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# DOUBLE-BETA-DECAY RESEARCH LINE AT SPP

CSTS du SPP – 14 November 2014 | Claudia Nones



# DOUBLE-BETA-DECAY SEARCH LINE AT SPP

- Development of a demonstrator experiment based on  $\text{ZnMoO}_4$  scintillating bolometers ( $M_{\beta\beta} \sim 100 \text{ meV}$ )
- Participation to R&D in view of a next-generation experiment – ton scale ( $M_{\beta\beta} \sim 15 \text{ meV}$ )

- **Introduction to Double beta decay (DBD)**
- **Short status of DBD search**
- **Scintillating bolometers for a zero background DBD experiment**
- **LUMINEU – introduction and results on natural and enriched  $\text{ZnMoO}_4$  detectors**
- **Follow-up to LUMINEU: LUCINEU**
- **Covering the inverted hierarchy region of the neutrino mass: CUORE-IHE**
- **Scintillating bolometers as a promising technology for CUORE-IHE**

①  $(A, Z) \rightarrow (A, Z+2) + 2e^- + 2\nu_e \longrightarrow$   $2\nu$  Double Beta Decay  
 allowed by the Standard Model  
 already observed -  $\tau \sim 10^{18} - 10^{21}$  y

②  $(A, Z) \rightarrow (A, Z+2) + 2e^- \longrightarrow$  Neutrinoless Double Beta Decay ( $0\nu$ -DBD)  
 never observed  
 $\tau > 10^{25}$  y



Process ② would imply new physics beyond the Standard Model

violation of total lepton number conservation

## Basic importance of DBD in particle physics

Standard Model as a low-energy limit of an unknown more general theory

Bottom-up approach: add effective operators to the SM Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{SM}} + \frac{1}{\Lambda} \mathcal{L}_5 + \frac{1}{\Lambda^2} \mathcal{L}_6 + \dots$$

New physics high energy scale

DBD

Proton decay

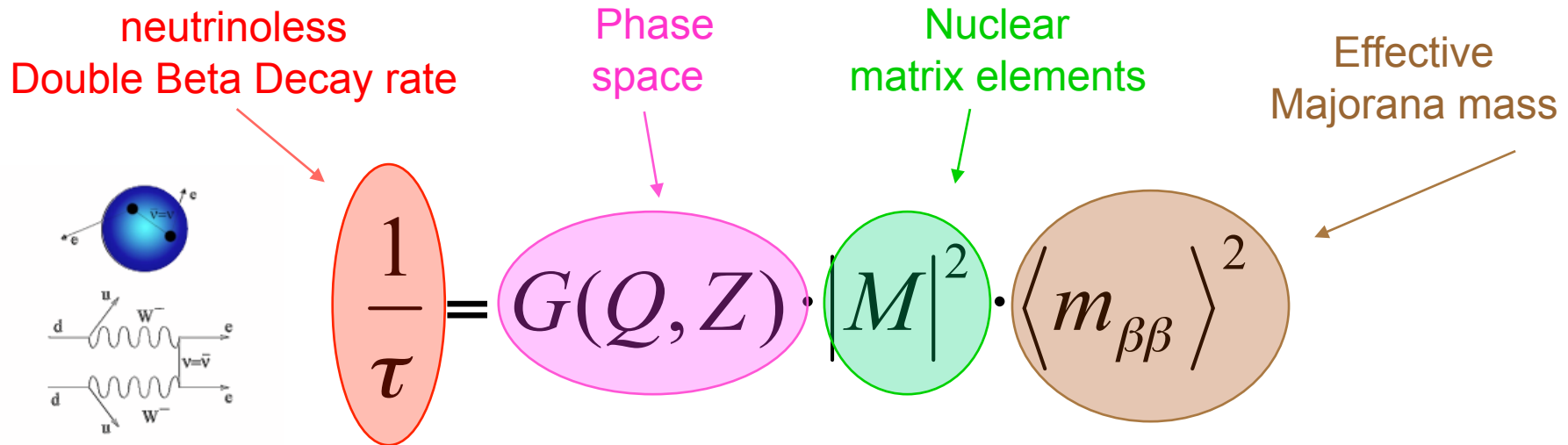
Observation of  $0\nu\beta\beta$



## OPEN QUESTIONS

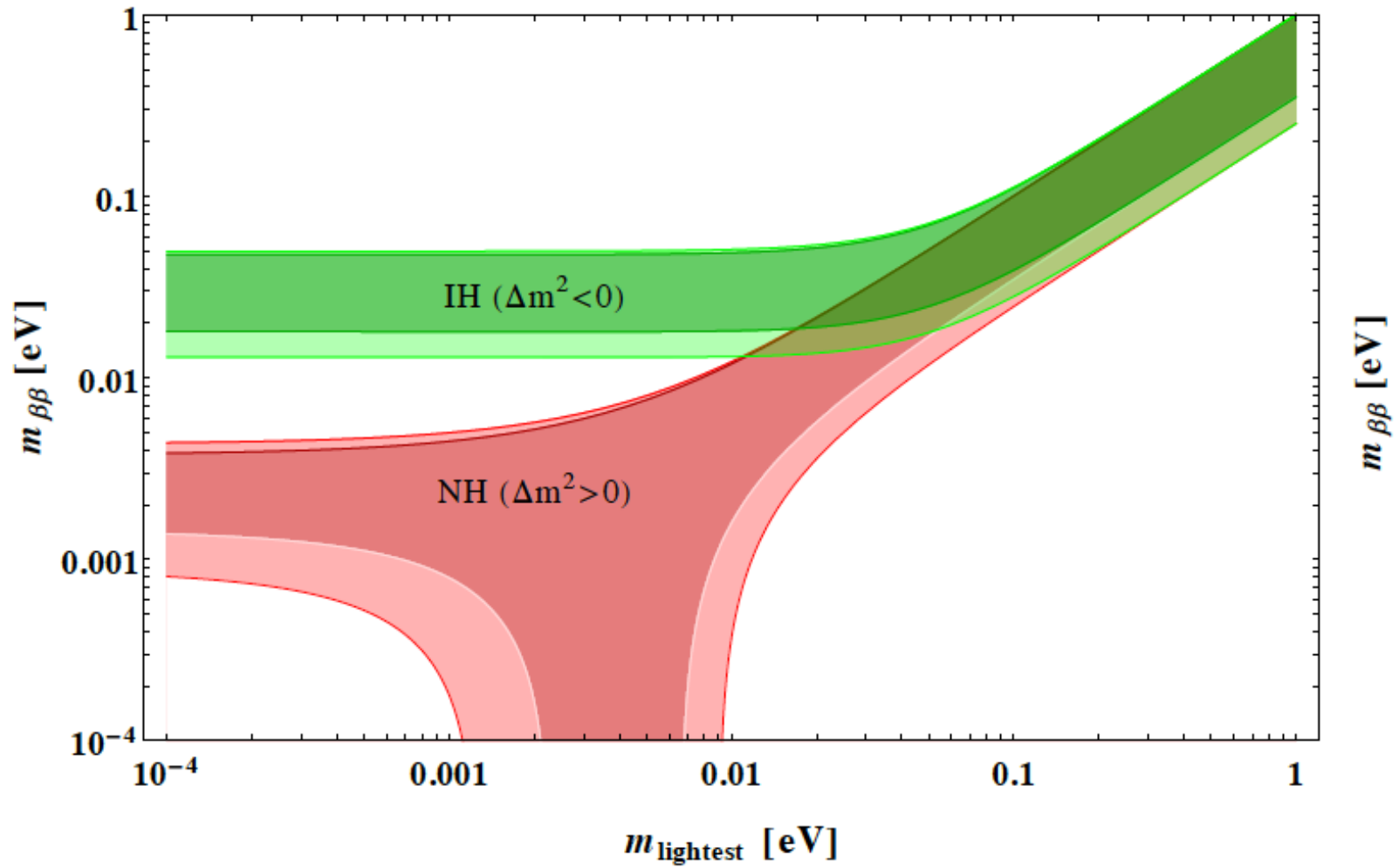
- 1) Which is the neutrino mass **hierarchy**
- 2) Which is the **absolute** neutrino **mass scale**
- 3) **DIRAC** or **MAJORANA** nature of neutrinos

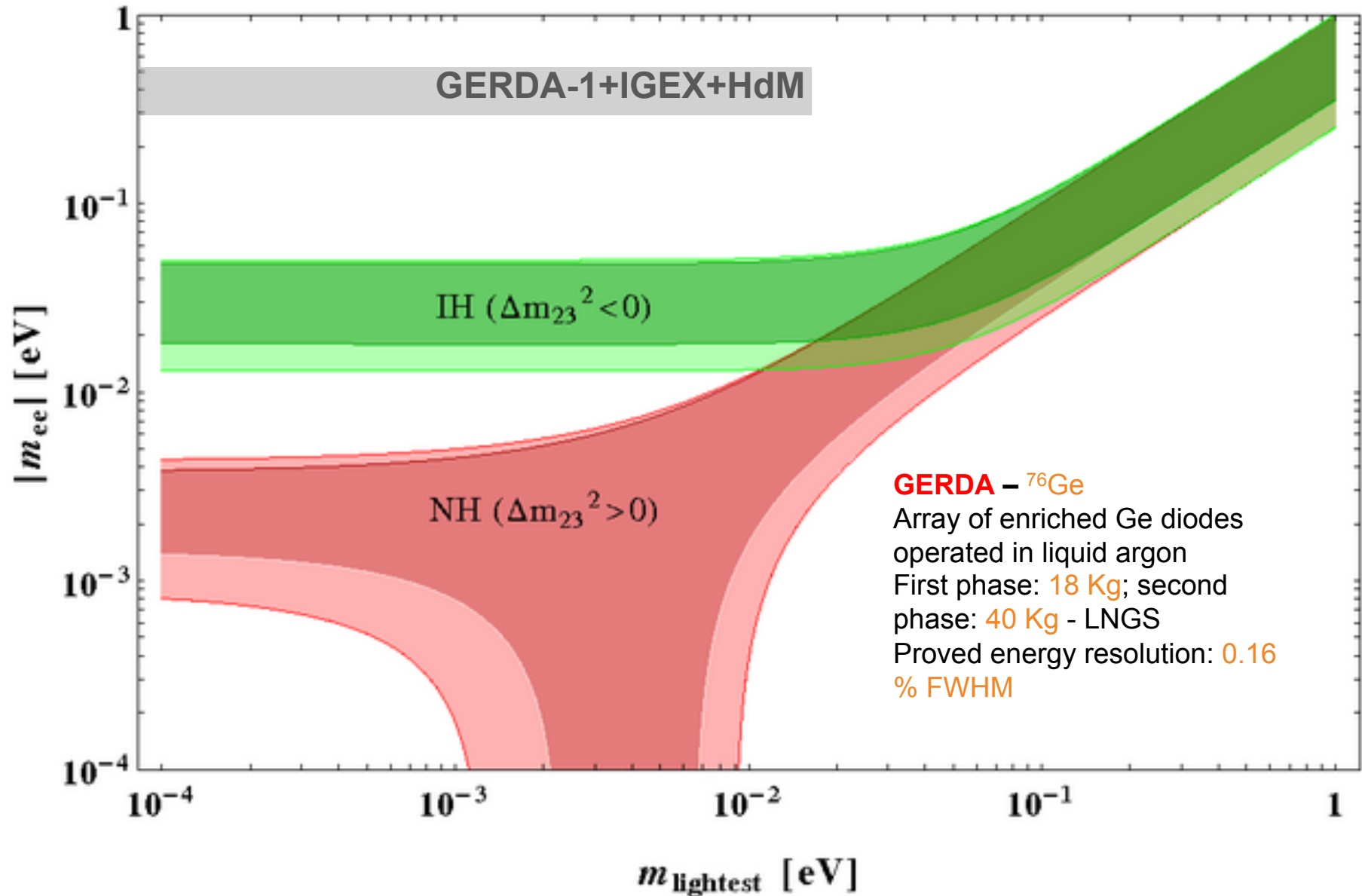
To be more quantitative:

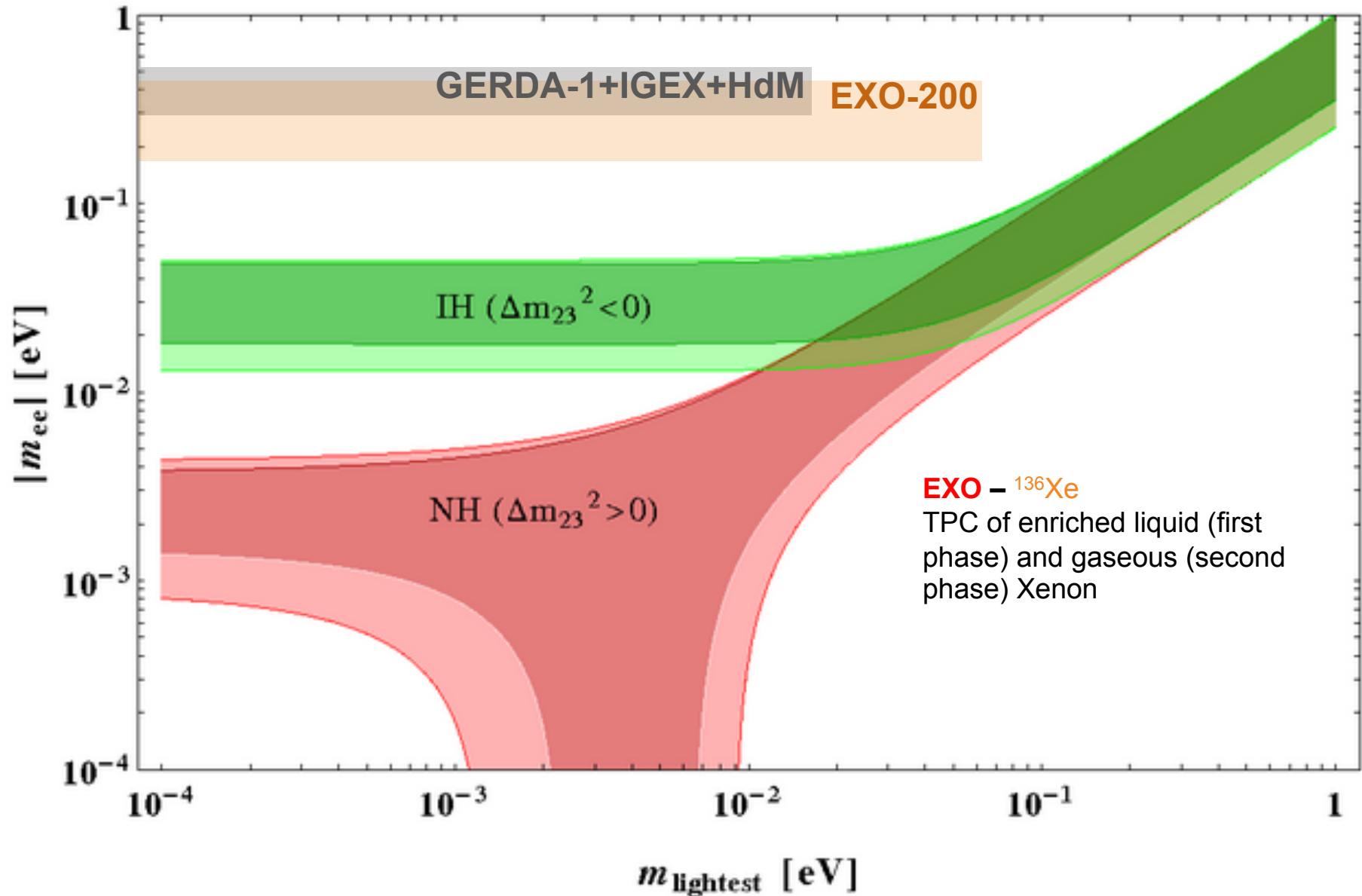


$$\langle m_{\beta\beta} \rangle = \left| |U_{e1}|^2 m_1 + e^{i\alpha_1} |U_{e2}|^2 m_2 + e^{i\alpha_2} |U_{e3}|^2 m_3 \right|$$

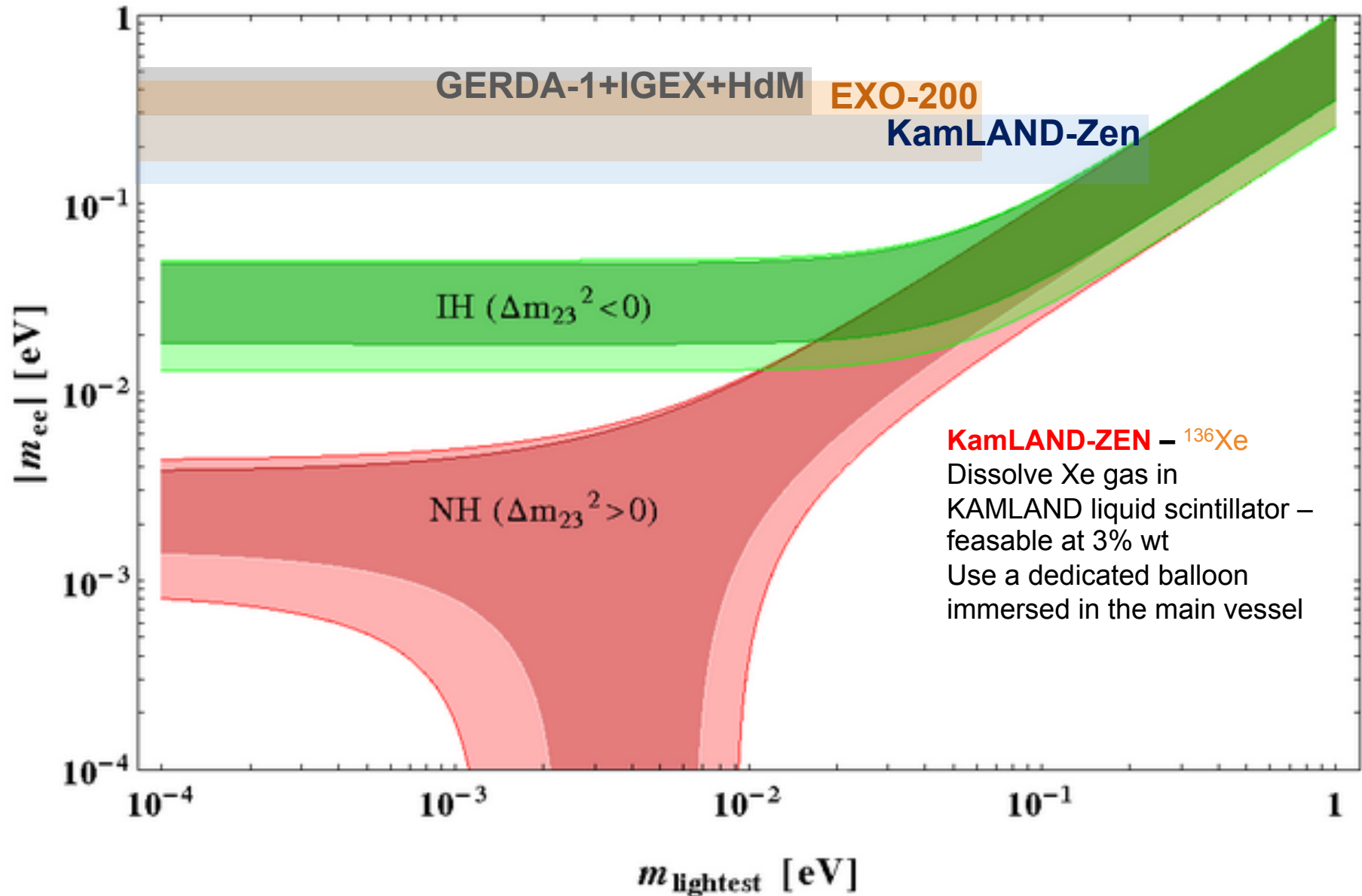
can be of the order of  $\sim 50 \text{ meV}$  in case of inverted hierarchy

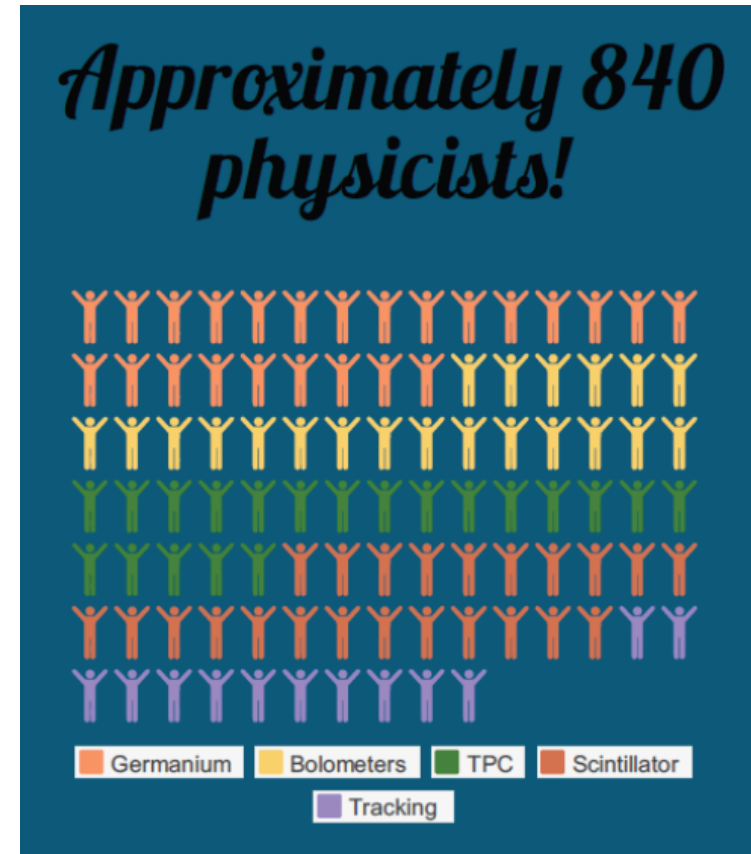
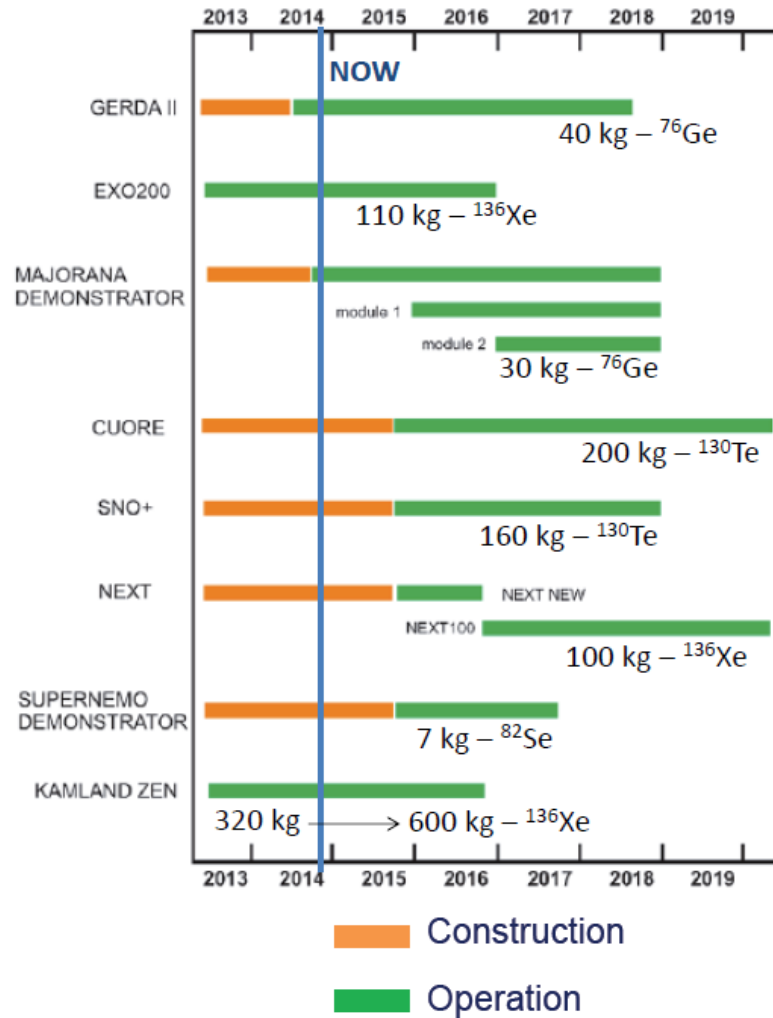




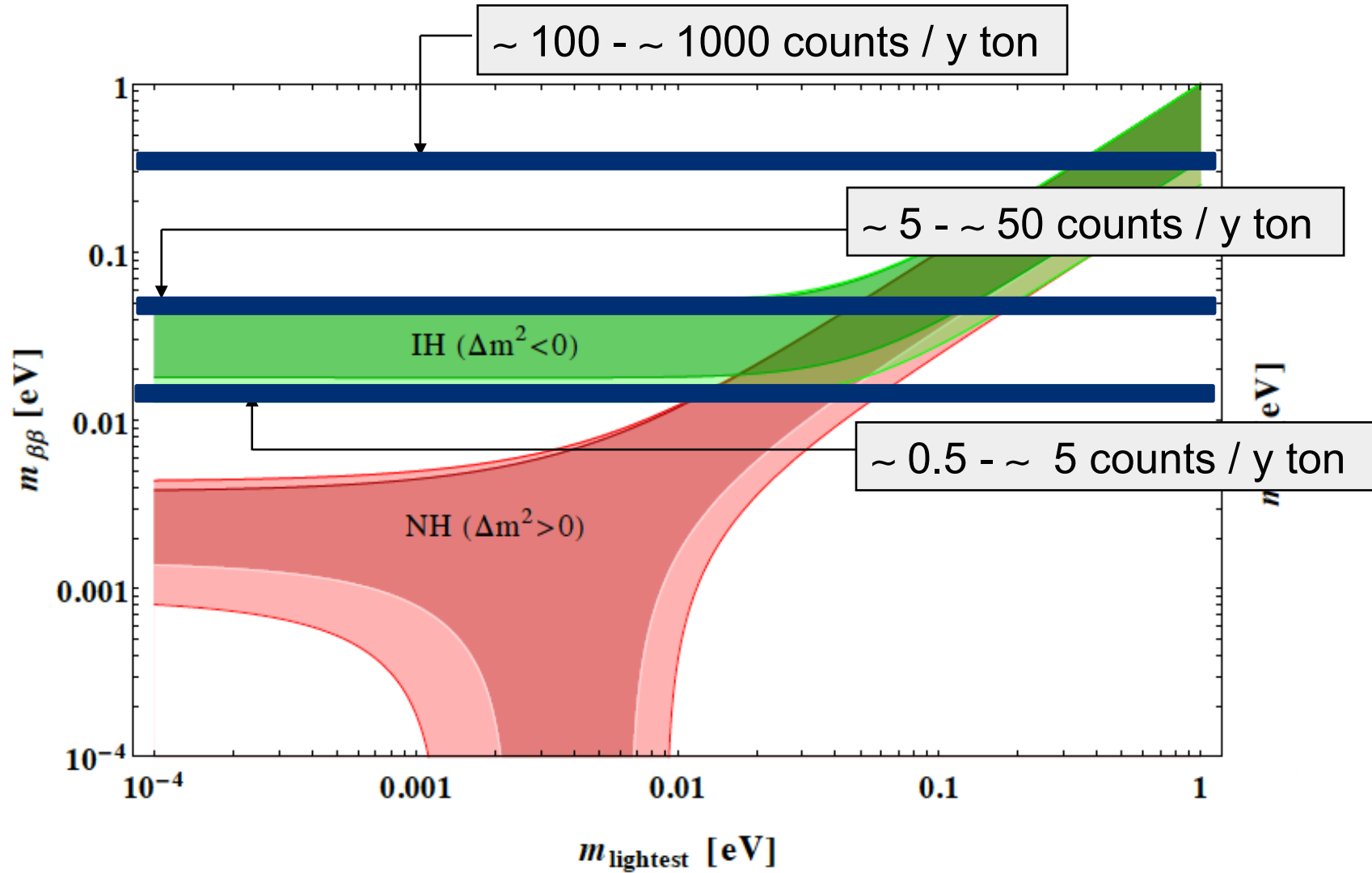




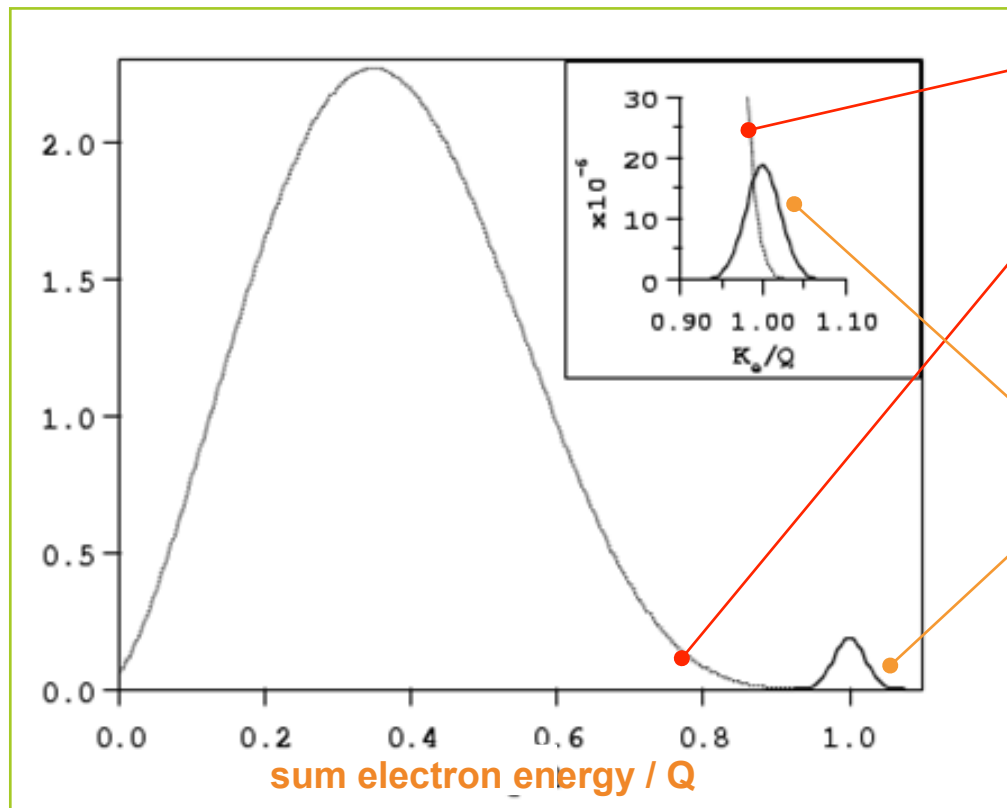




From NLDBD-NSAC document (April 2014)



The **shape** of the **two electron sum energy spectrum** enables to distinguish among the two different discussed decay modes

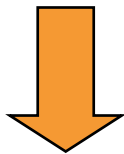


**$2\nu$  double beta decay**  
continuum with  
maximum at  $\sim 1/3 Q$

**$0\nu$  double beta decay**  
peak enlarged only by  
the detector energy resolution

**SENSITIVITY**  $S_{0\nu}$ : lifetime corresponding to the minimum detectable number of events over background at a given confidence level

$$S_{0\nu} \propto \left( \frac{Mt_{live}}{b\Delta E} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$



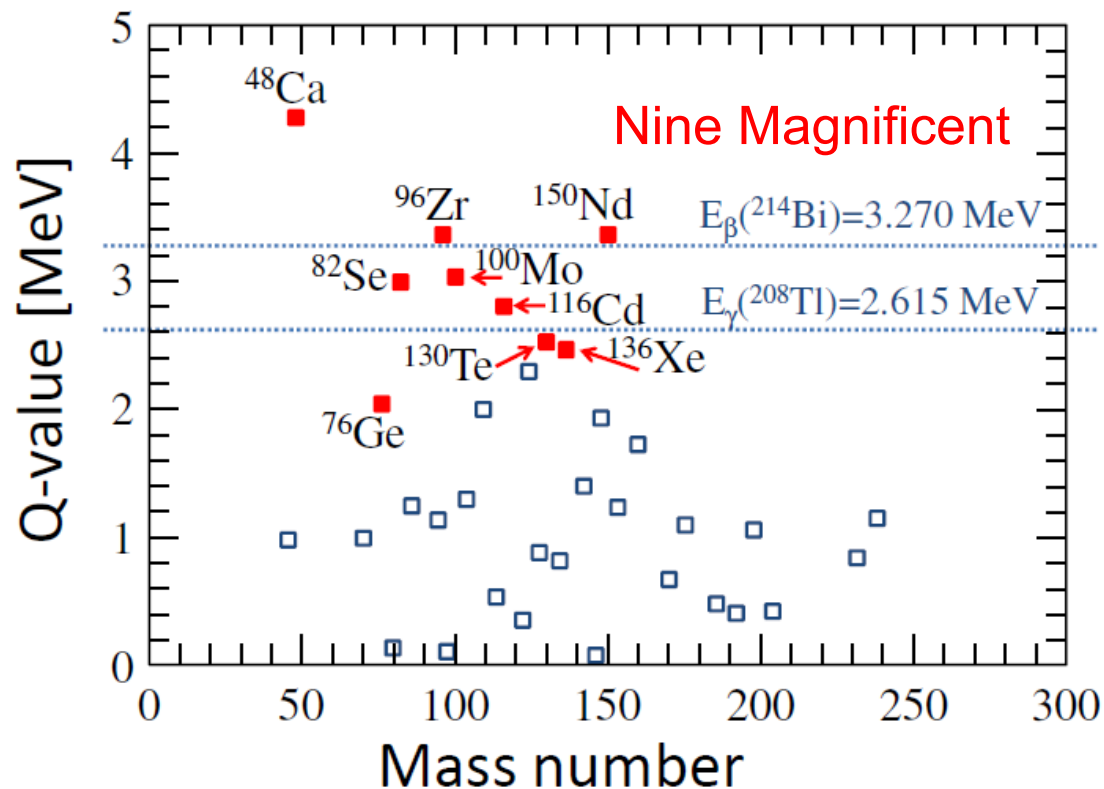
$$\langle m \rangle \propto \left( \frac{b\Delta E}{Mt_{live}} \right)^{\frac{1}{4}}$$

## Desirable features

- Large Mass (~ 1 ton)
- Large Q value, fast  $0\nu\beta\beta$
- Good source radiopurity
- Demonstrated technology
- Ease of operation
- Natural isotope
- Small volume, source = detector
- Good energy resolution
- Slow  $2\nu\beta\beta$  rate
- Identify daughter in real time
- Event reconstruction
- Nuclear theory

**Q** is the crucial factor

- Phase space:  $G(Q,Z) \propto Q^5$
- Background



Other factors favour certain isotopes with respect to others:

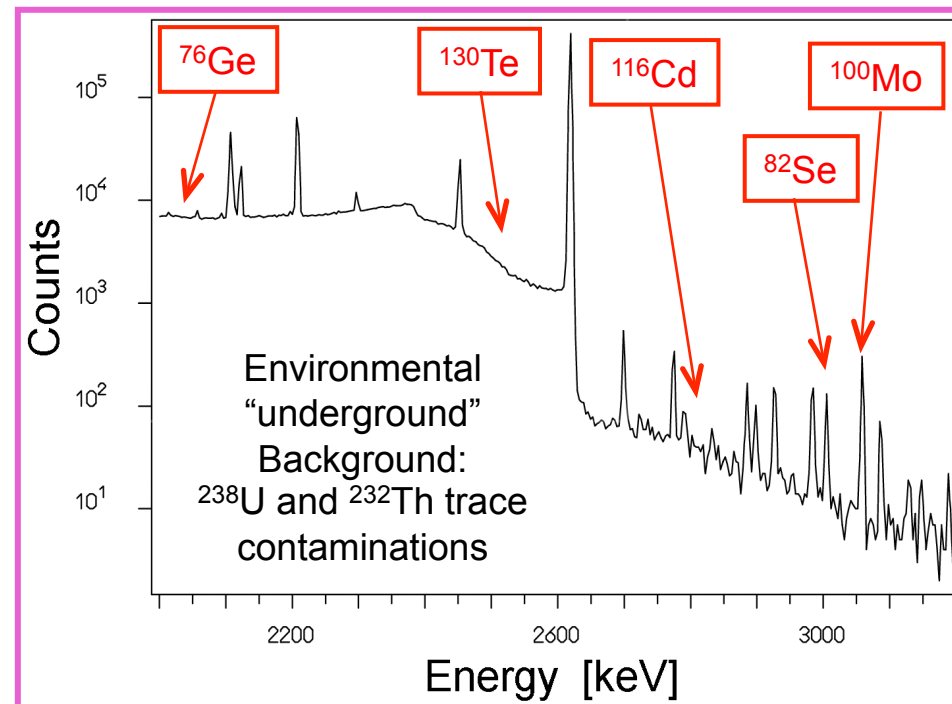
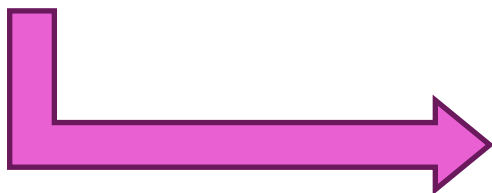
- Easy association to an **experimental technique**
- High **isotopic abundance** and/or **easy enrichment**
- Achievable **radiopurity**

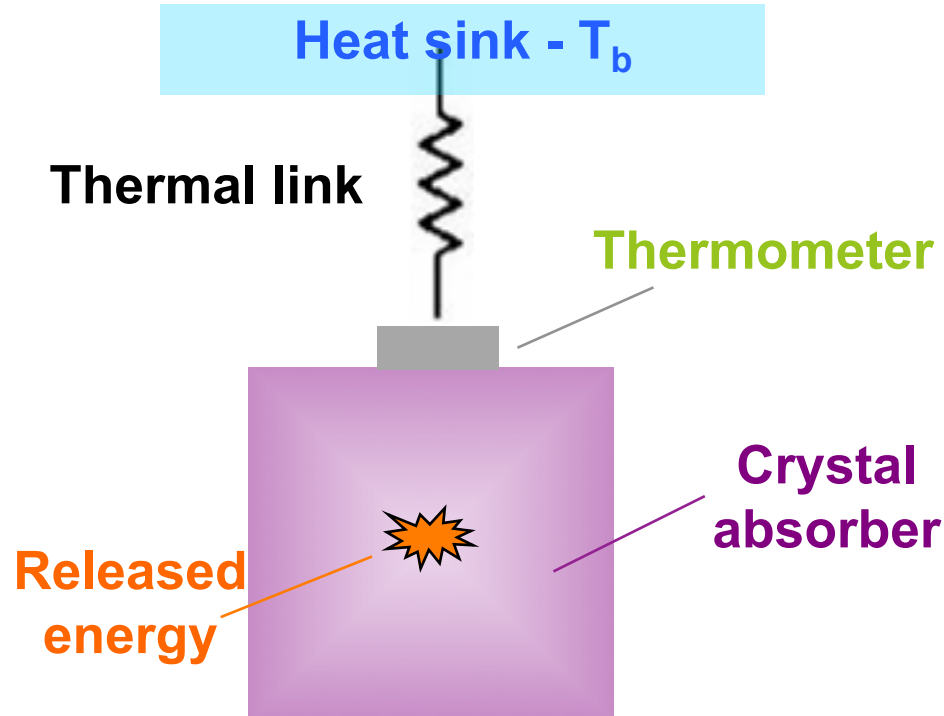
A **high Q-value** is important for two reasons:

- High phase space for the decay:  $\propto Q^5$
- If  $Q > 2615 \text{ keV}$ , the signal is out of the bulk of the natural  $\gamma$  radioactivity



Position of the Q-values for some interesting candidates superimposed to a gamma spectrum taken underground without any form of passive shielding



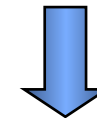


## Main features:

- high energy resolution
- wide versatility (few constraints on absorber material)
- the detector is fully sensitive (no dead layer)

This technique measures **all** the energy deposited by particle in form of increase of temperature in the absorber.

From a very simple thermal model:

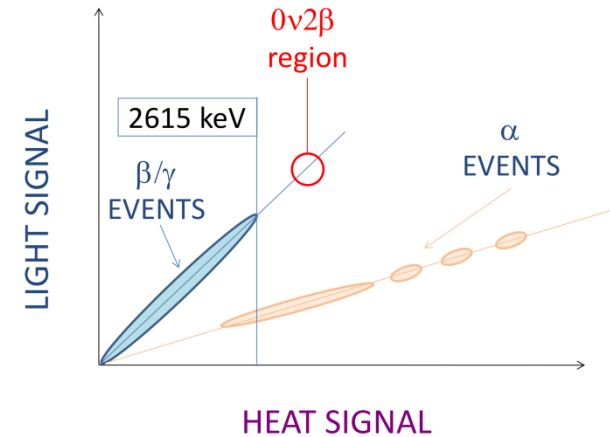
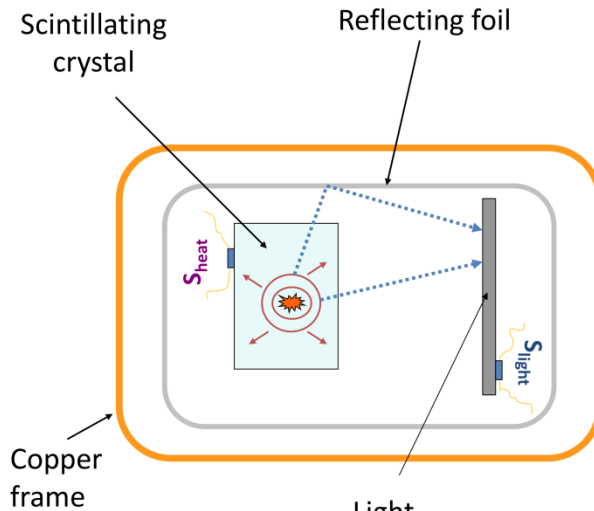


Signal:  $\Delta T = E/C$   
Time constant =  $C/G$

→ to develop high pulses the detector has to work at **low temperatures** (10 – 50 mK).



## Double read-out detector light/heat



Light absorber  
Candidate choice  
Q-value > 2615 keV

Full discrimination  
alpha/beta

“zero” gamma background

“zero” alpha background

= zero bkg at the stage  $\approx 1$  tonne  $\times$  an

$b \sim 10^{-1}$  count/keV/kg/y in « classical » calorimetric experiments

$b \sim 10^{-2} - 10^{-3}$  count/keV/kg/y in present calorimetric experiments and in « tracko-calorimetry »

$b \sim 10^{-4}$  count/keV/kg/y in future experiments

With this background index it is possible to get **zero background** at the **ton x year** scale in high energy resolution experiment [bolometers, Ge diodes]

In scintillating bolometers, dangerous bulk contaminants are **high energy  $\beta$  decays**:

$^{214}\text{Bi} \rightarrow Q\text{-value} = 3.270 \text{ MeV}$  (progenitors:  $^{238}\text{U}$ ,  $^{226}\text{Ra}$ ,  $^{228}\text{Th}$ )

$^{208}\text{Tl} \rightarrow Q\text{-value} = 4.999 \text{ MeV}$  (progenitors:  $^{232}\text{Th}$ ,  $^{228}\text{Th}$ )

With MC simulations one can show that:

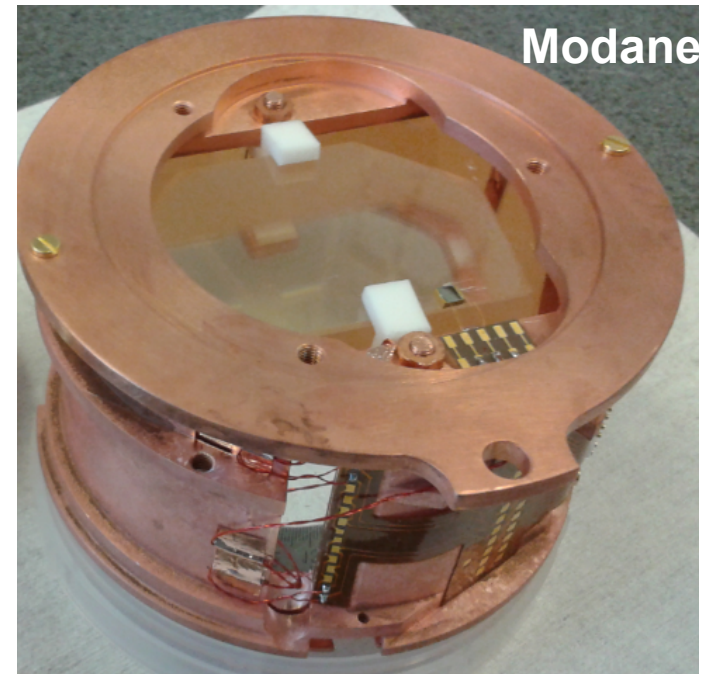
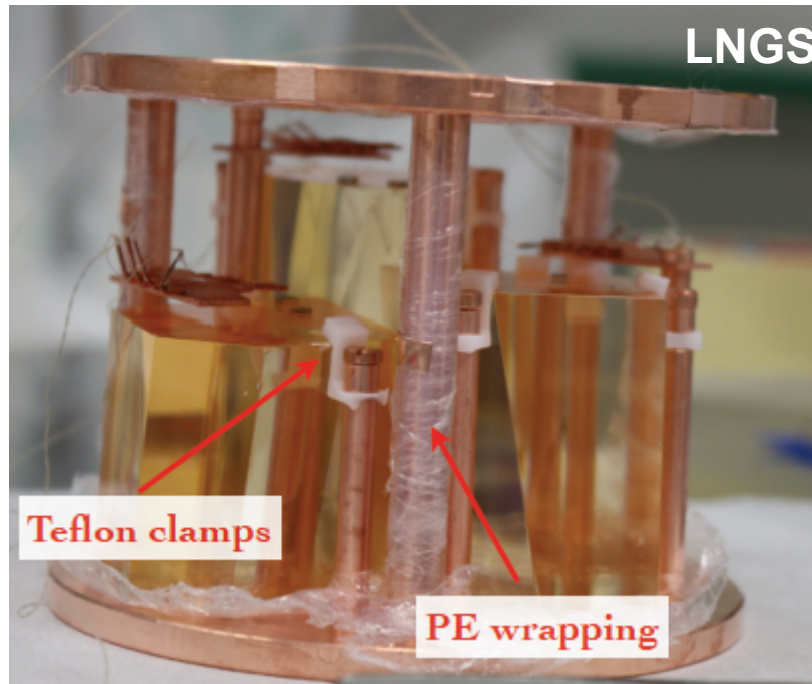
$$A(^{228}\text{Th}) \leq 10 \mu\text{Bq/kg}$$



$$b \sim 10^{-4} \text{ counts/keV/kg/y}$$

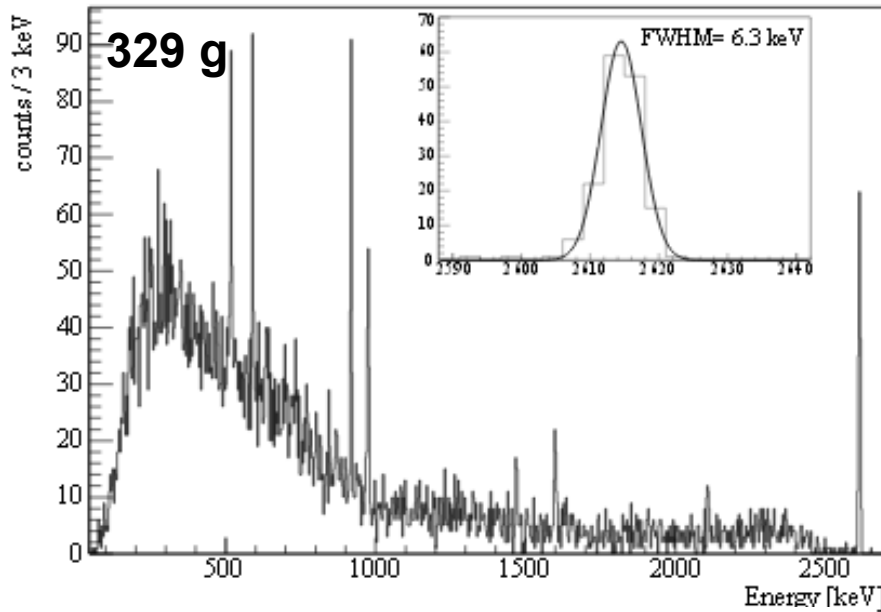
Target for the internal contamination

- Participation to the ANR LUMINEU
- Strong collaboration with CSNSM for R&D on different topics (easy access to test facilities)
- New above-ground test facility at IRAMIS/SPEC (thanks to P2IO)
- Participation to the CUORE/CUORE-0 collaboration
- Collaboration with people in LNGS

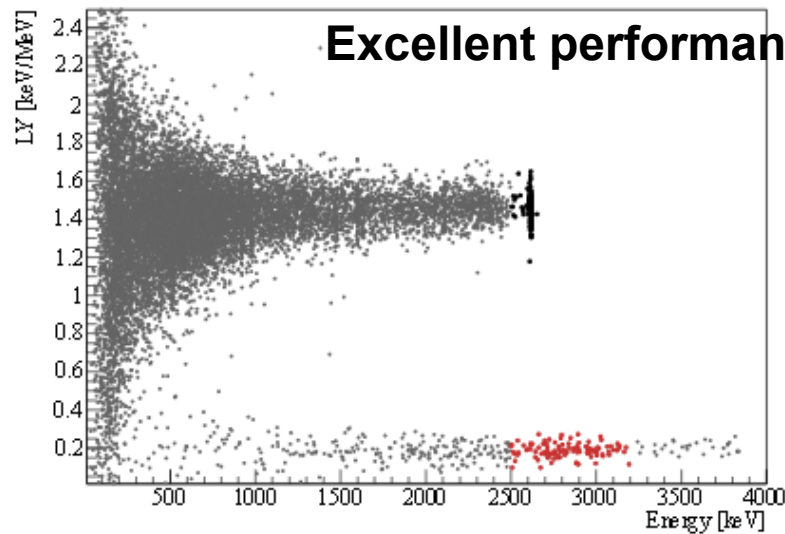
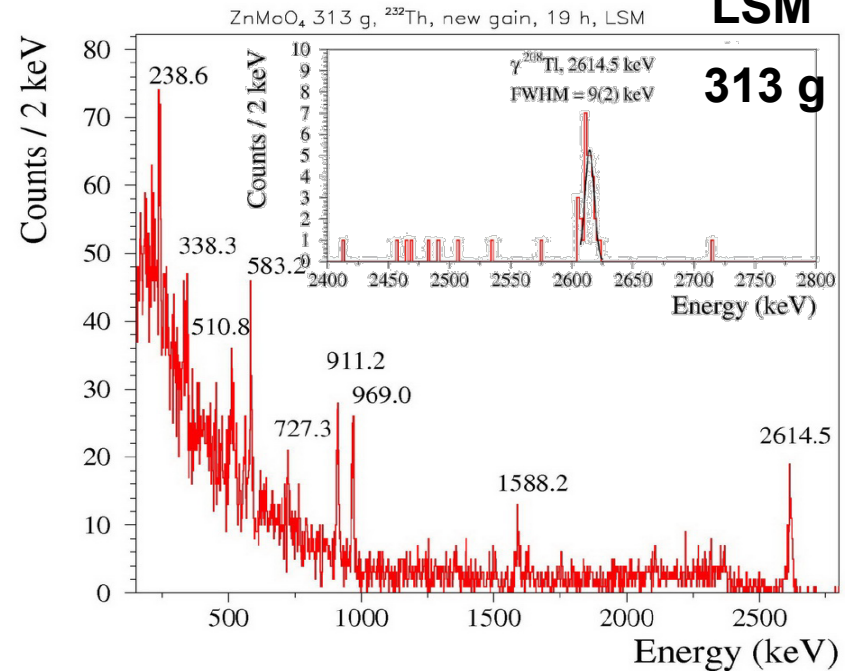


- Irregular shape
- More or less intense orange color (impurities)

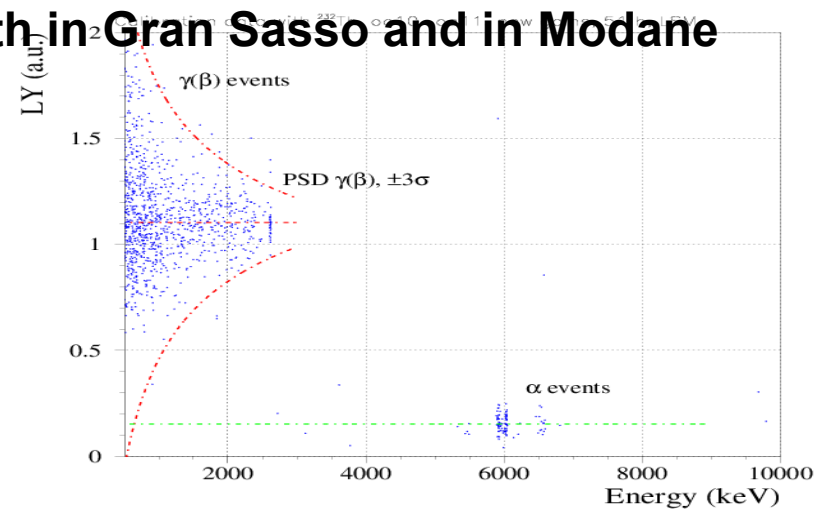
## LNGS



## LSM



Excellent performance both in Gran Sasso and in Modane





- Internal contamination (activities in  $\mu\text{Bq/kg}$ )  
(determined by internal alphas)


Nuclide	Modane	LNGS		
	313 g	329 g	235 g	247 g
$^{228}\text{Th}$	10(3)	$\leq 6$	12(4)	11(4)
$^{238}\text{U}$	$\leq 8$	$\leq 6$	$\leq 8$	25(6)
$^{226}\text{Ra}$	26(5)	27(6)	6(3)	63(9)
$^{210}\text{Po}$	620(30)	700(30)	860(34)	860(33)

- Dangerous contaminant:  $^{228}\text{Th}$  – must be less than  $10 \mu\text{Bq/kg}$
- Very good as a first attempt, but improvement is necessary

Luminescent **U**nderground **M**olybdenum **I**nvestigation for **NEU**trino mass and nature

Expérience souterraine avec détecteurs luminescents de molybdate de zinc pour l'étude de la masse et la nature des neutrinos

Set the bases for a **next-generation neutrinoless double-beta decay** experiment

- 
- ZnMoO<sub>4</sub> crystal production
  - Temperature sensor production and optimization
  - Light detector development (both NTD and MMC technology)
  - Pilot experiment with enriched material

Funded by **ANR** in France (Agence National de la Recherche)

Collaboration : **CNRS-Orsay, CEA-Saclay, IAS-Orsay, ICMCB Bordeaux, KINR Kiev (Ukraine), NIIC Novosibirsk (Russia), KIP Heidelberg (Germany).**

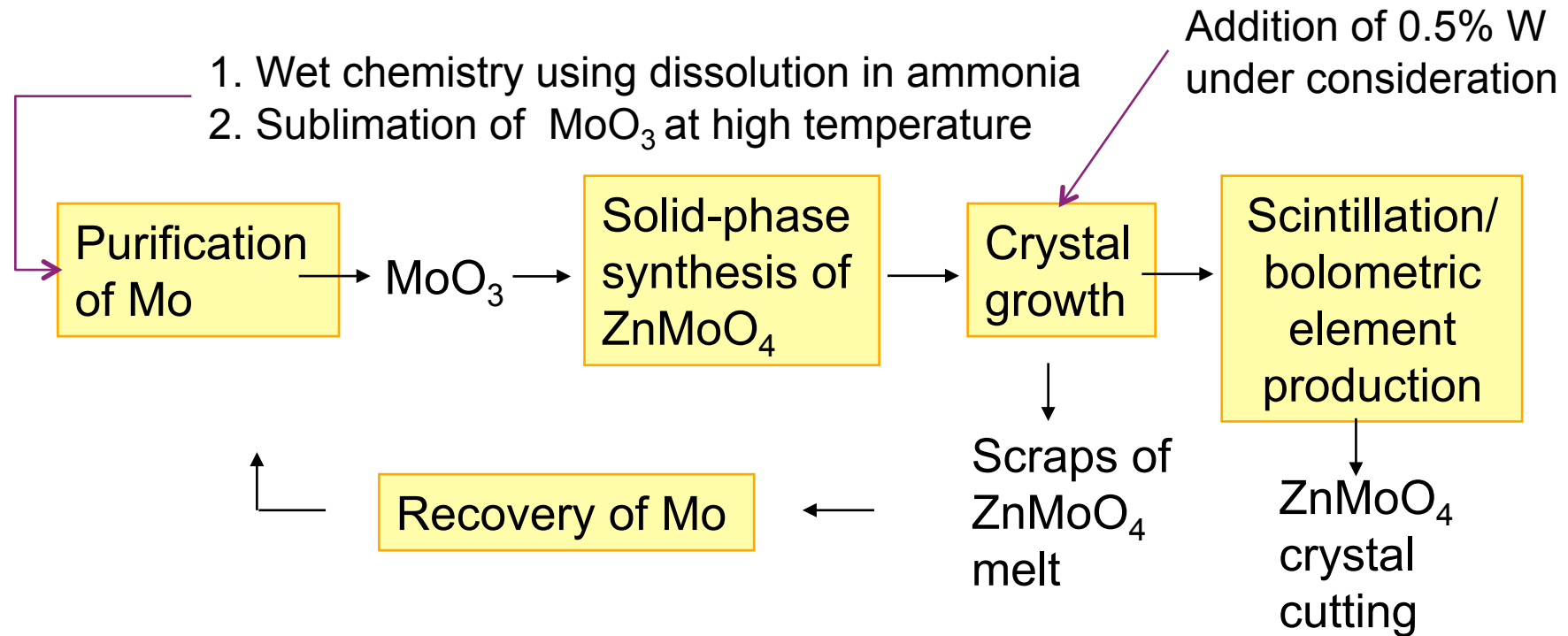
In total, ~ 40 participants.

Start: October 1st, 2012 – duration: 4 years

## Purification of molybdenum, growth and characterization of medium volume $\text{ZnMoO}_4$ crystals for the LUMINEU program

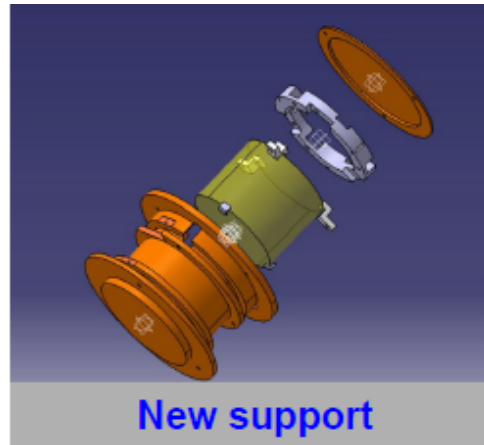
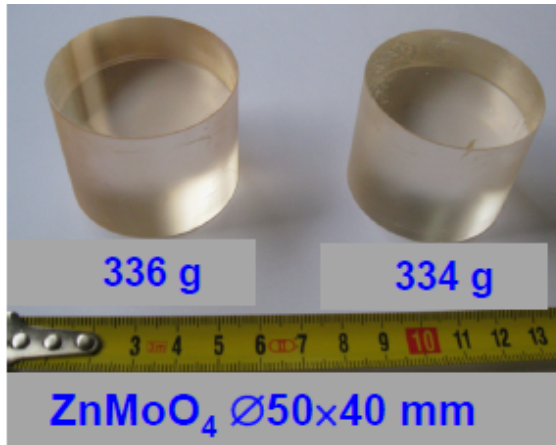
- Molybdenum was purified by using double recrystallization of ammonium molybdate in aqueous solutions
- Advanced  $\text{ZnMoO}_4$  crystals were produced in NIIC by using low-thermal-gradient Czochralski method
  - low-thermal-gradient Czochralski technique
  - platinum crucibles  $\varnothing 40$  and  $\varnothing 80$ mm
  - temperature gradient below 1 K/cm
  - rotational speed in the range of 5–20 rotations per minute
  - crystallization rate of 0.8–1.2 mm/hour



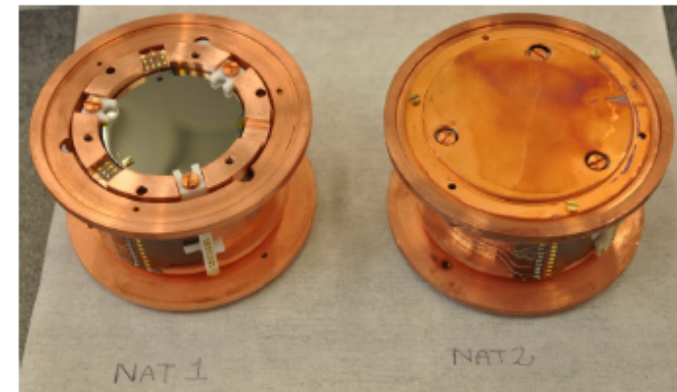


Two set-ups are ready with crucibles:

- 1)  $\varnothing 40$  mm  $\rightarrow$   $\text{ZnMoO}_4$   $\varnothing 25$  mm
- 2)  $\varnothing 80$  mm  $\rightarrow$   $\text{ZnMoO}_4$   $\varnothing 60$  mm



- Different successful tests above ground on medium scale crystals (100-200 g)
- Development of two large regular crystals
- Assembly of these crystals for test in Modane

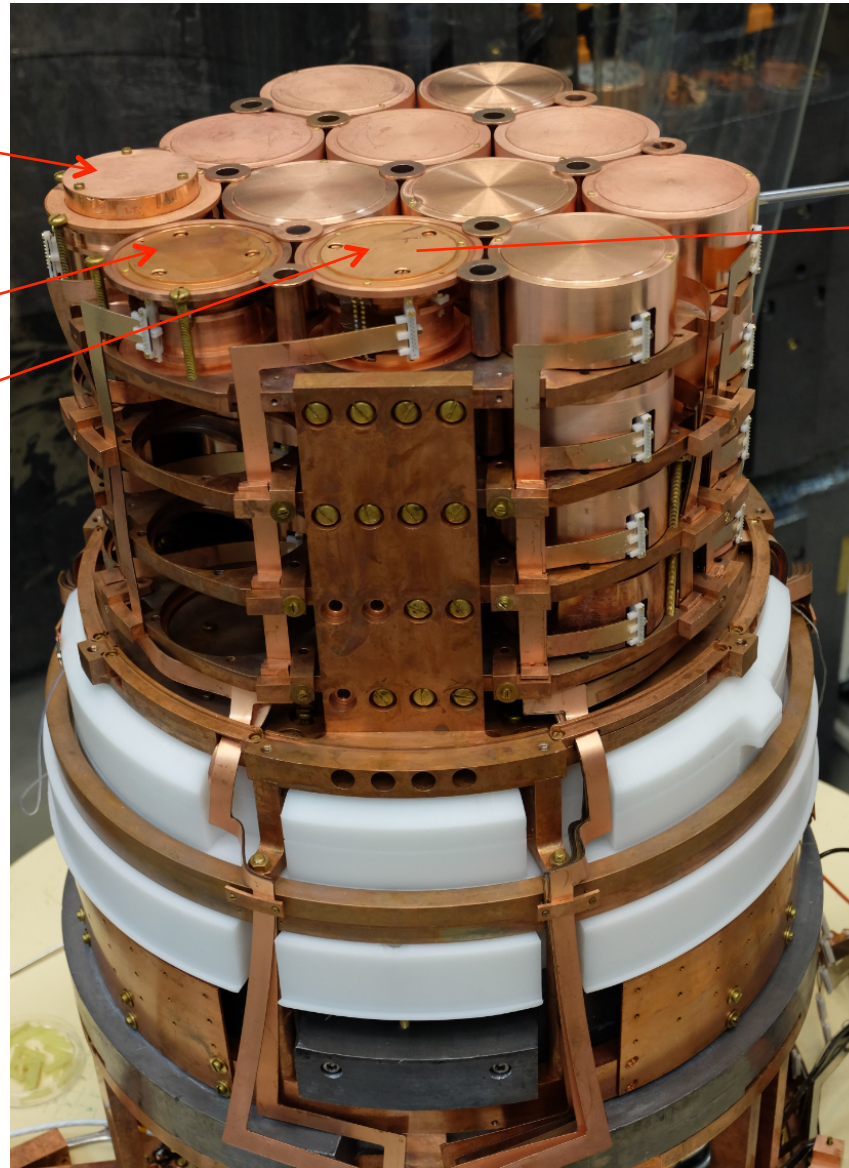


Enriched ZMO 1 & 2

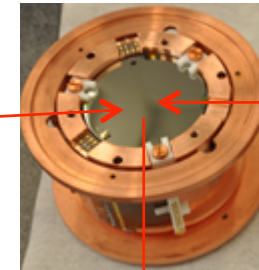
Natural ZMO 1

Natural ZMO 2

MoU already signed between the LUMINEU and EDELWEISS collaborations

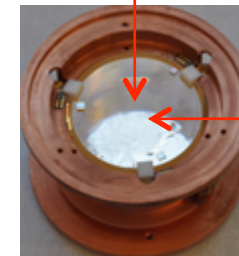


Removing the Cu cover....

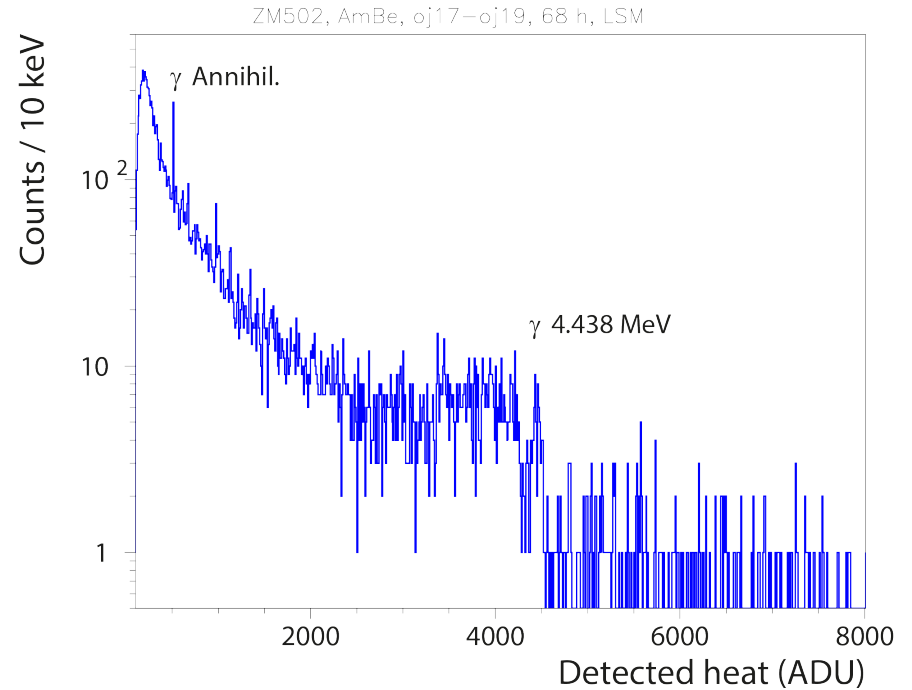
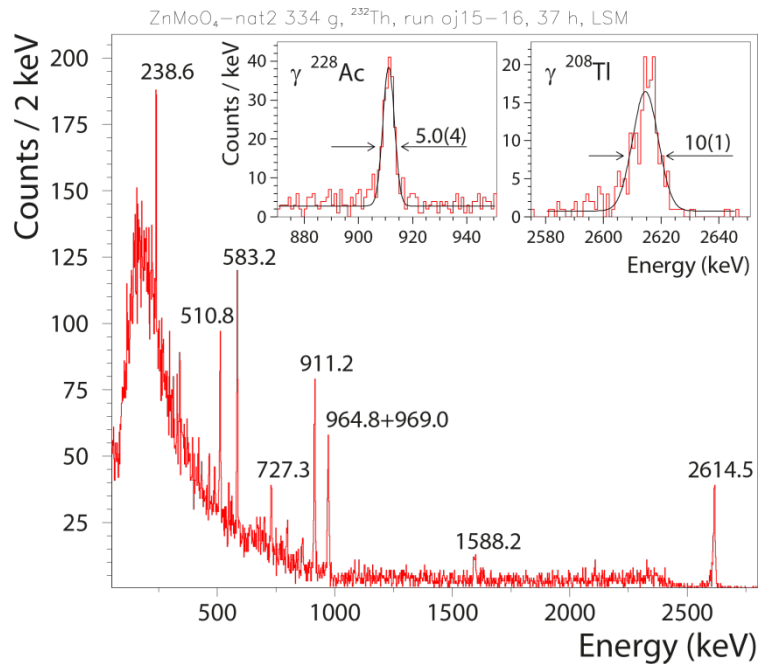
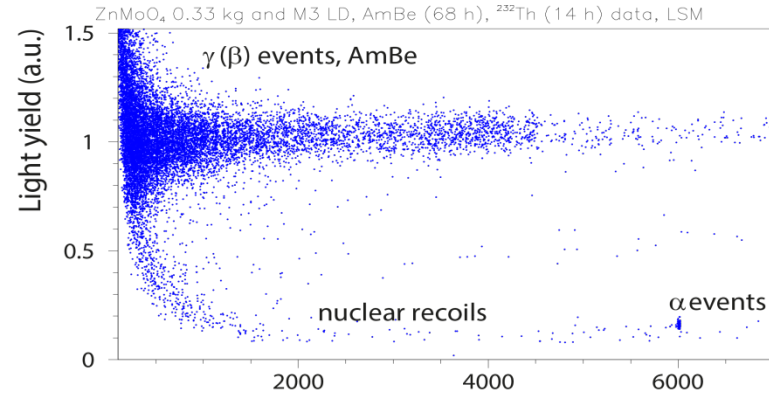
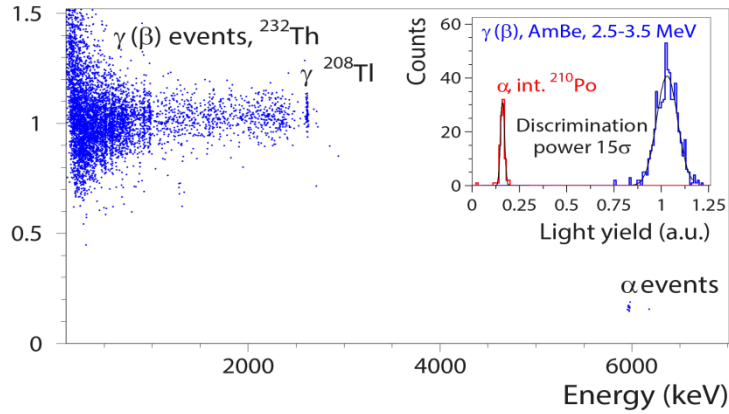


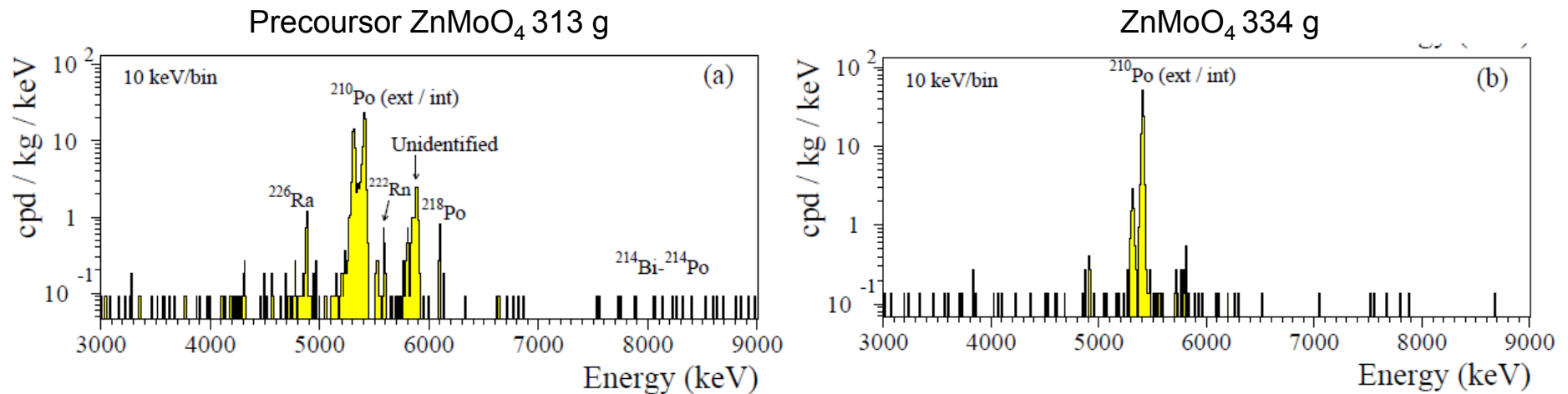
Light detector

...removing the light detector



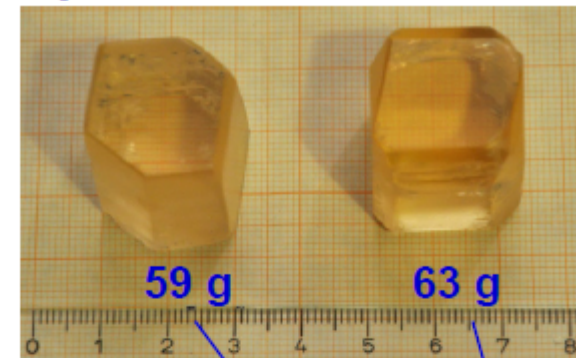
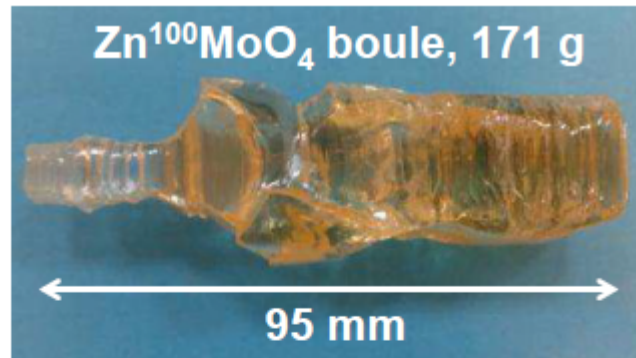
ZMO crystal





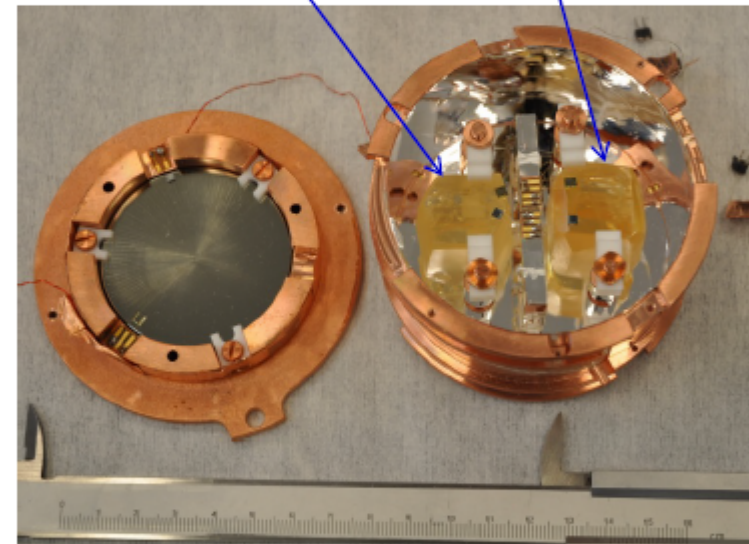
$^{228}\text{Th}$  and  $^{226}\text{Ra}$  contamination have been strongly reduced and are below the detection limit up to now

Nuclide	Activity (mBq/kg)			
	ZnMoO <sub>4</sub>			
	336 g 291 h	334 g 527 h	313 g 851 h	329 g [11] 524 h
$^{228}\text{Th}$	≤ 0.024	≤ 0.007	0.010(3)	≤ 0.006
$^{238}\text{U}$	≤ 0.008	≤ 0.002	≤ 0.008	≤ 0.006
$^{226}\text{Ra}$	≤ 0.021	≤ 0.009	0.26(5)	0.27(6)
$^{210}\text{Po}$	0.94(5)	1.02(7)	0.62(3)	0.70(3)



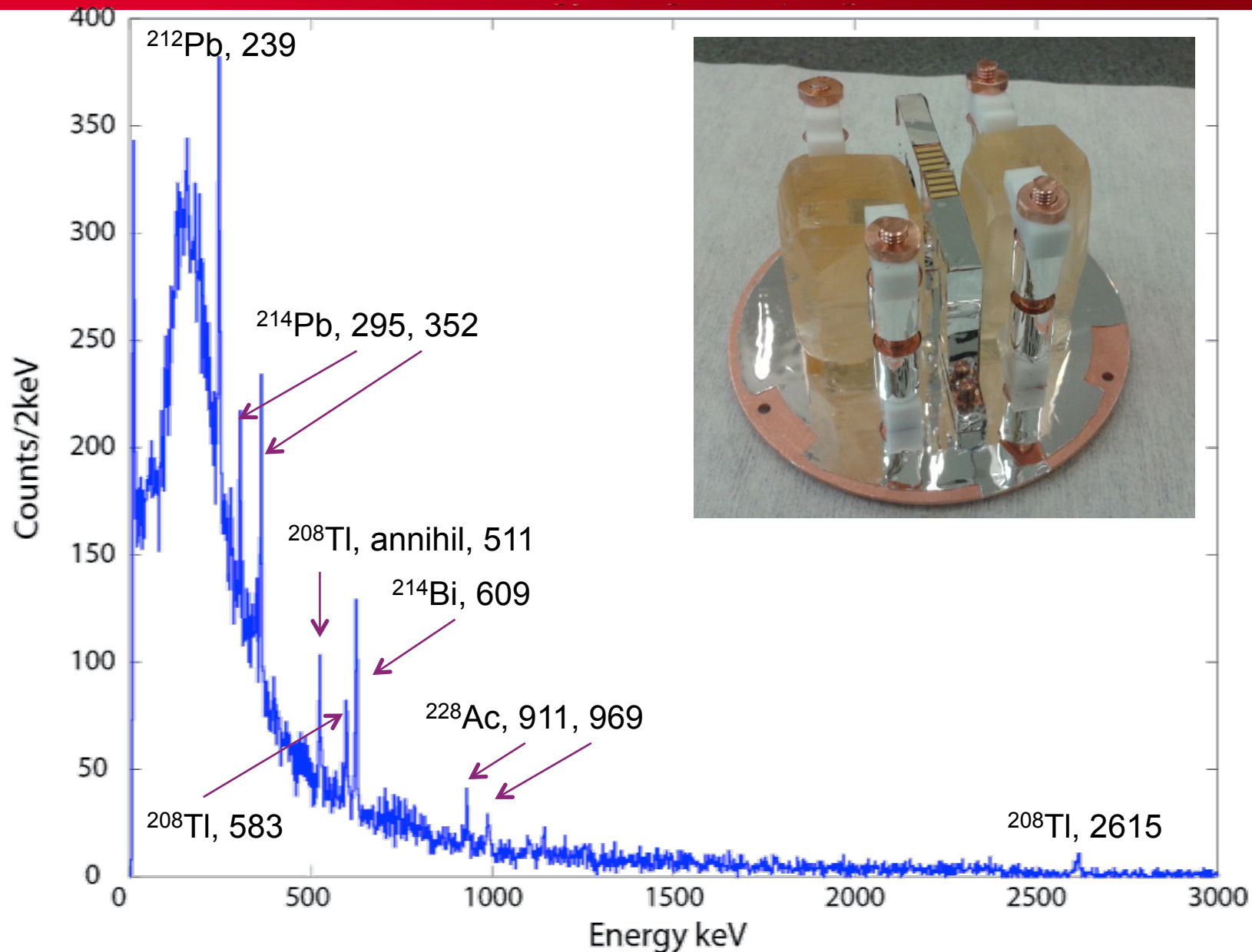
## First $\text{Zn}^{100}\text{MoO}_4$ crystal is developed from enriched molybdenum

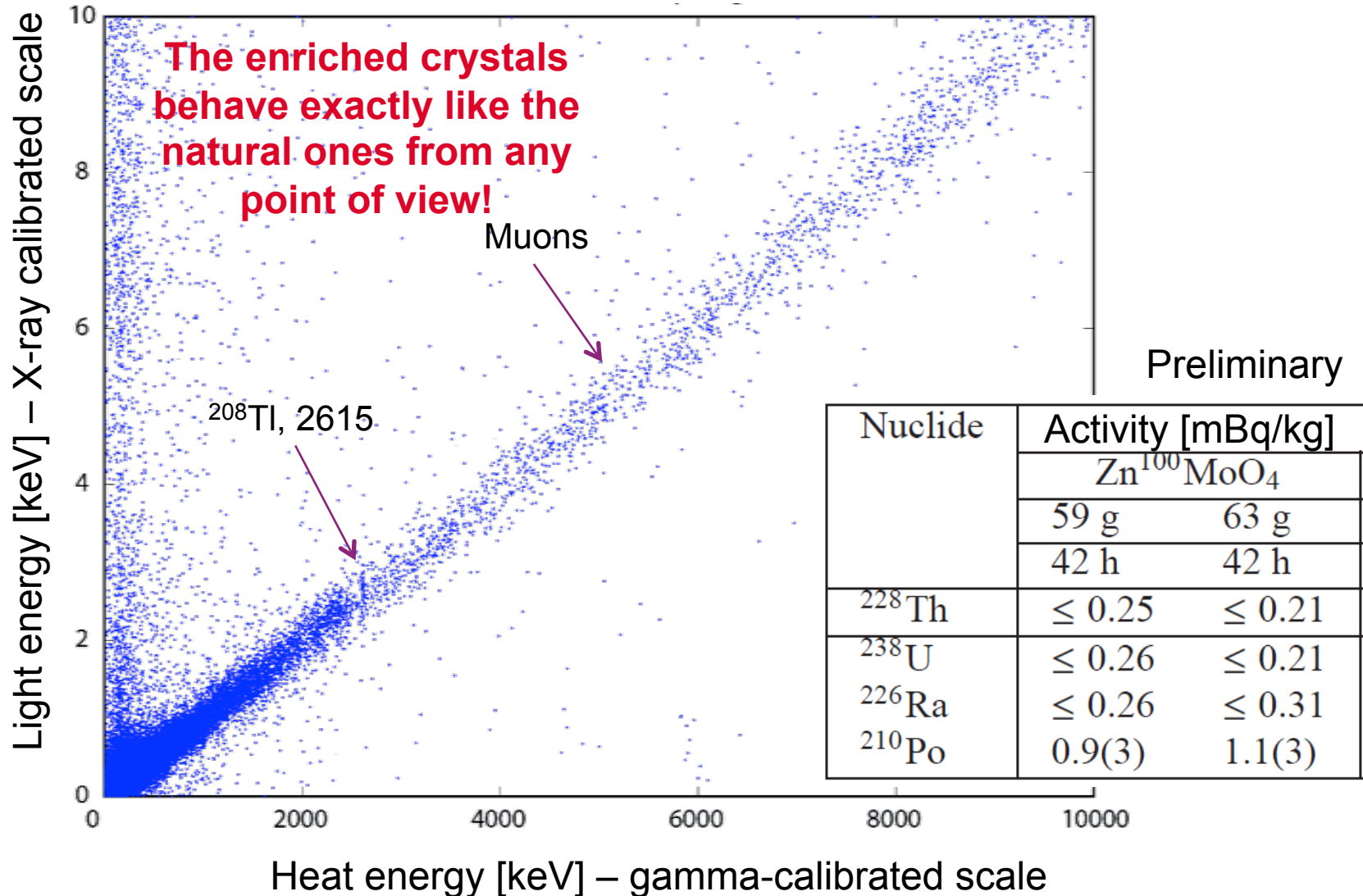
- $^{100}\text{MoO}_3$  (99.5% enrichment in  $^{100}\text{Mo}$ ) was purified by using sublimation in vacuum and recrystallization from solutions
- $\text{Zn}^{100}\text{MoO}_4$  boule was grown at NIIC by using low-thermal-gradient Czochralski process (84% of initial charge)
- Total irrecoverable losses of  $^{100}\text{Mo}$  is ~4%
- Two samples (D24×30 mm) were produced
- $\text{Zn}^{100}\text{MoO}_4$  scintillating bolometers array was successfully tested



A.S. Barabash et al., arXiv:1405.6937.  
Eur. Phys. J. C 74 (2014) 3133.

# Aboveground test (CSNSM) of enriched crystals Energy spectrum







## Large regular ZMO crystals

Produced in Novosibirsk and tested in Modane  
OK

## Test on enriched ZMO crystals

Produced in Novosibirsk and tested in CSNSM  
OK  
Test in Modane: microphonics noise problem

## « Standard » NTD-based light detectors

They work satisfactorily at CSNSM and LNGS, microphonic problems in Modane

DONE

Within the end of the year: **1 kg enriched crystals in four large size ZMO crystals** - to be tested in first half 2015

(completion of the LUMINEU program)

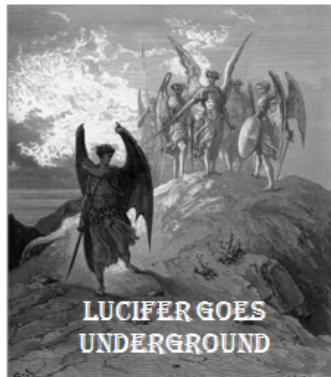
~1 % W doping under consideration

5 y sensitivity: 150-450 meV

TO DO

## LUCIFER

Low-background **U**nderground  
**C**ryogenics **I**nstallation **F**or **E**lusive  
**R**ates



## LUMINEU

Luminescent **U**nderground **M**olybdenum  
Investigation for **NEU**trino mass and nature

&



# ***LUCINEU***

➤ 10 kg enriched material belonging to ITEP are available (NEMO-3)  
MoU IN2P3-INFN-ITEP

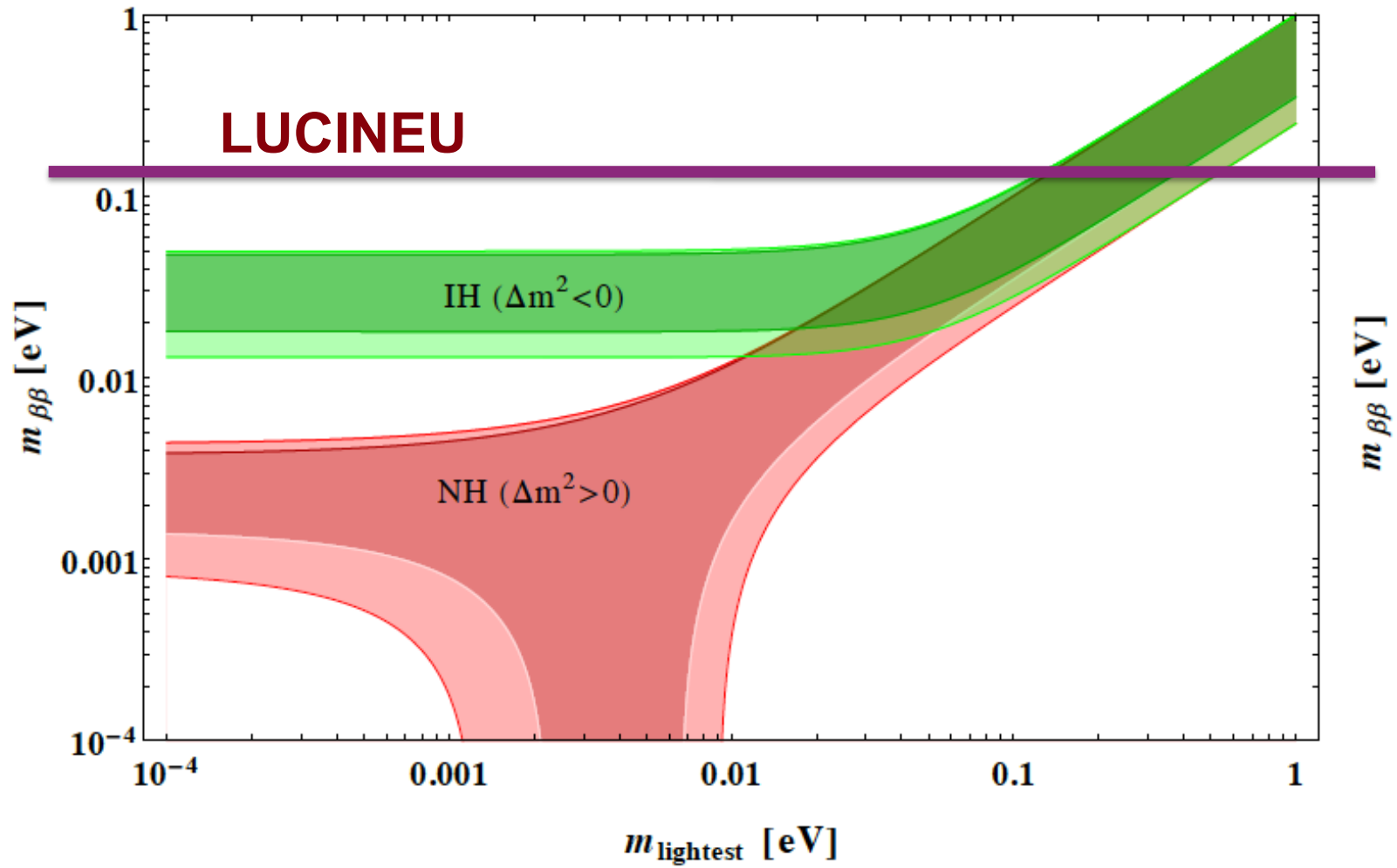
➤ If OK with the large enriched crystals, massive production of  
40 enriched ZMO crystals (400 g each) containing ~ 7 kg enriched material

➤ Experiment in LNGS or Modane in 2016

➤ 5 y sensitivity: 50-150 meV

The same as the best experiments under commissioning, e.g. CUORE

Option	Number of ≈ 400 g crystals	Total isotope mass [kg]	Half-life sensitivity [10 <sup>25</sup> y]	$M_{\beta\beta}$ sensitivity [meV]
(1) – LUMINEU	4	0.676	0.53	167 – 476
(2) – LUCINEU	40	6.76	4.95	55 – 156
(3)	2000	338	92.5	13 – 36



## Possible time-schedule

- Crystal production (40x400g  $\text{Zn}^{100}\text{MoO}_4$ ) - second part of 2015
- Production of detector holders and light detectors - second part of 2015
- Detector assembly – first part of 2016
- Development and realization of electronics and DAQ system - mid-2015 to mid 2016
- the LUCINEU array will be cooled down in LNGS or LSM according to the cryostat availability – mid-2016
- LUCINEU data taking - by the end of 2016

**Now:**  $0\nu\beta\beta$  decay activity at SPP  $\longrightarrow$  **only one person (CN).**

**Future:** a group of **2-4 people** working on this subject (**2 permanents and 2 post doc/students**).

## **Main items to cover with SPP staff:**

**Data Analysis:** the present human resources are insufficient for a multi-channel setup as LUCINEU. In addition, in the present  $\text{ZnMoO}_4$  prototypes there are clear indications that  $\alpha/\beta$  rejection can be performed using the heat channel only, exploiting a slight pulse-shape difference in the two types of events  $\rightarrow$  sophisticated analysis tools are required which at the moment are beyond the reach of the collaboration.

**Simulations:** lack of expertise in Monte Carlo simulations. It will be really important to implement a tool with Geant4 to make simulations for background in order to evaluate future sensitivities and to develop an adequate background model during LUCINEU operation. In addition, simulations on the thermal model for bolometers will be useful for a better comprehension and optimizations of the detectors.

The presence of **PhD students** and **post-docs** would help the start-up of the activity. An application for a post-doc position has been submitted to P2IO as well as an application for a PhD fellowship to CEA.

## Implication of technical services

the level of their participation will be partially related to the location of the LUCINEU experiment (LSM or LNGS) and to the possibility to use the EDELWEISS cryostat as an underground facility for R&D.

## Possible contributions:

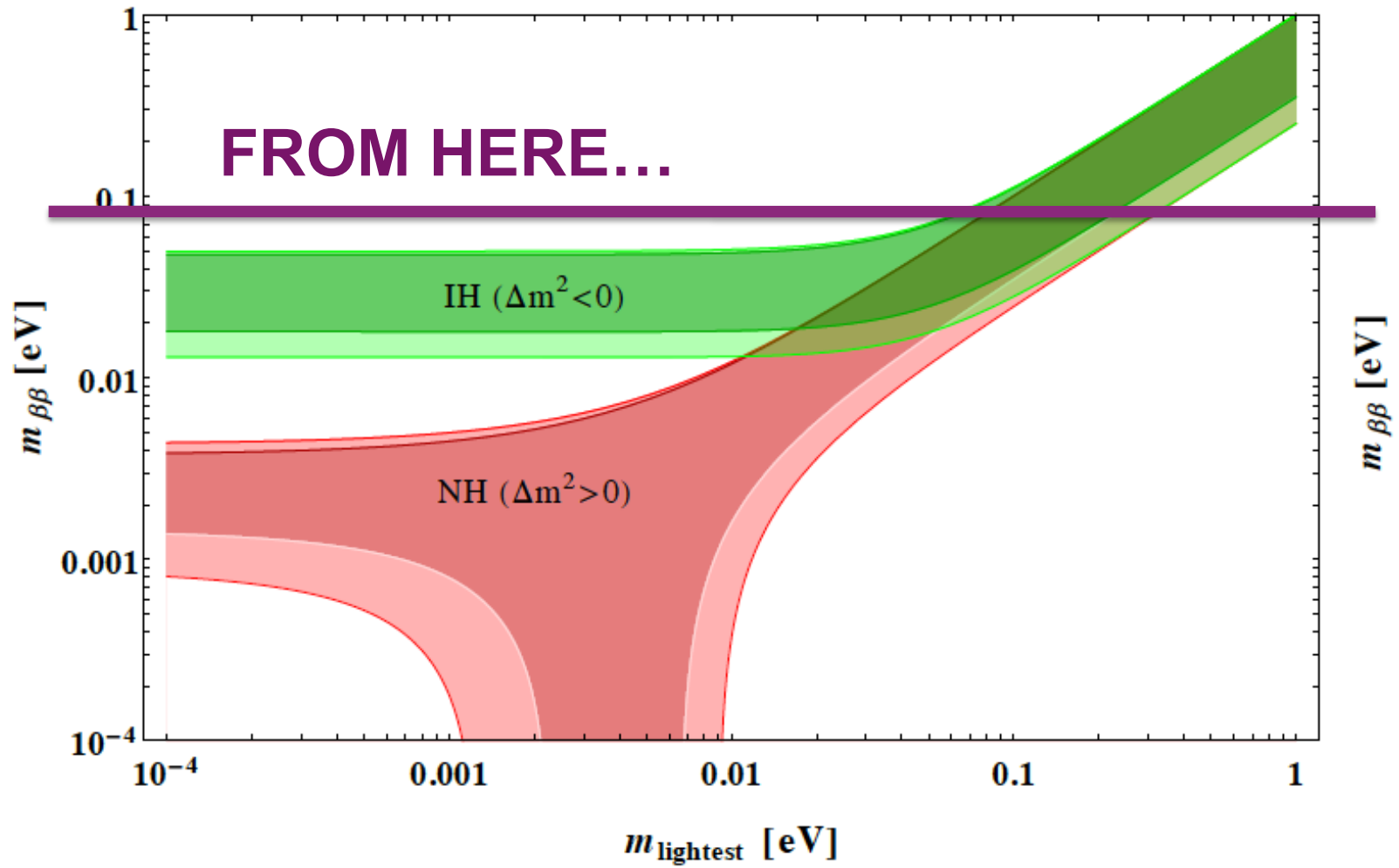
- a **technician** for the development of the **front-end electronics**, (voltage sensitive amplifiers for high-impedance sensors, low noise at low frequencies (DC -- 100 Hz), working at room temperature and DC coupled (80 channels) – SEDI
- a **technician or engineer** to design, develop and validate the **DAQ system** – SEDI
- a **technician or engineer** to design possible improvements of the **shielding system** of the cryostat (Pb & polyethylene) in view of the different energy range at which the DBD events are searched for with respect to dark matter.

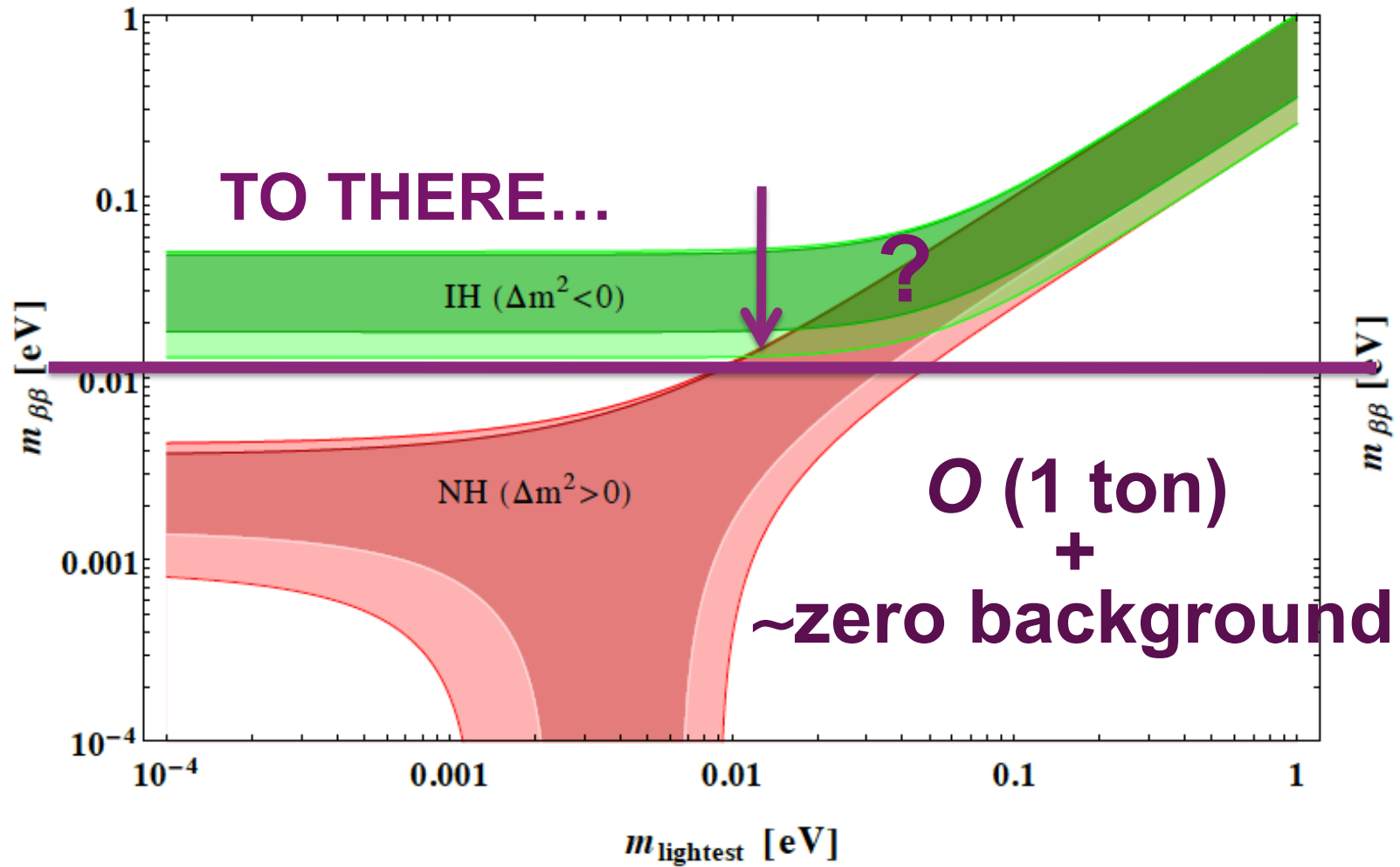
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- a **technician** or **engineer** to design **mechanical pieces for bolometer holders**, with particular attention to light detectors, possibly provided with anti-vibration systems – SIS
- a **technician** or **engineer** for the **slow control** of the cryostat and all the other systems – SIS
- a **technician** expert in **cryogenics** and **vacuum technology** for any upgrade of the dilution refrigerators in the underground laboratories and their maintenance – SACM
- No needs are foreseen for detector assembly since this task will be performed by CN in collaboration with the cryogenic detector group of CSNSM







## 1 Xe way

- EXO-200 → nEXO (5 ton liquid  $^{136}\text{Xe}$  TPC)
- KamLAND-Zen → KamLAND2-Zen (1 ton  $^{136}\text{Xe}$ , higher energy resolution, pressurized Xe)
- NEXT-100 → MAGIX (1 ton high pressure TPC)

$^{214}\text{Bi}$  line not resolved from  $0\nu 2\beta$  signal

Low energy resolution (250 keV FWHM)  
 $^{110\text{m}}\text{Ag}$  background

Wait for NEXT-100

## 2 Ge way

GERDA+MAJORANA → 1 ton  $^{76}\text{Ge}$

Extreme background demand ( $10^{-4}$  counts/keV/kg/y at 2 MeV)  
Low Q-value  
Enrichment

## 3 Bolometer way

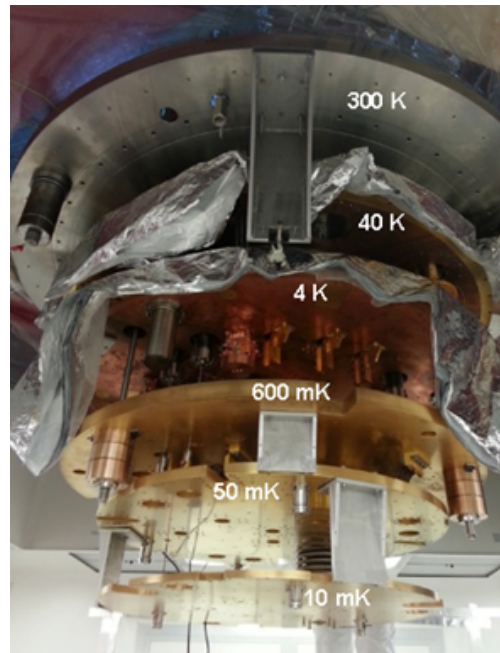
CUORE → "CUORE-IHE" (1 ton  $^{130}\text{Te}$  or  $^{100}\text{Mo}$  or  $^{82}\text{Se}$ )  
LUCIFER, LUMINEU AMoRE AMoRE

Cryogenics  
Crystallization  
Enrichment

Cost →  $n \cdot 100\text{M}\$,$  where  $n$  is "not large"

## ➤ CUORE

- all 19 towers completed
- first cryostat test successful (470 kg at 5.9 mK)
- CUORE-0 shows that background goal of CUORE ( $b=10^{-2}$  counts/keV/kg/y) is achievable



Start to plan  
the follow-up  
to CUORE

- **CUORE-IHE** group of interest: well beyond CUORE ←  
34 Institutions: US, Italy, France, Russia, Germany, Ukraine, China, Spain
- Formation of the new collaboration – down-selection of the technology in 2-3 years

## CUORE-IHE

the Cryogenic Underground Observatory for Rare Events  
as Inverted Hierarchy Explorer

The CUORE-IHE Interest Group

September 8, 2014

### 1 Introduction

The purpose of this document, drafted by the CUORE-IHE Steering Committee<sup>1</sup>, is to define a possible follow-up to the present CUORE [1] experiment, expected to run for about 5 years after the start of data taking, foreseen in 2015. It is natural that the next experiment will be based on the experience, expertise, and lessons learned in CUORE; thus we refer to this future project in the following as CUORE-IHE, <sup>2</sup> alluding to its projected ability to fully explore the inverted hierarchy (IH) region of the neutrino mass pattern [2]. We will first discuss the scientific objective of CUORE-IHE; we will then describe a set of current R&D activities – performed in a more or less close connection to the present CUORE program – which aim to develop technologies capable of achieving the desired science goal; we will finally indicate a time schedule for CUORE-IHE definition, anticipating that the general goal is to select the CUORE-IHE technology by the end of 2016, so that a Conceptual Design Report (CDR) could be produced at that time.

The motivation for a such an analysis is that the CUORE program is in an advanced state with very positive indications in all the activity areas. CUORE-0, the first CUORE tower, shows excellent performance in terms of background and detector resolution [3]; all CUORE towers have been fully built; the CUORE cryostat is under commissioning [1]. We think therefore that the time has come to plan a future use, beyond CUORE, of the existing CUORE facilities with improved detectors aiming at an even higher sensitivity to neutrinoless double beta decay ( $0\nu\beta\beta$ ). In fact, an upgrade of the present technology or a development of a new one requires sufficient head start in order to be ready in time by the end of the present CUORE program.

### 2 CUORE

CUORE will be one of the most sensitive  $0\nu\beta\beta$  experiments of this decade. Using a bolometric array of 988 750 g crystals of natural TeO<sub>2</sub>, it will begin to explore the neutrino mass values in the inverted mass hierarchy. CUORE is an established project within the INFN, DOE, and NSF.

CUORE is in the final phase of construction at the Laboratori Nazionali del Gran Sasso (LNGS) in Assergi, Italy, and is expected to start operations in 2015. The construction of all 19 detector towers is now complete. The cryogenic system has been completely assembled and the commissioning is steadily progressing.

<sup>1</sup>CUORE-IHE steering committee: F.T. Avignone, F. Bellini, C. Bucci, O. Cremonesi, F. Ferroni, A. Giuliani, P. Gorla, K.M. Heeger, Yu.G. Kolomensky, M. Pallavicini, M. Pavan, S. Pirro, M. Vignati

<sup>2</sup>This name is provisional.

Review of the R&D



Form the interest group



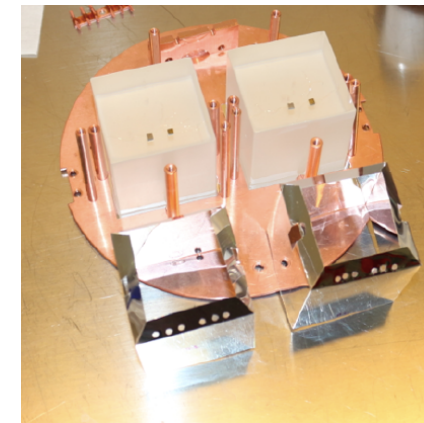
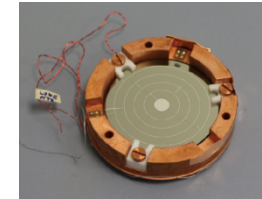
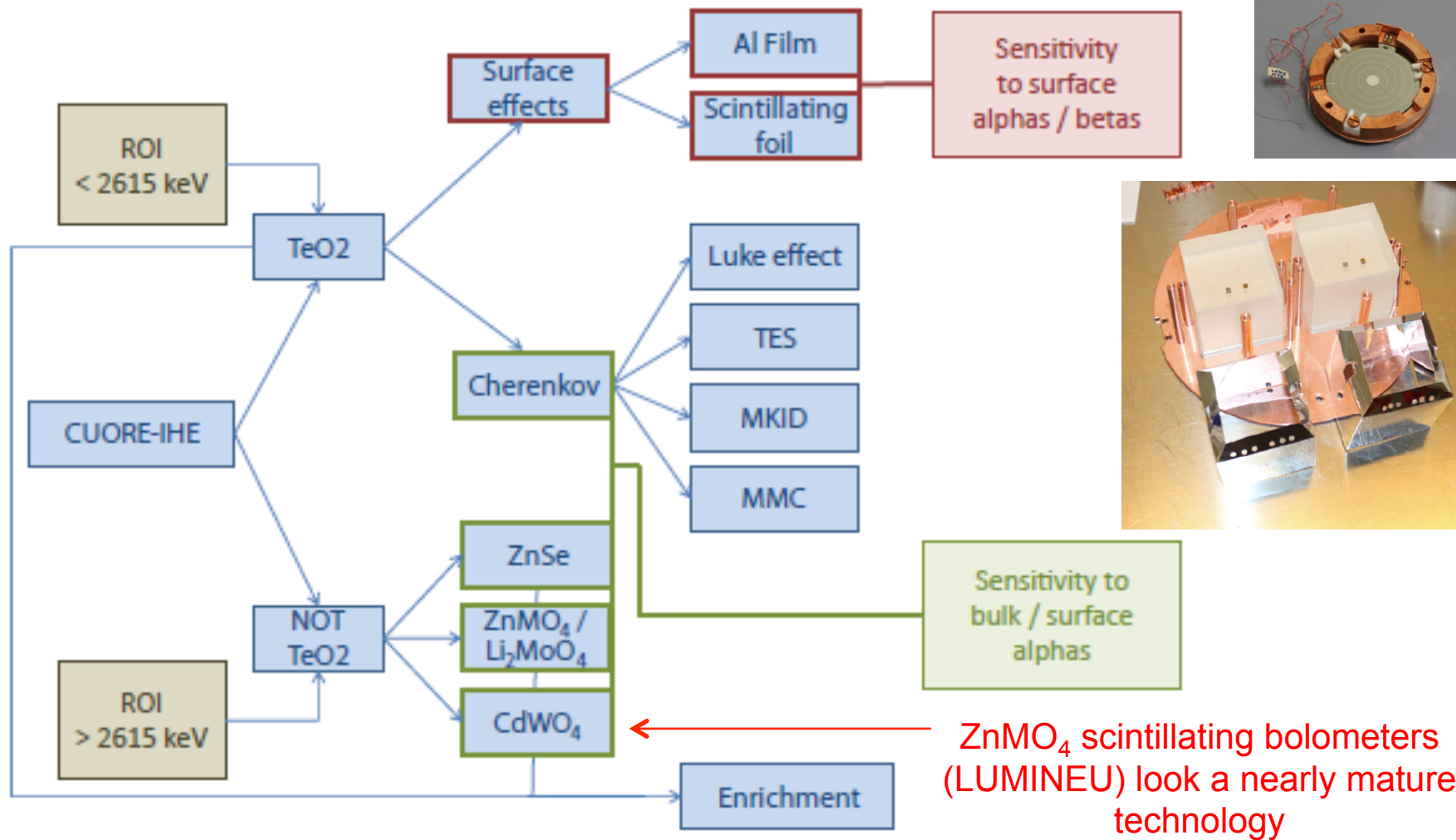
Follow and guide the  
selection of the final  
CUORE-IHE technology



Form the new collaboration  
on the basis of the interest  
group



Proposal  
(~2017)



Item	Budget [k€]
<sup>100</sup> Mo (MoU between INFN/ITEP/IN2P3)	0
Purification and crystallization	150
Light detectors	20
Electronics	80
DAQ system	20
Detector holders (material and fabrication)	50
Slow control	20
Cryostat upgrade	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>390</b>
Contingency (~ 20 %)	80
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>470</b>

As far as missions are concerned – and limited to IRFU – we estimate about 10 person-weeks at LNGS or LSM for detector assembly and 20 more for measurement maintenance over two years. Their cost depends strongly on the experiment location (Italy, LNGS or France, LSM). In the latter case we estimate 25 k€ in total, to be doubled for the LNGS option.

Beyond LUCINEU:

- **2015: possibility to perform shifts for CUORE-0 data-taking (3 k€)**
- **Aboveground R&D tests in the CUORE-IHE framework in collaboration with CSNSM and IRAMIS/SPEC (10 k€)**
- **2016: participation to CUORE data taking – contribution to be discussed + common funds (3 k€/year/person – 2016/2021)**
- **Missions to be defined**



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