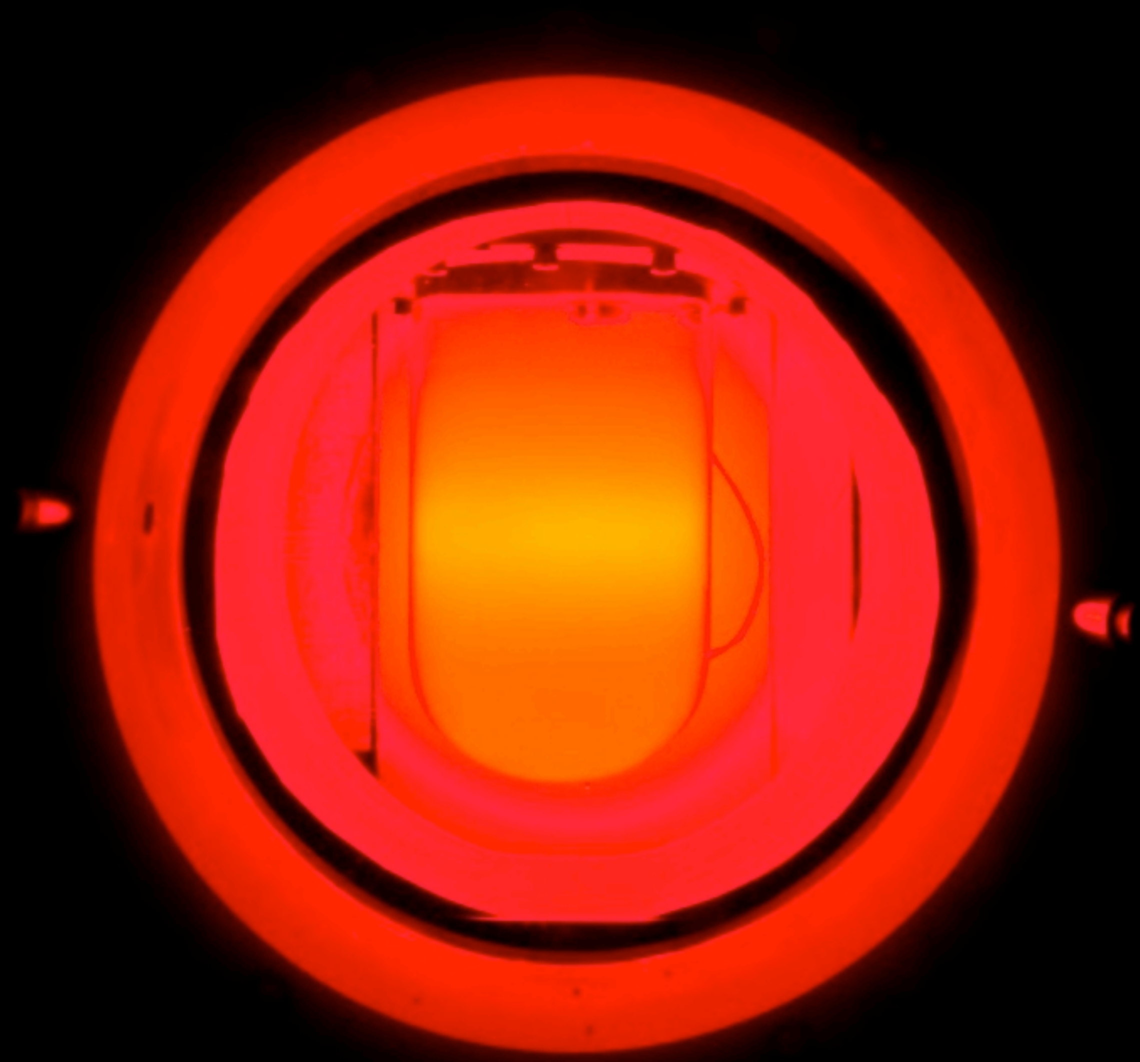
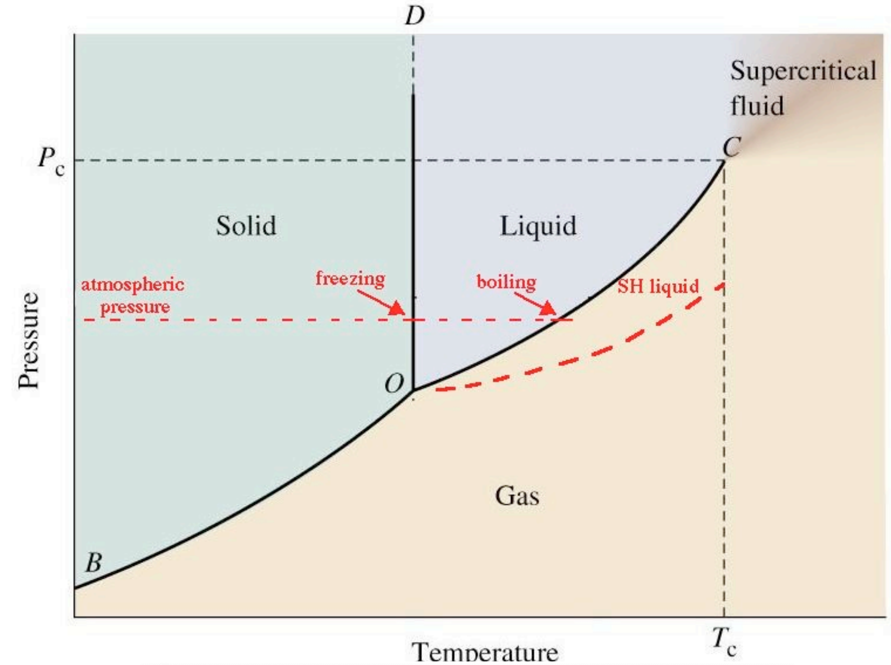
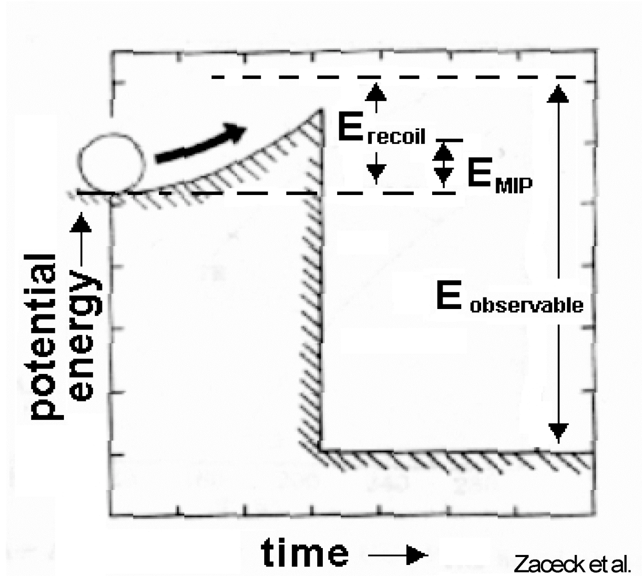
What's so special about COUPP?



COUPP approach to WIMP detection:

- Detection of single bubbles induced by high-dE/dx nuclear recoils in heavy liquid bubble chambers
- $<10^{-10}$ rejection factor for MIPs. *INTRINSIC* (no data cuts)
- Scalability: large masses easily monitored (built-in "amplification"). Choice of three triggers: pressure, acoustic, motion (video))
- Revisit an old detector technology with improvements leading to extended (unlimited?) stability (*ultra-clean* BC)
- Excellent sensitivity to both SD and SI couplings (CF_3I)
- Target fluid can be replaced (e.g., C_3F_8, C_4F_{10}, CF_3Br). Useful for separation between n- and WIMP-recoils and pinpointing WIMP in SUSY parameter space.
- High spatial granularity = additional n rejection mechanism
- Low cost, room temperature operation, safe chemistry (fire-extinguishing industrial refrigerants), moderate pressures (<200 psig)
- Single concentration: reducing α-emitters in fluids to levels already achieved elsewhere (~10^{-17}) will lead to complete probing of SUSY models

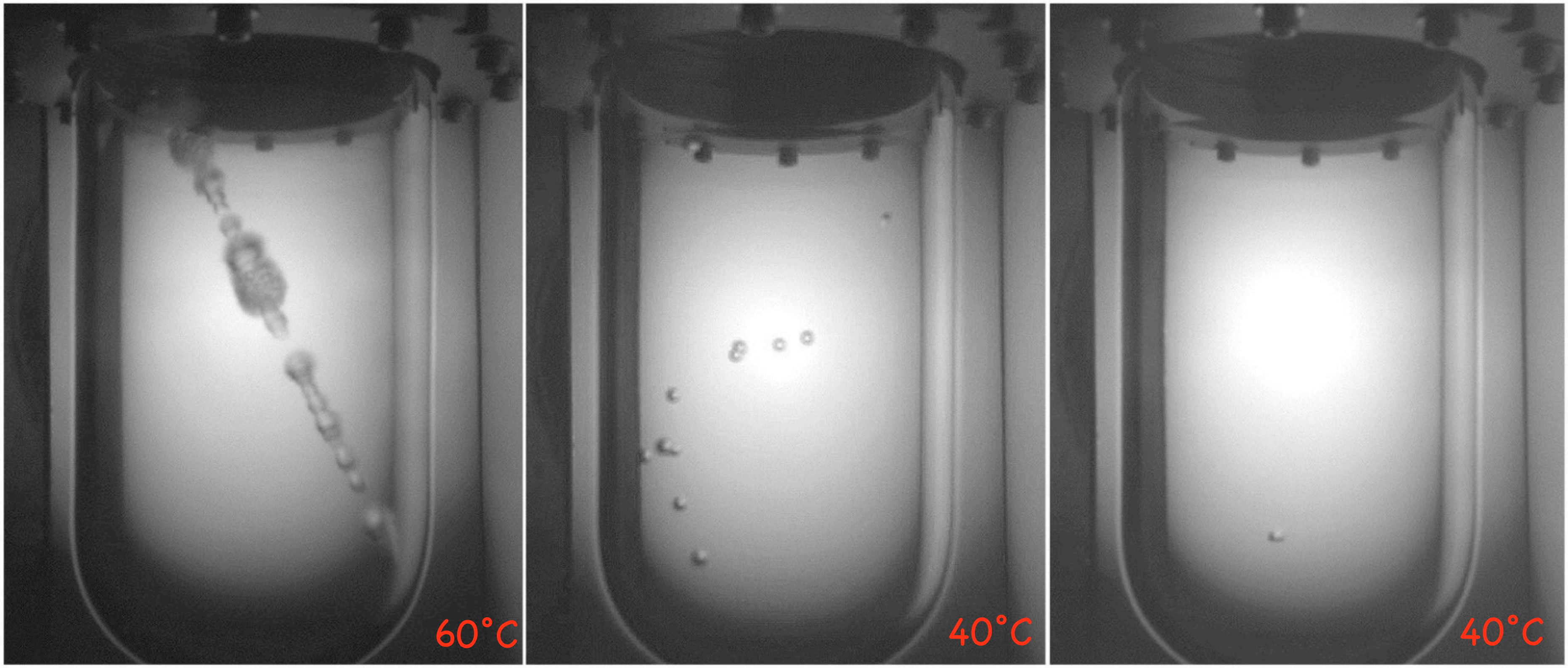




Not your daddy's bubble chamber:

Conventional BC operation
(high superheat, MIP sensitive)

Low degree of superheat, <u>sensitive to nuclear recoils only</u>



muon | Neutron | WIMP

ultra-clean BC: Bolte *et al.*, NIM A577 (2007) 569

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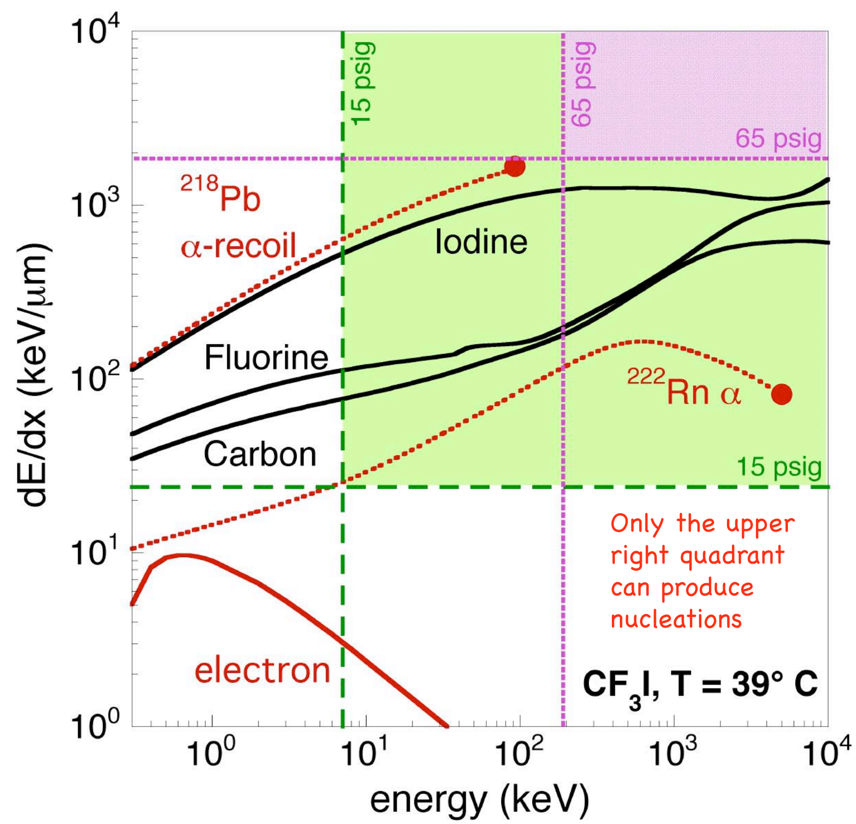
Seitz model of bubble nucleation (classical BC theory):

Threshold in deposited energy

$$E > E_c = 4\pi r_c^2\left(\gamma - T\frac{\partial\gamma}{\partial T}\right) + \frac{4}{3}\pi r_c^3 \rho_v \frac{h_{fg}}{M} + \frac{4}{3}\pi r_c^3 P \quad , \quad r_c = 2\gamma/\Delta P$$

$$dE/dx > E_c/(a r_c)$$

Threshold also in stopping power, allows for efficient INTRINSIC MIP background rejection



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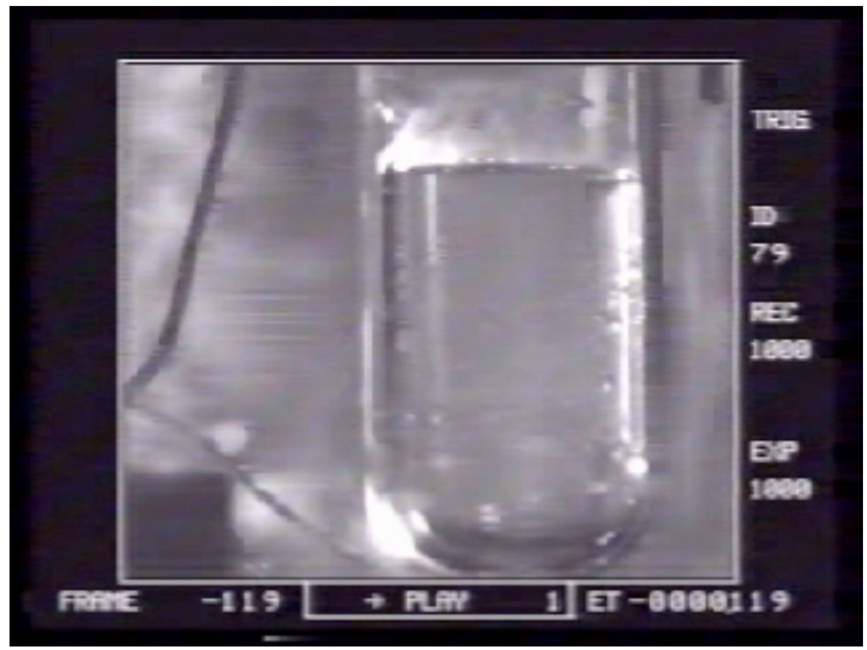
neutron-induced nucleation in 20 c.c. CF_3Br (0.1 s real-time span)
Movie available from http://cfcp.uchicago.edu/~collar/bubble.mov



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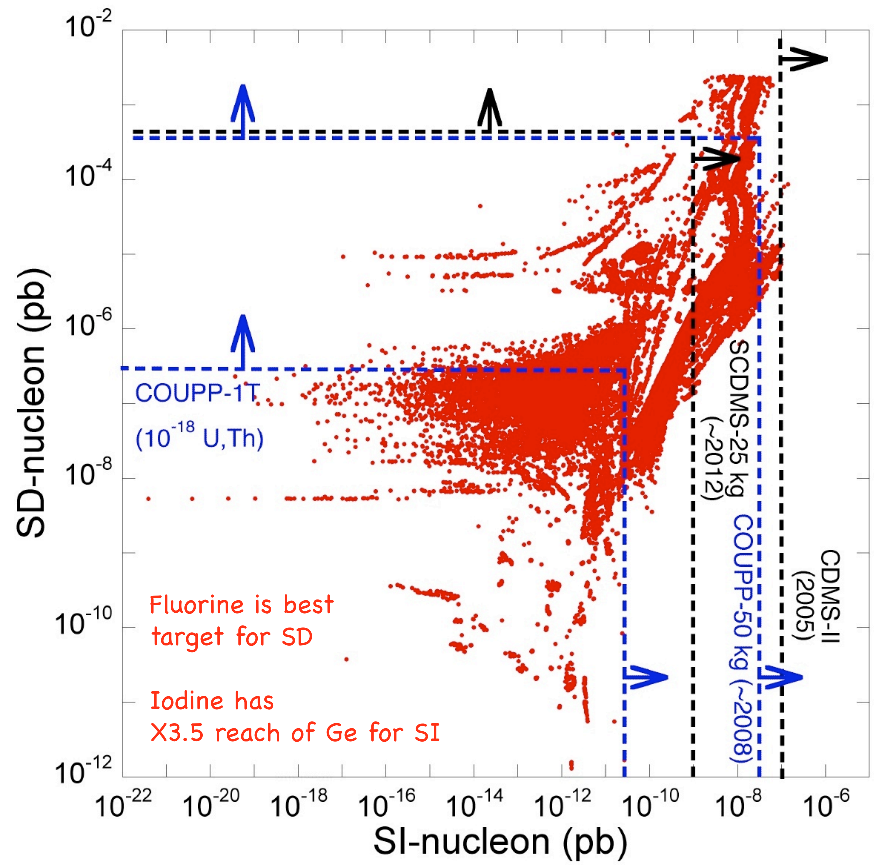
An old precept: attack on both fronts



Baltz & Gondolo, JHEP 0410:052,2004. (WMAP-II update)

SD SUSY space harder to get to, but more robust predictions (astro-ph/0001511, 0509269, and refs. therein)

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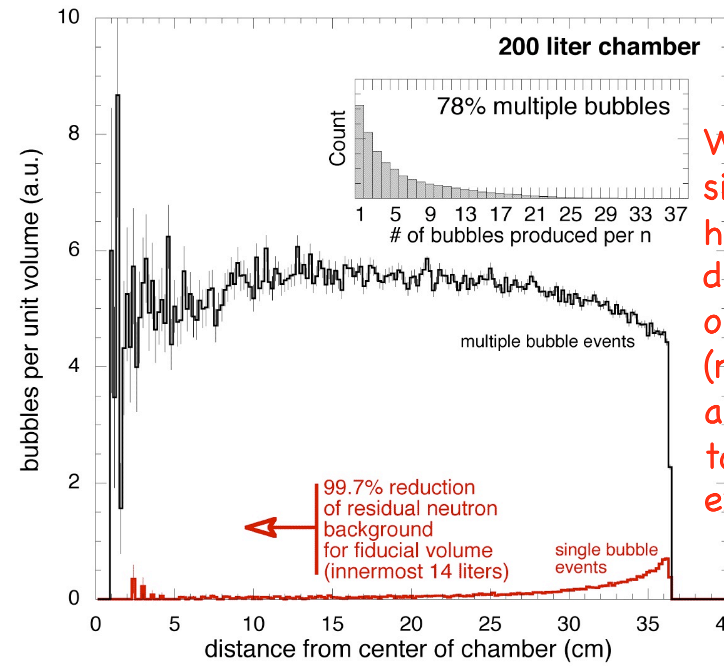
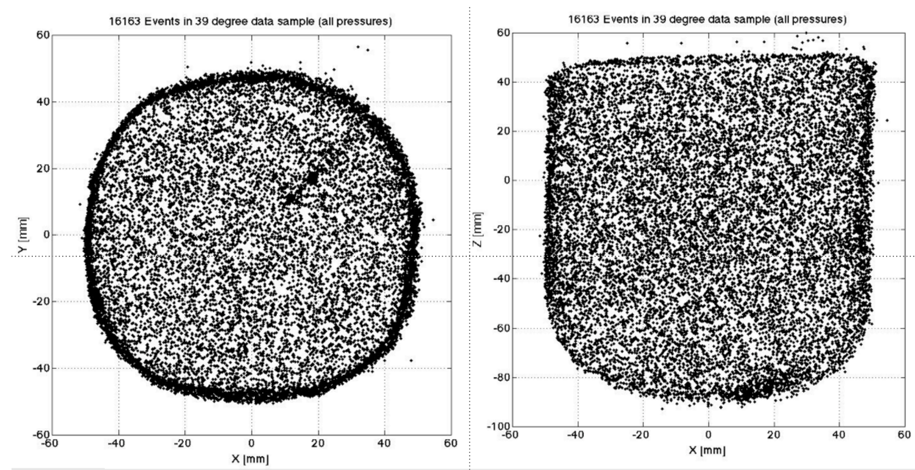
Larger chambers will be "self-shielding"



WIMP signature: homogeneous distribution of singles (n-induced accumulate towards the exterior)



Spatial distribution of bubbles (~1 mm resol.)

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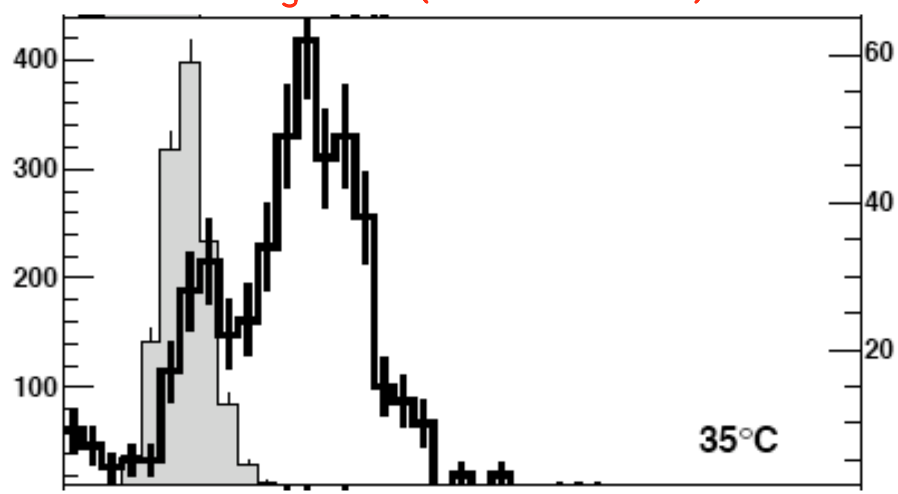
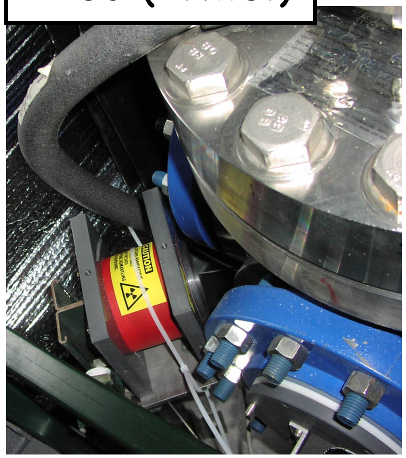
Some exciting news! (arXiv:0807.1536)

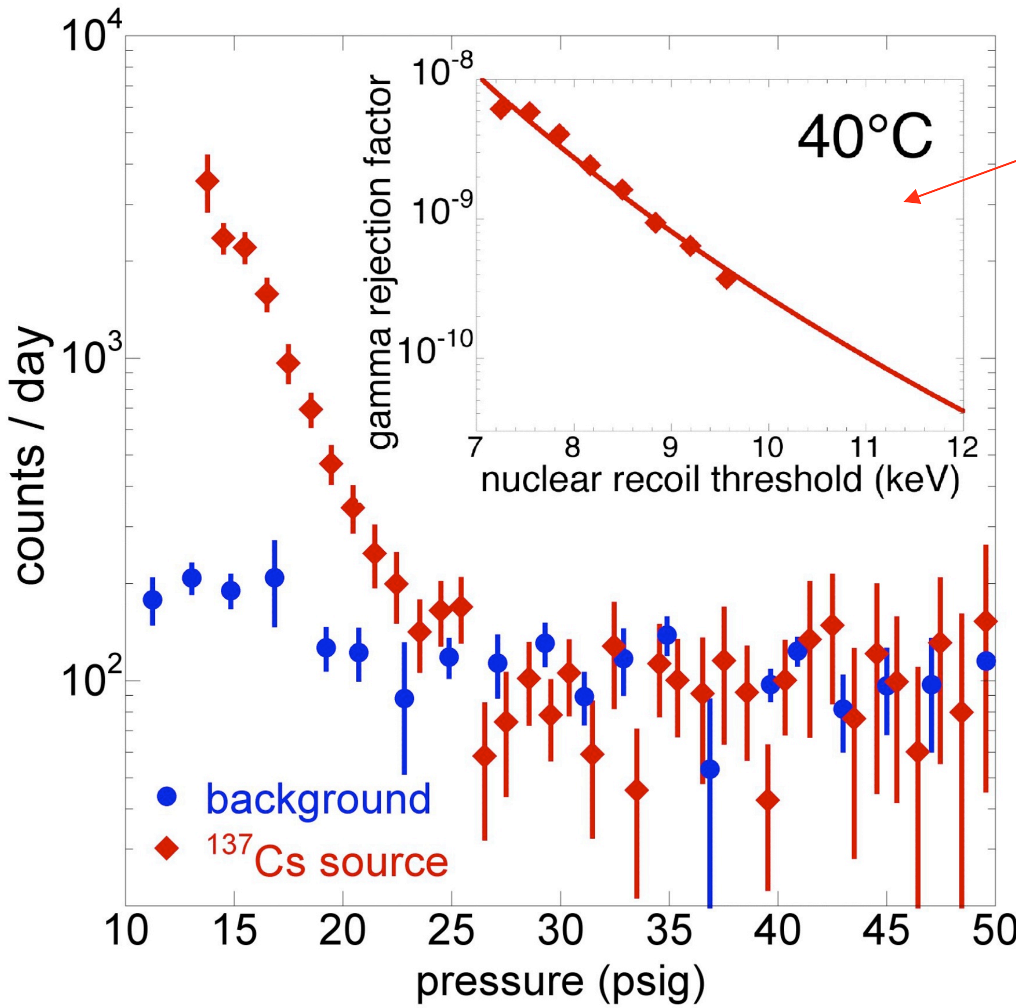


Acoustic alpha/neutron discrimination in SDDs (we believe the effect should be much larger in bulk superheated liquids)

Gamma and neutron calibrations *in situ:*

^{137}Cs (13mCi)





Best MIP rejection factor measured anywhere ($<10^{-10}$ INTRINSIC, no data cuts)

Other experiments as a reference:
XENON ~10^{-2}
CDMS 10^{-4}–10^{-5}
WARP ~10^{-7}-10^{-8}

^{14}C betas not an issue for COUPP (typical O(100)/kg-day)
No need for high-Z shield
nor attention to chamber material selection

Switchable Am/Be (5 n/s)

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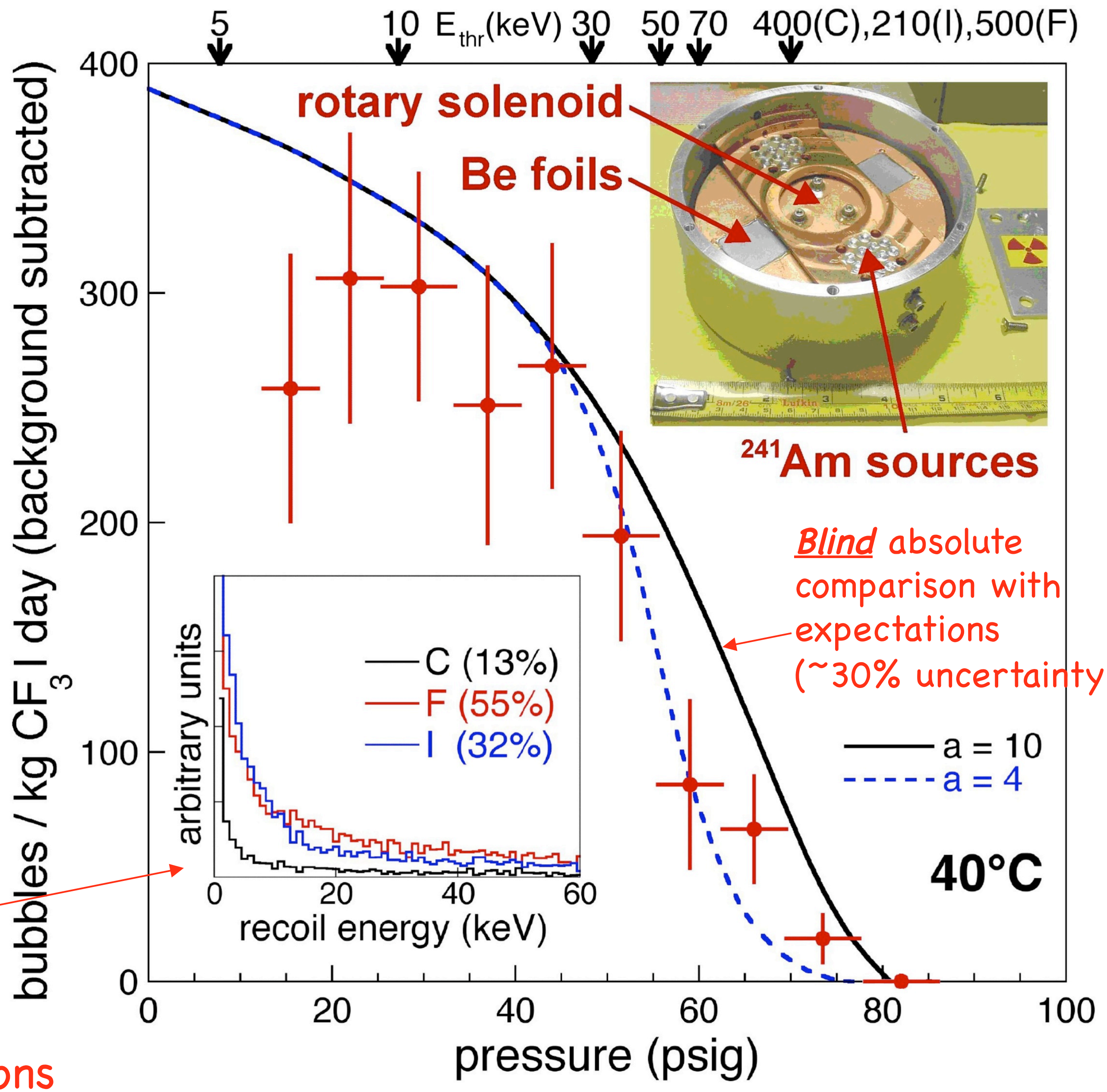
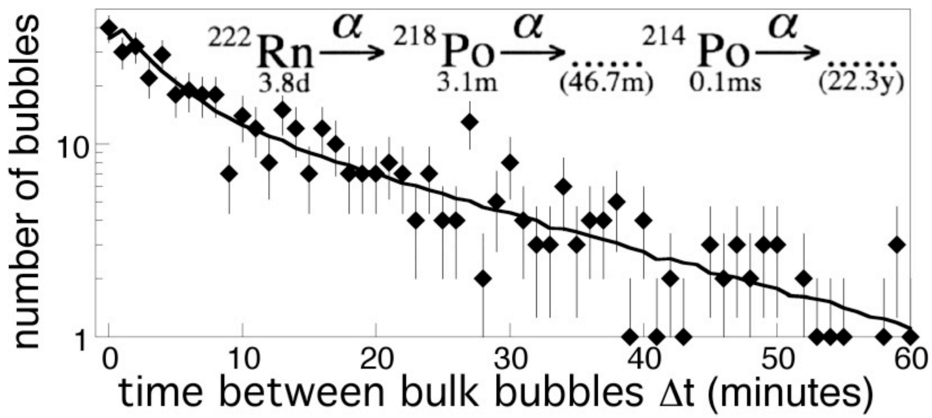
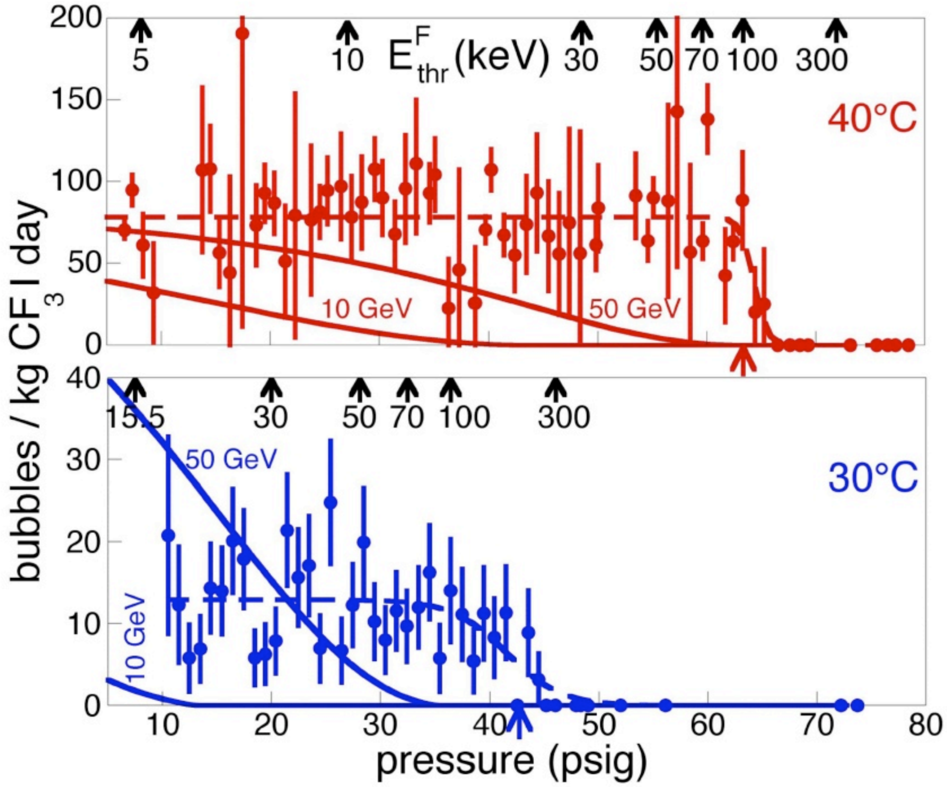


Blind absolute comparison with expectations (~30% uncertainty in those)

Low-energy WIMP-like recoil energy signal used in these calibrations

A look at the 1st period data: Rn and only Rn





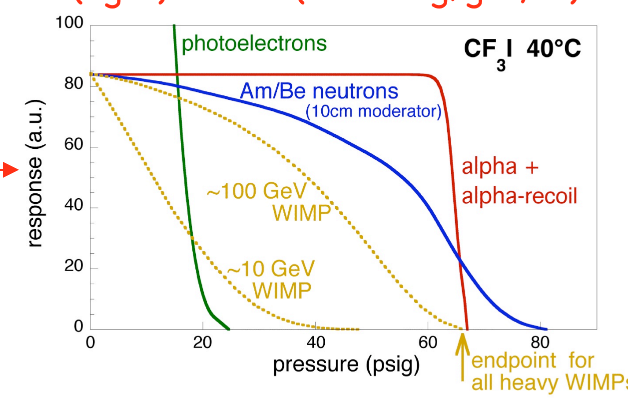
Surface events

- Surface (alpha) rate consistent with measured 50 ppb U and 30 ppb Th in standard quartz
- Tell-tale pressure sensitivity onset (α's)
- Can be rejected, but must be reduced by > 10 to allow >60% live-time in ~50kg chambers
- Addressed via modified etch during vessel manufacture and use of synthetic silica (few ppt)

Bulk events

- Rn sources present: viton o-ring, thoriated weld lines.
- Time correlations of bulk events are consistent with 3.1 minute half-life of Po-218. Max. likelihood analysis Favors 100% Rn and 100% efficiency to it.
- Addressed by use of metallic gaskets, lanthanated tips for flange welding, custom-made bellows (electron beam welded) and SNO (light) water (~1E-15 g/g U,Th).

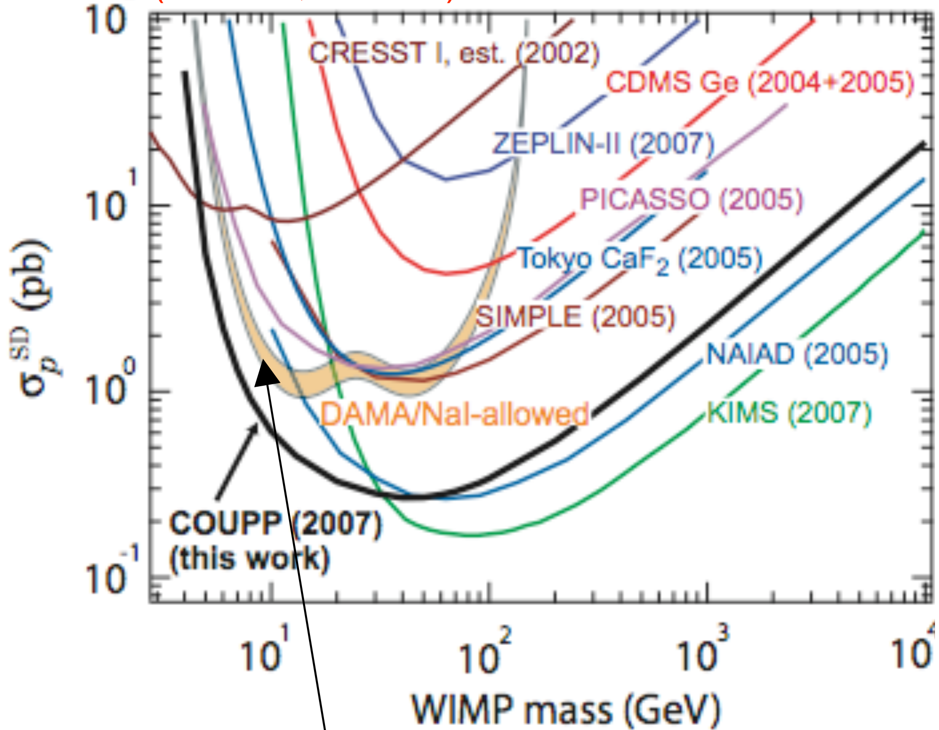
when life gives you lemons... →

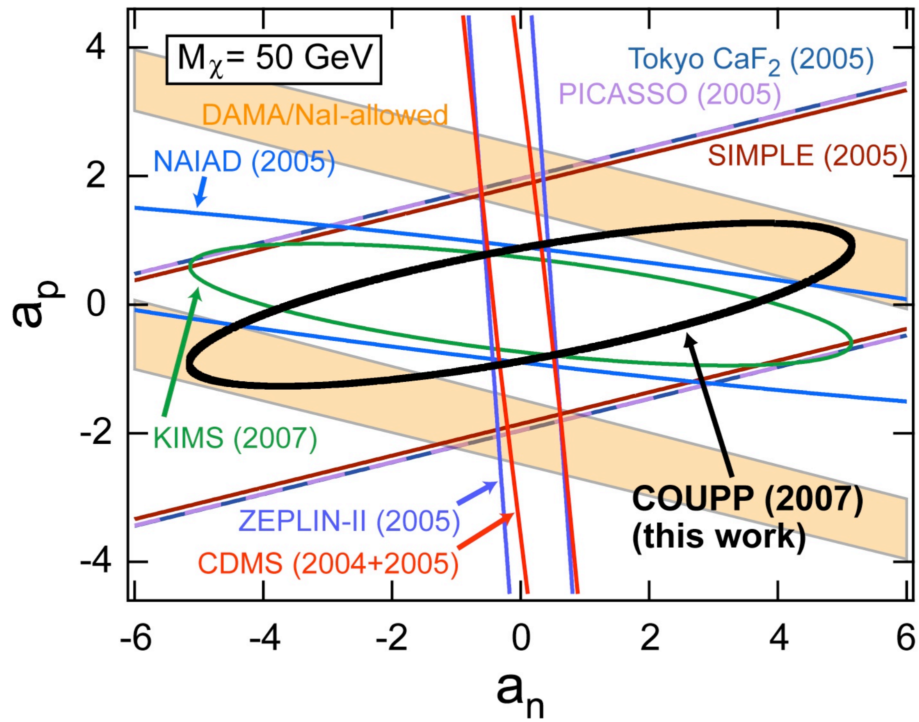


First COUPP results

The bubble chamber is back

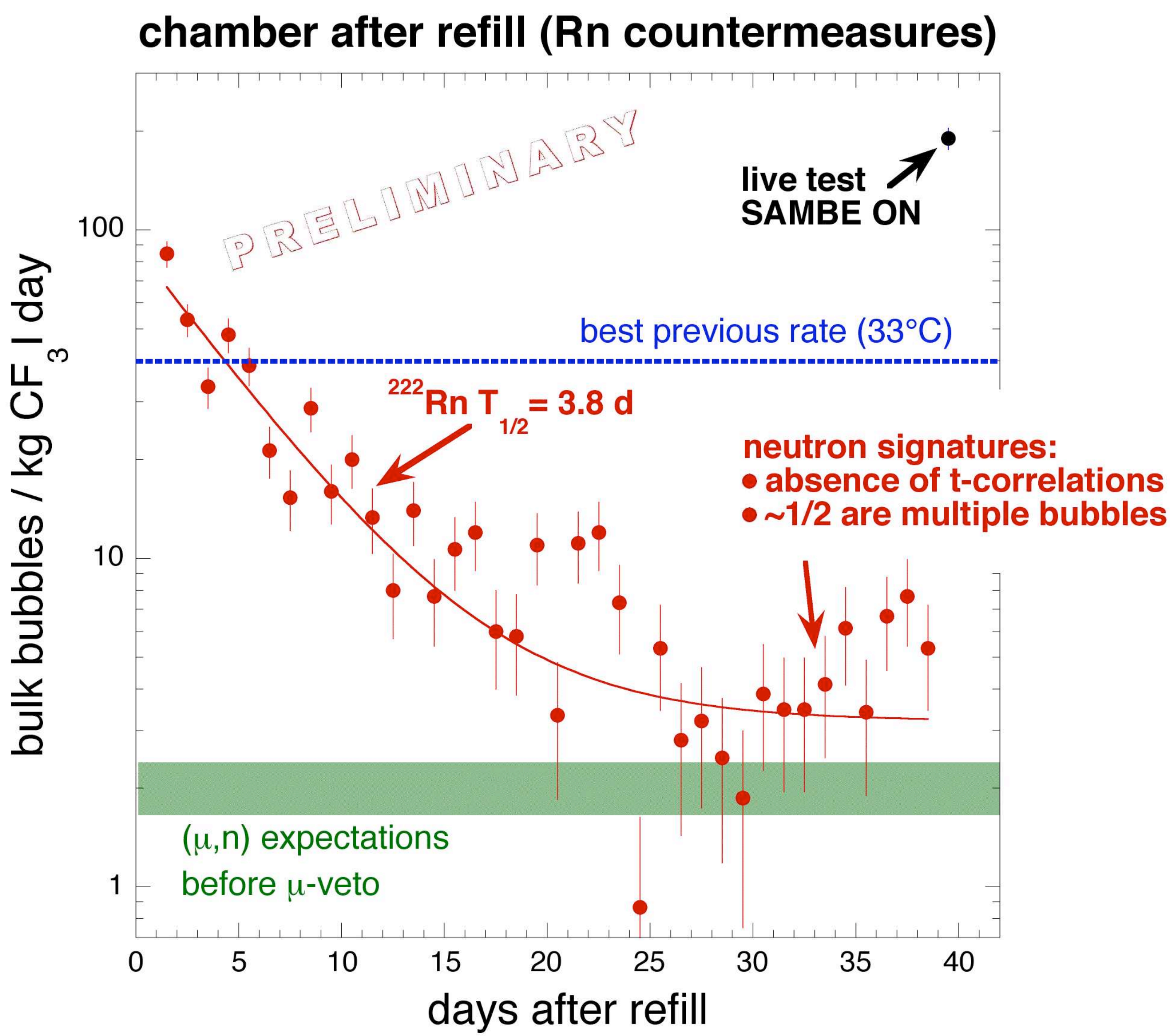
Improved SD WIMP sensitivity with 2kg chamber (*Science*, Feb. 08)





New limits exclude the low-mass region favored by a SD interpretation of the DAMA/NaI signal

A peek at the future (which is here)

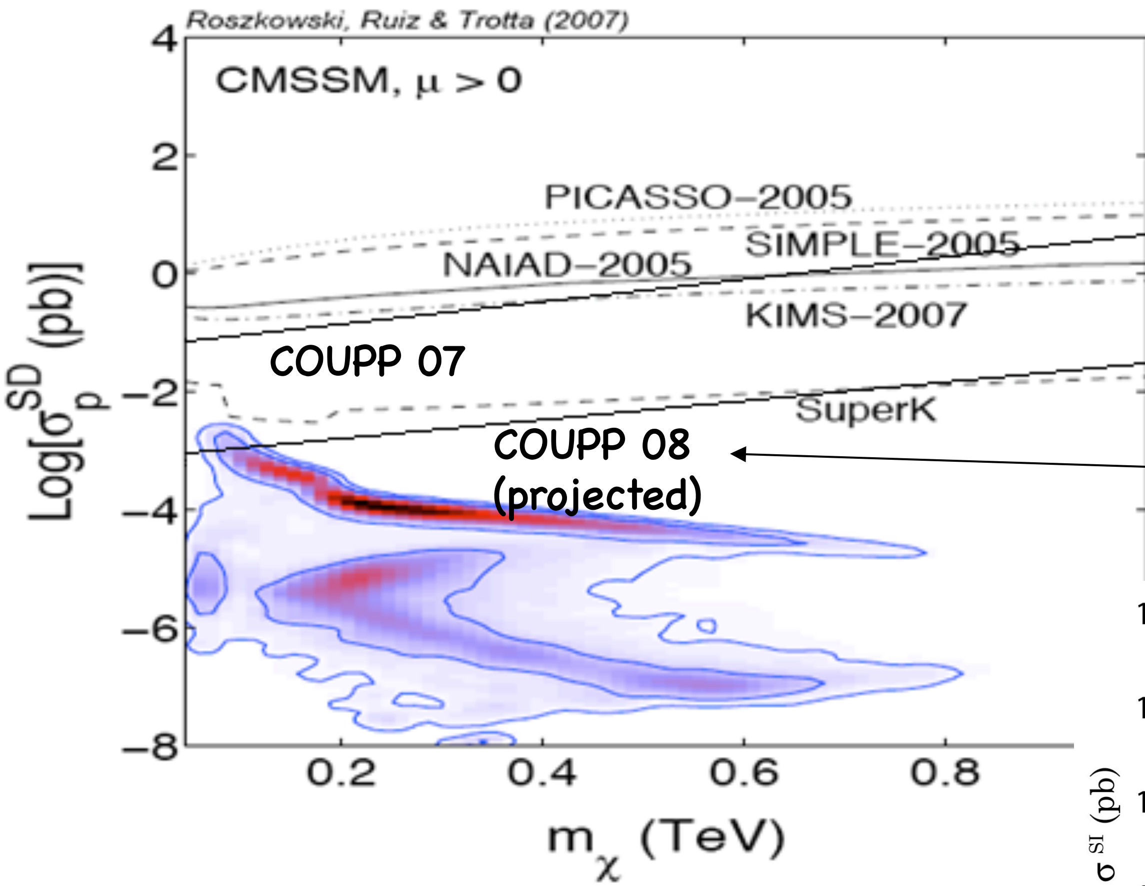


Next step: ~100 kg target mass, deeper site

Encouraged by FNAL directorate to start thinking "1 ton"

Physics Reach at Fermilab Site

Background goal for E-961: <1 event per kg per day



2008 goals: exploring SD favored region for the first time,

competitive SI limits.