

Directional Dark Matter searches with the CYGNO/INITIUM project

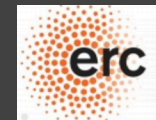
**real data!*

**Conference on
Science at the
SURF**

*Low energy
electrons in CYGNO
50 L detector*



Elisabetta Baracchini
Gran Sasso Science Institute & Istituto Nazionale Fisica Nucleare

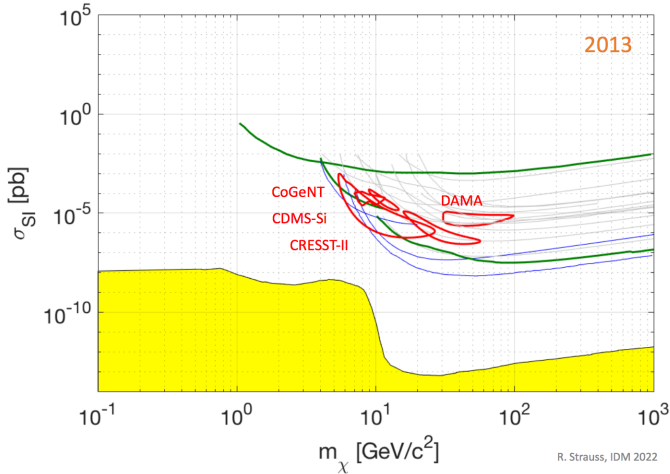


Dark Matter: a search hampered by many false promises

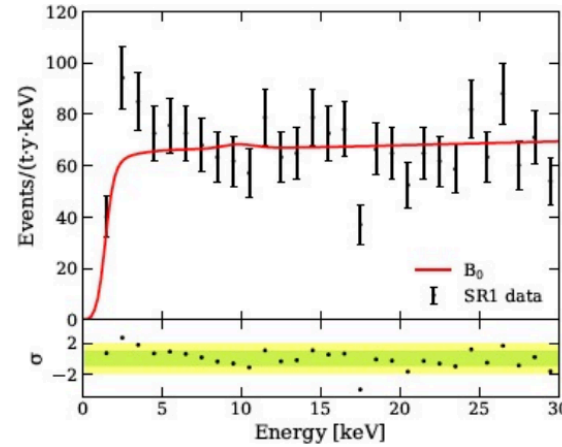
i.e. many things can look like a signal if you don't know where they are coming from

Direction is the only way

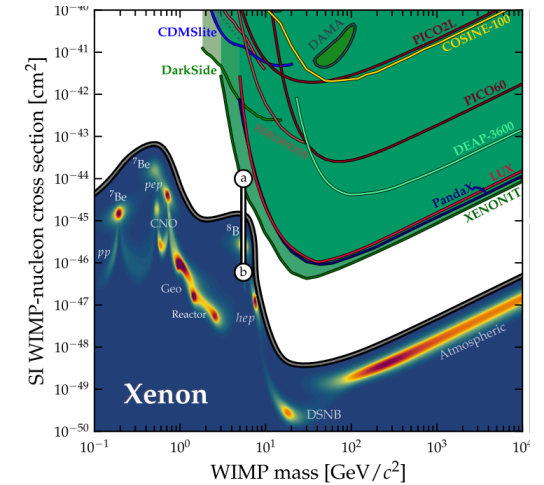
DAMA annual modulation + past Cogent-CDMS-CRESST claims at similar masses



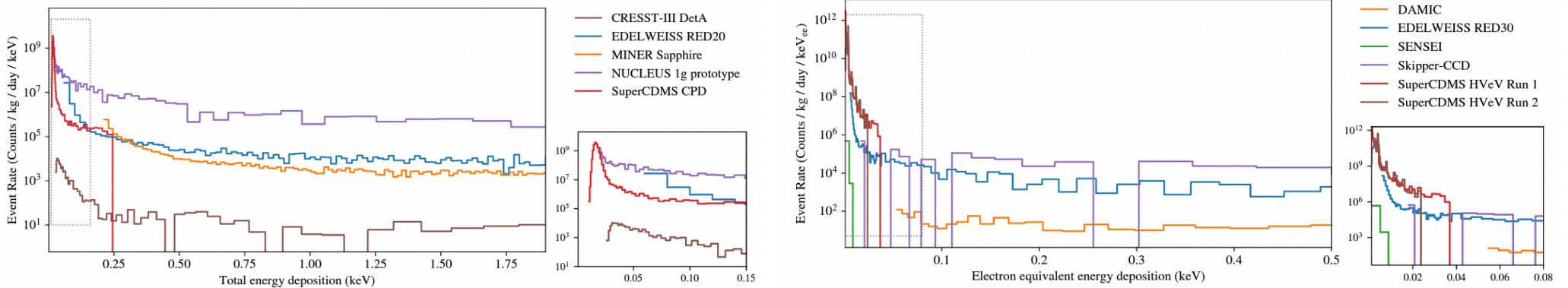
Low energy ER excess in XenonIT



Neutrinos



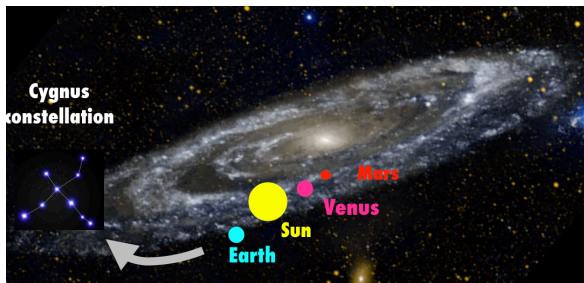
The unexplained Low Energy Excess (LEE) appearing in many low threshold detectors (SciPost Phys.Proc. 9 (2022) 001)



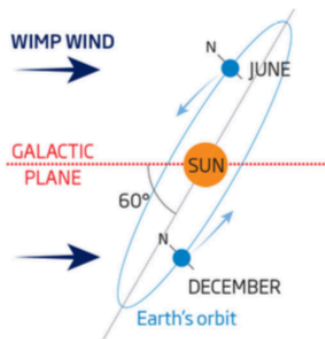
Directional DM searches

i.e. annual modulation of nuclear recoils rate

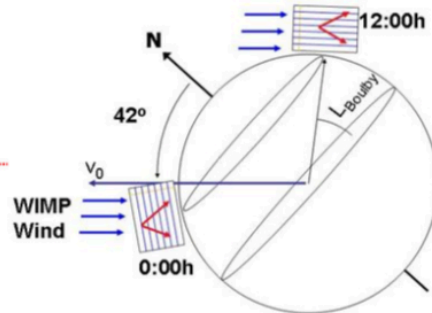
i.e. directional dependence of nuclear recoils



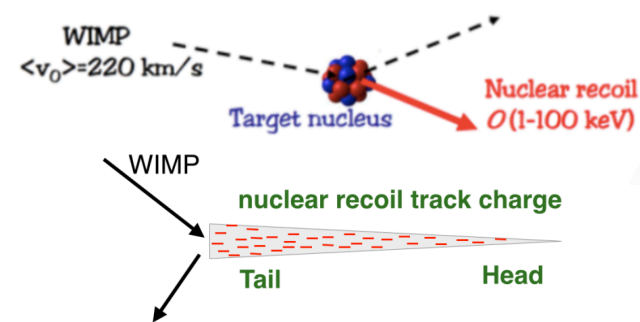
Our Galaxy



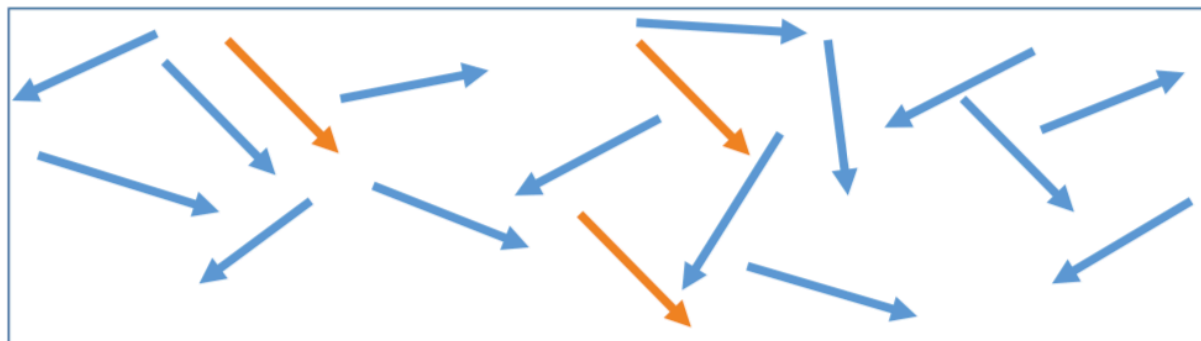
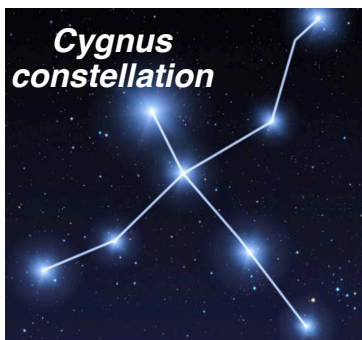
Solar system



Earth



Detector target

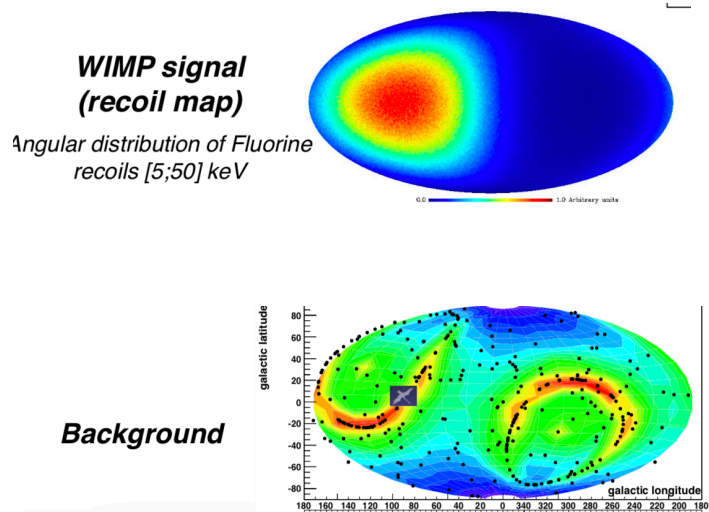


background

signal

Capability to reject isotropy

A. M. Green et. al, Astropart. Phys. 27 (2007) 142



Directional detector can tolerate unknown backgrounds, including neutral

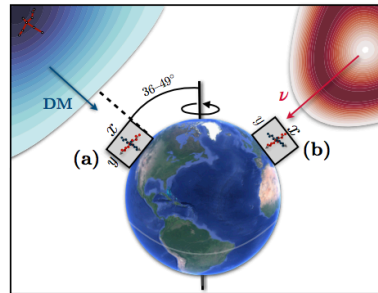
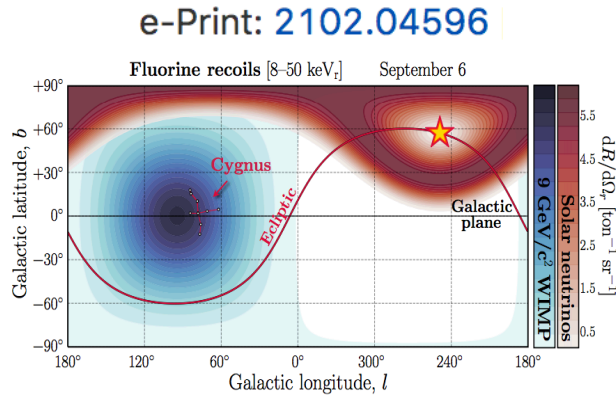
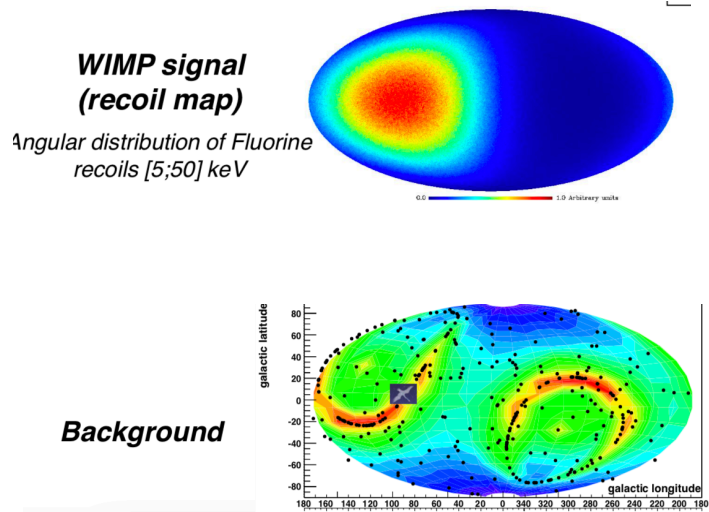
WIMP signal in principle detectable with $O(10)$ 3D events

Directionality as tool for background rejection, neutrino physics

Capability to reject isotropy

Capability to identify Solar neutrinos

A. M. Green et. al, Astropart. Phys. 27 (2007) 142



Directional detector can tolerate unknown backgrounds, including neutral

The Neutrino Floor is an opportunity, not a limit

WIMP signal in principle detectable with O(10) 3D events

Sun neutrinos physics

Directionality as tool for background rejection, neutrino physics and DM astronomy

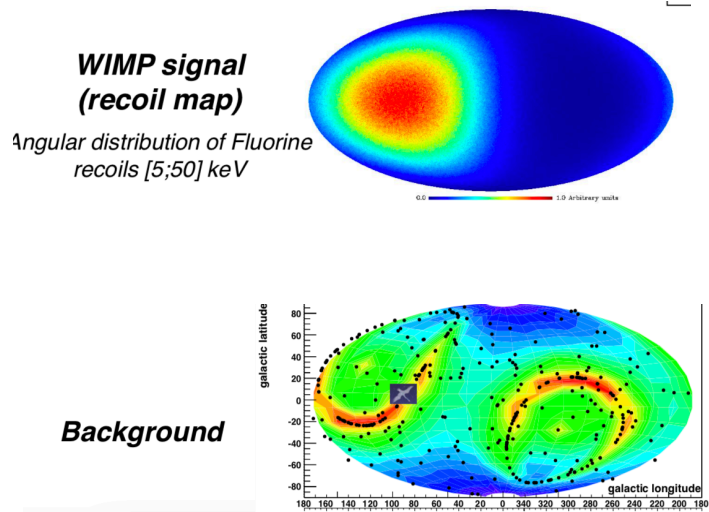


Capability to reject isotropy

Capability to identify Solar neutrinos

Capability to probe DM nature

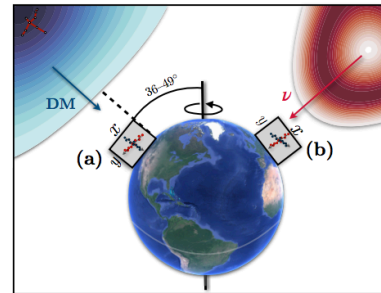
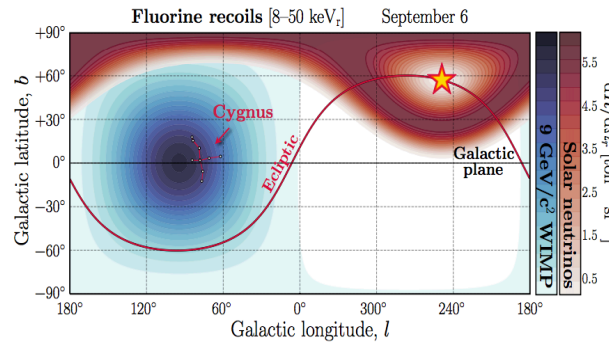
A. M. Green et. al, *Astropart. Phys.* 27 (2007) 142



Directional detector can tolerate unknown backgrounds, including neutral

WIMP signal in principle detectable with O(10) 3D events

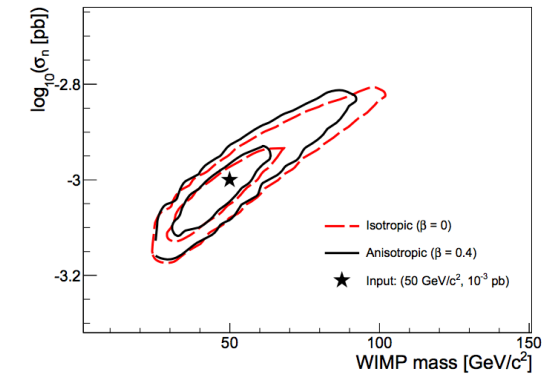
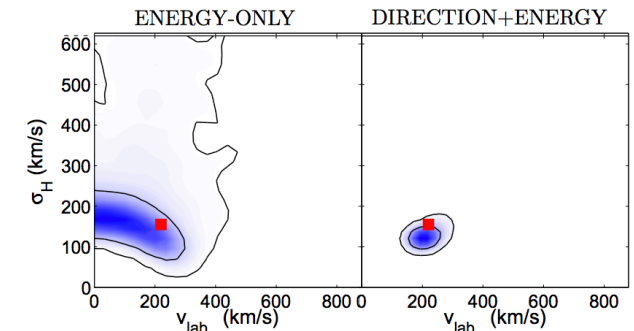
e-Print: 2102.04596



The Neutrino Floor is an opportunity, not a limit

Sun neutrinos physics

Phys.Rept. 627 (2016) 1-49



WIMP & halo properties unbiased constraints with a single measurement

DM astronomy & DM interactions

The CYGNO/INITIUM project

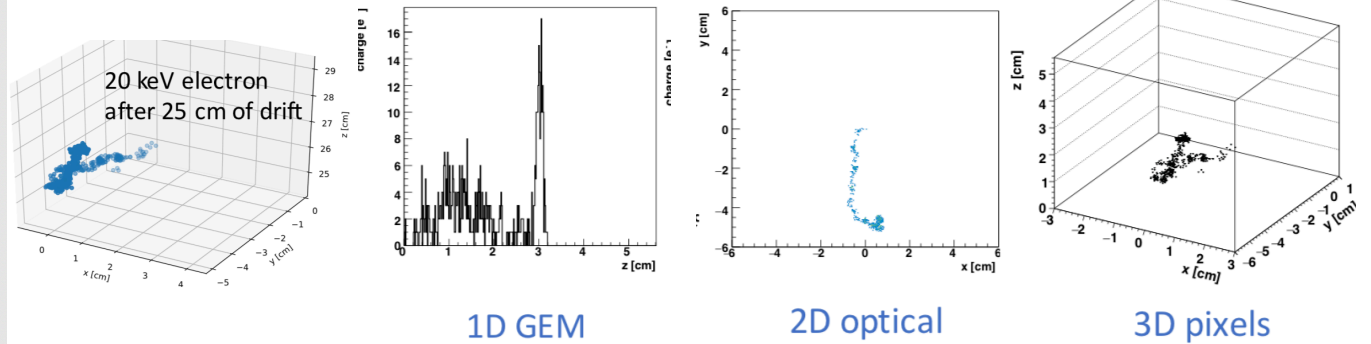
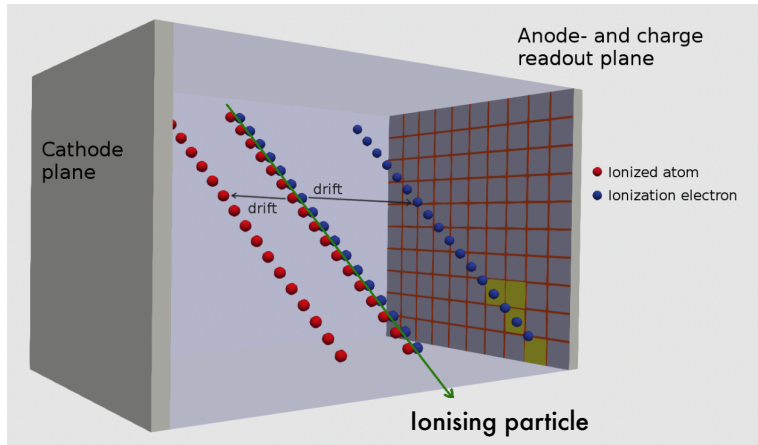


Fernando Domingues Amaro¹ Rita Antonietti^{2,3} Elisabetta Baracchini^{4,5} Luigi Benussi⁶ Stefano Bianco⁶ Francesco Borra^{7,8} Roberto Campagnola⁶ Cesidio Capocchia⁶ Michele Caponero^{6,9} Danilo Santos Cardoso¹⁰ Gianluca Cavoto^{7,8} Igor Abritta Costa⁶ Emiliano Dané⁶ Giorgio Dho^{4,6} Flaminia Di Giambattista^{4,5} Emanuele Di Marco⁸ Melba D'Astolfo^{4,5} Giulia D'Imperio⁸ Davide Fiorina^{4,5} Francesco Iacoangeli⁸ Herman Pessoa Lima Júnior¹⁰ Ernesto Kemp^{4,11} Guilherme Sebastiao Pinheiro Lopes¹² Giovanni Maccarrone⁶ Rui Daniel Passos Mano¹ Robert Renz Marcelo Gregorio¹³ David José Gaspar Marques^{4,5} Giovanni Mazzitelli⁶ Alasdair Gregor McLean¹³ Andrea Messina^{7,8} Pietro Meloni^{2,3} Cristina Maria Bernardes Monteiro¹ Rafael Antunes Nobrega¹² Igor Fonseca Pains¹² Emiliano Paoletti⁶ Luciano Passamonti⁶ Fabrizio Petrucci^{2,3} Stefano Piacentini^{7,8} Davide Piccolo⁶ Daniele Pierluigi⁶ Davide Pinci⁸ Atul Prajapati^{4,5} Francesco Renga⁸ Rita Joanna da Cruz Roque¹ Filippo Rosatelli⁶ Alessandro Russo⁶ Joaquim Marques Ferreira dos Santos¹ Giovanna Saviano^{6,14} Neil John Curwen Spooner¹³ Roberto Tesauro⁶ Sandro Tomassini⁶ Samuele Torelli^{4,5}



This project has received fundings under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme from the European Research Council (ERC) grant agreement No 818744

Depending on the anode segmentation (x-y) and time sampling (z), tracks can be reconstructed in **1D, 2D or 3D**



Energy + particle ID + 3D position + recoil angle + vector sense

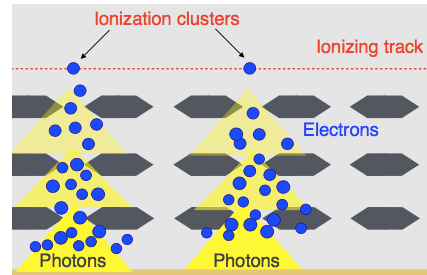
Less event information



More event information

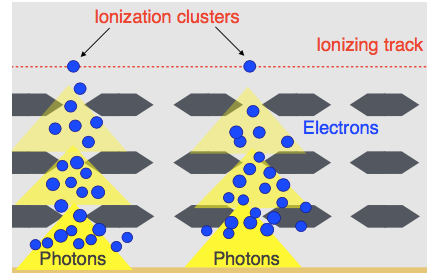
Improved background discrimination
More physics cases per exposure

triple 50 um GEMs



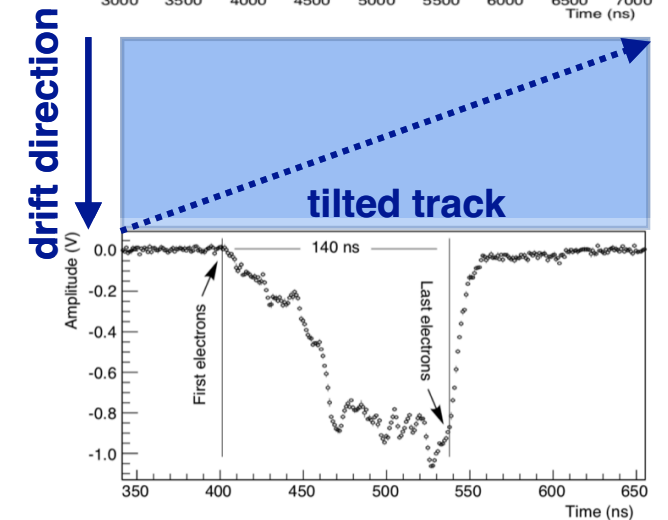
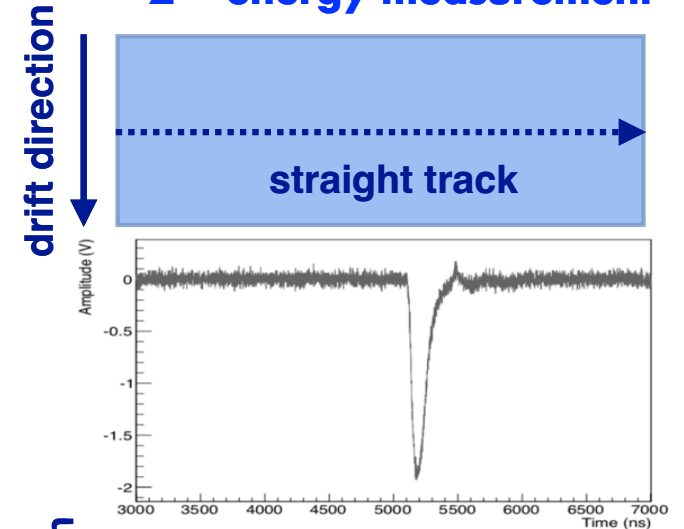
CSGNO :3D TPC with optical readout via PMT + sCMOS

triple 50 um GEMs



PMT:

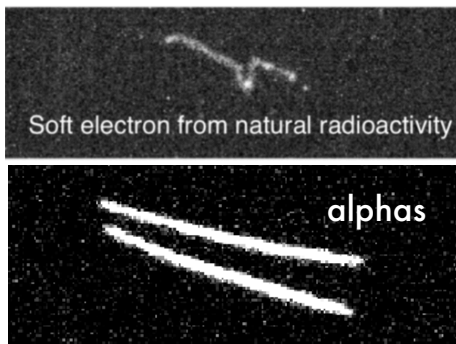
integrated
Z + energy measurement



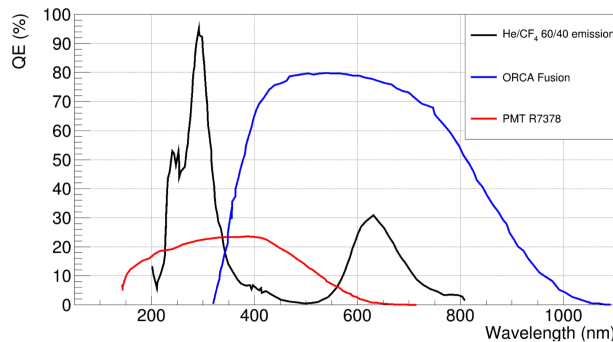
CSGNO :3D TPC with optical readout via PMT + sCMOS

sCMOS:

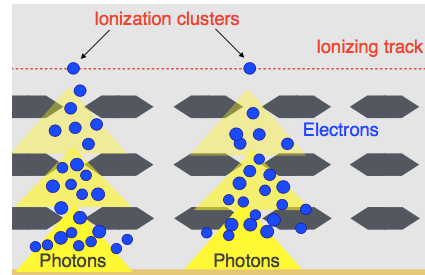
high granularity
X-Y + energy measurements



- 1/3 noise w.r.t. CCDs
- Market pulled
- Single photon sensitivity
- Decoupled from target
- Large areas with proper optics

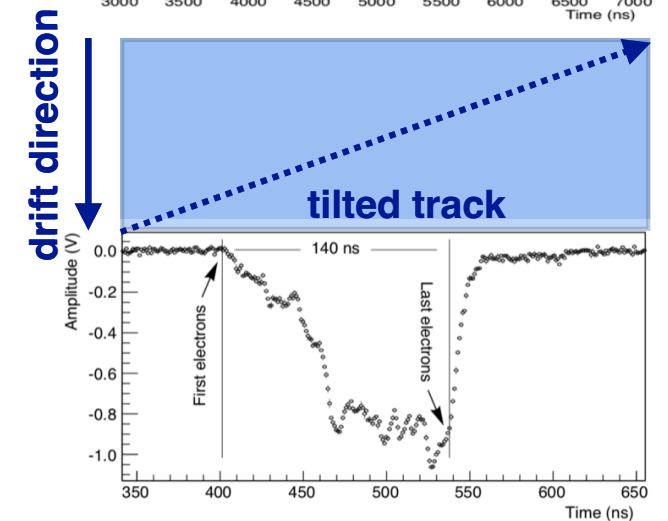
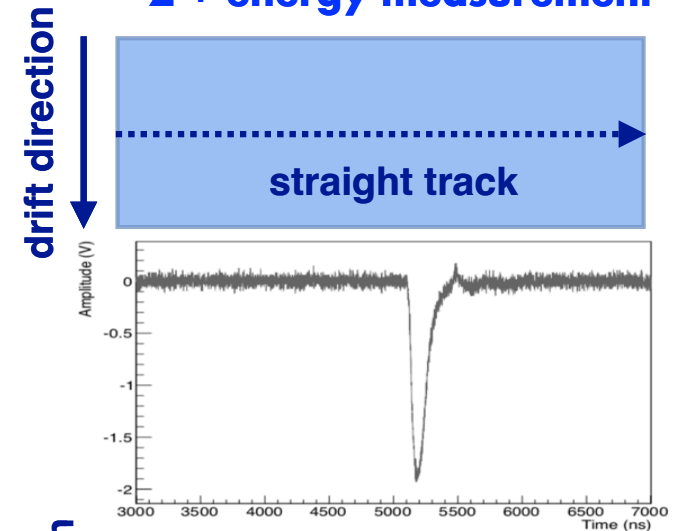


triple 50 um GEMs



PMT:

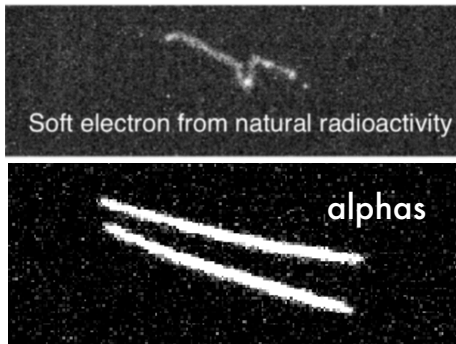
integrated
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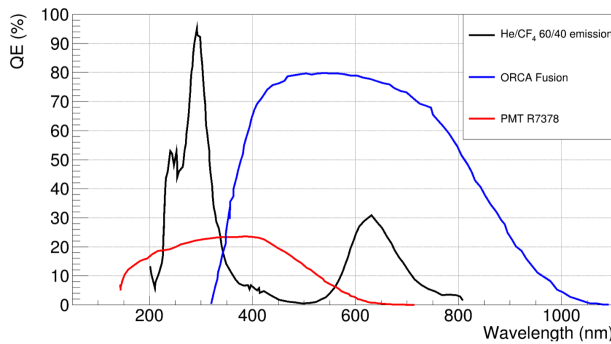
CSIGNO :3D TPC with optical readout via PMT + sCMOS

sCMOS:

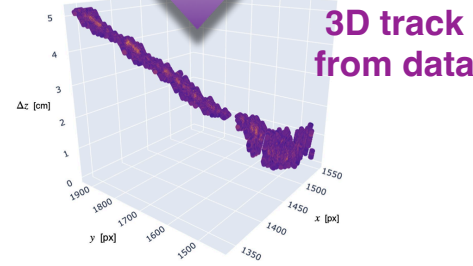
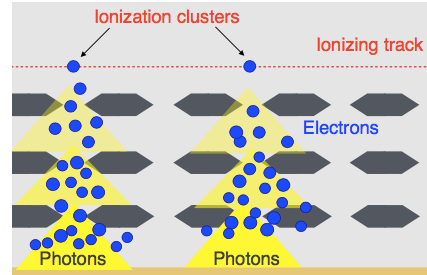
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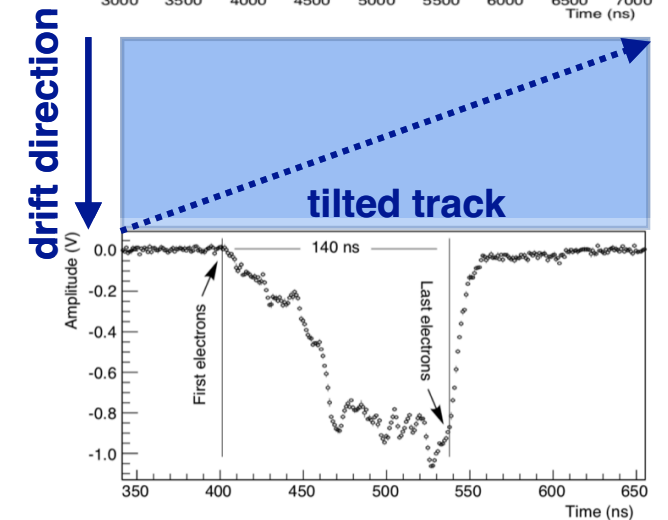
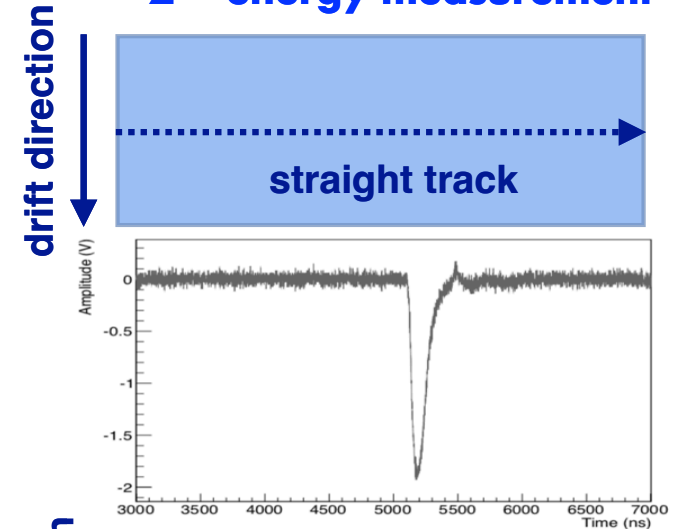


triple 50 um GEMs



PMT:

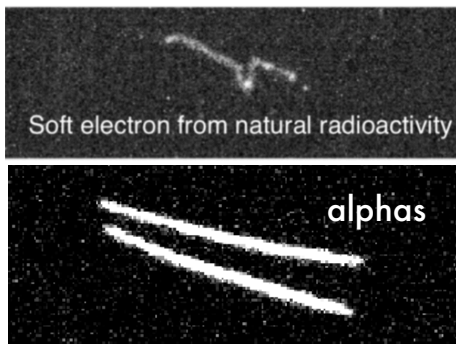
integrated
Z + energy measurement



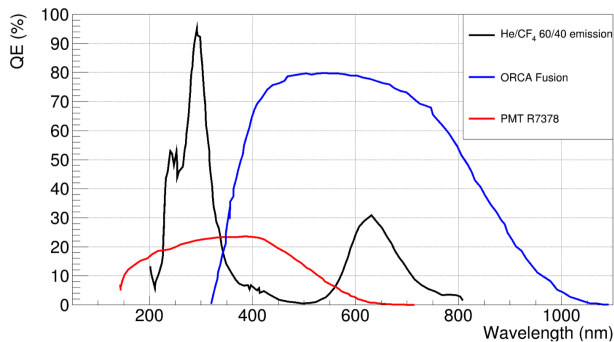
CSGNO :3D TPC with optical readout via PMT + sCMOS

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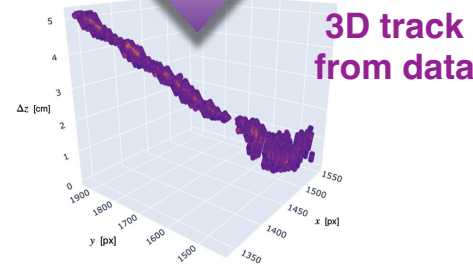
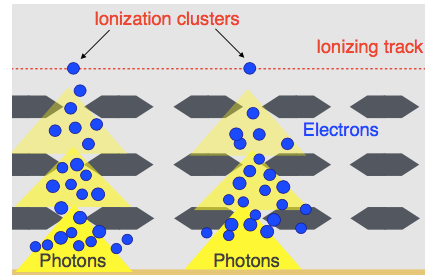
high granularity
X-Y + energy measurements



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- Market pulled
- Single photon sensitivity
- Decoupled from target
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triple 50 um GEMs

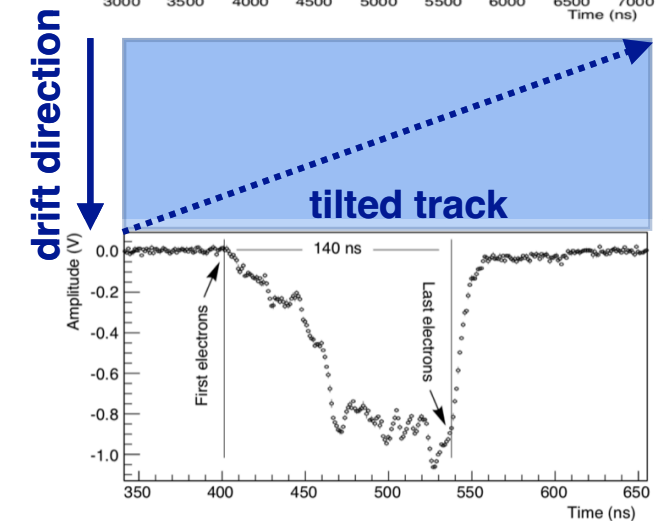
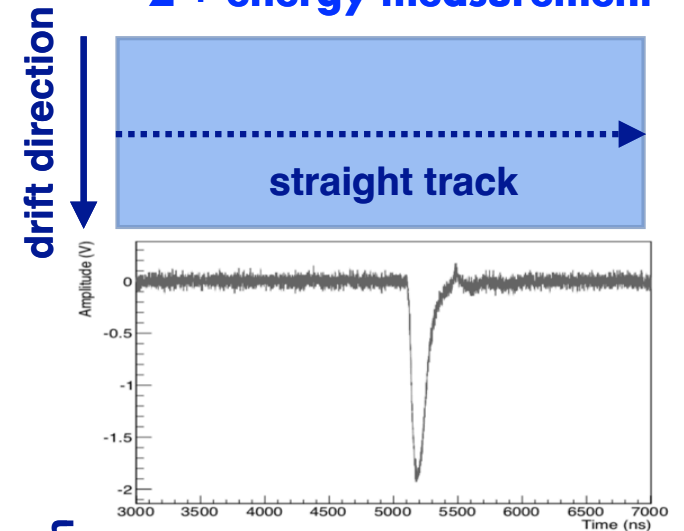


+ SF₆ for negative ion drift

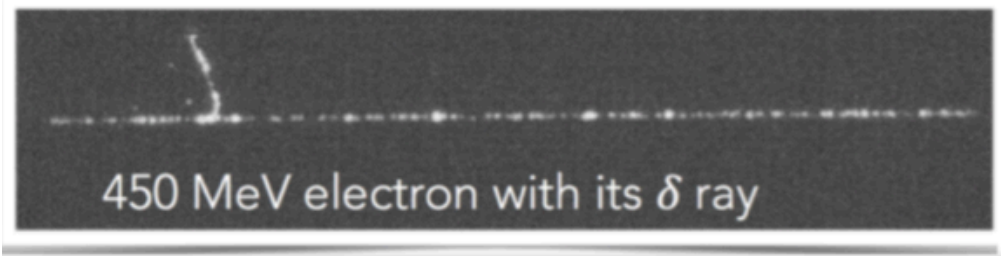
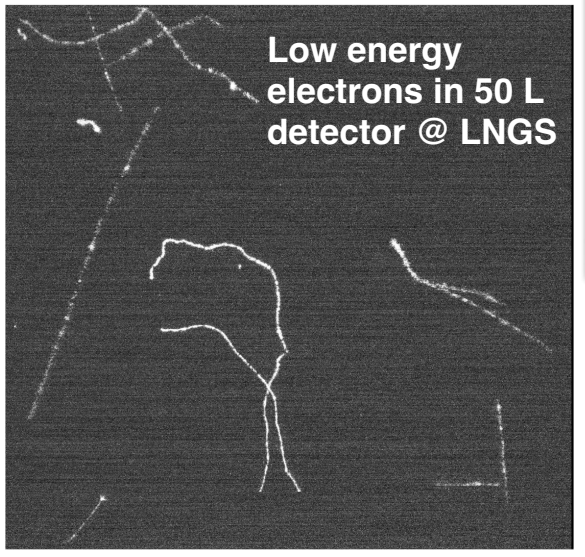
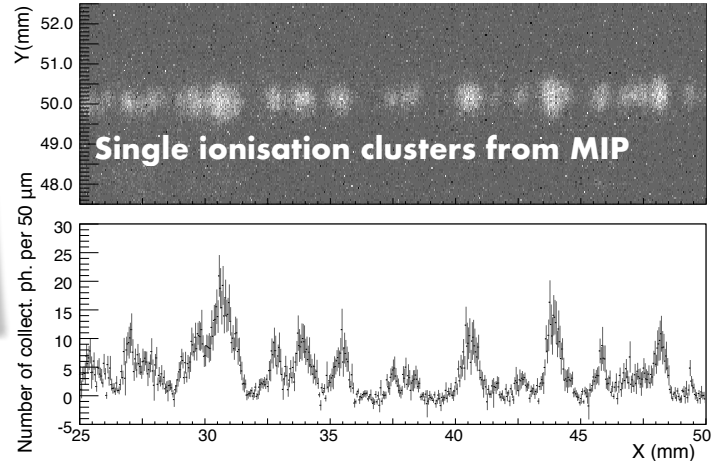
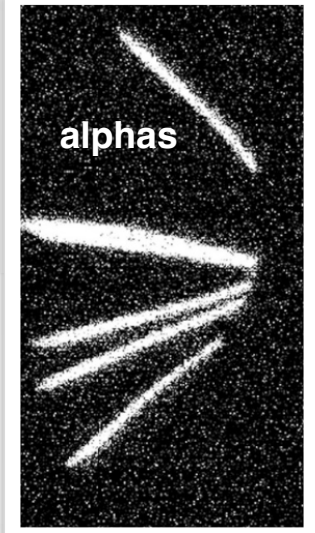
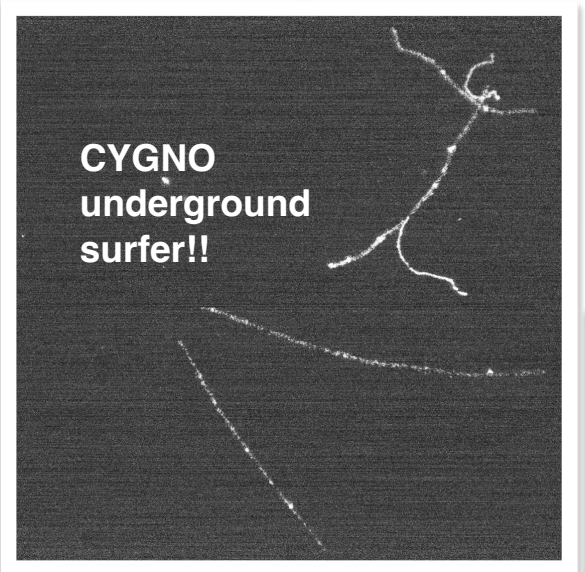
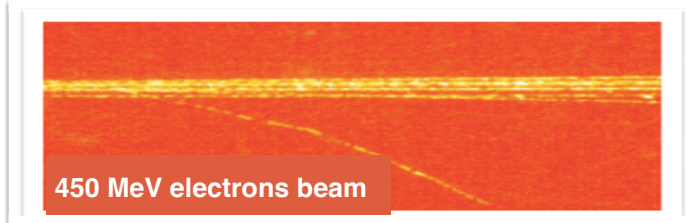
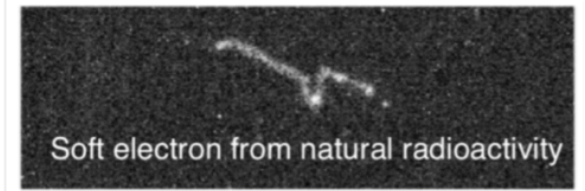
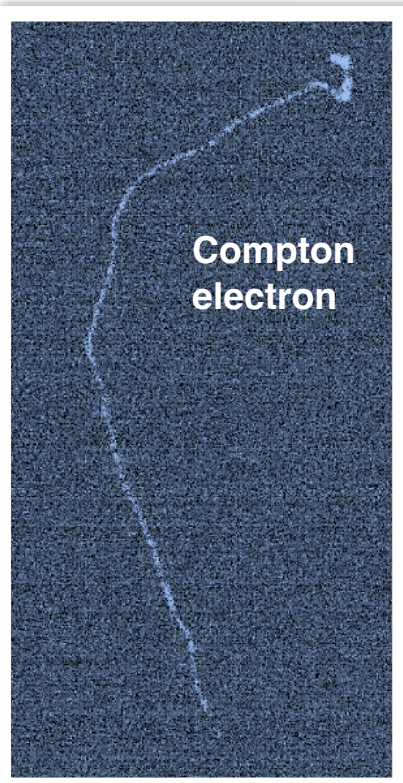


PMT:

integrated
Z + energy measurement



...with classical electron drift



Optical readout features

Camera focused on last amplification stage

Lens de-magnification

$$\delta = \frac{f}{d}$$

sCMOS-GEM distance

Focal length F.L.

sCMOS sensor geometrical acceptance

$$\Omega = \frac{1}{(4(1/\delta + 1) \times a)^2}$$

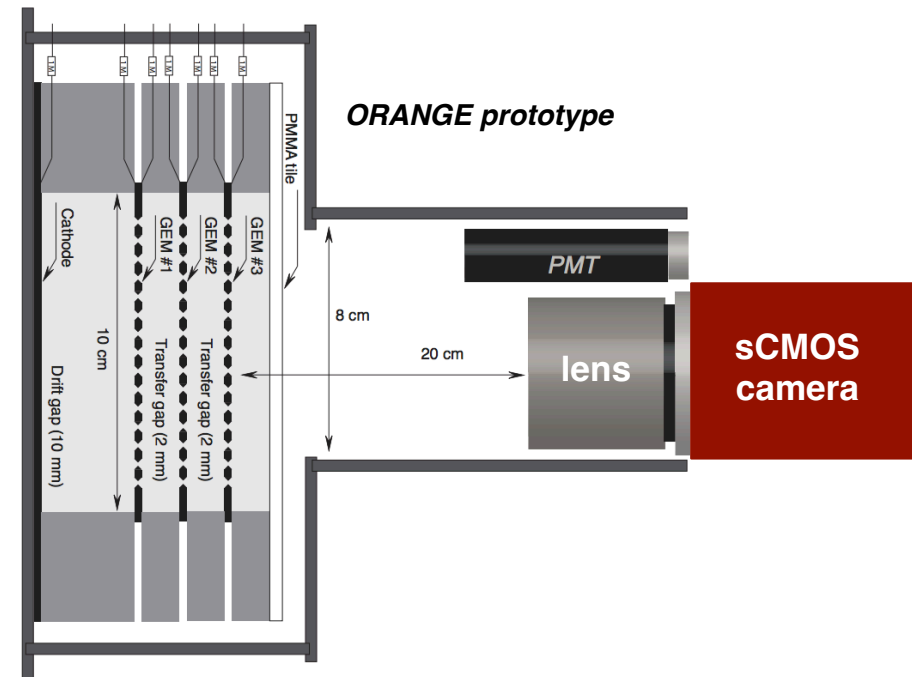
The further the camera, the larger the area it can image

- a 36 x 36 cm² area with an effective granularity of 155 x 155 μm² (large volume application)
- a 10 x 10 cm² area with an effective granularity of 43 x 43 μm² (small volume application)

The further the camera, the lower the light yield detectable

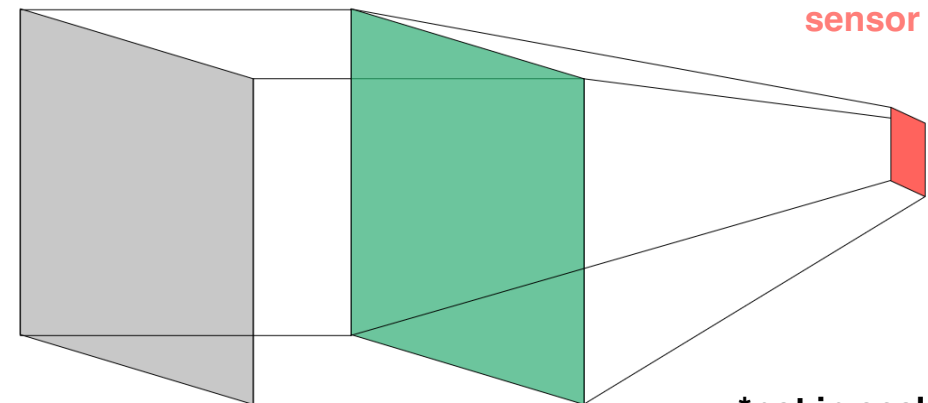
- ± 1 x 10⁻⁴ coverage for large volume application
- ± 1 x 10⁻³ coverage for large volume application

Camera electronics is integrated, the output is an USB plug



36 x 36 cm² imaged area

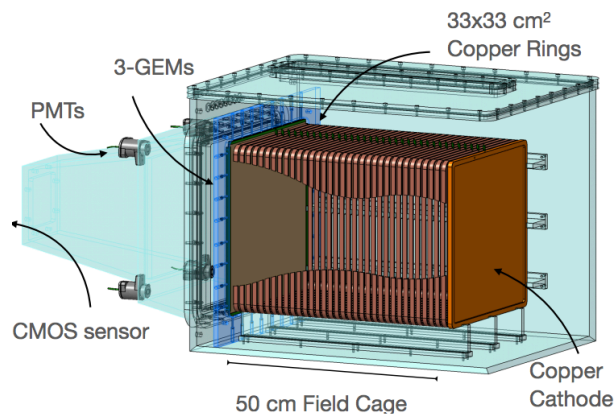
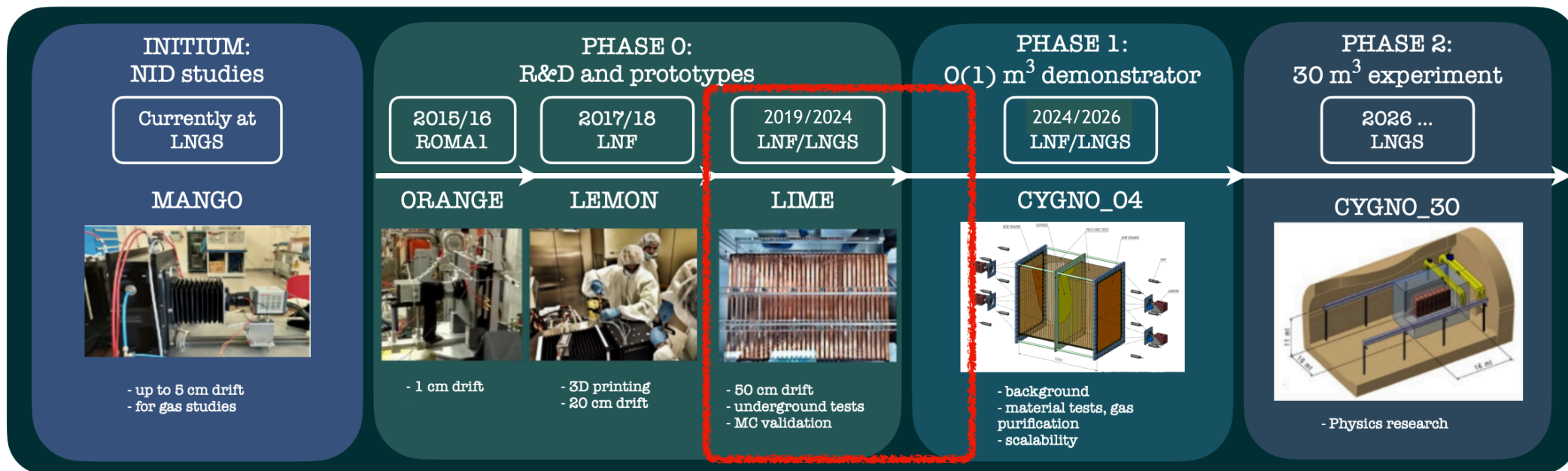
1.3 x 1.3 cm² sensor



*not in scale

Instruments 6 (2022) 1, 6
JINST 15 (2020) 12, T12003
JINST 15 (2020) P08018
Measur.Sci.Tech. 32 (2021) 2, 025902

JINST 15 (2020) P10001
2019 JINST 14 P07011
NIM A 999 (2021) 165209

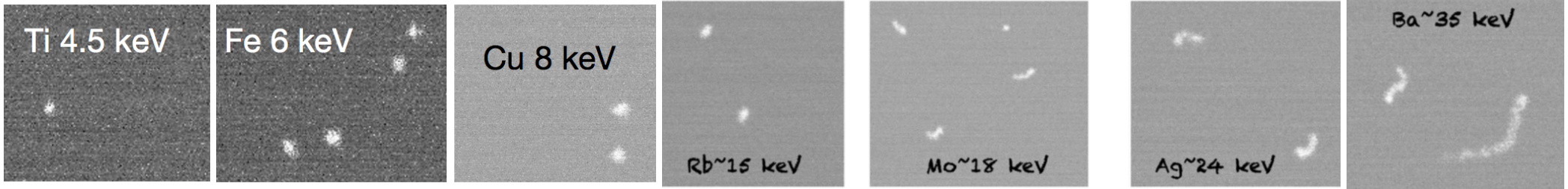


1 sCMOS + 4 PMT + 3 GEMs
33 x 33 cm² readout area
50 cm drift length
50 L active volume

LIME overground commisioning @ LNF



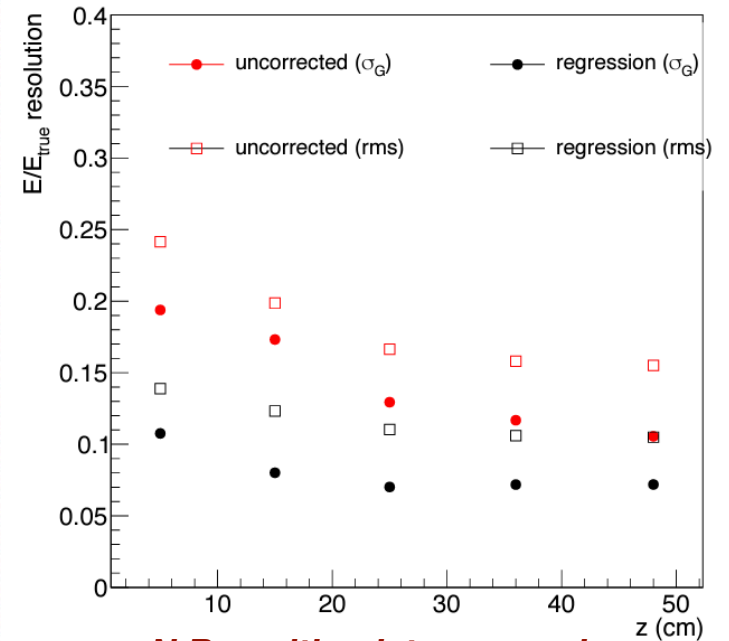
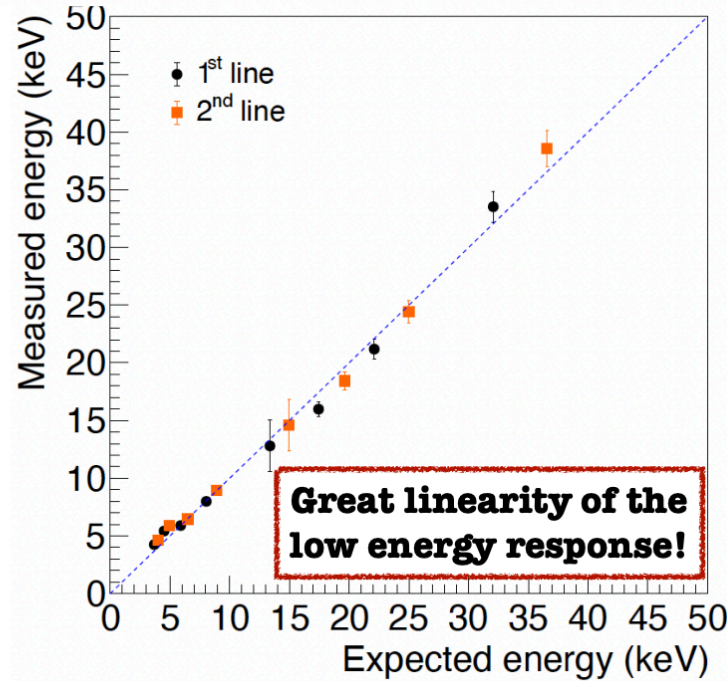
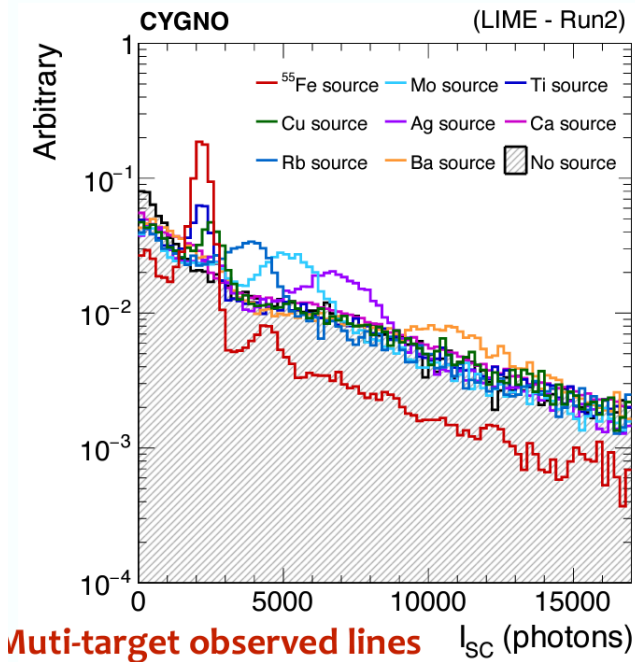
Electron recoils calibration



Multi-source + bkg spectrum

Energy response linearity

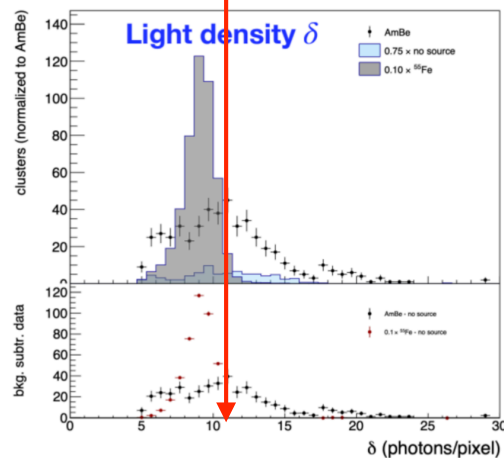
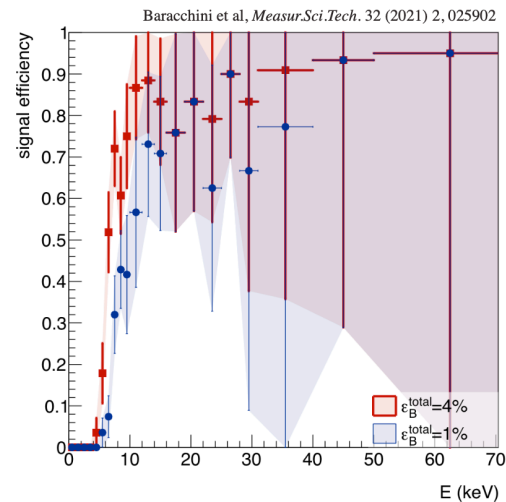
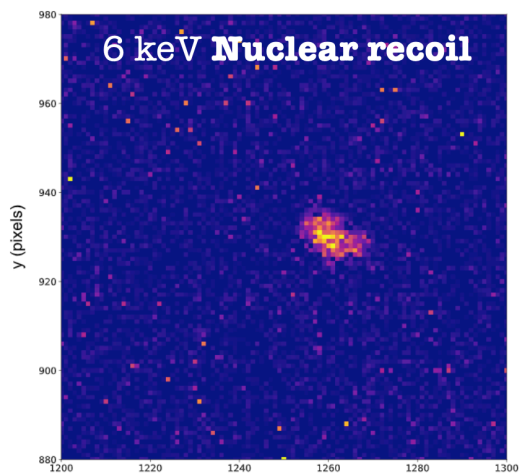
Energy resolution



N.B. multivariate regression to correct for detector response disuniformities

NR vs ER discrimination

- **AmBe neutron** source to induce NRs
- **Selection** based on **topological information** of the tracks (size, shape and light density)
- **Discrimination** based on single variable: **light density**

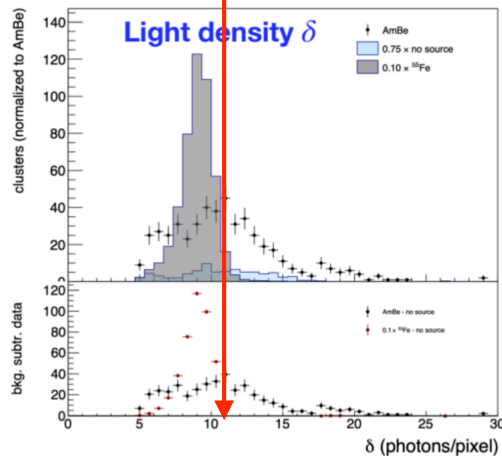
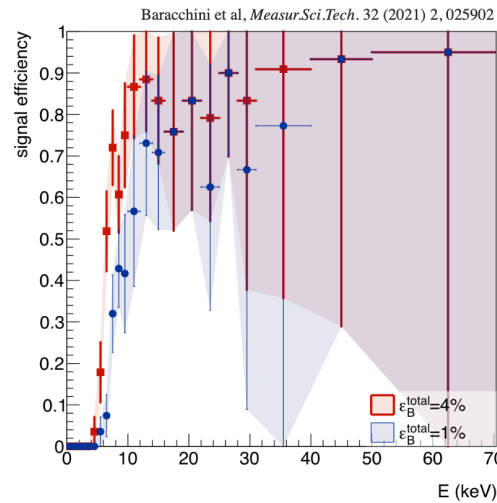
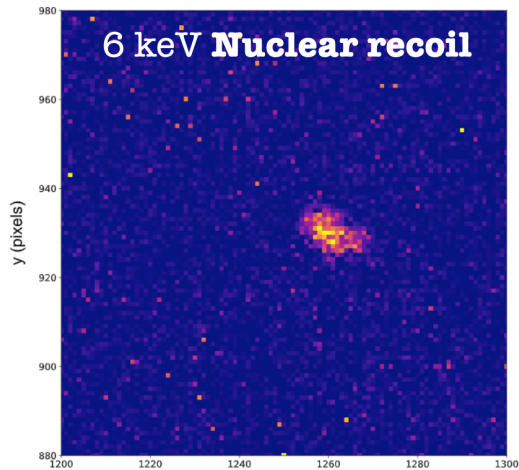


- ➔ **NR** detection efficiency over **40%** above 6 keV
- ➔ **96% rejection** power on the 6 keV ^{55}Fe **ERs**

NR vs ER discrimination

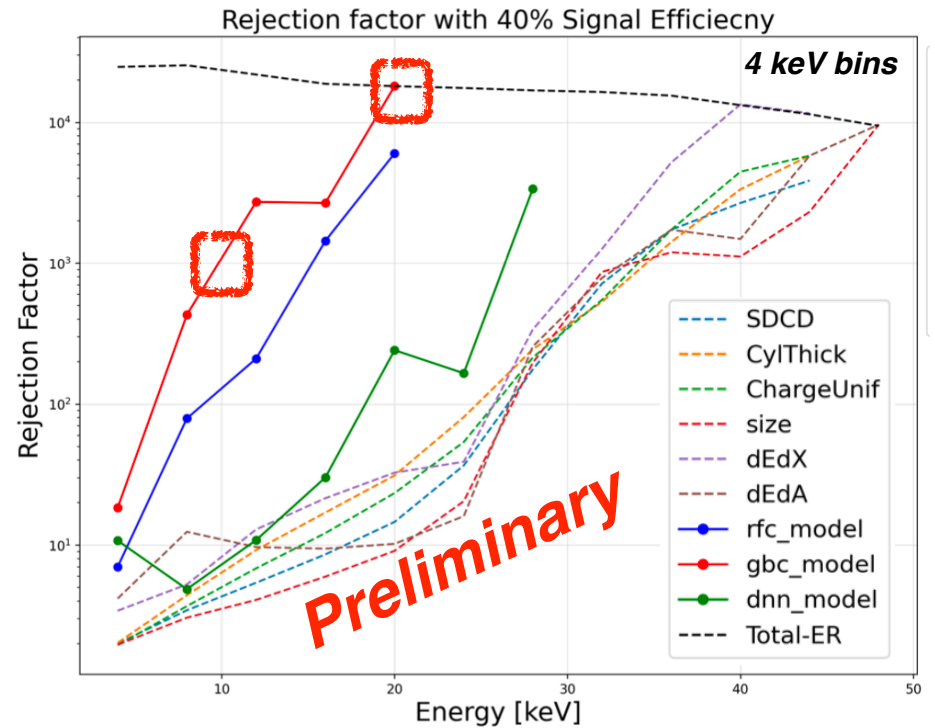


- **AmBe neutron** source to induce NRs
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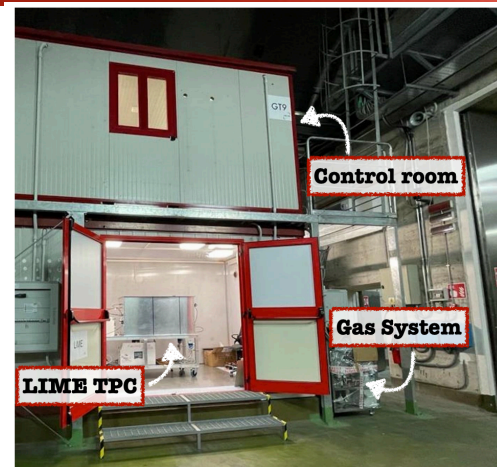
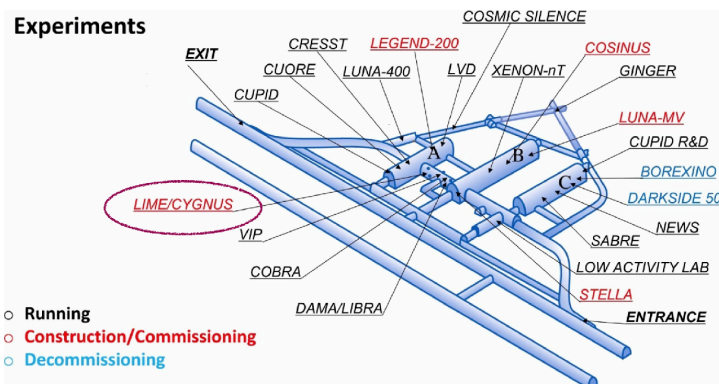
NEW!
ML techniques on full MC simulation



Indication of background rejection $> 10^4/\text{keV}@ 20 \text{ keV}$

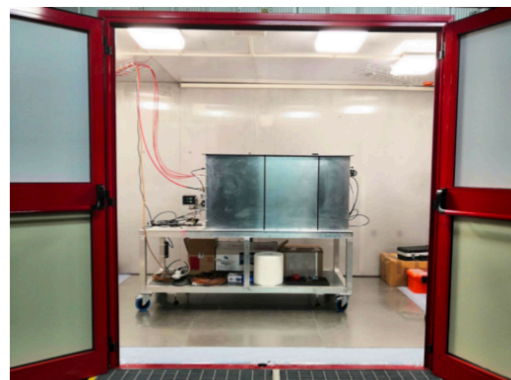
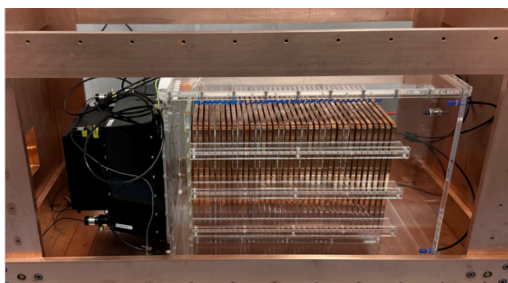
A. Prajapati PhD thesis

LIME underground campaign at LNGS



Underground installation with full auxiliary systems

	Shielding	Number of bkg pictures	Event rate	Period
Run1	none	4×10^5	35 Hz	Oct 2022
Run2	4 cm Cu	4.5×10^5	3.5 Hz	Jan-Mar 2023
Run3	10 cm Cu	2.7×10^6	1.3 Hz	May-Nov 2023
Run4	10 cm Cu + 40 cm H ₂ O	2.8×10^6	0.9 Hz	Dec 2023-Apr 2024



Run1



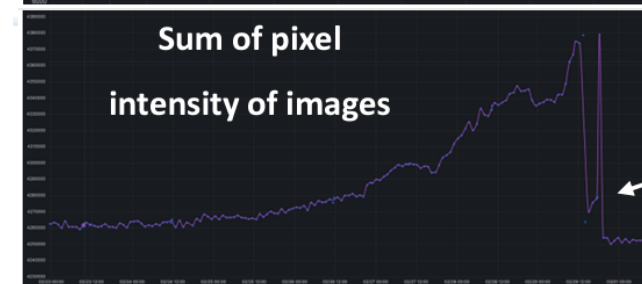
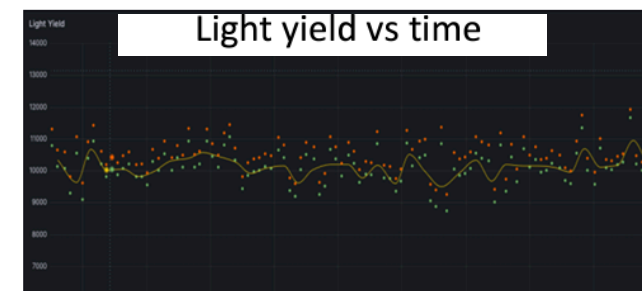
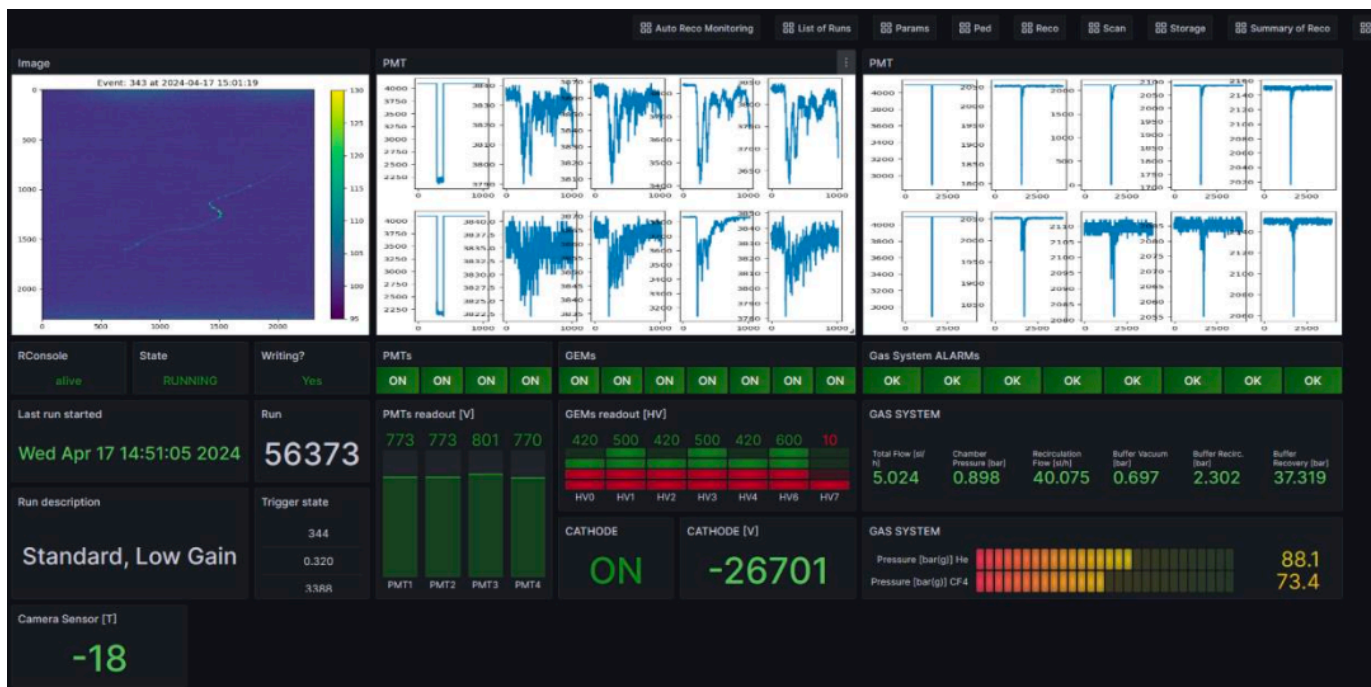
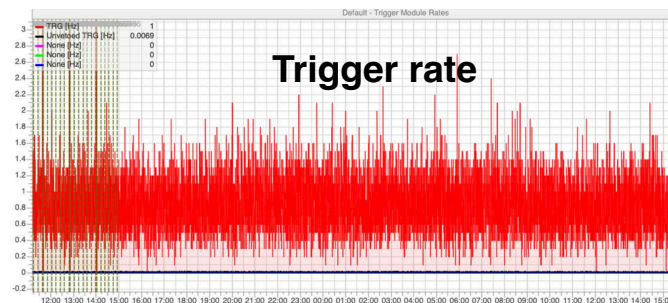
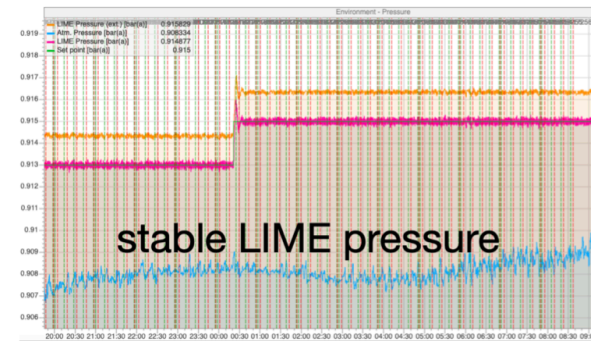
Run2 - Run3



Run4

LIME underground operation with full auxiliary system configuration

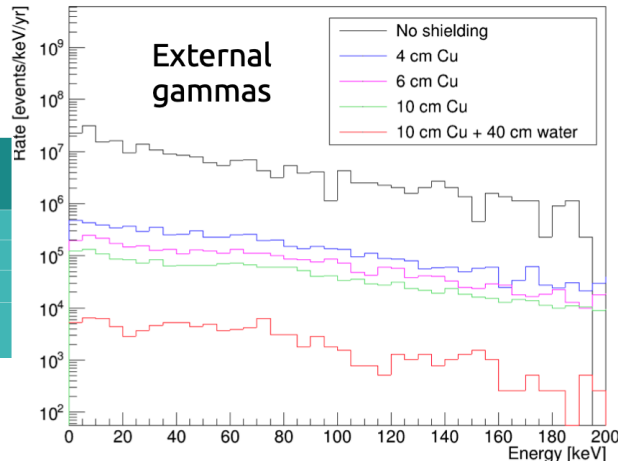
- Automated system developed to control and monitor remotely HV, gas system, environmental parameters, DAQ, trigger rate, ^{55}Fe calibrations, detector conditions and data taking
- Automatic data reconstruction implemented
- Complementary Grafana online monitor for fast interventions to critical issues
- Fully remote shifts 24/7 from Run4



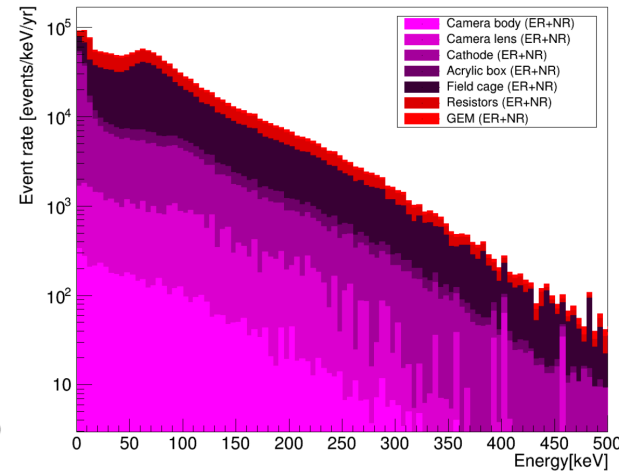
LIME expected backgrounds from MC simulation

External backgrounds

Shielding	Gamma background [10 ⁶ ER yr ⁻¹]	Neutron background [NR yr ⁻¹]
Unshielded	(1140±30)	(1480±90)
4 cm Cu	(26.2±0.6)	(870±10)
6 cm Cu	(9.4±0.3)	(1000±30)
10 cm Cu + 40 cm H ₂ O	(0.5±0.2)	(2.0±0.2)



Internal backgrounds



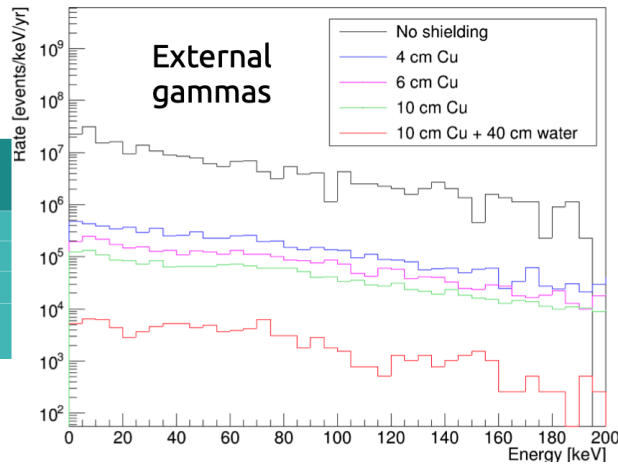
Source	Event rate [10 ⁶ yr ⁻¹]
Field cage	(3.57±0.01)
Resistors	(1.873±0.006)
Cathode	(1.095±0.001)
GEMs	(0.3891±0.0002)
Vessel	(0.268±0.001)
Camera lens	(0.151±0.004)
Camera body	(0.0242±0.0005)
TOTAL	(7.34±0.01)

Please note LIME was NOT built with radioactive pure components

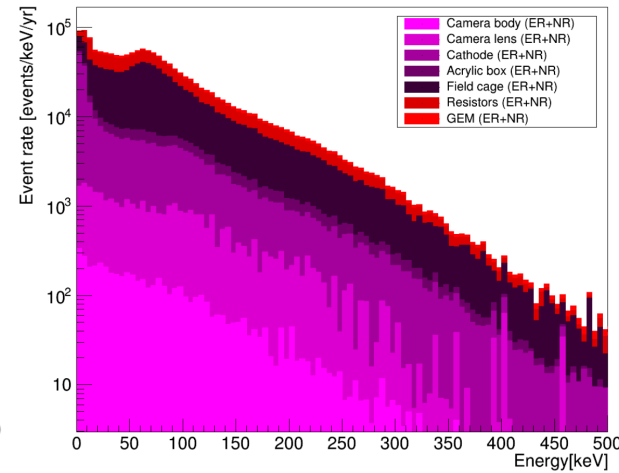
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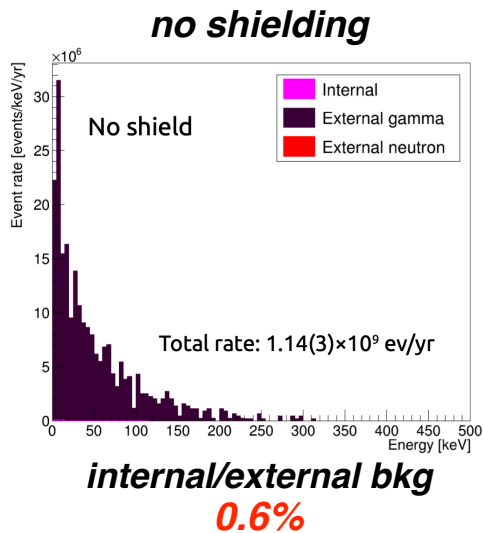
Internal backgrounds



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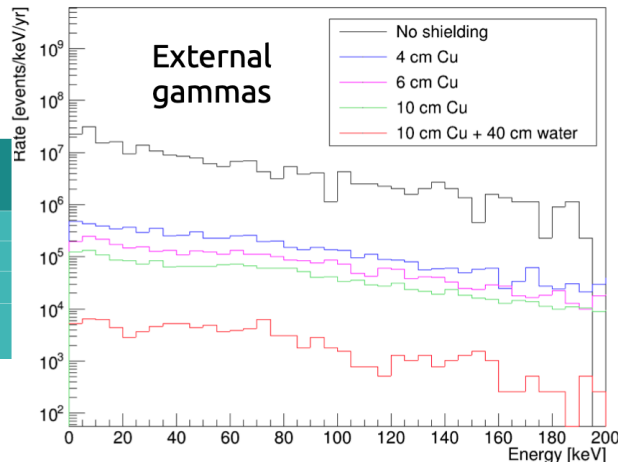
Please note LIME was NOT built with radioactive pure components

Total backgrounds

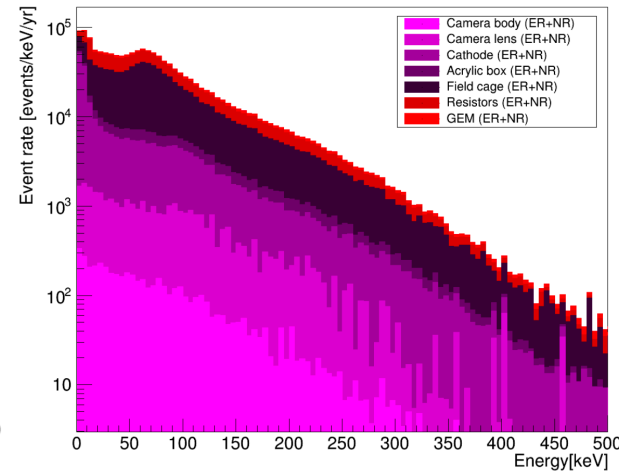


External backgrounds

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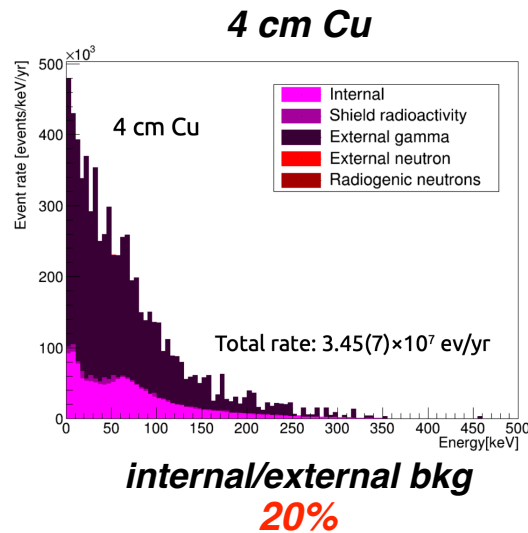
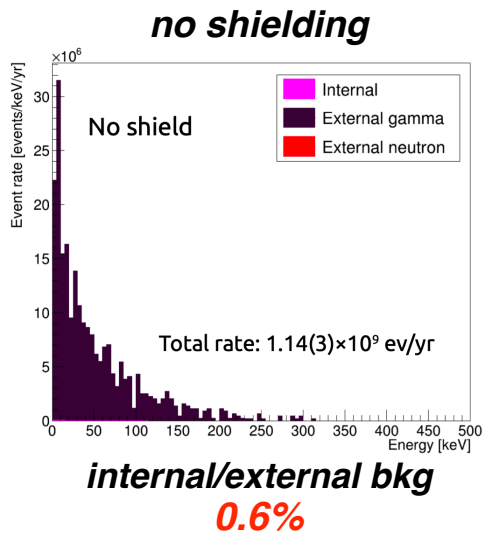
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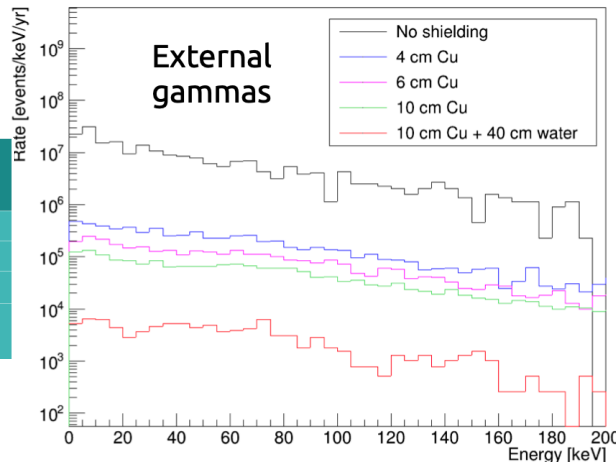
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Total backgrounds

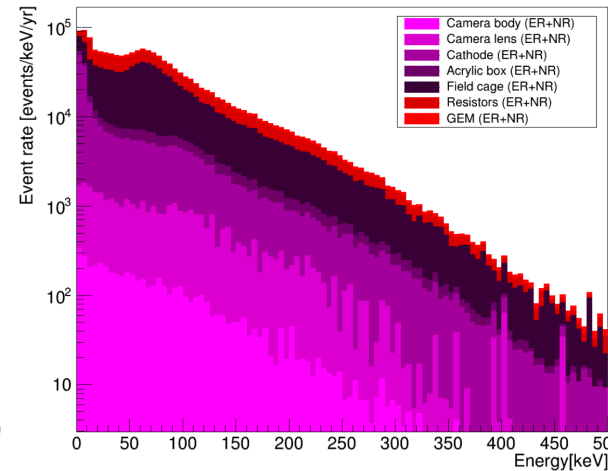


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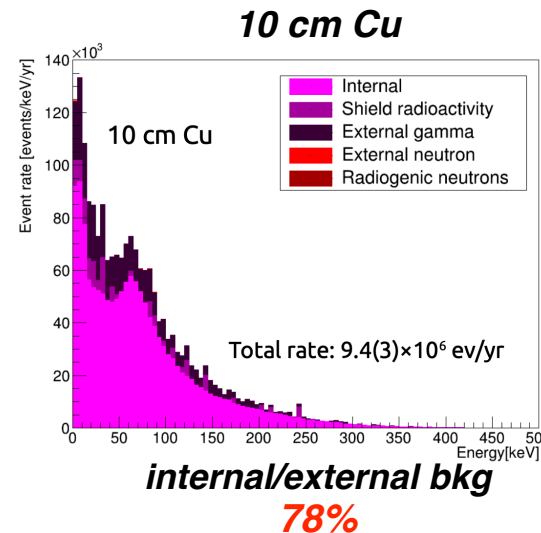
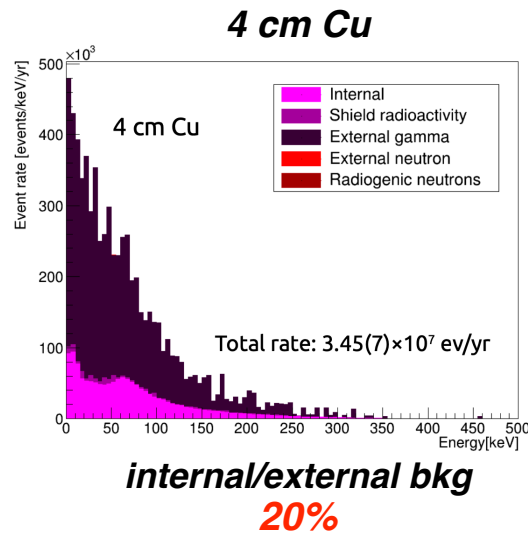
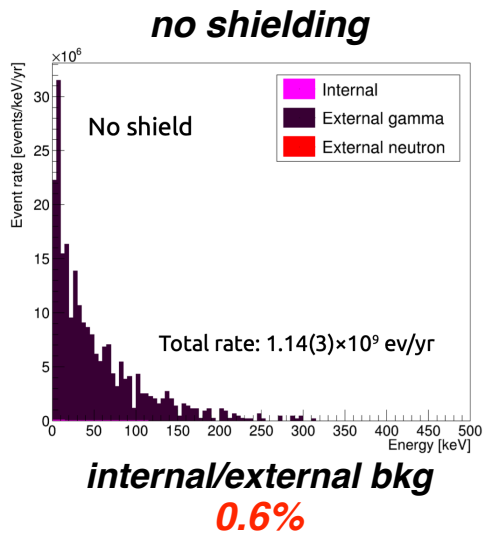
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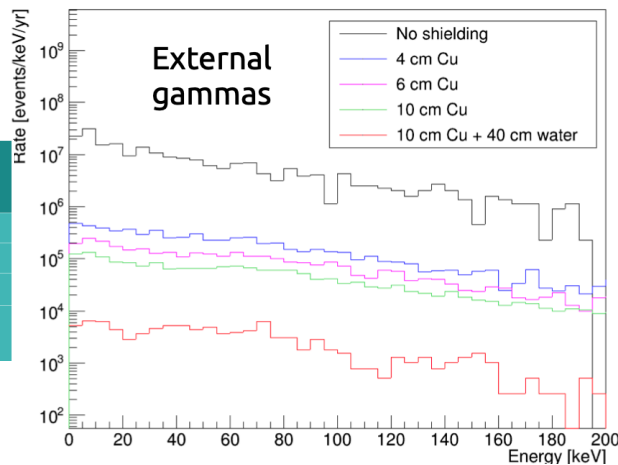
Please note LIME was NOT built with radioactive pure components

Total backgrounds

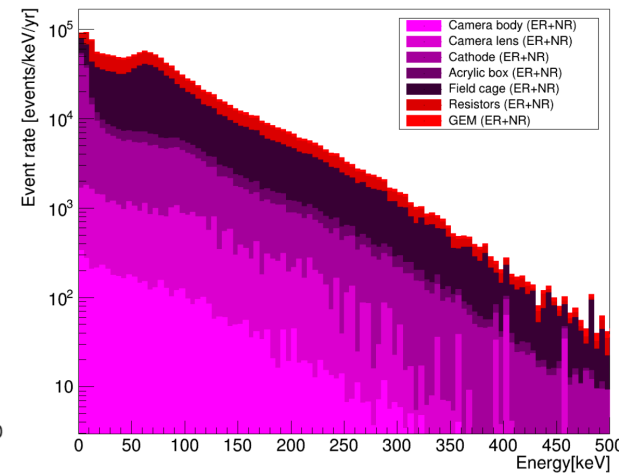


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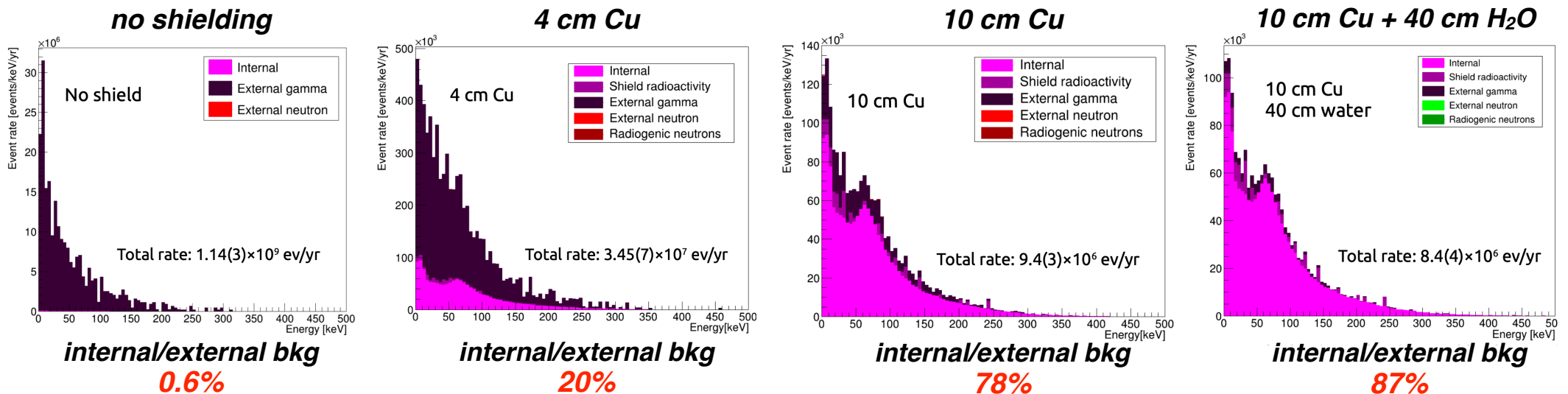
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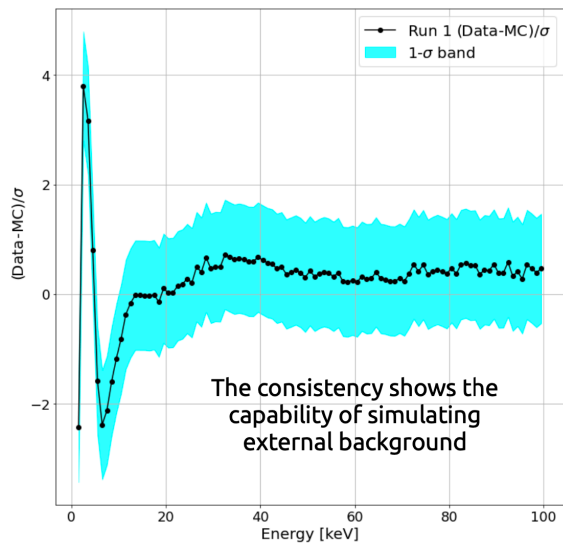
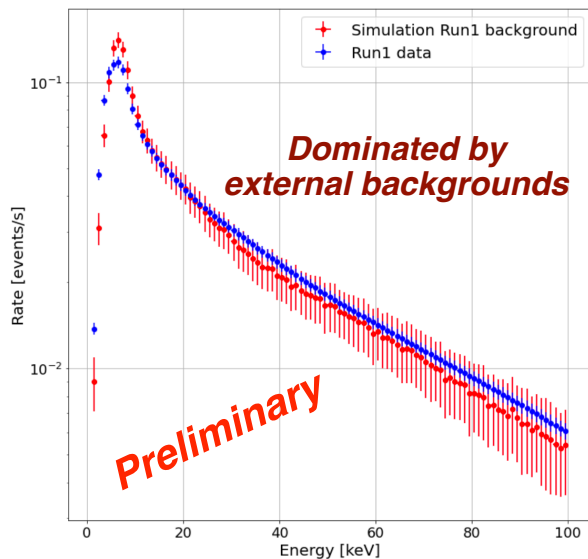
Please note LIME was NOT built with radioactive pure components

Total backgrounds



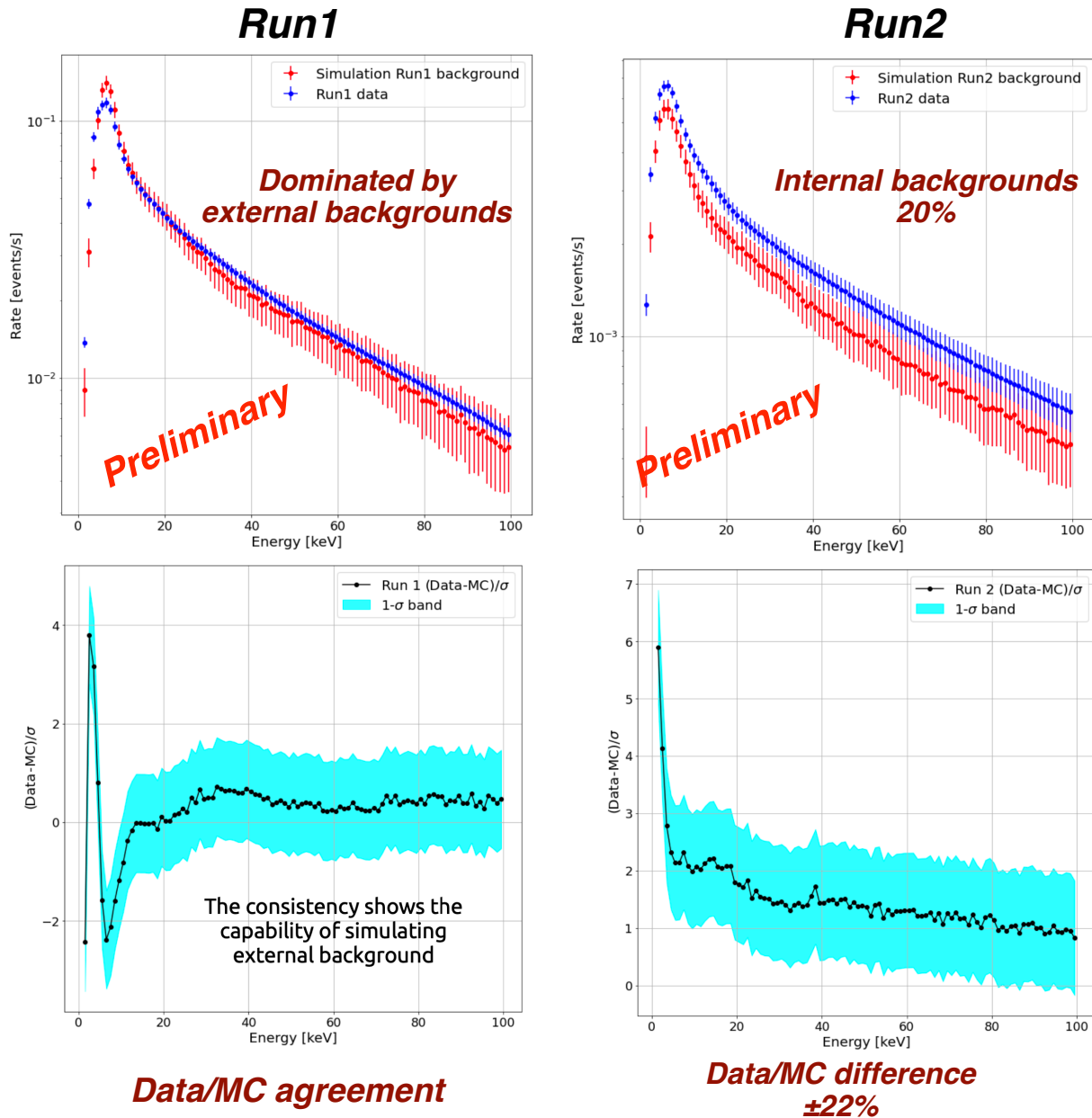
LIME underground data/MC comparison results

Run1

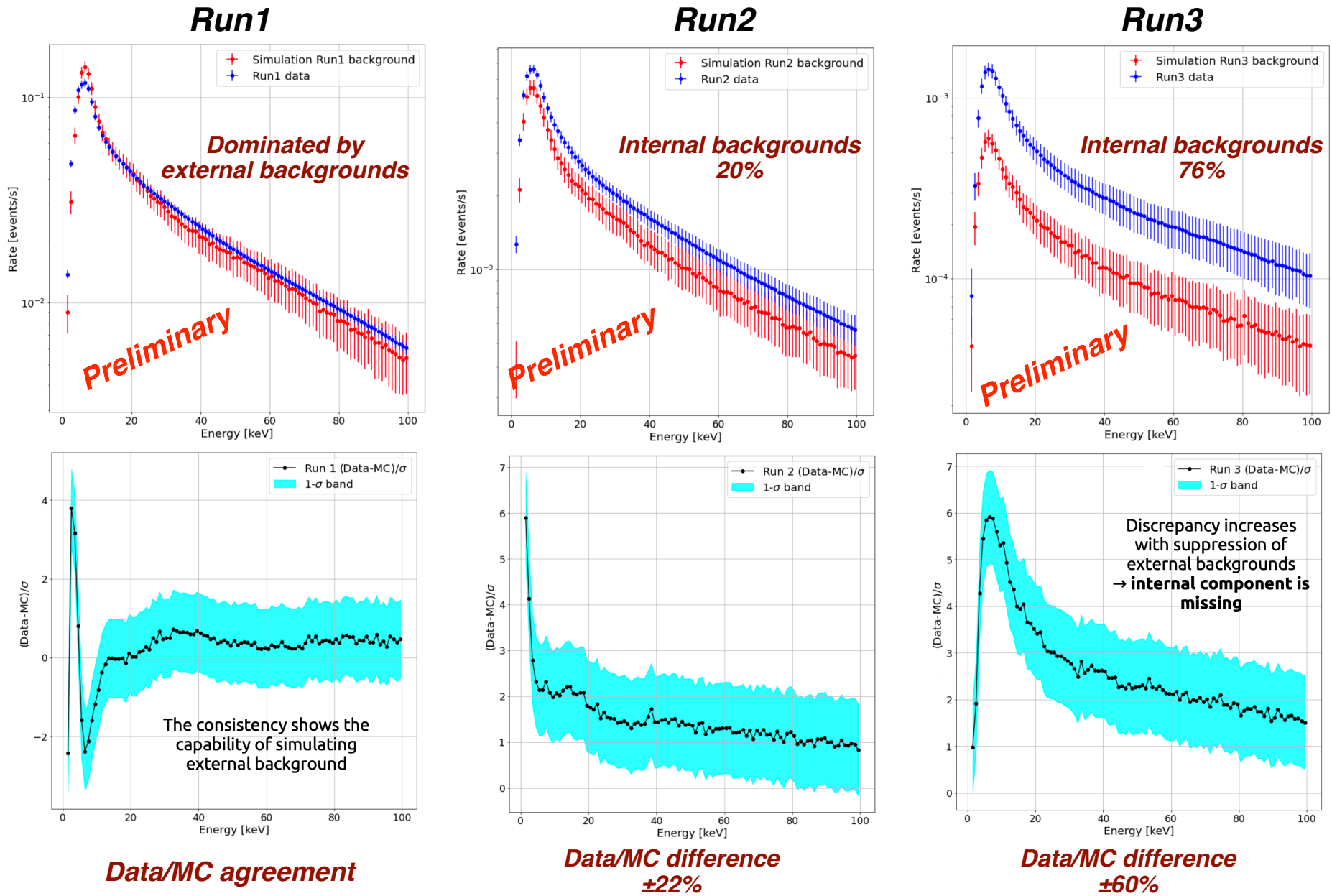


Data/MC agreement

LIME underground data/MC comparison results

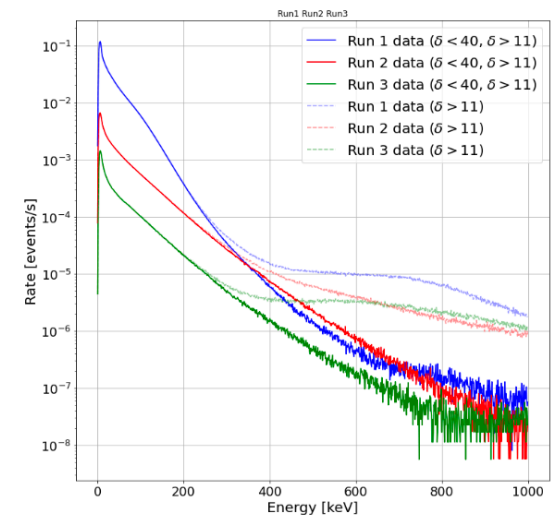


LIME underground data/MC comparison results



A closer look into the missing component

- **Excess of α events in all runs (long, dense tracks)**
 - Alphas from GEANT4 (not simulated) are not enough to explain the excess
- Due to gain saturation, alphas direct energy measurement not feasible

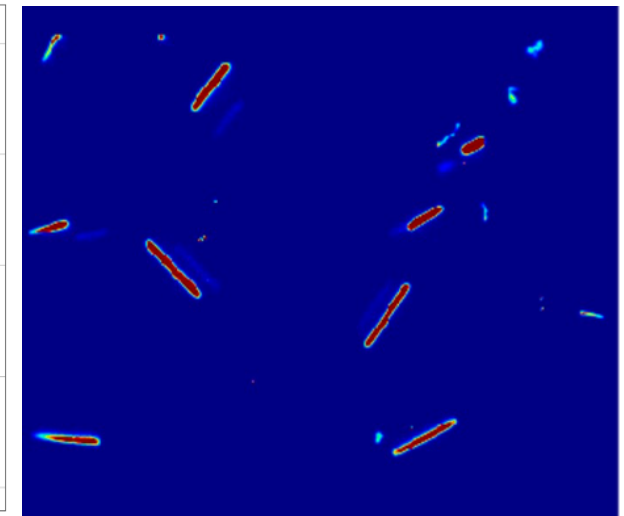
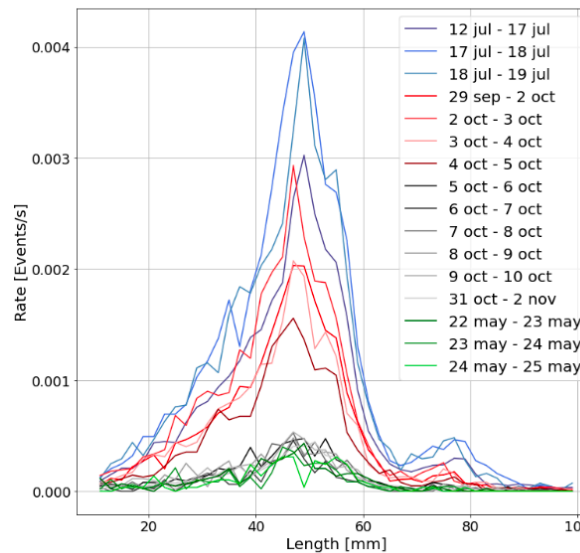
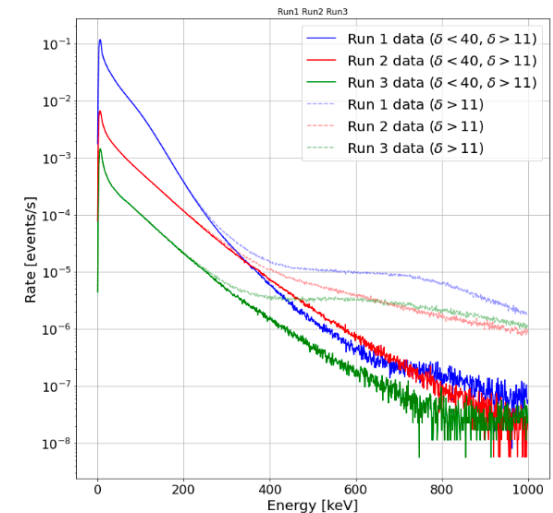


A closer look into the missing component

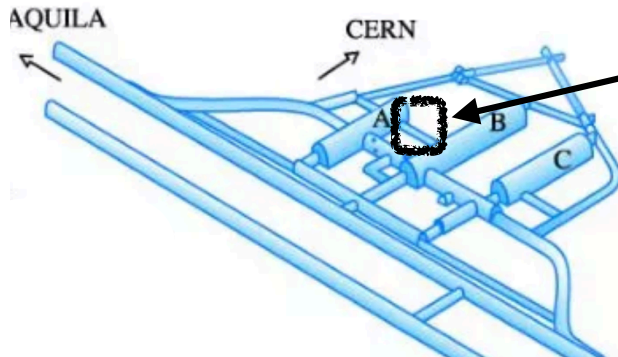
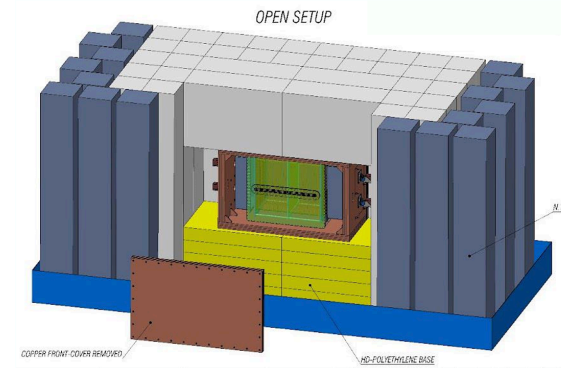
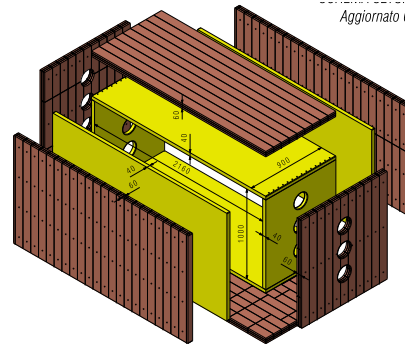
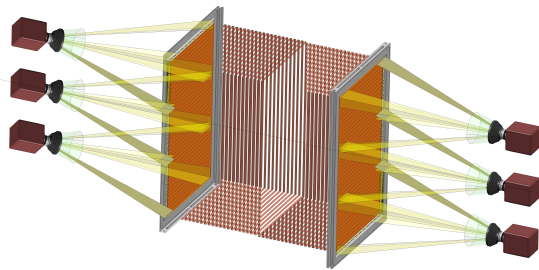
- **Excess of α events in all runs (long, dense tracks)**
 - Alphas from GEANT4 (not simulated) are not enough to explain the excess
- Due to gain saturation, alphas direct energy measurement not feasible
- **Length** distribution indicates peaks around 5.9 MeV, 6.6 MeV, 8.1 MeV peaks (might be ^{222}Rn)
- Radioactive contamination might also induce beta and gamma events, populating the **low energy region**
- Further studies to identify the source (ongoing)

Low radioactivity Radon filter installed at the end of Run4!

JINST 19 (2024) 03, P03012



PHASE 1: CYGNO_04 design in LNGS Hall F

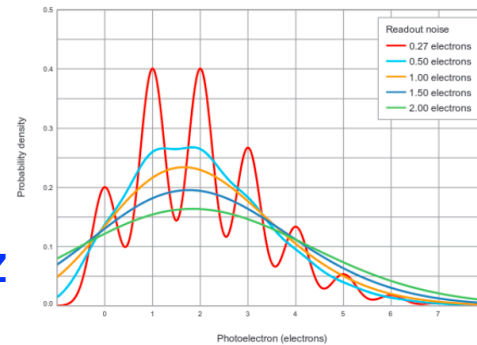


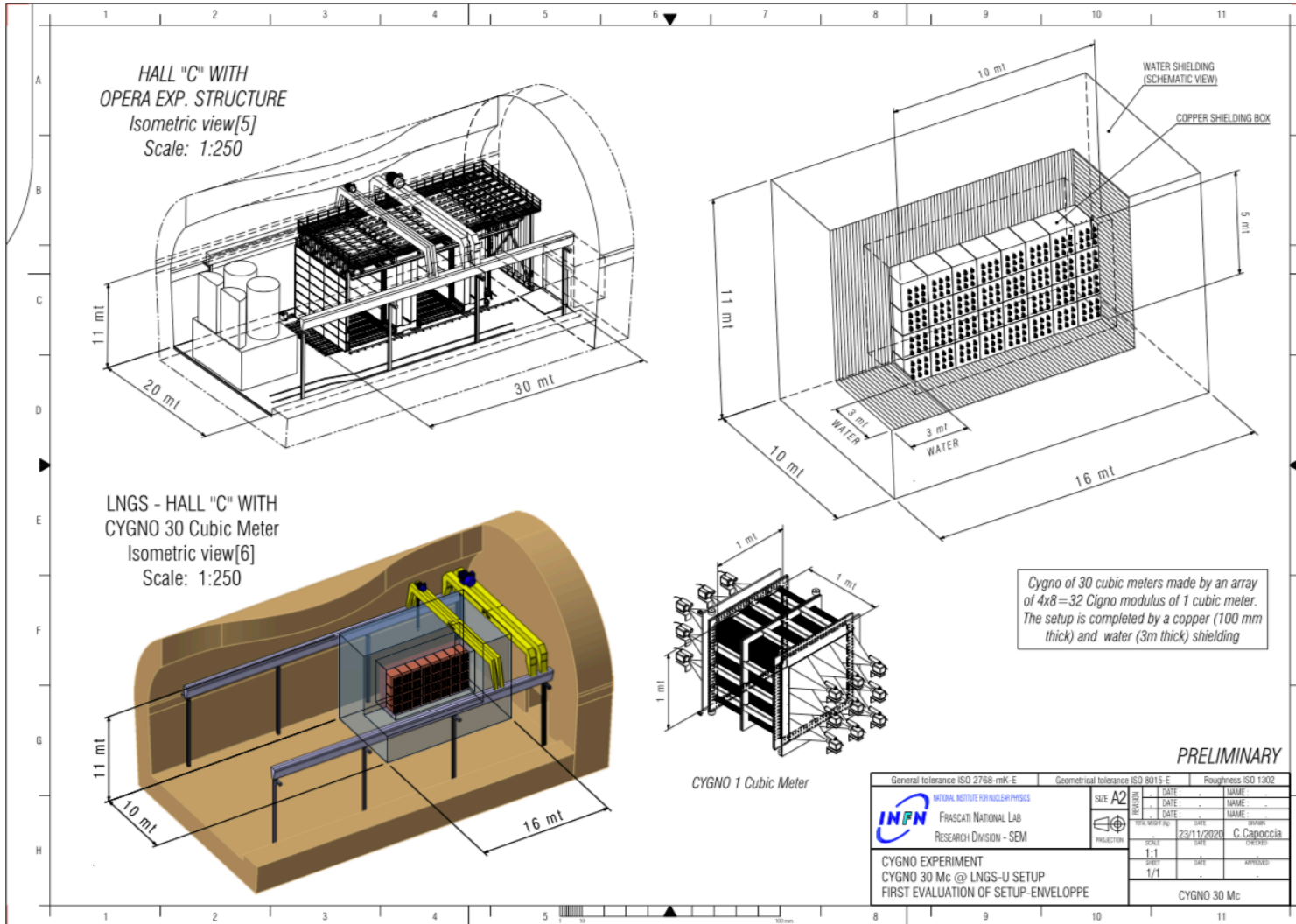
Infrastructure construction work starting in June

- 2 TPCs back to back, 50 cm drift, 0.4 m³ active volume
- 50 x 80 cm² readout area per side
- Triple 50 um GEMs amplification per side
- 3 sCMOS Orca Quest + 6 PMTs per side
- **Effective granularity 130 x 130 um² + 100 um along Z**

Goals:

- **Minimise internal radioactivity on a realistic experimental layout and scale**
- **Assess actual potentialities of a large O(30) m³ PHASE 2 experiment to reach the expected physics goals**





PHASE 2:
30 m³ Experiment

2026..
LNGS

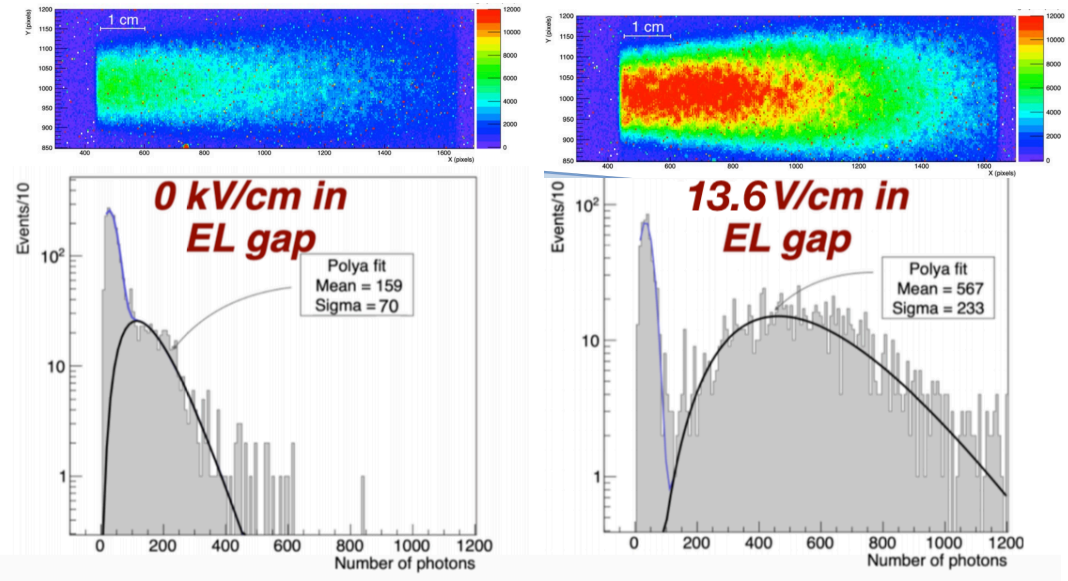
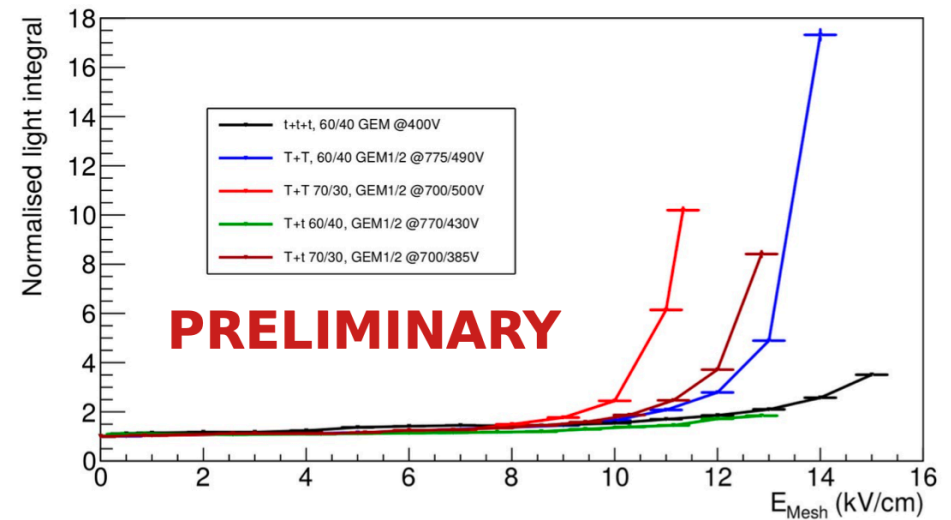
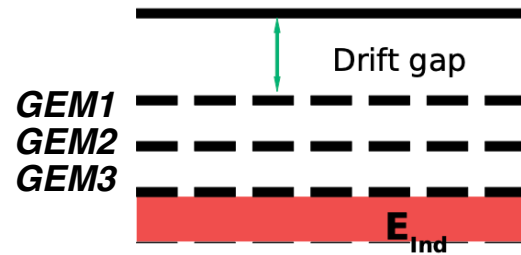
CYGNO_30

- Physics research

**Multiple stacked
CYGNO-04 like
modules**

R&Ds towards CYGNO-30: lower the energy threshold

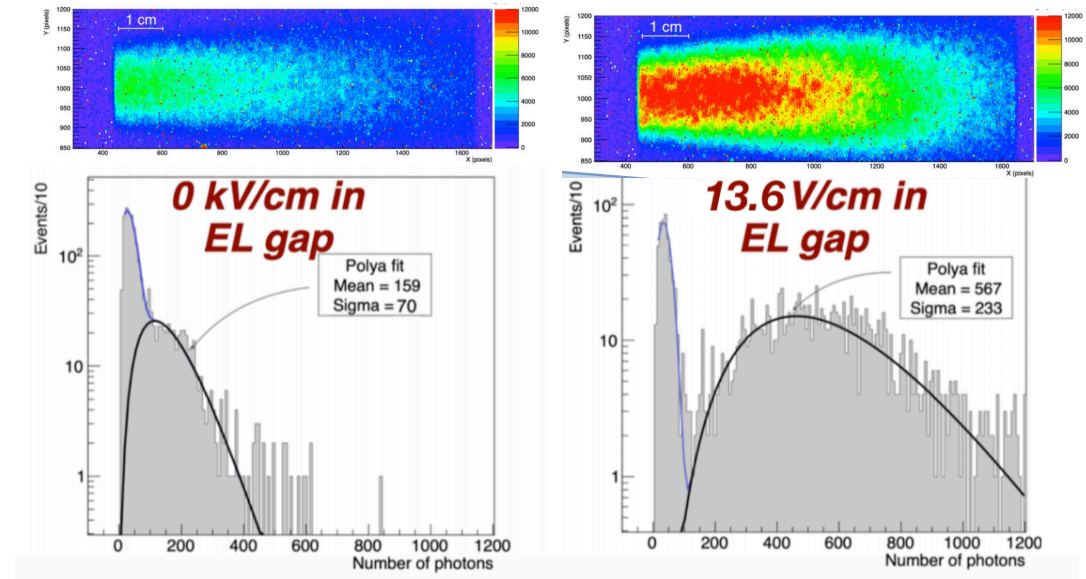
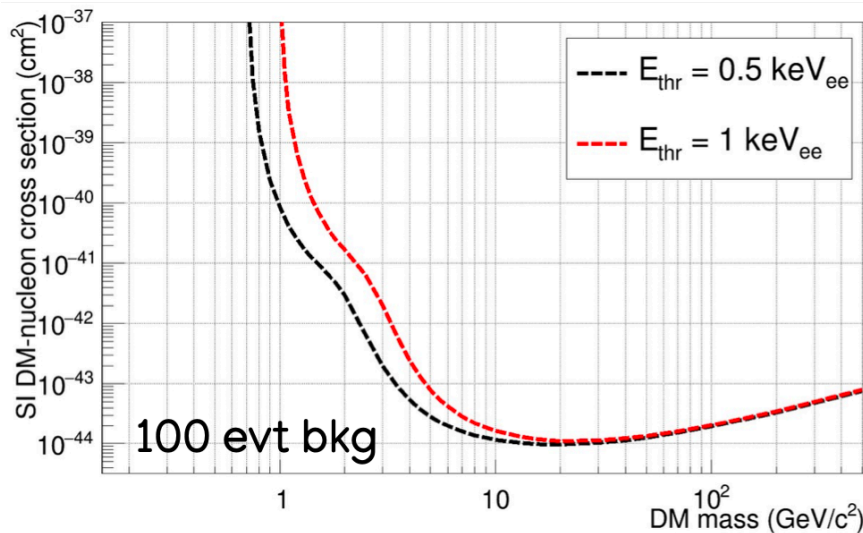
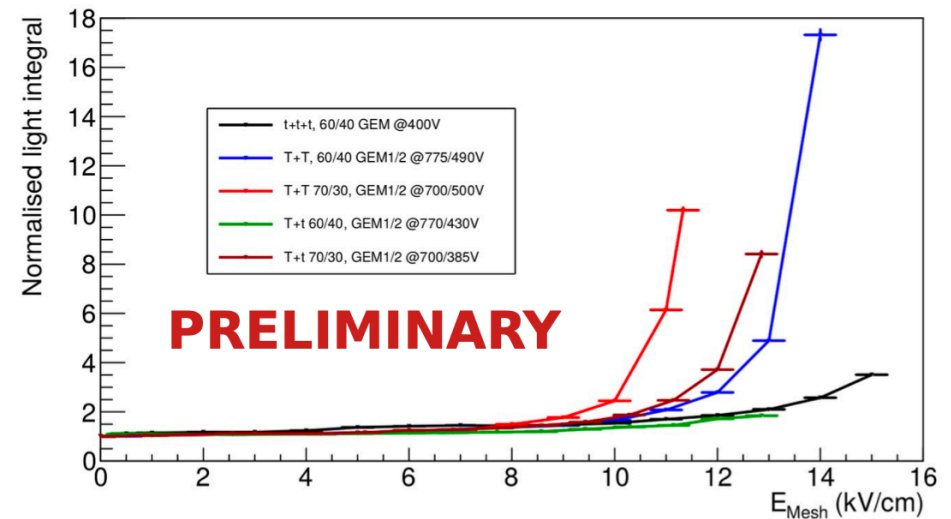
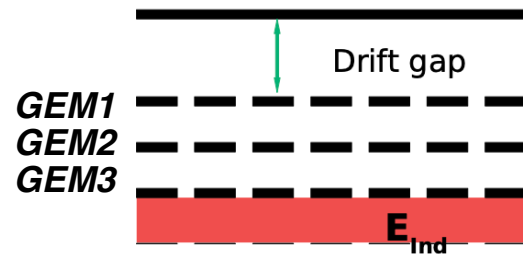
- The possibility of increasing the light yield is under study to lower the energy threshold
- By applying a strong O(10) kV/cm induction field after the last GEM, additional secondary photon are produced
- Up to a factor 2 enhancement achieved for standard CYGNO amplification and gas mixture without any degradation in diffusion or resolutions
- Up to nearly a factor 20 enhancement achievable with alternative amplification strategies/gases fractions



^{55}Fe spectrum

R&Ds towards CYGNO-30: lower the energy threshold

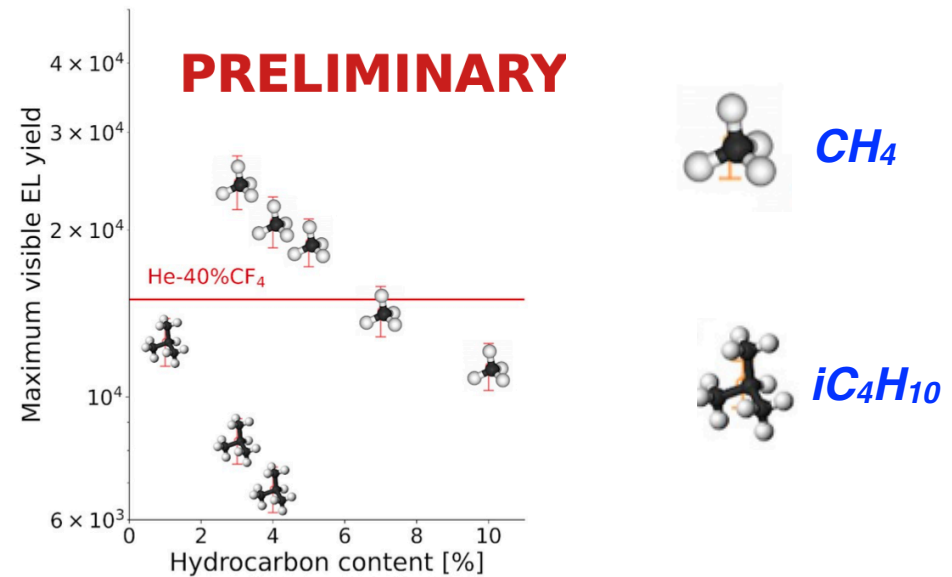
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55Fe spectrum

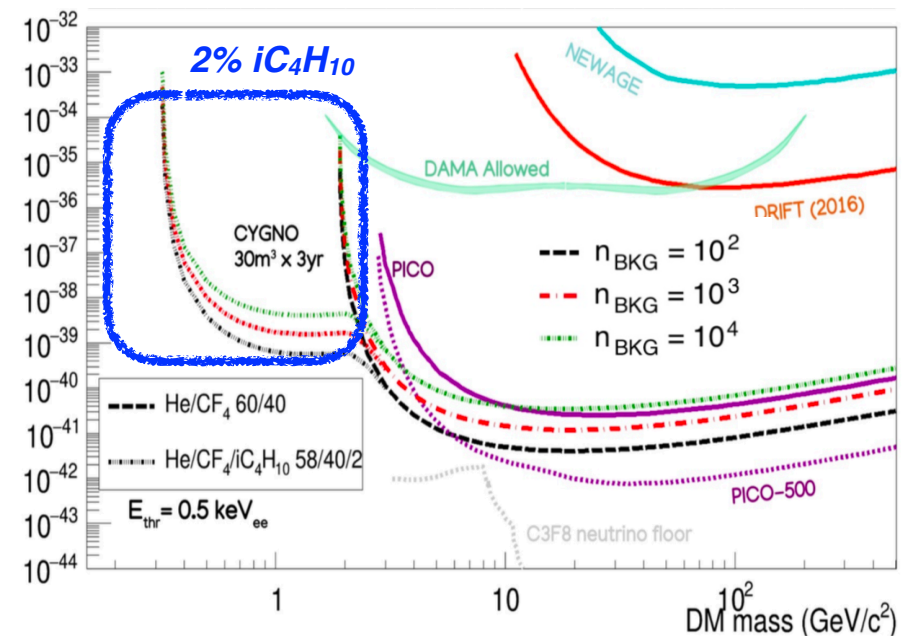
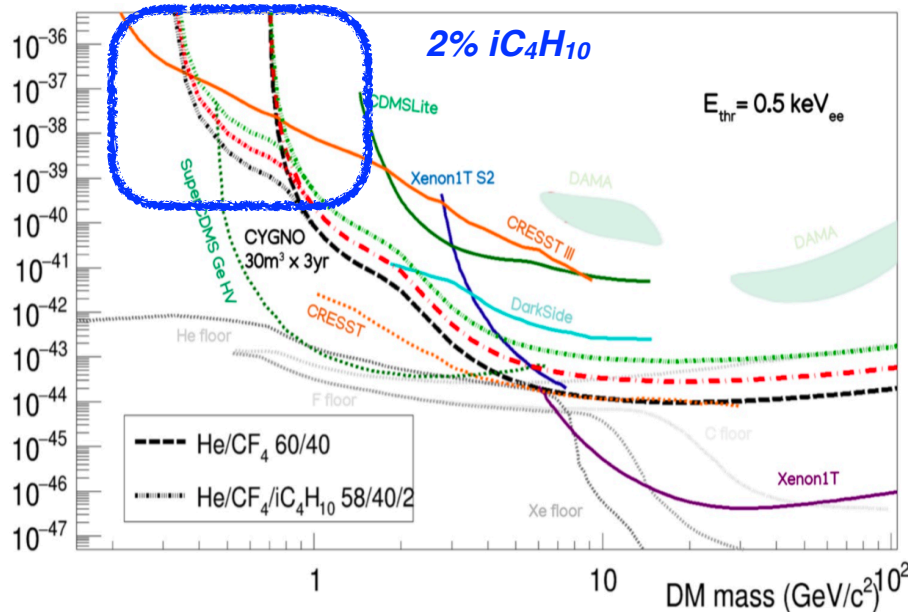
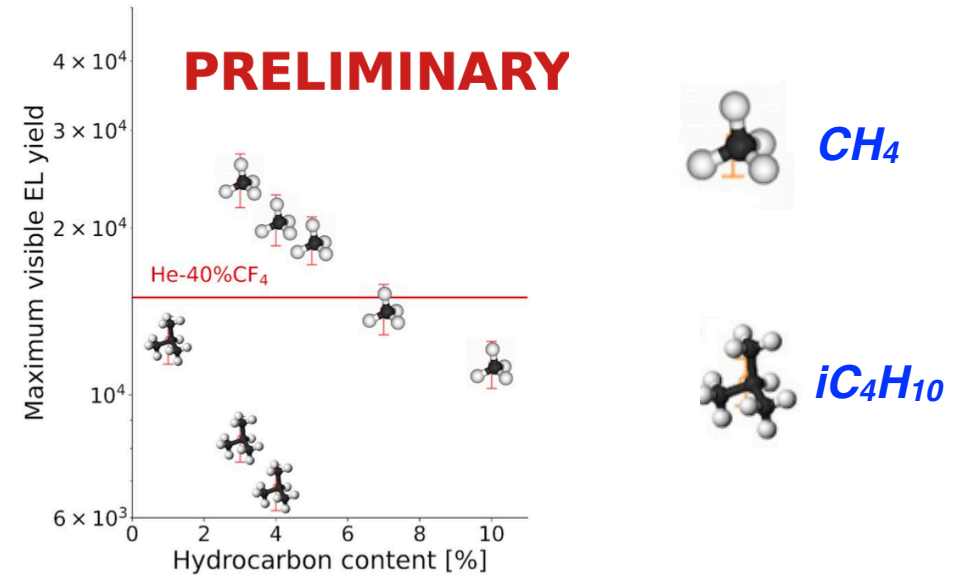
increase sensitivity to O(GeV) WIMP masses

- Possibility of adding hydrogen-rich gases under study to increase sensitivity to lower WIMP masses
- Isobutane (iC_4H_{10}) and methane (CH_4) in $< 10\%$ concentration tested
- While overall light yield is quenched by hydrocarbons, the addition of methane allowed to reach higher gains effectively achieving higher LY

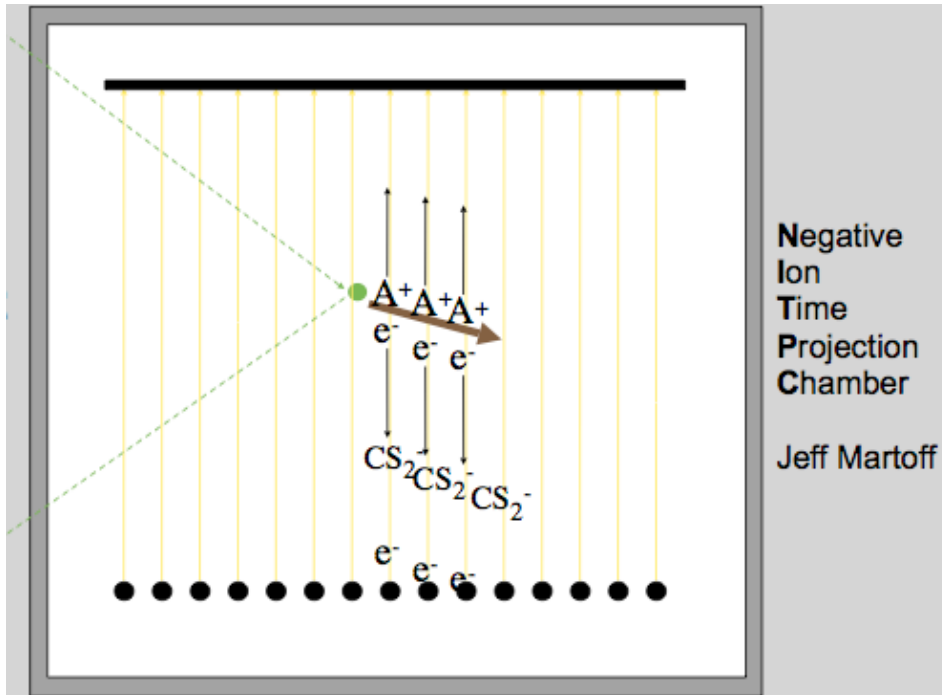


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improve tracking performances & scalability

T. Ohnuki et al.,
NIM A 463J. Martoff et al.,
NIM A 440 355

- **Electronegative dopant** in the gas mixture (CS_2 , CH_3NO_2 , ...)
- Primary ionization electrons **captured** by electronegative gas molecules at $O(100)$ μm
- **Anions** drift to the anode acting as the **effective image carrier** instead of the electrons
- **Longitudinal and transverse** diffusion reduced thanks to the large mass of the charge carrier
 - Allow for realisation of larger TPC volume with same (or improved) tracking performance
- Negative ion drift velocity is $O(\text{cm}/\text{ms})$, compared to $O(\text{cm}/\mu\text{s})$ electron drift velocity because of larger mass
 - Significant improvement of resolution along drift direction thanks to slower image carriers for low rate applications

INITIUM

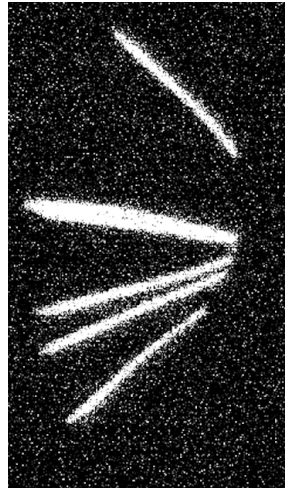


INITIUM goal is to realise NID operation within the CYGNO approach

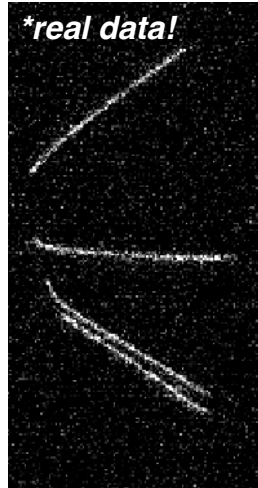
R&Ds towards CYGNO-30: improve tracking performances & scalability

From this....

*He:CF₄
60:40*

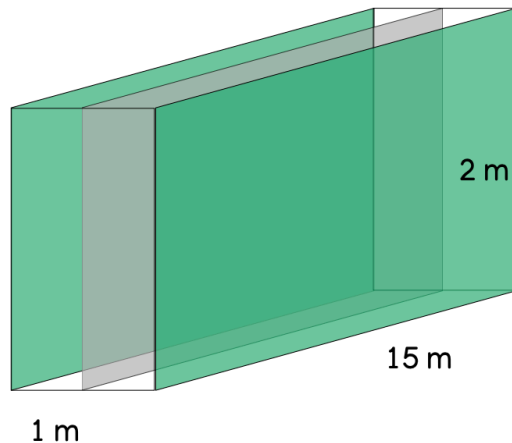


....to this with same experimental layout



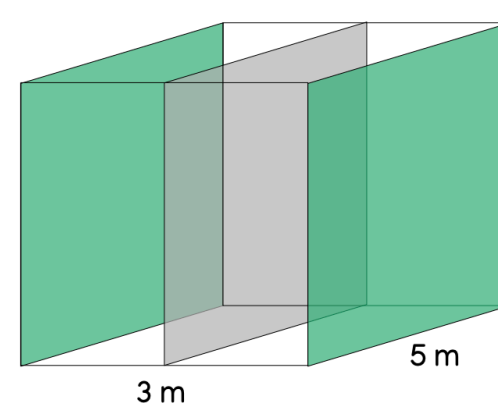
*He:CF₄:SF₆
59:39.4:1.6*

From this....



30 m³
94 m²
60 m² readout

....to this with same tracking performances



30 m³
62 m²
20 m² readout

**30 m² less surface:
Less material
(background)
Less readout sensors**

Negative Ion Drift studies



0.90 atm

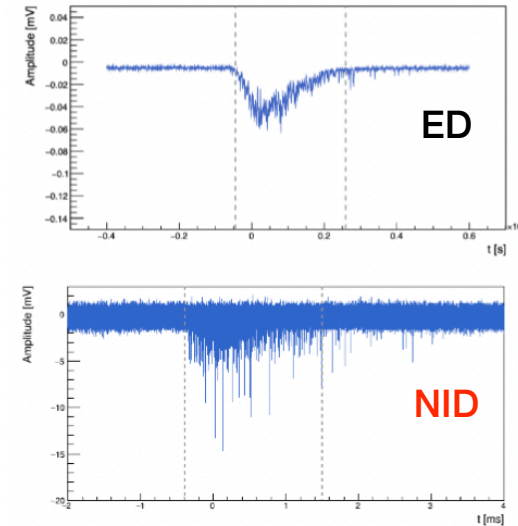
(LNGS atmospheric pressure)

Negative Ion Drift studies: diffusion and mobility

- Base mixture He:CF₄:SF₆
- Multiple relative fraction of He/CF₄ tested with 1.6% of SF₆
- Transverse diffusion via sCMOS images analysis
- Longitudinal diffusion via PMT waveform analysis
- Finalisation of analysis and interpretation of the results on going

To our knowledge, this is the first time ever NID operation at 900 mbar with optical readout is measured

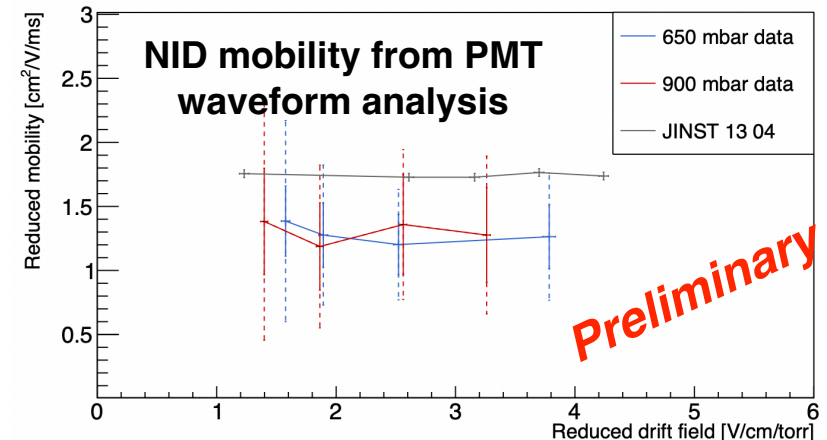
PMT waveforms



O(0.1 us) time extent for ED
O(10 ms) time extent for NID

Gas	Diffusion @1 kV/cm [$\frac{\mu m}{\sqrt{cm}}$]
Ar:CH ₄ (90/10):	600
He:CF ₄ (60/40):	140
He:CF₄:SF₆ (59:39.4:1.6):	35

Preliminary

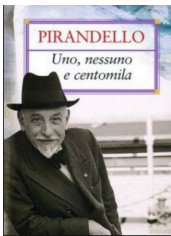


Conclusions & outlook

- 📍 **Directionality as a tool for positive DM signature identification**
- 📍 **Successful operation of 50 L detector underground for > 1 year**
 - 📍 **Stable and high quality operation achieved with full auxiliary system**
 - 📍 **High quality data and highly consistent MC simulation allowed to identify Radon contamination impossible to predict in advance**
- 📍 **Development towards CYGNO-04 realisation advancing**
 - 📍 **Construction expected to be completed by Fall 2025**
- 📍 **Several R&Ds under development towards CYGNO-30**
 - 📍 **First ever demonstration of NID operation at atmospheric pressure with 3D optical readout**
 - 📍 **Lowest measured diffusion ever reported to our knowledge**

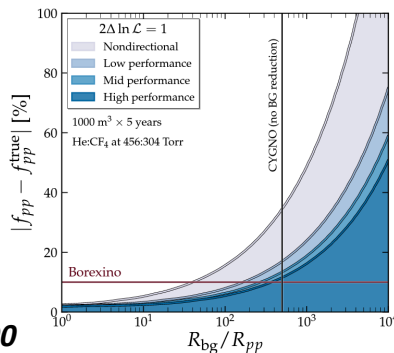
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 - Construction expected to be completed by Fall 2025
- **Several R&Ds under development towards CYGNO-30**
 - First ever demonstration of NID operation at atmospheric pressure with 3D optical readout
 - Lowest measured diffusion ever reported to our knowledge



One, no one and one hundred thousand CYGNO/INITIUM approach applications!

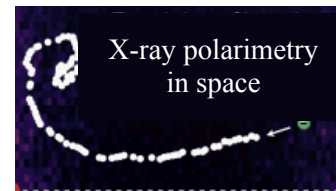
Sun pp cycle



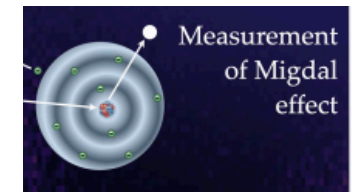
S. Torelli PhD thesis & arXiv:2404.03690



“Zero radioactivity in future experiments”



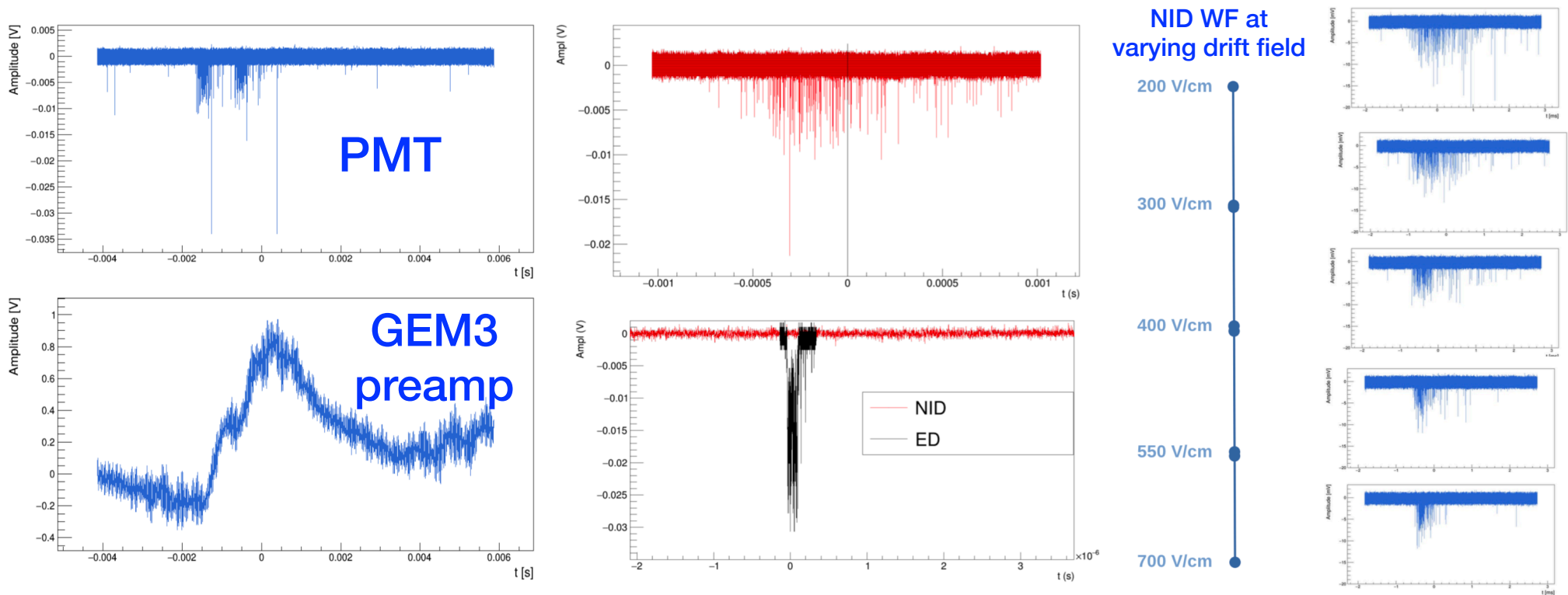
“HypeX: High Yield Polarimetry Experiment in X-rays”



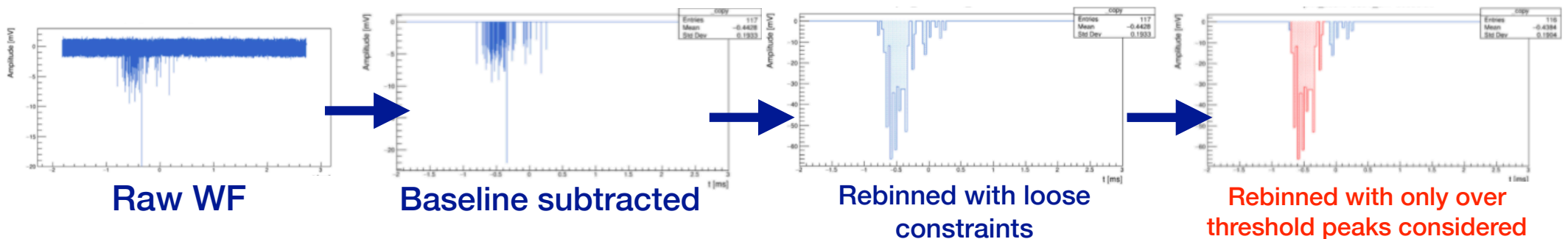
“FINEM: Full Imaging of Nuclear recoil for Experimental Migdal measurement”

Backup slides

NID PMT waveforms: how peculiar!



Given the PMT bandwidth and the "slow" arrival of charge carriers, individual clusters are visible in the PMT signal --> WF analysis requires proper rebinning (not trivial)



From neutrino floor to neutrino fog

D. S. Akerib et al., 2022 Snowmass Summer Study, arXiv:2203.08084

C. A. J. O'Hare, Phys. Rev. Lett. 127 (2021) 25, 251802

Discovery limit as function of the observed N neutrino background events and uncertainty $\delta\Phi$ on neutrino fluxes

Background free

$$N < 1, \sigma \propto 1/N$$

Poissonian background subtraction

$$N\delta\Phi^2 \ll 1, \sigma \propto 1/\sqrt{N}$$

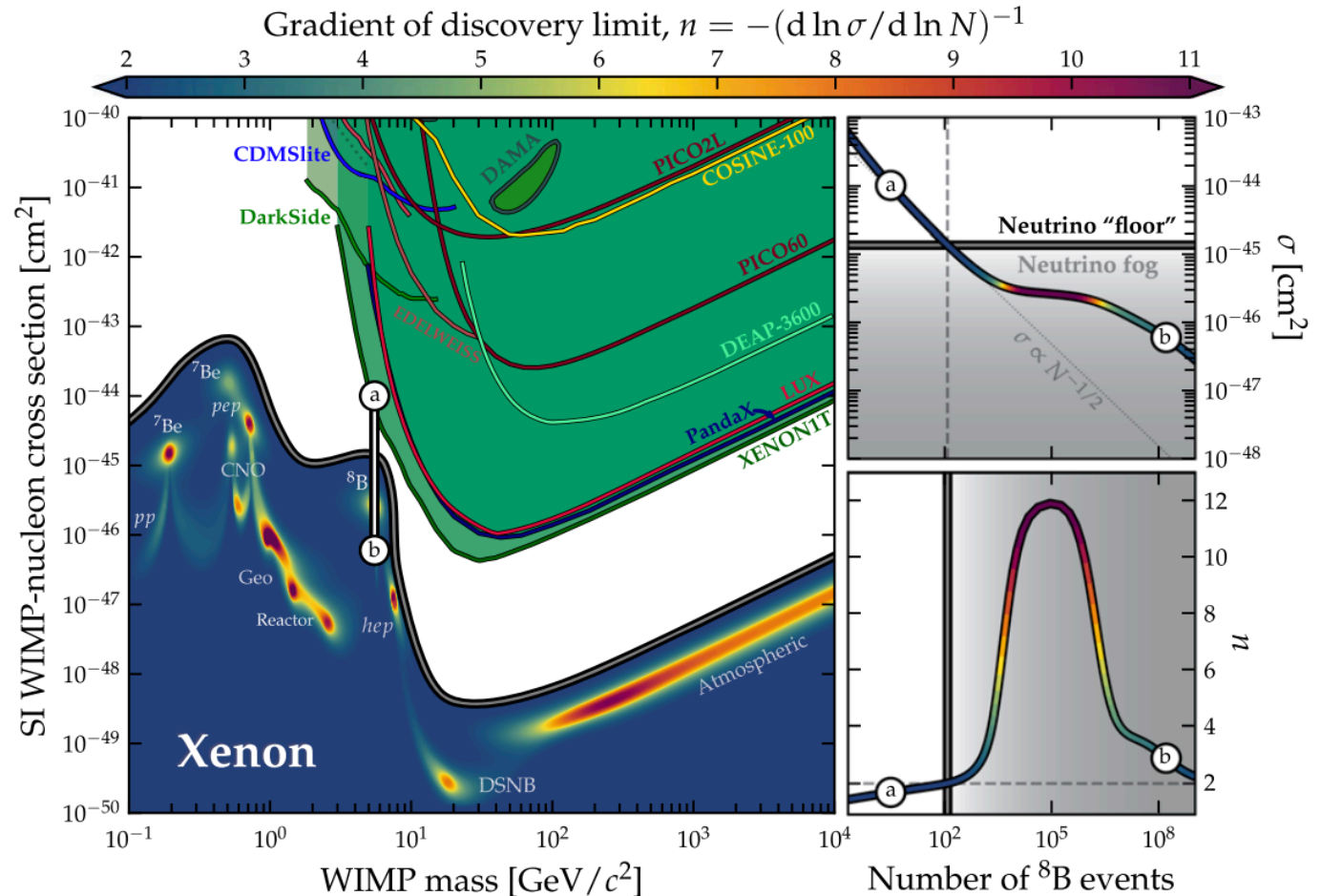
Purely dominated by systematics

$$N\delta\Phi^2 \gg 1, \sigma \propto \sqrt{(1 + N\delta\Phi^2)/N}$$

n is defined so that $n = 2$ under normal Poissonian subtraction, and $n > 2$ when there is saturation

The value of the cross section σ at which n crosses 2 is defined as the neutrino floor.

$$n = -\left(\frac{d \log \sigma}{d \log MT}\right)^{-1}$$



Reducing the sensitivity of an experiment by a factor x requires an increase in the exposure by **at least x^n**

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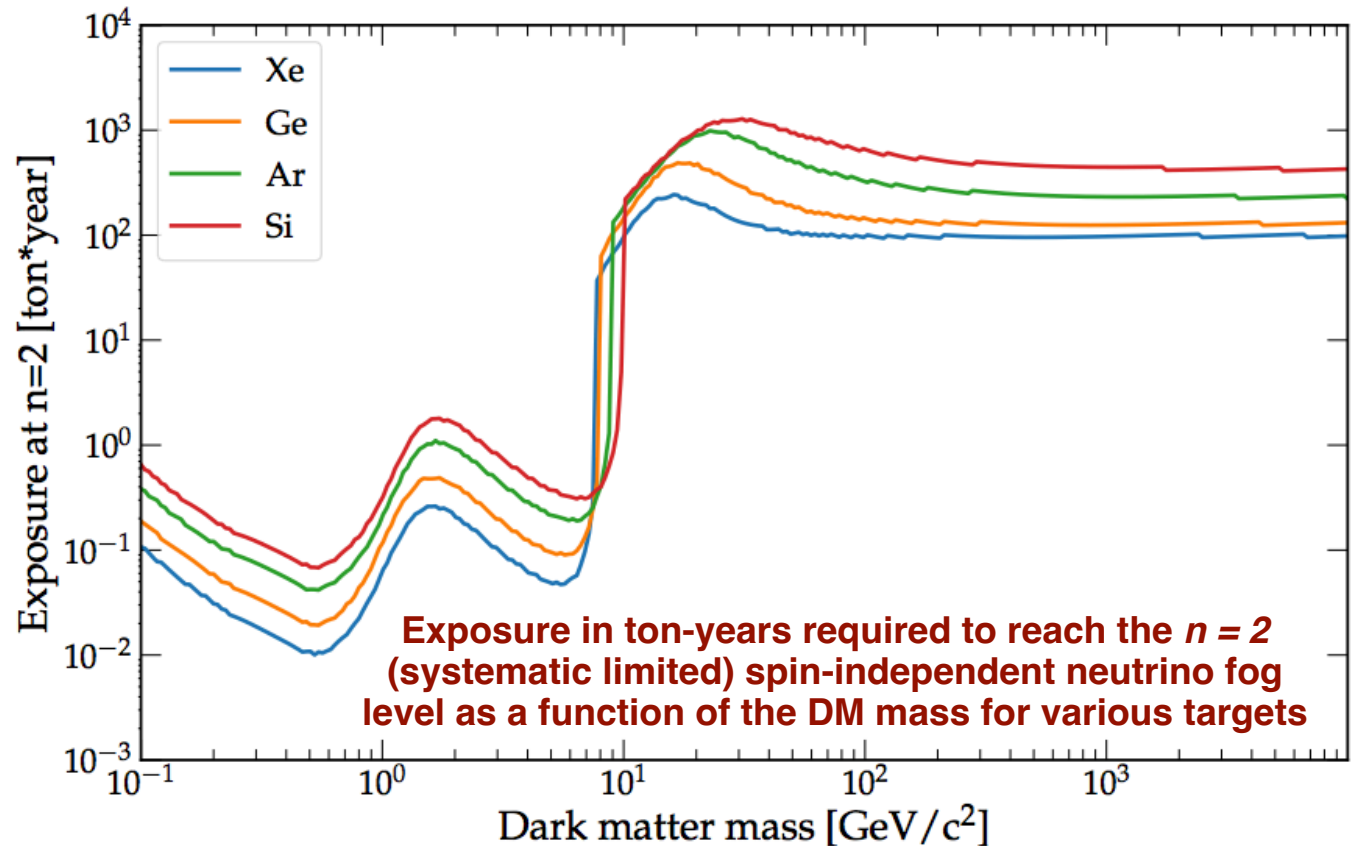
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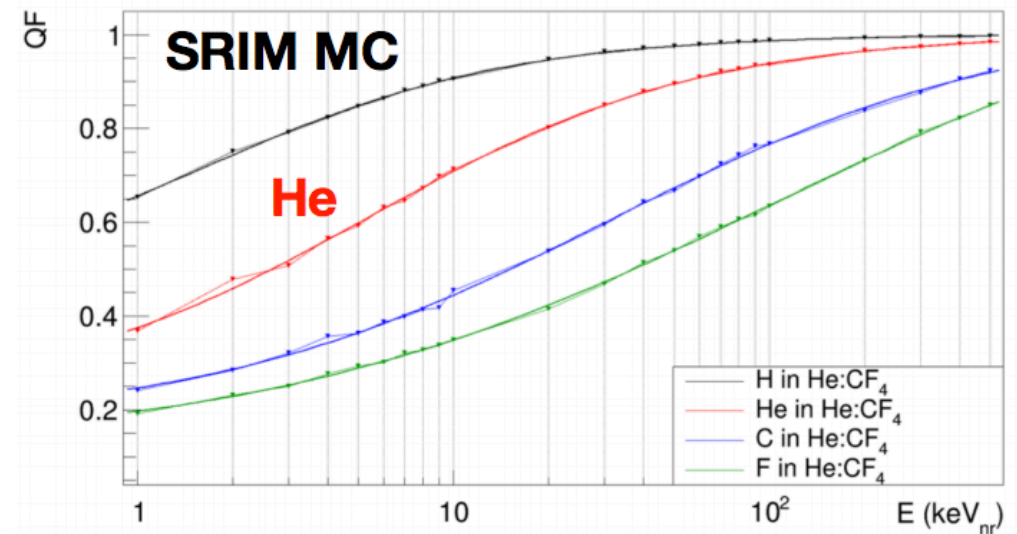
Gaseous TPCs landscape

	Established readout & directionality	Established gas	R&D readout	R&D gas	Largest detector realised	Detector under development
MIMAC	Micromegas + FADC 3D	CF ₄ :CHF ₃ :C ₄ H ₁₀ @ 0.05 bar			0.05 m ³ (underground)	1 m ³ (under study)
DRIFT	MWPC 1.5 D	CS ₂ :CF ₄ :O ₂ @ 0.05 bar	THGEM + wire/ micromegas	SF ₆ :(CF ₄) @ 0.05 bar	1 m ³ (underground)	10 m ³ (under study)
NEWAGE	GEM + muPIC 3D	CF ₄ @ 0.1 bar	GEM + muPIC	SF ₆ @ 0.03 bar	0.04 m ³ (underground)	1 m ³ (vessel funded)
D ³ /CYGNUS-HD	2 GEMs + pixels 3D	Ar/He:CO ₂ @ 1 bar	Strip micromegas	He:CF ₄ :X @ 1 bar	0.0003 m ³	0.04 m ³ (under construction)
New Mexico	THGEM + CCD 2D	CF ₄ @ 0.13 bar	THGEM + CMOS	CF ₄ :CS ₂ /SF ₆ @ 0.13 bar	0.000003 m ³	
CYGNO	3 GEMs + CMOS + PMT 2D + 1 D	He:CF ₄ @ 1 bar	3 GEMs + CMOS + PMT	He:CF ₄ :SF ₆ @ 0.8-1 bar	0.05 m ³ (underground)	0.4 m ³ (funded)
CYGNUS			All of the above	Helium-Fluorine @ 1 bar		1000 m ³

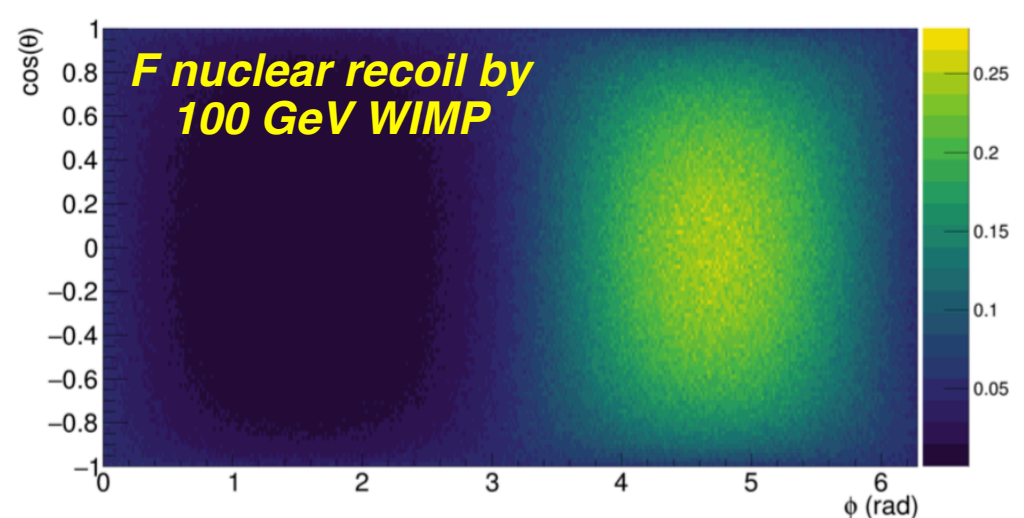
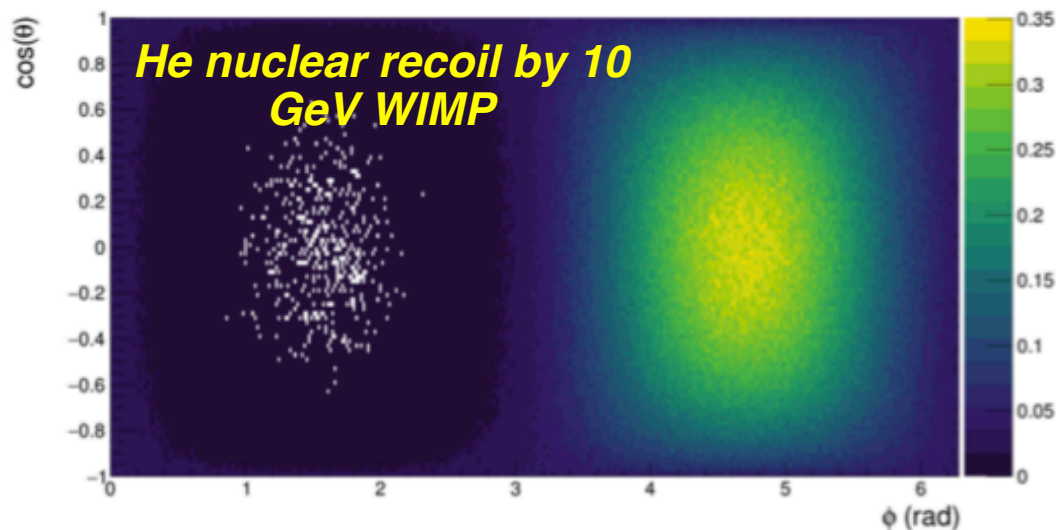
Electron drift *Negative ion drift* *Charge readout* *Optical readout*

- ▶ Use 1 keV_{ee} threshold
- ▶ Evaluate QF with SRIM
- ▶ Introducing **angular distribution** as discriminating
- ▶ Full head/tail recognition
- ▶ Using a 30 deg resolution

Quenching Factor

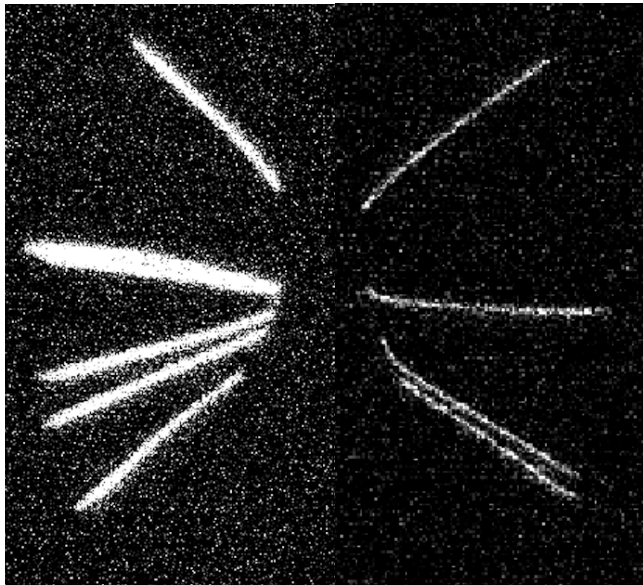


Examples of expected measured angular distribution in Galactic coordinates

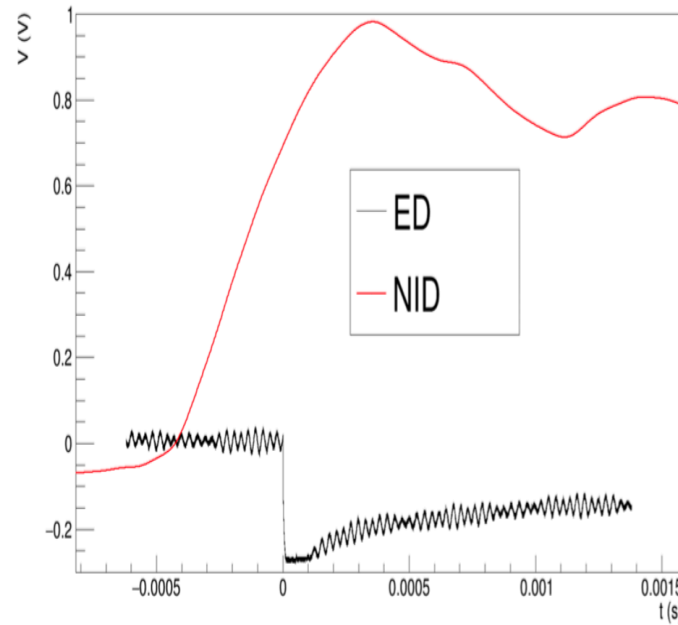


Eyes (and waveforms) can't lie

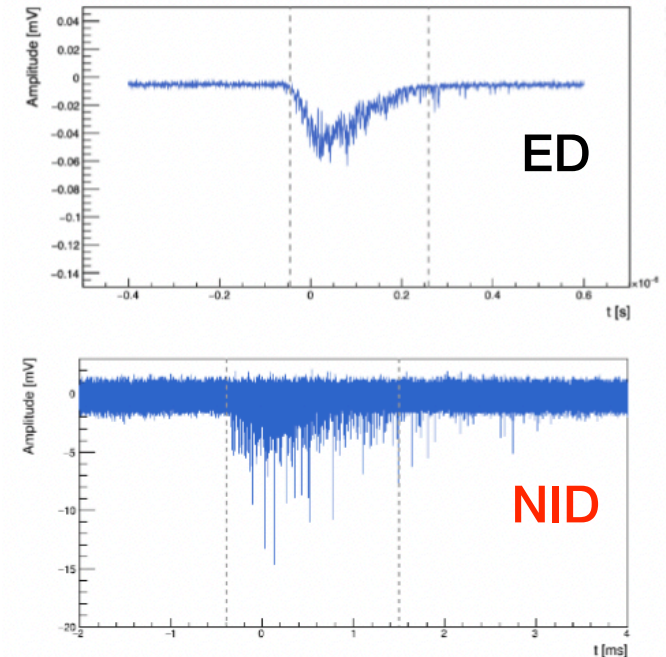
sCMOS image



GEM preamp output



PMT waveforms



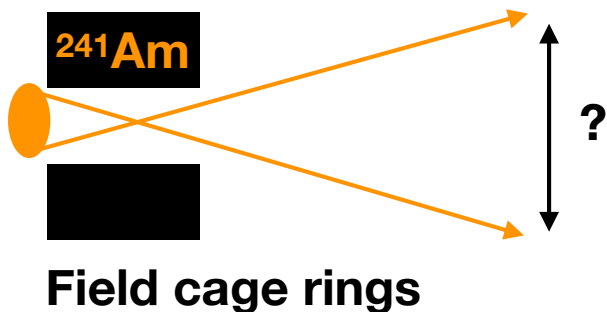
He:CF₄
60:40
1 kV/cm
(ED)

He:CF₄:SF₆
59:39.4:1.6
0.4 kV/cm
(NID)

O(us) rise for ED
O(ms) rise for NID

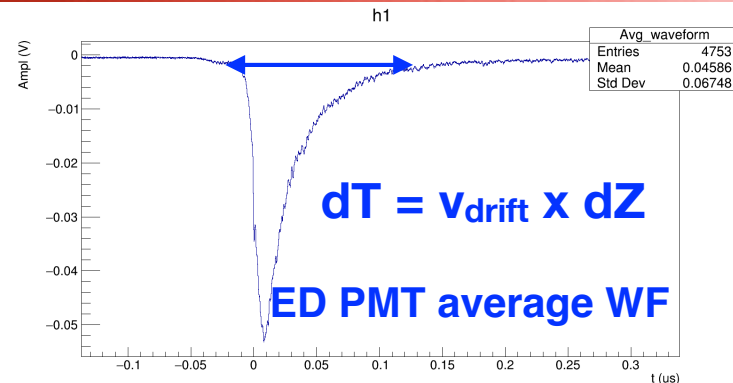
O(0.1 us) time extent for ED
O(10 ms) time extent for NID

0.90 atm
(LNGS atmospheric pressure)



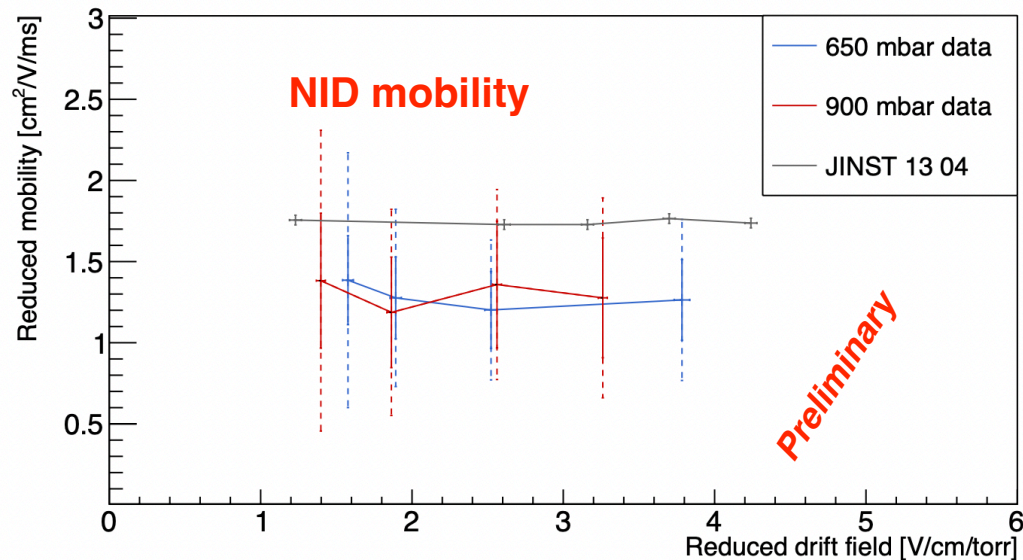
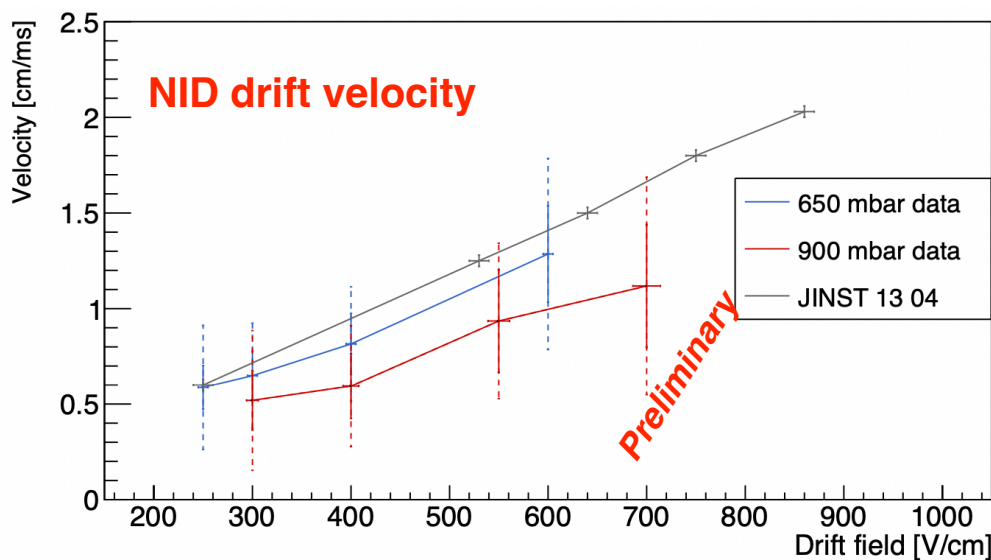
From ED PMT signal, given the known drift velocity, we estimate the alpha dZ spread (? == 7 mm)

0.90 atm
(LNGS atm pressure)



Given the alpha dZ spread estimated from ED (7 mm), estimate NID drift velocity:

- From GEM preamp output rise time
- From PMT waveforms time window extension, after proper WF rebinning



Black points from published data with pixel charge readout and same mixture at 610 Torr [8]

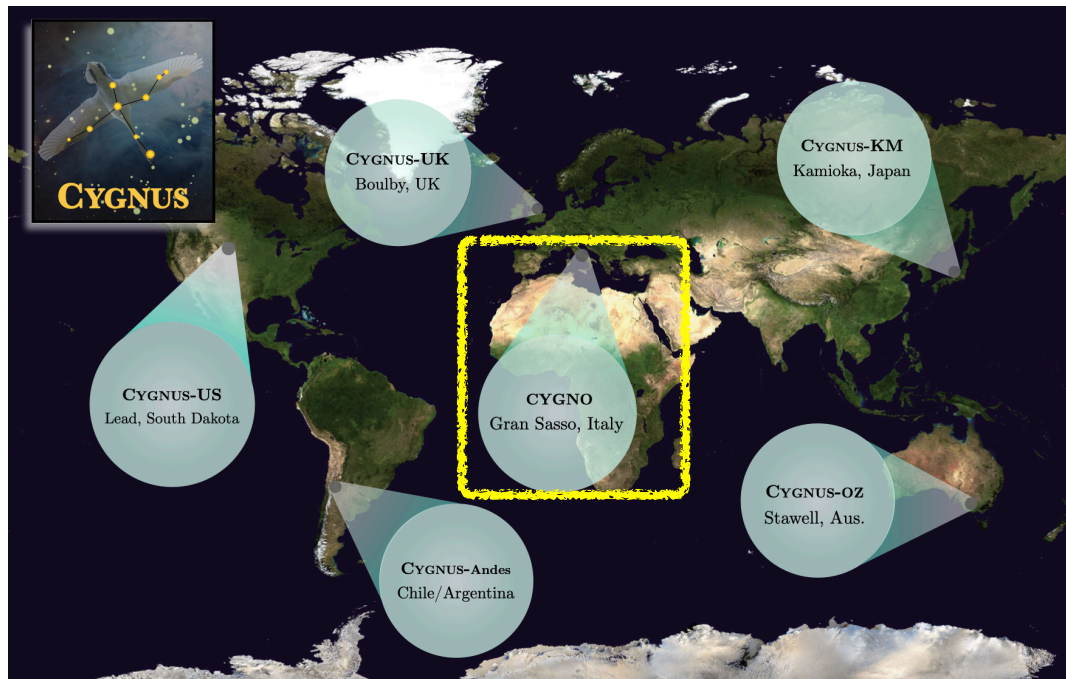


A **multi-site, multi-target Galactic Recoil Observatory at the *ton-scale* to probe Dark Matter below the Neutrino Floor and measure solar Neutrinos *with directionality***

CYGNUS: Feasibility of a nuclear recoil observatory with directional sensitivity to dark matter and neutrinos

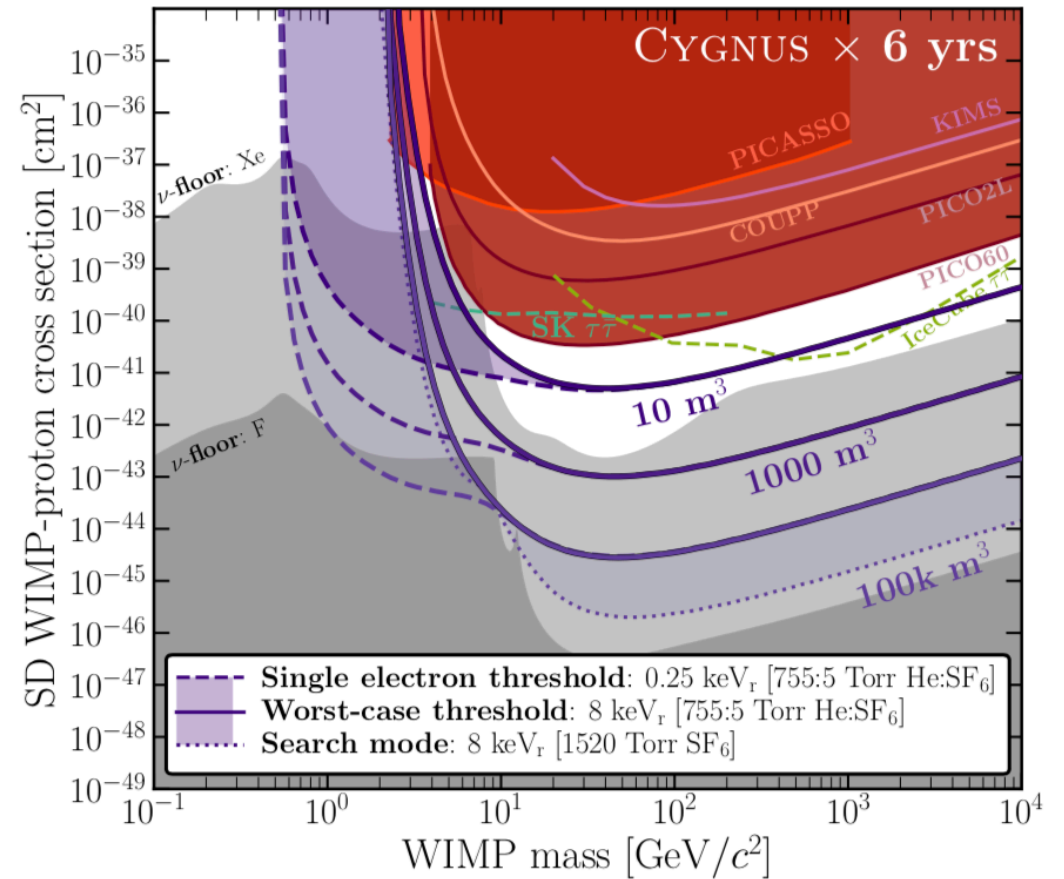
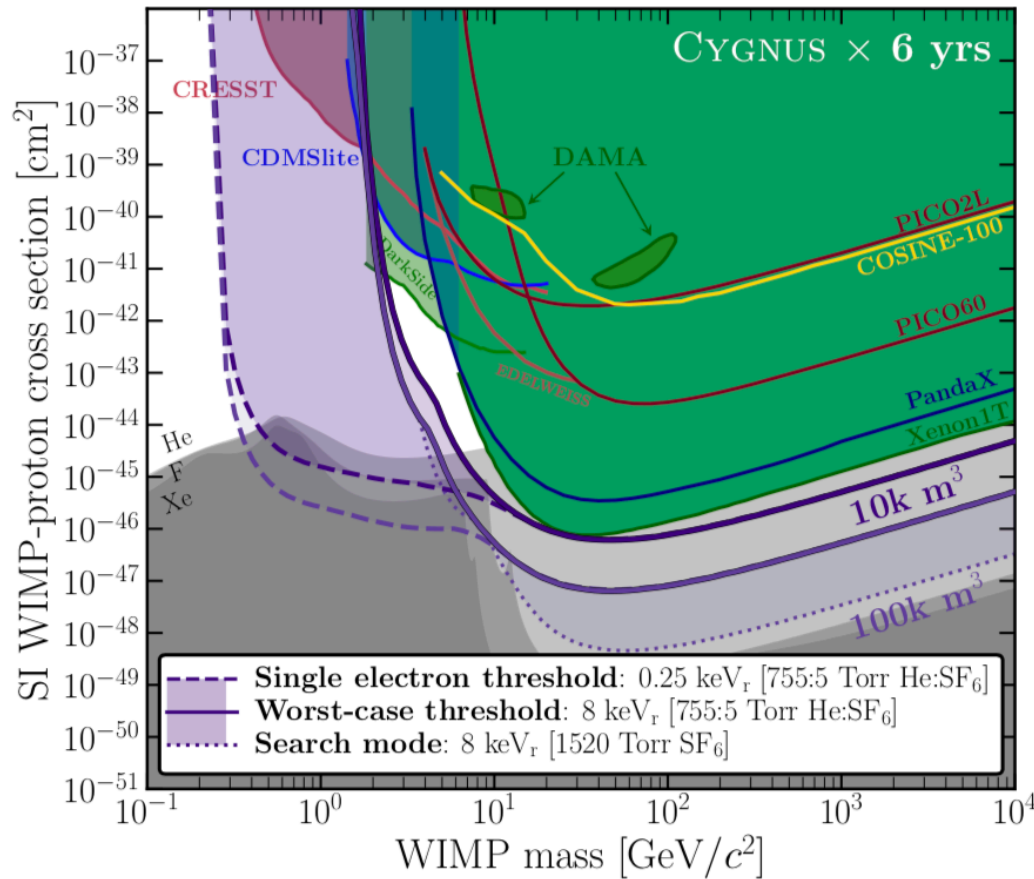
S. E. Vahsen,¹ C. A. J. O'Hare,² W. A. Lynch,³ N. J. C. Spooner,³ E. Baracchini,^{4,5,6} P. Barbeau,⁷ J. B. R. Battat,⁸ B. Crow,¹ C. Deaconu,⁹ C. Eldridge,³ A. C. Ezeribe,³ M. Ghrear,¹ D. Loomba,¹⁰ K. J. Mack,¹¹ K. Miuchi,¹² F. M. Mouton,³ N. S. Phan,¹³ K. Scholberg,⁷ and T. N. Thorpe^{1,6}

[arXiv:2008.12587](https://arxiv.org/abs/2008.12587)



- **Helium/Fluorine gas mixtures at 1 bar**
 - Sensitivity to O(GeV) WIMP for both SI & SD couplings
 - Possibility of switching between higher (search mode) and lower gas densities (improved directionality) for signal confirmation
- **Reduced diffusion**
 - Through negative ion drift or “cold” gases
- **3D fiducialization**
 - Through minority carriers or fit to diffusion
- **Directional threshold at O(keV)**
- **Full background rejection at O(keV)**

He:SF₆ 755:5



Significant improvement in SI in the low WIMP mass region, expect 10-50 IDENTIFIED neutrino nuclear recoil events

Significant improvement in SD reach over existing experiments for all WIMP masses, a 10 m³ detector can already breach the Xe neutrino floor