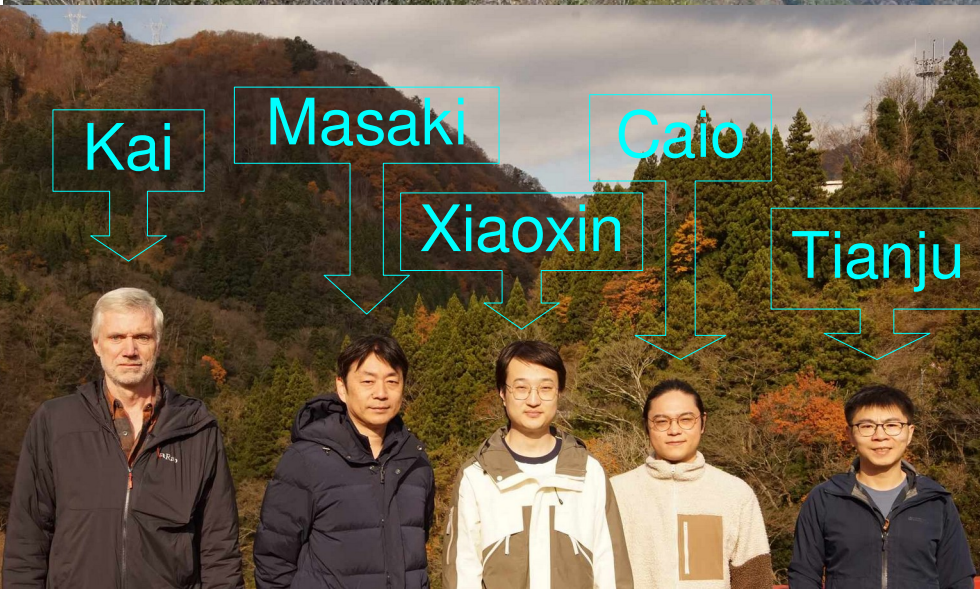


# Liquid Xenon @ Kamioka



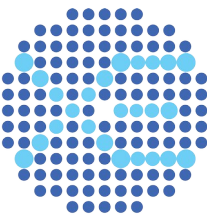
From **XMASS**, through **XENON**,  
towards the 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation **XLZD** Detector



**Kai Martens**  
Kavli IPMU  
The University of Tokyo

@ Festa Hitoshi!  
2024.12.17

# Overview:



XENON

**What Dark Matter (DM)**

**The Why and How of liquid xenon (LXe)**

**XMASS:** Oct. 2010 – Mar. 2019, refurbished: Jun. 2012 - Oct. 2013  
single phase: scintillation only; highest scintillation light yield

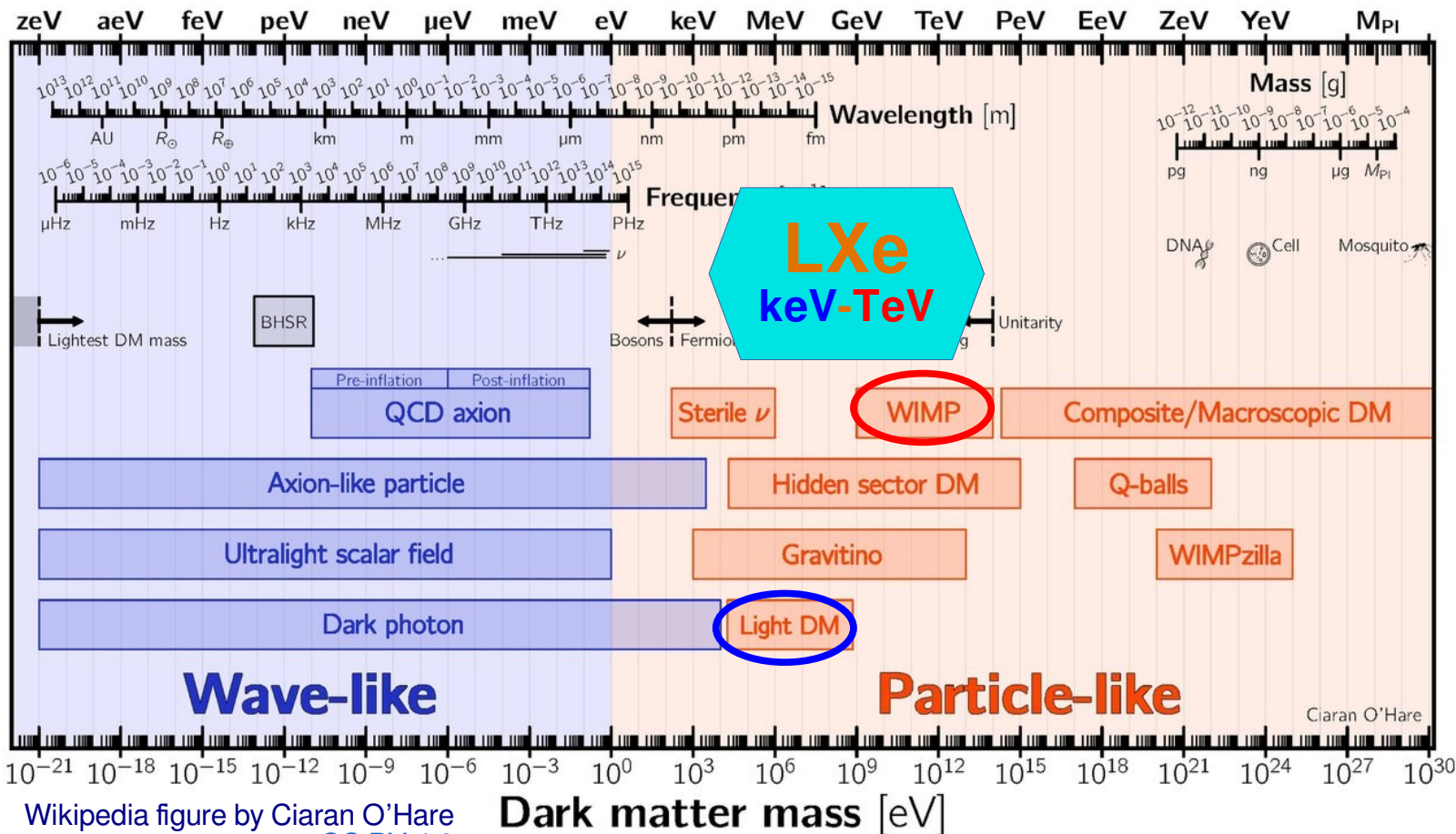
**XENONnT:** Jul. 2021 – now, targeting 20 ton-year exposure  
dual-phase: measures both, scintillation & charge yield  
lowest background to date

**XLZD:** a.s.a.p. *after* XENONnT (XnT) & LUX-ZEPLIN (LZ)  
"3<sup>rd</sup> generation" dual-phase LXe: dark matter and CE $\nu$ NS

# What Dark Matter???



XENON



That DM:  
*particle masses from a few keV to a few hundred TeV*

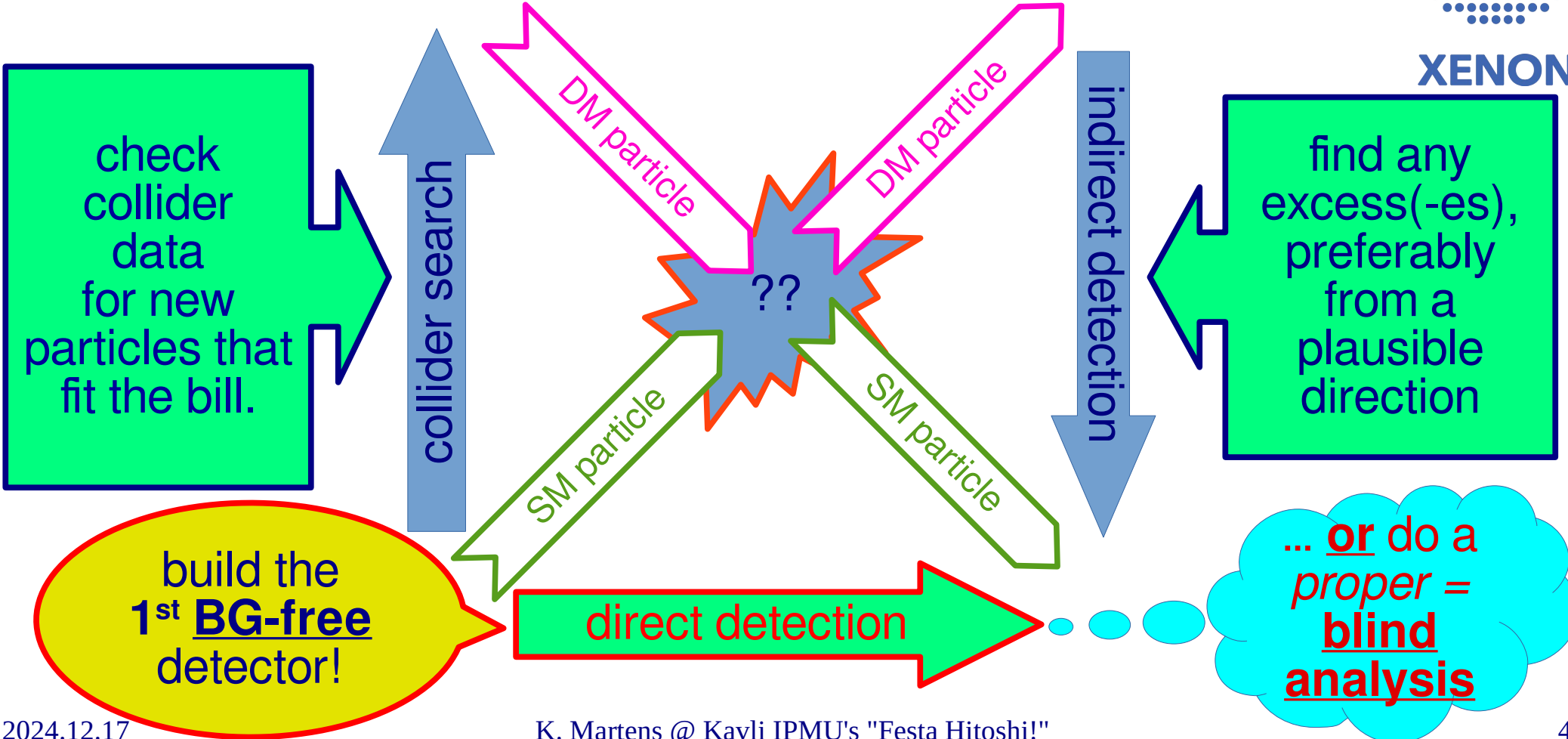
also:  
*astrophysical neutrinos !!!*

Wikipedia figure by Ciaran O'Hare  
 CC BY 4.0

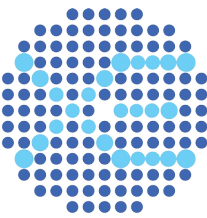


XENON

# Dark Matter particle hunting:



# Why LXe?



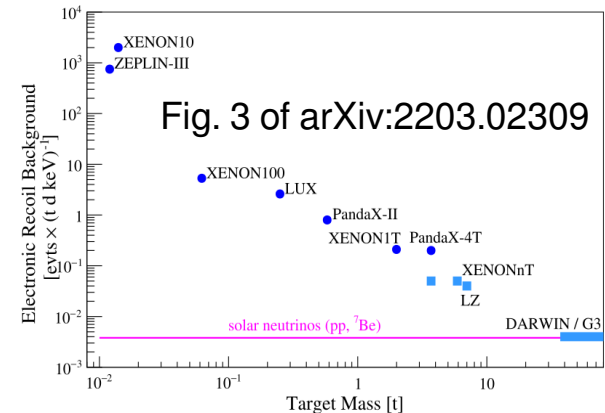
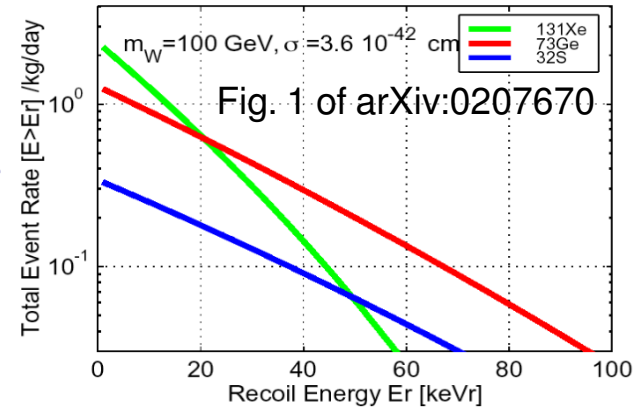
XENON

... many GOOD reasons:

- low work function (11.5 eV) → high yield
- high density → self-shielding
- isotopic composition → spin-dependent analyses
- nuclear physics
- high mass number → high cross section
- ← spallation bad... → go underground !!!

liquid state allows to:

- use cryogenic distillation → high radio-purity
- use getters → high e-lifetime:
- build **TPCs**: → mm position resolution !!!  
(Time Projection Chamber)



# How to LXe?



## Single Phase

S1 only → **XMASS**:

*maximized photocathode coverage !!!*

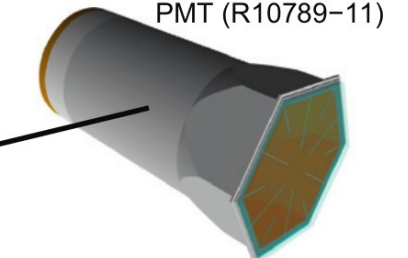
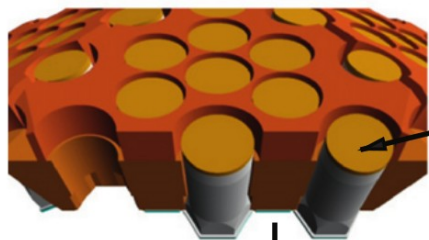
## Dual Phase

Time Projection Chamber (TPC): **XENON**

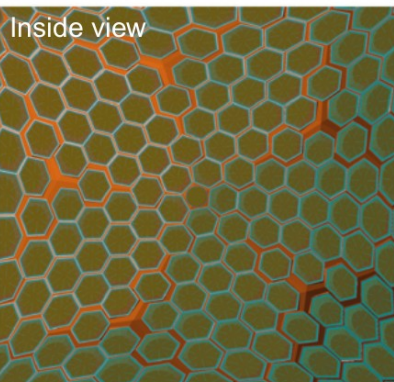
*S2/S1 ER rejection !!!*

PMTs and PMT holder

PMT (R10789-11)



Outside view



Inside view

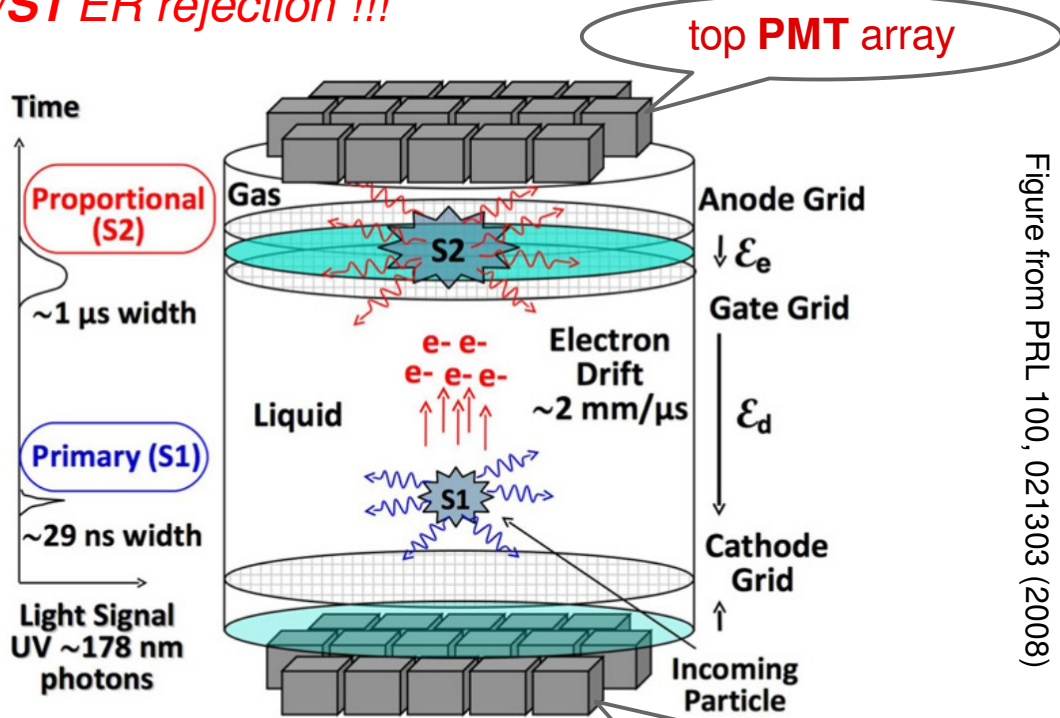
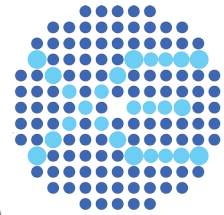


Figure from PRL 100, 021303 (2008)

inner diameter  $\geq 80 \text{ cm}$ : 835 kg LXe

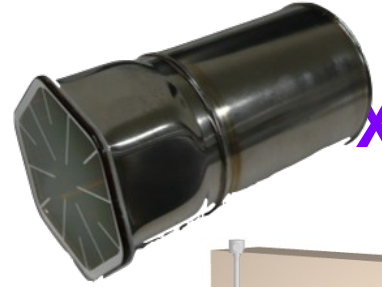
bottom **PMT array**



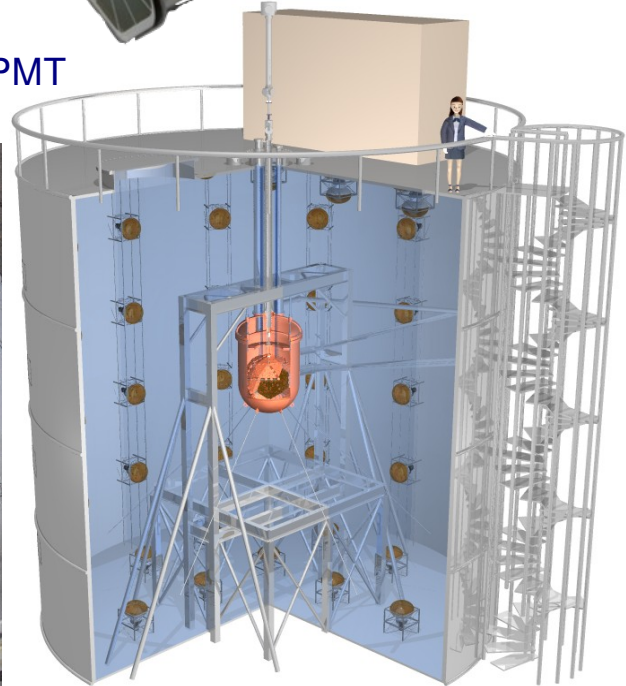
# The XMASS detector at Kamioka

XMASS proposed 2000  
Kr distillation established 2004  
 detector assembly: 2009+10  
commissioning: 2010.12-2012.05  
data taking: 2013.11-2019.03

**XMASS PMT:**  
**Hamamatsu** R10789  
 QE@175nm = 28-39%  
 U < 1 mBq/PMT  
 Th < 0.94 mBq/PMT  
 K < 9.68 mBq/PMT  
 Co = 4.47±0.34 mBq/PMT

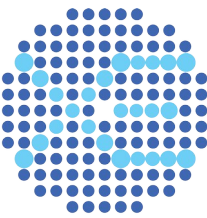


XMASS



**1<sup>st</sup> LXe detector with water Cherenkov shield**

# XMASS-I: 832 kg full, 97 fiducial ( $r < 20$ cm)



XMASS

## Technical advances:

- **Kr distillation** demonstrated; 2004:  $\sim 1$  Bq/kg  $\rightarrow < 10$   $\mu$ Bq/kg
- 1<sup>st</sup> **water Cherenkov muon veto**
- developed **lowest BG PMTs w/Hamamatsu**

## Commissioning phase early results (12.2010 - 05.2012):

- light WIMPs, WIMP- $^{129}\text{Xe}$  inelastic
- Solar axions,  $^{124}\text{Xe}$  ECEC

## Data taking phase main results (11.2013 - 03.2019):

- annual modulation (also: sub-GeV), WIMPs in fid. vol., WIMP- $^{129}\text{Xe}$  inelastic
- Solar axions,  $^{124}\text{Xe}$  ECEC, HP/ALPs, exotic  $\nu_{\text{sol}}$  int.,  $^{136}\text{Xe}$   $0\nu\beta\beta$
- GW associated events

**find all XMASS papers at:**

<https://www-sk.icrr.u-tokyo.ac.jp/xmass/dispatches/publications/index-e.html>



# Slide by Moriyama (2024.03.05):



**XMASS**

**XMASS-I**

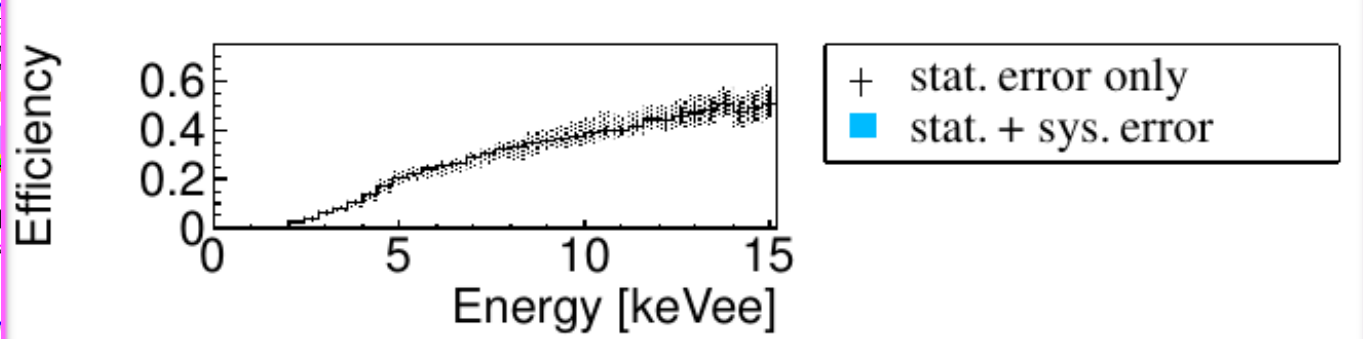
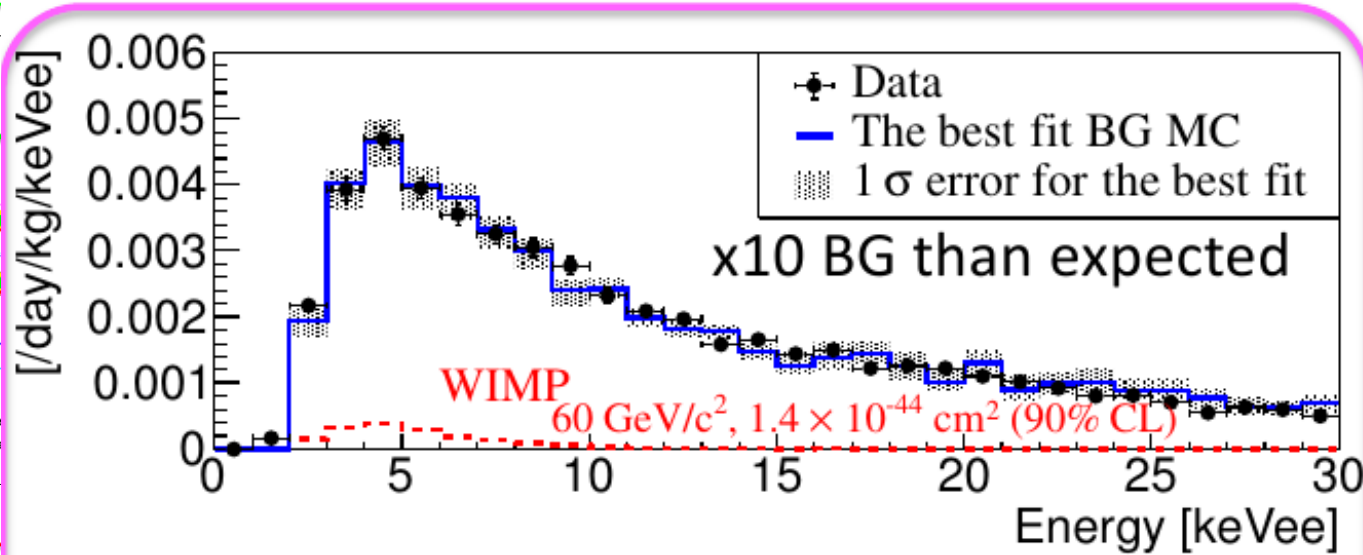
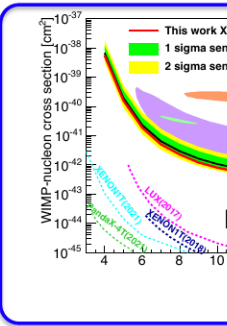
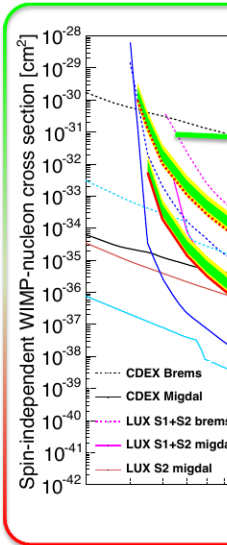
pioneered many LXe analyses,

but:

an unexpected beta-emitter contamination produced

BG 10x larger than expected

ultimately limited its reach...



# $^{124}\text{Xe}, ^{126}\text{Xe}: 2\nu\text{ECEC}; ^{136}\text{Xe}: 0\nu\beta\beta$



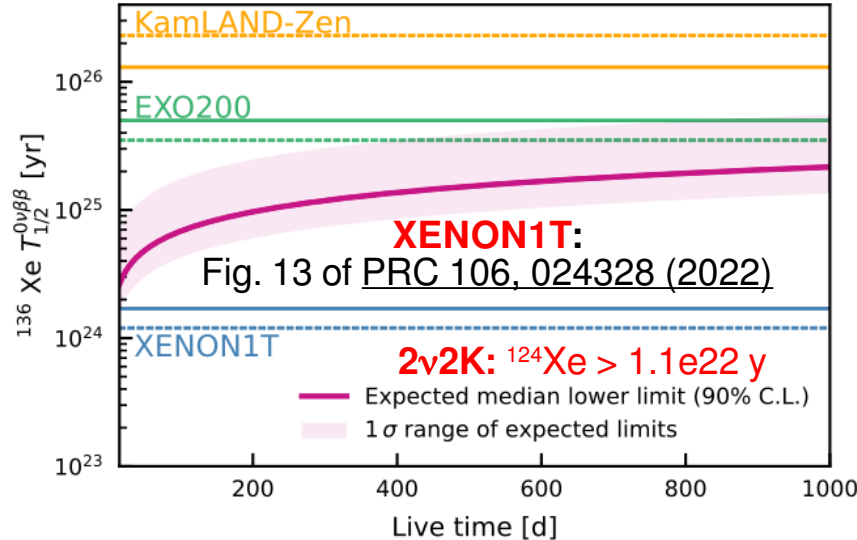
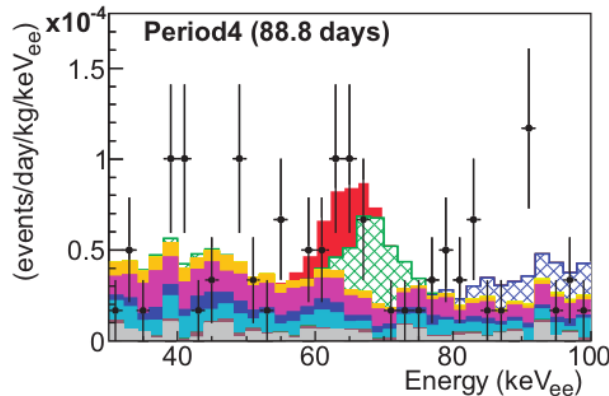
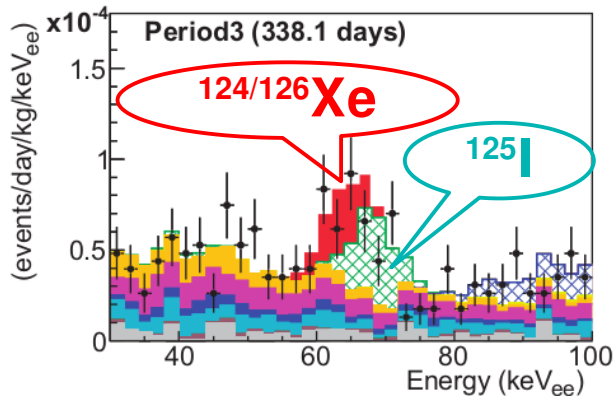
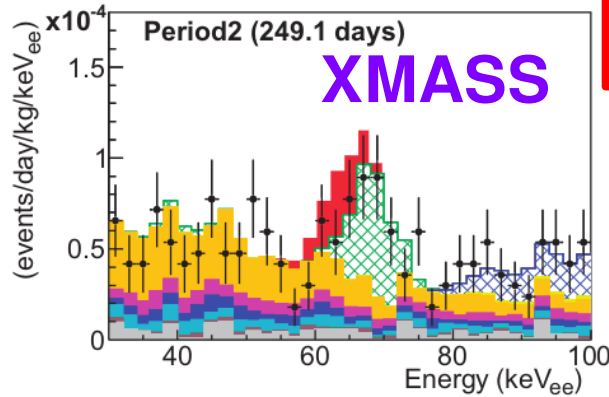
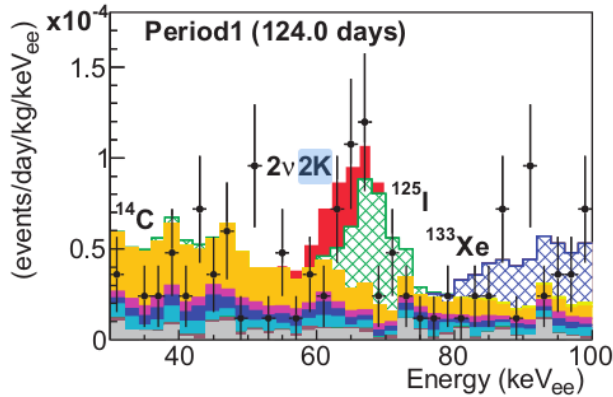
**XENON  
XMASS**

simultaneous capture of 2 K-shell electrons:  $2\nu 2K$ :  
w/ $\beta$ -rejection  $\rightarrow ^{124}\text{Xe} > 2.1\text{e}22 \text{ y}, ^{126}\text{Xe} > 1.9\text{e}22 \text{ y}$

**natural abundance** (Wikipedia):

**Xe** 136= 8.9%  
124= 0.9%  
126= 0.9%

**XENON1T  $^{136}\text{Xe}$  limit:**  
w/**XENONnT** expectation  
(currently in preparation...)



**XMASS:**

# The XENON Collaboration



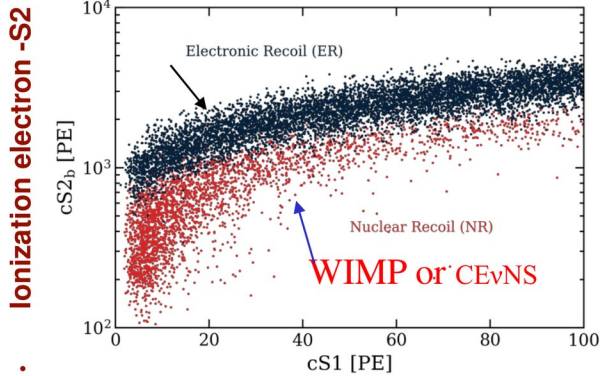
# XENONnT (XnT) Genealogy



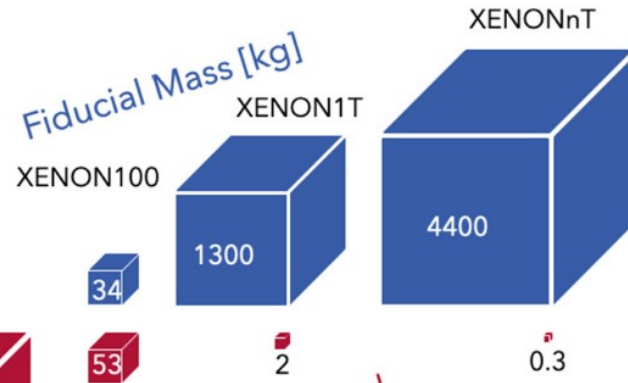
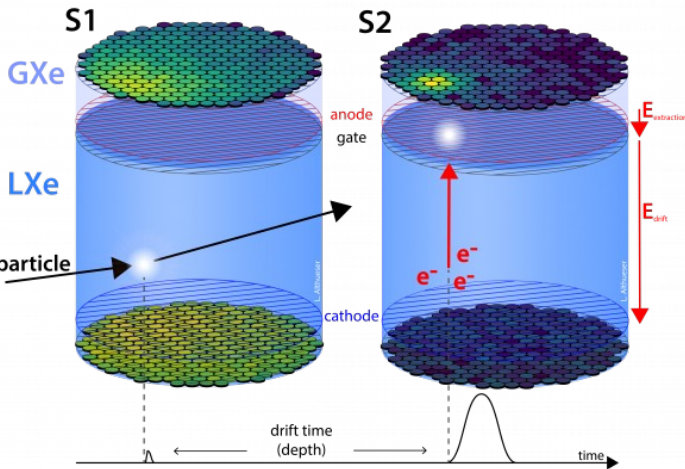
XENON

A brief history of **XENON** direct detection  
Dark Matter detectors:

Solar  $\nu$  (e-scatter) and Background



Scintillation light - S1



Masaki was 10000 there!

Background [Events/(Tonne Day)]

**Now:**  
**XENONnT:**  
**4,370 kg**  
**fiducial**  
(SR0, ER)  
8.5 tonnes  
total  
**background =**  
**battleground:**  
**0.04 / txdxkeV**  
(ER)

from: Nucl. Phys. B 1003 (2024) 116463

K. Martens @ Kavli IPMU's "Festa Hitoshi!"

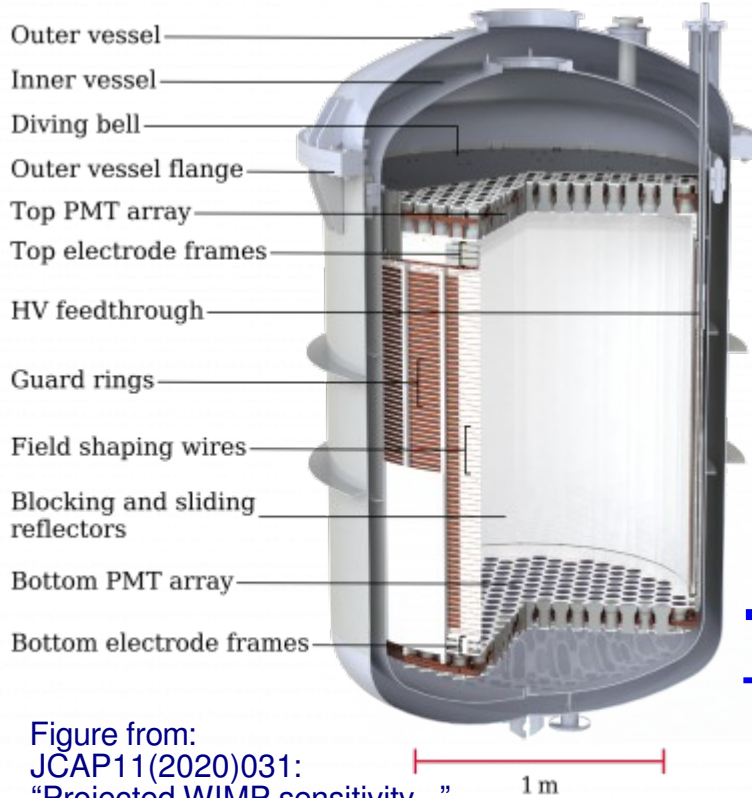
# XENONnT: Upgrade of XENON1T



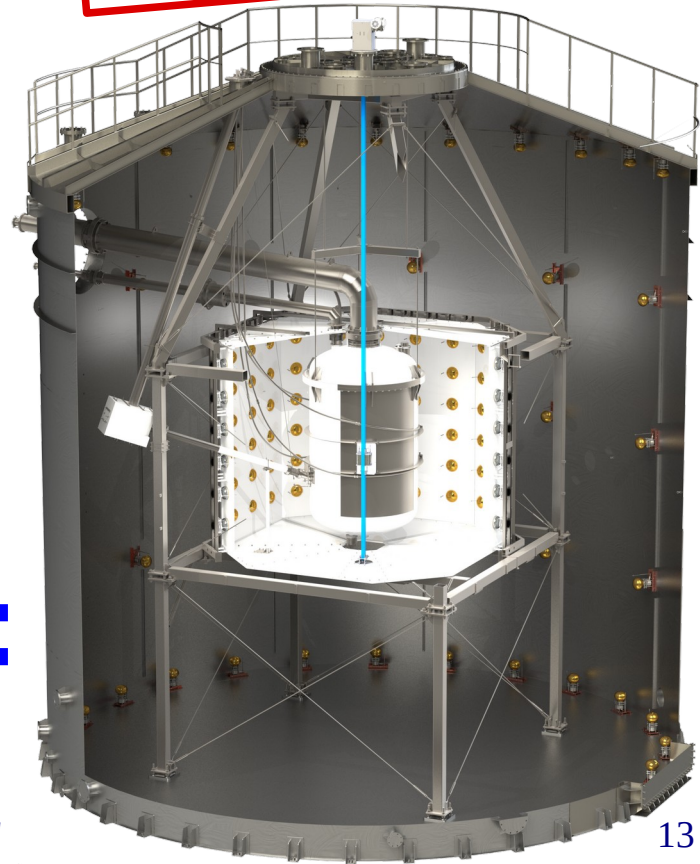
Enlarged dual phase TPC  
→ ~4 ton fiducial volume

← to exploit and support this new size, XENONnT needed to:

**2 frontiers:**  
1. SG extraction  
2. BG reduction



- suppress electronegative contaminations in LXe:  
→ **liquid purification**
- suppress  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  (ER BG):  
→ **Rn distillation**
- tag radiogenic neutrons  
→ **neutron veto**
- LXe emergency storage  
→ **new storage**



**taking data:**  
**Science Run 2**

Figure from:  
JCAP11(2020)031:  
"Projected WIMP sensitivity..."

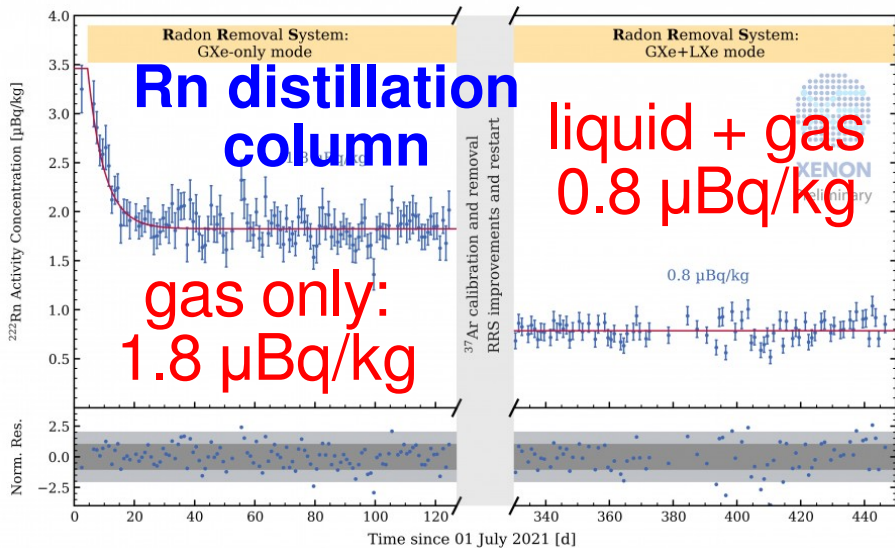
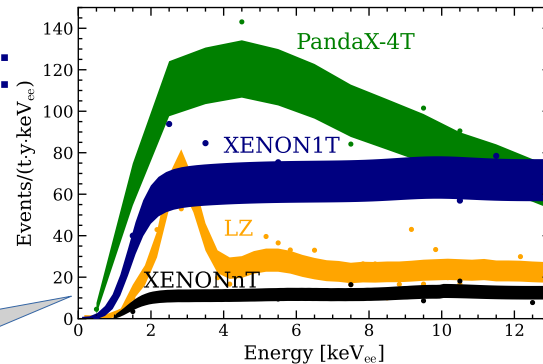
# XENONnT: Lowest BG LXe TPC!



XENON

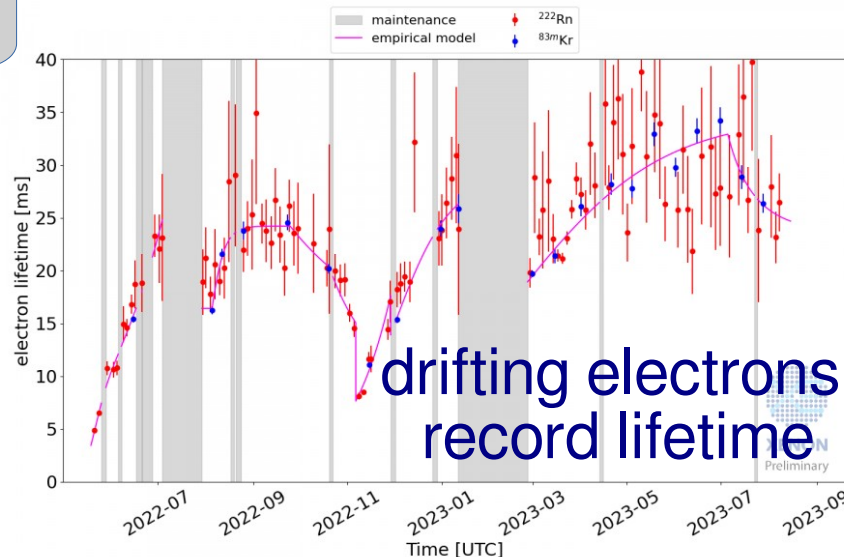
## TPC performance critical upgrade components:

- liquid purification → electron lifetime
- Rn distillation →  $^{214}\text{Pb}$  beta BG



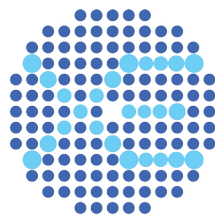
results & bragging rights

IPMU's Masaki: critical contrib.



# WIMP nuclear recoil search: SR0

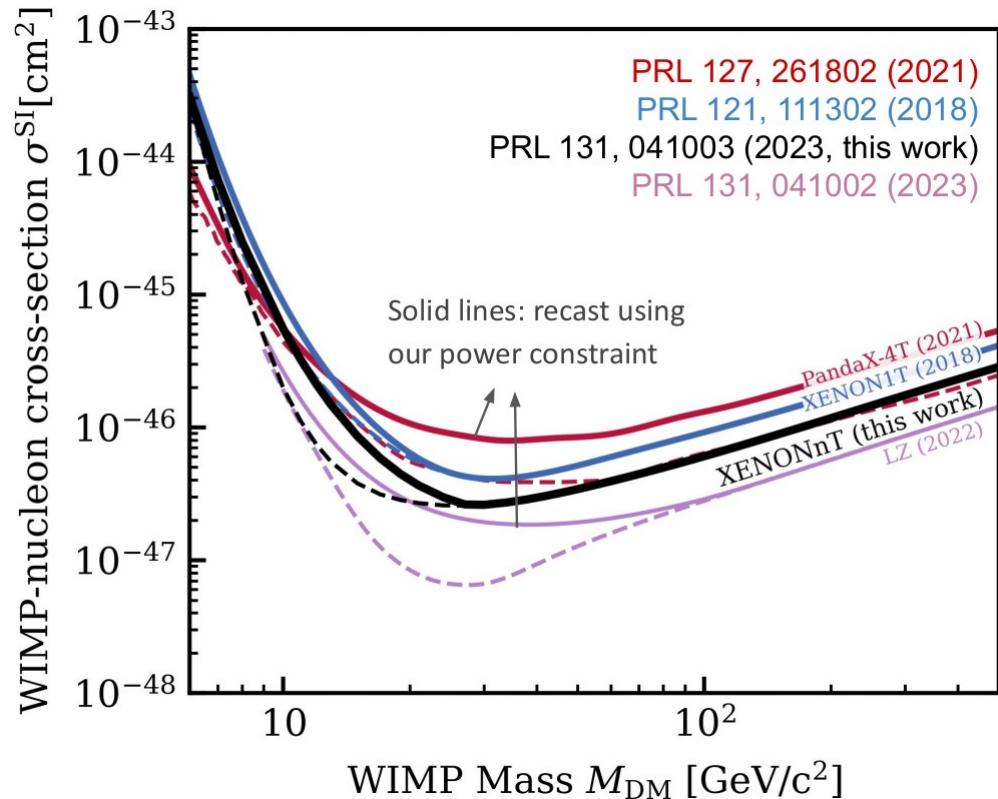
(...currently taking SR2 data)



XENON

## some comments:

- blind analyses **take time**...
- both, PandaX-4T & LZ "profited" from statistical under-fluctuations
- PandaX is preparing for a 20 tonne detector
- XENONnT data analyses are proceeding...  
→ *stay tuned*



key ingredient: proper statistical **inference**: ours is the only **blind analysis**

# The XnT neutron veto

(NV, now running with 10% of design Gd-sulfate loading !!!)

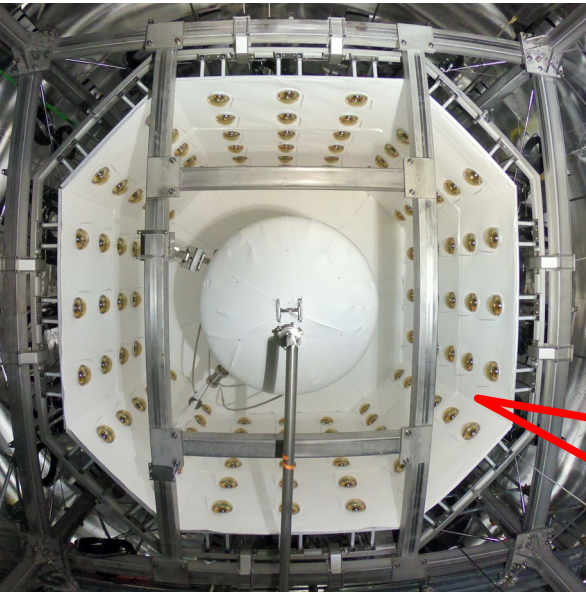


XENON

**design success:**

world leading **PURE water** Cherenkov  
neutron **tagging efficiency:  $(53 \pm 3)\%$**   
arXiv 2412.05264 (submitted to EPJC)

**EGADS nanofiltration  
& SK resin technology:**



hopper  
for salt insertion

2 t mixing tank  
with stirrer

unlike Super-K:  
few PMTs,  
high reflectivity

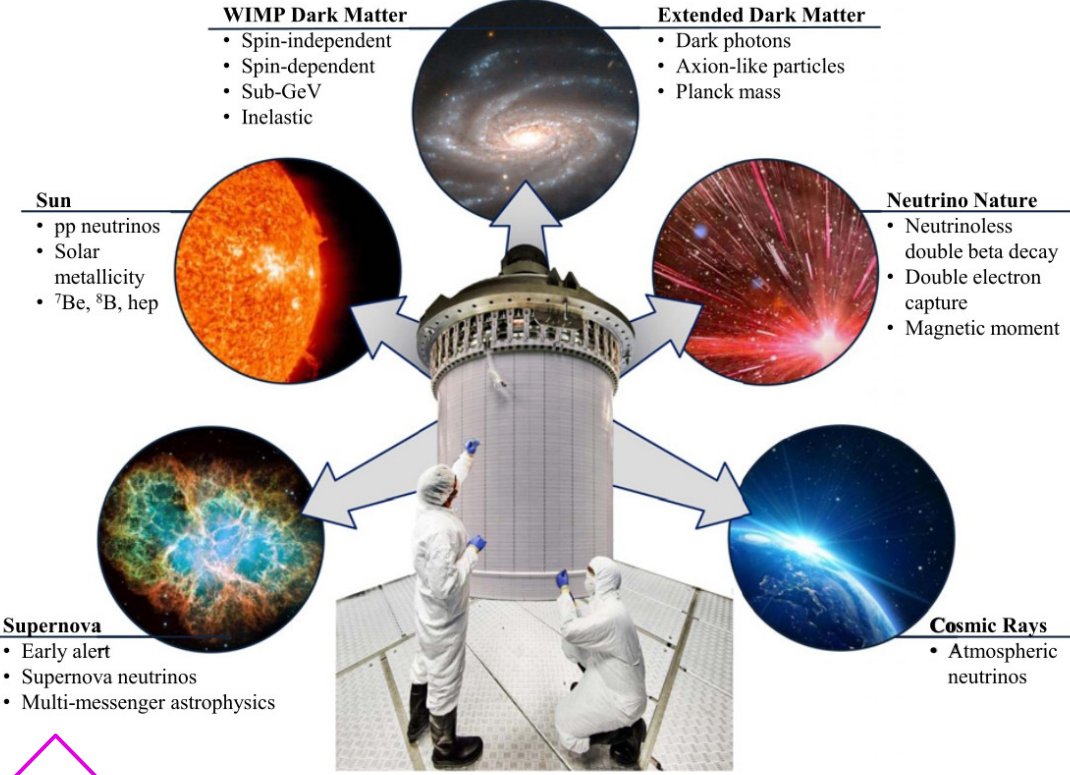


water shield





# XLZD: Towards Discovery (...ies ???):



## dual-phase LXe TPCs: XENON

*a proven technology:*  
→ the way forward

rare event discovery needs:  
– confirmation (experiments!)

rare event interpretation needs:  
– complementarity (targets !!)

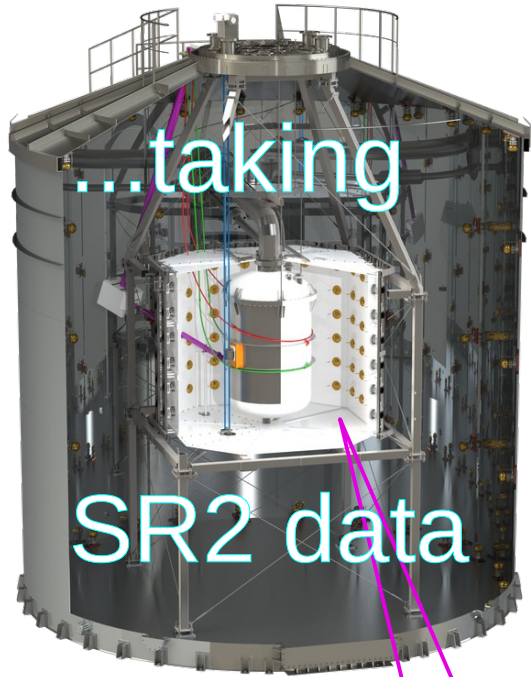
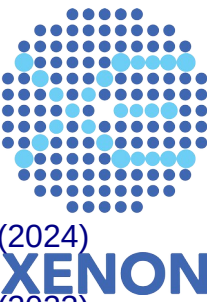
experiments need:  
– experienced LXe-scientists !!!

SCJ: *medium size* ! (Ooguri, Masaki)

Fig 2

see our **Whitepaper**:  
**A next-generation liquid xenon observatory for dark matter and neutrino physics**  
 J Aalbers et al 2023 J. Phys. G: Nucl. Part. Phys. 50 013001 (arXiv: 2203.02309)

# Summary:



## XENONnT Results:

First Indication of Solar  $^8\text{B}$  Neutrinos via CEvNS with XENONnT,  
First Dark Matter Search with Nuclear Recoils from the XENONnT Experiment,

PRL 133, 191002 (2024)

PRL 131, 041003 (2023)

Double-weak decays of  $^{124}\text{Xe}$  and  $^{136}\text{Xe}$  in the XENON1T and XENONnT Experiments,

PRC 106, 024328

## XENONnT Documentation:

Low-energy calibration of XENON1T with an internal  $^{37}\text{Ar}$  source,

Eur. Phys. J. C 83 (2023) 542

Design and performance of the field cage for the XENONnT experiment,

Eur. Phys. J. C 84 (2024) 138

The triggerless data acquisition system of the XENONnT experiment,

JINST 18 (2023)P07054

Detector signal characterization with a Bayesian network in XENONnT,

PRD 108, 012016 (2023)

Cosmogenic background simulations for neutrinoless double beta decay

with the DARWIN observatory at various underground sites, Eur. Phys. J. C 84 (2024) 88

## Kavli IPMU Outreach:

"mono-shiri-shinbun": [物理学] ダークマターを地下で待ち伏せ (Kai Martens、山下雅樹)

## XENONnT neutron veto now Gd loaded

to 10% of target concentration; full concentration pending decision about inner detector access;

**1<sup>st</sup> adaptation** of Super-Kamiokande's EGADS

**technology to dark matter direct detection needs!**

## DARWIN/XLZD:

Proposal **accepted** by SCJ for

**Future Academic Initiative (未来の学術構想)**

contact person: Masaki Yamashita (KIPMU)

Yamashita also DARWIN Working Group Leader: **Photosensors**