

Spectral Shape of Forbidden β -decays: Recent Results on In-115

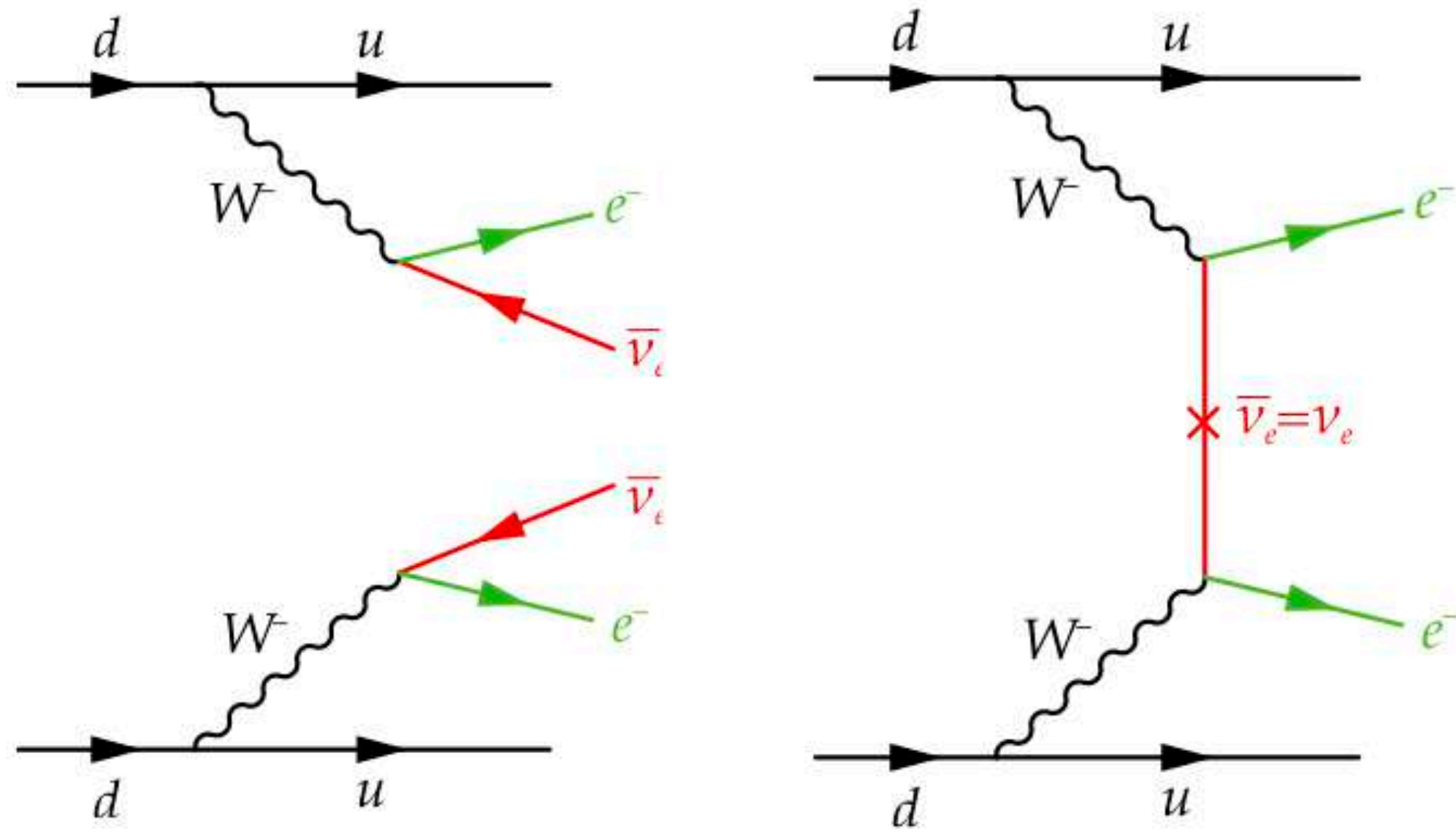


Lorenzo Pagnanini

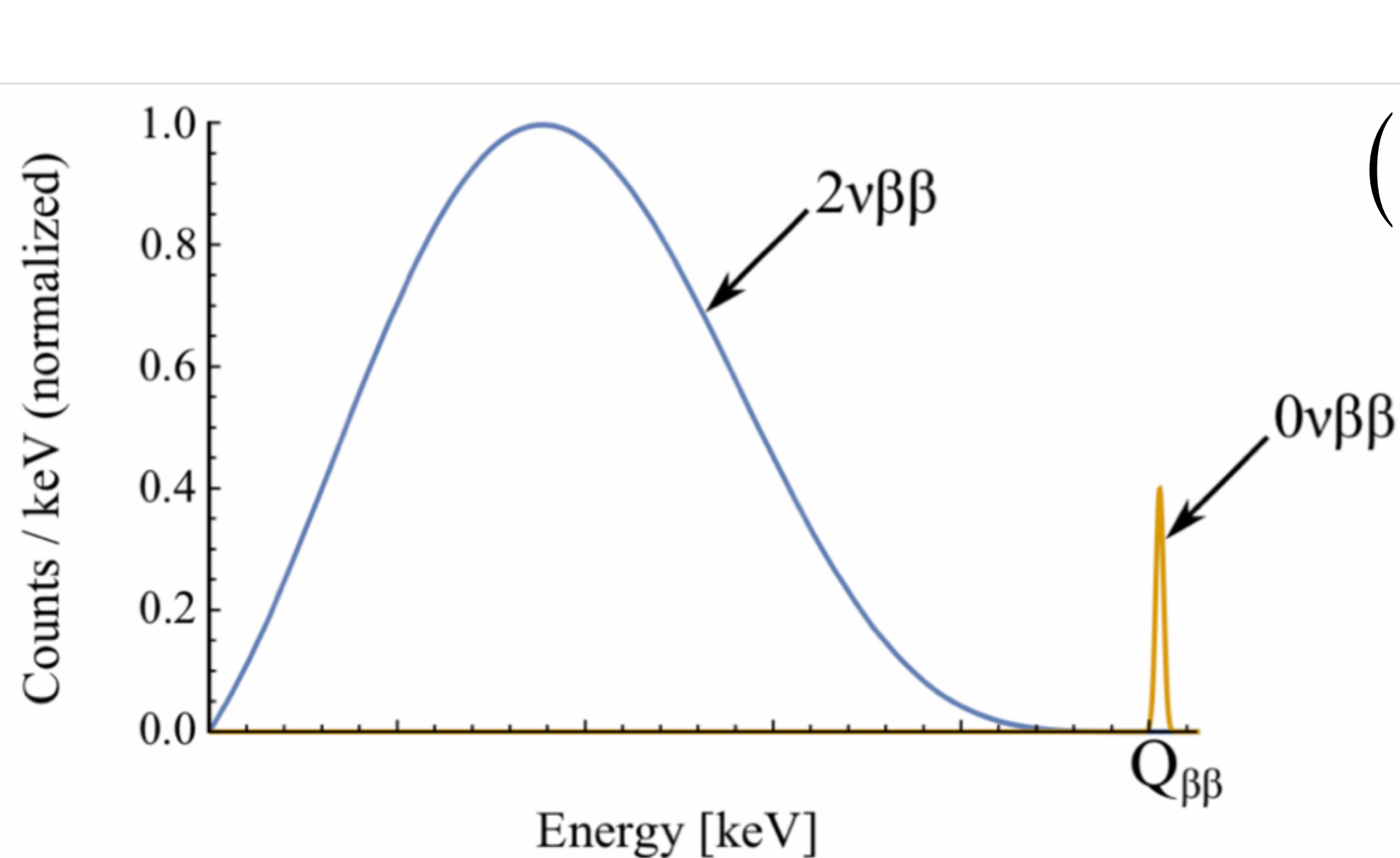
-

*Gran Sasso Science Institute
Laboratori Nazionali del Gran Sasso*

Neutrinoless Double Beta Decay



- It only occurs **if neutrino is a Majorana** particle
- Forbidden by Standard Model: **violation of B-L**
- **Matter creation** (no anti-matter balancing)
- Insights on the **neutrino mass**



$$(T_{1/2}^{0\nu})^{-1} = g_A^4 \cdot \mathcal{G}^{0\nu}(Q_{\beta\beta}, Z) \cdot \left| \mathcal{M}^{0\nu}(A, Z) \right|^2 \cdot \left| \frac{m_{\beta\beta}}{m_e} \right|^2$$

$$m_{\beta\beta} = \left| \sum_{j=1}^3 m_j U_{ej}^2 \right| = \left| U_{e1}^2 m_1 + U_{e2}^2 e^{i\alpha} m_2 + U_{e3}^2 e^{i\beta} m_3 \right|$$

Effective Majorana Mass

Neutrinoless Double Beta Decay

The international effort to observe neutrinoless double beta decay is increasing and new experiments are growing.

AMORE 🇰🇷 🇨🇳 🇩🇪 🇺🇦 🇸🇮 🇮🇹 🇵🇰

CUPID 🇮🇹 🇺🇸 🇫🇷 🇷🇺 🇨🇳 🇺🇦

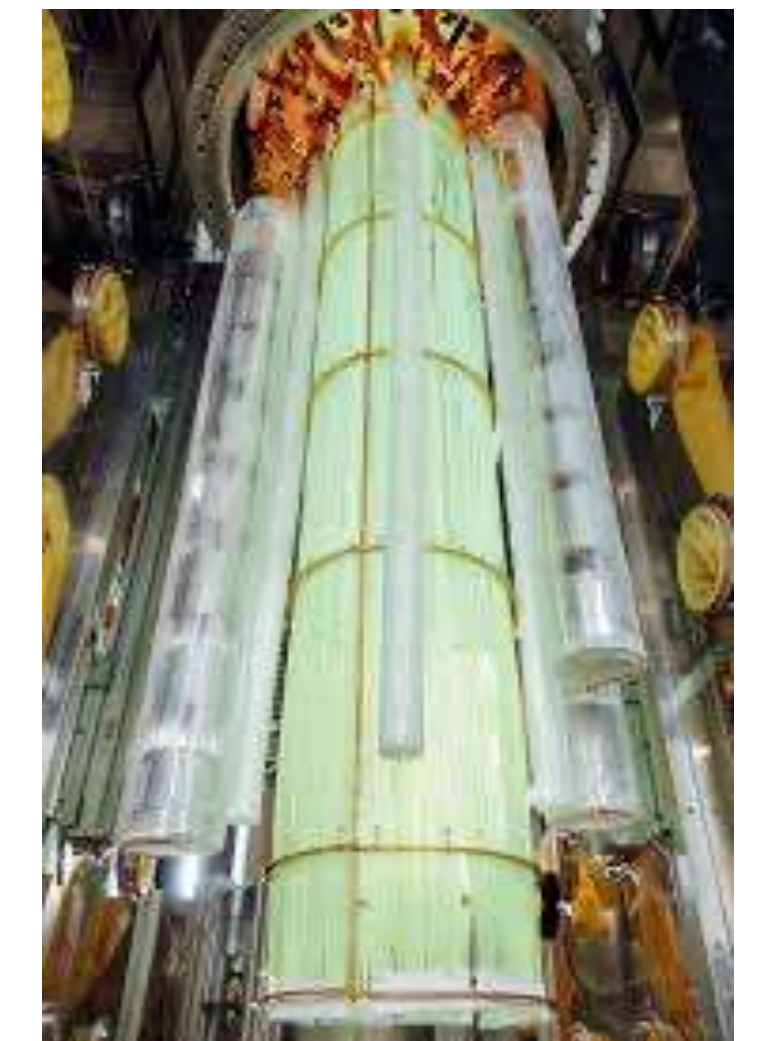
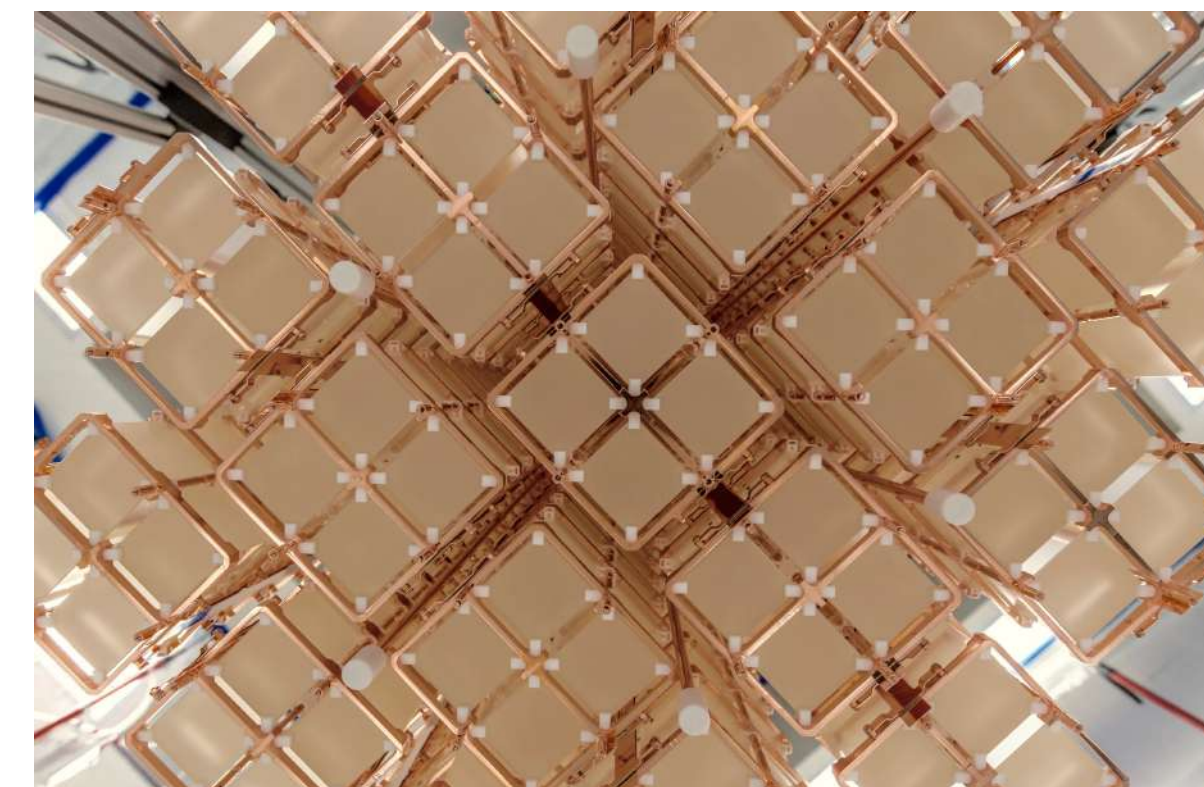
KamLAND-ZEN 🇯🇵 🇺🇸 🇮🇹

LEGEND 🇩🇪 🇺🇸 🇷🇺 🇨🇳 🇮🇹 🇬🇧 🇨🇳 🇨🇭

nEXO 🇺🇸 🇨🇦 🇩🇪 🇷🇺 🇰🇷

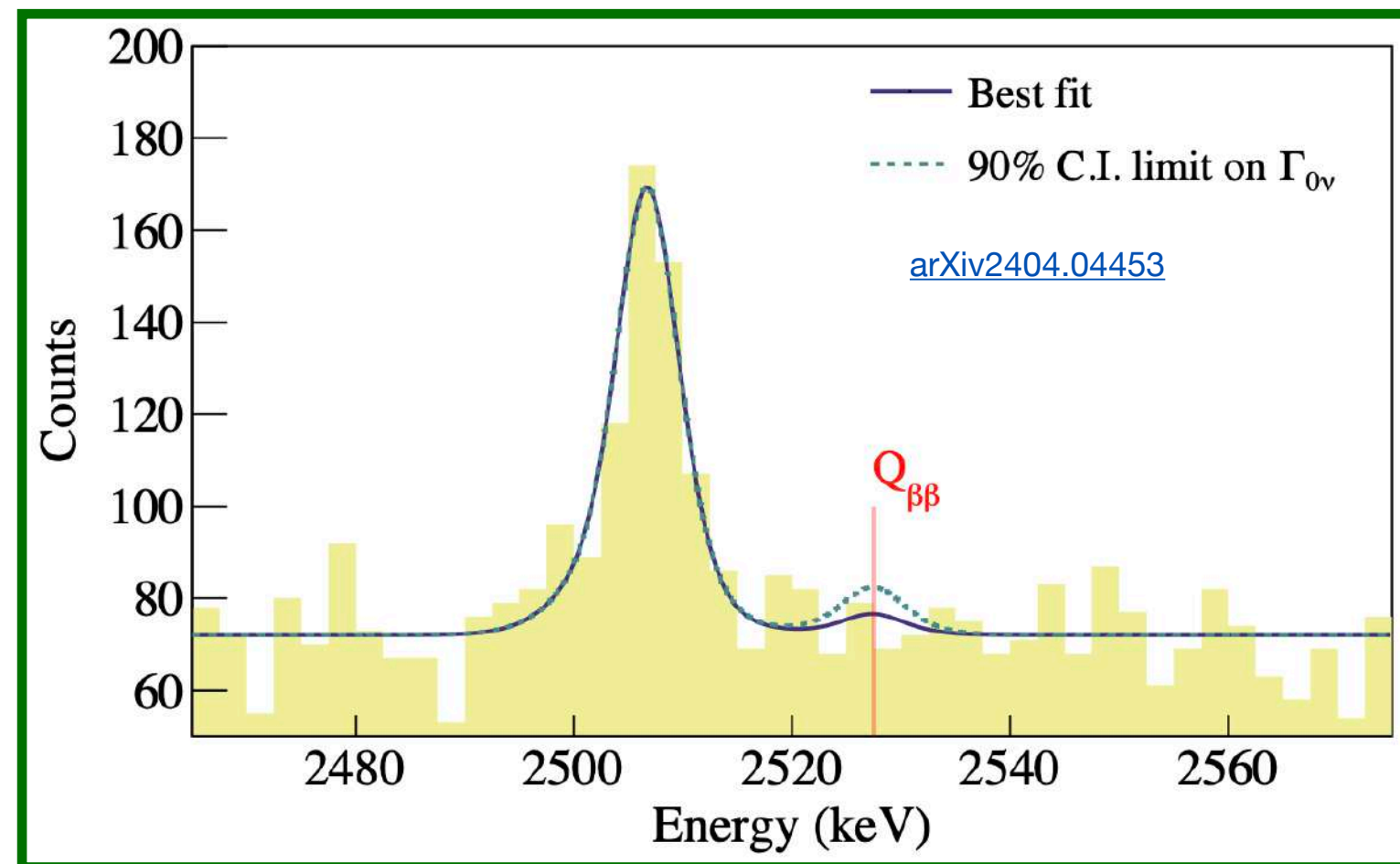
NEXT 🇪🇸 🇺🇸 🇵🇹 🇮🇱

SNO+ 🇨🇦 🇩🇪 🇵🇹 🇬🇧 🇺🇸 🇲🇽

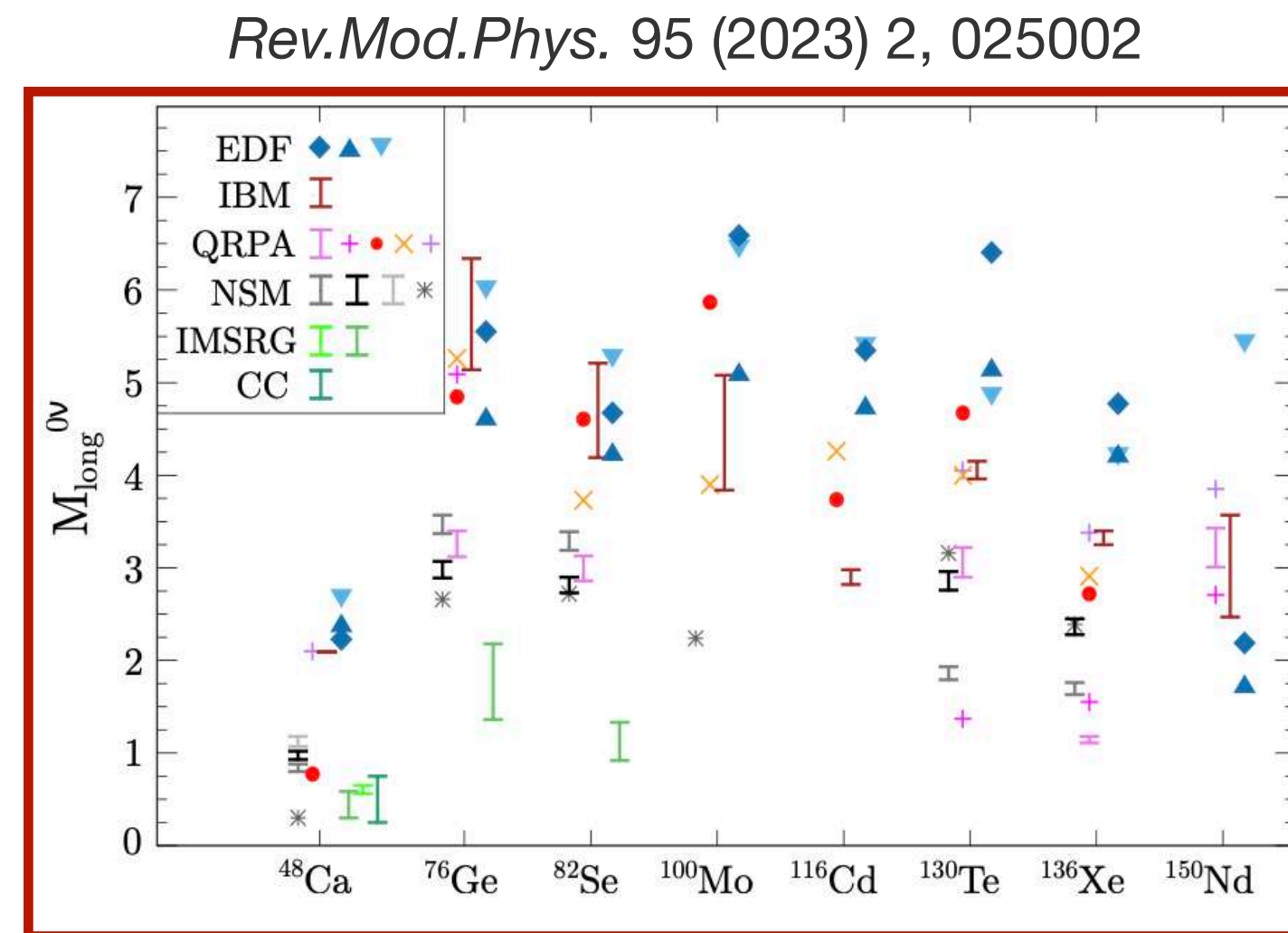


Neutrinoless Double Beta Decay

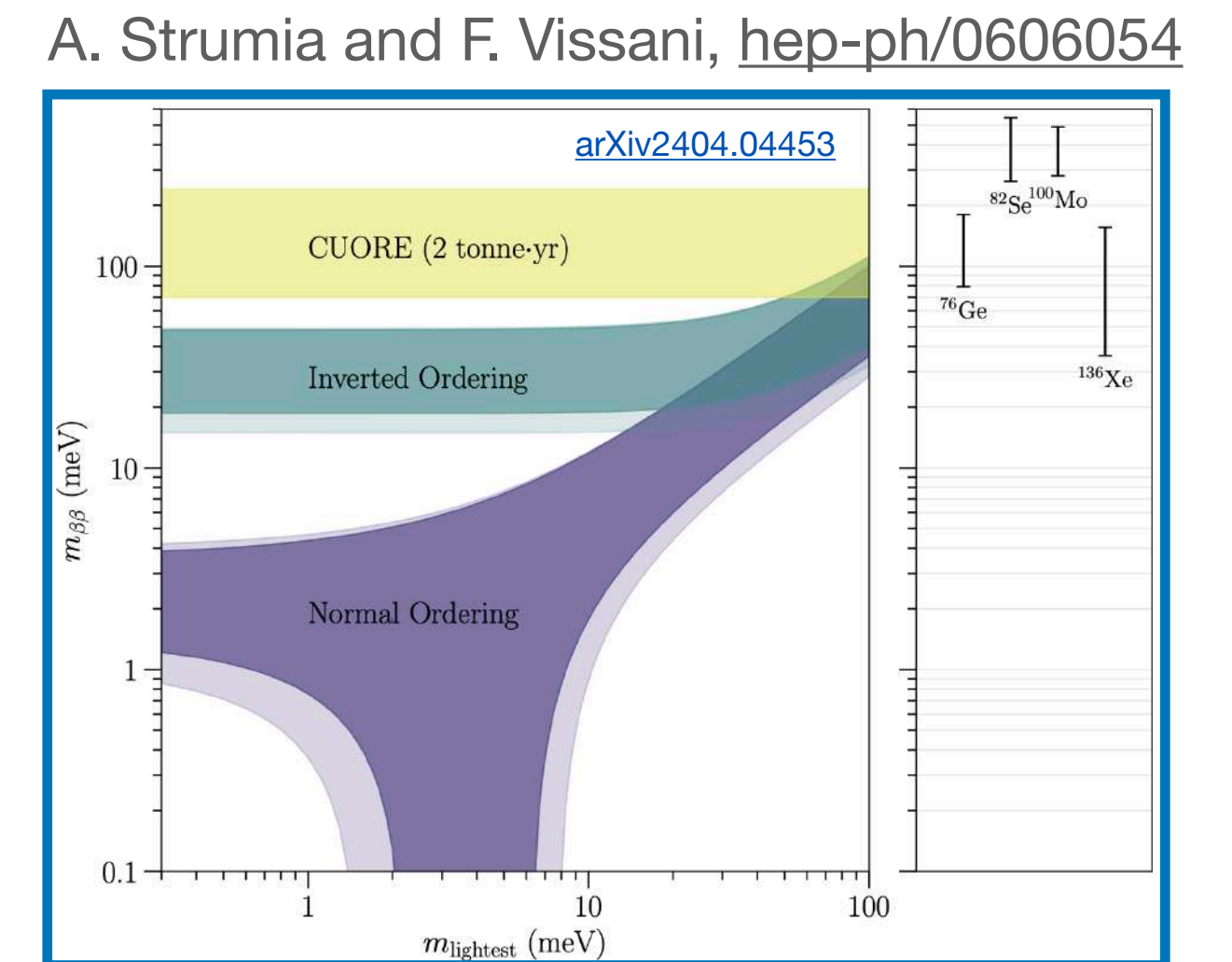
$$\left(T_{1/2}^{0\nu}\right)^{-1} = g_A^4 \cdot \mathcal{G}^{0\nu}(Q_{\beta\beta}, Z) \cdot \left|\mathcal{M}^{0\nu}(A, Z)\right|^2 \cdot \left|\frac{m_{\beta\beta}}{m_e}\right|^2$$



A single experimental limit on the half-life...



...due to the uncertainty on the NME...



...results in a wide interval!

Also the isotope down-selection is affected by this uncertainty!

⁷⁶Ge (GERDA) - Phys. Rev. Lett., 125:252502, 2020

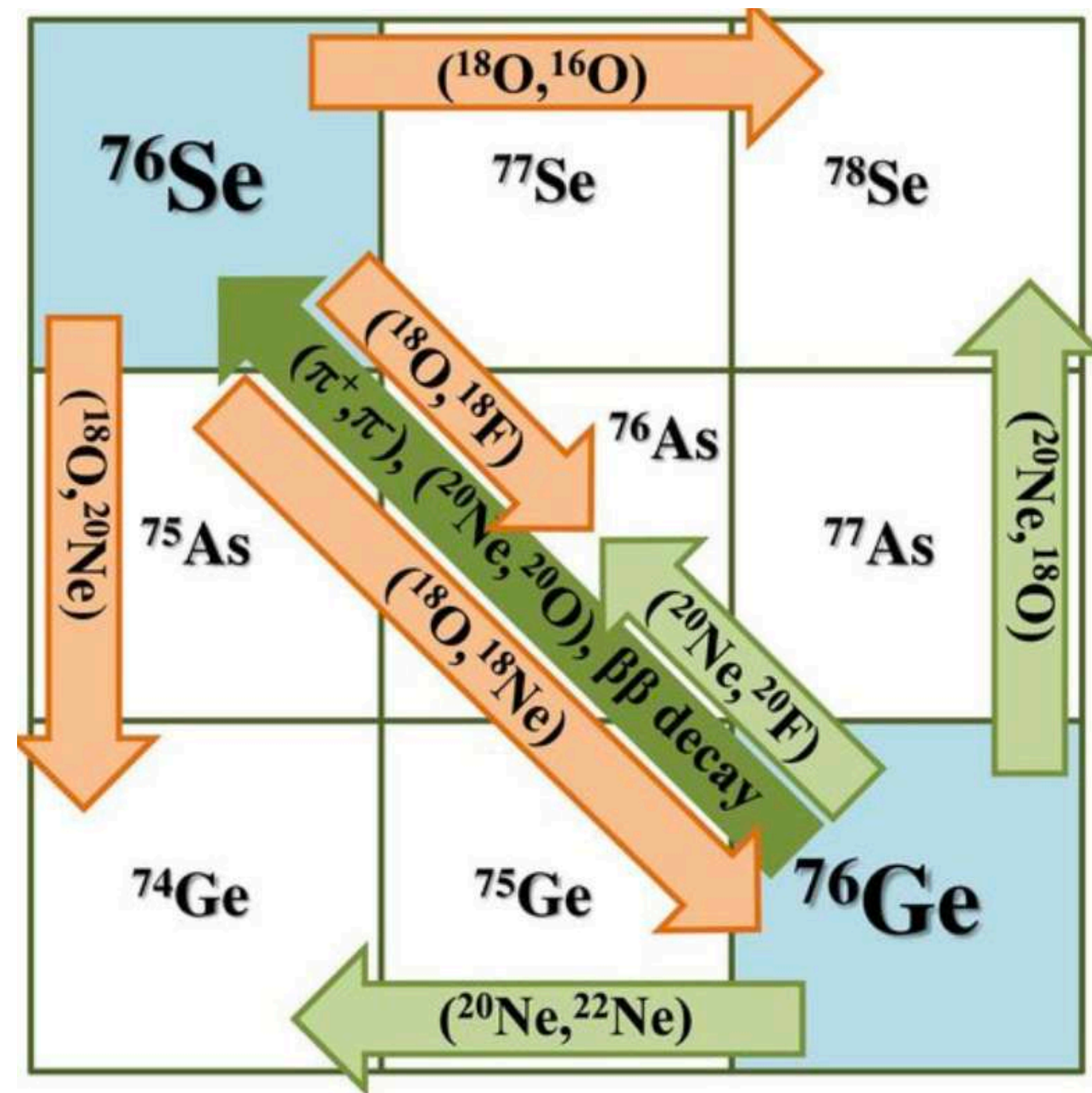
⁸²Se (CUPID-0) - Phys. Rev. Lett., 129(11):111801, 2022

¹⁰⁰Mo (CUPID-Mo) - Eur. Phys. J. C, 82(11):1033, 2022

¹³⁶Xe (KamLAND-Zen) - Phys. Rev. Lett., 130(5):051801, 2023

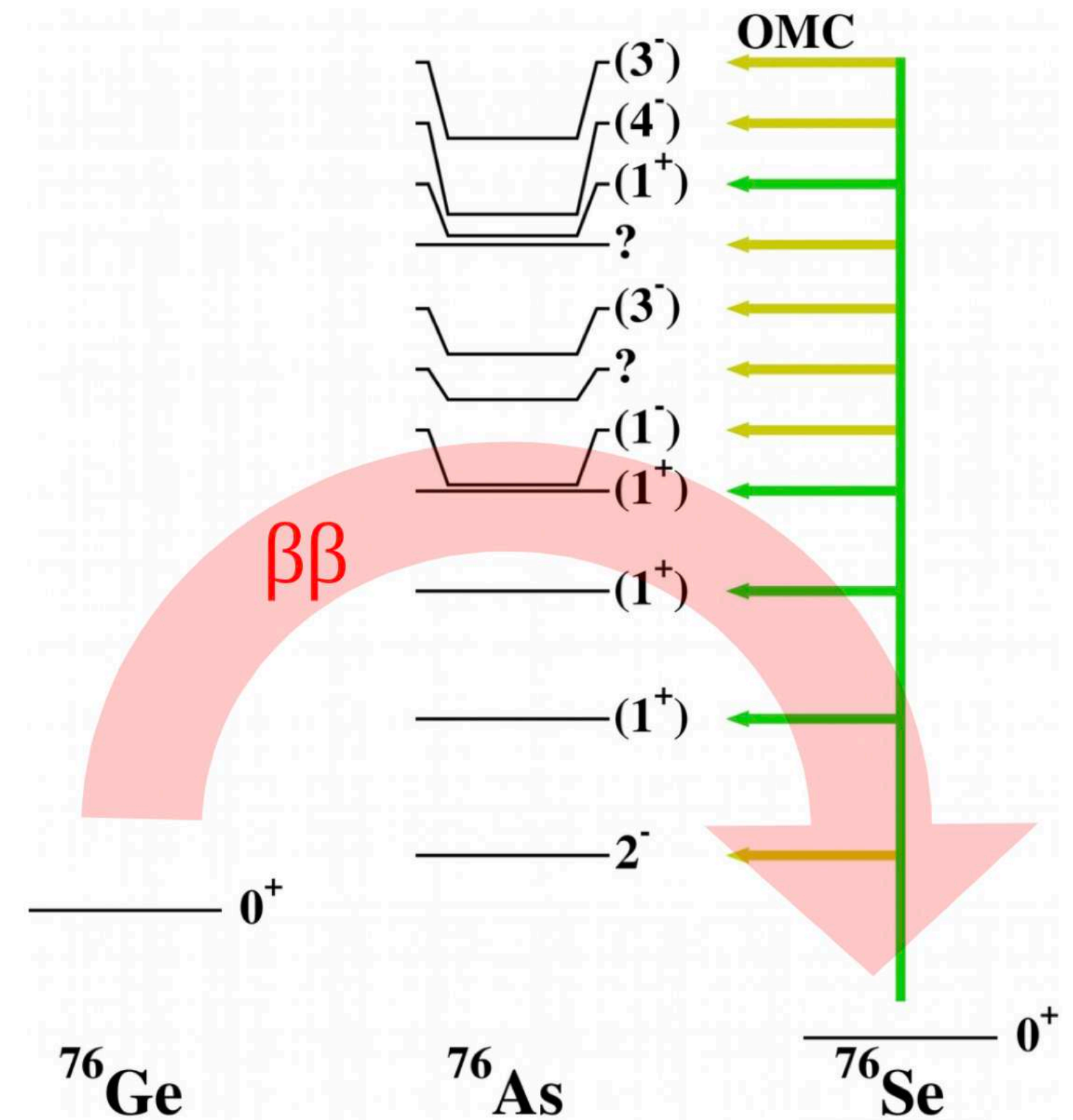
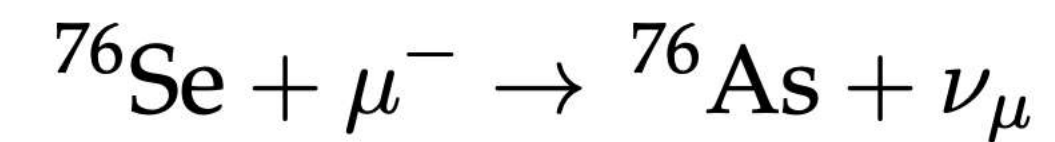
Data-driven improvements of Nuclear Models

Double Charge Exchange (DCE)

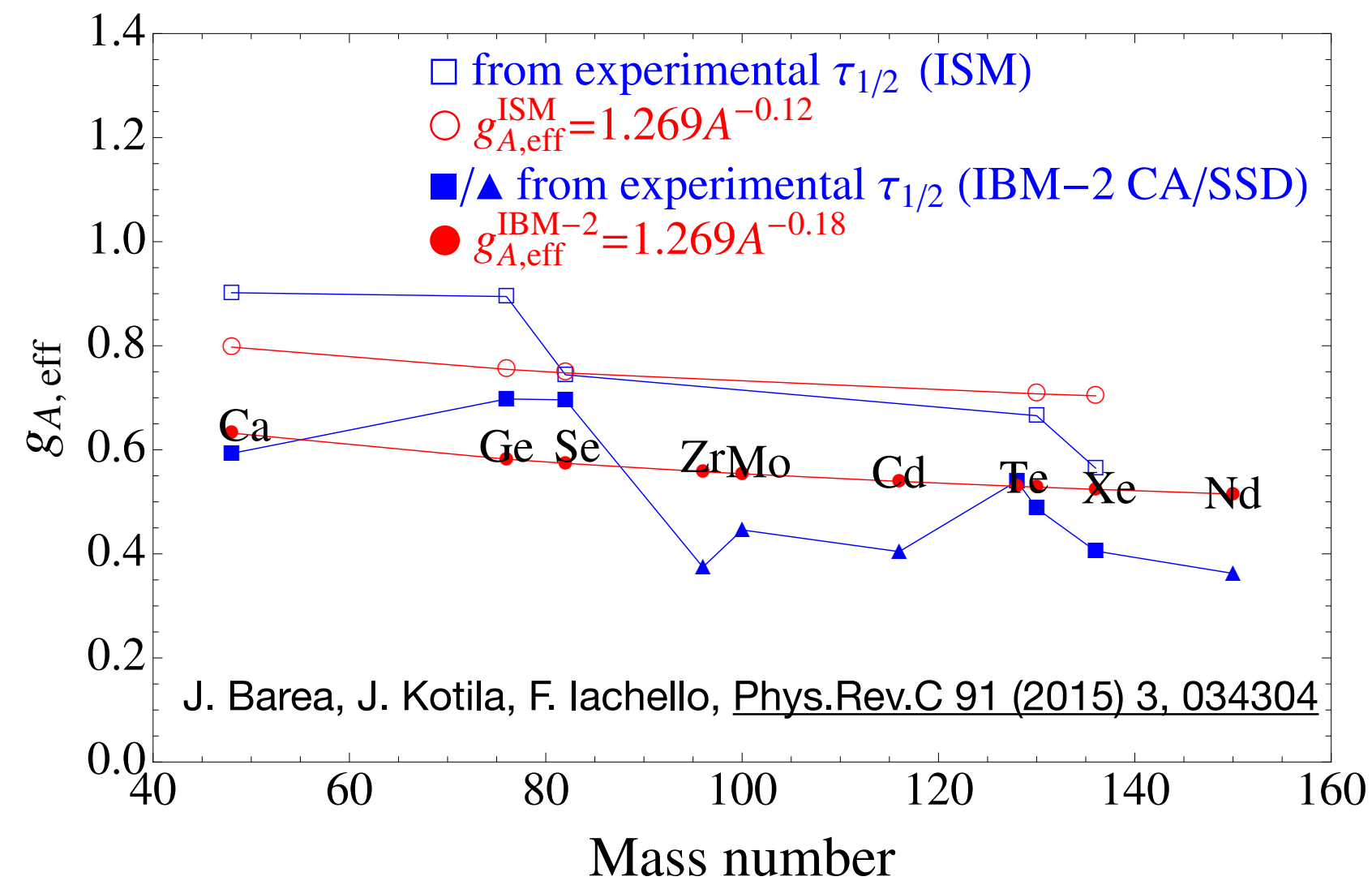
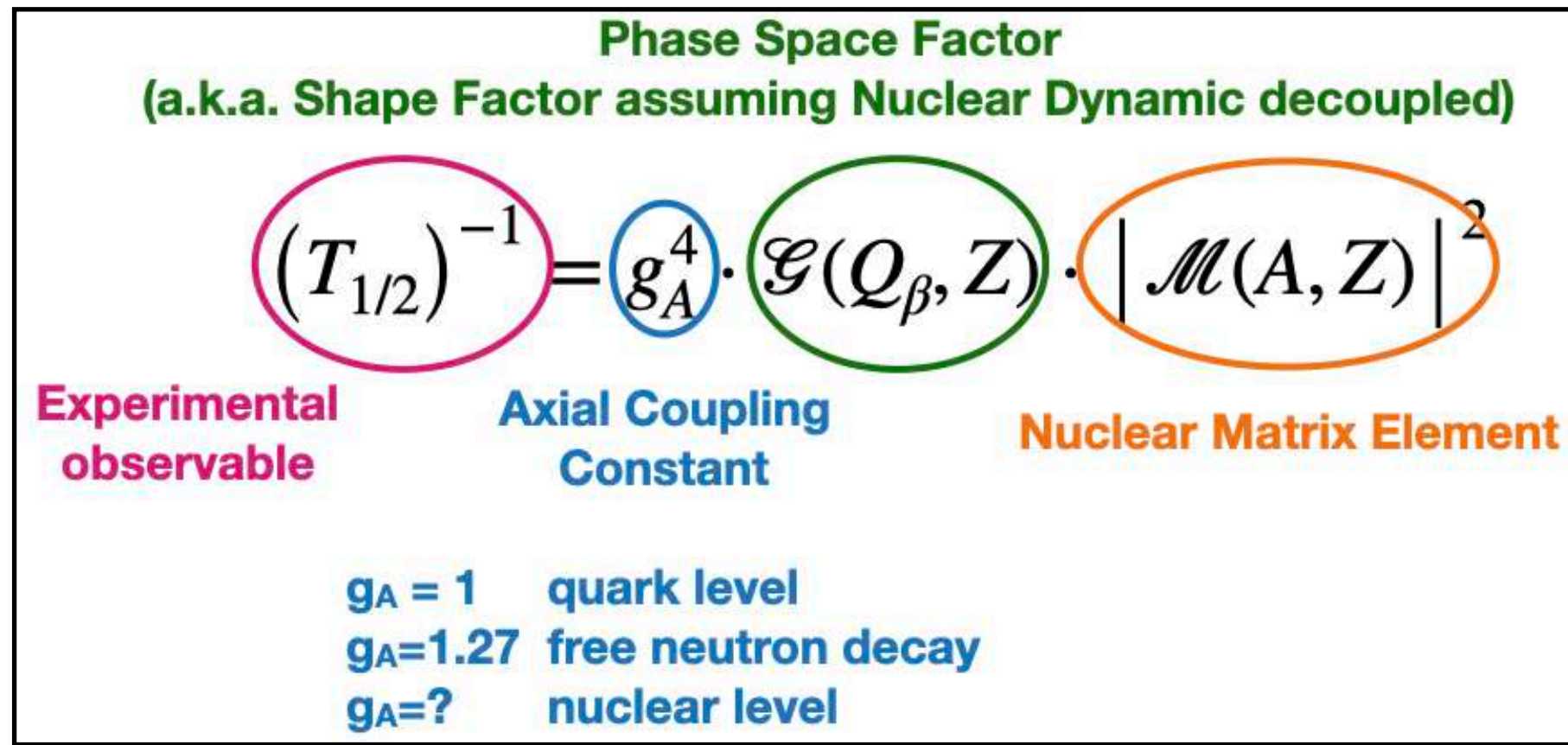


See Clementina Agodi's talk on NUMEN

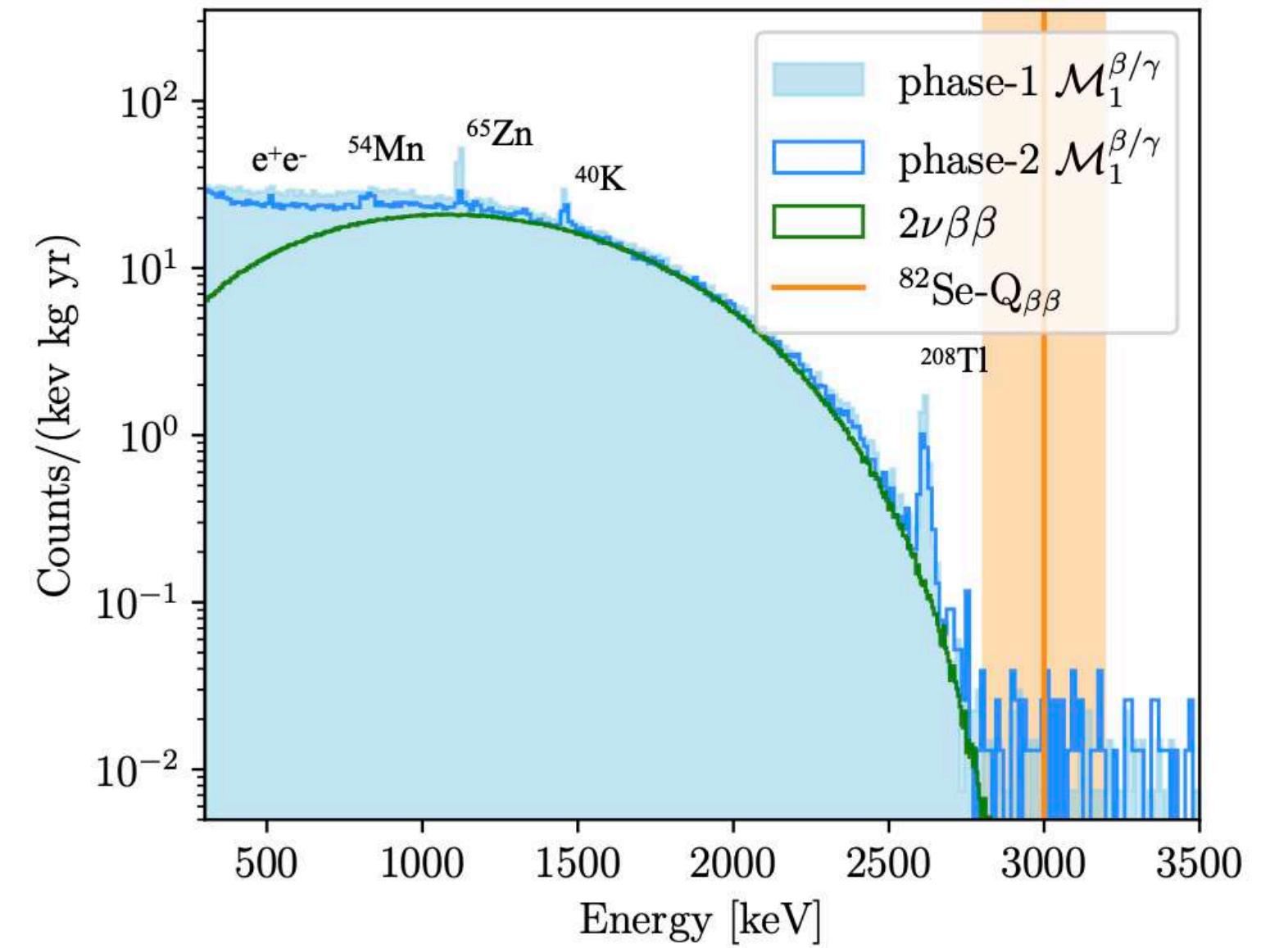
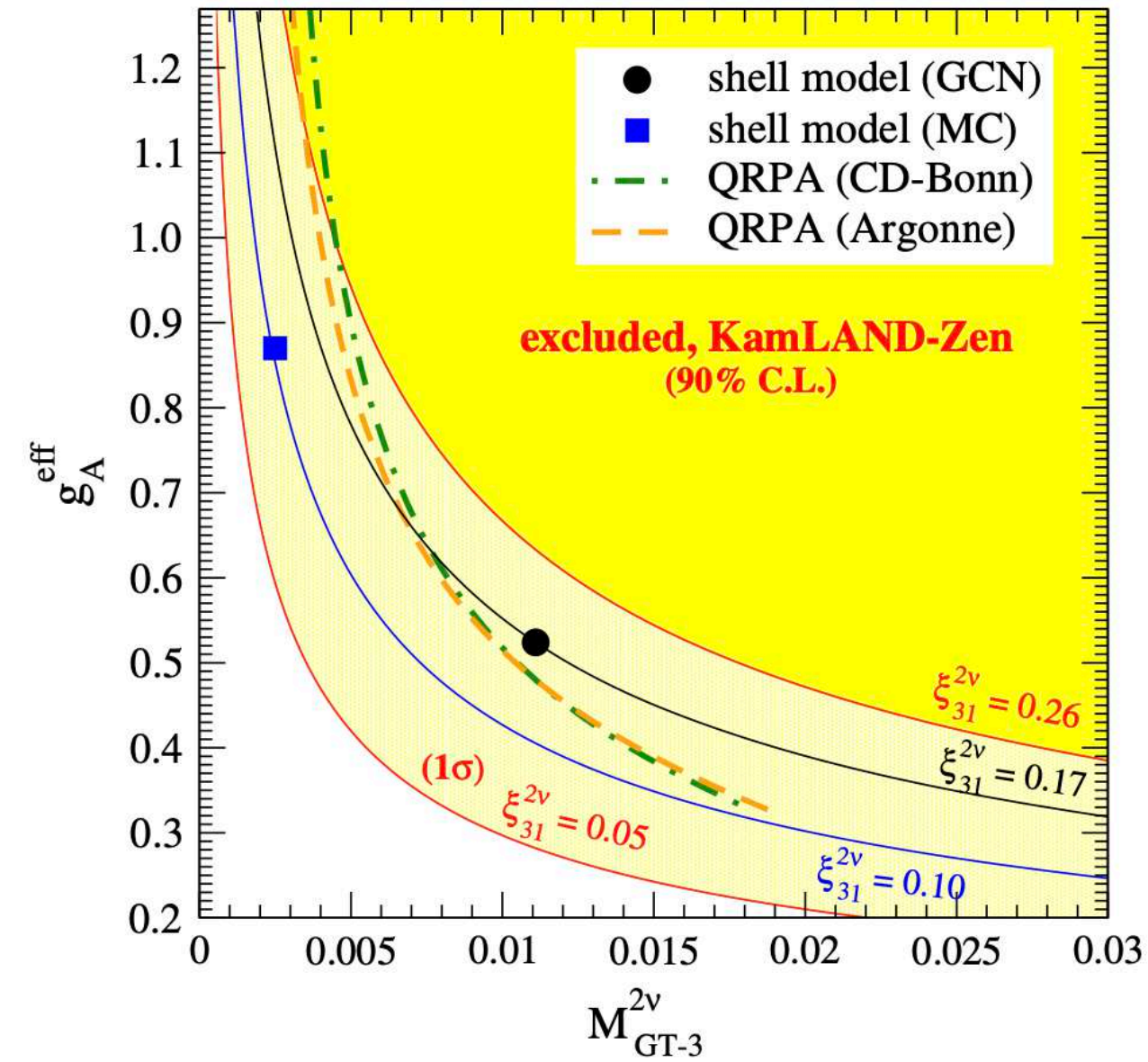
Ordinary Muon Capture (OMC)



Two-neutrinos Double Beta Decay



g_A modeling based on experimental $2\nu\beta\beta$ half-lives only



Precision Spectral Shape Studies of $2\nu\beta\beta$

^{136}Xe (KamLAND-Zen) - [Phys.Rev.Lett. 122 \(2019\) 19, 192501](#)

^{82}Se (CUPID-0) - [Phys.Rev.Lett. 131 \(2023\) 22, 222501](#)

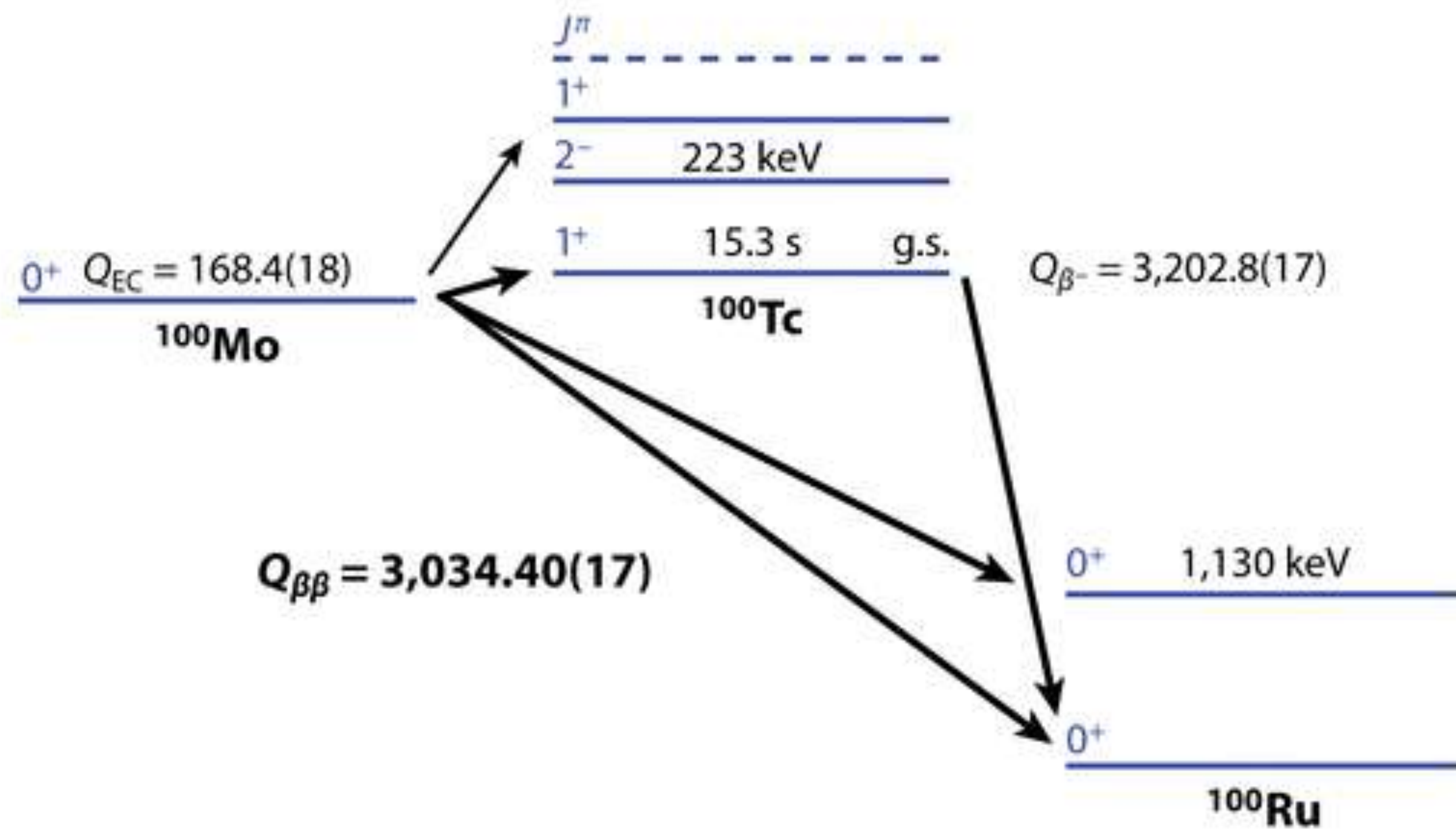
^{100}Mo (CUPID-Mo) - [Phys.Rev.Lett. 131 \(2023\) 16, 162501](#)

Using the **improved description** of $2\nu\beta\beta$ presented in
 F. Šimković *et al.* - [Phys.Rev.C 97 \(2018\) 3, 034315](#)

Deeper comparison with theory

6 Effective nuclear matrix elements as a function of g_A

Forbidden transitions in NLDBD



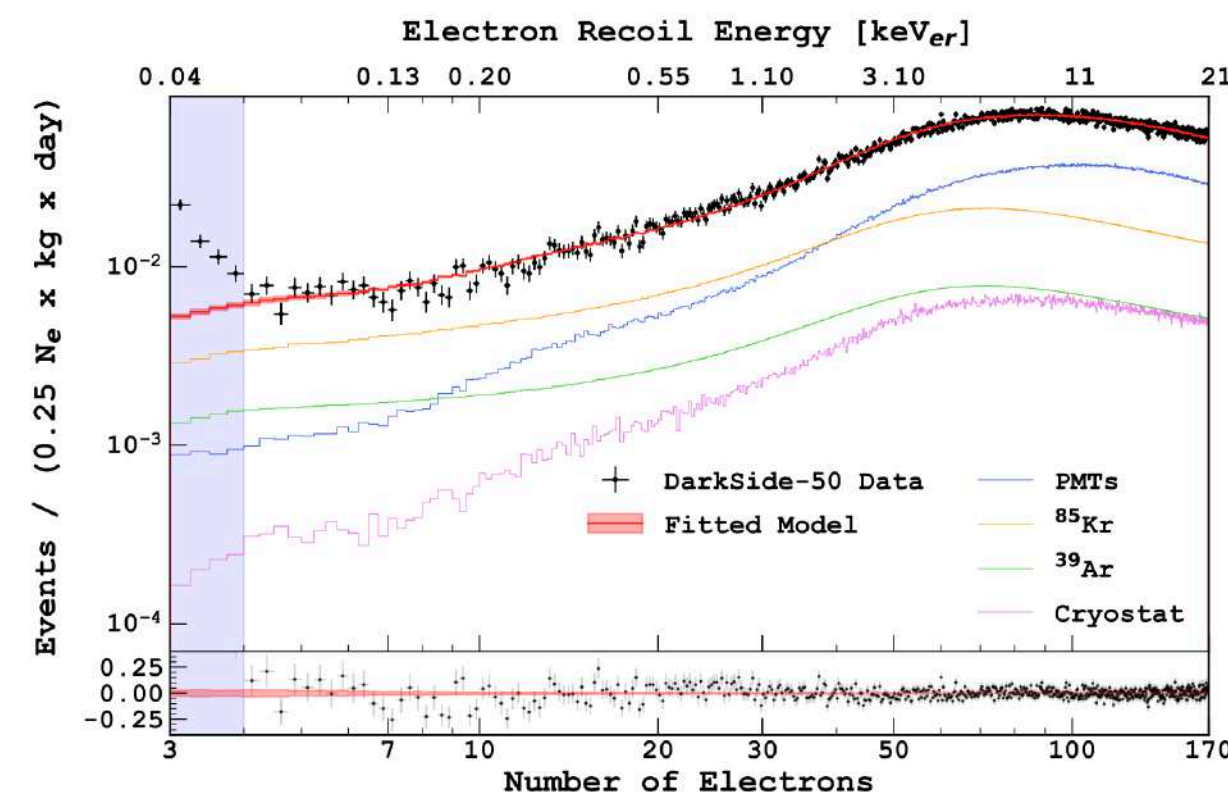
Forbidden β -decays are interesting for NLDBD since it **proceeds through forbidden virtual β -transitions** involving the excited states in the intermediate nucleus with **high multi-polarities**.

Caveat for extrapolation to NLDBD:

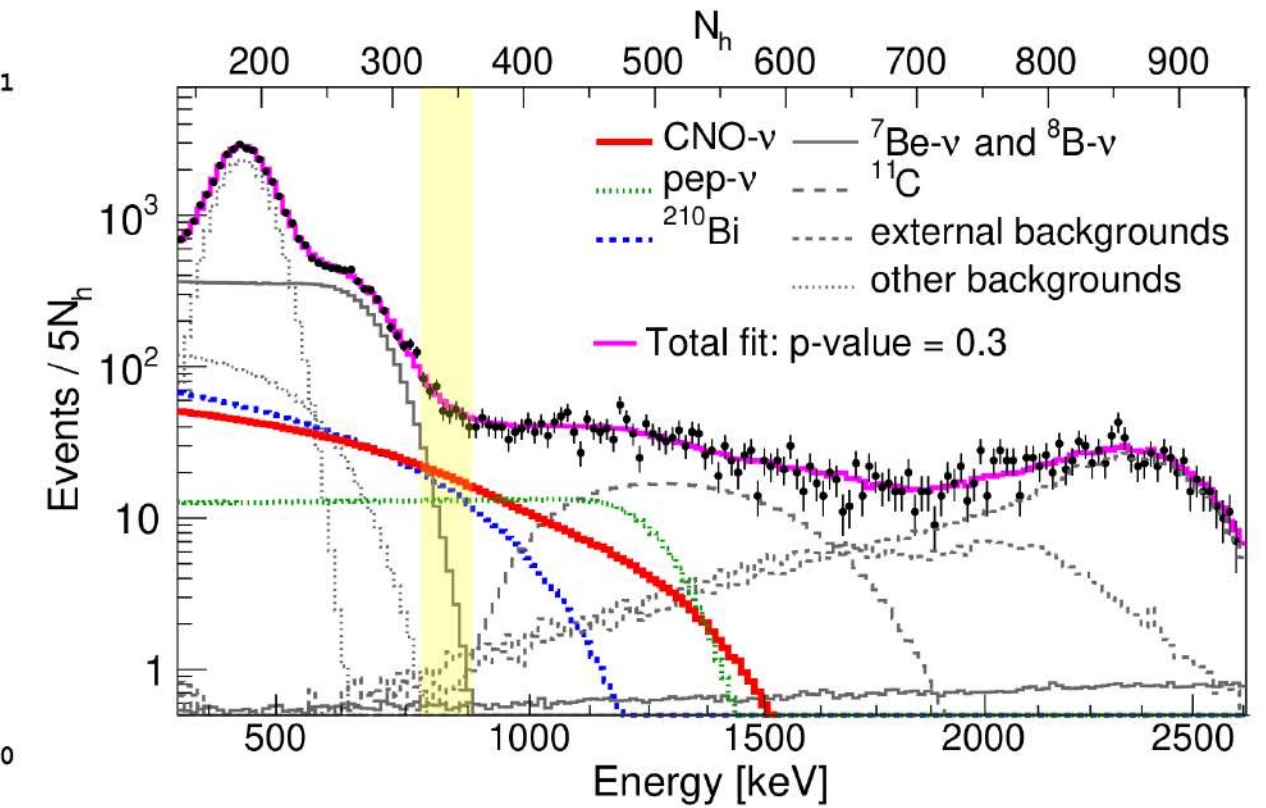
- only 1^+ states of the intermediate nucleus participate in the $2\nu\beta\beta$ (apparently only the first - Single State Dominance)
- β -decays and $2\nu\beta\beta$ feature a lower transferred momentum with respect to NLDBD

Further Motivations

- **Background in rare event search**
 - Background source in dark matter search
 - ^{40}K , ^{42}Ar , ^{39}Ar , Pb isotopes
 - Ingredients in NLDBD background modeling
 - $^{90}\text{Sr}/^{90}\text{Y}$, ^{210}Bi , ^{40}K
 - Background in Neutrino experiment
 - ^{210}Bi



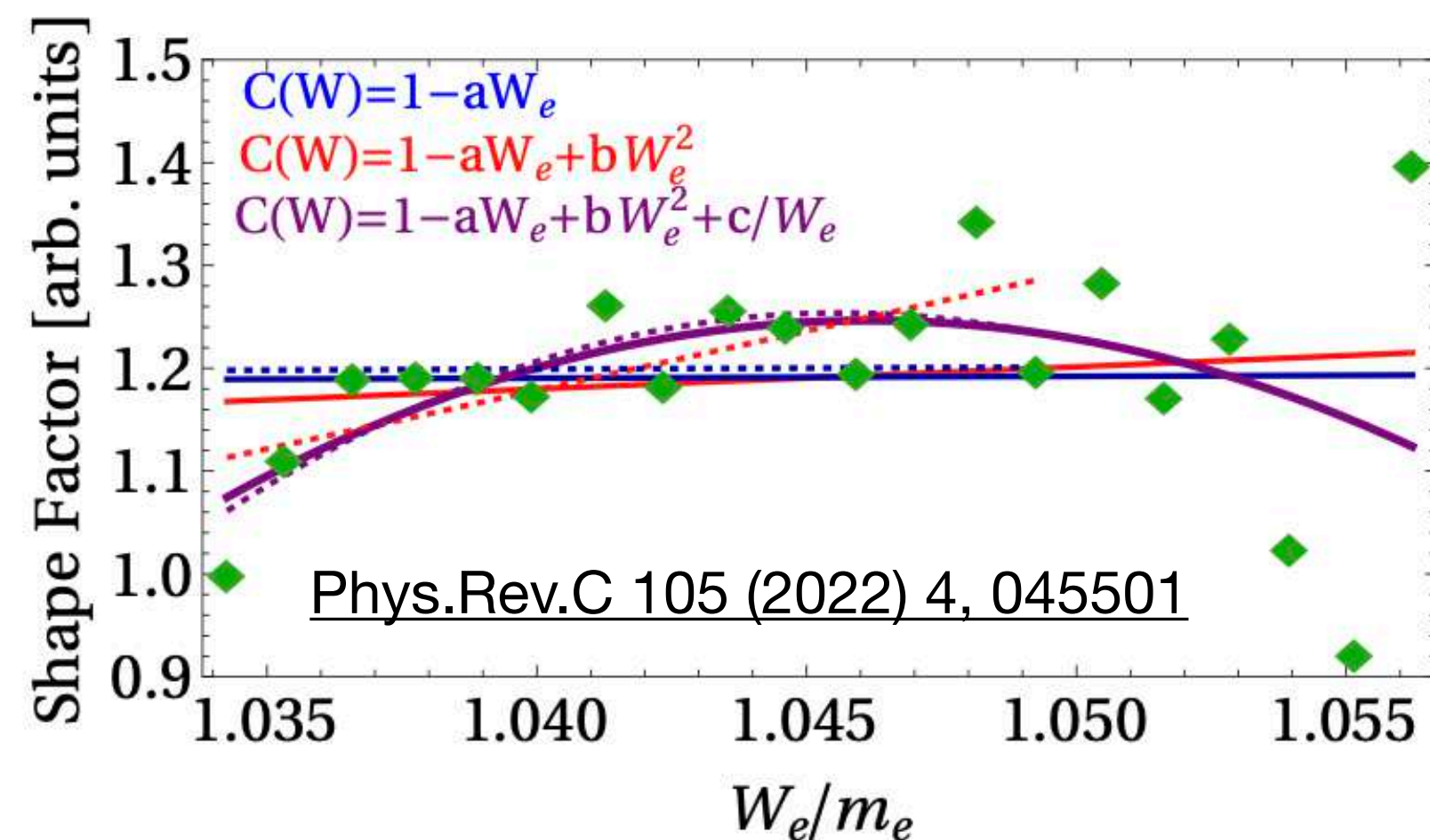
^{39}Ar in Ar-based detector



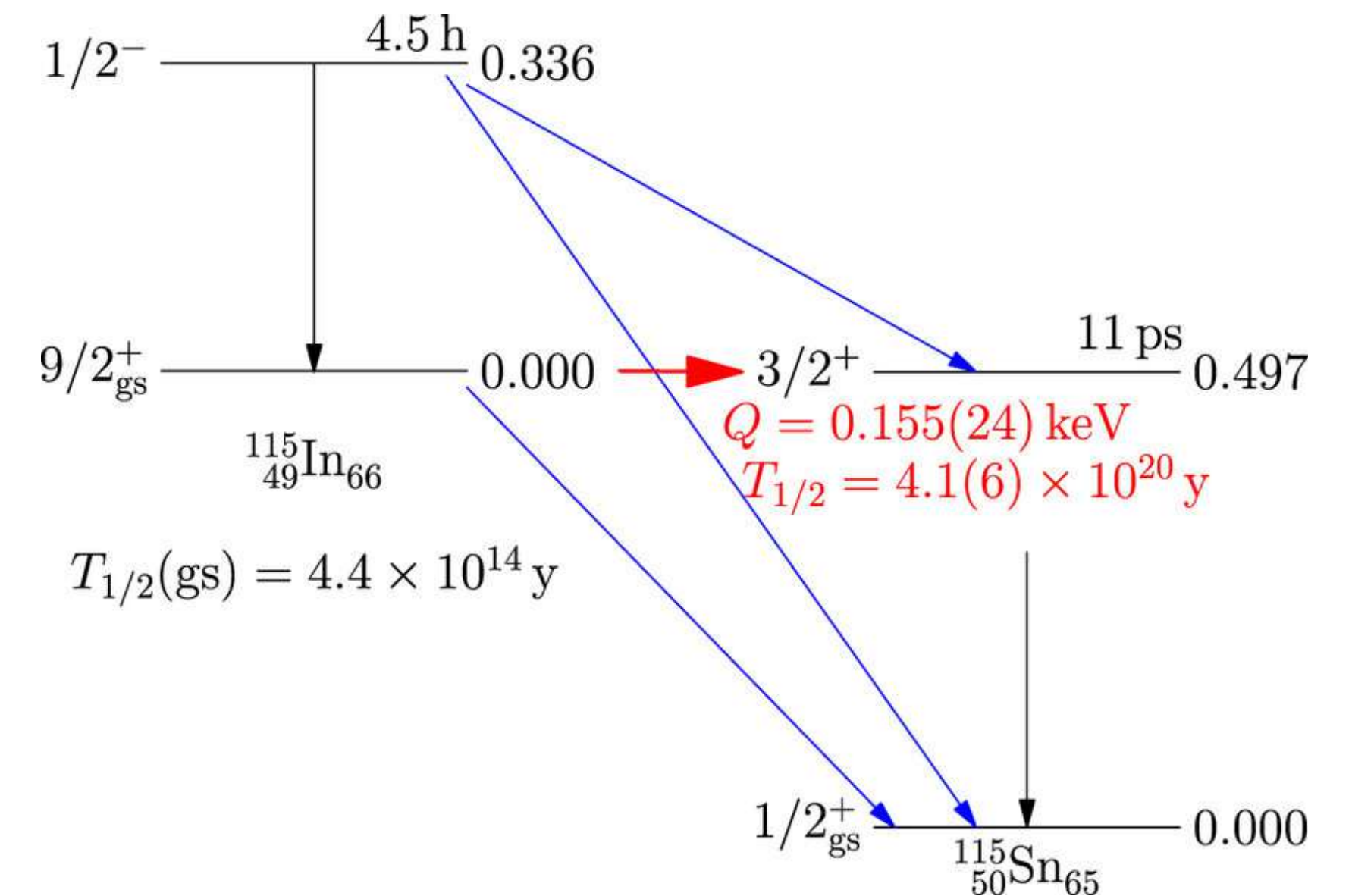
^{210}Bi in Liquid Scintillators

- **Low Q-value decays**

- Cosmic Neutrino Background detection => ^{151}Sm , ^{171}Tm
- Neutrino mass => ^{115}In decay on $^{115}\text{Sn}^*$



^{171}Tm shape factor



Forbidden Beta Decays: Indium-115

Indium-115

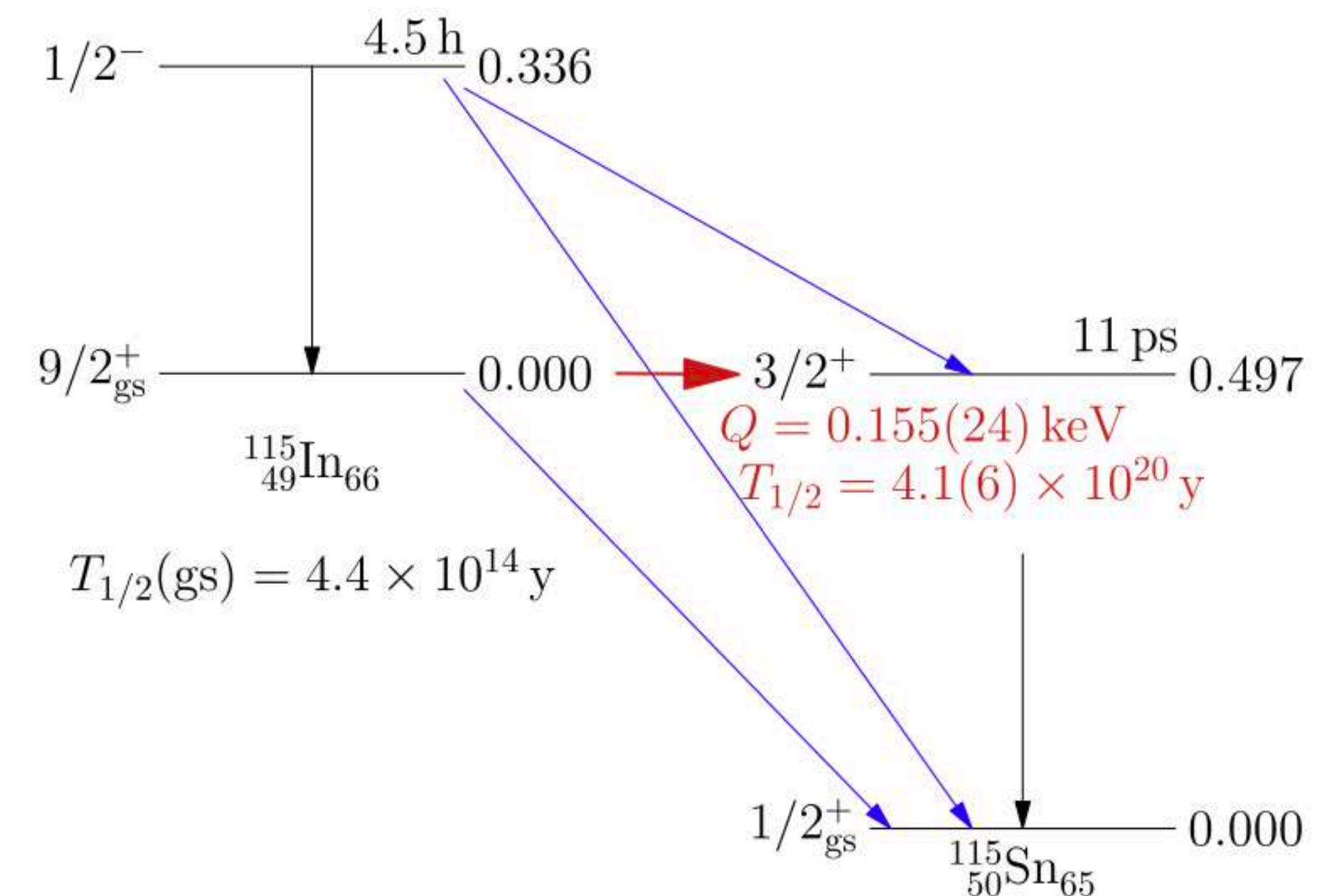
Situation in *2022*

Only three *historical* measurements:

- *G.B. Beard and W. H. Kelly, PR 122 (1961) 1576*
 - $T_{1/2} = (6.9 \pm 1.5) \times 10^{14}$ yr
 - Threshold 50 keV
 - **No spectral shape**
- *D. E. Watt, R. N. Glover, Phil.Mag 7, 105 (1962)*
 - $T_{1/2} = (5.1 \pm 0.4) \times 10^{14}$ yr
 - **No spectral shape**
- *L. Pfeiffer et al., PRC 19 (1979) 1035*
 - $T_{1/2} = (4.41 \pm 0.25) \times 10^{14}$ yr
 - Spectral shape but with not clear background subtraction
 - Threshold not clear

New low-background measurements needed!

Q-value	Half-life	Classification
496 keV	4.41×10^{14} yr	$\frac{9^+}{2} \rightarrow \frac{1^+}{2} \quad \Delta J^{\Delta\pi} = 4^+$

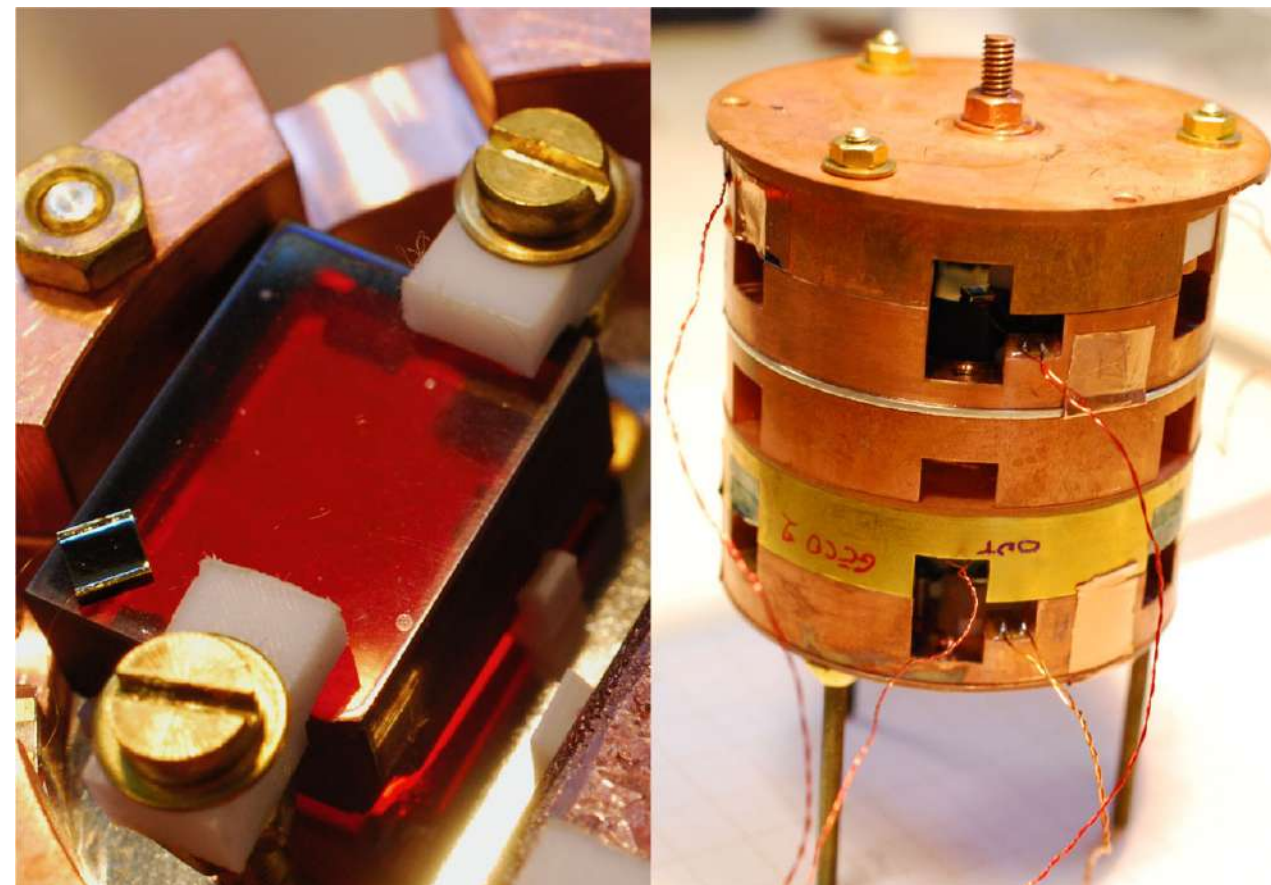


Very good experimental conditions:

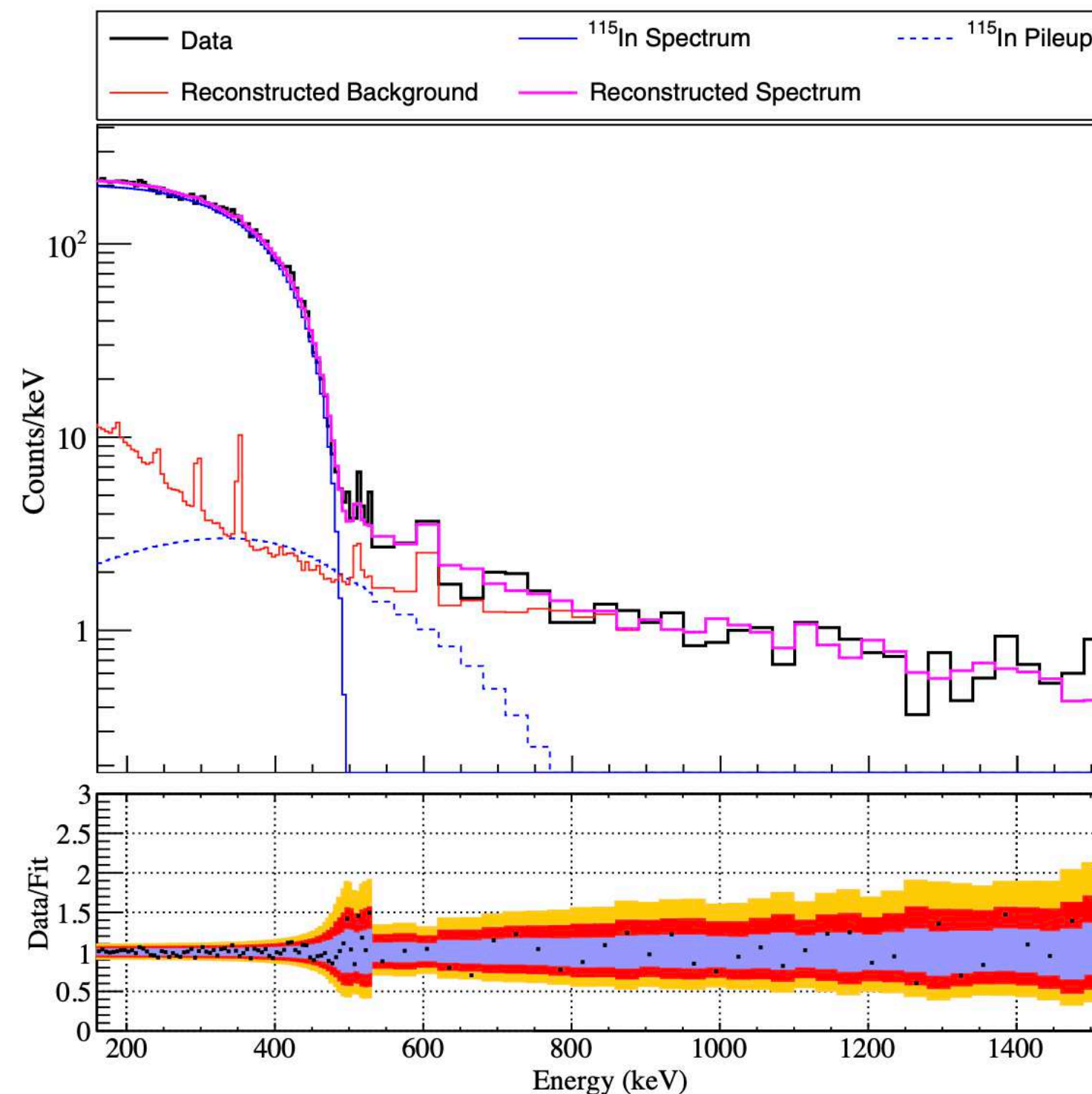
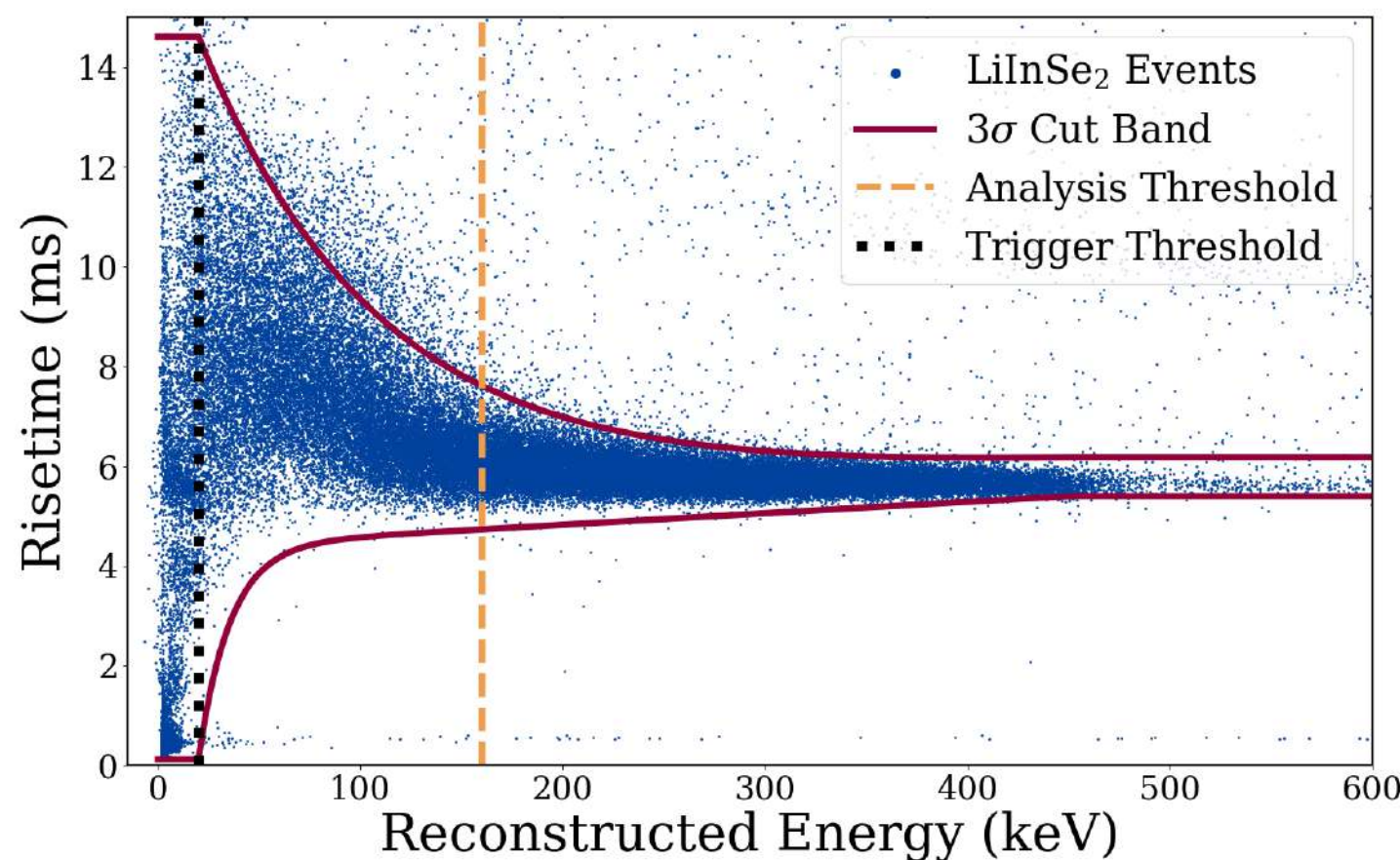
- High natural abundance i.a. = 95.71%
- Embedded in crystal as InI, InO, LiInSe₂
- Excellent radiopurity levels

A new measurement (MIT/Berkeley/CNRS)

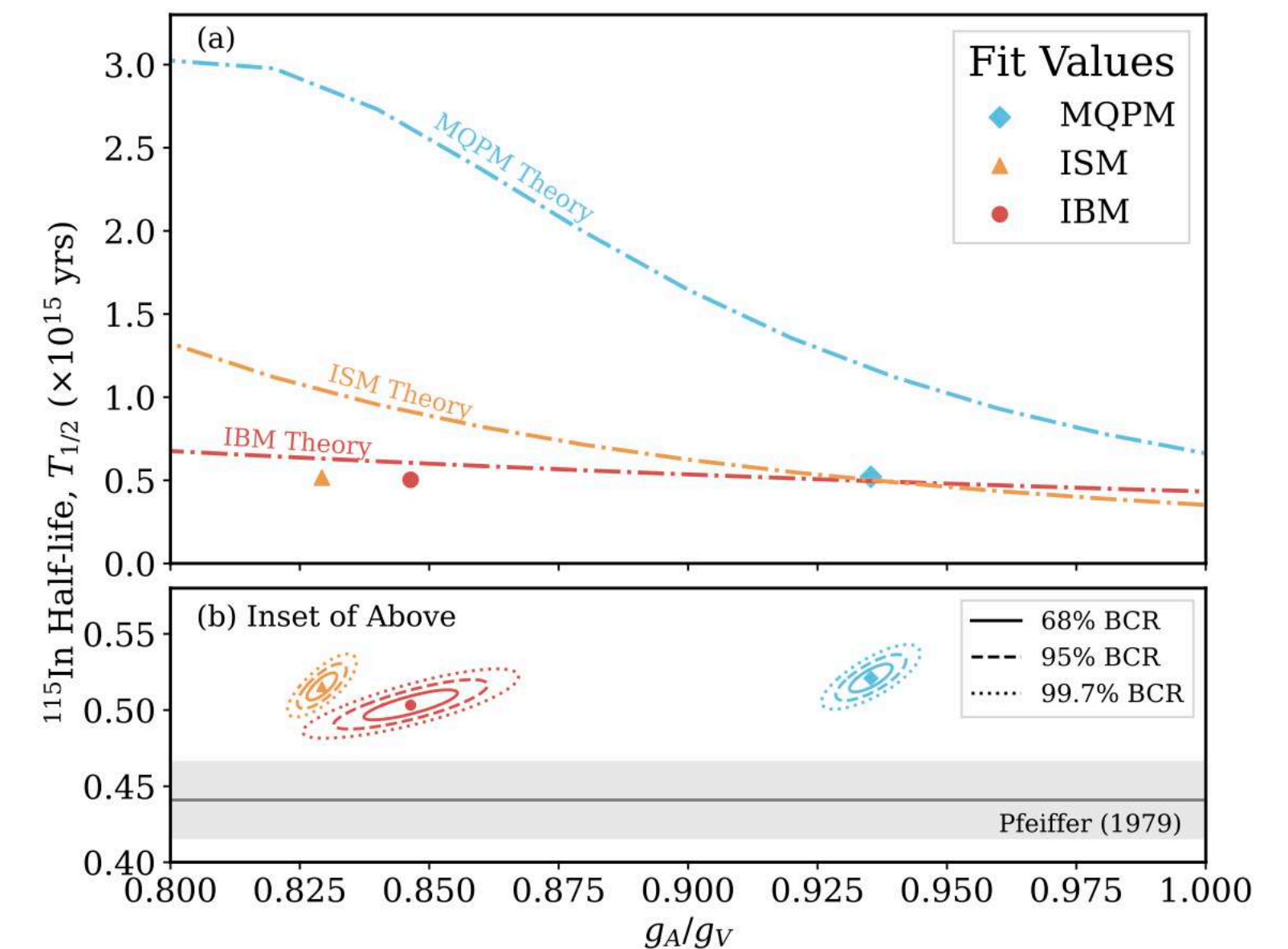
- LiInSe₂ operated as cryogenic calorimeter
- Excellent performance but high rate at low energy
- High analysis threshold (160 keV)



Phys. Rev. Lett. 129, 232502 (2022)

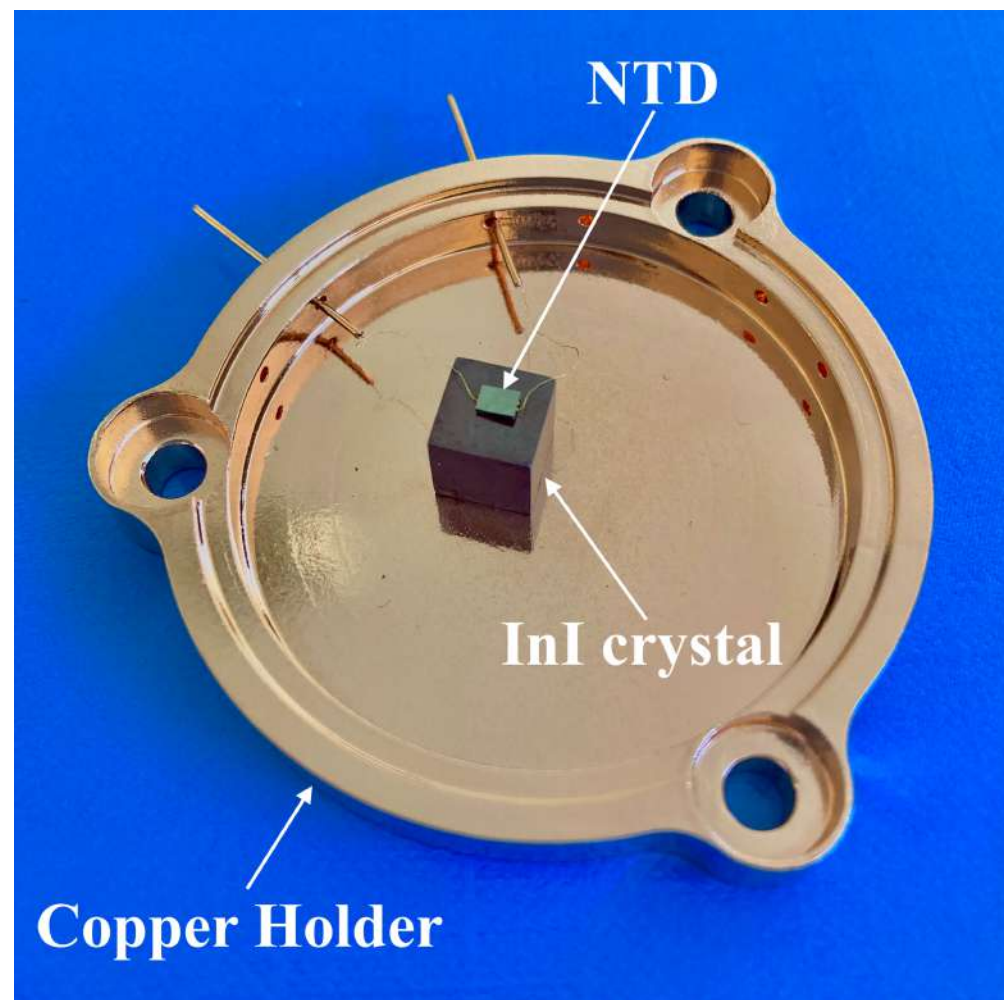


Model	g_A/g_V	$T_{1/2}^{115\text{In}}$ (10^{14} yr)	Reduced χ^2
ISM	0.830 ± 0.002	5.177 ± 0.060	1.58
IBM	0.845 ± 0.006	5.031 ± 0.065	1.50
MQPM	0.936 ± 0.003	5.222 ± 0.061	1.60
Pfeiffer <i>et al.</i> [42]		4.41 ± 0.25	
Watt and Glover [70]		5.1 ± 0.4	
Beard and Kelly [71]		6.9 ± 1.5	



Theory \neq Experiment

In-115 by ACCESS

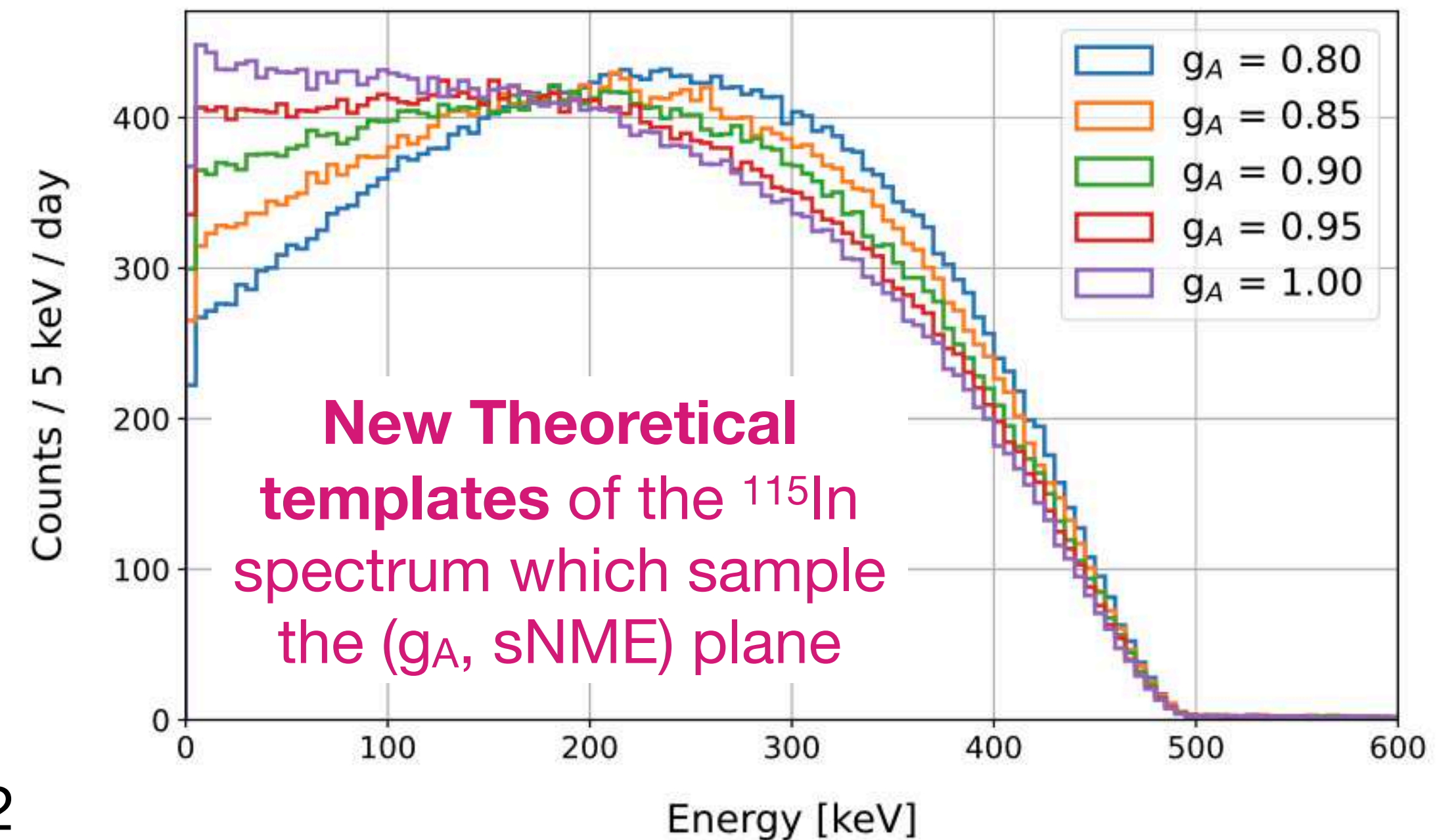
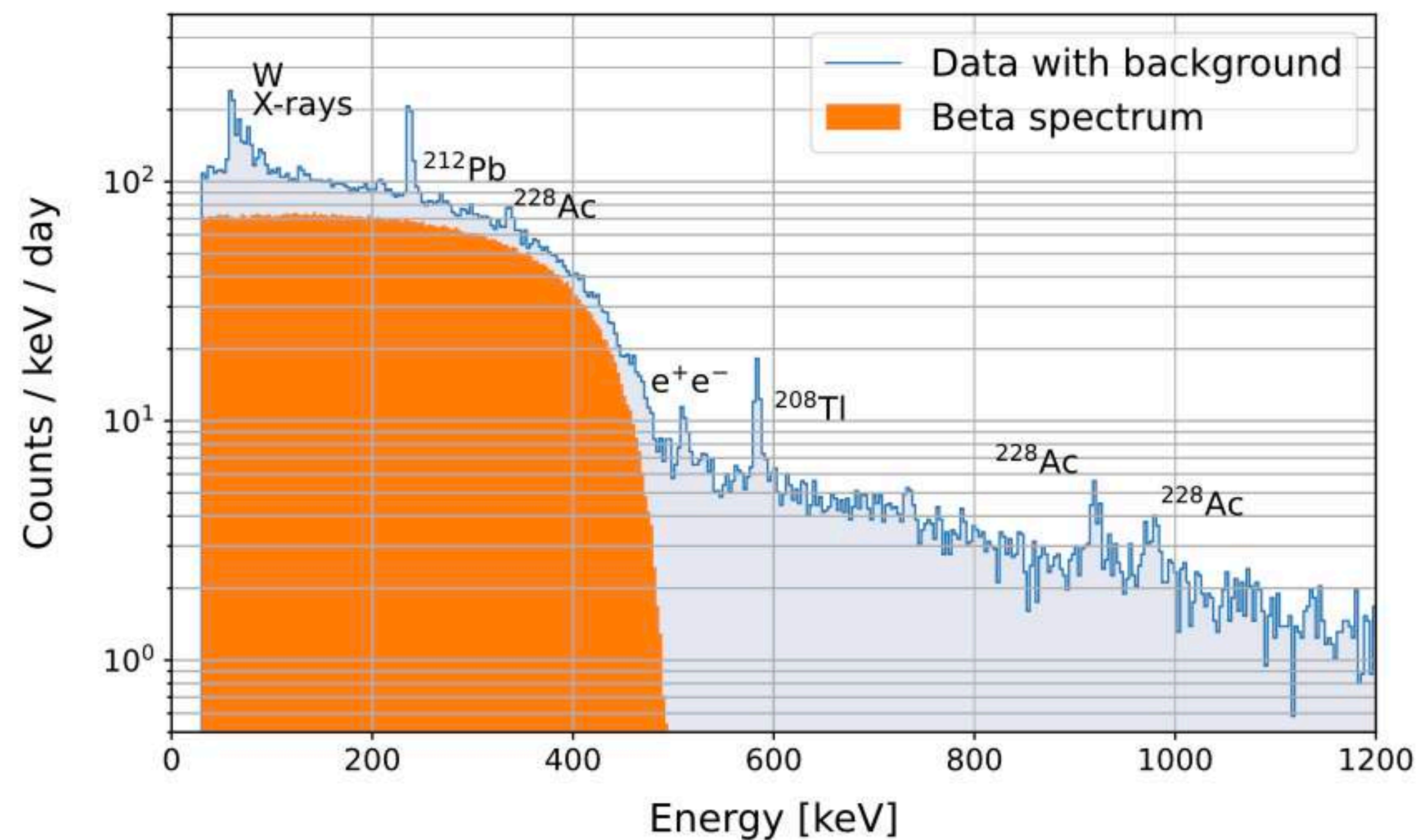


- **Cryogenic calorimeter**
 - Indium Iodine (InI) crystal - $m = 1.91 \text{ g} - 7 \times 7 \times 7 \text{ mm}^3$
 - Semiconductor sensor (CUPID-0 like)
 - Calibration source with ^{232}Th
- **Very good performance**
 - 138 hours of stable data taking
 - Energy threshold of 3.4 keV
 - Energy resolution of 3.9 keV FWHM @ 238.6 keV

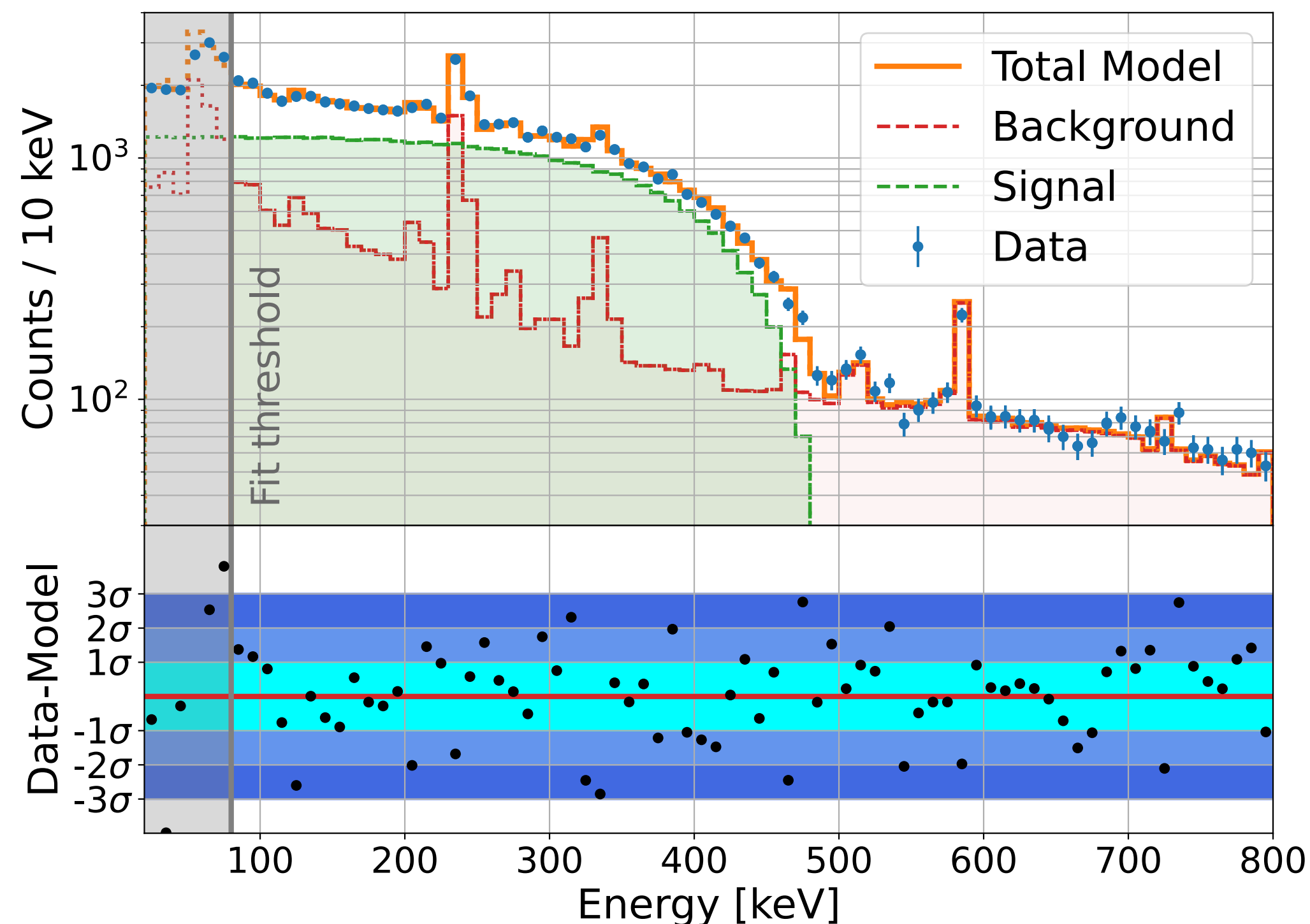


[ACCESS webpage](#)

Eur.Phys.J.Plus 138 (2023) 5, 445



In-115 by ACCESS - Best Fit



- Bayesian fit based on BAT with 5 free parameters:
- 2 bkg components due to the calibration source
 - half-life of ^{115}In
 - g_A in the range [0.60, 1.39]
 - sNME in the range [-5.9, 5.9]
 -

Full results in: [Phys. Rev. Lett. 133, 122501](#)

Model	g_A	sNME	$T_{1/2} [\times 10^{14} \text{ yr}]$	χ_{red}^2
<i>Best fit</i>				
ISM	$0.964^{+0.010}_{-0.006}$	$1.75^{+0.13}_{-0.08}$	5.26 ± 0.06	1.55
MQPM	$1.104^{+0.019}_{-0.017}$	$2.88^{+0.49}_{-0.71}$	5.26 ± 0.07	1.65
IBFM-2	$1.172^{+0.022}_{-0.017}$	$0.81^{+0.52}_{-0.24}$	5.25 ± 0.07	1.66

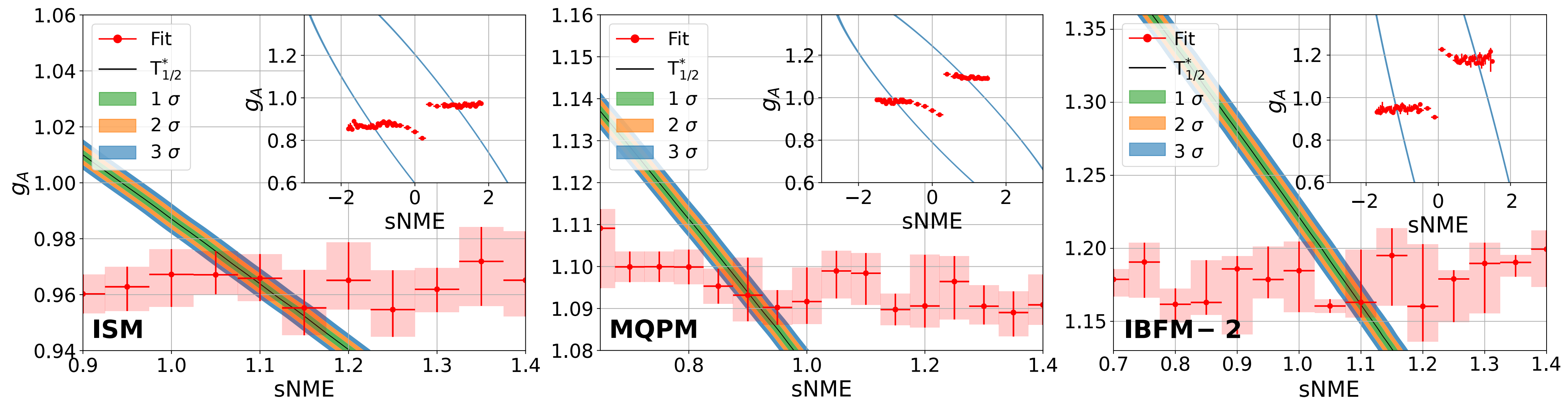
- Different values of g_A for different models
- Lower quenching ($g_A \approx 1$)
- **sNME not fixed**
- **Stable and precise evaluation of $T_{1/2}$**
- **Theory \neq Experiment for $T_{1/2}$**

In-115 by ACCESS - Matched Fit



For each value of sNME, we run the fit to choose the best value of g_A (red points).

The solution in the (g_A , sNME) plane is given by the interception of the red line (exp.) and the half-life ellipse (theory).

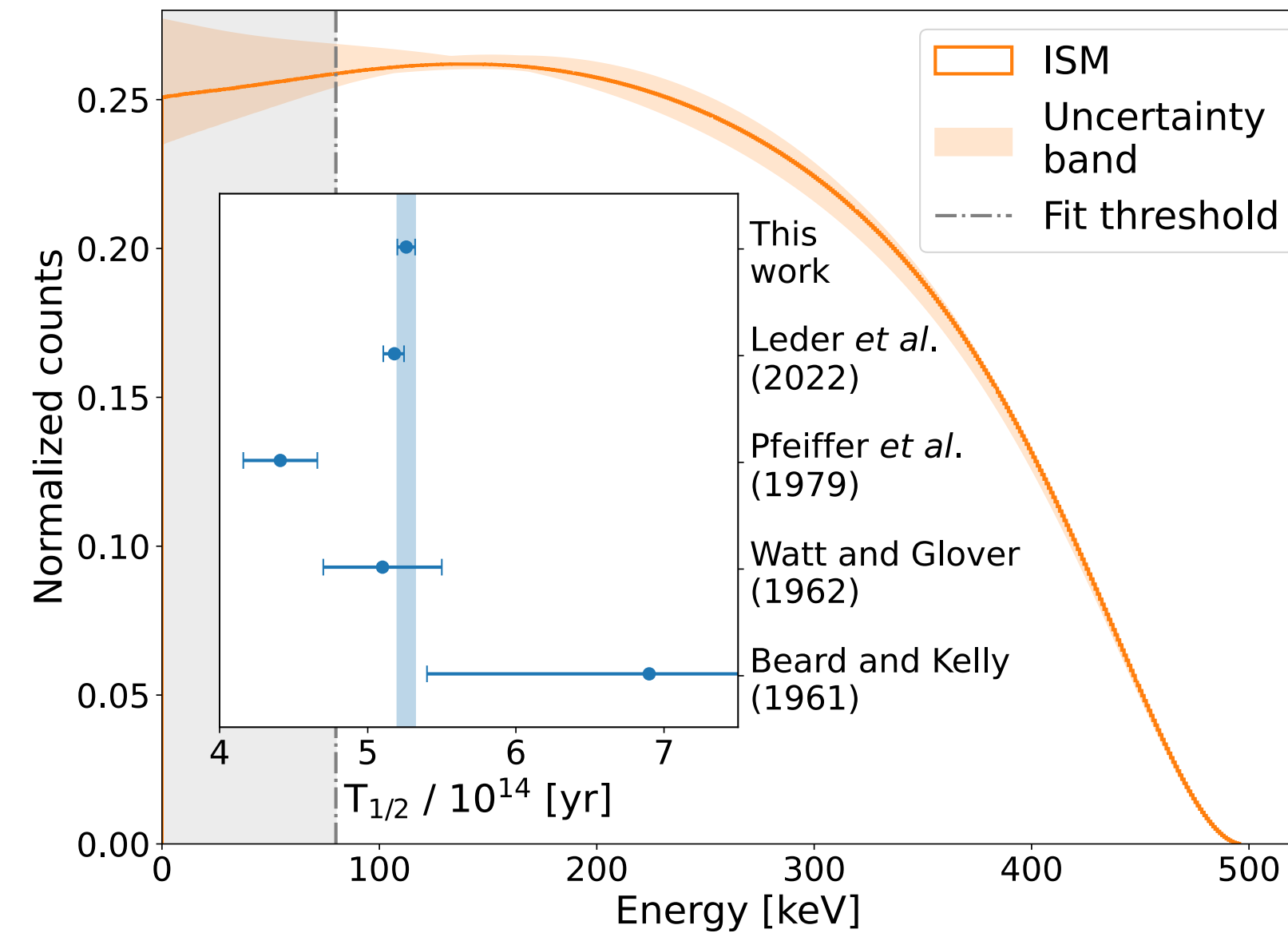
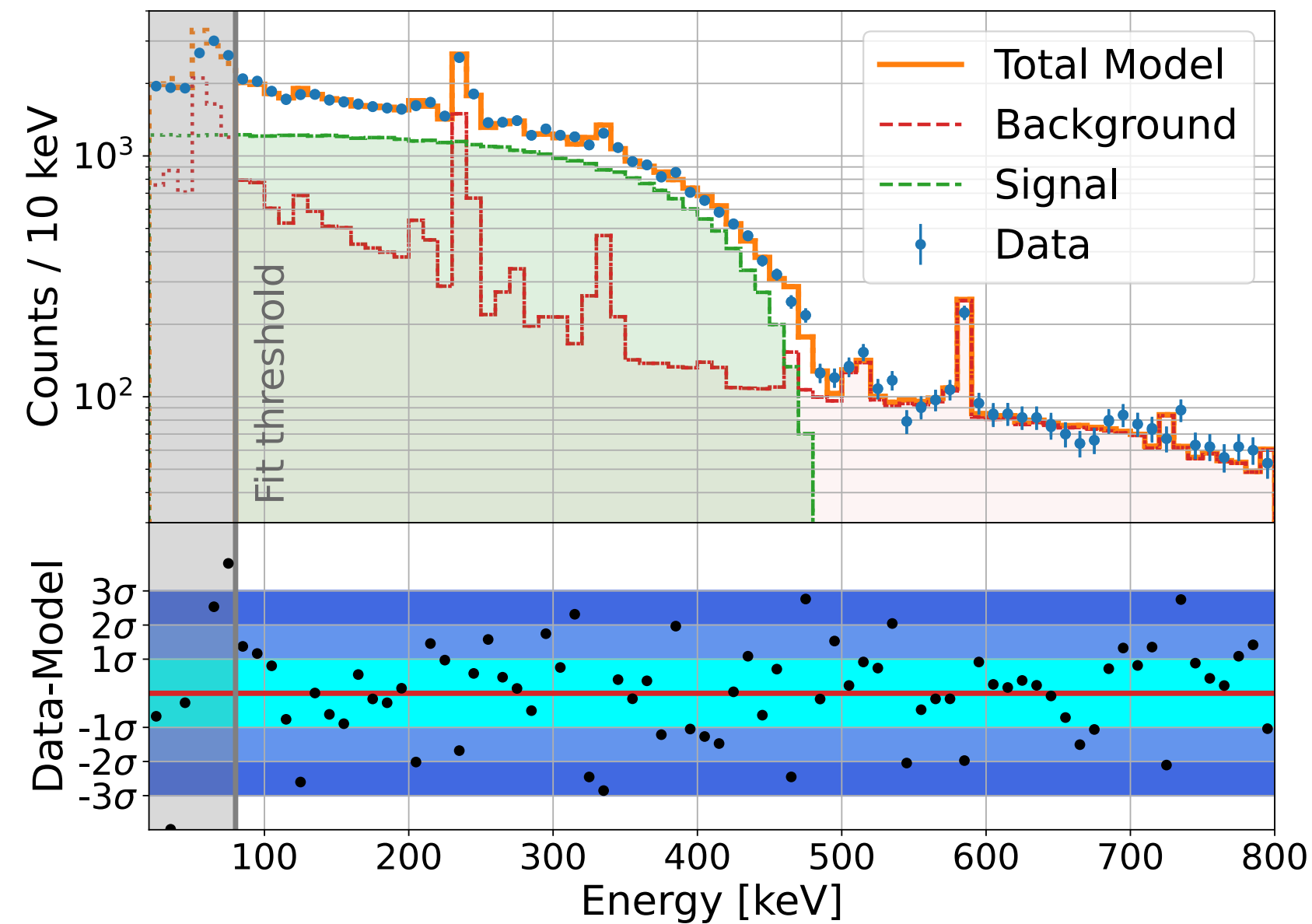


Phys. Rev. Lett. 133, 122501

Model	g_A	sNME	$T_{1/2} [\times 10^{14} \text{ yr}]$	χ_{red}^2
<i>Matched half-life</i>				
ISM	$0.965^{+0.013}_{-0.010}$	1.10 ± 0.03	5.20 ± 0.07	1.78
MQPM	$1.093^{+0.009}_{-0.007}$	0.90 ± 0.03	5.05 ± 0.06	2.32
IBFM-2	$1.163^{+0.036}_{-0.010}$	1.10 ± 0.03	5.28 ± 0.06	1.67

- g_A values compatible with the best fit
- sNME fixed by the ellipse interception to similar values
- Theory = Experiment for $T_{1/2}$
- Bias from previous $T_{1/2}$ in the ellipse

In-115 by ACCESS



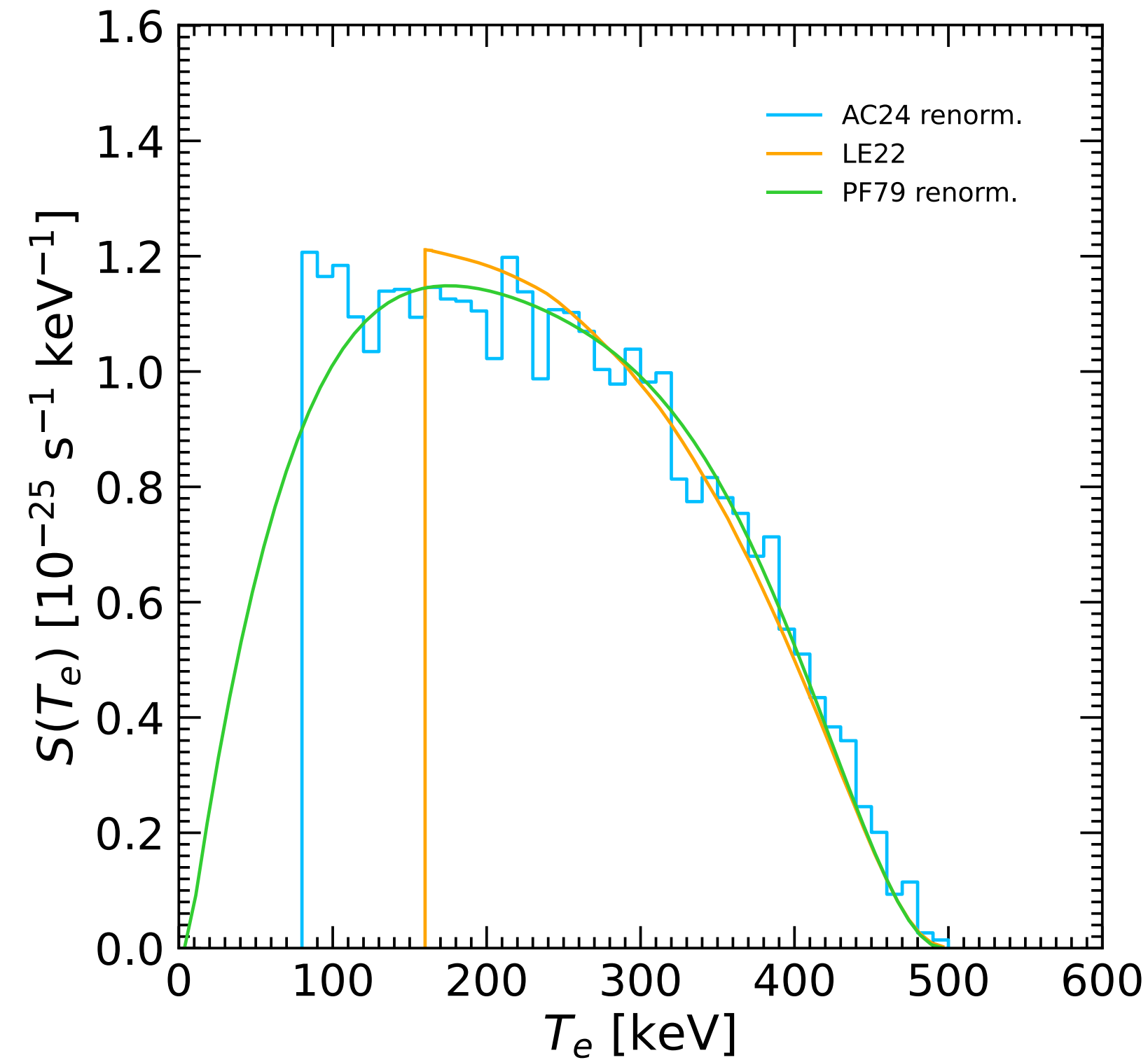
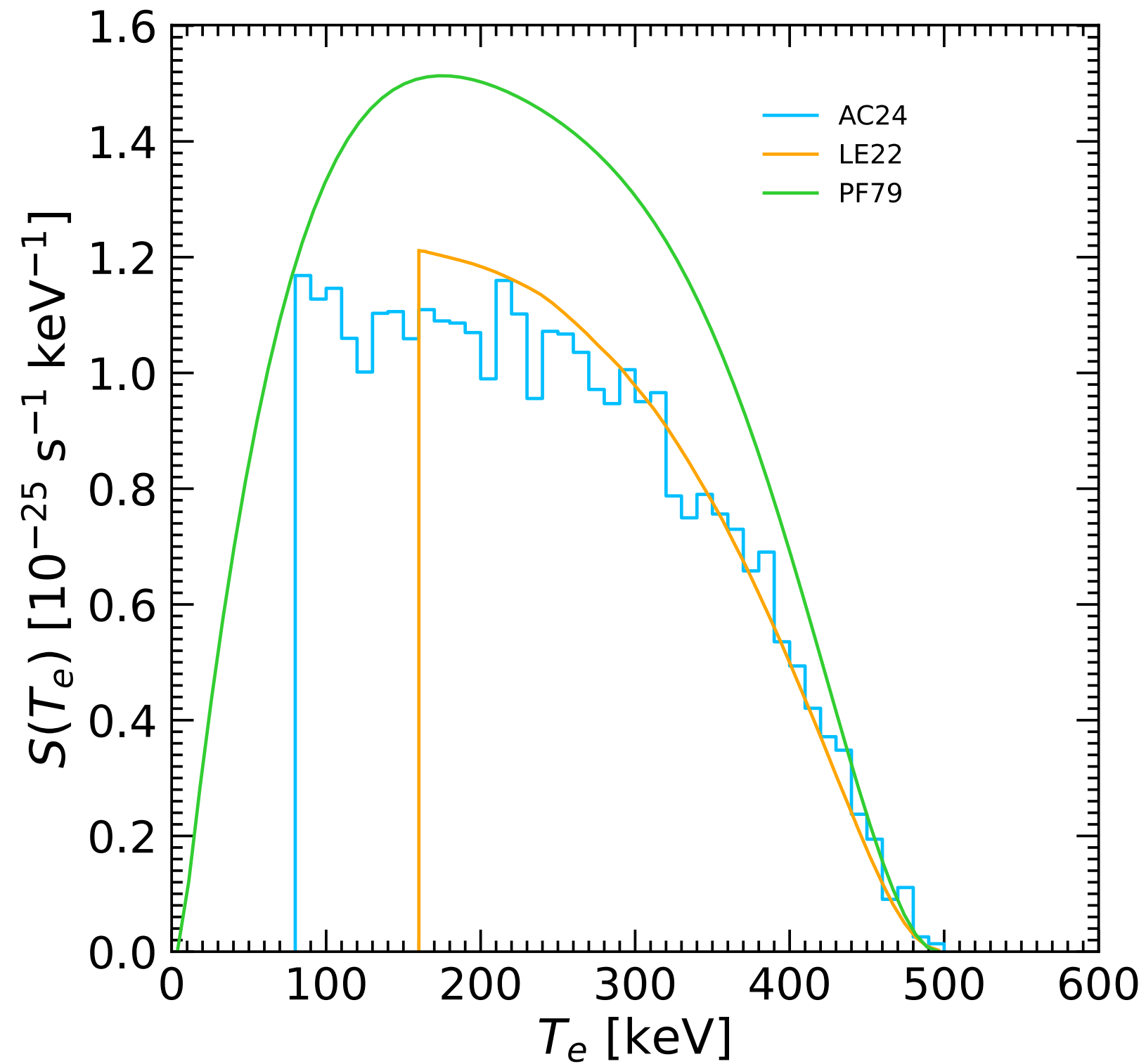
Phys. Rev. Lett. 133, 122501

Model	g_A	sNME	$T_{1/2} [\times 10^{14} \text{ yr}]$	χ_{red}^2
<i>Best fit</i>				
ISM	$0.964^{+0.010}_{-0.006}$	$1.75^{+0.13}_{-0.08}$	5.26 ± 0.06	1.55
MQPM	$1.104^{+0.019}_{-0.017}$	$2.88^{+0.49}_{-0.71}$	5.26 ± 0.07	1.65
IBFM-2	$1.172^{+0.022}_{-0.017}$	$0.81^{+0.52}_{-0.24}$	5.25 ± 0.07	1.66
<i>Matched half-life</i>				
ISM	$0.965^{+0.013}_{-0.010}$	1.10 ± 0.03	5.20 ± 0.07	1.78
MQPM	$1.093^{+0.009}_{-0.007}$	0.90 ± 0.03	5.05 ± 0.06	2.32
IBFM-2	$1.163^{+0.036}_{-0.010}$	1.10 ± 0.03	5.28 ± 0.06	1.67

Outcomes:

- Stable and precise estimate of $T_{1/2}$
- Evaluation of the spectral shape
- g_A quenching still needed but reduced (wrt slide 11)
- Positive solutions (sNME>0) are always favored
- sNME fixed only with the $T_{1/2}$ match
- Theoretical $T_{1/2}$ compatible with experimental one

In-115: measurement comparison



Very useful comparison:

- AC24 and LE22 fully compatible
- PF79 very different (possible issues in the background subtraction)

See details in J. Kostensalo, E. Lisi, A. Marrone and J. Suhonen, [arXiv 2405.11920](https://arxiv.org/abs/2405.11920)

Theory progress: an example

G. De Gregorio, R. Mancino, L. Coraggio, N. Itaco, [Phys.Rev.C 110 \(2024\) 1, 014324](#)

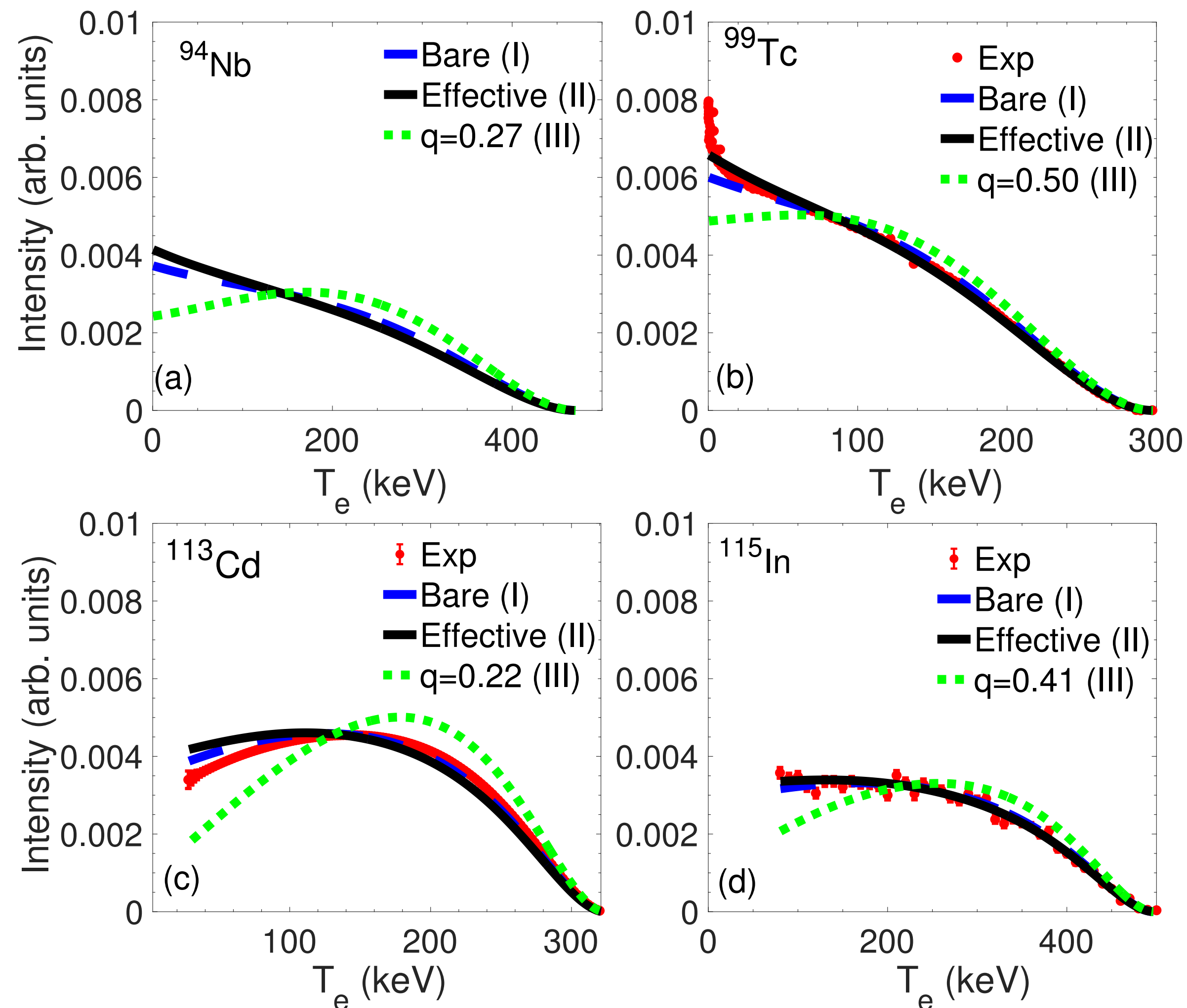
In a recent paper, the data presented were used as a term of comparison with theoretical calculations within the **Realistic Shell Model**.

Very good match of the spectral shape \rightarrow **without g_A quenching**

Half-life systematically underestimated (factor of 2 - 8)



	$\log(ft)$	Bare	$\log(ft)$	Effective	$\log(ft)$	Exp.
^{94}Nb		11.30		11.58		11.95 (7)
^{99}Tc		11.580		11.876		12.325 (12)
^{113}Cd		21.902		22.493		23.127 (14)
^{115}In		21.22		21.64		22.53 (3)

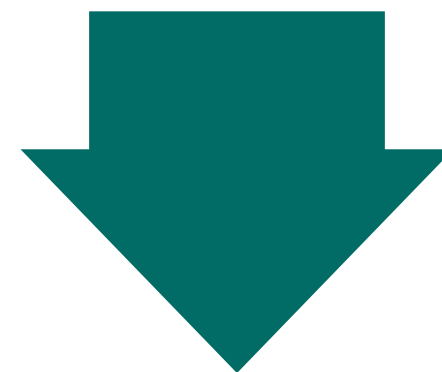


Summary

- **Forbidden beta decays**, and in particular their spectral shape, **challenge the nuclear models**
- **Nuclear models** and **computation techniques** improved a lot
- Renewed experimental efforts ongoing to provide **novel high-quality data**



Mapping the spectral shape of several forbidden β -decays in terms of effective nuclear parameters



We could shed light on the nuclear physics behind the phenomenological g_A quenching and try to avoid it