

# Germanium-based Search of Neutrinoless Double-Beta Decay



Wenqin Xu

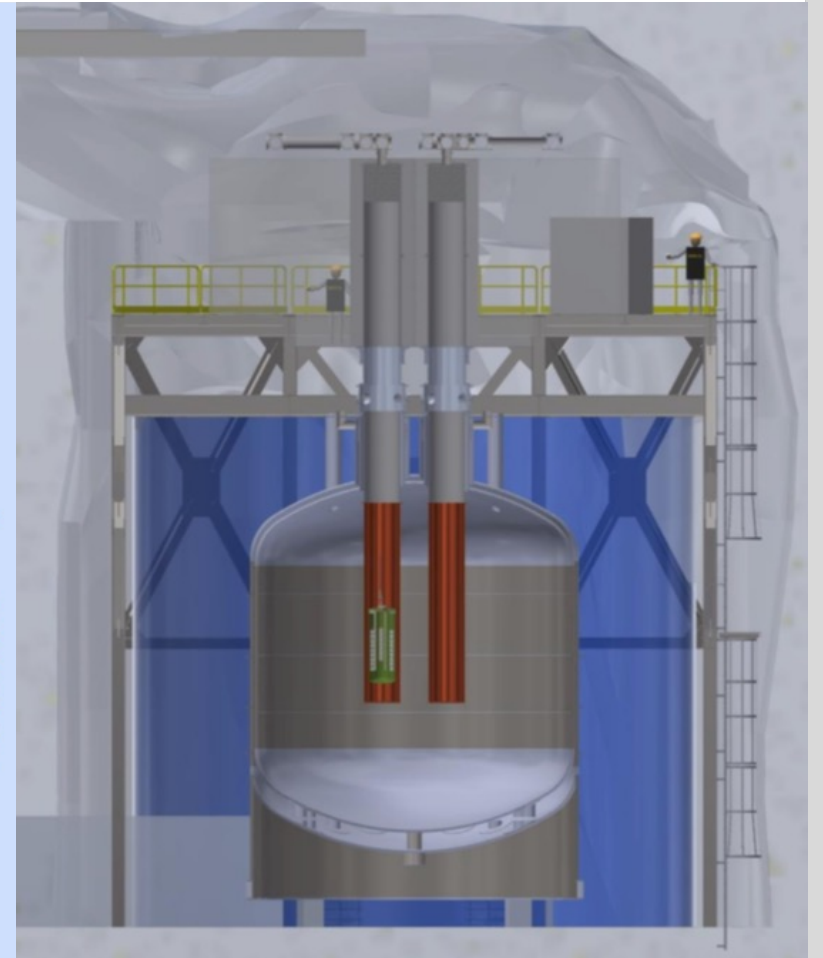
University of South Dakota

Nov - 29 - 2022

Colloquium

Brookhaven National Laboratory

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

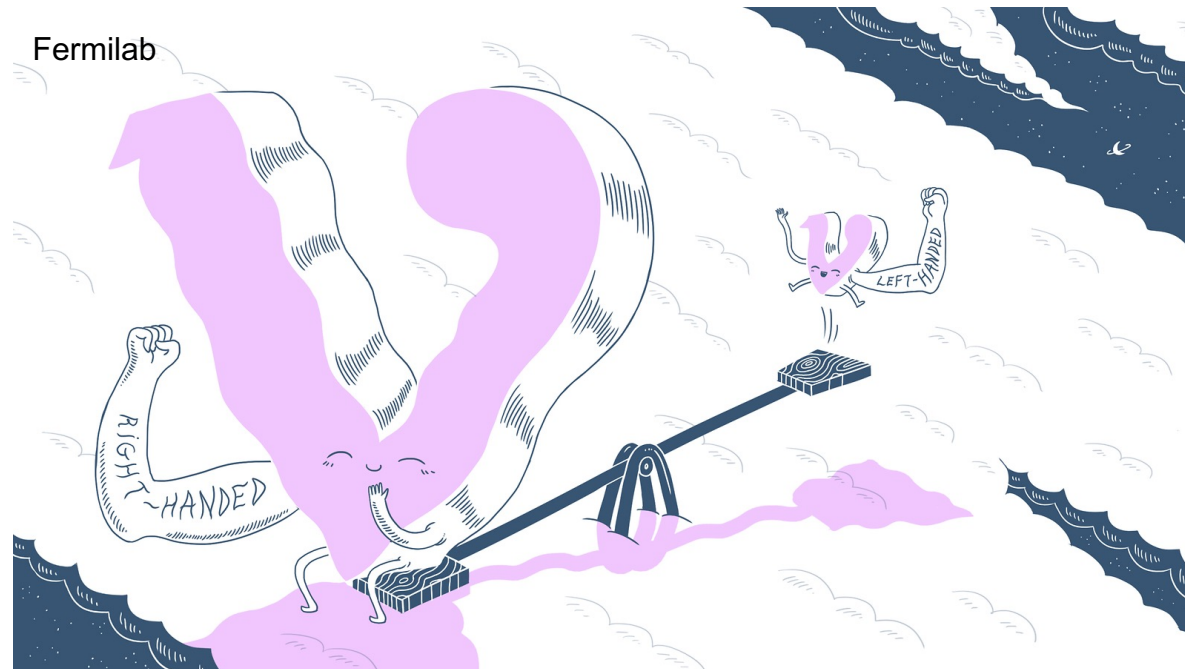
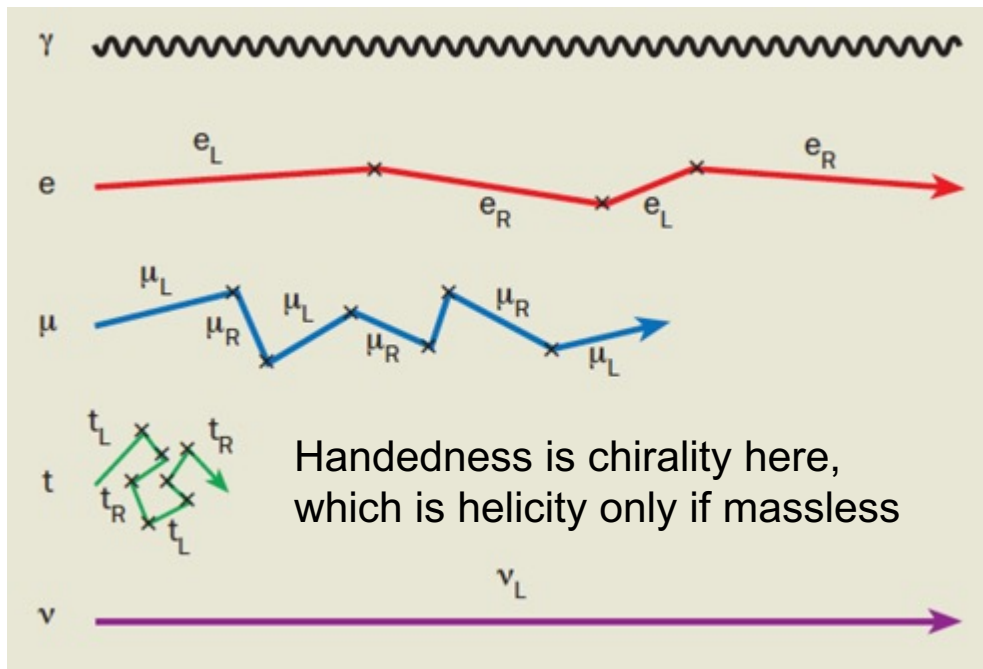


# Part I

## Motivation for the Discovery of Neutrinoless Double-Beta Decay

# Neutrino Mass is Beyond the Standard Model

H. Murayama, Physics World, May 2002



Right-handed neutrinos never discovered

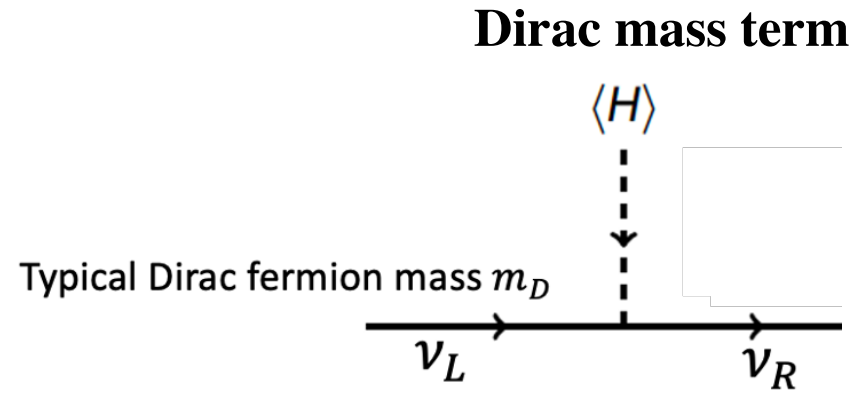
- **Neutrinos have zero mass in the Standard Model**
- Non-zero neutrino mass is **physics beyond-the-Standard Model (BSM)**
  - Need right-handed neutrinos in the mechanism for neutrino mass
  - Need to avoid light active right-handed neutrinos as they are not found in data



Introduce a heavy neutrino in the seesaw model

- Heavy neutrinos are NOT sterile
- Too heavy to be created or found in experiments

# Introducing Heavy Right-handed Neutrinos





# Introducing Heavy Right-handed Neutrinos

*If I introduce new fields, I have to write down all possible interactions allowed by the gauge symmetries given the (new) field content* Adapted from Walter Winter, WIN 2017

Because neutrinos are electrically neutral,  $\nu_R$  would allow a Majorana mass term  $\sim m_R(\bar{\nu}_L \nu_R^c + \bar{\nu}_R^c \nu_L)$

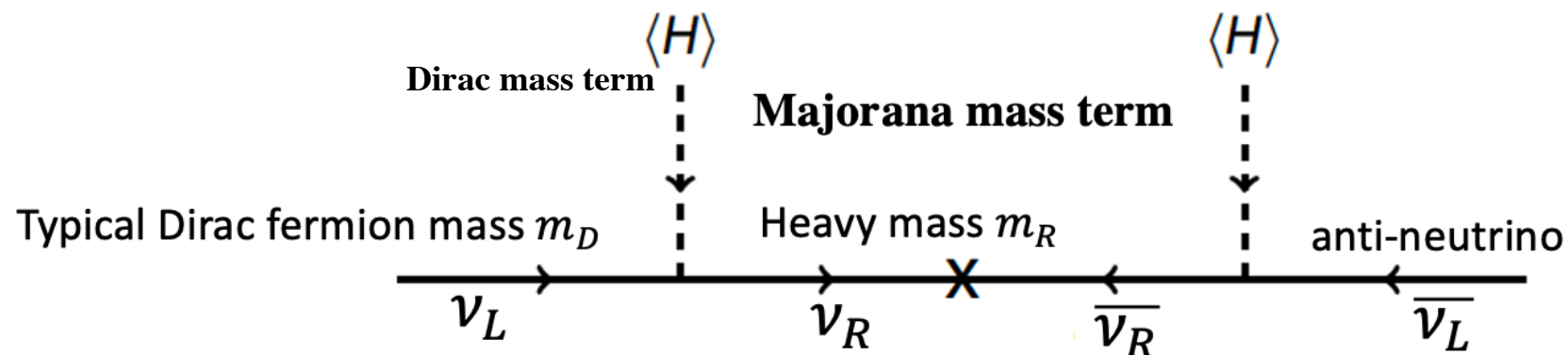


Figure adapted from Jon Engel

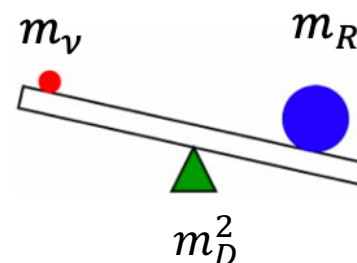
$\nu_R$  is assumed to be very heavy in the seesaw model. It can only participate as a virtual particle in the process above. It cannot be easily produced and detected.

The physical neutrino is a mixture

$$\nu = c_1 \nu_R^c + c_2 \nu_L$$

with a mass highly suppressed by  $m_R$

$$\Rightarrow m_\nu = \frac{m_D^2}{m_R}$$



Dirac mass

The seesaw model

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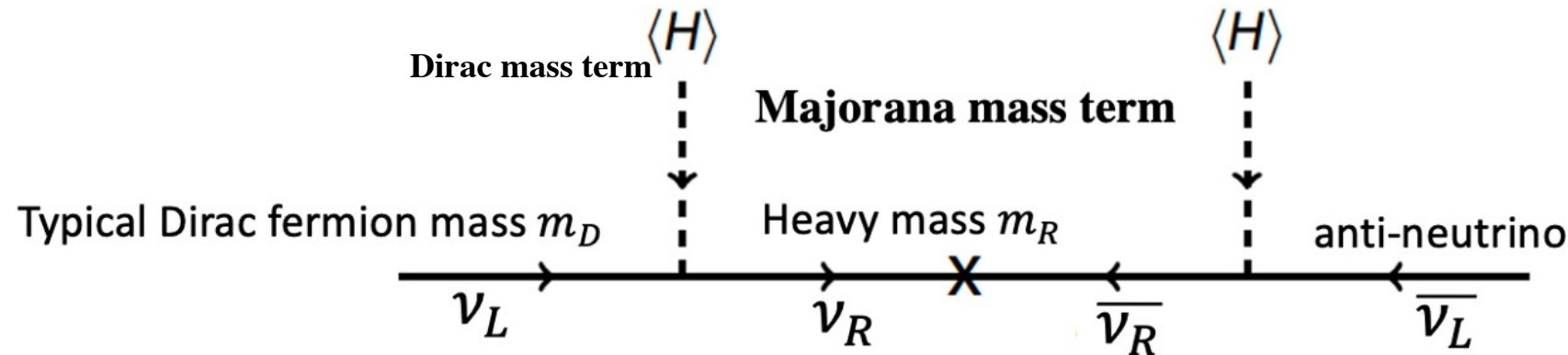
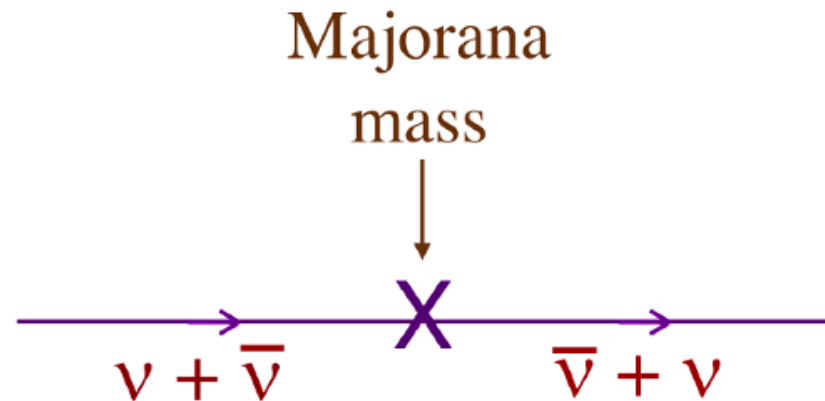


Figure adapted from Jon Engel



# Lepton and Baryon Number Violation

But there is an **accidental** conservation law forbidding Majorana neutrinos: lepton number conservation  
Neutrino: lepton number +1, Antineutrino: lepton number -1

Emmy Noether



Noether's  
Theorem:  
continuous  
symmetry  
leads to  
conservation  
laws

## Baryon- and Lepton-Nonconserving Processes

Also F. Wilczek and A. Zee  
Phys. Rev. Lett. 43. 1571(1979)

Steven Weinberg Phys. Rev. Lett. 43.1566 (1979)

*Lyman Laboratory of Physics, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138, and  
Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138  
(Received 13 August 1979)*

A number of properties of possible baryon- and lepton-nonconserving processes are shown to follow under very general assumptions. Attention is drawn to the importance of measuring  $\mu^+$  polarizations and  $\bar{\nu}_e/e^+$  ratios in nucleon decay as a means of discriminating among specific models.

Of the supposedly exact conservation laws of physics, two are especially questionable: the conservation of baryon number and lepton number. As far as we know, there is no necessity for an *a priori* principle of baryon and lepton conservation. As we shall see, even without such a principle, the fact that the weak, electromagnetic, and strong interactions of ordinary quarks and leptons conserve baryon and lepton number can be understood as simply a consequence of the  $SU(2) \otimes U(1)$  and  $SU(3)$  gauge symmetries. Also, in contrast with the conservation of charge, col-

conservation are likely to occur in grand unified theories that combine the gauge theory of weak and electromagnetic interactions with that of strong interactions and have leptons and quarks in the same gauge multiplets, and such violations have been found in various of these models.<sup>3</sup>

The purpose of this paper is to point out those features of baryon- or lepton-nonconserving processes that are to be expected on very general grounds. Other features will be indicated that may be used to discriminate among specific models.

Not  
fundamental

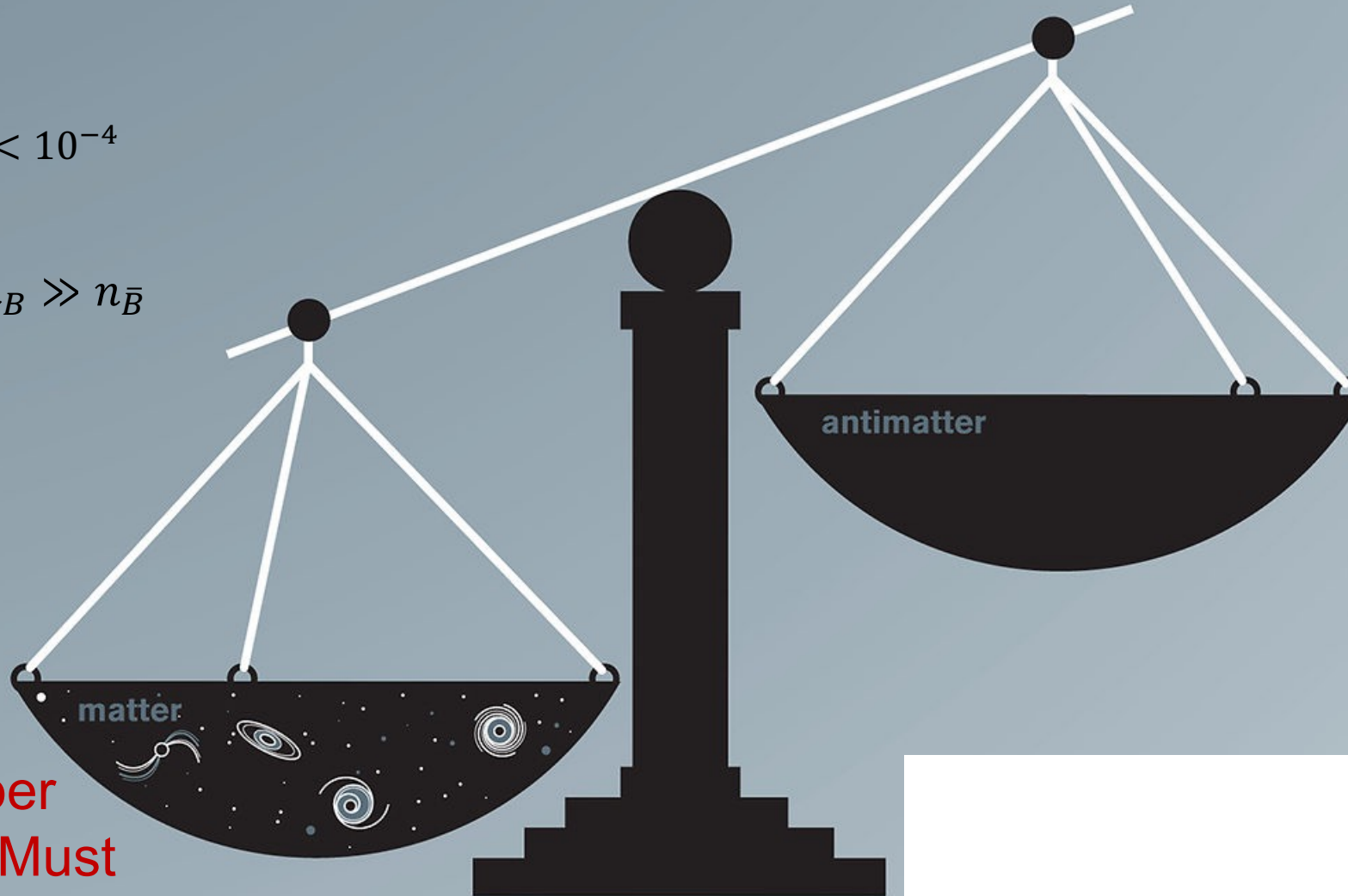
but  
accidental

Such as the  
Majorana  
mass term

# Matter Over Antimatter Excess In The Universe

Cosmic Ray  $\frac{\bar{p}}{p} < 10^{-4}$

Cosmic  
Background  
Radiation, etc:  $n_B \gg n_{\bar{B}}$



**Baryon Number  
Violation is a Must**

Baryon number must be violated. In what process?  
Is lepton number violated in the generation of neutrino mass?

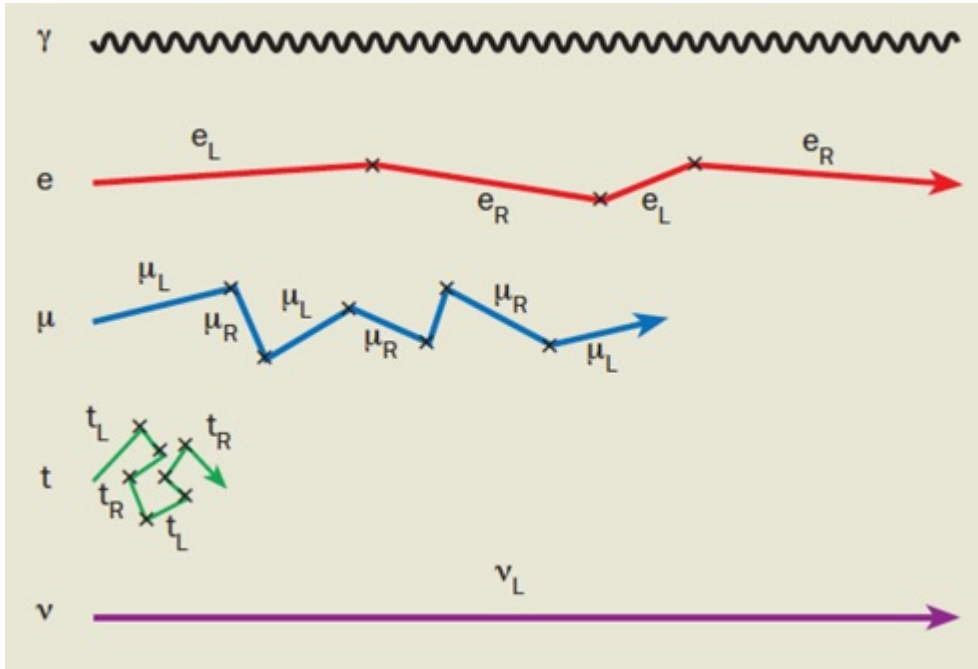
Annu. Rev. Nucl. Part. Sci. 2005. 55:311–55  
doi: 10.1146/annurev.nucl.55.090704.151558  
Copyright © 2005 by Annual Reviews. All rights reserved

## LEPTOGENESIS AS THE ORIGIN OF MATTER

W. Buchmüller,<sup>1</sup> R.D. Peccei,<sup>2</sup> and T. Yanagida,<sup>3</sup>

# Motivation for Neutrinoless Double Beta Decay ( $0\nu\beta\beta$ )

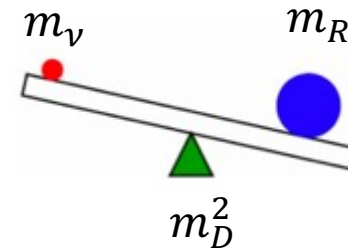
H. Murayama, Physics World, May 2002



Right-handed neutrinos never discovered

- Neutrinos have zero mass in the Standard Model
- Non-zero neutrino mass is **physics beyond-the-Standard Model (BSM)**
- We introduce heavy neutrinos in the seesaw mechanism

Heavy right-handed neutrino mass



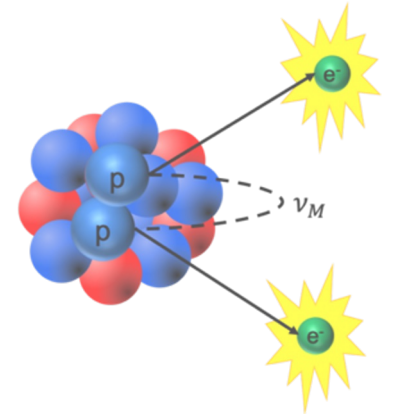
Dirac mass

The seesaw model

$$m_\nu = \frac{m_D^2}{m_R}$$

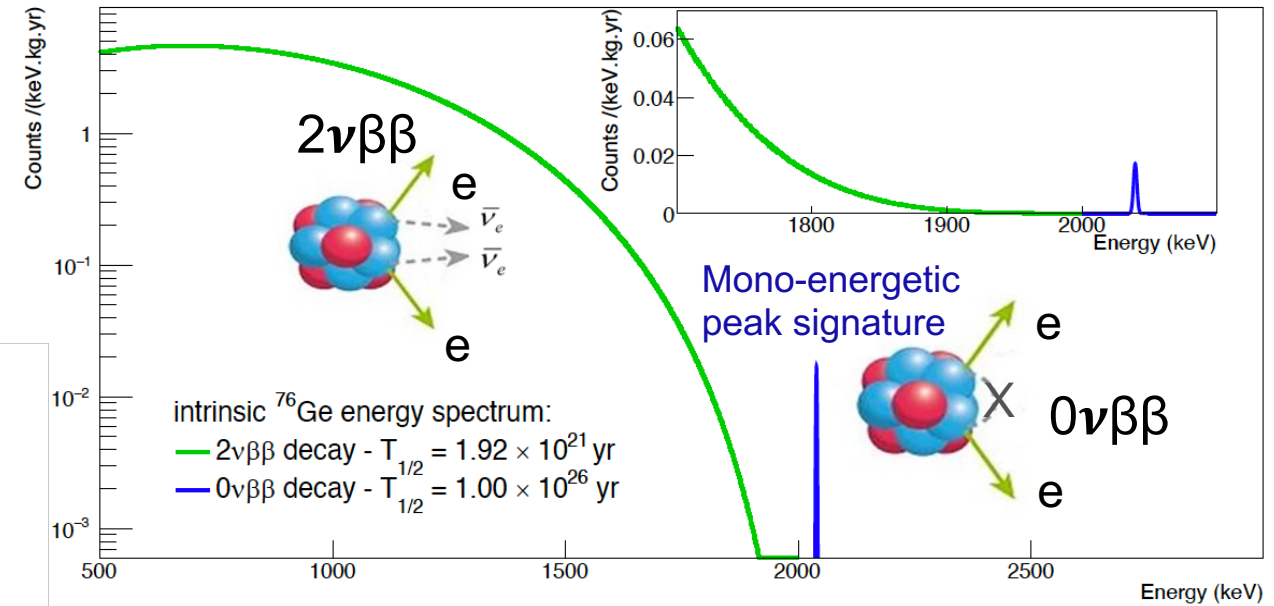
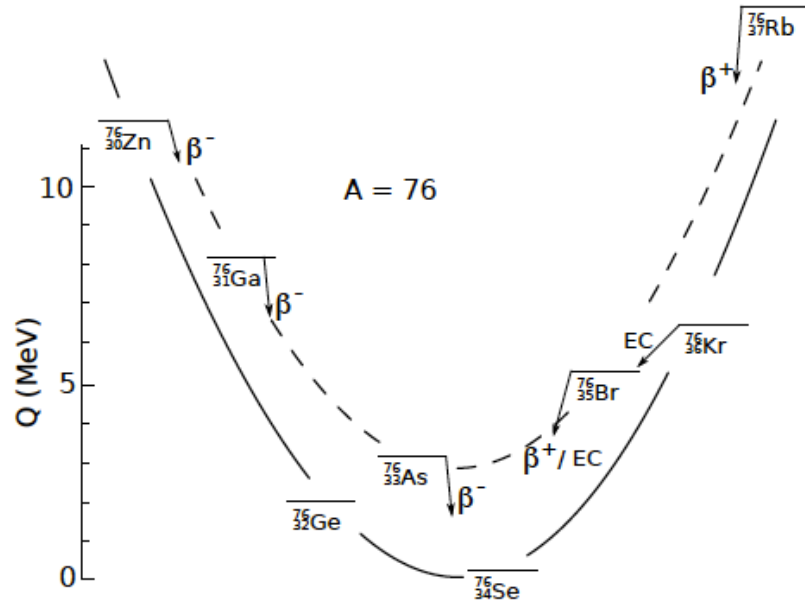
Dirac masses would still allow for Majorana masses neutrinos

- Seesaw mechanism explains the tininess of  $m_\nu$
- Majorana neutrinos are their own anti-particles
- Neutrinoless double beta decay ( $0\nu\beta\beta$ ) is the only experimentally feasible way to establish neutrinos are Majorana.
- **Probe the Lepton number violation**





# Neutrinoless Double-beta Decay ( $0\nu\beta\beta$ )

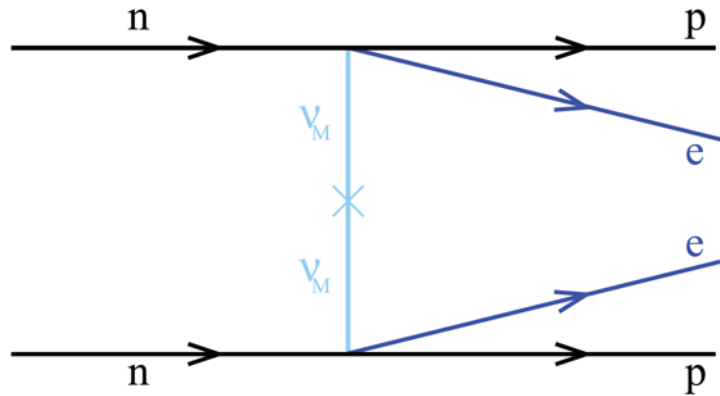


Double-beta decay is possible when energetically favored

Two neutrino double-beta decay ( $2\nu\beta\beta$ ) is an observed Standard Model process

- Observation of Neutrinoless double-beta decay ( $0\nu\beta\beta$ ) would
- **prove the total lepton number is violated by 2 units ( $\Delta L = 2$ )**
  - imply massive neutrinos are Majorana particles

# $0\nu\beta\beta$ Half Life and Effective Neutrino Mass



For light neutrino exchange model only:

$$(T_{1/2}^{0\nu})^{-1} = G^{0\nu} |M_{0\nu}|^2 \left( \frac{\langle m_{\beta\beta} \rangle}{m_e} \right)^2$$

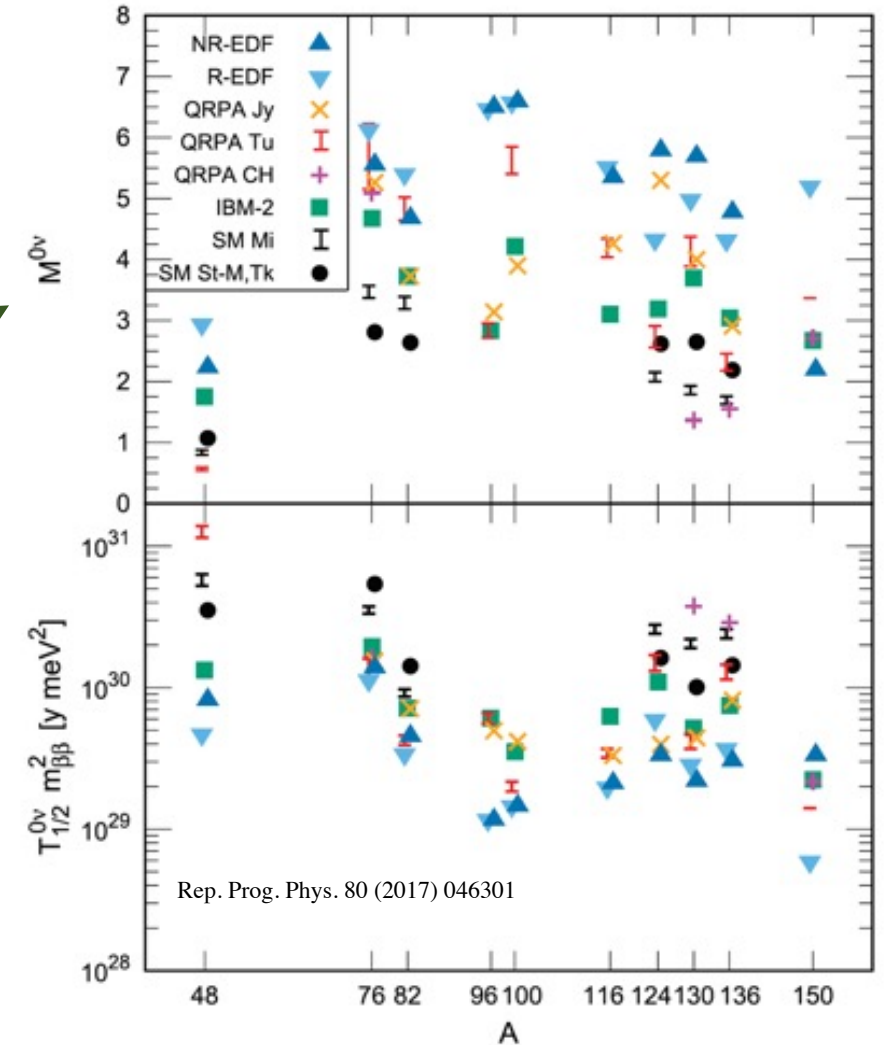
Nuclear Matrix Element

$0\nu\beta\beta$

- Half life relates to the effective neutrino mass

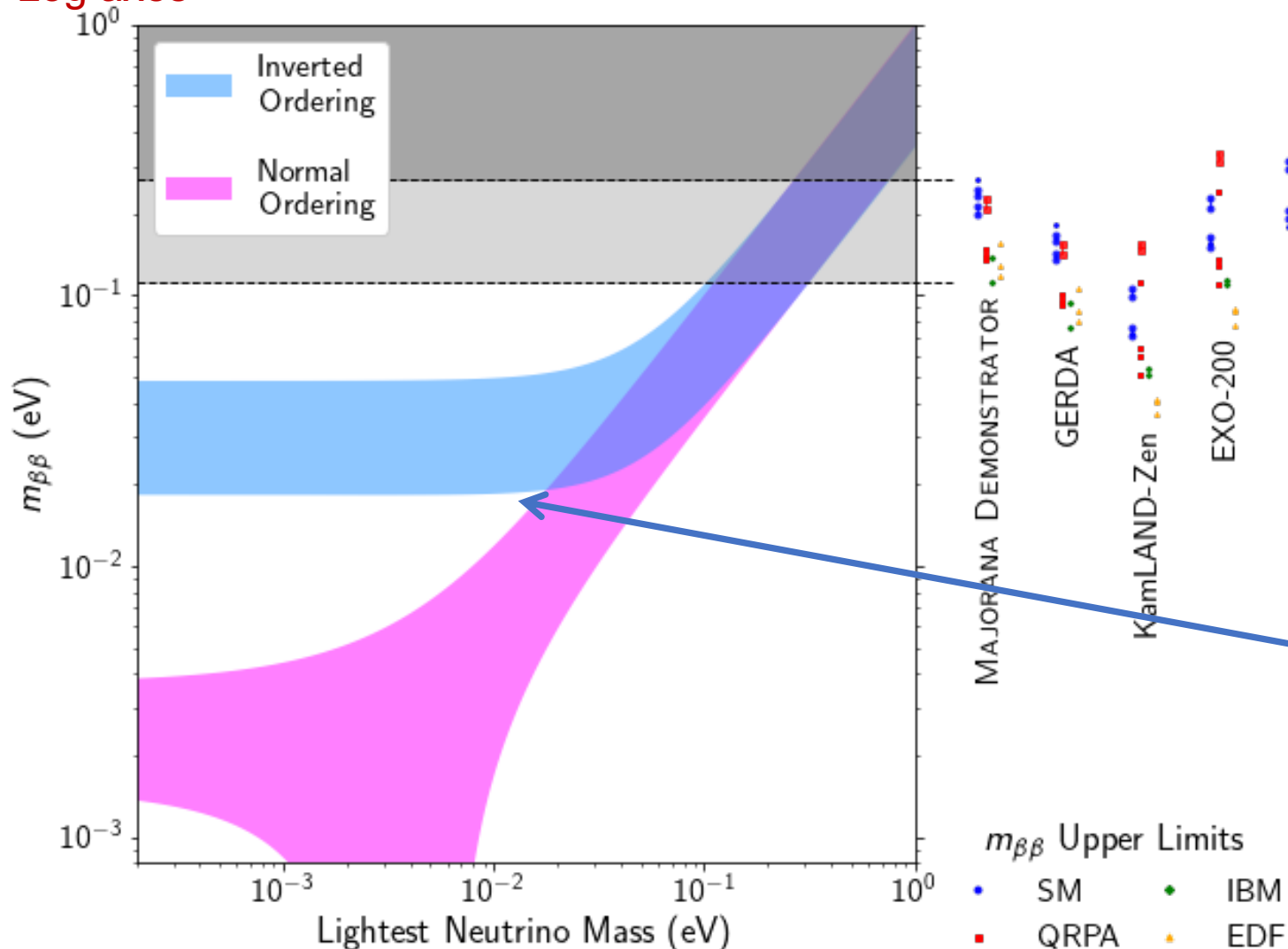
$$\langle m_{\beta\beta} \rangle = \left| \sum_{i=1}^3 U_{ei}^2 m_i \right|$$

- Theoretical calculations of the nuclear matrix element have significant uncertainties



# Phase Space for Discovery

Log axes



A variety of isotopes and techniques in use for  $0\nu\beta\beta$  searches, Ge, Xe, and more.

Current generation experiments make steady progresses in probing the phase space possible for  $0\nu\beta\beta$  with constant technology developments

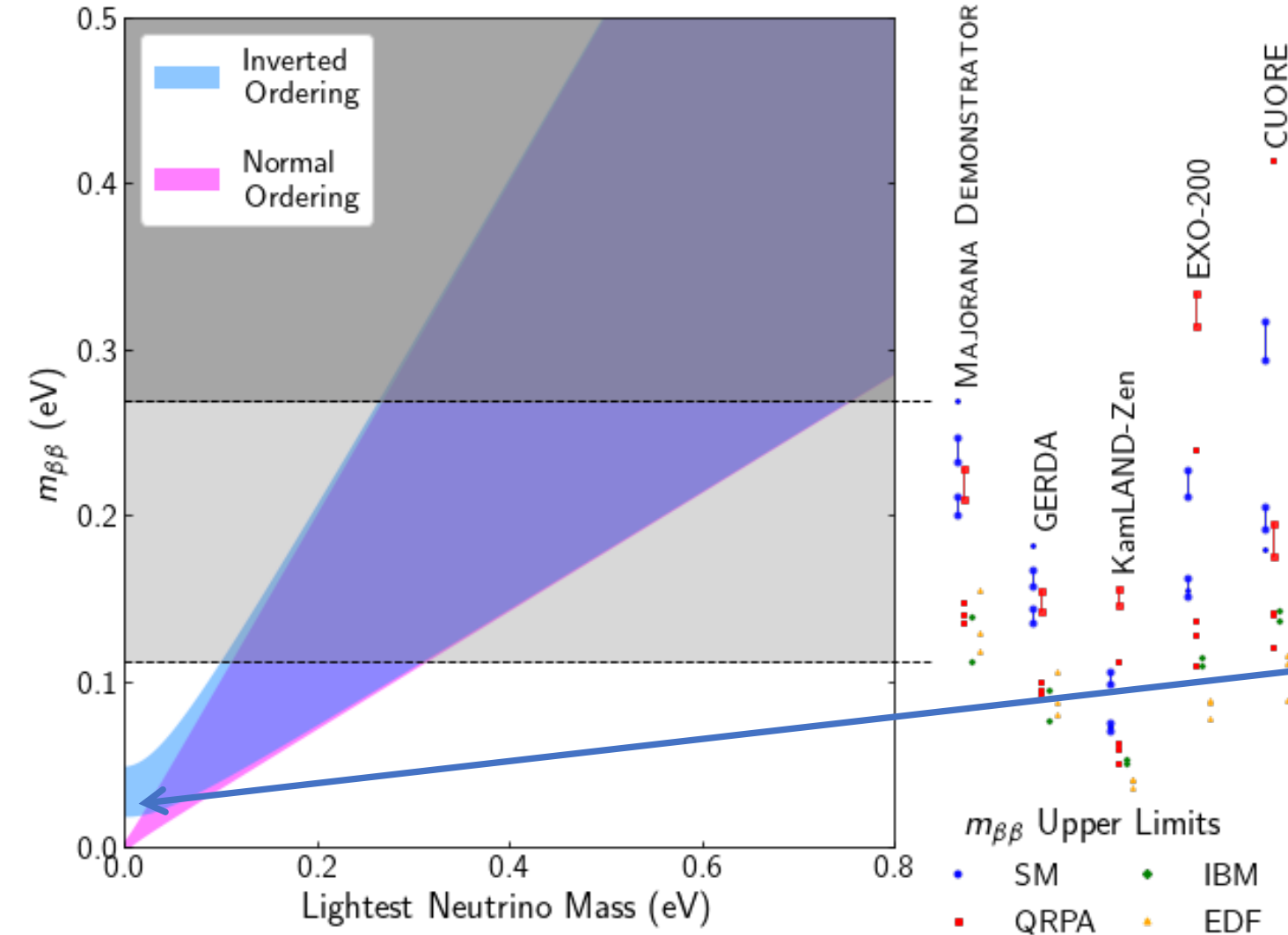
Significant discovery potential to be realized by next generation ton-scale experiments

- probing the entire inverted neutrino mass ordering assuming the light neutrino exchange model
- large discovery potential also in the normal mass ordering



# Phase Space for Discovery

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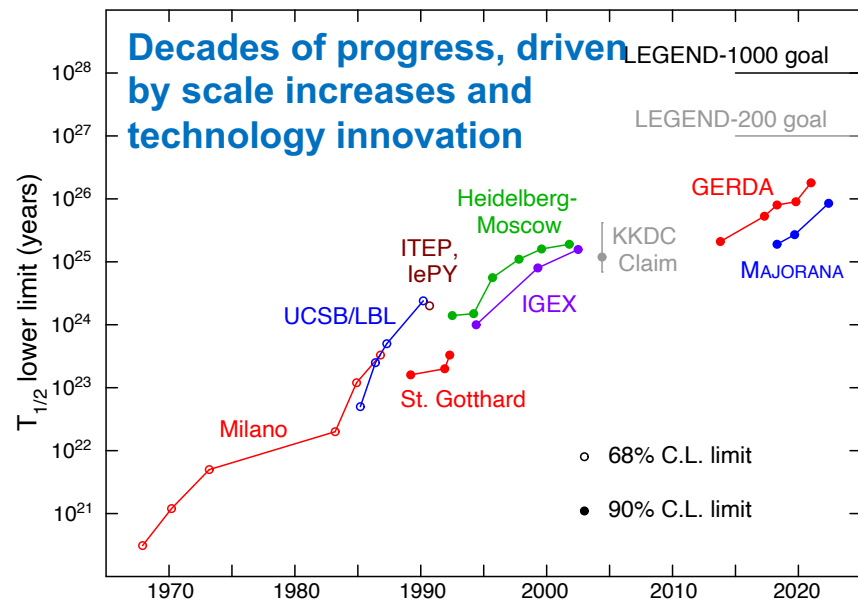
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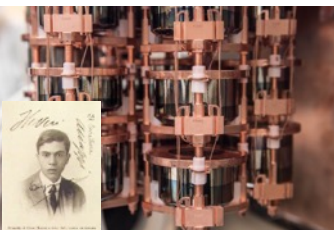
## Part II

# Proven Ge Technologies for the Discovery of Neutrinoless Double-Beta Decay

# Generations of Ge searches of $0\nu\beta\beta$

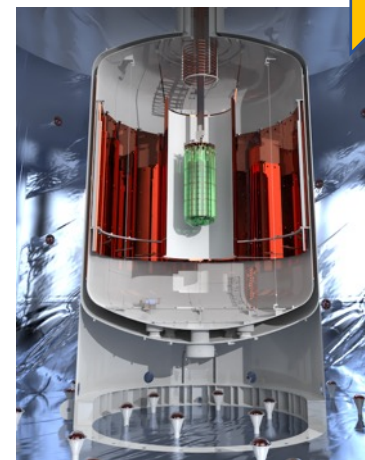


Most recent  
(~30-40 kg)



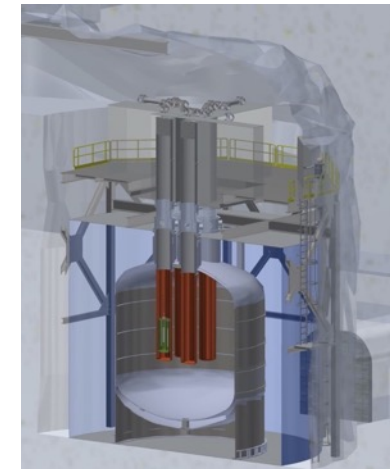
MAJORANA

Ongoing  
(~200 kg)



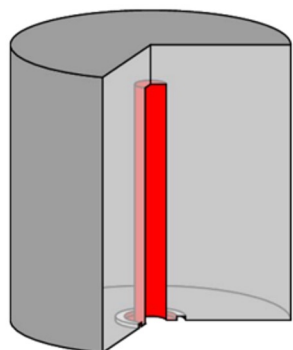
LEGEND-200

proceeding to CD-1  
(~1000kg)



LEGEND-1000

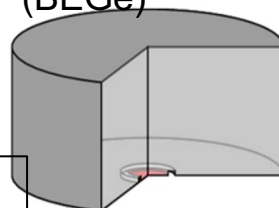
(Semi)-Coaxial



- Large mass (2-3 kg)
- Imperfect background rejection



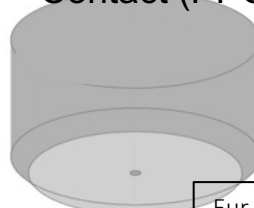
GERDA  
Broad Energy Ge  
(BEGe)



IEEE Trans. on  
Nuc. Sci., 36, 1,  
926-930 (1989)

- Small mass (< 1 kg)
- Excellent background rejection

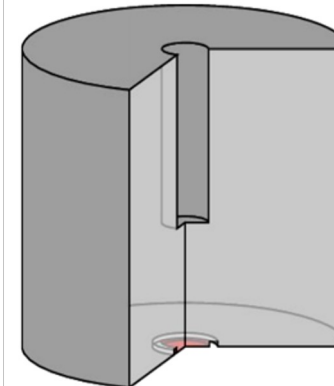
MAJORANA  
P-type Point  
Contact (PPC)



Eur. Phys. J. C  
79, 978 (2019)



Inverted-Coaxial Point Contact (ICPC)



NIMA ,891, 106-110, (2018)

- Newly developed for LEGEND
- Large mass (up to 4 kg)
- Excellent background rejection

# The MAJORANA DEMONSTRATOR

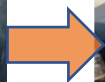
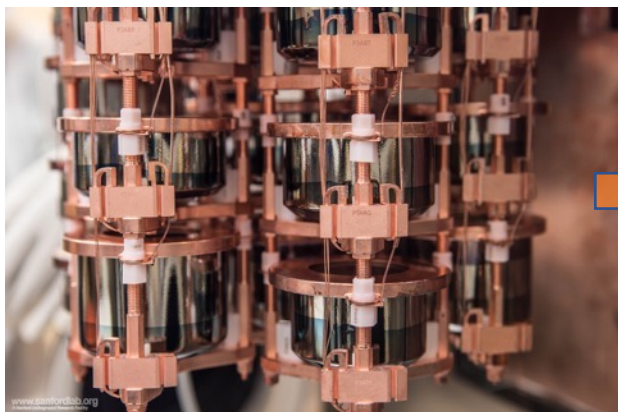
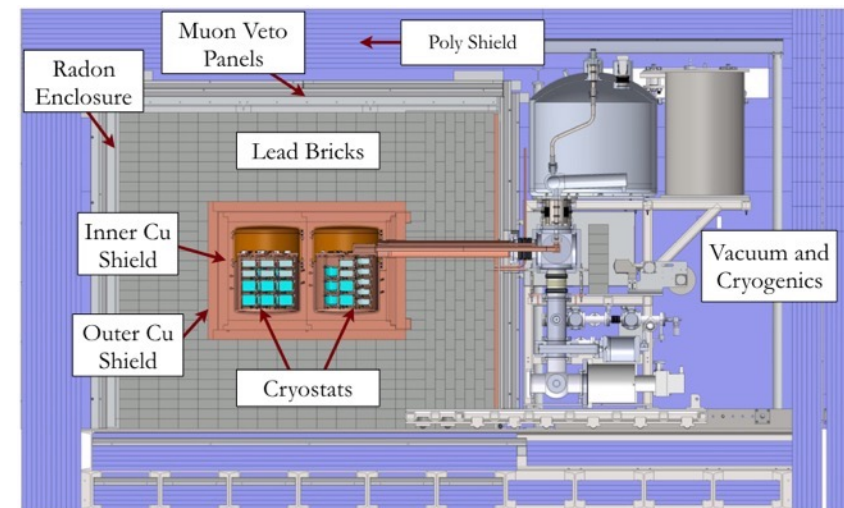
Searching for neutrinoless double-beta decay of  $^{76}\text{Ge}$  in HPGe detectors, probing additional physics beyond the standard model, and informing the design of the next-generation LEGEND experiment

**Source & Detector:** Array of p-type, point contact detectors  
30 kg of 88% enriched  $^{76}\text{Ge}$  crystals - 14 kg of natural Ge crystals  
Included 6.7 kg of  $^{76}\text{Ge}$  inverted coaxial, point contact detectors in final run

**Excellent Energy Resolution:** 2.5 keV FWHM @ 2039 keV  
and **Analysis Threshold:** 1 keV

**Low Background:** 2 modules within a compact graded shield and active muon veto using ultra-clean materials

**Reached an exposure of ~65 kg-yr** before removal of the enriched detectors for the LEGEND-200 experiment at LNGS



Best Energy resolution at the Q-value in  $0\nu\beta\beta$  searches

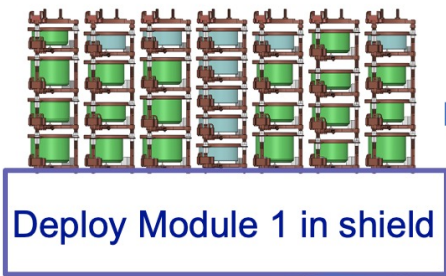
Continuing to operate at the **Sanford Underground Research Facility in Lead, SD** with natural detectors for background studies and other physics

Wenqin Xu 11/29/22



# Majorana Run Configuration & Timeline

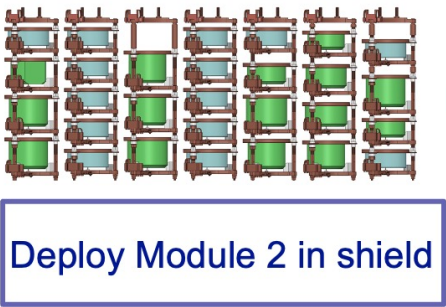
## Module 1



**Mar. 2021:**  
Stopped <sup>enr</sup>Ge Operation  
Removed all <sup>enr</sup>Ge for  
LEGEND-200

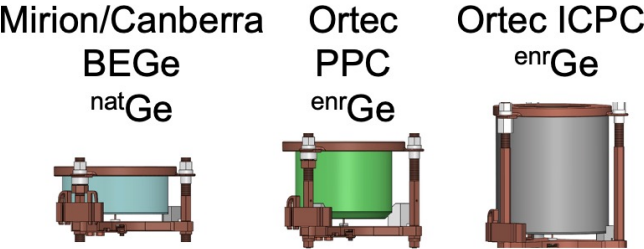


## Module 2



Cable/Connector Upgrade of Module 2  
Removed 5 PPC detectors for LEGEND Testing  
Installed 4 LEGEND ICPC Detectors

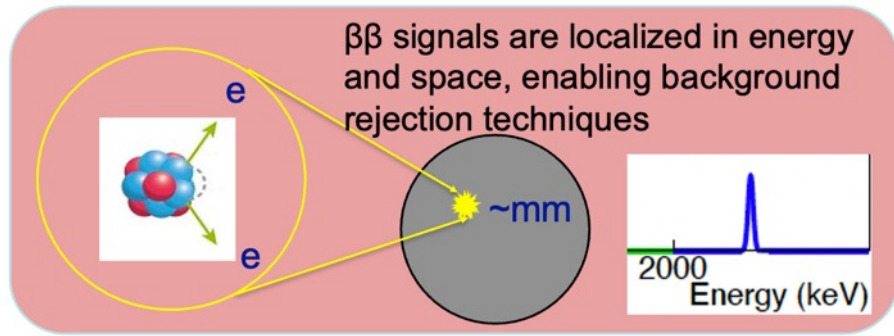
Continuing operation of  
Module 2 only with  
natural Ge detectors



BEGe: Broad Energy Ge detector  
PPC: P-type Point Contact detector  
ICPC: Inverted Co-axial Point Contact detector

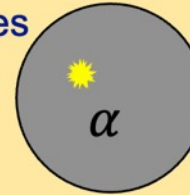
Adapted from W. Xu, APS April meeting 2022

# MAJORANA Background Reduction



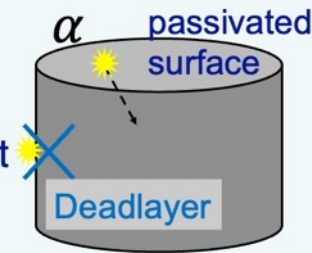
Internal alpha particle background:

- different energies
- never observed



External alpha particle background:

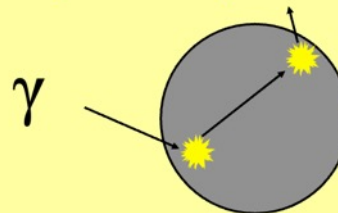
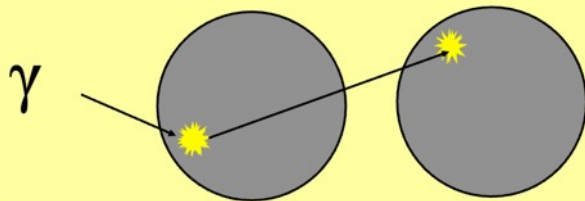
- reduced by radio purity
- stopped by ~1mm dead layer everywhere except on the passivated surface
- rejected by pulse shape discrimination



Main backgrounds requiring analysis cuts

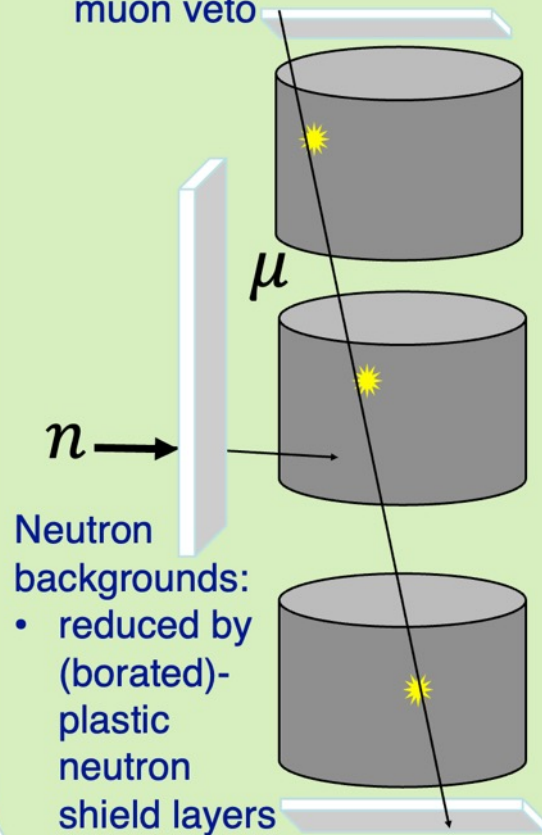
Photon background:

- reduced by radio purity + shielding + radon purge
- rejected by single detector requirement and pulse shape discrimination



Cosmic ray backgrounds:

- reduced by being 4850' underground
- rejected by high efficient muon veto



Neutron backgrounds:

- reduced by (borated)-plastic neutron shield layers

# Pulse Shape Analysis (PSA) for HPGe detectors

Amplitude of current pulse is suppressed for a multi-site event compared to a single-site event of the same event Energy

Comparing **A** against **E** effectively rejects multi-site backgrounds

Various powerful PSA event topology tools can be used to reject different backgrounds

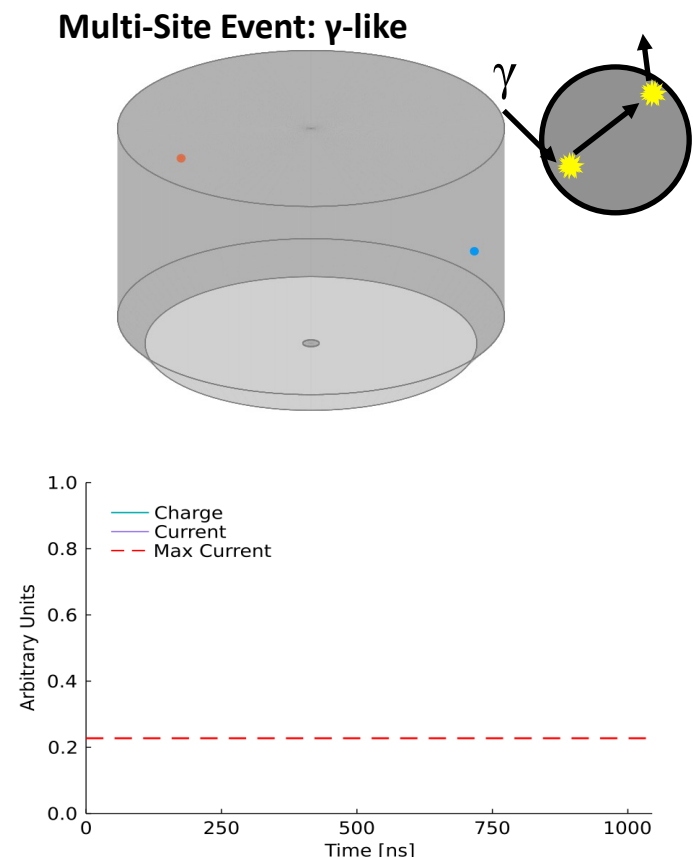
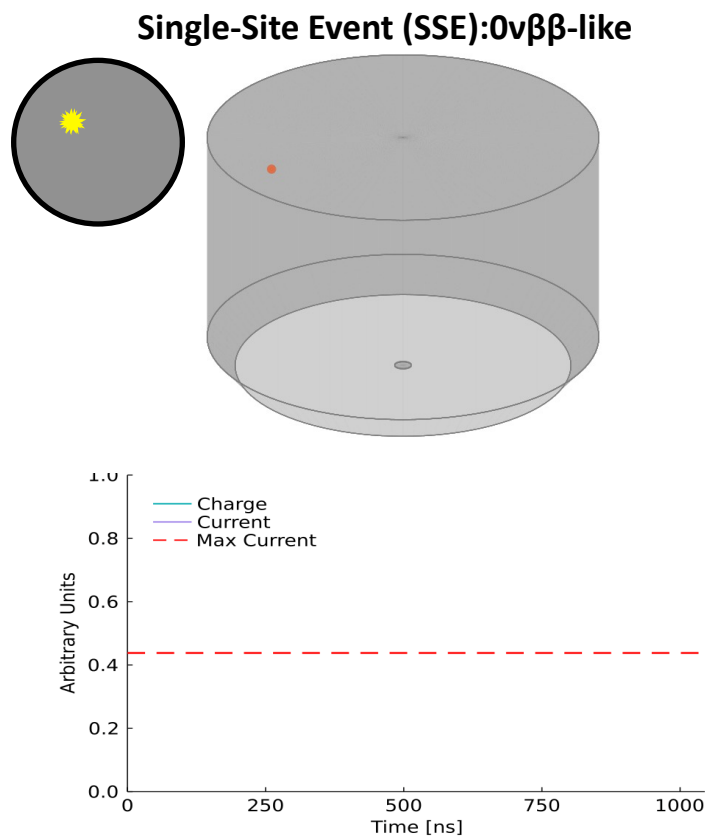
Alternative machine learning algorithms are available

GERDA EPJC 82 (2022) 284

MAJORANA arXiv: 2207.10710

Laxman Paudel (USD PhD student)  
[Pulse-Shape-Based Analysis using Machine learning in the MAJORANA DEMONSTRATOR](#),  
CIPANP 08 2022

Simulations for MAJORANA PPC for illustration, courtesy of David Hervas.



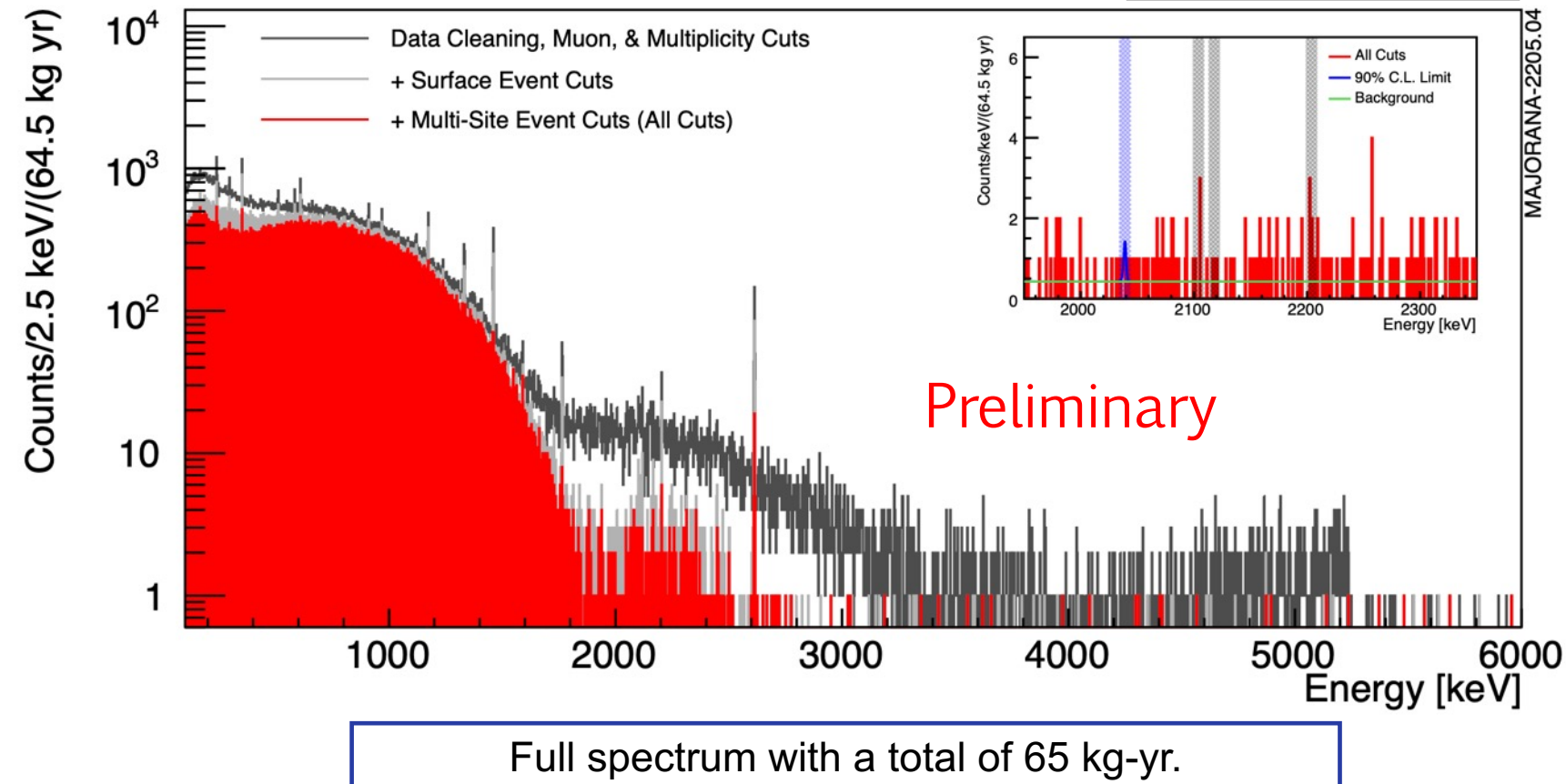


# Final Results of MAJORANA DEMONSTRATOR



Operated in a low background regime, particularly with extreme radiopurity of near-detector parts, benefiting from excellent energy resolution

arXiv: 2207.07638



Full spectrum with a total of 65 kg-yr.

Final enriched detector active exposure:

$$64.5 \pm 0.9 \text{ kg yrs}$$

Background Index:

$$(6.2 \pm 0.6) \times 10^{-3} \text{ cts}/(\text{keV kg yr})$$

Energy resolution:

$$2.5 \text{ keV FWHM @ } Q_{\beta\beta}$$

Frequentist Limit:

$$\text{Limit: } T_{1/2} > 8.3 \times 10^{25} \text{ yr (90\% C.L.)}$$

Bayesian Limit: (flat prior on rate)

$$\text{Limit: } T_{1/2} > 7.0 \times 10^{25} \text{ yr (90\% C.I.)}$$

$$m_{\beta\beta} < 113 - 269 \text{ meV}$$

$$\text{Using } M_{0\nu} = 2.66 - 6.34$$

Continuing to operate at the Sanford Underground Research Facility with natural detectors for background studies and other physics

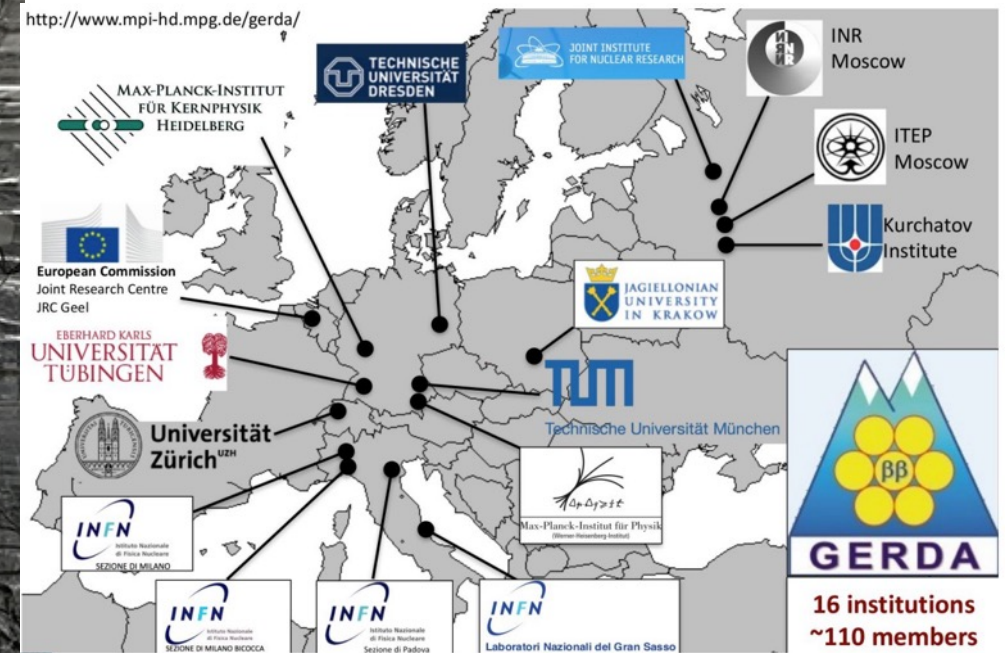


# GERmanium Detector Array - GERDA Collaboration



*the GERDA Collaboration*

<https://www.aip.org/fyi/2022/doe-nuclear-physics-program-approaches-pivot-point>



L Shtembari, ICHEP 2022

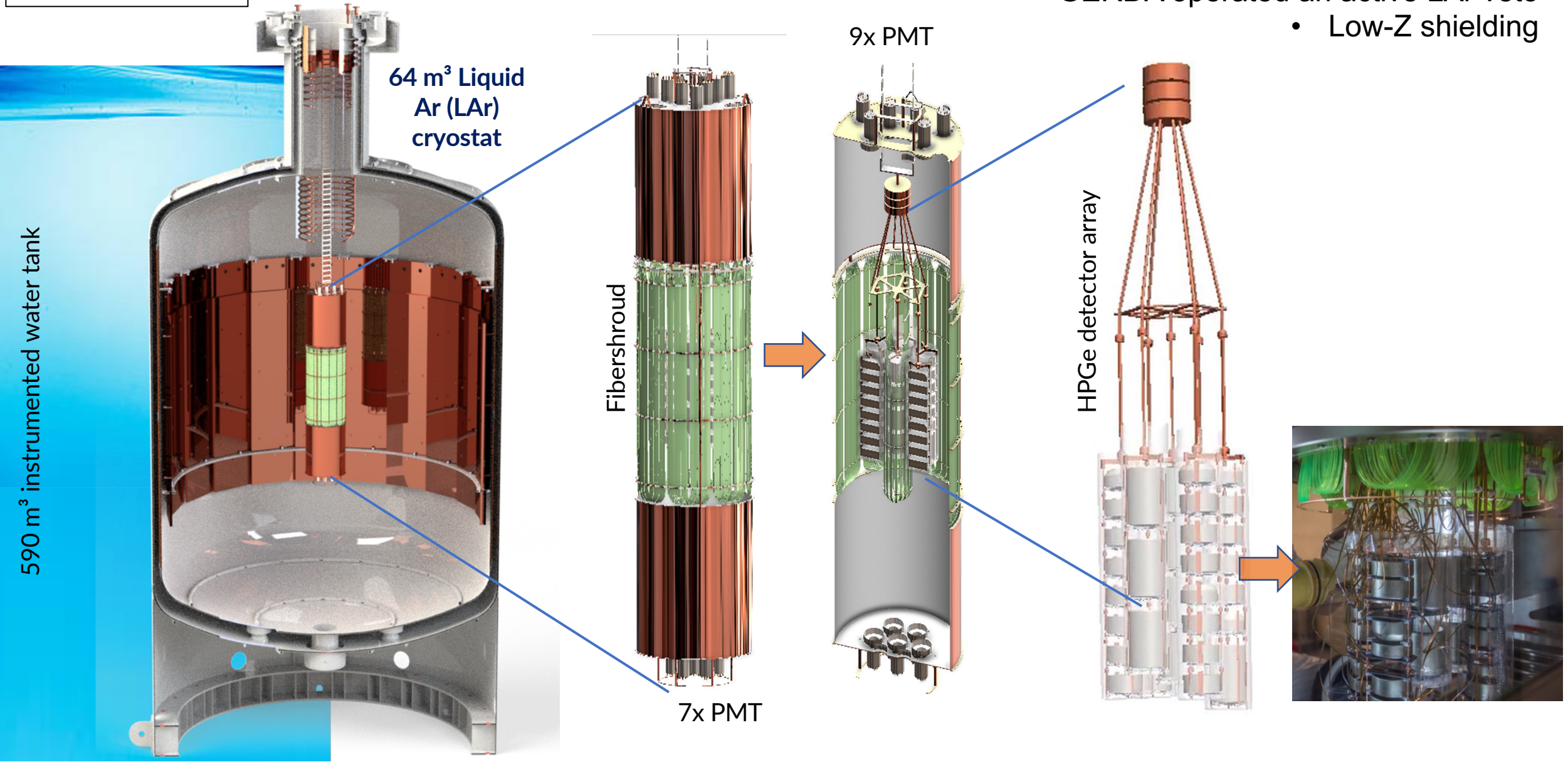
(Image credit – © Kai Freund / LNGS-INFN)



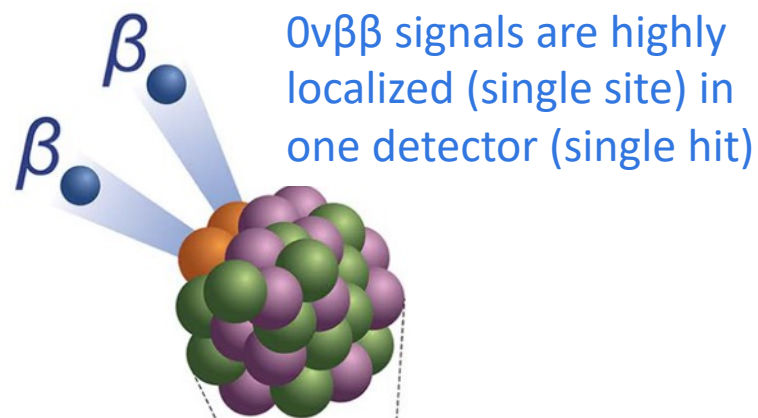
# GERDA at Gran Sasso National Laboratory (LNGS) in Italy

EPJC 78, 388 (2018)

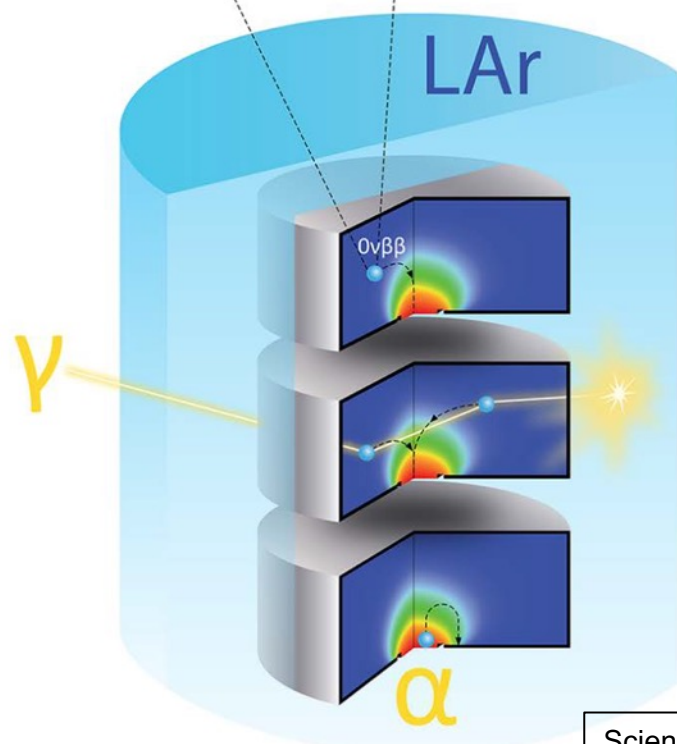
- GERDA operated an active LAr veto
- Low-Z shielding



# GERDA Background Rejection Strategy



$0\nu\beta\beta$  signals are highly localized (single site) in one detector (single hit)



LAr

$0\nu\beta\beta$

$\alpha$

$0\nu\beta\beta$  signals

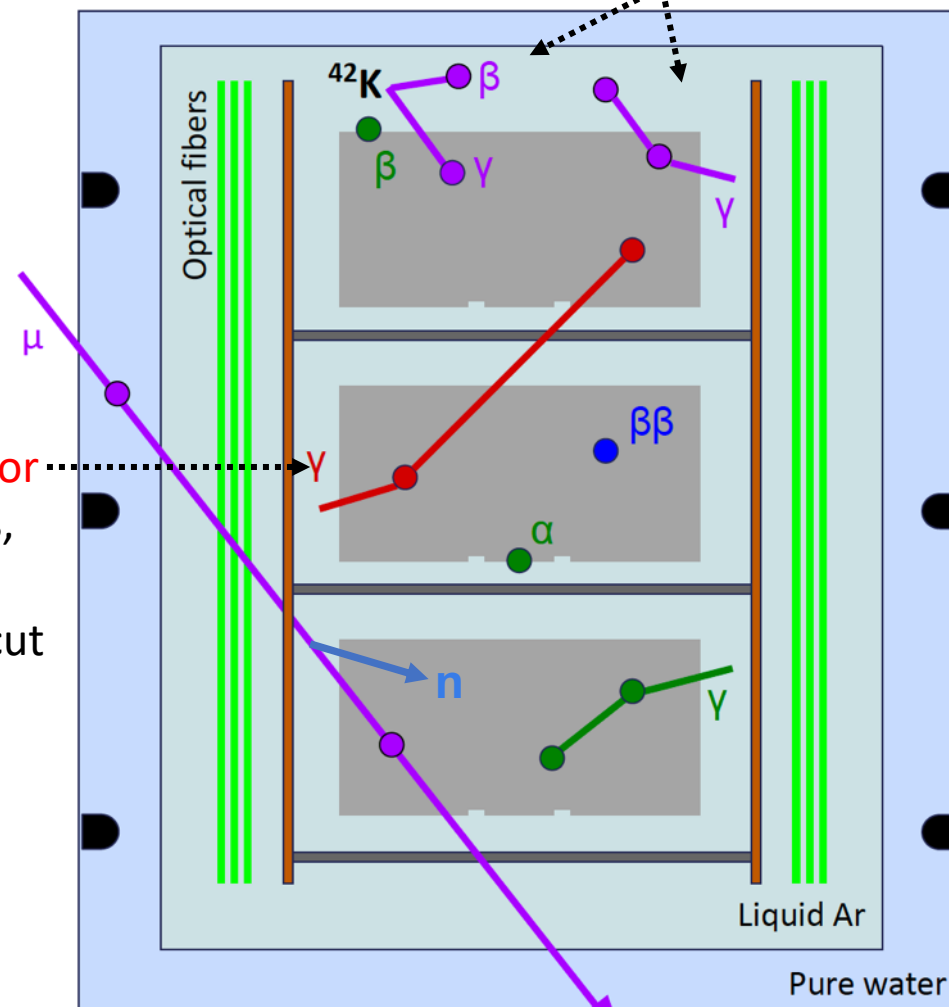
Multi-site backgrounds

Surface backgrounds

Rejected by  
Pulse Shape  
Analysis

Science 365 (2019) 1445-1448

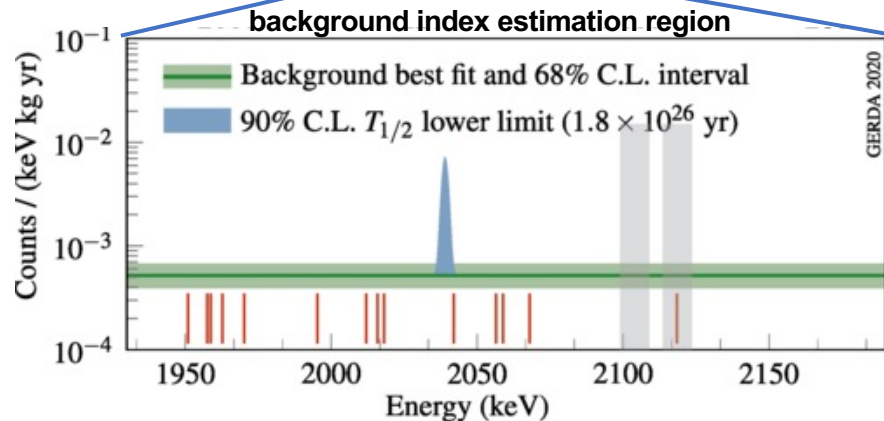
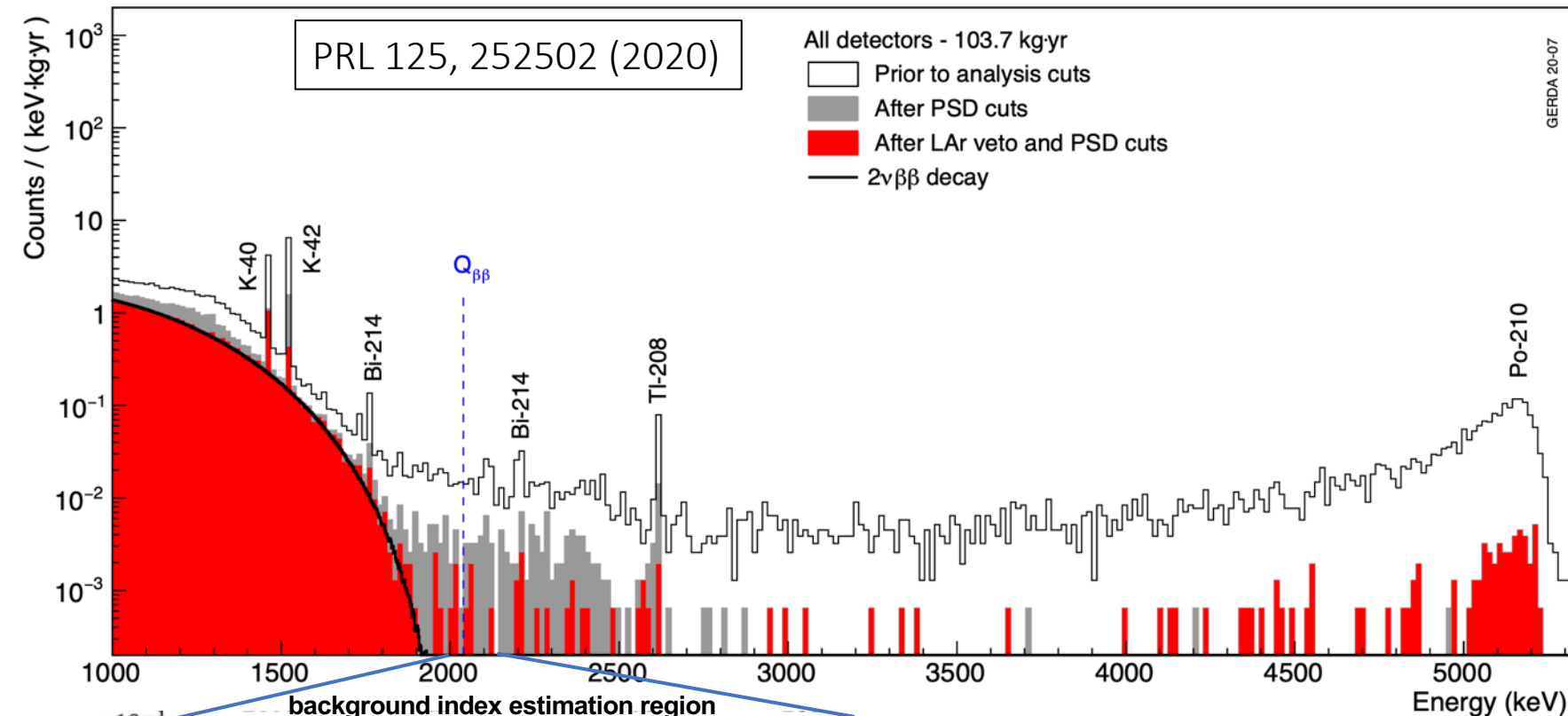
Backgrounds with energy depositions in LAr, rejected by LAr veto



Multi-detector  
backgrounds,  
rejected by  
multiplicity cut

muon backgrounds, rejected by muon veto,  
except neutron-induced delayed ones

# Final Results of GERDA



Background index:

$$5.2^{+1.6}_{-1.3} \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ cts}/(\text{keV kg yr})$$

Energy resolution:

$$\sim 2.6 \text{ keV (FWHM)}$$

Frequentist limit:

$$T_{1/2} > 1.8 \cdot 10^{26} \text{ yr at 90\% C.L.}$$

Bayesian: flat prior on rate:

$$T_{1/2} > 1.4 \cdot 10^{26} \text{ yr at 90\% C.L.}$$

$$m_{\beta\beta} < 79 - 180 \text{ meV}$$

GERDA finished by surpassing all design goals:

100 kg yr exposure ,  $< 10^{-3}$  cts/(keV kg yr) background,  $> 10^{26}$  yr sensitivity

Lowest background for  $0\nu\beta\beta$  searches  
if normalized by the energy resolution

# Part III

## LEGEND for the Discovery of Neutrinoless Double-Beta Decay

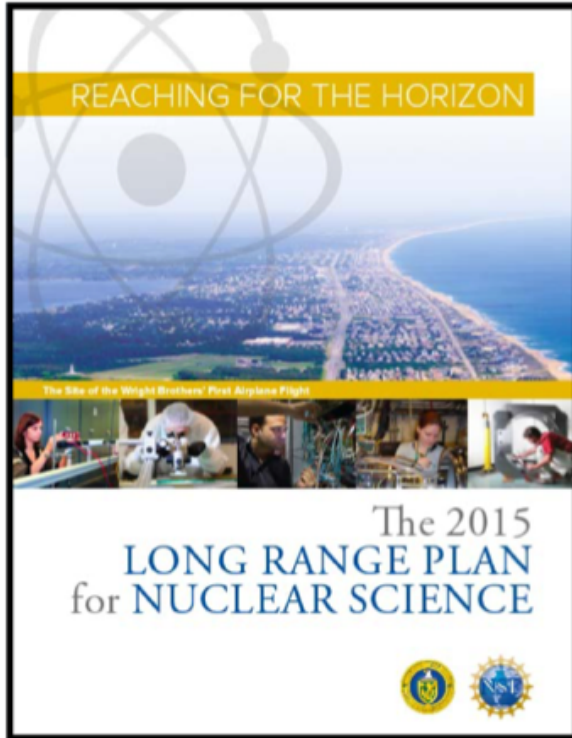
Large Enriched Germanium Experiment for Neutrinoless  $\beta\beta$  Decay  
(LEGEND)



# The European and North-American Process

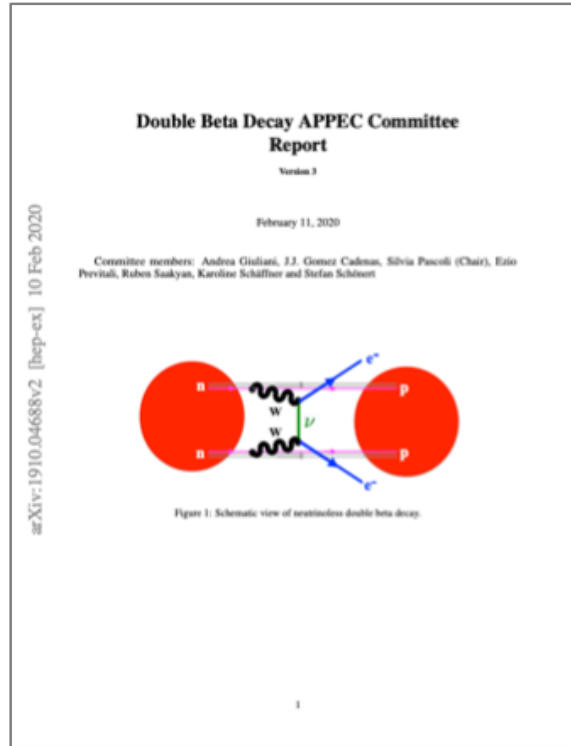
Compiled by S. Schönert @ Neutrino 2022

<https://science.osti.gov/np/nsac>



“We recommend the timely development and deployment of a U.S.-led ton-scale neutrinoless double beta decay experiment.”

<https://arxiv.org/abs/1910.04688>



- Oct 2019: Roadmap document for the APPEC SAC on the future  $0\nu\beta\beta$  decay experimental programme in Europe
- $0\nu\beta\beta$  town meeting London
- Roadmap update 2022, town meeting in Berlin, June 2022



- Outcome: Realize international portfolio LEGEND-1000, nEXO and CUPID with European partners
- LEGEND-1000 was evaluated extremely positively at the Portfolio review. Now being funded by DOE to move to the next step, CD-1

<https://agenda.infn.it/event/27143/>



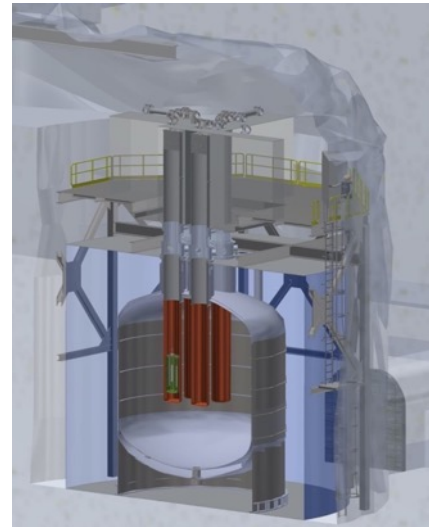
“The international stakeholders in neutrino-less double beta decay research do agree in principle that the best chance for success is an international campaign with more than one large ton-scale experiment implemented in the next decade, with one ton scale experiment in Europe and the other in North America. “

**Mission:** “The collaboration aims to develop a phased, **Ge-76 based** double-beta decay experimental program with discovery potential at a **half-life beyond  $10^{28}$  years**, using **existing resources as appropriate to expedite physics results.**”

**Build upon best and proven technologies from GERDA and the MAJORANA DEMONSTRATOR**

## LEGEND-200

- 200 kg in upgrade of existing infrastructure at LNGS
- Background goal:  
 $< 0.6 \text{ cts}/(\text{FWHM t yr})$   
 i.e.  $< 2 \times 10^{-4} \text{ cts}/(\text{keV kg yr})$
- Discovery sensitivity  $10^{27}$  years
- **Currently commissioning**
- Physics data starting in 2022



## LEGEND-1000

- 1000 kg, staged via individual payloads
- Timeline connected to review process
- Background goal:  
 $< 0.025 \text{ cts}/(\text{FWHM t yr})$   
 i.e.  $< 1 \times 10^{-5} \text{ cts}/(\text{keV kg yr})$
- Discovery sensitivity beyond  $10^{28}$  years
- **Location to be selected**

Preconceptual Design Report arXiv: 2107.11462



# The LEGEND Collaboration



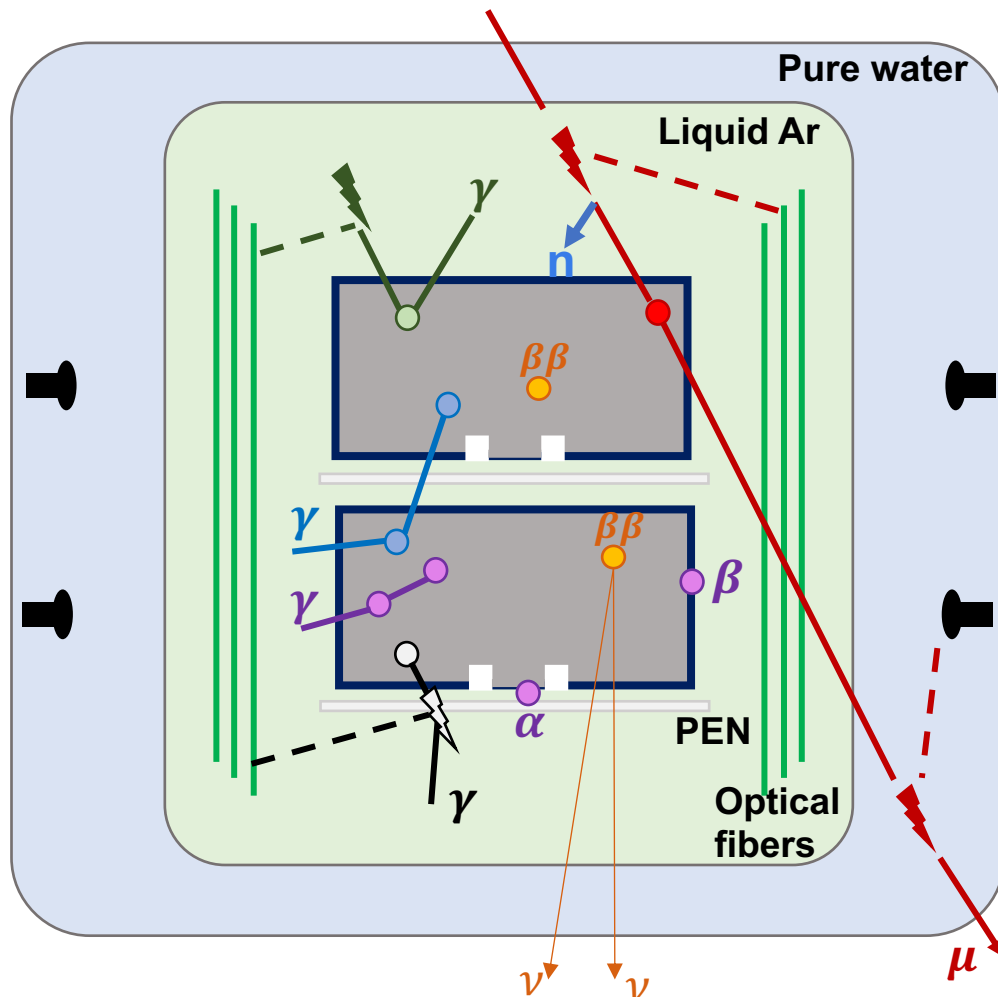
Approximately  
250 members,  
49 institutions,  
11 countries  
<https://legend-exp.org/>





# LEGEND Background Rejection

$\beta\beta$  decay signal:  
single energy  
deposition in  
a 1 mm<sup>3</sup> volume



Pulse shape  
discrimination (PSD)  
for multi-site and  
surface  $\alpha$  events

Ge detector  
anti-coincidence

Scintillating PEN plate  
holder under test

LAr veto based on Ar  
scintillation light read  
by fibers and SiPM

Muon veto

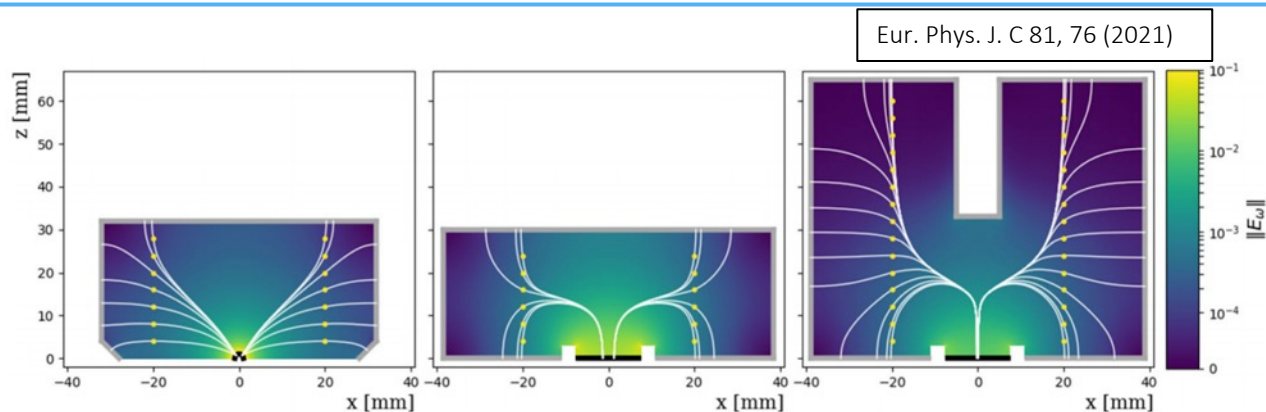
**LEGEND-200**  
background goal is  
x2.5 reduction from  
**GERDA**  
uses small and large  
detectors

**LEGEND-1000**  
background goal is  
x20 reduction from  
**LEGEND-200**  
uses only large  
detectors



Ge detector with  
PEN plate holders

# Background Reduction: LEGEND-1000



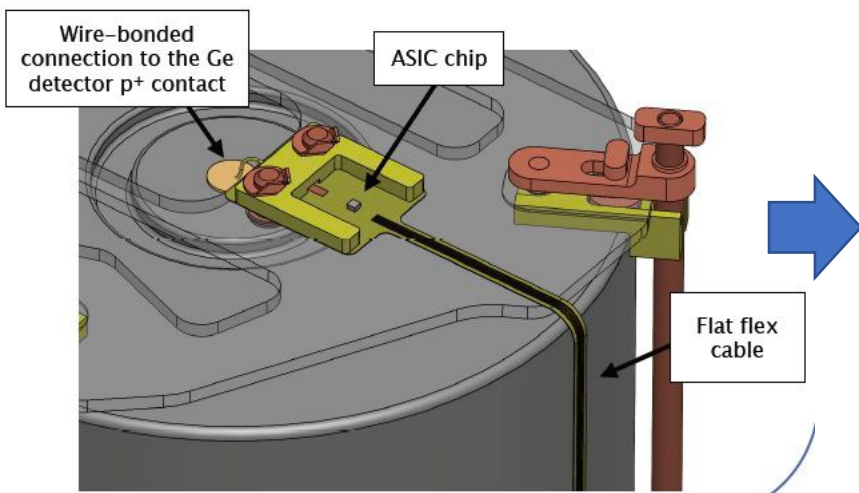
MAJORANA PPC

Used by LEGEND-200 as well

GERDA BEGe

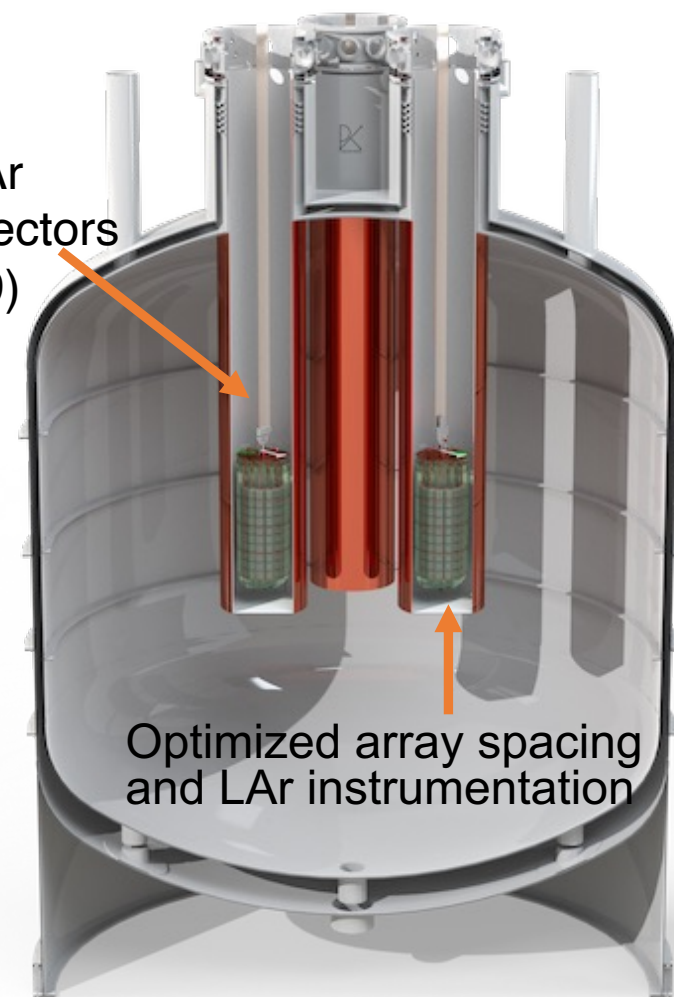
LEGEND-1000 uses only larger ICPC detectors, average 2.6 kg

Underground LAr surrounding detectors (low in Ar-42, 39)



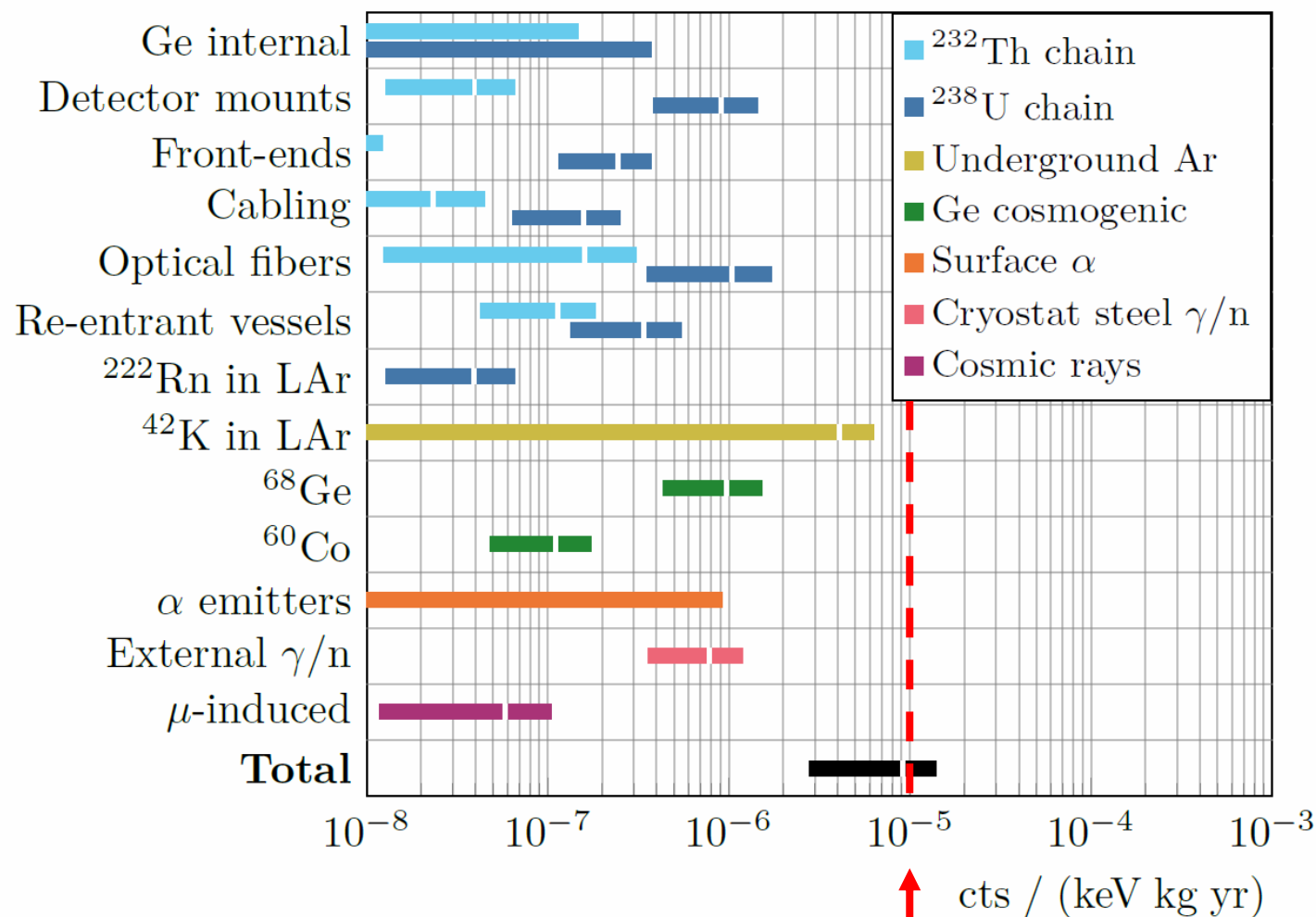
Significant reduction of number of channels and hence total radioactivity to near-detector materials

New and less-radioactive cables and new application-specific integrated circuit (ASIC) read-out for LEGEND-1000



Deeper underground site or additional neutron shielding & tagging: SNOLAB and LNGS options

## Background index at $Q_{\beta\beta}$ after all cuts



Projected background index after all cuts:

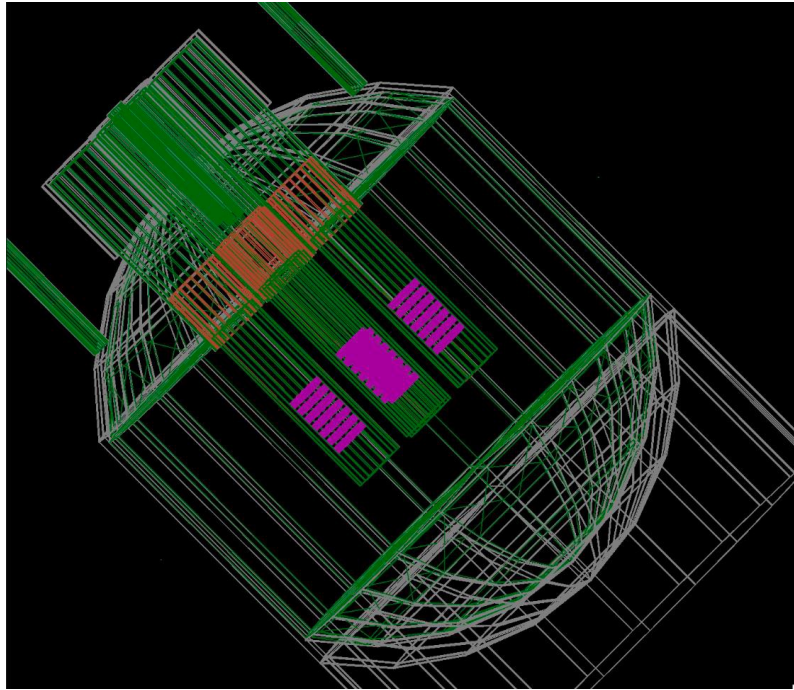
$$9.1_{-6.3}^{+4.9} \times 10^{-6} \text{ counts}/(\text{keV kg yr})$$

SNOLAB was used as the reference lab here  
LNGS has  $\sim x100$  higher muon flux

pCDR: arXiv: 2107.11462

LEGEND-1000 background goal

# Extensive Muon Studies for Shallower LNGS



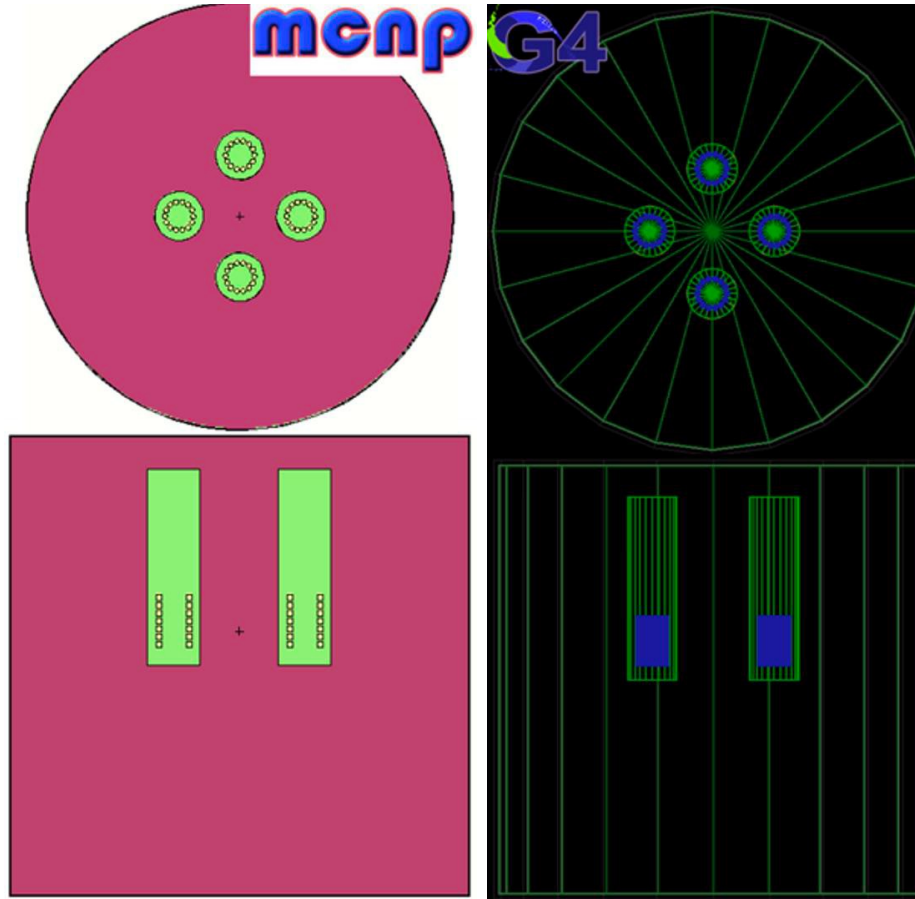
Standalone Geant4 simulation completely written from scratch for main estimation

**CJ Barton (USD PhD student)**

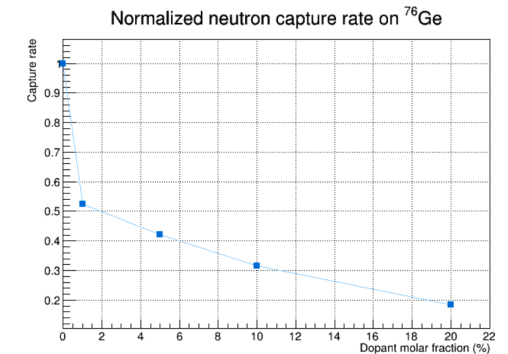
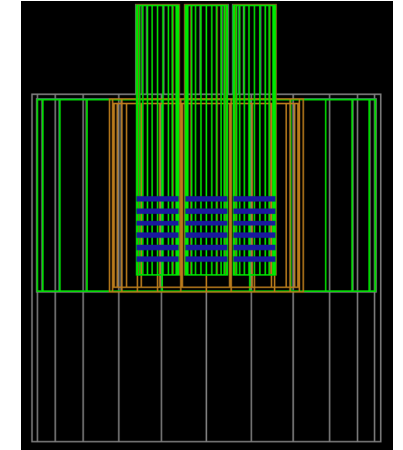
[An update on muon-induced backgrounds in LEGEND-1000](#)

**CIPANP 08 2022**

Extensive study on muon-induced bkg and additional neutron shielding for LNGS option.



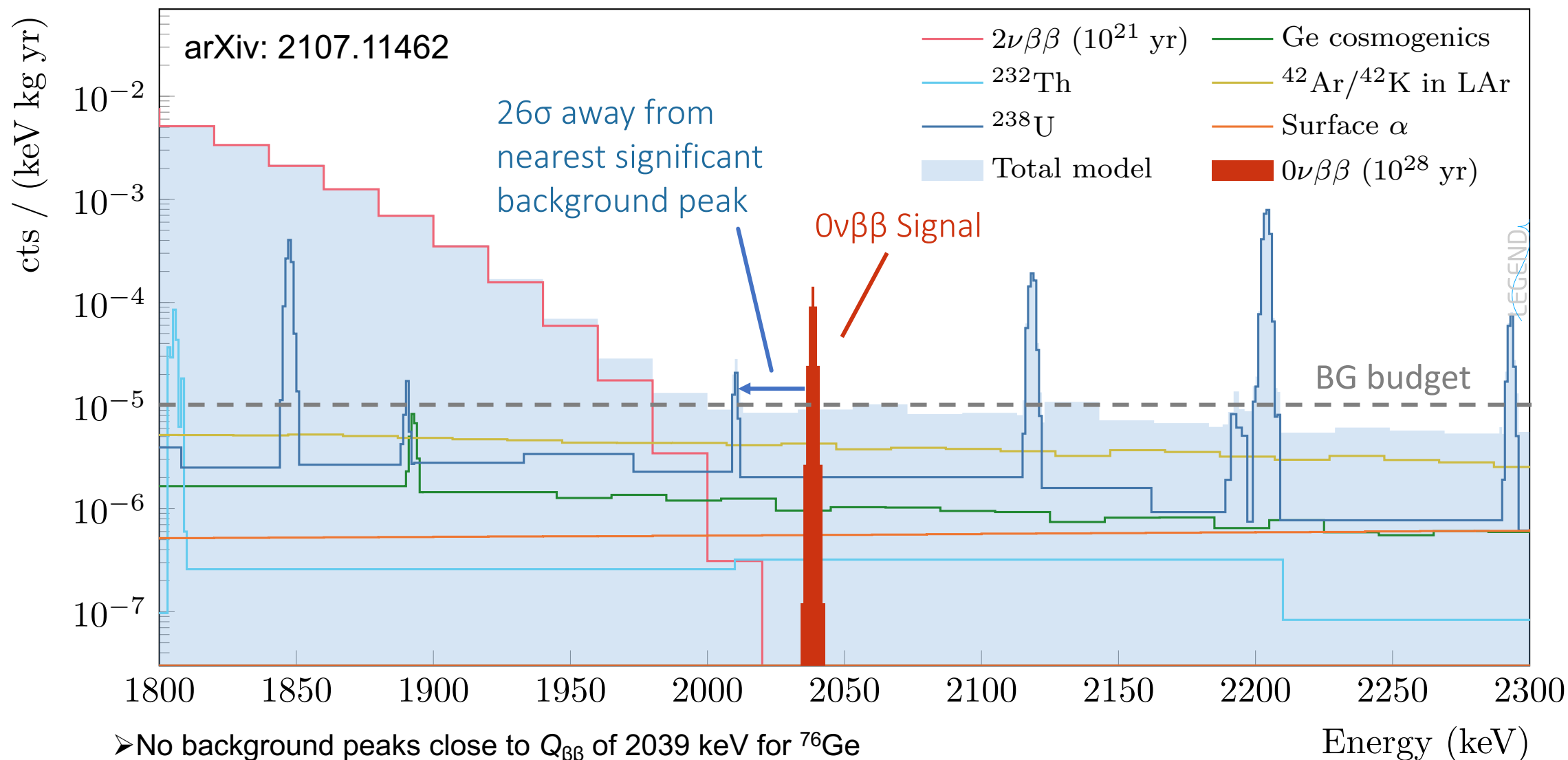
MCNP-Geant4 simulation comparisons across different software for uncertainty assessment



Additional neutron moderation using solid plastic shield and liquid methane-doping in LAr



# The LEGEND-1000 Background Model

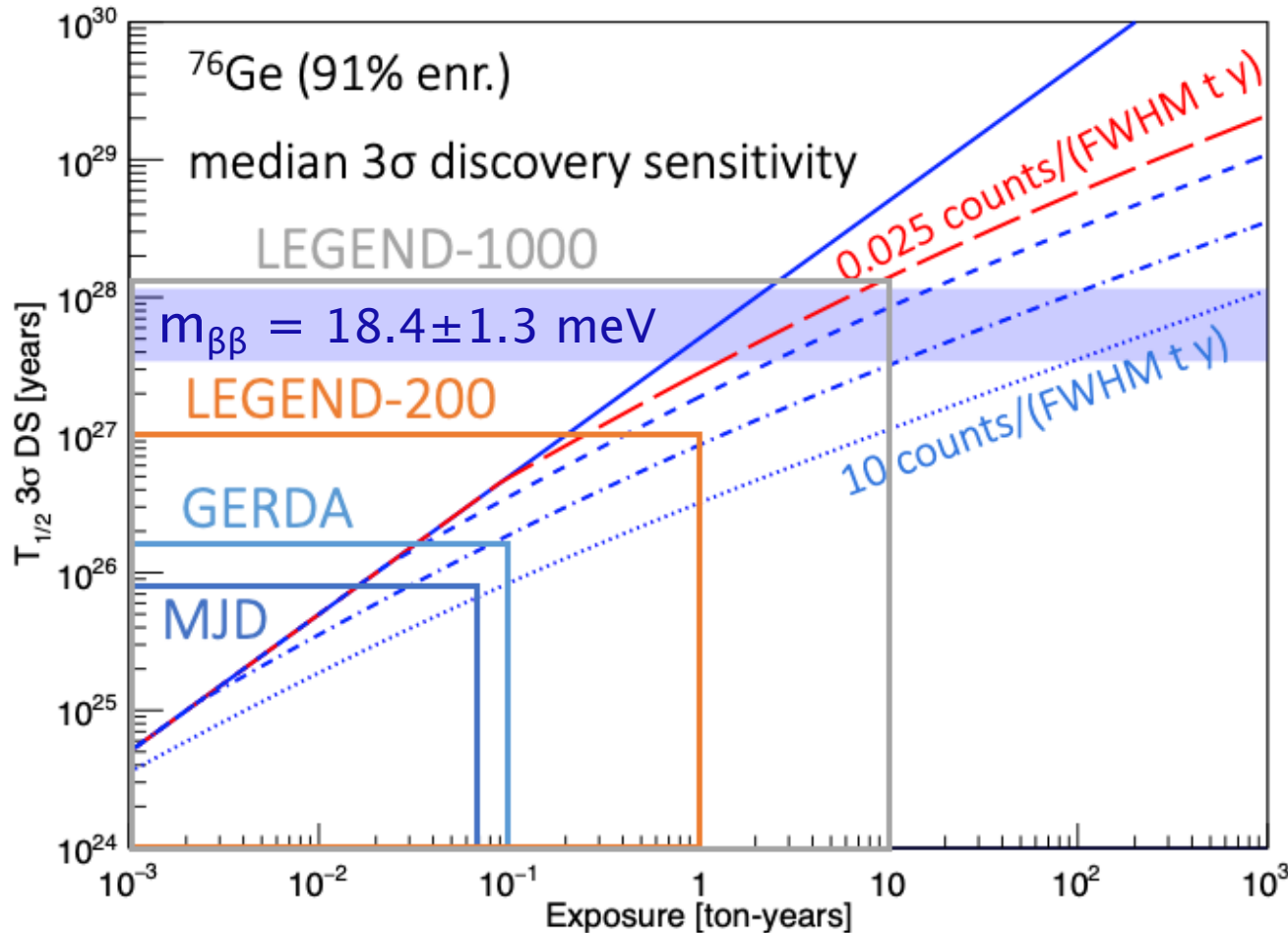


- No background peaks close to  $Q_{\beta\beta}$  of 2039 keV for  $^{76}\text{Ge}$
- Background is flat and well understood. No reliance on background modeling
- No  $2\nu\beta\beta$  background

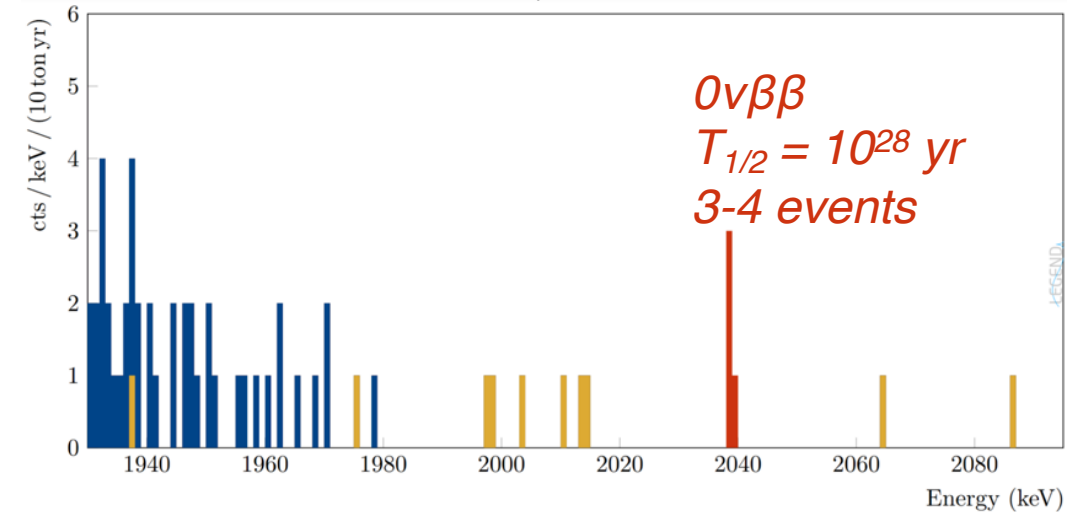
# Discovering Sensitivity Enabled

The LEGEND program builds on successes of current generation experiments to probe half-lives beyond  $10^{28}$  yrs

- Unambiguous discovery enabled by best energy resolution and lowest background



Simulated LEGEND-1000 example spectrum for  $T_{1/2} = 10^{28}$  yrs,  $\text{BI} < 10^{-5} \text{ cts/keV kg yr}$ , after cuts, from 10 years of data

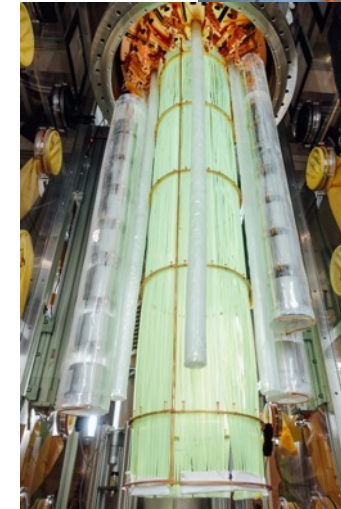
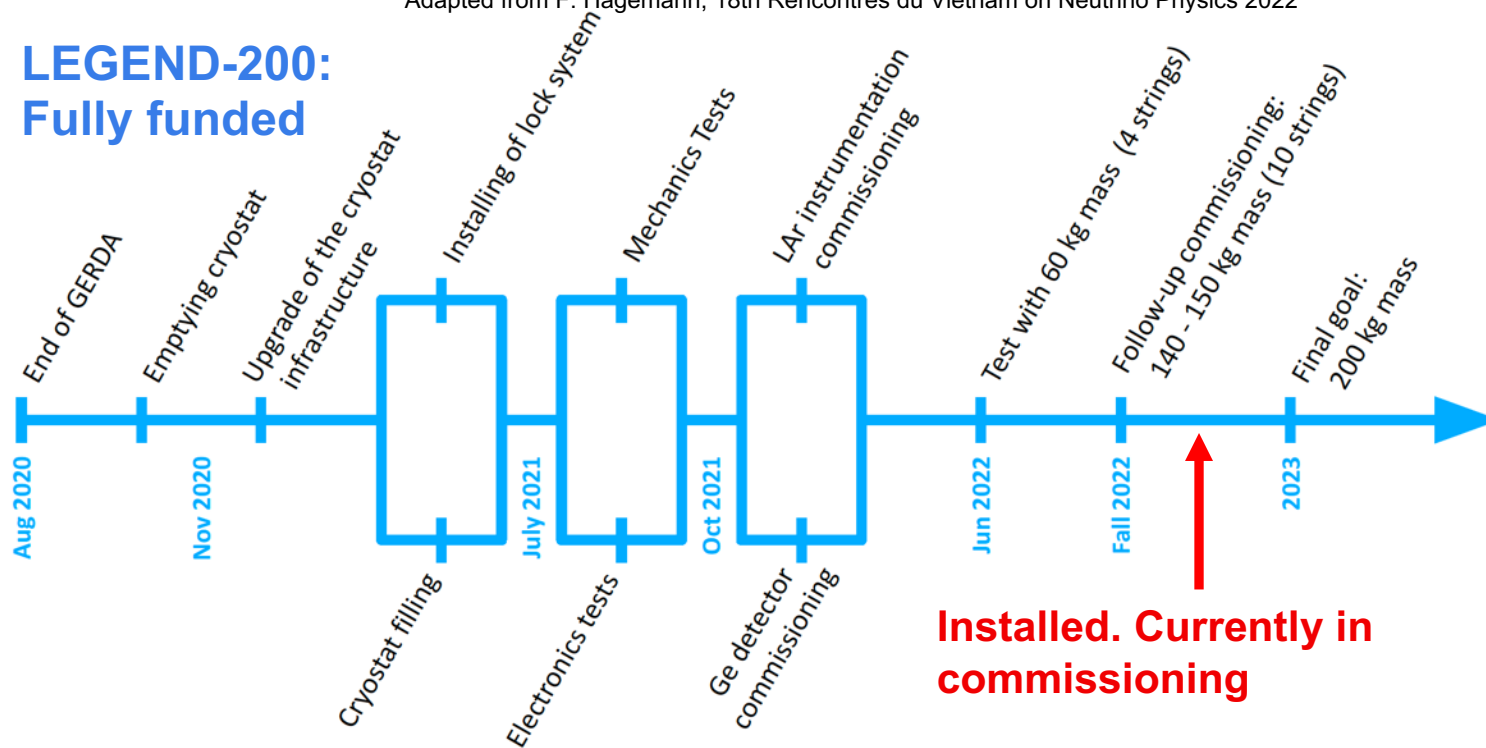


Quasi-background free operation up to 10 ton-year exposure, for unambiguous convincing discovery beyond  $10^{28}$  years

# LEGEND Timelines

Adapted from F. Hagemann, 18th Rencontres du Vietnam on Neutrino Physics 2022

## LEGEND-200: Fully funded



4 string installed with optical fibers



WaveLength-Shifting Reflector (WSLR) installed



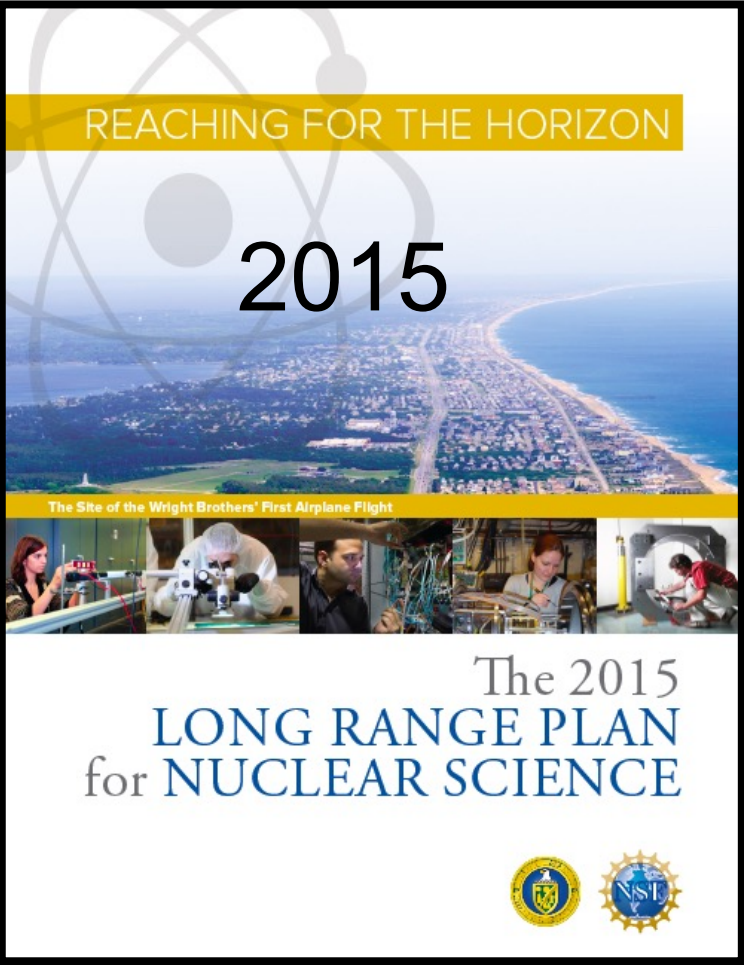
The Large Enriched Germanium Experiment for Neutrinoless  $\beta\beta$  Decay

LEGEND-1000 Preconceptual Design Report

## LEGEND-1000 (positively reviewed for funding):

- Pre-Conceptual Design Report released:  
arXiv: 2107.11462
- Developing a conceptual design with a refined technical design and background model, proceeding to CD-1
- Many R&D activities are ongoing


# US Next Long-Range Plan



## RECOMMENDATION II

We recommend the timely development and deployment of a U.S.-led ton-scale neutrinoless double beta decay experiment.

Charge to NSAC for the Next Long Range Plan for Nuclear Science



U.S. Department of Energy  
and the  
National Science Foundation




2022

Professor Gail Dodge  
Chair, DOE/NSF Nuclear Science Advisory Committee  
College of Sciences  
Old Dominion University  
4600 Elkhorn Avenue  
Norfolk, Virginia 23529

Dear Professor Dodge:

This letter requests that the Department of Energy (DOE)/National Science Foundation (NSF) Nuclear Science Advisory Committee (NSAC) conduct a new study of the opportunities and priorities for United States nuclear physics research and recommend a long-range plan (LRP) that will provide a framework for coordinated advancement of the Nation's nuclear science research programs over the next decade.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

Office of  
Science

NSAC Meeting

July 13, 2022

### Fundamental Symmetries, Neutrons, and Neutrinos Town Meeting

13-15 December 2022  
UNC - Chapel Hill  
America/New\_York timezone

Overview

Code of Conduct

Accessibility

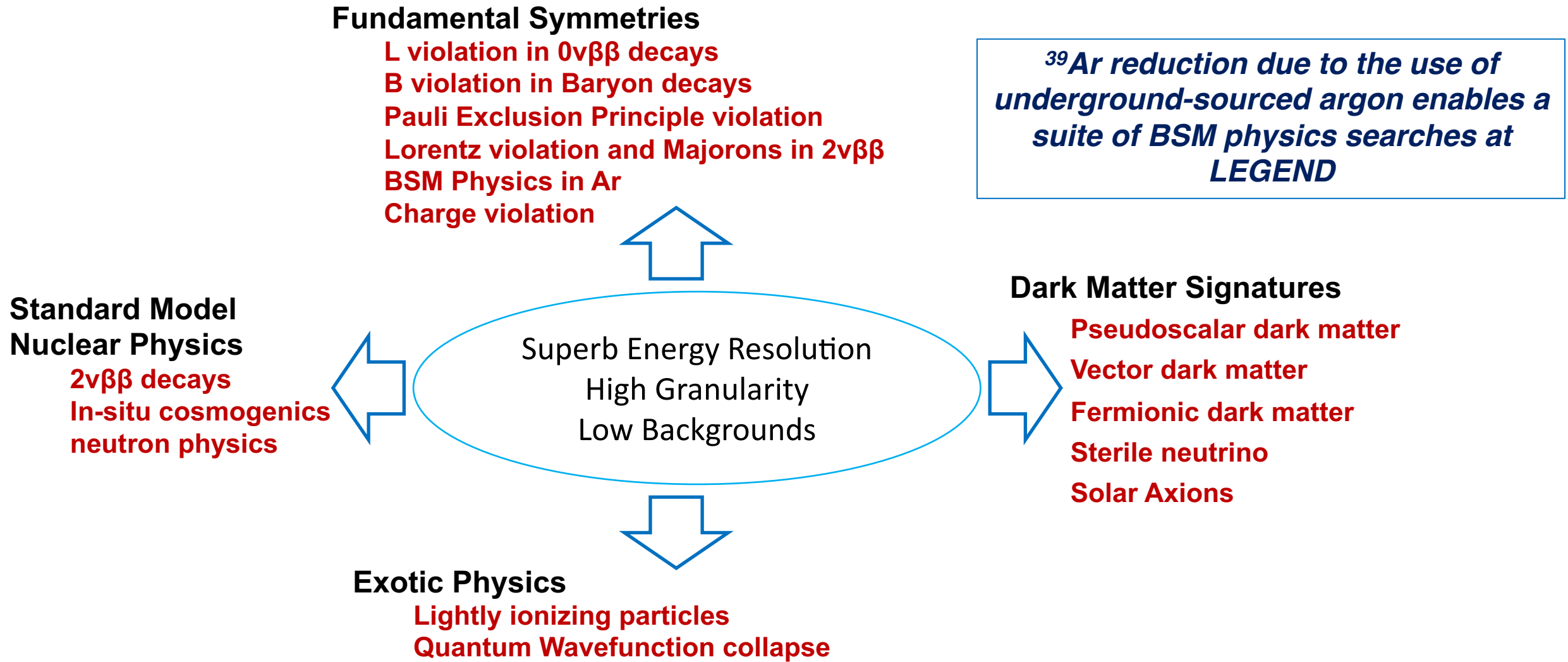
The 2022 Fundamental Symmetries, Neutrons, and Neutrinos (FSNN) Town Meeting will be held at the [Friday Center for Continuing Education](#) in Chapel Hill, NC. This meeting is organized to engage our community in preparation for the next NSAC Long Range Plan.



## Part IV

# Rich and Broad Physics Programs with HPGe detectors

# Rich and Broad Physics Programs for Ge experiments



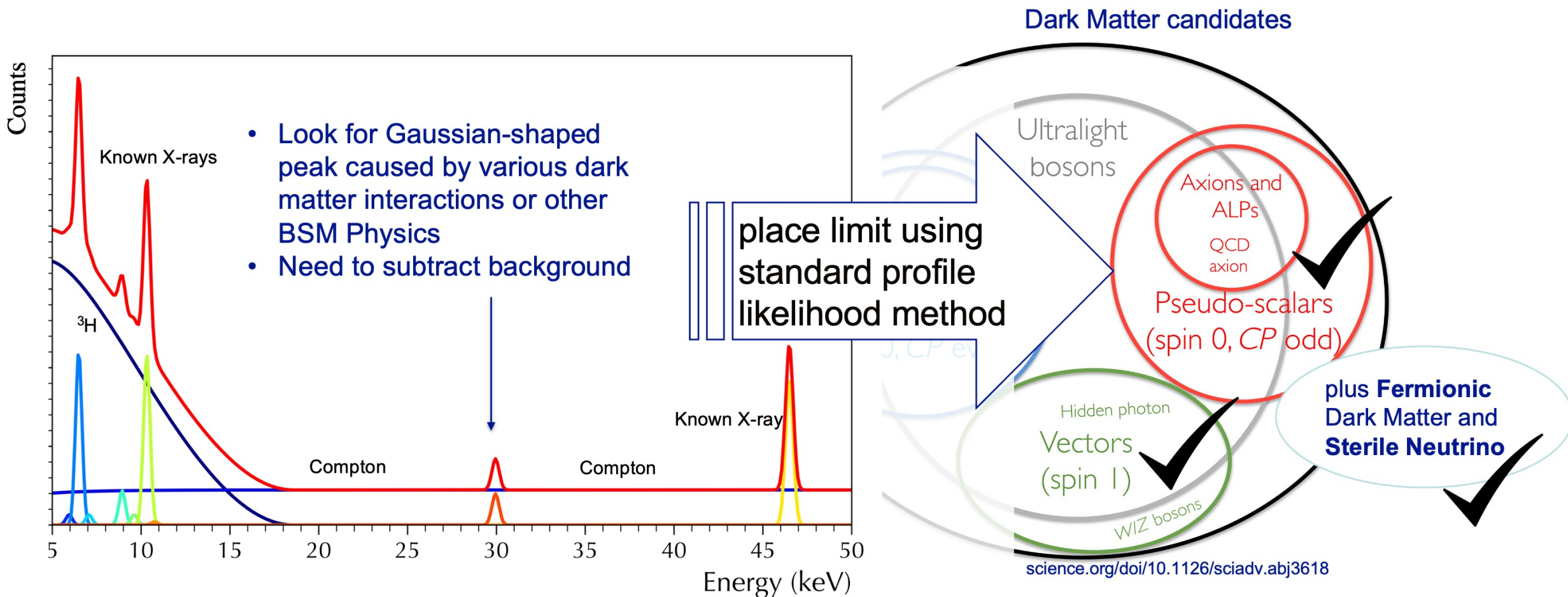
Superb Energy Resolution, High Granularity, and Low Backgrounds make HPGe detectors excellent in a range of BSM physics searches using analyses looking at peaks, spectral distortion, time correlation, and more

Non-inclusive list of examples

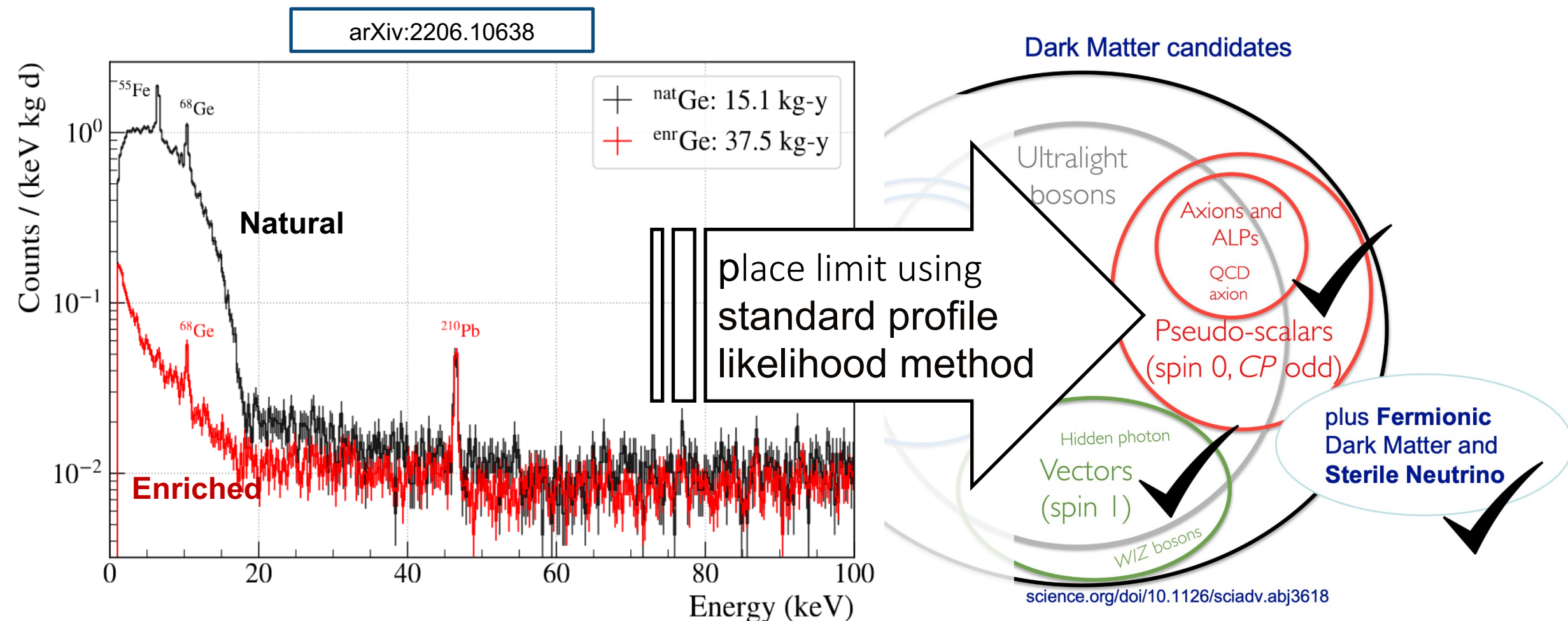
| Mechanism                           | Signature   | Energy range     |
|-------------------------------------|---|------------------|
| Bosonic Dark Matter                 | Peak at $m_b$   | 5 — 100keV       |
| Baryon Decay                        | Time Correlation, High Energy                         | 0-10 MeV         |
| Fractionally Charged Cosmic rays    | High Multiplicity-coincidence events                  | Few keV          |
| WIMP searches                       | Exponential Excess + Annual Modulation. Migdal Effect | < 10 keV         |
| Solar axions                        | Peaked Spectra + daily modulation                     | < 10 keV         |
| Majoron Emission                    | $2\nu\beta\beta$ spectral distortion                  | $Q_{\beta\beta}$ |
| Lorentz Violation                   | $2\nu\beta\beta$ spectral distortion                  | $Q_{\beta\beta}$ |
| Electron Decay                      | Peak at 11.8 keV                                      | ~10 keV          |
| Pauli Exclusion Principle Violation | Peak at 10.6 keV                                      | ~ 10 keV         |

These BSM Physics are parts of the rich and broad physics programs of LEGEND-1000

# BSM Peak Searches in Energy Spectrum



# BSM Peak Searches in Energy Spectrum

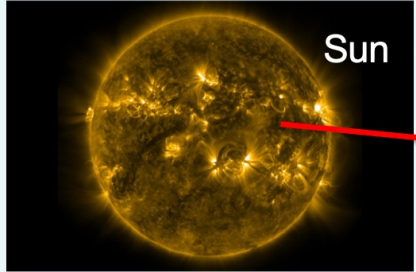




# Solar Axion Searches via Photon Coupling

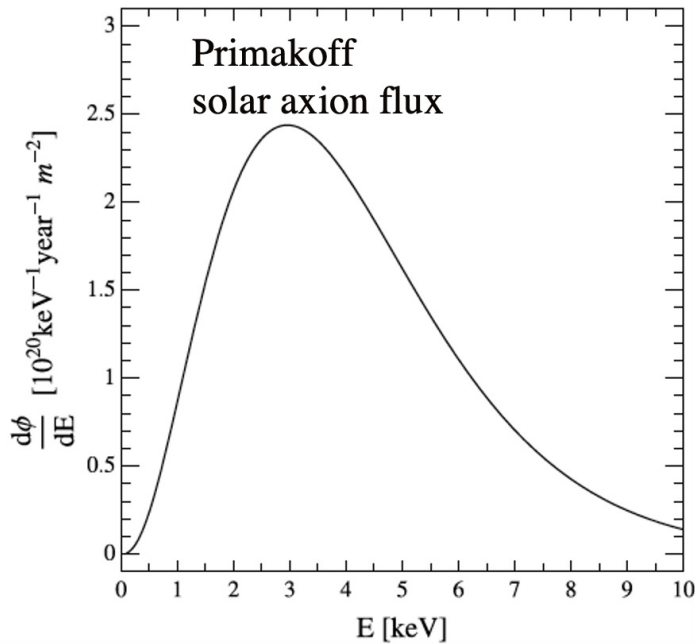


## Production



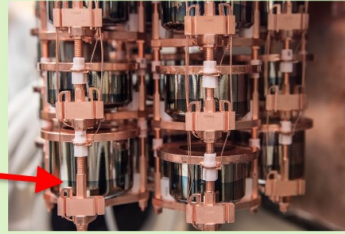
Sun

$\gamma + \gamma \rightarrow \text{Axion}$  Primakoff axions  
axion-photon coupling (reverse Primakoff effect)



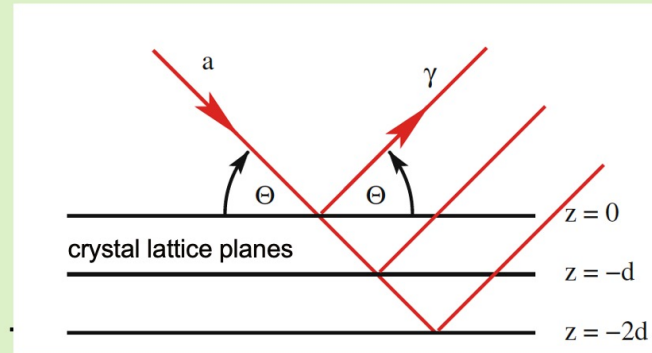
Progress in Particle and Nuclear  
Physics 102 (2018) 89–159

## Detection



$\text{Axion} + \gamma_{\text{virtual}} \rightarrow \gamma$

- axion-photon coupling (Primakoff effect)
- enhanced by coherent Bragg diffraction



Axion signals:

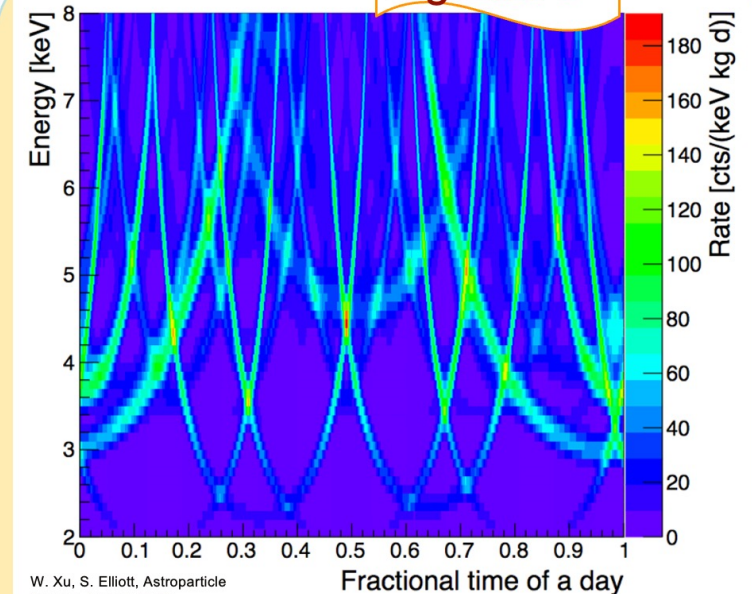
- enhanced at certain incident angles for certain energy --- the Bragg condition
- follow Sun's movement over time

R. Battesti et al. Lect. Notes Phys. 741, 199–237 (2008)  
pioneered by R. J. Creswick, et al., PLB 427 (1998) 235–240

## BSM Physics

## Energy-Time 2-D analysis

## Signature



plot for  $g_{A\gamma} = 10^{-8} \text{GeV}^{-1}$ ,  $g_{Ae} = 0$

- Distinct time dependence is a key strength for discovery
- Reduced sharpness if crystal orientations on the horizontal plane are unknown, but still good for analysis

# Rich and Broad Physics with HPGe detectors: USD work



## BSM Physics

Temporal-Energy solar axion analysis at low energy region ~ keV

On the Cover

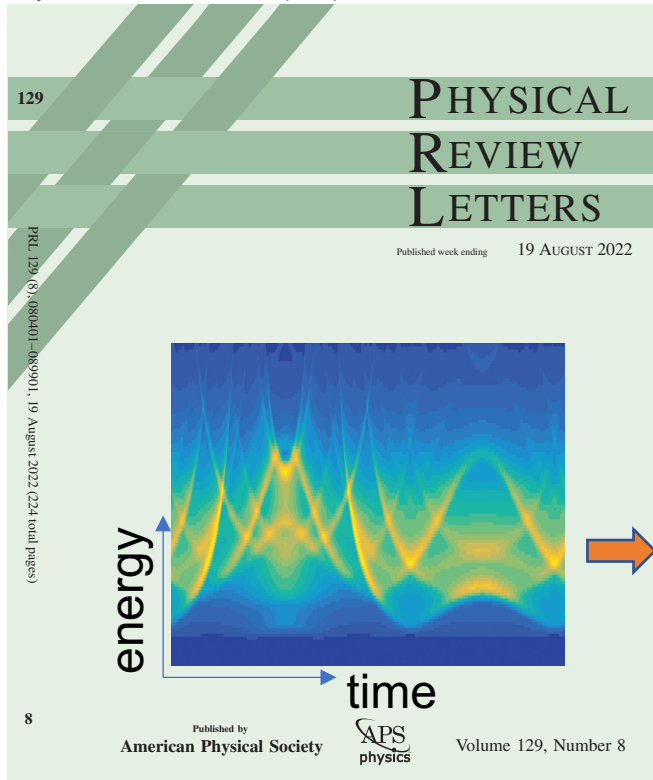
Axion signatures from coherent Primakoff-Bragg scattering over a 24-hour period.

From the article:

Search for Solar Axions via Axion-Photon Coupling with the MAJORANA DEMONSTRATOR

I.J. Arnquist *et al.* (MAJORANA Collaboration)

Phys. Rev. Lett. **129**, 081803 (2022)



<https://journals.aps.org/prl/issues/129/8>

## Standard Model Nuclear Physics

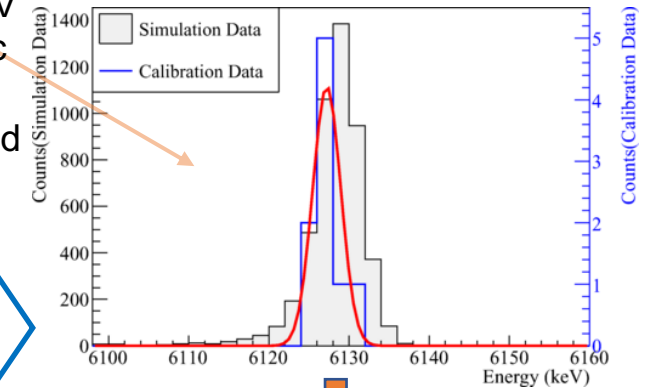
Peak analysis at high energy region ~ MeV. Calibration data

Experimental study of  $^{13}\text{C}(\alpha, n)^{16}\text{O}$  reactions in the MAJORANA DEMONSTRATOR calibration data

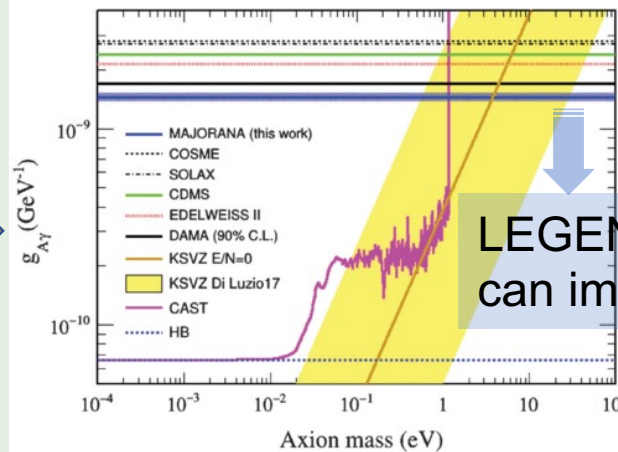
I. J. Arnquist *et al.* (MAJORANA Collaboration)

Phys. Rev. C **105**, 064610 – Published 21 June 2022

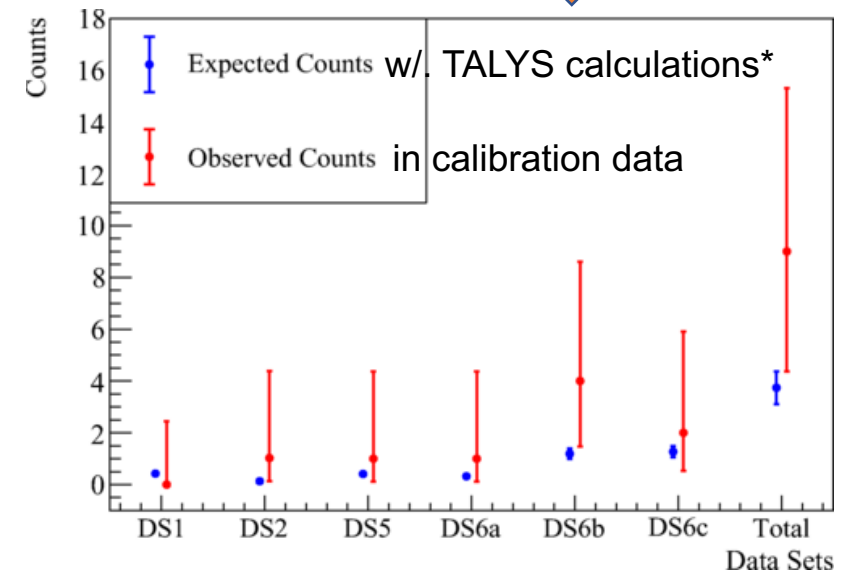
6.13MeV  
isomeric  
photons  
observed



Superb Energy Resolution  
Low Backgrounds



LEGEND-1000  
can improve



\* via NeuCBOT, NIM A (2017) 09 007

# Rich and Broad Physics with HPGe detectors: Delivered



References from  
MAJORANA  
DEMONSTRATOR  
and GERDA

## Fundamental Symmetries

**L violation in  $0\nu\beta\beta$  decays**  
**B violation in Baryon decays**  
**Pauli Exclusion Principle violation**  
**Lorentz violation and Majorons in  $2\nu\beta\beta$**   
**BSM Physics in Ar**  
**Charge violation**

PRC **100** 025501 (2019)

Several  $0\nu\beta\beta$  papers

PRD **99** 072004 (2019)

arXiv:2203.02033

Eur. Phys.J. C75 (2015) 416

## Standard Model Nuclear Physics

**$2\nu\beta\beta$  decays**  
**In-situ cosmogenics**  
**neutron physics**

PRC **105** 014617 (2022)

PRC **105** 064610 (2022)

Astroparticle Physics 84 (2016) 29

Superb Energy Resolution  
High Granularity  
Low Backgrounds

## Dark Matter Signatures

**Pseudoscalar dark matter**  
**Vector dark matter**  
**Fermionic dark matter**  
**Sterile neutrino**  
**Solar Axions**

PRL **118** 161801 (2017)

PRL **125** 011801 (2020)

PRL **129** 081803 (2022)

arXiv:2206.10638

## Exotic Physics

**Lightly ionizing particles**  
**Quantum Wavefunction collapse**

PRL **120** 211804 (2018)

PRL **129** 080411 (2022)

Non-zero neutrino mass is physics beyond the Standard Model and a compelling mystery

$0\nu\beta\beta$  searches determine the status of total lepton number conservation and probe the Majorana or Dirac nature of massive neutrinos

Ge-based technology captures significant  $0\nu\beta\beta$  discovery potential

Current-generation  $^{76}\text{Ge}$  experiments have achieved great successes

- MAJORANA DEMONSTRATOR achieved  $T_{1/2} > 8.3 \times 10^{25}$  yr and the **best energy resolution**
- GERDA achieved  $T_{1/2} > 1.8 \times 10^{26}$  yr and the **lowest background** if normalized to energy resolution

Combining the best technologies, the phased **LEGEND** project is designed for an **unambiguous discovery of  $0\nu\beta\beta$**

- LEGEND-200 is in commissioning at LNGS with data-taking beginning later this year
  - Goal : Discovery sensitivity of  $10^{27}$  years with modest background reduction relative to GERDA
- LEGEND-1000 is proceeding to CD-1 with, R&D and conceptual design development ongoing
  - Goal : Discovery potential at a half-life beyond  $10^{28}$  years

Ge-based experiments including **LEGEND** have rich and broad physics other than  $0\nu\beta\beta$

- Physics results can be extracted in wide energy range with various analysis techniques