

Doping liquid argon with xenon in ProtoDUNE-SP

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Fermilab

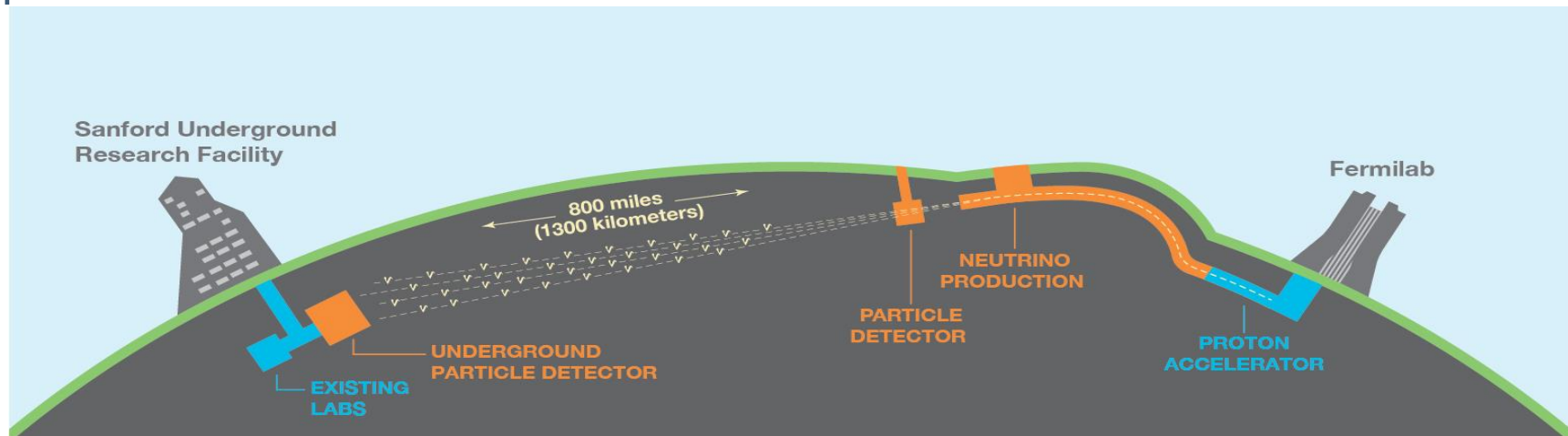
Neutrino Seminar Series

Outline

- Deep Underground Neutrino Experiment (DUNE)
- Liquid Argon Time Projection Chamber (LAr-TPC) technology
- Motivations of xenon doping
- Scintillation mechanism
- Experimental setup:
 - ProtoDUNE-SP
 - Dedicated setup
- Xenon injection procedure
- Results from dedicated setup and ProtoDUNE-SP Photon Detection System
- Charge collection studies
- From scintillation time distribution to microphysics
- Other results and developments

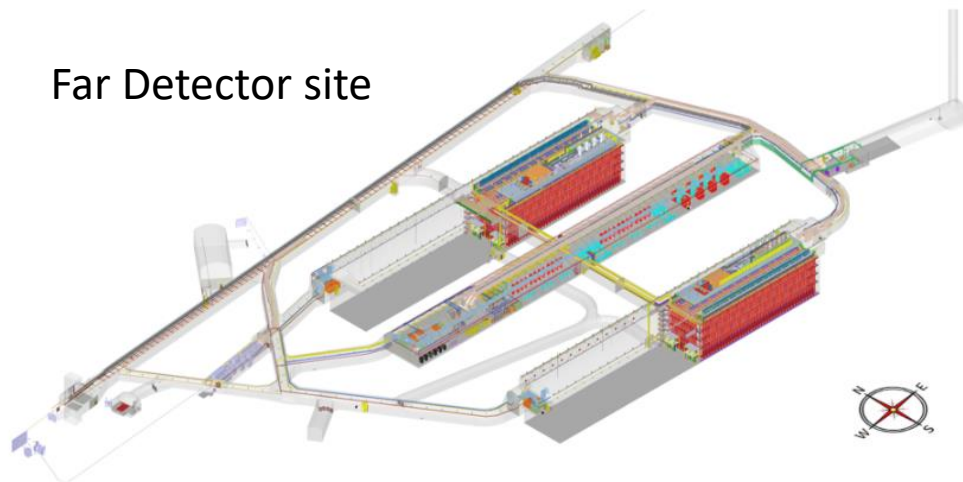
Deep Underground Neutrino Experiment

- **Long baseline oscillation** experiment (~1300 km)
- Neutrino and anti-neutrino beam (A 1.2 MW beam upgradeable to 2.4 MW)
- Near detector facility: multi-technology for beam monitoring and physics
- Far detector: 4 Modules (2 + 2) with ~70 kt of liquid argon, 1.5 km underground
- >20 years operation
- **Primary physics goals:**
 - 3-neutrino oscillation parameters
 - CP-violation phase δ_{CP}
 - Mass hierarchy
- **Supernova Neutrino Burst**
- **BSM physics:** baryon number violation, sterile neutrinos, non-standard interactions,...

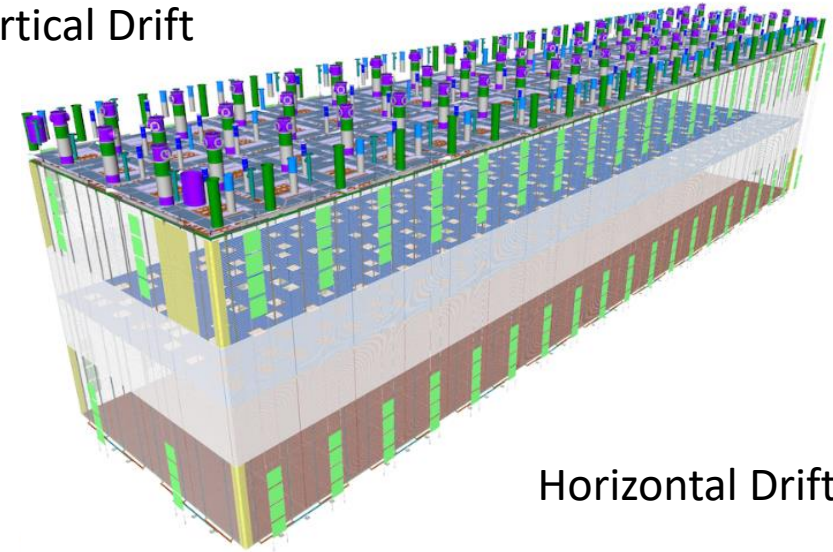


Far detector

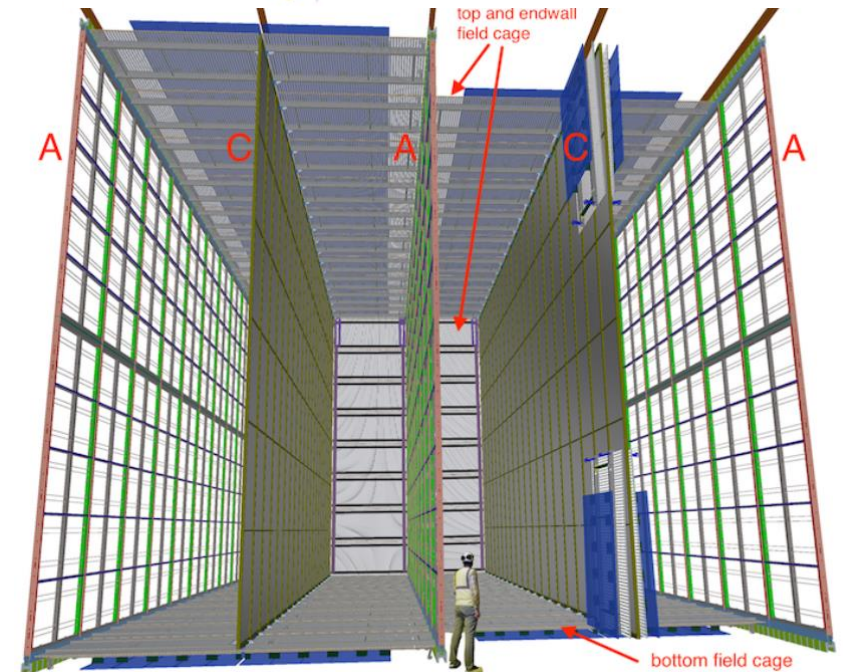
- **Highly modular design**, for cryostat and detectors, required by access to SURF caverns through shafts.
- Based on **Liquid Argon Time Projection Chamber (LAr-TPC)** technology, in different flavors
- First module will be a single-phase, **Vertical Drift Lar-TPC**; second module a single-phase, **Horizontal Drift LAr-TPC**



Vertical Drift

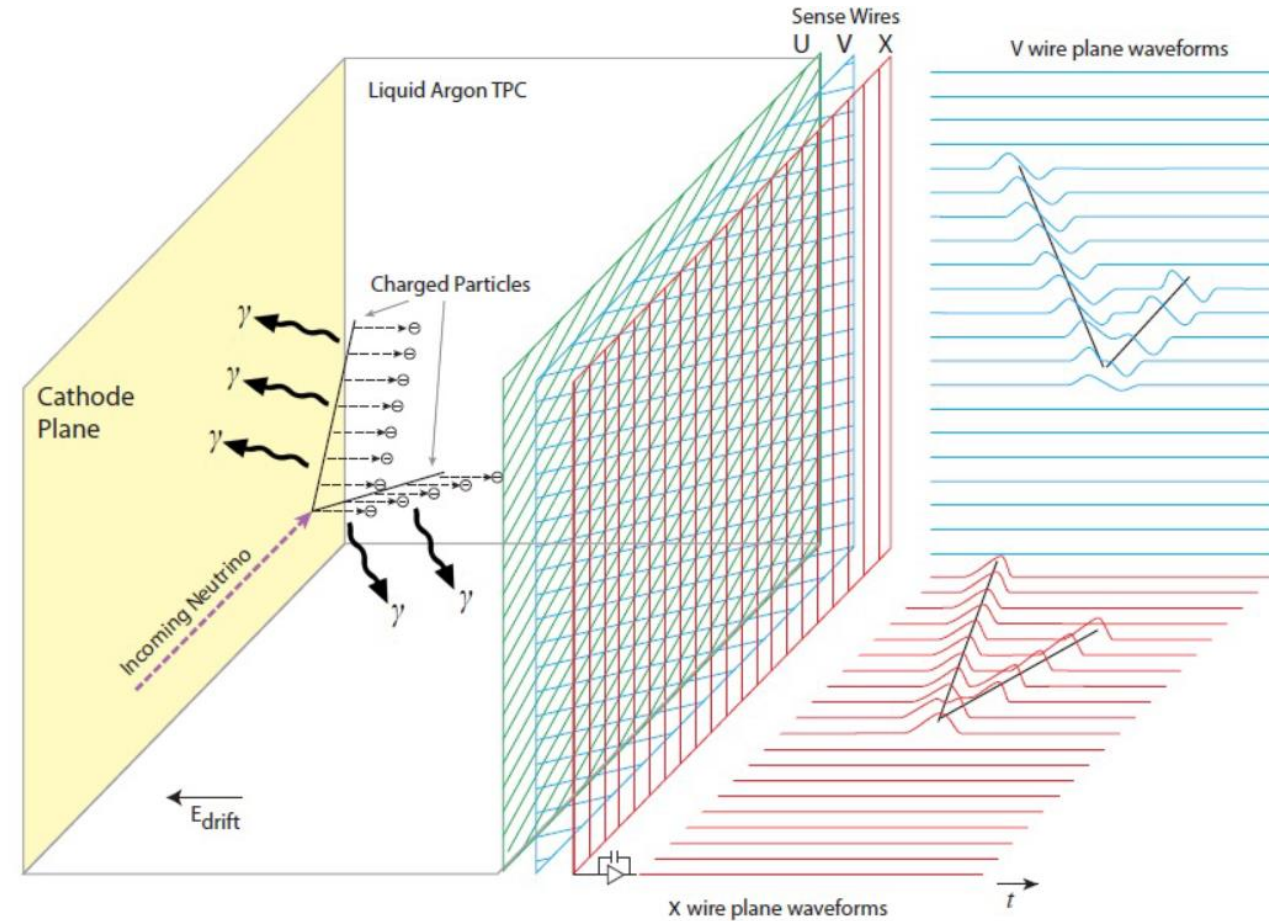


Horizontal Drift



LAr-TPC

- Charged particles interacting with argon release energy producing ionization and excitation
- An electric field is applied through a Cathode plane $O(100\text{ kV})$
- Electrons drift to a series of readout planes:
 - U,V \rightarrow induction planes, record charge passage
 - X \rightarrow collection plane, collects all the charge generated
 - Precise 2D image reconstruction + calorimetry
- Excitation and electron recombination:
 - Scintillation light (4π , $\lambda = 127\text{ nm}$) provides absolute timing of event
 - Combining with charge readout gives drift space coordinate information
 - Complementary calorimetry
- Complete 3D reconstruction of the event (1 mm precision) and calorimetric information.



Why xenon doping?

- **Liquid Argon is a good scintillator:**

- Scalable to multi-kton
- Dense medium good for rare events physics
- Good electrons mobility for TPC charge readout
- Light Yield (LY) comparable with other noble liquids ($\sim 40\,000$ ph/MeV @ $E = 0$ V/cm)
- Very efficient Pulse Shape Discrimination (PSD)

- **But light lies in the Vacuum UltraViolet (VUV) at 127 nm. Wavelength shifters (WLS) are generally deposited on photosensors:**

- Low geometrical efficiency (typically 50% of light is lost)
- Sensitivity to thermal / mechanical stresses
- Scattering and self-absorption of the emitted light
- Efficiency dependent on the deposition method

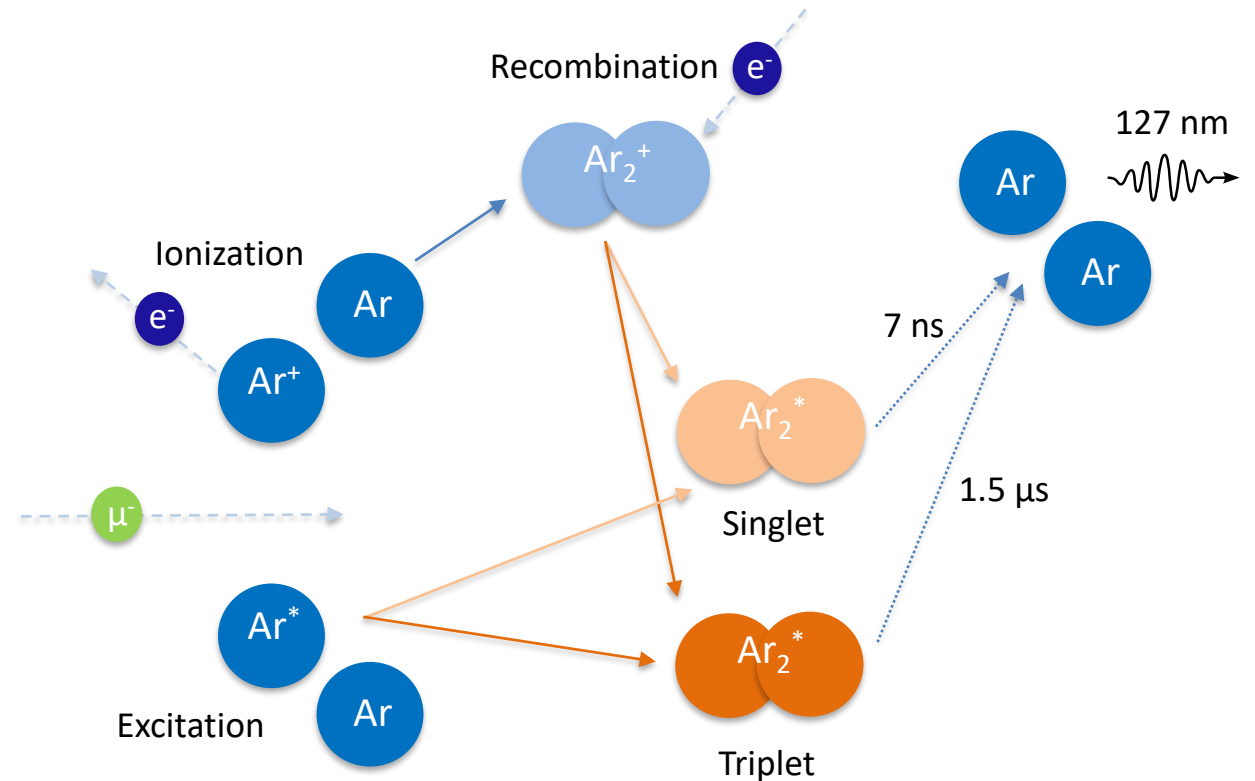
Why xenon doping?

- **Elegant alternative: a volume distributed WLS → Xenon injected into LAr**
 - Shifts 127 nm emission to 175 nm
 - Mitigate WLS coatings 50 % loss
- 175 nm photons have a larger Rayleigh scattering length in LAr:
 - Increase detector uniformity
 - Increase light collection far from the readout plane
- Can recover light quenched by contaminants (N_2)

First large-scale xenon doping of LAr performed in ProtoDUNE-SP

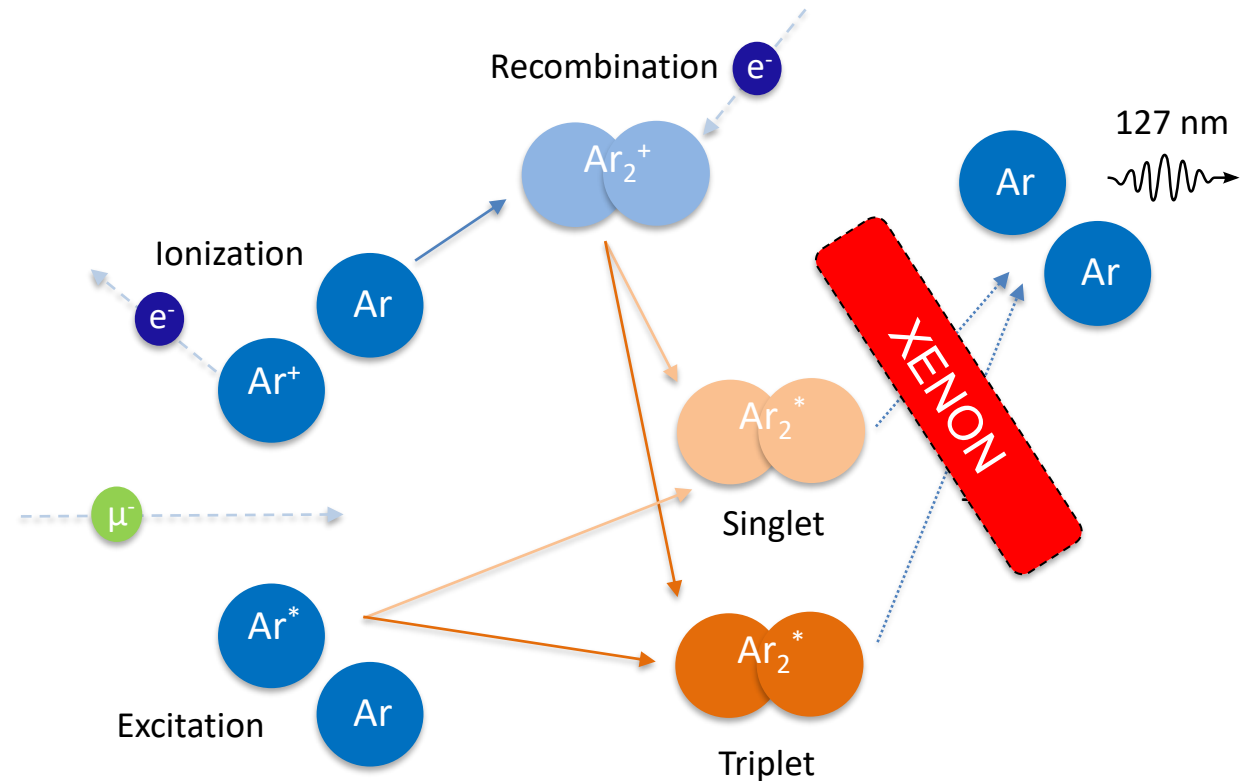
LAr scintillation

- An ionizing particle passing through liquid argon creates ionization and excitation of atoms
- These states interact with argon atoms creating excited molecules
- Singlet and triplet states are created
- De-excitation emits 127 *nm* light



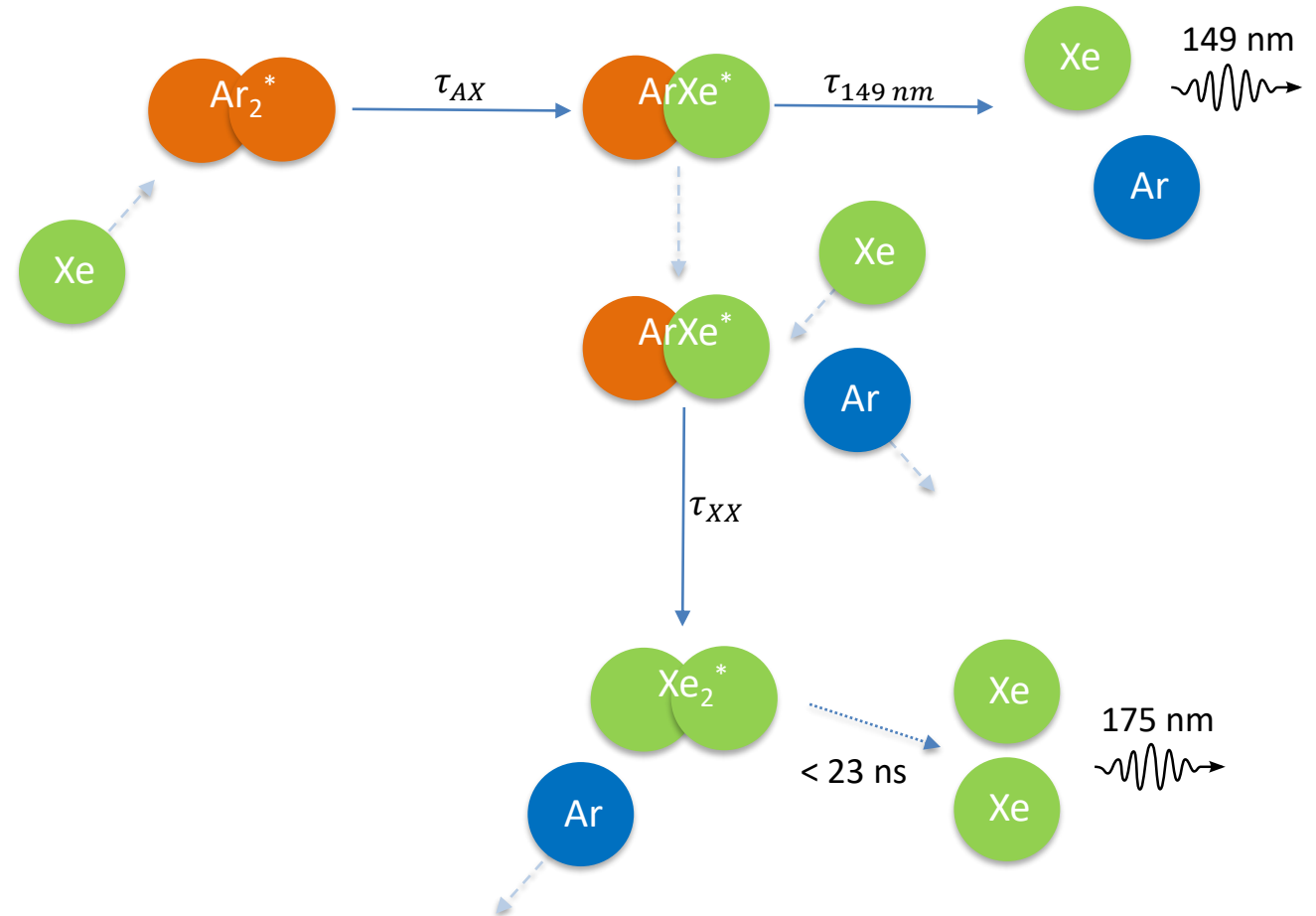
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LAr + Xe scintillation

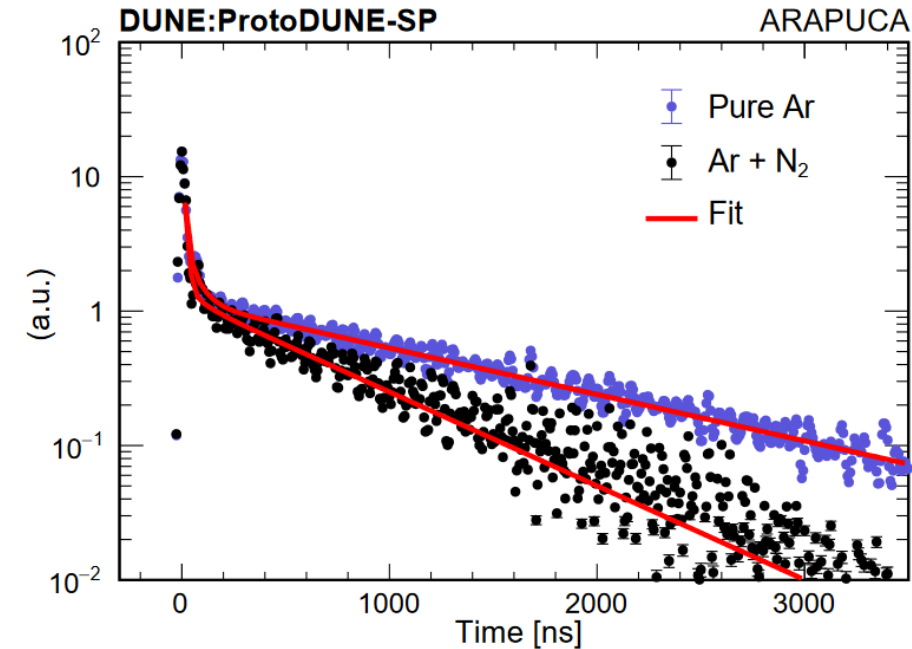
- Argon dimers can interact with xenon creating an ArXe^* excimer, this can eventually:
 - De-excite emitting 149 nm photons
 - Interact with Xe and create a Xe_2^* dimer
- The Xe_2^* dimer de-excites quickly emitting 175 nm



Nitrogen contamination in ProtoDUNE-SP

- During the cosmic ray run of ProtoDUNE-SP a sudden failure in the gas recirculation pump occurred, injecting air inside the detector
- Molecules like O₂, CO₂, and H₂O were efficiently removed by the purification system
- The system cannot remove N₂, which remained in the detector until the end of the run
- Measuring the “slow” component of the scintillator light distribution it is possible to quantify the amount of N₂ injected

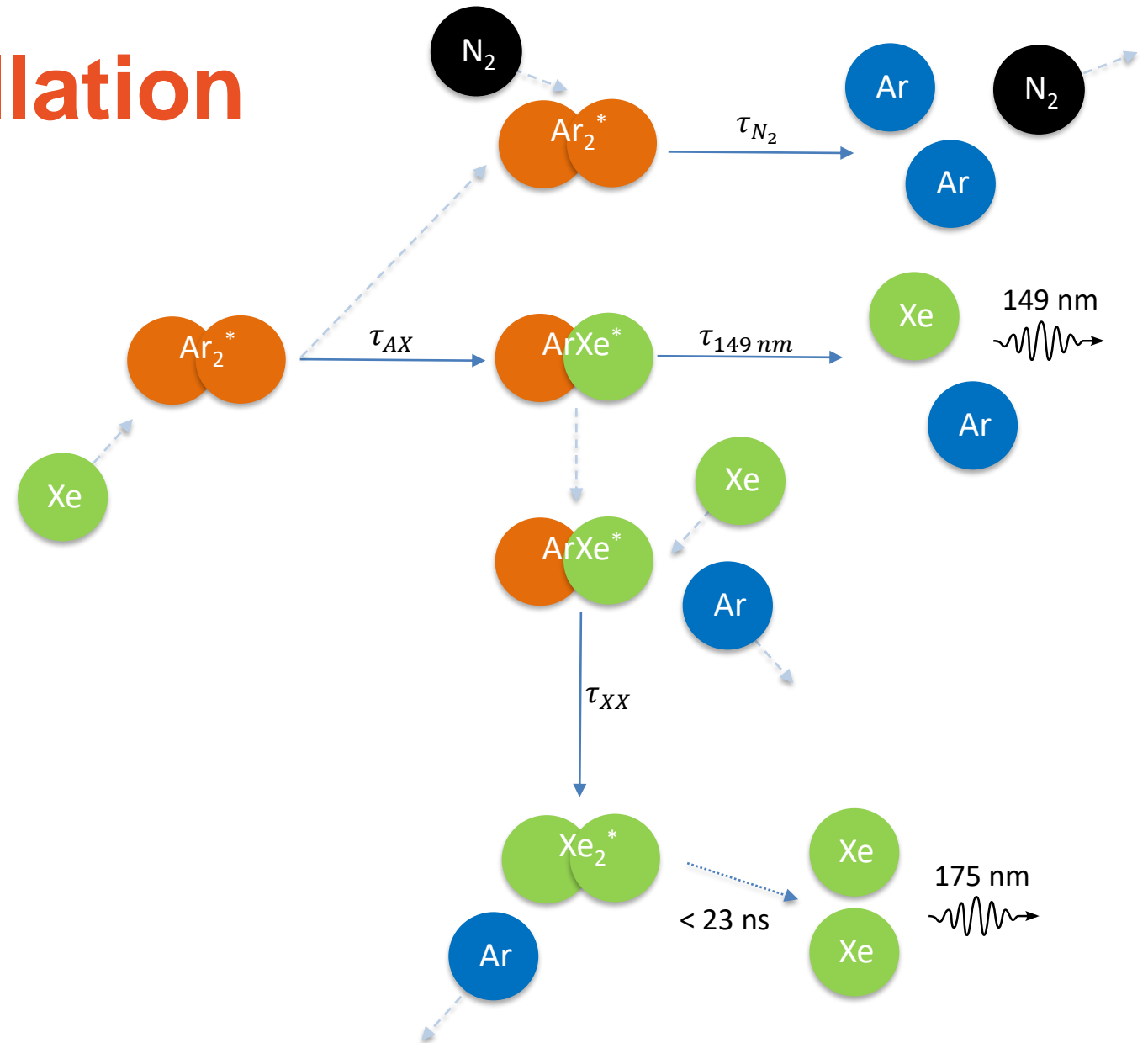
$$\frac{1}{\tau_s} ([N_2]) = \frac{1}{\tau_T} + k_Q [N_2]$$



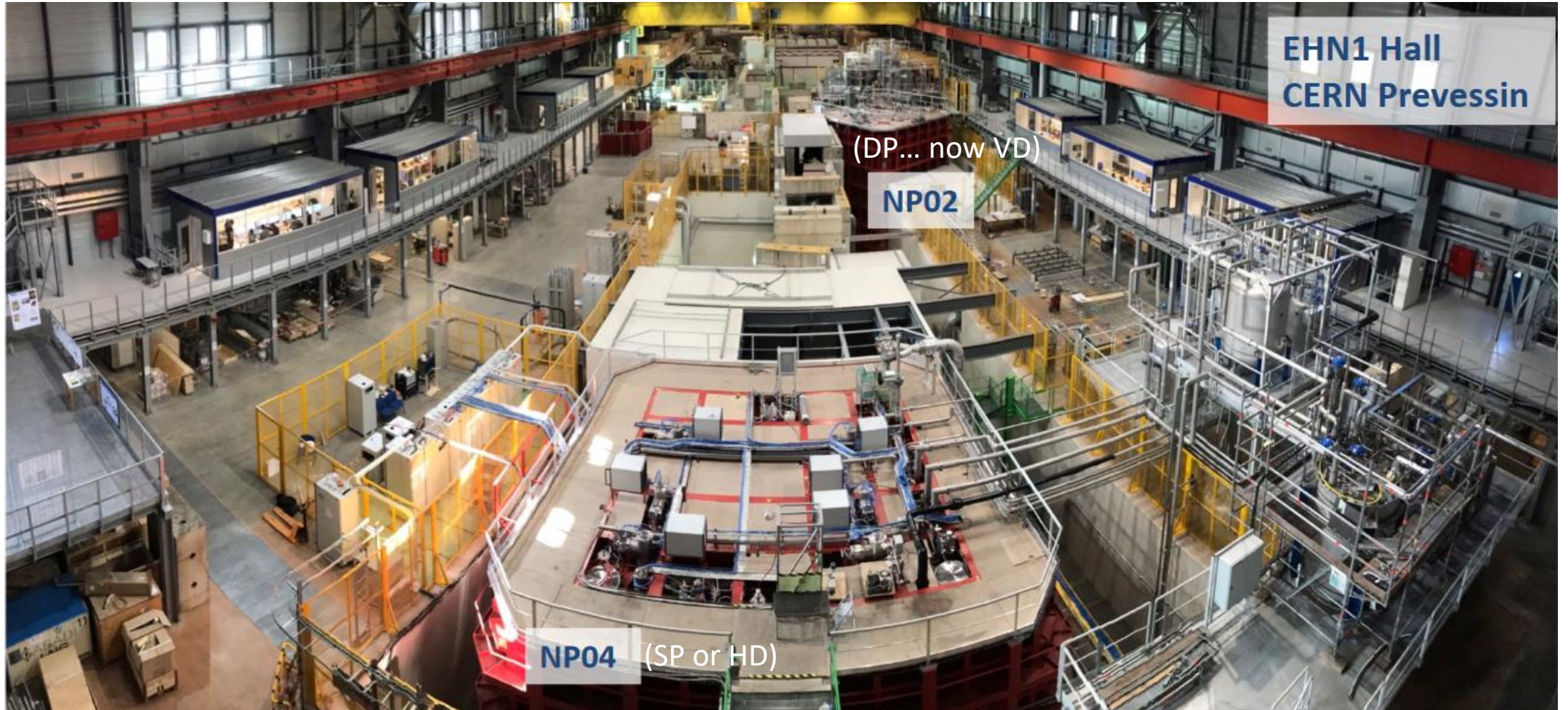
Total amount	$5.4 \pm 0.1 \text{ ppm}$
Leaked amount	$5.2 \pm 0.1 \text{ ppm}$

LAr + Xe + N₂ scintillation

- Argon dimers can interact with xenon creating an ArXe* excimer, this can eventually:
 - De-excite emitting 149 nm photons
 - Interact with Xe and create a Xe₂* dimer
- The Xe₂* dimer de-excites quickly emitting 175 nm
- If N₂ is present, Ar₂* can de-excite non-radiatively (quenching)
- ArXe* creation and N₂ quenching are competing processes



The ProtoDUNE(s)



The ProtoDUNE(s) in a nutshell

- **Two ~1 kt prototypes** with 1:1 dimensional ratio on components wrt DUNE Far Detector
 - Exposed to Very Low Energy (VLE) charged particle beams at CERN
 - Validation of DUNE components design & installation, commissioning, performance and stability studies on **FULL-SCALE** prototypes
- **ProtoDUNE-Single Phase** operated 2018–2020
 - 1 detector, 2 TPCs: 2x 3.6m drift volumes, sharing a common cathode
 - 3-month beam run in late 2018, then cosmics
 - Event reconstruction/identification training
 - R&D site: low-energy calibration (neutron gun), **Xenon doping**, Higher Voltage tests, ...
 - Upcoming Phase-II on beam with HD updated design ([Filling](#) ongoing right now!!)
- **ProtoDUNE-Dual Phase** operated 2019–2020
 - Development of charge signal amplification, as well as Very High Voltage / large drift (6-12 m) studies
 - Evolved into Vertical Drift -> Phase II
 - Currently equipped with VD technologies and ready for Phase II run.

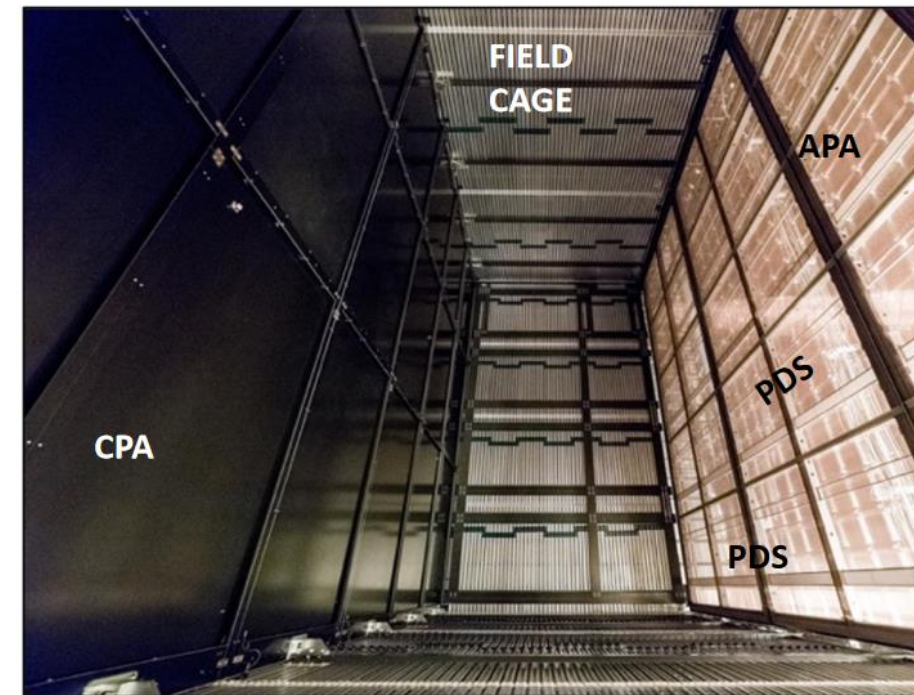
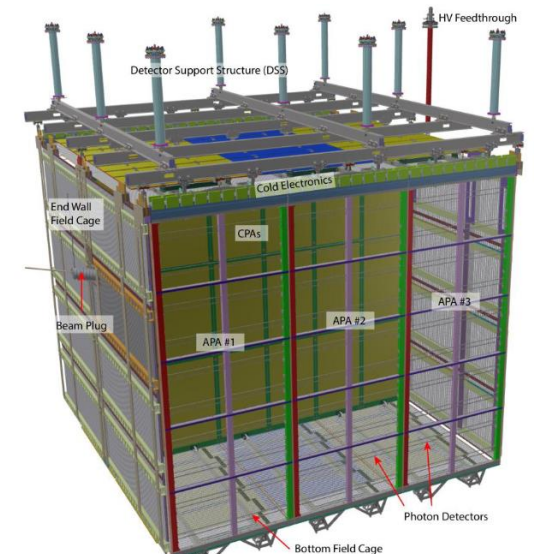
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 - Upcoming Phase-II on beam with HD updated design (Cool Down ongoing right now!!)
- **ProtoDUNE-Dual Phase** operated 2019–2020
 - Development of charge signal amplification, as well as Very High Voltage / High Rate (6-12 m) studies
 - Evolved into Vertical Drift -> Phase II
 - Currently equipped with VD technologies and ready for a first Phase II run.

Today focusing on ProtoDUNE Single Phase

Time Projection Chamber (TPC)

- Two drift volumes, each of 1.5 m
- Cathode plane (CPA) made of three 3 mm thick FR4 panels, laminated with Kapton provides up to 180 kV (500 V/cm)
- Field cage of aluminum profiles allows for a uniform electric field in the drift volume
- Anode planes (APA):
 - 6 independent Anode Plane Assemblies (APA) with three active wire planes (15360 channels)
 - 1 Grid; 2x Induction planes (U,V, wrapped wires); 1x Collection plane (X) + mesh to isolate Photon Detectors (PDS) inside the frame

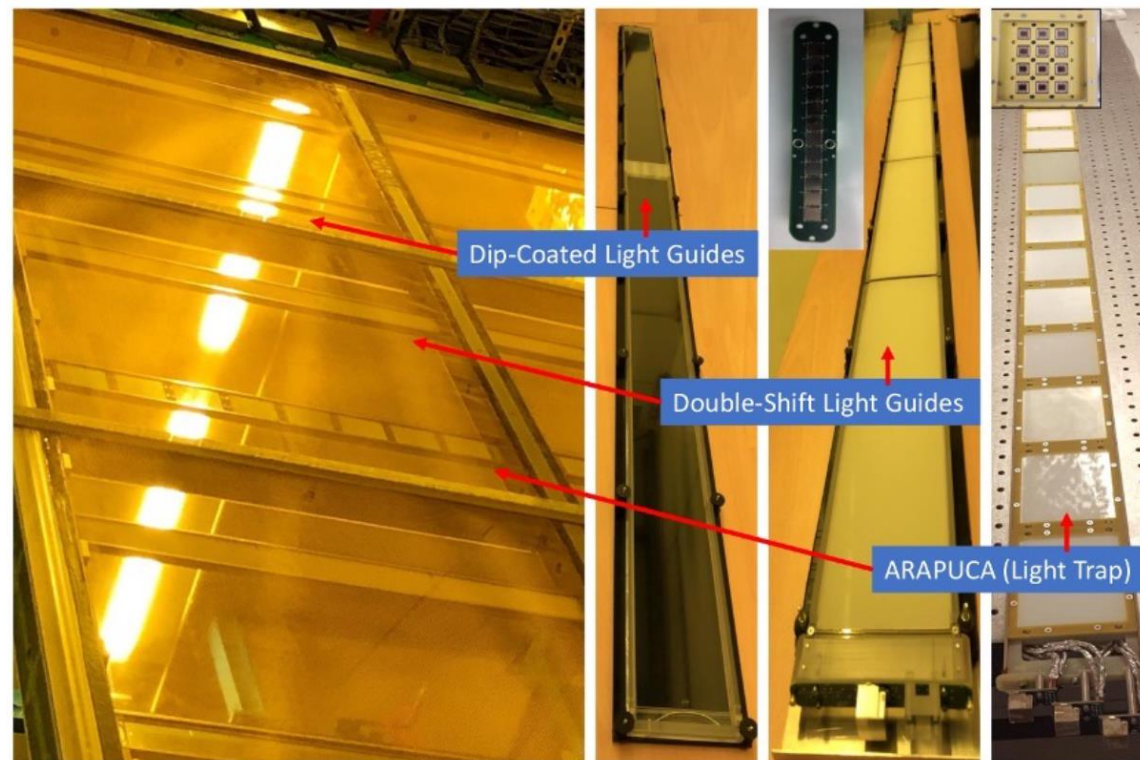


ProtoDUNE SP (HD) : 3.6 m drift (Half detector)

Photon Detection System (PDS)

In the Photon Detection system:

- 3 different technologies read by arrays of 3 or 12 Silicon PhotoMultipliers (SiPMs) from SensL or Hamamatsu
- 10 bars per APA, inside the frame: 207 x 8.6 cm view area into the TPC, per bar
- Metallic mesh to decouple electrically PDs and wire planes



Photon Detection System (PDS)

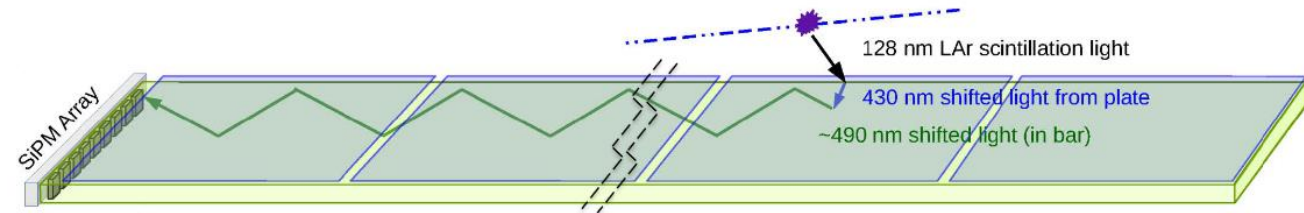
- **Double-shift light guide**

B. Howard et al. 10.1016/j.nima.2018.06.050

128nm → 430nm → 490nm

Wavelength-shifting (WLS) plates + WLS light guide

Shifted light travels, via total internal reflection, to the readout on one side (four 3-SiPM arrays ↔ four read-out channels)



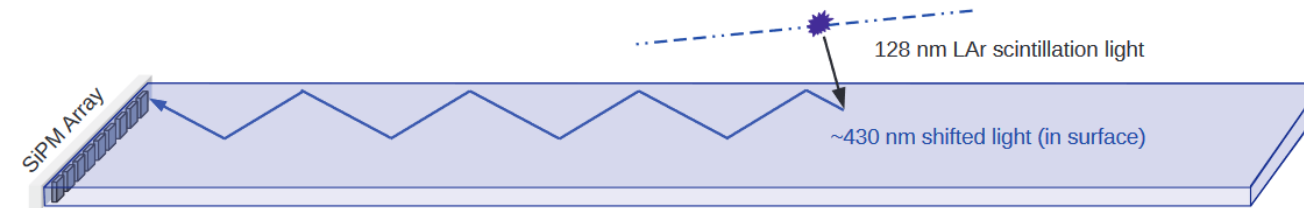
- **Dip-coated light guide**

L. Bugel, et al 10.1016/j.nima.2011.03.003

128 nm → 430 nm

Acrylic dip-coated with TPB+acrylic+toluene solution

Shifted light travels, via total internal reflection, to the readout on one side (four 3-SiPM arrays ↔ four read-out channels)



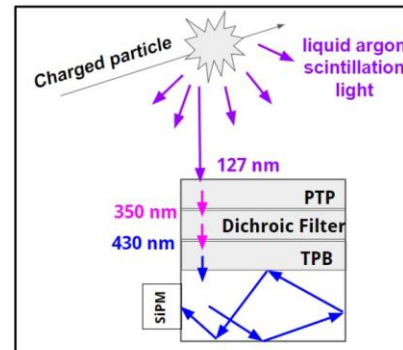
- **Arapuca**

E. Segreto, et al 2018 JINST 13 P08021

128 nm → 350nm → 430nm

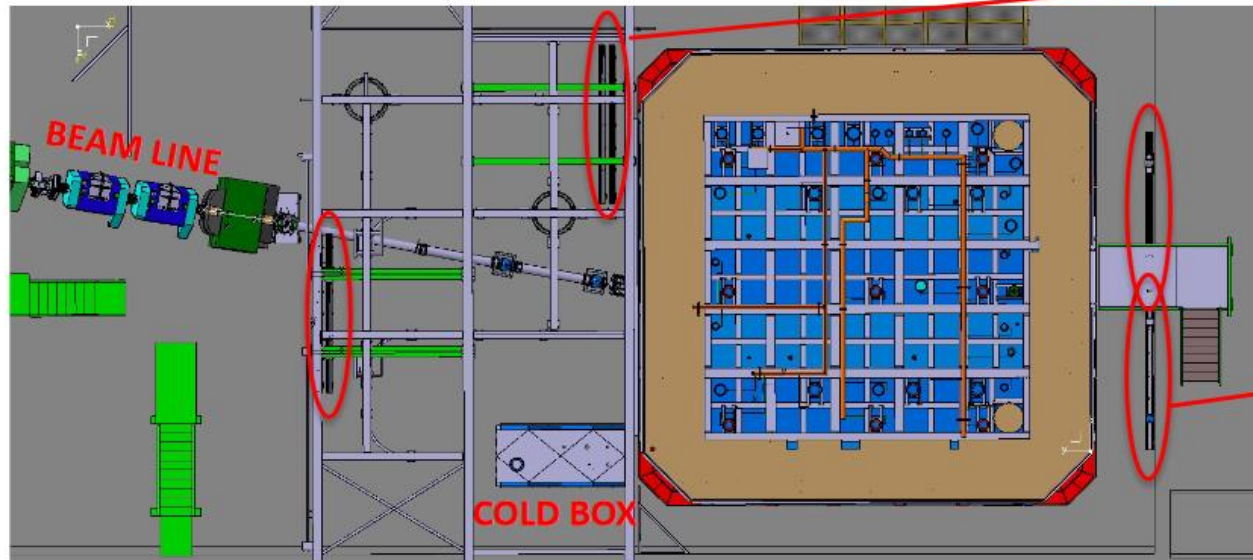
Light shifted a first time (pTP) crosses a dichroic filter, opaque to higher I, then meets TPB → second shift.

Photons collected promptly or trapped and reflected till they hit one SiPMs (12 cells – read-out channels, each read by 12 SiPM)



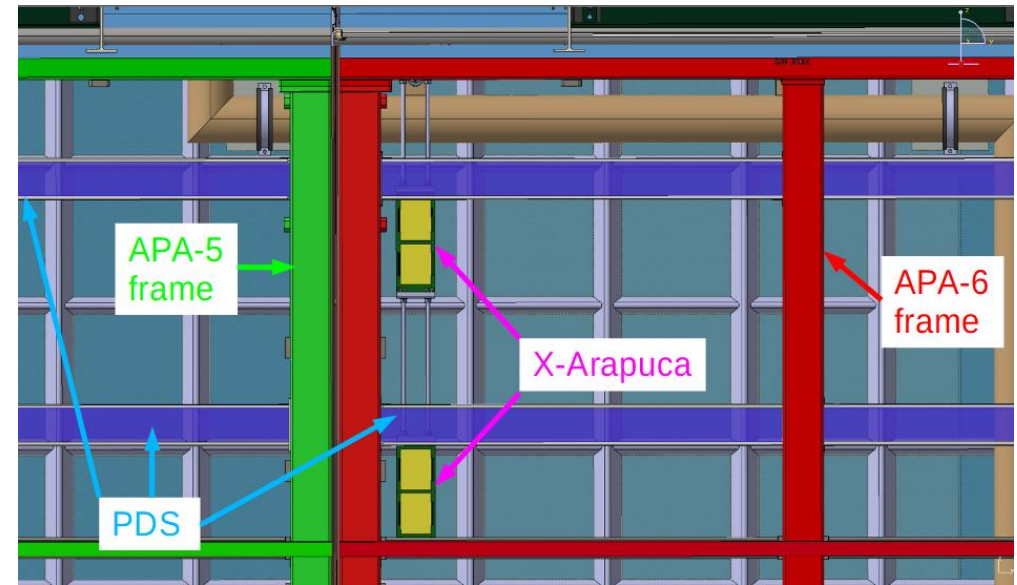
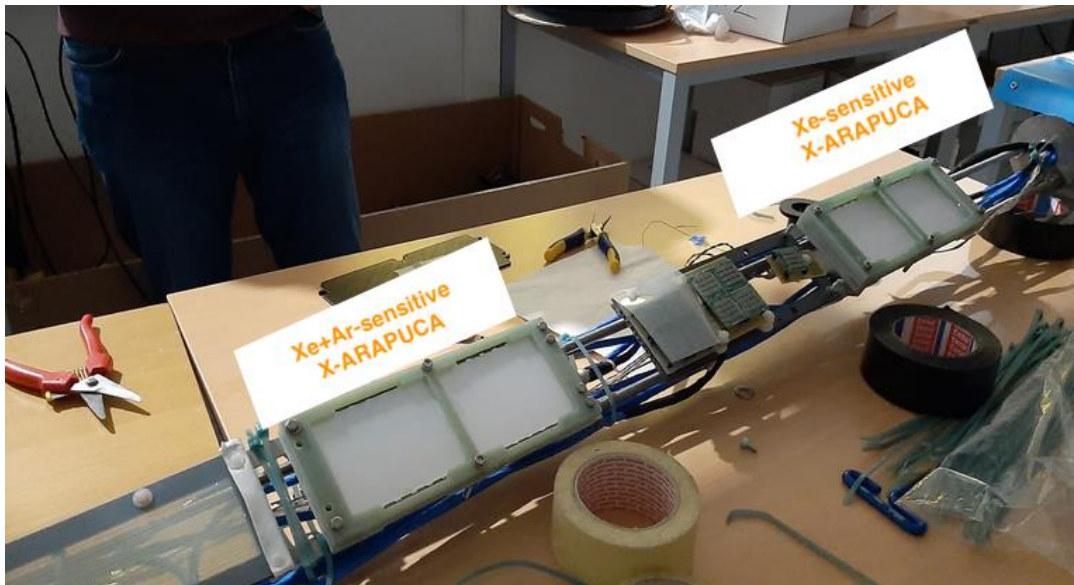
Cosmic Ray Tagger (CRT)

- A Cosmic Ray Tagger (CRT) is installed on the upstream and downstream (w.r.t. to the CERN beam) faces of the detector
- Intercepts and tags muons from cosmic rays crossing the detector
- Each module has 64 scintillator strips (5 cm x 365 cm) read by SiPMs. Rotating two modules by 90° → 2D sensitivity.



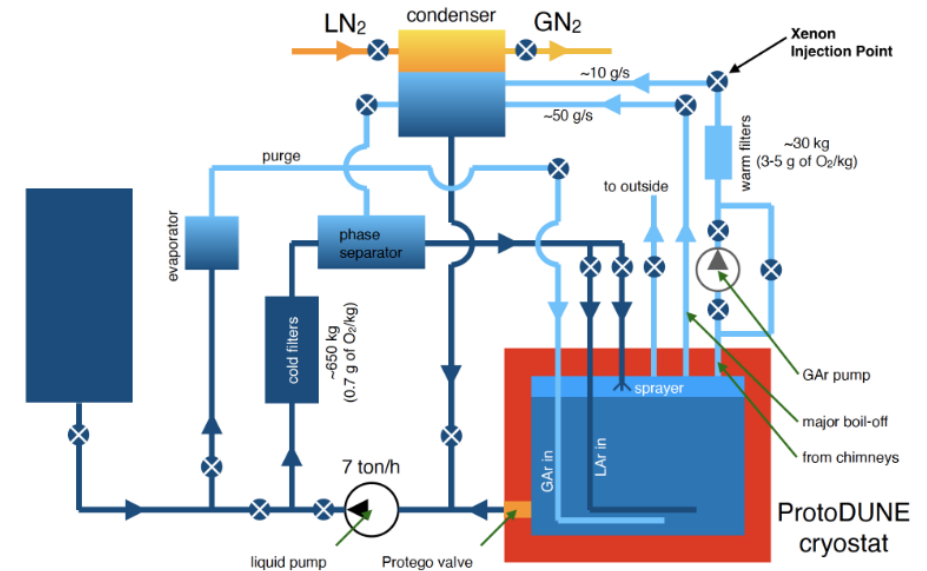
Dedicated X-ARAPUCA setup

- Installation of modules into the cryostat to disentangle xenon and argon light:
 - X-ARAPUCA equipped with a fused-silica window that is sensitive to Xe (175 nm) light only “Xe XA”
 - X-ARAPUCA sensitive to Xe (175 nm) + Ar (128 nm) light “Xe+Ar XA”



Xenon injection

- Xenon injection was tested in a small-scale setup with *Ar* recirculation system
- $\frac{Ar}{Xe} > 10^3$ to avoid freeze-out effect
- *Xe* is injected in the gas phase far from the *LAr* condenser at a rate 36 *g/h* [50 *ppb/h*], this allows full mixing in gas flow
- From numerical (CFD) simulation of *LAr* flow, *Xe* is expected to be uniformly distributed within few hours
- 5 different injections were operated, and the detector response was monitored in the meanwhile
- In total 13.5 kg of *Xe* injected into the cryostat. This is equivalent to 18.8 ppm of *Xe* in mass, assuming 770 tons of *LAr*.

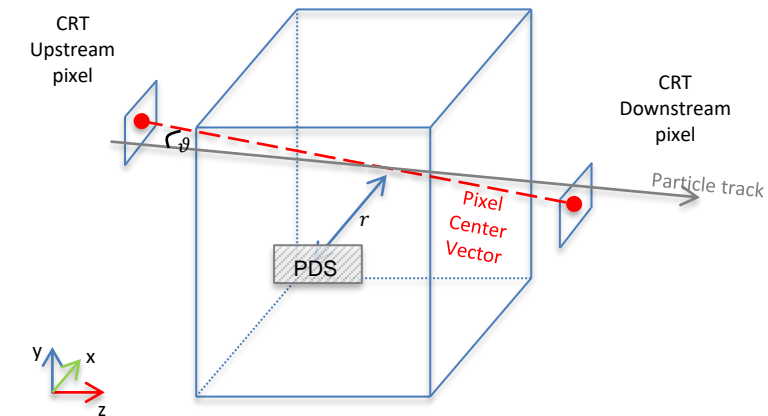
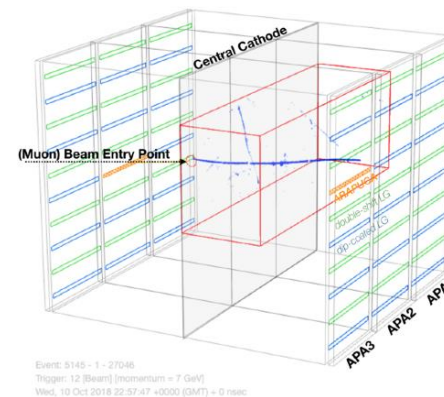
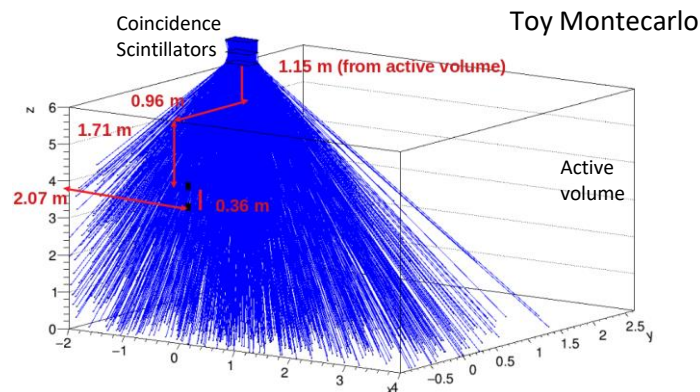


# Injection	Date	Injected Xe [gr]	Injected Xe [ppm]	Cumulative Xe [ppm]
1	13-14 Feb 2020	776	1.1	1.1
2	26-28 Feb 2020	2234	3.1	4.2
3	3-8 Apr 2020	5335	7.4	11.6
4	27-30 Apr 2020	3192	4.5	16.0
5	15-16 May 2020	400	0.6	16.6
	18-20 May 2020	1584	2.2	18.8

DAQ and Data selection

- A muon telescope with standard triple coincidence of $15.5 \times 44 \text{ cm}^2$ plastic scintillators was installed on the roof of ProtoDUNE-SP
- It selects vertical muons within a 0.43 sr solid angle
- When a triple coincidence is detected, a trigger for the dedicated setup is issued
- A local DAQ (same electronics of ProtoDUNE-SP) is used to acquire and store data

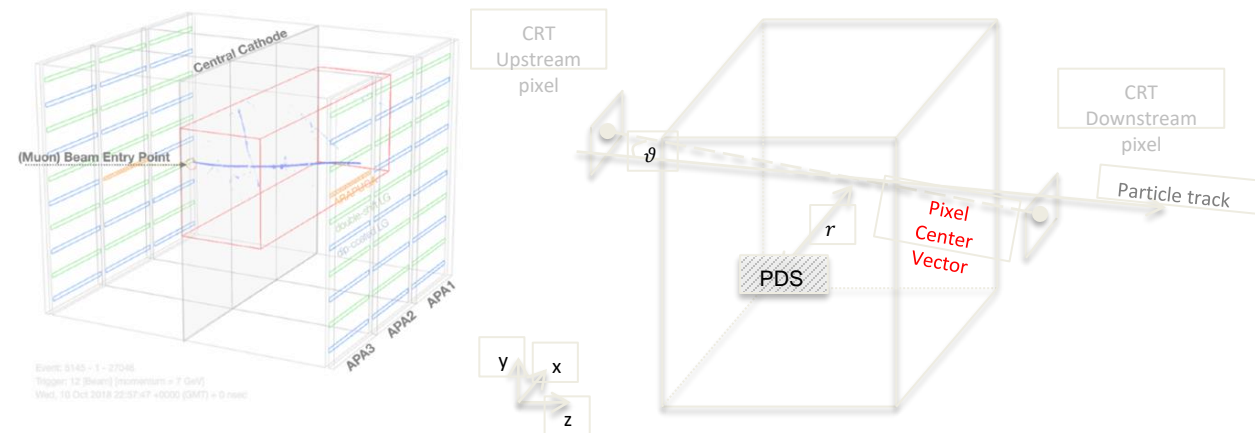
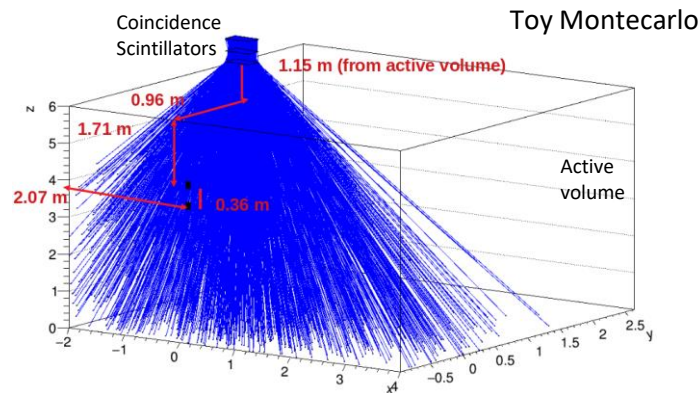
- When ProtoDUNE-SP CRT detects a coincidence between the upstream and downstream module \rightarrow a trigger is issued
- ProtoDUNE-SP TPC and PDS start data acquisition
- Selection:
 - If TPC track is available: compare TPC reconstructed direction with vector that intersects the strip hits in both triggered CRT modules ($\cos \theta > 0.999$)
 - If $E = 0 \text{ V/cm}$: at least two photon detectors in two different APAs within a time coincidence of $13 \mu\text{s}$.



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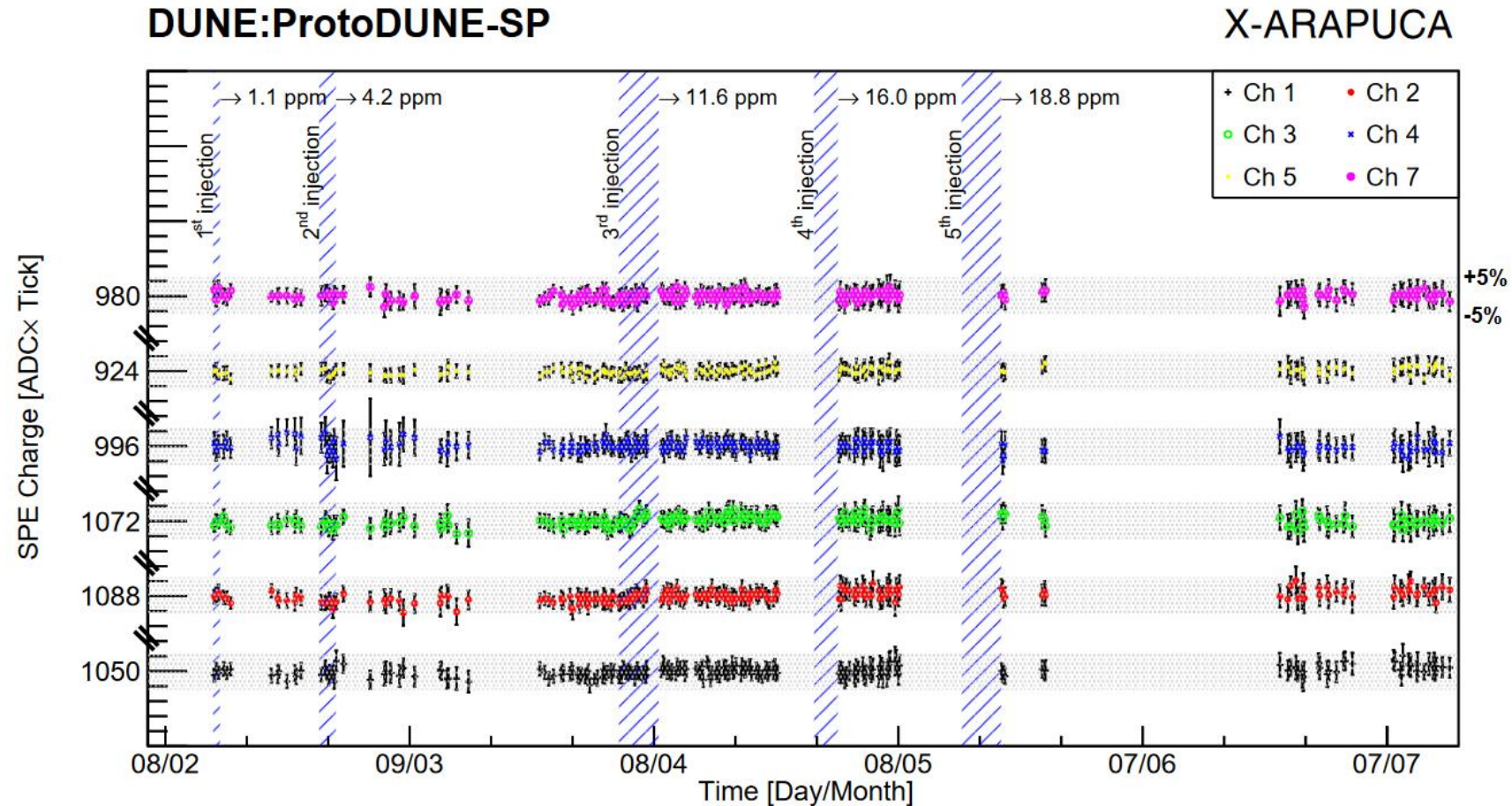
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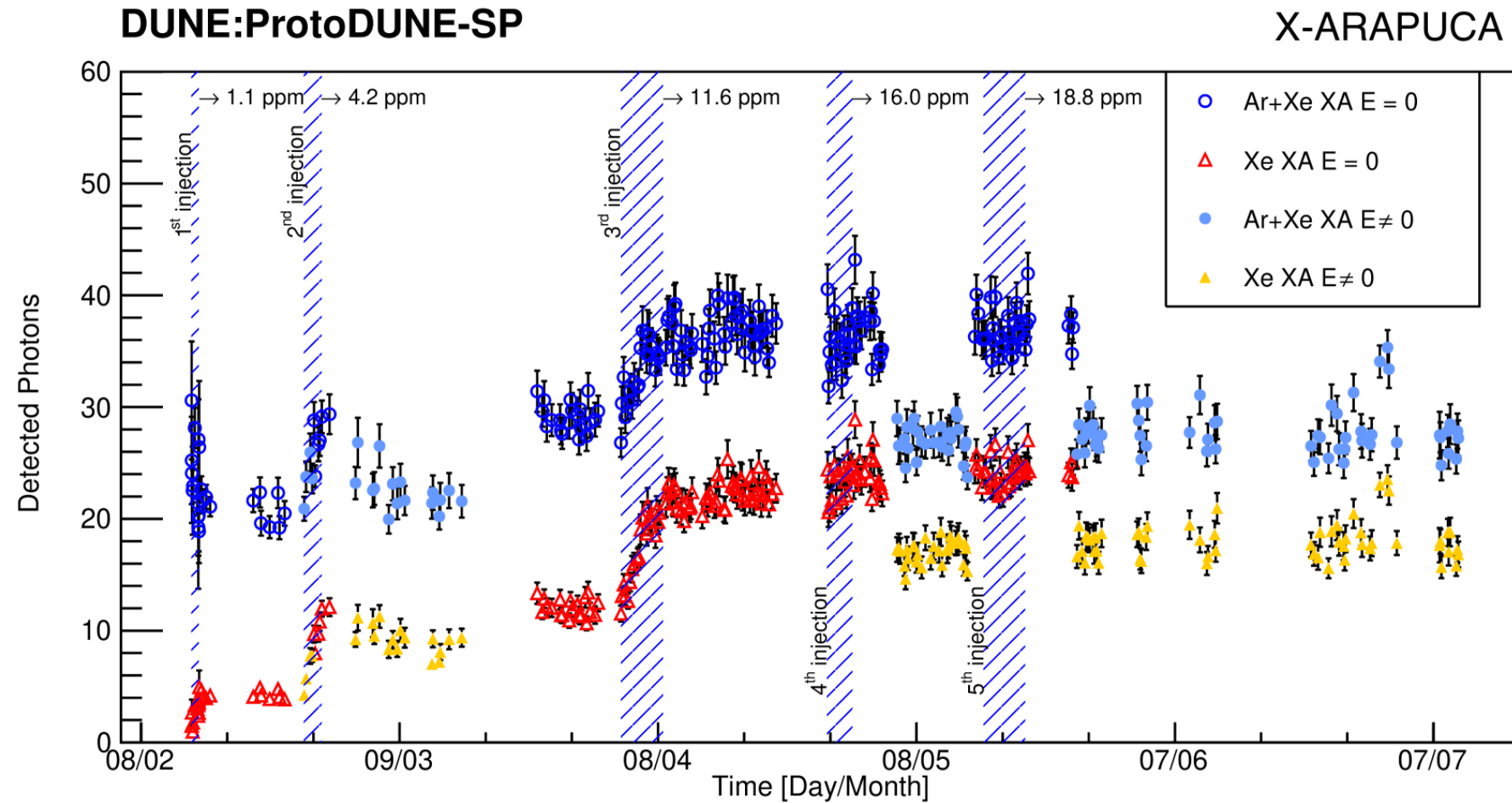
X-ARAPUCA system stability

- Monitoring of sensors and electronics by analyzing the single photoelectron (SPE) response
- A peak finder algorithm searches photoelectron pulses in the tail of each acquired signal
- The charges of these onsets are histogrammed
- The first two peaks are fit with two Gaussians and the difference in their mean values is taken as the SPE charge



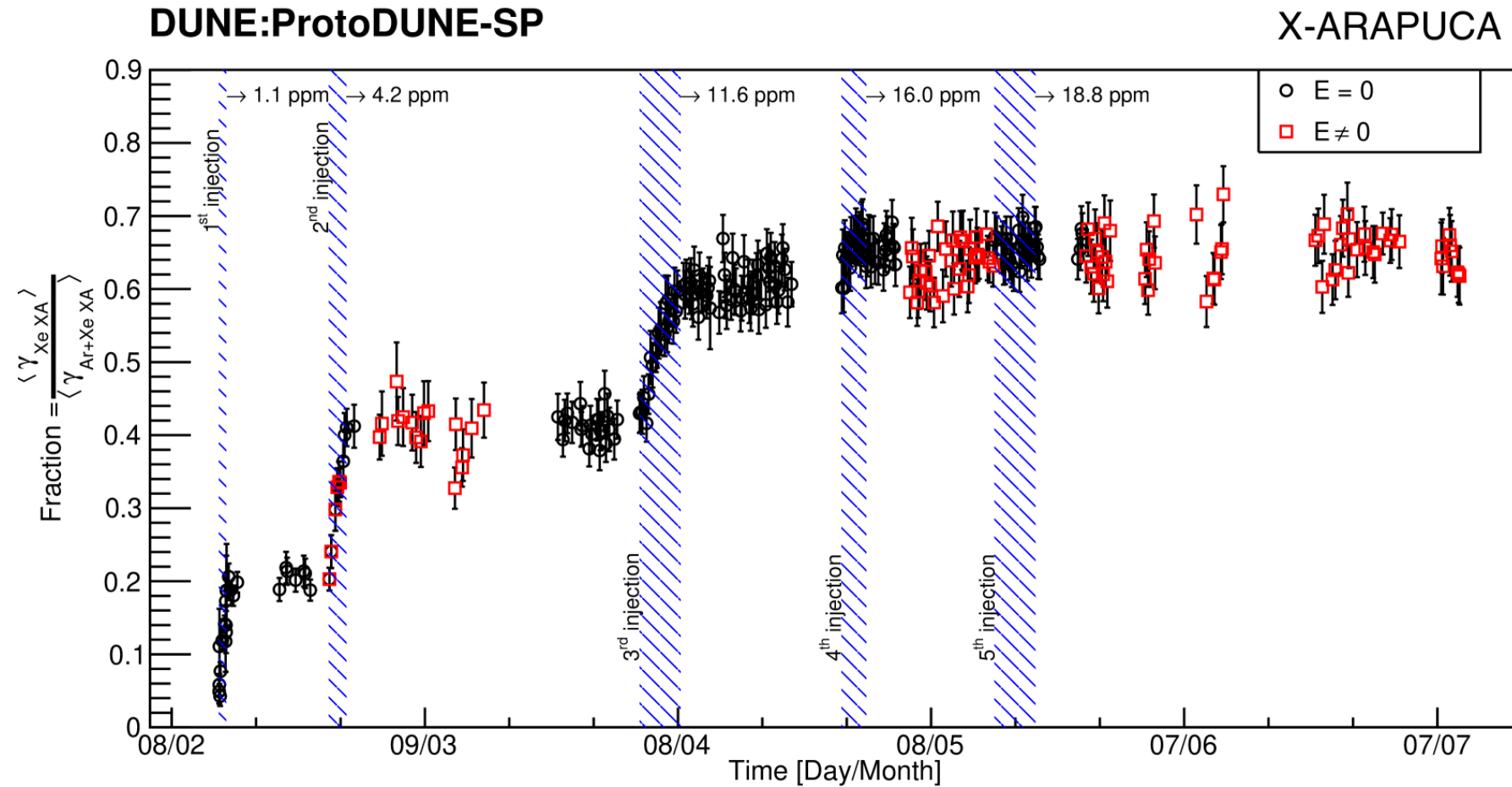
Detected photons

- Light collected by the two X-ARAPUCA modules, in units of detected photons per trigger.
- Shaded areas represent xenon injection periods.



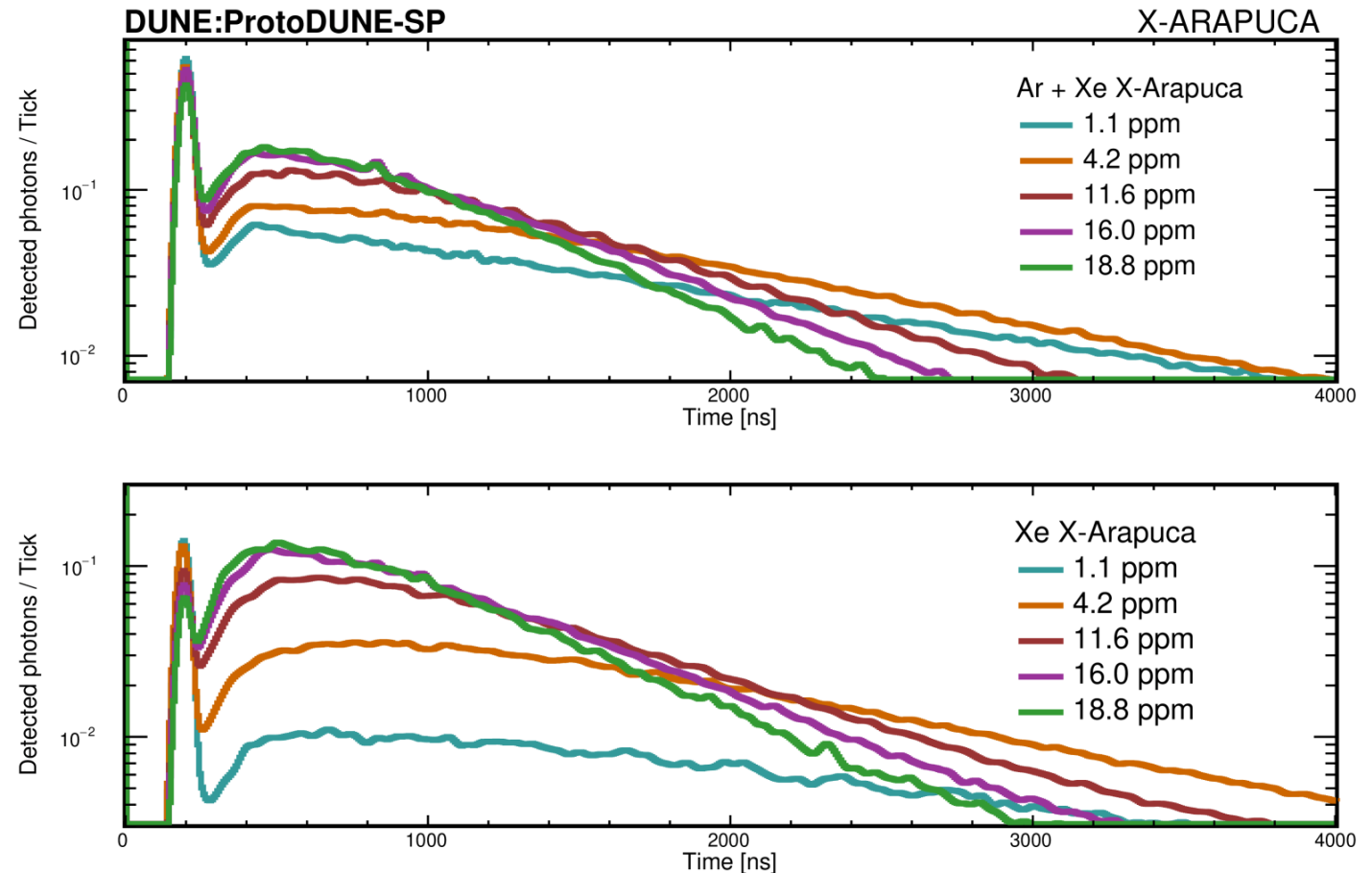
Fraction: $Xe/(Ar + Xe)$

- Fraction of light collected by the xenon-only sensitive X-ARAPUCA.
- Shaded areas represent xenon injection periods.
- The ratio increases with the doping and reaches a plateau around 0.65 for xenon concentration greater than 16.0 ppm.



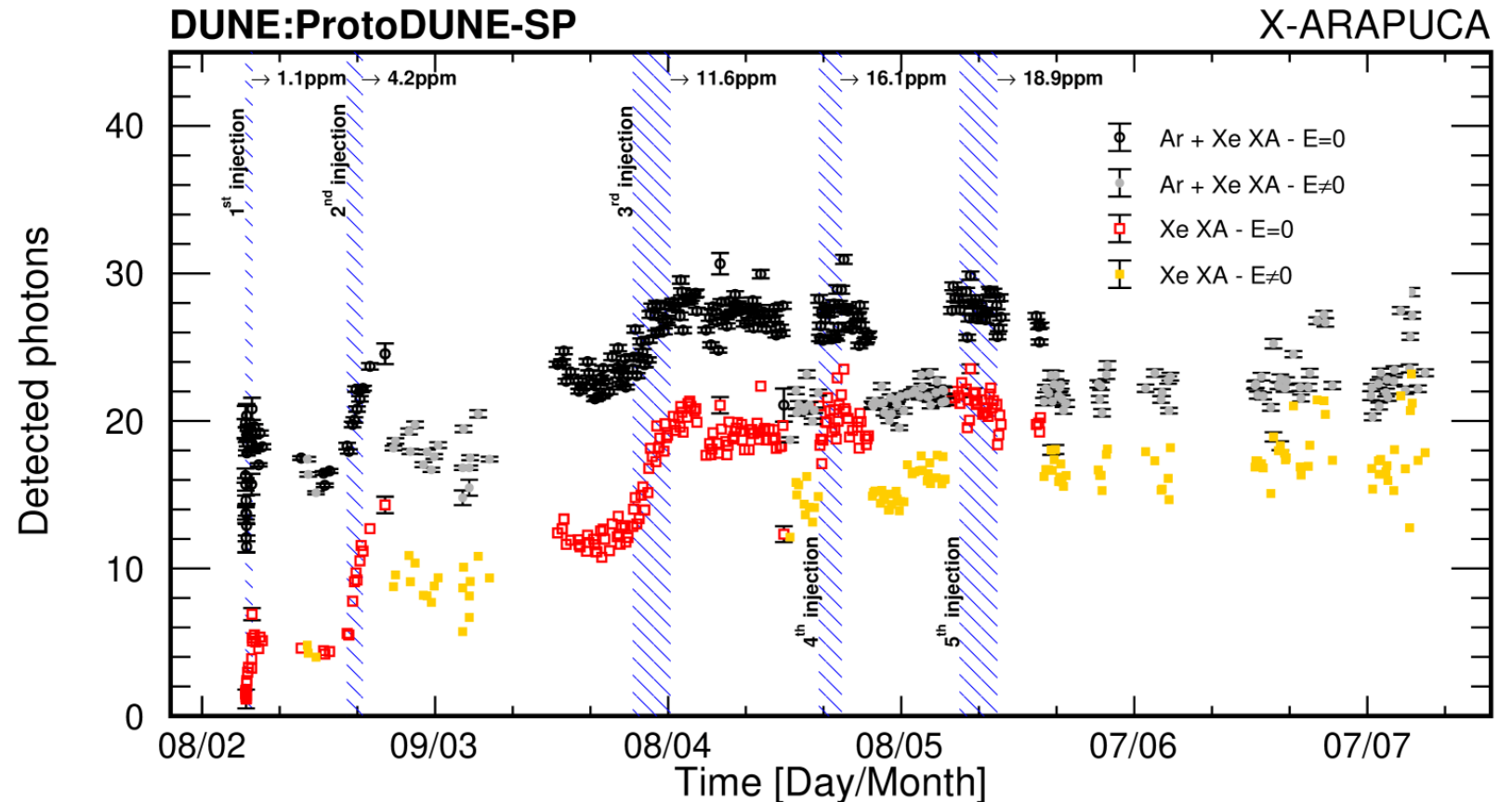
Scintillation time profile

- Averaged scintillation signals are deconvolved by single photoelectron response of the sensor
- Overall light (area under the curve) increases
- Typical bump, due to Ar-Xe creation
- The scintillation profile becomes shorter as xenon get injected



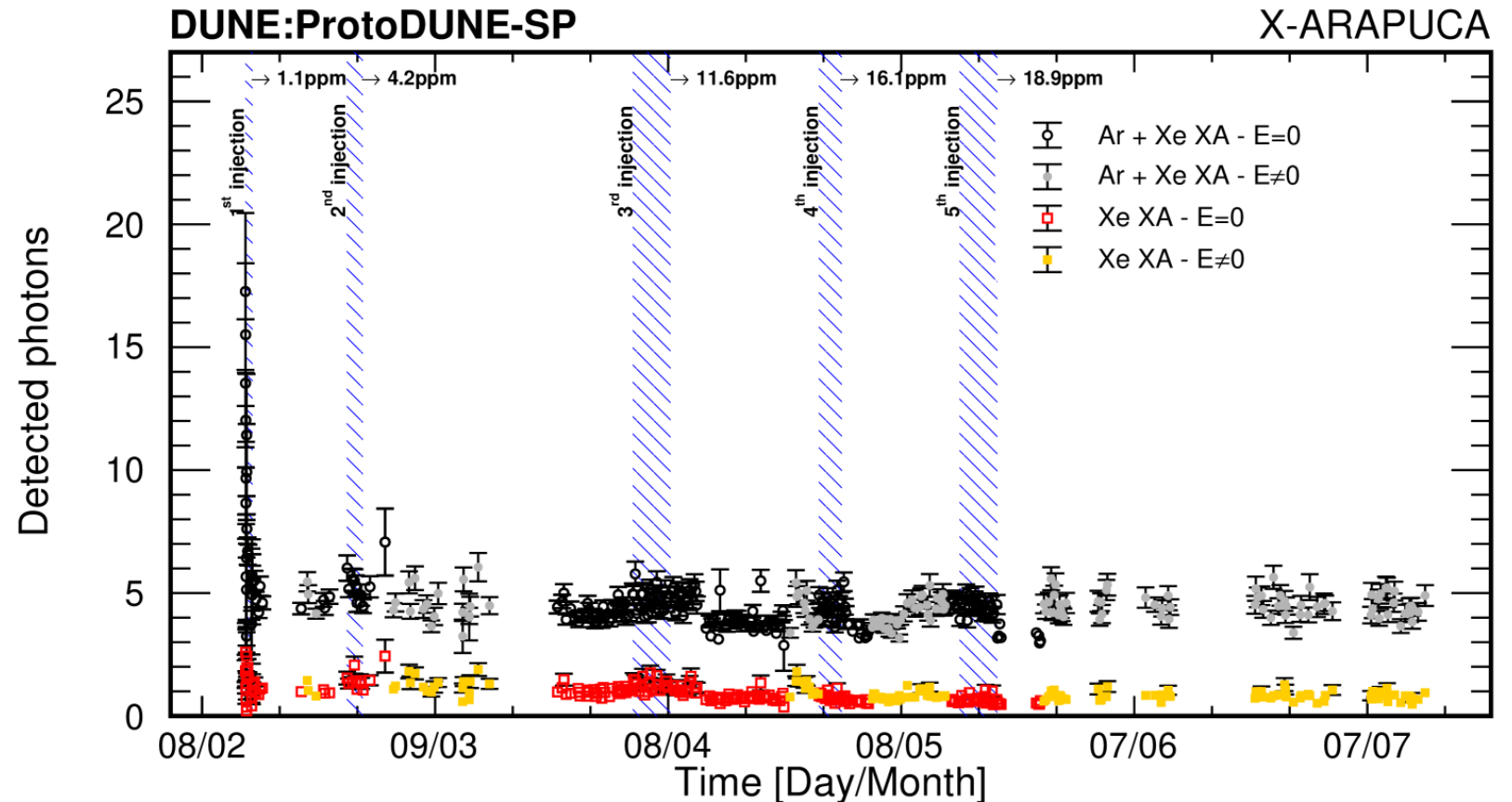
Slow component

- Slow light component: detected photons with $t > 74 \text{ ns}$ after trigger
- Most affected by xenon doping for low doping concentration
- Same trend as total detected photons (full waveform integral)



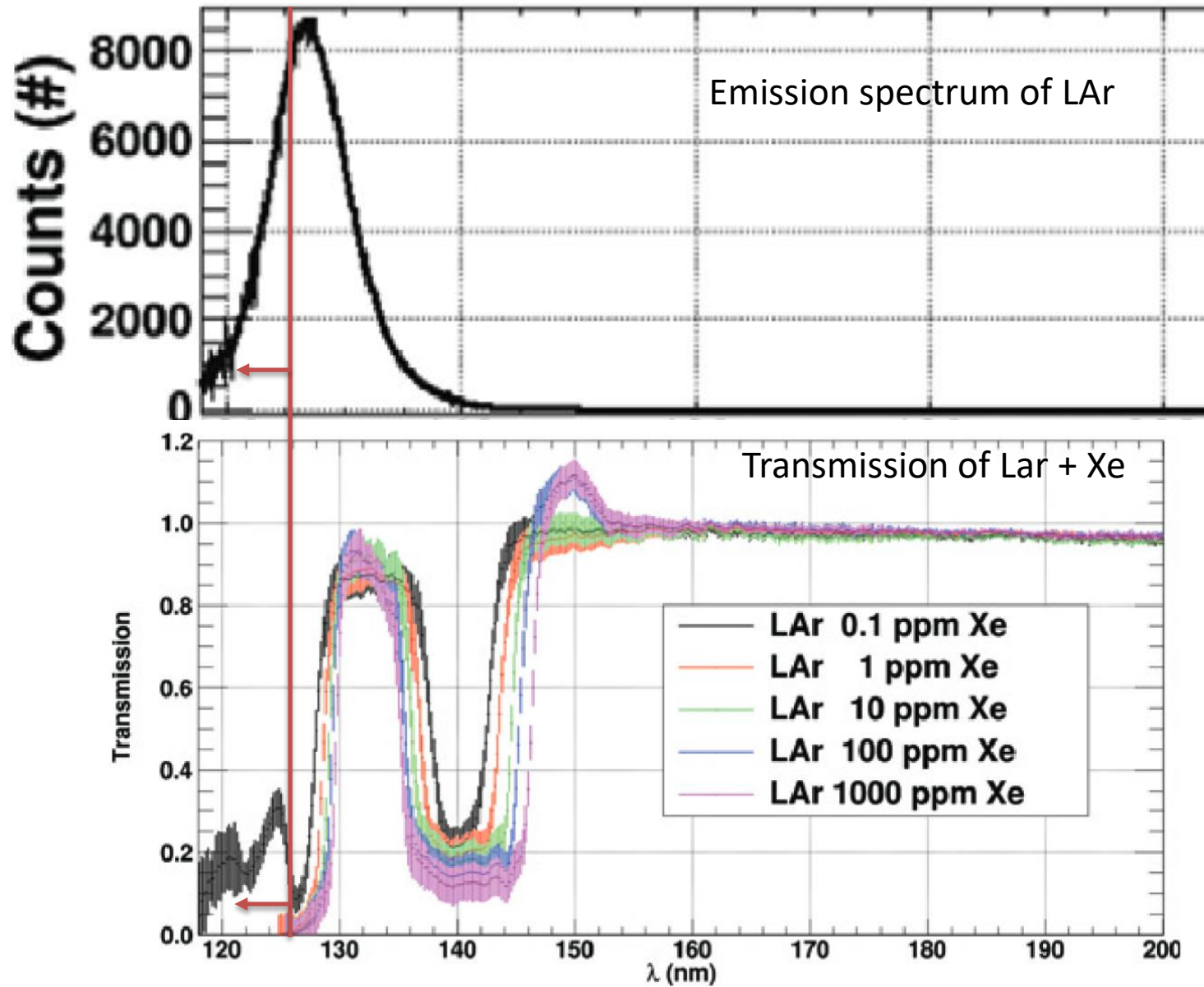
Fast component

- Fast light component: detected photons with $t < 74$ ns after trigger
- Unexpected reduction of the fast component immediately after the first injection
- Then, stable throughout the doping period



Fast component

- It cannot be explained by xenon-shifting mechanism: de-excitation time of Ar singlet (~ 6 ns) too quick for energy transfer mechanism
- It is not affected by further xenon injections (collisional processes rates usually $\propto [Xe]$)
- Possible explanation: strong absorption by Ar+Xe mixture overlapping with part of the Ar emission spectrum

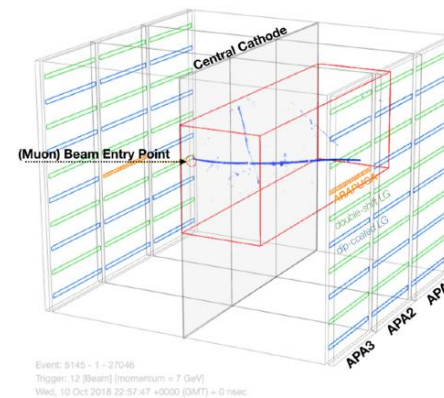
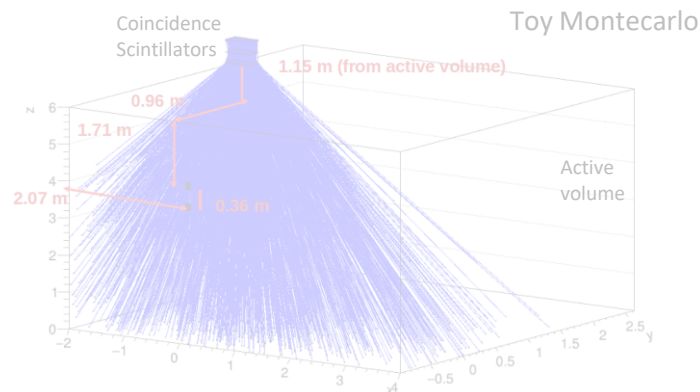


DOI 10.1209/0295-5075/111/12001

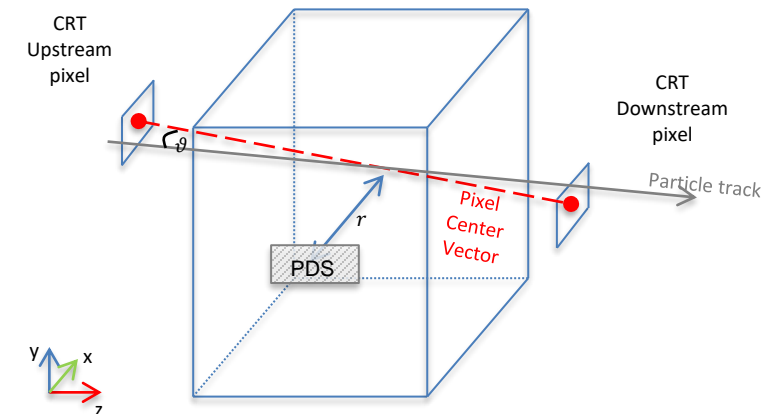
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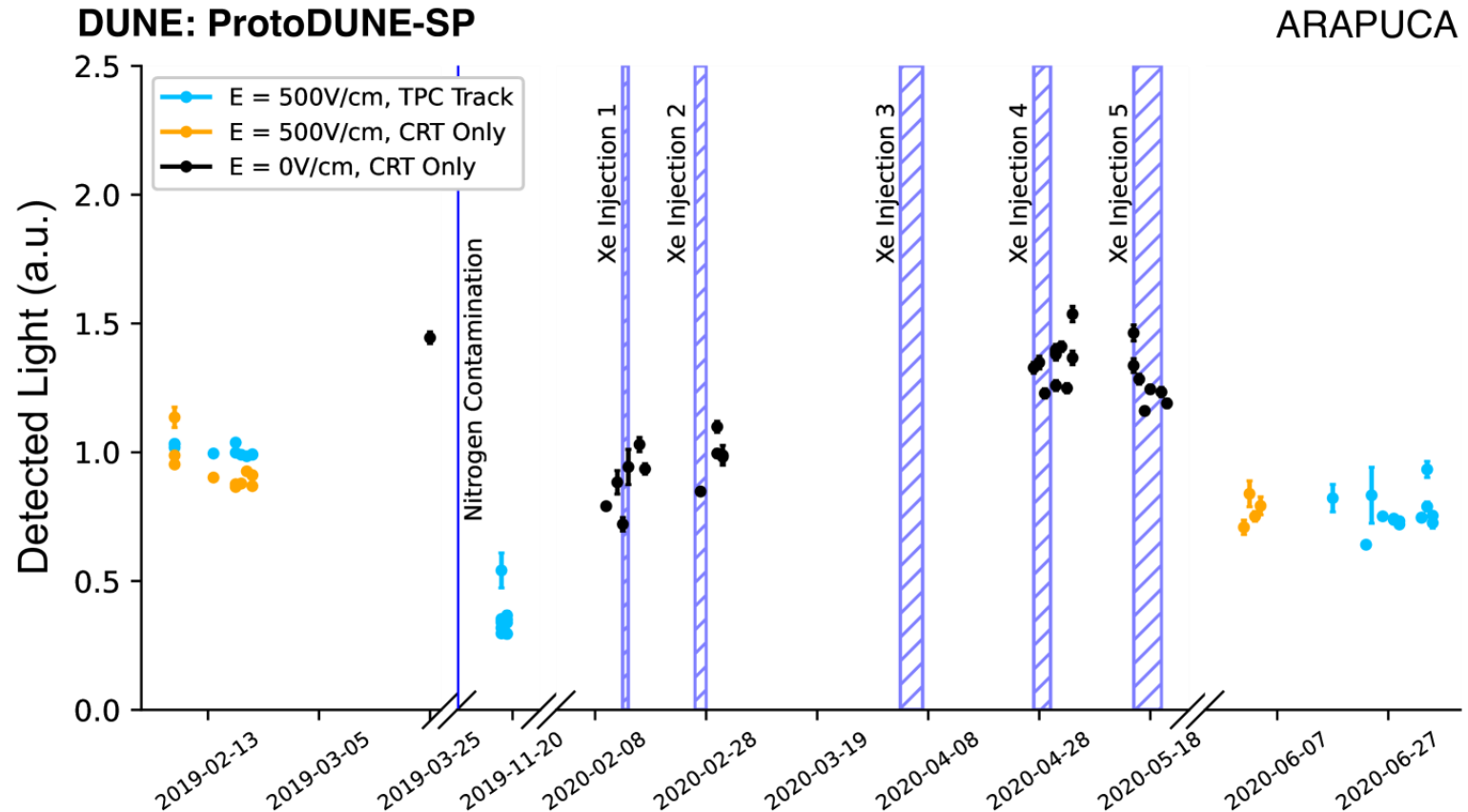


Event: 5145 - 1 - 27046
 Trigger: 12 (Beam) [momentum = 7 GeV]
 Wed, 10 Oct 2018 22:57:47 +0000 (GMT) = 0 msec



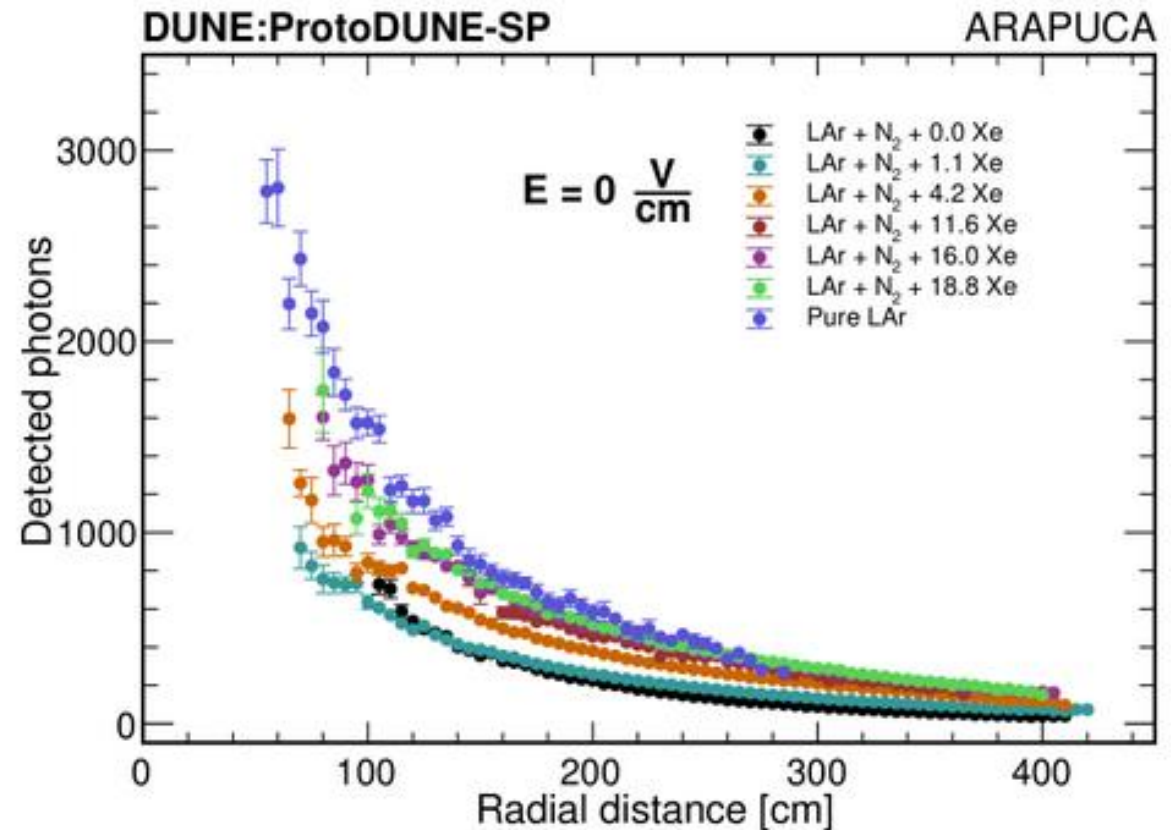
Detected Light

- Average light signal detected by a standard ARAPUCA from PDS
- The average amount of light detected in the ProtoDUNE PDS drops after the nitrogen contamination
- It increases, in steps, with each additional doping with xenon.



Light collection vs distance

- Average light as a function of the radial distance between the muon track and PDS module
- Nitrogen (black curve) decrease the overall light detected
- Injecting xenon recovers the light overall, but also changes shape...

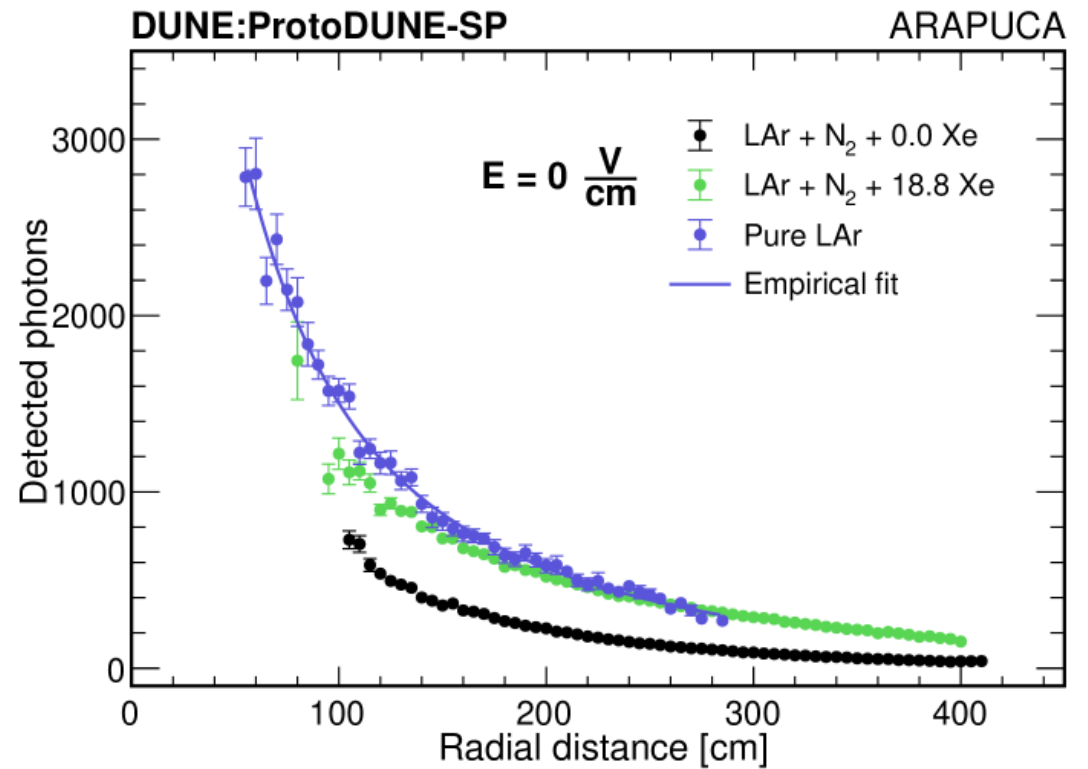


Light collection vs distance

- The LAr “pure” case is fitted with a double exponential

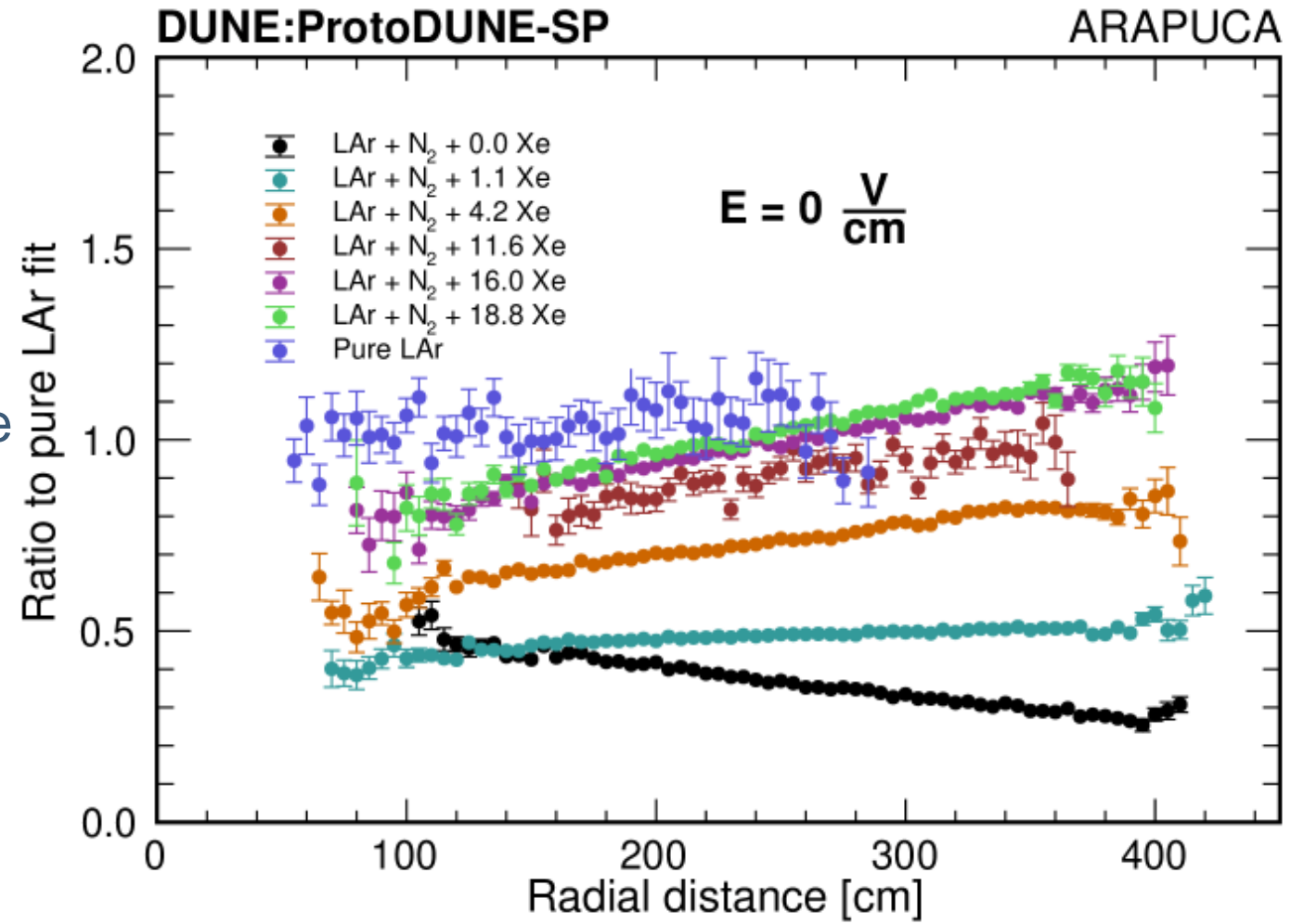
$$a \exp\left(-\frac{r}{l_1}\right) + b \exp\left(-\frac{r}{l_2}\right)$$

- Data are normalized w.r.t the fit



Light collection vs distance

- The LAr “pure” case is fitted with a double exponential $a \exp\left(-\frac{r}{l_1}\right) + b \exp\left(-\frac{r}{l_2}\right)$
- Data are normalized w.r.t the fit
- The more xenon is injected, the more the slope increases
- More light is collected far from the readout plane, and less from nearby (w.r.t the LAr “pure” case)
 - More uniform light collection over the drift distance !!

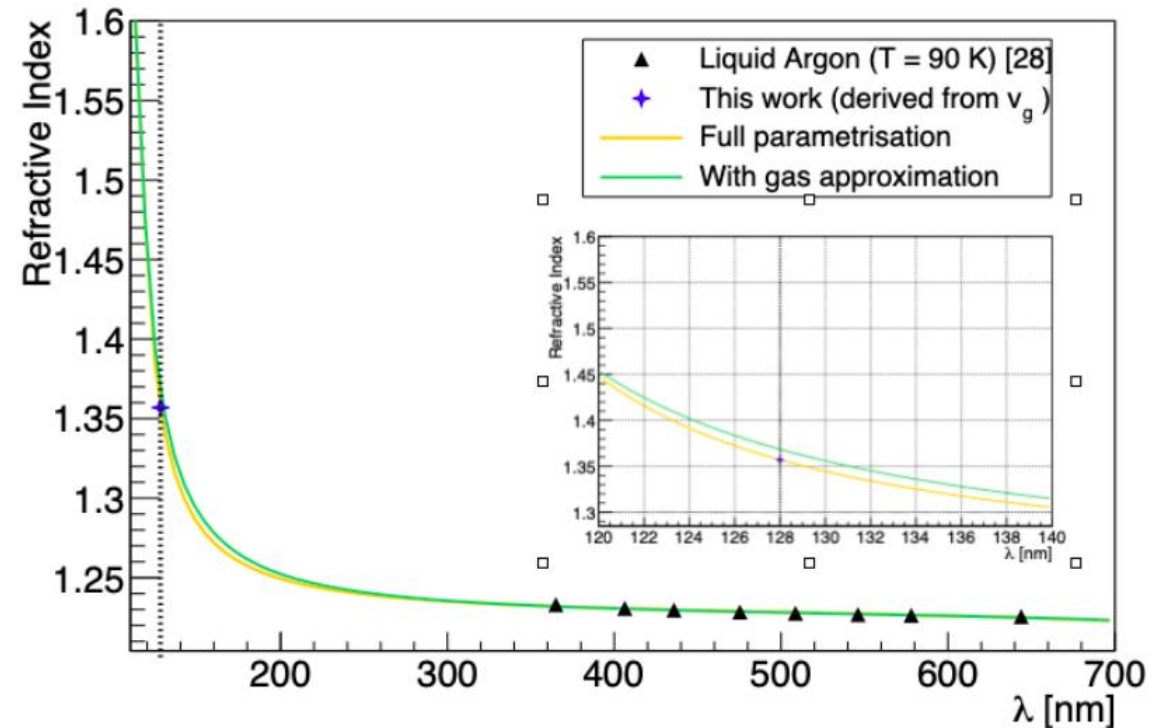


Rayleigh scattering

- In liquid argon the main phenomenon involving light transport is Rayleigh scattering

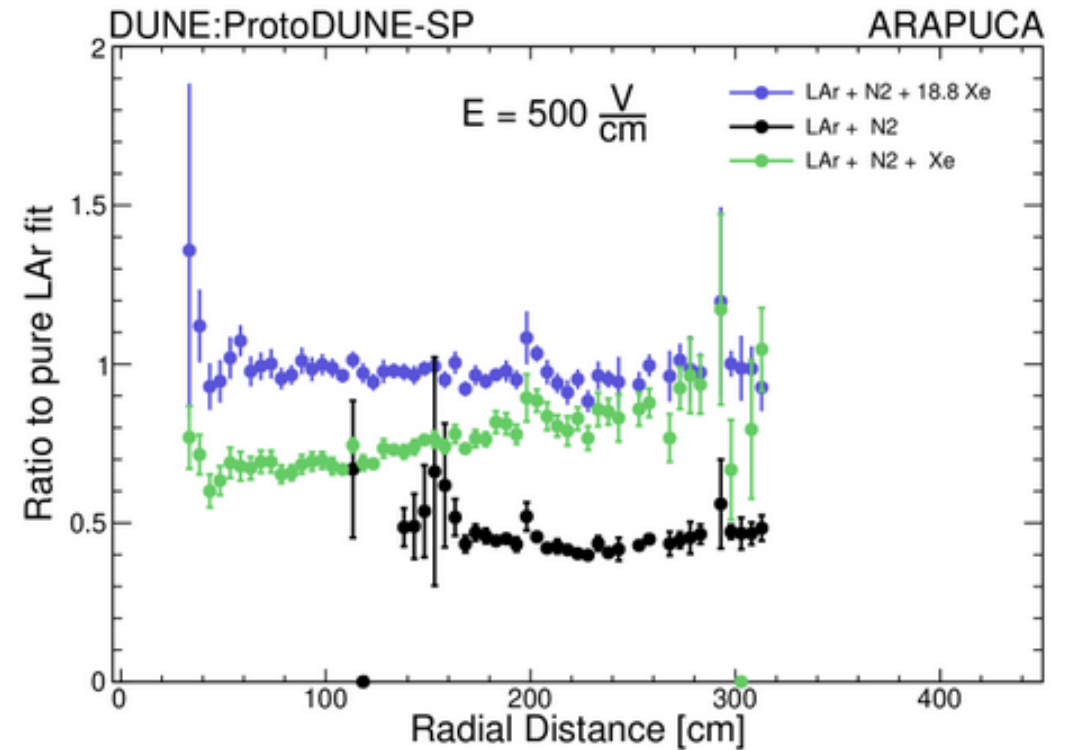
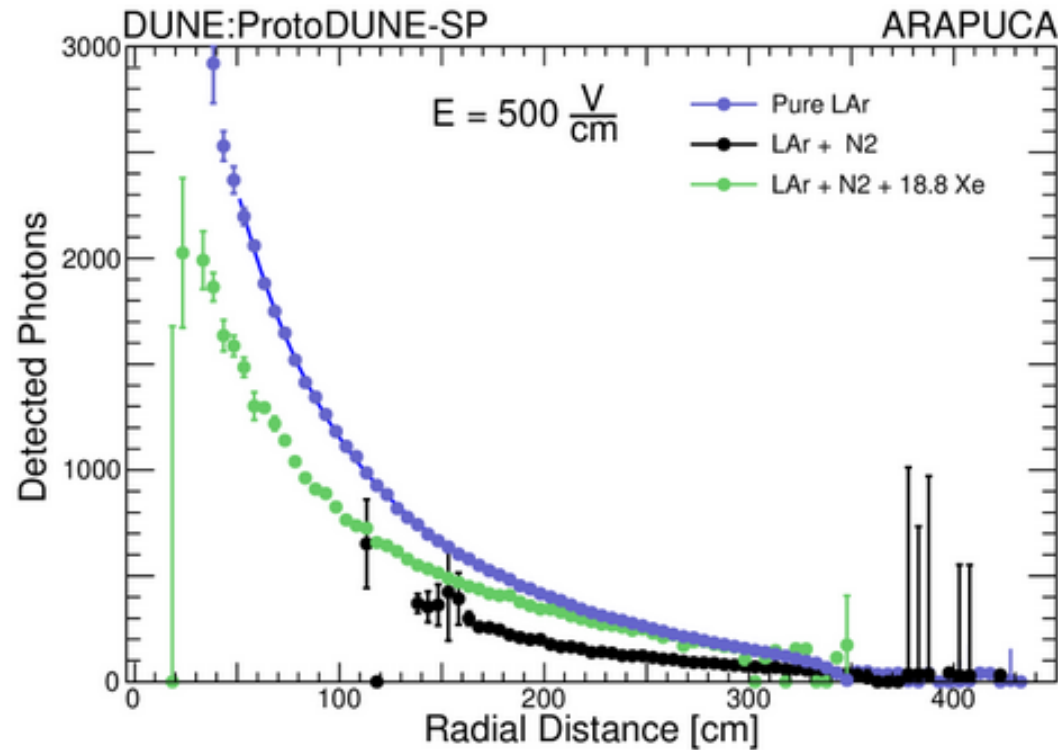
$$\mathcal{L}^{-1} = \frac{16\pi^3}{6\lambda^4} \left[kT\kappa_T \left(\frac{(n_\lambda^2 - 1)(n_\lambda^2 + 2)}{3} \right)^2 \right]$$

- The scattering length is $\propto \lambda^4$, and strong dependence on n_λ^{-4}
- Increasing the wavelength, the Rayleigh scattering decreases strongly
- Expected Rayleigh scattering lengths:
 - 128 nm \rightarrow ~91 cm
 - 175 nm \rightarrow ~7.6 m



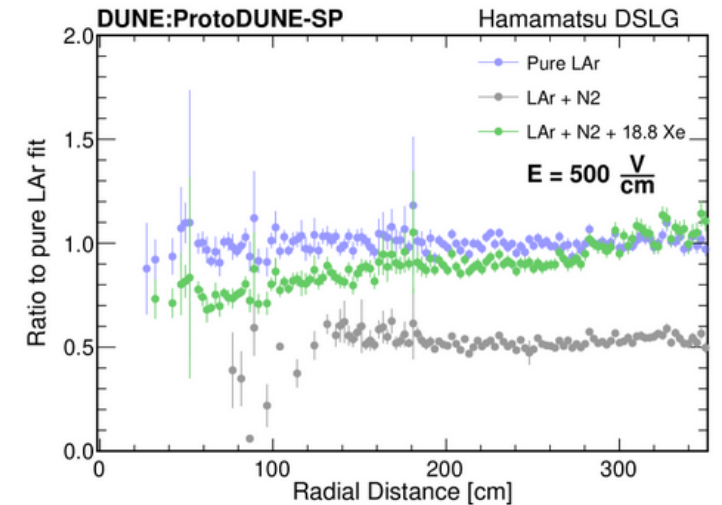
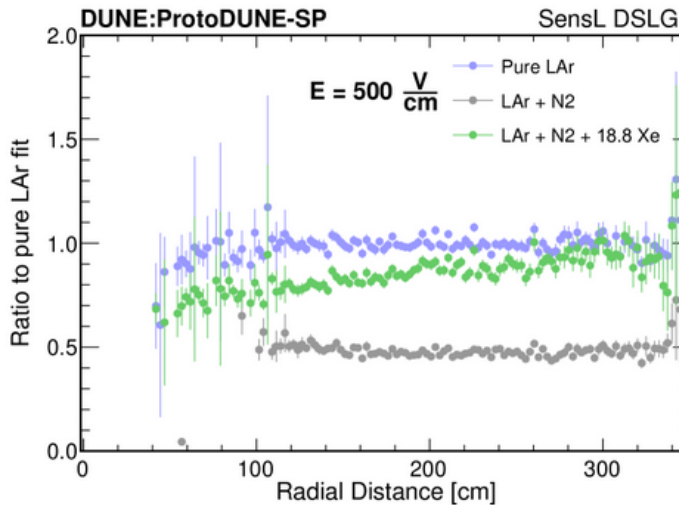
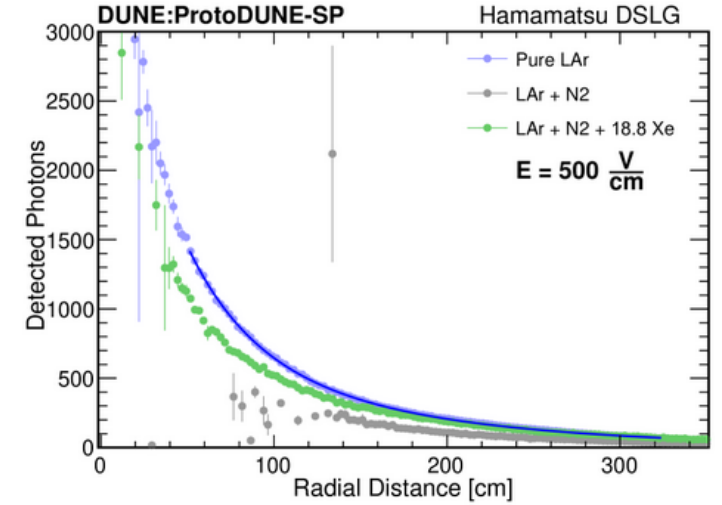
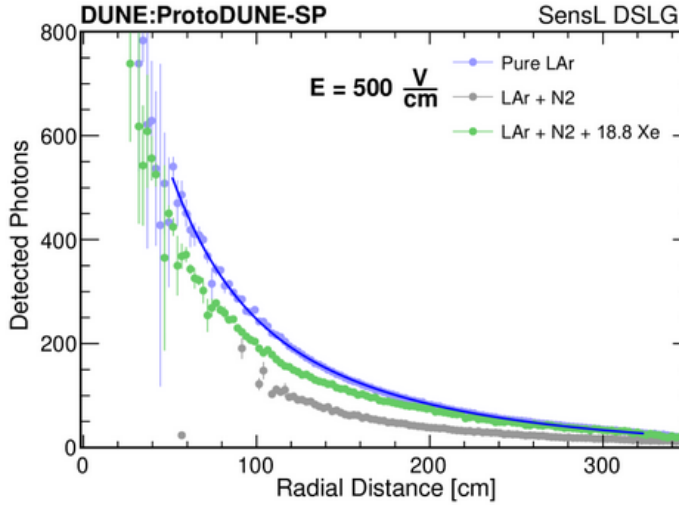
DOI 10.1088/1748-0221/15/09/P09009

Light collection vs distance (E=500 V/cm)



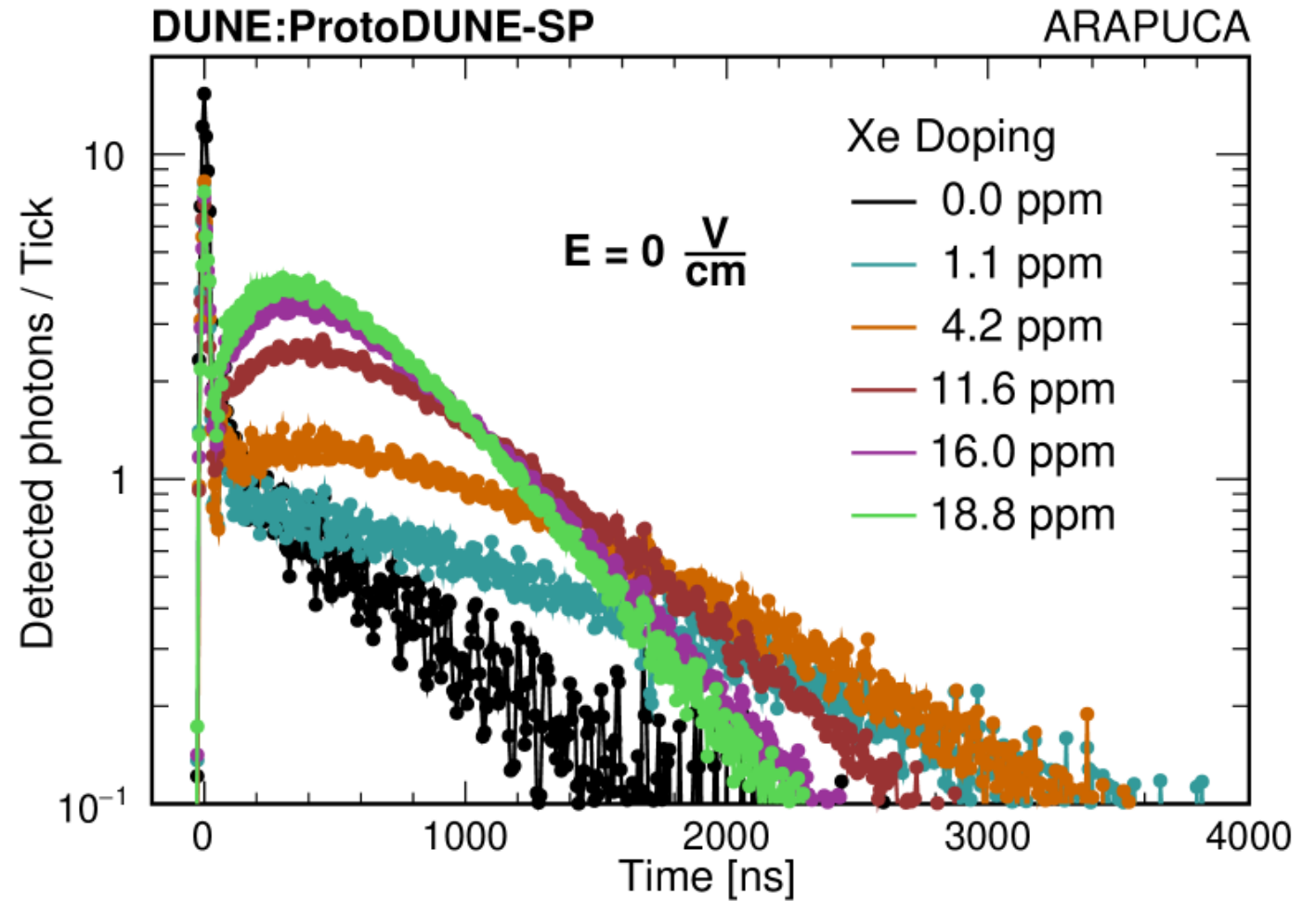
Light collection vs distance

- Trends are checked with other type of sensors (Double Shift Light Guides) with Hamamatsu and SensL SiPM
- Trends compare well to ARAPUCA results



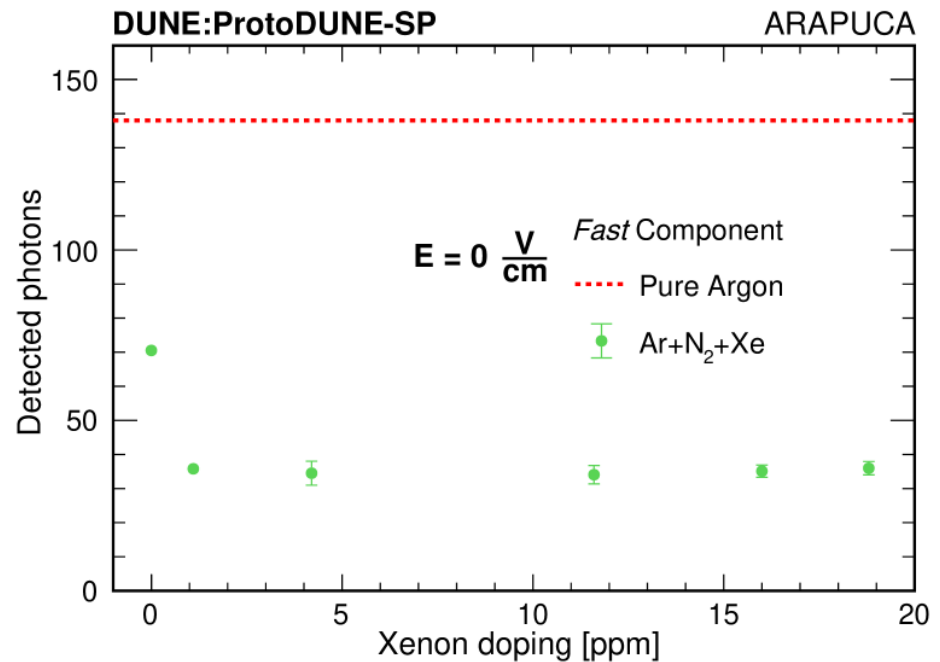
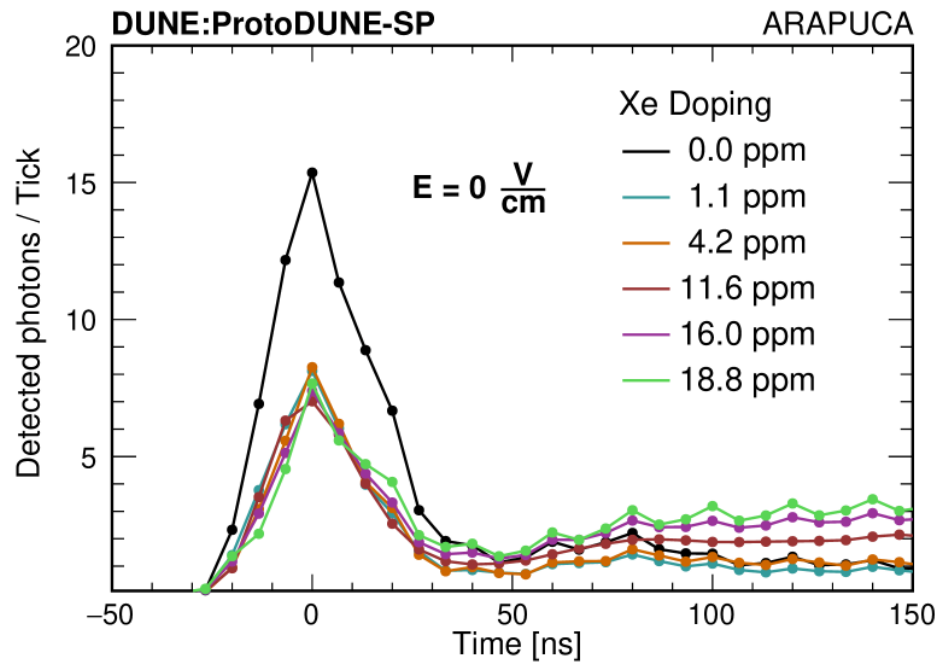
Scintillation time profile

- DUNE PDS can only detect the total light generated (Ar + Xe)
- In good agreement with Ar + Xe X-ARAPUCA in standalone system



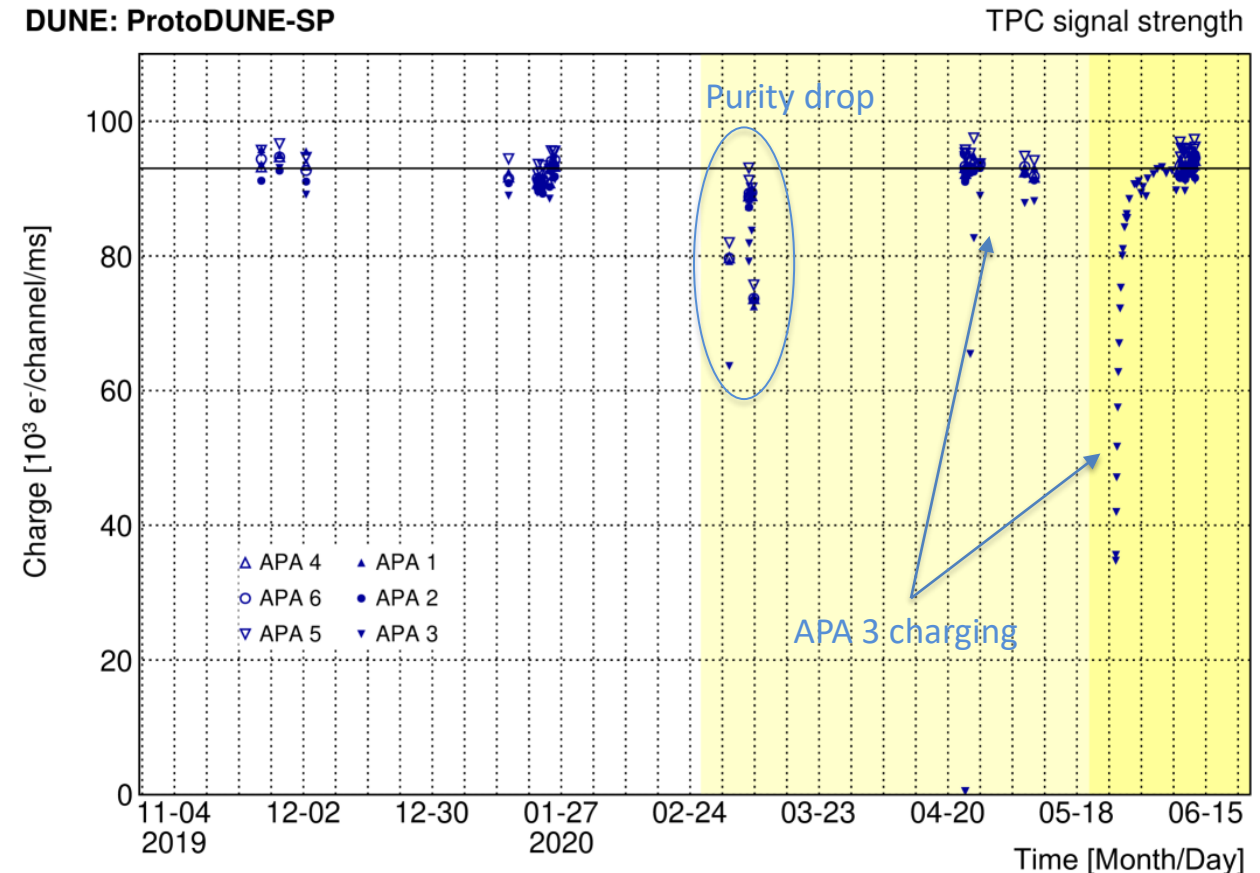
Fast component

- Fast component reduction confirmed from PDS as well
- Comparison with “Pure” Lar case possible with this setup



Charge collection

- Signal strength is used as indicator of charge collection efficiency. It is the average amount of charge collected on the TPC collection wires during a standard run with cosmic rays.
- A straight line indicates the reference value of $93 ke^- / channel / ms$ at $E = 500 V / cm$
- Sudden drops were due to temporary purity degradation
- The response for APA-3 is always lower for the first few days after high voltage is turned on
- No difference in signal strength after xenon injection.



Back to ...scintillation time profile

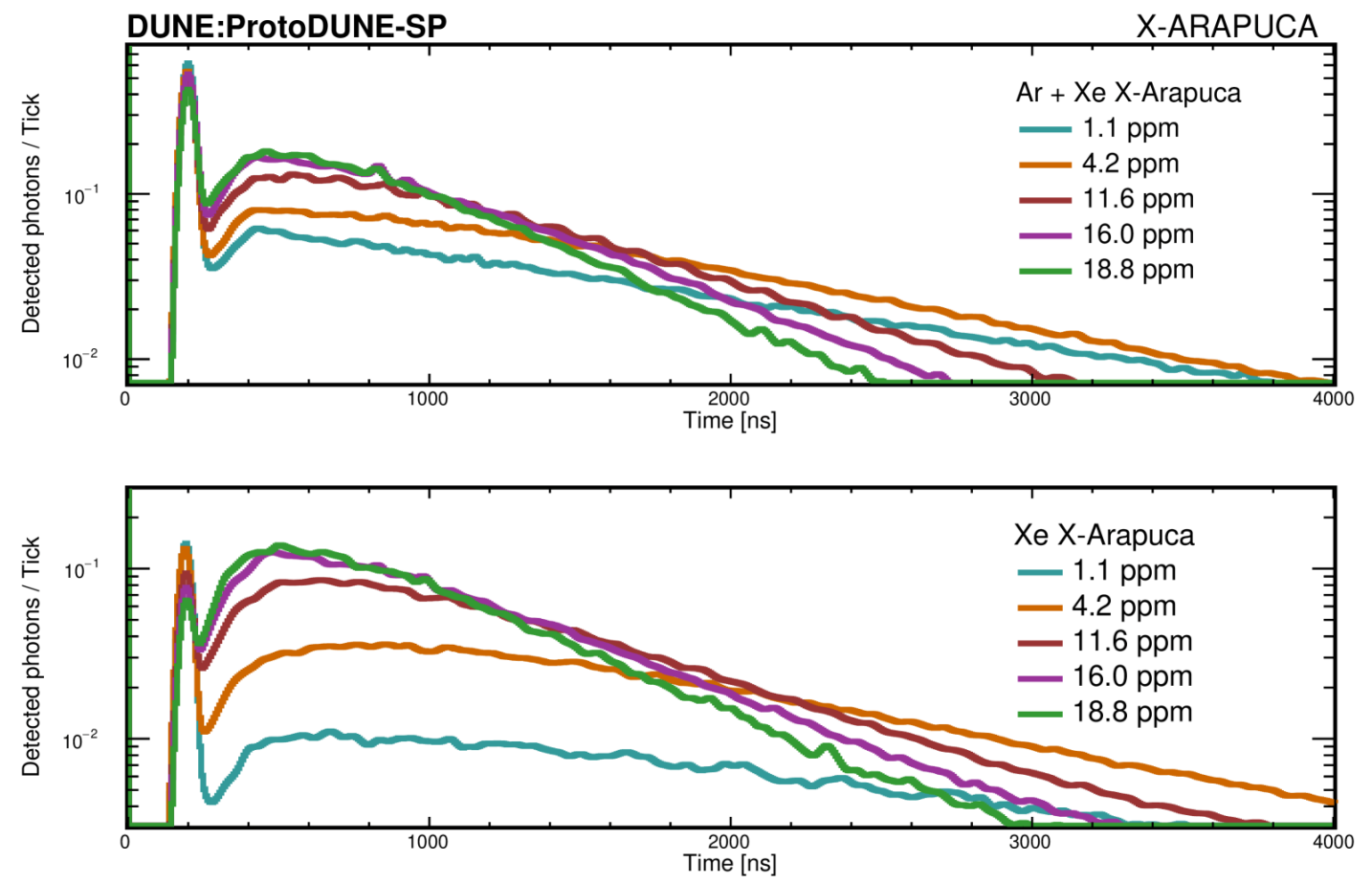
- $\frac{dn_{Ar,S}}{dt} = -\lambda_{Ar,S}n_{Ar,S}$
- $\frac{dn_{Ar,T}}{dt} = -(\lambda_{Ar,T} + \lambda_{N_2} + \lambda_{AX})n_{Ar,T}$
- $\frac{dn_{ArXe^*}}{dt} = \lambda_{AX}n_{Ar,T} - (\lambda_{149\text{ nm}} + \lambda_{XX})n_{ArXe^*}$
- $\frac{dn_{Xe_2^*}}{dt} = \lambda_{XX}n_{ArXe^*} - \lambda_{Xe}n_{Xe_2^*}$
- Intrinsic de-excitation parameters ($\lambda = \tau^{-1}$):
 - $\lambda_{Ar,S}$: Ar singlet radiative emission
 - $\lambda_{Ar,T}$: Ar triplet radiative emission
 - $\lambda_{149\text{ nm}}$: ArXe radiative emission
 - λ_{Xe} : Xe effective radiative emission
- Process parameters dependent on dopant concentration:
 - $\lambda_{N_2} = k_{N_2} [N_2]$
 - $\lambda_{AX} = k_{AX} [Xe]$
 - $\lambda_{XX} = k_{XX} [Xe]$
 where k is the rate constant of the process.

Scintillation time profile

- The time profile can be fitted with three exponentials

- $$l(t) = A_f \exp\left(-\frac{t}{\tau_f}\right) + A_i \exp\left(-\frac{t}{\tau_i}\right) + A_s \exp\left(-\frac{t}{\tau_s}\right)$$

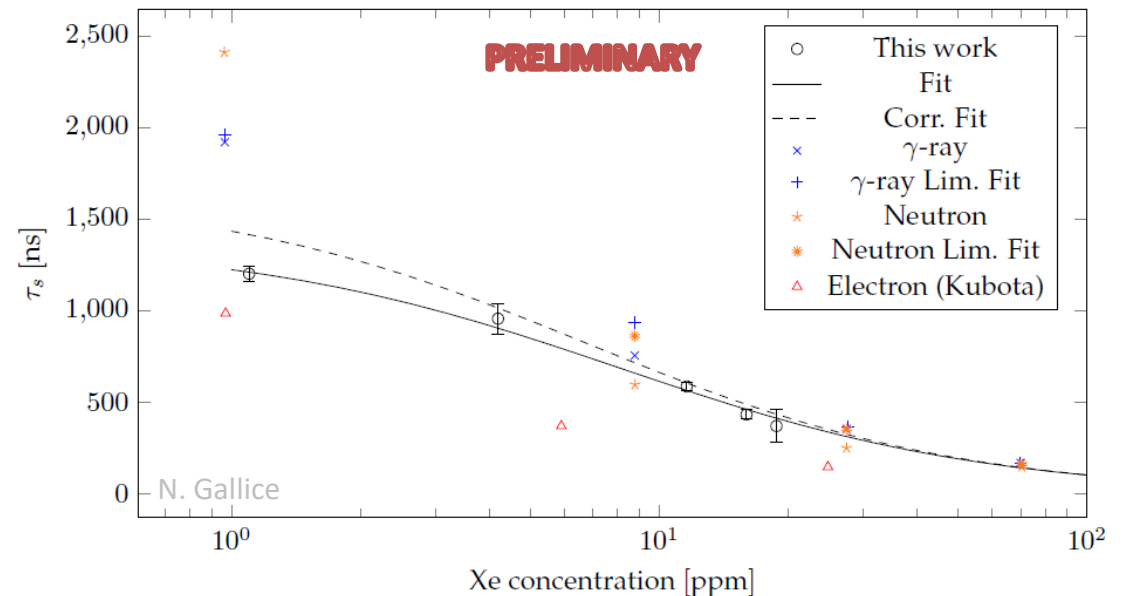
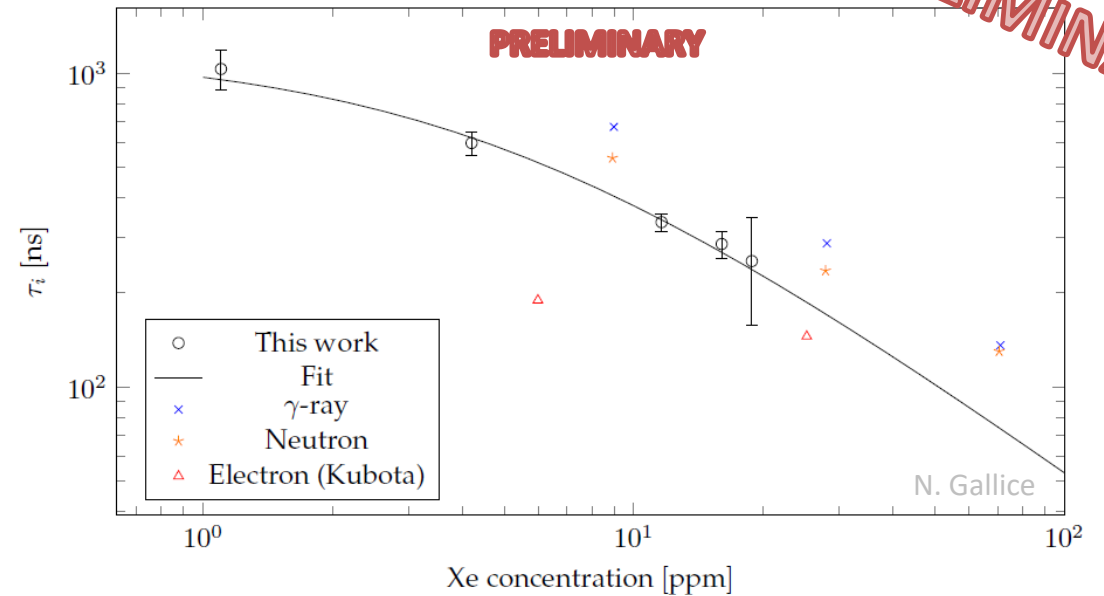
- $$\tau_i = (\tau_{149nm}^{-1} + k_{XX}[Xe])^{-1}$$
- $$\tau_s = (\tau_{Ar,T}^{-1} + \tau_{N_2}^{-1} + k_{AX}[Xe])^{-1}$$



Fitting parameters

- For each xenon concentration the average deconvolved waveform is fitted
- The extracted τ_i and τ_s are plotted as a function of concentration
 - $\tau_i = (\tau_{149\text{ nm}}^{-1} + k_{XX}[\text{Xe}])^{-1}$
 - $\tau_s = (\tau_{Ar,T}^{-1} + \tau_{N_2}^{-1} + k_{AX}[\text{Xe}])^{-1}$
- Parametric form is $(a + b[\text{Xe}])^{-1}$

Constant	Fit value
k_{AX}	$(8.9 \pm 0.1) \times 10^{-2} \mu\text{s}^{-1} \text{ppm}^{-1}$
k_{XX}	$(0.18 \pm 0.01) \mu\text{s}^{-1} \text{ppm}^{-1}$
$\tau_{149\text{ nm}}$	$(1.2 \pm 0.1) \mu\text{s}$

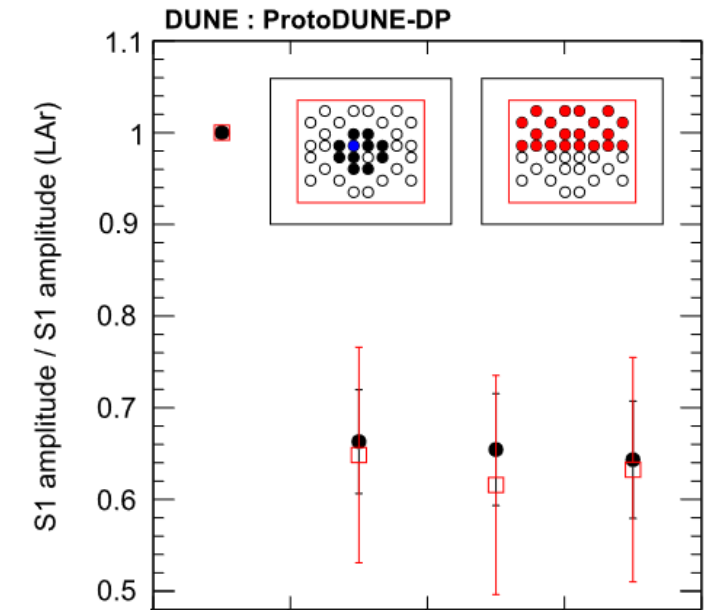
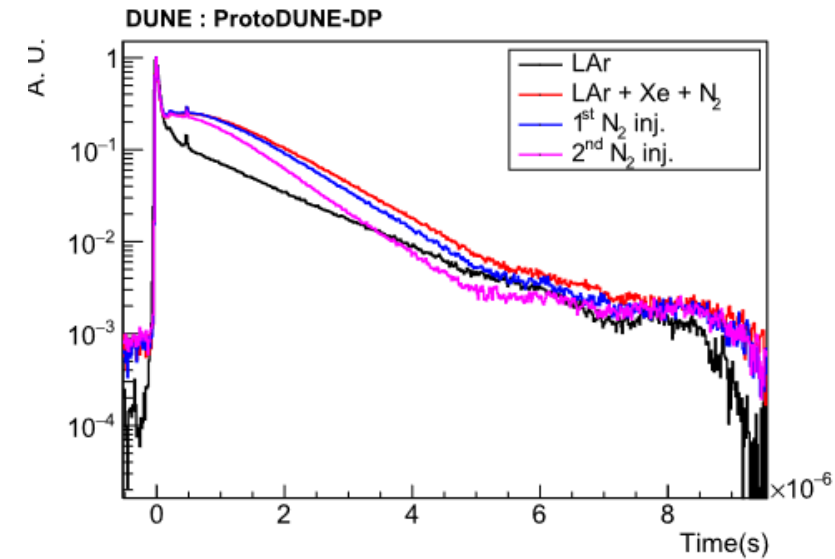
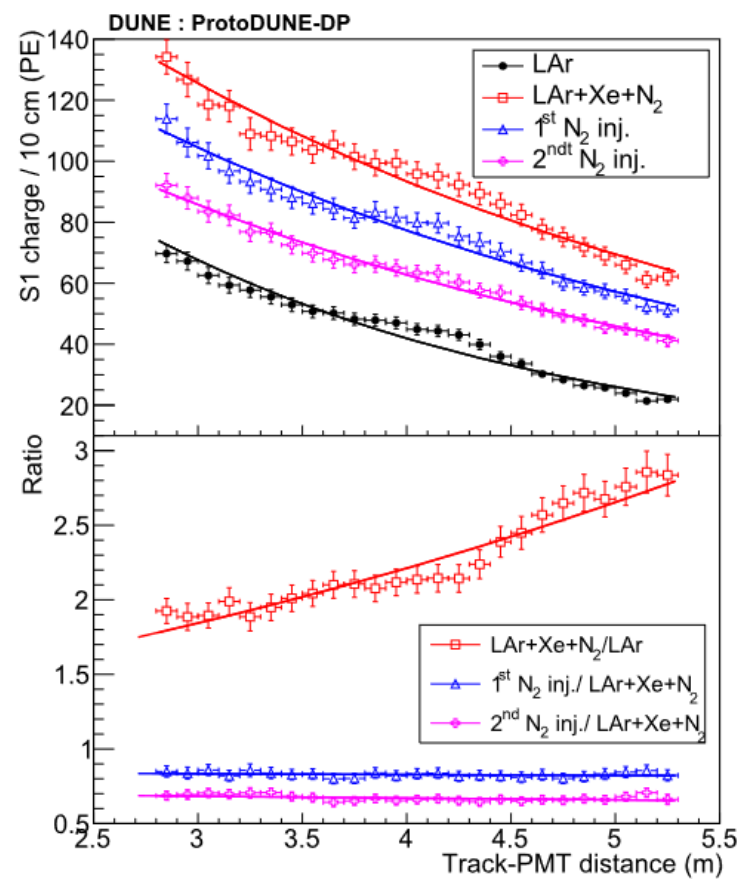


ProtoDUNE-DP

- After the xenon doping run in ProtoDUNE-SP, part of the doped argon was moved to DP detector
- Further injections of N₂ were performed

Situation	[Xe](ppm)	[N ₂](ppm)
LAr	0	0
LAr + Xe + N ₂	5.8	2.4
1 st N ₂ inj.	5.8	3.4
2 nd N ₂ inj.	5.8	5.3

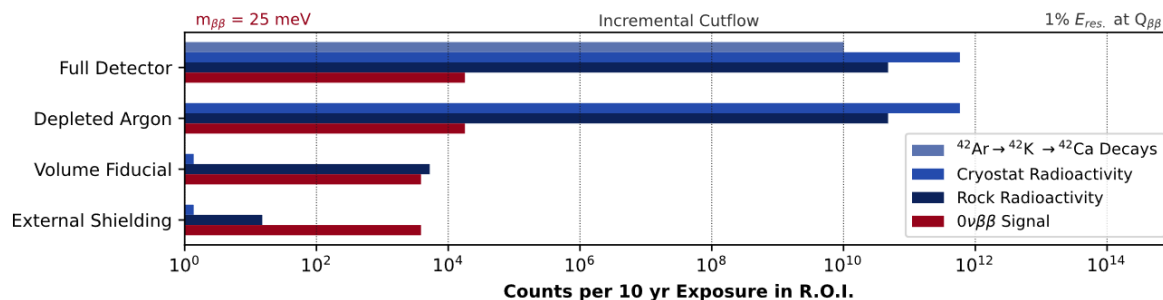
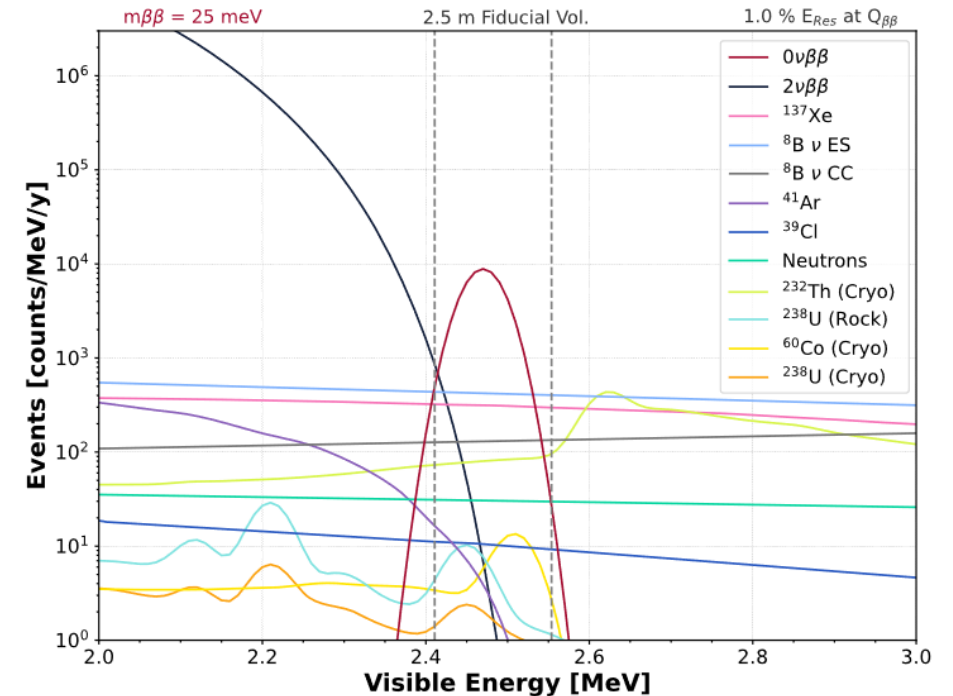
- Similar shape of Ar+Xe waveforms
- Decrease of fast component
- Increase in uniformity



DOI 10.1140/epjc/s10052-022-10549-w

Xenon doping at the next level

- ^{136}Xe candidate for $0\nu\beta\beta$
- Doping DUNE FD at %-level with 90% enriched xenon $\rightarrow \sim 1$ kt of xenon
- Next generation $0\nu\beta\beta$ detector
- Techniques and R&D needed for background reduction
- Very challenging! ... but appealing



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Xenon-doped liquid argon TPCs as a neutrinoless double beta decay platform

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Conclusions

- First demonstration that a large size (770 t) LAr-TPC can be safely operated with xenon at the level of 18.8 ppm
- 128→178 nm light shift is effective already at xenon concentrations of a few ppm and it reaches a plateau at ~16 ppm
- The light signal is faster as more xenon is injected
- It recovers light lost due to N₂ quenching
- The profile of the collected light versus the distance is more uniform after the doping, indication of the longer Rayleigh scattering length
- Understanding and test of the scintillation underlying physics and model
- Fast component reduction (to be further investigated)
- Xenon up to 18.8 ppm does not affect the performance of the charge collection by TPC

Further developments

- Further understanding of spectral response of Ar+Xe mixtures
 - Direct detection of 149 nm light
 - Proof of 128 nm absorption by xenon
 - Re-emission of absorbed light?
- Investigate feasibility of larger doping ratios for $0\nu\beta\beta$

PREVIEW:

**Doping liquid argon with xenon in ProtoDUNE
Single-Phase: effects on scintillation light**

The DUNE Collaboration

<https://arxiv.org/abs/2402.01568>

Accepted last week with minor revisions by JINST!

THANK YOU!