \text{ mm}, H 1500 \text{ mm}$
  - 15 fiber channels
- Array of 6 SiPMs read in parallel
  - Ketek PM33100  $3 \times 3 \text{ mm}^2$
  - 405 WaveLength Shifting (WLS) fibers
- Nylon Mini-shrouds (MS)
  - Suppression of K-42 ions background
  - Transparent to LAr scintillation light (covered with TetraPhenyl Butadiene, TPB)
  - Nylon: low-background material
- Fiber shroud cylinder
  - $\varnothing 1375 \text{ mm}, H 3000 \text{ mm}$
  - Reflected photons reach fibers without any LAr attenuation
  - Help to detect photons produced outside the barrels





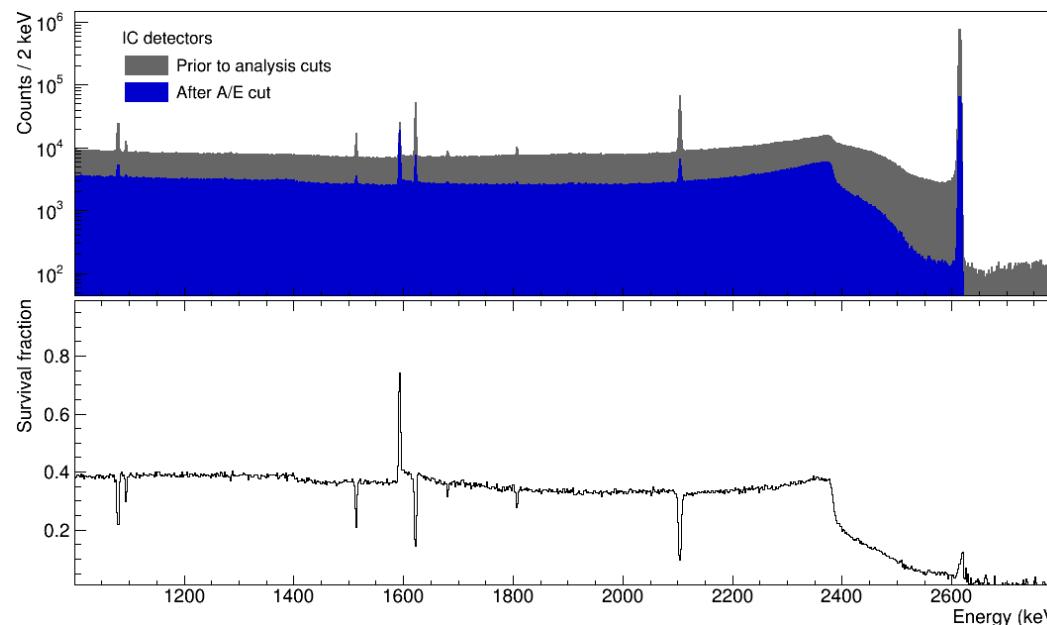
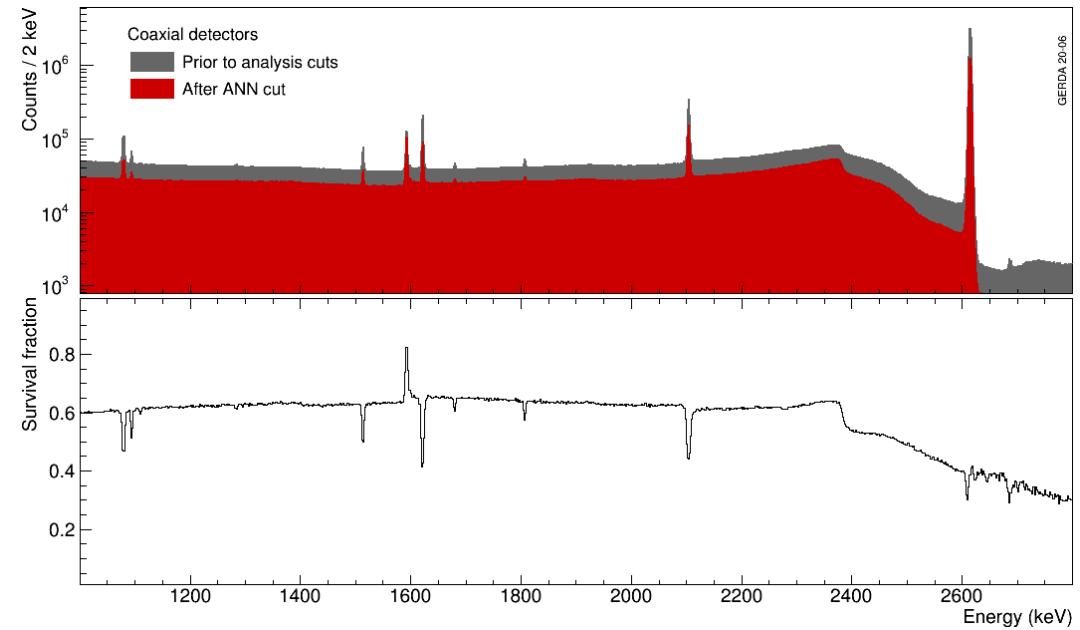
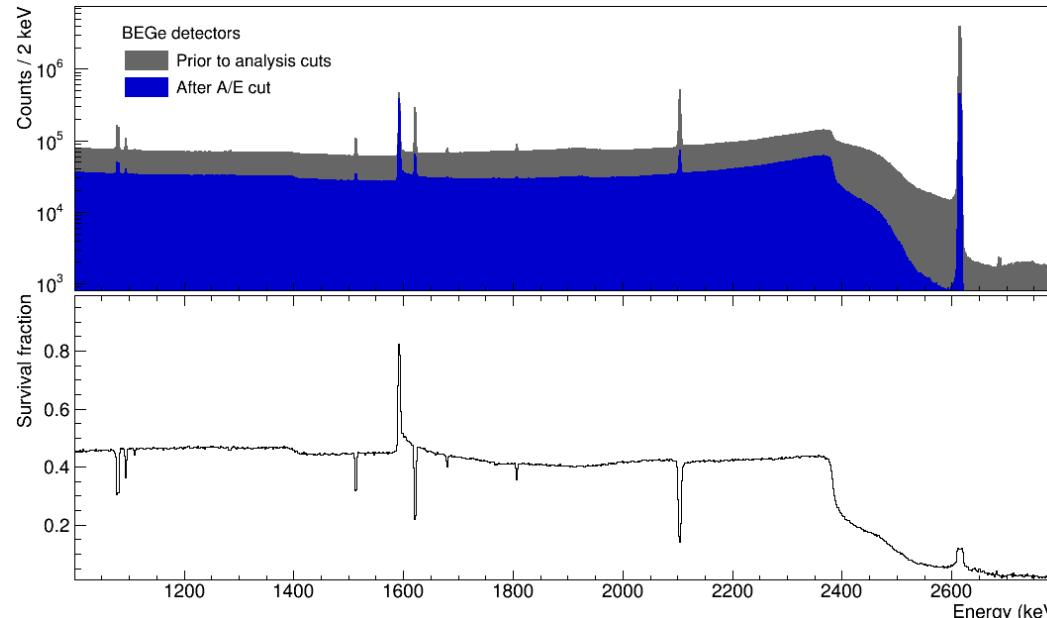
## Phase II survival fraction

- K-40:  $97.3 \pm 0.2$
- K-42:  $19.7 \pm 0.4$

## Efficiency LAr veto cut

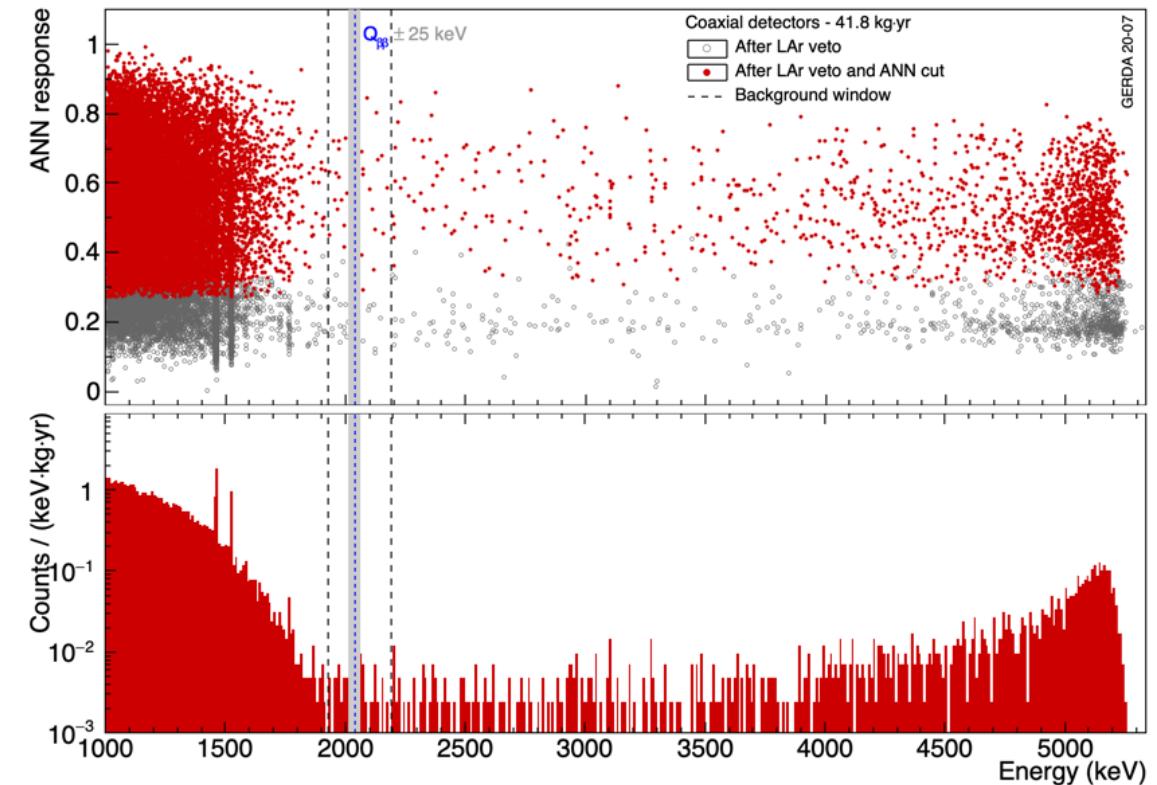
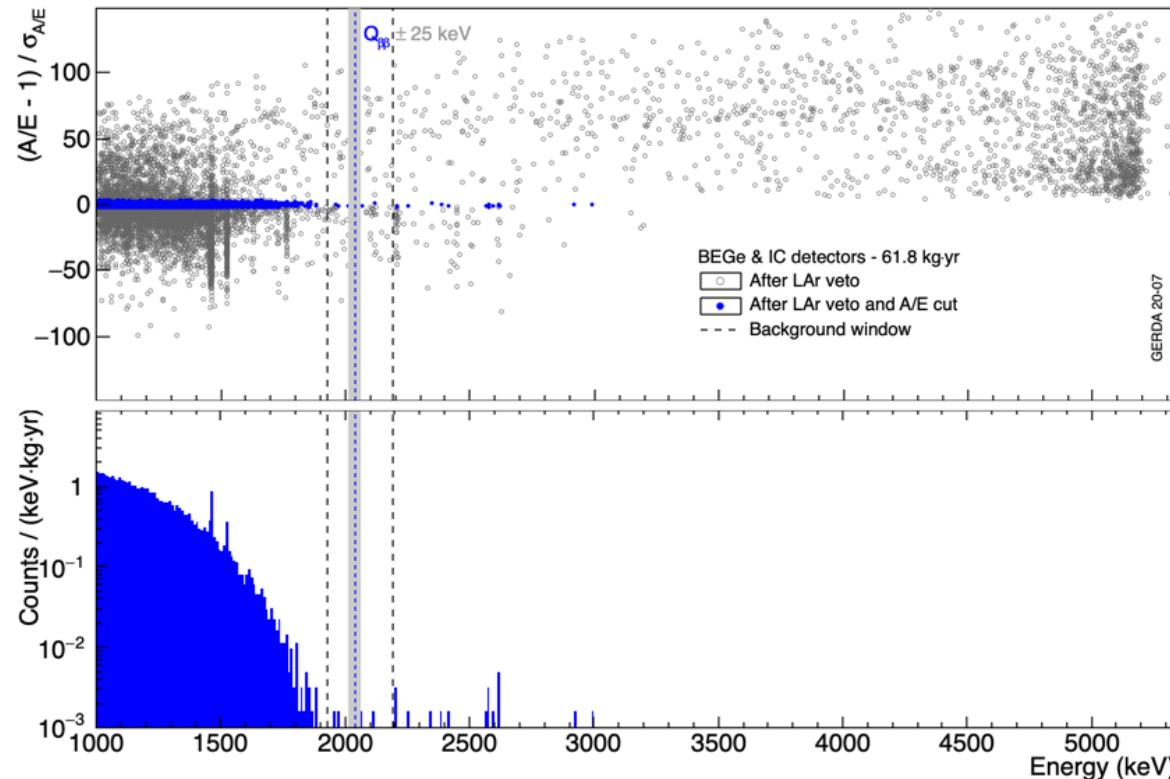
- $(97.7 \pm 0.1)\%$  in Phase II
- $(98.2 \pm 0.1)\%$  in Phase II+

# PSD Performance



Survival fraction of calibration data  
events after applying PSD  
(A/E for BEGe/IC, ANN for COAX)

EPJ C 73 (2013) 2583, EPJ C 82 (2022) 284, PRL 125 (2020) 252502



## Efficiency $0\nu2\beta$ PSD cut

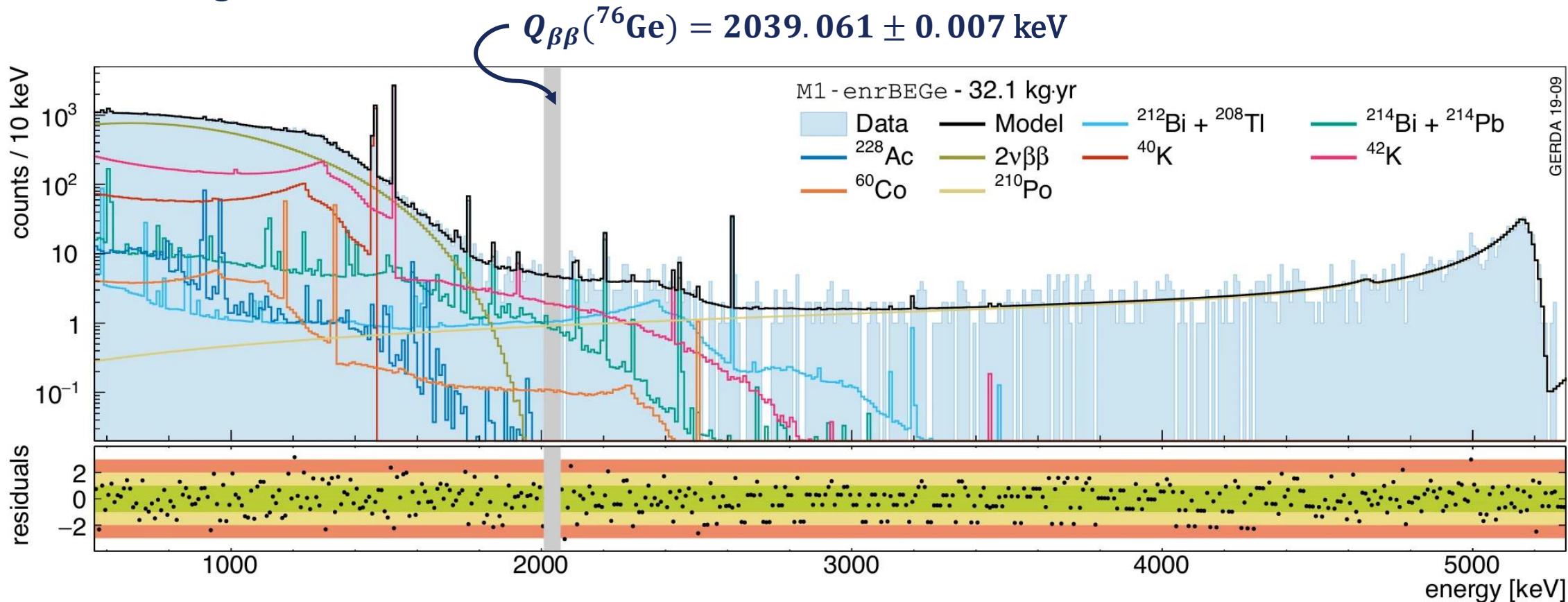
Phase II (prior upgrade)

- BEGe:  $(88.2 \pm 3.4)\%$
- COAX:  $(69.1 \pm 5.6)\%$

Phase II+ (post upgrade)

- BEGe:  $(89.0 \pm 4.1)\%$
- COAX:  $(68.8 \pm 4.1)\%$
- IC:  $(90.0 \pm 1.8)\%$

# GERDA Background Model



- Decomposition of the full-range energy spectrum
- Implementation of the detector array made with MaGe simulation framework
- Fundamental for
  - predicting the shape and composition of events in the  $Q_{\beta\beta}$  ROI
  - identifying residual impurities and their location
  - finding alternative strategies to further reduce the background

J HEP. 2020, 139 (2020)

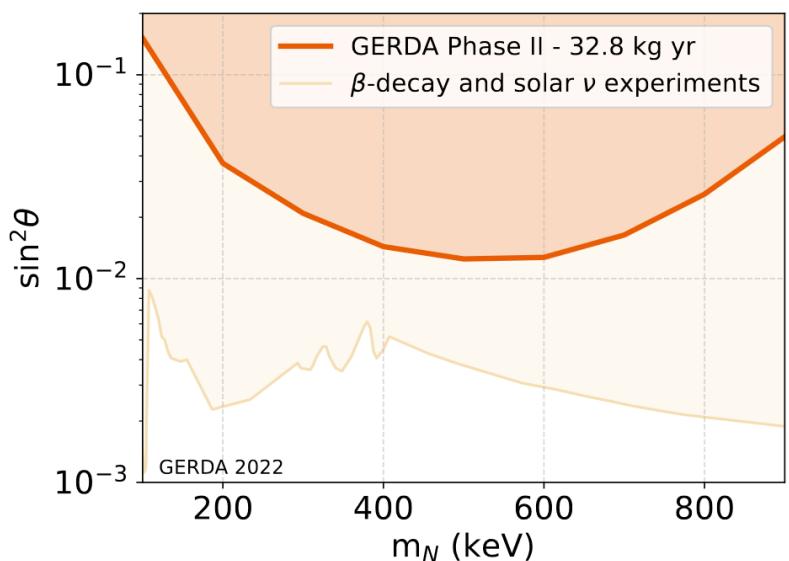
Search	Exposure [kg yr]	Phase	Motivation
Exotic Searches in $2\nu 2\beta$ Decays	32.8	II - BEGe only	Minimize the systematic uncertainties; LAr instrumentation was upgraded but the changes were not included in the modelling of the LAr veto system
Tri-nucleon decays	61.9	(II, II+) - after 2017 only	Use data in which the detectors' trigger threshold was lowered to ~20 keV
Neutron & proton decays Electron decay Bosonic DM interactions	105.5	(II, II+)	Use data with LAr veto
0νECEC $^{36}\text{Ar}$ decay	$2.81 + 8.401 *$	I & (II, II+)	

(\*) Product between the detection efficiency and the simulated mass of the LAr volume.  
The value 2.81 kg yr for Phase I has been taken from [EPJ C 76 \(2016\) 652](#)

# Comparison for Exotic Emissions

Majorons Emission

Decay mode / Isotope	$T_{1/2}$ (yr)	Ref.	$G$ ( $10^{-18} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ )	NME	$g_J$
$0\nu\beta\beta J$ ( $n = 1$ )					
$^{76}\text{Ge}$	$> 6.4 \cdot 10^{23}$	present	44.2	(2.66 – 6.64)	$< (1.8 - 4.4) \cdot 10^{-5}$
$^{136}\text{Xe}$	$> 2.6 \cdot 10^{24}$	[54]	409	(1.11 – 4.77)	$< (0.4 - 1.7) \cdot 10^{-5}$
$^{136}\text{Xe}$	$> 4.3 \cdot 10^{24}$	[57]	409	(1.11 – 4.77)	$< (0.3 - 1.3) \cdot 10^{-5}$
$^{100}\text{Mo}$	$> 4.4 \cdot 10^{22}$	[55]	598	(3.84 – 6.59)	$< (1.8 - 3.1) \cdot 10^{-5}$
$^{116}\text{Cd}$	$> 8.2 \cdot 10^{21}$	[56]	569	(3.105 – 5.43)	$< (5.3 - 9.2) \cdot 10^{-5}$
$0\nu\beta\beta J$ ( $n = 2$ )					
$^{76}\text{Ge}$	$> 2.9 \cdot 10^{23}$	present	–	–	–
$^{136}\text{Xe}$	$> 1.0 \cdot 10^{24}$	[54]	–	–	–
$^{136}\text{Xe}$	$> 9.8 \cdot 10^{23}$	[57]	–	–	–
$^{100}\text{Mo}$	$> 9.9 \cdot 10^{21}$	[28]	–	–	–
$^{116}\text{Cd}$	$> 4.1 \cdot 10^{21}$	[56]	–	–	–



Sterile Neutrino Emission

Decay mode / Isotope	$T_{1/2}$ (yr)	Ref.	$G$ ( $10^{-18} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ )	NME	$g_J$
$0\nu\beta\beta J$ ( $n = 3$ )					
$^{76}\text{Ge}$	$> 1.2 \cdot 10^{23}$	present	0.073	0.381	$< 1.7 \cdot 10^{-2}$
$^{136}\text{Xe}$	$> 4.5 \cdot 10^{23}$	[54]	1.47	0.160	$< 0.47 \cdot 10^{-2}$
$^{136}\text{Xe}$	$> 6.3 \cdot 10^{23}$	[57]	1.47	0.160	$< 0.40 \cdot 10^{-2}$
$^{100}\text{Mo}$	$> 4.4 \cdot 10^{21}$	[28]	2.42	0.263	$< 2.3 \cdot 10^{-2}$
$^{116}\text{Cd}$	$> 2.6 \cdot 10^{21}$	[56]	2.28	0.144	$< 5.6 \cdot 10^{-2}$
$0\nu\beta\beta JJ$ ( $n = 3$ )					
$^{76}\text{Ge}$	$> 1.2 \cdot 10^{23}$	present	0.22	0.0026	$< 1.21$
$^{136}\text{Xe}$	$> 4.5 \cdot 10^{23}$	[54]	3.05	0.0011	$< 0.69$
$^{136}\text{Xe}$	$> 6.3 \cdot 10^{23}$	[57]	3.05	0.0011	$< 0.64$
$^{100}\text{Mo}$	$> 4.4 \cdot 10^{21}$	[28]	6.15	0.0019	$< 1.41$
$^{116}\text{Cd}$	$> 2.6 \cdot 10^{21}$	[56]	5.23	0.000945	$< 2.37$
$0\nu\beta\beta JJ$ ( $n = 7$ )					
$^{76}\text{Ge}$	$> 1.0 \cdot 10^{23}$	present	0.42	0.0026	$< 1.08$
$^{136}\text{Xe}$	$> 1.1 \cdot 10^{22}$	[54]	12.5	0.0011	$< 1.23$
$^{136}\text{Xe}$	$> 5.1 \cdot 10^{22}$	[57]	12.5	0.0011	$< 0.84$
$^{100}\text{Mo}$	$> 1.2 \cdot 10^{21}$	[28]	50.8	0.0019	$< 1.15$
$^{116}\text{Cd}$	$> 8.9 \cdot 10^{20}$	[56]	33.9	0.000945	$< 1.94$

Lorentz Violation

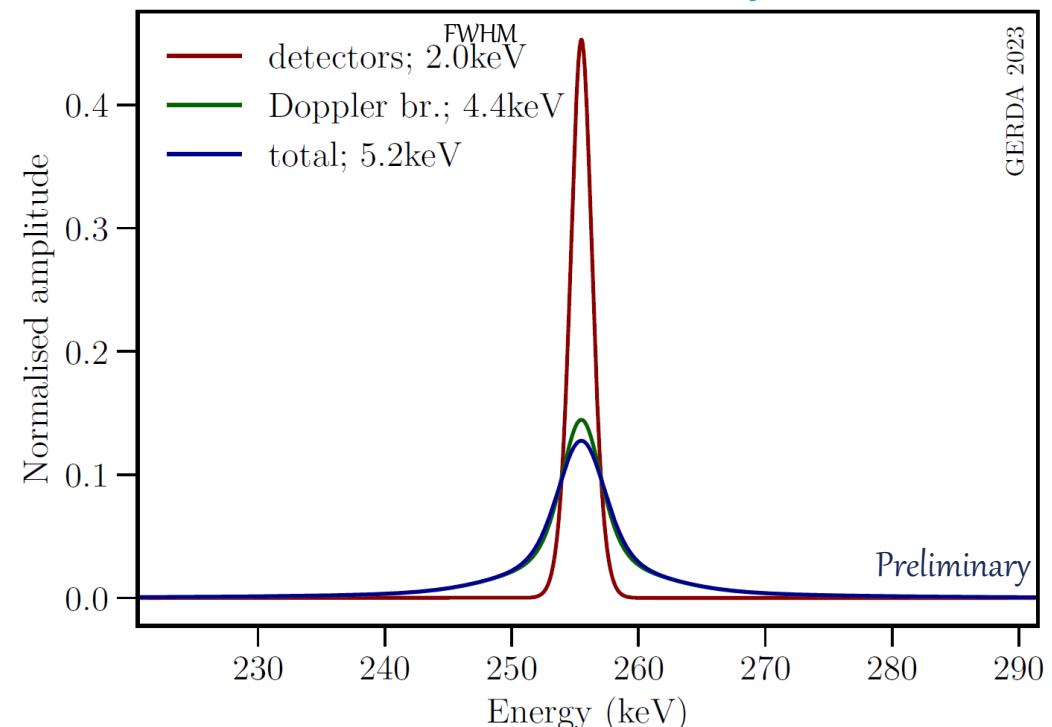
Isotope	Limits on $\dot{a}_{\text{of}}^{(3)}$ (GeV) at 90% C.L.	Ref.
$^{76}\text{Ge}$	$(-2.7 < \dot{a}_{\text{of}}^{(3)} < 6.2) \cdot 10^{-6}$	this work
$^{136}\text{Xe}$	$-2.65 \cdot 10^{-5} < \dot{a}_{\text{of}}^{(3)} < 7.6 \cdot 10^{-6}$	EXO-200
$^{116}\text{Cd}$	$\dot{a}_{\text{of}}^{(3)} < 4.0 \cdot 10^{-6}$	AURORA
$^{100}\text{Mo}$	$(-4.2 < \dot{a}_{\text{of}}^{(3)} < 3.5) \cdot 10^{-7}$	NEMO-3
$^{82}\text{Se}$	$\dot{a}_{\text{of}}^{(3)} < 4.1 \cdot 10^{-6}$	CUPID-0
$^{3}\text{H}$ (single- $\beta$ decay)		Díaz <i>et al.</i>
		KATRIN

## Comparison for inclusive tri-nucleon decays

Experiment	Decay	$\tau_b[x]$ (yr)
GERDA	$^{76}\text{Ge} \xrightarrow{ppp} {}^{73}\text{Cu} + \text{X}$	$1.20 \times 10^{26}$
	$^{76}\text{Ge} \xrightarrow{ppn} {}^{73}\text{Zn} + \text{X}$	$1.20 \times 10^{26}$
	$^{76}\text{Ge} \xrightarrow{pnn} {}^{73}\text{Ga} + \text{X}$	$1.20 \times 10^{26}$
	$^{76}\text{Ge} \xrightarrow{nnn} {}^{73}\text{Ge} + \text{X}_{\text{invisible}}$	$k \times 10^{26}$
MAJORANA [19]	$^{76}\text{Ge} \xrightarrow{ppp} {}^{73}\text{Cu} + \text{X}$	$1.08 \times 10^{25}$
	$^{76}\text{Ge} \xrightarrow{ppp} {}^{73}\text{Cu} e^+ \pi^+ \pi^+$	$6.78 \times 10^{25}$
	$^{76}\text{Ge} \xrightarrow{ppn} {}^{73}\text{Zn} e^+ \pi^+$	$7.03 \times 10^{25}$
EXO-200 [20]	$^{136}\text{Xe} \xrightarrow{ppp} {}^{133}\text{Sb} + \text{X}$	$3.3 \times 10^{23}$
	$^{136}\text{Xe} \xrightarrow{ppn} {}^{133}\text{Te} + \text{X}$	$1.9 \times 10^{23}$
Hazama et al. [21]	$^{127}\text{I} \xrightarrow{nnn} {}^{124}\text{I} + \text{X}$	$1.8 \times 10^{23}$

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## Doppler Broadening effect in the electron semi-visible decay



# Bosonic Dark Matter Interactions

Vector DM

Two dark matter candidates:

- vector DM (dark photons),  $\mathcal{L}_V = g_V V_\mu \bar{\psi} \gamma^\mu \psi$
- pseudoscalar DM (axion-like particles),  $\mathcal{L}_a = g_a a \bar{\psi} i \gamma_5 \psi$

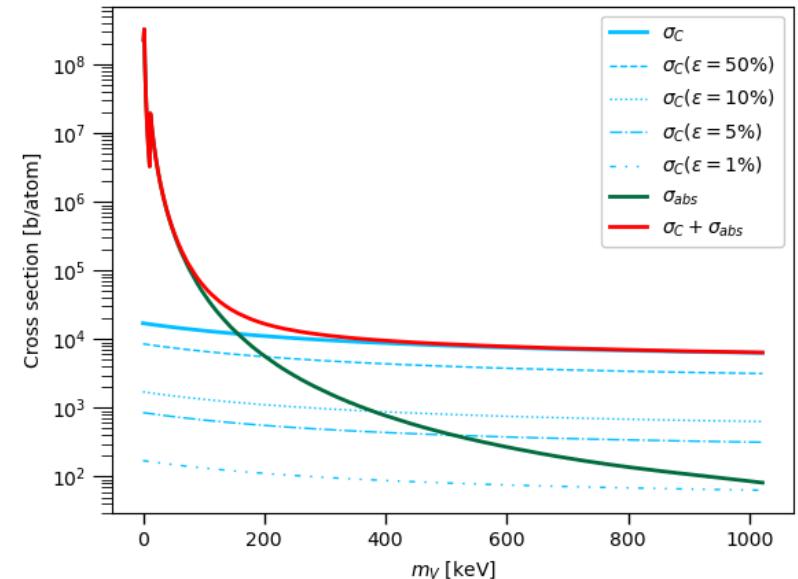
$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{Absorption} \\ R_V^{abs} = \frac{4.7 \cdot 10^{23}}{A} \cdot \frac{\sigma_{pe}}{m_V} \cdot \varepsilon_\beta \cdot \frac{\alpha'}{\alpha} \\ R_a^{abs} = \frac{1.5 \cdot 10^{19}}{A} \cdot \sigma_{pe} \cdot m_a \cdot \varepsilon_\beta \cdot g_{ae}^2 \\ \\ \text{Scattering} \\ R_V^C = \frac{n_e \rho_{DM}}{\rho_T m_V} \cdot \frac{e^4}{24\pi m_e^2} \cdot \frac{(m_V^2 + 2m_e m_V + 2m_e^2)(m_V + 2m_e)}{(m_V + m_e)^3} \cdot \varepsilon_{\beta+\gamma} \cdot \frac{\alpha'}{\alpha} \\ R_a^C = \frac{n_e \rho_{DM}}{\rho_T} \cdot \frac{e^2}{16\pi m_e^2} \cdot \frac{m_a (m_a + 2m_e)^2}{(m_a + m_e)^4} \cdot \varepsilon_{\beta+\gamma} \cdot g_{ae}^2 \end{array} \right\}$$

V = vector SW  
 a = pseudoscalar SW  
 A = Ge atomic mass  
 $\sigma_{pe}$  = Ge photoelectric x-section

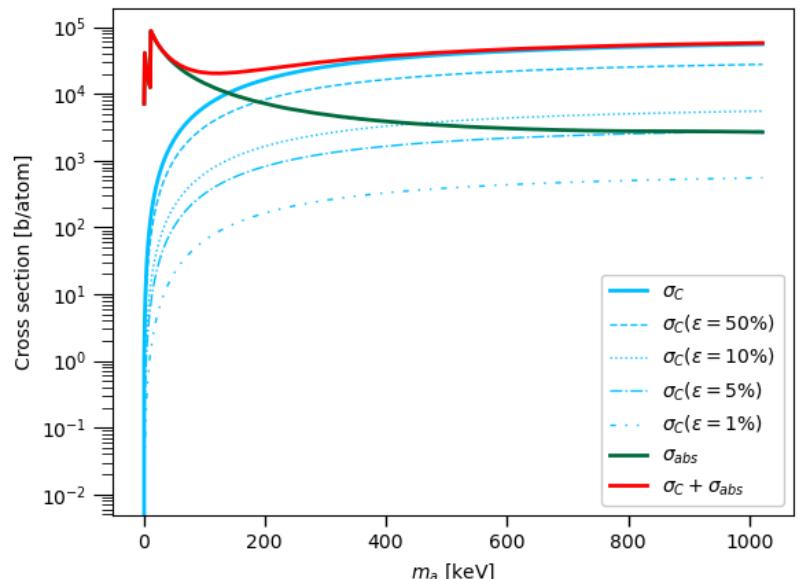
$\varepsilon$  = detection efficiency  
 $m_{V/a}$  = V/a SW mass  
 $e^2 = 4\pi\alpha$   
 $m_e$  = electron mass

$\rho_T$  = target density  
 $\rho_{DM}$  = DM density (0.3 GeV/cm<sup>3</sup>)  
 $n_e$  = target number density of electrons  
 $g_{ae}, \alpha'/\alpha$  = SW couplings to electrons

$$\boxed{\begin{aligned} \sigma_{pe} &= \sqrt{\frac{32}{\gamma}} \alpha^4 Z^5 \sigma_{Th} \\ \gamma &= (2\pi\nu)/(m_e) \\ \sigma_{Th} &= \frac{8}{3}\pi r_e^2 \end{aligned}}$$



Pseudoscalar DM

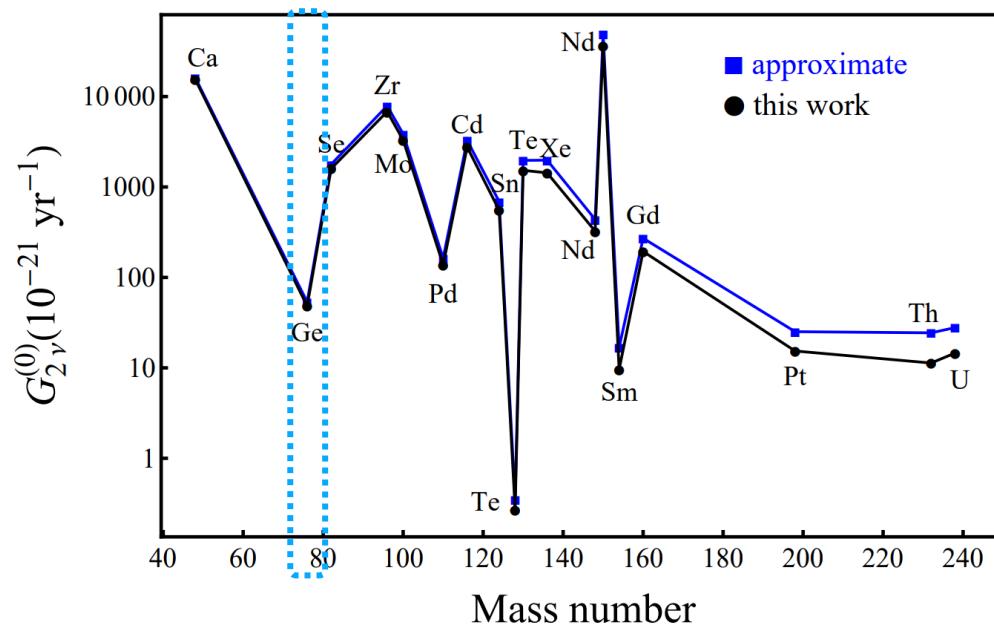


# 0ν2β Decay

$$(T_{1/2}^{0\nu})^{-1} = G^{0\nu}(Q_{\beta\beta}, Z) |M^{0\nu}|^2 \left(\frac{m_{\beta\beta}}{m_e}\right)^2$$

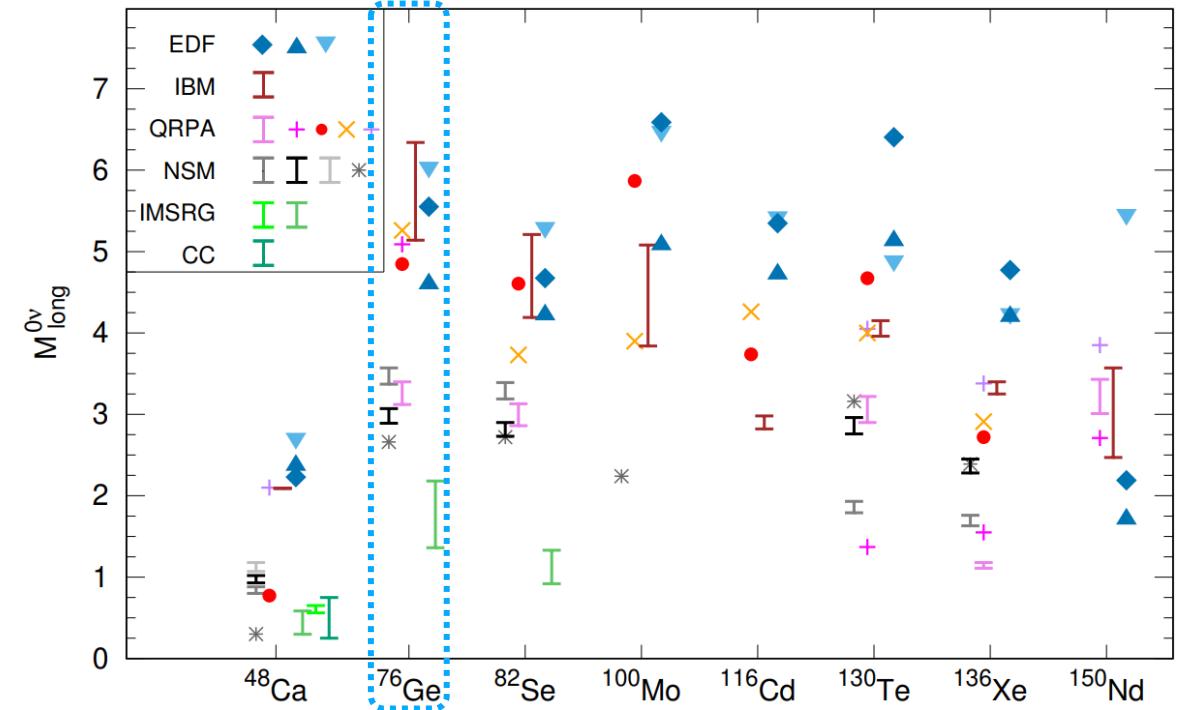
Phase-space  
integral

[arXiv: 1209.5722](https://arxiv.org/abs/1209.5722)



Nuclear Matrix  
Element

[arXiv:2202.01787](https://arxiv.org/abs/2202.01787)

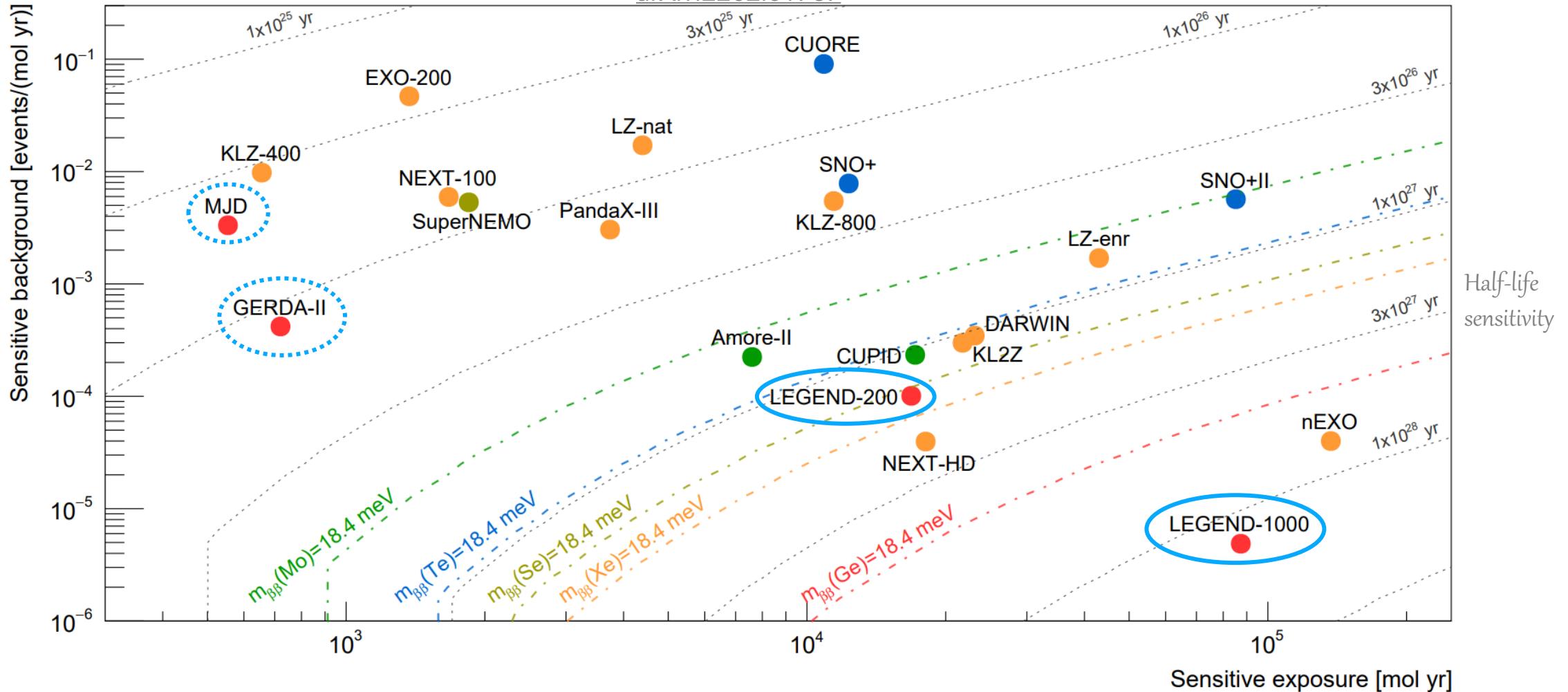


arXiv:2202.01787

Isotope	Daughter	$Q_{\beta\beta}$ <sup>a</sup> [keV]	$f_{\text{nat}}$ <sup>b</sup> [%]	$f_{\text{enr}}$ <sup>c</sup> [%]	$T_{1/2}^{2\nu\beta\beta}$ <sup>d</sup> [yr]	$T_{1/2}^{0\nu\beta\beta}$ <sup>e</sup> [yr]
<sup>48</sup> Ca	<sup>48</sup> Ti	4 267.98(32)	0.187(21)	16	$(6.4^{+0.7}_{-0.6}(\text{stat})^{+1.2}_{-0.9}(\text{syst})) \cdot 10^{19}$	$> 5.8 \cdot 10^{22}$
<sup>76</sup> Ge	<sup>76</sup> Se	2 039.061(7)	7.75(12)	92	$(1.926 \pm 94) \cdot 10^{21}$	$> 1.8 \cdot 10^{26}$
<sup>82</sup> Se	<sup>82</sup> Kr	2 997.9(3)	8.82(15)	96.3	$(8.60 \pm 0.03(\text{stat})^{+0.19}_{-0.13}(\text{syst})) \cdot 10^{19}$	$> 3.5 \cdot 10^{24}$
<sup>96</sup> Zr	<sup>96</sup> Mo	3 356.097(86)	2.80(2)	86	$(2.35 \pm 0.14(\text{stat}) \pm 0.16(\text{syst})) \cdot 10^{19}$	$> 9.2 \cdot 10^{21}$
<sup>100</sup> Mo	<sup>100</sup> Ru	3 034.40(17)	9.744(65)	99.5	$(7.12^{+0.18}_{-0.14}(\text{stat}) \pm 0.10(\text{syst})) \cdot 10^{18}$	$> 1.5 \cdot 10^{24}$
<sup>116</sup> Cd	<sup>116</sup> Sn	2 813.50(13)	7.512(54)	82	$(2.63^{+0.11}_{-0.12}) \cdot 10^{19}$	$> 2.2 \cdot 10^{23}$
<sup>130</sup> Te	<sup>130</sup> Xe	2 527.518(13)	34.08(62)	92	$(7.71^{+0.08}_{-0.06}(\text{stat})^{+0.12}_{-0.15}(\text{syst})) \cdot 10^{20}$	$> 2.2 \cdot 10^{25}$
<sup>136</sup> Xe	<sup>136</sup> Ba	2 457.83(37)	8.857(72)	90	$(2.165 \pm 0.016(\text{stat}) \pm 0.059(\text{syst})) \cdot 10^{21}$	$> 1.1 \cdot 10^{26}$
<sup>150</sup> Nd	<sup>150</sup> Sm	3 371.38(20)	5.638(28)	91	$(9.34 \pm 0.22(\text{stat})^{+0.62}_{-0.60}(\text{syst})) \cdot 10^{18}$	$> 2.0 \cdot 10^{22}$

# 0ν2β Experiments

arXiv:2202.01787



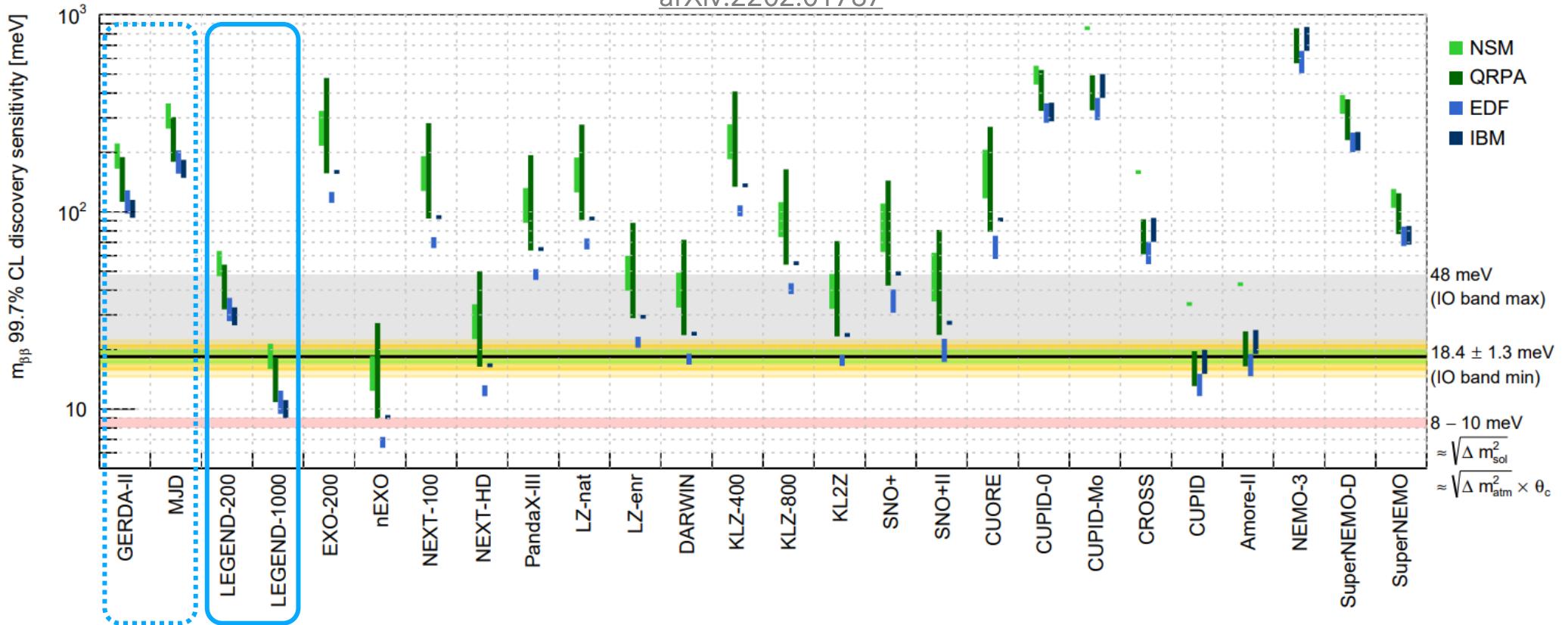
LEGEND-200:  $T_{1/2}^{0\nu} > 10^{27} \text{ yr}$  @ 90% CL

LEGEND-1000:  $T_{1/2}^{0\nu} > 1.6 \cdot 10^{28} \text{ yr}$  @ 90% CL

- Assumption: 10 yr of data acquisition for all experiments, but for those that already finished to operate (\*)
- The colourful-dashed lines correspond to the half-life sensibility requested to test the inverted hierarchy with isotopes Mo-100, Te-130, Se-82, Xe-136, Ge-76

# Inverted or Normal Hierarchy?

arXiv:2202.01787



LEGEND-200:  $m_{\beta\beta} < 34 - 78$  meV  
 LEGEND-1000:  $m_{\beta\beta} < 8.5 - 19.4$  meV

- Gray band: range of  $m_{\beta\beta}$  values for the inverted order (IO) and  $m_{\text{light}} \rightarrow 0$
- $m_{\beta\beta} = 18.4$  meV: minimum value allowed for the IO
- $1\sigma$ ,  $2\sigma$ ,  $3\sigma$  uncertainty bands for  $m_{\beta\beta} = 18.4$  meV are shown in green, orange and yellow, respectively
- Red band at 8–10 meV: future aim for  $0\nu\beta\beta$  next-generation experiments
- NSM (Nuclear Shell Model), QRPA (Quasiparticle Random-Phase Approximation), EDF (Energy-Density Functional), IBM (Interacting Boson Model): models and nuclear theories used in extracting the Nuclear Matrix Elements (NMEs)

# The GERDA Collaboration



GERDA = GERmanium Detector Array

