CONNIE experiment overview

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CONNIE goal: lower the energy threshold

Look for coherent ν-nucleus interactions by measuring the ionization produced by the nuclear recoils

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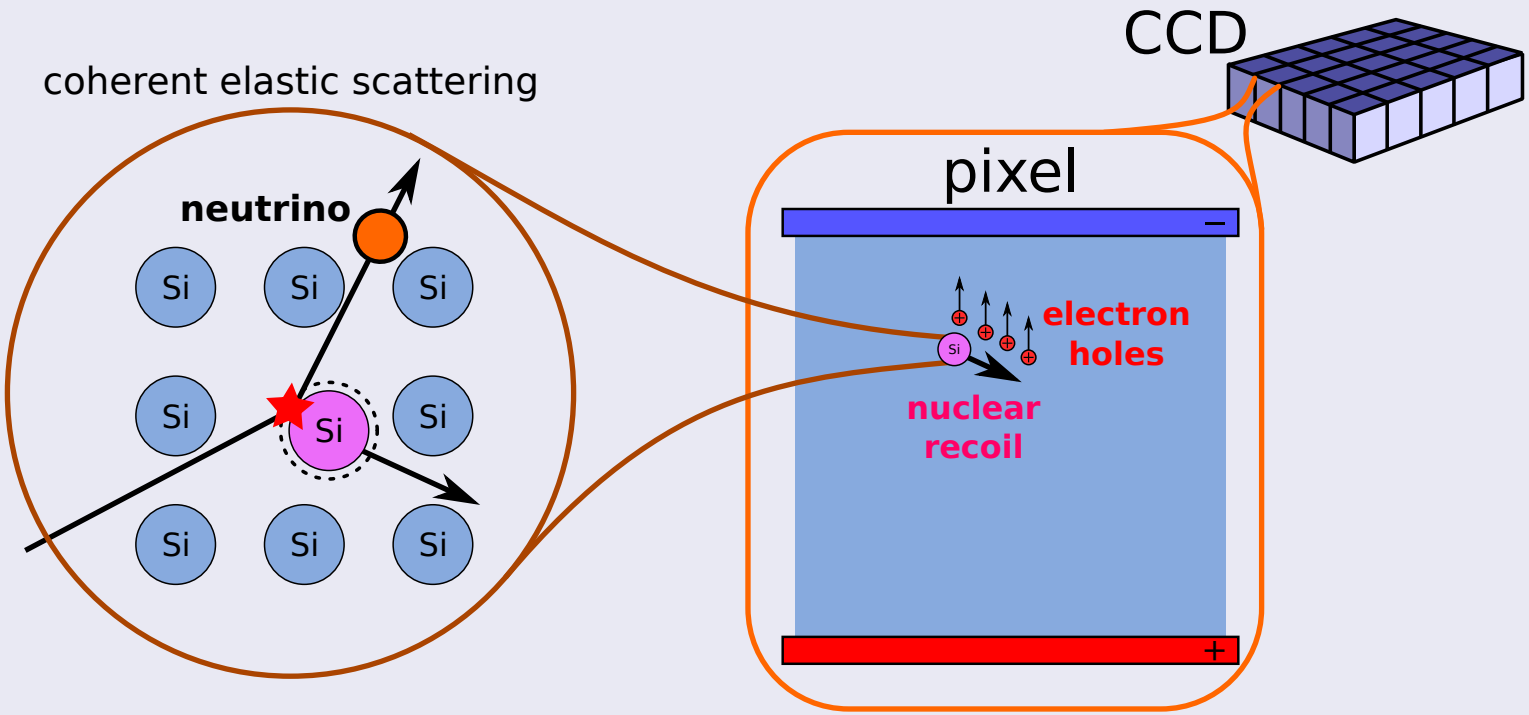
Look for coherent ν-nucleus interactions by measuring the ionization produced by the nuclear recoils

Idea: use CCDs as target and record the ionization produced in Si



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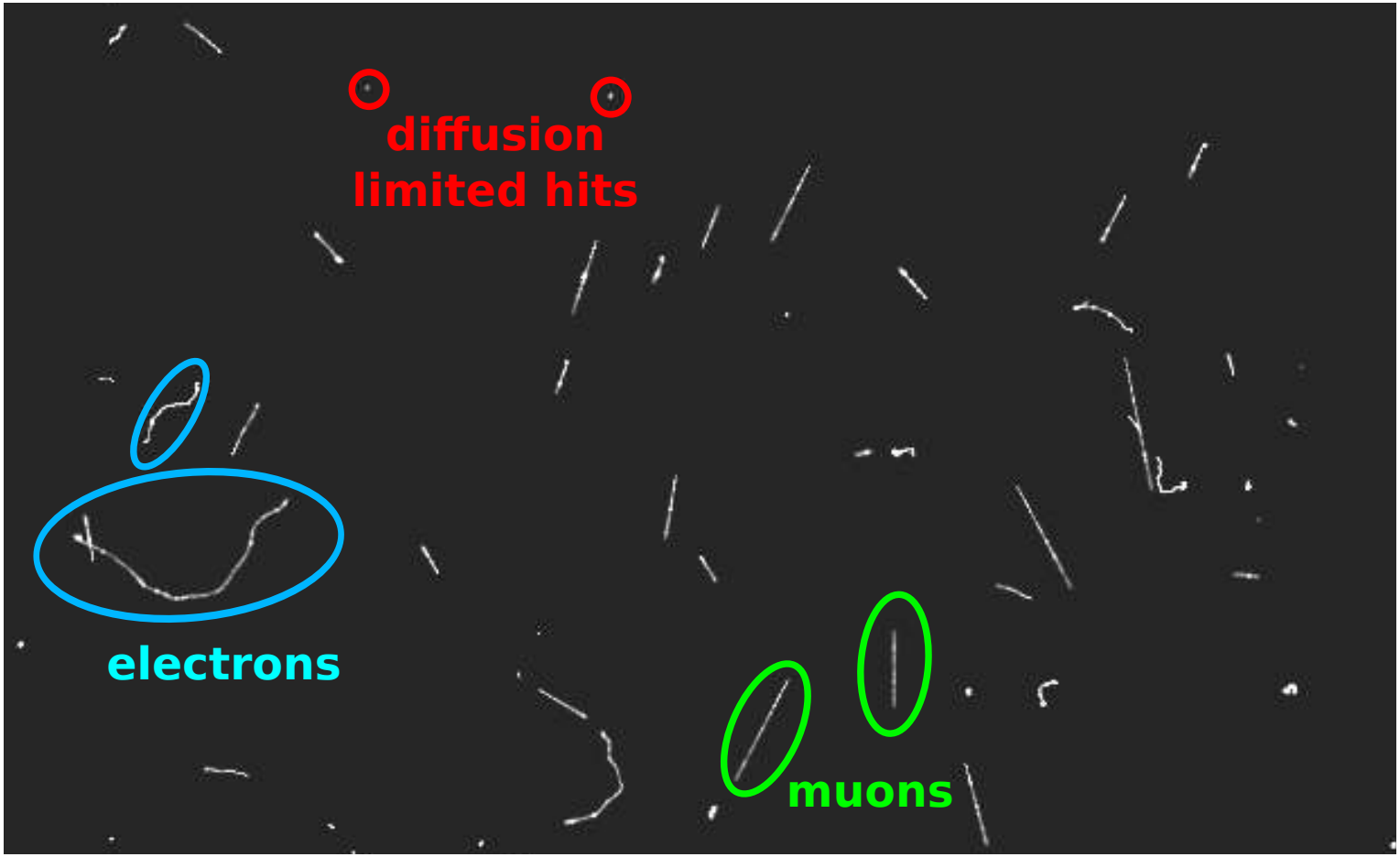

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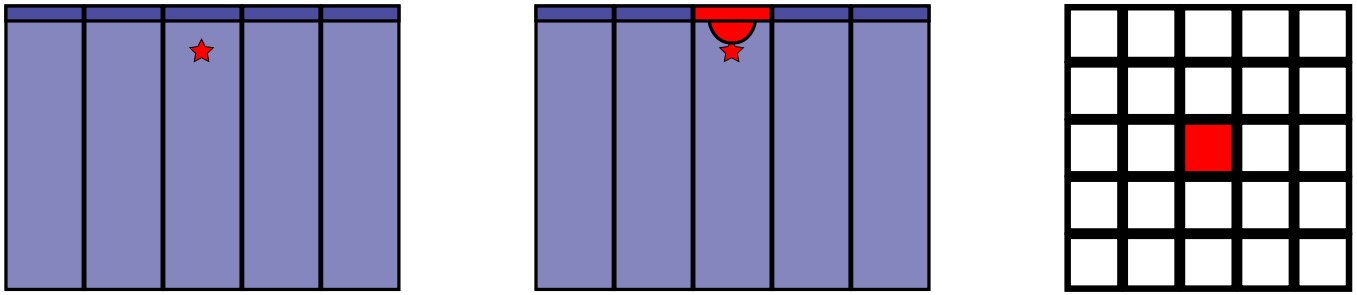

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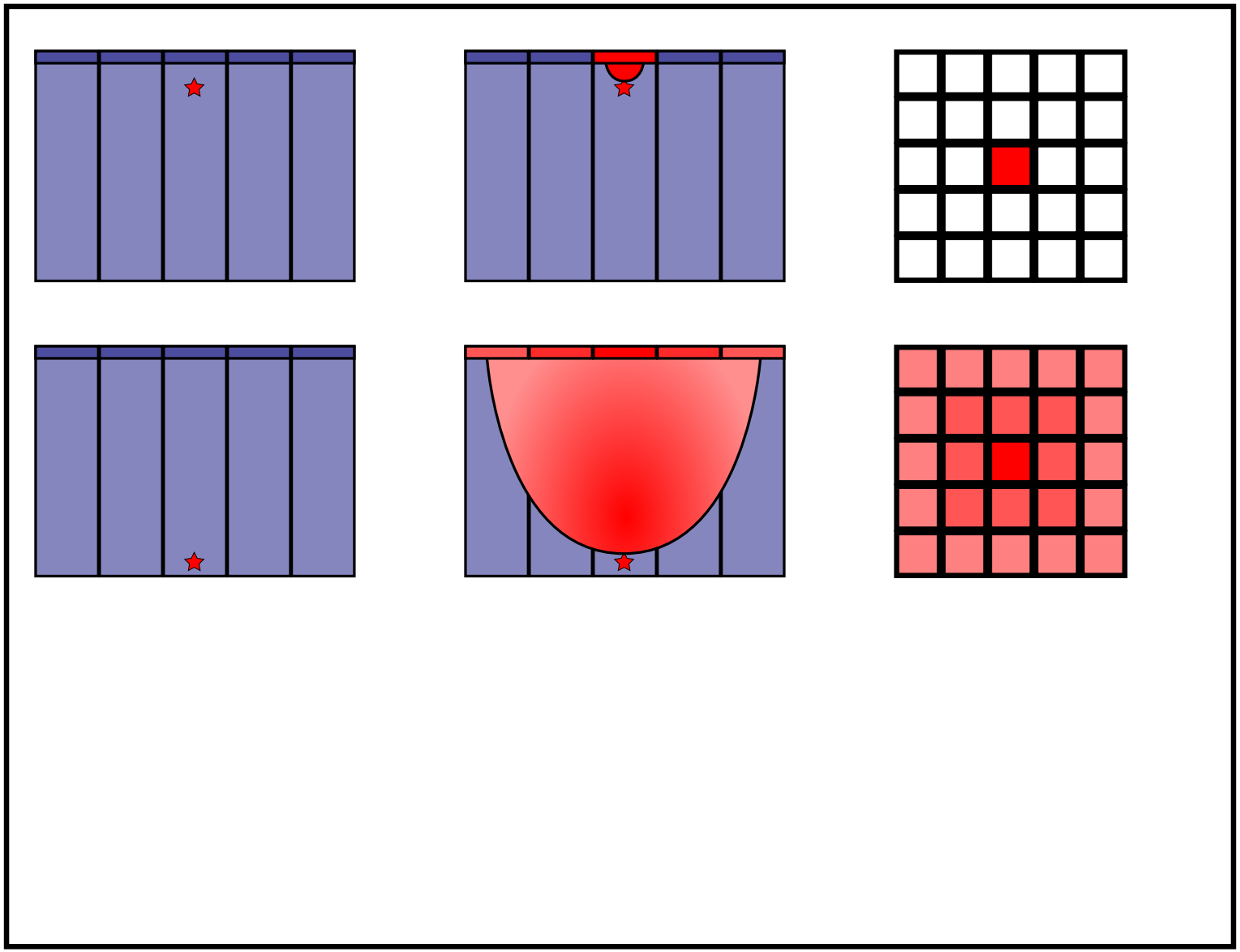

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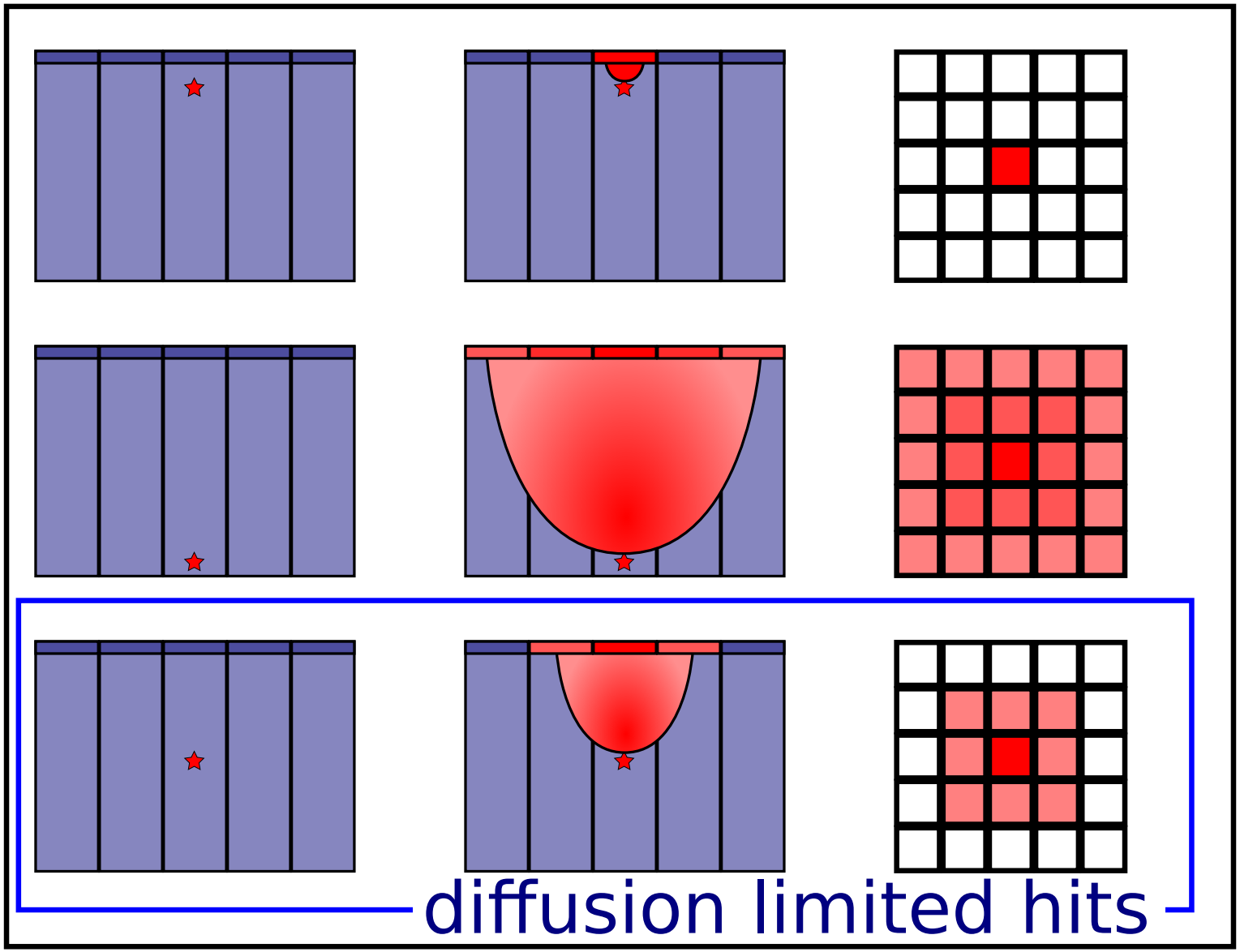
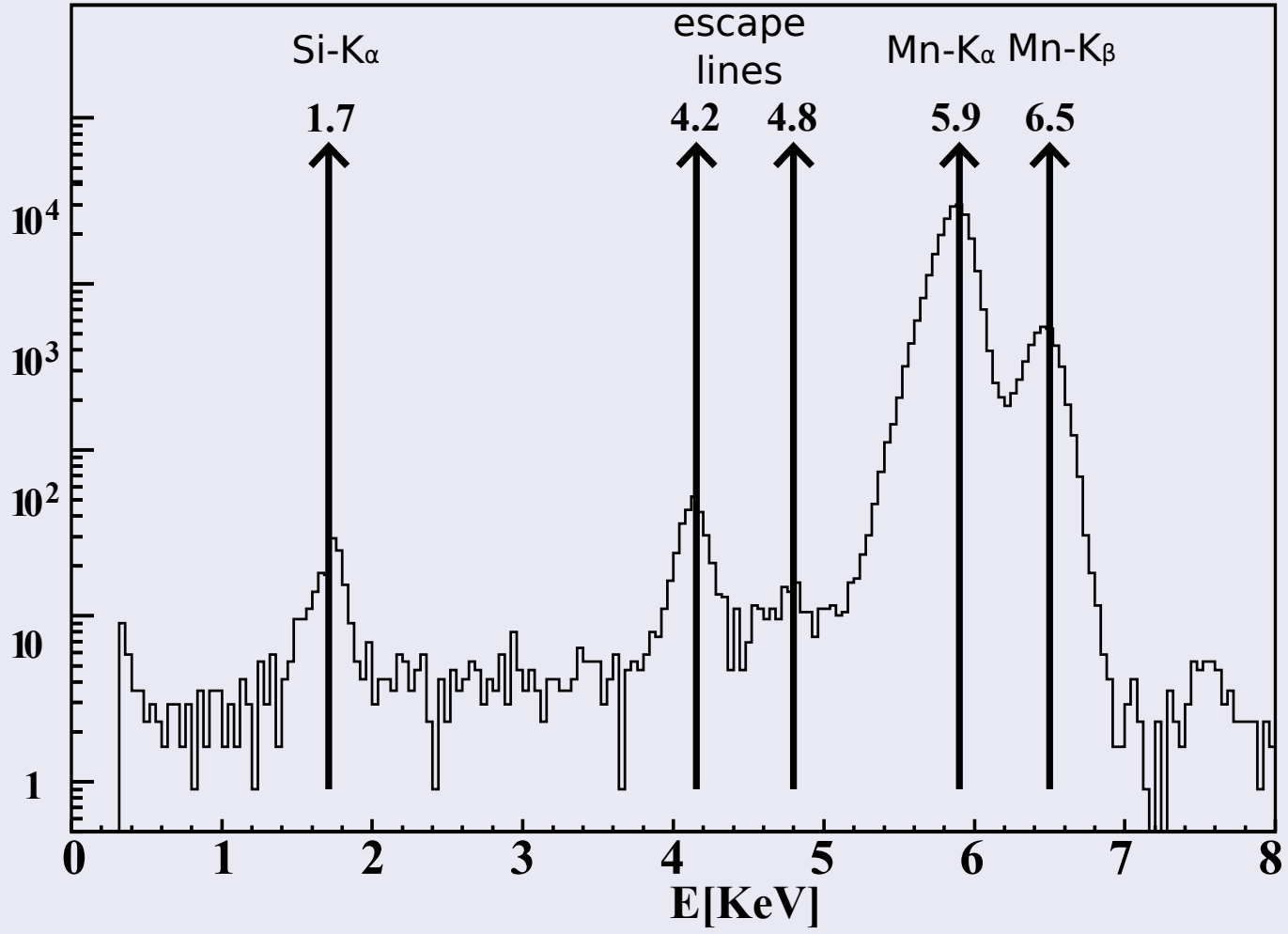


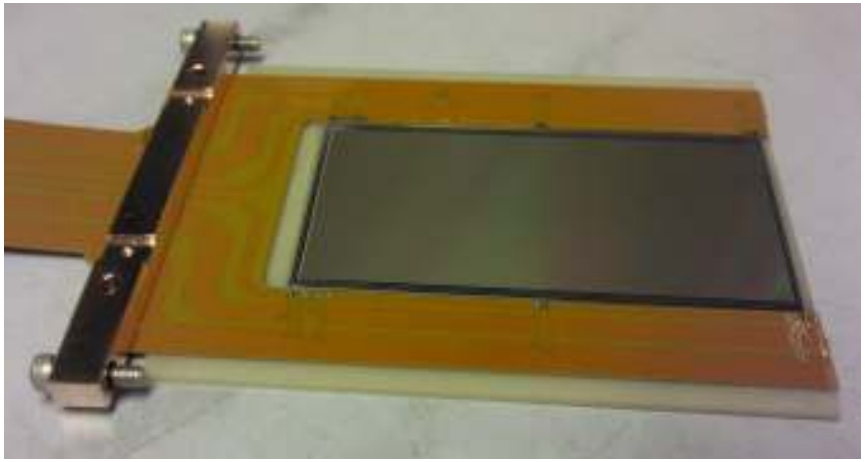
Energy calibration using a ^{55}Fe source



Detector

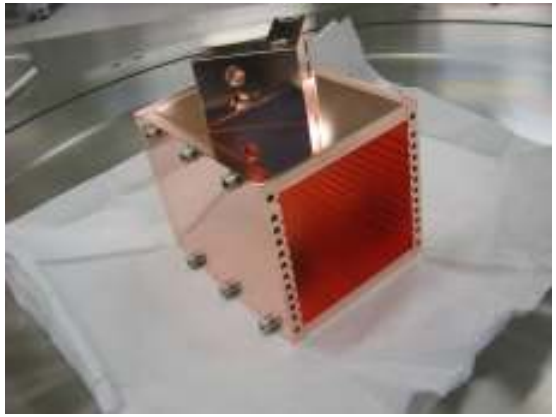
We use scientific CCDs from DECam

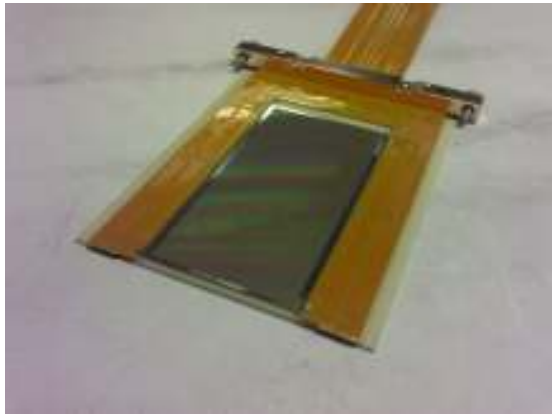
- 10x thicker than most CCDs (250 μm)
  - $\sim$1 gr per CCD
  - allows selection of limited diffusion events: *self-shielding*
- pixel size of 15 μm
- CCDs cooled to -150 C to achieve RMS of 2 e^-
- Threshold of 40 eVee

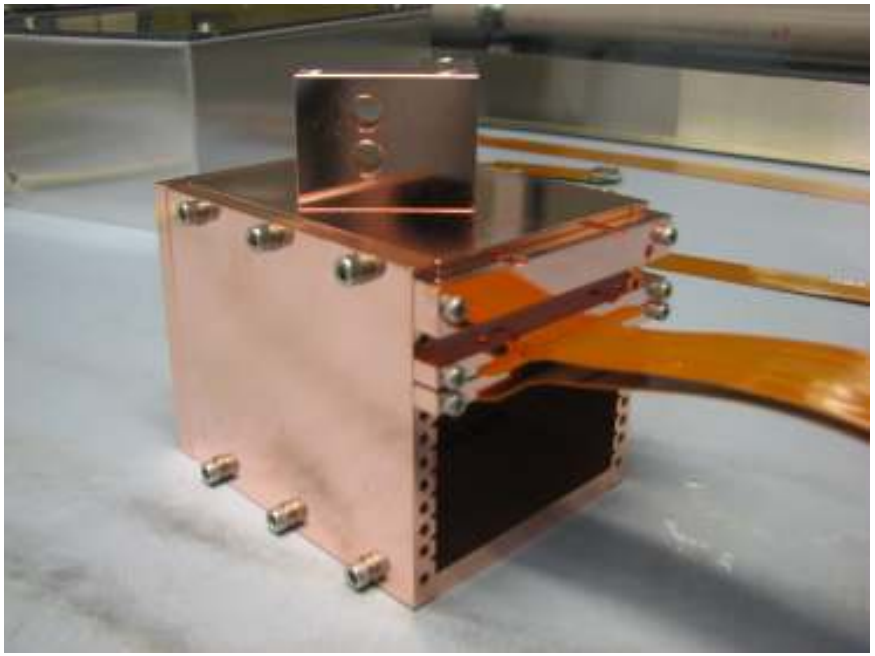


setup

10 scientific CCDs are installed in a low radiation package inside a copper box







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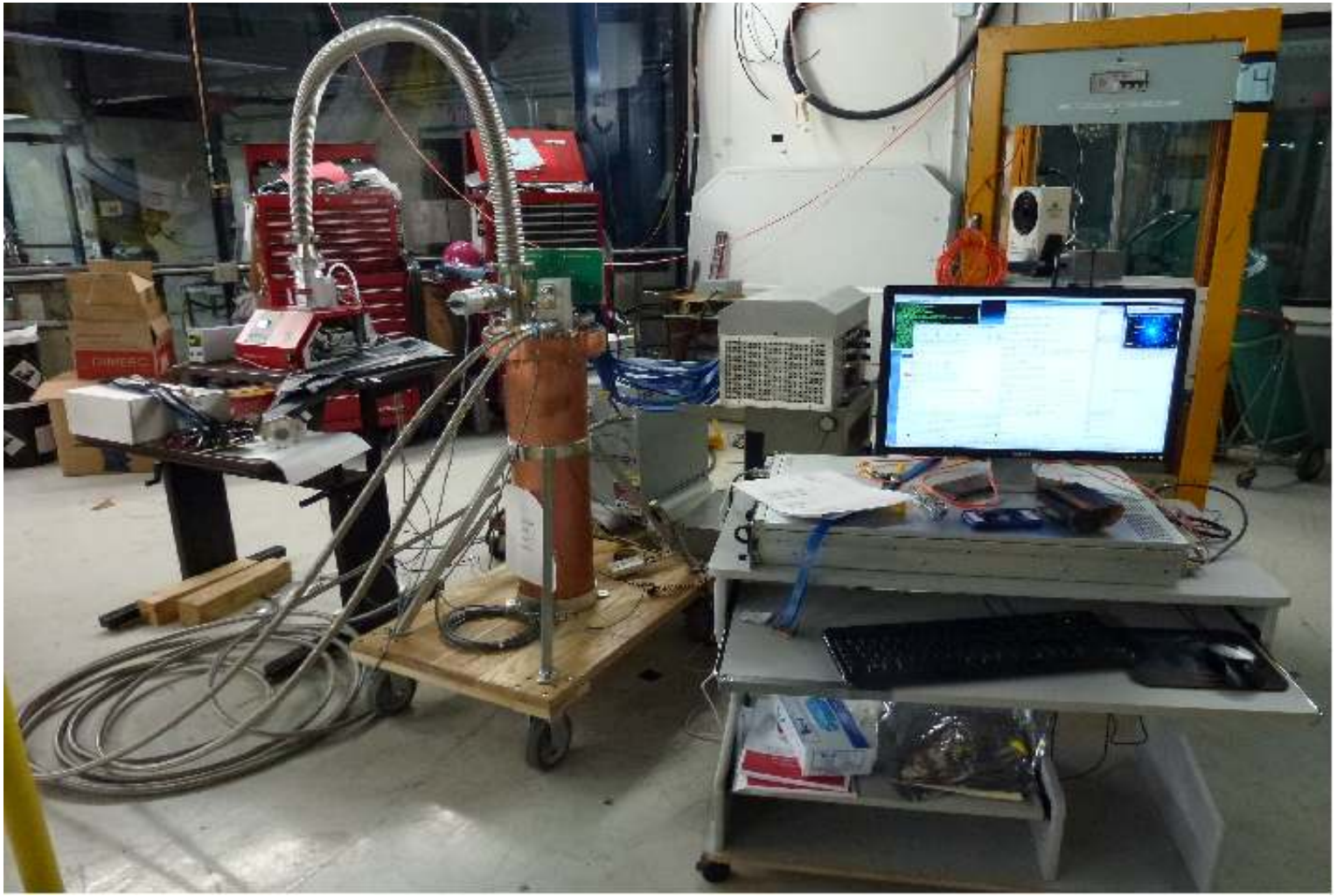

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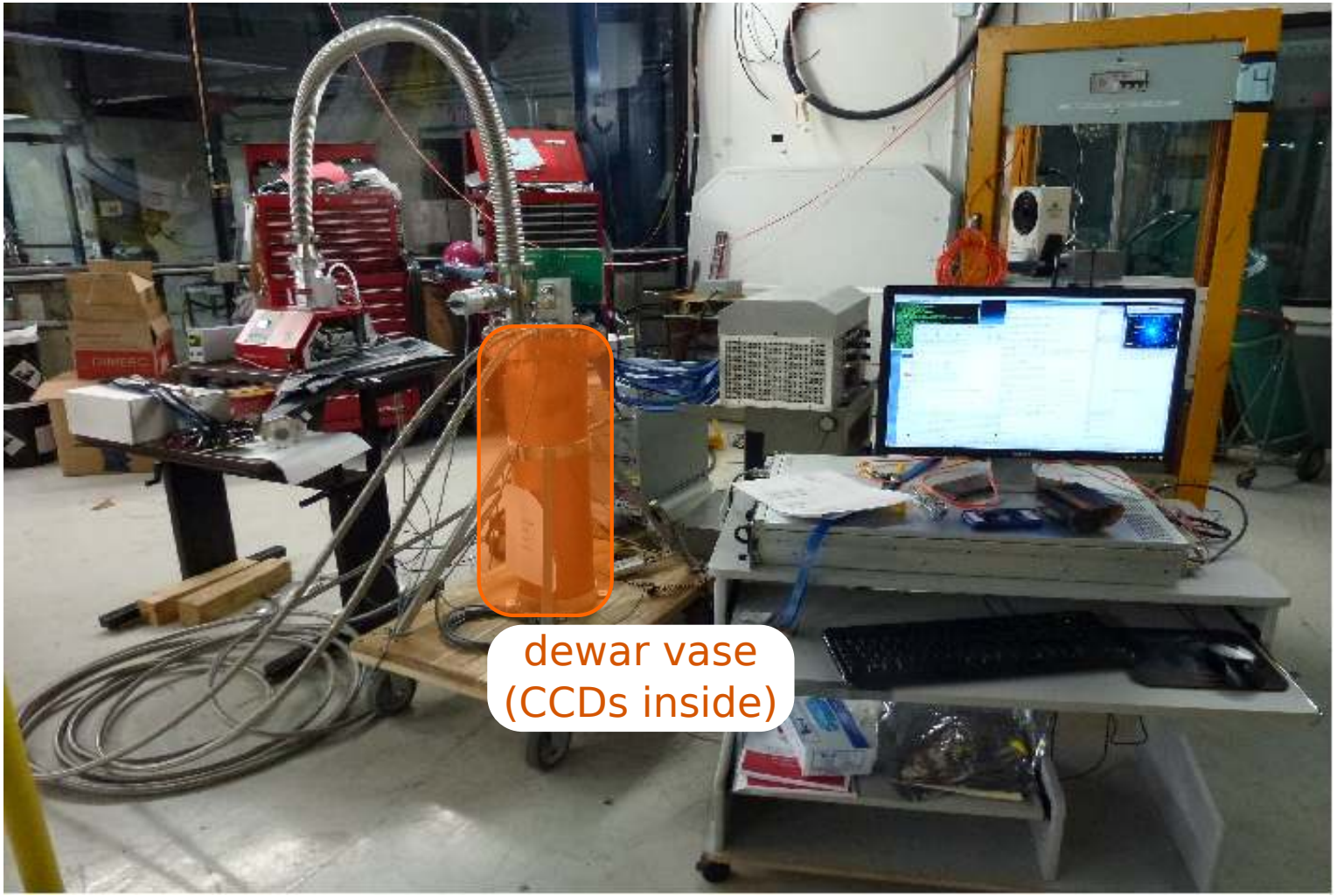

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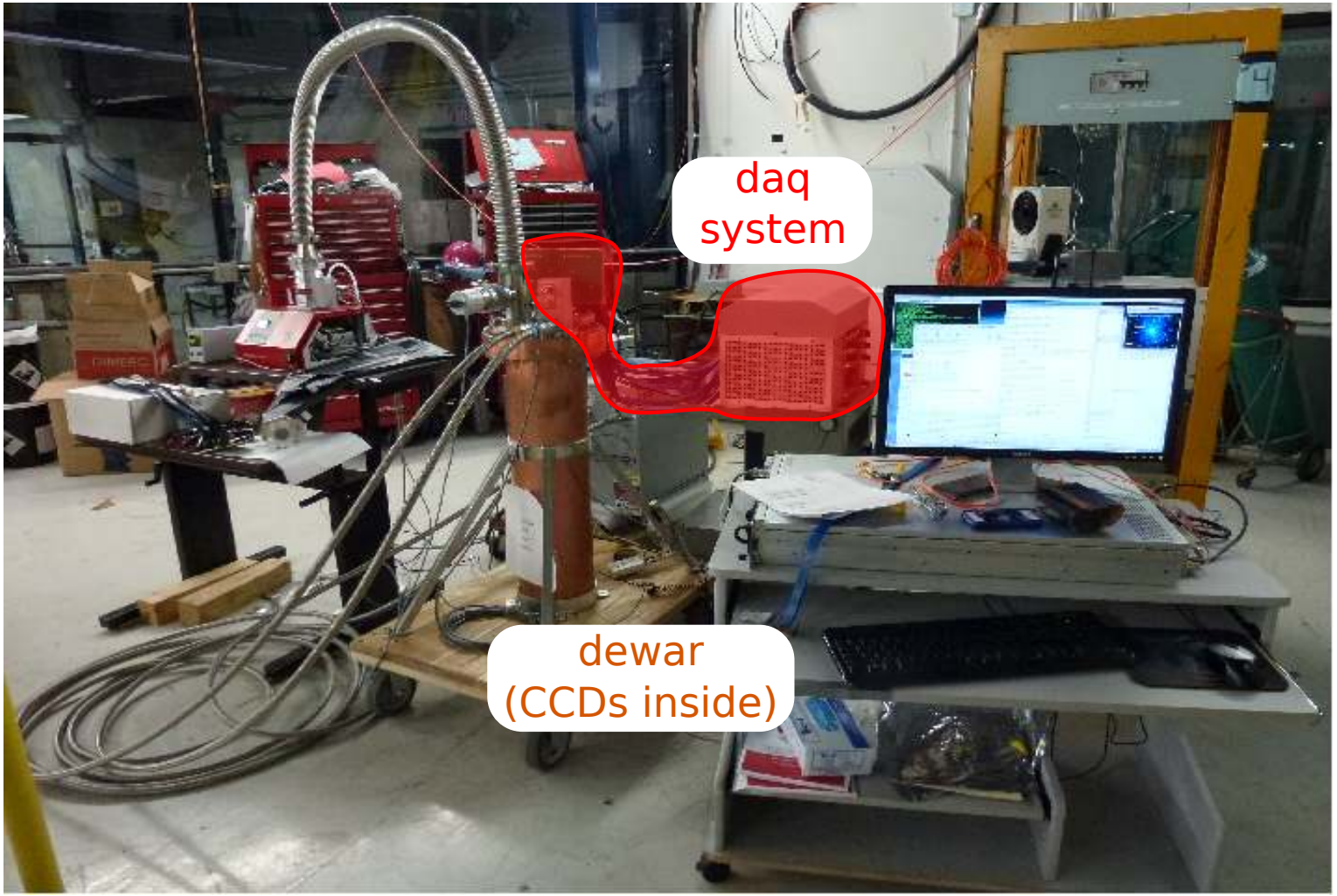

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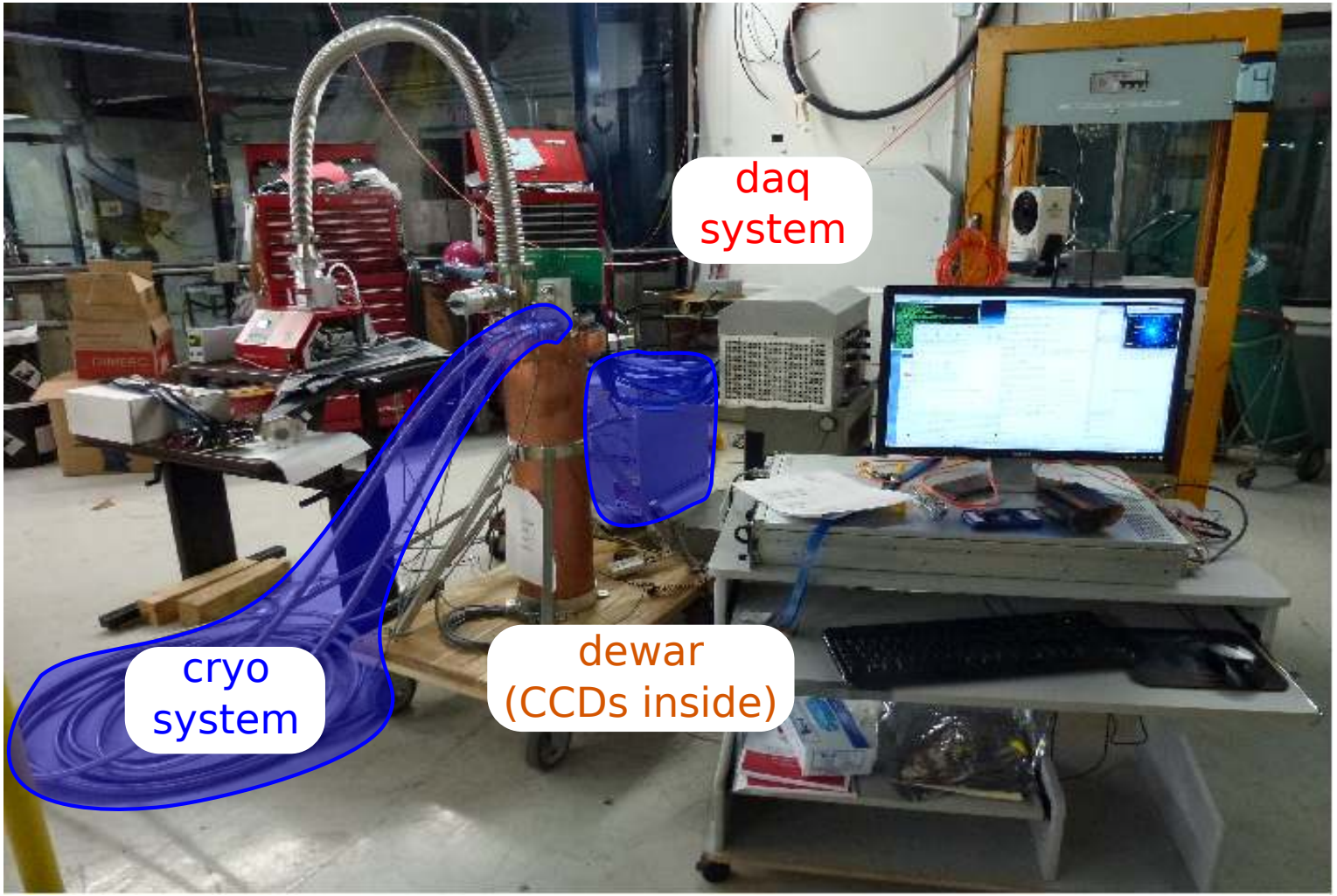

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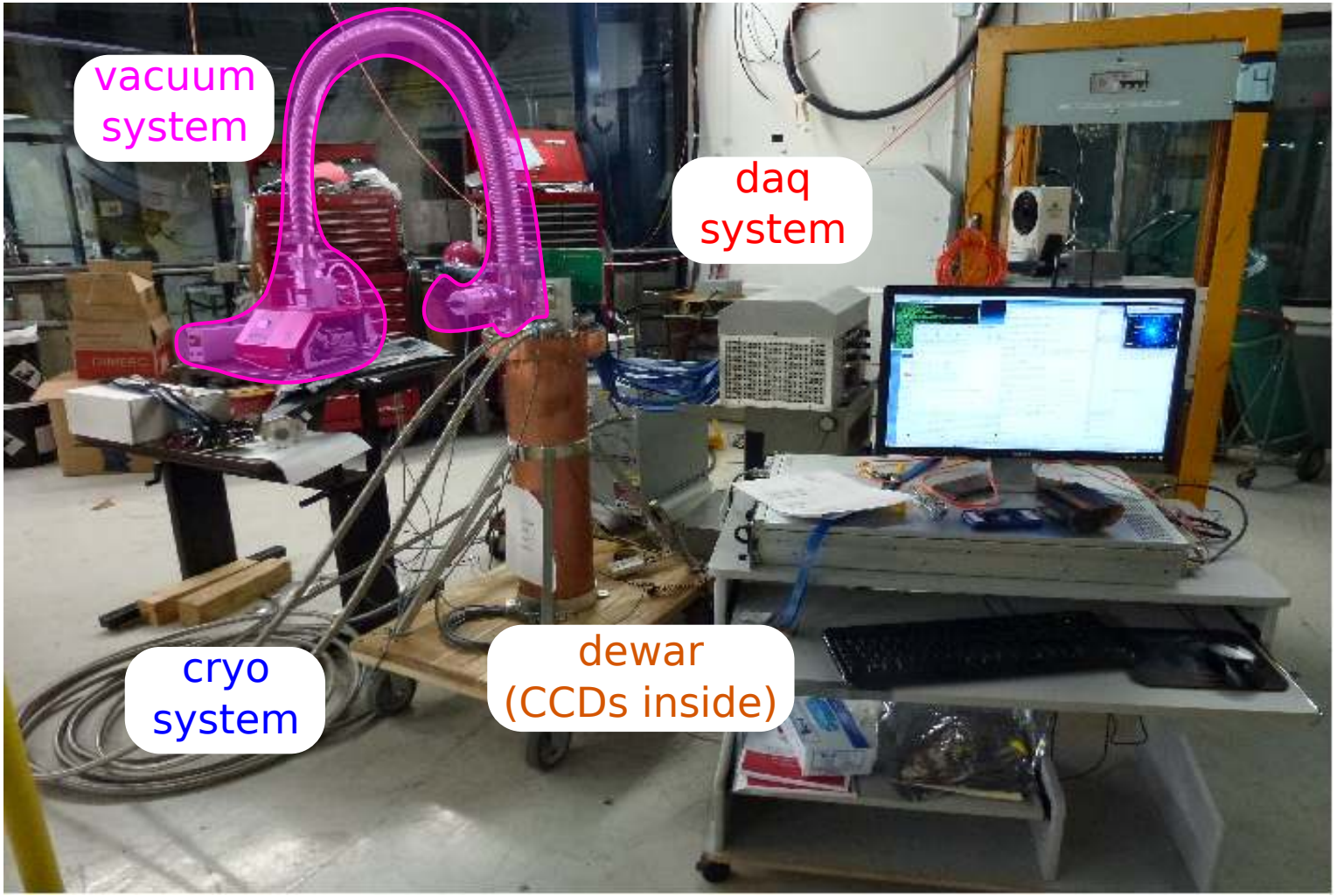
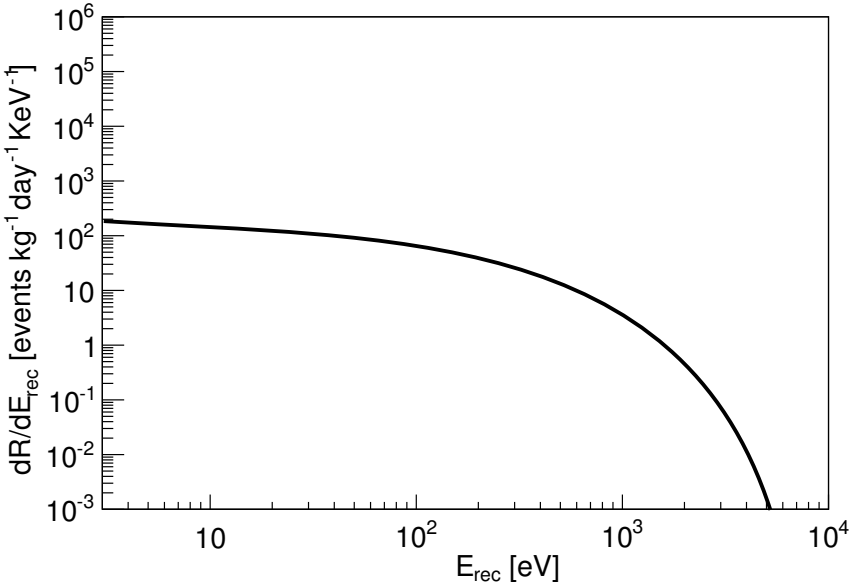


Location: Nuclear power plant in Angra, Brazil

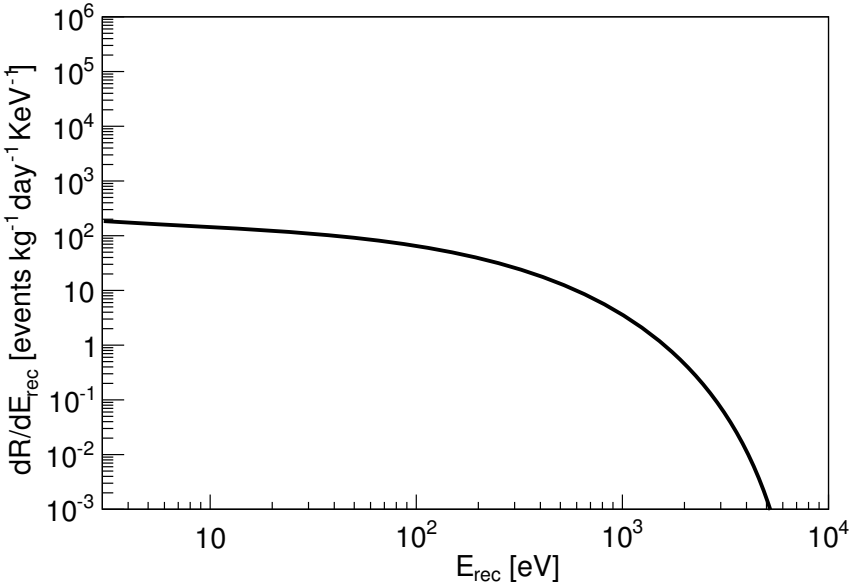
Event rate

For 10 grams: ~ 0.3 ν elastic scattering events per day



Event rate

For 10 grams: $\sim$ 0.3 ν elastic scattering events per day



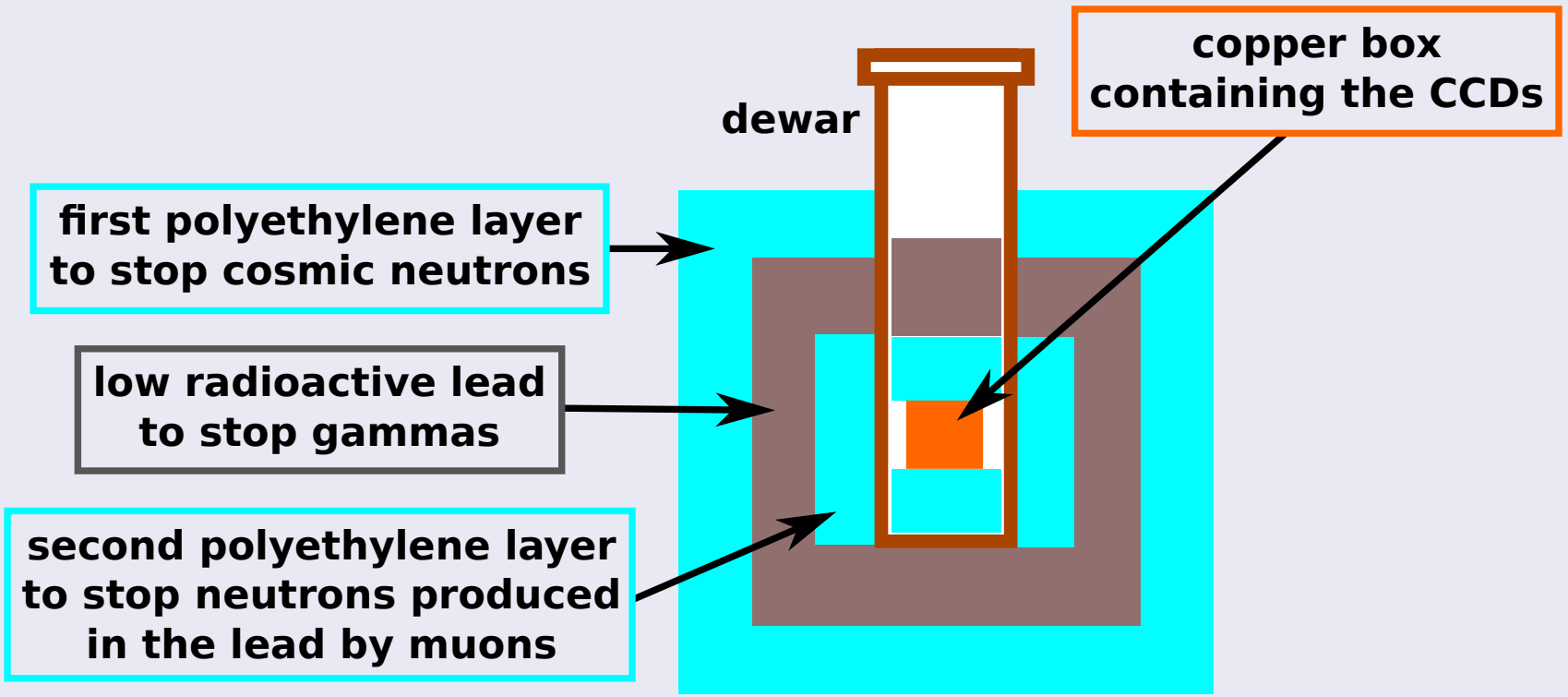
Background: without shielding nor event selection

neutrons: $\sim$ 600 events per day

gammas: $\sim$ 2 events per day

Shielding: preliminary design.

Three layers

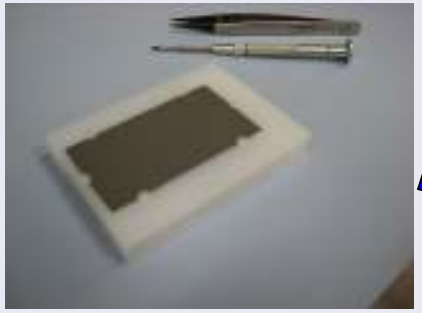


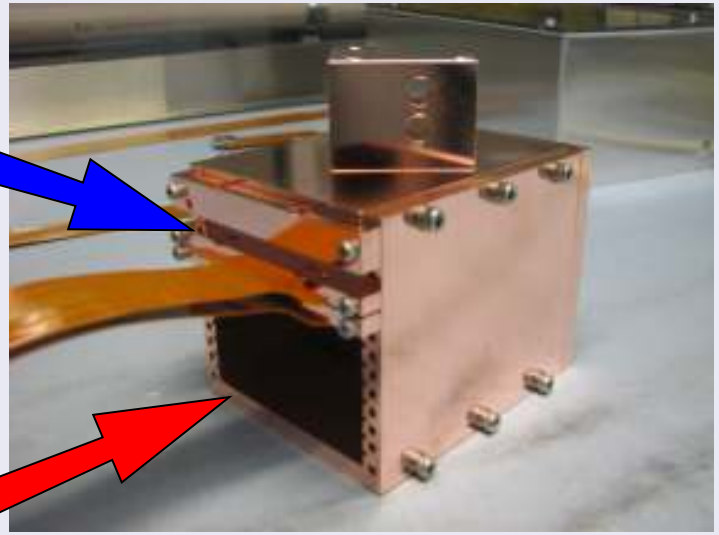
Background measurement.

The background will be measured inside the dewar using the CCDs

neutrons

polyethylen + boron layer
attached to the first CCD

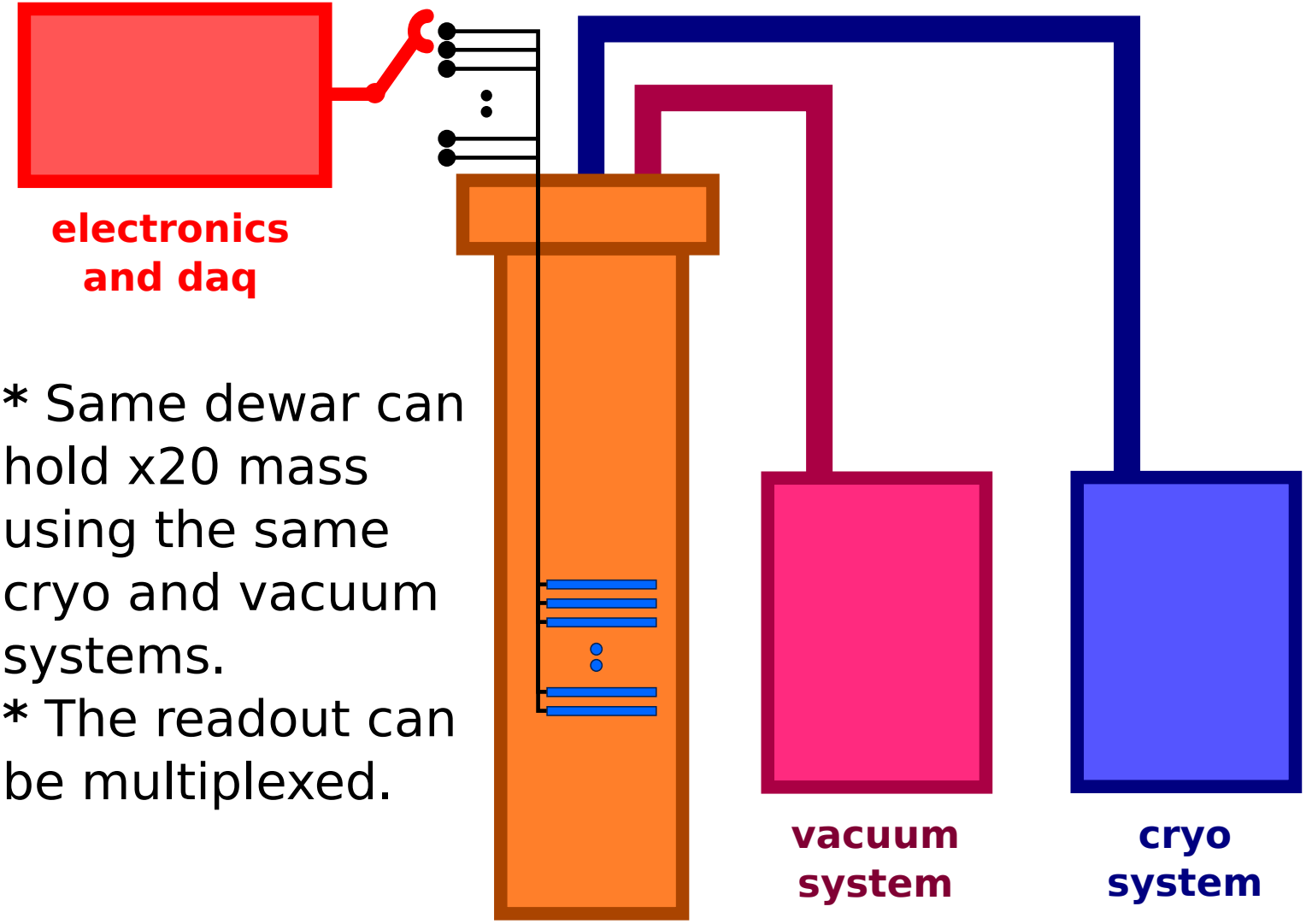




gammas

crystal facing the last CCD

Scalability



* Same dewar can hold x20 mass using the same cryo and vacuum systems.
* The readout can be multiplexed.

simple & cheap to scale up

Summary

- The CCDs are a good candidate for detecting low energy ν events. The lack of mass is compensated by their low threshold.
- Scalable and compact.
- Neutron background is a big issue. Needs shielding.
- Self-shielding capability for gammas by selecting limited diffusion events.
- Neutron and gamma detectors inside the dewar.
- Ongoing efforts by Fermilab and Chicago University to measure the quenching factor at low energies.
- The connie system will be ready to ship in early 2013 and we expect to complete the installation at the Angra Nuclear Power Plant before June 2013.