



**SAPIENZA**  
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA



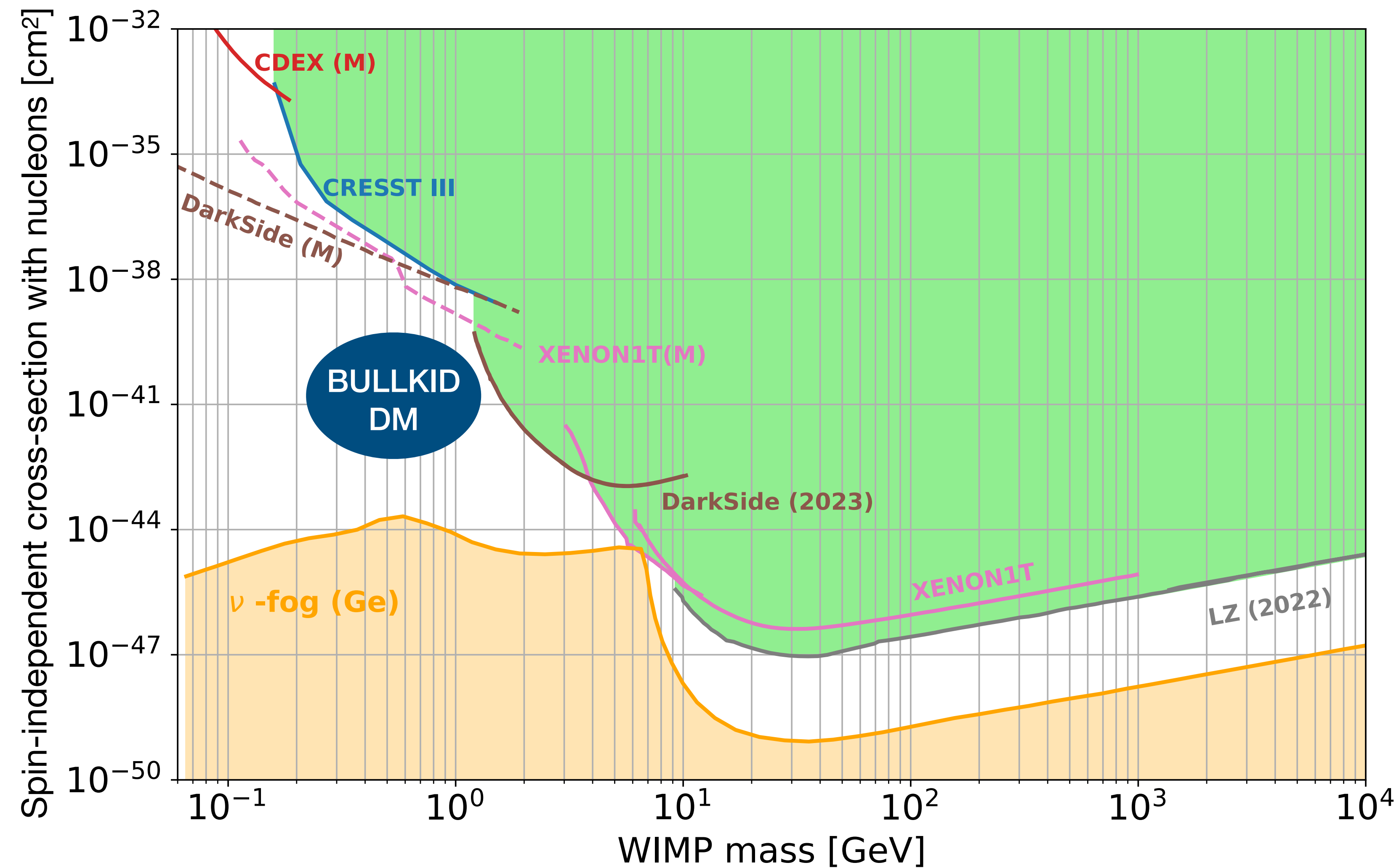
# Status of BULLKID-DM

**Marco Vignati on behalf of the coll.,  
Identification of Dark Matter - L'Aquila - 9 July 2024**



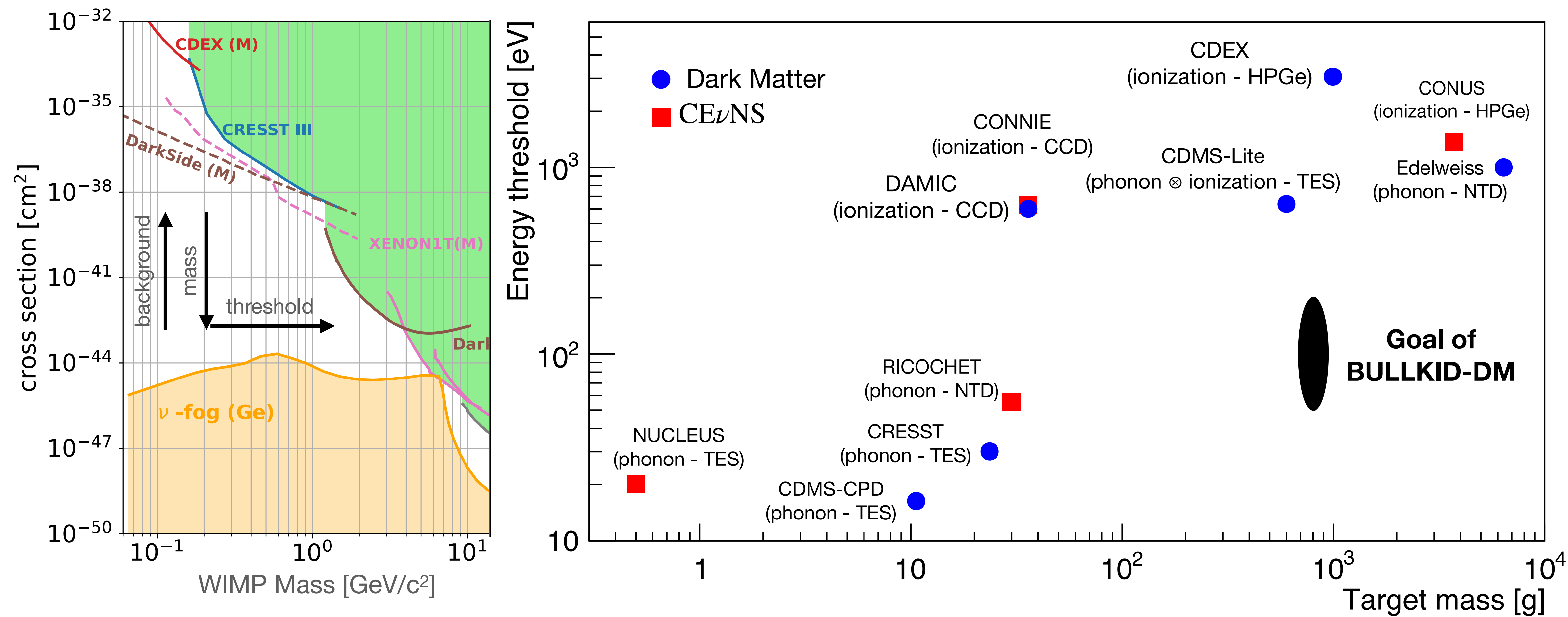


# Objective





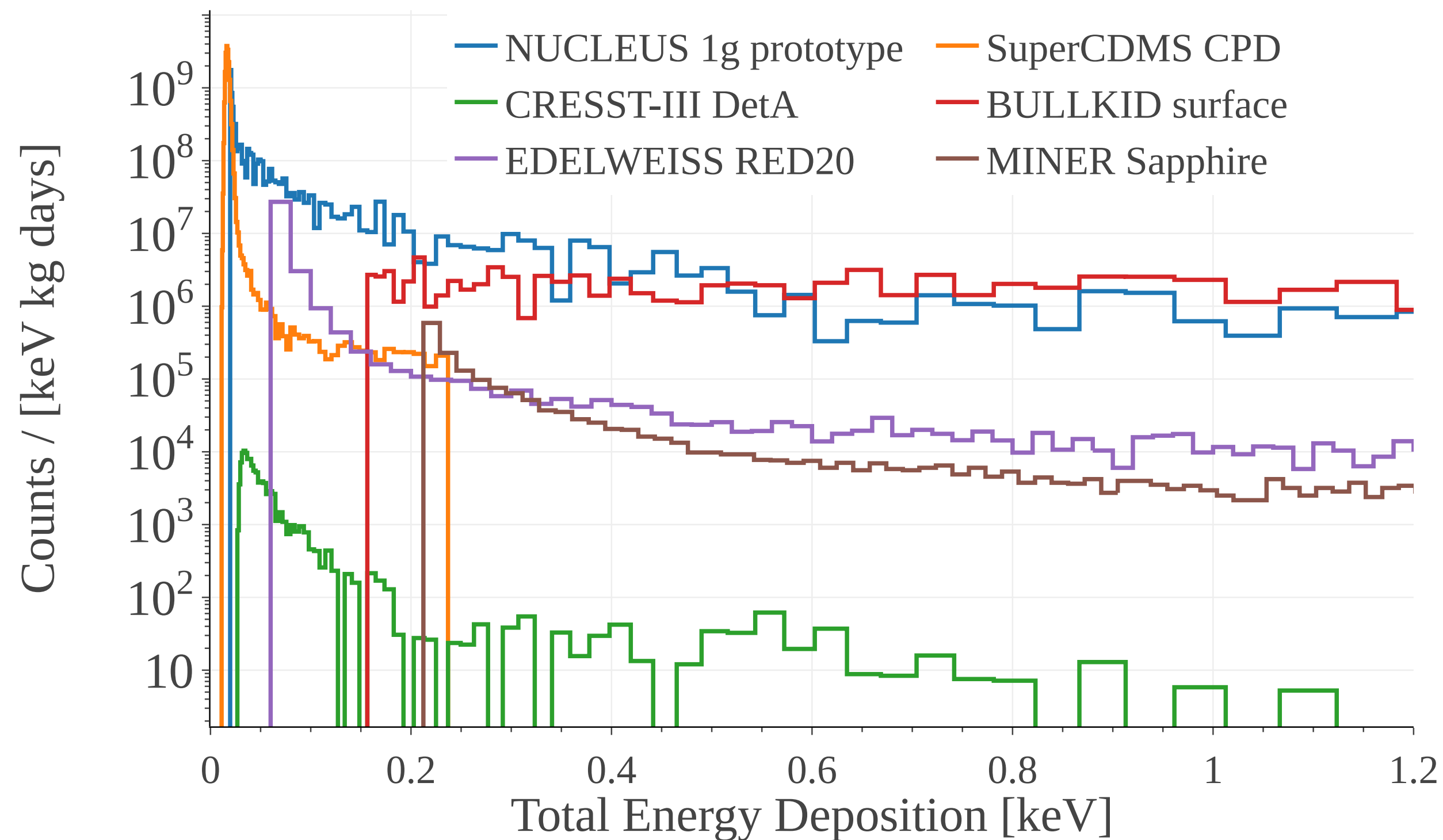
# State of the art (solid-state detectors)





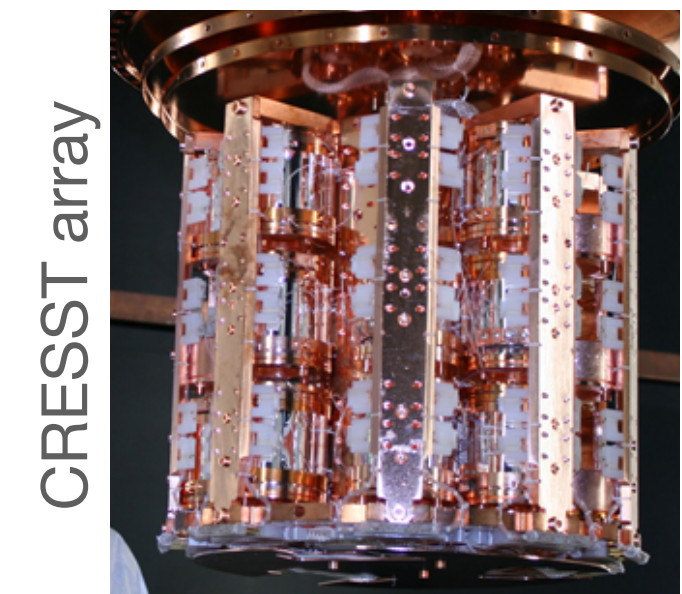
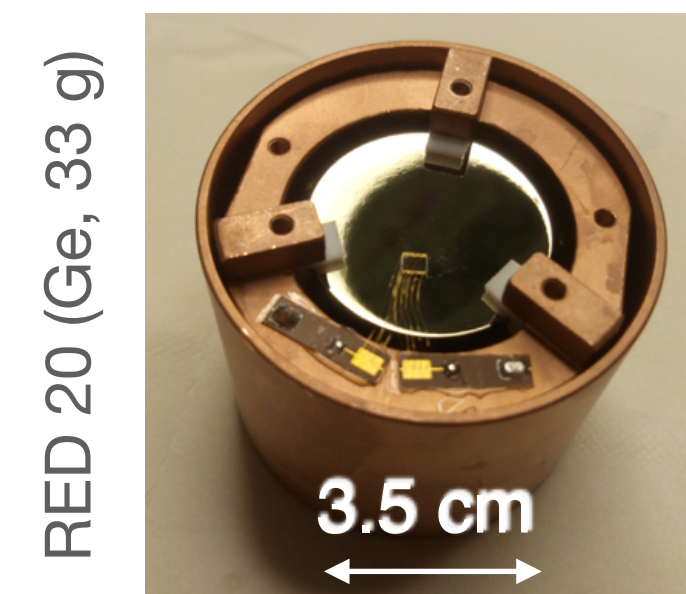
# Background issue in low-T experiments

Not understood excess background rising at low energies



P. Adari, et al.: EXCESS workshop: Descriptions of rising low-energy spectra  
SciPost Phys. Proc. 9 (2022) 001 + D. Delicato et al EPJ C 84 (2024) 353

- Phonons from supports or from the sensors?
- Lattice relaxations after cool down?
- ~~Neutrons (cosmic ray induced, radioactivity) ?~~



Excess workshop 2024  
Roma, 6 July  
<https://agenda.infn.it/event/39007/>

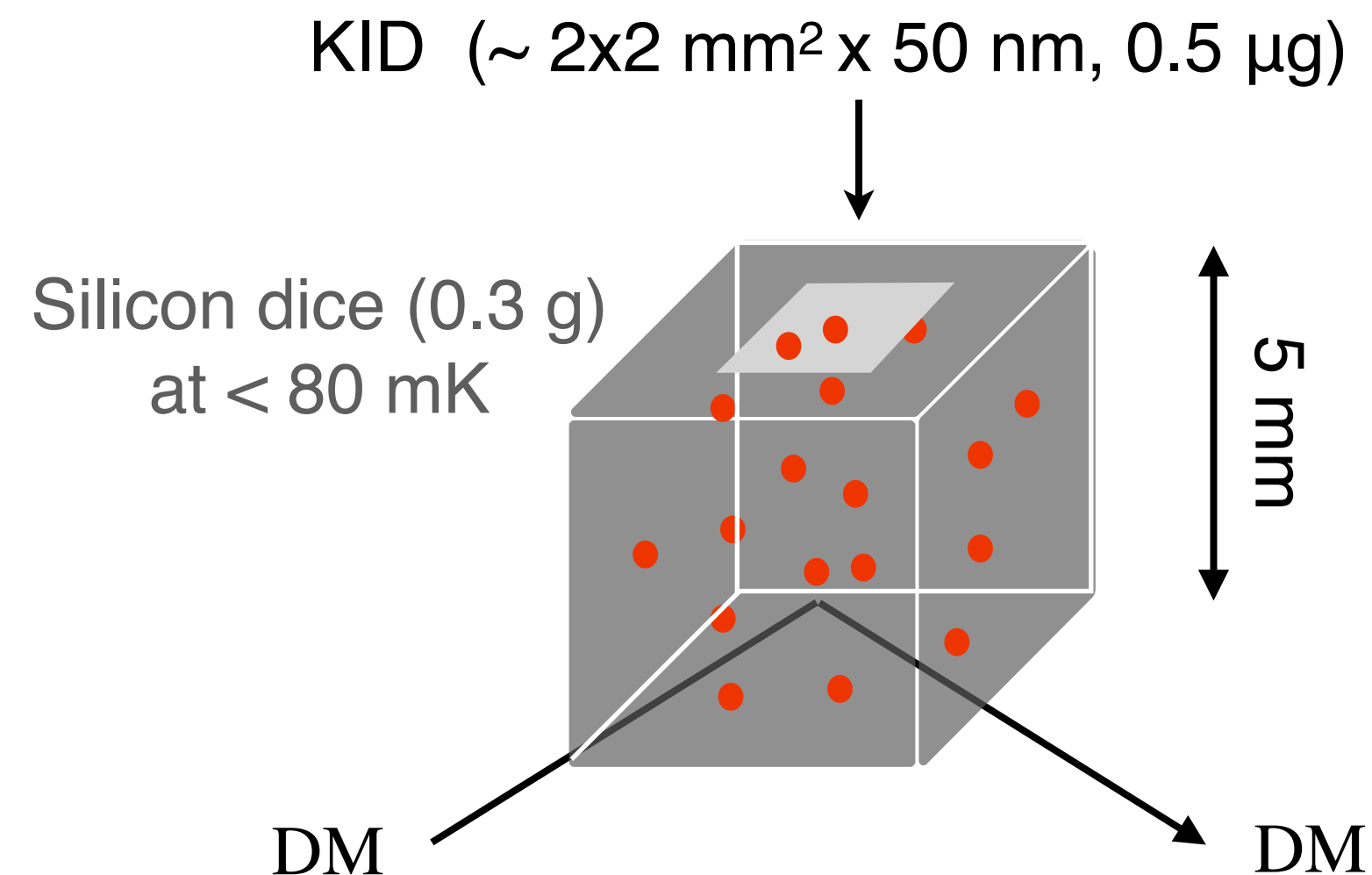




# The BULLKID phonon-detector array

## Phonon mediation

detect phonons created by nuclear recoils  
in a silicon die



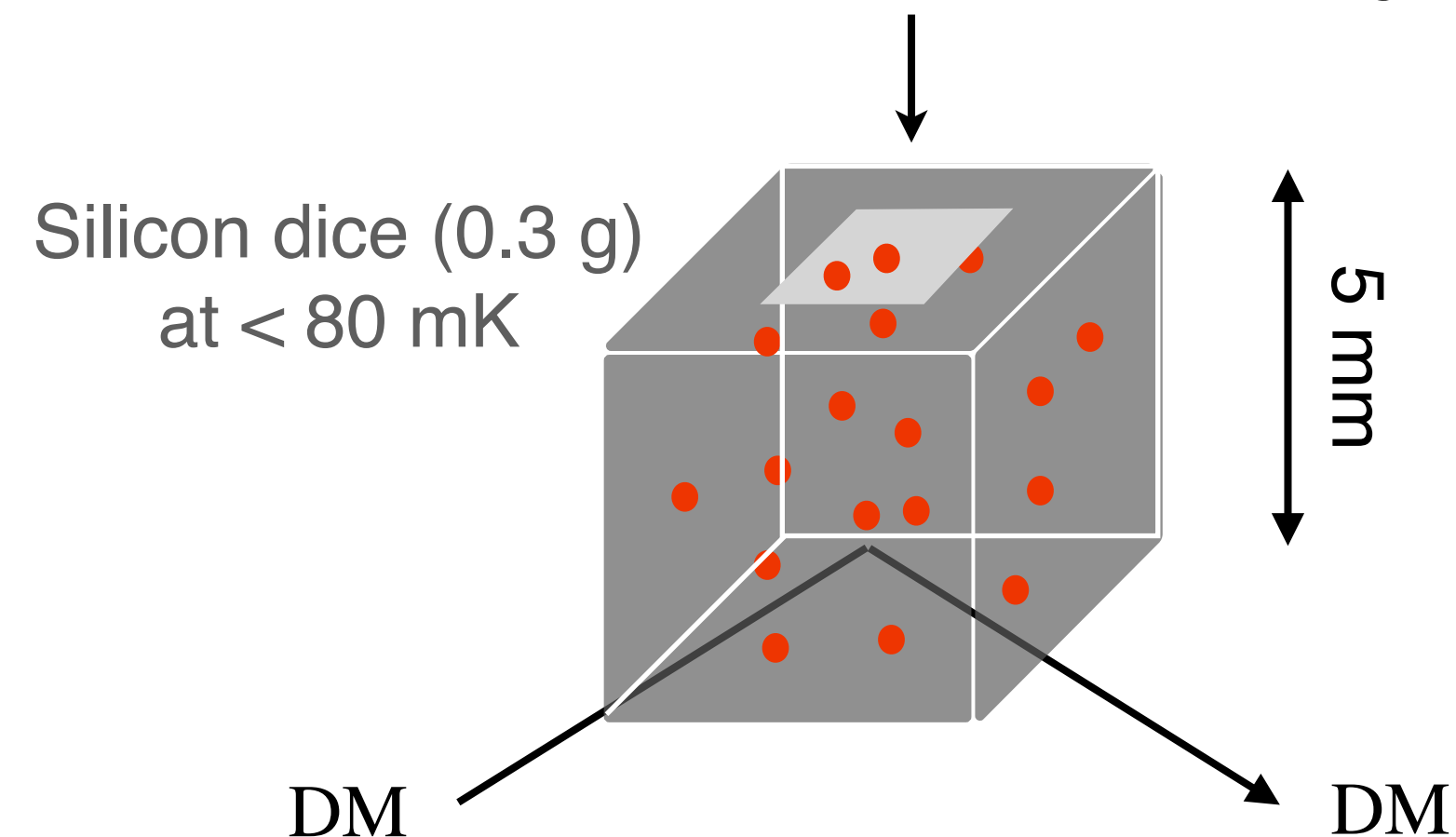


# The BULLKID phonon-detector array

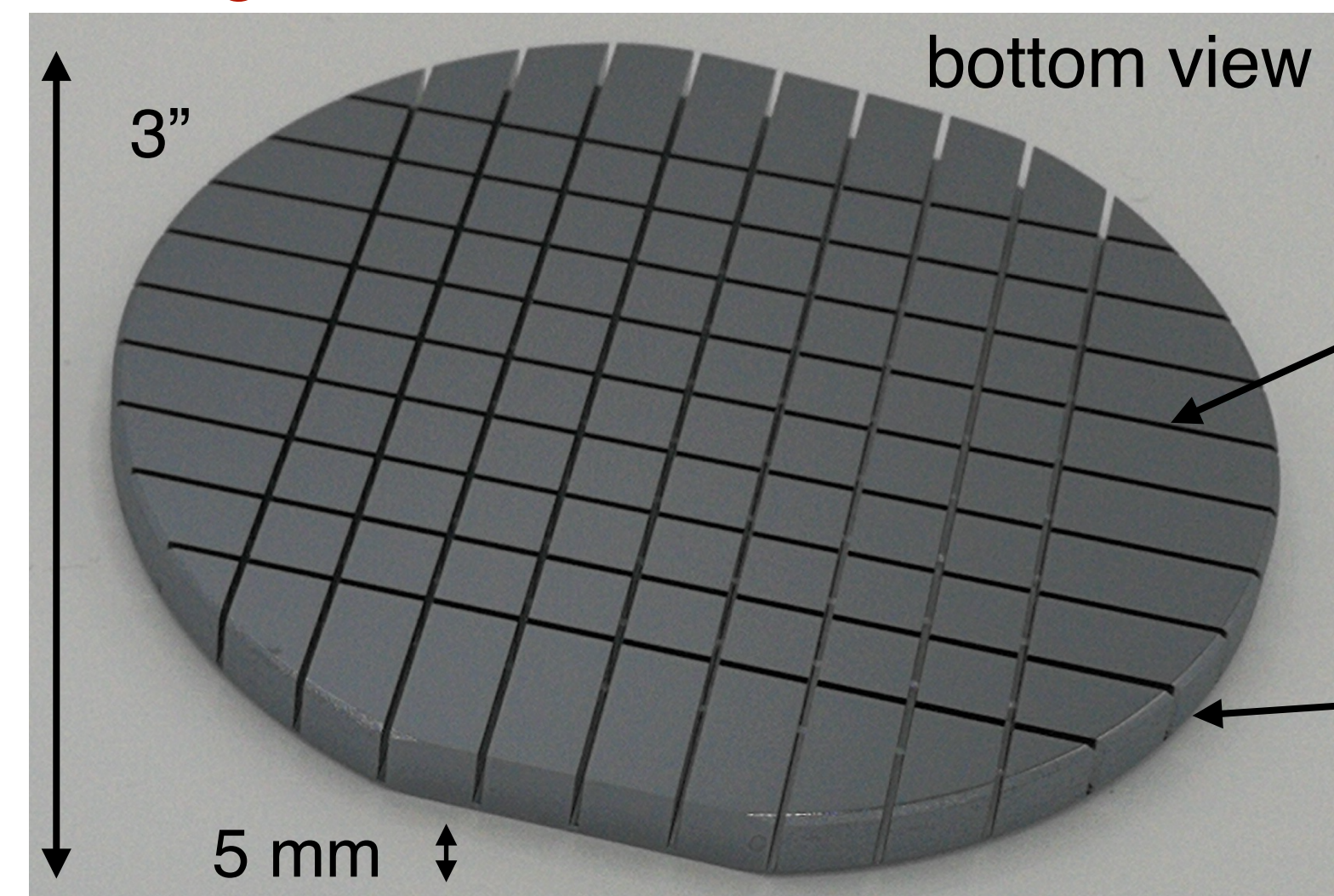
## Phonon mediation

detect phonons created by nuclear recoils  
in a silicon die

KID ( $\sim 2 \times 2 \text{ mm}^2 \times 50 \text{ nm}$ ,  $0.5 \text{ }\mu\text{g}$ )



carving of dice in a thick silicon wafer



✓ monolithic

4.5 mm deep grooves  
- 6 mm pitch  
- chemical etching

0.5 mm thick common disk:  
- holds the structure  
- hosts the sensors

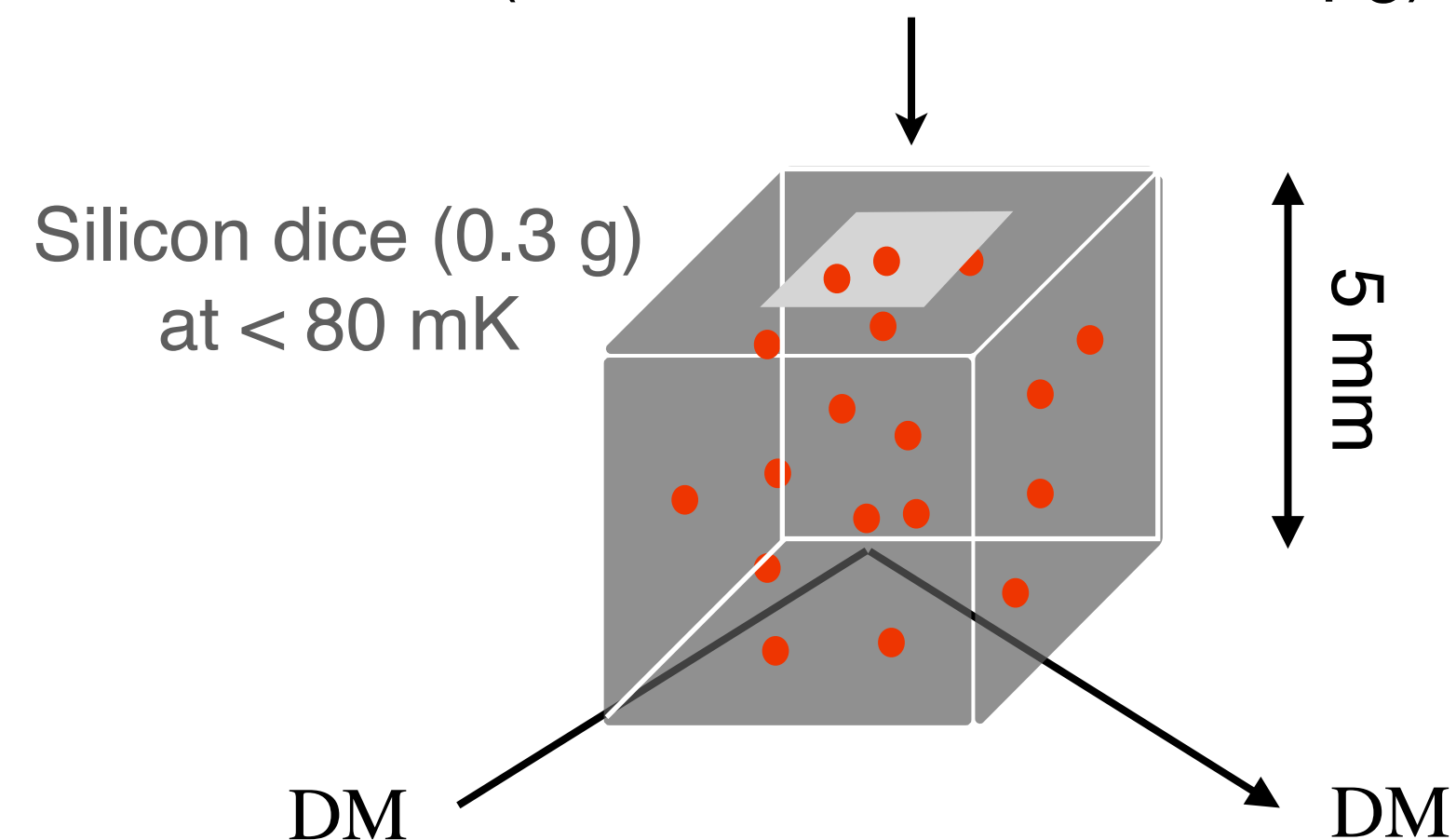


# The BULLKID phonon-detector array

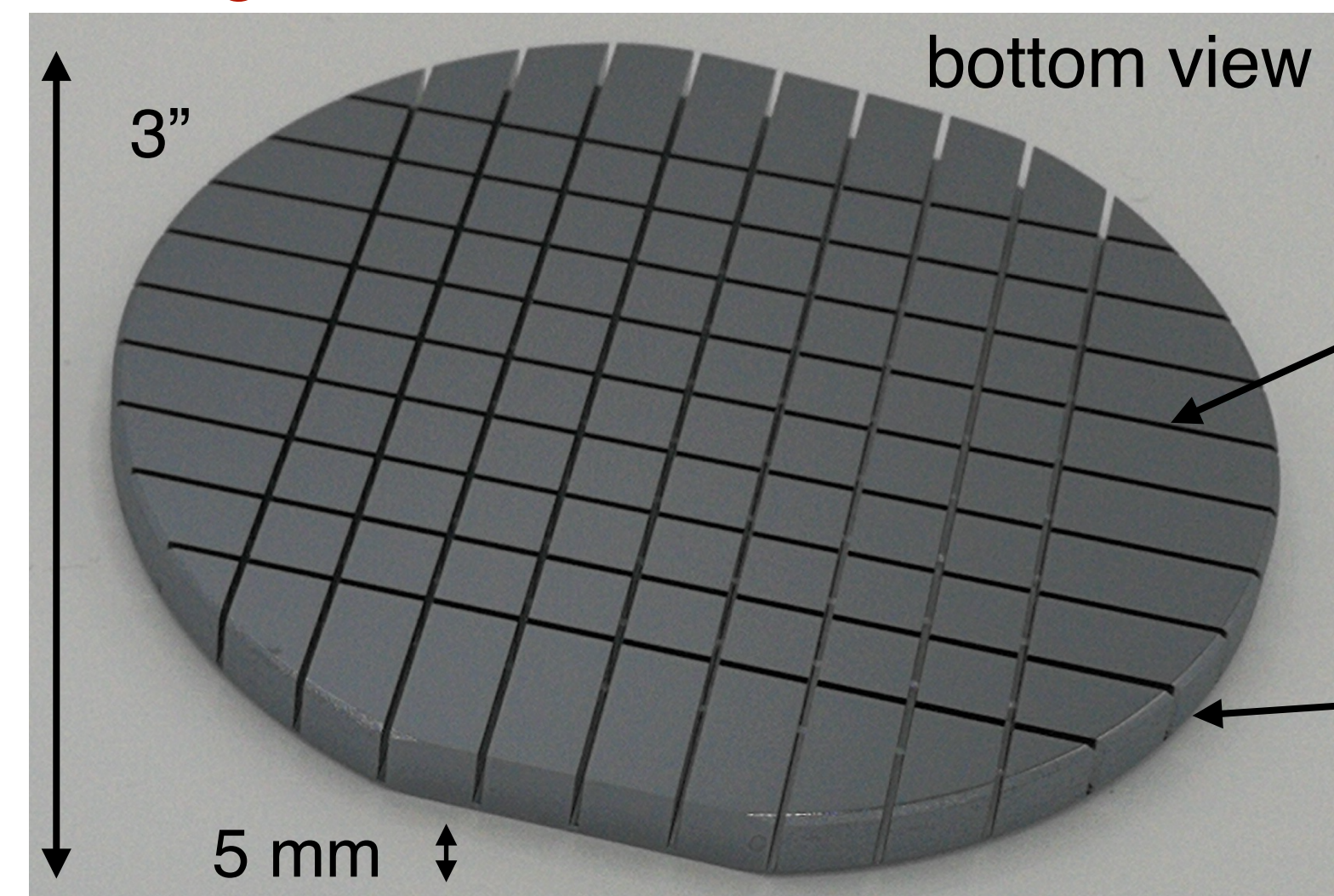
## Phonon mediation

detect phonons created by nuclear recoils  
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## carving of dice in a thick silicon wafer

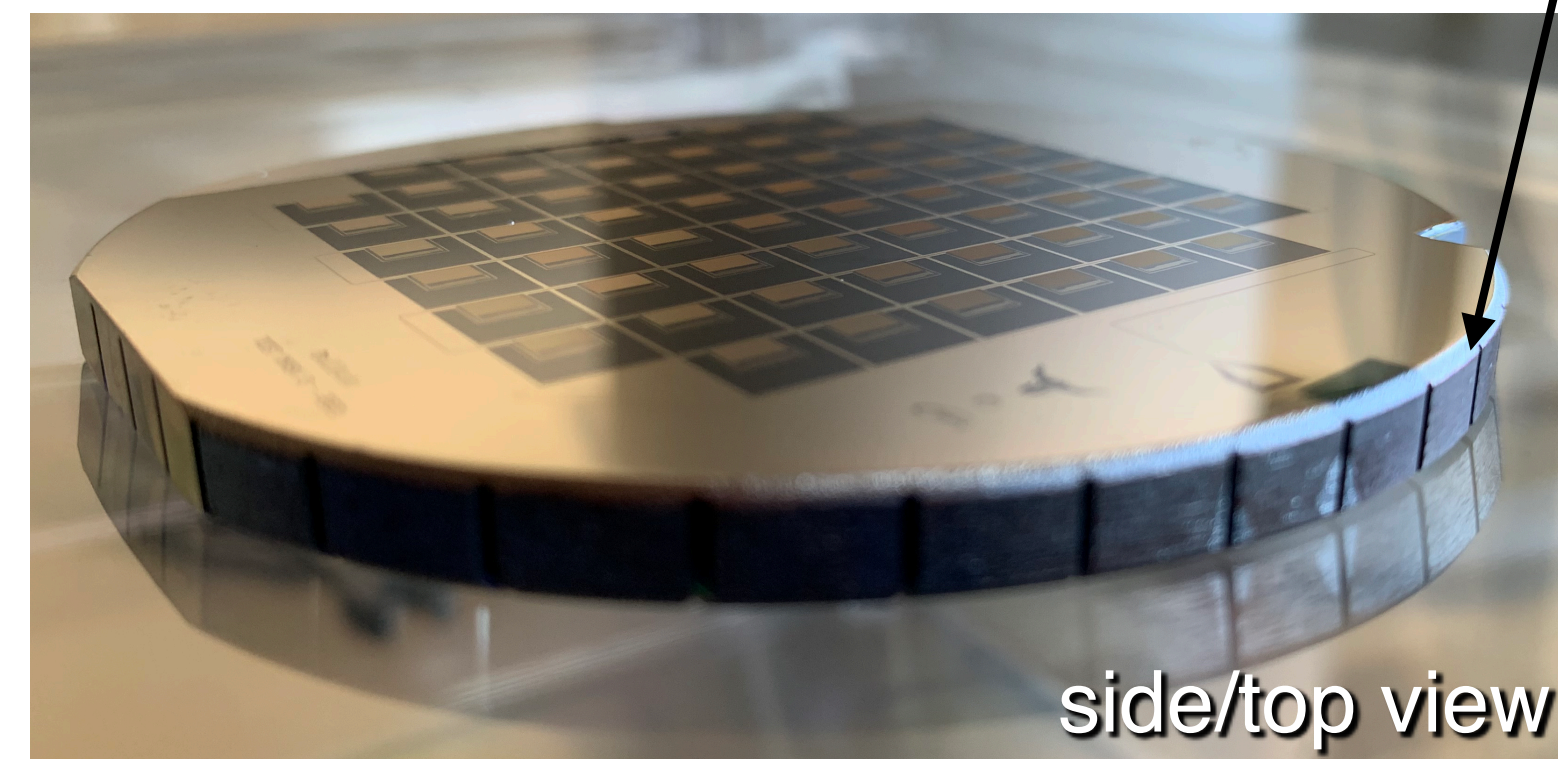


✓ monolithic

4.5 mm deep grooves  
- 6 mm pitch  
- chemical etching

0.5 mm thick common disk:  
- holds the structure  
- hosts the sensors

## lithography of KID sensors



KID sensor array:

- 60 nm thick aluminum film
- 60 elements (1 per die)

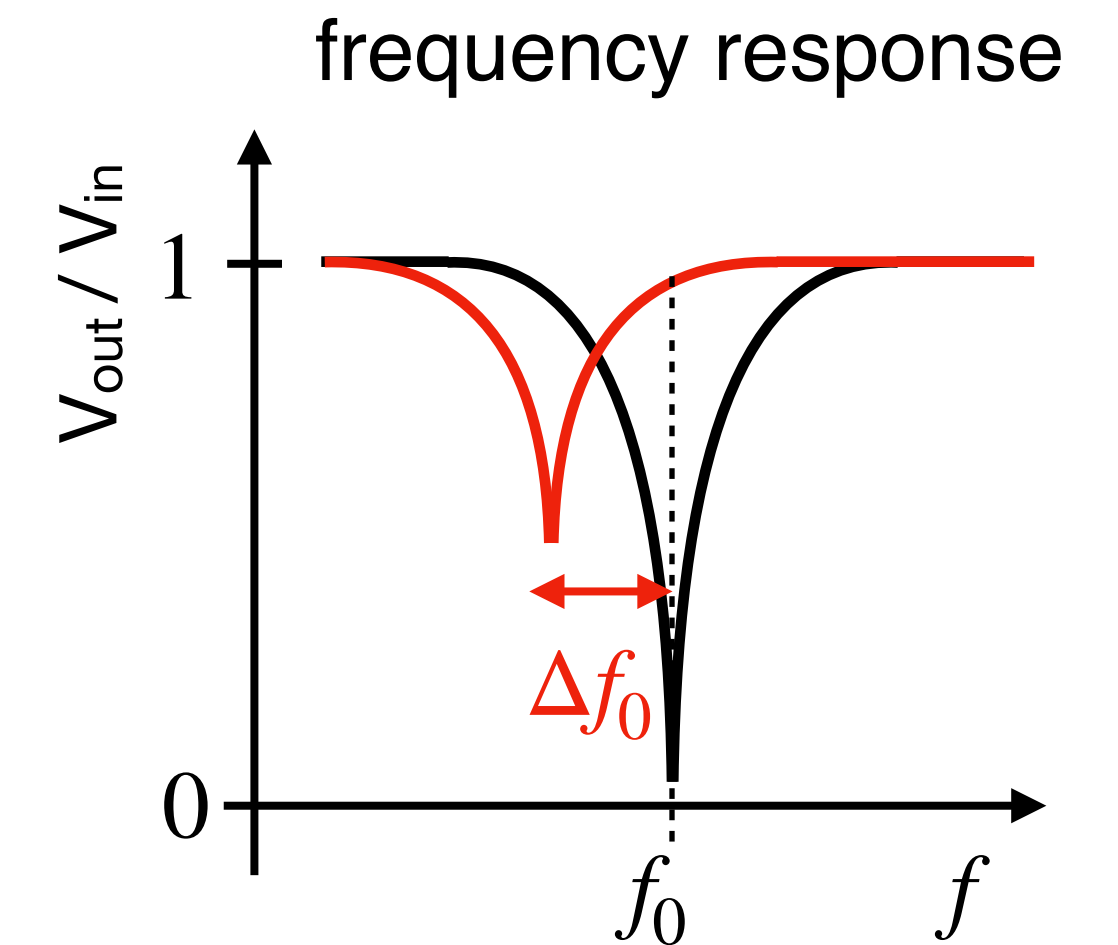
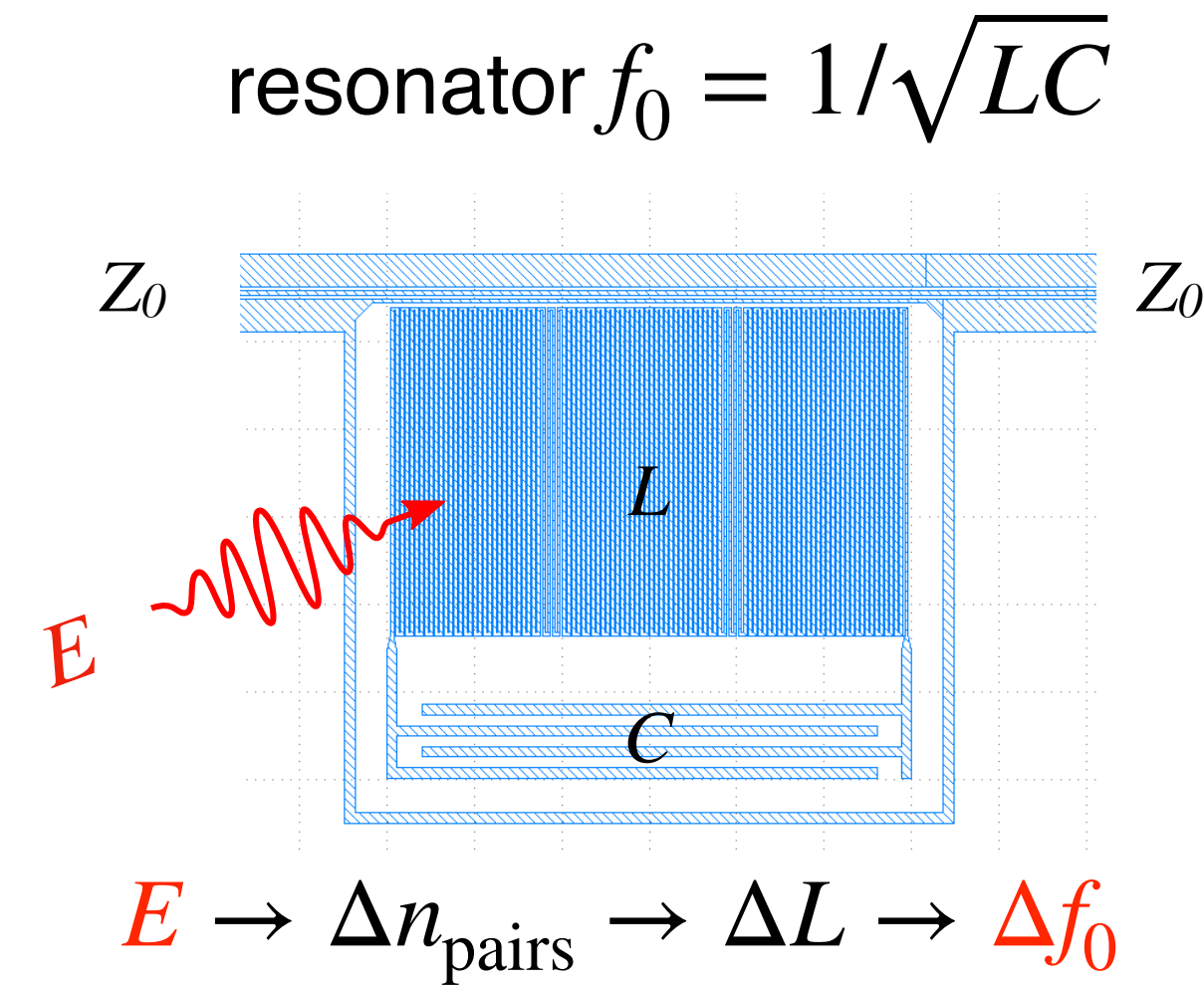
✓ 60 detectors in 1

Fully multiplexed  
(single readout line)



# Kinetic Inductance Detectors (KIDs)

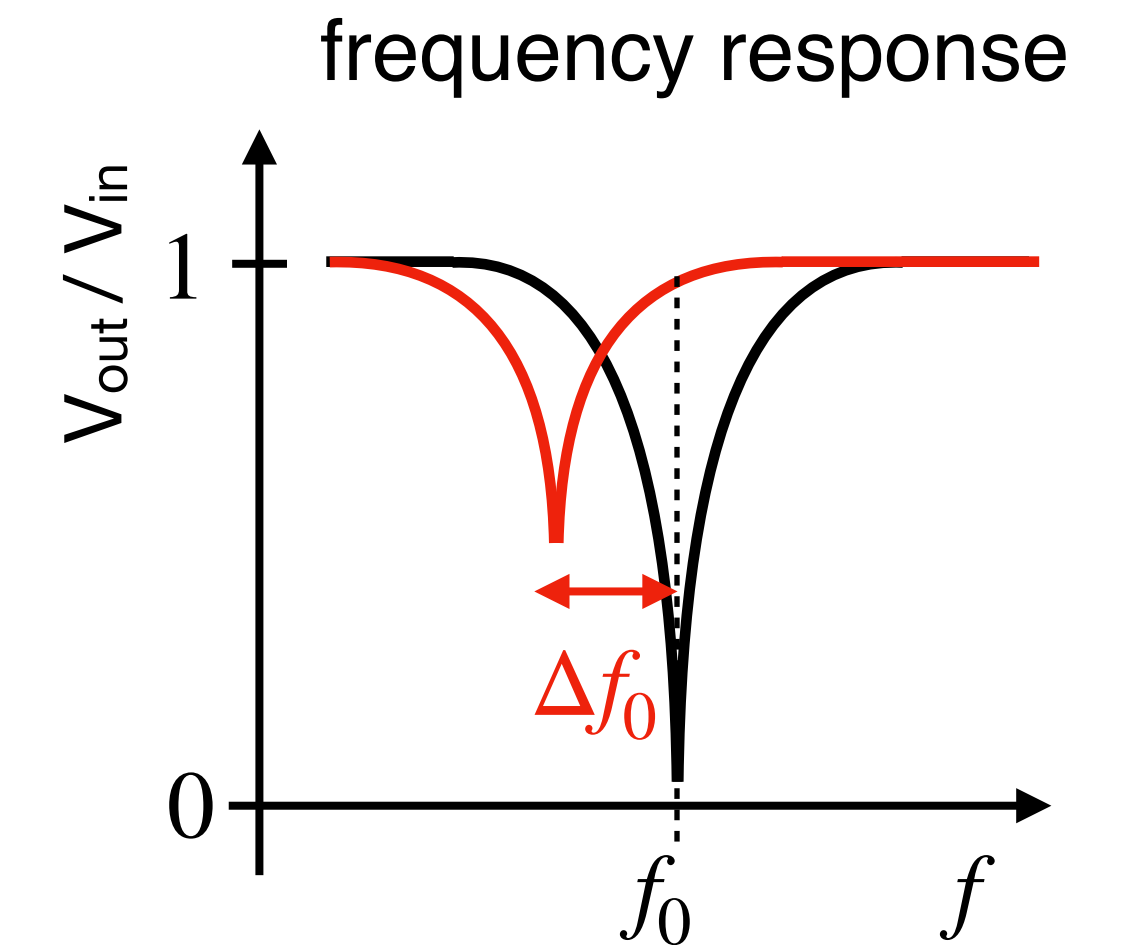
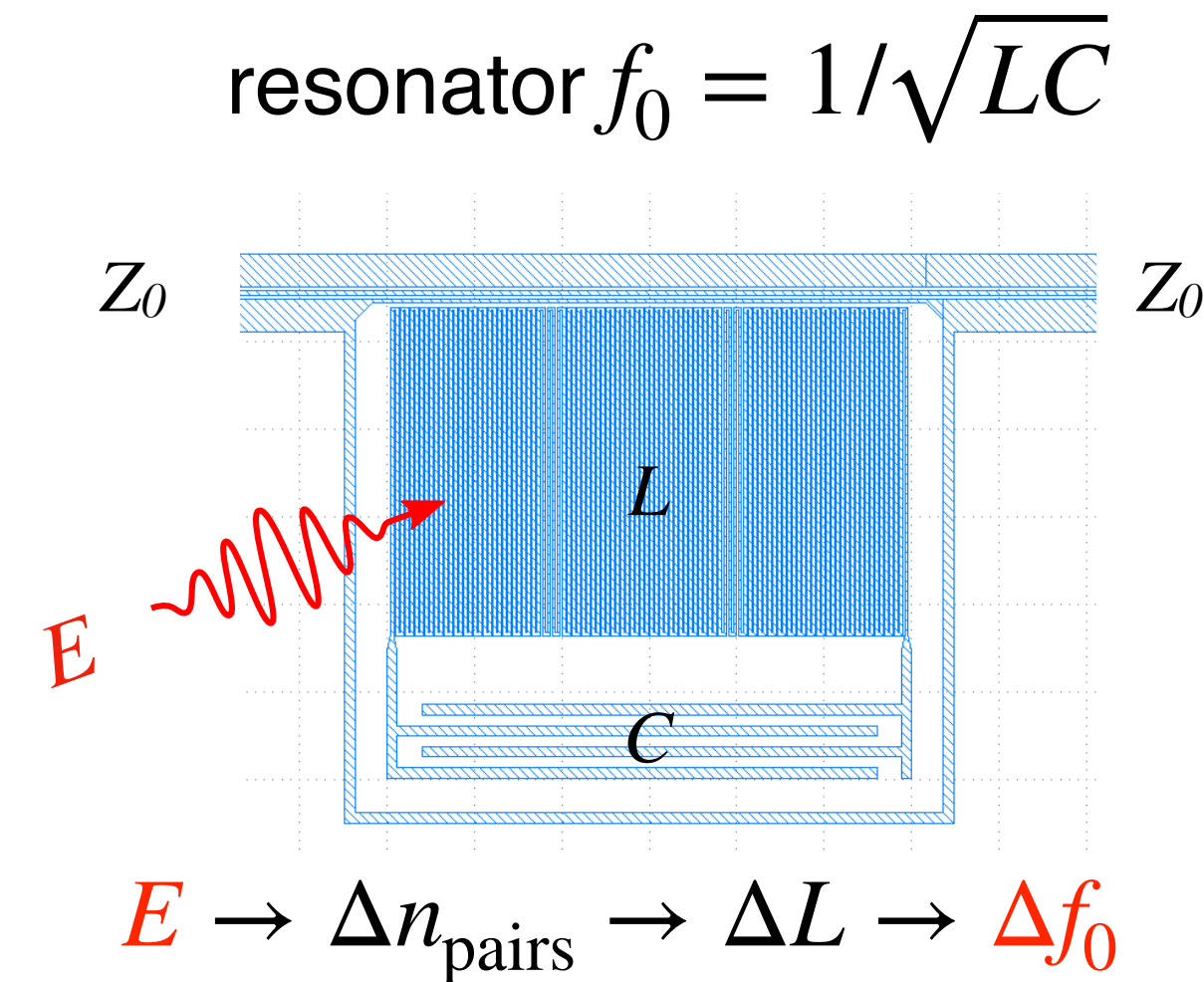
- Superconductor at  $T < 200$  mK (Al)
- LC resonator
- Cooper pairs inductance  $L_k = \frac{m_e}{2 e^2 n_{\text{pairs}}}$
- Absorbed energy breaks Cooper pairs



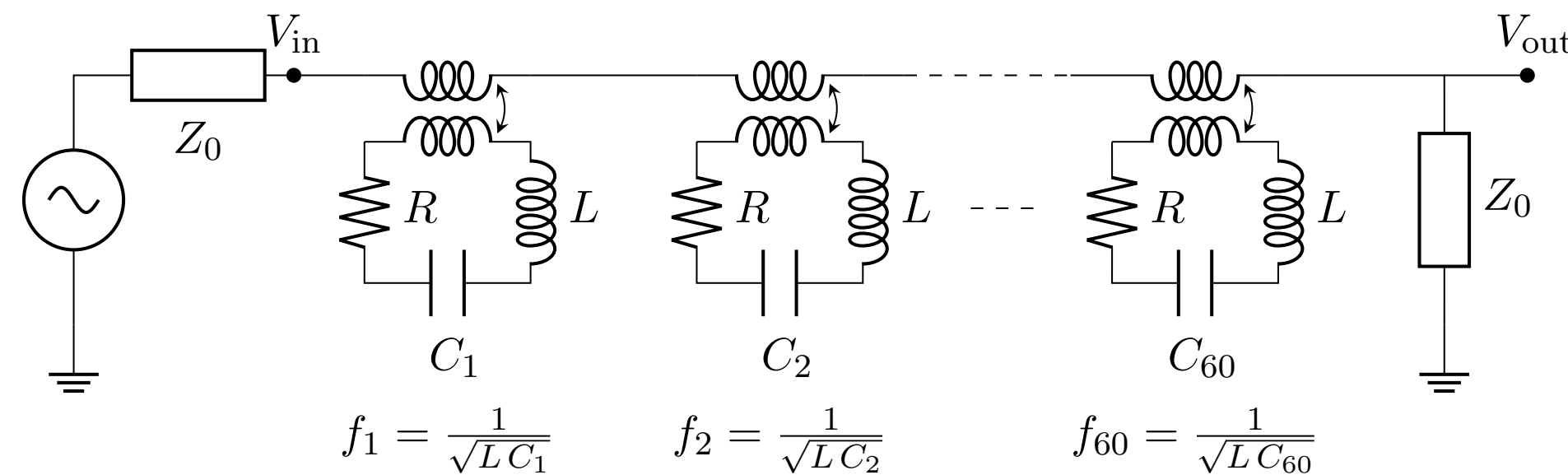


# Kinetic Inductance Detectors (KIDs)

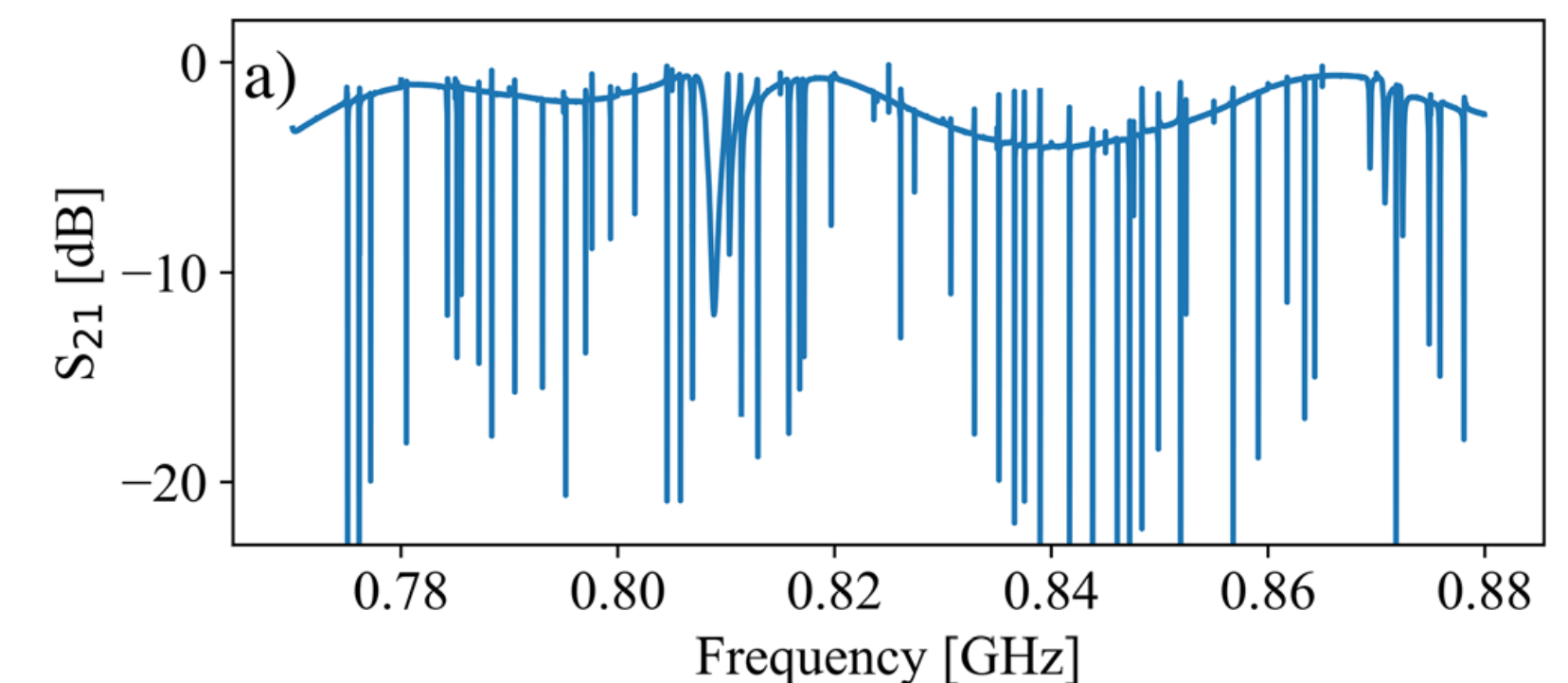
- Superconductor at  $T < 200$  mK (Al)
- LC resonator
- Cooper pairs inductance  $L_k = \frac{m_e}{2e^2 n_{\text{pairs}}}$
- Absorbed energy breaks Cooper pairs



Readout: different KIDs coupled to a the same line

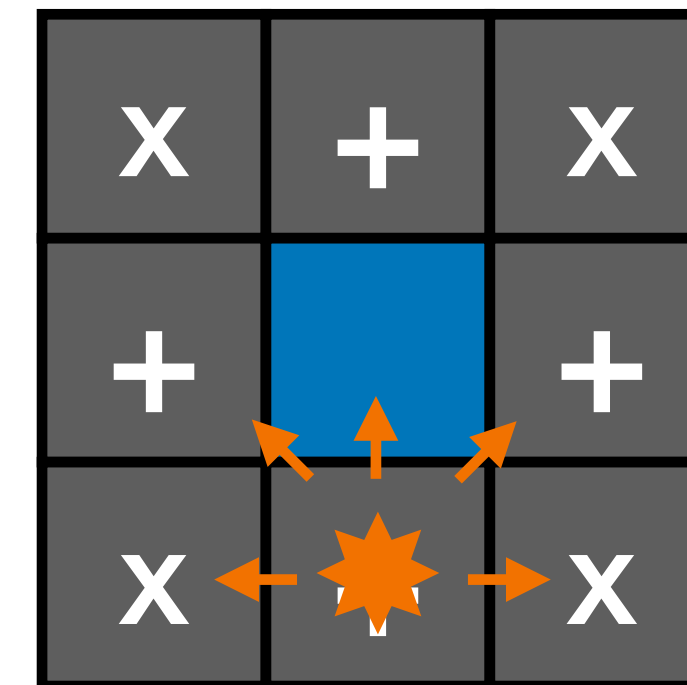
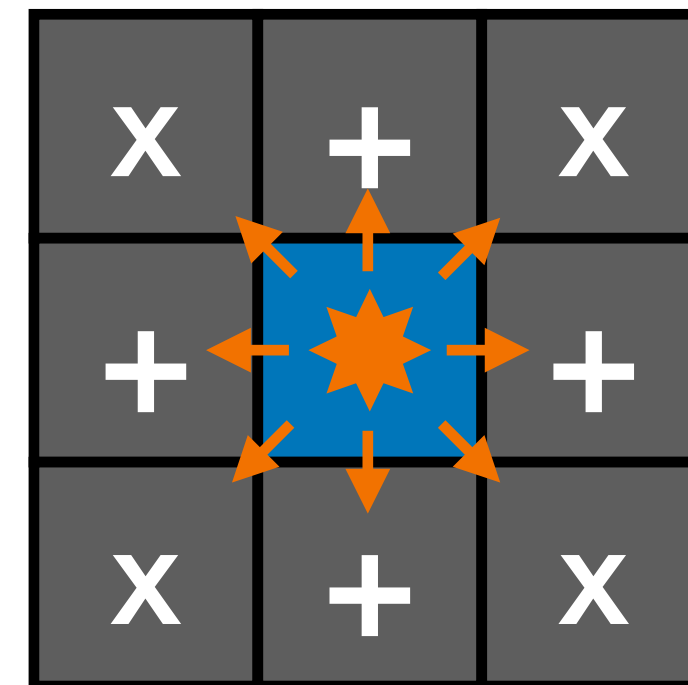
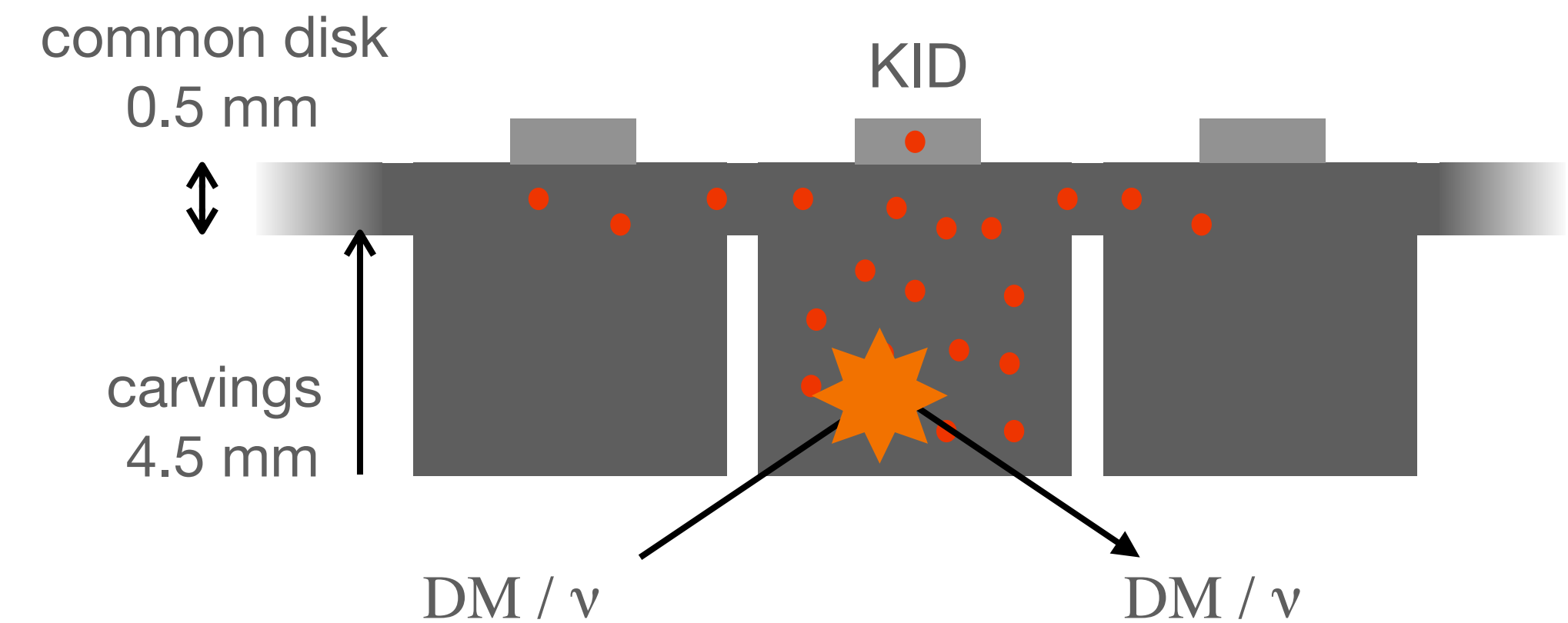


frequency scan of the 60 KIDs of BULLKID



# Phonon leakage and mapping

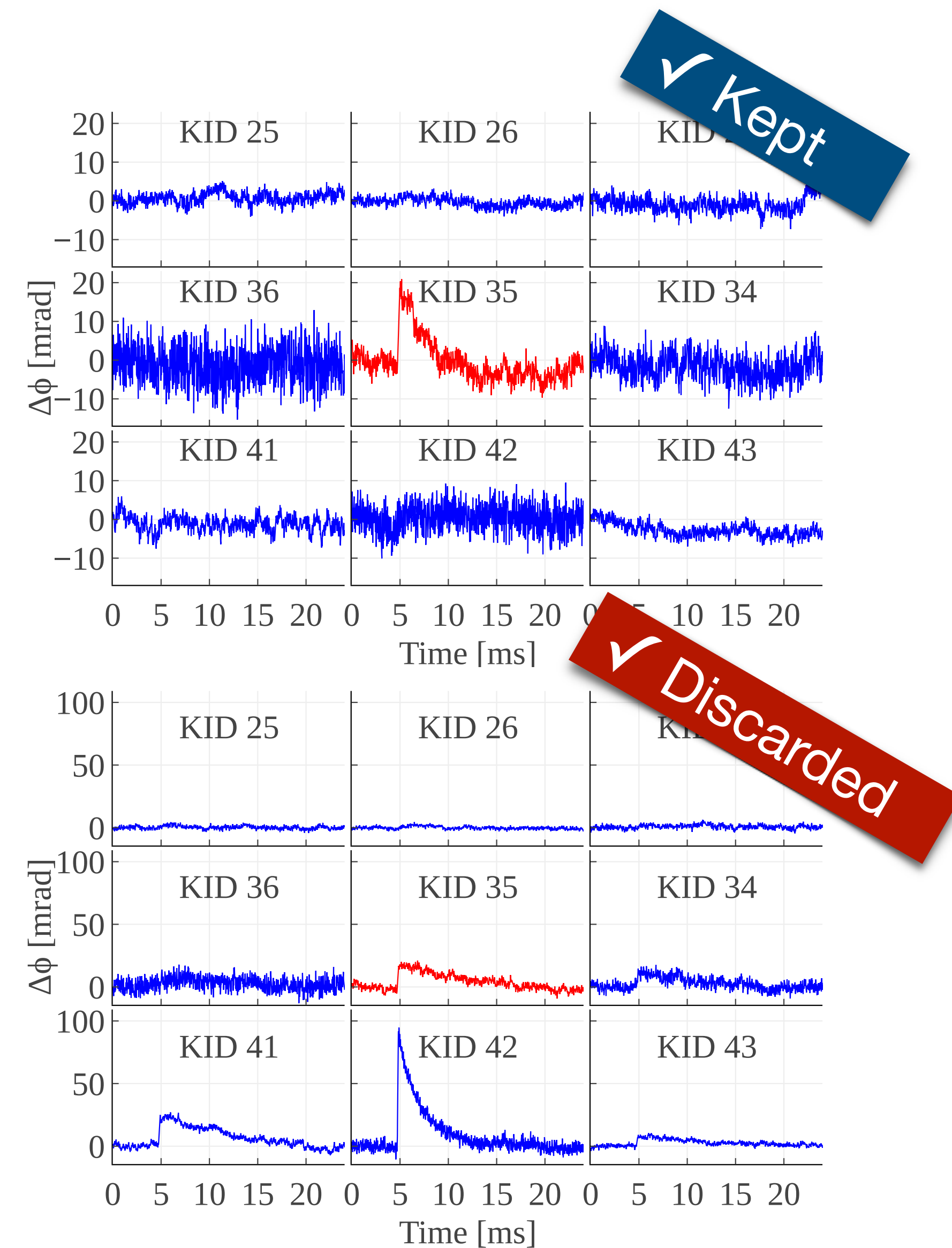
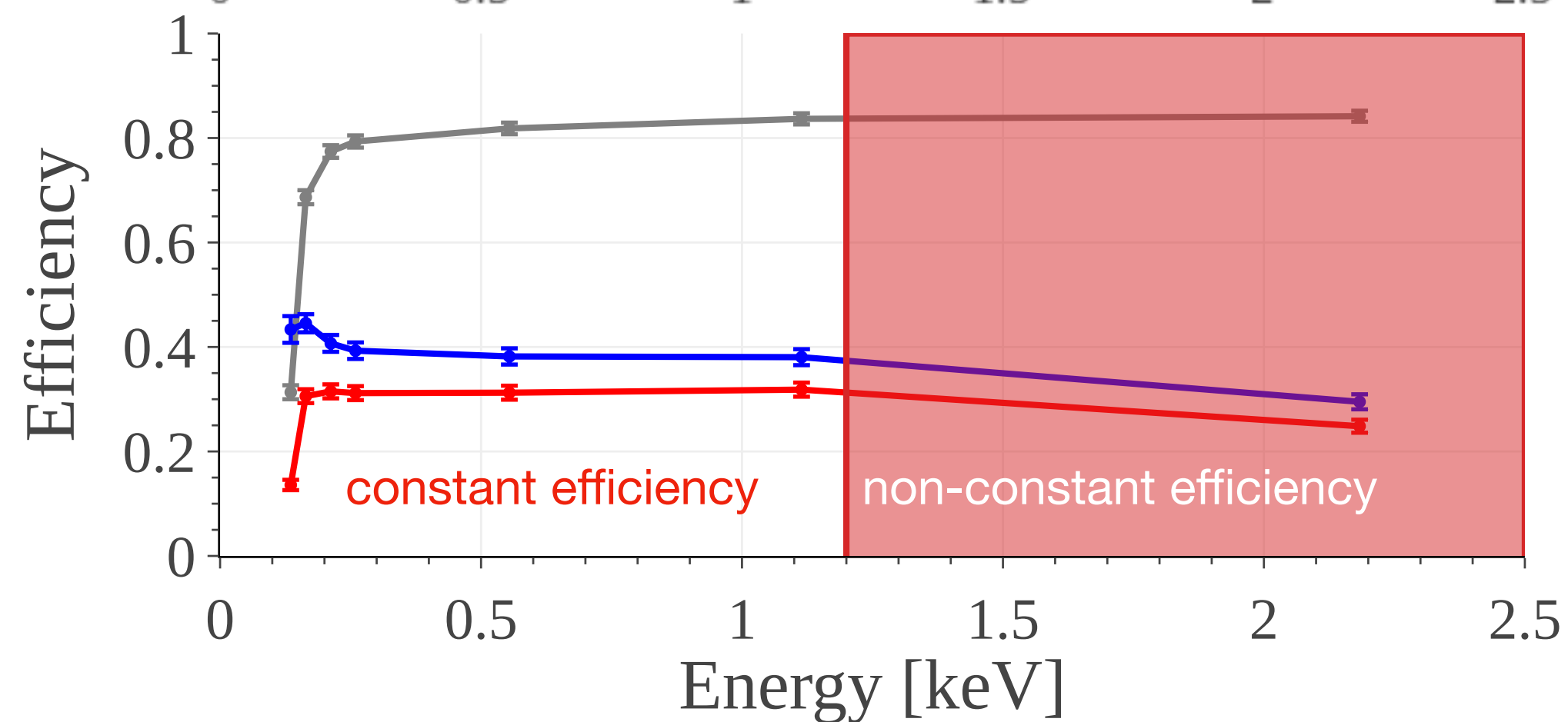
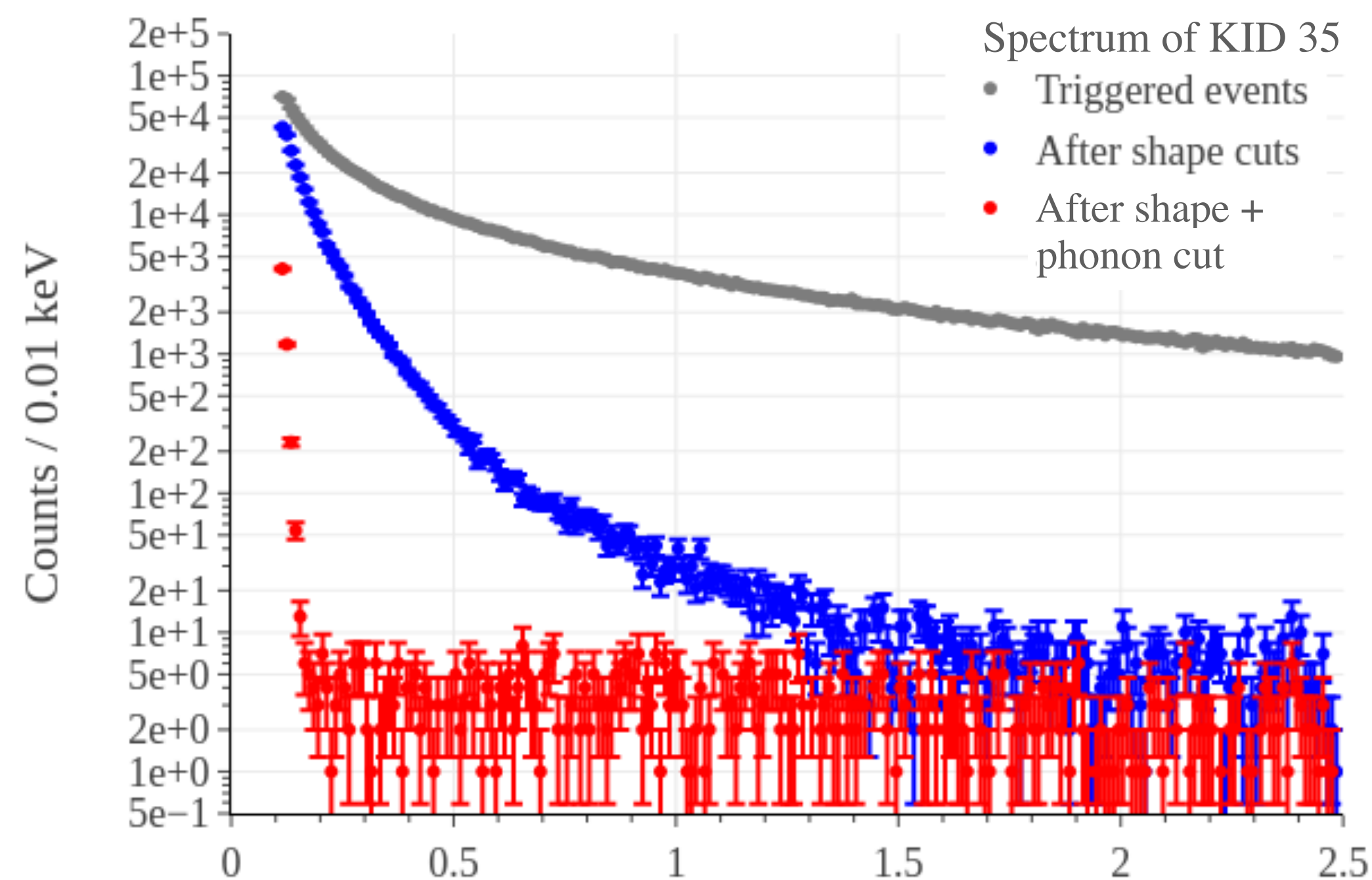
- 50% of phonons is detected in the interaction die
- 50% leaks out and is detected in nearby dice
  - $(8 \pm 2) \%$  in each “+” die
  - $(3 \pm 1) \%$  in each “x” die
  - the rest in outer dice



This effect reduces the phonon focusing on the KID but is **exploited to identify the interaction voxel**

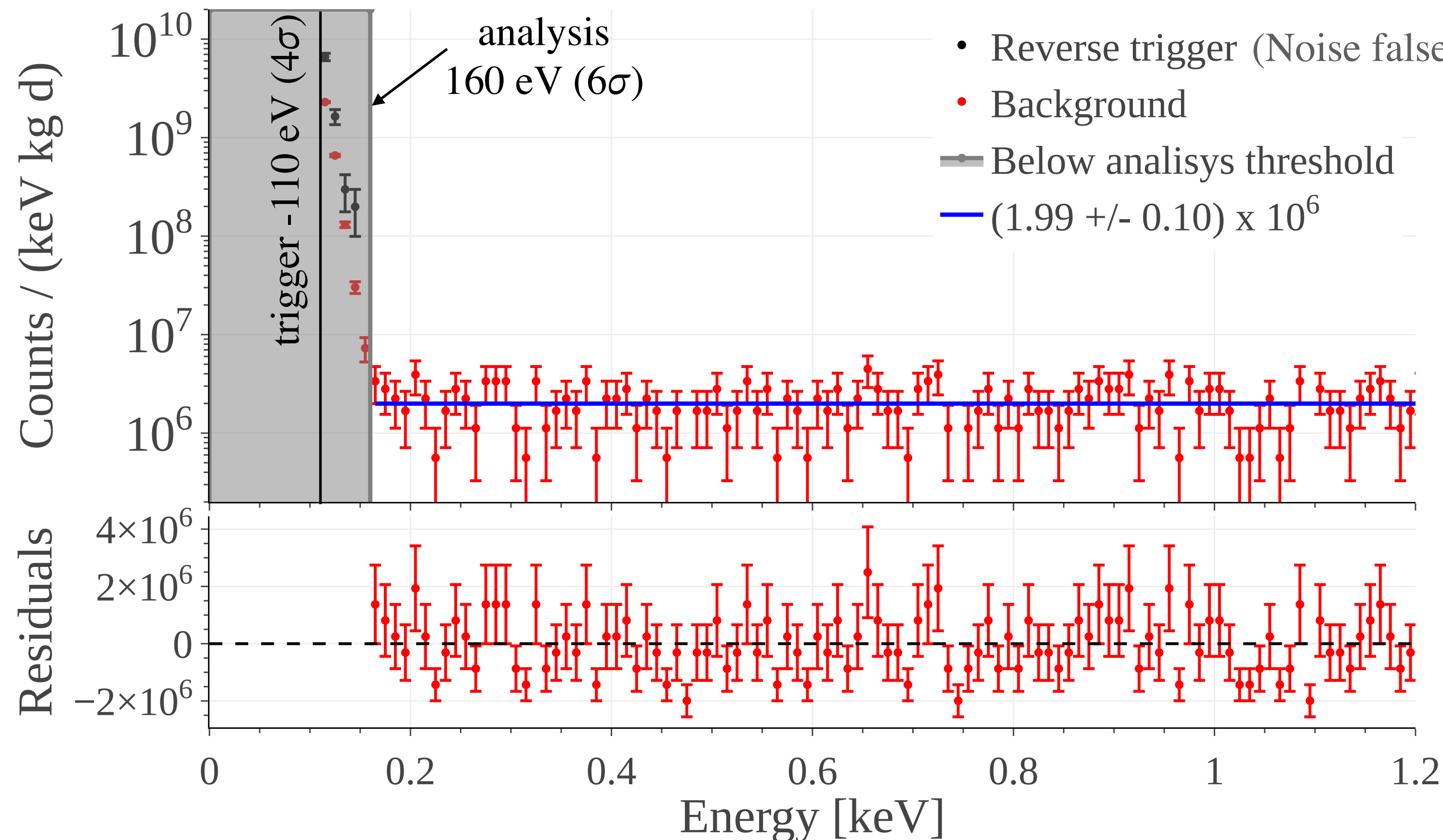


# Background: pulse shape + phonon cuts



# Background: result on surface

Above ground lab @Sapienza U., no shield, 39 live hours



D. Delicato et al,  
Eur. Phys. J. C 84 (2024) 353

The excess above trigger threshold is compatible with noise false positives.  
Background is flat above analysis threshold.



# BULLKID-DM Collaboration



Roma  
Ferrara  
LNGS  
Pisa

## BULLKID-DM Conceptual Design Report (CDR)

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D. Delicato<sup>4,8,6</sup>, G. Del Castello<sup>8,6</sup>, M. del Gallo Roccagiovine<sup>8,6</sup>, M. de  
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T. Muscheid<sup>1</sup>, D. Nicoló<sup>9,2</sup>, F. Paolucci<sup>2</sup>, D. Pasciuto<sup>6</sup>, V. Pettinacci<sup>6</sup>,  
C. Puglia<sup>2</sup>, C. Roda<sup>9,2</sup>, S. Roddaro<sup>2</sup>, M. Romagnoni<sup>3</sup>, O. Sander<sup>1</sup>,  
G. Signorelli<sup>9,2</sup>, F. Simon<sup>1</sup>, M. Tamisari<sup>11,3</sup>, A. Tartari<sup>2</sup>,  
E. Vázquez-Jáuregui<sup>12</sup>, and M. Vignati<sup>8,6</sup>

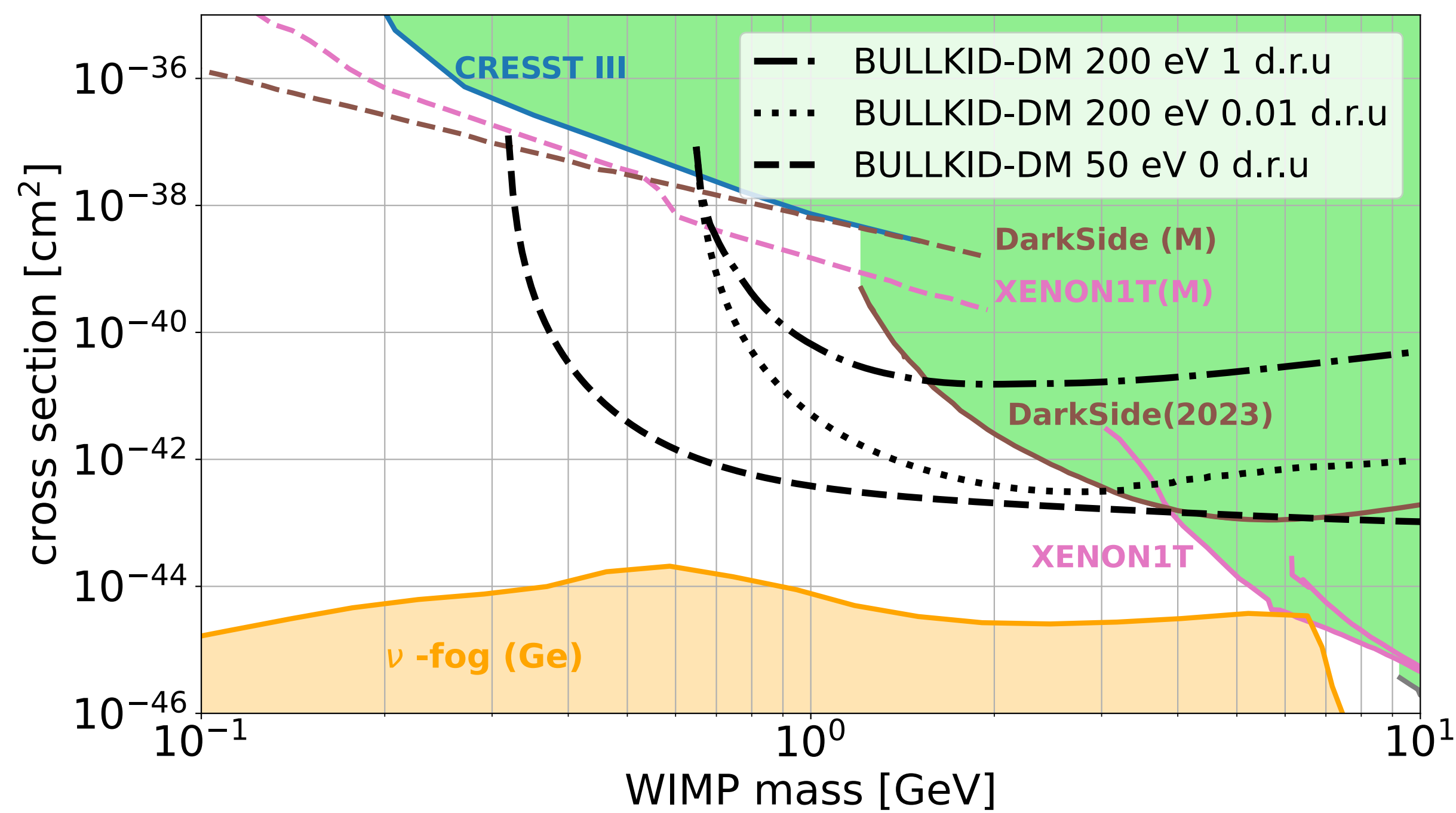
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<sup>2</sup>INFN - Sezione di Pisa Largo Bruno Pontecorvo 3, 56127 Pisa, Italy  
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<sup>7</sup>INFN - Laboratori Nazionali del Gran Sasso, I-67100 Assergi (AQ), Italy  
<sup>8</sup>Dipartimento di Fisica, Sapienza Università di Roma, Piazzale Aldo Moro 2, 00185, Roma, Italy  
<sup>9</sup>Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Pisa, Largo Bruno Pontecorvo 3, 56127 Pisa, Italy  
<sup>10</sup>Dipartimento di Fisica e Scienze della Terra, c Via Saragat 1, 44100, Ferrara, Italy  
<sup>11</sup>Dipartimento di Neuroscienze e Riabilitazione, Università di Ferrara, Via Luigi Borsari 46,  
44121 Ferrara, Italy  
<sup>12</sup>Instituto de Física, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, A.P. 20-364, Ciudad de México  
01000, México.

June 28, 2024



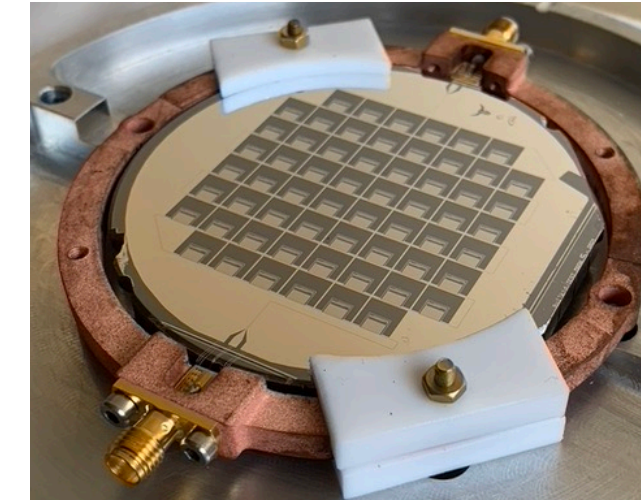
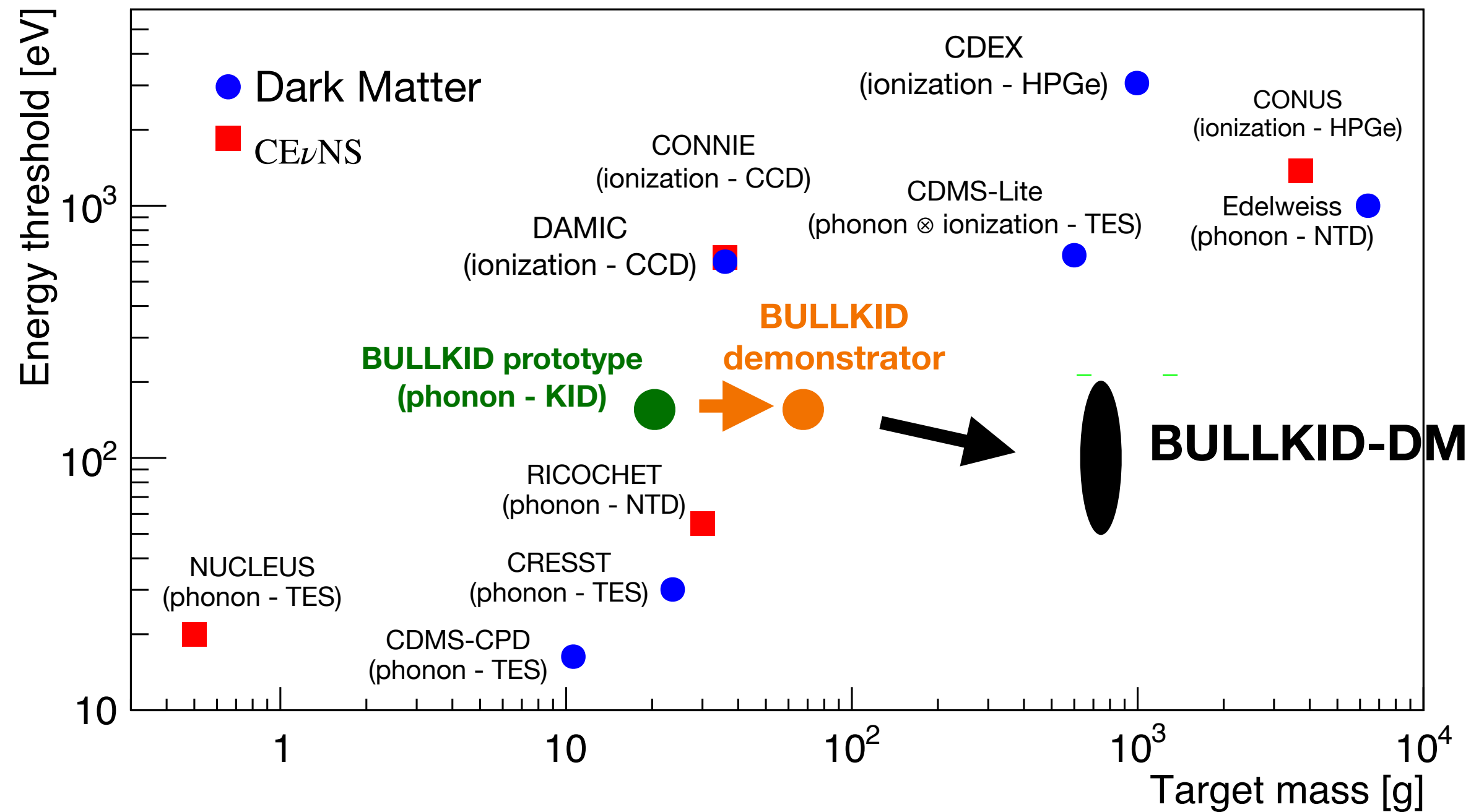
# Dark Matter - direct search with BULLKID-DM

	BULLKID prototype	BULLKID-DM demonstrator		BULLKID-DM
mass	20 g	60 g		800 g
# of sensors	60	180		2300
threshold	160 eV	200 eV		$\leq 200$ eV
bkg (c/keV kg d)	$2 \times 10^6$	$< 10^5$		1 - 0.01
laboratory	Sapienza U.	Sapienza	LNGS	LNGS
installation	2023	2024	2026	2027

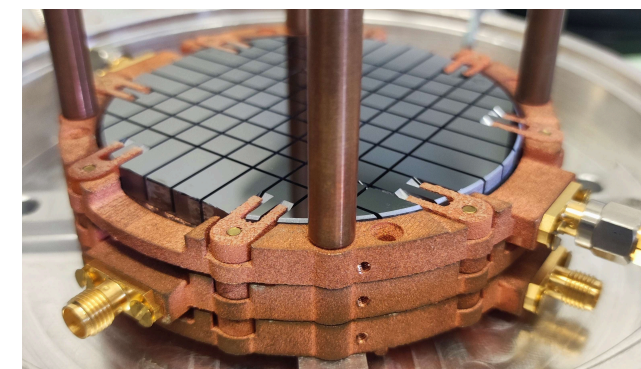




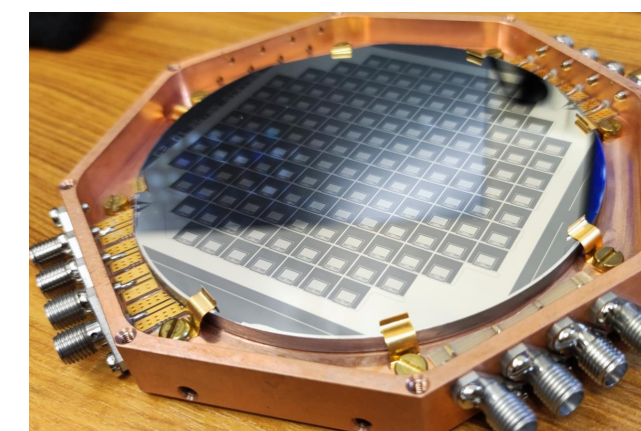
# Threshold and mass



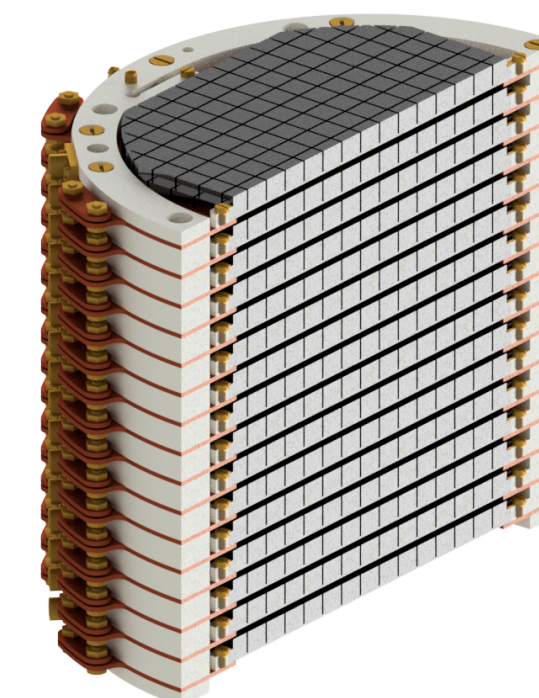
Prototype - 20 g / 60 dice  
single 3" wafer  
concluded in 2023



Demonstrator - 60 g / 180 dice  
3-layer stack of 3" wafers  
first operations ongoing



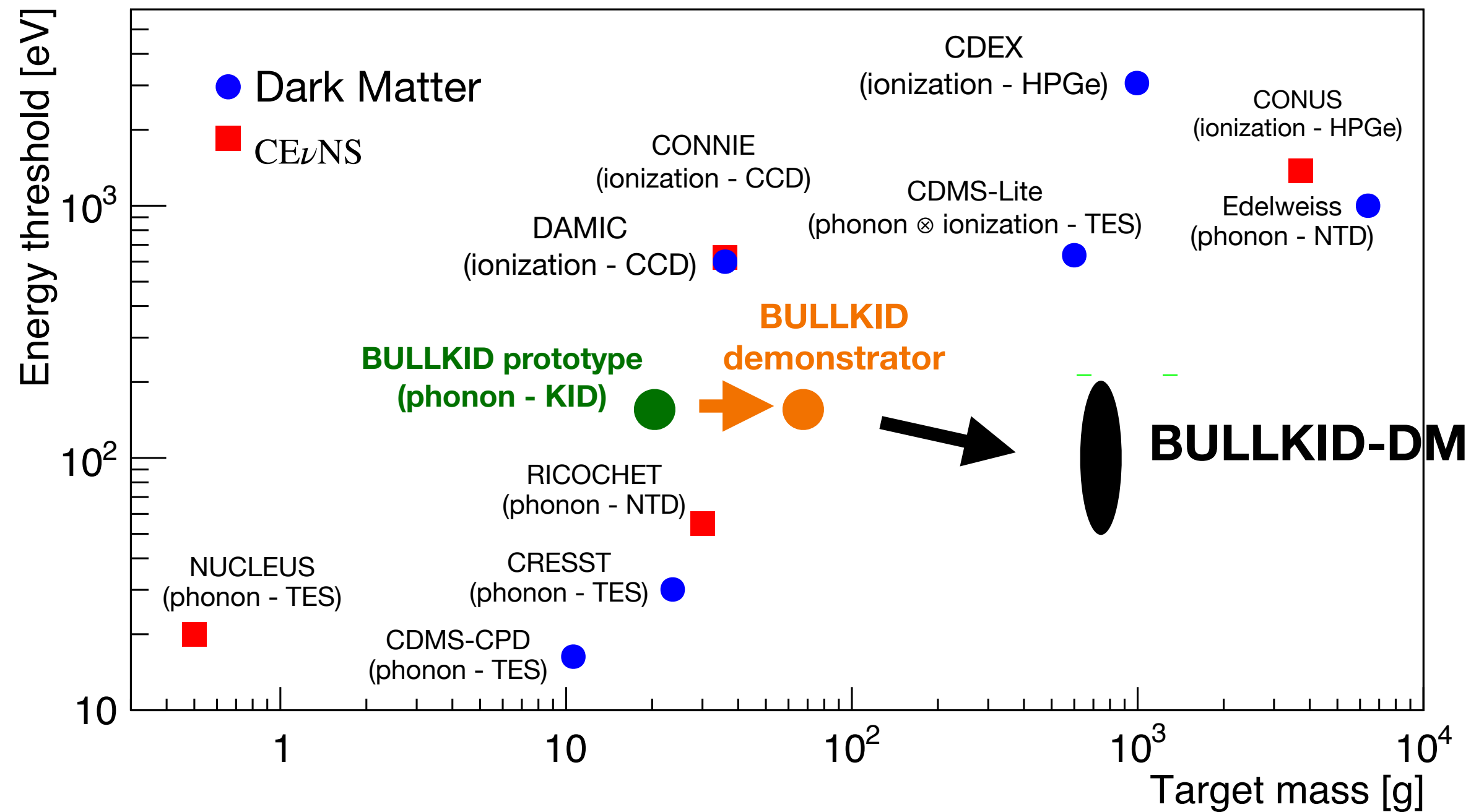
R&D on large wafer 50 g / 145 dice  
single 100 mm wafer  
first operations fall 2024



BULLKID-DM - 800 g / 2300 dice  
16-layer stack of 100 mm wafers  
commissioning in 2026 at Sapienza U.

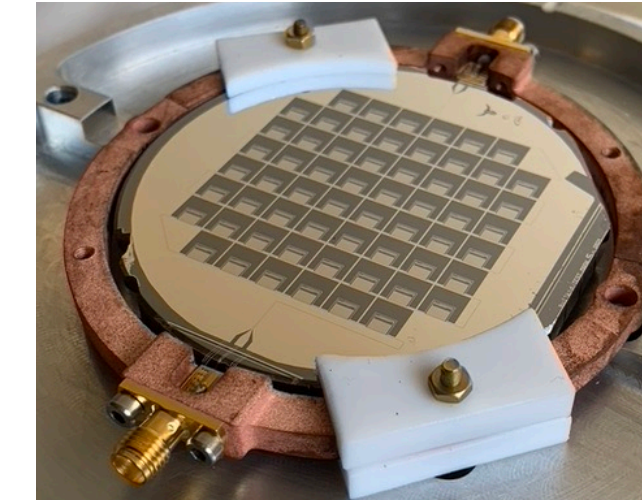
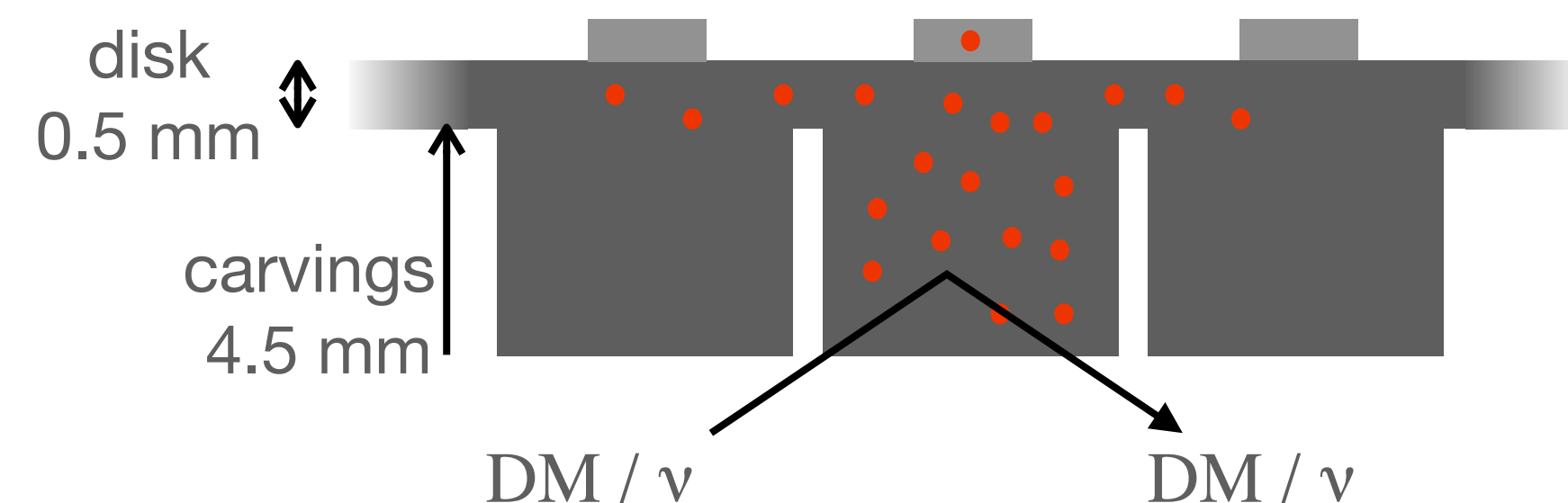


# Threshold and mass

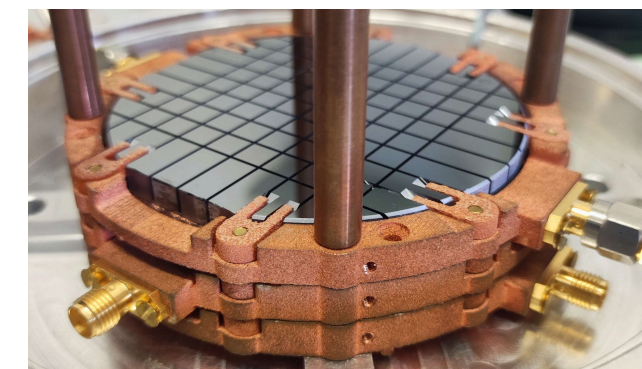


## Threshold (ongoing R&Ds):

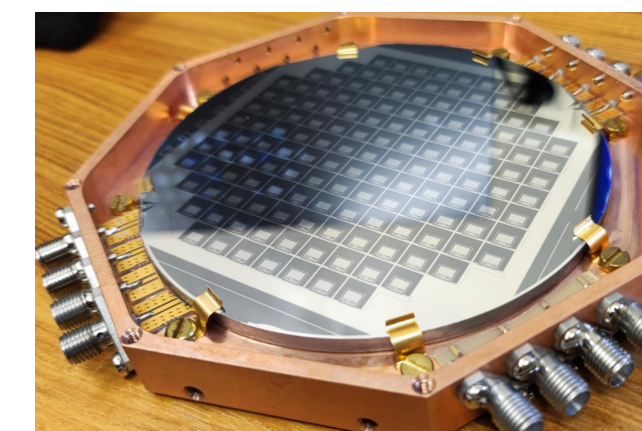
1. Replace Al with Al-Ti-Al KIDs: 5x inductance
2. Deeper carvings for higher phonon focussing



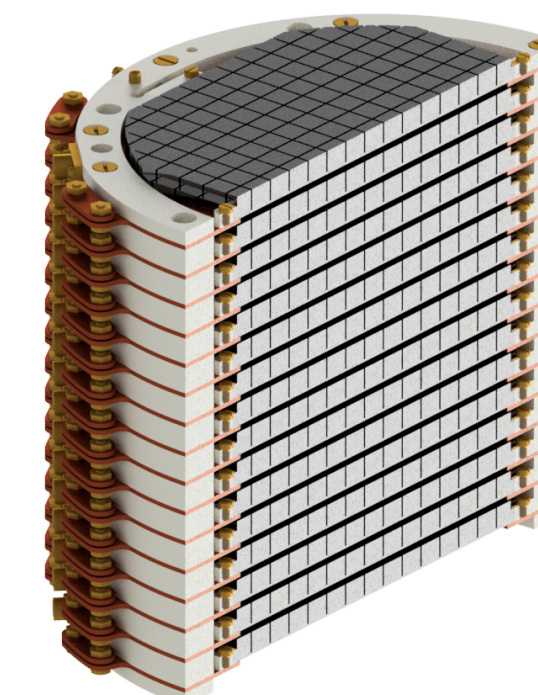
Prototype - 20 g / 60 dice  
single 3" wafer  
concluded in 2023



Demonstrator - 60 g / 180 dice  
3-layer stack of 3" wafers  
first operations ongoing



R&D on large wafer 50 g / 145 dice  
single 100 mm wafer  
first operations fall 2024

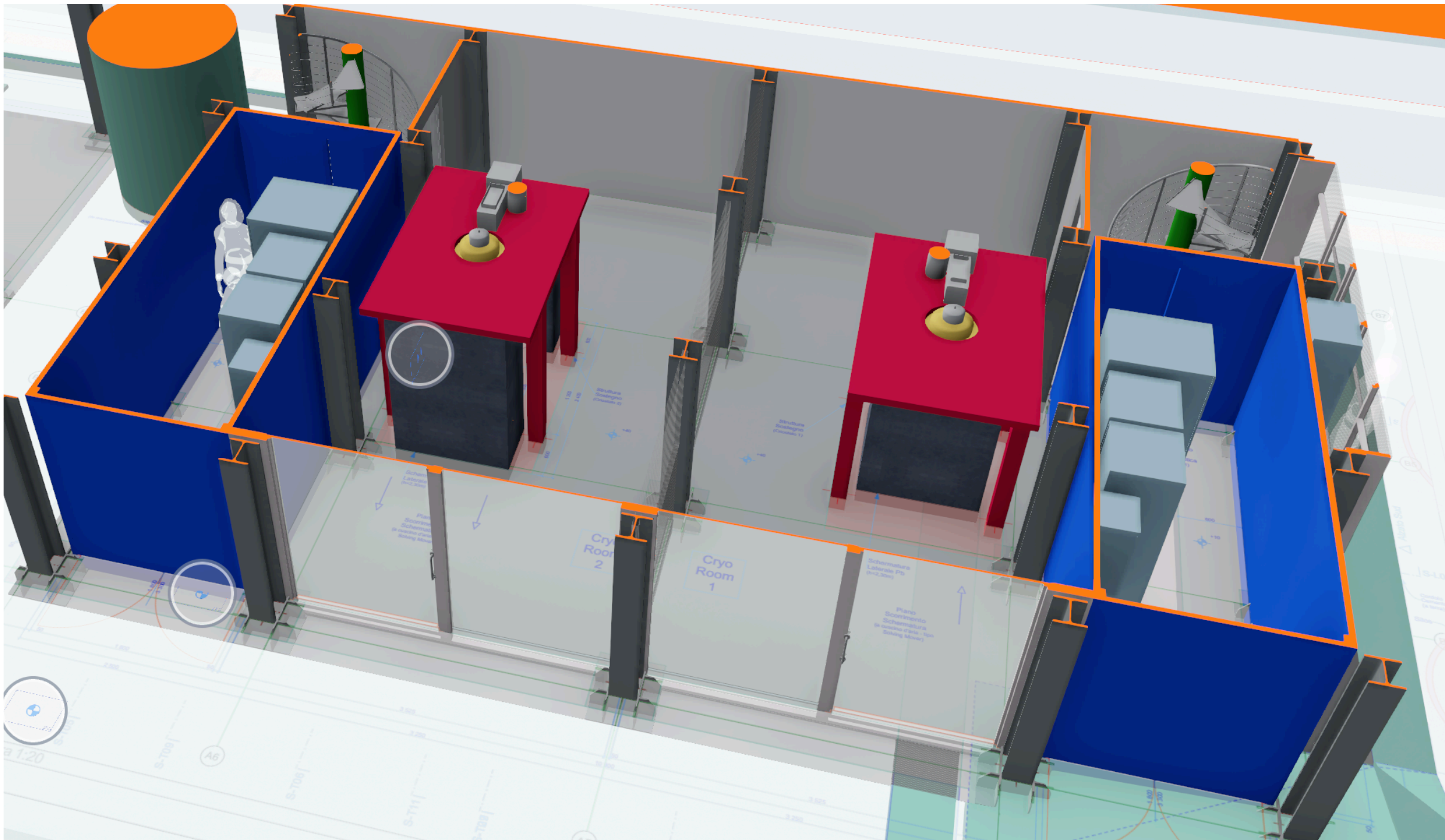


BULLKID-DM - 800 g / 2300 dice  
16-layer stack of 100 mm wafers  
commissioning in 2026 at Sapienza U.



# LNGS Cryogenic facility

BULLKID-DM intends to be a user of the new facility in Hall B  
Additional shielding might be required



Ordered Oxford  
Proteox fits the needs



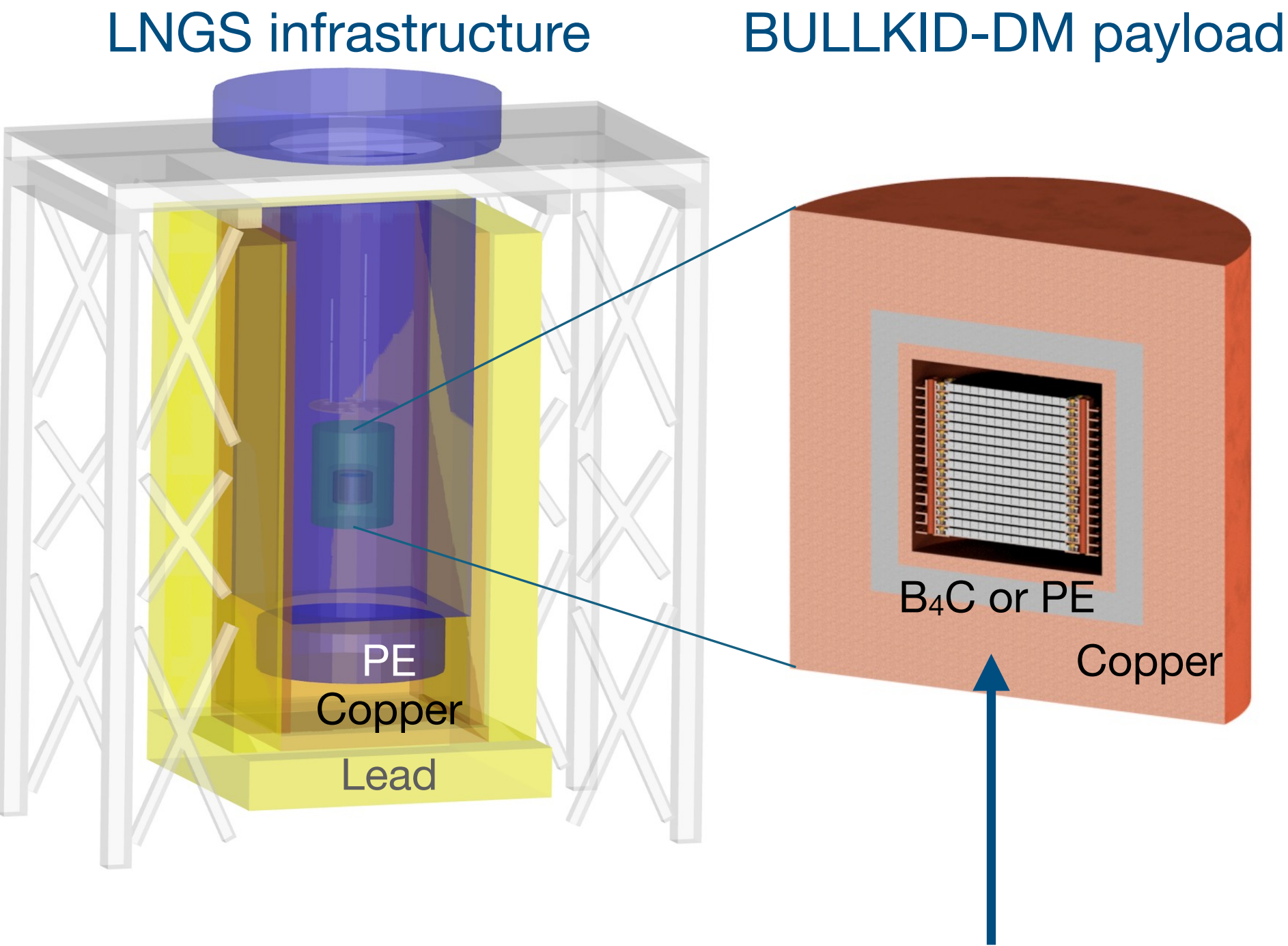
Replaceable insert to be  
instrumented with RF lines



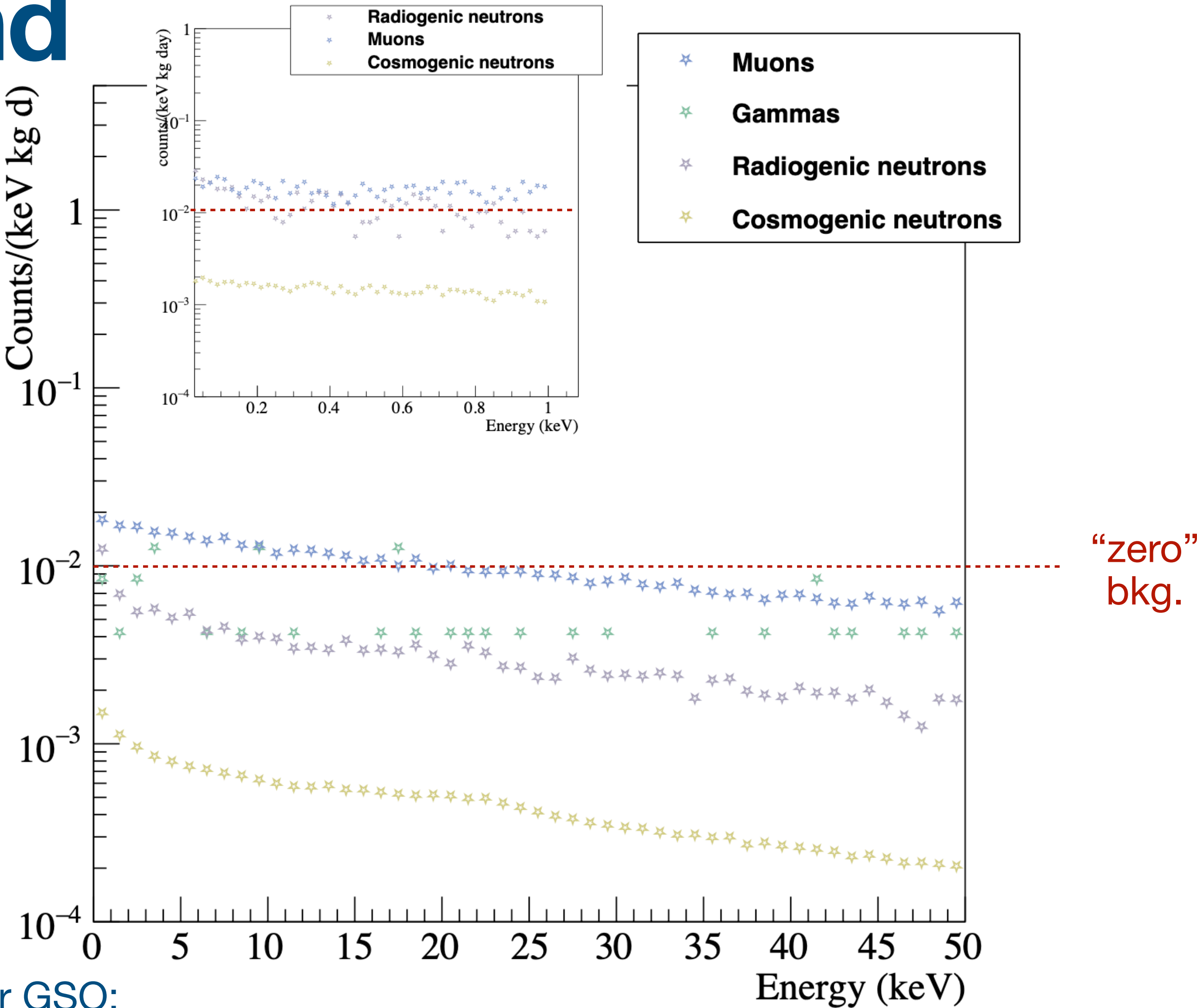


# Projected background

muons, gammas and neutrons from:  
Astropart. Phys. 33 (2010) 169,  
Phys. Rev. D 73 (2006) 053004,  
Eur. Phys. J. A 41 (2009) 155,  
Astropart. Phys. 22 (2004) 313.



Replacing this with an active veto of BGO or GSO:  
Background  $\sim 10^{-3}$  counts/(keV kg y)



Currently working on internal  
contaminations in lead and veto



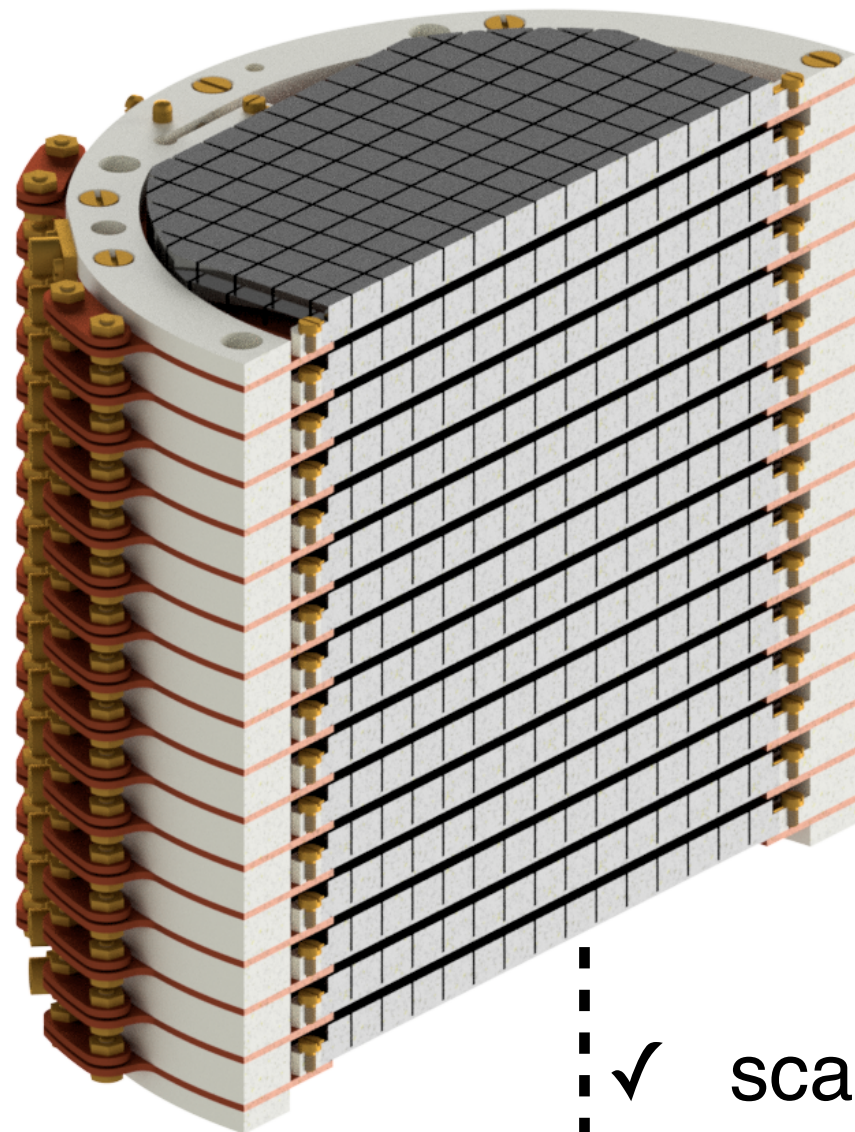
# Wrap-up

- ✓ 800 g of silicon target
- ✓ 2300 detector units (dice)

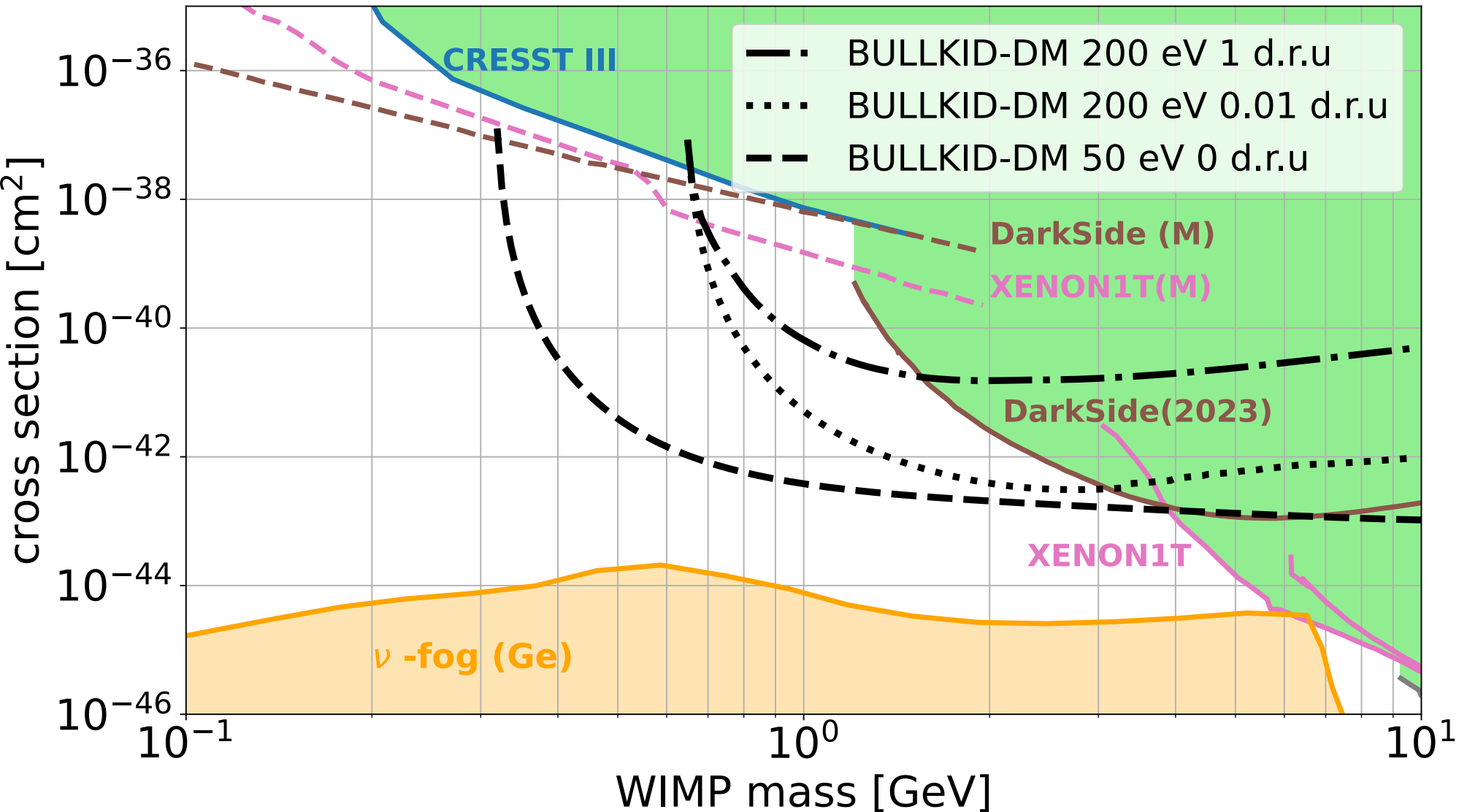
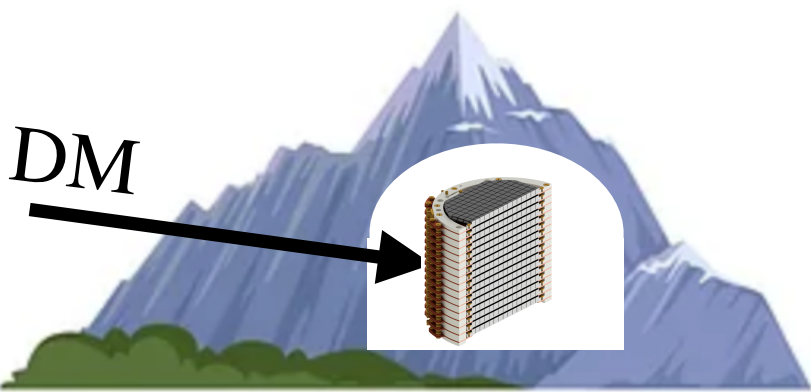
Unique features for bkg. suppression:

- ✓ No inert material in detector volume
- ✓ fully active
- ✓ fiducialization (600 g)

Will it help with the unknown backgrounds?



✓ scalable



Prototype  
works

demonstrator  
(3 wafer)

demonstrator  
at LNGS

full detector at  
Sapienza

installation  
at LNGS

2023

2024

2025

2026

2027

LoI to INFN  
and LNGS

CDR submitted  
to INFN

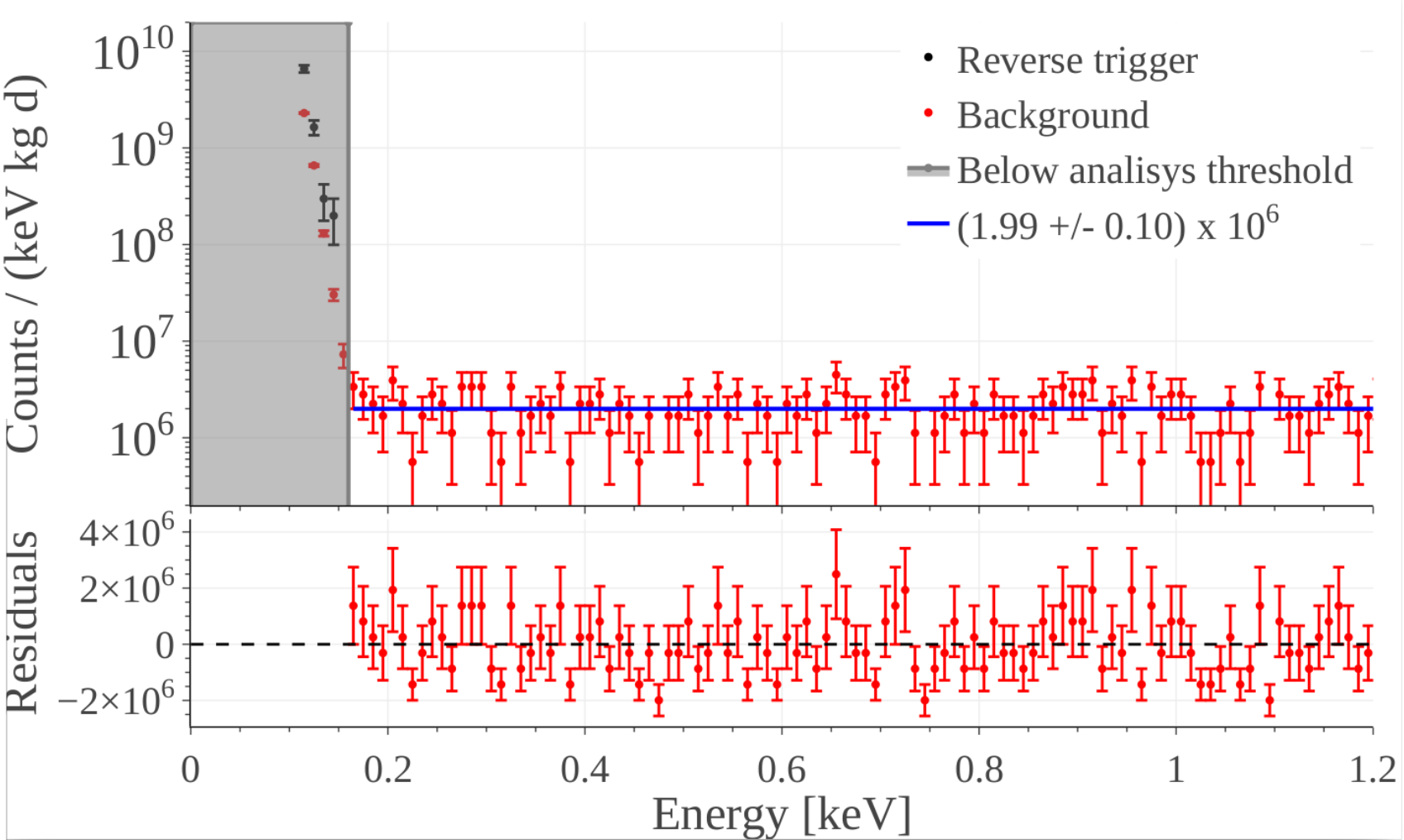
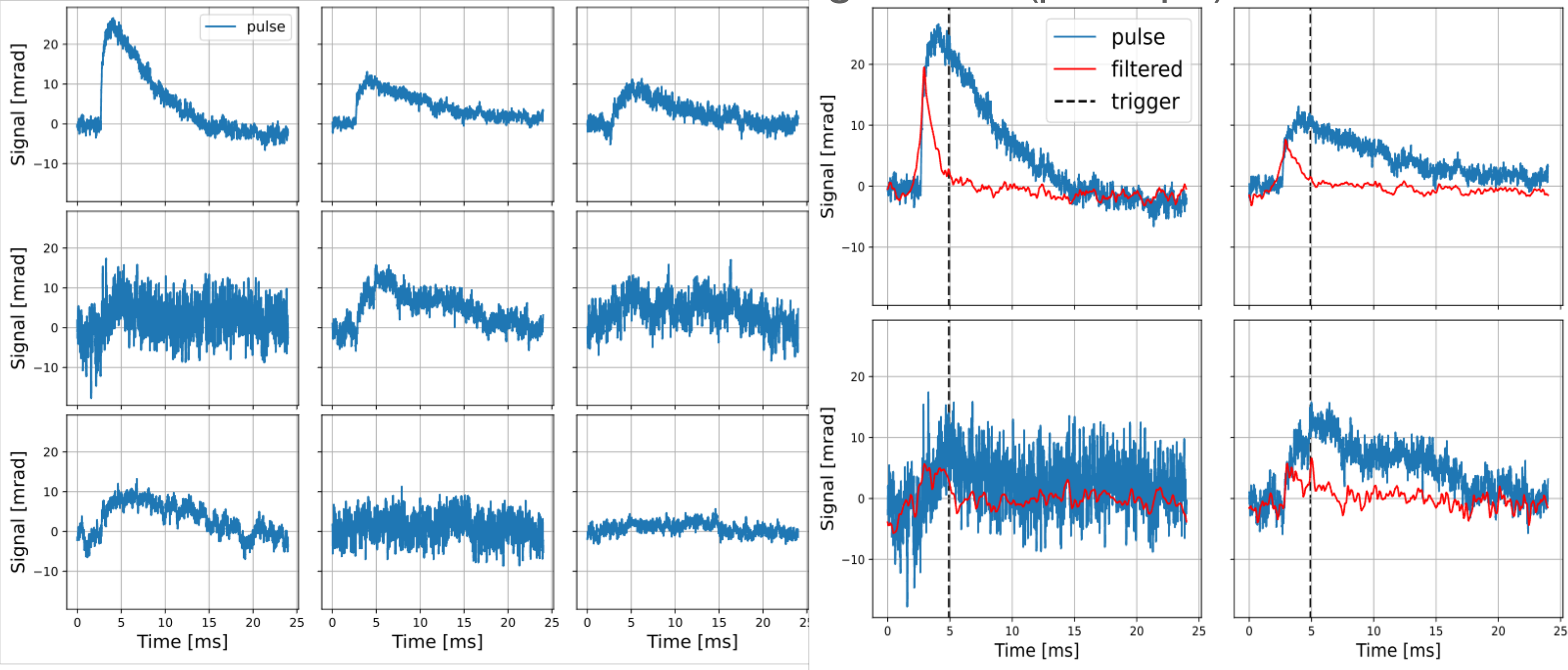
TDR

# Backup slides

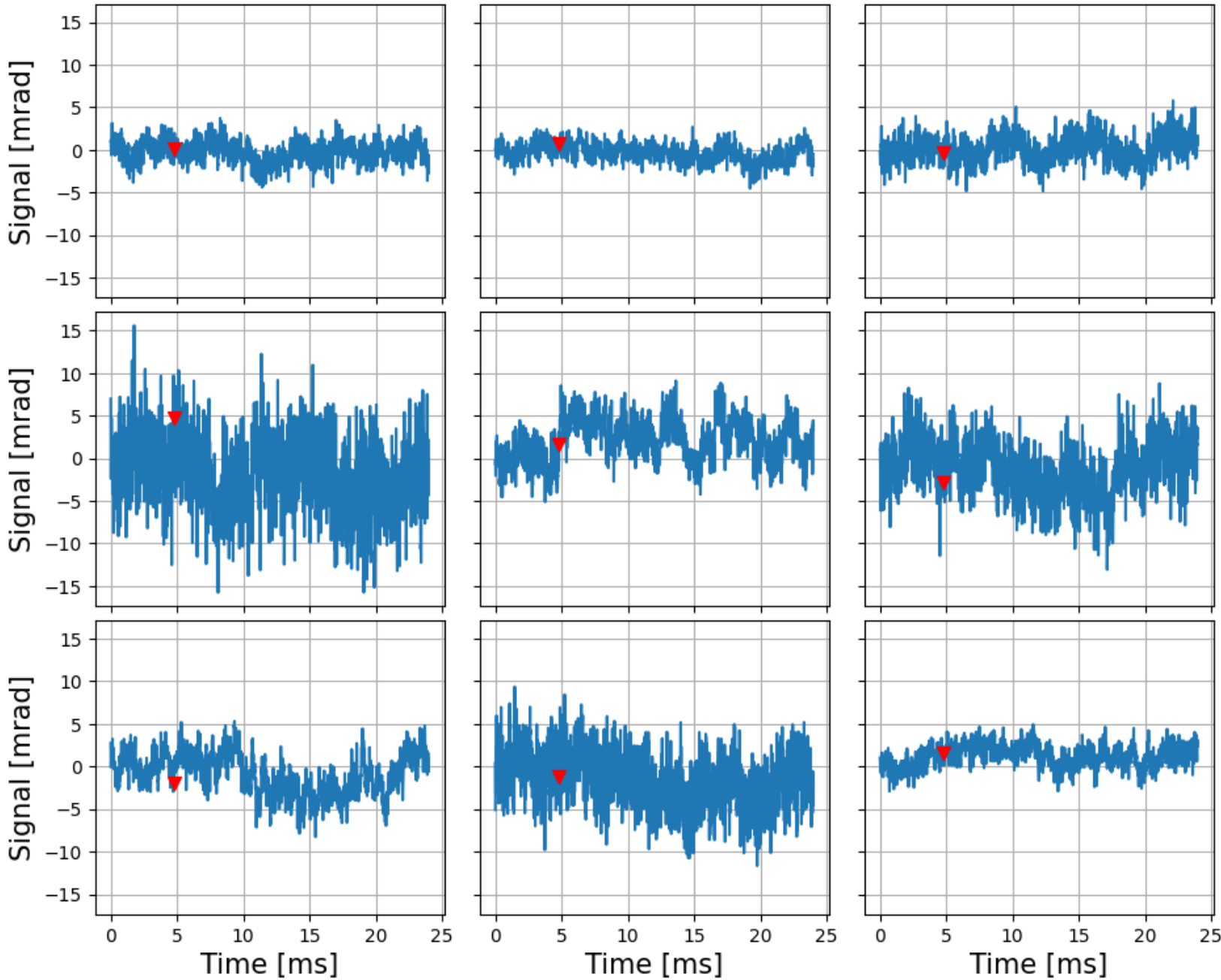


# Events below threshold

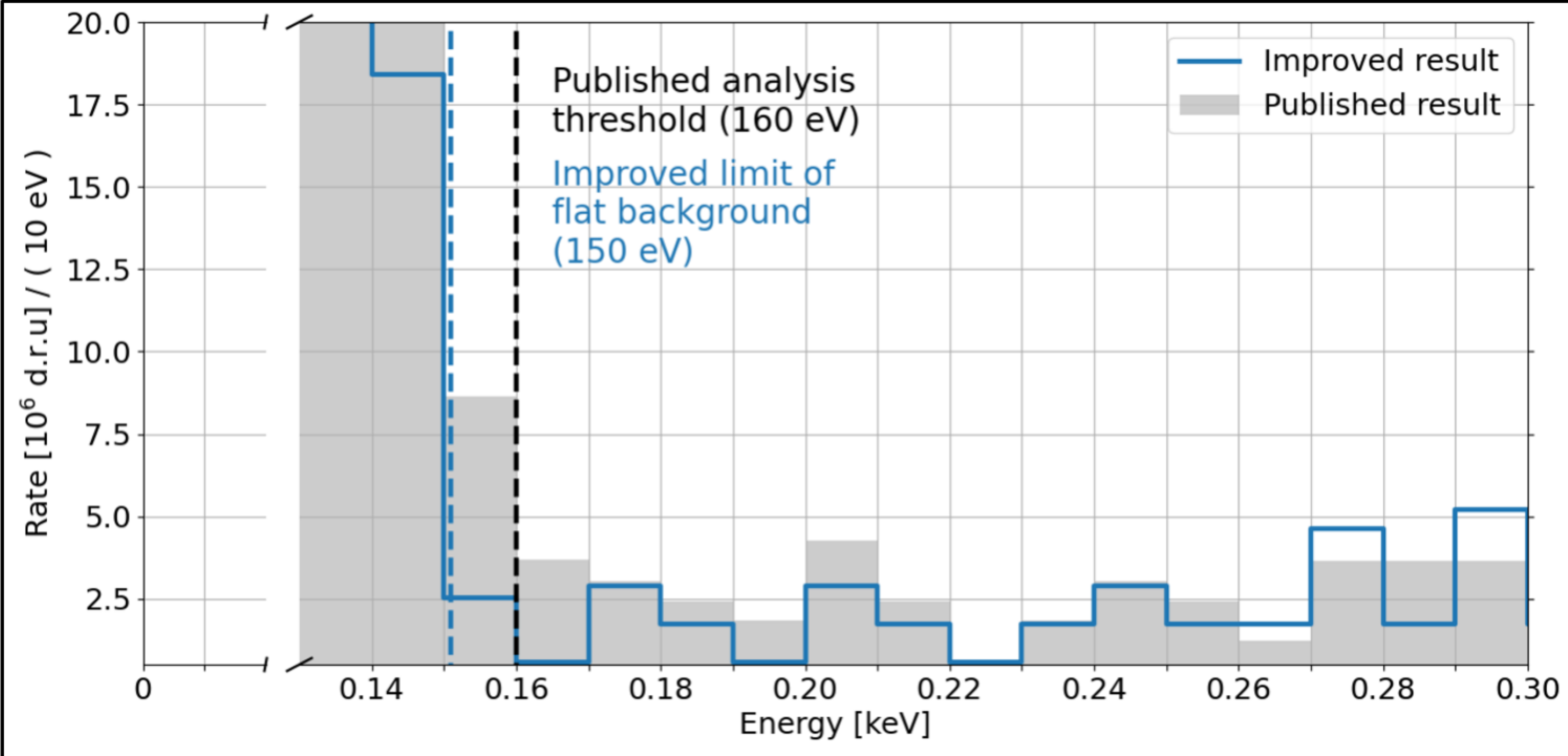
Misidentified leakage event (pile-up?)



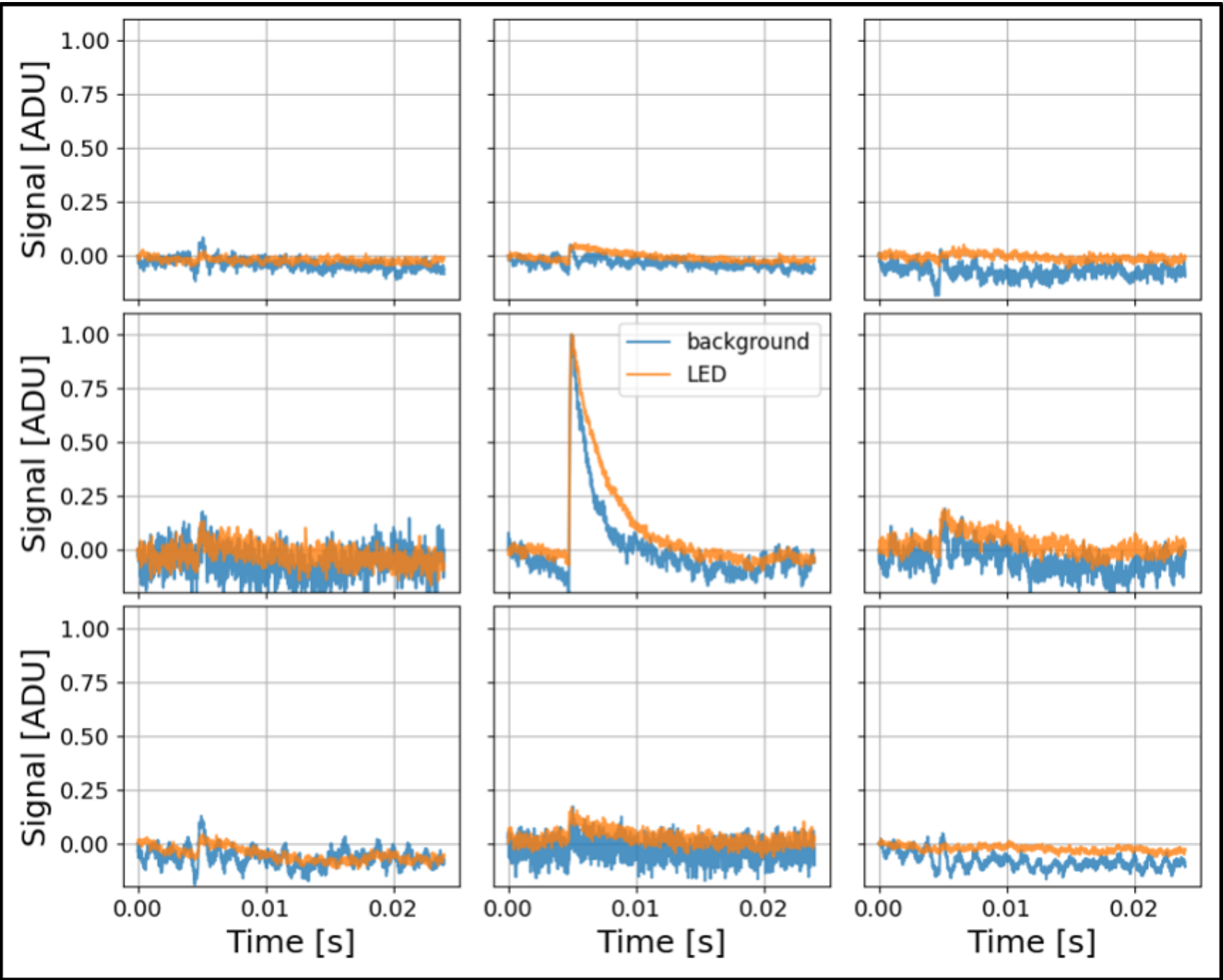
“normal” event



# New analysis below threshold

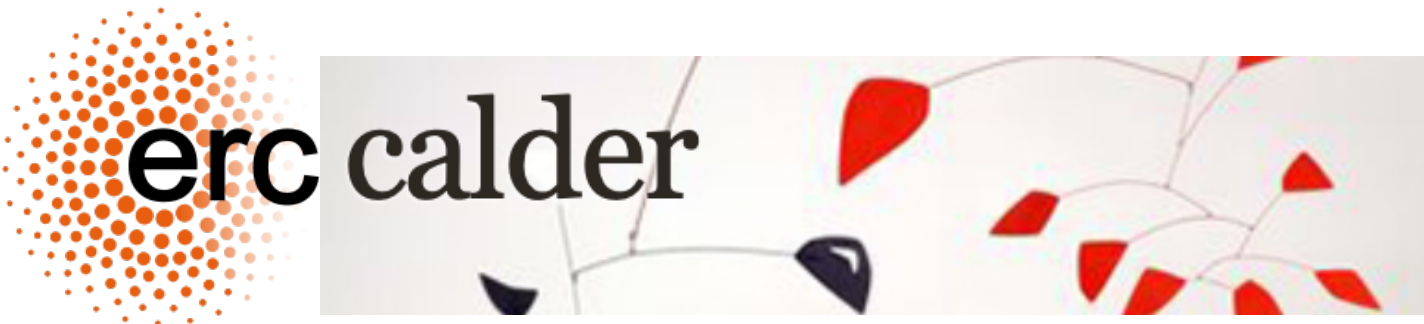


Average of ~100 events below threshold

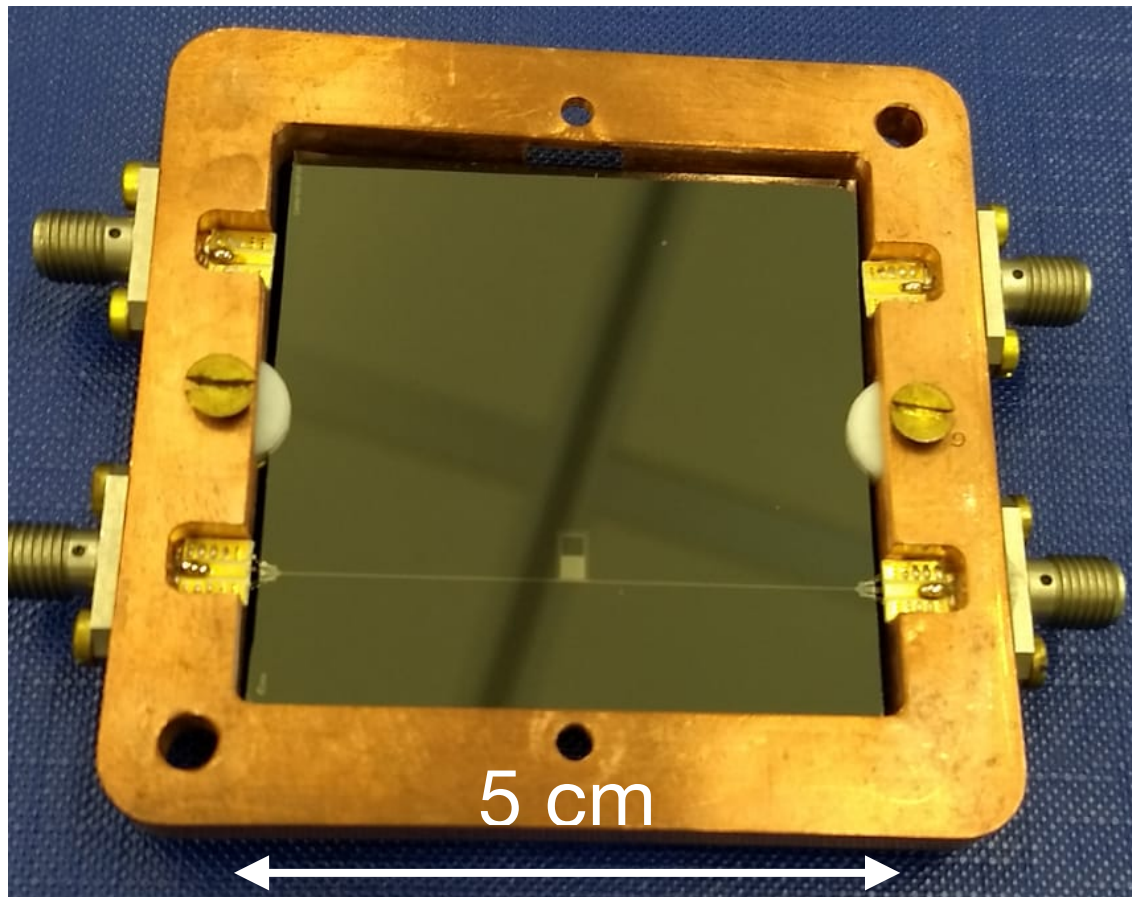




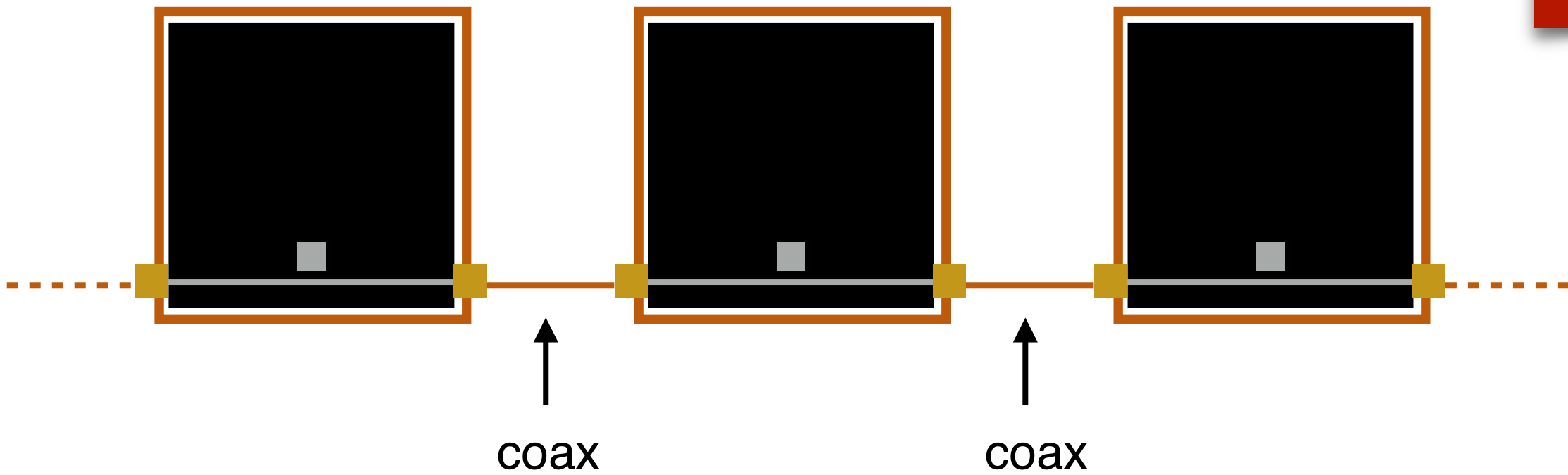
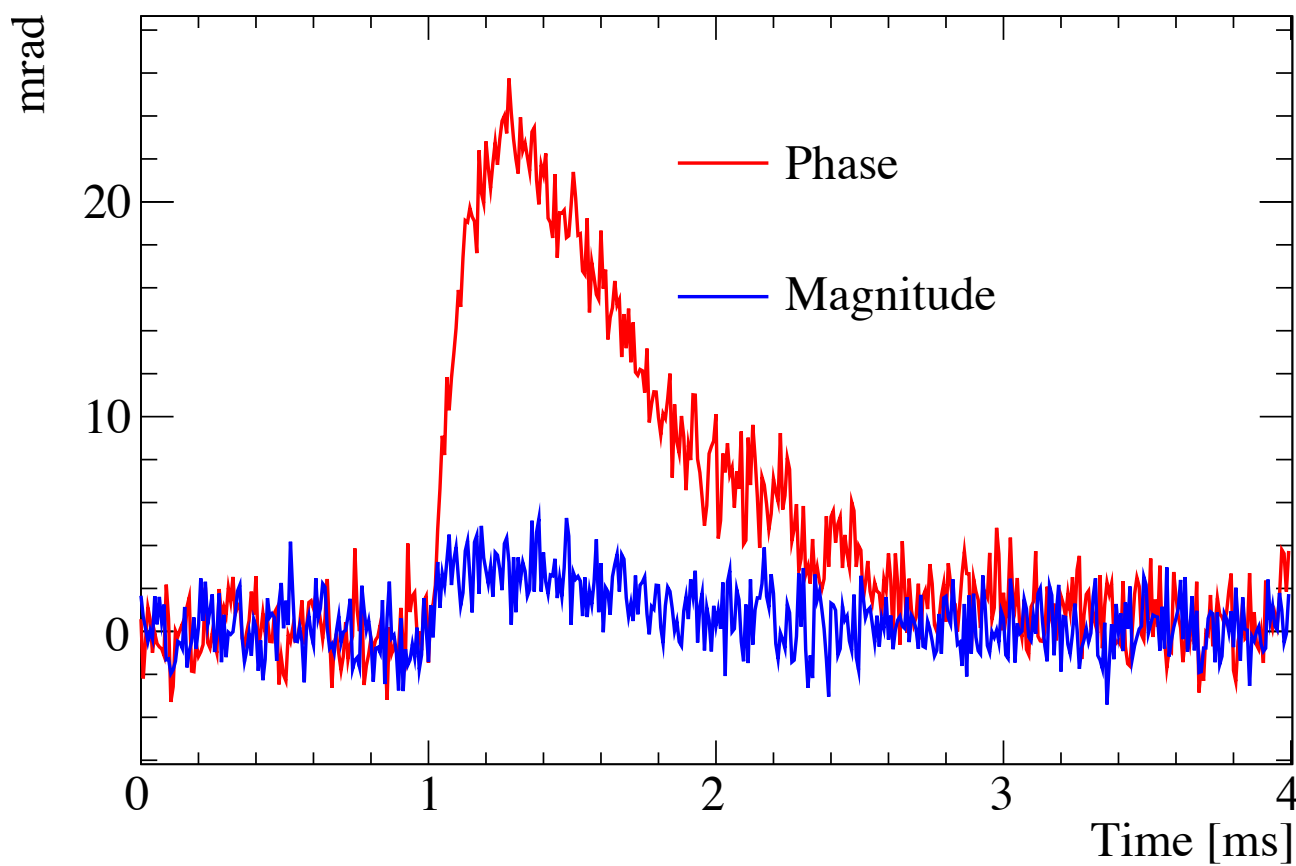
# CALDER: light detectors w KIDs



[L. Cardani et al, EPJC 81 \(2021\) 636](#)



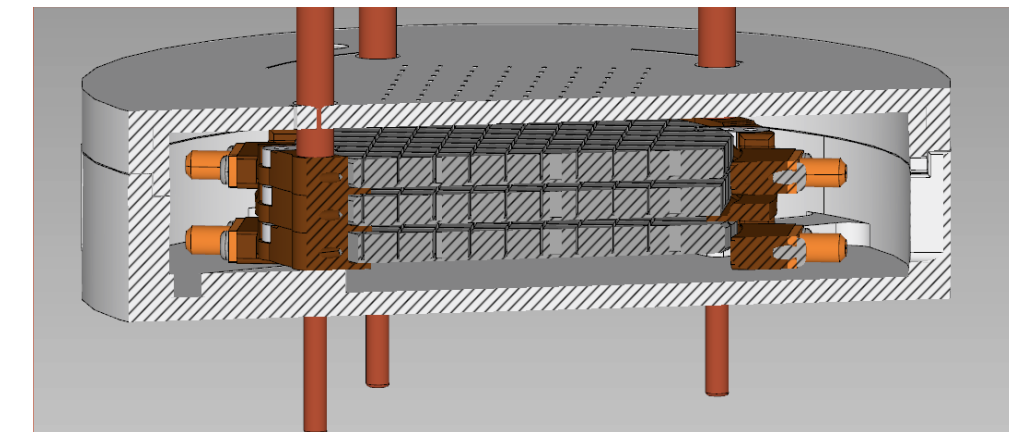
Area [cm <sup>2</sup> ]	25
$\Delta E$ [eV RMS]	34 90 w/o vibration decoupling
Response time [ms]	<b>0.12</b>
Temperature [mK]	8-120
# detectors	Multiplexing



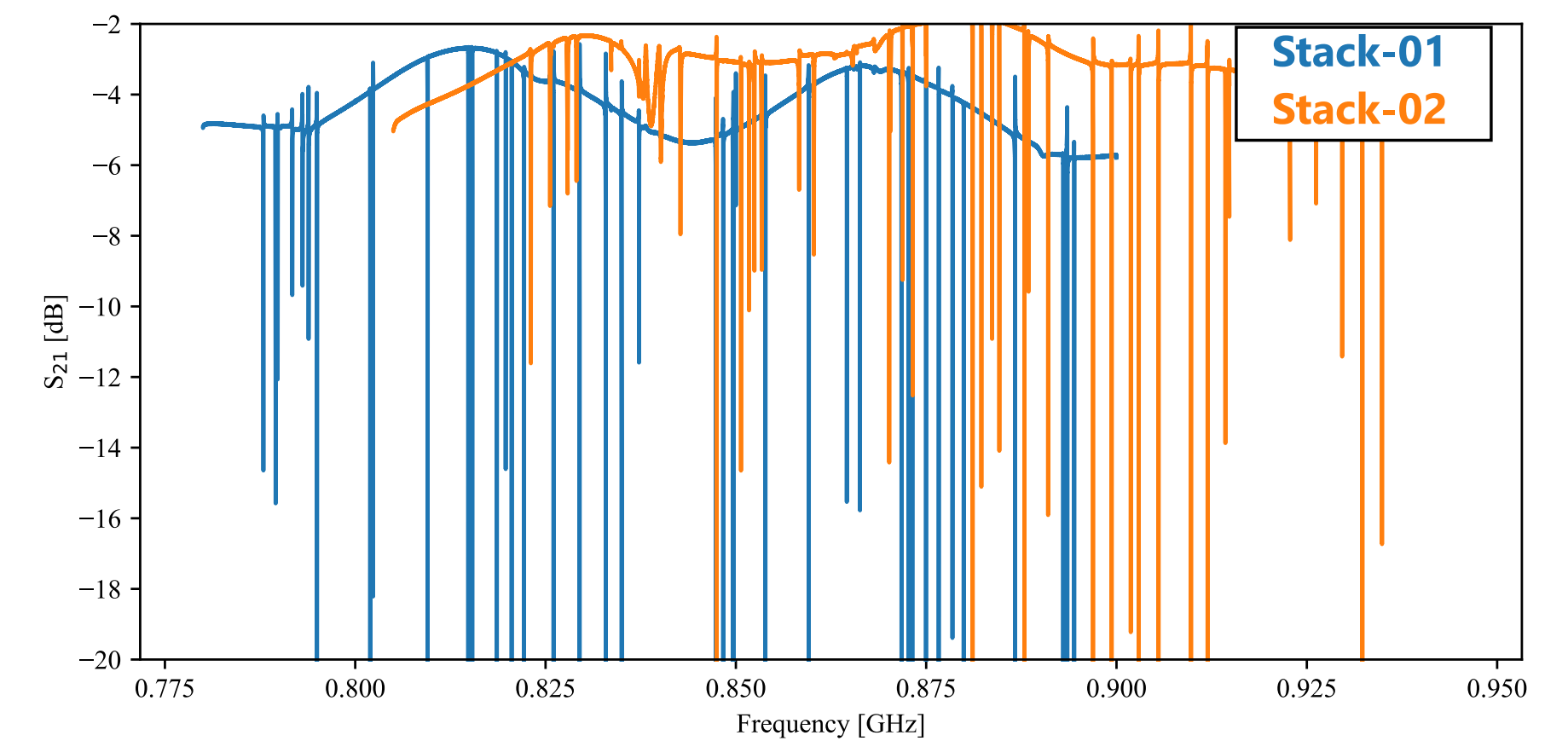
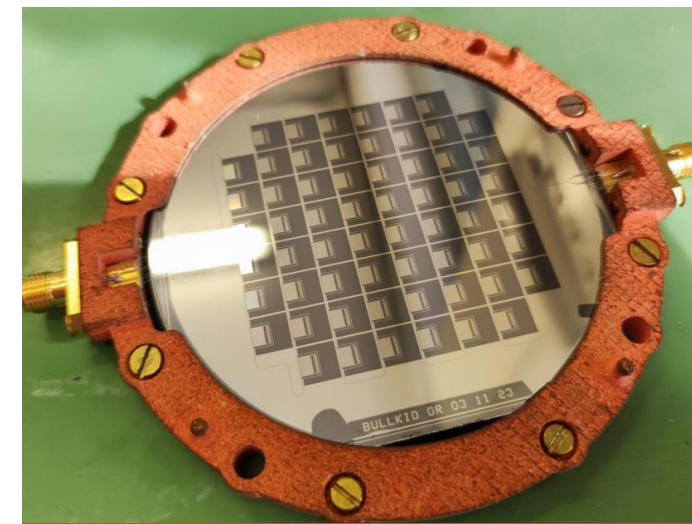
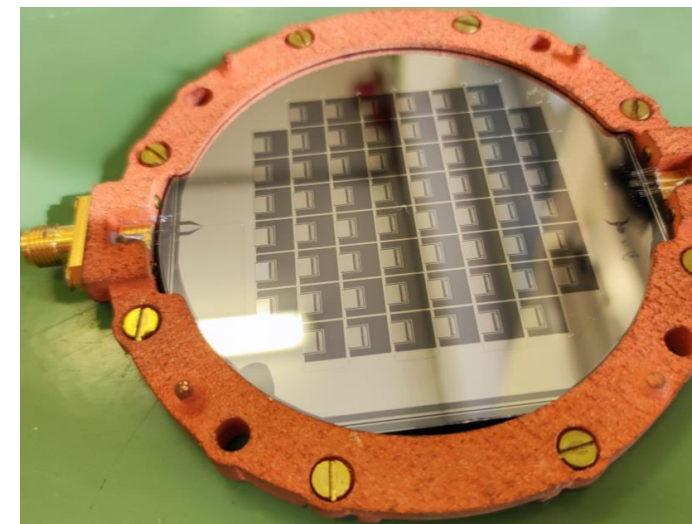
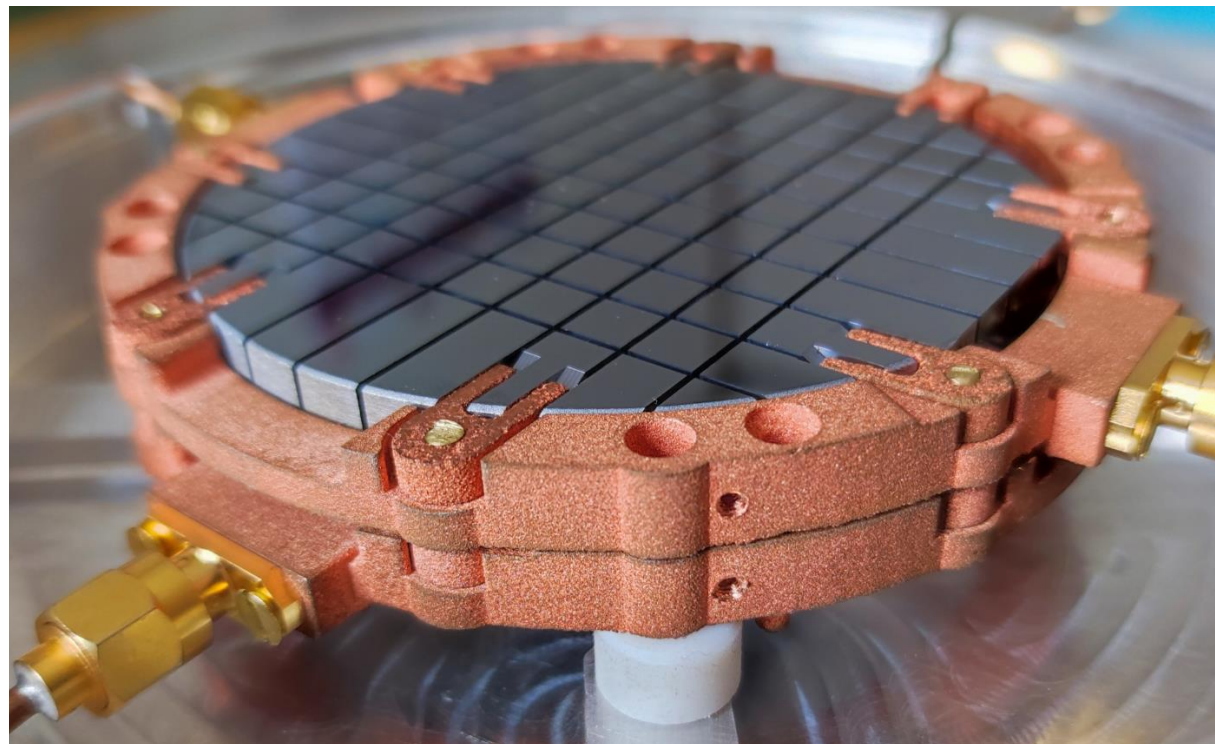
Could be coupled to  
scintillating crystals for  
the BULLKID veto



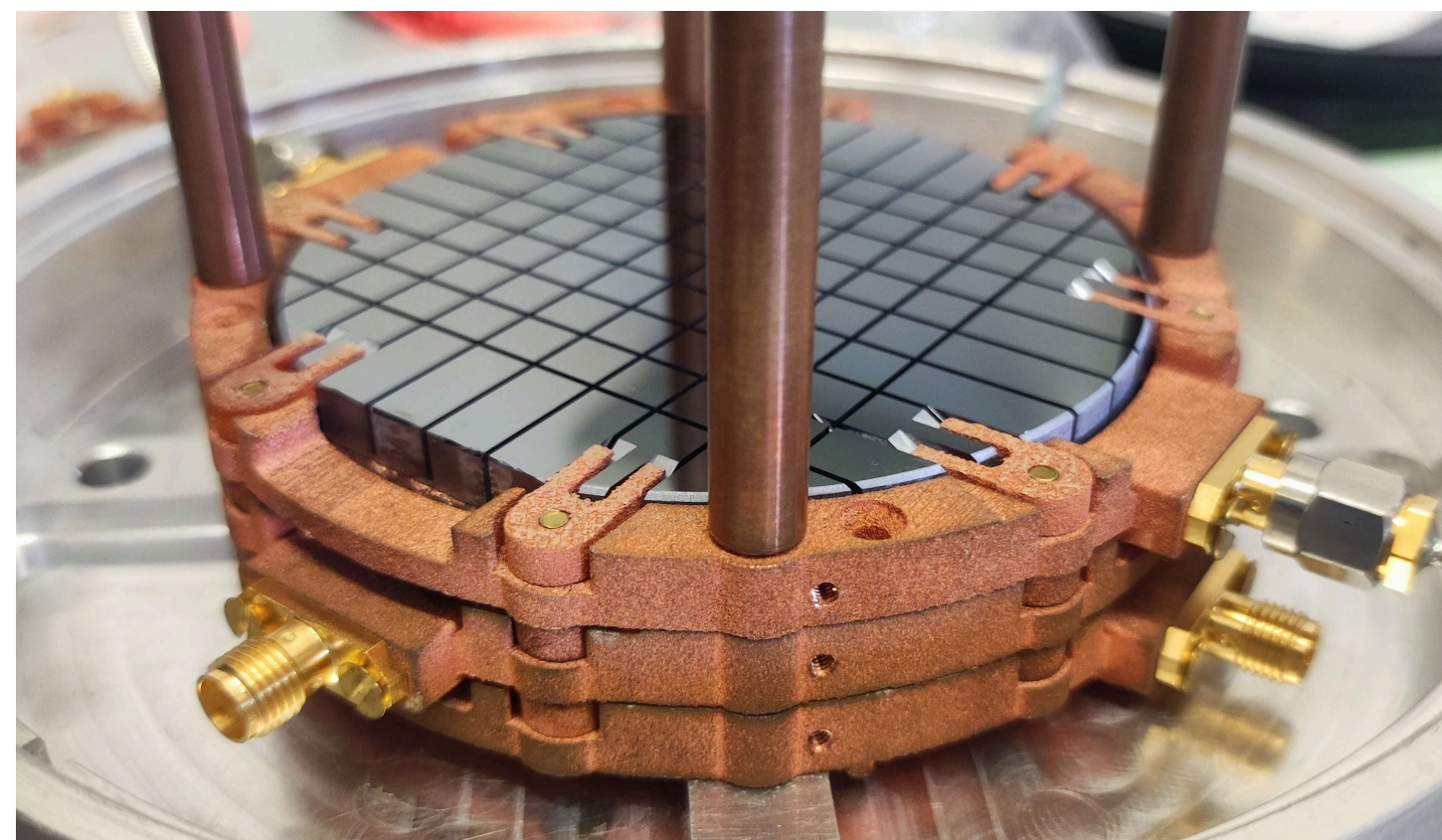
# Status of the 3-wafer demonstrator



2-wafer stack operated. No issues observed

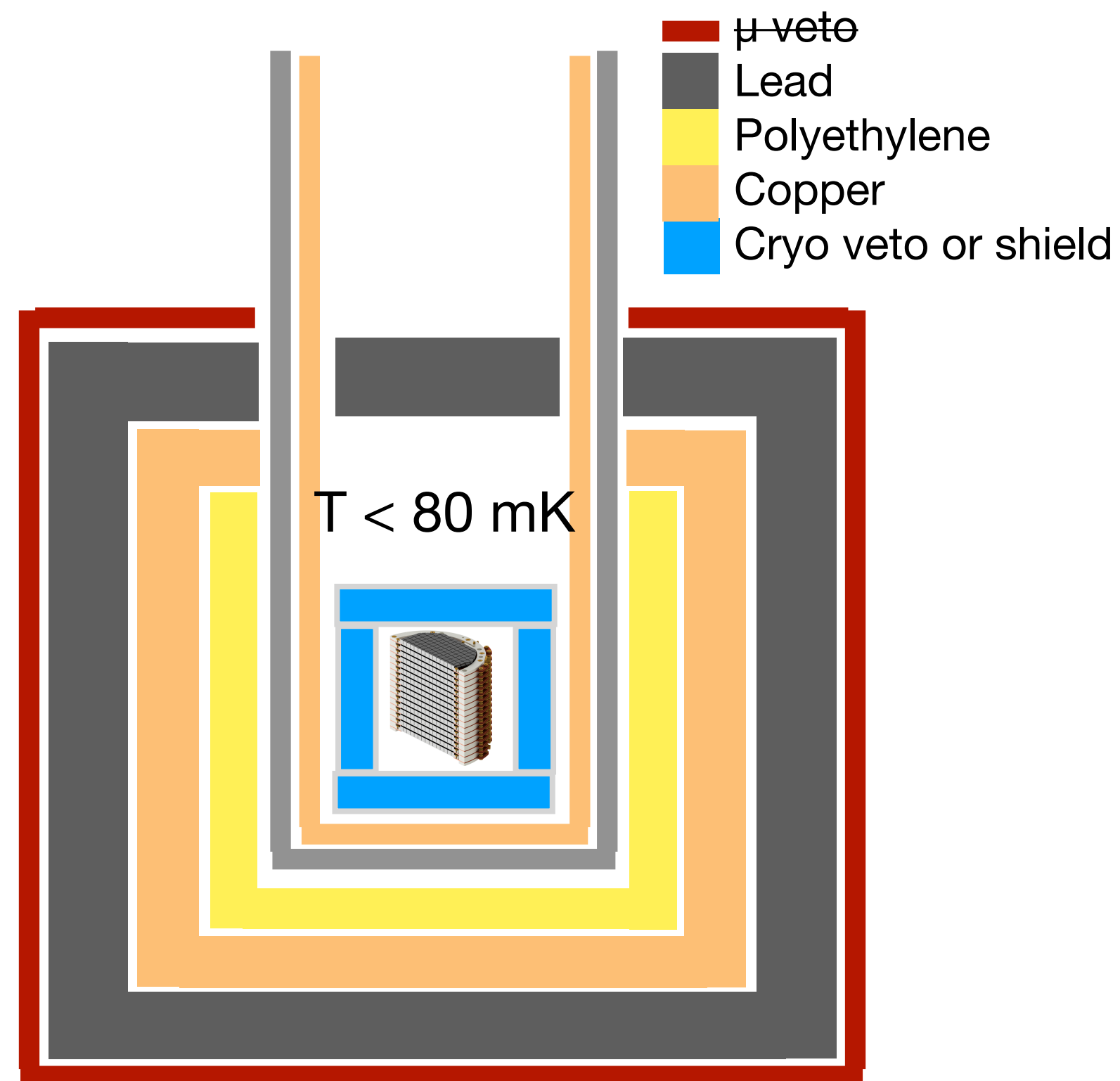


3-wafer stack assembled

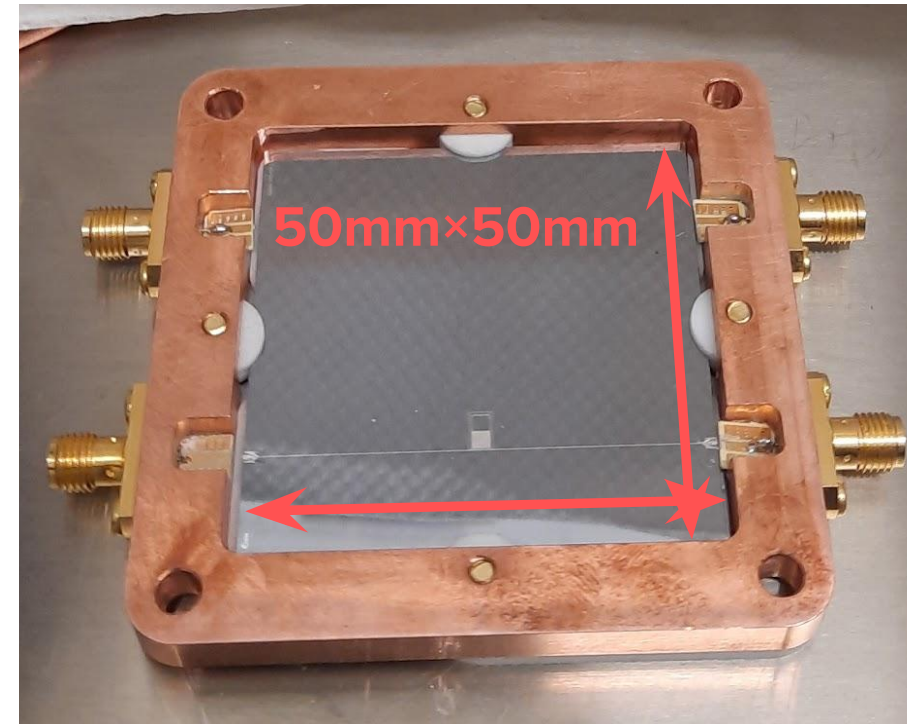




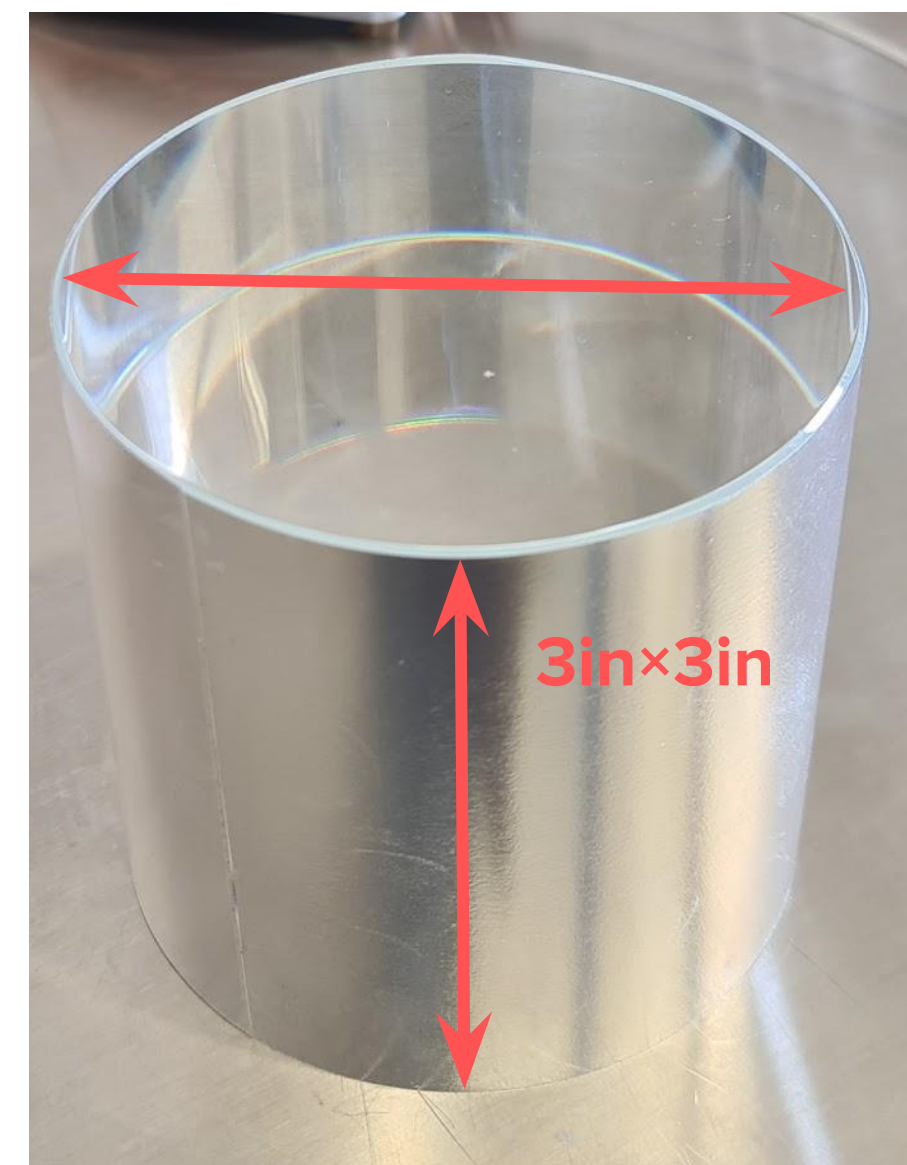
# Cryogenic veto: BGO prototype



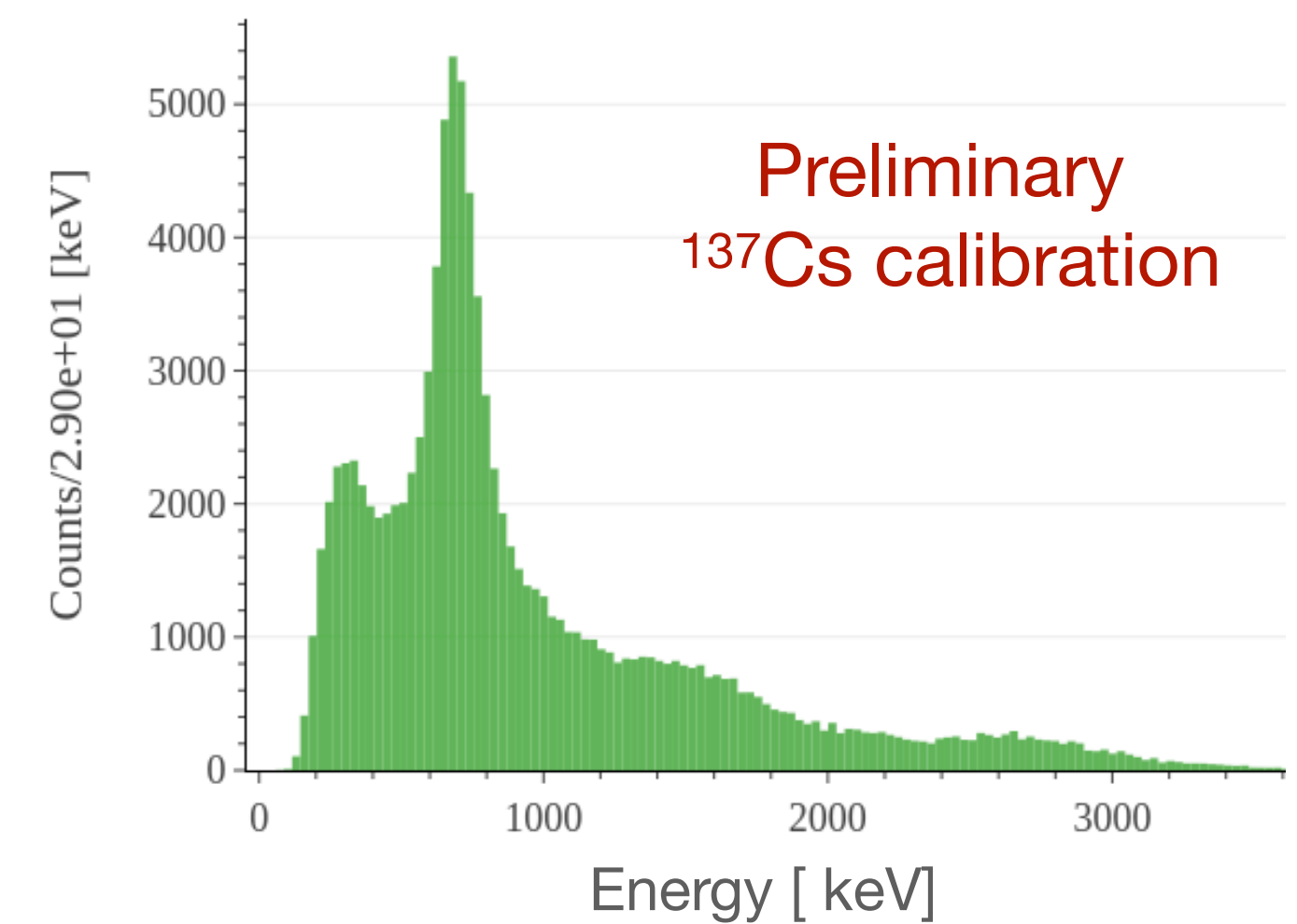
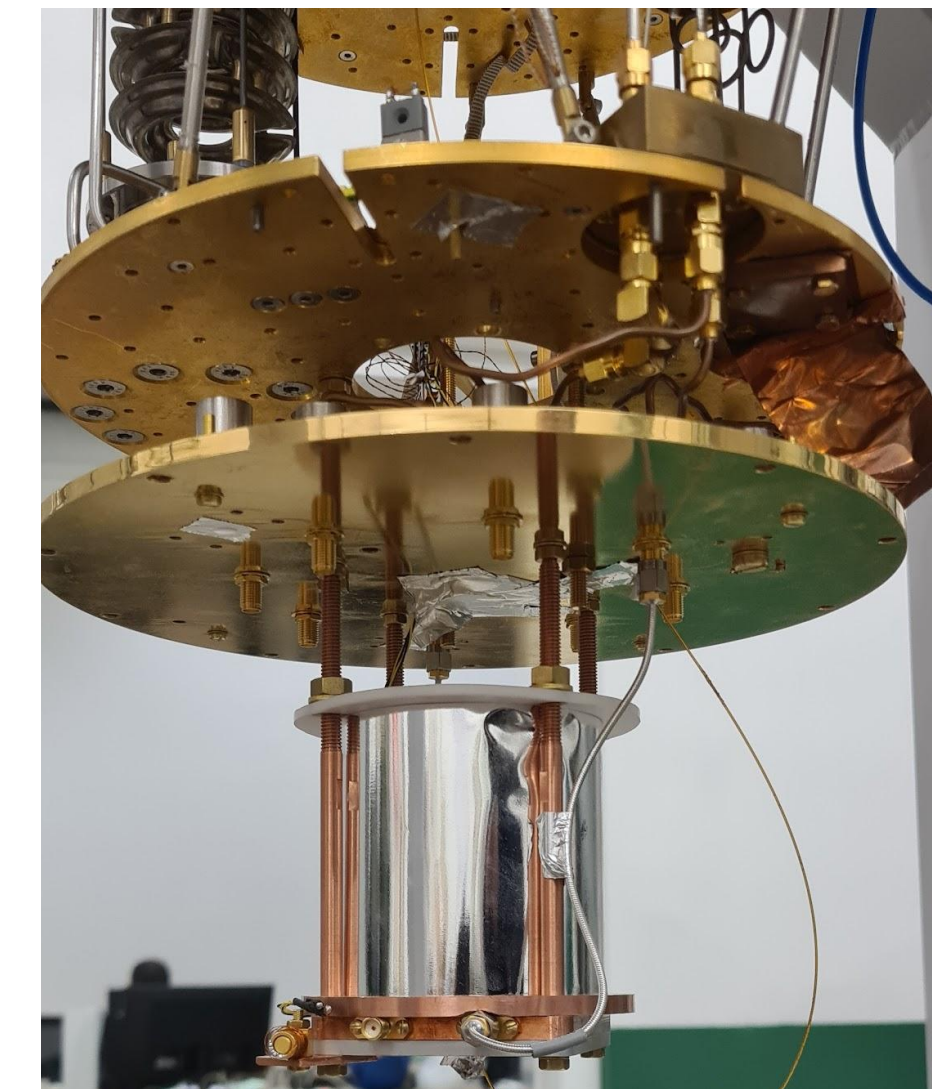
CALDER KID Light detector



BGO Crystal



Assembly with reflector



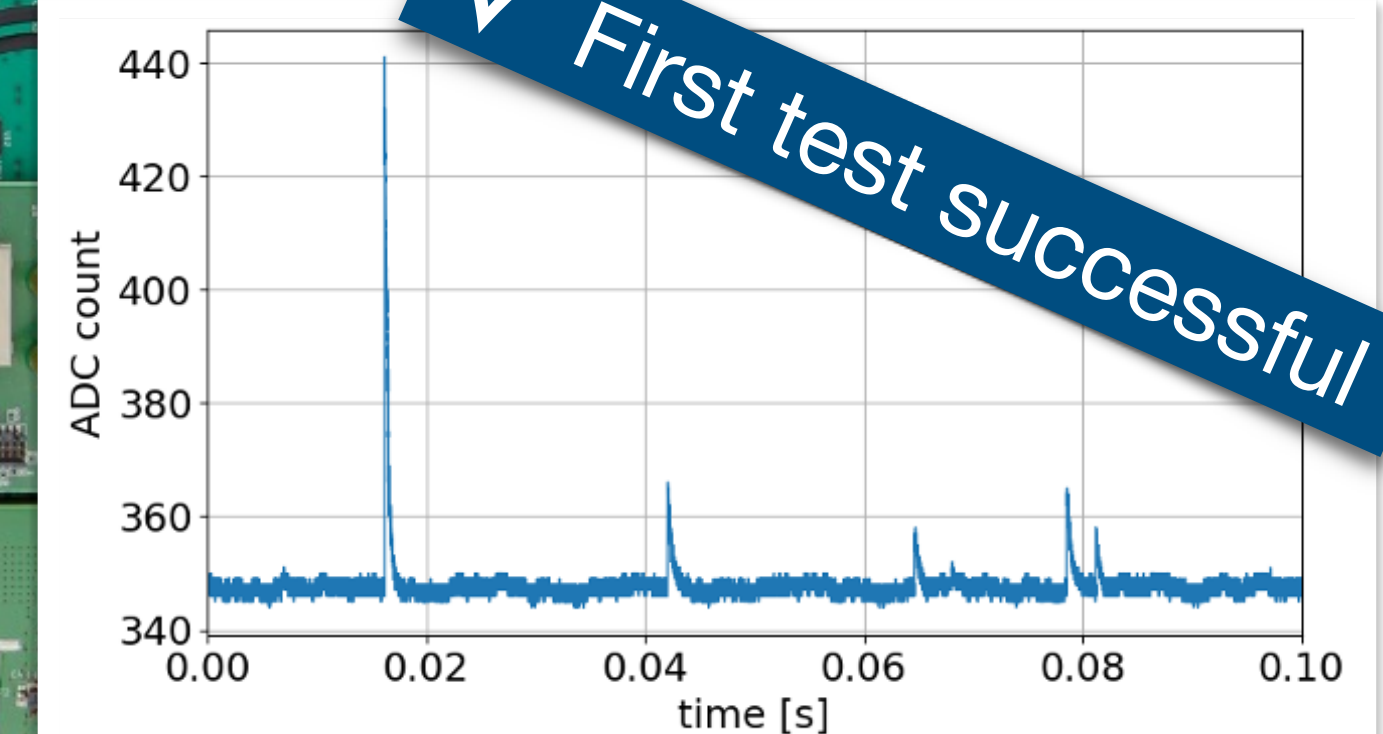
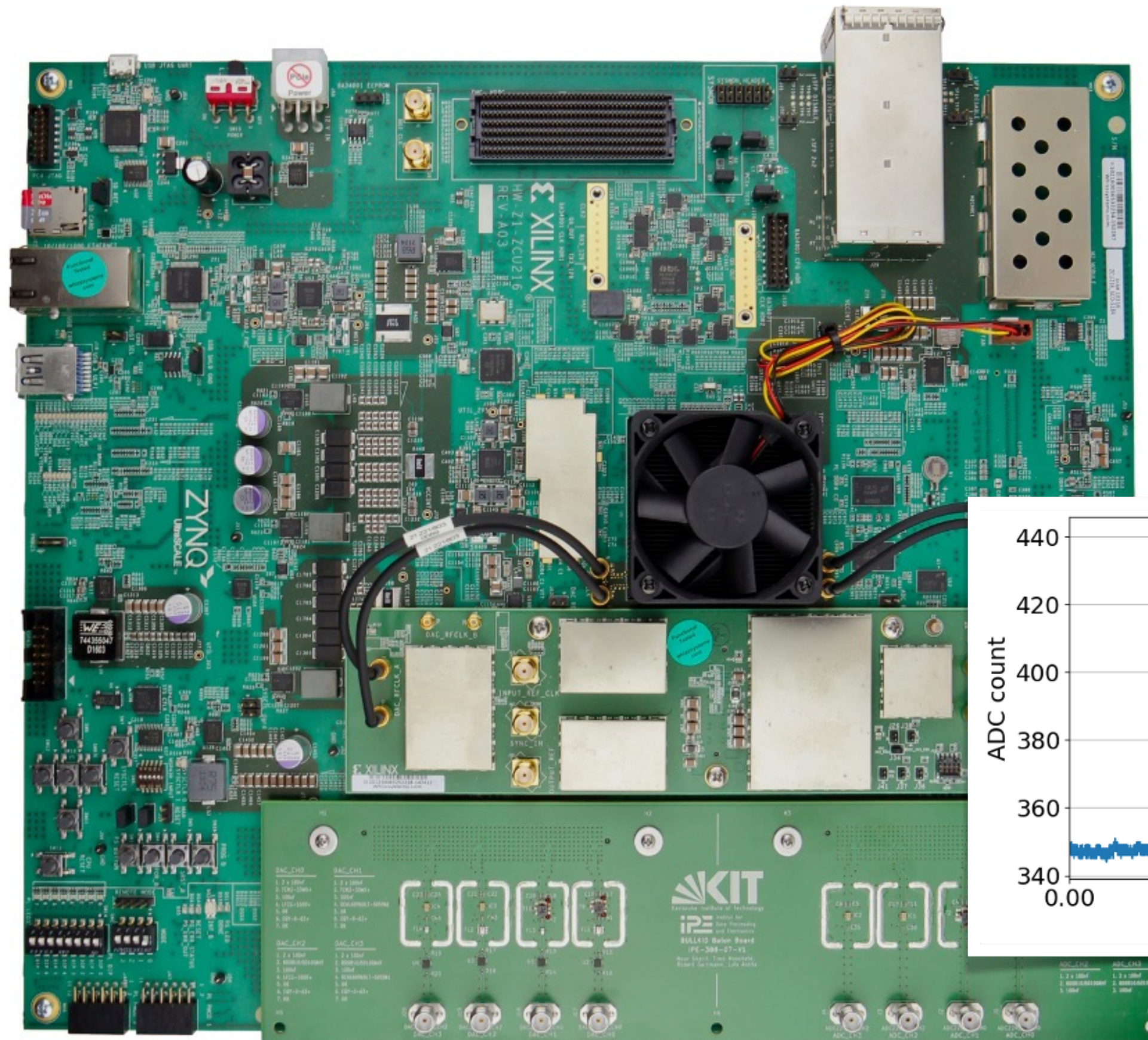


# RF Electronics

Current electronics (Ettus x310):  
**30 KIDs / line**

New electronics (ZCU216 Evaluation Board with 16 lines):  
**Goal  $\geq 150$  KIDs / line**

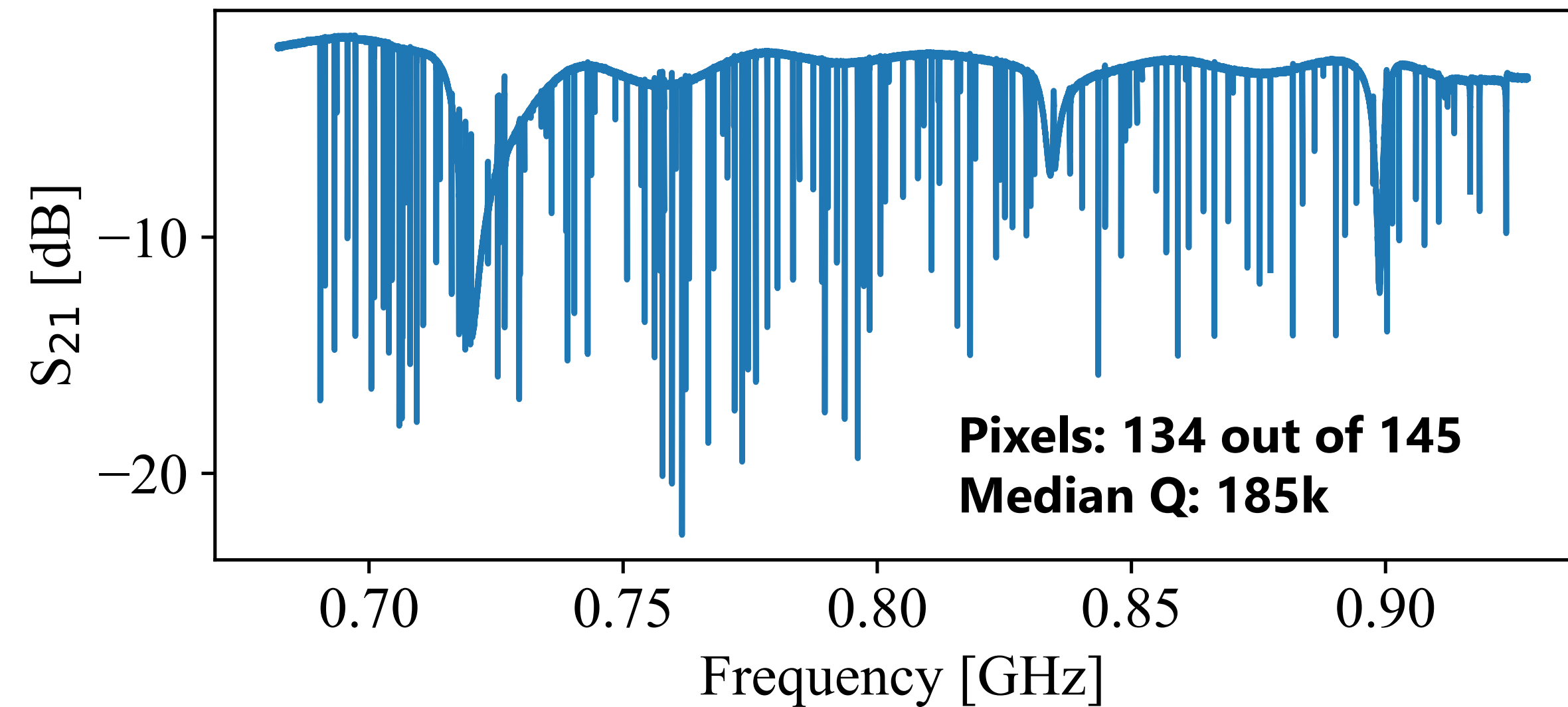
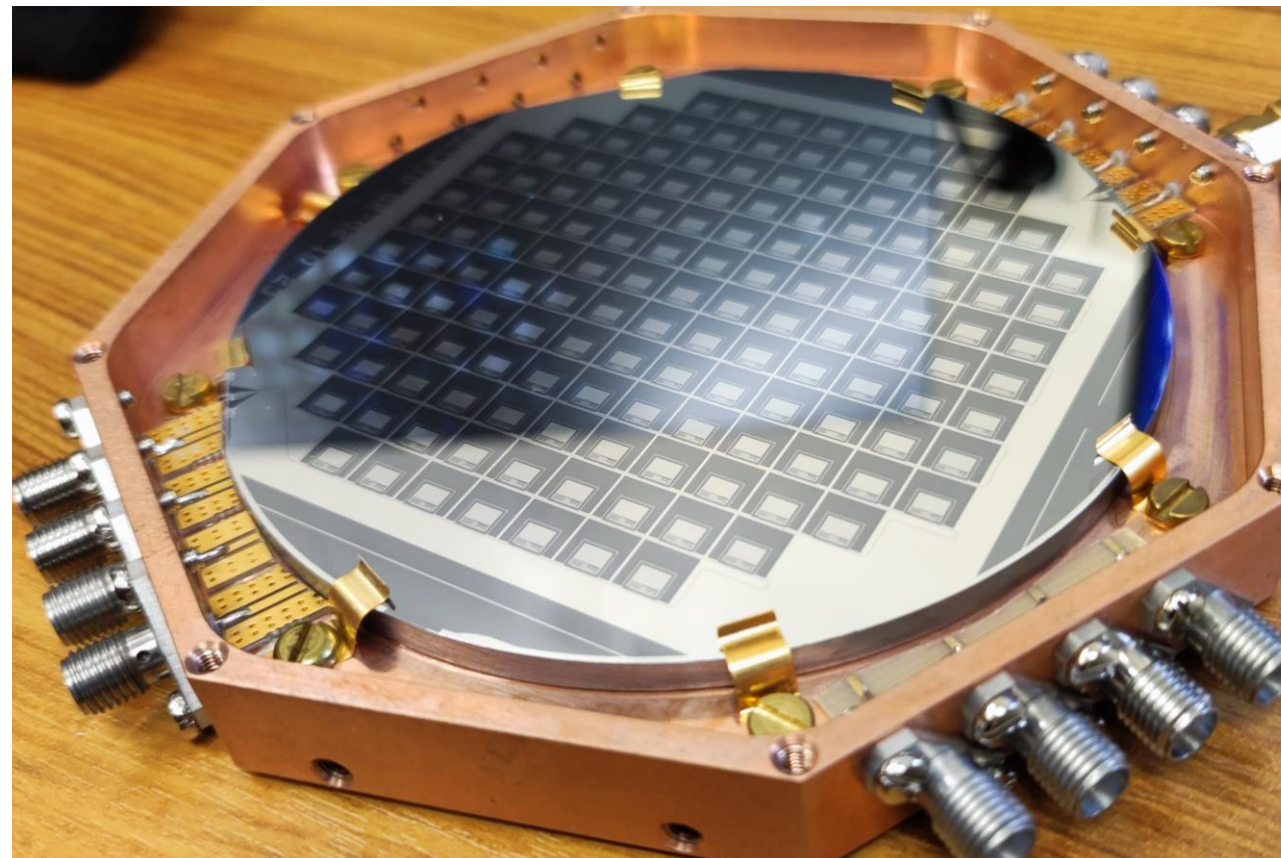
- Custom Analog Front-End and
- Control Firmware by the KIT group
- **Status: first tests on BULLKID-prototype**



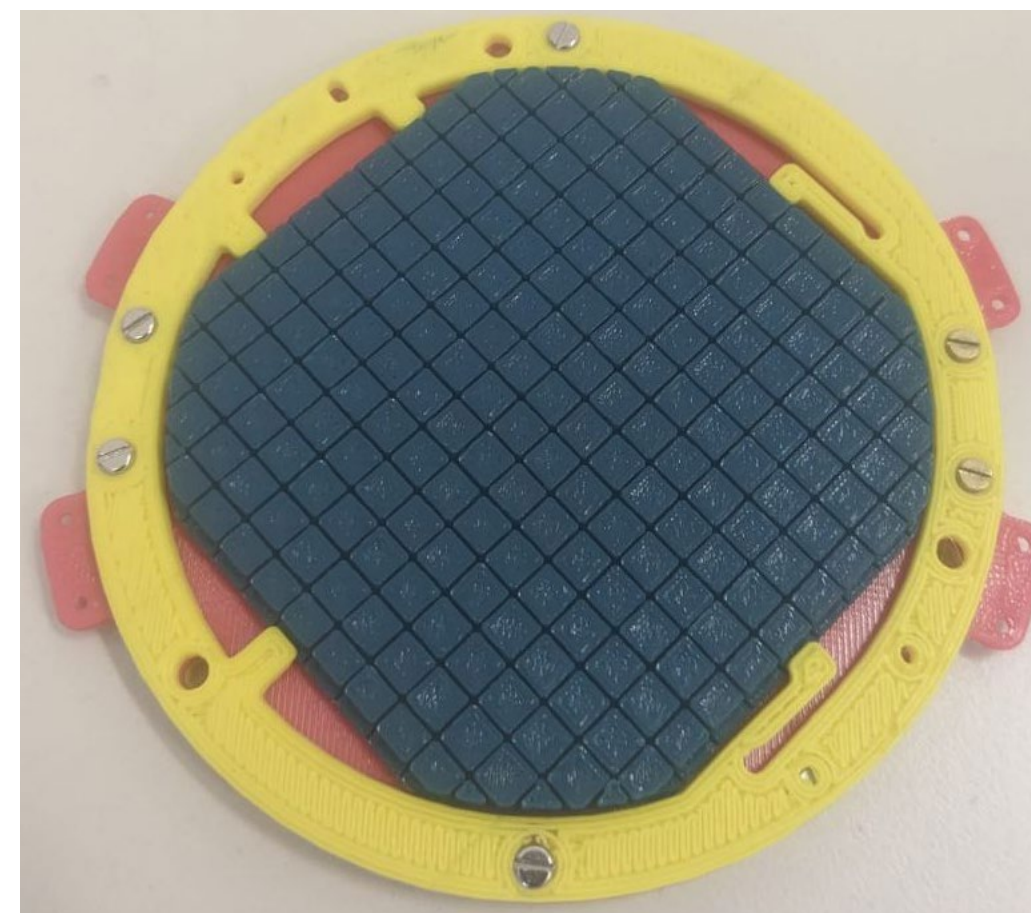
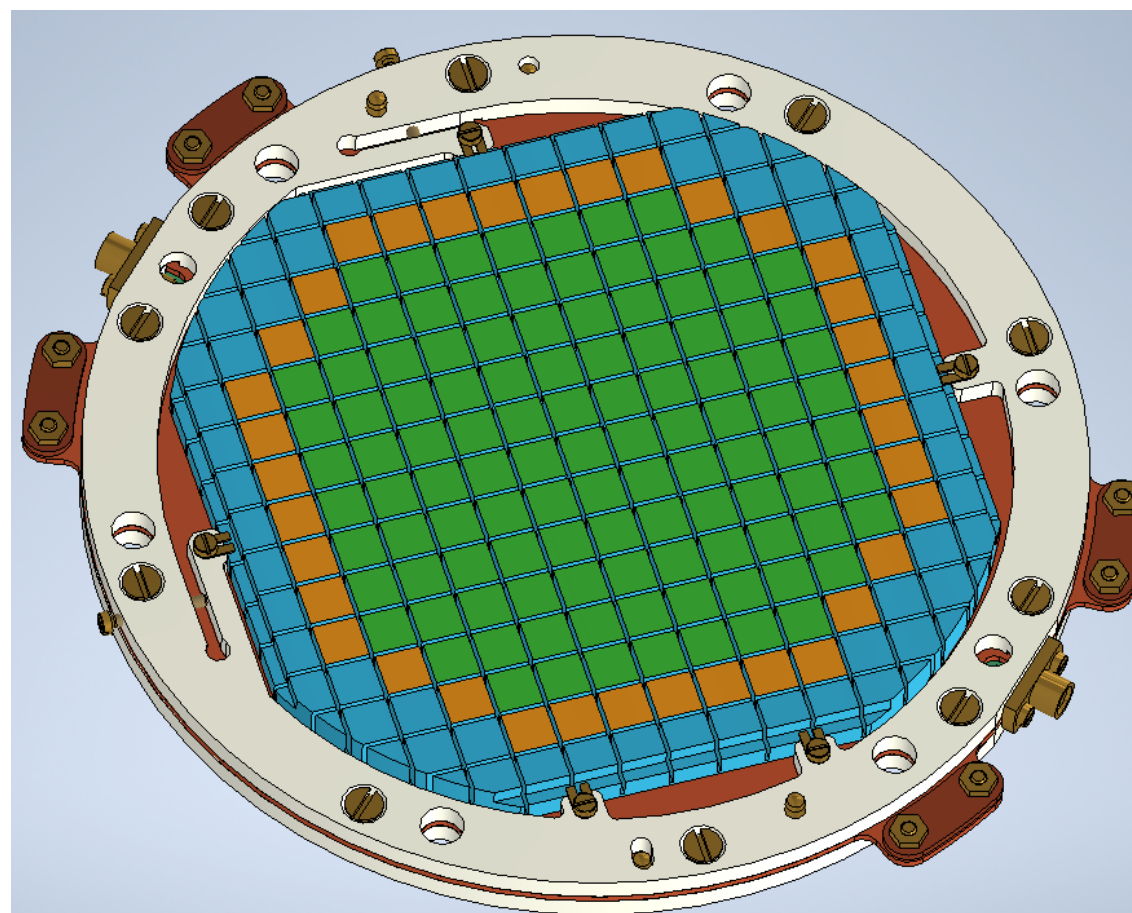


# Status of 100 mm wafers

145 KID array test on thin (0.3 mm) wafer successful



Assembly under development



5 mm wafer grooved successful





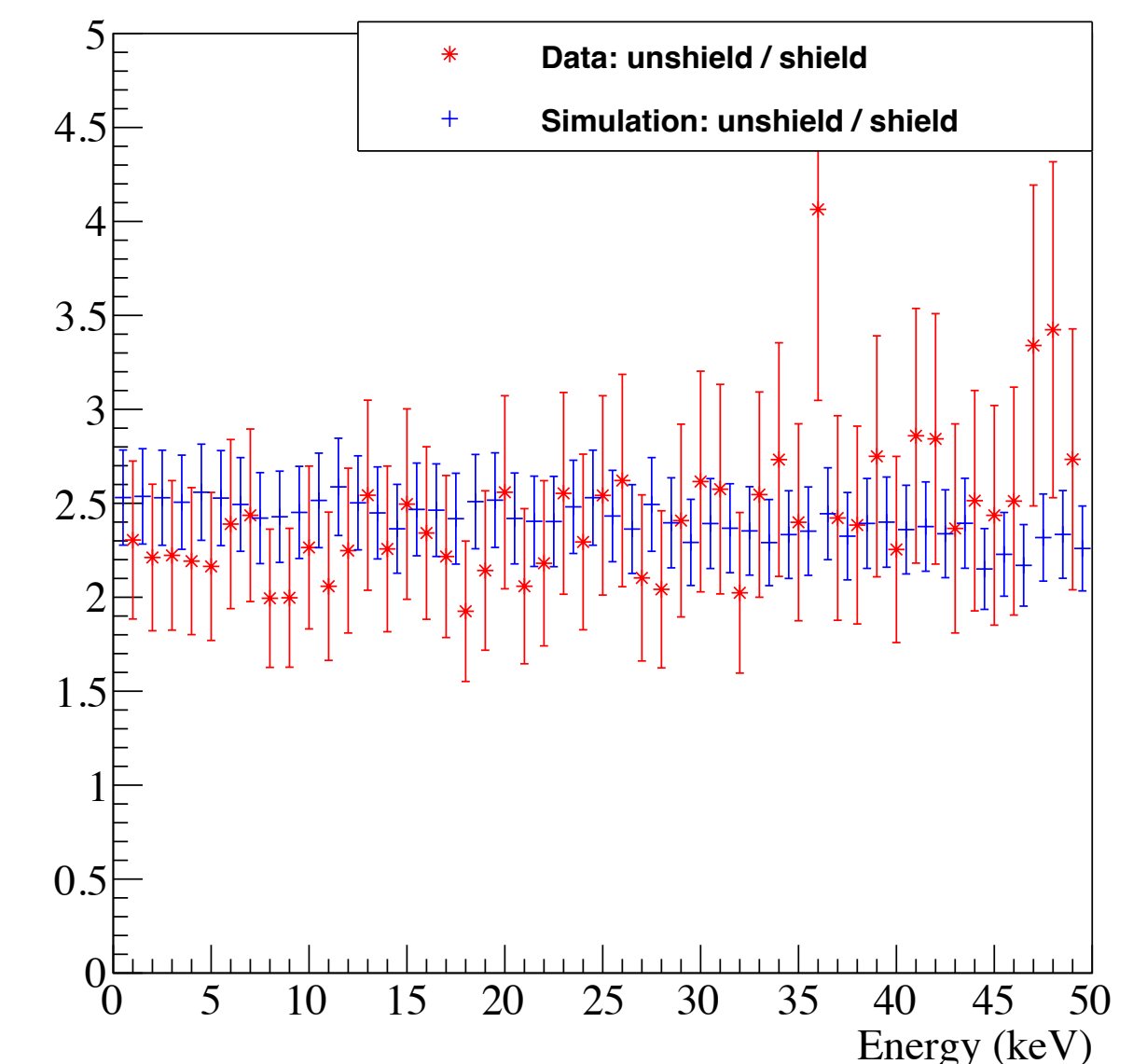
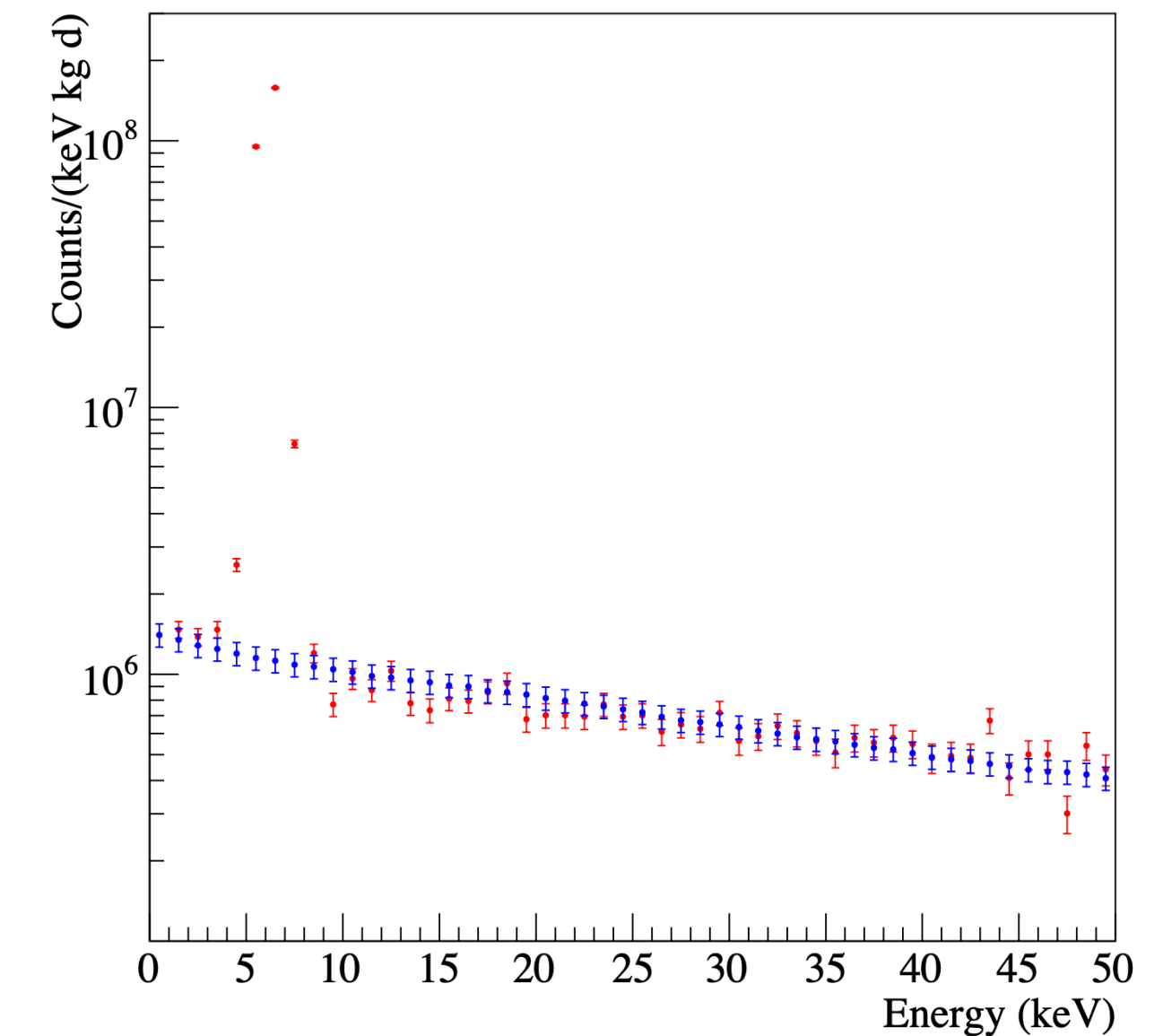
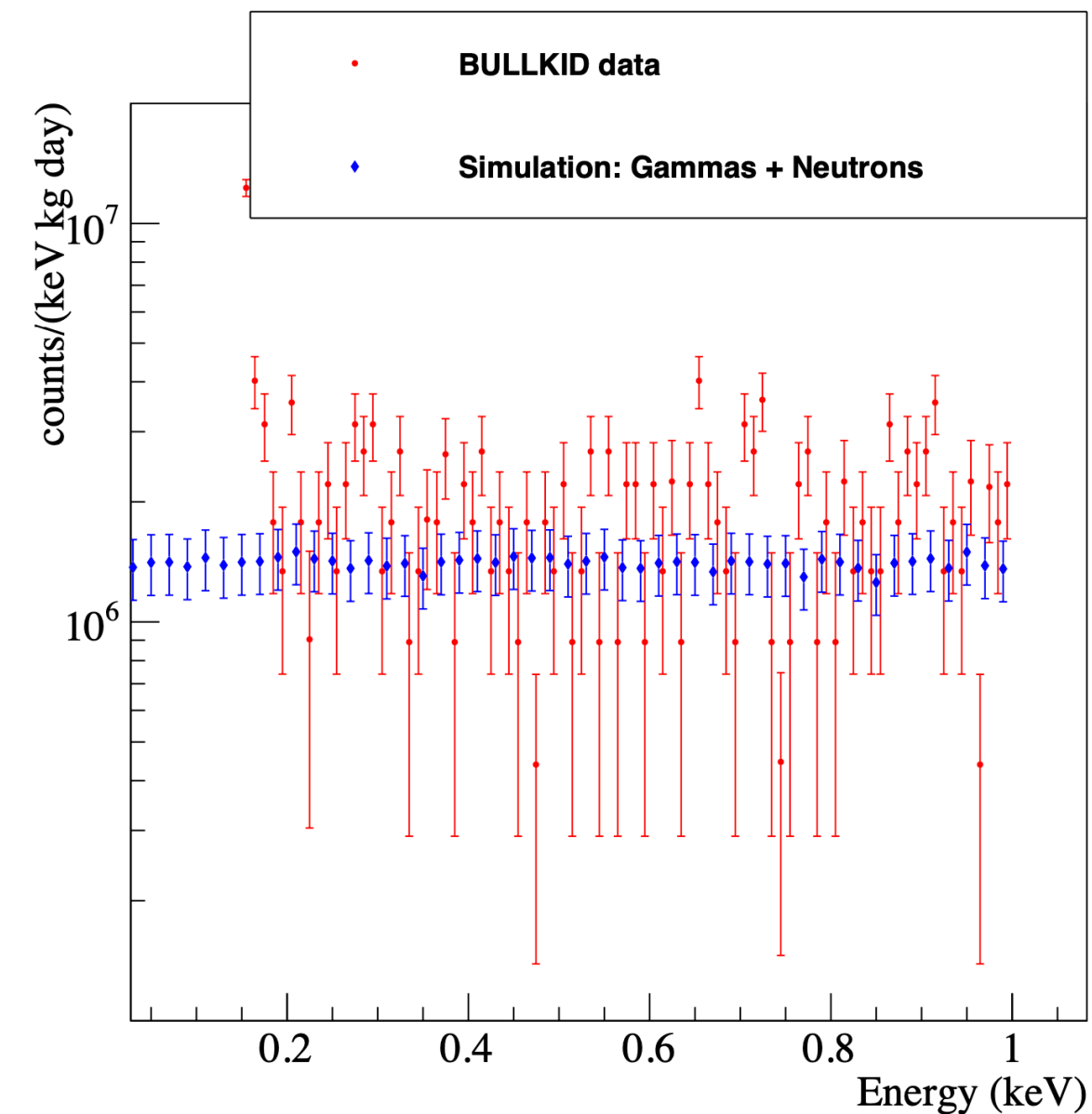
# Simulations: validation on Sapienza setup

Gammas (99%) and neutrons (1%) measured and used as input for the simulation

Agreement over wide energy range observed

Mild lead shield added

Reduction of the background agrees with simulations





# Future sensitivities

