

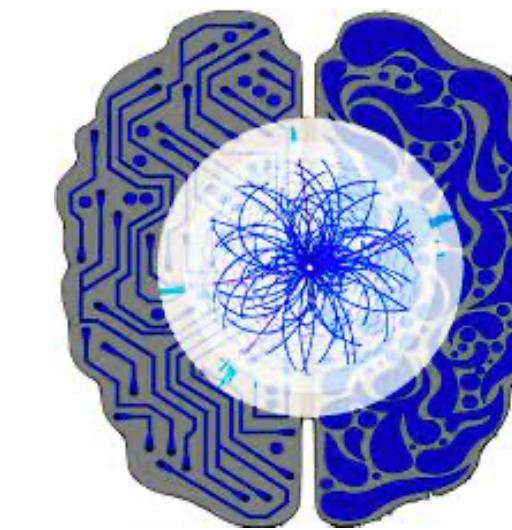


# AI in Rare Event Search

**Aobo Li**

Halicioglu Data Science Institute  
Department of Physics  
UC San Diego

Li 12/11/2023



# Fast & Slow: AI in Rare Event Search



**Slow**

- What is rare event search?

**Fast**

- Radiation detectors
- AI algorithms

**Fast for Slow**

- Fast ML for rare event

# Fast & Slow: AI in Rare Event Search



**Slow**

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- Radiation detectors
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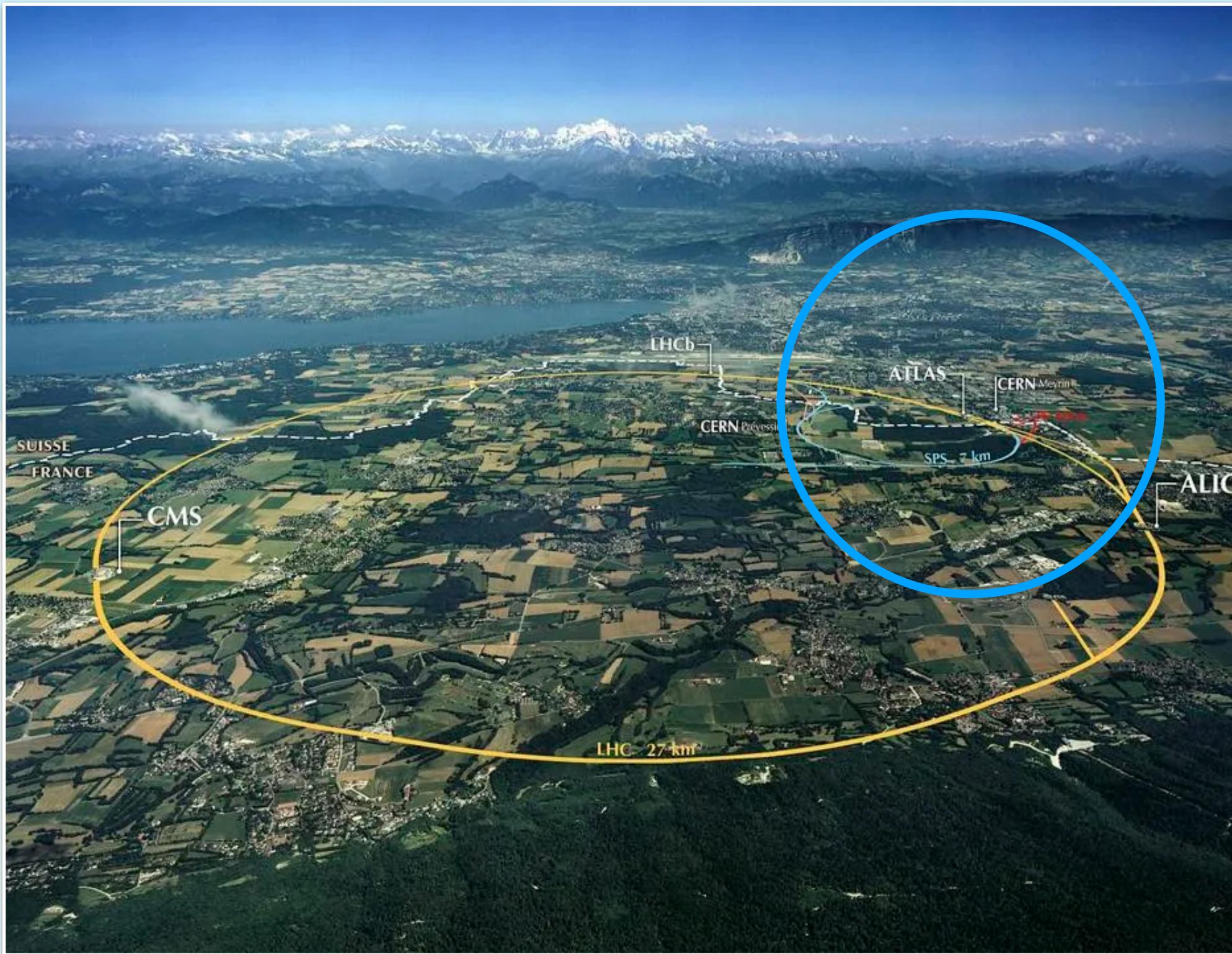
**Fast for Slow**

- Fast ML for rare event

# High Energy Physics Experiment

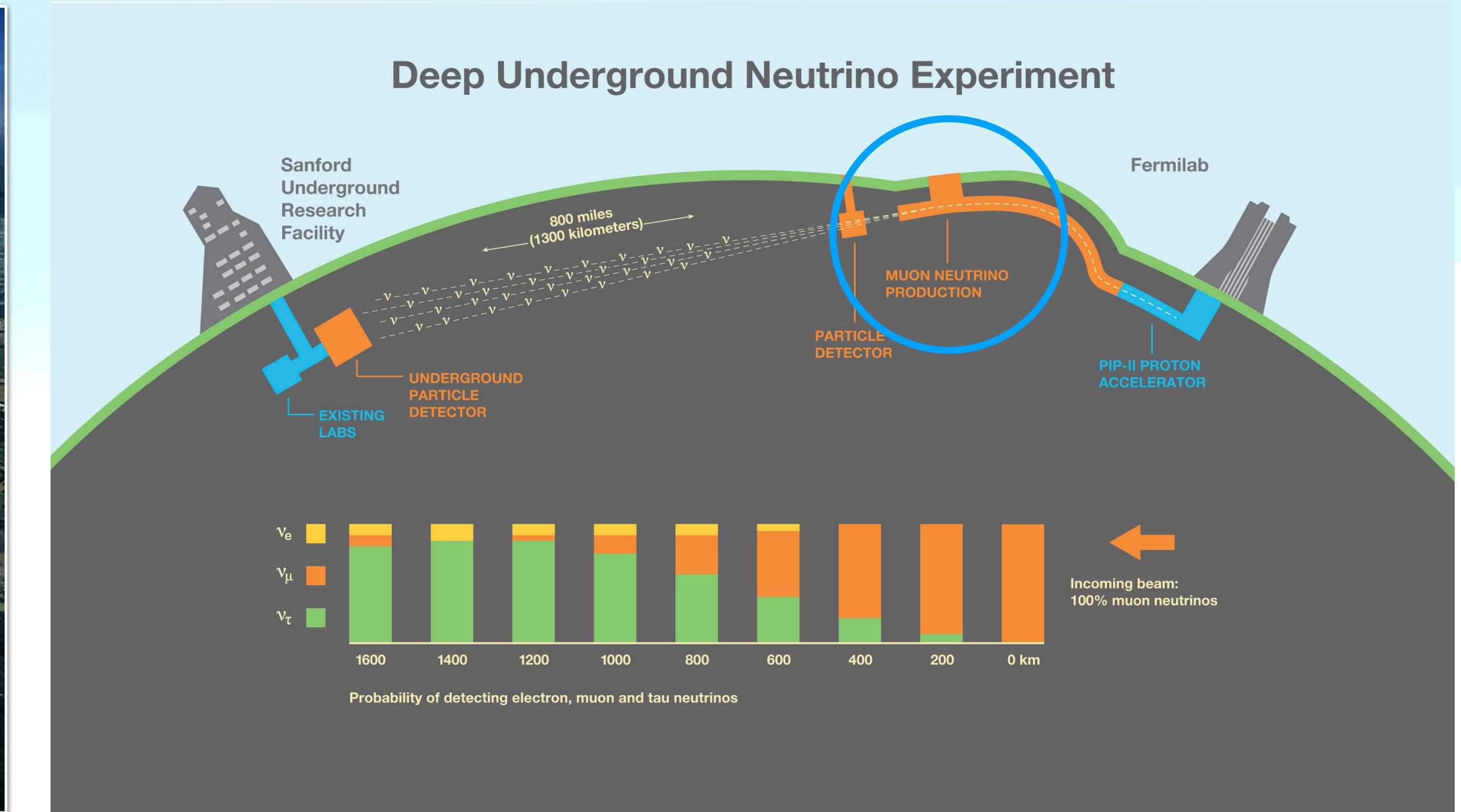
High-energy Particle Beam

600 million collisions per second



PIP-II Neutrino Beam

Trillions of neutrinos per second



# Naturally Occurring Neutrinos



# Rare Event Search in 1950s



## The Cowan-Reine Neutrino Experiment

First detection of neutrino (via inverse beta decay):

$$\bar{\nu}_e + p \rightarrow n + e^+$$

Extremely low cross section, but unique signature:

- $e^+ + e^- \rightarrow 2\gamma$
- Neutron capture  $\gamma$



Nobel Prize of 1995

# Rare Event Search in 2023

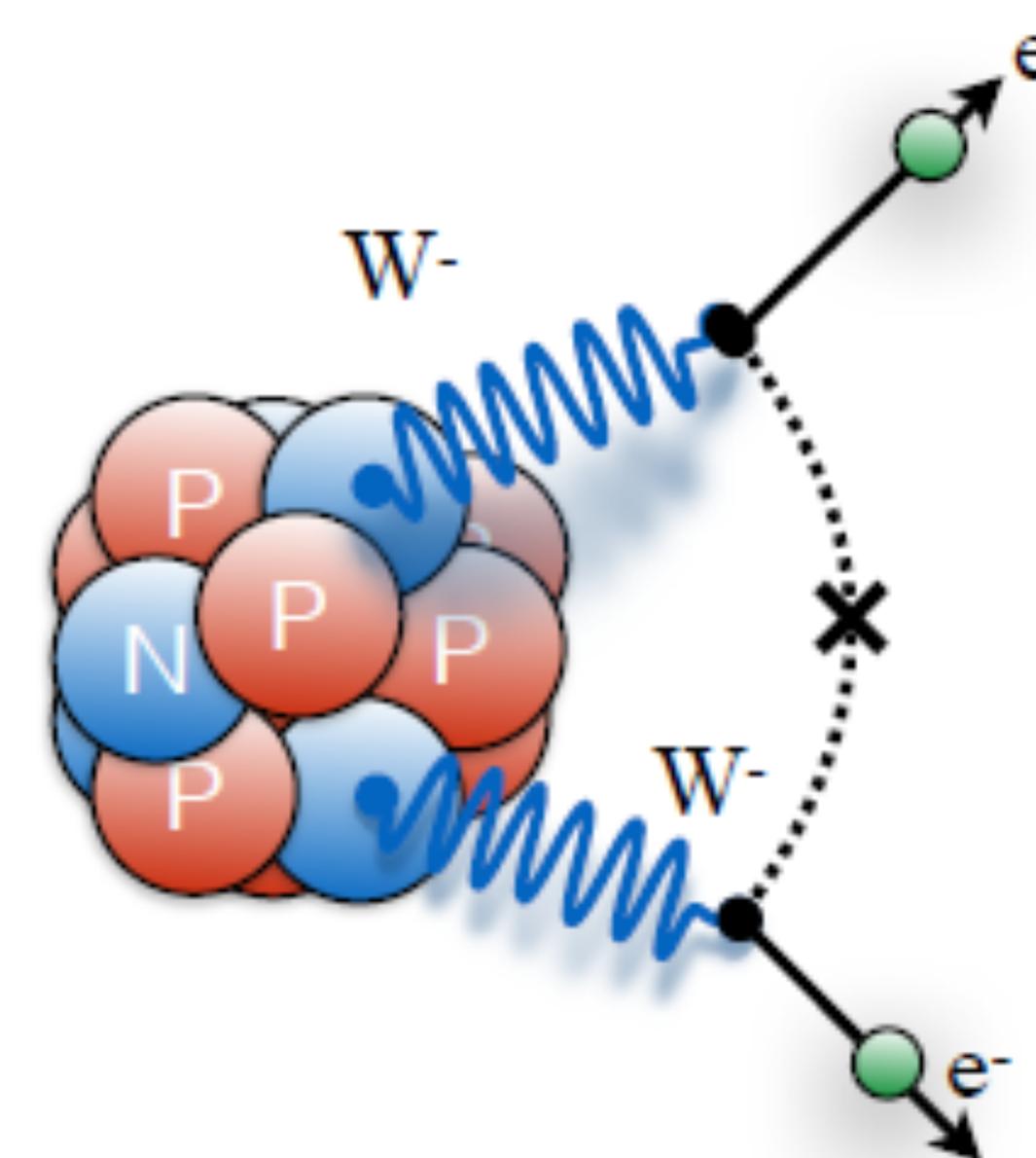
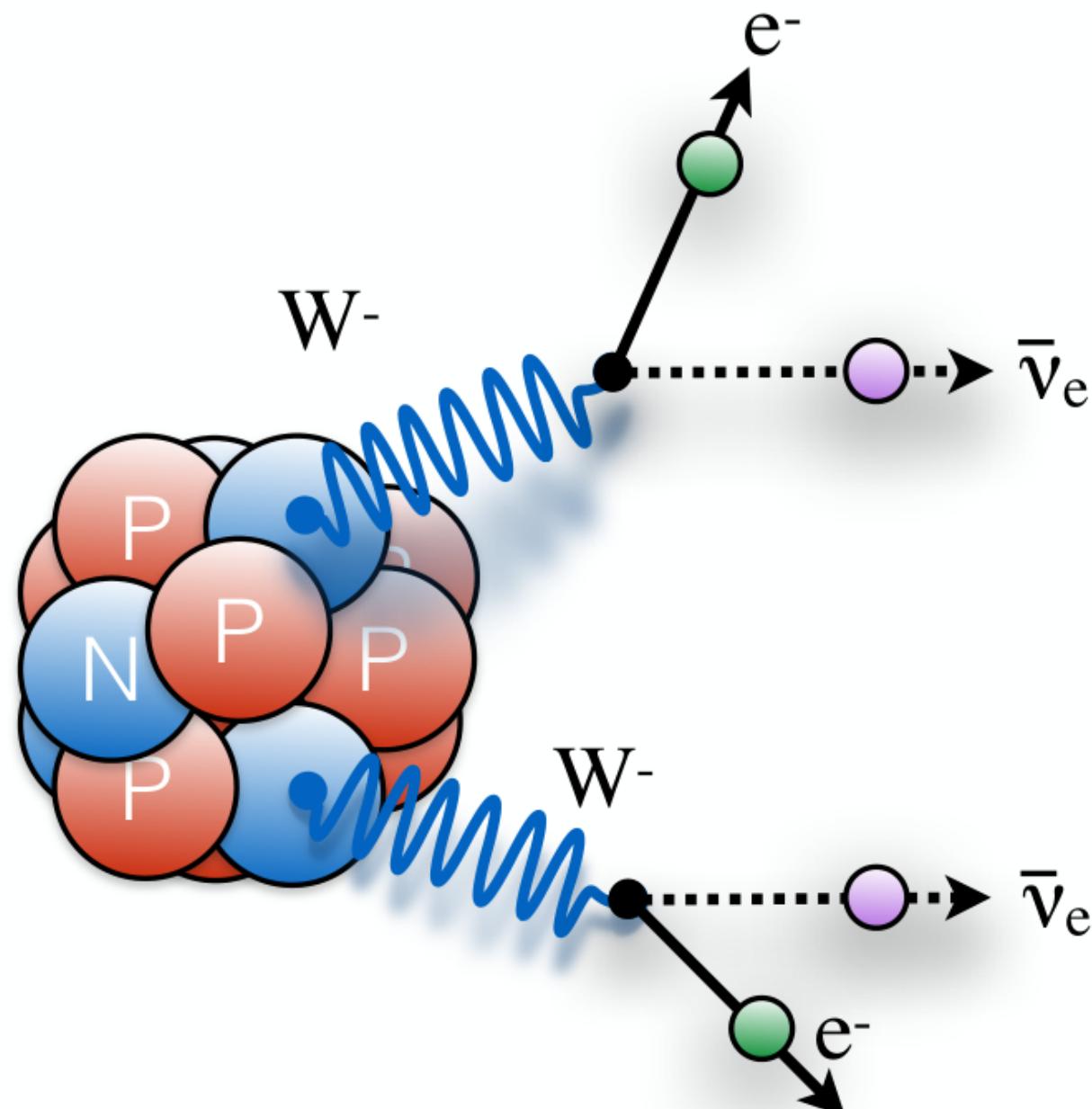
## Double Beta Decay ( $2\nu\beta\beta$ )

First proposed by Maria Goeppert Mayer in 1935

First detection by Elliott, Hahn, Moe, in 1987

Decay half-life  $T_{\frac{1}{2}} \sim 10^{14} - 10^{24}$  yrs

Much longer than the age of universe!



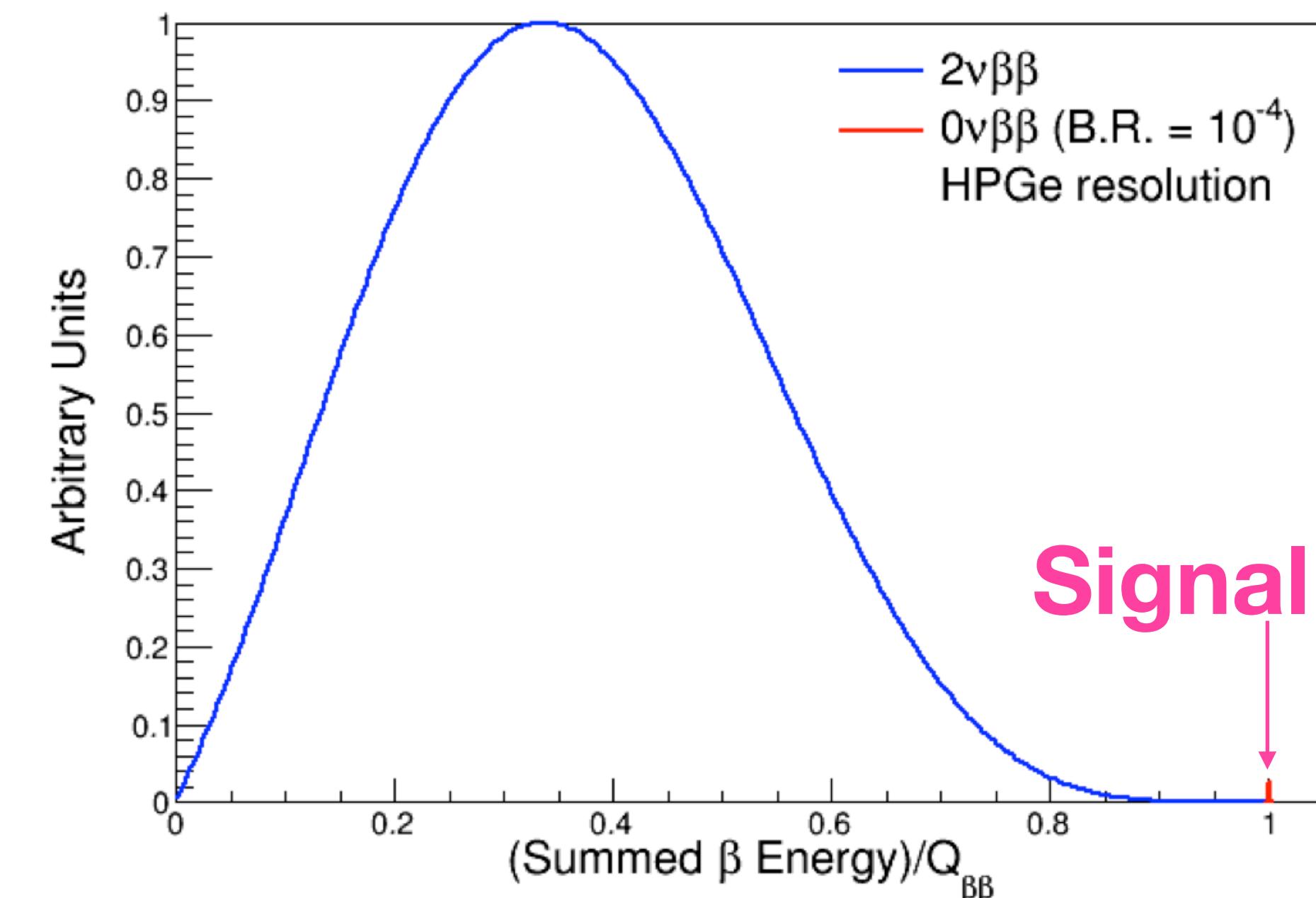
## Neutrinoless Double-Beta Decay ( $0\nu\beta\beta$ )

$\Delta L = 2$  lepton number violation process

Explain the matter-antimatter asymmetry in our universe

Changes our fundamental understanding of particle physics

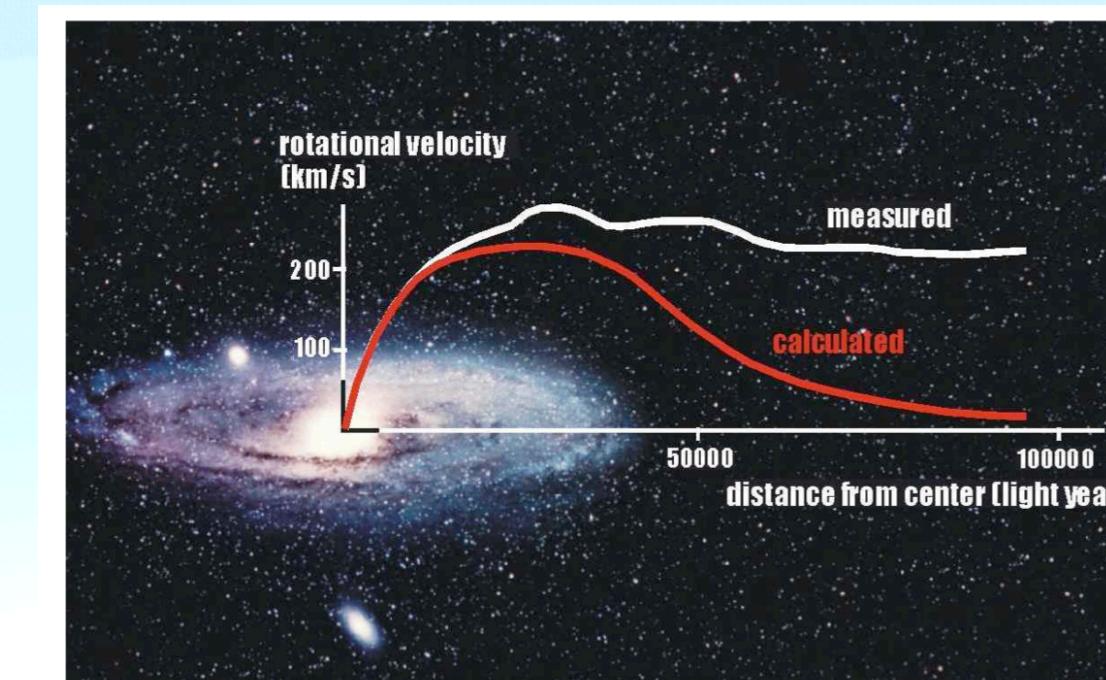
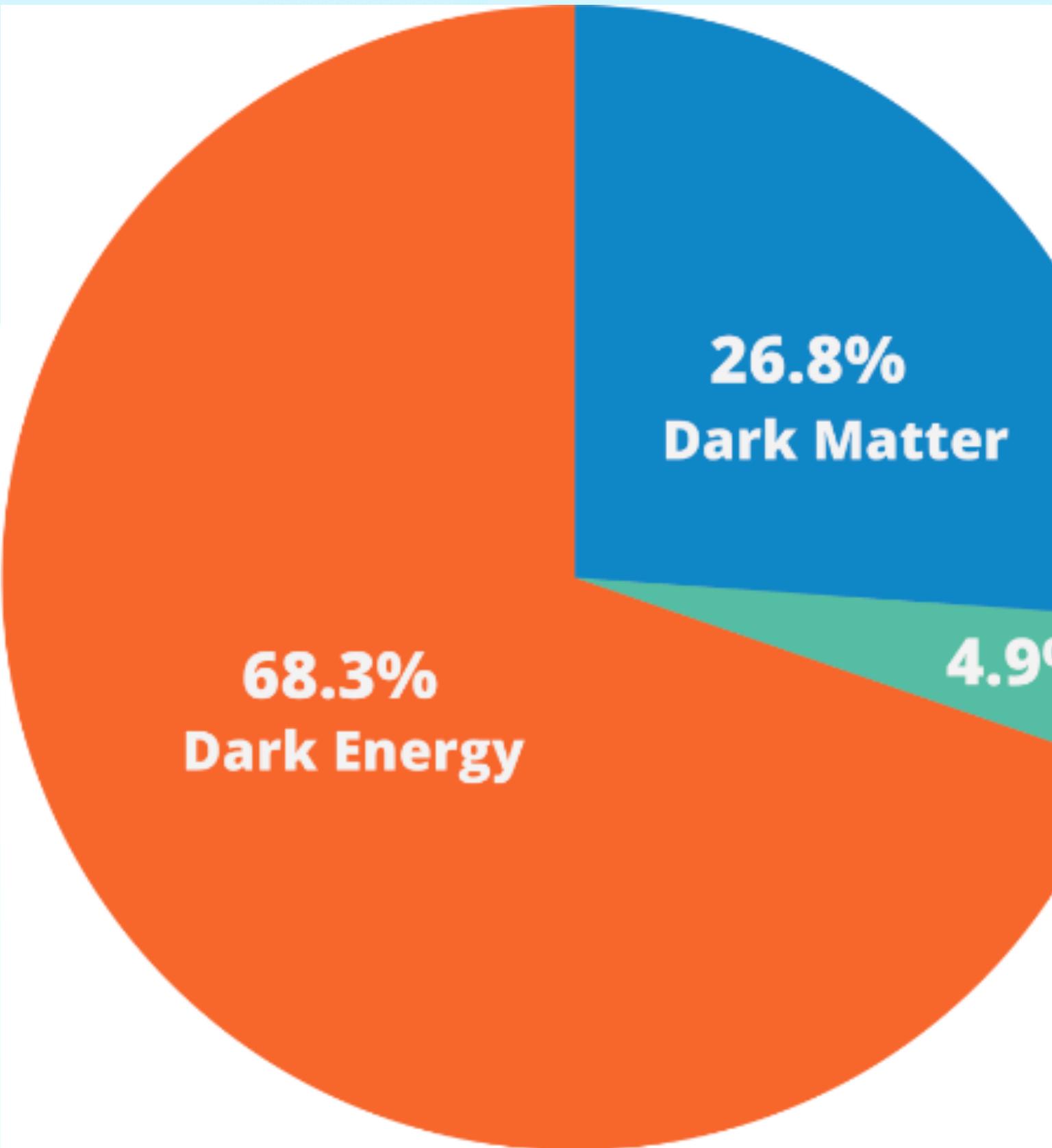
Has not been observed at  $T_{\frac{1}{2}} > 10^{26}$  yrs



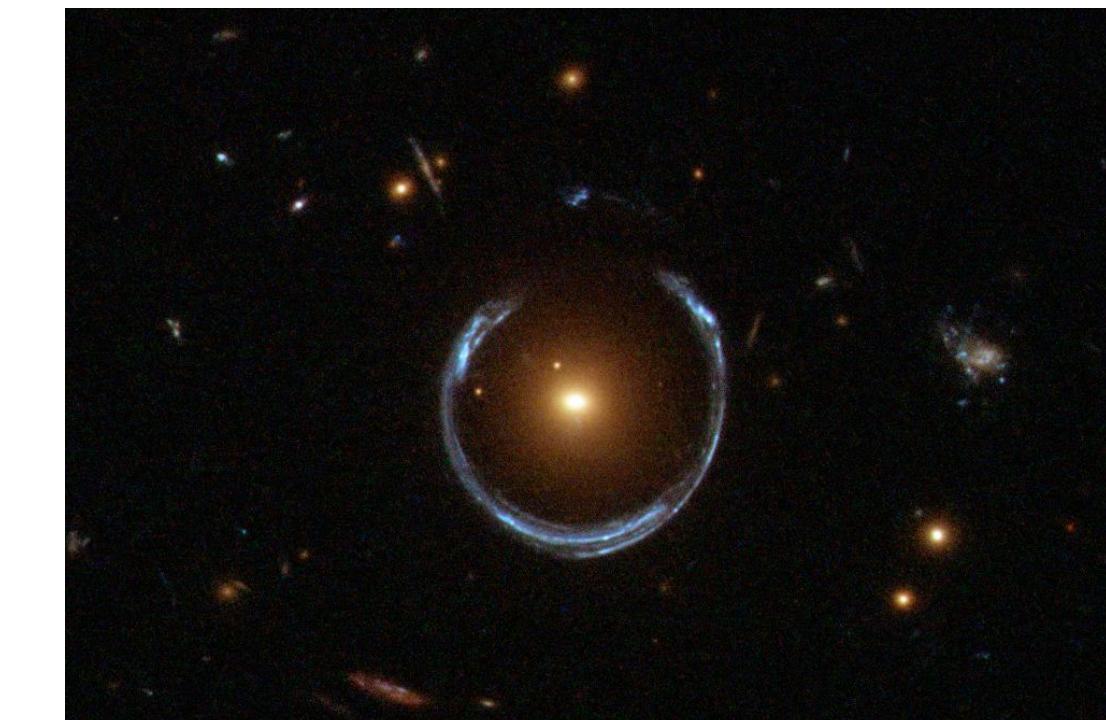
# Rare Event Search in 2023

## Dark Matter

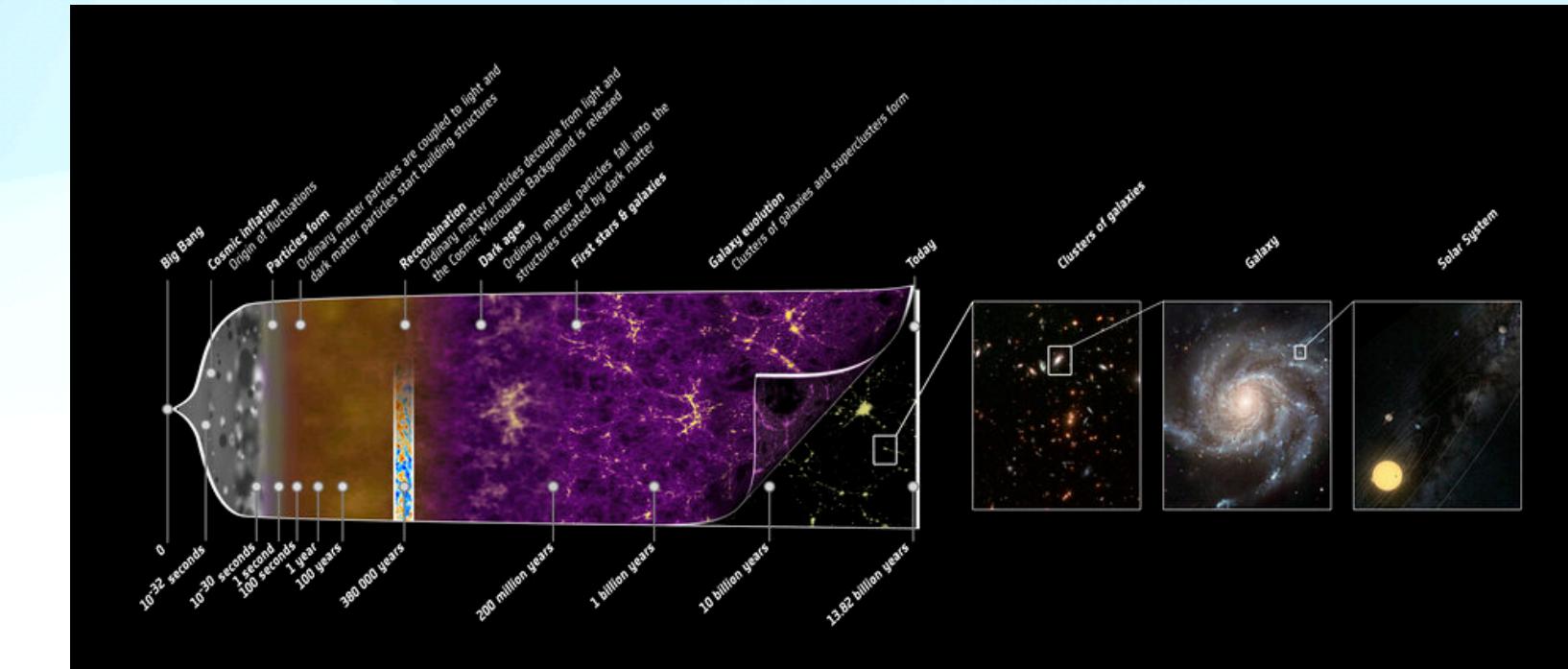
The evidence for the existence of dark matter has been plenty



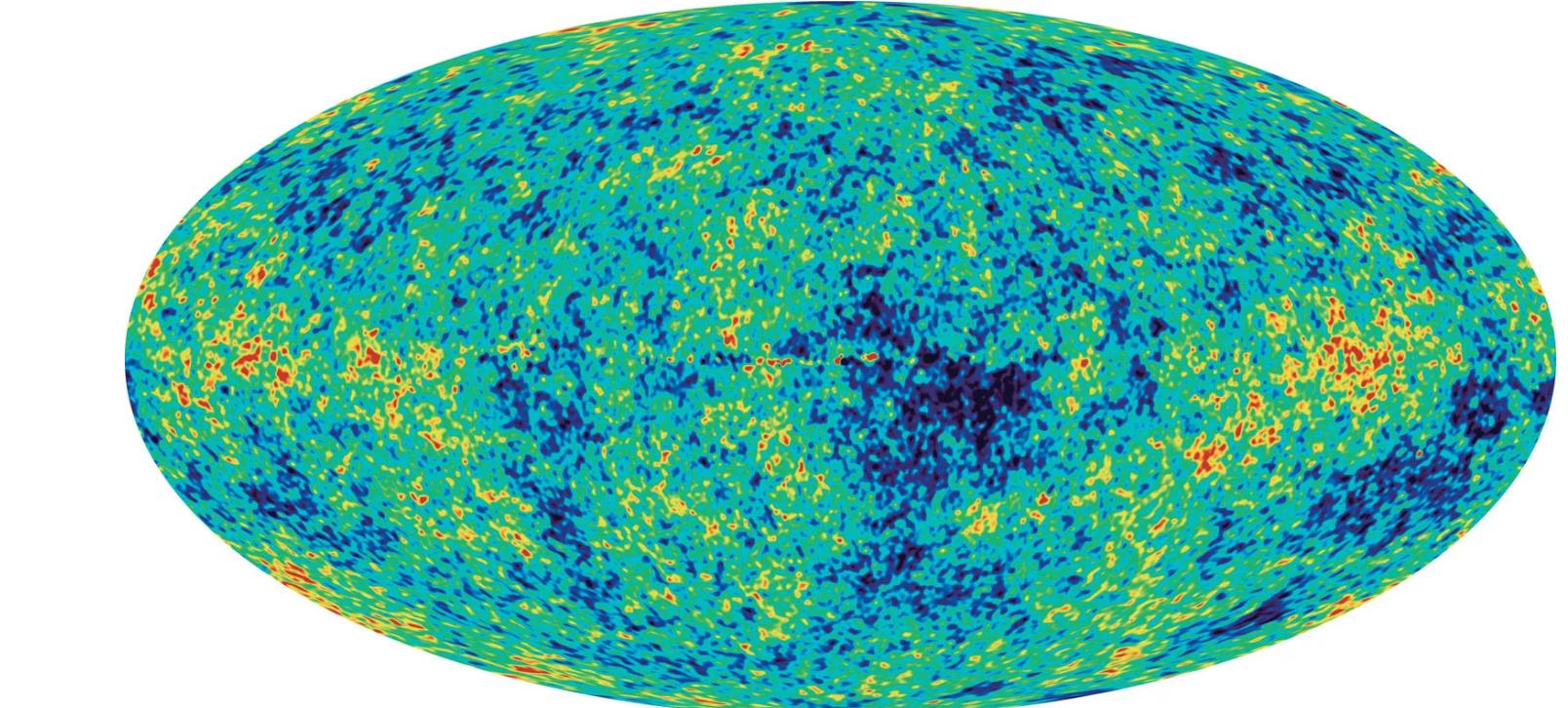
Galaxy Rotation Curve



Gravitational Lens



Large Scale Structure Formation



Cosmic Microwave Background

# Rare Event Search in 2023

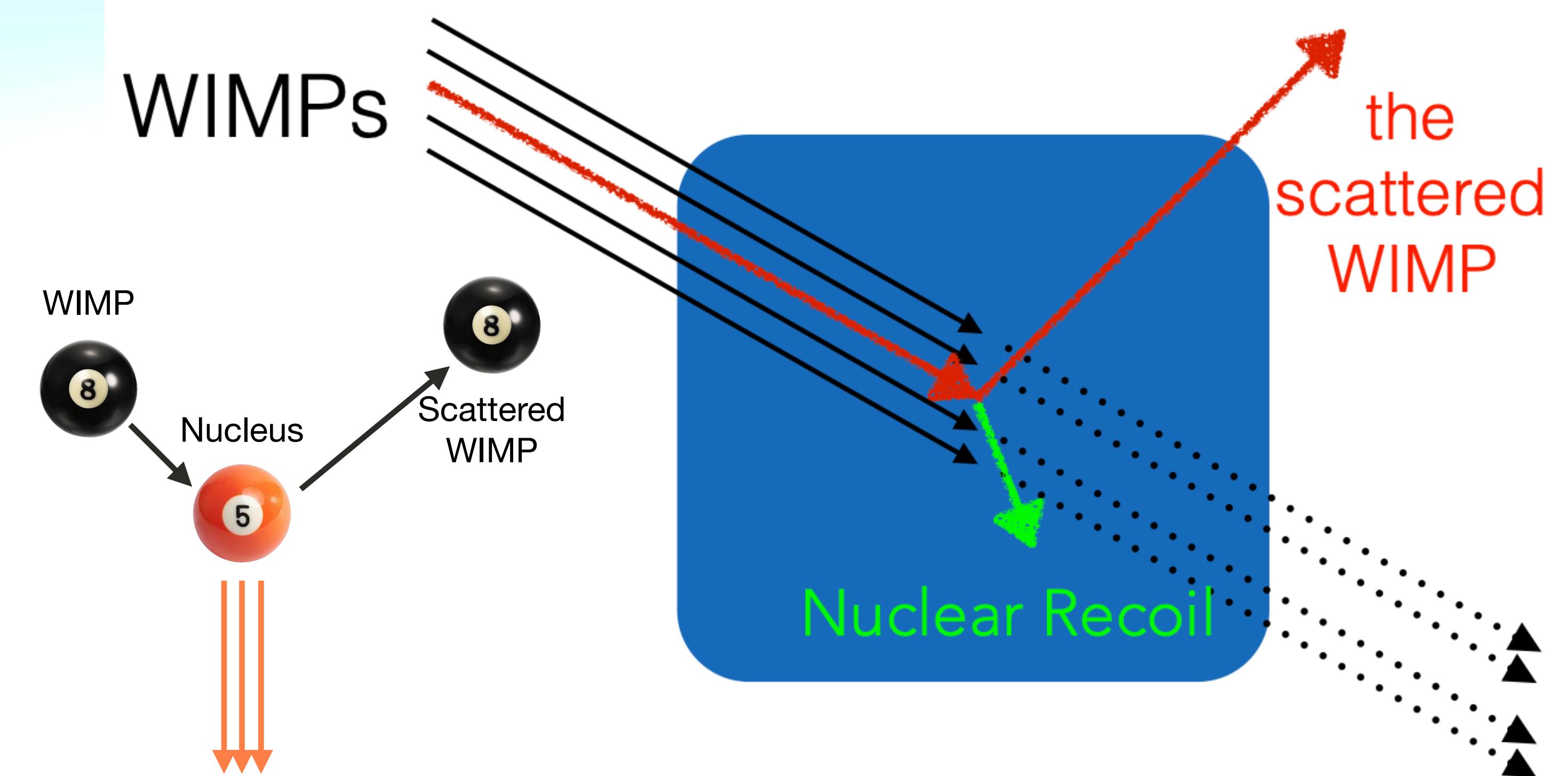
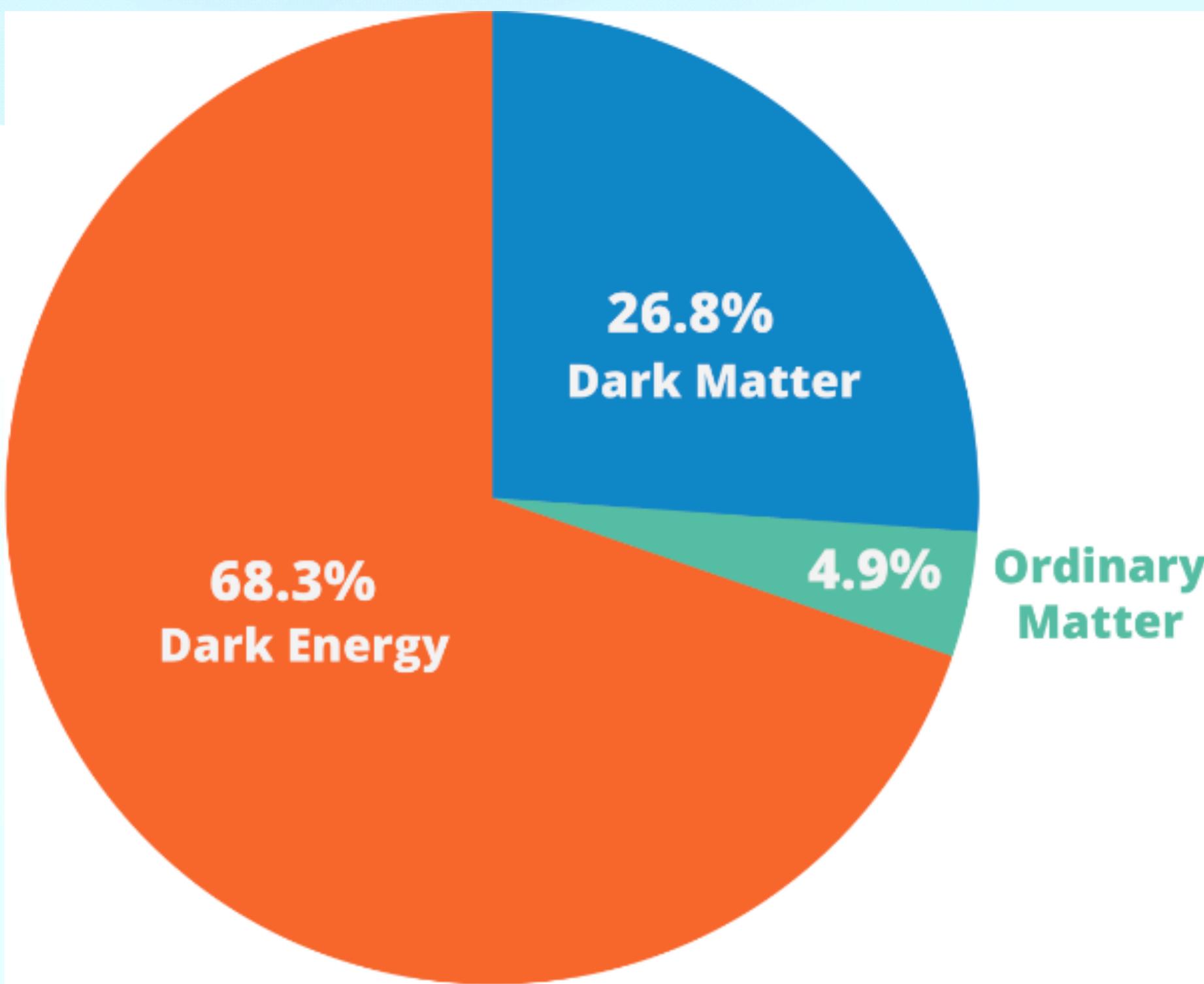
## Dark Matter

The evidence for the existence of dark matter has been plenty

Many DM candidates have been proposed (WIMP, Axion, etc.)

None has been observed.

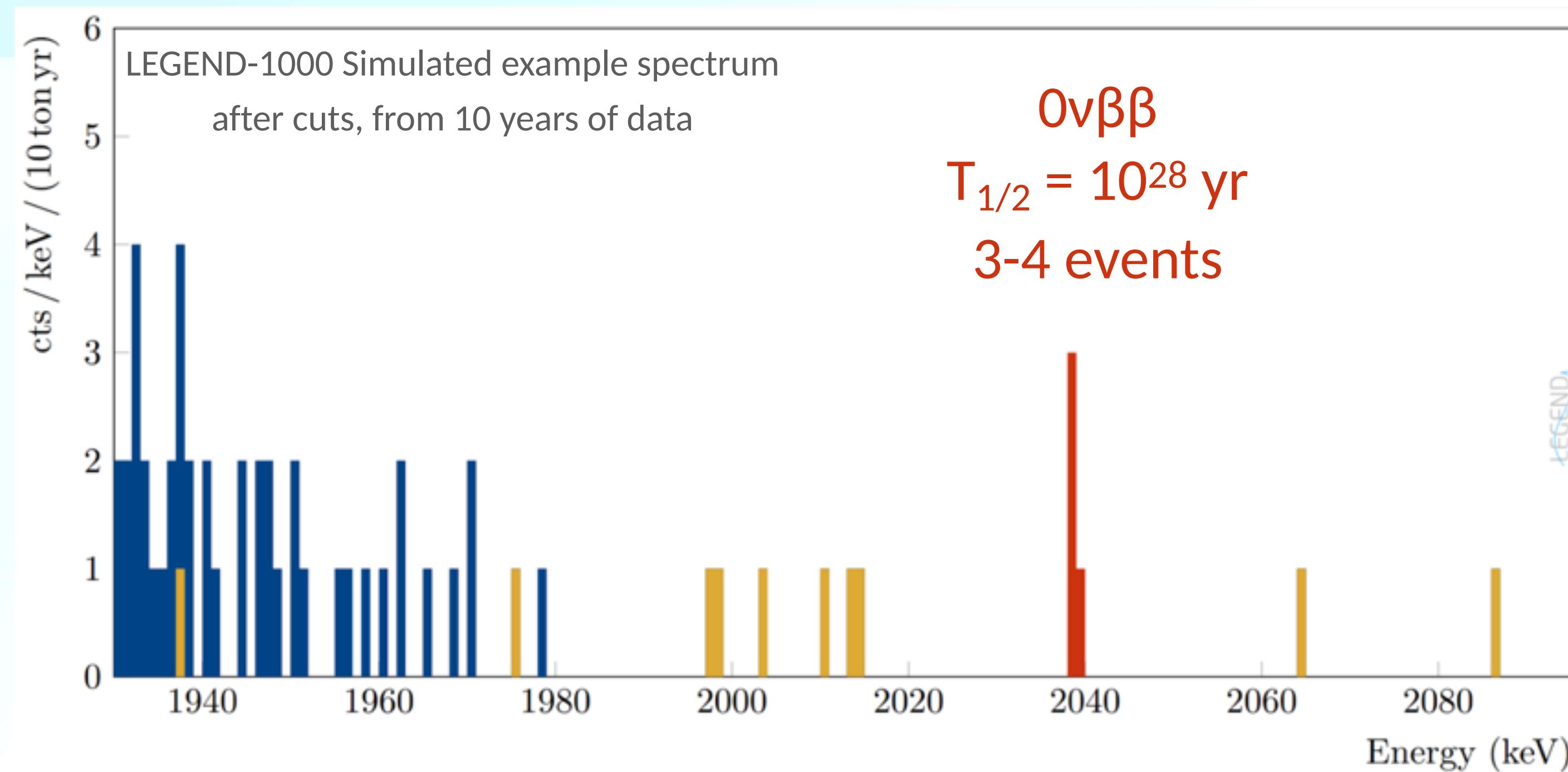
## WIMP: Weakly Interacting Massive Particle



# What Makes Rare Event Search Hard?

It is extremely rare! Using  $0\nu\beta\beta$  as an example ...

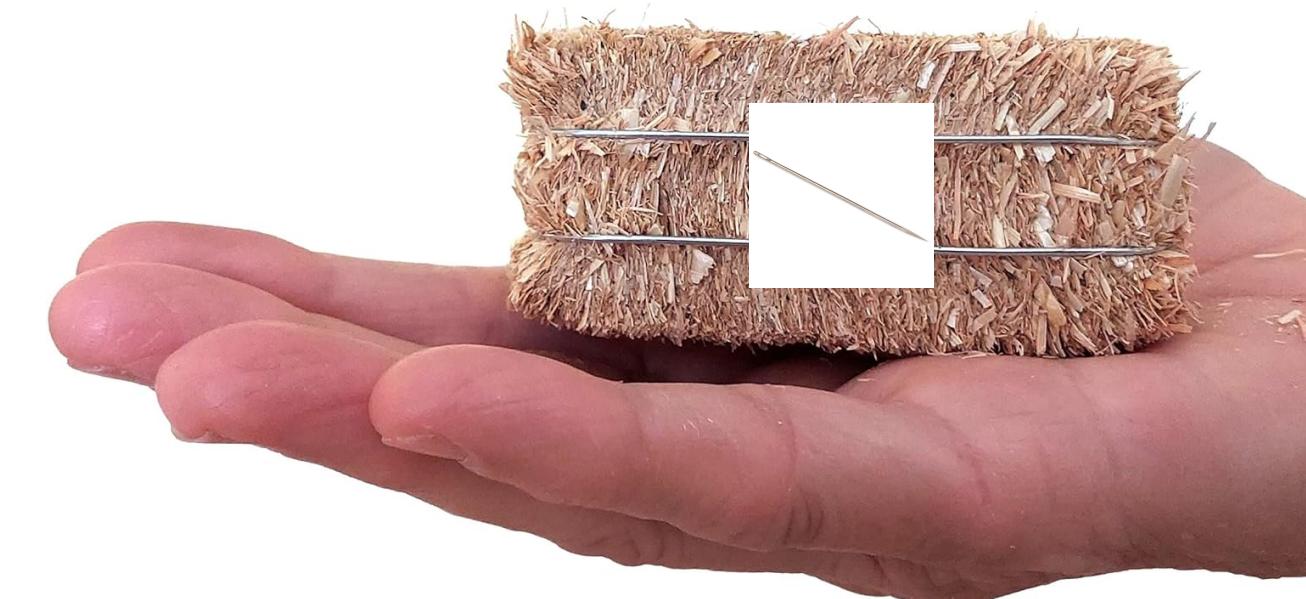
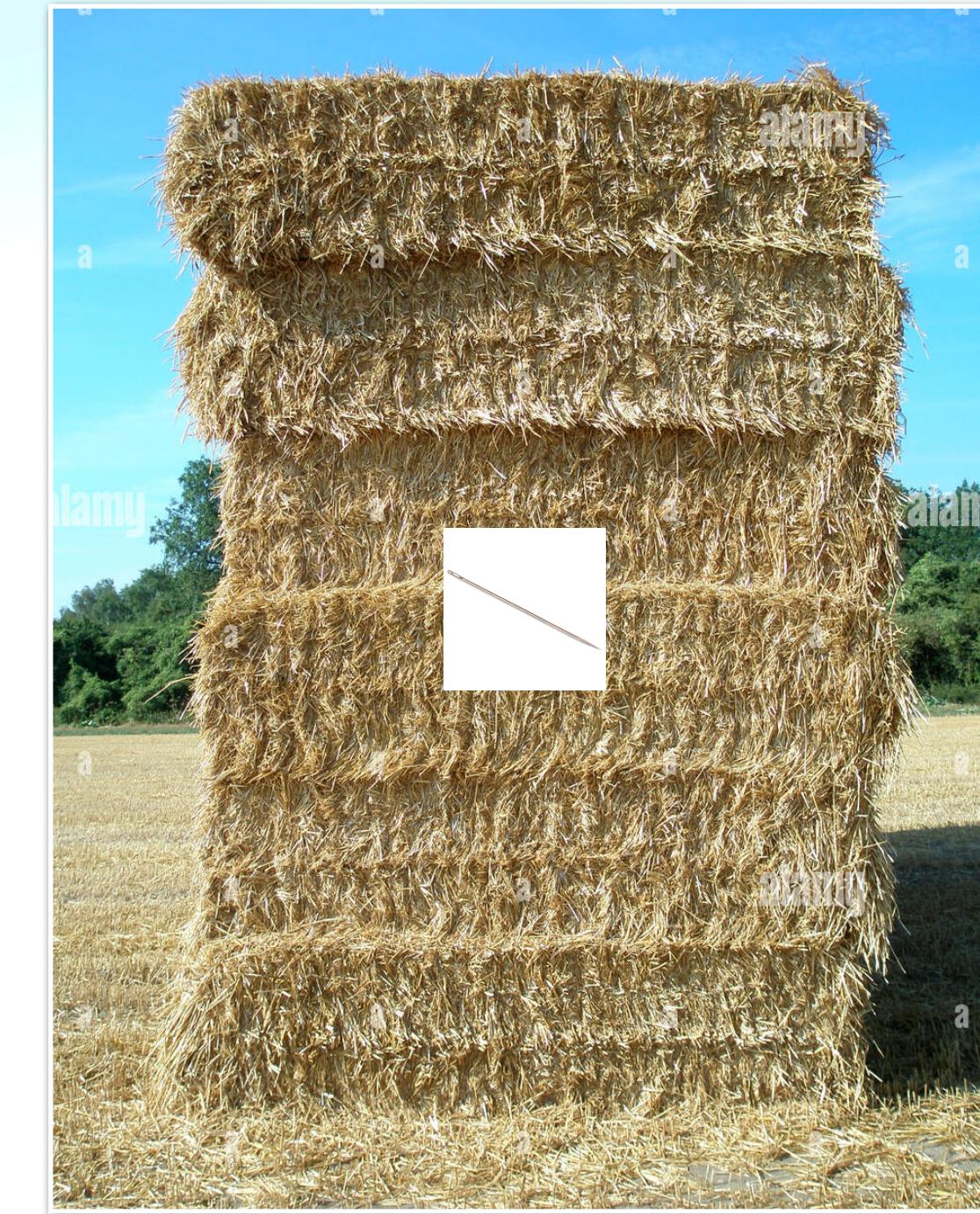
- We have not seen  $0\nu\beta\beta$  at half life of  $T_{1/2} > 10^{26}$  yrs
- Next-generation experiments typically aims at  $T_{1/2} > 10^{28}$  yrs ( $\times 100$  improvement)
- Correspond to **3-4 event** after **10 years** of data taking



# What Makes Rare Event Search Hard?

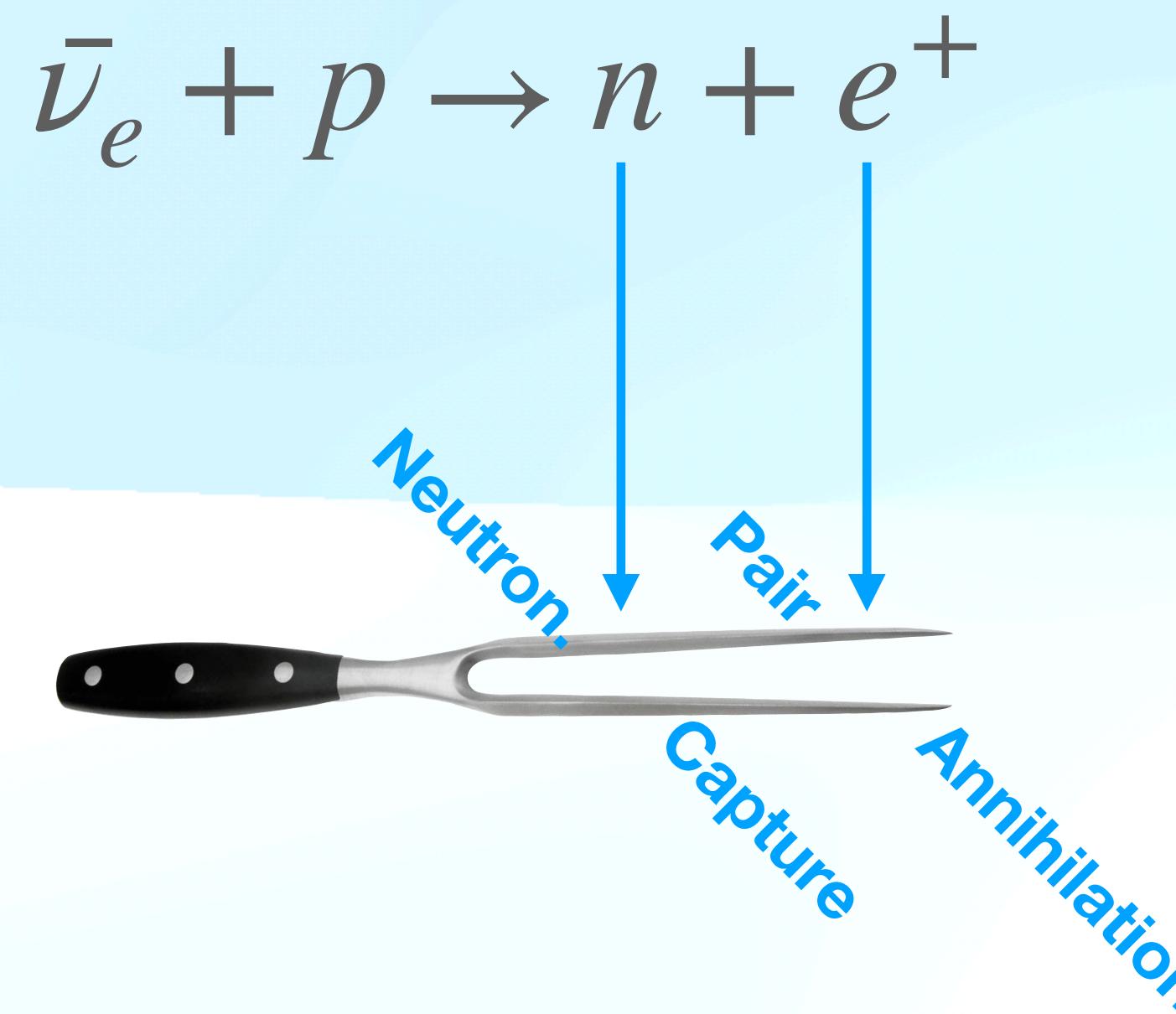
- **1 event** every **2.5-3.3 year**, we need ultra-sensitive detector to capture every event
- As our detector gets more sensitive, we also collect lots of events that are not  $0\nu\beta\beta$ /WIMP DM

**Search for needle in a haystack**



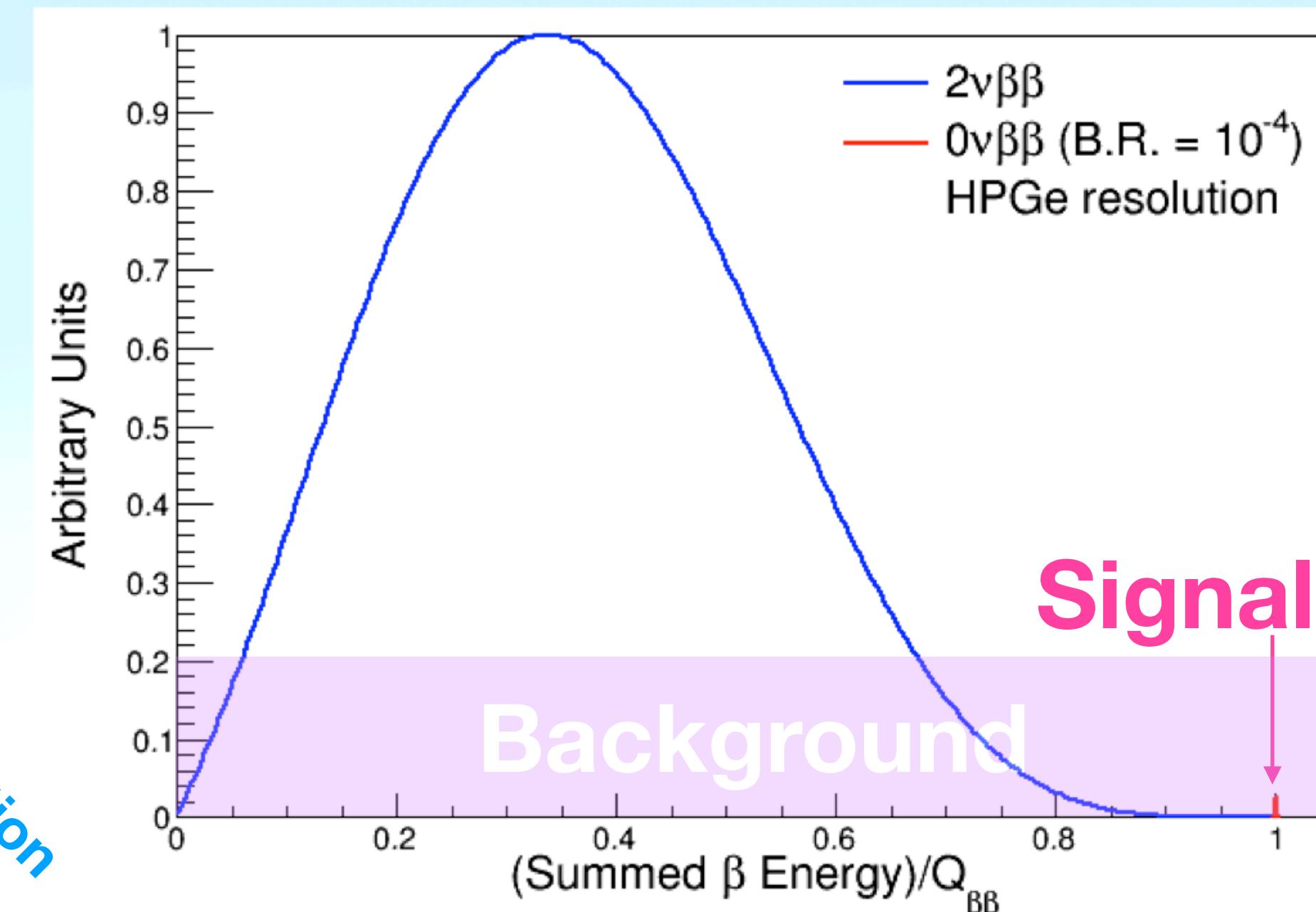
# What Makes Rare Event Search Hard?

## The Cowan-Reine Exp.



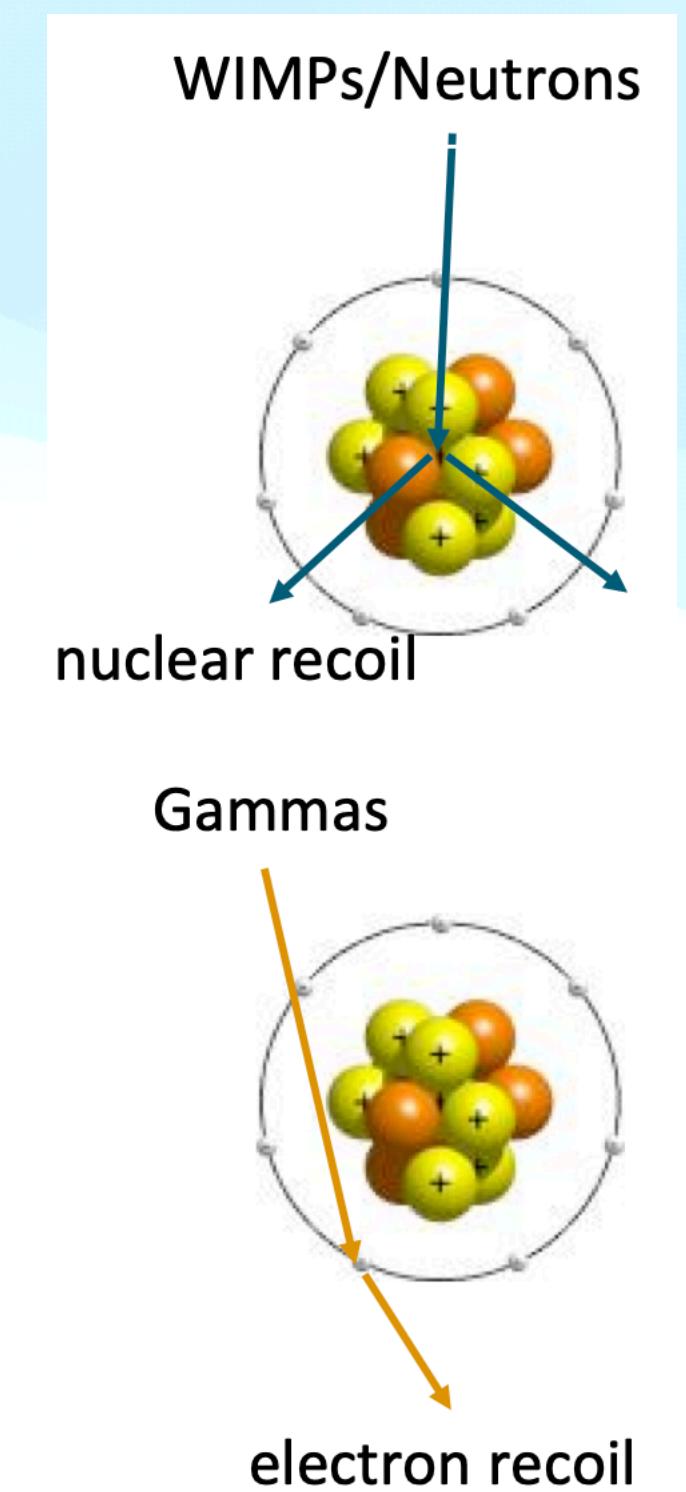
Nearly background-free

## $0\nu\beta\beta$



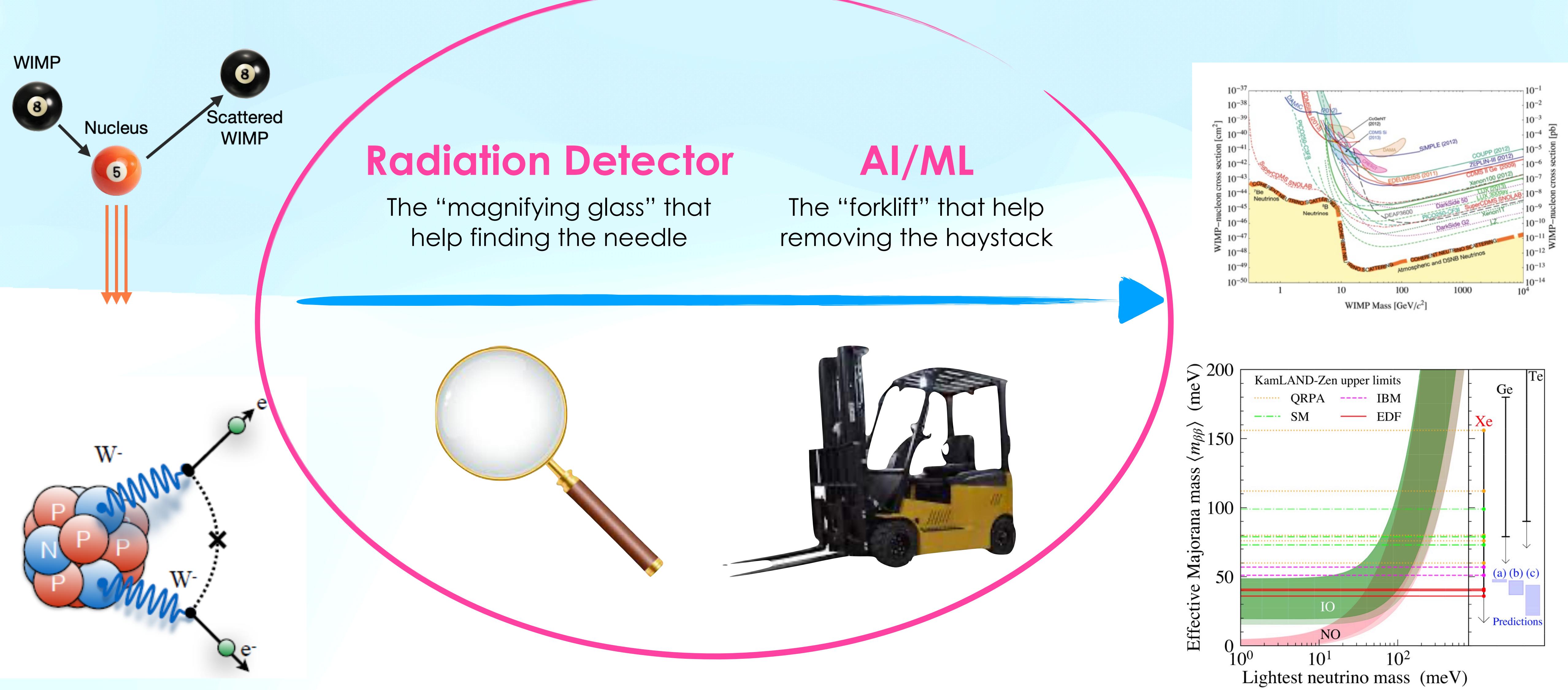
Naturally radioactive and cosmic ray background

## WIMP Dark Matter



Control background is of unparalleled importance in rare event search experiment!

# The Rare Event Search Pipeline



# Fast & Slow: AI in Rare Event Search



Slow

- What is rare event search?

Fast

- Radiation detectors
- AI algorithms

Fast for Slow

- Fast ML for rare event

# KamLAND-Zen

## Monolithic Liquid Scintillator Detector for $0\nu\beta\beta$ Search



From Left to Right:

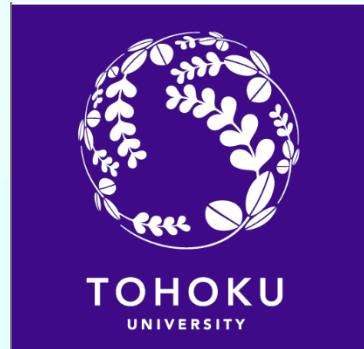
- **Dr. Christopher Grant (BU Co-PI)**
- Hasung Song (BU)
- **Dr. Lindley Winslow (MIT, Co-PI)**
- Dr. Spencer Axani (MIT/UDelaware)
- Dr. Zhenghao Fu (MIT/Jump Trading)
- Dr. Joseph Smolsky (MIT/CSU)
- Dr. Aobo Li (BU/UNC/UCSD)

Not on this photo:

- Dr. Sumita Ghosh (MIT)
- So Young Jeon (BU)



The MIT-BU Analysis Group

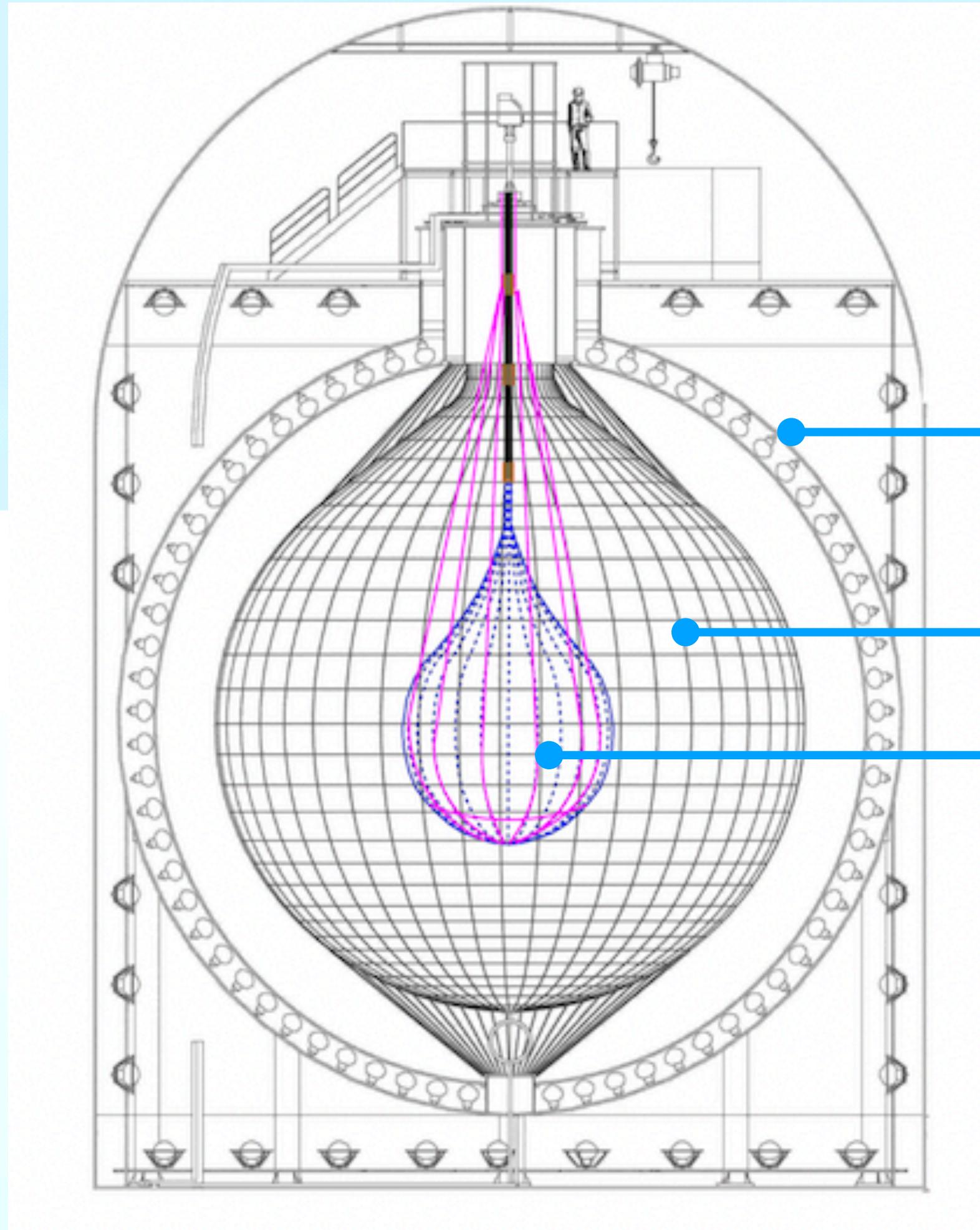


UNIVERSITY of HAWAI'I®



# KamLAND-Zen

## Monolithic Liquid Scintillator Detector for $0\nu\beta\beta$ Search



### Inner Detector PMTs

1325 17inch + 554 20inch



### Liquid Scintillator

### Inner Balloon

25- $\mu\text{m}$ -thick transparent nylon film

### Xenon Loading

Load double beta decay isotope  
 $^{136}\text{Xe}$  in LS inside inner balloon  
(XeLS)

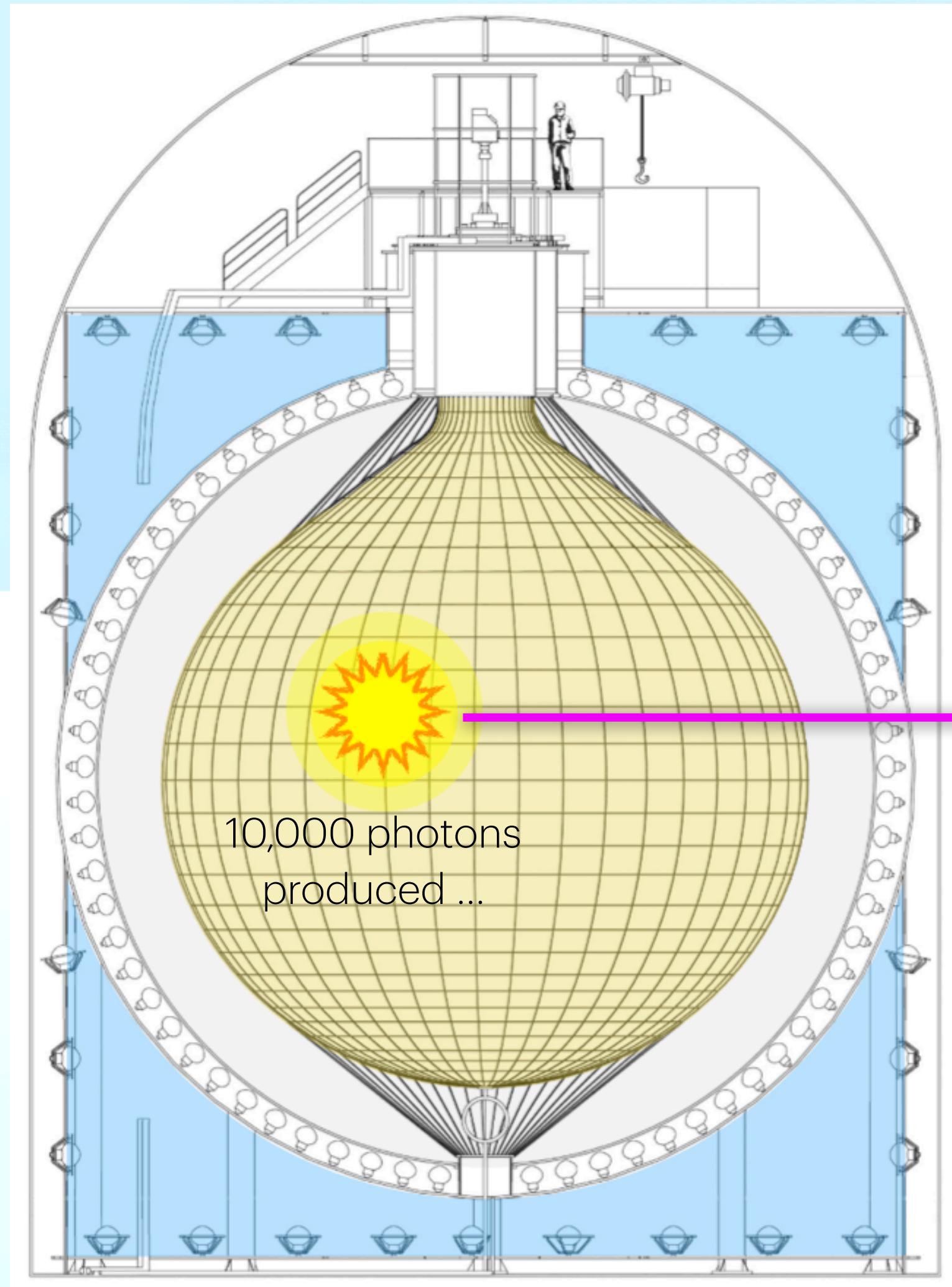


### Background Source

- XeLS Background
- Film Background



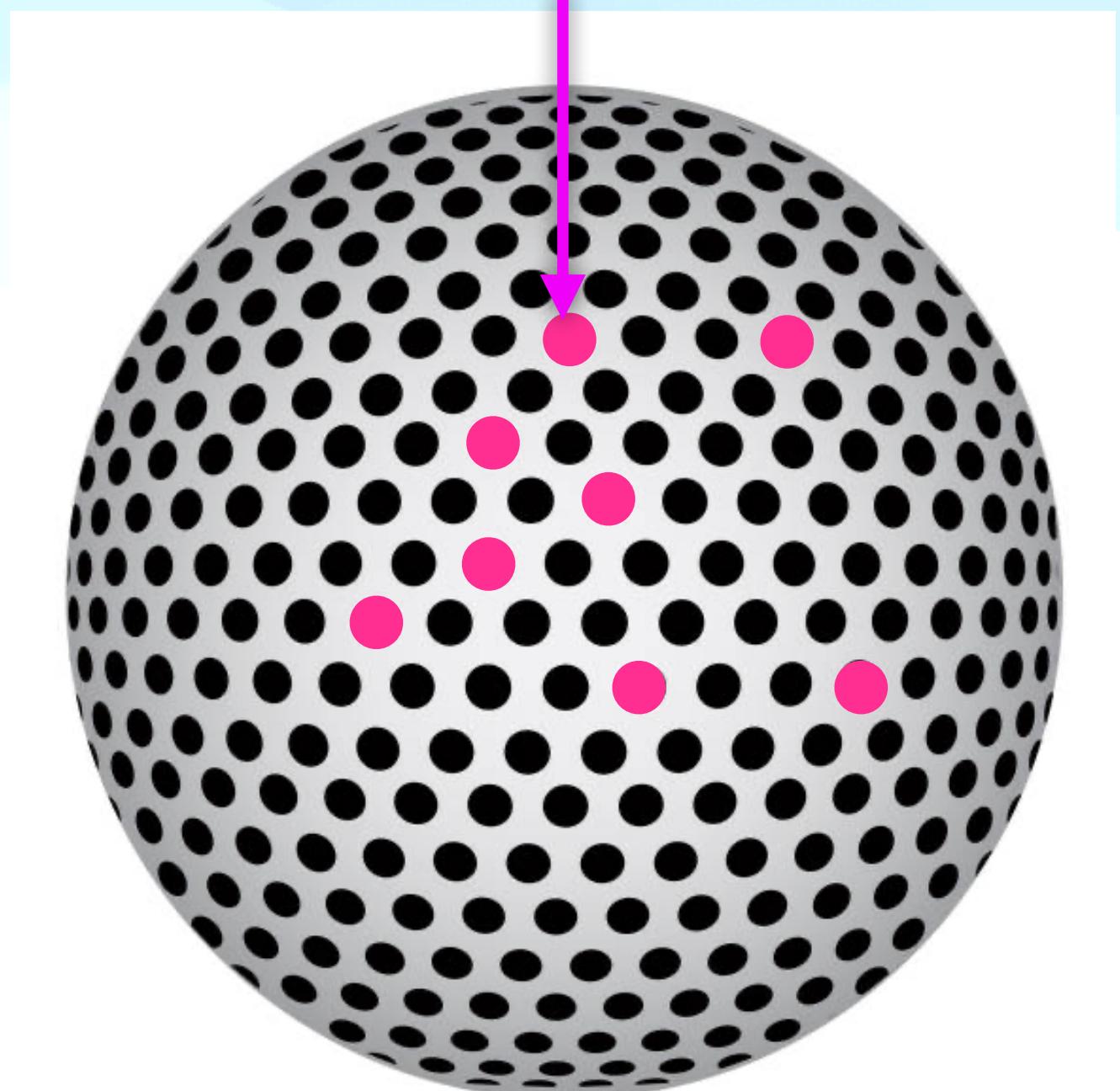
# KamLAND-Zen Data



**23% Quantum Efficiency**  
... 500 photons will produce a signal  
(photoelectron).

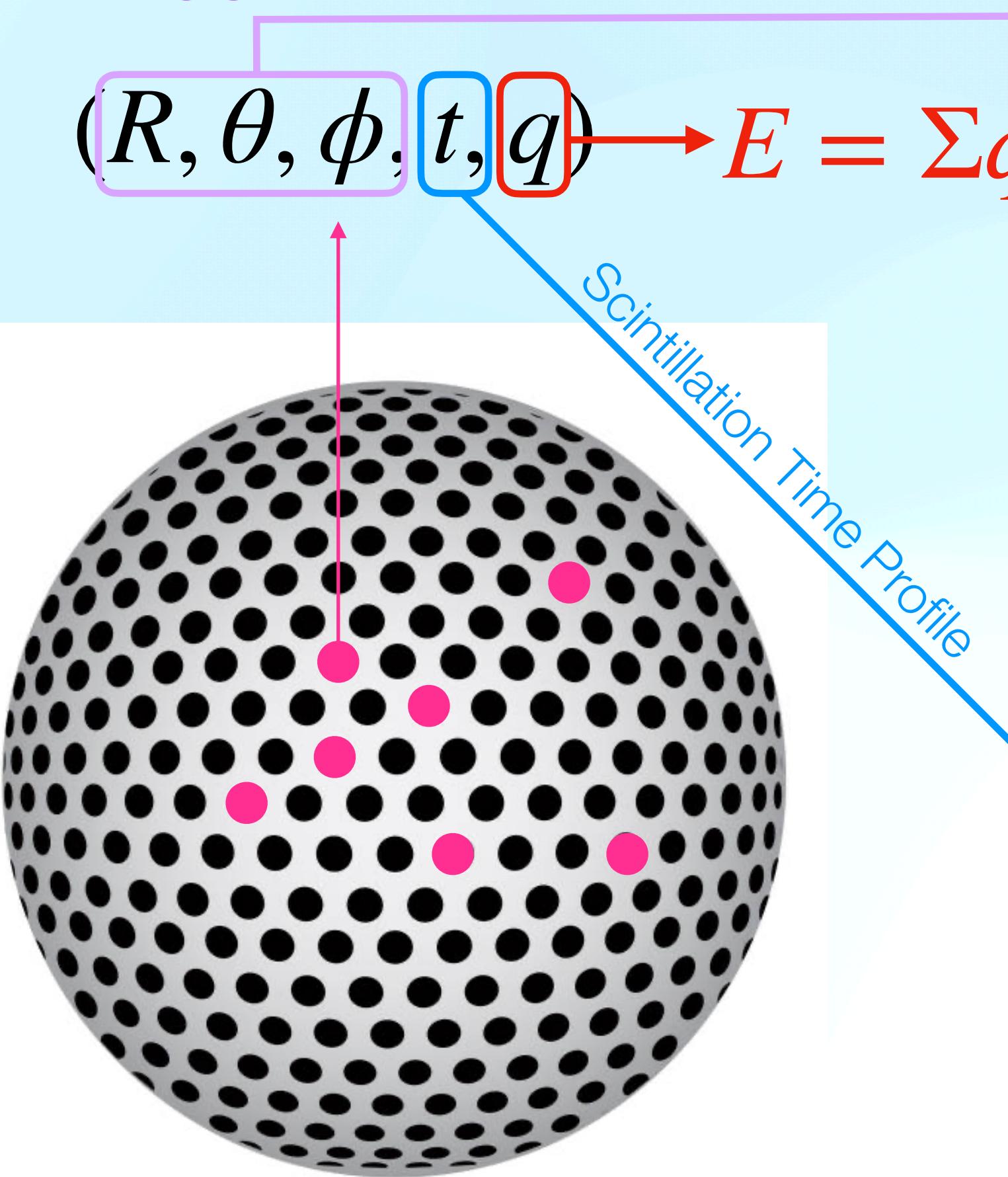
**22% Photocoverage**  
... 2,200 photons will  
reach PMT ...

**Triggered PMT**

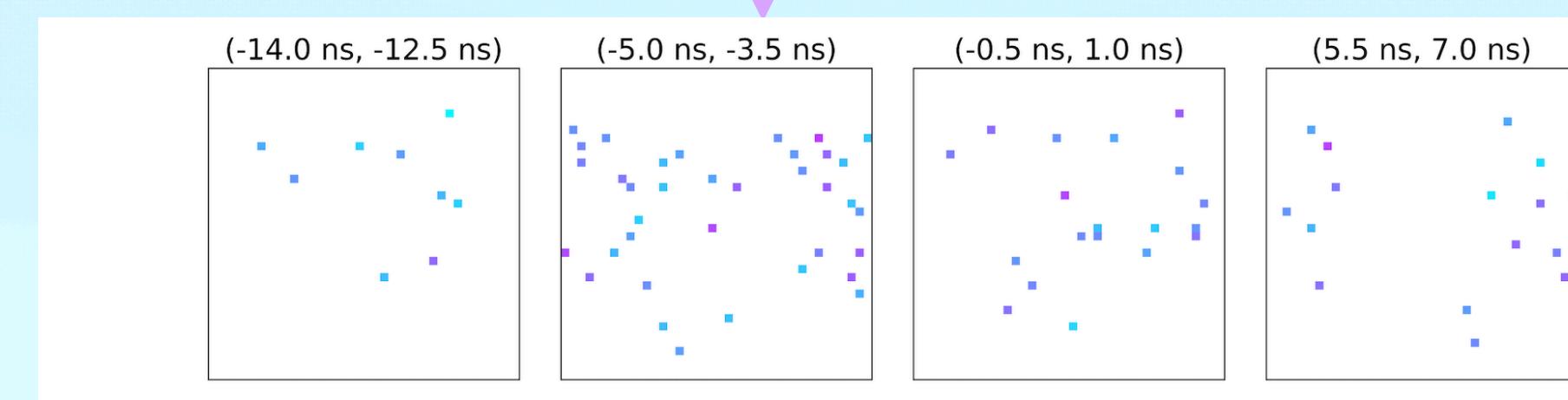


# KamLAND-Zen Data

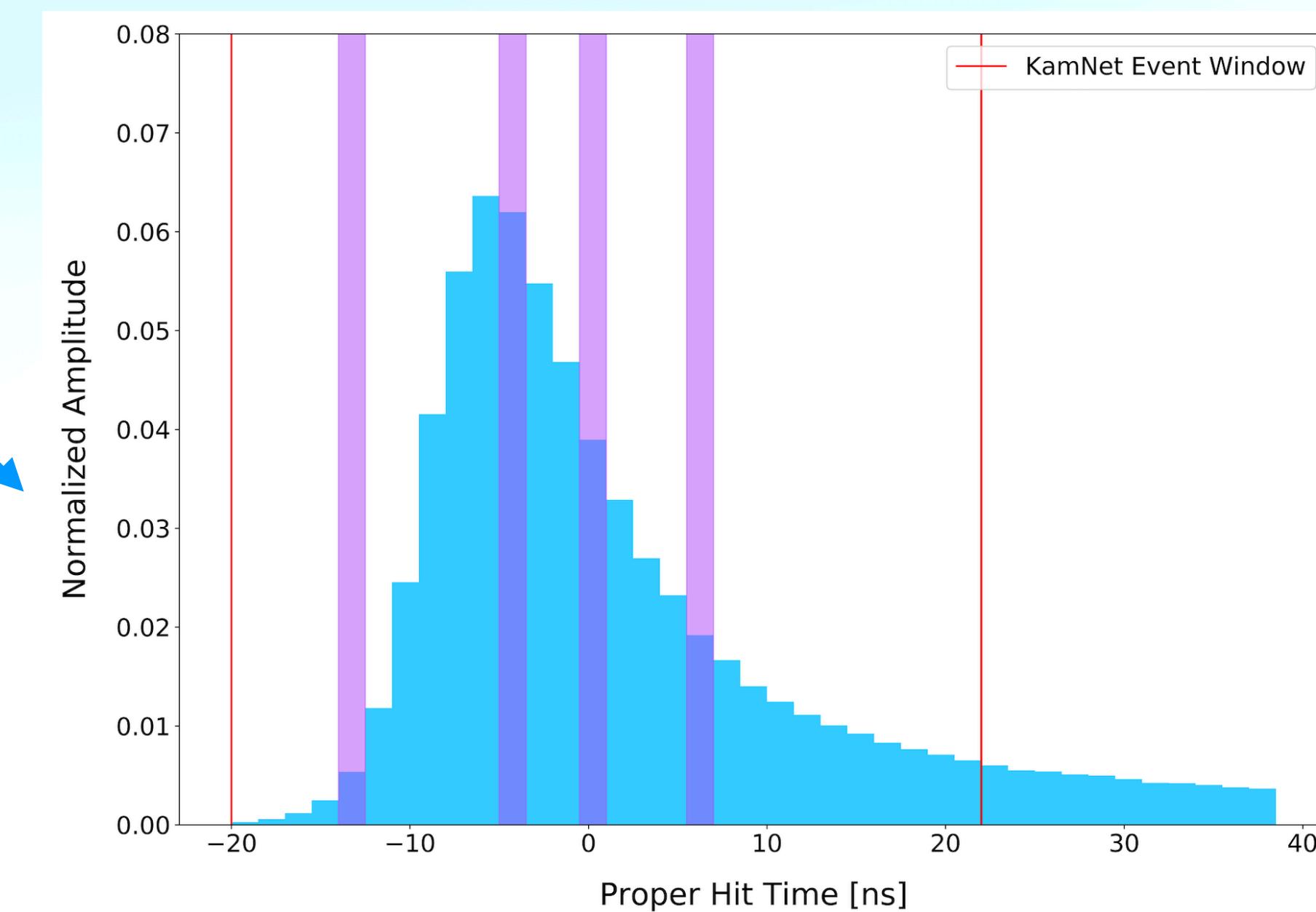
## Triggered PMT



## $\theta$ - $\phi$ Sphere Map

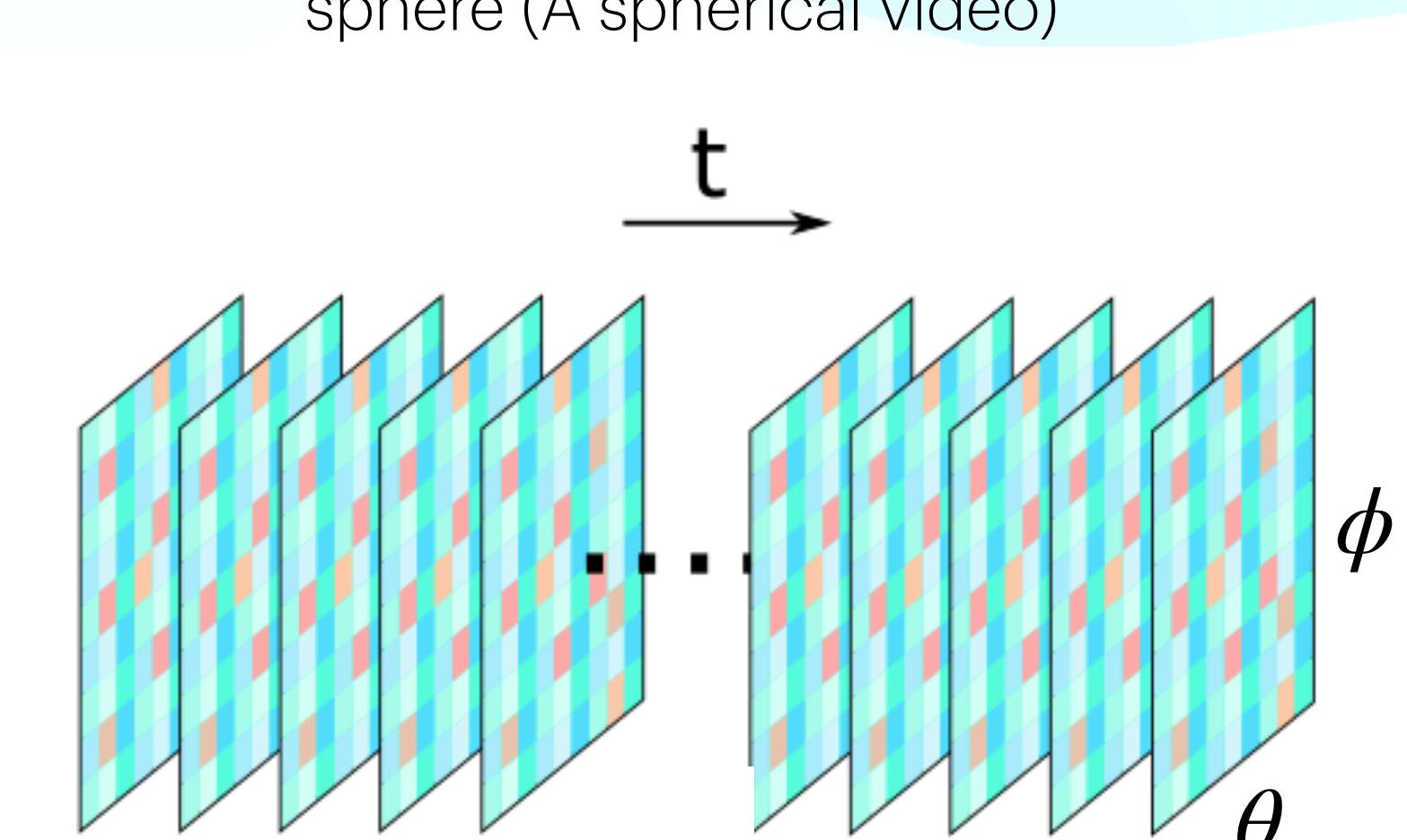


$$(R, \theta, \phi, t, q) \rightarrow E = \sum q$$



## Spatiotemporal Data

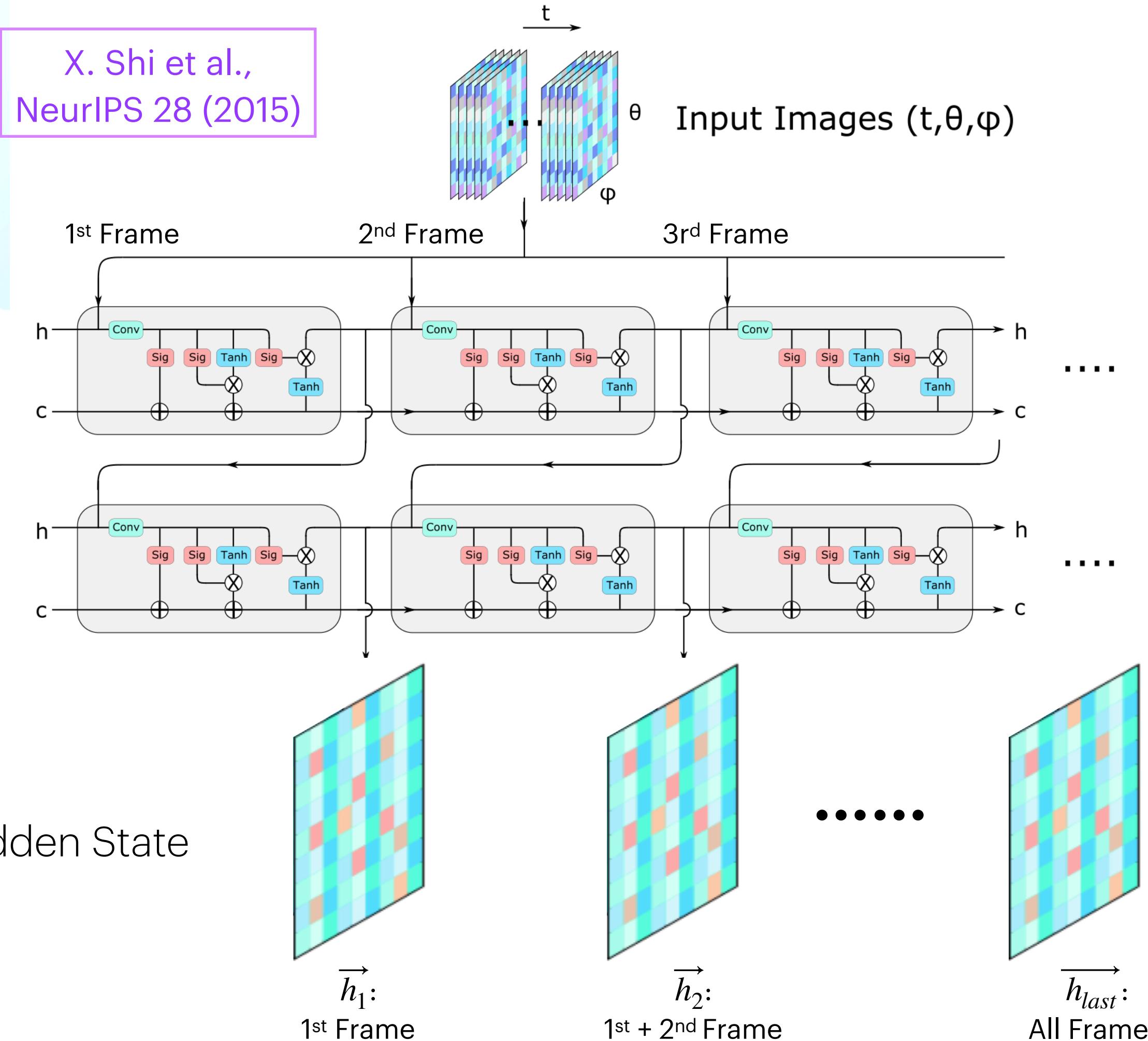
A time series of 2D images, projected onto sphere (A spherical video)



# A Time Series of 2D Images ...

## ConvLSTM

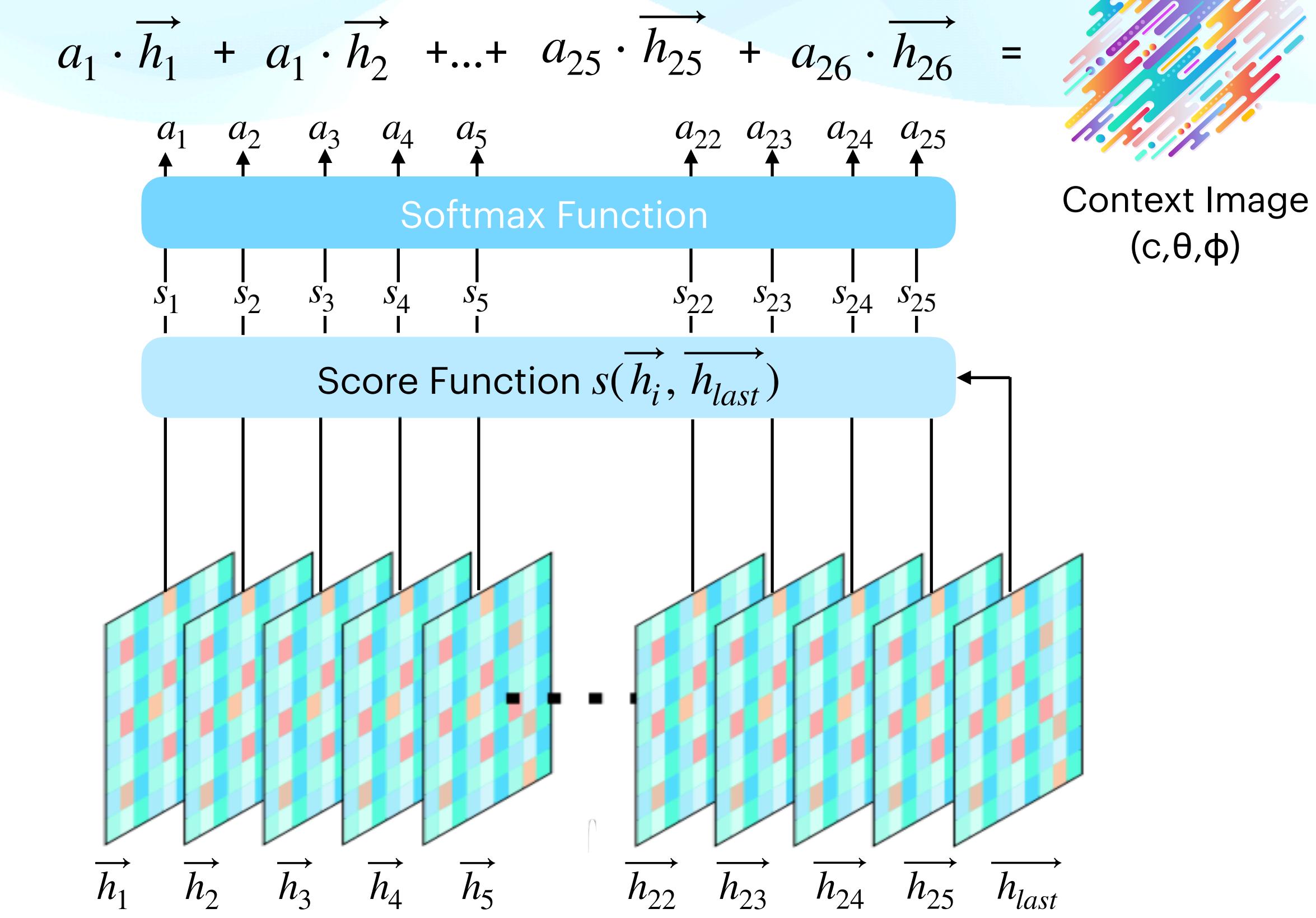
Convolutional Long-Short Term Memory (LSTM) Network



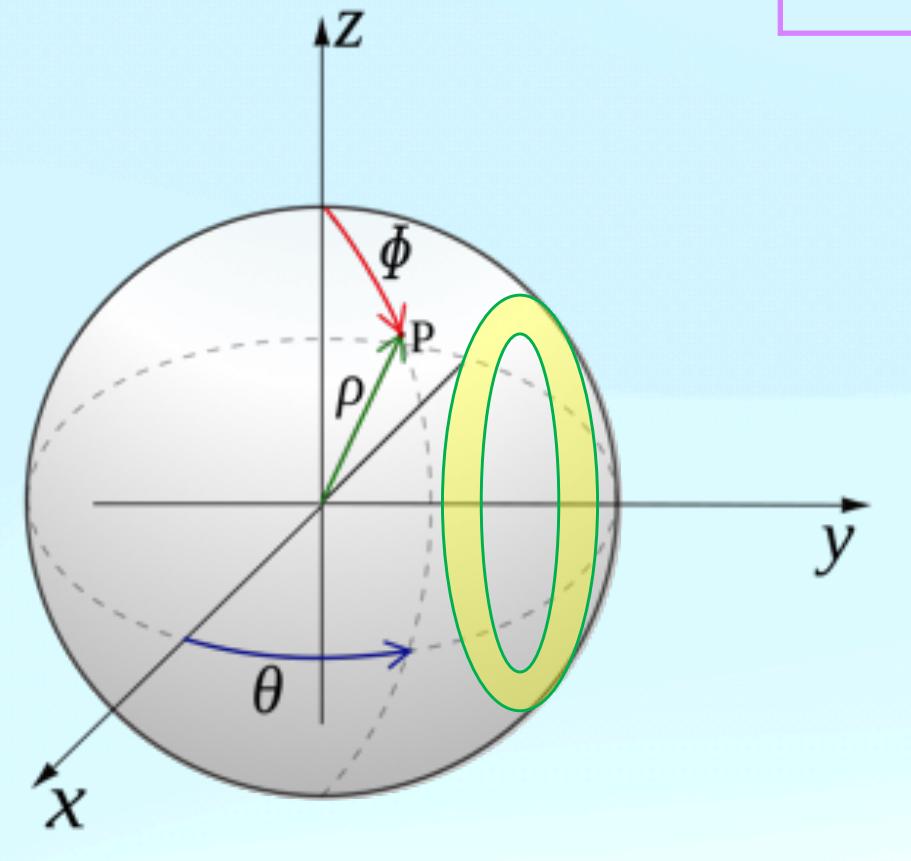
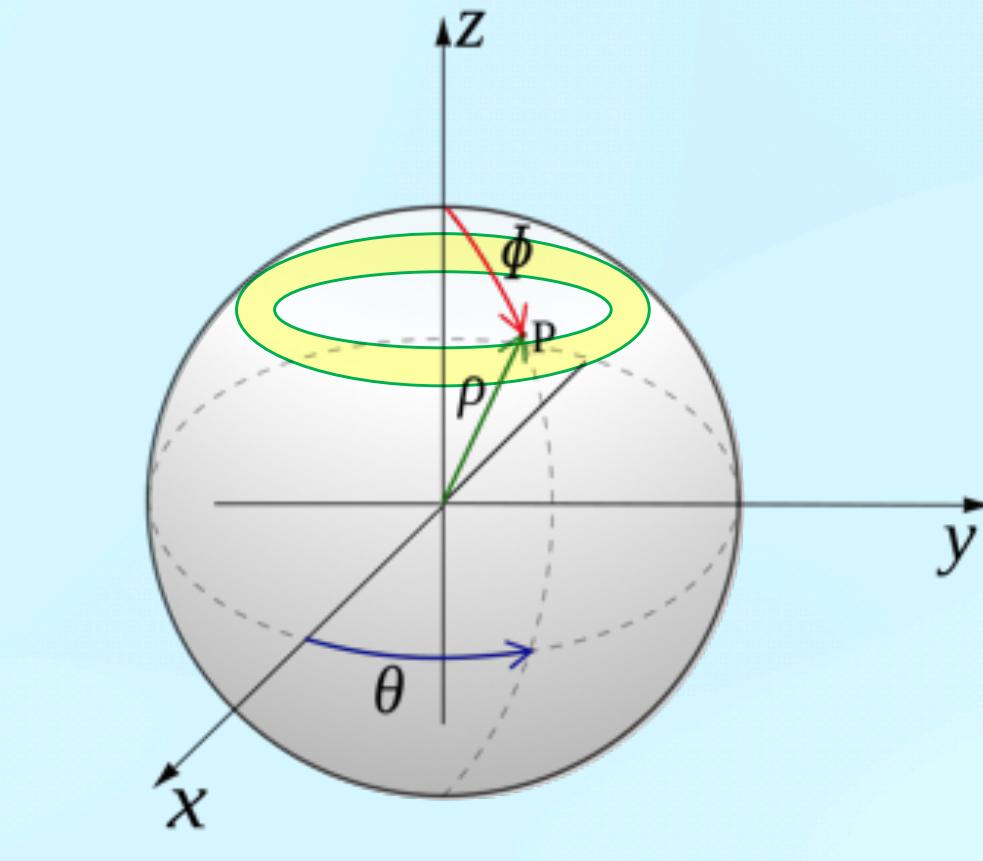
## Attention Mechanism

Produce context images & provide interpretability

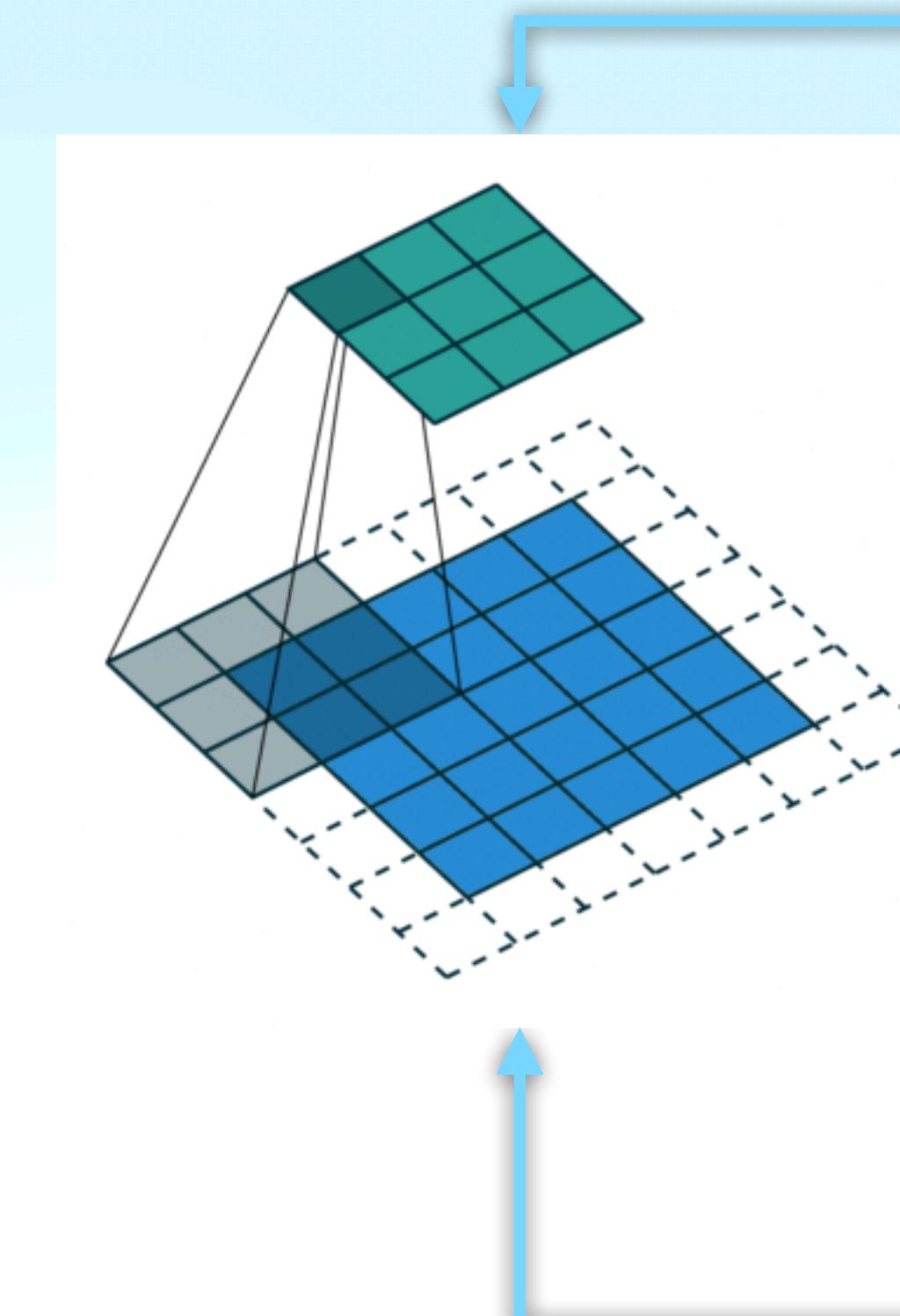
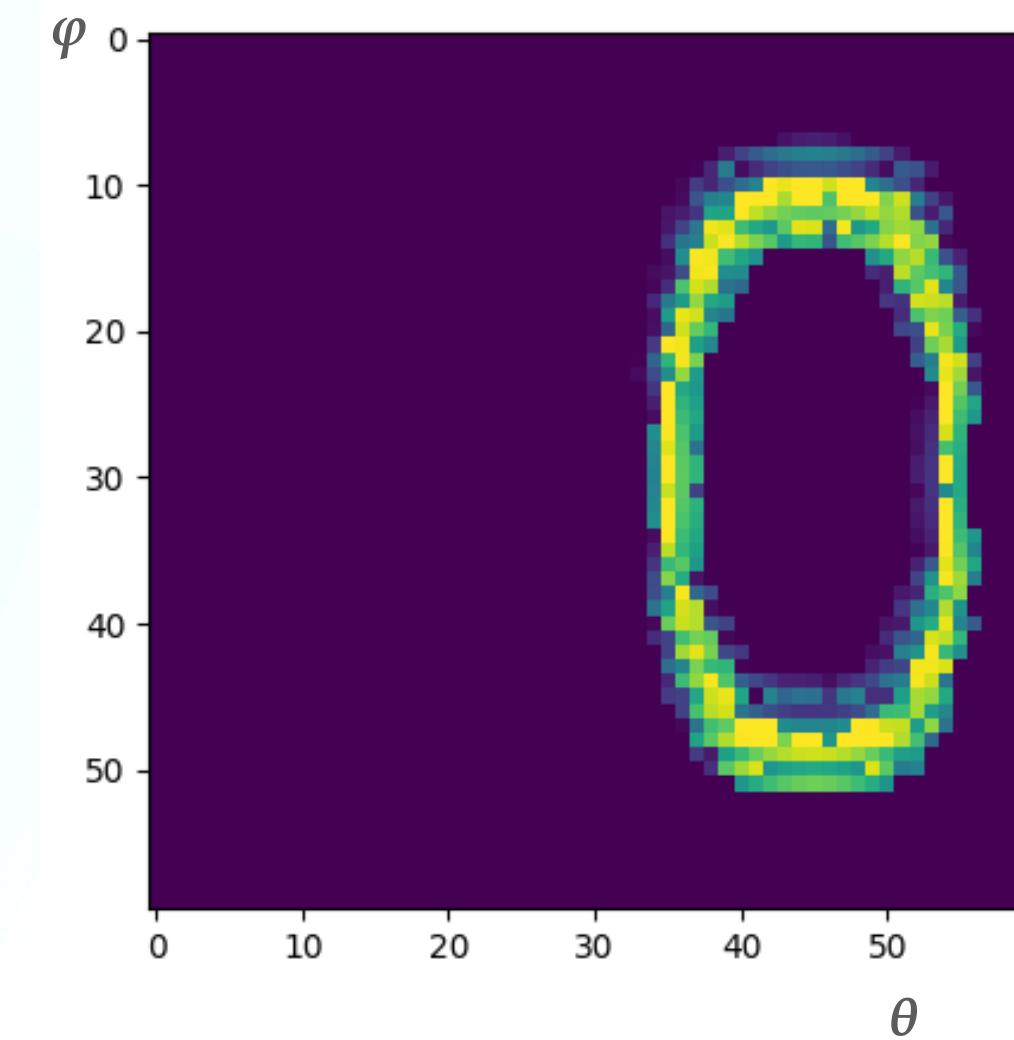
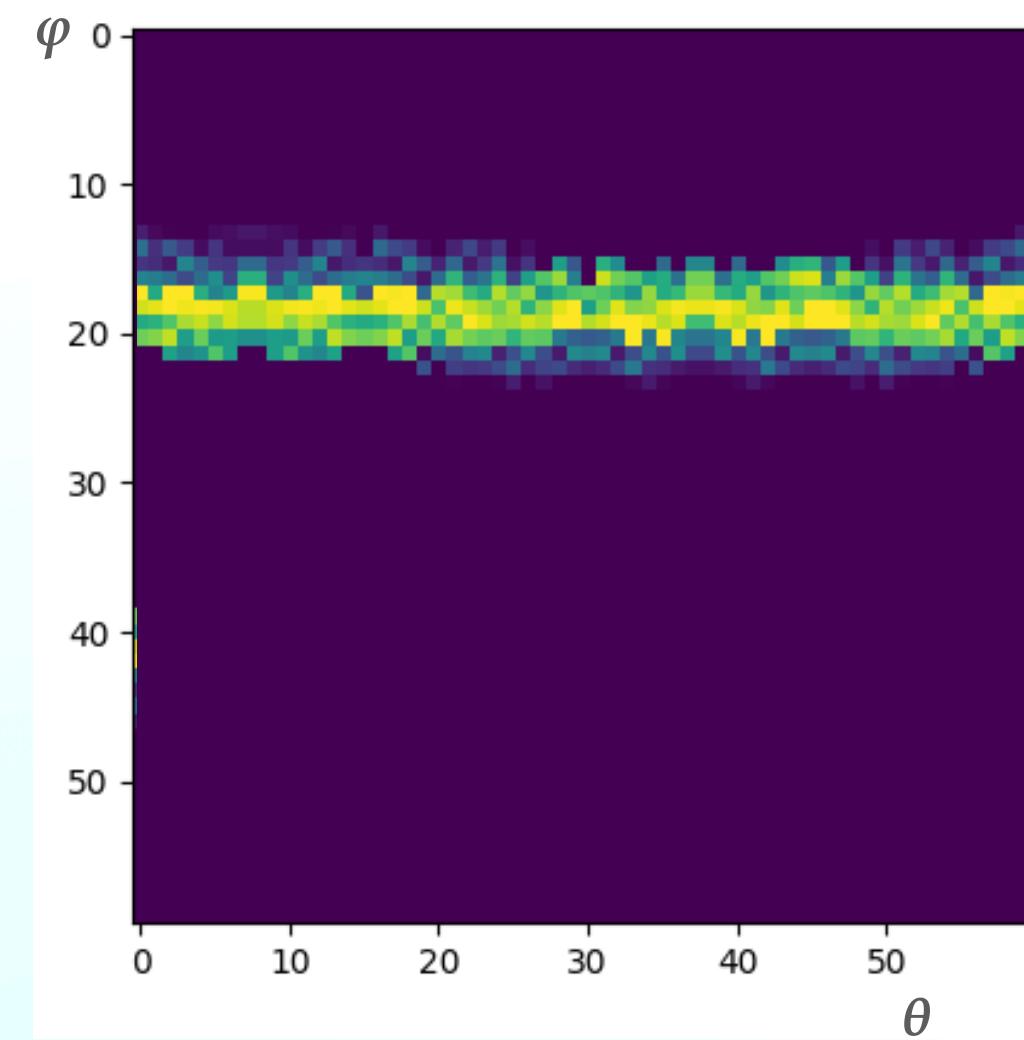
D Bahdanau et al., ICLR 2015



# ... Project onto A Sphere

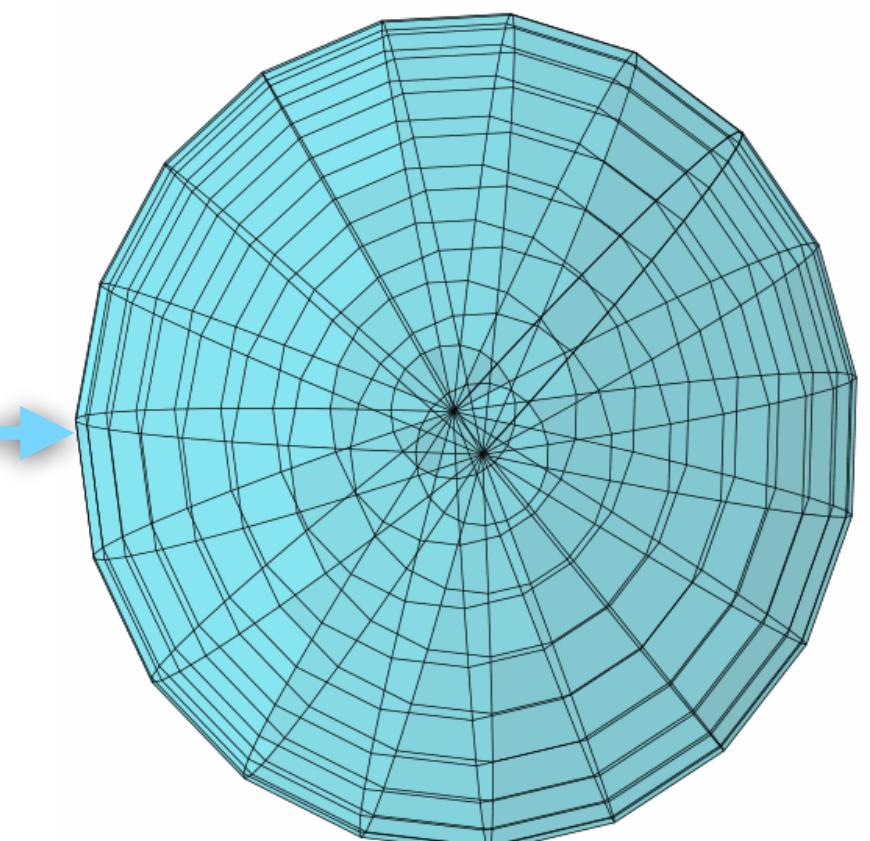


Cohen, Taco et al. "Spherical CNNs." ICLR 2018



SO(3) symmetry & rotational invariance

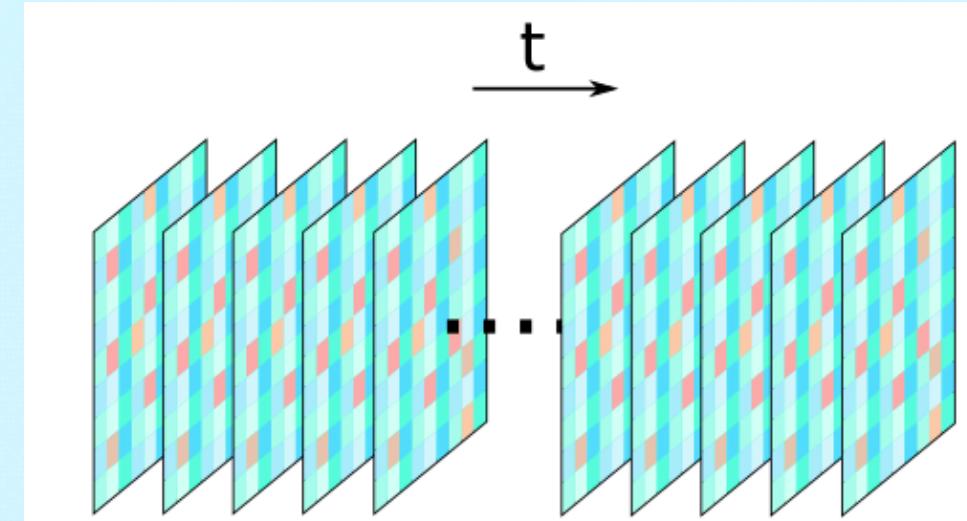
## Spherical CNN



# KamNet: An Integrated Spatiotemporal Neural Network

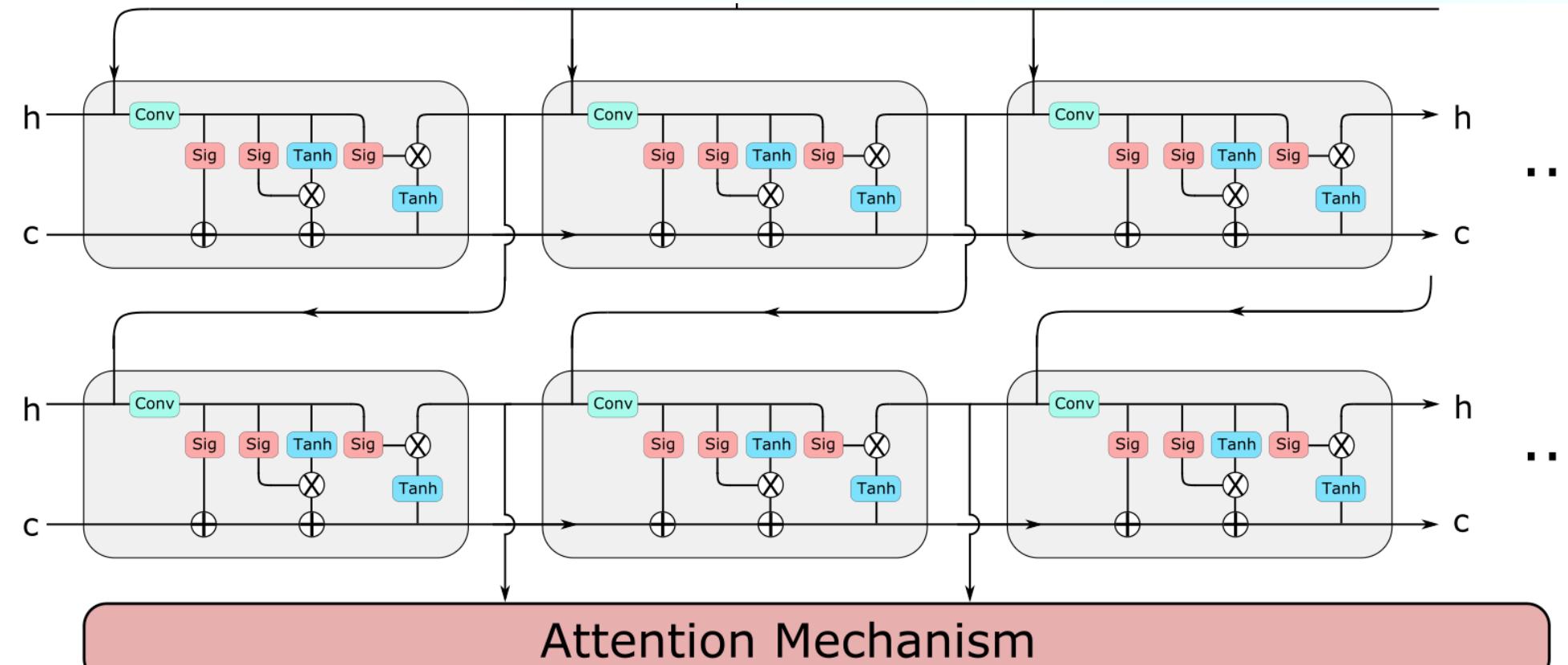
## Spatiotemporal Data

A time series of images projected onto Sphere



## AttentionConvLSTM

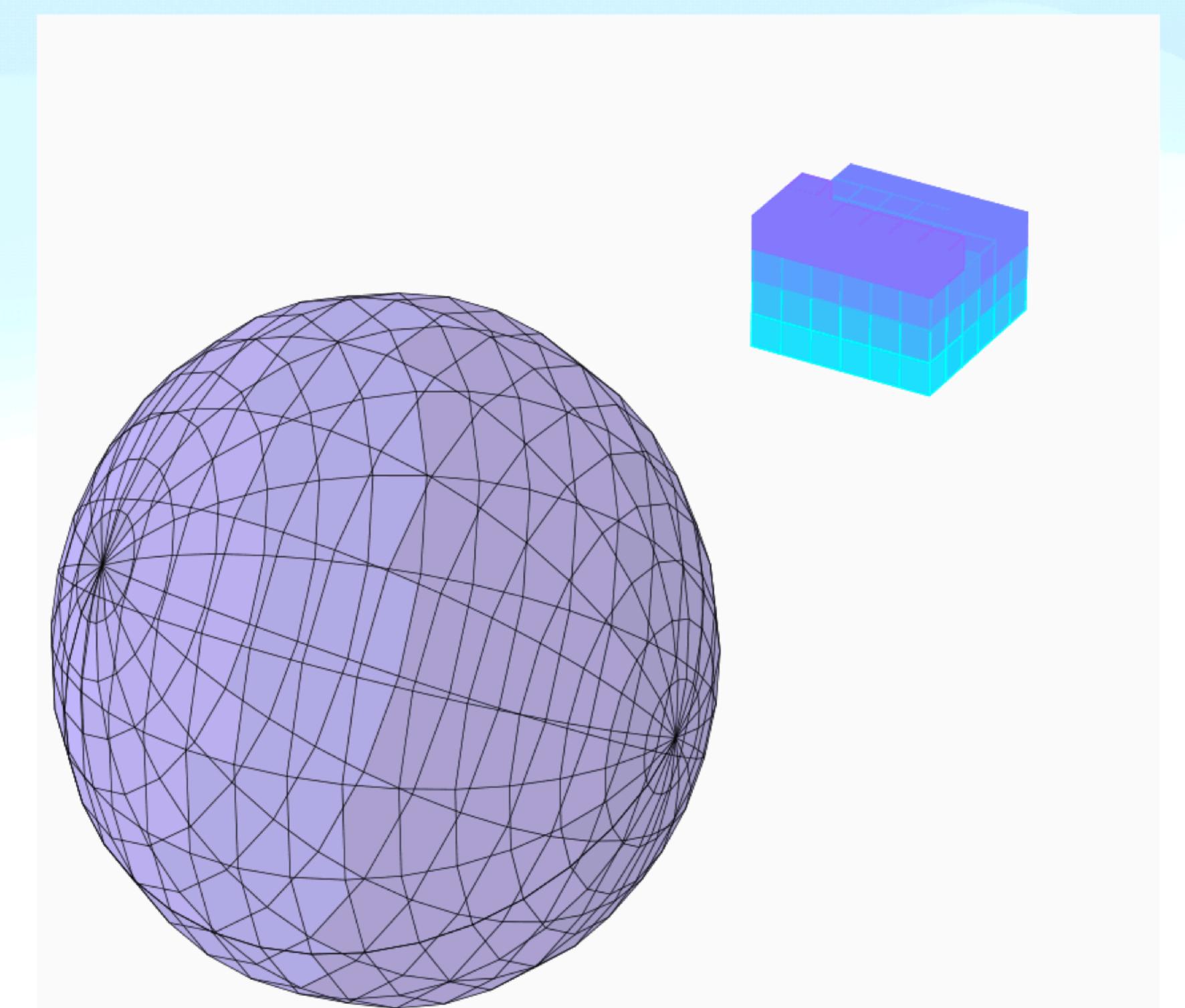
for Spatiotemporal symmetry



Context Images  $(c, \theta, \phi)$

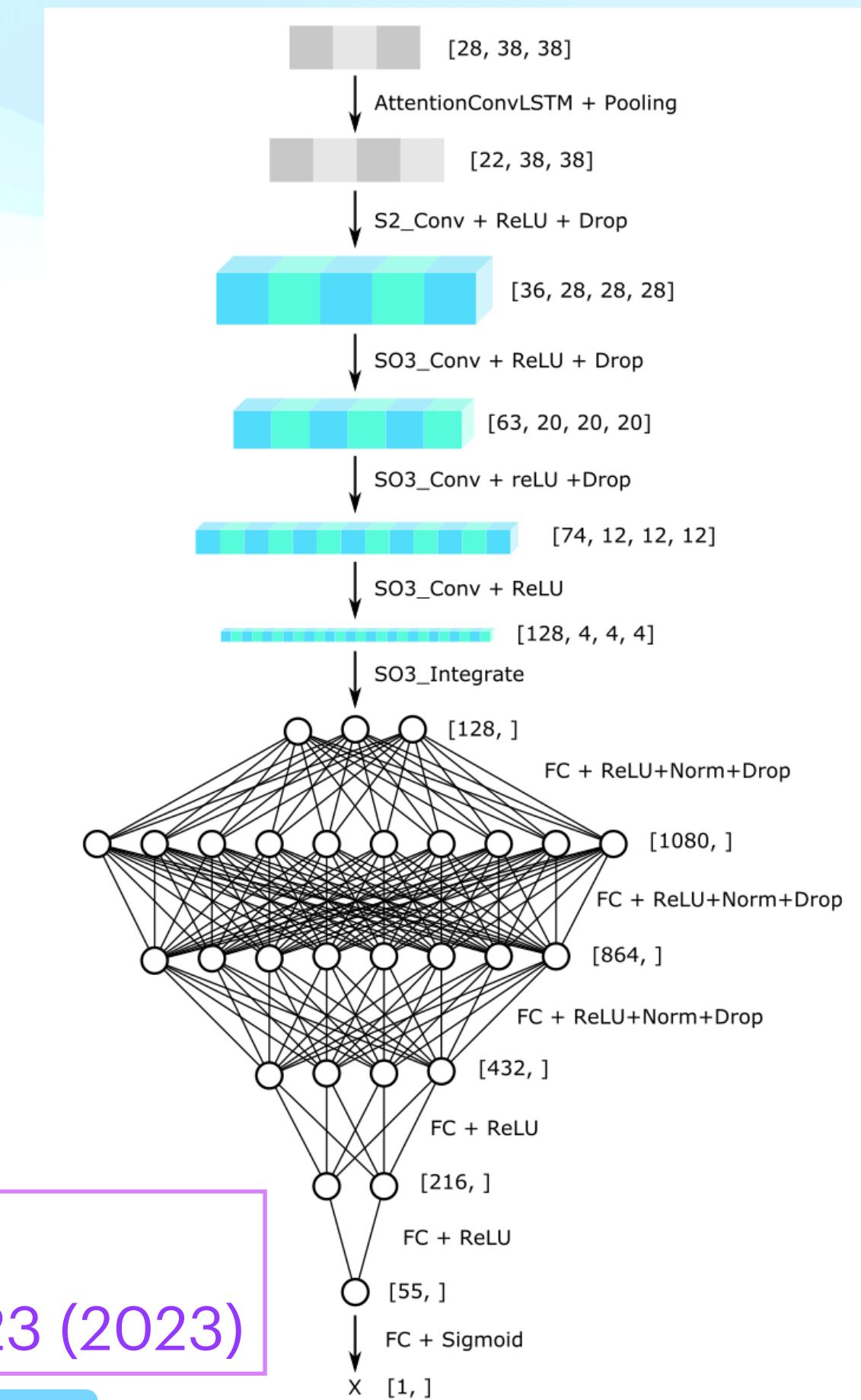
## Spherical CNN

SO(3) symmetry & rotational invariance



## KamNet

Maximal Information Extraction in  
KamLAND-Zen

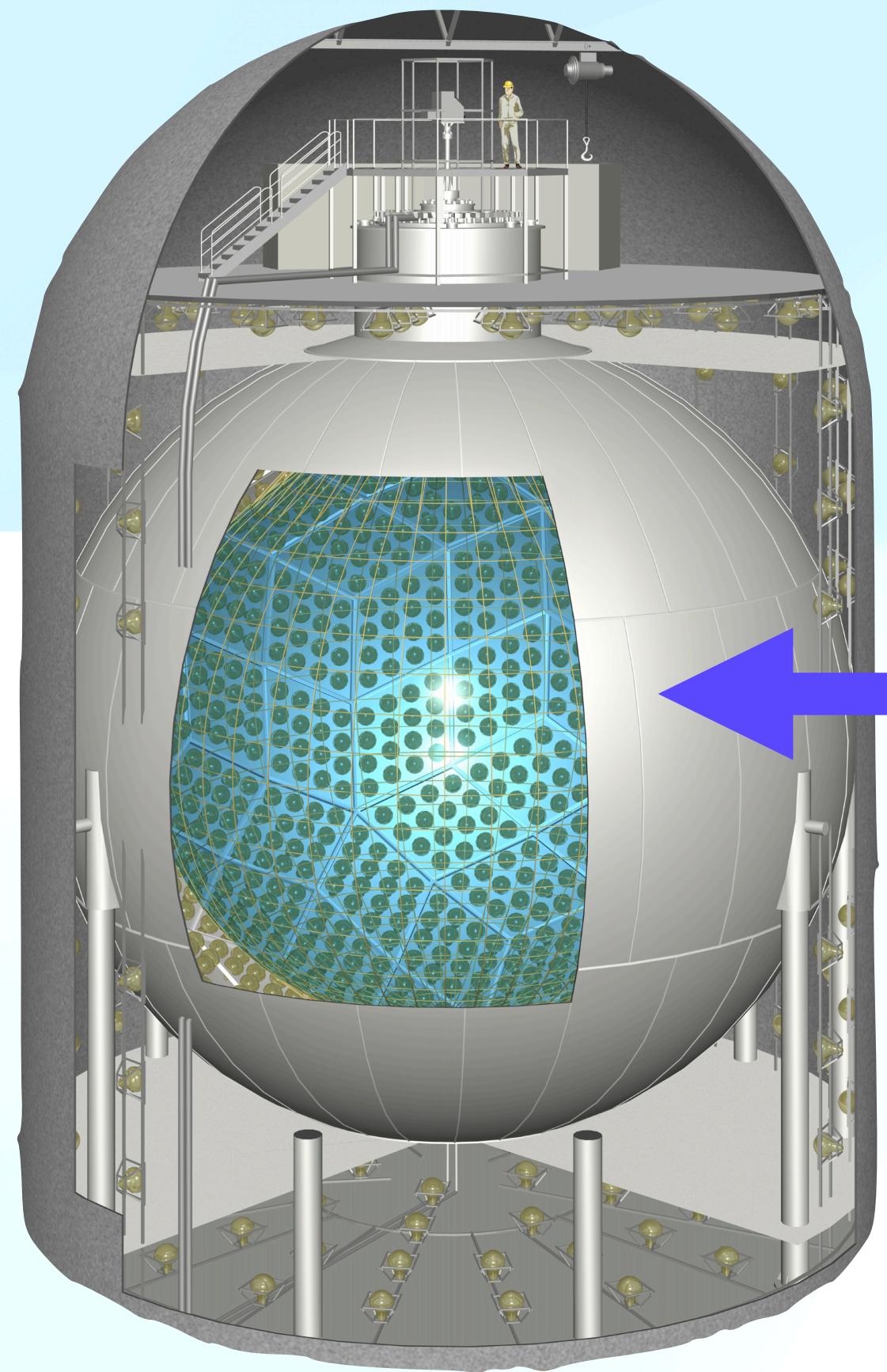


A. Li et al,  
Phys. Rev. C **107**, 014323 (2023)

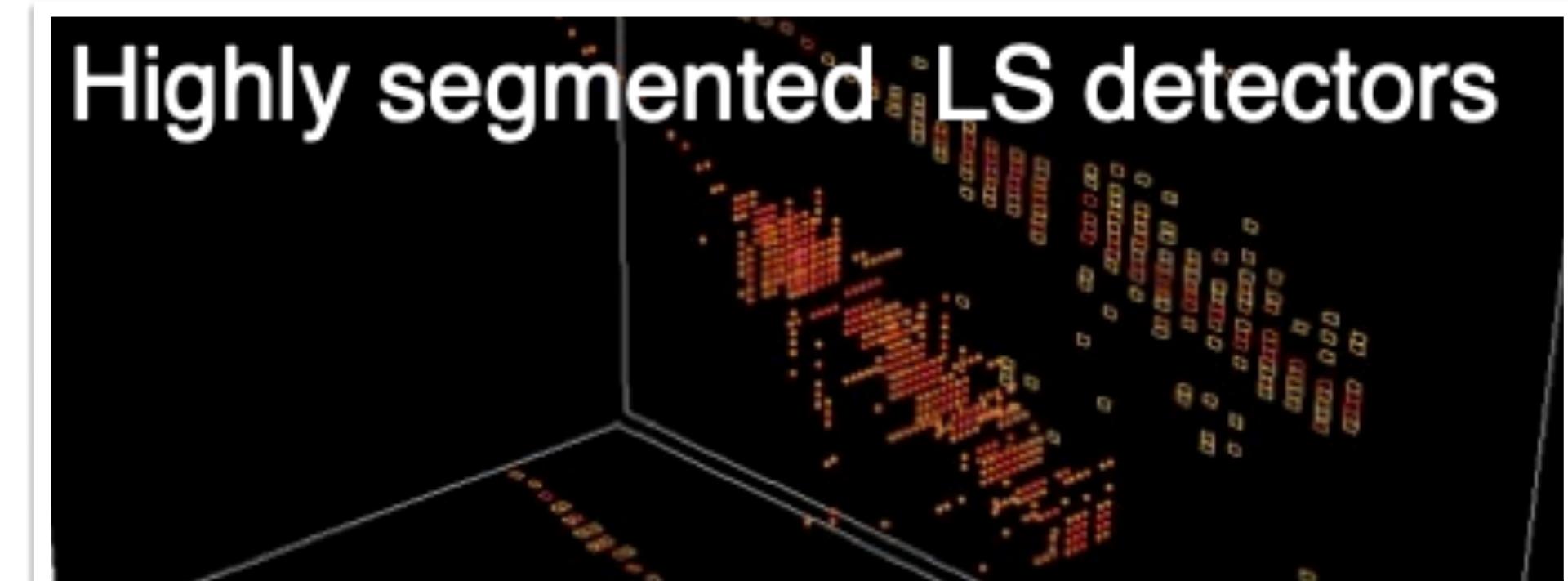
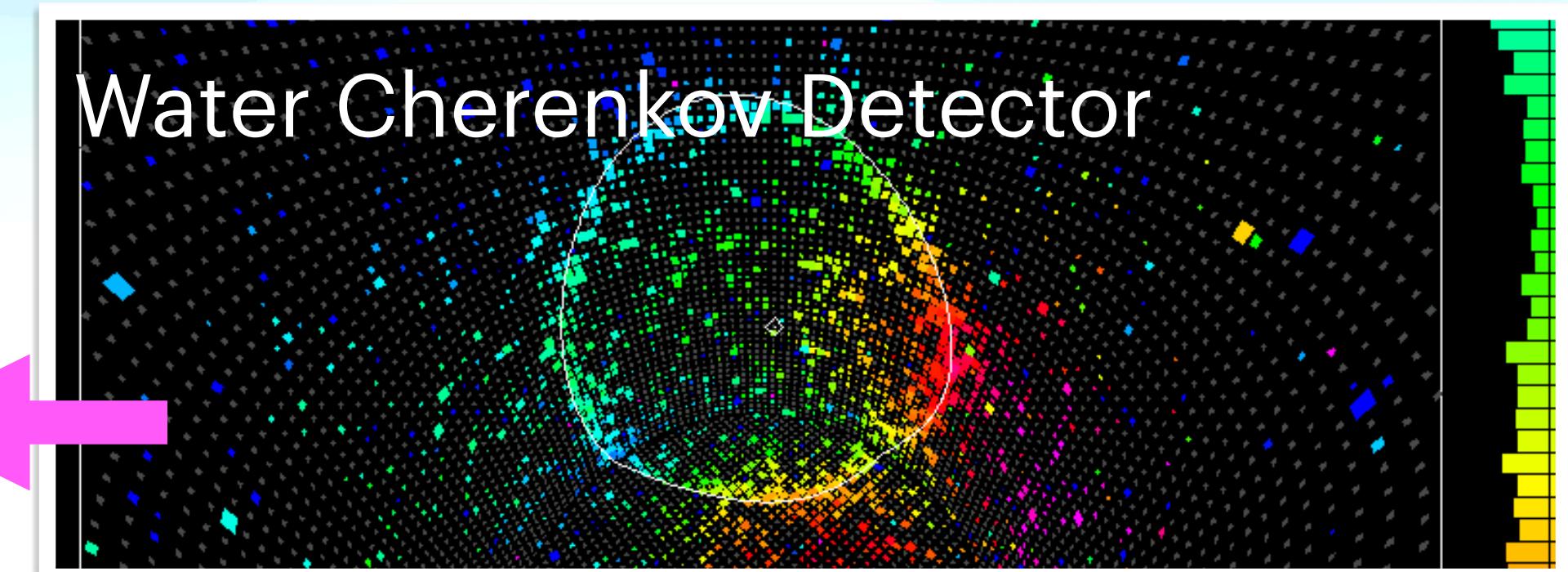
Editor's Suggestion

# KamNet-enabled Background Rejection

Monolithic LS detector has been at the heart of many great discoveries in neutrino physics ...

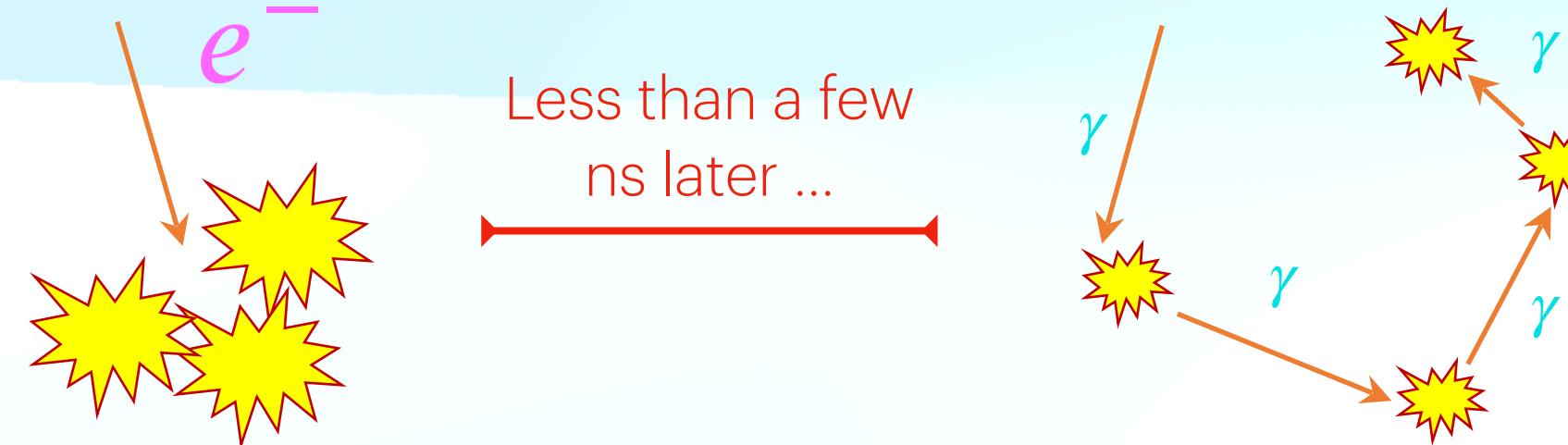


“ Enhancing **monolithic LS detectors** with the capability to discriminate between different event types based on **tracking** and/or **event topology** would be a revolutionary advancement ”



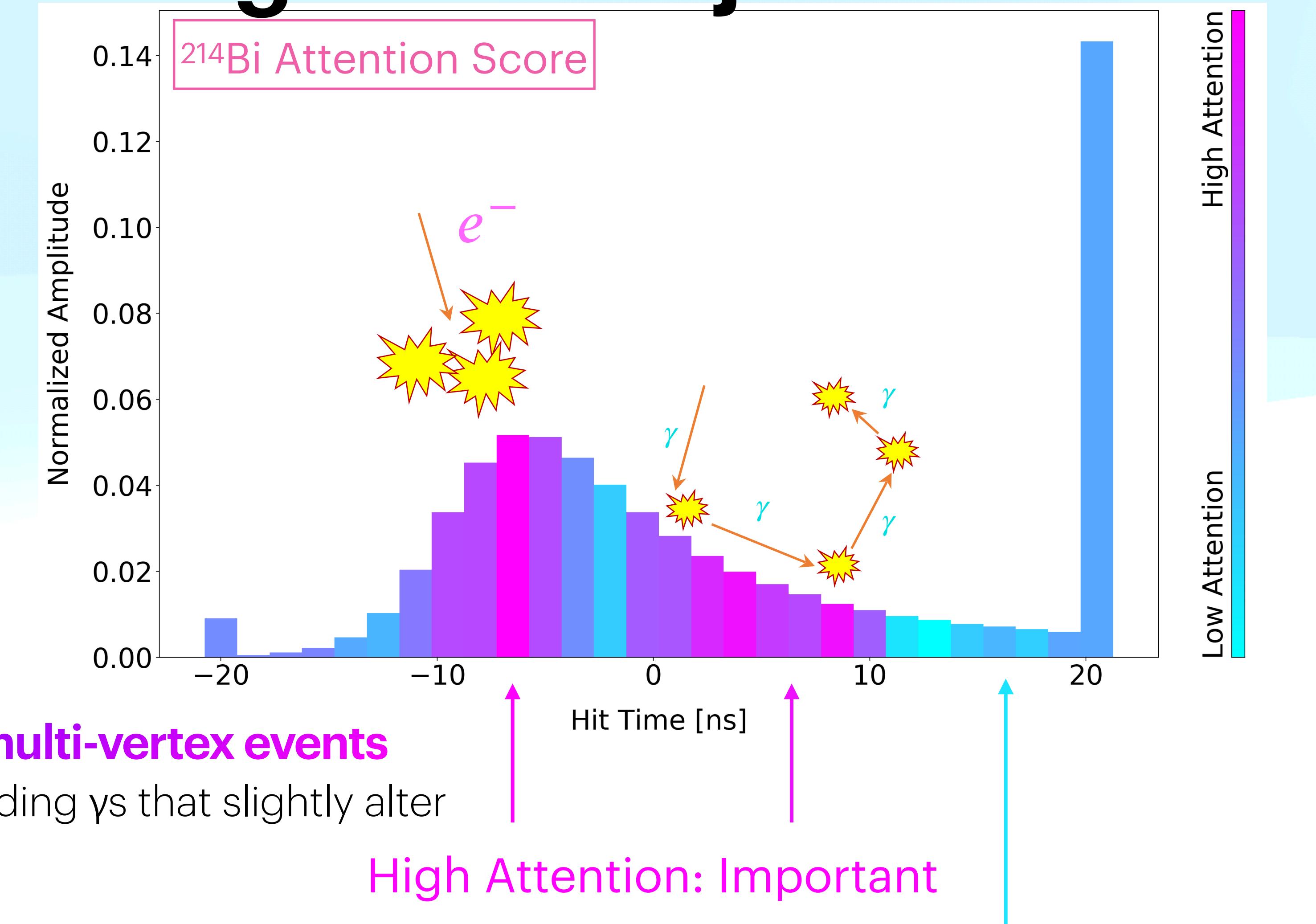
# KamNet-enabled Background Rejection

- Signal are strictly **single-vertex events**
- All energy deposited almost immediately



- Most backgrounds are **closely-spaced multi-vertex events**
- part of event energy is deposited by cascading  $\gamma$ s that slightly alter event topology

**KamNet captures this tiny alteration in event topology to efficiently reject most backgrounds in KamLAND-Zen!**

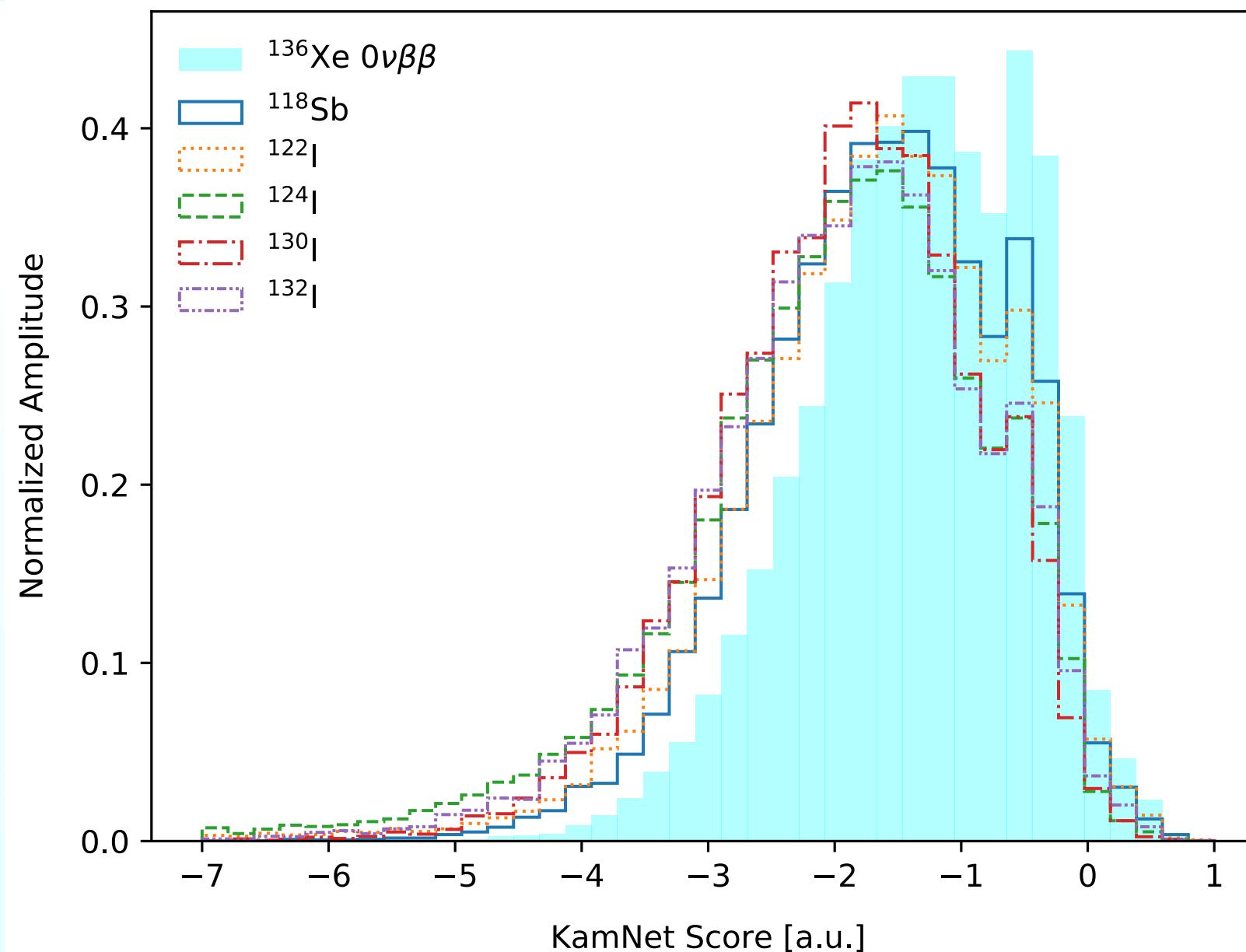


# KamNet-enabled Background Rejection

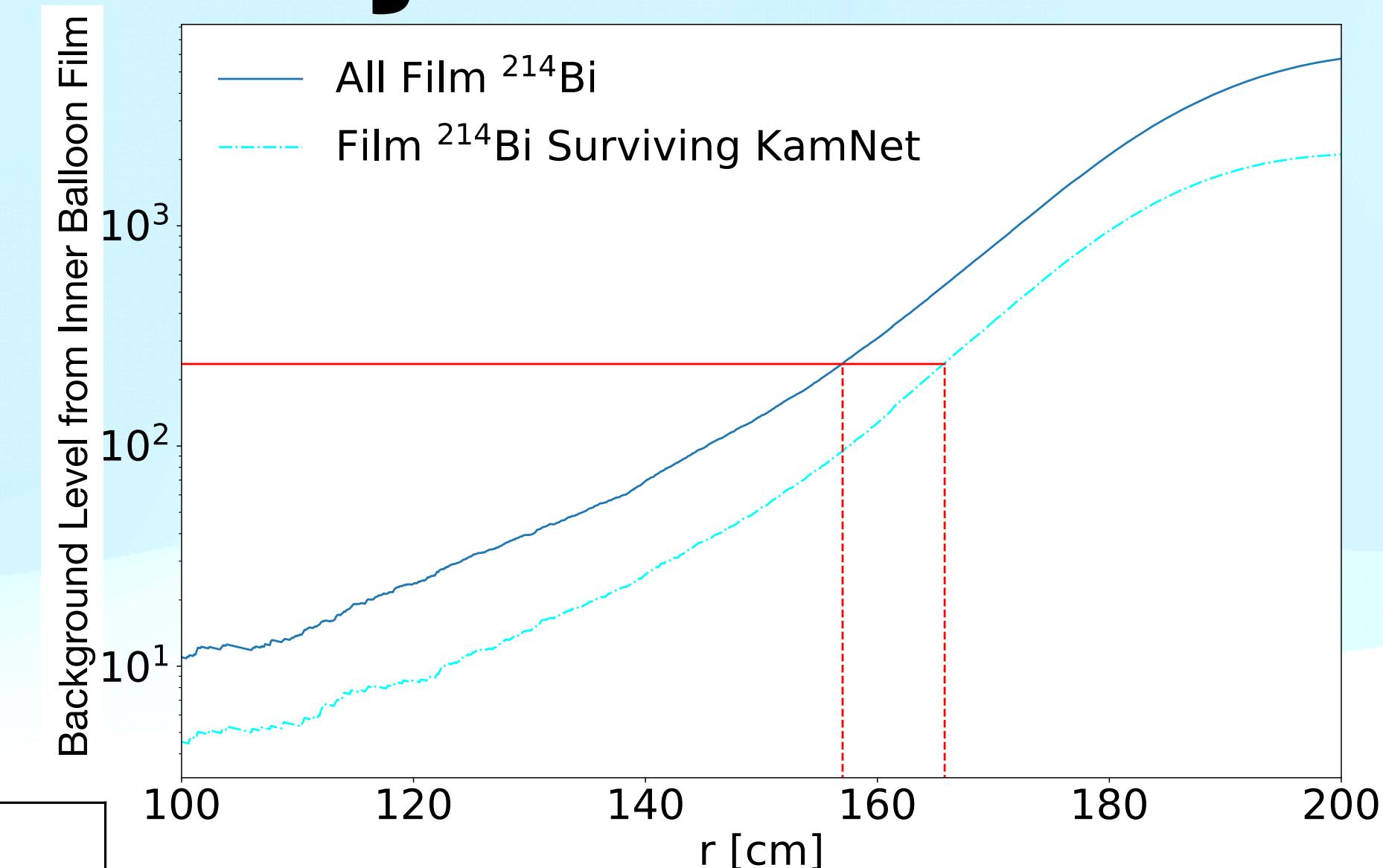
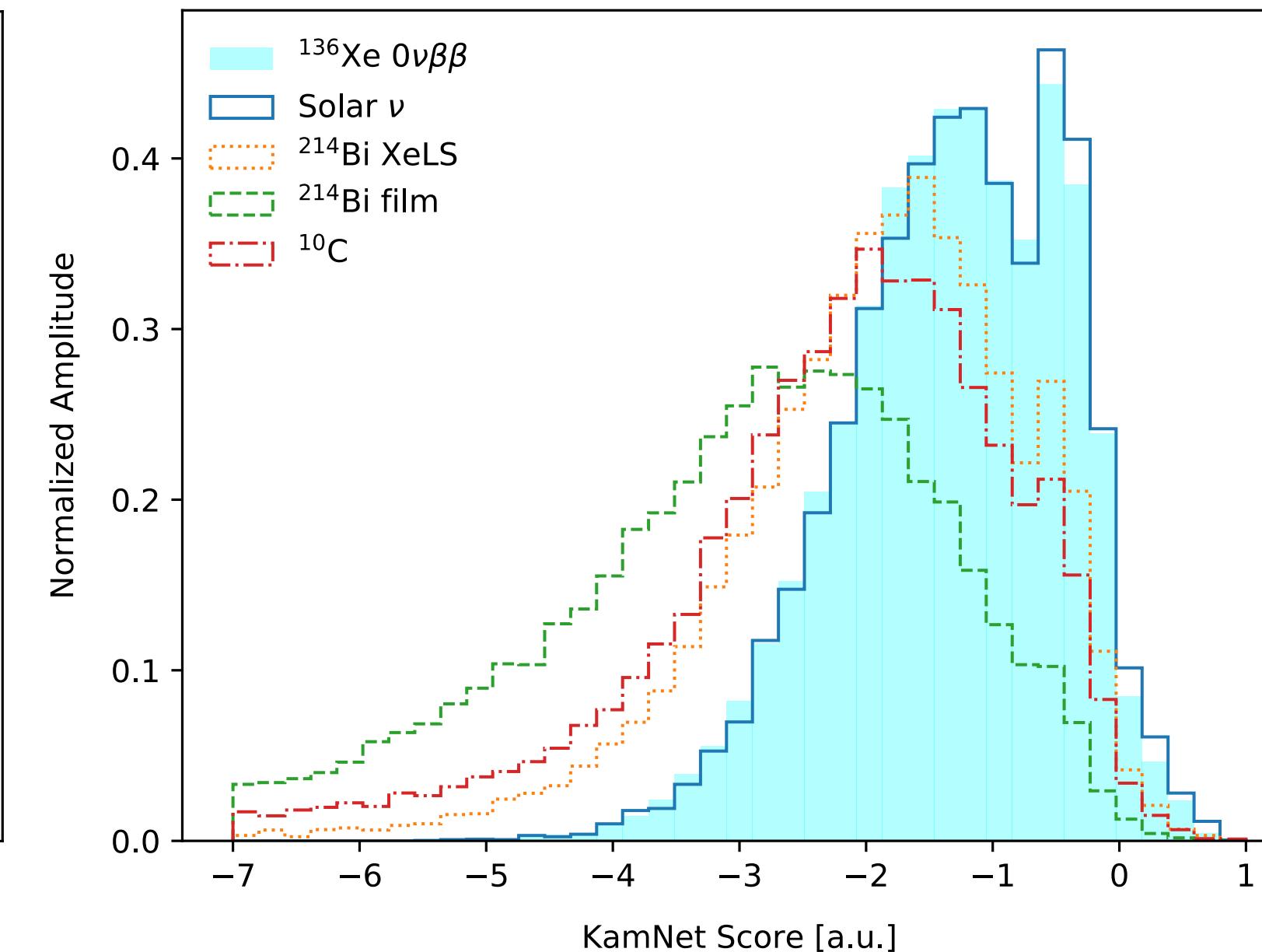
While accepting **90%** of  $0\nu\beta\beta$  events, KamNet rejects **~27%** of XeLS backgrounds and **~59%** of film backgrounds

KamNet is **independent** and **multiplicative** to all existing background rejection methods in KamLAND-Zen

## Long-Lived Spallation



## Other Backgrounds



The increased rejection of film backgrounds allows for the expansion of the fiducial volume from 157cm to 165.8cm, resulting in **17.7% gain** on exposure

# KamNet-enabled New Search

Exposure Before KamNet:

970 kg·yr

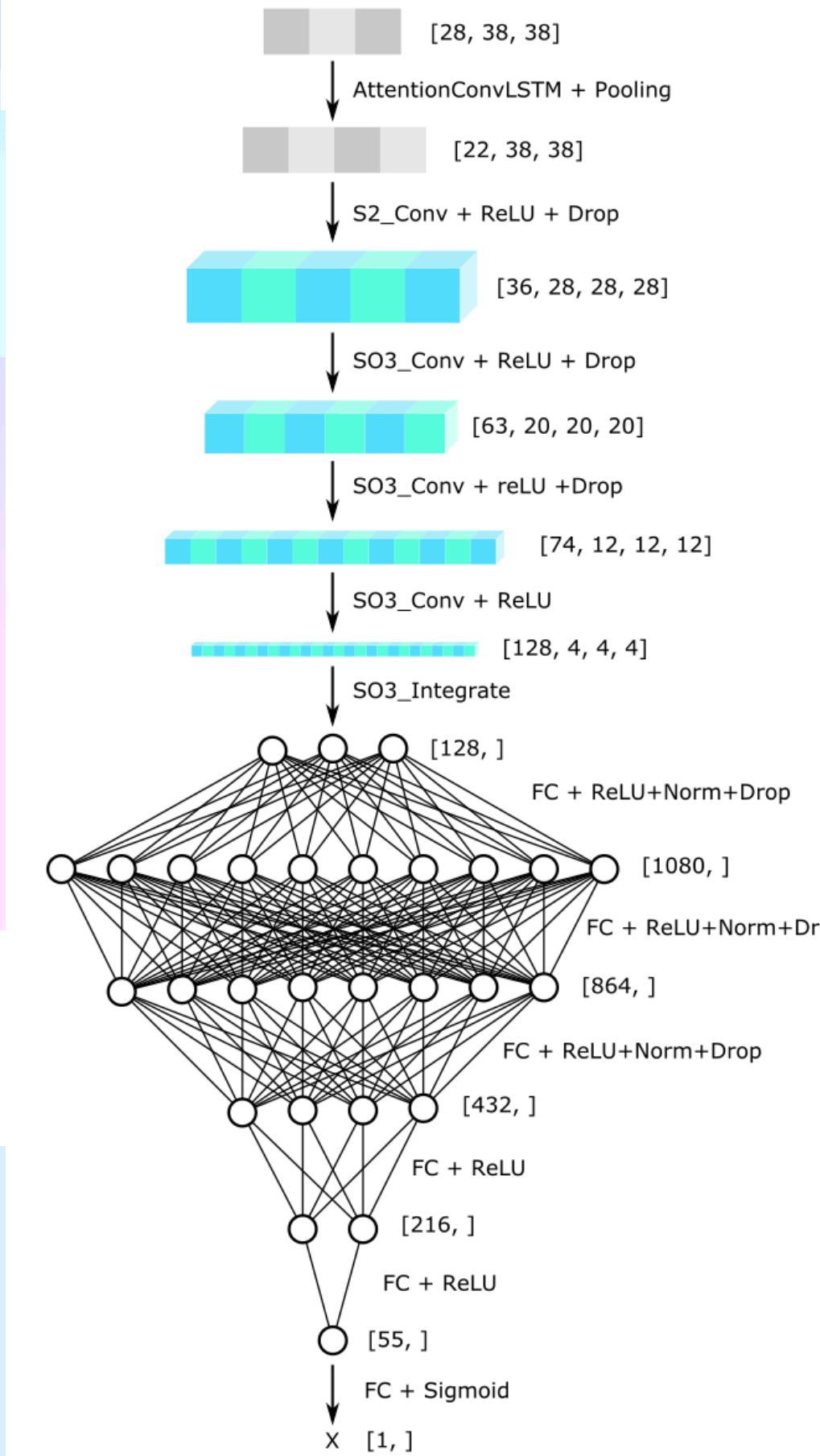
Apply KamNet to High-Background Period Only:

- Conservative use of KamNet
- Veto critical backgrounds that passes all traditional methods

Official KamLAND-Zen 800 Limit:

$T_{1/2}^{0\nu\beta\beta} > 2.0 \times 10^{26} \text{ yr}$  (90 % C . L.)

American Physical Society  
2023 Dissertation Awards  
In Nuclear Physics



Exposure After KamNet:

1142 kg·yr

+17.7%



Worth \$2.5 million!!!  
(Based on 2010 Xe price)

Official KamLAND-Zen 800 Limit:

$T_{1/2}^{0\nu\beta\beta} > 2.0 \times 10^{26} \text{ yr}$  (90 % C . L.)

KLZ Combined Official Limit:

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

This Xe  $0\nu\beta\beta$  search represents the **worlds most stringent limit** on the effective Majorana mass

Apply KamNet to All Data:

$T_{1/2}^{0\nu\beta\beta} > 2.7 \times 10^{26} \text{ yr}$  (90 % C . L.) +35%

# Large Enriched Germanium Experiment for Neutrinoless $\beta\beta$ Decay – LEGEND

## 56 Institutions, about 270 scientists

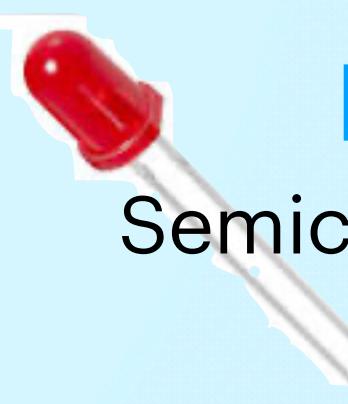


LEGEND mission: “The collaboration aims to develop a phased,  $^{76}\text{Ge}$  based double-beta decay experimental program with **discovery potential** at a half-life beyond  $10^{28}$  years, using existing resources as appropriate to expedite physics results.”

Univ. New Mexico	Univ. of North Carolina	Max Planck Inst., Heidelberg	Milano Univ. and Milano INFN	North Carolina State Univ.
L'Aquila Univ. and INFN	Univ. of South Carolina	Queen's Univ.	Inst. Nucl. Res. Russ. Acad. Sci.	South Dakota Mines
Univ. Texas, Austin	Tennessee Tech.	Univ. Tennessee	Natl. Res. Center Kurchatov Inst.	Univ. of Regina
Lawrence Berkeley Natl. Lab.	Univ. of Warwick	Gran Sasso Science Inst.	Lab. Exper. Nucl. Phy. MEPhI	Roma Tre
Univ. California, Berkeley	Jagiellonian Univ.	Lab. Naz. Gran Sasso	Max Planck Inst., Munich	Univ. Washington
Leibniz Inst. Crystal Growth	Tech. Univ. – Dresden	Lancaster Univ.	Tech. Univ. Munich	SNOLAB
Univ. of Indiana	Joint Inst. Nucl. Res. Inst.	Univ. Liverpool	Oak Ridge Natl. Lab.	Laurentian University
Comenius Univ.	Duke Univ.	Univ. College London	Padova Univ.	Univ. Tuebingen
Simon Fraser Univ.	Triangle Univ. Nuclear. Lab.	Los Alamos Natl. Lab.	Padova INFN	Univ. South Dakota
	Joint Res. Centre, Geel	INFN Milano Bicocca	Czech Tech. Univ. Prague	Univ. Zurich

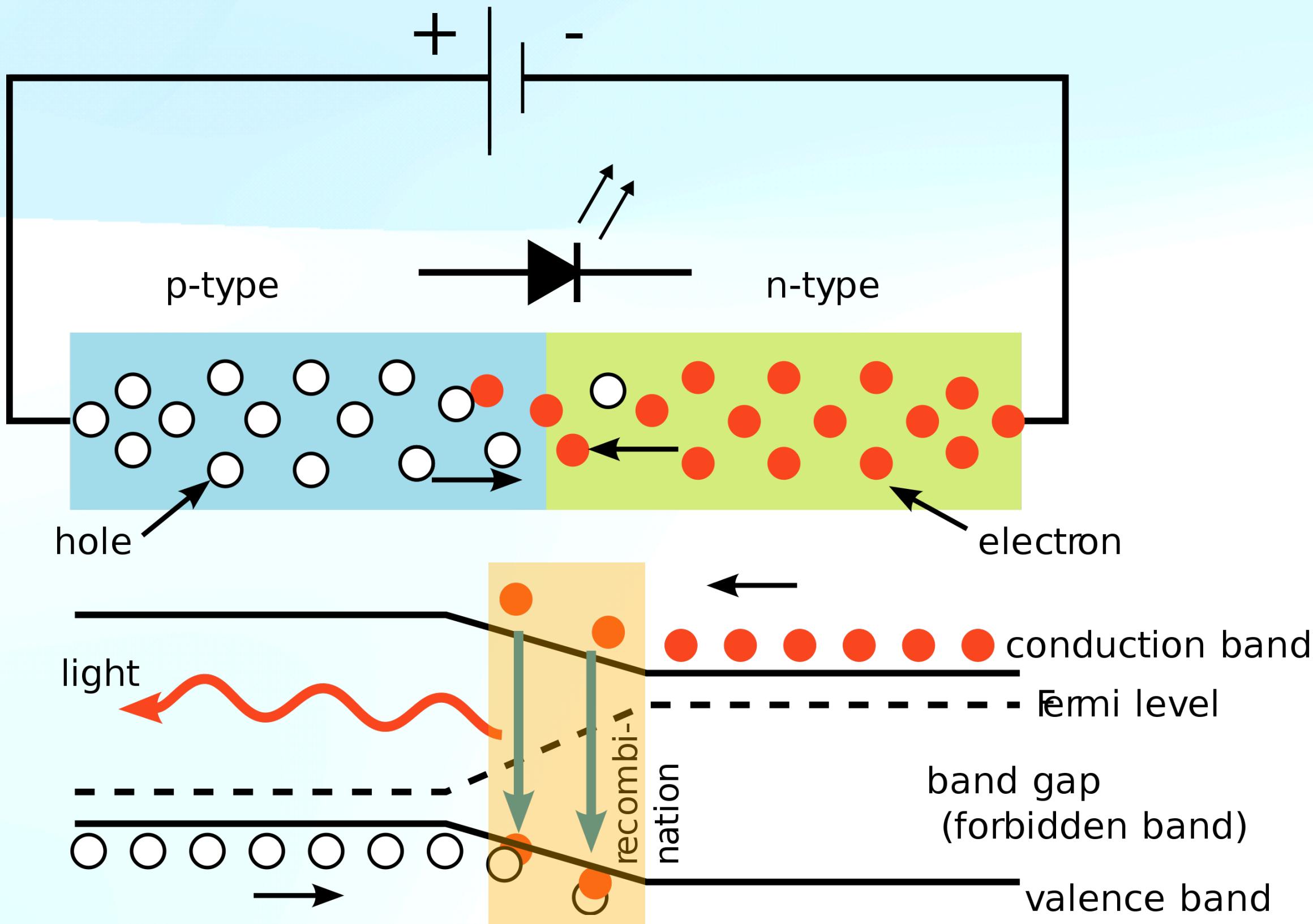
# LEGEND

## HPGe Detector Array Experiment for $0\nu\beta\beta$ Search



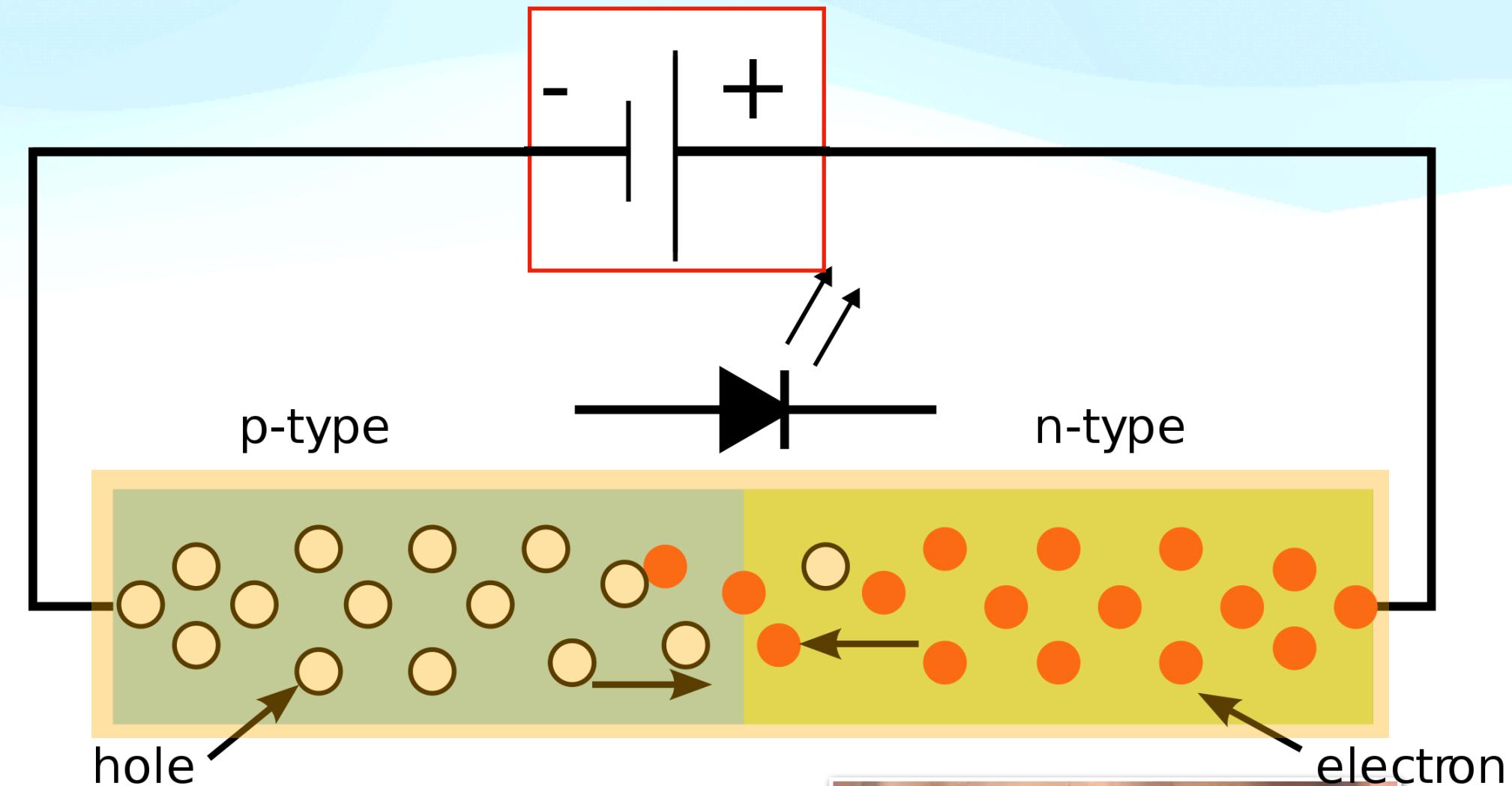
### Light Emitting Diode (LED)

Semiconductor device with a **depletion region**

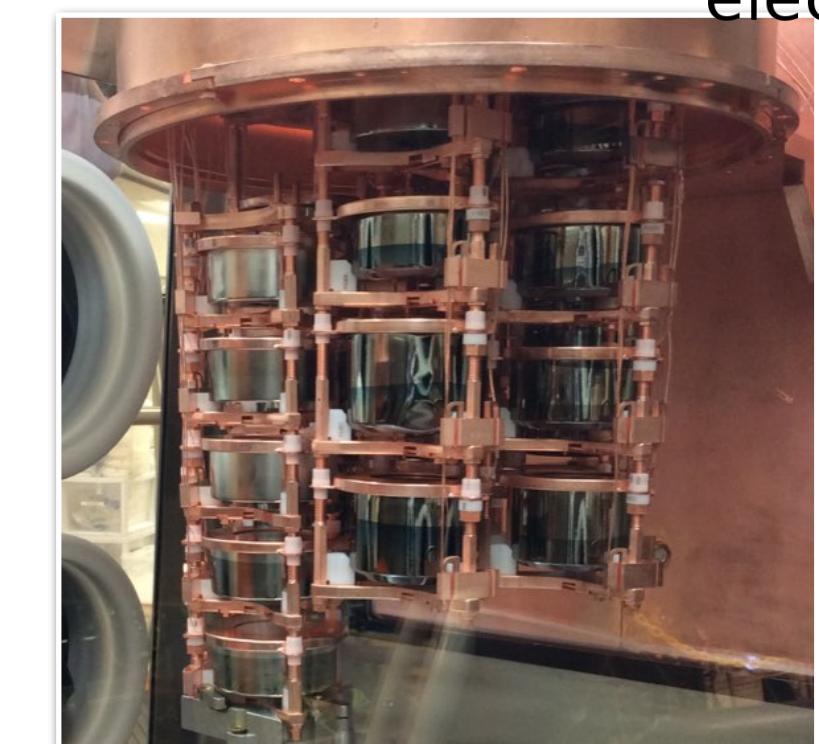


### High Purity Ge Detector (HPGe)

$^{76}\text{Ge}$  is a double-beta decay isotope  
Reverse Bias: increase the size of **depletion region**

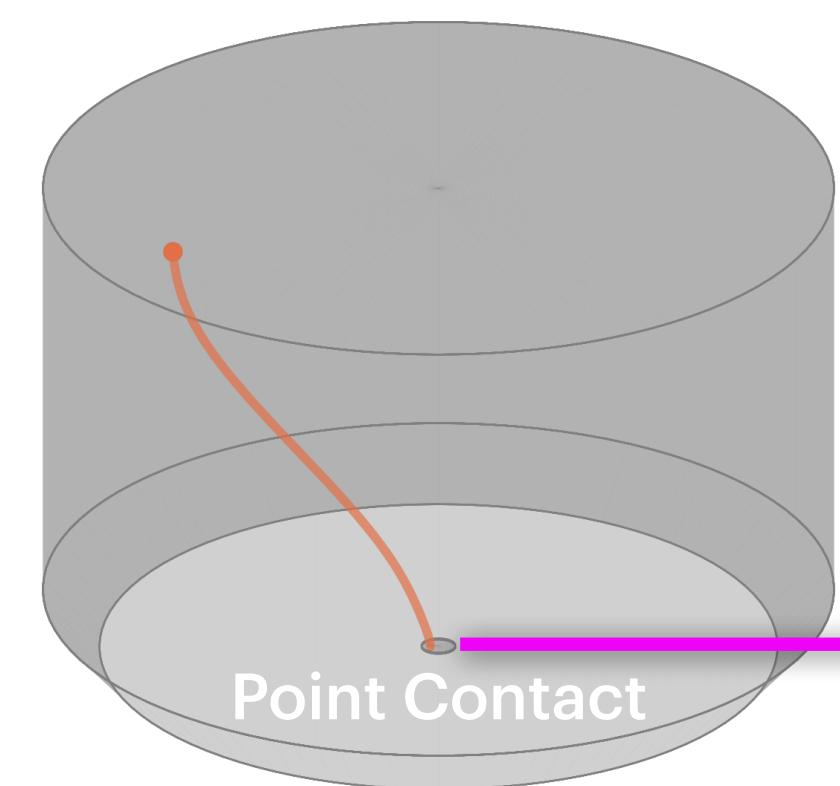
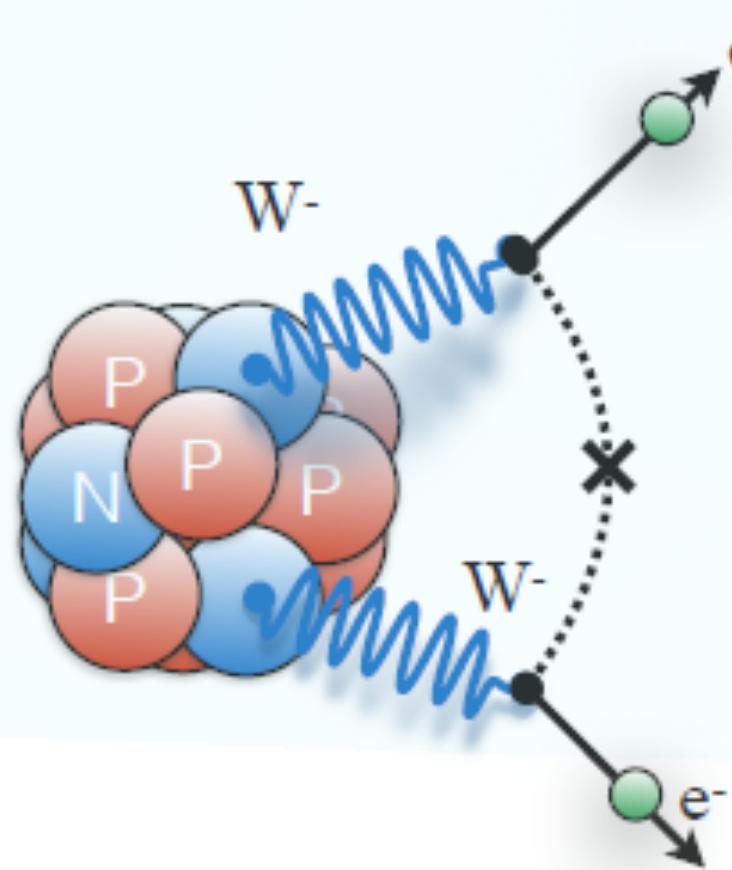


### Detector Array

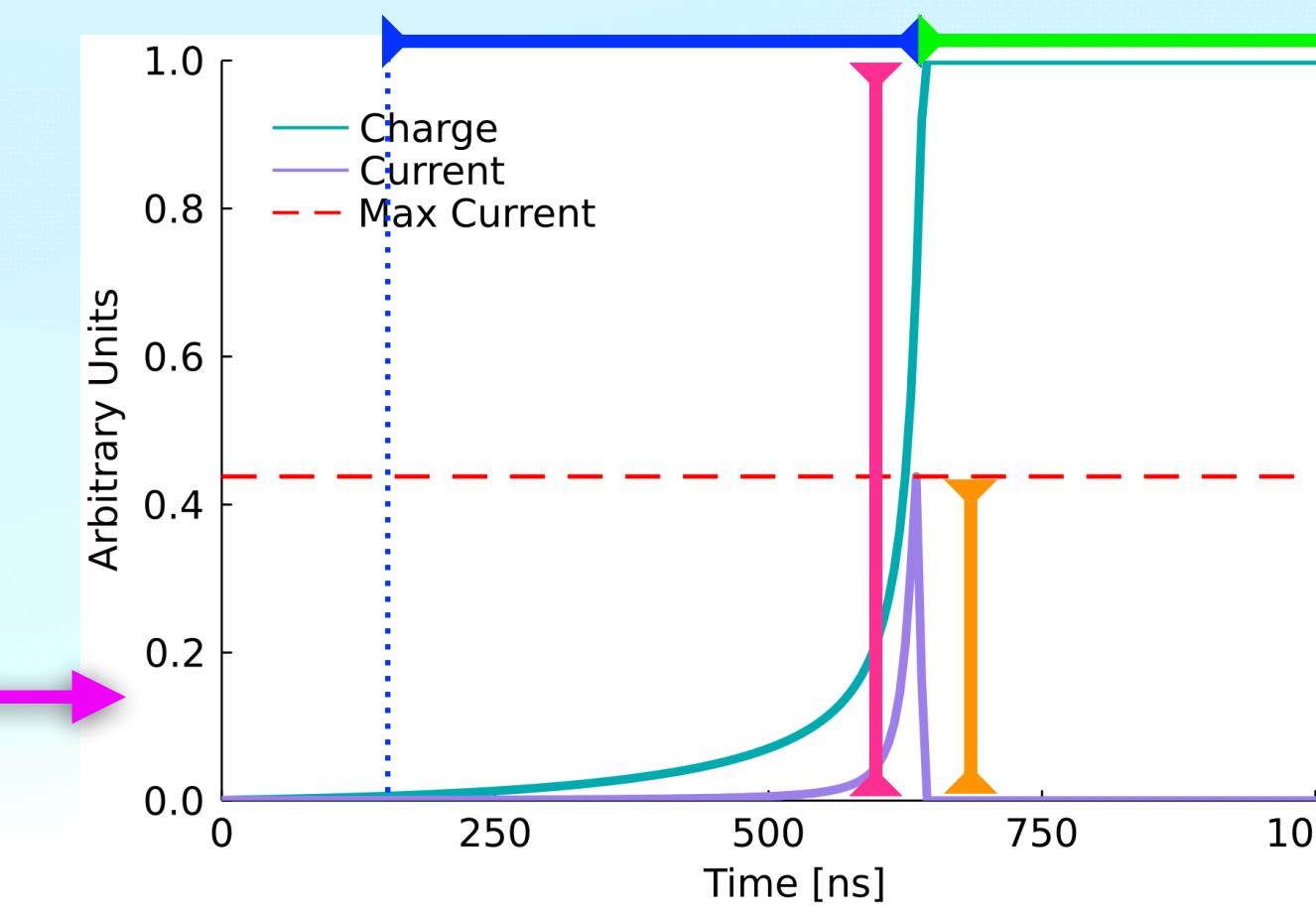


# LEGEND data

## Ge Detector Depletion Region



## Waveform



## Pulse Shape Parameter

Tail Slope

For surface background rejection

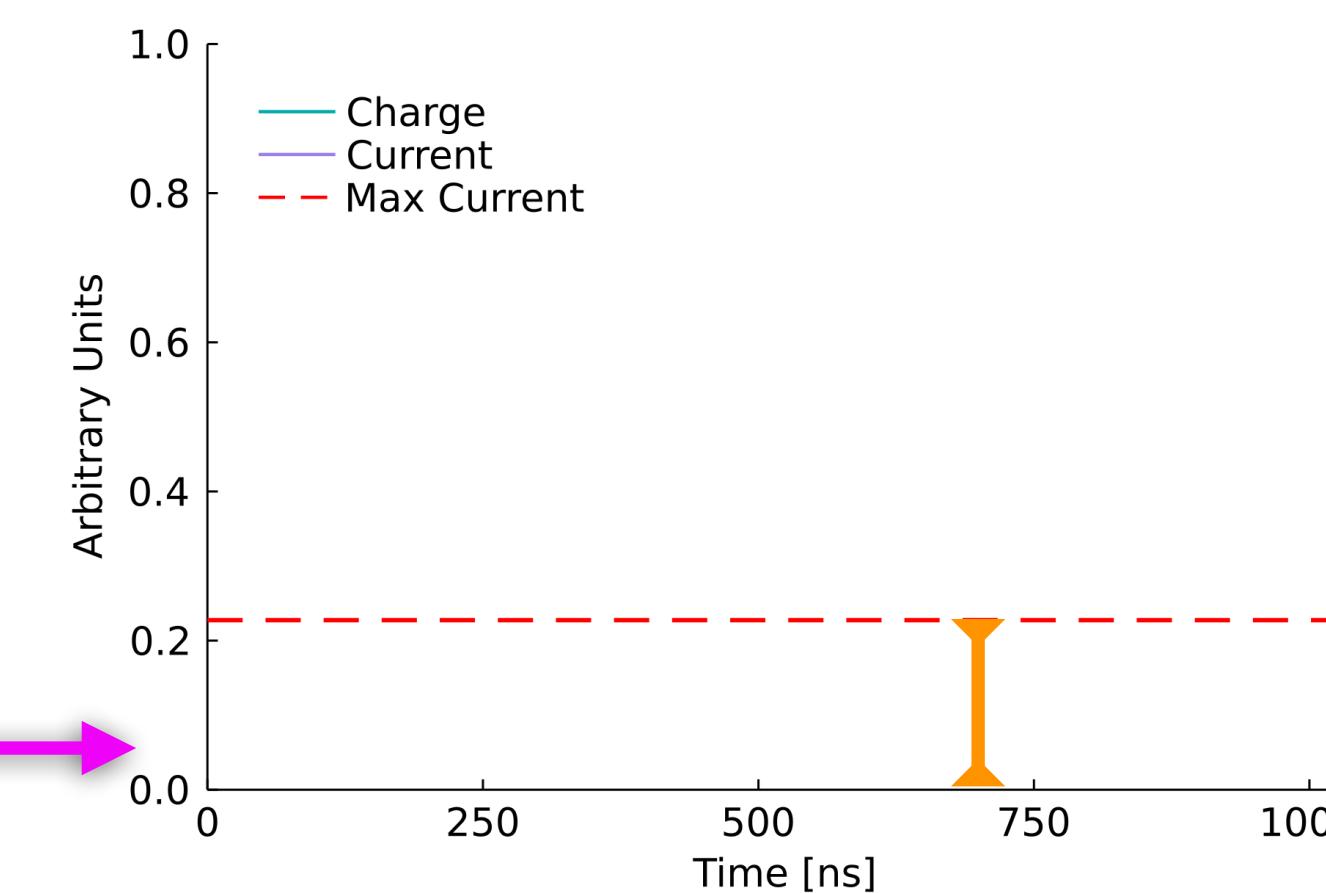
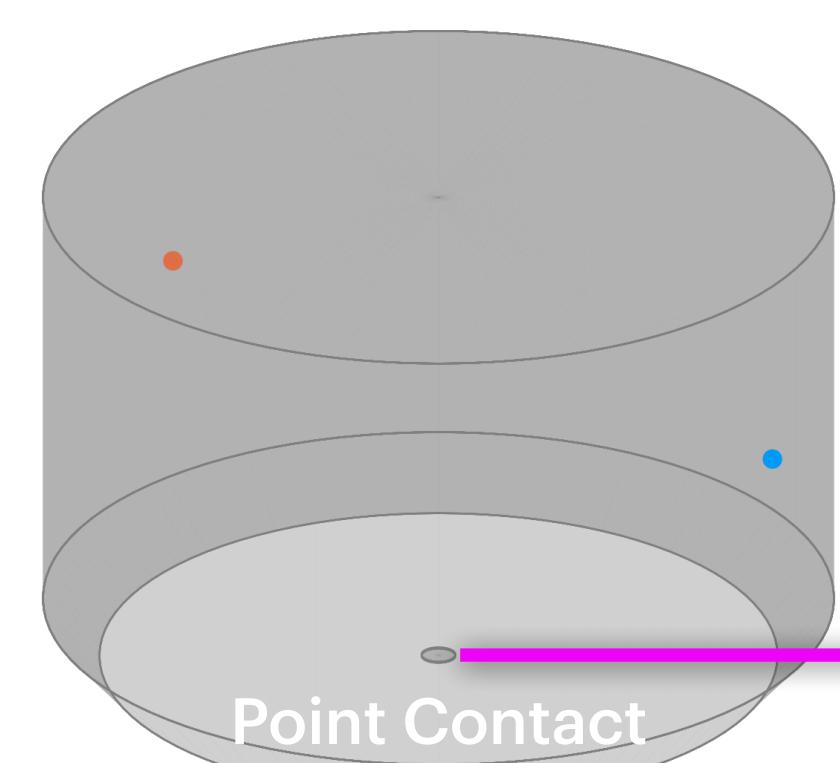
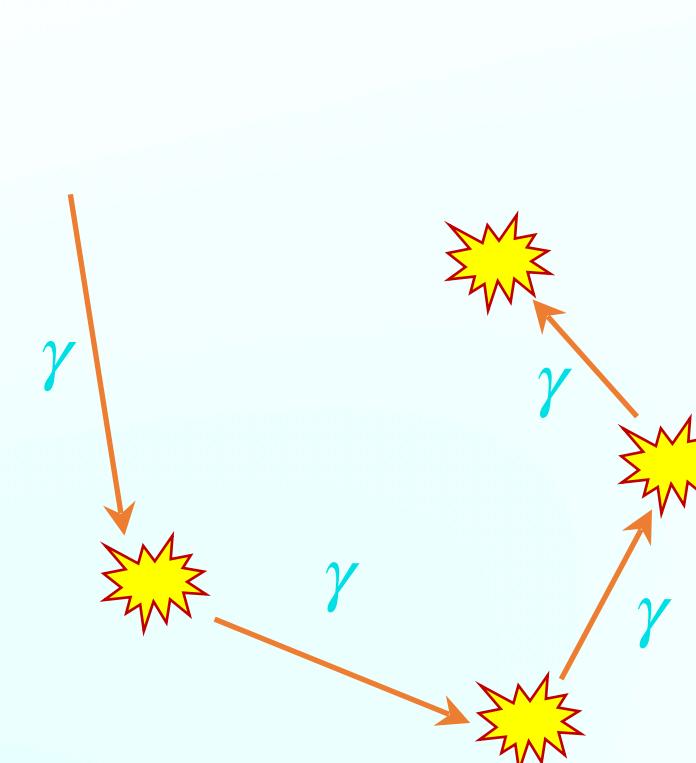
Energy

Maximal Current Amplitude

For multi-site background rejection

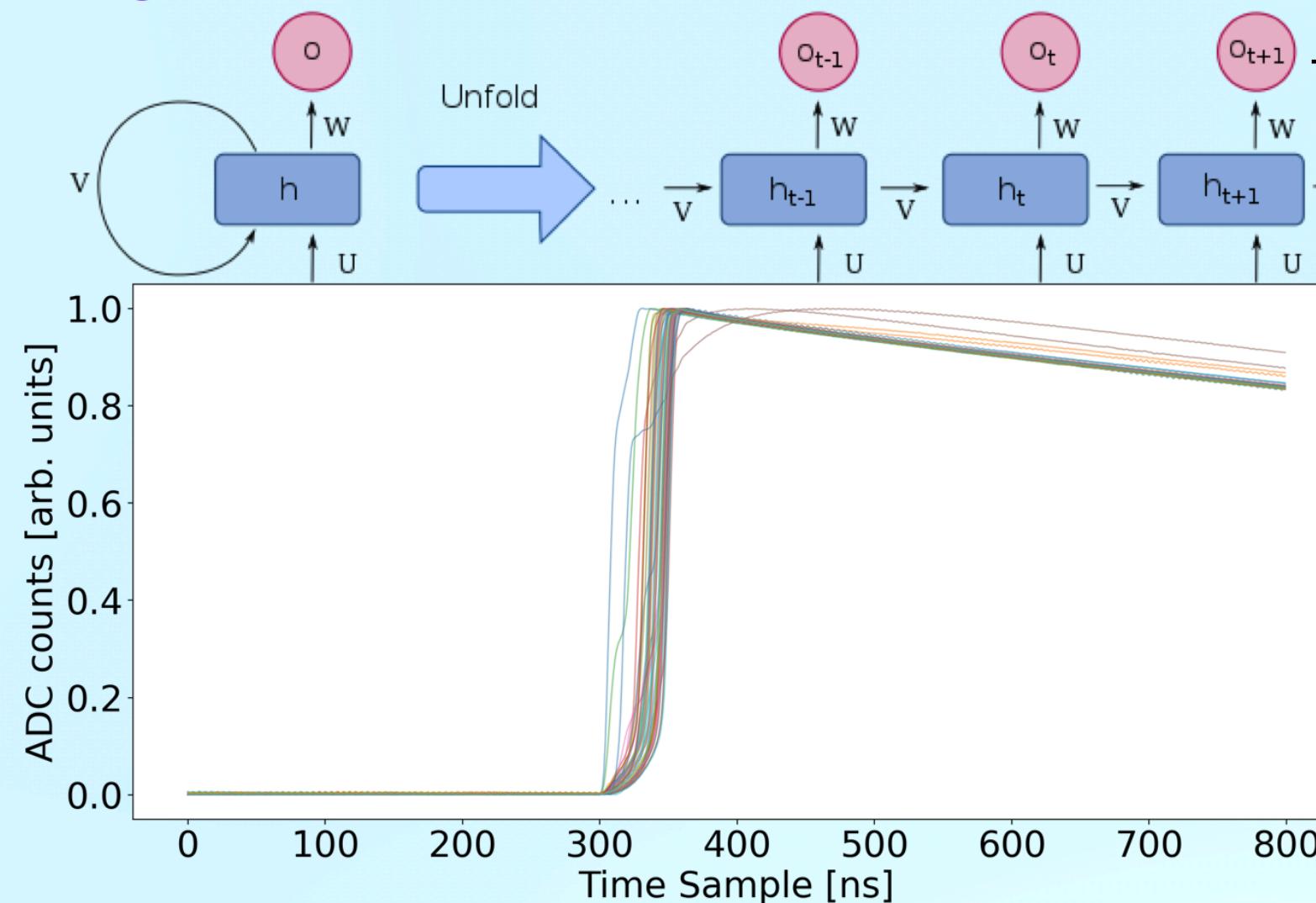
Drift Time

Reflect the location of incident particle

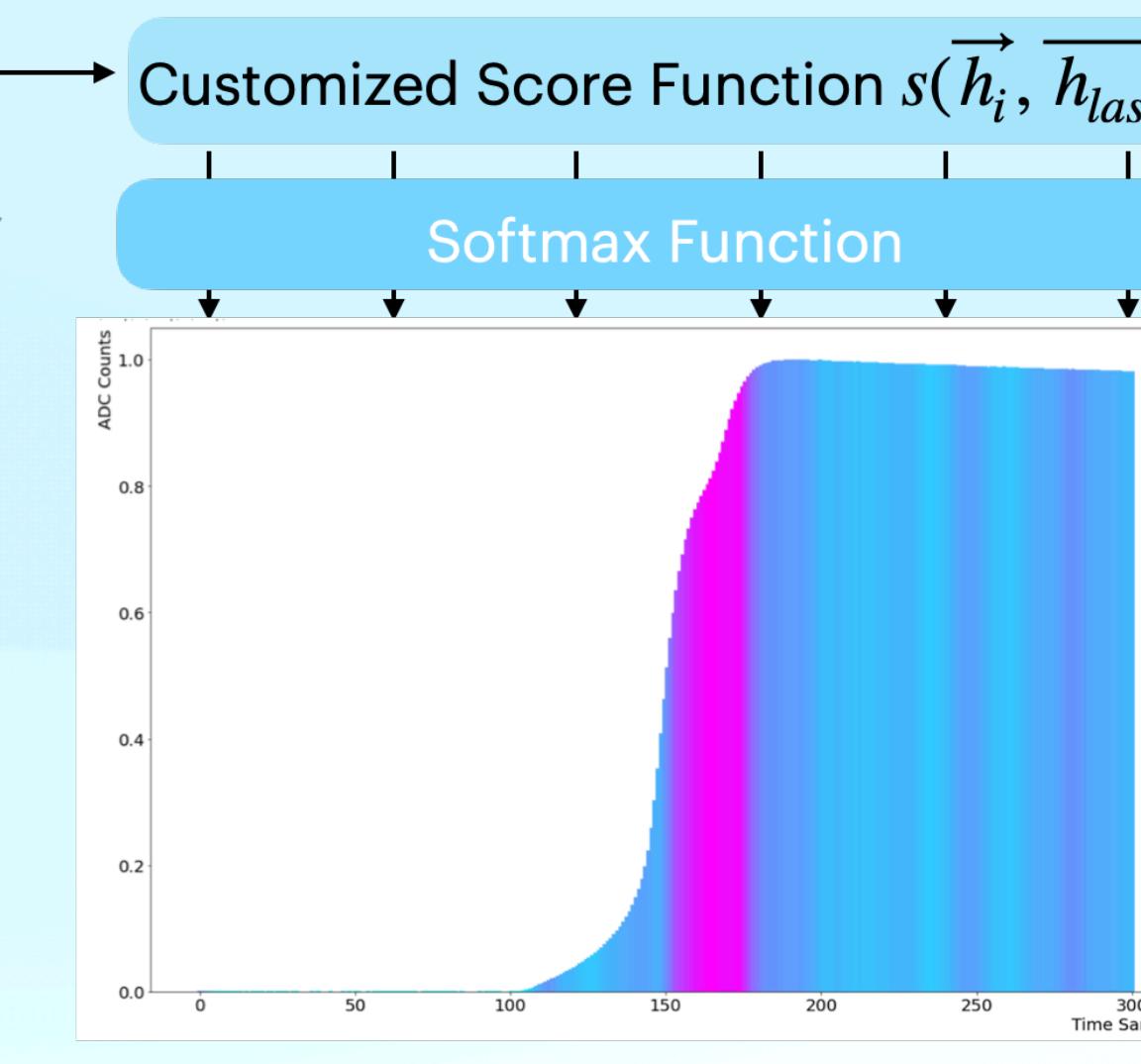


# LEGEND Baseline Model

## Long-Short Term Memory (LSTM) Network



## Attention Mechanism



## Background Rejection

Hocking a fully connected network( ) to the LEGEND baseline model to identify and reject background

## Interpretable

Allow students to see where LBM pays attention to to make decision

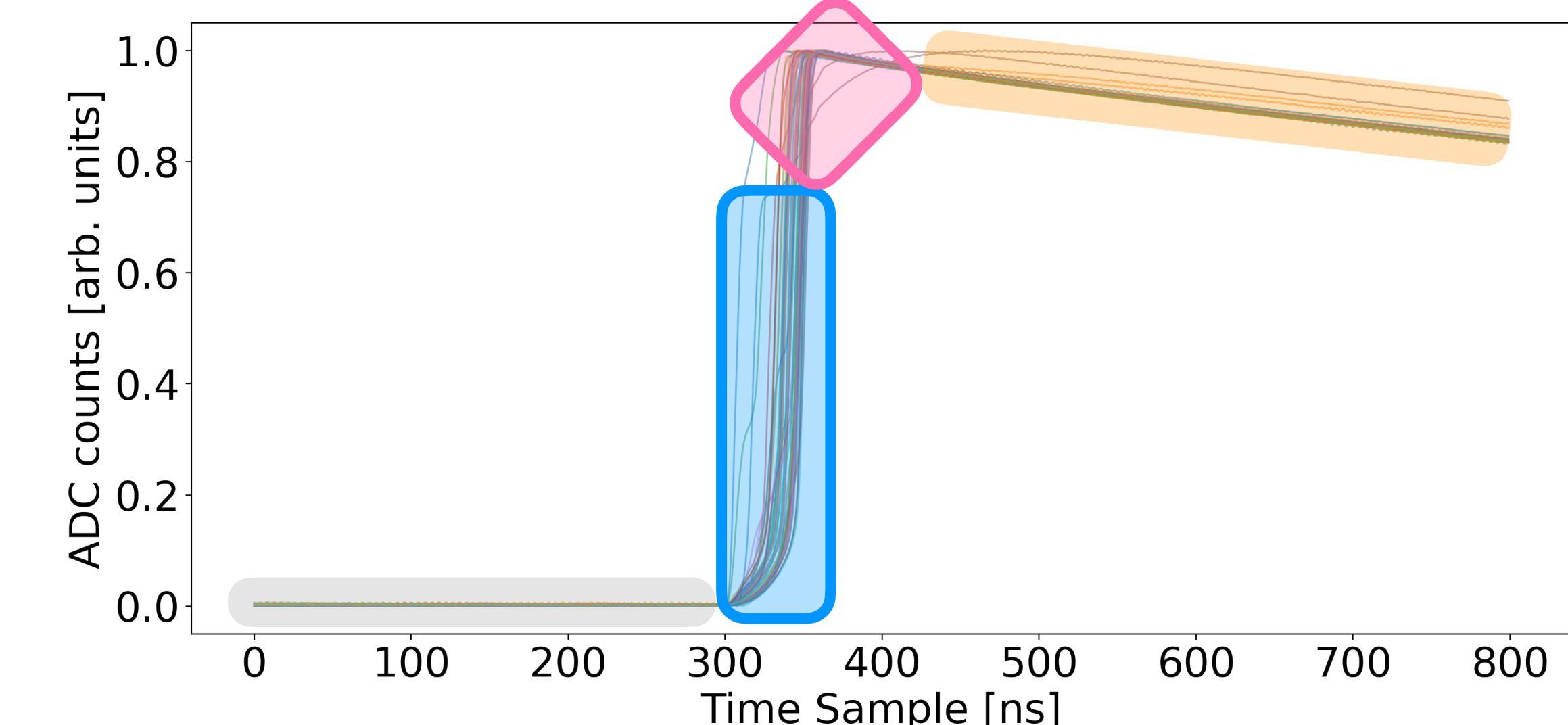
# Improve LEGEND Baseline Model

**Upper turning edge: Critical**

**Waveform tail: Irrelevant**

**Rising edge: Critical**

**baseline: Bias**



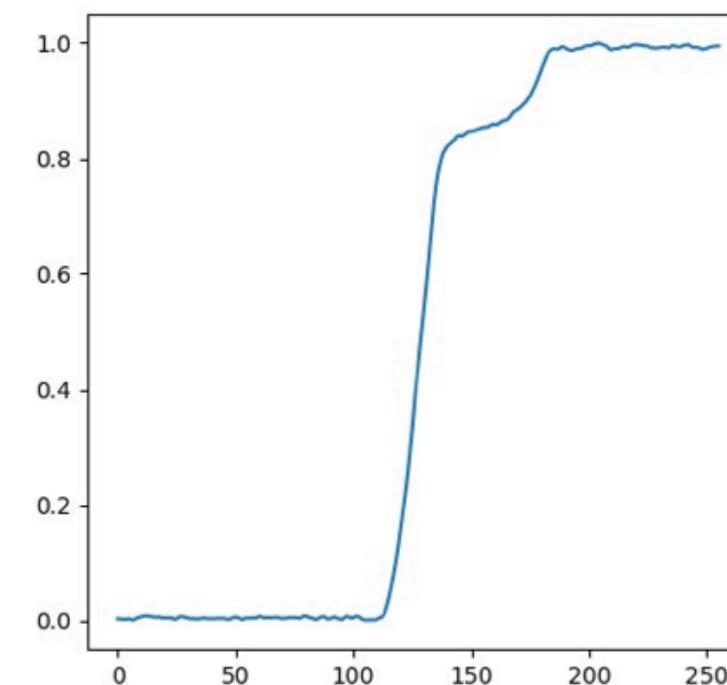
# Feature Importance Supervision (FIS)

## Guide ML model to be Right for the Right Reason

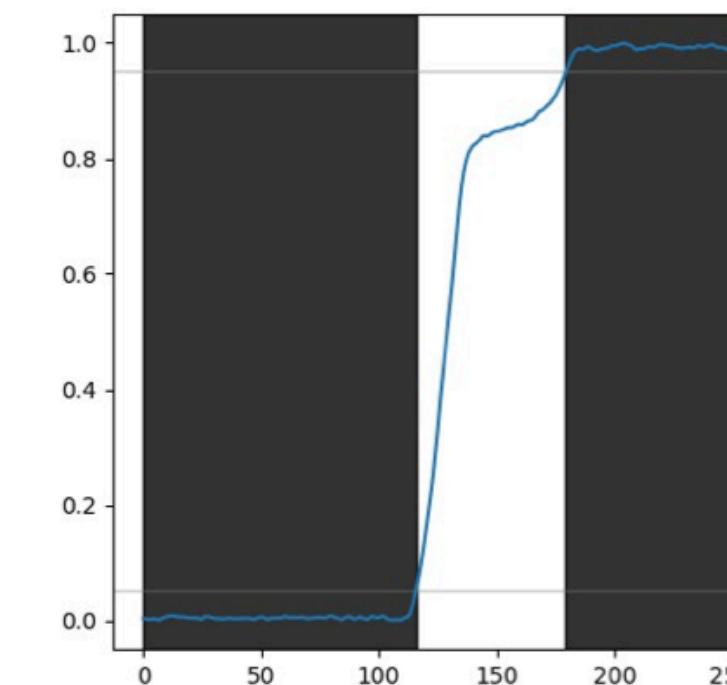
Z. Ying, P. Hase, M. Bansal

NeurIPS 22, ArXiv. 2206.11212

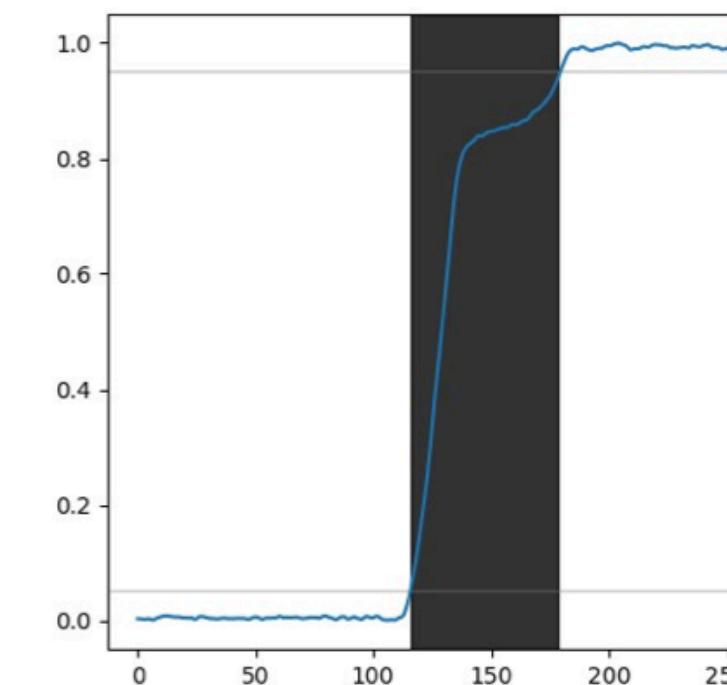
All Features



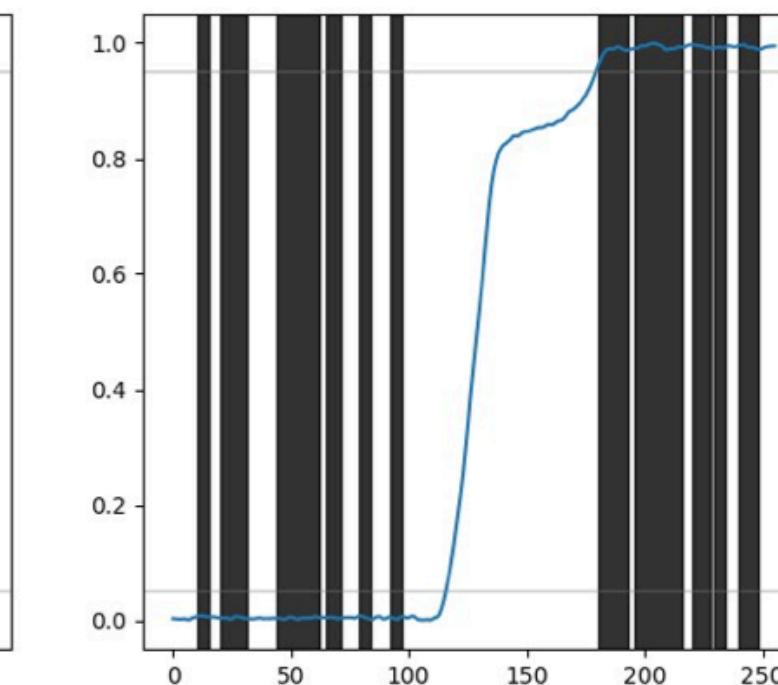
Important



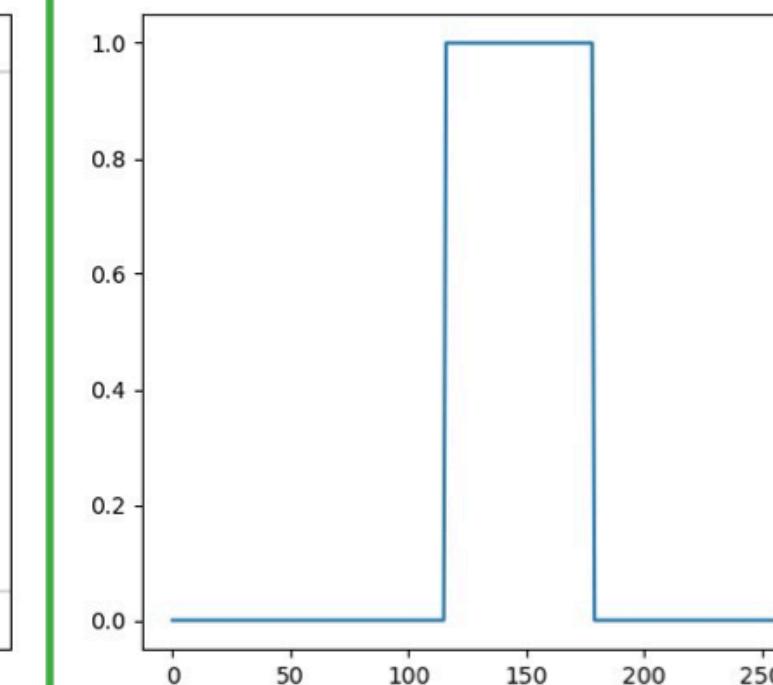
Unimportant



Important + Unimportant



Human Feature Importance



Accurate Output

Task Loss

Accurate Output

Sufficient Loss

Uncertain Output

Uncertain Loss

Same Output  
as Important Features

Invariant Loss

Model  
Importance

Alignment Loss

About the  
explanation metric

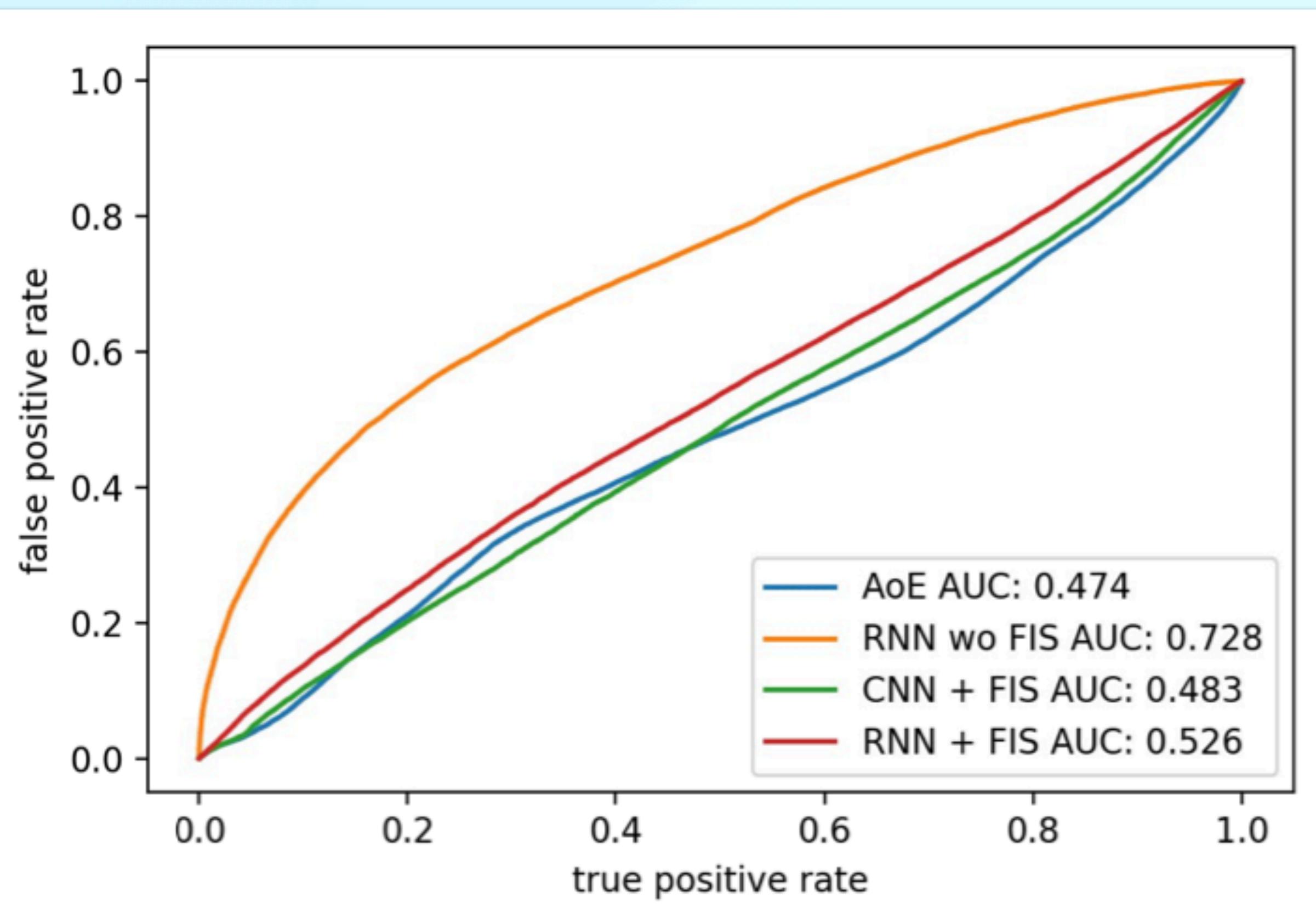
# Feature Importance Supervision (FIS)

Guide ML model to be Right for the Right Reason

## Quantifying Bias

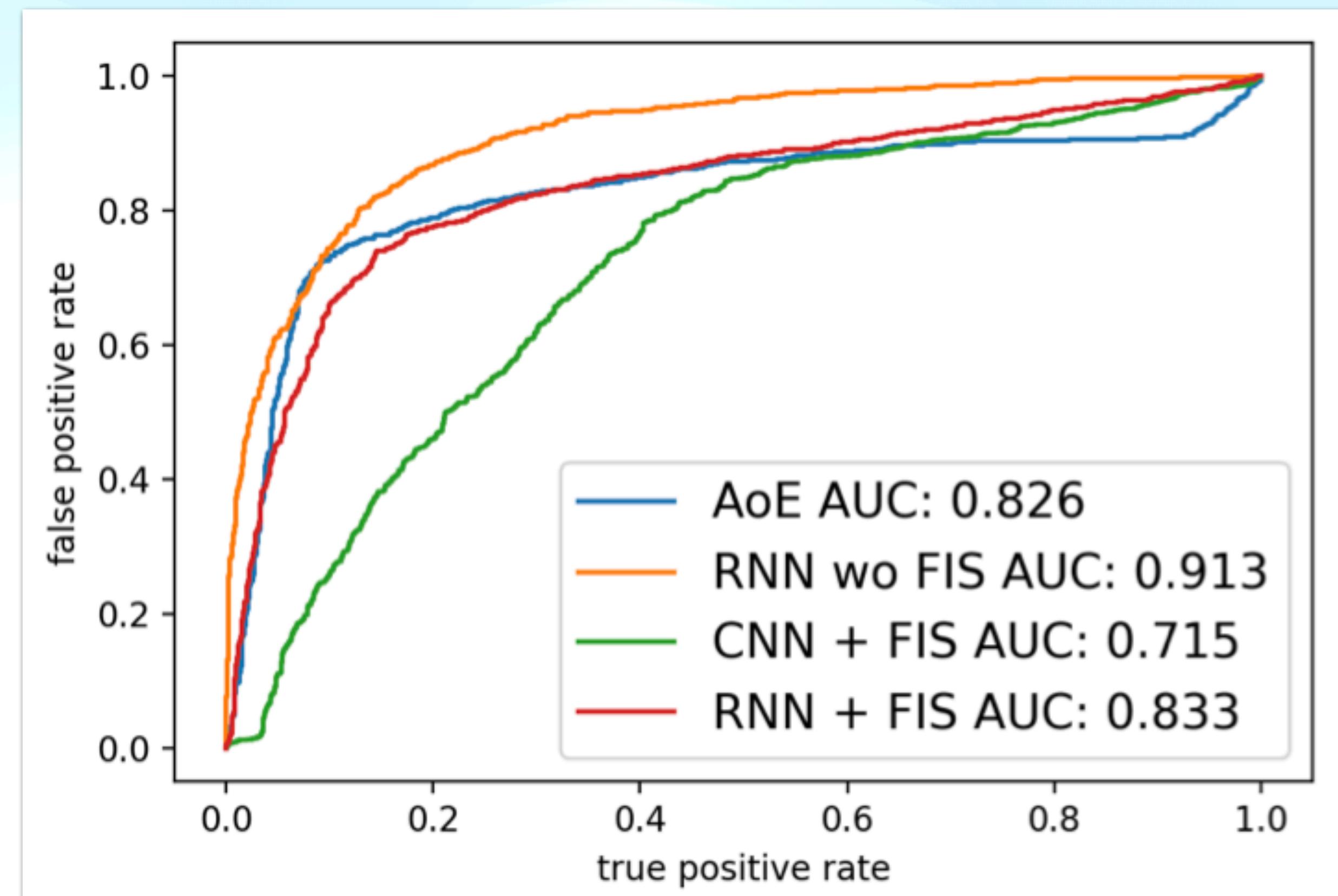
Selected dataset to test for energy dependency bias

- Biased classifier: nontrivial classification power
- Unbiased classifier: trivial classification power



## Rejecting Background

Identify multi-site background in HPGe detector



# XENONnT 2-Phase Liquid Xenon TPC for WIMP DM Search



Columbia



KIT



Nikhef



Muenster



Stockholm



Mainz



MPIK, Heidelberg



Freiburg



Zurich



清华大学  
Tsinghua University



Chicago



UCSD



Rice



Purdue



Subatech



Coimbra



LPNHE



IJCLab



Torino



Bologna



L'Aquila



LNGS



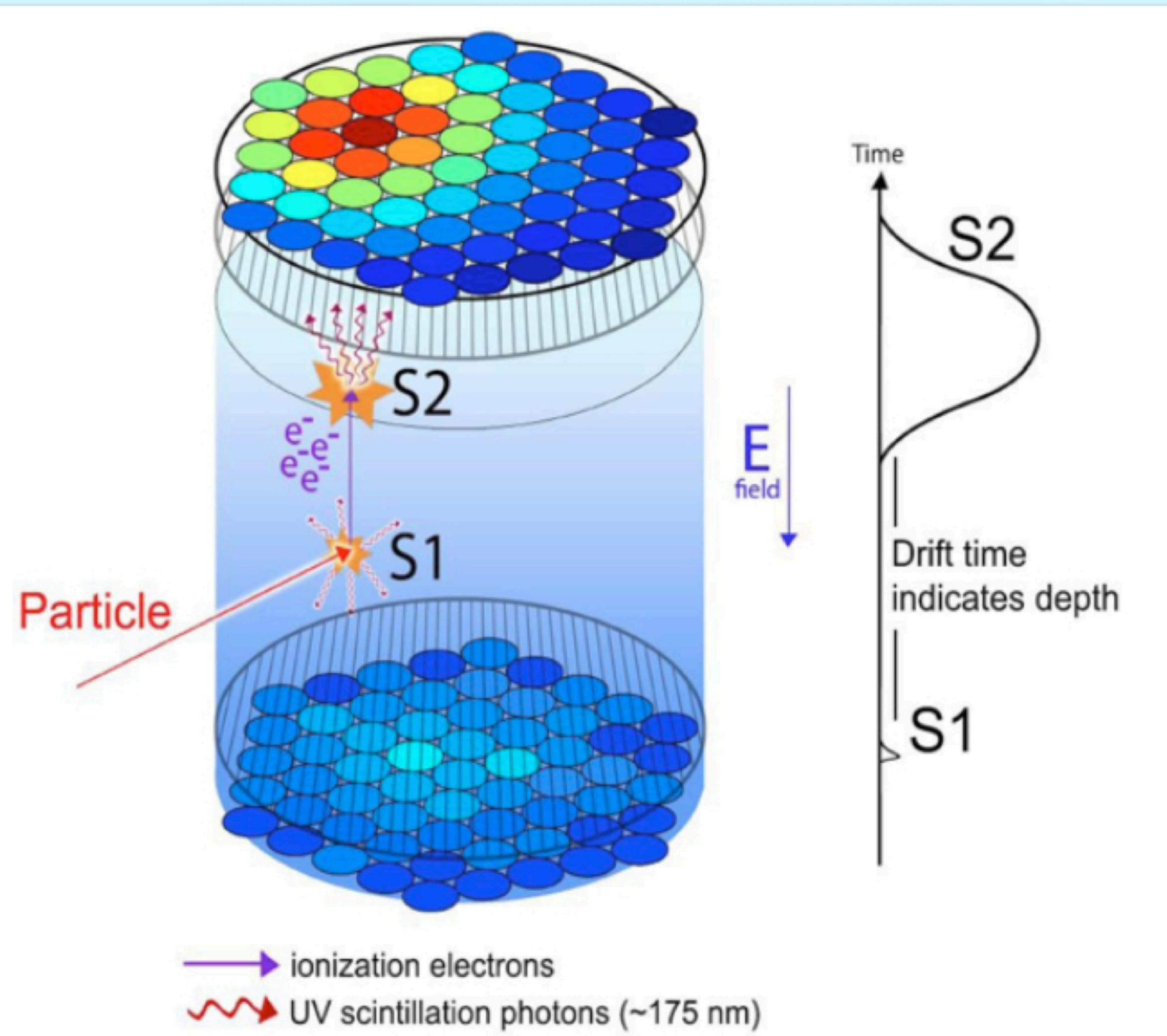
Napoli



Weizmann

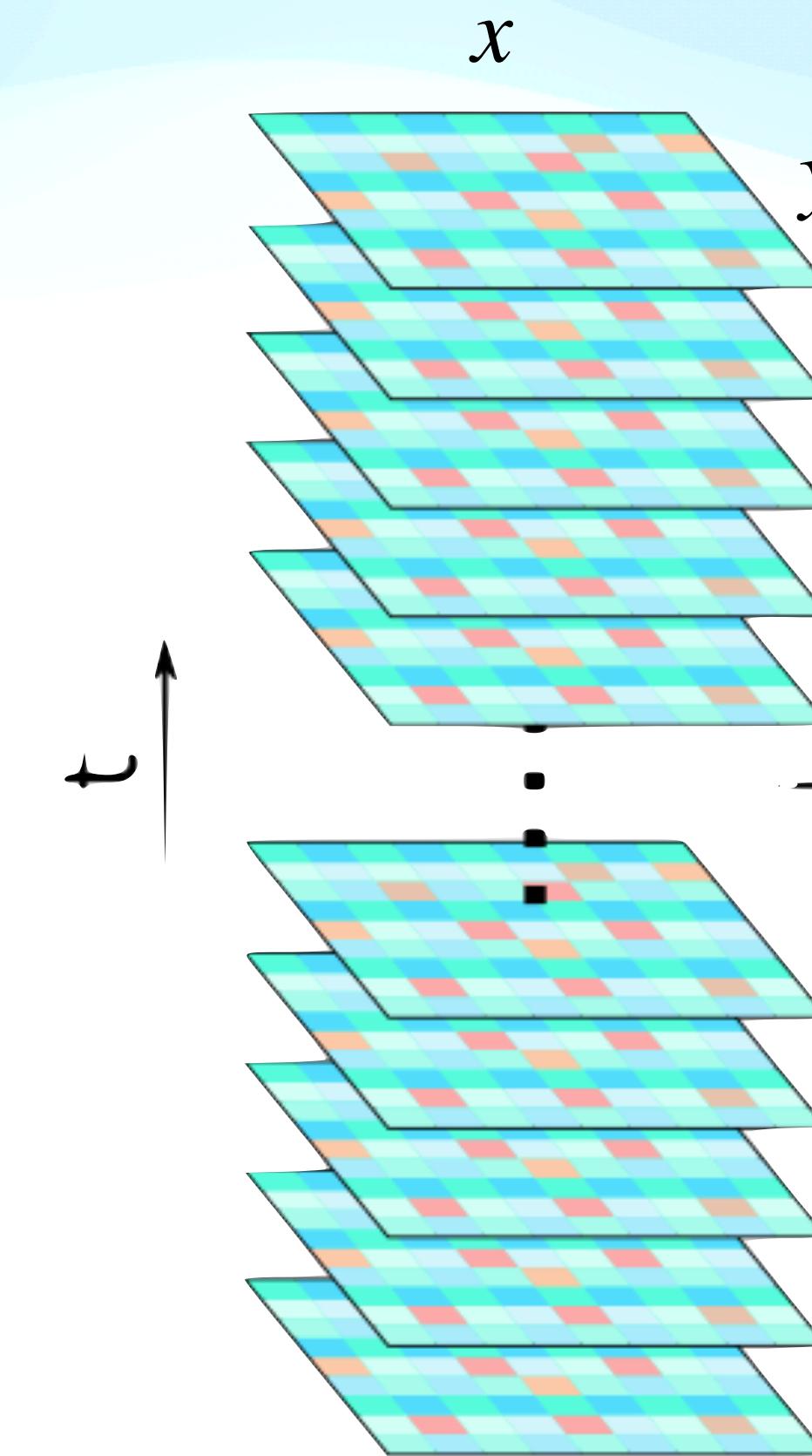
# XENONnT

## 2-Phase Liquid Xenon Time Projection Chamber for WIMP DM Search



### Spatiotemporal Data

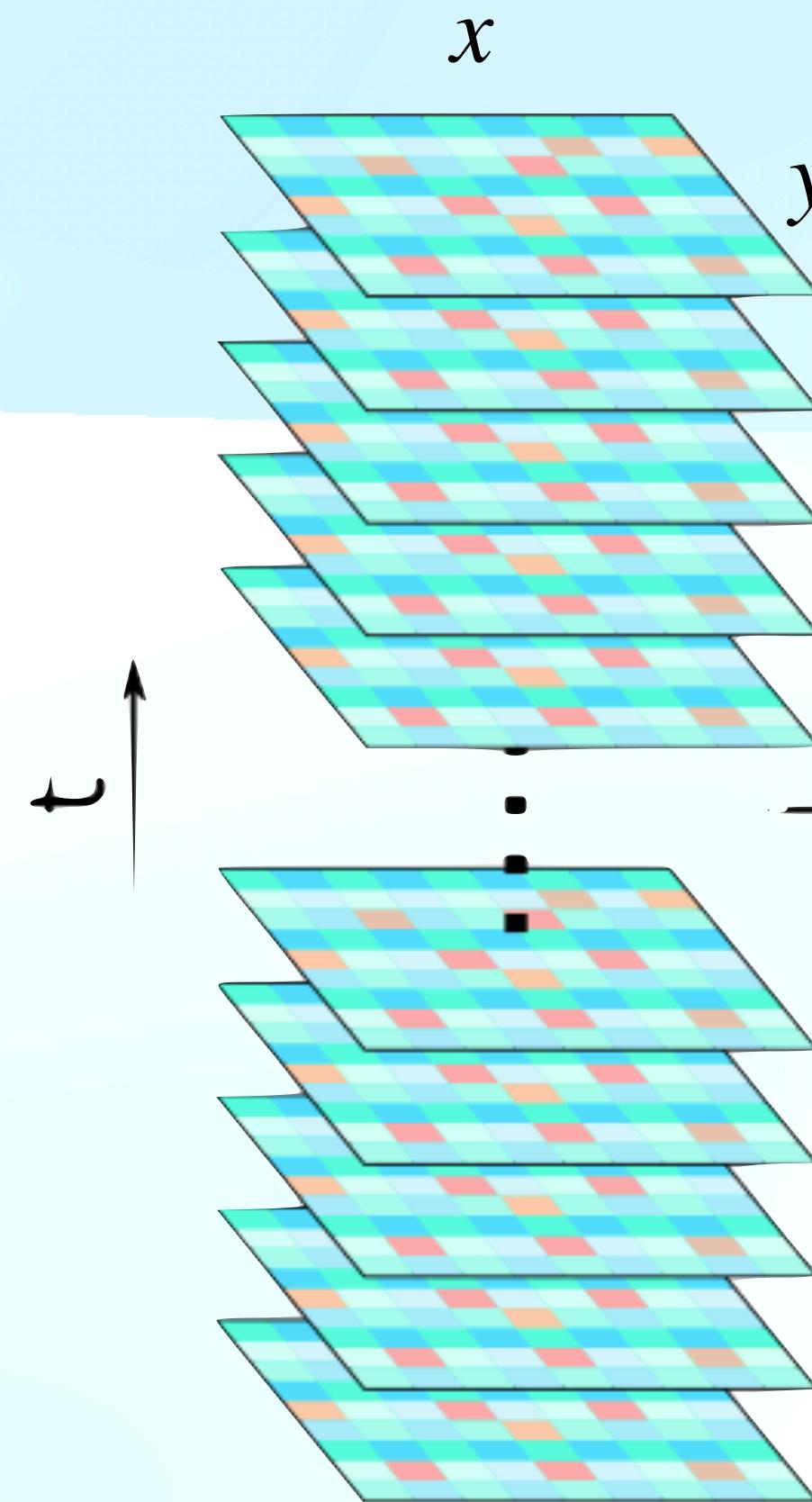
A 2D flat video



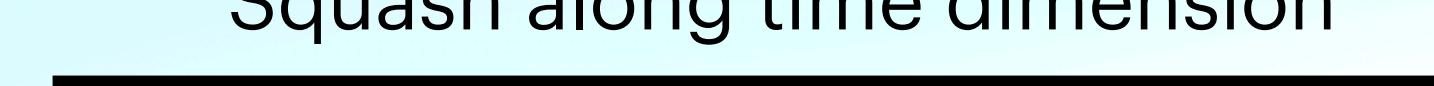
# XENONnT Data

## Spatiotemporal Data

A 2D flat video

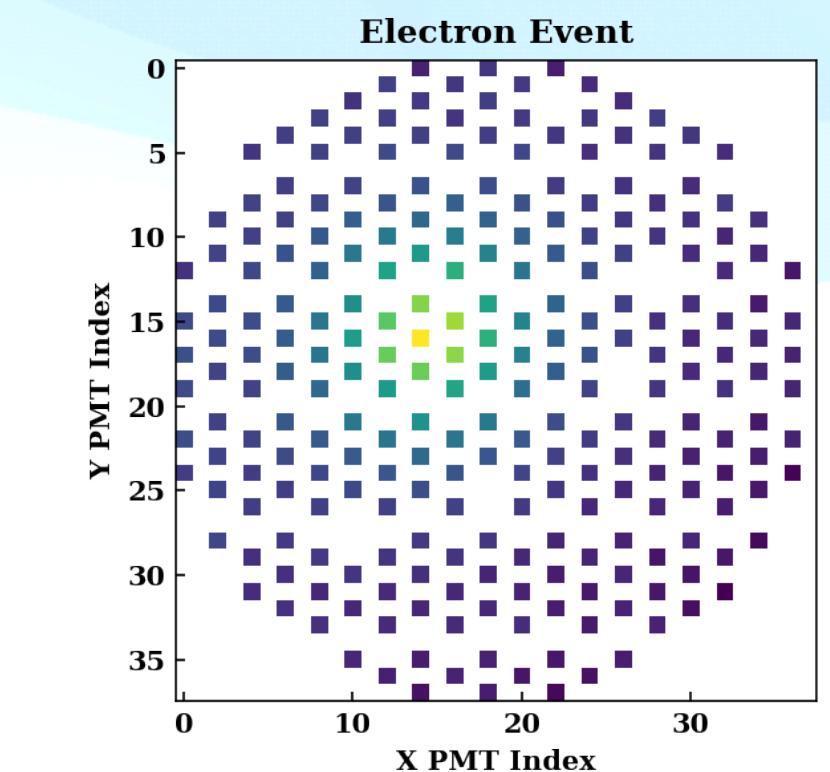
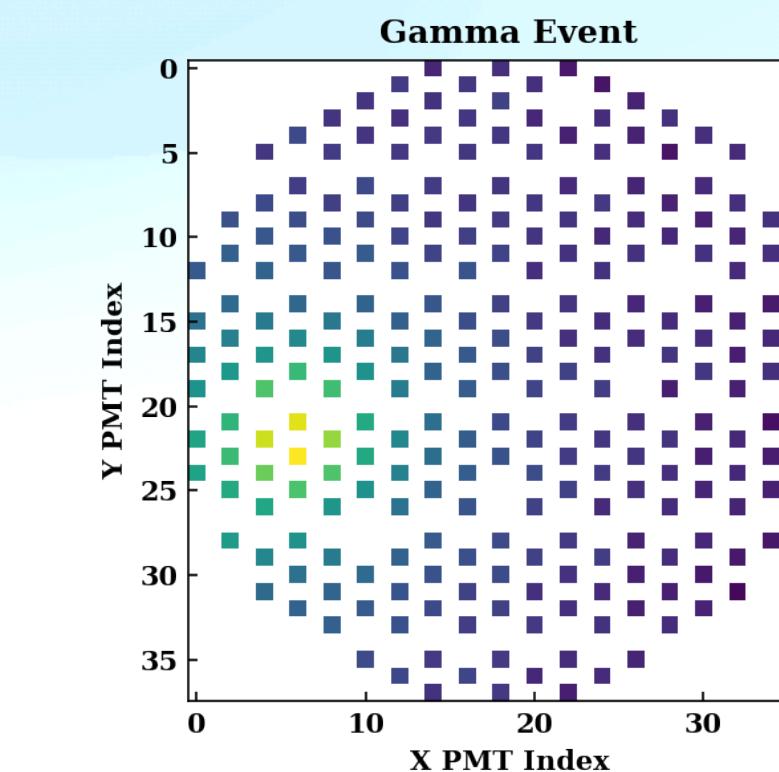


Squash along time dimension



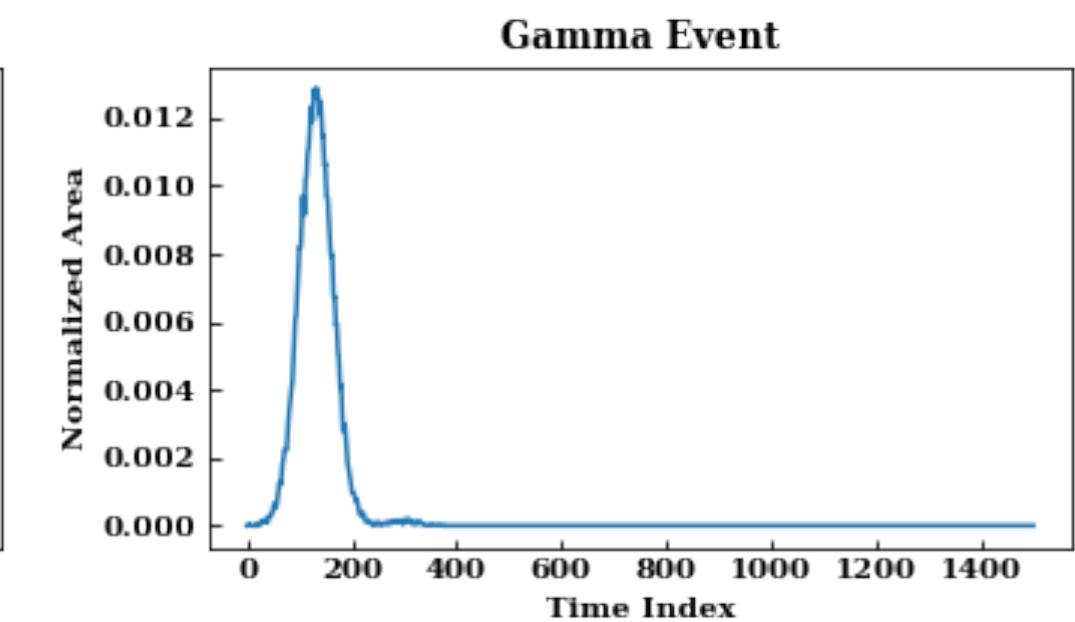
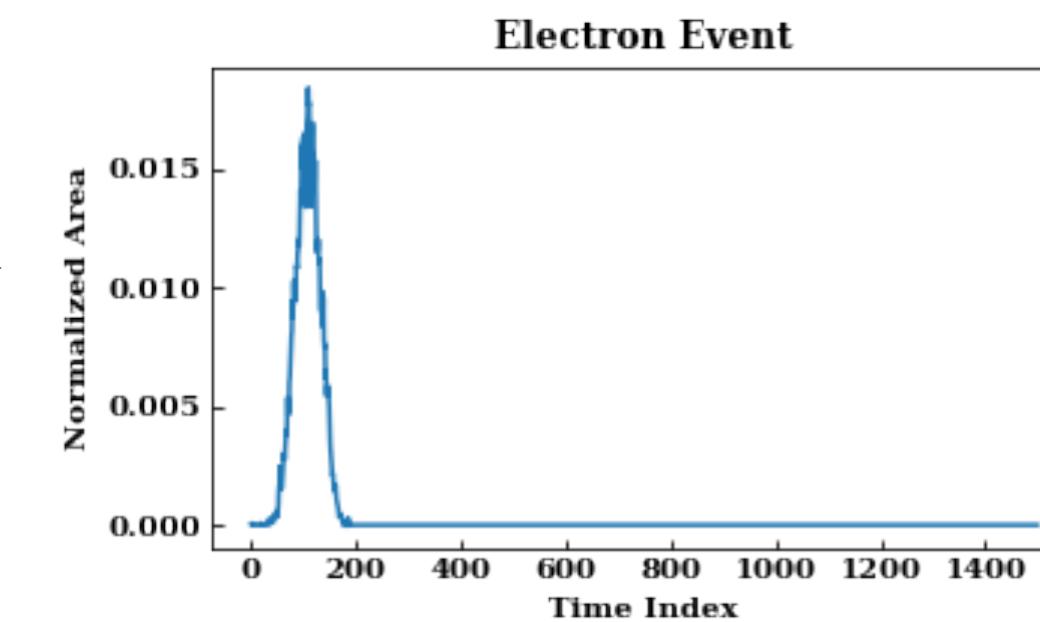
## Hit Pattern

2D Image



## Waveform

1D Time Series



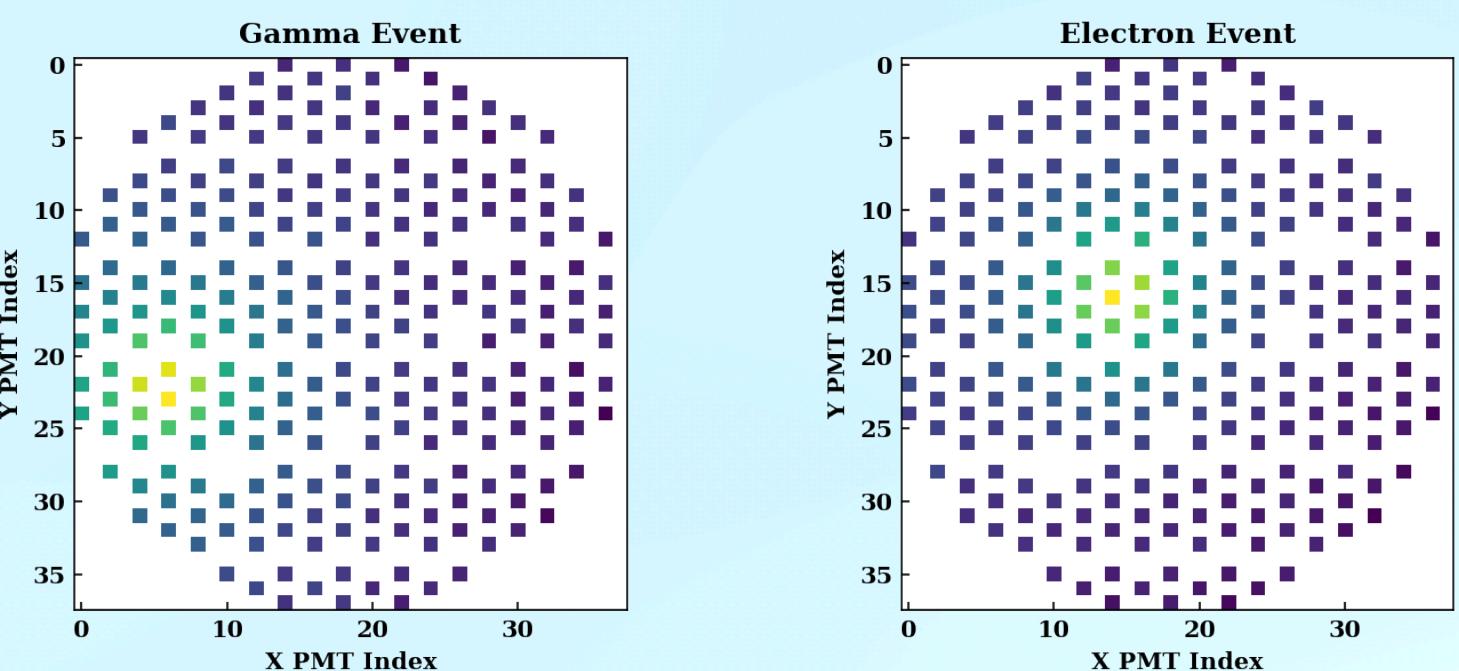
Squash along (x,y) dimension



# Dual Classifier

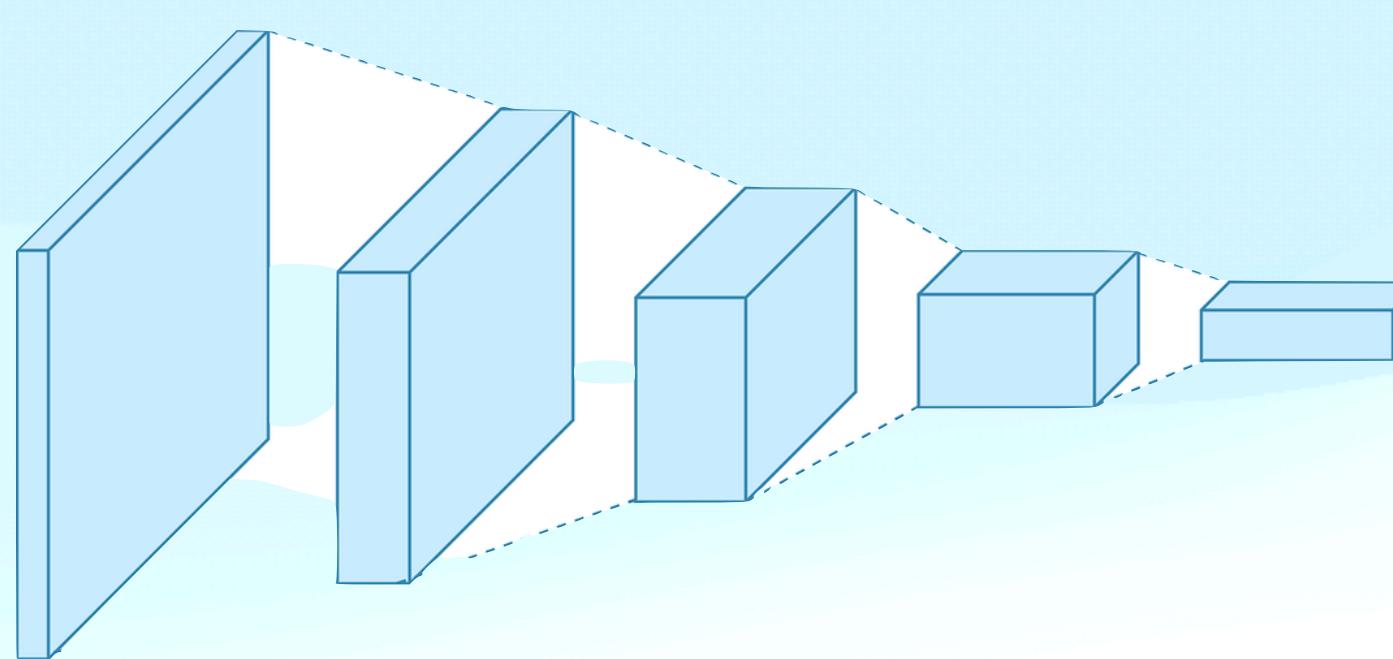
Min Zhong

Hit Pattern  
2D Image

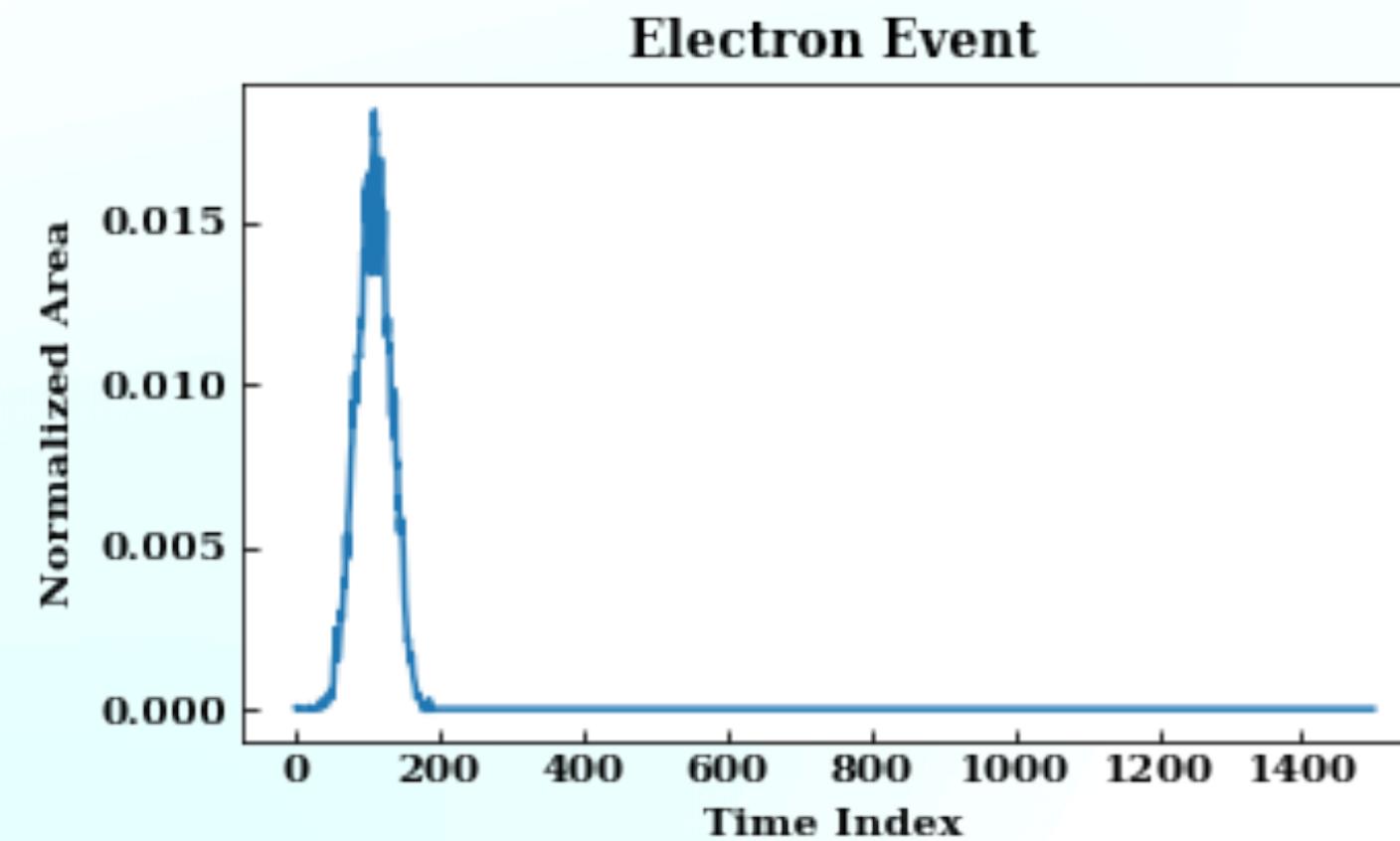


CNN

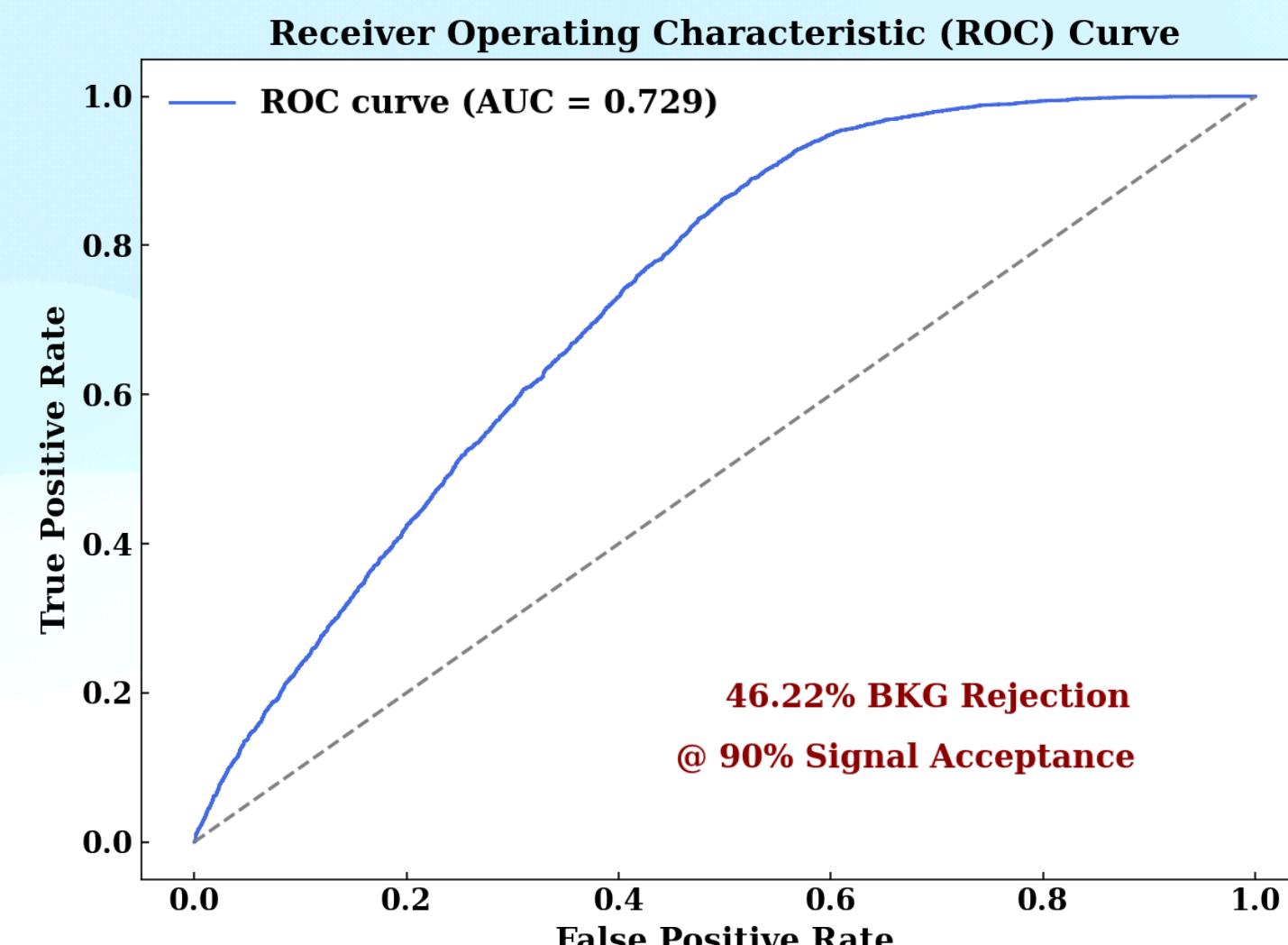
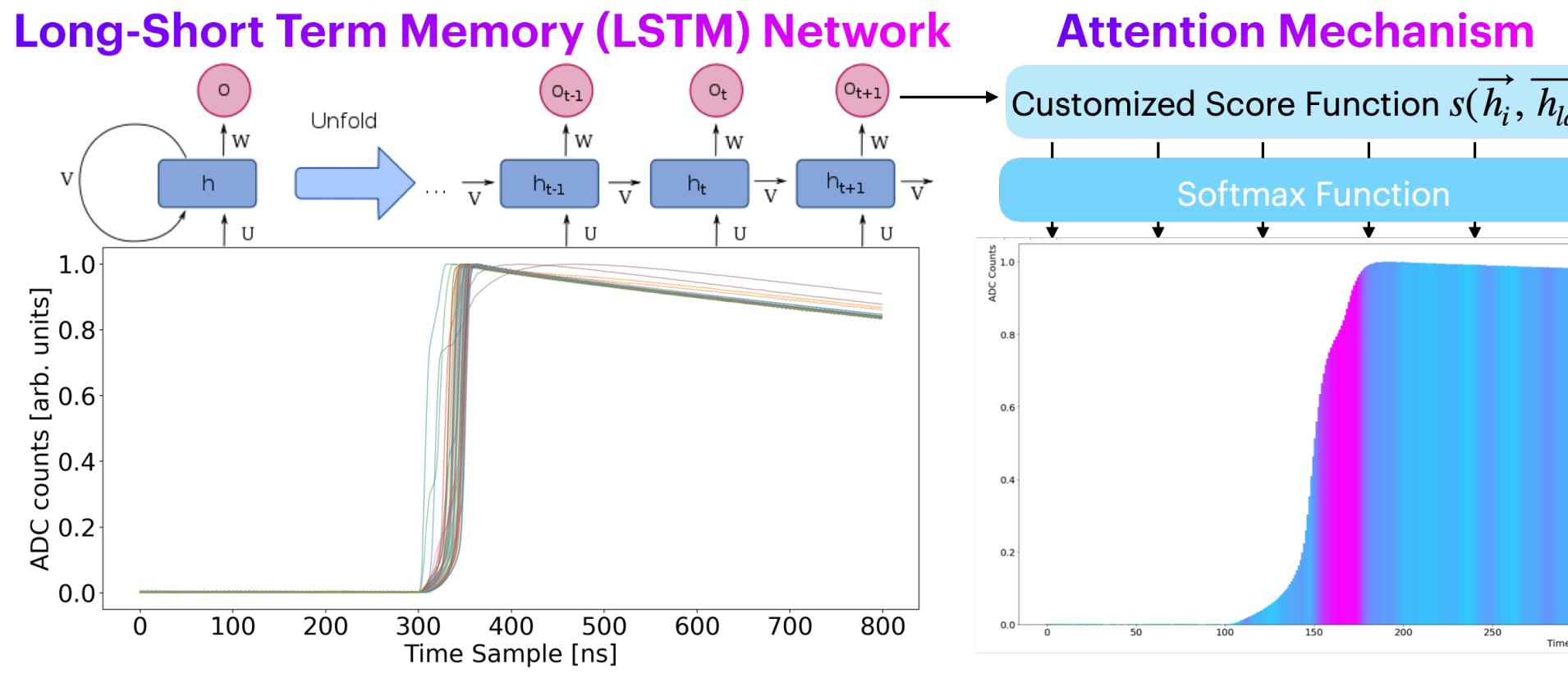
For image analysis



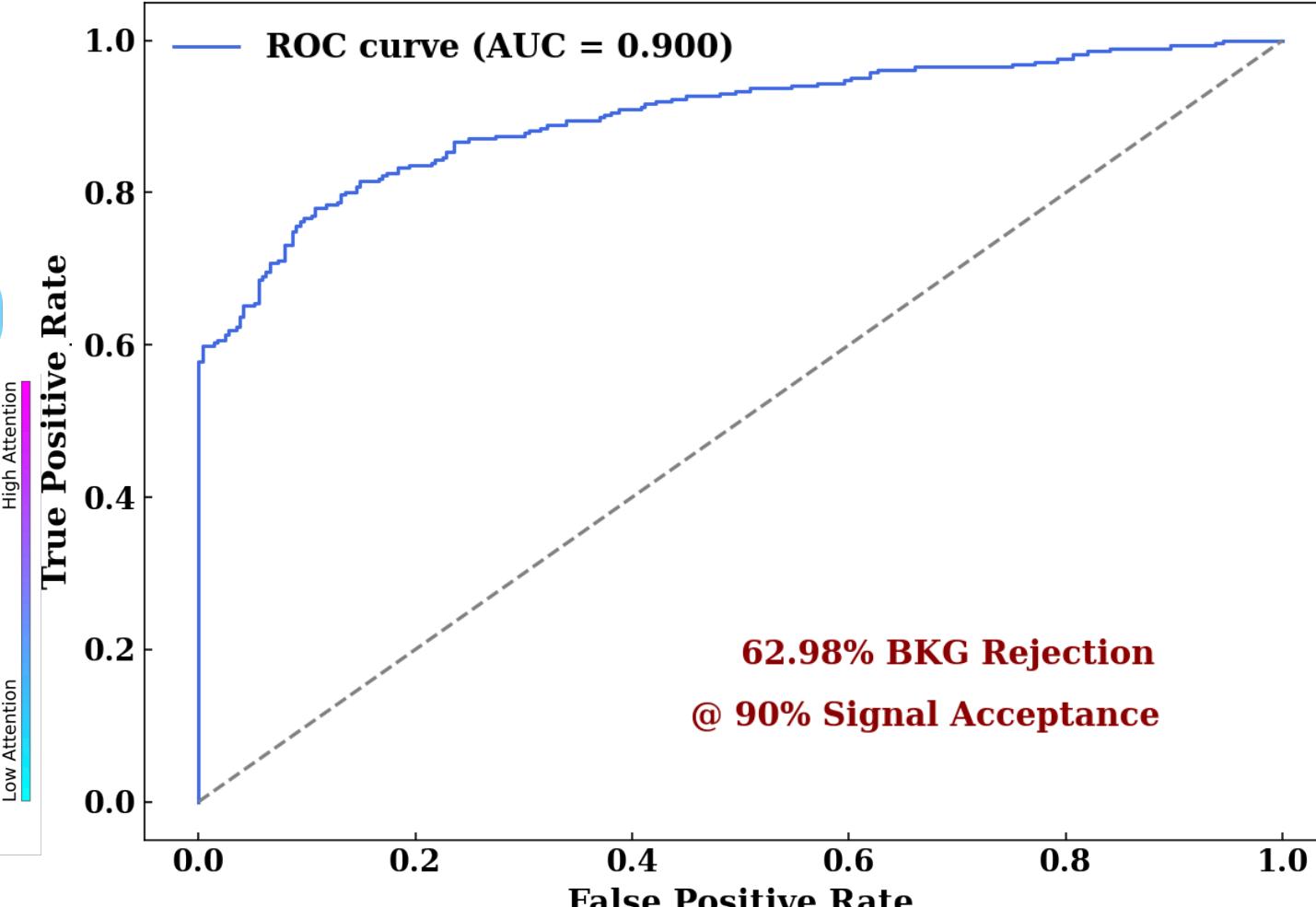
Waveform  
1D Time Series



RNN + Attention  
For time series analysis



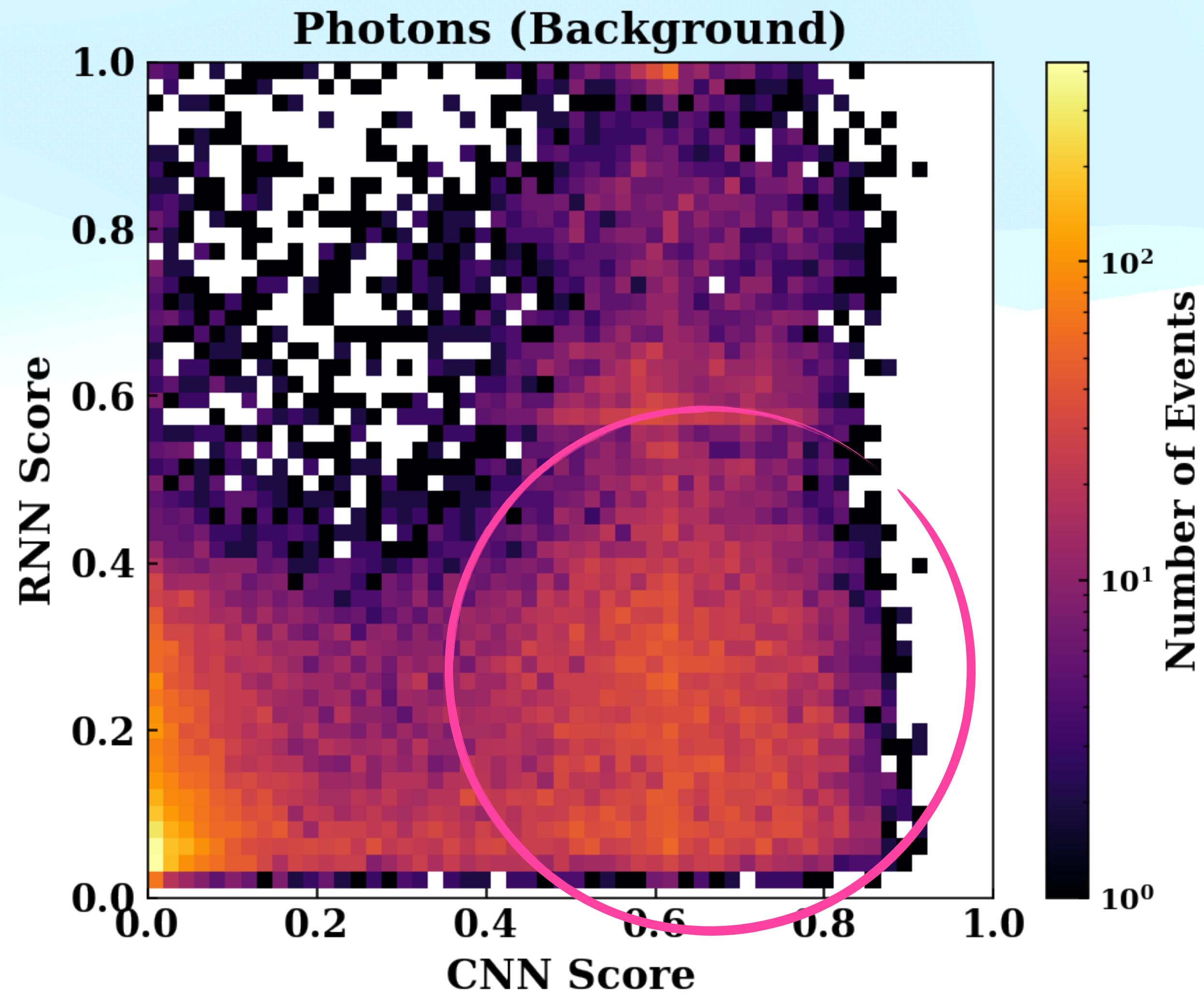
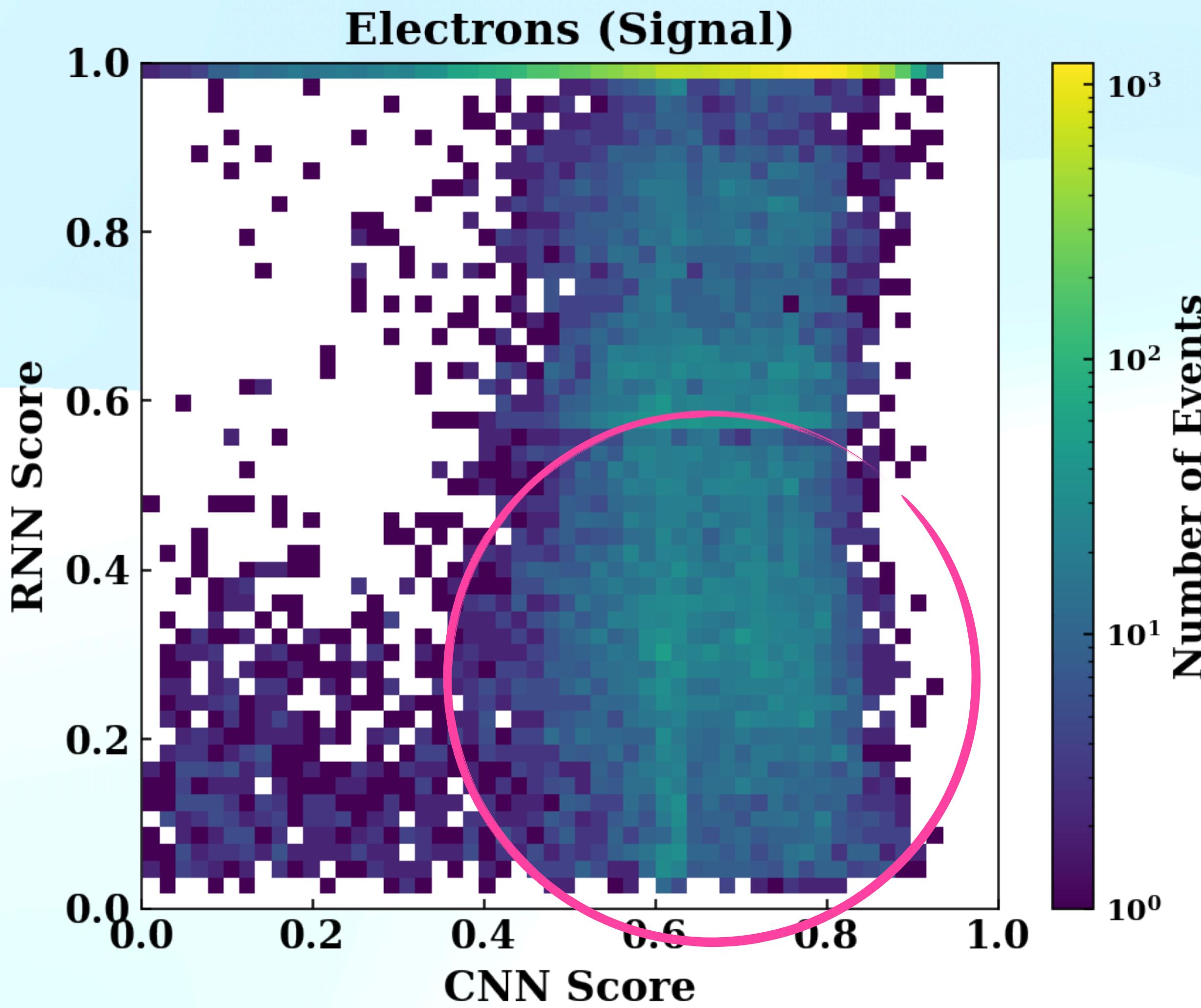
Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) Curve



# Combining Dual Classifier

Combine CNN & RNN to classify **confused events**

Min Zhong



# Fast & Slow: AI in Rare Event Search



Slow

- What is rare event search?

Fast

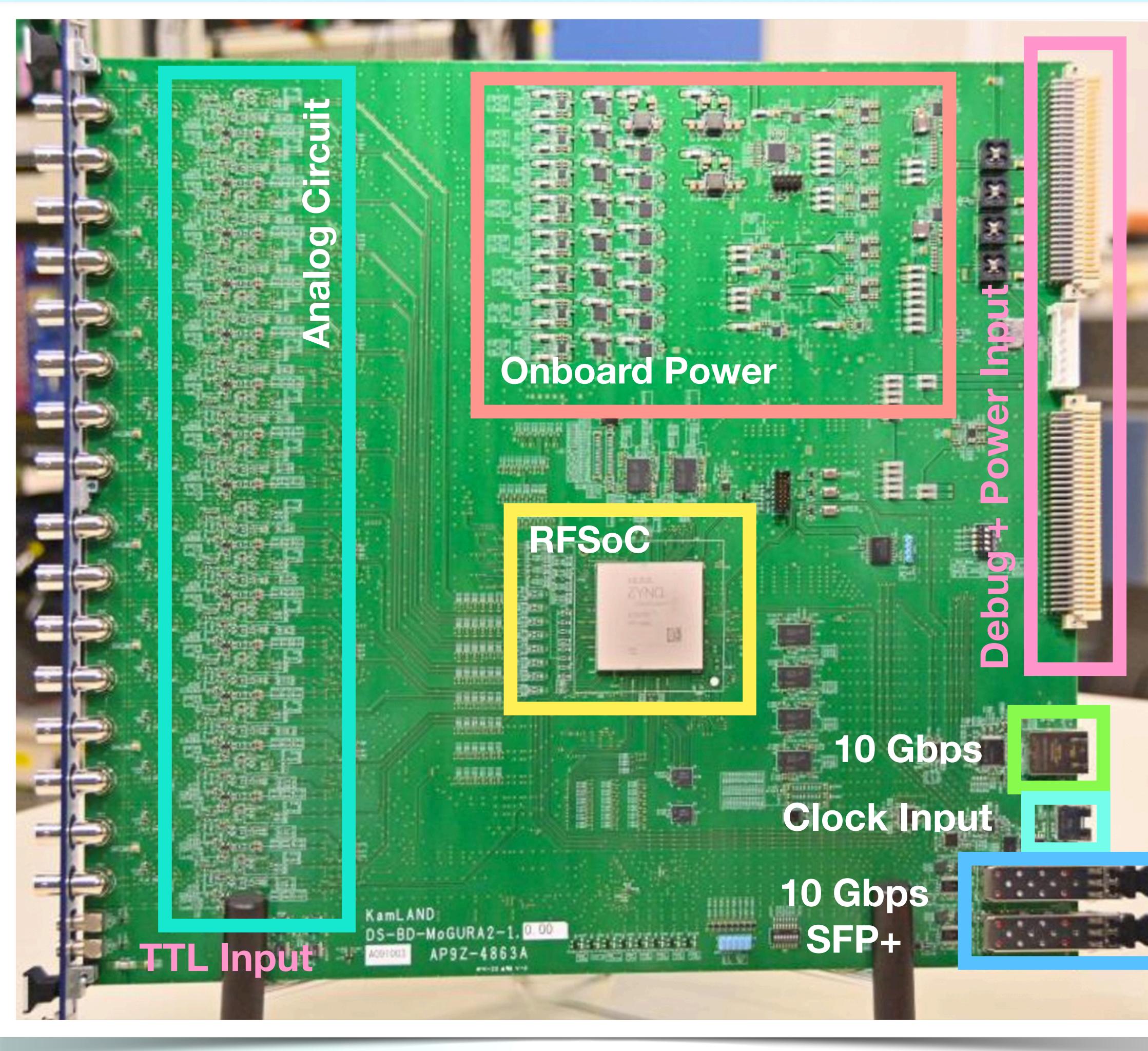
- Radiation detectors
- AI algorithms

Fast for Slow

- Fast ML for rare event

# New Electronics for KamLAND-Zen

16-channel prototype for KamLAND2-Zen



## Primary Goals:

1. Digitize waveform during the chaotic period after a muon passes through the detector in order to record all neutrons, allowing us to reduce the Long-Lived spallation background.
2. Streaming data (deadtime free system), large data throughput.
3. Large memory buffers.

**Reduction in  
PCB footprint**

**Machine  
learning on  
FPGA**

**\*50% cost  
savings**

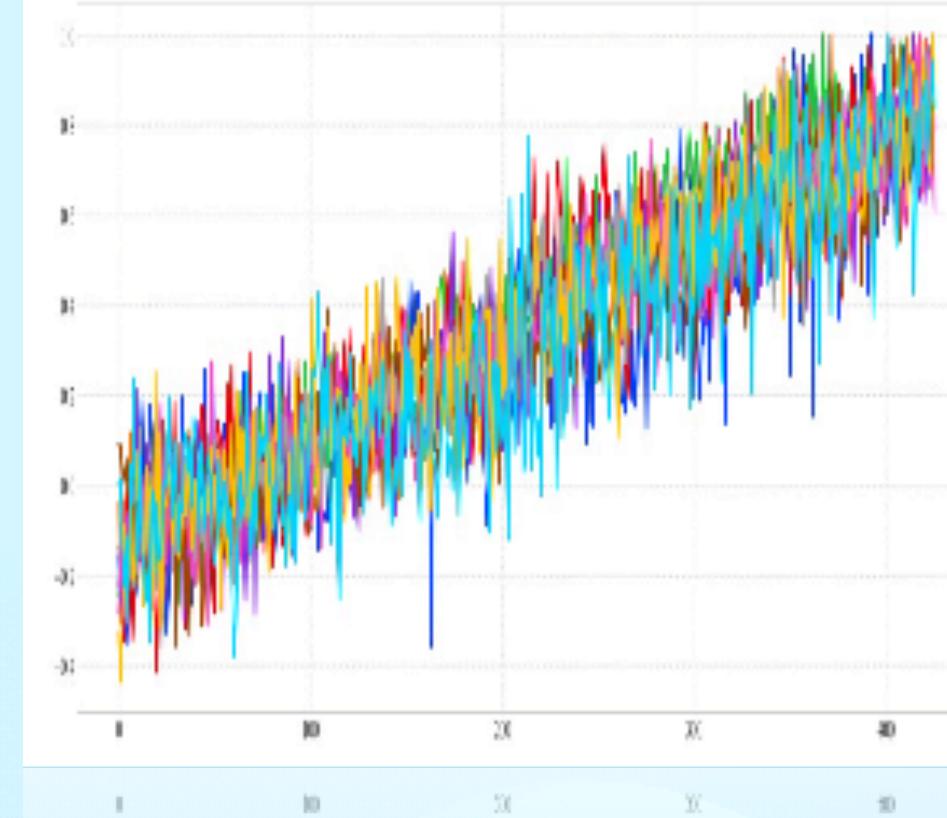
**\*30-40% power  
consumption  
savings**

\* compared to standard RF signal chain

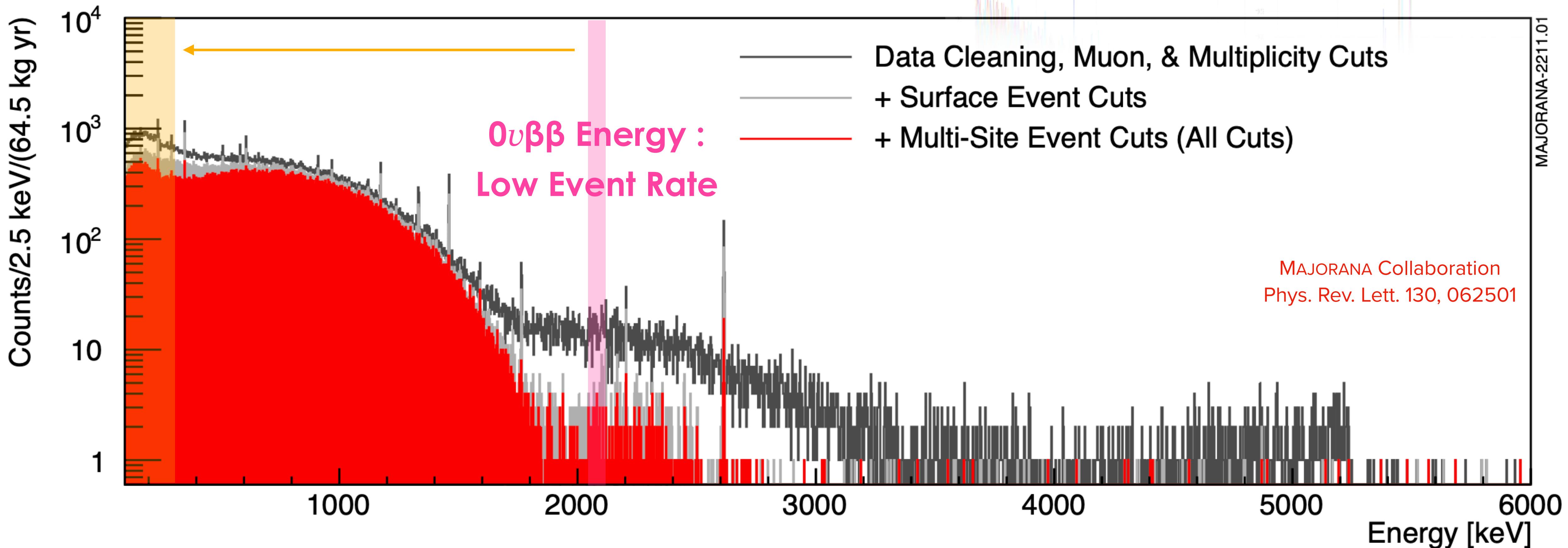
# AI Trigger for Low Energy

Exponentially Increasing Event Rate  
Lots of electronic noise

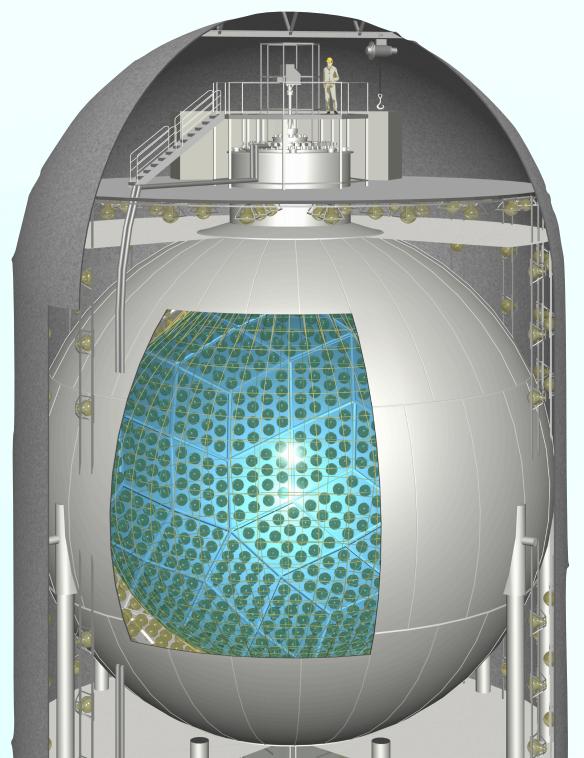
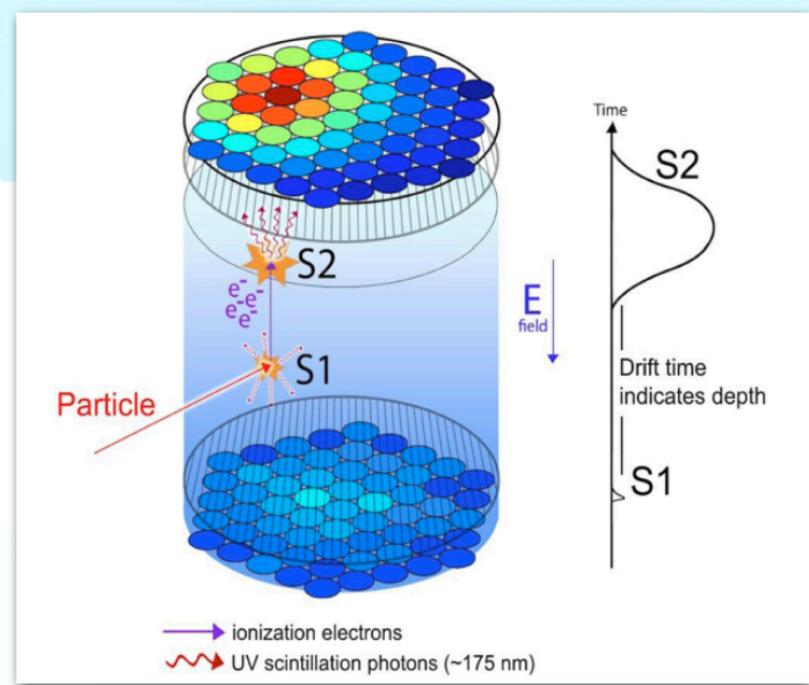
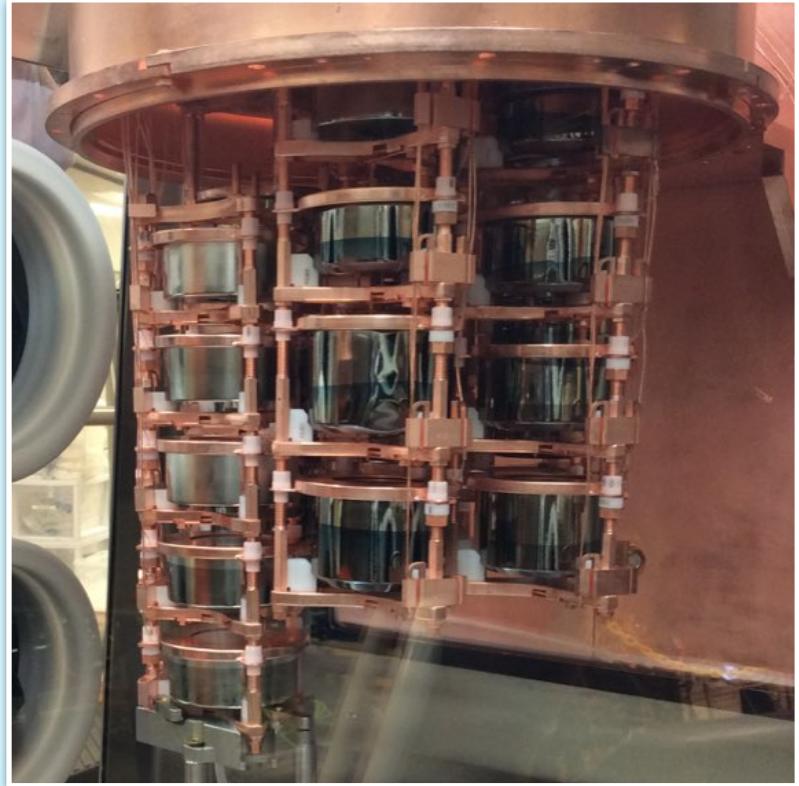
Pulser Recovery



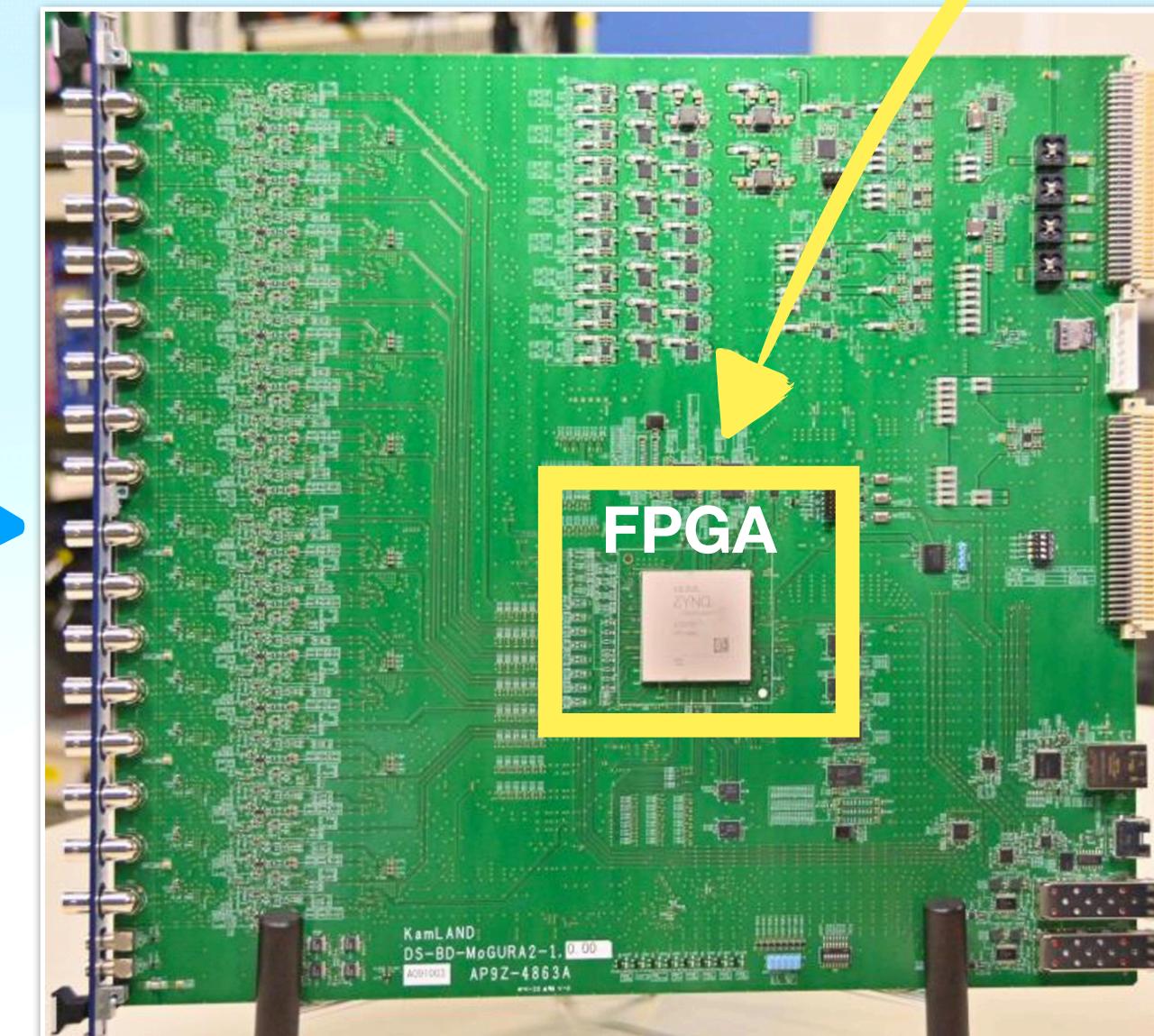
Discharge



# Real-Time AI Analysis



Data Stream



Online Learning

Offline Analysis

Energy  
Position  
Particle Type  
Detector Response

# Fast & Slow: AI in Rare Event Search



## Slow

- **Rare event search** provides a unique window to unravel the mystery of Neutrino & Dark Matter
- **High sensitivity** and **low background** is required

## Fast

- **Radiation detectors:** KamLAND-Zen, LEGEND, XENONnT
- **AI algorithms:** KamNet, FIS, Dual Classifier

## Fast for Slow

- **Hardware:** RFSoC for KamLAND-Zen and my other experiments
- **Algorithms:** AI Trigger and online AI analysis

*Thank you for your attention. Please email  
[liaobo77@ucsd.edu](mailto:liaobo77@ucsd.edu) if you are interested in collaborating!*