

# Neutrinoless $\beta\beta$ Decay and LEGEND

Matteo Agostini

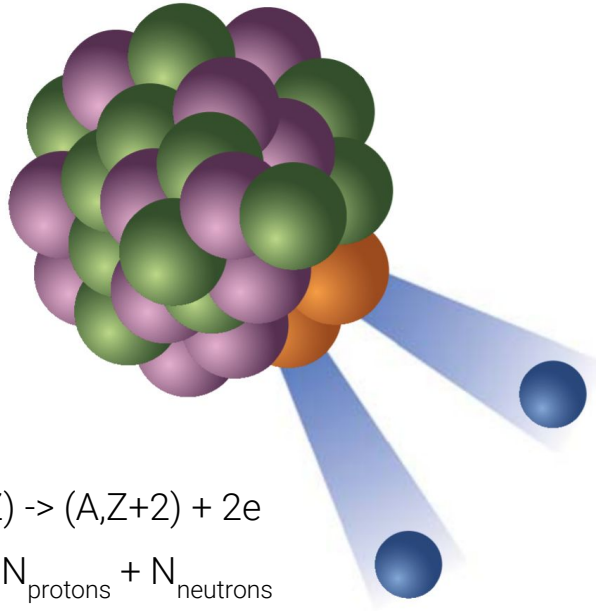
STFC Ernest Rutherford Fellow at UCL

EPAP Seminar - King's College

Feb 24, 2023



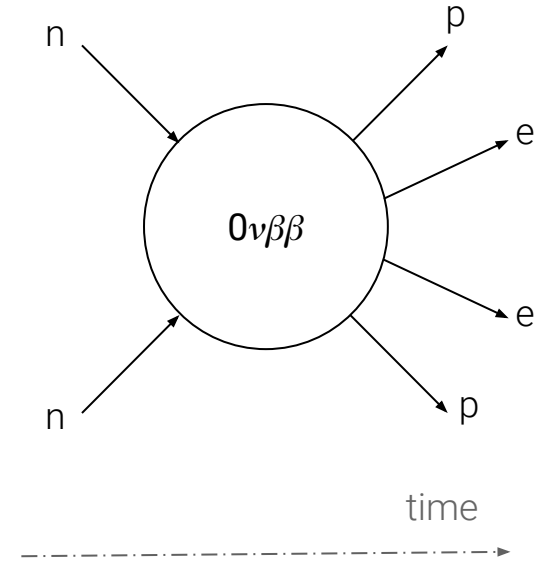
# What are we looking for?



$$(A,Z) \rightarrow (A,Z+2) + 2e$$

$$A = N_{\text{protons}} + N_{\text{neutrons}}$$

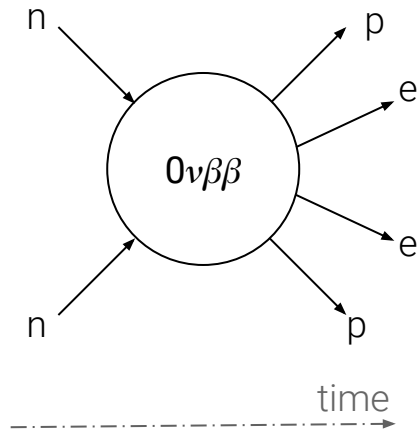
$$Z = N_{\text{protons}}$$



# Why are we looking for it?

$(A,Z) \rightarrow (A,Z+2) + 2e$

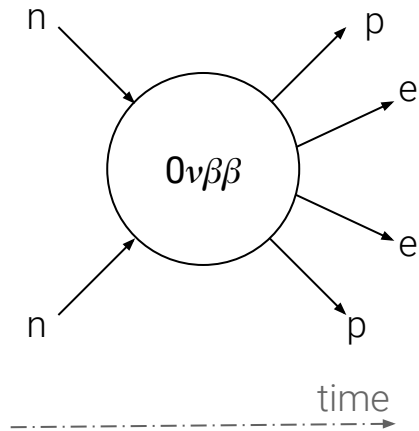
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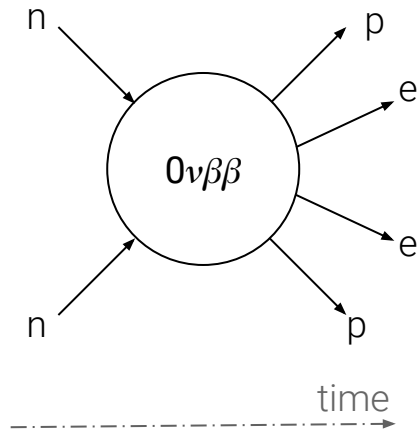


**Matter-creation** in the laboratory!  
Direct violation of **L** and **B-L**

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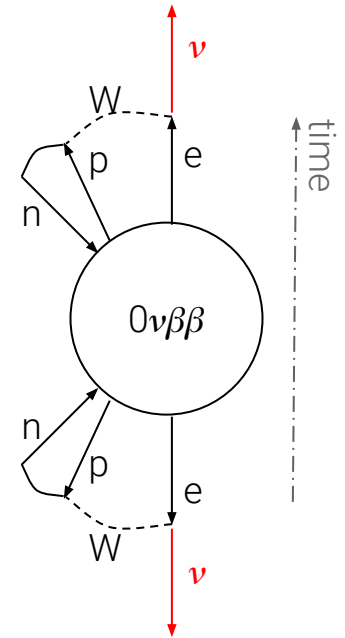
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Same diagram  
creates  $\nu \leftrightarrow \bar{\nu}$

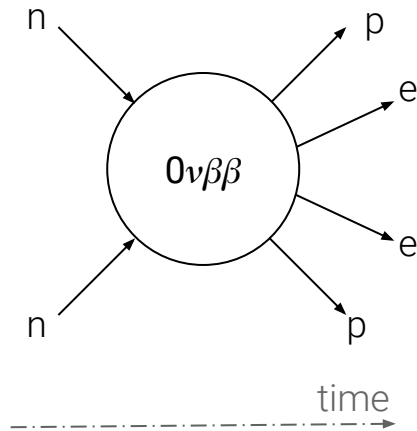
*Schechter and Valle*  
1982



# Why are we looking for it?

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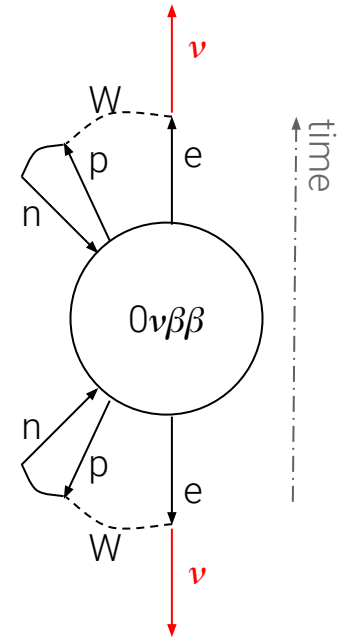
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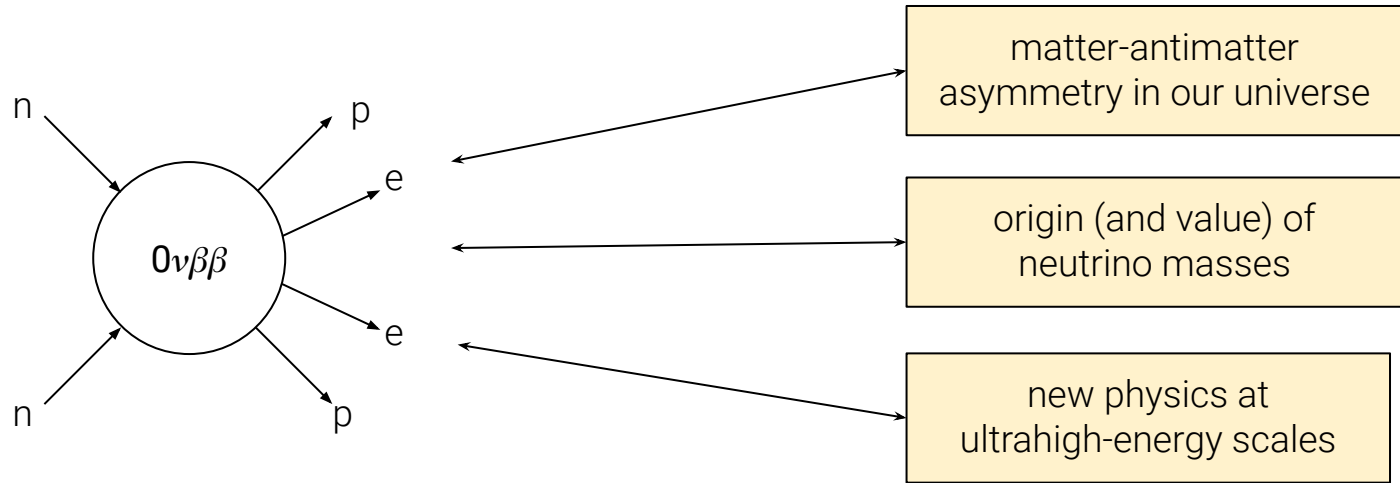
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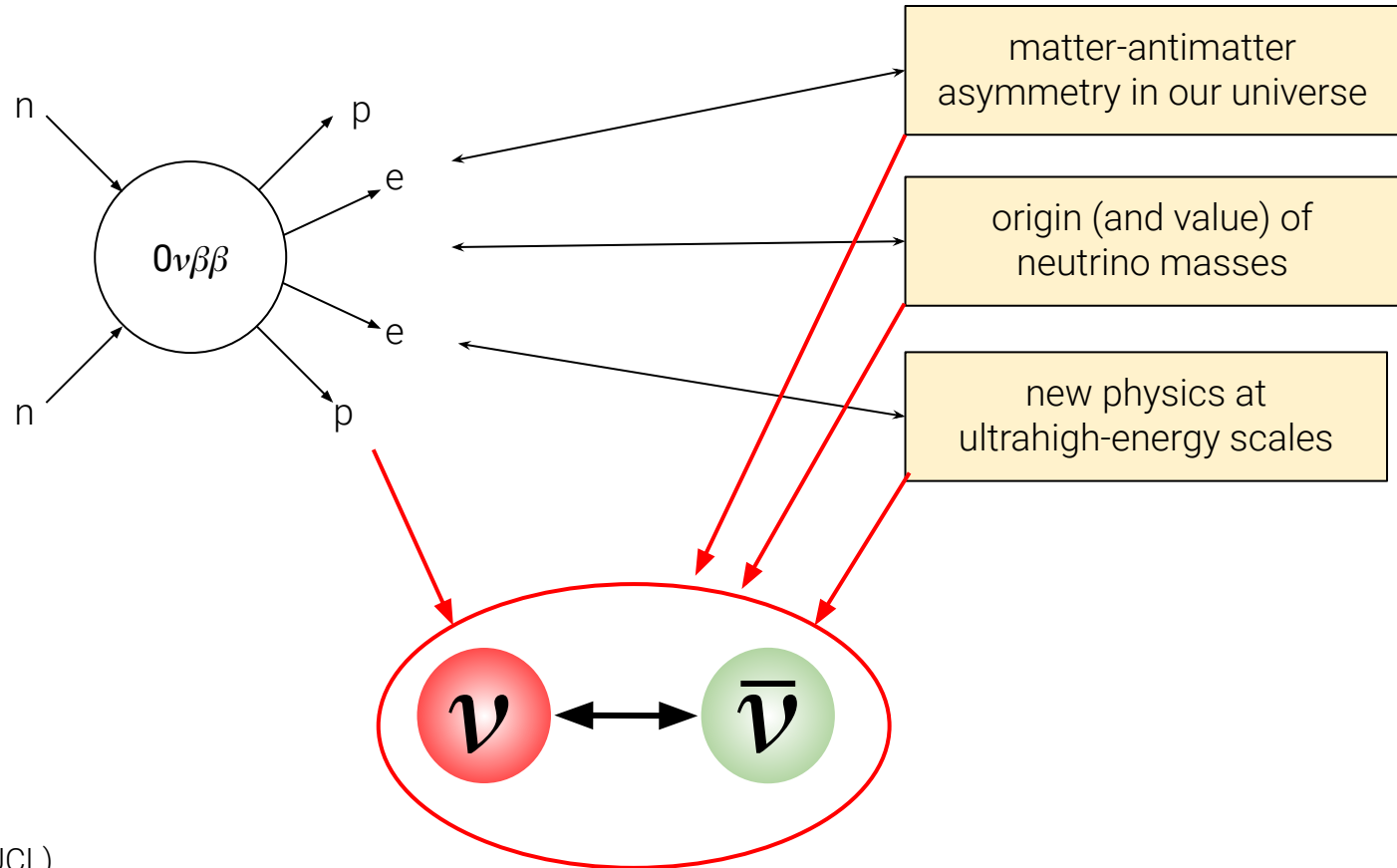


Prove that **neutrinos** and  
**antineutrinos** are the **same object**

# Addressing the most pressing theory questions



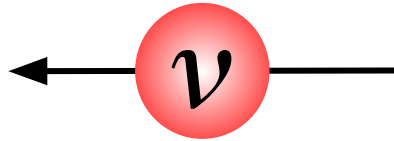
# Addressing the most pressing theory questions



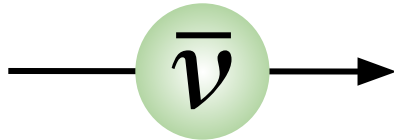


# What distinguishes neutrinos from antineutrinos?

If they have no mass...



moving  
direction 

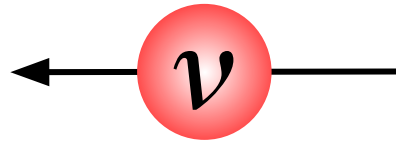


1) spin/helicity -> intrinsic semi-classical property

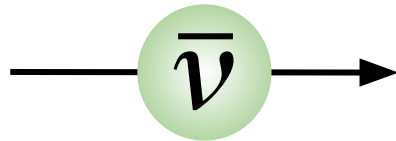
2) chirality -> weak force when they are created/destroyed

# What distinguishes neutrinos from antineutrinos?

If they have no mass...

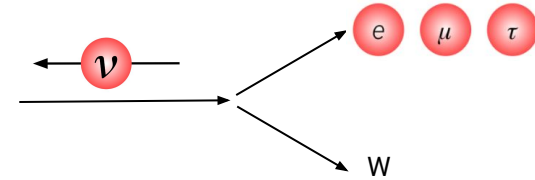


moving direction 



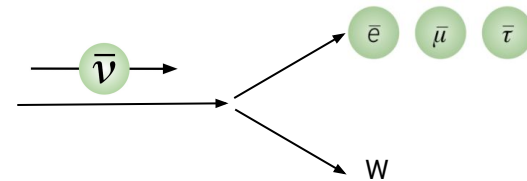
neutrinos move **antiparallel** to their spin

**left-handed** chirality -> weakly-interact creating **particles**



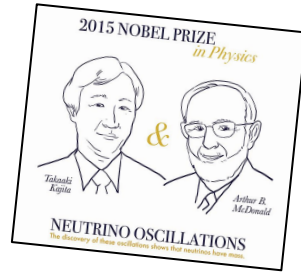
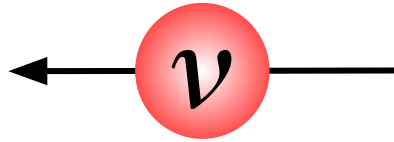
anti-neutrinos move **parallel** to their spin

**right-handed** chirality -> weakly-interact creating **antiparticles**

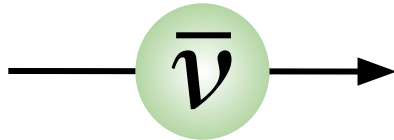


# What distinguishes neutrinos from antineutrinos?

But neutrinos are massive!

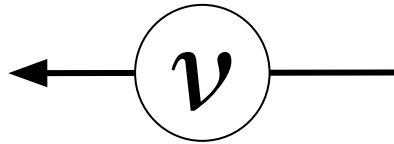


moving  
direction 



# What distinguishes neutrinos from antineutrinos?

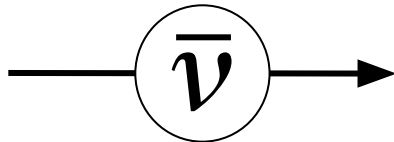
We can boost in a frame in which they move in the opposite direction



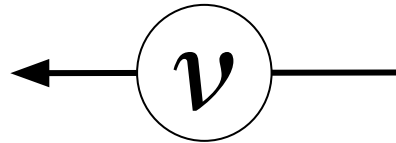
moving direction



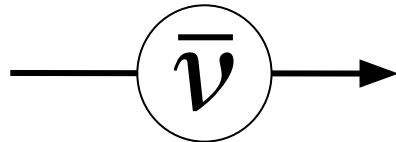
A long horizontal arrow pointing to the left, indicating the direction of the boost.



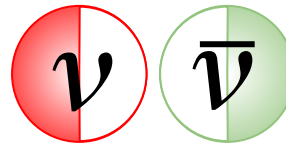
# What distinguishes neutrinos from antineutrinos?



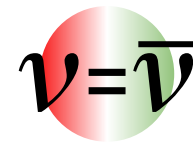
moving  
direction ←



Dirac



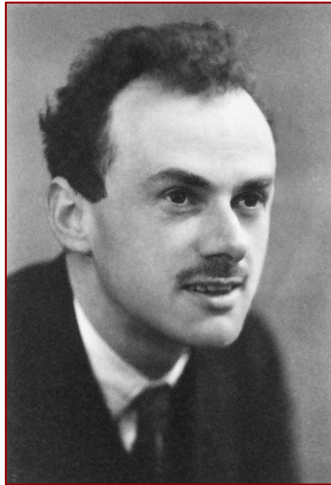
Majorana



There are two new non-interacting “sterile” states...

...or the same object has both chiral states

**Dirac**

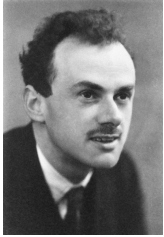


$\nu$  S

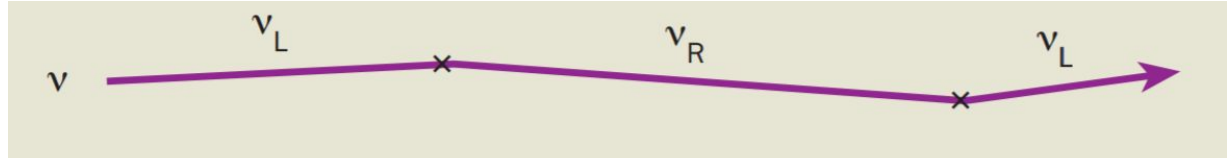
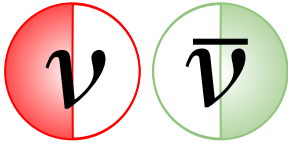
**Majorana**



# Neutrino masses



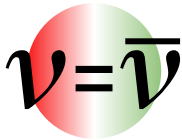
Dirac



- new right-handed neutrinos
- standard Higgs mechanism
- “unnaturally” small neutrino masses

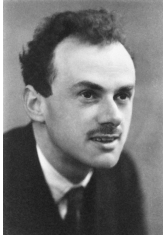


Majorana

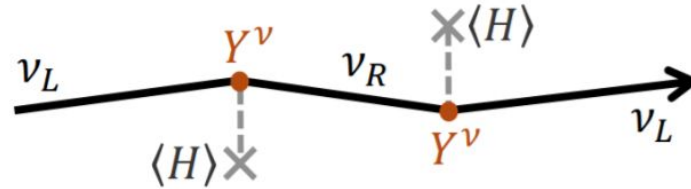
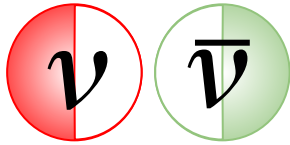


- alternative Higgs mass mechanism
- neutrino mass violates L (and thus B-L)
- “naturally” small mass (see-saw mechanism)

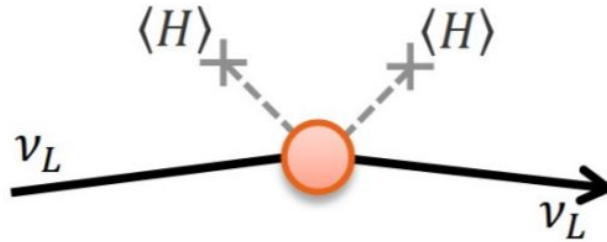
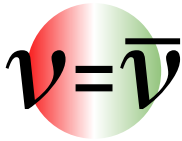
# Neutrino masses



Dirac



Majorana

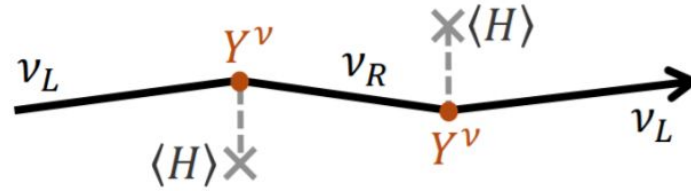
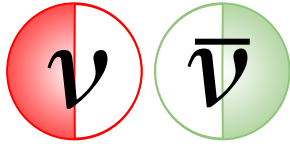




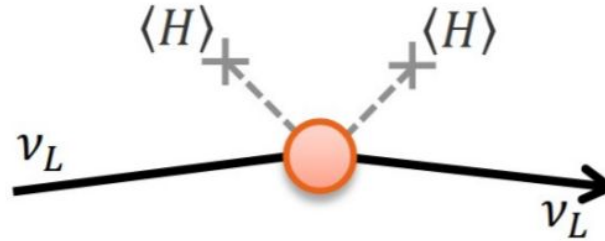
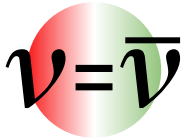
# Neutrino masses



Dirac



Majorana



*neutrinos desperately want  
to be an Italian particle*

A decorative background graphic consisting of two overlapping, curved shapes. The top shape is teal and tapers from left to right. The bottom shape is orange and tapers from left to right, overlapping the teal shape. The overall effect is a sense of depth and movement.

A bit of history

# A bit of history

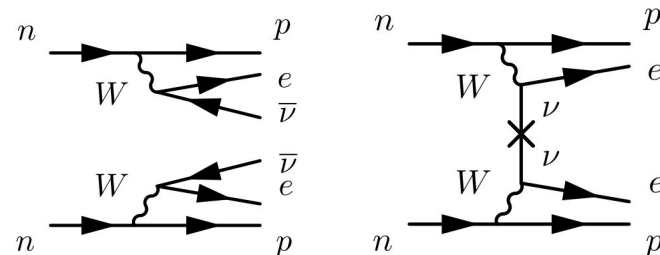
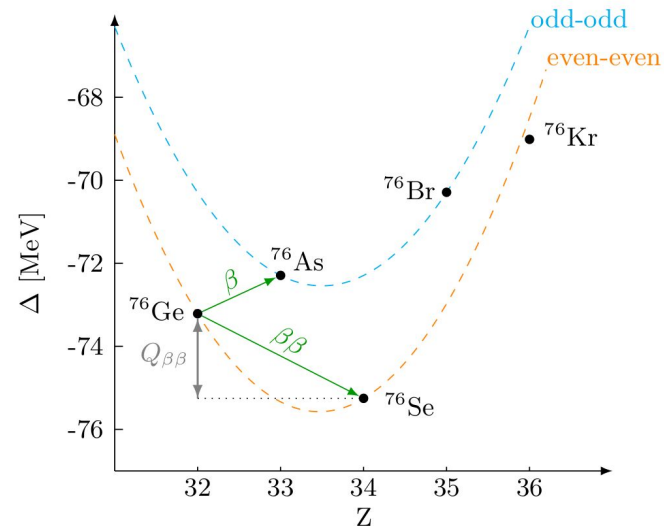
1935: Goeppert-Mayer  $\rightarrow \beta\beta$  decay

1937: Majorana and Racah  $\rightarrow$  the neutrino is its own antiparticle

1939: Furry  $\rightarrow$  “neutrinoless  $\beta\beta$  decay” ( $0\nu\beta\beta$ )

1987: Moe’s  $\rightarrow$  first observation of a  $\beta\beta$  decay with neutrinos ( $2\nu\beta\beta$ )

2000: SNO/SK  $\rightarrow$  discovery that neutrinos oscillate  $\rightarrow$  are massive



MA, Benato, Detwiler, Menéndez and Vissani,  
RMP 2023 (arXiv:2202.01787)

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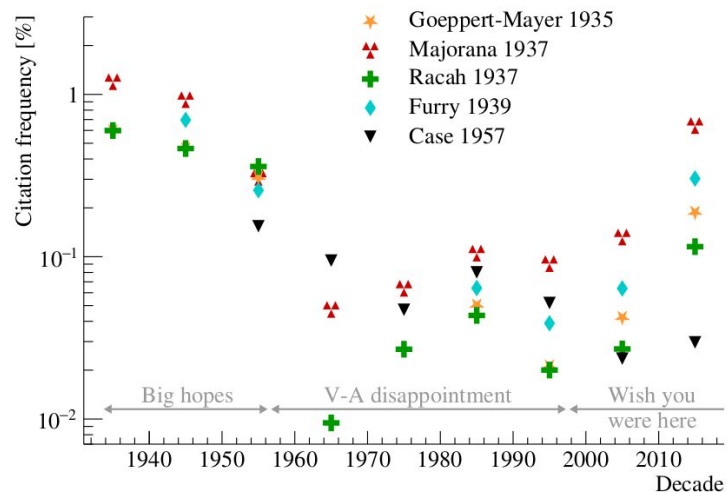
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MA, Benato, Detwiler, Menéndez and Vissani,  
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# How did we end up with this name?

Neutrinoless double-beta decay

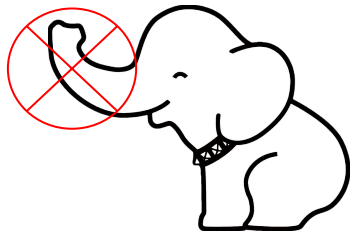
OK, it is a nuclear transition

beta refers to “beta-rays”, something used when people believed electrons were leaving within the atomic nuclei

# How did we end up with this name?

## Neutrinoless double-beta decay

Nobody would call hippos  
“trunkless elephants”



What about  
lepton-creating nuclear decay?

OK, it is a nuclear transition

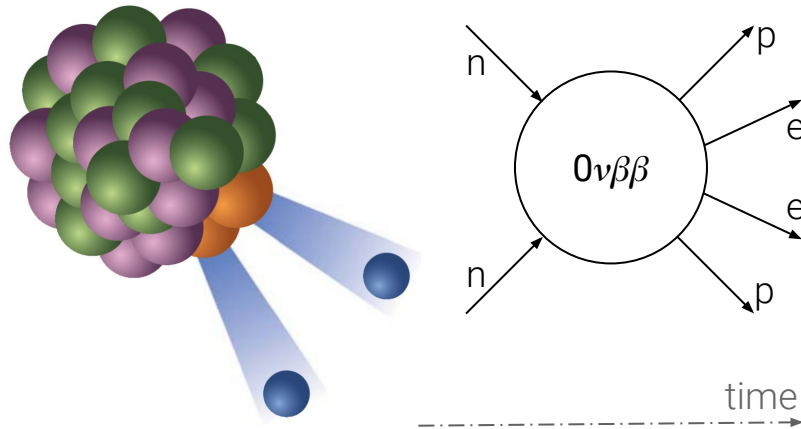
beta refers to “beta-rays”, something  
used when people believed electrons  
were leaving within the atomic nuclei

## What can we measure?

- decay rate
  - electron momentum
  - daughter isotope
    - gamma-rays from excited states

# A portal to new physics beyond the SM

$$\Gamma \propto \frac{1}{T_{1/2}} \propto \underbrace{G g^4 M^2}_{\text{Nuclear Physics}} \underbrace{\left(\frac{\nu}{\Lambda}\right)^n}_{\text{Particle Physics}}$$





# A portal to new physics beyond the SM

$$\Gamma \propto \frac{1}{T_{1/2}} \propto G g^4 M^2 \left(\frac{\nu}{\Lambda}\right)^n$$

Particle Physics

phase space factor

hadronic matrix element

nuclear matrix element (NME)

Can be computed accurately  
(even if sometimes  $\mathbf{g}$  is used to  
incorporate biases in NME calculations)

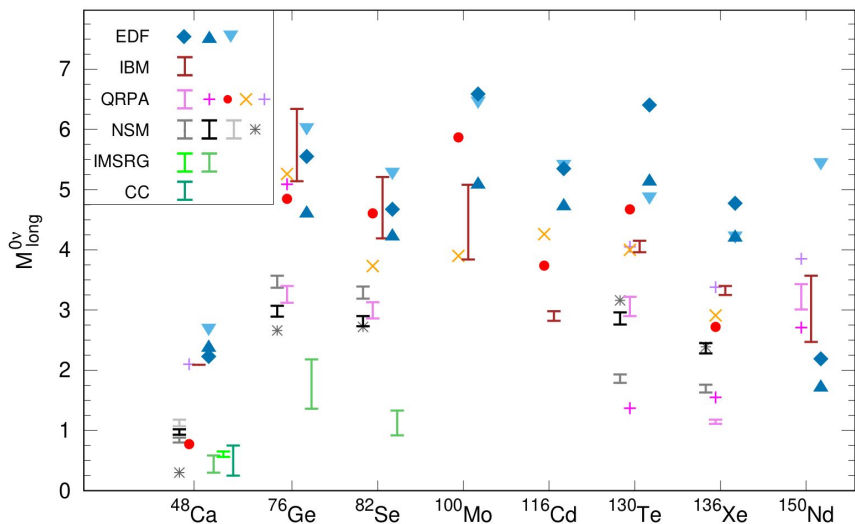
Requires calculations of :

- wavefunction overlap between initial and final states
- lepton-nucleus interaction

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Particle Physics



nuclear matrix element (NME)

Requires calculations of :

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# A portal to new physics beyond the SM

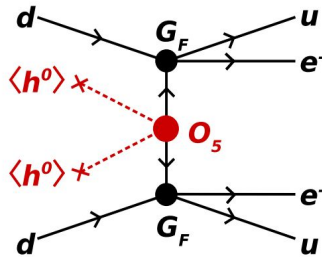
$$\Gamma \propto \frac{1}{T_{1/2}} \propto G g^4 M^2 \left( \frac{\nu}{\Lambda} \right)^n$$

Higgs vacuum expectation

energy scale of BSM

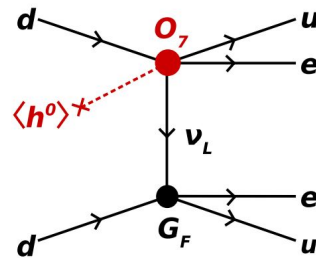
Dim 5: Weinberg Operator

$$\frac{1}{T_{1/2}} \propto \left( \frac{\nu}{\lambda} \right)^2 \quad \text{with} \quad \frac{\nu}{\Lambda} \propto \frac{m_{\beta\beta}}{m_e}$$



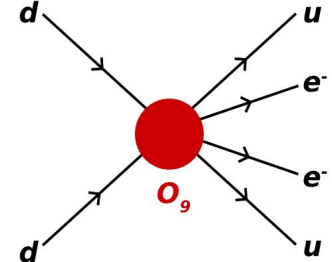
Dim 7

$$\frac{1}{T_{1/2}} \propto \left( \frac{\nu}{\Lambda} \right)^6$$



Dim 9

$$\frac{1}{T_{1/2}} \propto \left( \frac{\nu}{\Lambda} \right)^{10}$$



# A portal to new physics beyond the SM

$$\Gamma \propto \frac{1}{T_{1/2}} \propto G g^4 M^2 \left( \frac{\nu}{\Lambda} \right)^n$$

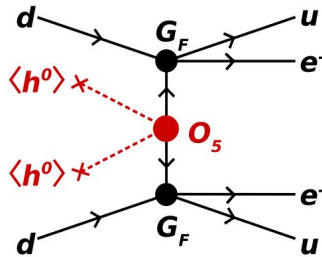
Higgs vacuum expectation

energy scale of BSM

$0\nu\beta\beta$  and collider searches are similar  
 $T_{1/2}$  is proportional to the energy scale  
 Open search for a signal that can manifest at any time!

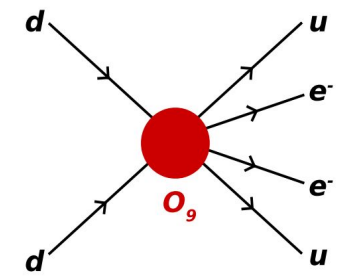
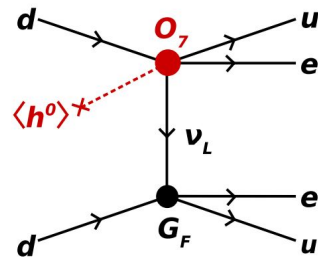
Dim 5: Weinb

$$\frac{1}{T_{1/2}} \propto \left( \frac{\nu}{\lambda} \right)^2$$



Dim 9

$$\frac{1}{T_{1/2}} \propto \left( \frac{\nu}{\Lambda} \right)^{10}$$

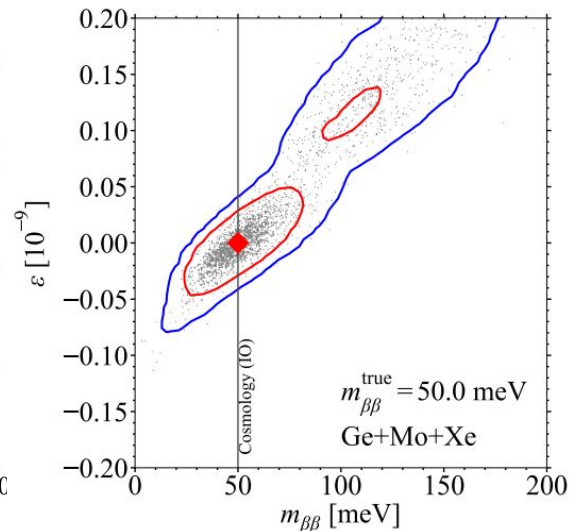
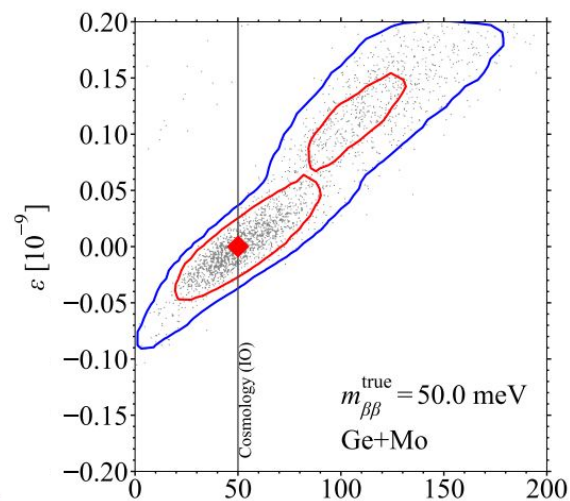
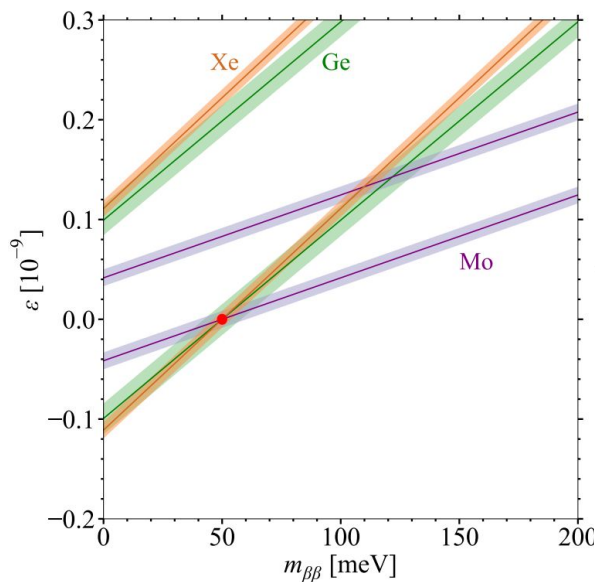


# Probing the mechanism

$$T_{1/2}^{-1}(X) = G_{11+}^{(0)}(X) \left[ \frac{m_{\beta\beta}}{m_e} M_\nu(X) + \epsilon M_{\text{SR}}(X) \right]^2$$

- Data in multiple isotopes pin down channels
- NME values drive sensitivity
- epsilon: R-parity-violating supersymmetry, similar conclusions for other models

MA, Deppisch, Van Goffrier, JHEP 02 (2023) 172

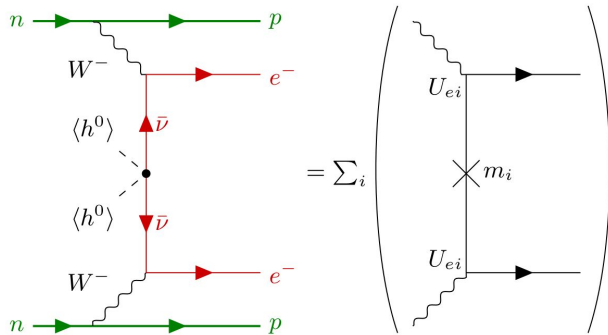




Discovery odds for the vanilla model

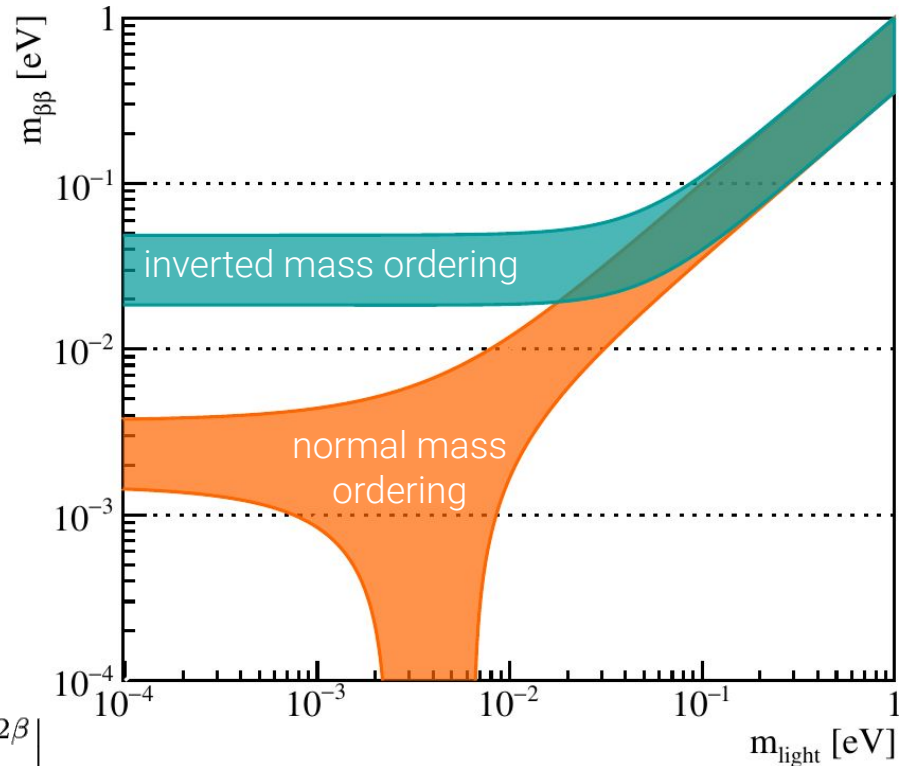
# Light Majorana neutrino exchange

$$P \propto \left( \frac{\nu}{\Lambda} \right)^2 \quad \text{with} \quad \frac{\nu}{\Lambda} \propto m_{\beta\beta}$$



$$m_{\beta\beta} = \left| \sum_i U_{ei}^2 m_i \right|$$

$$= \left| c_{12}^2 c_{13}^2 m_1 + s_{12}^2 c_{13}^2 m_2 e^{i2\alpha} + s_{13}^2 m_3 e^{i2\beta} \right|$$

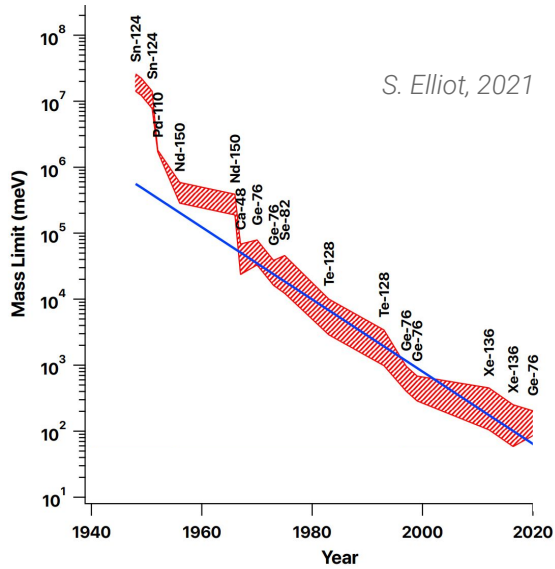


MA, Benato, Detwiler, Menéndez and Vissani,  
RMP 2023 (arXiv:2202.01787)

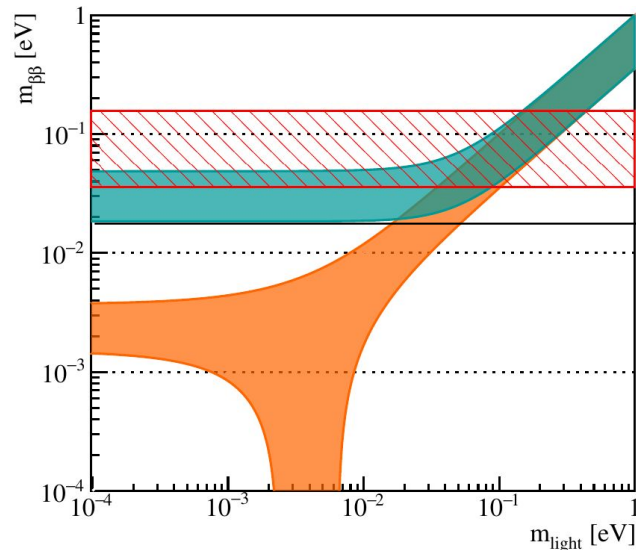
# Discovery odds: inverted neutrinos

Probability for an atom to decay:  $\ll 1$  in a million billion times the age of the universe

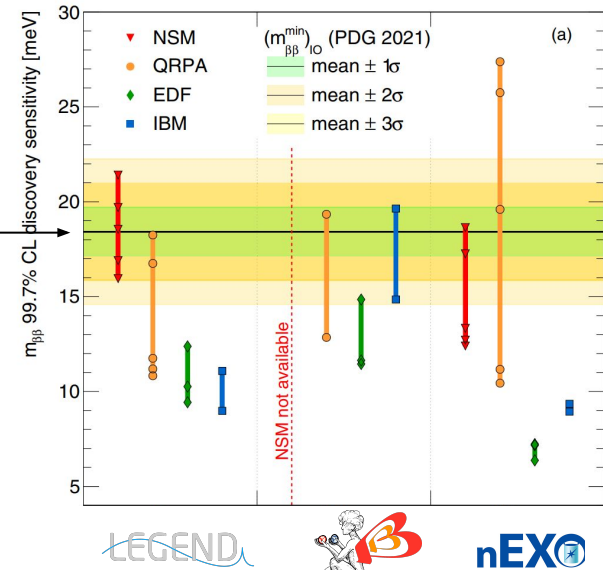
1940-2020



Today:  $T_{1/2} > 10^{26}$  yr



Future:  $T_{1/2} > 10^{28}$  yr

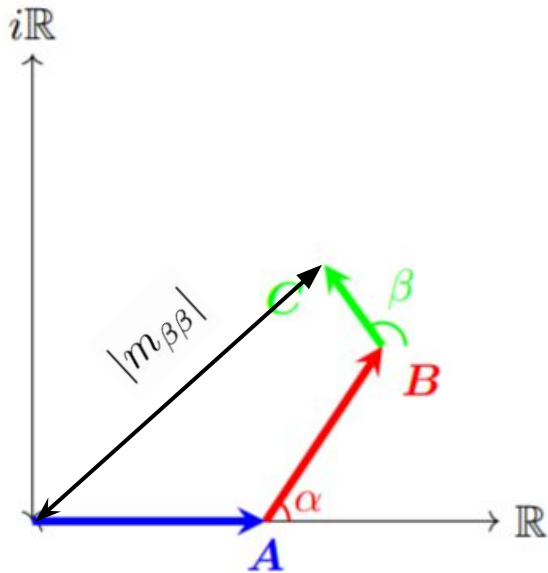


M.A., Benato, Detwiler, Menéndez and Vissani  
PRC 104, L042501

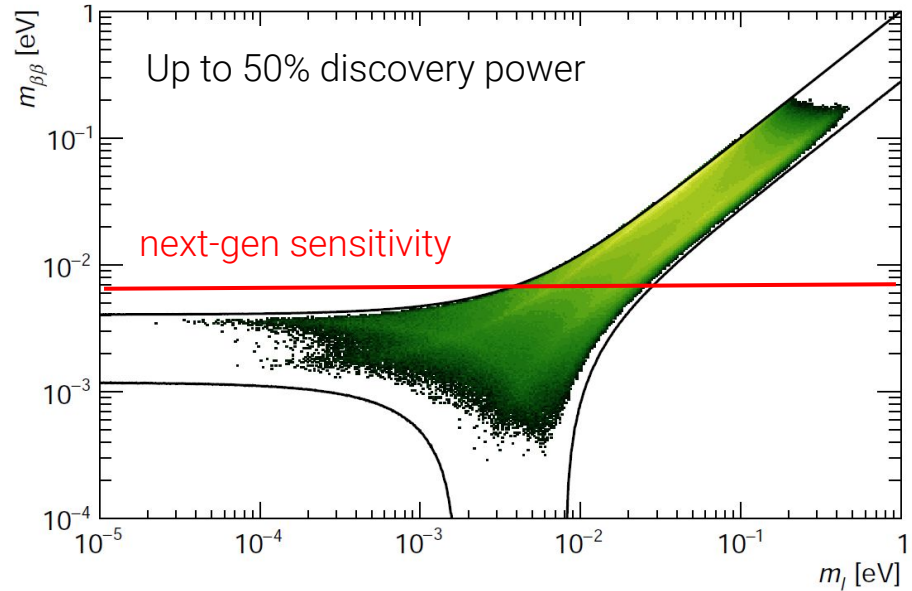


# Discovery odds: normal ordered neutrinos

$$|m_{\beta\beta}| = \underbrace{(c_{12}^2 c_{13}^2 m_1)}_A + \underbrace{(s_{12}^2 c_{13}^2 m_2 e^{i2\alpha})}_B + \underbrace{(s_{13}^2 m_3 e^{i2\beta})}_C$$



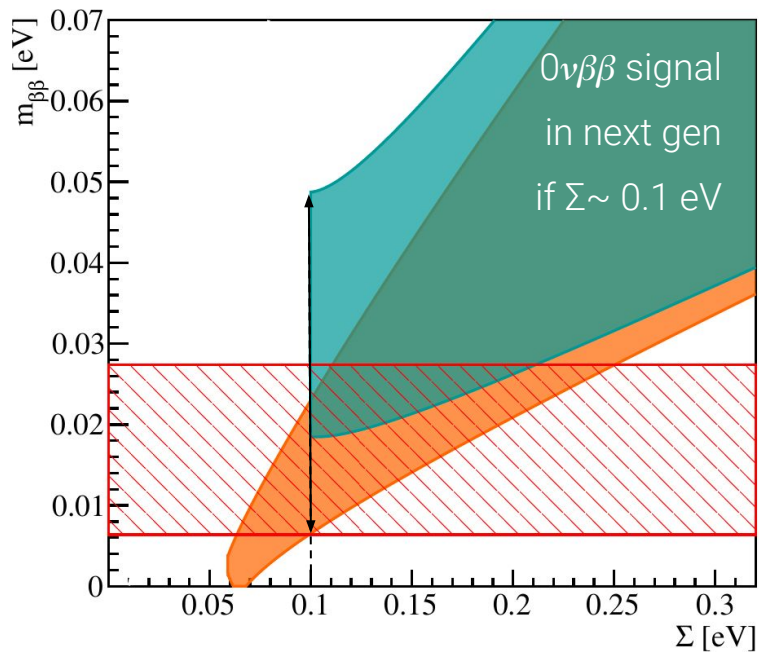
Not equiprobable parameter space: random phases favors large  $m_{\beta\beta}$  values.



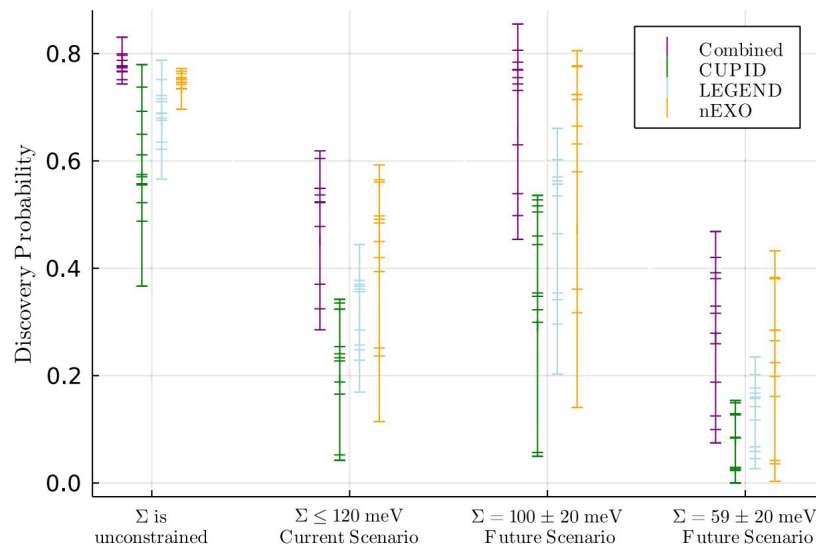
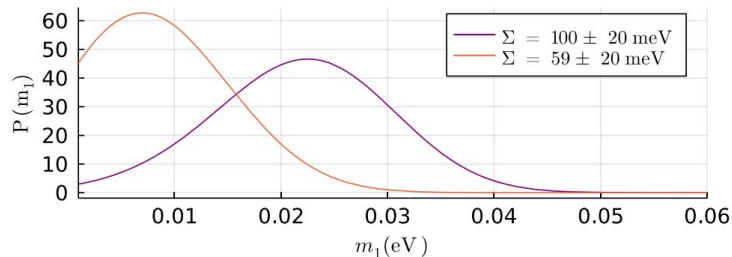
MA, Benato and Detwiler, PRD 96, 053001 (2017)

# Discovery odds: normal ordered neutrinos

Cosmology surveys (DESI/EUCLID) close to measure  $\Sigma = \sum_i m_i$



*Ettengruber, MA, Caldwell, Eller and Schulz  
PRD 106, 073004 (2022)*





# LEGEND

# The LEGEND Collaboration



2022 Collaboration Meeting @ LNGS

Our mission:

“Develop a **phased,  $^{76}\text{Ge}$  based** double-beta decay experimental program with **discovery potential** at a half-life **beyond  $10^{28}$  years**”

260 members

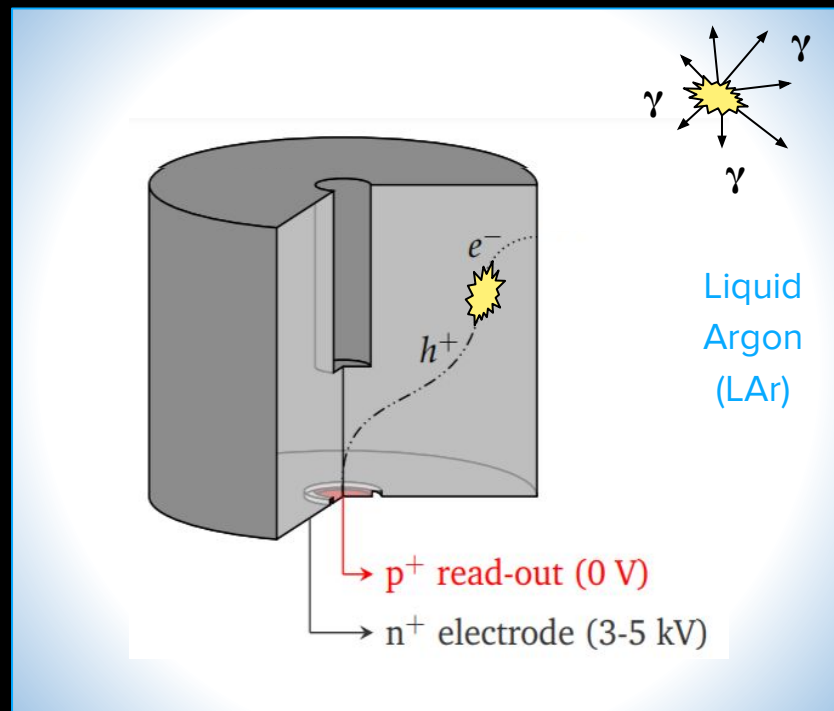
47 institutions across the world



# Two-component detection concept

## Semiconductor HPGe Detectors

- 92% of detector material is  $^{76}\text{Ge}$
- advanced event reconstruction
- high spatial and energy resolution



## Liquid Argon Scintillation Detector

- ultraclean and cryogenic liquid
- isotropic emission of XUV photons
- calorimetric energy measurement

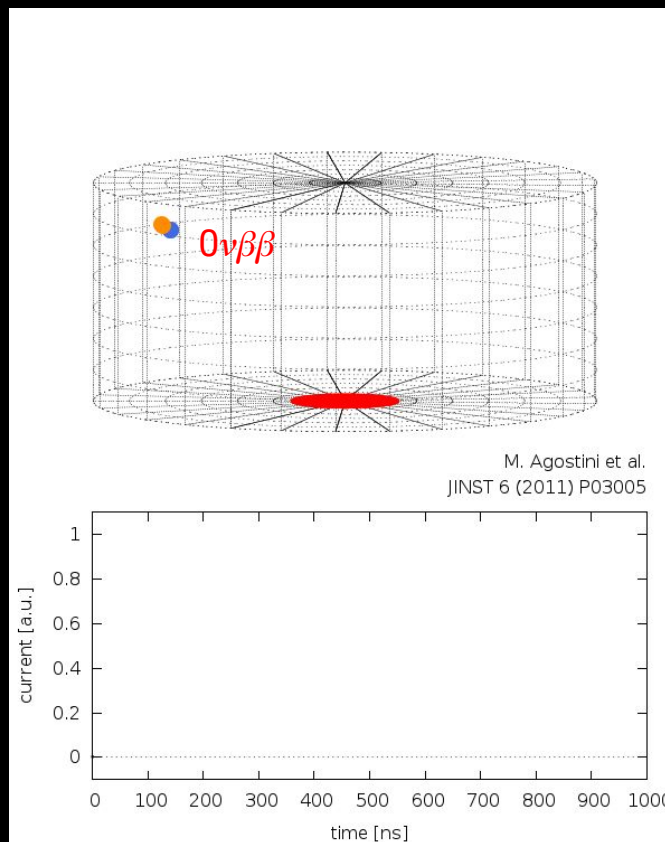
# HPGe detectors

## Solid state time projection chambers

- 200 V/cm minimum E-field
- $O(10\text{ns})$  resolution on the cluster arrival time
- sub-mm-scale cluster separation

## Semiconductor detectors

- $>10^5$  e-h pairs / MeV
- 0.1% energy resolution at 2 MeV



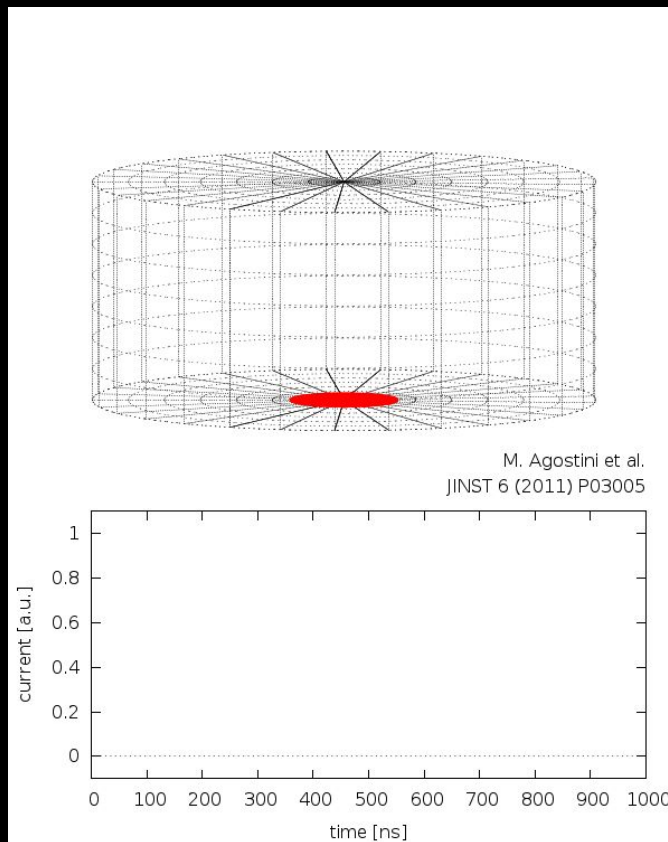
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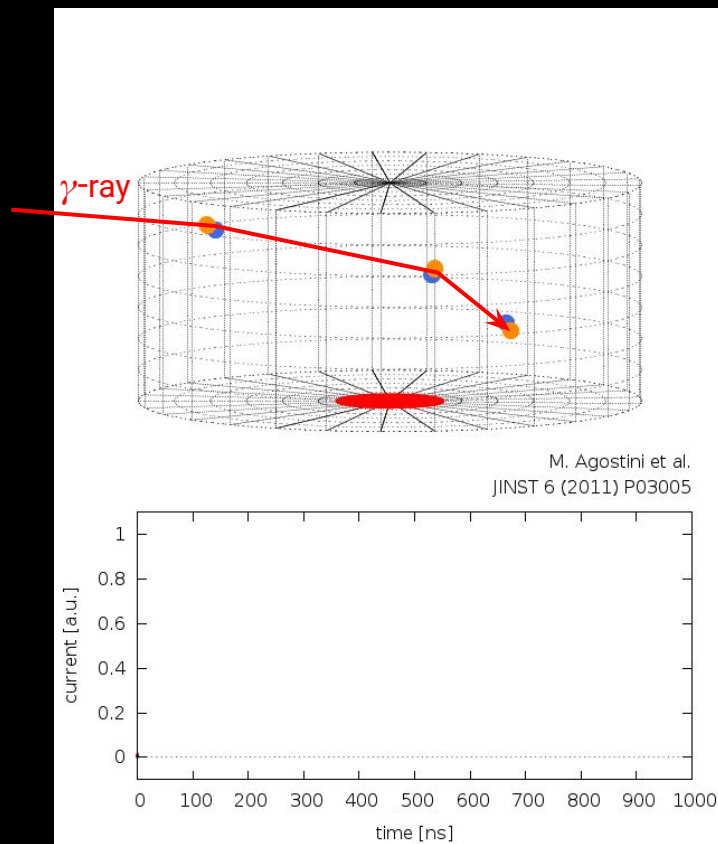
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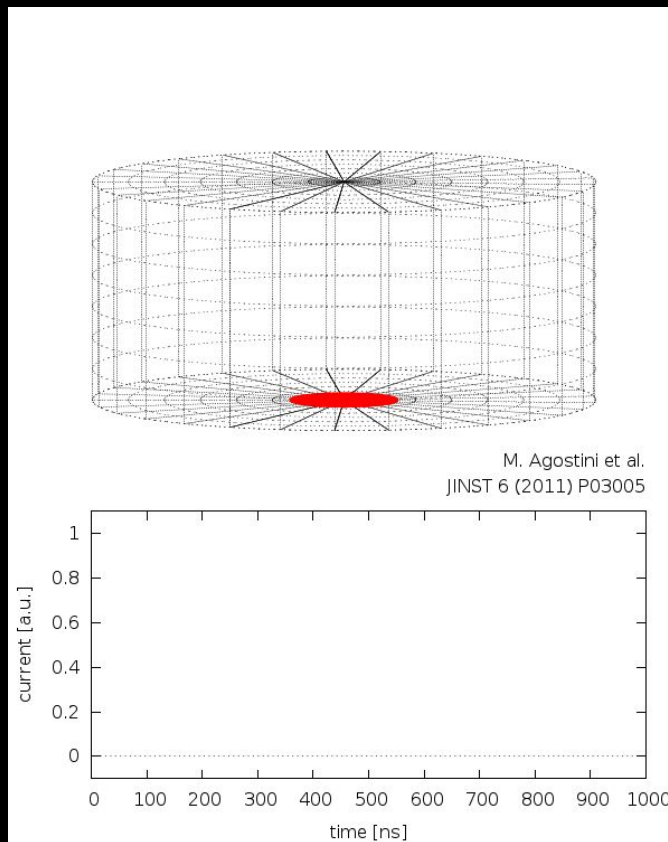
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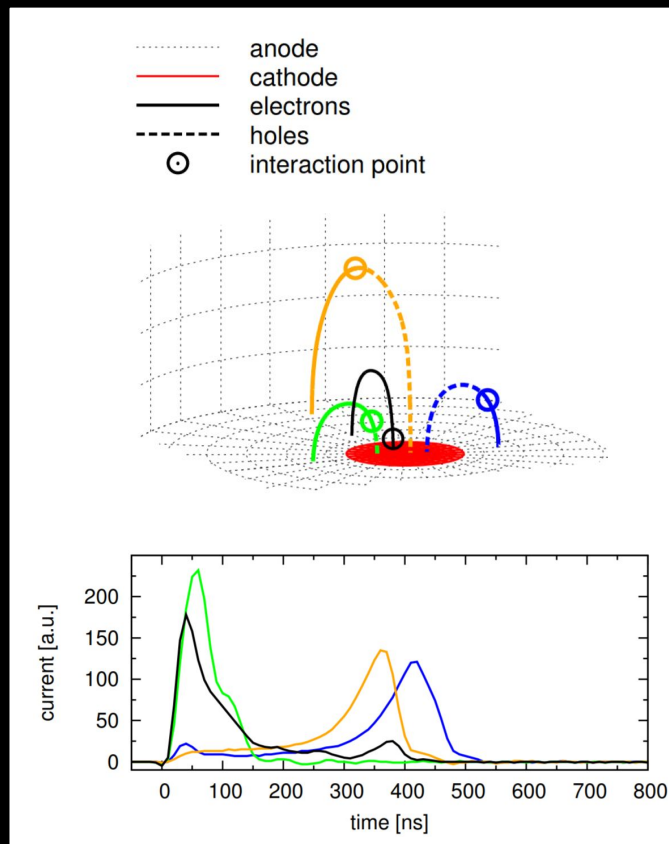
# HPGe detectors

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- sub-mm-scale cluster separation

## Semiconductor detectors

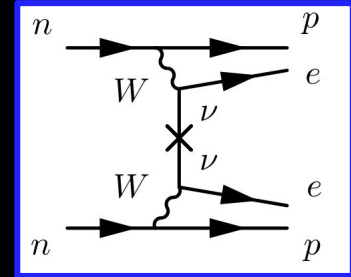
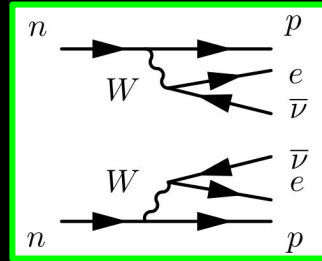
- $>10^5$  e-h pairs / MeV
- 0.1% energy resolution at 2 MeV



# HPGe detectors

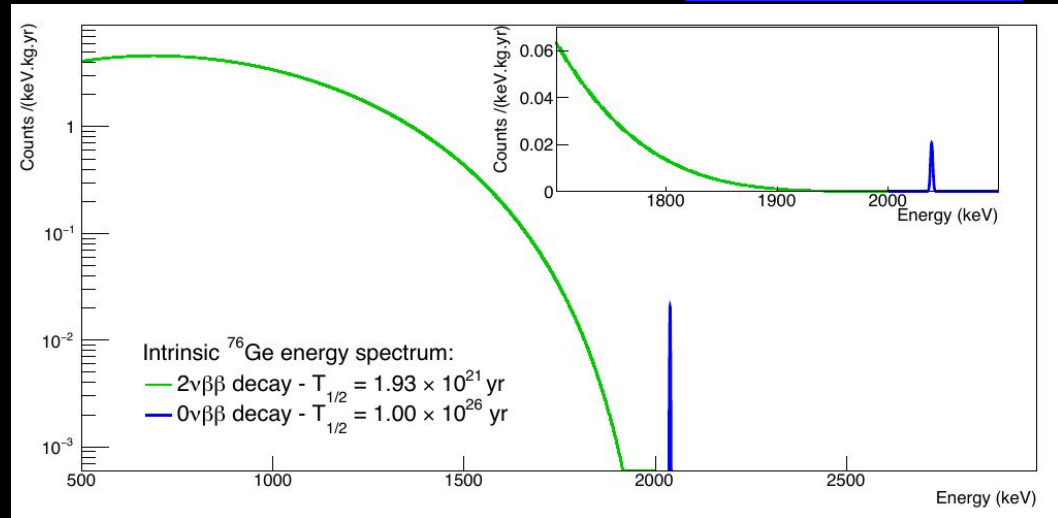
## Solid state time projection chambers

- 200 V/cm minimum E-field
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- sub-mm-scale cluster separation



## Semiconductor detectors

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- 0.1% energy resolution at 2 MeV



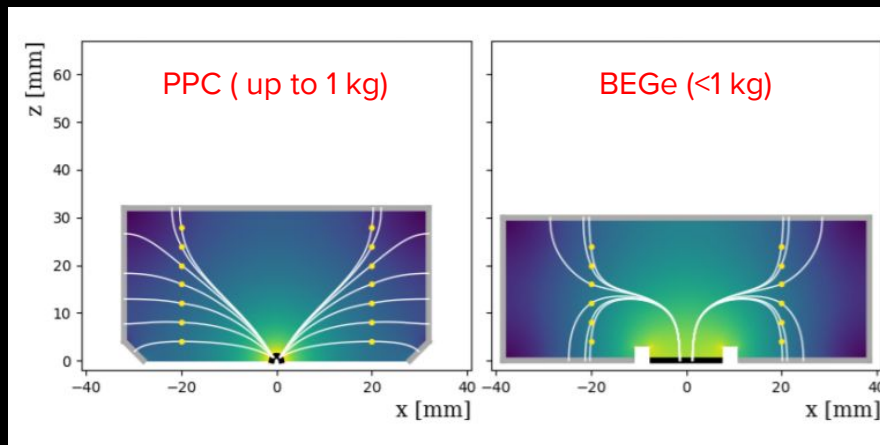
# HPGe detectors

## Solid state time projection chambers

- 200 V/cm minimum E-field
- $O(10\text{ns})$  resolution on the cluster arrival time
- sub-mm-scale cluster separation

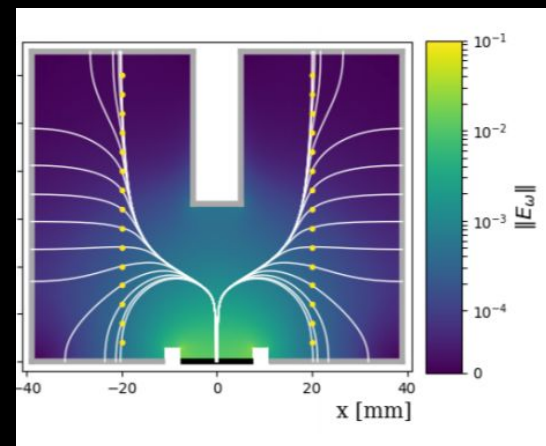
## Semiconductor detectors

- $>10^5$  e-h pairs / MeV
- 0.1% energy resolution at 2 MeV



ICPC (LEGEND)

- up to 4 kg
- longer drift times
- optimal PSD

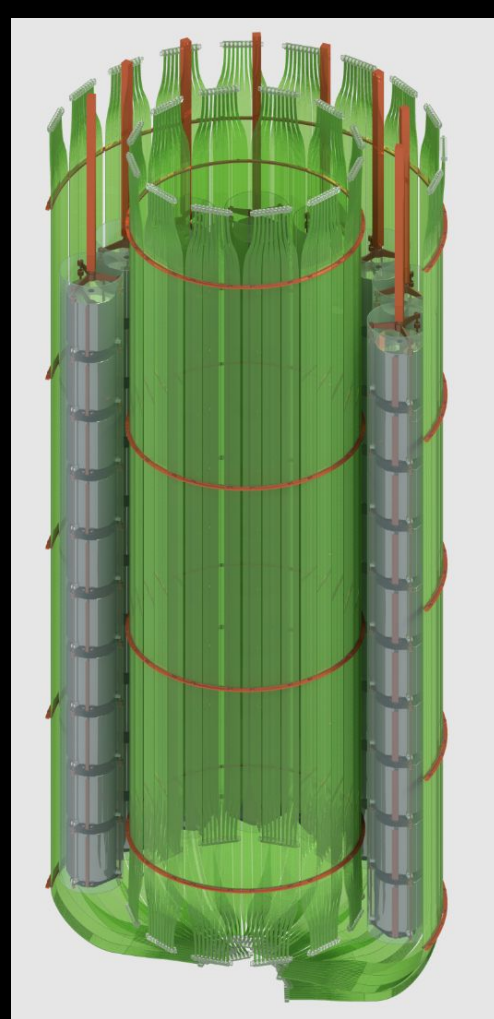
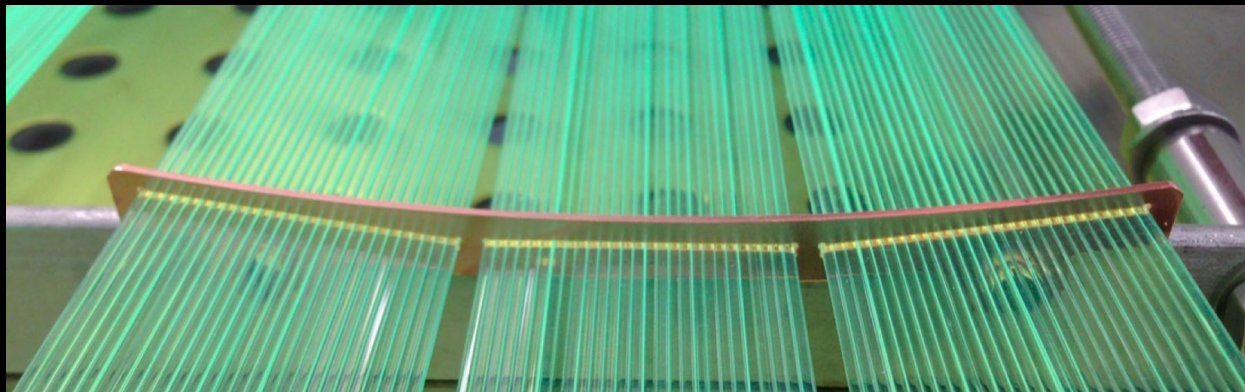
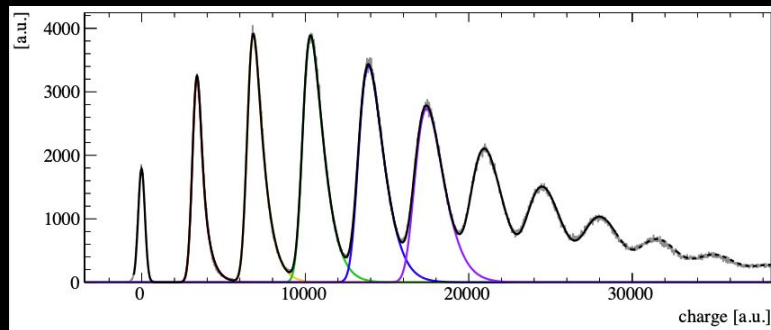


[Eur.Phys.J.C 81 (2021)]

# Liquid argon scintillation detector

- $O(10^4)$  XUV photons per MeV
- wavelength shifting surfaces
- fibers and SiPM

LEGEND-200 SiPM characterization



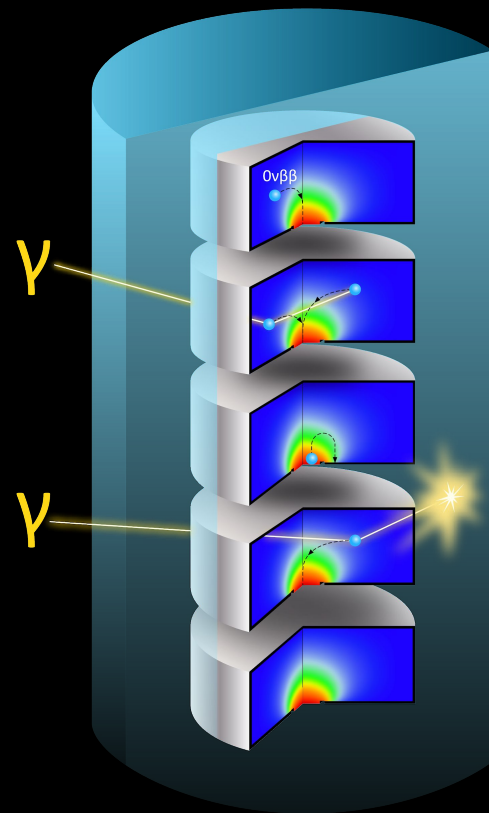
# $0\nu\beta\beta$ signal and backgrounds

## Multivariate $0\nu\beta\beta$ tagging

- no energy in LAr
- single Ge-detector hit
- energy = 2039 keV
- single-cluster event in Ge bulk volume (no surface interactions)

Background events can have these features only if:

- Q-value > 2039 keV
- extra energy deposited in dead detector areas



Our design driving principle:  
minimize structural material around Ge detectors

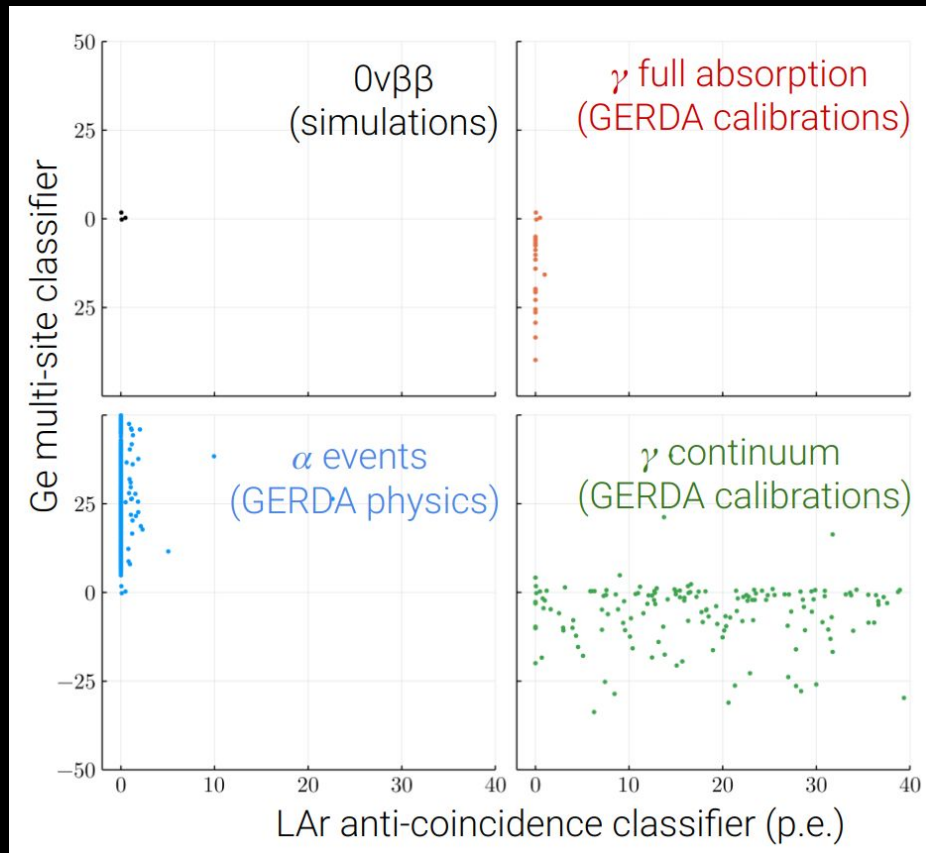
# $0\nu\beta\beta$ signal and backgrounds

## Multivariate $0\nu\beta\beta$ tagging

- no energy in LAr
- single Ge-detector hit
- energy = 2039 keV
- single-cluster event in Ge bulk volume (no surface interactions)

Background event populations are well separated in the multivariate space

- very small probability to enter the signal region
- very distinctive features to constrain it



# Towards a Ton Scale Experiment

## GERDA / Majorana Demonstrator

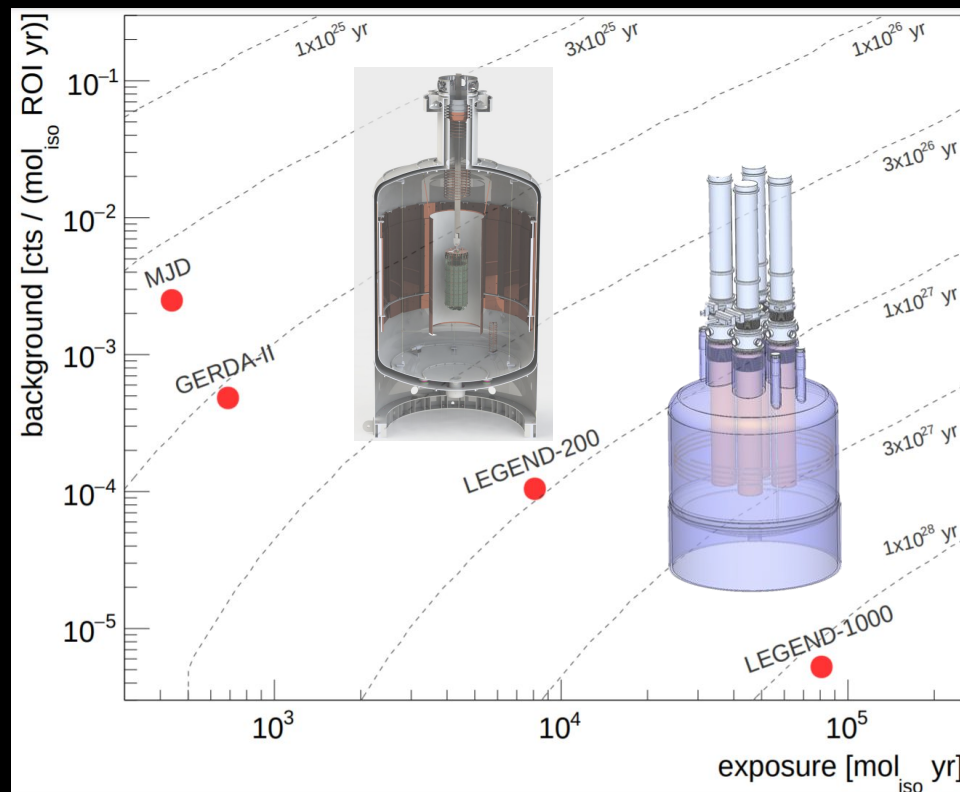
- 36/30 kg
- $T_{1/2} > 10^{26}$  yr

## LEGEND - 200

- 200 kg
- background 2.5x lower than current values
- $T_{1/2} > 10^{27}$  yr

## LEGEND - 1000

- 1000 kg
- background 50x lower than current values
- $T_{1/2} > 10^{28}$  yr

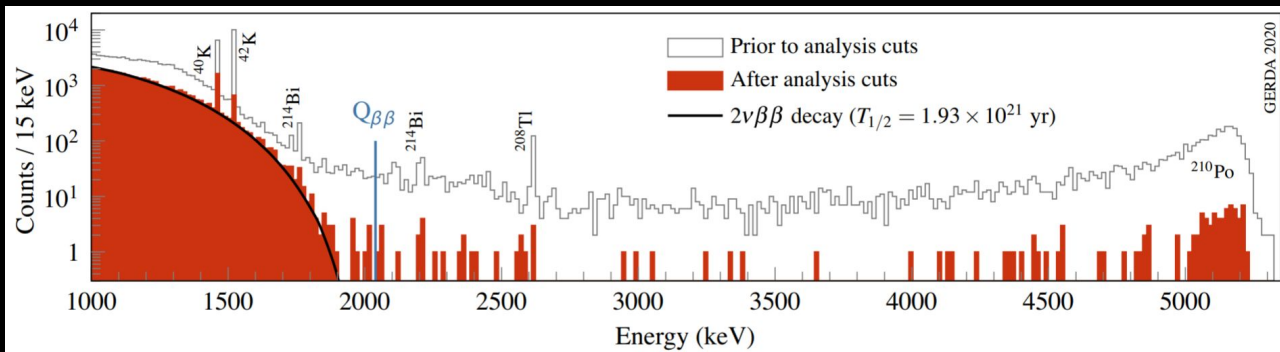
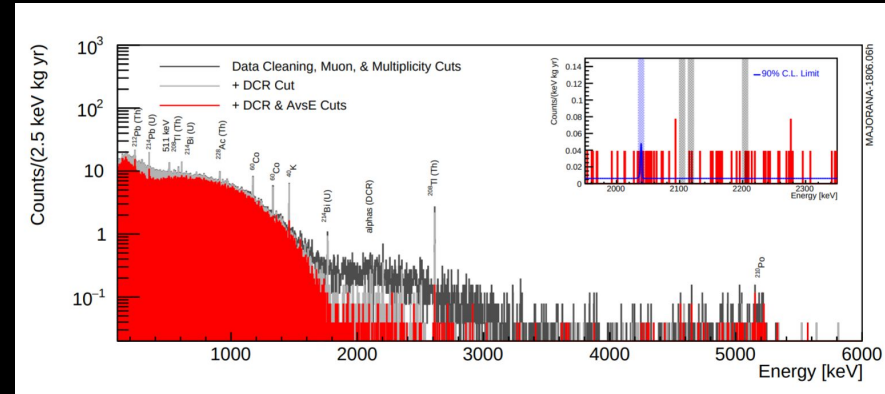




# GERDA

- HPGe and LAr detectors
- completed in 2019
- 100 kg y of exposure
- background index:  $5.2_{-1.3}^{+1.6} 10^{-4}$  cts/keV/kg/yr
- $T_{1/2} > 1.8 10^{26}$  yr (90% C.L.)
- best half-life sensitivity in the field

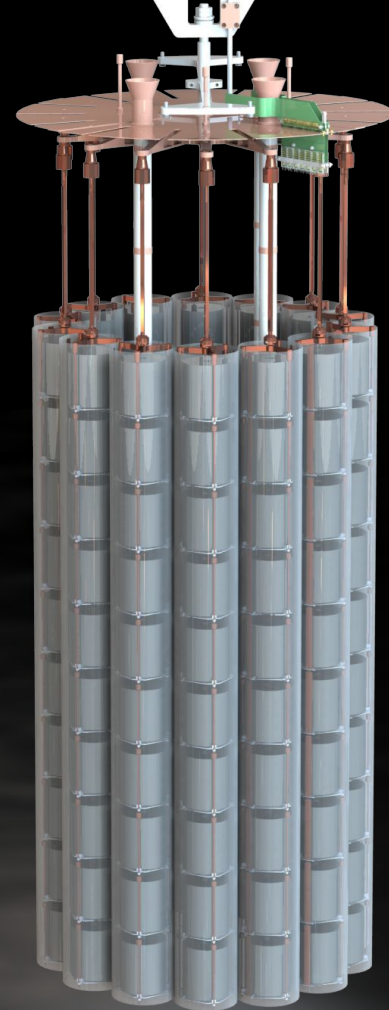
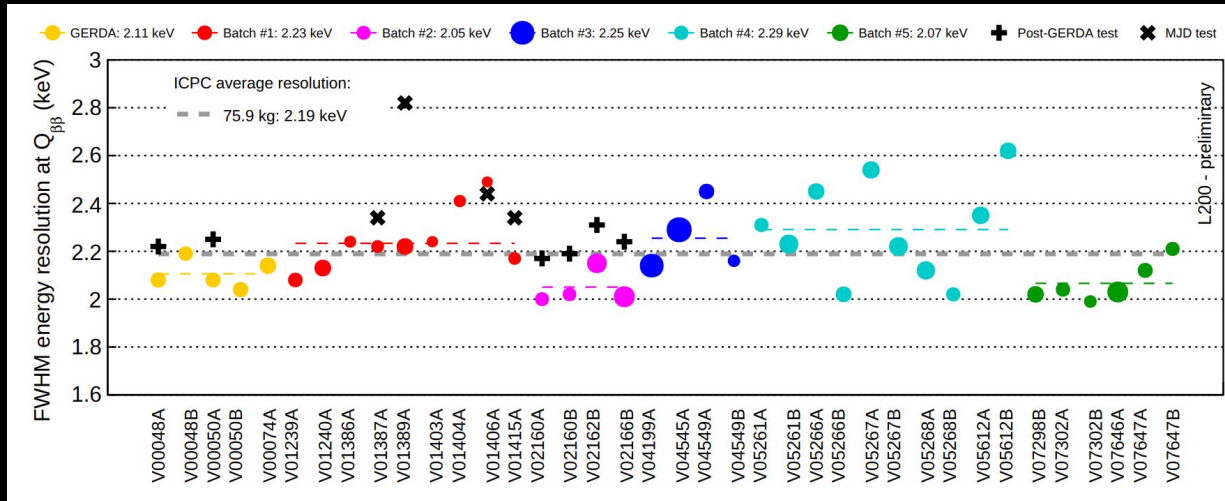
# Majorana Demonstrator



- compact Cu shielding
- completed in 2020
- FWHM energy resolution of 2.5 keV

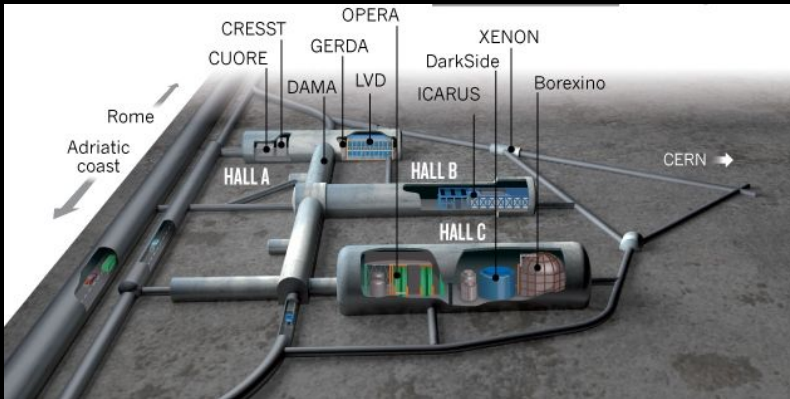
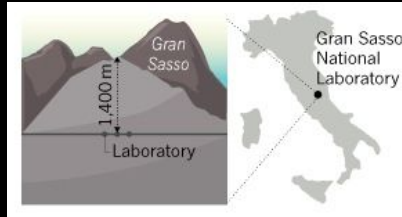
# LEGEND-200

- HPGe detectors
  - 70 kg of GERDA/MAJORANA detectors + 130 kg of new ICPC
- structural materials: electroformed copper + polyester scintillating plastic
- two-stages read-out electronics with JFET next to detectors' electrodes

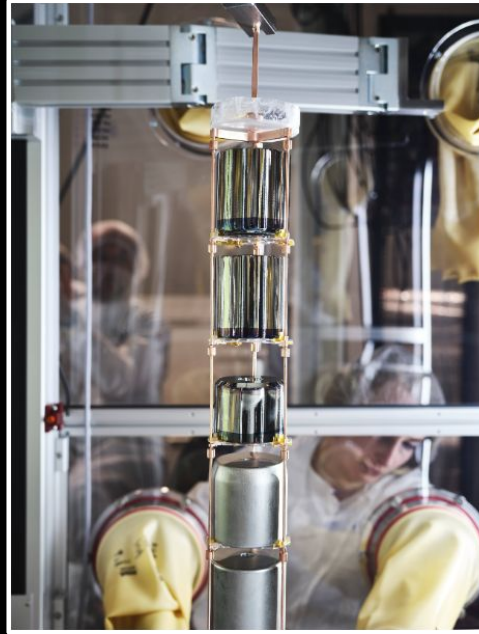
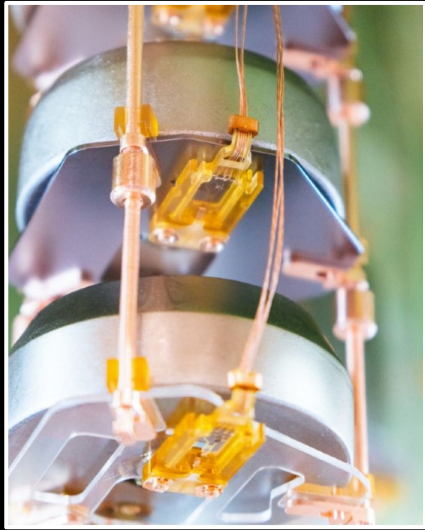


# LEGEND-200

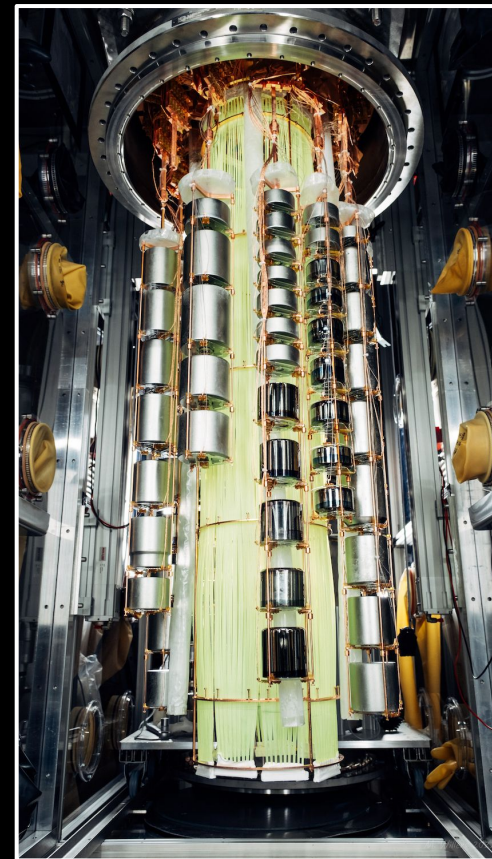
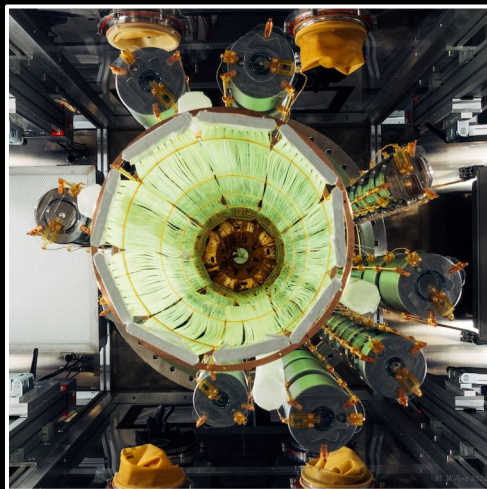
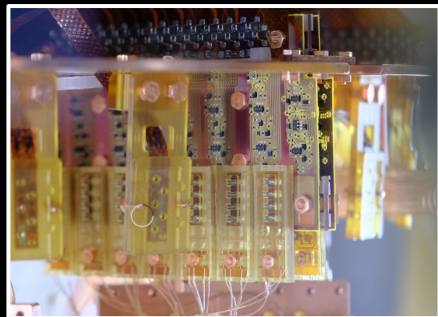
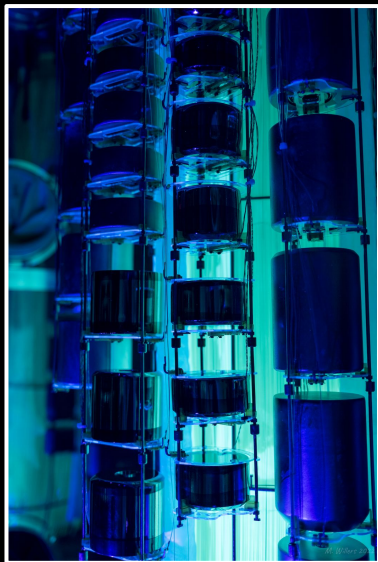
- 3500 m.w.e. underground at LNGS
- water tank instrumented with PMTs
- 64 m<sup>3</sup> LAr cryostat



# LEGEND-200 preparation and commissioning

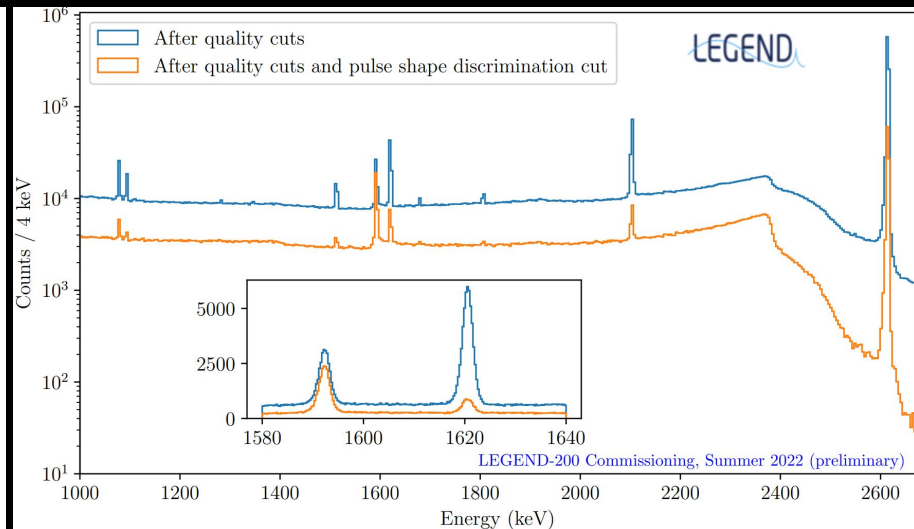
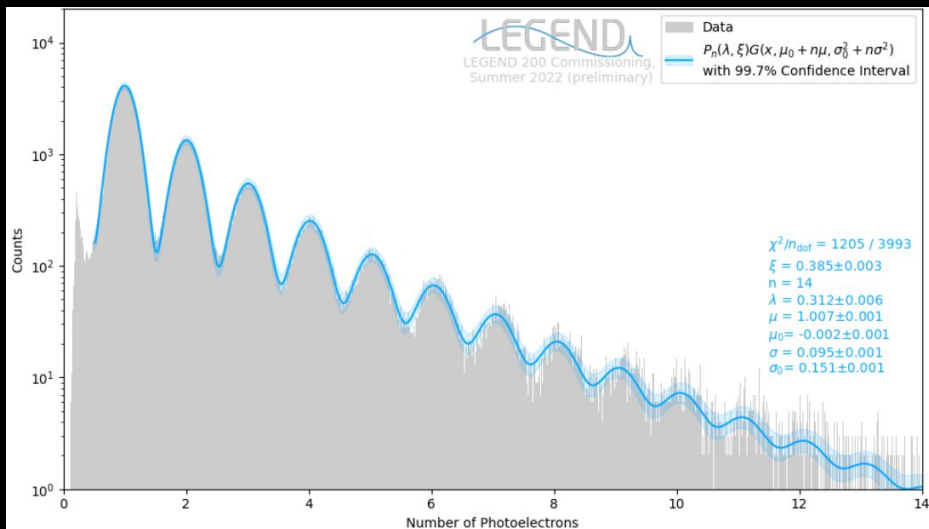
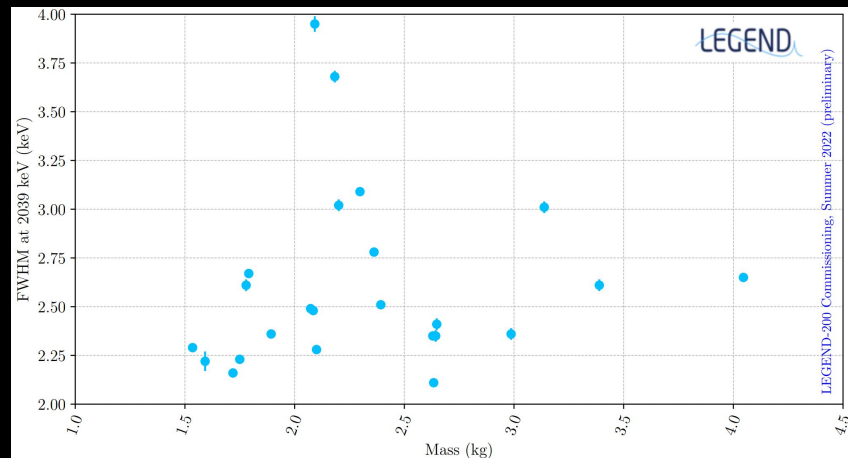


# LEGEND-200 preparation and commissioning



# LEGEND-200 commissioning

- Last commissioning phase started in Autumn 2022
- All final systems and more than 100 HPGe det
- Currently fine-tuning operational parameters
- First physics run starting anytime

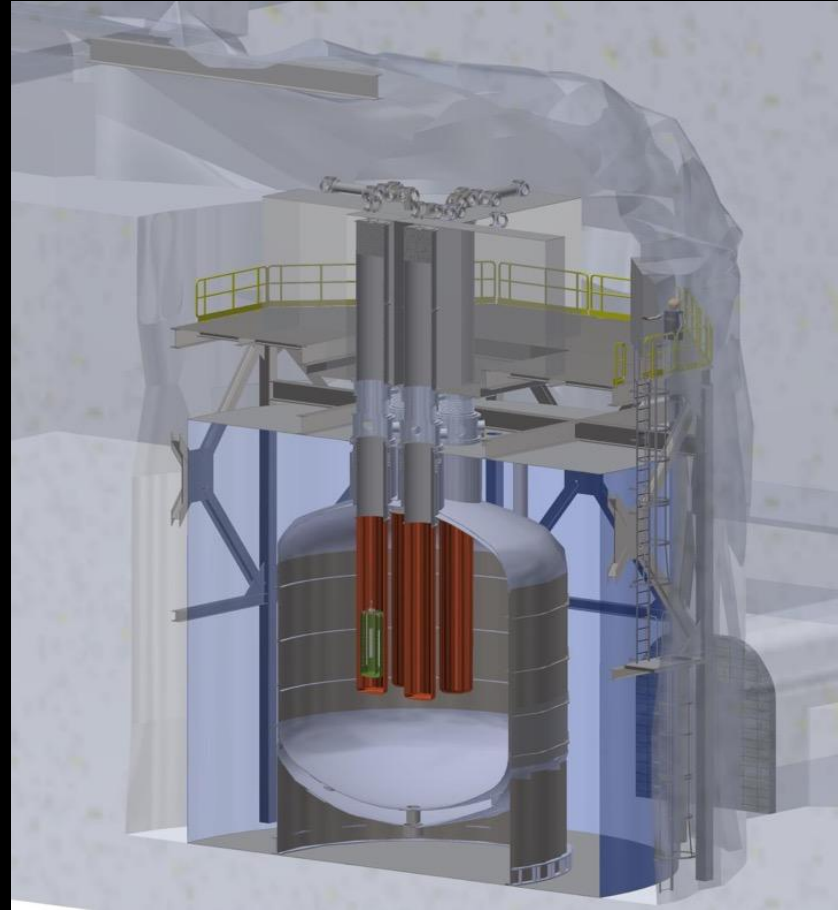


# LEGEND-1000

- 4 payloads, each with up to 300 kg detectors
- underground argon in reentrant tubes
- lower-background solutions for electronics and cables
  - ASIC-based read-out
  - copper or Kapton flat flex cables
- candidate host labs: LNGS and SNOLAB

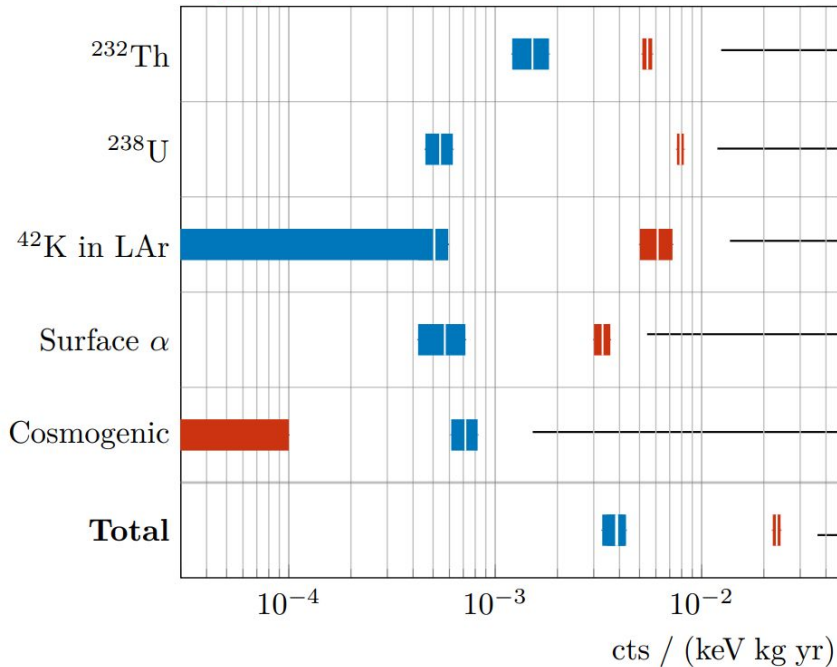


Conceptual design depicted for SNOLAB  
cryopit



# Background Levels Before Analysis Cuts

LEGEND-1000  
GERDA, BEGe dataset, (JHEP 03, 2020, 139)



Background reduction due to:

larger detectors  $\Rightarrow$  less cables and holders

new cables & ASIC read-out

increased detector spacing

underground Ar

larger detectors  $\Rightarrow$  larger surface-to-volume ratio

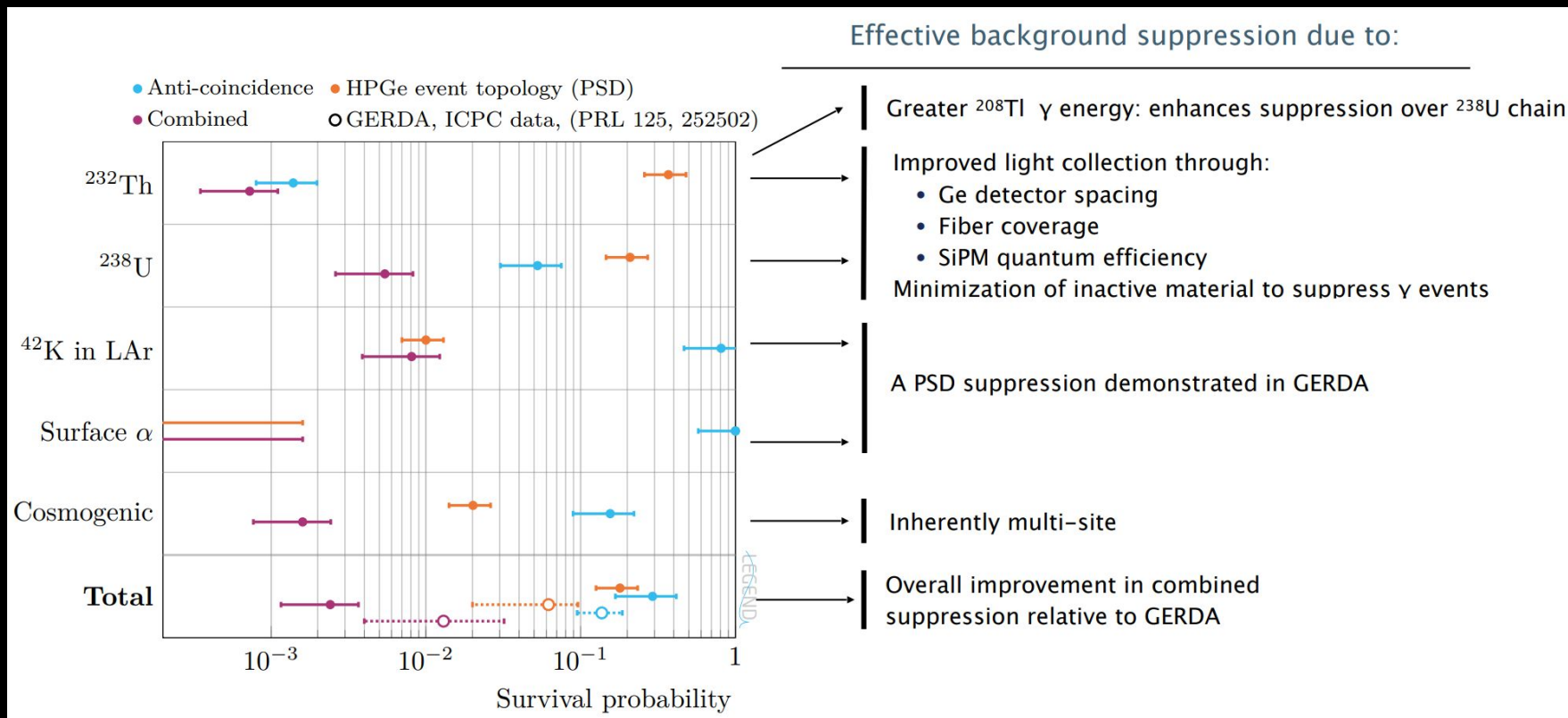
only  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  supported term

$^{68}\text{Ge}$  decays away, 2 yr less cool down than in GERDA

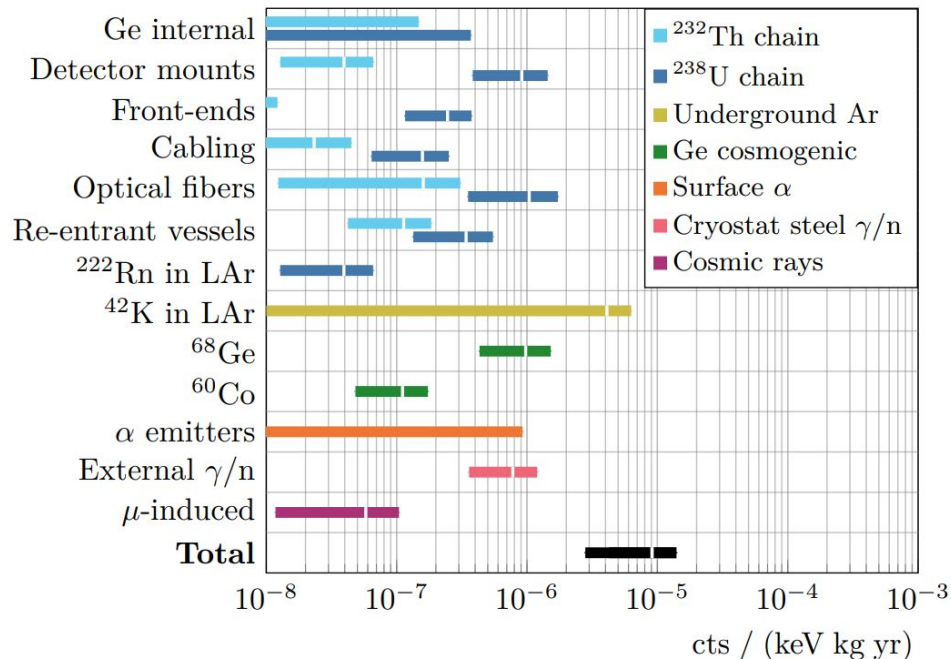
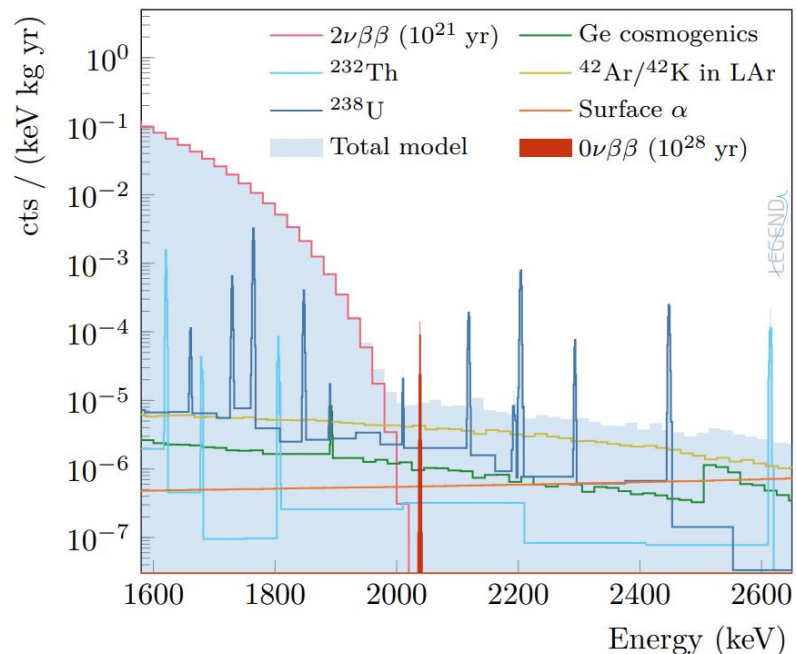
Factor 6 reduction, driven by underground Ar



# Signal/Background Discrimination

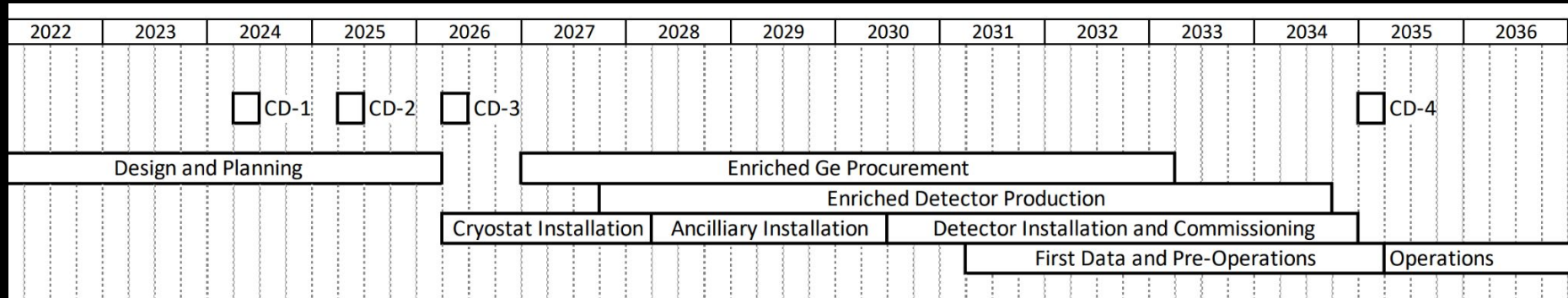


# Background After Analysis Cuts



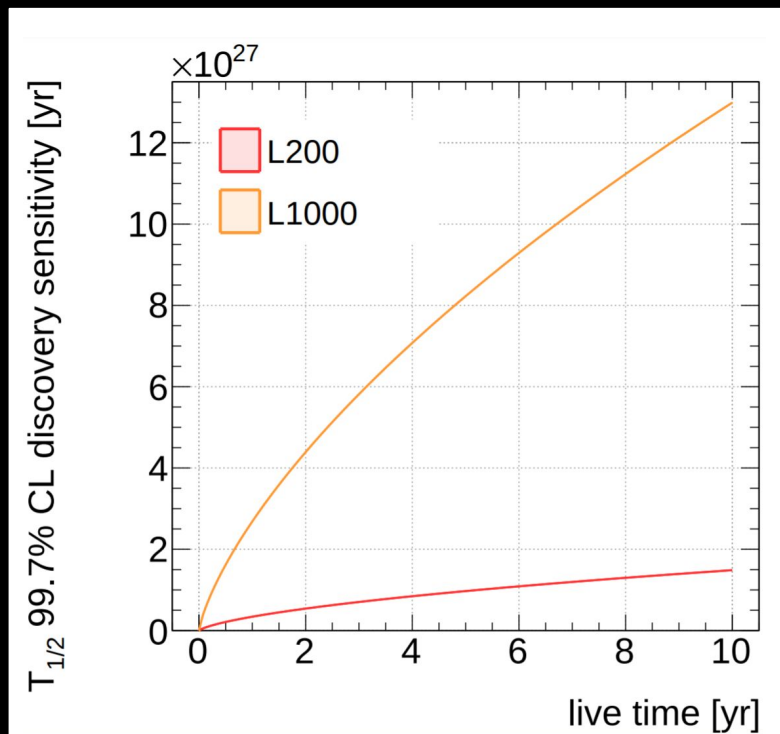
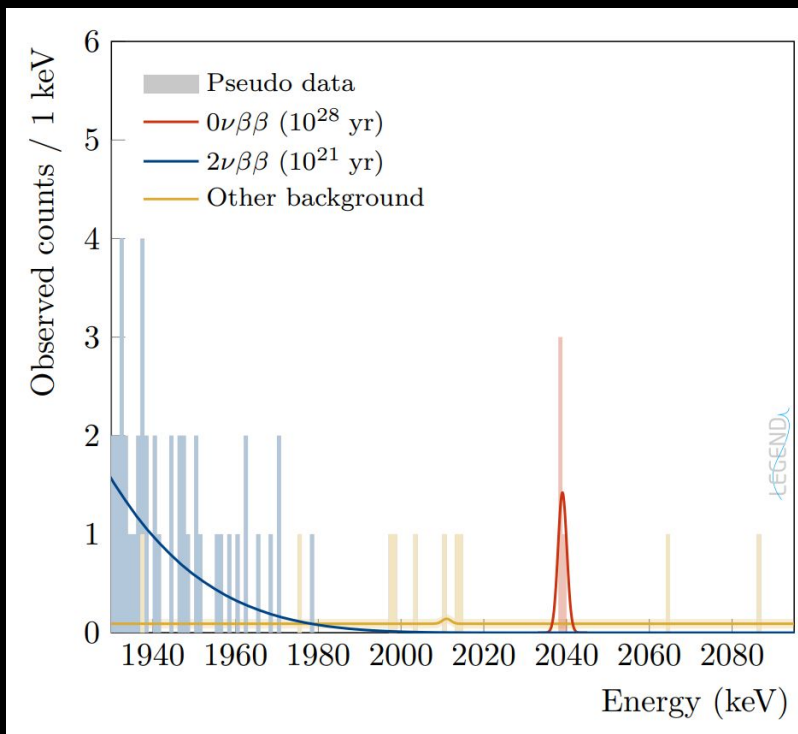
Variable bin width, 1 keV binning for gamma lines

# LEGEND-1000 Schedule



# High Discovery Power Experiments

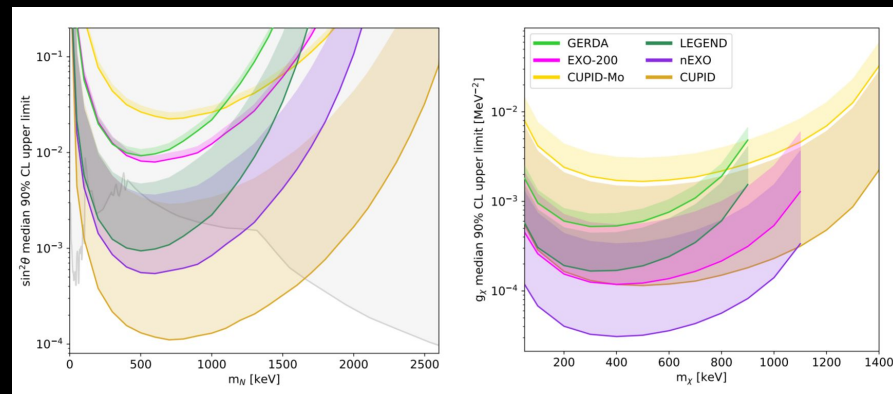
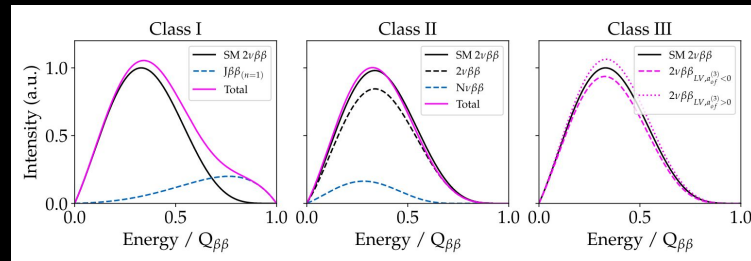
Almost linear growth in  
discovery sensitivity



Illustrative Toy Data Set for 10 ton yr

# Other physics opportunities beyond $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay

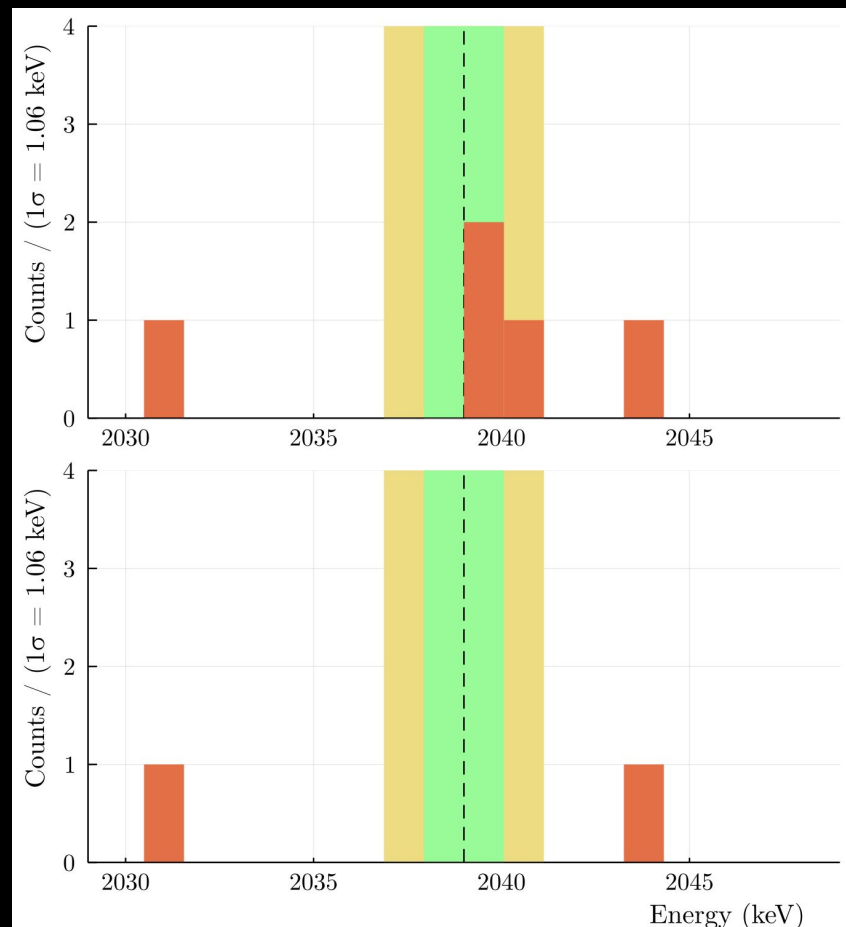
Physics	Signature	Energy Range
Bosonic dark matter	Peak at DM mass	$< 1$ MeV
Electron decay	Peak at 11.8 keV	$\sim 10$ keV
Pauli exclusion principle violation	Peak at 10.6 keV	$\sim 10$ keV
Solar axions	Peaked spectra, daily modulation	$< 10$ keV
Majoron emission	$2\nu\beta\beta$ spectral distortion	$< Q_{\beta\beta}$
Exotic fermions	$2\nu\beta\beta$ spectral distortion	$< Q_{\beta\beta}$
Lorentz violation	$2\nu\beta\beta$ spectral distortion	$< Q_{\beta\beta}$
Exotic currents in $2\nu\beta\beta$ decay	$2\nu\beta\beta$ spectral distortion	$< Q_{\beta\beta}$
Time-dependent $2\nu\beta\beta$ decay rate	Modulation of $2\nu\beta\beta$ spectrum	$< Q_{\beta\beta}$
WIMP and related searches	Exponential excess, annual modulation	$< 10$ keV
Baryon decay	Timing coincidence	$> 10$ MeV
Fractionally charged cosmic-rays	Straight tracks	few keV
Fermionic dark matter	Nuclear recoil/deexcitation	$< \text{few MeV}$
Inelastic boosted dark matter	Positron production	$< \text{few MeV}$
BSM physics in Ar	Features in Ar veto spectrum	ECEC in $^{36}\text{Ar}$



MA and Bossio, Ibarra, Marciano, Phys. Lett. B 815 (2021), 136127

# Outlook

- $0\nu\beta\beta$  decay search is a priority
  - direct observation of B-L violation
  - L-violating Majorana neutrinos
  - new physics at ultrahigh energy
- Ge-76 experiments aim at a background-free discovery
- LEGEND-200 is coming online, pioneering exploration of inverted-ordered neutrinos
- LEGEND-1000 under preparation, top-ranked by DOE, CD1 in fall, high discovery potential



LEGEND-200 @ LNGS

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

LEGEND

Large Enriched  
Germanium Experiment  
for Neutrinoless



LEGEND-1000 pCDR

LEGEND

Large Enriched  
Germanium Experiment  
for Neutrinoless  $\beta\beta$  Decay

The Large Enriched Germanium Experiment for  
Neutrinoless  $\beta\beta$  Decay

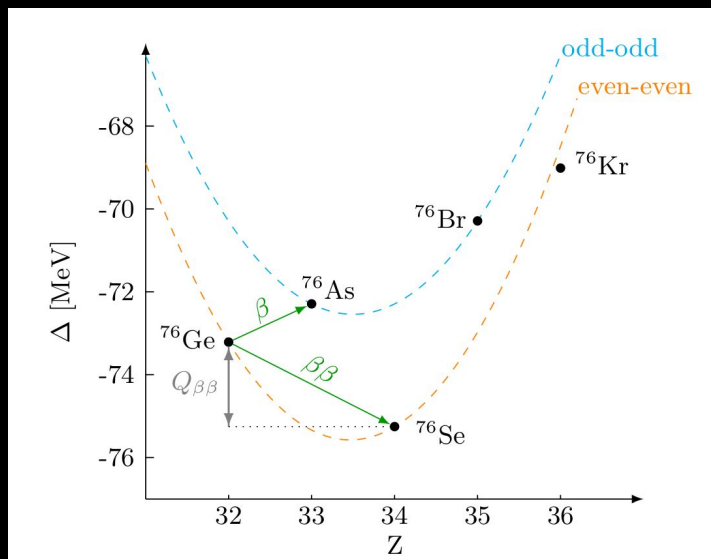
LEGEND-1000 Preconceptual Design Report



LEGEND-1000 Preconceptual Design Report  
Submitted: September 22, 2020

# How to build a $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay experiment?

Step 1: Choose a  $0\nu\beta\beta$ -decay candidate isotope



Single  $\beta$  decay forbidden or strongly suppressed

$1/T_{1/2} \propto (Q_{\beta\beta})^5$  makes it cheaper lowers background

Isotope	Daughter	$Q_{\beta\beta}$ <sup>a</sup> [keV]	$f_{\text{nat}}$ <sup>b</sup> [%]	$f_{\text{enr}}$ <sup>c</sup> [%]
<sup>48</sup> Ca	<sup>48</sup> Ti	4 267.98(32)	0.187(21)	16
<sup>76</sup> Ge	<sup>76</sup> Se	2 039.061(7)	7.75(12)	92
<sup>82</sup> Se	<sup>82</sup> Kr	2 997.9(3)	8.82(15)	96.3
<sup>96</sup> Zr	<sup>96</sup> Mo	3 356.097(86)	2.80(2)	86
<sup>100</sup> Mo	<sup>100</sup> Ru	3 034.40(17)	9.744(65)	99.5
<sup>116</sup> Cd	<sup>116</sup> Sn	2 813.50(13)	7.512(54)	82
<sup>130</sup> Te	<sup>130</sup> Xe	2 527.518(13)	34.08(62)	92
<sup>136</sup> Xe	<sup>136</sup> Ba	2 457.83(37)	8.857(72)	90
<sup>150</sup> Nd	<sup>150</sup> Sm	3 371.38(20)	5.638(28)	91



# How to build a $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay experiment?

Step 1: Choose a  $0\nu\beta\beta$ -decay candidate isotope

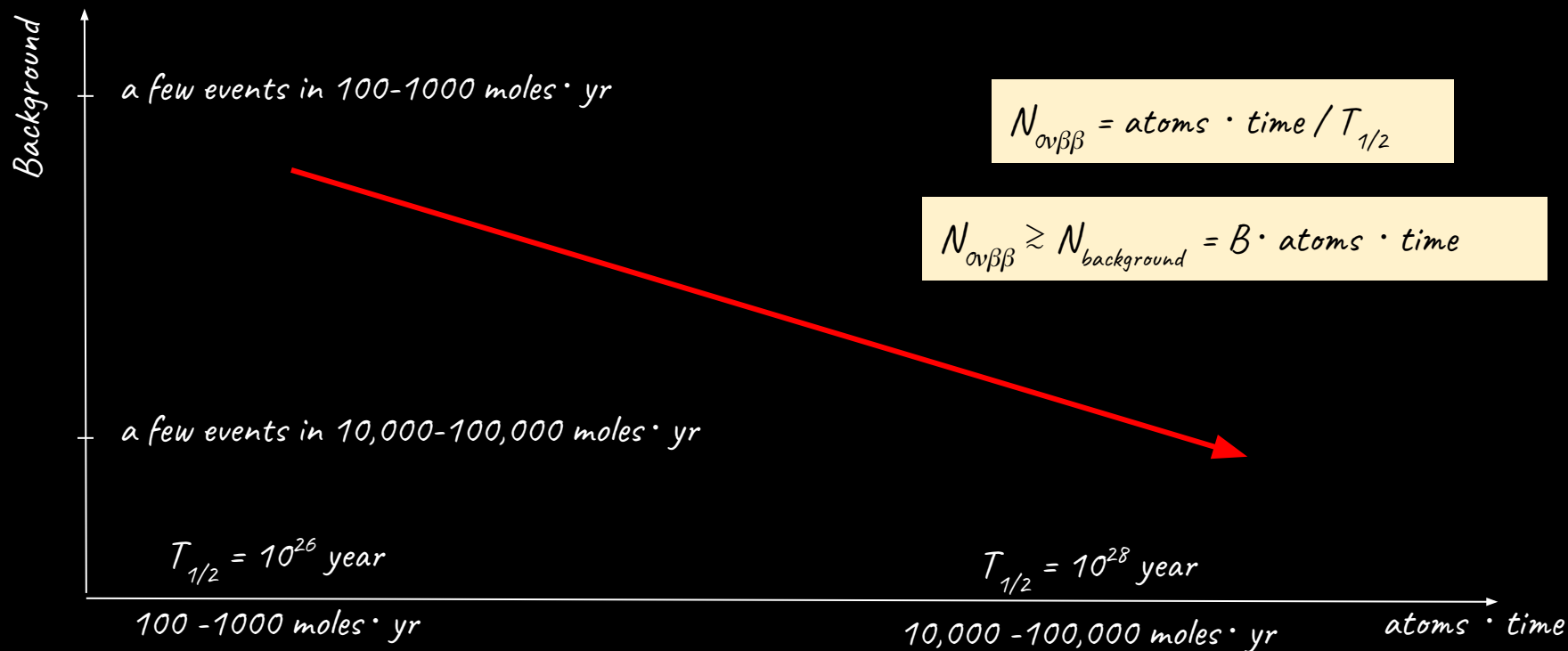
Step 2: Develop a detection concept able to detect each single decay without false positives

$$N_{0\nu\beta\beta} = \text{atoms} \cdot \text{time} / T_{1/2}$$

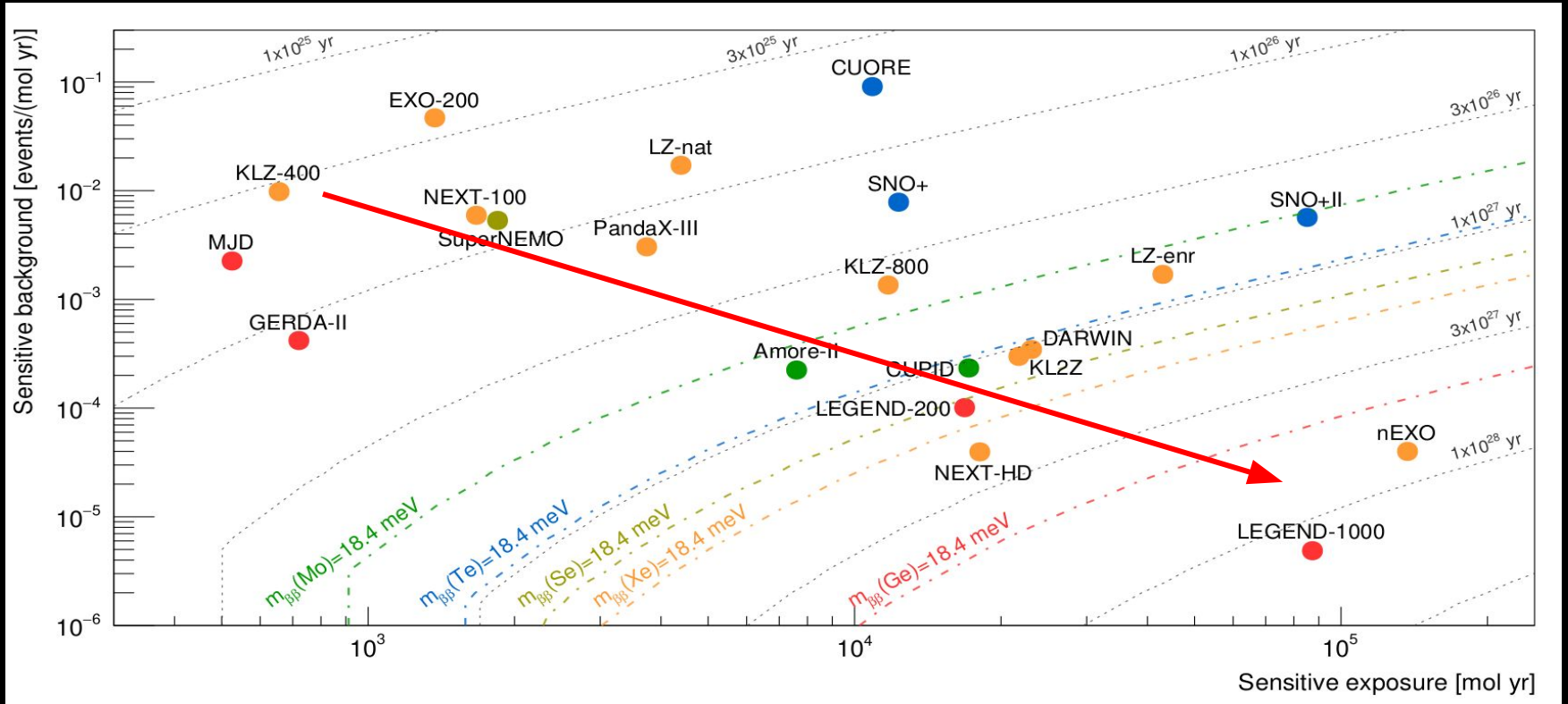
Step 3: Make it big enough

$$\frac{T_{1/2} = 10^{26} \text{ year}}{100 - 1000 \text{ moles} \cdot \text{yr}} \quad \frac{T_{1/2} = 10^{28} \text{ year}}{10,000 - 100,000 \text{ moles} \cdot \text{yr}} \quad \text{atoms} \cdot \text{time}$$

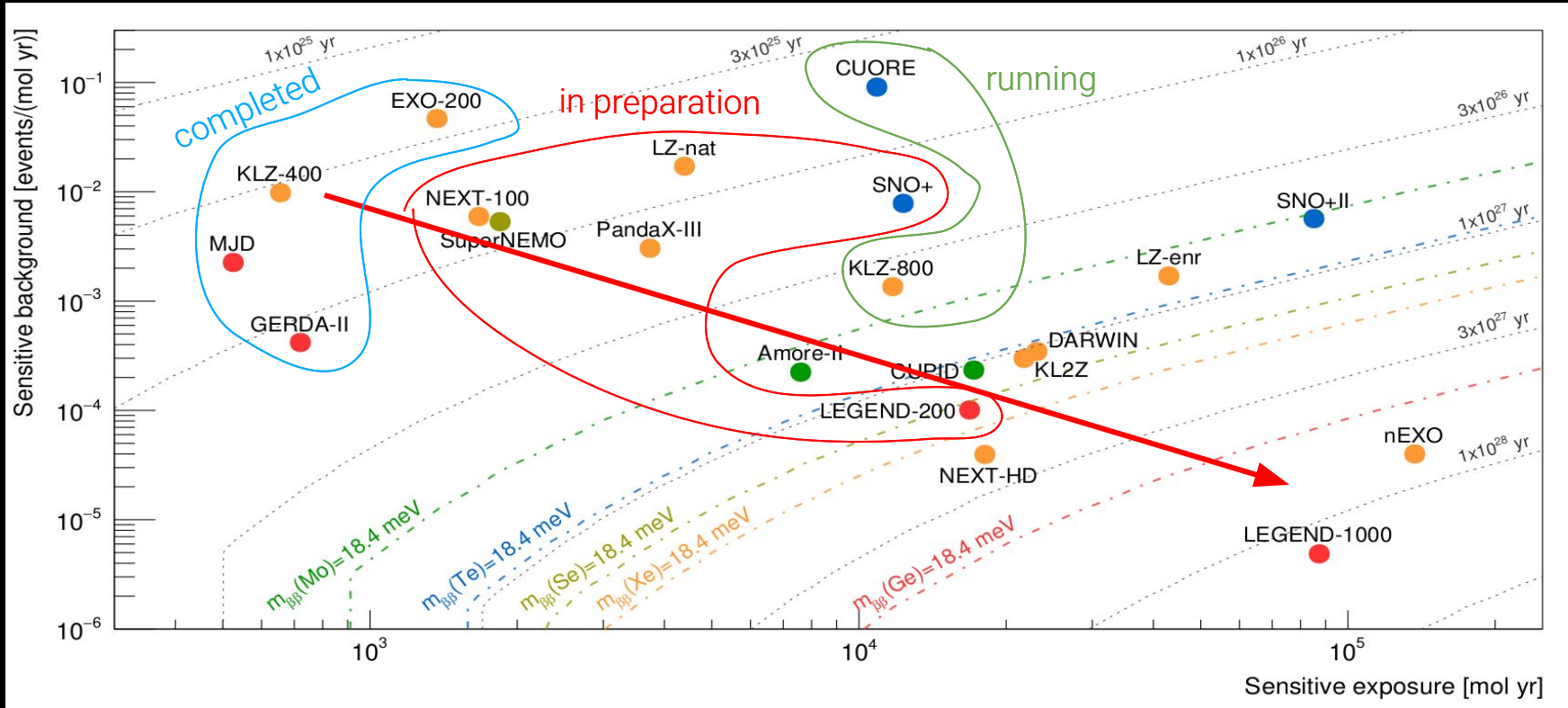
# How to build a $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay experiment?



# Recent and future experiments

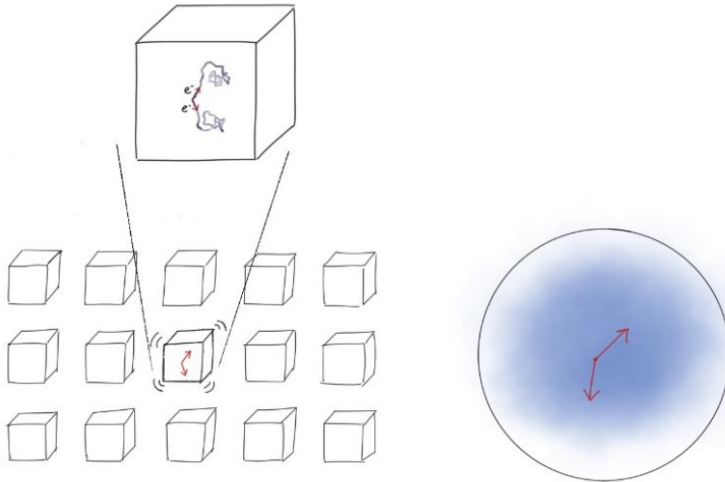


# Recent and future experiments

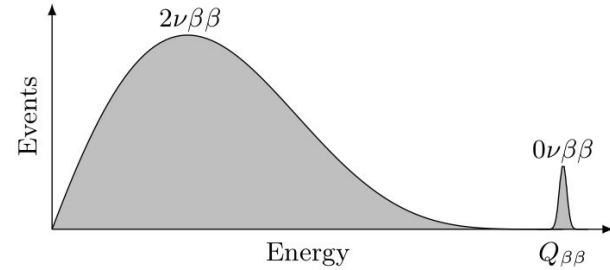


# Detection concepts

- calorimetric approach: source = detector
- solid state: pixelated detector
- liquid: monolithic self-shielding volume
- energy: primary and sufficient observable



*arXiv:2202.01787 - Image courtesy of Laura Manenti*



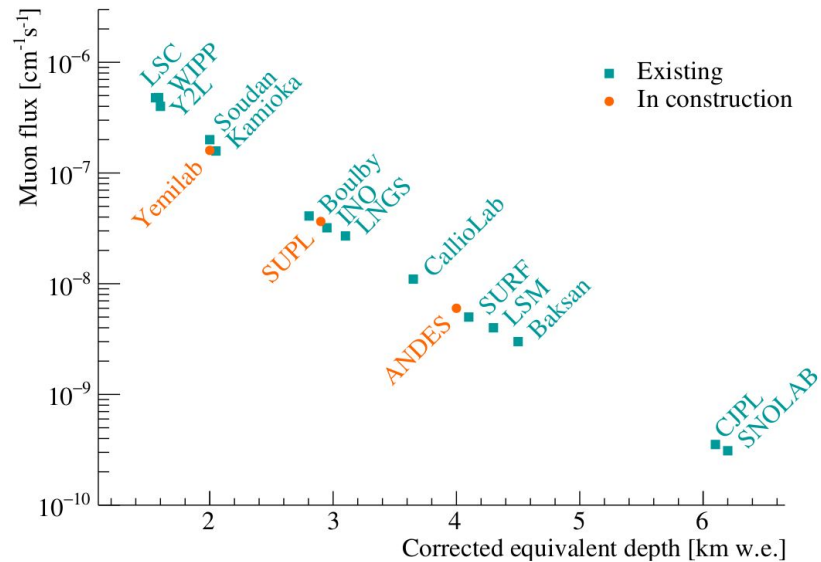
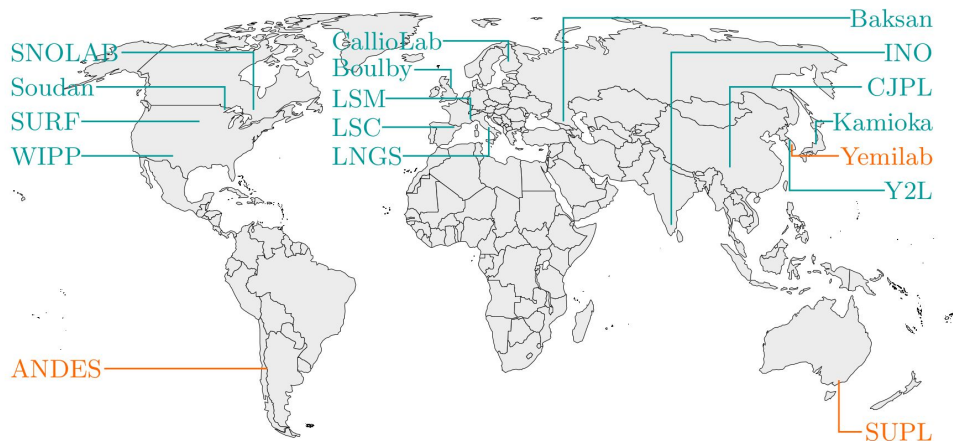
## Tagging $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay events:

- two-electron summed energy = Q-value
- two-electron event topology
- (excited states/daughter isotope)

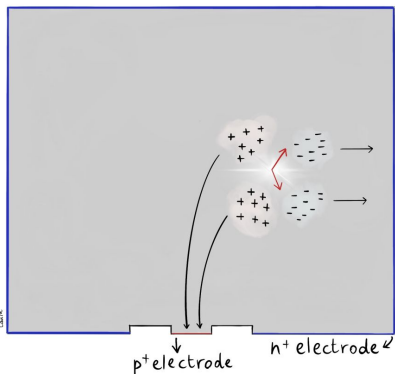
## Backgrounds:

- cosmic-ray induced
- $^{238}\text{U}/^{228}\text{Th}$  decay chains
- neutrons
- solar neutrinos
- $2\nu\beta\beta$  decay (only irreducible background)

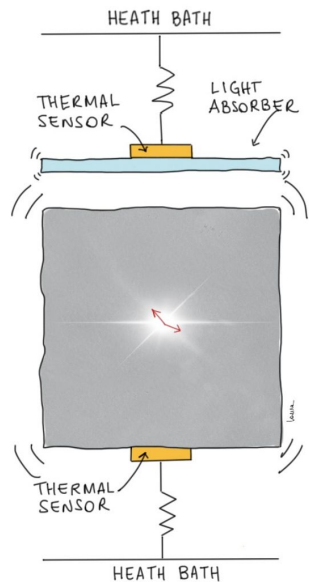
# Underground Laboratories



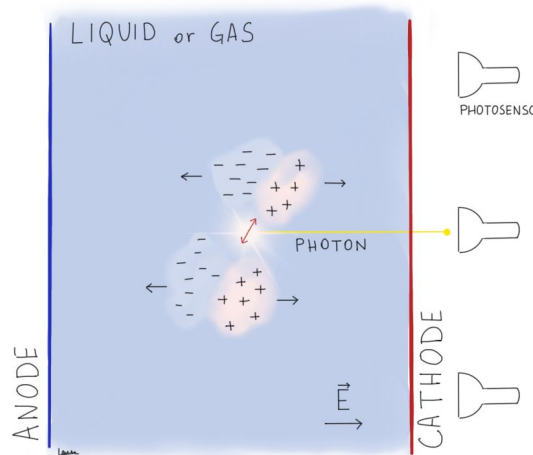
# The most sensitive technologies



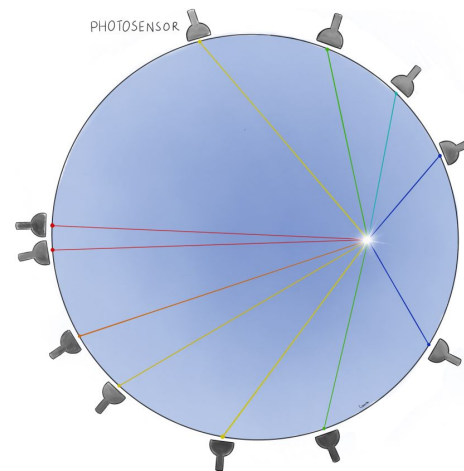
*Ge Semiconductor detectors ( $^{76}\text{Ge}$ )*



*Cryogenic Calorimeters ( $^{100}\text{Mo}$ ,  $^{130}\text{Te}$ )*



*Xe Time Projection Chambers ( $^{136}\text{Xe}$ )*



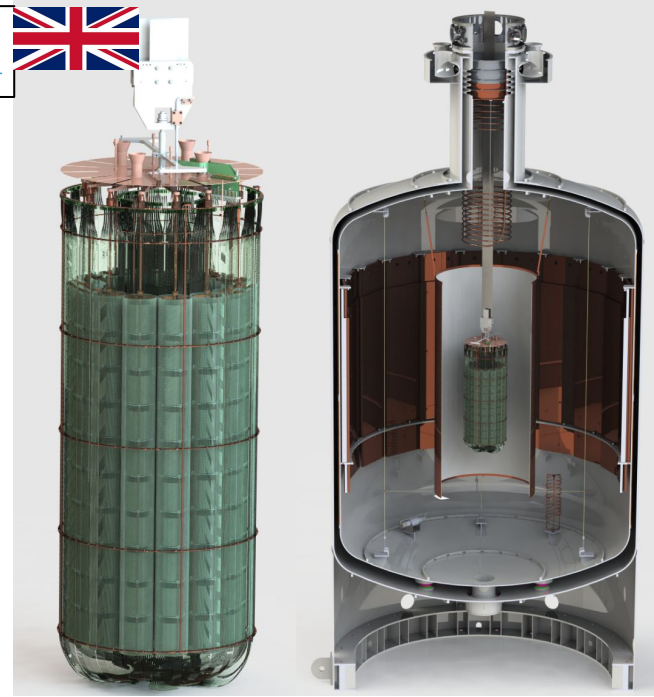
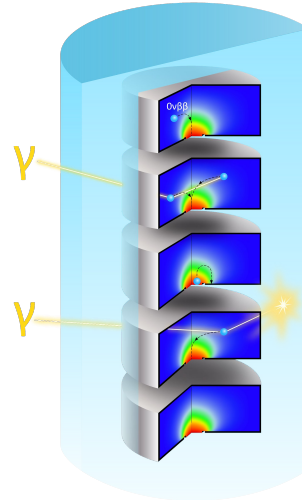
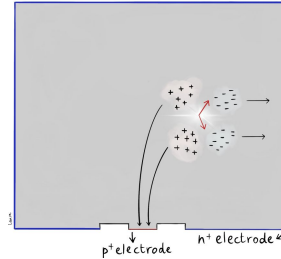
*Large Liquid scintillator detectors ( $^{130}\text{Te}$ ,  $^{136}\text{Xe}$ )*

# Ge semiconductor detectors



high-purity  $^{76}\text{Ge}$  detectors

- ionization and charge drift
- $< 0.1\%$  energy resolution
- event topology



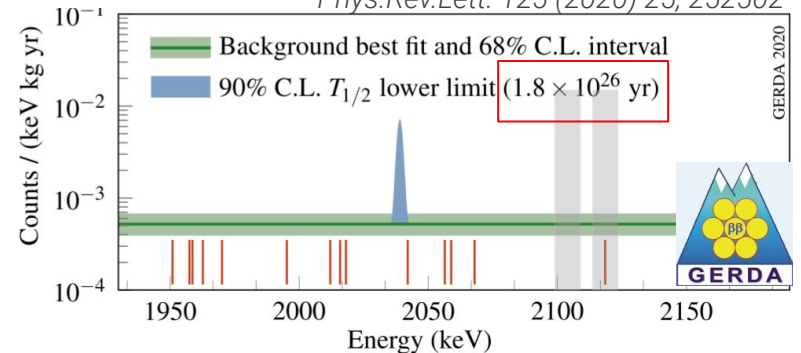
*Phys.Rev.Lett. 125 (2020) 25, 252502*

liquid Ar detector

- shield and scintillation light

Staged approach:

- **GERDA/MAJORANA** Demonstrator (40 kg)
- **LEGEND-200** under commissioning (200 kg)
- **LEGEND-1000** conceptual design in preparation (1 t)

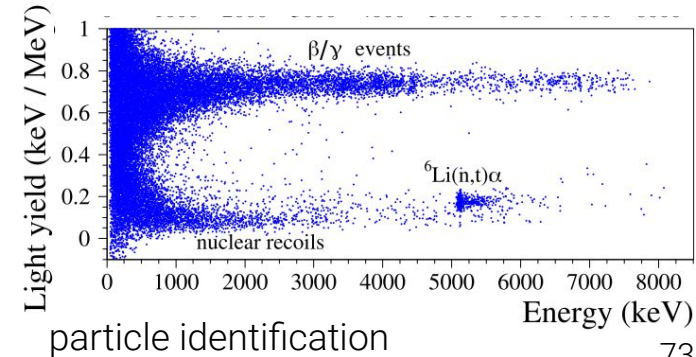
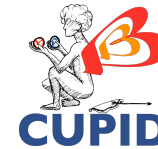
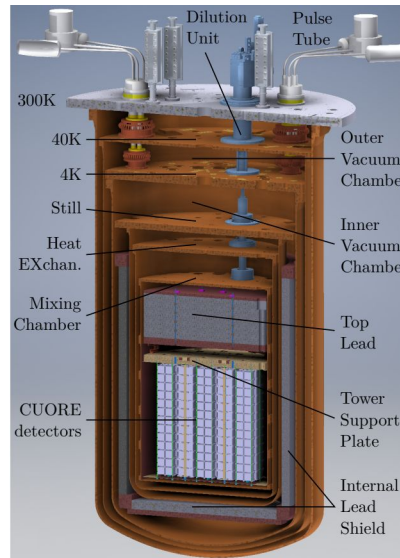
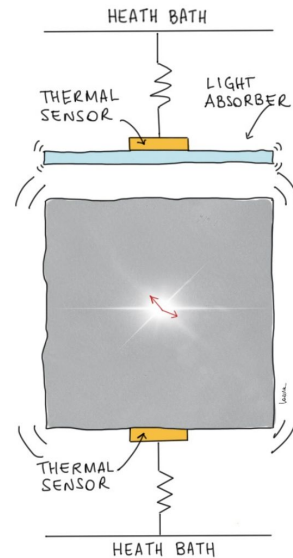




# Cryogenic calorimeters

- temperature variation and scintillation light
- particle identification and good resolution
- array of isotopically enriched crystals operated at  $\sim 10$  mK

Experiment	Crystal	$m_{tot}$ [kg]	$f_{enr}$ [%]
CUORE	$^{nat}\text{TeO}_2$	742	34 <sup>a</sup>
CUPID-0	$\text{Zn}^{enr}\text{Se}$	9.65	96
CUPID-Mo	$\text{Li}_2^{enr}\text{MoO}_4$	4.16	97
CROSS	$\text{Li}_2^{enr}\text{MoO}_4$	8.96	98
CUPID	$\text{Li}_2^{enr}\text{MoO}_4$	472	$\geq 95$
AMoRE	$\text{Li}_2^{enr}\text{MoO}_4$	200	96



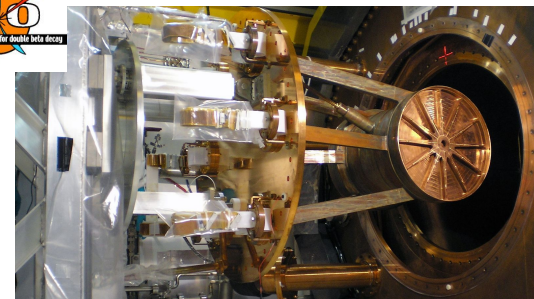
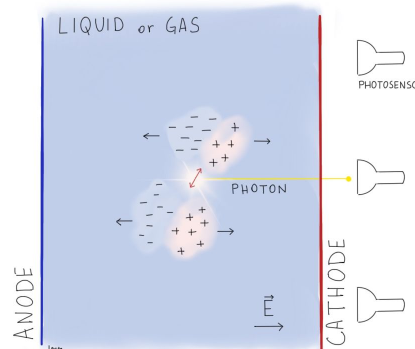
Nature 604 (2022) 7904, 53-58

$$T_{1/2}^{0\nu} > 2.2 \cdot 10^{25} \text{ yr}$$

Matteo Agostini (UCL)

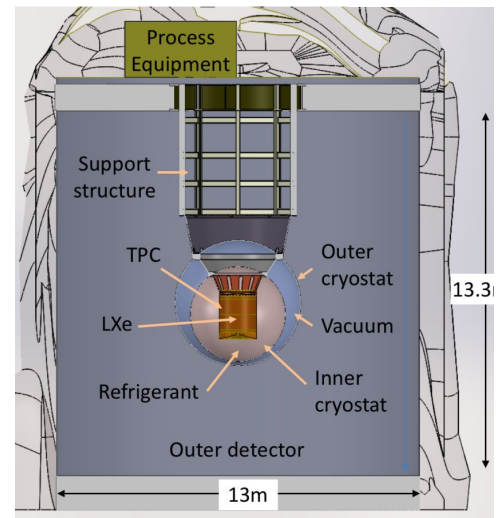
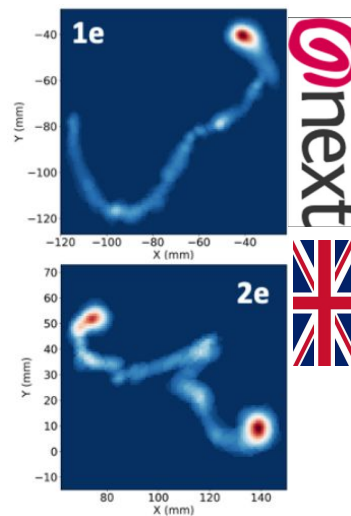
# Xe time projection chambers

- $^{136}\text{Xe}$  VUV scintillation light and ionization electron drift -> 3D reconstruction
- background decreasing with distance from surface,  $^{214}\text{Bi}$  and  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  remain problematic
- R&D to tag  $0\nu\beta\beta$  decay daughter isotope



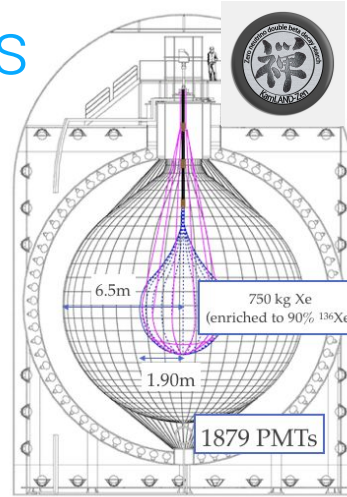
nEXO

Experiment	$m_{tot}$ [kg]	$f_{enr.}$ [%]	Phase	Readout
EXO-200	161	81	liquid	LAPPDs + wires
nEXO	5109	90	liquid	electrode tiles + SiPM s
NEXT-100	97	90	gas	SiPMs + PMTs
NEXT-HD	1100	90	gas	SiPMs + PMTs
PandaX-III-200	200	90	gas	Micromegas
PandaX-III-1K	1000	90	gas	Micromegas
LZ-nat	7000	9	dual-phase	PMTs
LZ-enr	7000	90	dual-phase	PMTs
DARWIN	39 300	9	dual-phase	PMTs

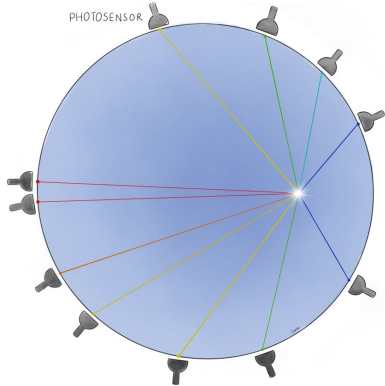


# Large liquid scintillators

- scintillator loaded with target isotope
- scintillation photons detected by PMTs
- photon number and arrival time gives event energy and position
- self-shielding and fiducialization



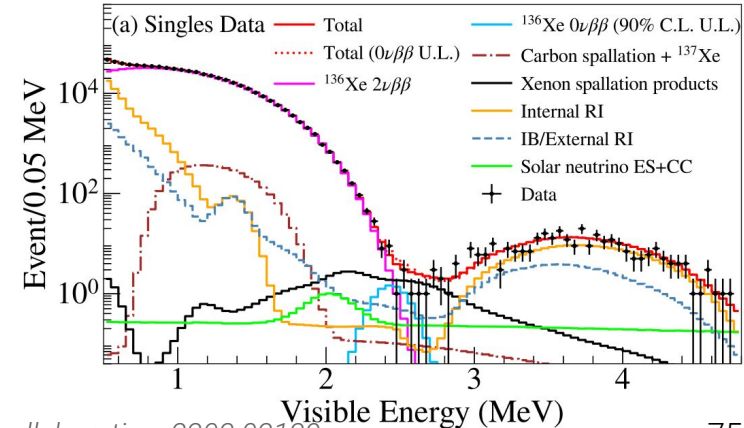
**SNO+ @ SNOLab**  
 Currently preparing for loading with 1.3 t of Te (0.5% loading)  
 3% loading in future phases



## KamLAND-Zen-800 @Kamioka

- 750 kg of enriched Xe in nylon balloon
- backgrounds:  $2\nu\beta\beta$ , cosmogenic, solar neutrinos,  $^{214}\text{Bi}$  on balloon
- next phase: improved resolution and purer scintillator

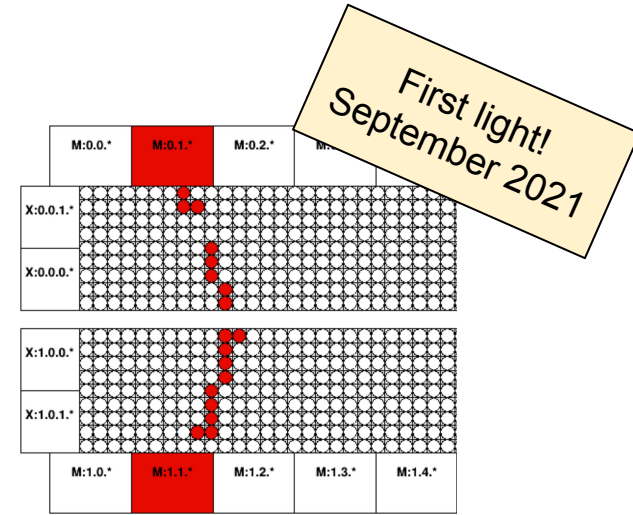
$$T_{1/2}^{0\nu} > 2.3 \times 10^{26} \text{ yr at 90\% C.L.}$$



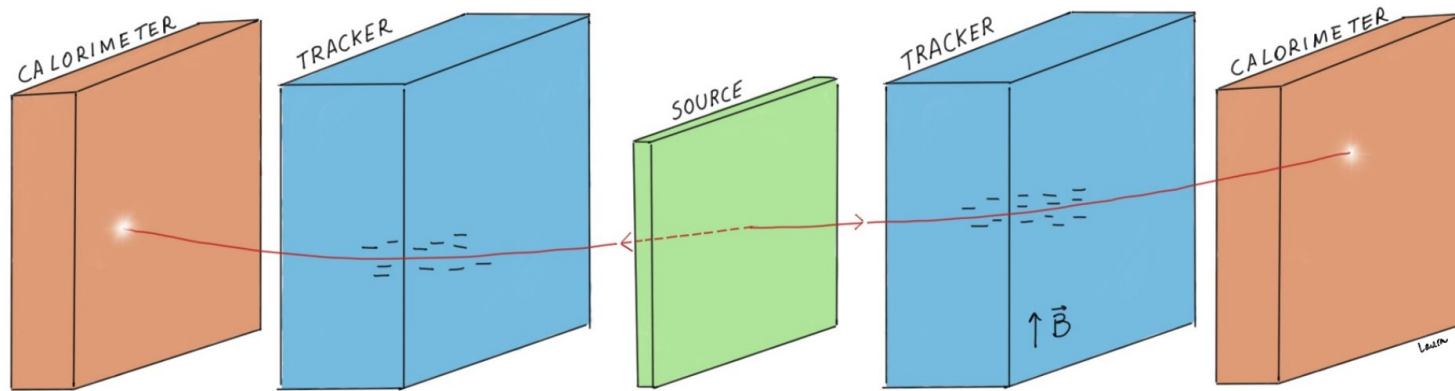
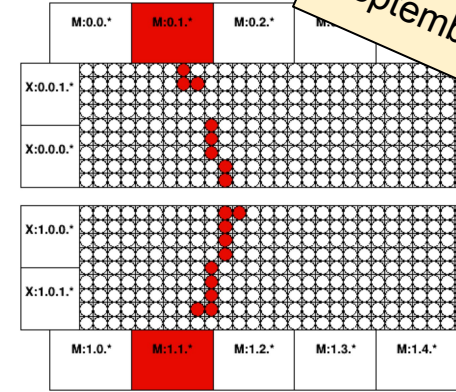
# Beyond a simple rate measurement

How to gain insight on the decay channel?

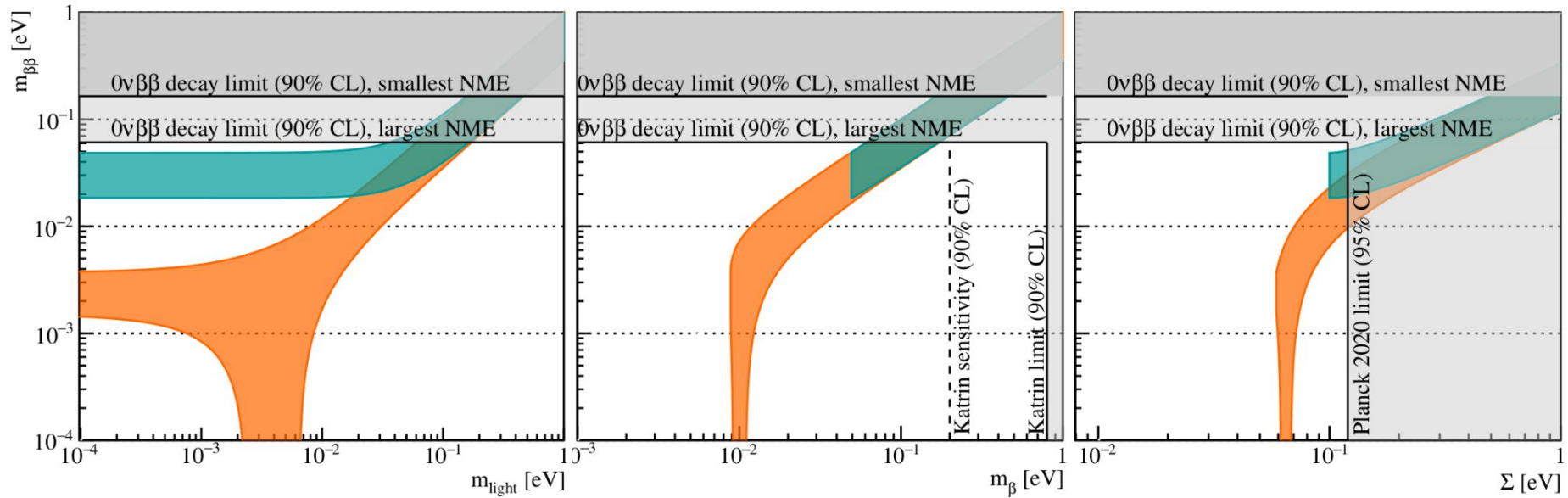
- measure the electron momenta  $\rightarrow$  angular distribution
- compare decay rate in different isotopes
- combined analysis of neutrino physics, including cosmology



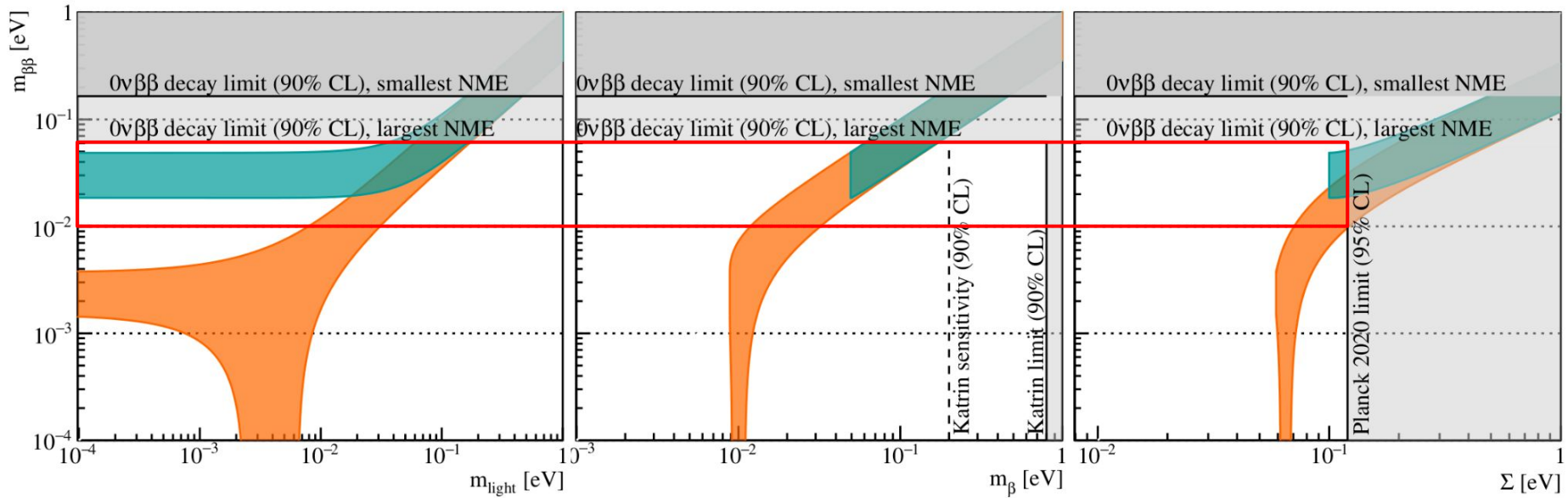
First light!  
September 2021



# Interplay between mass experiments

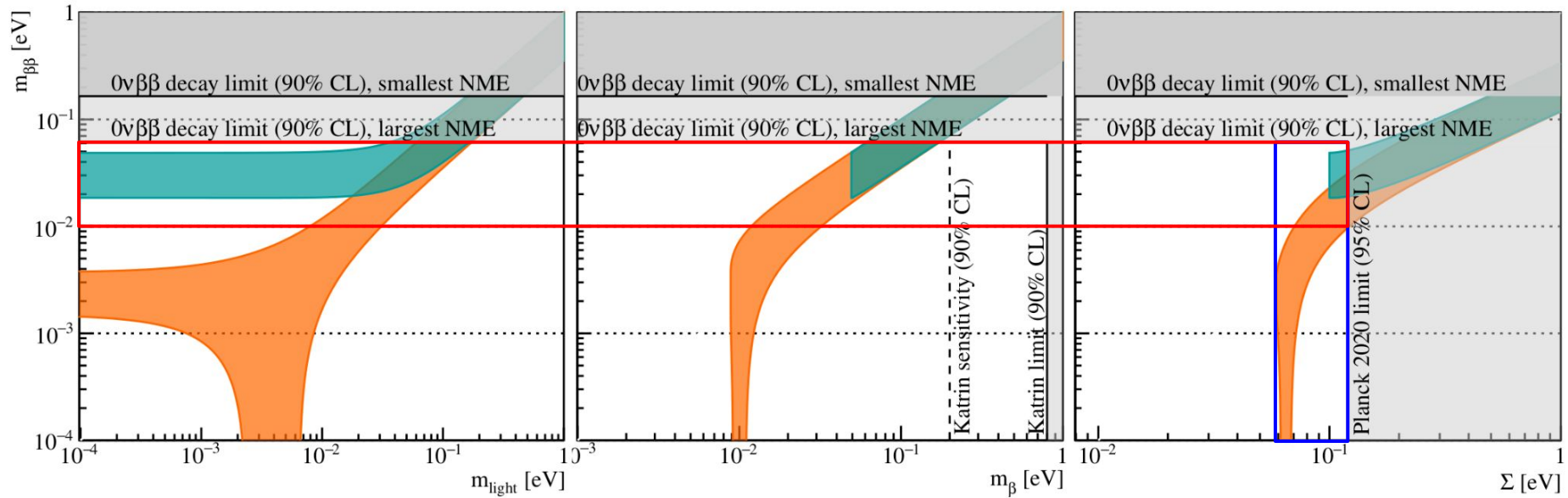


# Interplay between mass experiments



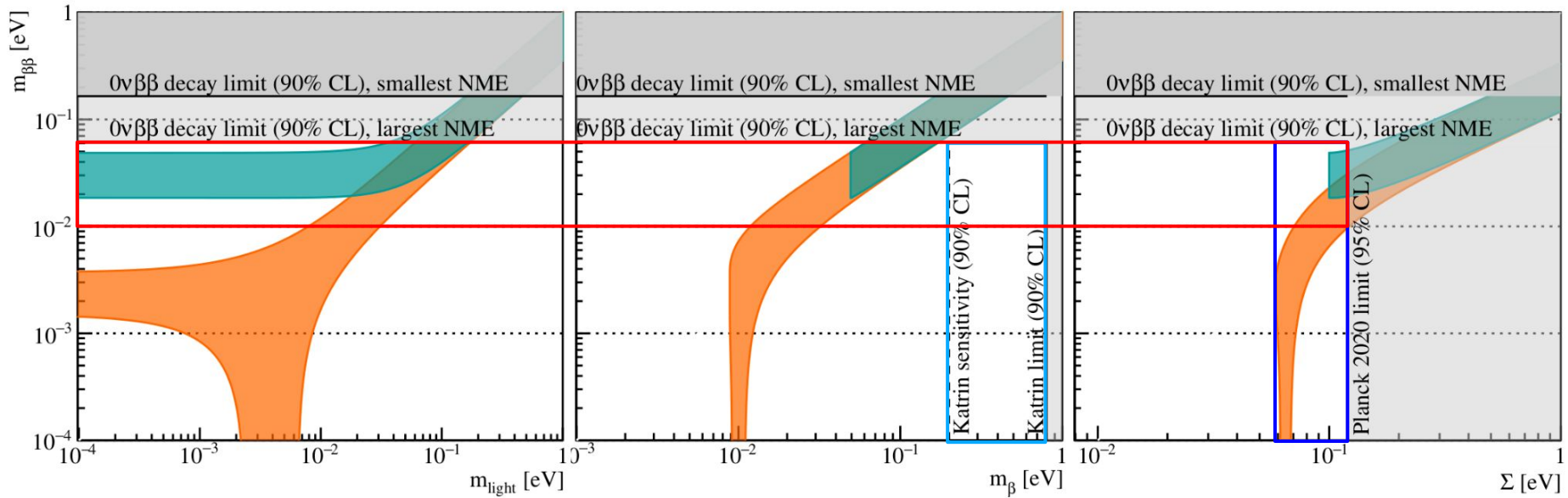
CUPID, LEGEND, nEXO will explore  $m_{\beta\beta}$  values till the bottom of the inverted ordering and beyond, with a good chance to discover matter-creation

# Interplay between mass experiments



DESI and EUCLID promise to measure  $\Sigma$ . This will define a target for  $0\nu\beta\beta$  experiments, with a no observation potentially hinting at Dirac masses or non-standard cosmology

# Interplay between mass experiments



KATRIN's parameter space is already excluded by both  $0\nu\beta\beta$  decay and cosmology.  
A signal would force to drastically rethink our phenomenology theory framework

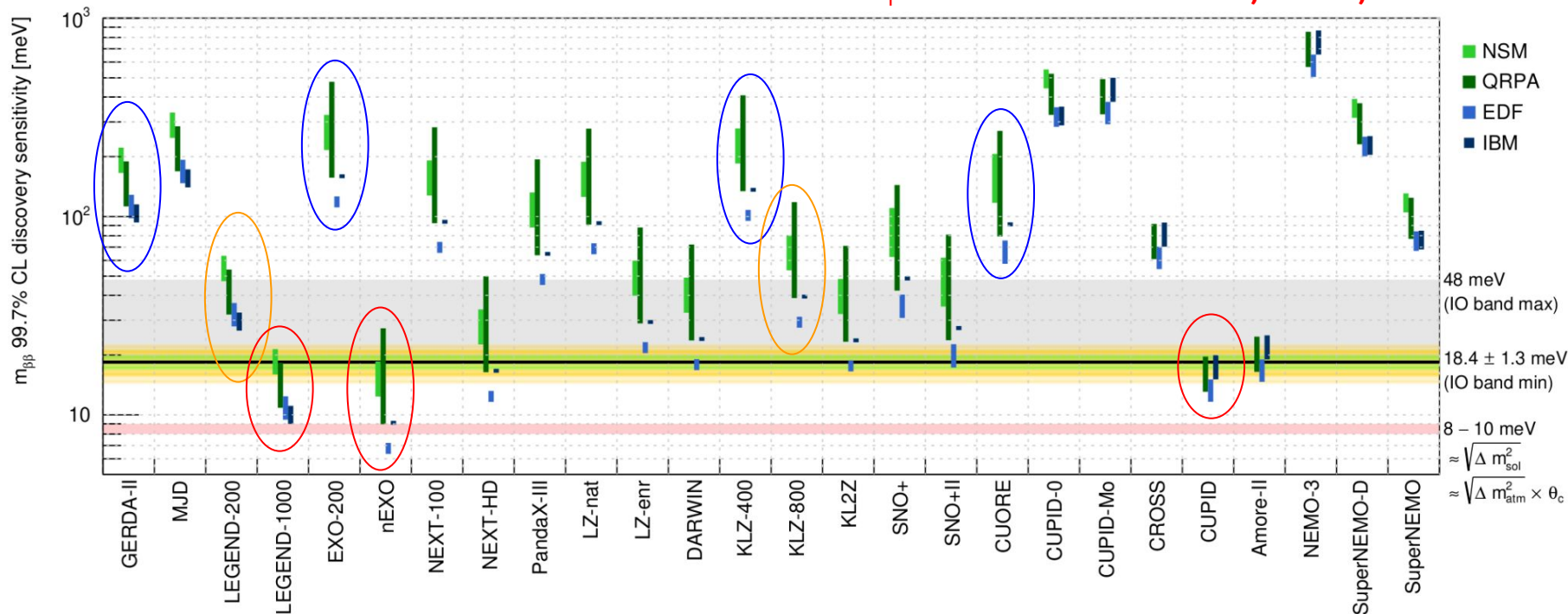


# Where are we heading?

The big 4 of last decade: **GERDA, EXO-200, KamLAND-Zen-400, CUORE**

The two that will dominate the next few years: **LEGEND-200, KamLAND-Zen-800**

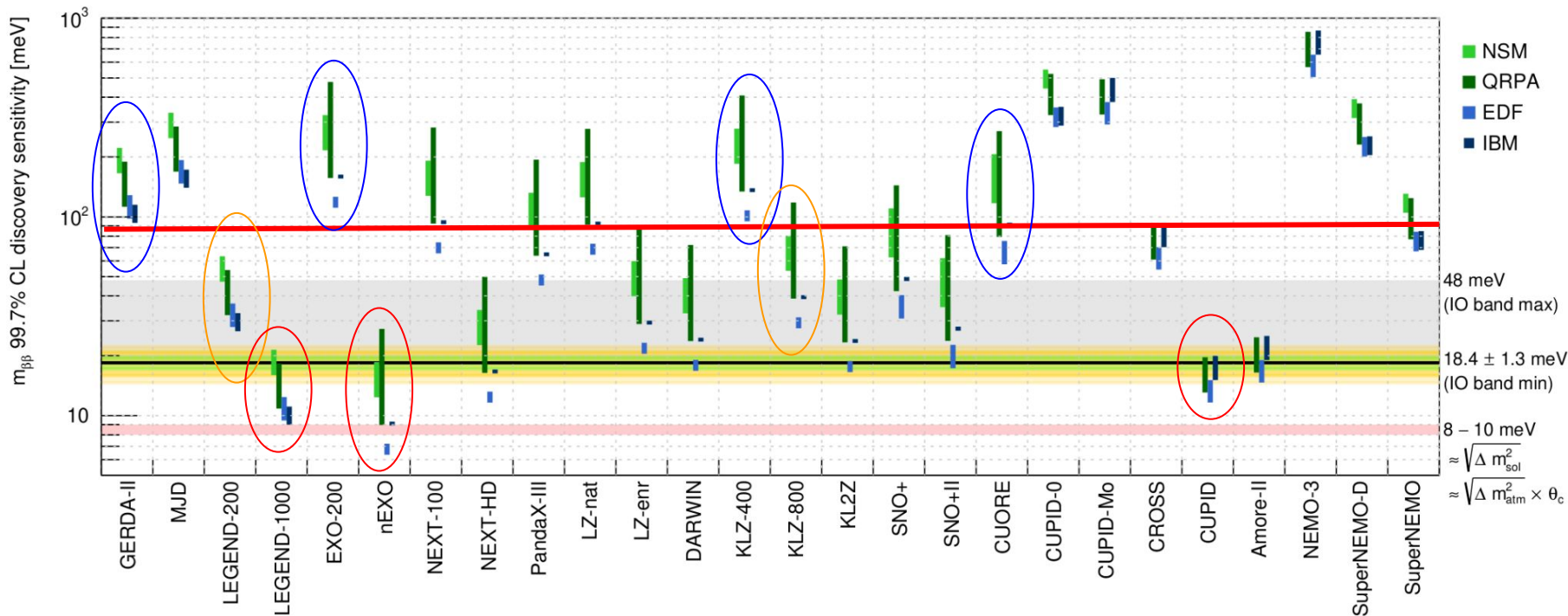
The ultimate 1-ton experiments: **LEGEND-1000, CUPID, nEXO**



# Where are we heading?

## Scenario 1: signal just beyond current limits

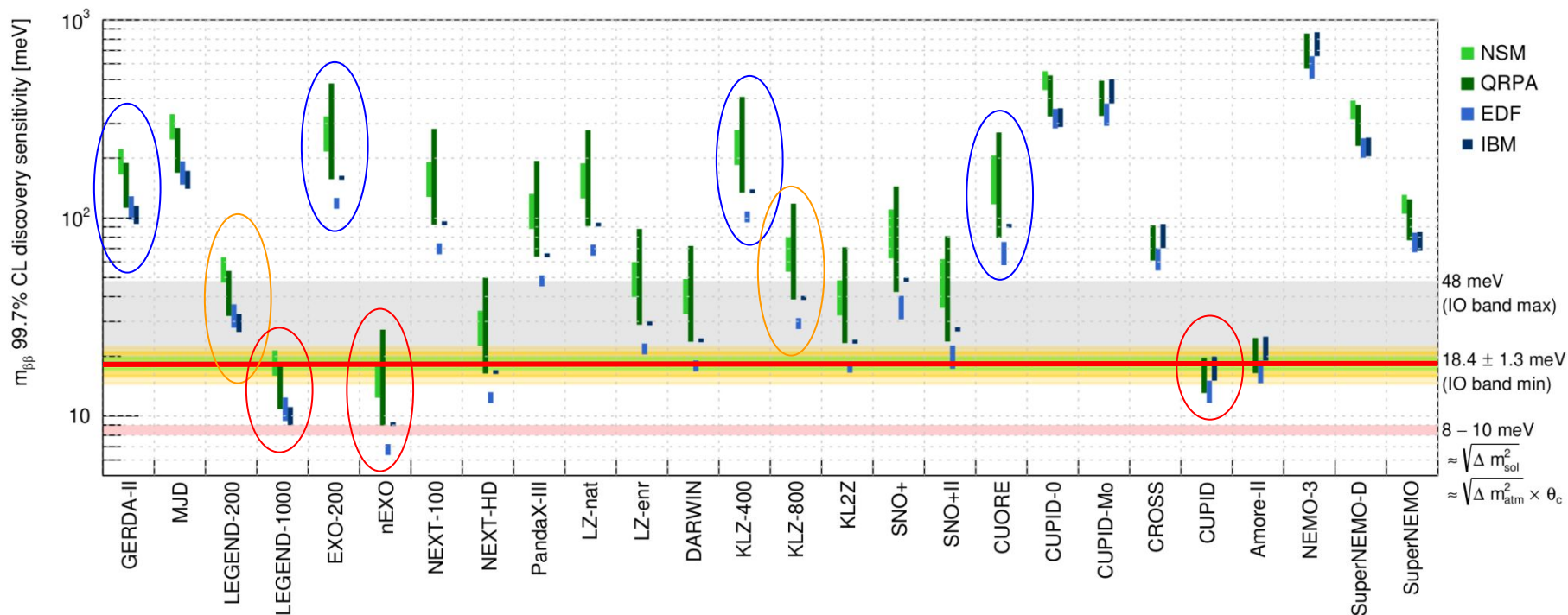
- experiments will discover it within a few years
- next-gen experiments will measure rate
- follow-up measurements of decay features



# Where are we heading?

Scenario 2: weakest signal for inverted ordered neutrinos

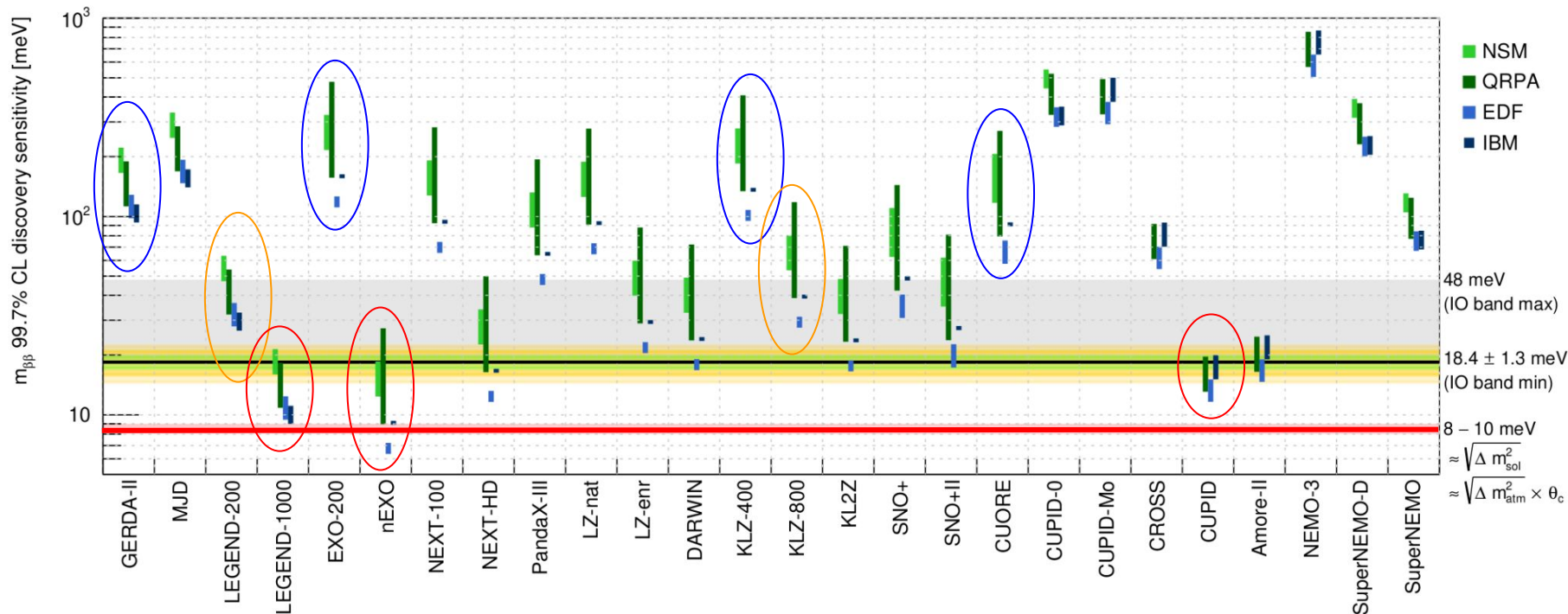
- need to wait next-gen experiments for a discovery
- need R&D to measure decay features



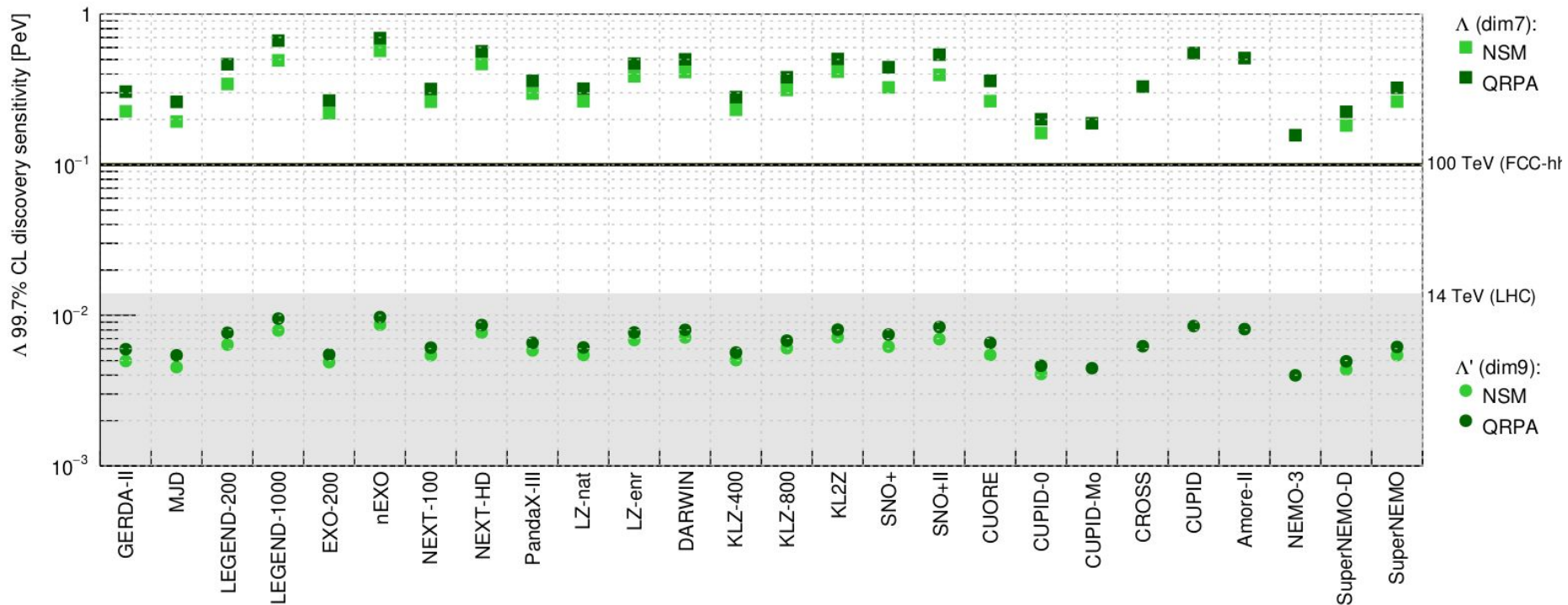
# Where are we heading?

## Scenario 3: signal even weaker or absent

- need R&D for a convincing discovery
- interplay with oscillation experiments and cosmology can still lead to theory breakthroughs

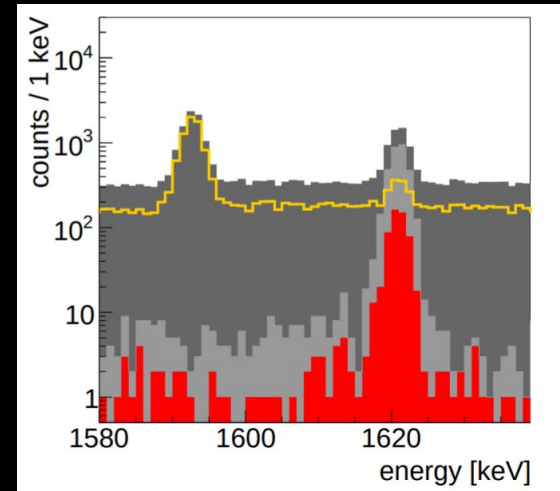
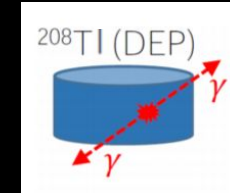
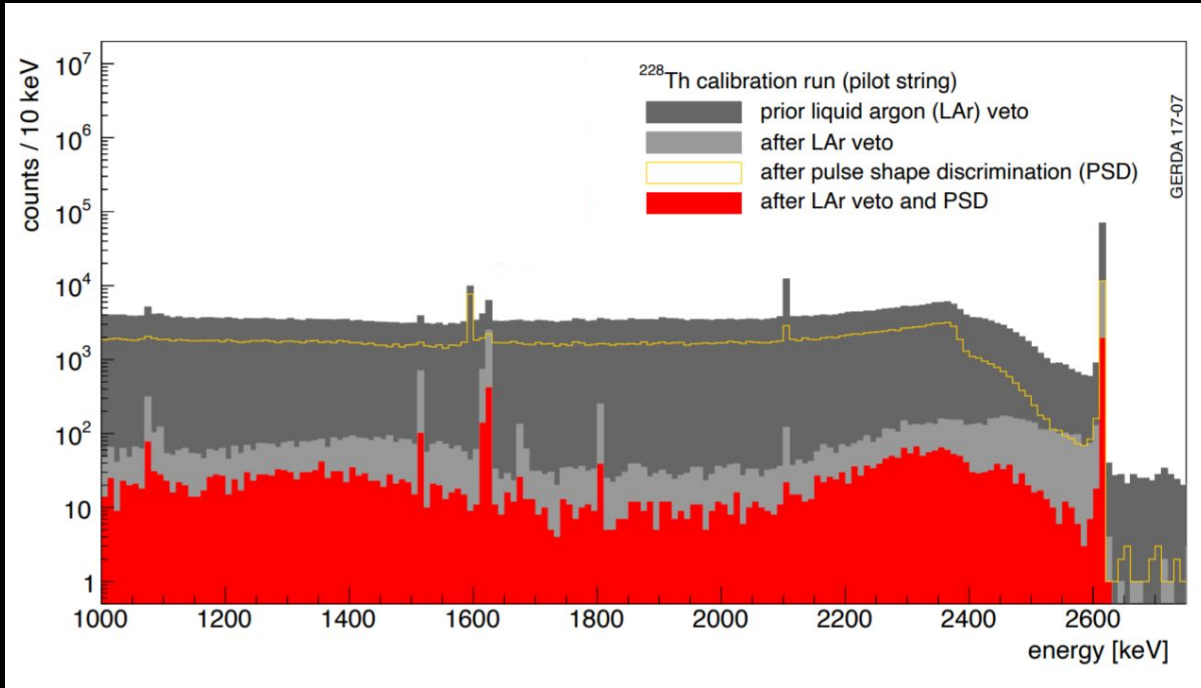


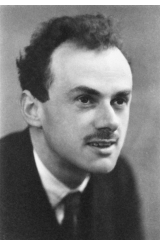
# Where are we heading?



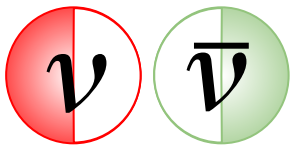
# Background Suppression

<1% probability of  $^{228}\text{Th}$  events leaking our  $0\nu\beta\beta$  multivariate tagging



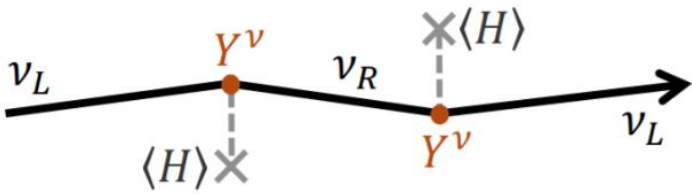
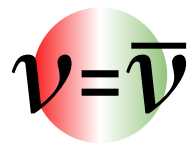


Dirac

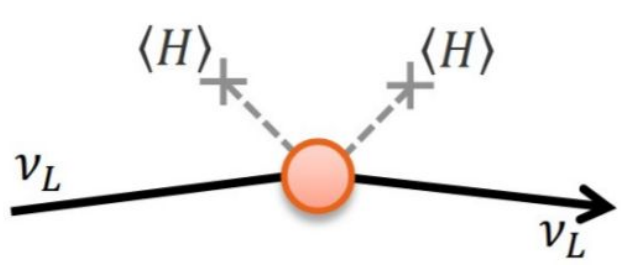


# Neutrino masses

Majorana



- new right-handed neutrinos
- standard Higgs mechanism
- “unnaturally” small neutrino masses



- alternative Higgs mass mechanism
- neutrino mass violates L (and thus B-L)
- “naturally” small mass (see-saw mechanism)