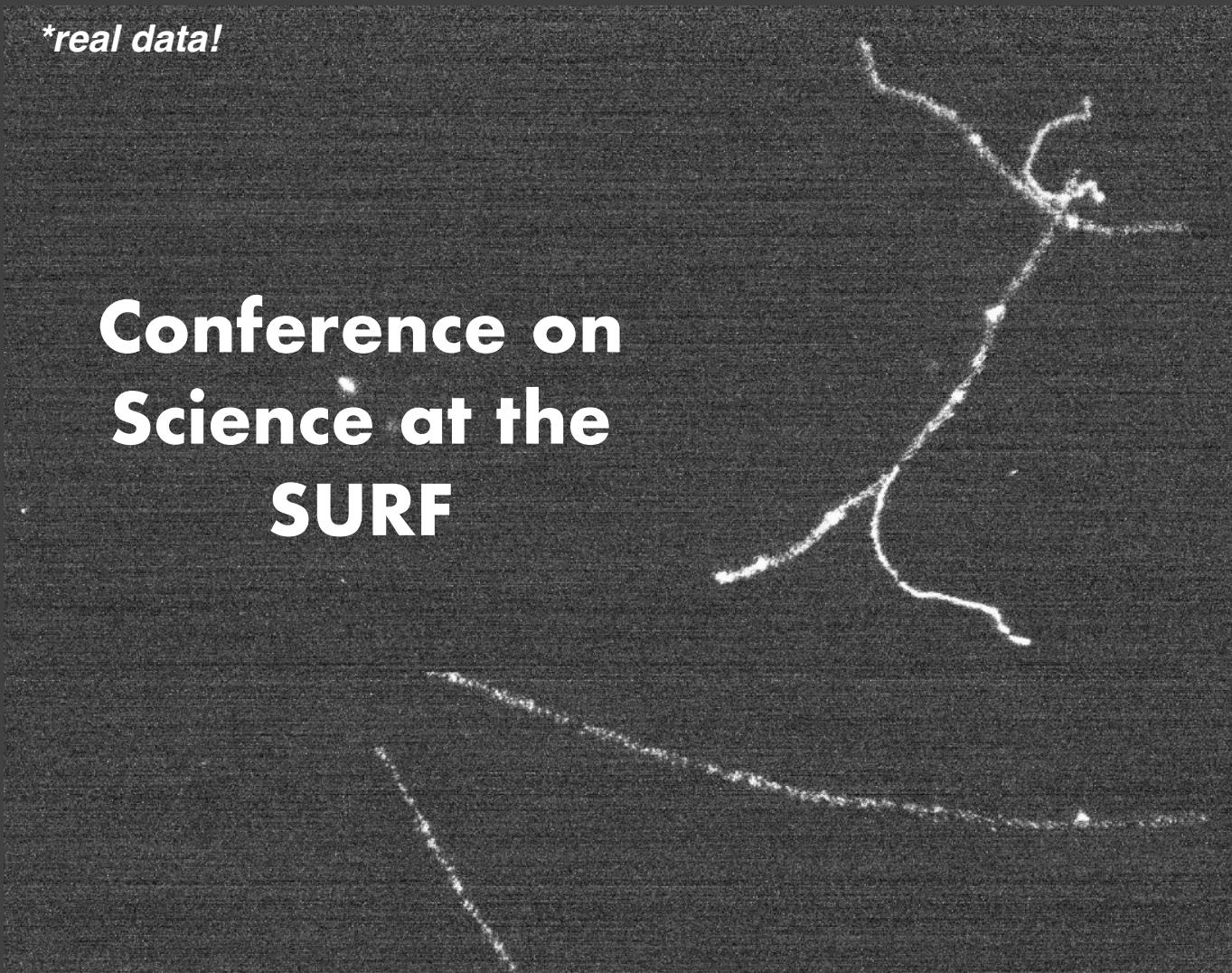


# Directional Dark Matter searches with the CYGNO/INITIUM project

\*real data!

Conference on  
Science at the  
SURF



Low energy  
electrons in CYGNO  
50 L detector

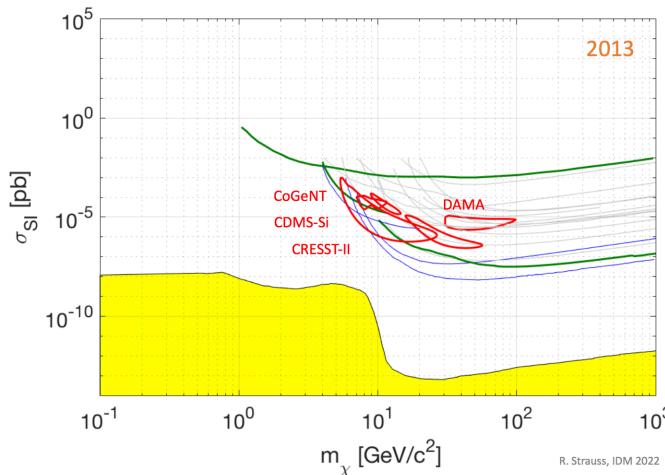


**Elisabetta Baracchini**  
Gran Sasso Science Institute & Istituto Nazionale Fisica Nucleare

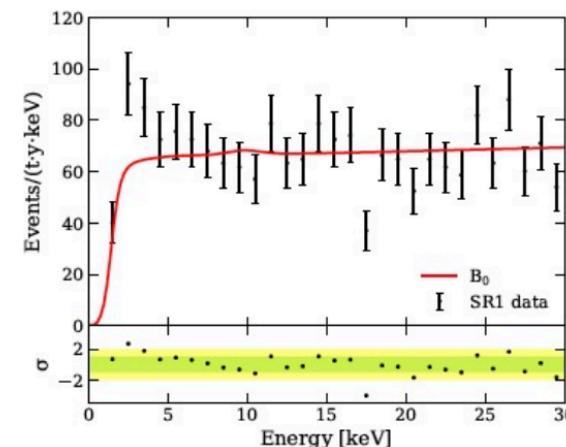


*i.e. many things can look like a signal if you don't know where they are coming from*  
**Direction is the only way**

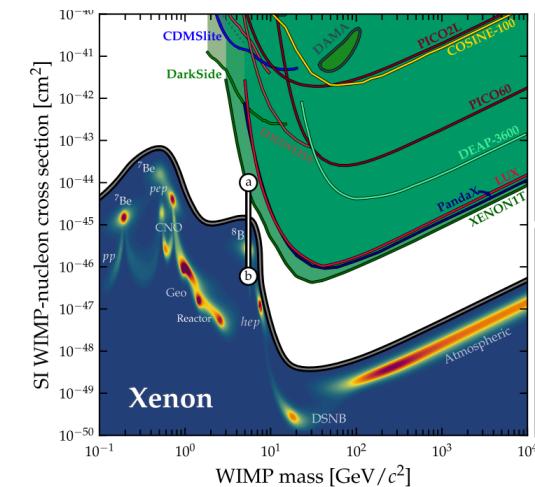
**DAMA annual modulation + past Cogent-CDMS-CRESST claims at similar masses**



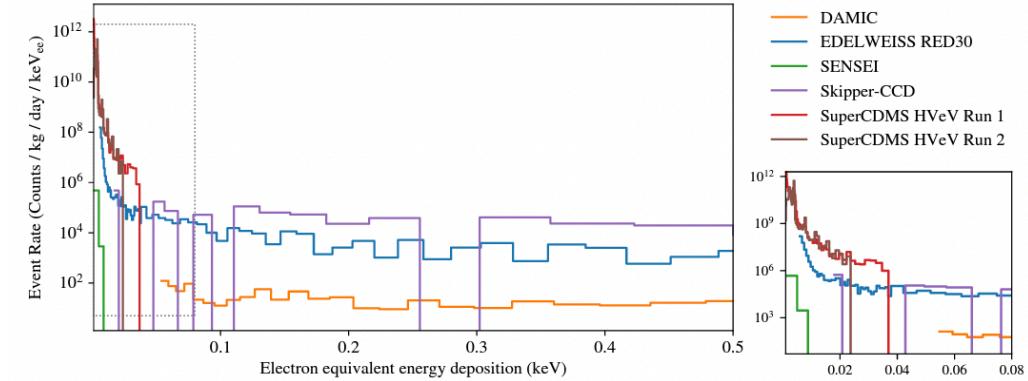
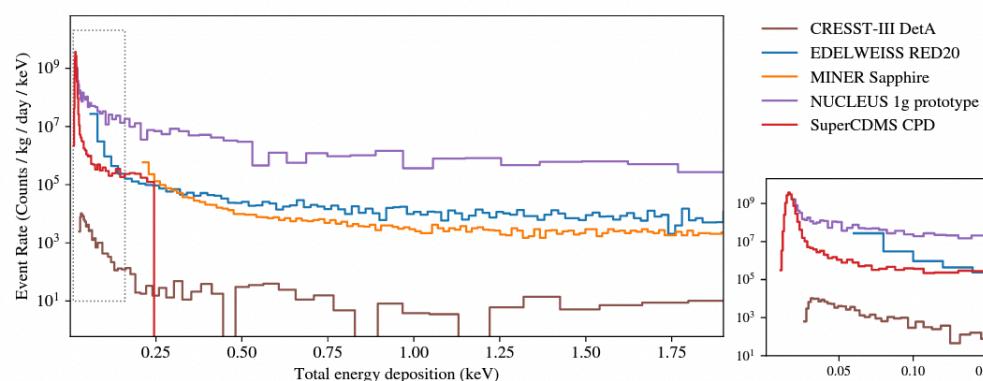
**Low energy ER excess in Xenon1T**



**Neutrinos**

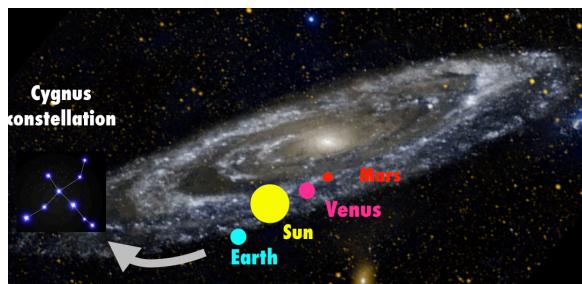


**The unexplained Low Energy Excess (LEE) appearing in many low threshold detectors** (SciPost Phys. Proc. 9 (2022) 001)



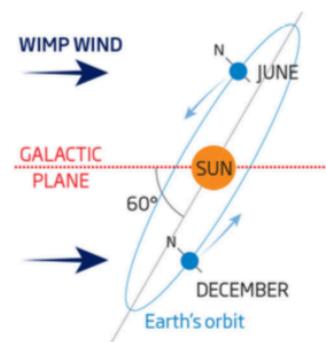
G S  
S I

# Directional DM searches

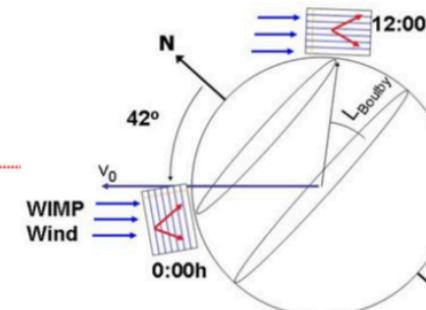


**Our Galaxy**

i.e. annual modulation of nuclear recoils rate

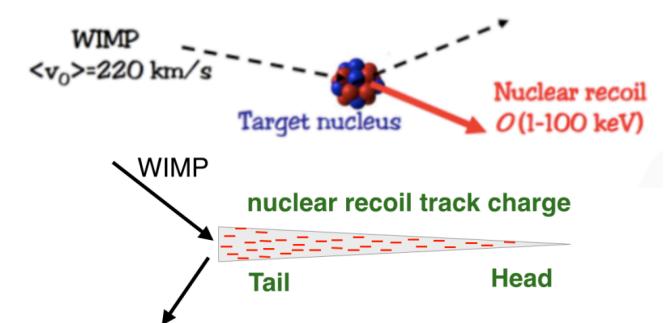


**Solar system**

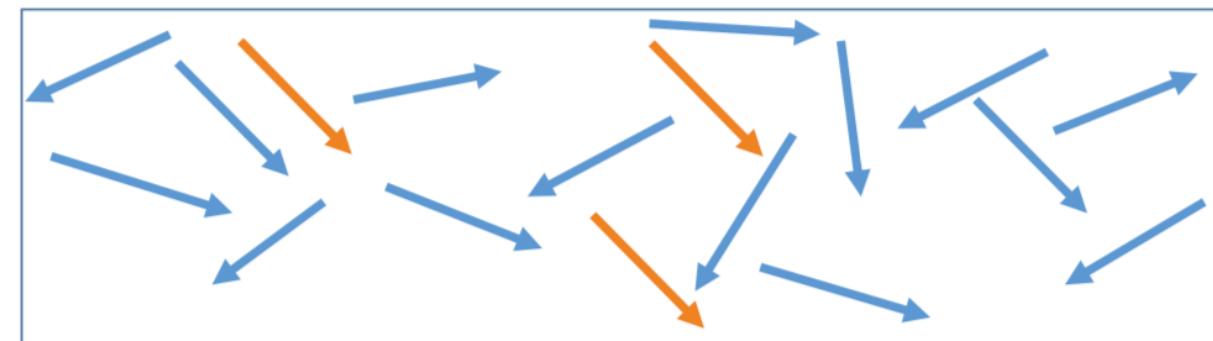


**Earth**

i.e. directional dependence of nuclear recoils



**Detector target**

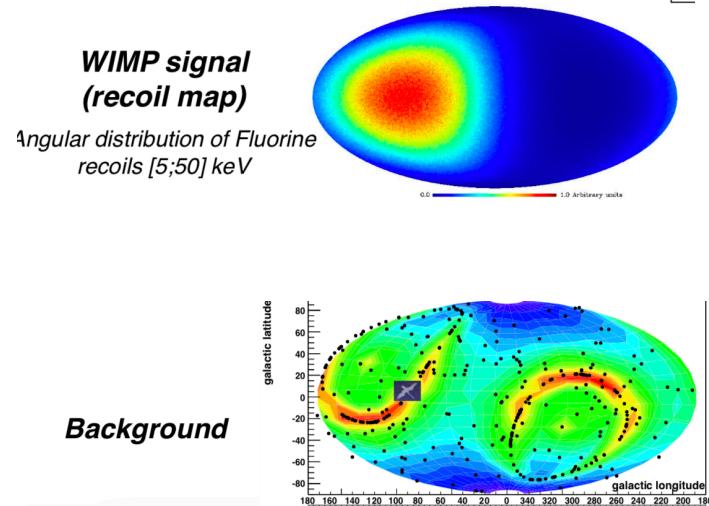


**background**

**signal**

## Capability to reject isotropy

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

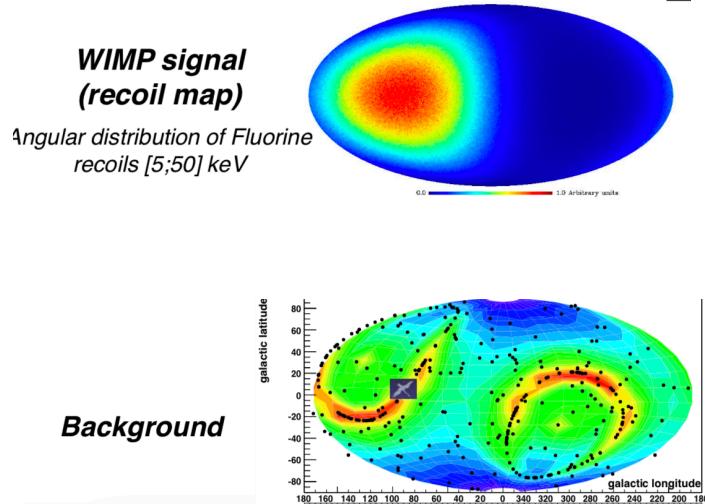


*Directional detector can tolerate unknown backgrounds, including neutral*

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

## Capability to reject isotropy

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

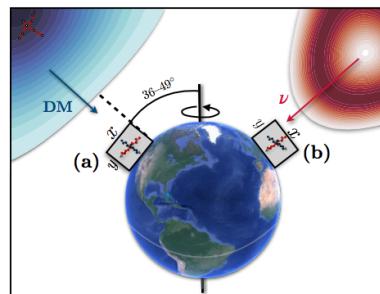
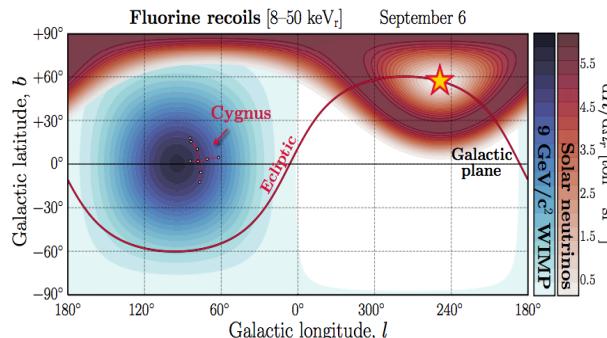


*Directional detector can tolerate unknown backgrounds, including neutral*

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

## Capability to identify Solar neutrinos

e-Print: 2102.04596



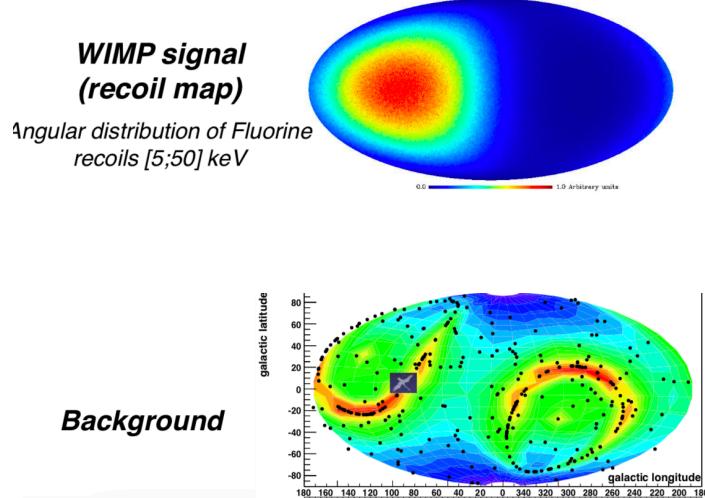
*The Neutrino Floor is an opportunity, not a limit*

**Sun neutrinos physics**

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

## Capability to reject isotropy

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

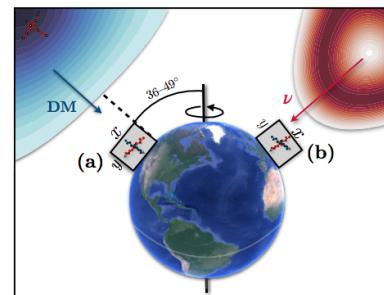
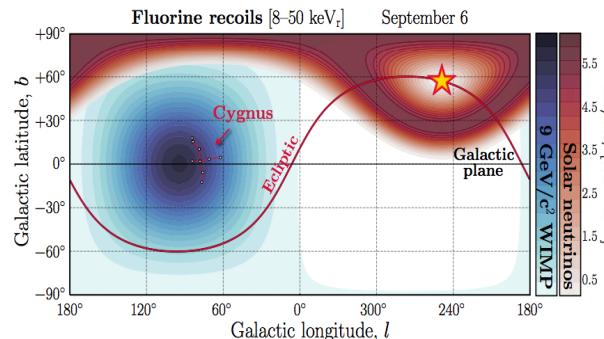


*Directional detector can tolerate unknown backgrounds, including neutral*

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

## Capability to identify Solar neutrinos

e-Print: 2102.04596

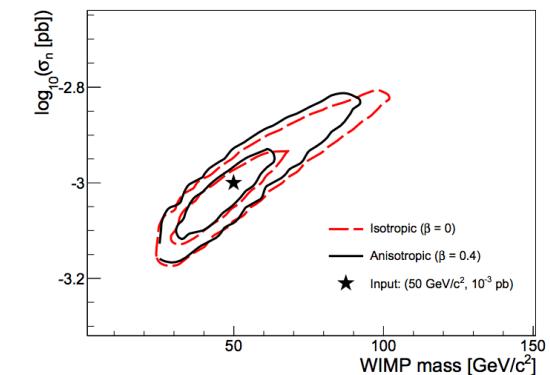
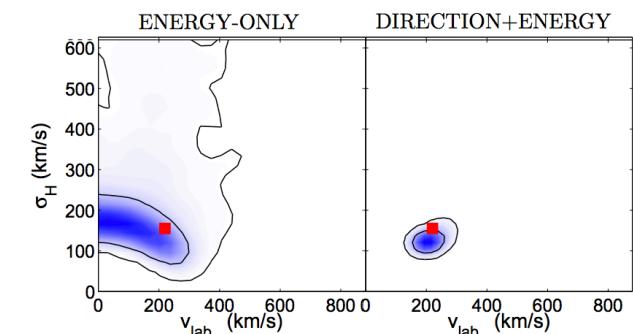


*The Neutrino Floor is an opportunity, not a limit*

**Sun neutrinos physics**

## Capability to probe DM nature

Phys.Rept. 627 (2016) 1-49



*WIMP & halo properties unbiased constraints with a single measurement*

**DM astronomy & DM interactions**

# The CYGNO/INITIUM project



The  
University  
Of  
Sheffield.



## INITIUM



European Research Council  
Established by the European Commission



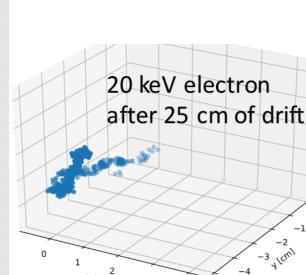
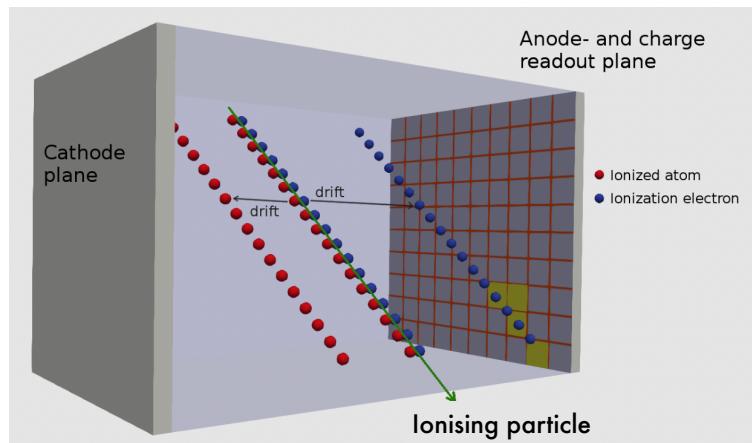
Fernando Domingues Amaro<sup>1</sup> Rita Antonietti<sup>2,3</sup> Elisabetta Baracchini<sup>4,5</sup> Luigi Benussi<sup>6</sup>  
 Stefano Bianco<sup>6</sup> Francesco Borrà<sup>7,8</sup> Roberto Campagnola<sup>6</sup> Cesidio Capoccia<sup>6</sup> Michele  
 Caponero<sup>6,9</sup> Danilo Santos Cardoso<sup>10</sup> Gianluca Cavoto<sup>7,8</sup> Igor Abritta Costa<sup>6</sup> Emiliano  
 Dané<sup>6</sup> Giorgio Dho<sup>4,6</sup> Flaminia Di Giambattista<sup>4,5</sup> Emanuele Di Marco<sup>8</sup> Melba D'Astolfo<sup>4,5</sup>  
 Giulia D'Imperio<sup>8</sup> Davide Fiorina<sup>4,5</sup> Francesco Iacoangeli<sup>8</sup> Herman Pessoa Lima Júnior<sup>10</sup>  
 Ernesto Kemp<sup>4,11</sup> Guilherme Sebastião Pinheiro Lopes<sup>12</sup> Giovanni Maccarrone<sup>6</sup> Rui  
 Daniel Passos Mano<sup>1</sup> Robert Renz Marcelo Gregorio<sup>13</sup> David José Gaspar Marques<sup>4,5</sup>  
 Giovanni Mazzitelli<sup>6</sup> Alasdair Gregor McLean<sup>13</sup> Andrea Messina<sup>7,8</sup> Pietro Meloni<sup>2,3</sup>  
 Cristina Maria Bernardes Monteiro<sup>1</sup> Rafael Antunes Nobrega<sup>12</sup> Igor Fonseca Pains<sup>12</sup>  
 Emiliano Paoletti<sup>6</sup> Luciano Passamonti<sup>6</sup> Fabrizio Petrucci<sup>2,3</sup> Stefano Piacentini<sup>7,8</sup> Davide  
 Piccolo<sup>6</sup> Daniele Pierluigi<sup>6</sup> Davide Pinci<sup>8</sup> Atul Prajapati<sup>4,5</sup> Francesco Renga<sup>8</sup> Rita Joanna  
 da Cruz Roque<sup>1</sup> Filippo Rosatelli<sup>6</sup> Alessandro Russo<sup>6</sup> Joaquim Marques Ferreira dos  
 Santos<sup>1</sup> Giovanna Saviano<sup>6,14</sup> Neil John Curwen Spooner<sup>13</sup> Roberto Tesauro<sup>6</sup> Sandro  
 Tomassini<sup>6</sup> Samuele Torelli<sup>4,5</sup>



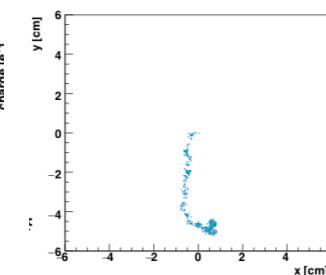
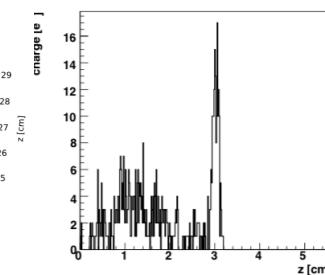
This project has received fundings under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme from  
the European Research Council (ERC) grant agreement No 818744

# Gaseous TPC experimental approach

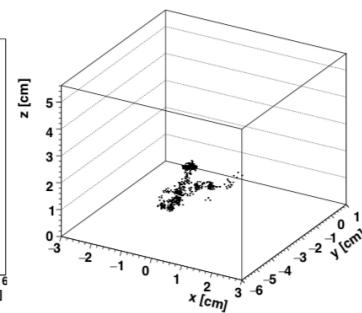
Depending on the anode segmentation (x-y) and time sampling (z), tracks can be reconstructed in **1D, 2D or 3D**



1D GEM



2D optical



3D pixels

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

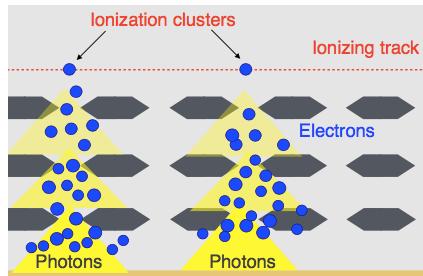
Less event information

More event information

Improved background discrimination  
More physics cases per exposure

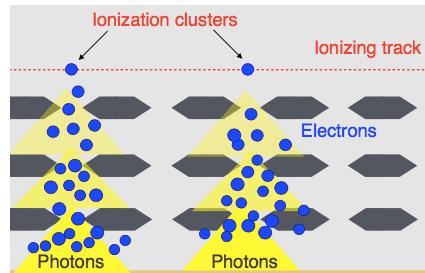
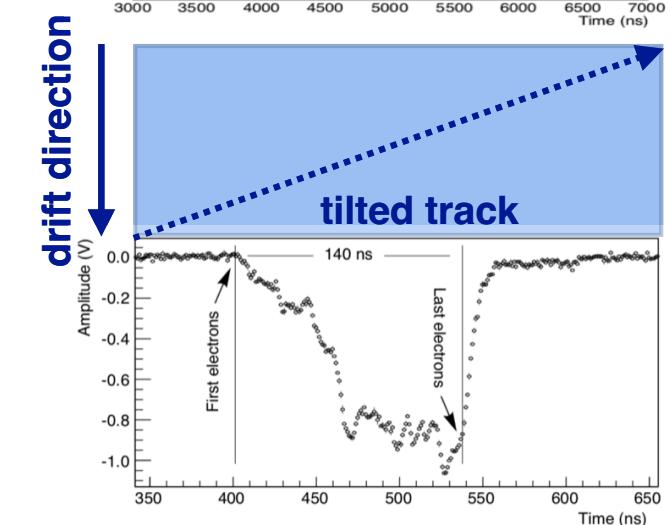
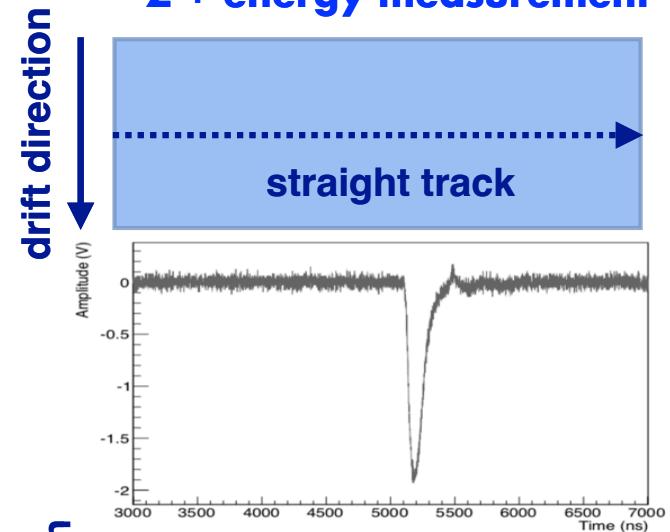
**CYGNO :3D TPC with optical readout via PMT + sCMOS**

triple 50 um GEMs



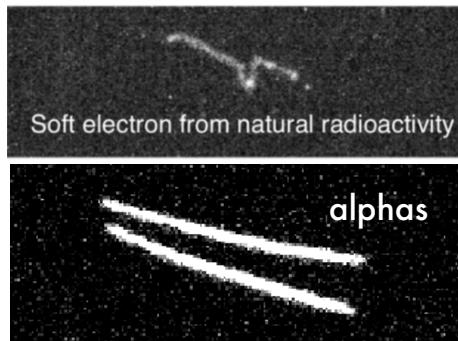
**CYGNO :3D TPC with optical readout via PMT + sCMOS**

triple 50 um GEMs

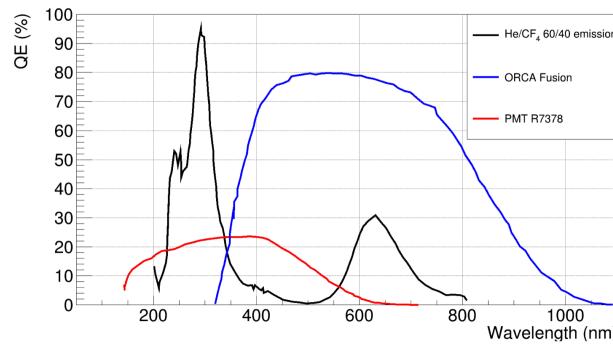
**PMT:****integrated****Z + energy measurement**

# CYGNO :3D TPC with optical readout via PMT + sCMOS

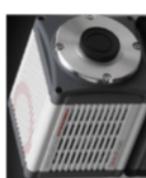
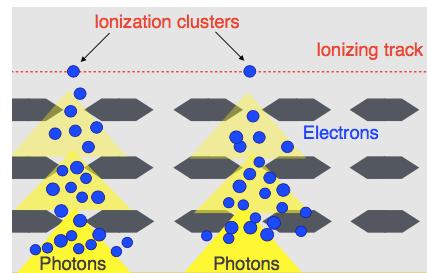
**sCMOS:**  
**high granularity**  
**X-Y + energy measurements**



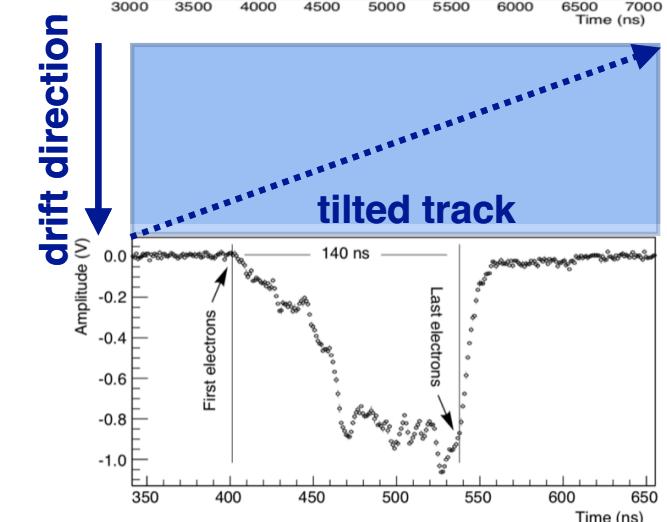
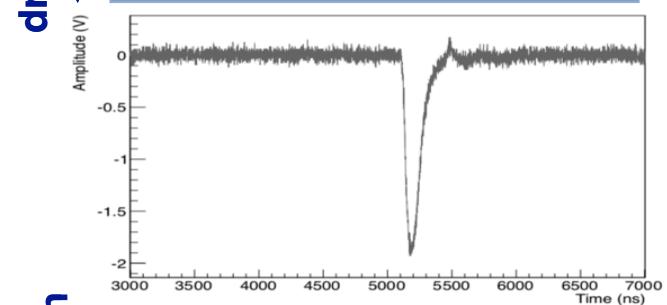
- **1/3 noise w.r.t. CCDs**
- Market pulled
- Single photon sensitivity
- Decoupled from target
- Large areas with proper optics



## triple 50 um GEMs



**PMT:**  
**integrated**  
**Z + energy measurement**

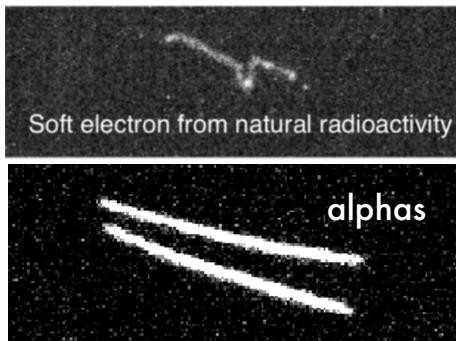


# CYGNO :3D TPC with optical readout via PMT + sCMOS

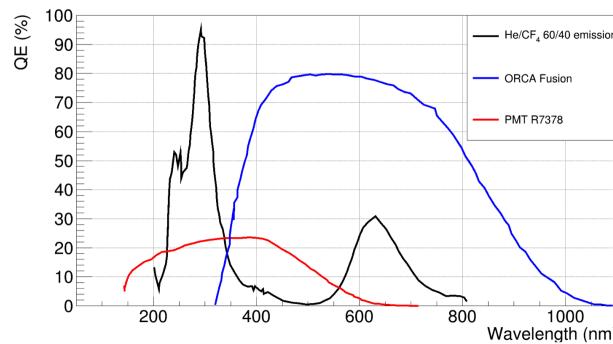
## sCMOS:

high granularity

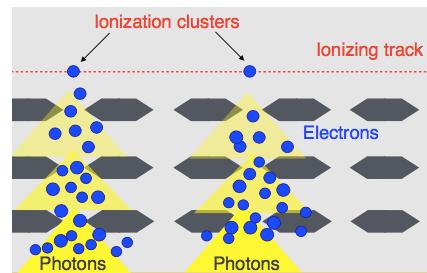
X-Y + energy measurements



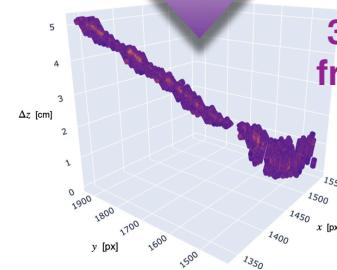
- 1/3 noise w.r.t. CCDs
- Market pulled
- Single photon sensitivity
- Decoupled from target
- Large areas with proper optics



## triple 50 um GEMs



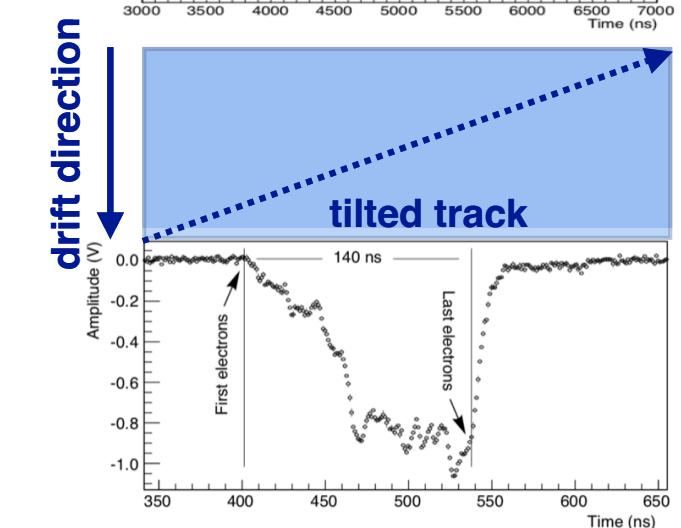
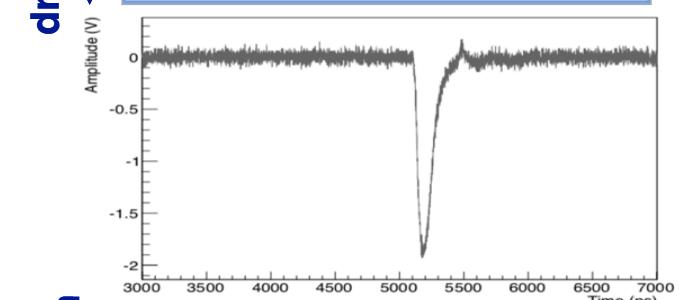
3D track  
from data



## PMT:

integrated

Z + energy measurement

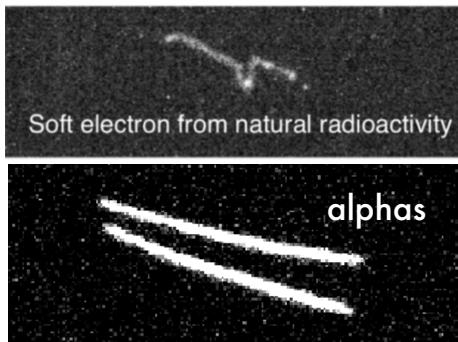


# CYGNO :3D TPC with optical readout via PMT + sCMOS

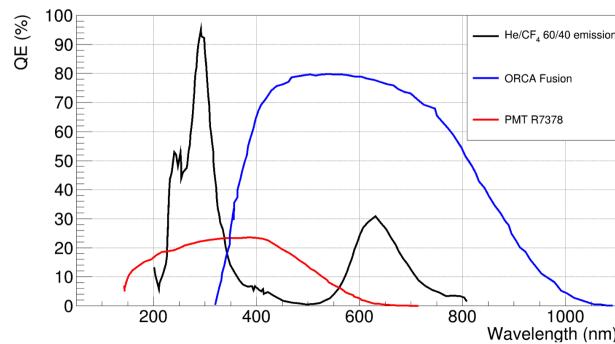
## sCMOS:

high granularity

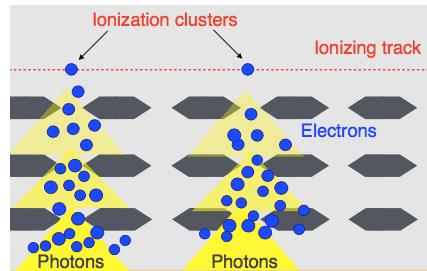
X-Y + energy measurements



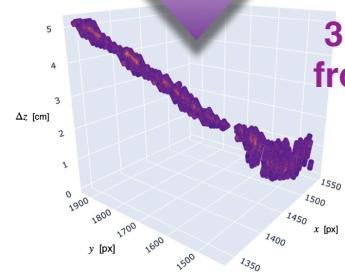
- 1/3 noise w.r.t. CCDs
- Market pulled
- Single photon sensitivity
- Decoupled from target
- Large areas with proper optics



## triple 50 um GEMs



3D track  
from data



+ SF<sub>6</sub> for negative ion drift



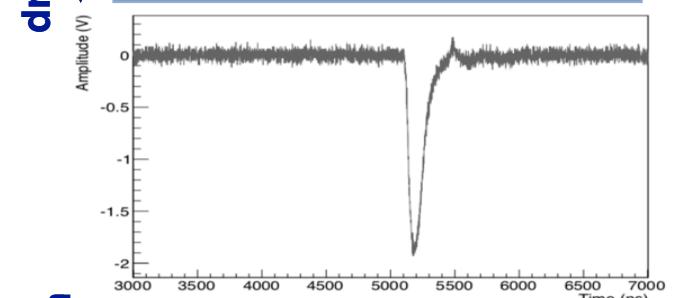
## PMT:

integrated

Z + energy measurement



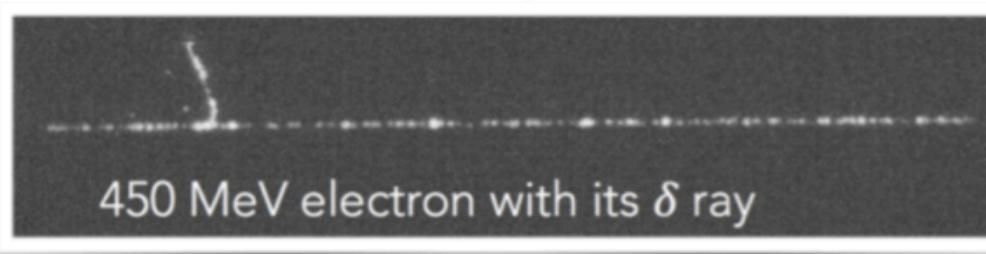
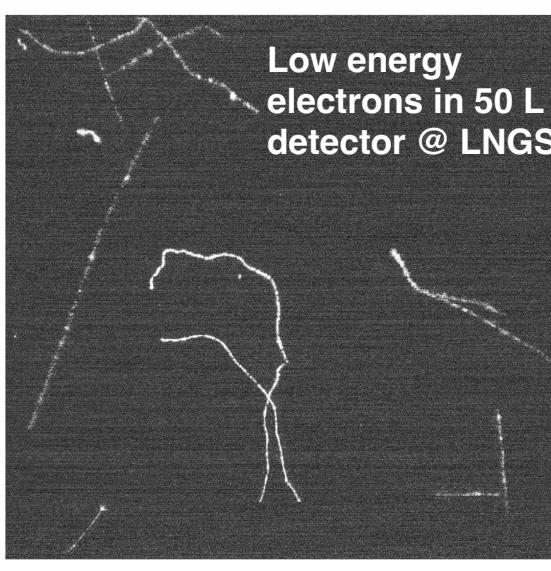
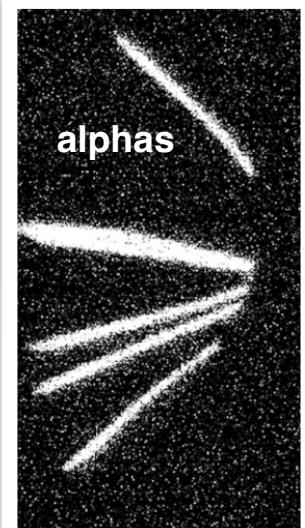
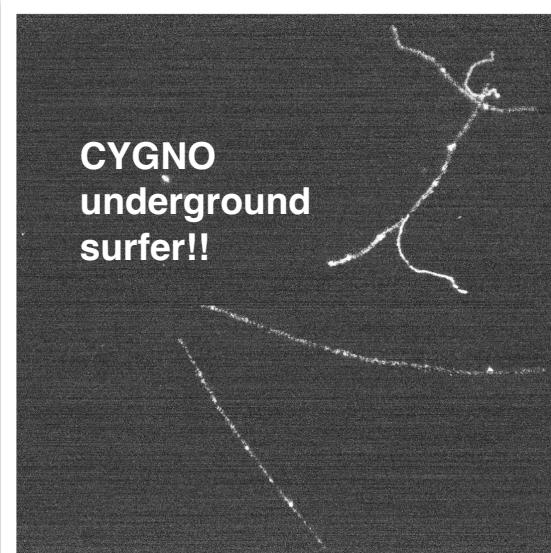
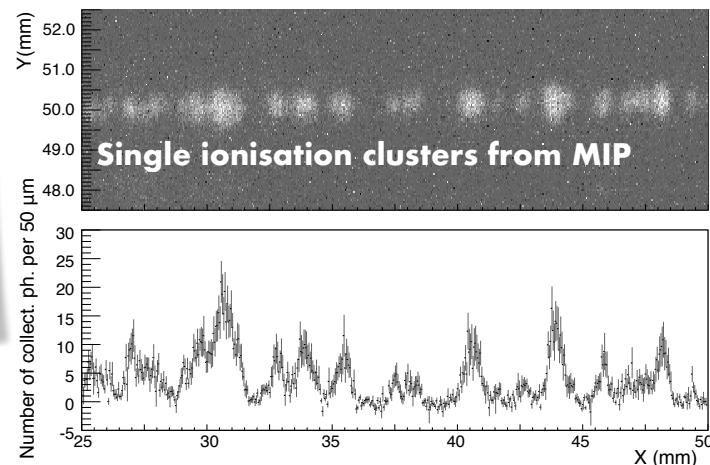
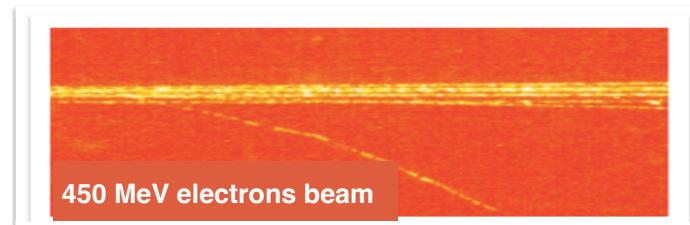
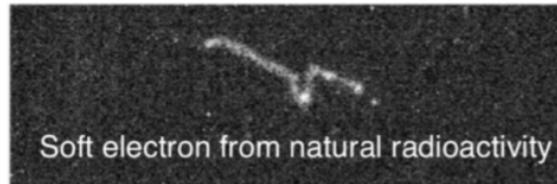
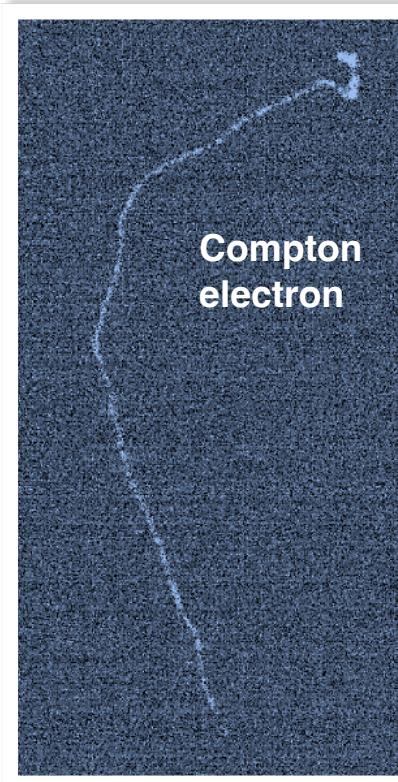
straight track



tilted track

# Photographing tracks with CYGNO

....with classical electron drift



# Optical readout features

Camera focused on last amplification stage

Lens de-magnification

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

sCMOS-GEM distance
Focal lenght F.L.

sCMOS sensor geometrical acceptance

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

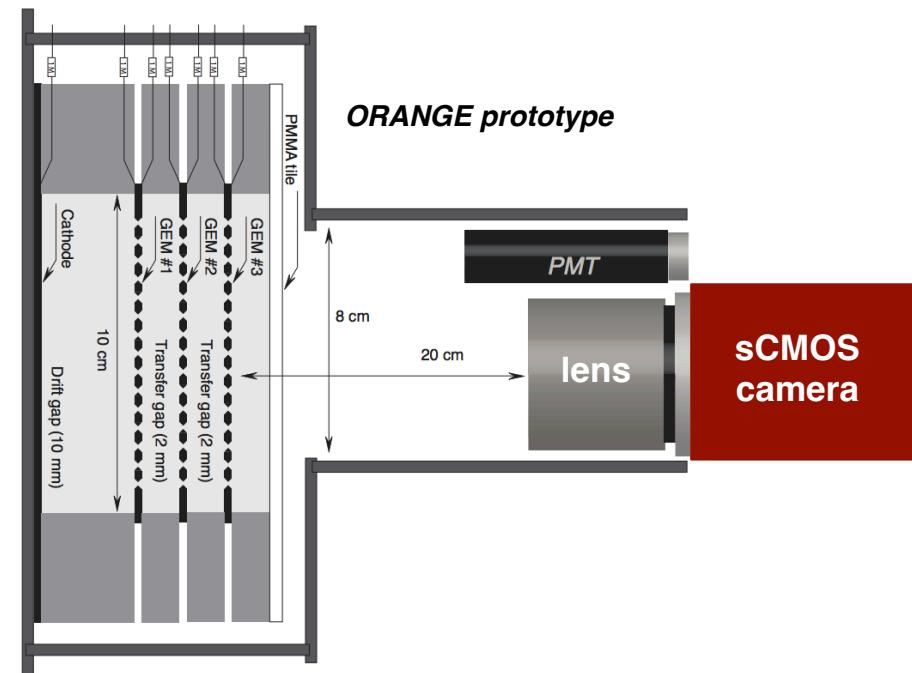
The further the camera, the larger the area it can image

- a  $36 \times 36 \text{ cm}^2$  area with an effective granularity of  $155 \times 155 \text{ um}^2$  (large volume application)
- a  $10 \times 10 \text{ cm}^2$  area with an effective granularity of  $43 \times 43 \text{ um}^2$  (small volume application)

The further the camera, the lower the light yield detectable

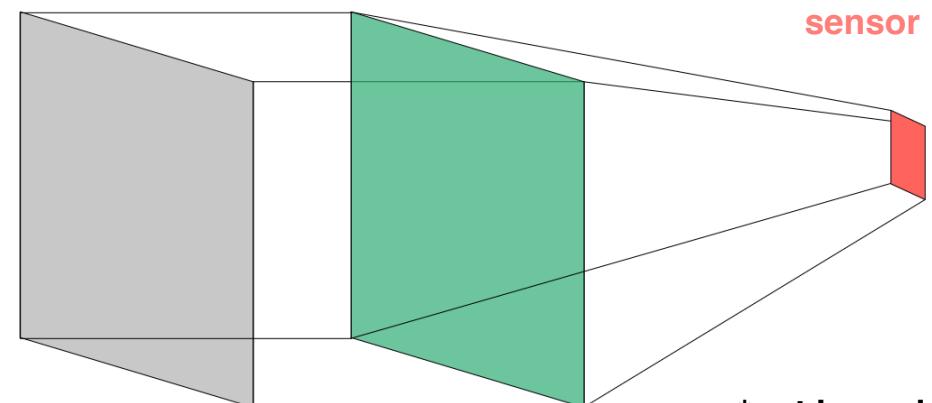
- $\pm 1 \times 10^{-4}$  coverage for large volume application
- $\pm 1 \times 10^{-3}$  coverage for large volume application

Camera electronics is integrated,  
the output is an USB plug



$36 \times 36 \text{ cm}^2$   
imaged area

$1.3 \times 1.3 \text{ cm}^2$   
sensor

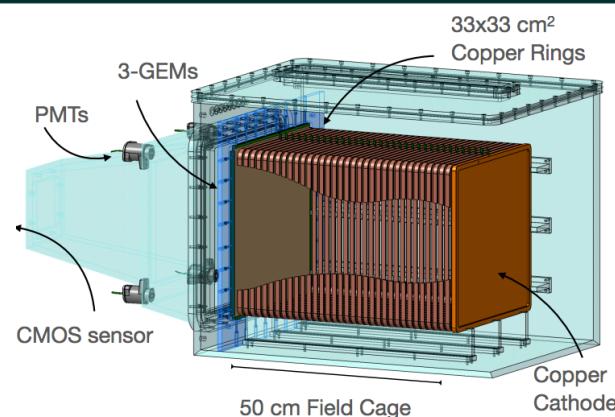
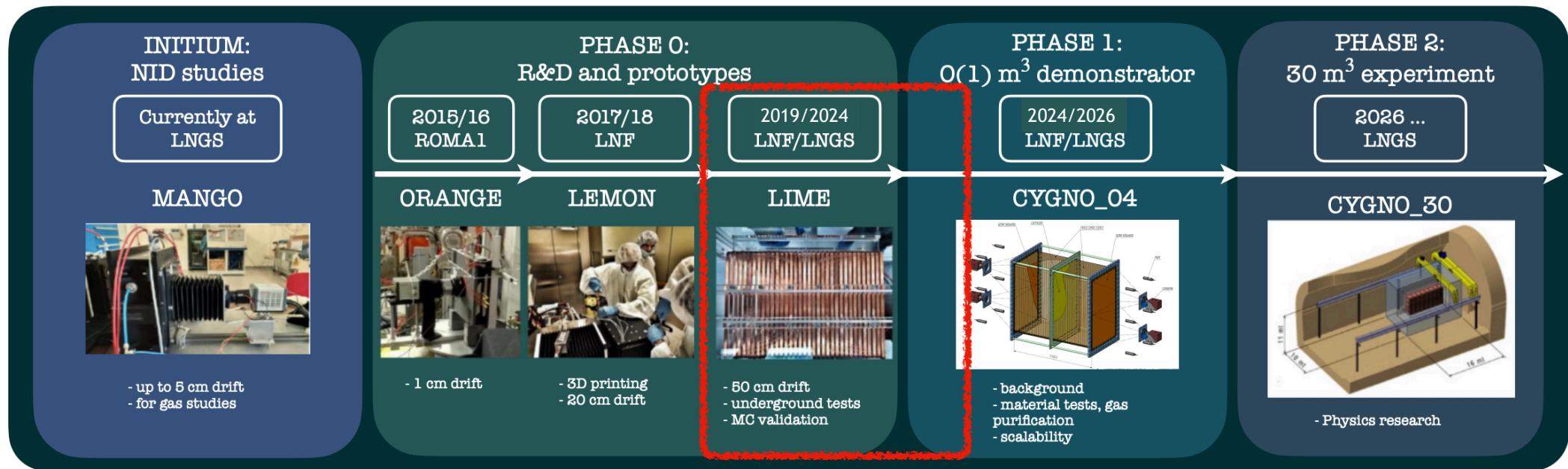


\*not in scale

# CXGN timeline

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 cm<sup>2</sup> readout area**  
**50 cm drift length**  
**50 L active volume**

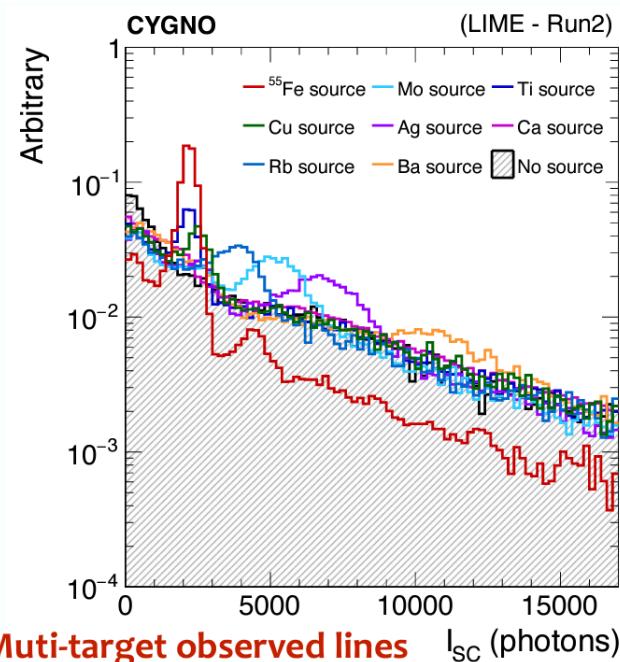
# LIME overground commissioning @ LNF



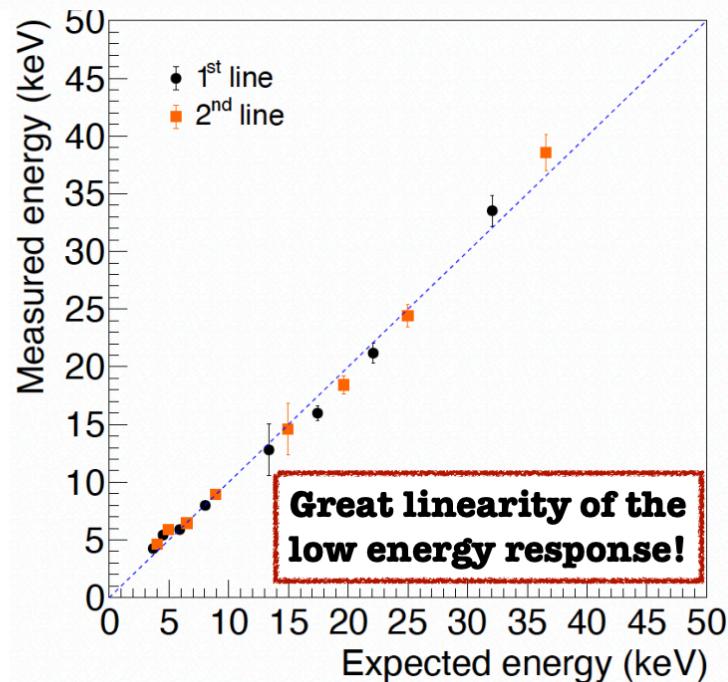
## Electron recoils calibration



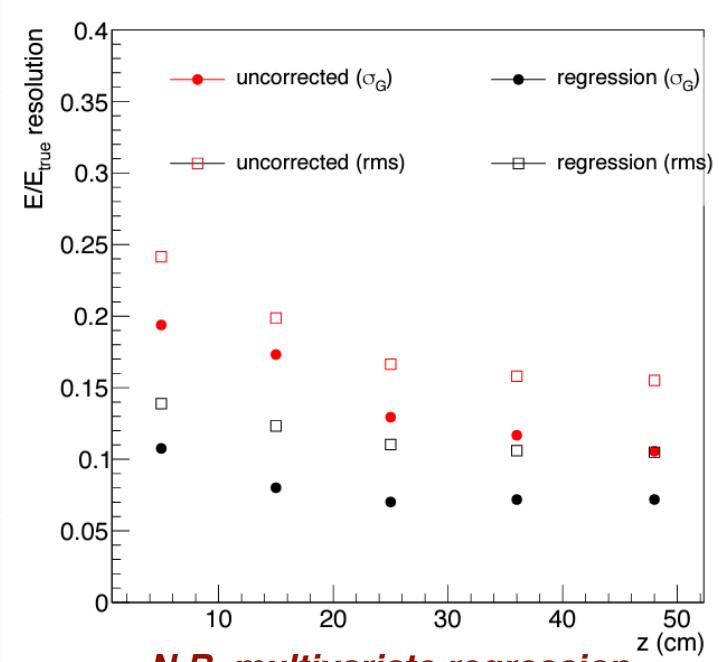
*Multi-source + bkg spectrum*



*Energy response linearity*



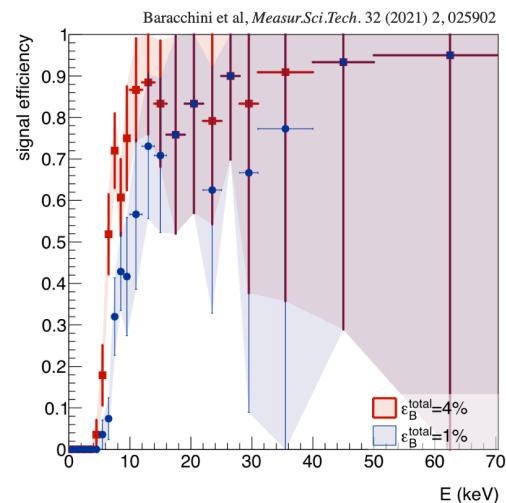
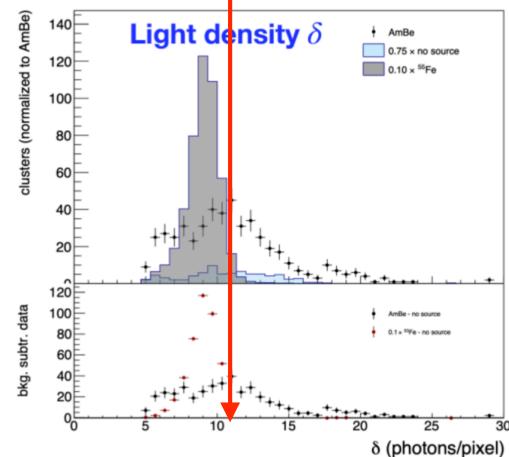
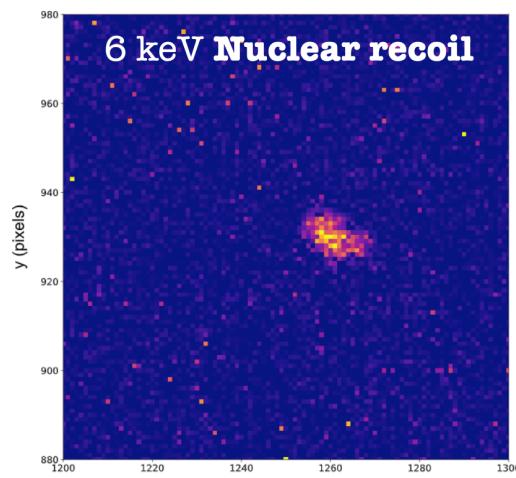
*Energy resolution*



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

# NR vs ER discrimination

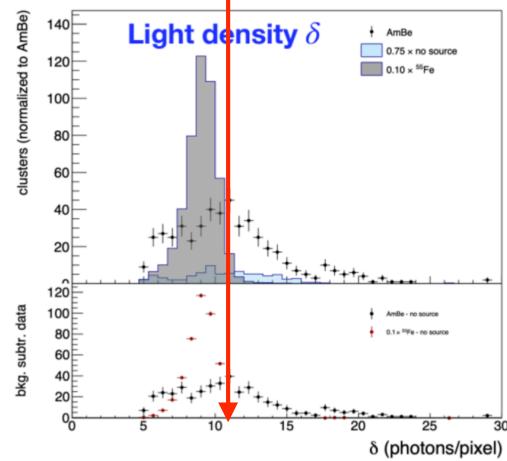
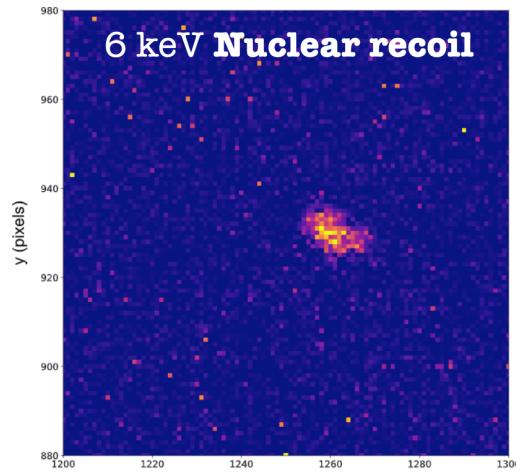
- **AmBe neutron** source to induce NRs
- Selection based on **topological information** of the tracks (size, shape and light density)
- **Discrimination** based on single variable: **light density**



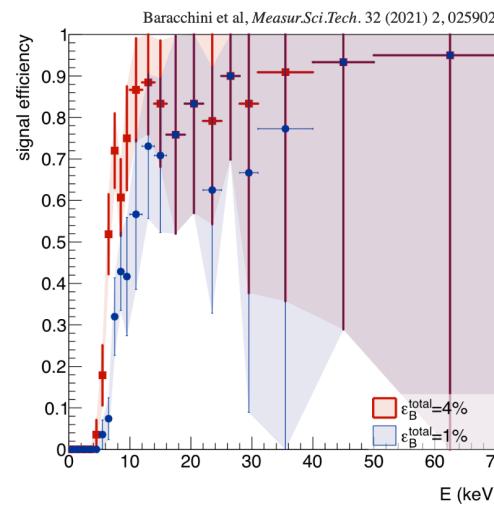
- ▶ **NR detection** efficiency over **40%** above 6 keV
- ▶ **96% rejection** power on the 6 keV  $^{55}\text{Fe}$  **ERs**

# NR vs ER discrimination

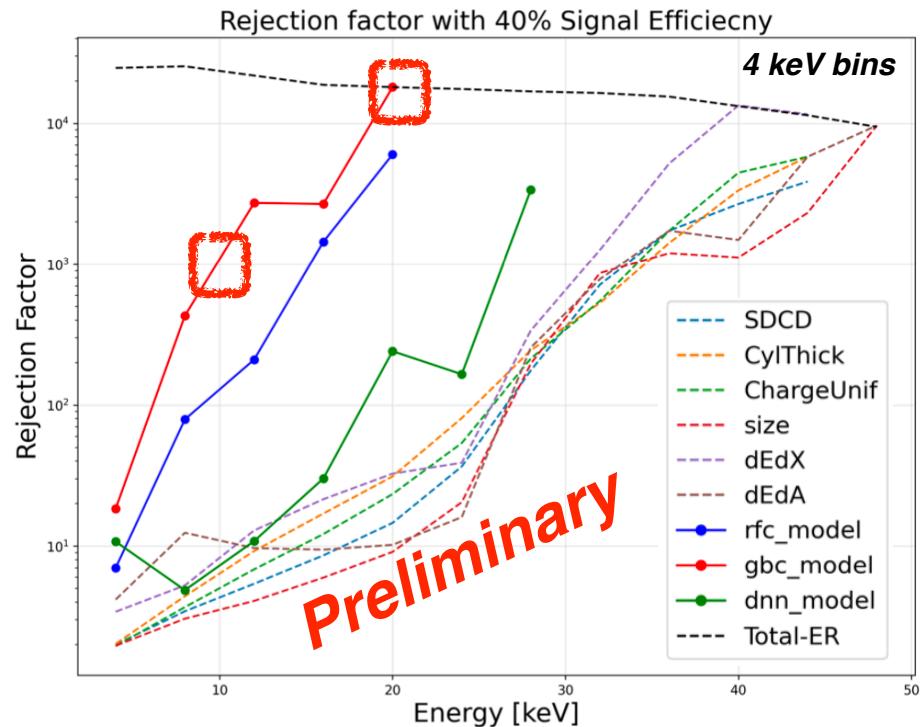
- **AmBe neutron** source to induce NRs
- Selection based on **topological information** of the tracks (size, shape and light density)
- **Discrimination** based on single variable: **light density**



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



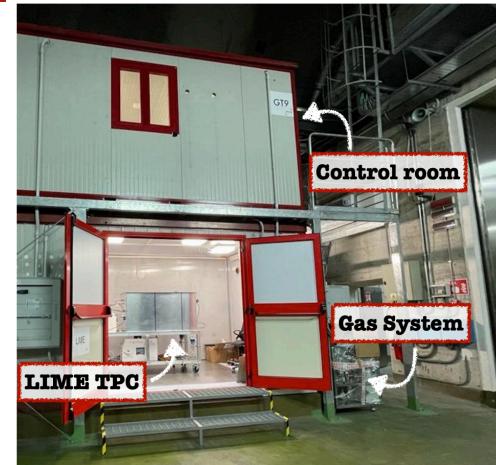
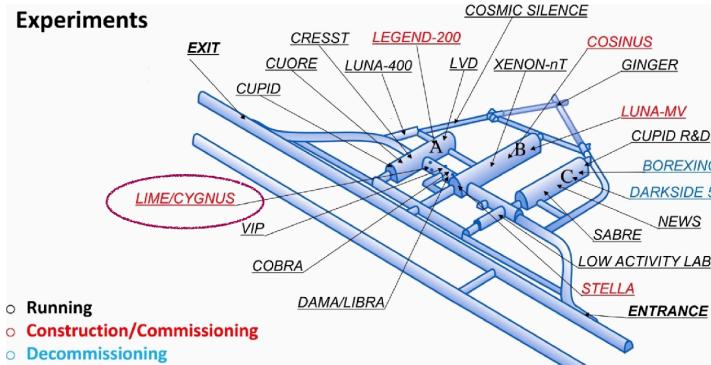
**NEW!**  
**ML techniques on full MC simulation**



**Indication of background rejection  $> 10^4/\text{keV}$  @ 20 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                              | $4 \times 10^5$        | 35 Hz      | Oct 2022          |
| Run2 | 4 cm Cu                           | $4.5 \times 10^5$      | 3.5 Hz     | Jan-Mar 2023      |
| Run3 | 10 cm Cu                          | $2.7 \times 10^6$      | 1.3 Hz     | May-Nov 2023      |
| Run4 | 10 cm Cu + 40 cm H <sub>2</sub> O | $2.8 \times 10^6$      | 0.9 Hz     | Dec 2023-Apr 2024 |



**Run1**



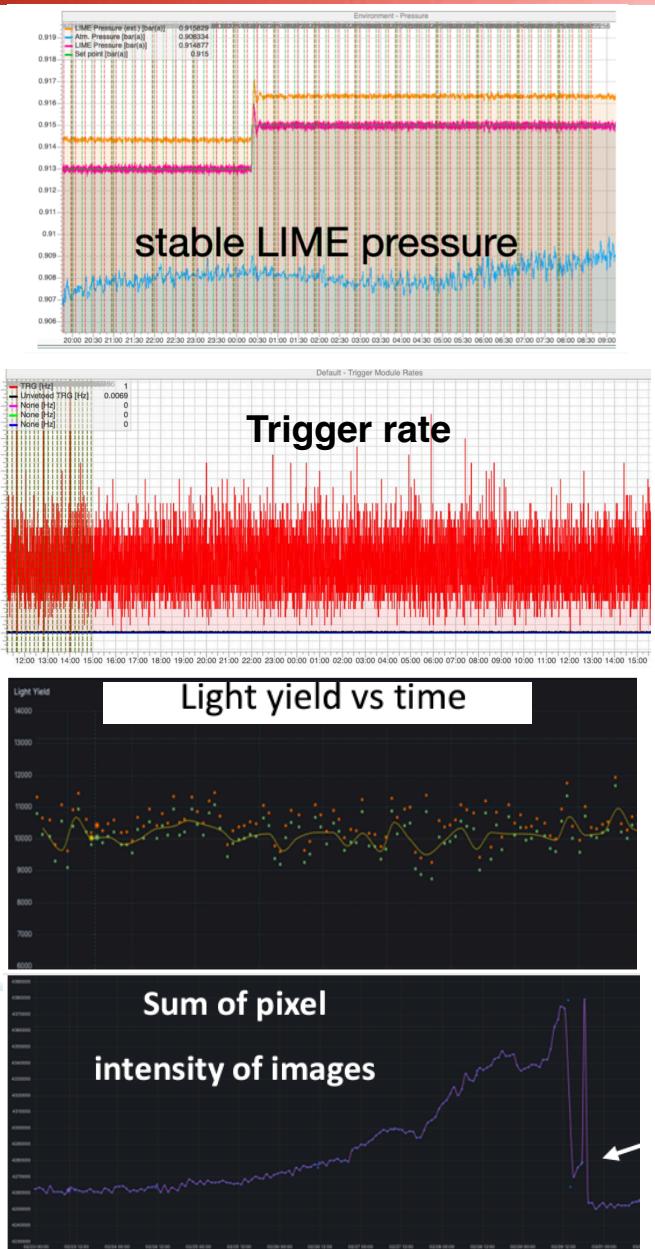
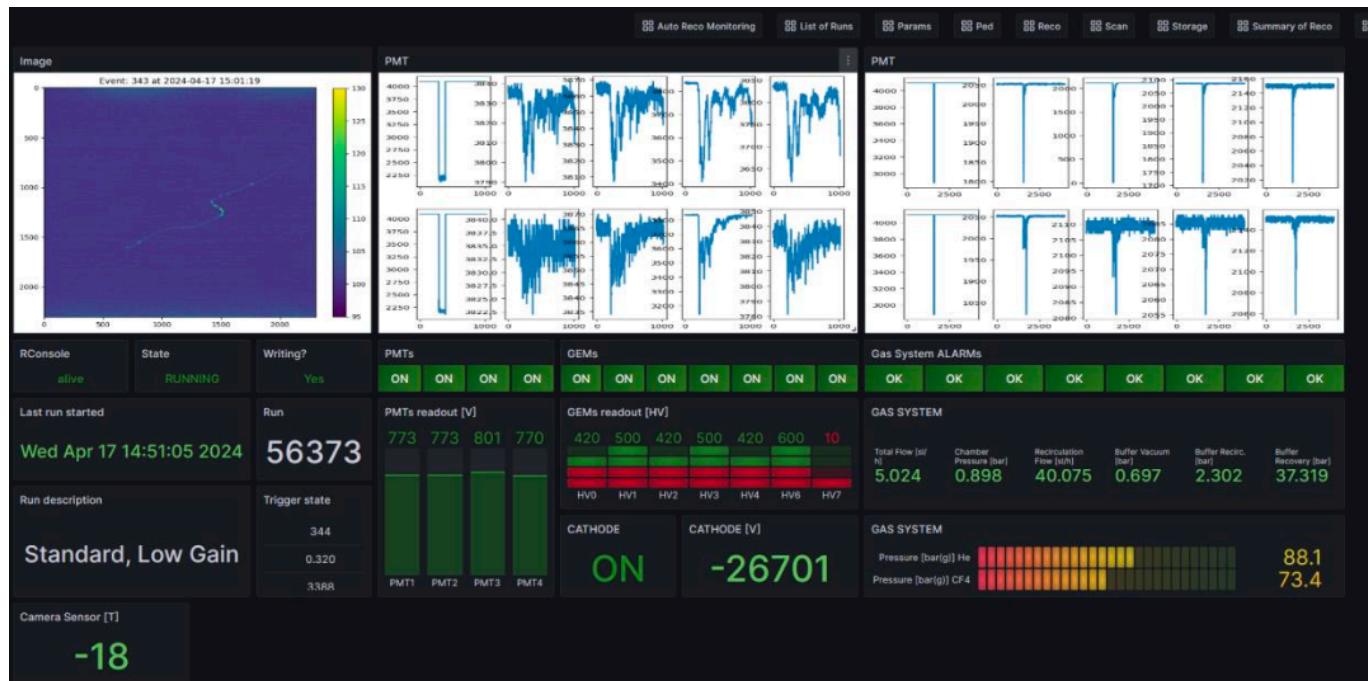
**Run2 - Run3**



**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,  $^{55}\text{Fe}$  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

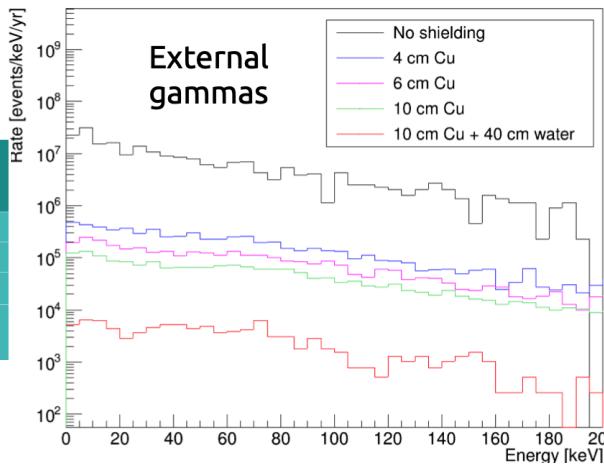


# LIME expected backgrounds from MC simulation

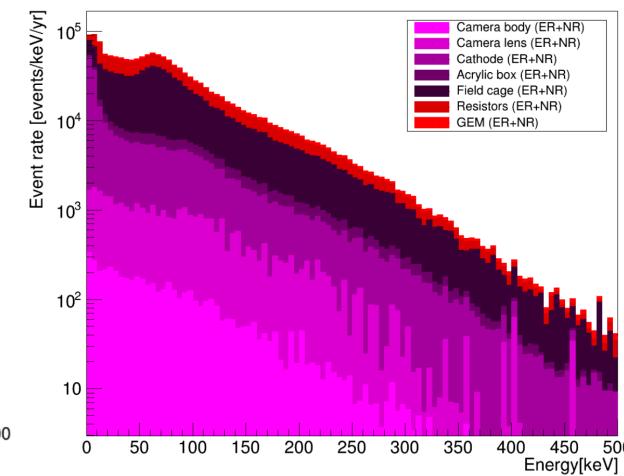


## External backgrounds

| Shielding                            | Gamma background<br>[ $10^6 \text{ ER yr}^{-1}$ ] | Neutron background<br>[ $\text{NR yr}^{-1}$ ] |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| 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 +<br>40 cm H <sub>2</sub> O | (0.5±0.2)   | (2.0±0.2)                                     |



## Internal backgrounds



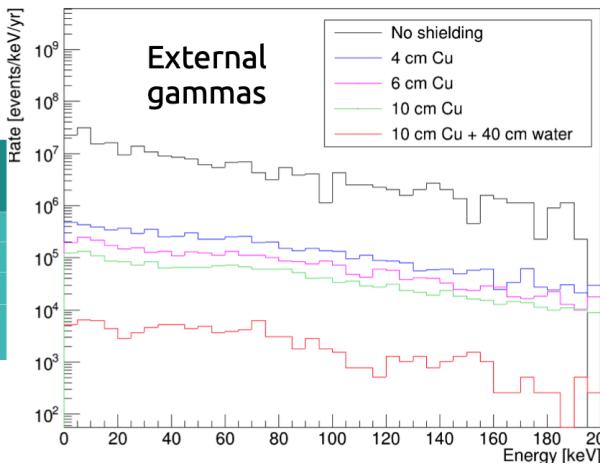
| Source       | Event rate<br>[ $10^6 \text{ yr}^{-1}$ ] |
|--------------|--|
| Field cage   | (3.57±0.01)                              |
| Resistors    | (1.873±0.006)                            |
| Cathode      | (1.095±0.001)                            |
| GEMs         | (0.3891±0.0002)                          |
| Vessel       | (0.268±0.001)                            |
| Camera lens  | (0.151±0.004)                            |
| Camera body  | (0.0242±0.0005)                          |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>(7.34±0.01)</b>                       |

Please note LIME was NOT built with radioactive pure components

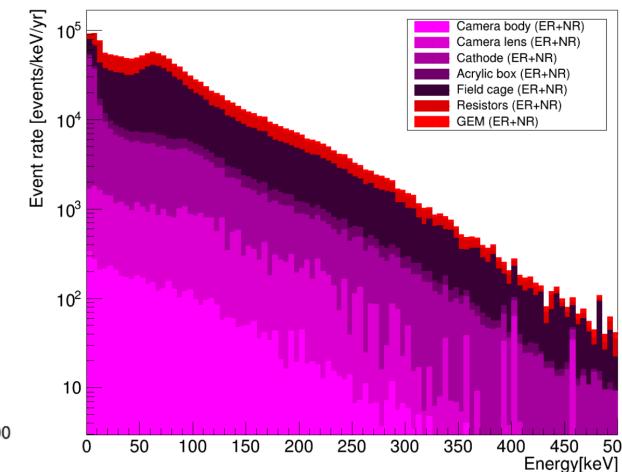
# LIME expected backgrounds from MC simulation

## External backgrounds

| Shielding                         | Gamma background<br>[ $10^6 \text{ ER yr}^{-1}$ ] | Neutron background<br>[ $\text{NR yr}^{-1}$ ] |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| 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 <sub>2</sub> O | (0.5±0.2)   | (2.0±0.2)                                     |



## Internal backgrounds

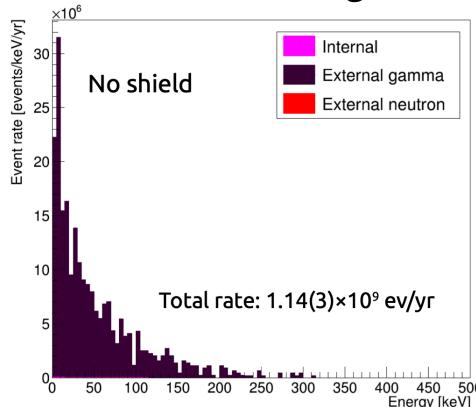


| Source       | Event rate [ $10^6 \text{ yr}^{-1}$ ] |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| Field cage   | (3.57±0.01)                           |
| Resistors    | (1.873±0.006)                         |
| Cathode      | (1.095±0.001)                         |
| GEMs         | (0.3891±0.0002)                       |
| Vessel       | (0.268±0.001)                         |
| Camera lens  | (0.151±0.004)                         |
| Camera body  | (0.0242±0.0005)                       |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>(7.34±0.01)</b>                    |

Please note LIME was NOT built with radioactive pure components

## Total backgrounds

### no shielding

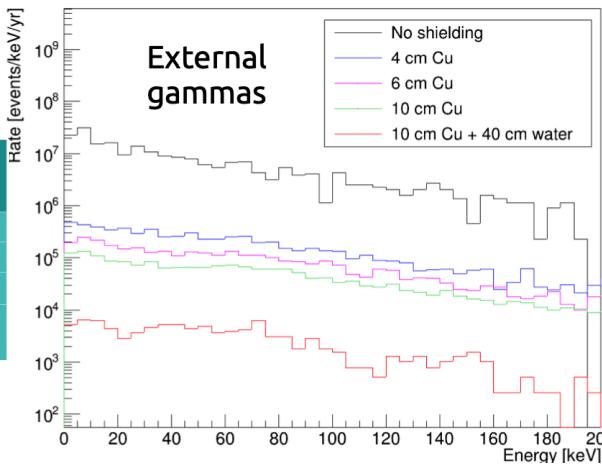


internal/external bkg  
0.6%

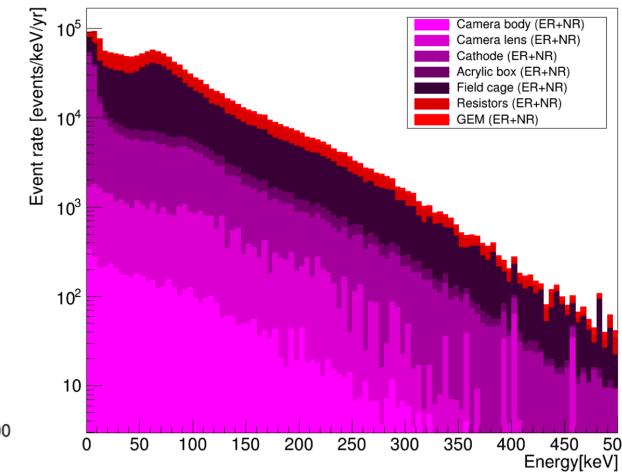
# LIME expected backgrounds from MC simulation

## External backgrounds

| Shielding                         | Gamma background [10 <sup>6</sup> ER yr <sup>-1</sup> ] | Neutron background [NR yr <sup>-1</sup> ] |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| Unshielded                        | (1140±30)   | (1480±90)                                 |
| 4 cm Cu                           | (26.2±0.6)  | (870±10)                                  |
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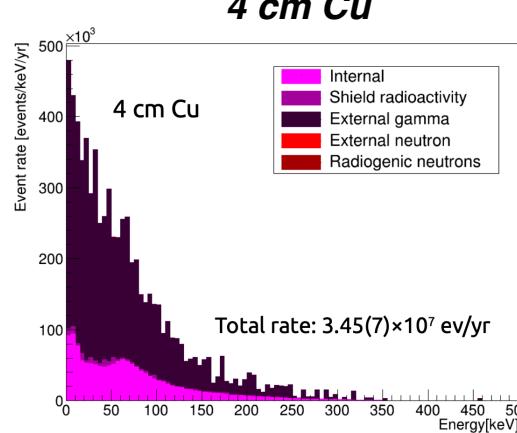
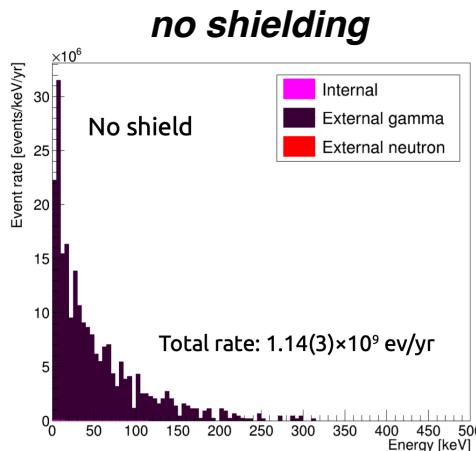
## Internal backgrounds



| Source       | Event rate [10 <sup>6</sup> yr <sup>-1</sup> ] |
|--------------|--|
| 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)                                |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>(7.34±0.01)</b>                             |

Please note LIME was NOT built with radioactive pure components

## Total backgrounds



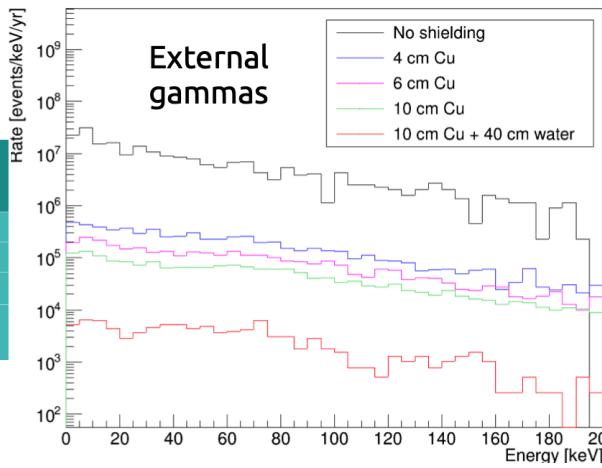
**internal/external bkg**  
**0.6%**

**internal/external bkg**  
**20%**

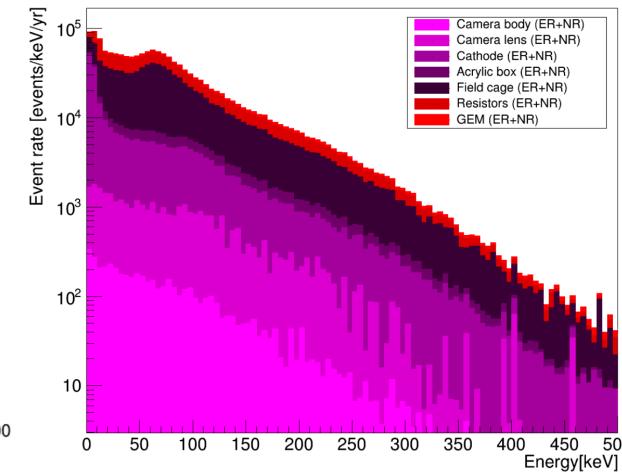
# LIME expected backgrounds from MC simulation

## External backgrounds

| Shielding                         | Gamma background<br>[ $10^6 \text{ ER yr}^{-1}$ ] | Neutron background<br>[ $\text{NR yr}^{-1}$ ] |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| 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 <sub>2</sub> O | (0.5±0.2)   | (2.0±0.2)                                     |



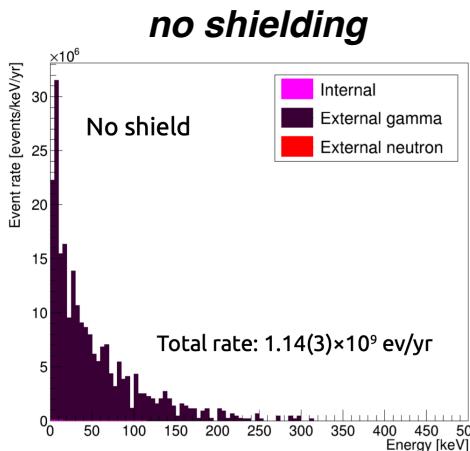
## Internal backgrounds



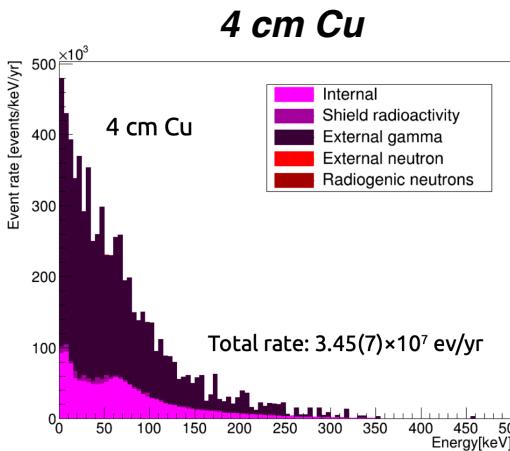
| Source       | Event rate [ $10^6 \text{ yr}^{-1}$ ] |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| Field cage   | (3.57±0.01)                           |
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| Camera body  | (0.0242±0.0005)                       |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>(7.34±0.01)</b>                    |

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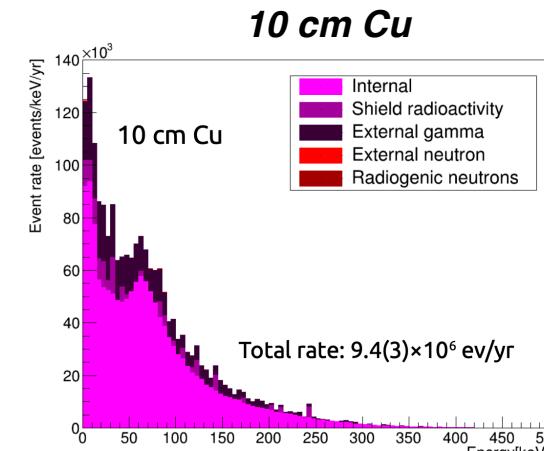
## Total backgrounds



**internal/external bkg**  
**0.6%**



**internal/external bkg**  
**20%**

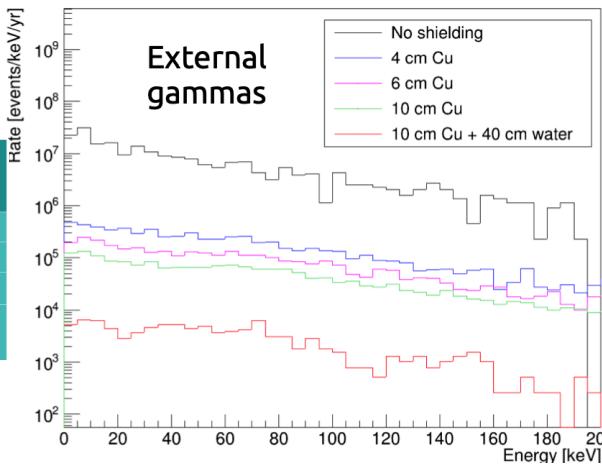


**internal/external bkg**  
**78%**

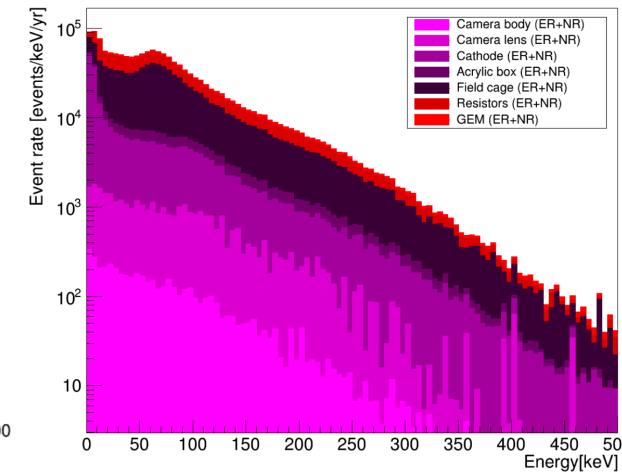
# LIME expected backgrounds from MC simulation

## External backgrounds

| Shielding                         | Gamma background [10 <sup>6</sup> ER yr <sup>-1</sup> ] | Neutron background [NR yr <sup>-1</sup> ] |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| Unshielded                        | (1140±30)   | (1480±90)                                 |
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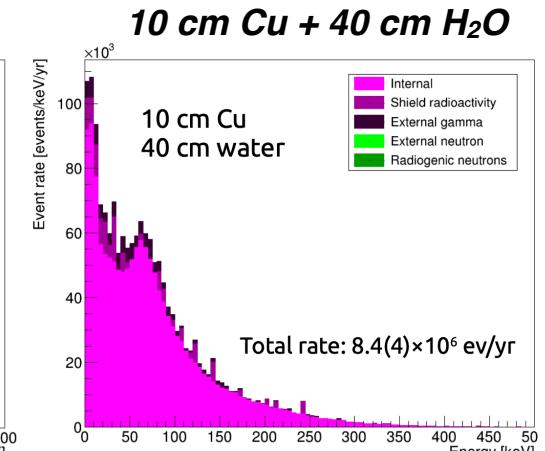
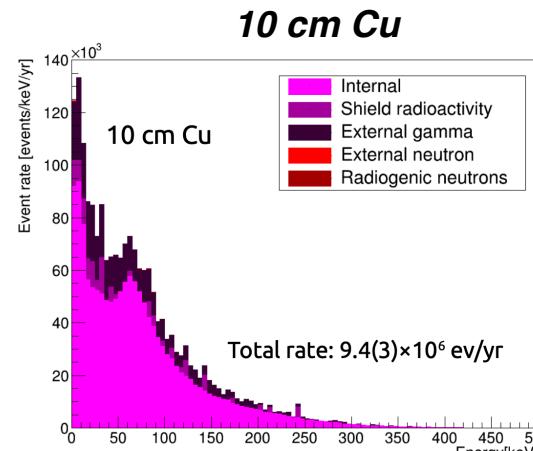
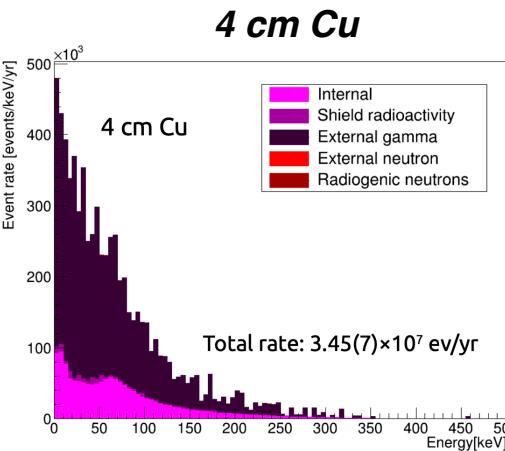
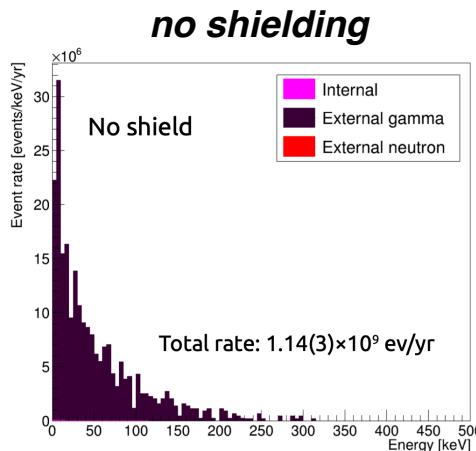
## Internal backgrounds



| Source       | Event rate [10 <sup>6</sup> yr <sup>-1</sup> ] |
|--------------|--|
| Field cage   | (3.57±0.01)                                    |
| Resistors    | (1.873±0.006)                                  |
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| Vessel       | (0.268±0.001)                                  |
| Camera lens  | (0.151±0.004)                                  |
| Camera body  | (0.0242±0.0005)                                |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>(7.34±0.01)</b>                             |

Please note LIME was NOT built with radioactive pure components

## Total backgrounds



**internal/external bkg**  
**0.6%**

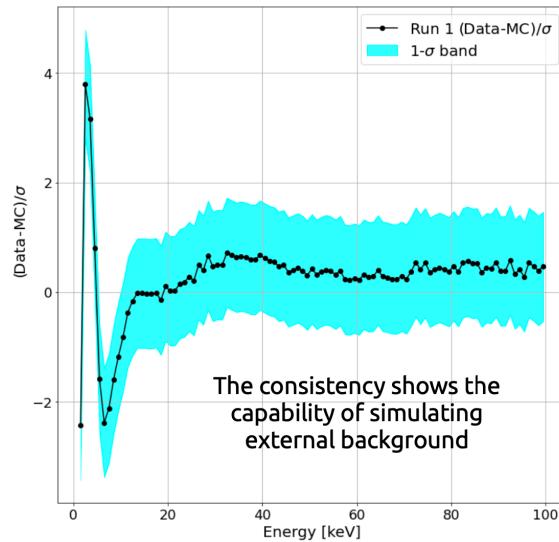
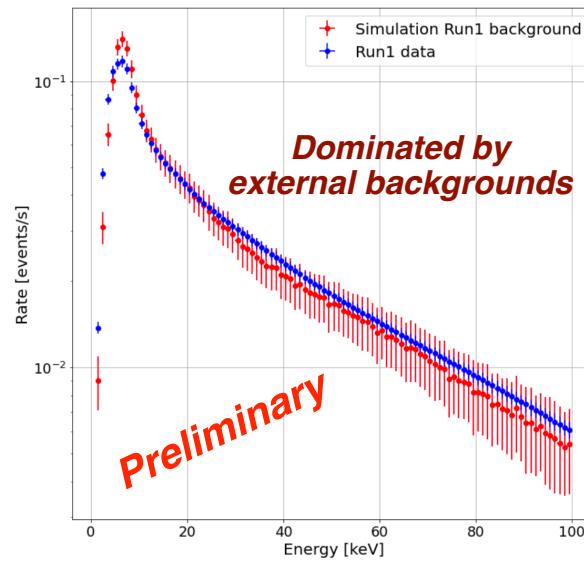
**internal/external bkg**  
**20%**

**internal/external bkg**  
**78%**

**internal/external bkg**  
**87%**

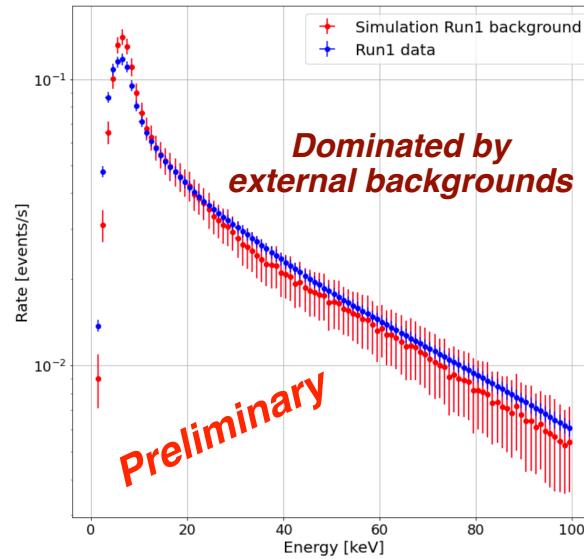
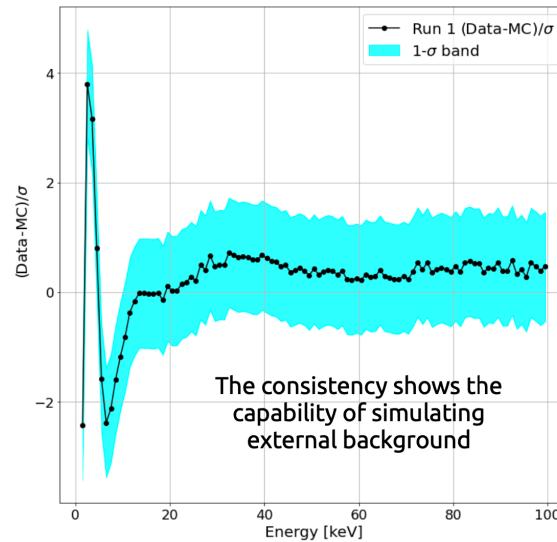
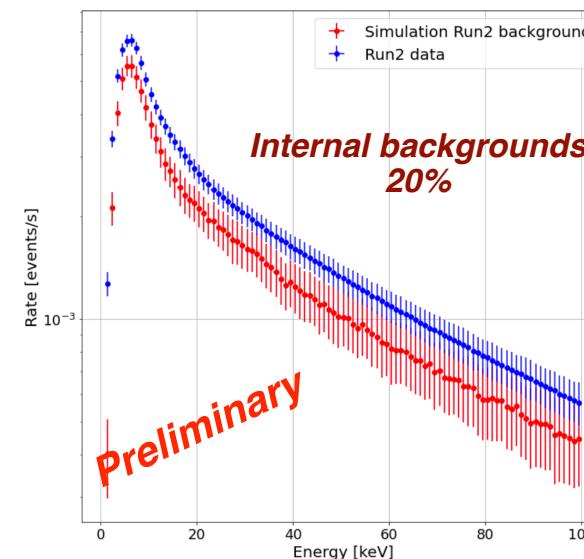
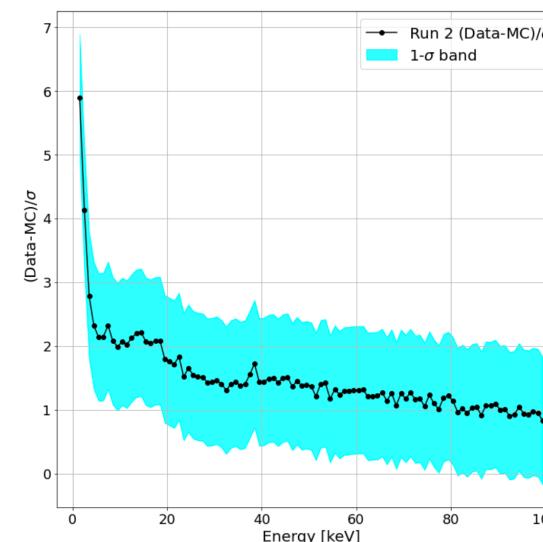
# LIME underground data/MC comparison results

**Run1**

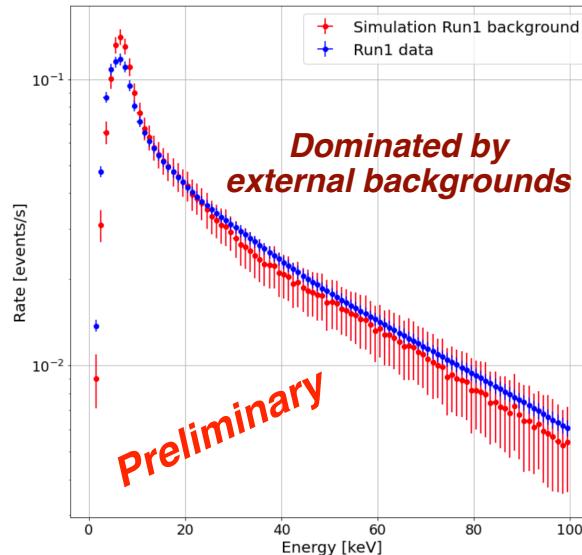
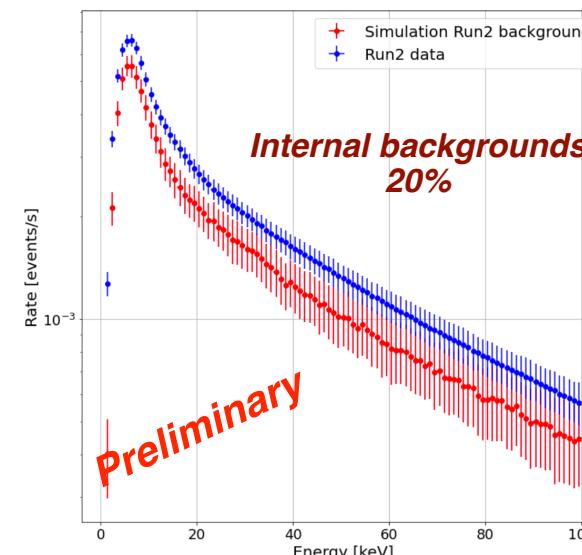
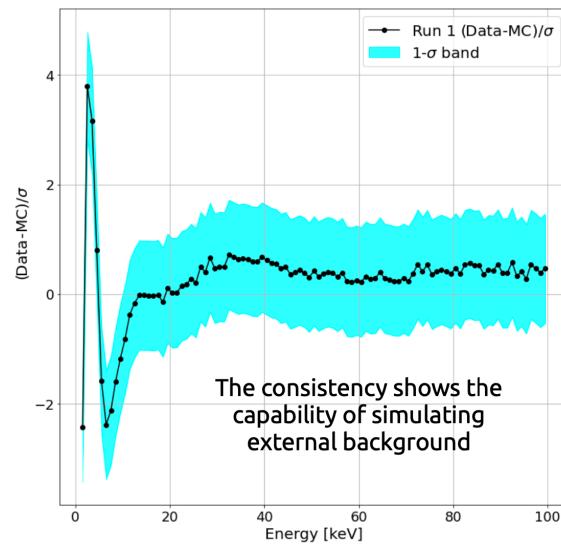
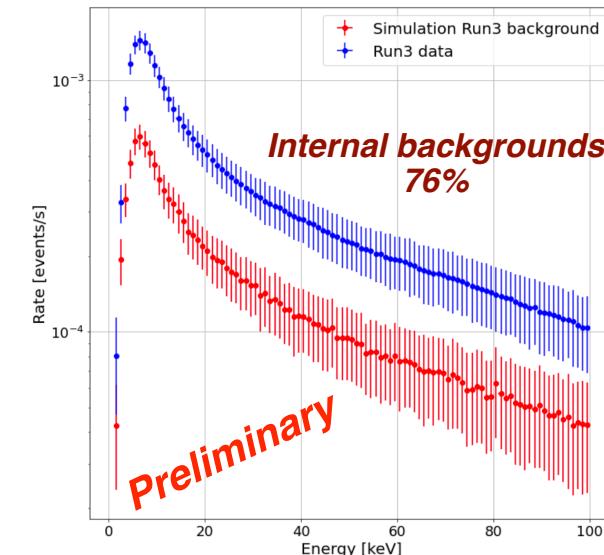
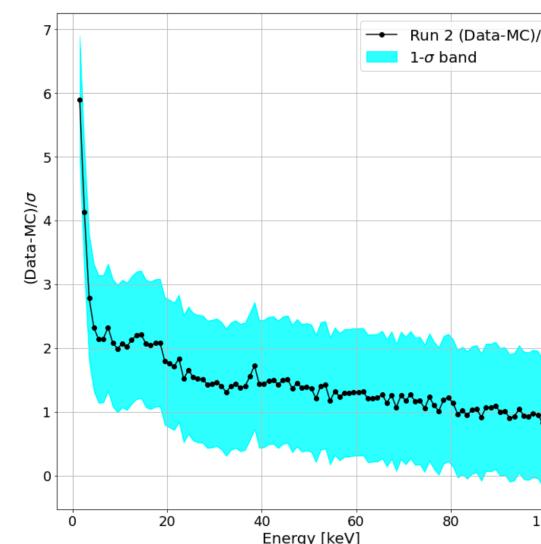
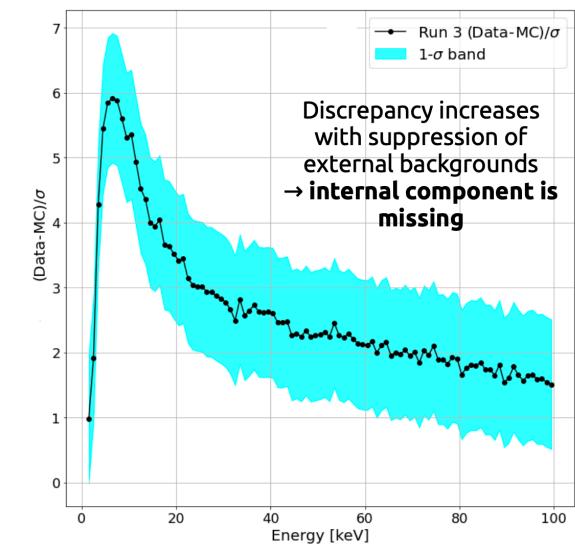


**Data/MC agreement**

# LIME underground data/MC comparison results

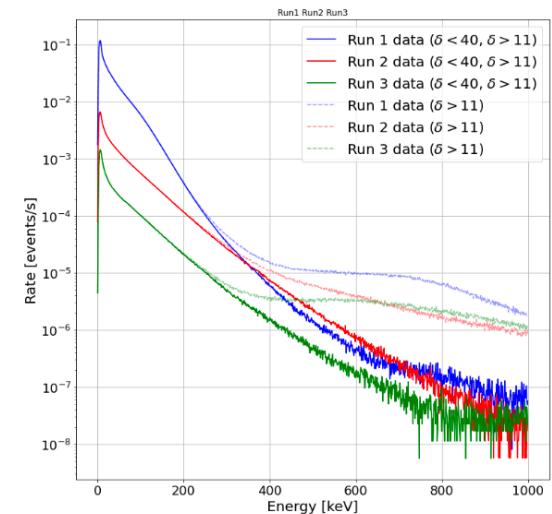
**Run1****Run2****Data/MC agreement**

# LIME underground data/MC comparison results

**Run1****Run2****Run3****Data/MC agreement****Data/MC difference**  
±22%**Data/MC difference**  
±60%

# A closer look into the missing component

- **Excess of  $\alpha$  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

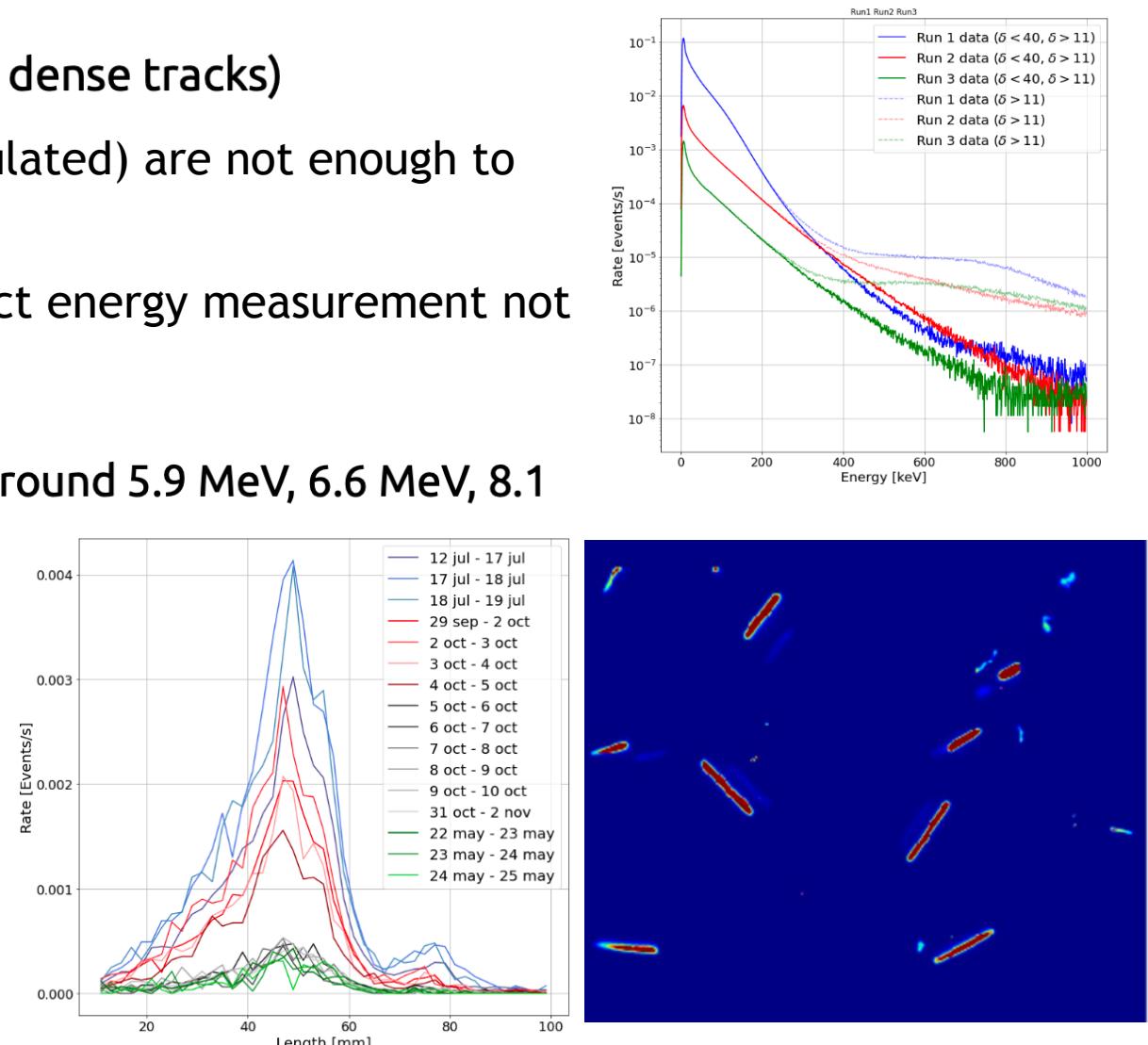


# A closer look into the missing component

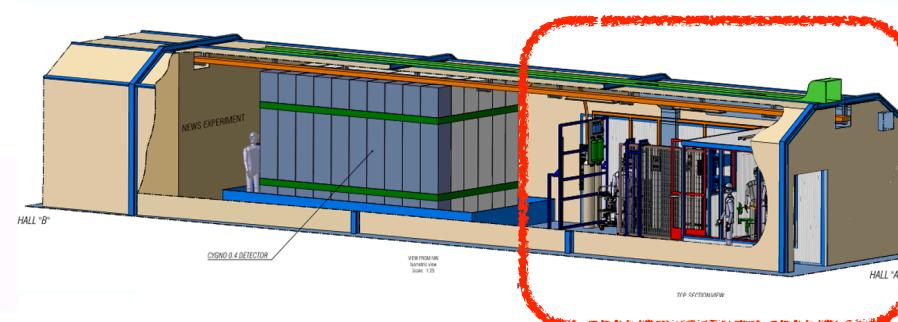
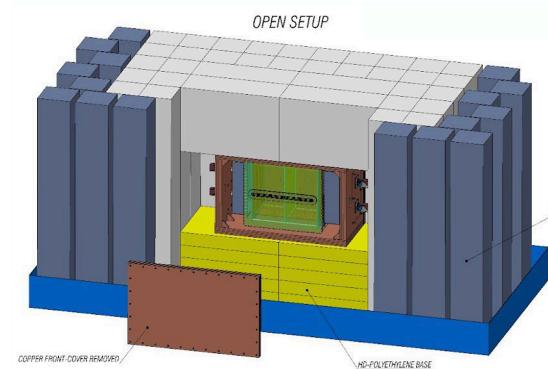
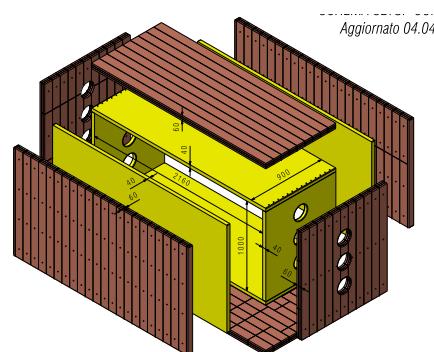
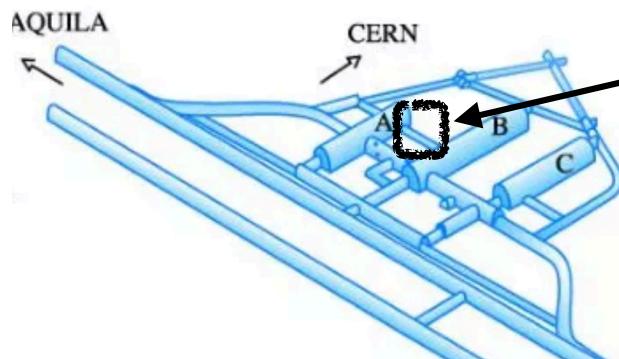
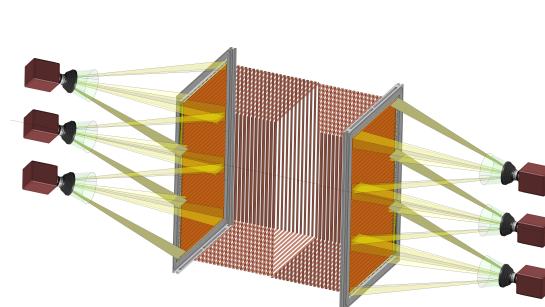
- **Excess of  $\alpha$  events in all runs (long, dense tracks)**
  - Alphas from GEANT4 (not simulated) are not enough to explain the excess
- Due to gain saturation, alphas direct energy measurement not feasible
- **Length distribution indicates peaks around 5.9 MeV, 6.6 MeV, 8.1 MeV peaks (might be  $^{222}\text{Rn}$ )**
- 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

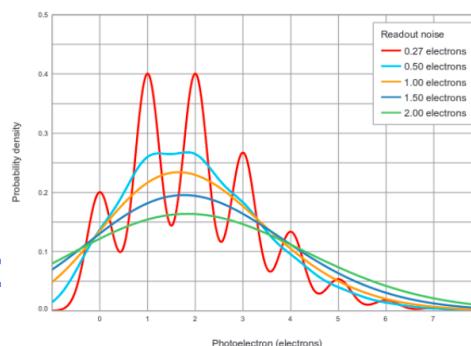


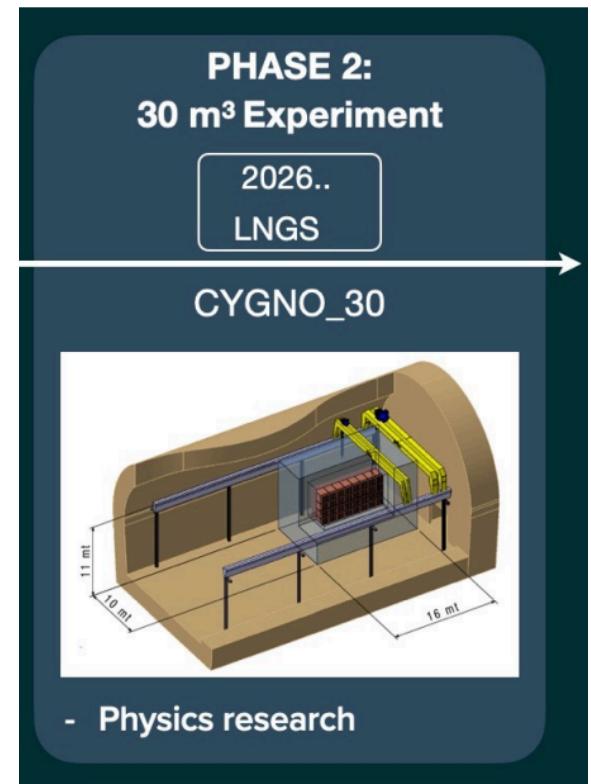
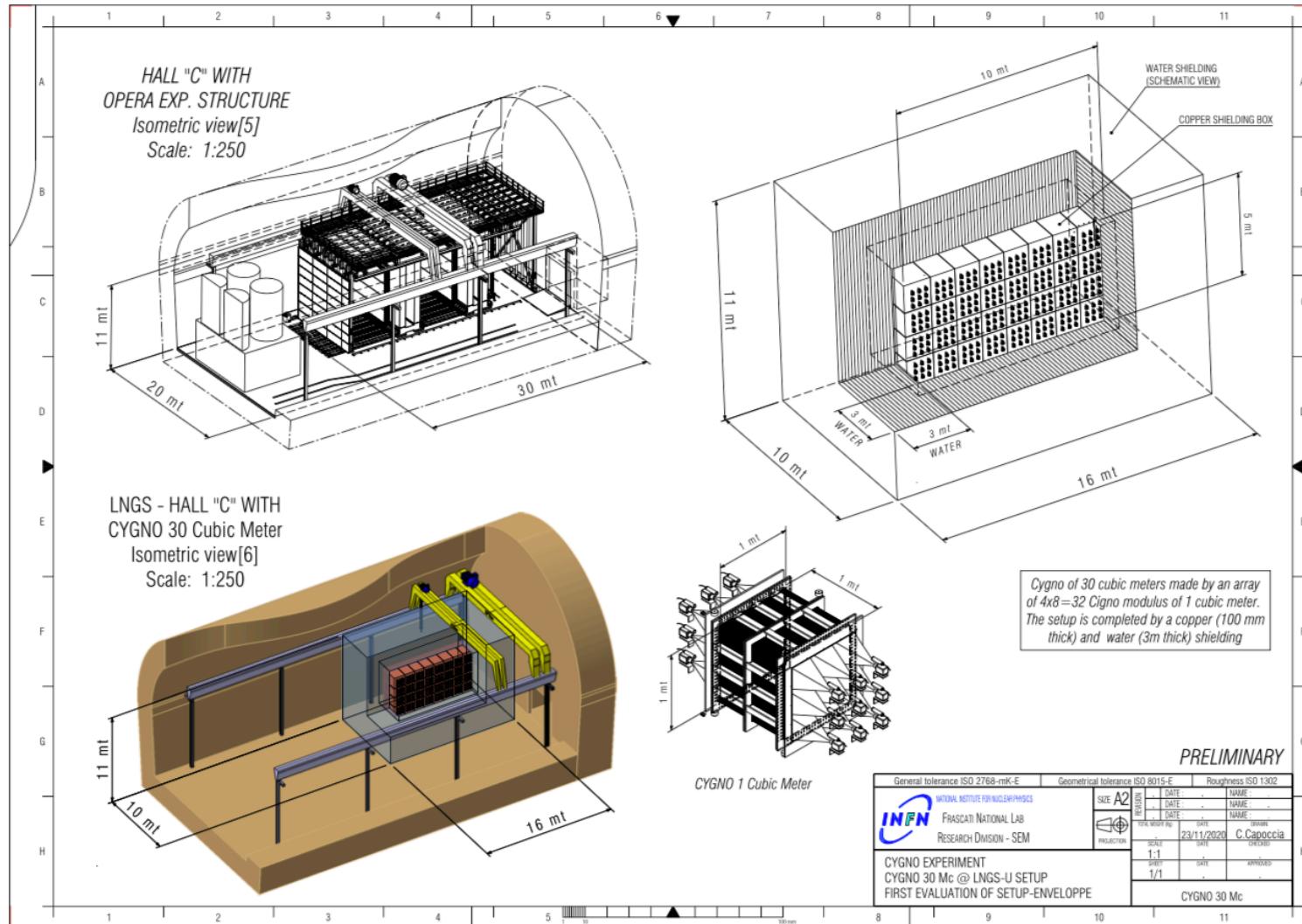
**Infrastructure construction work starting in June**

- 2 TPCs back to back, 50 cm drift, 0.4 m<sup>3</sup> active volume
- 50 x 80 cm<sup>2</sup> readout area per side
- Triple 50 um GEMs amplification per side
- 3 sCMOS Orca Quest + 6 PMTs per side
- Effective granularity 130 x 130 um<sup>2</sup> + 100 um along Z

## Goals:

- Minimise internal radioactivity on a realistic experimental layout and scale
- Assess actual potentialities of a large O(30) m<sup>3</sup> PHASE 2 experiment to reach the expected physics goals

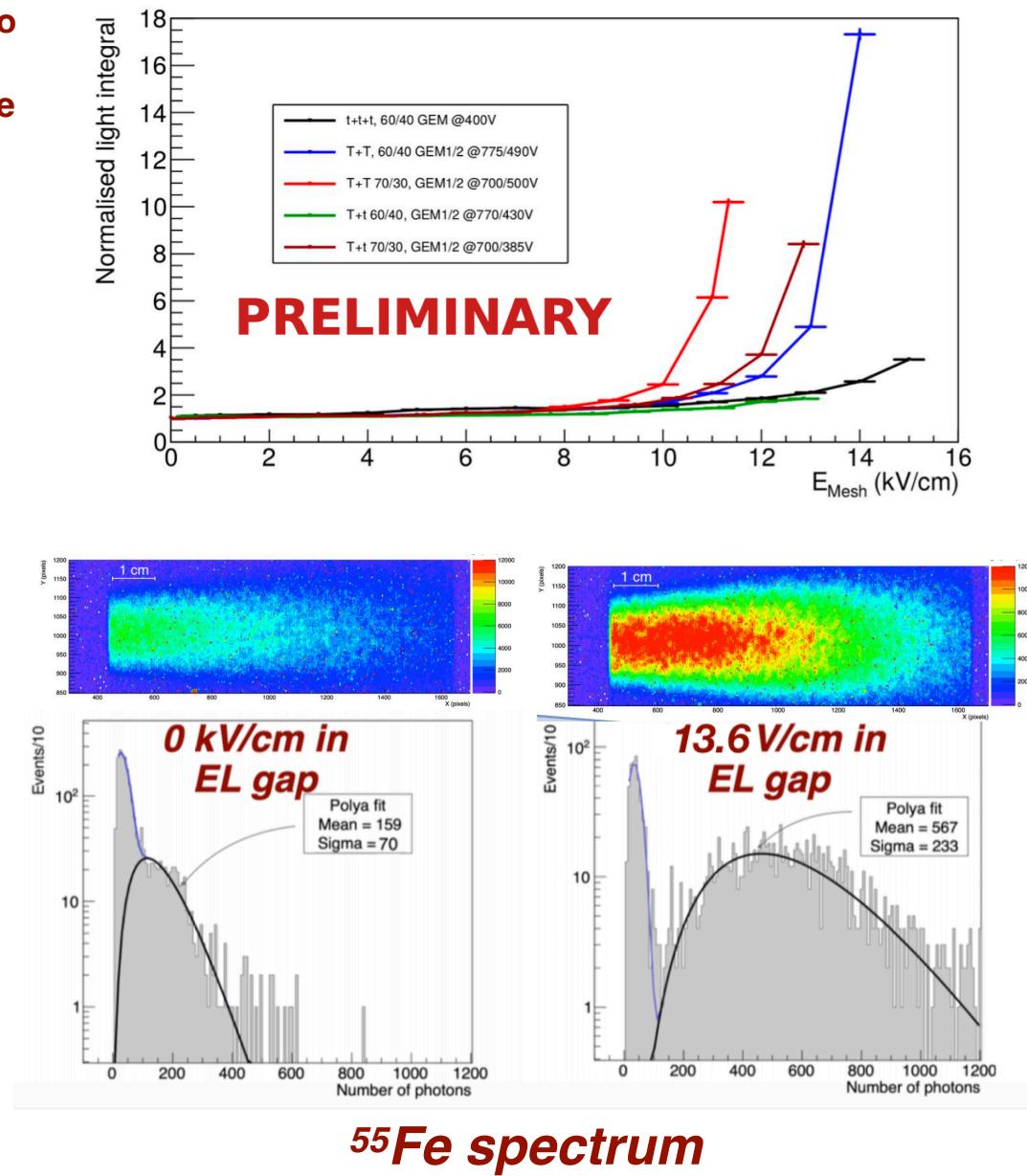
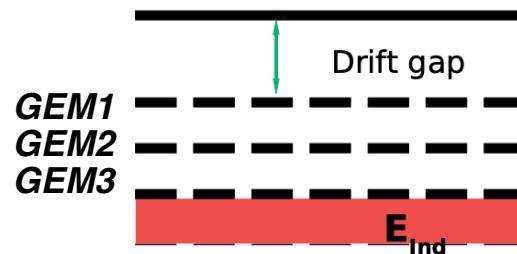




**Multiple stacked CYGNO-04 like modules**

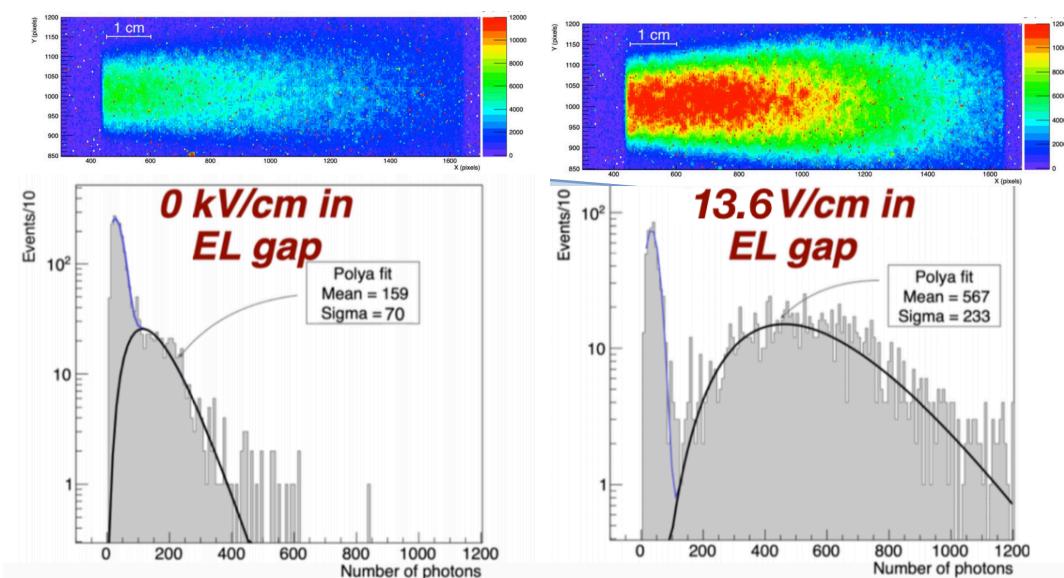
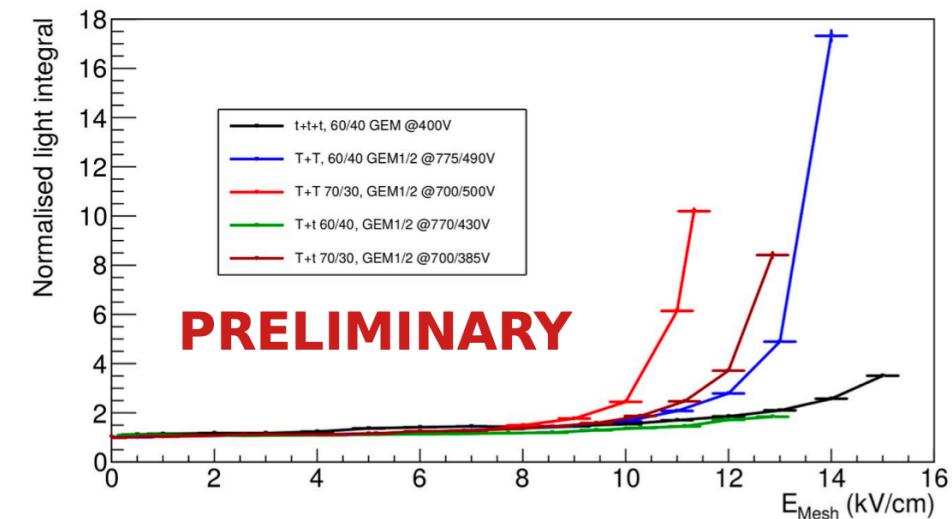
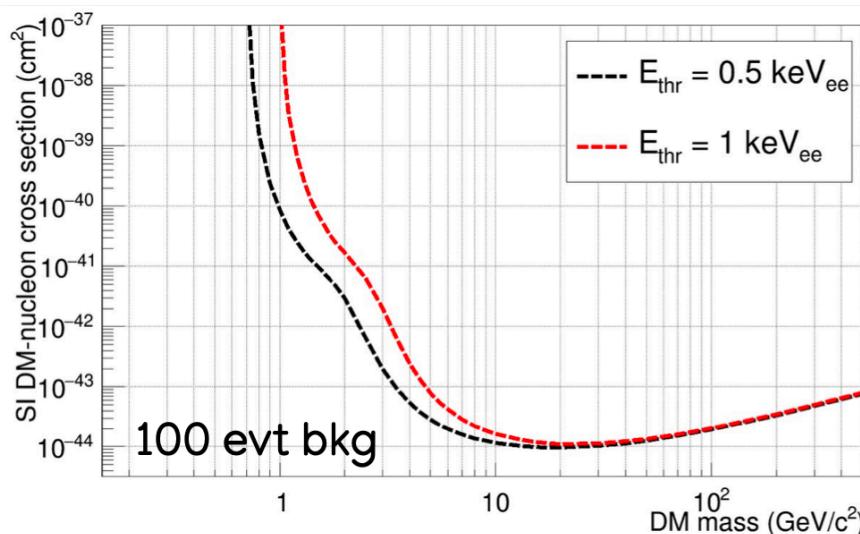
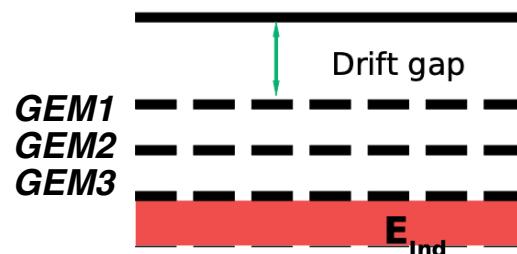
# R&Ds towards CYGNO-30: lower the energy threshold

- 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



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

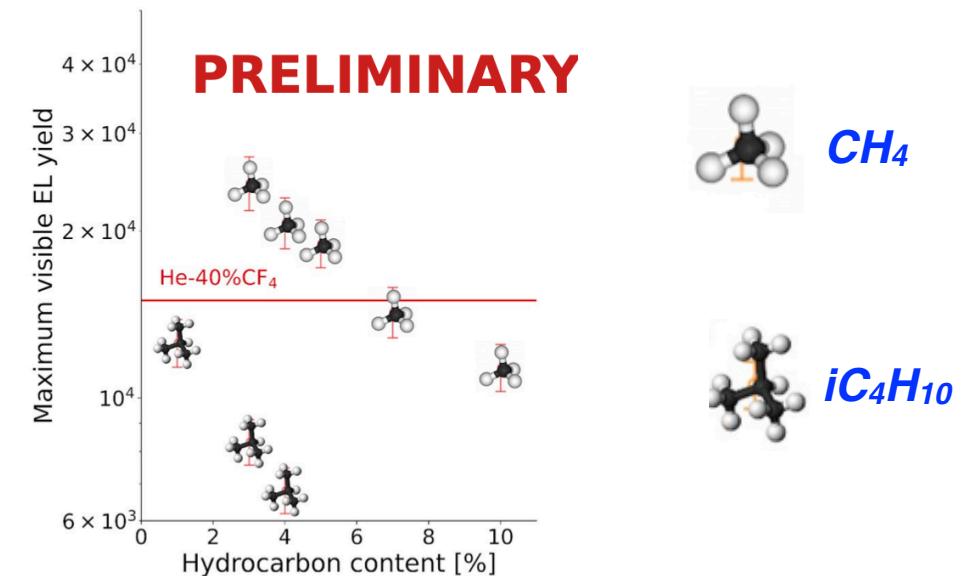
- The possibility of increasing the light yield is under study to lower the energy threshold
- By applying a strong O(10) kV/cm induction field after the last GEM, additional secondary photon are produced
- Up to a factor 2 enhancement achieved for standard CYGNO amplification and gas mixture without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



**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

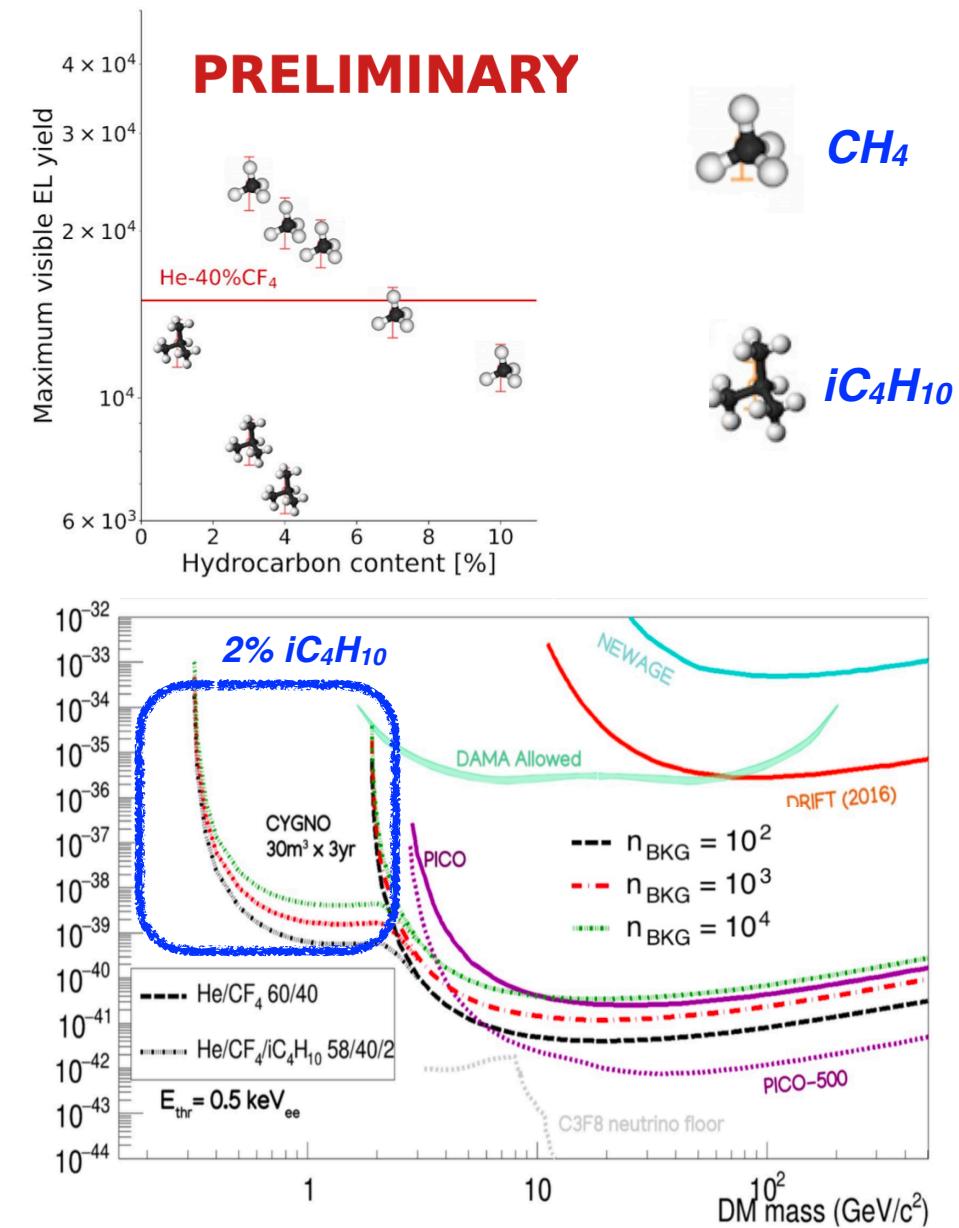
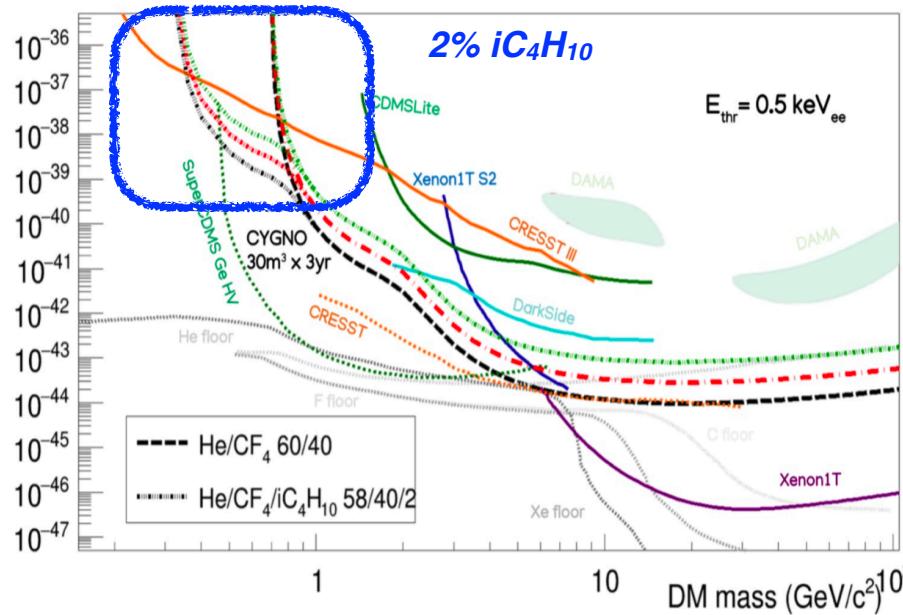


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POSSIBILITY OF ADDING HYDROGEN-RICH GASES UNDER STUDY TO INCREASE SENSITIVITY TO LOWER WIMP MASSES

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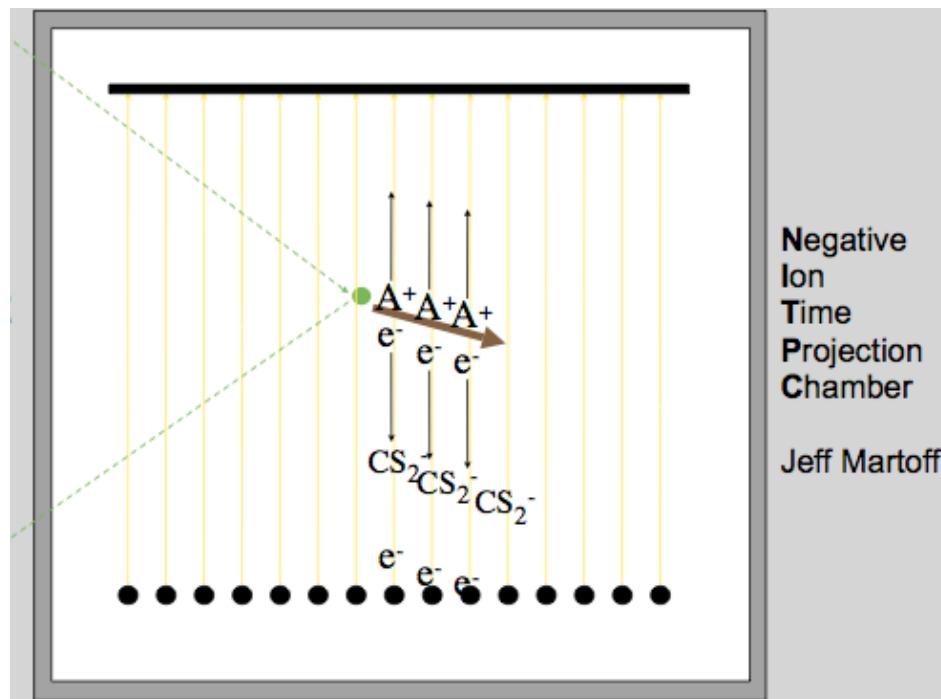
WHILE OVERALL LIGHT YIELD IS QUENCHED BY HYDROCARBONS, THE ADDITION OF METHANE ALLOWED TO REACH HIGHER GAINS EFFECTIVELY ACHIEVING HIGHER LY



## improve tracking performances &amp; scalability

T. Ohnuki et al.,  
NIM A 463

J. Martoff et al.,  
NIM A 440 355



Negative  
Ion  
Time  
Projection  
Chamber  
Jeff Martoff

IN TIUM



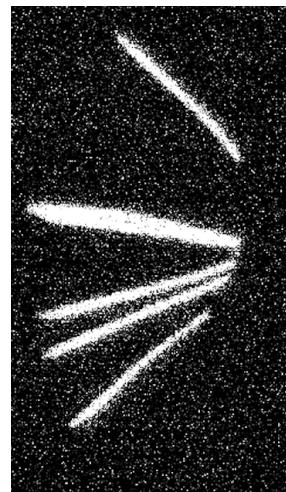
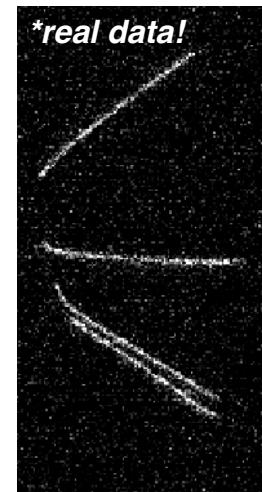
- Electronegative dopant in the gas mixture ( $CS_2$ ,  $CH_3NO_2$ , ...)
- Primary ionization electrons captured by electronegative gas molecules at  $O(100)$   $\mu m$
- Anions drift to the anode acting as the effective image carrier instead of the electrons
- Longitudinal and transverse diffusion 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  $O(cm/ms)$ , compared to  $O(cm/us)$  electron drift velocity because of larger mass
  - Significant improvement of resolution along drift direction thanks to slower image carriers for low rate applications

*INITIUM goal is to realise NID operation within the CYGNO approach*

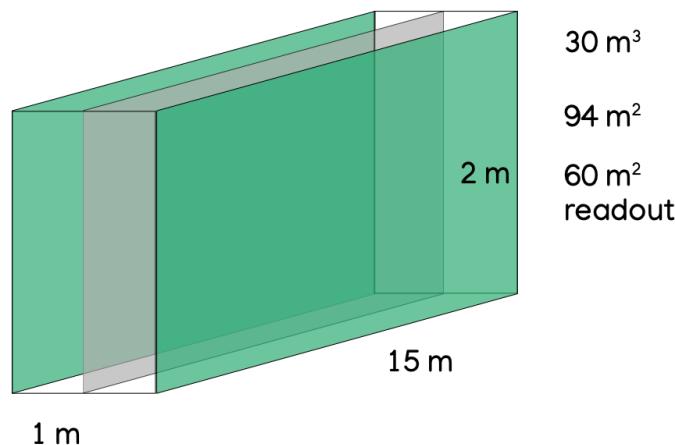
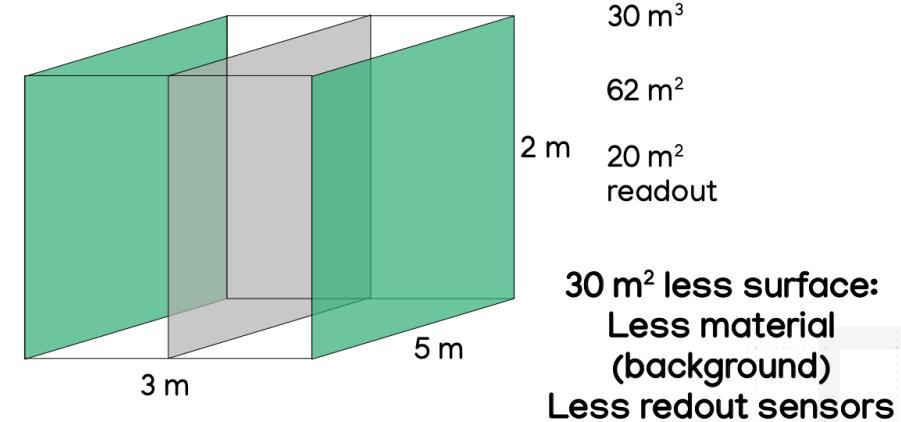
## improve tracking performances &amp; scalability

*From this....*

*He:CF<sub>4</sub>*  
*60:40*

*....to this with same experimental layout*

*He:CF<sub>4</sub>:SF<sub>6</sub>*  
*59:39.4:1.6*

*From this....**....to this with same tracking performances*

# Negative Ion Drift studies

0.90 atm  
(LNGS atmospheric pressure)

## Negative Ion Drift studies: diffusion and mobility

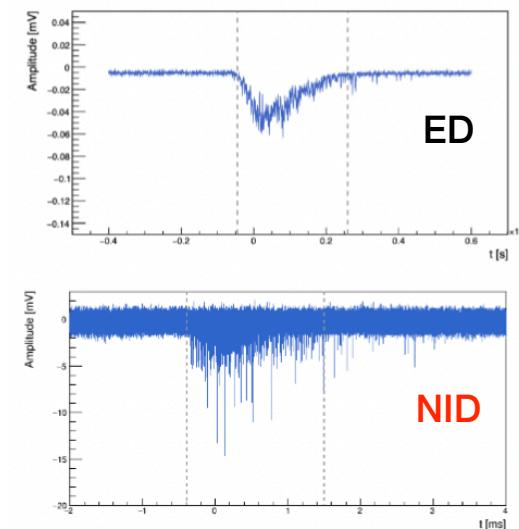
- Base mixture He:CF<sub>4</sub>:SF<sub>6</sub>
- Multiple relative fraction of He/CF<sub>4</sub> tested with 1.6% of SF<sub>6</sub>
- Transverse diffusion via sCMOS images analysis
- Longitudinal diffusion via PMT waveform analysis
- Finalisation of analysis and interpretation of the results on going

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

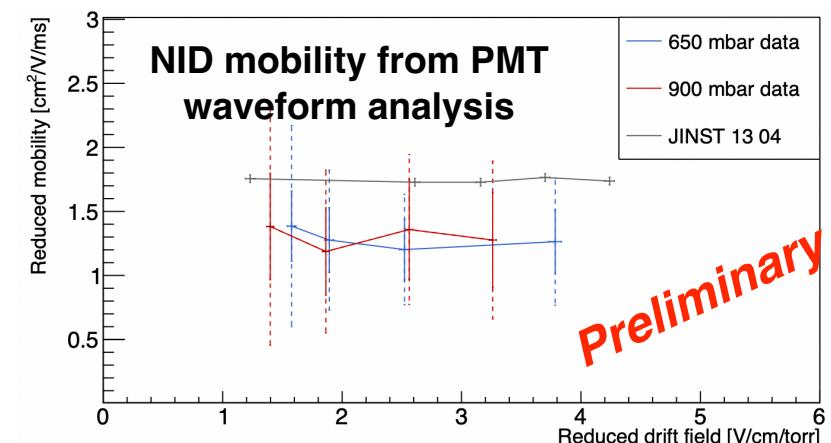
| Gas  | Diffusion @ 1 kV/cm [ $\frac{\mu\text{m}}{\sqrt{\text{cm}}}$ ] |
|--|--|
| Ar:CH <sub>4</sub> (90/10):                            | 600  |
| He:CF <sub>4</sub> (60/40):                            | 140  |
| <b>He:CF<sub>4</sub>:SF<sub>6</sub> (59:39.4:1.6):</b> | <b>35</b>  |

Preliminary

## PMT waveforms



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



# Conclusions & outlook

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

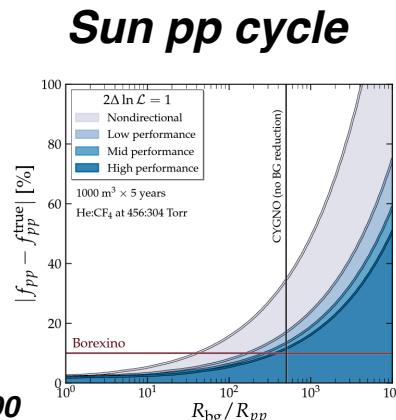
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**One, no one and one hundred thousand CYGNO/INITIUM approach applications!**

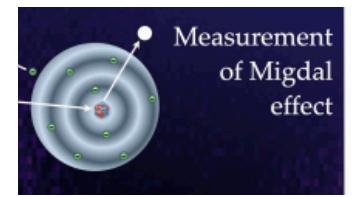
S. Torelli PhD  
thesis &  
arXiv:2404.03690



**“Zero radioactivity in future experiments”**



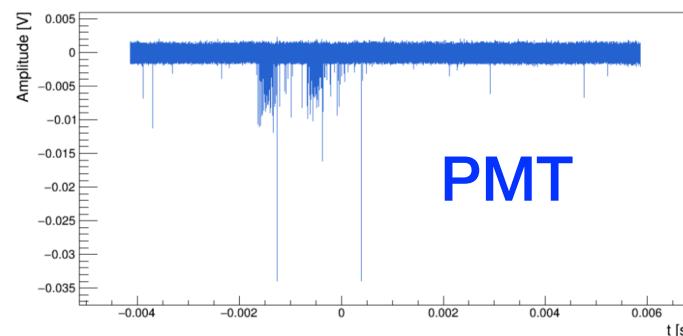
**“HypeX: High Yield Polarimetry Experiment in X-rays”**



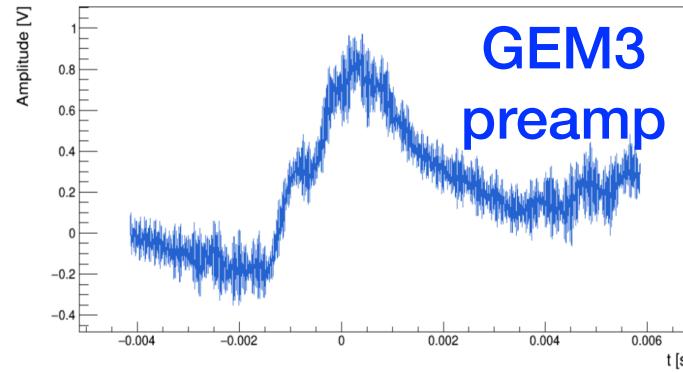
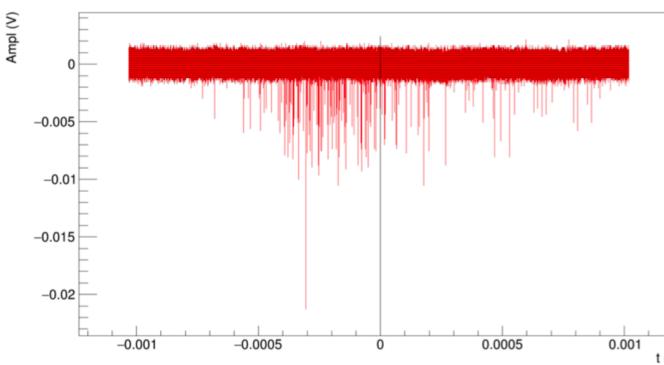
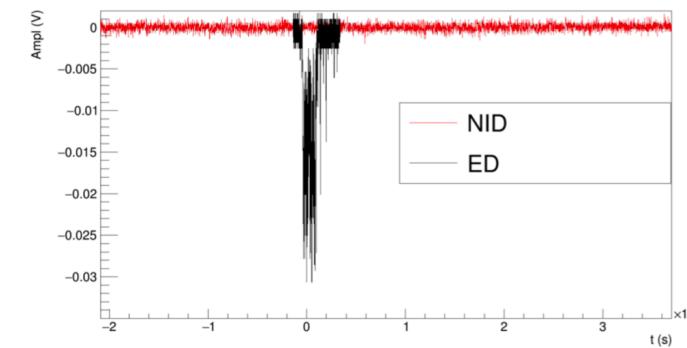
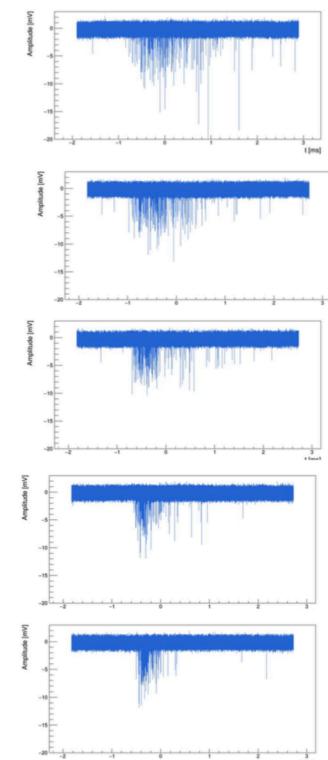
**“FINEM: Full Imaging of Nuclear recoil for Experimental Migdal measurement”**

# Backup slides

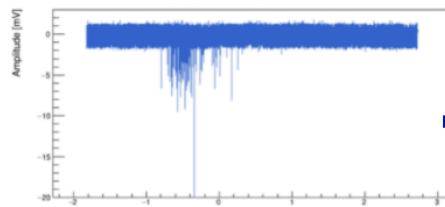
# NID PMT waveforms: how peculiar!



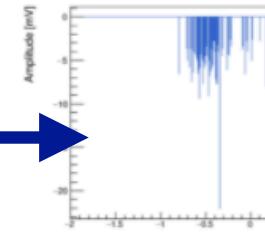
PMT

GEM3  
preampNID WF at  
varying drift field

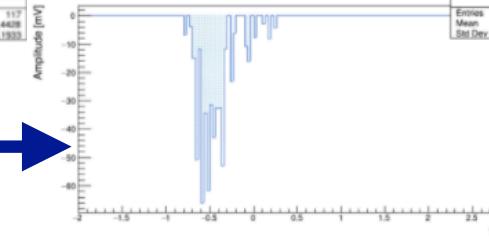
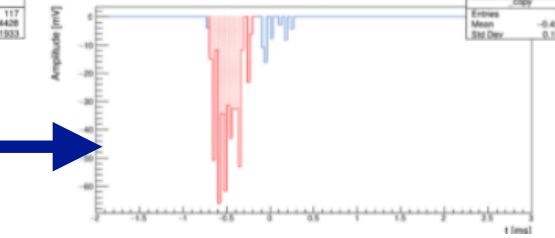
Given the PMT bandwidth and the "slow" arrival of charge carriers, individual clusters are visible in the PMT signal --> WF analysis requires proper rebinning (not trivial)



Raw WF



Baseline subtracted

Rebinned with loose  
constraintsRebinned with only over  
threshold peaks considered

# From neutrino floor to neutrino fog

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

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**

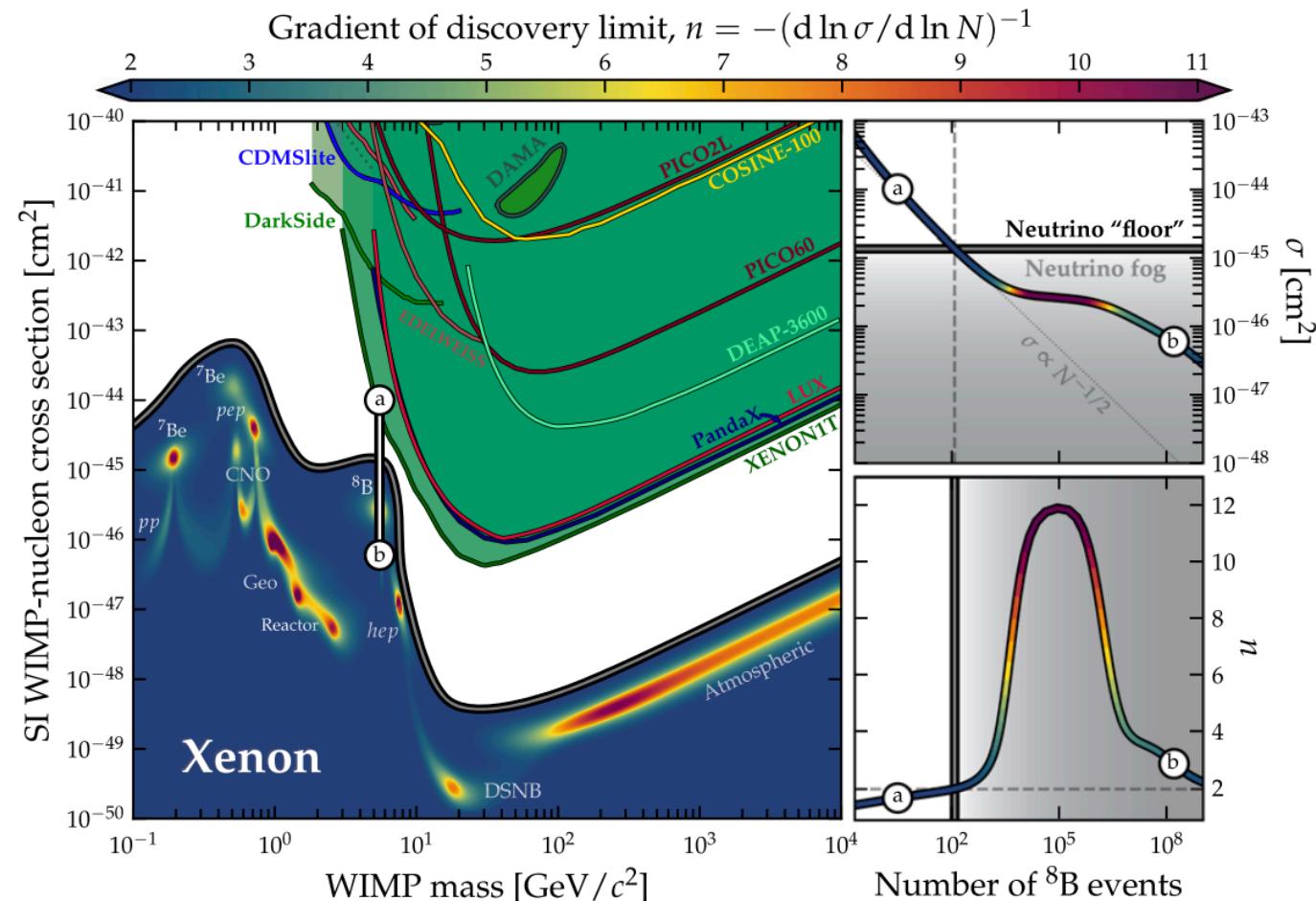
$$N\delta\Phi^2 \gg 1, \sigma \propto \sqrt{(1 + N\delta\Phi^2)/N}$$

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

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

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

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



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

# From neutrino floor to neutrino fog

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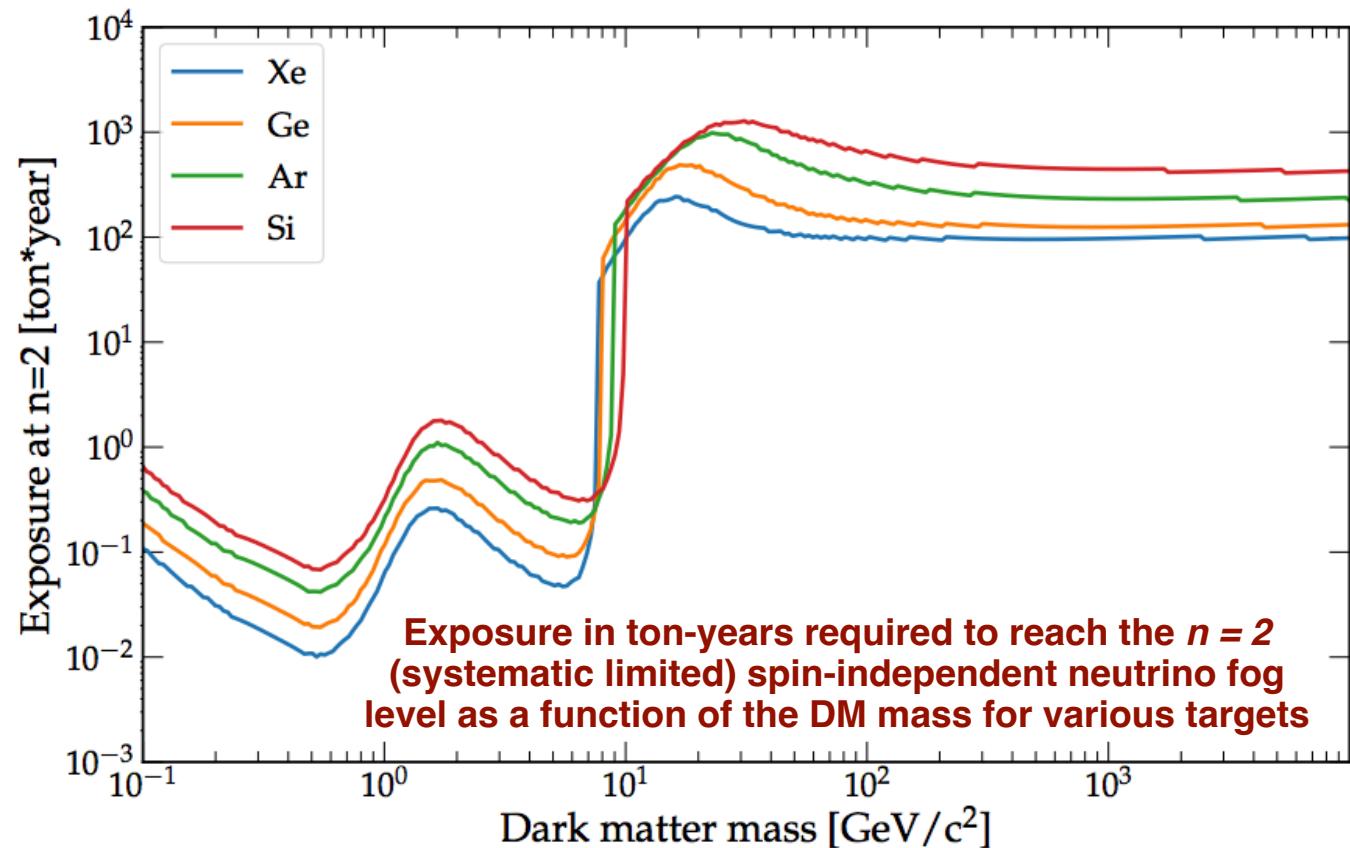
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# Gaseous TPCs landscape

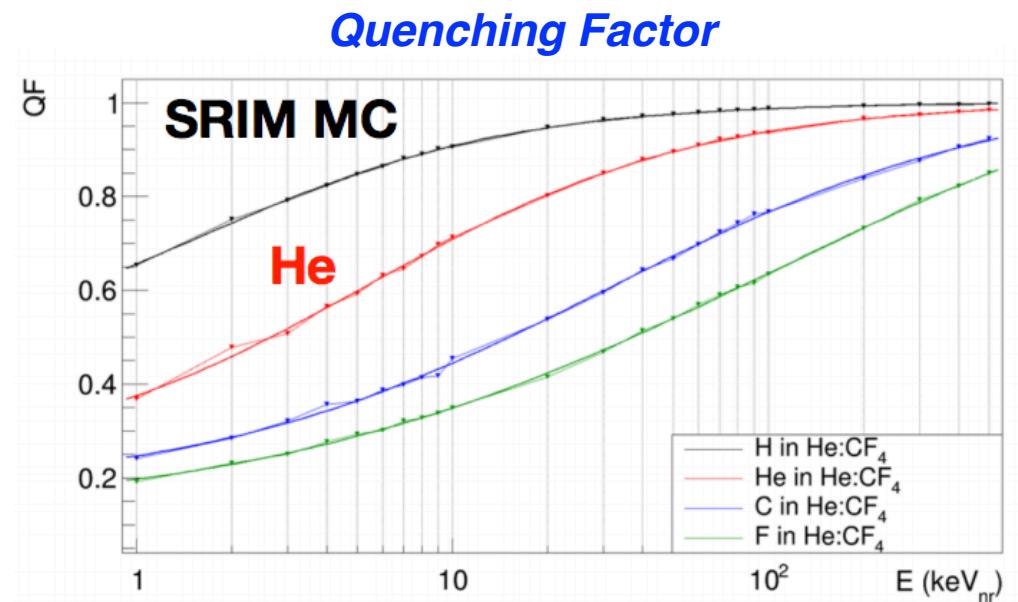
|                           | Established readout & directionality | Established gas  | R&D readout             | R&D gas  | Largest detector realised         | Detector under development               |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|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

**Electron drift**

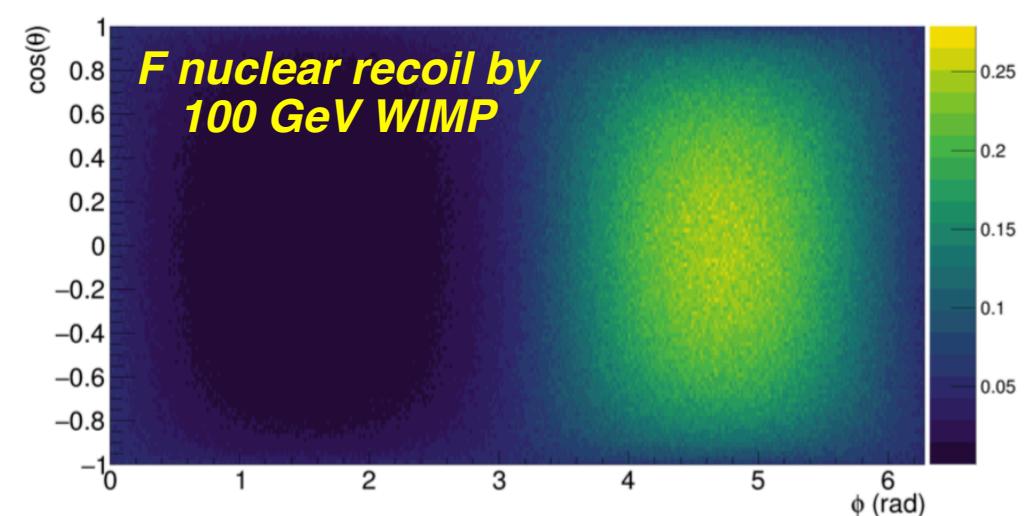
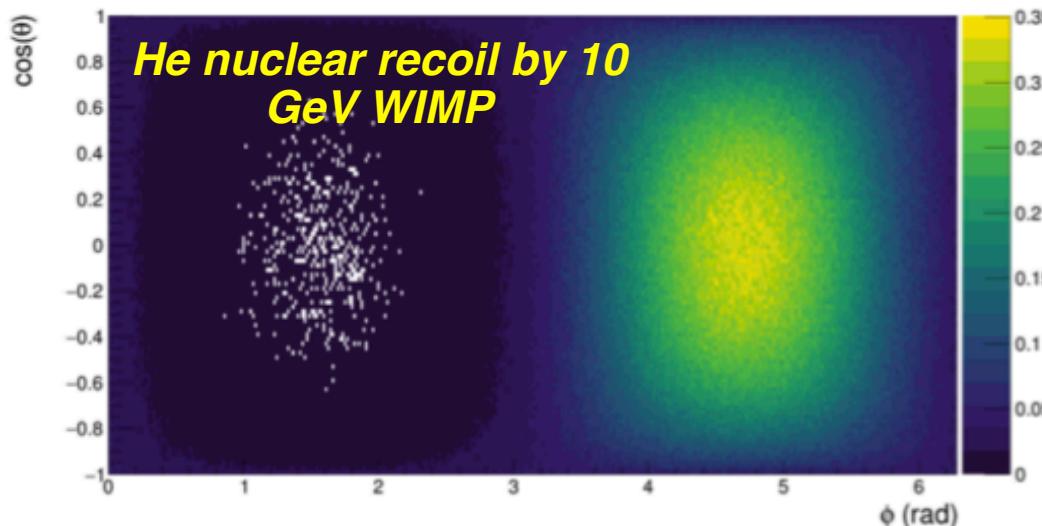
**Negative ion drift**

**Charge readout** **Optical readout**

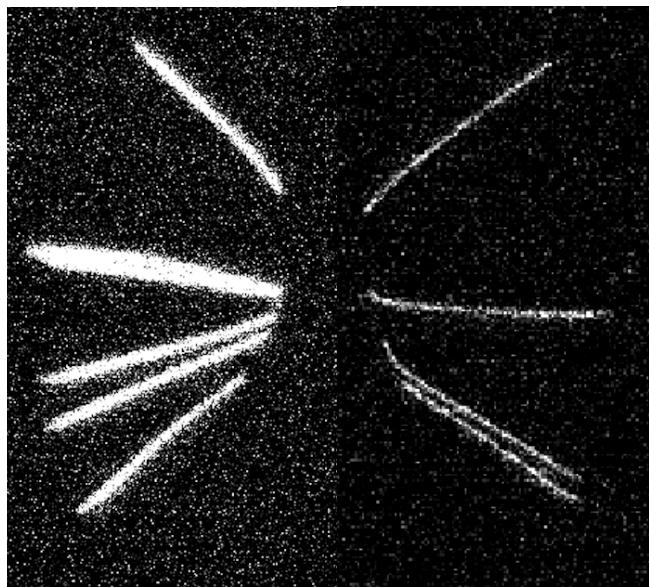
- ▶ Use 1 keV<sub>ee</sub> threshold
- ▶ Evaluate QF with SRIM
- ▶ Introducing **angular distribution** as discriminating
- ▶ Full head/tail recognition
- ▶ Using a 30 deg resolution



Examples of expected measured angular distribution in Galactic coordinates



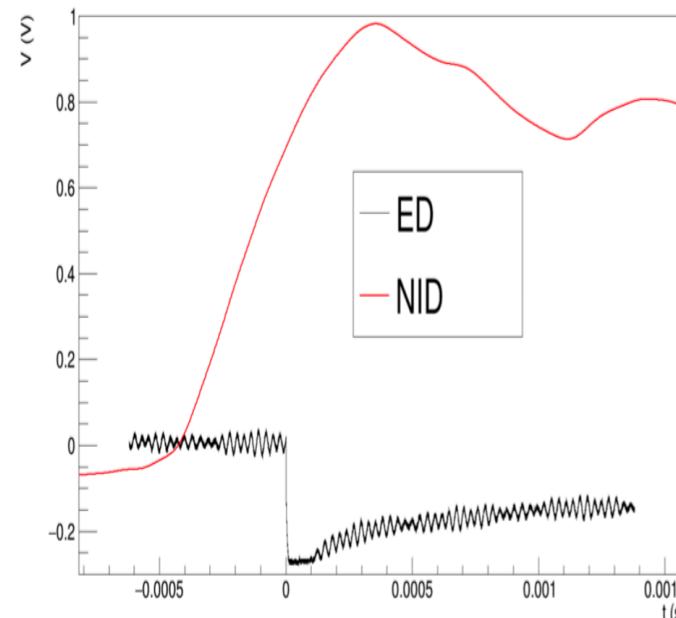
sCMOS image



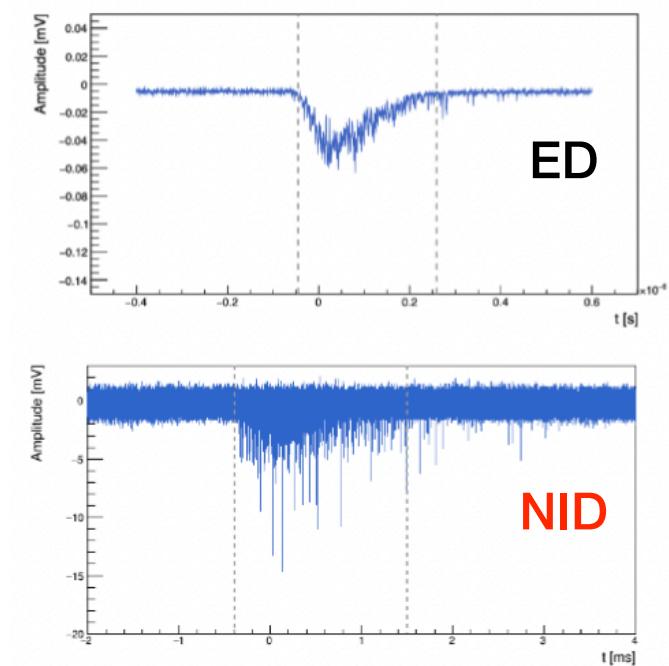
He:CF<sub>4</sub>  
60:40  
1 kV/cm  
(ED)

He:CF<sub>4</sub>:SF<sub>6</sub>  
59:39.4:1.6  
0.4 kV/cm  
(NID)

GEM preamp output



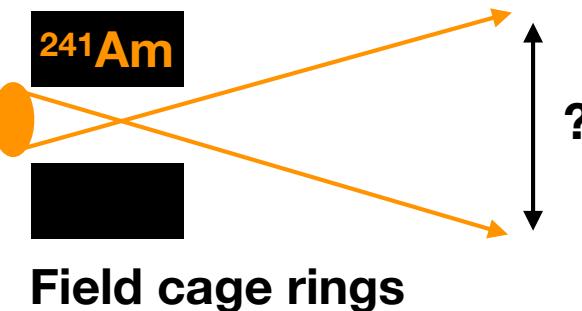
PMT waveforms



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

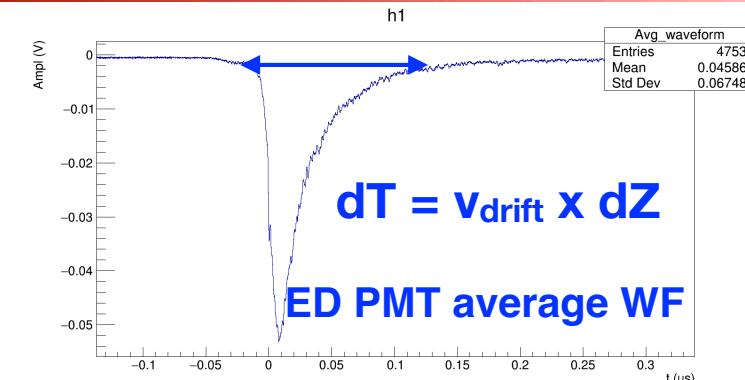
O(0.1 us) time extent for ED  
O(10 ms) time extent for NID

**0.90 atm**  
(LNGS atmospheric pressure)



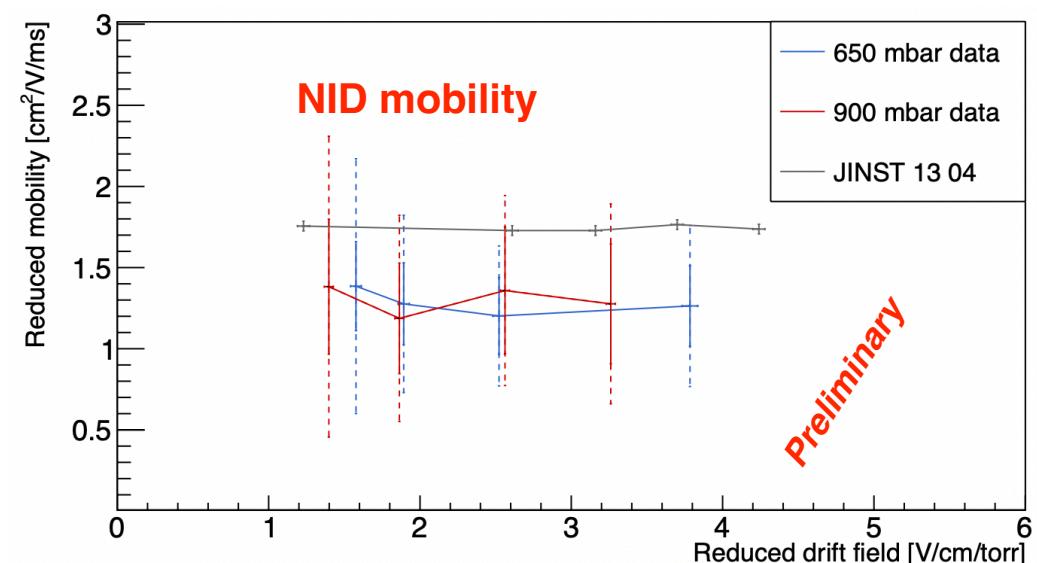
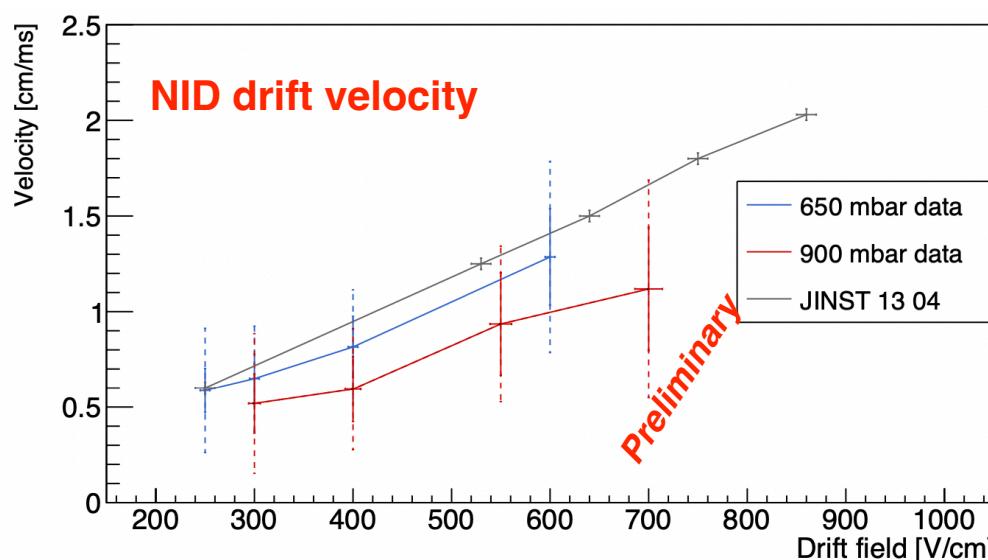
From ED PMT signal, given the known drift velocity, we estimate the alpha dZ spread ( $? = 7 \text{ mm}$ )

0.90 atm  
(LNGS atm pressure)

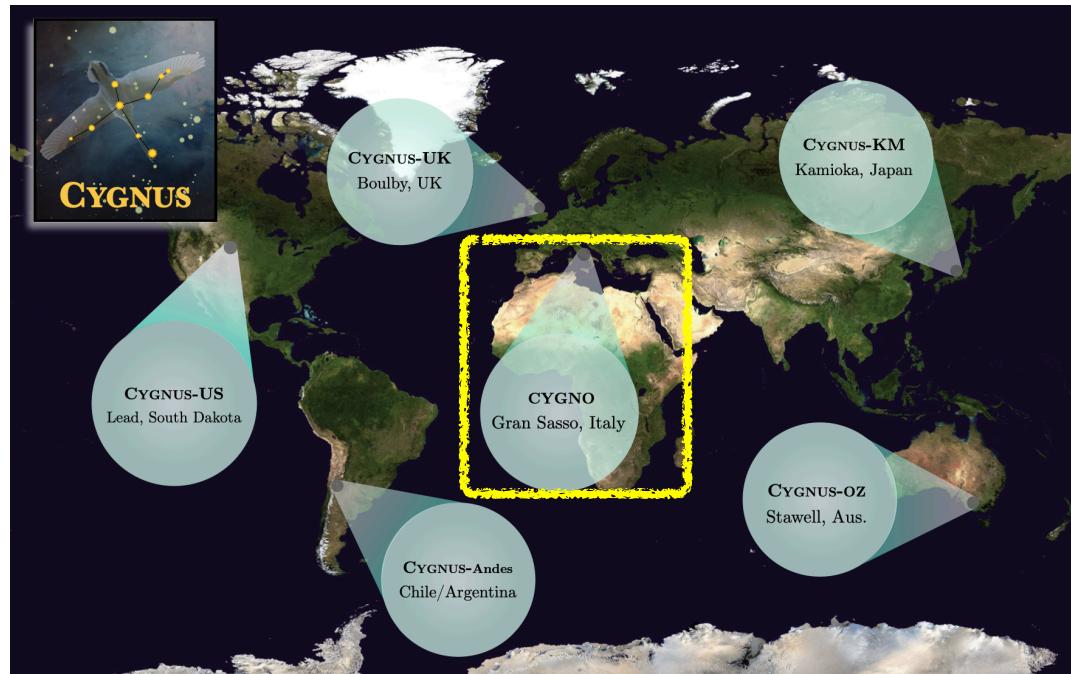


Given the alpha dZ spread estimated from ED (7 mm), estimate NID drift velocity:

- 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]



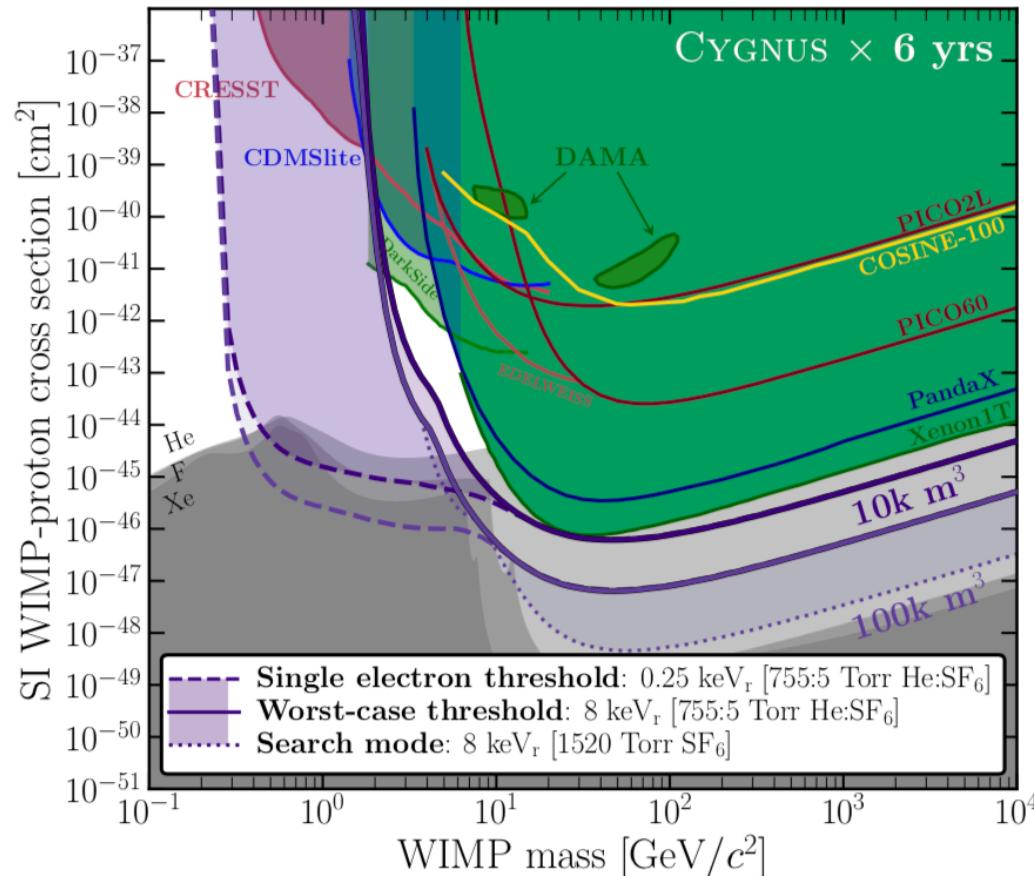
**A *multi-site, multi-target Galactic Recoil Observatory at the ton-scale* to probe Dark Matter below the Neutrino Floor and measure solar Neutrinos with *directionality***

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

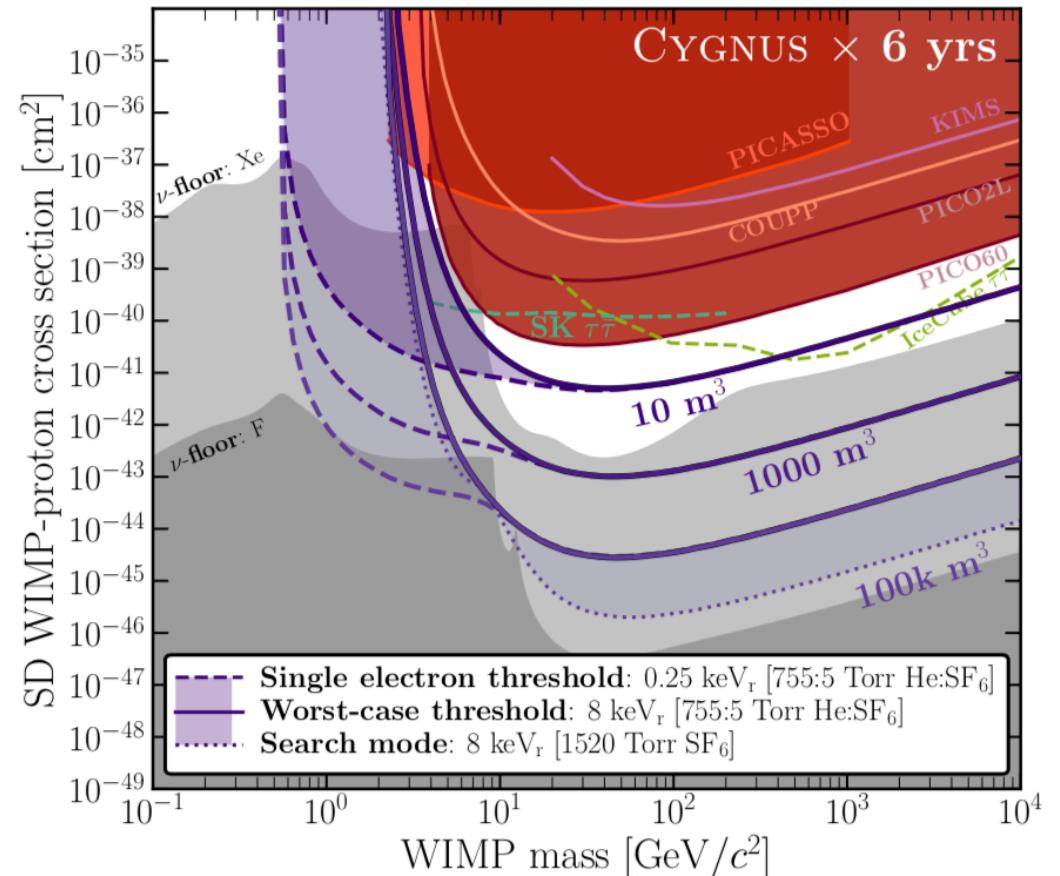
S. E. Vahsen,<sup>1</sup> C. A. J. O'Hare,<sup>2</sup> W. A. Lynch,<sup>3</sup> N. J. C. Spooner,<sup>3</sup> E. Baracchini,<sup>4, 5, 6</sup> P. Barbeau,<sup>7</sup> J. B. R. Battat,<sup>8</sup> B. Crow,<sup>1</sup> C. Deaconu,<sup>9</sup> C. Eldridge,<sup>3</sup> A. C. Ezeribe,<sup>3</sup> M. Ghrear,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

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

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

He:SF<sub>6</sub> 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 m<sup>3</sup> detector can already breach the Xe neutrino floor**