

# XENON1T

## and its excess of electronic recoil events

HEPHY, Vienna, September 8, 2020

On behalf of the XENON collaboration



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Welcome to BBC.com

Thursday, 18 June



**Trump sought China's help with election - Bolton**

Details from the new book by the president's ex-national security adviser include damning accusations.

| US & CANADA



**US-China row moves underwater in cable tangle**

| ASIA



**Dark matter hunt yields unexplained signal**

| SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT



**Witty portraits of people in nature around the world**

| CULTURE



**The largest electric plane ever to fly**

| FUTURE PLANET

News



# The XENON collaboration



Columbia



RPI



Nikhef



Muenster



KIT



Stockholm



Mainz



MPIK, Heidelberg



Freiburg



Chicago



UCSD



Rice



Purdue



Coimbra



Subatech



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L'Aquila



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LNGS Torino Napoli



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NYUAD



Zurich



Tokyo

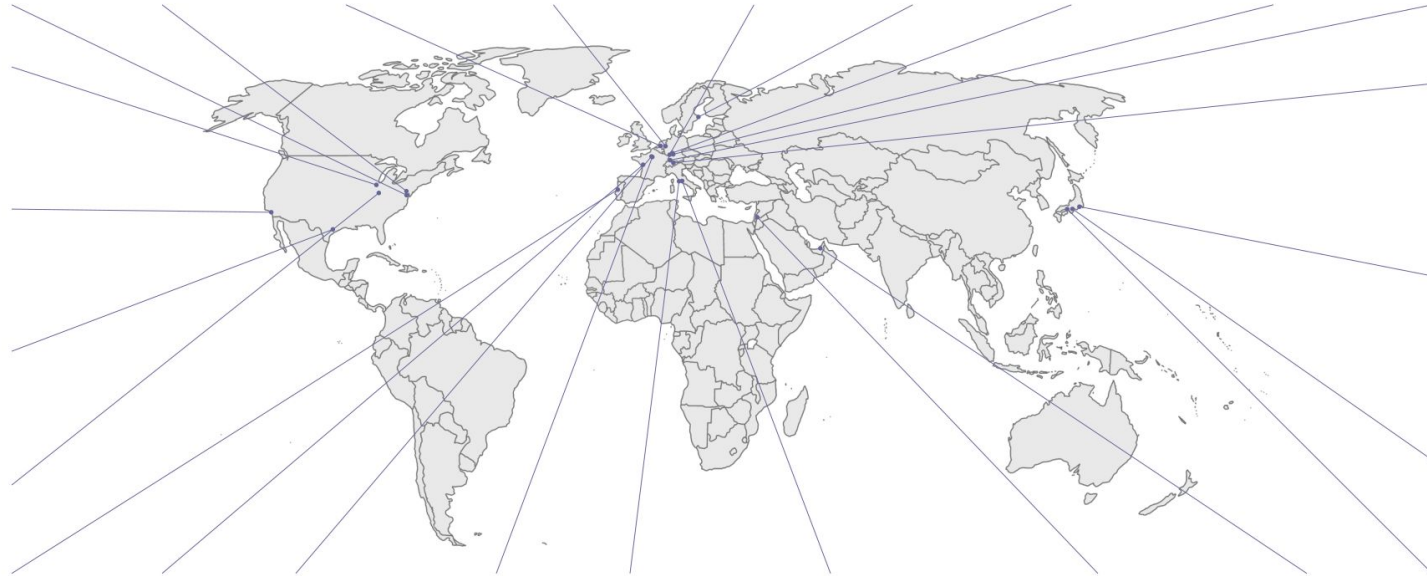


NAGOYA UNIVERSITY

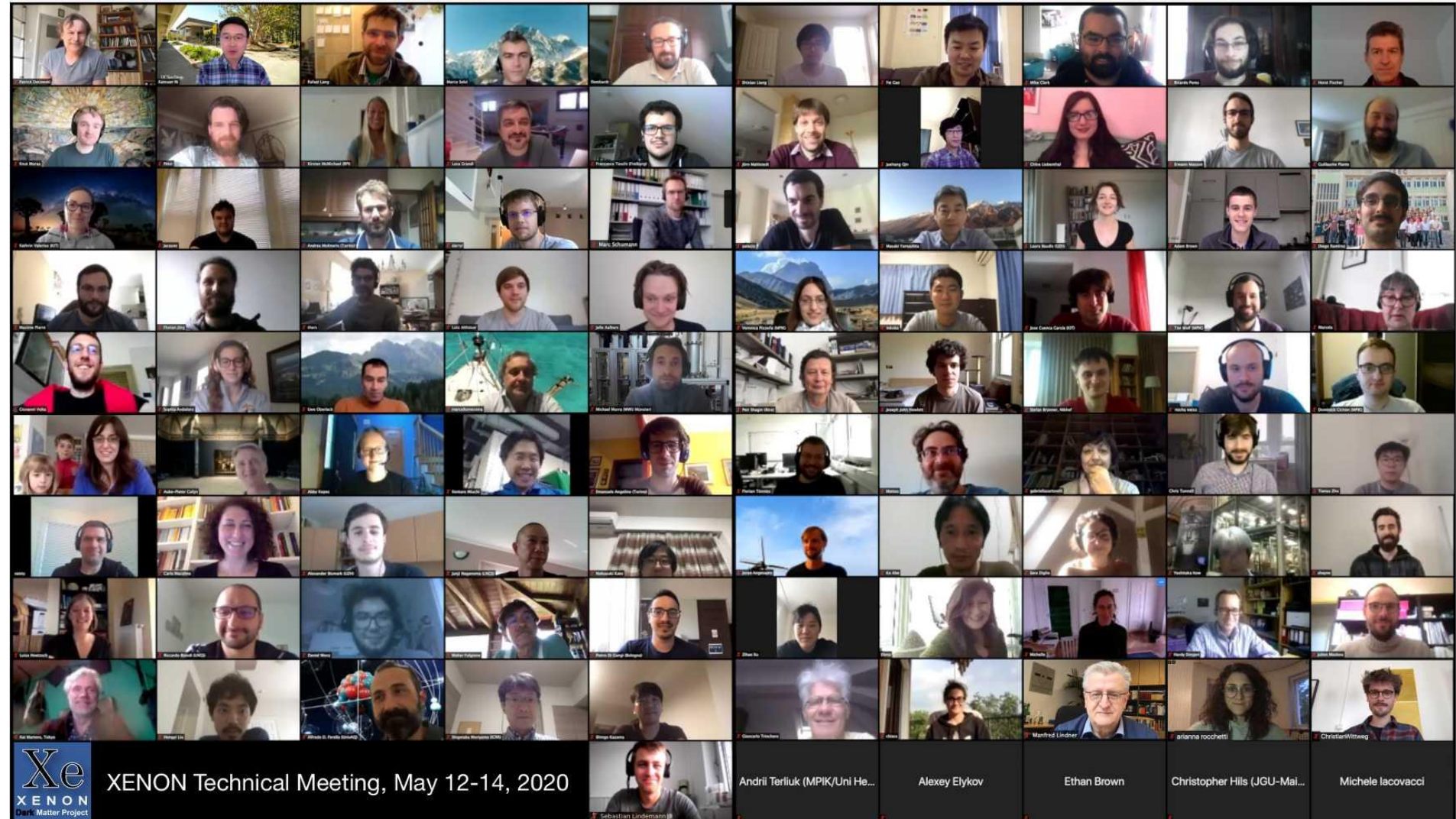
Nagoya



Kobe







XENON Technical Meeting, May 12-14, 2020

Sebastian Lindemann  
Andrii Terliuk (MPIK/Uni He...  
Alexey Elykov  
Ethan Brown  
Christopher Hills (JGU-Mai...  
Michele Iacovacci

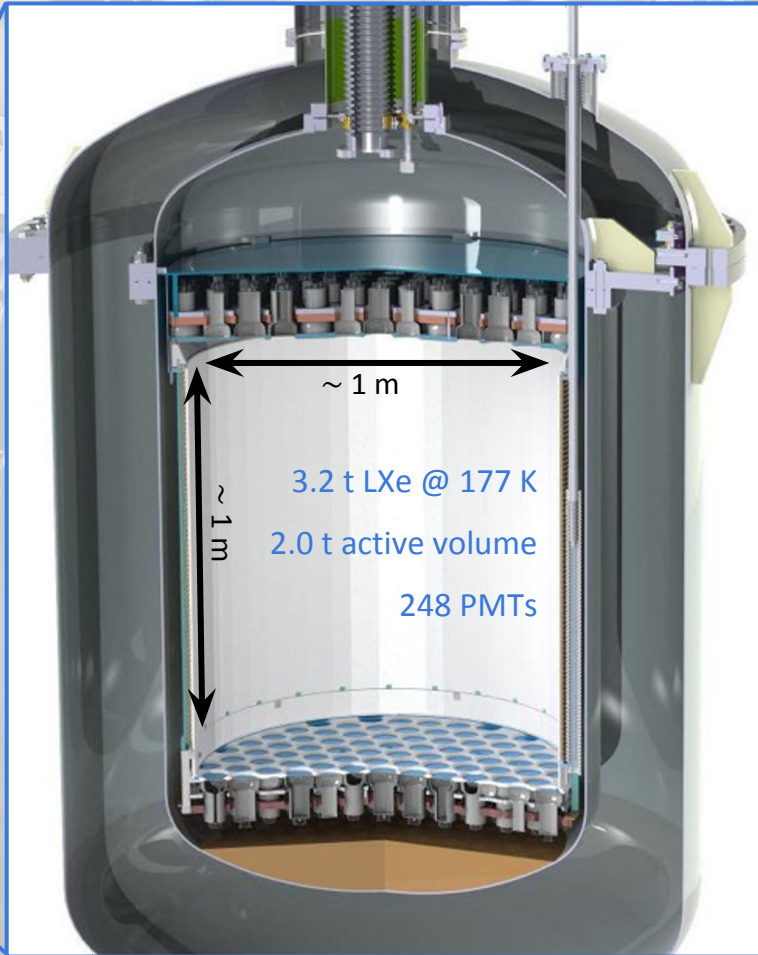
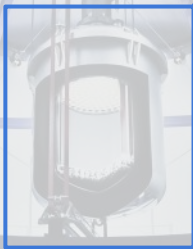








@ Laboratori Nazionali del Gran Sasso

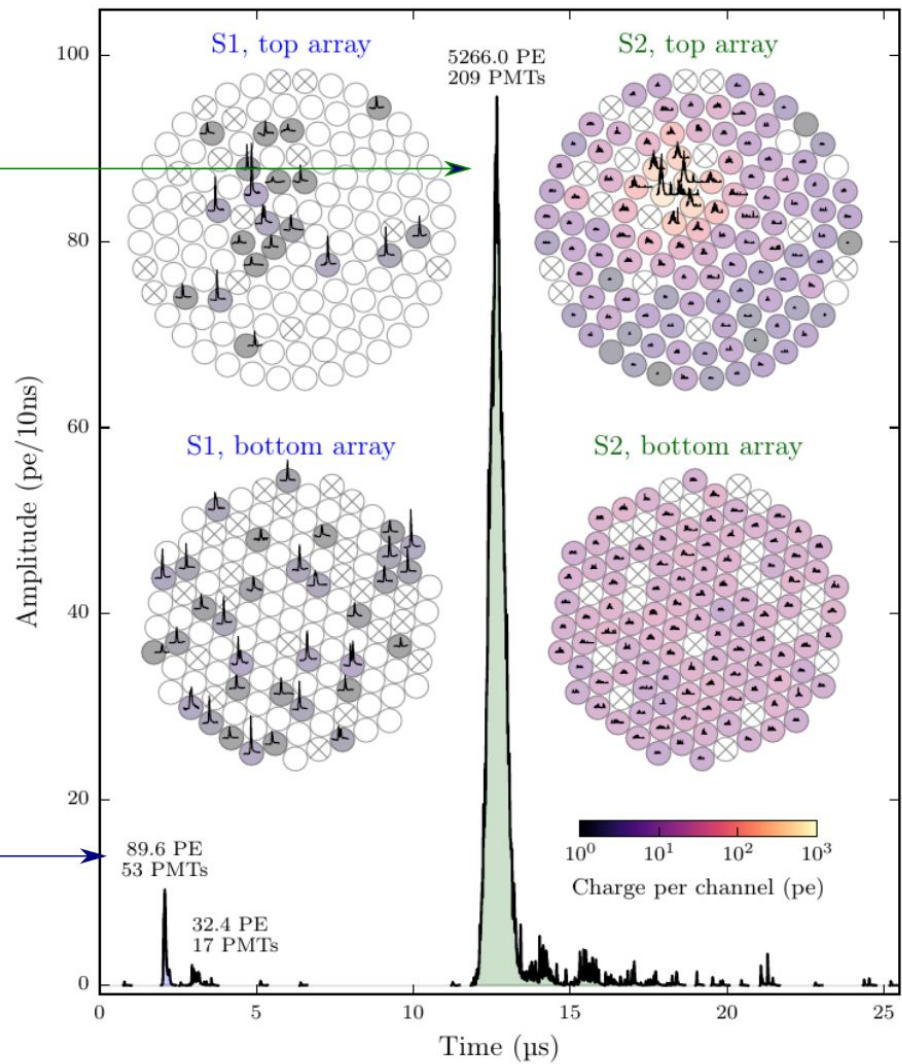
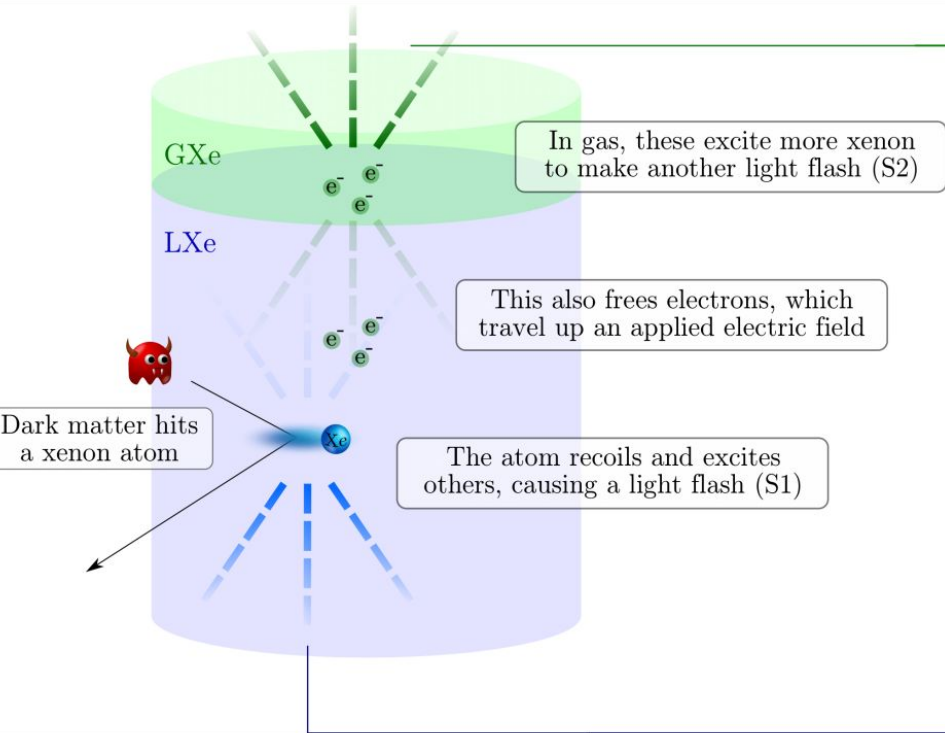


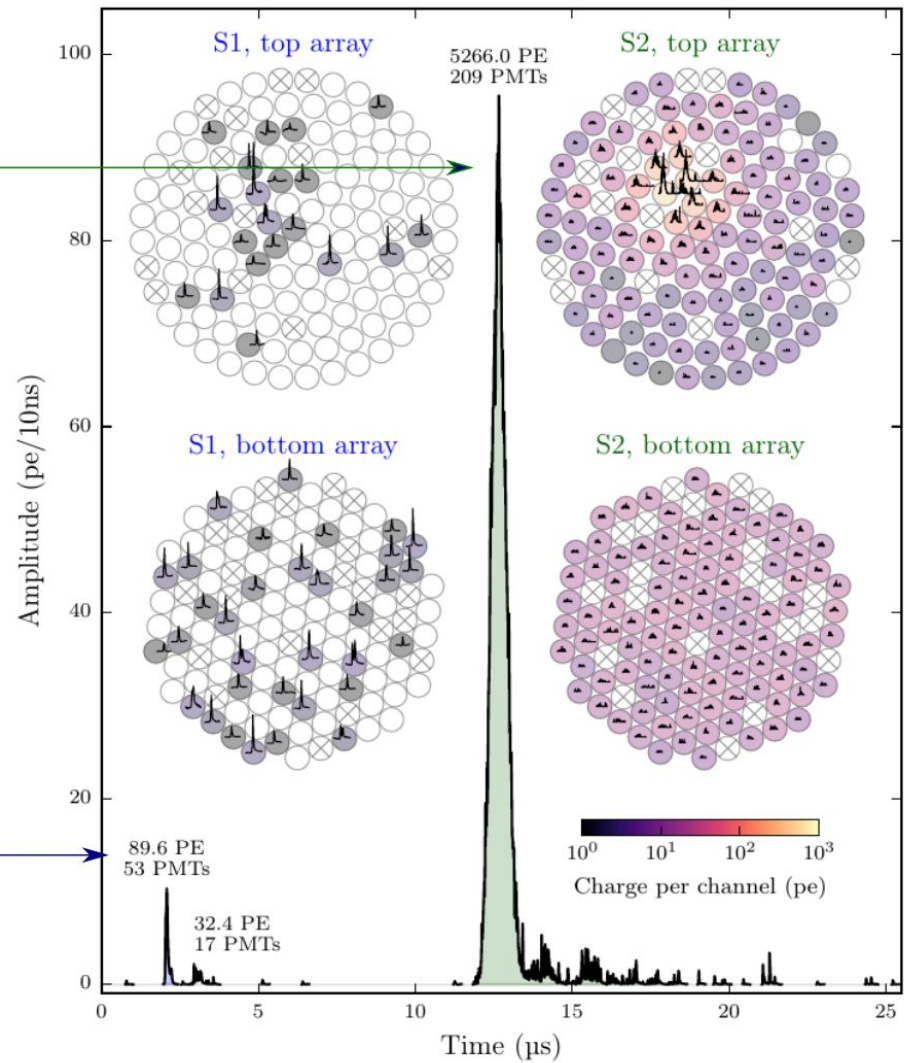
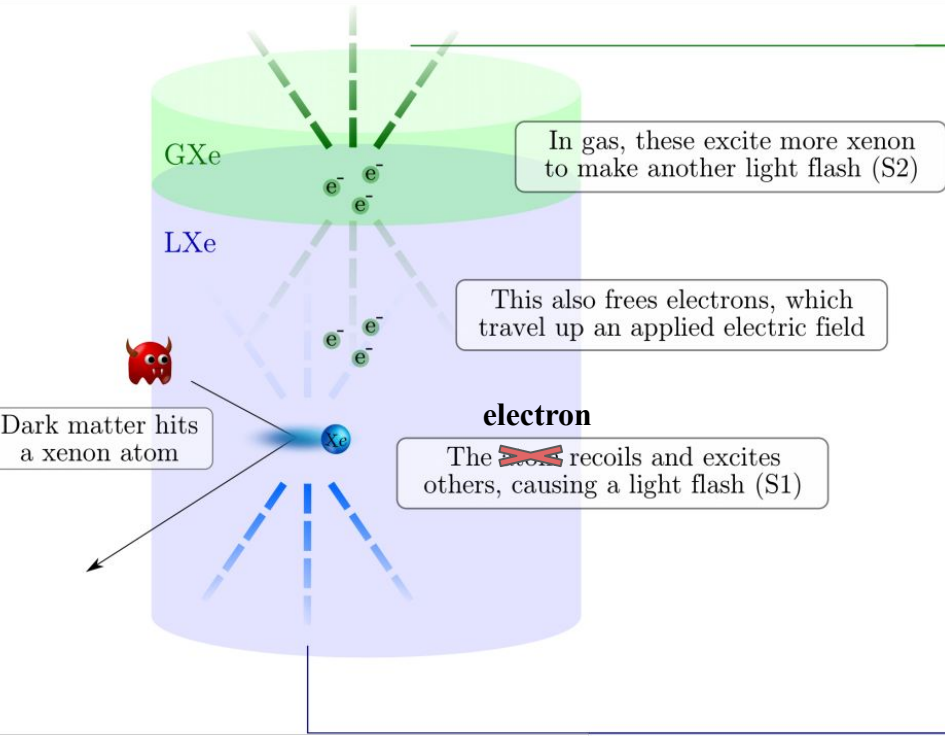


@ Laboratori Nazionali del Gran Sasso

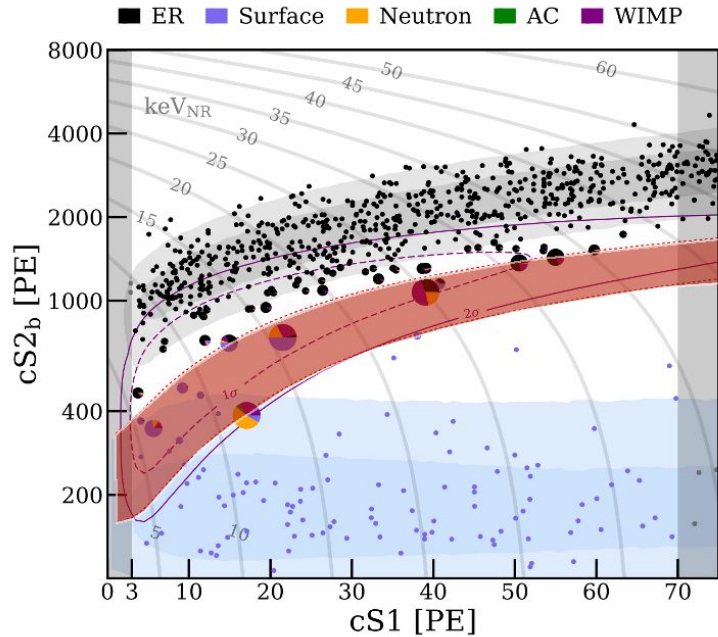






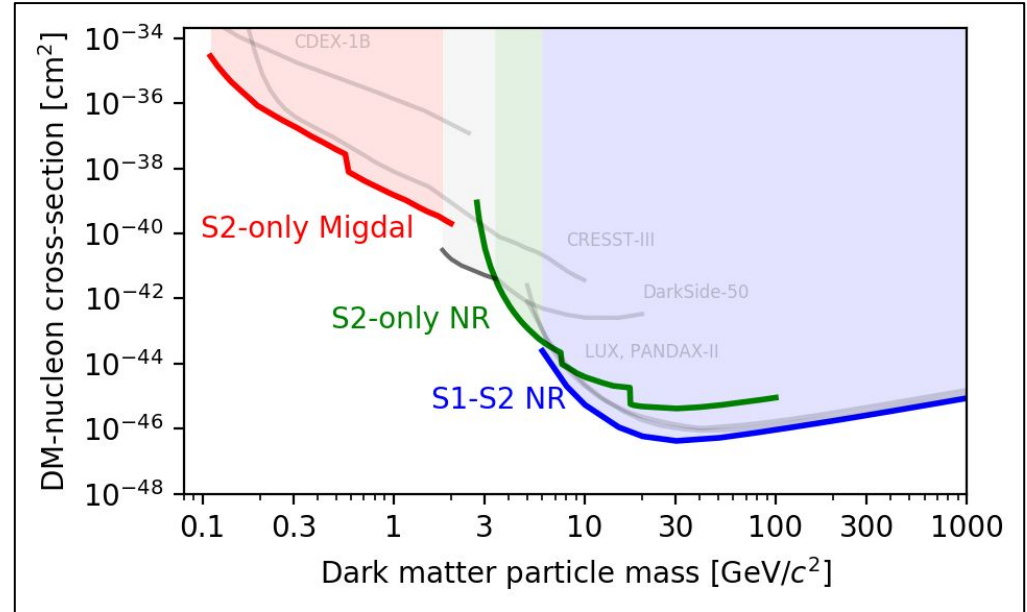


# Nuclear Recoil Search



ER “leakage” in the NR band  $< 0.3 \%$

Best constraints on WIMP dark matter with masses  $> 3 \text{ GeV}/c^2$

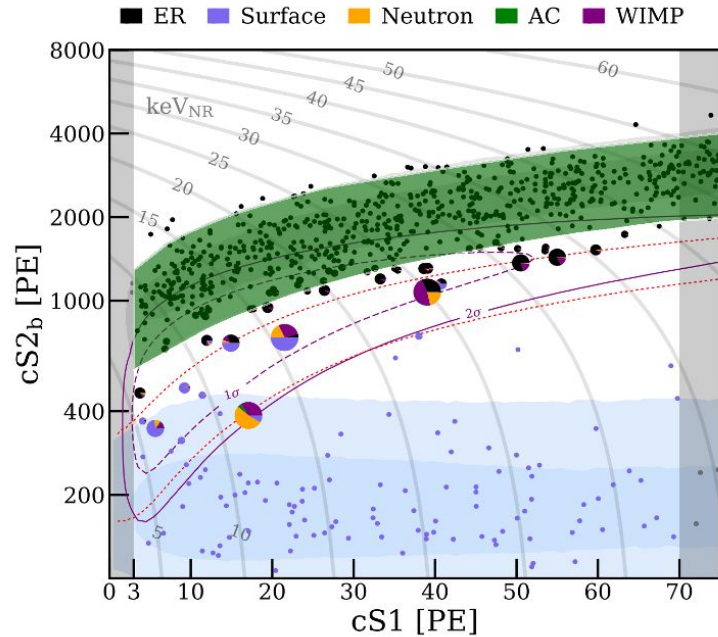


PRL 123, 241803 - Migdal effect

PRL 123, 251801 - Light dark matter

PRL 121, 111302 - Main WIMP search

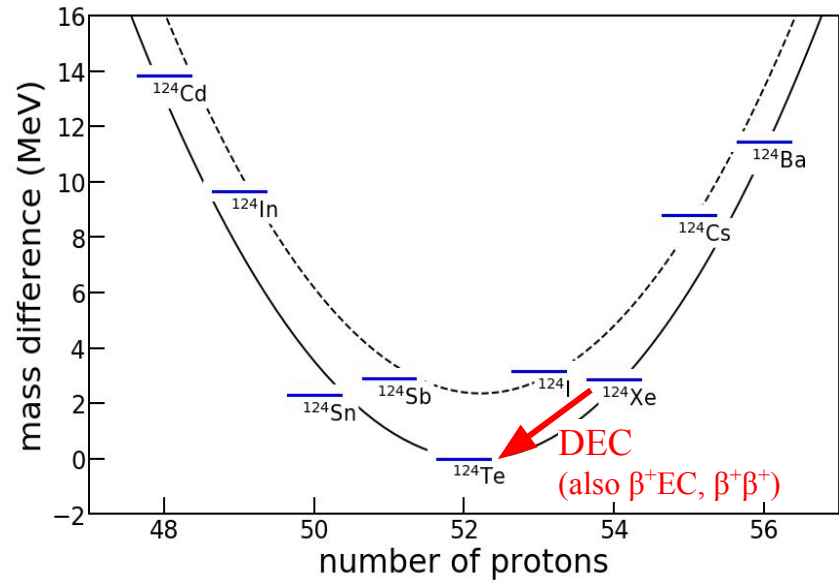
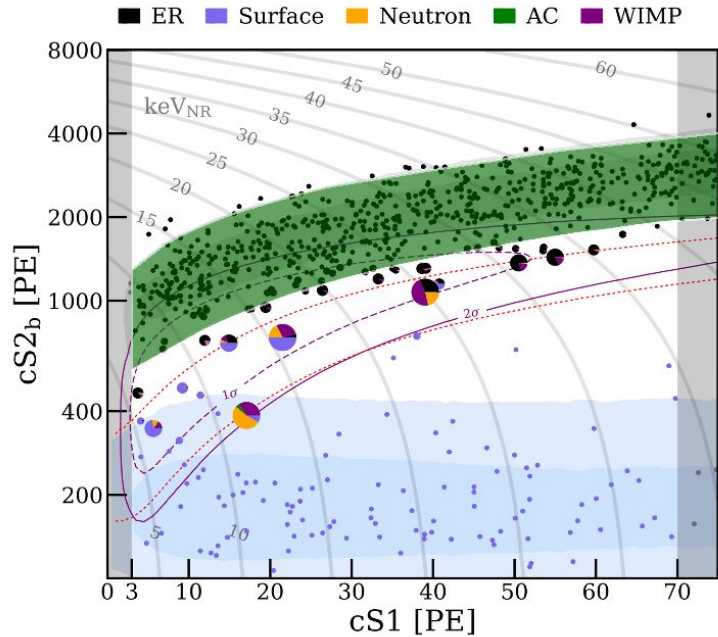




# Electronic Recoil Search (this talk)

ER band search for excess above known backgrounds

# $^{124}\text{Xe}$ DEC



**nature**  
International journal of science

Letter | Published: 24 April 2019

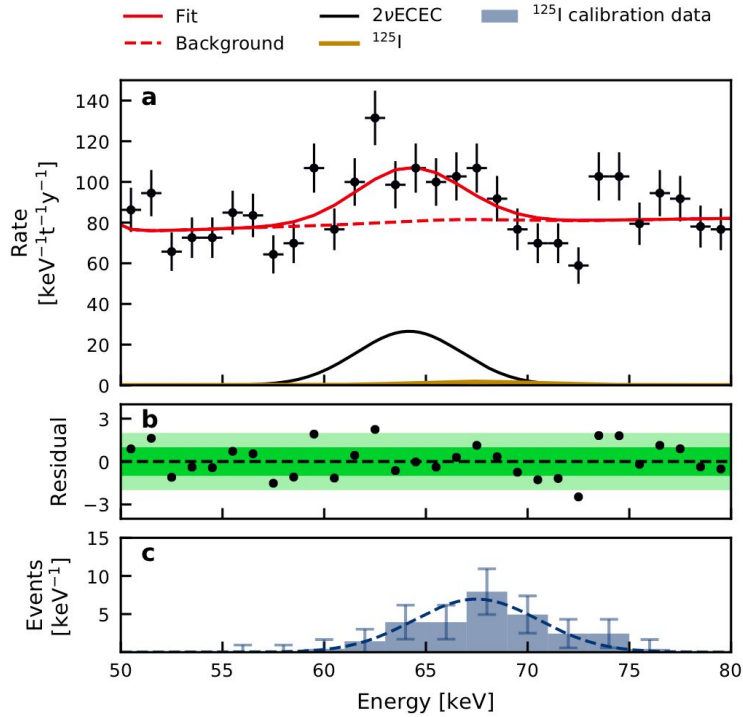
## Observation of two-neutrino double electron capture in $^{124}\text{Xe}$ with XENON1T

XENON Collaboration\*

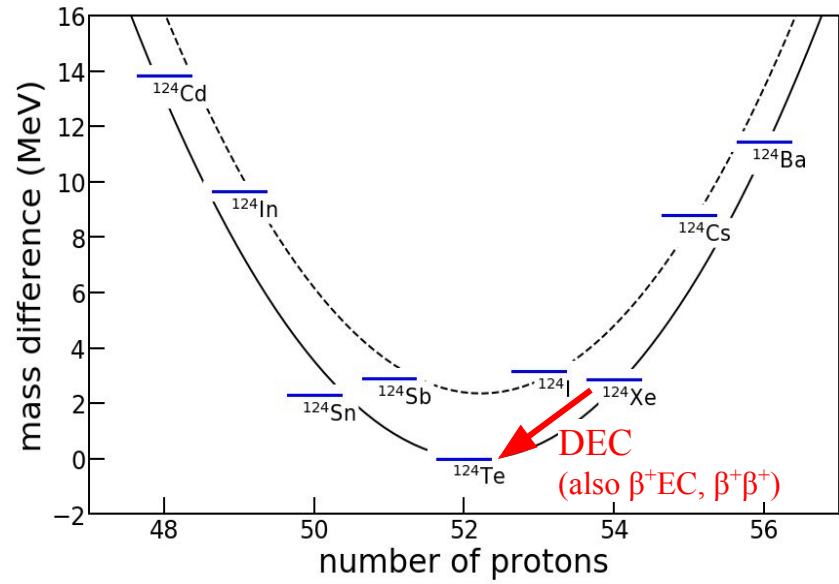
*Nature* **568**, 532–535 (2019) | [Download Citation](#) ↓



# $^{124}\text{Xe}$ DEC



double K-shell capture:  $E_{\text{DEC}} = 64.3 \text{ keV}$

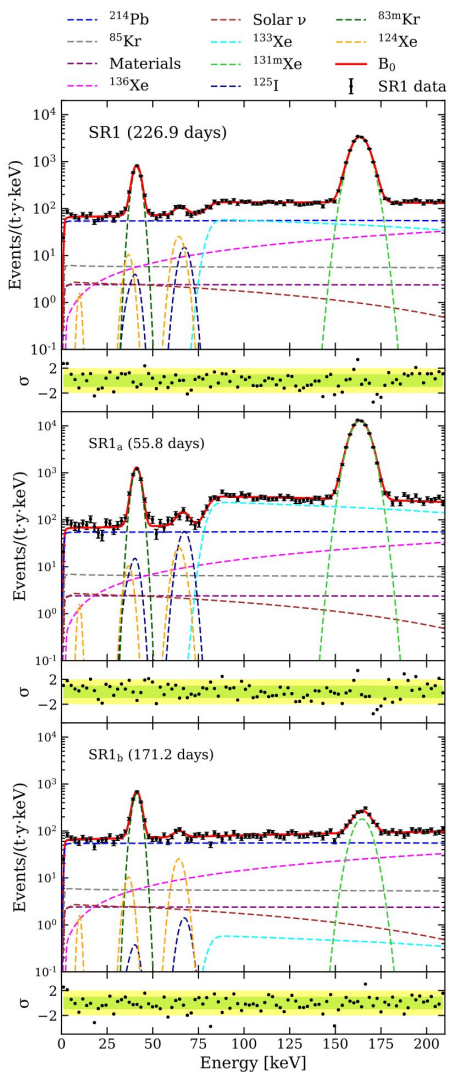


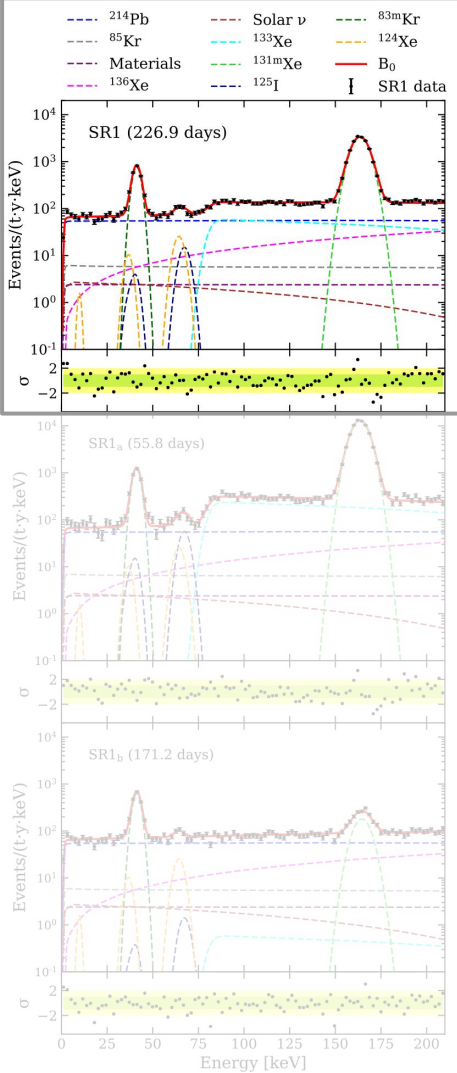
$$T_{1/2} = (1.8 \pm 0.5_{\text{stat}} \pm 0.1_{\text{sys}}) \times 10^{22} \text{ yr}$$

Longest direct measured half-life

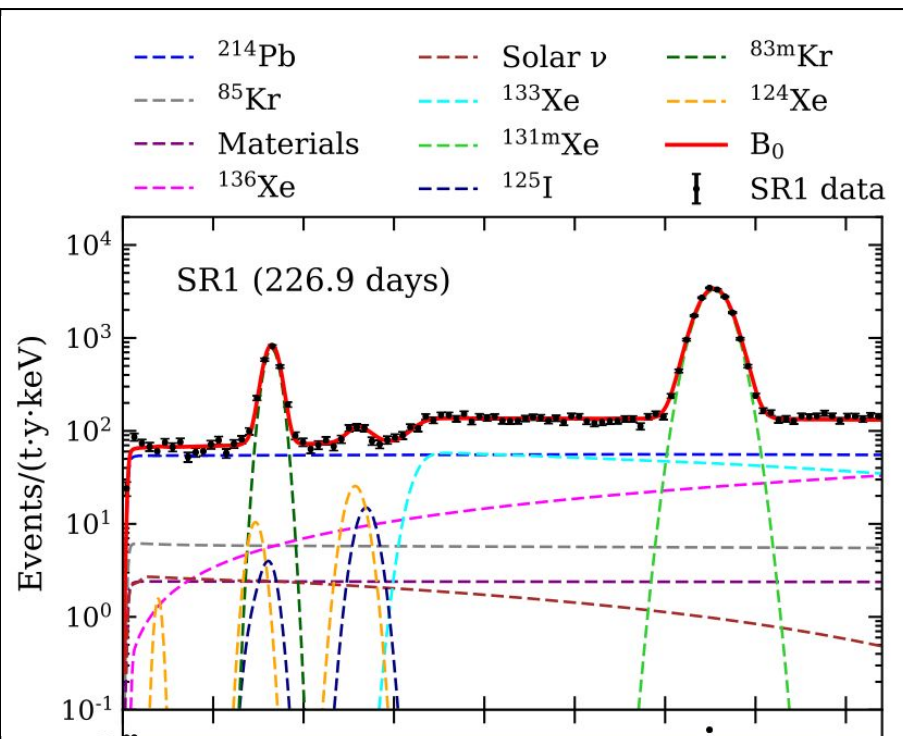
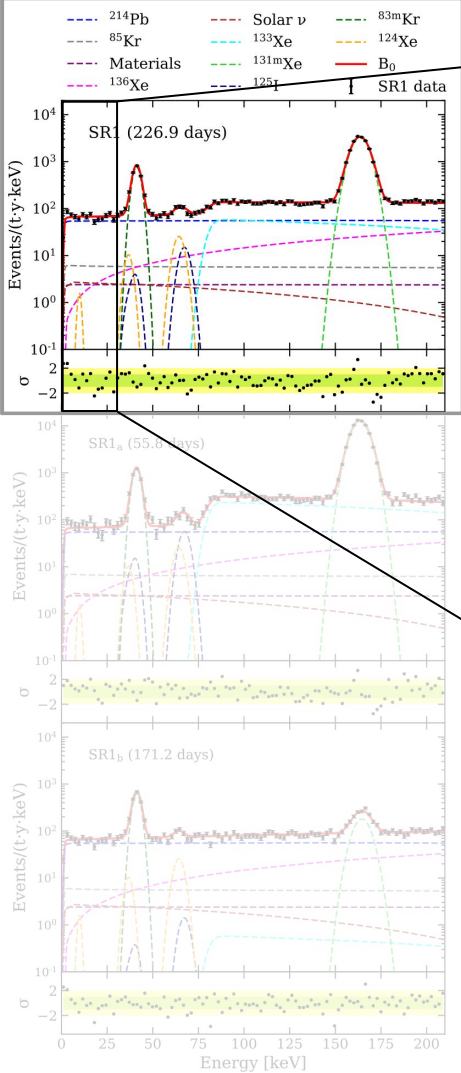








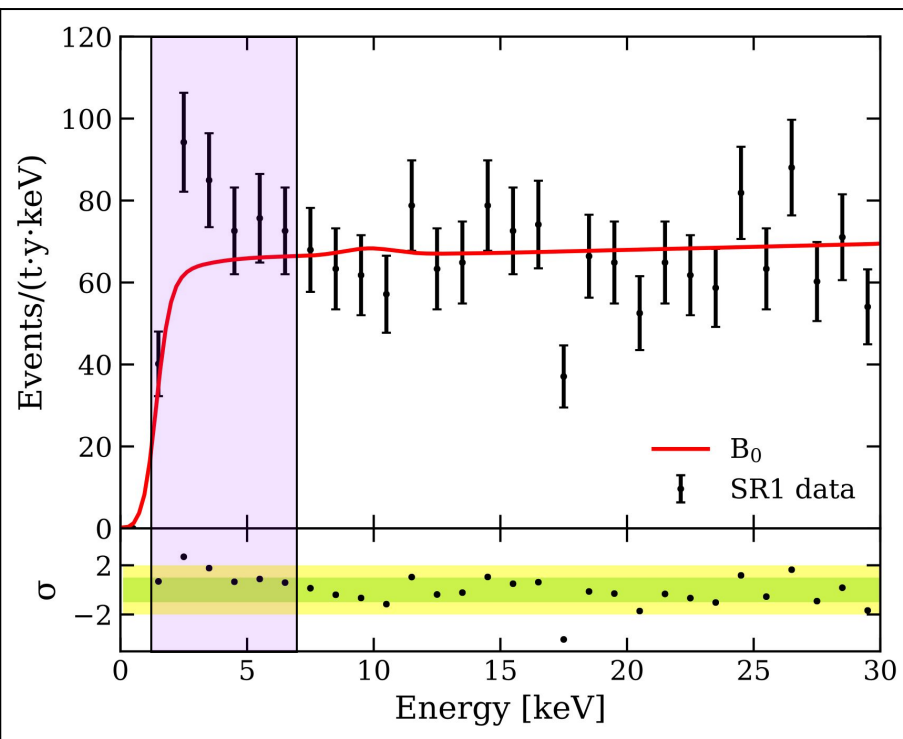
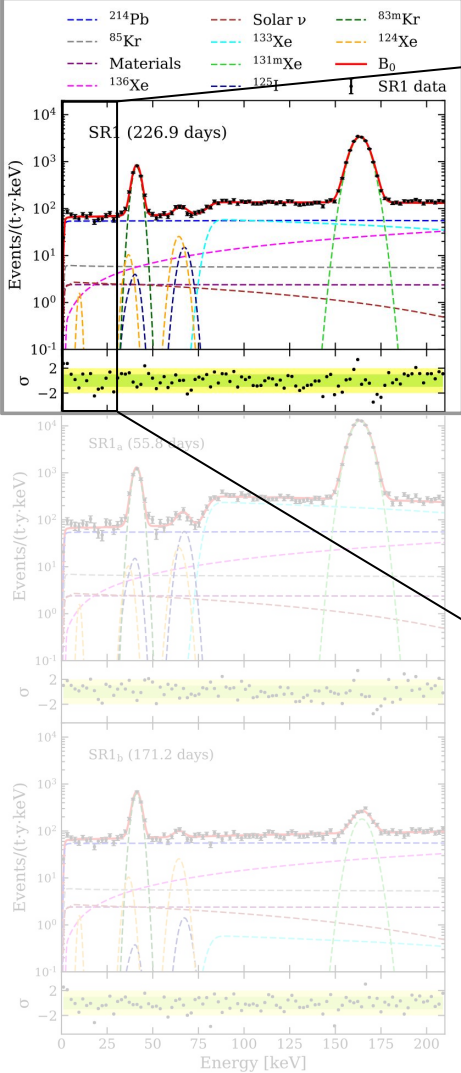
**(76 ± 2) events/(t·y·keV) in [1, 30] keV**  
 Lowest background rate ever achieved in this energy range!



Excess between 1-7 keV

285 events observed vs.  $232 \pm 15$  expected from best fit

$3.3 \sigma$  fluctuation (*naive estimate — likelihood ratio tests for main analysis*)



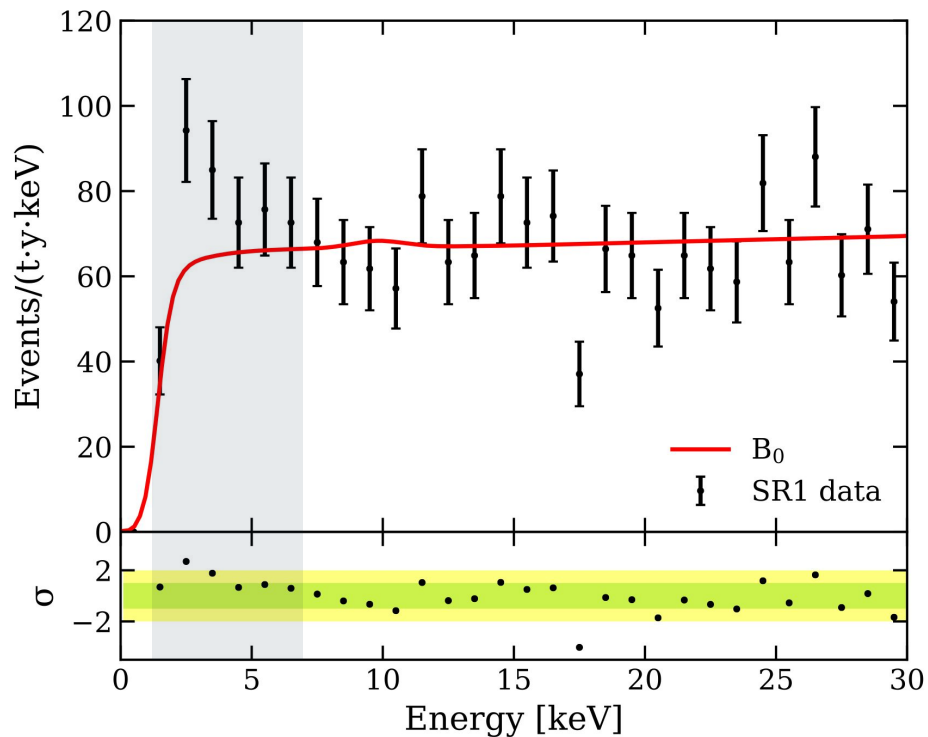
Excess between 1-7 keV

285 events observed vs.  $232 \pm 15$  expected from best fit

$3.3 \sigma$  fluctuation (*naive estimate — likelihood ratio tests for main analysis*)



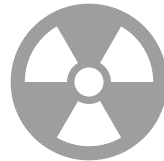
# [ArXiv:2006.09721](https://arxiv.org/abs/2006.09721) : 3 - 3.4 $\sigma$ excess in electronic recoils



**Statistical fluke?**



**Systematic error?**



**New background?**

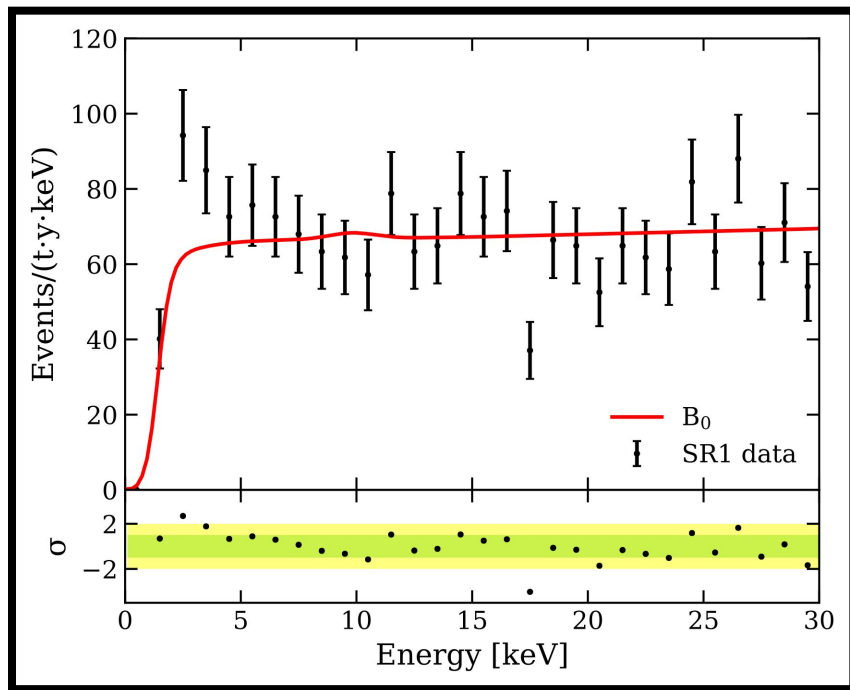


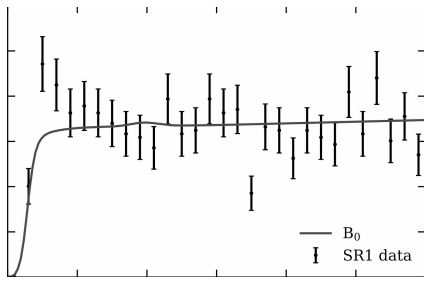
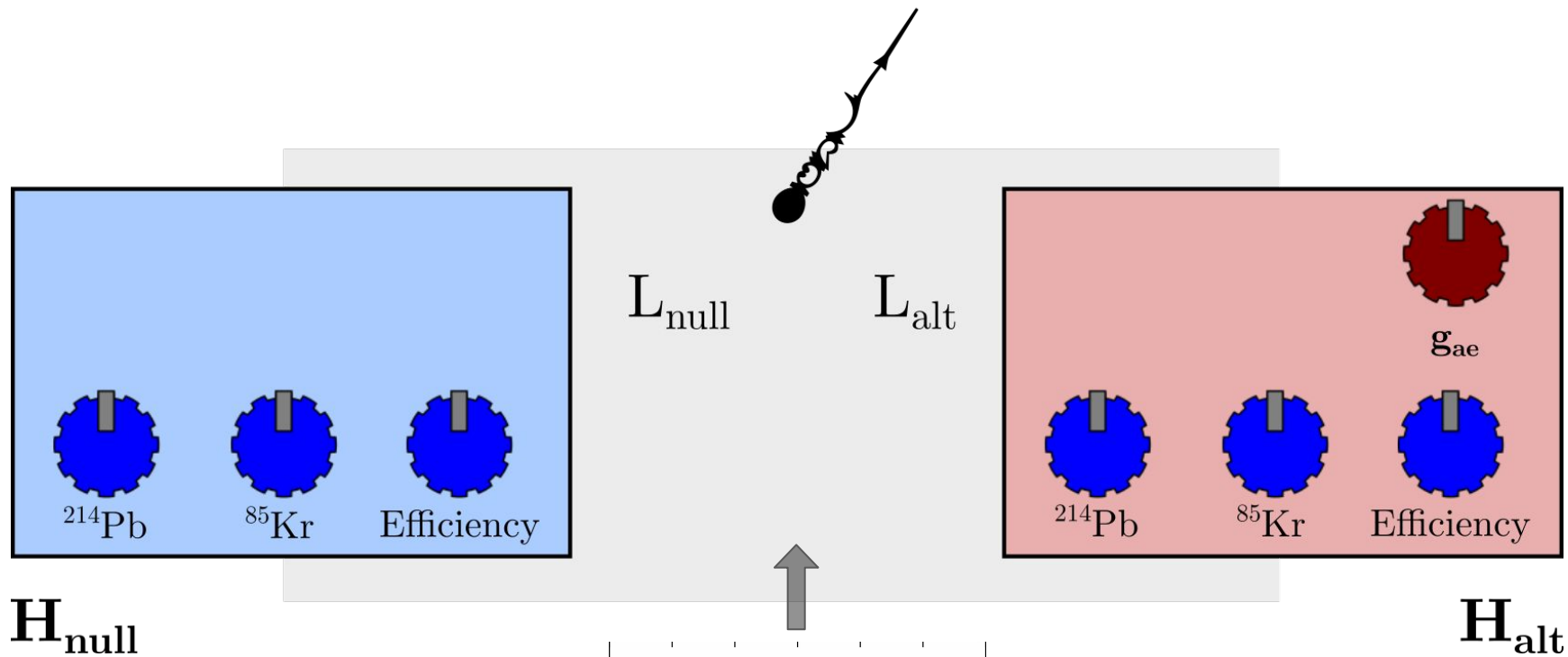
**New physics?**

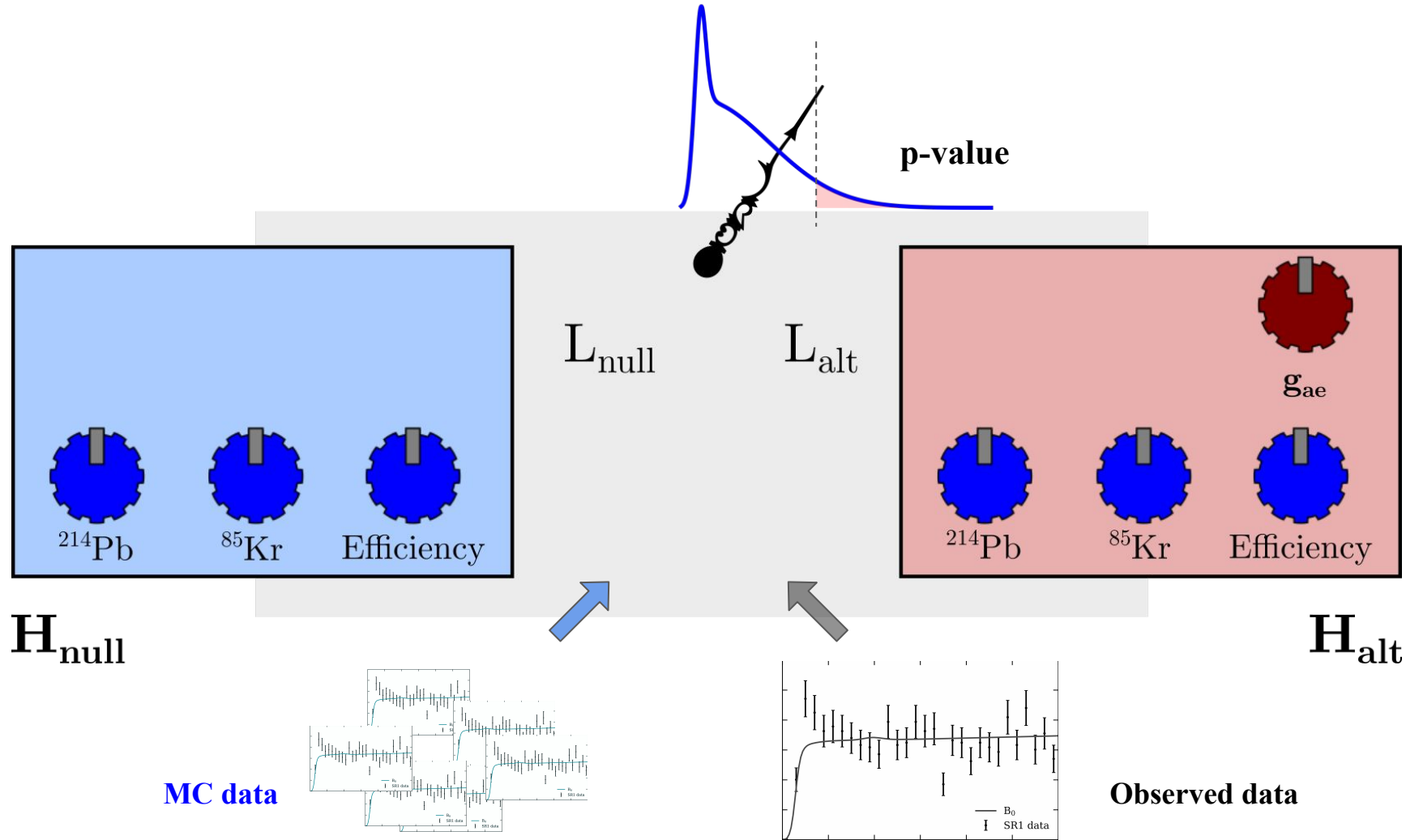


## Statistical fluke!!

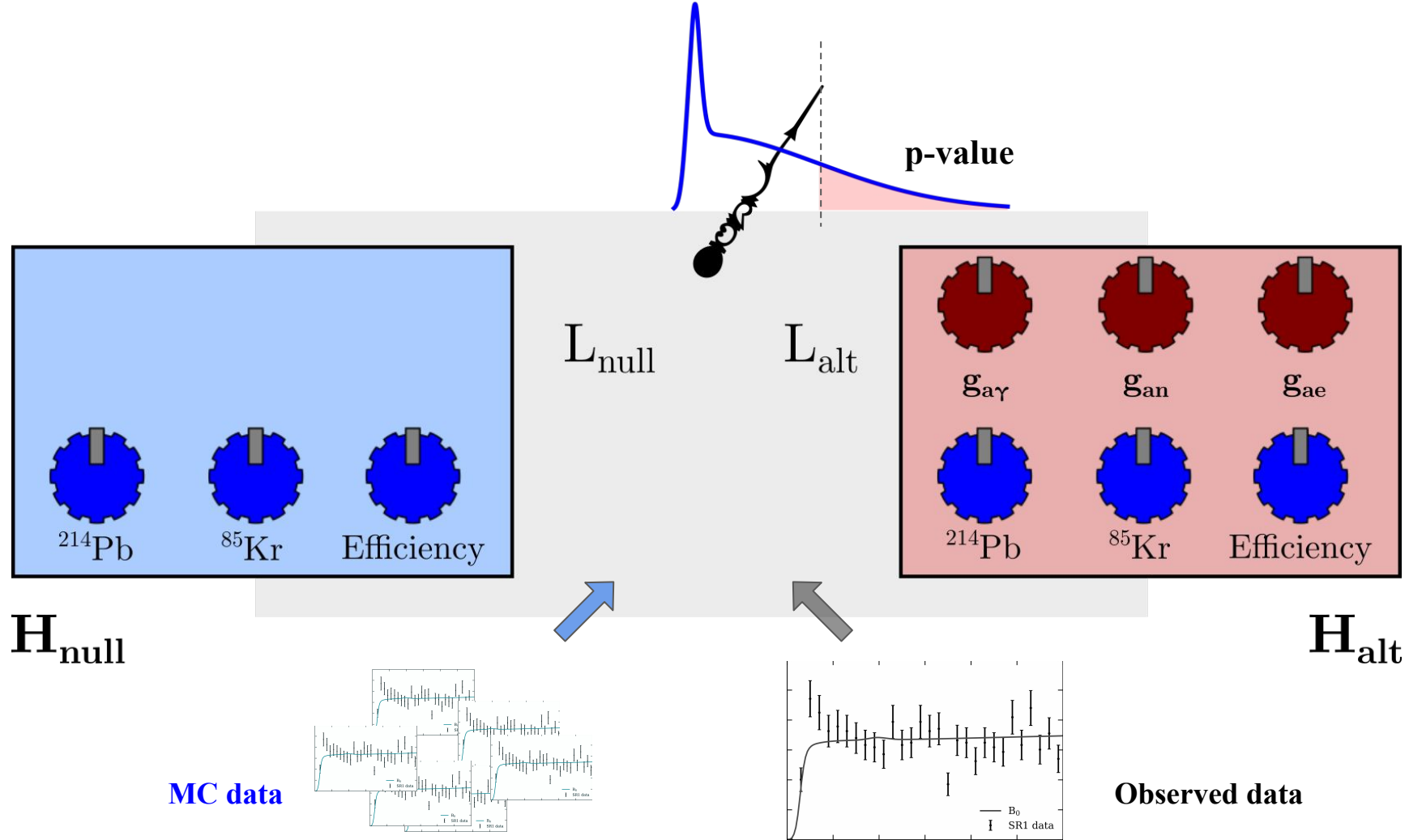
I don't see anything significant in your plot...  
and there is a 3 sigma deficit at 17 keV....

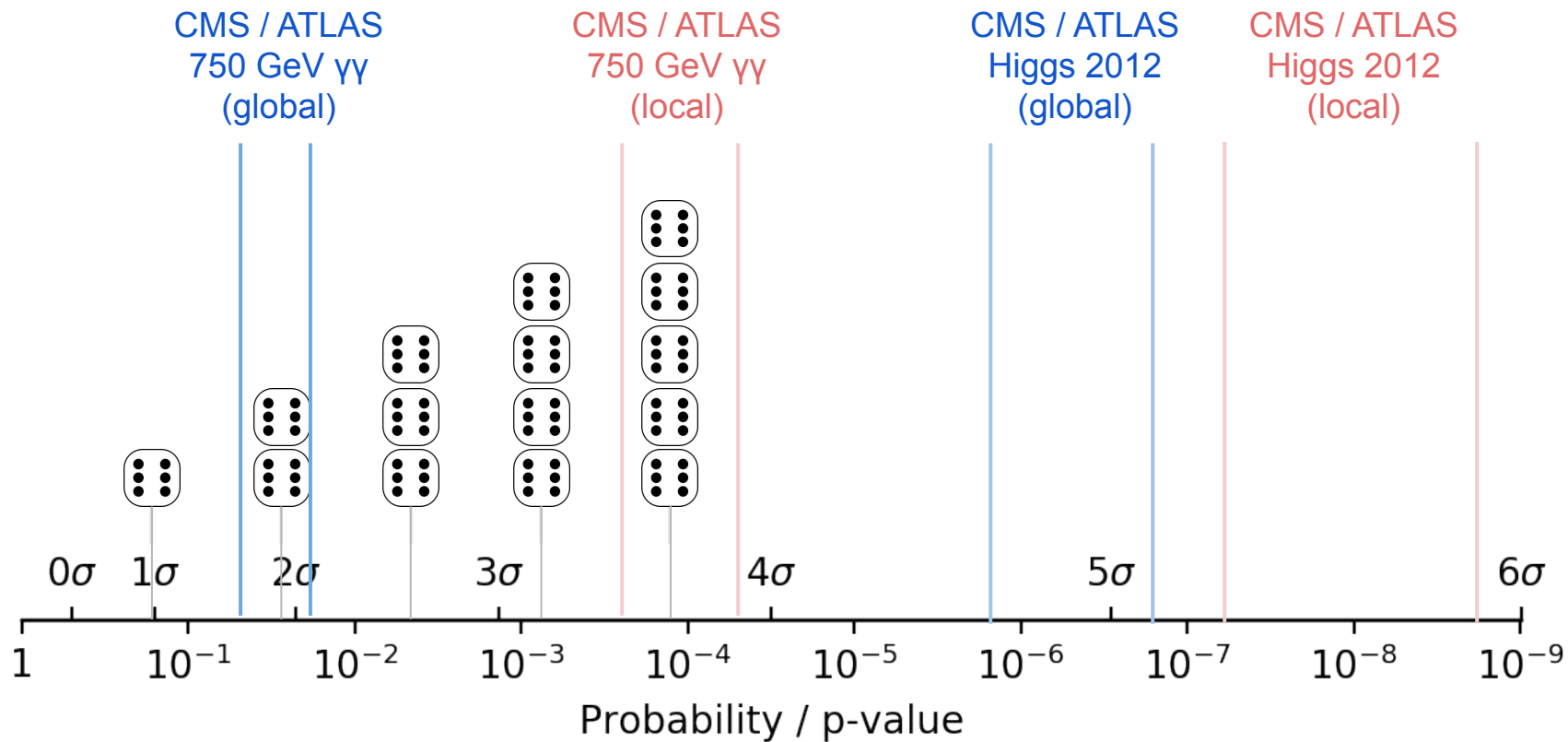


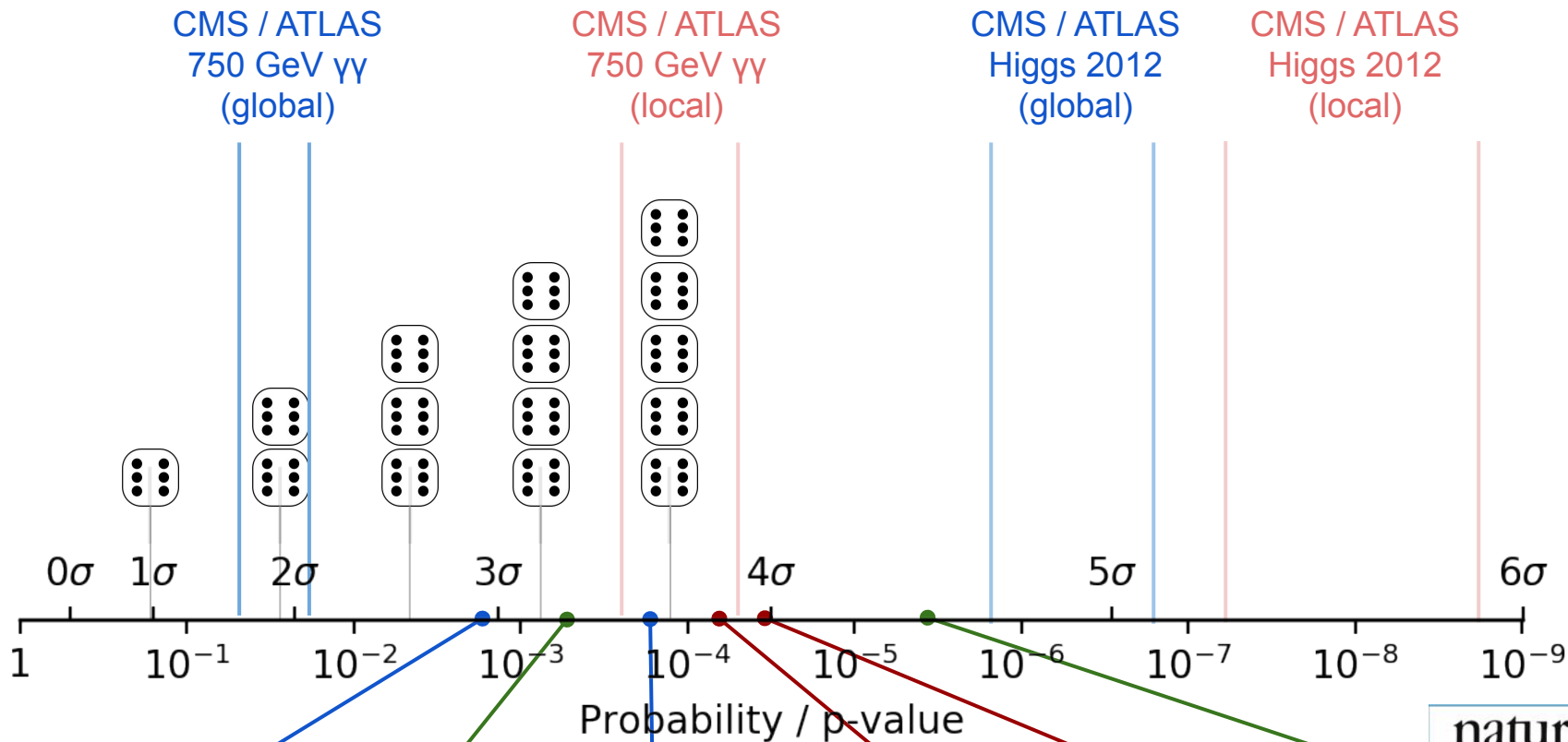












**Bosonic DM**  
(global)

**Tritium;**  
**Magnetic**  
**neutrinos**

**Solar Axions**  
(global)

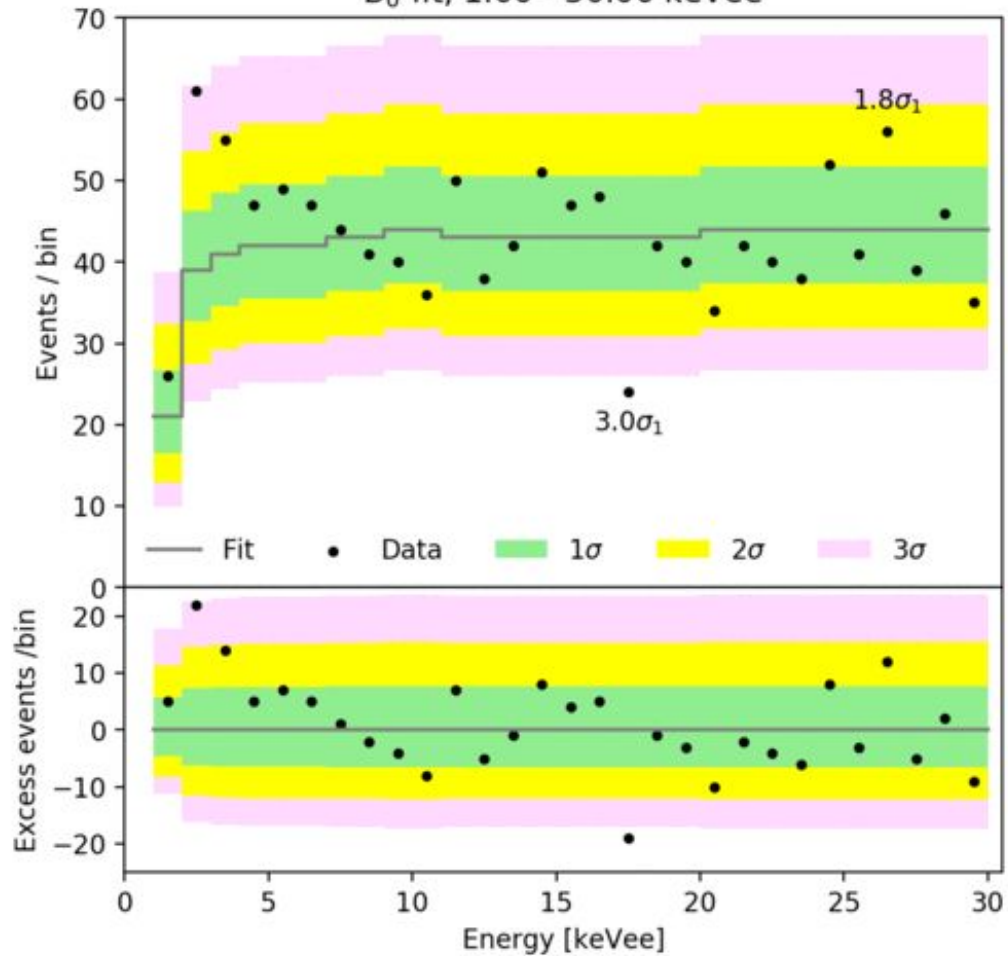
**Solar Axions**  
(ABC only)

**Bosonic DM**  
(~2.3 keV)



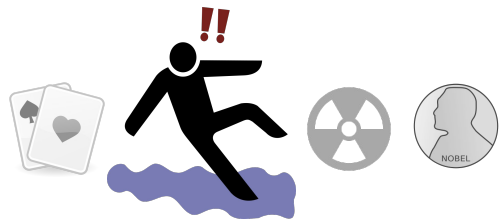
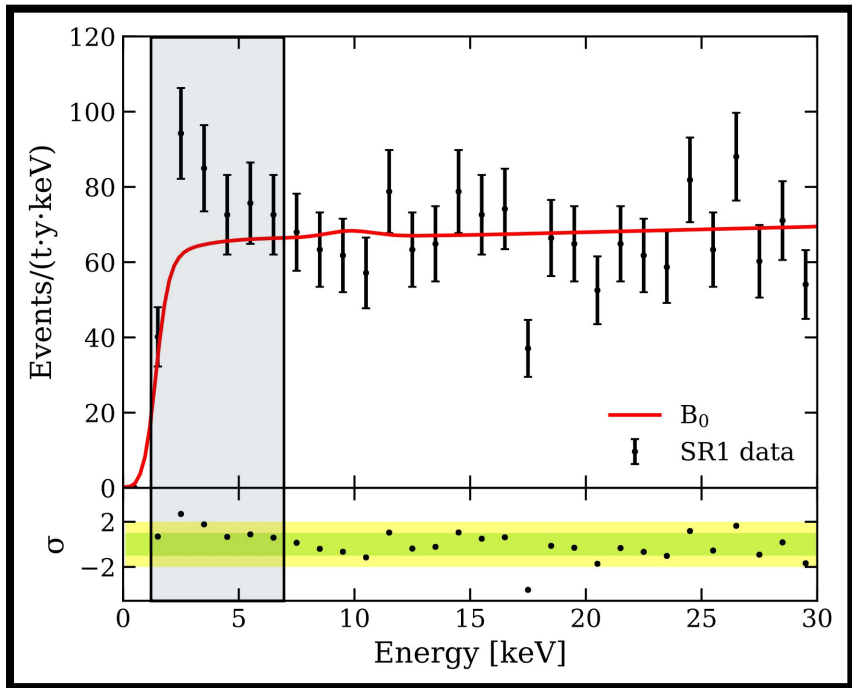


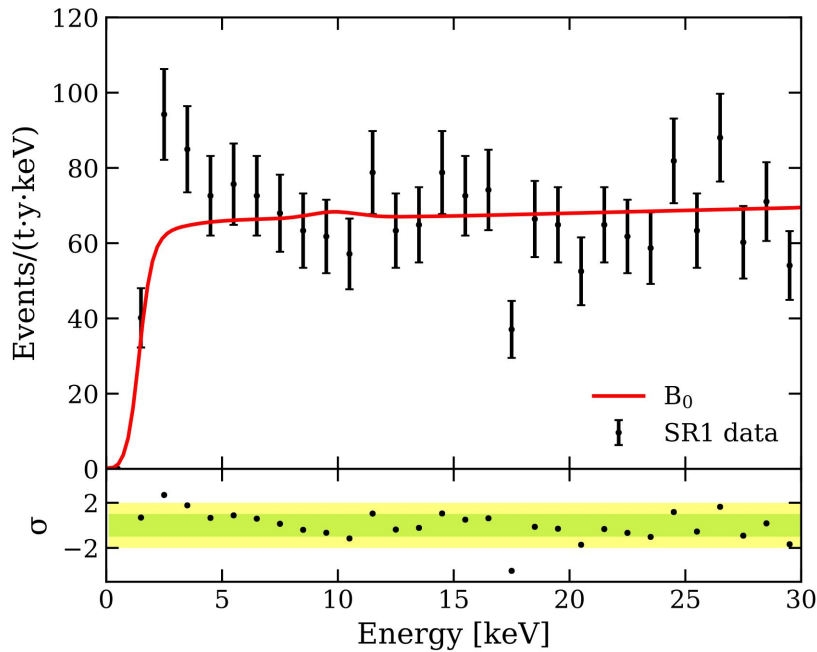
$B_0$  fit, 1.00 - 30.00 keVee





Yet another **thresholdino...**  
A slight mis-modelling would explain this...





Excess is **not** at our threshold fall-off

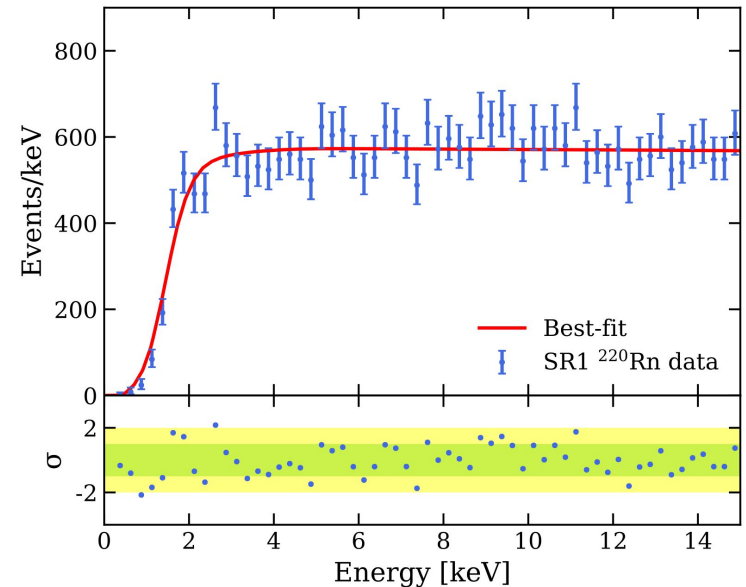
Persists if we would:

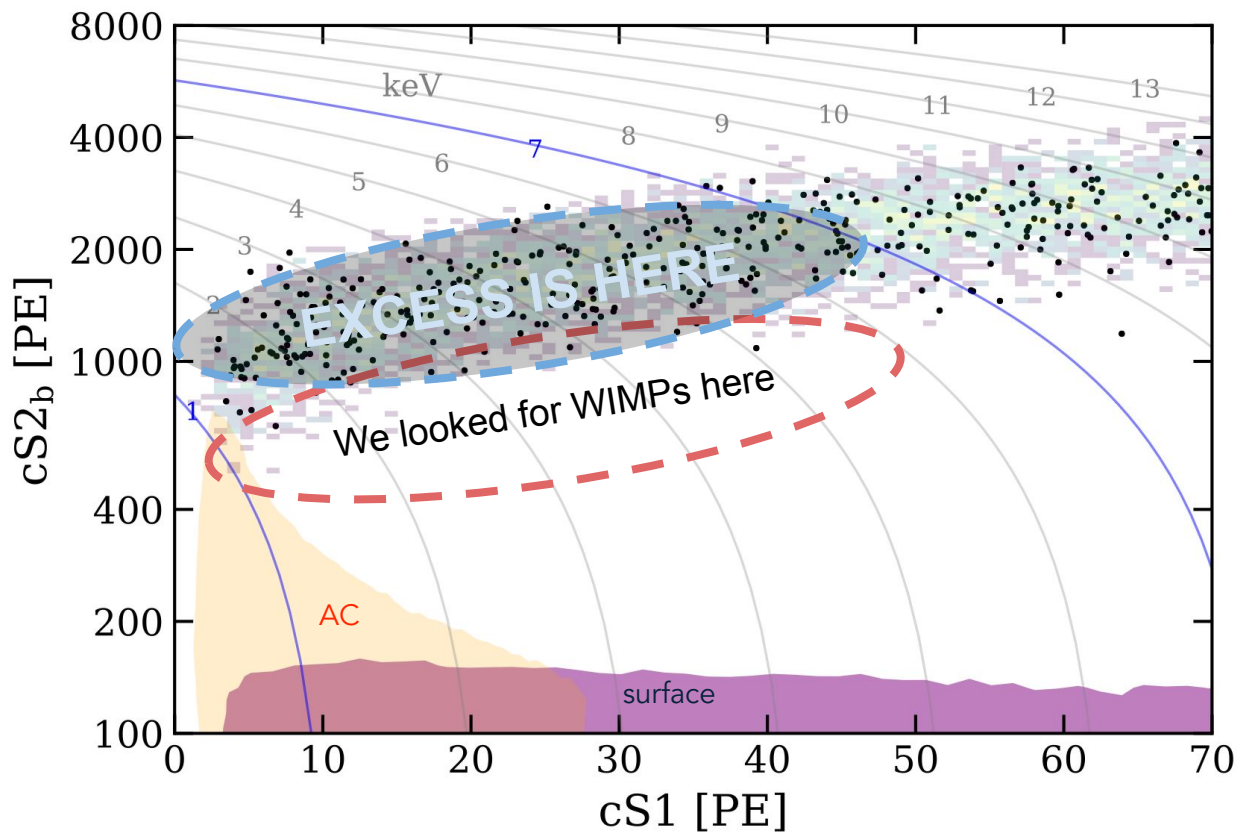
- ... double the analysis threshold post-hoc
- ... fix efficiency at  $\pm 1$  sigma
- ... use different software versions
- ... do a (cS1, cS2) profile likelihood

**$^{220}\text{Rn}$  calibration data** validates our model

To explain the excess, you need:

- a large systematic
- that is absent when we calibrate



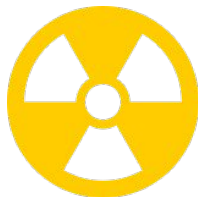
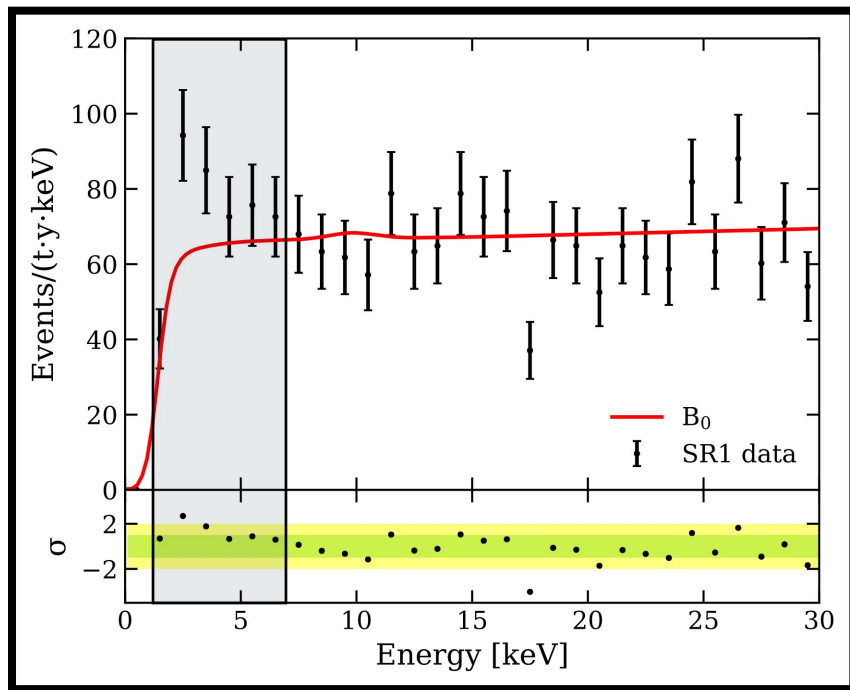


The excess is **right next to our prime WIMP search region**  
**No other event source** relevant besides electronic recoils

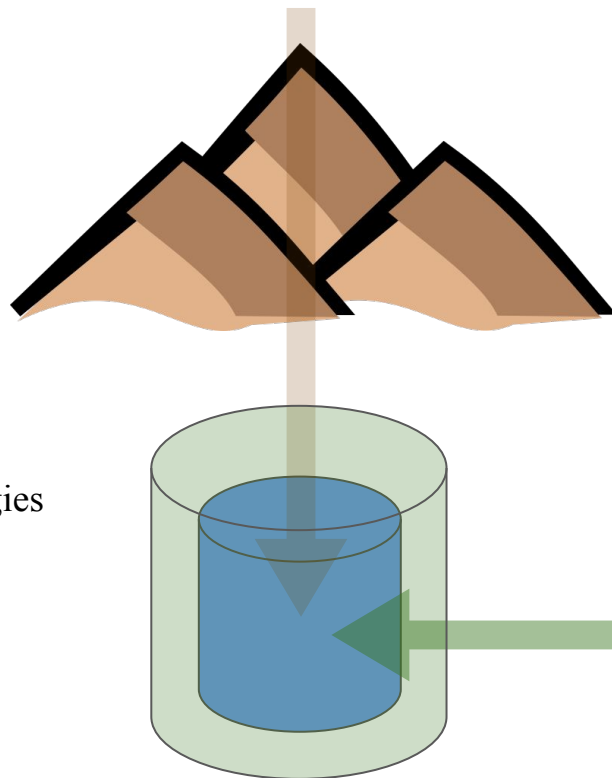




Surely you just forgot some **background**...



# How to make a XENON1T event



**[1] Go through > km of rock**

**Muons:** too high energy  
**Neutrinos, dark particles**

**[3] Infiltrate the LXe**

$^{214}\text{Pb}$ ,  $^{85}\text{Kr}$ ,  $^{136}\text{Xe}$ ,  $^{133}\text{Xe}$ ,  $^{124}\text{Xe}$  (!)  
Accounted for, different energies

$^{127}\text{Xe}$ ,  $^{37}\text{Ar}$   
 $t_{1/2} \sim$  month, too short  
> 6 L/day air leak not seen

**Tritium**

...

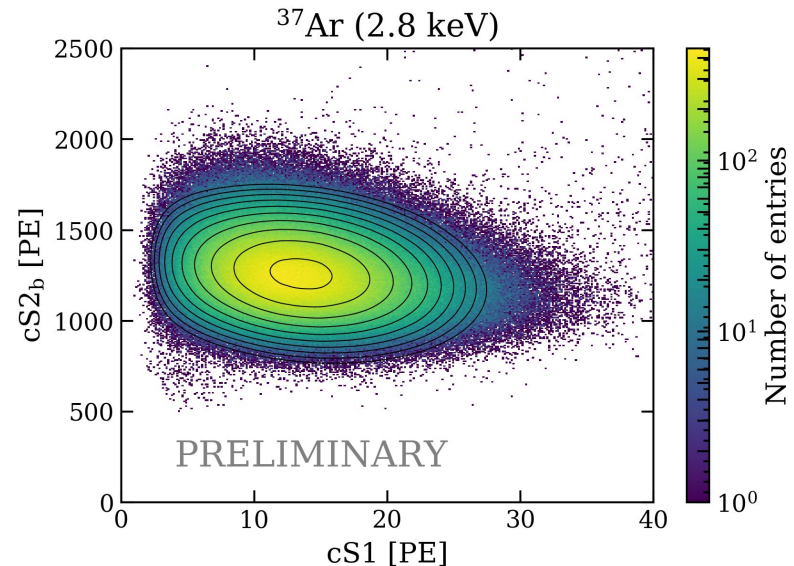
**[2] Go through cm<sup>s</sup> of metal and xenon**

**Neutrons:** different S1/S2  
**Beta, gamma:** too high energy

# Argon-37?

## $^{37}\text{Ar}$ K-electron capture to the ground state of $^{37}\text{Cl}$

- Half-life of 35 days & 2.8 keV energy in X-rays & Auger  $e^-$  s
- Calibration with  $^{37}\text{Ar}$  performed in XENON1T at the end of SR2  
→ good understanding of the detector at those energies
- Publication under preparation



# Argon-37?

- Xenon **cryogenically distilled** before the science run to reduce krypton XENON1T, Eur. Phys. J. C 77 (2017) 275  
→ Argon is strongly reduced by distillation & decay
- **Leak hypothesis**: ruled out by  $^{\text{nat}}\text{Kr}$  measurement  $^{36}\text{Ar}$
- **In-situ production**: neutron reactions with  $^{36}\text{Ar}$  or  $^{40}\text{Ca}$   
→ negligible contribution
- A fit to the excess gives  $(2.3 \pm 0.2)$  keV as best fit value (see later)





# Tritium?

$t_{1/2} \sim 12$  years

Fits data at  $3.2 \sigma$

## Inside xenon initially?

H<sub>2</sub>O impurities could have HTO, but...

Removed by condensation & purification

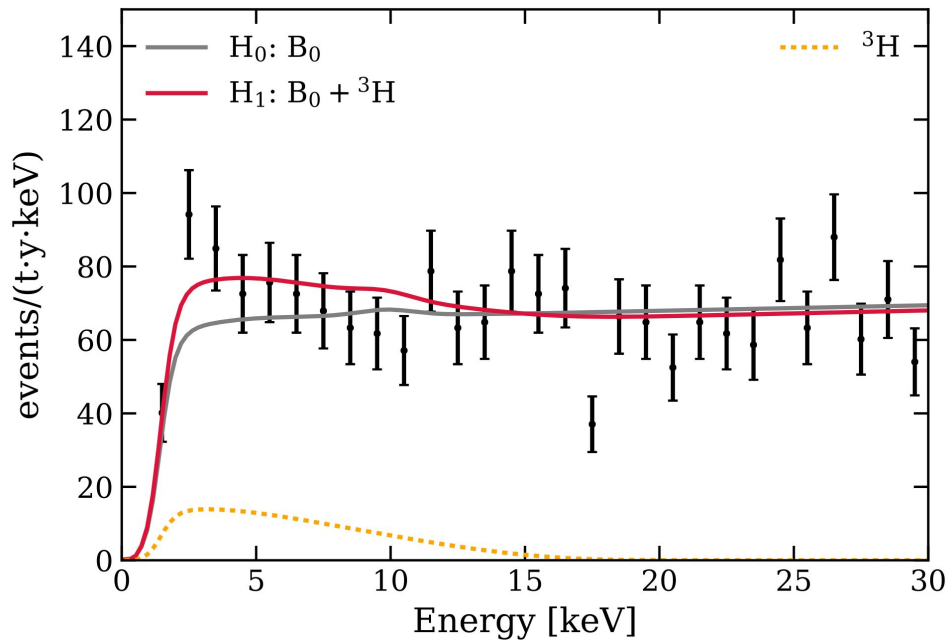
## Emanating from materials?

Need  $\sim 60$  ppb of H<sub>2</sub>O or H<sub>2</sub> for excess

H<sub>2</sub>O  $\sim 1$  ppb from light yield, electron lifetime

H<sub>2</sub> = ??

C<sub>x</sub>H<sub>x</sub>T = ???

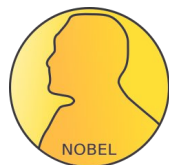
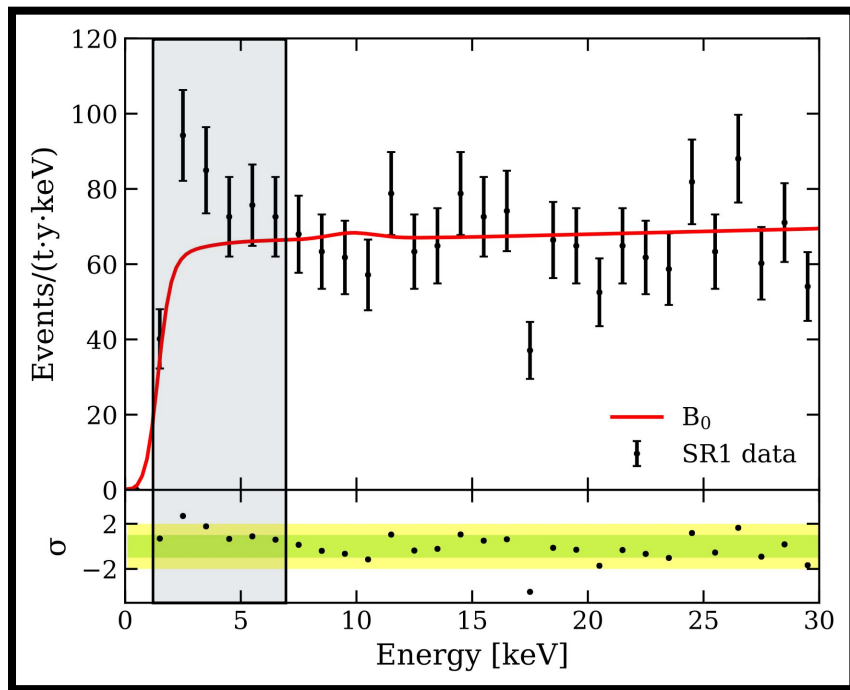


**Tritium explanation of the excess requires much more H<sub>2</sub> or C<sub>x</sub>H<sub>x</sub> in XENON1T than H<sub>2</sub>O**



... but no way to measure that!



So... what are the **new physics** options?





**Explaining the XENON1T excess with Luminous Dark Matter** #9  
 Nicole F. Bell (Melbourne U.), James B. Dent (Sam Houston State U.), Bhaskar Dutta (Texas A-M), Sumit Ghosh (Texas A-M), Jason Kumar (Hawaii U.) et al. (Jun 22, 2020)  
 e-Print: 2006.12461 [hep-ph]

 pdf  cite ↻ 45 citations



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**Exploring New Physics with O(keV) Electron Recoils in Direct Detection Experiments** #10  
 Itay M. Bloch (Tel Aviv U.), Andrea Caputo (Valencia U., IFIC), Rouven Essig (YITP, Stony Brook), Diego Redigolo (CERN and INFN, Florence and Florence U.), Mukul Sholapurkar (YITP, Stony Brook) et al. (Jun 25, 2020)  
 e-Print: 2006.14521 [hep-ph]

 pdf  cite ↻ 44 citations



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**Neutrino self-interactions and XENON1T electron recoil excess** #11  
 Andreas Bally (Heidelberg, Max Planck Inst.), Sudip Jana (Heidelberg, Max Planck Inst.), Andreas Trautner (Heidelberg, Max Planck Inst.) (Jun 21, 2020)  
 e-Print: 2006.11919 [hep-ph]



 pdf  cite ↻ 43 citations

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**Sun Heated MeV-scale Dark Matter and the XENON1T Electron Recoil Excess** #12  
 Yifan Chen (Beijing, Inst. Theor. Phys.), Jing Shu (Beijing, Inst. Theor. Phys. and Beijing, GUCAS and CAS, CEPP, Beijing and HIAS, UCAS, Hangzhou and Peking U., CHEP and ICTP-AP, Beijing), Xiao Xue (Beijing, Inst. Theor. Phys. and Beijing, GUCAS), Guanwen Yuan (Purple Mountain Observ. and USTC, Hefei), Qiang Yuan (Purple Mountain Observ. and USTC, Hefei and Peking U., CHEP) (Jun 22, 2020)  
 e-Print: 2006.12447 [hep-ph]



 pdf  cite ↻ 42 citations

**Boosted Dark Matter Interpretation of the XENON1T Excess** #5  
 Bartosz Fornal (Utah U.), Pearl Sandick (Utah U.), Jing Shu (Beijing, Inst. Theor. Phys. and Beijing, GUCAS and CAS, CEPP, Beijing and Peking U., CHEP and HIAS, UCAS, Hangzhou and ICTP-AP, Beijing), Meng Su (Hong Kong U.), Yue Zhao (Utah U.) (Jun 19, 2020)  
 e-Print: 2006.11264 [hep-ph]

 pdf  cite ↻ 56 citations

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**Solar axions cannot explain the XENON1T excess** #6  
 Luca Di Luzio (DESY), Marco Fedele (ICC, Barcelona U.), Maurizio Giannotti (Barry U.), Federico Mescia (ICC, Barcelona U.), Enrico Nardi (Frascati) (Jun 22, 2020)  
 e-Print: 2006.12487 [hep-ph]

 pdf  cite ↻ 53 citations

**Light vector mediators facing XENON1T data** #7  
 Đ. Aristizabal Sierra (Santa Maria U., Valparaiso and Liege U.), V. De Romeri (Valencia U., IFIC), L.J. Flores (Mexico U.), D.K. Papoulias (Ioannina U.) (Jun 22, 2020)  
 Published in: *Phys.Lett.B* 809 (2020) 135681 • e-Print: 2006.12457 [hep-ph]

 pdf  DOI  cite ↻ 49 citations


**XENON1T Anomaly and its Implication for Decaying Warm Dark Matter** #8  
 Gongjun Choi (Tsung-Dao Lee Inst., Shanghai), Motoo Suzuki (Tsung-Dao Lee Inst., Shanghai), Tsutomu T. Yanagida (Tsung-Dao Lee Inst., Shanghai and Tokyo U., IPMU) (Jun 22, 2020)  
 e-Print: 2006.12348 [hep-ph]

 pdf  cite ↻ 46 citations

**Dark Matter and the XENON1T electron recoil excess** #1  
 Kristjan Kannike (NICPB, Tallinn), Martti Raidal (NICPB, Tallinn), Hardi Veermäe (NICPB, Tallinn), Alessandro Strumia (Pisa U.), Daniele Teresi (Pisa U. and INFN, Italy) (Jun 18, 2020)  
 e-Print: 2006.10735 [hep-ph]

 pdf  cite ↻ 66 citations

**XENON1T anomaly from anomaly-free ALP dark matter and its implications for stellar cooling anomaly** #2  
 Fuminobu Takahashi (Tohoku U. and Tokyo U., IPMU), Masaki Yamada (Tohoku U. (main)), Wen Yin (Tokyo U.) (Jun 17, 2020)  
 e-Print: 2006.10035 [hep-ph]

 pdf  cite ↻ 61 citations

**Hidden Photon Dark Matter in the Light of XENON1T and Stellar Cooling** #3  
 Gonzalo Alonso-Álvarez (Heidelberg U.), Fatih Ertas (RWTH Aachen U.), Joerg Jaeckel (Heidelberg U. and U. Heidelberg, ITP), Felix Kahlhoefer (RWTH Aachen U. and U. Leoben), Thorsten M. Tait (Heidelberg U.) (Jun 19, 2020)  
 e-Print: 2006.11243 [hep-ph]

 pdf  cite ↻ 61 citations



**Light new physics in XENON1T** #4  
 Celine Boehm (Sydney U.), David G. Cerdeno (Madrid, IFT), Malcolm Fairbairn (King's Coll. London), Pedro A.N. Machado (Fermilab), Aaron C. Vincent (Queen's U., Kingston and CPARC and Perimeter Inst. Theor. Phys.) (Jun 19, 2020)  
 e-Print: 2006.11250 [hep-ph]

 pdf  links  cite ↻ 58 citations



**Inelastic Dark Matter Electron Scattering and the XENON1T Excess** #13  
 Keisuke Harigaya (Princeton, Inst. Advanced Study), Yuichiro Nakai (Tsung-Dao Lee Inst., Shanghai and Shanghai Jiao Tong U.), Motoo Suzuki (Tsung-Dao Lee Inst., Shanghai and Shanghai Jiao Tong U.) (Jun 21, 2020)  
 e-Print: 2006.11938 [hep-ph]

 pdf  DOI  cite ↻ 41 citations

**Atmospheric Dark Matter from Inelastic Cosmic Ray Collision in Xenon1T** #14  
 Liangliang Su (Nanjing Normal U. and Yantai U.), Wenyu Wang (Beijing U. of Tech.), Lei Wu (Nanjing Normal U.), Jin Min Yang (Beijing, Inst. Theor. Phys. and Beijing, KITPC and Beijing, GUCAS), Bin Zhu (Yantai U. and Chung-Ang U.) (Jun 21, 2020)  
 e-Print: 2006.11837 [hep-ph]

 pdf  cite ↻ 40 citations

**Shining dark matter in Xenon1T** #15  
 Gil Paz (Wayne State U.), Alexey A. Petrov (Wayne State U.), Michele Tamargo (Cincinnati U.), Jure Zupan (Cincinnati U.) (Jun 22, 2020)  
 e-Print: 2006.12462 [hep-ph]

 pdf  cite ↻ 39 citations

**Galactic Origin of Relativistic Bosons and XENON1T Excess** #16  
 Jatan Buch (Brown U.), Manuel A. Buen-Abad (Brown U.), JiJi Fan (Brown U.), John Shing Chau Leung (Brown U.) (Jun 22, 2020)  
 e-Print: 2006.12488 [hep-ph]

 pdf  cite ↻ 39 citations

Well,  
 the list is long...

*“**Bosonics** for a peak.*

***Neutrino magnetic moment** for an  $\sim$  exponential [power law] spectrum.*

*And **axions** for something fun in between.”*

Rafael Lang

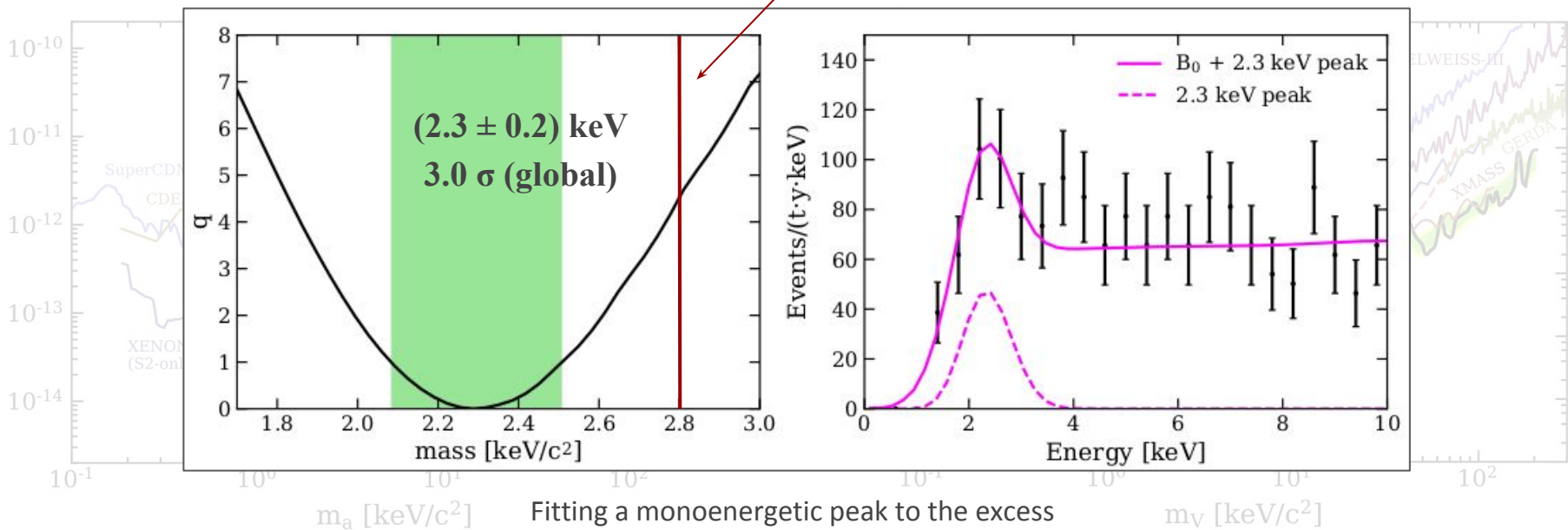


# Bosonic Dark Matter

Axion-like particle

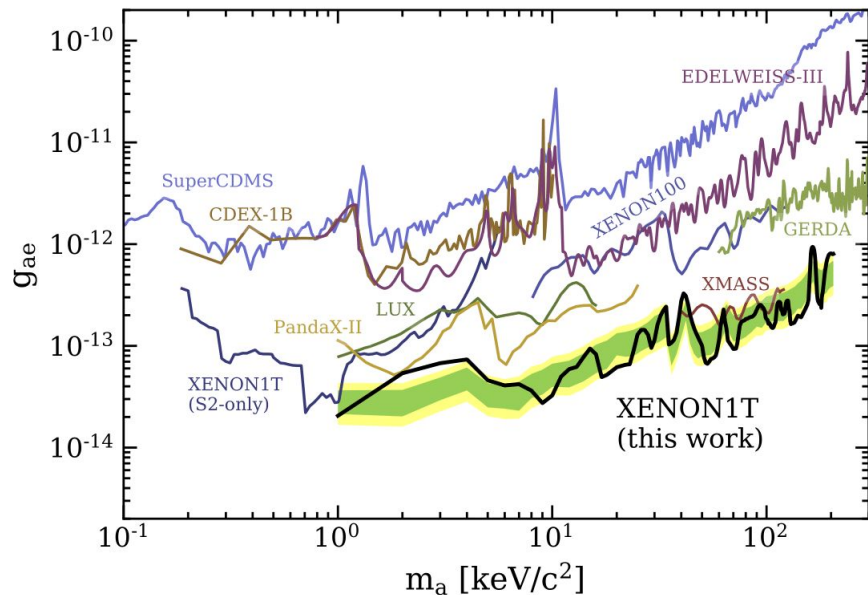
Dark photon

<sup>39</sup>Ar

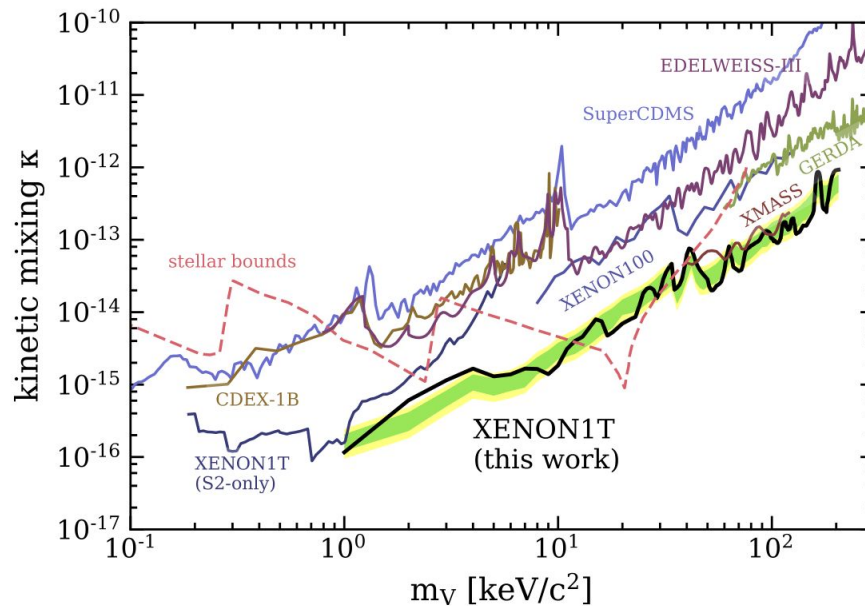


# Bosonic Dark Matter

## Axion-like particle



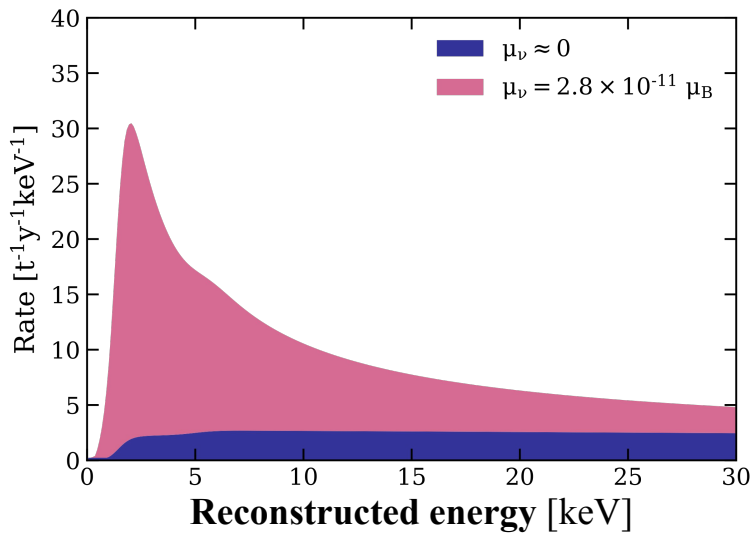
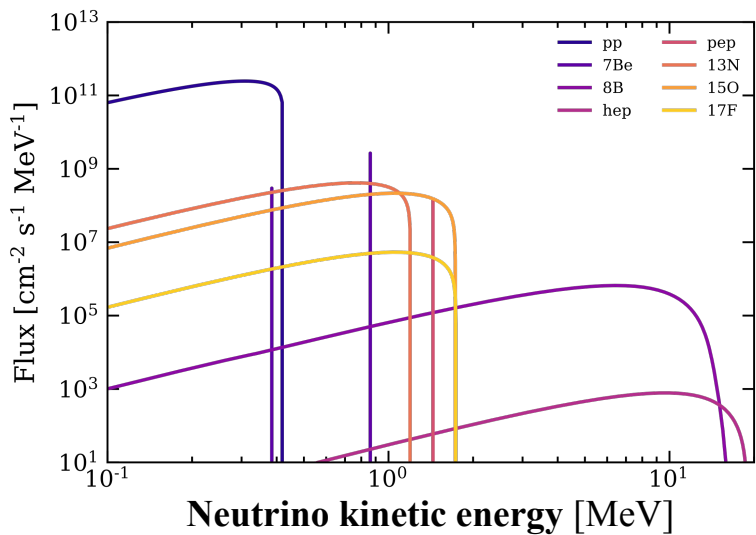
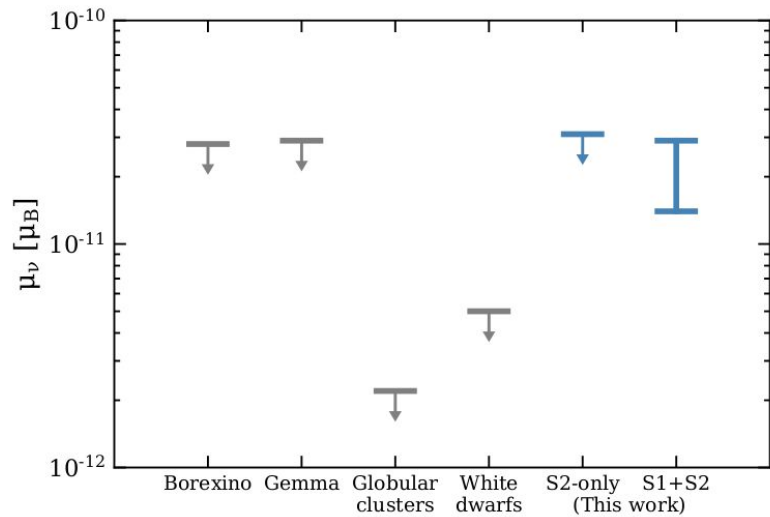
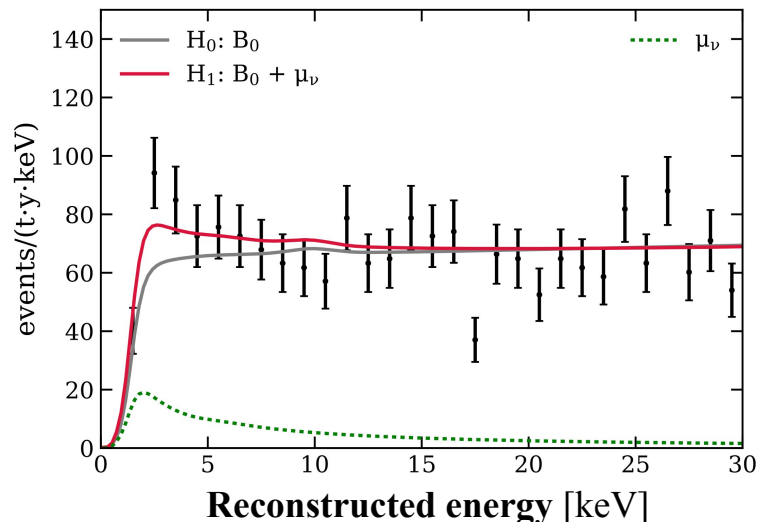
## Dark photon



# Neutrino magnetic moment

## Hypothesis

favoured at  $3.2 \sigma$



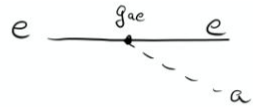
# Solar Axions

Hypothetical **axions** proposed as a solution to the '*strong CP-problem*'

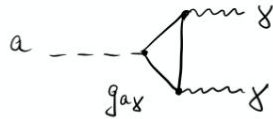
→ Solar axions would be produced in the Sun with  $\sim$  keV energies:

- Atomic recombination and de-excitation, Bremsstrahlung and Compton: **ABC**
- **Primakoff** conversion of photons to axions
- A mono-energetic 14.4 keV nuclear transition of  $^{57}\text{Fe}$

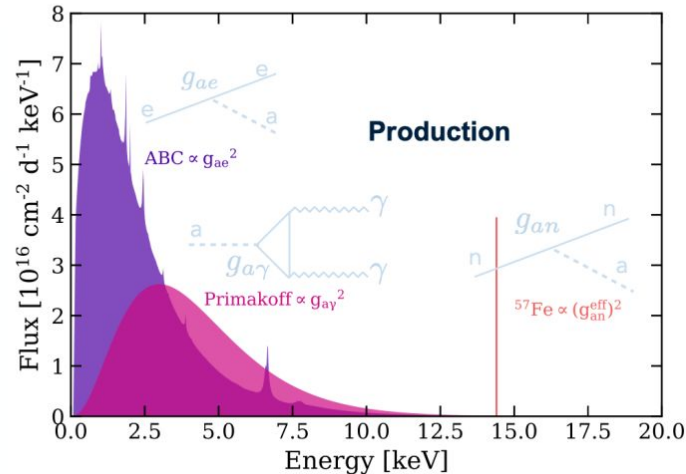
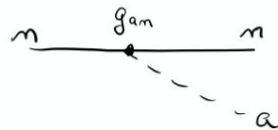
1. **ABC:**



2. **Primakoff:**

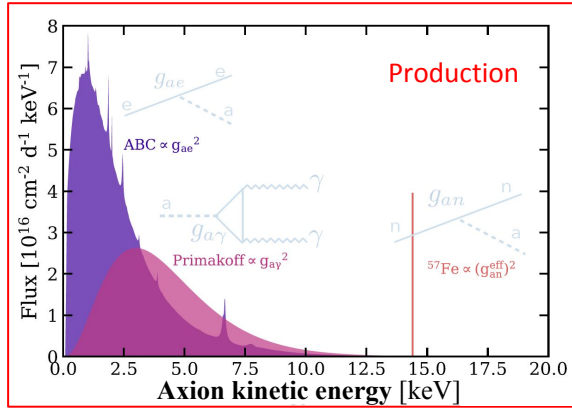


3.  $^{57}\text{Fe}$ :

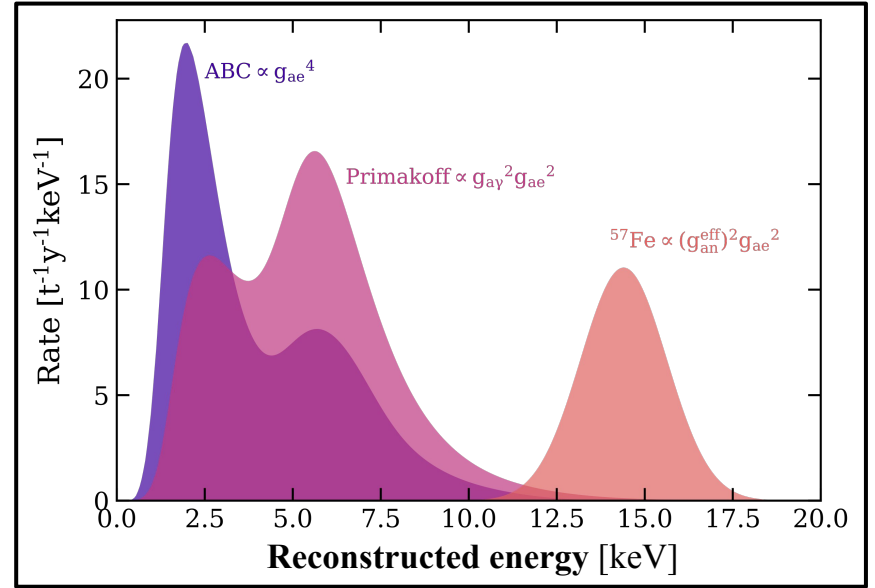




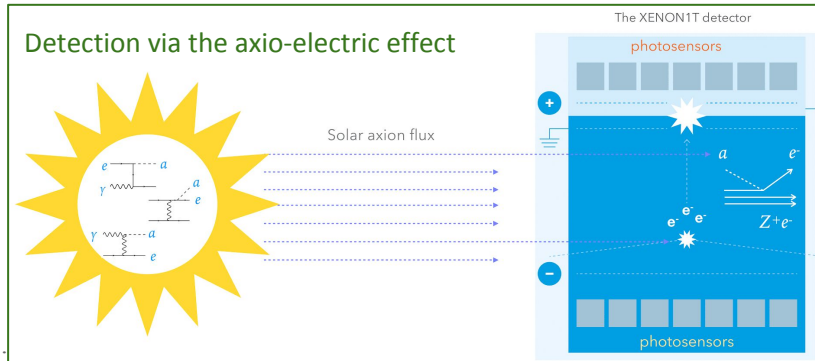
# Solar Axions



No dark matter axions (mass range  $\mu\text{eV}$ - $\text{meV}$ ) with XENON1T  
 Model-dependent couplings to matter

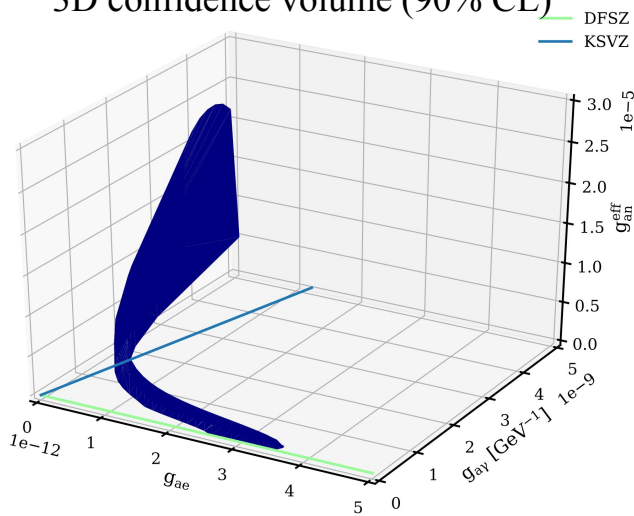


XENON1T resolution and efficiency



# Solar Axions

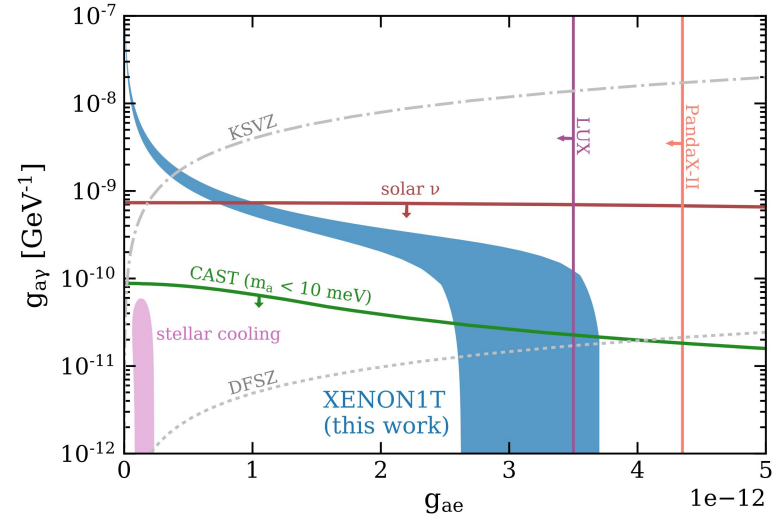
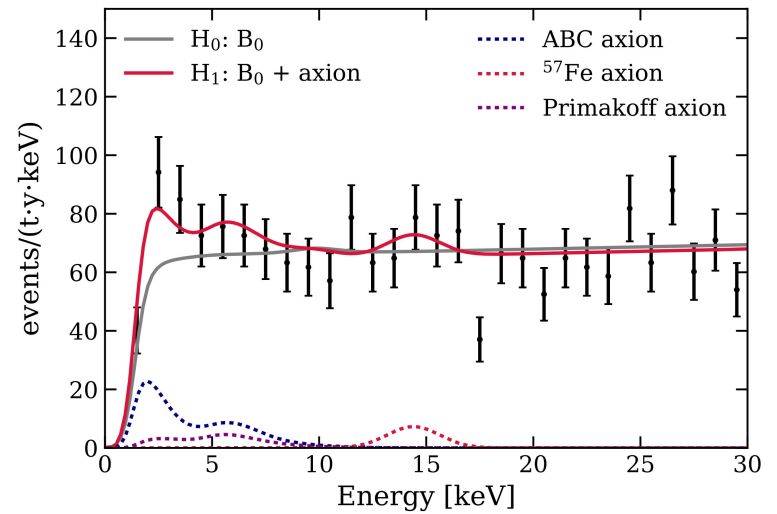
3D confidence volume (90% CL)



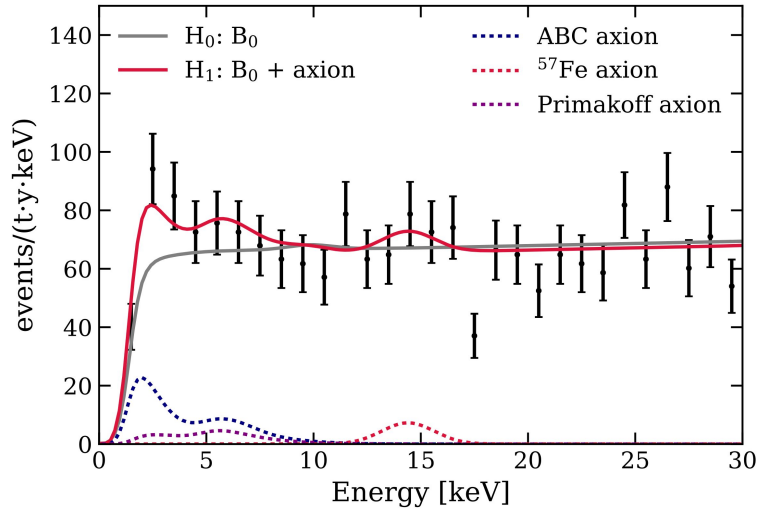
Search for ABC, Primakoff and <sup>57</sup>Fe axions simultaneously

**Axion hypothesis favoured at 3.4  $\sigma$**

**But:** strong tension with astrophysical constraints from stellar cooling (see for instance arXiv:2003.01100)



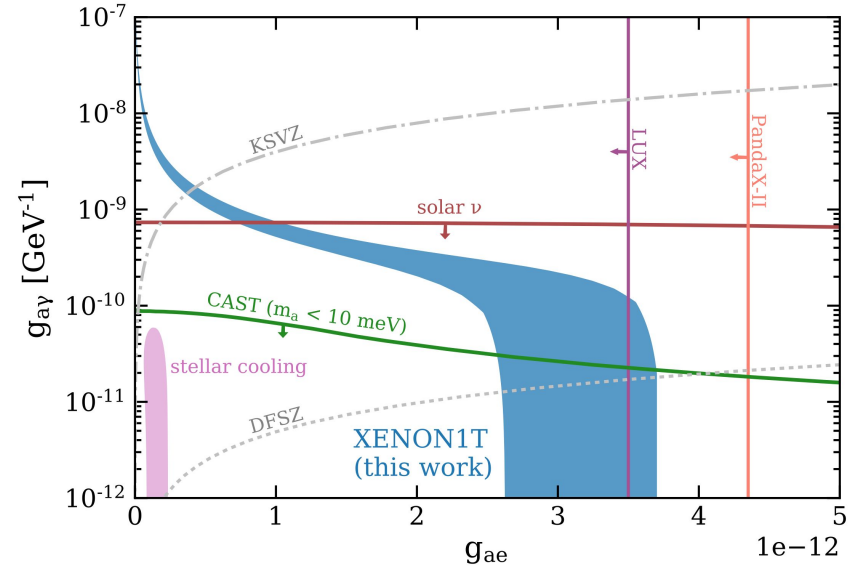
# Solar Axions



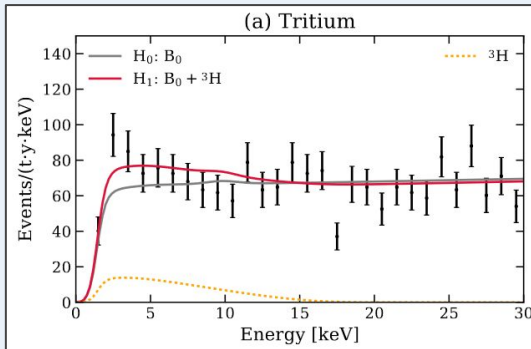
Search for ABC, Primakoff and  $^{57}\text{Fe}$  axions simultaneously

**Axion hypothesis favoured at  $3.4 \sigma$**

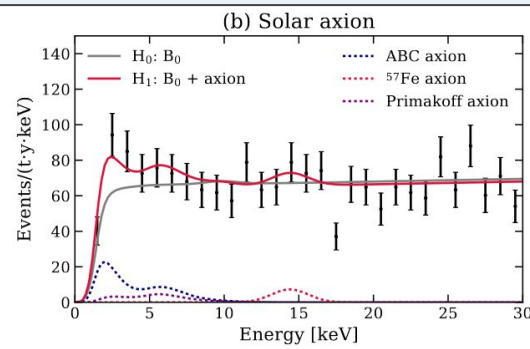
**But:** strong tension with astrophysical constraints from stellar cooling (see for instance arXiv:2003.01100)



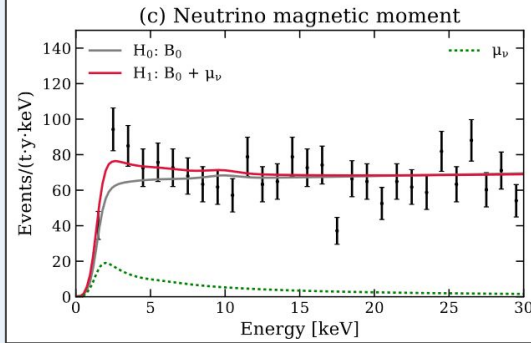
$^3\text{H}$   
fits data at  $3.2 \sigma$



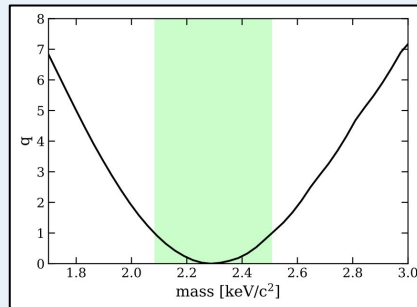
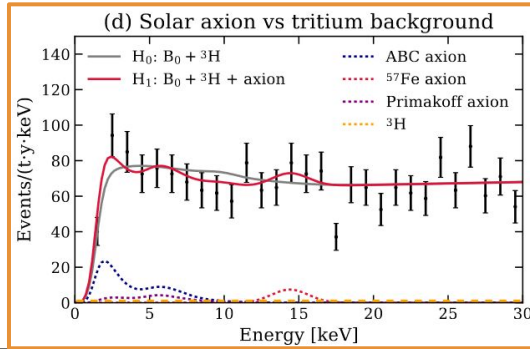
Solar axion  
fits data at  $3.4 \sigma$



$\mu_\nu$   
fits data at  $3.2 \sigma$



Solar axion +  $^3\text{H}$   
favored over  $^3\text{H}$  at  $2.0 \sigma$



Monoenergetic peak  
at  $(2.3 \pm 0.2)$  keV  
fits data at  $3.0 \sigma$  (global)

XENON<sub>n</sub>T



# XENONnT



x3

Active volume

1/6

Background



Under commissioning

Discriminate axions from tritium with ~ few months of data

