

第一届中微子、原子核物理和新物理研讨会(ν NN2025)

Neutrinoless Double beta decay with PandaX

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For the PandaX Collaboration

2025/7/23

1. Introduction to PandaX and liquid xenon TPC

2. PandaX-4T

1. ^{134}Xe $2\nu\beta\beta$ ($0\nu\beta\beta$) results
2. ^{136}Xe $0\nu\beta\beta$ limits
3. ^{136}Xe decay to excited states and ^{124}Xe double electron capture

3. Future: PandaX-xT

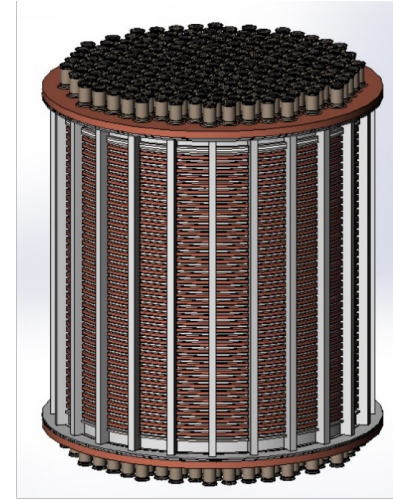
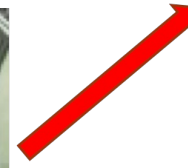
PandaX: Particle and astrophysical Xenon Experiment



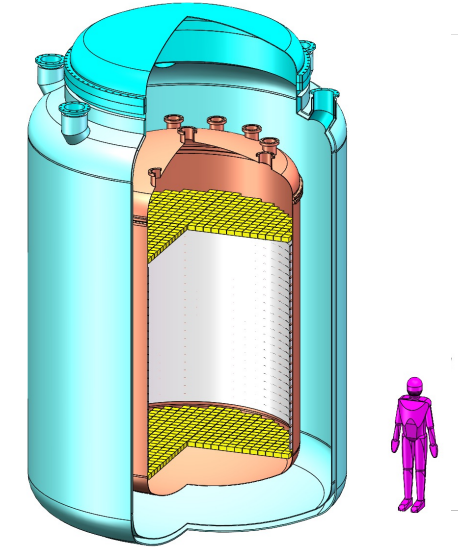
PandaX-I: 120kg
LXe (2009 – 2014)



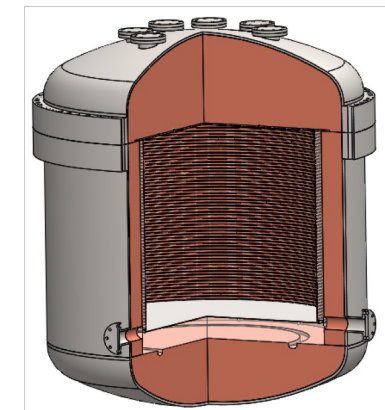
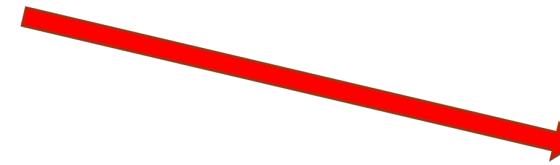
PandaX-II: 500kg
LXe (2014 – 2018)



PandaX-4T LXe
(2020-)

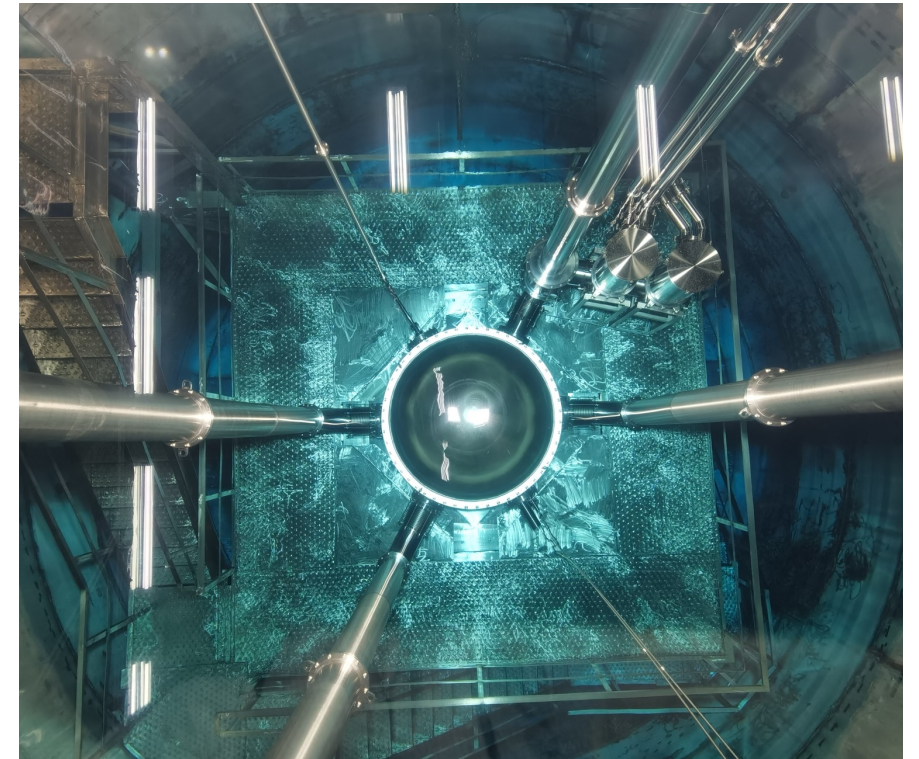
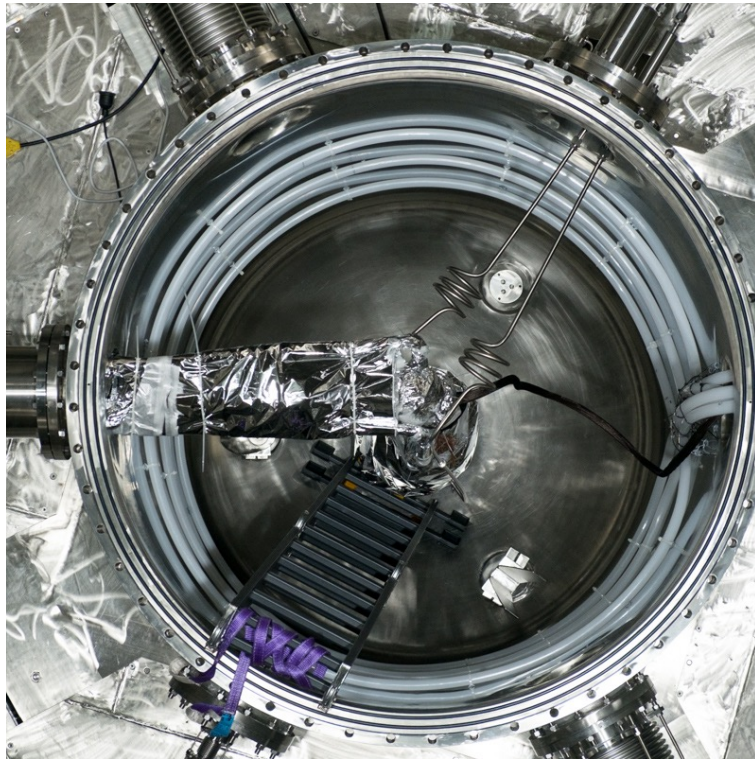


PandaX-xT LXe
(future)



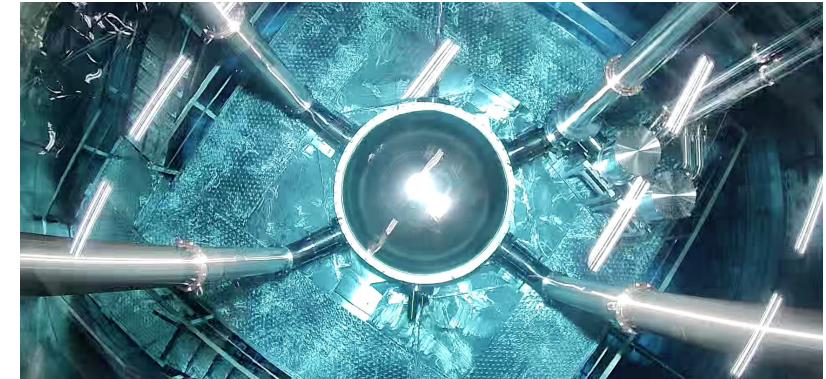
PandaX-III: 100kg - 1 ton
HPXe for $0\nu\beta\beta$ (future)

- A multi-ton dual-phase xenon TPC at B2 hall of China Jinping Underground Laboratory
- 1.2 m (D) \times 1.2 m (H); Sensitive volume: 3.7-ton LXe; 3-inch PMTs: 169 top / 199 bottom
- Water shielding



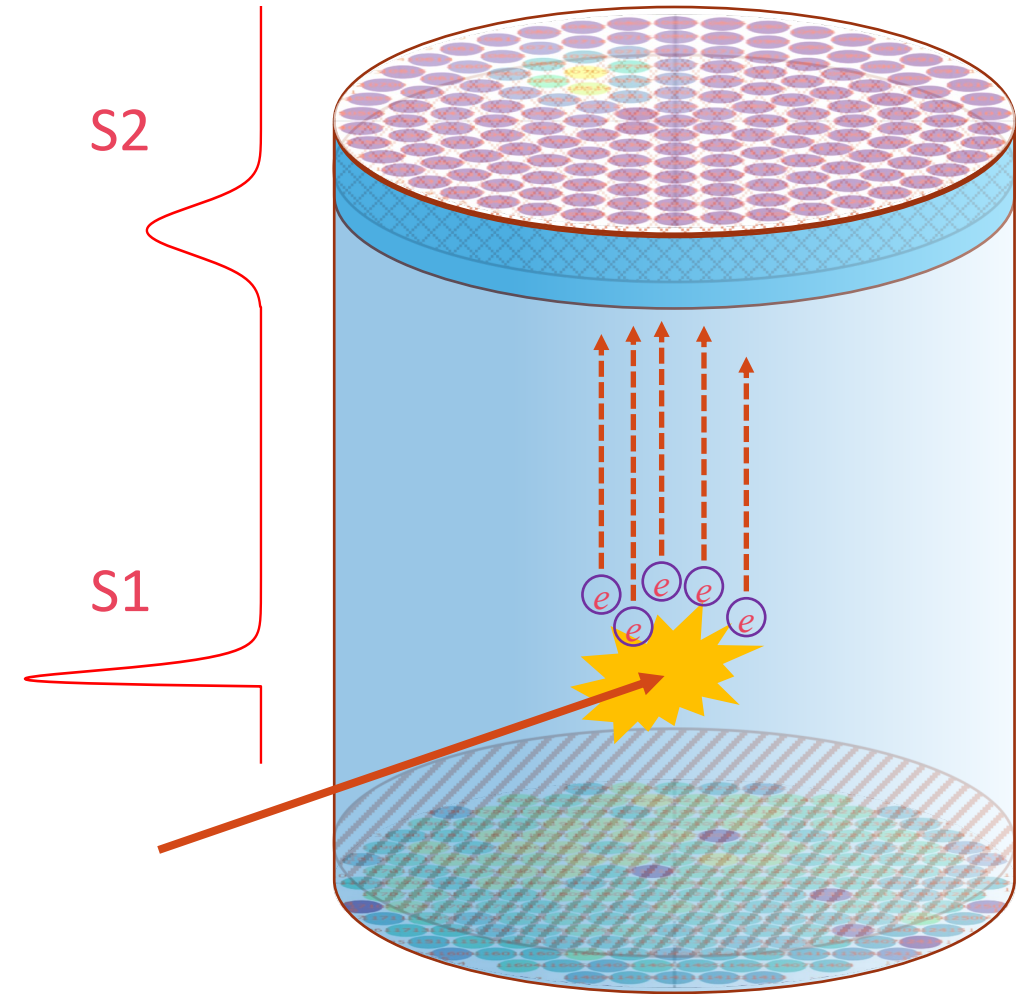
PandaX-4T timeline

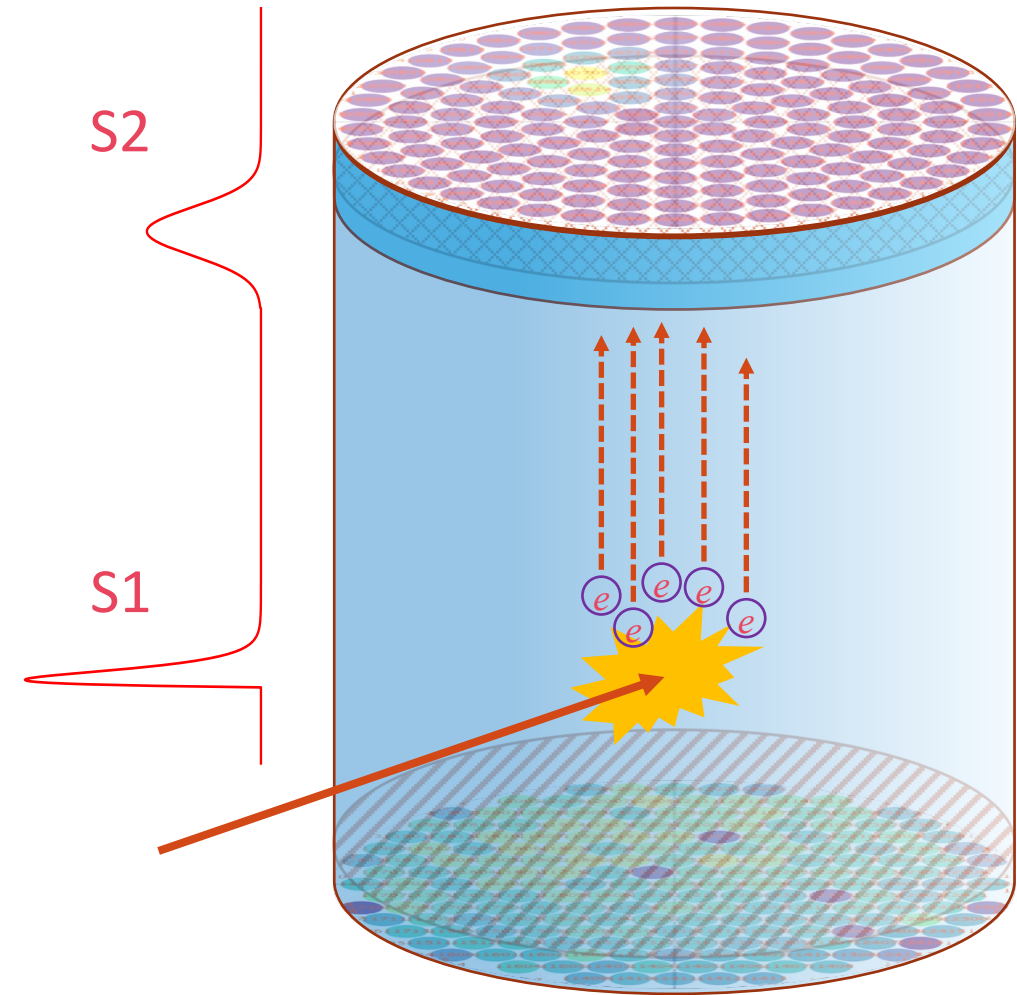
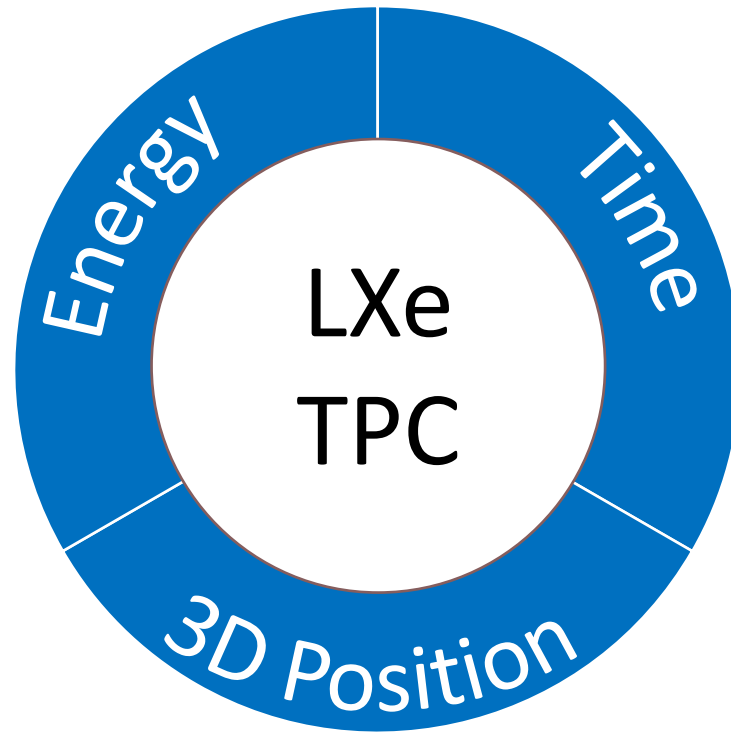
2020/11 – 2021/04	Commissioning (Run 0) 95 days data
2021/07 – 2021/10	Tritium removal xenon distillation, gas flushing, etc.
2021/11 – 2022/05	Physics run (Run 1) 164 days data
2022/09 – 2023/12	CJPL B2 hall construction xenon recuperation, detector upgrade
Detector is taking Run 2 data	

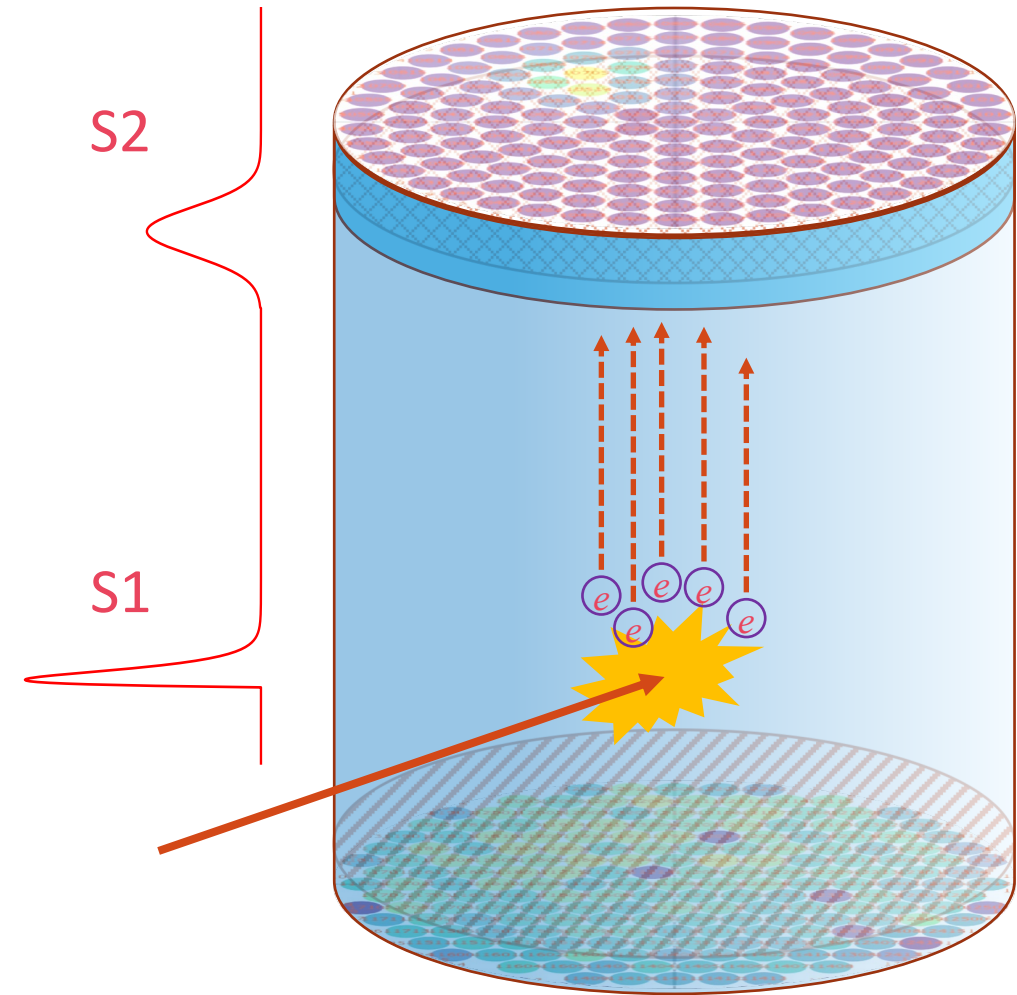
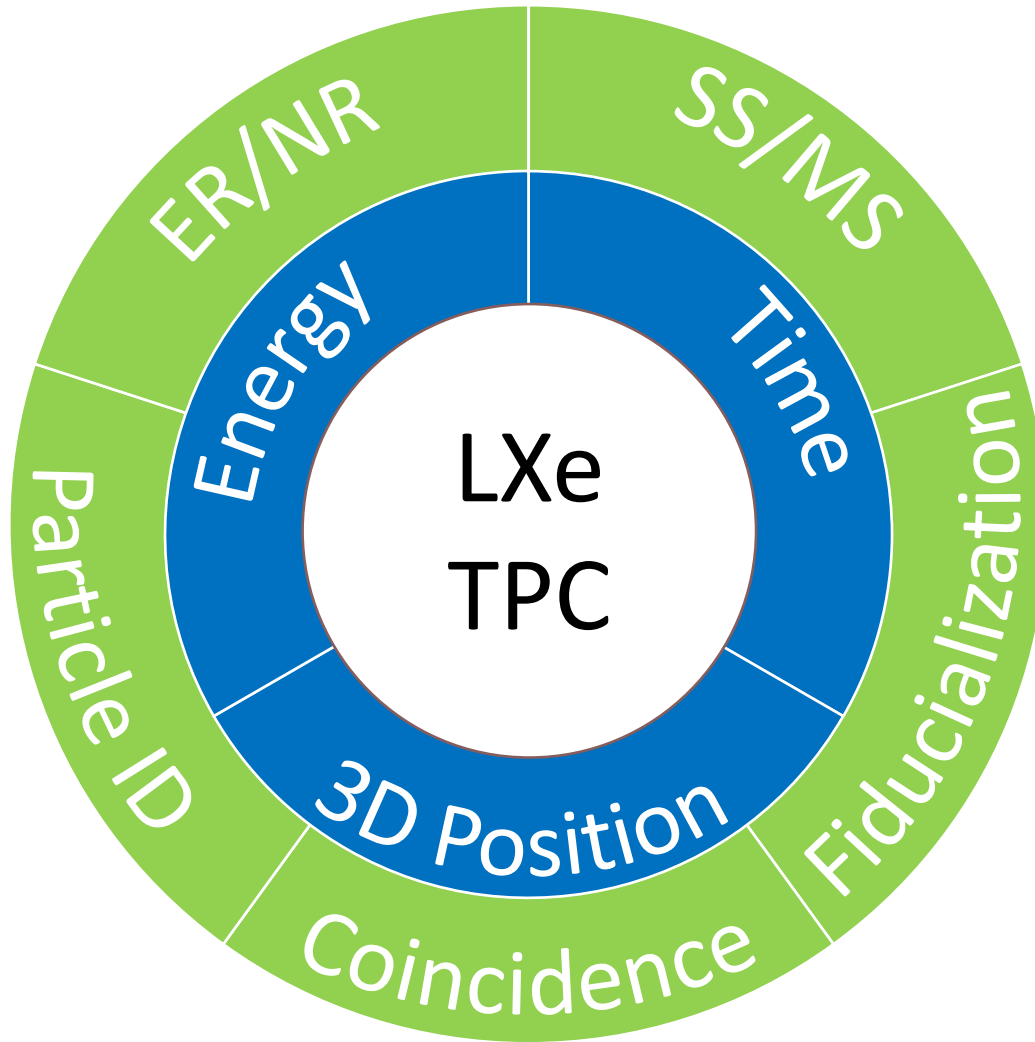


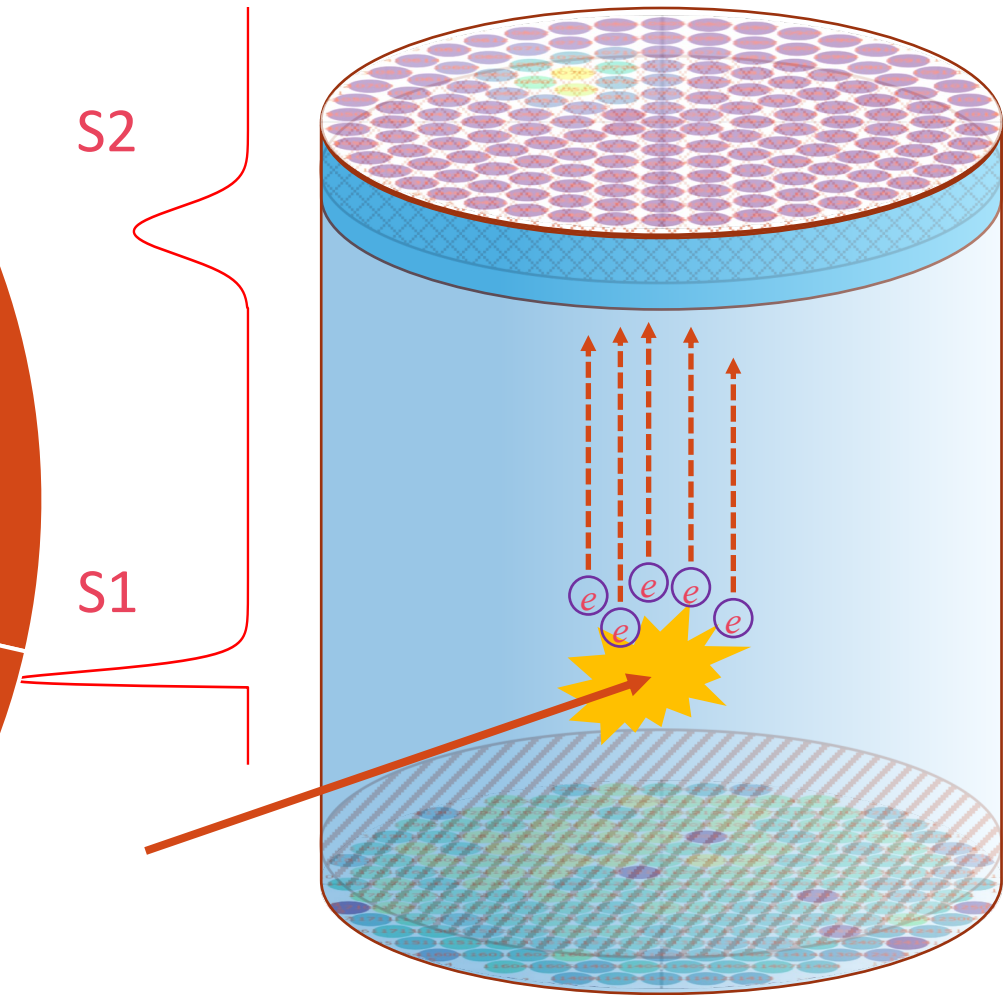
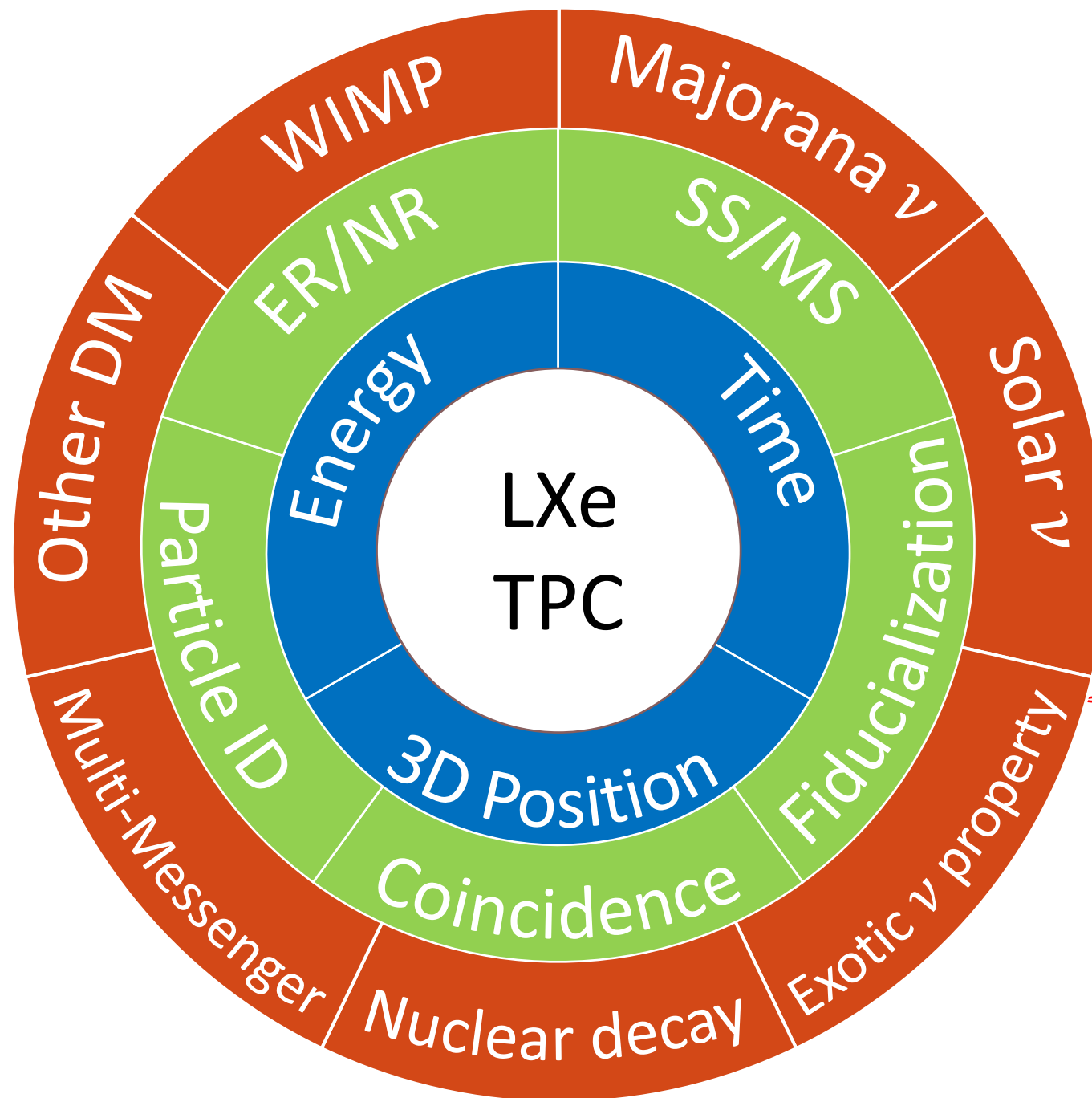
Liquid Xenon Time Projection Chamber (LXe TPC)

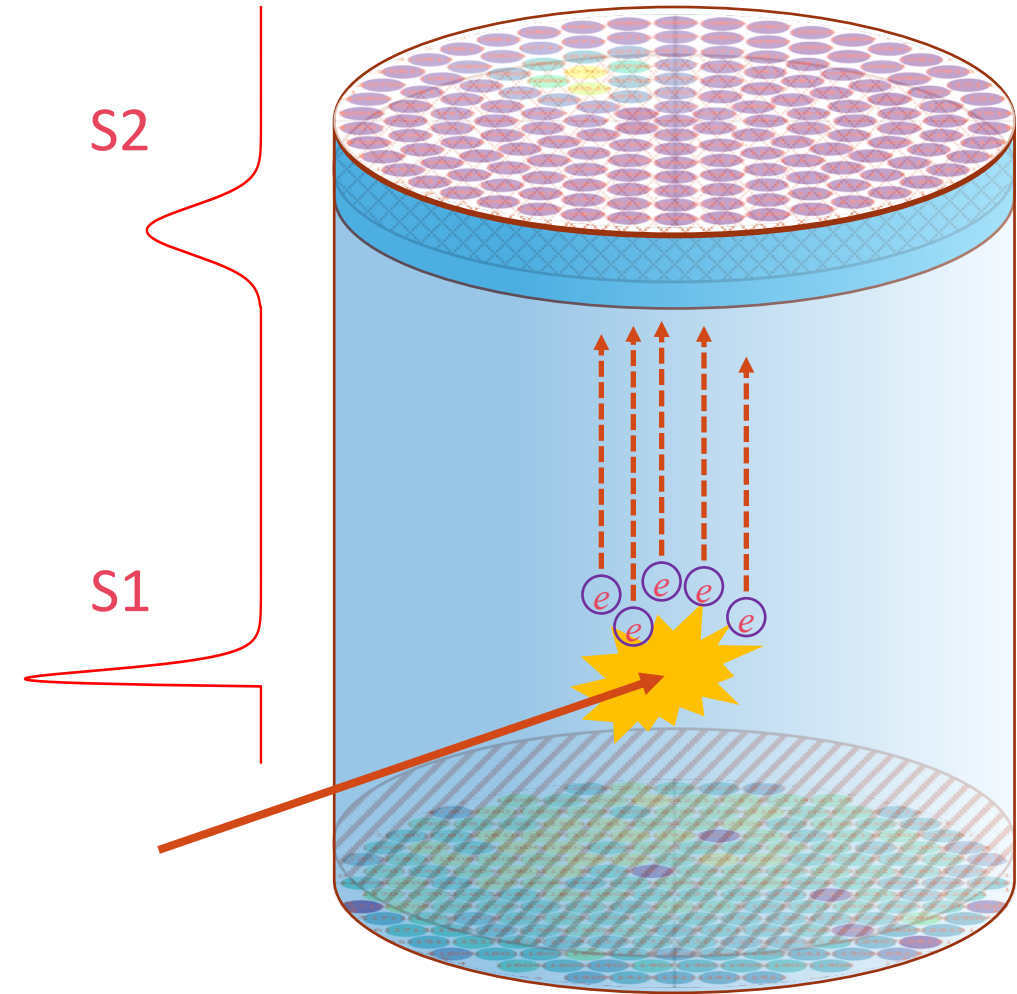
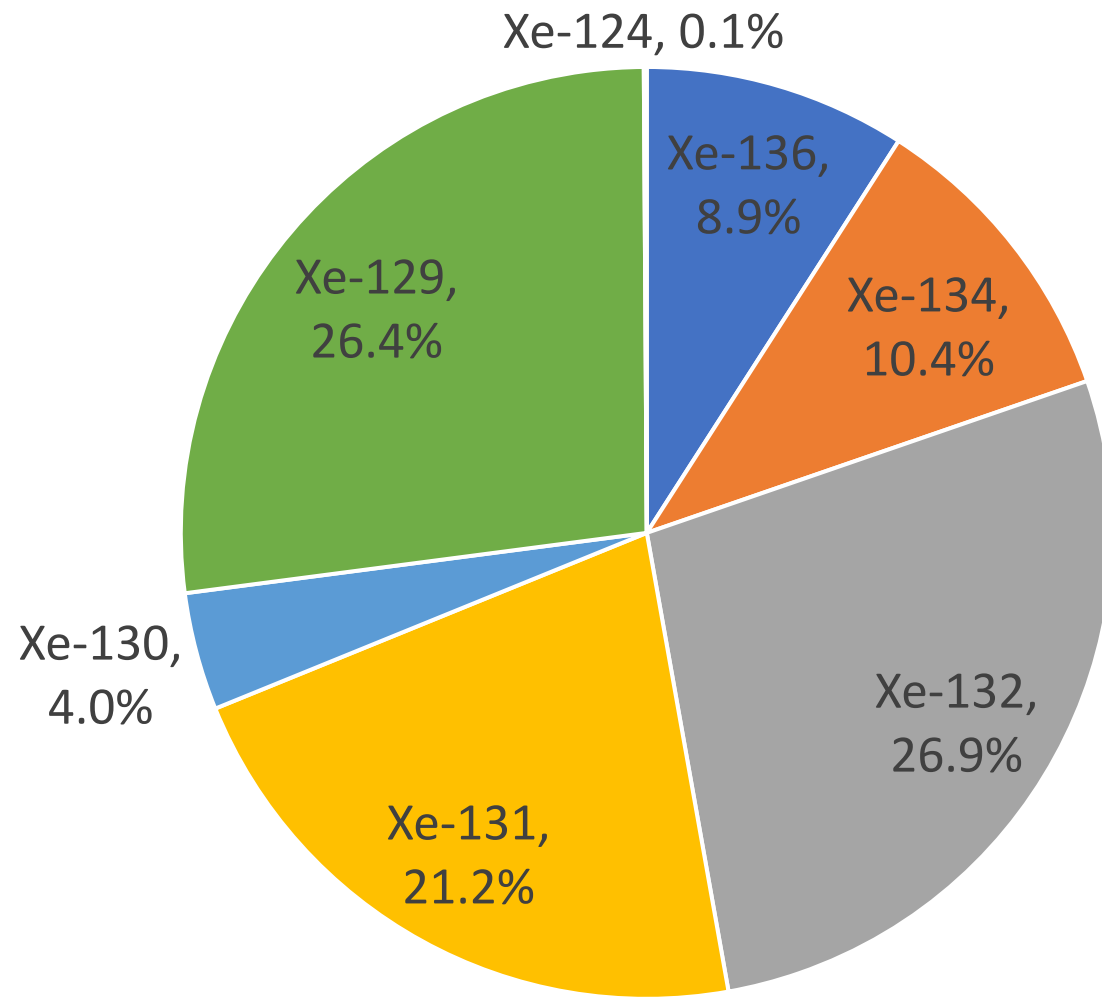
- Prompt scintillation signal (S1) followed by drift electron signal (S2)
- Measures the 3D position, energy, and time
- Nuclear Recoil (NR) and electron recoil (ER) discrimination
- Single-site (SS) and multi-site (MS) event discrimination
- Large monolithic target: High signal efficiency and effective self-shielding
- LXe TPC as a Total-Absorption 5D Calorimeter











PandaX Analysis in MHE region

^{136}Xe DBD

^{134}Xe DBD

^{124}Xe 2nDEC

^{124}Xe 0nDEC

Full range ER spectrum: exotic BSM physics, nuclear physics

keV

10 keV

100 keV

1 MeV

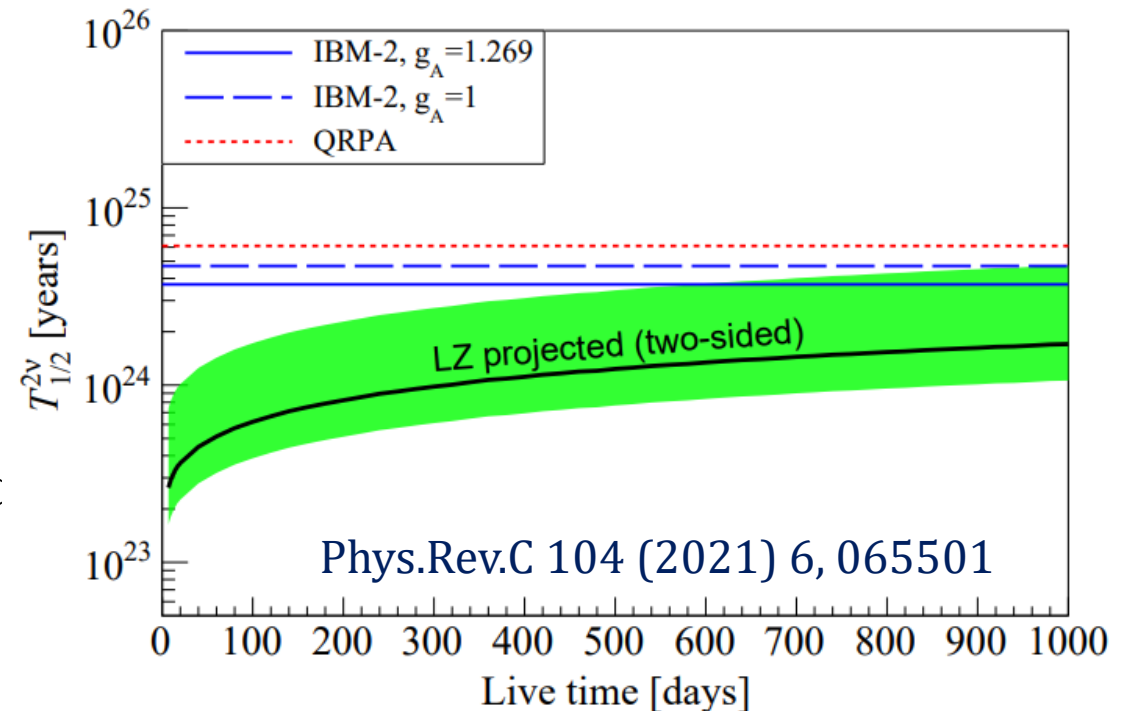
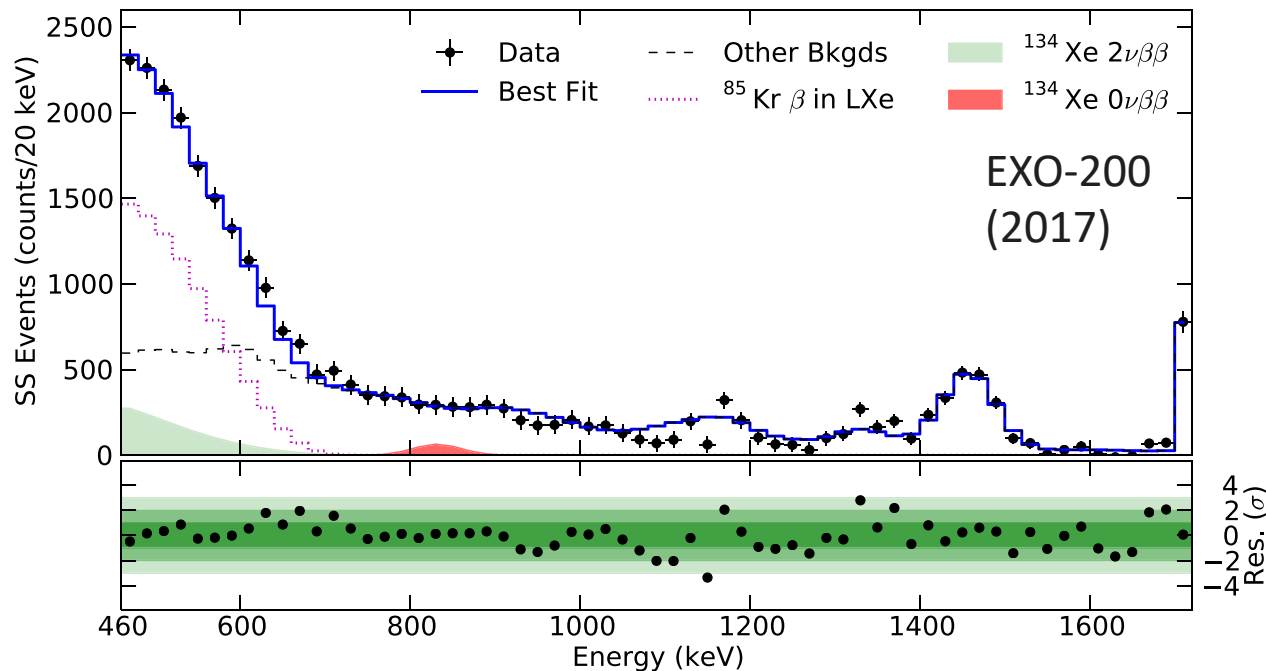
Solar ^8B neutrino

WIMP and other
dark matter

Existing Analysis at low energy

^{134}Xe $2\nu\beta\beta$ and $0\nu\beta\beta$

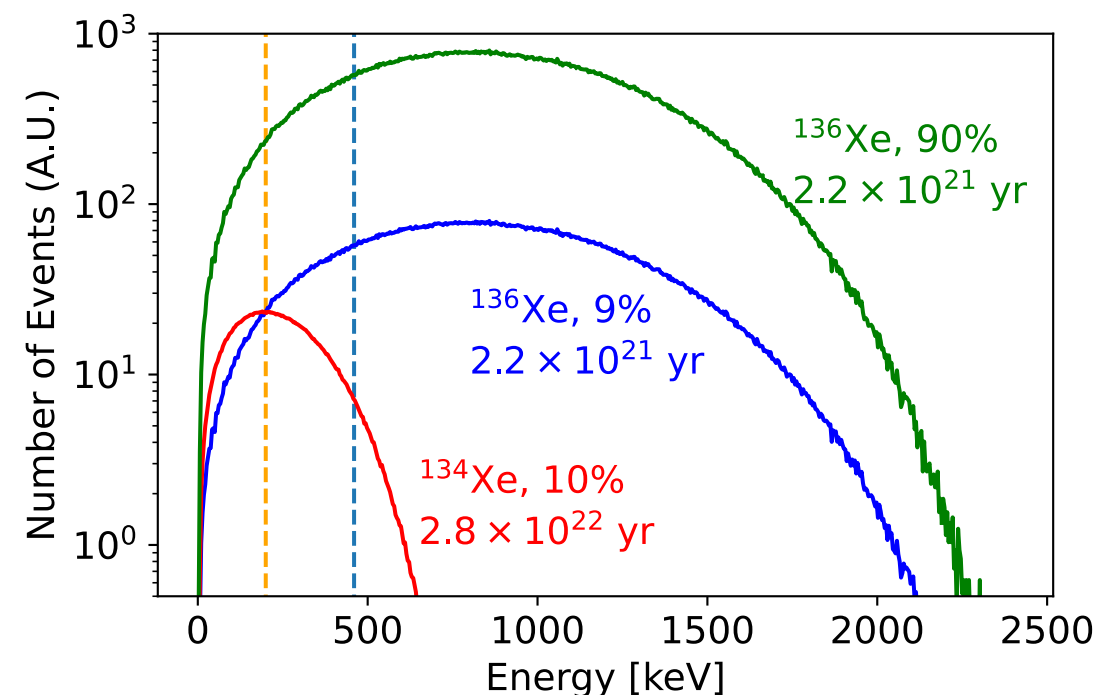
- $Q=826$ keV; Half-life from theoretical predictions: 10^{24} - 10^{25} yr; Never been observed
- Previous $2\nu\beta\beta$ ($0\nu\beta\beta$) half-life limit from EXO-200 : $T > 8.7 \times 10^{20}$ yr (1.1×10^{23} yr) at 90% CL
- Discovery within reach with a natural Xe TPC



^{134}Xe (0) $2\nu\beta\beta$ searches at PandaX-4T

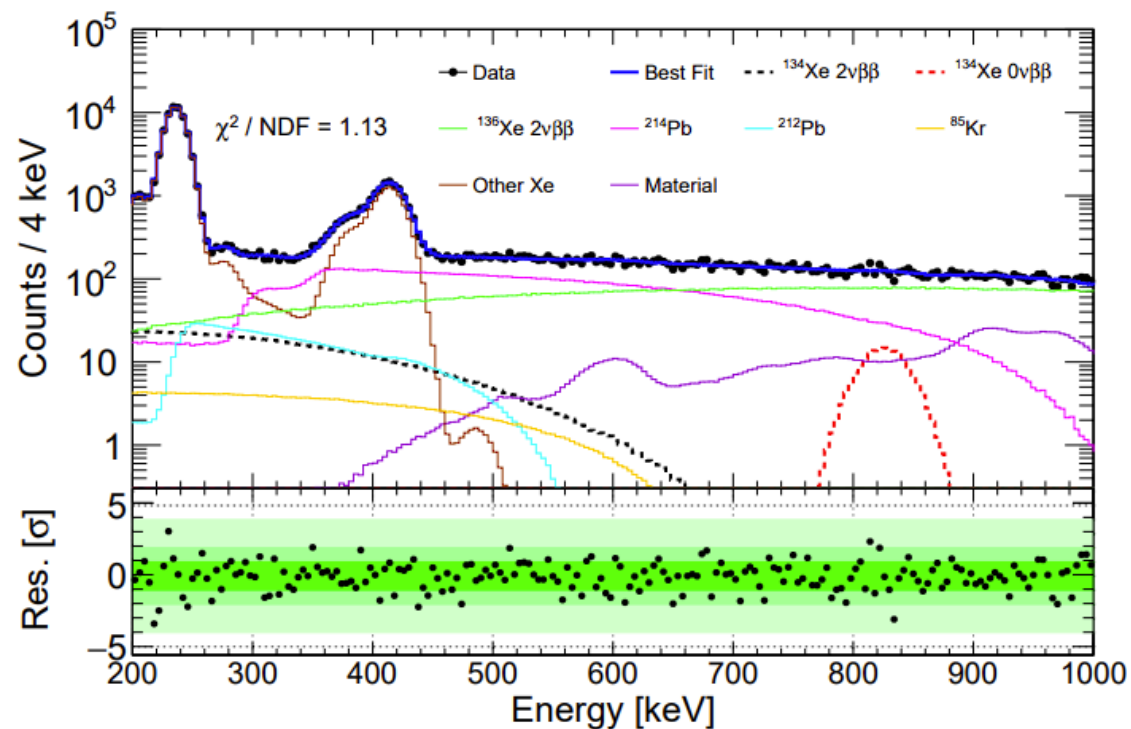
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- PandaX-4T: more ^{134}Xe ; much less ^{136}Xe ; wider energy range; discovery possible

	PandaX-4T	EXO-200
^{134}Xe mass	68.7 kg	18.1 kg
^{136}Xe abundance	8.90%	81%
Analysis threshold	200 keV	460 keV
Live Time	94.9 days	600 days

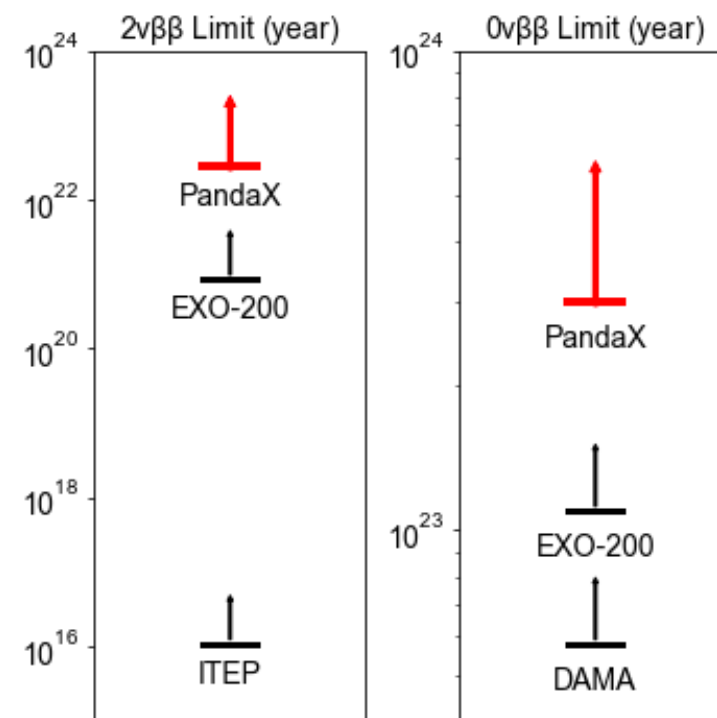


^{134}Xe half-life limits @ PandaX-4T

- Simultaneous fit for ^{134}Xe $2\nu\beta\beta$ and $0\nu\beta\beta$
- Final counts of $2\nu\beta\beta$ and $0\nu\beta\beta$: $10 \pm 269(\text{stat.}) \pm 680(\text{syst.})$ and $105 \pm 48(\text{stat.}) \pm 38(\text{syst.})$
- 90% CL lower limits on the half-life: $T_{1/2}^{2\nu\beta\beta} > 2.8 \cdot 10^{22}$ yr and $T_{1/2}^{0\nu\beta\beta} > 3.0 \cdot 10^{23}$ yr



PRL 132, 152502 (2024)



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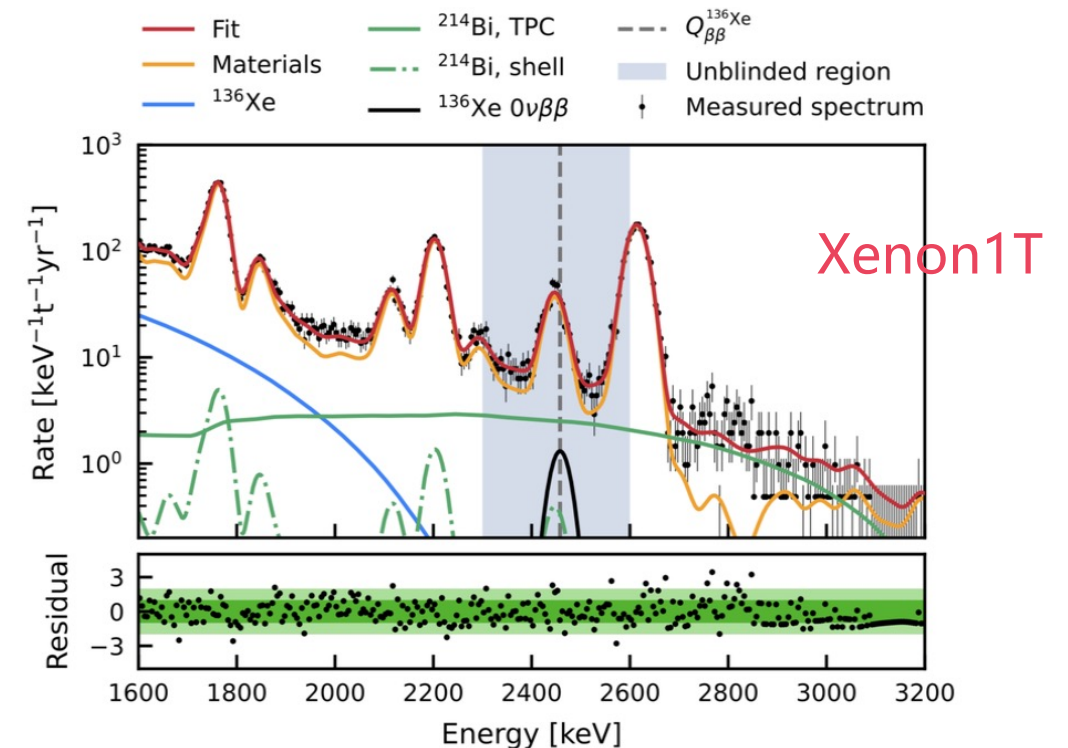
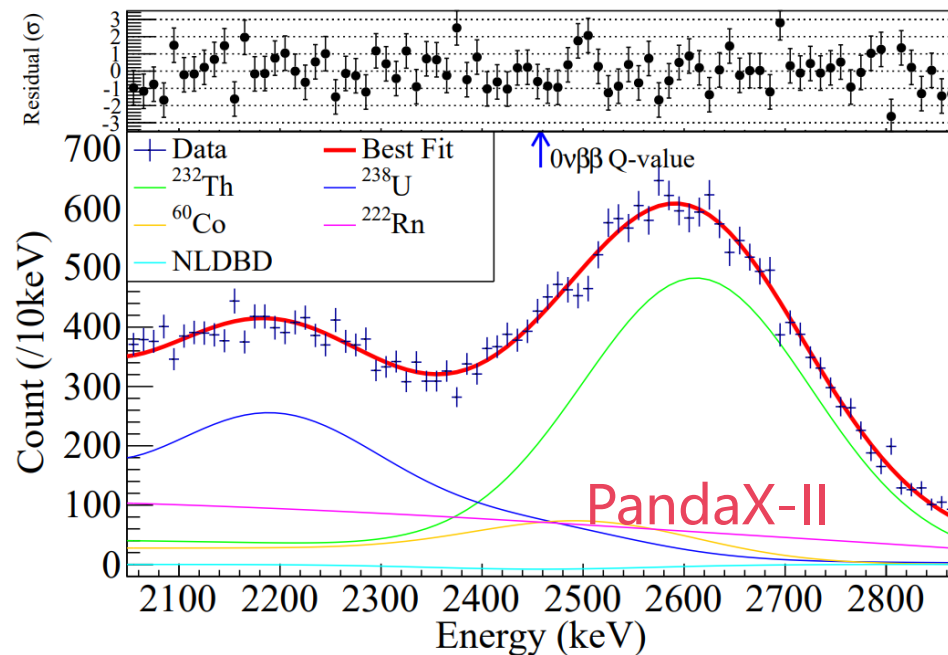
Solar ^8B neutrino

WIMP and other
dark matter

Existing Analysis at low energy

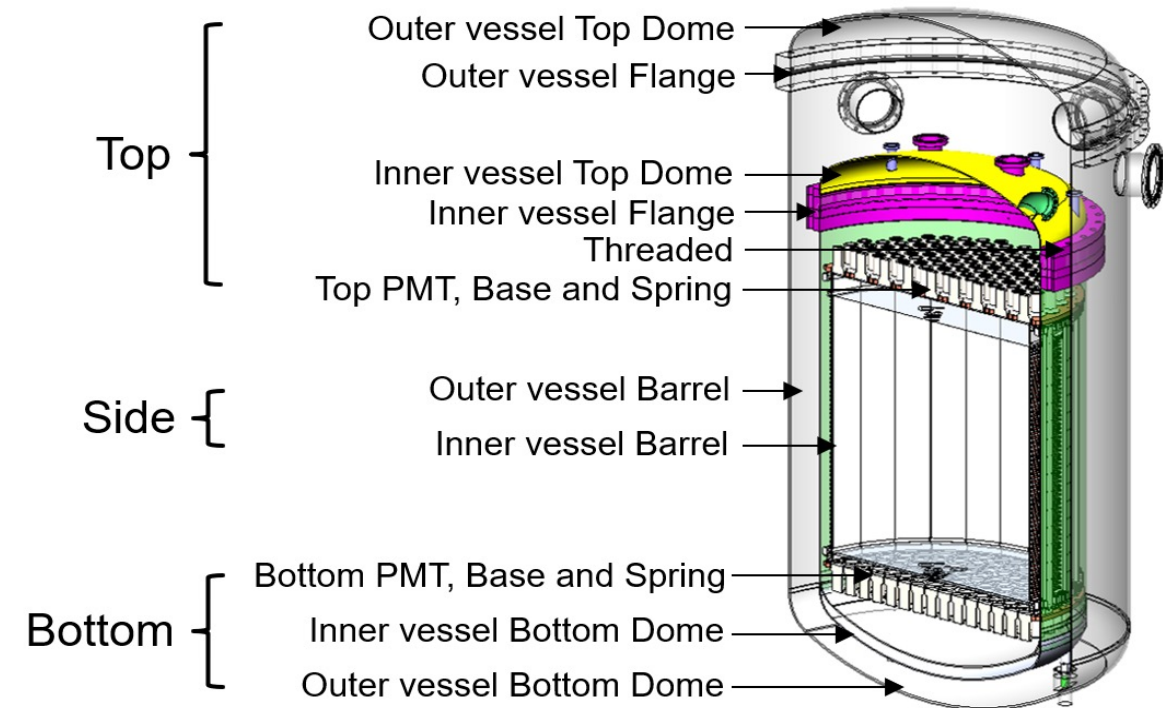
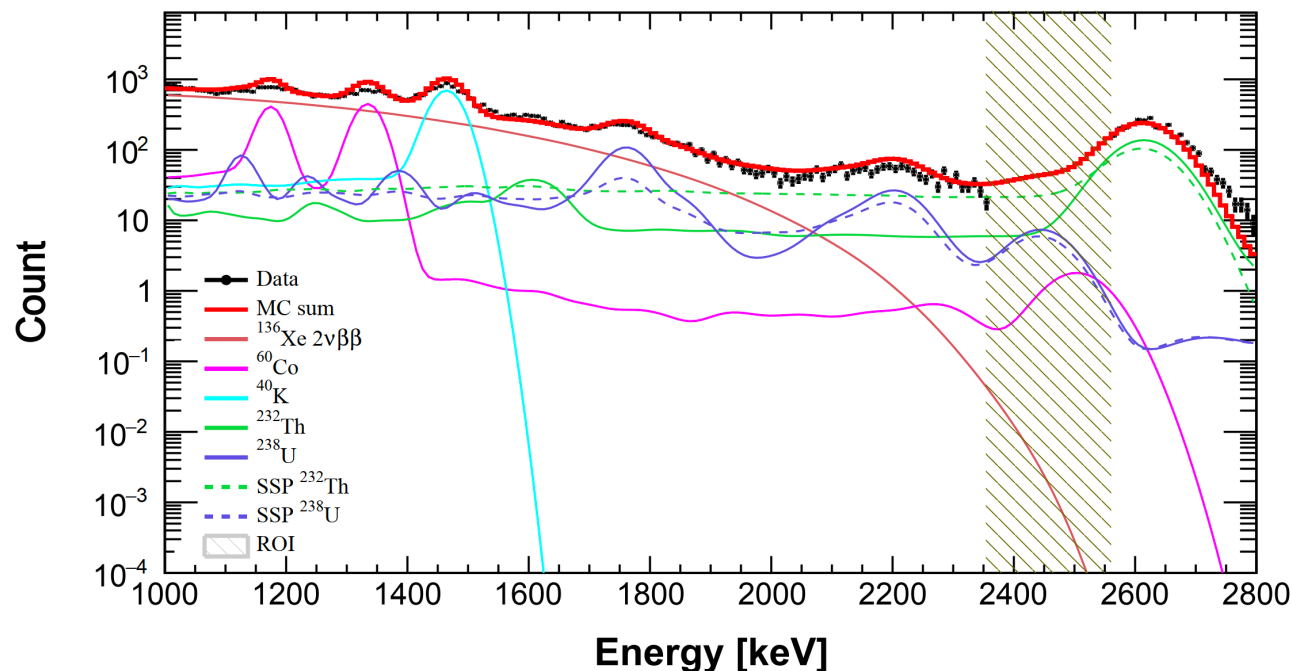
Search for ^{136}Xe $0\nu\beta\beta$ with natural Xe TPC

	Bkg rate (/keV/ton/y)	Energy resolution	FV mass (kg)	Live time	Sensitivity/Limit (90% CL, year)	Year
PandaX-II	~200	4.2%	219	403 days	2.4×10^{23}	2019
XENON1T	~20	0.8%	741	203 days	1.2×10^{24}	2022

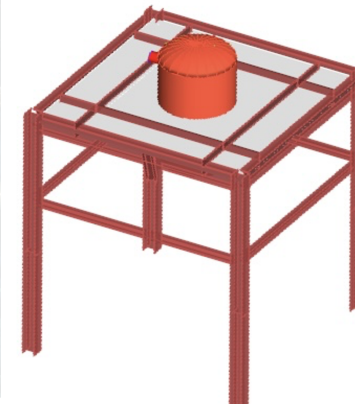
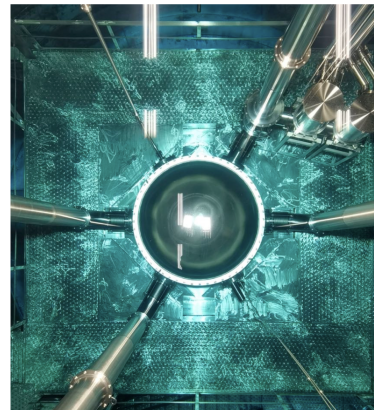
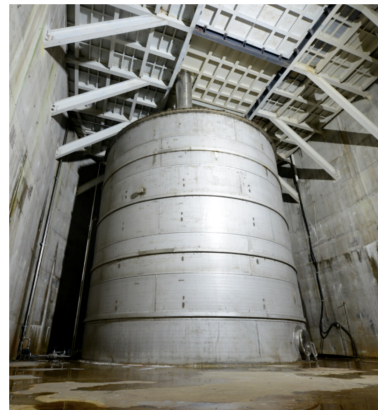
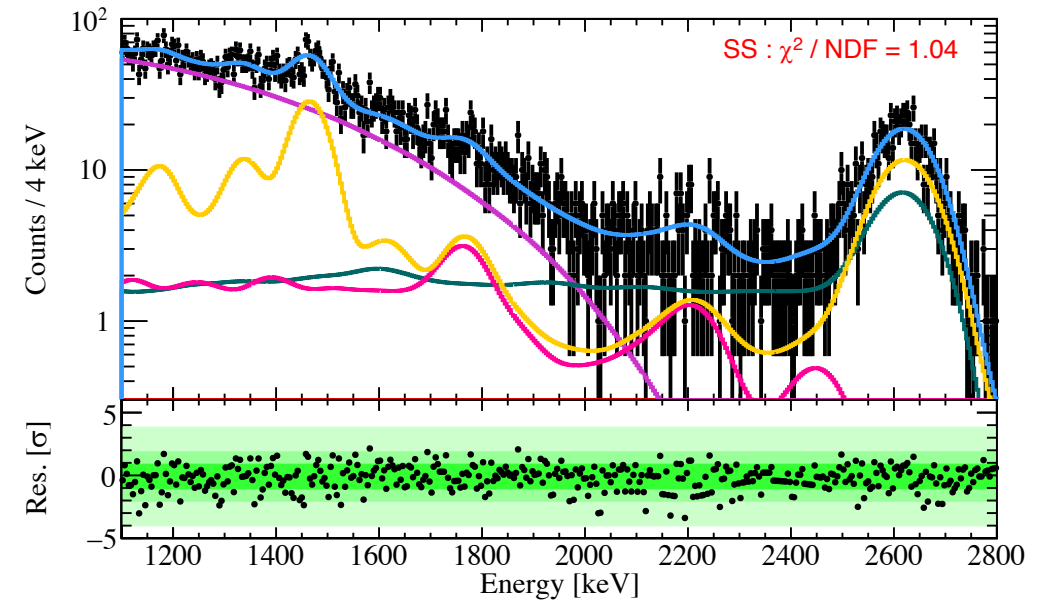
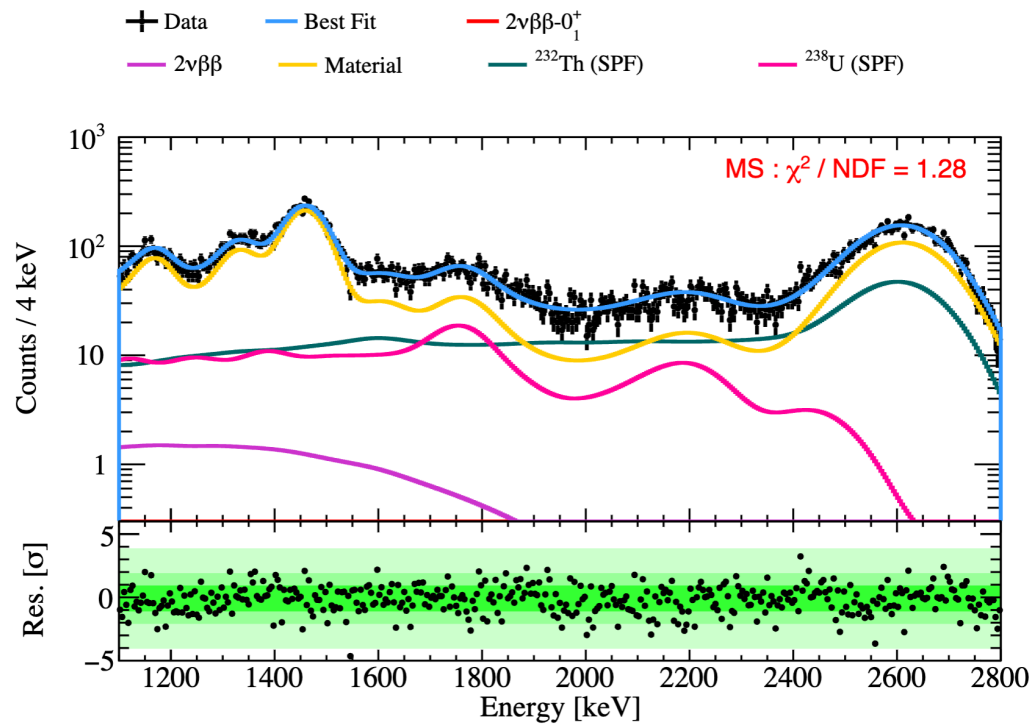


Background Model

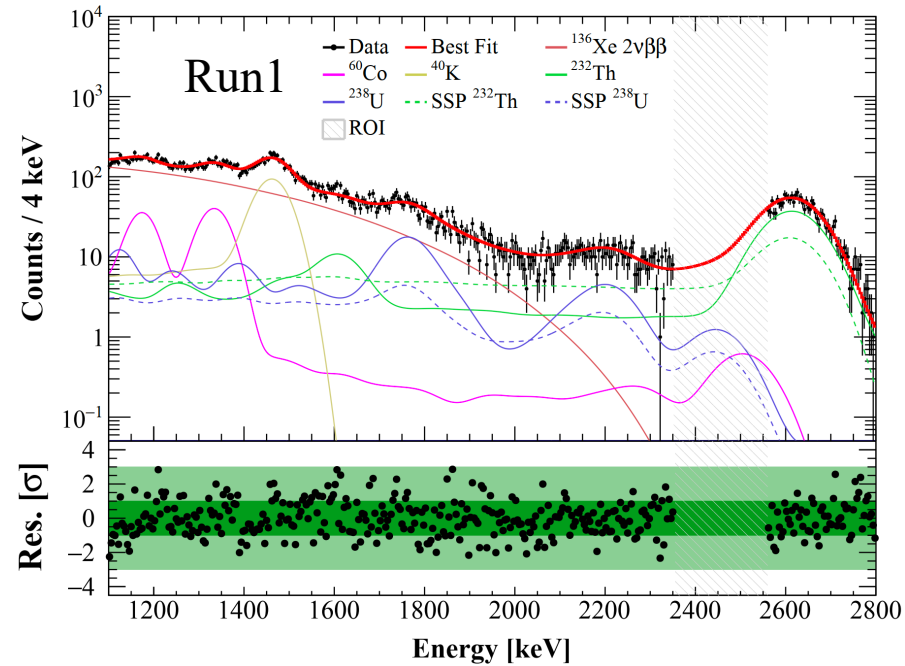
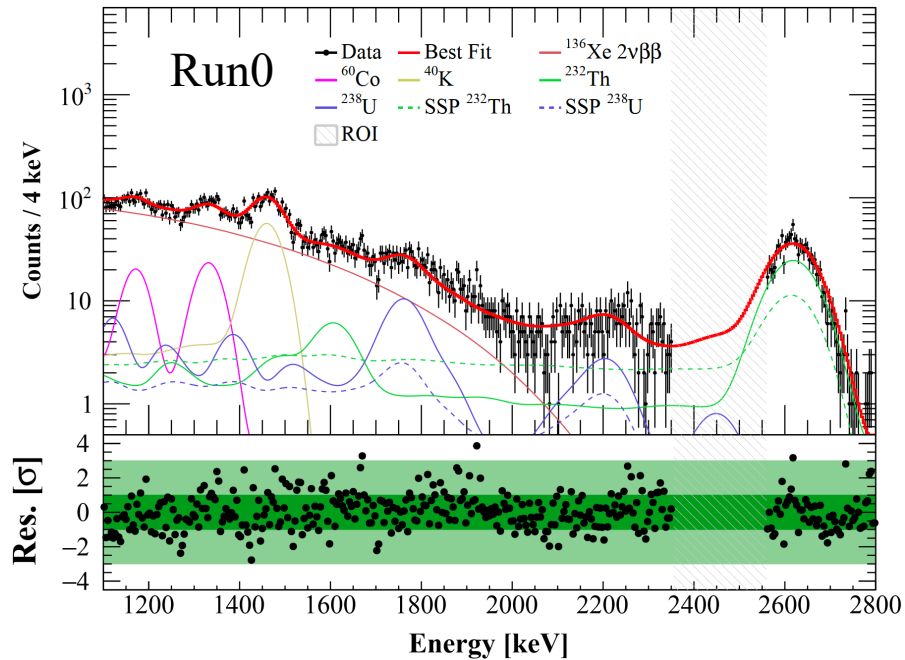
- $^{136}\text{Xe } 2\nu\beta\beta$ (from PandaX measured ^{136}Xe half-life)
- Detector material: ^{60}Co , ^{40}K , ^{232}Th , ^{238}U (from HPGe material assay), and grouped into top, side, and bottom parts
- Stainless steel platform (SSP): ^{232}Th , ^{238}U (from MS fitting)



Stainless steel platform (SSP) contribution

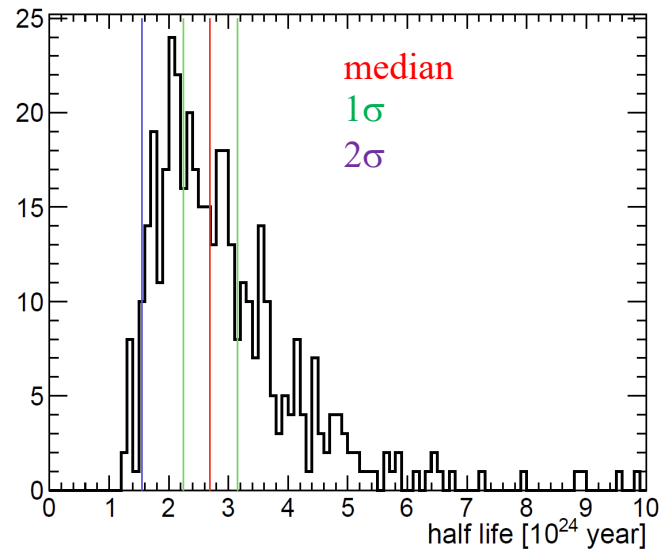


Blinded Fit and Sensitivity



Goodness-of-fit:

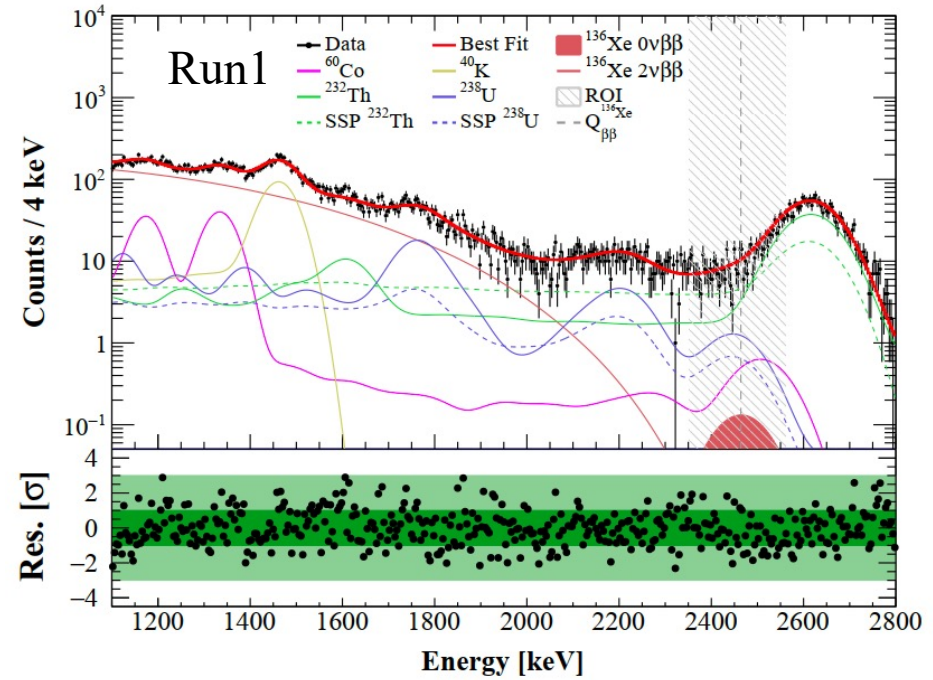
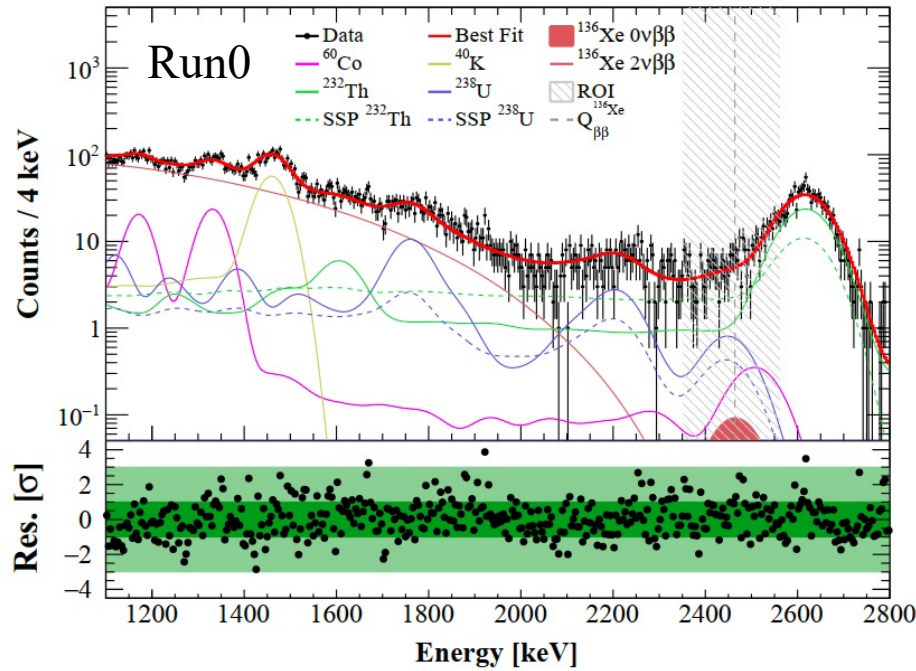
$$\chi^2/\text{NDF} = 1.14$$



Median sensitivity is estimated by fits to toy-data, generated from background model.

$$T_{1/2, \text{sensitivity}}^{0\nu\beta\beta} > 2.7 \times 10^{24} \text{ yr at 90\% C.L.}$$

Unblinded Fit and Results



- ^{136}Xe exposure: 44.6 kg-yr
- Energy resolution @ 2615 keV: 2.0% in Run0 and 2.3% in Run1
- ^{136}Xe $0\nu\beta\beta$ event rate: $14 \pm 55 \text{ t}^{-1}\text{yr}^{-1}$, $<111 \text{ t}^{-1}\text{yr}^{-1}$ at 90% C.L.
- $T_{1/2}^{0\nu\beta\beta} > 2.1 \times 10^{24} \text{ yr}$ at 90% C.L. $\langle m_{\beta\beta} \rangle = (0.4 - 1.6) \text{ eV}/c^2$

arXiv:2412.13979, Science Bulletin

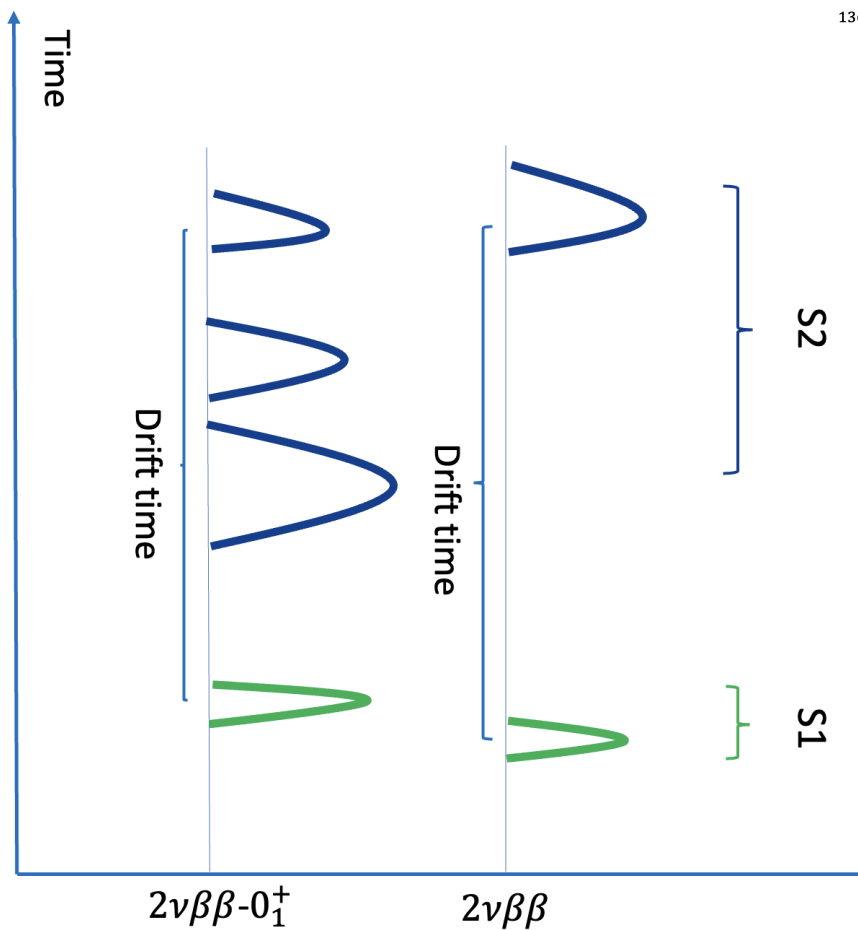
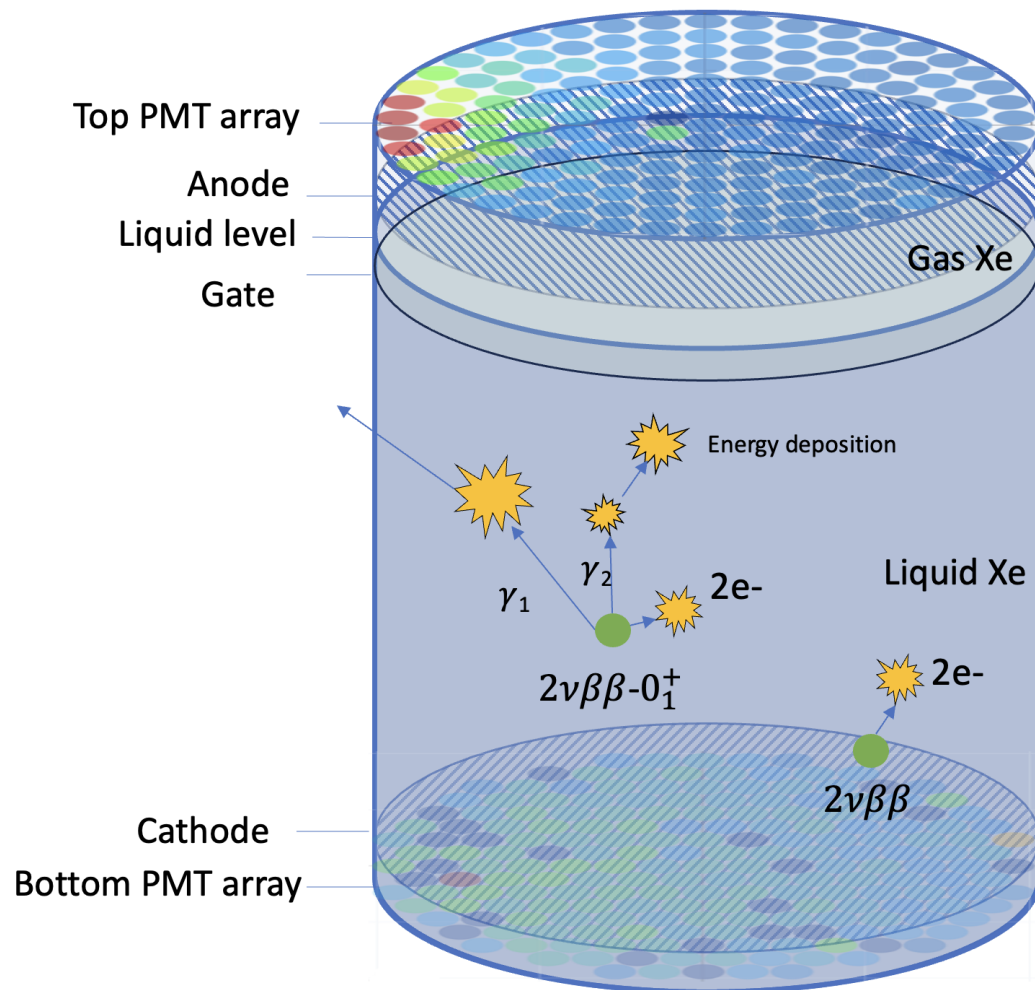
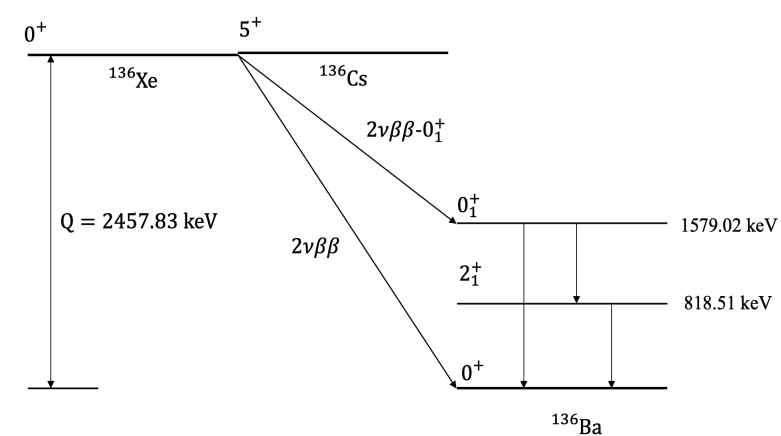
Search for ^{136}Xe $0\nu\beta\beta$ with natural Xe TPC



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PandaX-II	~200	4.2%	219	403 days	2.4×10^{23}	2019
XENON1T	~20	0.8%	741	203 days	1.2×10^{24}	2022
PandaX-4T	~10	2.0-2.3%	735	258 days	2.1×10^{24}	2024

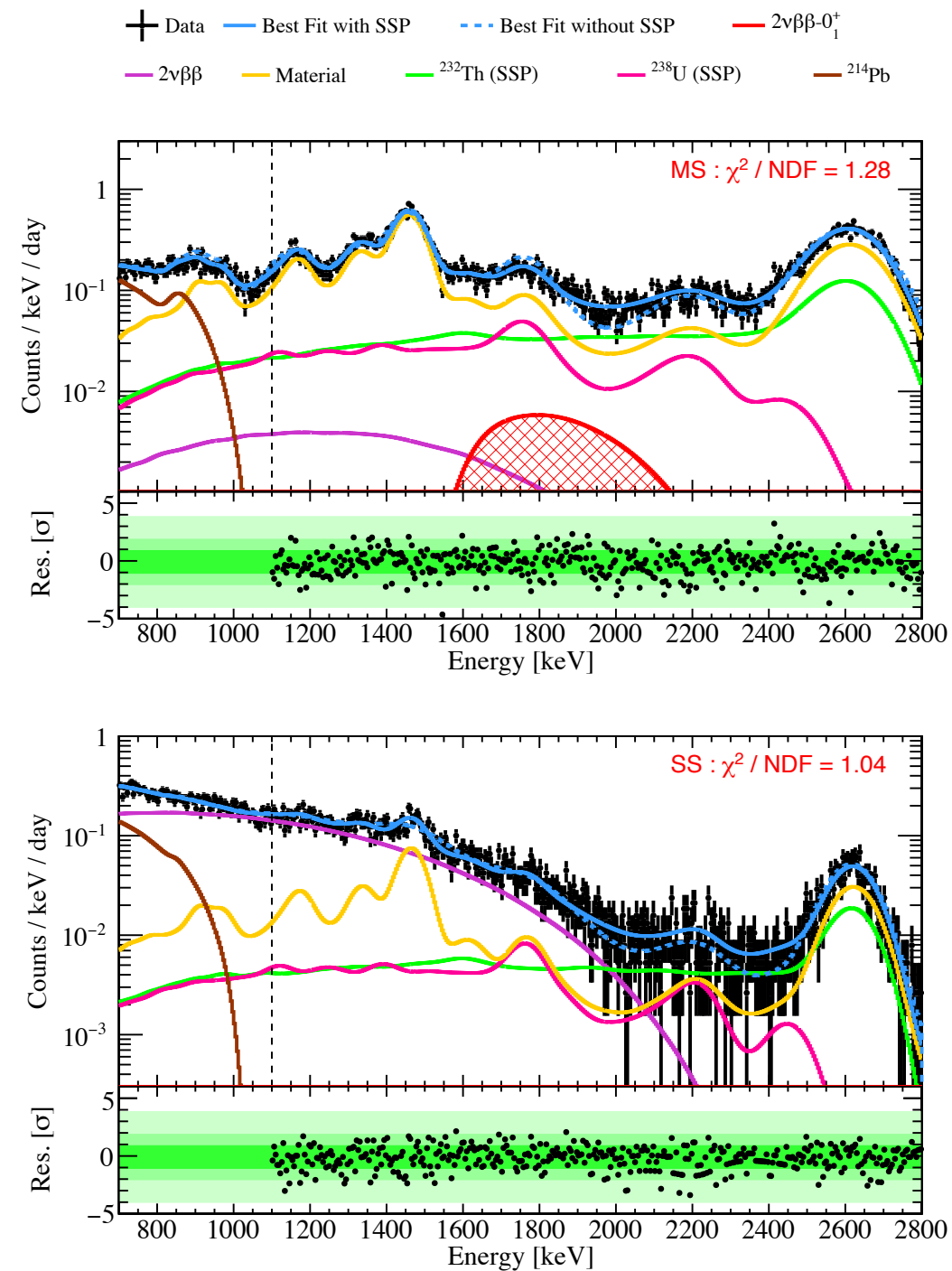
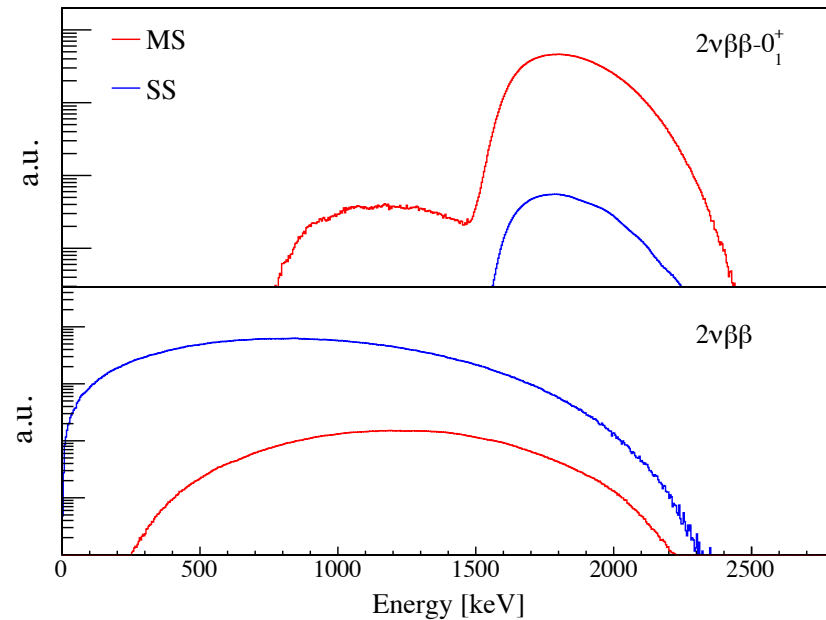
- The most stringent constraint from a natural xenon detector
- Improvement w.r.t PandaX-II by an order of magnitude and XENON1T by a factor of 1.8
- Demonstrating the potential of ^{136}Xe $0\nu\beta\beta$ search with next-generation multi-ten-tonne natural xenon detectors

^{136}Xe Decay to excited states (ArXiv:2502.03017, JHEP)



Results

- $T_{1/2}^{2\nu\beta\beta-0^+} > 7.5 \times 10^{22}$ yr at the 90% confidence level
- First such result from a natural xenon detector
- PandaX first MS analysis



PandaX Analysis in MHE region

^{136}Xe DBD

^{134}Xe DBD

^{124}Xe 2nDEC

^{124}Xe 0nDEC

Full range ER spectrum: exotic BSM physics, nuclear physics

keV

10 keV

100 keV

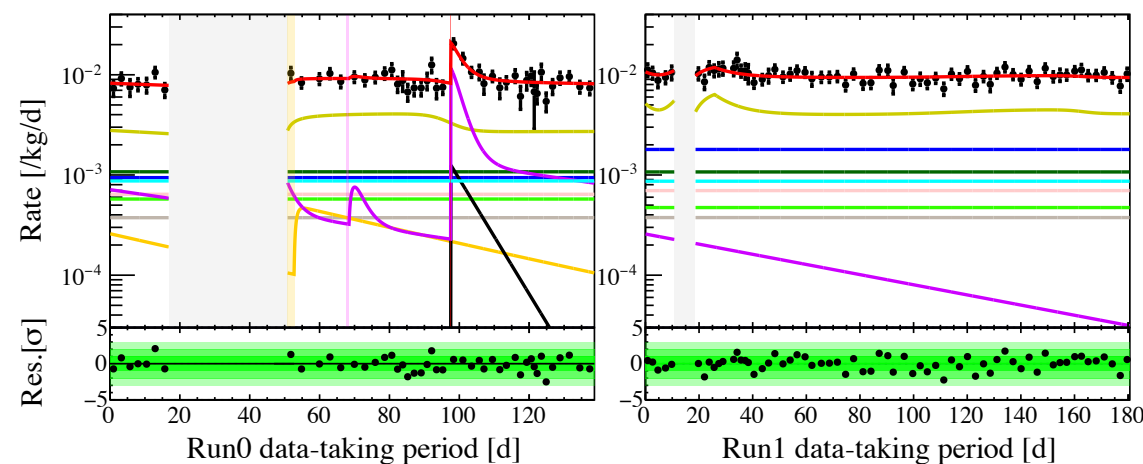
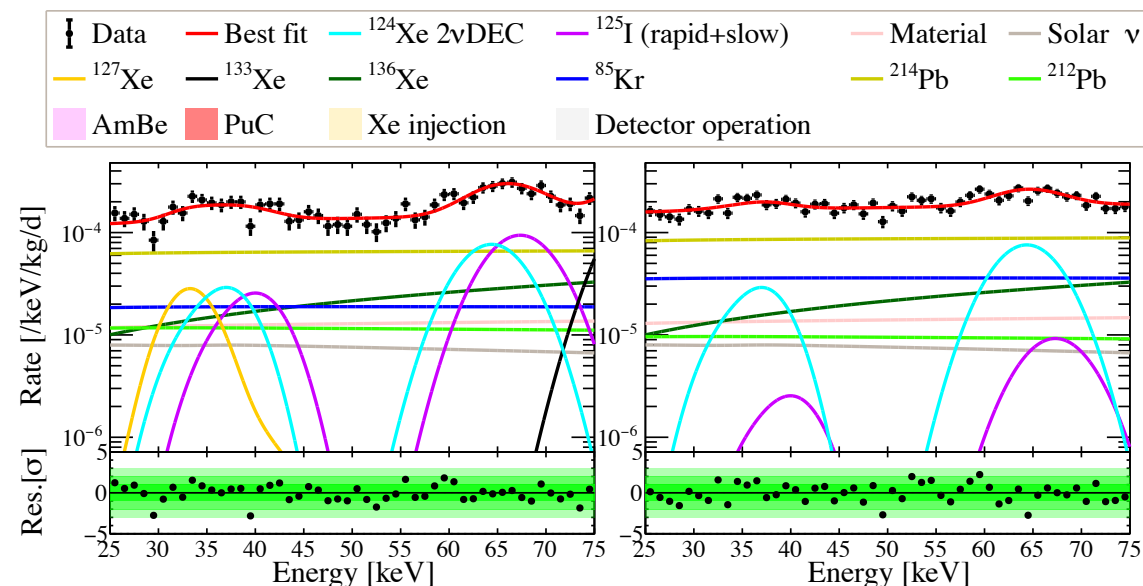
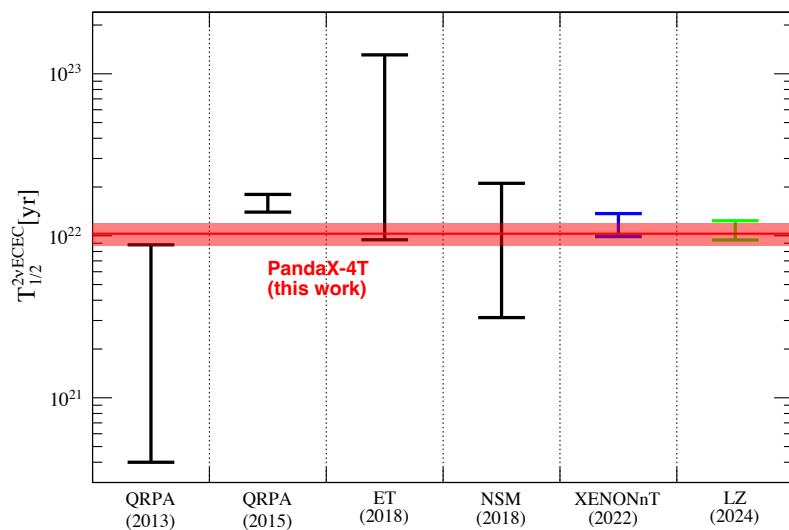
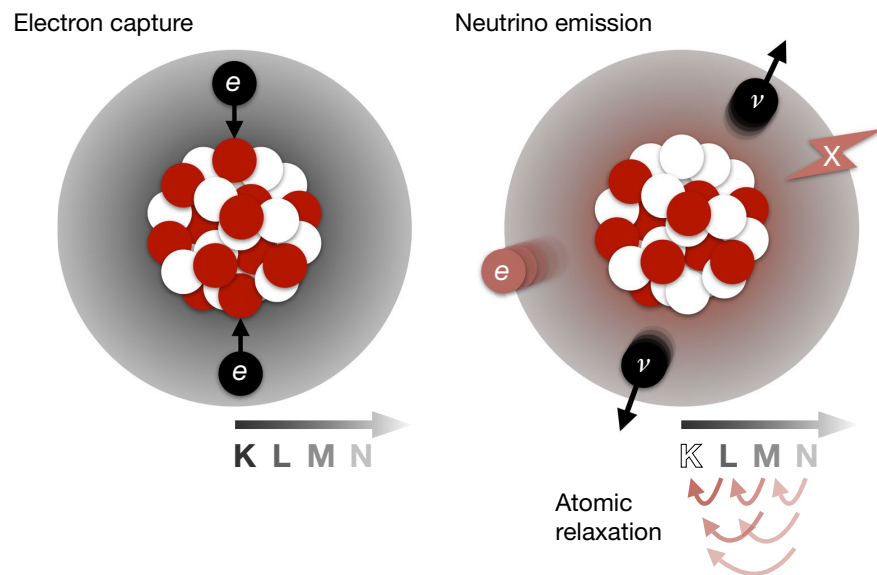
1 MeV

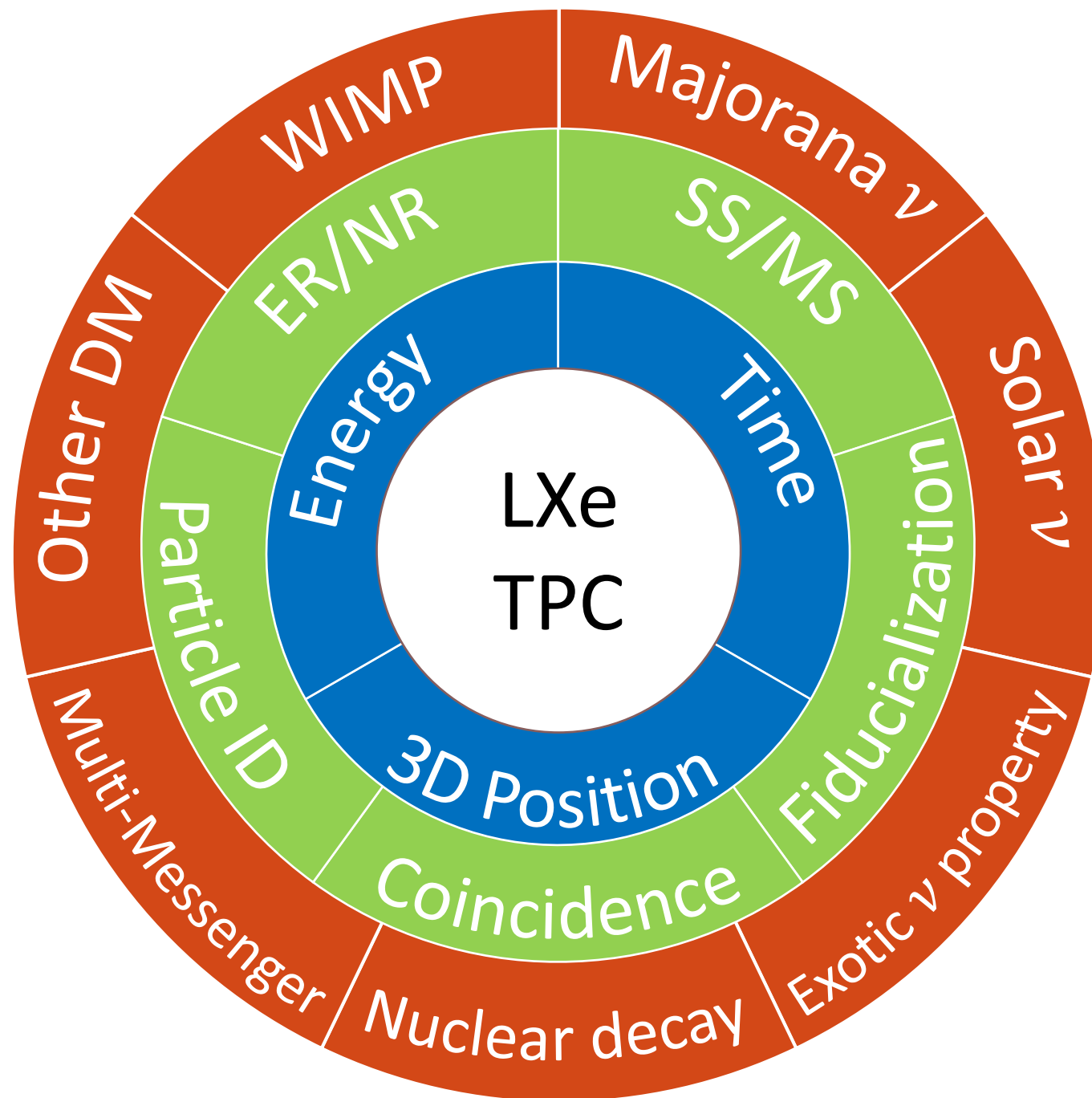
Solar ^8B neutrino

WIMP and other
dark matter

Existing Analysis at low energy

^{124}Xe double electron capture (arXiv:2411.14355, JHEP)





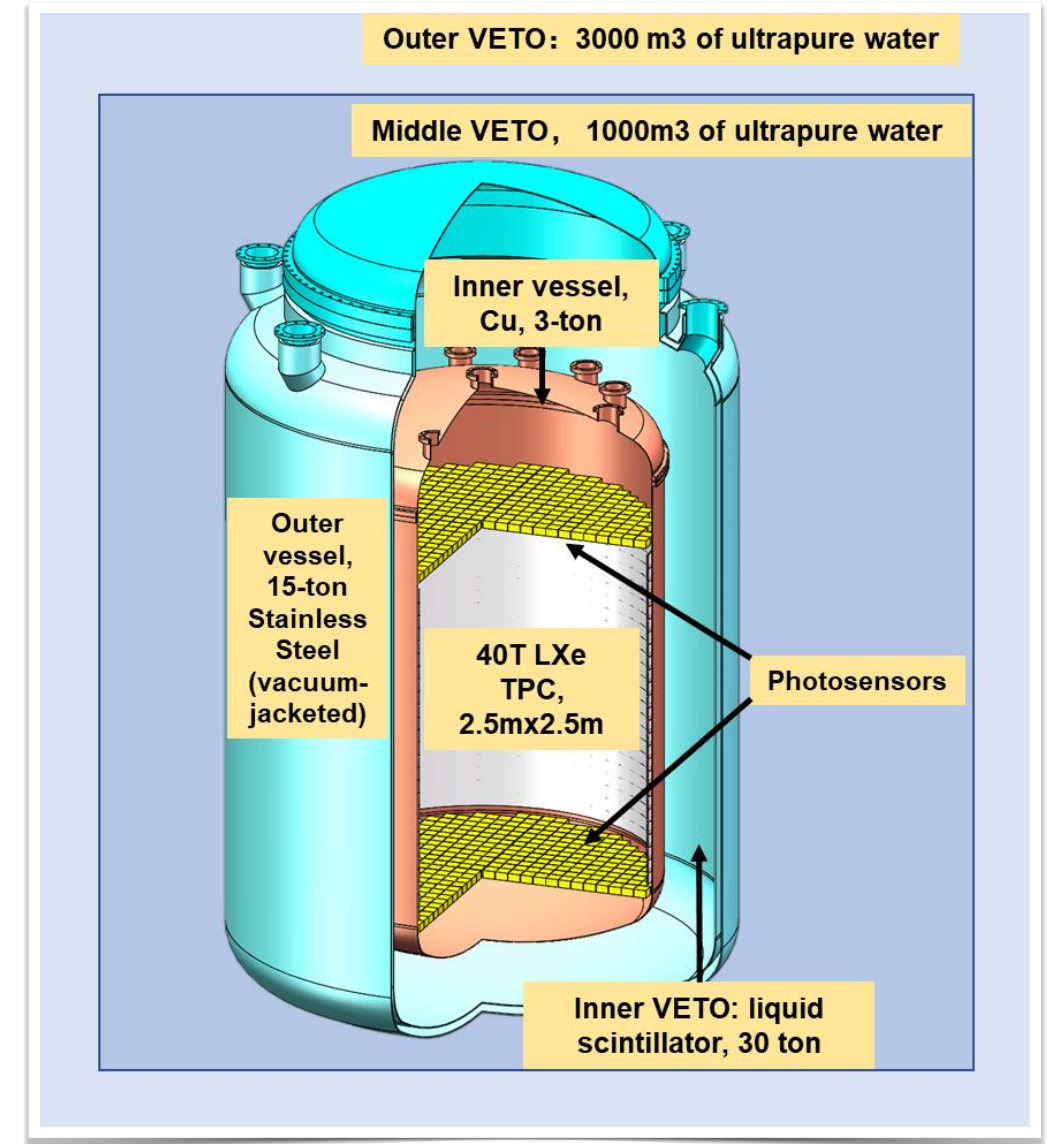
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**Larger
Cleaner
Detector**

PandaX-xT: Multi-ten-tonne Liquid Xenon Observatory

- Active target: 43 tons of Xenon
 - Test the WIMP paradigm to the neutrino floor
 - Explore the Dirac/Majorana nature of neutrino
 - Search for astrophysical or terrestrial neutrinos and other ultra-rare interactions
- Notable detector improvements:
 - High-granularity, low-background 2-in PMT array
 - Cu/Ti vessel for improved radiopurity
 - Inner liquid scintillator veto

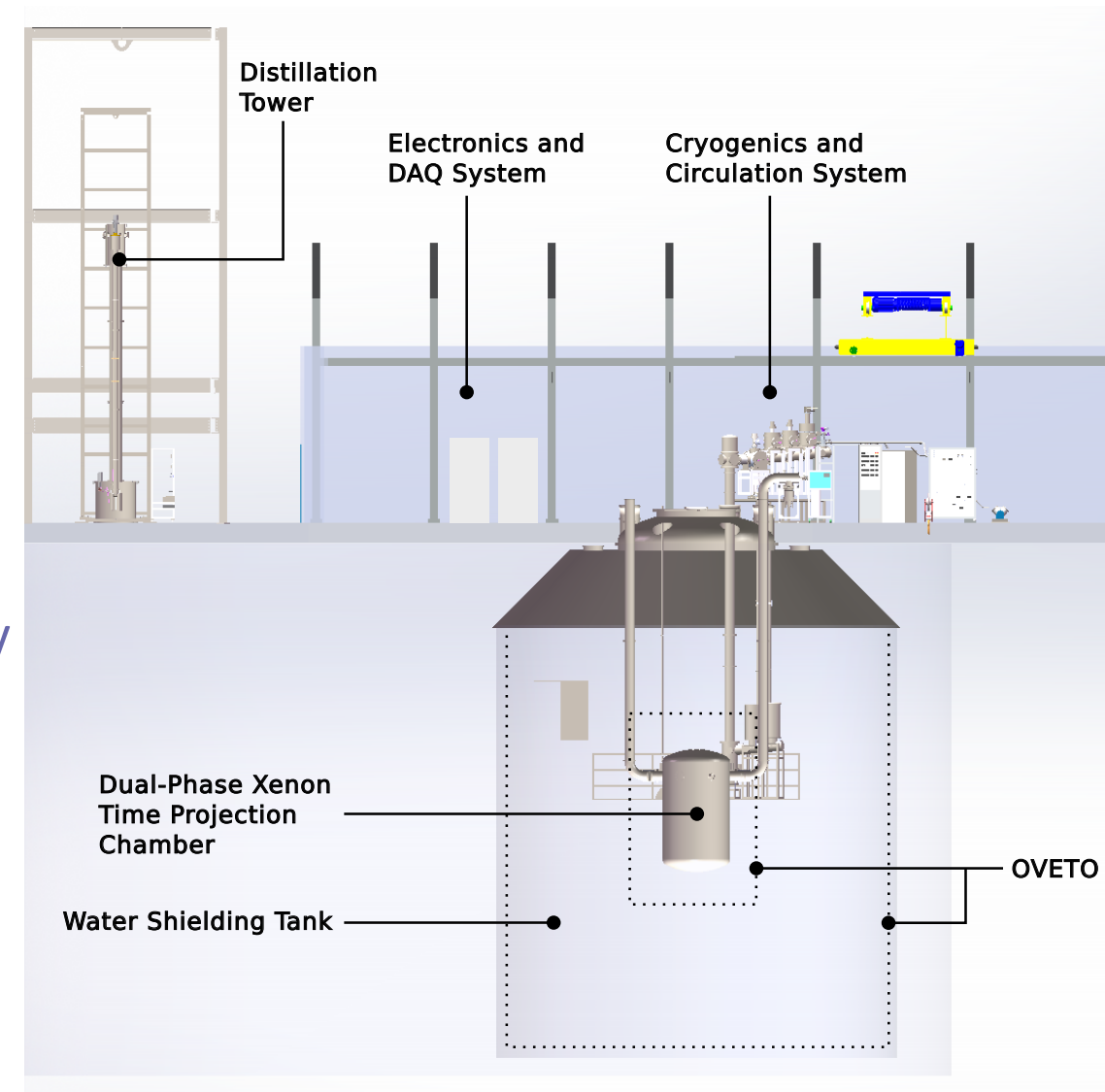
SCPMA 68, 221011 (2025)



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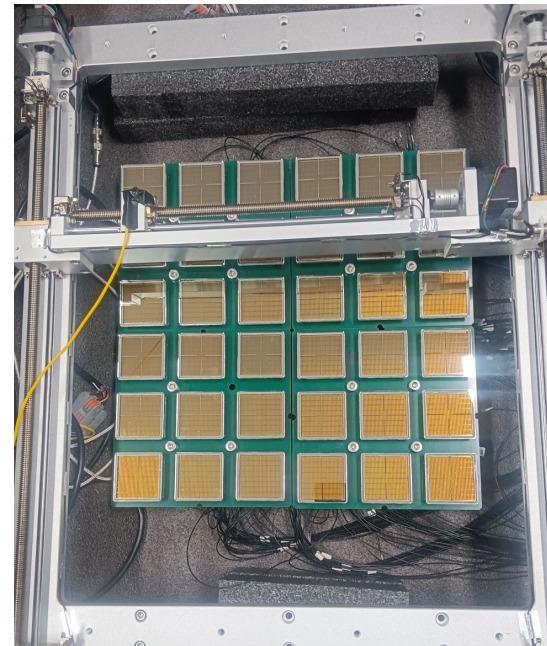
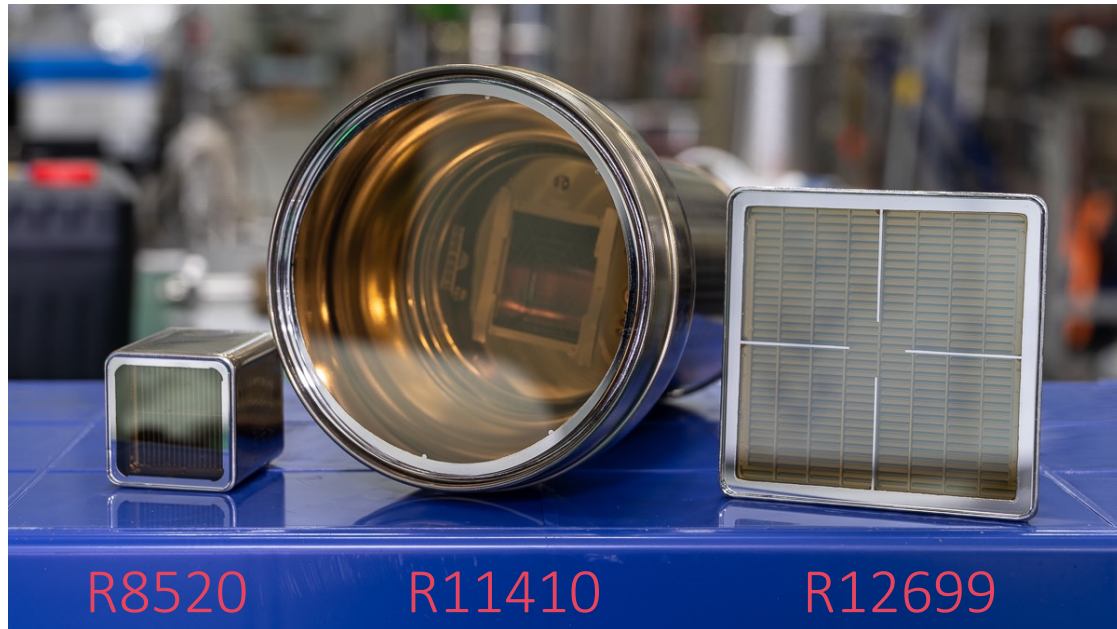
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SCPMA 68, 221011 (2025)

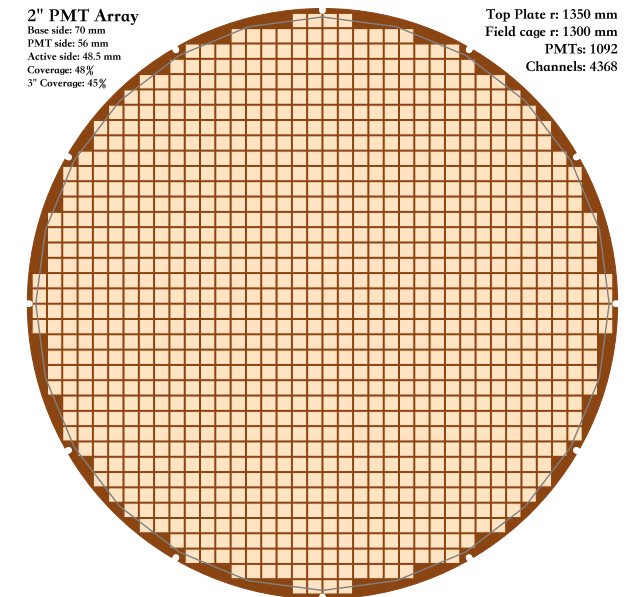


New 2" multi-anode R12699 PMT for LXe TPC

- Higher granularity while maintaining low dark noise: best of both large PMT and SiPM
 - Improved position reconstruction for better event topology
 - 2" array has an effectively wider dynamic range for DM and DBD simultaneously
 - Faster timing for possible pulse shape analysis or Cerenkov/Scintillation separation
- Collaboration between PandaX and Hamamatsu for a low-radioactivity version of R12699

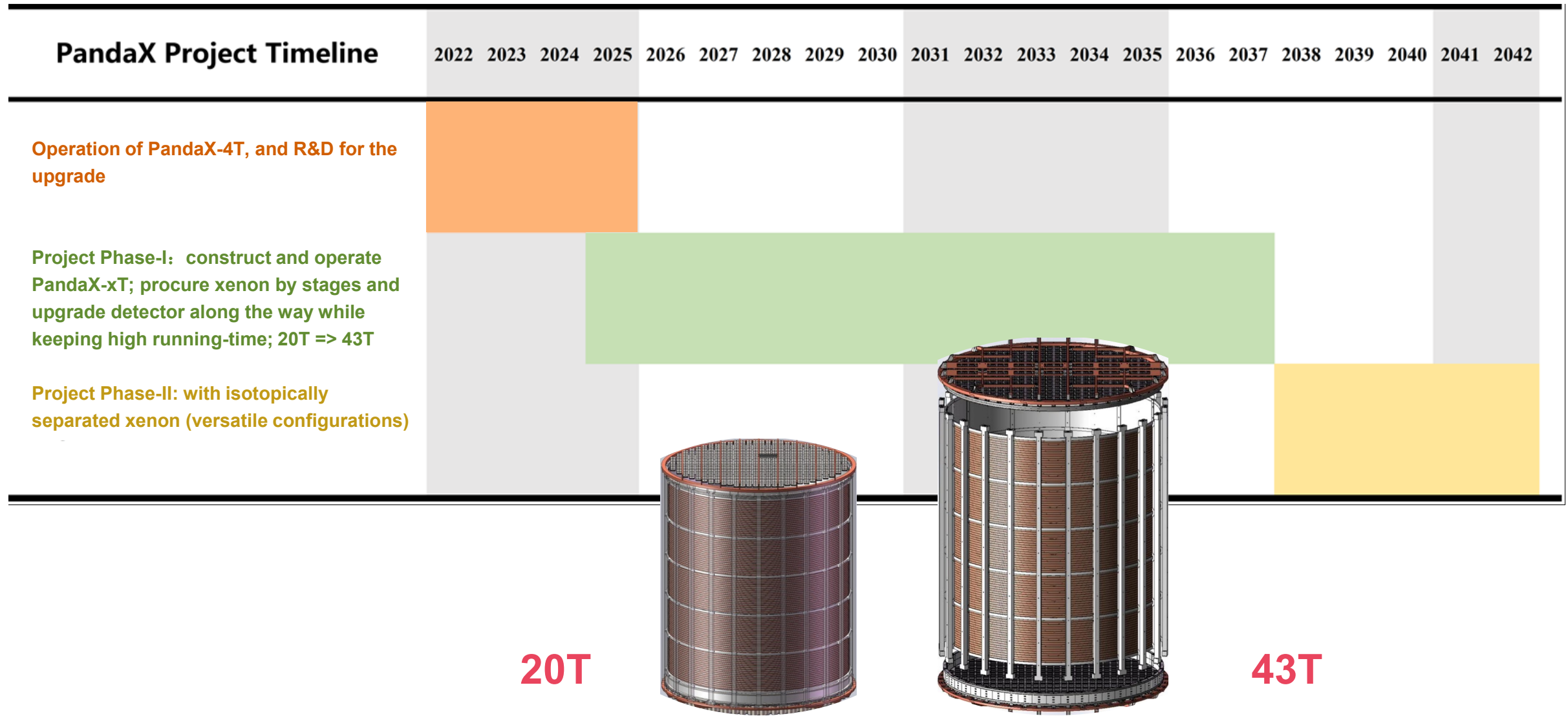


2" PMT Array
Base side: 70 mm
PMT side: 56 mm
Active side: 48.5 mm
Coverage: 48%
5" Coverage: 45%



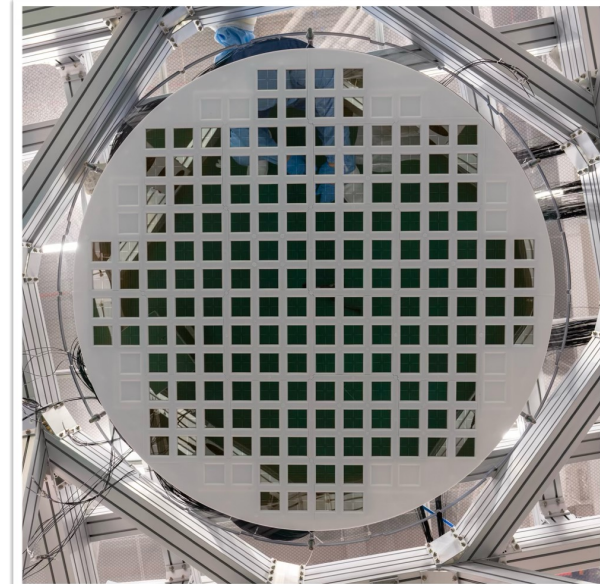
Conceptual array for a PandaX-xT

Top Plate r: 1350 mm
Field cage r: 1300 mm
PMTs: 1092
Channels: 4368



PandaX-xT 20T stage

- Mostly funded
- Detector prototyping and construction in progress
- More at PandaX-xT Open Meeting: <https://indico-tdli.sjtu.edu.cn/event/2934>

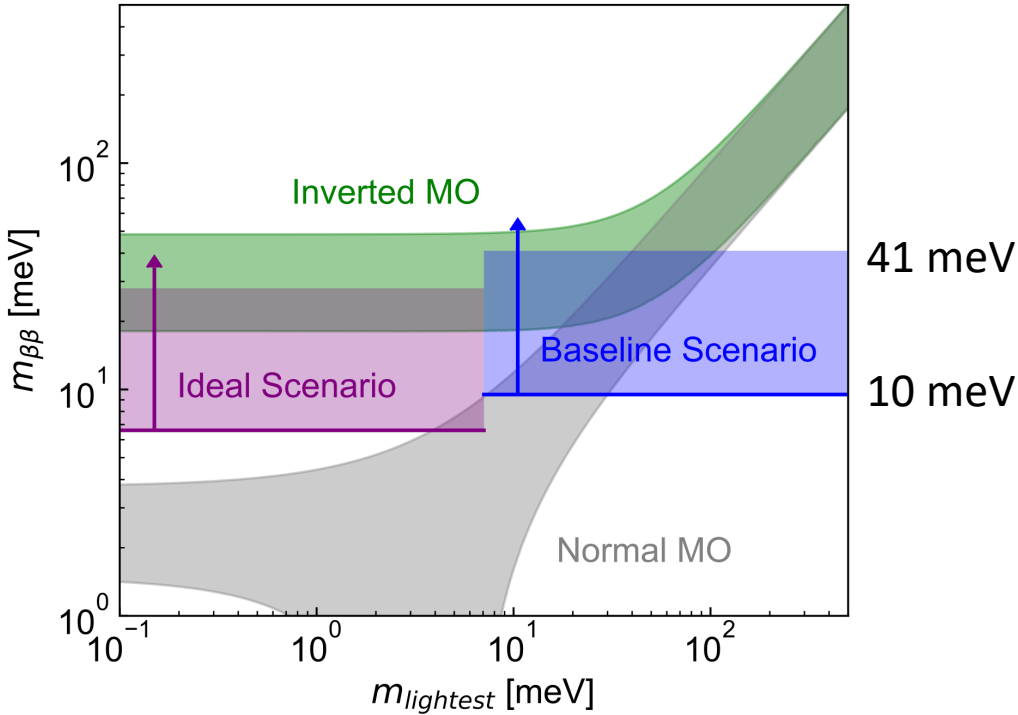
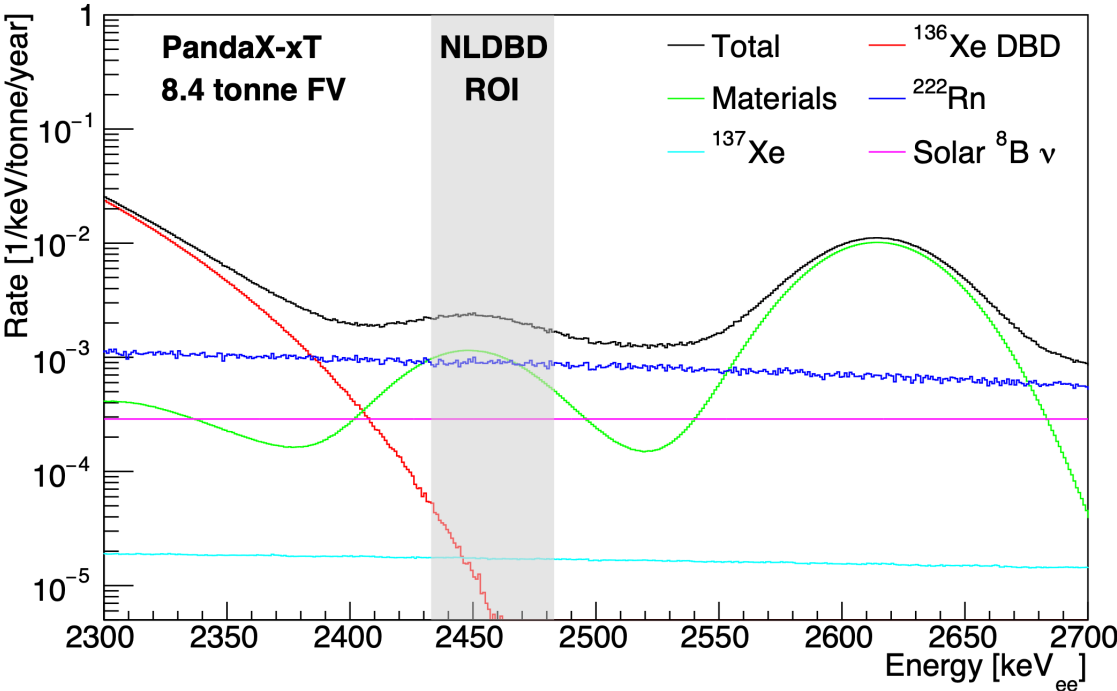


PandaX-xT for $0\nu\beta\beta$



- 4 ton of ^{136}Xe : one of the largest $0\nu\beta\beta$ experiments
- Effective self-shielding: Xenon-related background dominates in the 8.4-tonne center FV

	Baseline (1/tonne/year)	Ideal (1/tonne/year)
Photosensors	1.4×10^{-2}	2.8×10^{-3}
Copper vessel	3.2×10^{-2}	6.3×10^{-3}
^{222}Rn	4.5×10^{-2}	-
^{136}Xe DBD	5.2×10^{-4}	5.2×10^{-4}
^{137}Xe	8.7×10^{-4}	8.7×10^{-4}
Solar ^8B ν	1.4×10^{-2}	1.4×10^{-2}
Total	1.1×10^{-1}	2.4×10^{-2}



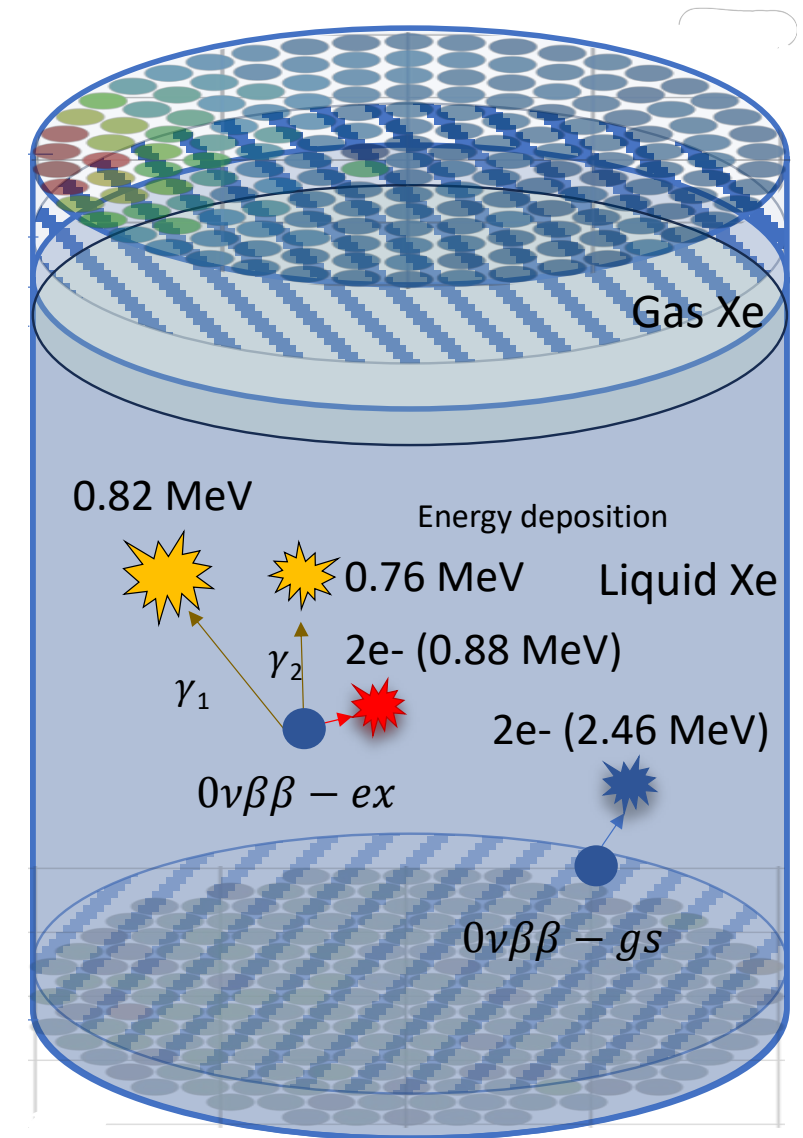
Head-to-head with other DM/ $0\nu\beta\beta$ experiments

	Bkg rate (/keV/ton/y)	Energy resolution	Mass (ton)	Run time	Sensitivity/Limit (90% CL, year)
PandaX-4T	6	1.9%	4	94.9 days	$> 10^{24}$
XENONnT	1	0.8%	6	1000 days (expected)	2×10^{25}
LZ	0.3	1%	7	1000 days (expected)	1×10^{26}
KamLAND-ZEN	0.002	5%	0.8 (^{136}Xe)	1.5 years	2.3×10^{26}
nEXO	0.006	1%	5 (^{136}Xe)	10 years	$1.35 \times 10^{28}^{**}$
DARWIN/XLZD	$\sim 0.004^*/2\text{E-}4$	0.8%/0.6%	40/80	10 years	$2 \times 10^{27}/1.35 \times 10^{28}$
PandaX-xT	0.002*	1%	43	10 years	3×10^{27}

* Major difference from cosmogenic ^{137}Xe ; ** $\frac{S}{\sqrt{B}}$ sensitivity is 6×10^{27} yr, for detector performance comparison in the table.

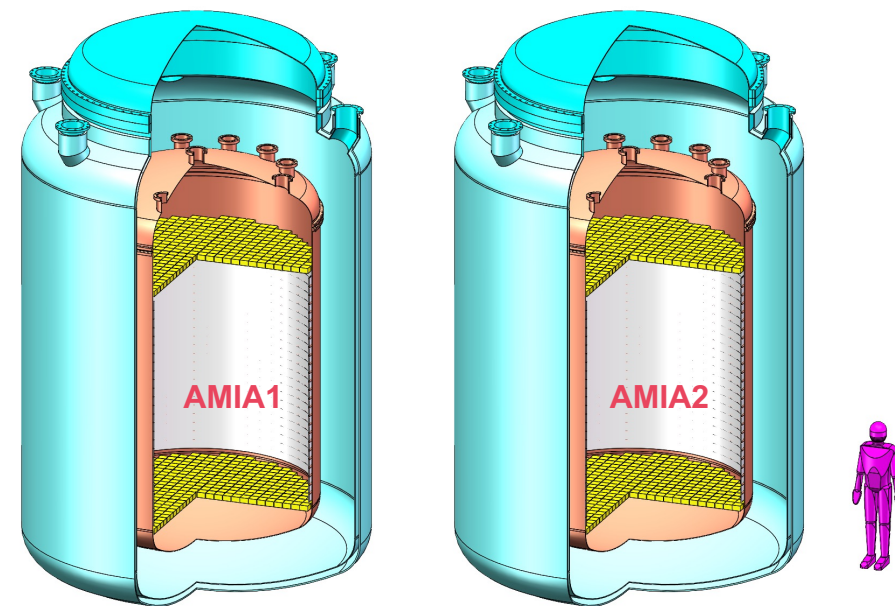
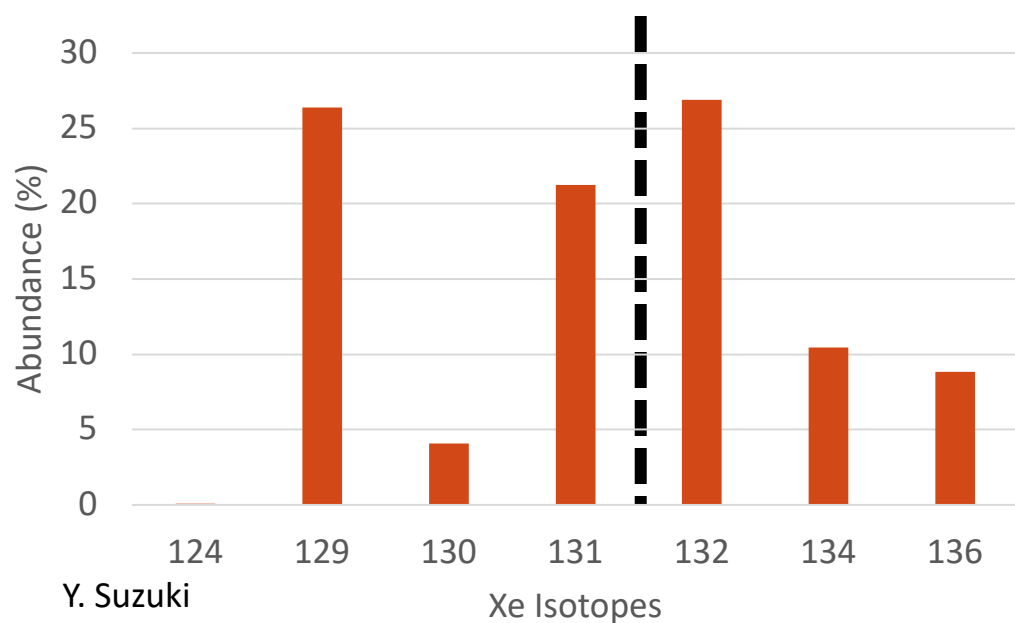
$0\nu\beta\beta + 0\nu\beta\beta\text{-ES}$

- Future $0\nu\beta\beta$ projects:
 - Modular solid-state detectors (LEGEND, CUPID, etc)
 - Liquid scintillator detectors (K2Z, JUNO)
 - Xenon TPC (PandaX, XLZD)
- Xenon TPC is the most effective technology to detect $0\nu\beta\beta\text{-ES}$
 - tag beta + gamma
 - Less background-prone
- A combined analysis of $0\nu\beta\beta + 0\nu\beta\beta\text{-ES}$ helps improve the sensitivity to $m_{\beta\beta}$.
 - Chenrong Ding, KH, Shaobo Wang, Jiangming Yao



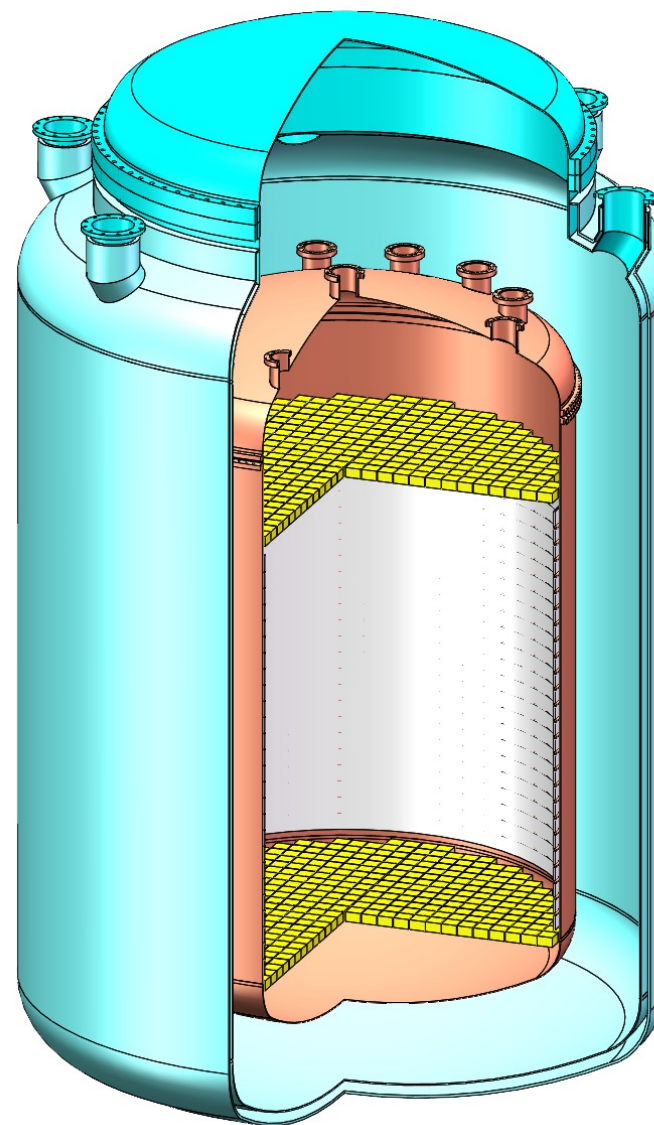
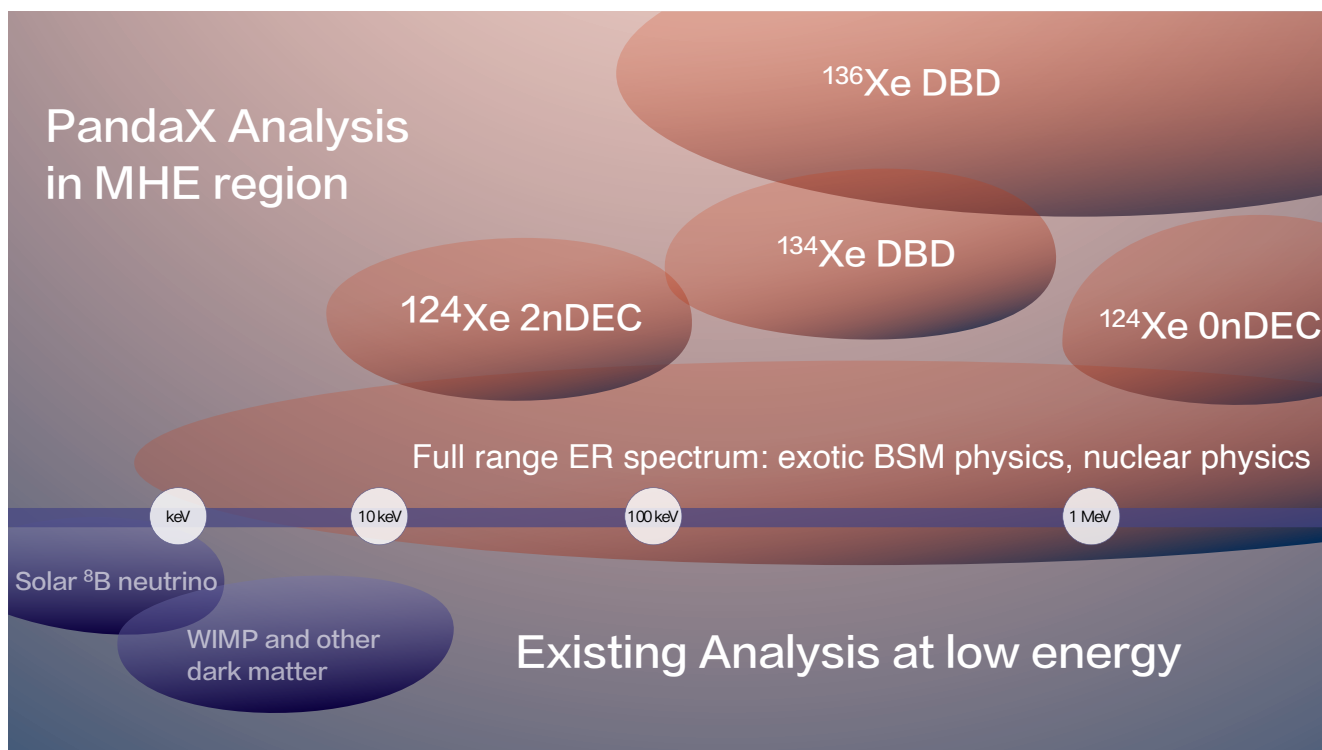
Possible isotope separation/enrichment

- Xenon with artificially modified isotopic abundance (AMIA) for smoking gun discovery
 - A split of odd and even nuclei
 - Further enrichment of ^{136}Xe
 - to improve sensitivity to spin-dependence of DM-nucleon interactions and $0\nu\beta\beta$



Double beta decay with PandaX natural xenon TPC

- $0\nu\beta\beta$: important neutrino physics topic
- Competitive results from PandaX-4T
- Exciting future with PandaX-xT

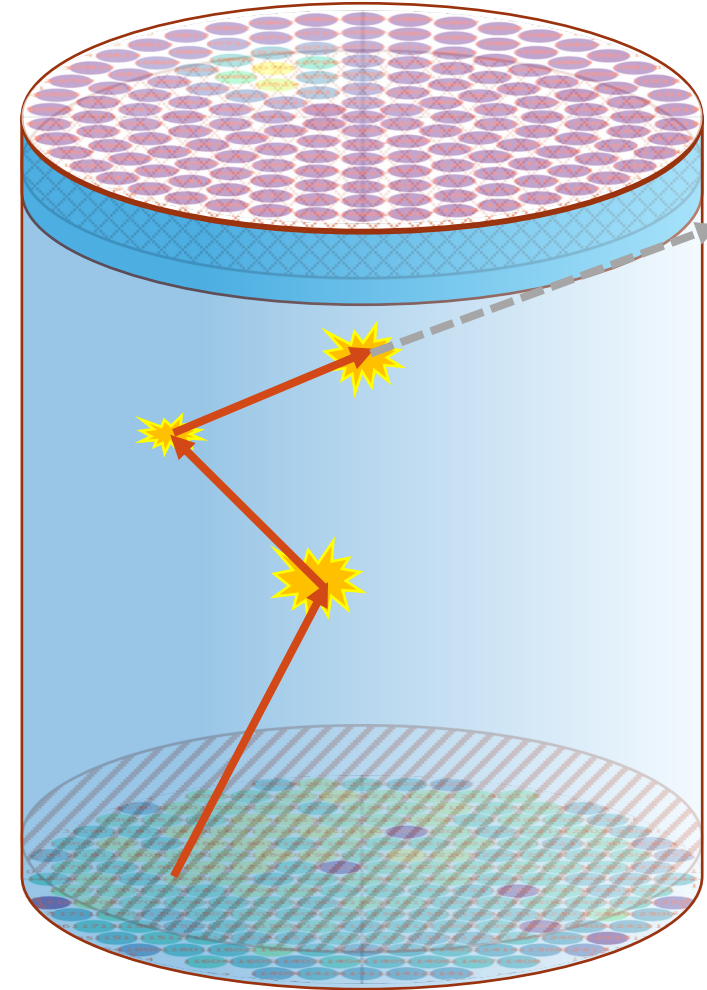
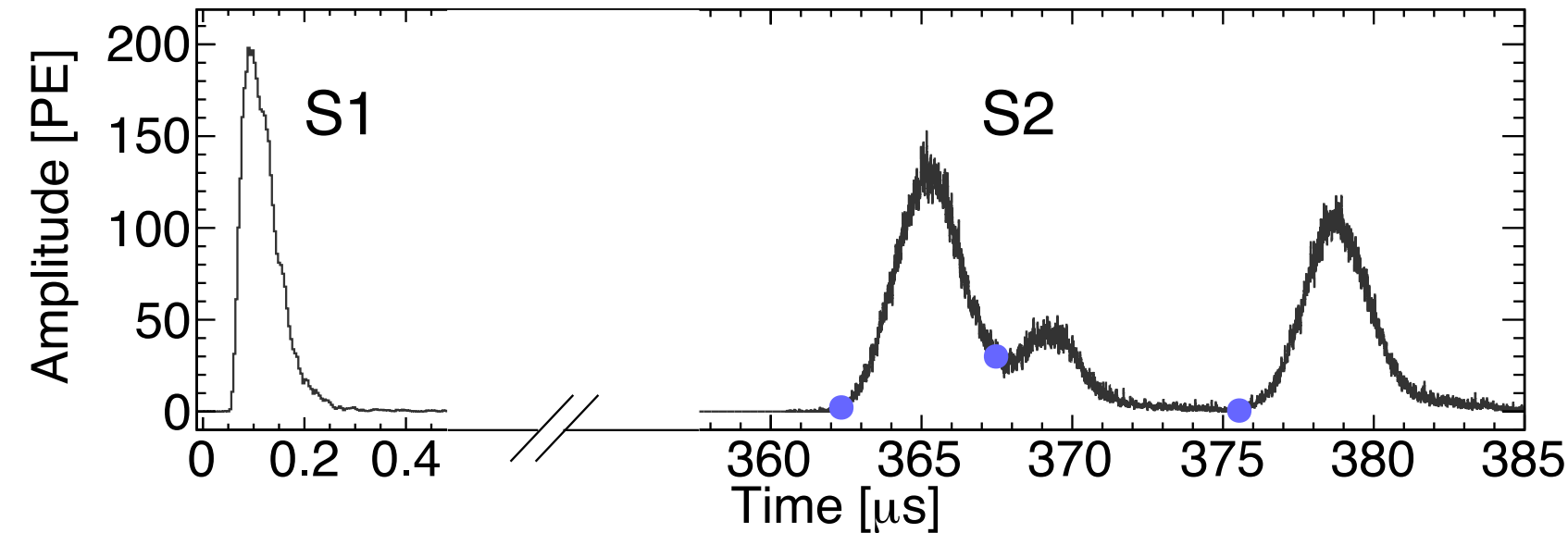




Thank you very much
We welcome new collaborators
at PandaX-xT

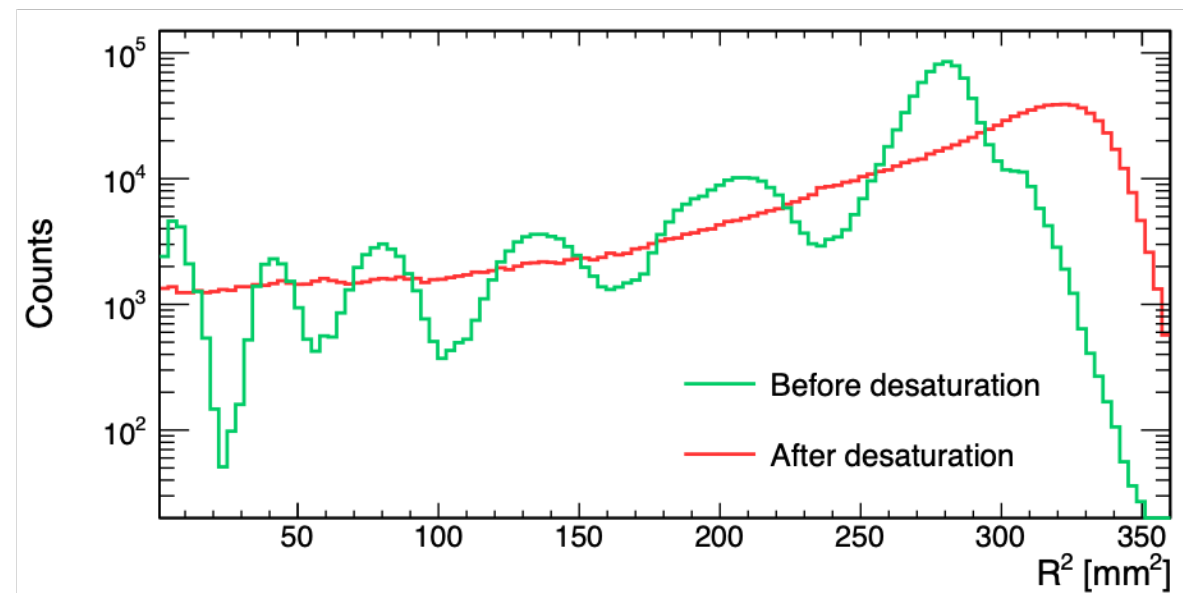
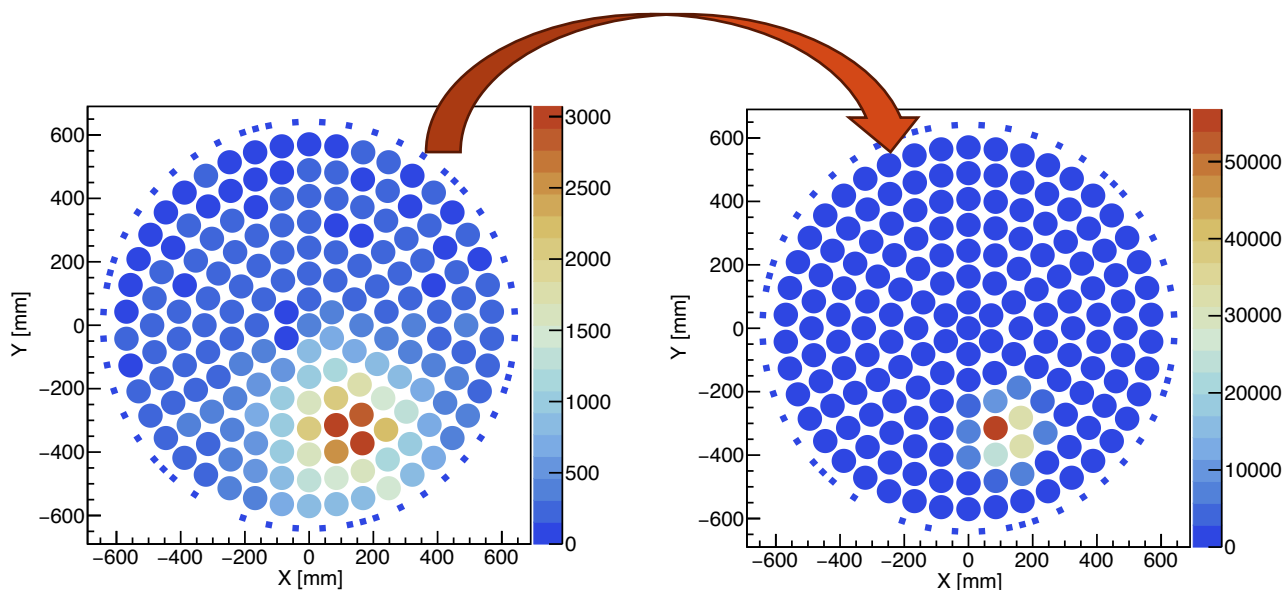
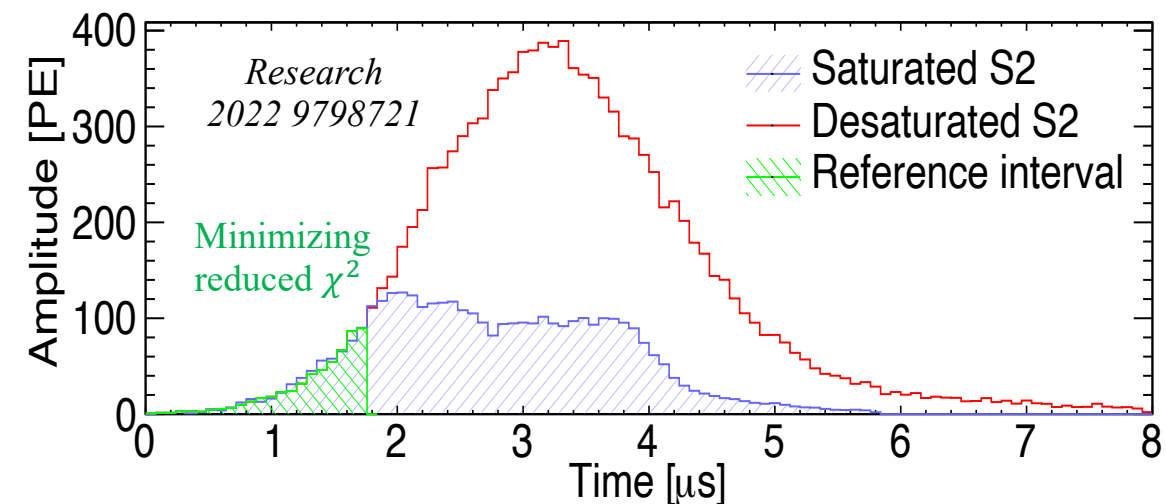
SS vs. MS

- MeV gamma events are mostly multiple-scattering events; while signals (DBD) are mostly single site (**SS**)
- Identifying Multi-Site (**MS**) events with PMT waveforms
- Width of waveforms dominated by Z (electron diffusion)



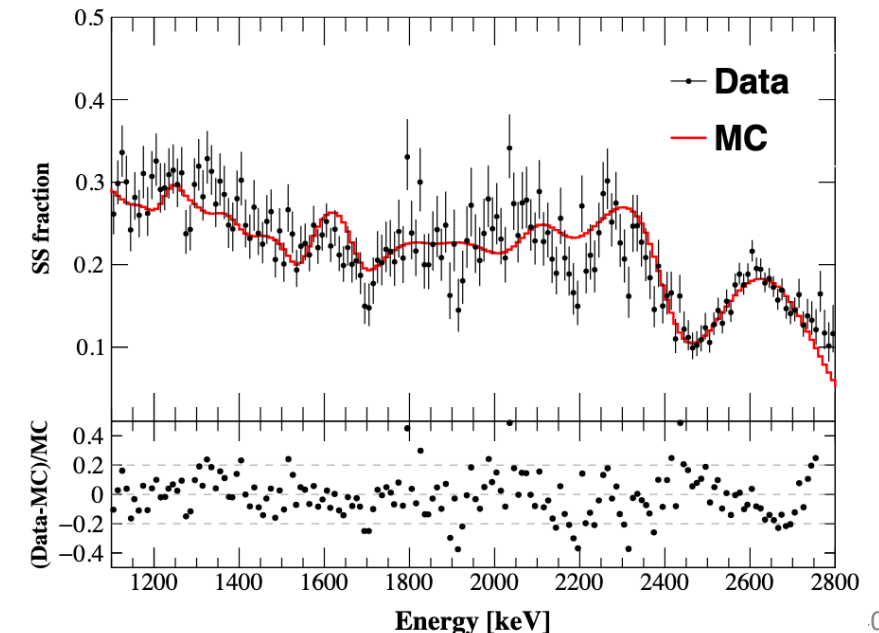
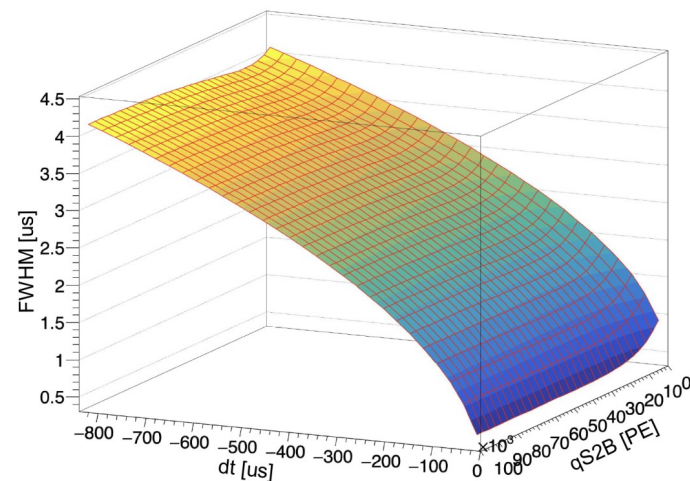
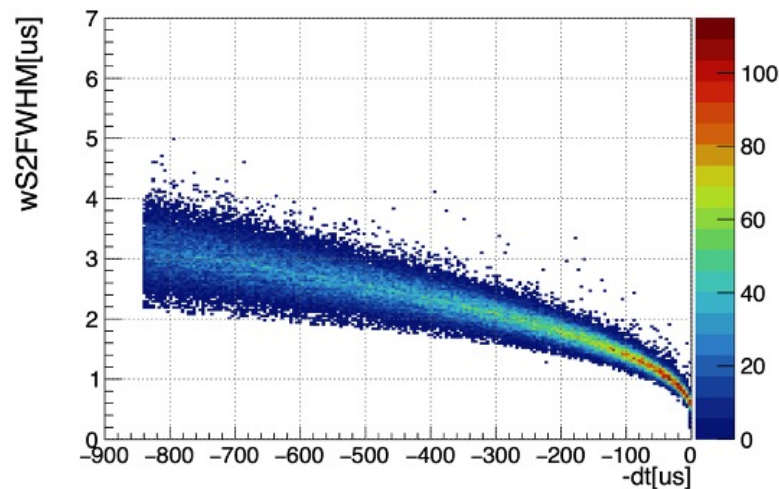
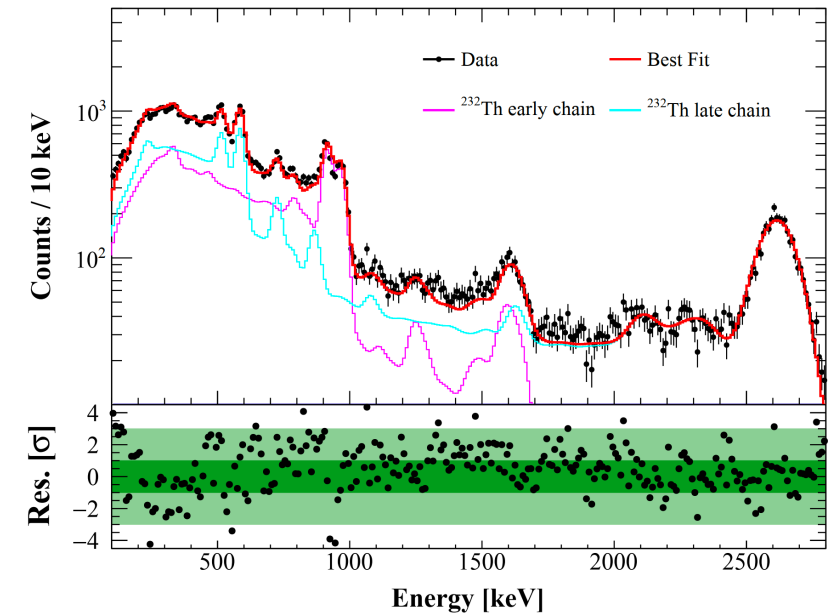
Extending energy from keV to $O(100 \text{ keV}) - O(\text{MeV})$

- PMT desaturation for large S2 signals
- Improvement of X-Y position reconstruction, energy linearity and energy resolution
- No longer an issue in Run 2



SS Fraction (SS/Total) determination

- Data-driven S2 waveform simulation + data processing
- SS fraction uncertainty is estimated by comparison MC/data of ^{232}Th calibration
- Spectrum average of the absolute bin-by-bin deviation between data and MC taken as SS fraction uncertainty



Likelihood and Systematics

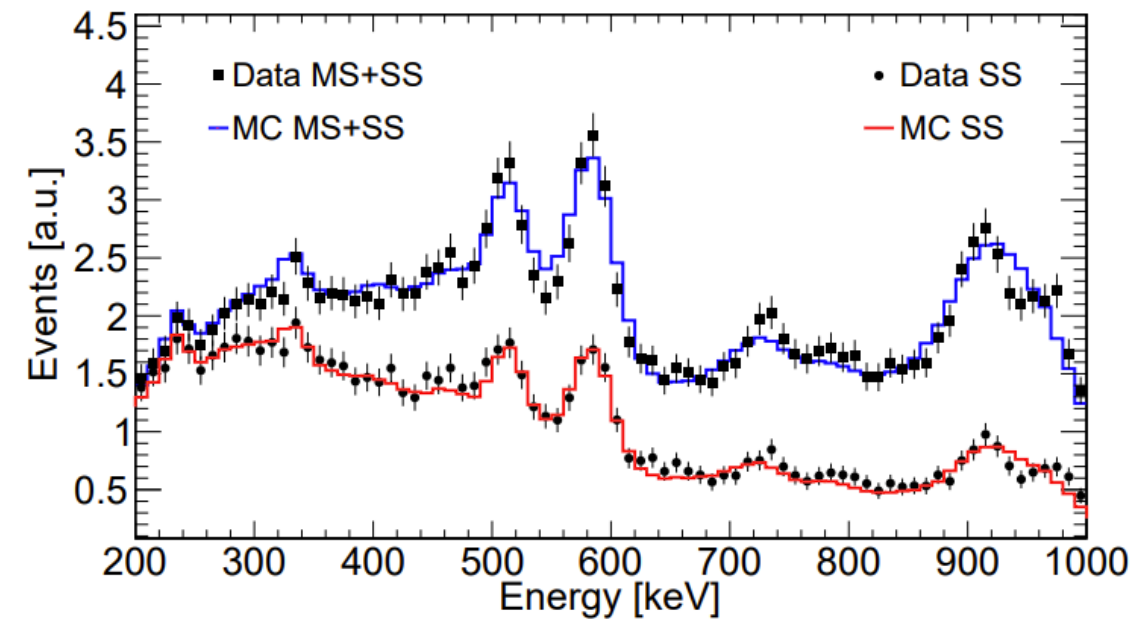
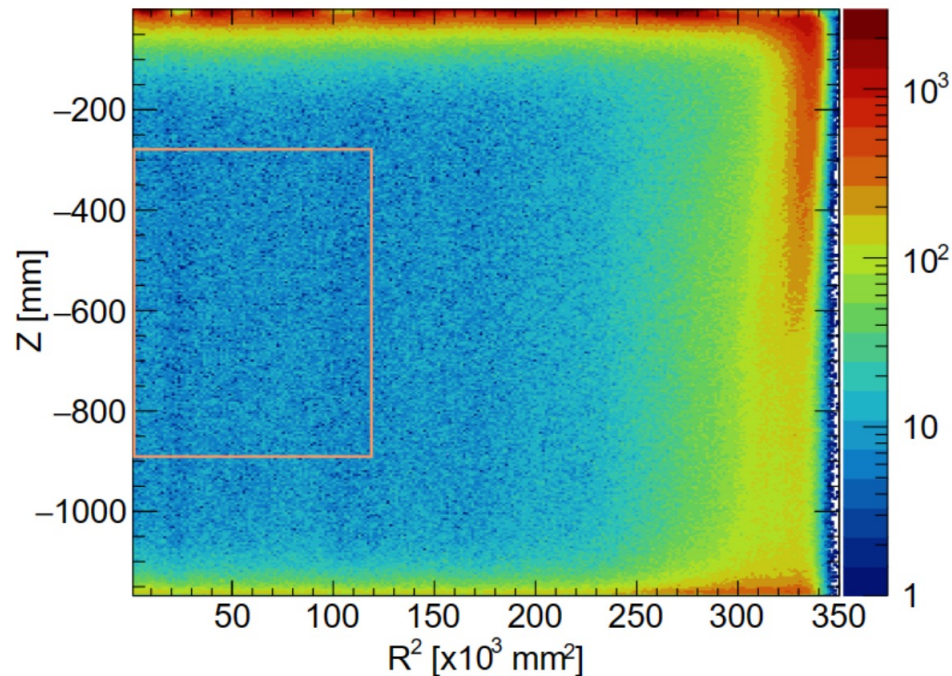
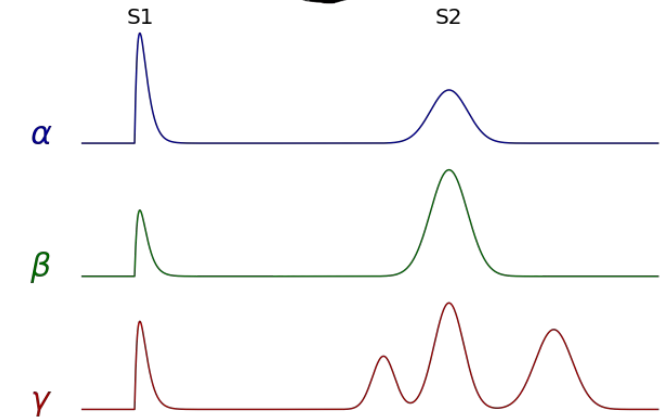
- Binned Poisson likelihood with Gaussian penalty terms to constrain nuisance parameters
- Systematics include three categories: energy response, overall efficiency, ^{136}Xe mass
- ^{136}Xe mass uncertainties: abundance from RGA measurement; FV mass from the non-uniformity of $^{83\text{m}}\text{Kr}$ + LXe density fluctuation

$$\begin{aligned}
 L = & \prod_r^{N_{run}} \prod_i^{N_{region}} \prod_j^{N_{bins}} \frac{(N_{rij})^{N_{rij}^{obs}}}{N_{rij}^{obs}!} e^{-N_{rij}} \\
 & \cdot \prod_r^{N_{run}} [\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{M}_r; \mathcal{M}_r^0, \Sigma_r^{\mathcal{M}}) \cdot \prod_k^{N_{eff}} G(\eta_r^k; 0, \sigma_r^k)] \\
 & \cdot \prod_b^{N_{bkg}} G(\eta^b; 0, \sigma^b) \\
 N_{rij} = & (1 + \eta_r^o) \cdot [(1 + \eta_r^s) \cdot n_r^s \cdot S_{ijr} \\
 & + \sum_b^{N_{bkg}} (1 + \eta^b) \cdot n_r^b \cdot B_{ijr}^b]
 \end{aligned}$$

Sources		Values	
		Run0	Run1
Energy response	a [keV $^{-1}$]	$(4.2 \pm 1.0) \times 10^{-6}$	$(1.1 \pm 1.4) \times 10^{-6}$
	b	0.992 ± 0.002	0.997 ± 0.004
	c [keV]	0.90 ± 0.32	1.4 ± 1.5
	d [$\sqrt{\text{keV}}$]	0.259 ± 0.046	0.46 ± 0.25
	e [keV $^{-1}$]	$(1.1 \pm 1.5) \times 10^{-6}$	$(8.8 \pm 22.2) \times 10^{-7}$
	f	$(9.7 \pm 3.5) \times 10^{-3}$	$(7.4 \pm 10.0) \times 10^{-3}$
Overall efficiency	^{136}Xe $0\nu\beta\beta$ SS fraction	$(87.1 \pm 11.3)\%$	$(87.3 \pm 7.0)\%$
	Quality cut	$(99.89 \pm 0.10)\%$	$(99.97 \pm 0.02)\%$
^{136}Xe mass	^{136}Xe abundance	$(8.58 \pm 0.11)\%$	
	FV mass [kg]	735 ± 3	735 ± 14
Background model		Table. 2	

Data selection

- An identical FV as in ^{136}Xe analysis, **total isotopic exposure: 17.9 kg·yr**
- Single site vs multi-site selection measured by ^{232}Th calibration data
 - Little impact to DBD signals (β SS events)



PandaX, Phys.Rev.Lett. 132 (2024) 15, 152502

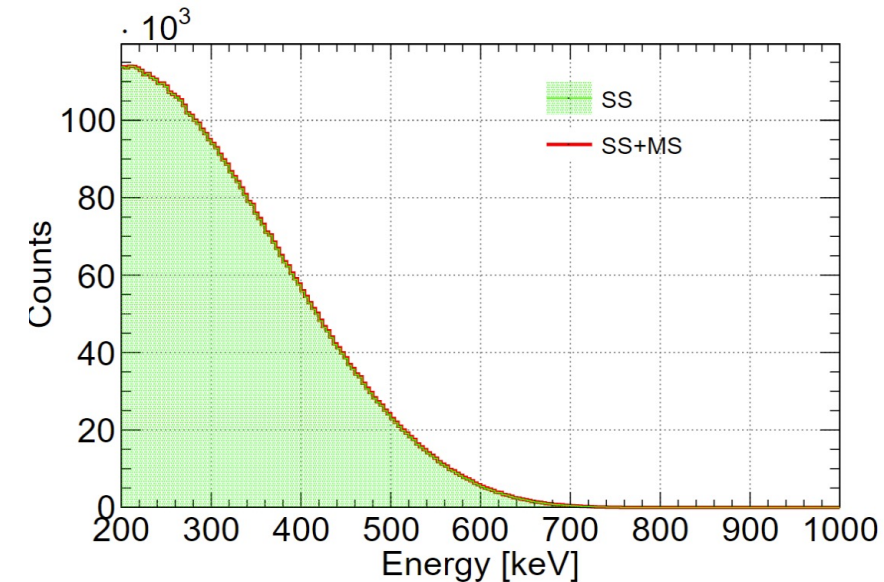
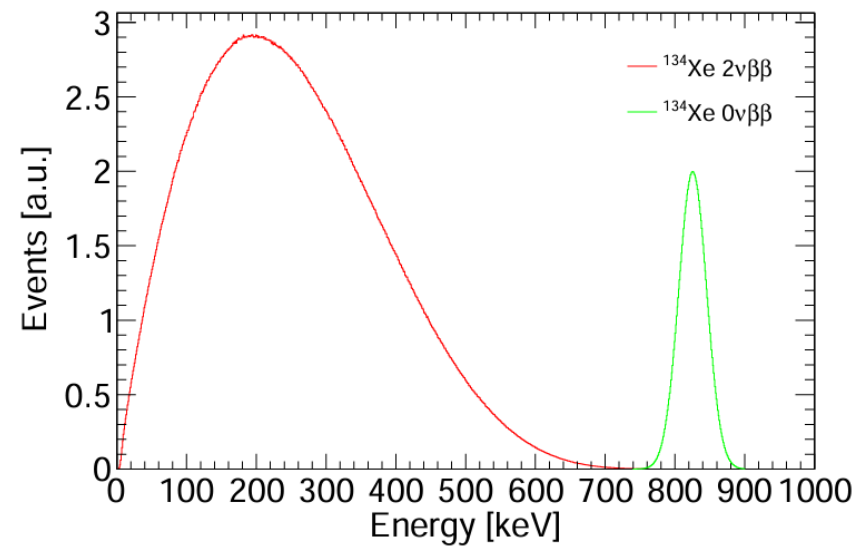
- ^{134}Xe $2\nu\beta\beta$ and $0\nu\beta\beta$ events generated with the theoretical calculation
- The signal events went through PandaX-4T simulation and data processing chain

- ROI [200,1000]keV cut:

- $2\nu\beta\beta$: 60.56%
- $0\nu\beta\beta$: 99.98%

- SS ratio in ROI:

- $2\nu\beta\beta$: 99.89%
- $0\nu\beta\beta$: 98.23%



[Physical Review C 85, 034316 \(2012\)](#)

Background model

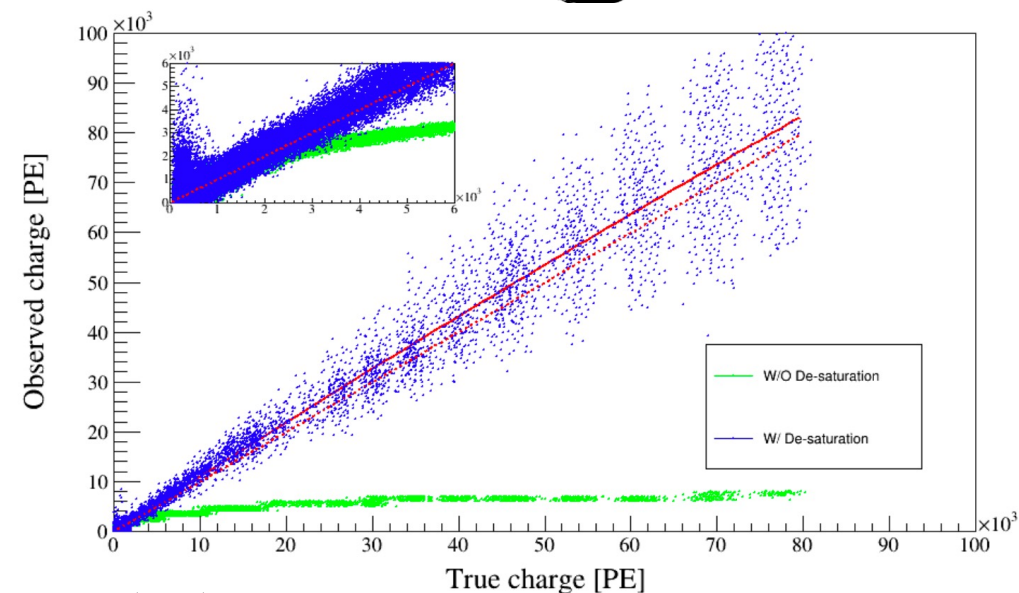
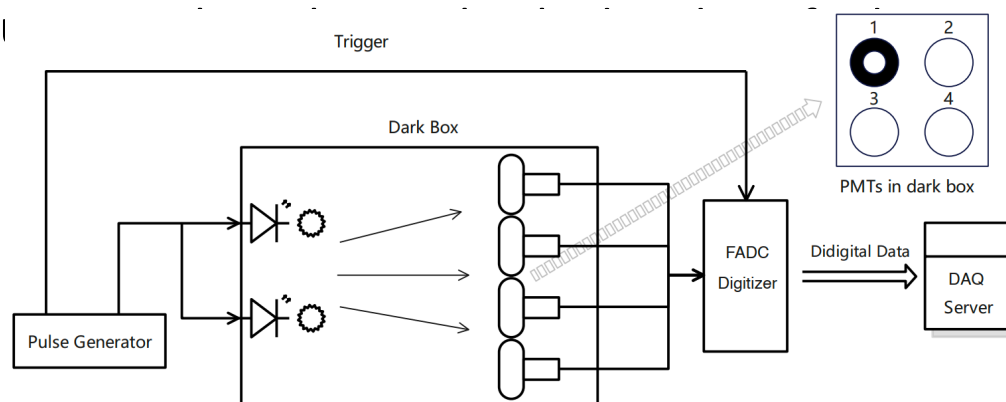
	Component	Input Counts	Constraint	
Materials	^{60}Co	130	13%	
	^{40}K	133	8%	
	^{232}Th	950	5%	Measured in ^{136}Xe $2\nu\beta\beta$ analysis
	^{238}U	274	8%	Research 2022 (2022) 9798721
LXe	^{136}Xe	12372	5%	
	^{212}Pb	1012	29%	Measured by its daughter ^{212}Po alpha decay
	^{85}Kr	296	52%	Determined by β - γ emission through the metastable state $^{85\text{m}}\text{Rb}$
	^{133}Xe	3423	10%	Estimated the β + γ shoulder of ^{133}Xe between 90 and 120 keV
	^{214}Pb	19429	Free	Determined by ^{222}Rn
	^{125}Xe	-	Free	short-lived xenon isotopes induced by neutron calibration
	Other Xe	-	Free	^{127}Xe and $^{129\text{m}}\text{Xe}$

Bench test for saturation and new PMT base design



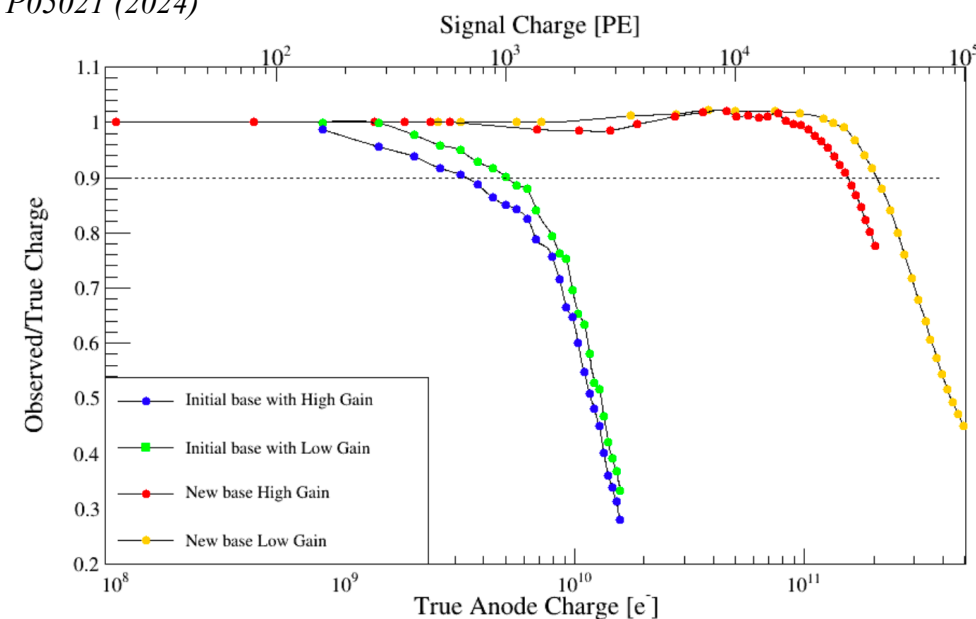
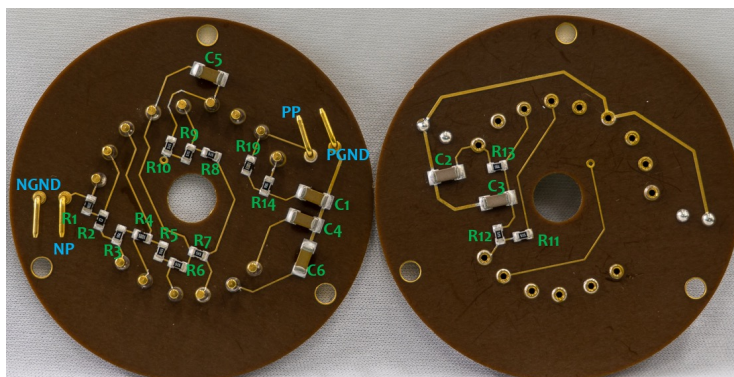
PANDA X
PARTICLE AND ASTROPHYSICAL XENON TPC

- PMT waveform saturation is studied by independent bench tests
- Desat



JINST 19 P05021 (2024)

- New PMT base design to increase the dynamic range
- All PMT bases have been changed in Run2



Unified Data Reconstruction Pipeline

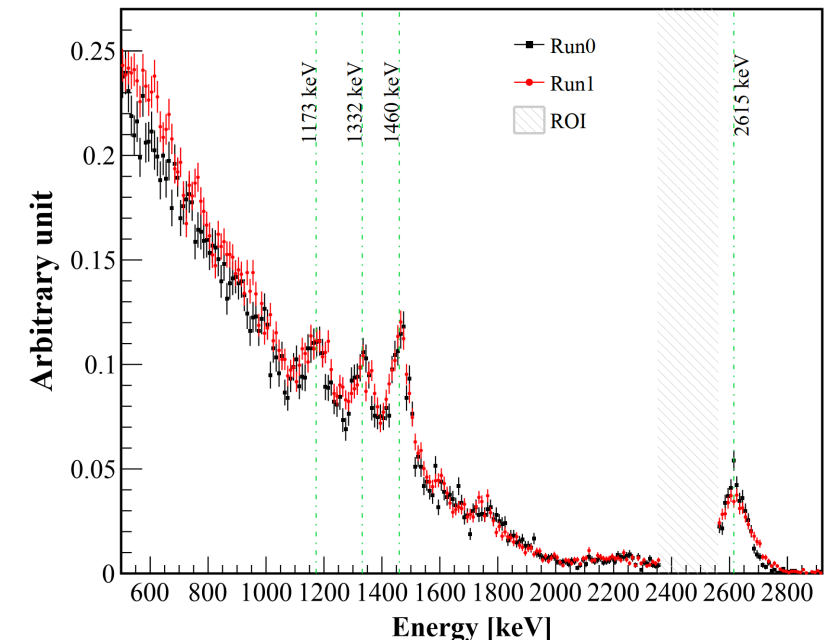
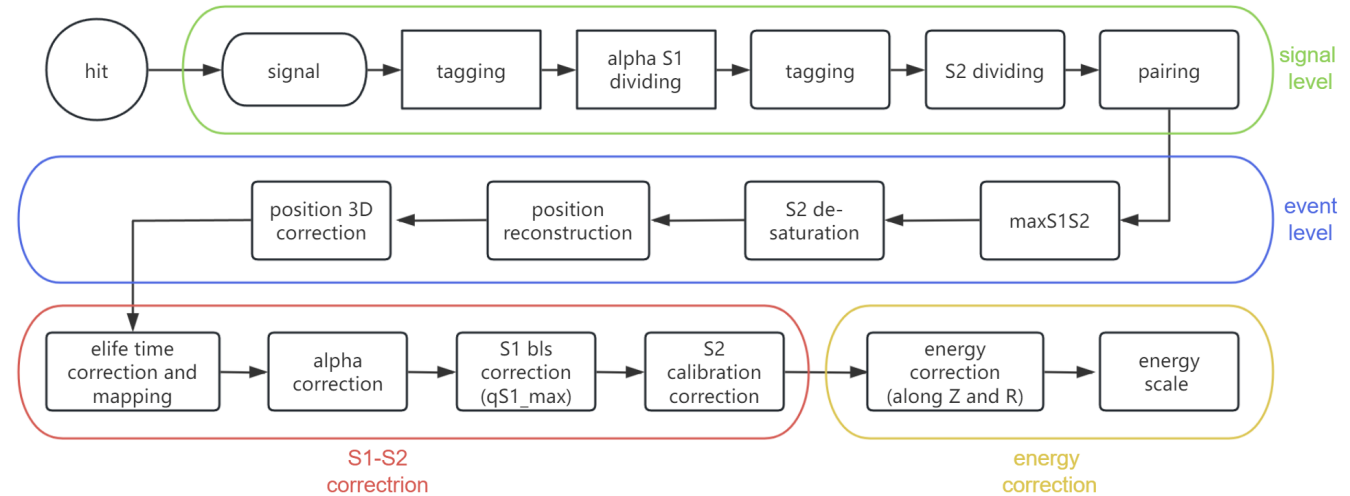
Optimizations in data processing:

- Recovered $\sim 0.5\%$ SS events by an improved time window cut
- S1 waveform slicing to improve alpha events reconstruction
- 3.5 ms dead-time cut before ^{214}Po events to remove isolated ^{214}Bi events: $\sim 1\%$ background reduction and negligible data loss
- And more...

Unified pipeline for Run0 and Run1

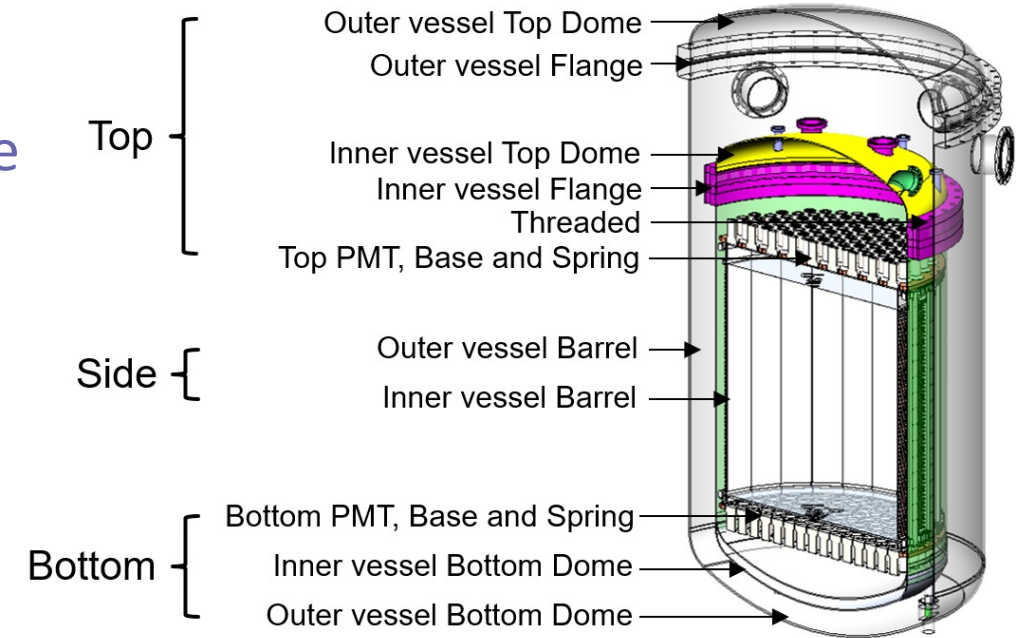
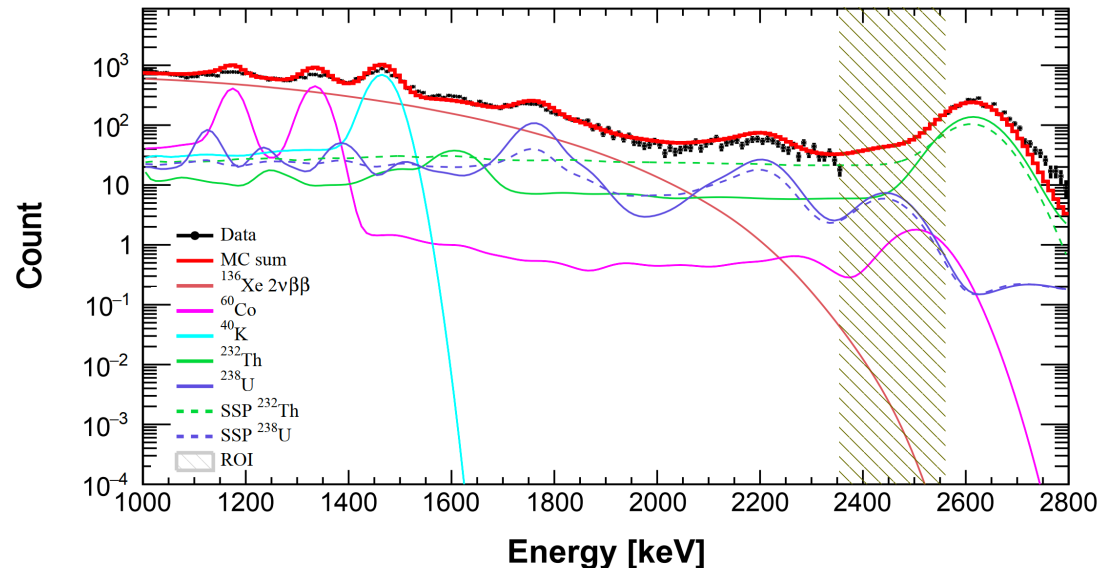
- Reconstructed spectra of Run0 and Run1 are consistent, considering the ^{222}Rn increase in Run1

Blind analysis: ROI = [2356, 2560] keV, only SS events used



Background Model

- $^{136}\text{Xe } 2\nu\beta\beta$ (from PandaX measured ^{136}Xe half-life)
- Detector material: ^{60}Co , ^{40}K , ^{232}Th , ^{238}U (from HPGe material assay), and grouped into top, side, and bottom parts
- Stainless steel platform (SSP): ^{232}Th , ^{238}U (from MS fitting)



Other background components are checked:

- Residual ^{214}Bi in TPC -> negligible
- Gammas of ^{214}Bi from LXe skin region -> negligible
- 2.5 MeV peak from ^{60}Co cascade gammas -> well modelled

Likelihood and Systematics

- Binned Poisson likelihood with Gaussian penalty terms to constrain nuisance parameters
- Systematics include three categories: energy response, overall efficiency, ^{136}Xe mass
- Background model and systematics are included in likelihood fitting

$$L = \prod_r \prod_i \prod_j \frac{(N_{rij})^{N_{rij}^{obs}}}{N_{rij}^{obs}!} e^{-N_{rij}} \cdot \prod_r [\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{M}_r; \mathcal{M}_r^0, \Sigma_r^{\mathcal{M}}) \cdot \prod_k G(\eta_r^k; 0, \sigma_r^k)] \cdot \prod_b G(\eta^b; 0, \sigma^b)$$

$$N_{rij} = (1 + \eta_r^o) \cdot [(1 + \eta_r^s) \cdot n_r^s \cdot S_{ijr} + \sum_b (1 + \eta^b) \cdot n_r^b \cdot B_{ijr}^b]$$

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^{136}Xe mass	^{136}Xe abundance	$(8.58 \pm 0.11)\%$	
	FV mass [kg]	735 ± 3	735 ± 14
Background model		Table. 2	

- ^{136}Xe abundance is measured by RGA with xenon samples from detector
- FV mass uncertainty is estimated from the non-uniformity of $^{83\text{m}}\text{Kr}$ calibration data distribution, plus the LXe density fluctuation (pressure fluctuation) during data-taking

Background counts and parameter pulls

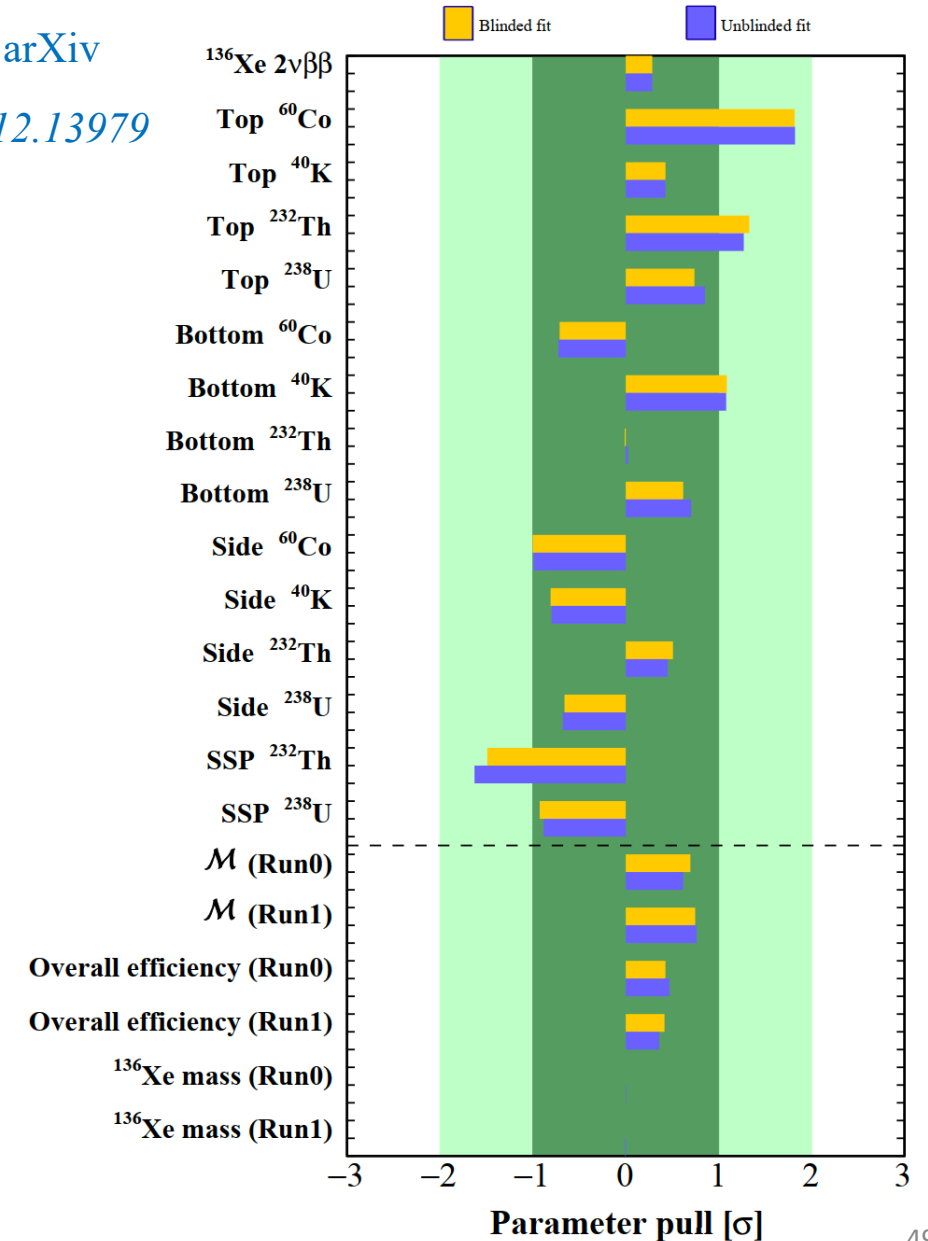
Background counts in the ROI

Background	Model expectation	Blinded fit	Unblinded fit
SSP ^{232}Th	527 ± 45	470 ± 34	458 ± 33
SSP ^{238}U	50 ± 15	38 ± 11	39 ± 11
^{232}Th	375 ± 224	510 ± 34	485 ± 31
^{238}U	78 ± 42	70 ± 9	72 ± 9
^{60}Co	18 ± 7	31 ± 3	31 ± 3
^{136}Xe	0.18 ± 0.01	0.19 ± 0.01	0.19 ± 0.01

paper on arXiv

[arxiv:2412.13979](https://arxiv.org/abs/2412.13979)

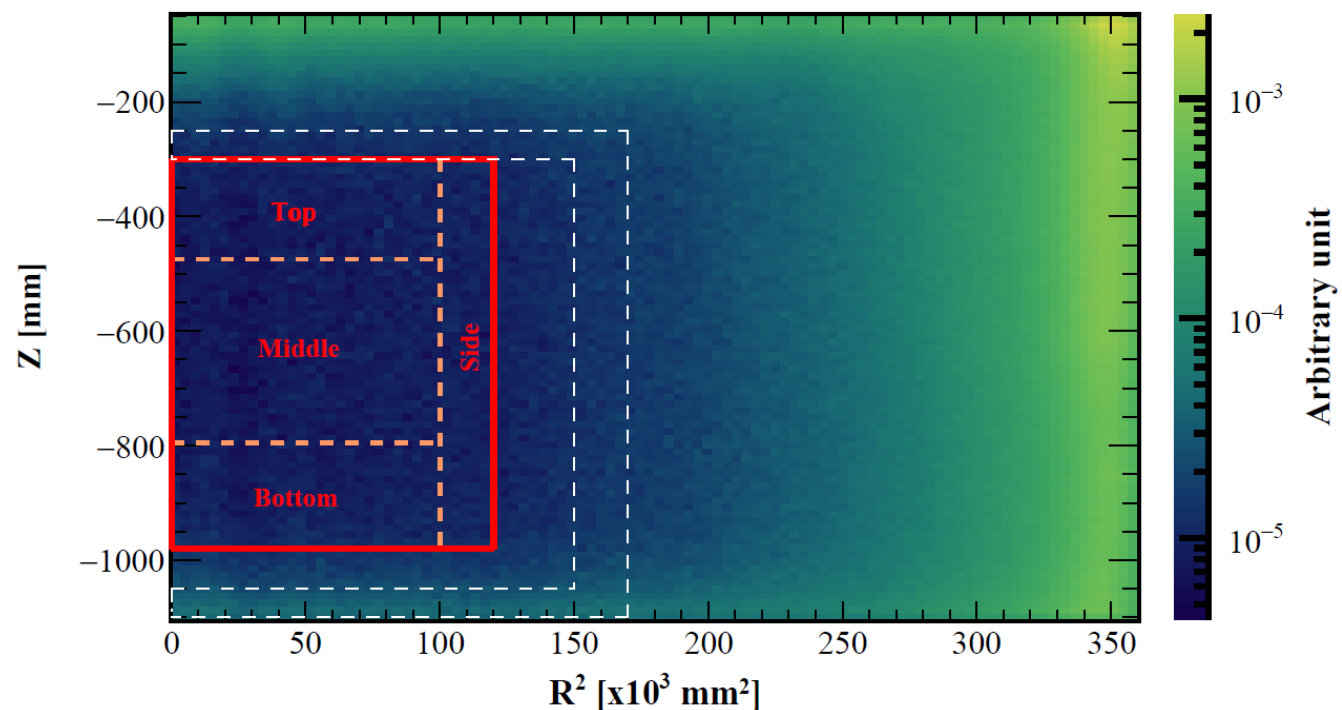
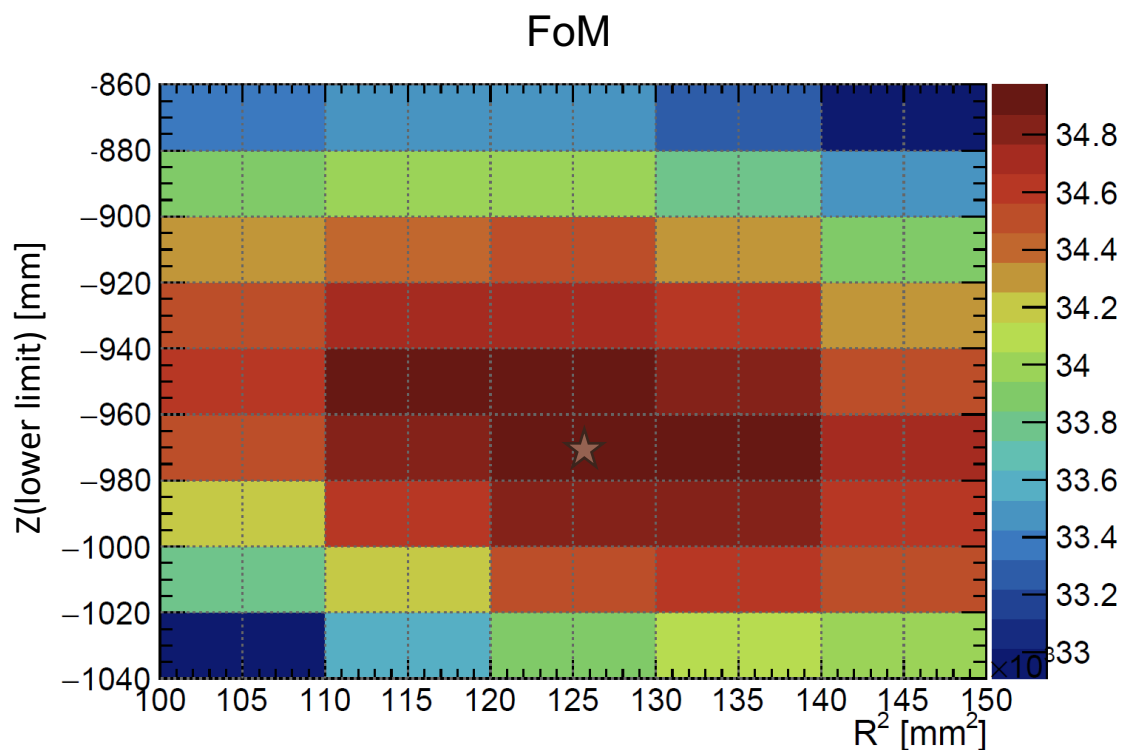
- All pulls of nuisance parameters fall within the $\pm 2\sigma$ range
- All best-fit nuisance parameters are consistent between the blinded and unblinded fits
- Pull of top ^{60}Co reaches 1.8σ , indicating that the model expectation from the HPGe material assay might be slightly underestimated



Fiducial Volume (FV)

- FV is optimized by maximizing the FoM
- FV is further divided into four regions to better constrain detector material background from top, side, and bottom parts

$$FoM \propto \frac{m}{\sqrt{B}}$$



Energy Response Model

- Residual shift between simulated energy and reconstructed energy
- Energy resolution vs. reconstructed energy
- Response model from physics data in slim regions outside FV
- Model parameters naturally included in the likelihood fitting

$$E = a \cdot \hat{E}^2 + b \cdot \hat{E} + c.$$

$$\frac{\sigma(E)}{E} = \frac{d}{\sqrt{E}} + e \cdot E + f.$$

