



# Research and Development for XENONnT and future Dark Matter Searches

**Kai Martens**

Kavli IPMU, The University of Tokyo

for the Japanese collaborators on XENONnT  
and DARWIN/XLZD



# FY2023 Grant



30,000 JPY granted for travel.

Contributed to a Nagoya University researcher's trip to Kamioka for work on the tritium measurements.



# Overview

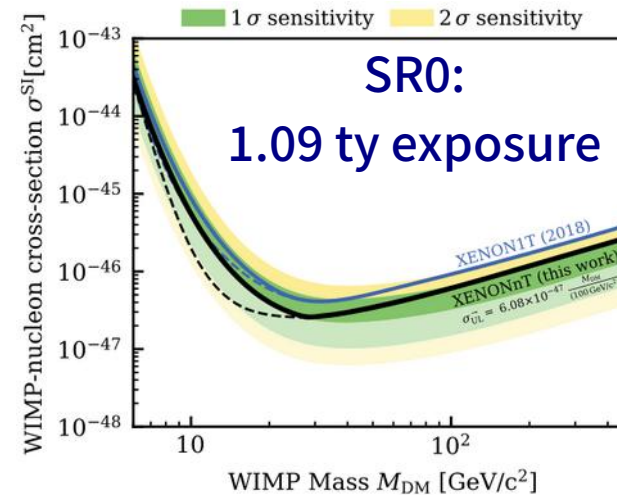
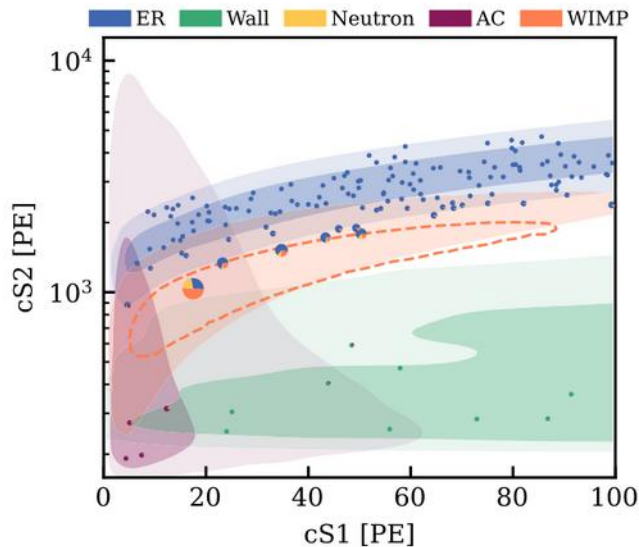


- XENONnT progress
- environmental tritium @ LNGS

# FY2023 XENONnT Result:

## First Dark Matter Search with Nuclear Recoils from the XENONnT Experiment

PRL 131, 041003 (2023) published back-to-back with LZ's PRL 131, 041002  
(above corresponding LZ analysis: data not blinded...)



# XENONnT Data Analysis

@ Nagoya University: Shingo Kazama, Masatoshi Kobayashi,  
& MS(1) student to continue to PhD

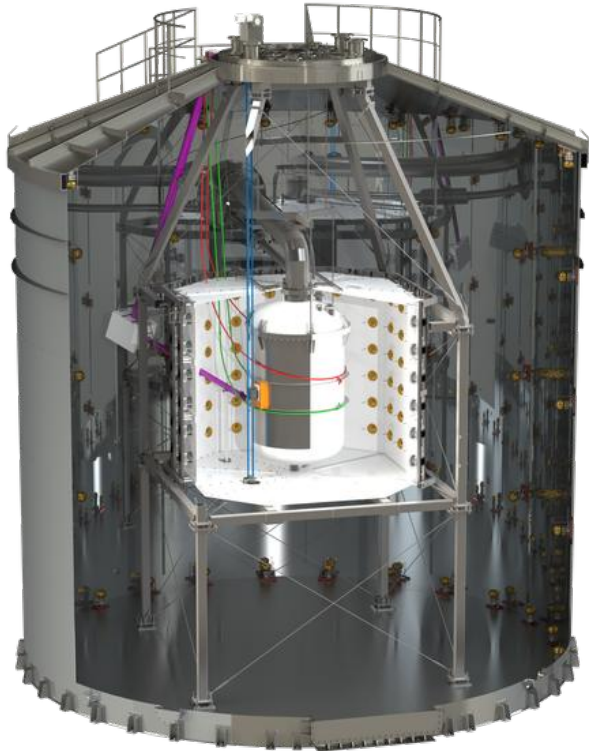
@ Kamioka: Masaki Yamashita, Shigetaka Moriyama,  
Kai Martens,  
&  $1 \times$  MS(2) + 1MS(1) students to continue to PhD

+ Kamioka FY2024: 2 PD: Yoshida (ICRR) + Tianyu Zhu (IPMU)  
1 MS (to continue to PhD)

# XENONnT Neutron Veto



XENON



is taking science data with 10%  
of full **gadolinium sulfate** loading!  
(0.05% gadolinium sulfate octahydrate, 0.02% Gd;  
full loading after potential TPC access...)

Fresh on arXiv:

XENONnT instrument paper 2402.10446:  
**pure water neutron tagging efficiency**  
**=  $(53 \pm 3)\%$**  with only 1.6% lifetime loss.

Very preliminary: AmBe data say  
“10% loading efficiency increase as expected...”

# Environmental Tritium

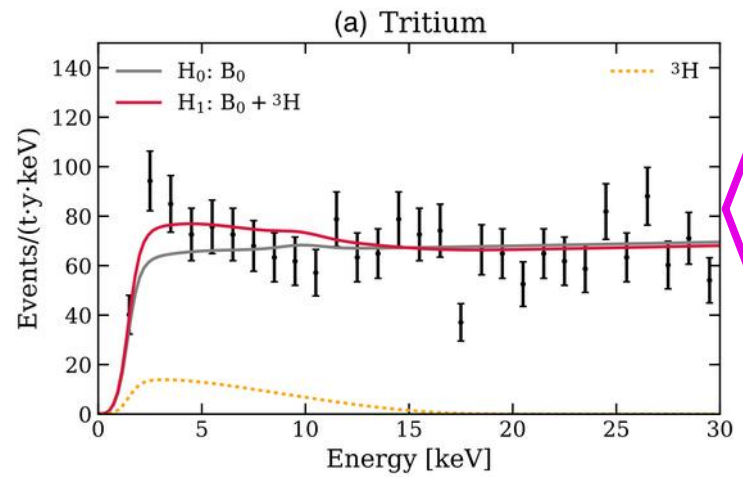
2020: XENON1T low energy electron recoil **excess**???

2023: XENONnT no excess...

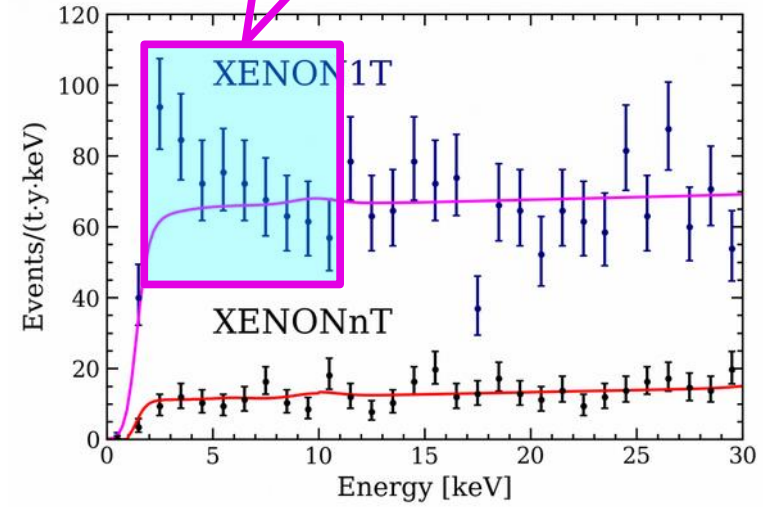


What was it?

Tritium hypothesis already in 2020 paper:



Needs  
 $10^{-24}$   
mol/mol  
of tritium (T)



XENON1T paper:  
 $H_2O \sim 1$  ppb,  $O_2 < 1$  ppb  
 $HTO/H_2O \sim 10^{-17}$  mol/mol  
 How much underground at LNGS?



# LNGS HT/HTO measurements

## Measurements:

Kamioka: DARWIN/XLZD  
*potential site...*

LNGS: XENON1T excess...  
XnT proves site OK;  
Underground being analyzed

## Sampling system

- Sampling: 3 weeks with ~7SLPM
- Amount of samples for each measurement
  - HTO : ~700-1000g
  - HT : ~14g
- Samples are sent to IES and measured with liquid scintillator

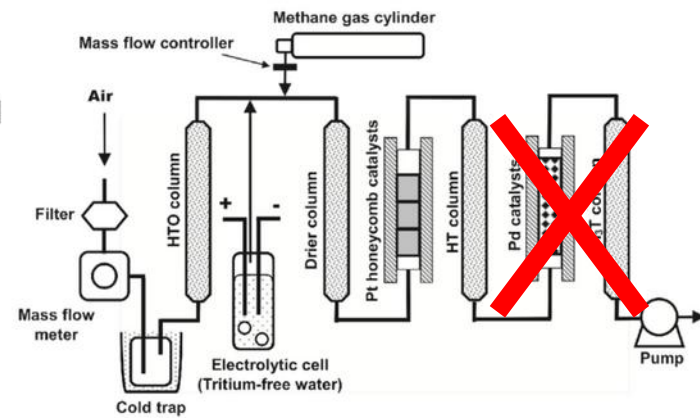


Fig. 2. Sampling system of atmospheric HTO, HT and CH<sub>3</sub>T.

Journal of Environmental Radioactivity  
Volume 102, Issue 9, September 2011, Pages 837-842

IES = Institute for Environmental Sciences  
(Aomori Pref., Dr. Kakiuchi)

	period	HTO [TU*]	HT [TU*]
Kamioka Underground	2021/11/30-12/23	2.4+/-0.1	(1.6+/-0.02)x10 <sup>5</sup>
Kamioka Surface	2022/5/24-6/7	6.7+/-0.1	(1.3+/-0.02)x10 <sup>5</sup>
LNGS • surface	2022/1/29-2/10	5-10 **	(1.1+/-0.02)x10 <sup>5</sup>

\* 1TU = 10<sup>-18</sup>

\*\* W. Plastino et al., Radiat. Meas. 42, 68 (2007)



# Summary

- XENONnT published its first NR paper – the only blind analysis from a G2 liquid xenon experiment so far!
- the XENONnT neutron veto now has Gd-sulfate to boost neutron induced nuclear-recoil rejection (Kamioka technology!)
- XENONnT continues taking data – more results coming...
- future analysis coordination Nagoya/Kamioka: travel support needed!

## FY2023 published XENONnT technical papers:

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 P07054

Detector signal characterization with a Bayesian network in XENONnT

Phys. Rev. D 108, 012016