

# A next generation liquid xenon observatory for rare events



Kelsey C Oliver Mallory

Imperial College London

April 5th, 2022

Institute of Physics HEP & APP Annual Conference 2022

Imperial College  
London

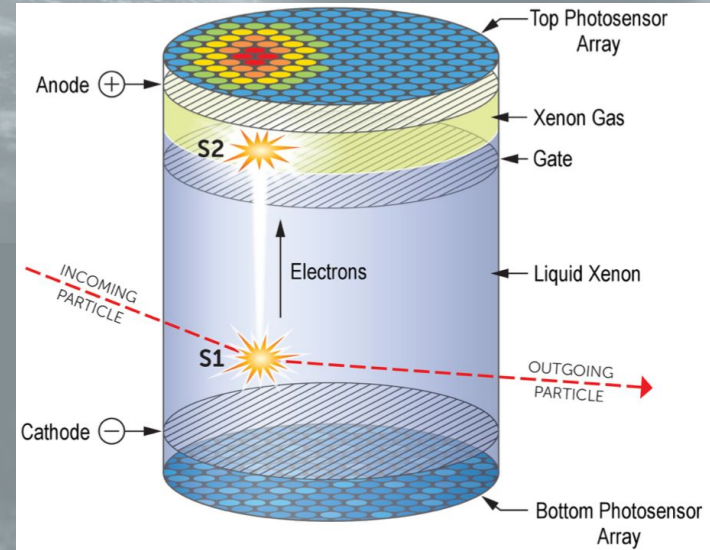
# A next generation liquid xenon observatory for rare events

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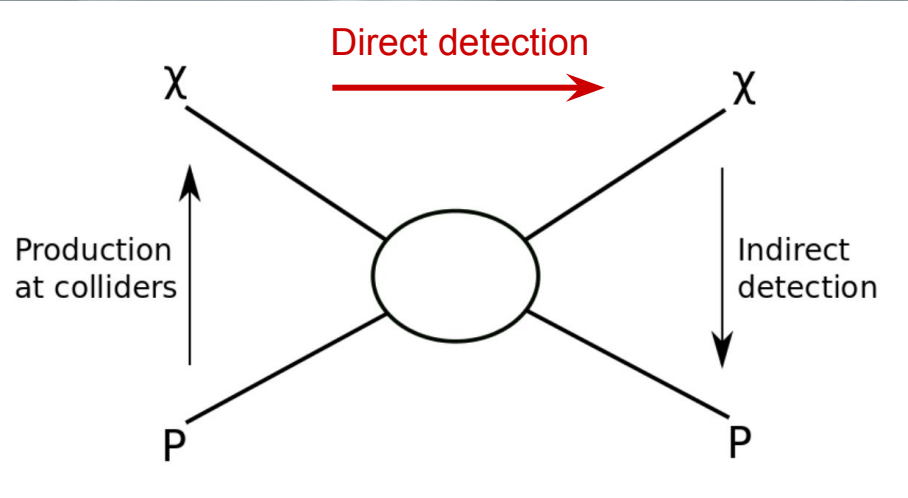
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# A next generation liquid xenon observatory for rare events



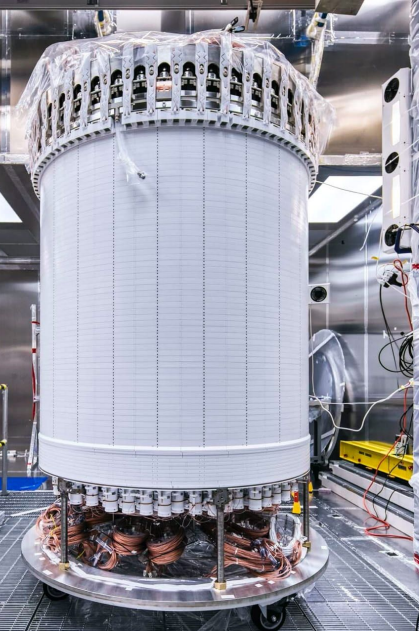
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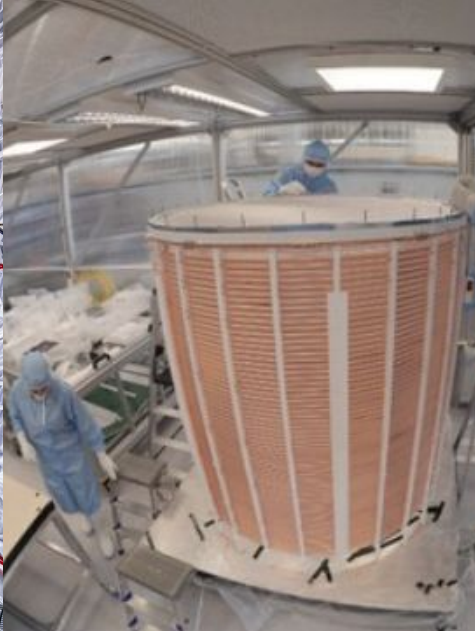
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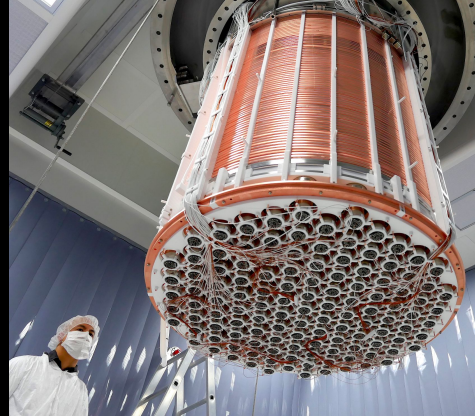
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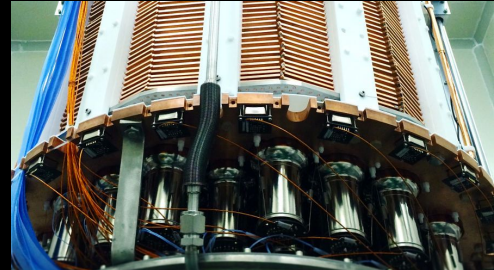
LUX-ZEPLIN (LZ)  
Present, 7t



XENONnT  
Present, 6t



XENON1T  
2017, 2 t



PANDAX-II  
2016, 580 kg

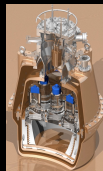
## Dark matter and xenon: a timeline



ZEPLIN-I  
2005, 3.2 kg



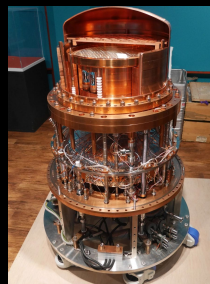
ZEPLIN-II  
2007, 31 kg



XENON10  
2007, 15 kg



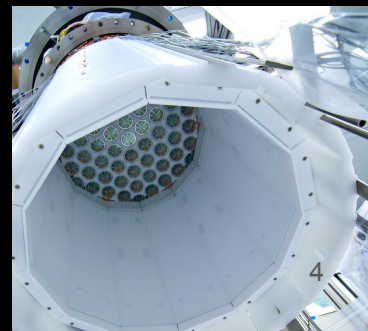
ZEPLIN-III  
2008, 12 kg



XENON100  
2010, 62 kg



LUX  
2013, 250 kg



# Massive

→ 50-100 tonnes

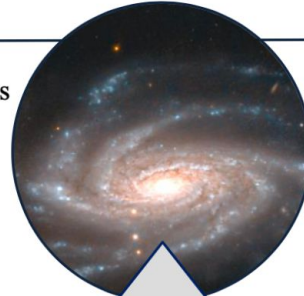
# Yet compact

→ 2-4m height x diameter

# Science

## Dark Matter

- Dark photons
- Axion-like particles
- Planck mass

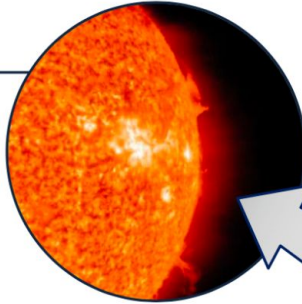


## WIMPs

- Spin-independent
- Spin-dependent
- Sub-GeV
- Inelastic

## Sun

- pp neutrinos
- Solar metallicity
- $^7\text{Be}$ ,  $^8\text{B}$ , hep



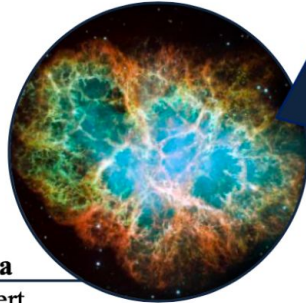
## Neutrino Nature

- Neutrinoless double beta decay
- Double electron capture
- Magnetic Moment



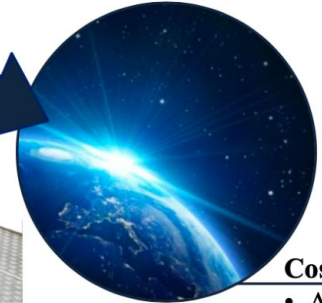
## Supernova

- Early alert
- Supernova neutrinos
- Multi-messenger astrophysics



## Cosmic Rays

- Atmospheric neutrinos



# Memorandum of Understanding between members of the XENON/DARWIN and LUX-ZEPLIN collaborations towards a next generation liquid xenon experiment

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More than 100 senior scientists from 16 countries signed MoU on July 6, 2021



# Boulby Underground Laboratory

A potential host site is the  
Boulby Underground Laboratory

Feasibility study indicates technical viability

A challenge, but a great opportunity

## FINAL REPORT

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**FEASIBILITY STUDY  
FOR DEVELOPING THE BOULBY UNDERGROUND LABORATORY  
INTO A FACILITY FOR FUTURE MAJOR  
INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS**

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Supported by the STFC Opportunities Call 2019

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OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE [COMMERCIAL]

# Science with liquid xenon

White paper just released ([arXiv:2203.02309](https://arxiv.org/abs/2203.02309))  
(particular thanks to Rafael Lang, Purdue)

~600 authors from 146 institutes

72 UK authors from 13 institutes

Details the breadth of physics enabled by  
a next-generation xenon observatory

## A Next-Generation Liquid Xenon Observatory for Dark Matter and Neutrino Physics

J. Aalbers,<sup>1,2</sup> K. Abe,<sup>3,4</sup> V. Aerne,<sup>5</sup> F. Agostini,<sup>6</sup> S. Ahmed Maouloud,<sup>7</sup> D.S. Akerib,<sup>1,2</sup> D.Yu. Akimov,<sup>8</sup> J. Akshat,<sup>9</sup> A.K. Al Musalhi,<sup>10</sup> F. Alder,<sup>11</sup> S.K. Alsum,<sup>12</sup> L. Althueser,<sup>13</sup> C.S. Amarsinghe,<sup>14</sup> F.D. Amaro,<sup>15</sup> A.A. Armes,<sup>1,2</sup> T.J. Anderson,<sup>1,2</sup> B. Andrieu,<sup>7</sup> N. Angelides,<sup>16</sup> E. Angelino,<sup>17</sup> J. Angevaere,<sup>18</sup> V.C. Antochi,<sup>19</sup> D. Anton Martin,<sup>20</sup> B. Antunovic,<sup>21,22</sup> E. Aprile,<sup>23</sup> H.M. Araújo,<sup>16</sup> J.E. Armstrong,<sup>24</sup> F. Arneodo,<sup>25</sup> M. Arthurs,<sup>14</sup> P.J. Asadi,<sup>26</sup> S. Baek,<sup>27</sup> X. Bai,<sup>28</sup> D. Bajpai,<sup>29</sup> A. Baker,<sup>16</sup> J. Balajthy,<sup>30</sup> S. Balashov,<sup>31</sup> M. Balzer,<sup>32</sup> A. Bandyopadhyay,<sup>33</sup> J. Bang,<sup>34</sup> E. Barberio,<sup>35</sup> J.W. Bargemann,<sup>36</sup> L. Baudis,<sup>5</sup> D. Bauer,<sup>16</sup> D. Baur,<sup>37</sup> A. Baxter,<sup>38</sup> A.L. Baxter,<sup>5</sup> M. Bazky,<sup>39</sup> K. Beattie,<sup>40</sup> J. Behrens,<sup>41</sup> N.F. Bell,<sup>35</sup> L. Bellagamba,<sup>6</sup> P. Beltrame,<sup>42</sup> M. Benabderrahmane,<sup>25</sup> E.P. Bernard,<sup>43,40</sup> G.F. Bertone,<sup>18</sup> P. Bhattacharjee,<sup>44</sup> A. Bhatti,<sup>24</sup> A. Biekert,<sup>43,40</sup> T.P. Biesiadzinski,<sup>1,2</sup> A.R. Binai,<sup>9</sup> R. Biondi,<sup>45</sup> Y. Biondi,<sup>46</sup> H.J. Birch,<sup>14</sup> F. Bishara,<sup>46</sup> A. Bismark,<sup>5</sup> C. Blanco,<sup>47,19</sup> D.M. Blockinger,<sup>48</sup> E. Bodnia,<sup>36</sup> C. Boehm,<sup>49</sup> A.I. Bolozdynya,<sup>8</sup> P.D. Bolton,<sup>11</sup> S. Bottaro,<sup>50,51</sup> S. C. Bourgeois,<sup>52</sup> B. Boxer,<sup>30</sup> P. Brás,<sup>53</sup> A. Buzulutskov,<sup>57,58</sup> R. Cabrera,<sup>53</sup> C. Cai,<sup>59</sup> D. Cai,<sup>39</sup> C. Capelli,<sup>5</sup> J.M.R. Cardoso,<sup>15</sup> M.C. Carmona-Benitez,<sup>60</sup> M. Cascella,<sup>11</sup> R. Catena,<sup>61</sup> S. Chakraborty,<sup>62</sup> C. Chan,<sup>34</sup> S. Chang,<sup>63</sup> A. Chauvin,<sup>64</sup> A. Chawla,<sup>65</sup> H. Chen,<sup>40</sup> V. Chepel,<sup>53</sup> N.I. Chott,<sup>28</sup> D. Cichon,<sup>66</sup> A. Cimental Chavez,<sup>5</sup> B. Cimmino,<sup>67</sup> M. Clark,<sup>9</sup> R.T. Co,<sup>68</sup> A.P. Colijn,<sup>18</sup> J. Conrad,<sup>19</sup> M.V. Converse,<sup>69</sup> M. Costa,<sup>50,51</sup> A. Cottle,<sup>10,70</sup> G. Cox,<sup>60</sup> O. Creaner,<sup>71</sup> J.J. Cuenca Garcia,<sup>41</sup> J.P. Cussonneau,<sup>39</sup> J.E. Cutter,<sup>30</sup> C.E. Dahl,<sup>72,70</sup> V. D'Andrea,<sup>73</sup> A. David,<sup>11</sup> M.P. Decowski,<sup>18</sup> J.B. Dent,<sup>74</sup> F.F. Depisch,<sup>11</sup> L. de Viveiros,<sup>60</sup> P. Di Gangi,<sup>6</sup> A. Di Giovanni,<sup>20</sup> S. Di Piede,<sup>18</sup> J. Dierle,<sup>37</sup> S. Diglio,<sup>49</sup> J.E.Y. Dobson,<sup>11</sup> M. Doerenkamp,<sup>64</sup> D. Douillet,<sup>52</sup> G. Drexlin,<sup>75</sup> E. Druszkiewicz,<sup>69</sup> D. Dunsky,<sup>49</sup> K. Eitel,<sup>41</sup> A. Elykov,<sup>37</sup> T. Emken,<sup>19</sup> R. Engel,<sup>41</sup> S.R. Eriksen,<sup>76</sup> M. Fairbairn,<sup>77</sup> A. Fan,<sup>1,2</sup> J.J. Fan,<sup>34</sup> S.J. Farrell,<sup>78</sup> S. Fayer,<sup>16</sup> N.M. Fearon,<sup>10</sup> A. Ferella,<sup>73</sup> C. Ferrari,<sup>45</sup> A. Fieguth,<sup>13</sup> A. Fieguth,<sup>79</sup> S. Fiorucci,<sup>80</sup> H. Fischer,<sup>37</sup> H. Flaecher,<sup>76</sup> M. Flierman,<sup>18</sup> T. Florek,<sup>9</sup> R. Foot,<sup>35</sup> P.J. Fox,<sup>70</sup> R. Franceschini,<sup>80</sup> E.D. Fraser,<sup>38</sup> C.S. Frenk,<sup>81</sup> S. Frohlich,<sup>82</sup> G. Fruth,<sup>11</sup> W. Fulgione,<sup>45</sup> C. Fuselli,<sup>18</sup> P. Gaemers,<sup>18</sup> R. Gaior,<sup>7</sup> R.J. Gaiatskelis,<sup>34</sup> M. Galloway,<sup>5</sup> F. Gao,<sup>39</sup> I. Garcia Garcia,<sup>83</sup> J. Genovesi,<sup>28</sup> C. Ghag,<sup>11</sup> S. Ghosh,<sup>44</sup> E. Gibson,<sup>10</sup> W. Gil,<sup>41</sup> D. Giovanoli,<sup>39,84</sup> F. Girard,<sup>9</sup> R. Glade-Beucke,<sup>37</sup> F. Glück,<sup>41</sup> S. Gokhale,<sup>85</sup> A.de Gouvêa,<sup>72</sup> L. Gráf,<sup>66</sup> L. Grandi,<sup>10</sup> J. Grigat,<sup>37</sup> B. Grinstein,<sup>86</sup> M.G.D.van der Grinten,<sup>31</sup> R. Grössle,<sup>41</sup> H. Guan,<sup>9</sup> M. Guida,<sup>46</sup> R. Gumbelheimer,<sup>41</sup> C.B. Williams,<sup>38</sup> C.R. Hall,<sup>24</sup> L.J. Hall,<sup>43,40</sup> R. Hammann,<sup>66</sup> K. Han,<sup>87</sup> V. Hannen,<sup>13</sup> S. Hansmann-Menzemer,<sup>84</sup> R. Harata,<sup>88</sup> S.P. Hardin,<sup>9</sup> E. Hardy,<sup>89</sup> C.A. Hardy,<sup>79</sup> K. Harigaya,<sup>90,91</sup> R. Harnik,<sup>70</sup> S.J. Haselschwardt,<sup>40</sup> M. Hernandez,<sup>96</sup> S.A. Hertel,<sup>92</sup> A. Higuerá,<sup>78</sup> C. Hills,<sup>82</sup> S. Hochrein,<sup>5</sup> L. Hoetsch,<sup>96</sup> M. Hoferichter,<sup>93,94</sup> N. Hood,<sup>66</sup> D. Hooper,<sup>70,95</sup> M. Horn,<sup>90</sup> J. Howlett,<sup>23</sup> D.Q. Huang,<sup>14</sup> Y. Huang,<sup>48</sup> D. Hunt,<sup>10</sup> M. Iacovacci,<sup>57</sup> G. Iaquaniello,<sup>52</sup> R. Ide,<sup>88</sup> C.M. Ignarra,<sup>1,2</sup> G. Iloglu,<sup>9</sup> Y. Itoh,<sup>88</sup> E. Jacquet,<sup>16</sup> O. Jahangir,<sup>11</sup> J. Jakob,<sup>13</sup> R.S. James,<sup>11</sup> A. Jansen,<sup>11</sup> A. Jansen,<sup>11</sup> W. Ji,<sup>1,2</sup> X. Ji,<sup>24</sup> P. Joerg,<sup>60</sup> J. Johnson,<sup>30</sup> A. Joy,<sup>19</sup> A.C. Kaboth,<sup>60,31</sup> A.C. Kamaha,<sup>48,97</sup> K. Kanazaki,<sup>98</sup> K. Kar,<sup>33</sup> M. Kara,<sup>41</sup> N. Kato,<sup>3</sup> P. Kavirinjil,<sup>54</sup> S. Kazama,<sup>88</sup> A.W. Keaveney,<sup>9</sup> J. Kellerer,<sup>2</sup> D. Khaitan,<sup>99</sup> A. Khasov,<sup>31</sup> G. Khundzakishvili,<sup>1</sup> I. Khurana,<sup>11</sup> B. Kilminster,<sup>5</sup> M. Kleifges,<sup>12</sup> P. Ko,<sup>99,100</sup> M. Kobayashi,<sup>88</sup> M. Kobayashi,<sup>88</sup> G. Kohn,<sup>101</sup> D. Kodroff,<sup>62</sup> G. Koltmann,<sup>24</sup> A. Kopec,<sup>9,80</sup> A. Kopmann,<sup>32</sup> J. Kopp,<sup>90,82</sup> L. Korley,<sup>14</sup> V.N. Korolkov,<sup>8</sup> E.V. Korolkova,<sup>102</sup> H. Kraus,<sup>10</sup> L.M. Krauss,<sup>103</sup> S. Kravitz,<sup>40</sup> L. Kreczko,<sup>76</sup> V.A. Kudryavtsev,<sup>102</sup> F. Kuger,<sup>37</sup> J. Kumar,<sup>104</sup> B. López Paredes,<sup>16</sup> L. LaCascio,<sup>75</sup> Q. Laine,<sup>39</sup> H. Landsman,<sup>34</sup> R.F. Lang,<sup>9</sup> E.A. Lawson,<sup>105</sup> J. Lee,<sup>106</sup> D.S. Leonard,<sup>106</sup> K.T. Lesko,<sup>40</sup> L. Levinson,<sup>24</sup> C. Levy,<sup>9</sup> I. Li,<sup>7</sup> S.C. Li,<sup>9</sup> T. Li,<sup>107</sup> S. Liang,<sup>78</sup> C.S. Liebenthal,<sup>78</sup> J. Lin,<sup>43,40</sup> Q. Liu,<sup>108</sup> S. Lindemann,<sup>37</sup> M. Lindner,<sup>66</sup> A. Lindote,<sup>53</sup> R. Linehan,<sup>1,2</sup> W.H. Lippincott,<sup>36,70</sup> X. Liu,<sup>105</sup> K. Liu,<sup>59</sup> J. Liu,<sup>7</sup> J. Loizeau,<sup>39</sup> F. Lombardi,<sup>7</sup> J. Long,<sup>20</sup> M.I. Lopes,<sup>23</sup> E. Lopez Asamar,<sup>63</sup> W. Lorenzon,<sup>41</sup> C. Lu,<sup>34</sup> S. Luitz,<sup>1</sup> Y. Ma,<sup>86</sup> P.A.N. Machado,<sup>70</sup> C. Maolino,<sup>73</sup> T. Maeda,<sup>1</sup> J. Mahlstedt,<sup>19</sup> P.A. Majewski,<sup>31</sup> A. Manalaysay,<sup>40</sup> A. Mancuso,<sup>2</sup> L. Manenti,<sup>29</sup> A. Manfredini,<sup>9</sup> R.L. Mannino,<sup>12</sup> N. Marangoni,<sup>16</sup> J. March-Russell,<sup>10</sup> F. Marinetti,<sup>67</sup> T. Marrodán Undagoitia,<sup>66</sup> K. Martens,<sup>7</sup> R. Martin,<sup>7</sup> I. Martinez-Soler,<sup>109</sup> J. Masbou,<sup>39</sup> D. Masson,<sup>37</sup> E. Masson,<sup>7</sup> S. Mastroianni,<sup>67</sup> M. Mastroratti,<sup>67</sup> J.A. Matias-Lopes,<sup>15</sup> M.E. McCarthy,<sup>69</sup> N. McFadden,<sup>4</sup> E. McGinness,<sup>43</sup> D.N. McKinsey,<sup>45</sup> R. J. McLaughlin,<sup>72</sup> K. McMichael,<sup>156</sup> P. Meinhardt,<sup>69</sup> J. Menéndez,<sup>110,111</sup> Y. Meng,<sup>87</sup> M. Messina,<sup>45</sup> R. Midha,<sup>24</sup> D. Milisavljevic,<sup>5</sup> E.H. Miller,<sup>1</sup> P. Milosevic,<sup>21</sup> S. Miltsov,<sup>21</sup> S.A. Mitra,<sup>82</sup> K. Mitsuhashi,<sup>98</sup> E. Mizrahi,<sup>24,112</sup> K. Mizukoshi,<sup>98</sup> A. Molinaro,<sup>17</sup> A. Monte,<sup>1,2</sup> C.M.B. Monteiro,<sup>15</sup> M.E. Monzani,<sup>1,2,42</sup> J.S. Moore,<sup>9</sup> K. Moré,<sup>73</sup> J.A. Morad,<sup>30</sup> J.D. Morales Mendoza,<sup>105</sup> S. Moriyama,<sup>4</sup> E. Morrison,<sup>28</sup> E. Morteau,<sup>39</sup> Y. Moshchuk,<sup>34</sup> B.J. Mount,<sup>113</sup> J. Mueller,<sup>37</sup> A.Su,<sup>1</sup> J. Murphy,<sup>105</sup> M. Mura,<sup>23</sup> D. Nairz,<sup>39</sup> S. Nakamura,<sup>114</sup> E. Nash,<sup>39</sup> N. Natter,<sup>82</sup> A. Naylor,<sup>102</sup> N. Neidig,<sup>92</sup> H.N. Nelson,<sup>30</sup> F. Neves,<sup>53</sup> J.L. Newstead,<sup>8,35</sup> K. Ni,<sup>86</sup> J.A. Nikoleyevic,<sup>12</sup> V. Nitro,<sup>115,116</sup> U.G. Oberlack,<sup>82</sup> M. Obradovic,<sup>21</sup> K. Odgers,<sup>56</sup> C.A.J. O'Hare,<sup>49</sup> P. Oikonomou,<sup>25</sup> I. Olcina,<sup>43,40</sup> K. Oliver-Mallory,<sup>16</sup> A. Oranday,<sup>78</sup> J. Orpwood,<sup>102</sup>

arXiv:2203.02309v1 [physics.ins-det] 4 Mar 2022



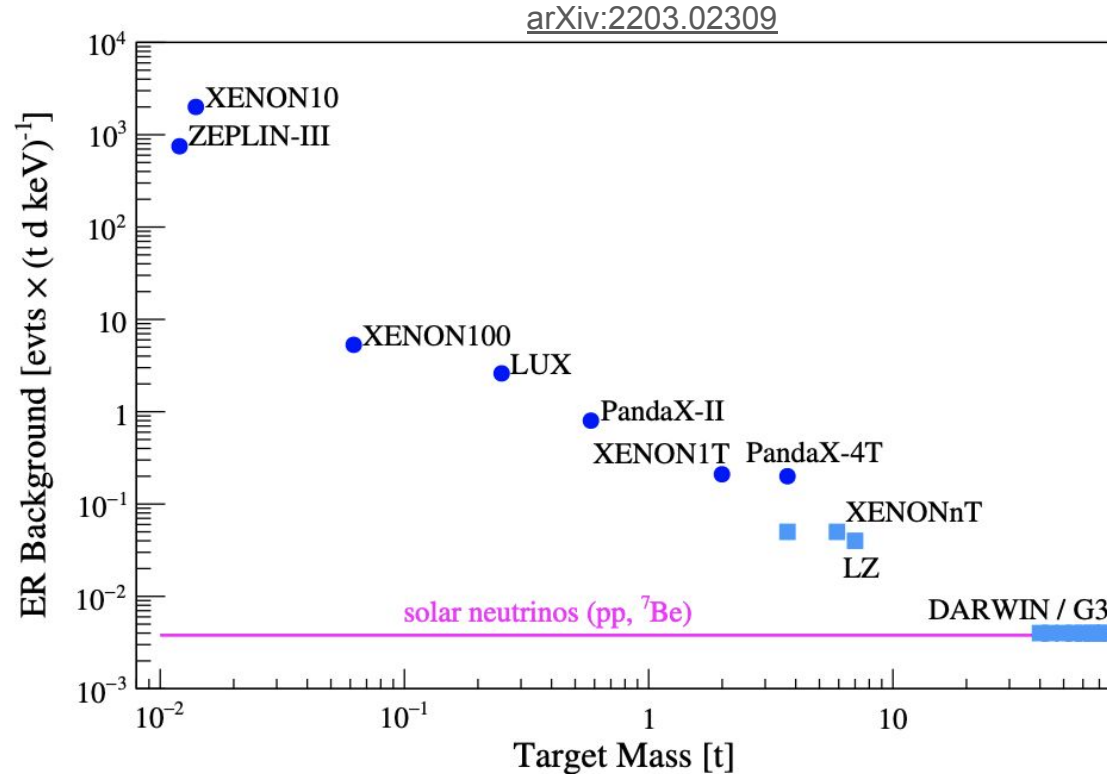
# Backgrounds

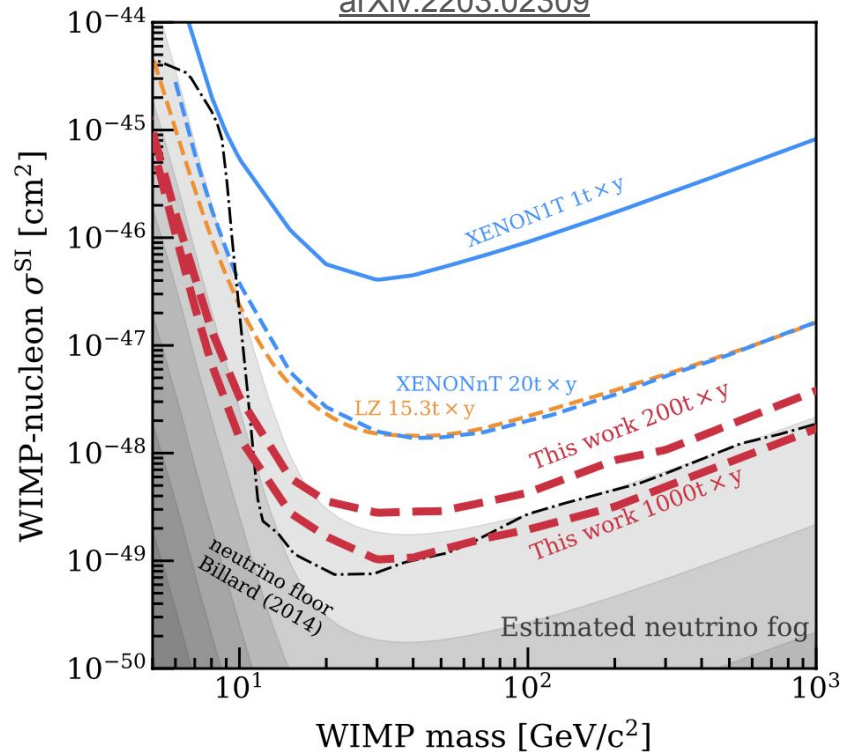
Goal is to be dominated by neutrino backgrounds

$^{222}\text{Rn}$  challenging but there is R&D to fix it

$^{85}\text{Kr}$  purity levels sufficient for next generation achieved

Self-shielding from  $\gamma$ -ray and neutron backgrounds





## Weakly Interacting Massive Particles

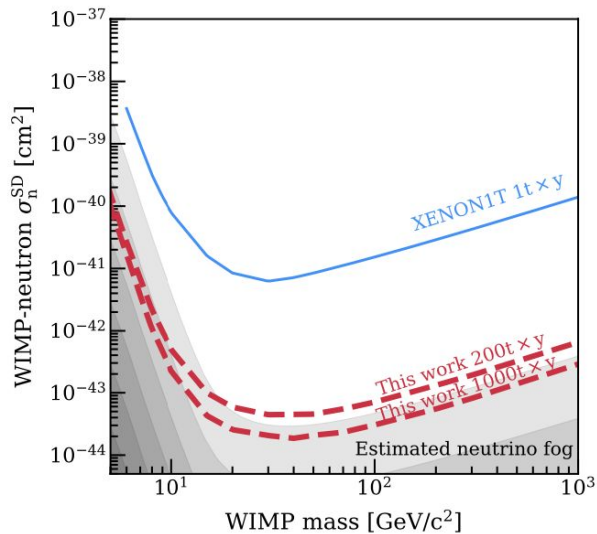
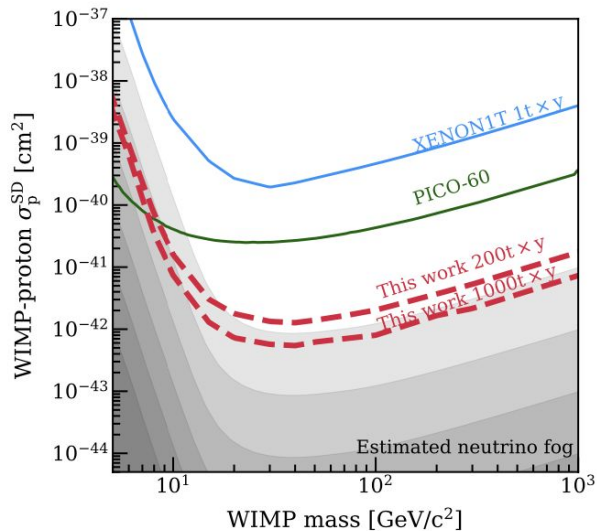
Spin independent interactions

Chase WIMPs to the neutrino floor!

Solar neutrino electron scattering

$^8\text{B}$ , HEP, diffuse supernovae, atmospheric coherent neutrino-nucleus scattering

$^{136}\text{Xe}$  double beta decay



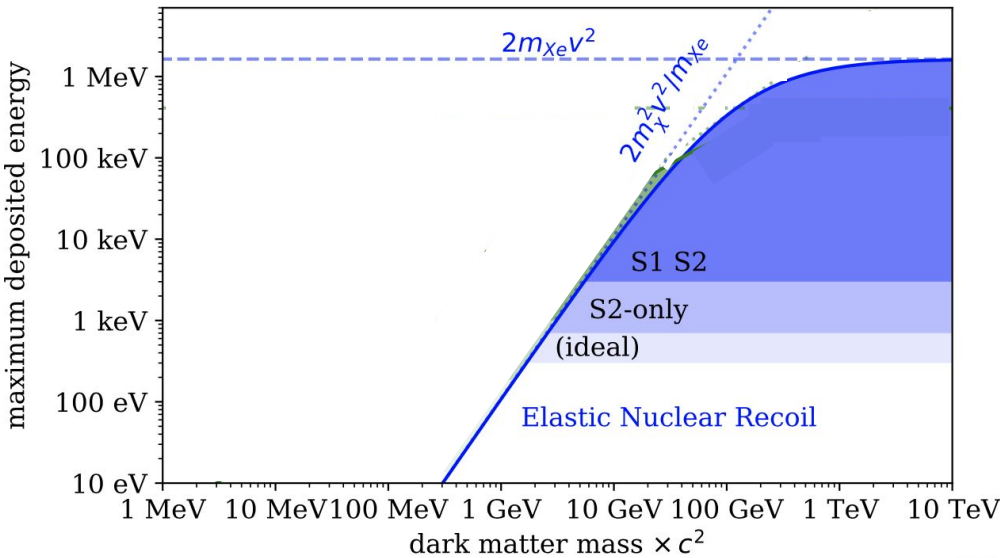
arXiv:2203.02309

# Weakly Interacting Massive Particles

Spin dependent interactions

Unpaired neutrons

$^{124}\text{Xe}$ 123.90589 0.10% Stable	$^{126}\text{Xe}$ 125.90426 0.09% Stable	$^{128}\text{Xe}$ 127.90353 1.91% Stable	$^{129}\text{Xe}$ 128.9047 26.4% Stable	$^{131}\text{Xe}$ 130.905083 21.2% Stable
$^{130}\text{Xe}$ 129.90350 4.1% Stable	$^{132}\text{Xe}$ 131.90415 26.9% Stable	$^{134}\text{Xe}$ 133.90539 10.4% Stable	$^{136}\text{Xe}$ 135.90722 8.90% Stable	

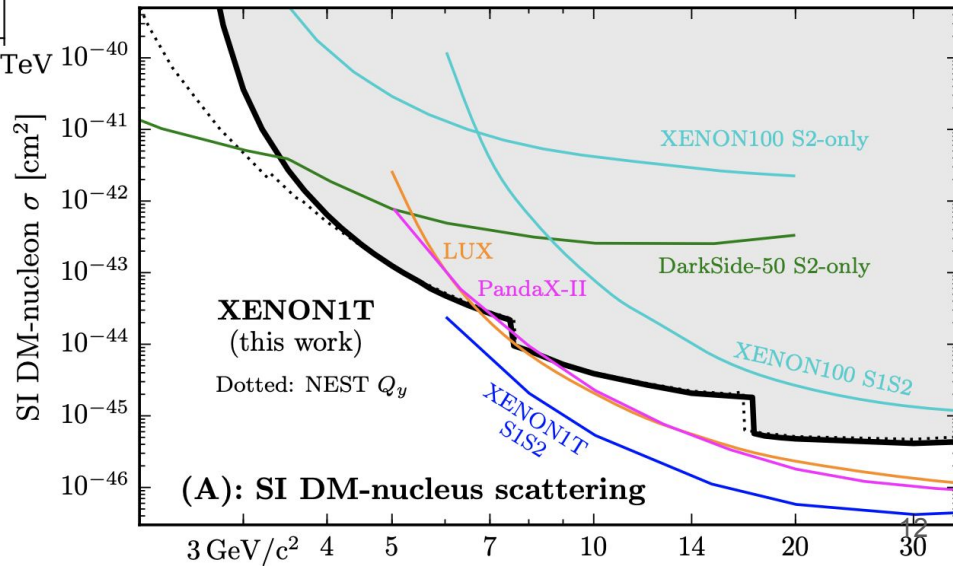


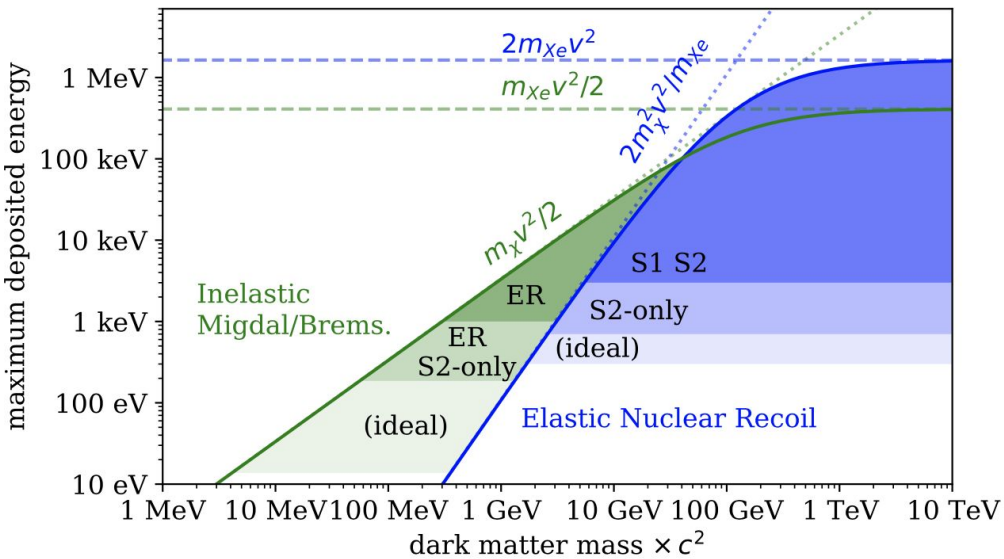
Scintillation agnostic

$m_\chi \sim \text{few GeV}$

# Light WIMPs

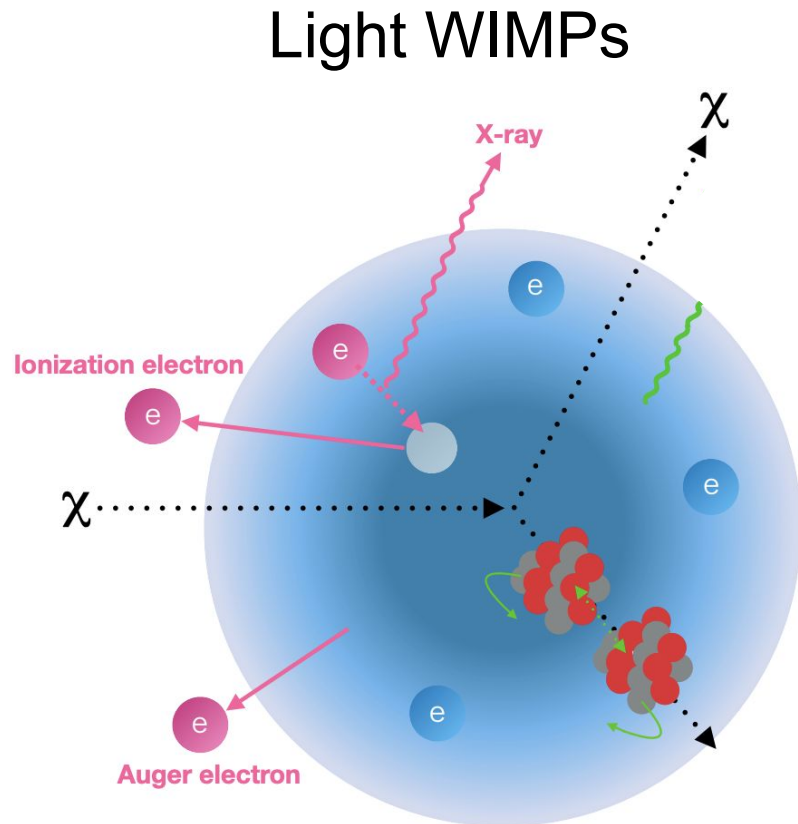
Phys. Rev. Lett. 123, 251801





## Migdal effect

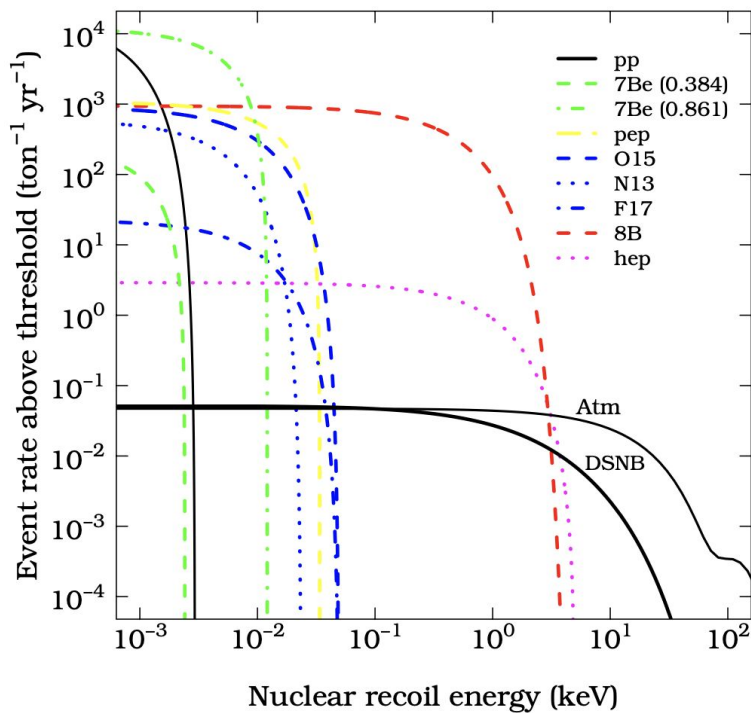
$m_\chi \sim \text{few-hundred MeV}$



# Astrophysical neutrinos

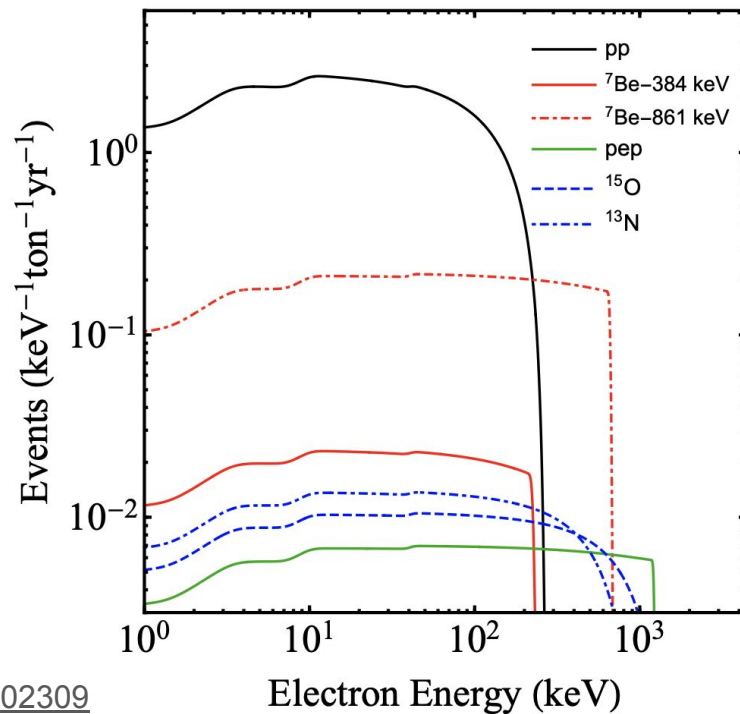
## $^8\text{B}$ solar neutrinos

→ ready for supernova neutrinos

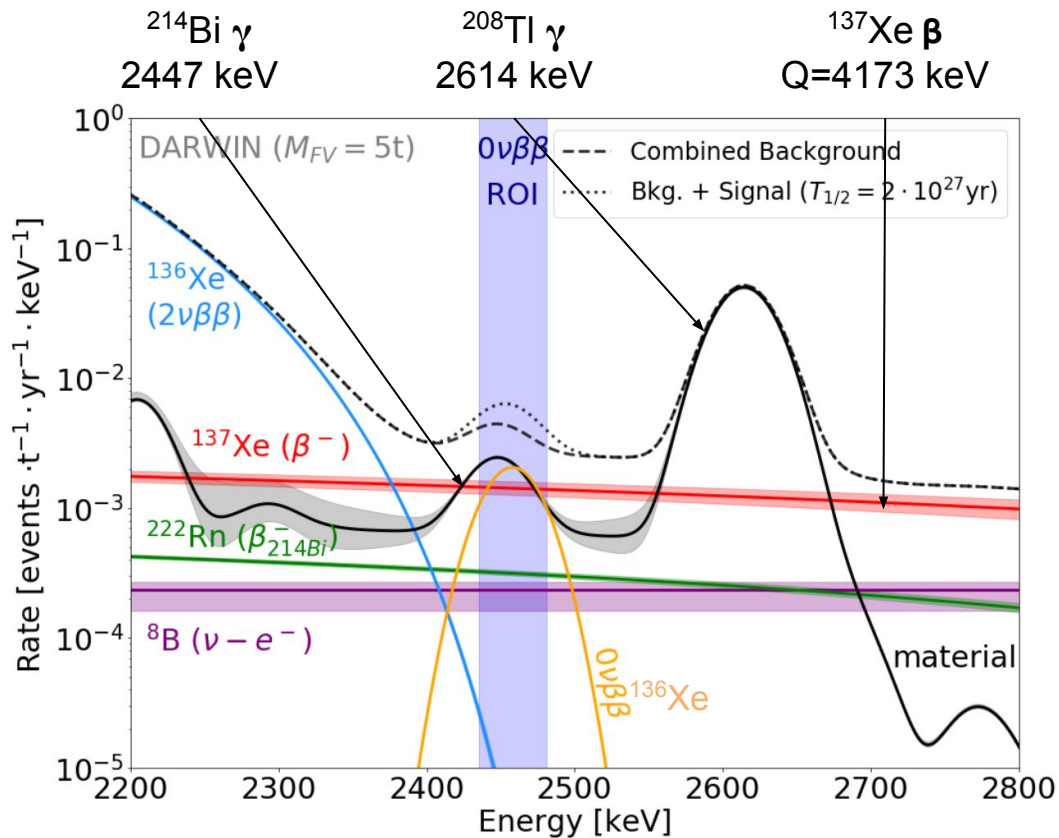


## pp solar neutrinos

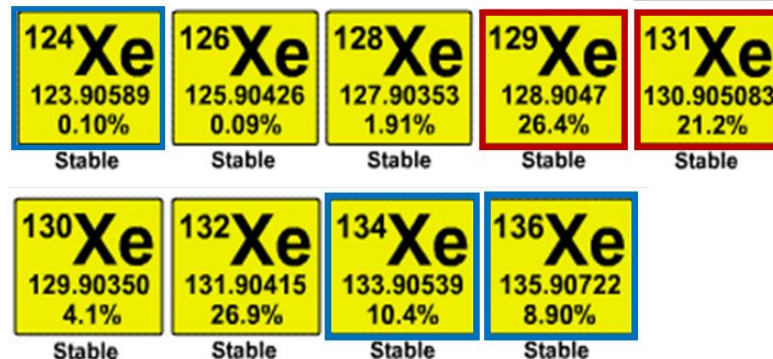
300 t $\times$ yr → new solar physics



# Promising isotopes



## Double electron capture



## Neutrinoless double beta decay

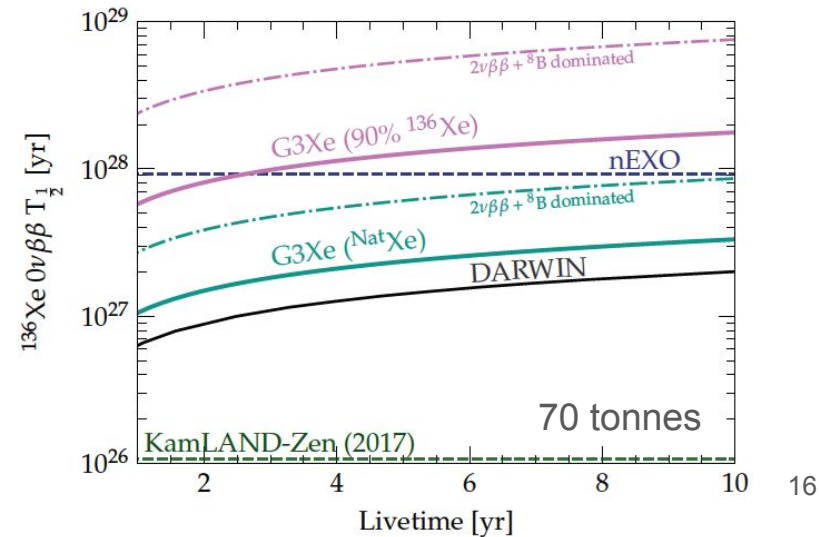
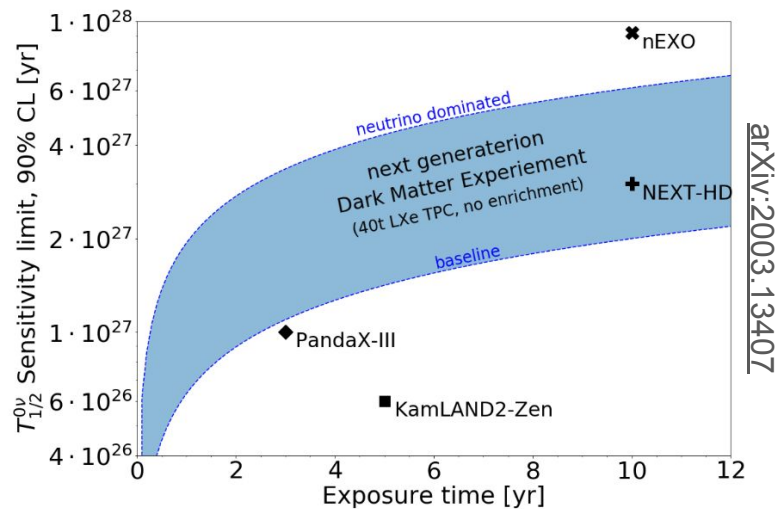
# $^{136}\text{Xe}$ neutrinoless double beta decay

$\gamma$ -ray backgrounds from detector components and external environment

- $^{208}\text{Tl}$  2614 keV  $\rightarrow$  impact strongly mitigated by 1%  $\sigma/E$
- $^{214}\text{Bi}$  2447 keV  $\rightarrow$  impact mitigated by self shielding of larger detector

$^{137}\text{Xe}$  from neutron capture and cosmogenic activation

With major investment in controlling backgrounds (beyond DM needs) could match nEXO sensitivity





# Xenon Futures R&D Programme

UK has started the R&D phase towards a G3 experiment

Exploring SiPM readout for  $\gamma$ -ray and radon background reduction

Advanced radioassay techniques and cold radon emanation (Xinran Liu, Apr 5th, 12:15)

Attempting observation of the Migdal effect from nuclear recoils (Tim Marley, Apr 4th, 15:15)



The University Of Sheffield.



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THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH

# Additional Slides

Dual-phase Xe time projection chamber

**S1:** prompt scintillation

**S2:** ionization signal, electrons drifted upward and extracted into the gas phase region to create secondary scintillation

3D position reconstruction

