



Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare  
Laboratori Nazionali del Gran Sasso

# BULLKID-DM

Antonio D'Addabbo on behalf of the collaboration,  
GSSI Science Fair - LNGS - 24 February 2025



# BULLKID-DM Collaboration



Roma  
Ferrara  
LNGS  
Pisa



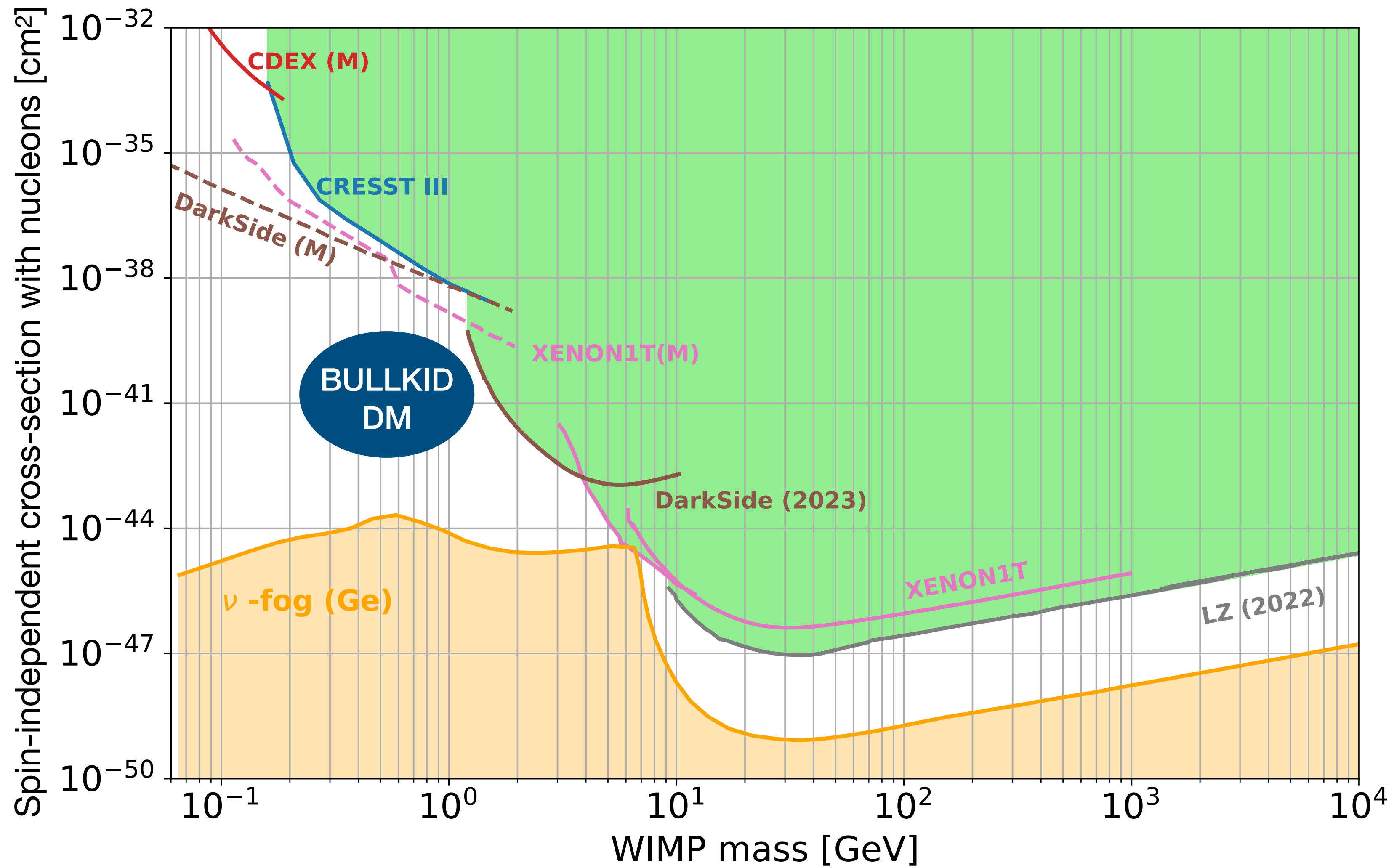
## BULLKID-DM Conceptual Design Report (CDR)

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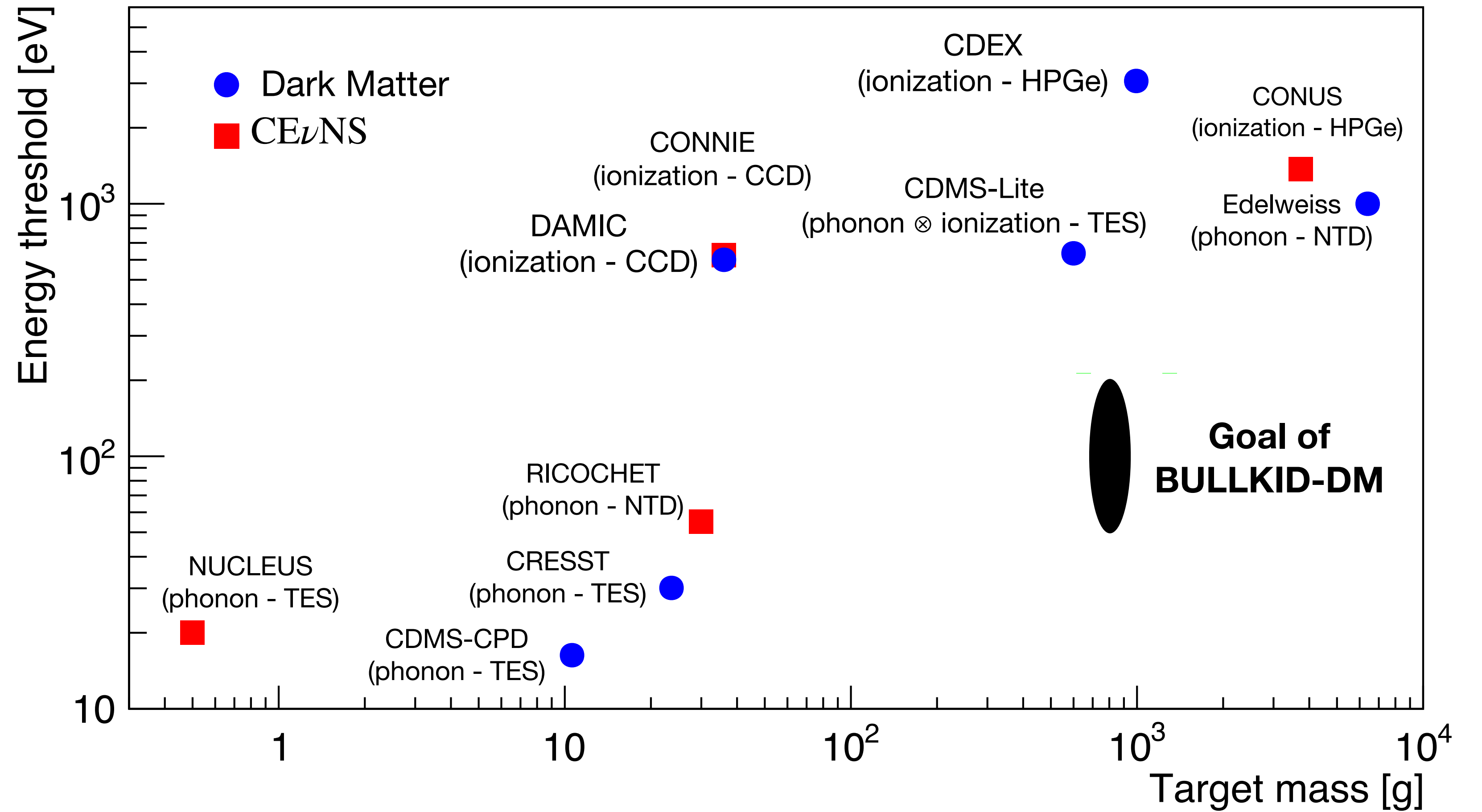
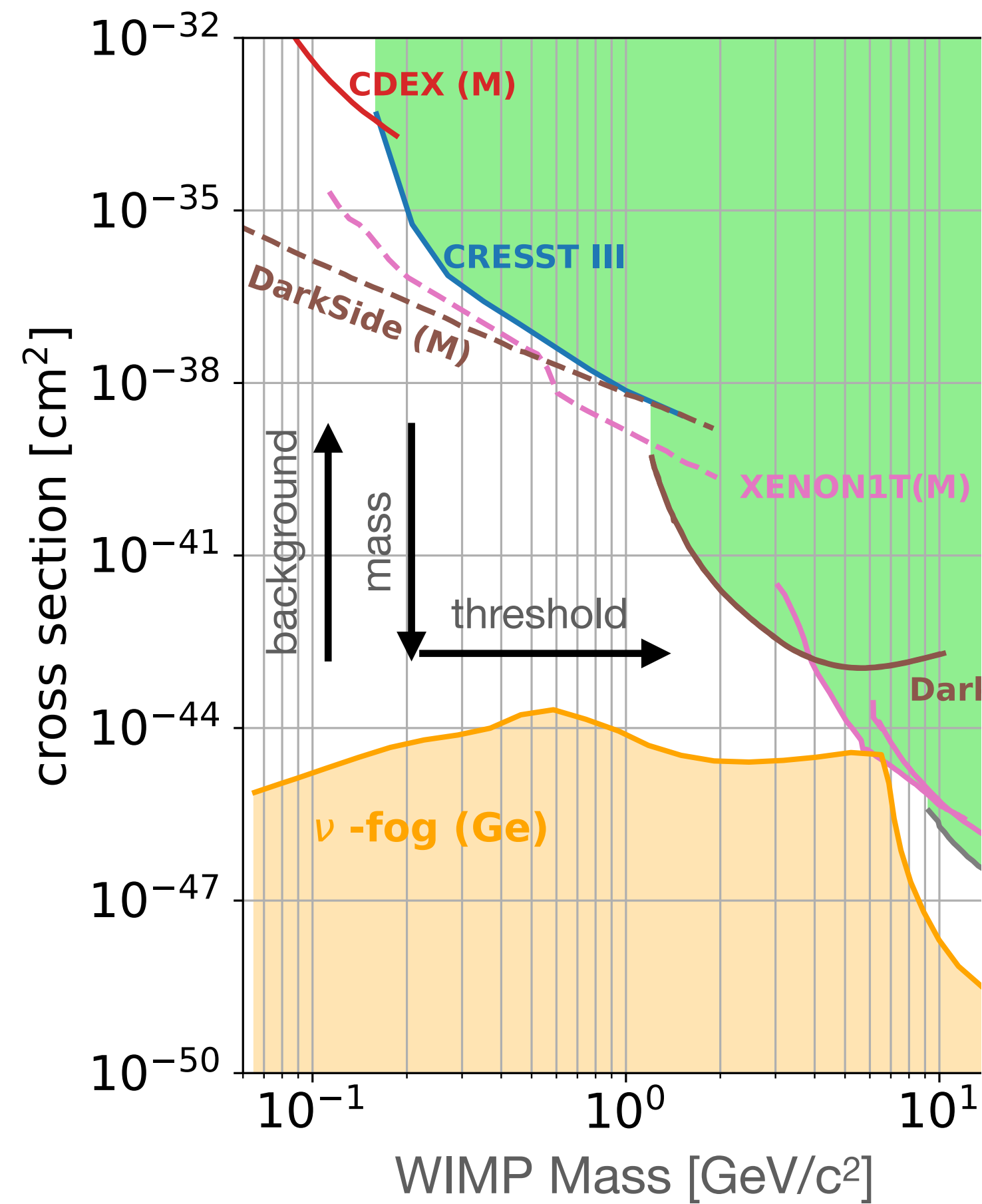
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June 28, 2024

# Objective



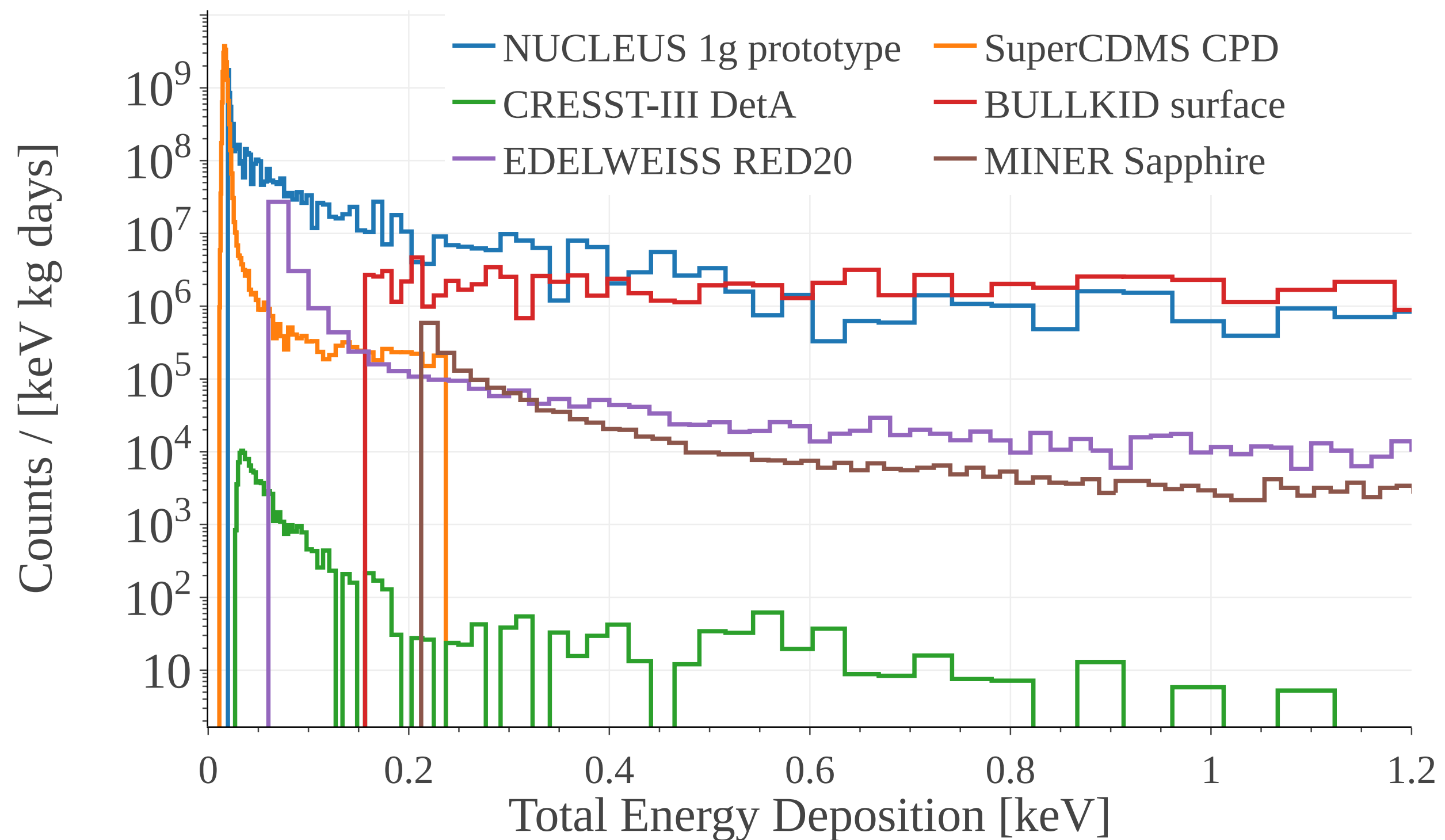
# State of the art (solid-state detectors)



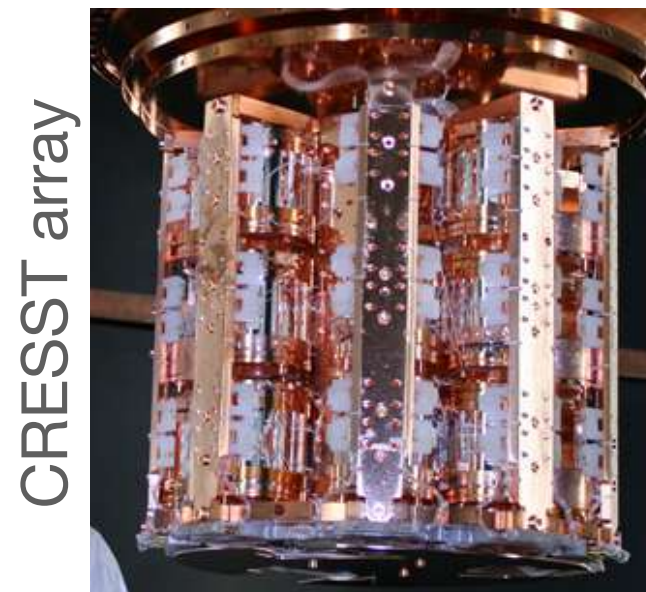
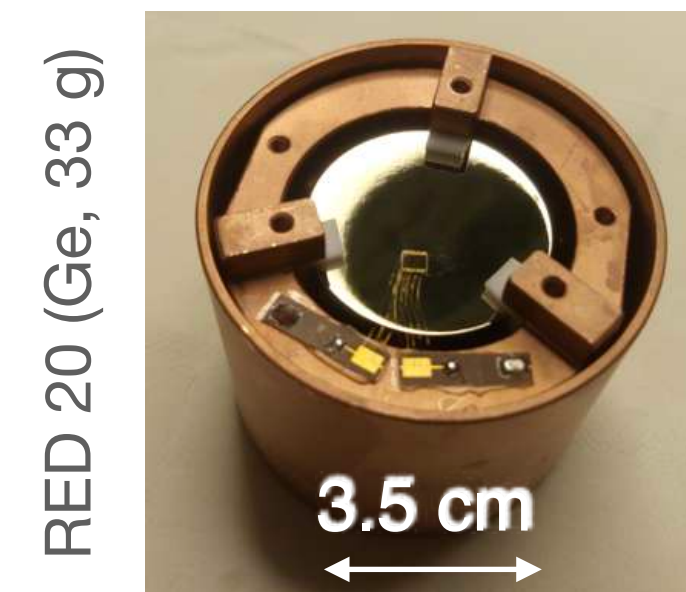
# Background issue in low-T experiments

Not understood *excess background rising at low energies*

- Phonons from supports or from the sensors?
- Lattice relaxations after cool down?
- ~~Neutrons (cosmic ray induced, radioactivity) ?~~



P. Adari, et al.: EXCESS workshop: Descriptions of rising low-energy spectra  
 SciPost Phys. Proc. 9 (2022) 001 + D. Delicato et al EPJ C 84 (2024) 353



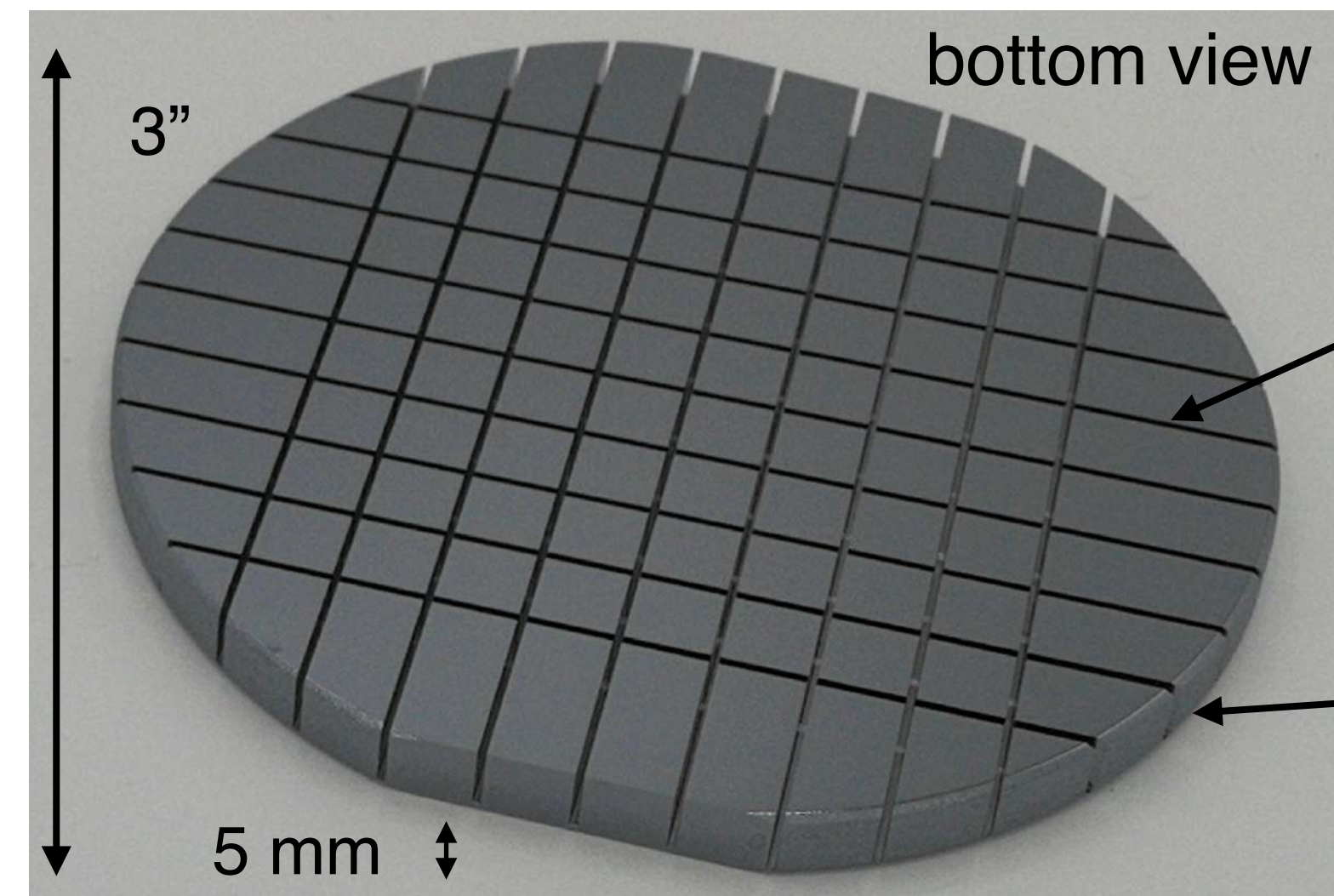
Excess workshop 2024  
 Roma, 6 July  
<https://agenda.infn.it/event/39007/>



**This background limits the sensitivity of present experiments**

# The BULLKID phonon-detector array

carving of dice in a thick silicon wafer

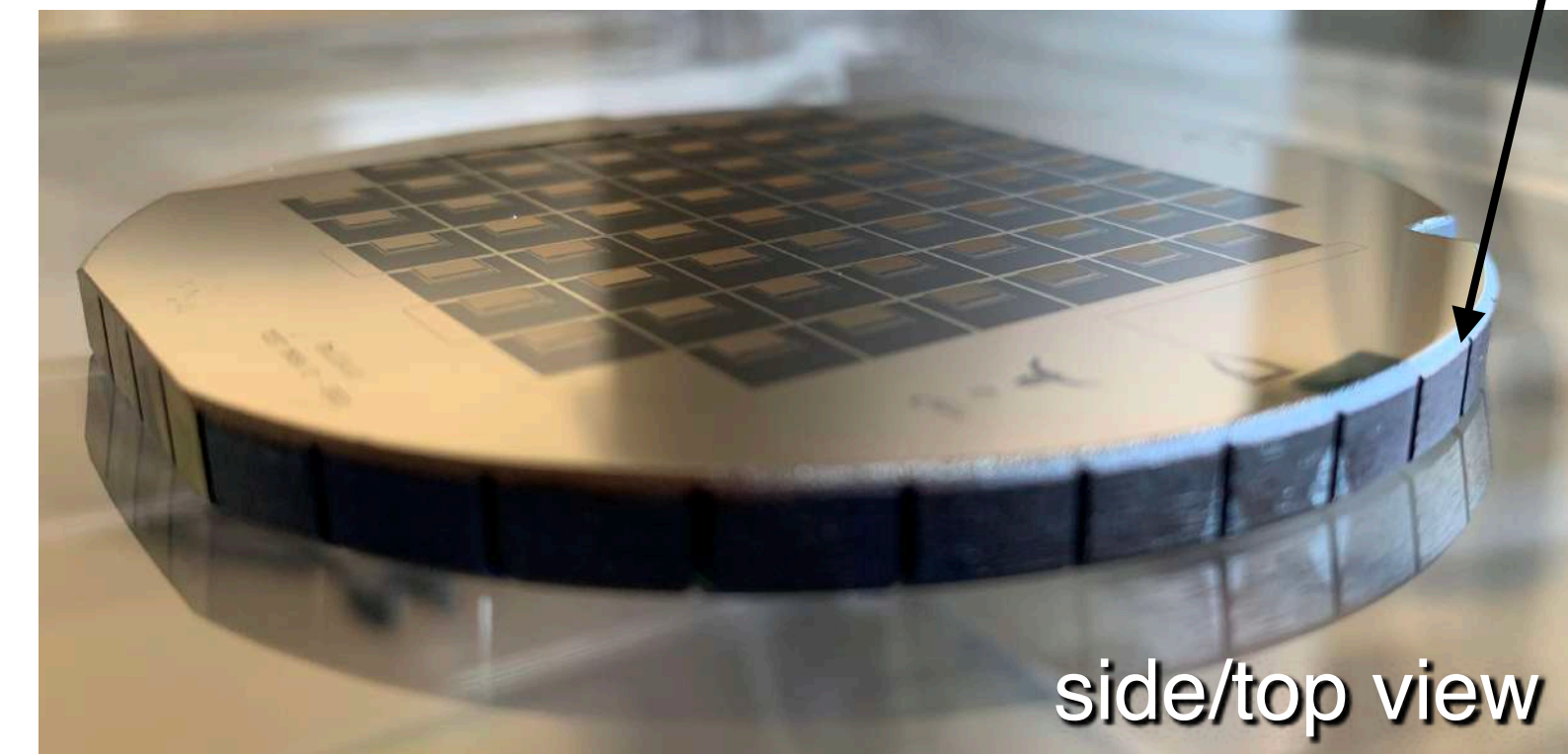


✓ monolithic

- 4.5 mm deep grooves
- 6 mm pitch
- chemical etching

- 0.5 mm thick common disk:
- holds the structure
- hosts the sensors

lithography of KID sensors



- KID sensor array:
- 60 nm thick aluminum film
- 60 elements (1 per die)

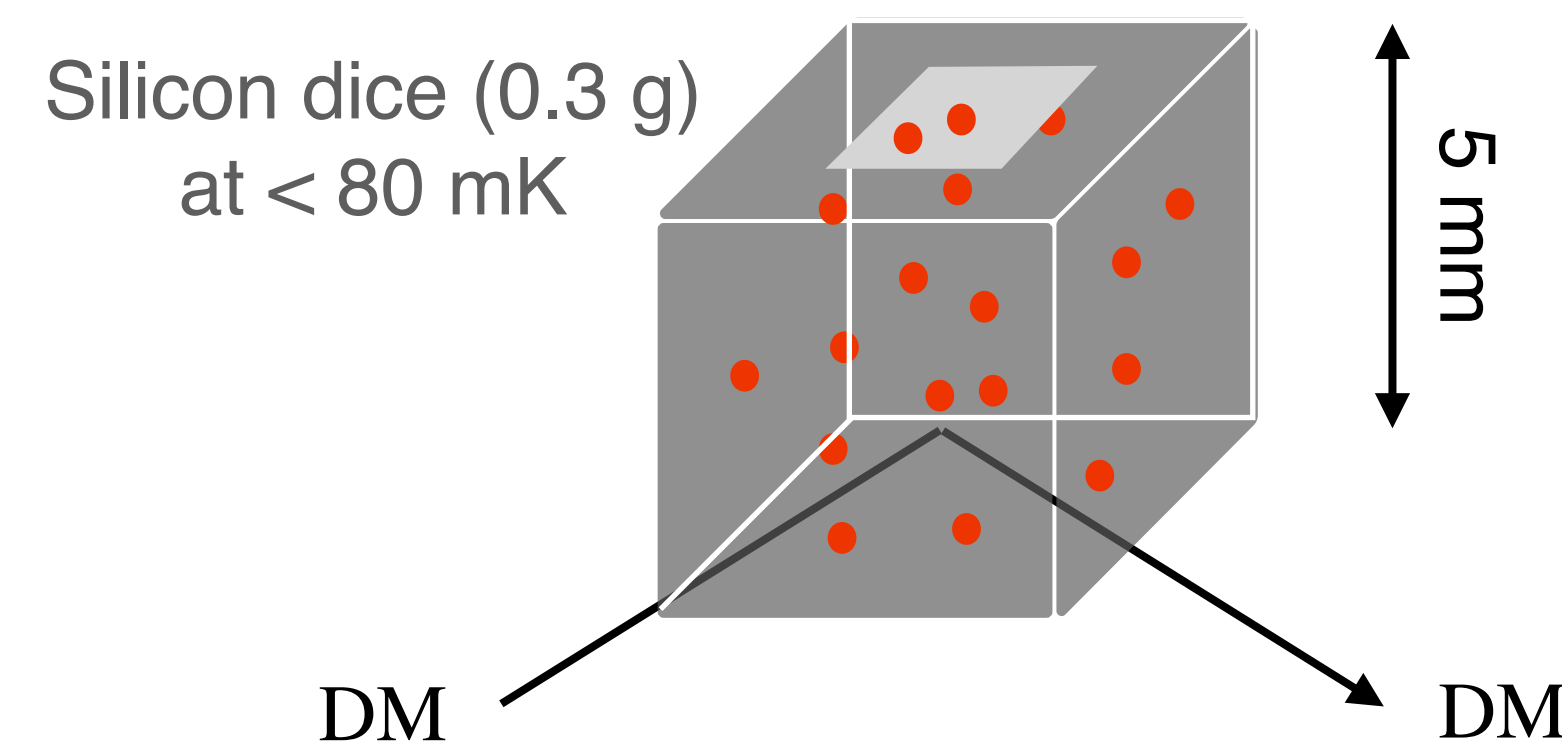
✓ 60 detectors in 1

Fully multiplexed  
(single readout line)

Phonon mediation

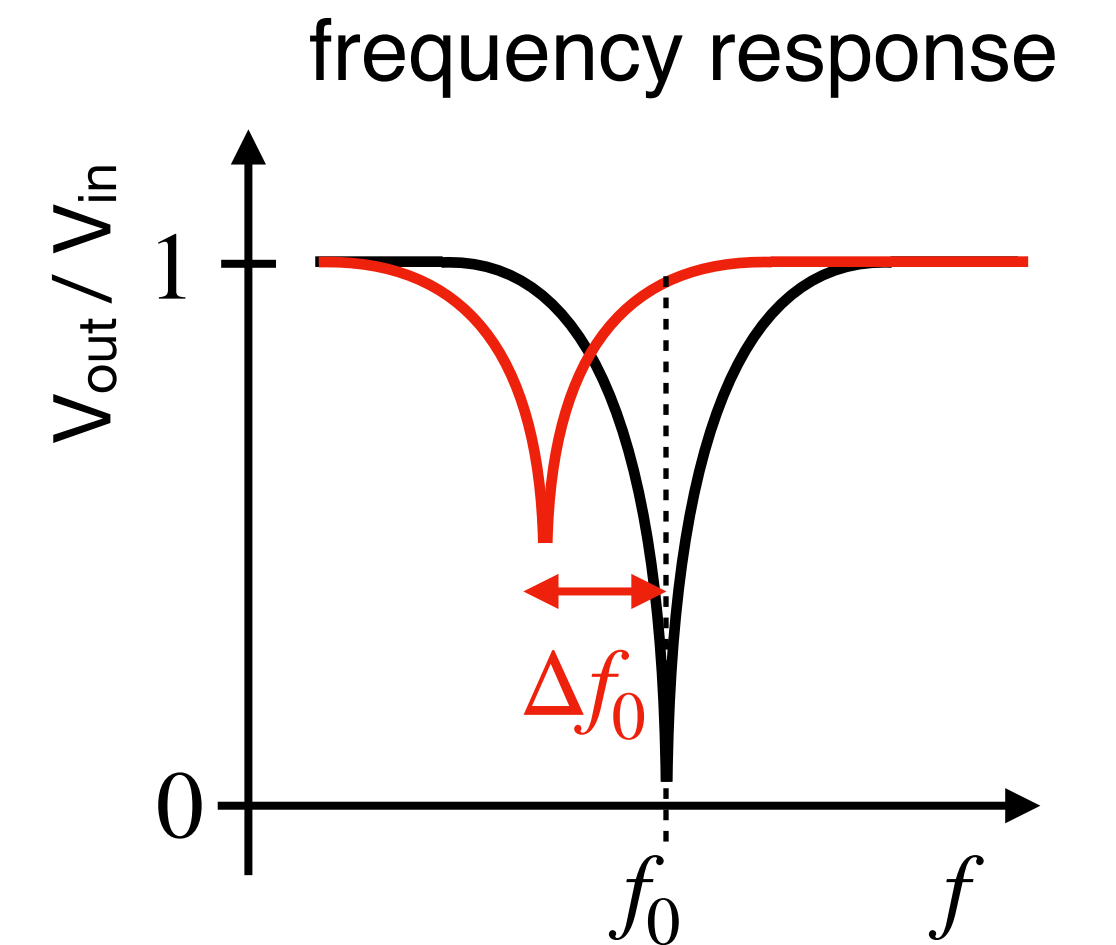
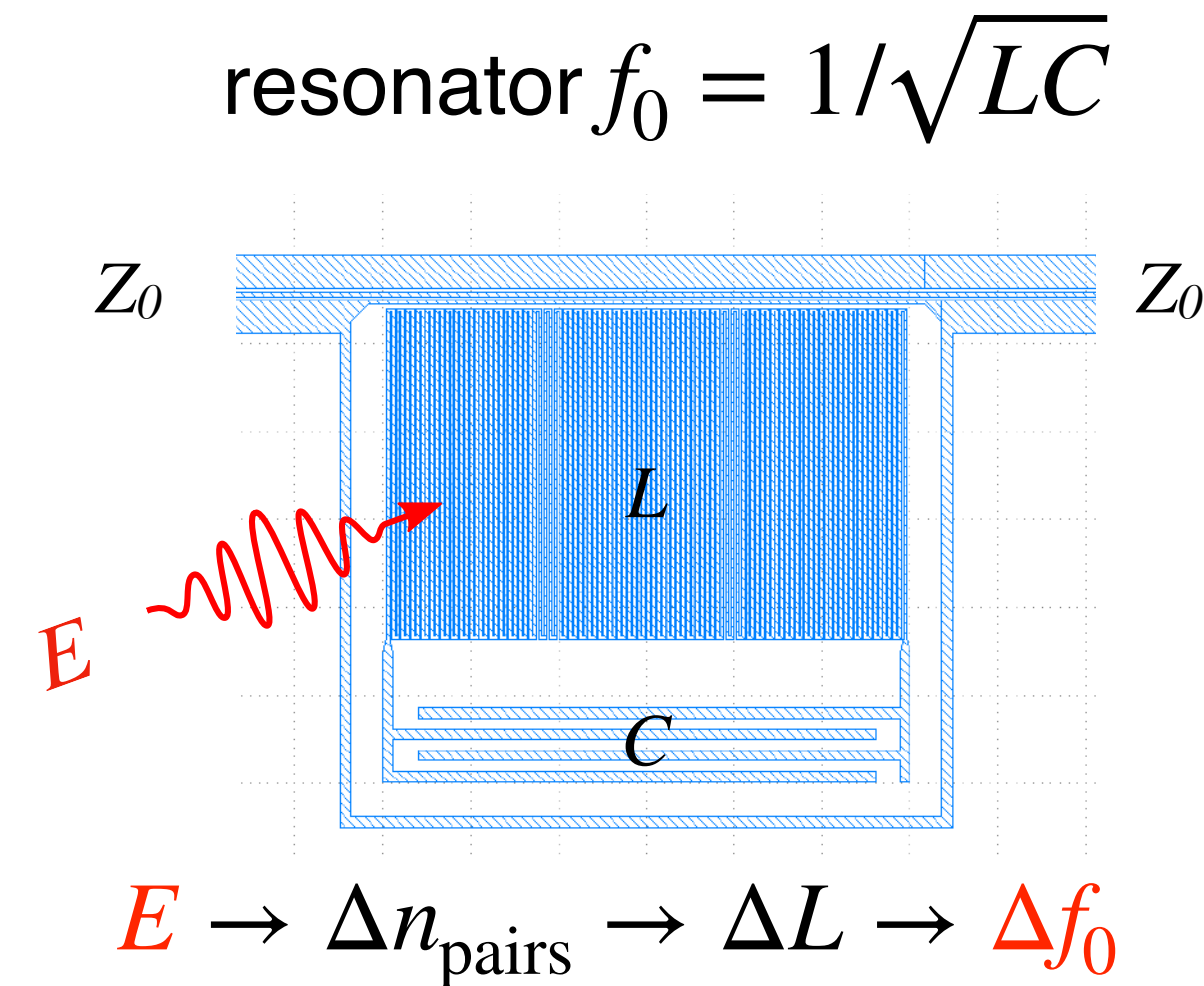
detect phonons created by nuclear recoils in a silicon die

KID (~ 2x2 mm<sup>2</sup> x 50 nm, 0.5 μg)

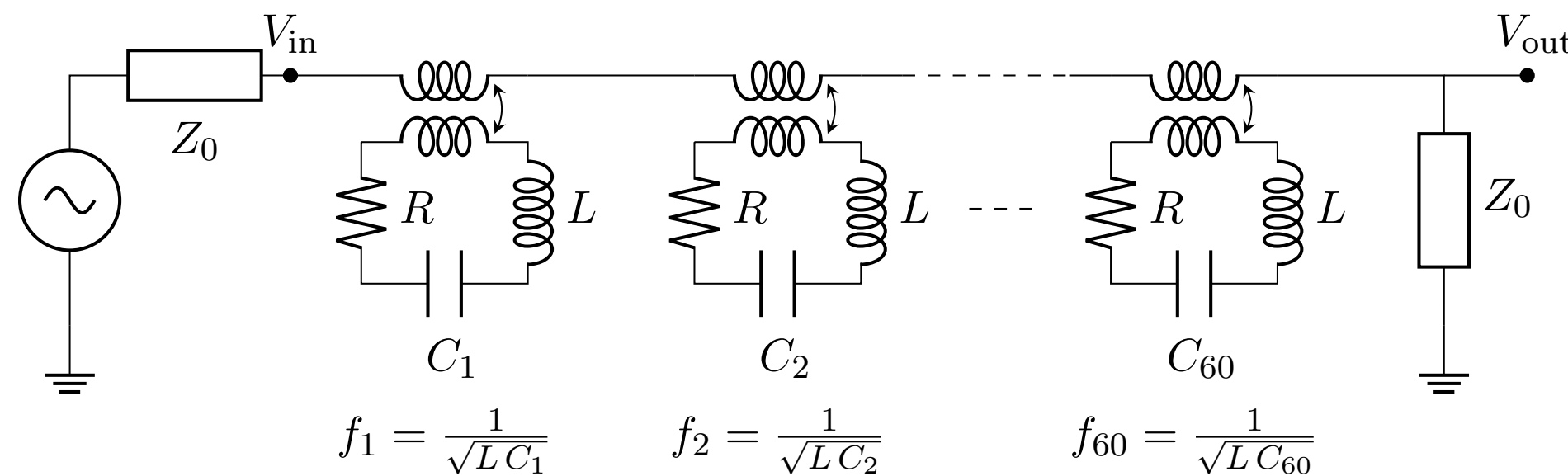


# Kinetic Inductance Detectors (KIDs)

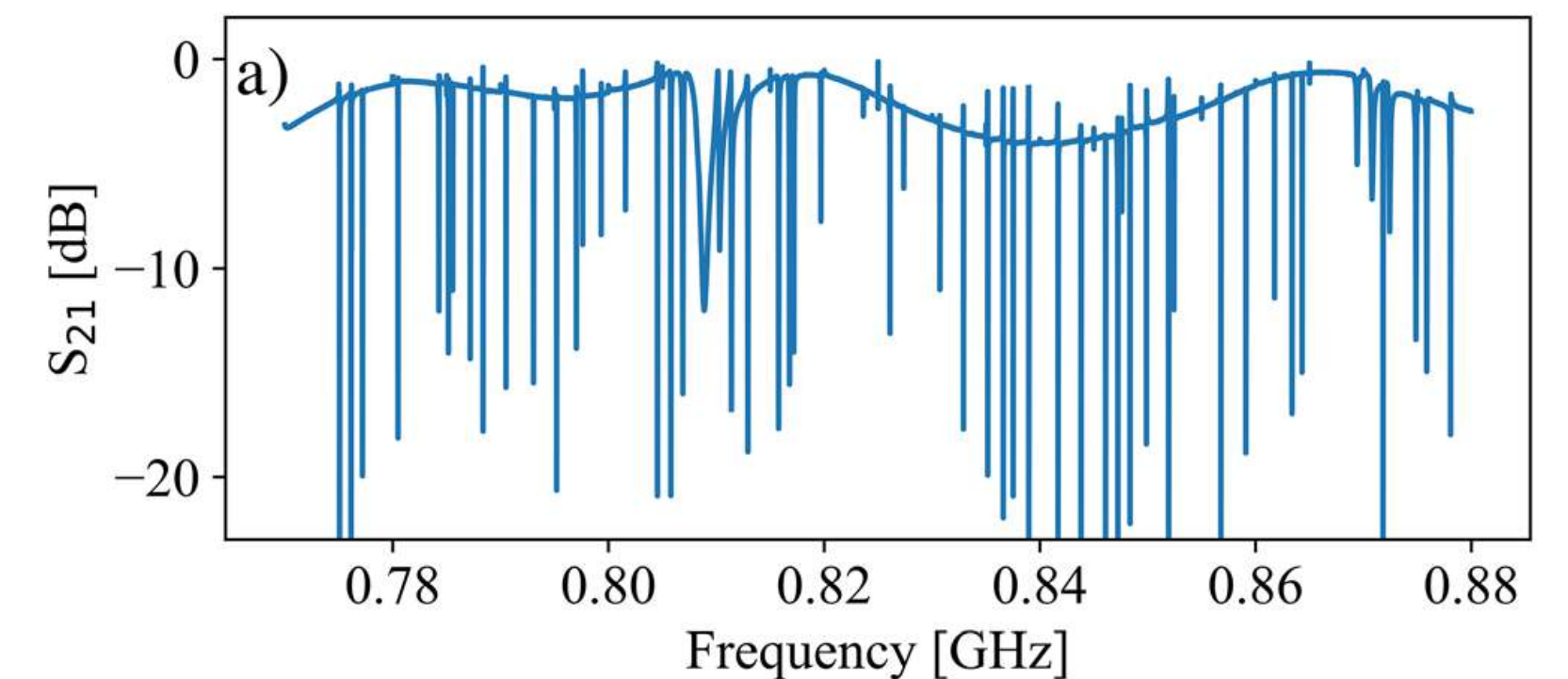
- Superconductor at  $T < 200$  mK (Al)
- LC resonator
- Cooper pairs inductance  $L_k = \frac{m_e}{2e^2 n_{\text{pairs}}}$
- Absorbed energy breaks Cooper pairs



Readout: different KIDs coupled to a the same line

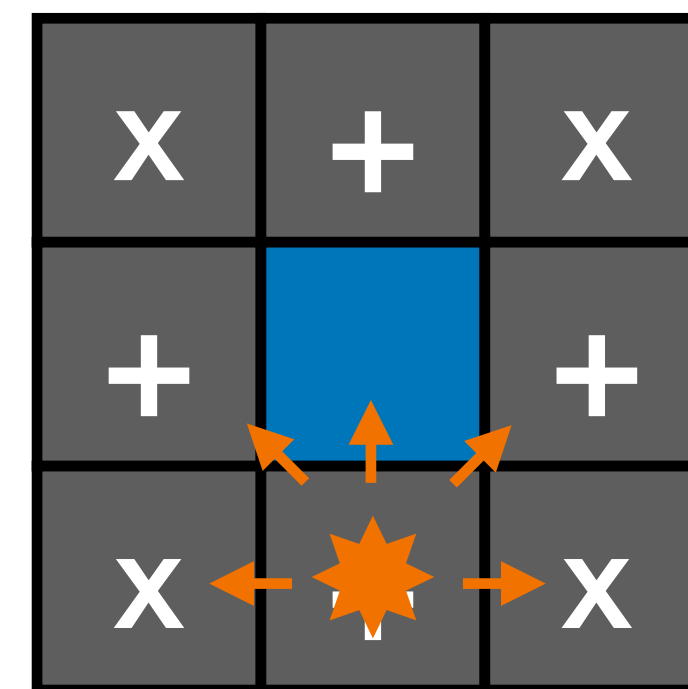
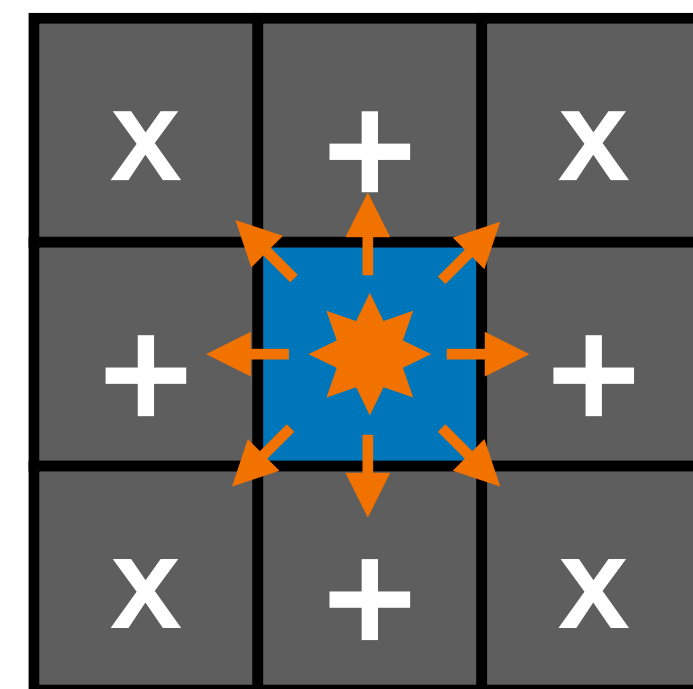
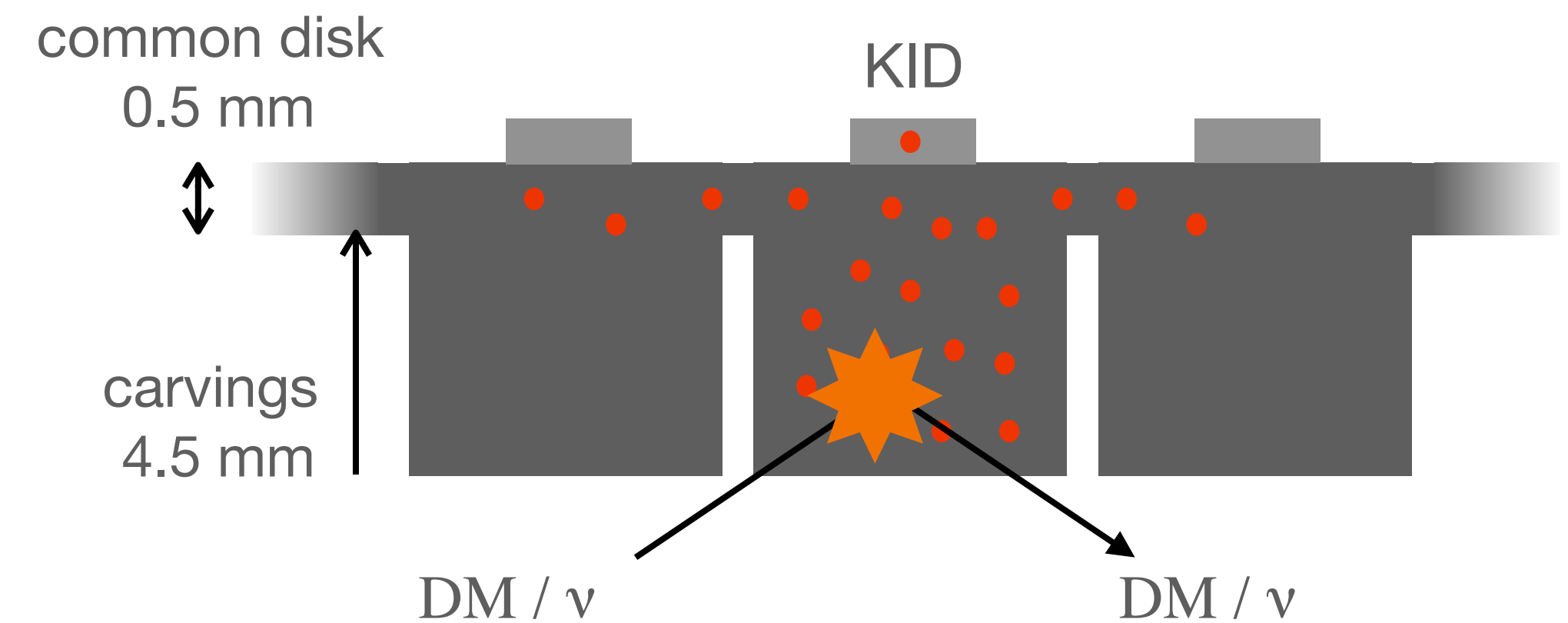


frequency scan of the 60 KIDs of BULLKID



# Phonon leakage and mapping

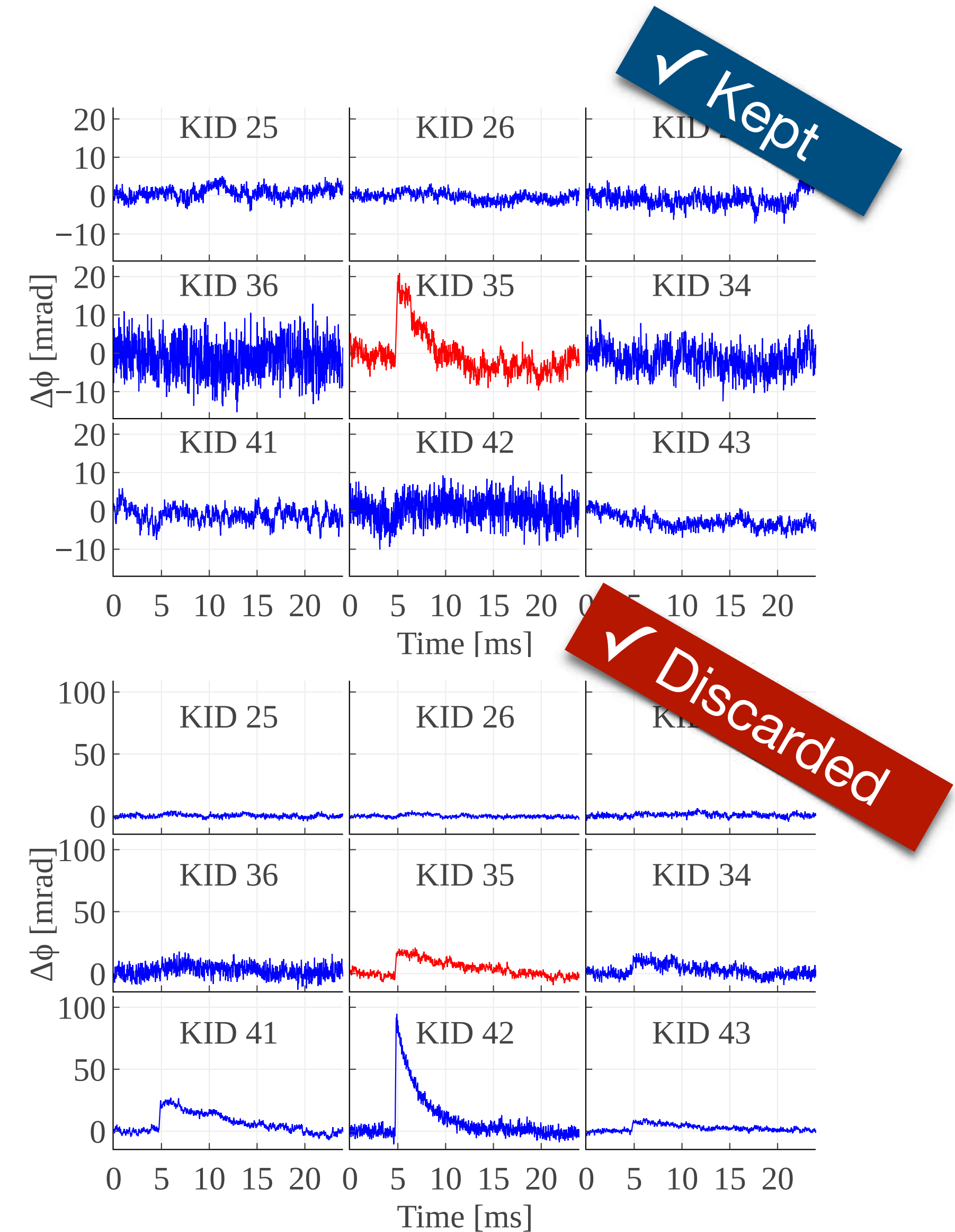
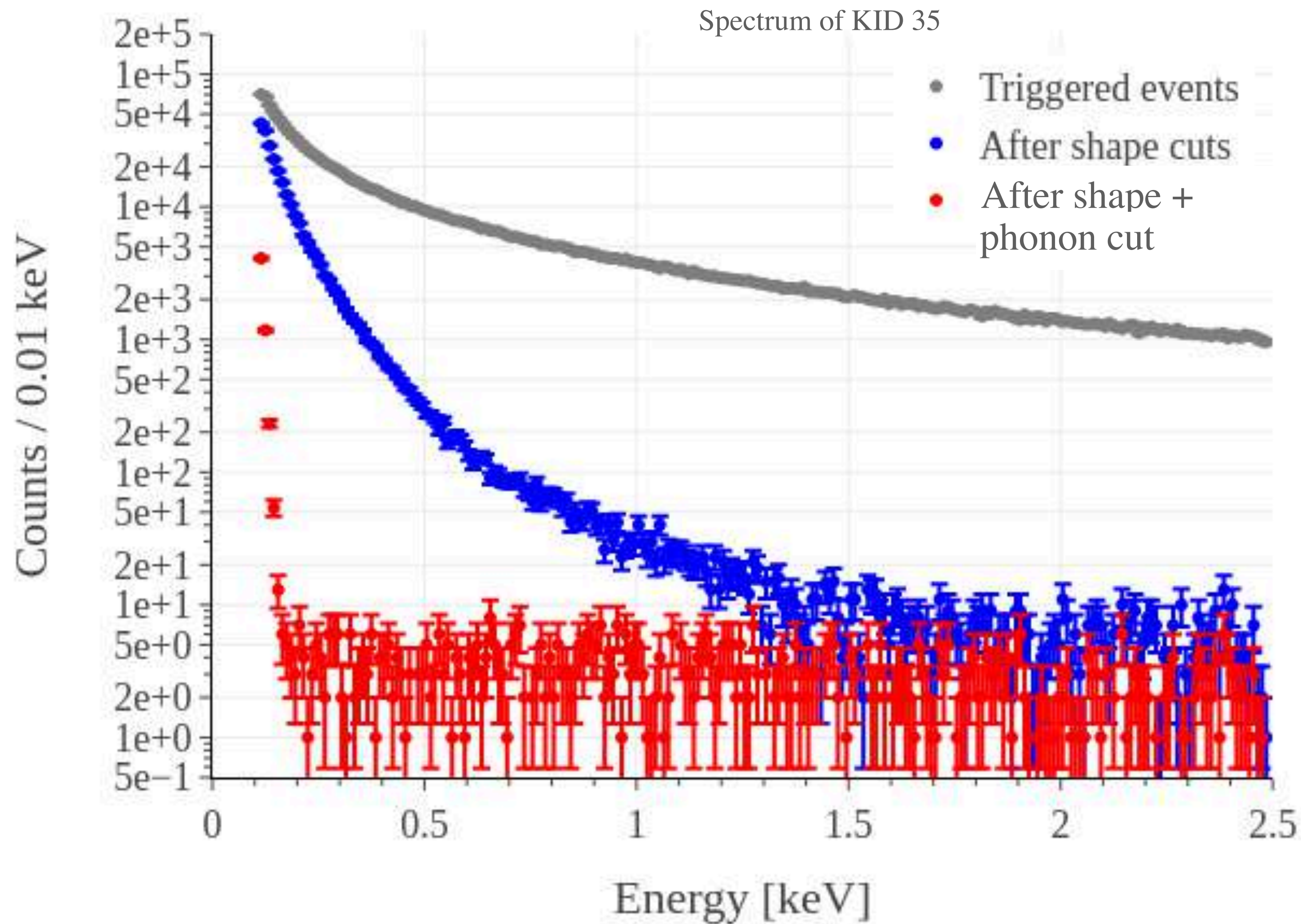
- 50% of phonons is detected in the interaction die
- 50% leaks out and is detected in nearby dice
  - $(8 \pm 2)$  % in each “+” die
  - $(3 \pm 1)$  % in each “x” die
  - the rest in outer dice



This effect reduces the phonon focusing on the KID but is **exploited to identify the interaction voxel**

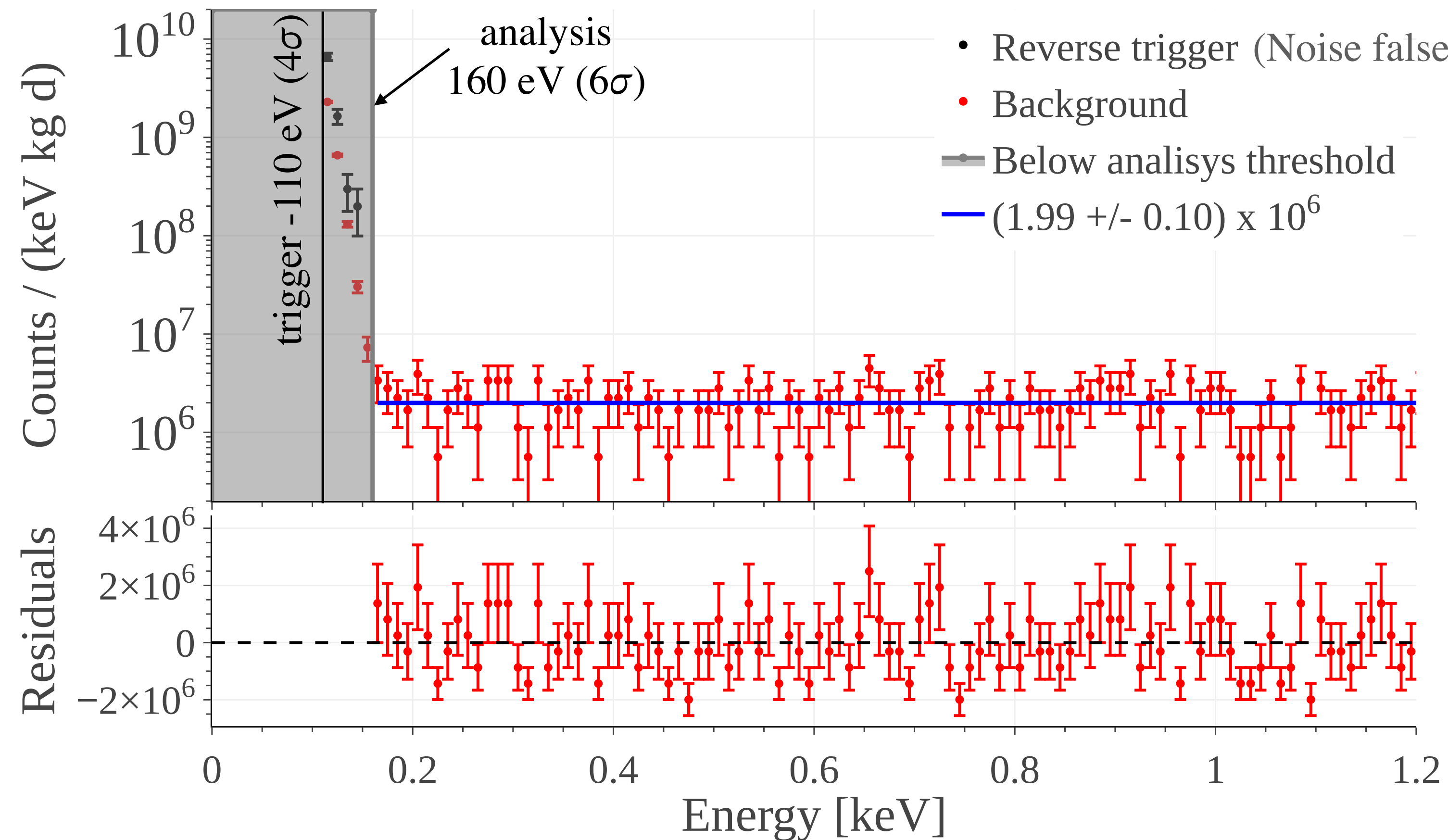


# Background: pulse shape + phonon cuts



# Background: result on surface

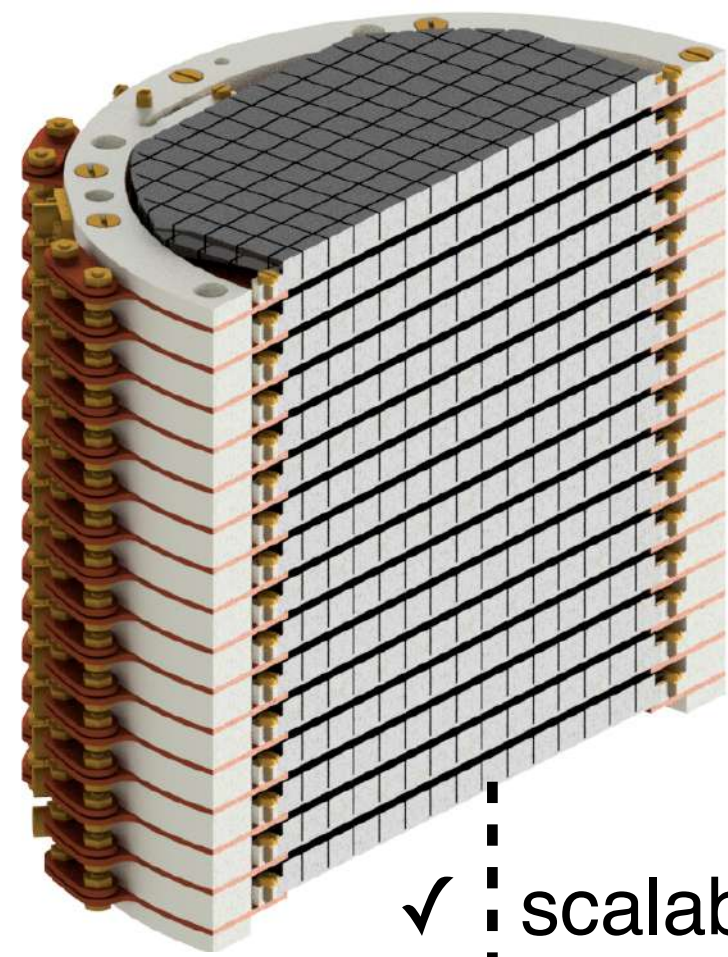
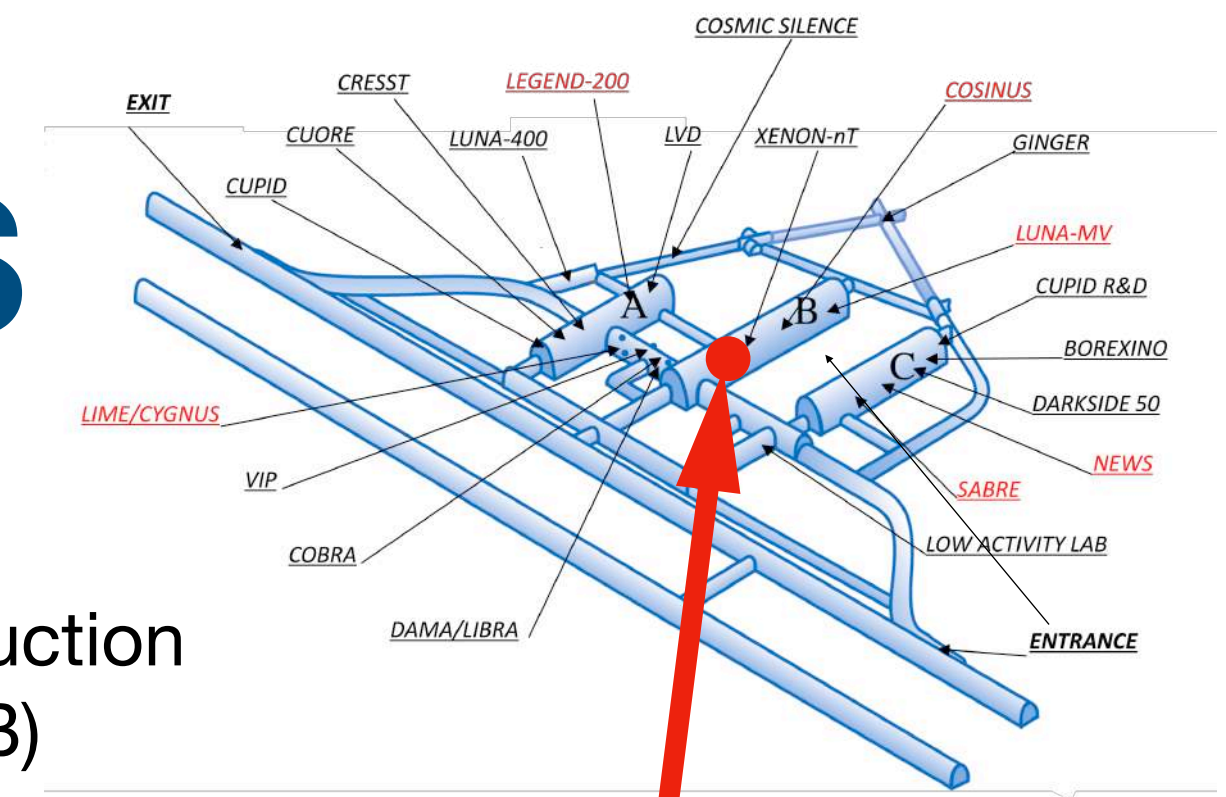
Above ground lab @Sapienza U., no shield, 39 live hours



D. Delicato et al,  
Eur. Phys. J. C 84 (2024) 353

The excess above trigger threshold is compatible with noise false positives.  
Background is flat above analysis threshold.

# Detector & the cryogenic facility @LNGS



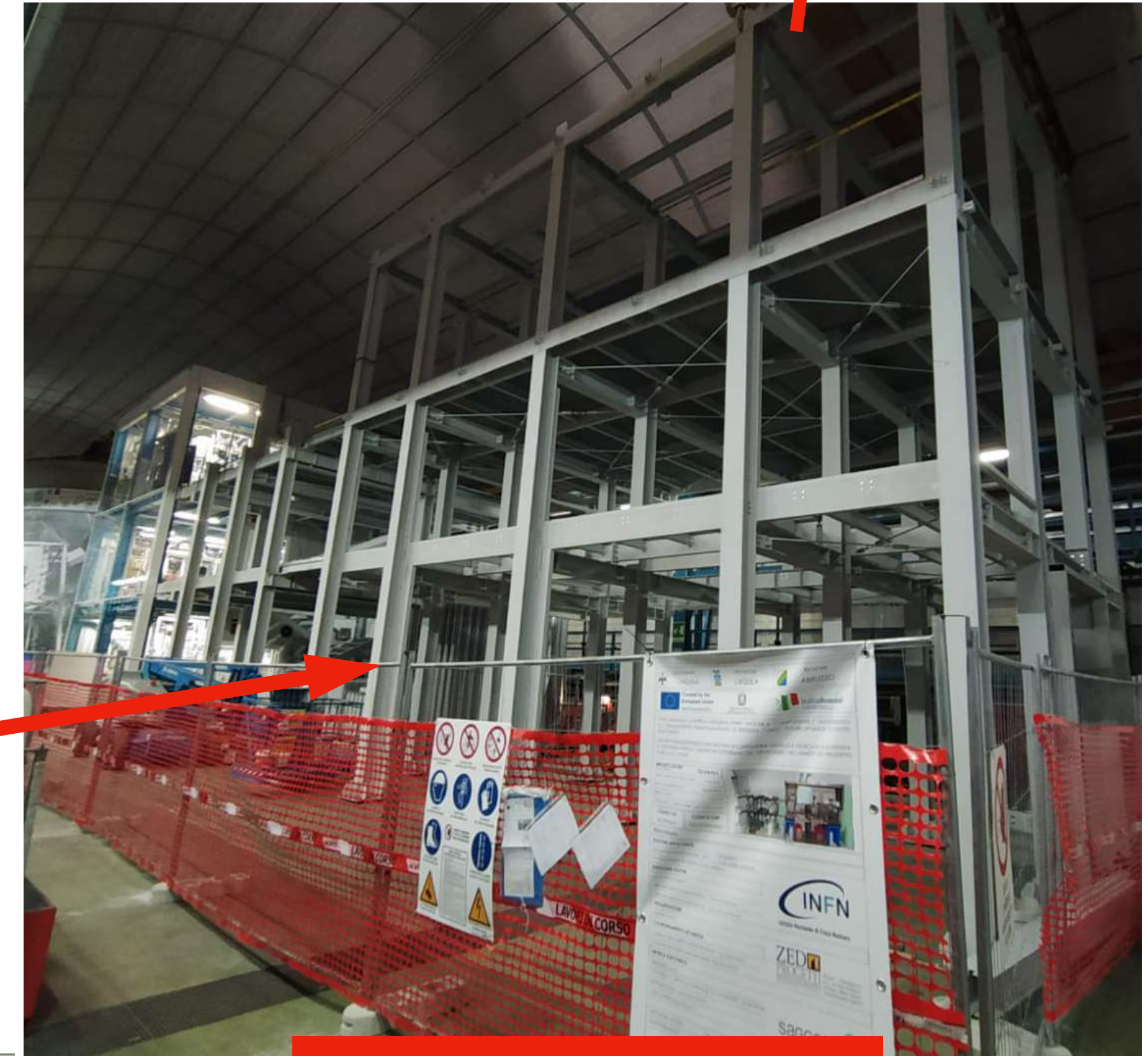
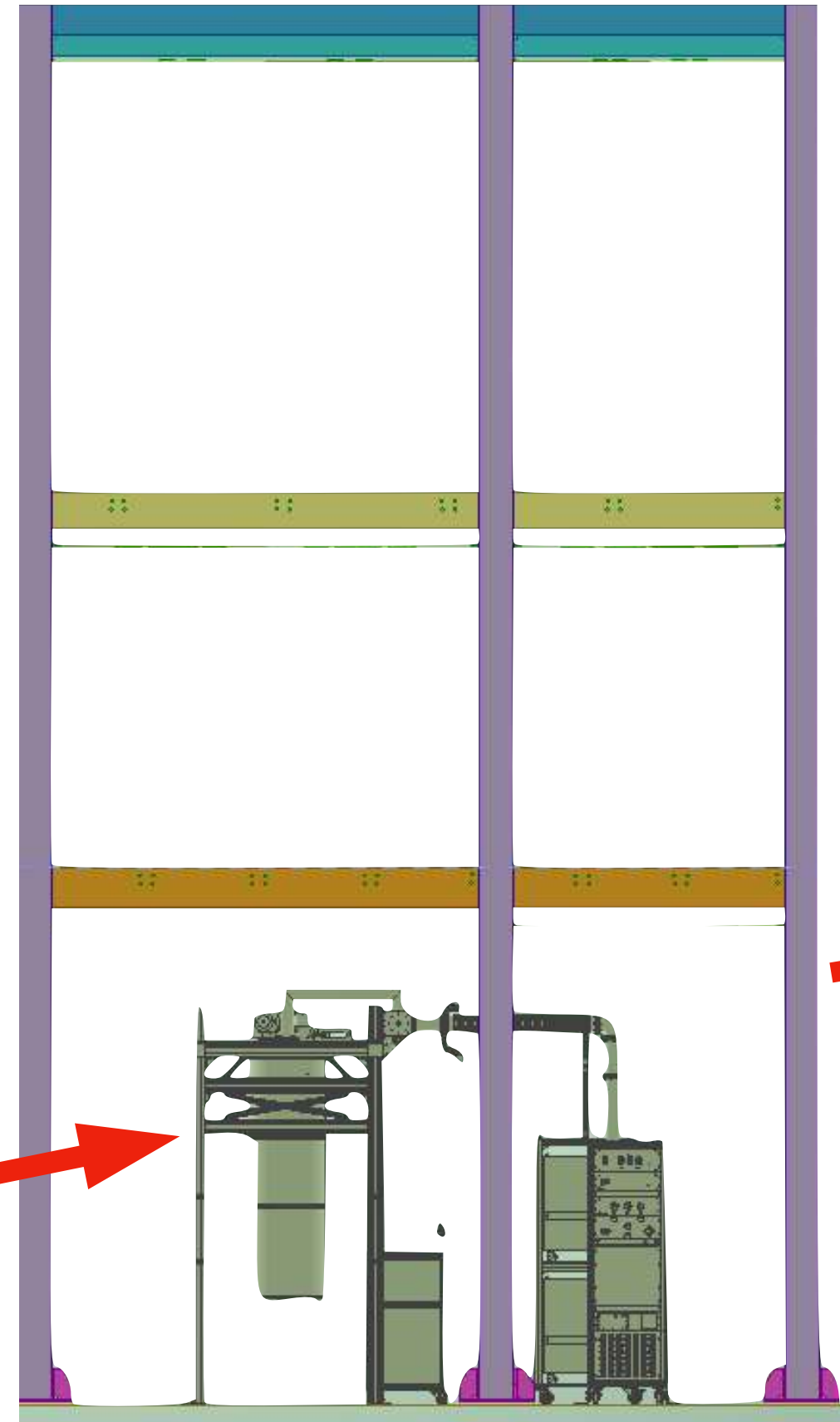
✓ scalable

**ProteoxMX dilution cryostat**  
by Oxford Instruments



Shipping in June 2025

**Cryo-Platform facility** under construction  
in the LNGS underground (Hall-B)



Ready by summer 2025

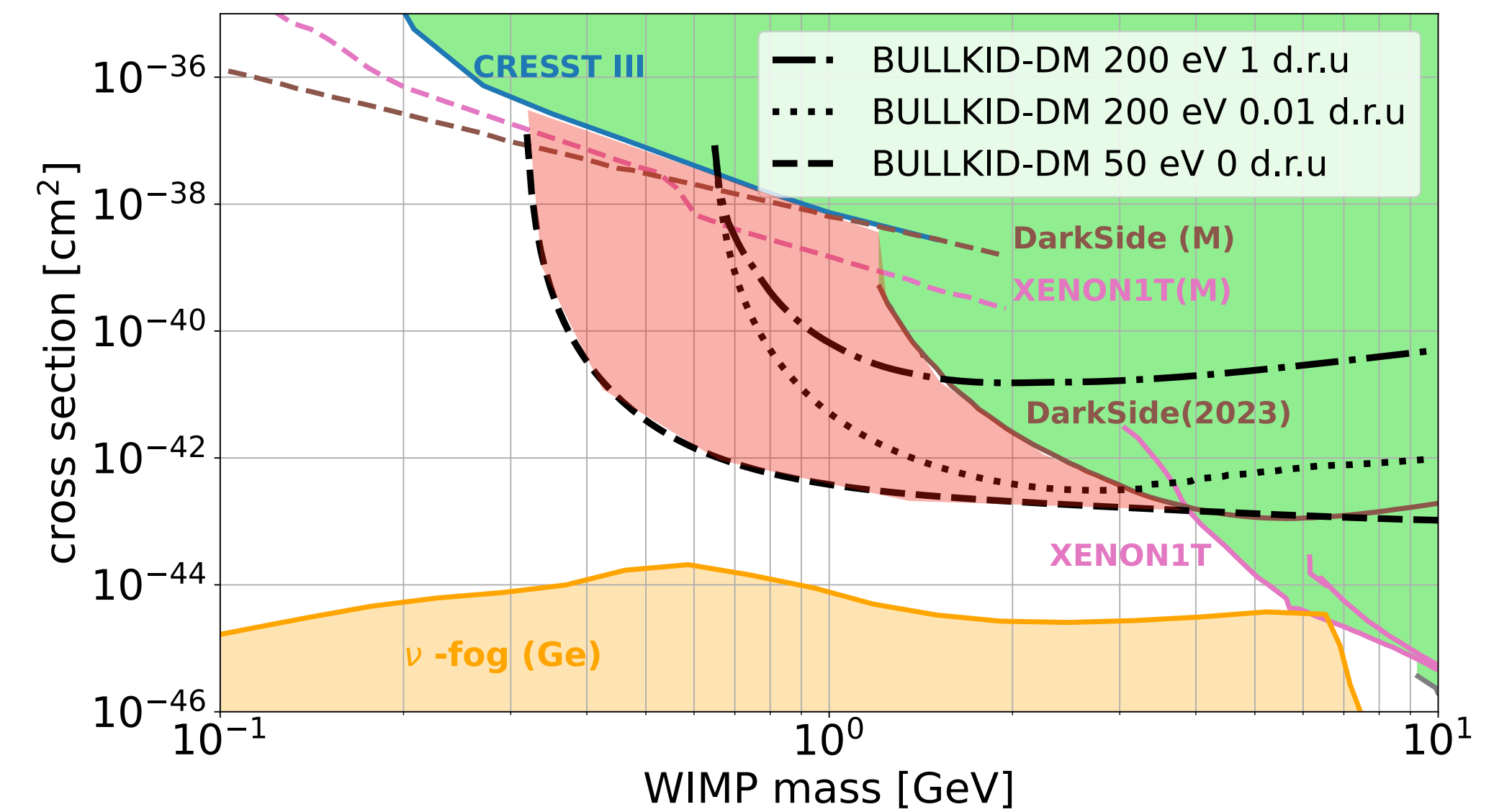
## Detector

- ✓ 800 g of silicon target
- ✓ 2300 detector units (dice)
- ✓ No inert material in detector vol
- ✓ fully active
- ✓ fiducialization (600 g)

Unique features for  
bkg suppression

# Activities & timeline

1. Demonstrator commissioning, data taking and analysis
2. Experiment commissioning, data taking and analysis
3. Threshold: from Al to Al-Ti-Al KIDs (5x inductance)
4. Sensitivity: Deeper carvings for higher phonon focussing
5. Background studies

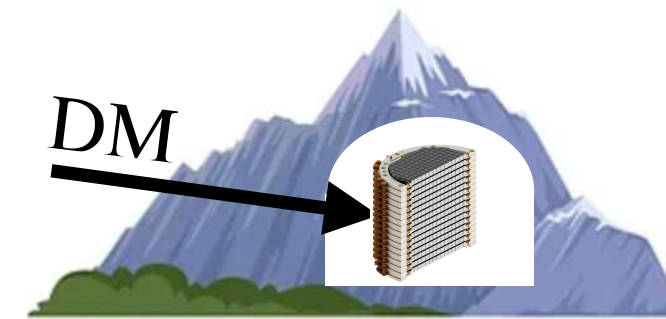
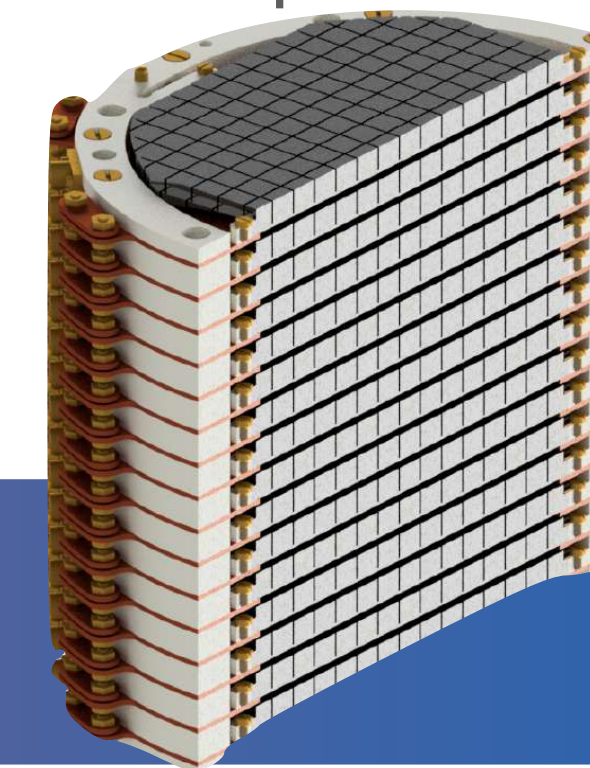
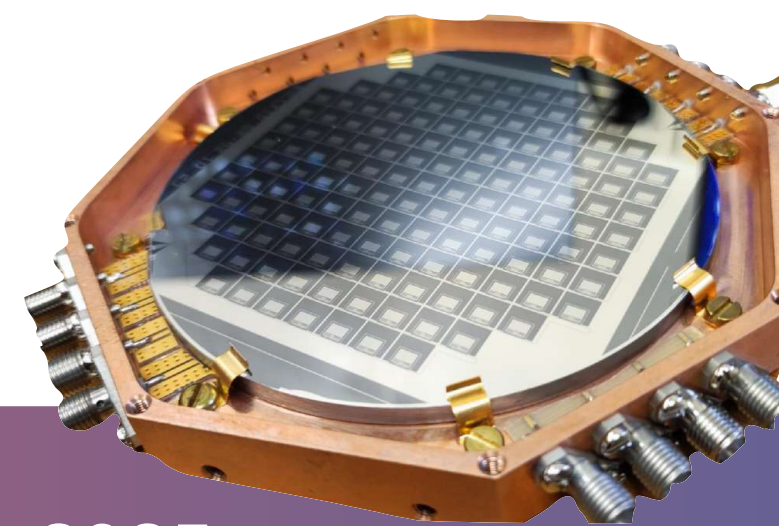
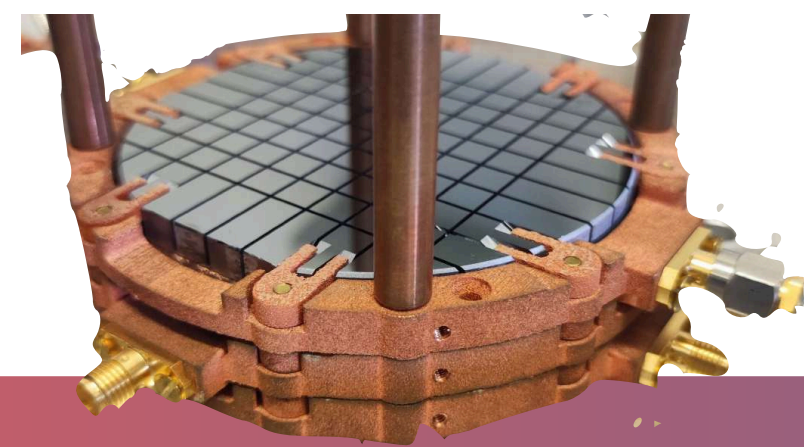
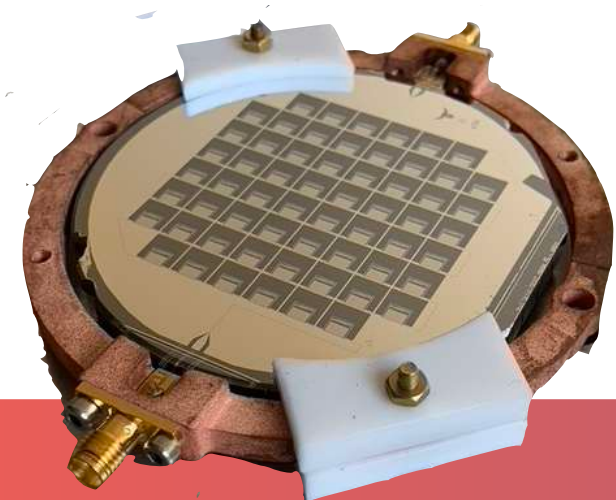


**Prototype**  
20 g / 60 KIDs  
single 3" wafer  
concluded in 2023

**Demonstrator**  
60 g / 180 KIDs  
3-layer stack of 3" wafers  
first operations 2024

**R&D on large wafer**  
50 g / 145 dice  
single 100 mm wafer  
first operations fall 2024

**BULLKID-DM**  
800 g / 2300 KIDs  
16-layer stack of 100 mm wafers  
first operations 2026



2023

2024

2025

2026

2027

**Prototype**  
at Sapienza

**Demonstrator**  
at Sapienza

**Demonstrator**  
at LNGS

**Full detector**  
at Sapienza

**Full detector**  
at LNGS



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# Thanks

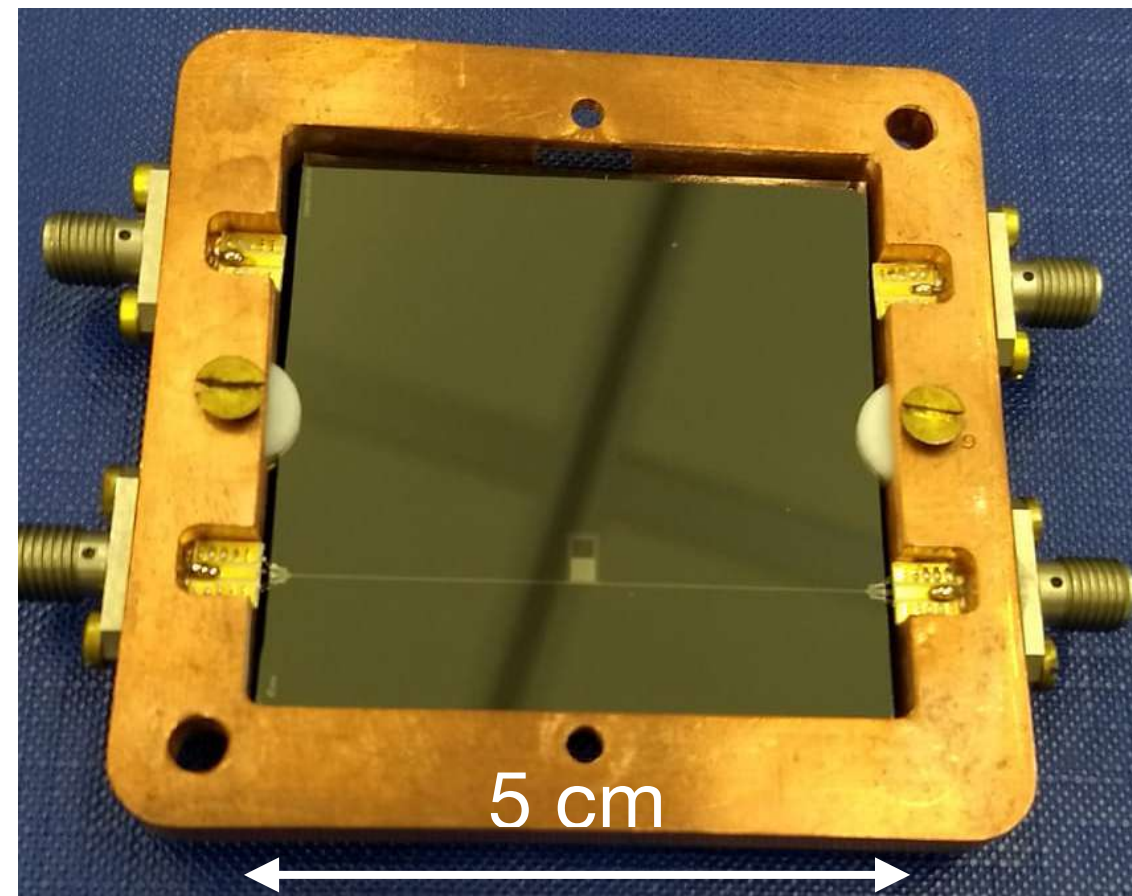
If you are interested please contact me:  
[antonio.daddabbo@lngs.infn.it](mailto:antonio.daddabbo@lngs.infn.it)



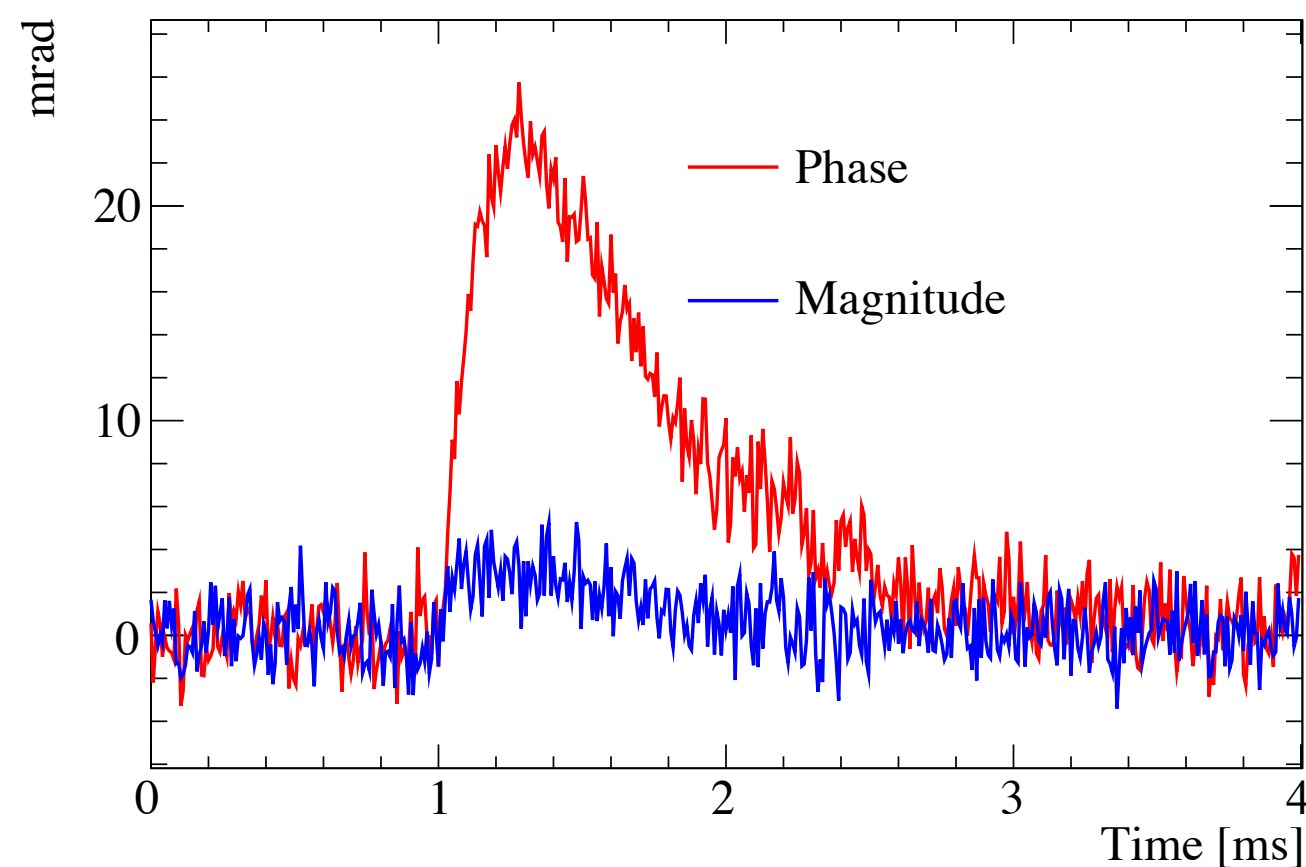
# CALDER: light detectors w KIDs



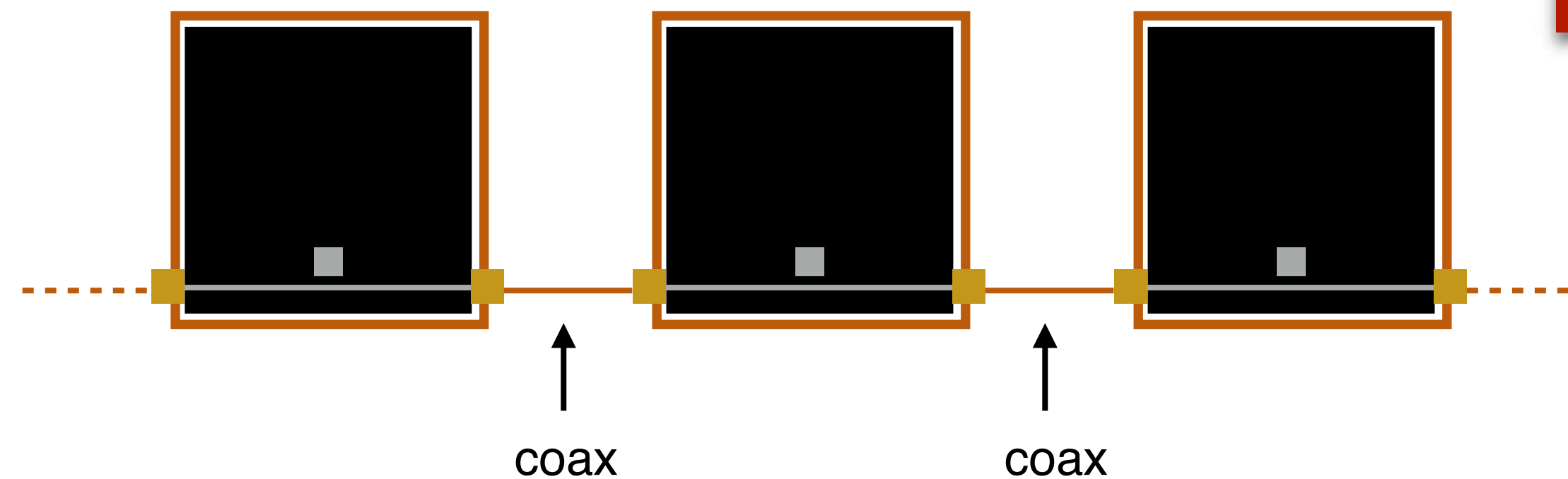
L. Cardani et al, EPJC 81 (2021) 636



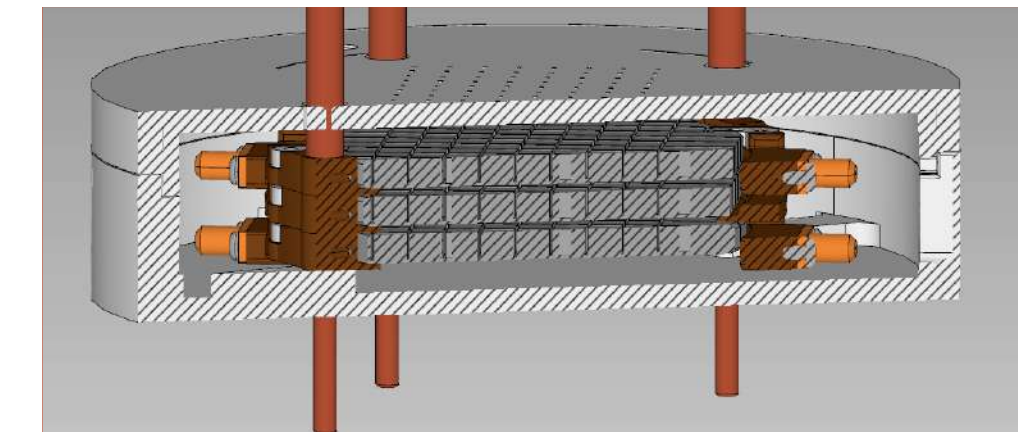
Area [cm <sup>2</sup> ]	25
$\Delta E$ [eV RMS]	34 90 w/o vibration decoupling
Response time [ms]	<b>0.12</b>
Temperature [mK]	8-120
# detectors	Multiplexing



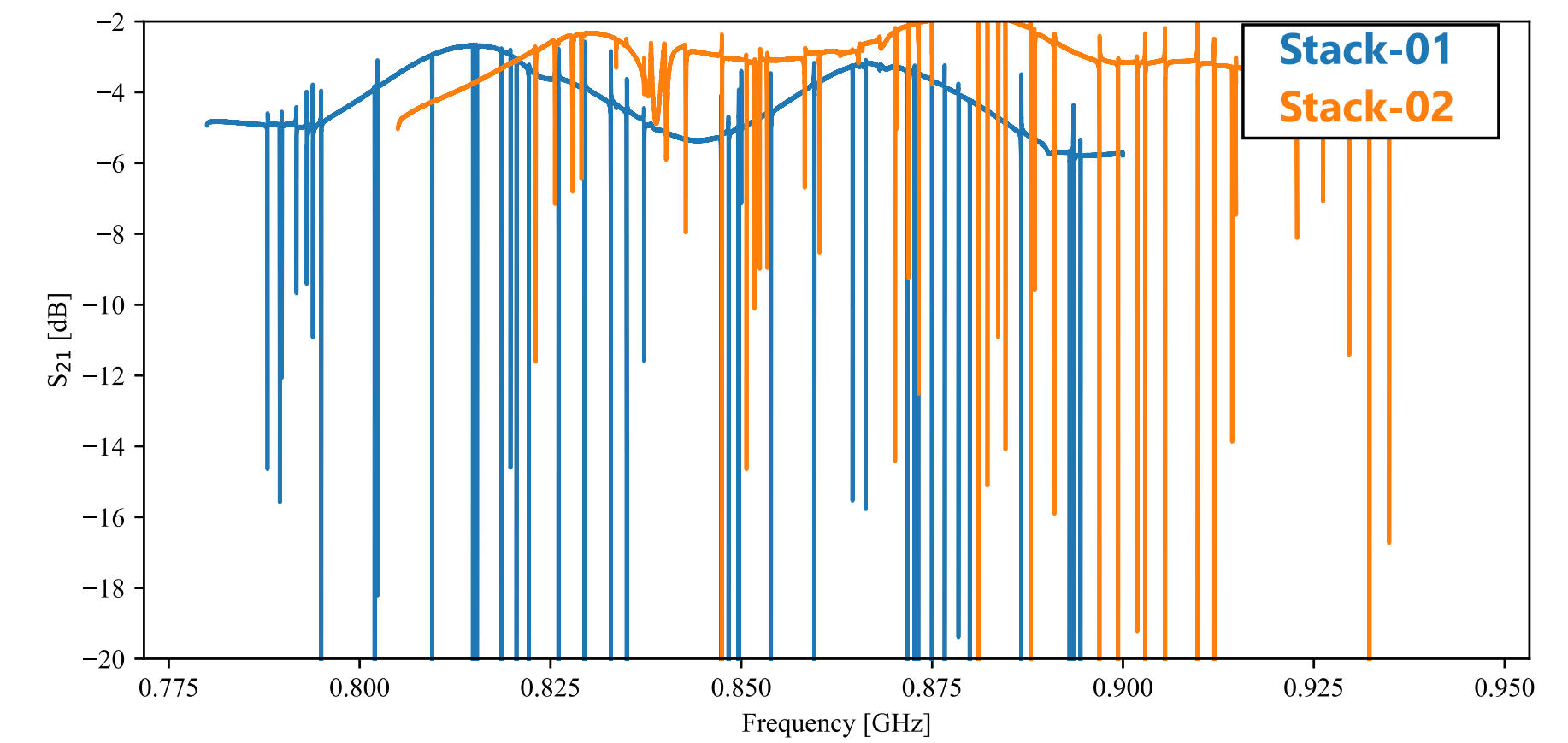
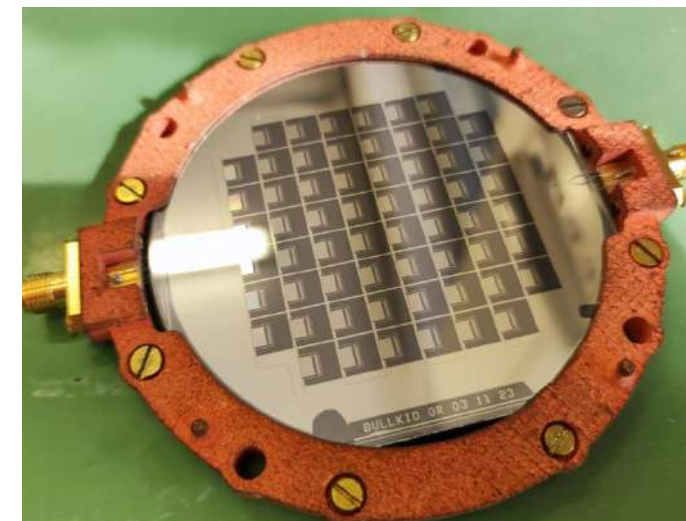
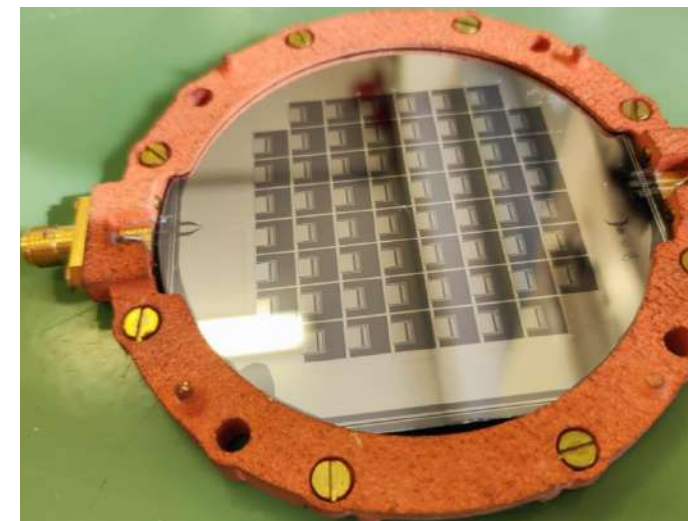
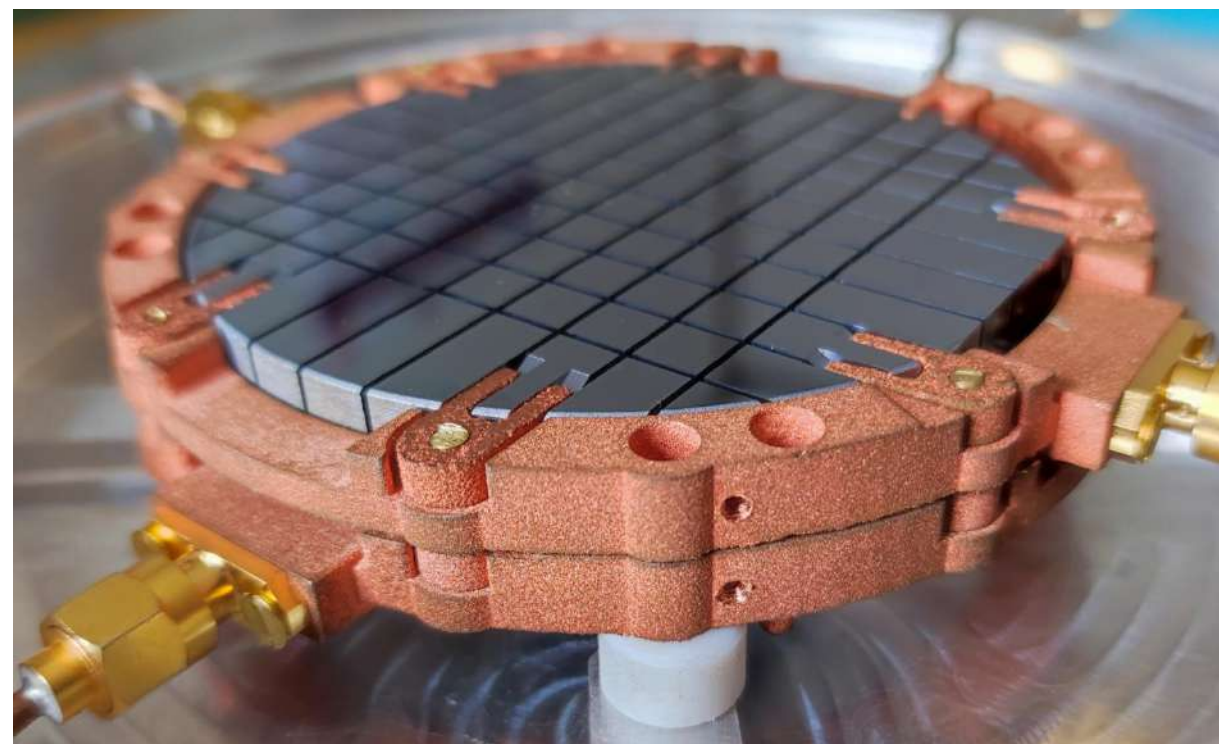
Could be coupled to scintillating crystals for the BULLKID veto



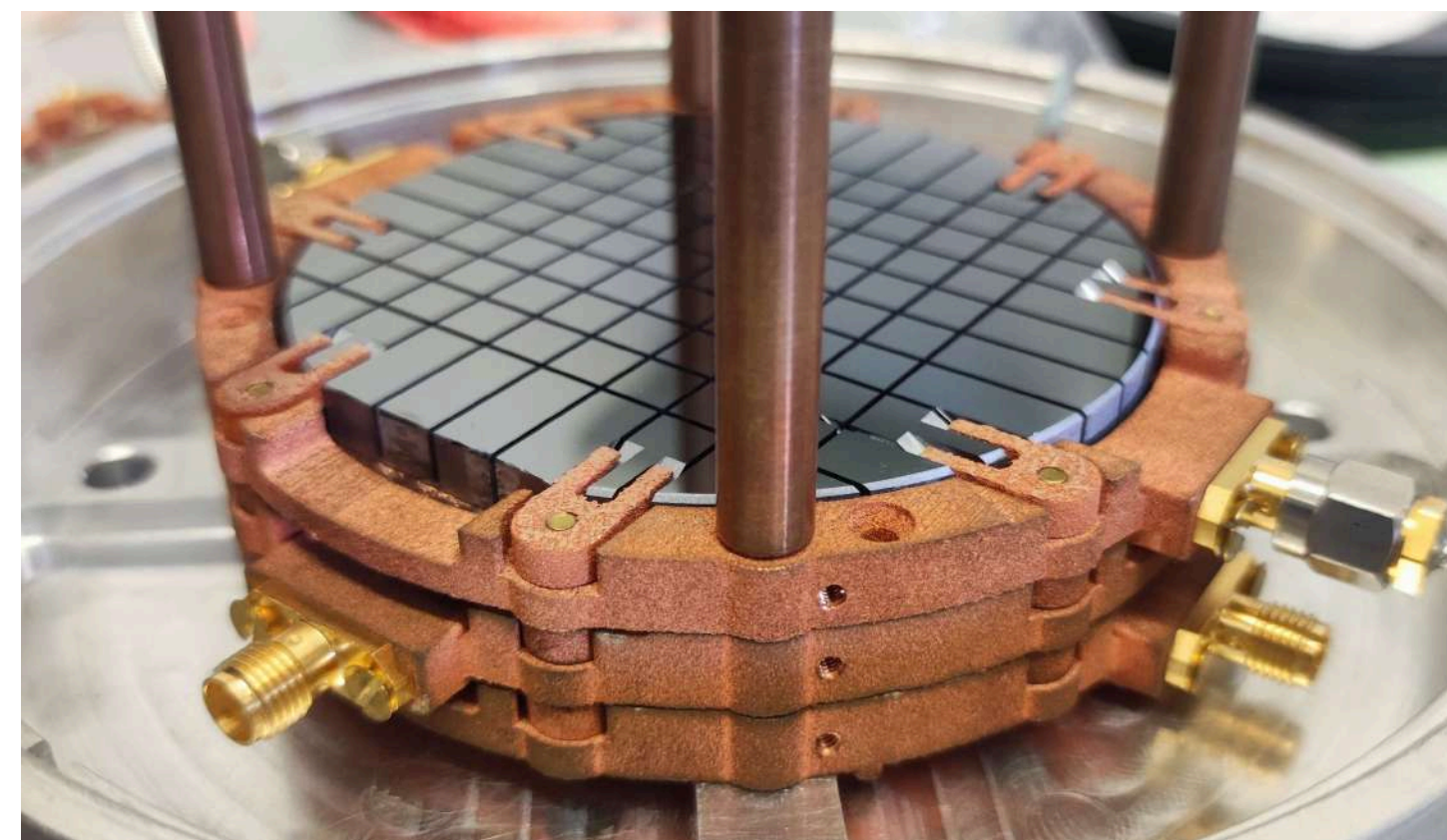
# Status of the 3-wafer demonstrator



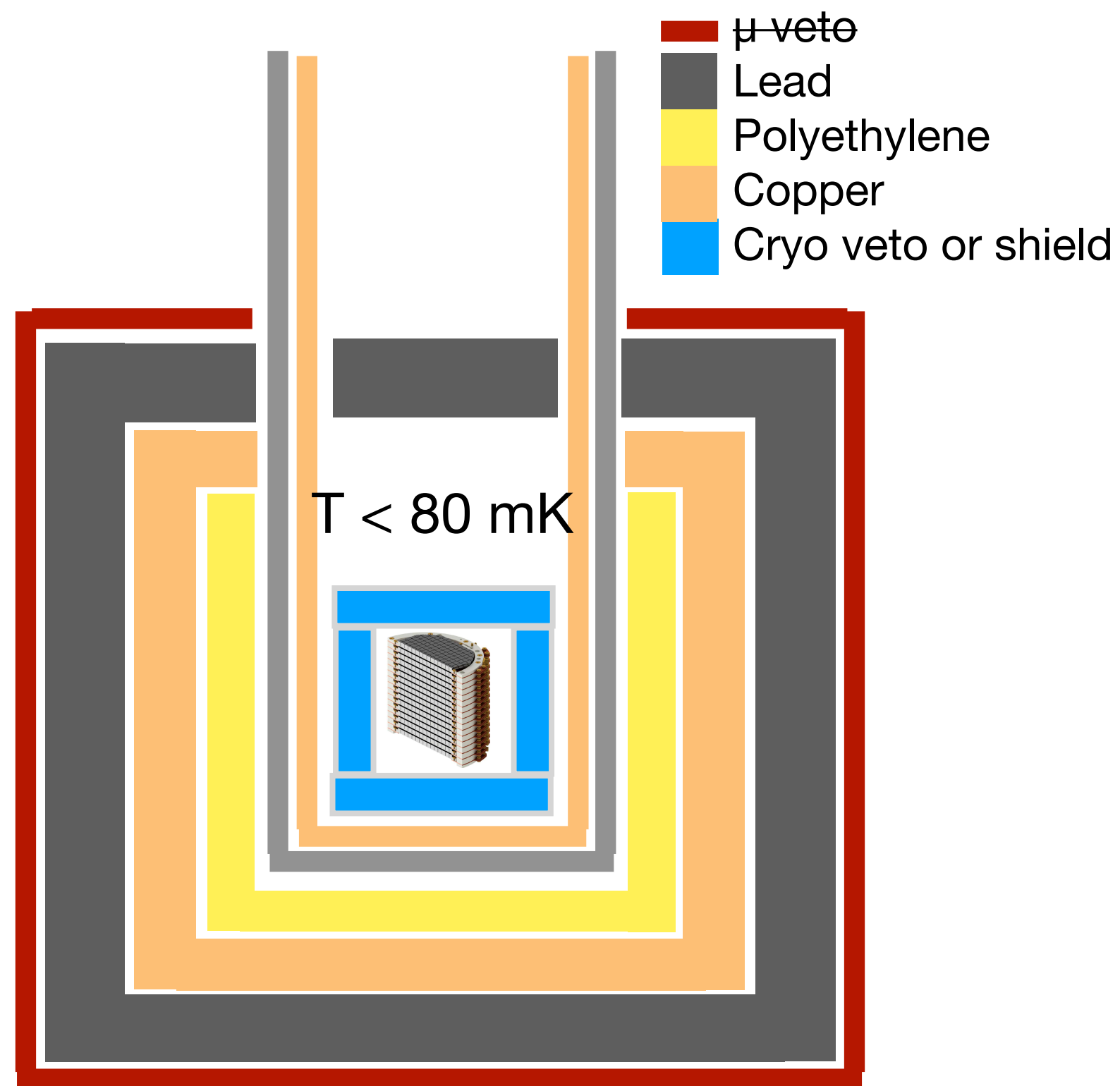
2-wafer stack operated. No issues observed



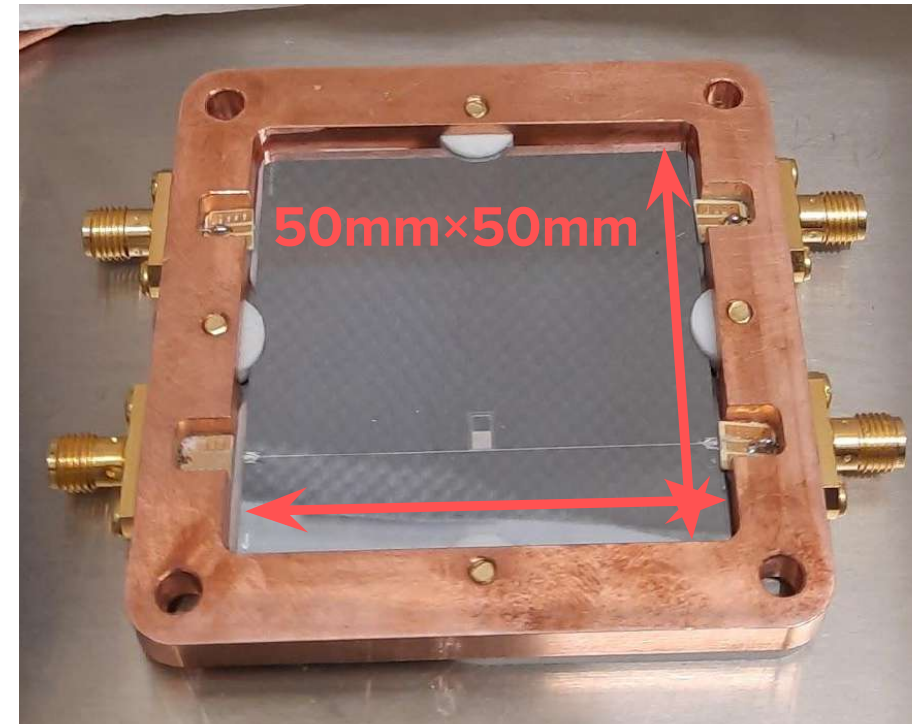
3-wafer stack assembled



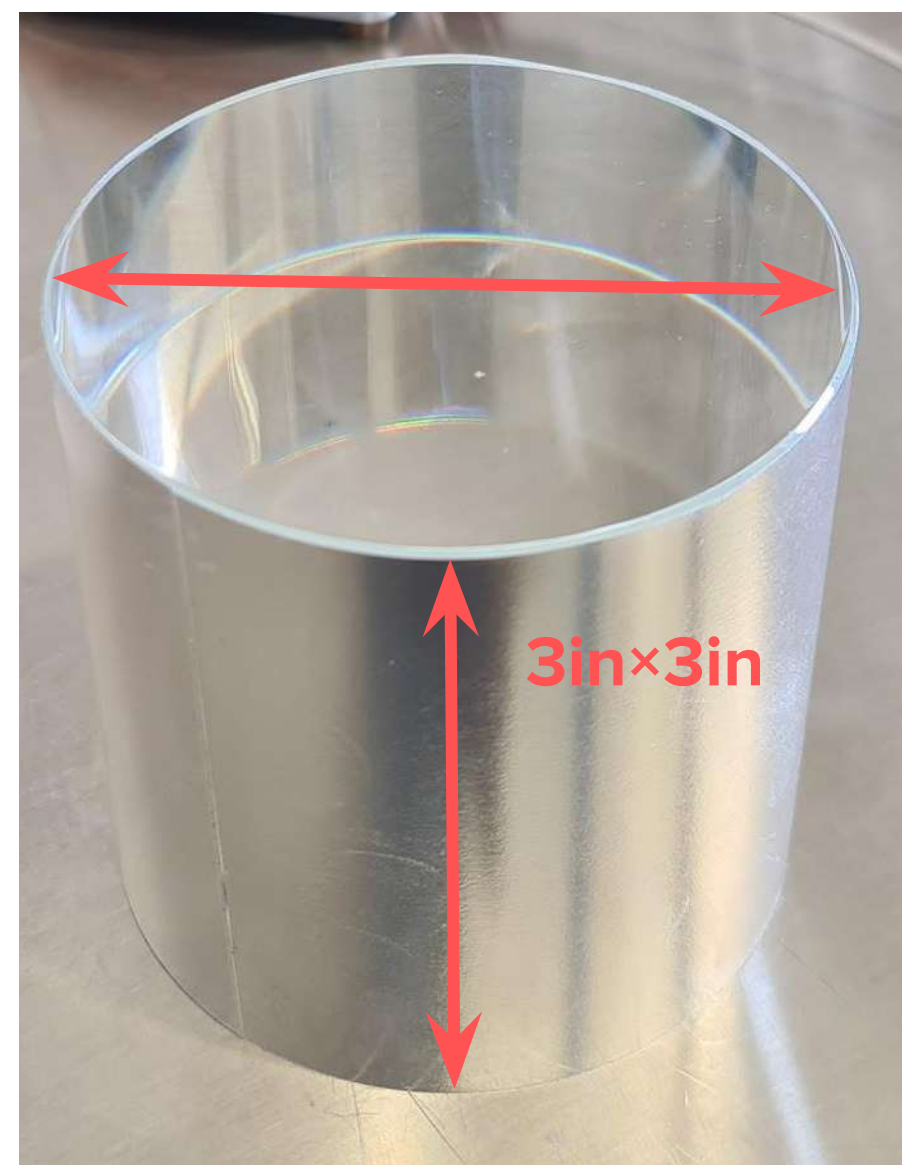
# Cryogenic veto: BGO prototype



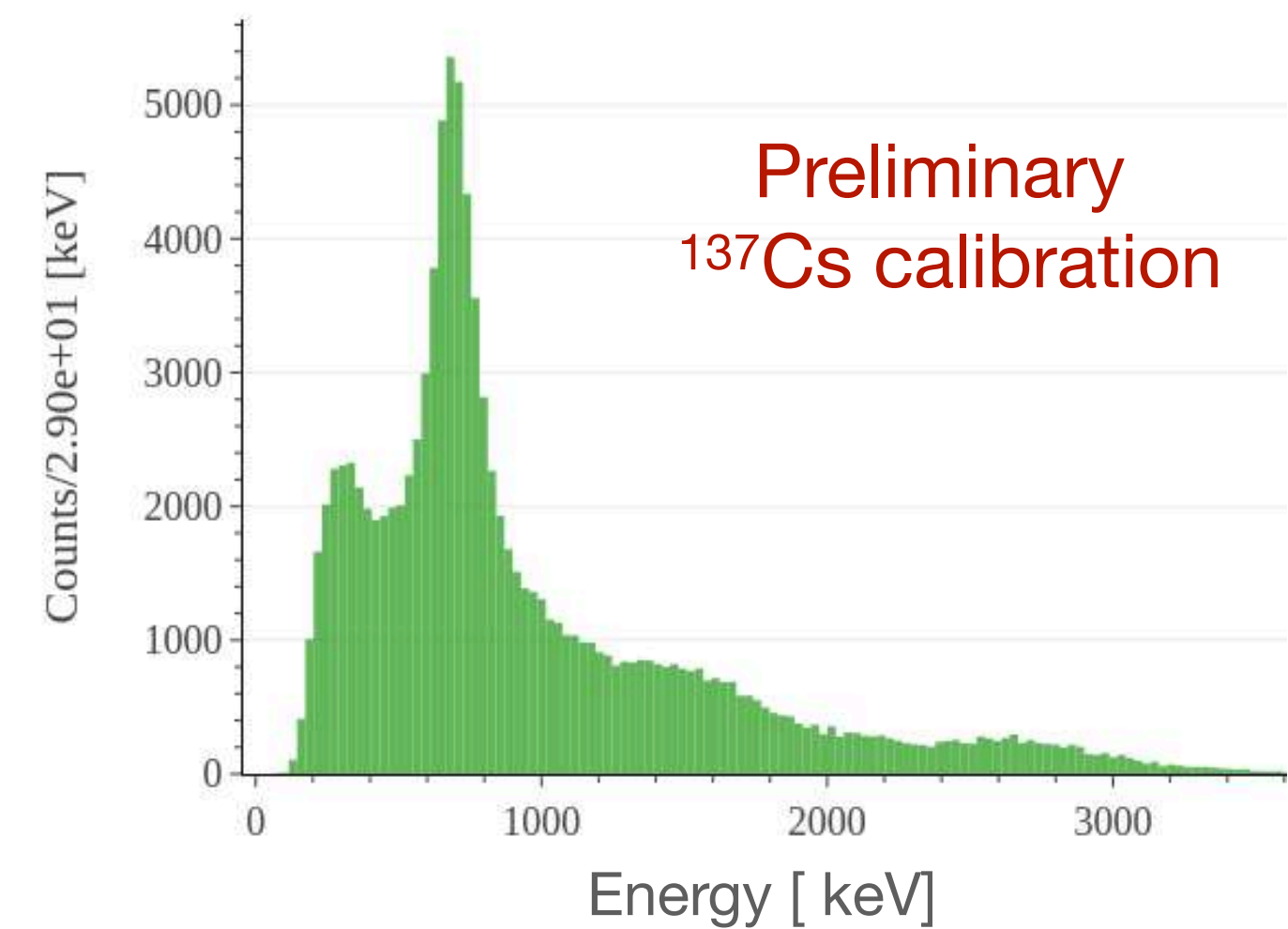
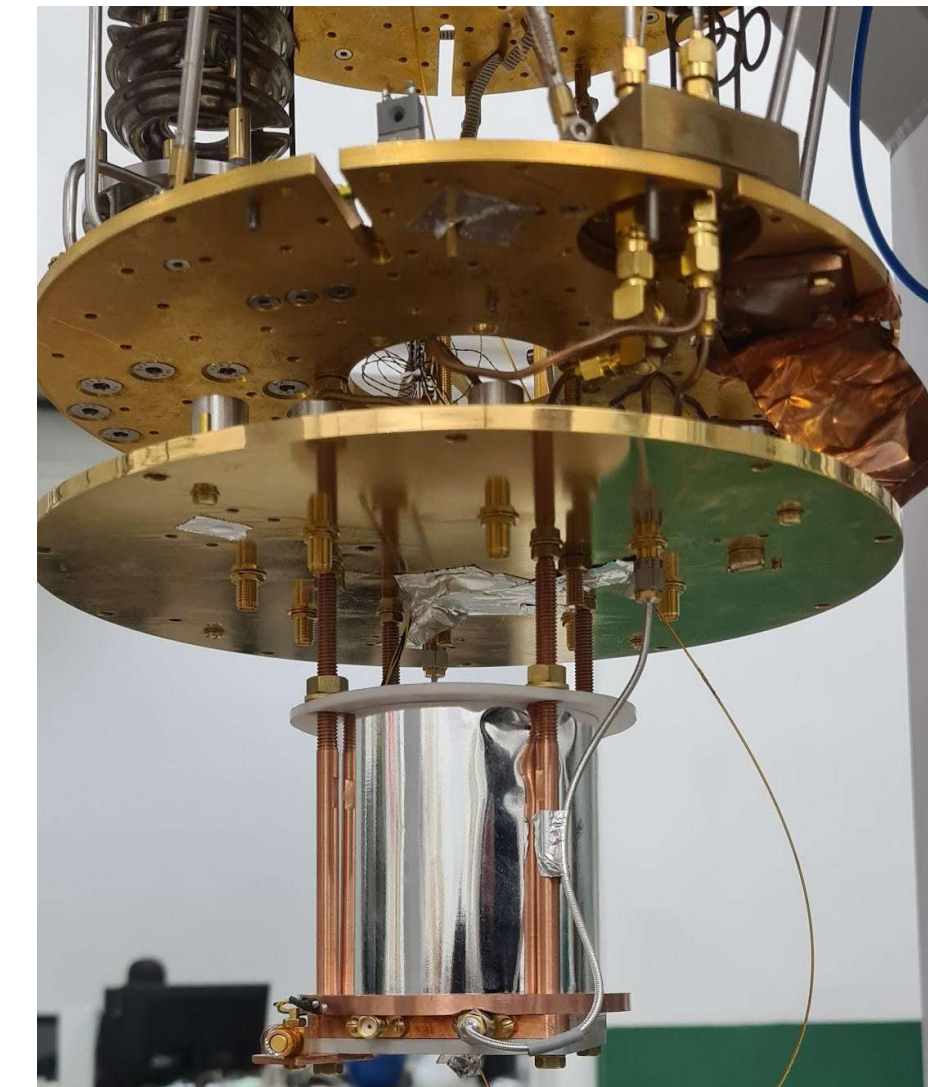
CALDER KID Light detector



BGO Crystal



Assembly with reflector



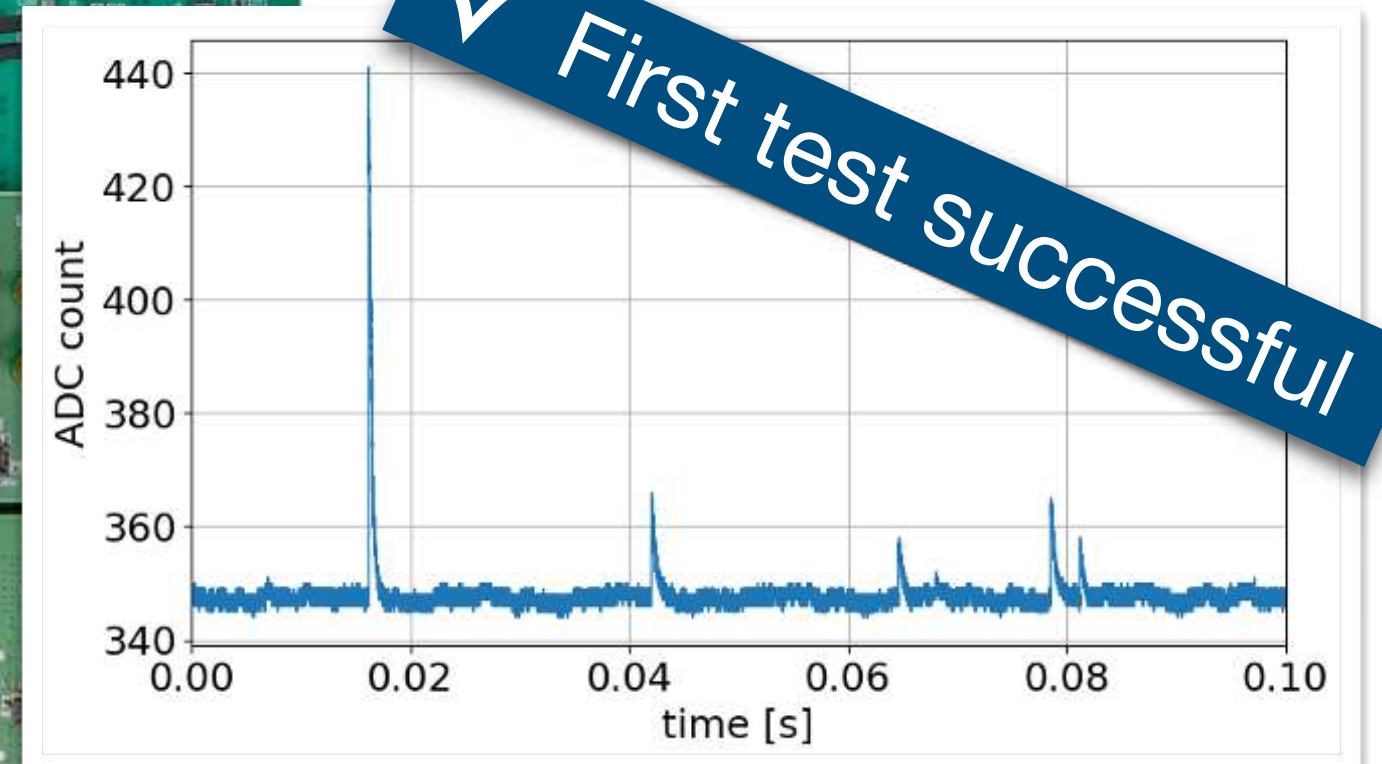
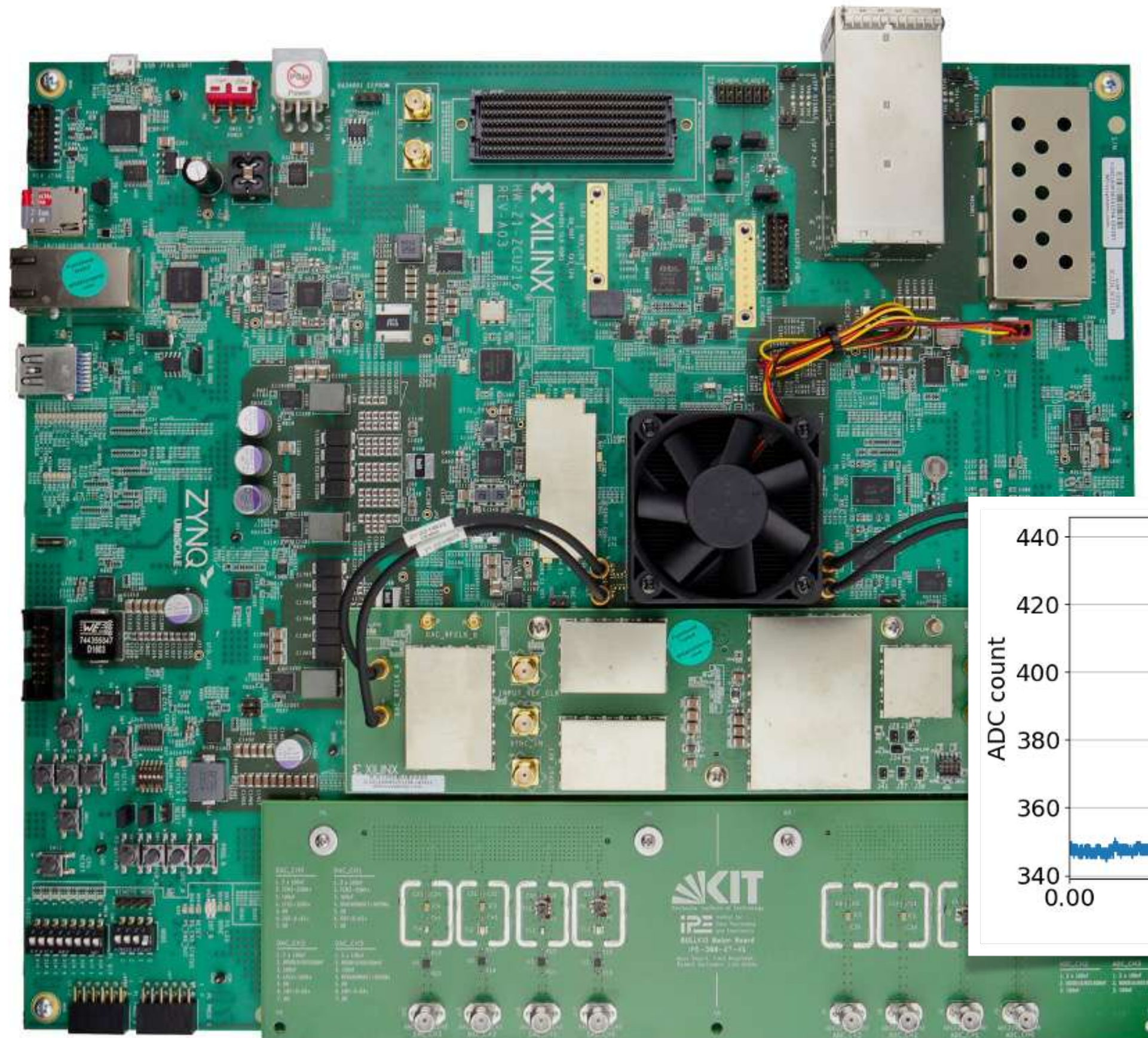


# RF Electronics

Current electronics (Ettus x310):  
**30 KIDs / line**

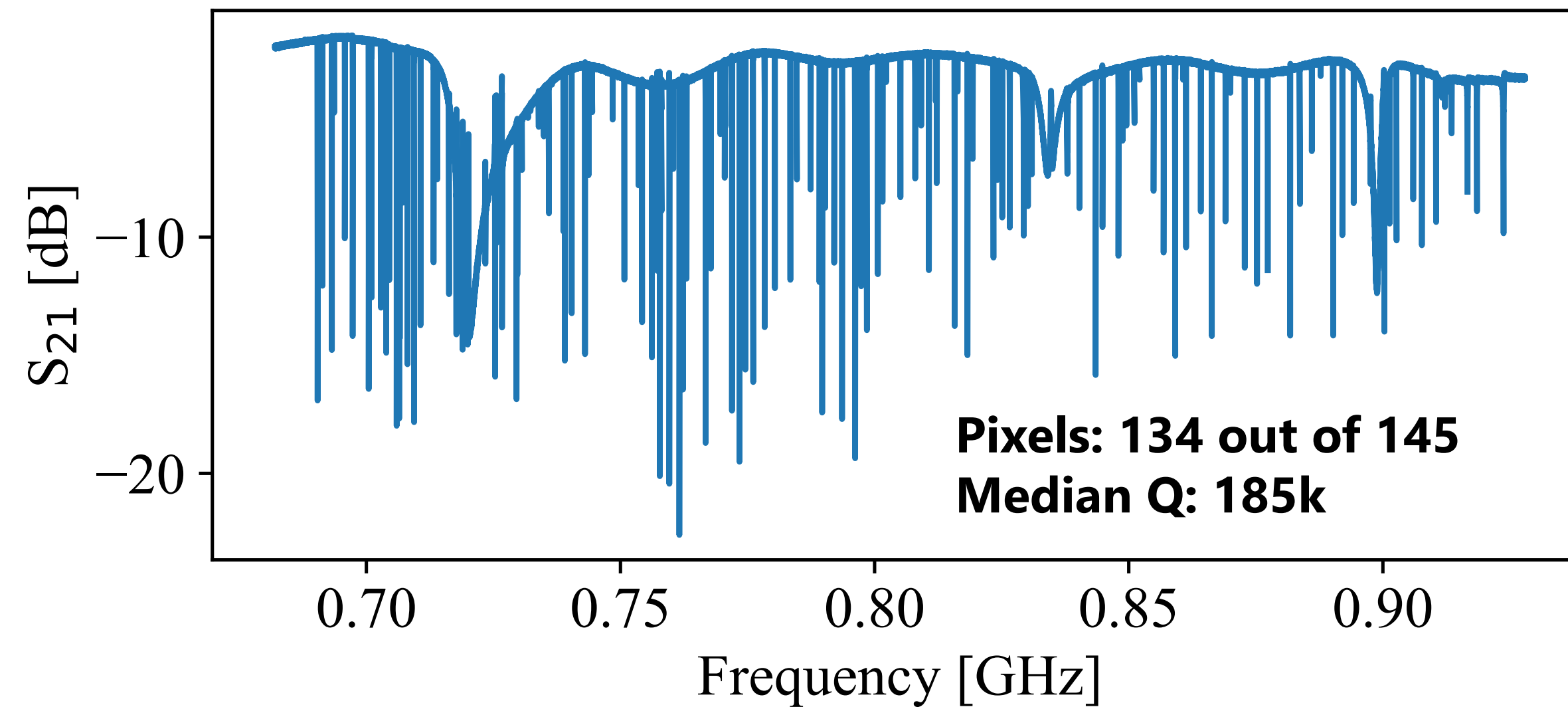
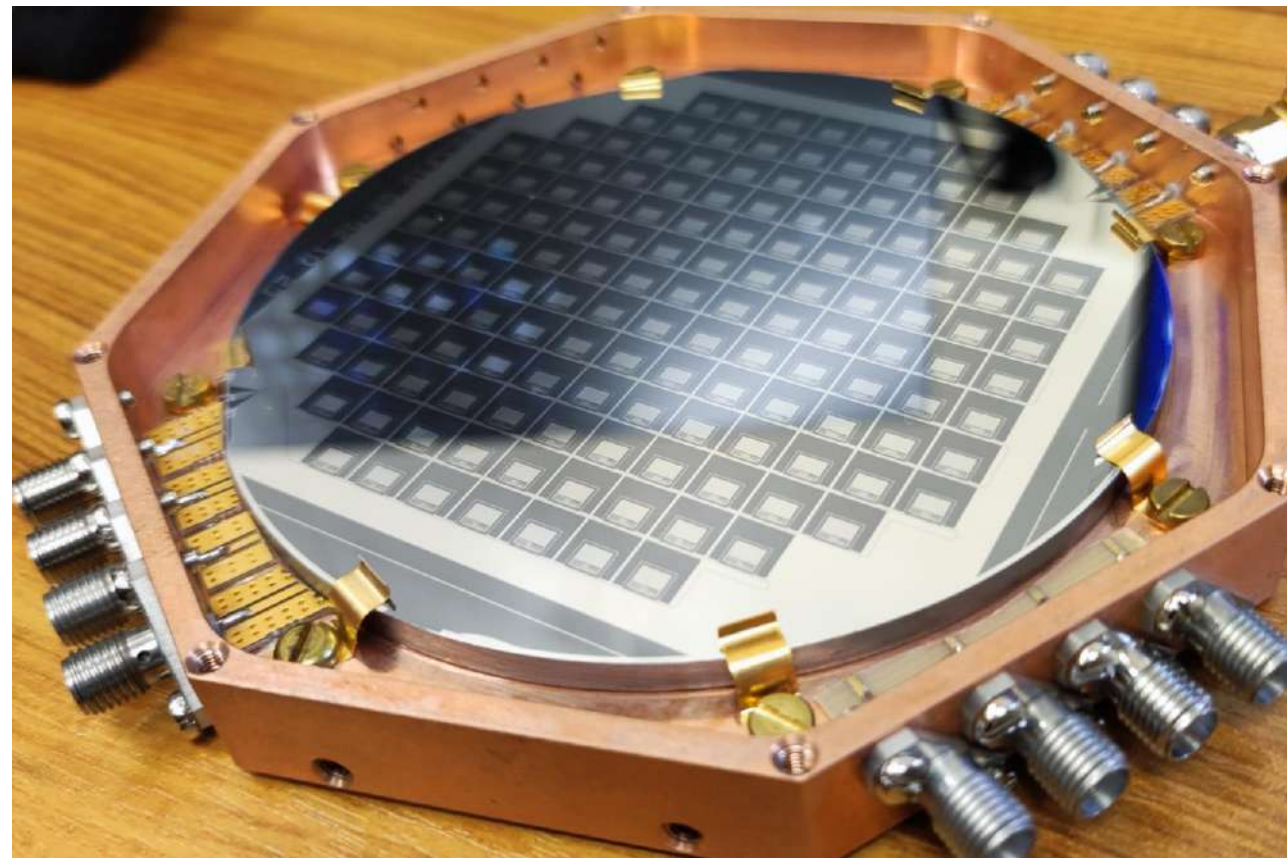
New electronics (ZCU216 Evaluation Board with 16 lines):  
**Goal  $\geq 150$  KIDs / line**

- Custom Analog Front-End and
- Control Firmware by the KIT group
- **Status: first tests on BULLKID-prototype**

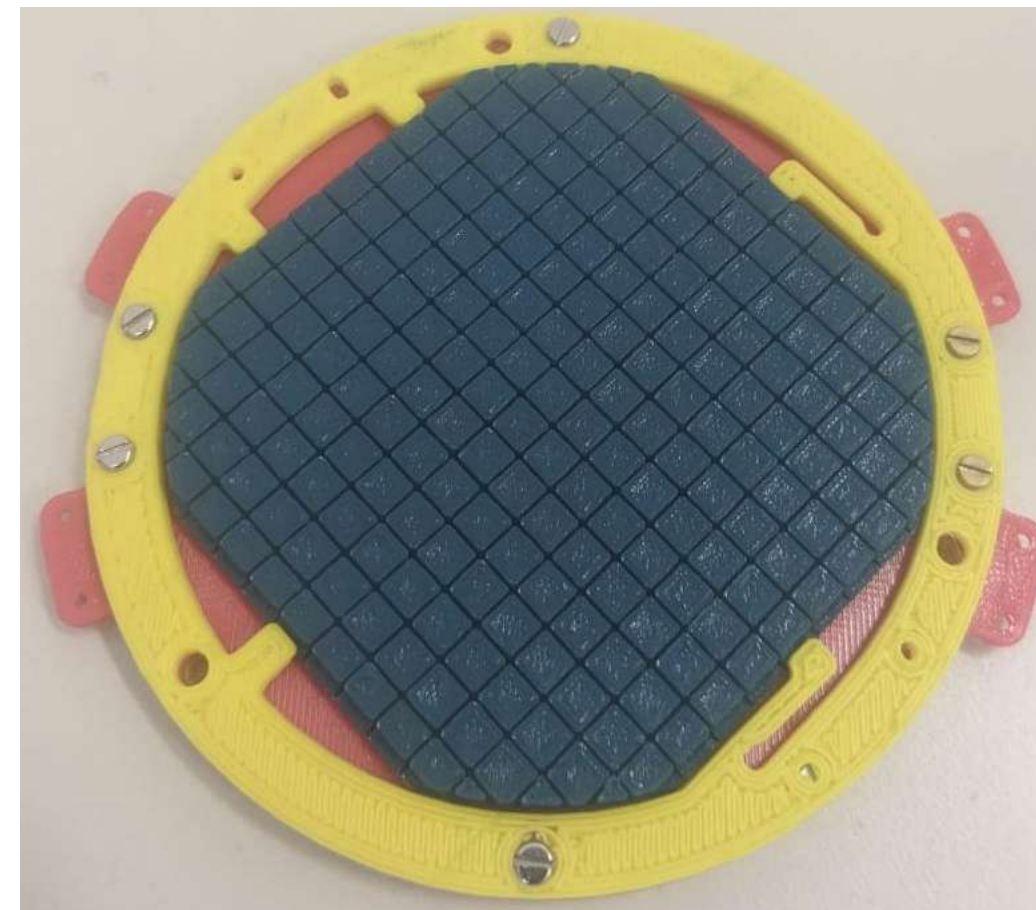
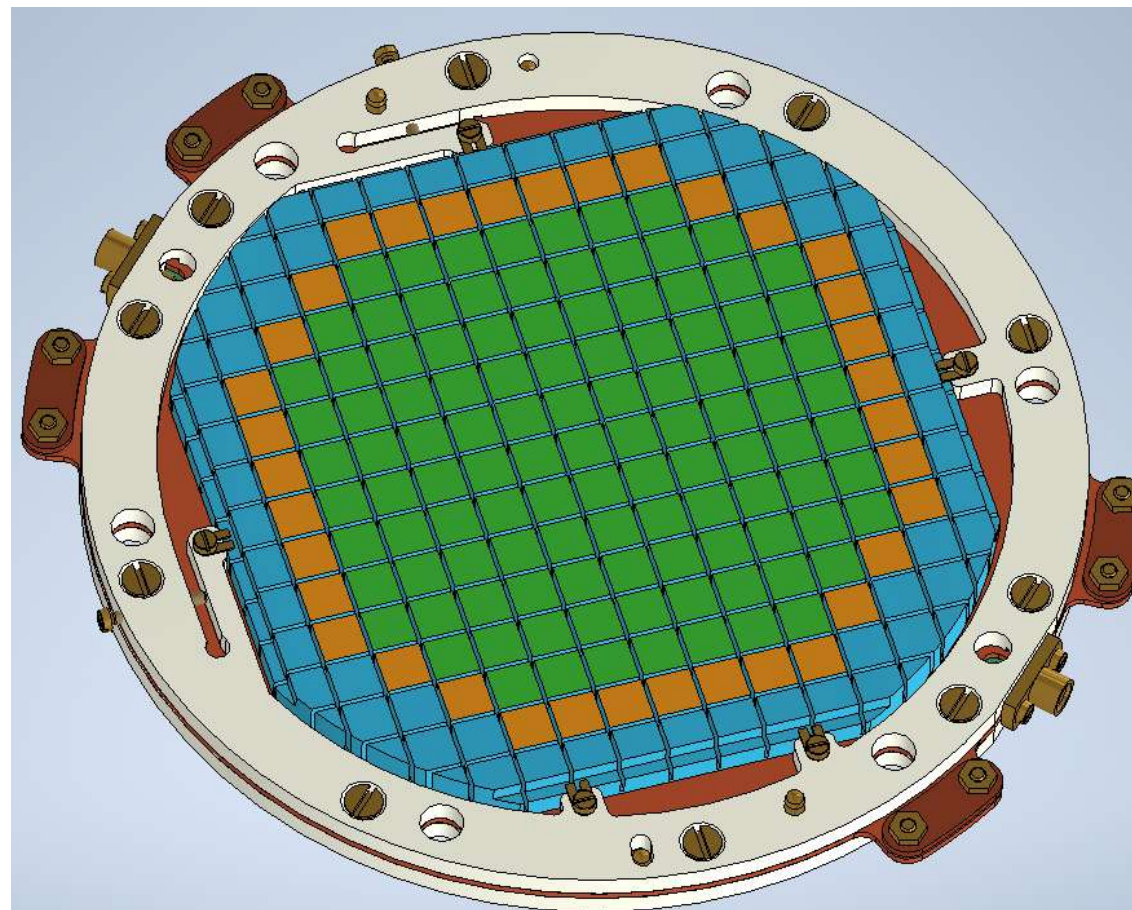


# Status of 100 mm wafers

145 KID array test on thin (0.3 mm) wafer successful



Assembly under development



5 mm wafer grooved successful



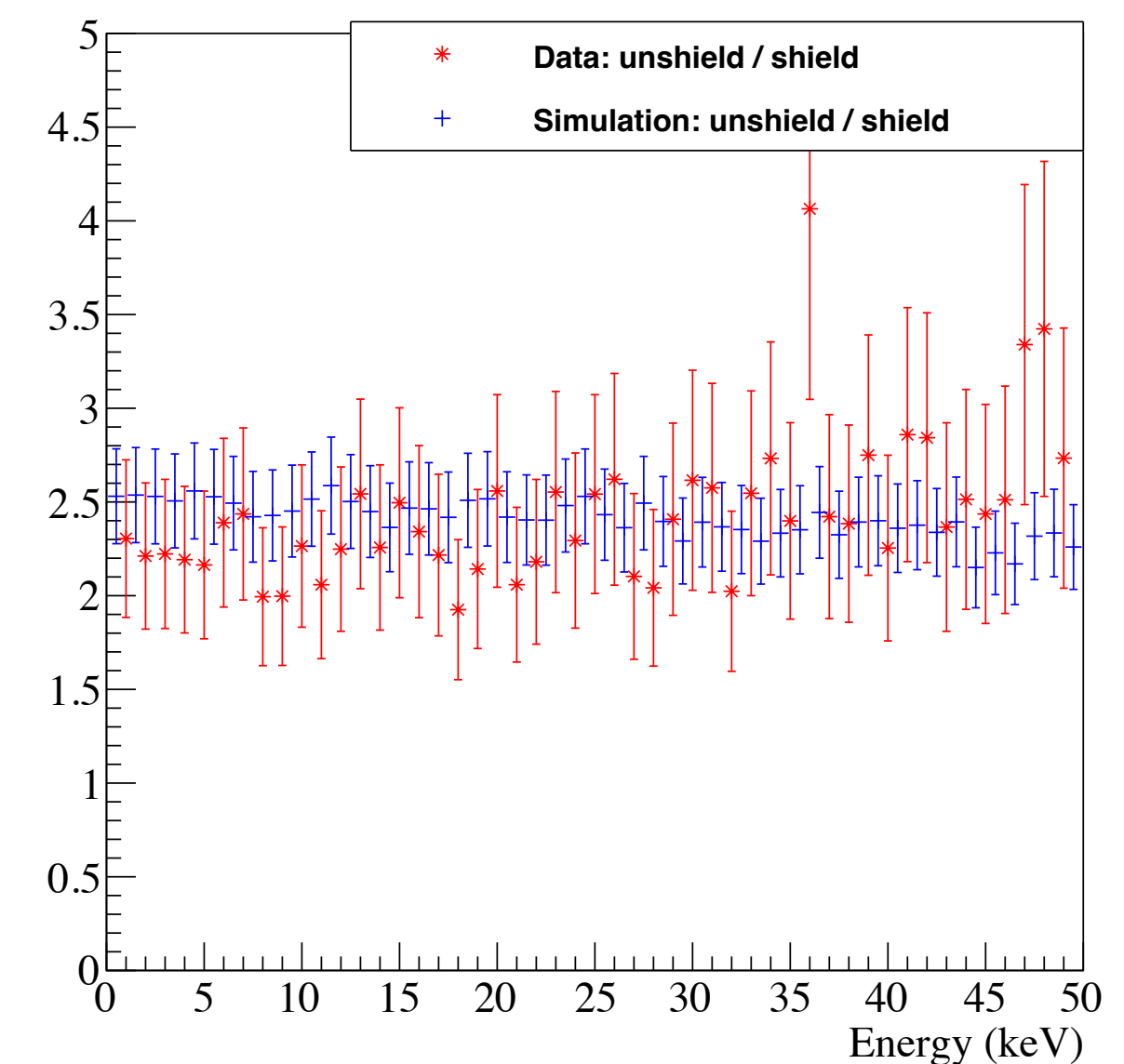
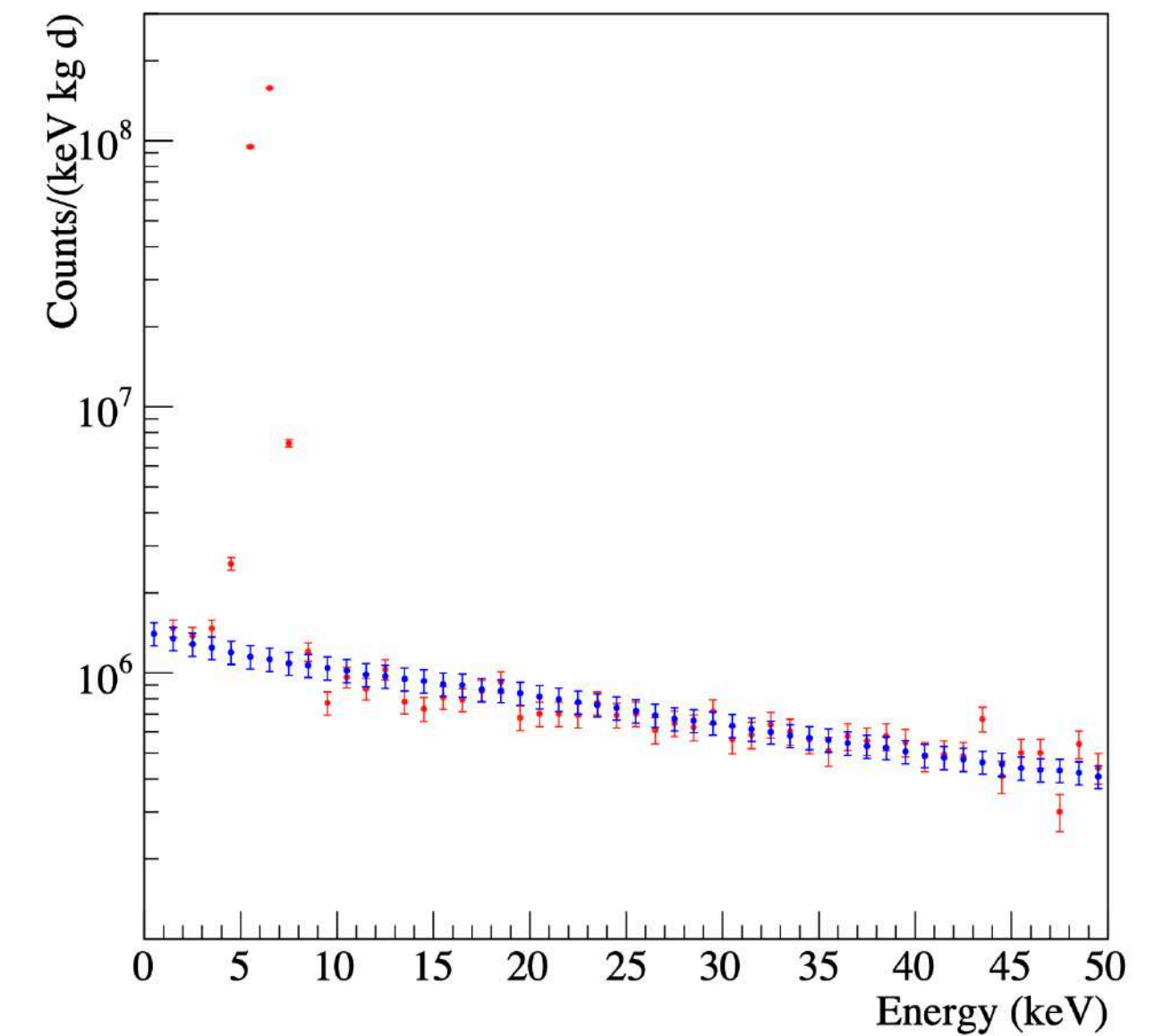
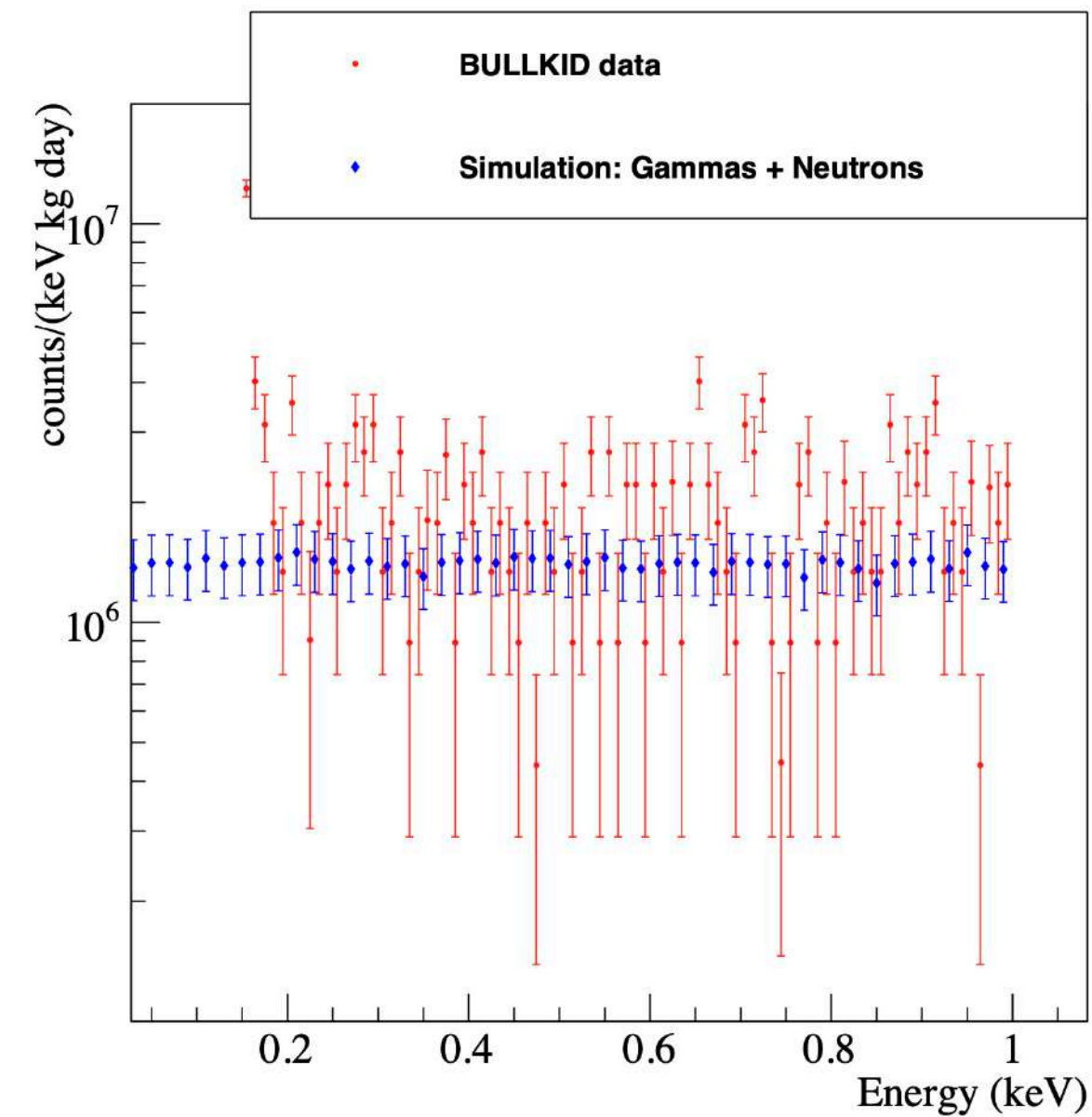
# Simulations: validation on Sapienza setup

Gammas (99%) and neutrons (1%) measured and used as input for the simulation

Agreement over wide energy range observed

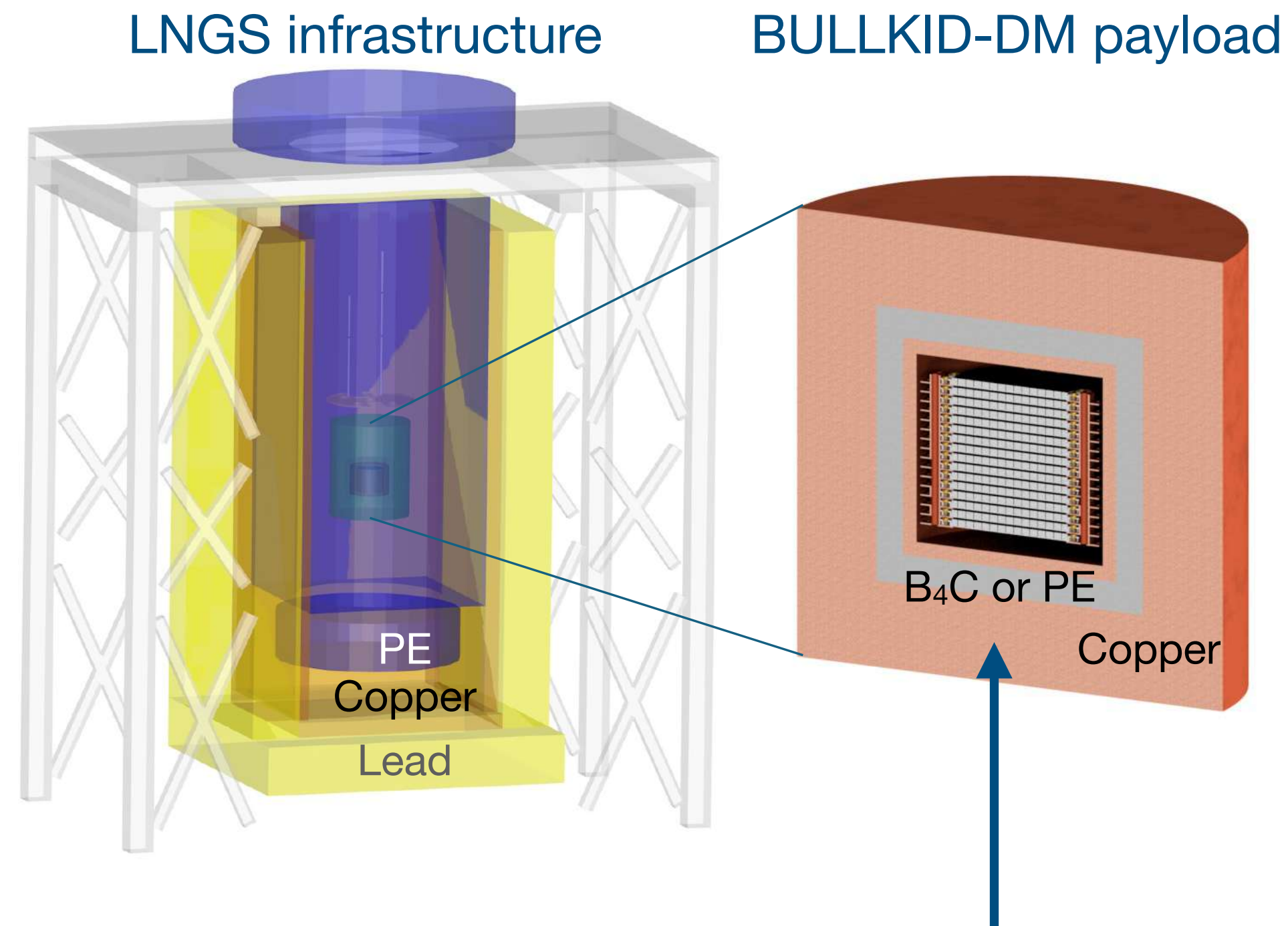
Mild lead shield added

Reduction of the background agrees with simulations

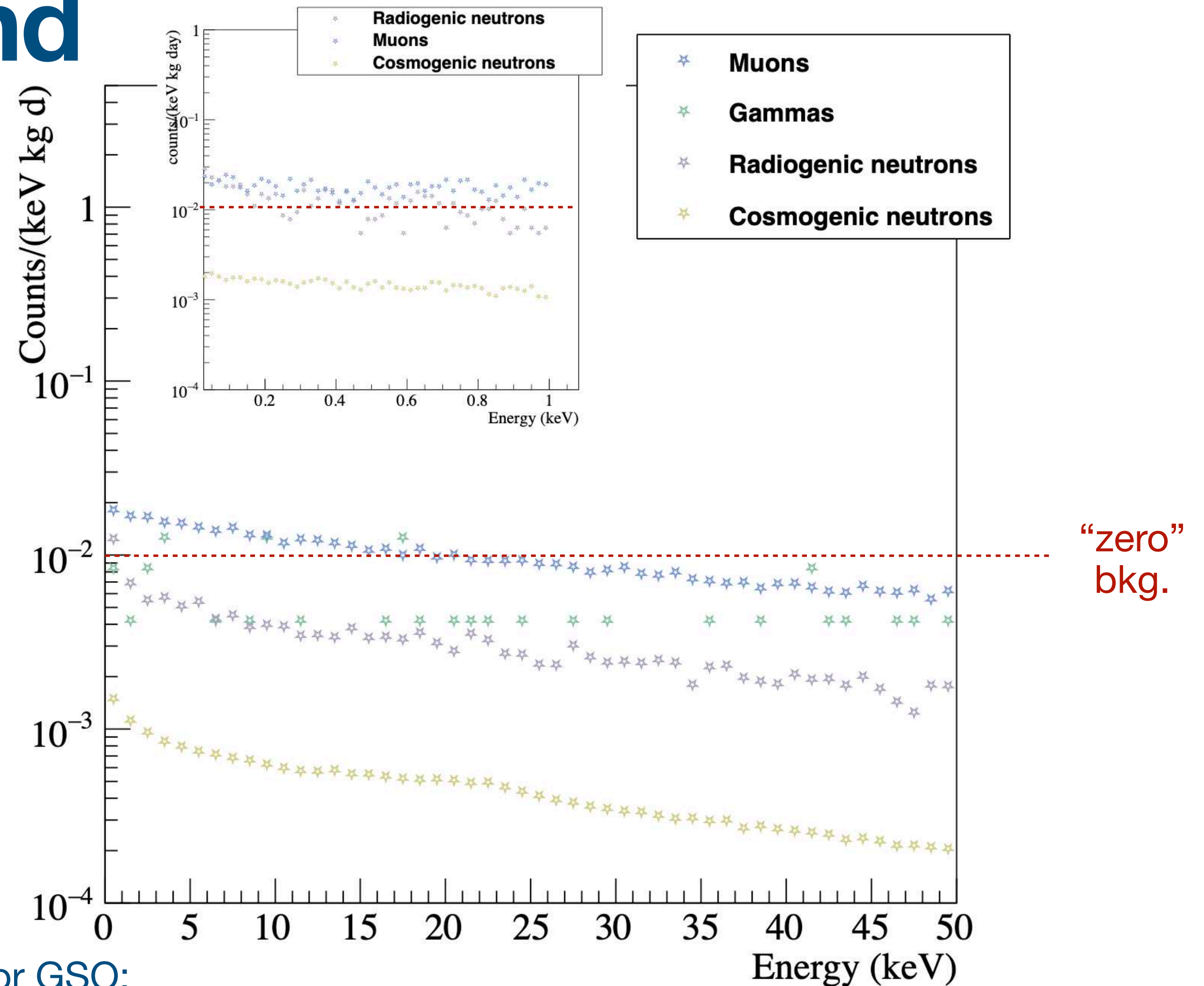


# Projected background

muons, gammas and neutrons from:  
 Astropart. Phys. 33 (2010) 169,  
 Phys. Rev. D 73 (2006) 053004,  
 Eur. Phys. J. A 41 (2009) 155,  
 Astropart. Phys. 22 (2004) 313.



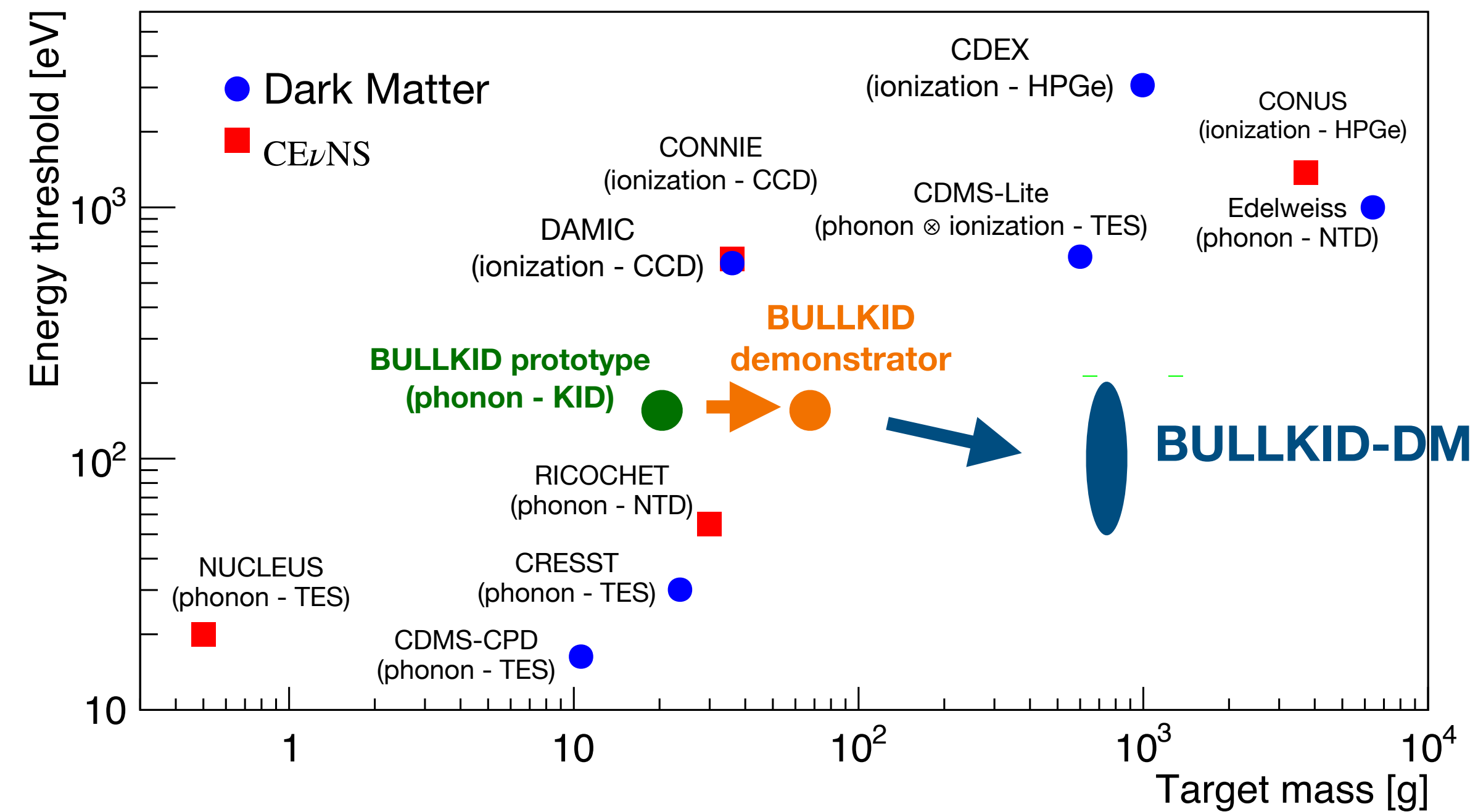
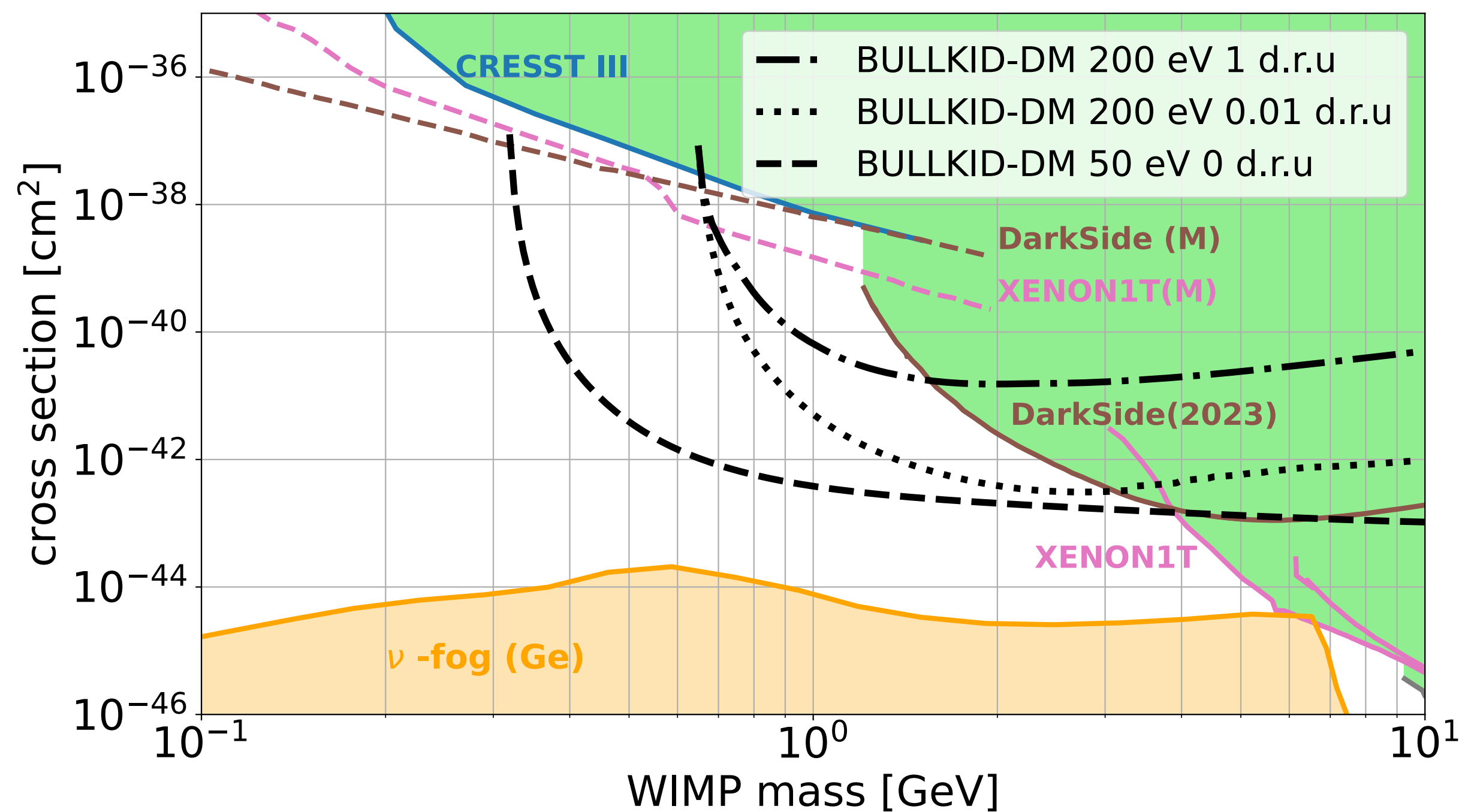
Replacing this with an active veto of BGO or GSO:  
 Background  $\sim 10^{-3}$  counts/(keV kg d)



Currently working on internal  
 contaminations in lead and veto

# Dark Matter - direct search with BULLKID-DM

	BULLKID prototype	BULLKID-DM demonstrator		BULLKID-DM
mass	20 g	60 g		800 g
# of sensors	60	180		2300
threshold	160 eV	200 eV		$\leq 200$ eV
bkg (c/keV kg d)	$2 \times 10^6$	$< 10^5$		1 - 0.01
laboratory	Sapienza U.	Sapienza	LNGS	LNGS
installation	2023	2024	2026	2027



# Future sensitivities

