


# Considerations for Next Generation $0\nu\beta\beta$ Experiments

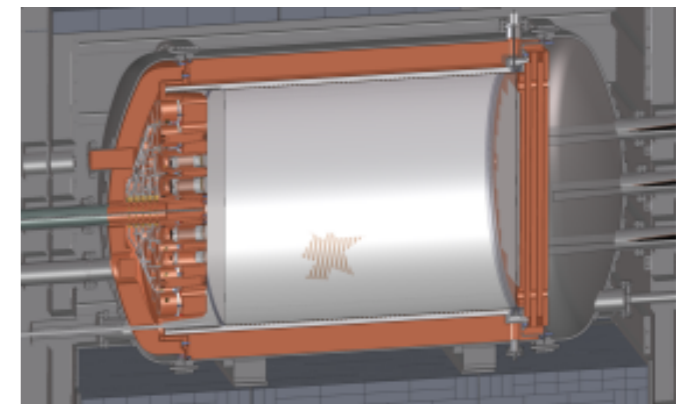
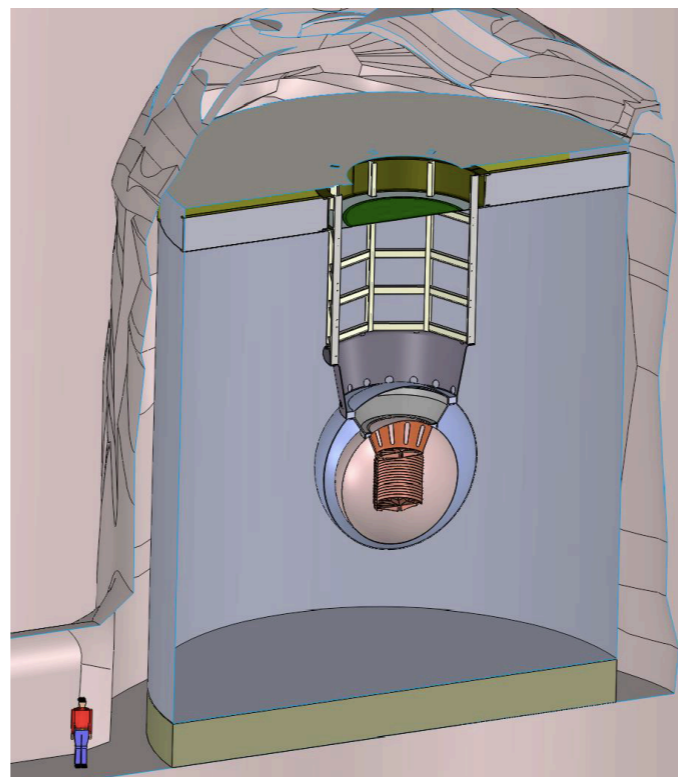
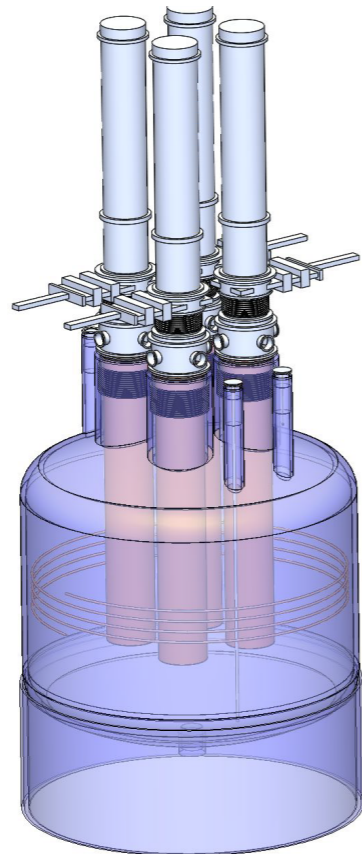
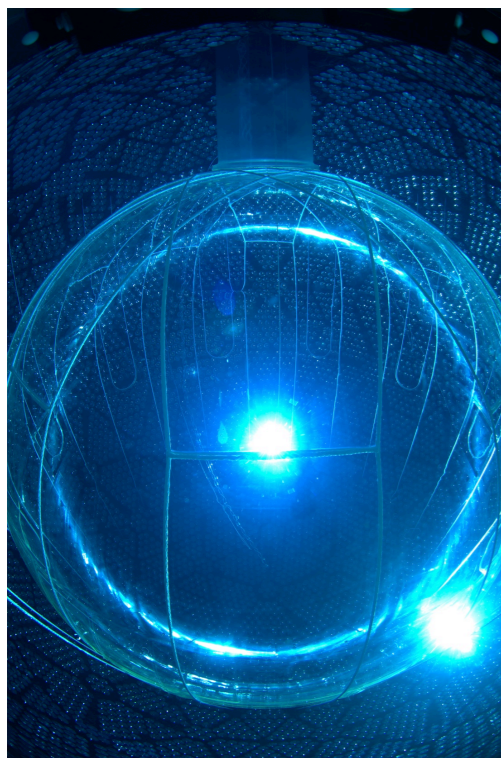
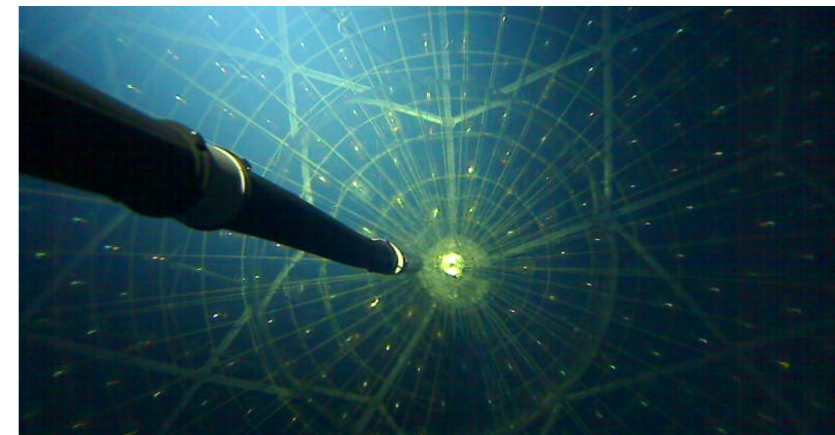


J.F. Wilkerson

**COSMS**  
INSTITUTE

 THE UNIVERSITY  
of NORTH CAROLINA  
at CHAPEL HILL

**TUNL**



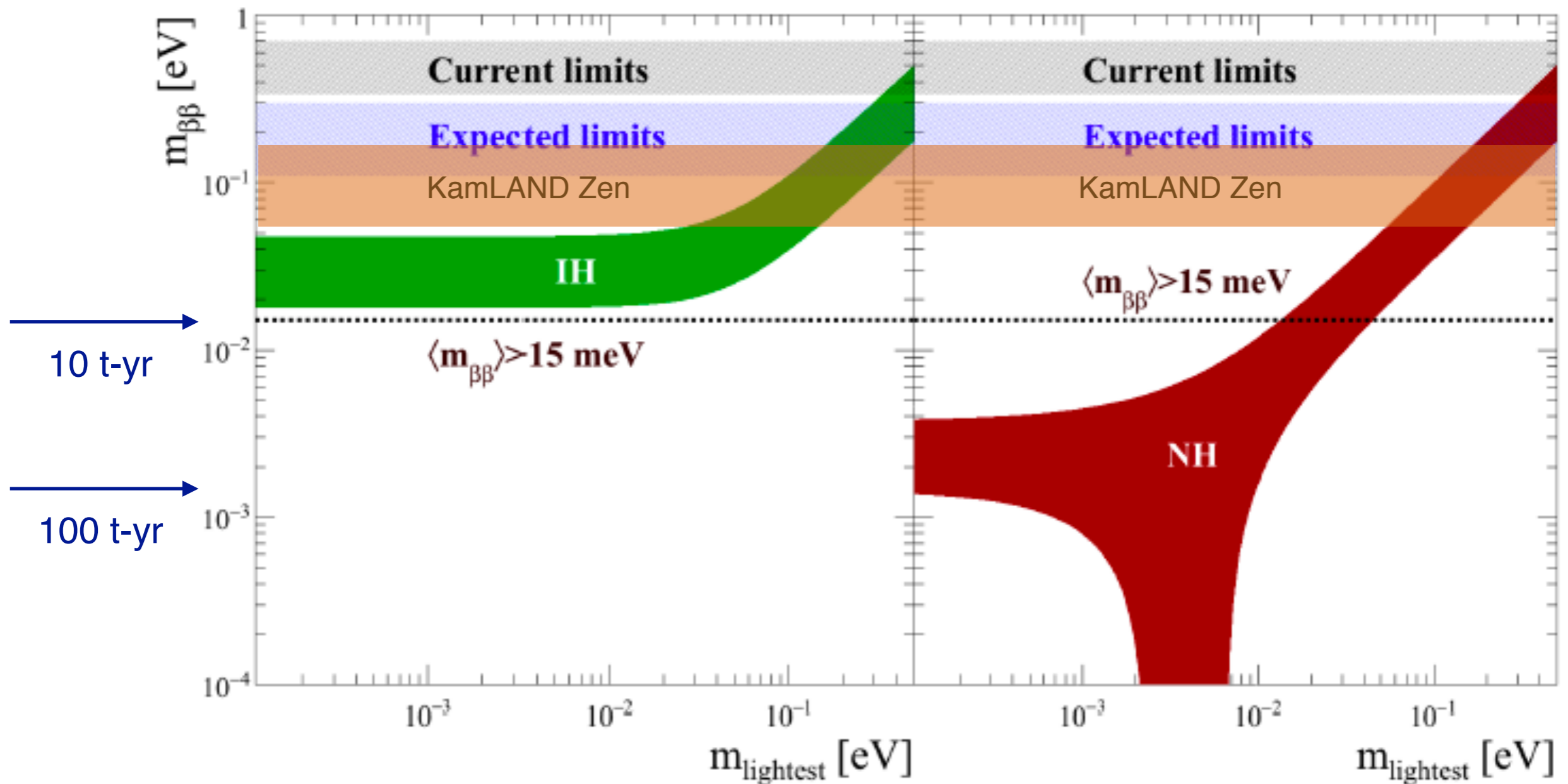
**INT Workshop on  $0\nu\beta\beta$**   
**Seattle, WA**  
June 13, 2017

# Searching for $0\nu\beta\beta$ Decay

Assuming LNV mechanism is light Majorana neutrino exchange and SM interactions (W)

$$\left[ \mathbf{T}_{1/2}^{0\nu} \right]^{-1} = G_{0\nu} |M_{0\nu}|^2 \left| \frac{\langle m_{\beta\beta} \rangle}{m_e} \right|^2 \quad m_{\beta\beta} = \left| \sum_i U_{ei}^2 m_i \right| = \left| c_{13}^2 c_{12}^2 m_1 + c_{13}^2 s_{12}^2 m_2 e^{i\phi_2} + s_{13}^2 m_3 e^{i\phi_3} \right|$$

2015 NSAC Long Range Plan for Nuclear Science



# Next Generation Considerations

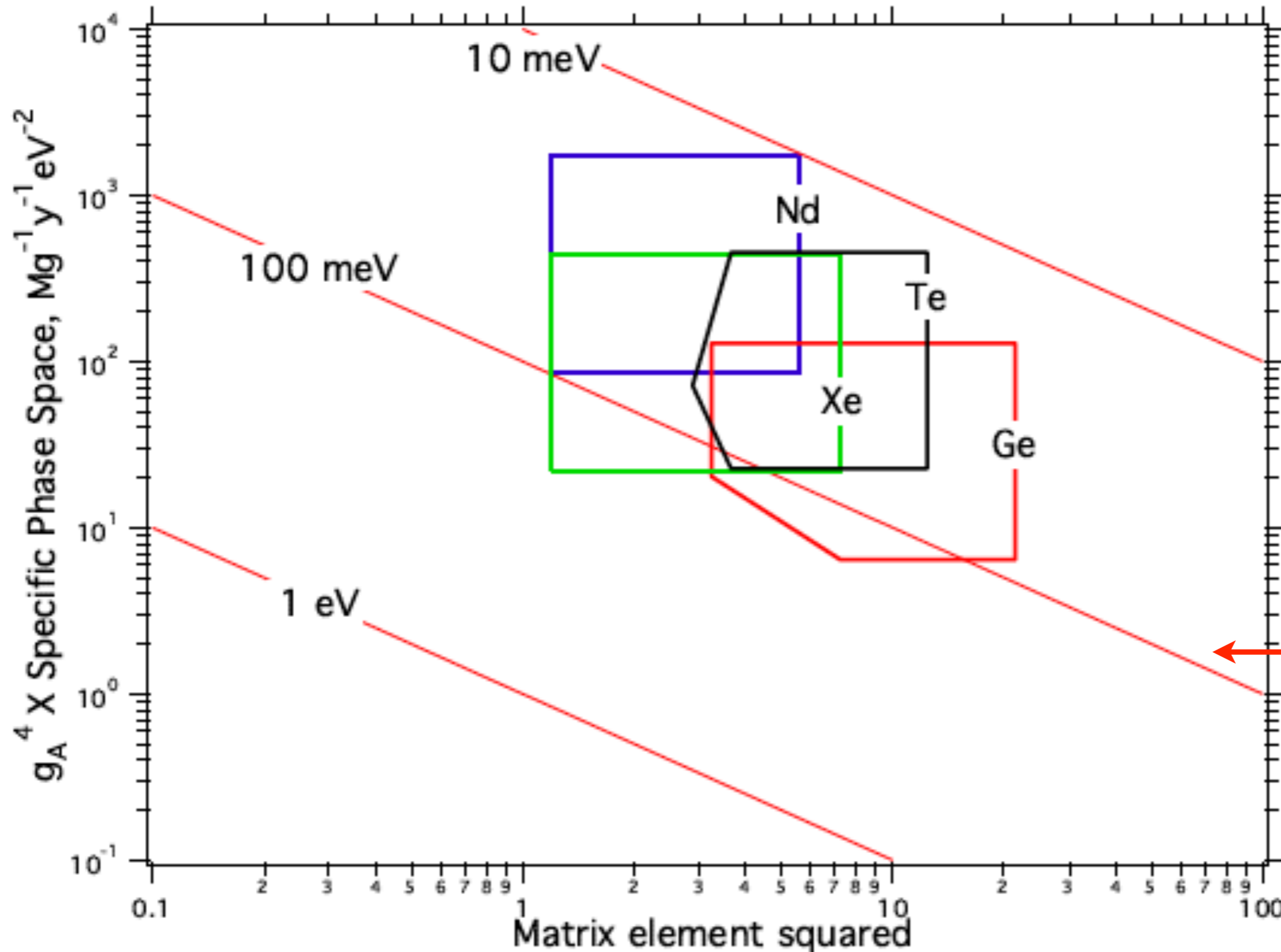
- Is there a preferred  $0\nu\beta\beta$  isotope?

# Sensitivity to $\langle m_{\beta\beta} \rangle$

R.G.H. Robertson, MPL A  
 28 (2013) 1350021  
 (arXiv 1301.1323)

For Ge, Te, Xe, Nd

← uncertainty on  $NME^2$  →

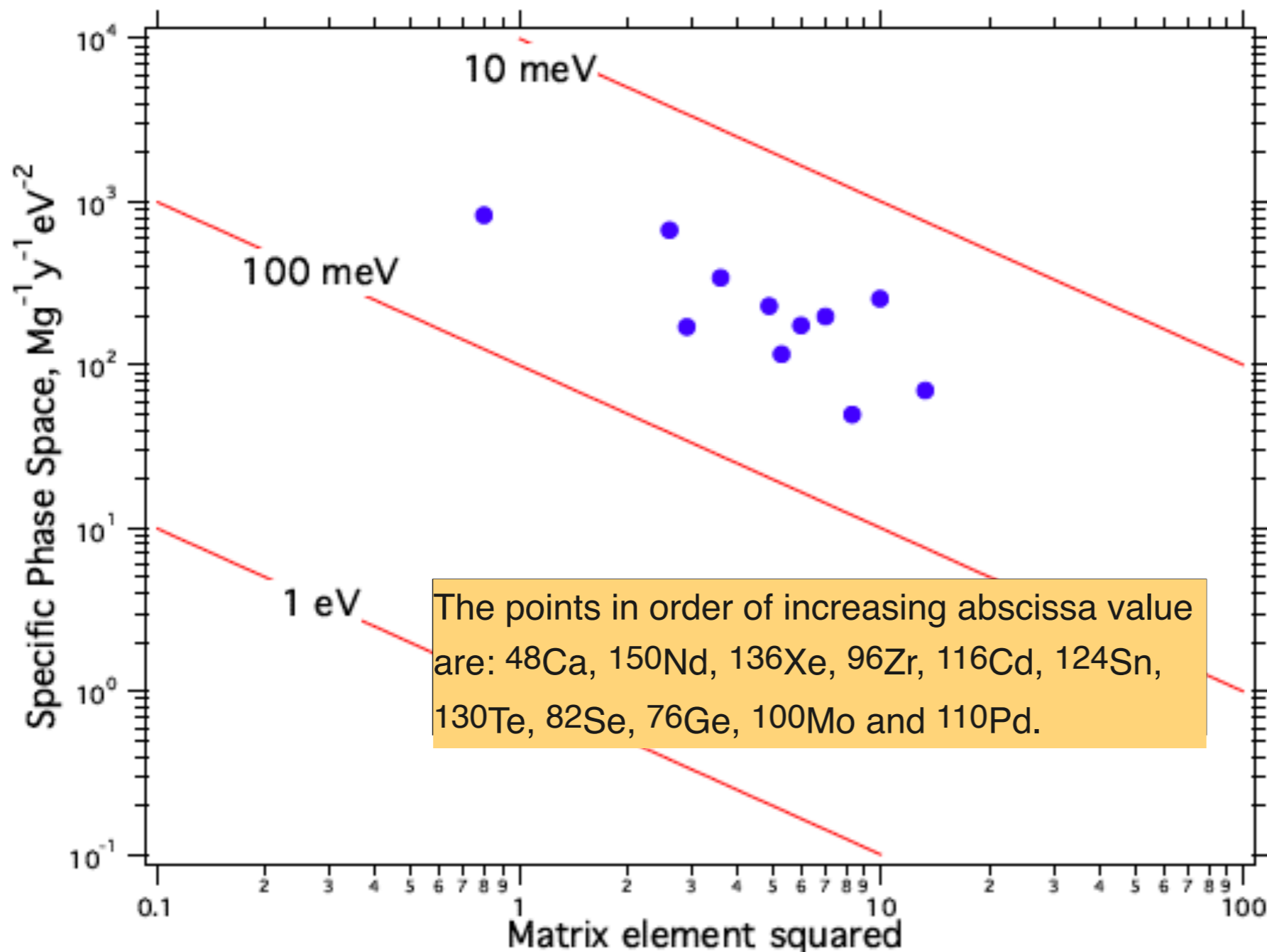


↑ uncertainty on value of  $g_A^4$   
 ↓

Signal of 1 cnt/t-y for corresponding values of NME and  $g_A$

# Sensitivity per unit mass of isotope

➔ Isotopes have comparable sensitivities in terms of rate per unit mass



R.G.H. Robertson, MPL  
A **28** (2013) 1350021  
(arXiv 1301.1323)

Inverse correlation observed between phase space and the square of the nuclear matrix element .

geometric mean of the squared matrix element range limits & the phase-space factor evaluated at  $g_A=1$

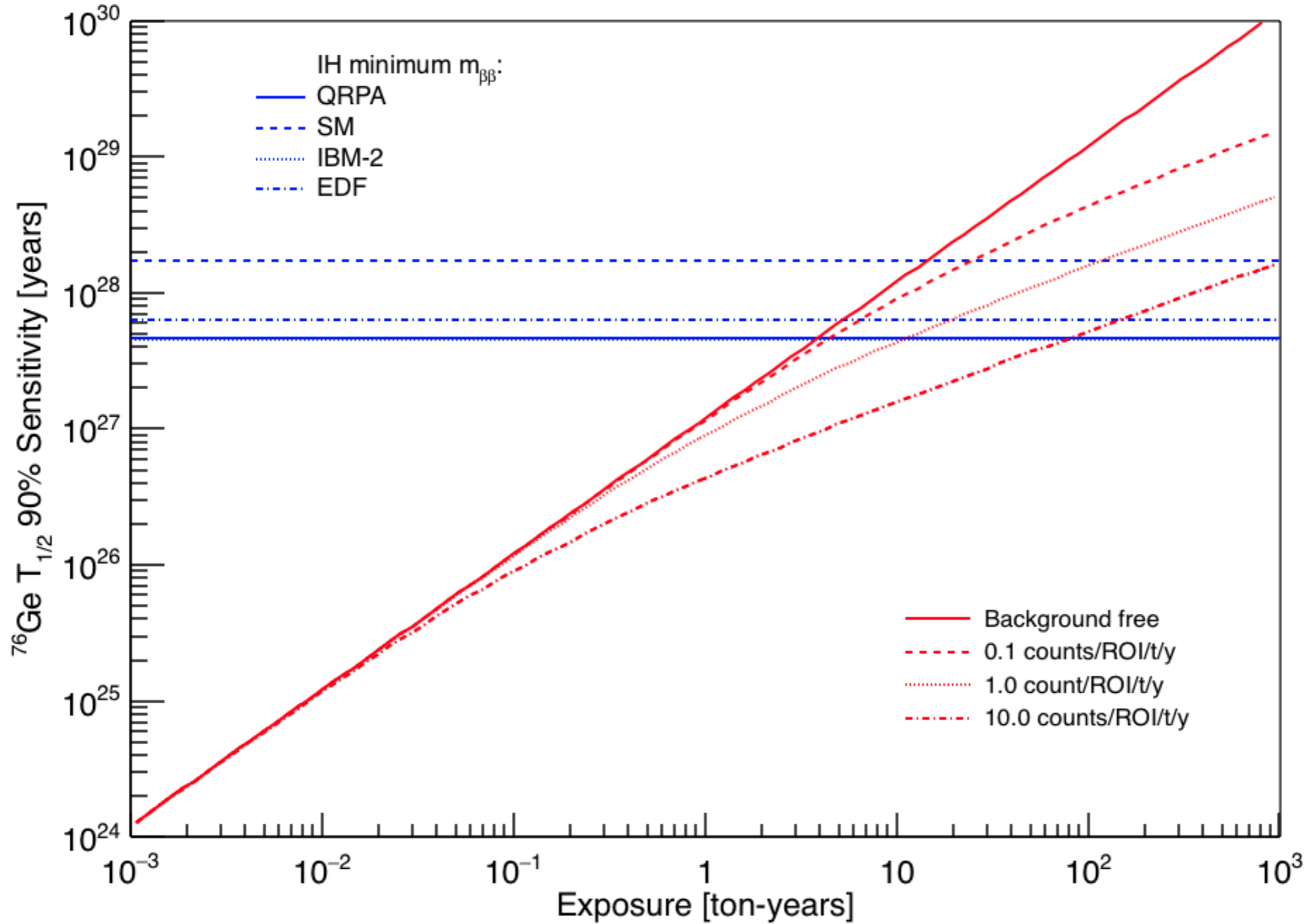
# Next Generation Considerations

- Is there a preferred  $0\nu\beta\beta$  isotope?  
*No preferred isotope in terms of per unit mass - **within current uncertainties on  $NME$  and  $g_A$ .***
- What is required to cover Inverted Ordering masses?

# Sensitivity vs. Exposure for $^{76}\text{Ge}$

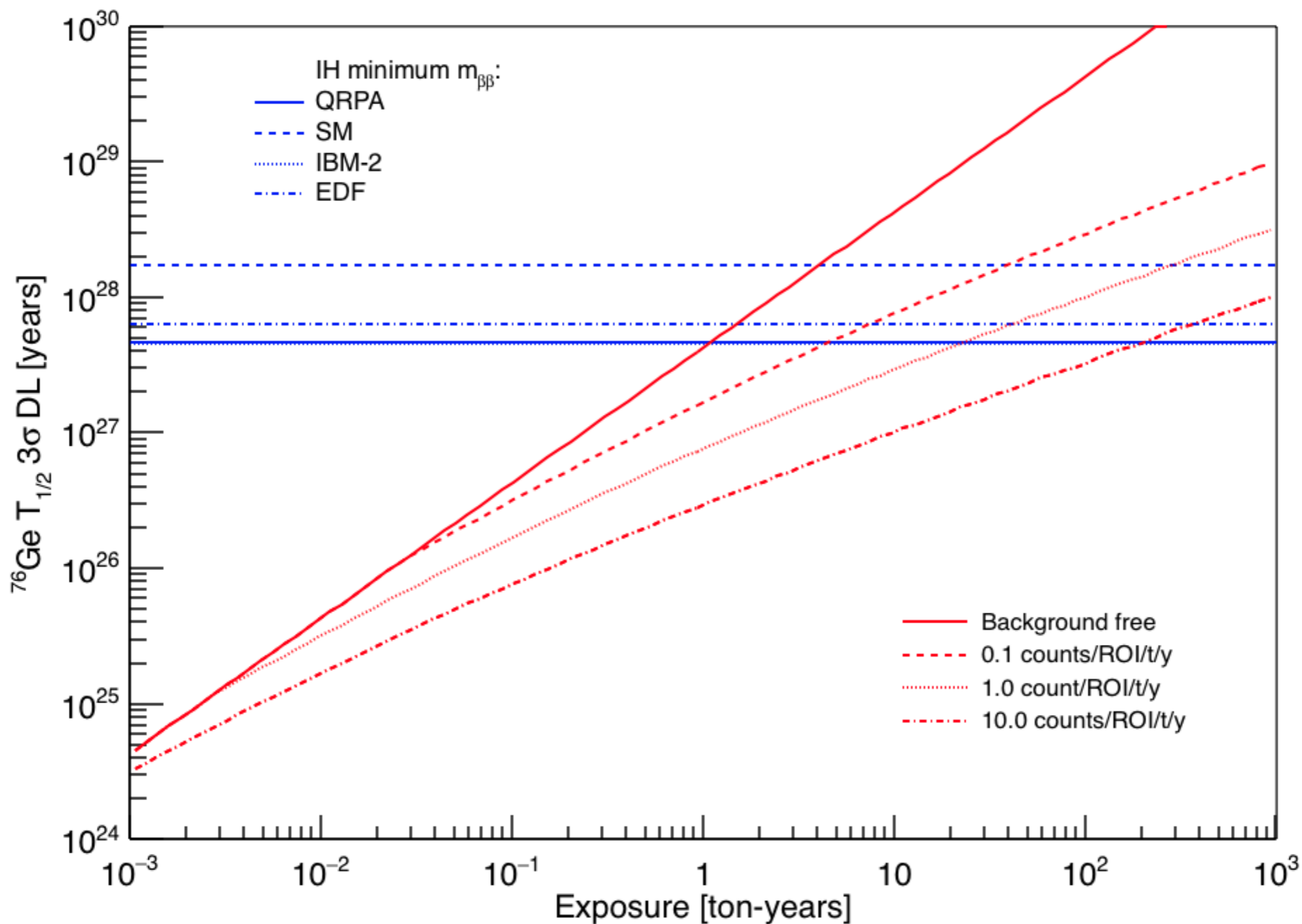
$$T_{1/2}^{0\nu} \text{ (background free)} \propto MT$$

$$T_{1/2}^{0\nu} \text{ (backgrounds)} \propto \sqrt{\frac{MT}{b\Delta E}}$$



J. Detwiler

# $3\sigma$ Discovery vs. Exposure for $^{76}\text{Ge}$



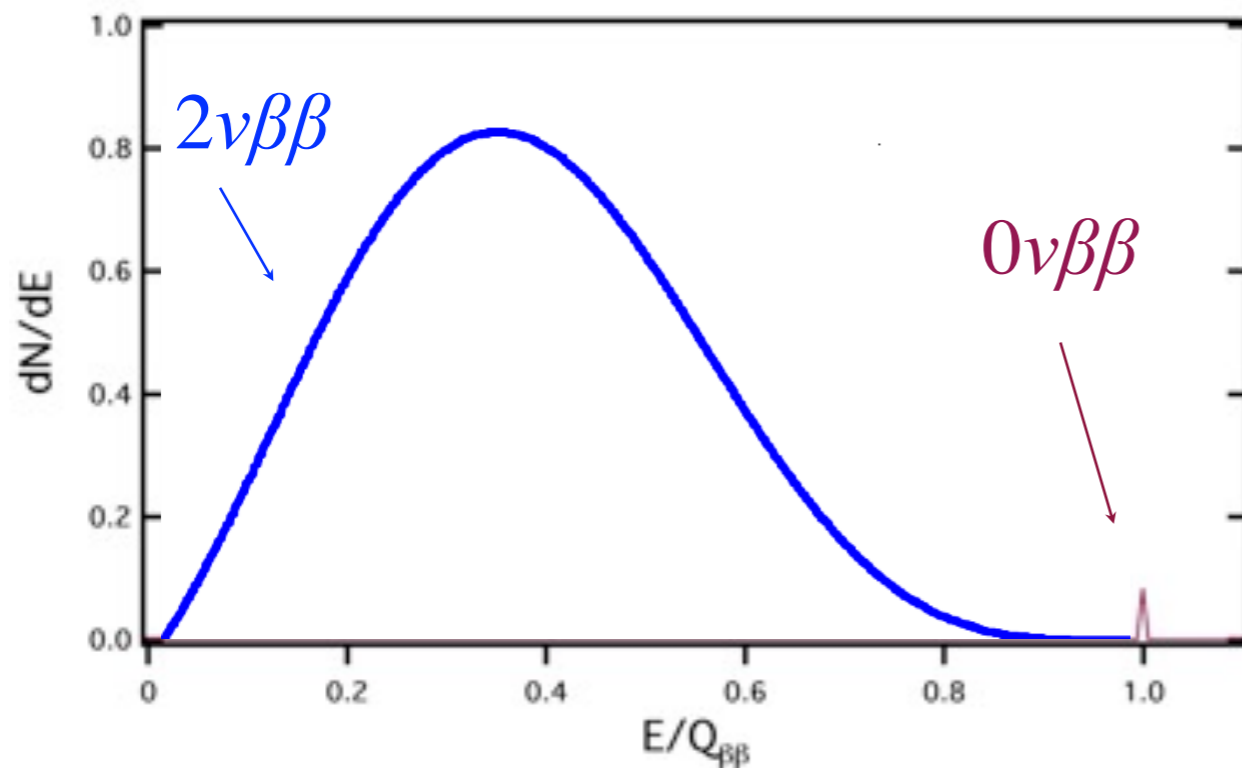
J. Detwiler



# Experimental searches for $0\nu\beta\beta$ -decay

Most sensitive experiments to date using  $^{76}\text{Ge}$ ,  $^{130}\text{Te}$ , and  $^{136}\text{Xe}$  have attained results for  $T_{1/2} > 5 \cdot 10^{25}$  to  $10^{26}$  years.

(source mass)  $\times$  (exposure times) of 30 - 125 kg-years



Half life (years)	$\sim$ Signal (cnts/ton-year)
$10^{25}$	500
$5 \times 10^{26}$	10
$5 \times 10^{27}$	1
$5 \times 10^{28}$	0.1
$> 10^{29}$	0.05

Covering IH region requires sensitivities of  
 $0\nu\beta\beta$   $T_{1/2} \sim 10^{27} - 10^{28}$  years  
 ( $2\nu\beta\beta$   $T_{1/2} \sim 10^{19} - 10^{21}$  years)

Next Generation Expts. aim for background of 0.1 cnts/t-y

# Next Generation Considerations

- Is there a preferred  $0\nu\beta\beta$  isotope?  
*No preferred isotope in terms of per unit mass - **within current uncertainties on  $NME$  and  $g_A$ .***
- What is required to cover Inverted Ordering masses?  
*For a nearly ideal, background free experiment  $\sim 10$  t-y*
- Experimental Considerations

# Potential contributions to the background

- Primordial, natural radioactivity in the detector and array components: U, Th, K
- Backgrounds from cosmogenic activation while material is above ground ( $\beta\beta$ -isotope or shield specific,  $^{60}\text{Co}$ ,  $^3\text{H}$ ,  $^{39}\text{Ar}$ ,  $^{42}\text{Ar}$ , ... )
- Backgrounds from the surrounding environment:  
external  $\gamma$ , ( $\alpha, n$ ), ( $n, \alpha$ ), Rn plate-out, etc.
- $\mu$ -induced backgrounds generated at depth:  
Cu, Pb( $n, n' \gamma$ ),  $\beta\beta$ -decay specific( $n, n$ ), ( $n, \gamma$ ), direct  $\mu$
- 2 neutrino double beta decay (for 1000 kg, impact depends on resolution)
- neutrino backgrounds (for 1000 kg, can be a contribution)

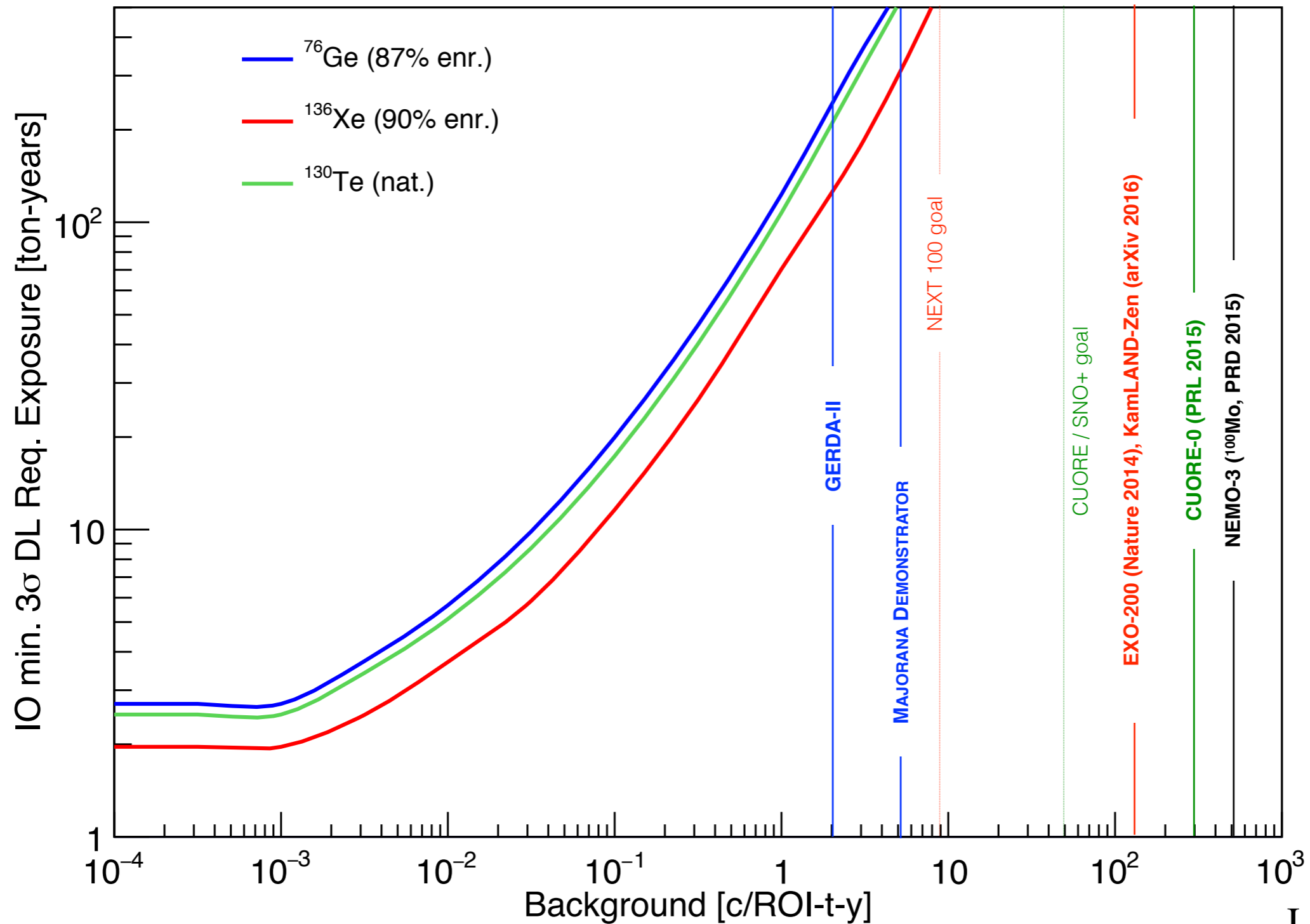
# Reducing Backgrounds - Strategies

- Directly reduce intrinsic, extrinsic, & cosmogenic activities
  - Select and use ultra-pure materials
  - Minimize all non “source” materials
  - Clean (low-activity) shielding
  - Fabricate ultra-clean materials (underground fab in some cases)
  - Go deep — reduced  $\mu$ 's & related induced activities
- Utilize background measurement & discrimination techniques

$0\nu\beta\beta$  is a localized phenomenon, many backgrounds have multiple site interactions or different energy loss interactions

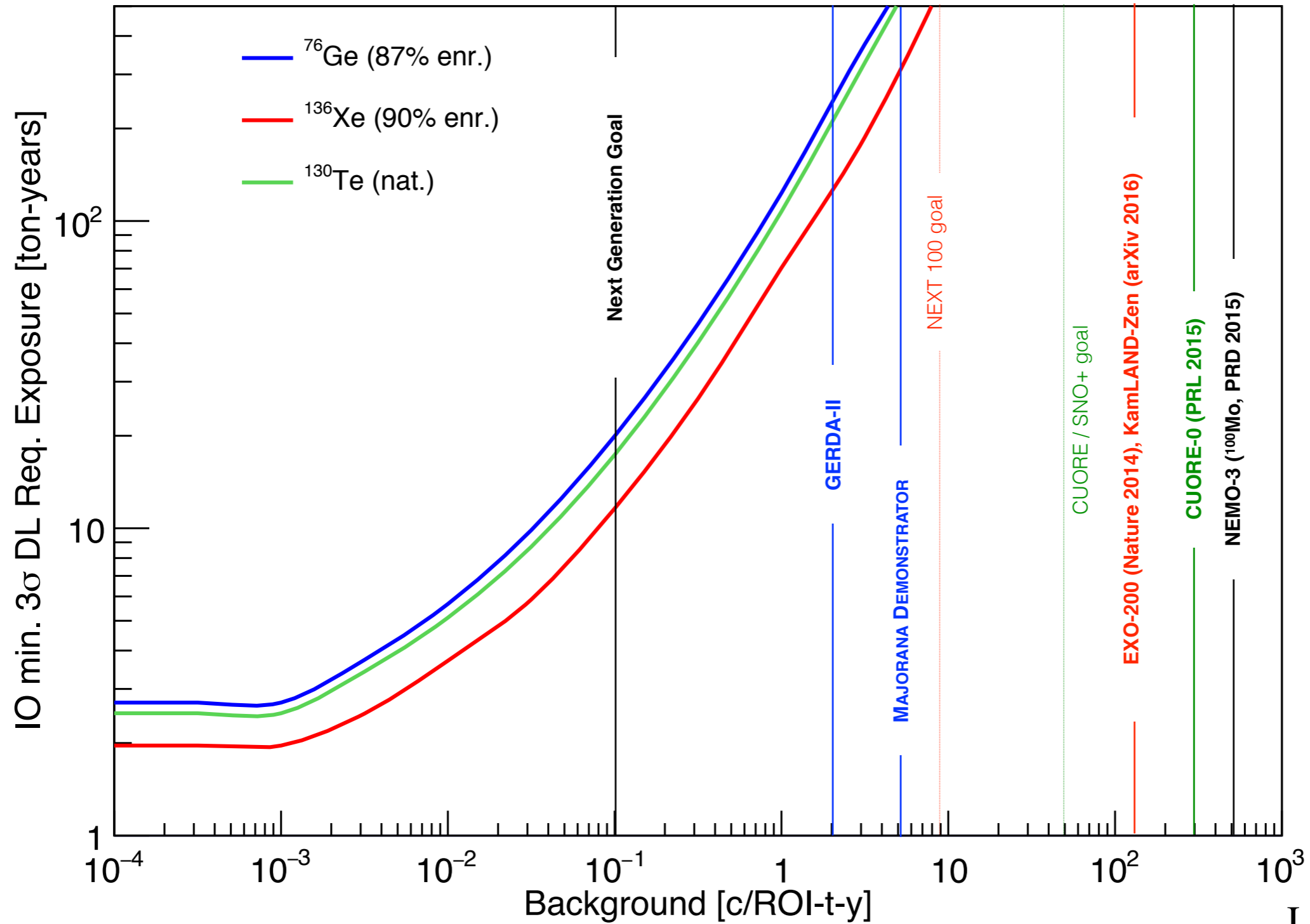
  - Energy resolution
  - Active veto detector
  - Tracking (topology)
  - Particle ID, angular, spatial, & time correlations
  - Fiducial self-consistent fits
  - Single site / multi site fitting
  - Granularity [multiple detectors]
  - Pulse shape discrimination (PSD)
  - Ion Identification

# $3\sigma$ Discovery : Exposure vs. Background



J. Detwiler

# $3\sigma$ Discovery : Exposure vs. Background



J. Detwiler

# Next Generation Considerations

- Is there a preferred  $0\nu\beta\beta$  isotope?  
*No preferred isotope in terms of per unit mass - **within current uncertainties on NME and  $g_A$ .***
- What is required to cover Inverted Ordering masses?  
*For a nearly ideal, background free experiment  $\sim 10$  t-y*
- Experimental Considerations
  - *Backgrounds - higher  $Q$  value (especially above  $^{208}\text{Tl}$  line) is good.*
  - *Enrichment -  $^{130}\text{Te}$  (34.5% nat. abundance) has an advantage.*
  - *$2\nu\beta\beta$  rate (irreducible background) -  $^{76}\text{Ge}$   $^{130}\text{Te}$ ,  $^{136}\text{Xe}$  are the best (longest  $T_{1/2}$ ), but impact depends on resolution.*

**No clear leader. Need to evaluate on expt.-by-expt. basis. Backgrounds and resolution are critically important, in particular for discovery capable measurements.**

# Discovery of $0\nu\beta\beta$ -decay

- **Evidence** : a combination of
  - Correct peak energy
  - Single-site or localized energy deposit
  - Proper detector distributions (spatial, temporal)
  - Rate scales with isotope fraction
  - Good signal to background ( $3\sigma$  discovery)
  - Full energy spectrum (backgrounds) understood.
- **More direct confirmation** : very difficult
  - Observe the two-electron nature of the event
  - Measure kinematic dist. (energy sharing, opening angle)
  - Observe the daughter
  - Observe the excited state decay(s)
- **Convincing**
  - Observe  $0\nu\beta\beta$  in several different isotopes, using a variety of experimental techniques that meet the above definition of evidence

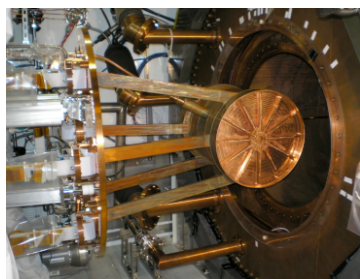


# $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay Experiments - Efforts Underway

CUORE



EXO200



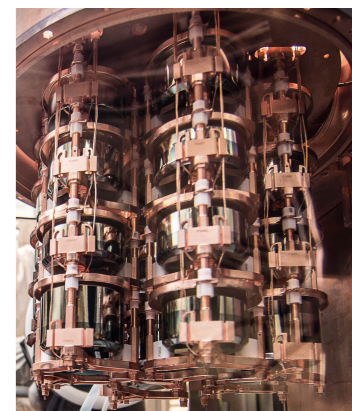
KamLAND Zen



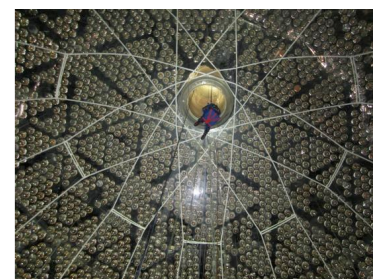
GERDA



MAJORANA

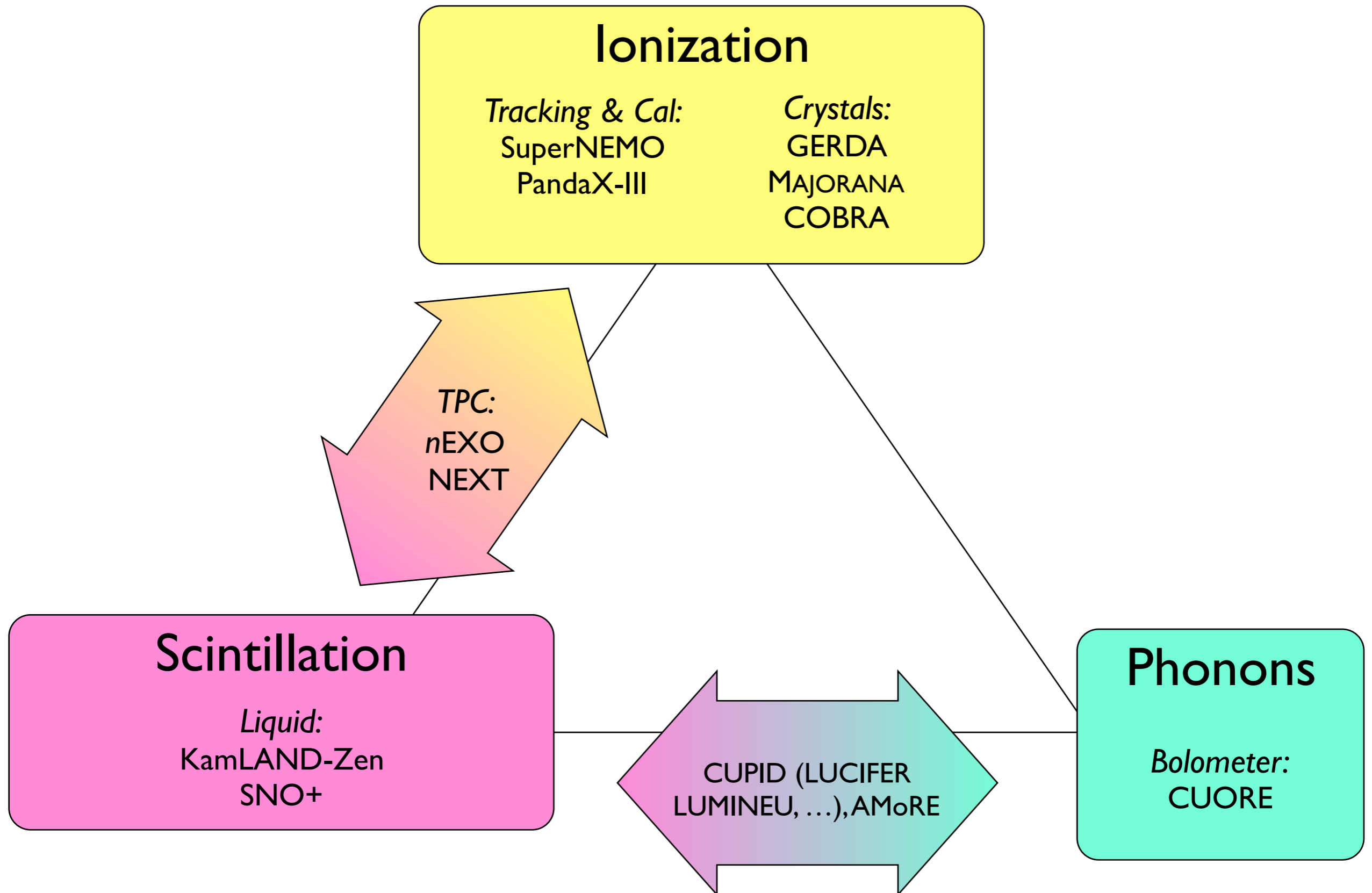


SNO+



Collaboration	Isotope	Technique	mass ( $0\nu\beta\beta$ isotope)	Status
CANDLES	Ca-48	305 kg CaF <sub>2</sub> crystals - liq. scint	0.3 kg	Construction
CARVEL	Ca-48	<sup>48</sup> CaWO <sub>4</sub> crystal scint.	~ ton	R&D
GERDA I	Ge-76	Ge diodes in LAr	15 kg	Complete
GERDA II	Ge-76	Point contact Ge in LAr	31	Operating
MAJORANA DEMONSTRATOR	Ge-76	Point contact Ge	25 kg	Operating
LEGEND	Ge-76	Point contact	~ ton	R&D
NEMO3	Mo-100 Se-82	Foils with tracking	6.9 kg 0.9 kg	Complete
SuperNEMO Demonstrator	Se-82	Foils with tracking	7 kg	Construction
SuperNEMO	Se-82	Foils with tracking	100 kg	R&D
LUCIFER (CUPID)	Se-82	ZnSe scint. bolometer	18 kg	R&D
AMoRE	Mo-100	CaMoO <sub>4</sub> scint. bolometer	1.5 - 200 kg	R&D
LUMINEU (CUPID)	Mo-100	ZnMoO <sub>4</sub> / Li <sub>2</sub> MoO <sub>4</sub> scint. bolometer	1.5 - 5 kg	R&D
COBRA	Cd-114,116	CdZnTe detectors	10 kg	R&D
CUORICINO, CUORE-0	Te-130	TeO <sub>2</sub> Bolometer	10 kg, 11 kg	Complete
CUORE	Te-130	TeO <sub>2</sub> Bolometer	206 kg	Operating
CUPID	Te-130	TeO <sub>2</sub> Bolometer & scint.	~ ton	R&D
SNO+	Te-130	0.3% <sup>nat</sup> Te suspended in Scint	160 kg	Construction
EXO200	Xe-136	Xe liquid TPC	79 kg	Operating
nEXO	Xe-136	Xe liquid TPC	~ ton	R&D
KamLAND-Zen (I, II)	Xe-136	2.7% in liquid scint.	380 kg	Complete
KamLAND2-Zen	Xe-136	2.7% in liquid scint.	750 kg	Upgrade
NEXT-NEW	Xe-136	High pressure Xe TPC	5 kg	Operating
NEXT	Xe-136	High pressure Xe TPC	100 kg - ton	R&D
PandaX - 1k	Xe-136	High pressure Xe TPC	~ ton	R&D
DCBA	Nd-150	Nd foils & tracking chambers	20 kg	R&D

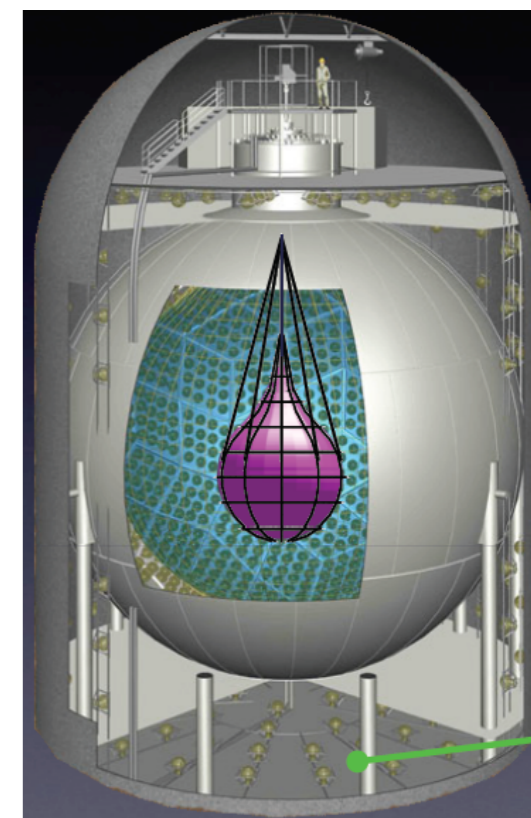
# $0\nu\beta\beta$ Detection Techniques



# Next generation ton scale experiments

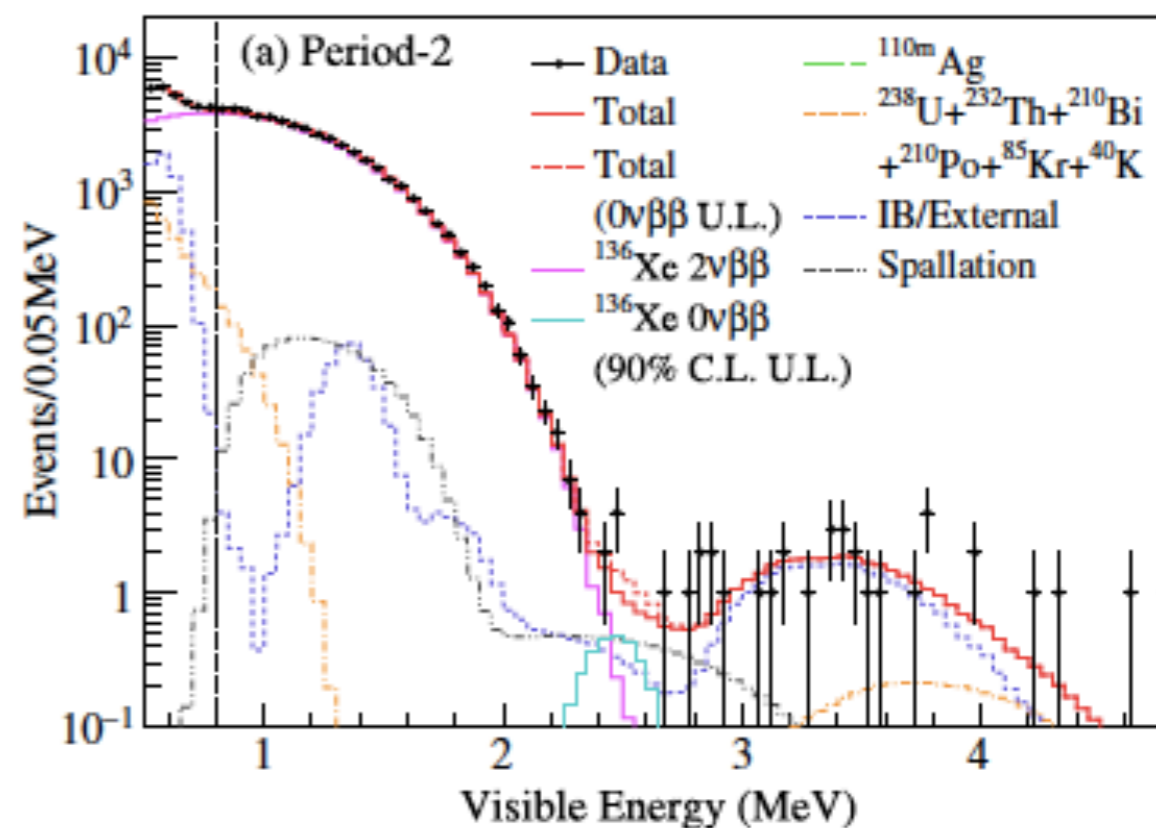
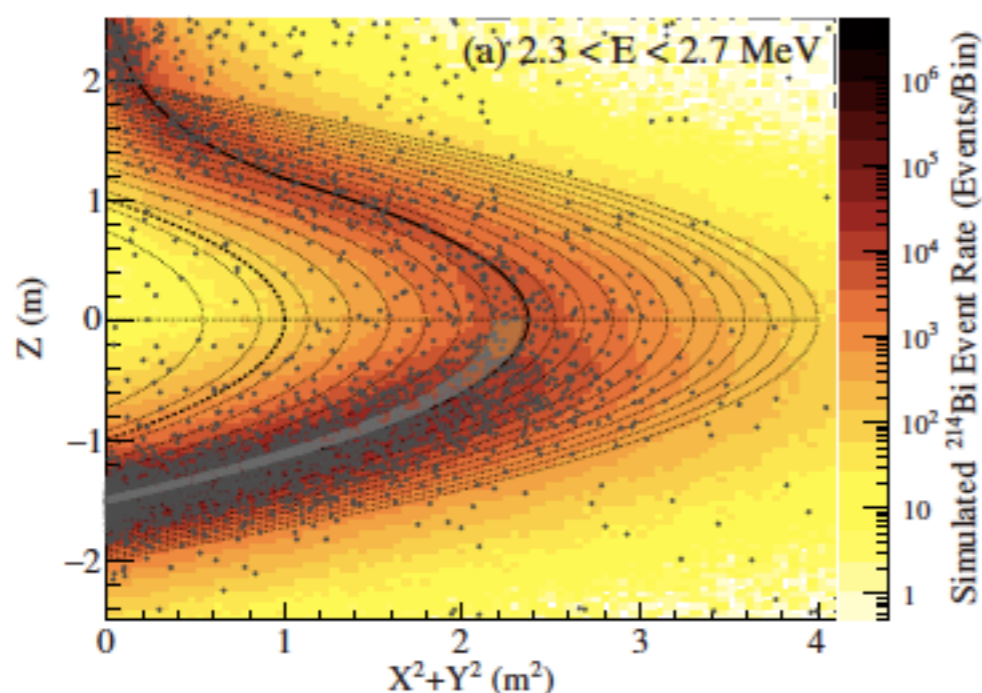
- Active international collaborations building on current efforts.
  - $^{76}\text{Ge}$  : **LEGEND**, HPGE crystals, ~ton (builds on GERDA & MAJORANA) **Detweiler**
  - $^{82}\text{Se}$  : SuperNEMO : Se foils, tracking and calorimeter, 100 kg scale
  - $^{100}\text{Mo}$  : AMoRE :  $\text{CaMoO}_4$  scint. bolometer, 200 kg scale
  - $^{136}\text{Xe}$  : **nEXO** — Liquid TPC, 5 tons **Gratta**
    - NEXT — High pressure gas TPC, ton scale
    - PandaX - III — High pressure gas TPC, ton scale
    - KamLAND-Zen —  $^{136}\text{Xe}$  in scintillator, 800 kg scale
    - LZ —  $^{\text{nat}}\text{Xe}$  liquid TPC, 7 tons, operating 2019
  - $^{130}\text{Te}$  : **CUPID (CUORE with Particle ID)** — Bolometer - Scintillation **Maruyama**
    - SNO+ Phase I & II —  $^{130}\text{Te}$  in scintillator
- Experiments can be done in a staged (phased) approach. Most are considering stepwise increments.
- Isotope enrichment ( $^{76}\text{Ge}$ ,  $^{82}\text{Se}$ ,  $^{136}\text{Xe}$ ) requires time and \$s.
- Potential underground lab sites
  - SNOLAB, JingPing, Gran Sasso, SURF, CanFranc, Frejus, Kamioka, ANDES, Y2L

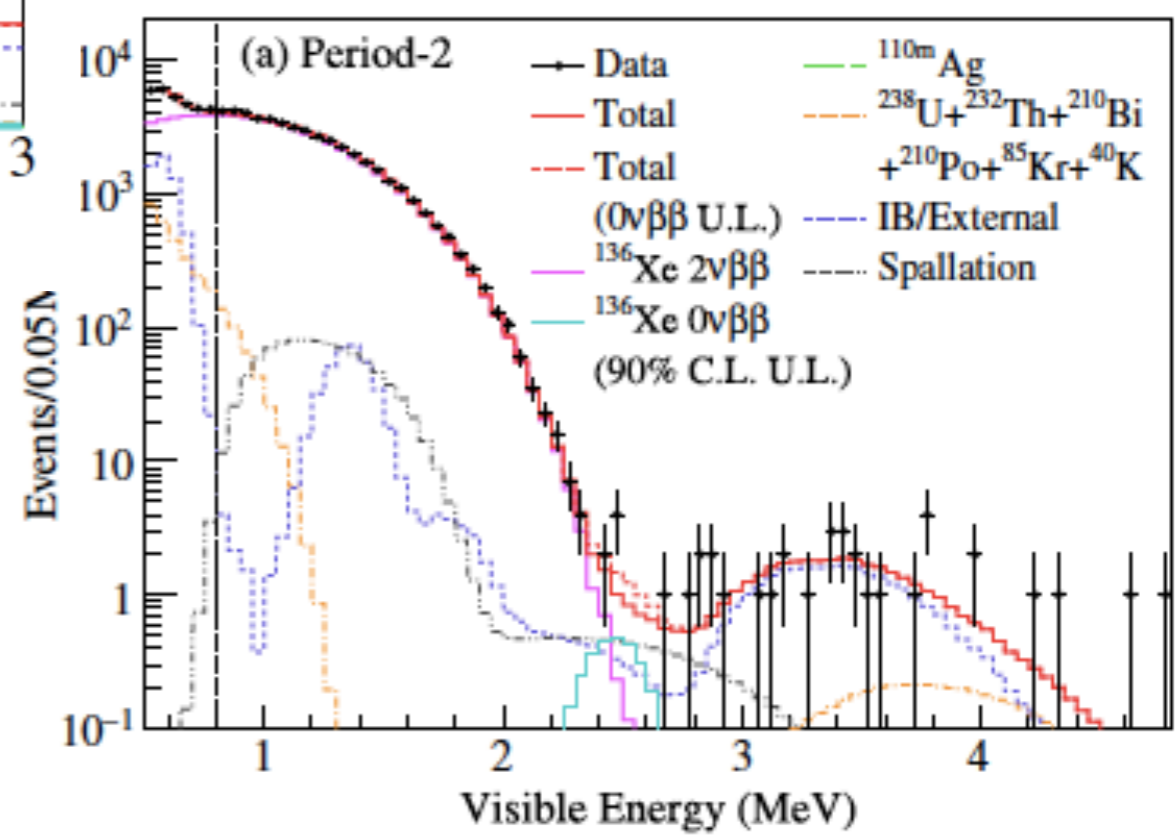
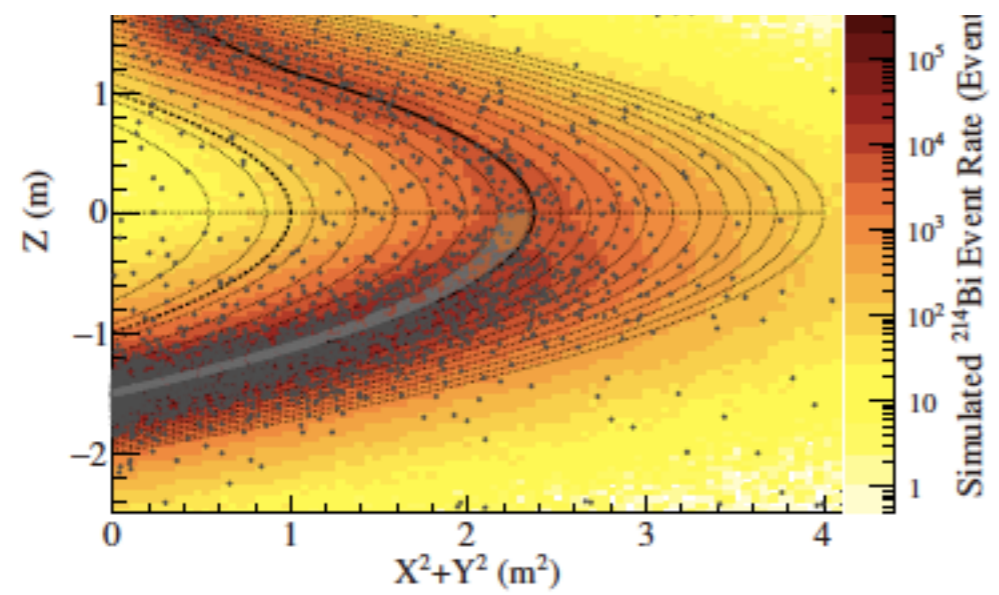
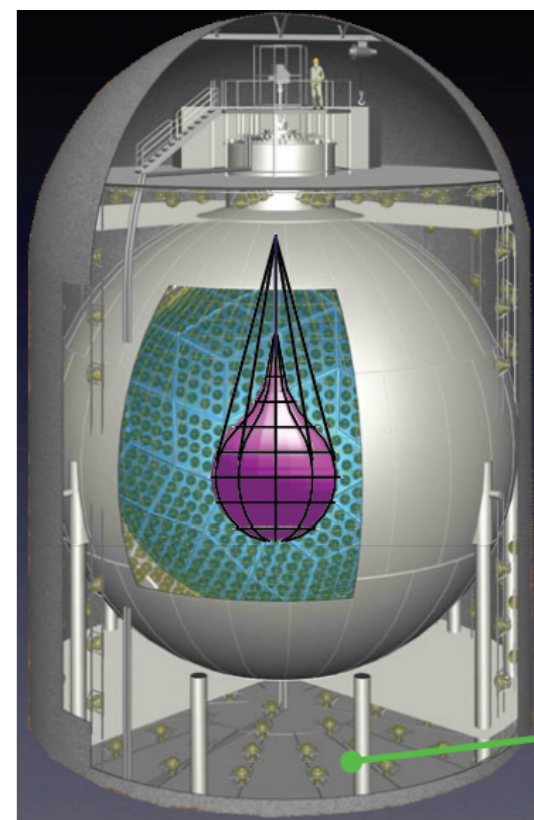
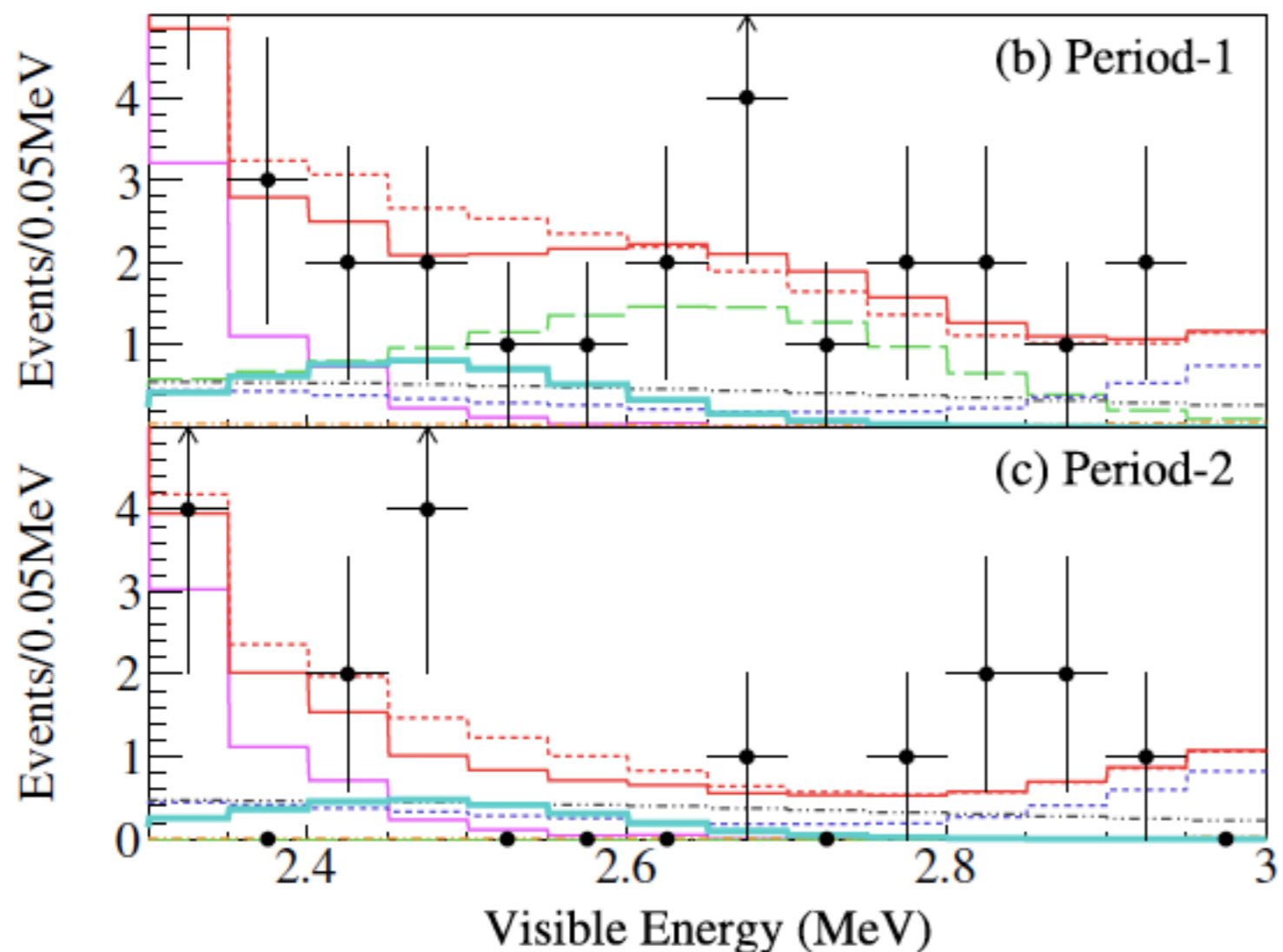
- $^{136}\text{Xe}$  (90% enr) in liquid scintillator, balloon R=1.5 m
- $Q_{\beta\beta}=2457.8$  keV ;  $\sigma \sim 114$  keV (4.6%)
- Phase II (PRL 117 082503 (2016))
  - 380 kg (2.96% by Xe wt.)
  - R=1 m fiducial cut
  - 534.5 days, with 126 kg y exposure
  - $^{110\text{m}}\text{Ag}$  contamination reduced by x10



**$T_{1/2} > 1.07 \times 10^{26}$  y (90% CL)**

**Sensitivity  $T_{1/2} > 5.6 \times 10^{25}$  y (90% CL)**

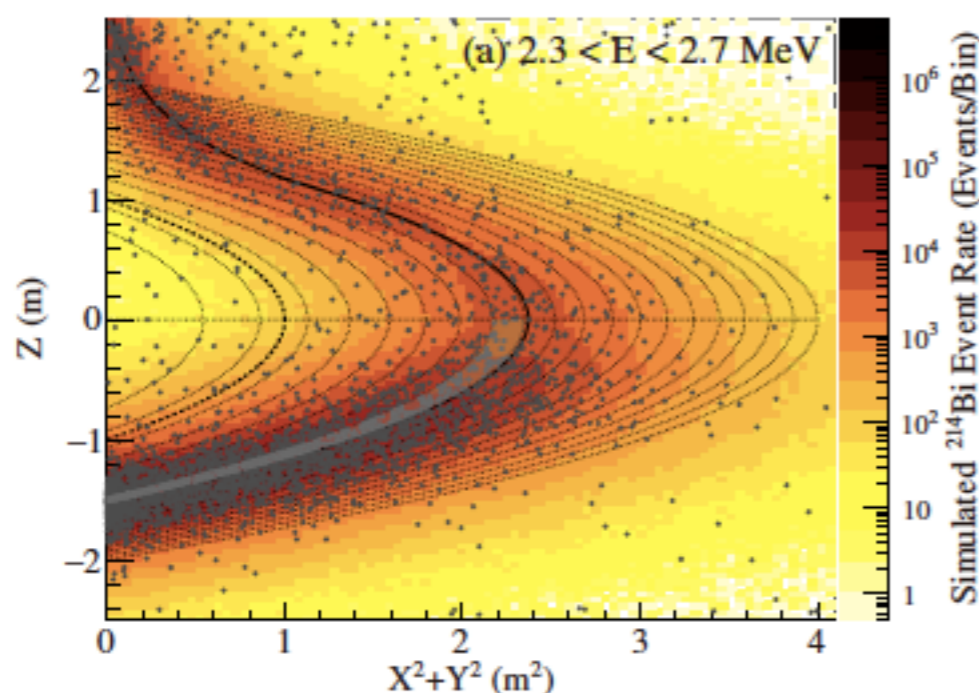
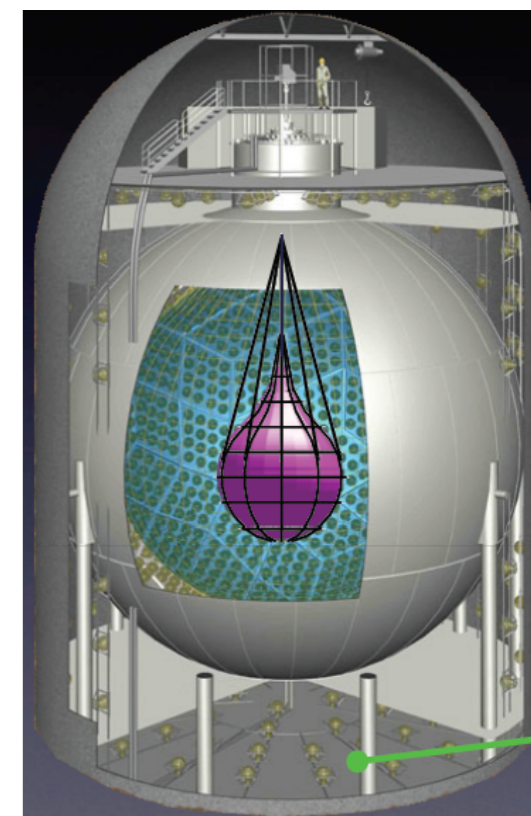




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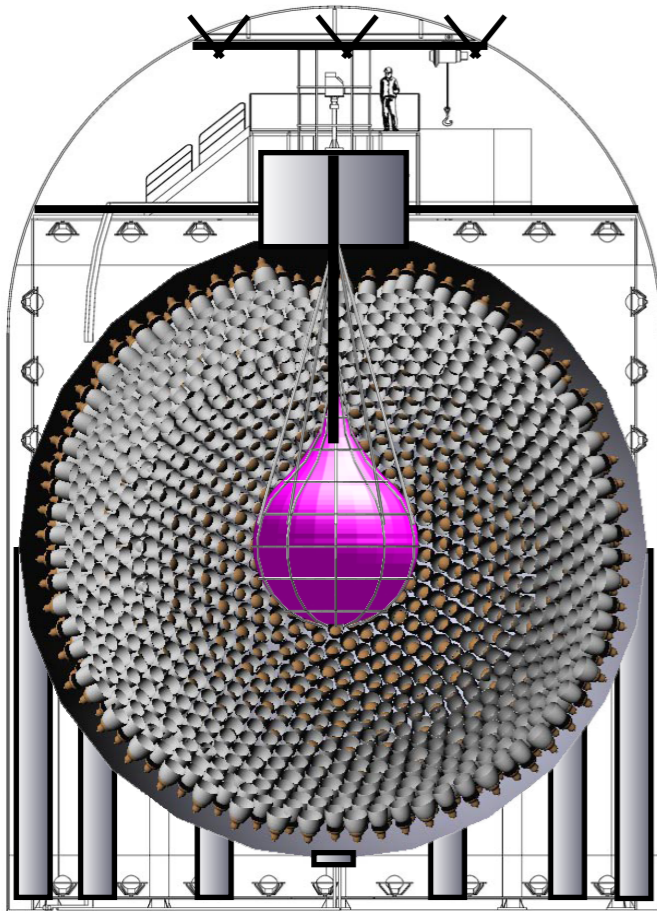
Unsuccessful new larger mini balloon deployment - 2016

Construction and deployment of new mini balloon with improved welding procedure for 800 kg (750 kg<sub>iso</sub>) phase - 2017

# KamLAND-Zen future

Scintillation

Higher energy resolution for reducing 2v BG  $\Rightarrow$  KamLAND2-Zen



Winston cone

light collection  $\times 1.8$

high q.e. PMT  
 $17''\phi \rightarrow 20''\phi \quad \epsilon = 22 \rightarrow 30+\%$

light collection  $\times 1.9$

New LAB LS  
(better transparency)

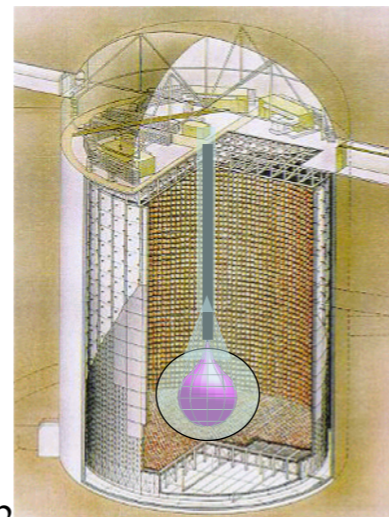
light collection  $\times 1.4$

expected  $\sigma(2.6\text{MeV}) = 4\% \rightarrow \sim 2\%$

target sensitivity: 20 meV

1000+ kg xenon

Far future:



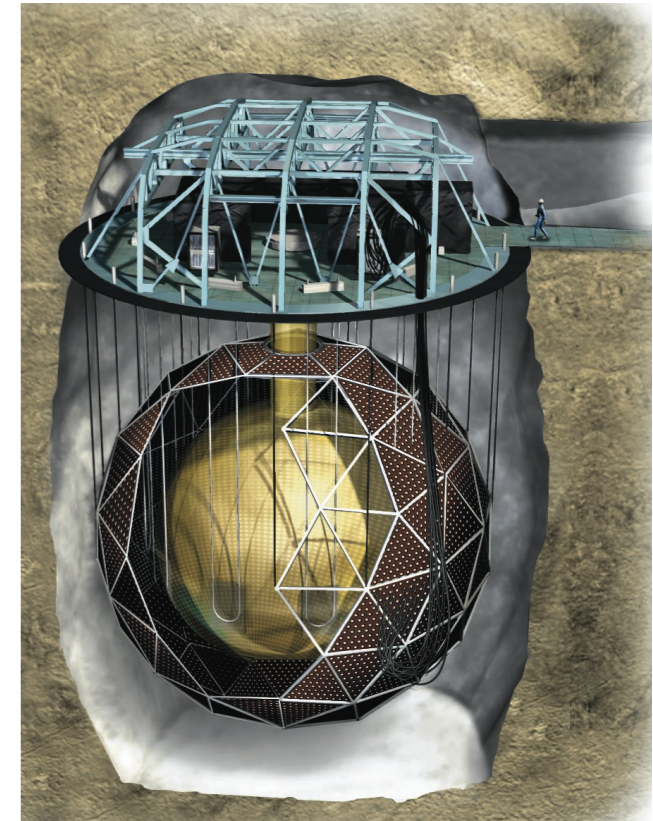
Super-KamLAND-Zen  
in connection with Hyper-Kamiokande

target sensitivity 8 meV

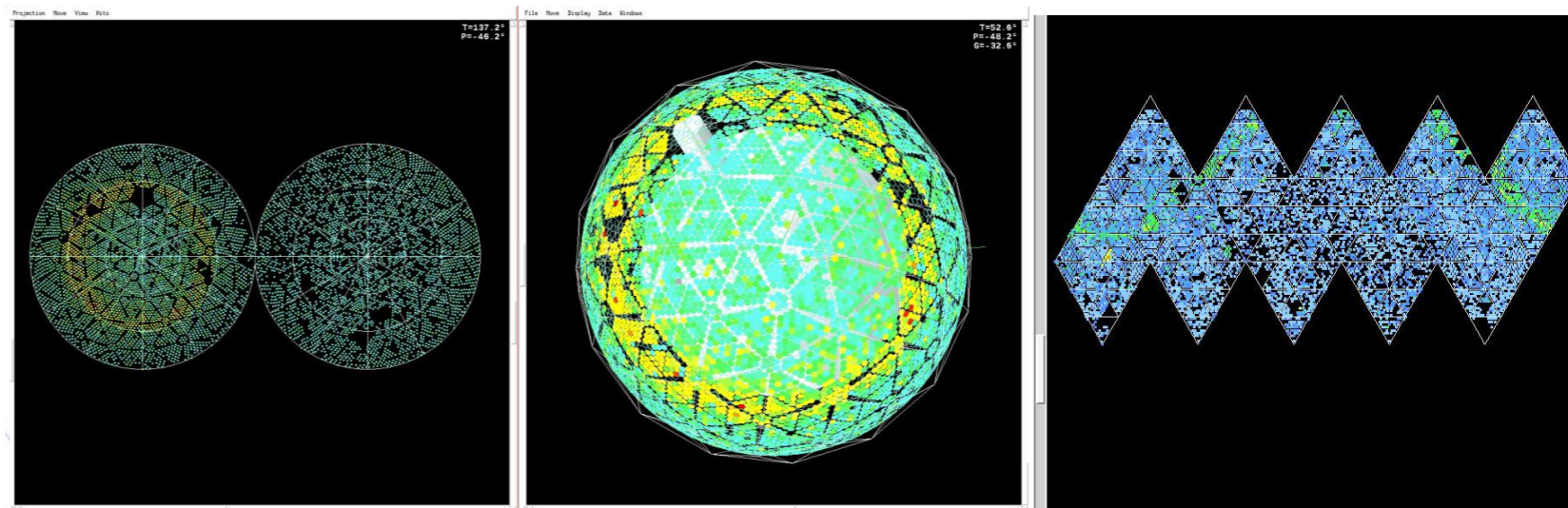
# SNO+ $^{130}\text{Te}$ (Phase I)

## Scintillation

- 1357 kg  $^{130}\text{Te}$  (34.5% nat.) in liquid scintillator, Acrylic Vessel
- $Q_{\beta\beta}=2530.3$  keV ;  $\sigma \sim 82$  keV (4.6%)
- **Present (June 2017)** – water-filled data taking underway
  - measuring backgrounds
  - stable data taking, processing, data flow
  - invisible nucleon decay analysis
- **2017** – scintillator plant commissioning with LAB leading to scintillator filling, end of 2017
- **2018** – tellurium purification and synthesis
  - systems installation completed leading to Te purification and Te loading, late 2018



3.8 tonnes Telluric acid UG (half since 01/15); cosmogenic activity decaying

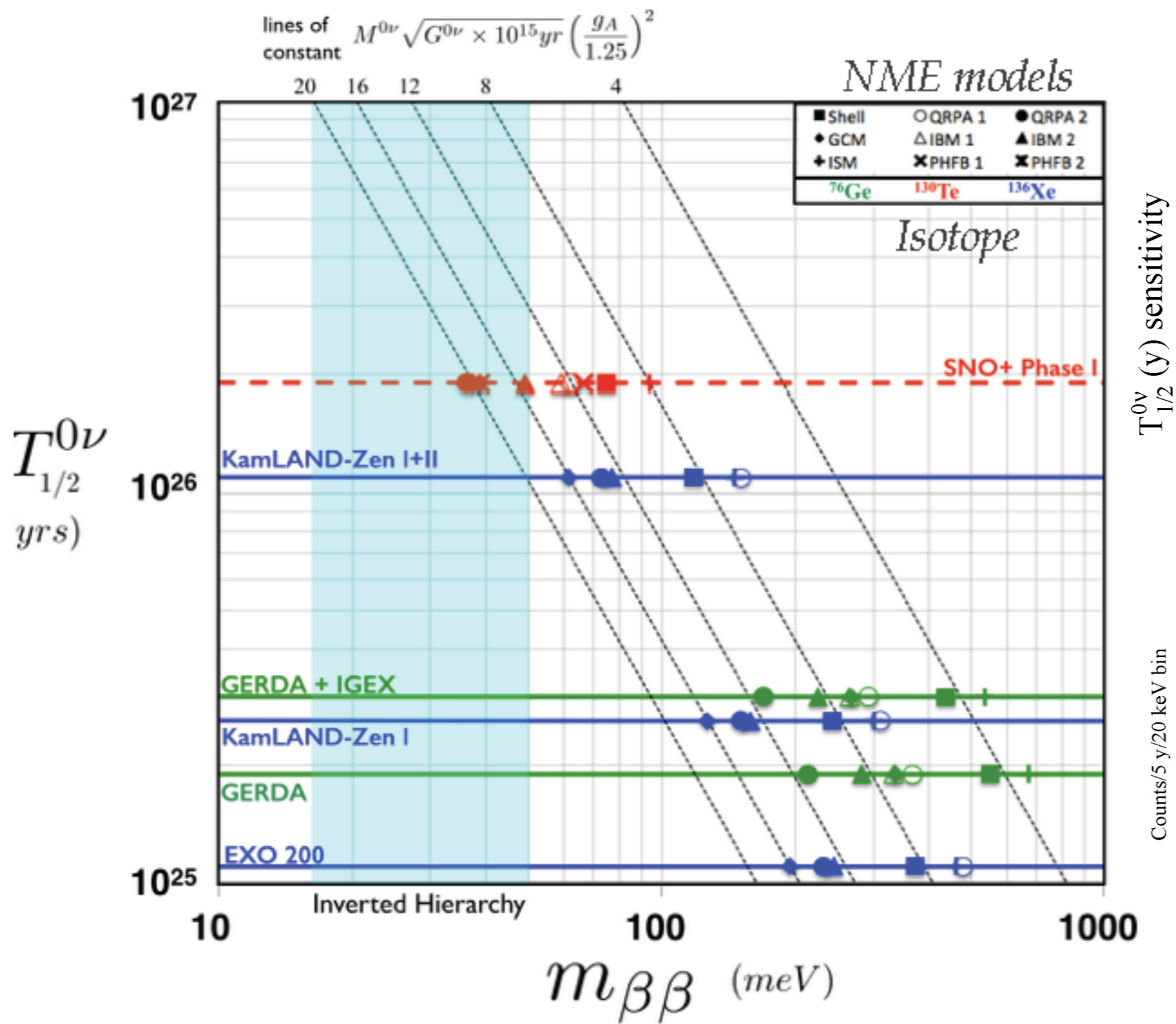


*First neutrino candidate: 2017-02-05, upward-going, no outward-looking PMTs triggered*

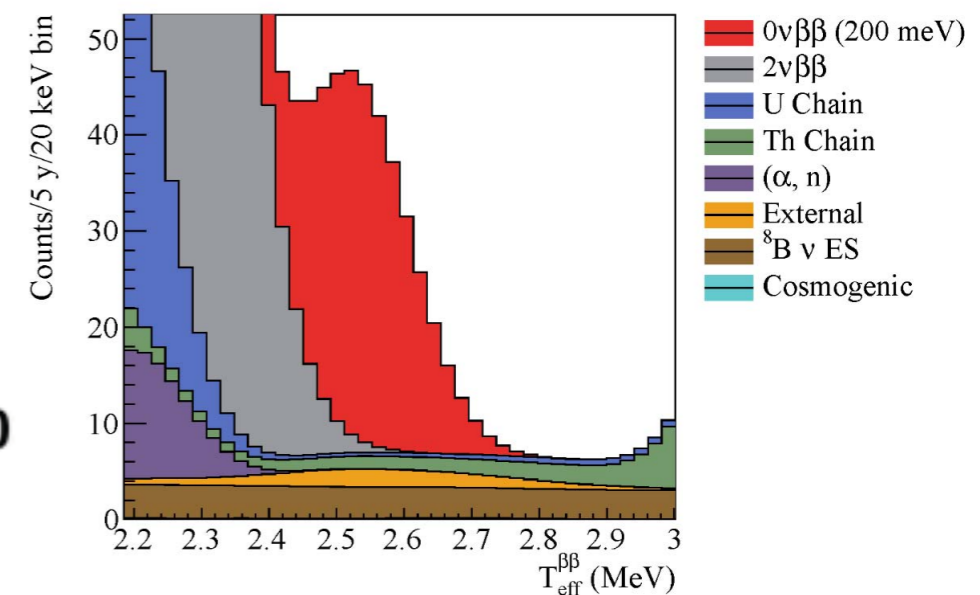
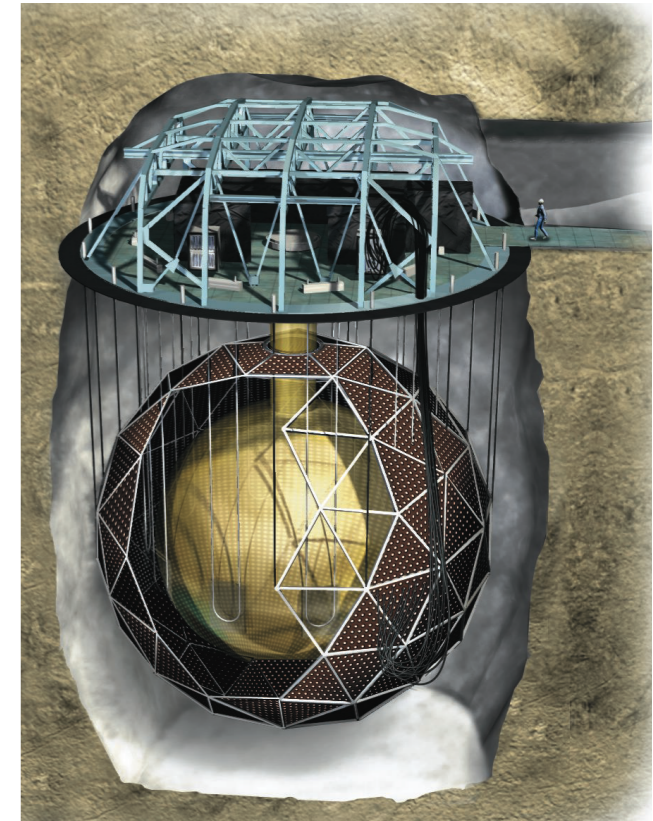


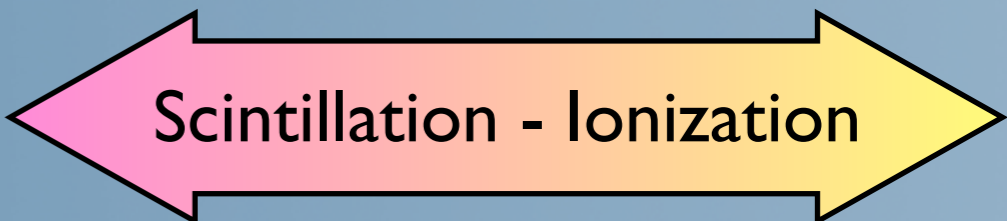
# SNO+ $^{130}\text{Te}$ (Phase I)

## Scintillation

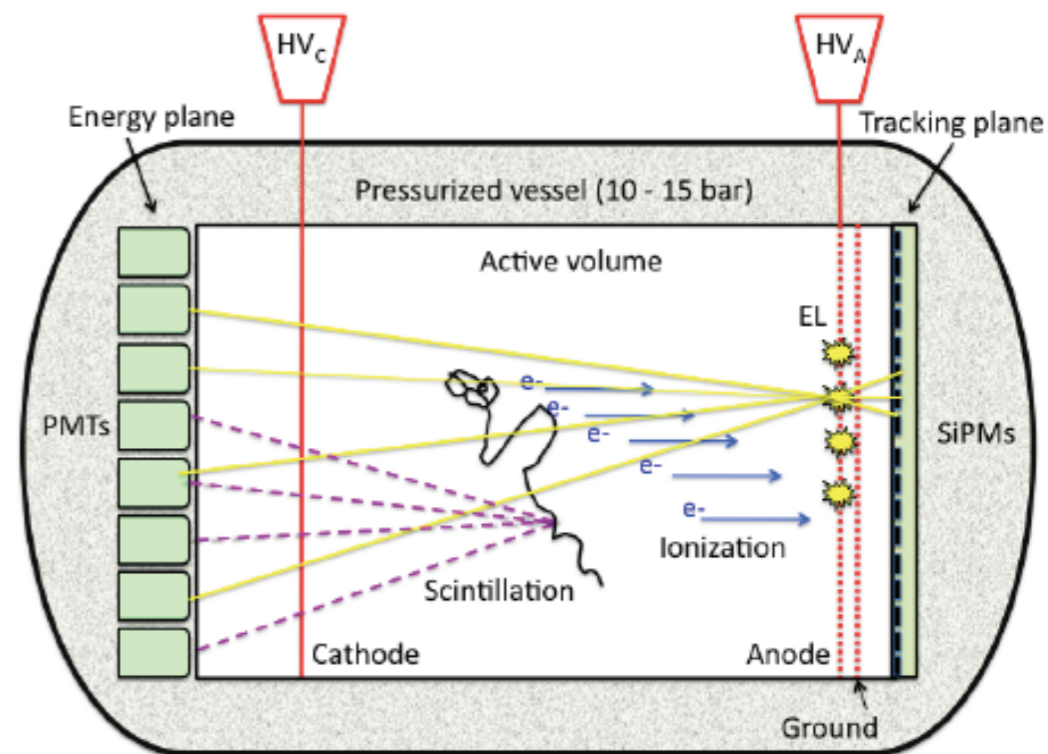


$T_{1/2}^{0\nu}$  (y) sensitivity

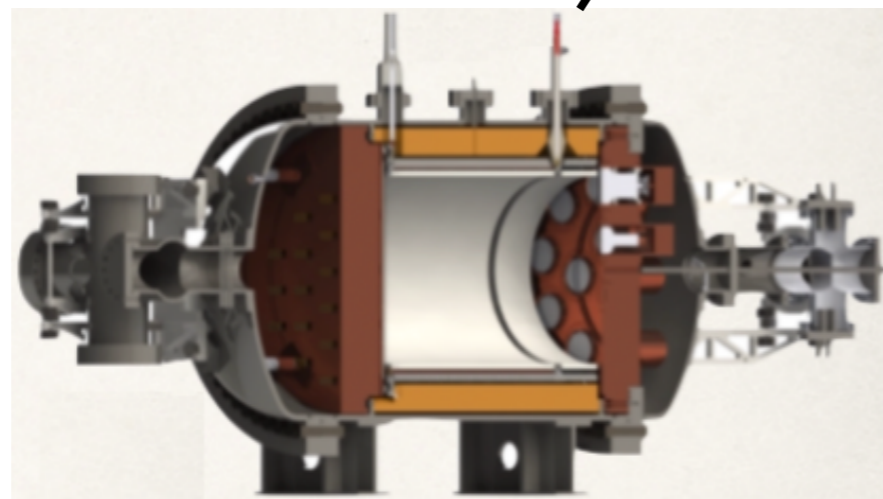




- High pressure (10-15 bar)  $^{136}\text{Xe}$  TPC for high E- resolution + tracking capability
- $Q_{\beta\beta}=2457.8$  keV ;  $\sigma \sim 7.3$  keV (0.3%)
- NEXT-NEW
  - 4.5 kg<sub>iso</sub>, operating at Canfranc
- Planned : NEXT-100
  - 90 kg<sub>iso</sub>, b = 44 c/(ROI-t-y)



V. Alvarez et al.,  
 JINST 7, T06001 (2012),  
 arXiv:1202.0721



**NEXT-NEW (~5 kg)**  
 [2015 - 2018]

Underground and radio-pure operations, background,  $\beta\beta 2\nu$

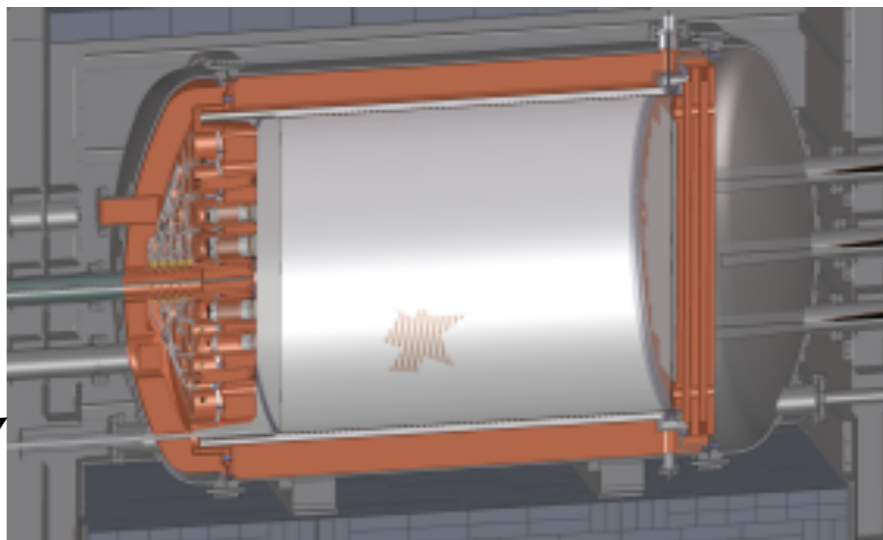
**NEXT-100 (~100 kg)**  
 [2018 - 2020's]

Neutrinoless double beta decay searches

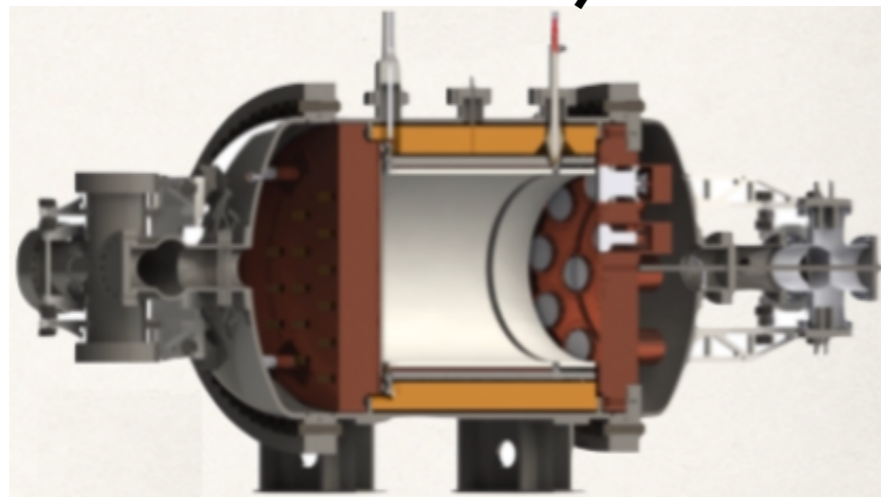
**NEXT-tonne (~1000 kg)**  
 [future generation]

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**NEXT-100 (~100 kg)**  
 [2018 - 2020's]



**NEXT-NEW (~5 kg)**  
 [2015 - 2018]

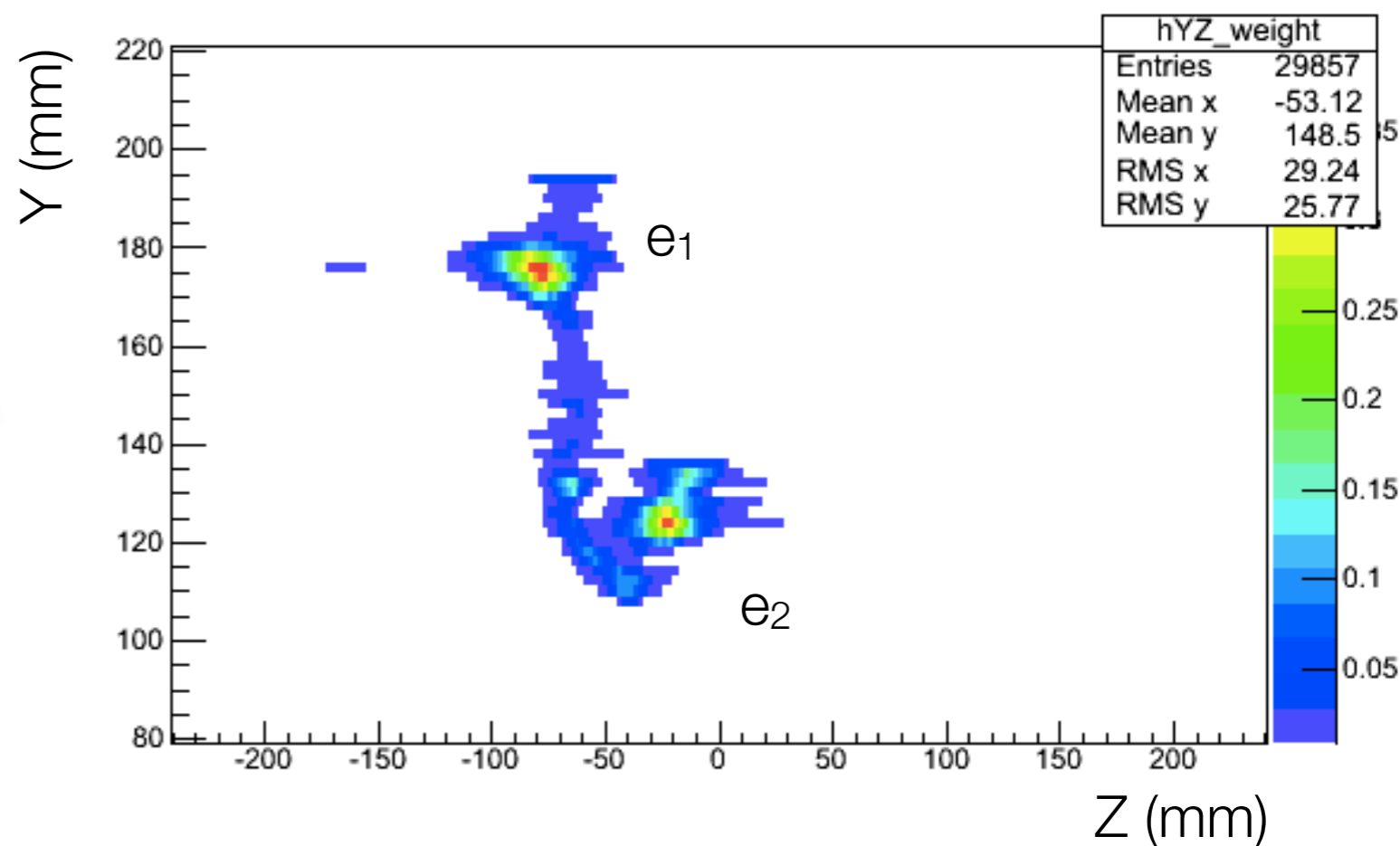
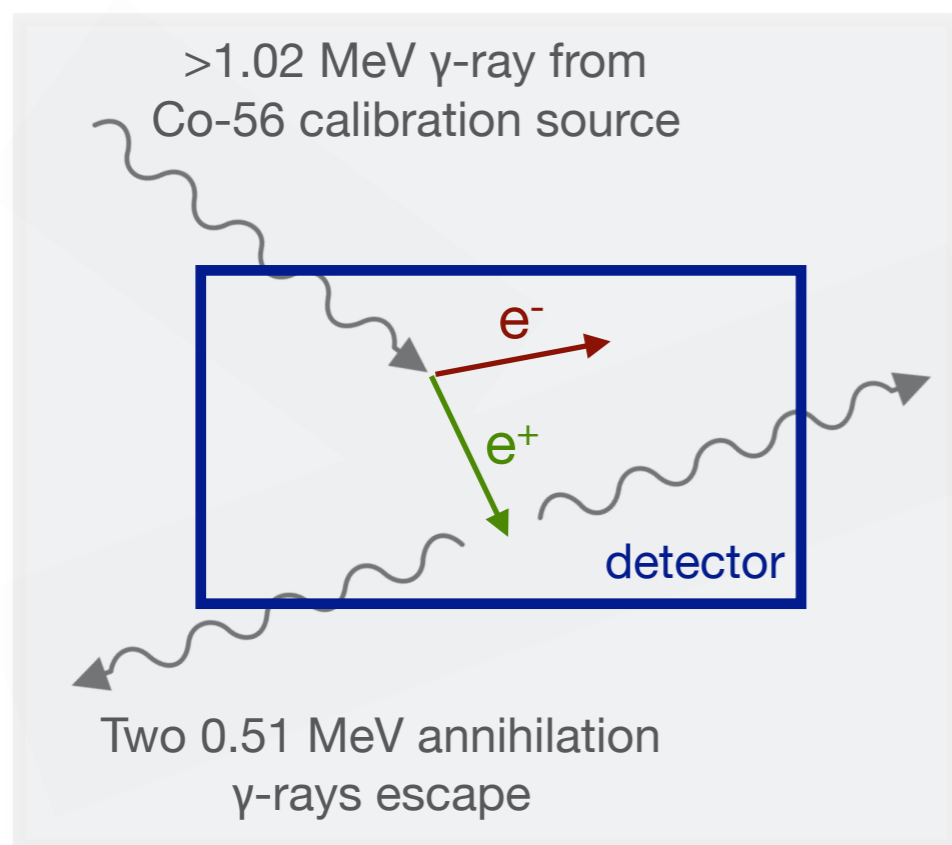
Underground and radio-pure operations, background,  $\beta\beta 2\nu$

Neutrinoless double beta decay searches

**NEXT-tonne (~1000 kg)**  
 [future generation]

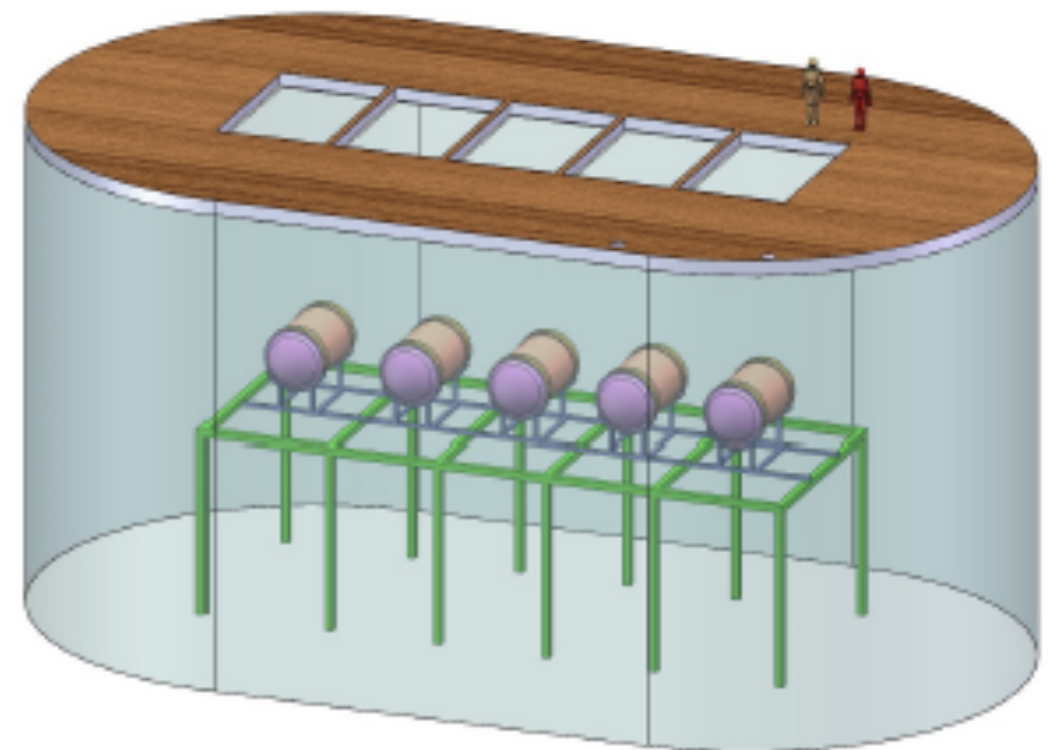
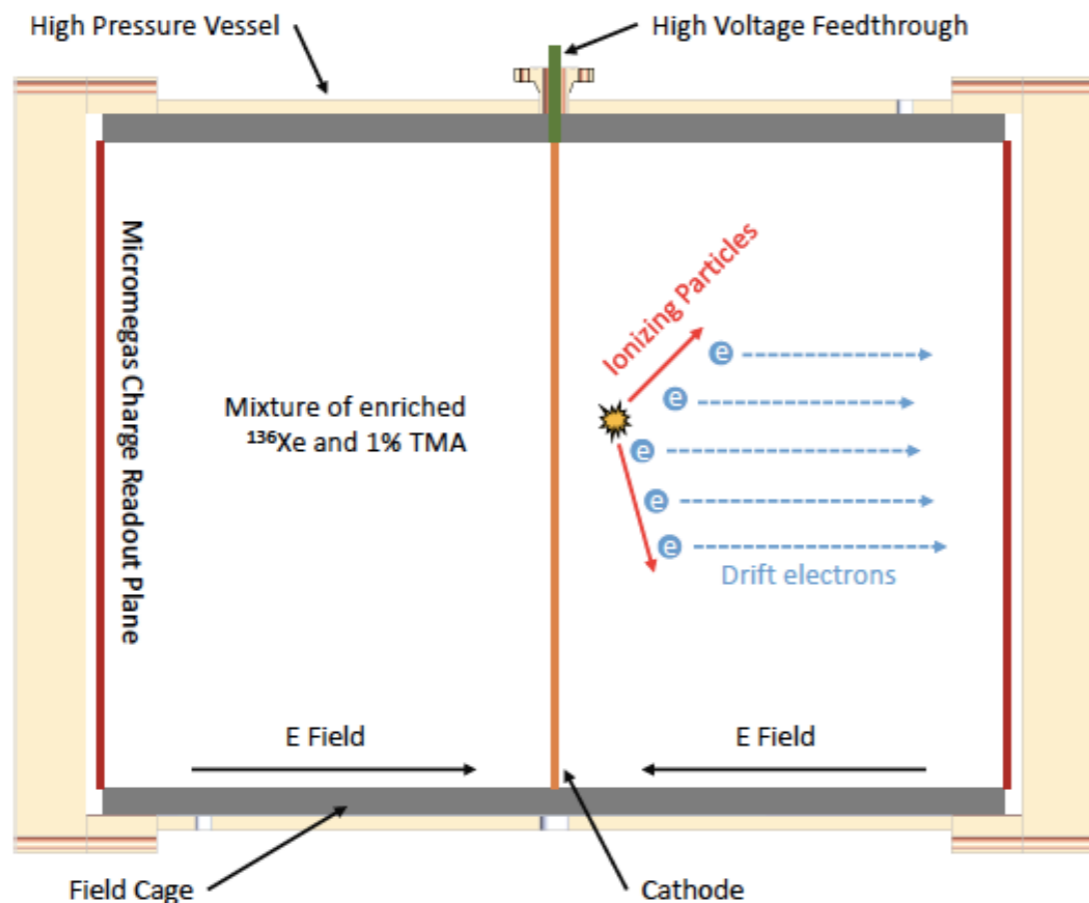
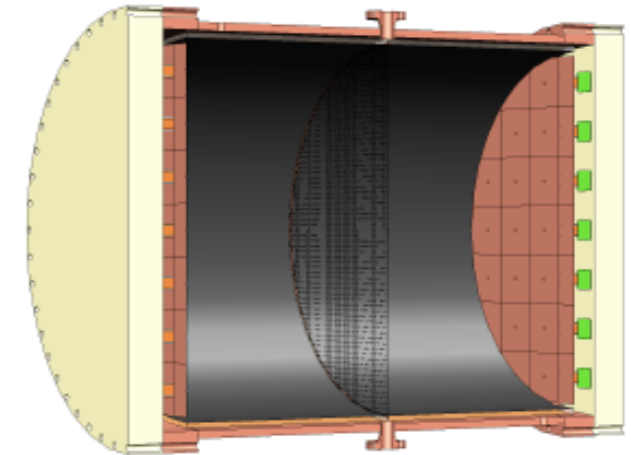
## Topological Reconstruction

- Observe the two stopping electron tracks emitted from common vertex, characteristic of double beta decays
- Powerful handle for single-electron background suppression



- High pressure (10 bar) TPC using 90% enr  $^{136}\text{Xe}$  with Micro-MESH Gaseous structure readout
- $Q_{\beta\beta}=2457.8$  keV ;  $\sigma \sim 31$  keV (1.3%)
- Five, 180 kg<sub>iso</sub> modules, in large water shield
- Located at China Jinping Laboratory

X. Chen et al., [arXiv:1610.08883](https://arxiv.org/abs/1610.08883)



# AMoRE $^{100}\text{Mo}$

Scintillator - Phonons

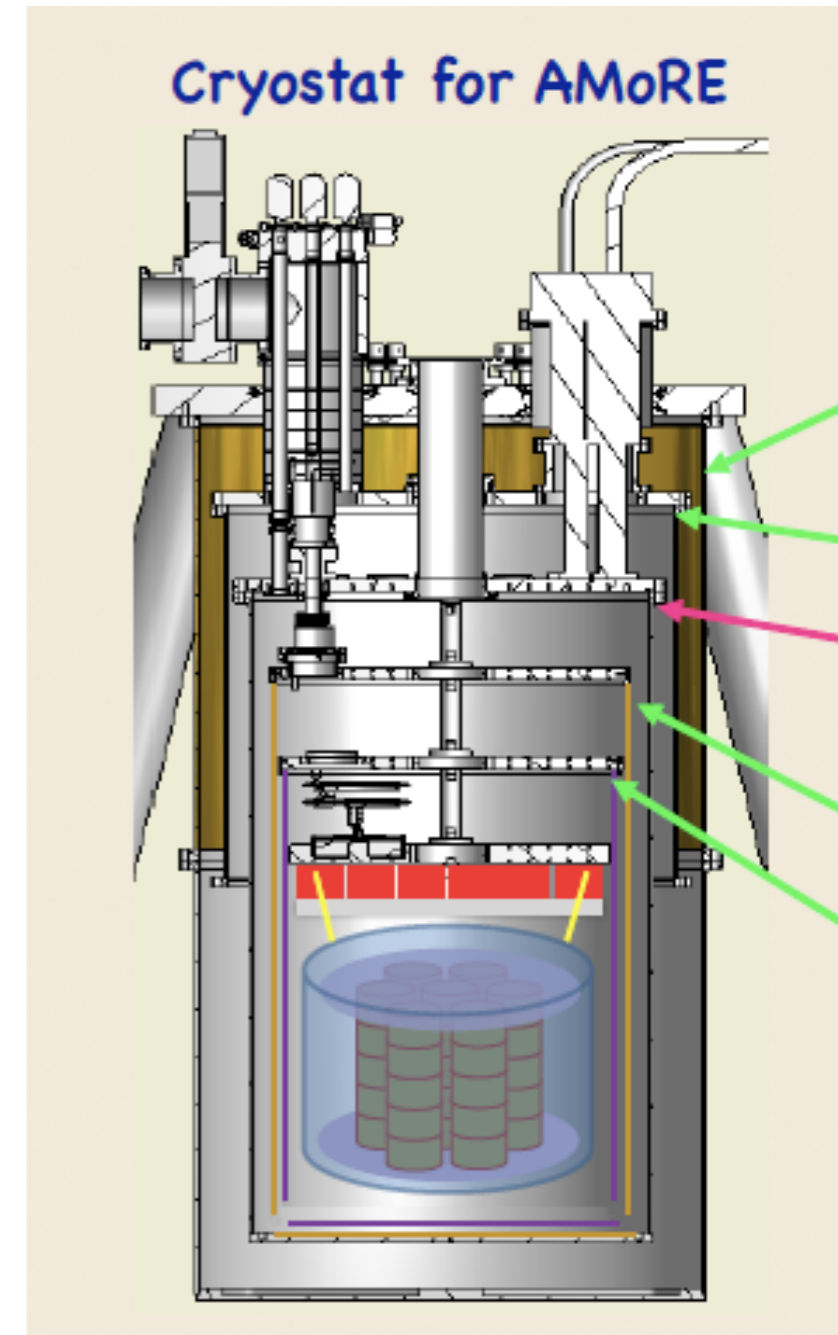
- $^{40}\text{Ca}^{100}\text{MoO}_4$  crystals (95% enr.  $^{100}\text{Mo}$ , depleted  $^{48}\text{Ca}$ ) with bolometer (Metallic Magnetic Calorimeter) and light readout.
- $Q_{\beta\beta}=3034.4$  keV
- Phases
  - AMoRE Pilot (1.5 kg) [2016-2017]
    - 6 crystals, operating at 8 mK
    - $\sigma$  (@2.6 MeV)  $\sim$  4.6 - 5.8 keV (0.2%)
  - AMoRE I (4.5 kg) [2017-2020]
  - AMoRE II (200 kg) [2020-2024]
    - Enriched material by 2018
    - Evaluating :  $\text{Li}_2\text{MoO}_4$  and  $\text{Na}_2\text{Mo}_2\text{O}_7$
- AMoRE Pilot and I at Yingyang Underground Laboratory, AMoRE at new UG lab, Astroparticle Research Facility at Handuk mine.



# AMoRE $^{100}\text{Mo}$



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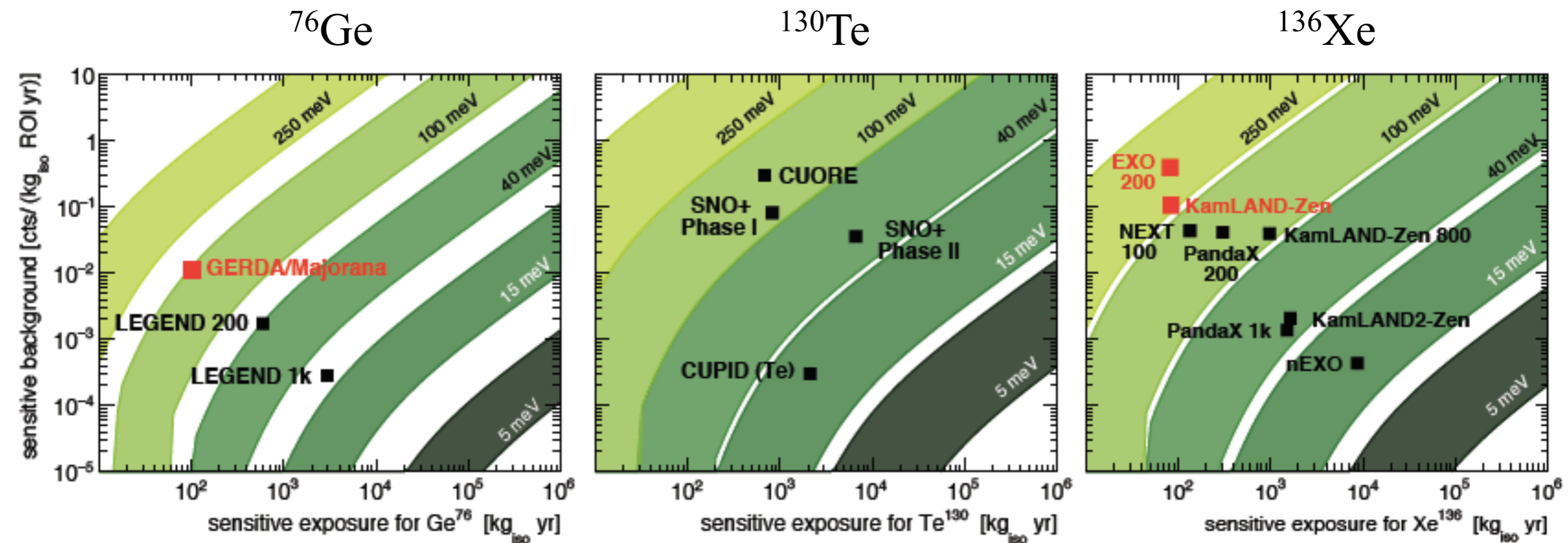


# Discovery Sensitivity Comparison

Discovery probability of next-generation neutrinoless double-beta decay experiments

Matteo Agostini, Giovanni Benato, and Jason Detwiler

arXiv:1705.02996v1



Red : Achieved Backgrounds; Black : Projected Backgrounds

Width of bands based on range of NME values



# Considerations for Next Gen $0\nu\beta\beta$ -decay experiments

- Significant experimental progress since the 2015 long range plan.
  - Experiments have attained or are approaching sensitivities of  $T_{1/2} > 10^{26}$  years, with substantially reduced backgrounds.
- Large international collaborations are moving forward with next generation experiments based on lessons learned from the current measurements.
- For discovery of  $0\nu\beta\beta$ , experiments require good energy resolution, low backgrounds (“background free”) and large exposures (t-y).
- Discovery will require observation by independent experiments, using different isotopes.
- Reduced uncertainties on NME and  $g_A$  will have a critical impact on understanding sensitivity and discovery potential.

# $0\nu\beta\beta$ INT Workshop Discussions

- Sensitivity in the presence of backgrounds.
- Self-consistent fiducial vol. analysis (e.g. KamLAND-Zen).
- Bayesian vs. Frequentist approaches to sensitivity and discovery level.
- Incorporation of systematic uncertainties into overall estimates of sensitivity.