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Northwest  
NATIONAL LABORATORY



# The SuperCDMS dark matter experiment

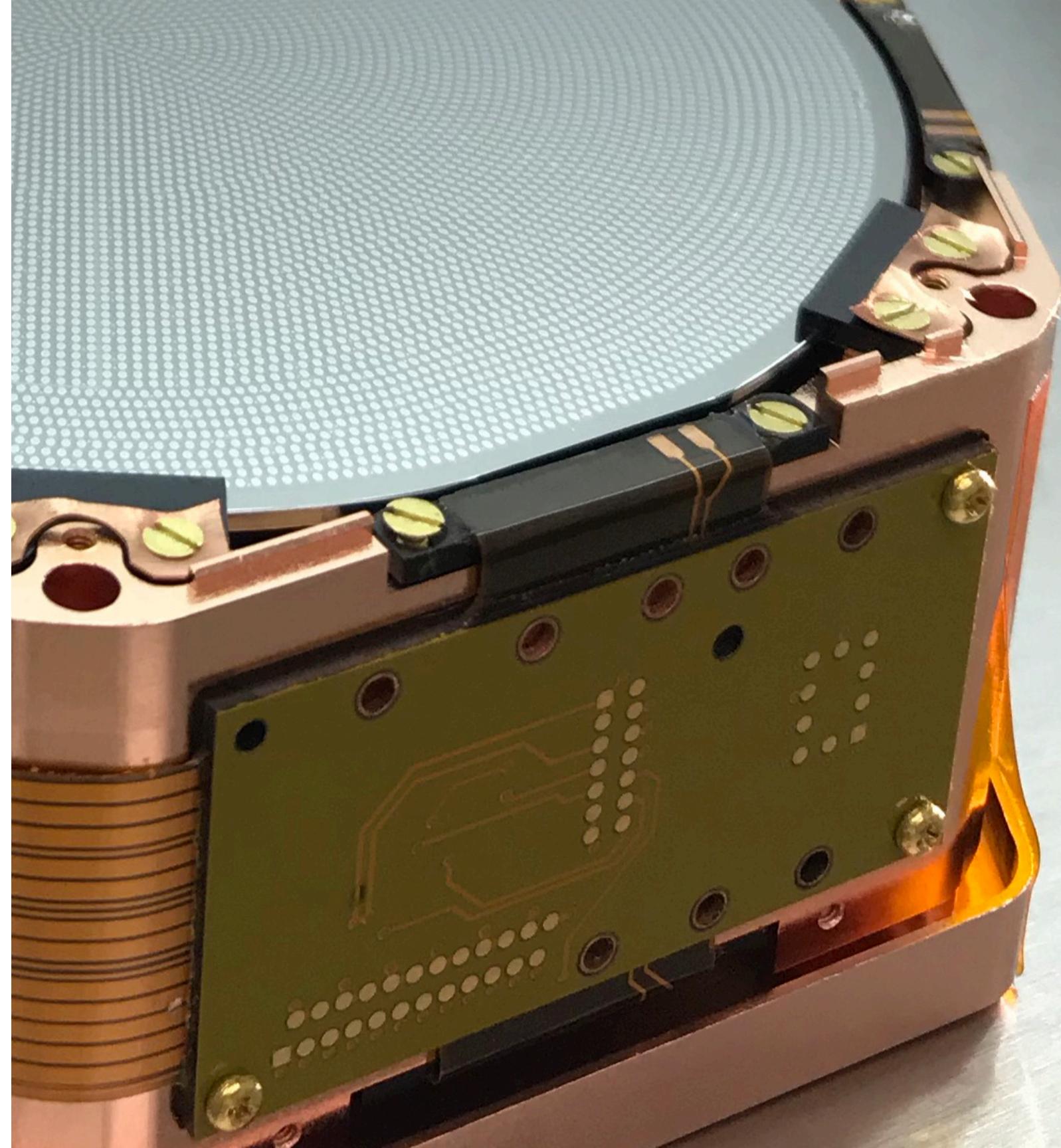
October 21, 2018

John L. Orrell  
Research Scientist

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY** **BATTELLE**

PNNL-SA-138955

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# Outline

- SuperCDMS SNOLAB
  - Design
  - Detectors
  - Sensitivity
- Backgrounds
  - Overview
  - Tritium from cosmic rays
  - Cu surfaces & bulk  $^{210}\text{Pb}$
  - Kapton & cirlex
- R&D detectors
  - HVeV
- Summary



## SuperCDMS Collaboration



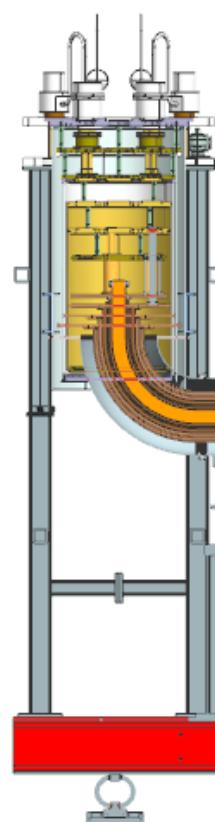
SuperCDMS Collaboration

 <a href="#">California Inst. of Tech.</a>	 <a href="#">CNRS-LPN*</a>	 <a href="#">Durham University</a>	 <a href="#">FNAL</a>	 <a href="#">NIST</a>
 <a href="#">Northwestern</a>	 <a href="#">PNNL</a>	 <a href="#">Queen's University</a>	 <a href="#">Santa Clara University</a>	 <a href="#">SLAC</a>
 <a href="#">SMU</a>	 <a href="#">SNOLAB</a>	 <a href="#">Stanford University</a>	 <a href="#">Texas A&amp;M University</a>	 <a href="#">South Dakota SM&amp;T</a>
 <a href="#">U. British Columbia</a>	 <a href="#">U. California, Berkeley</a>	 <a href="#">U. Colorado Denver</a>	 <a href="#">U. Evansville</a>	 <a href="#">U. Florida</a>
 <a href="#">U. Montréal</a>	 <a href="#">U. Minnesota</a>	 <a href="#">U. South Dakota</a>	 <a href="#">U. Toronto</a>	

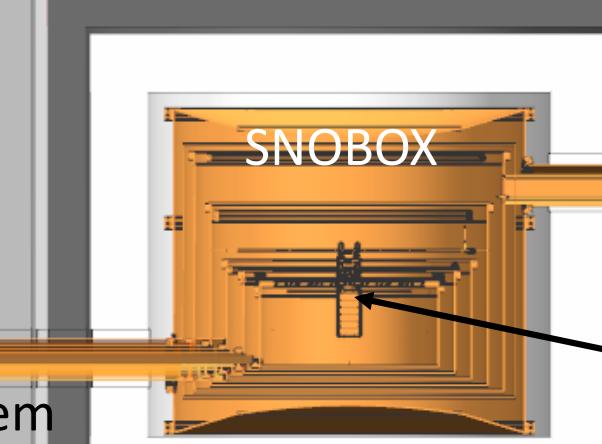
\* Associate members

# Experimental design, located at SNOLAB

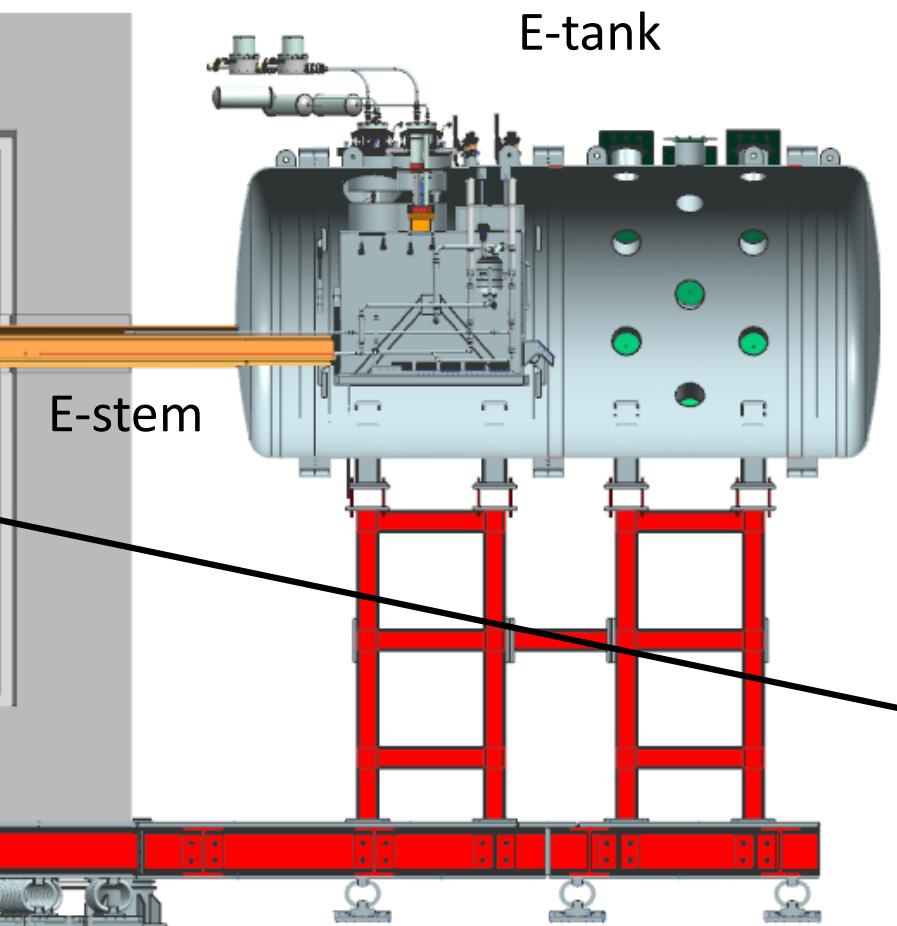
Dilution  
Refrigerator



Shielding

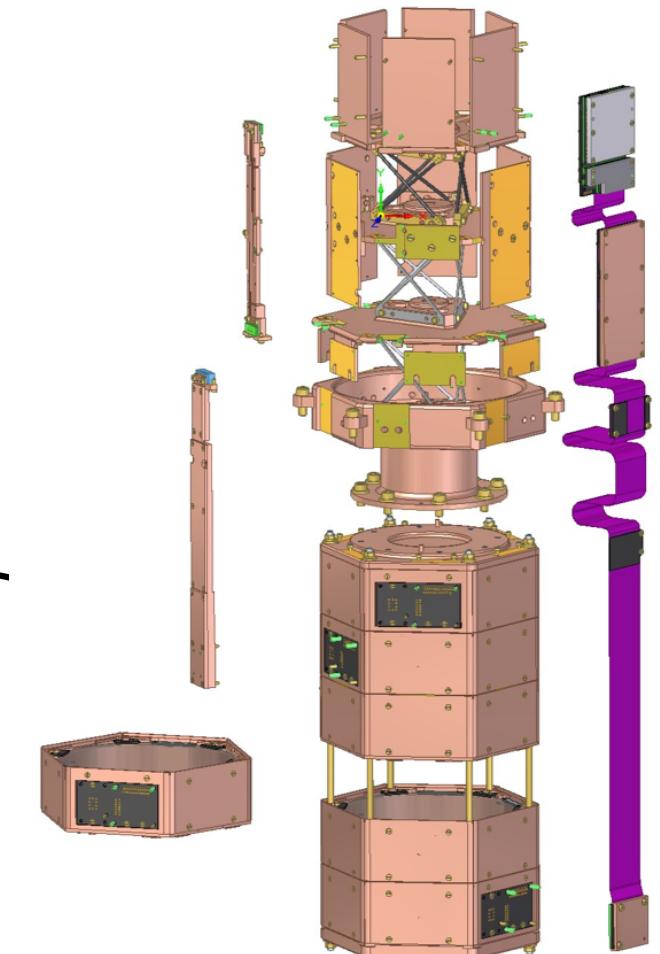


Seismic Platform



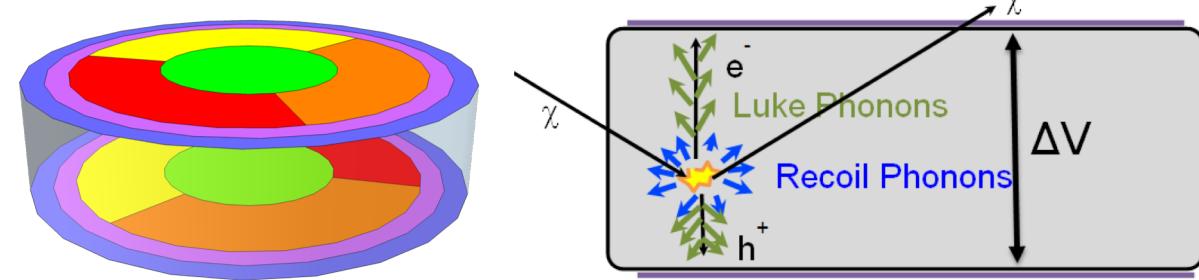
E-tank

Detector  
Tower

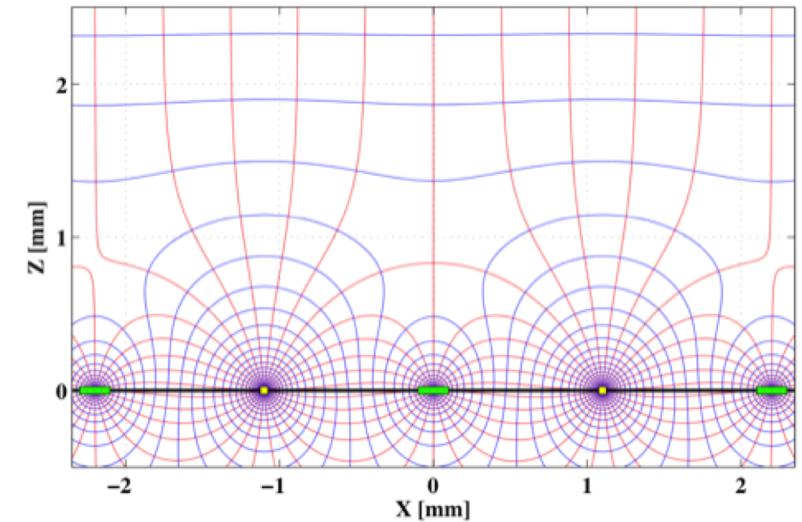
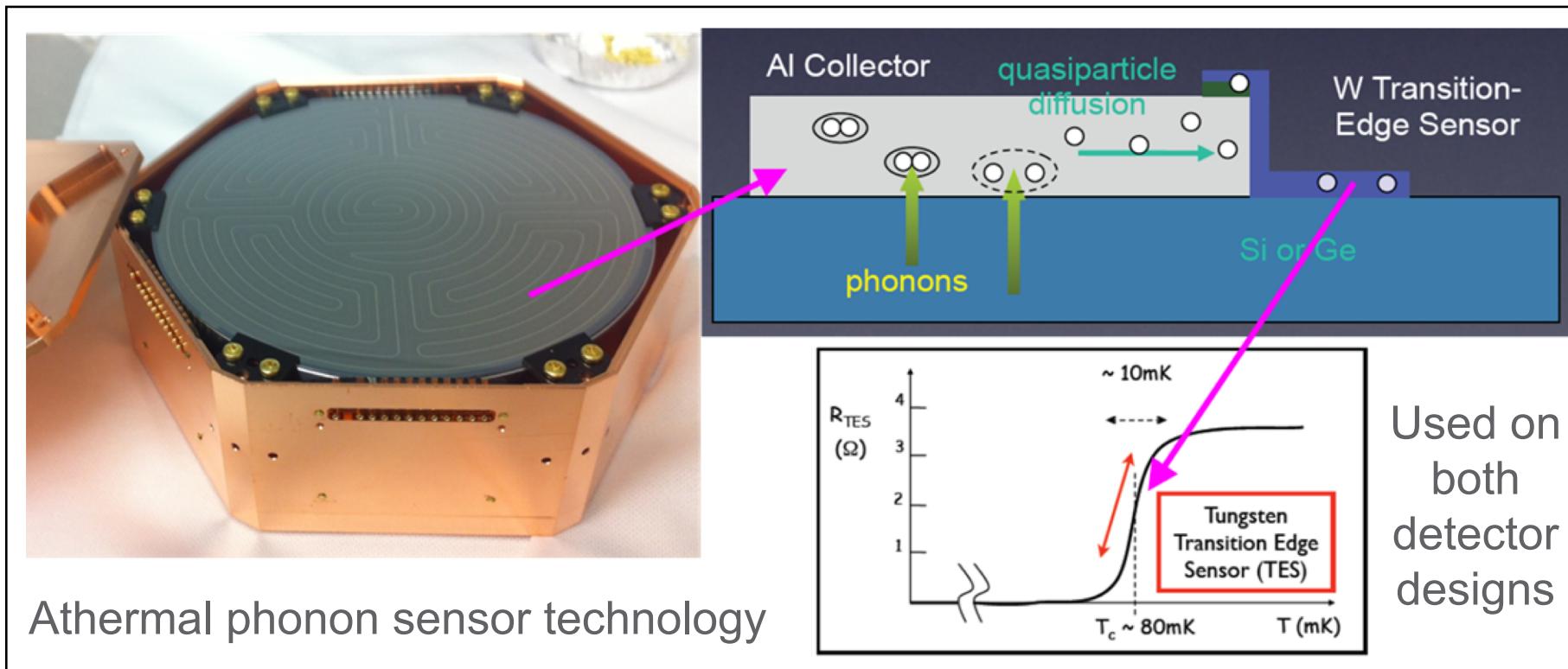
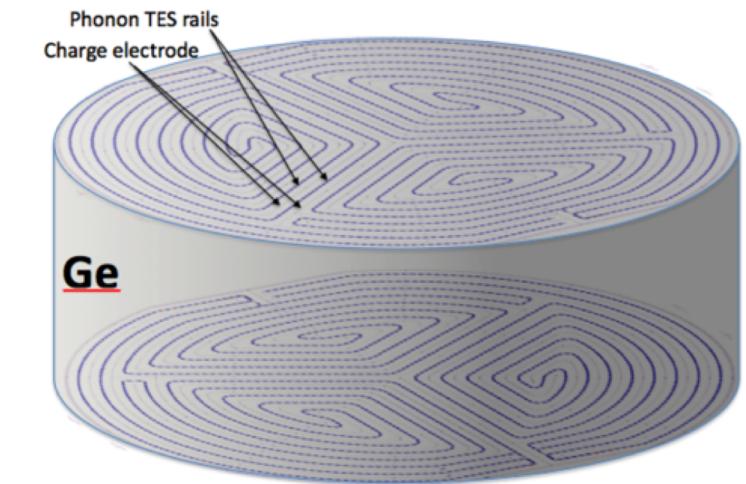
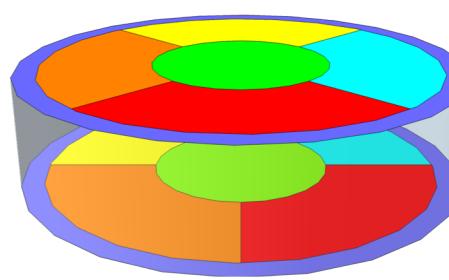


# Ge & Si solid-state cryogenic detectors

- High Voltage (HV) – Phonon-only measurement of ionization charge

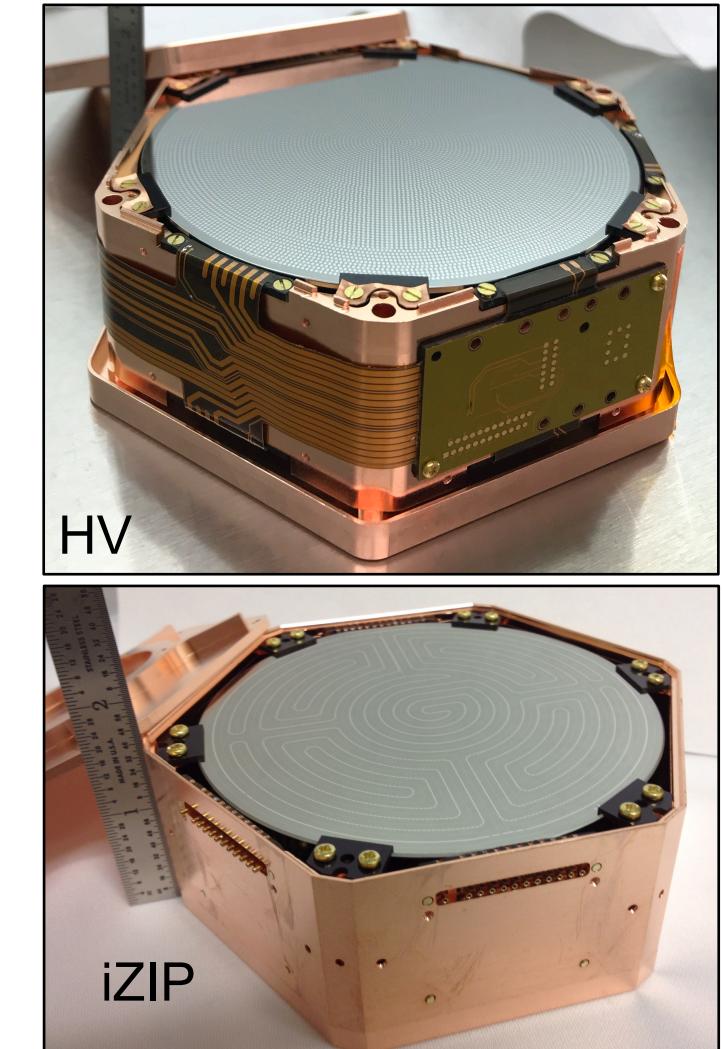
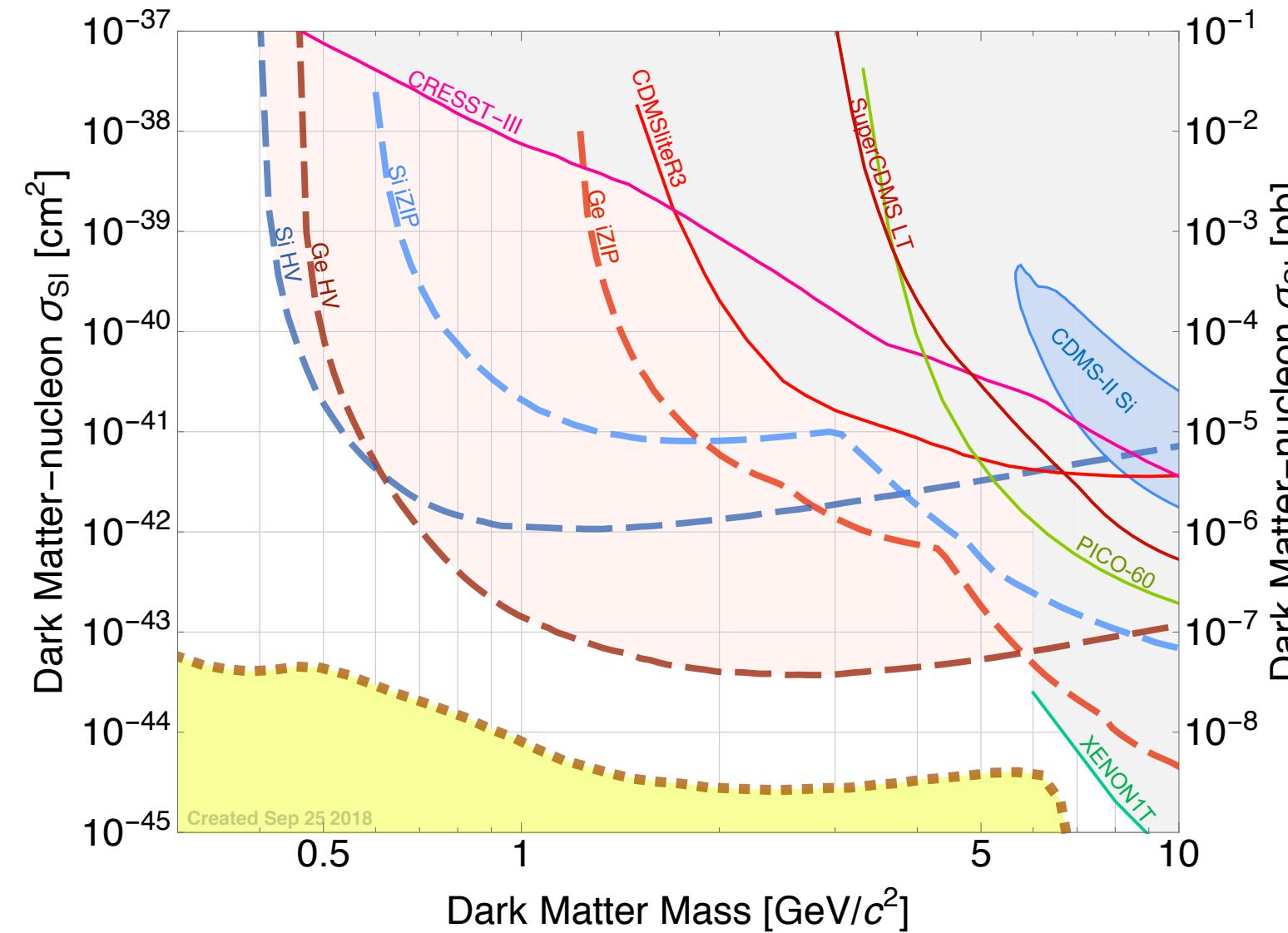


- interleaved Z-dependent Ionization & Phonon (iZIP) – NR/ER discrimination



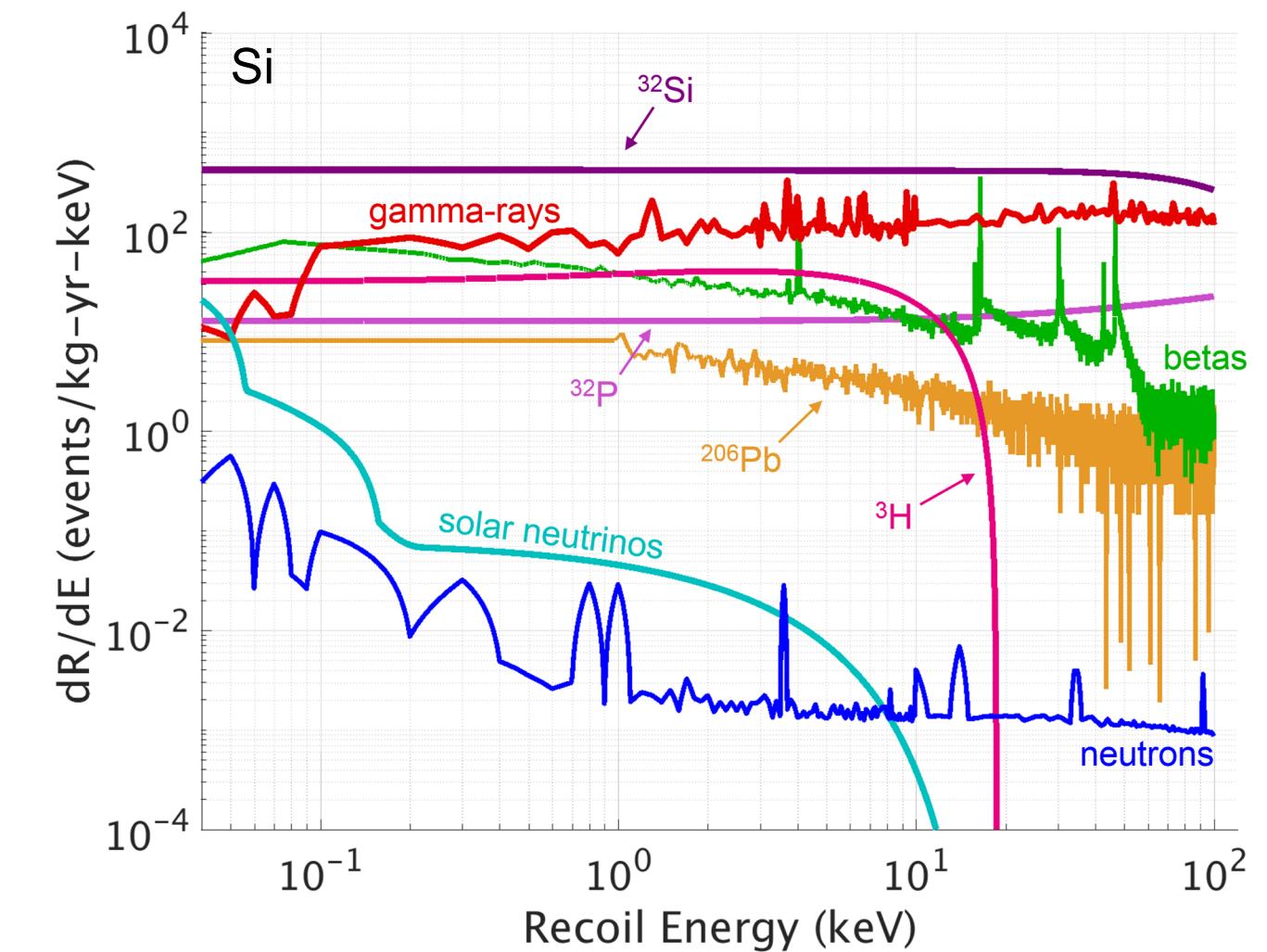
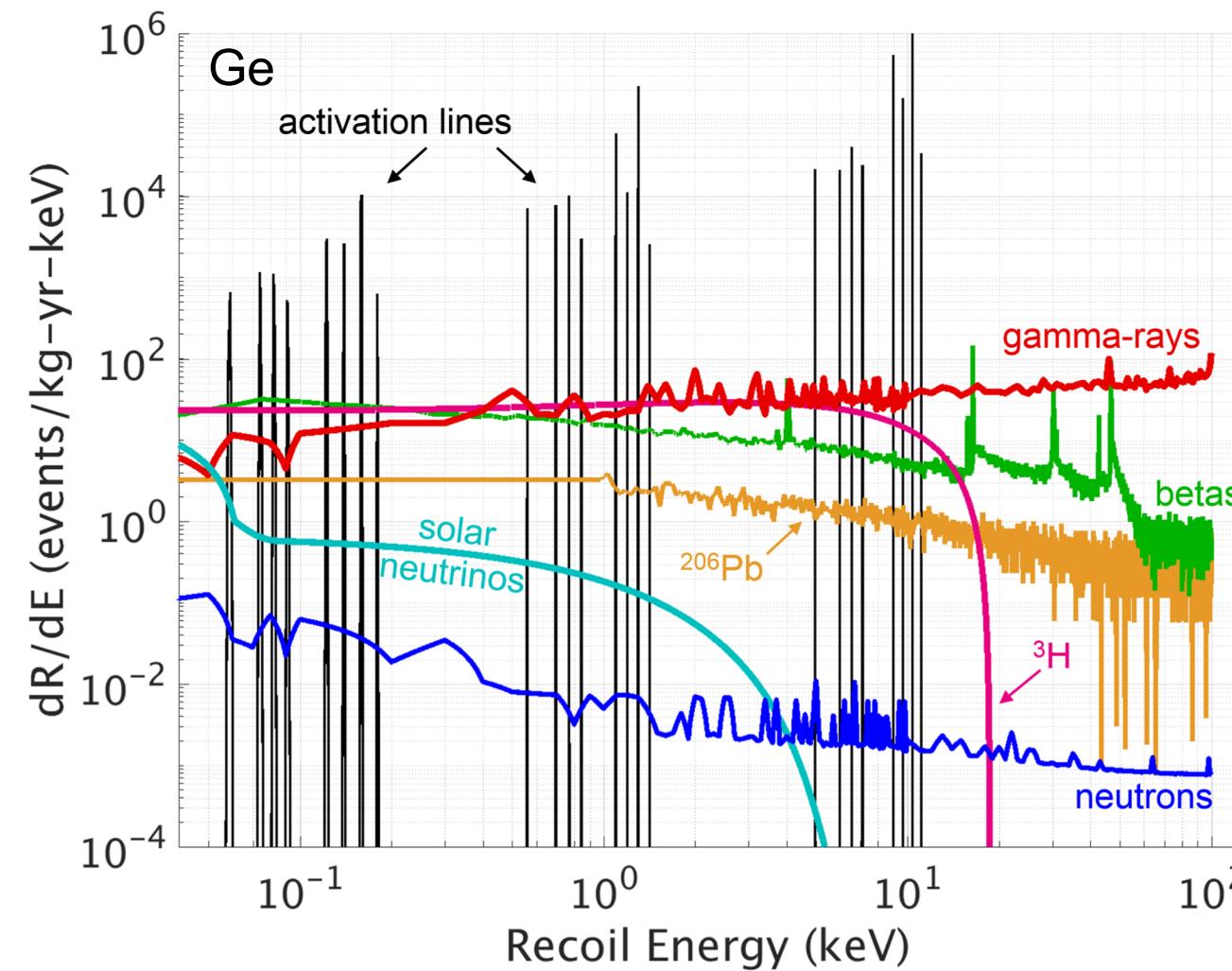
# Sensitivity reach of SuperCDMS SNOLAB

- Direct detection search for spin-independent dark matter interactions



# Backgrounds overview

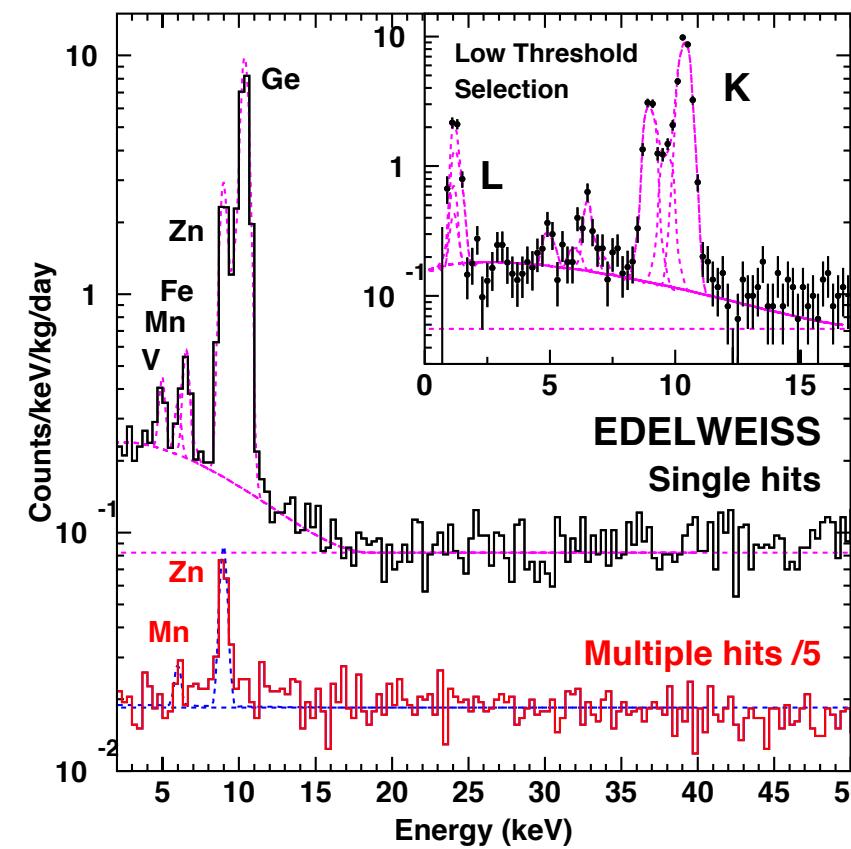
- Anticipated: Tritium,  $^{32}\text{Si}$  (only in Si), surface Rn daughters, material impurities



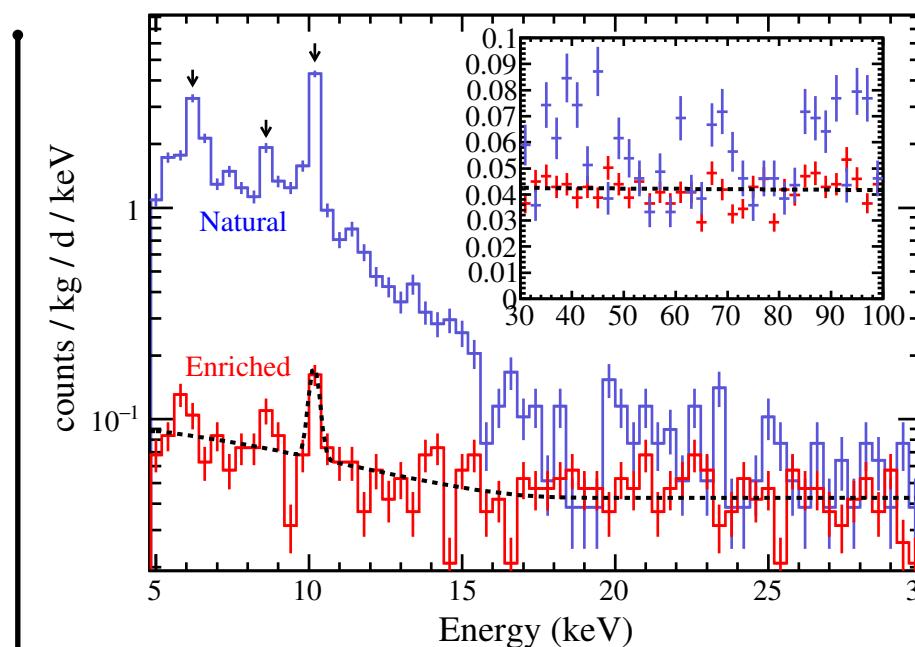
Spectra shown before detector resolution and application of single-scatter, fiducial volume, and nuclear recoil cuts

# Tritium from cosmic ray spallation

- Exposure of Ge & Si crystals to secondary cosmic rays (e.g.,  $n$ ,  $p$ ,  $\mu$ ) causes nuclear spallation producing a variety of long-lived, unstable nuclei
  - Tritium ( ${}^3\text{H}$ ) is especially problematic:  $t_{1/2} = 12.3$  yr, pure  $\beta$ -decay,  $E_\beta^{End} = 18.6$  keV

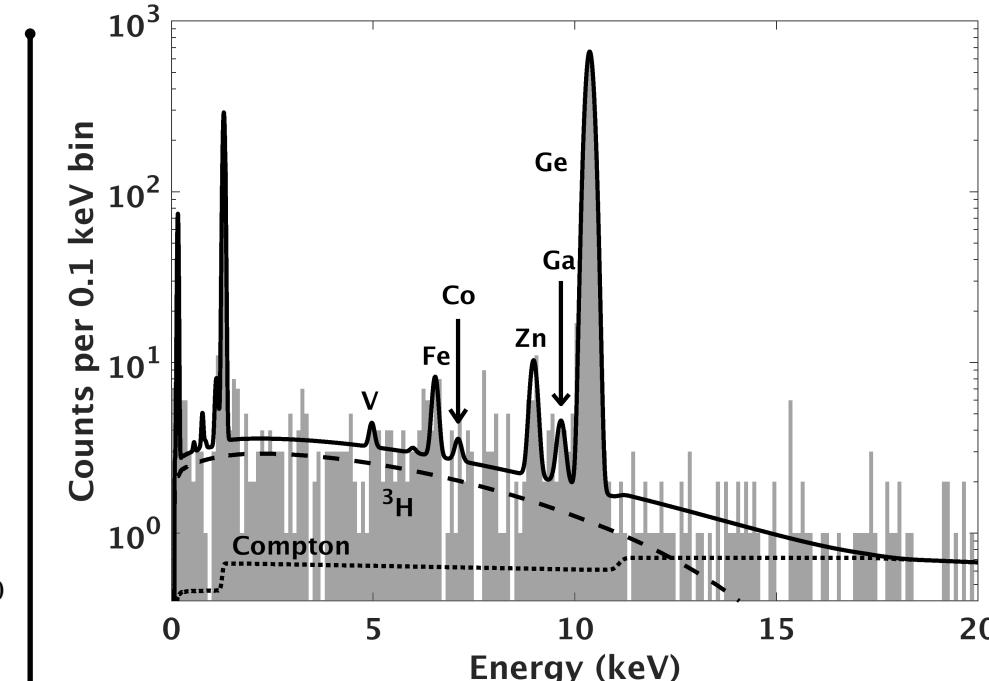


E. Armengaud *et al.*,  
Astropart. Phys. 91 (2017) 51-64



MAJORANA DEMONSTRATOR

N. Abgrall *et al.*,  
NIM A 877 (2018) 314-322



CDMSlite Run 2 (Soudan)

R. Agnese *et al.*,  
Astropart. Phys. (2019) 1-12

# Tritium from cosmic ray spallation

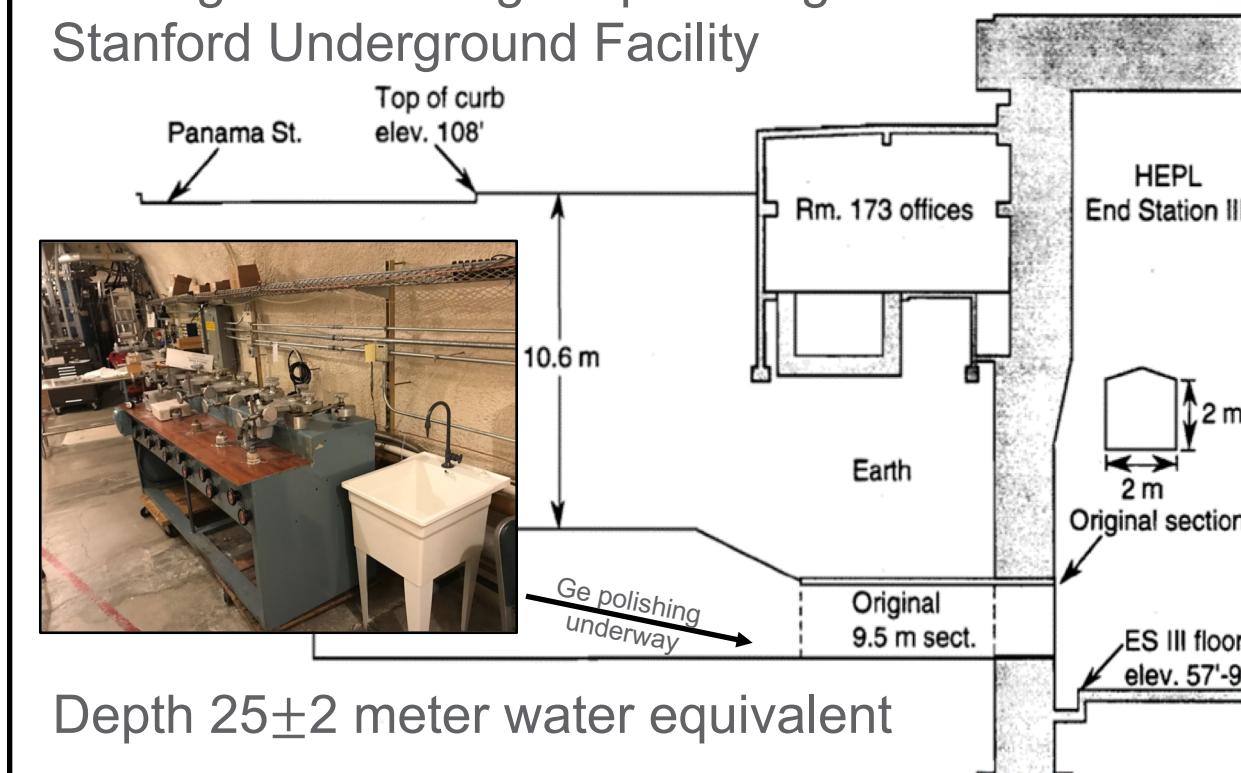
- SuperCDMS SNOLAB Goal: Less than 60 days sea level equivalent exposure
  - One of four towers is composed of iZIPs with longer surface exposure
  - Currently crystals have < 8 days sea level equivalent – shipped from Europe to SLAC

Thank you  
MAJORANA & GERDA!

Shielded shipping container  
critical to meet exposure goal



Underground storage & polishing at  
Stanford Underground Facility



Barbouti & Rastin  
J. Phys. G 9 (1983)1577

DOI: 10.2172/1424835

PNNL-27319

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## SuperCDMS Underground Detector Fabrication Facility

Cost and Feasibility Report

March 2018

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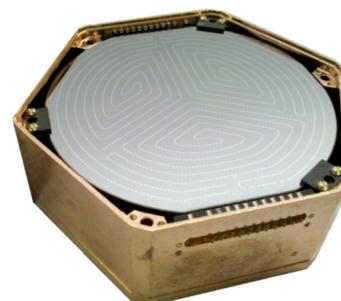
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ENERGY  
Prepared for the U.S. Department of Energy  
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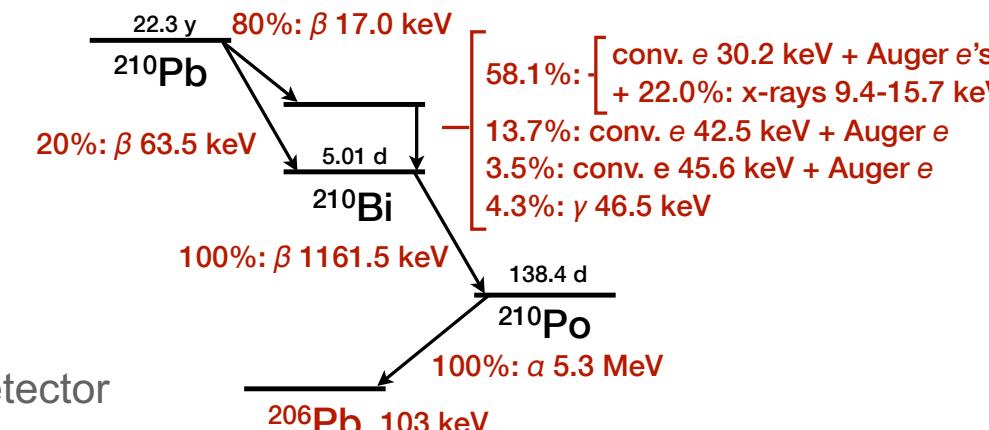
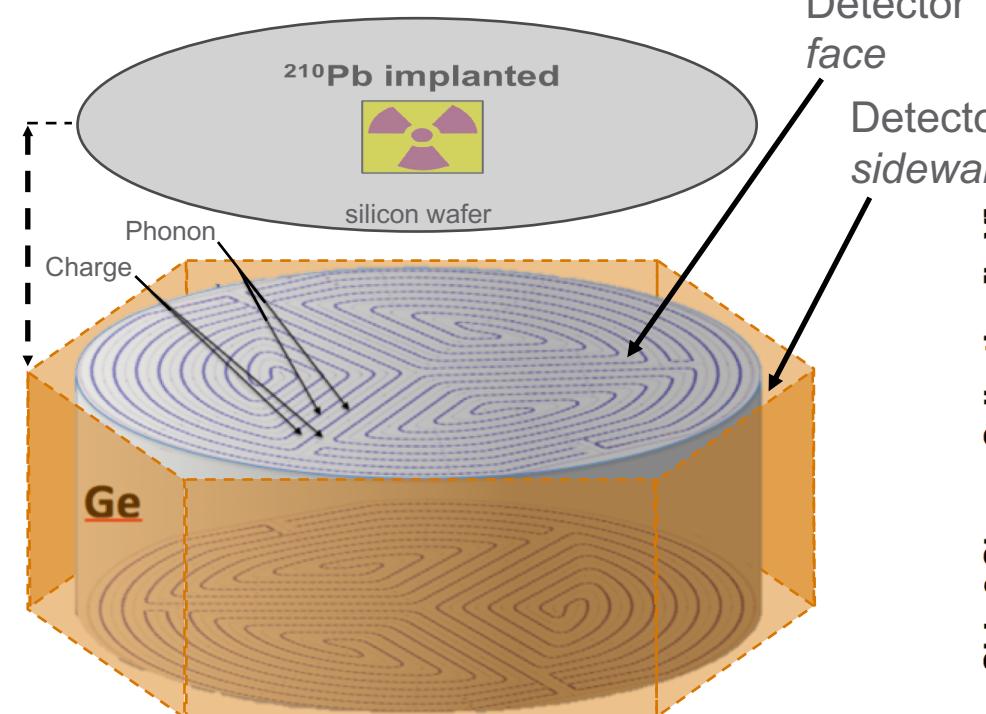
Available on [www.OSTI.gov](http://www.OSTI.gov)

# Surface backgrounds (Rn daughters)

- Radon daughters (long-lived  $^{210}\text{Pb}$ ) are potential surface background sources



Soudan iZIP

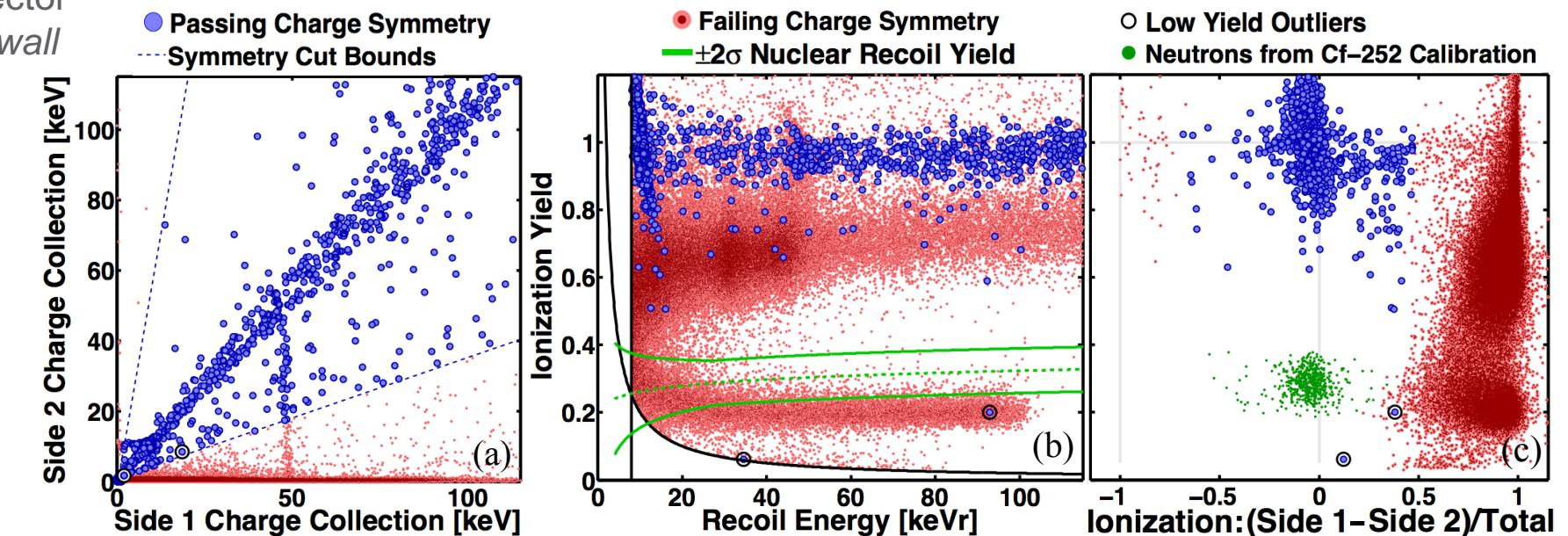


Demonstration of surface electron rejection with interleaved germanium detectors for dark matter searches

R. Agnese et al.,  
Appl. Phys. Lett. 103 (2013) 164105

## Caveats

Performed with iZIP, not HV detector  
Surface source only irradiated detector face



# Cu surface background at detector sidewall

- SuperCDMS progressing from Soudan

At Soudan: (based on T2Z1)

- Bottom face:  $20 \text{ nBq/cm}^2$
- Sidewall total:  $1000 \text{ nBq/cm}^2$

SNOLAB Goals:

- Detector faces:  $25 \text{ nBq/cm}^2$
- Sidewalls:  $50 \text{ nBq/cm}^2$

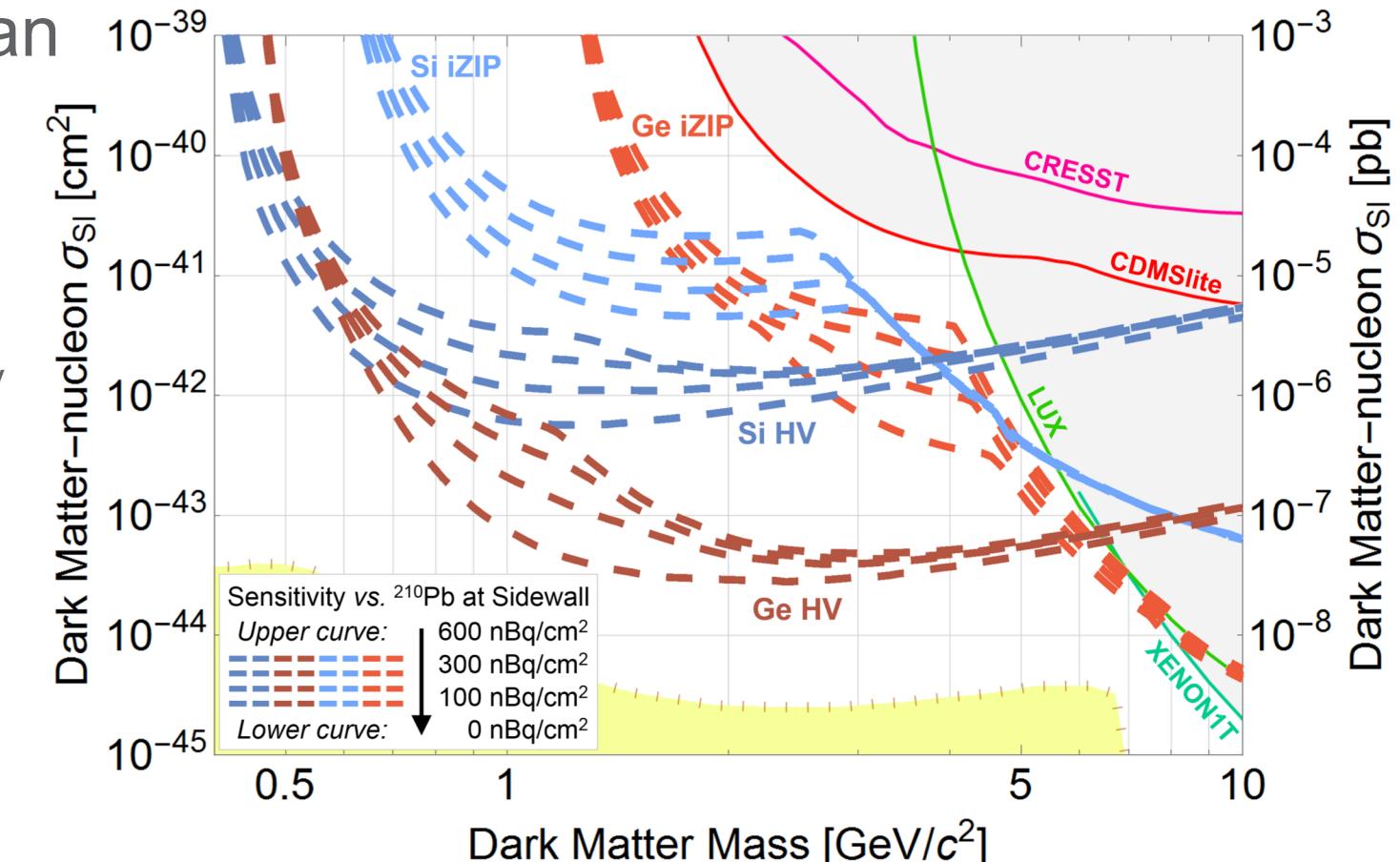
Sensitivity study  
vs. sidewall activity

- Summary concern → Cu cleanliness

- Using acidified-peroxide etching followed by acetic acid passivation



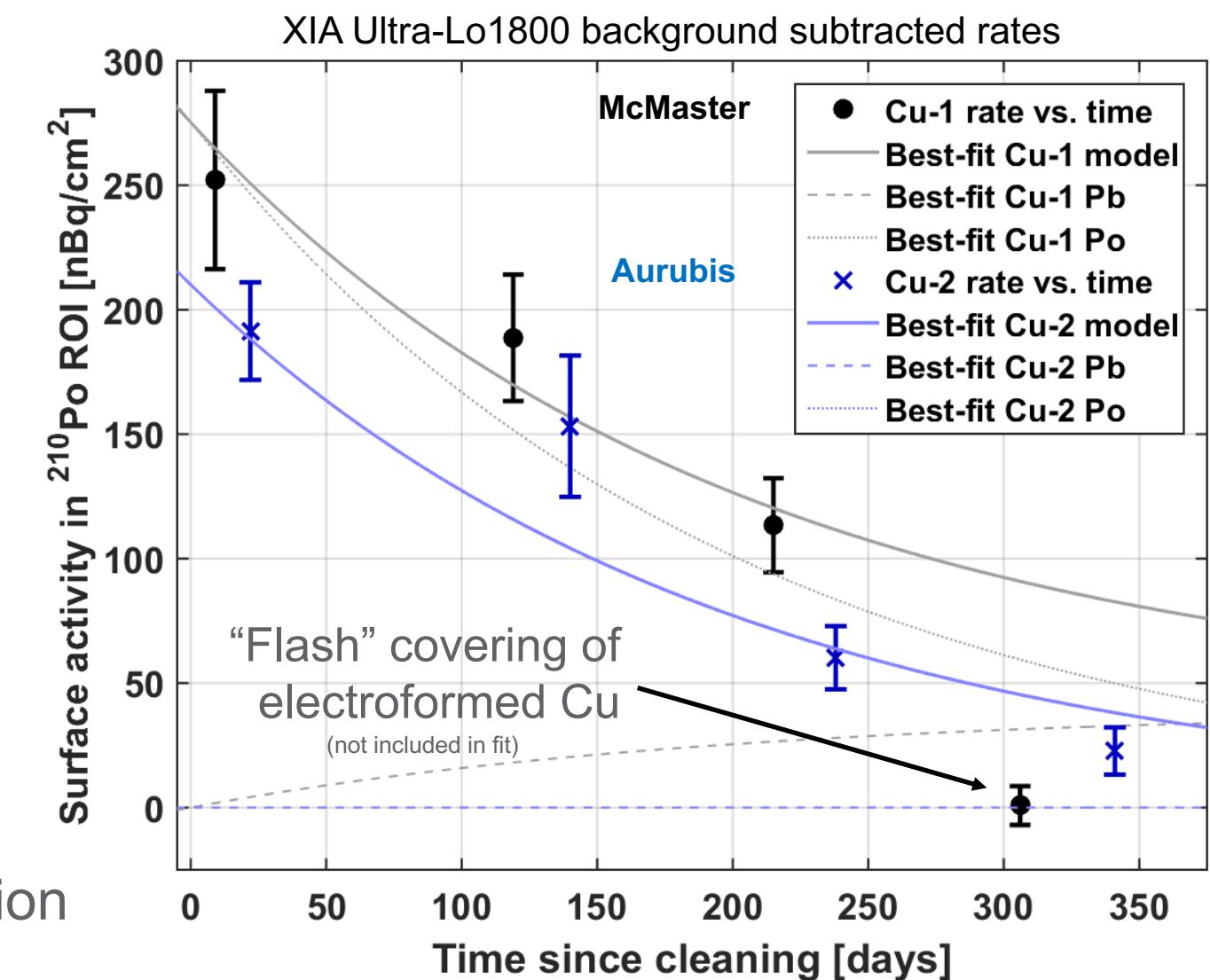
- Tested on McMaster and Aurubis copper



Cleanliness tested with  
XIA Ultra-Lo1800 alpha counter  
by measuring polonium ( $^{210}\text{Po}$ ), not lead ( $^{210}\text{Pb}$ ) !!!

# Cu surface background evaluation

- One year's worth of XIA Ultra-Lo1800 measurements on cleaned Cu surfaces
  - Shows unsupported  $^{210}\text{Po}$  on Cu surface
  - Electroformed Cu doesn't show effect
  - Suggests  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  in bulk of Cu
- XMASS measured  $^{210}\text{Po}$  in bulk Cu
  - Inferring 17-40 mBq of  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  per kg Cu
  - K. Abe *et al.*, NIM A 884 (2018) 157-161
- In summary:
  - Cu surfaces are clean for SuperCDMS
  - Bulk  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  in Cu is out of  $^{238}\text{U}$  equilibrium
  - Pursuing bulk measurements for publication

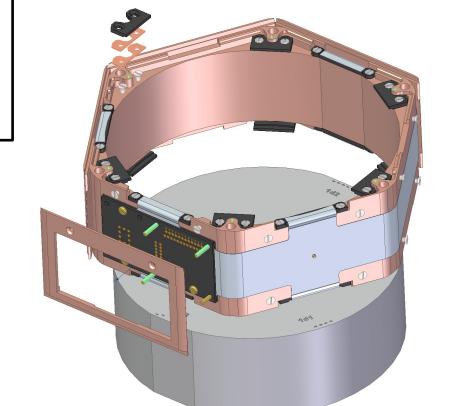
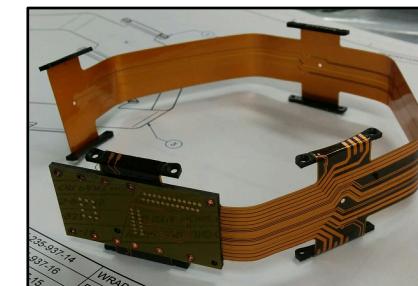


# Kapton & CIRLEX trace radio-impurities

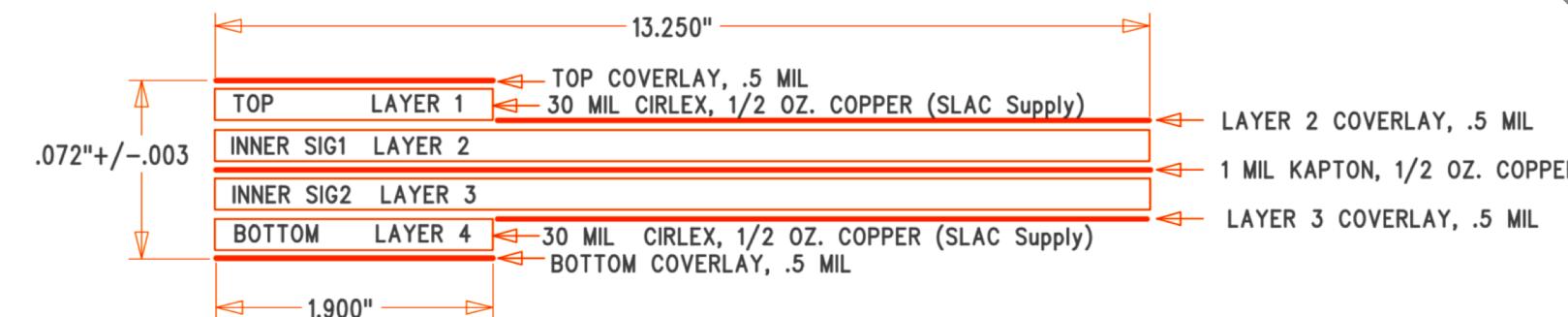
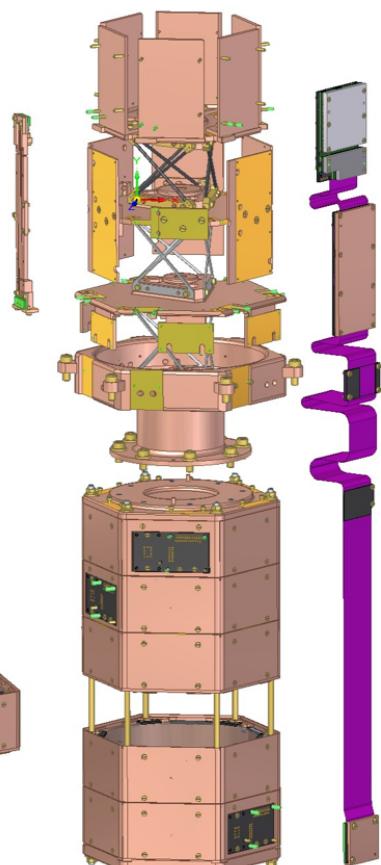
- SuperCDMS uses Kapton & cirlex in electrical readout from detector towers
  - Anticipated 17% of Ge HV background of SuperCDMS SNOLAB experiment
  - Of this 17%... 81% is from equally Th and  $^{40}\text{K}$
- Kapton:
  - DuPont polyimide film
- CIRLEX
  - FRALOCK product
  - Adhesively layered Kapton
- SuperCDMS flex cable stack-up: 4-LAYERS



Acceptable,  
but a target for  
materials R&D

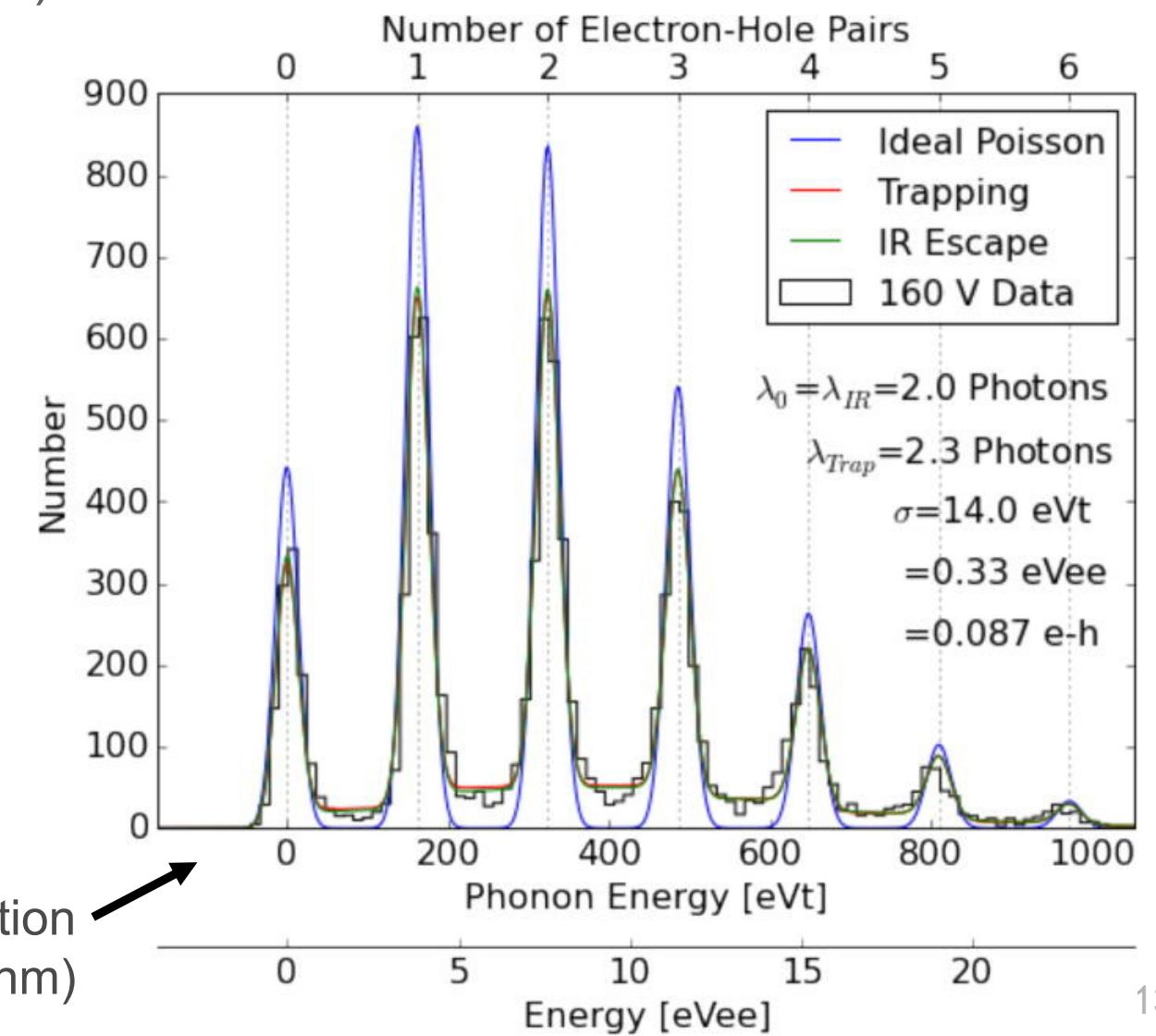
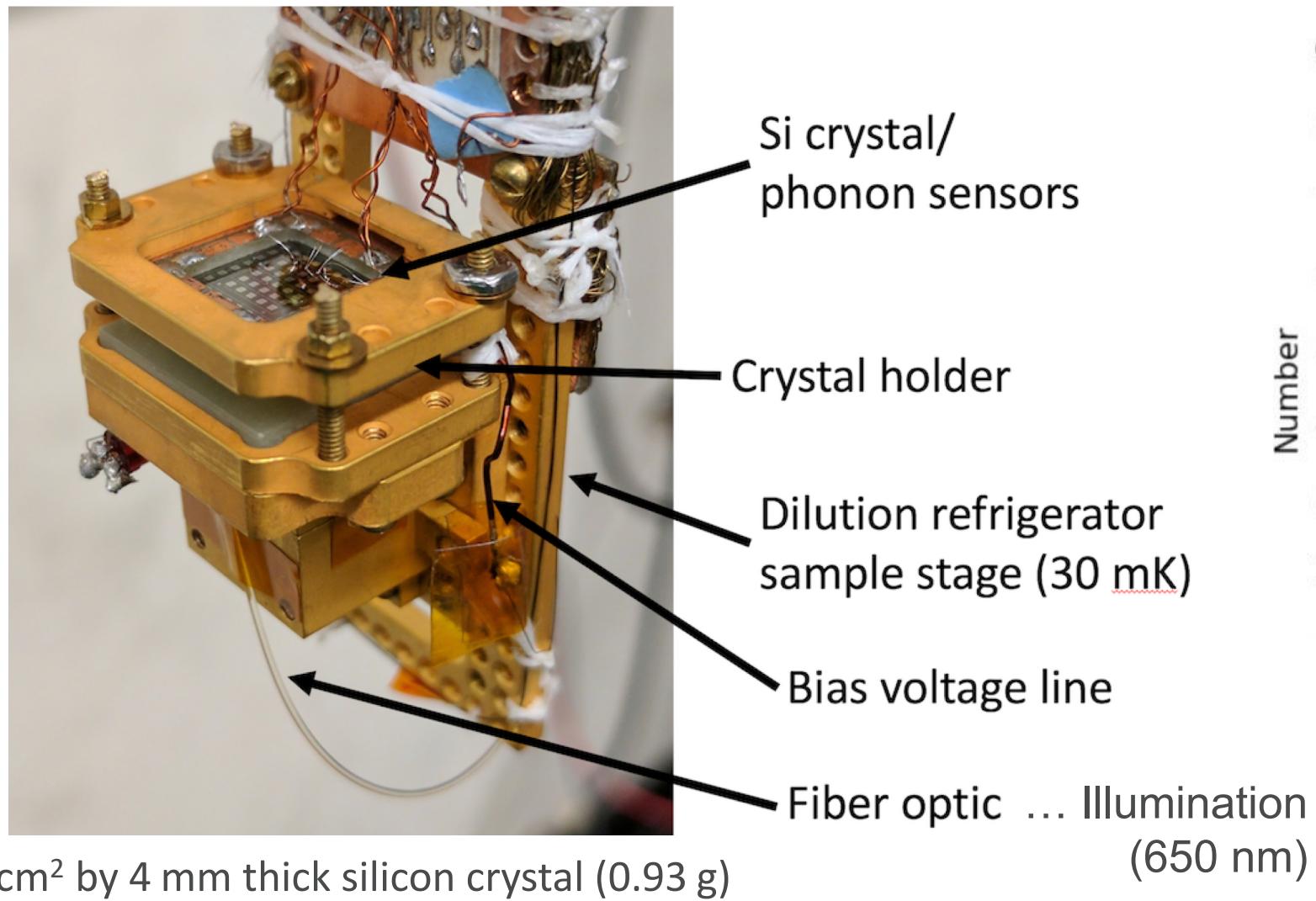


Detector  
Tower



# R&D detectors

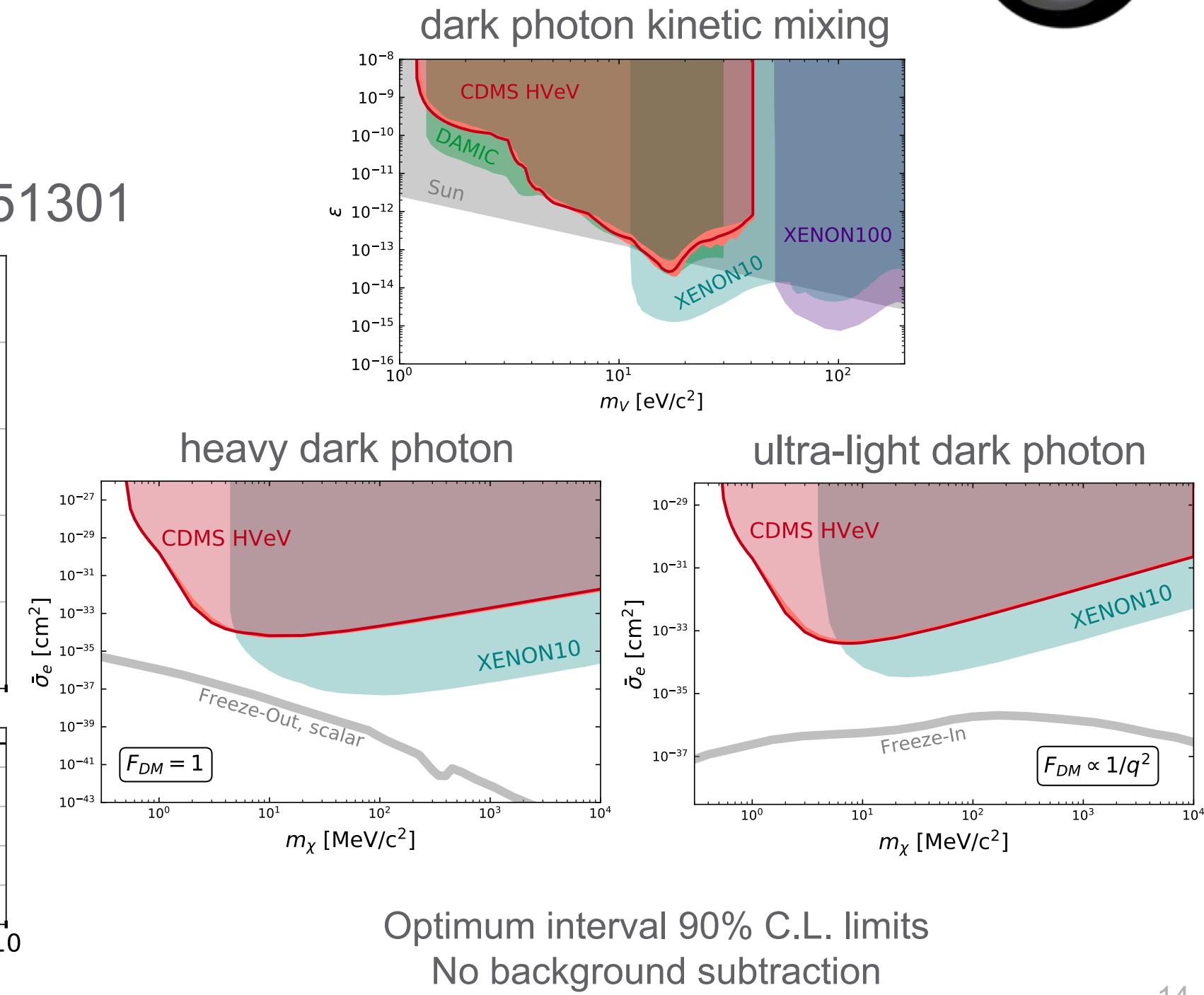
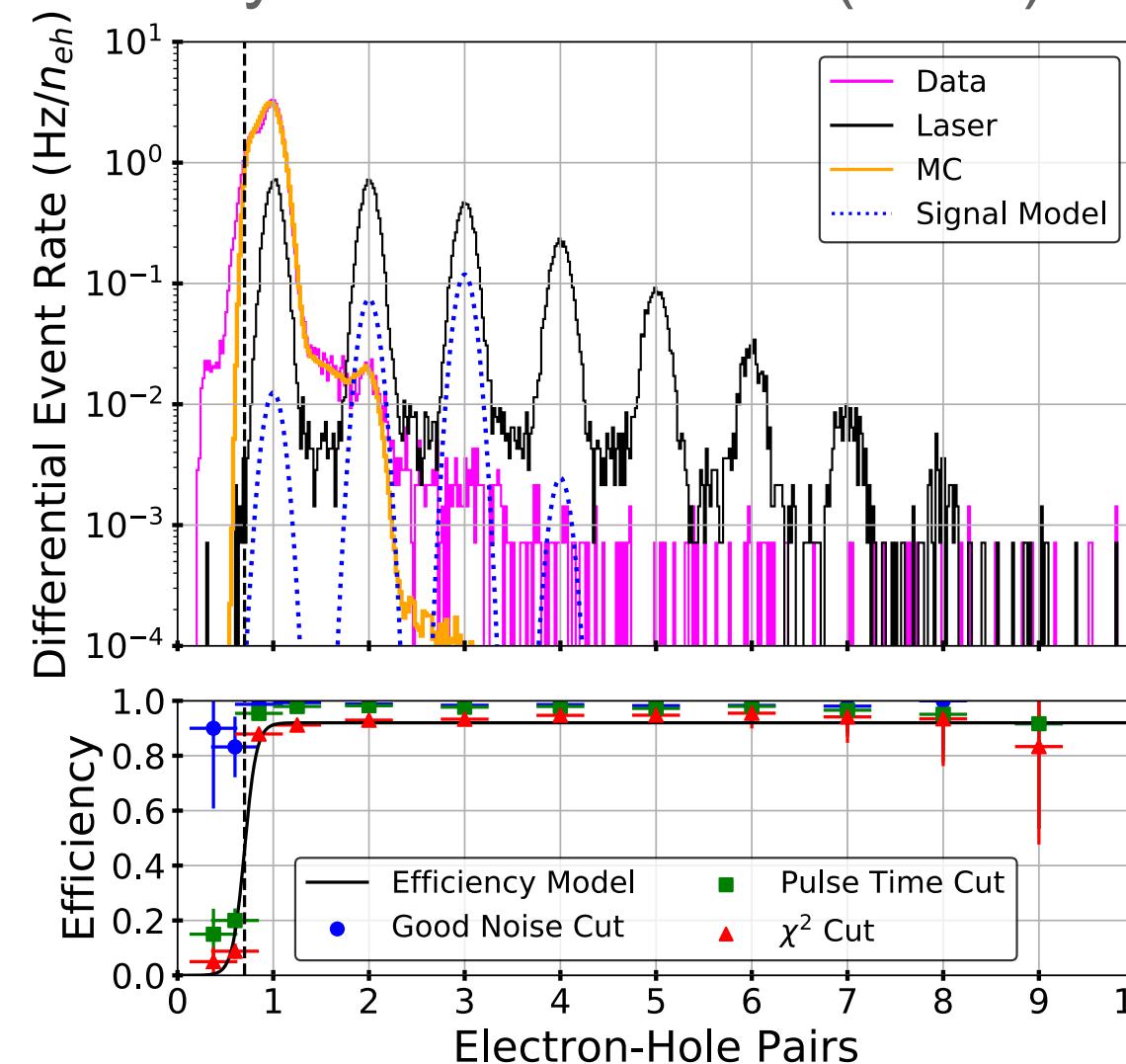
- New developments using the athermal phonon sensor technology
  - R.K. Romani *et al.*, Appl. Phys. Lett. 112 (2018) 043501



# R&D detectors

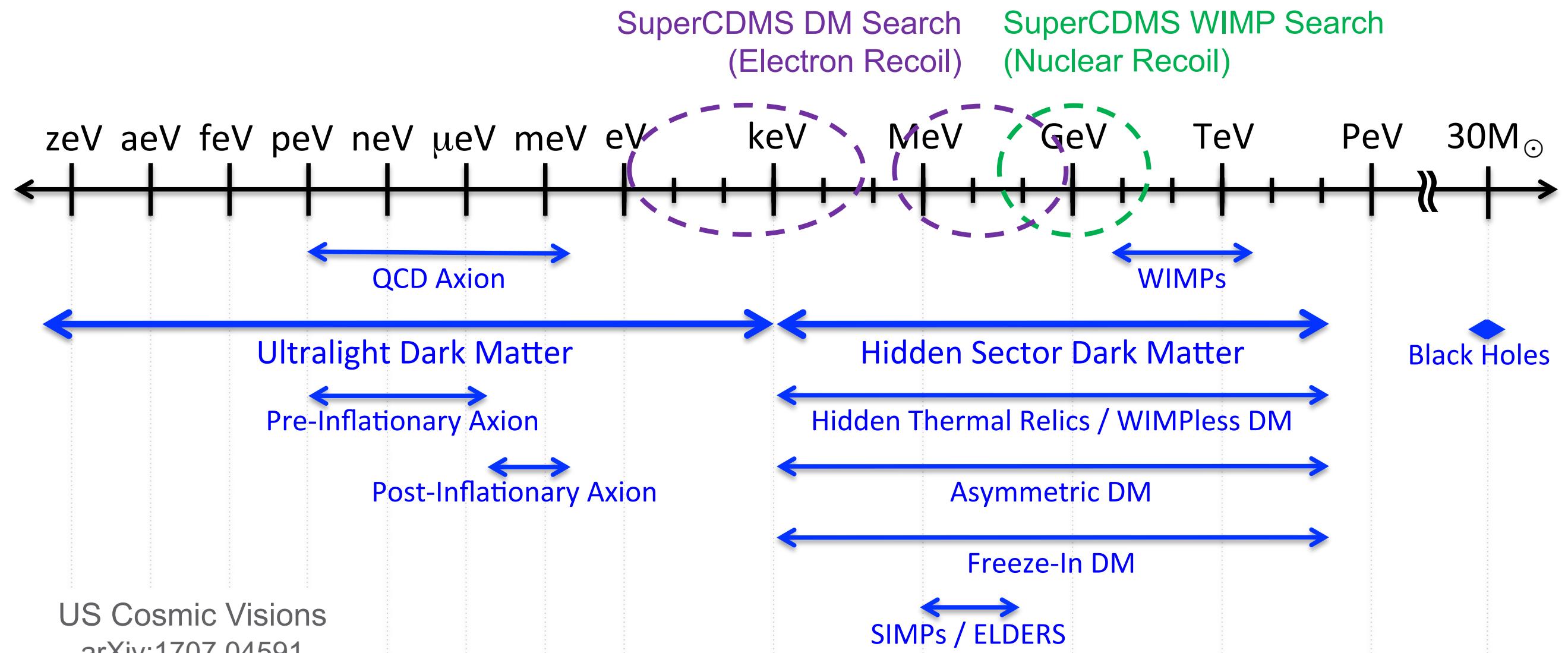


- R. Agnese *et al.*,  
Phys. Rev. Lett. 121 (2018) 051301



# R&D detectors

- Suggests new reach for SuperCDMS



# Summary



- SuperCDMS searching for direct detection of low mass dark matter
  - Projected reach  $\sigma \sim 10^{-43} \text{ cm}^2$  at  $1 \text{ GeV}/c^2$  dark matter mass
  - Under construction now
  - Operation at SNOLAB in 2020
- Anticipated backgrounds: Tritium,  $^{32}\text{Si}$ , Rn daughters, material impurities
  - Developments during construction show paths to further reduction in the future
  - Highlighted background sources are of relevance to neutrinoless double beta decay
- Future detectors expected to probe yet lower mass dark matter candidates
  - Anticipate further R&D detector development in parallel with SuperCDMS construction
  - Developments will likely also improve sensitivity to  $1\text{-}5 \text{ GeV}/c^2$  dark matter candidates



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Thank you

