
Low energy signals in xenon detectors

from supernova neutrinos to light dark matter

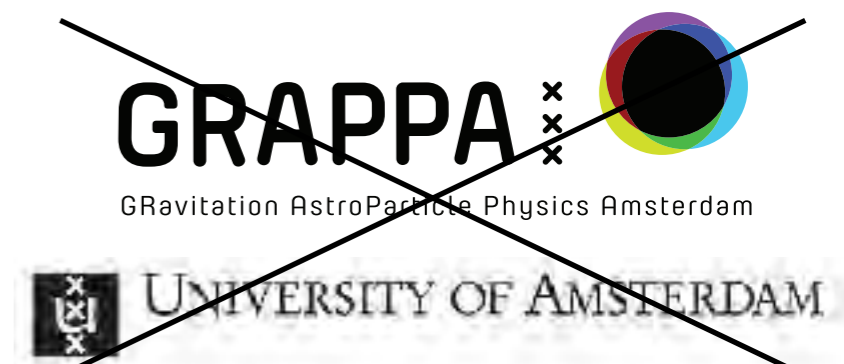
Christopher M^cCabe

arXiv:1606.09243 (PRD) & arXiv:1702.04730

UCL - 5th May 2017



Science & Technology
Facilities Council



Outline

- Motivation: Dark matter
- Direct detection experiments & recent progress
- New low-energy signals in xenon detectors:
 1. Nuclear recoils: supernova neutrinos
 2. Electronic recoils: sub-GeV dark matter

Motivation:
Dark matter

Dark Matter

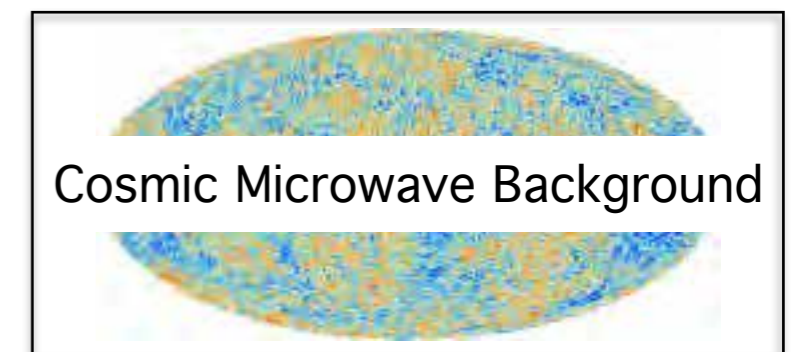
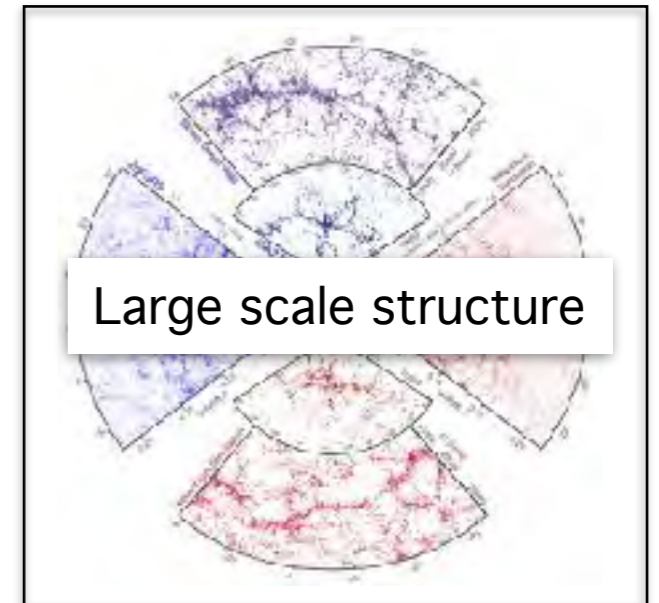
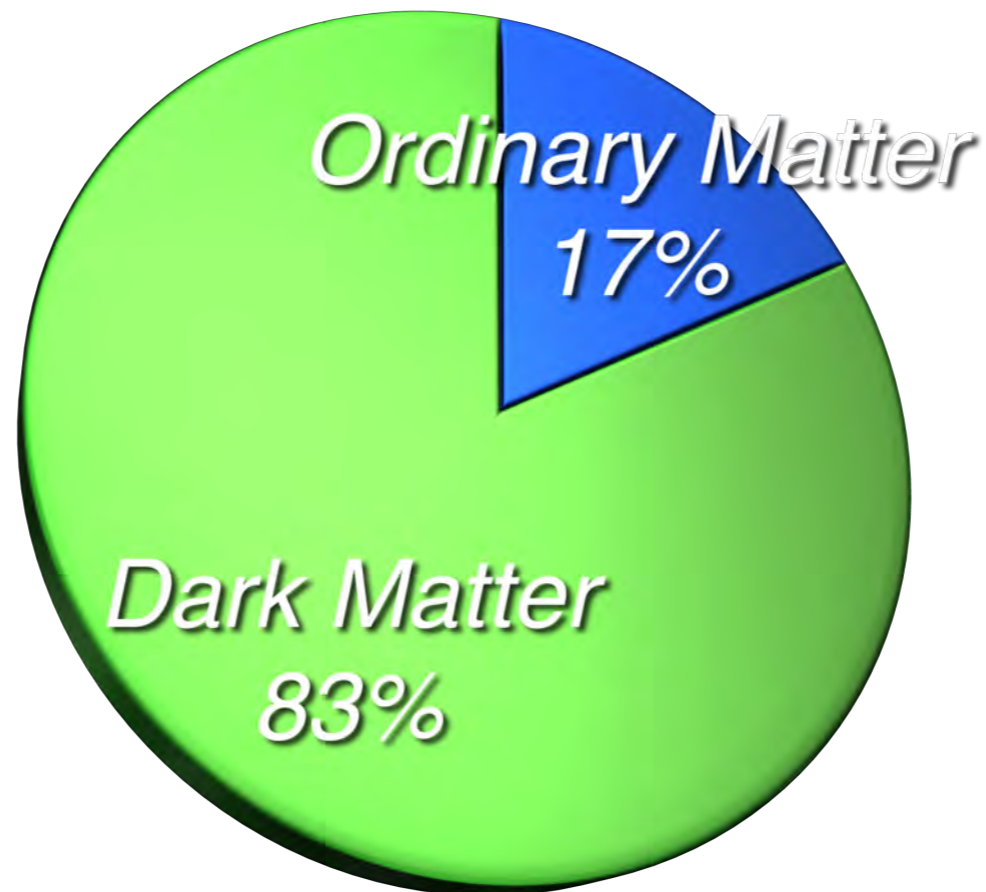
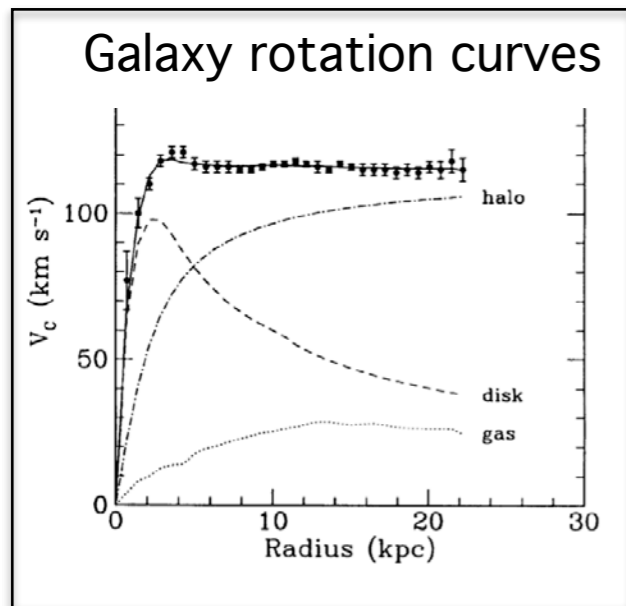
Extended dark
matter halo

Home ★



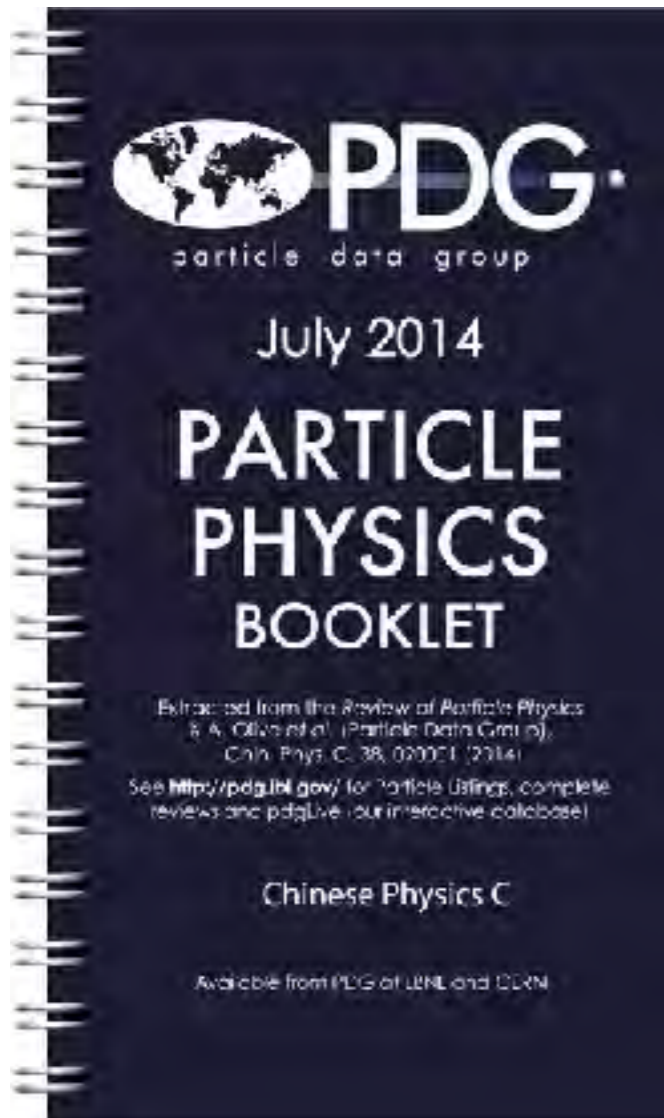
Evidence for dark matter

Matter in the Universe



Evidence from gravitational interactions over many distance scales

What would we like to know?



Dark Matter Particle (X^0)

X^0 mass: $m = ?$

X^0 spin: $J = ?$

X^0 parity: $P = ?$

X^0 lifetime: $\tau = ?$

X^0 scattering cross-section on nucleons: ?

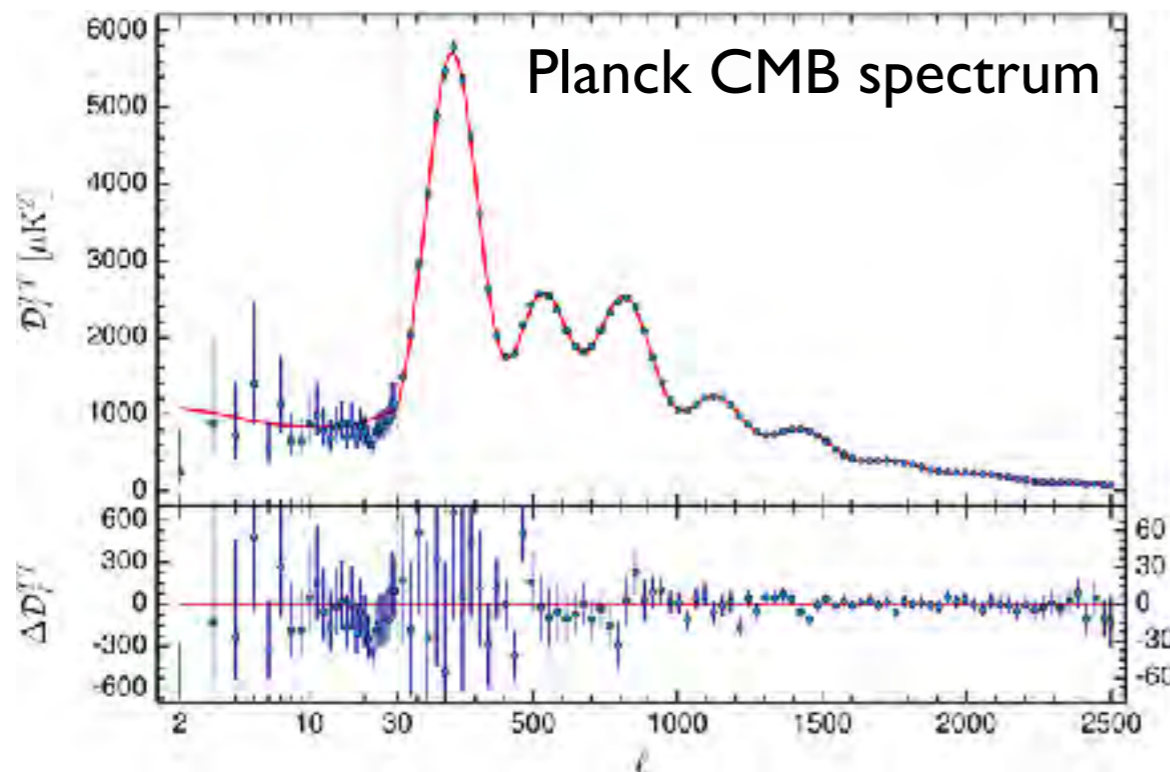
X^0 production cross-section in hadron colliders: ?

X^0 self-annihilation cross-section: ?

Interactions with matter are generic

Precise determination
of DM density:

$$\Omega_{\text{DM}} h^2 = 0.1198 \pm 0.0015$$



Explaining $\Omega_{\text{DM}} h^2$ 
interactions with matter

interaction strength 

Thermal candidates:
WIMPs
SIMPs
Asymmetric DM
...

Non-thermal candidates:
axions
FIMPs
gravitinos
primordial black holes
...

Dark Matter

Extended dark
matter halo

Home ★

$$\rho_{\text{DM}} \sim 0.3 \text{ GeV}/\text{cm}^3$$

$$\langle v_{\text{DM}} \rangle \sim 300 \text{ km/s}$$

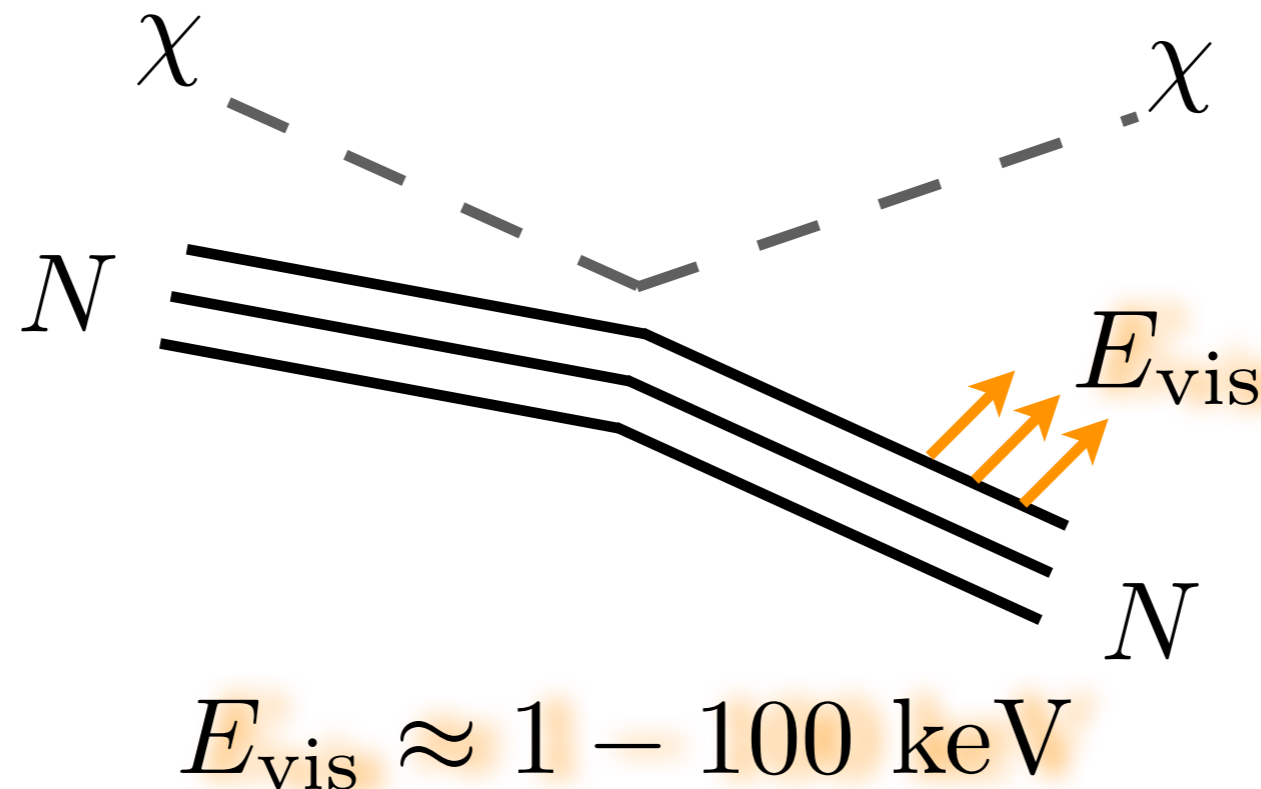
$$\phi_{\text{thumb}} \sim 10^7 \left(\frac{m_{\text{proton}}}{m_{\text{DM}}} \right) \text{ particles/s}$$

Direct detection experiments
&
Recent progress

Direct detection experiments

Aim: detect collisions of dark matter with an atom/nucleus

Goodman & Witten (1985)



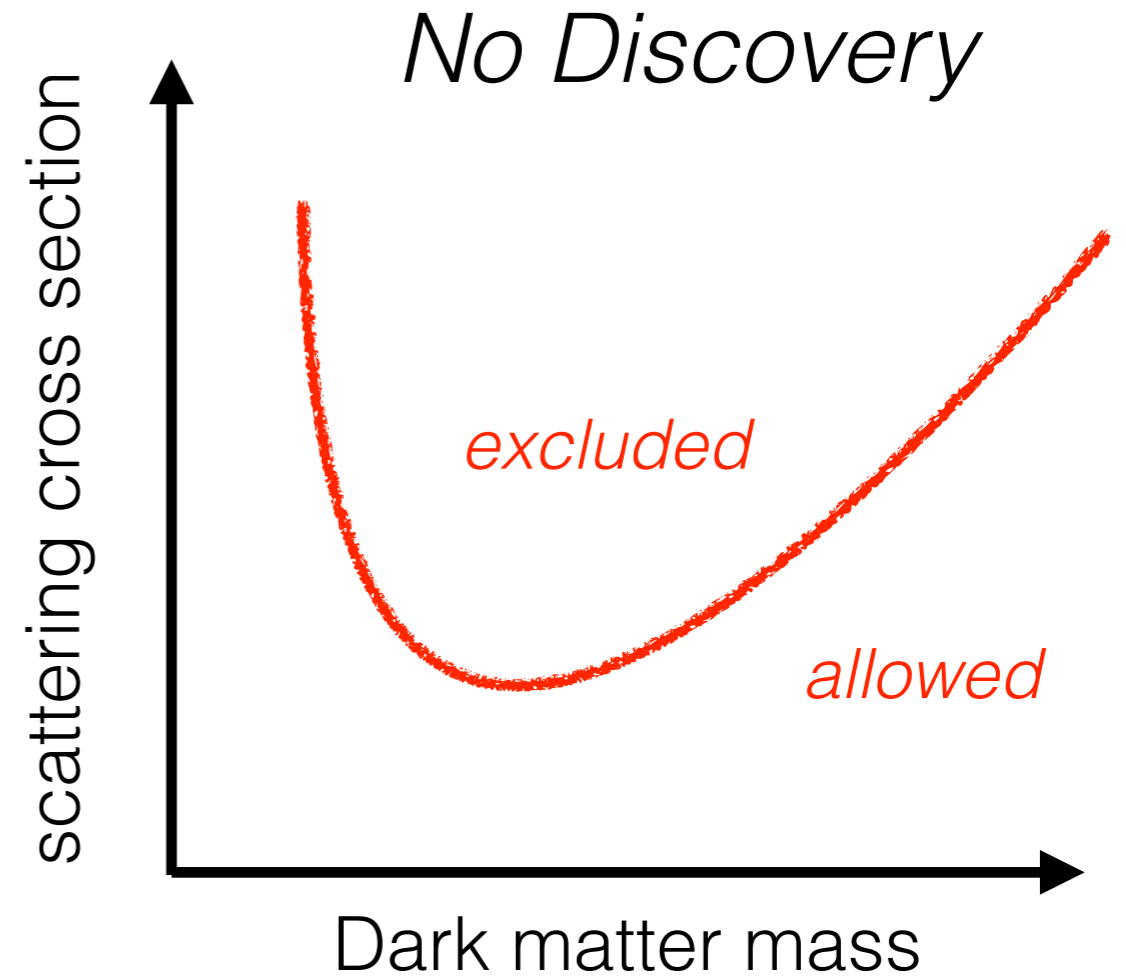
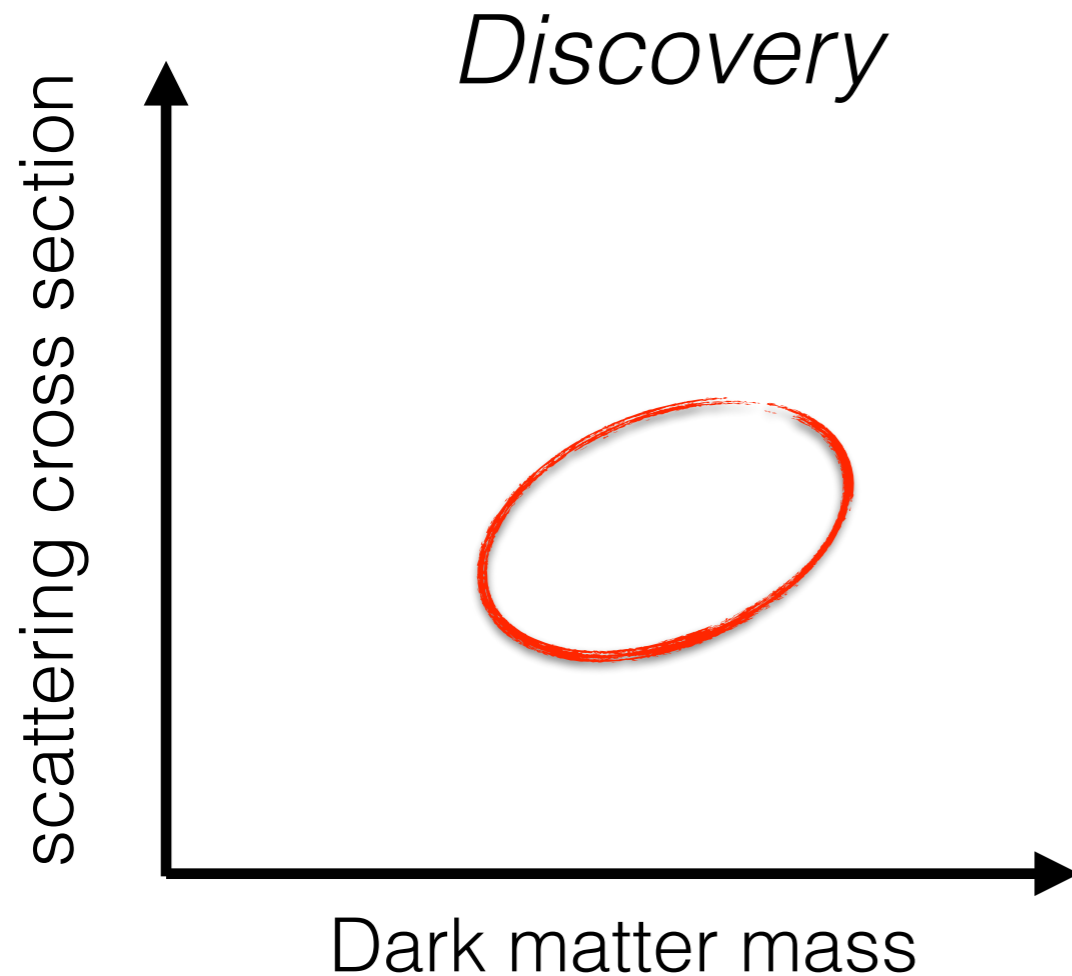
Event rate: few events / year

Ultra-sensitive keV energy detectors

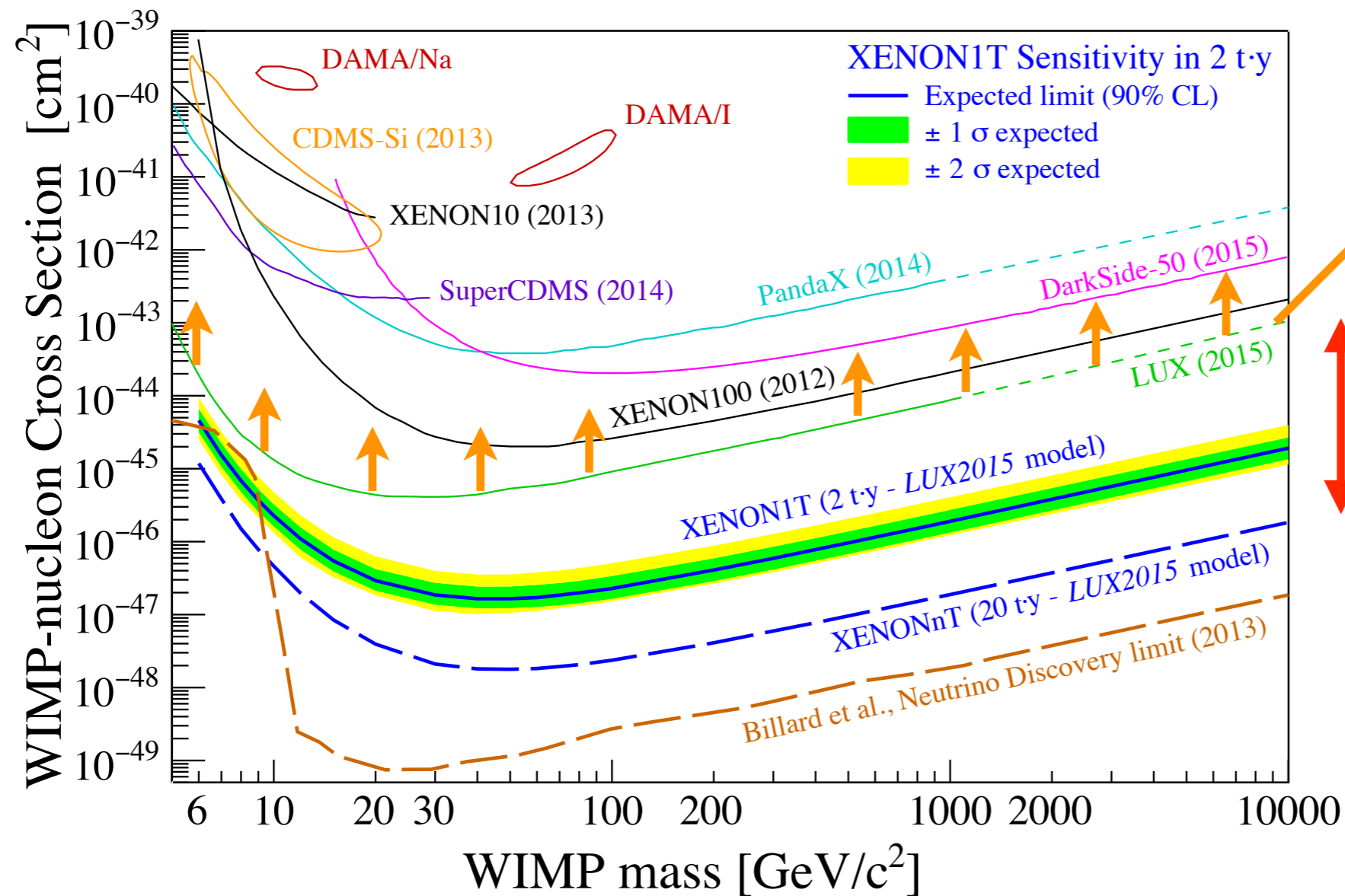
Direct detection signals

Measurement/constraints on

1. *Dark matter mass*
2. *Scattering cross section with nucleons*



Direct detection limits

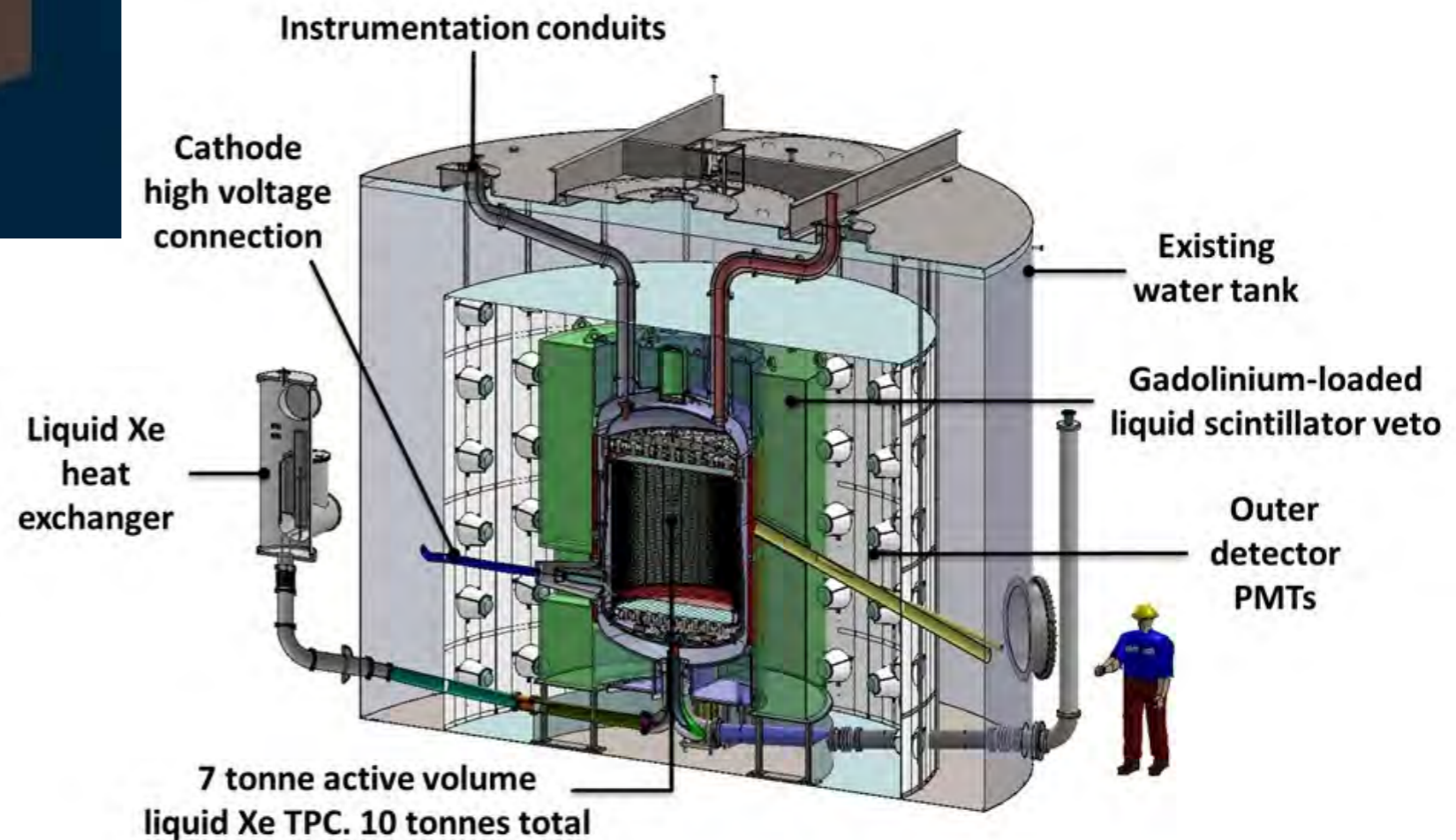
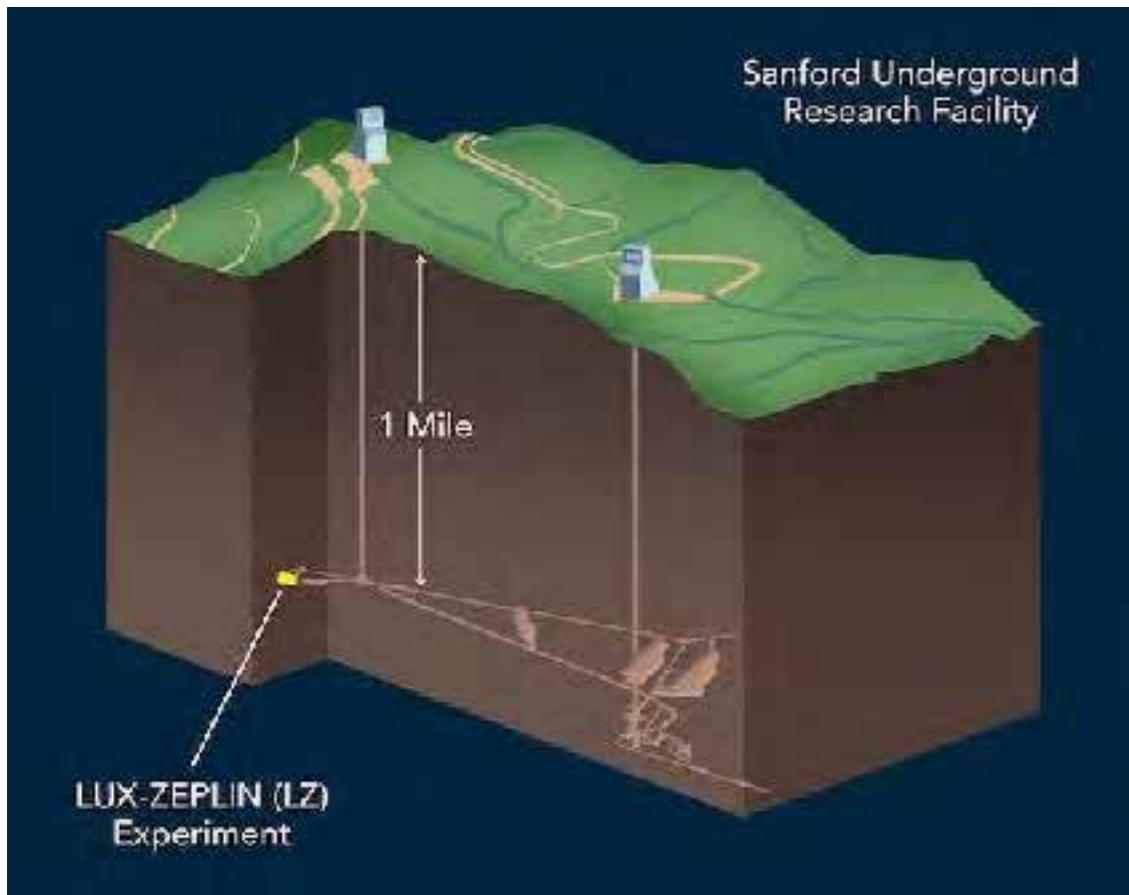


Excluded

3 orders of magnitude tested in next ~ 5 years

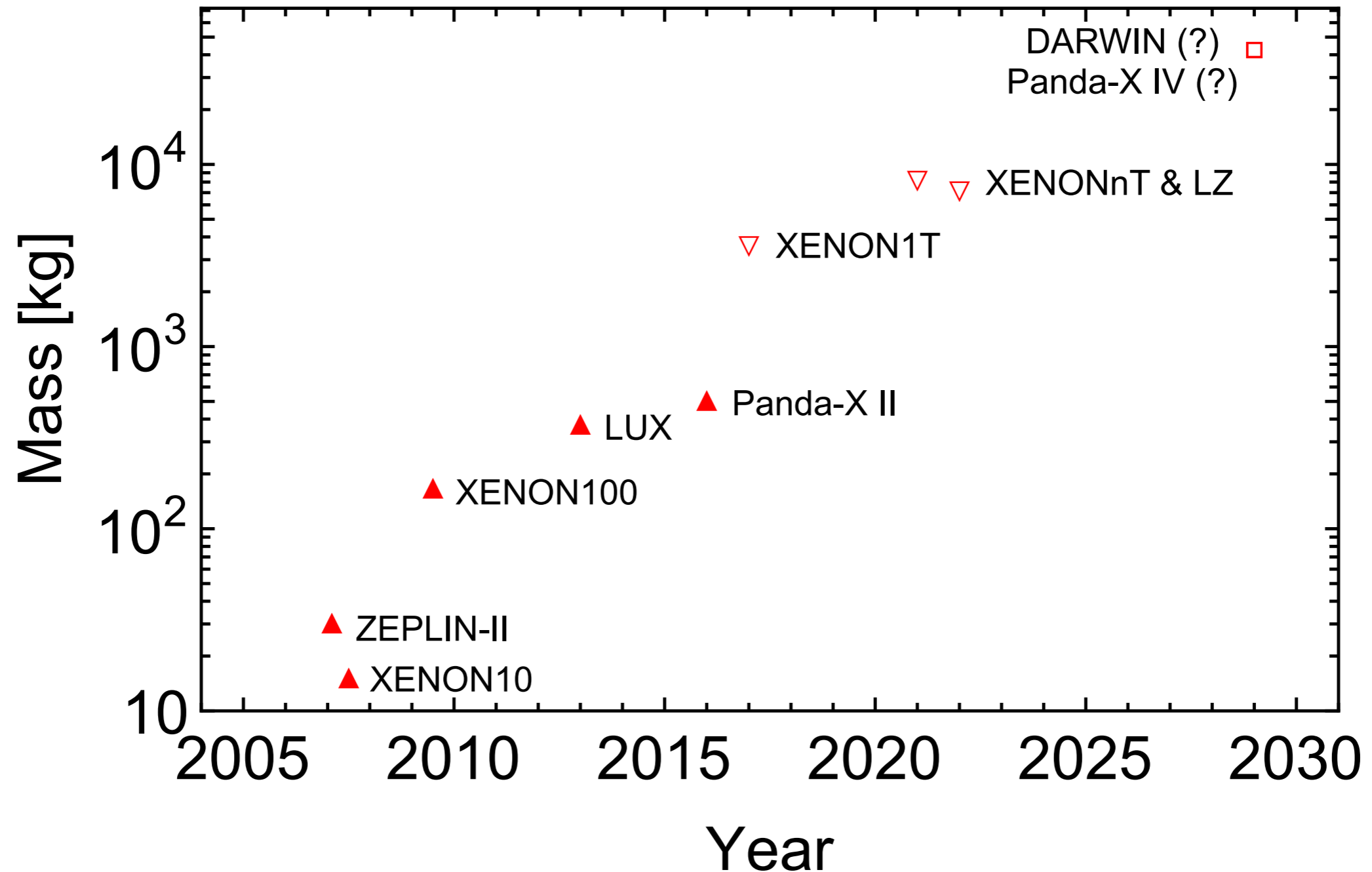
Experiments with xenon (LUX & XENON) are the most sensitive

Xenon dark matter detectors



Xenon detectors: Recent progress I

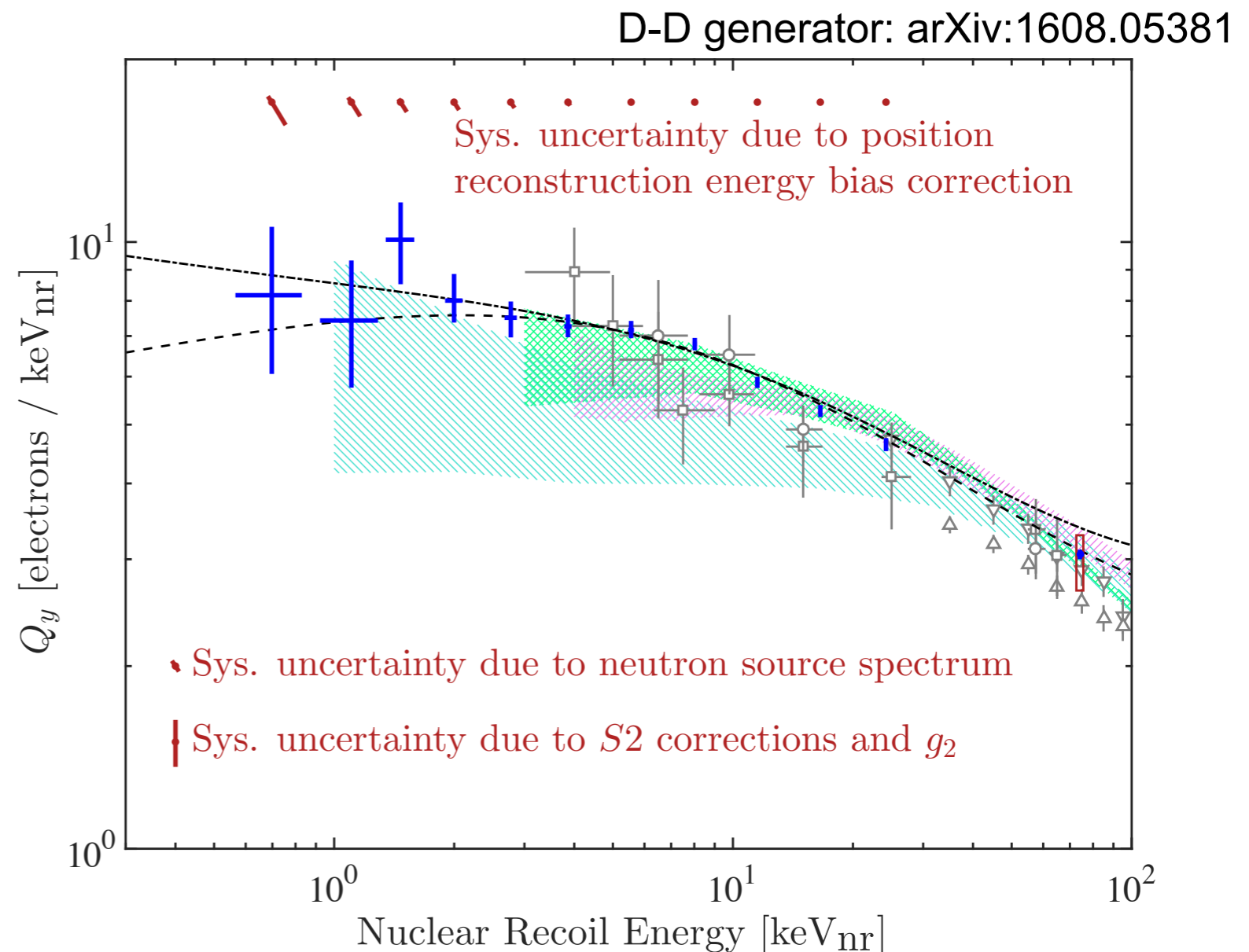
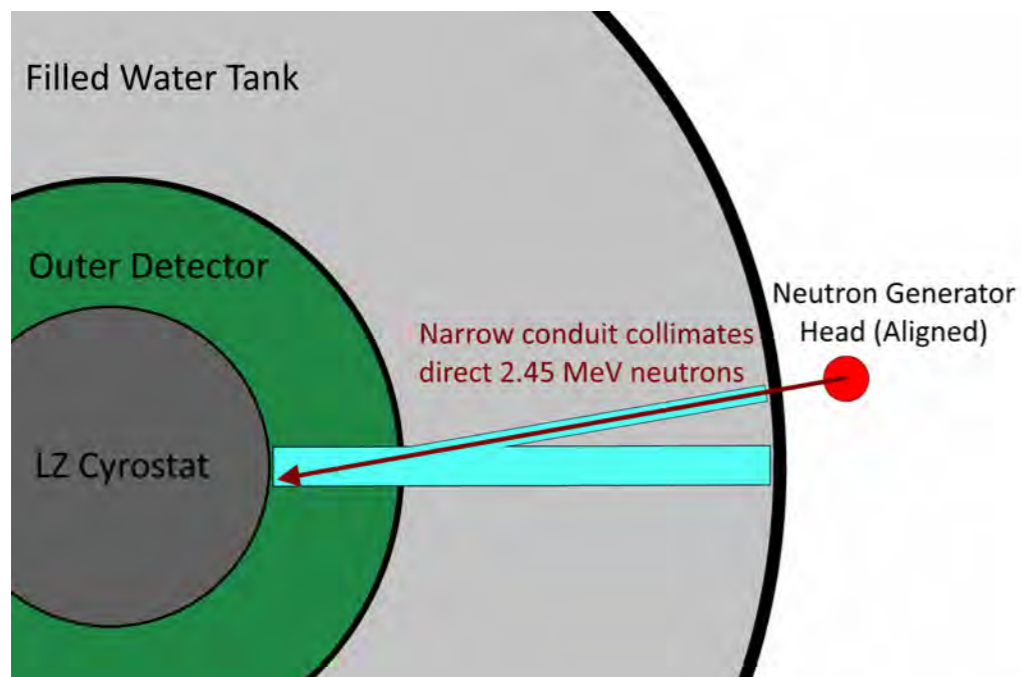
Xenon detectors have been getting (much) bigger



Recent progress 2: Much better calibration

LUX leads the way in sensitivity... and in calibrating their detector

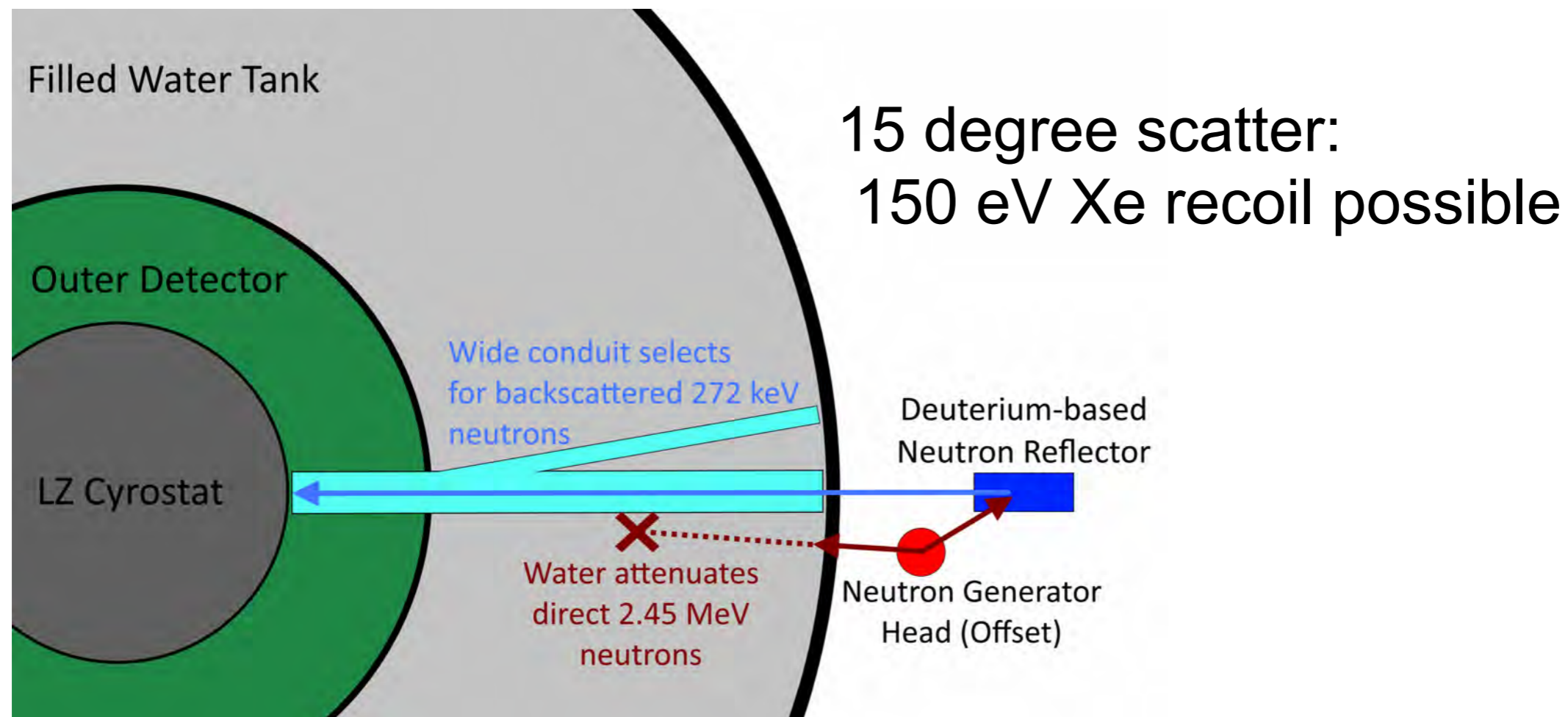
Nuclear recoil calibration to 0.7 keV



Recent progress 2: Much better calibration

LUX leads the way in sensitivity... and in calibrating their detector

Nuclear recoil calibration to 0.7 keV... and plans to go lower (150 eV?)



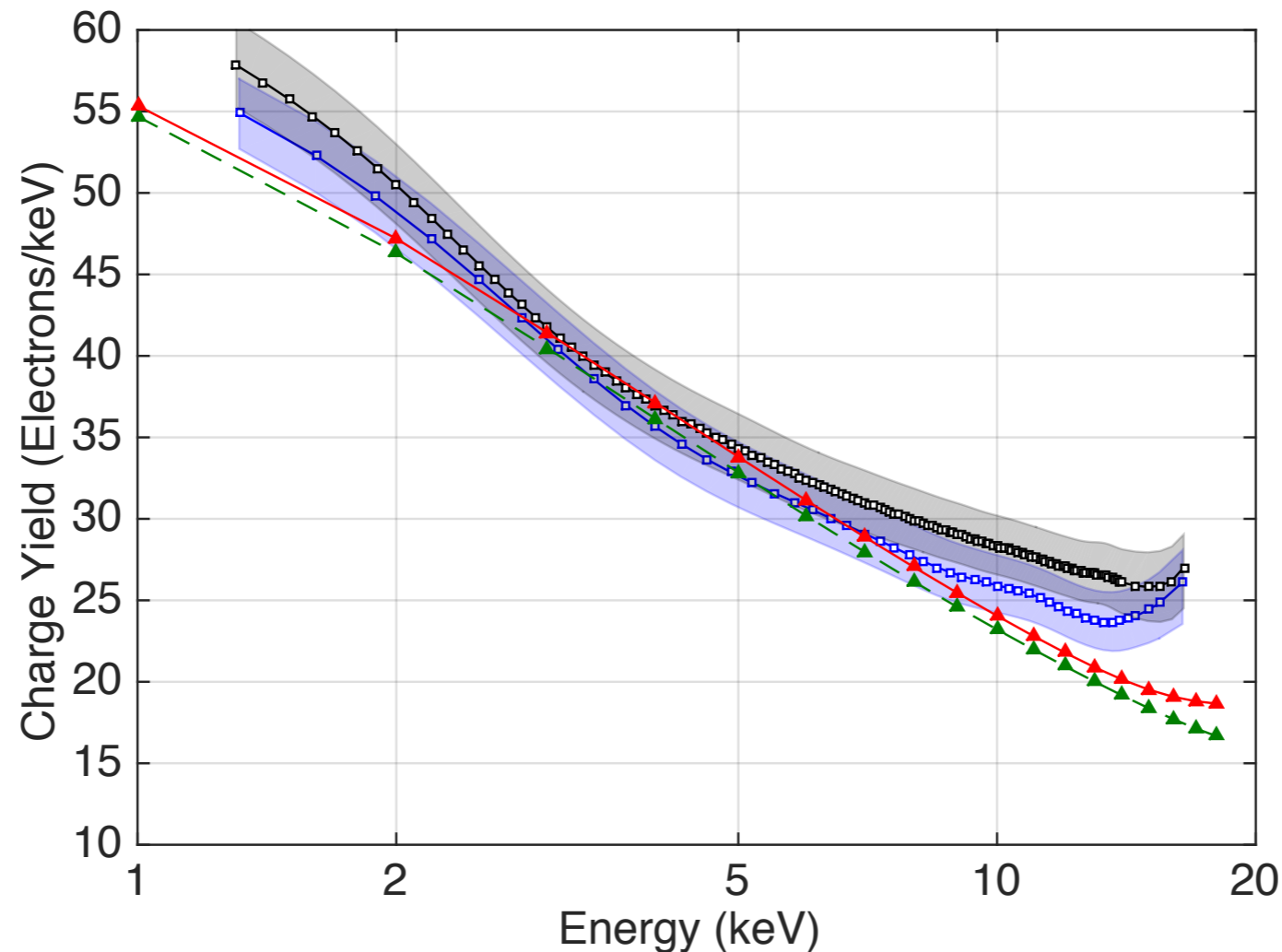
LZ TDR
arXiv:1703.09144

Recent progress 2: Much better calibration

LUX leads the way in sensitivity... and in calibrating their detector

Electronic recoil calibration to 1.3 keV (tritium)

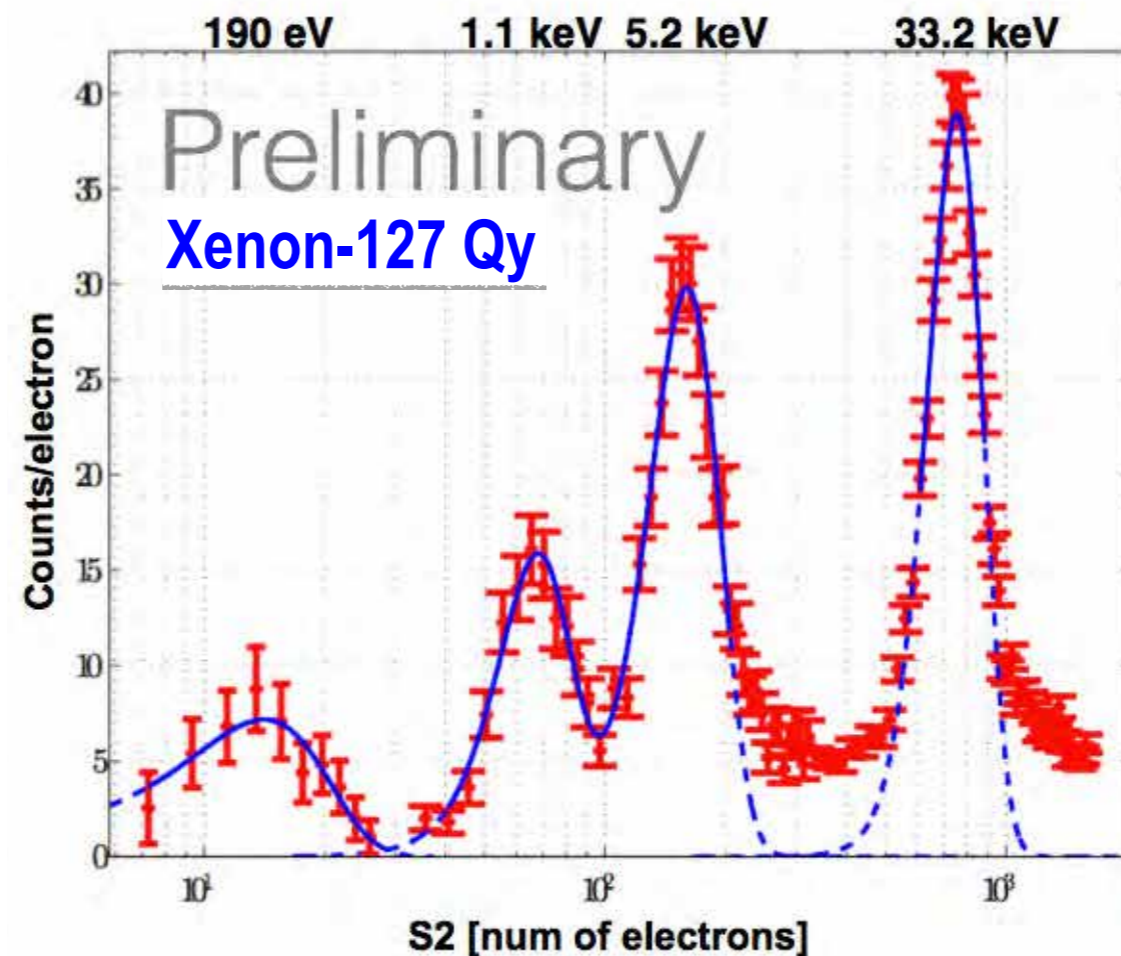
tritium, arXiv:1512.03133



Recent progress 2: Much better calibration

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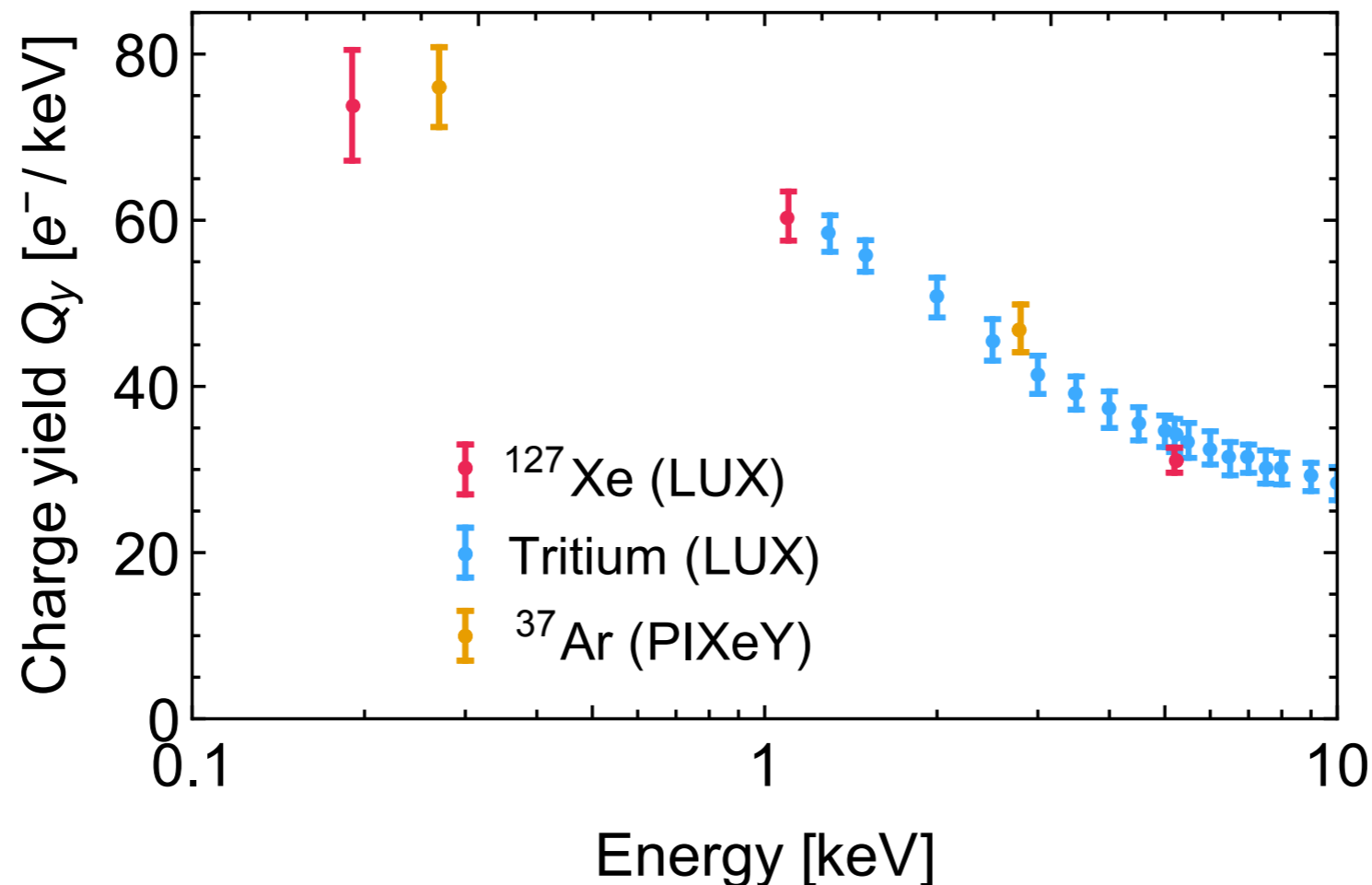
Electronic recoil calibration to 1.3 keV (tritium)
0.19 keV (^{127}Xe)



Recent progress 2: Much better calibration

LUX leads the way in sensitivity... and in calibrating their detector

Electronic recoil calibration to 1.3 keV (tritium)
0.19 keV (^{127}Xe)
0.27 keV (^{37}Ar)



Calibration: summary

Pre-LUX: ~ 4 keV

Post-LUX: ~ 0.2 keV

Xenon direct detection experiments:

1. Becoming much bigger ($\times 10-100$)
2. Better calibration: now at sub-keV energies

So what?

New low-energy signals in xenon detectors:

1. Nuclear recoils: supernova neutrinos
2. Electronic recoils: sub-GeV dark matter

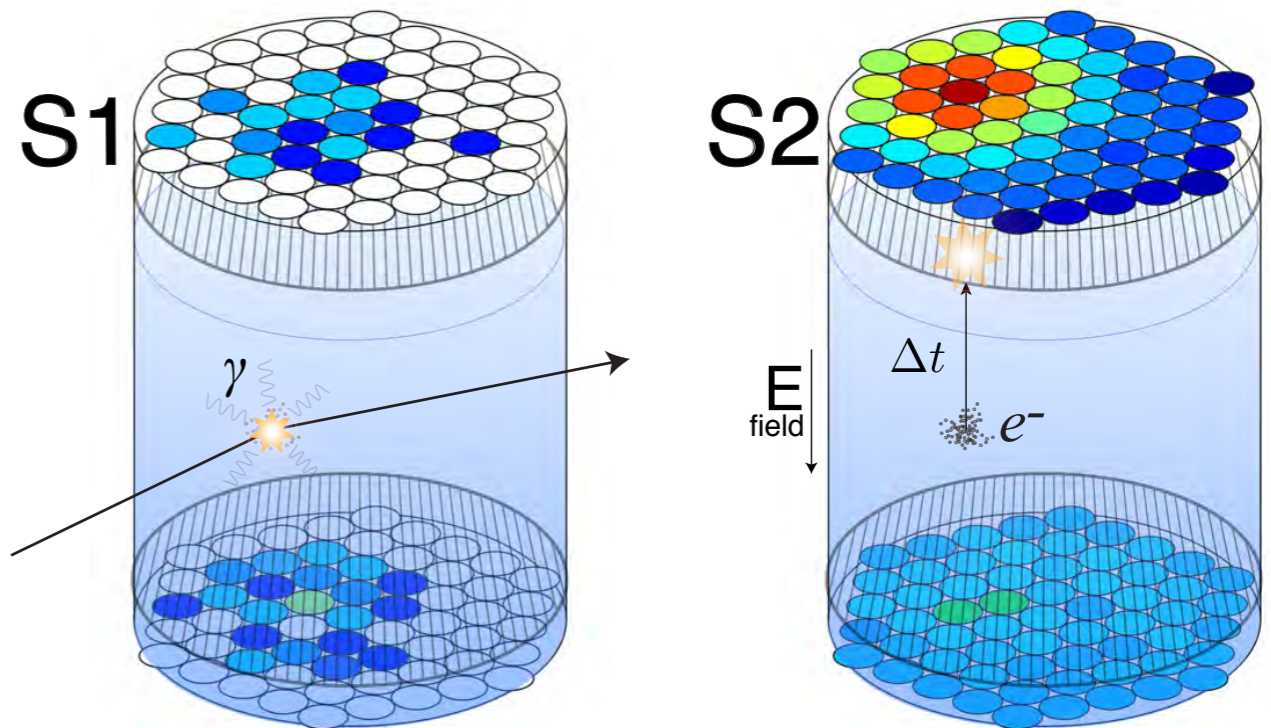
New low energy signals:
I. Supernova neutrinos

Dual-phase xenon detectors

- Dual-phase xenon as *neutrino* detectors

S1: proportional to # photons
S2: proportional to # electrons
S1+S2: 3D position reconstruction

neutrino



From kinematics:
$$E_R \sim 2.4 \text{ keV} \left(\frac{E_\nu}{12 \text{ MeV}} \right)^2$$

(Neutrino signal similar to low-mass dark matter signal)

Supernova neutrinos

Supernovae: among the most energetic events in the Universe.
Originate from the core-collapse of very massive stars

Energy:

$\sim 10^{53}$ erg released

$\sim 99\%$ is emitted by all neutrino flavours

Neutrino energy ~ 15 MeV

Time:

Neutrino emission lasts ~ 10 s

When/where:

$\sim 1-3$ SN/century in our galaxy

distance ~ 10 kpc



detection: will shed light on the properties of neutrinos and the explosion

DM detectors as neutrino detectors

PHYSICAL REVIEW D

VOLUME 30, NUMBER 11

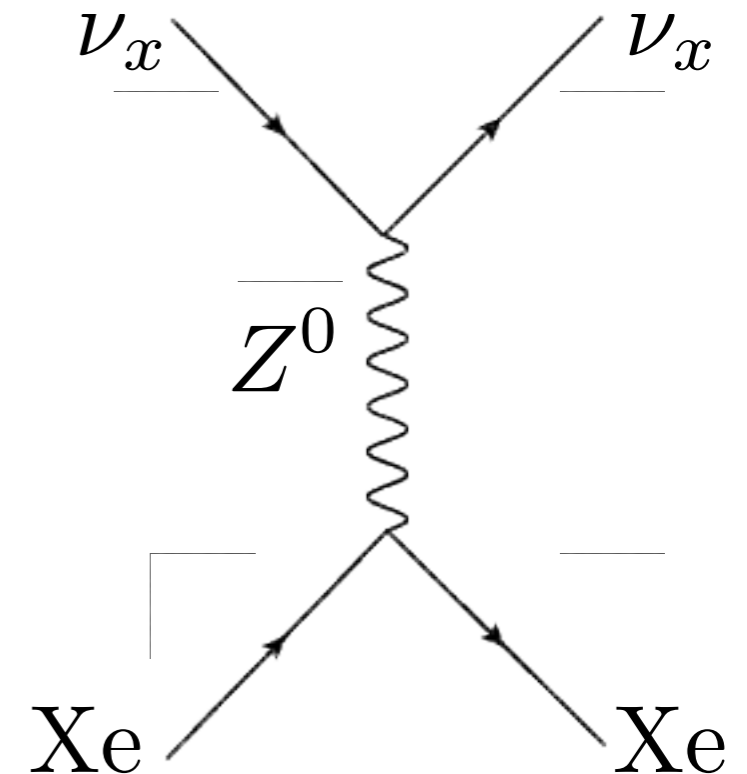
1 DECEMBER 1984

Principles and applications of a neutral-current detector for neutrino physics and astronomy

A. Drukier and L. Stodolsky

A neutral-current detector:

1. responds to all types of neutrinos equally
2. gains from a coherence factor:
neutron-number²
3. responds to neutrinos in a known way:
can infer incoming neutrino spectrum



DM detectors as SN neutrino detectors

“Elastic scattering detectors can have yields of **a few or more neutrino events per tonne** for a supernova at 10 kpc”

Horowitz et al 2003

Why is it timely to think about this?

Tonne scale experiments are here:

running: **XENONIT** (~ 2 t)

in design/construction: **XENONnT & LZ** (~ 7 t)

R&D: **DARWIN** (~ 40 t)

What physics can we do with these detectors?

DM detectors as SN neutrino detectors

Supernova neutrino physics with xenon dark matter detectors: A timely perspective

Rafael F. Lang, Christopher McCabe, Shayne Reichard, Marco Selvi, and Irene Tamborra
Phys. Rev. D **94**, 103009 – Published 23 November 2016
arXiv:1606.09243

1. Simulate the SN neutrino signal in a dual-phase xenon detector

Extracting physics from:

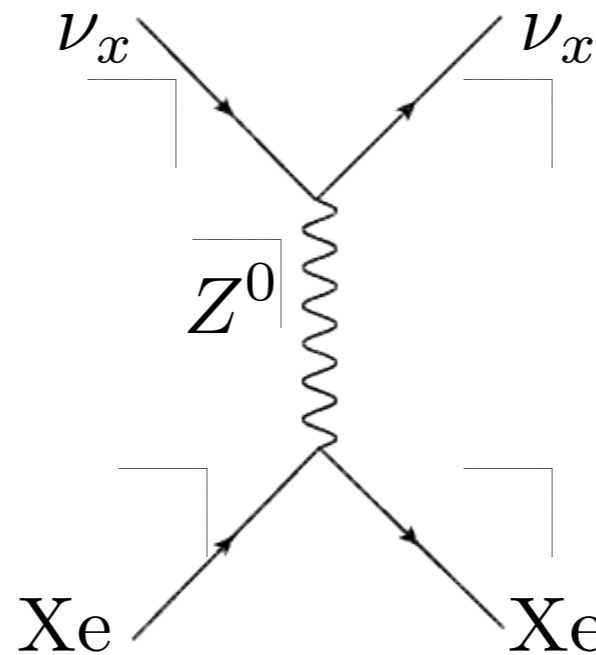
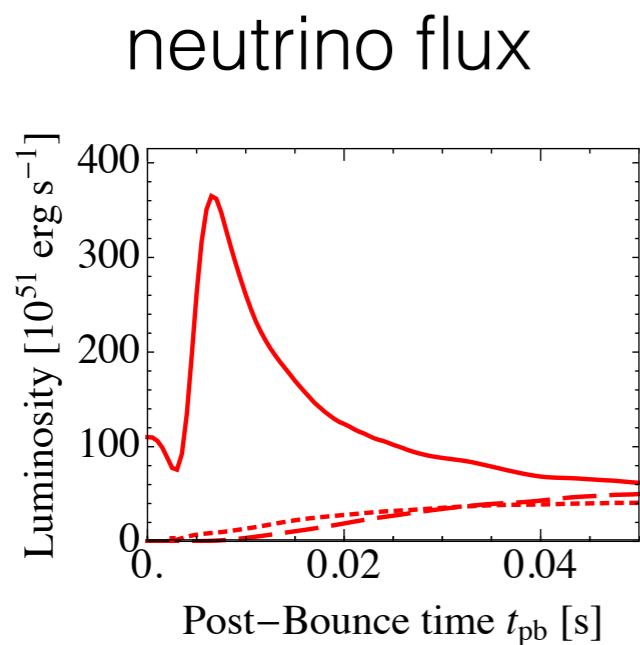
- 2. the number of events*
- 3. the shape of the spectrum*

(first pass at this problem: everything could be improved)

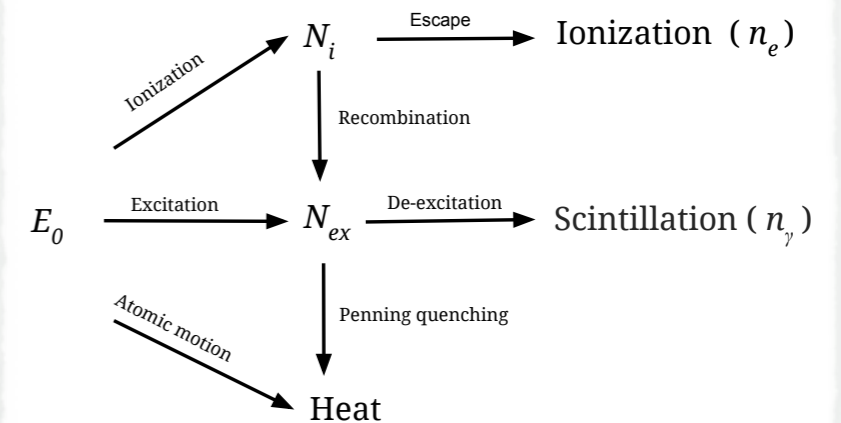
*I. Simulating the supernova neutrino signal
in a dual-phase xenon detector*

Rate calculation: Ingredients

$$\text{Rate} = \text{Flux} \times \text{cross section} \times \text{detector response}$$



Nuclear recoil energy transferred to photons, electrons or heat

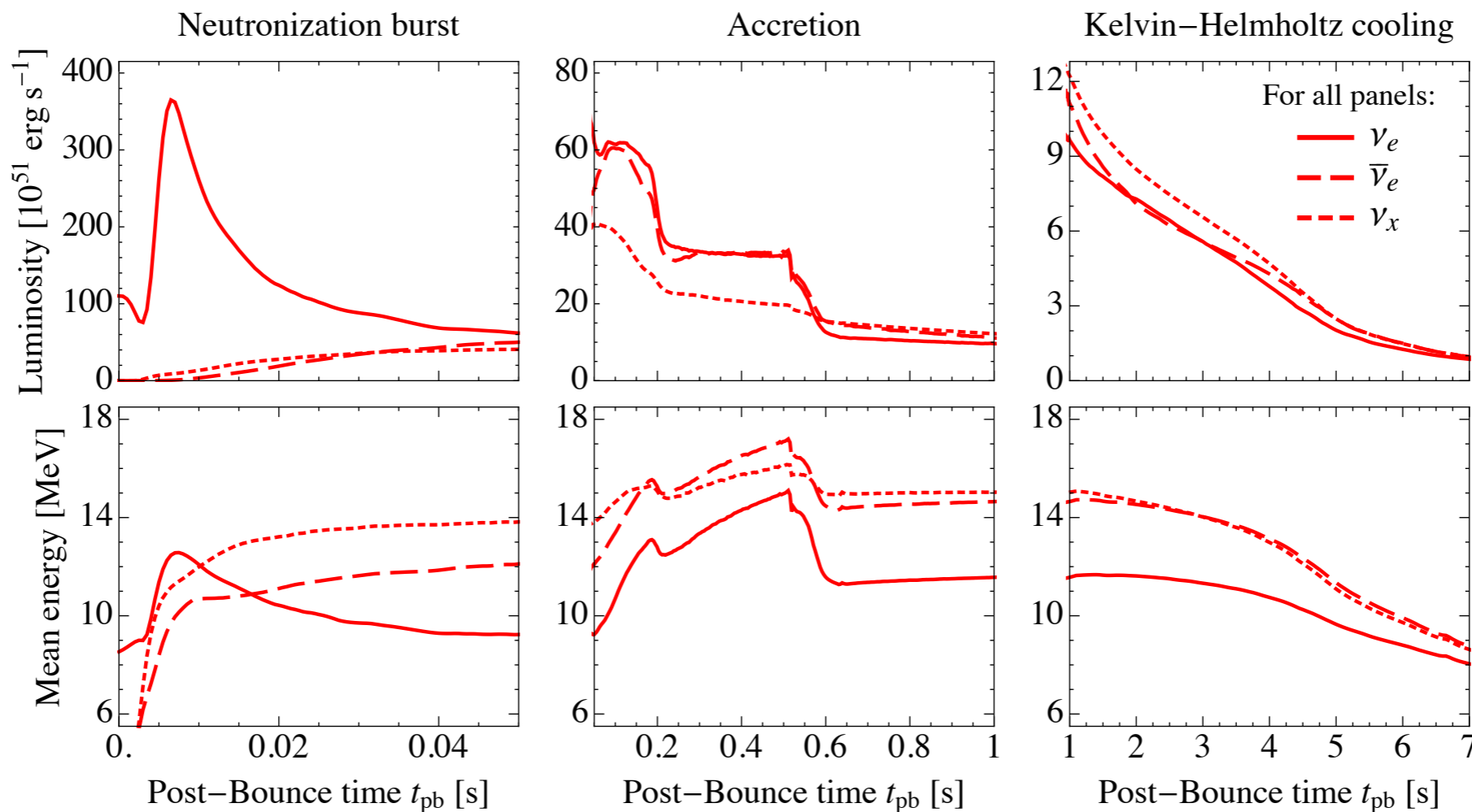


SN neutrino signal from simulations

Use results from four 1D simulations by the Garching group:

- Two progenitor masses (11 & 27 M_{Sun})
- Two equation of states (LS220 & Shen EoS)

27 M_{Sun} LS220; 27 M_{Sun} Shen; 11 M_{Sun} LS220; 11 M_{Sun} Shen



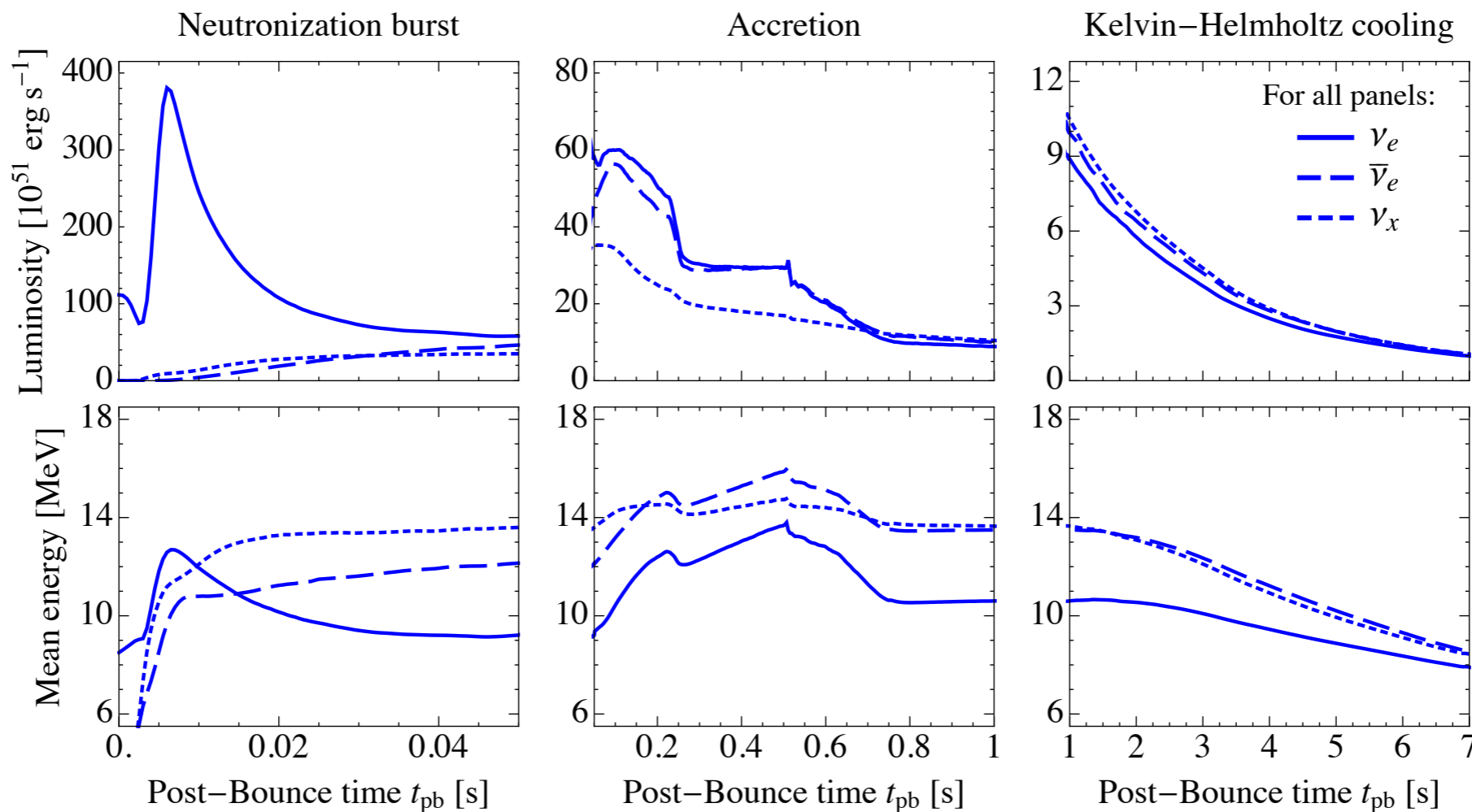
$$\nu_x = \begin{pmatrix} \nu_\mu \\ \bar{\nu}_\mu \\ \nu_\tau \\ \bar{\nu}_\tau \end{pmatrix}$$

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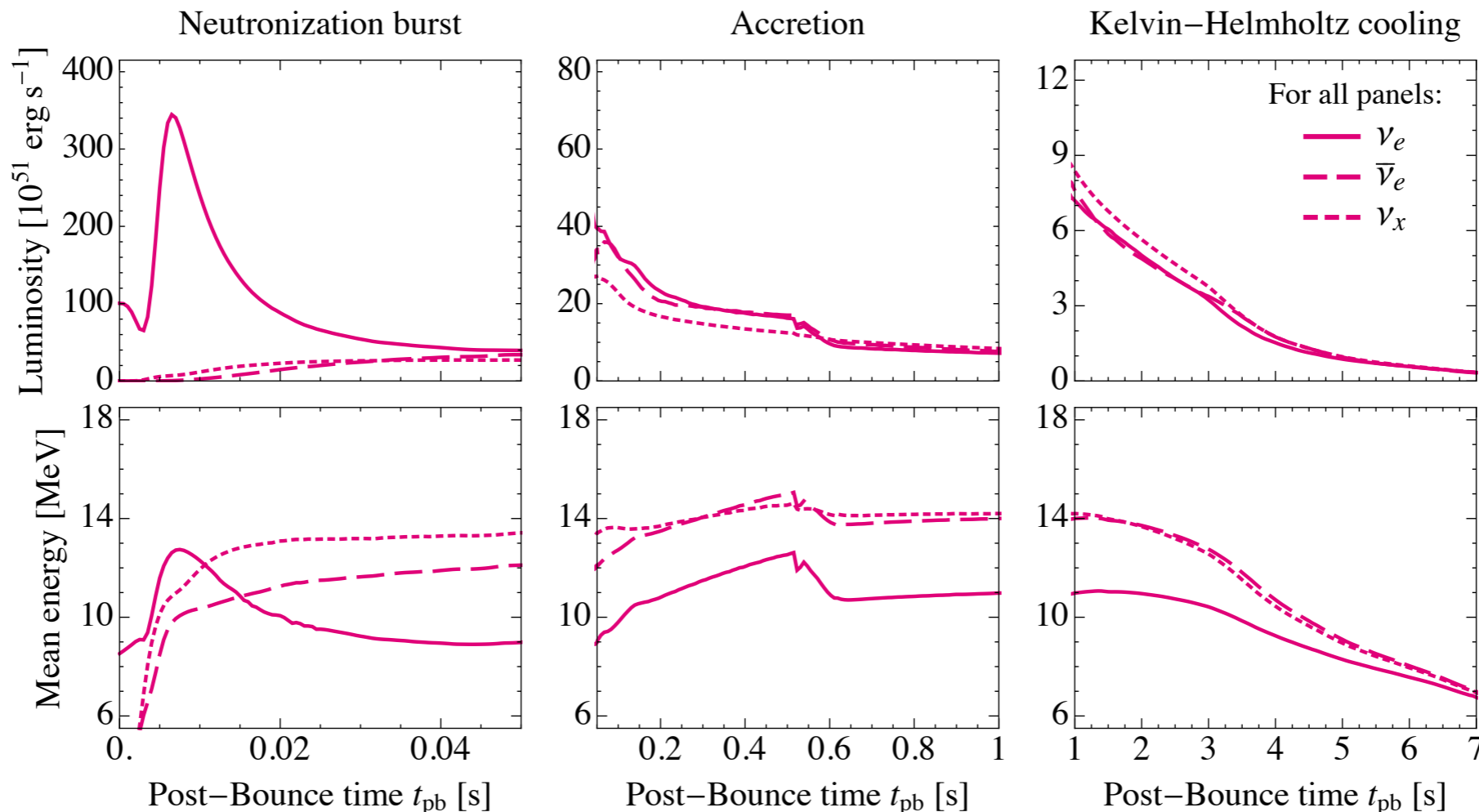
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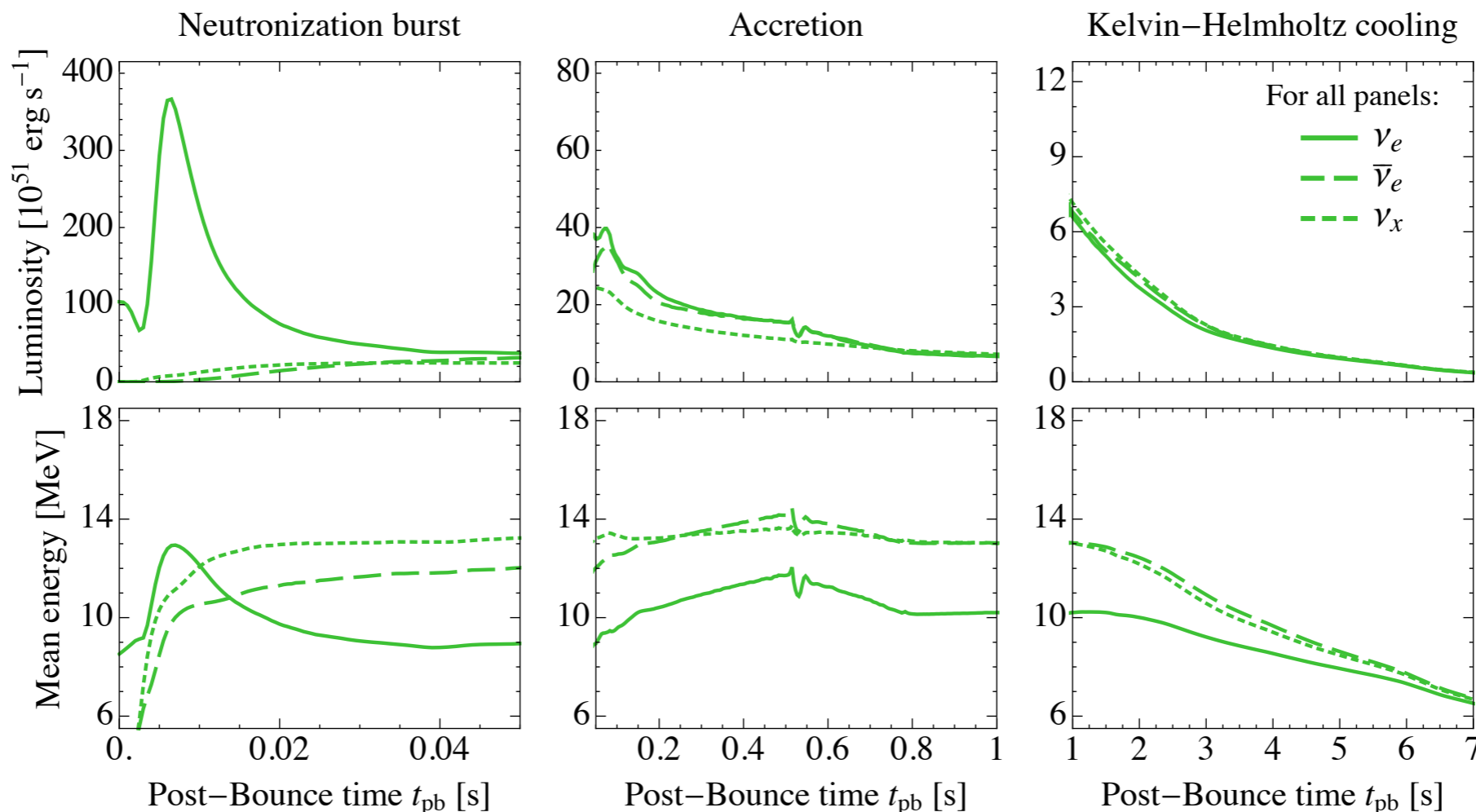
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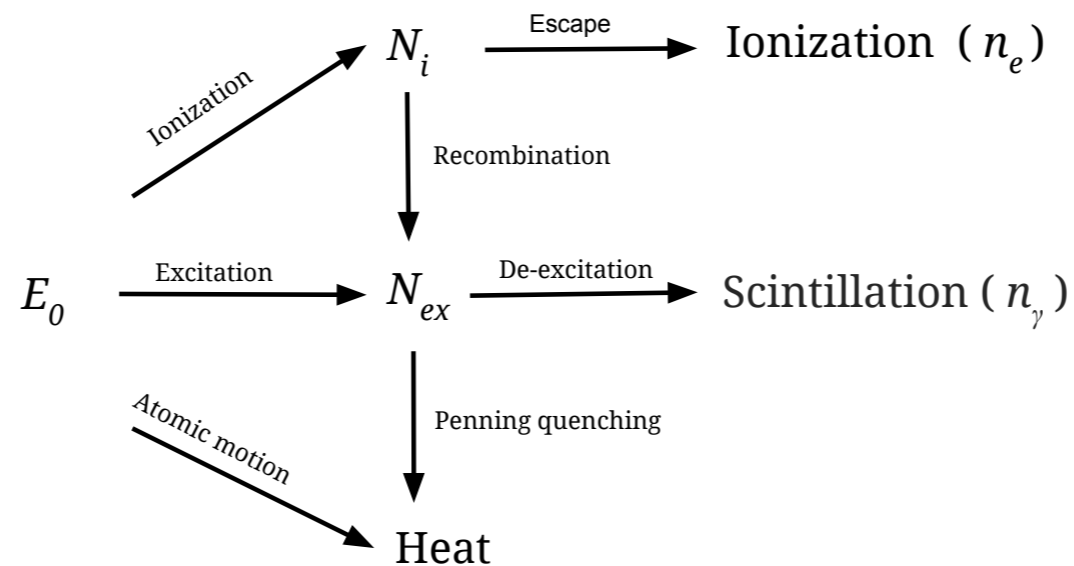


$$\nu_x = \begin{pmatrix} \nu_\mu \\ \bar{\nu}_\mu \\ \nu_\tau \\ \bar{\nu}_\tau \end{pmatrix}$$

Detector response

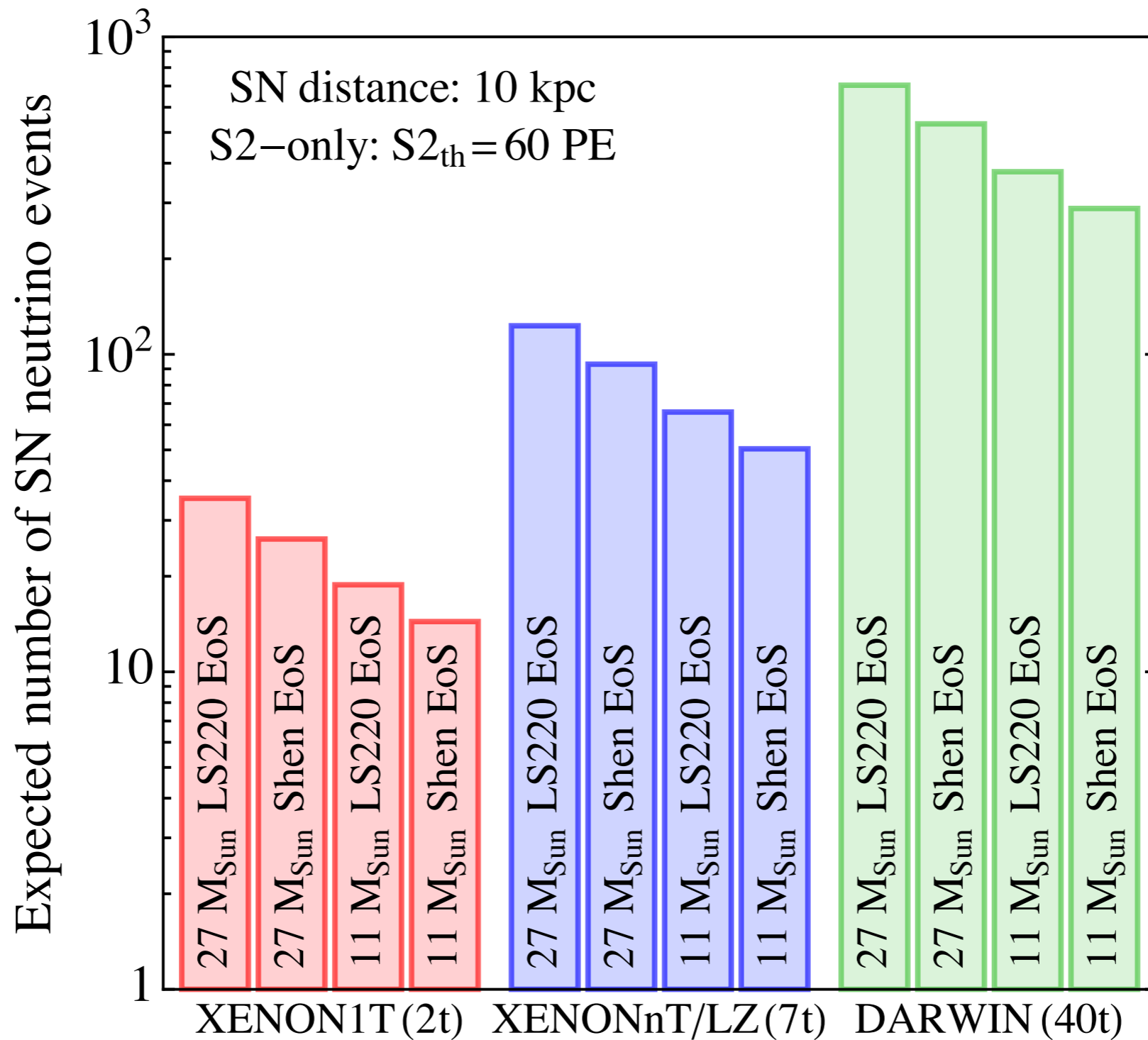
Ask me afterwards...

Nuclear recoil energy transferred to photons, electrons or heat



Extracting physics from:
2. *the number of events*

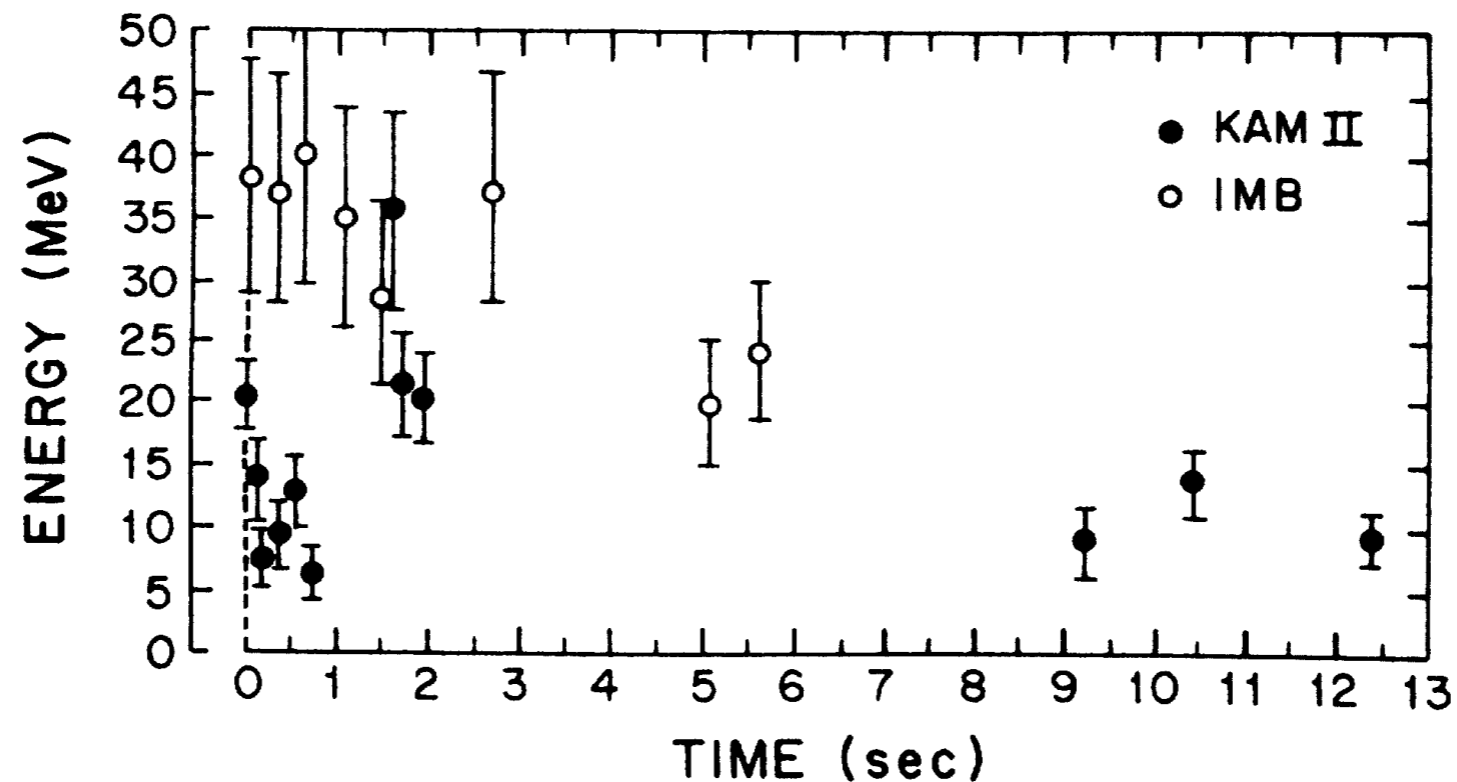
Expected number of events



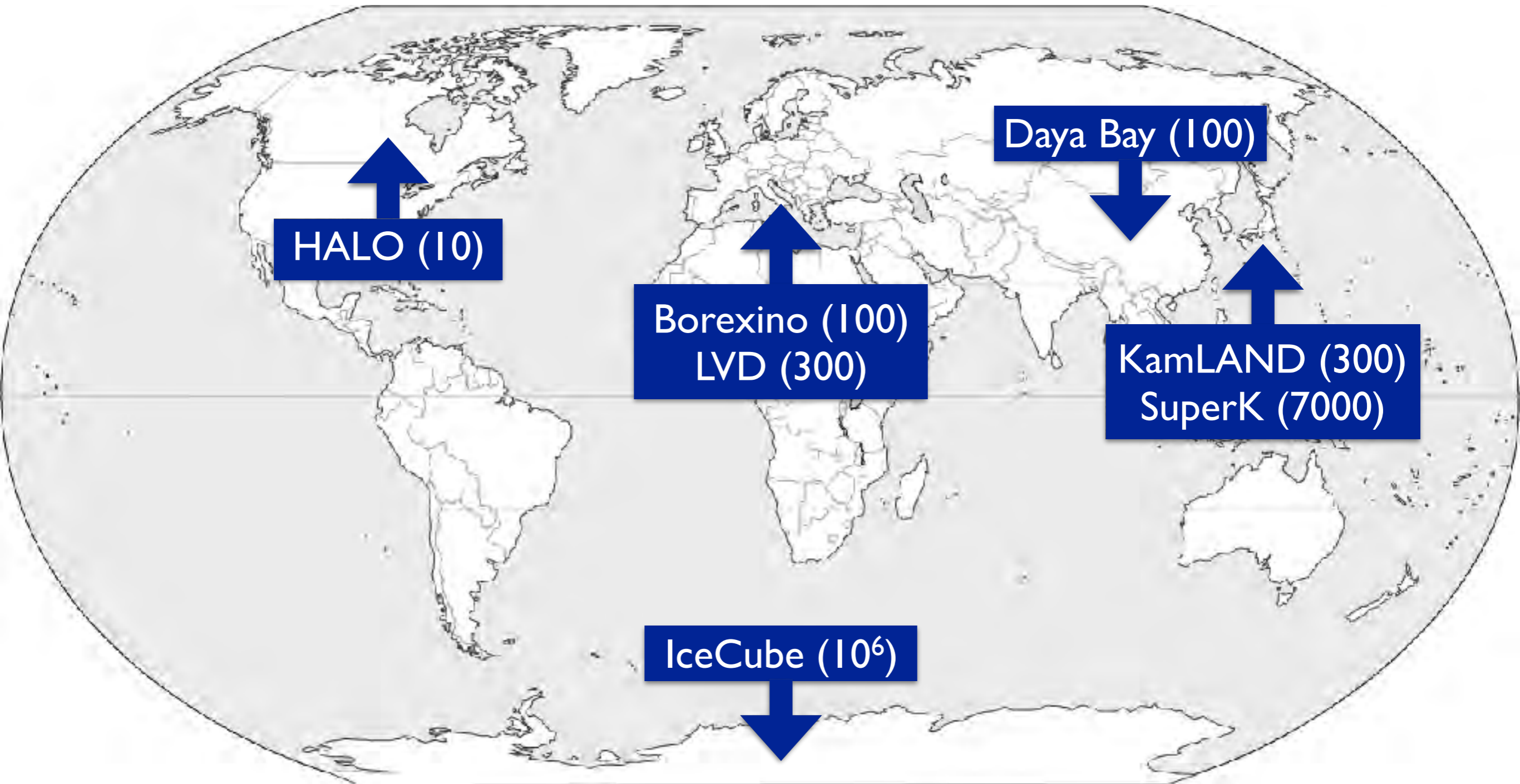
Past detection of supernova neutrinos

Neutrinos from SNI 987A detected with

- Kamiokande-II (12 events)
- IMB (8 events)
- Baksan (5 events)



Current detectors for supernova neutrinos



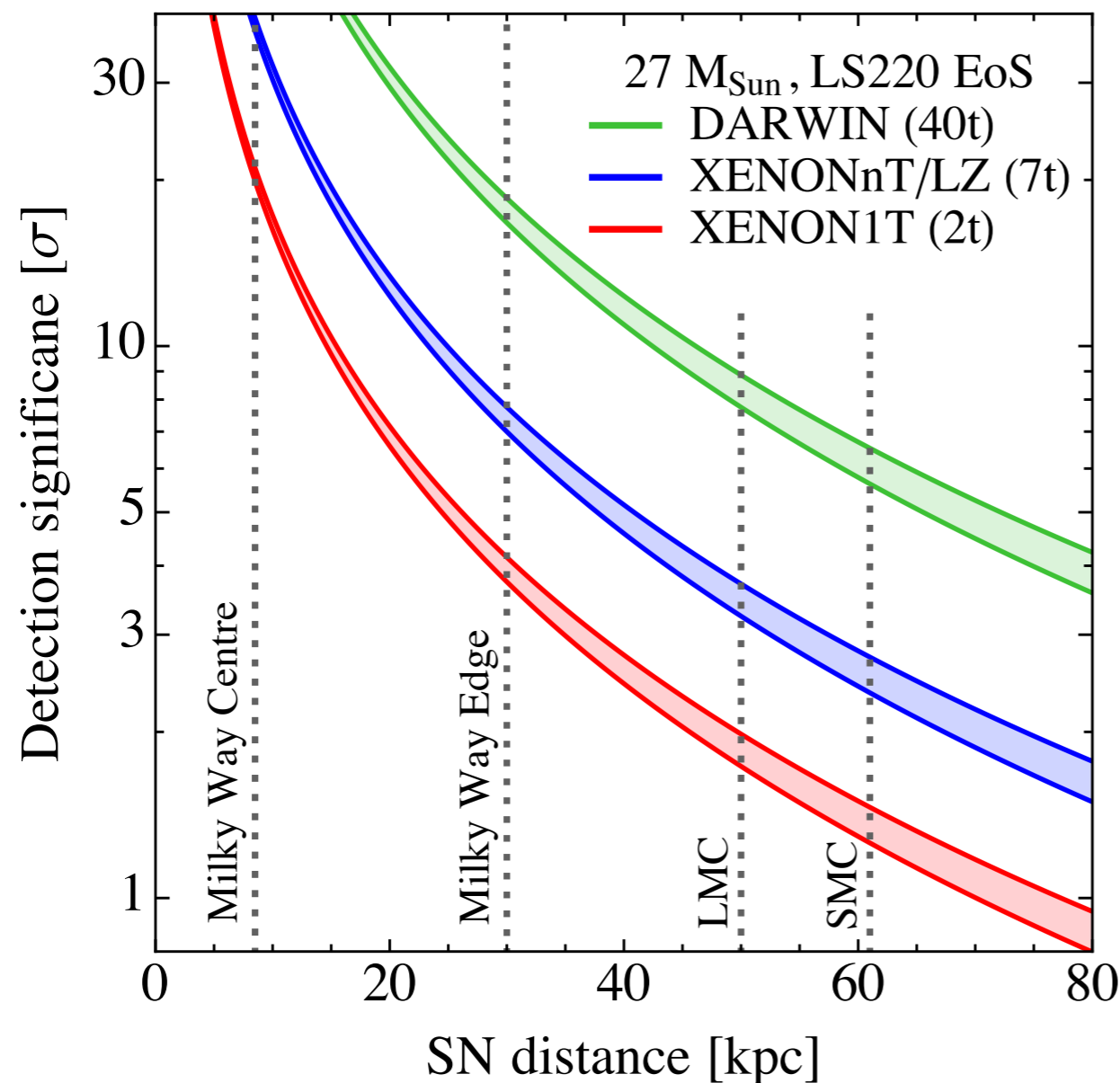
Events from a supernova burst at 10 kpc [arXiv:1310.5783](https://arxiv.org/abs/1310.5783)

Discovery significance

XENON1T: discovery to 20 kpc

XENONnT/LZ: discovery to Milky Way edge

DARWIN: discovery to Large/Small Magellanic Cloud



$$\text{XENON1T} : 35.2 \left(\frac{10 \text{ kpc}}{d} \right)^2 \text{ events}$$

$$\text{XENONnT/LZ} : 123 \left(\frac{10 \text{ kpc}}{d} \right)^2 \text{ events}$$

$$\text{DARWIN} : 704 \left(\frac{10 \text{ kpc}}{d} \right)^2 \text{ events}$$

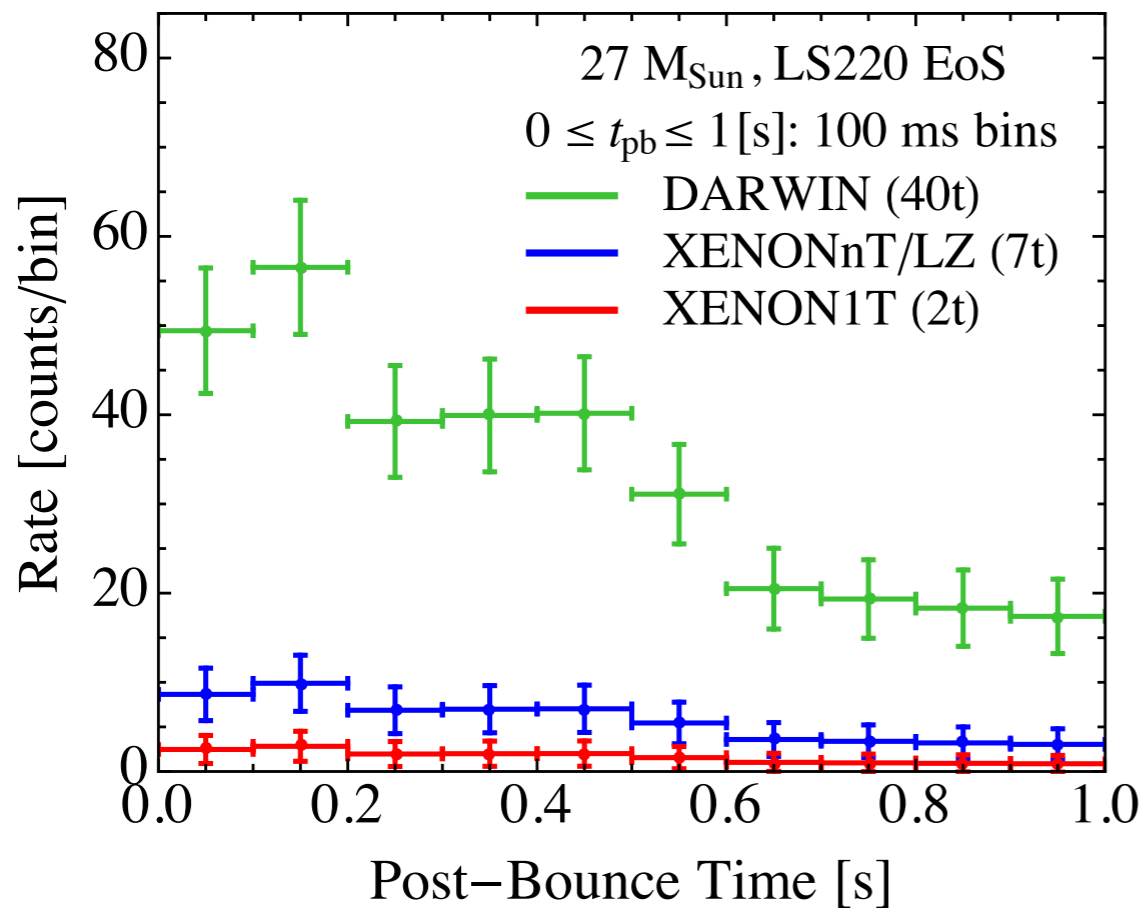
Background estimate (0.1 event/tonne)
from XENON10 & XENON100

Neutrino light curve

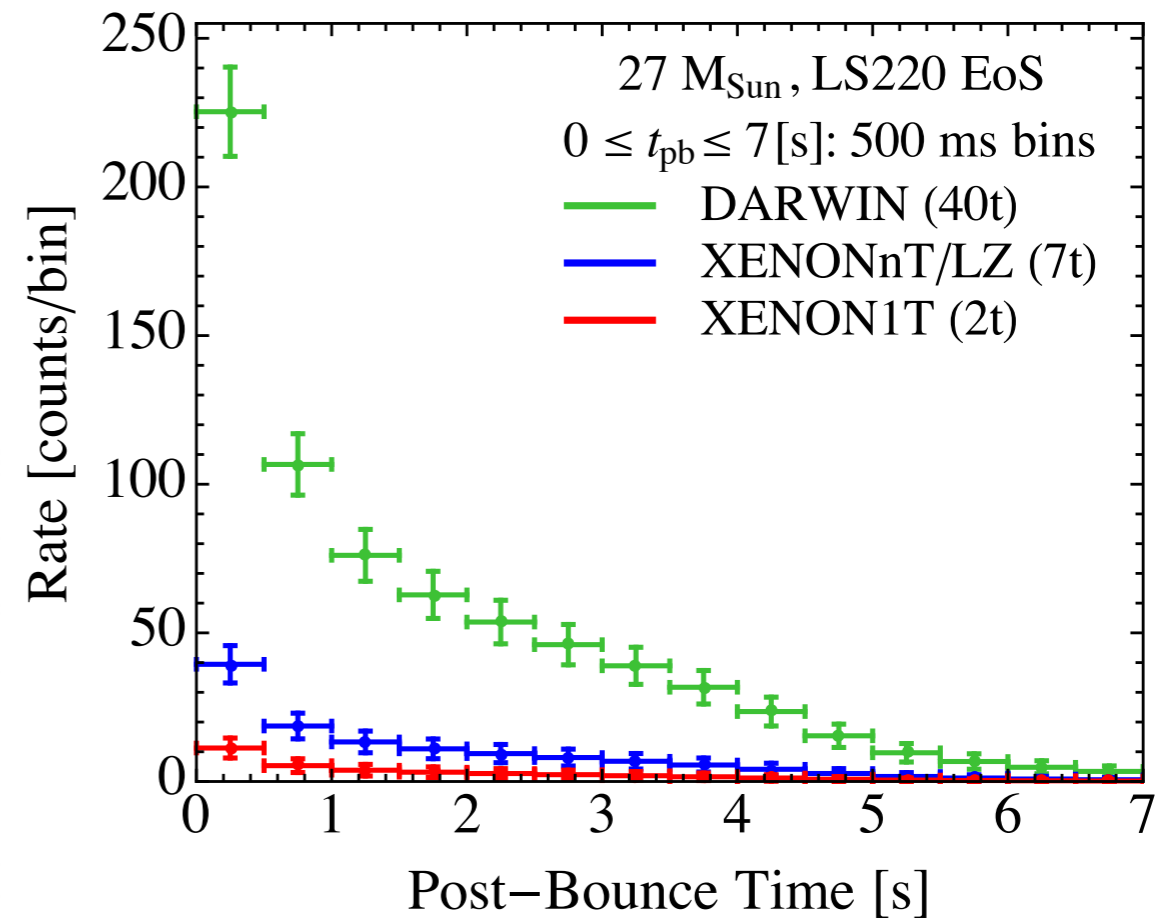
See also:
Chakraborty et al
1309.4492

- Distinguishing the phases of the (10 kpc) supernova neutrino emission

Accretion phase



Kelvin-Helmholtz cooling



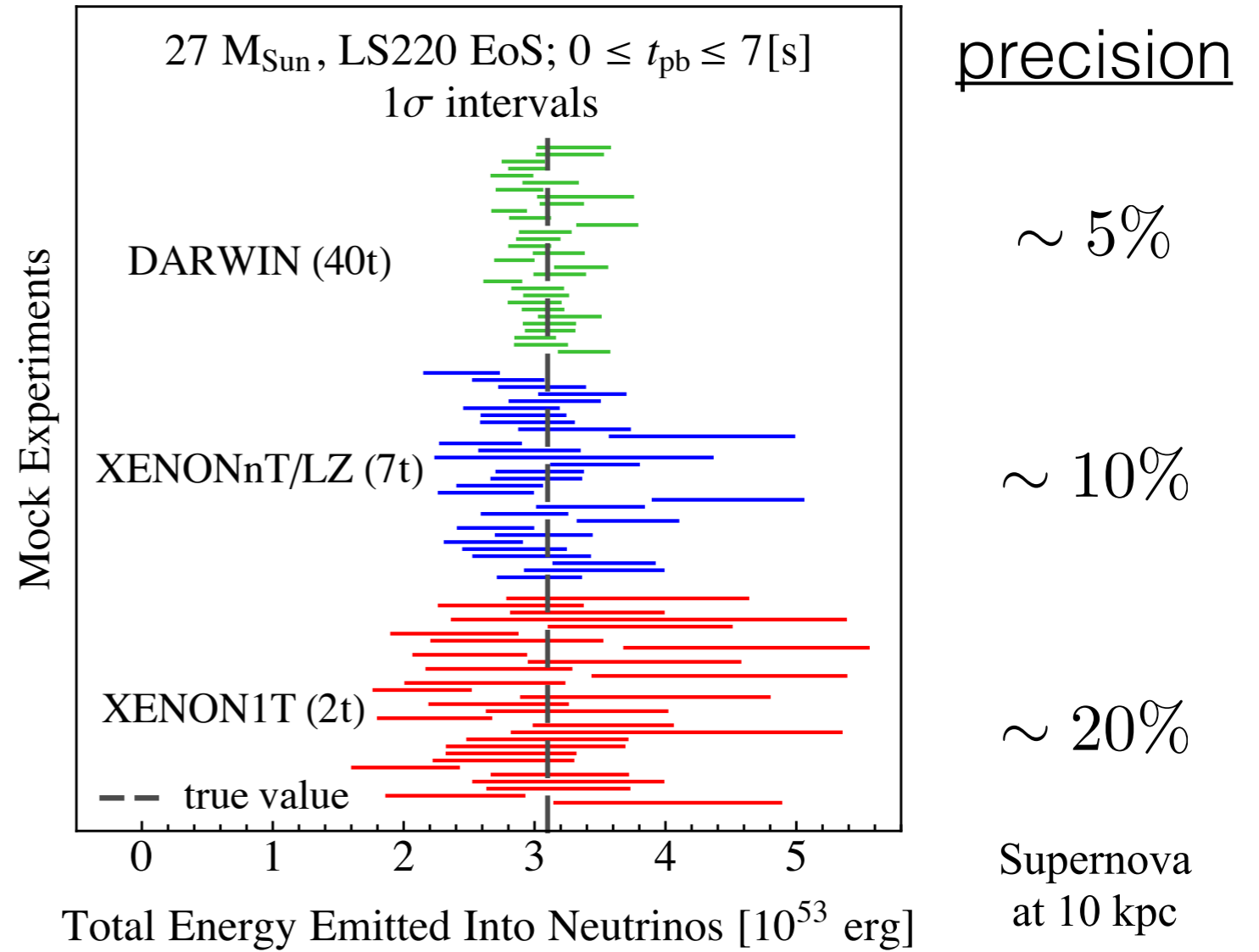
- Clear differentiation of phase with DARWIN
- Partial differential with XENONnT/LZ but none with XENON1T

Extracting physics from:

3. *the shape of the spectrum (measured S2 value)*

Energy released into neutrinos

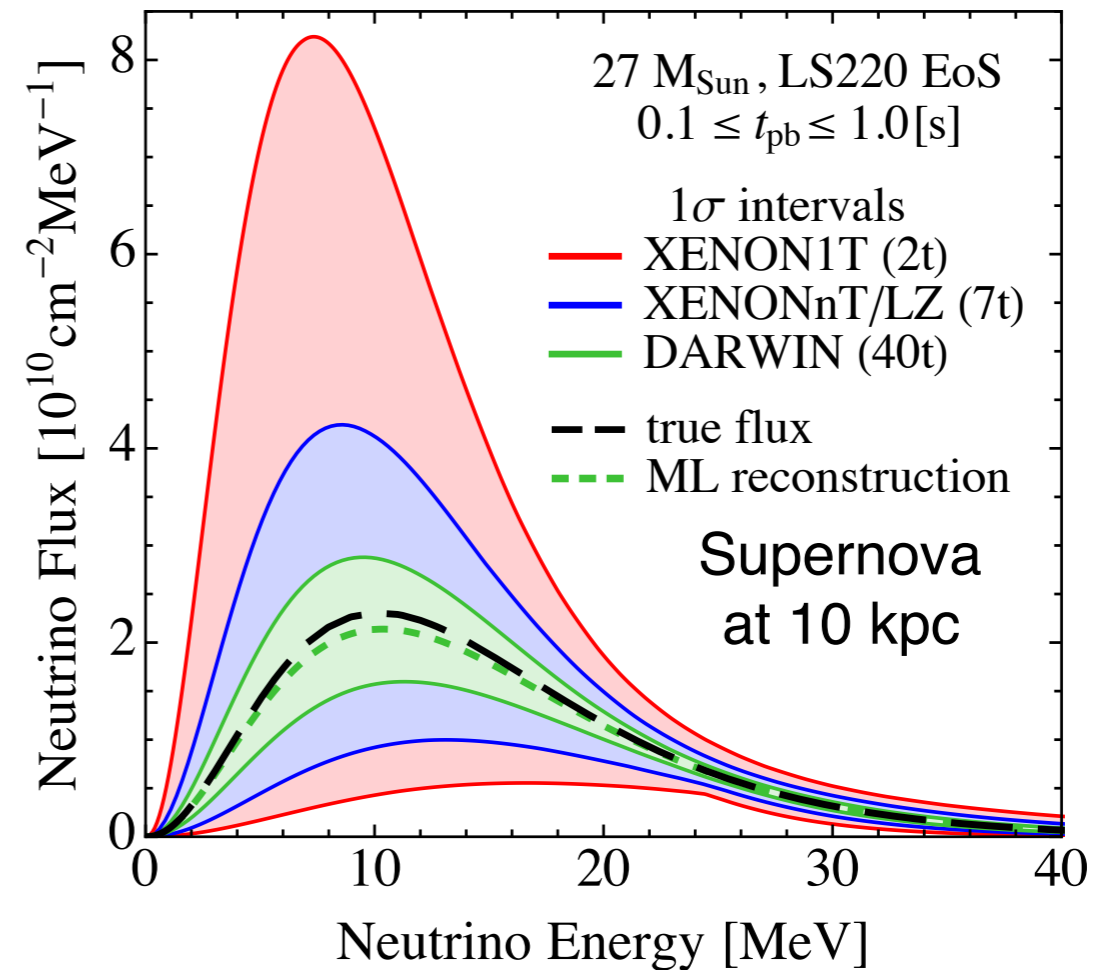
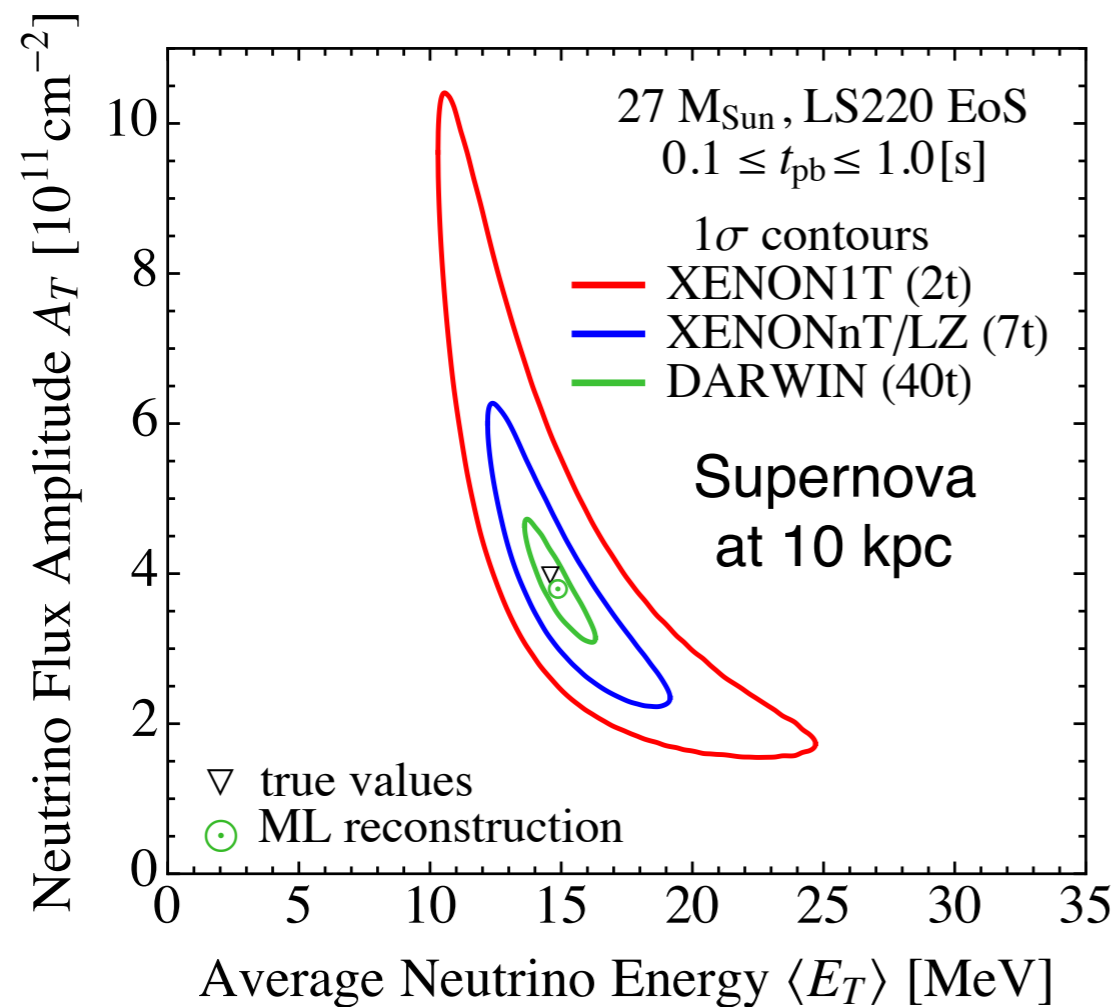
- Excellent reconstruction with DARWIN
- XENON1T also good



SN neutrino flux

- Flux parameterisation ansatz (motivated from simulations): Keil et al [0208035](#)

$$A_T \xi_T \left(\frac{E_\nu}{\langle E_T \rangle} \right)^{\alpha_T} \exp \left(\frac{-(1 + \alpha_T) E_\nu}{\langle E_T \rangle} \right) \text{ with } \alpha_T = 2.3, \langle E_T \rangle, A_T \text{ determined from fit}$$



SN neutrino summary

A xenon direct detection experiment:

1. **responds to all types of neutrinos equally**
2. **gains from a coherence factor** (neutron-number²)
3. **responds to neutrinos in a known way** (can infer incoming neutrino spectrum)

For a SN at 10 kpc from Earth:

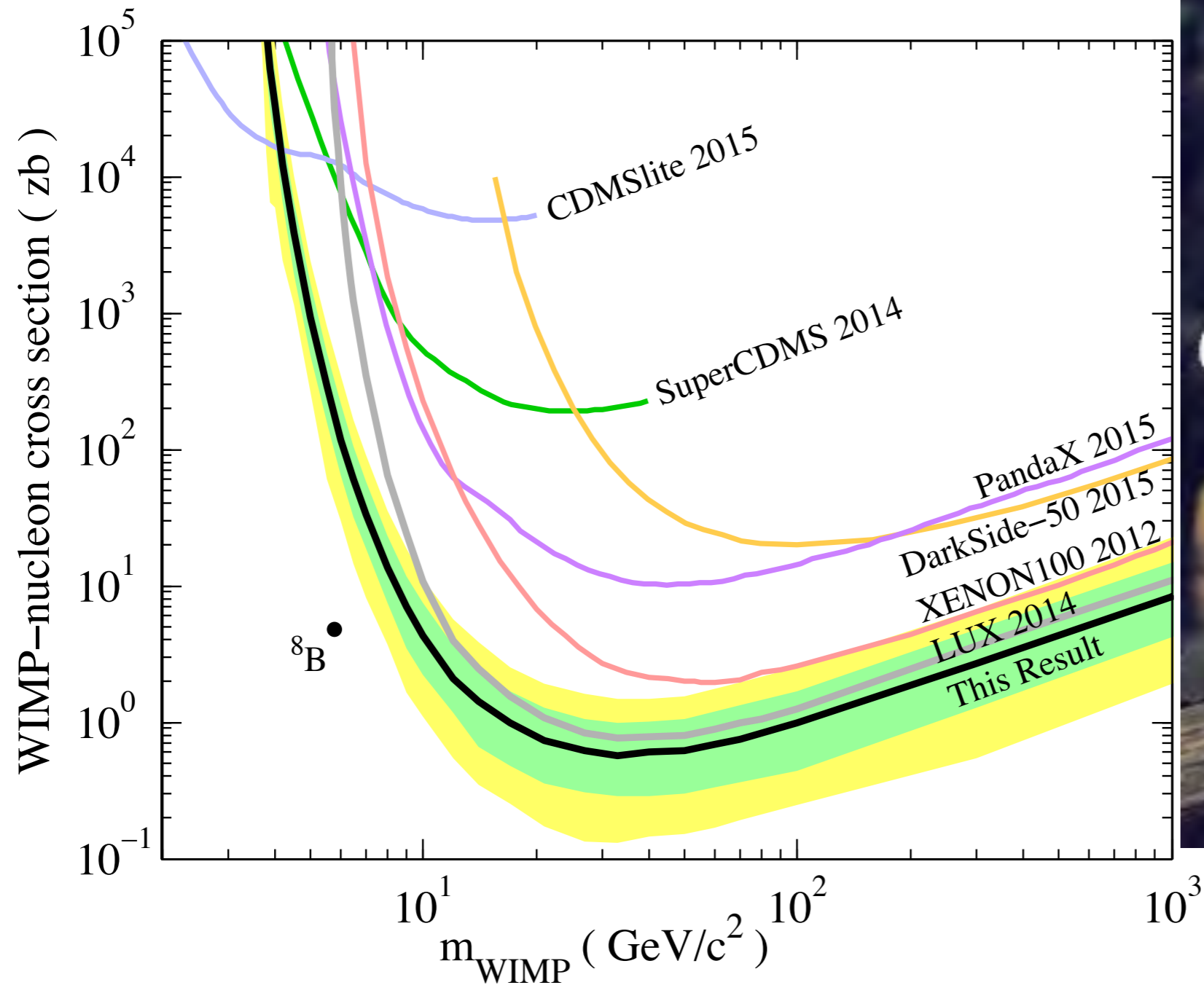
(SN at 2.2 kpc in XENON1T = SN at 10 kpc in DARWIN)

	High significance discovery	Light curve reconstruction	Total nu-energy reconstruction	nu-spectrum reconstruction
XENON1T (2t)	✓	X	~	~
XENONnT/LZ (7t)	✓	~ X	✓	~ ✓
DARWIN (40t)	✓	✓	✓	✓

New low energy signals:
2. Sub-GeV dark matter

Motivation

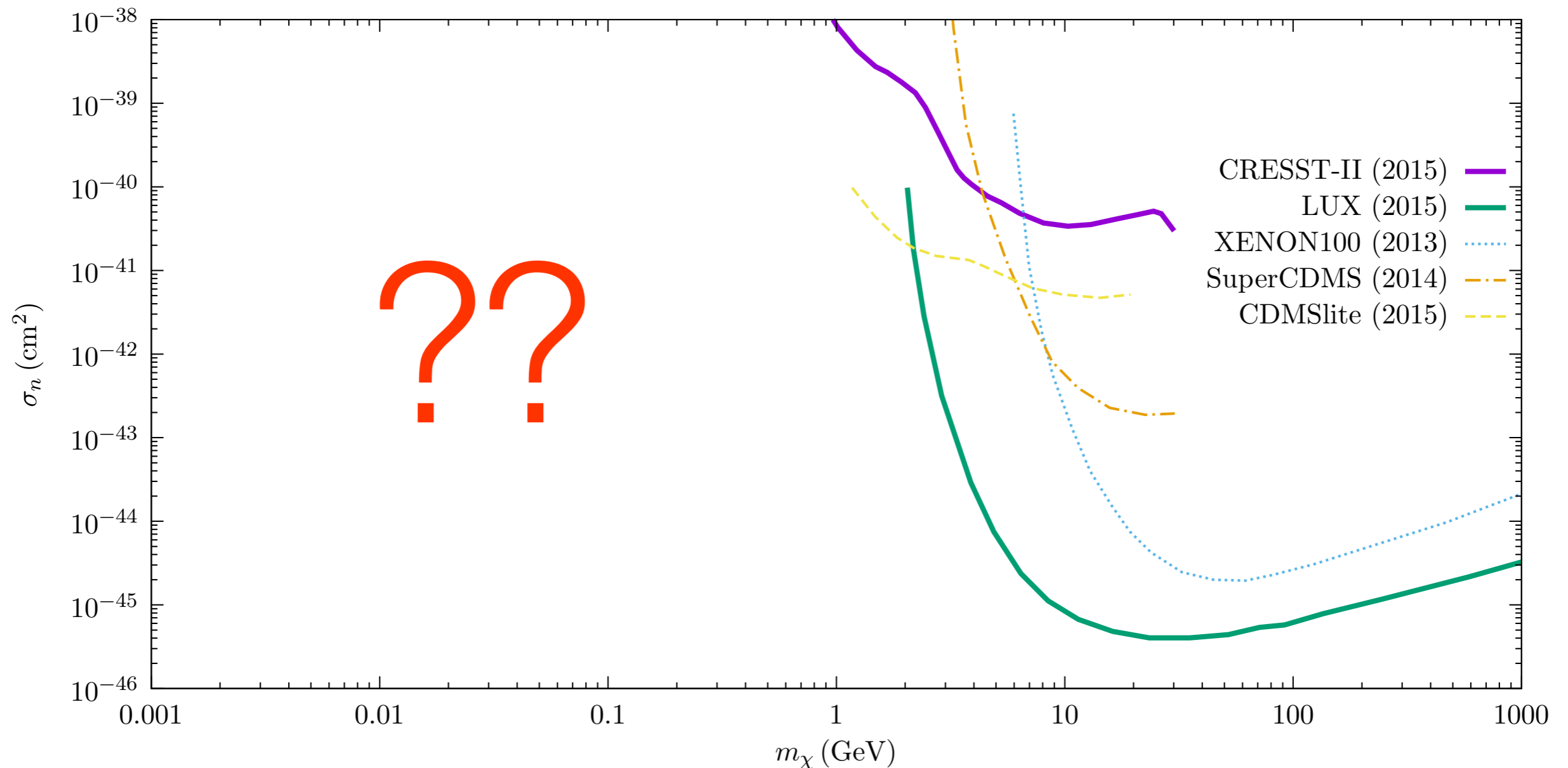
Detecting dark matter is hard



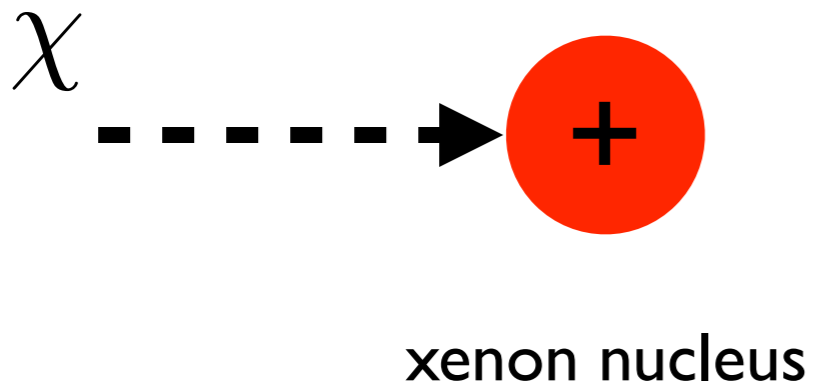
Motivation

Detecting dark matter is hard

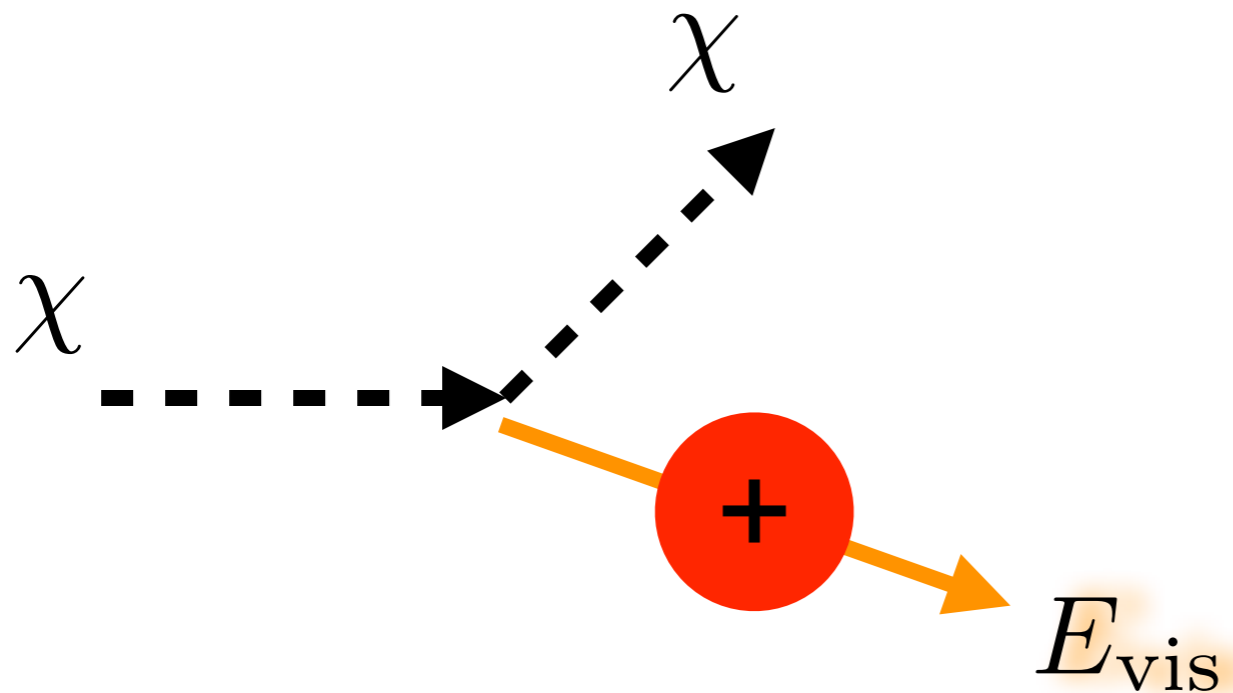
Detecting sub-GeV dark matter is even harder



Normal signal



Normal signal

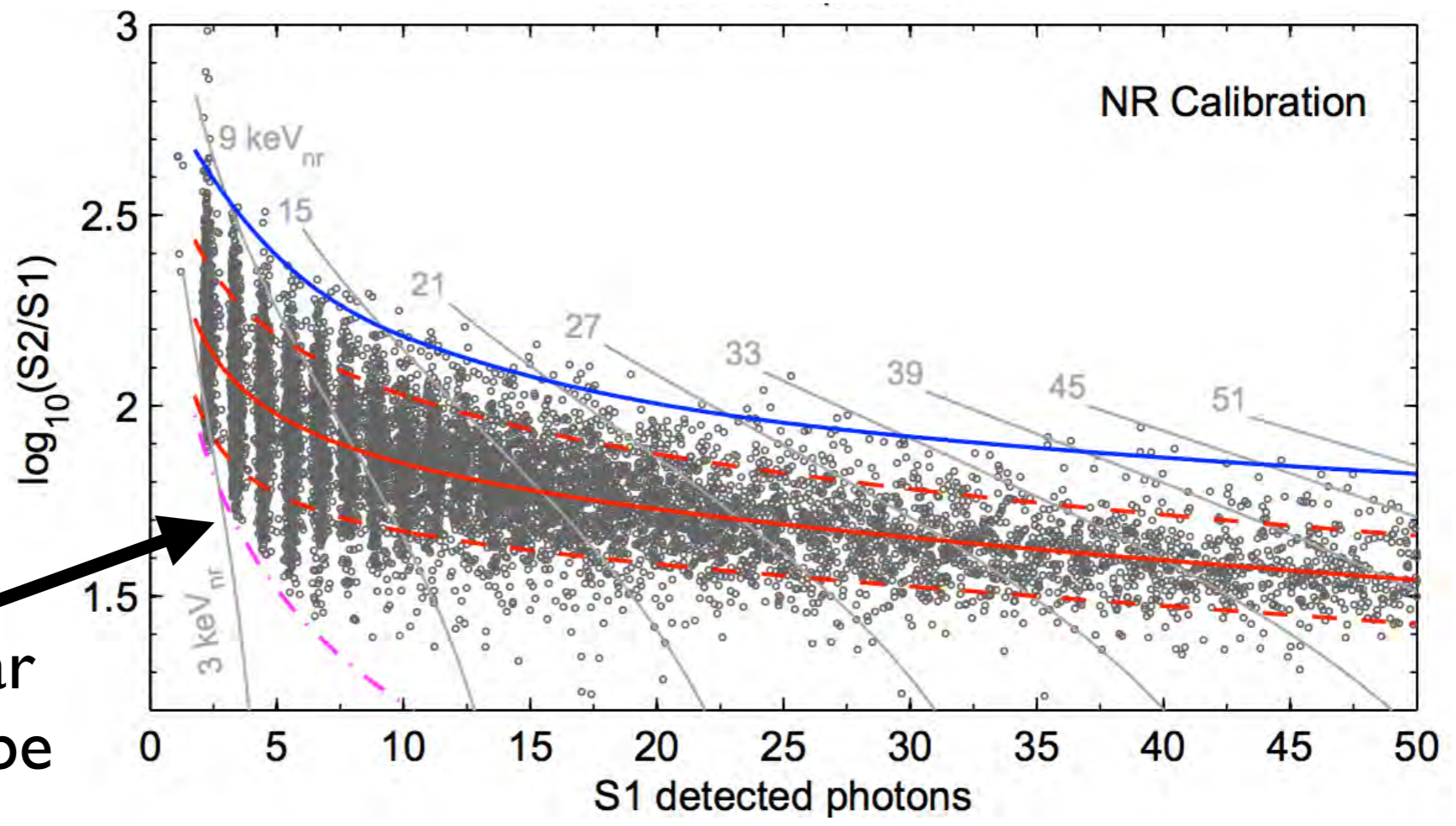
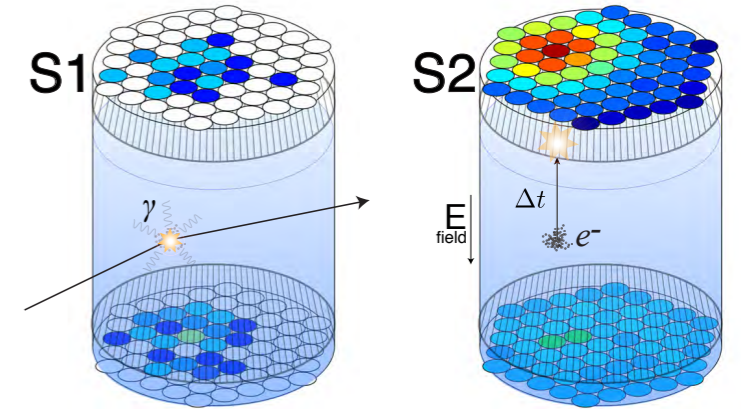


measure recoil energy
of the xenon nucleus

$$E_{\text{R}}^{\text{max}} \approx 0.1 \text{ keV} \\ \times (131/A) (m_{\text{DM}}/1 \text{ GeV})^2$$

keV nuclear recoils in LUX

$$E_R^{\max} \approx 0.1 \text{ keV} \cdot (m_{\text{DM}}/1 \text{ GeV})^2$$

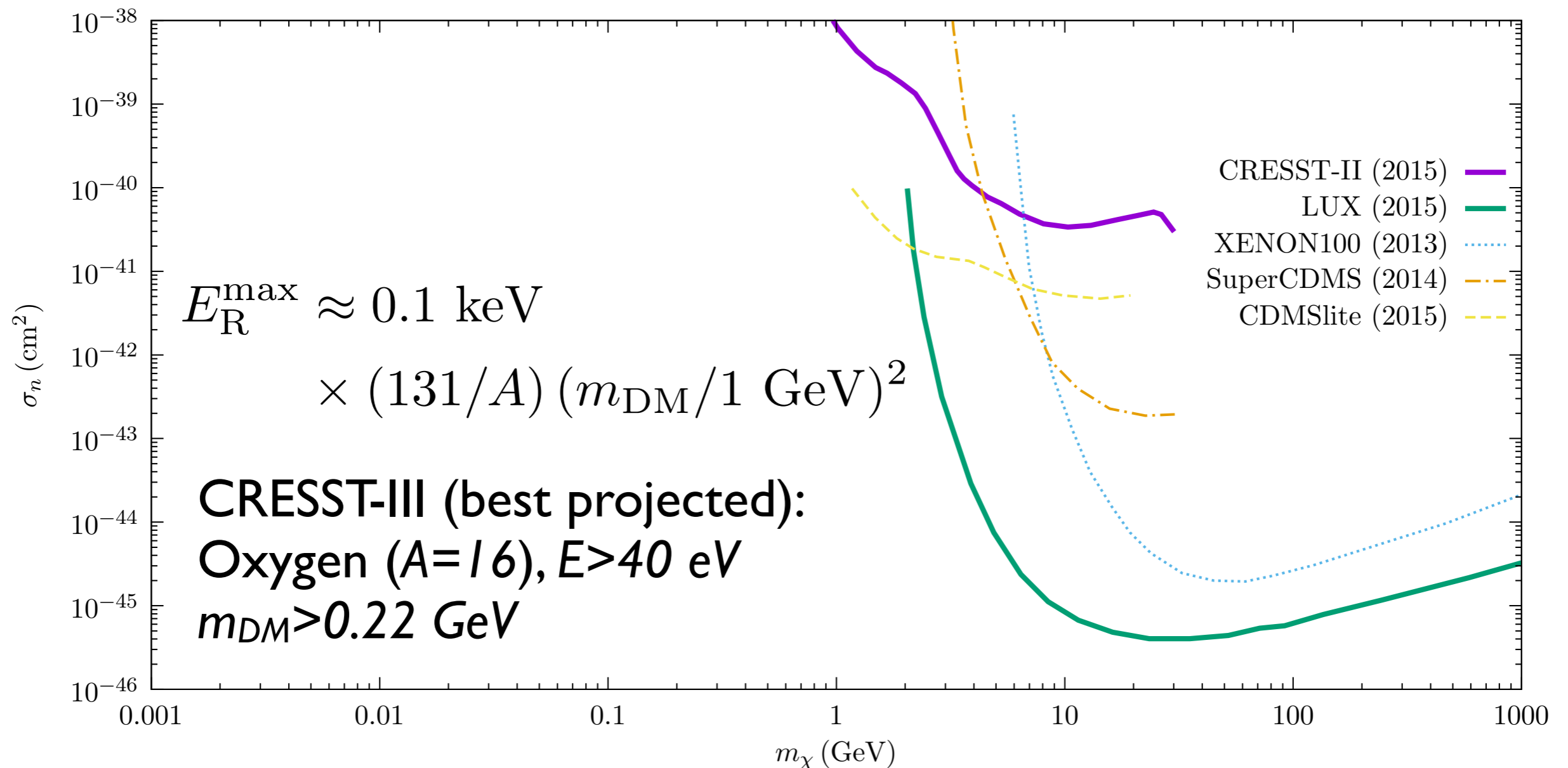


sub- keV nuclear recoils will not be detected

Not enough energy to produce a signal

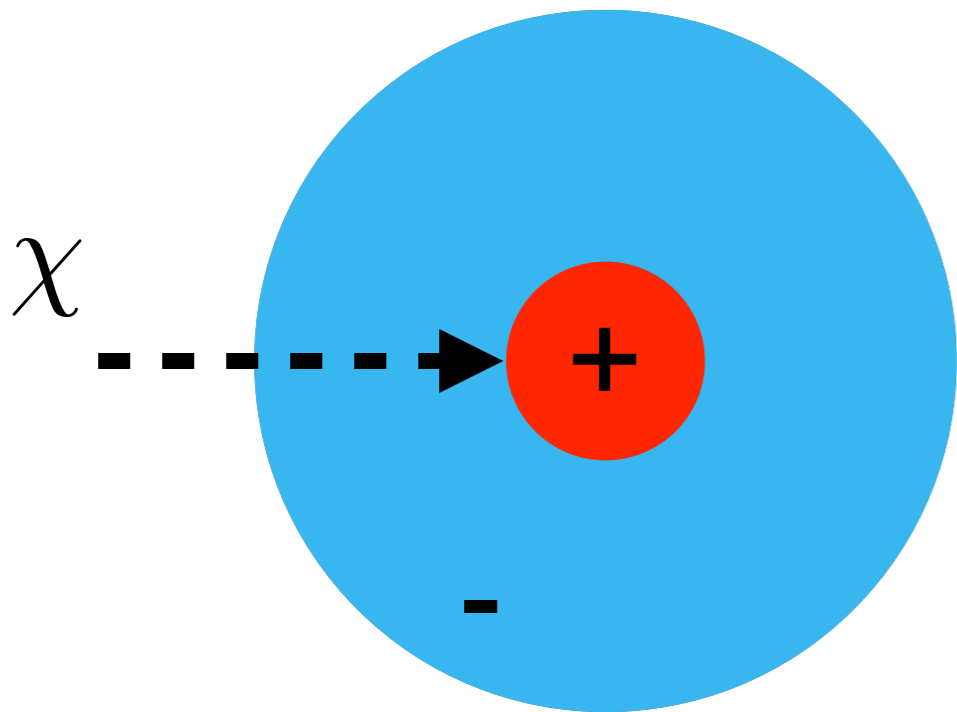
Detecting dark matter is hard

Detecting sub-GeV dark matter is even harder



A new idea

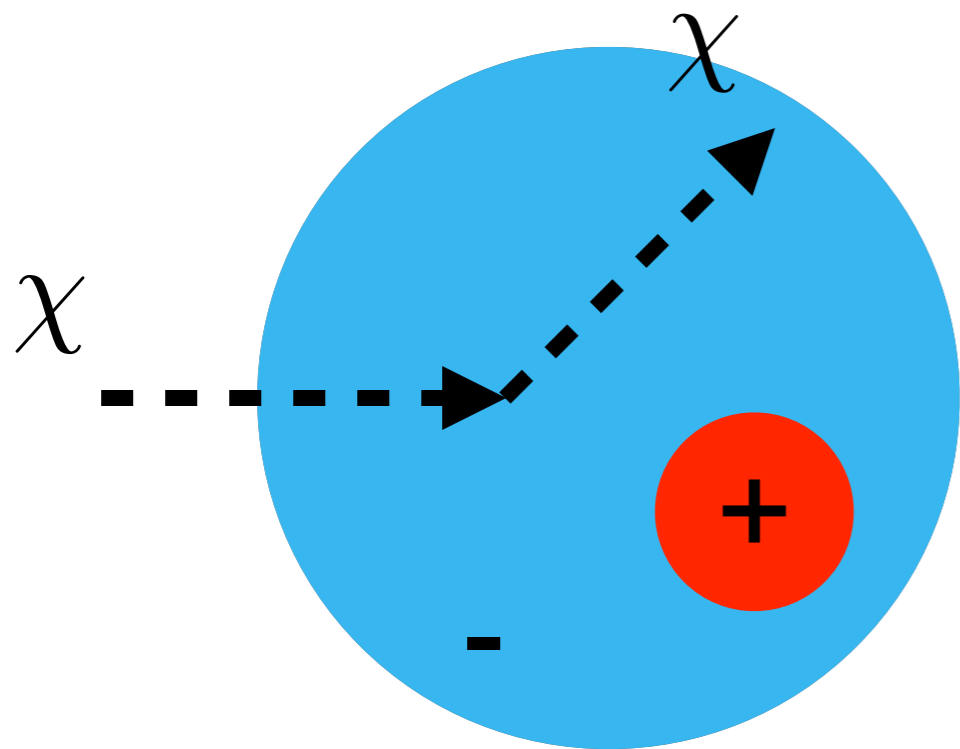
Kouvaris & Pradler: 1607.01789, PRL



xenon atom
(ground state)

A new idea

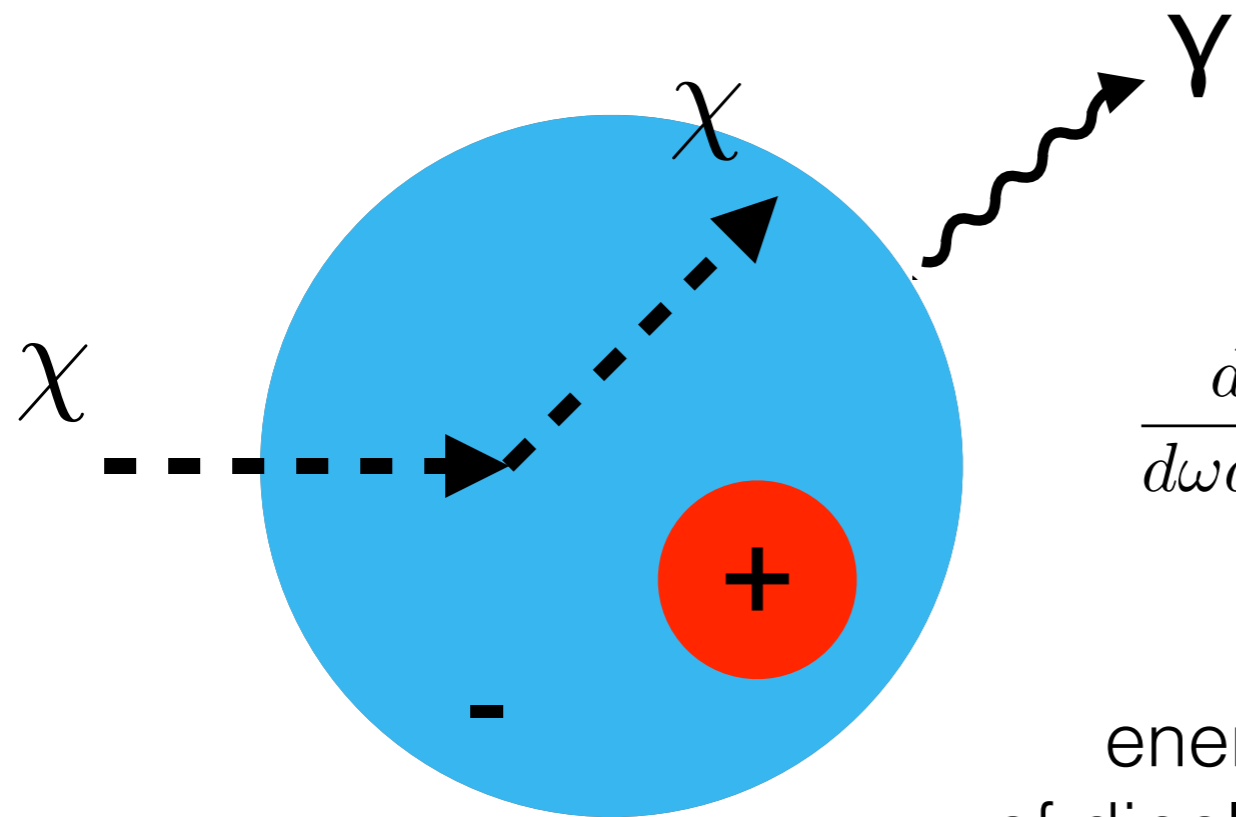
Kouvaris & Pradler: 1607.01789, PRL



xenon atom
(polarised)

A new idea

Kouvaris & Pradler: 1607.01789, PRL



Polarised atom
emits a photon

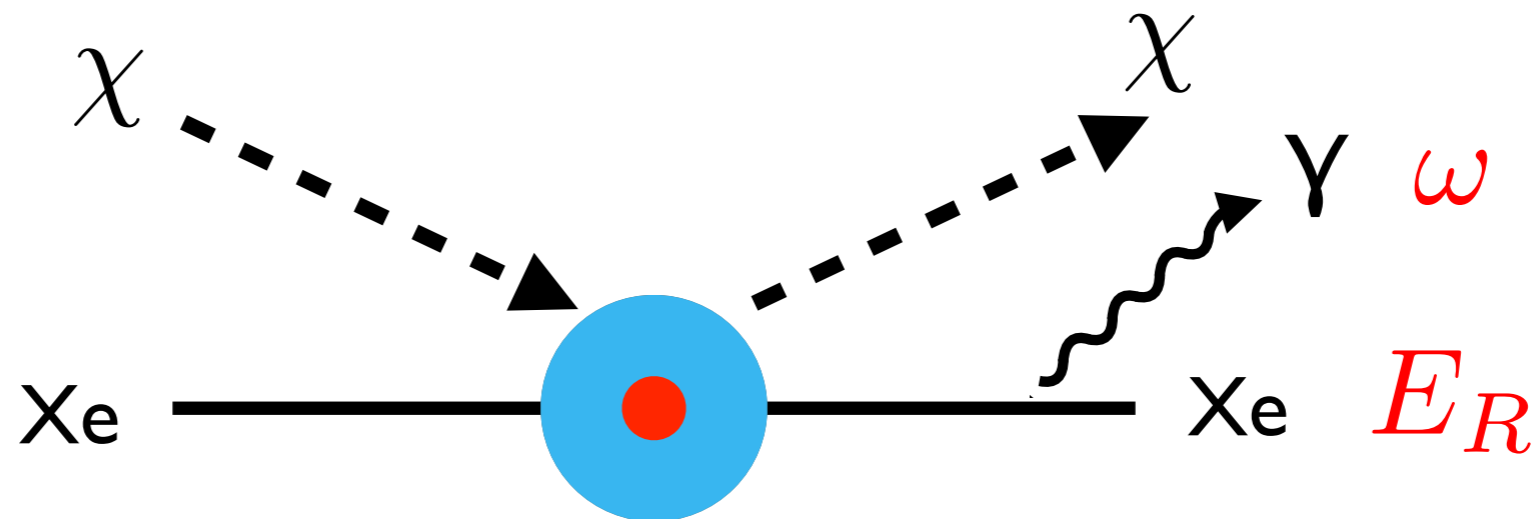
$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\omega dE_R} \propto \omega^3 \times |\alpha(\omega)|^2 \times \frac{E_R}{m_N} \times \frac{d\sigma}{dE_R}$$

energy scaling
of dipole emission

polarizability of the atom

A new idea: why is it interesting?

Kouvaris & Pradler: 1607.01789, PRL



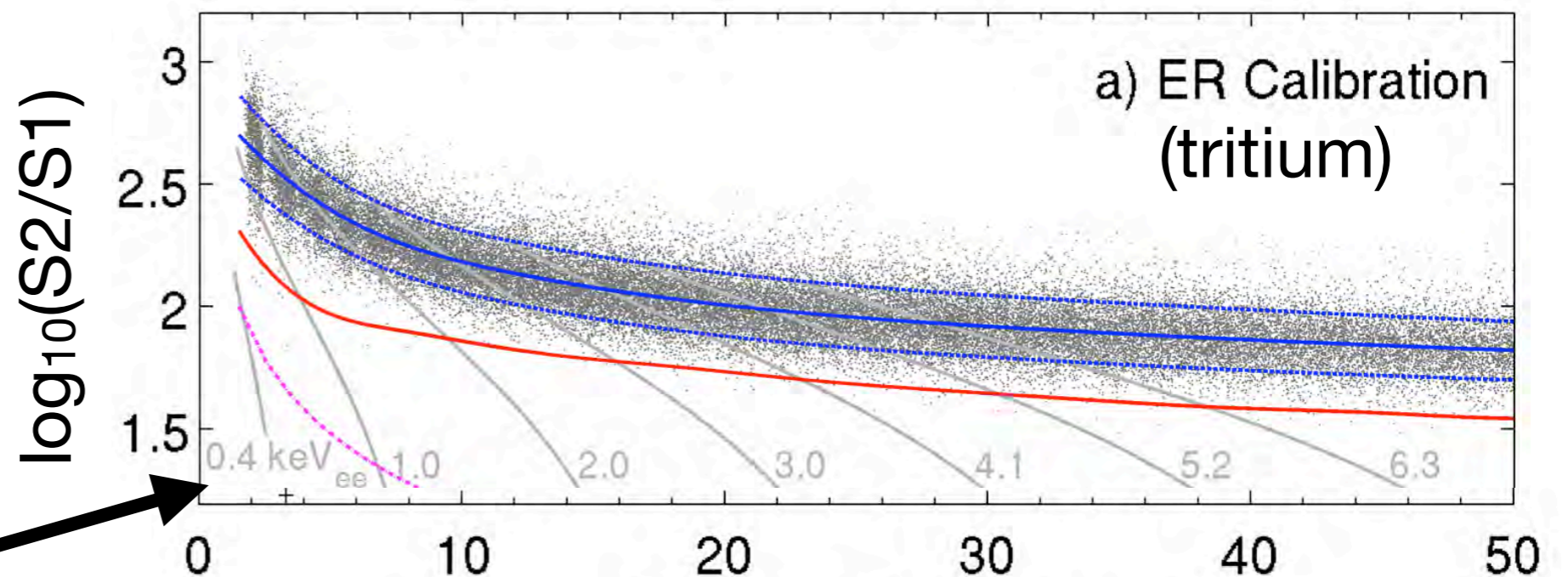
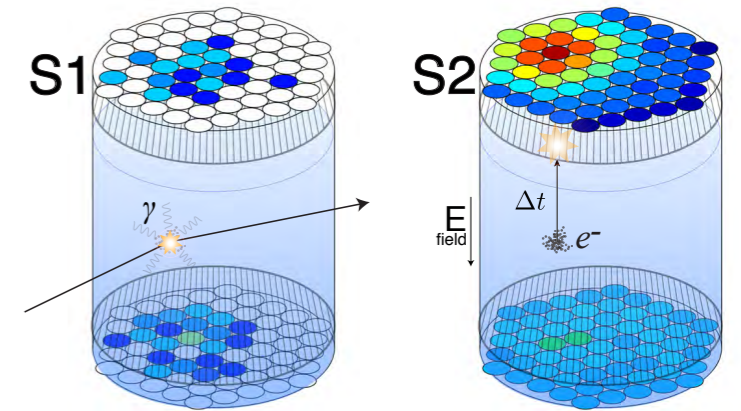
Maximum photon energy:

$$\omega^{\max} \approx 3 \text{ keV} \cdot (m_{\text{DM}}/1 \text{ GeV})$$

Maximum nuclear recoil energy: $E_R^{\max} \approx 0.1 \text{ keV}$
 $\times (131/A) (m_{\text{DM}}/1 \text{ GeV})^2$

keV photons in LUX

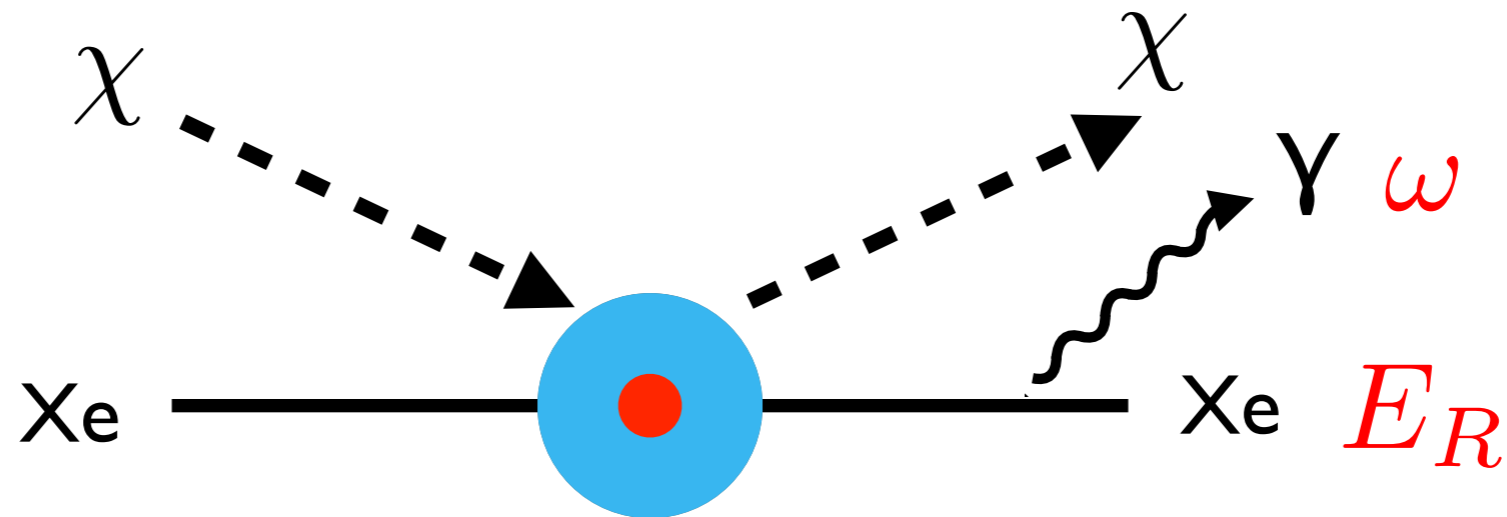
$$\omega^{\text{max}} \approx 3 \text{ keV} \cdot (m_{\text{DM}}/1 \text{ GeV})$$



keV photons
will be detected

S1 (detected photons)

What's the catch?

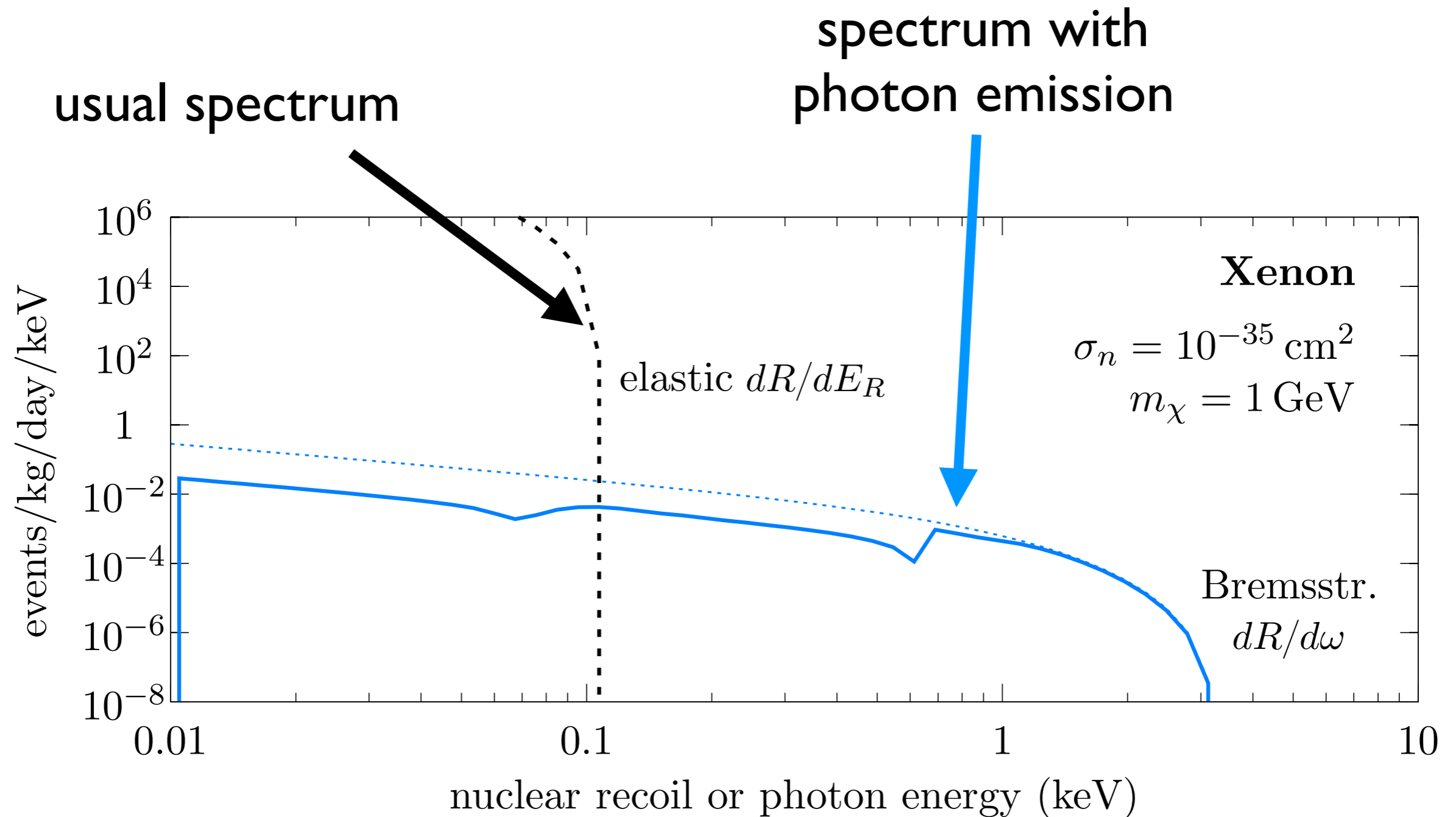


$$\frac{d\sigma}{dE_R d\omega} = \frac{4Z^2 \alpha}{3\pi} \frac{1}{\omega} \frac{E_R}{m_N} \times \frac{d\sigma}{dE_R} \Theta(\omega - \omega_{\max})$$

Price to pay

$$\simeq \frac{7 \times 10^{-8}}{\omega} \left(\frac{E_R}{1 \text{ keV}} \right) \times \frac{d\sigma}{dE_R} \quad (\text{Xenon})$$

Energy spectrum



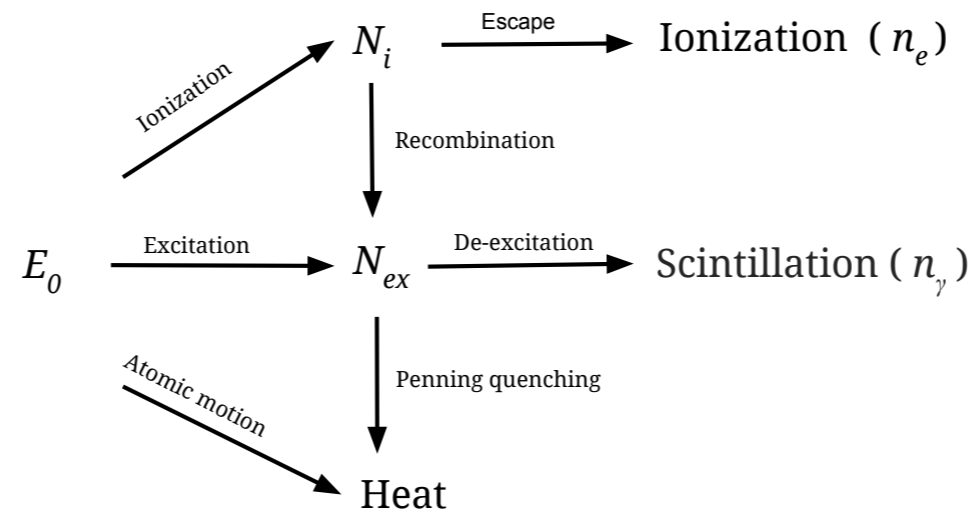
Setting limits with LUX

1. Calculate the number of expected events (the efficiency)
2. Calculate what they would observe in the S1-S2 plane

I. Expected number of events (efficiency)

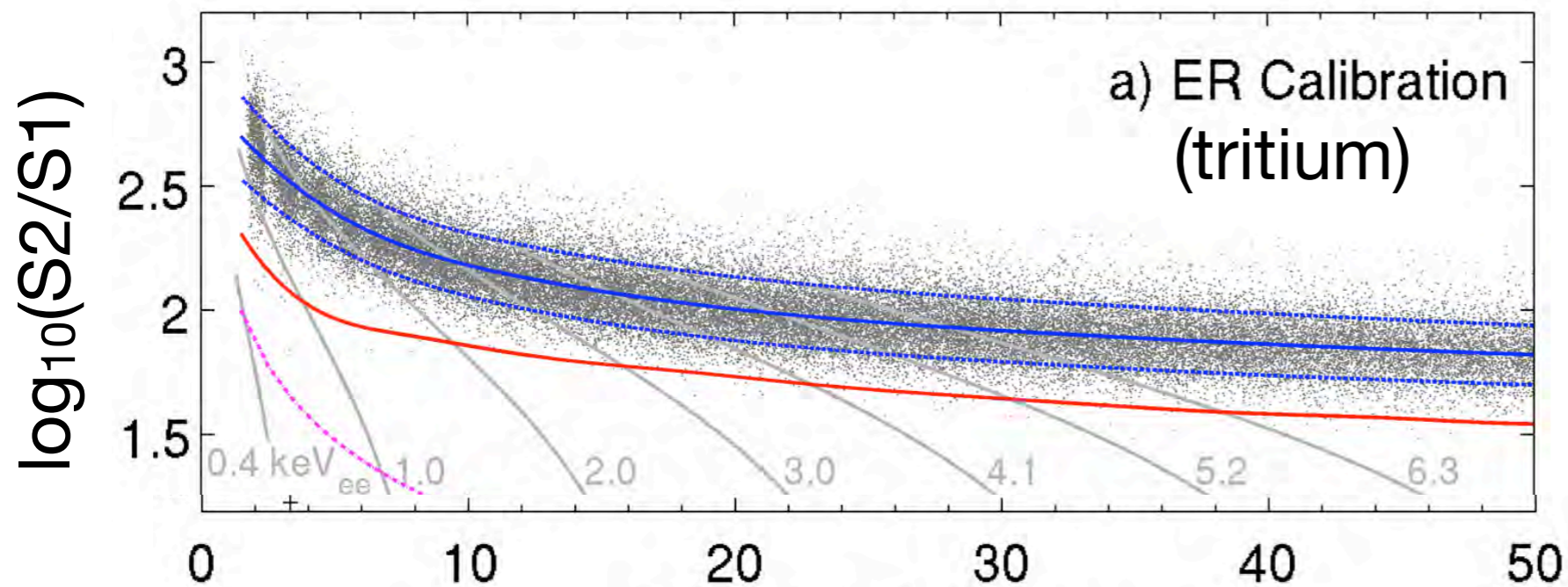
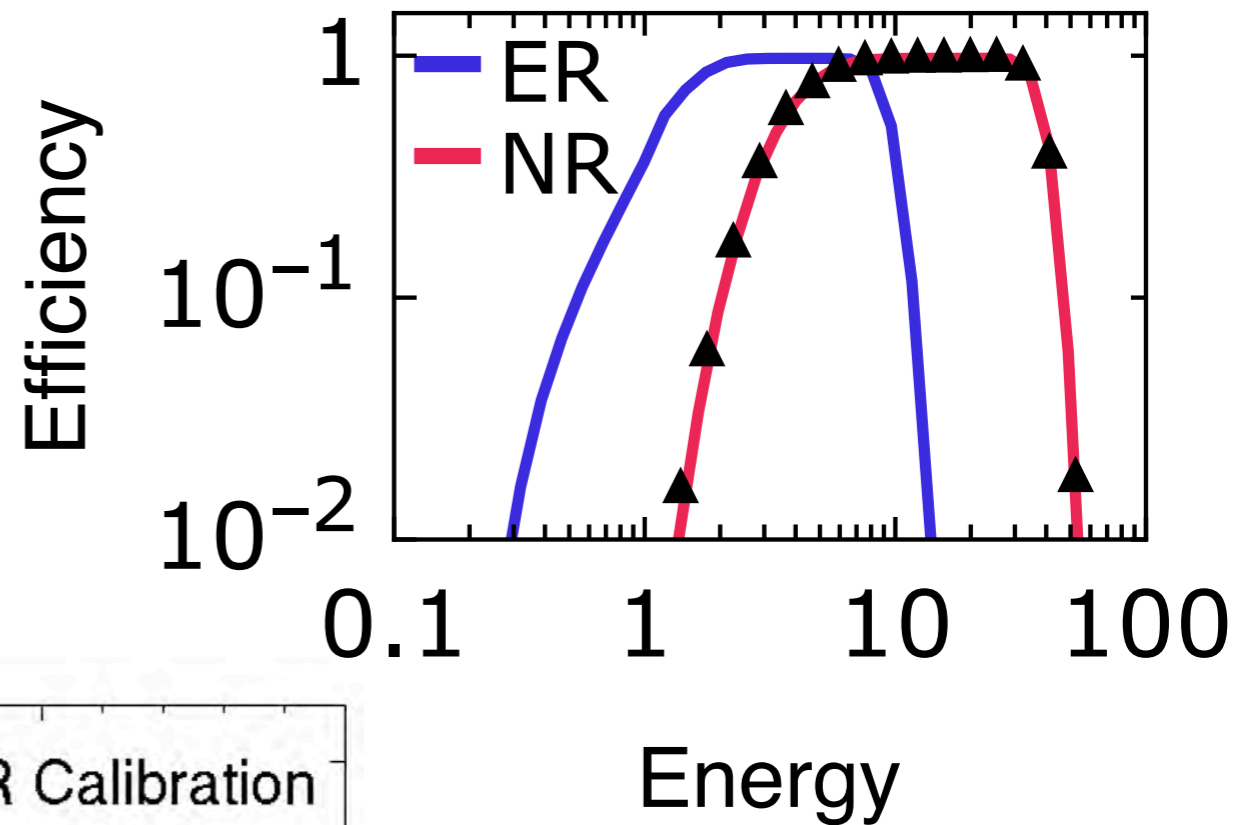
Detector response: Ask me afterwards...

Nuclear recoil energy transferred to photons, electrons or heat



I. Expected number of events (efficiency)

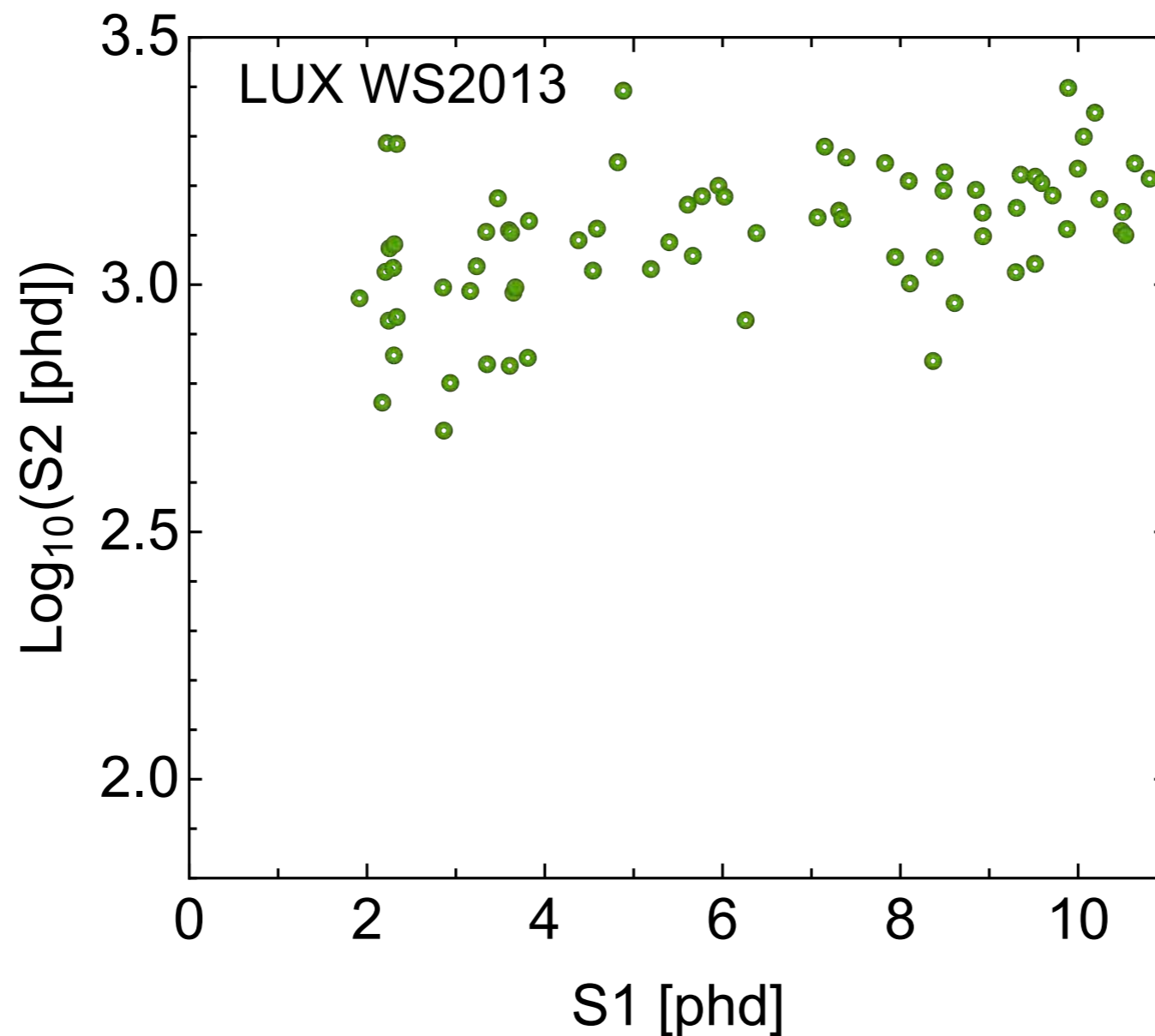
$$\omega^{\max} \approx 3 \text{ keV} \cdot (m_{\text{DM}}/1 \text{ GeV})$$



S1 (detected photons)

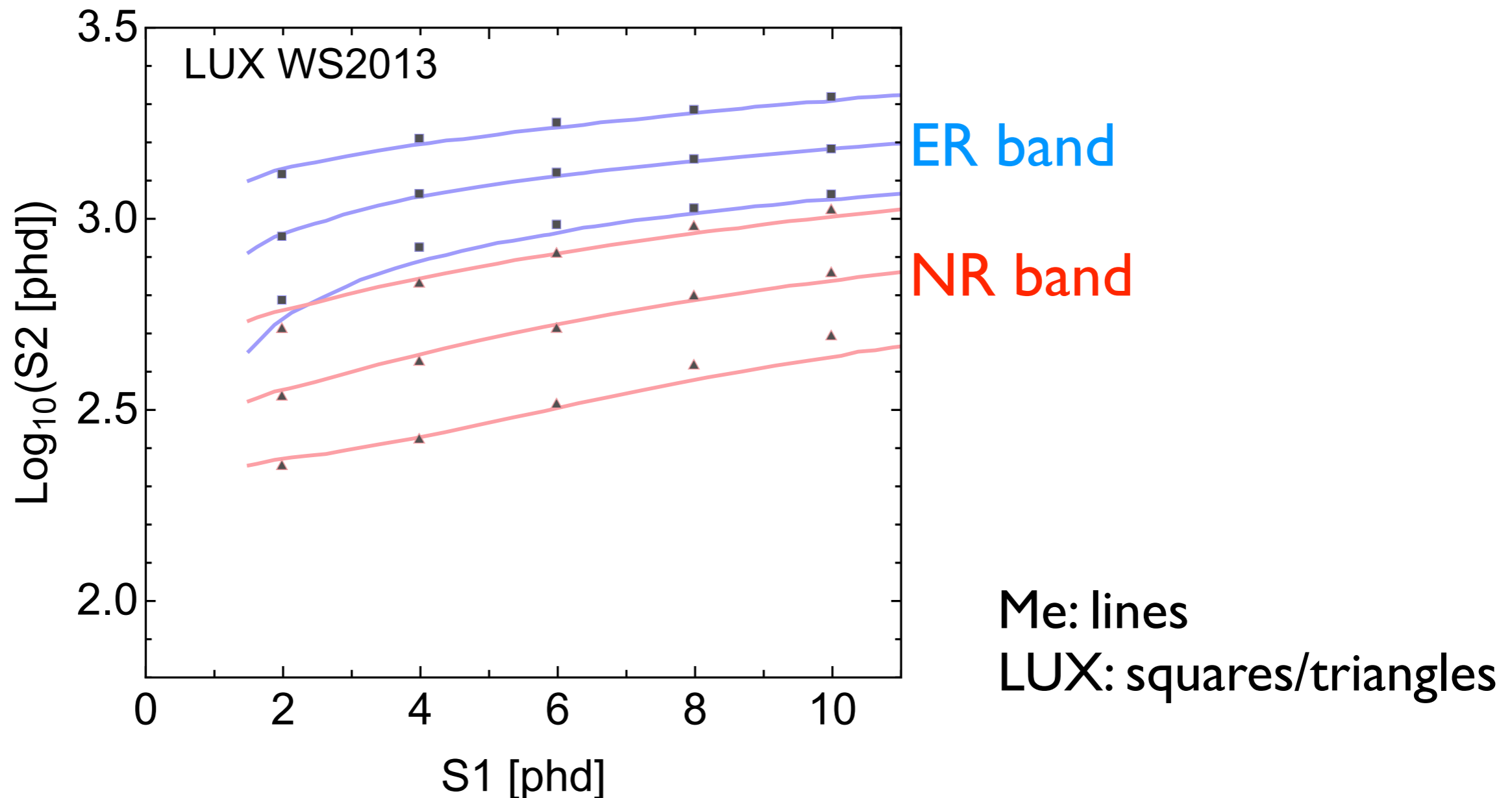
2. Signal in the S1-S2 plane

What LUX measured:



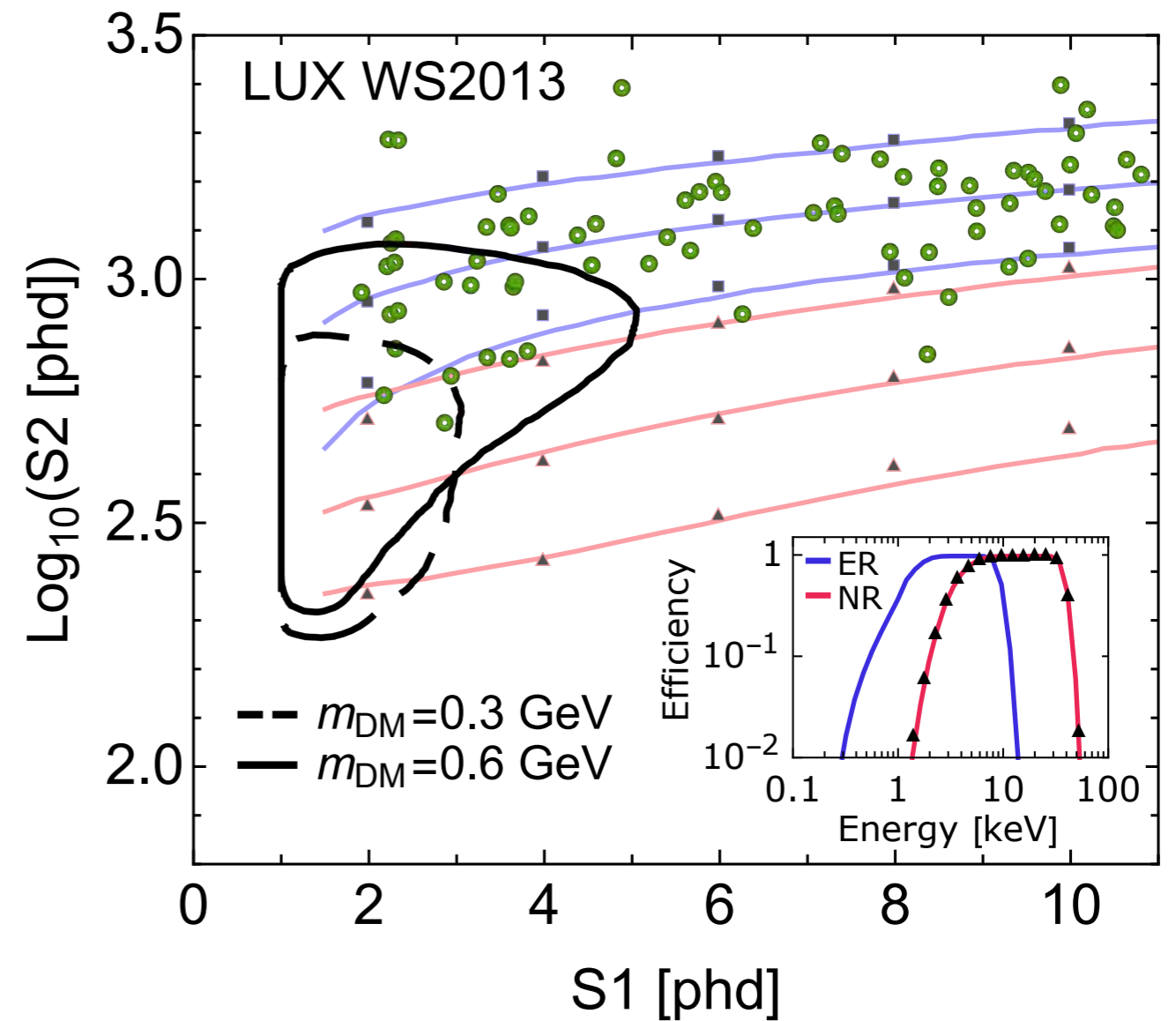
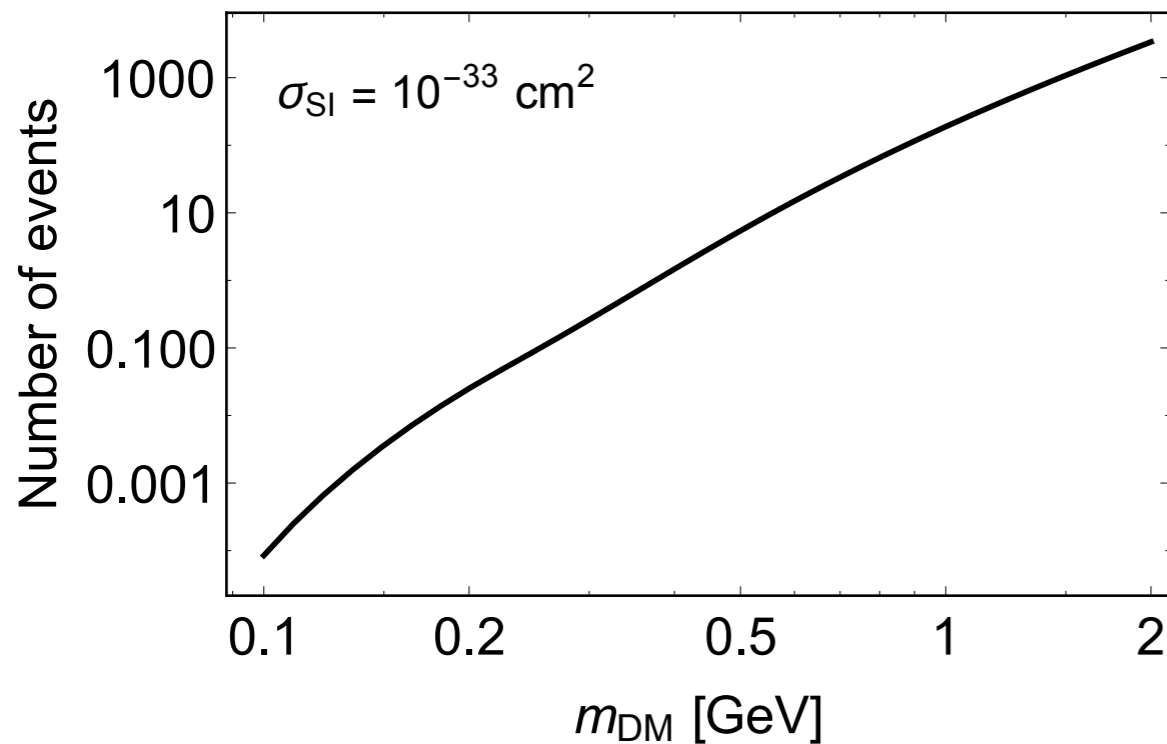
2. Calculate what they would observe in the S1-S2 plane

Reproduce ER and NR bands:

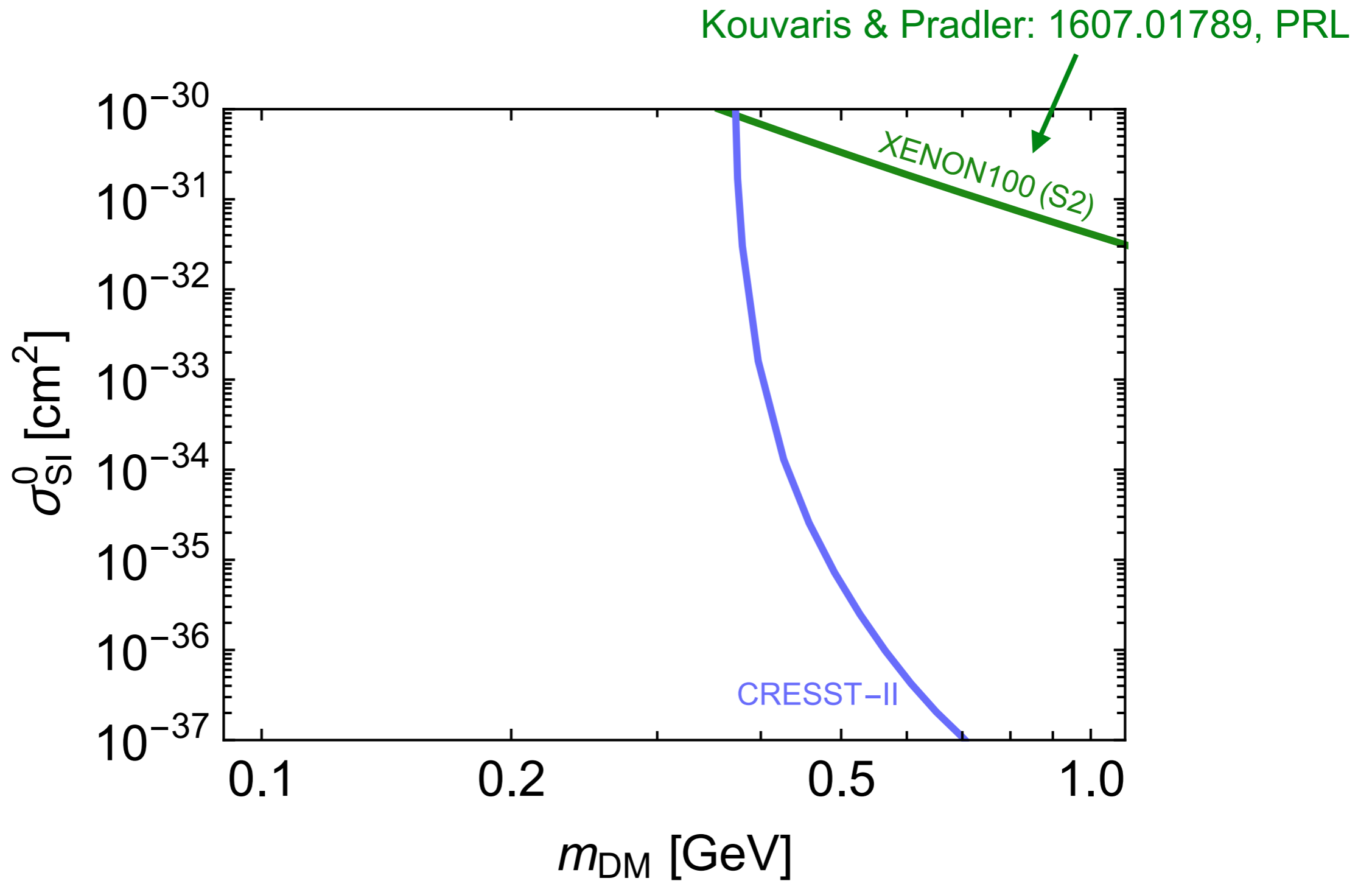


2. Calculate what they would observe in the S1-S2 plane

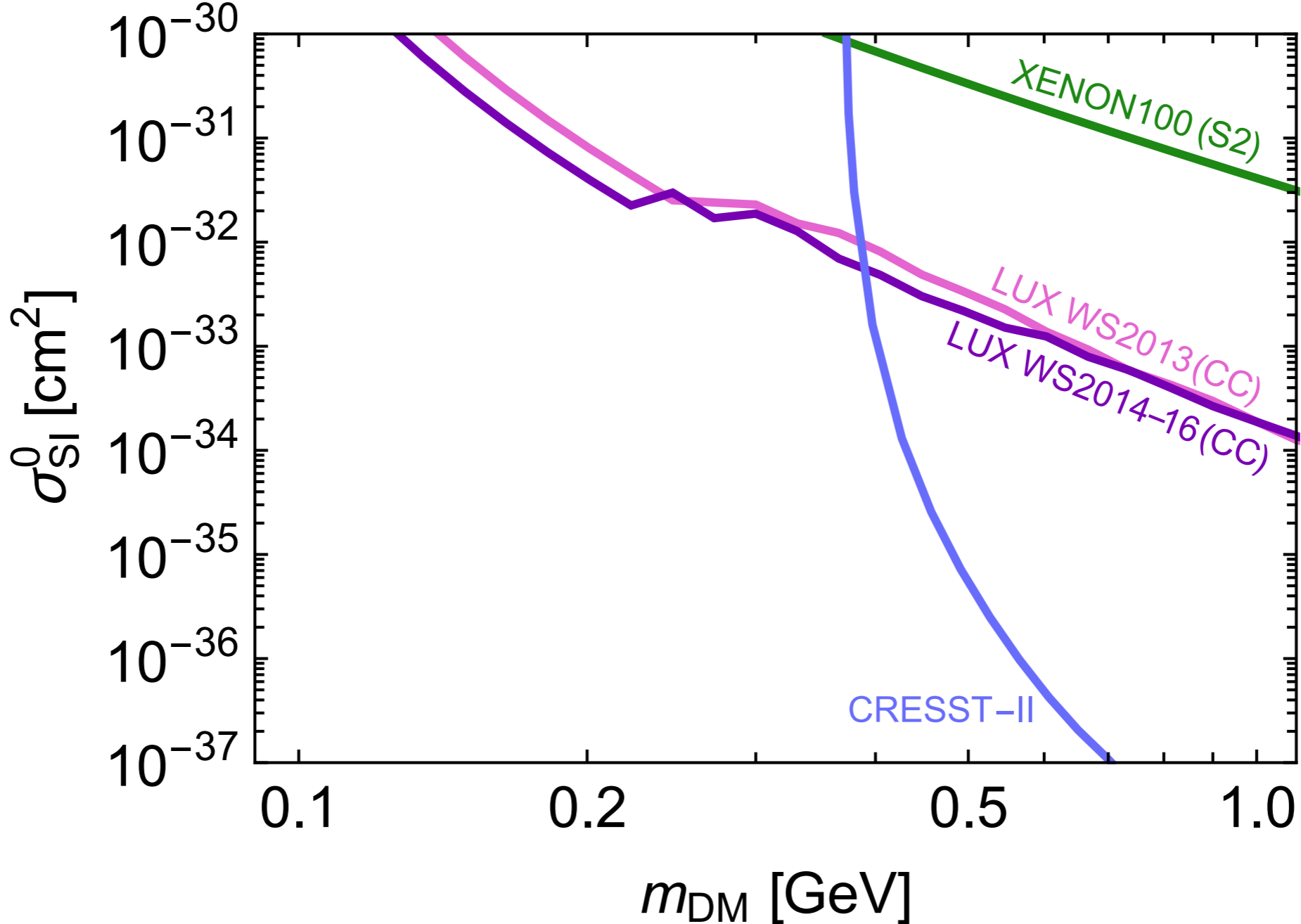
All together:



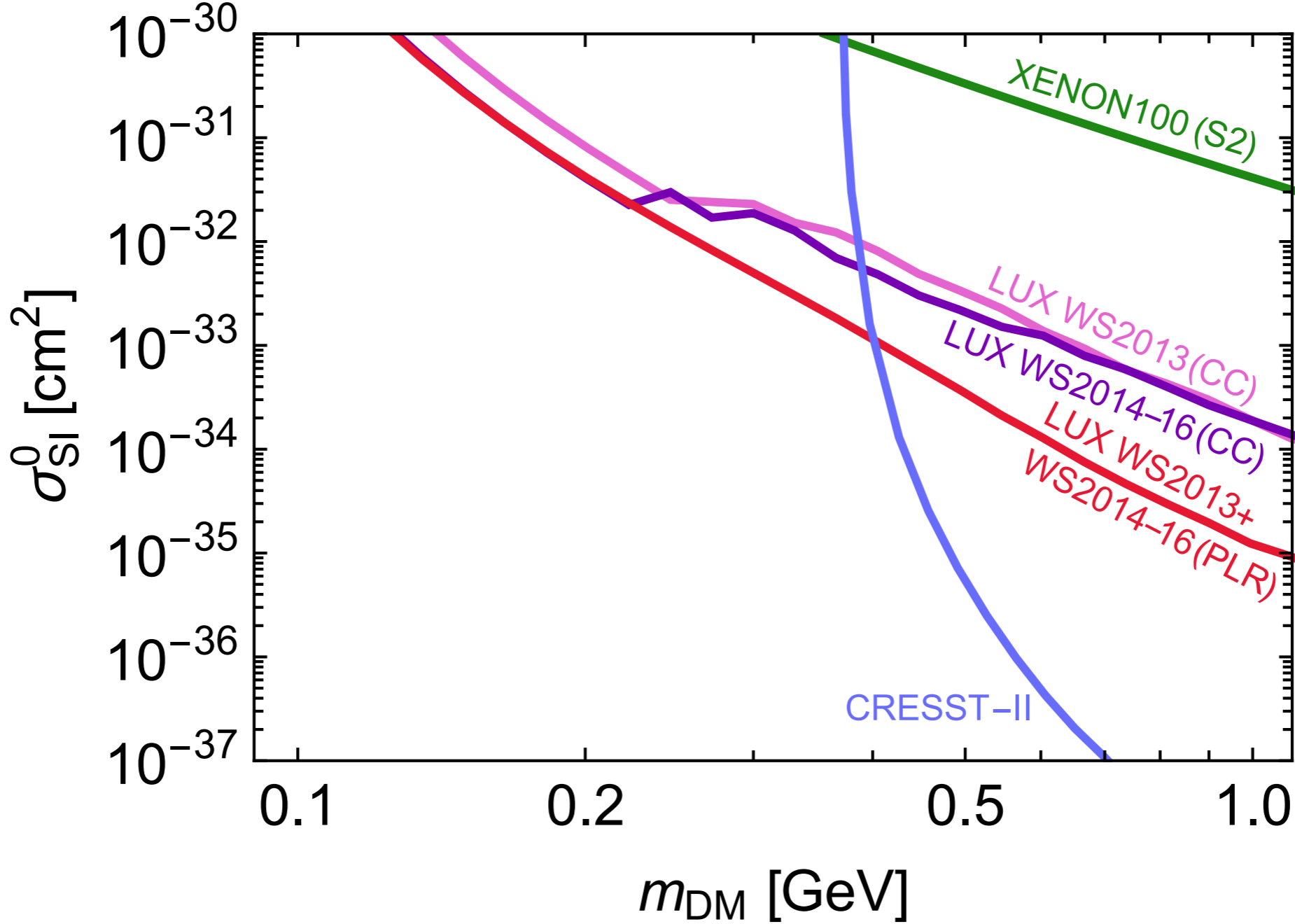
Constraints



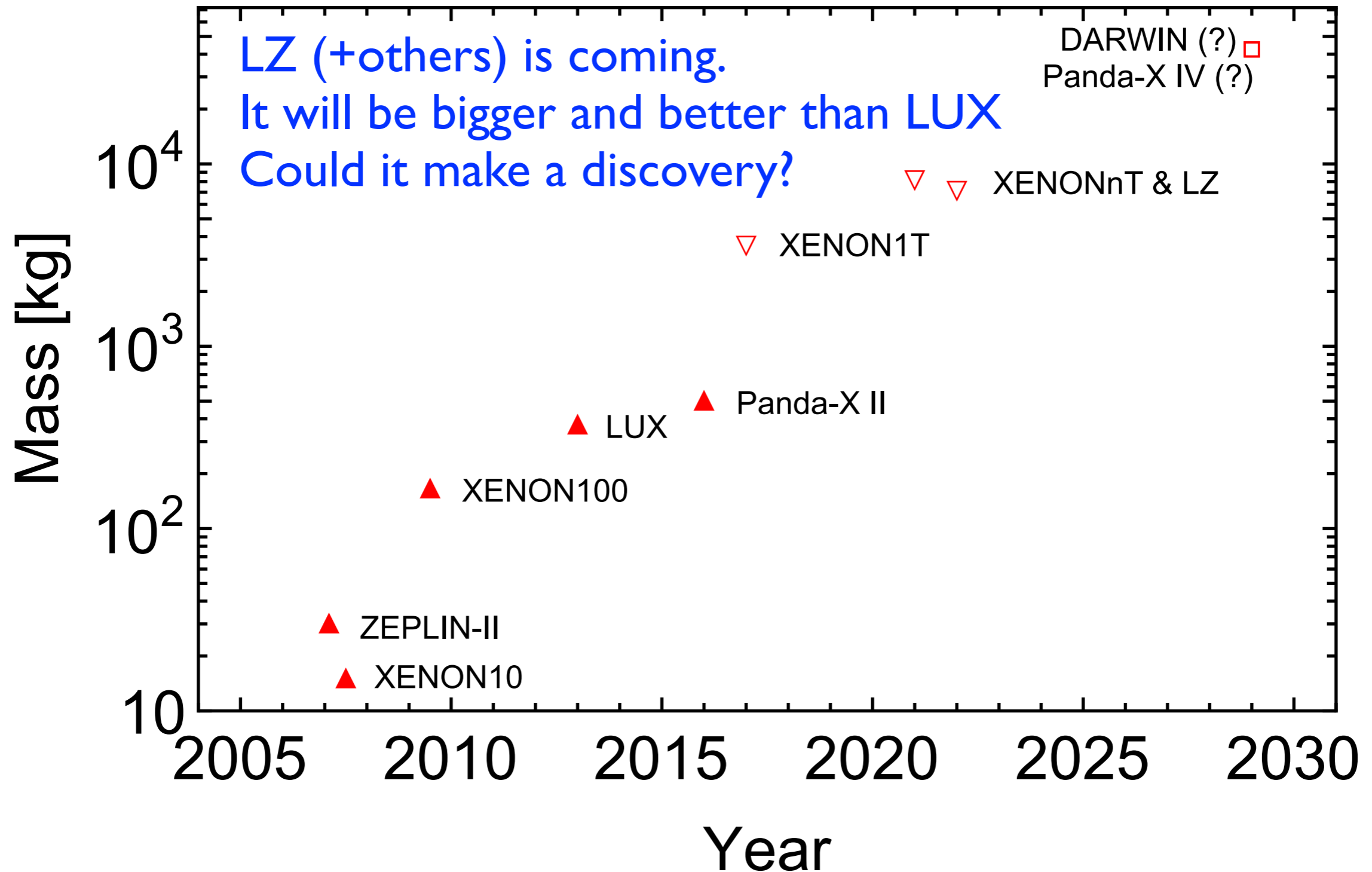
Constraints



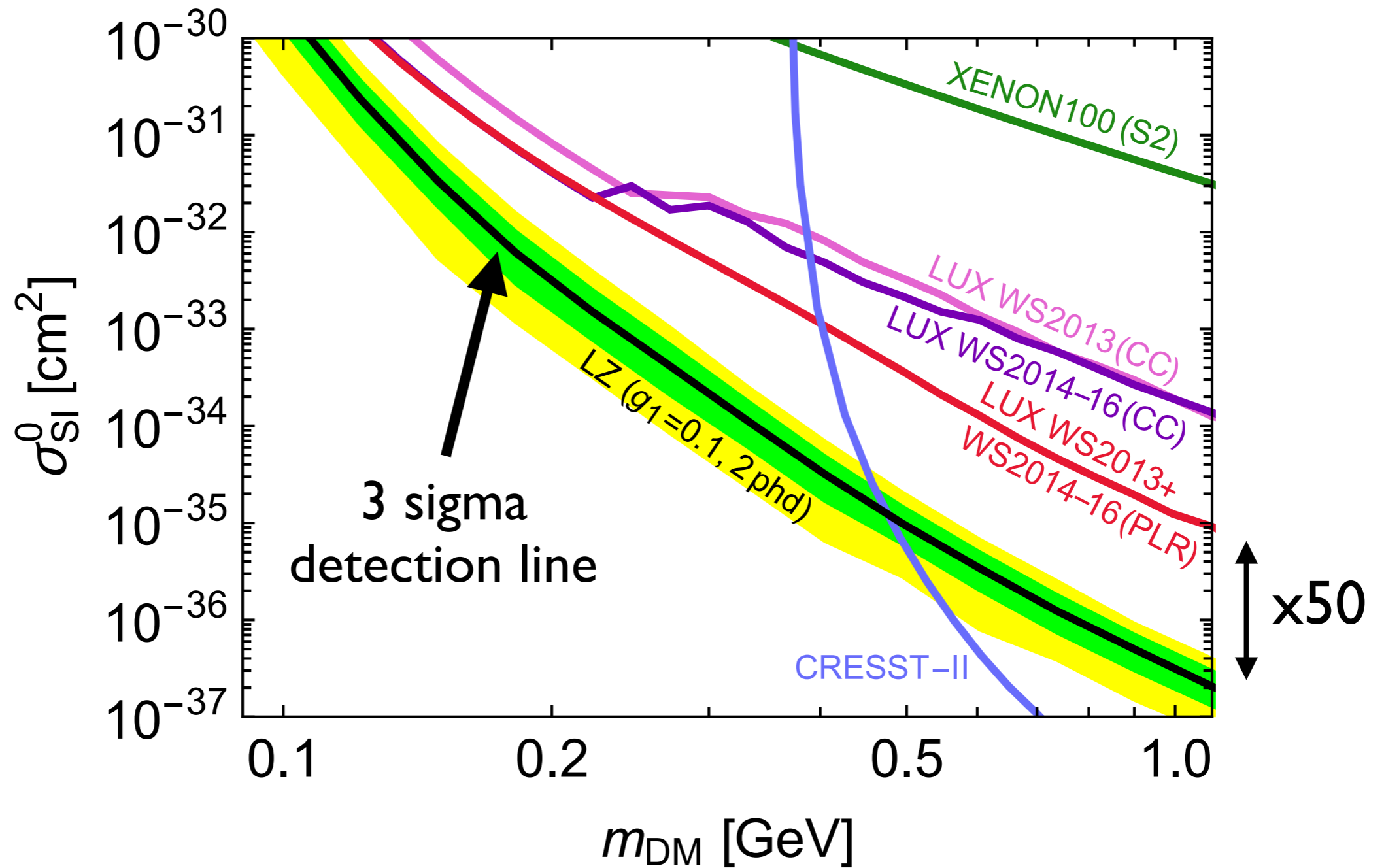
Constraints



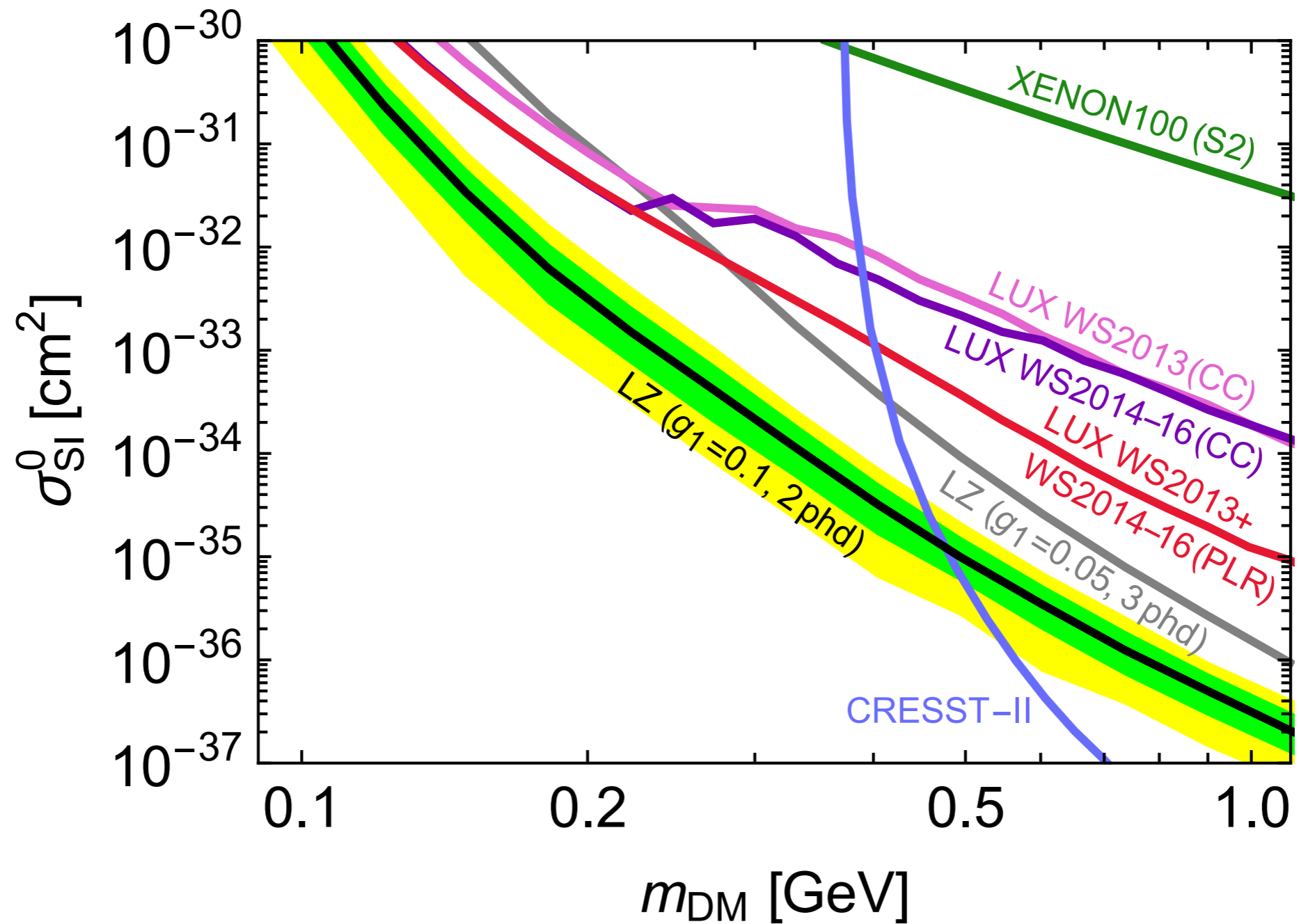
Discovery potential



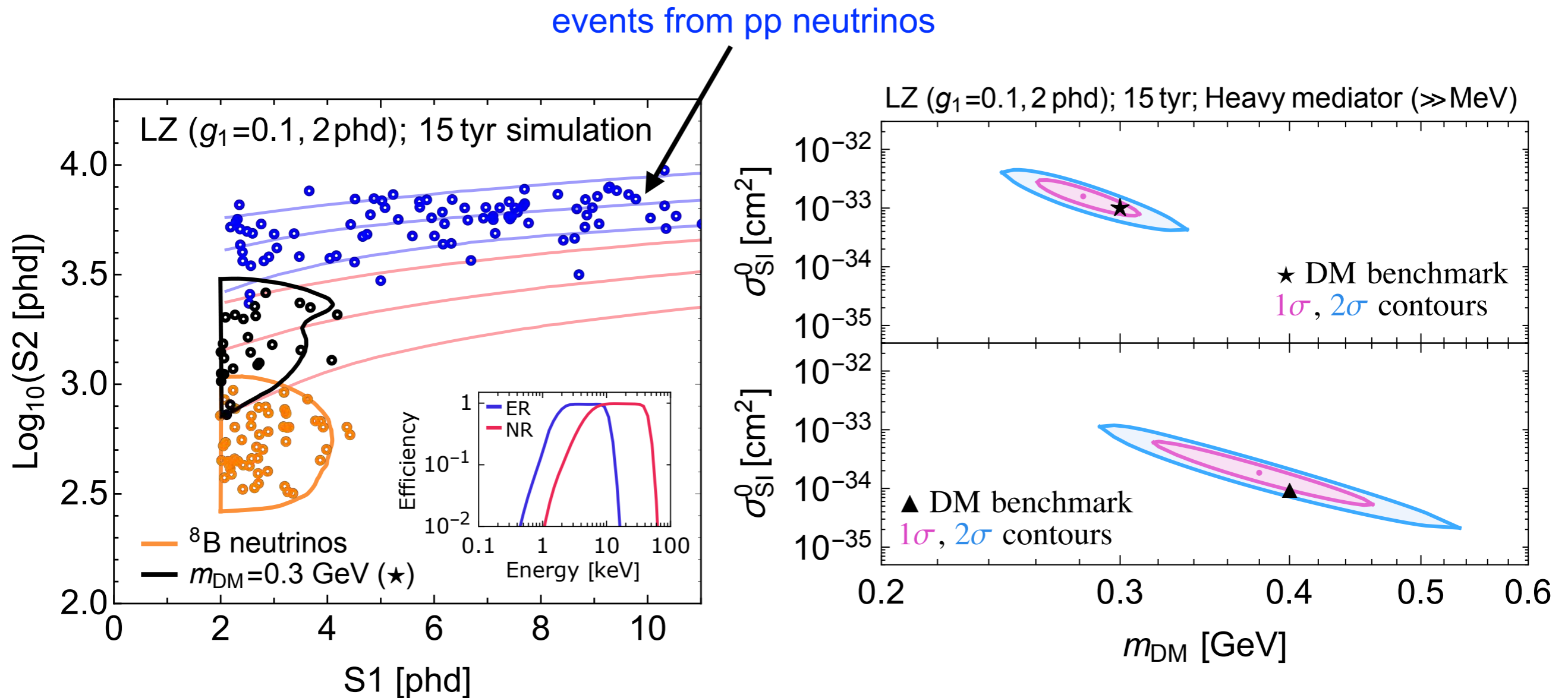
Discovery potential



Discovery potential



Discovery potential



The parameters of sub-GeV DM can be reconstructed!

Summary

Xenon detectors are getting bigger
Our understanding of them is getting better



Opportunities to search for (discover !) new signals

1. Nuclear recoils: supernova neutrinos
2. Electronic recoils: sub-GeV dark matter

Are there others?

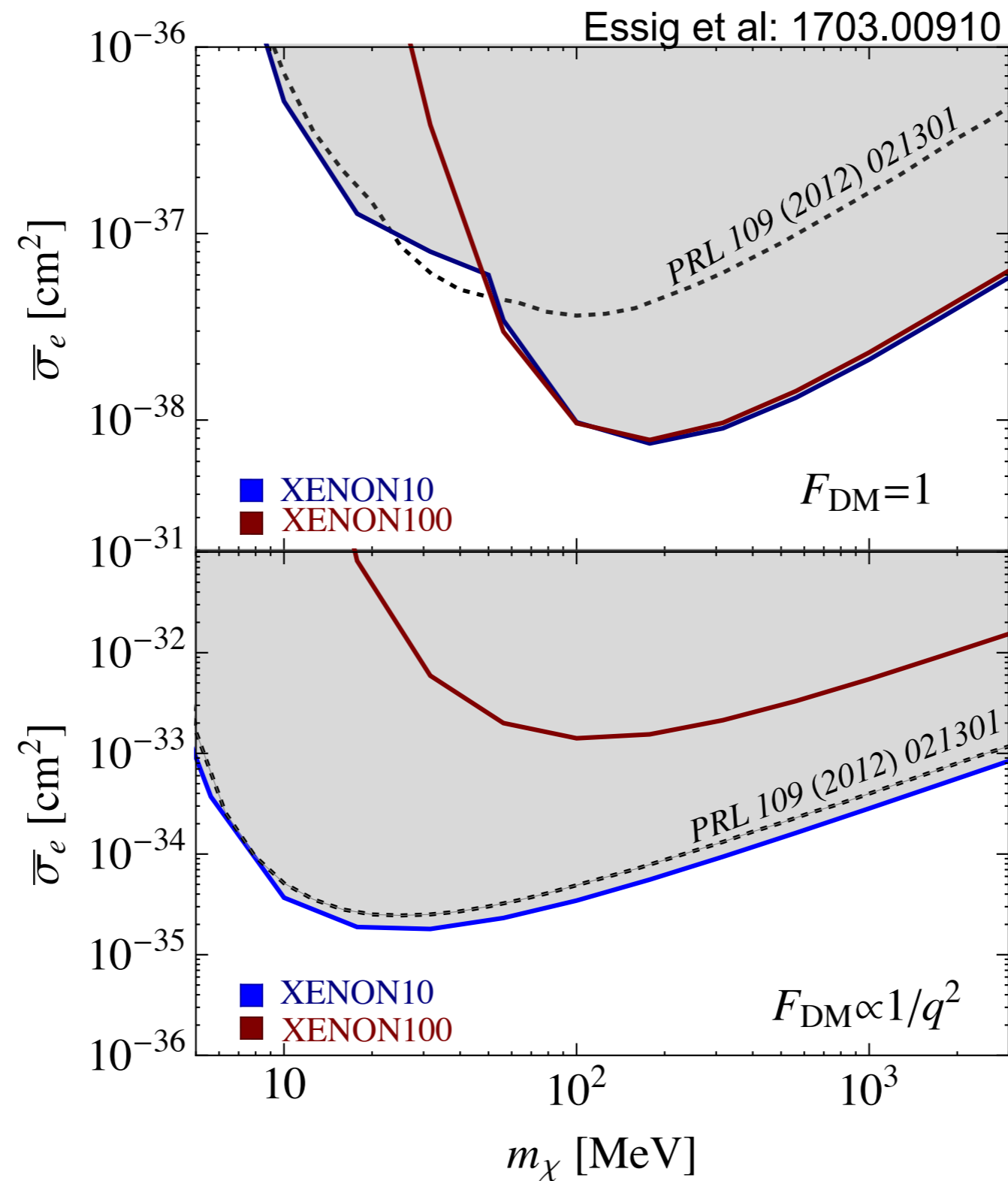
Thank you



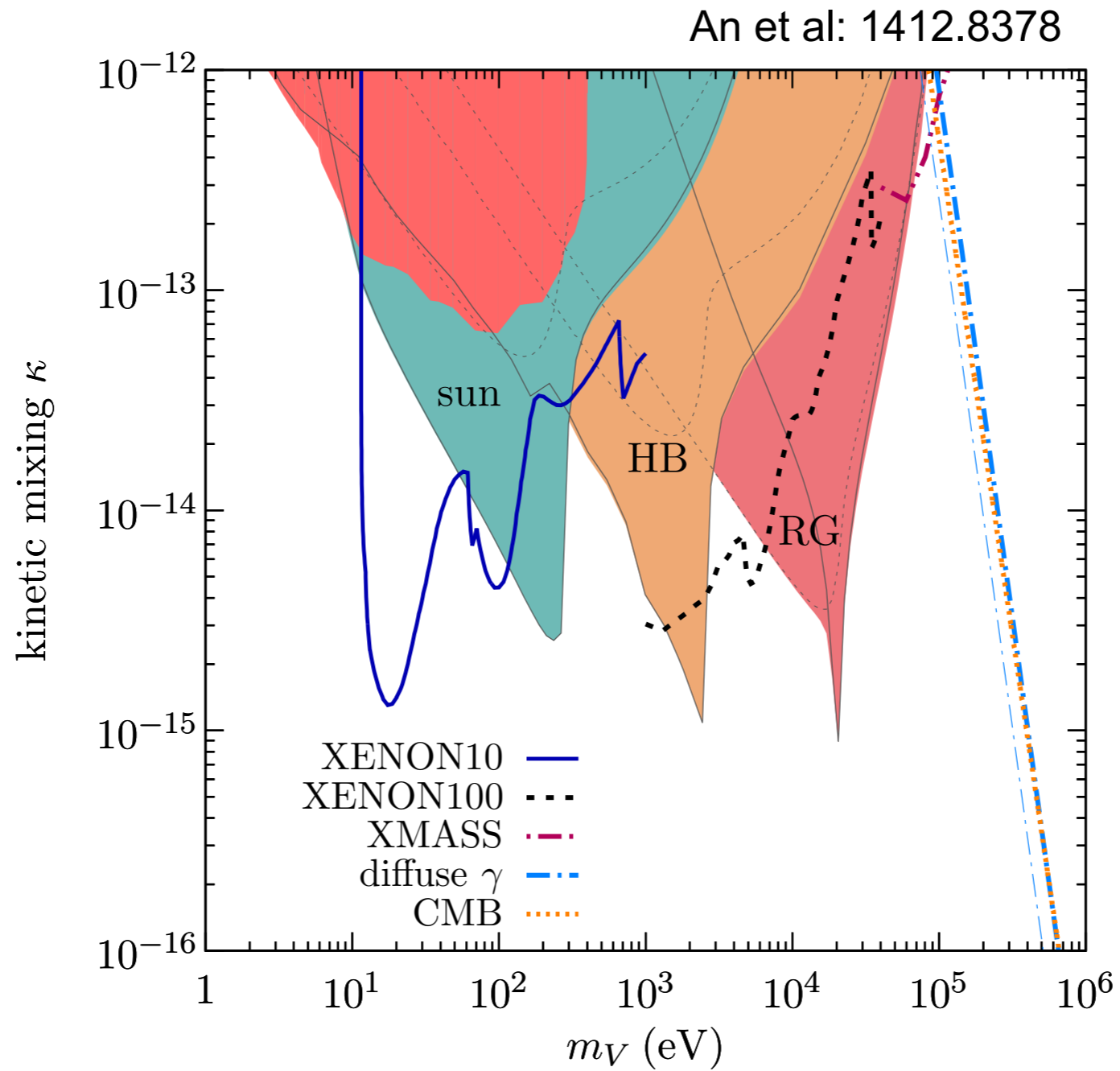
Backup

Backup: sub-GeV DM

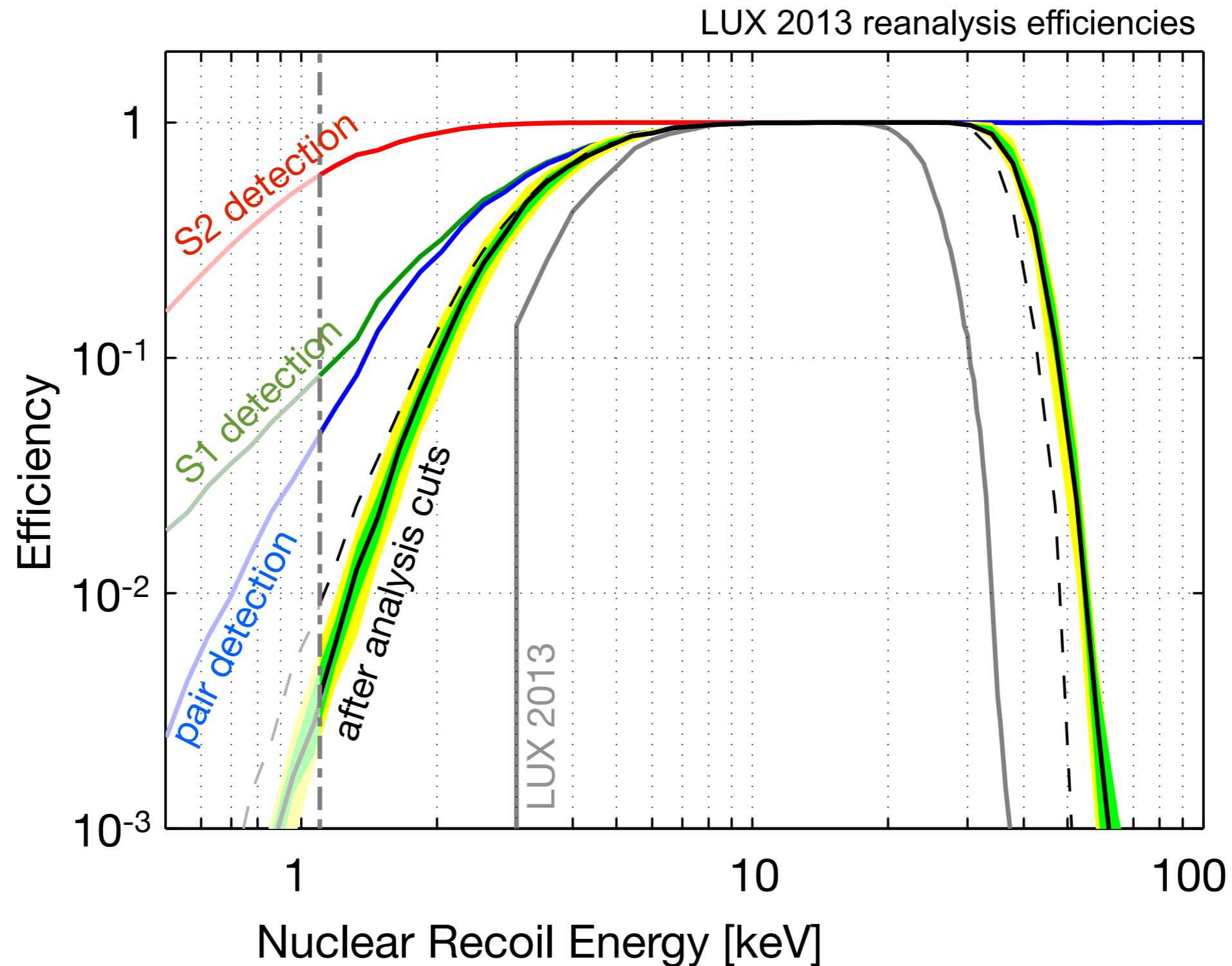
Other ideas: electron scattering



Other ideas: absorption



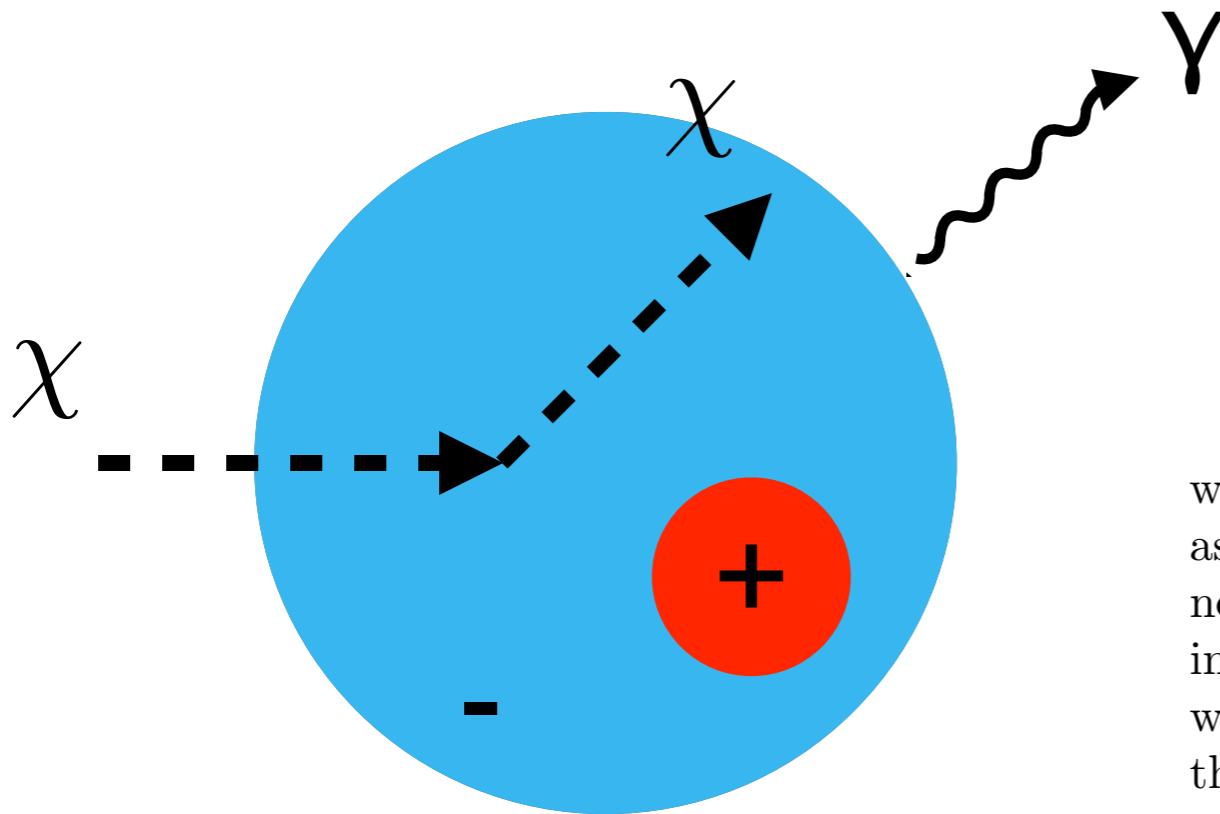
S2 efficiency: order of magnitude higher



A new idea: assumptions

Kouvaris & Pradler: 1607.01789, PRL

- Nucleus kick instantaneous (on time scale for electrons in orbit to adjust to the perturbation τ_α)

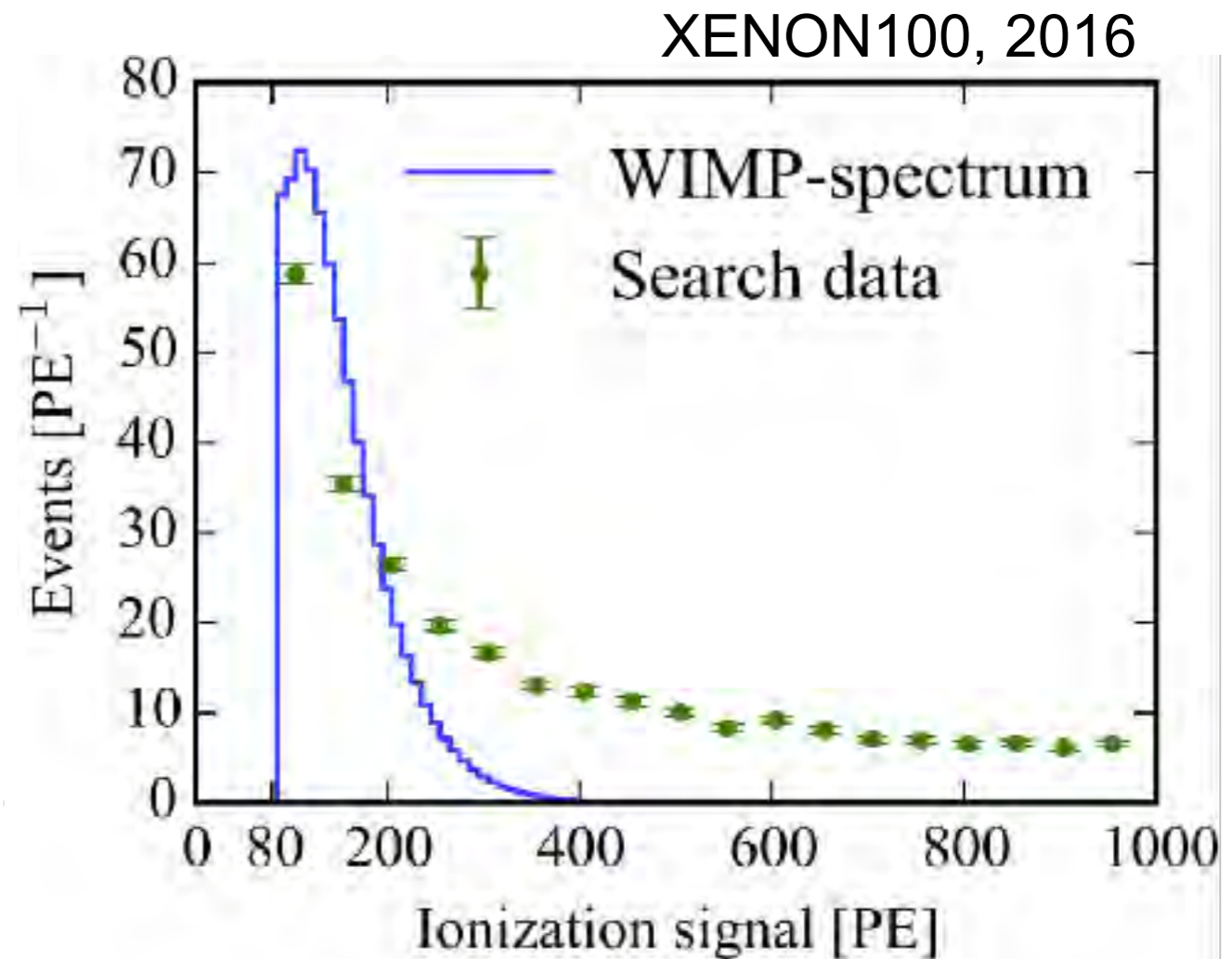
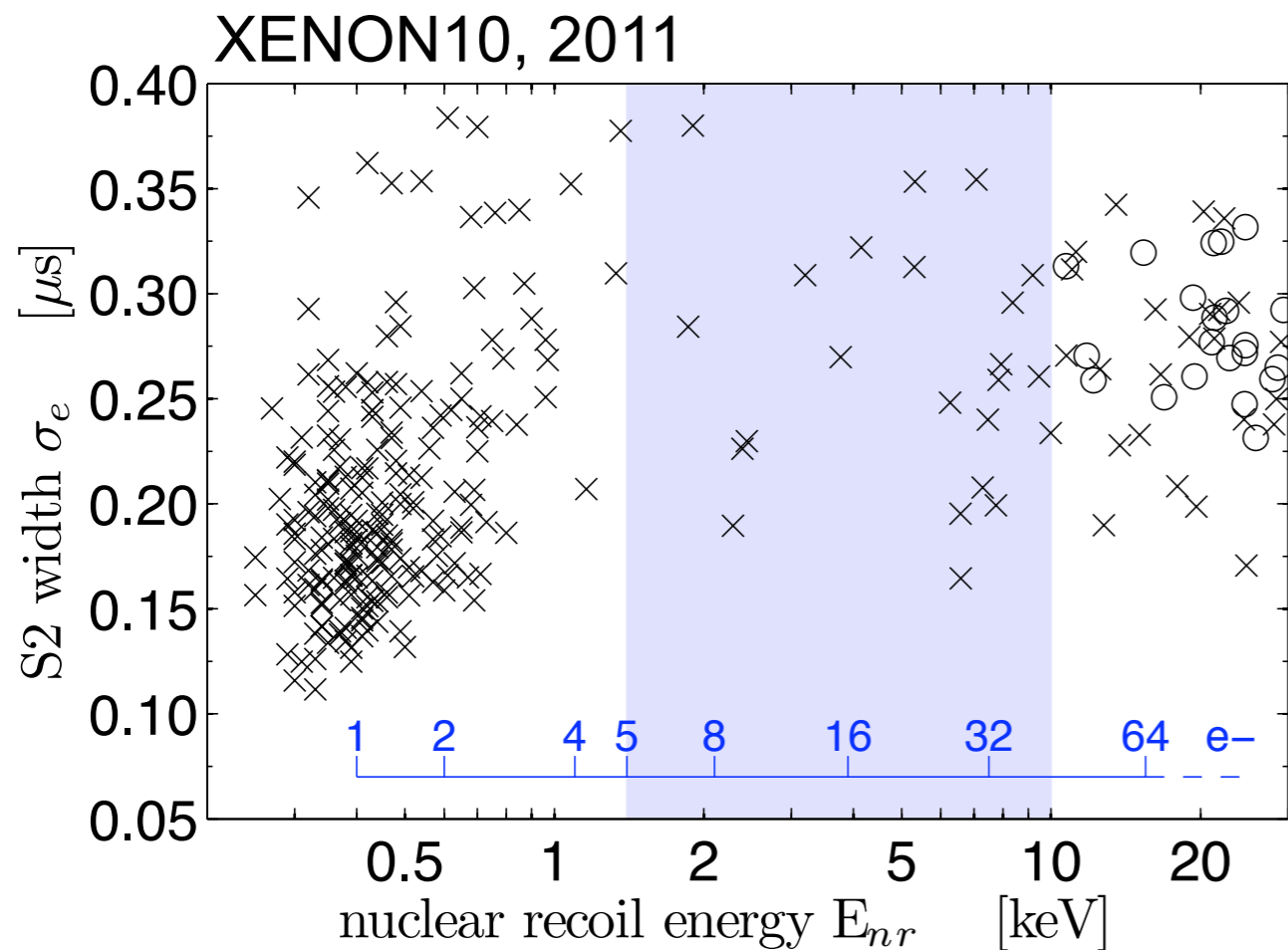


Polarised atom
emits a photon

$\tau_\chi/\tau_\alpha \simeq 10^{-4} A^{1/3} Z^2$. Hence our approximation is well justified for light elements; for heavier targets such as xenon, the ratio can become $O(1)$, but only for the innermost electrons. Going beyond the mentioned approximations requires a dedicated atomic physics calculation, which is certainly welcome but well beyond the scope of this paper.

XENON10 & XENON100: S2-only

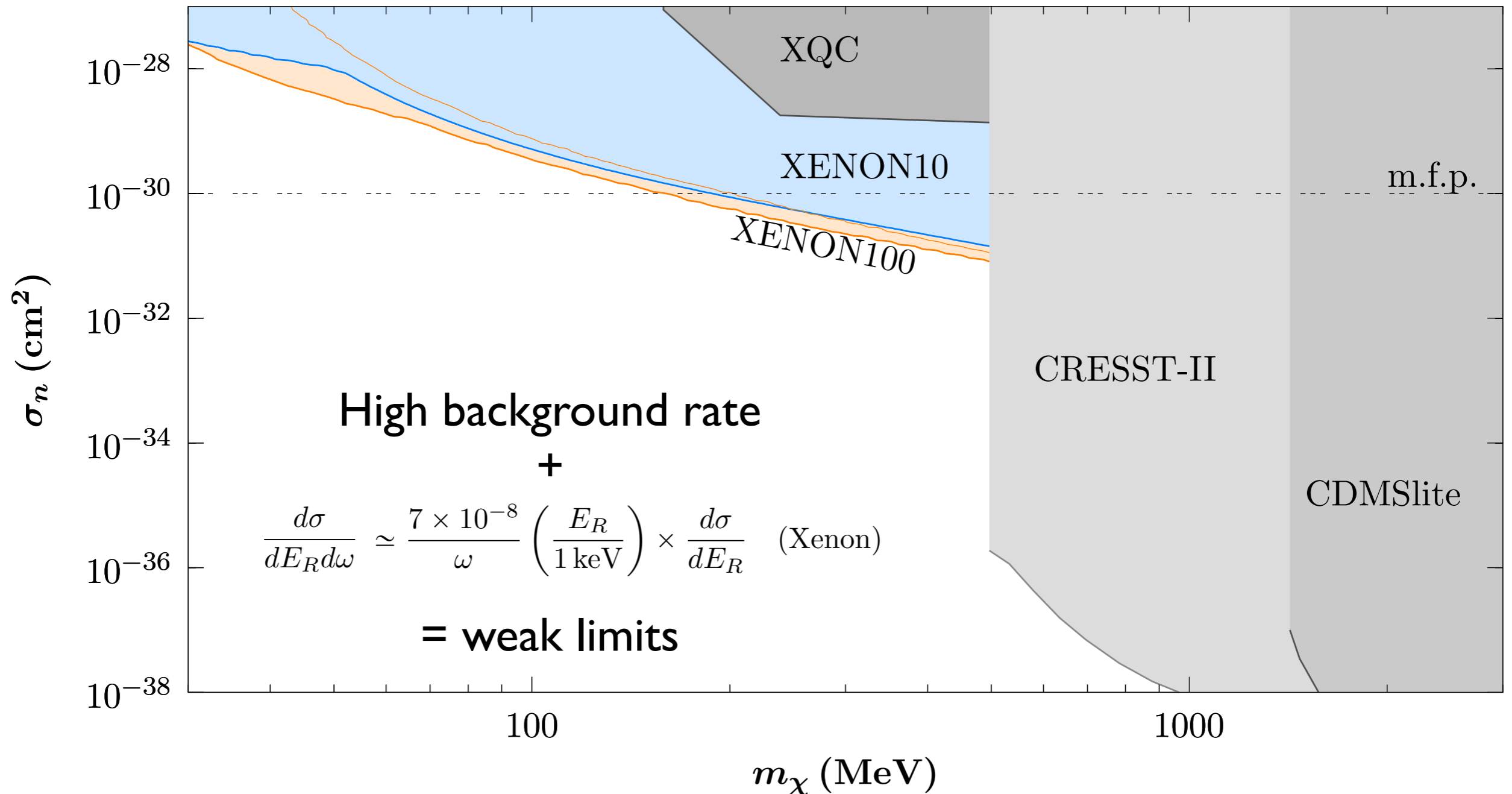
Kouvaris & Pradler set constraints with S2-only analyses



Very high event rates - XENON100 has ~ 13000 events

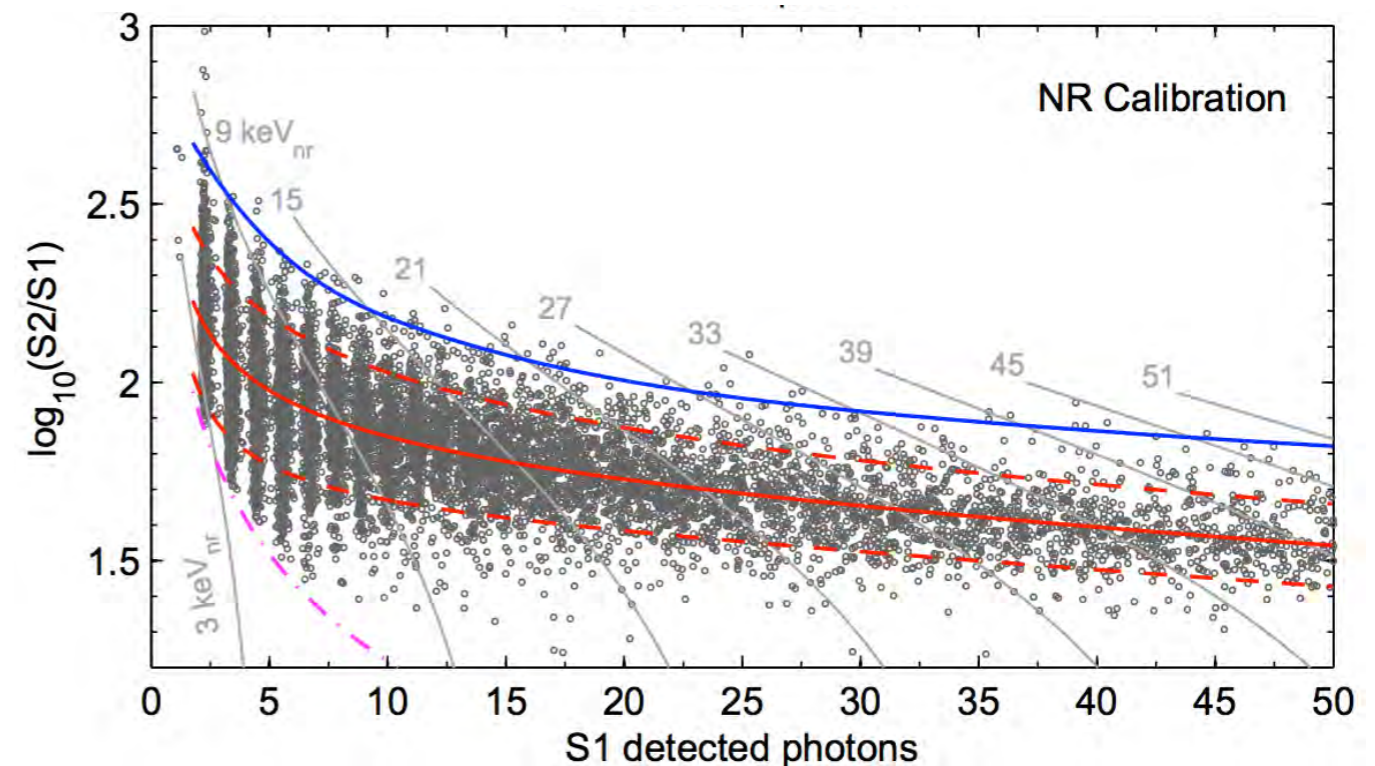
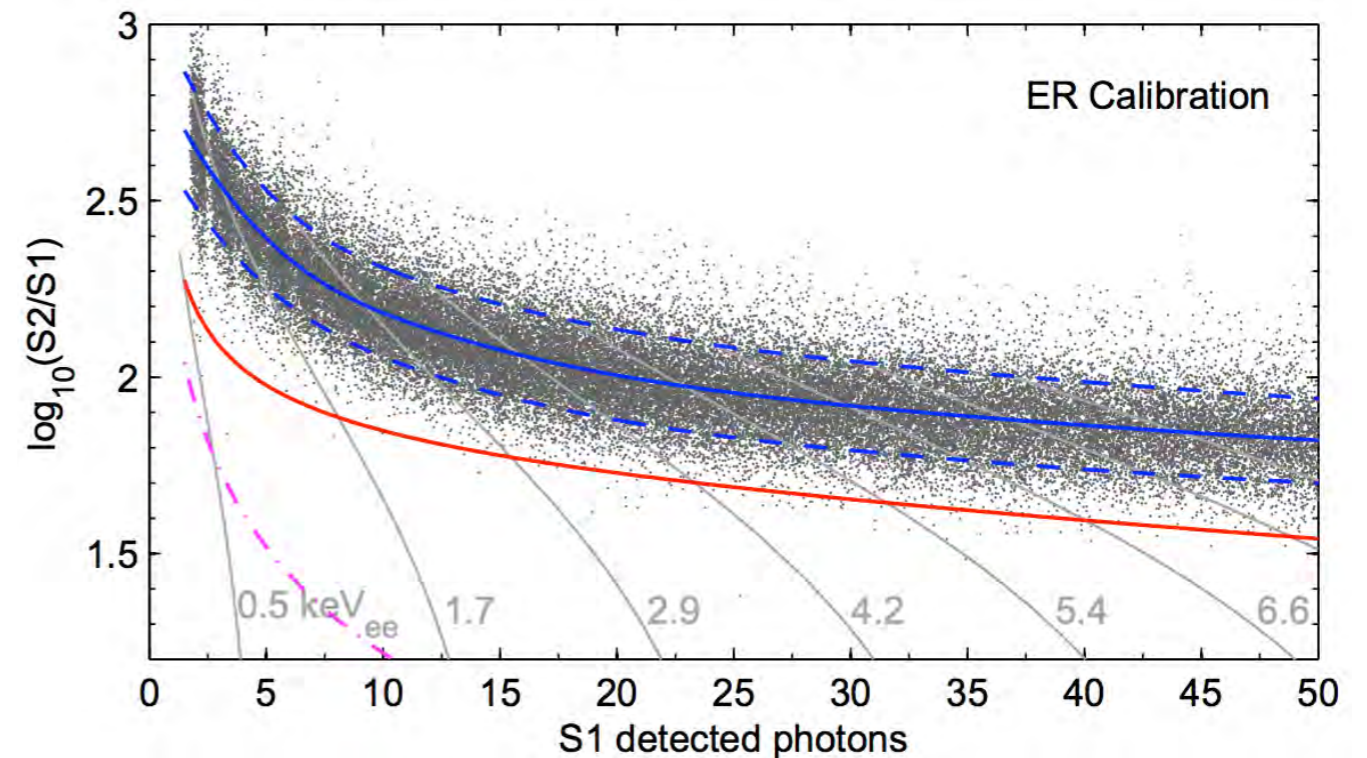
XENON10 & XENON100: S2-only

Kouvaris & Pradler set constraints with S2-only analyses



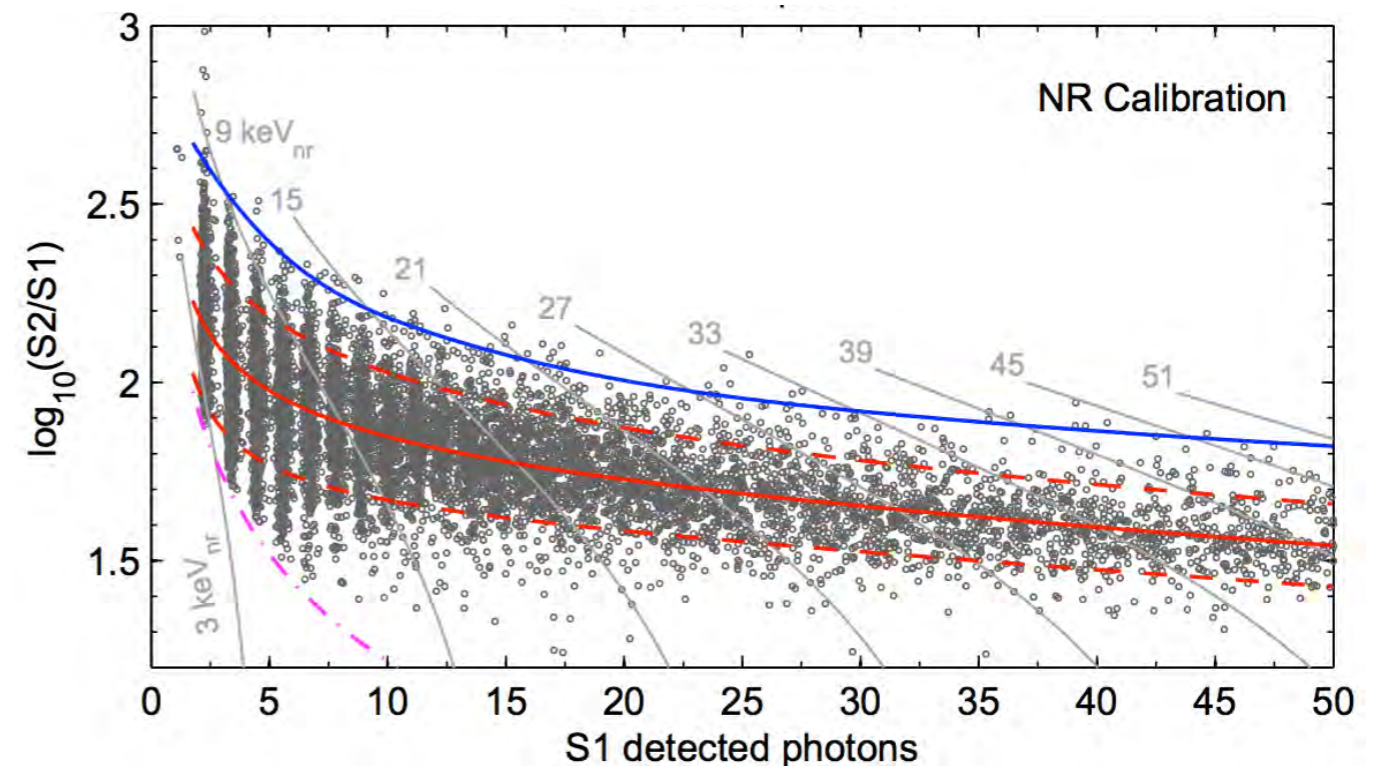
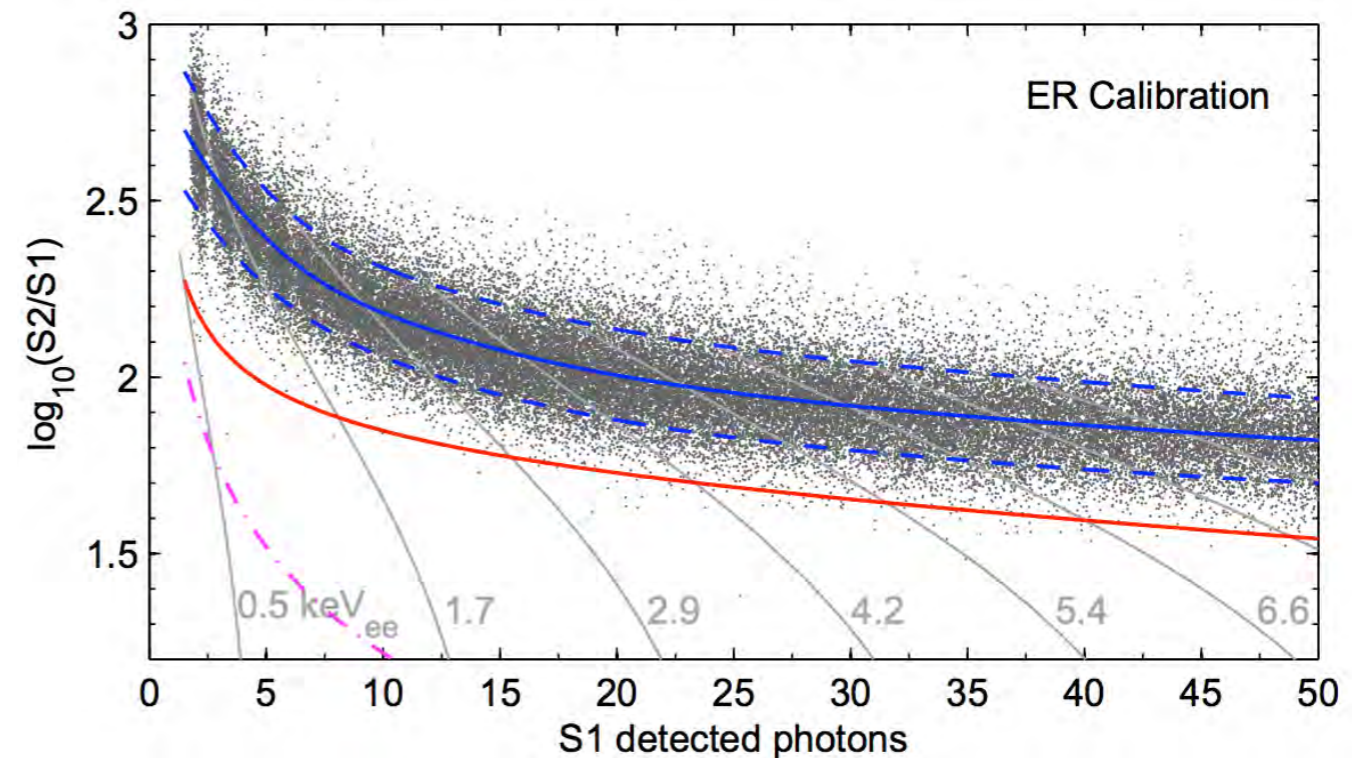
Dual-phase detectors

Easy to characterise:
NR events lie in the NR band
and
ER events lie in the ER band



Dual-phase detectors

Easy to characterise:
NR events lie in the NR band
and
ER events lie in the ER band
...
?

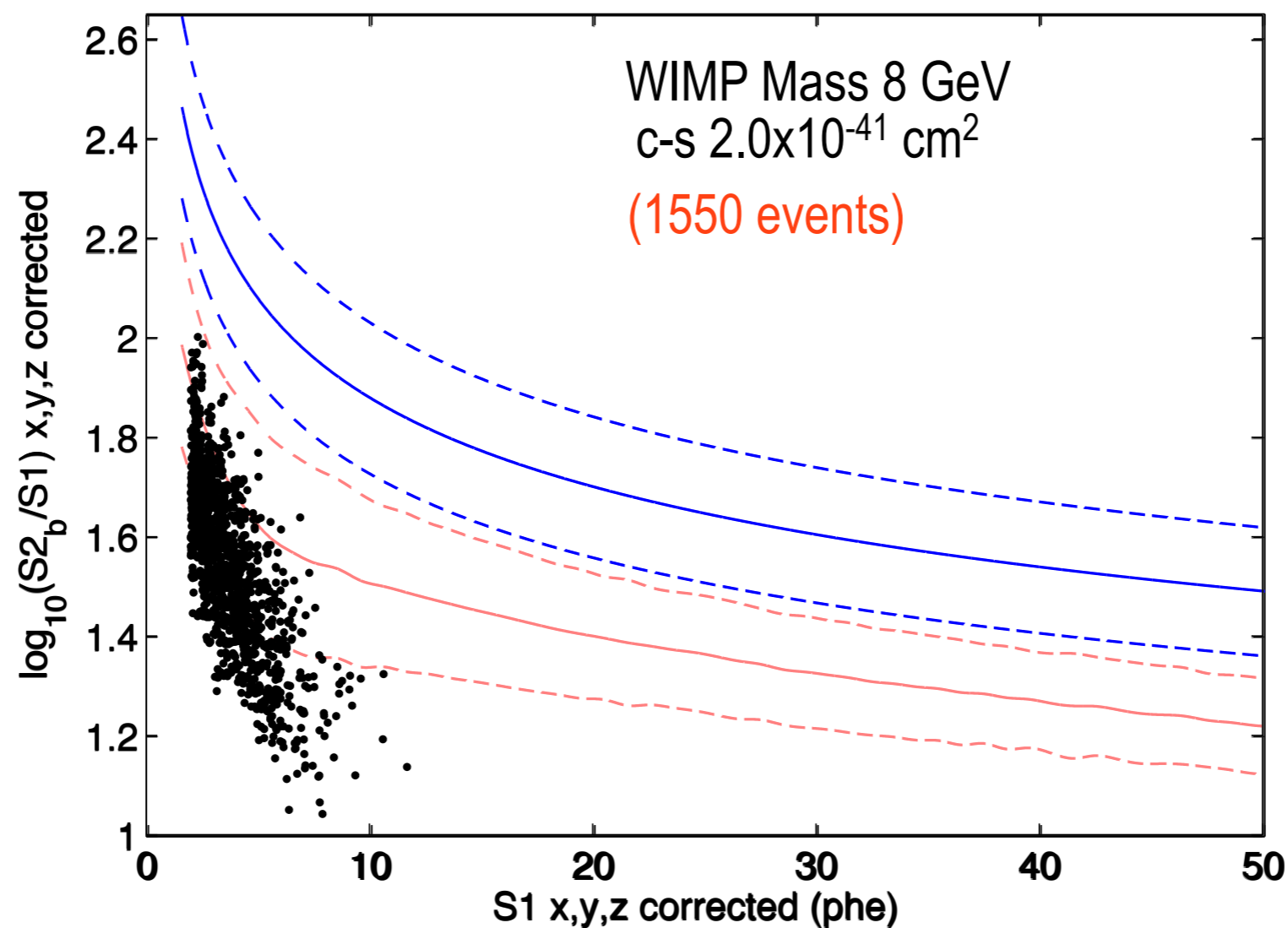


The behaviour of low energy signals

LUX:

Example: LXe WIMP Search, 85 live-days, 118 kg

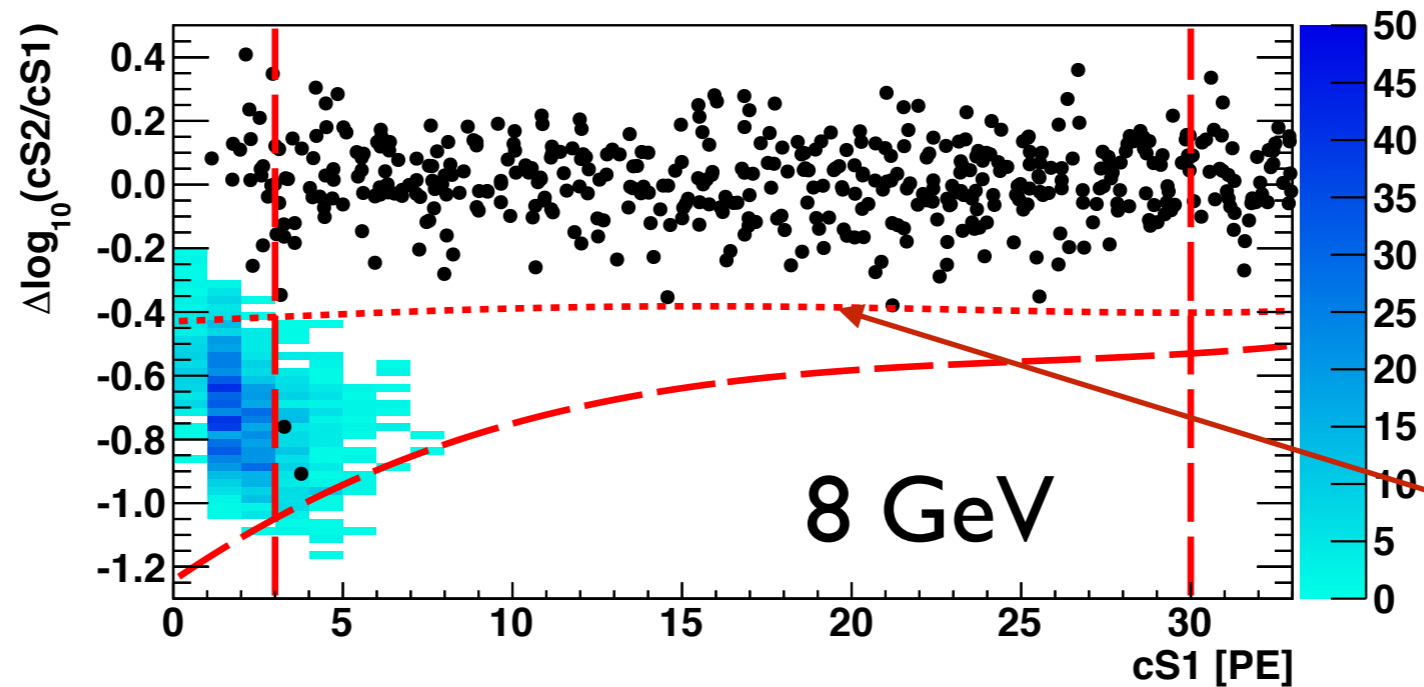
- WIMP Event Monte Carlo



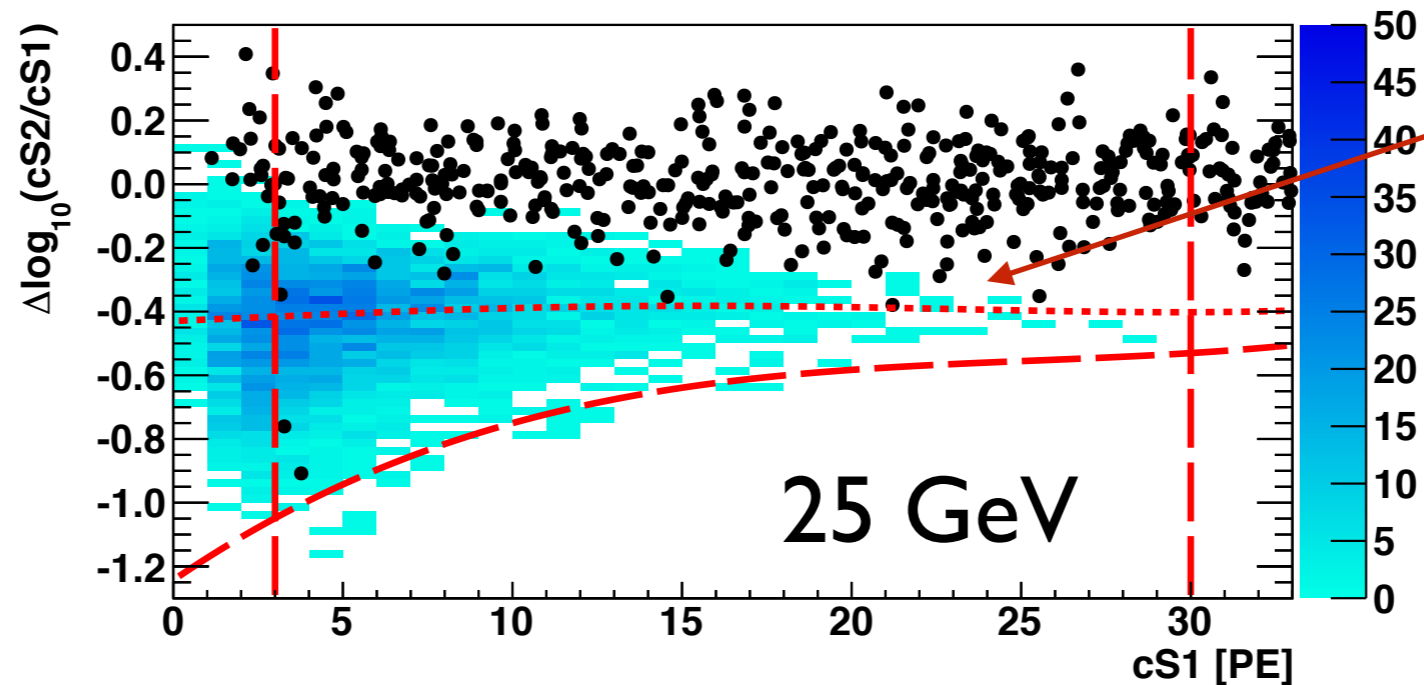
The behaviour of low energy signals

XENON100:

arXiv:1304.1427



~NR band



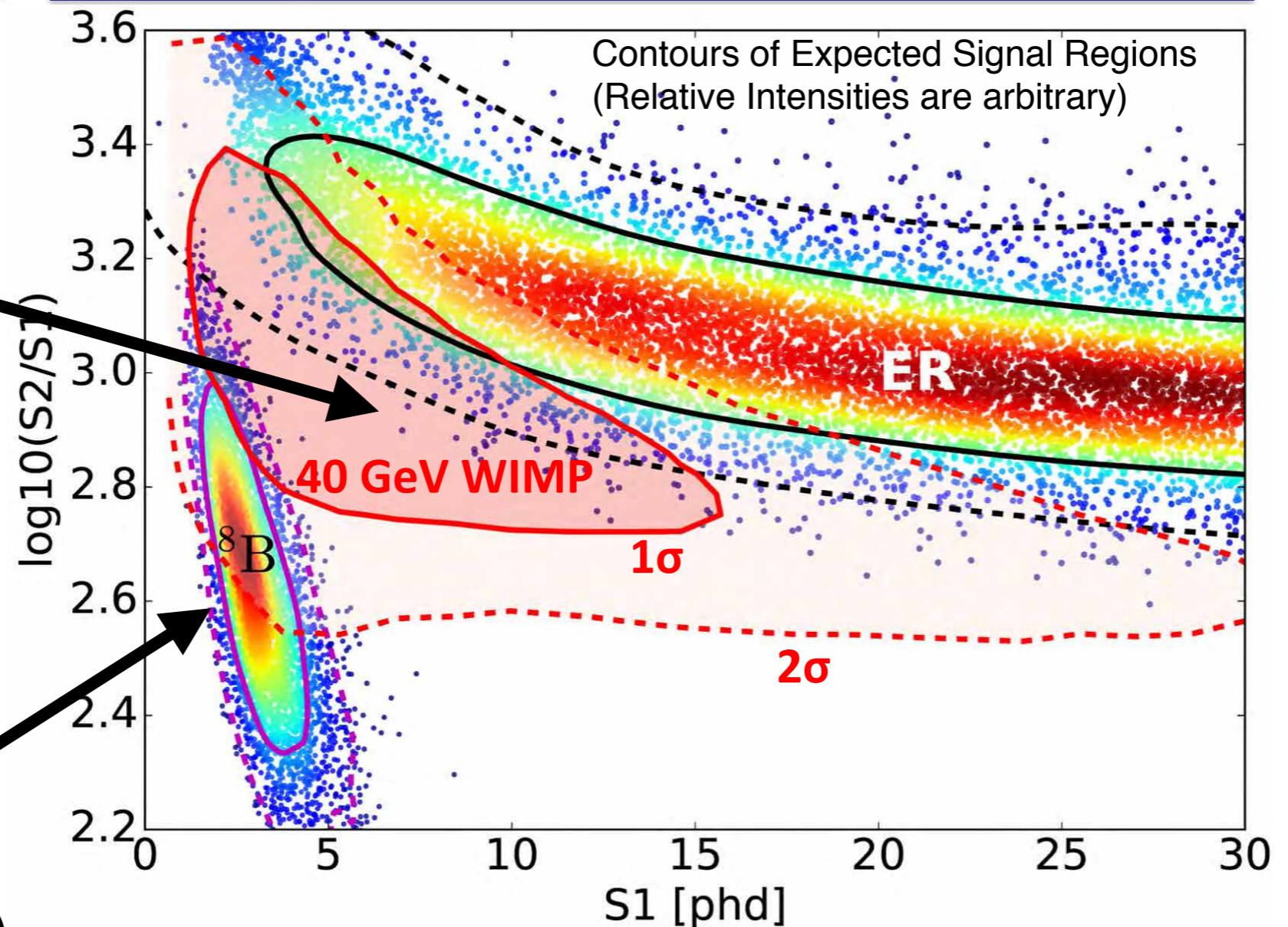
The behaviour of low energy signals



LZ WIMP Signal Region Example
- We must also understand 8B signal

NR region

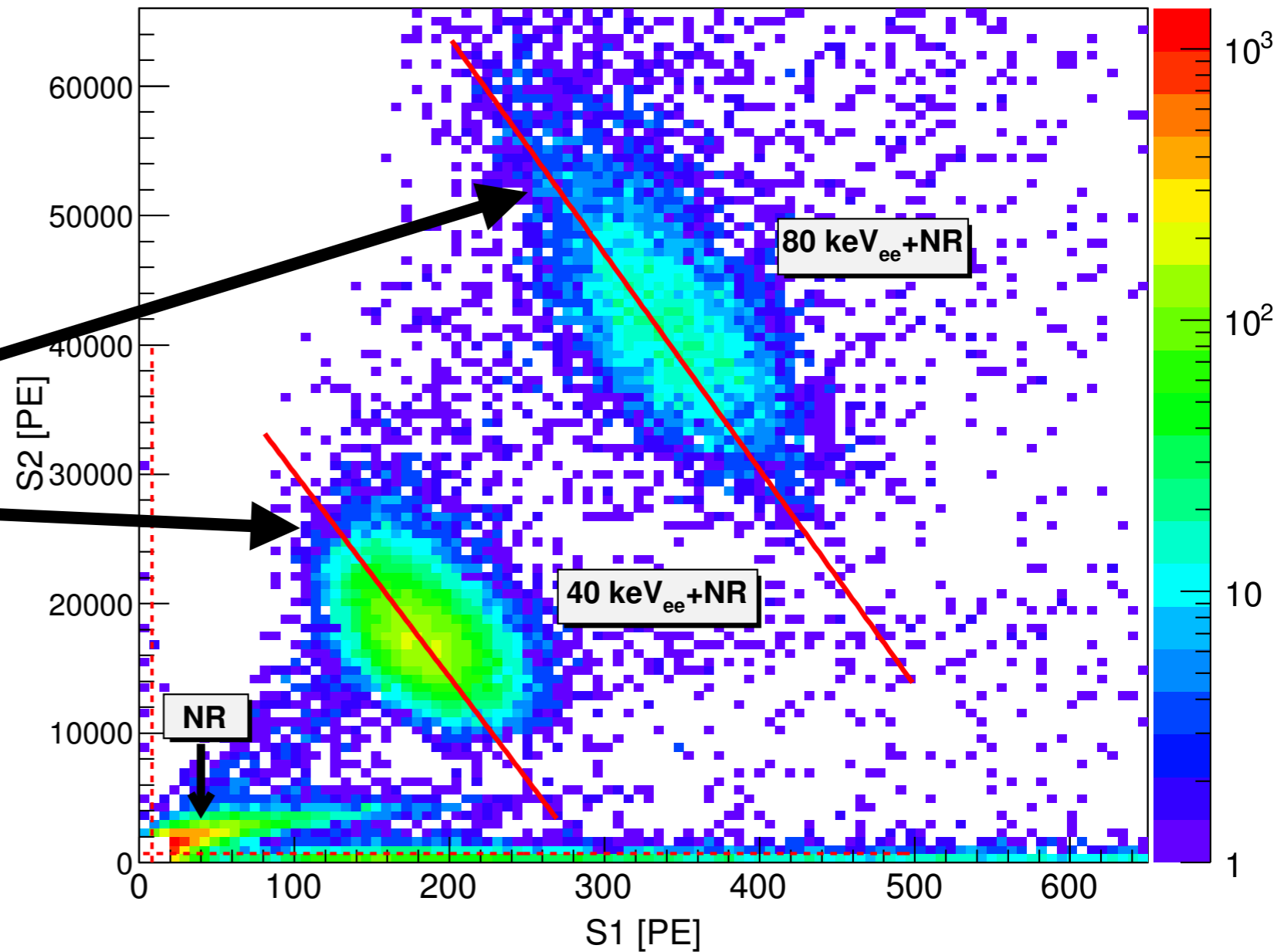
Low energy nuclear recoil events (similar to 6 GeV DM)



The behaviour of low energy signals

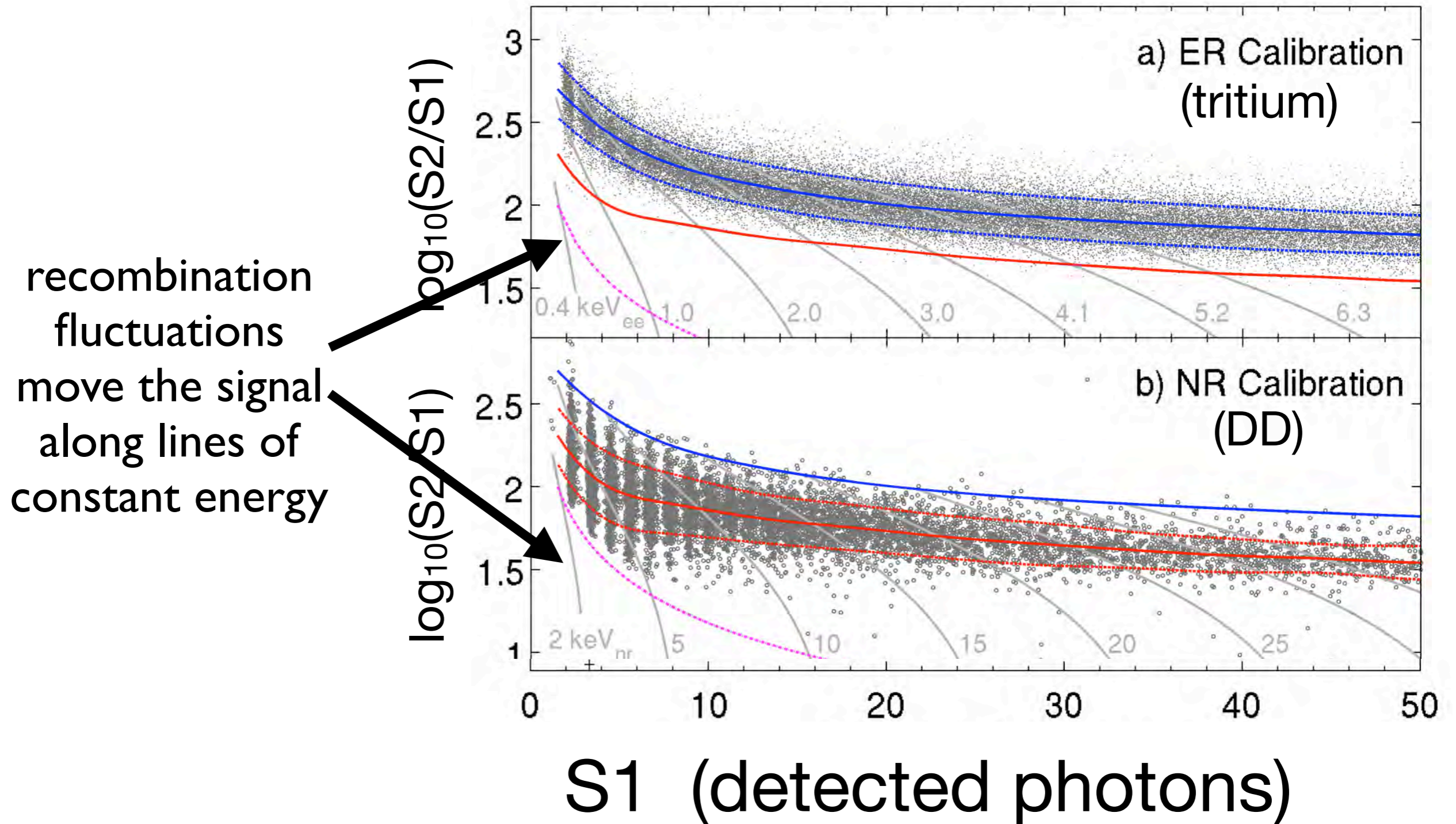
recombination
fluctuations
move the signal
along lines of
constant energy

$$\frac{E_R}{13.7 \text{ eV}} = \frac{S1}{g_1} + \frac{S2}{g_2}$$

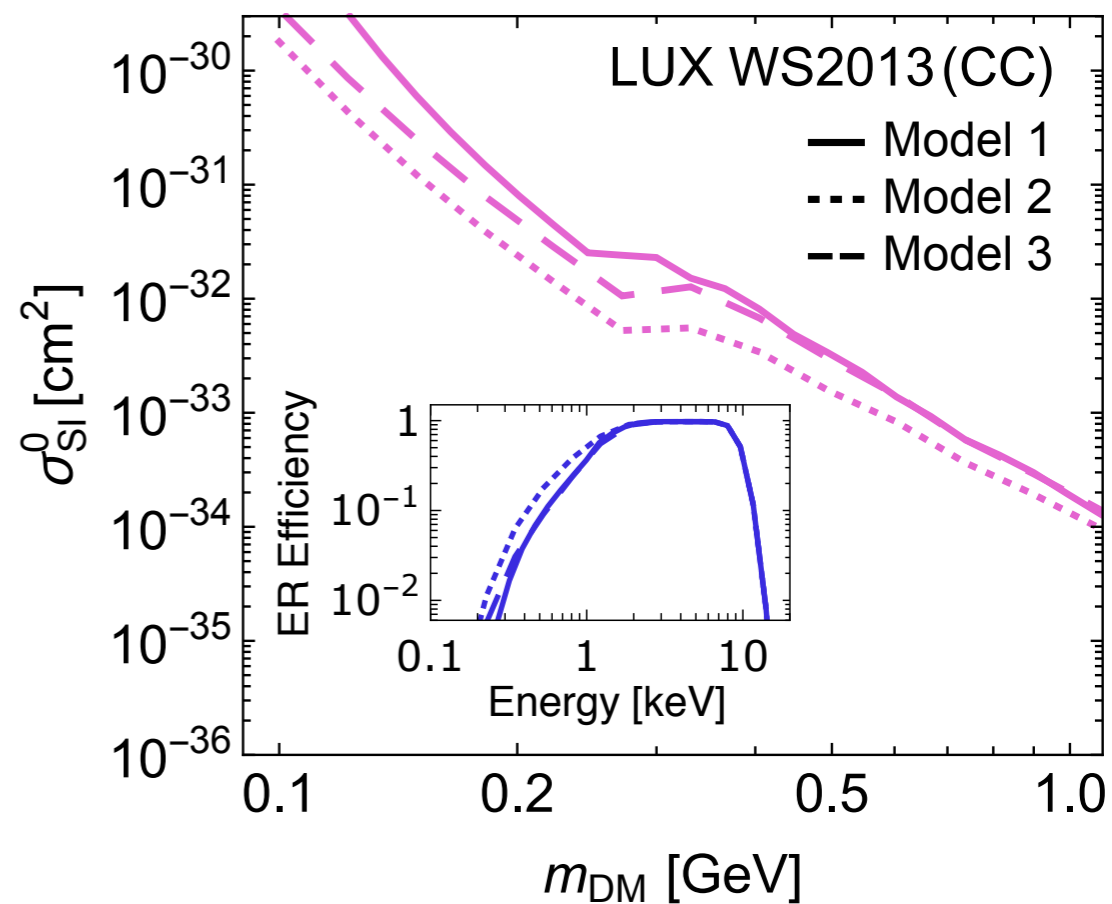
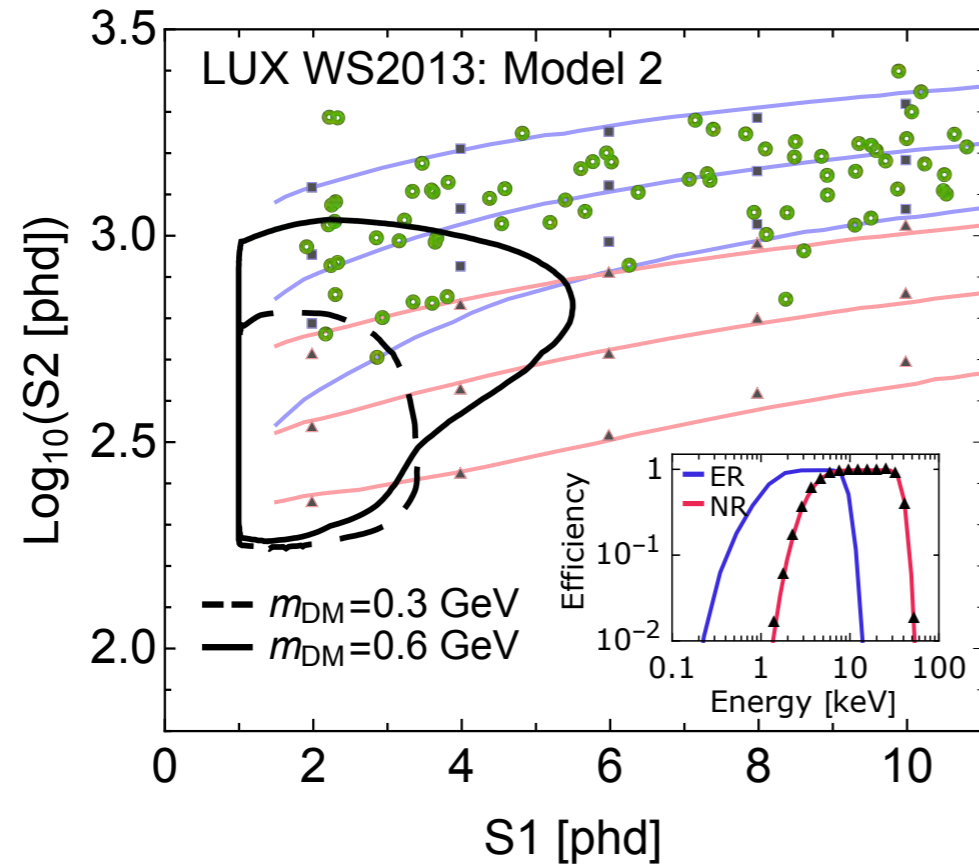
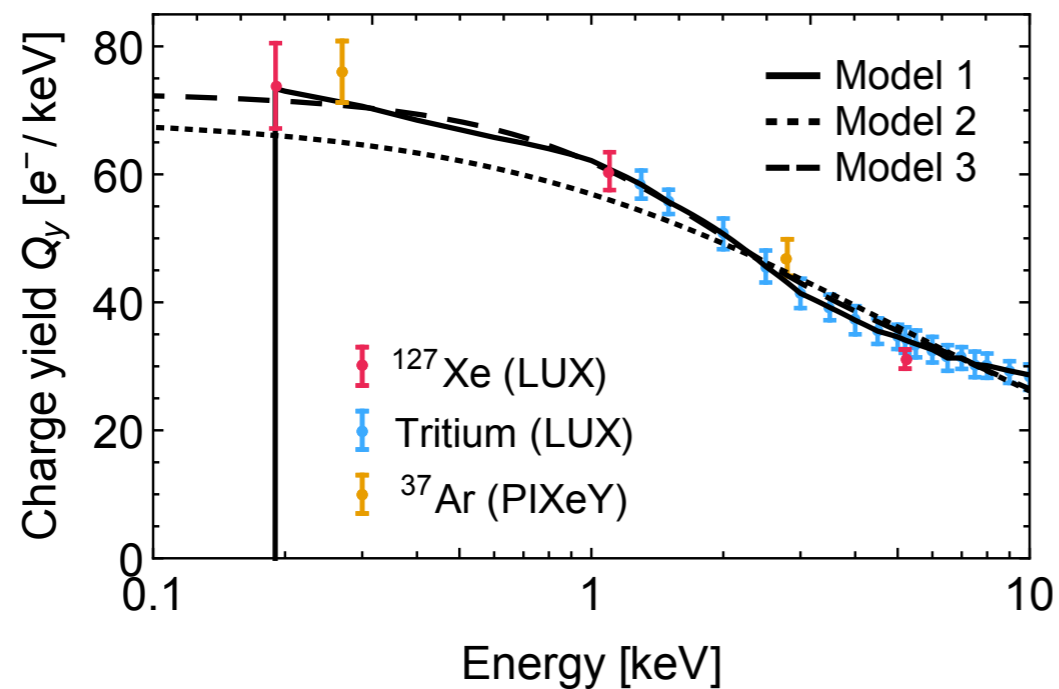


Data from PandaX-I [arXiv:1505.00771](https://arxiv.org/abs/1505.00771)

The behaviour of low energy signals



Different charge yields

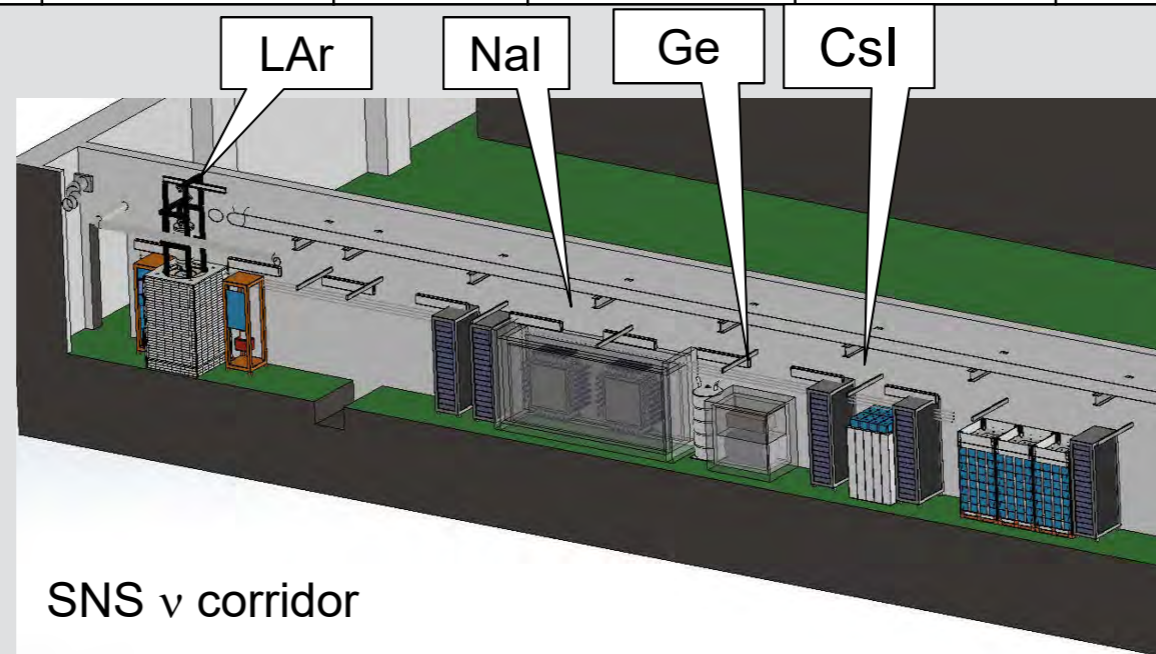


Backup: SN neutrinos

Different detectors will test N^2 dependence of the scattering rate

COHERENT detectors

Nuclear Target	Technology	Mass (kg)	source distance (m)	Recoil thresh (keVnr)	Data-taking start date; CEvNS detection goal
CsI[Na]	Scint. Crystal	14	20	6.5	9/2015; 3σ in 2 yr
Ge	HPGe PPC	10	22	5	Fall 2016
NaI[Tl]	Scintillating crystal	185* /2000	28	13	*high-thresh. runs starting July 2016
LAr	Single-phase scintillation	35	20	Fall 2016	

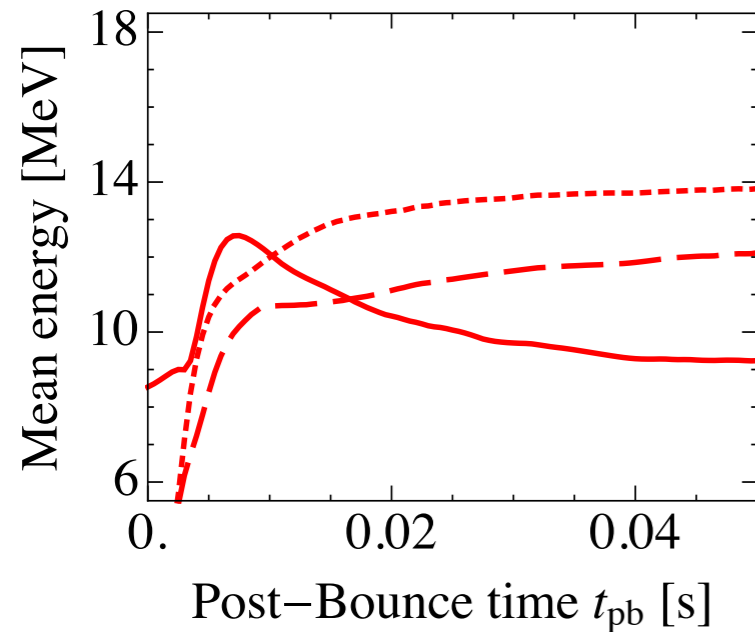
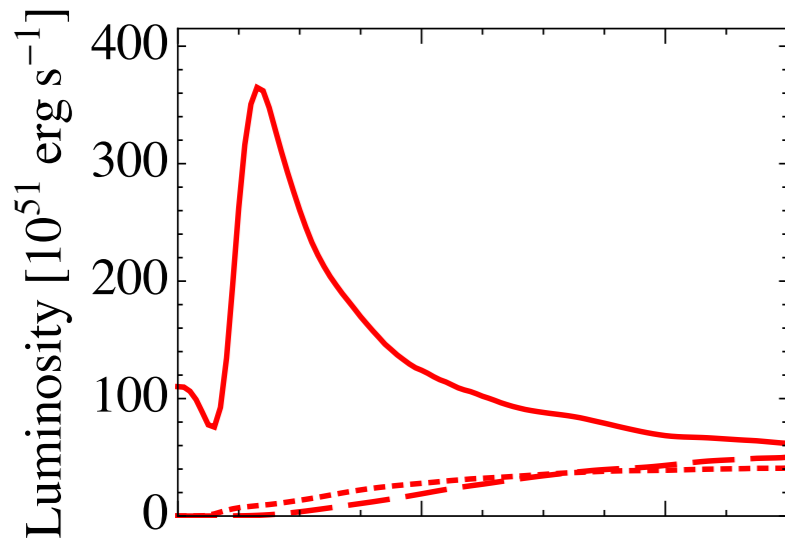


SNS ν corridor

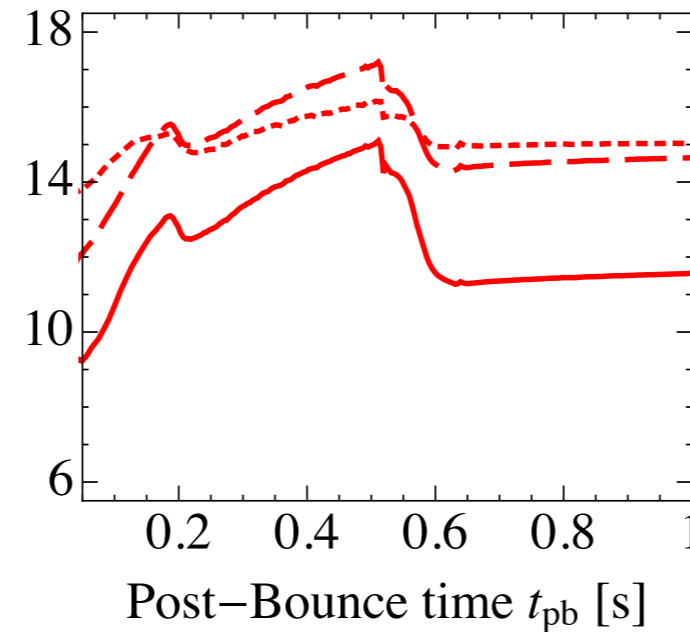
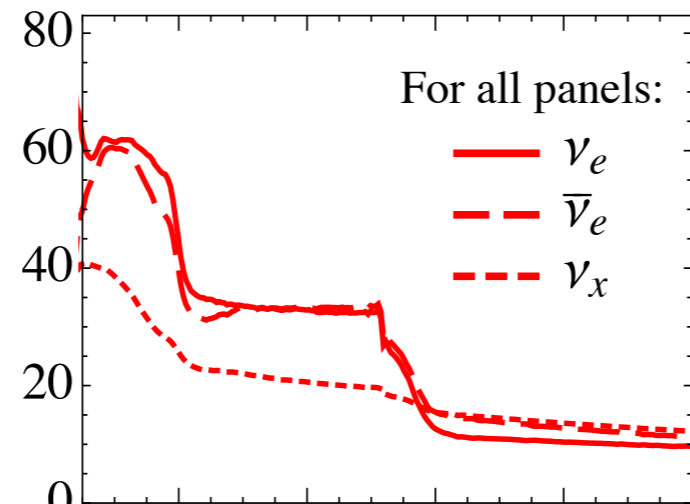
1D vs 2D vs 3D simulations

27 Msun 1D:

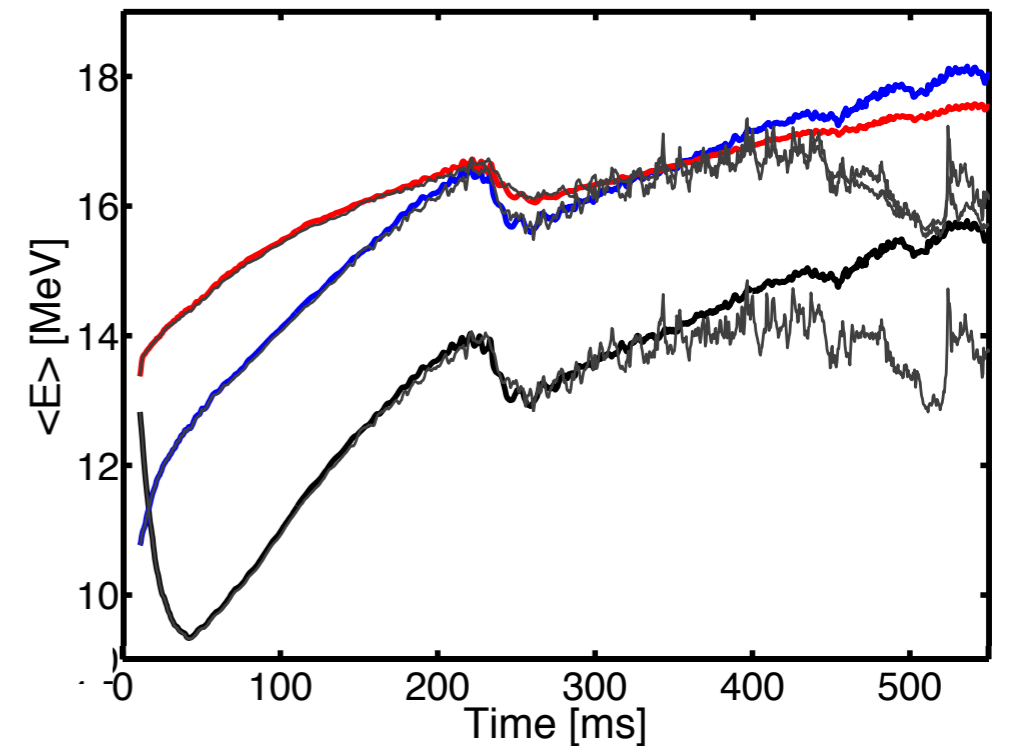
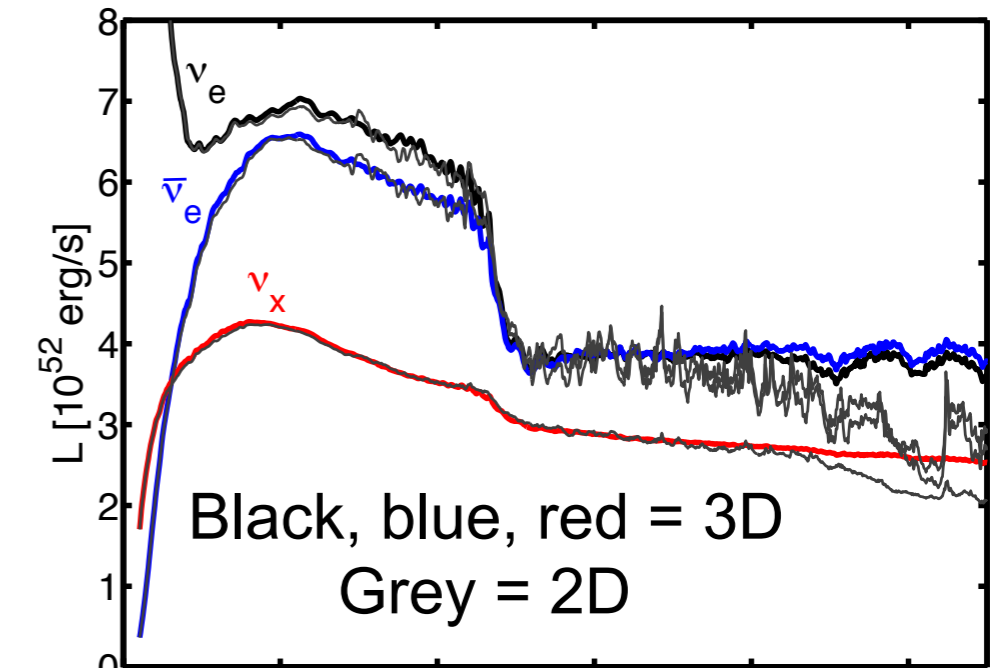
Neutronization burst



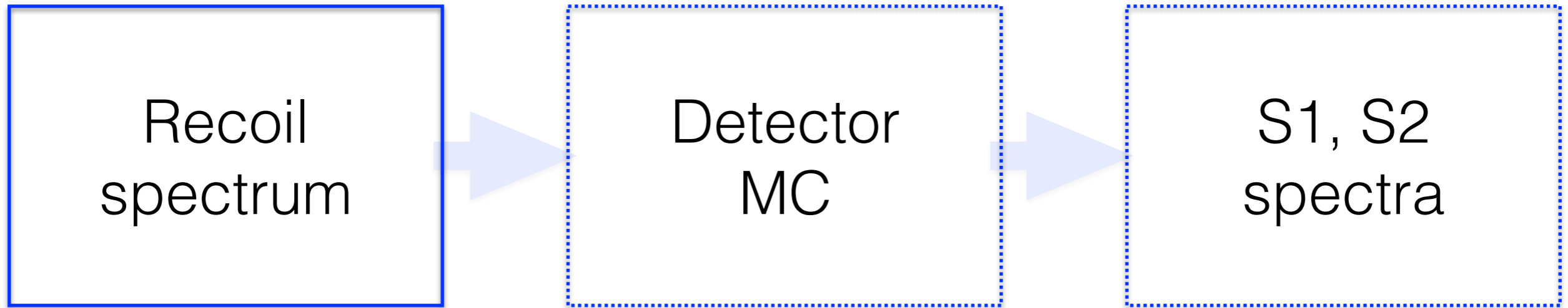
Accretion



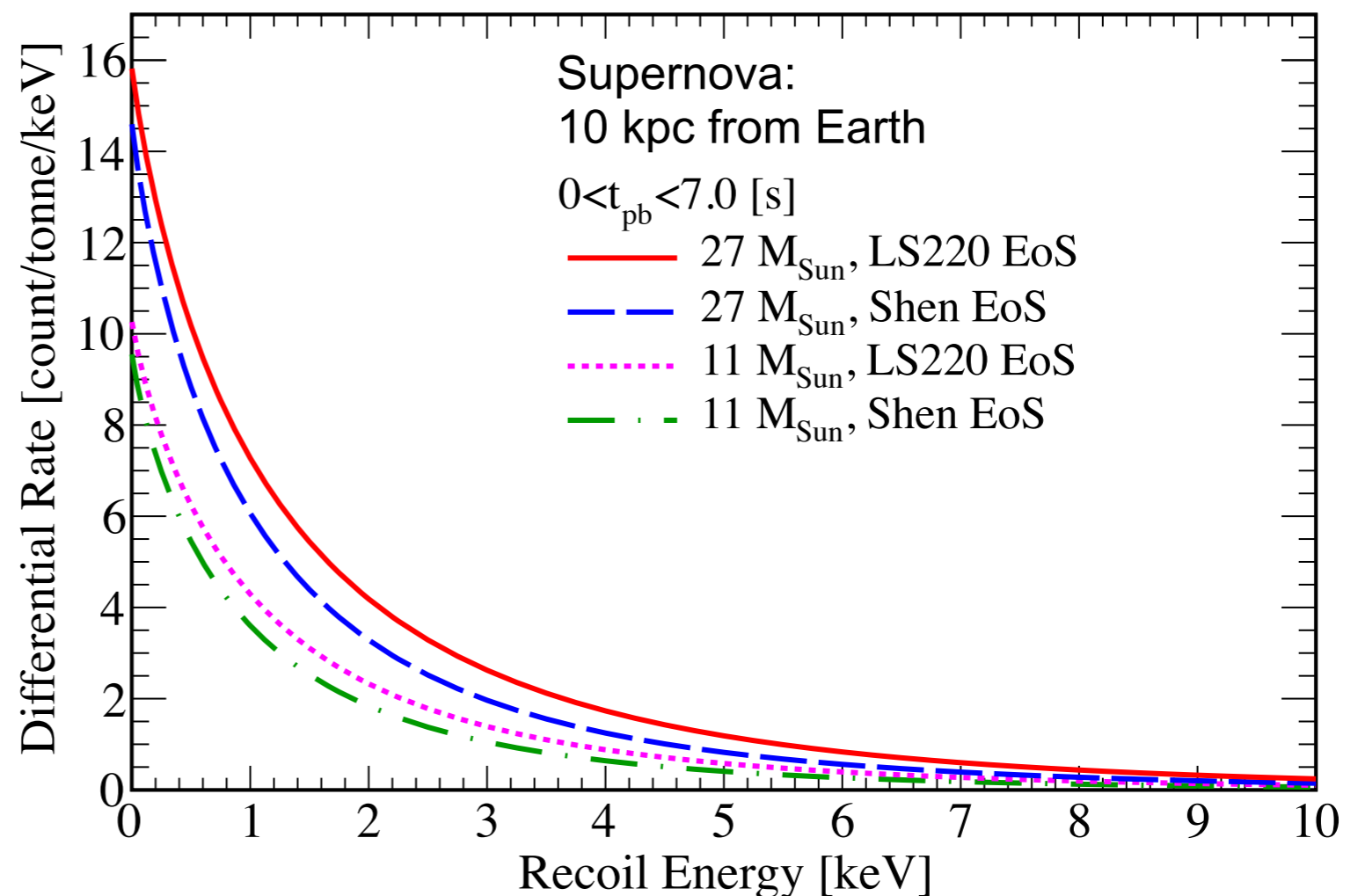
27 Msun, arXiv:1406.0006



S1 and S2 signal simulation



Recoil energy spectrum:
Rate is strongly
peaked at low energy

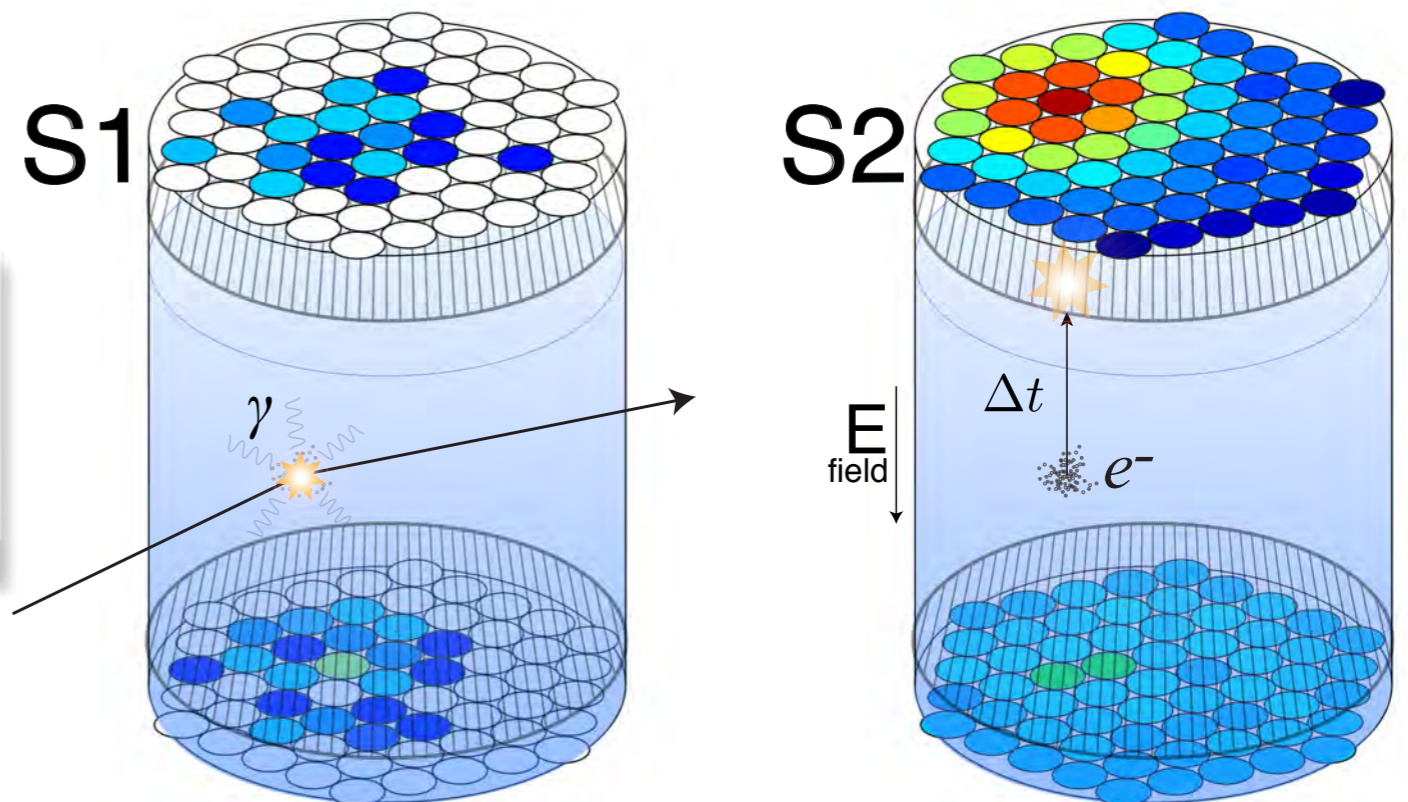


S1 and S2 signal simulation



Calculate the signal in terms of the observable signals:

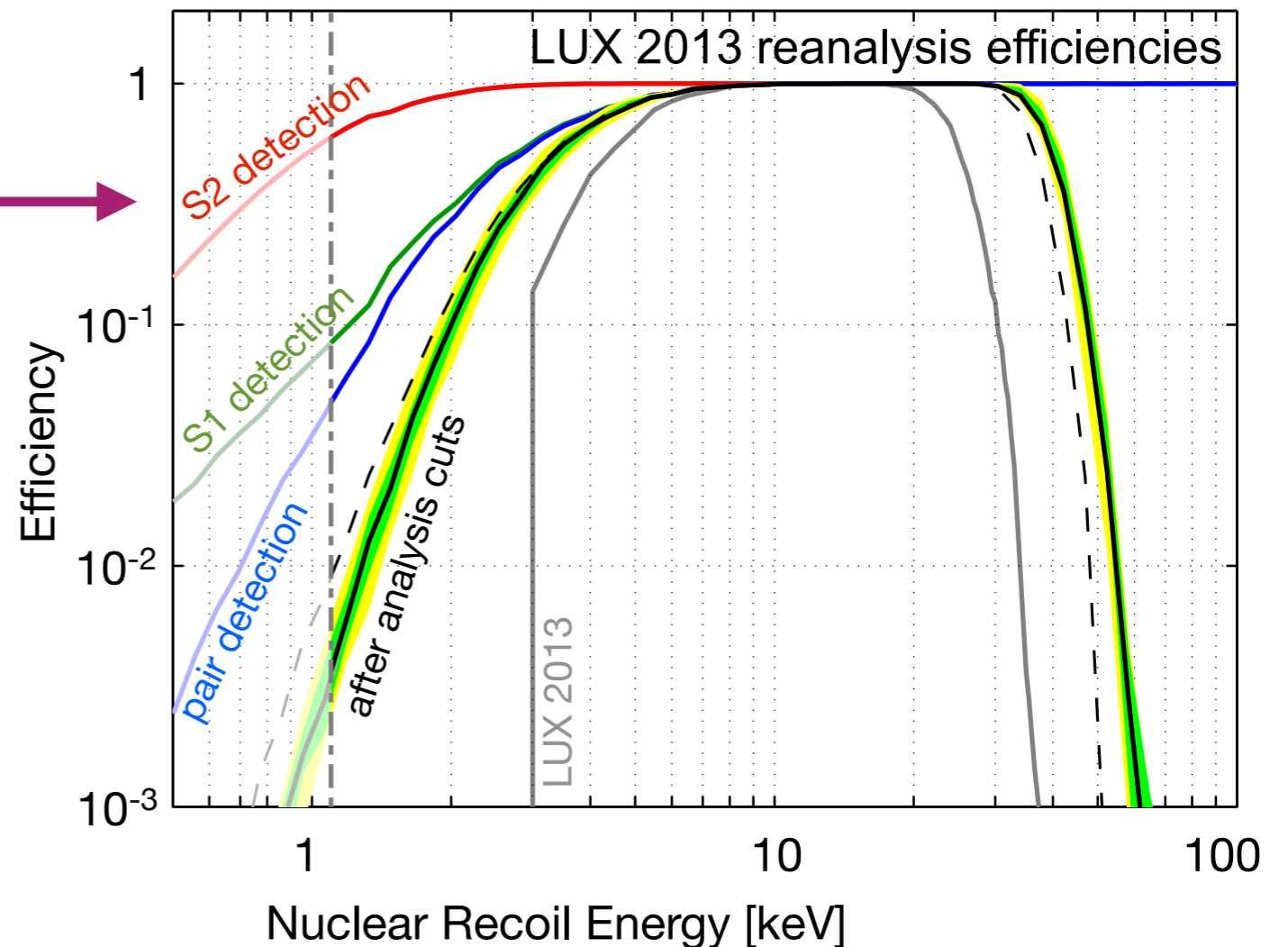
S1: proportional to # photons
S2: proportional to # electrons



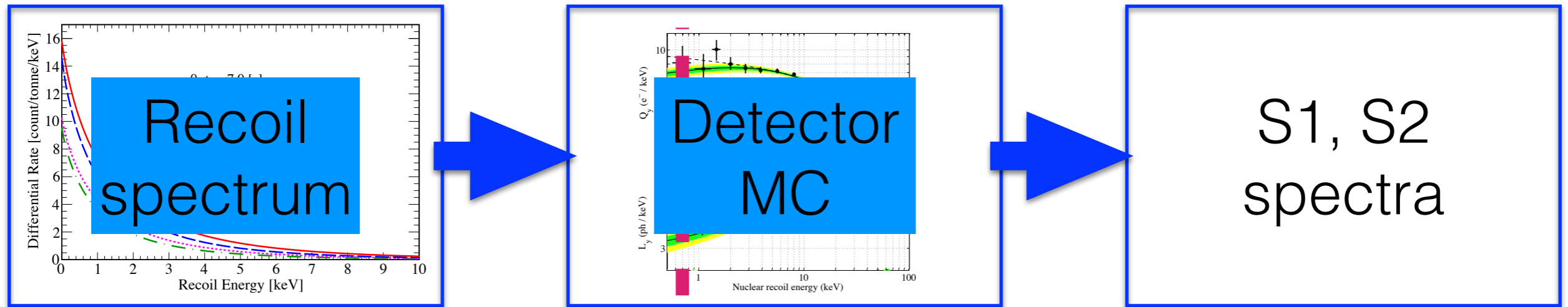
S1 and S2 signal simulation



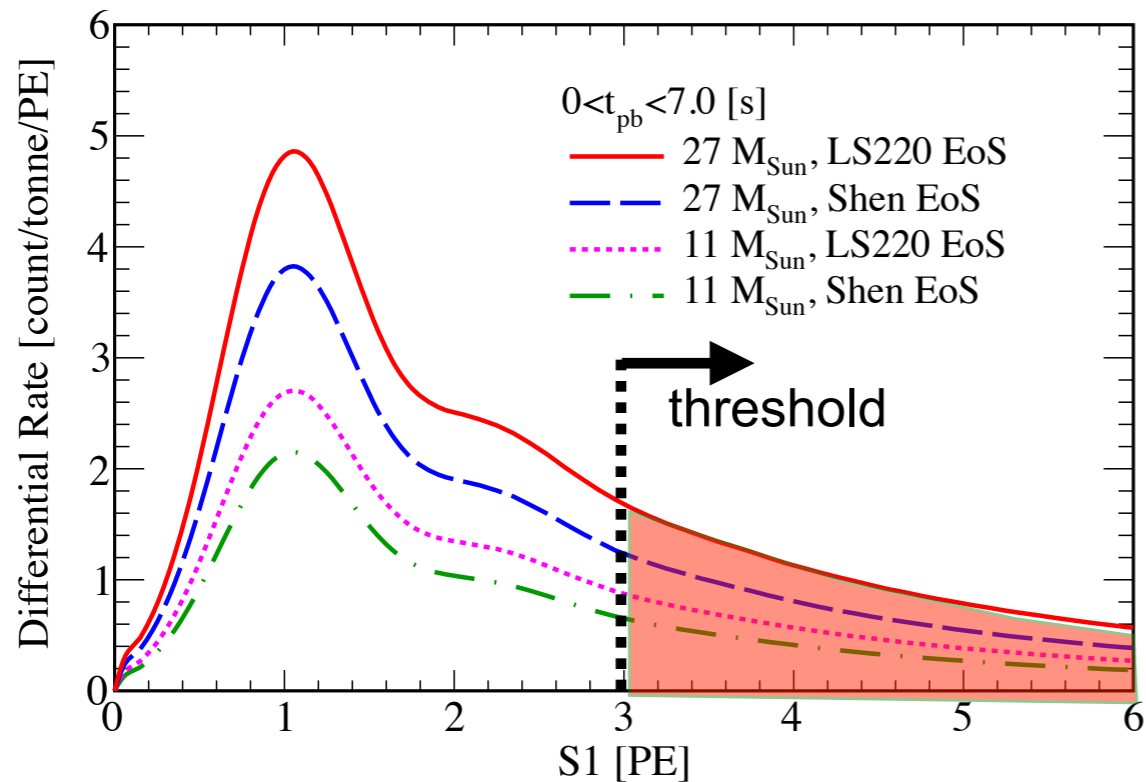
S2 detection efficiency:
order of magnitude higher
than S1 detection efficiency



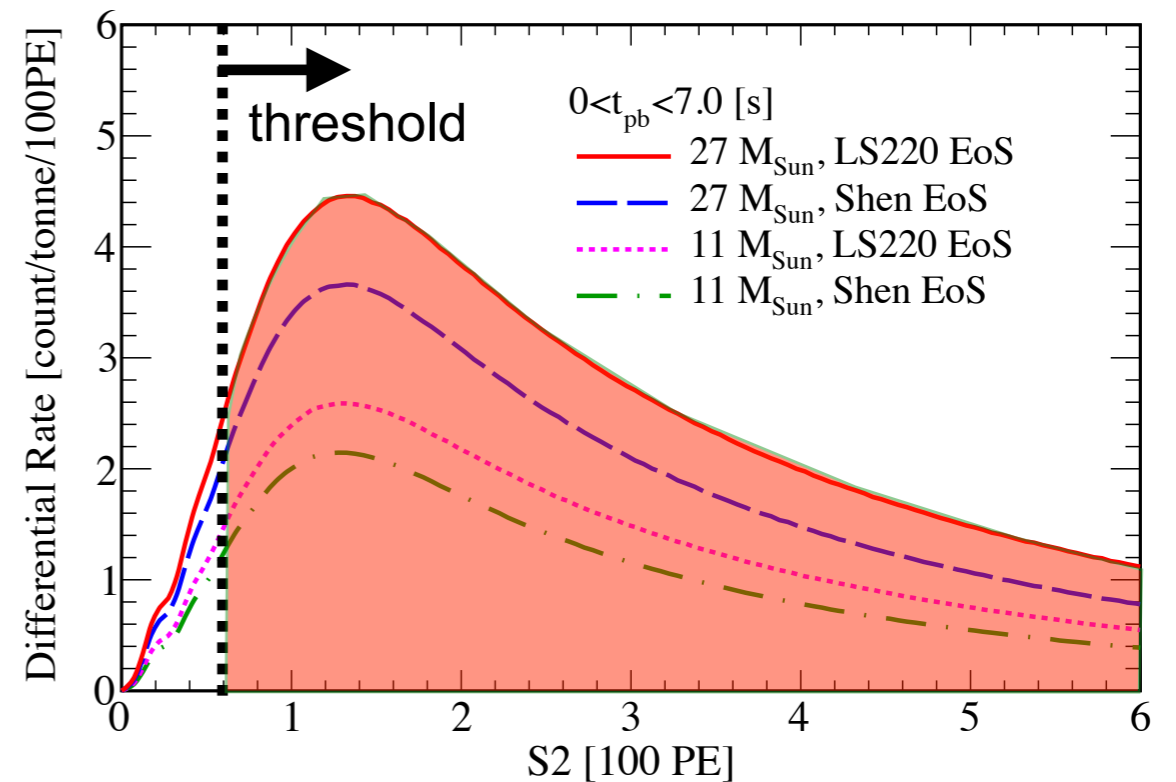
S1 and S2 signal simulation



More events from the S2 channel:

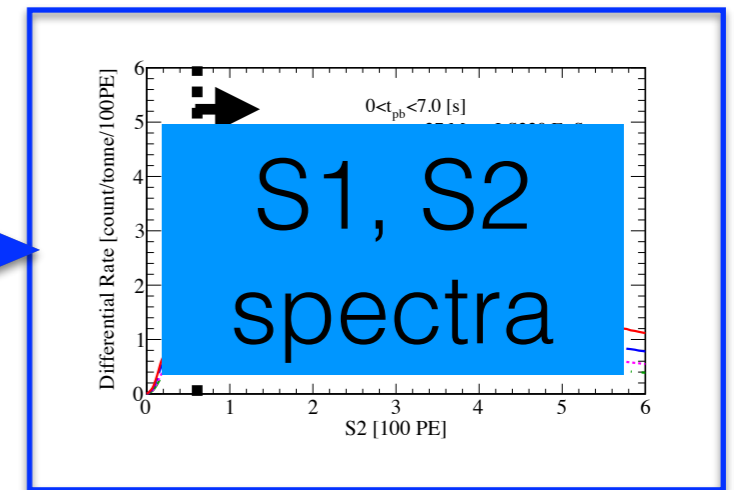
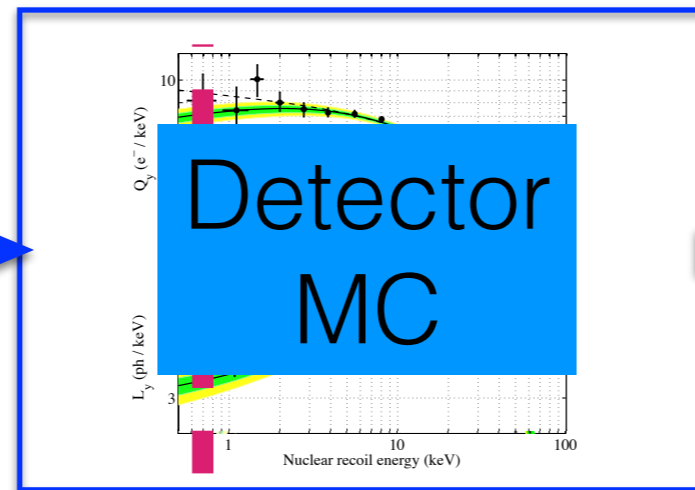
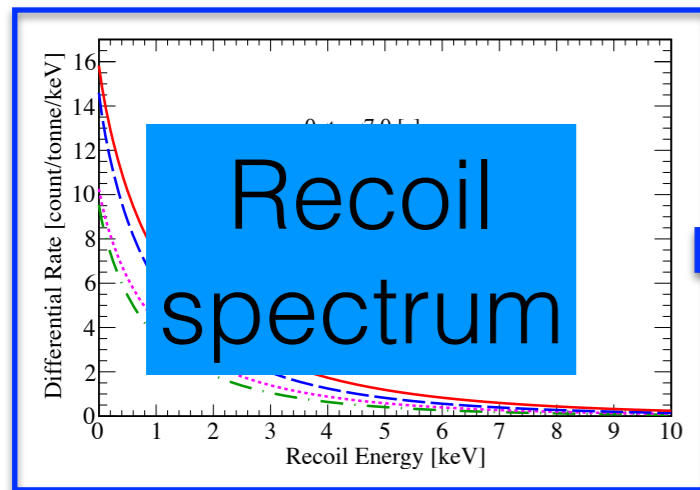


S1 signal: 5.2 events/tonne

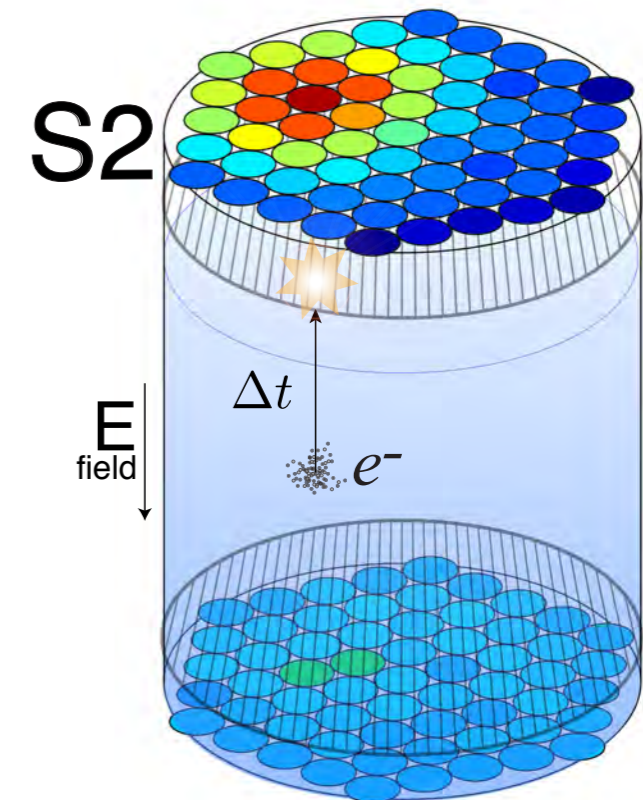
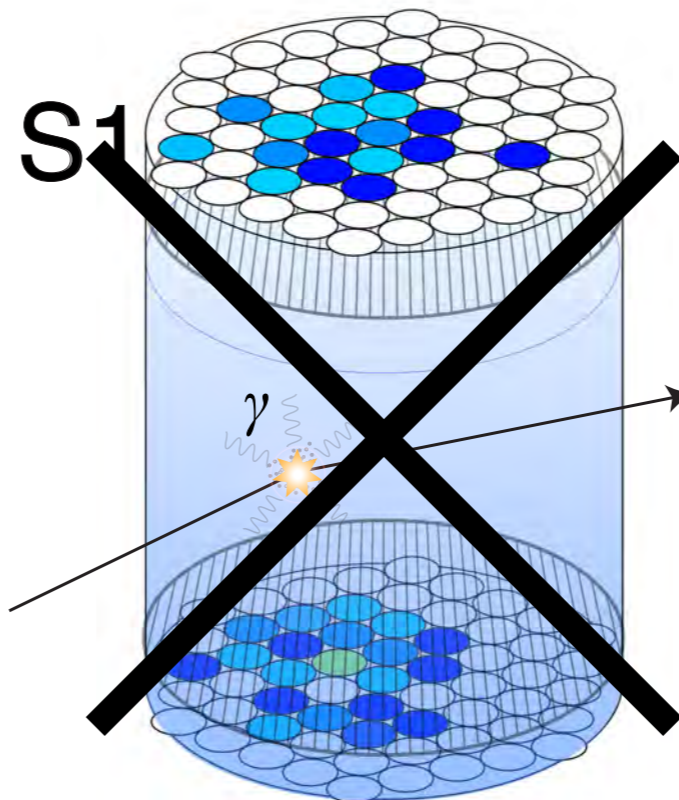


S2 signal: 17.6 events/tonne

S2-only analysis



Perform an S2-only analysis:



S2-only analysis

- Advantage: higher event rate
- ‘Disadvantage’: no background discrimination...
...but not an issue for neutrino signal (is an issue for DM search):
 - Signal is short (<10 seconds)
 - Background rate is small compared to signal rate

Background estimates:

XENON10: 2.3×10^{-2} events/tonne/s

arXiv:1104.3088

XENON100: 1.4×10^{-2} events/tonne/s

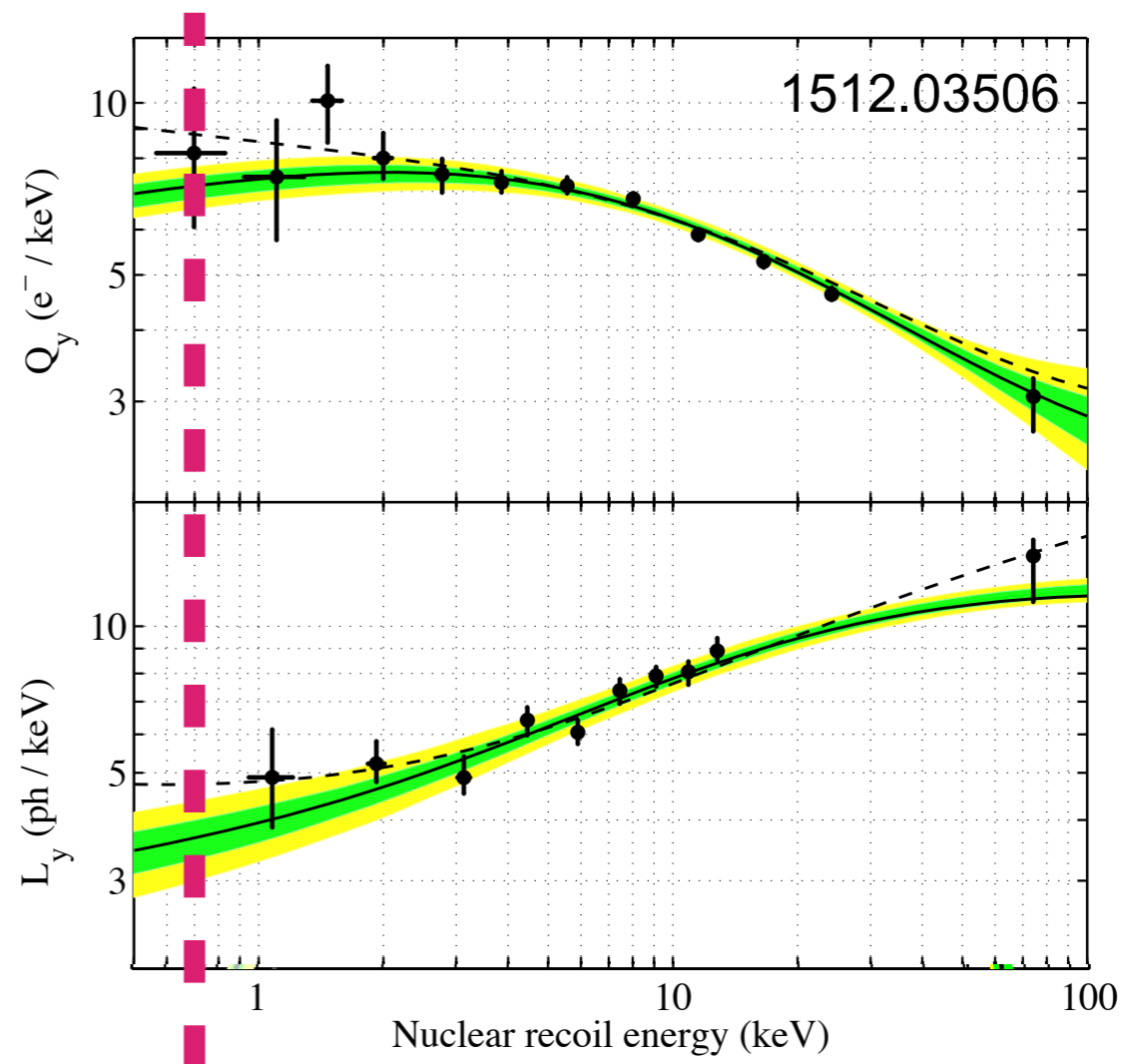
arXiv:1605.06262

signal: 1.0 - 2.5 events/tonne/s (40-100 x background)

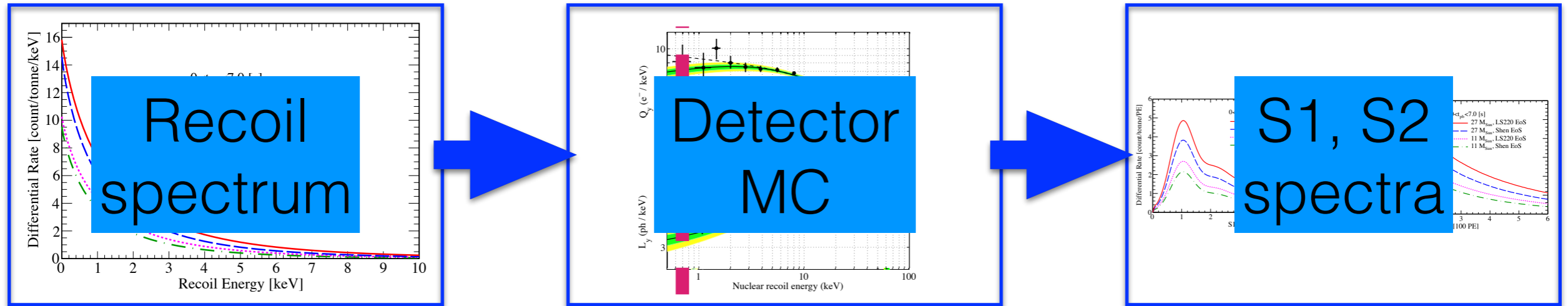
S1 and S2 signal simulation



- Use the LUX light and charge yields:
- Detectors calibrated to low energy (0.7 keV)



Signal simulation: more details



More events from the S2 channel:

	$S1_{th}$ [PE]	$27 M_{\odot}$		$11 M_{\odot}$	
		LS220 EoS	Shen EoS	LS220 EoS	Shen EoS
<i>Events/tonne for supernova 10 kpc from Earth for various S1 and S2 thresholds</i>	≥ 0	26.9	21.4	15.1	12.3
	> 0	13.3	9.8	6.9	5.2
	1	11.0	8.0	5.6	4.1
	2	7.3	5.1	3.6	2.6
	3 (*)	5.2	3.5	2.4	1.7
	$S2_{th}$ [PE]				
	≥ 0	26.9	21.4	15.1	12.3
	> 0	18.5	14.0	9.9	7.6
	20	18.4	14.0	9.8	7.6
	40	18.1	13.7	9.7	7.4
60 (*)	17.6	13.3	9.4	7.2	
80	17.0	12.8	9.0	6.9	
100	16.3	12.2	8.6	6.5	

Requiring an S1 reduces event rate by factor $\sim 3-4$

Use an S2-only analysis

SN neutrinos: Low energy uncertainty

TABLE III: The expected number of neutrino events per tonne for various S2 thresholds under different assumptions for Q_y . We compare the Lindhard and Bezrukov models and assume that $Q_y = 0$ for energies below $Q_{y,\min}$. The results are for the $27 M_\odot$ LS220 EoS progenitor at 10 kpc and integrated over the first 7 s. Similar results hold for other progenitor models. The signal uncertainty in each row is $(S_{2,\max} - S_{2,\min}) / (S_{2,\max} + S_{2,\min})$. The Lindhard model with $Q_{y,\min} = 0.7$ keV gives the smallest number of events per tonne and is the benchmark assumption that we have made in this paper.

S2 _{th} [PE]	27 M _⊙ LS220 EoS				Signal uncertainty
	Lindhard $Q_{y,\min}$		Bezrukov $Q_{y,\min}$		
	0.1 keV	0.7 keV	0.1 keV	0.7 keV	
20	22.9	18.4	23.8	18.5	13%
40	21.0	18.1	22.2	18.3	10%
60 (★)	19.4	17.6	20.6	17.9	8%
80	18.1	17.0	19.2	17.5	6%
100	16.9	16.3	17.9	16.9	5%

