

# LATEST RESULTS OF THE CUORE EXPERIMENT

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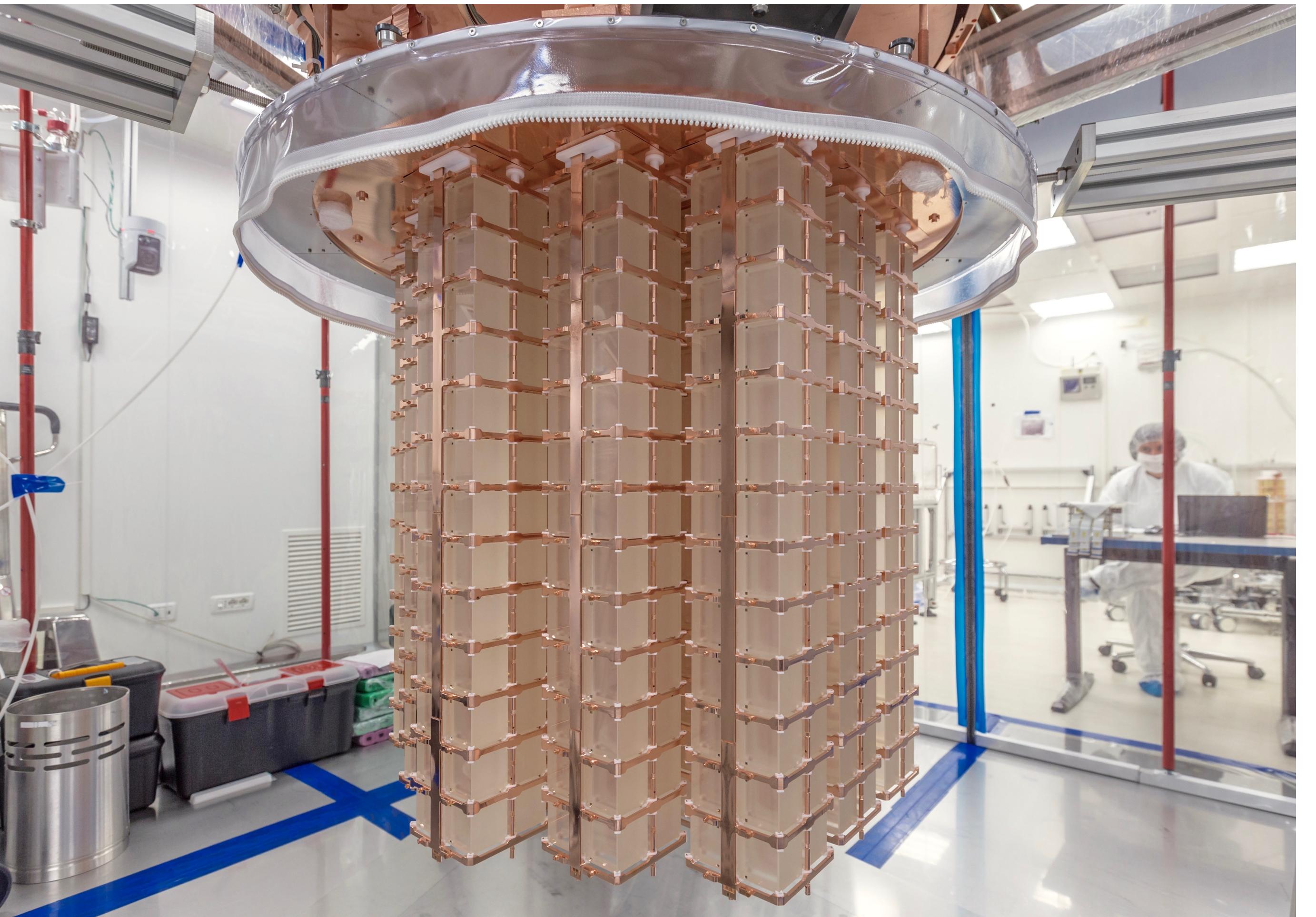


SAPIENZA  
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA



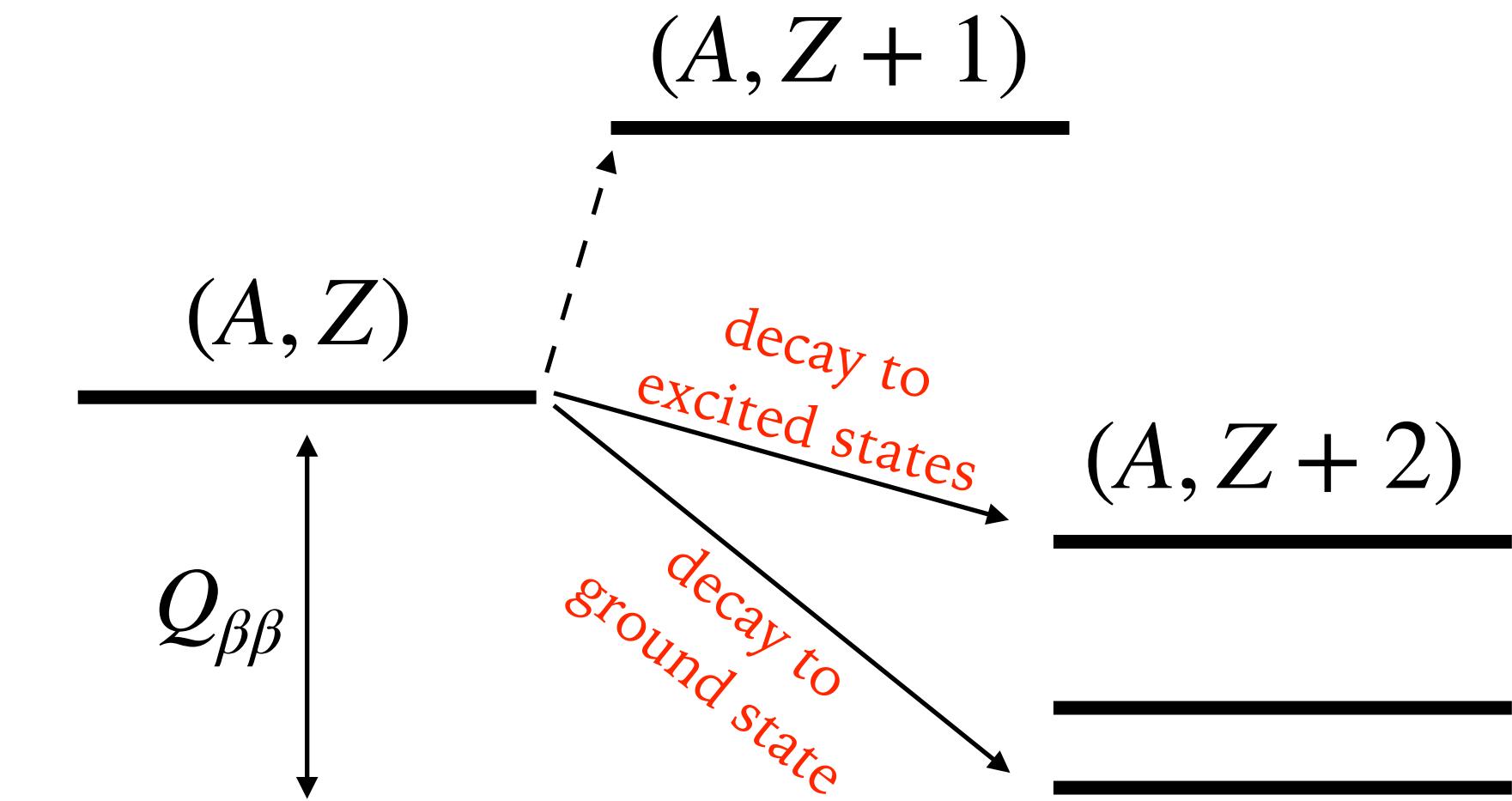
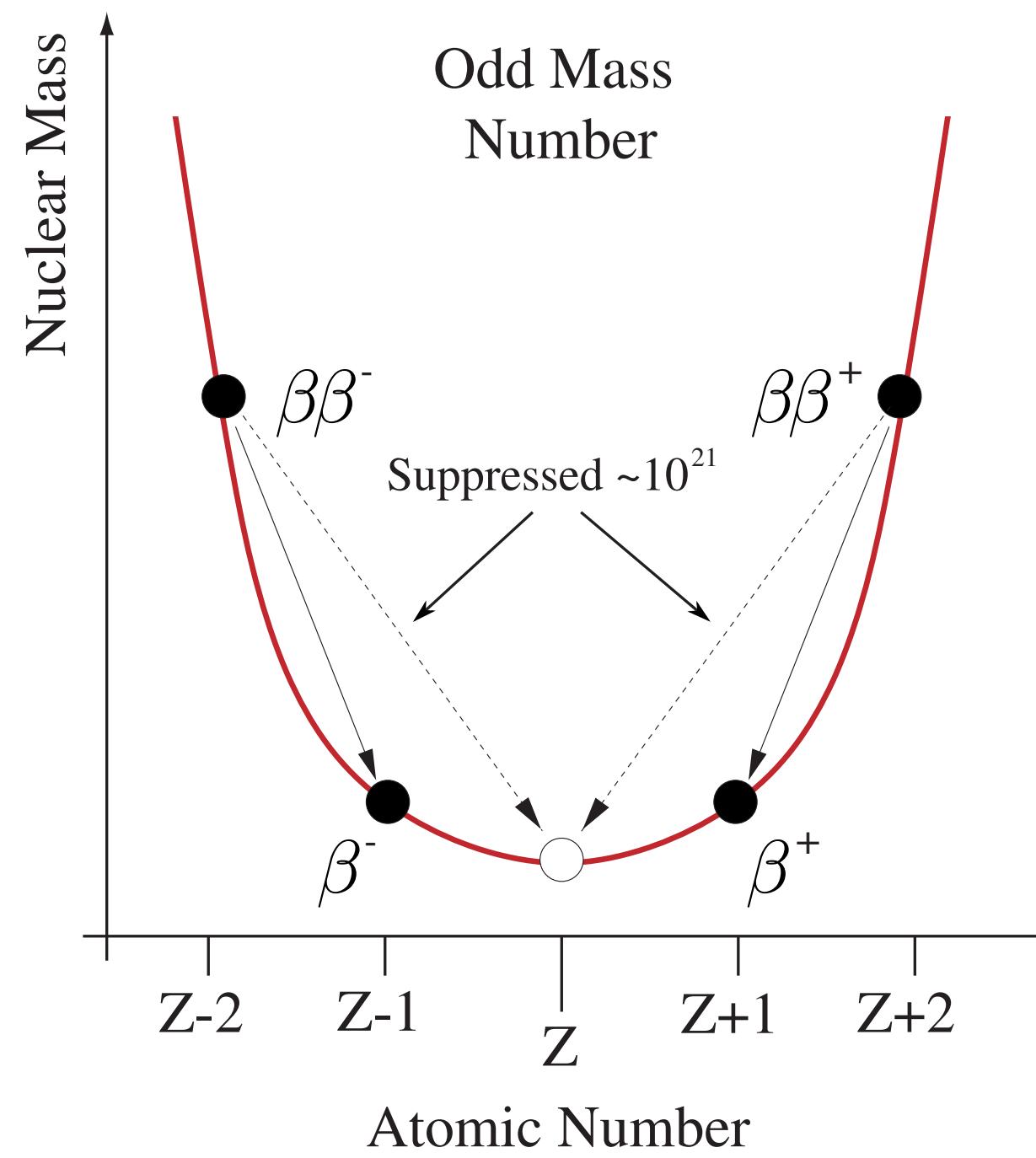
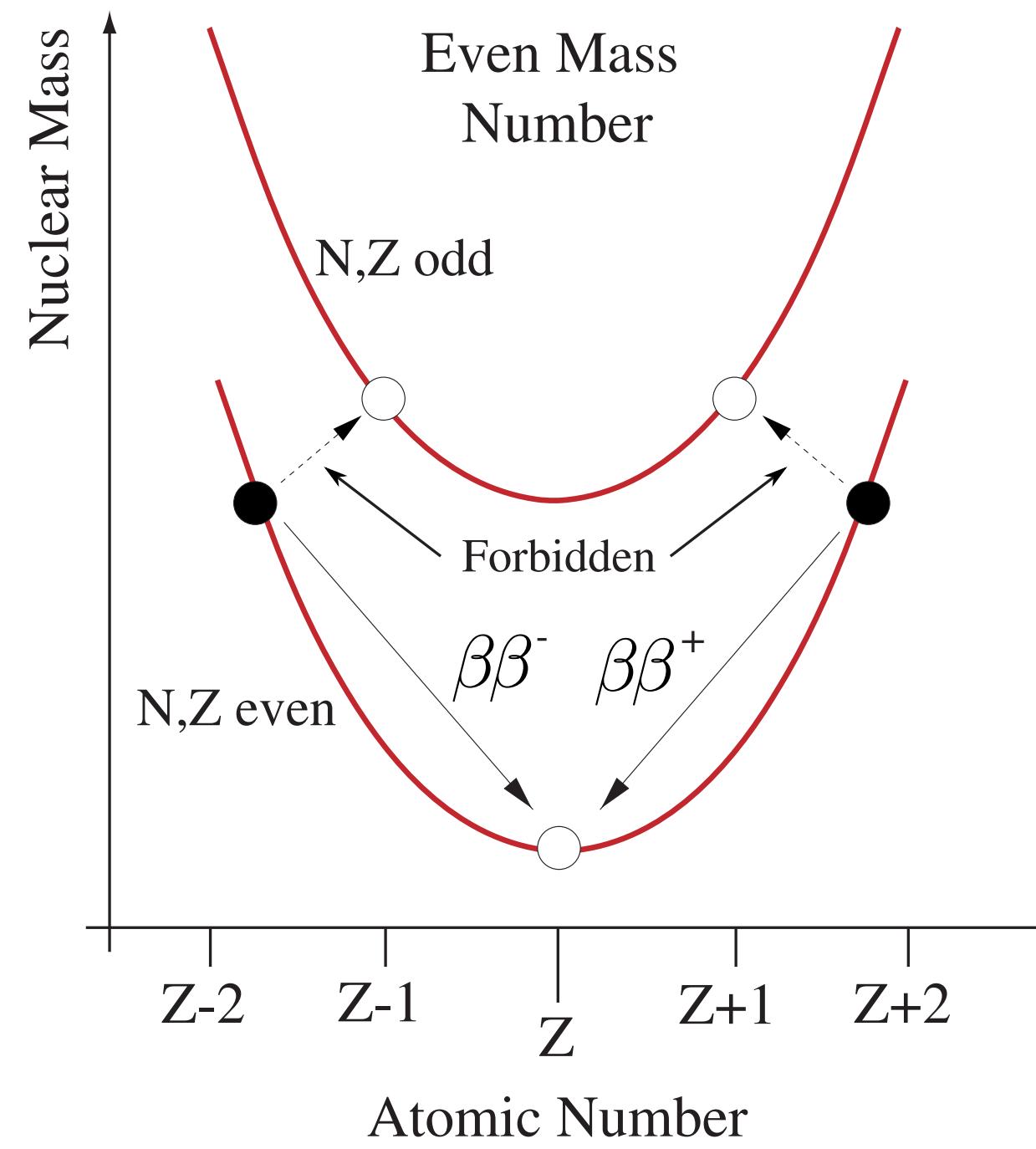
# OUTLINE

- Double Beta Decay
- The CUORE experiment
- Detector performance
- $0\nu\beta\beta$  (new!) results
- $^{130}\text{Te}$  half life ( $2\nu\beta\beta$ )
- Other rare decay searches
- Conclusion



# DOUBLE BETA DECAY

$$(A, Z) \longrightarrow (A, Z + 2) + X$$



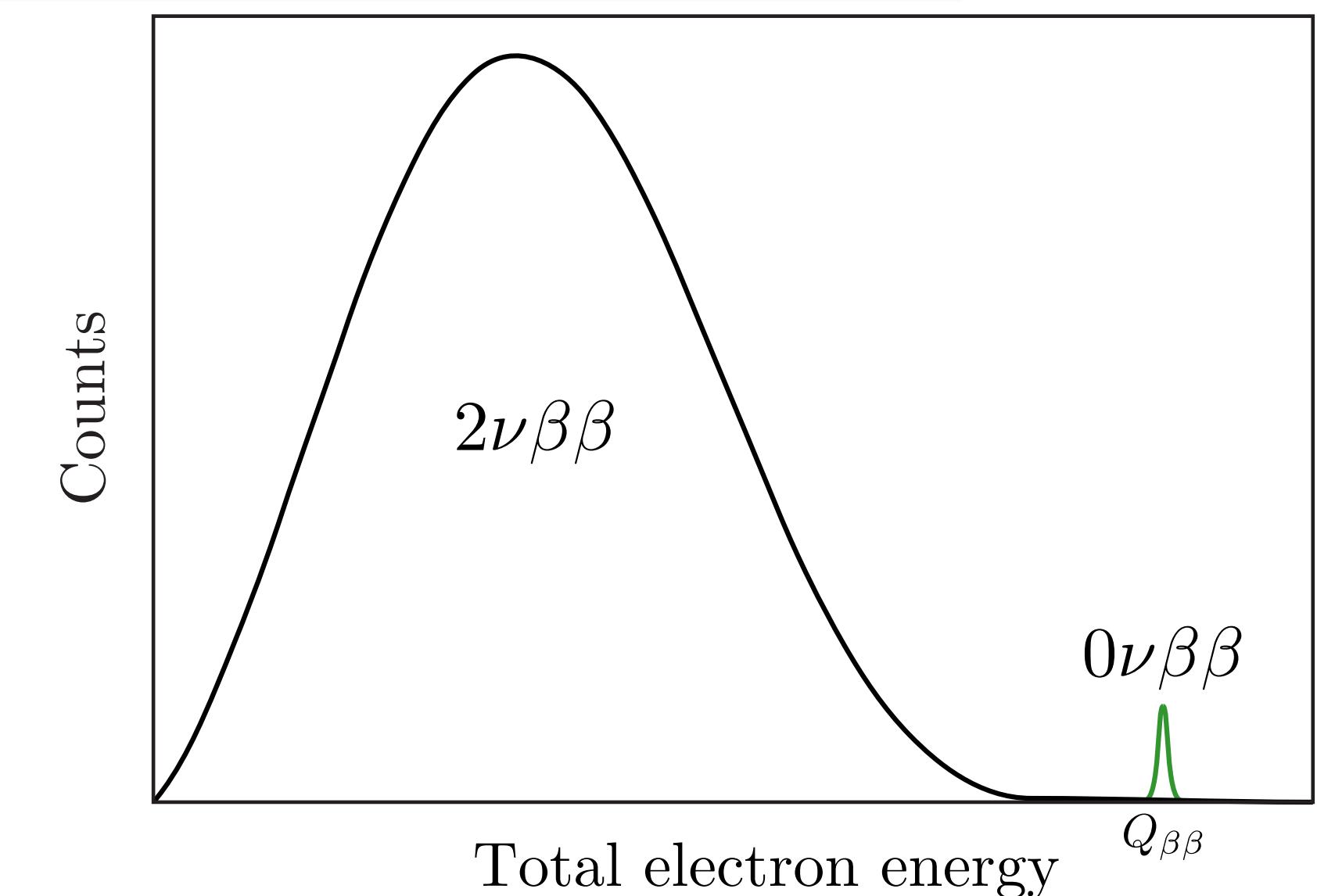
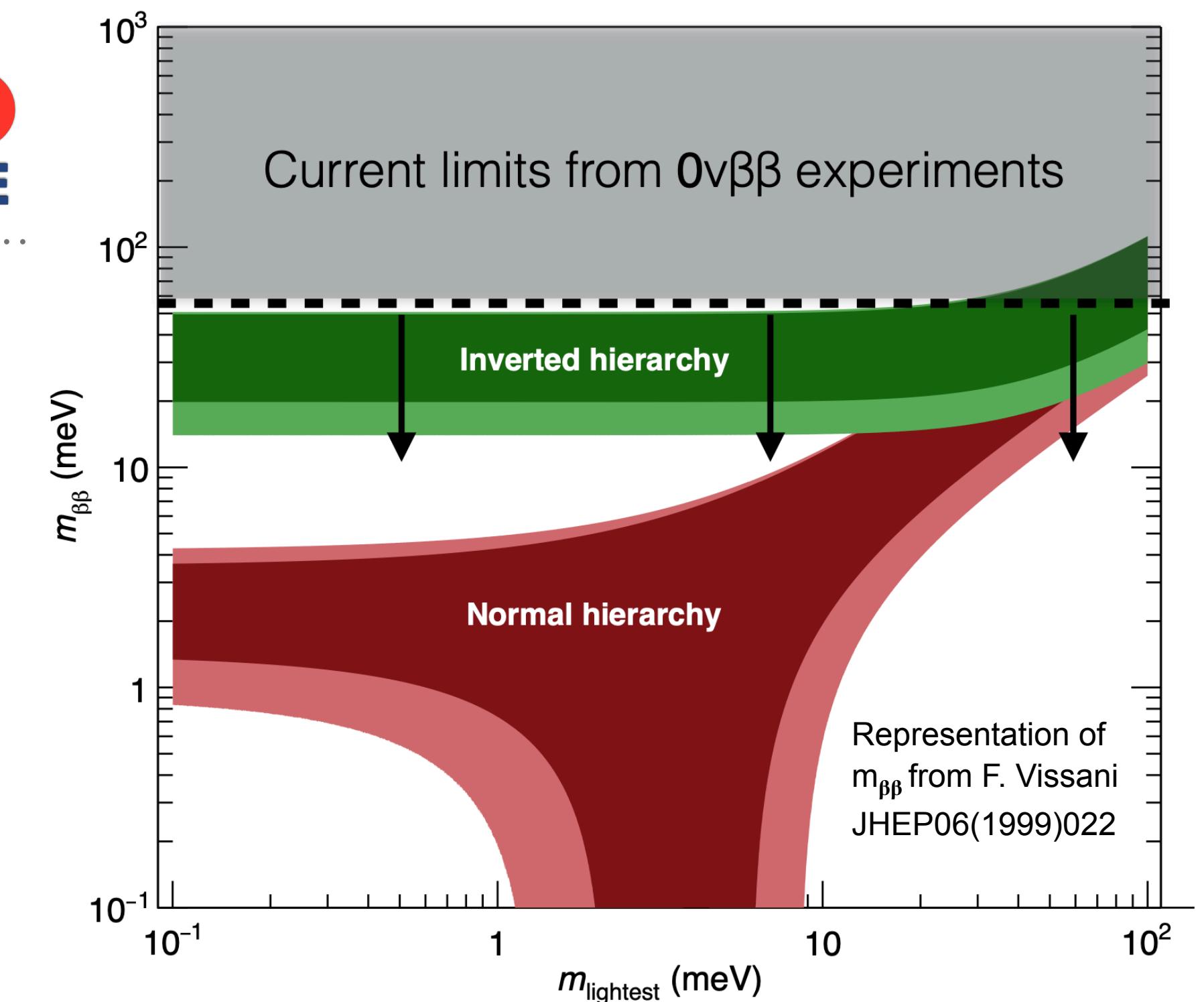
- SM 2<sup>nd</sup> order weak transition
- even-even nuclei
- half lives  $10^{18} - 10^{24}$  yr

# NEUTRINO-LESS DOUBLE BETA DECAY

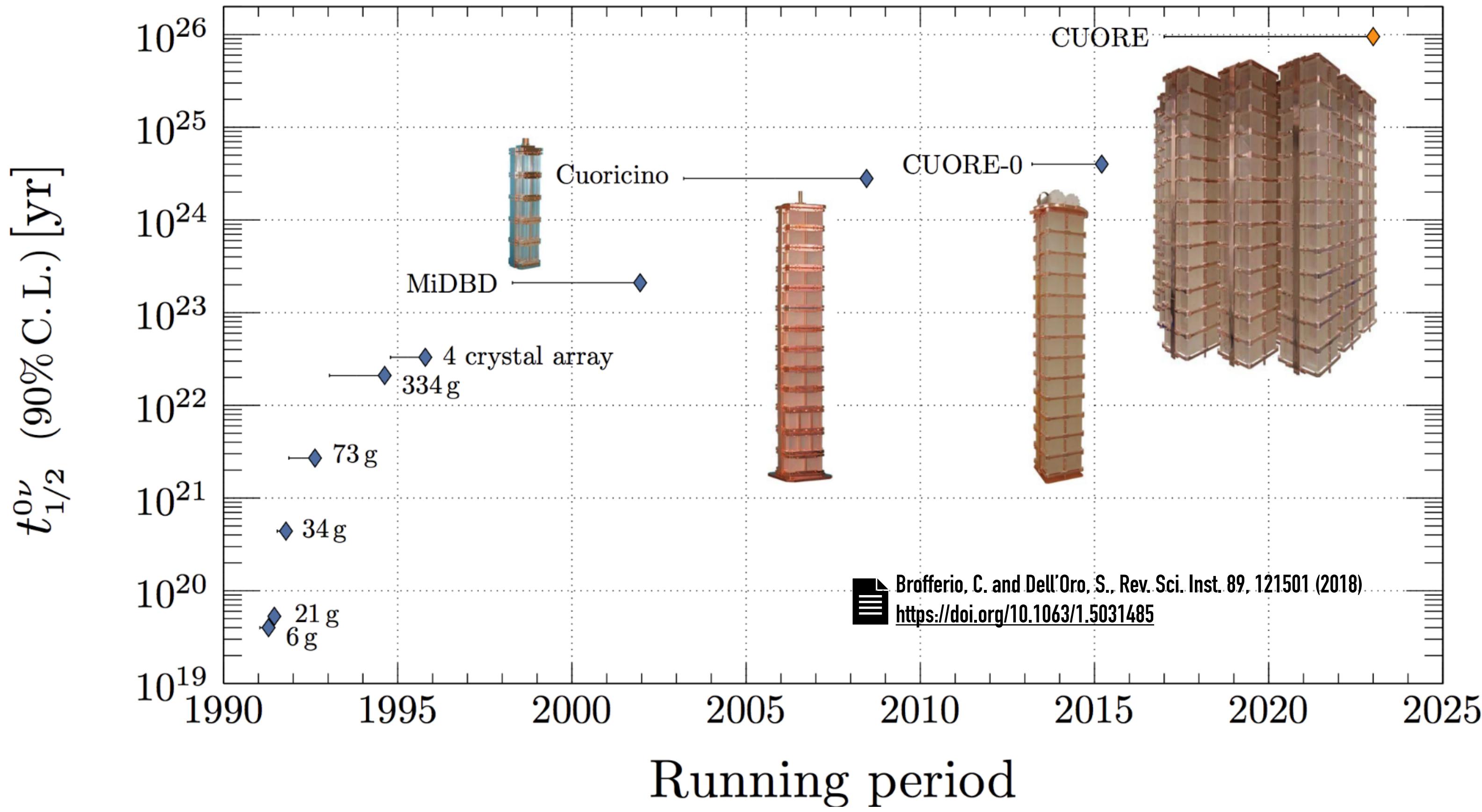


- Beyond Standard Model process accommodating for Majorana neutrinos
- Lepton Number Violation ( $\Delta L = 2$ )
- Constraints on neutrino mass hierarchy and scale
- Hints on origin of matter/anti-matter asymmetry
- Experimental signature: peak at  $2\nu\beta\beta$  endpoint

$$\Gamma_{0\nu} = G_{0\nu} |M_{0\nu}|^2 \frac{\langle m_{\beta\beta} \rangle^2}{m_e^2}$$



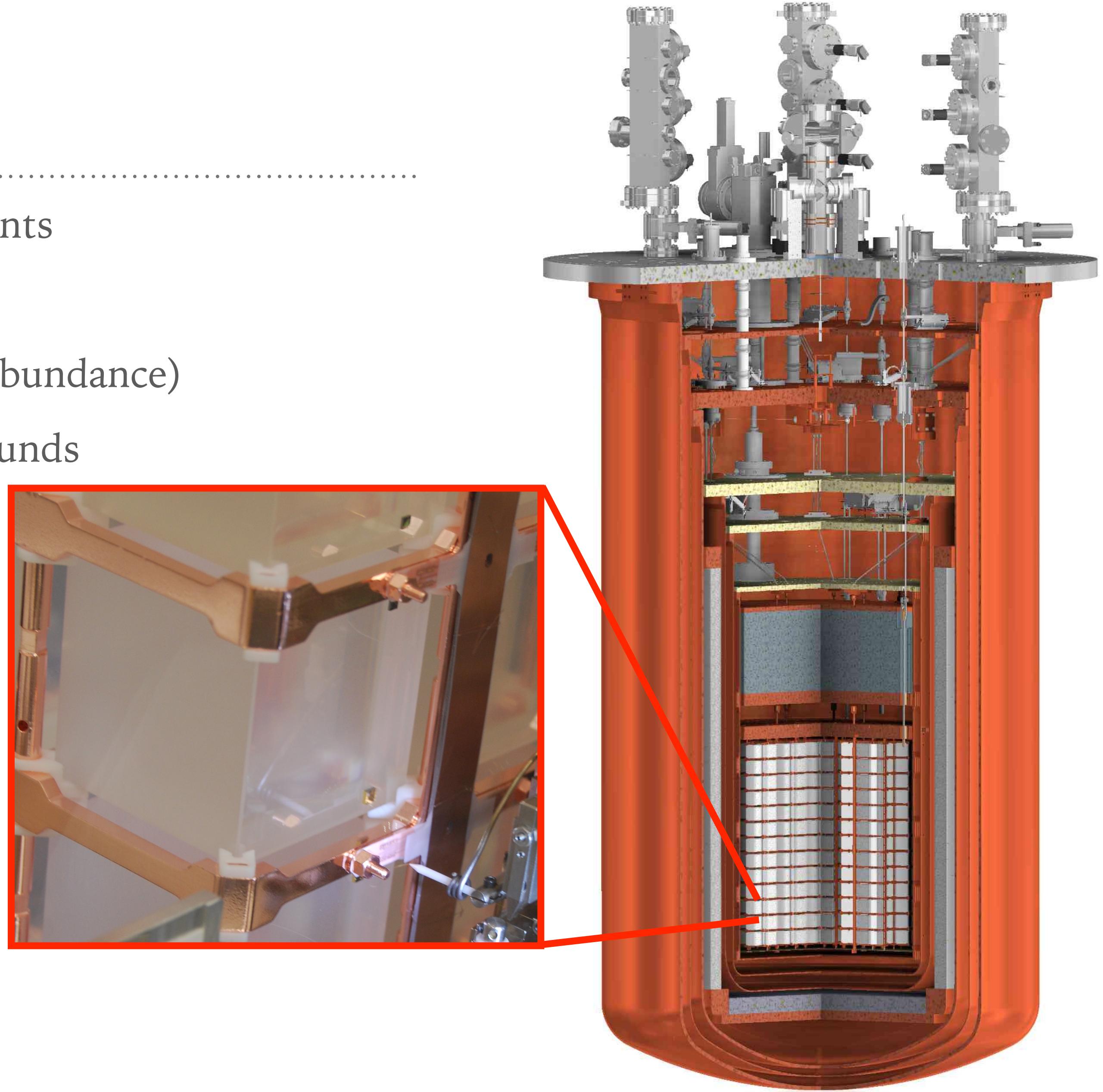
# A BIT OF HISTORY



- 30 years of experience in searching for  $0\nu\beta\beta$  with cryogenic bolometers, from the pioneering work of Ettore Fiorini
- CUORE is the last of a long series of experiments, from few grams to 742 kg of detector material
- First tonne-scale bolometric experiment in the world

# THE CUORE EXPERIMENT

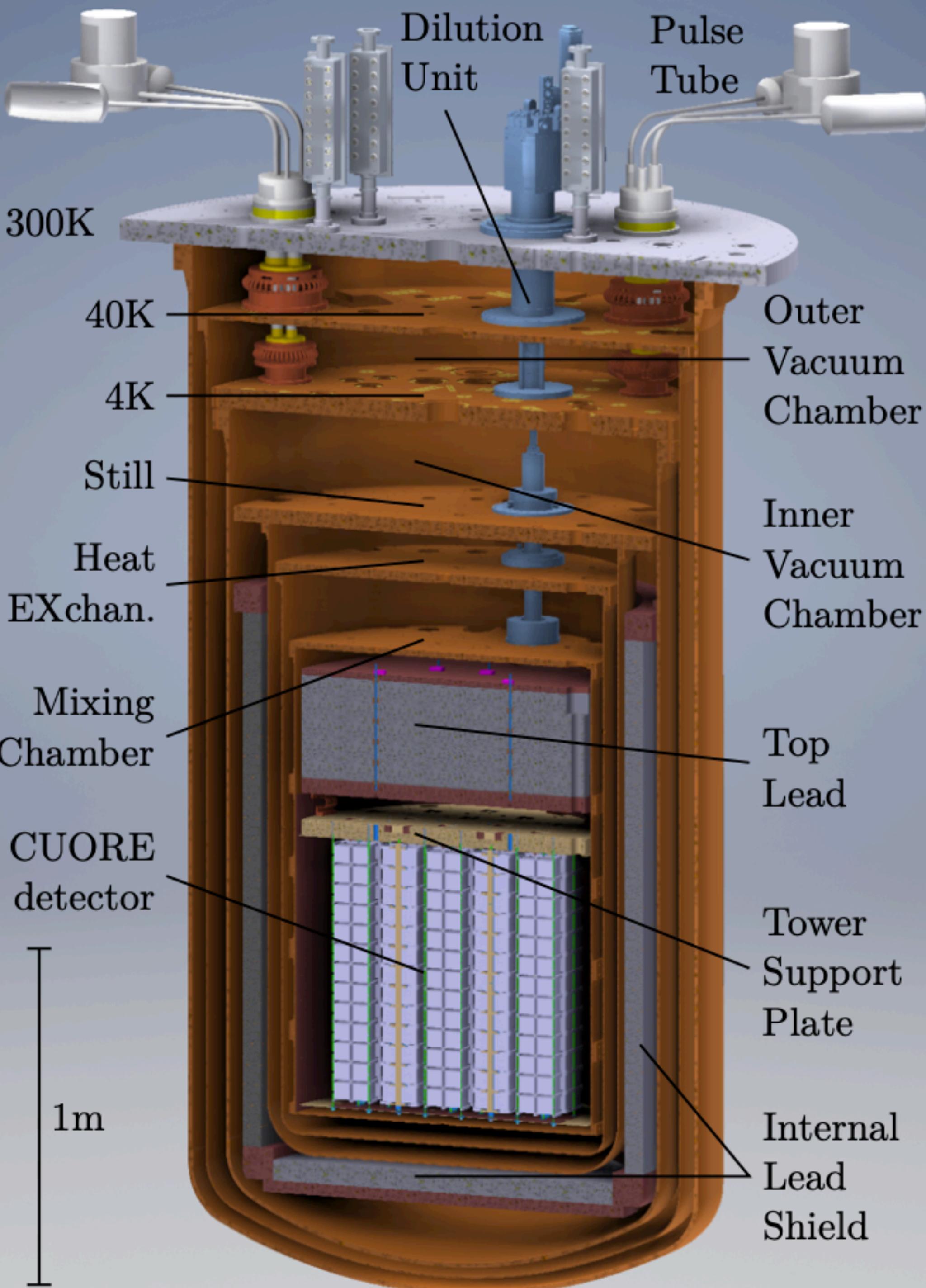
- Cryogenic Underground Observatory for Rare Events
- 988  $^{nat}\text{TeO}_2$  crystals at  $\sim 10$  mK
- 742 kg TeO<sub>2</sub>, 206 kg  $^{130}\text{Te}$  (34% natural isotopic abundance)
- $Q_{\beta\beta} = 2527.5$  keV above (most) natural  $\gamma$  backgrounds



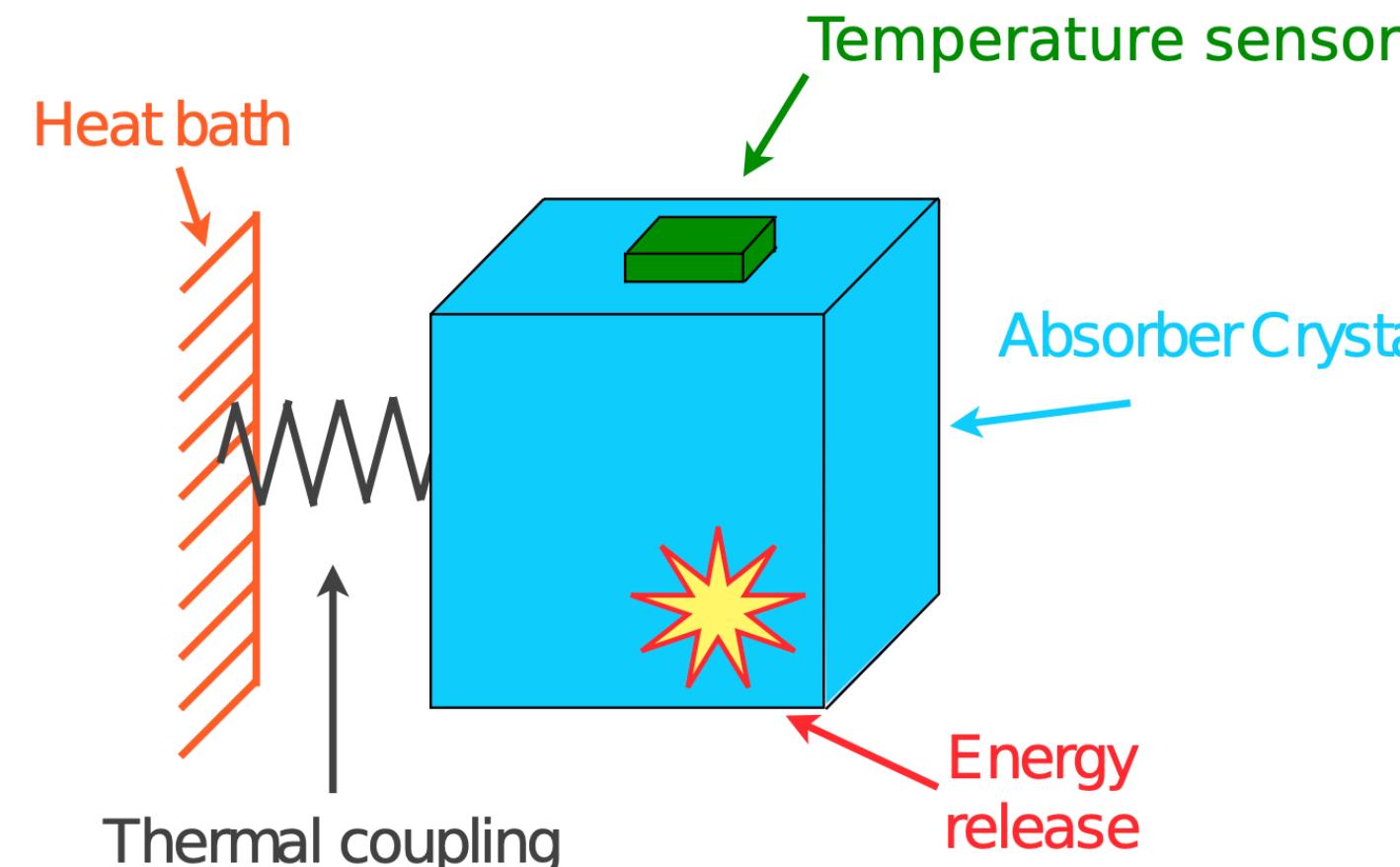
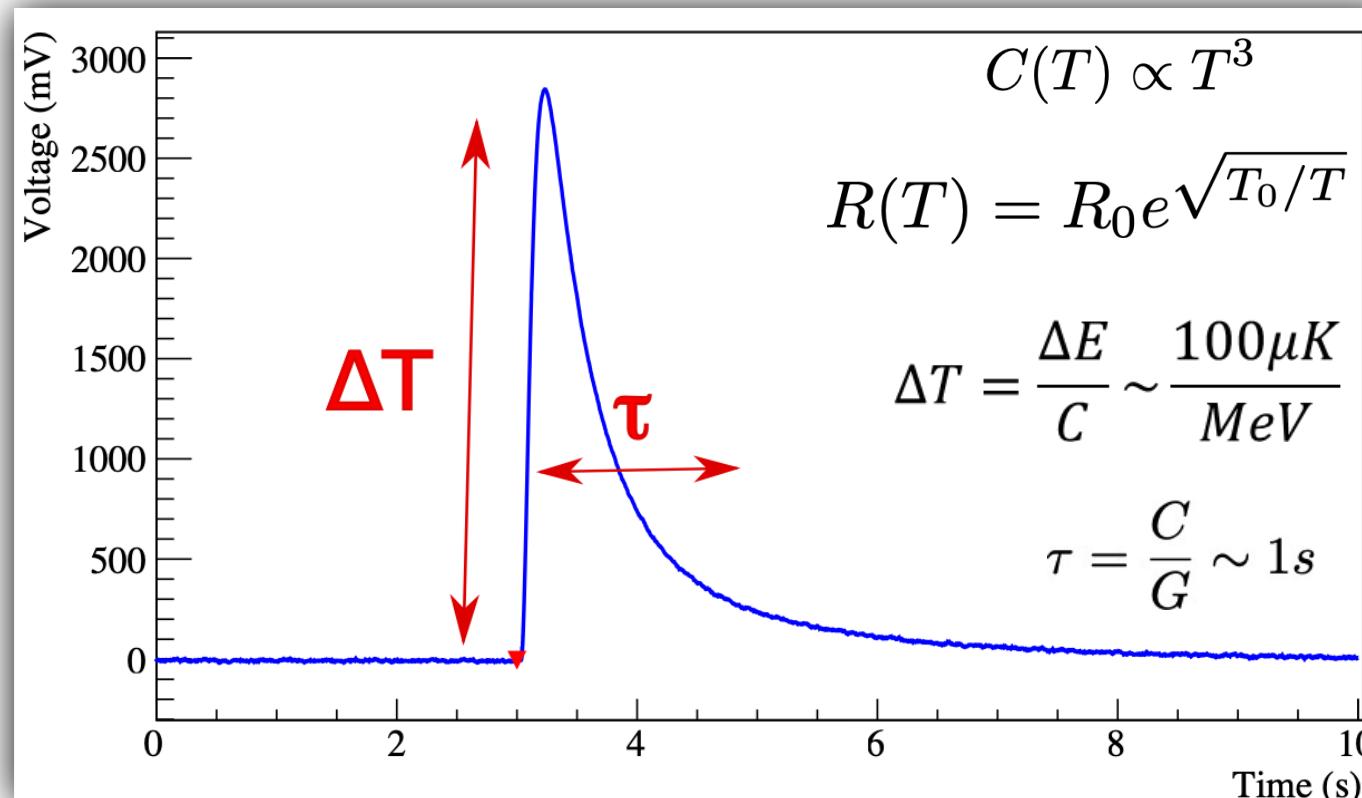
# THE CUORE EXPERIMENT



- Custom made dilution refrigerator  
~ 10 mK base temperature
- 5 pulse tube cryocoolers (no helium bath)
- Nested copper vessels at decreasing temperatures
- Low temperature lead shielding (top)
- Low temperature roman lead shielding (side, bottom)

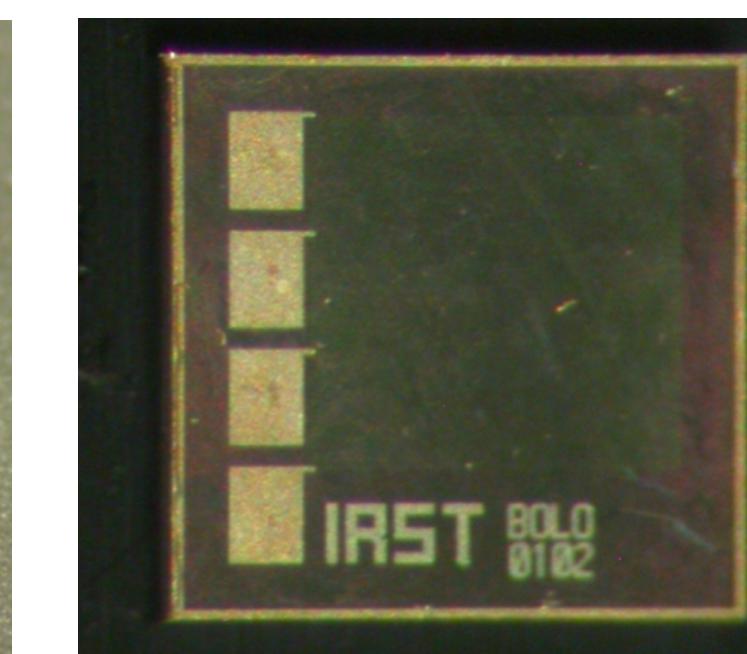
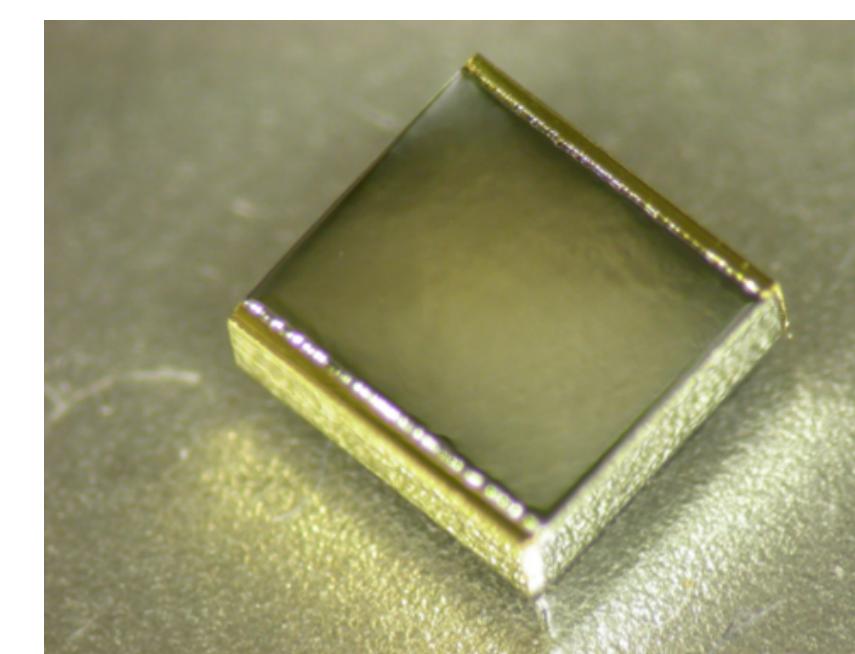
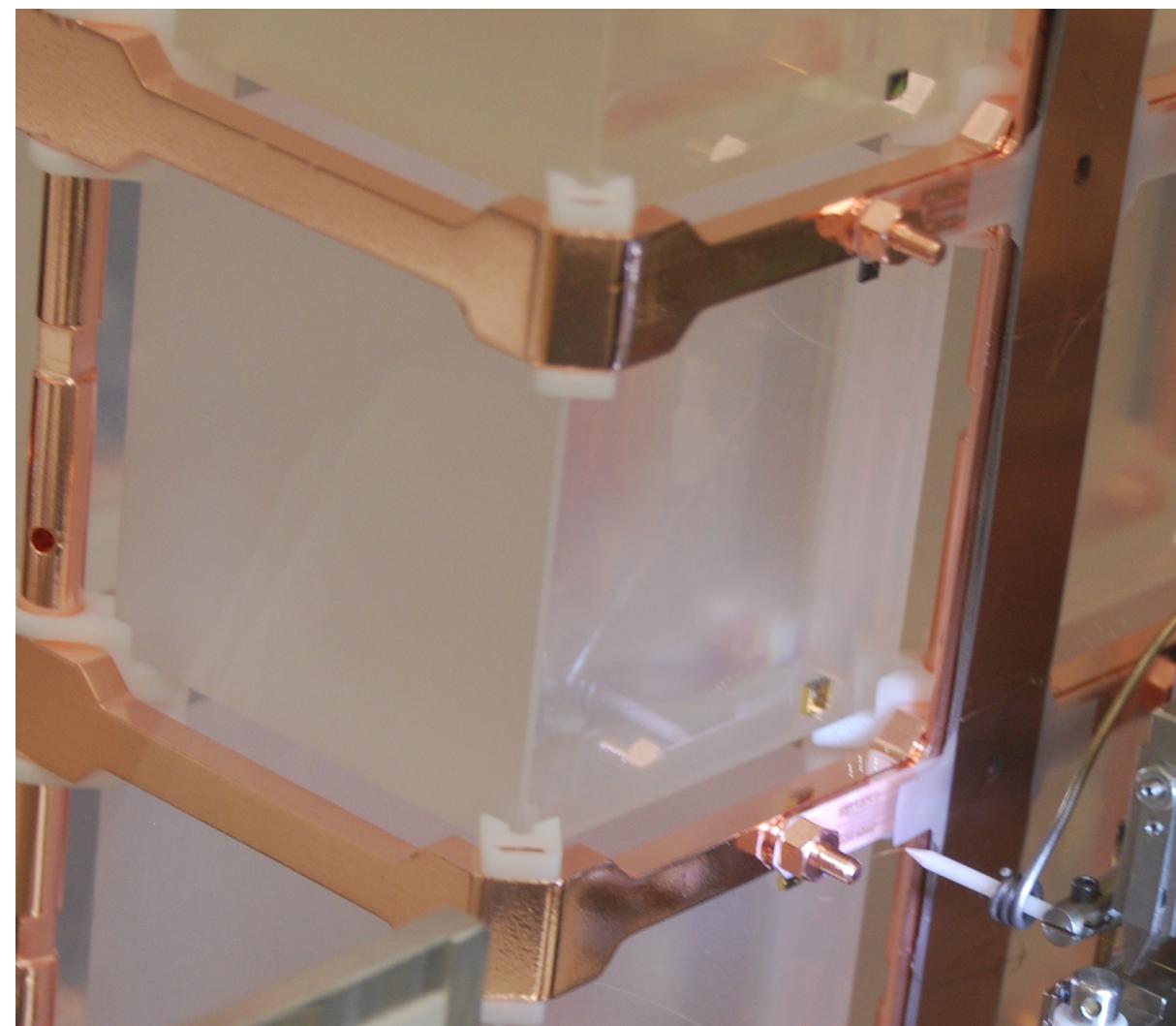


# CRYOGENIC BOLOMETERS



$$\Delta T \sim \frac{\Delta E}{C}$$

$$\tau \sim \frac{C}{G}$$

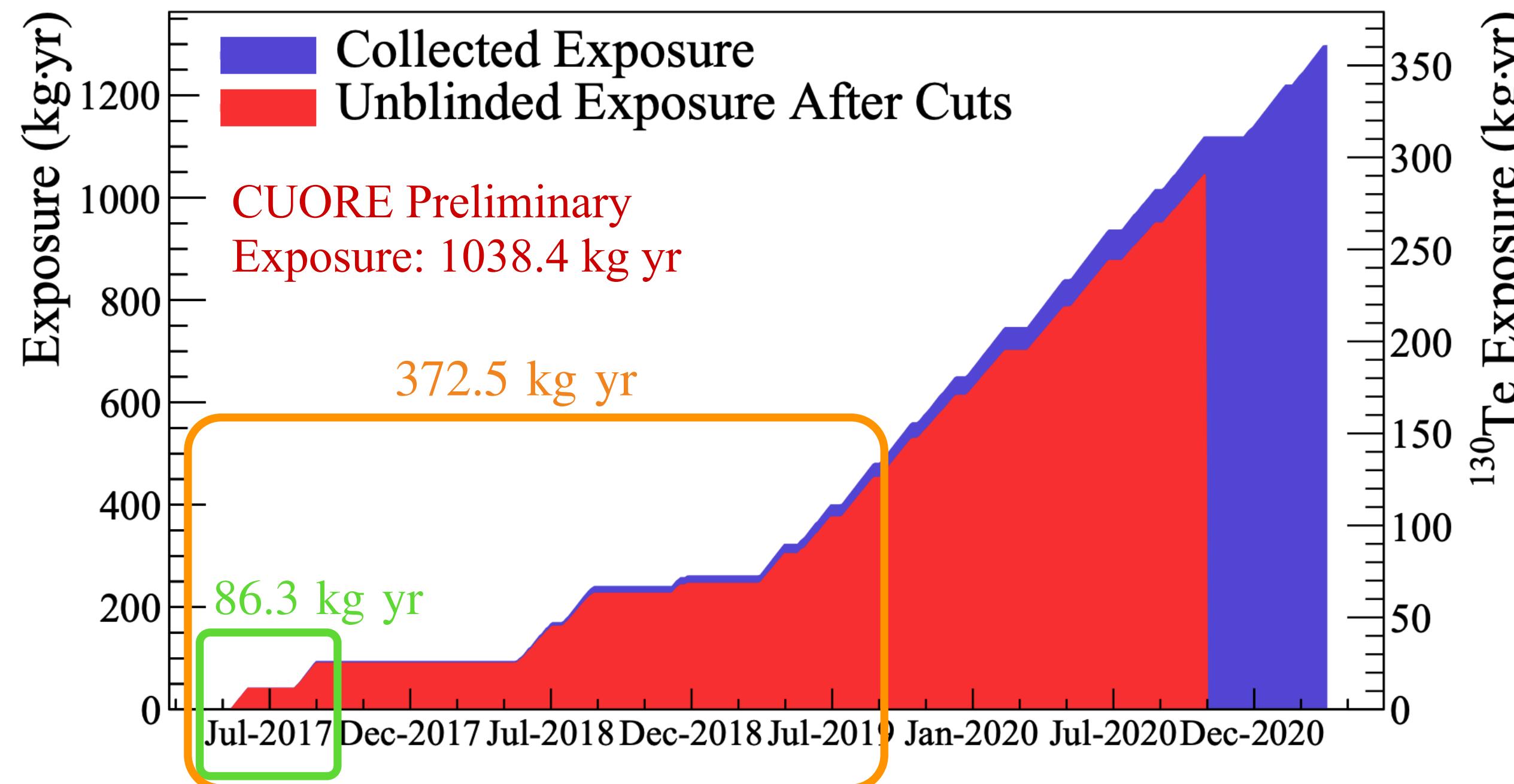


 Alduino, C. et al. (CUORE Collaboration), J. Inst. 11(07), P07009, 2016  
<https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-0221/11/07/p07009>

- NTD Ge thermistors biased with constant current
- Si heaters
- weak thermal link to heat bath
- particle interactions heat crystals up
- voltage pulses induced in NTDs

 Vignati, M., J. Appl. Phys. 108, 084903, 2010  
<https://doi.org/10.1063/1.3498808>

# CUORE DATA TAKING



Alduino, C. et al. (CUORE Collaboration), Phys. Rev. Lett. 120, 132501, 2018  
<https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevLett.120.132501>

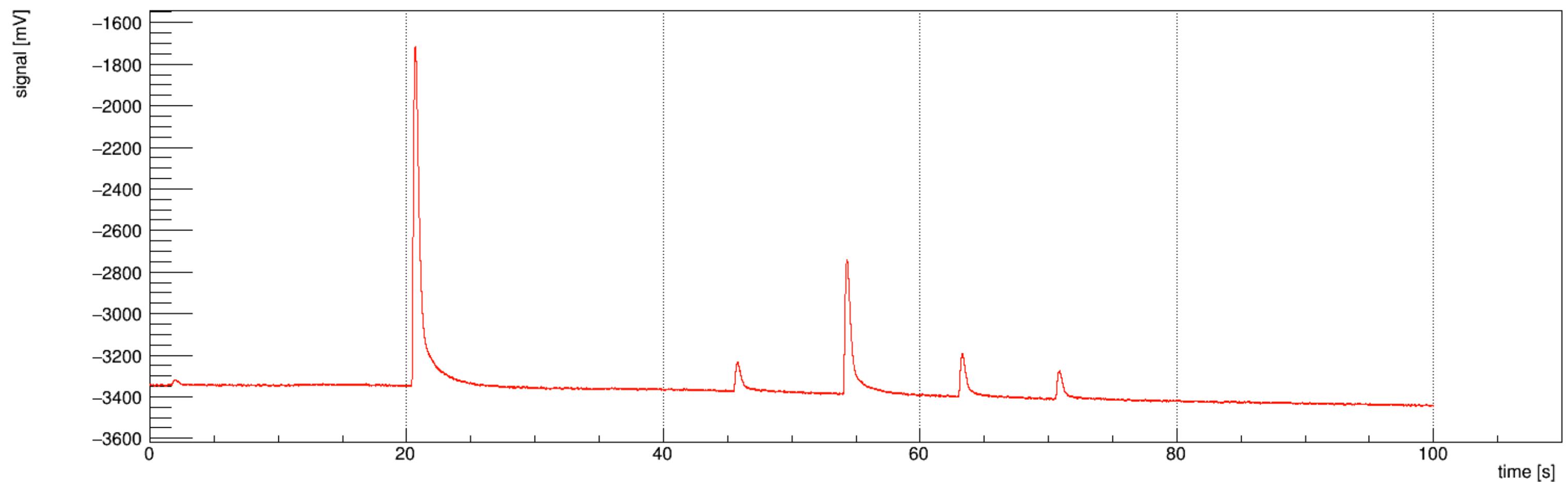
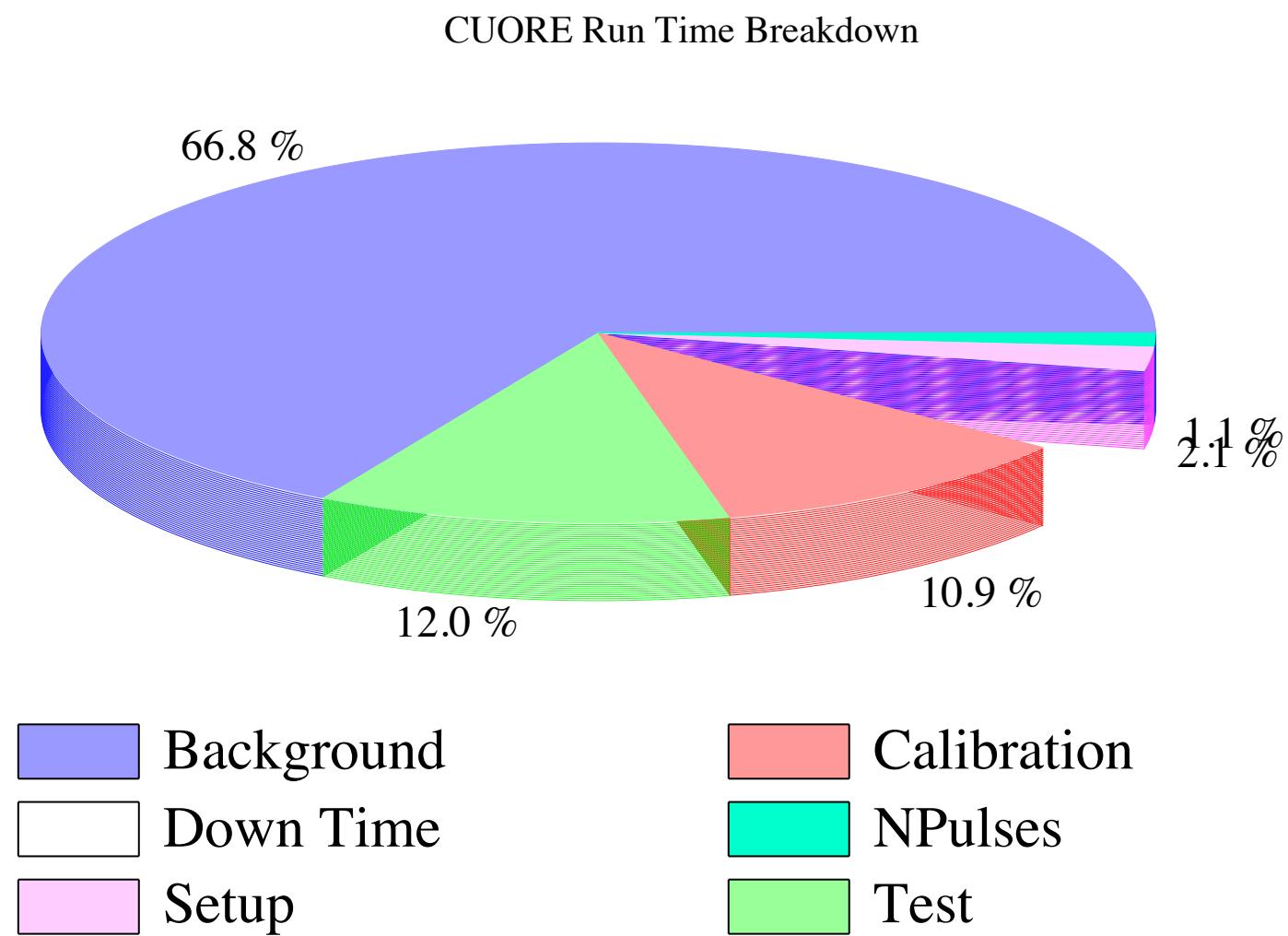


Adams, D.Q. et al. (CUORE Collaboration), Phys. Rev. Lett. 124, 122501, 2020  
<https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevLett.124.122501>

- data taking started in 2017
- optimization campaigns improved understanding and stability of the experiment
- since march 2019 steady data taking with >90% uptime
- > 1.29 tonne × yr raw exposure
- steadily collecting data at an average rate of ~ 69 kg × yr / month

# CUORE DATA TAKING

- CUORE “data set”: 1 month of background (physics) data taking, few days of calibration before and after
- Voltage output continuously sampled (1 kHz) and stored on disk
- Periods with unstable data taking conditions excluded (e.g. earthquakes)



# CUORE DATA ANALYSIS

Trigger

Optimum Filter

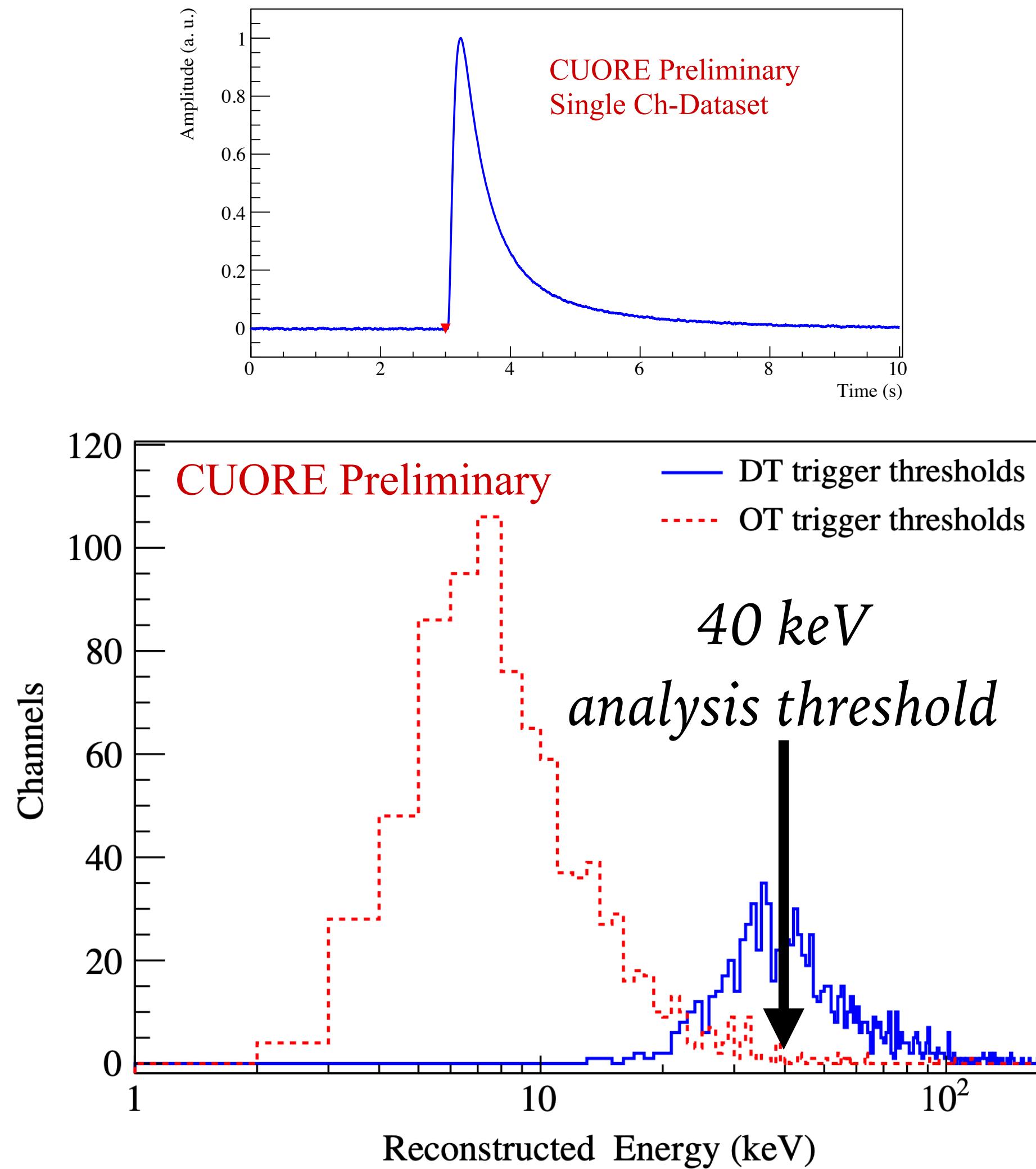
Gain Correction

Energy Calibration

Coincidences

Pulse Shape  
Discrimination (PSD)

Blinding



- Online analysis for quick data quality feedback (DT)
- Offline re-triggering (OT)
  - disentangle small signals from noise fluctuations
- median trigger threshold < 10 keV
- 40 keV analysis threshold guarantees 97% of channels have > 90% trigger efficiency
- minimize  $\gamma$  background from low energy Compton scattering events

# CUORE DATA ANALYSIS

Trigger

Optimum Filter

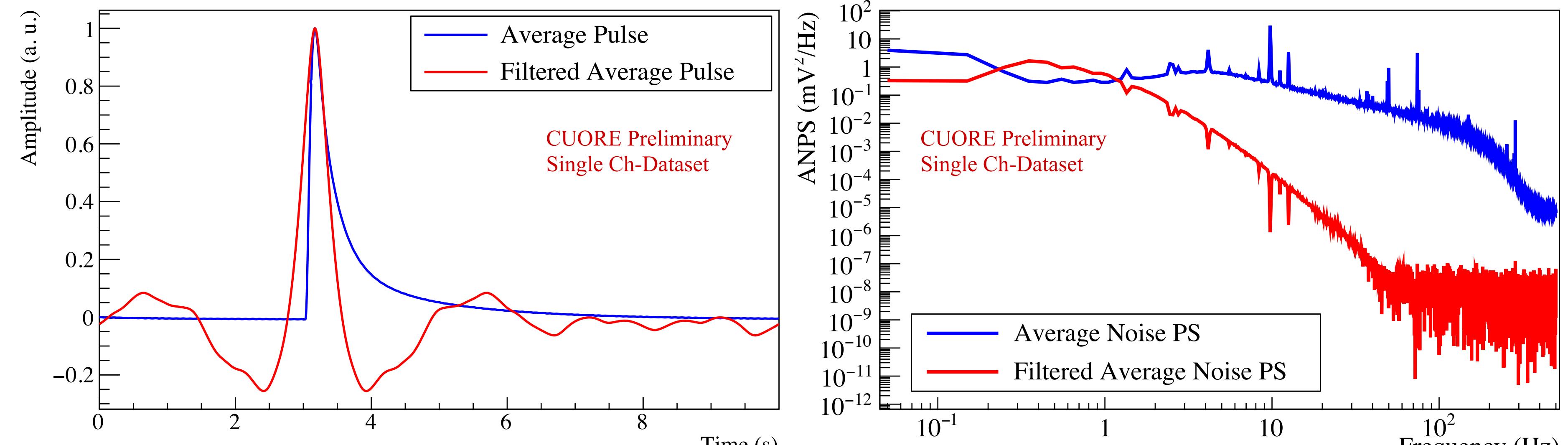
Gain Correction

Energy Calibration

Coincidences

Pulse Shape  
Discrimination (PSD)

Blinding



*Matched filter maximizes signal-to-noise ratio*

# CUORE DATA ANALYSIS

Trigger

Optimum Filter

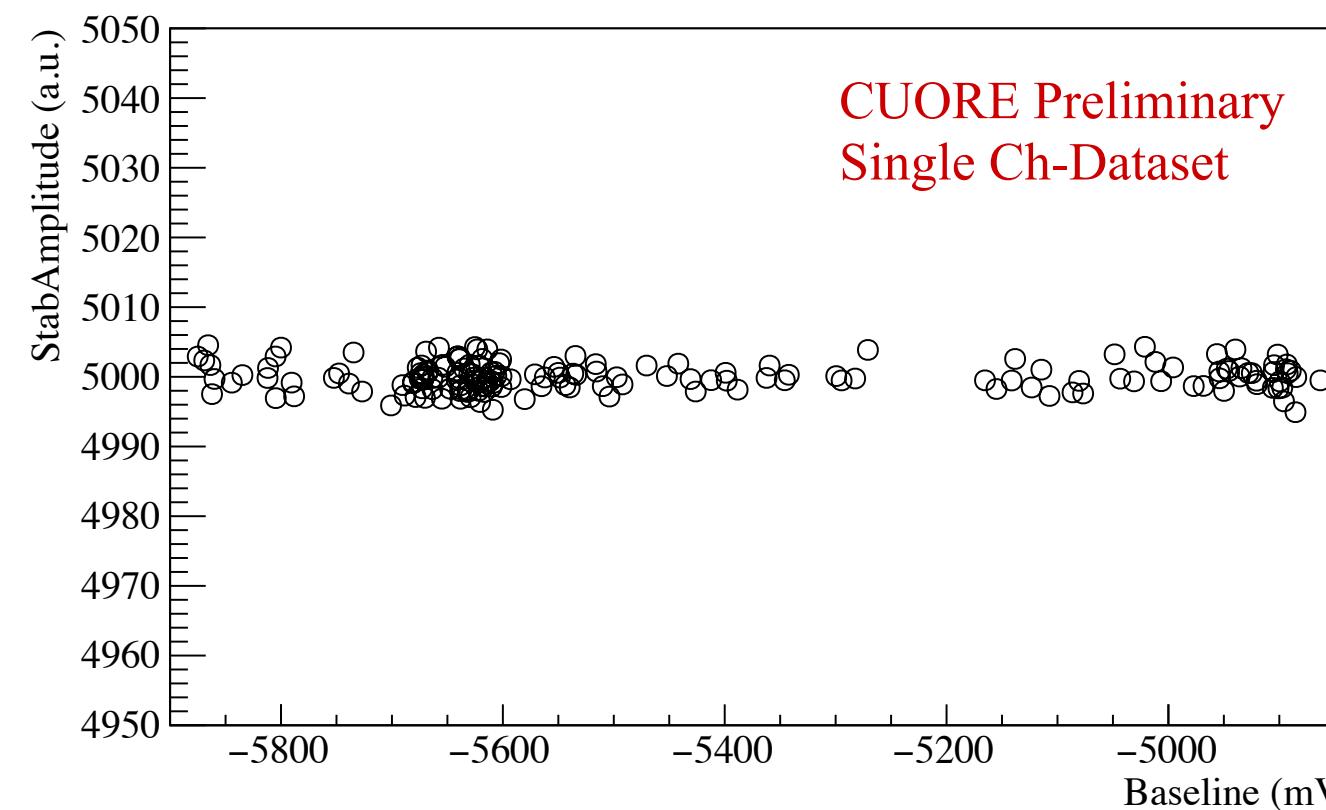
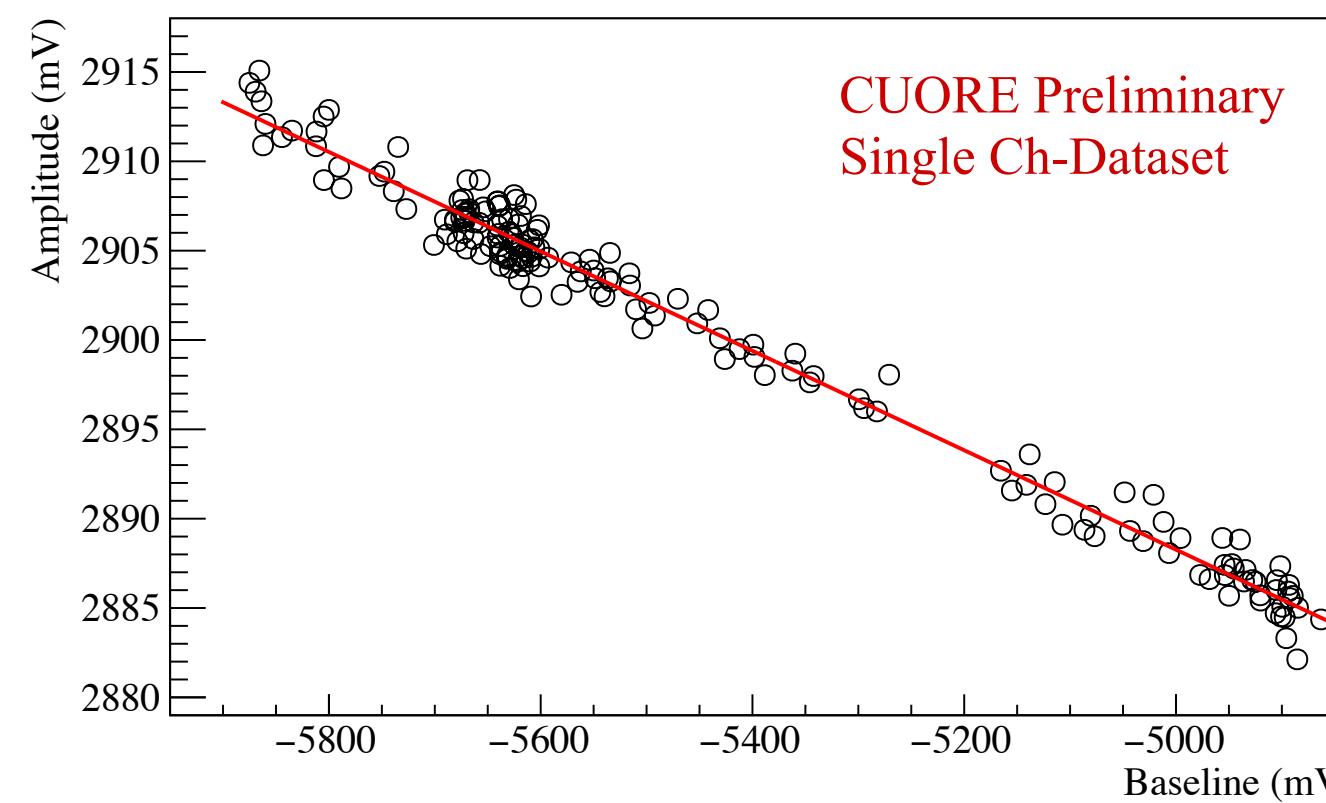
Gain Correction

Energy Calibration

Coincidences

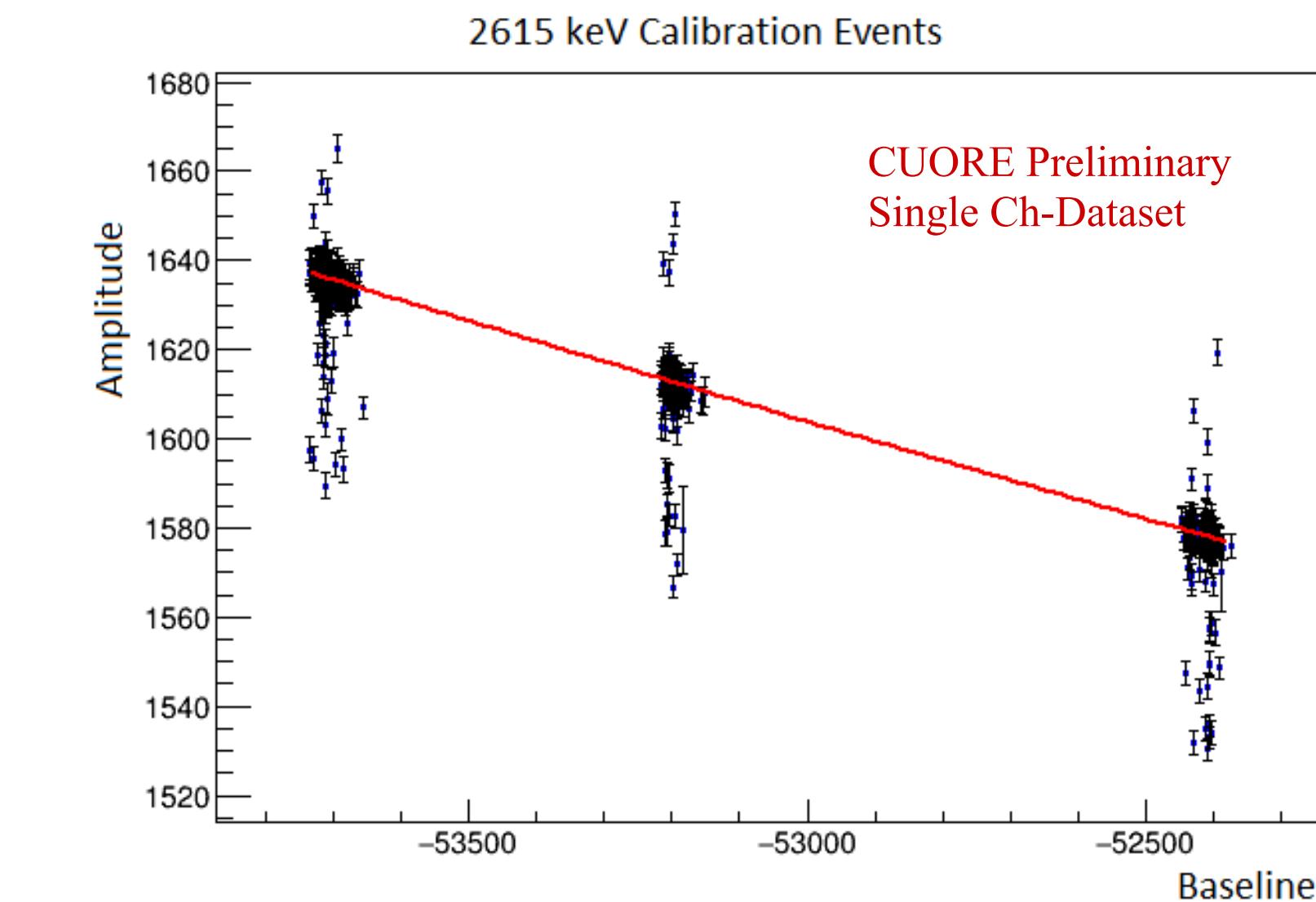
Pulse Shape  
Discrimination (PSD)

Blinding

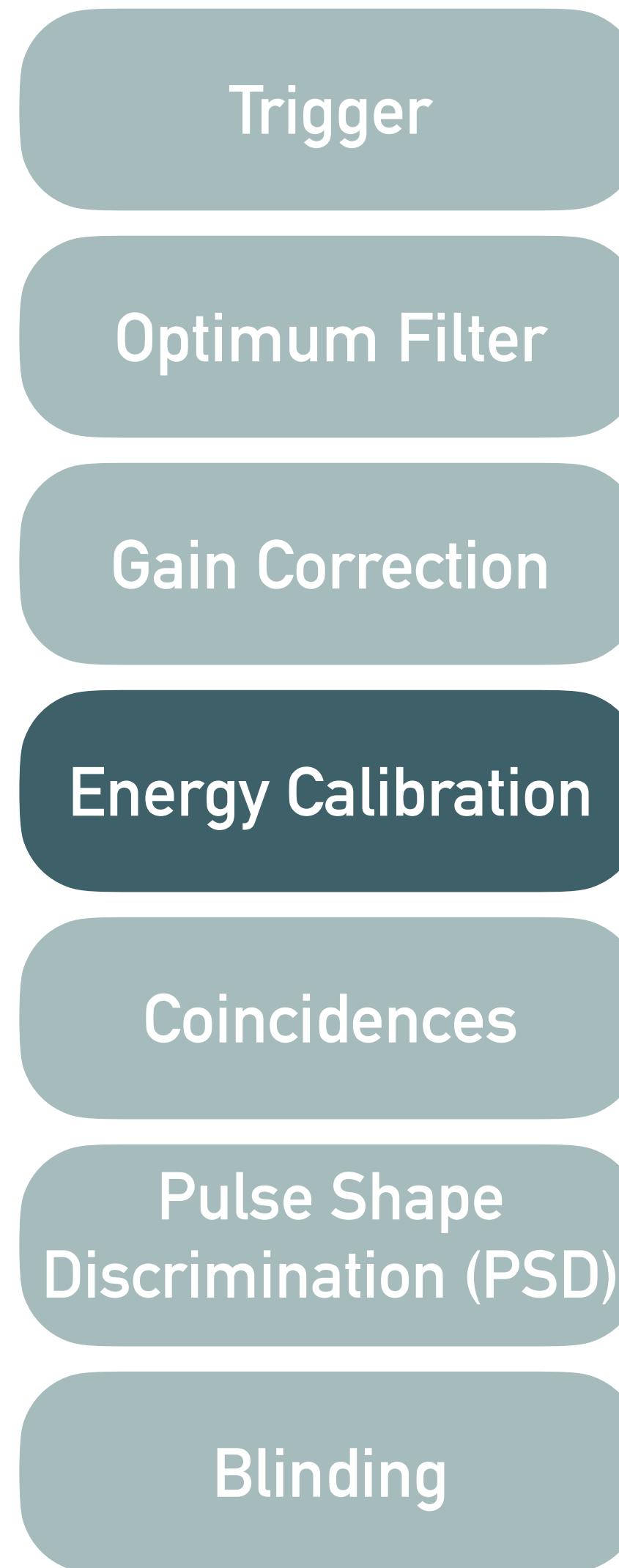


*Heater pulses for  
thermal gain stabilization*

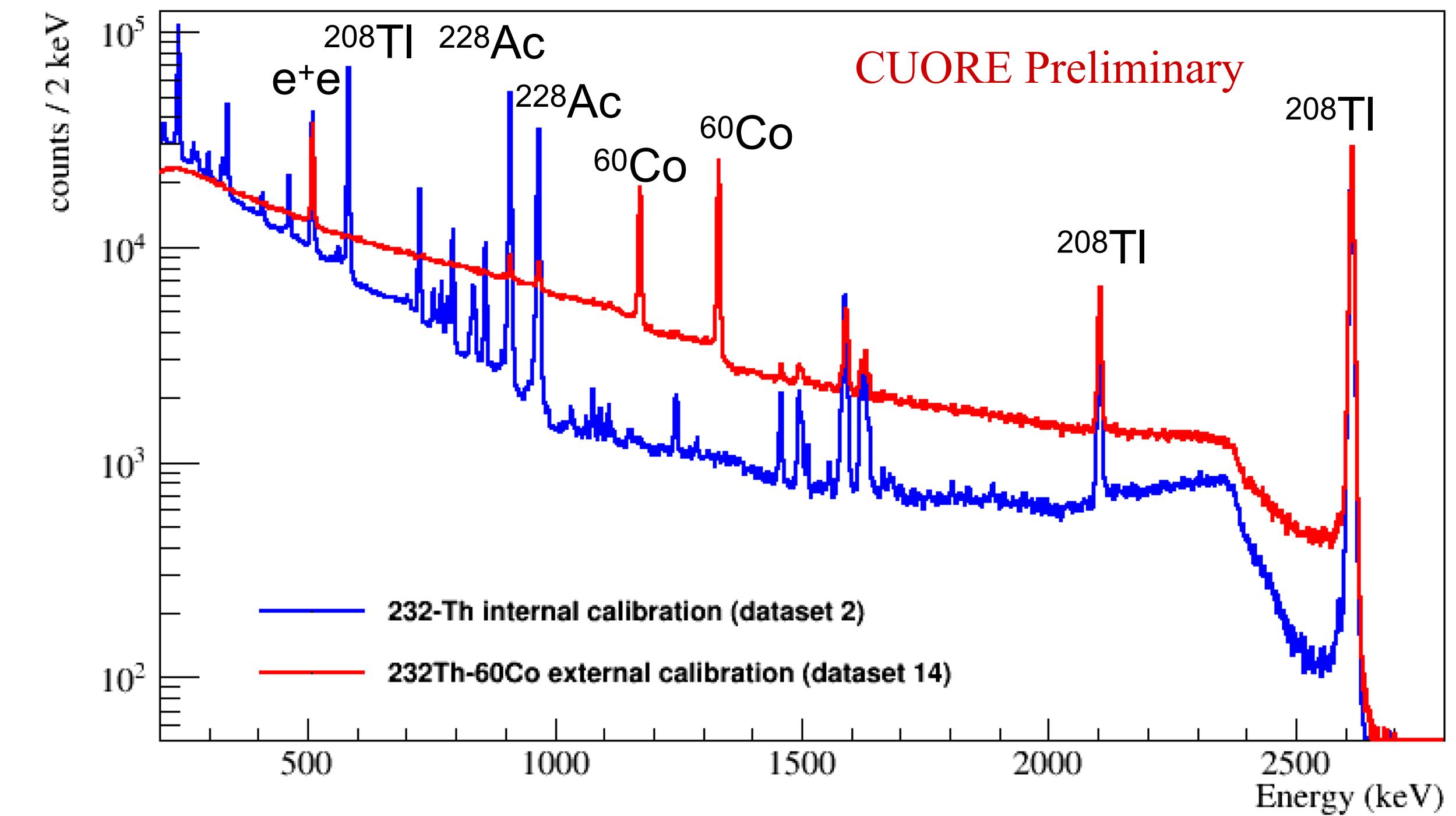
- Use fixed energy heater events to correct amplitude dependence on operating temperature
- Interpolate calibration peak at 2615 keV for non-functional or underperforming heaters



# CUORE DATA ANALYSIS



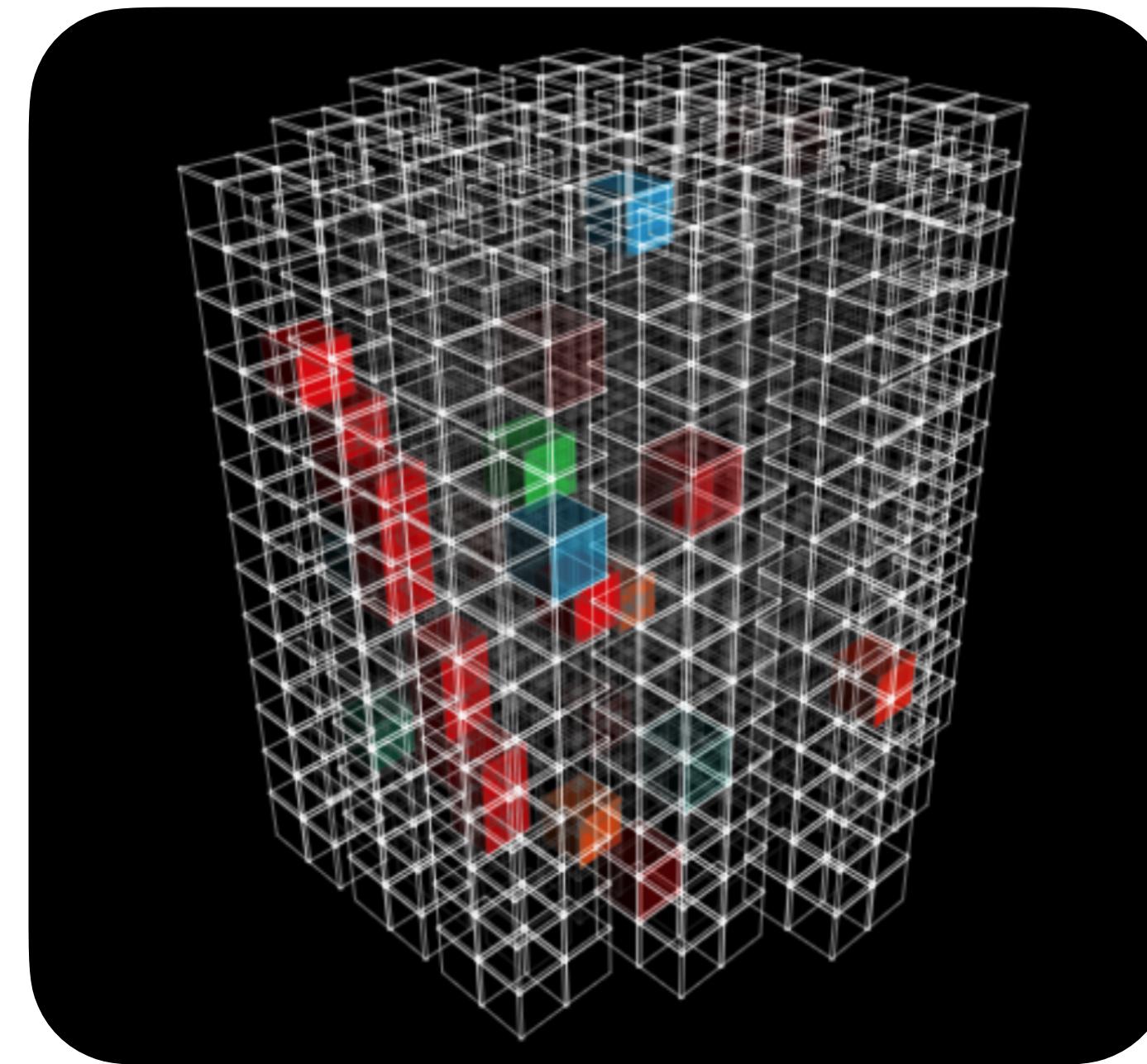
- First 3 datasets used internal  $^{232}\text{Th}$  source
- Internal calibration system replaced with simpler external one in later datasets



- Data is now calibrated with external  $^{232}\text{Th}$ - $^{60}\text{Co}$  source
- 2nd order polynomial calibration function with 0 intercept fits 511, 1173, 1333, 2615 keV calibration lines

# CUORE DATA ANALYSIS

Trigger



Optimum Filter

Gain Correction

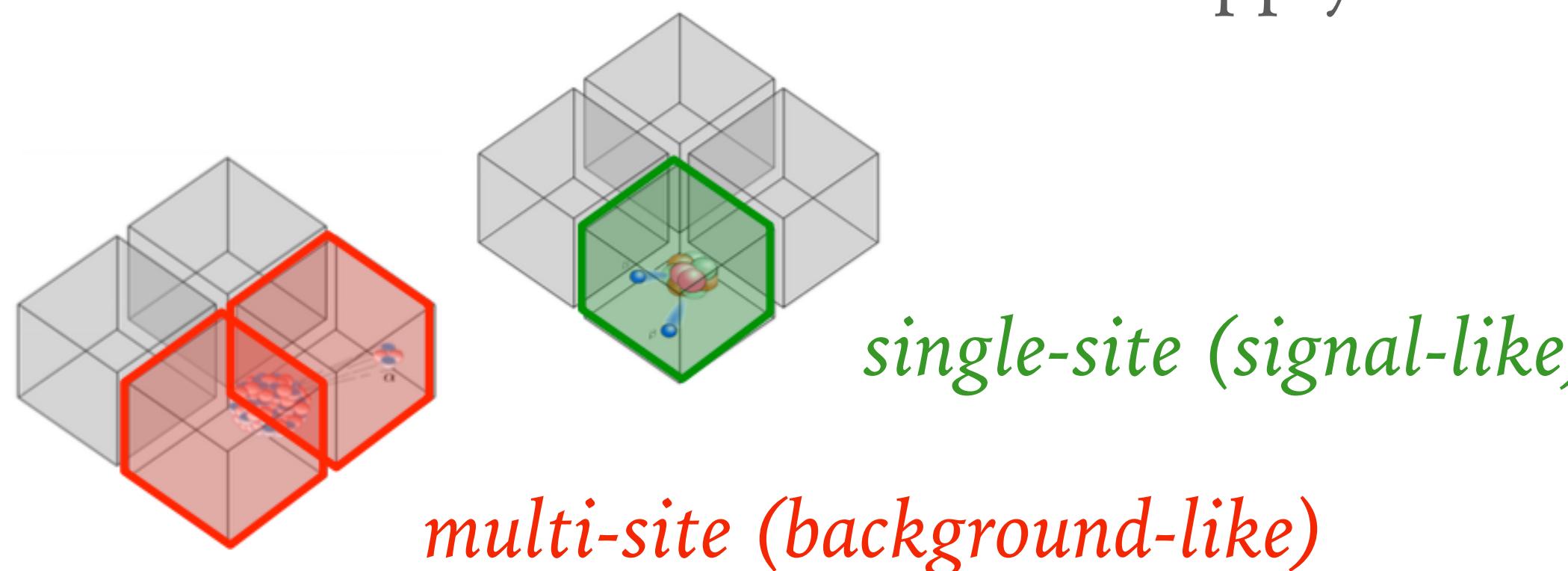
Energy Calibration

Coincidences

Pulse Shape  
Discrimination (PSD)

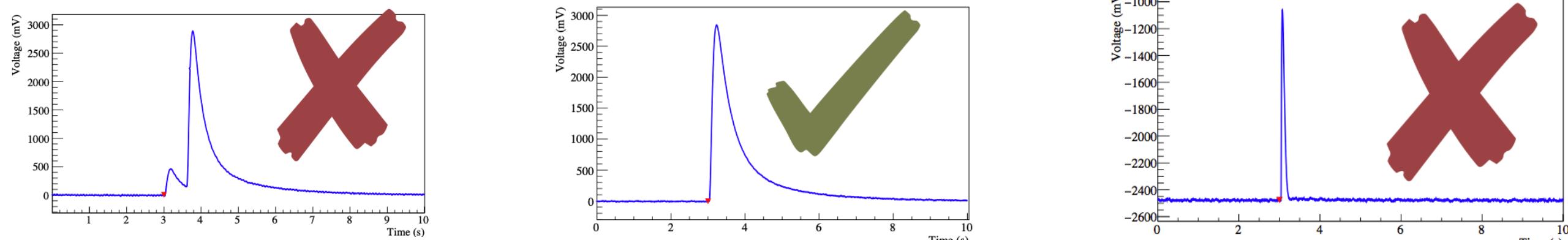
Blinding

- ~88% of  $0\nu\beta\beta$  events involve just one crystal
- when multiple bolometers fire in a small (5 ms) time window, the event is likely to be due to radioactive contaminations or muons
- assign multiplicity (number of involved crystals) and total energy
- apply anti-coincidence veto for  $0\nu\beta\beta$  analysis

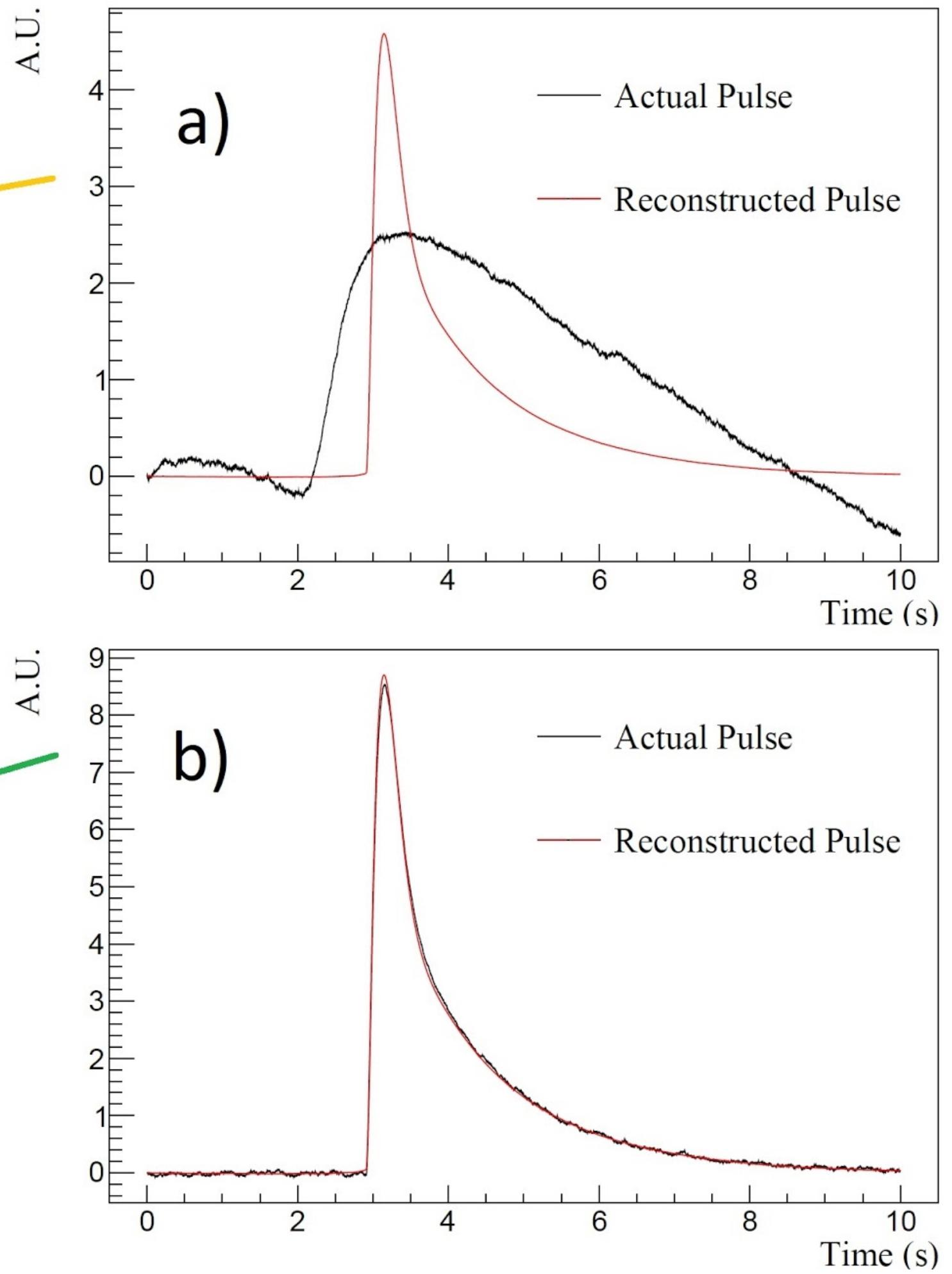
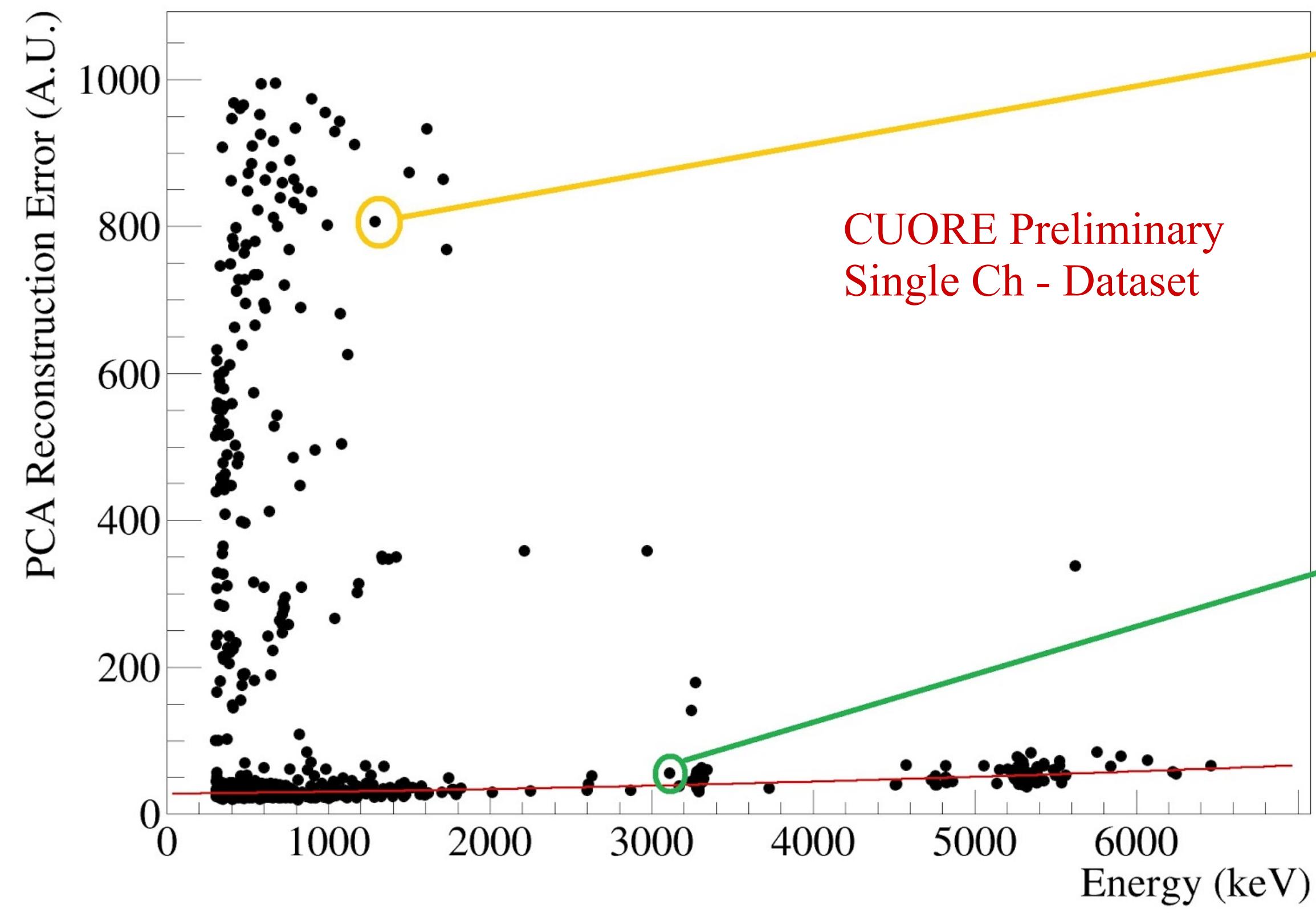


# CUORE DATA ANALYSIS

- Trigger
- Optimum Filter
- Gain Correction
- Energy Calibration
- Coincidences
- Pulse Shape Discrimination (PSD)
- Blinding



*Principal Component Analysis (PCA)  
where leading component = average pulse*



# CUORE DATA ANALYSIS

Trigger

Optimum Filter

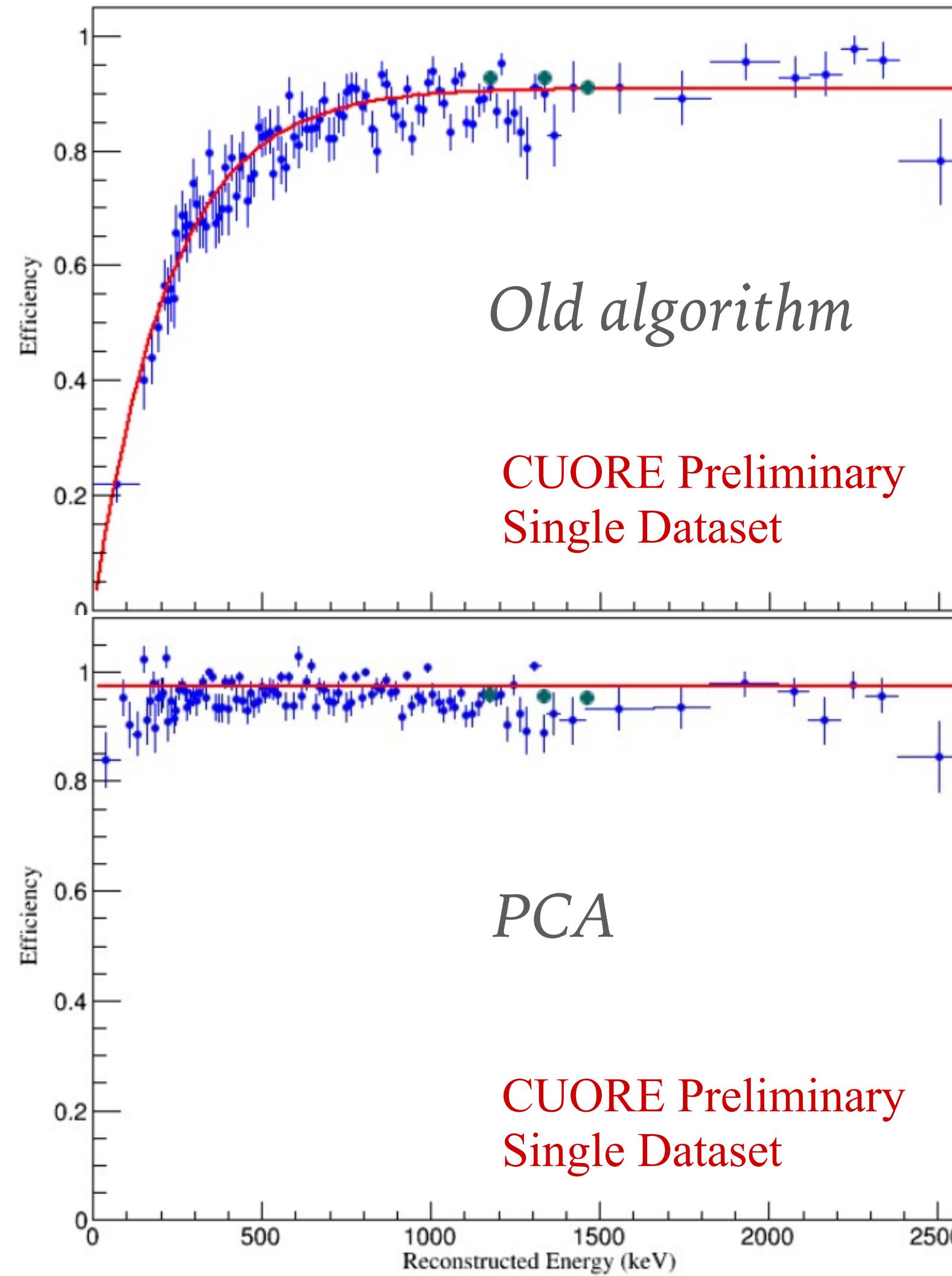
Gain Correction

Energy Calibration

Coincidences

Pulse Shape  
Discrimination (PSD)

Blinding



*Old algorithm*

CUORE Preliminary  
Single Dataset

PCA

CUORE Preliminary  
Single Dataset

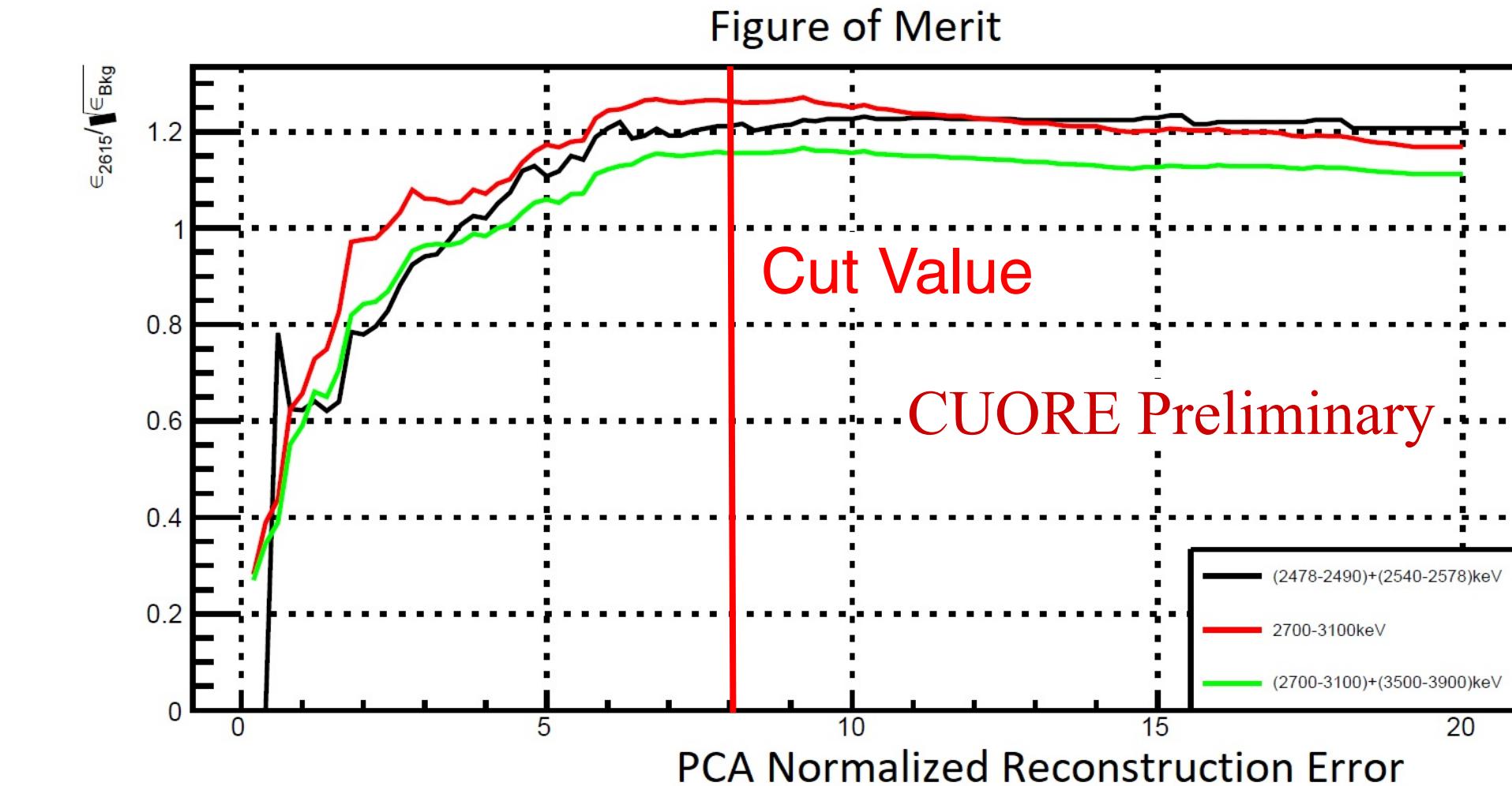


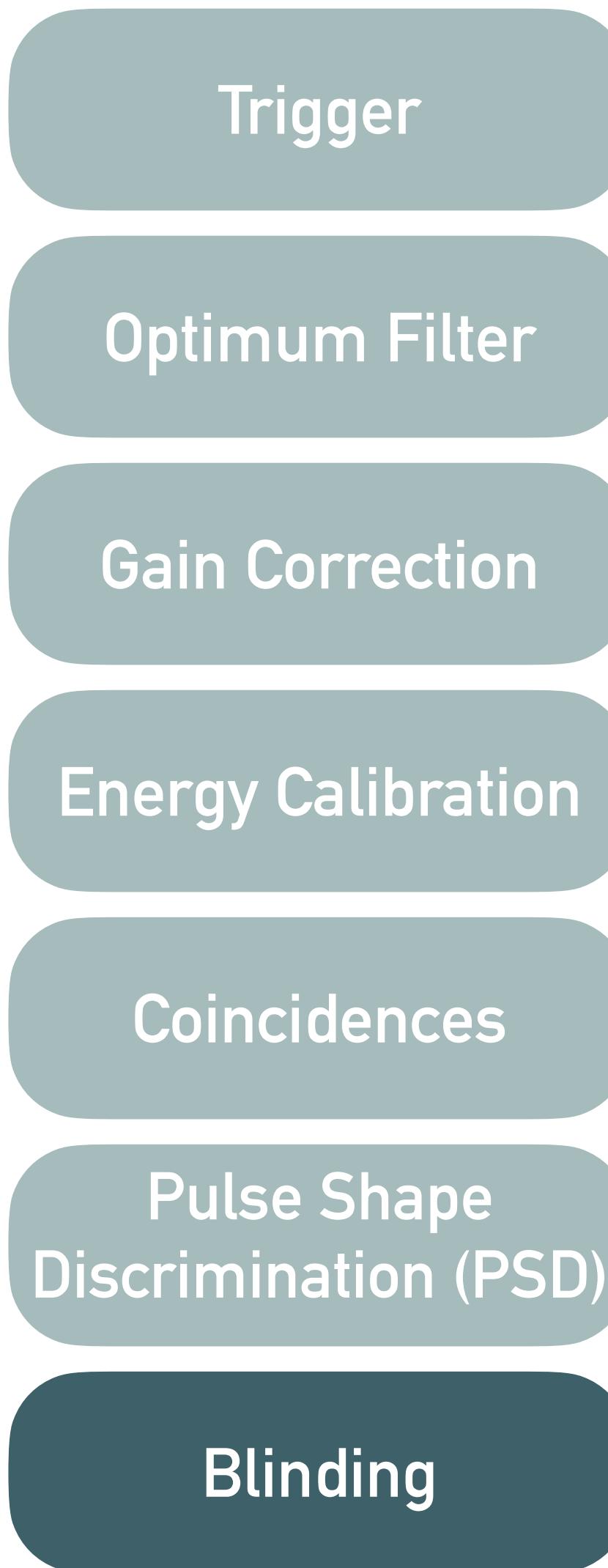
Figure of Merit

Cut Value

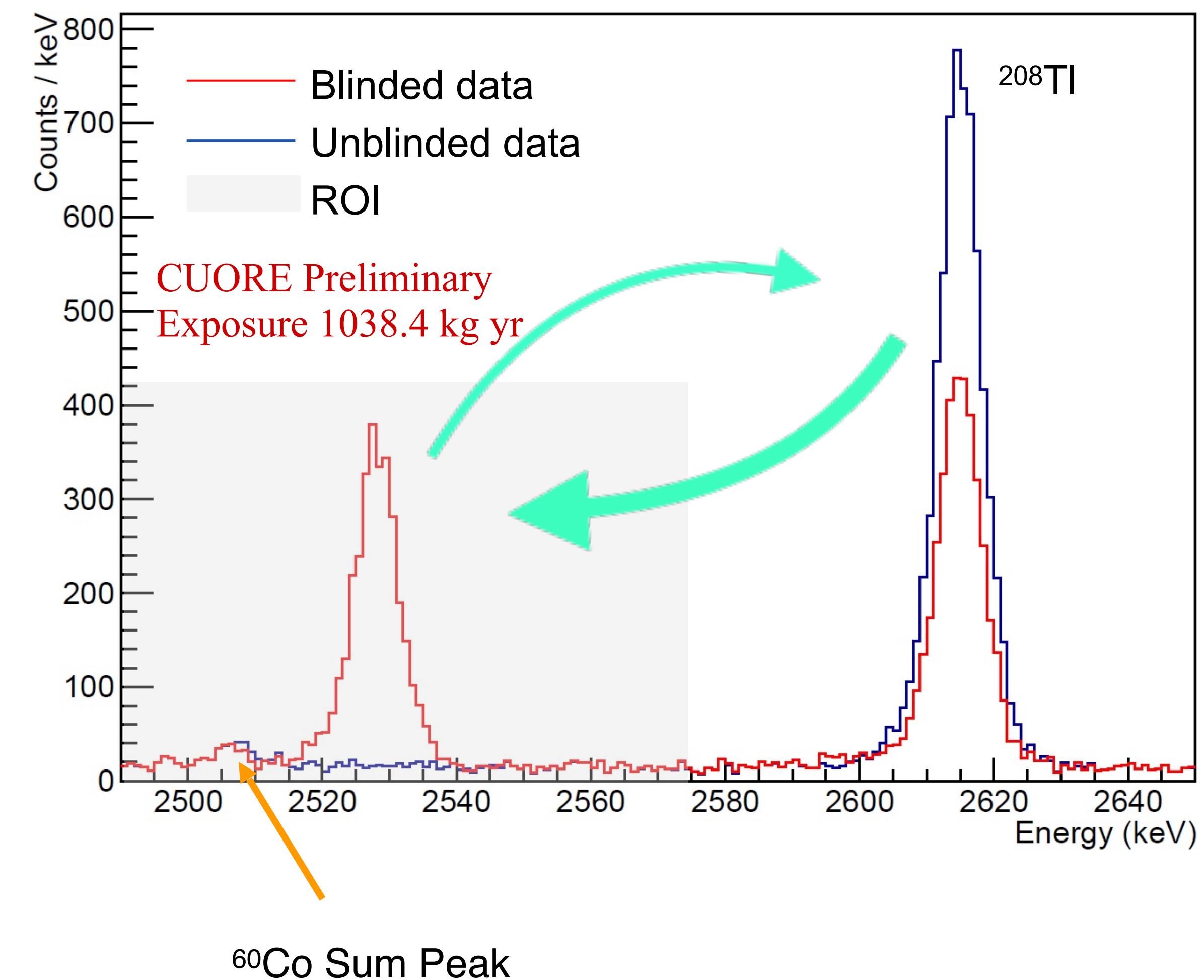
CUORE Preliminary

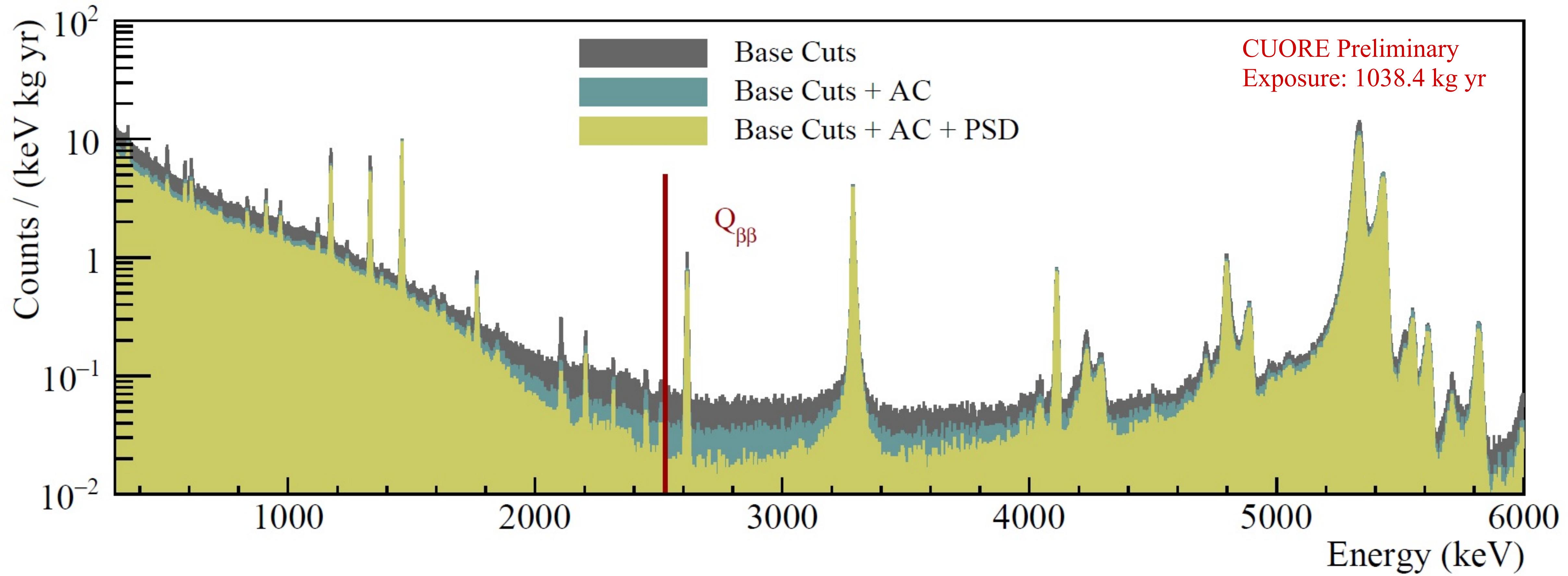
- Tune cut on a  $S/\sqrt{B}$  figure of merit
- Gamma peaks for efficiency
- Alpha region as background proxy
- PCA method shows increased efficiency at all energies
- Similar background rejection

# CUORE DATA ANALYSIS



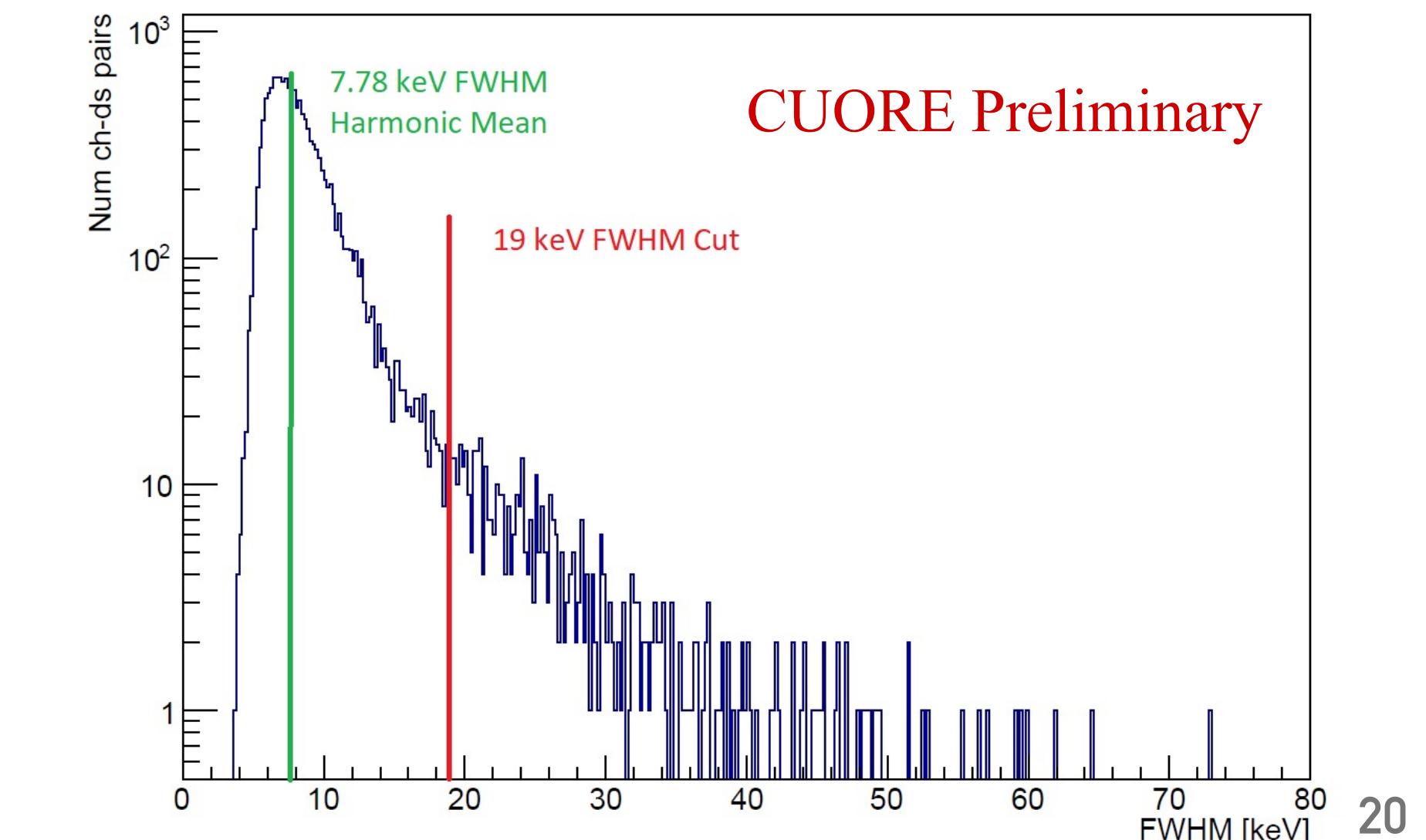
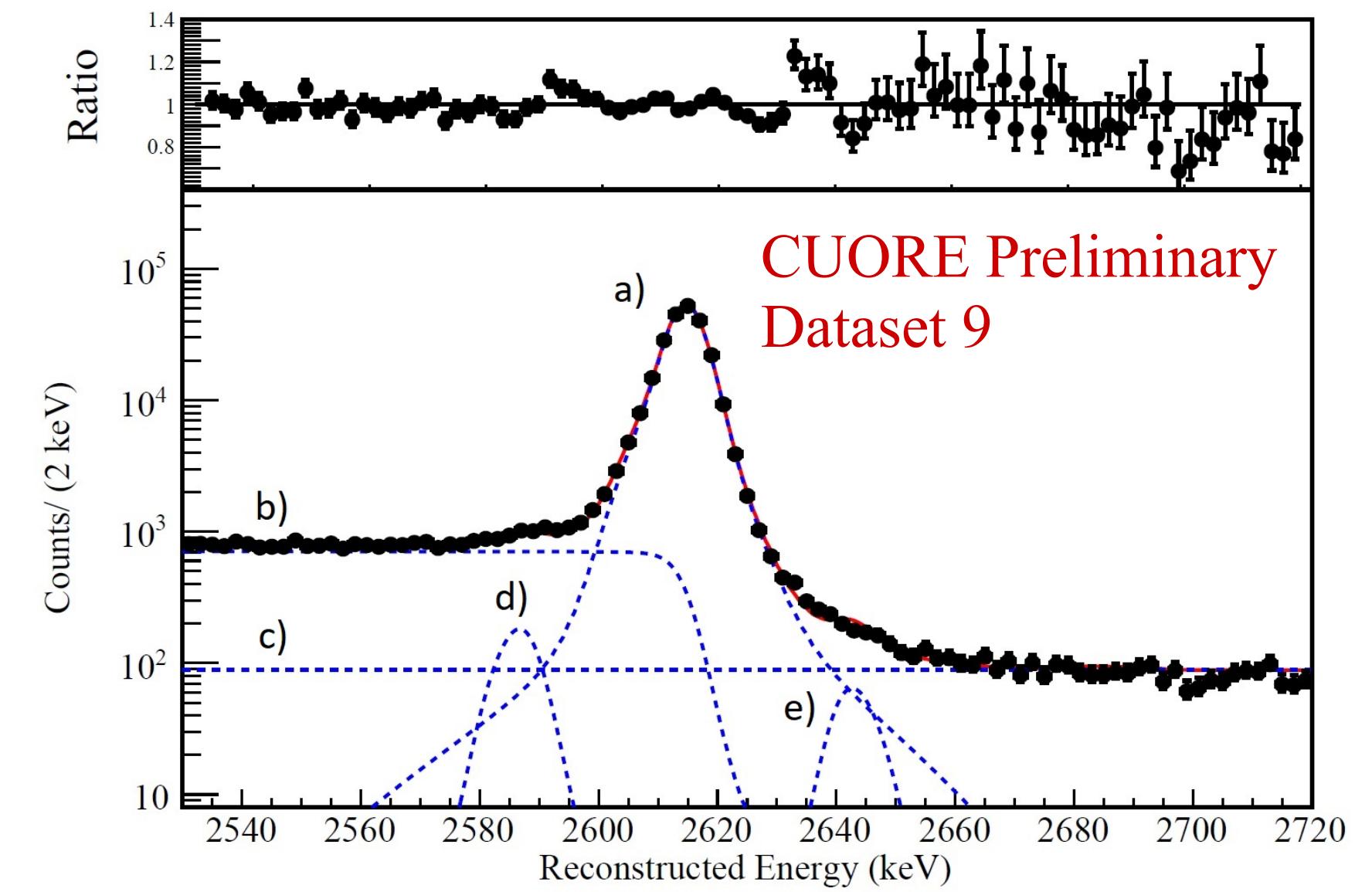
- Random fraction of events in  $^{208}\text{Tl}$  line shifted to  $Q_{\beta\beta}$  and vice versa
- Original energies stay encrypted until unblinding
- Unblinding happens only after full analysis procedure is finalized



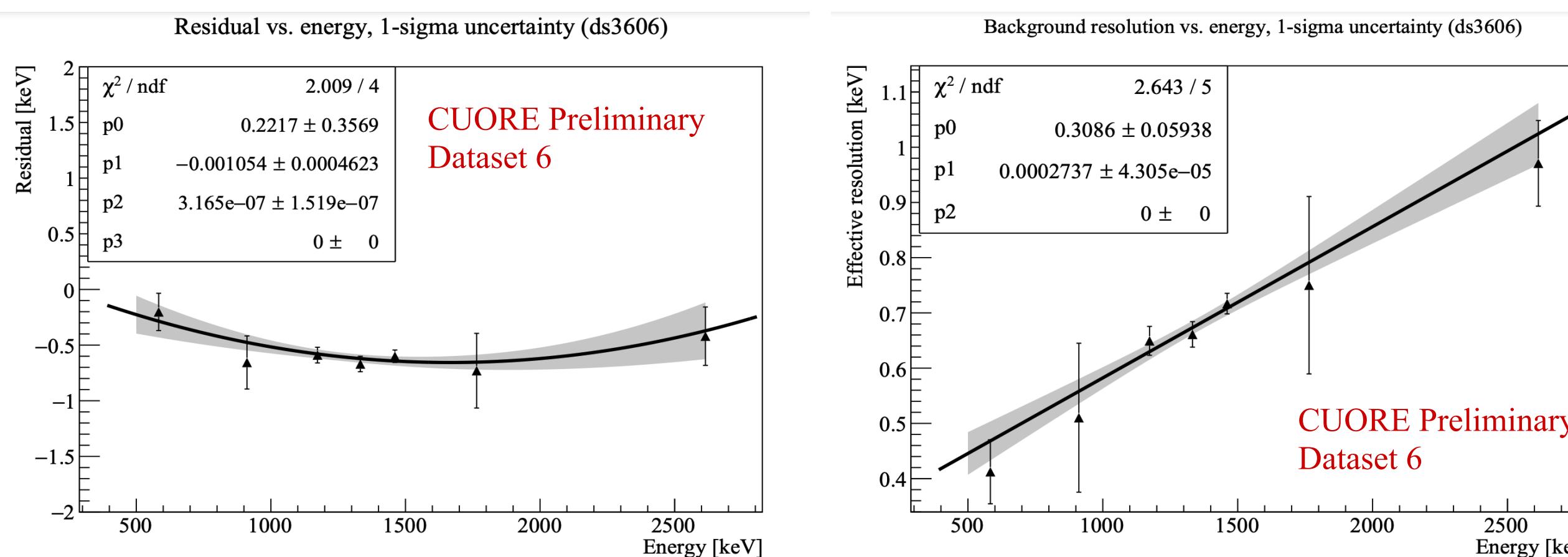
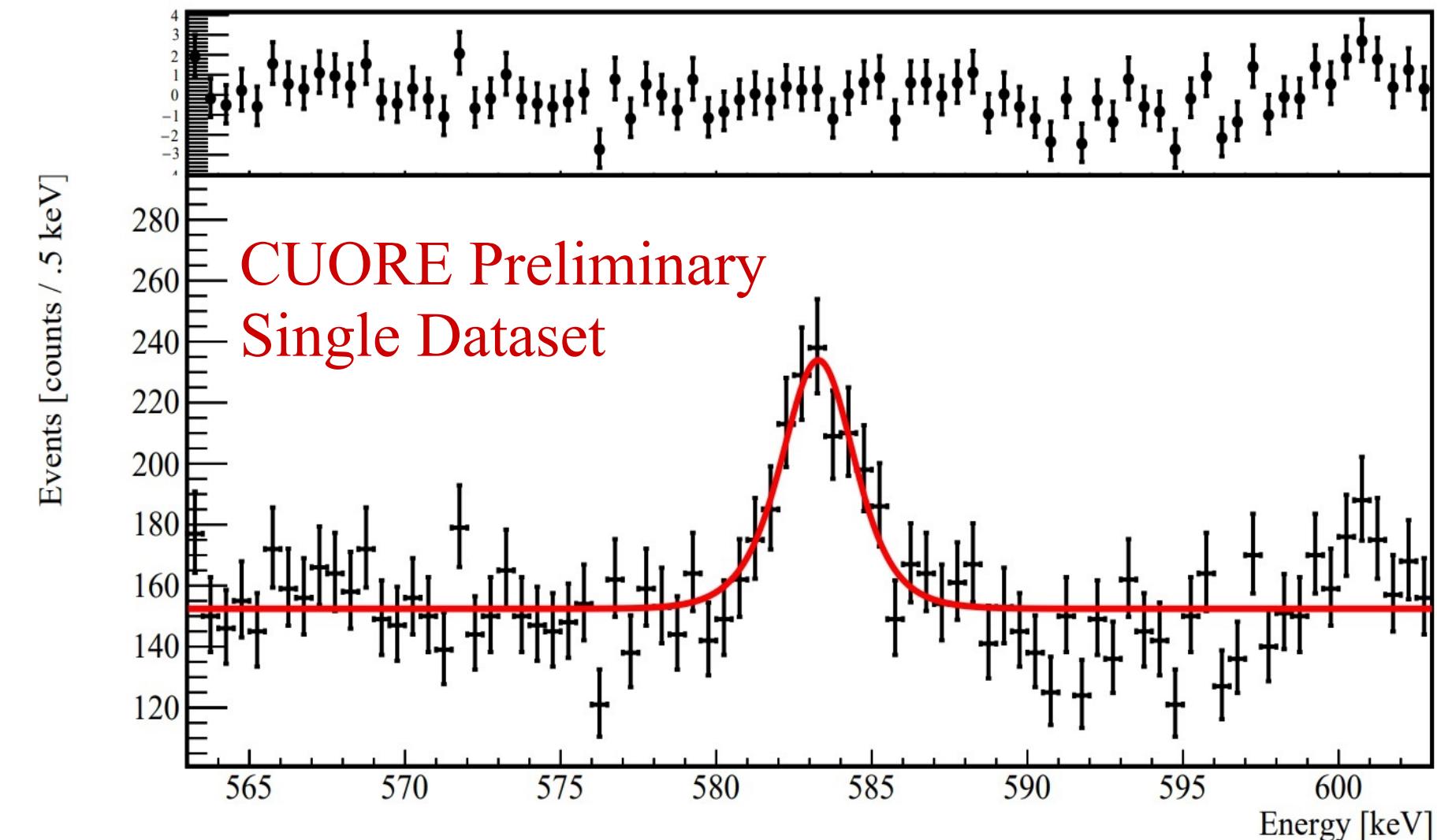


# CUORE DATA ANALYSIS - DETECTOR RESPONSE

- Fit 2615 keV calibration peak for each channel
  - a) 3-Gaussian signal peak
  - b) Compton background
  - c) Flat background
  - d) 30 keV X-ray escape peak (background)
  - e) 30 keV X-ray sum peak (background)
- Detector response function is just component (a)
- Exclude channels with  $\text{FWHM} > 19 \text{ keV}$  for this analysis



# CUORE DATA ANALYSIS - DETECTOR RESPONSE



- Scale detector response fit from 2615 keV calibration to multiple peaks in physics data to determine
  - energy bias  
2nd order polynomial function of energy,  $< 0.7$  keV
- resolution  
linear function of energy  
FWHM harmonic mean @  $Q_{\beta\beta}$   
7.8 keV

# 1 TONNE-YR DATA RELEASE: FIGURES

Parameters	Values
<b>Number of datasets</b>	15
<b>Number of channels</b>	~934 average per dataset
<b>TeO<sub>2</sub> exposure</b>	1038.4 kg yr
<b><sup>130</sup>Te exposure</b>	288 kg yr
<b>FWHM at 2615 keV in calibration</b>	(7.78 ± 0.03) keV
<b>FWHM at Q<sub>ββ</sub> in physics data</b>	(7.8 ± 0.5) keV
<b>Total analysis efficiency</b>	(92.4 ± 0.2)%
<b>Reconstruction efficiency</b>	(96.418 ± 0.002)%
<b>Anticoincidence efficiency</b>	(99.3 ± 0.1)%
<b>PSD efficiency</b>	(96.4 ± 0.2)%
<b>Containment efficiency</b>	(88.35 ± 0.09)%

# FIT METHOD



$$P(\vec{\theta} | \vec{E}, H_{S+B}) = \frac{\mathcal{L}(\vec{E} | \vec{\theta}, H_{S+B}) \cdot \pi(\vec{\theta} | H_{S+B})}{\int_{\Omega} \mathcal{L}(\vec{E} | \vec{\theta}, H_{S+B}) \pi(\vec{\theta} | H_{S+B}) d\vec{\theta}}$$

$$\mathcal{L}(\vec{E} | \vec{\theta}, H_{S+B}) = \prod_{dataset} \prod_{channel} \left[ \frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^n}{n!} \prod_{event i} \left( \frac{S}{\lambda} pdf_{0\nu\beta\beta}(E_i | \vec{\theta}) + \frac{C}{\lambda} pdf_{^{60}\text{Co}}(E_i | \vec{\theta}) + \frac{b}{\lambda} pdf_{bkg}(E_i | \vec{\theta}) \right) \right]$$

## Input from data

- detector response function for each channel-dataset pair
- resolution and bias scaling from calibration to physics data
- efficiency numbers

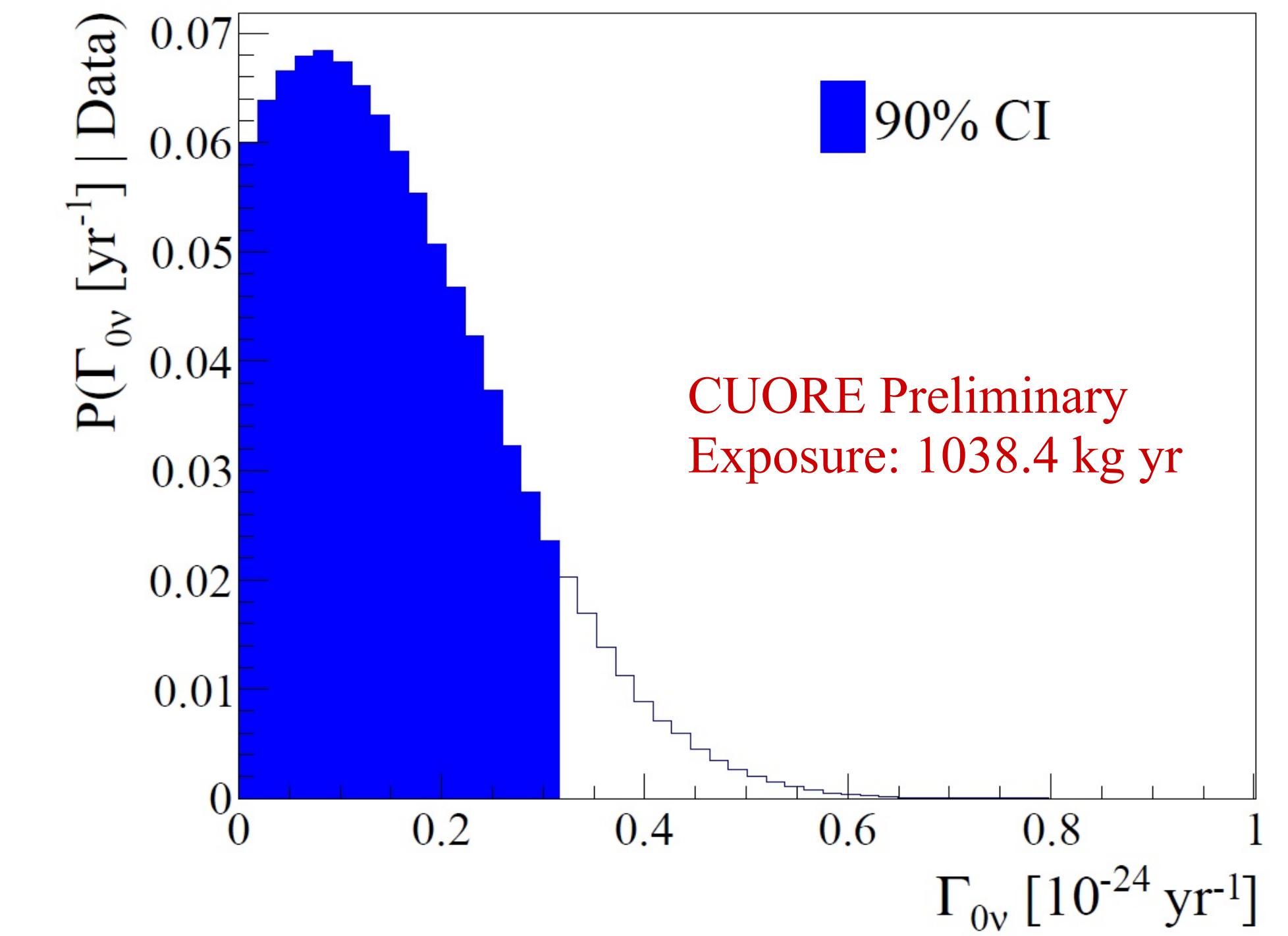
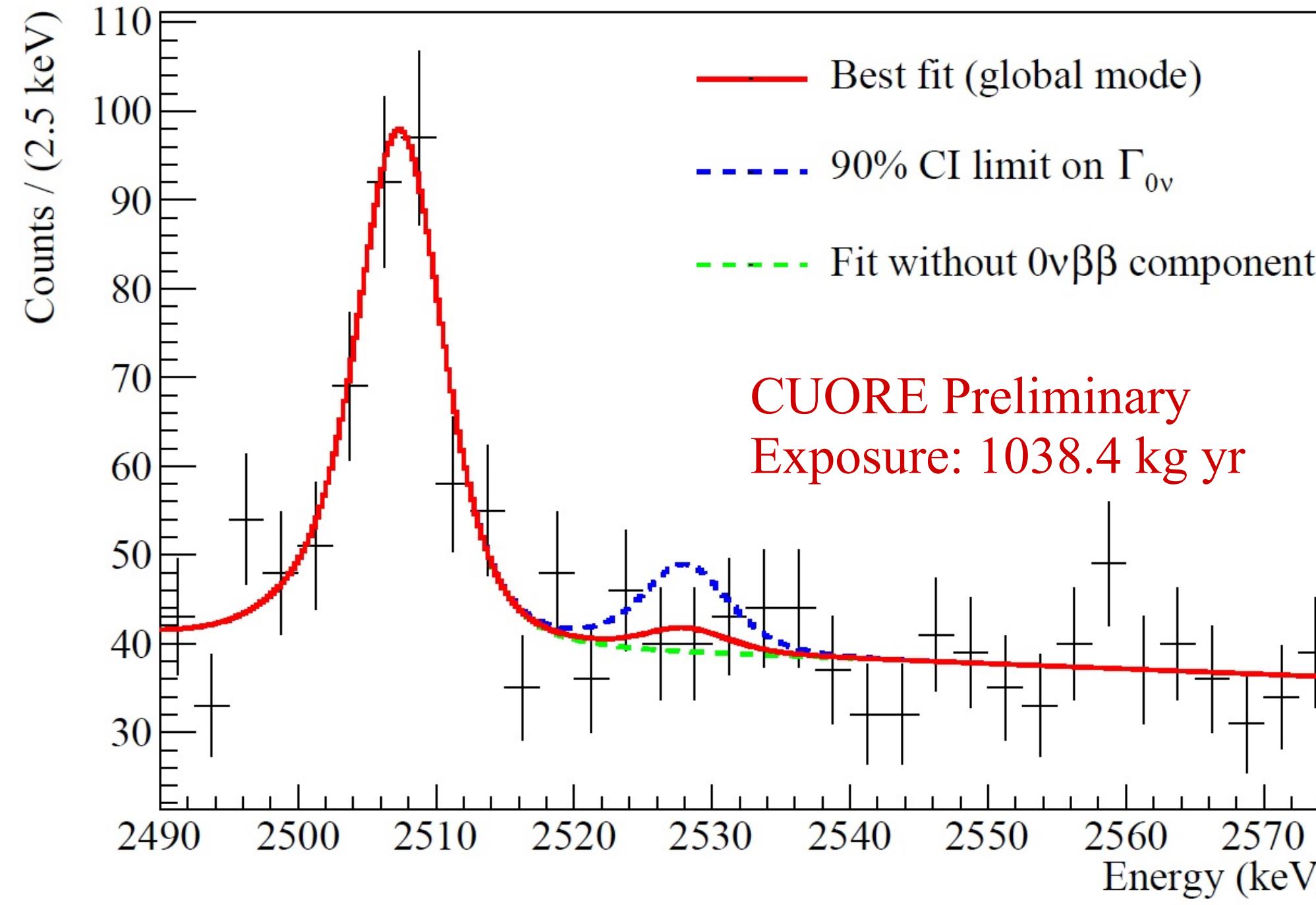
## Minimal model

- signal rate  $\Gamma_{0\nu}$
- $^{60}\text{Co}$  peak rate, modulated in each dataset by its lifetime
- linear background

## Systematics (<0.8% effect on limit)

- analysis efficiency (Gaussian prior)
- containment efficiency (Gaussian prior)
- isotopic abundance (Gaussian prior)
- bias and resolution scaling (Multivariate prior)

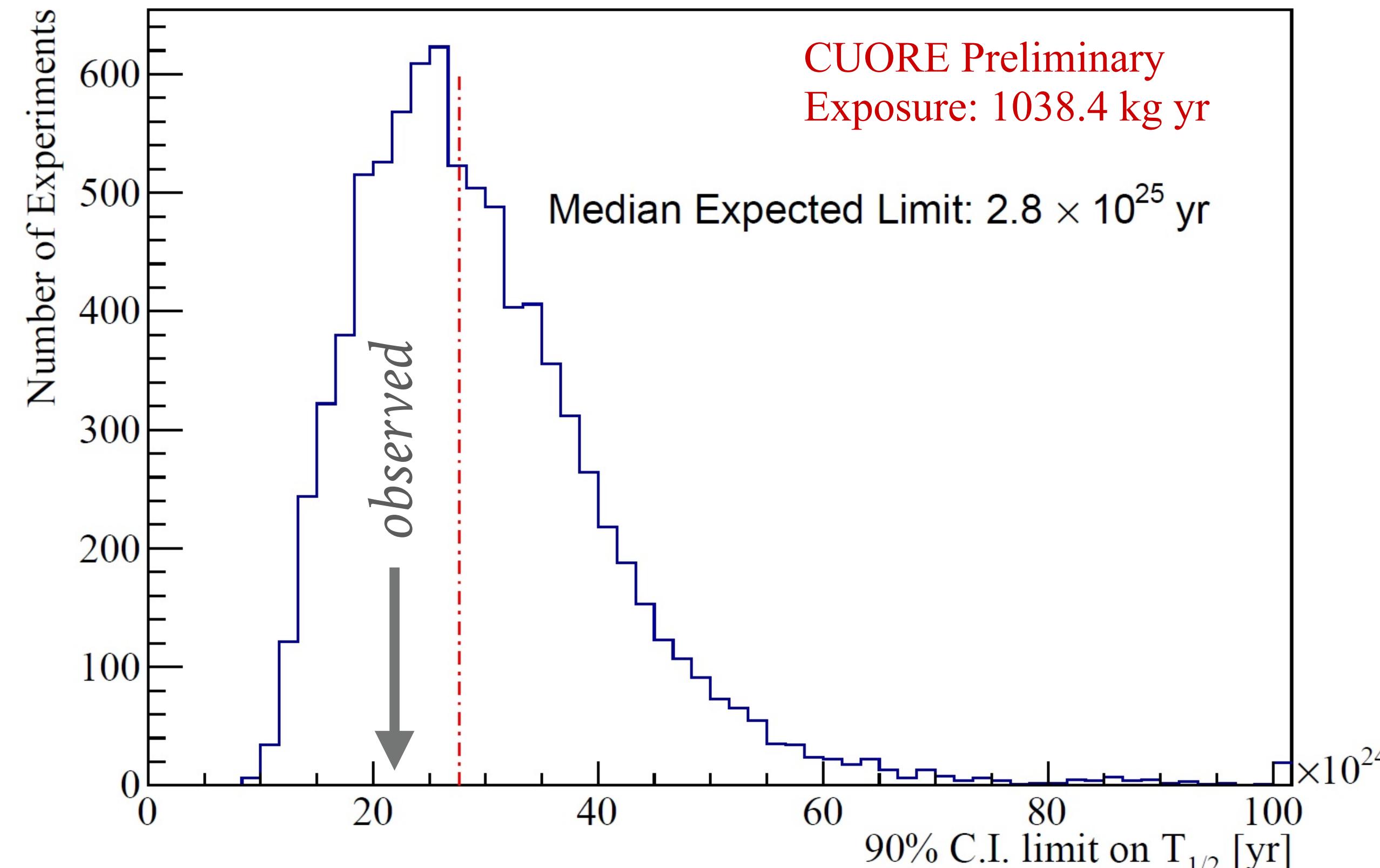
# FIT RESULT



$$b = 1.49(4) \times 10^{-2} \text{ counts/(keV kg yr)}$$

$$T_{1/2}^{0\nu} > 2.2 \times 10^{25} \text{ yr (90 \% C.I.)}$$

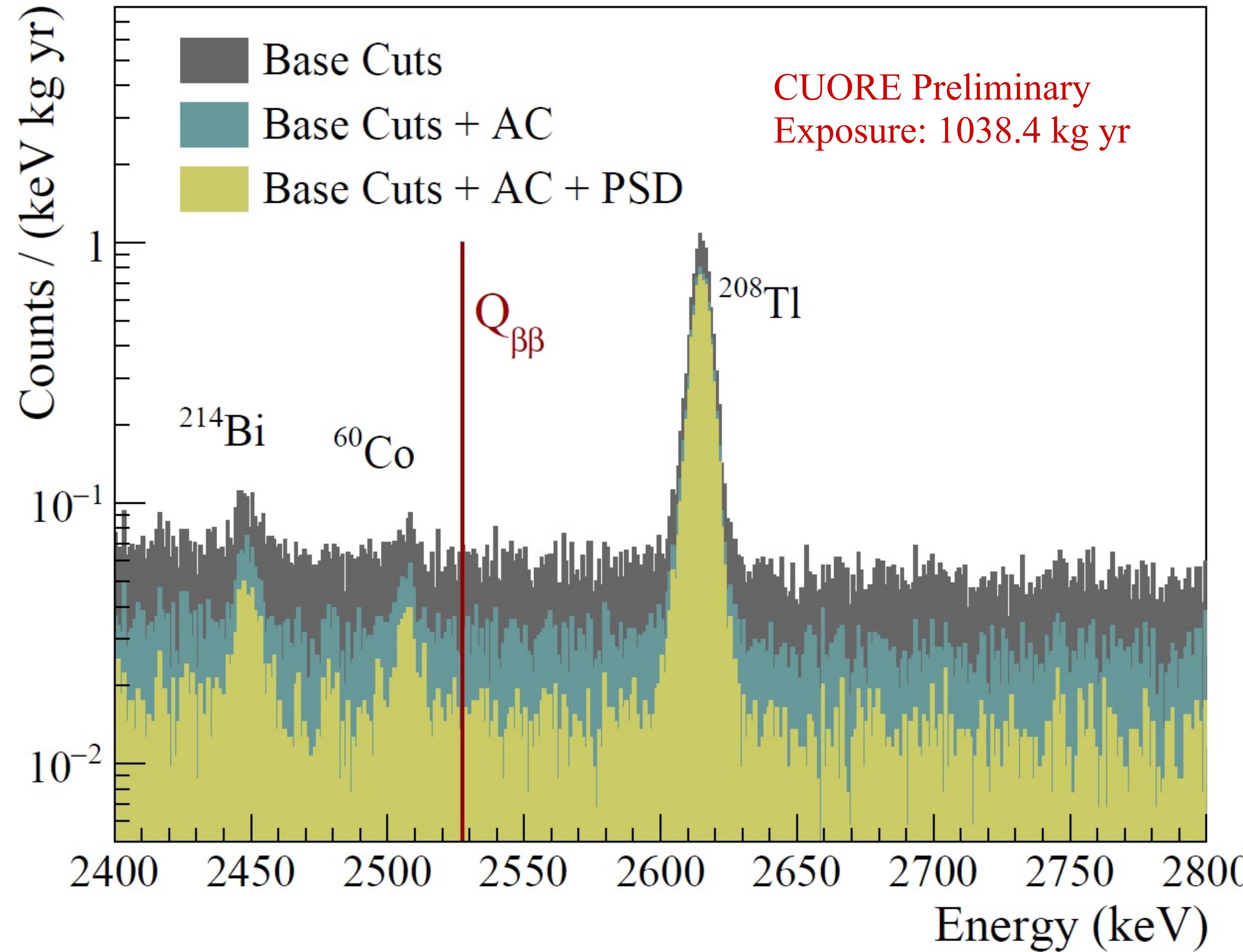
# SENSITIVITY



Adams, D.Q. et al. (CUORE Collaboration)  
<https://arxiv.org/abs/2104.06906>

- Median exclusion sensitivity  $2.8 \times 10^{25}$  yr
- $10^4$  toy experiments in background-only hypothesis
- background and  $^{60}\text{Co}$  event rate from fit to the data
- fit with signal + background model
- 72% chance of obtaining stronger limit than the one observed

# BACKGROUND IN THE REGION OF INTEREST (ROI)

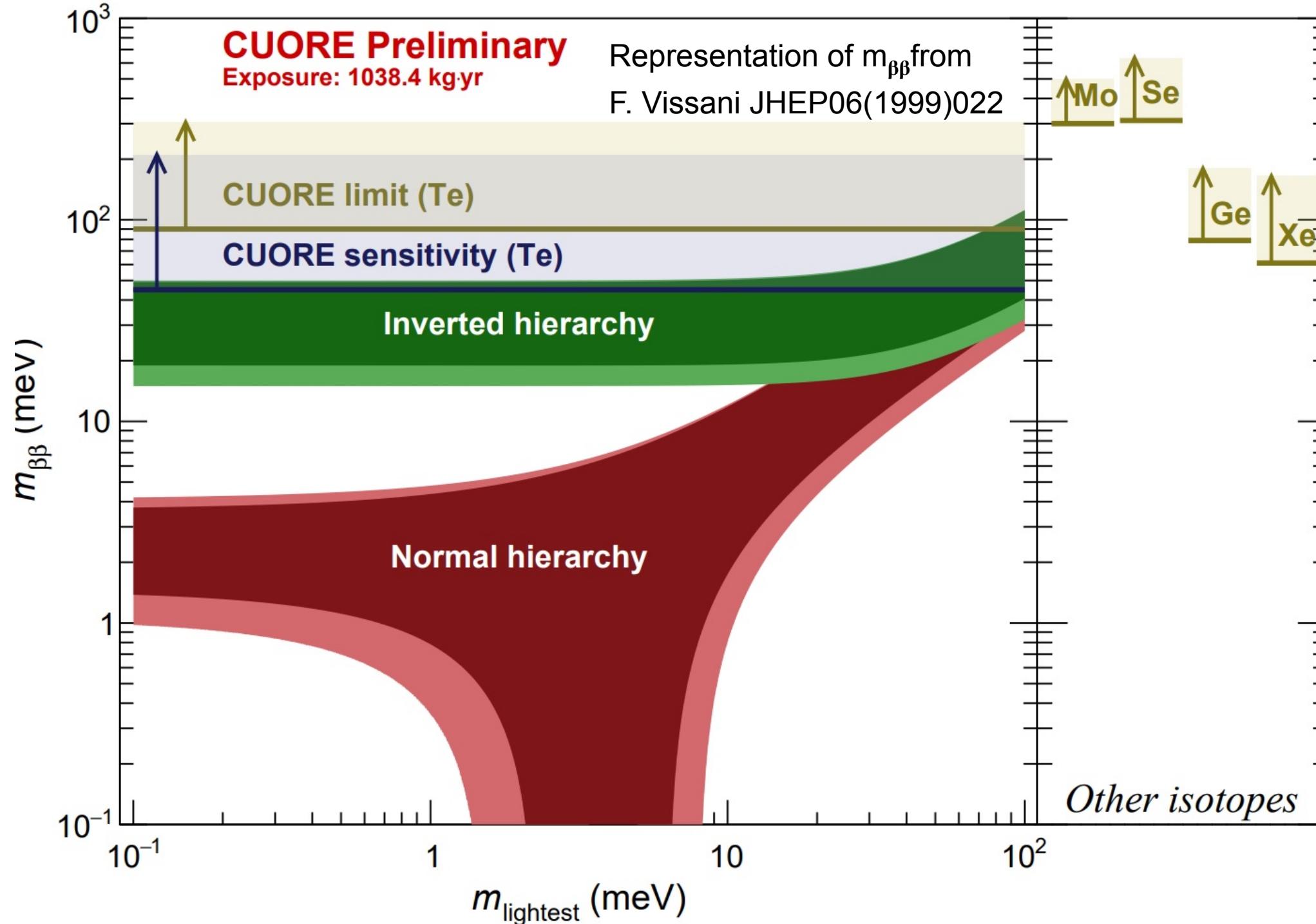


$\alpha$  region  
 fit flat background in [2650,3100] keV  
 $1.40(2) \times 10^{-2}$  counts/(keV kg yr)

$Q_{\beta\beta}$  region  
 fit background +  $^{60}\text{Co}$  peak in [2490,2575] keV  
 $1.49(4) \times 10^{-2}$  counts/(keV kg yr)

source  
 ~90% of the background in the ROI is given by degraded alpha interactions

# FIT RESULT



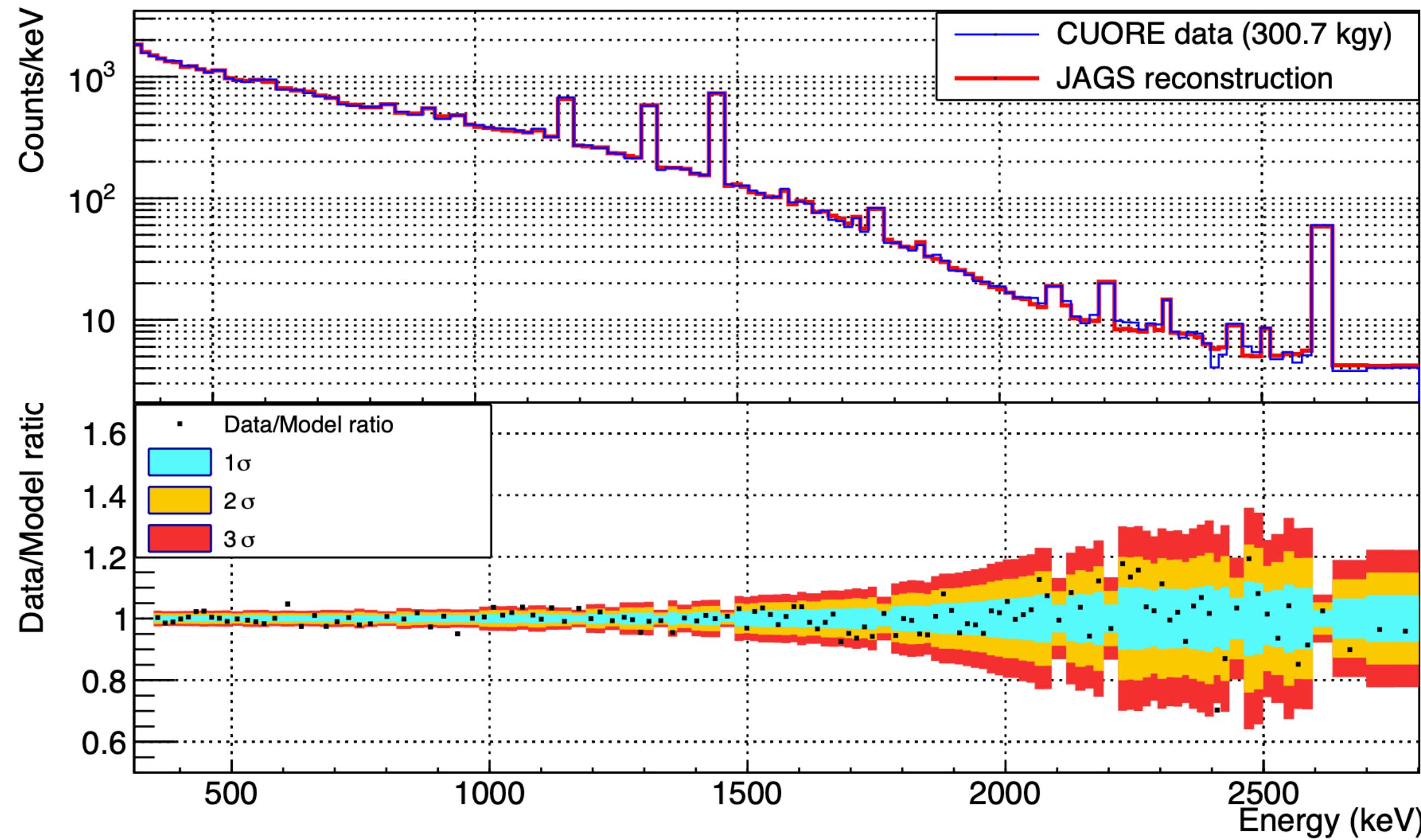
$m_{\beta\beta} < 90 - 305 \text{ meV}$

Adams, D.Q. et al. (CUORE Collaboration)  
<https://arxiv.org/abs/2104.06906>

- oscillation parameters from NUFIT2020  
 Esteban, I. et al., J. High En. Phys. 2020 (178)  
[https://doi.org/10.1007/JHEP09\(2020\)178](https://doi.org/10.1007/JHEP09(2020)178)
- all limits are 90% C.I. and shaded areas in the normal (inverted) hierarchy correspond to  $3\sigma$  uncertainty
- sensitivity from  
 Alduino, C. et al. (CUORE Collaboration), Eur. Phys. J. C (2017) 77: 532  
<https://doi.org/10.1140/epjc/s10052-017-5098-9>
- limits on other isotopes from
  -  Agostini, M. et al. (GERDA Collaboration), Phys. Rev. Lett. 125, 252502 (2020)  
<https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevLett.125.252502>
  -  Armengaud, E. et al. (CUPID-Mo Collaboration)  
<https://arxiv.org/abs/2011.13243>
  -  Azzolini, O. et al. (CUPID-O Collaboration), Phys. Rev. Lett. 123, 032501 (2019)  
<https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevLett.123.032501>
  -  Gando, A. et al. (KamLAND-Zen Collaboration), Phys. Rev. Lett. 117, 082503 (2016)  
<https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevLett.117.082503>

# **OTHER RARE DECAYS**

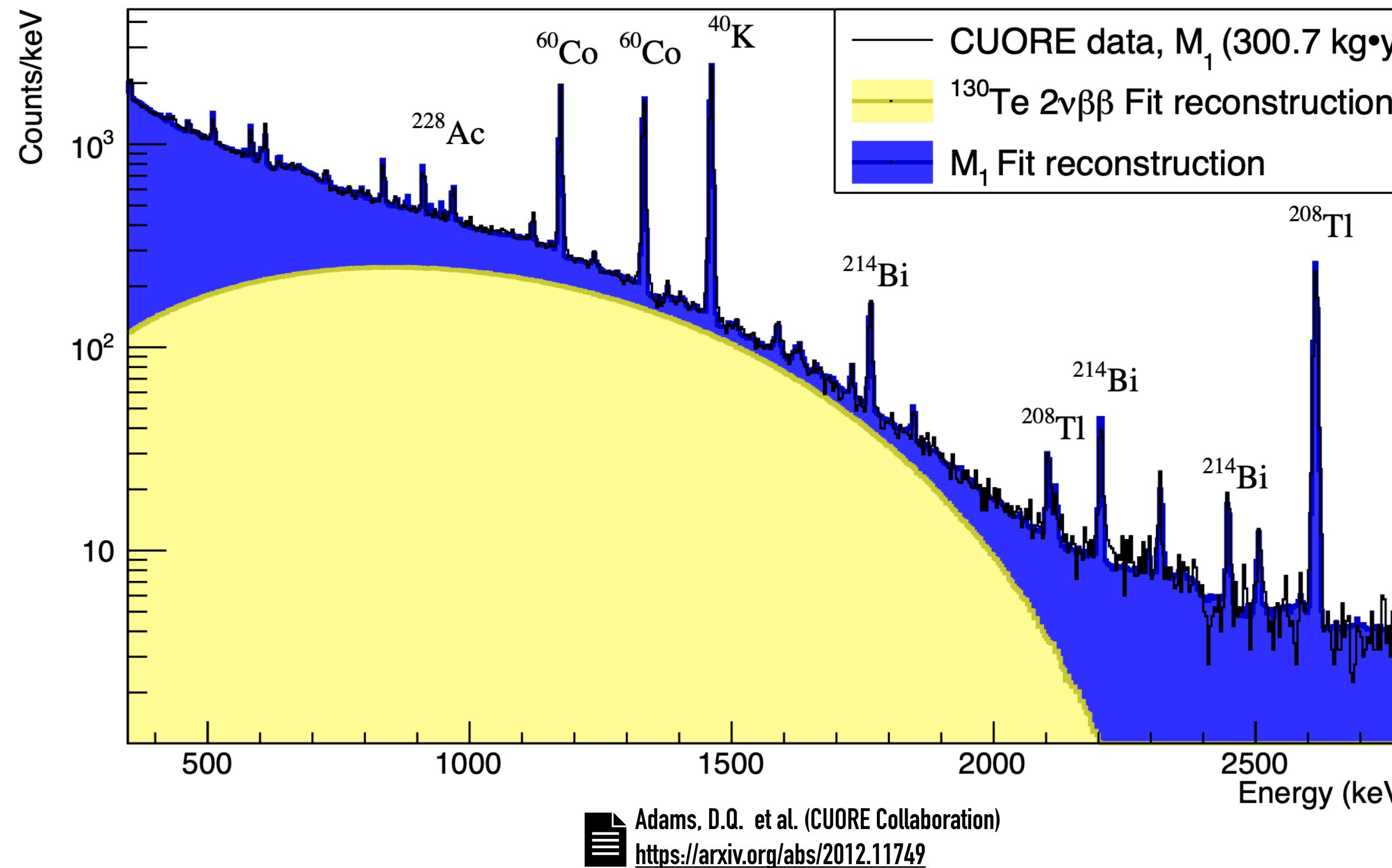
# STANDARD MODEL DOUBLE BETA DECAY (GROUND STATE)



Adams, D.Q. et al. (CUORE Collaboration)  
<https://arxiv.org/abs/2012.11749>

- GEANT4 simulation + detector response to produce expected spectra
- 62 simulated sources (bulk, surface, muons)
- use coincidences to constrain source location
- MCMC binned Bayesian fit
- uniform priors (except muons)

# STANDARD MODEL DOUBLE BETA DECAY (GROUND STATE)



$$T_{1/2}^{2\nu} = 7.71^{+0.08}_{-0.06}(\text{stat.})^{+0.12}_{-0.15}(\text{syst.}) \times 10^{20} \text{ yr}$$

## Systematic uncertainties

- 2νββ model (SSD-HSD)
- energy threshold (300-800 keV)
- geometrical splitting
- 90Sr removal / source list

## Literature

- NEMO-3

$$T_{1/2} = (7.0 \pm 0.9_{\text{stat}} \pm 1.1_{\text{syst}}) \times 10^{20} \text{ yr}$$

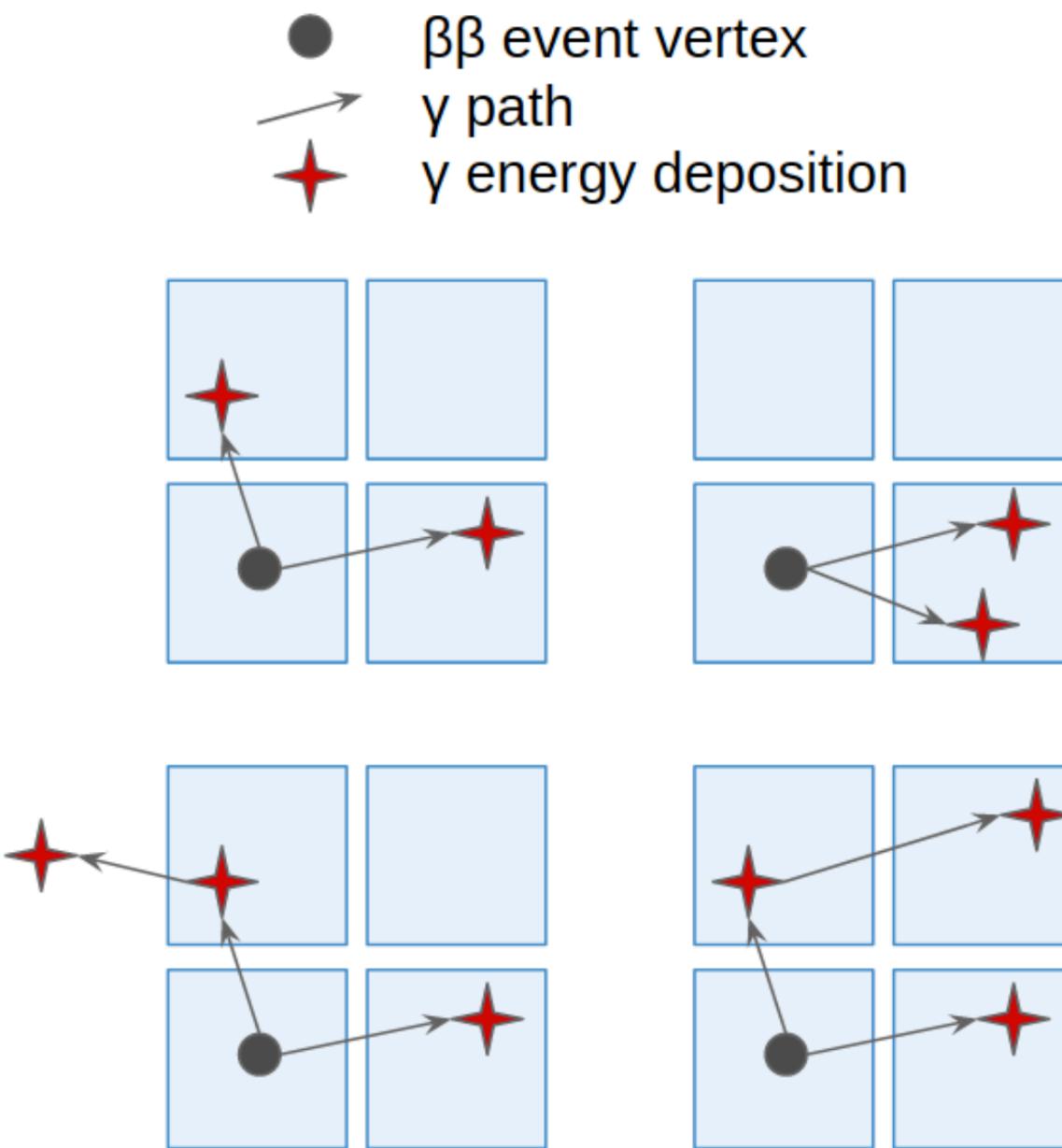
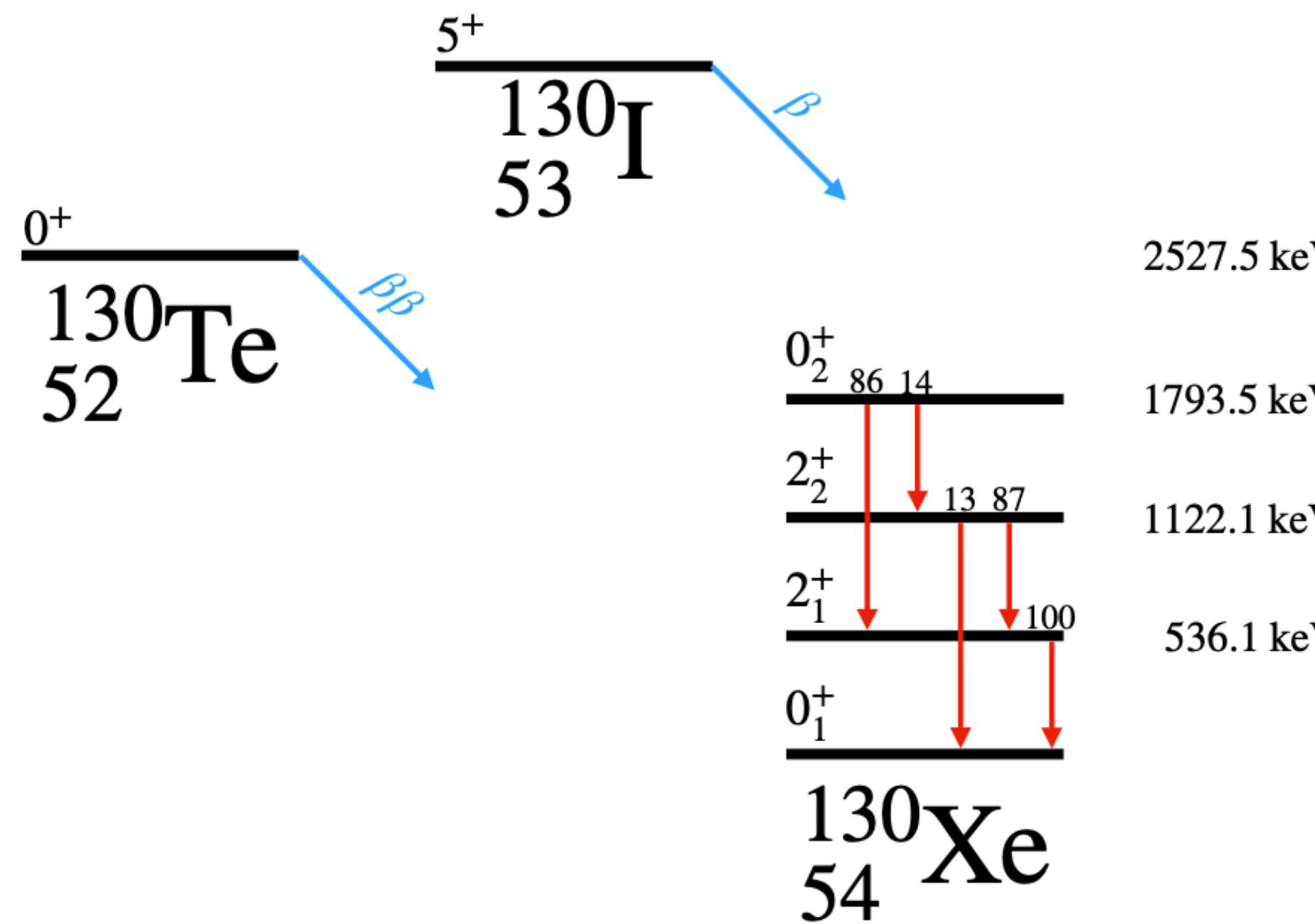
Arnold, R. et al. (NEMO-3 Collaboration), Phys. Rev. Lett. 107, 062504 (2011)  
<https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevLett.107.062504>

- CUORE-0

$$T_{1/2} = (8.2 \pm 0.2_{\text{stat}} \pm 0.6_{\text{syst}}) \times 10^{20} \text{ yr}$$

Alduino, C. et al. (CUORE-0 Collaboration), Eur. Phys. J. C 77, 13 (2017)  
<https://doi.org/10.1140/epjc/s10052-016-4498-6>

# DOUBLE BETA DECAY TO EXCITED STATES



<b>Pattern</b>	<b>BR [%]</b>	<b>Energy <math>\gamma_1</math></b>	<b>Energy <math>\gamma_2</math></b>	<b>Energy <math>\gamma_3</math></b>
A	86%	1257 keV	536 keV	-
B	12%	671 keV	586 keV	536 keV
C	2%	1122 keV	671 keV	-

- $Q_{\beta\beta} = 734$  keV
- signature: coincidence of beta and de-excitation gamma rays

# DOUBLE BETA DECAY TO EXCITED STATES



- Fully contained events only ( $\beta\beta$  and de-excitation  $\gamma$ s all detected)
- Coincident events up to 3 crystals
- Only most sensitive experimental signatures

$T_{1/2}^{0\nu} > 5.9 \times 10^{24}$  yr (90 % C . I.)

$T_{1/2}^{2\nu} > 1.3 \times 10^{24}$  yr (90 % C . I.)

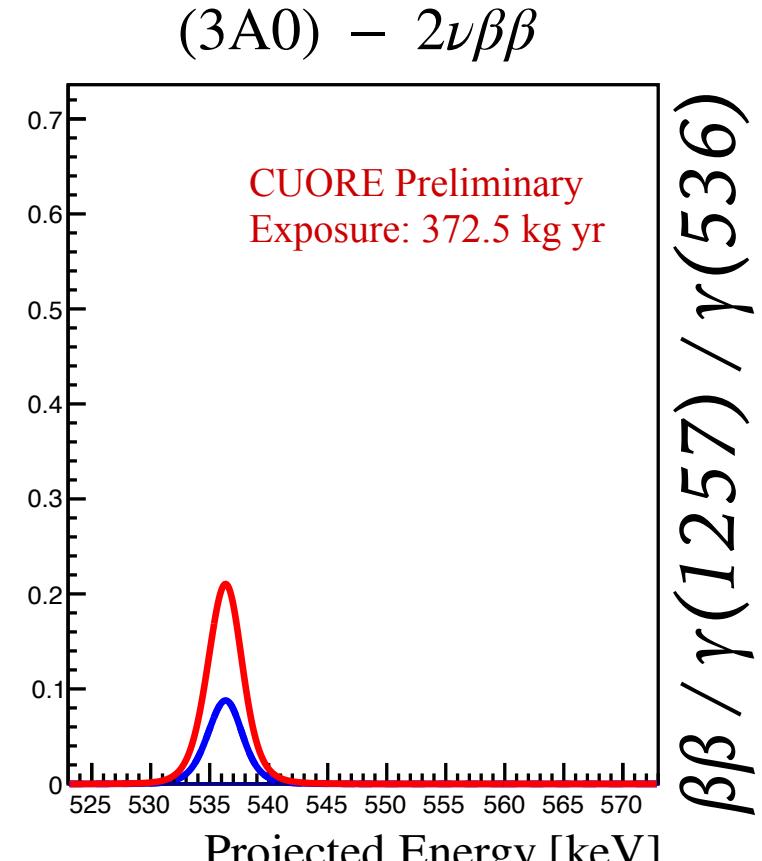
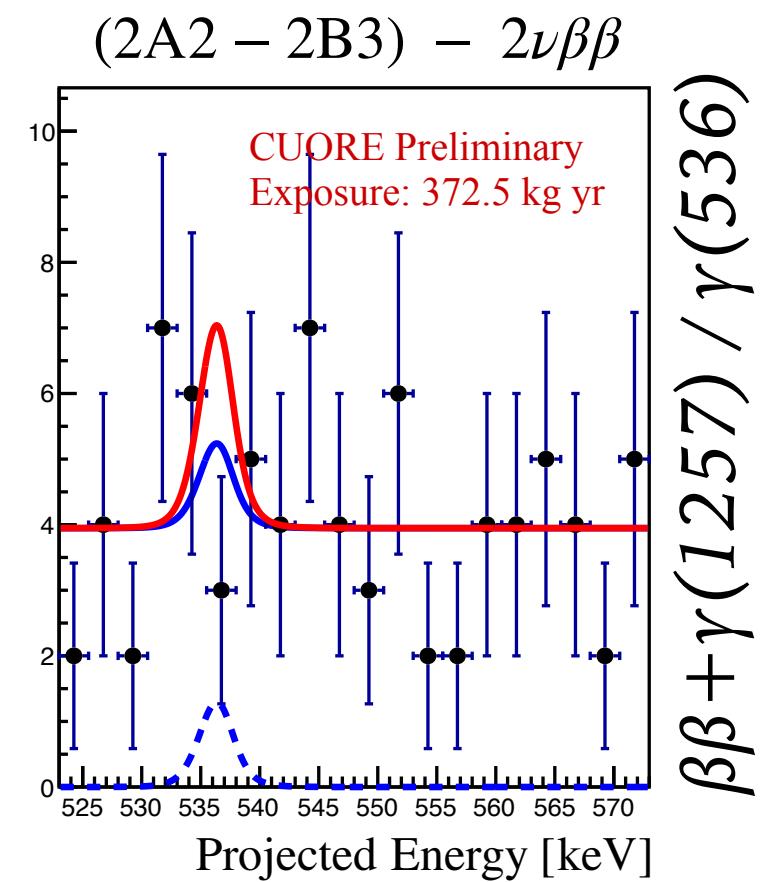
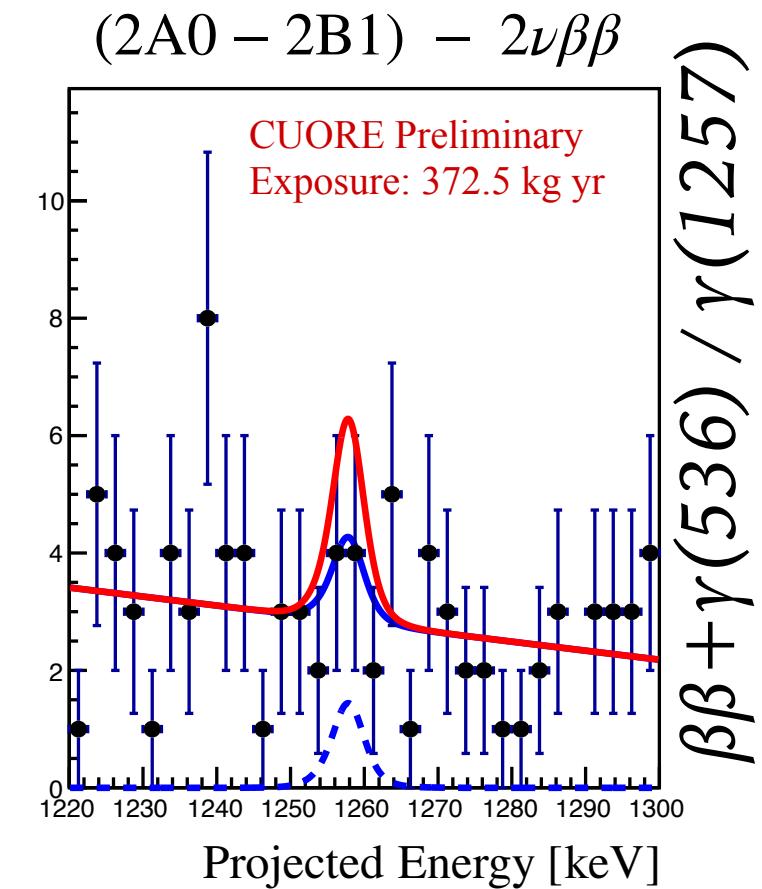
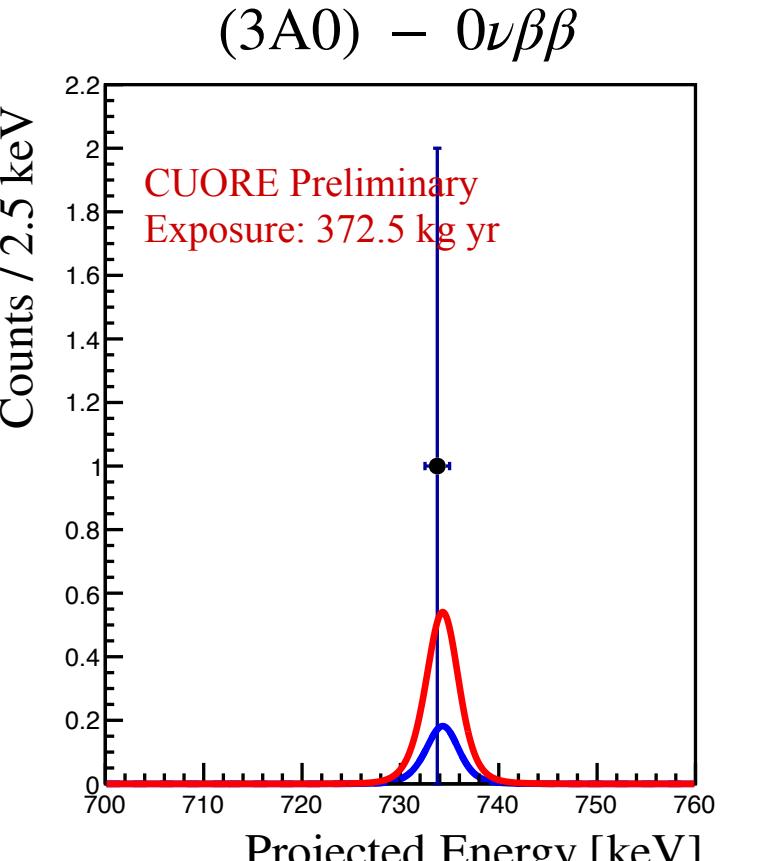
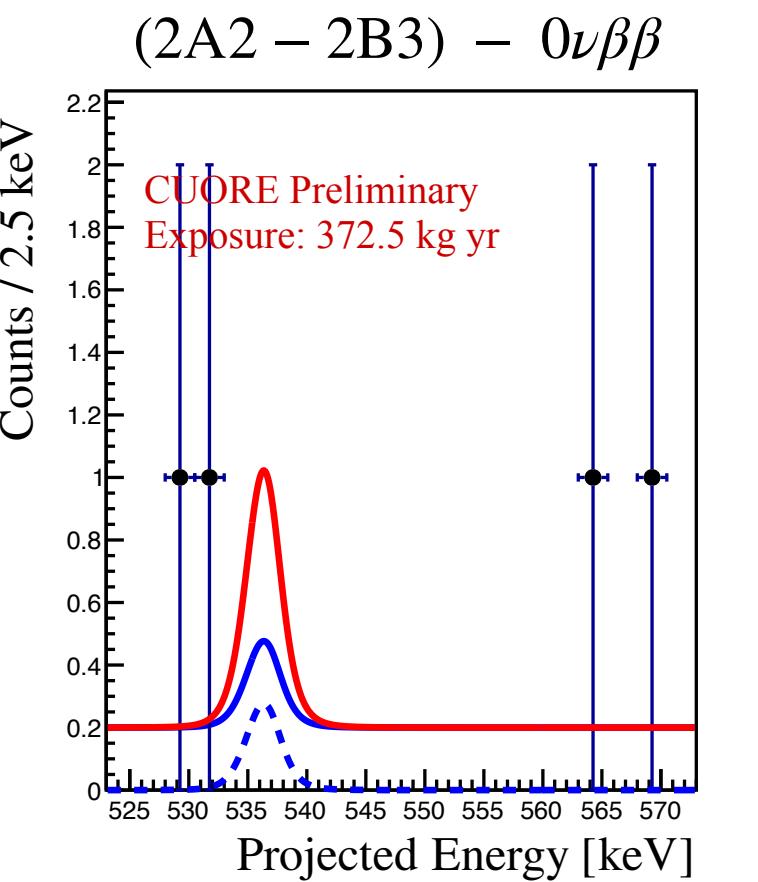
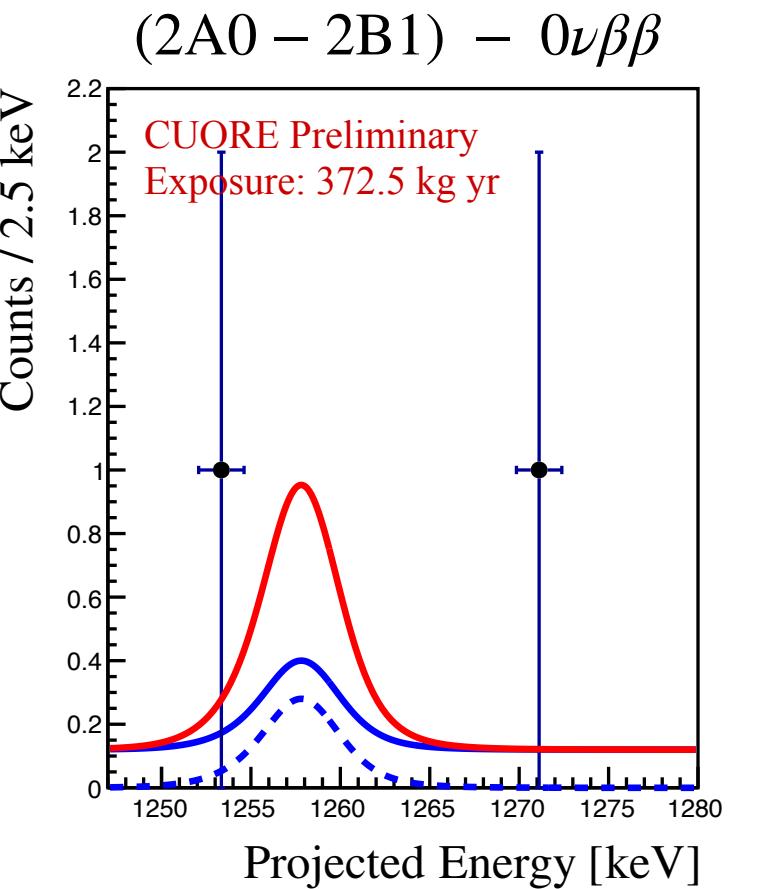
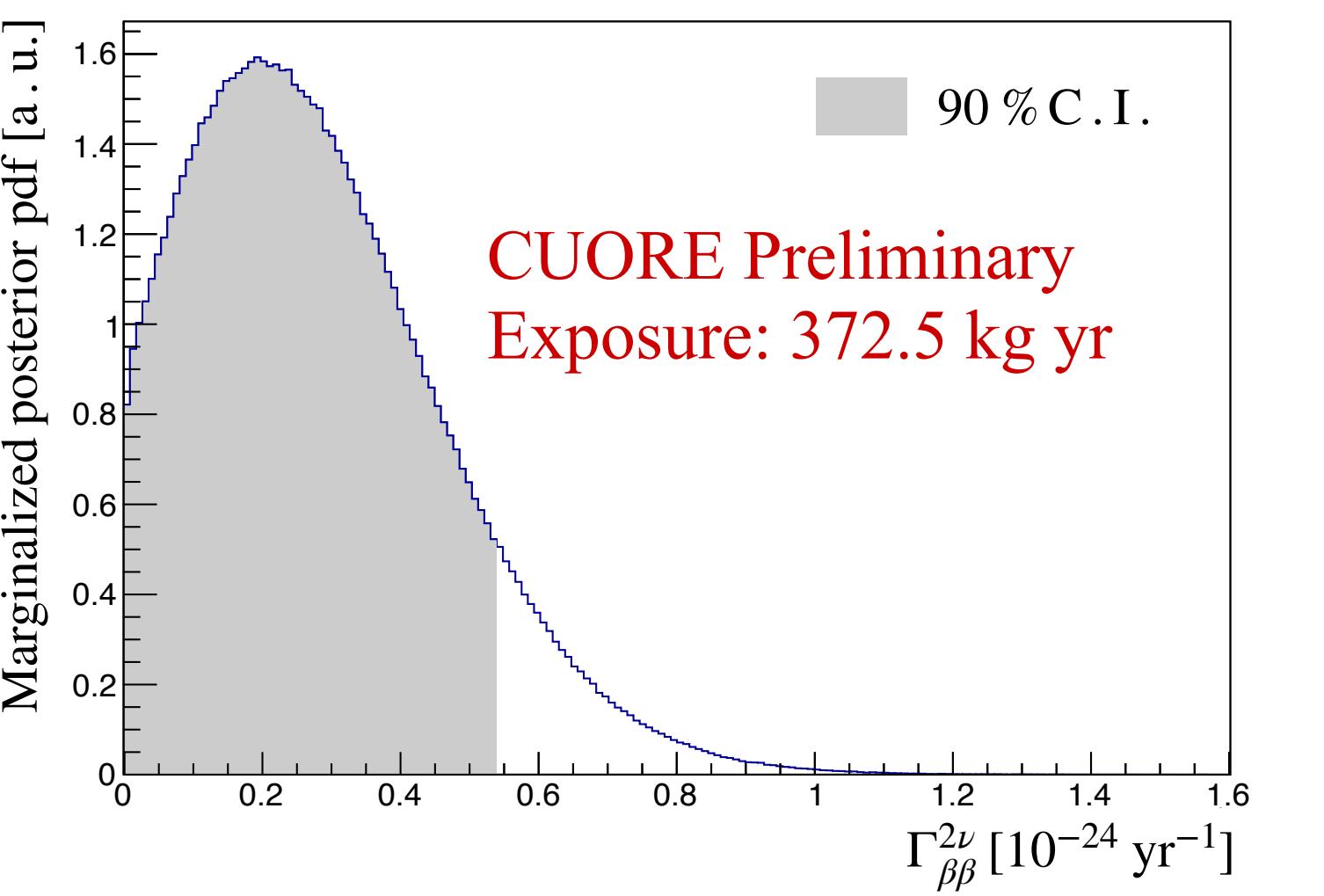
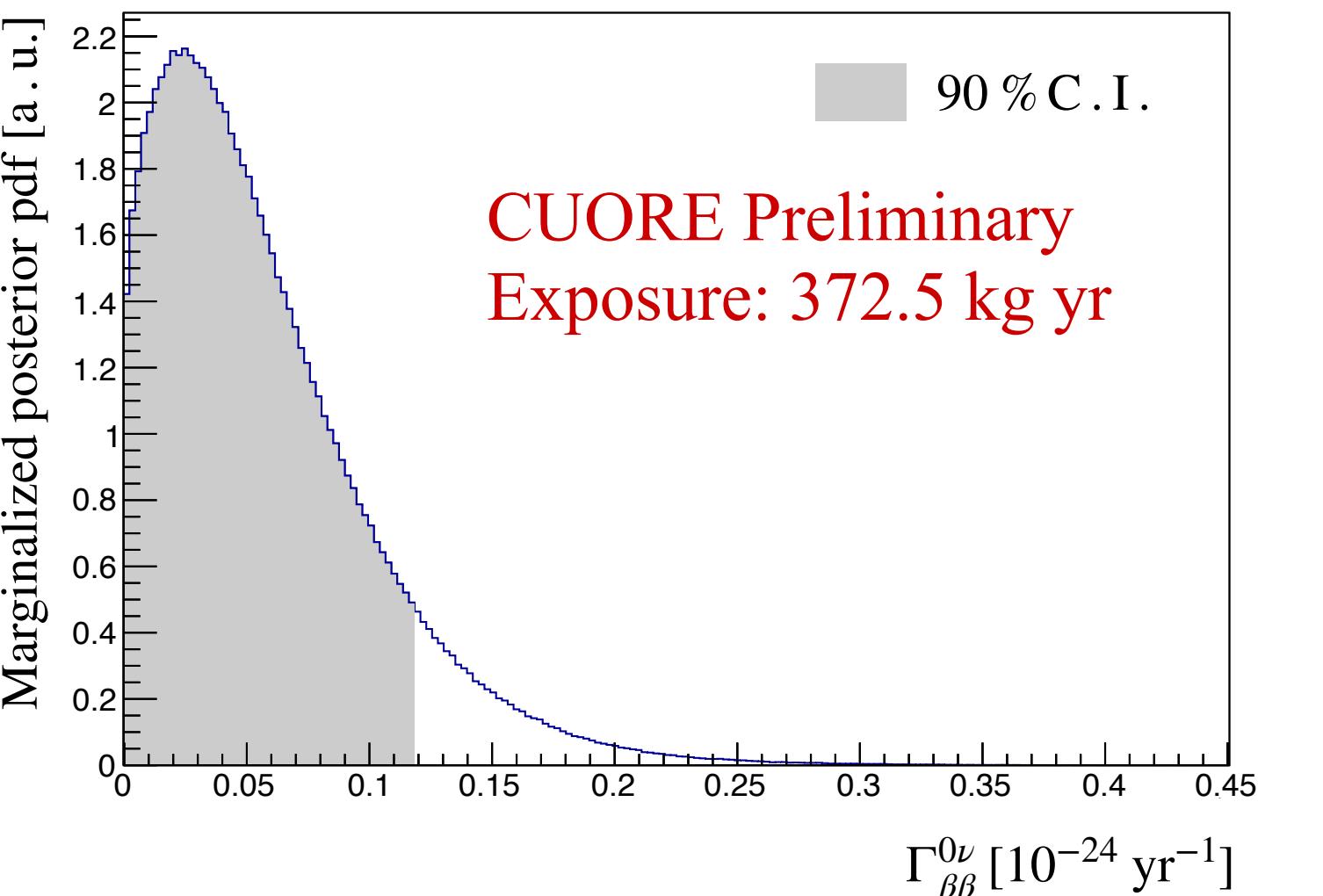
Adams, D.Q. et al. (CUORE Collaboration)  
<https://arxiv.org/abs/2101.10702>

## Literature (CUORE-0)

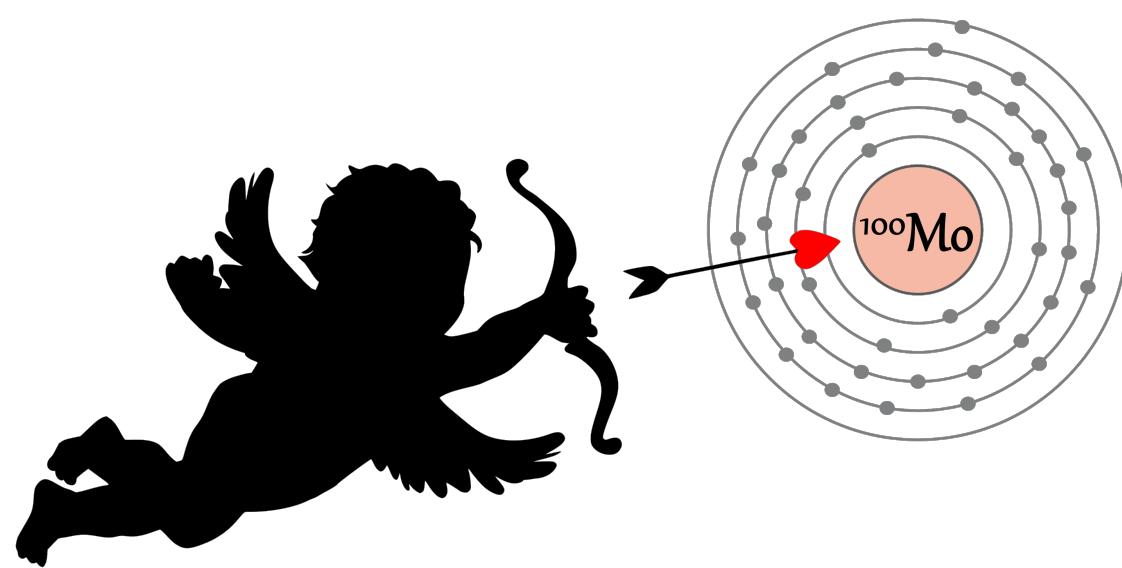
$T_{1/2}^{0\nu} > 1.4 \times 10^{24}$  yr (90 % C . L.)

$T_{1/2}^{2\nu} > 0.25 \times 10^{24}$  yr (90 % C . L.)

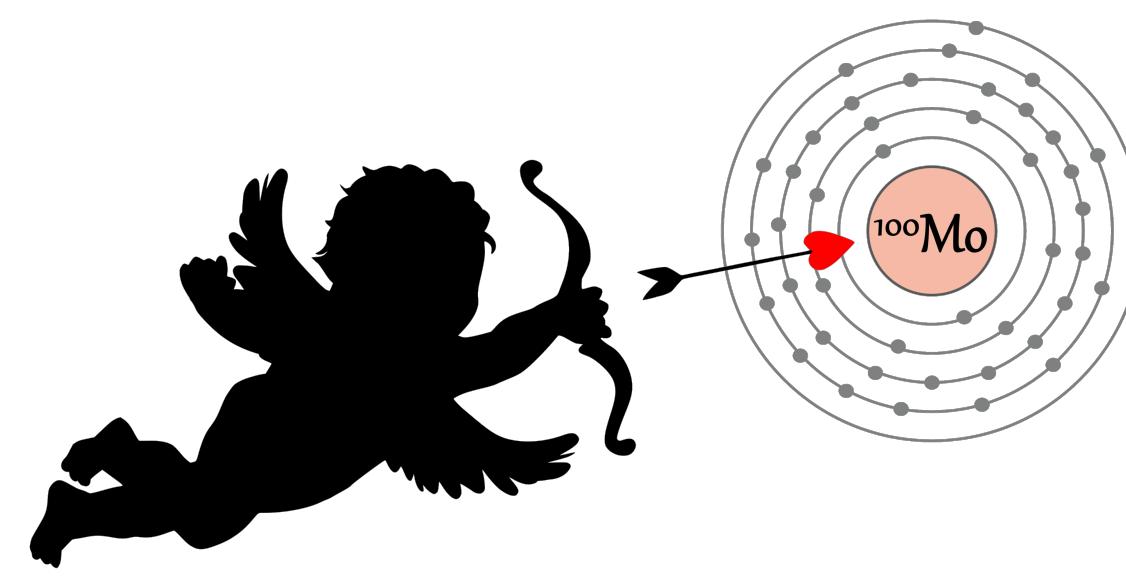
Alduino, C. et al (CUORE-0 Collaboration), Eur. Phys. J. C, 79(9):795, 2019  
<https://doi.org/10.1140/epjc/s10052-019-7275-5>



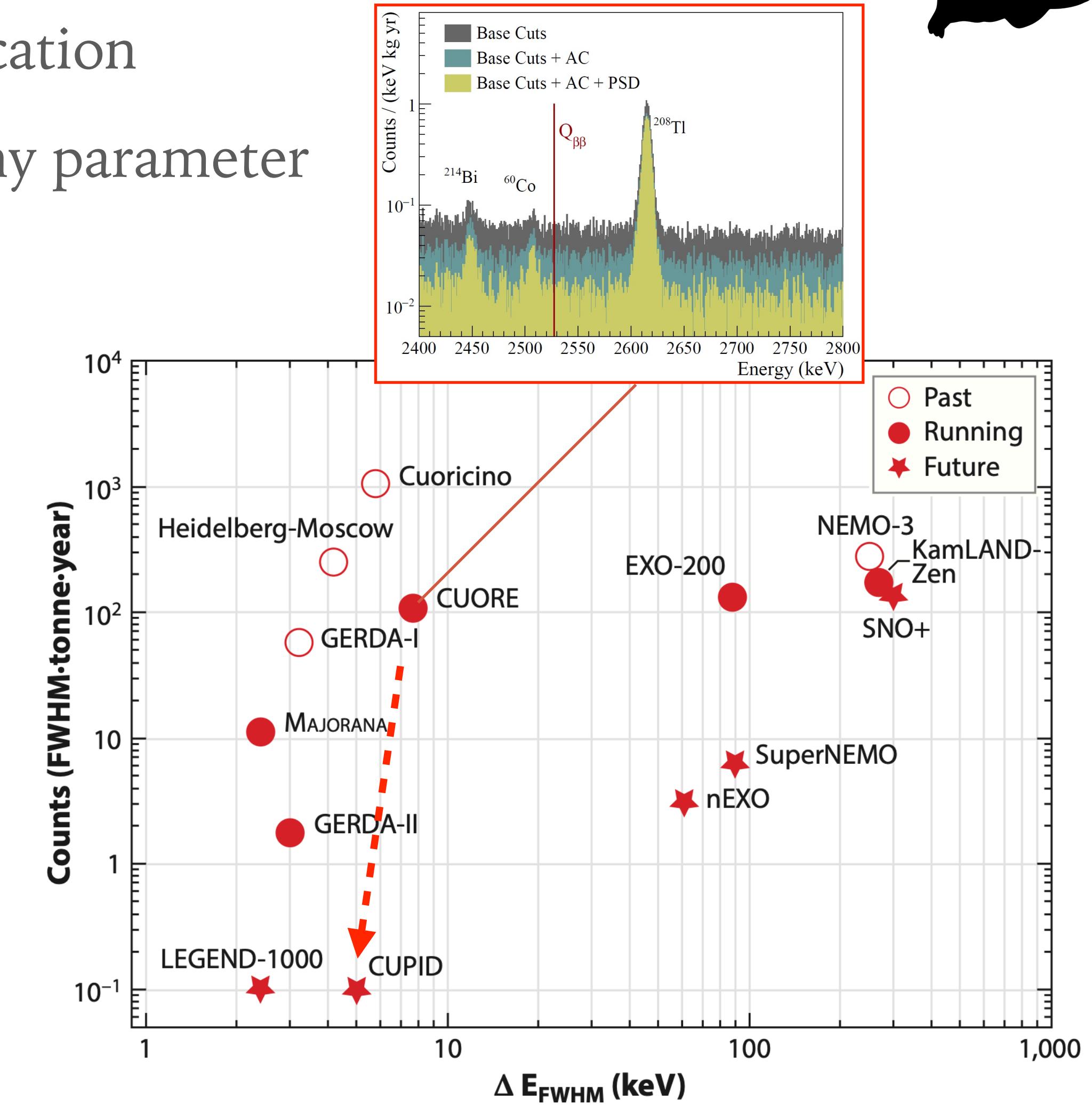
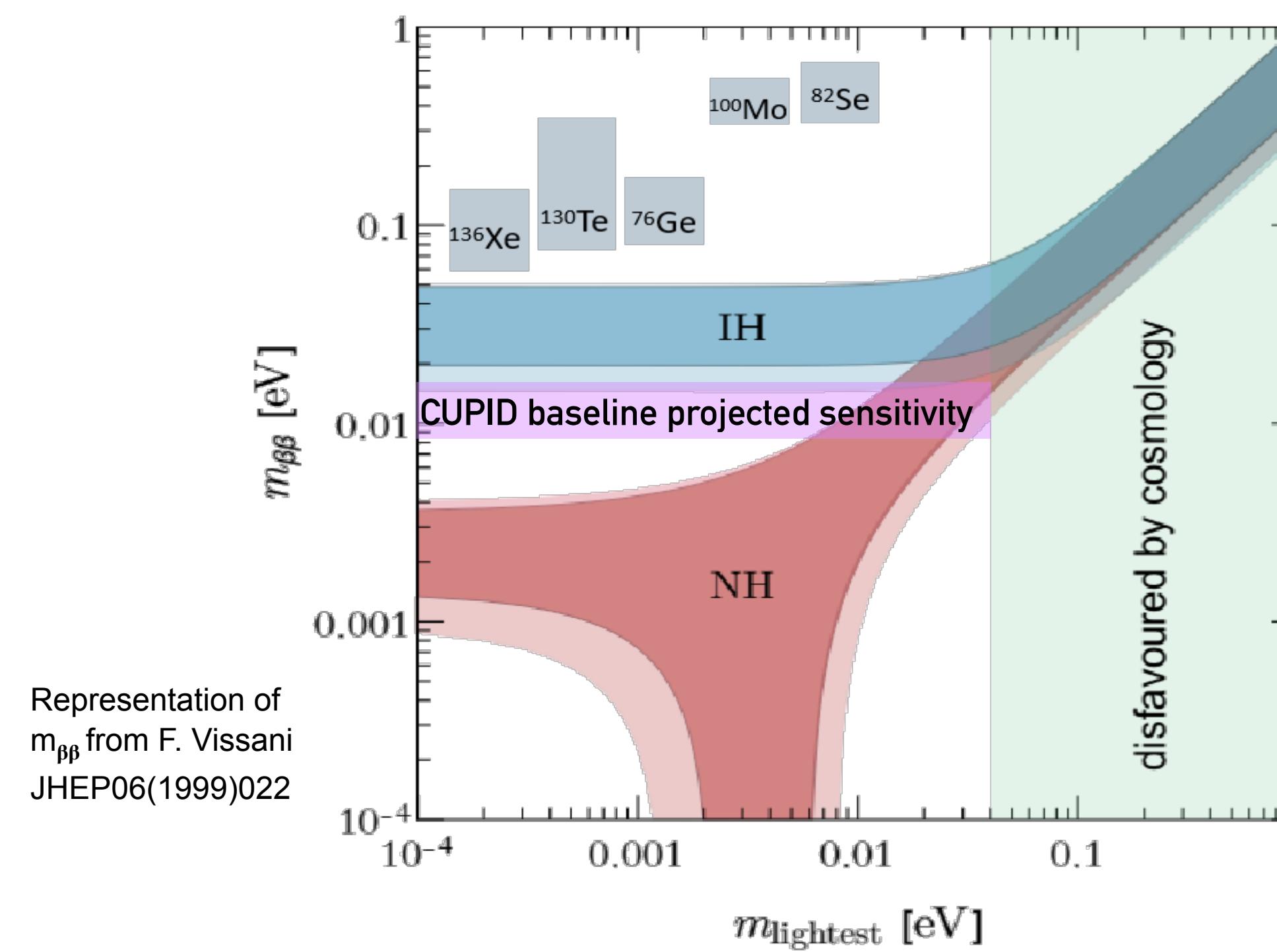
# WHAT NEXT?



# CUPID - NEXT GENERATION



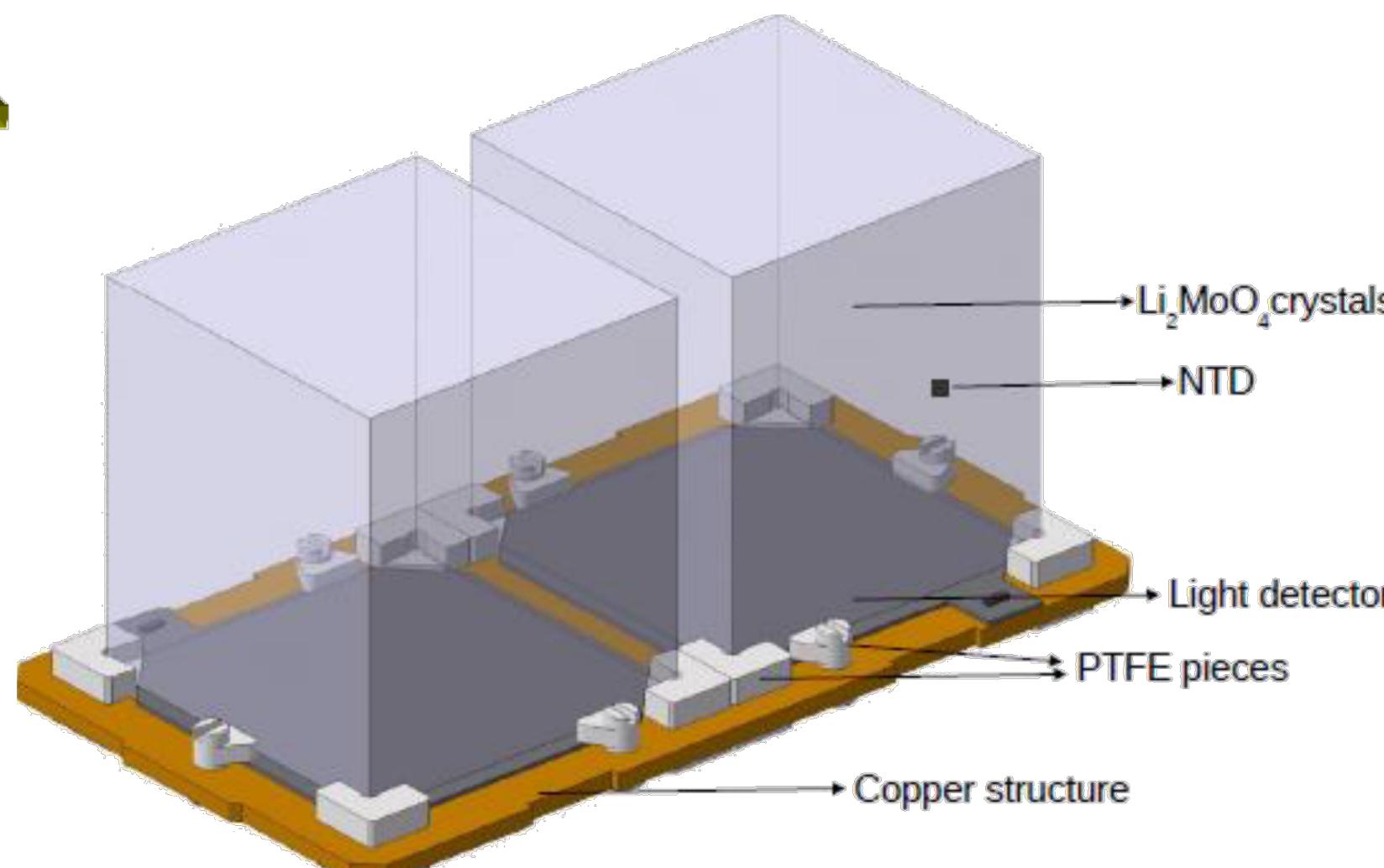
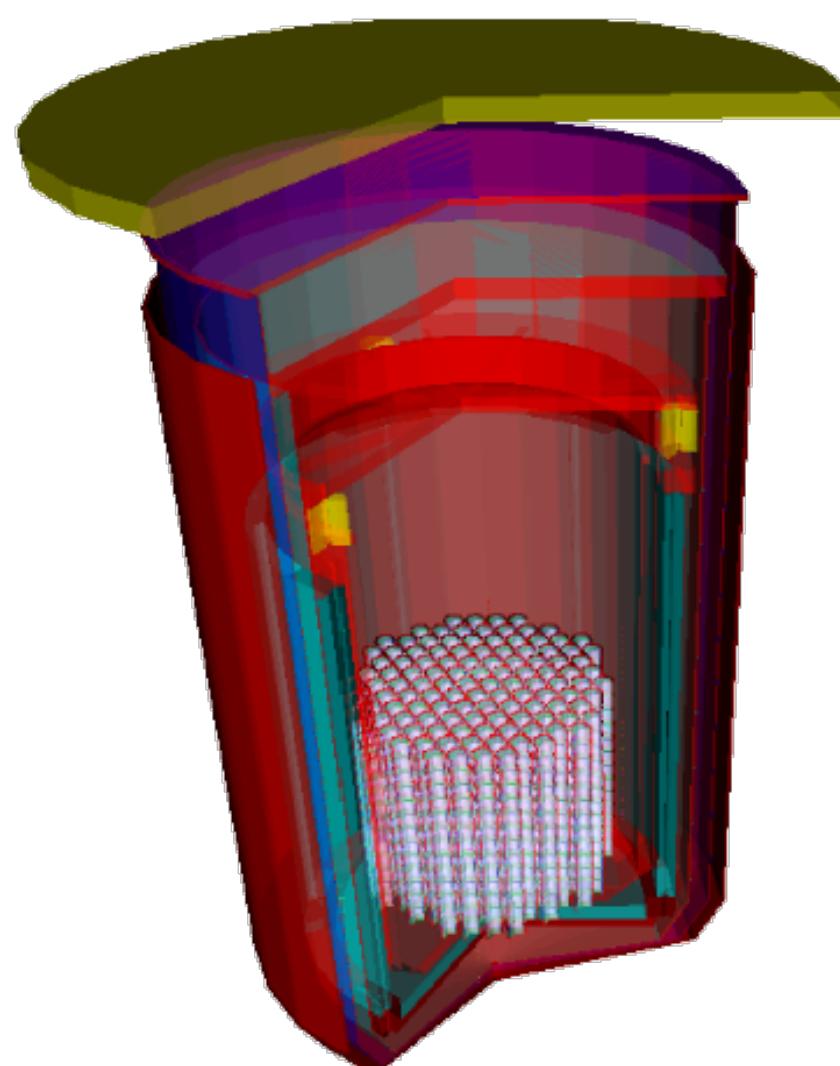
- CUORE Upgrade with Particle IDentification
- Goal: fully explore the inverted hierarchy parameter space



# CUPID - NEXT GENERATION

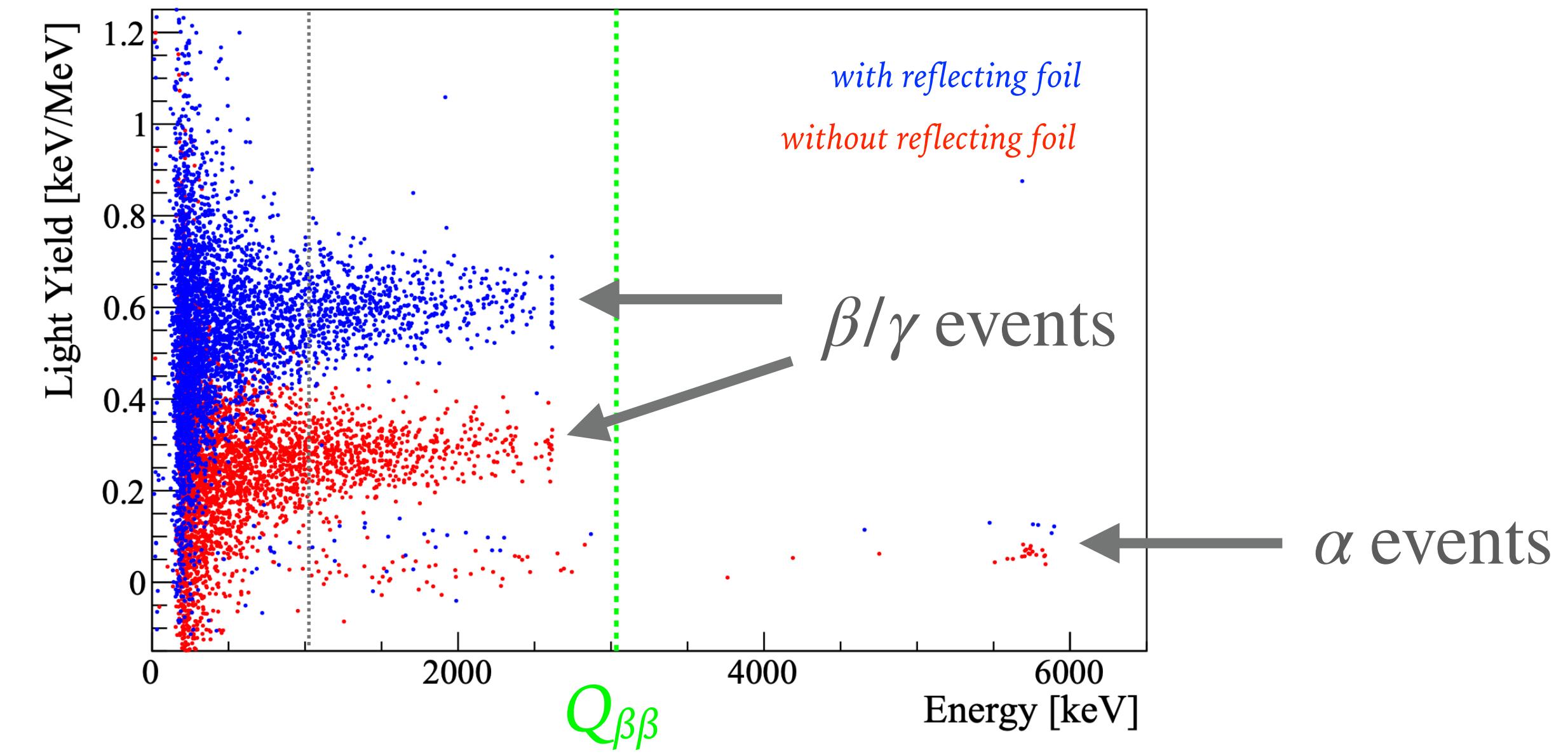
- CUPID-Mo technology is chosen:

- $\sim 1600 \text{ Li}_2^{100}\text{MoO}_4$  scintillating bolometers (240 kg of  $^{100}\text{Mo}$ )
- high energy resolution ( $\sim 5 \text{ keV}$ )
- excellent radio-purity
- full ( $>99.9\%$ )  $\beta(\gamma)/\alpha$  separation



Rahman, S. et al., Phys. Lett. B 662(2), 111 (2008)  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.physletb.2008.02.047>

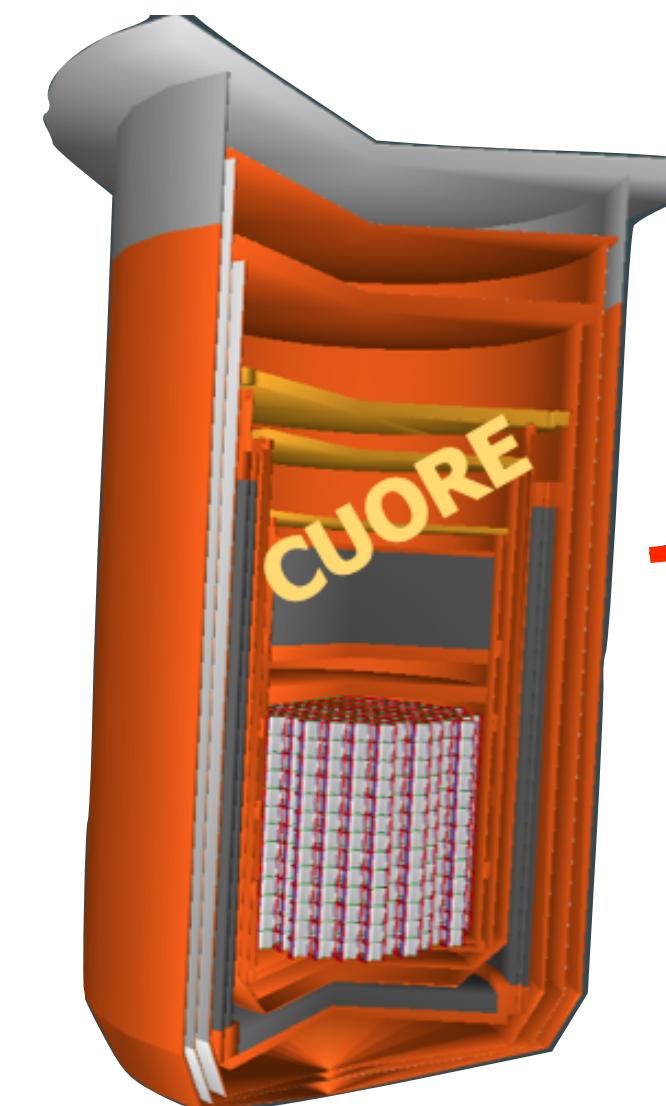
$$Q_{\beta\beta} = 3034.4(2) \text{ keV}$$



Armatol, A. et al (CUPID Collaboration), Eur. Phys. J. C (2021) 81:104  
<https://doi.org/10.1140/epjc/s10052-020-08809-8>

# CUPID - NEXT GENERATION

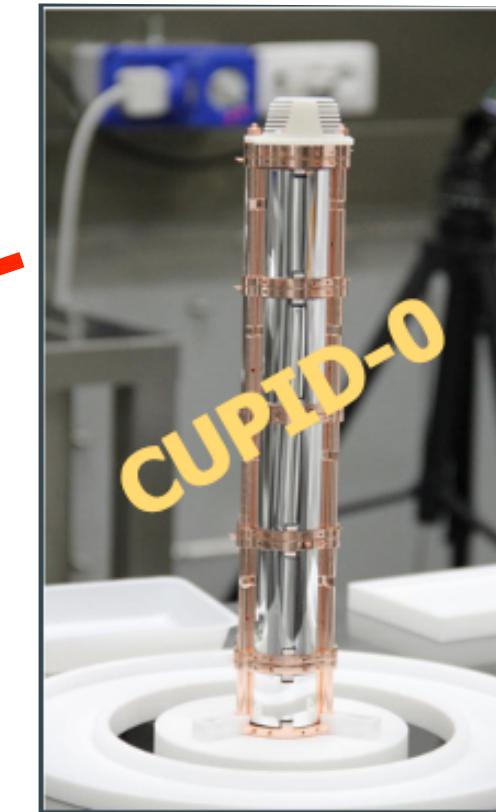
- Both CUPID-Mo and CUPID-0 proved the robustness of technology for a potentially background-free experiment
- Reuse proven CUORE cryogenic infrastructure at LNGS for cost-effective deployment
- Expansion to 1-tonne scale (CUPID-1T) technically possible



*Best world limit on  $^{130}\text{Te}$   
 $T_{1/2} > 2.2 \cdot 10^{25} \text{ y}$  (90% C.I.)*



*Best world limit on  $^{100}\text{Mo}$   
 $T_{1/2} > 1.5 \cdot 10^{24} \text{ y}$  (90% C.I.)*



*Best world limit on  $^{82}\text{Se}$   
 $T_{1/2} > 3.5 \cdot 10^{24} \text{ y}$  (90% C.I.)*

**FRESH  
FORCES!**

# FUTURE OF CUORE

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- Ultimate goal of collecting  $> 3$  tonne yr of exposure
- CUORE will run until the beginning of the CUPID commissioning
- Working on other rare events searches such as
  - $2\nu\beta\beta$  of  $^{130}\text{Te}$
  - $0\nu\beta\beta$  and  $2\nu\beta\beta$  decay on  $^{130}\text{Te}$  excited states and  $^{128}\text{Te}$
  - $\beta^+ + \beta^+$  /  $\beta^+ + \text{EC}$  / ECEC searches on  $^{120}\text{Te}$
  - low energy analyses (dark matter, axions, supernova neutrinos, ...)
- Working to investigate and mitigate noise sources to improve resolution
  - diagnostic devices (accelerometers, microphones, seismometers)
  - noise de-correlation

# CONCLUSION

- CUORE has exceeded 1 tonne year of exposure and is in stable data taking
- No evidence of  $0\nu\beta\beta$  decay with 1038.4 kg yr of data

- Bayesian 90% C.I. limit

$$T_{1/2}^{0\nu} > 2.2 \times 10^{25} \text{ yr (90 \% C . I.)}$$

 Adams, D.Q. et al. (CUORE Collaboration)  
<https://arxiv.org/abs/2104.06906>

- Effective Majorana Mass limit

$$m_{\beta\beta} < 90 - 305 \text{ meV}$$

- Most precise evaluation of  $^{130}\text{Te}$  half life to date

$$T_{1/2}^{2\nu} = 7.71_{-0.06}^{+0.08}(\text{stat.})_{-0.15}^{+0.12}(\text{syst.}) \times 10^{20} \text{ yr}$$

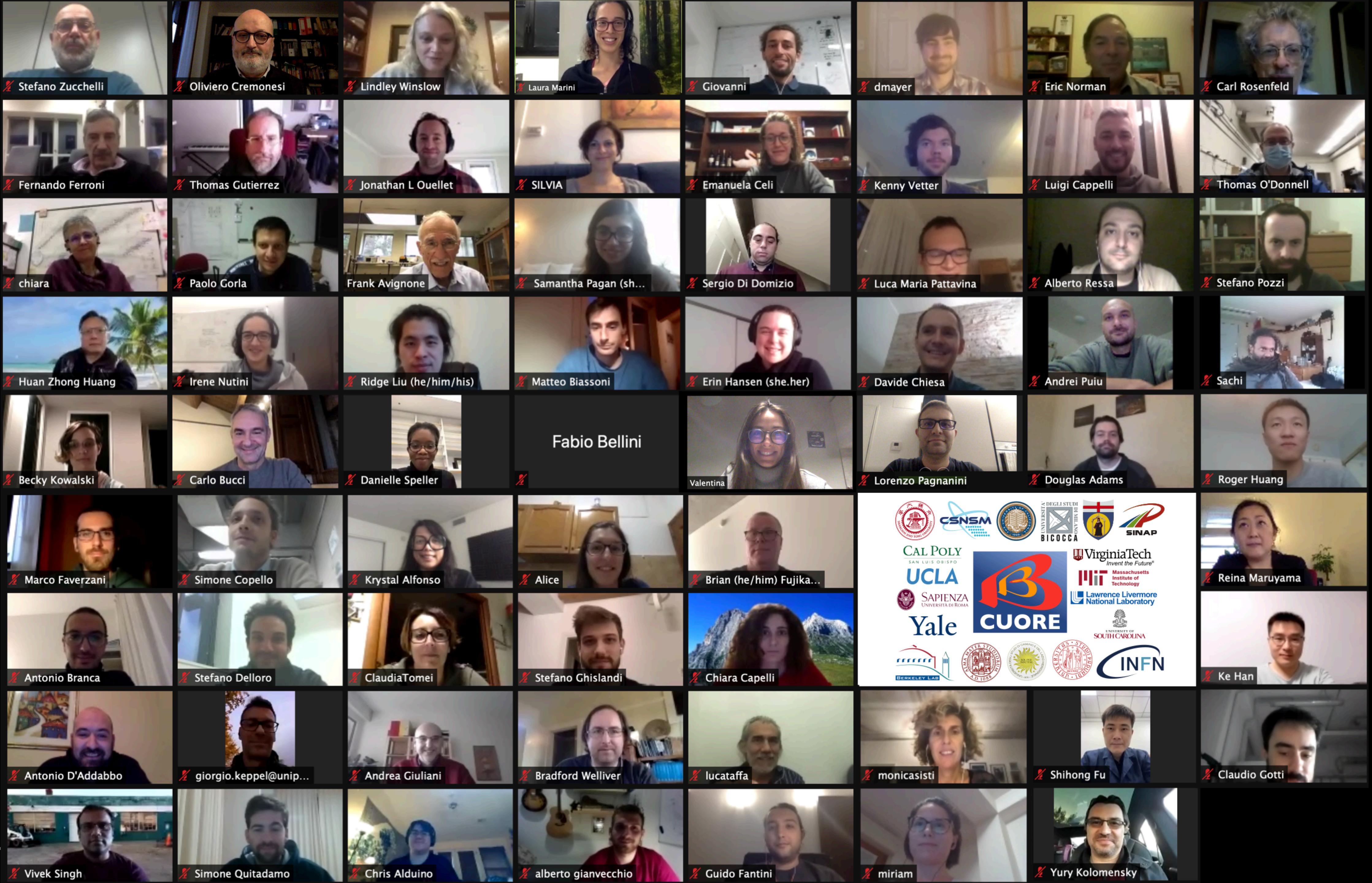
- Most stringent limits on  $^{130}\text{Te}$   $\beta\beta$  decay to  $0_1^+$  excited state of  $^{130}\text{Xe}$

$$T_{1/2}^{0\nu} > 5.9 \times 10^{24} \text{ yr (90 \% C . I.)}$$

$$T_{1/2}^{2\nu} > 1.3 \times 10^{24} \text{ yr (90 \% C . I.)}$$

 Adams, D.Q. et al. (CUORE Collaboration)  
<https://arxiv.org/abs/2012.11749>

- Proves feasibility of large-scale bolometric detectors: CUPID



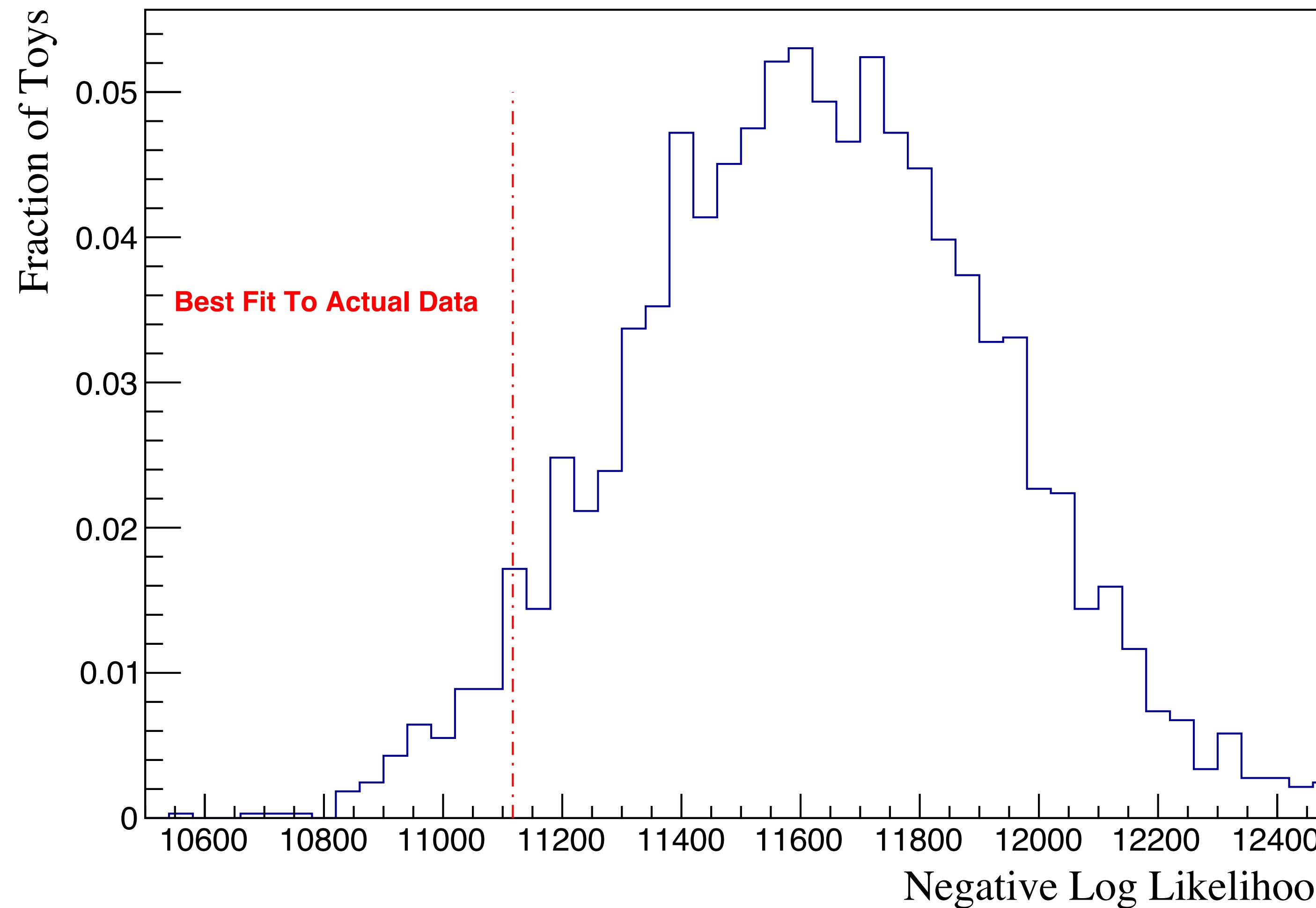
G.



# BACKUP

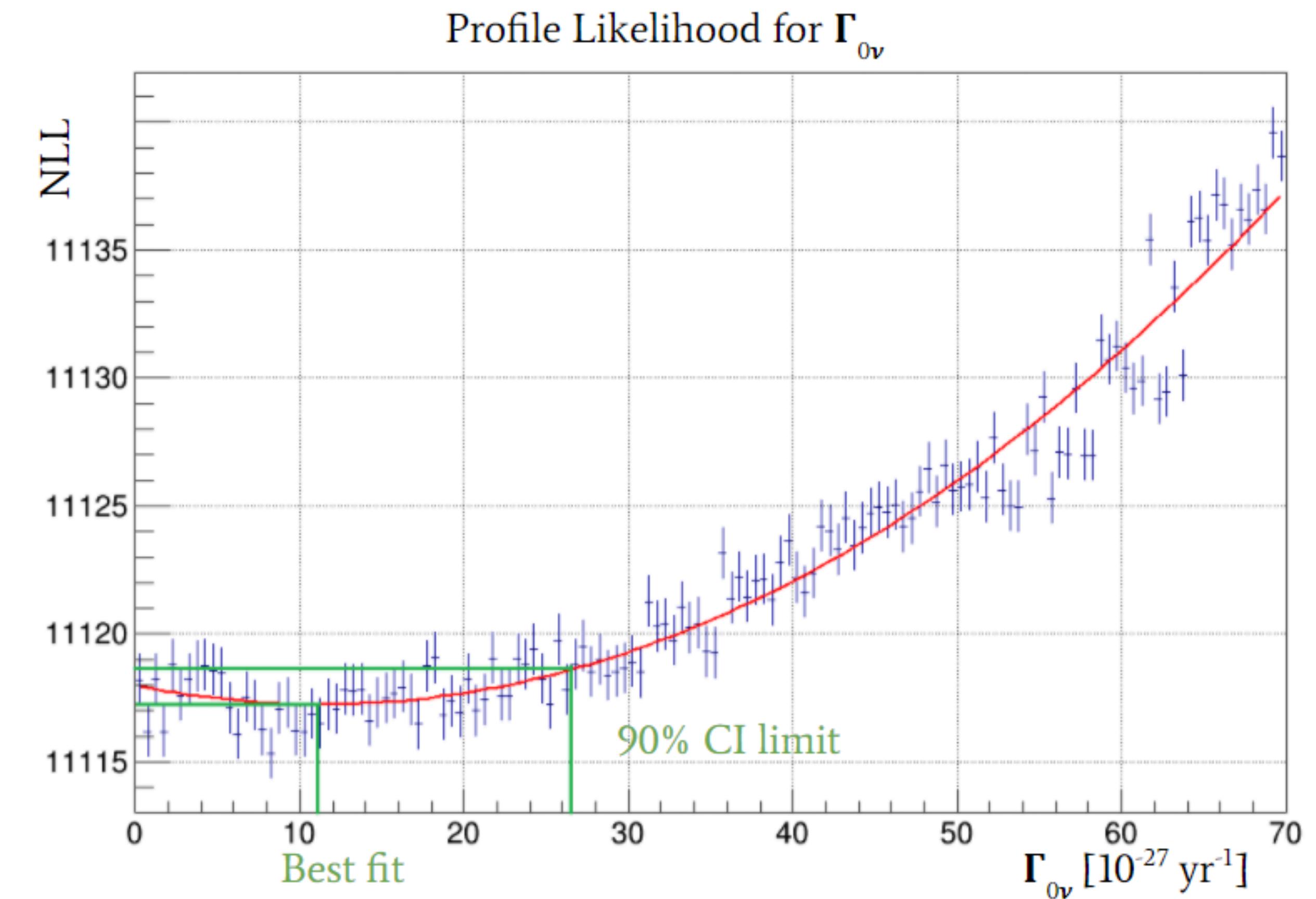
# NEUTRINOLESS DOUBLE BETA DECAY ANALYSIS - NLL DISTRIBUTION

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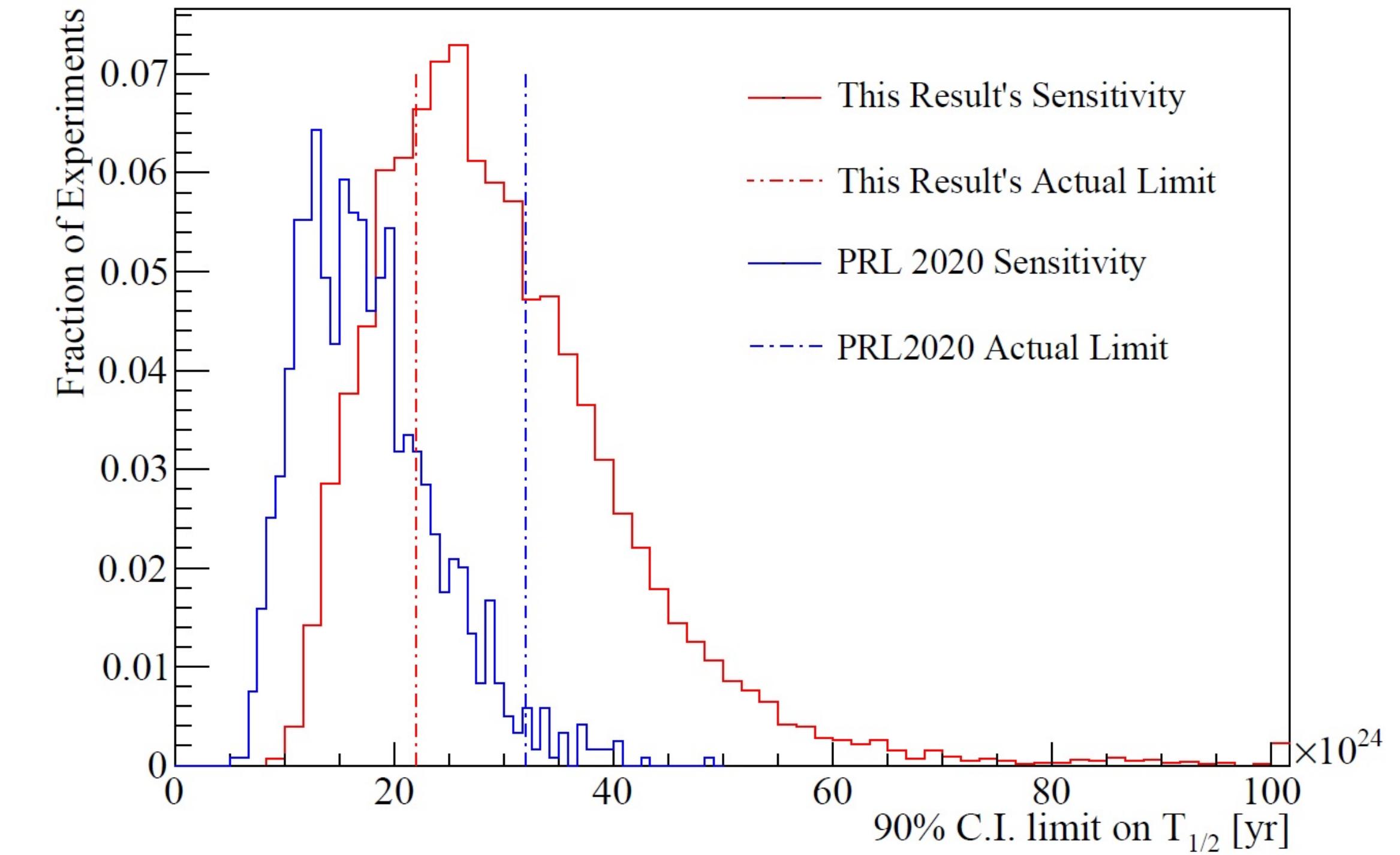
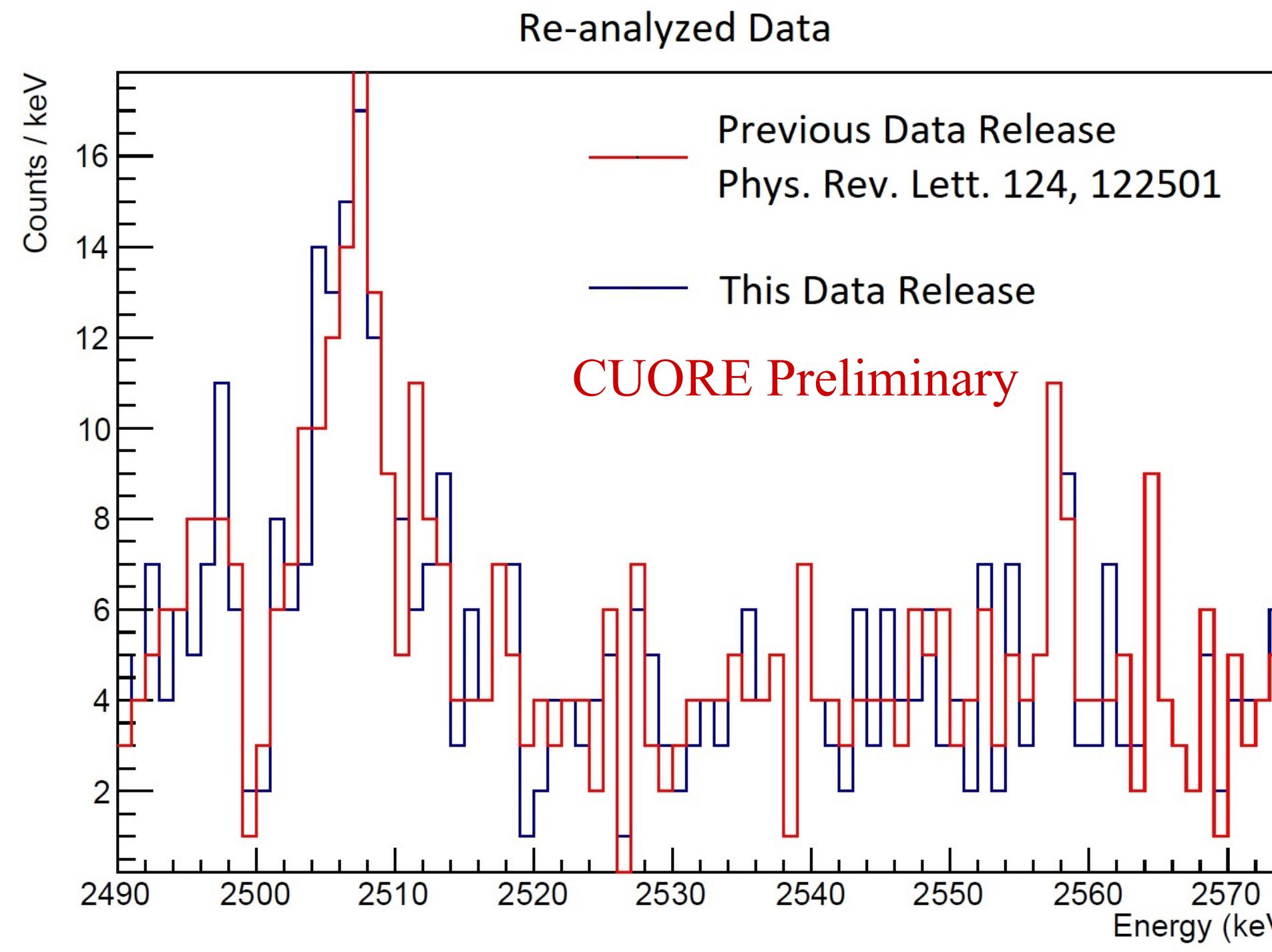
# NEUTRINOLESS DOUBLE BETA DECAY ANALYSIS - FREQUENTIST LIMIT

- Frequentist limit with Rolke method
- Profile likelihood obtained from the Markov Chain generated for Bayesian fit
  - $-2\log L$  as  $\chi^2$  with 1 degree of freedom
  - 90% C.L. limit obtained from rate 1.35 NLL units above the best fit



$$T_{1/2}^{0\nu} > 2.6 \times 10^{25} \text{ yr} \text{ (90 \% C . L.)}$$

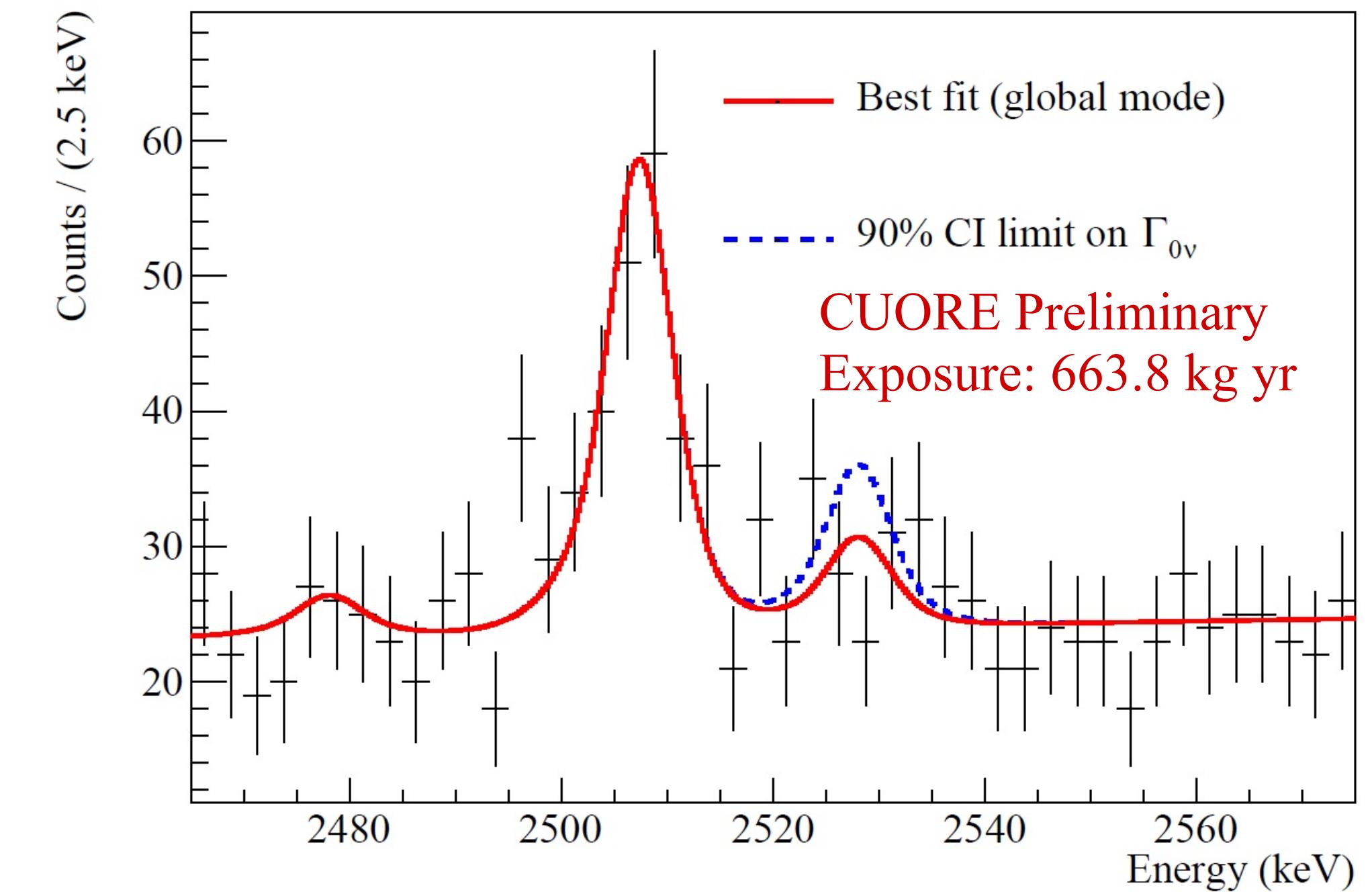
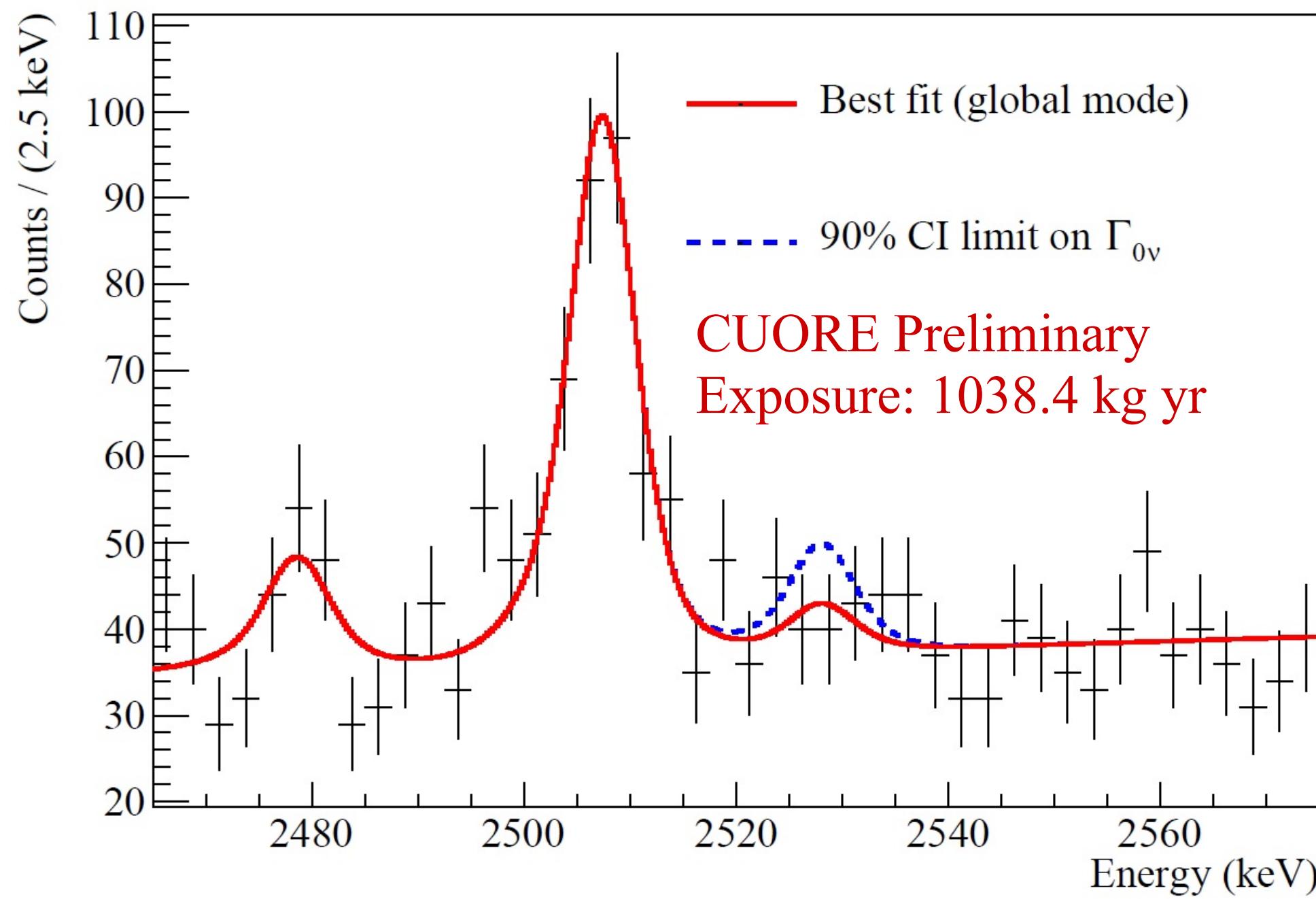
# COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS RESULTS



- different pulse shape discrimination, analysis efficiency
- 90% of reconstructed events common to both analyses
- 3% probability of obtaining old limit  $T_{1/2} > 3.2 \times 10^{25}$  yr (or stronger) with new event reconstruction
- re-analysis yields  $T_{1/2} > 2.0 \times 10^{25}$  yr limit, in the top 30% of expected results

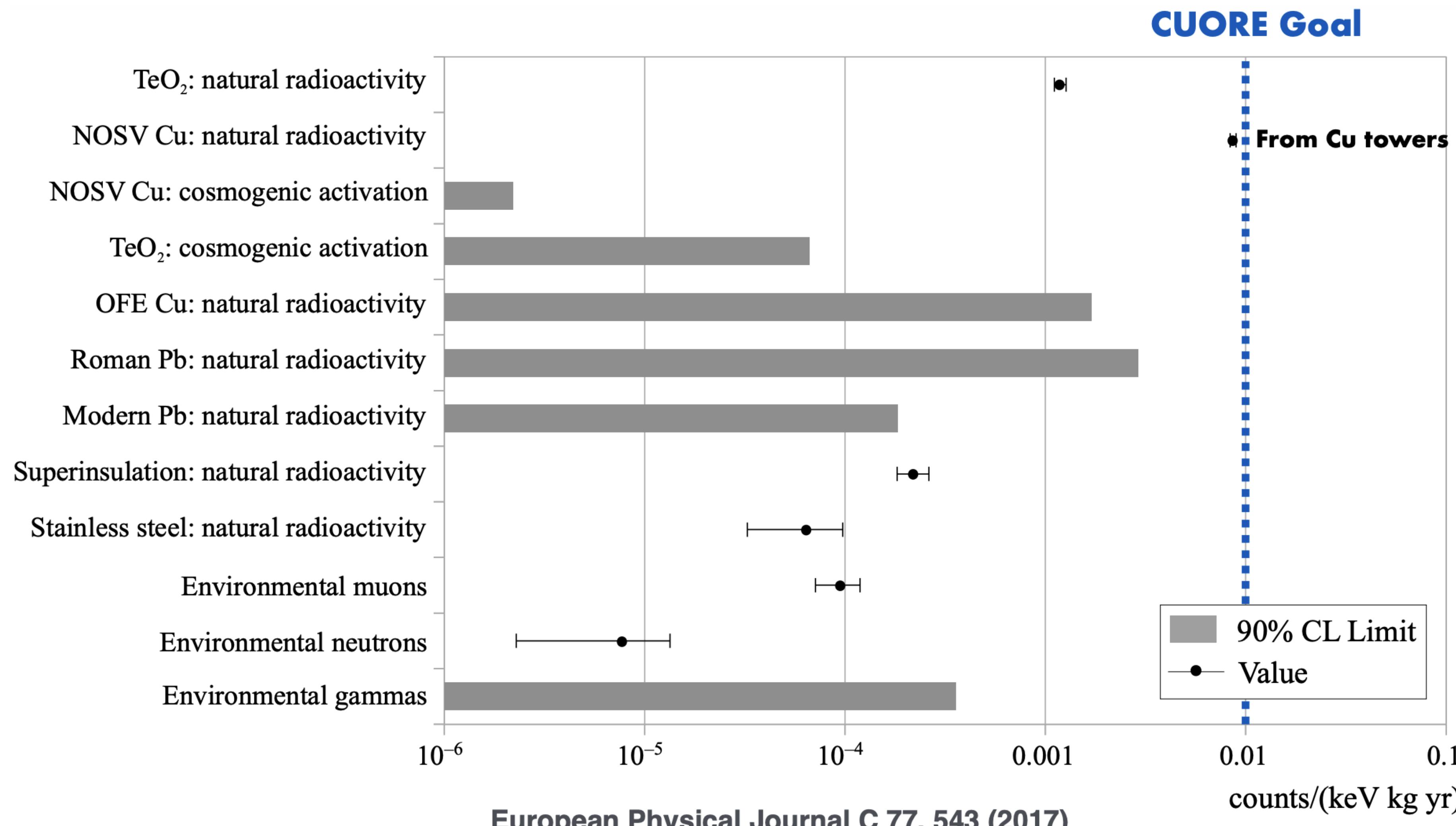
# 2480 KEV STRUCTURE

---

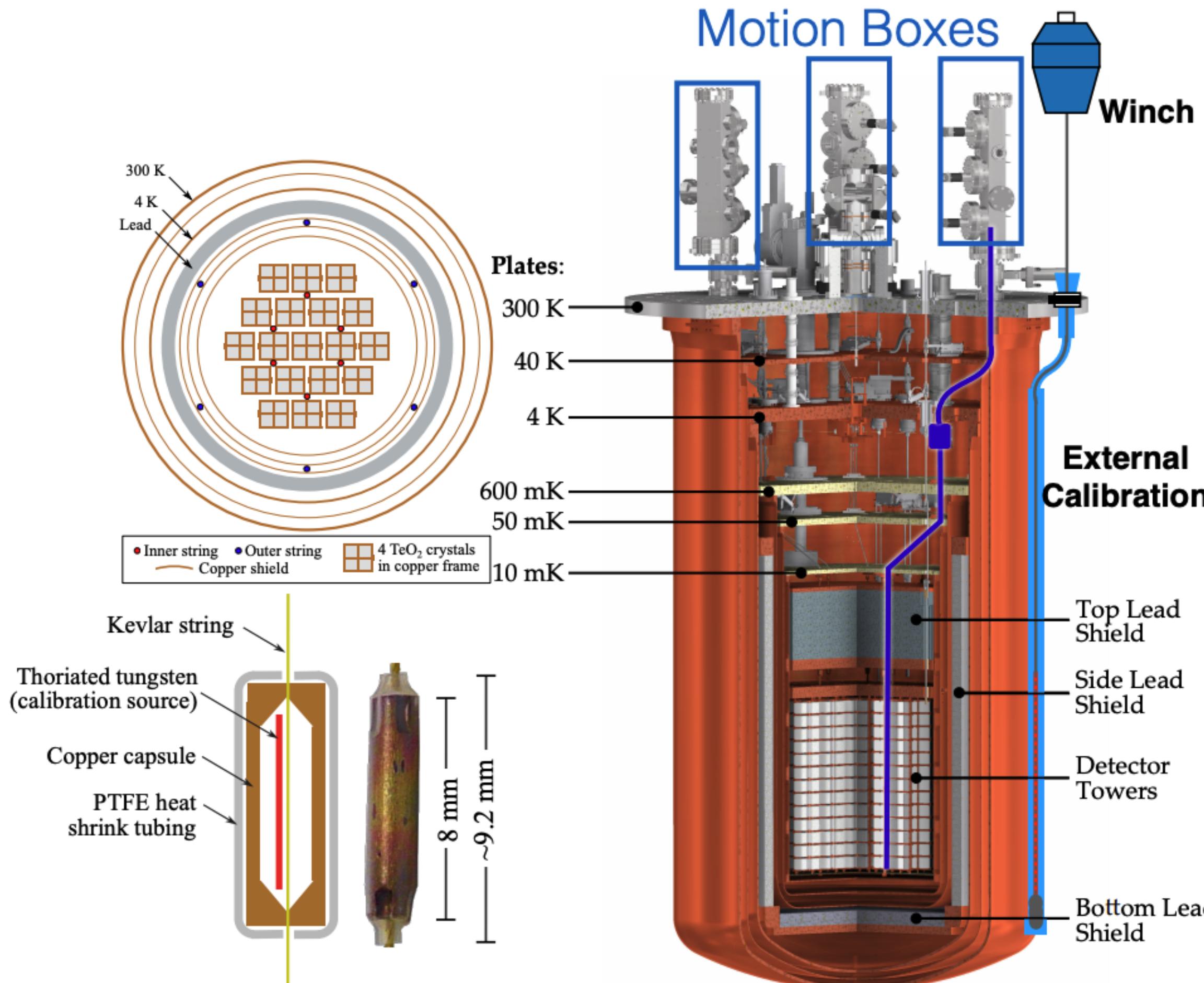


- Previously found  $2\sigma$  hints of unexpected peak at  $\sim 2480$  keV
- Statistical significance decreased with new data ( $< 1 \sigma$  with just new data)

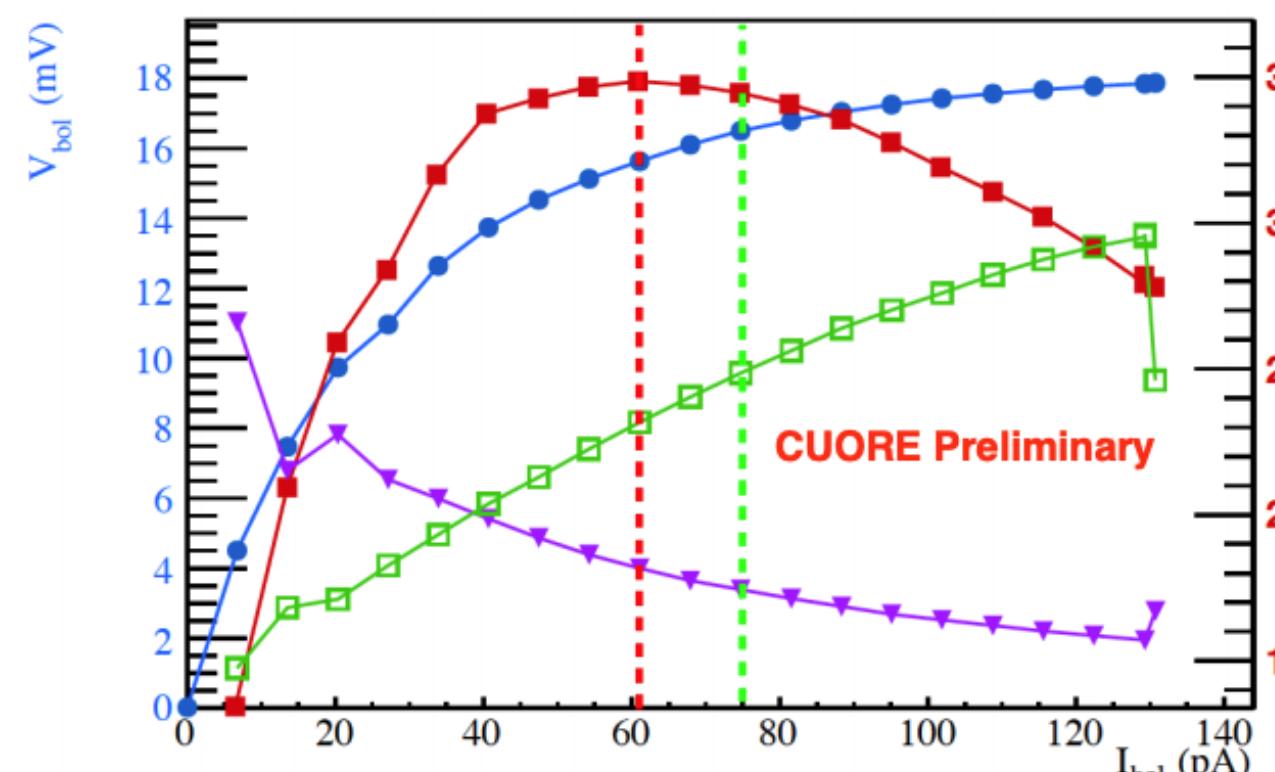
# CUORE BACKGROUND BUDGET



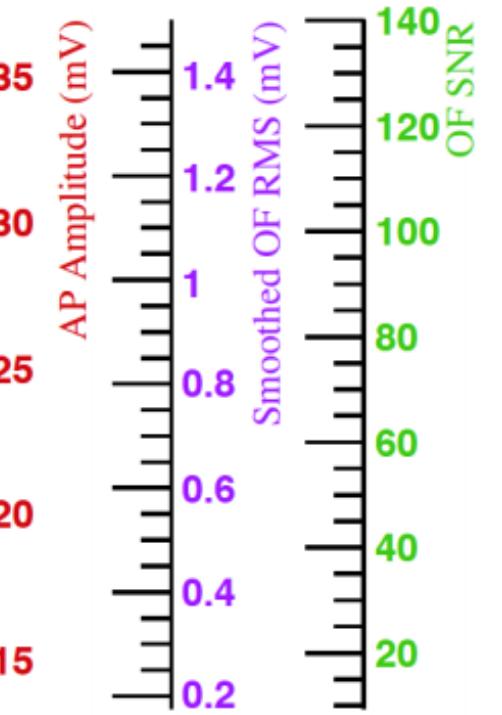
# CALIBRATION SYSTEM



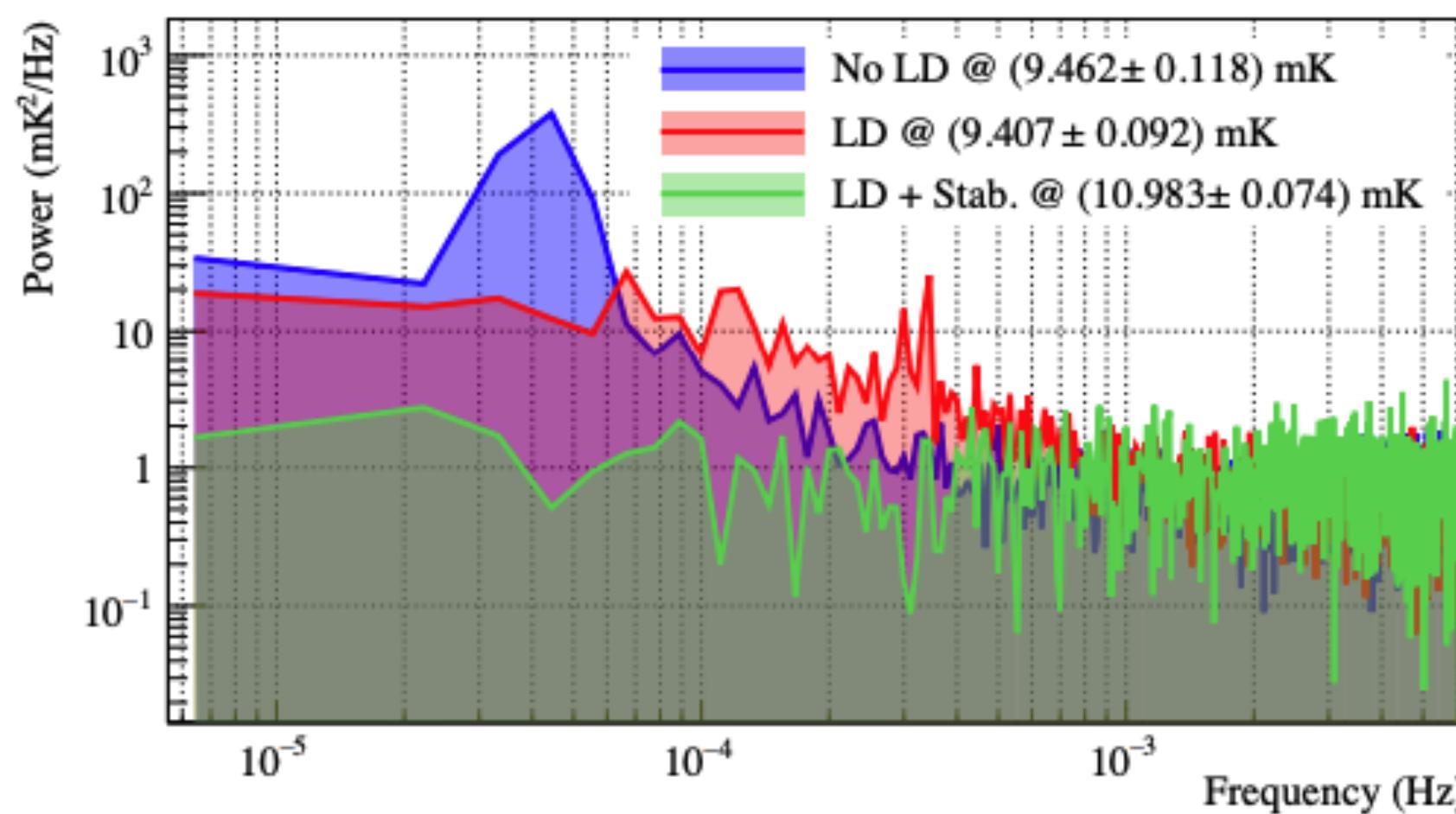
# DETECTOR OPTIMIZATION



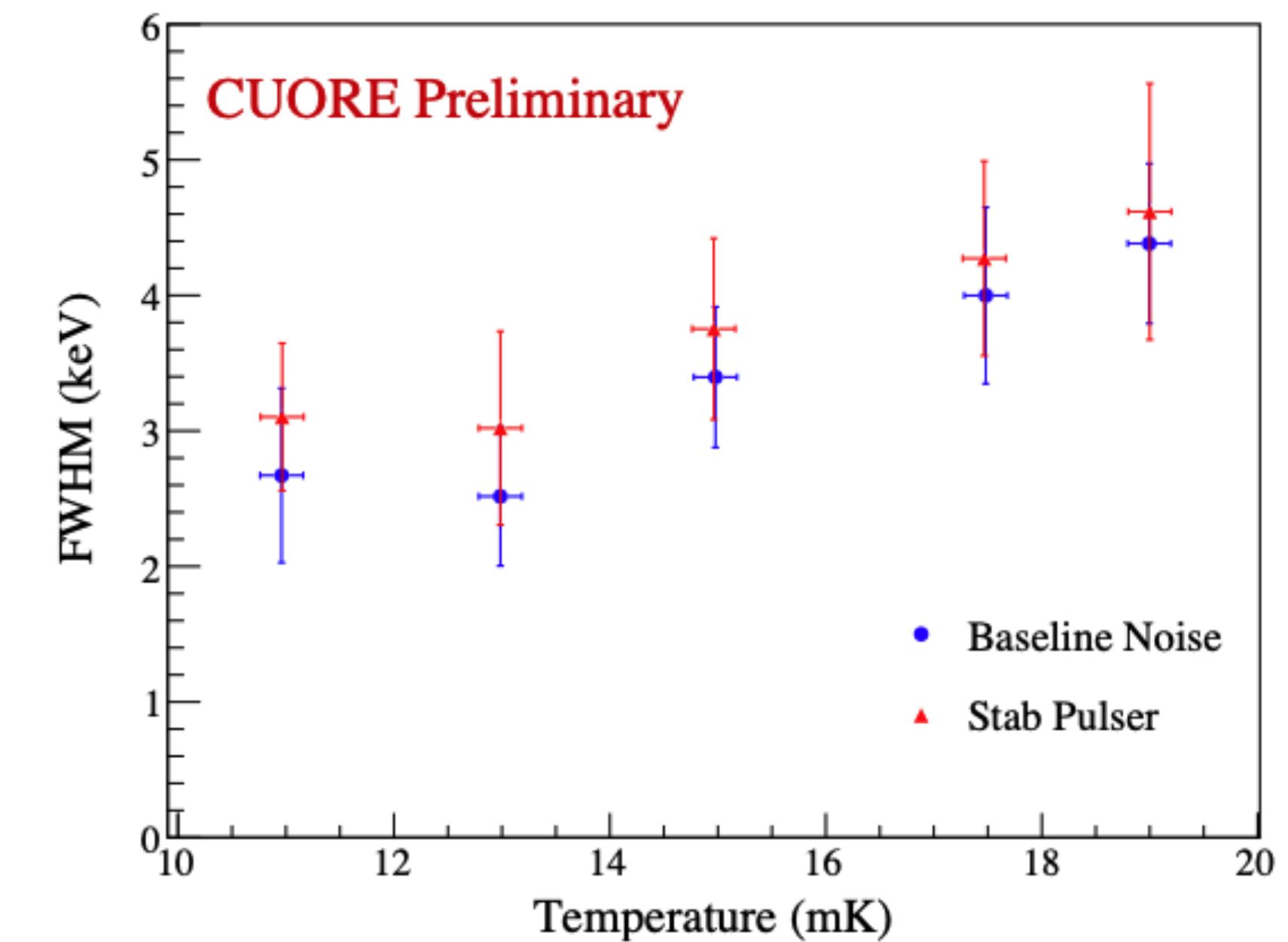
*load curves*



*PT phase scan*

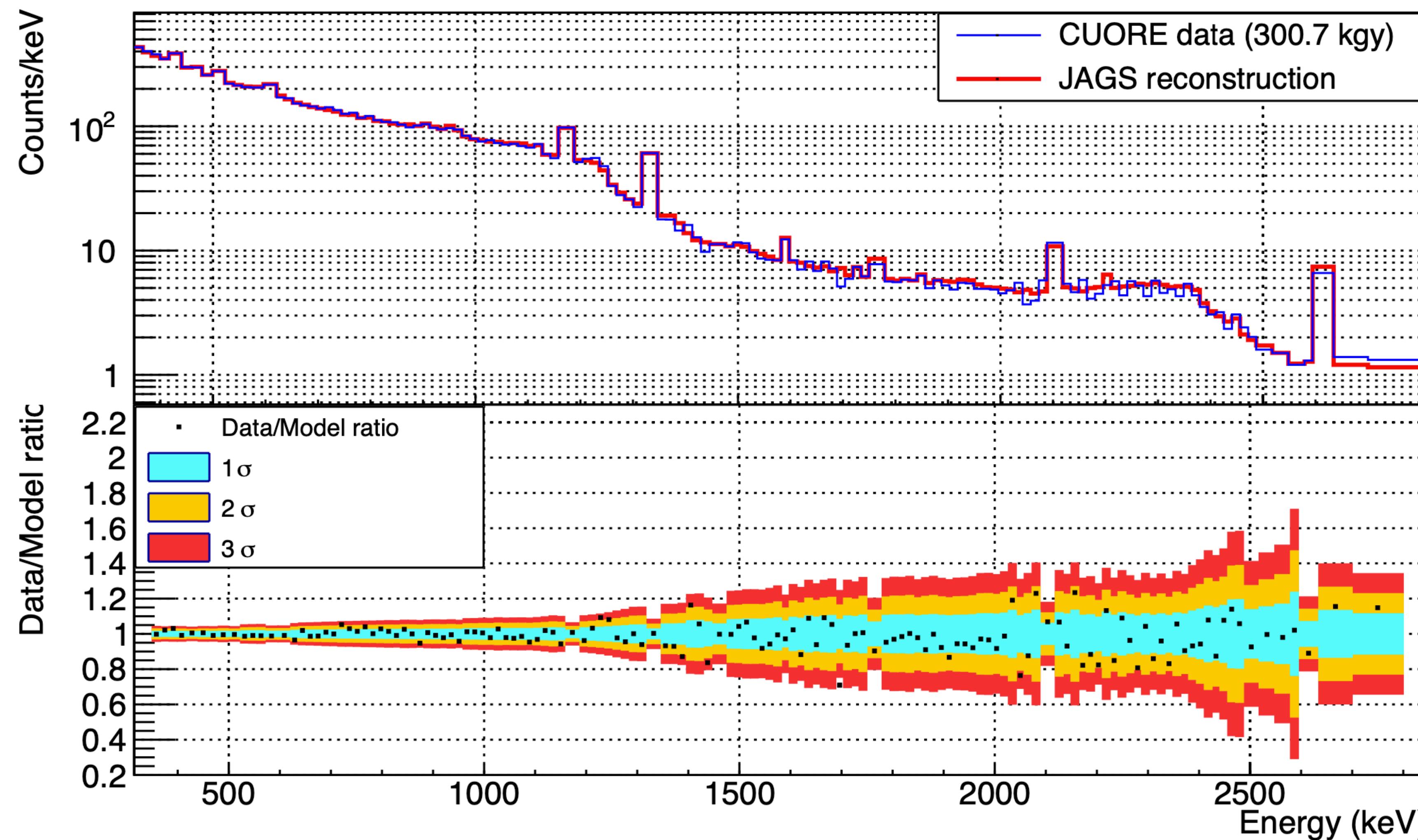


Median FWHM vs Temperature - October 2017 Temperature Scan

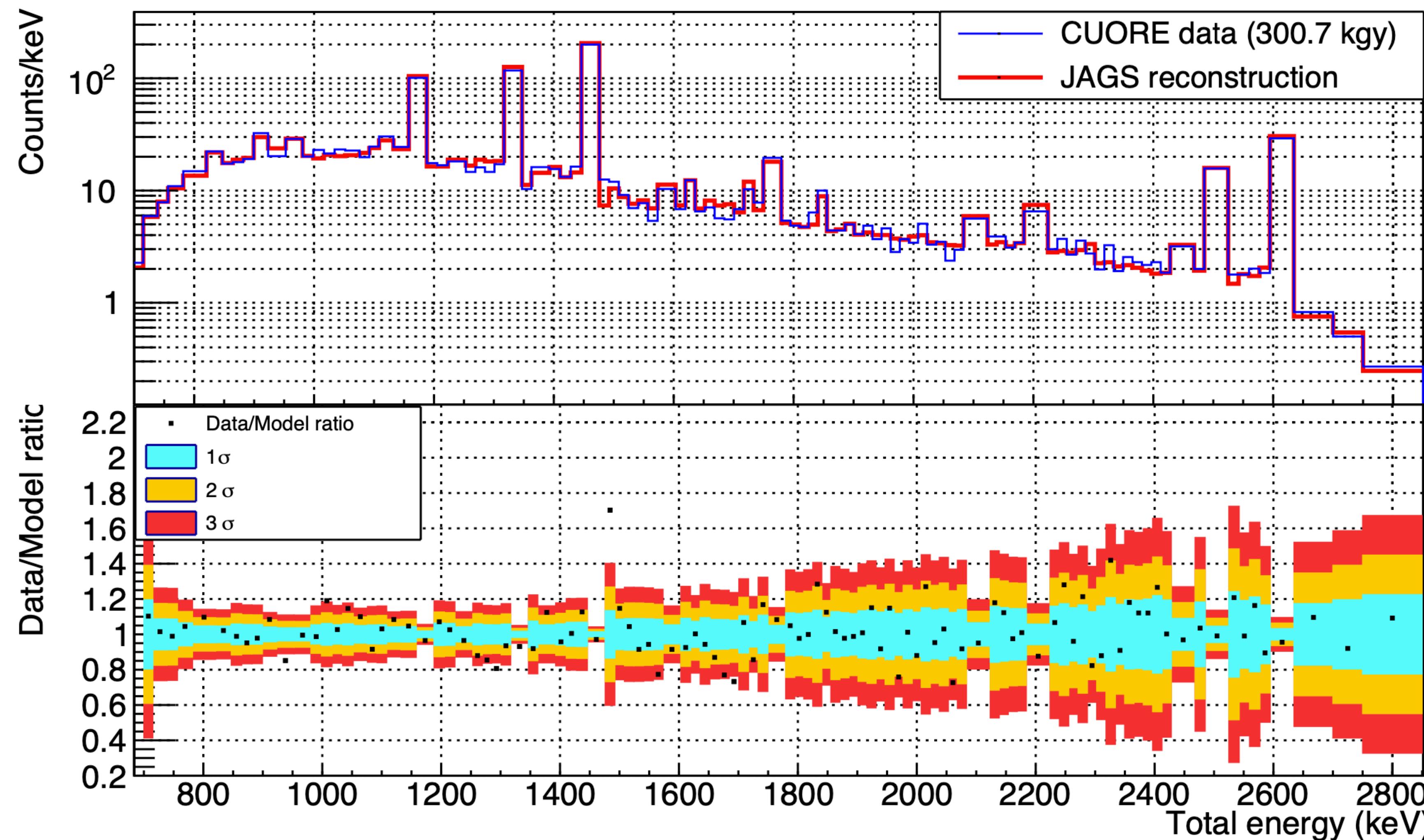


*temperature scan*

# M2 SPECTRUM FIT (JAGS)



# M2-SUM SPECTRUM FIT (JAGS)



# EFFECT OF $^{90}\text{Sr}$ REMOVAL

