



SAPIENZA
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

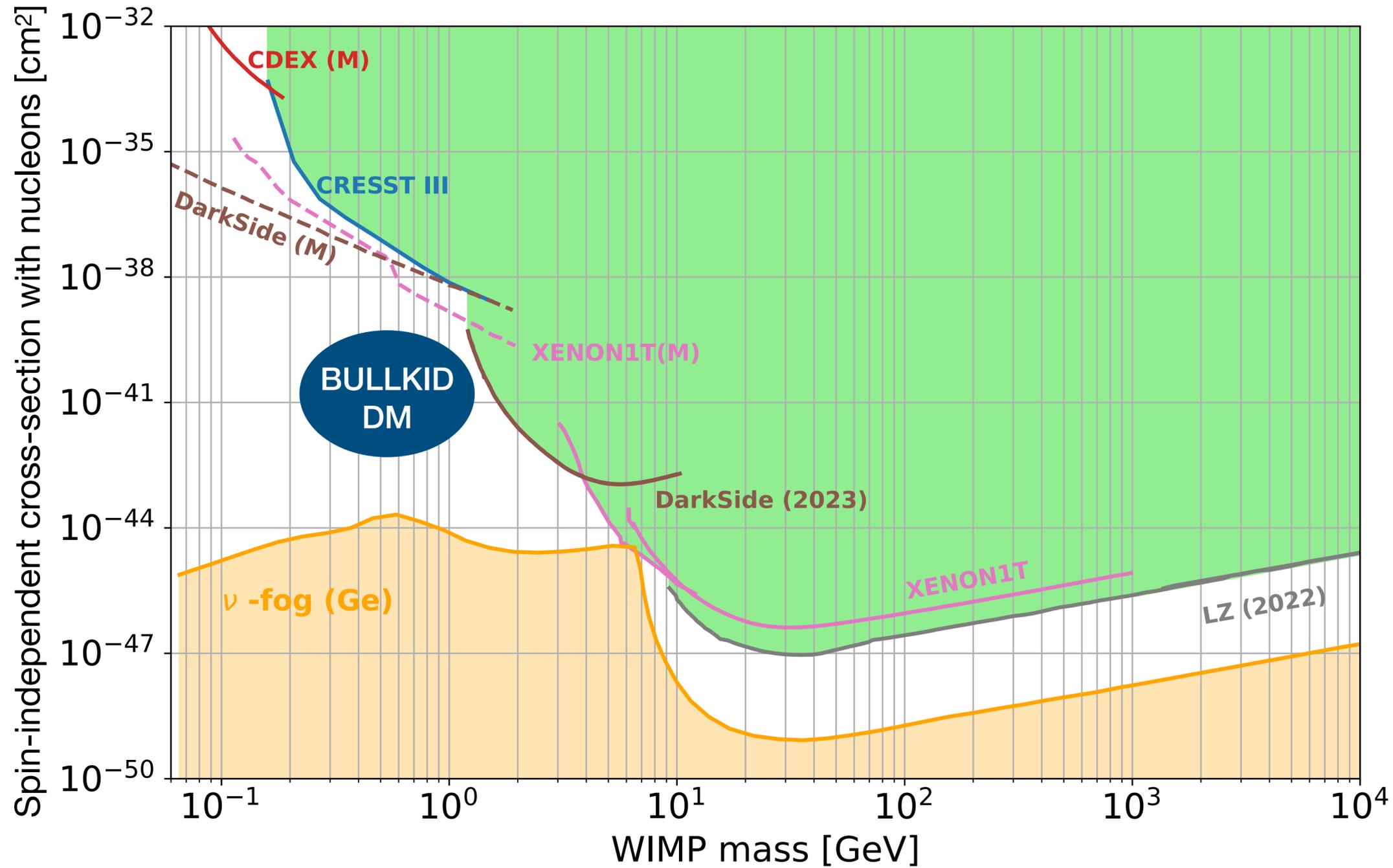


BULLKID-DM

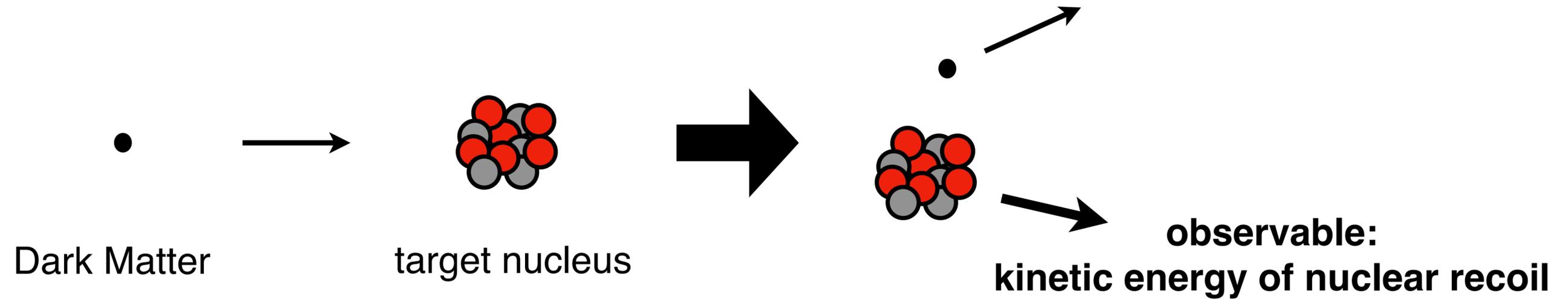
Marco Vignati on behalf of the coll., LNGS, 22 April 2024



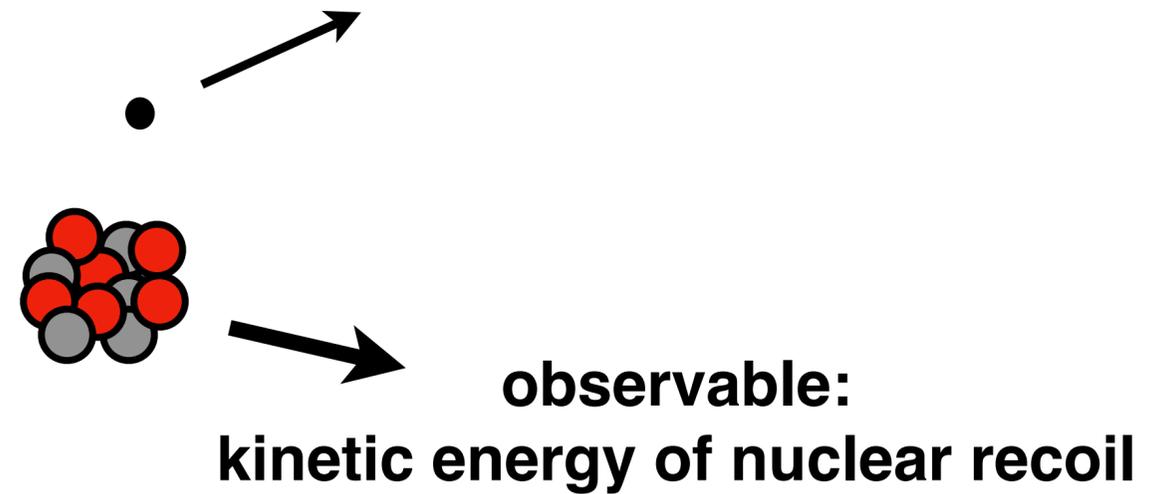
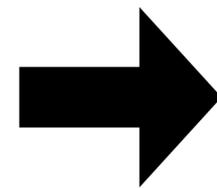
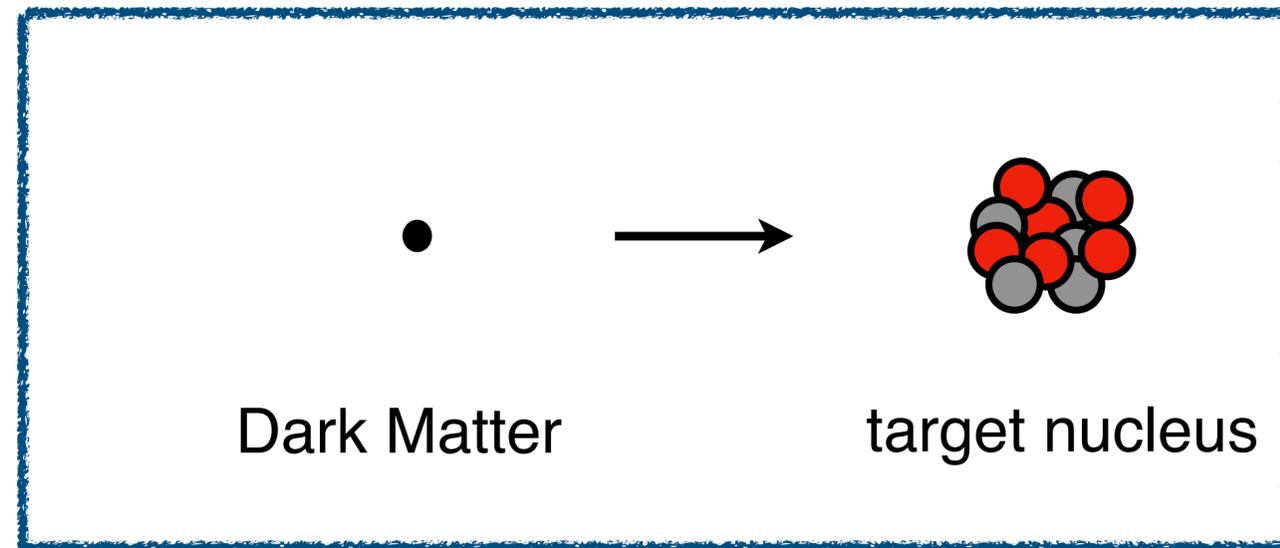
Objective



Direct dark matter search below $1 \text{ GeV}/c^2$



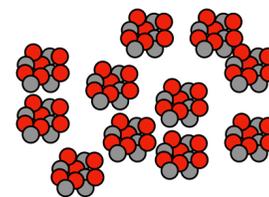
Direct dark matter search below 1 GeV/c²



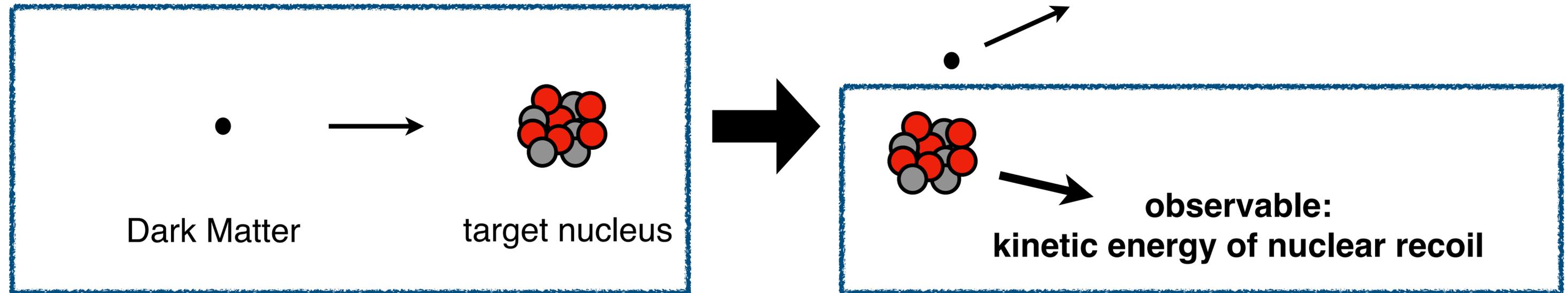
cross section $\sigma < 10^{-40} \text{ cm}^2$



zero-background
large number of targets $O(1 \text{ kg})$



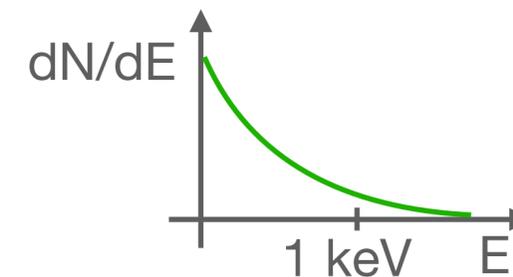
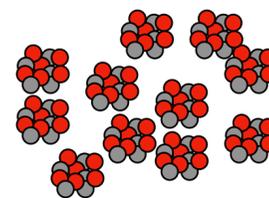
Direct dark matter search below 1 GeV/c²



cross section $\sigma < 10^{-40} \text{ cm}^2$

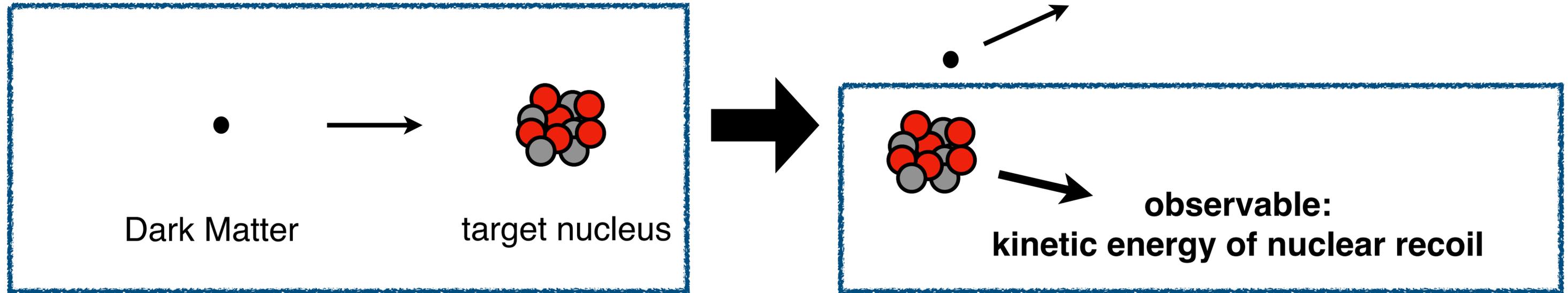
energy $< 1 \text{ keV}$

zero-background
large number of targets $O(1 \text{ kg})$



low-energy threshold
 $O(100 \text{ eV})$

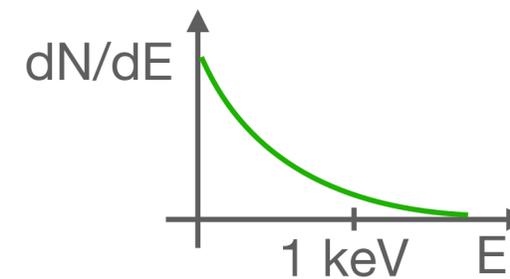
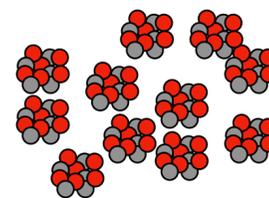
Direct dark matter search below 1 GeV/c²



cross section $\sigma < 10^{-40} \text{ cm}^2$

energy $< 1 \text{ keV}$

zero-background
large number of targets $O(1 \text{ kg})$

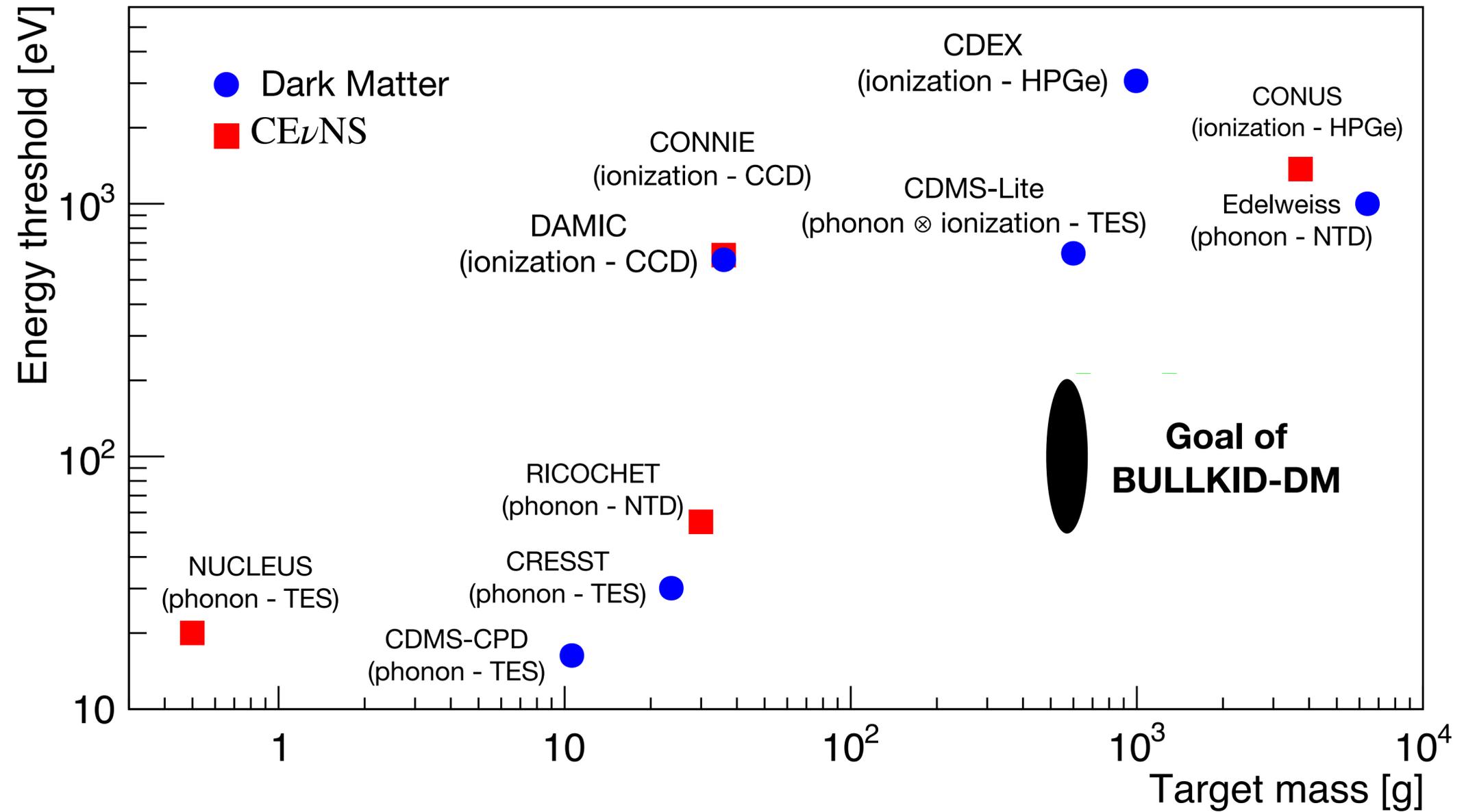
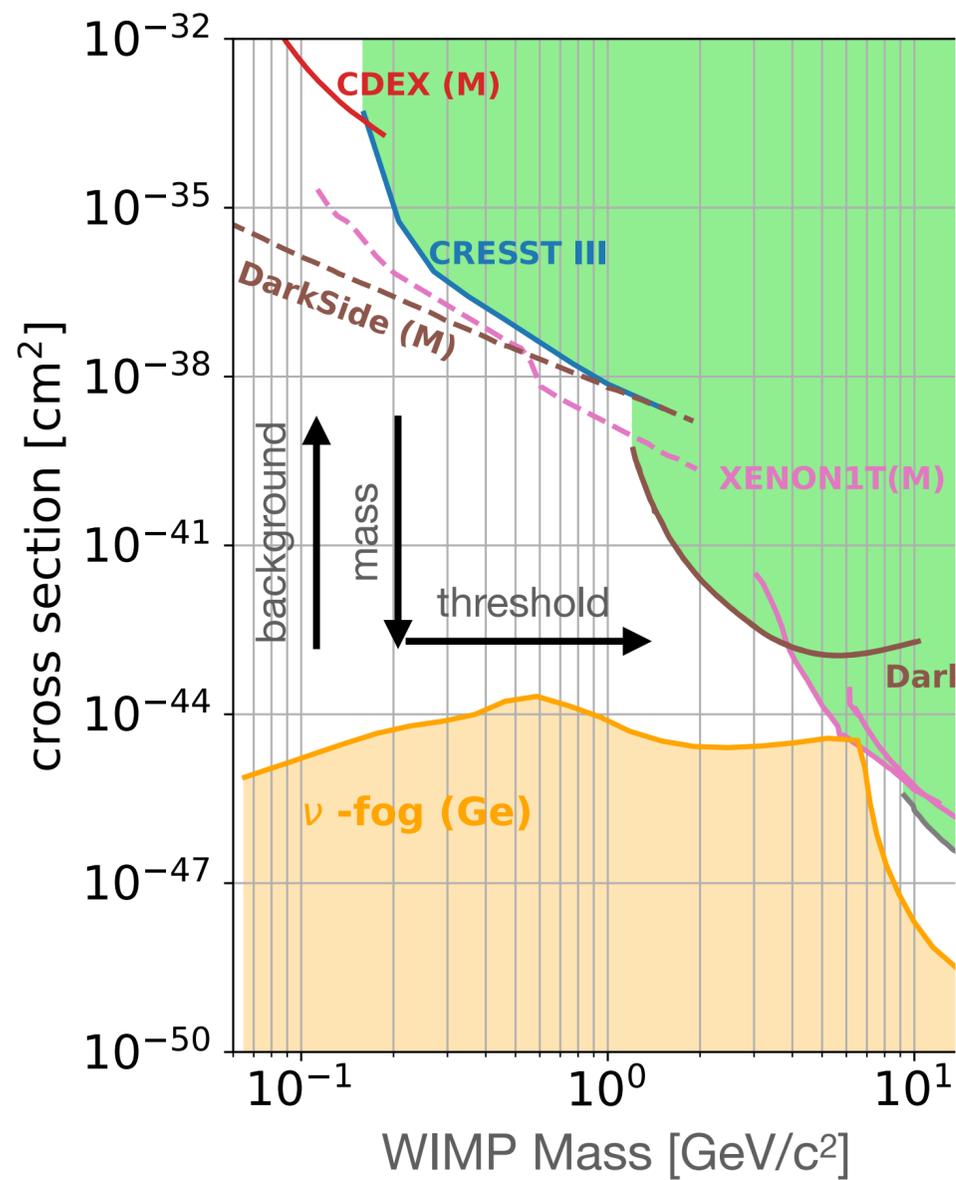


low-energy threshold
 $O(100 \text{ eV})$

Difficult with Low-T detectors

Motivation for Low-T detectors

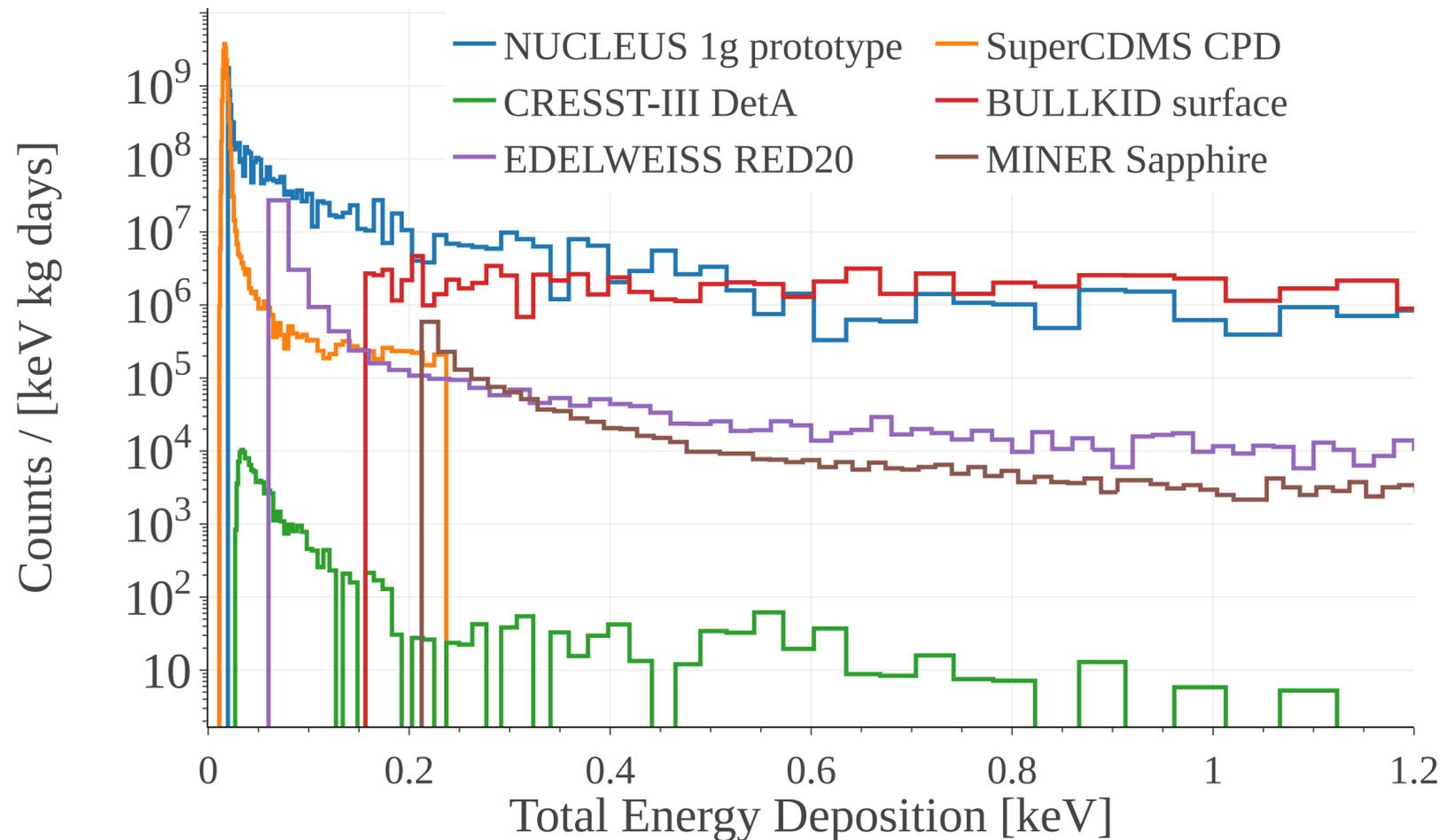
State of the art (solid-state detectors)



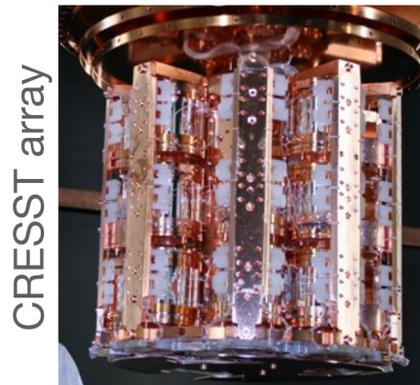
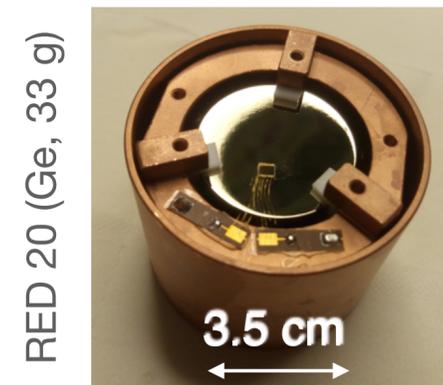
Background issue in low-T experiments

Not understood *excess background rising at low energies*

- Phonon bursts (crystal-support friction) ?
- Lattice relaxations after cool down?
- Phonon leakage from interactions in the supports?
- ~~Neutrons (cosmic ray induced, radioactivity) ?~~



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



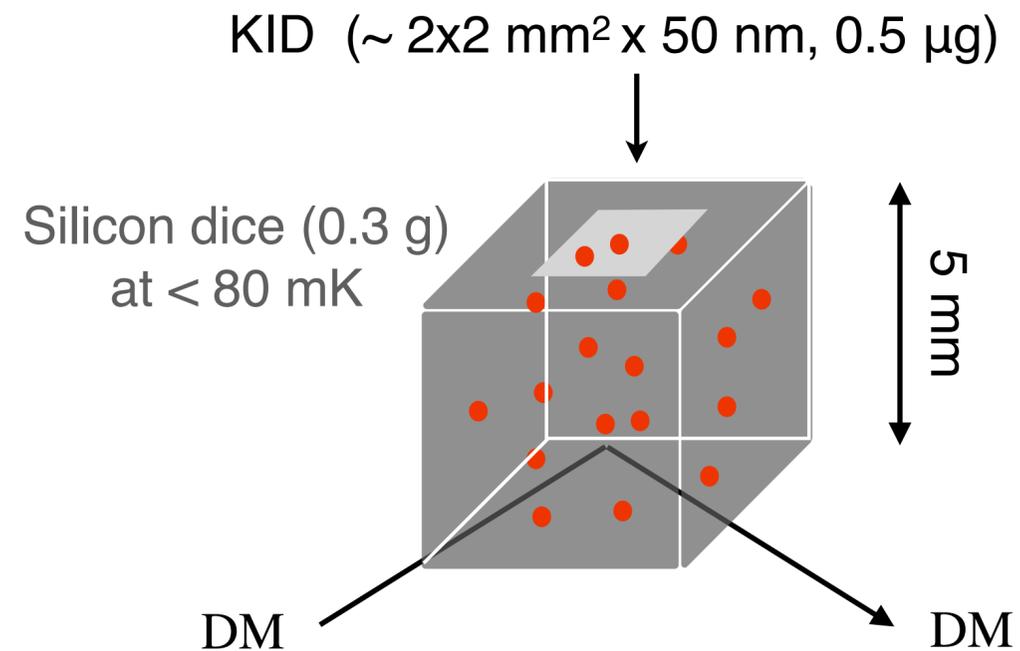
Excess workshop 2024
 Roma, 6 July
<https://agenda.infn.it/event/39007/>

This background limits the sensitivity of present experiments

The BULLKID phonon-detector array

Phonon mediation

detect phonons created by nuclear recoils
in a silicon die



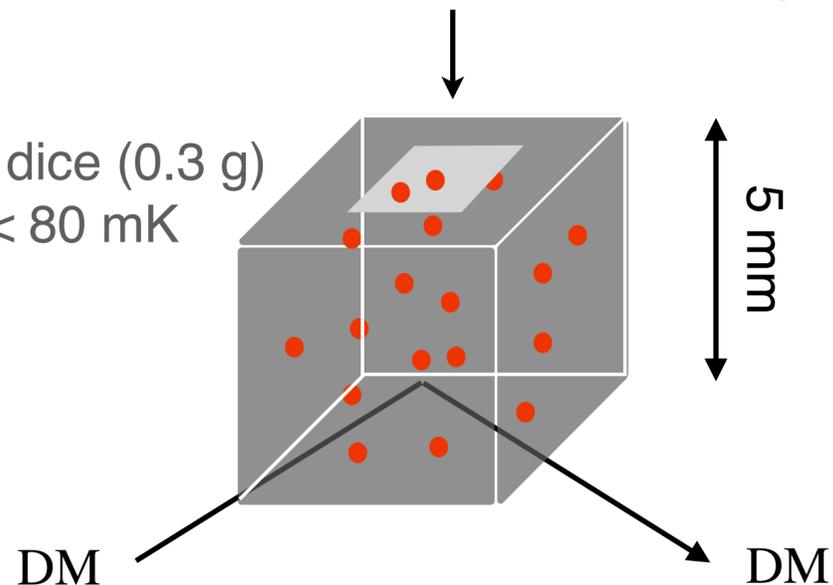
The BULLKID phonon-detector array

Phonon mediation

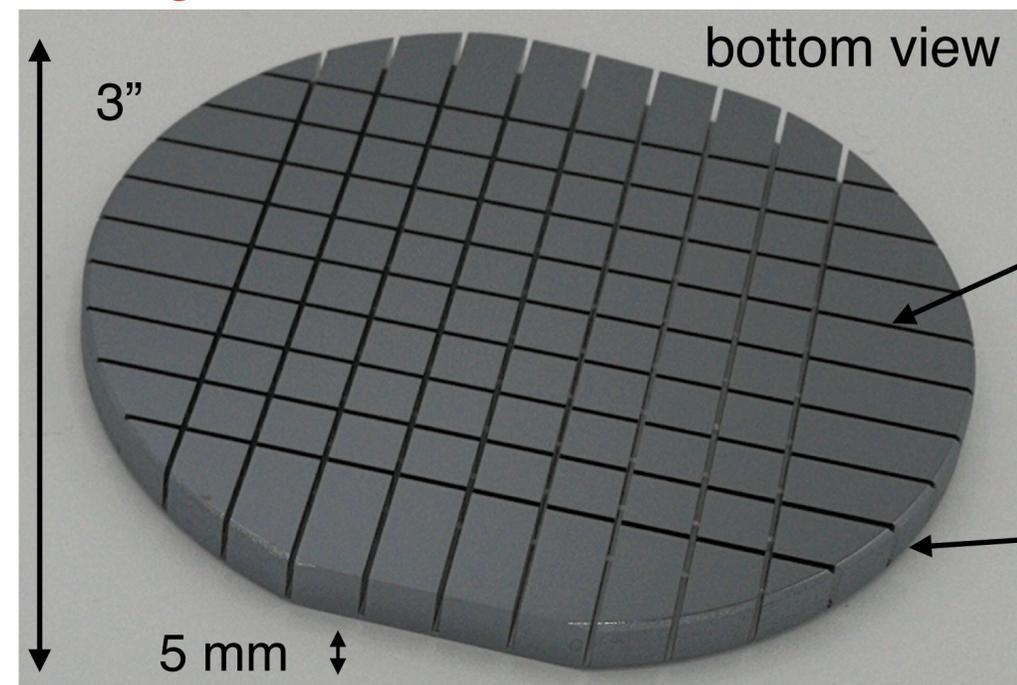
detect phonons created by nuclear recoils
in a silicon die

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

Silicon dice (0.3 g)
at $< 80 \text{ mK}$



carving of dice in a thick silicon wafer



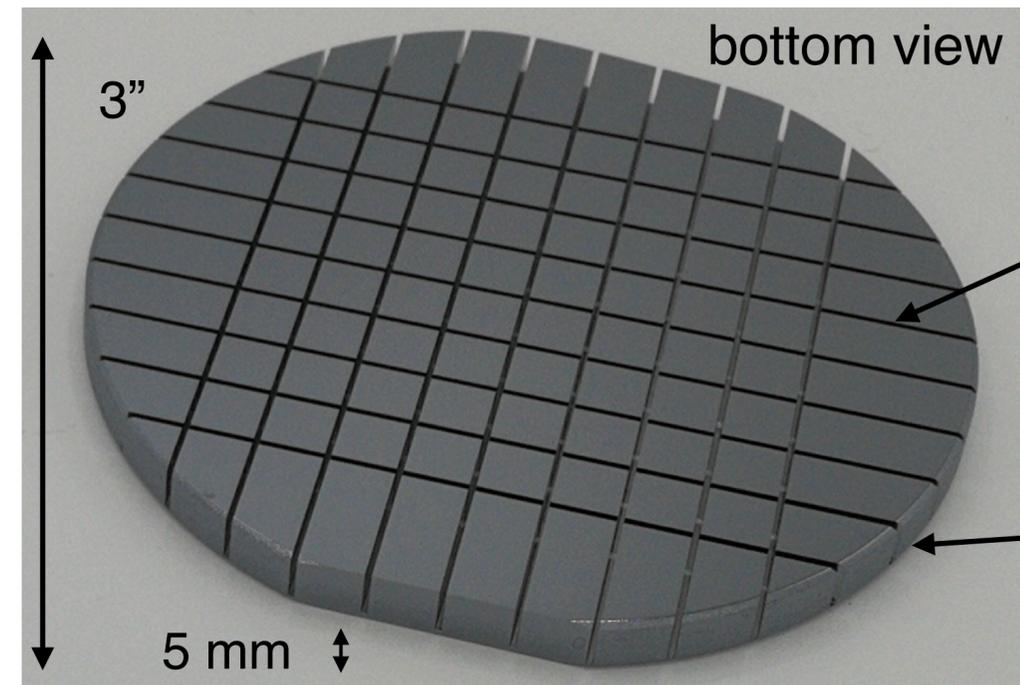
✓ monolithic

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

carving of dice in a thick silicon wafer

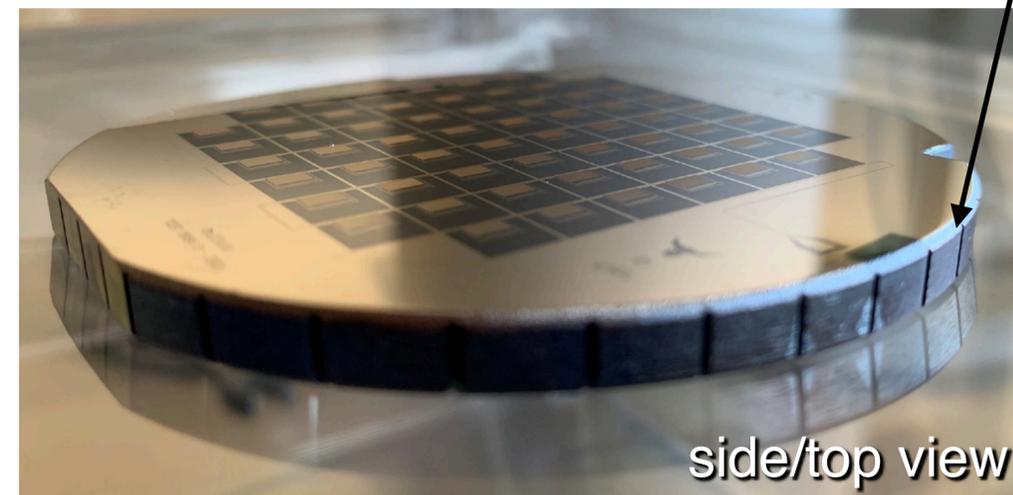


✓ monolithic

- 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)

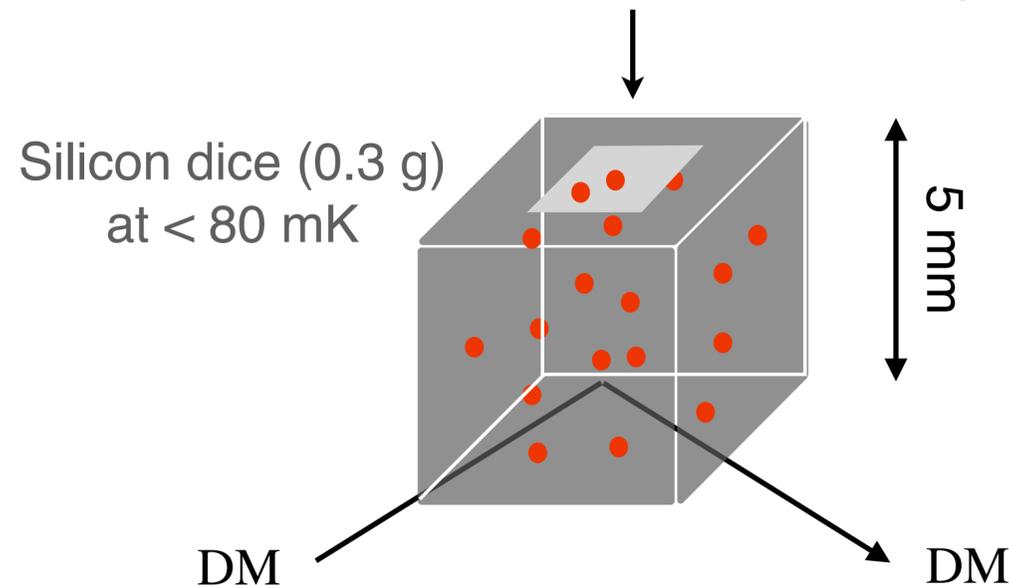
✓ 60 detectors in 1

Fully multiplexed
(single readout line)

Phonon mediation

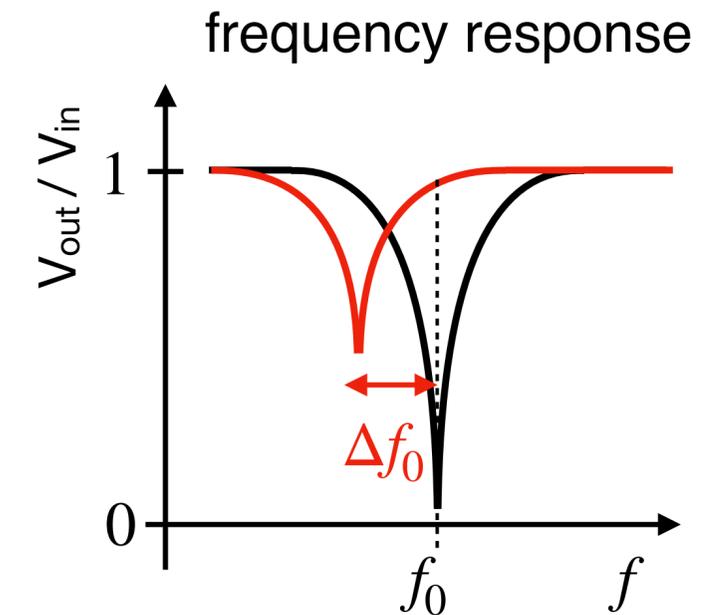
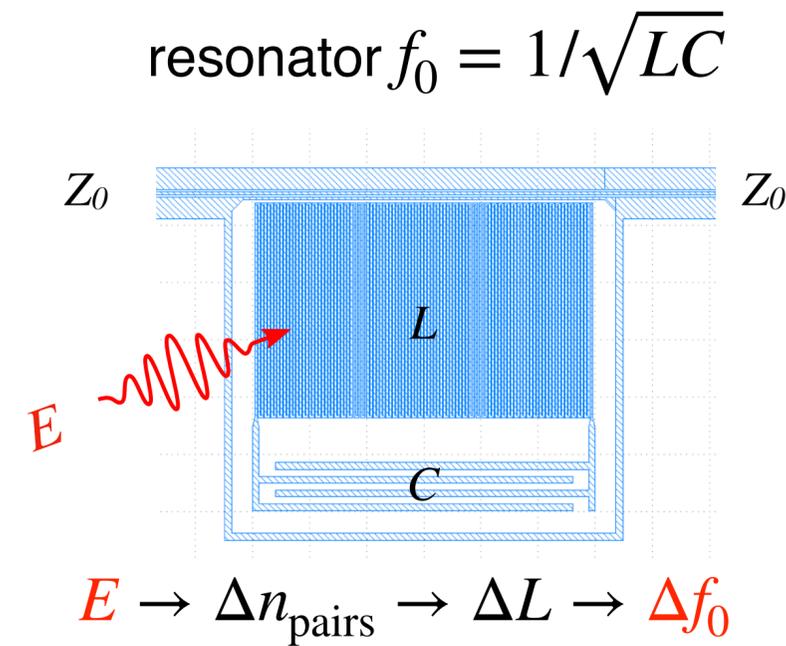
detect phonons created by nuclear recoils
in a silicon die

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



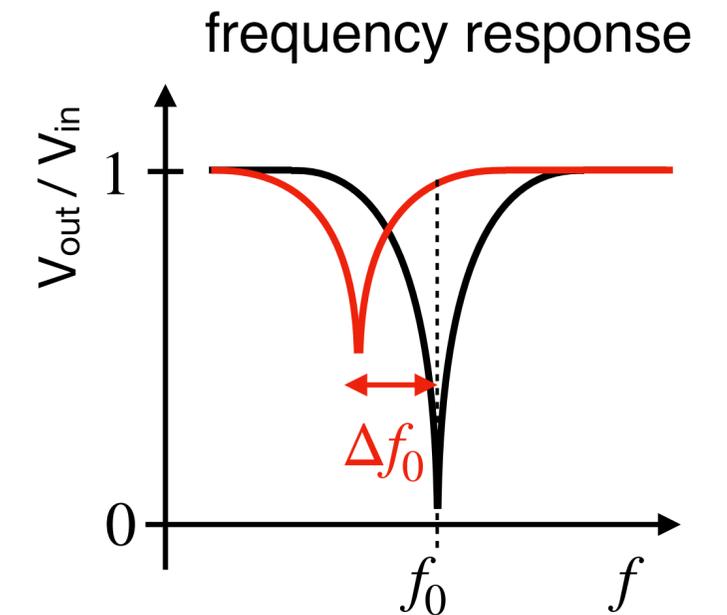
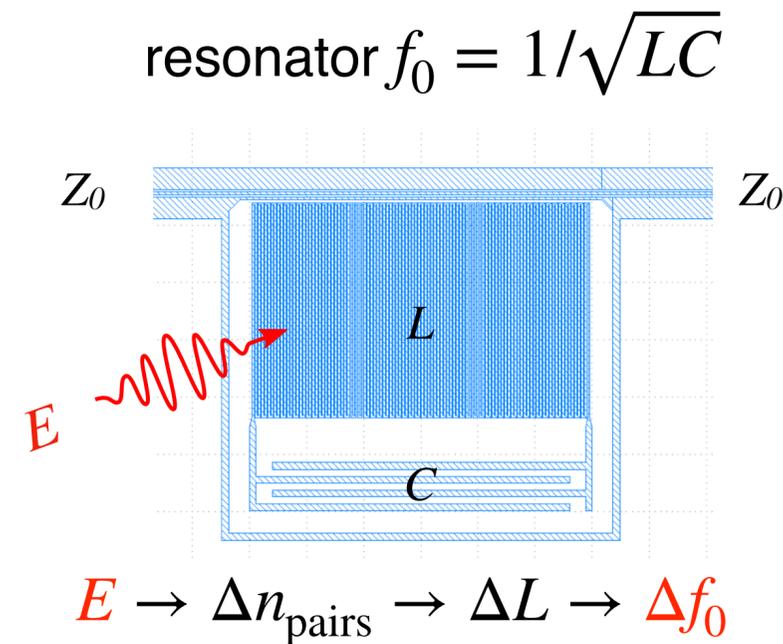
Kinetic Inductance Detectors (KIDs)

- 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

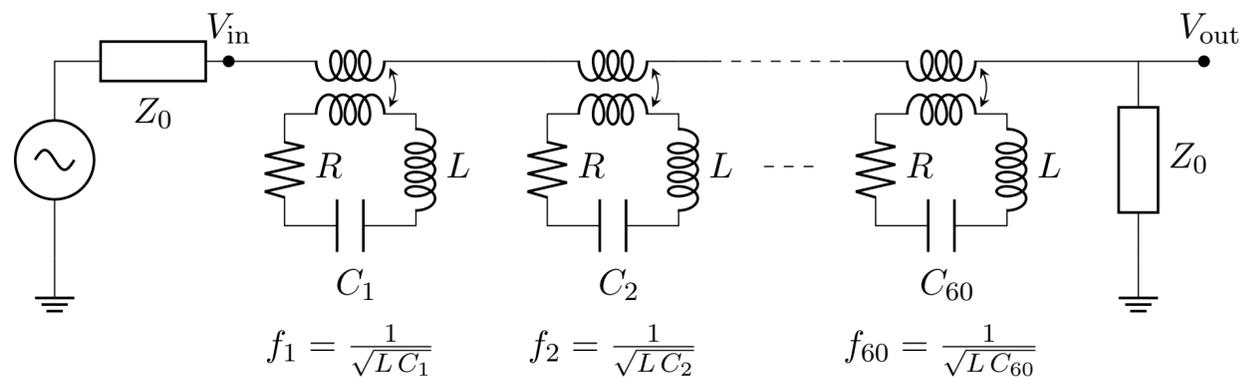


Kinetic Inductance Detectors (KIDs)

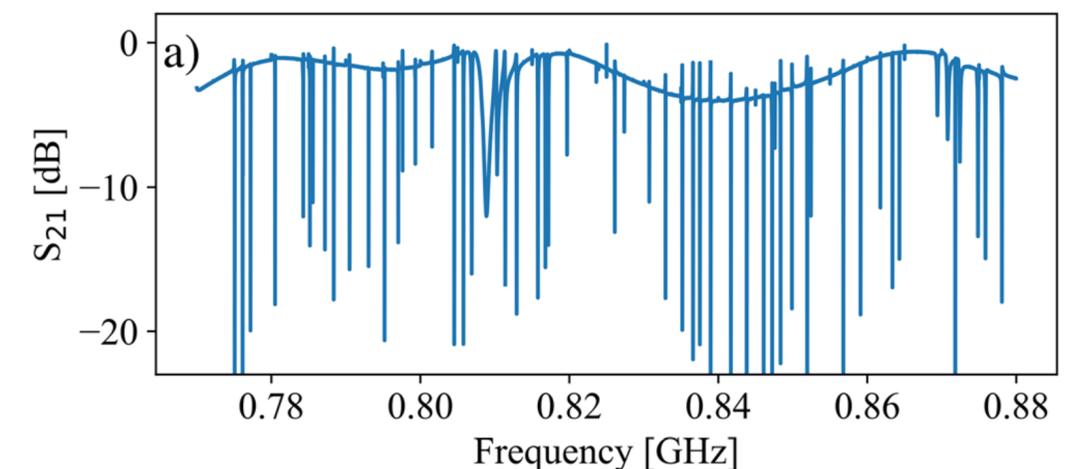
- Superconductor at $T < 200$ mK (Al)
- LC resonator
- Cooper pairs inductance $L_k = \frac{m_e}{2e^2 n_{\text{pairs}}}$
- Absorbed energy breaks Cooper pairs



Readout: different KIDs coupled to a the same line

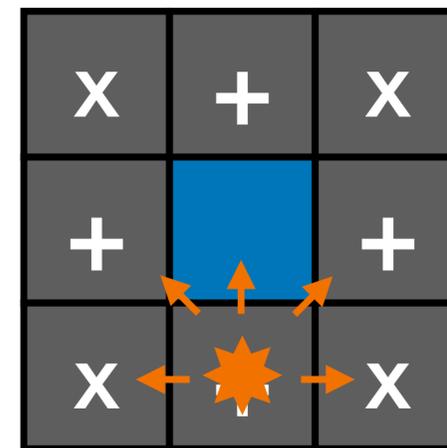
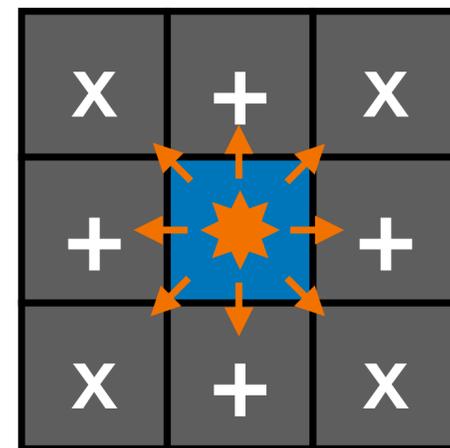
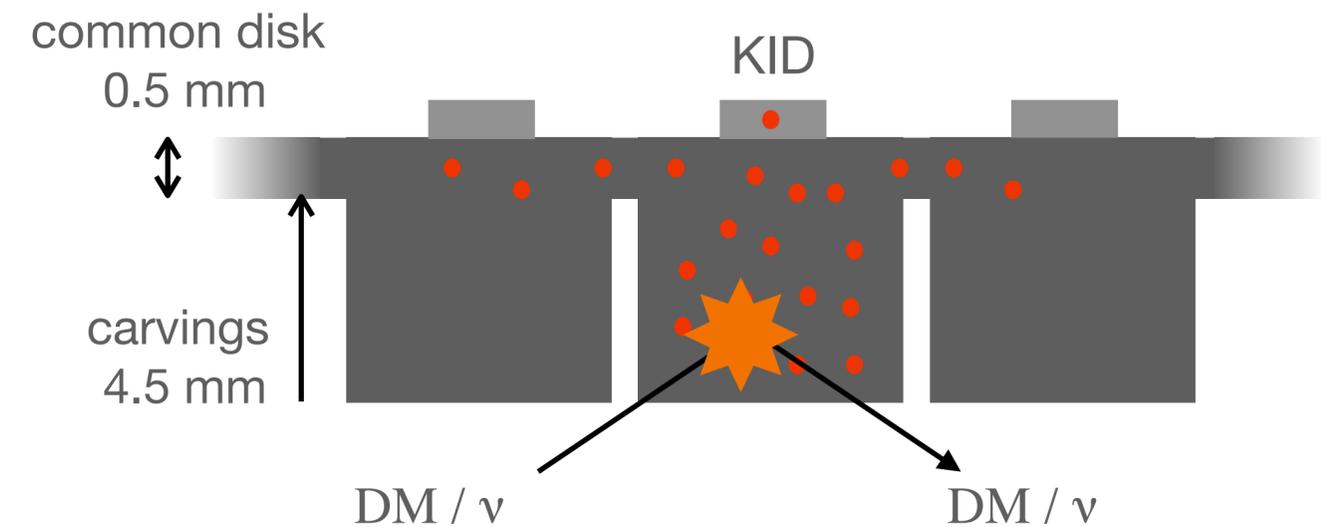


frequency scan of the 60 KIDs of BULLKID



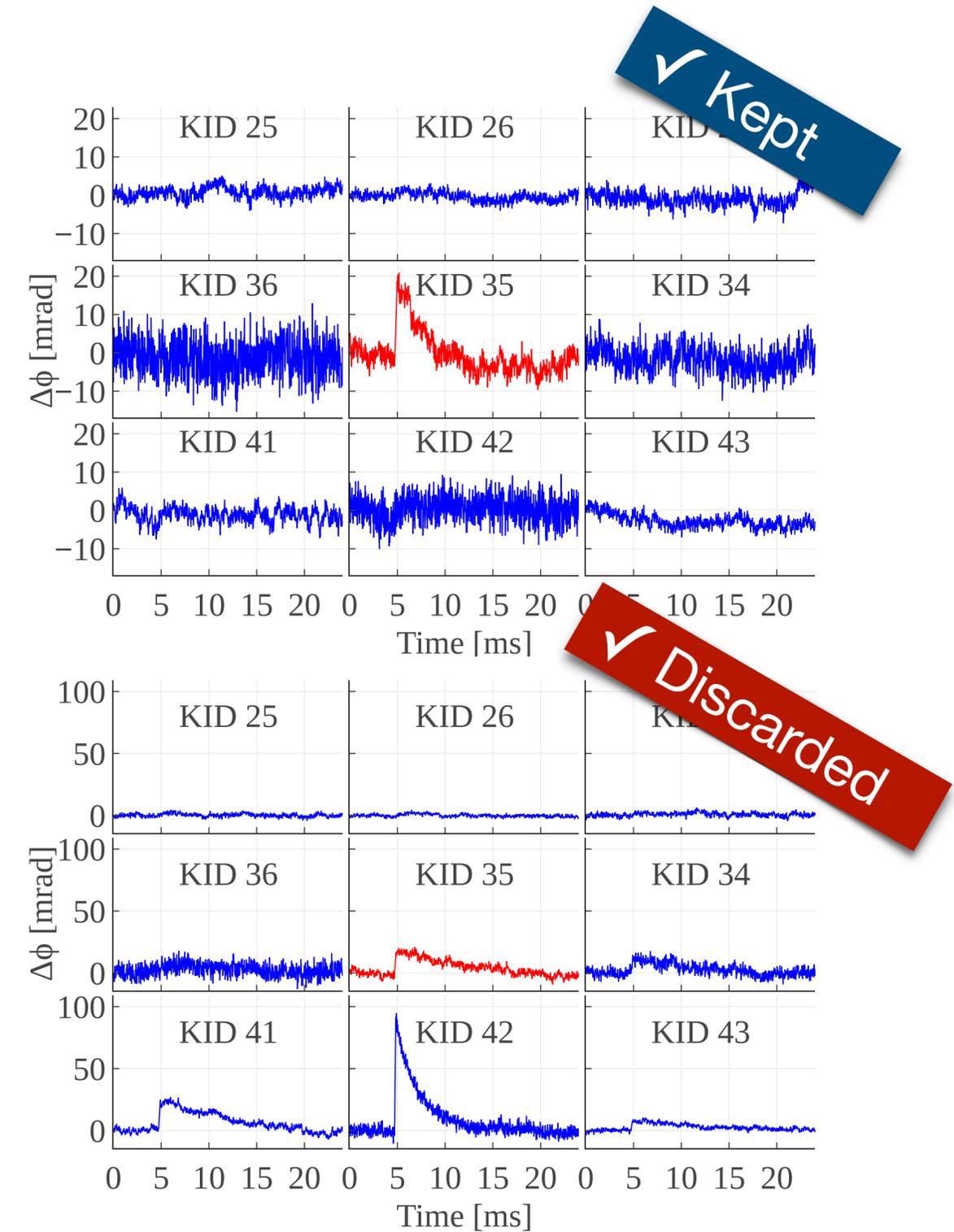
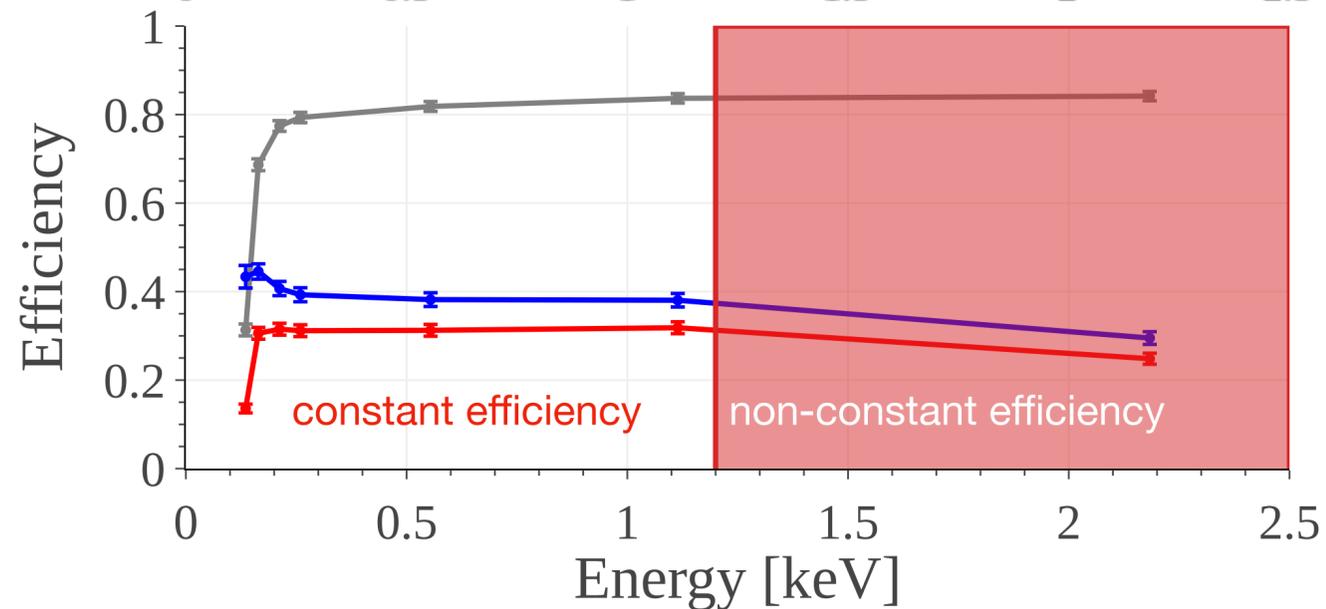
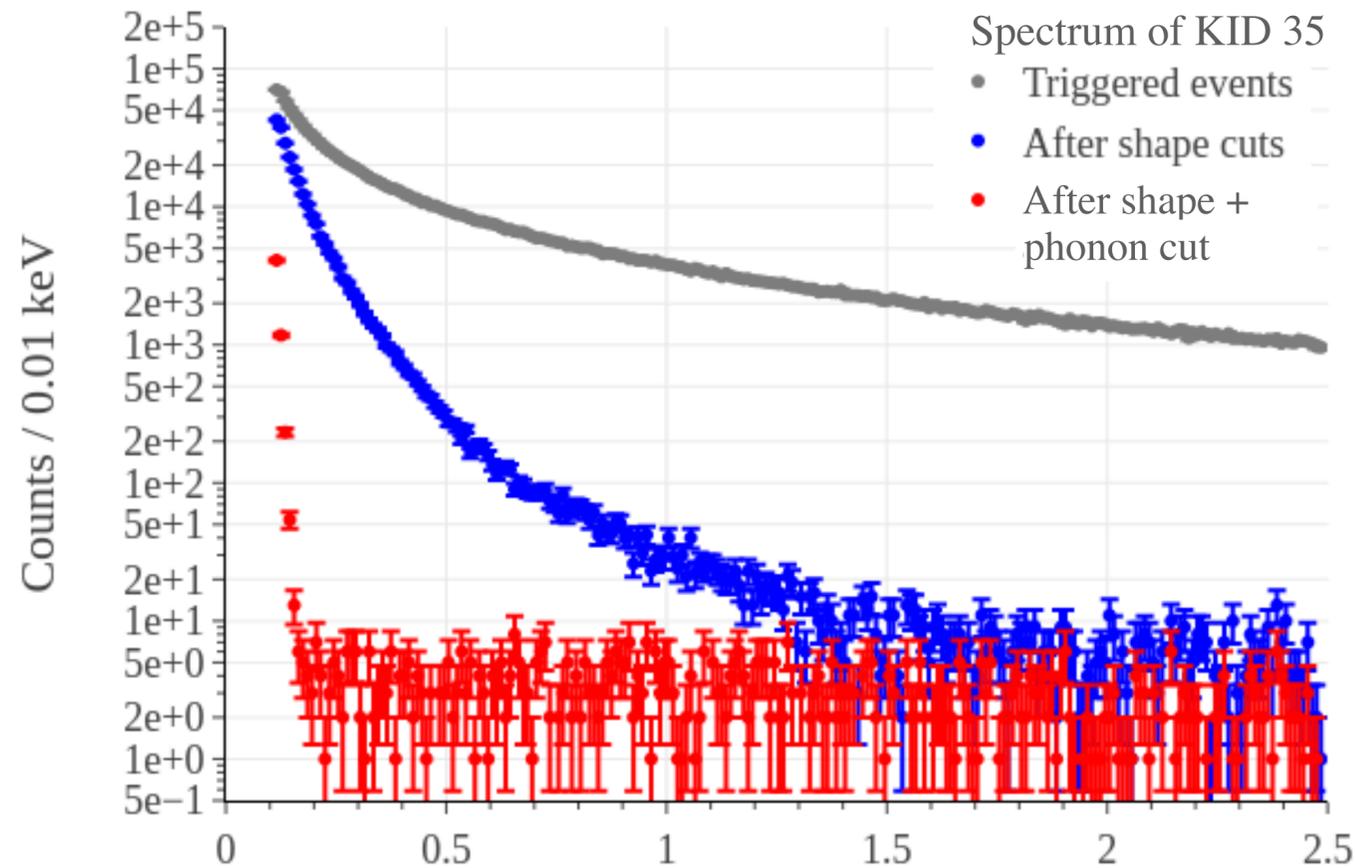
Phonon leakage and mapping

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



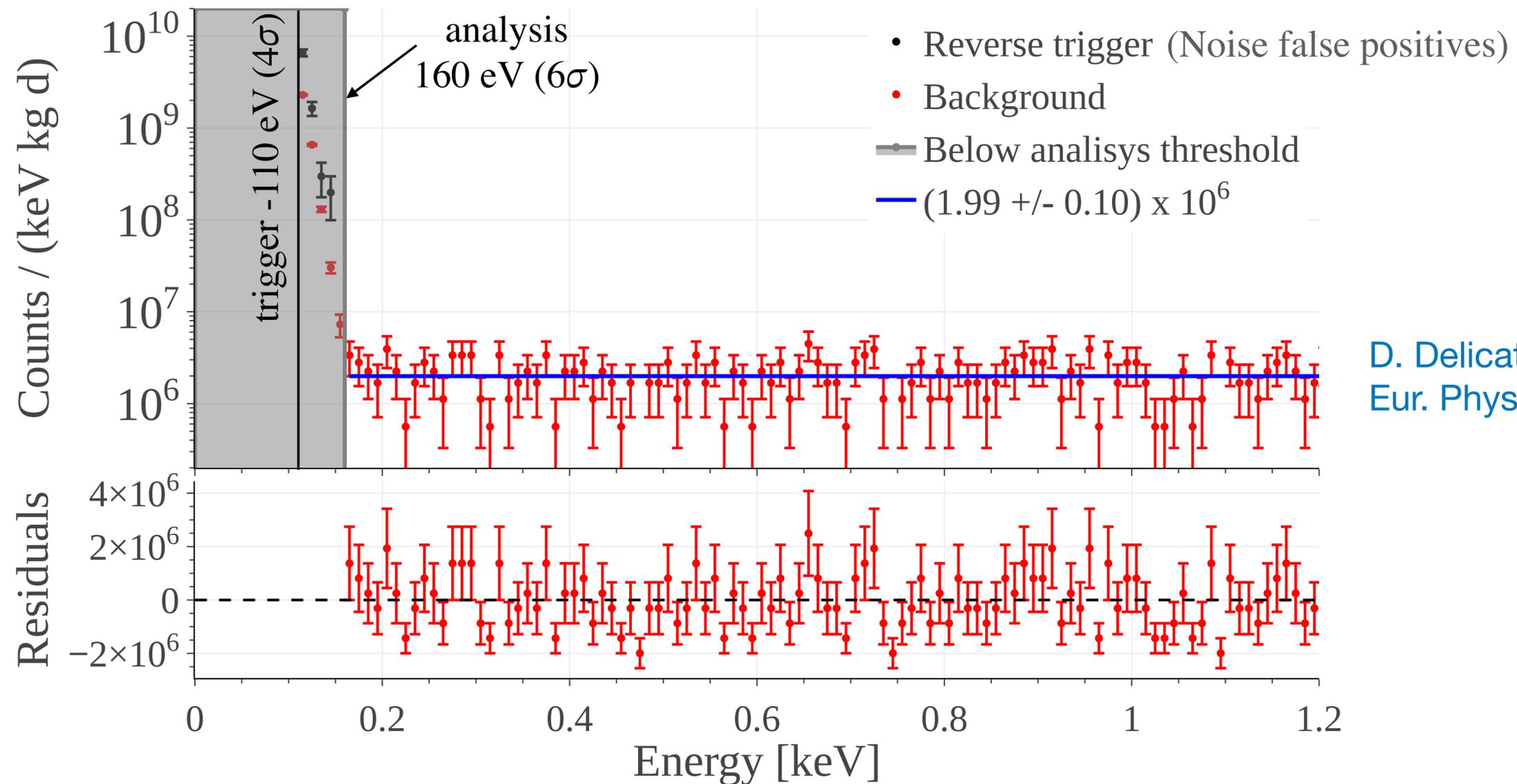
This effect reduces the phonon focusing on the KID but is **exploited to identify the interaction voxel**

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

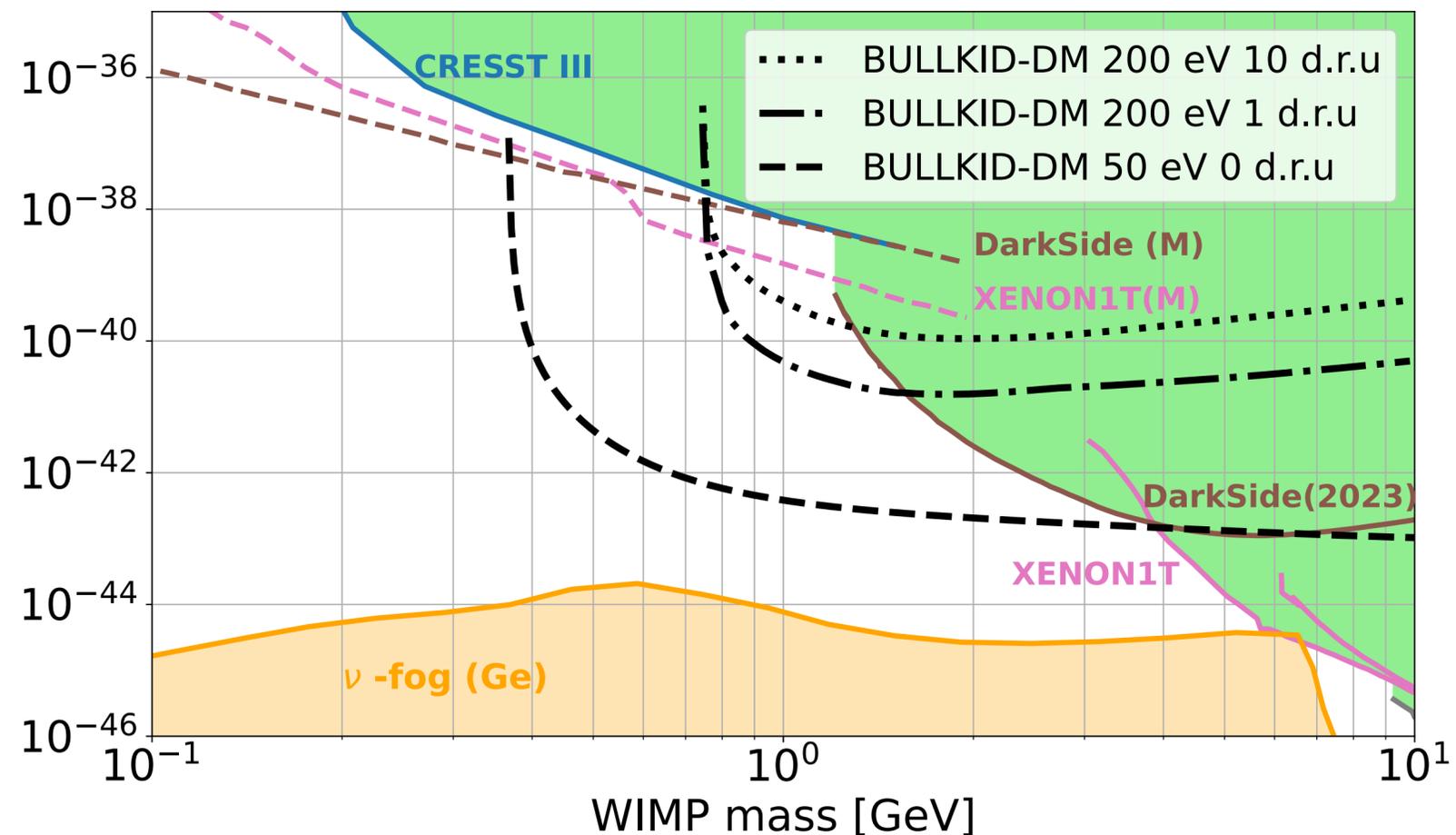


Roma
Ferrara
LNGS
Pisa

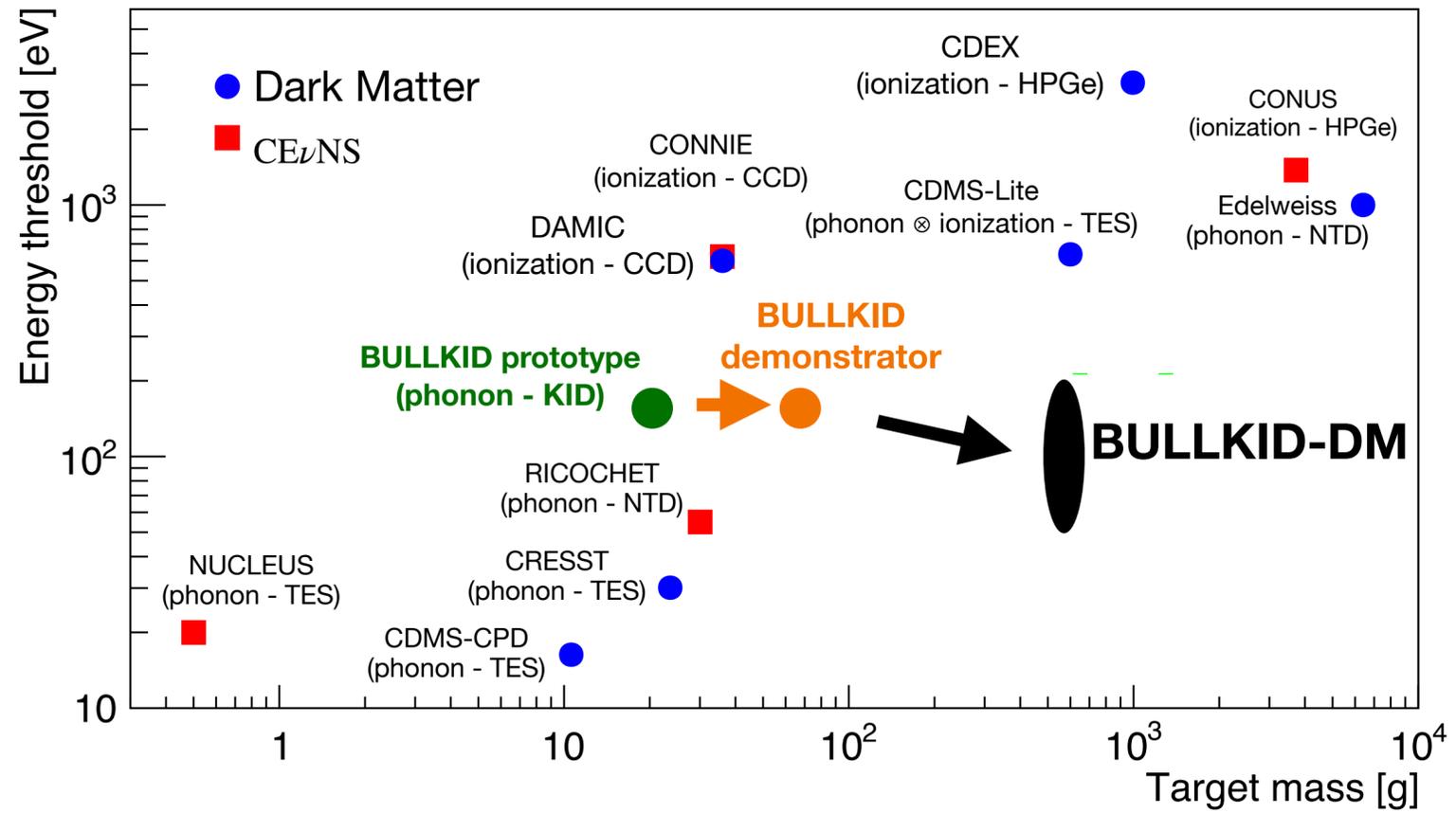


Dark Matter - direct search with BULLKID-DM

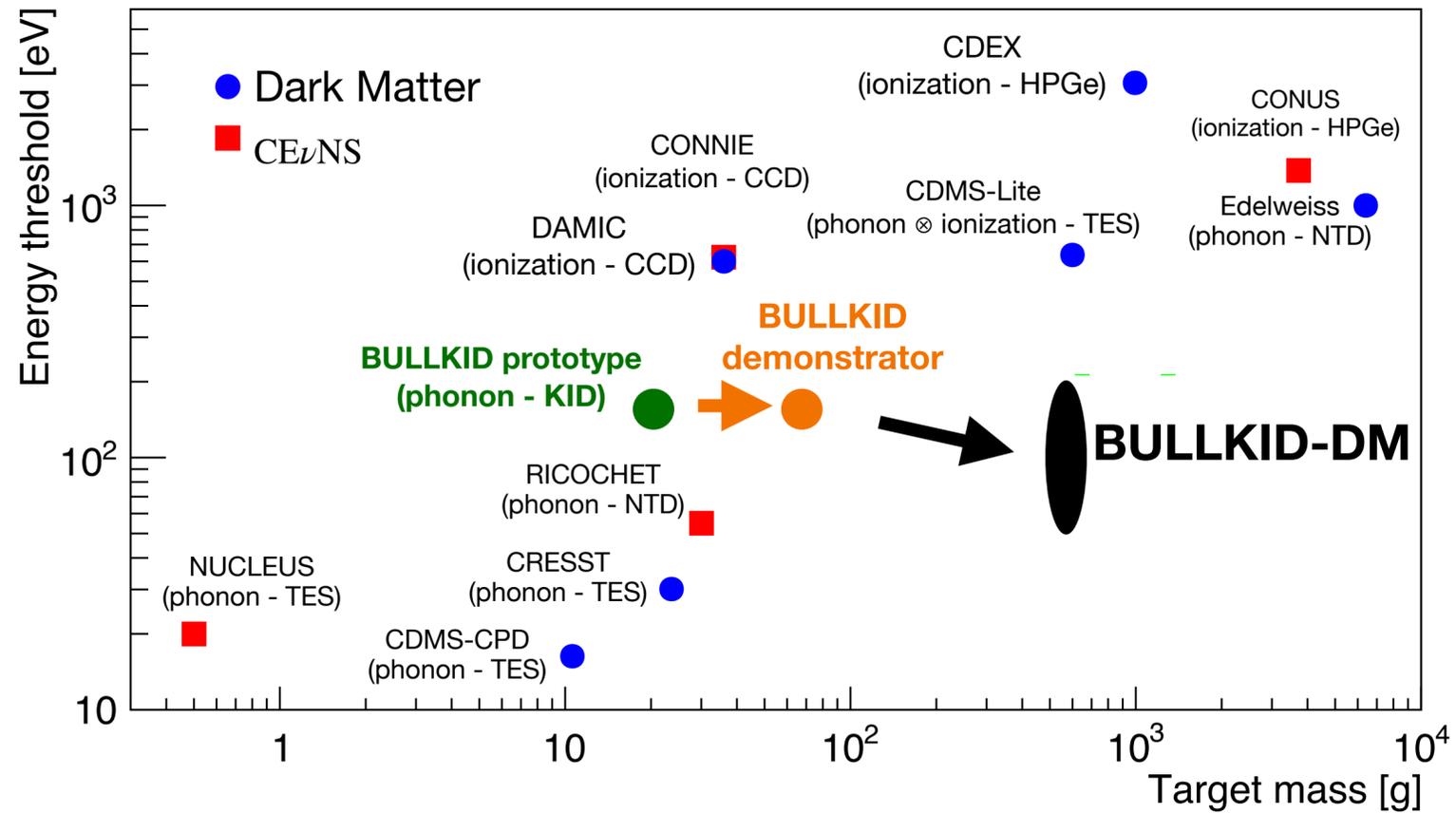
	BULLKID prototype	BULLKID-DM demonstrator		BULLKID-DM
mass	20 g	60 g		600 g
# of sensors	60	180		~2500
threshold	160 eV	200 eV		200 eV or lower
bkg (c/keV kg d)	2×10^6	$\sim 10^4$		10 - 0.01
laboratory	Sapienza U.	Sapienza	LNGS?	LNGS
installation	2023	2024	2025	2027?



Threshold and mass

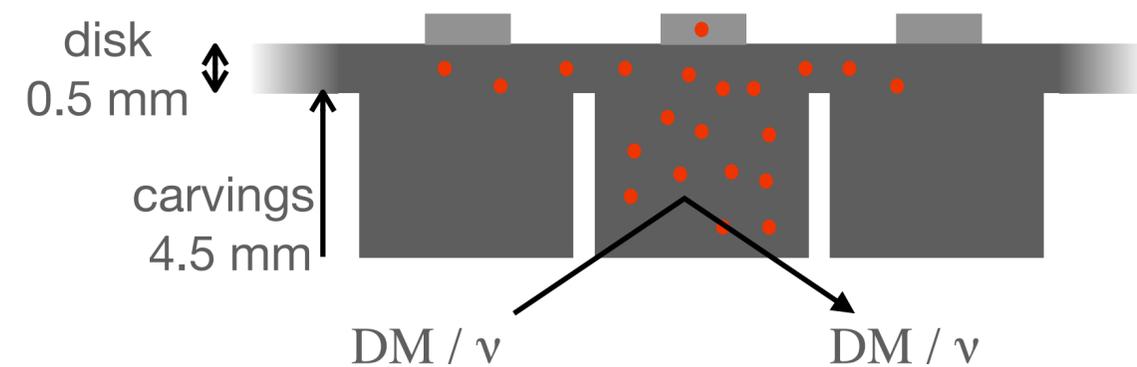


Threshold and mass

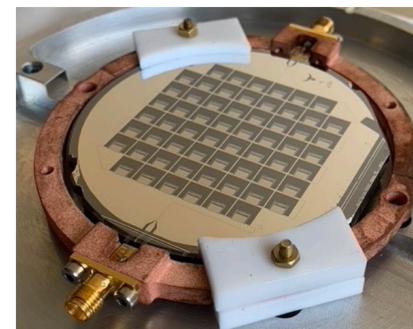
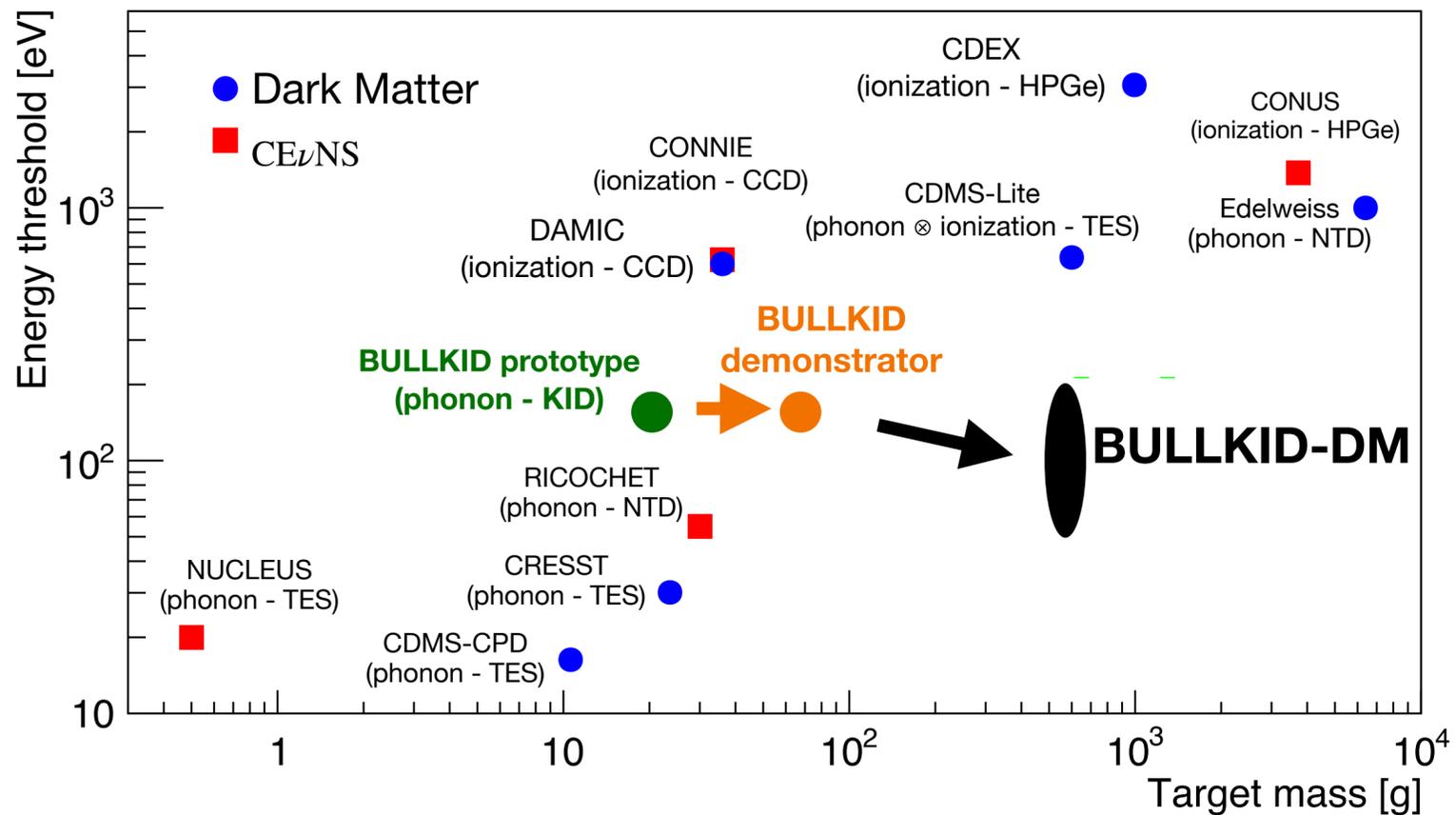


Threshold (ongoing R&Ds):

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



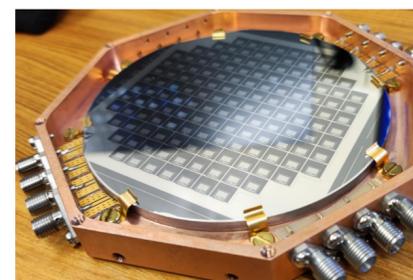
Threshold and mass



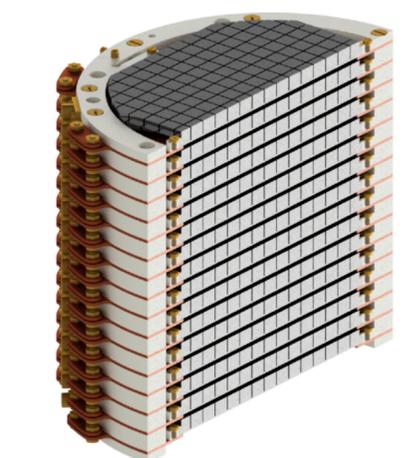
Prototype - 20 g / 60 dice
single 3" wafer
concluded in 2023



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



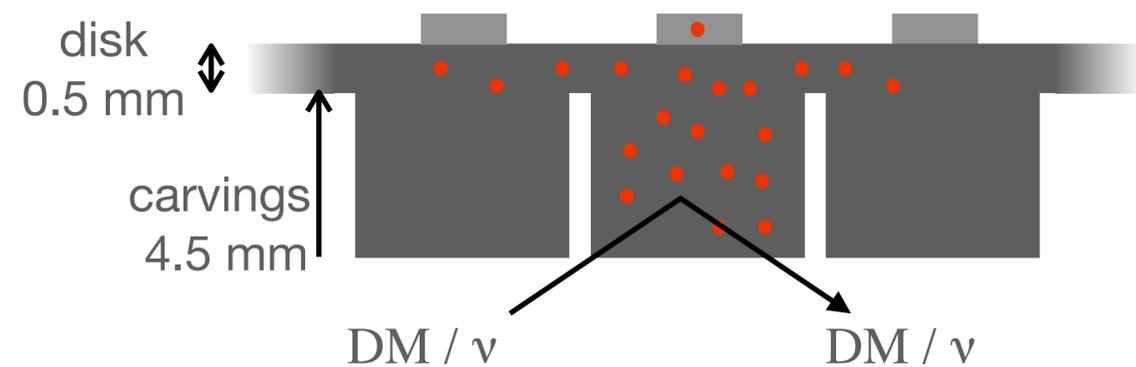
R&D on large wafer 50 g / 145 dice
single 100 mm wafer
first operations fall 2024



BULLKID-DM - 600 g / ~2500 dice
16-layer stack of 100 mm wafers
commissioning in 2026 at Sapienza U.

Threshold (ongoing R&Ds):

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



Towards the experiment

✓ Ideas?

Underground cryo-infrastructure

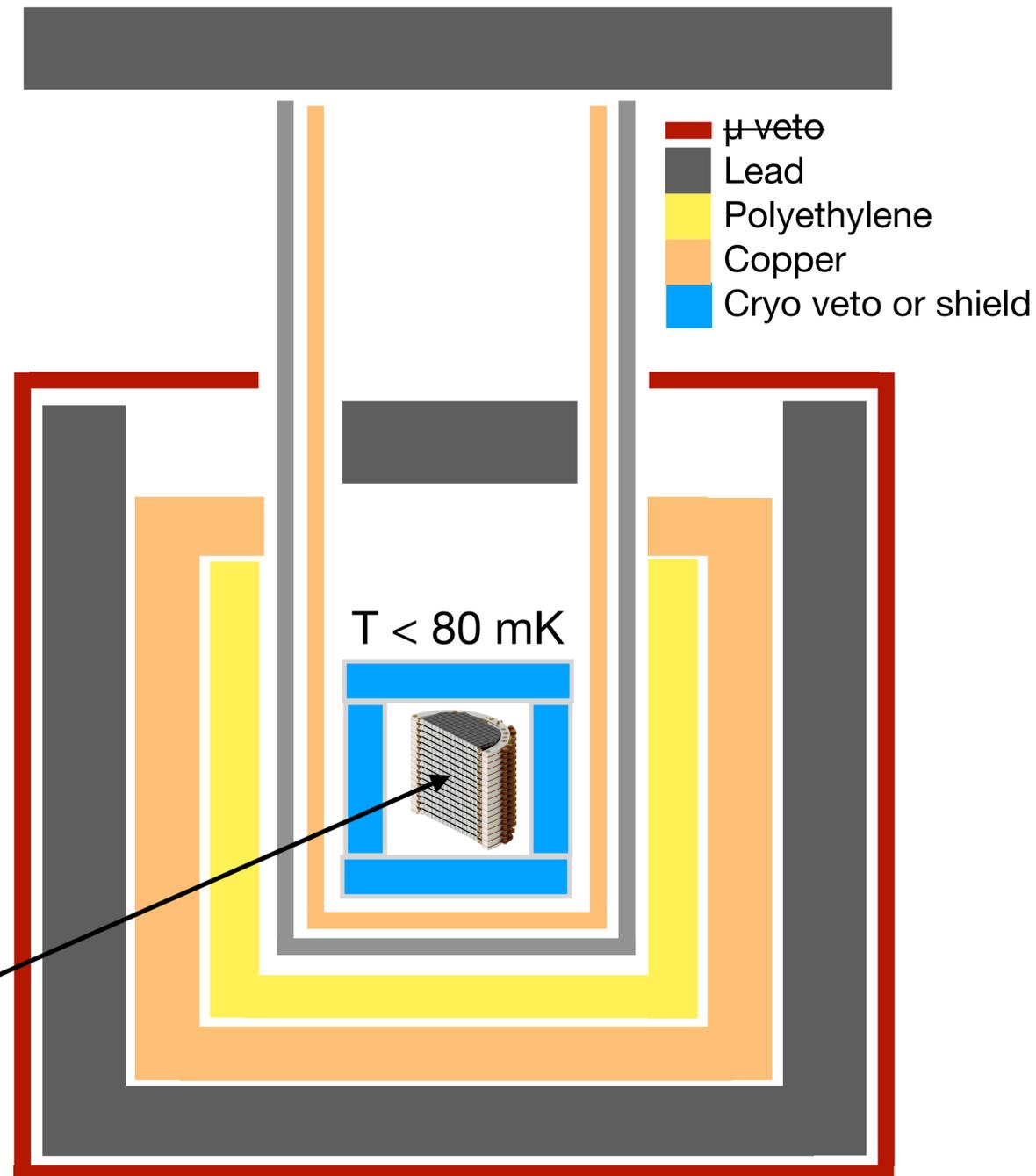
- Dilution refrigerator with $T < 80$ mK
- Cryostat outer shielding (PE, Pb, ...)
- Inner shielding
- Outer muon veto
- ~20 RF lines

MC Simulations

- Design of the apparatus
- Definition of required radiopurity

Inner veto or shield

- Cryo-veto around the BULLKIDs (BGO/GSO + Light detector)
- or lead passive shield?



Energy calibration options

- IR light
- neutron recoils (a la CRAB)
- ^{137}Cs or ^{60}Co Compton
- asynchronous

RF Readout and DAQ

- SDR boards
- onboard trigger

Computing

- Data transfer
- Data storage

Data analysis

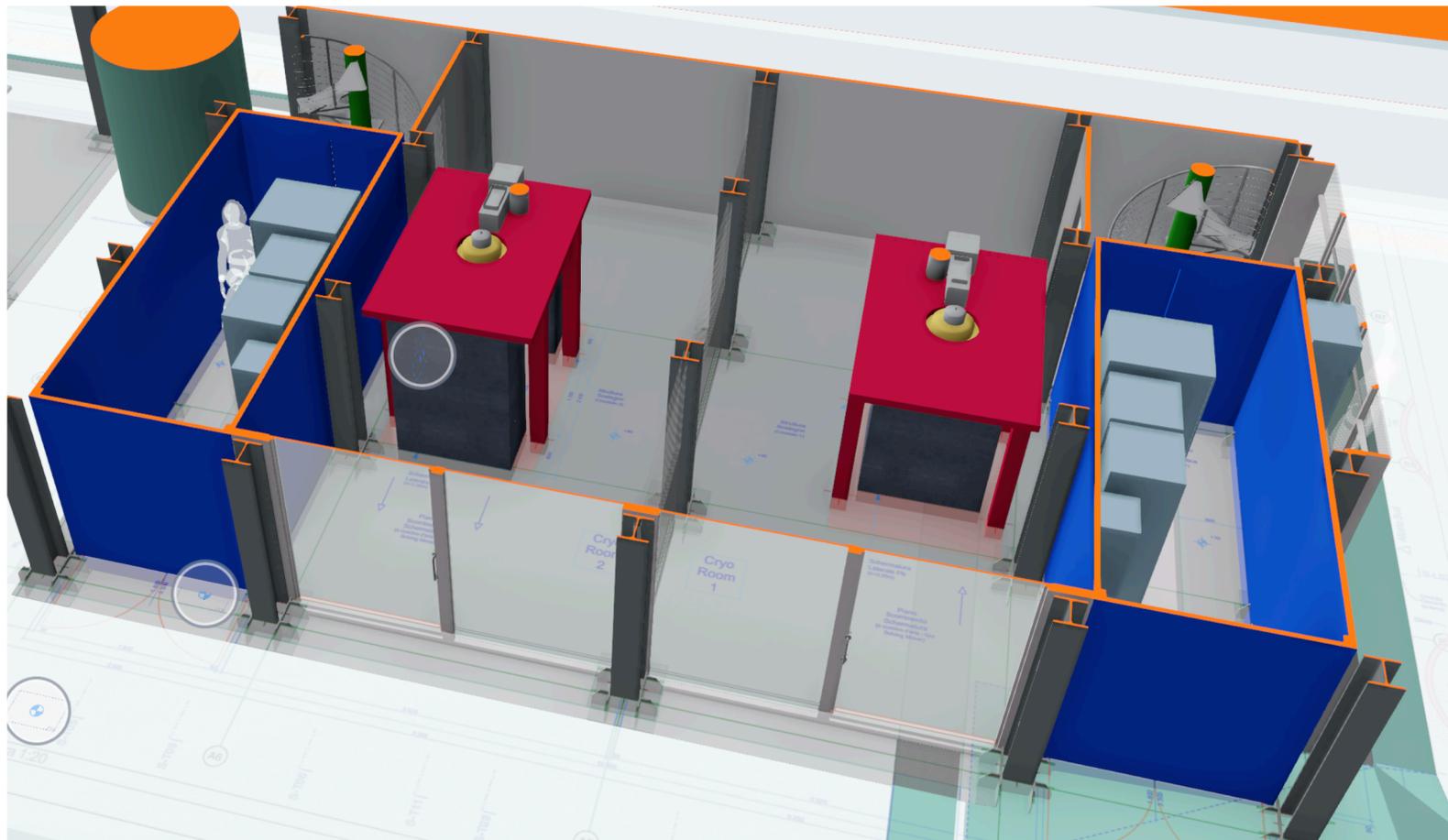
- 2000+ channels,
- cluster analysis

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

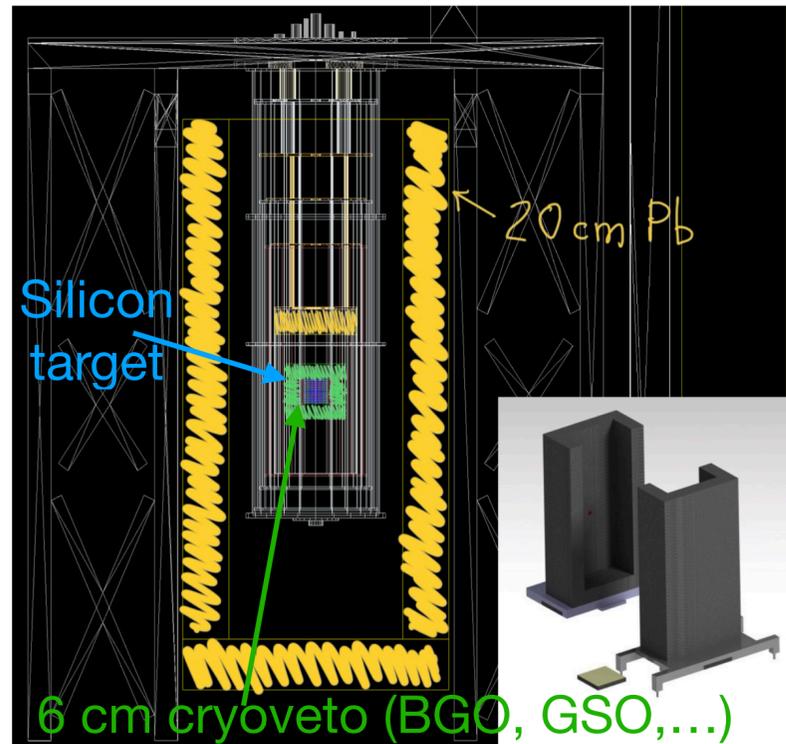
Replaceable insert to be
instrumented with RF lines



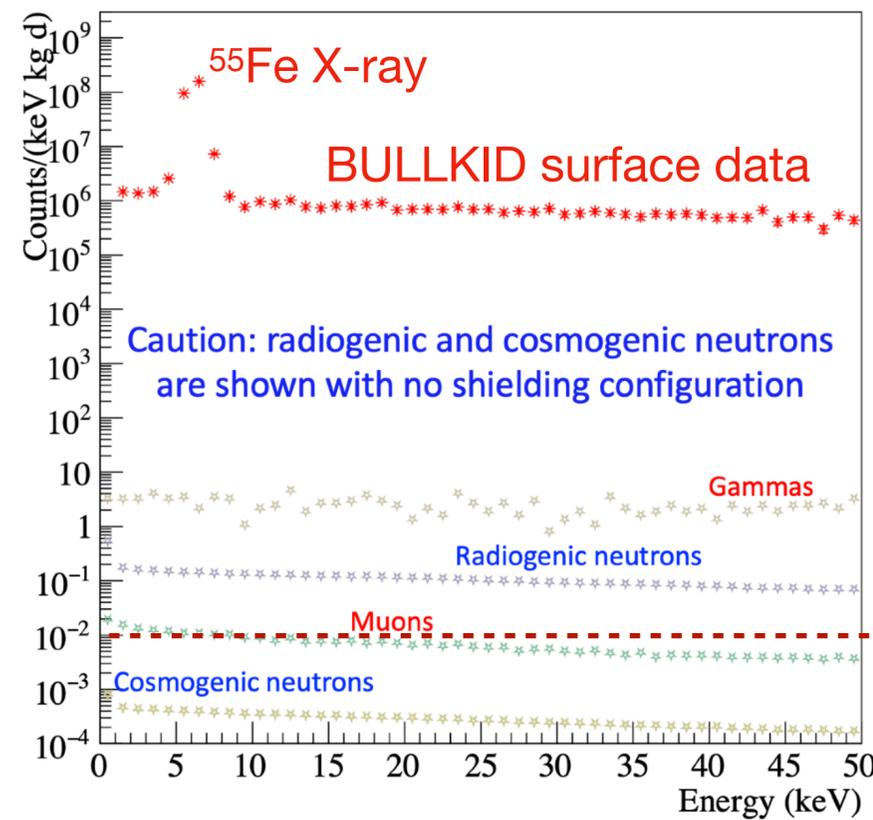
Simulations: shields and veto

✓ preliminary

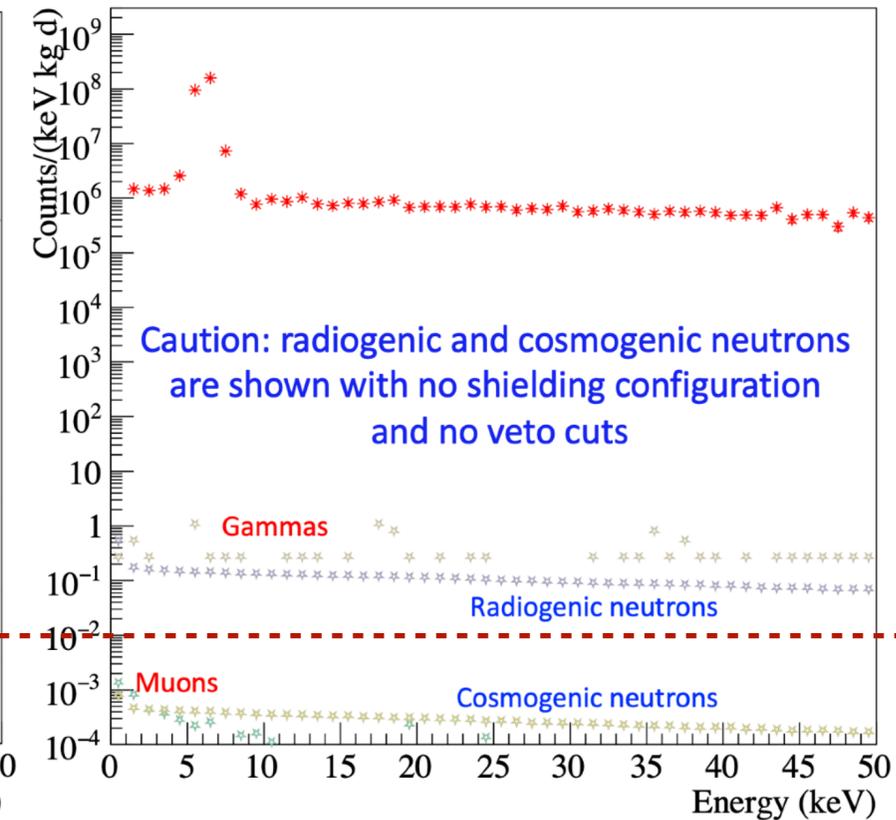
No polyethylene, copper and top lead yet



“passive” veto



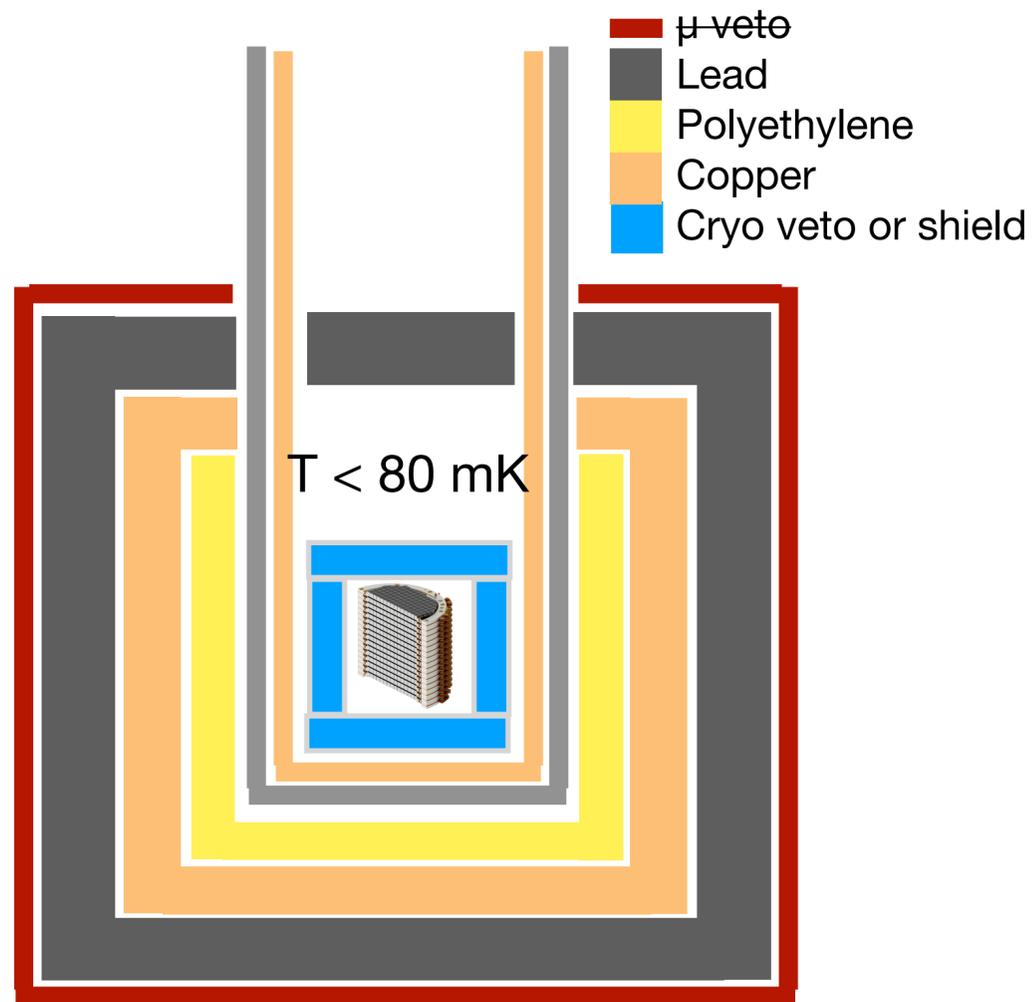
“active” veto $E_{th} = 50$ keV



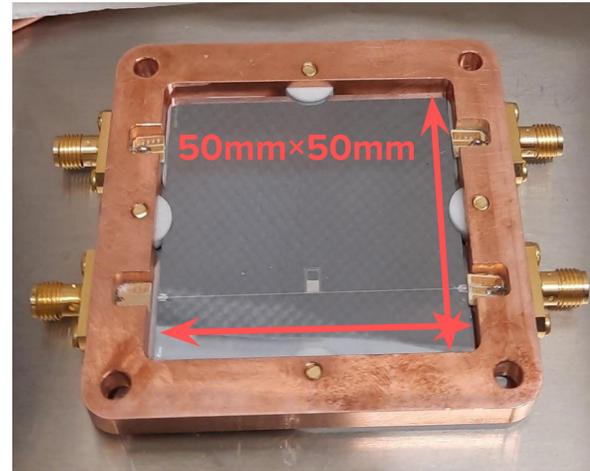
Currently working on internal contaminations in lead and veto

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.

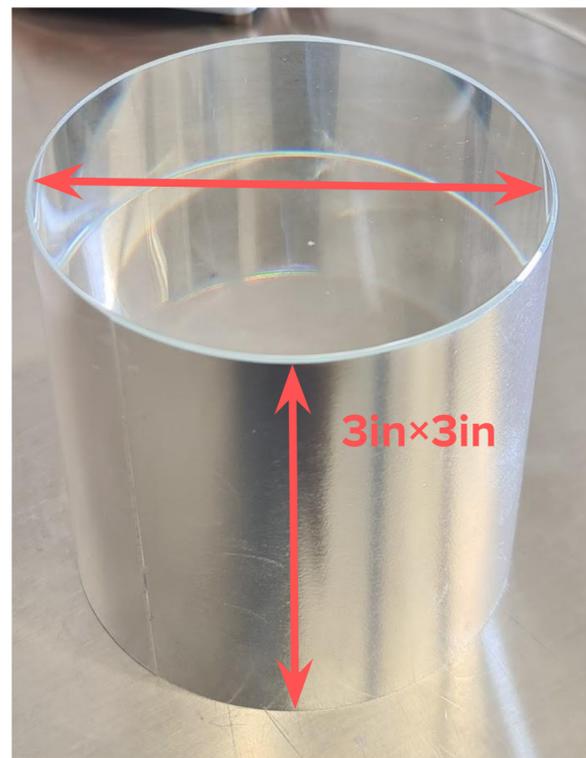
Cryogenic veto: BGO prototype



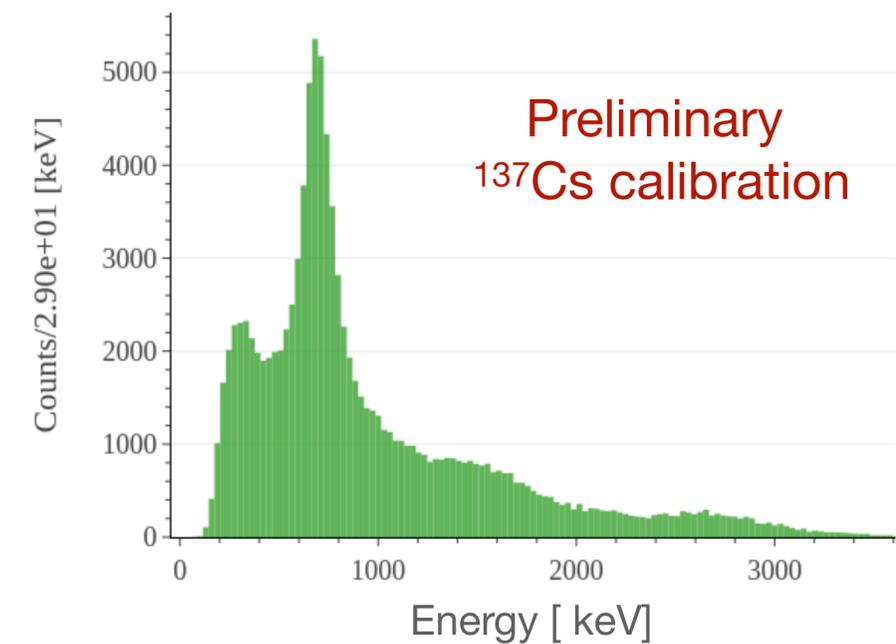
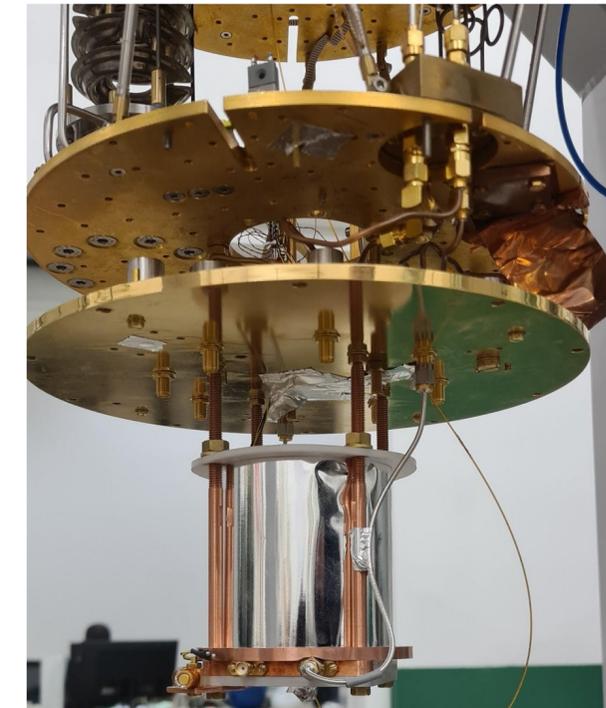
CALDER KID Light detector



BGO Crystal



Assembly with reflector

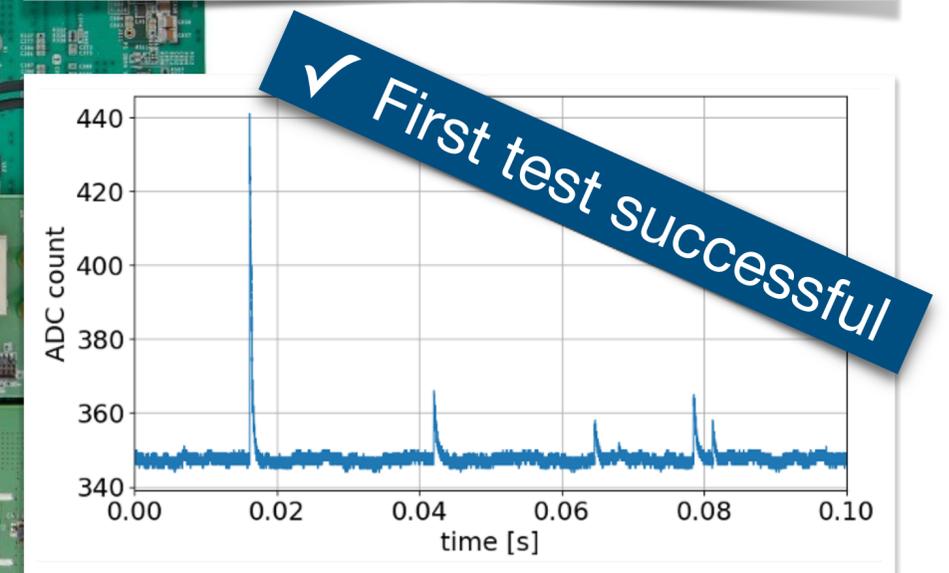
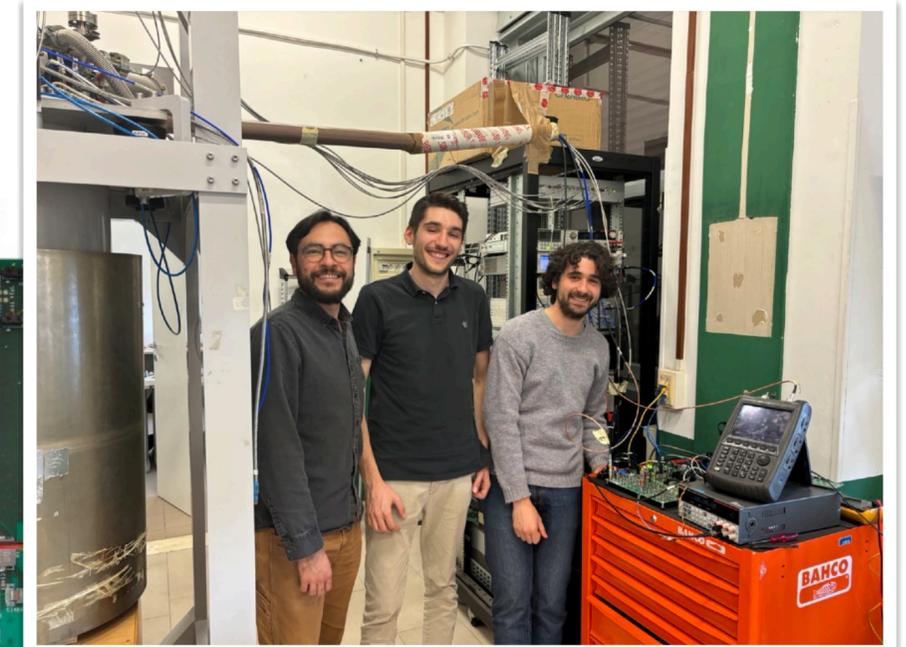
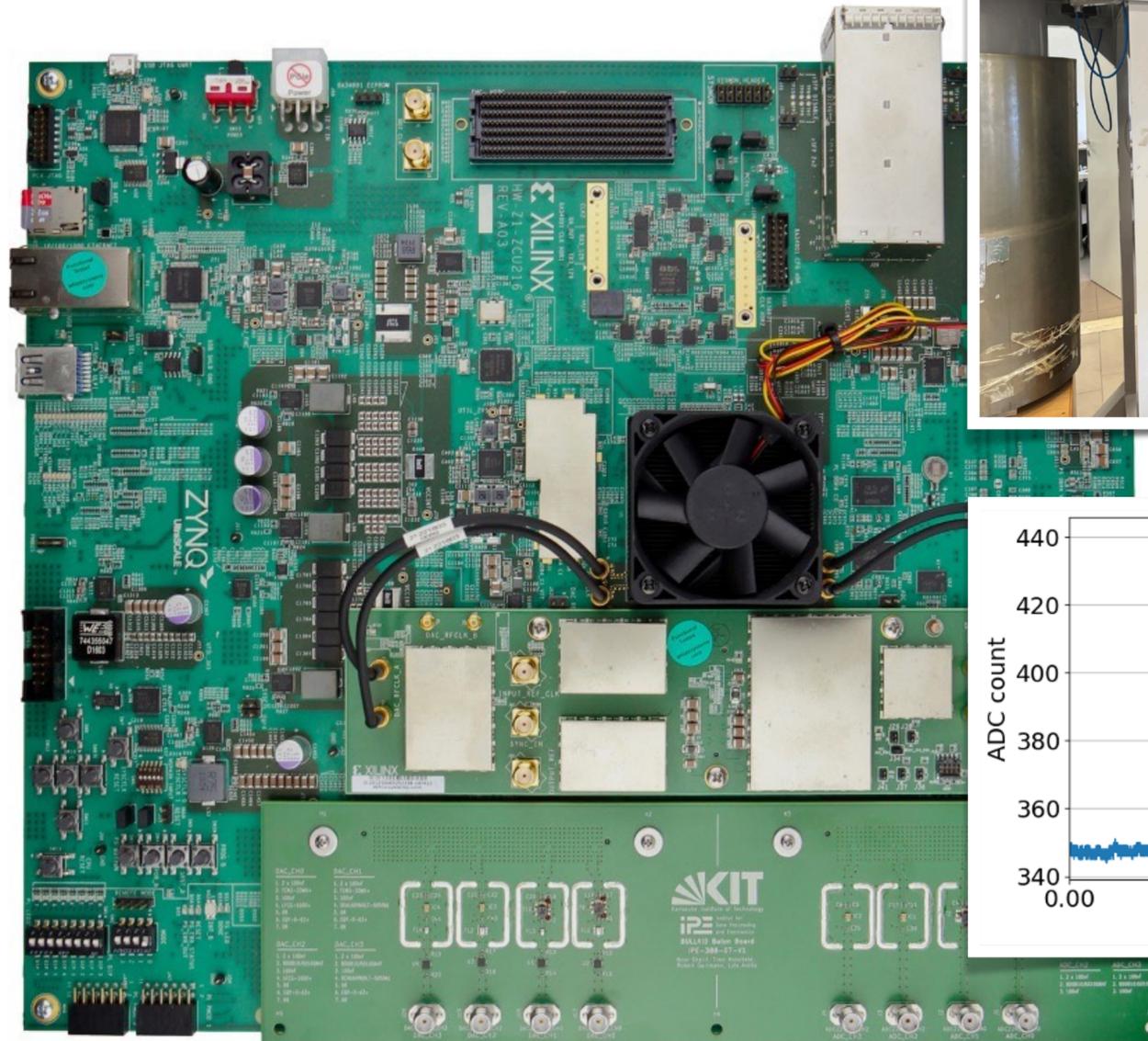


RF Electronics

Current electronics (Ettus x310):
30 KIDs / board

New electronics (ZCU216 Evaluation Board with 16 lines):
Goal ≥ 150 KIDs / line

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



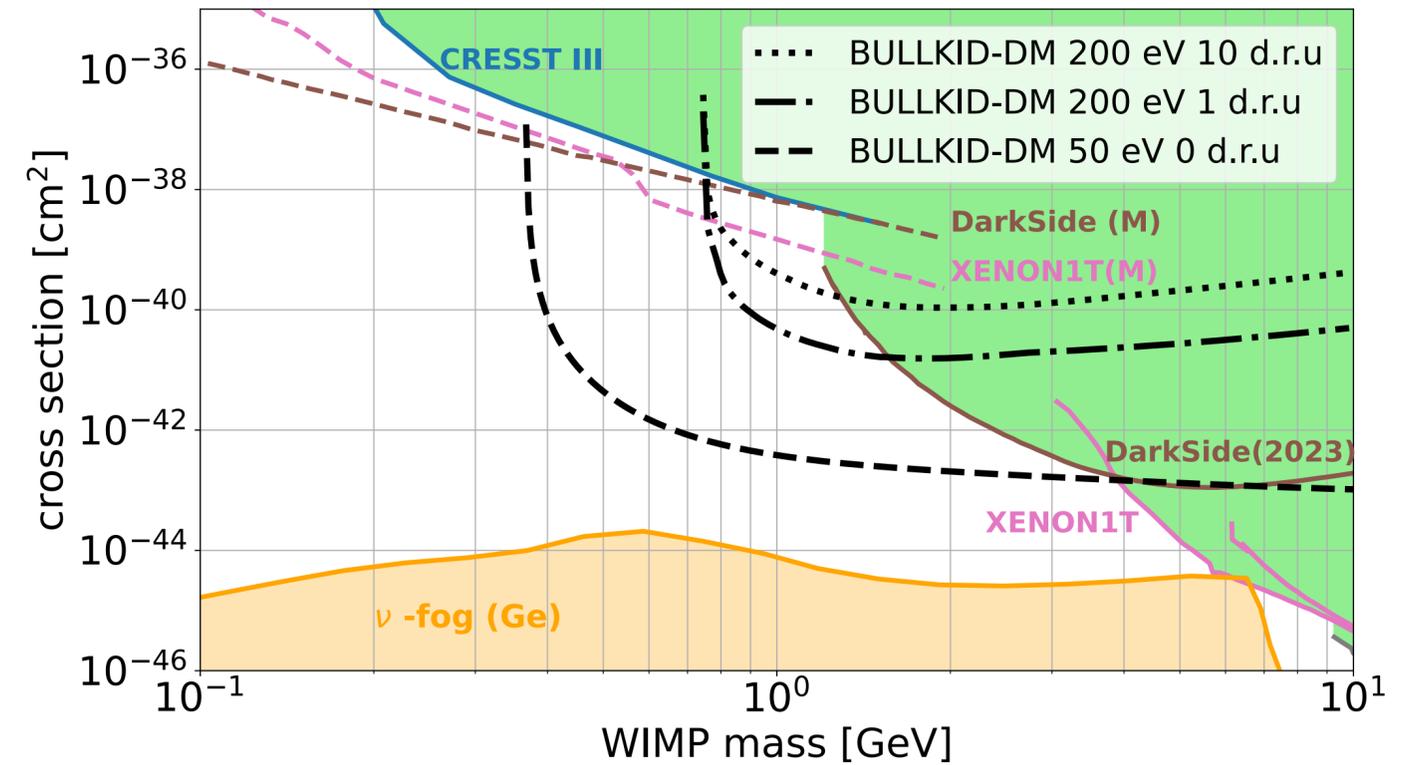
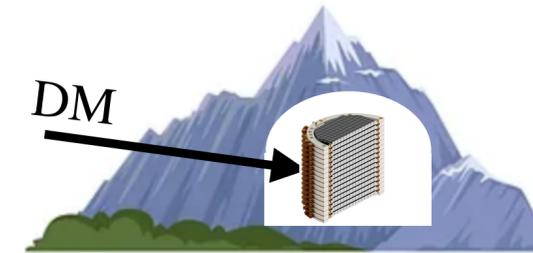
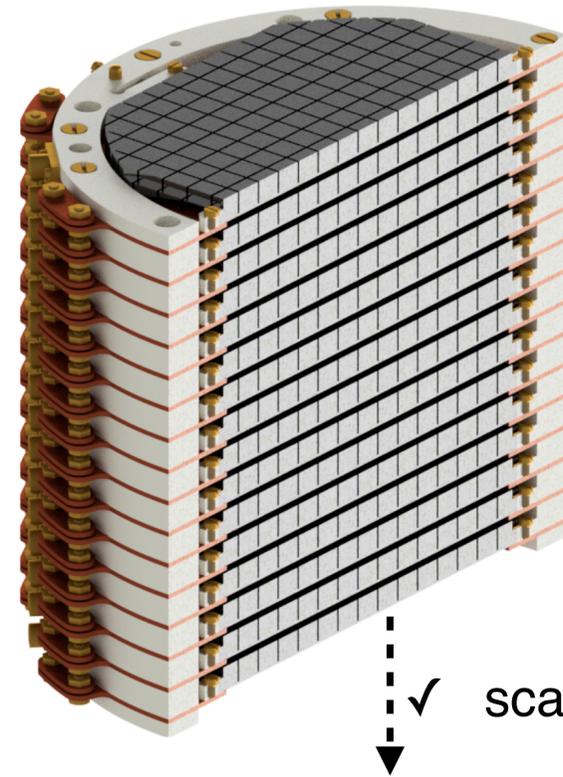
Wrap-up

- ✓ 0.6 kg of silicon target
- ✓ 2500 detector units (dice)

Unique features for bkg. suppression:

- ✓ No inert material in detector volume
- ✓ fully active
- ✓ fiducialization

Will it help with the unknown backgrounds?



Prototype works

demonstrator (3 wafer)

60 KID electronics

150 KID electronics and prototype veto

full stack commissioned in Roma, full veto and electronics

2023

2024

2025

2026

2027

tentative schedule for LNGS:

demonstrator (technical run)

additional shielding installation

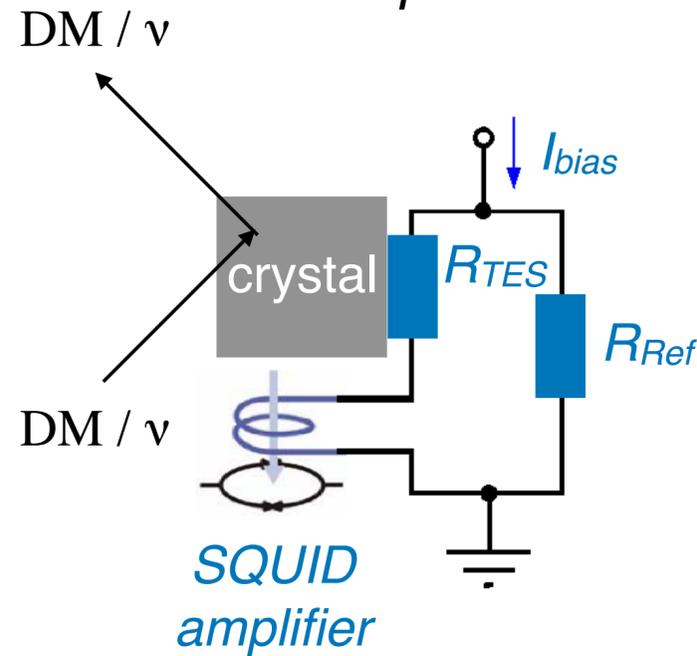
detector installation

data taking

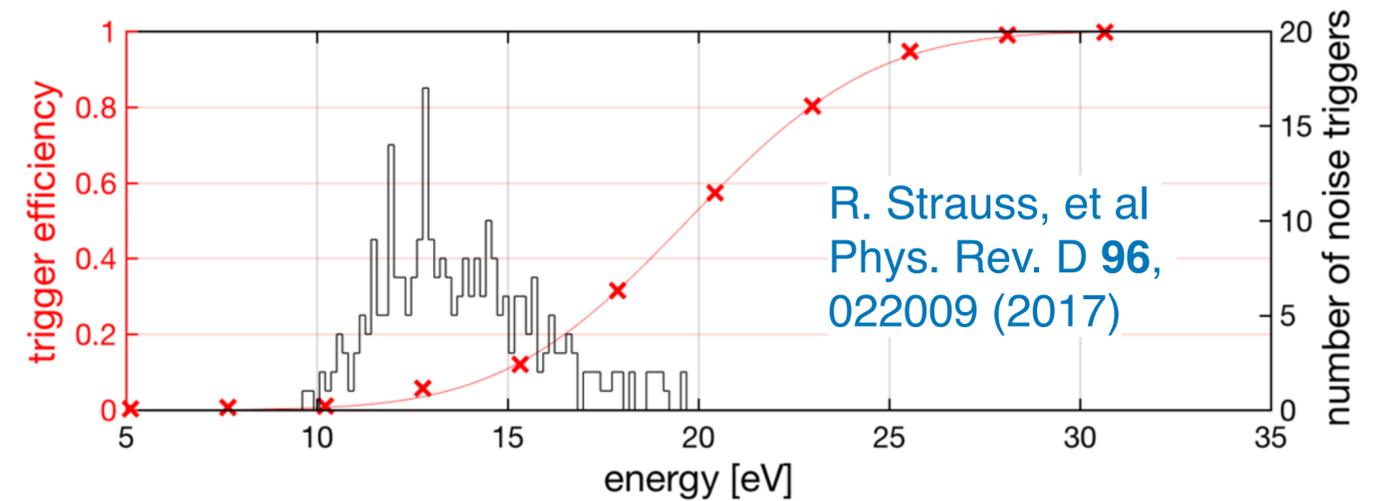
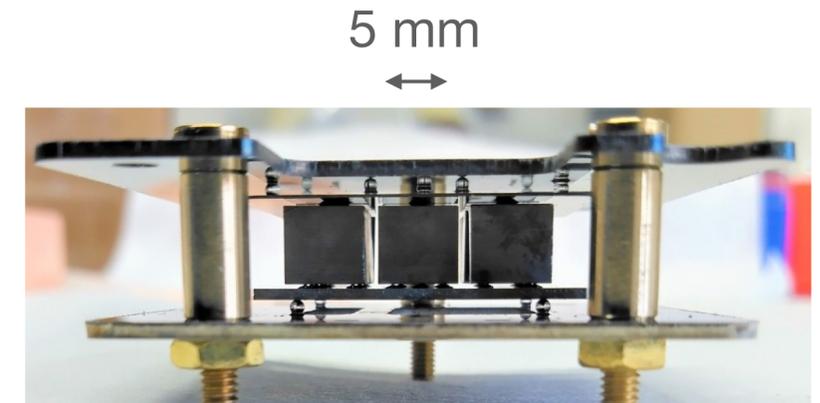
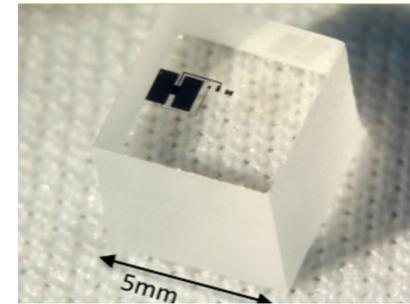
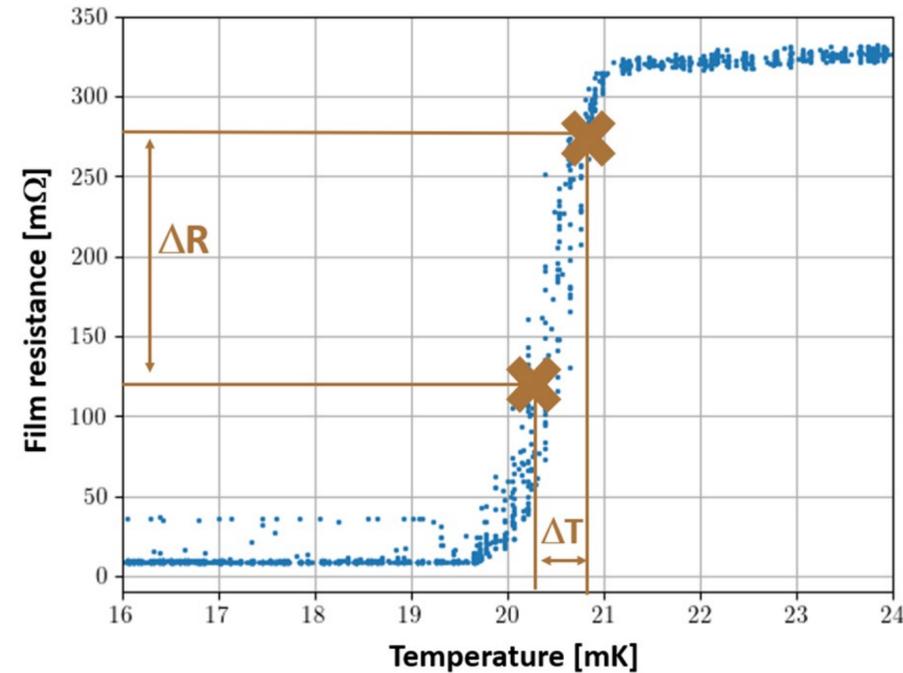
Backup slides

State of the art of phonon detection (CRESST/NUCLEUS experiments)

Superconducting thermometers (TES)



Transition of W-TES



Limitation: individual readout

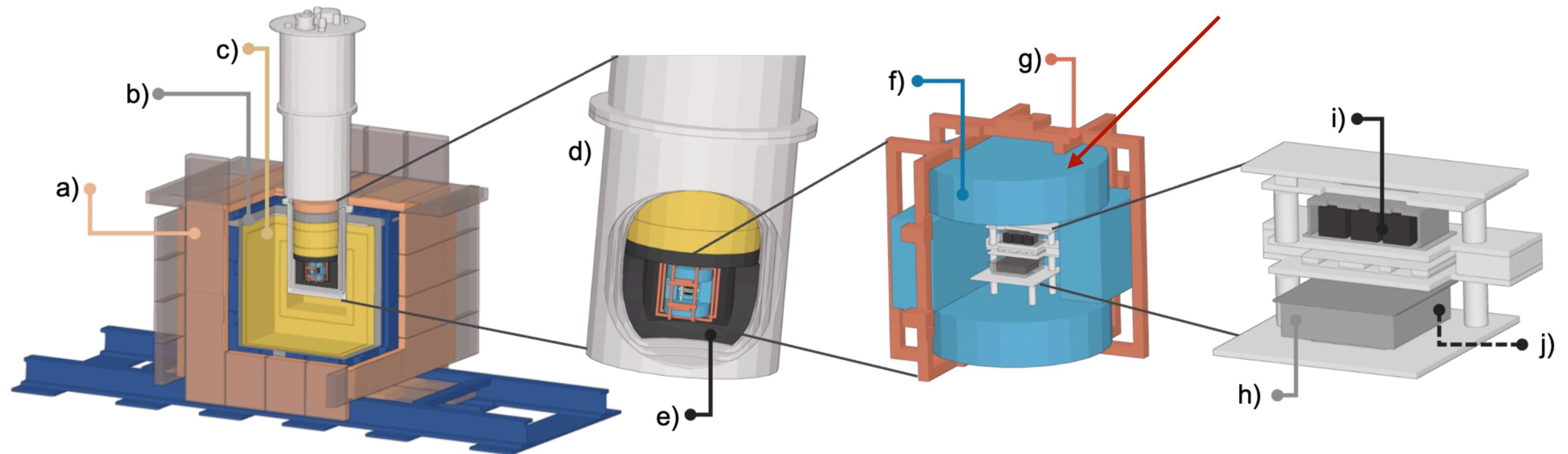
Pro: record-low energy threshold ~ 20 eV

**Future experiments point to kg targets (100÷1000 crystals)
challenging with this technology**

NUCLEUS: experimental apparatus

above ground experiment (3 m.w.e)

In BULLKID: BGO/GSO crystals read by the KID light detectors of CALDER?



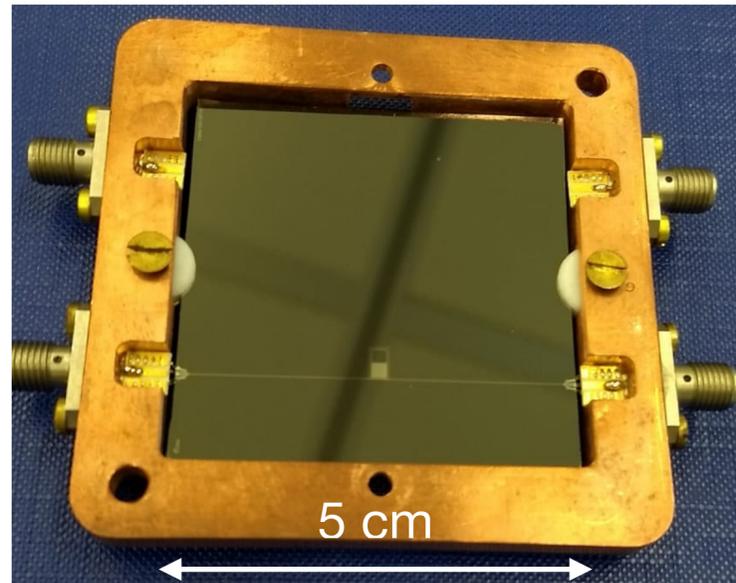
[C. Goupy et al \[NUCLEUS Coll.\], arXiv:2211.04189](#)

a) 28 5-cm thick Muon Veto panels, **b)** a 5-cm thick lead layer, and **c)** a 20-cm thick borated polyethylene. **d)** A dilution refrigerator is inserted inside the shielding and contains **e)** a 4-cm thick boron carbide layer and **f)** a Cryogenic Outer Veto made of six high purity germanium crystals held by **g)** a copper cage. Finally the cryogenic detectors are organised in two arrays of nine cubes of **i)** CaWO₄ and **j)** Al₂O₃, held by **h)** the silicon inner veto.

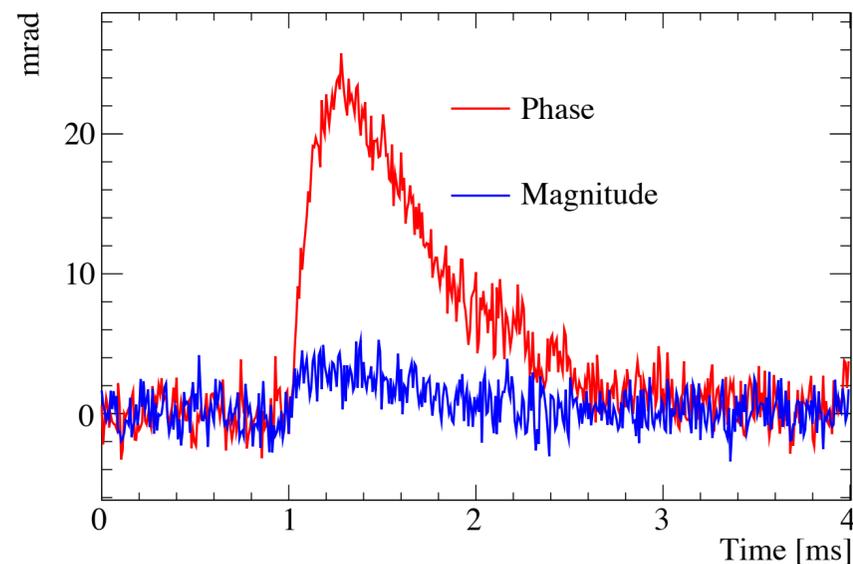
CALDER: light detectors w KIDs



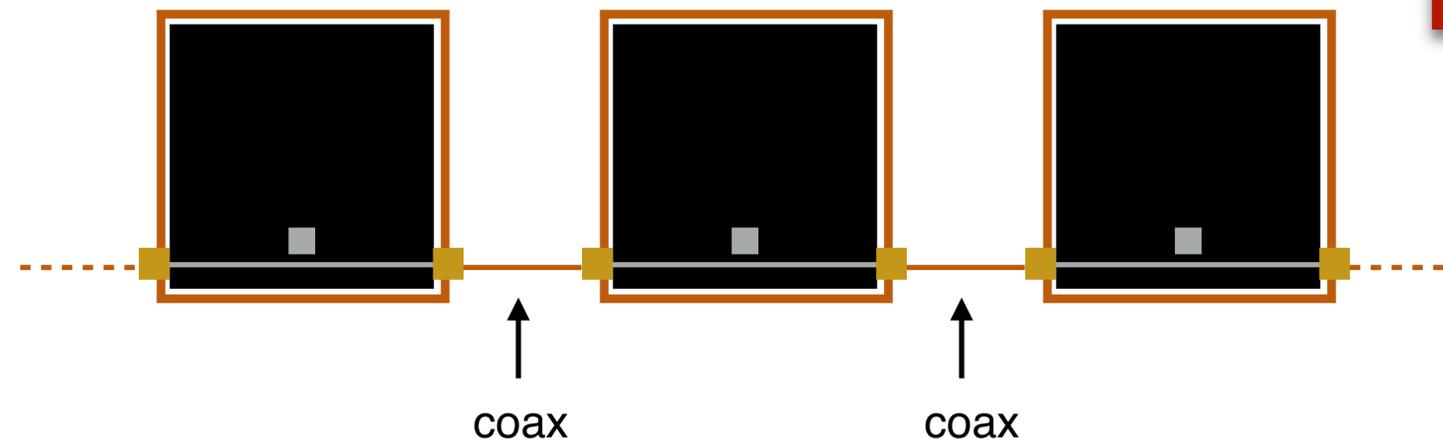
L. Cardani et al, EPJC 81 (2021) 636



Area [cm ²]	25
ΔE [eV RMS]	34 90 w/o vibration decoupling
Response time [ms]	0.12
Temperature [mK]	8-120
# detectors	Multiplexing

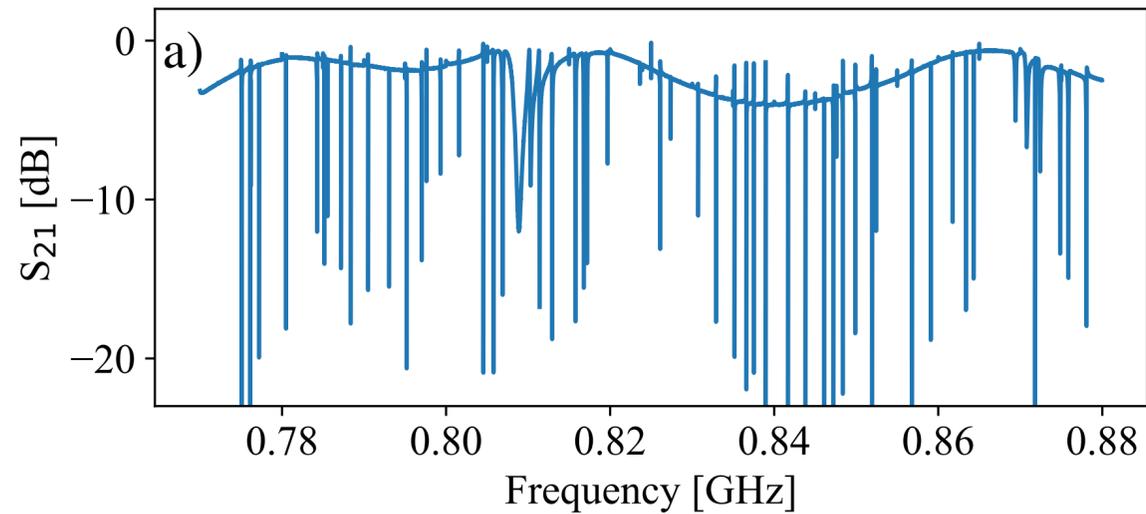


Could be coupled to scintillating crystals for the BULLKID veto

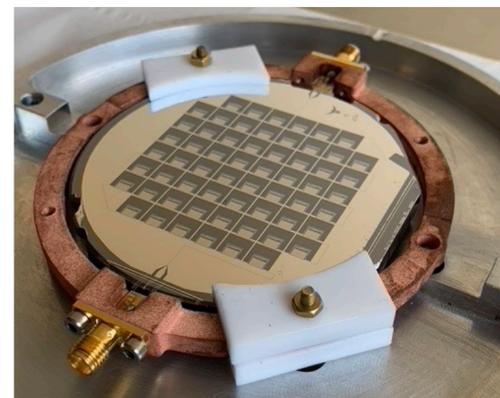
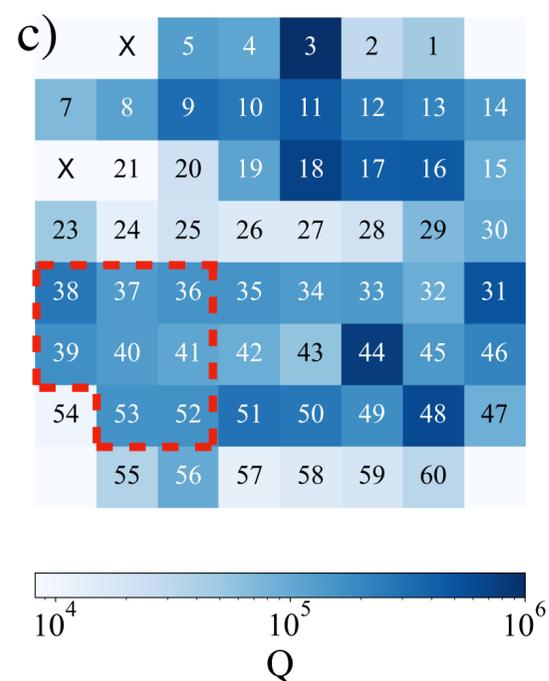
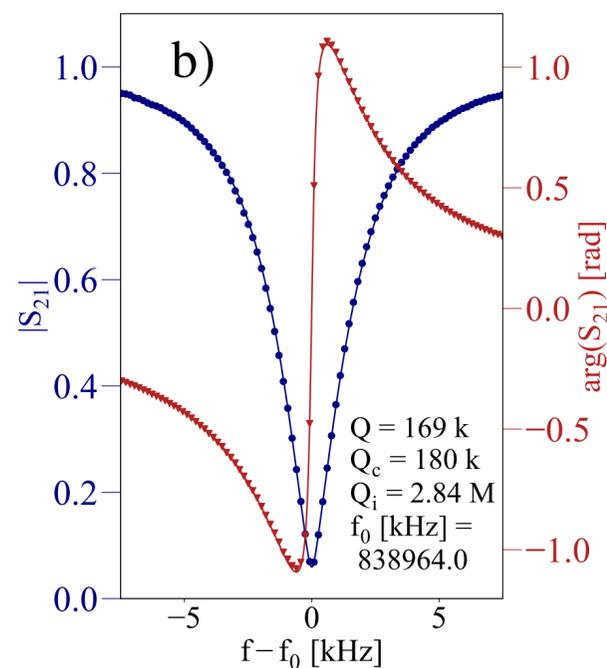
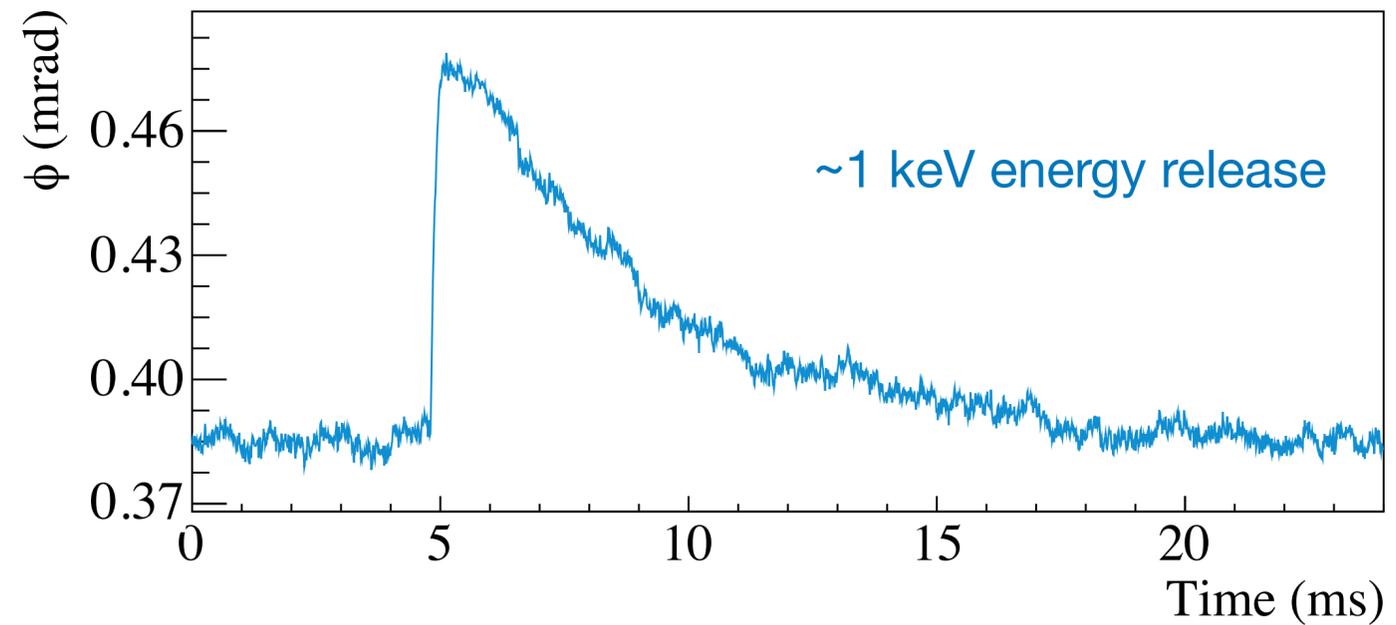


First results (Summer '22)

Frequency scan of the KID array



Particle interaction in a dice

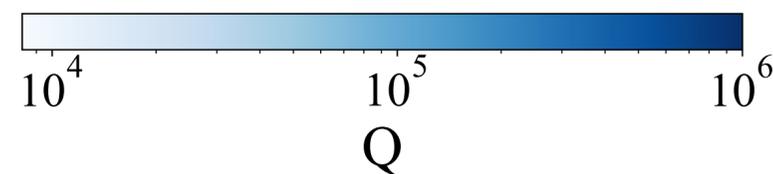
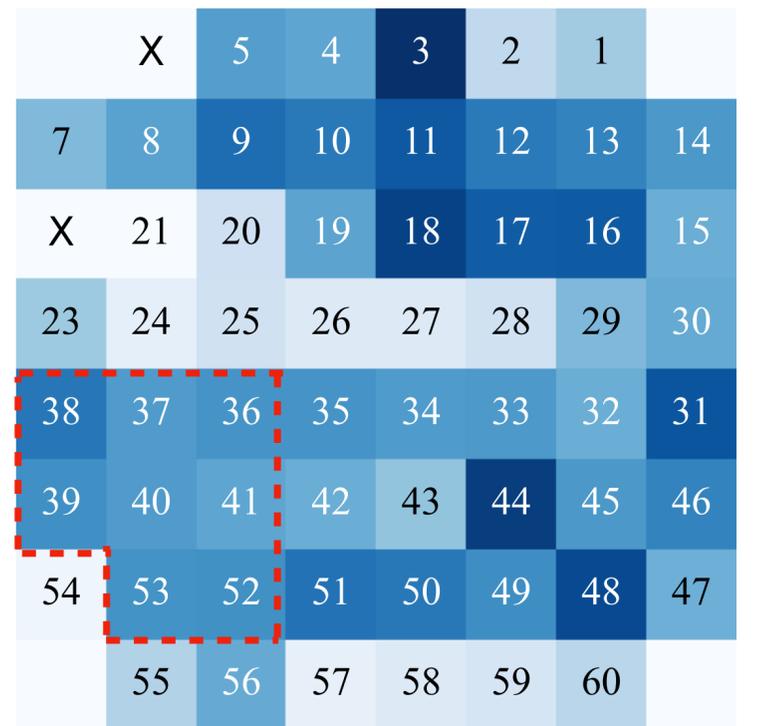


- +) 58/60 KIDs alive
- +) RMS@0 eV: **26 ± 7 eV**
-) Response not uniform

[A. Cruciani, et al, Appl. Phys. Lett. 121, 213504 \(2022\)](#)

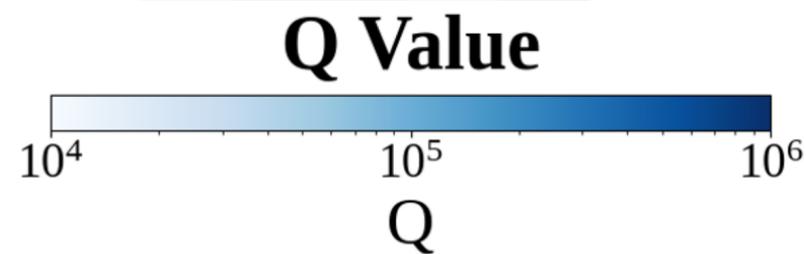
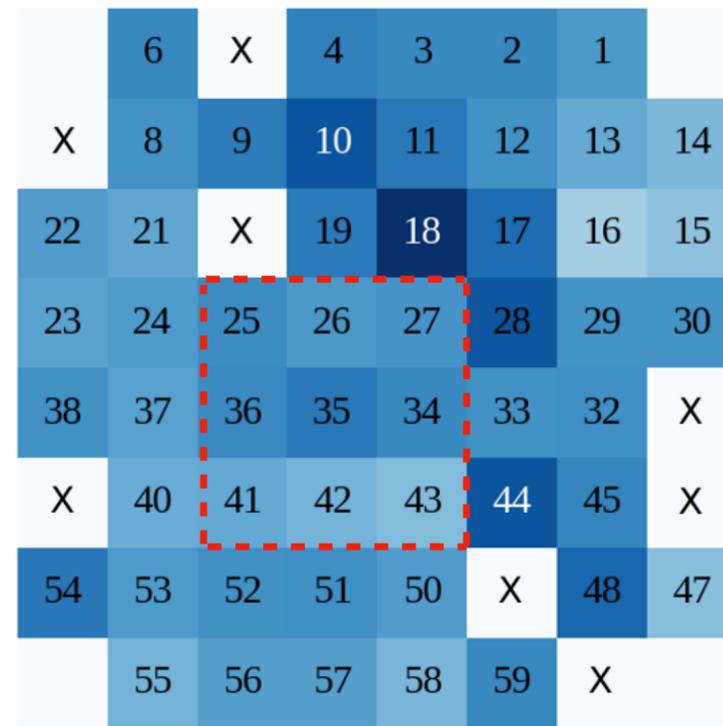
Improvement of uniformity ('23)

First version of the array

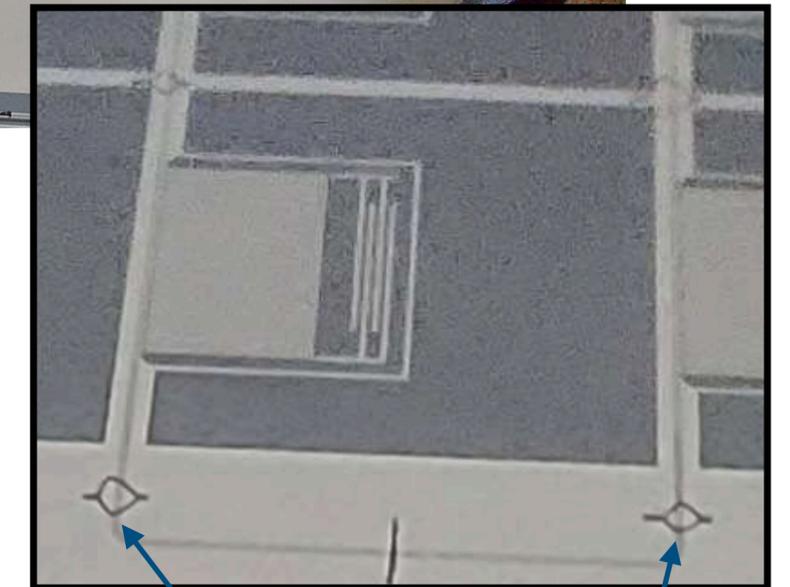
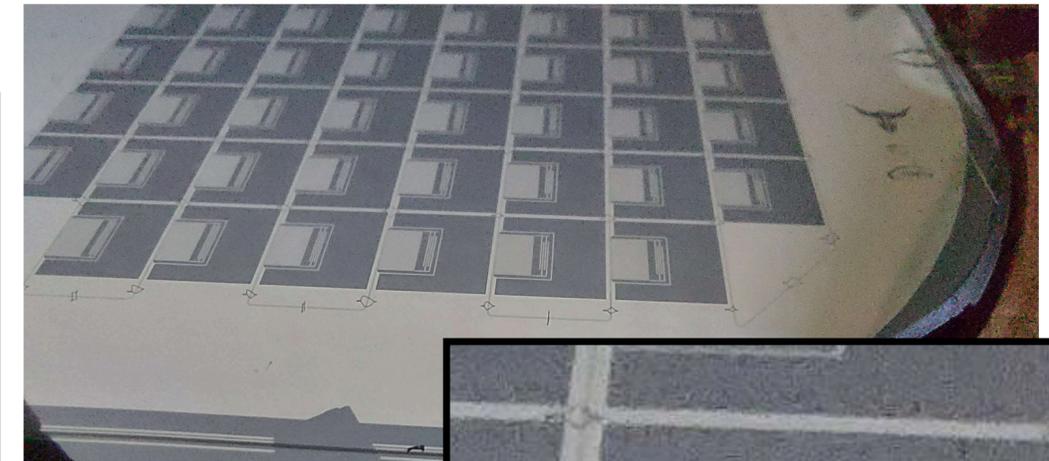


- +) 58/60 KIDs alive
-) Response not uniform

Same array with improved grounding

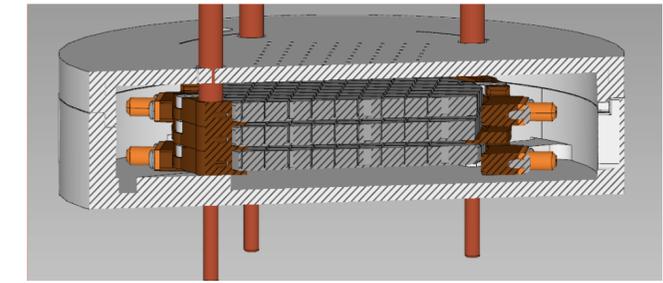


- +) All KIDs with $Q \sim 10^5$ (optimal sensitivity)
-) Some resonator lost during operations

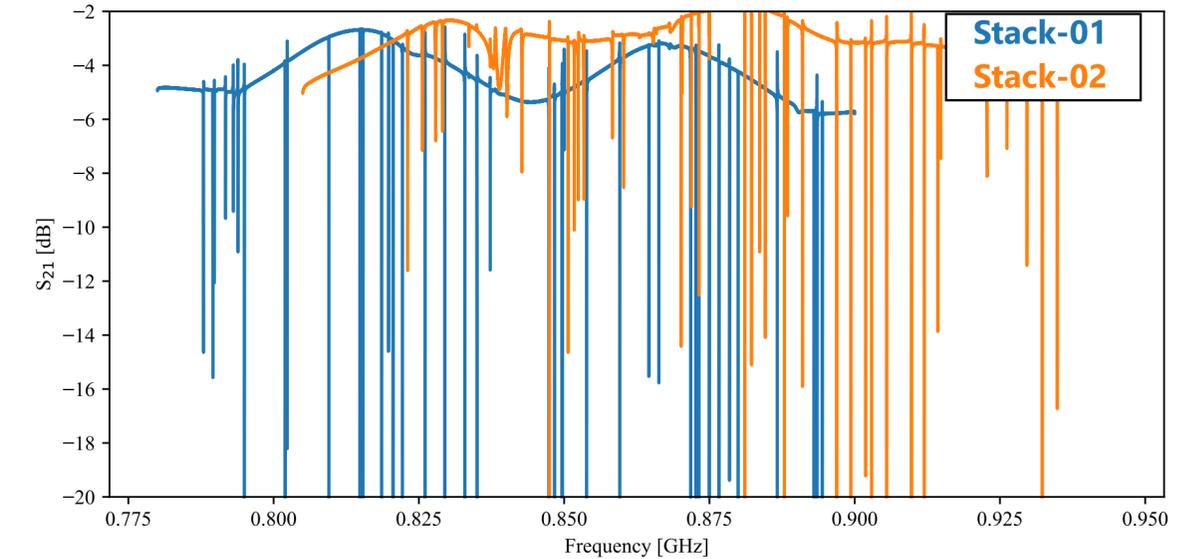
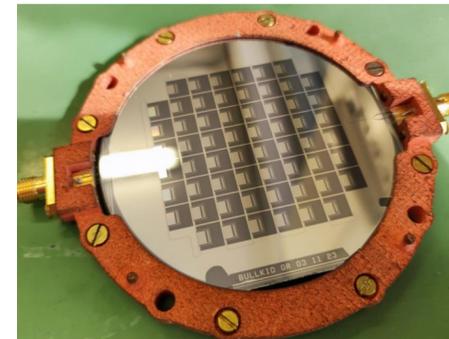
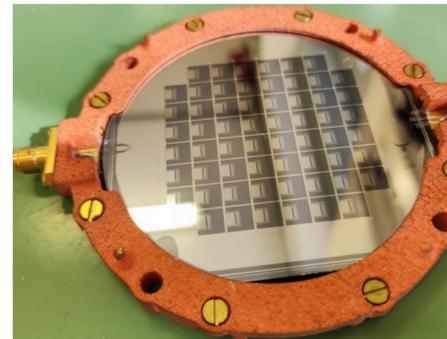
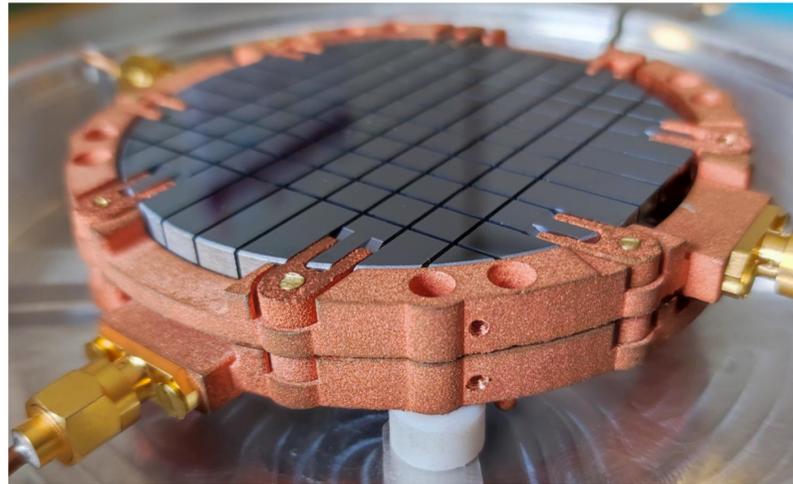


Airbridges connecting GND planes

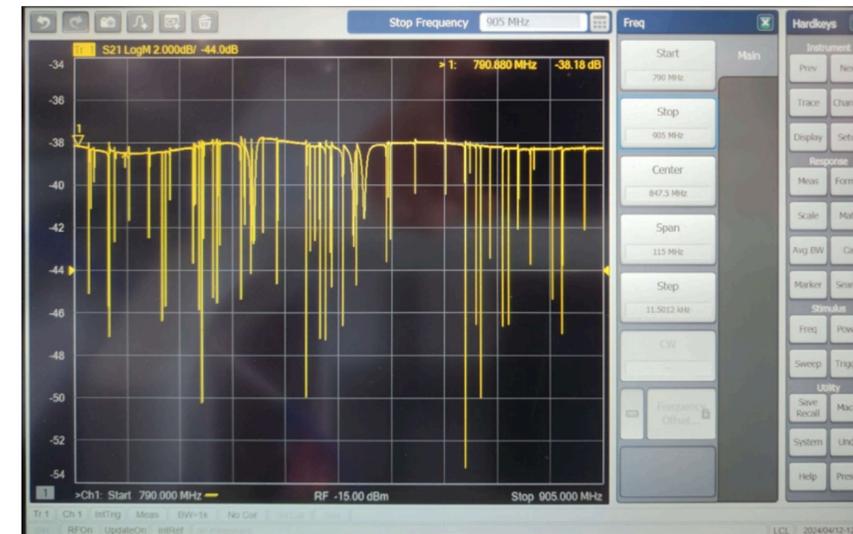
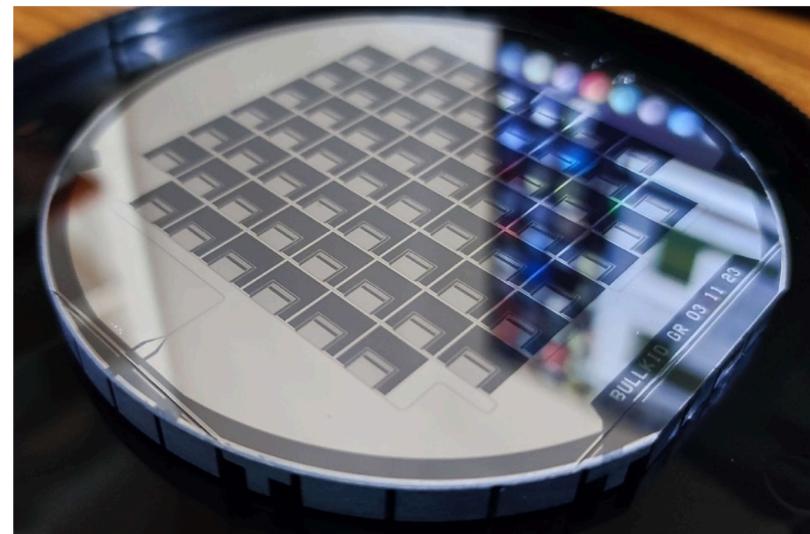
Status of the 3-wafer demonstrator



2-wafer stack operated. No issues observed

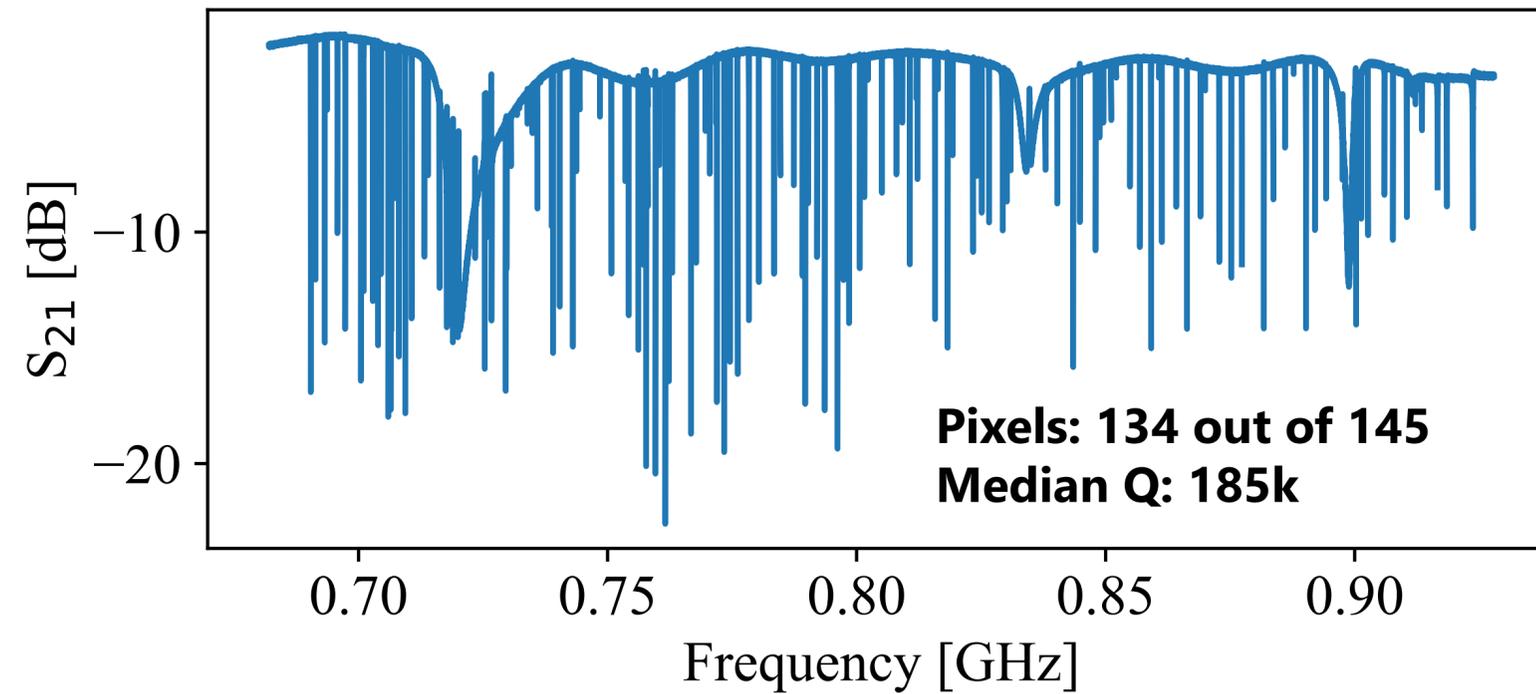
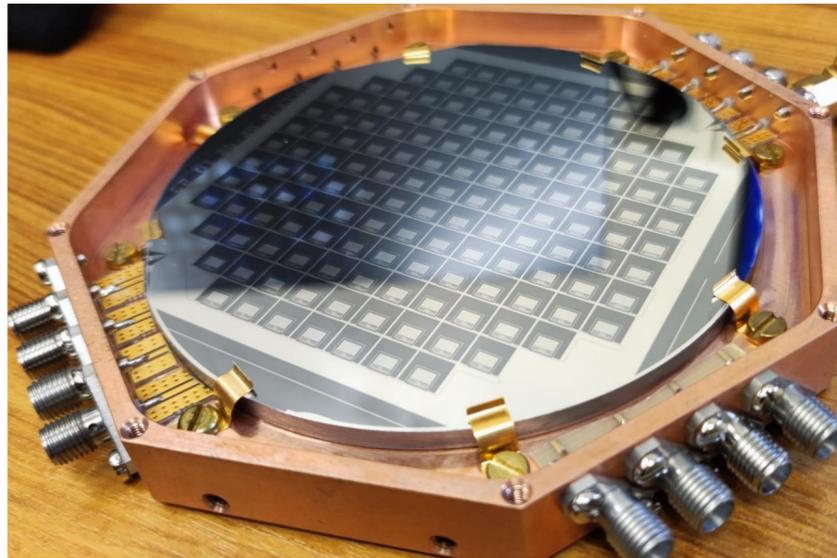


3rd wafer produced and tested. Assembly in the stack in May '24

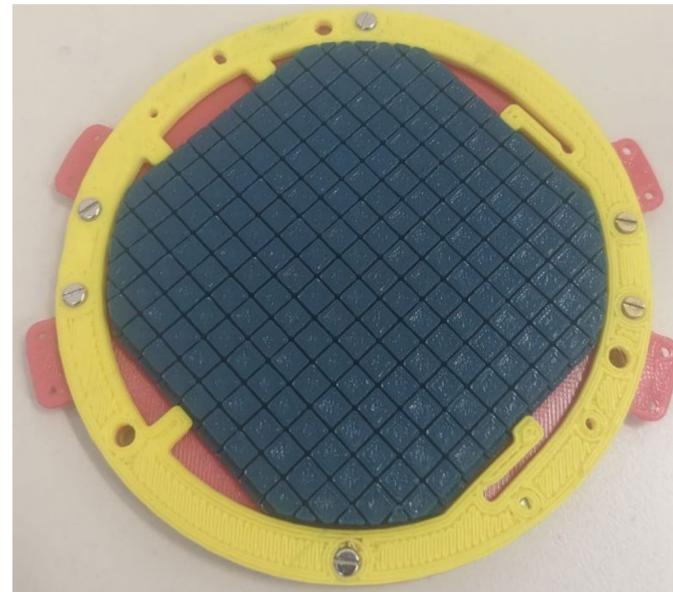
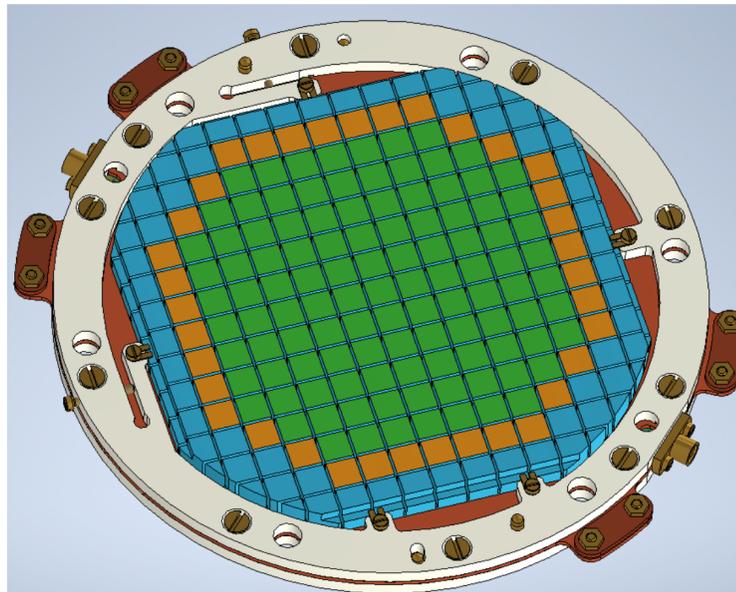


Status of 100 mm wafers

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



Assembly under development



5 mm wafer grooved successful



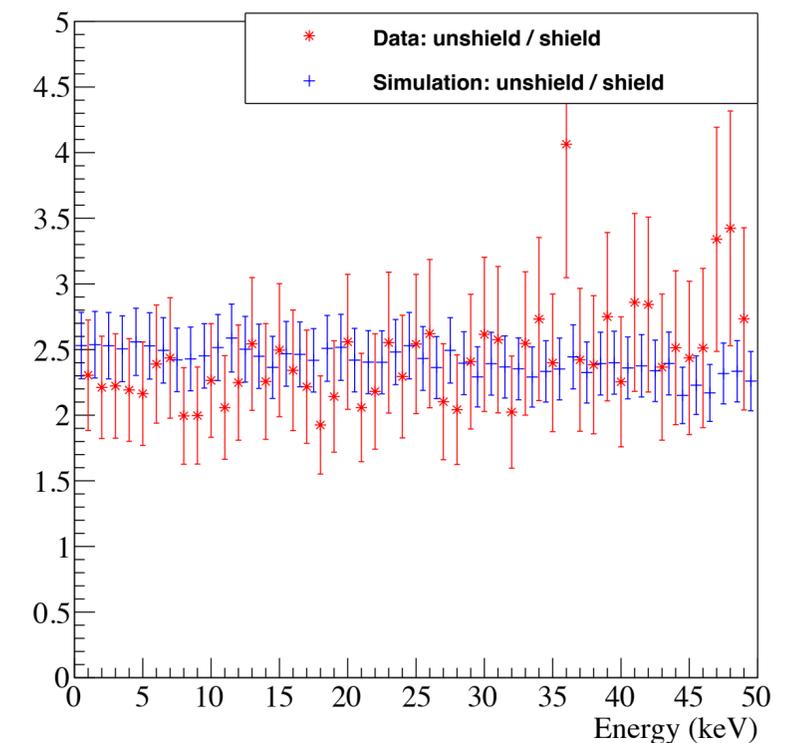
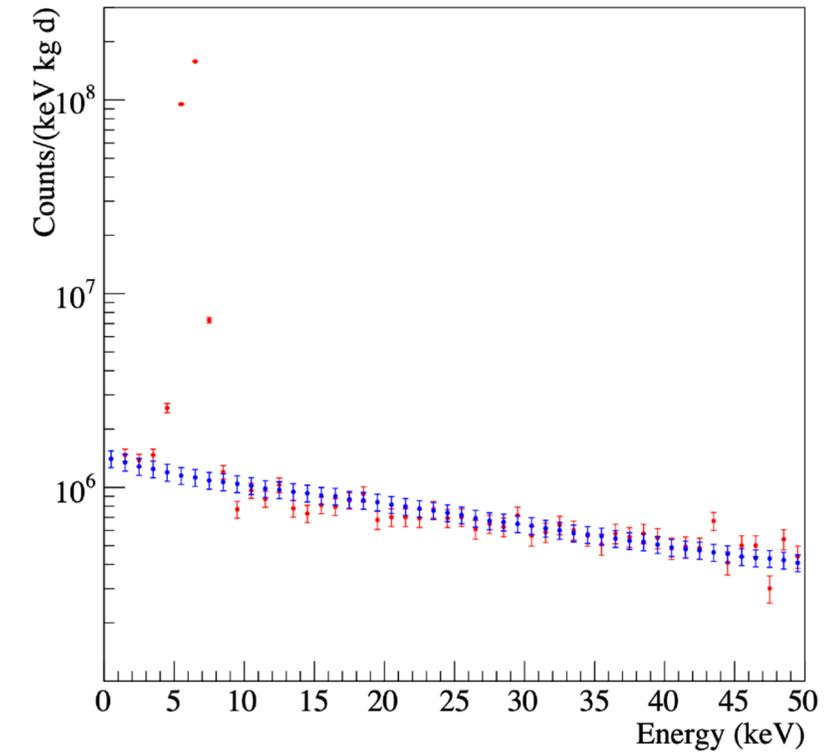
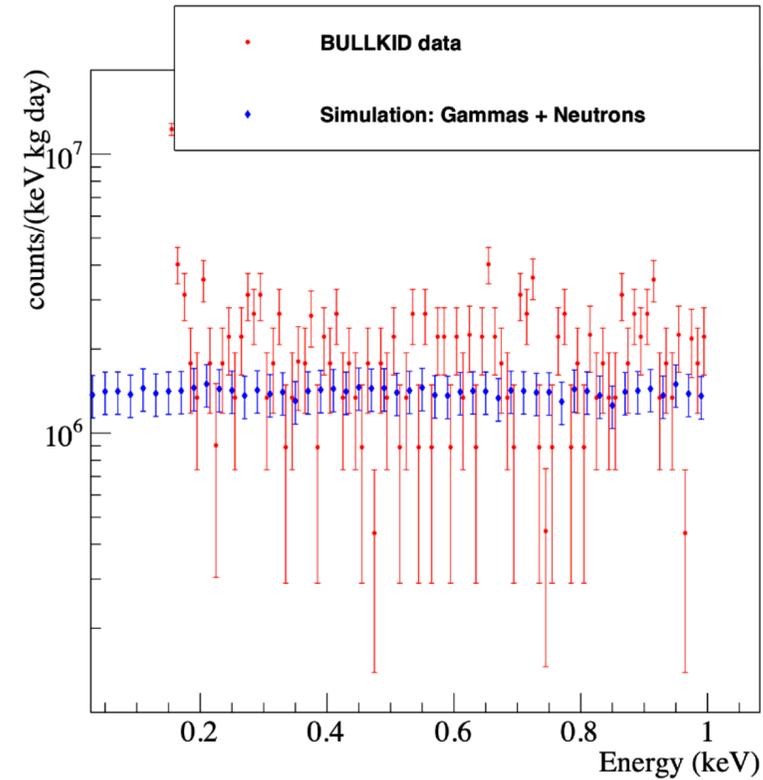
Simulations: validation on Sapienza setup

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



Sensitivity

