

# **Time-sensitive pulse extraction using ML with NuDot**

**Masooma Sarfraz, Spencer Axani, Miles Garcia, on behalf of NuDot  
collaboration**



UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE  
**BARTOL RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE**

**Machine learning workshop**  
January 30, 2025

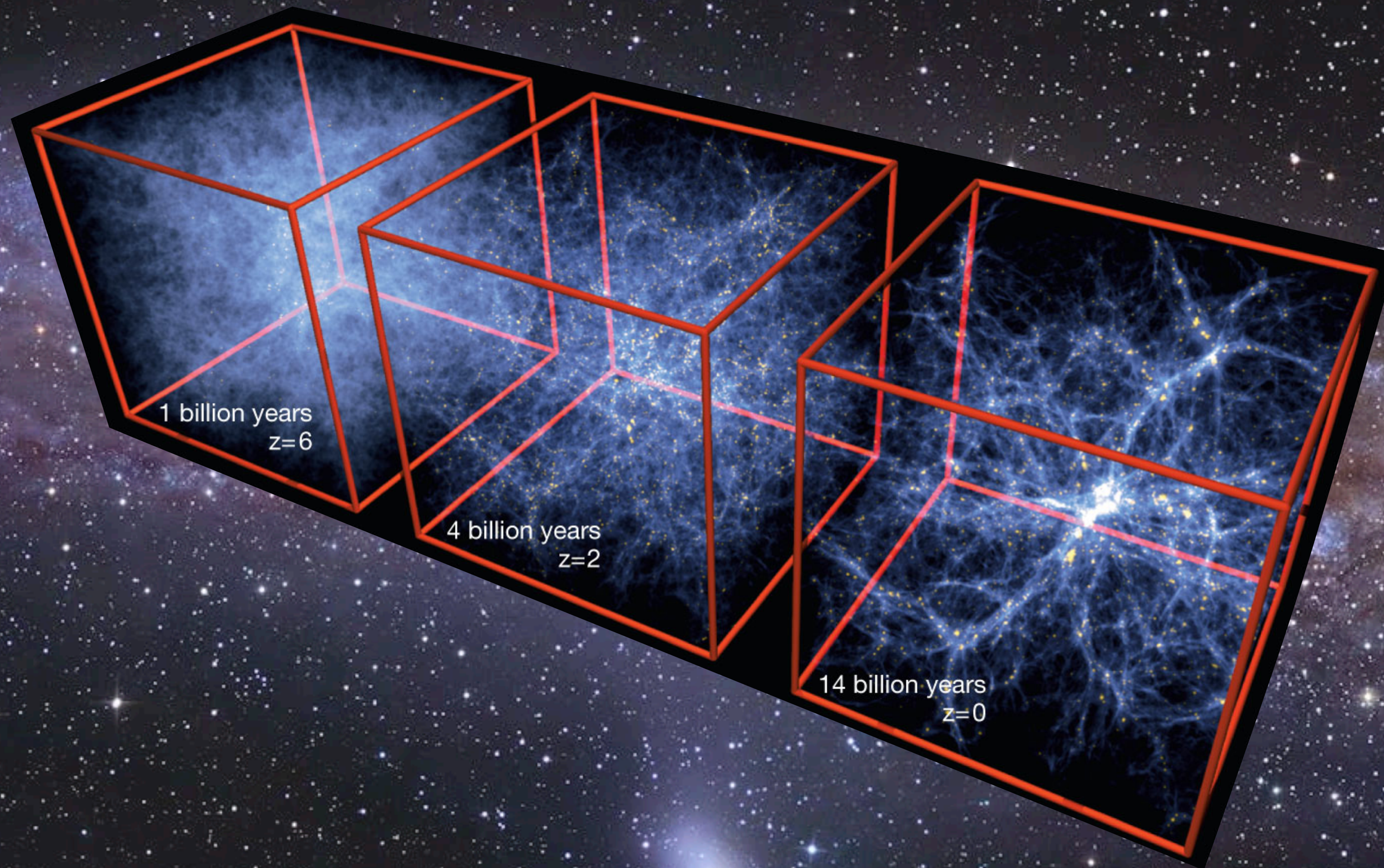


# Outline:

- Motivation
- NuDot
- Active efforts in Machine learning
- Summary



# Matter Anti-matter asymmetry

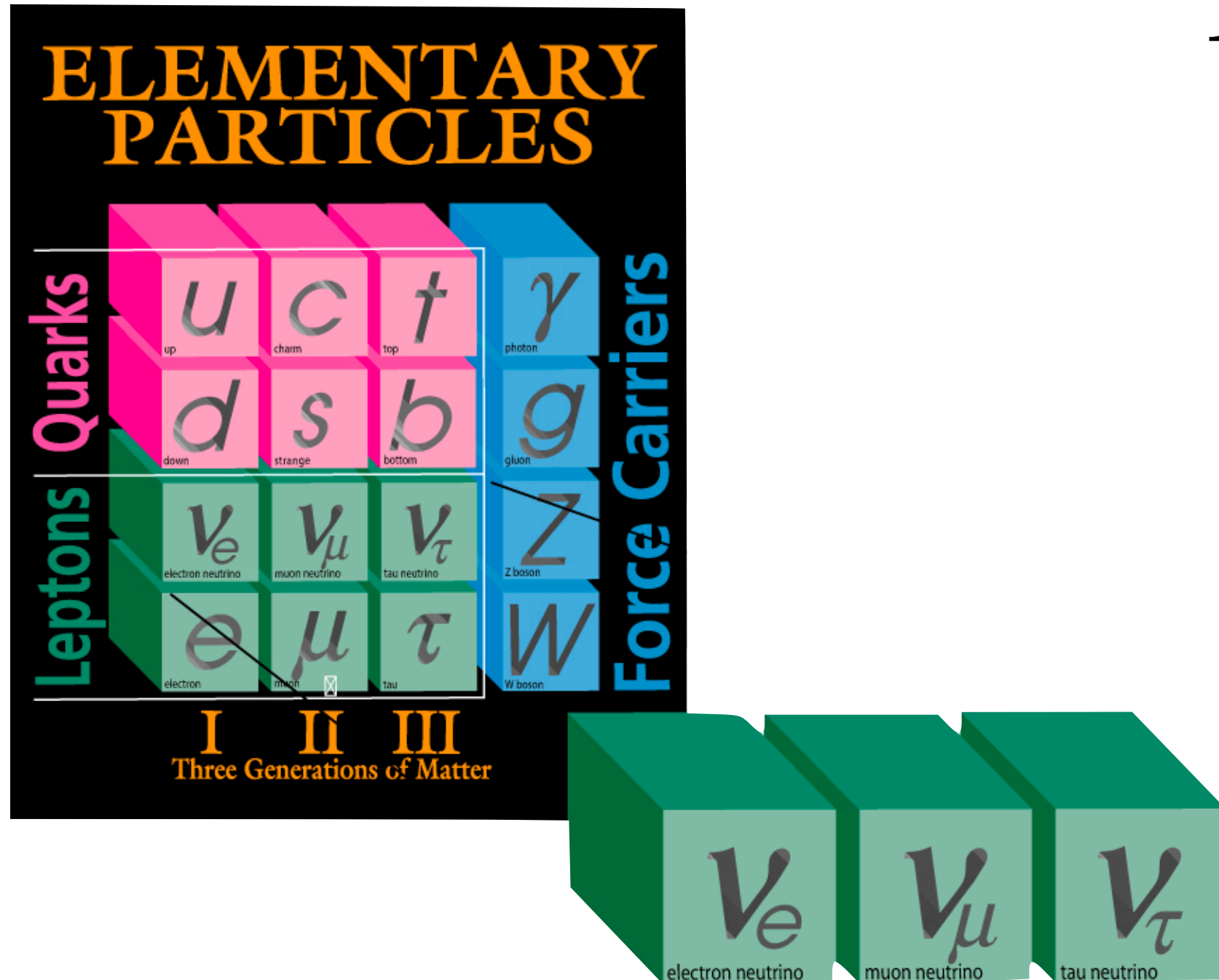




# Motivation:

Dirac particles?

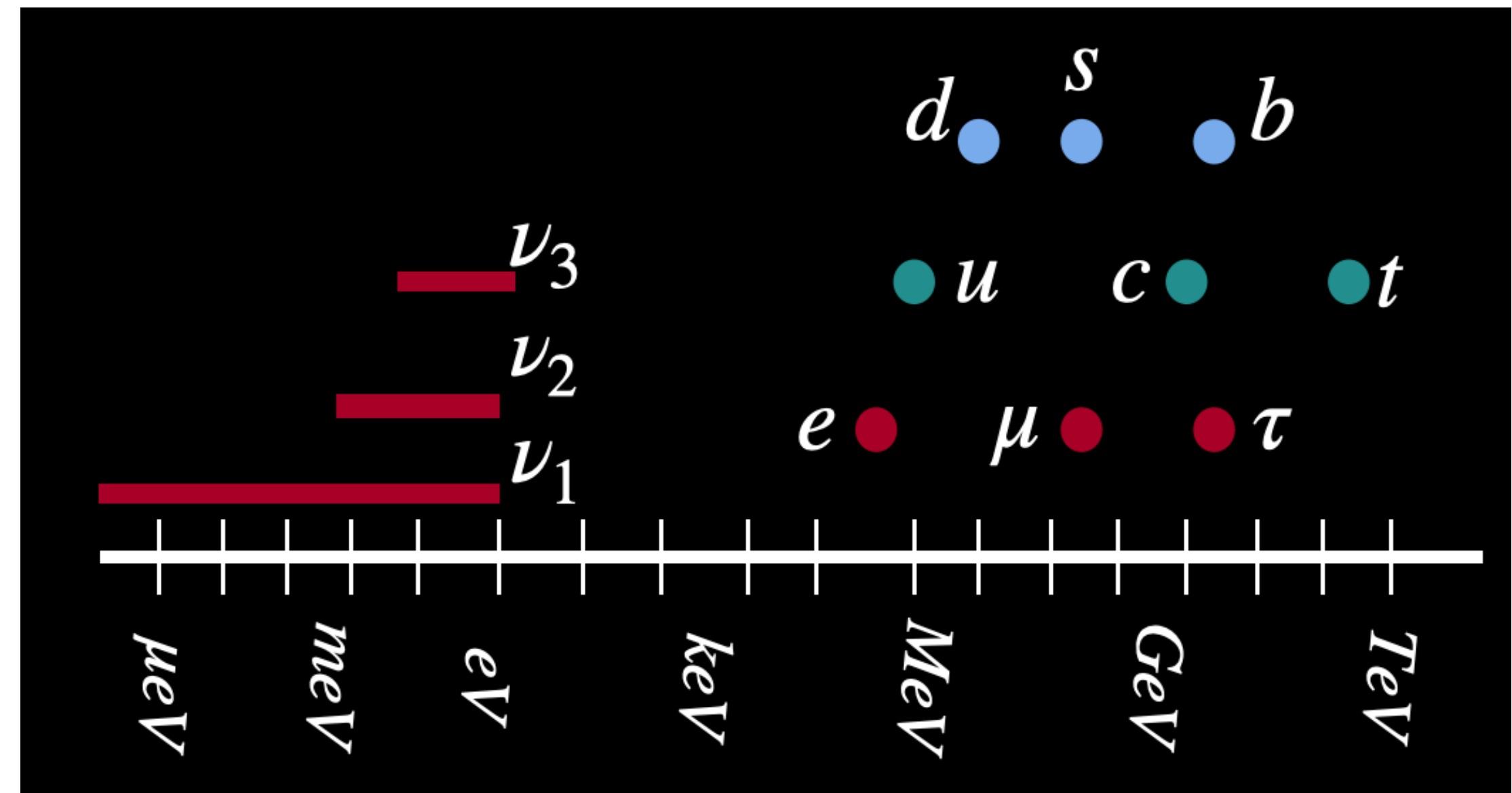
Majorana particles?



Neutrino mass hierarchy

Absolute mass

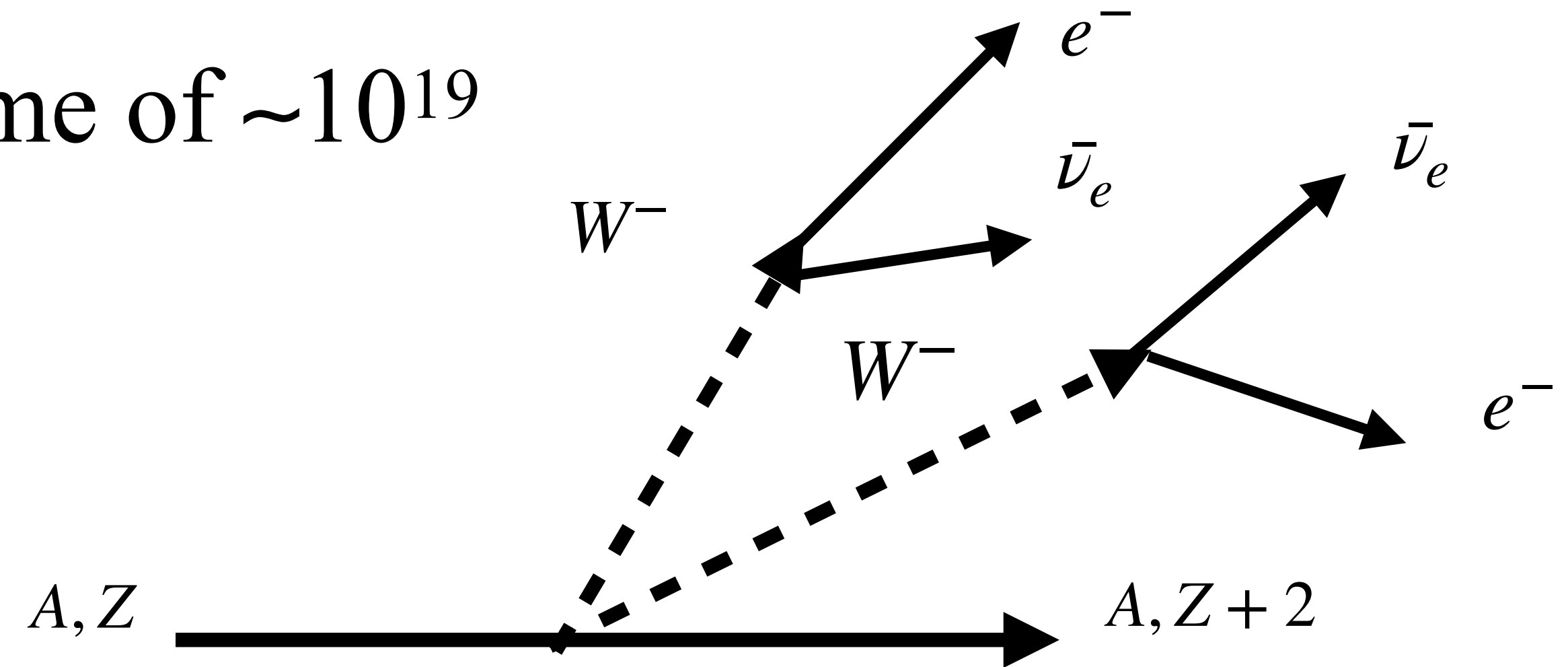
Mechanism of neutrino's mass



# Why double beta decay?

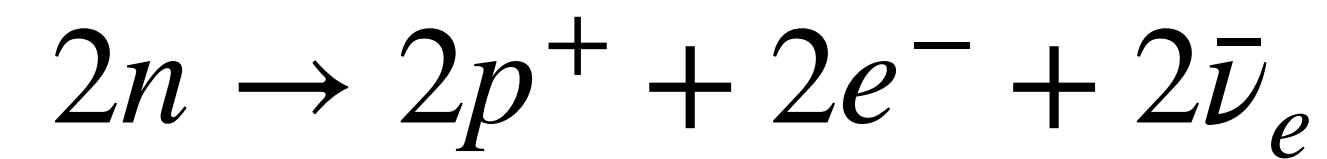
**$2\nu\beta\beta$**  : Observed rare decay with a lifetime of  $\sim 10^{19}$  years

$2n \rightarrow 2p^+ + 2e^- + 2\bar{\nu}_e$   
Standard model process

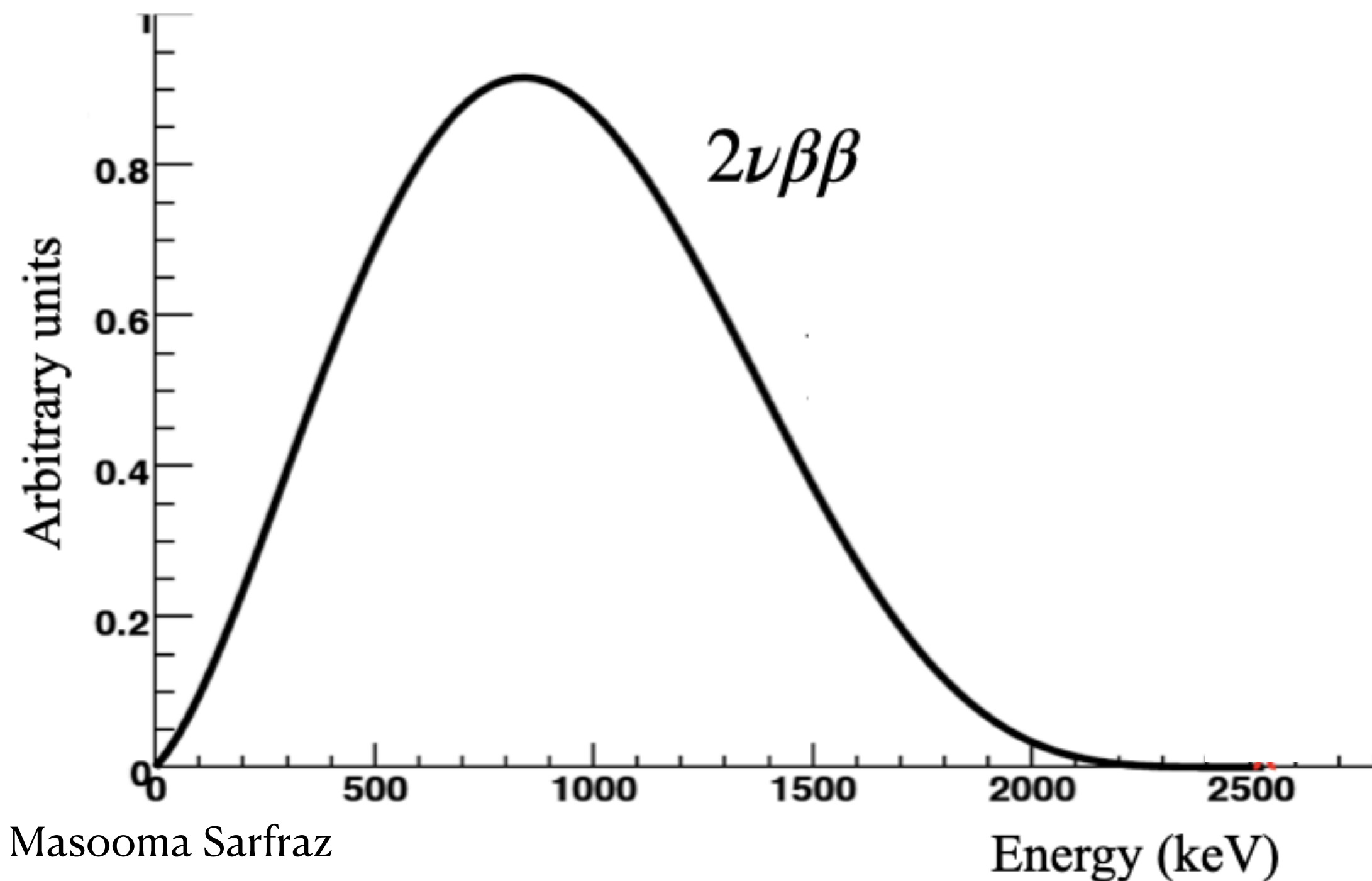
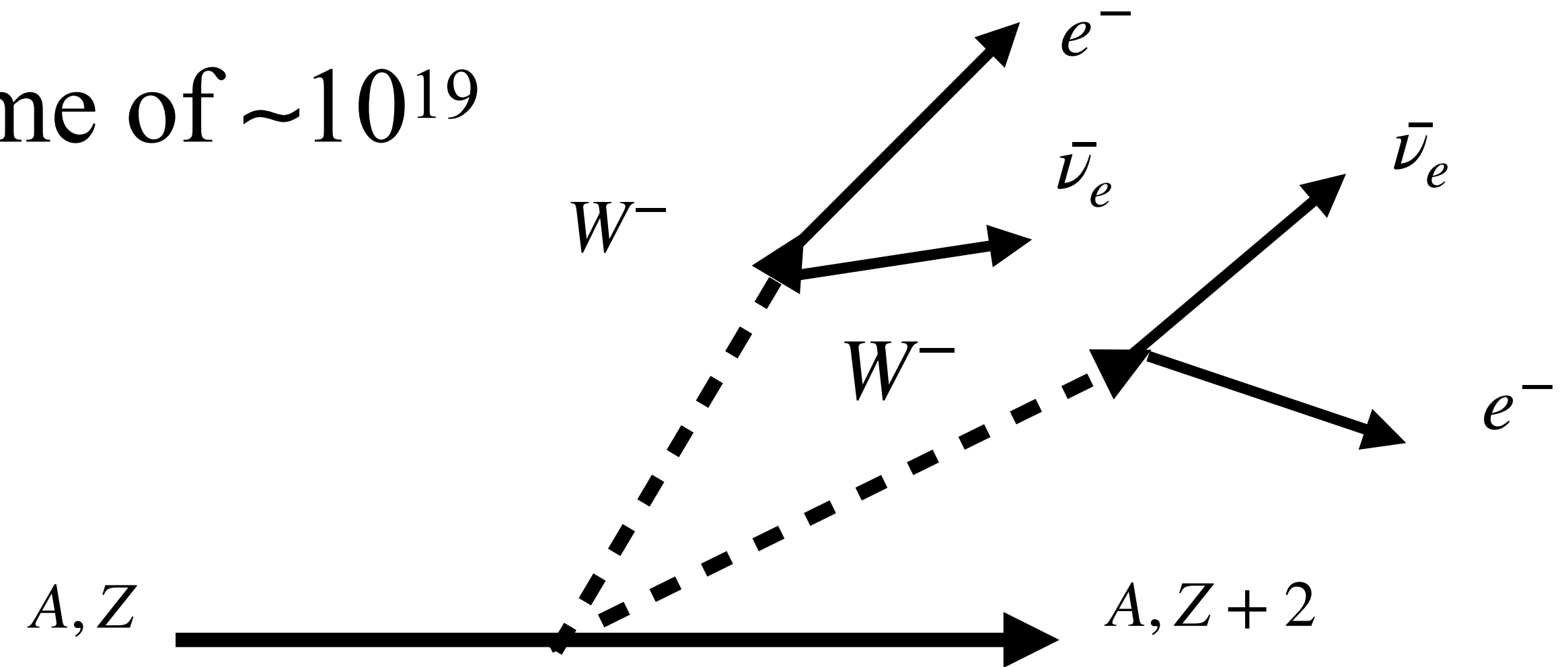


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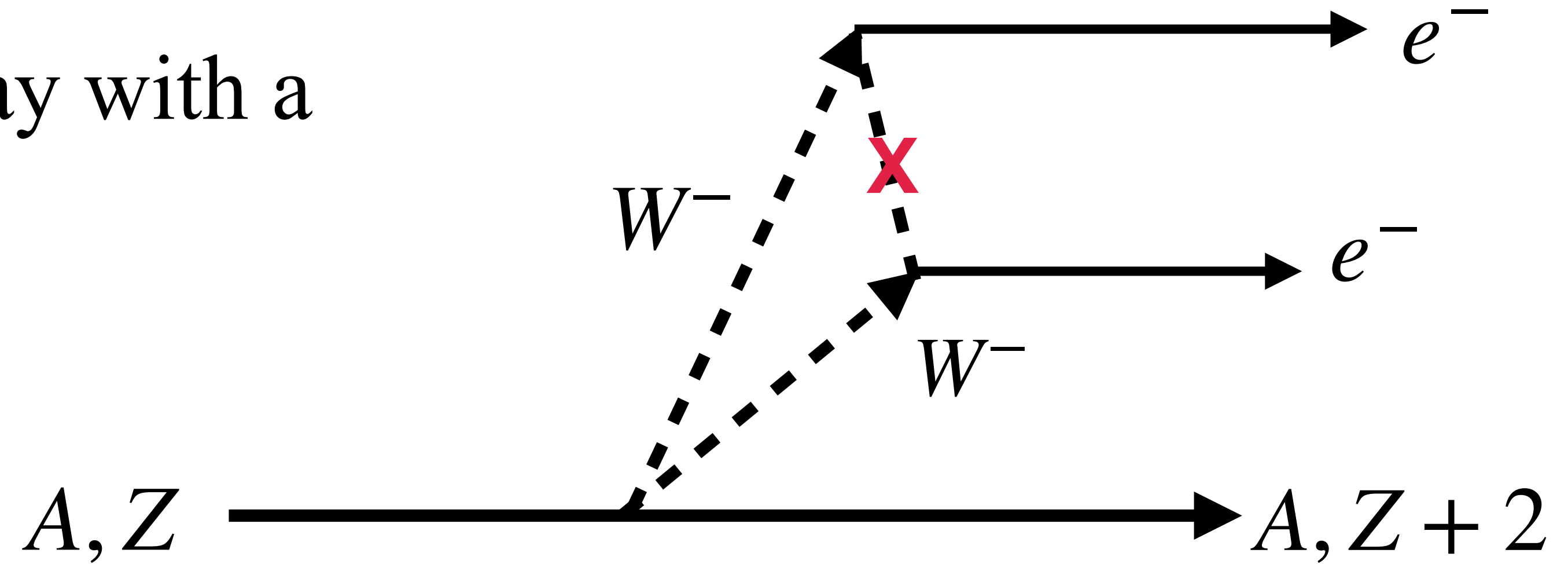
Standard model process



# Why double beta decay?

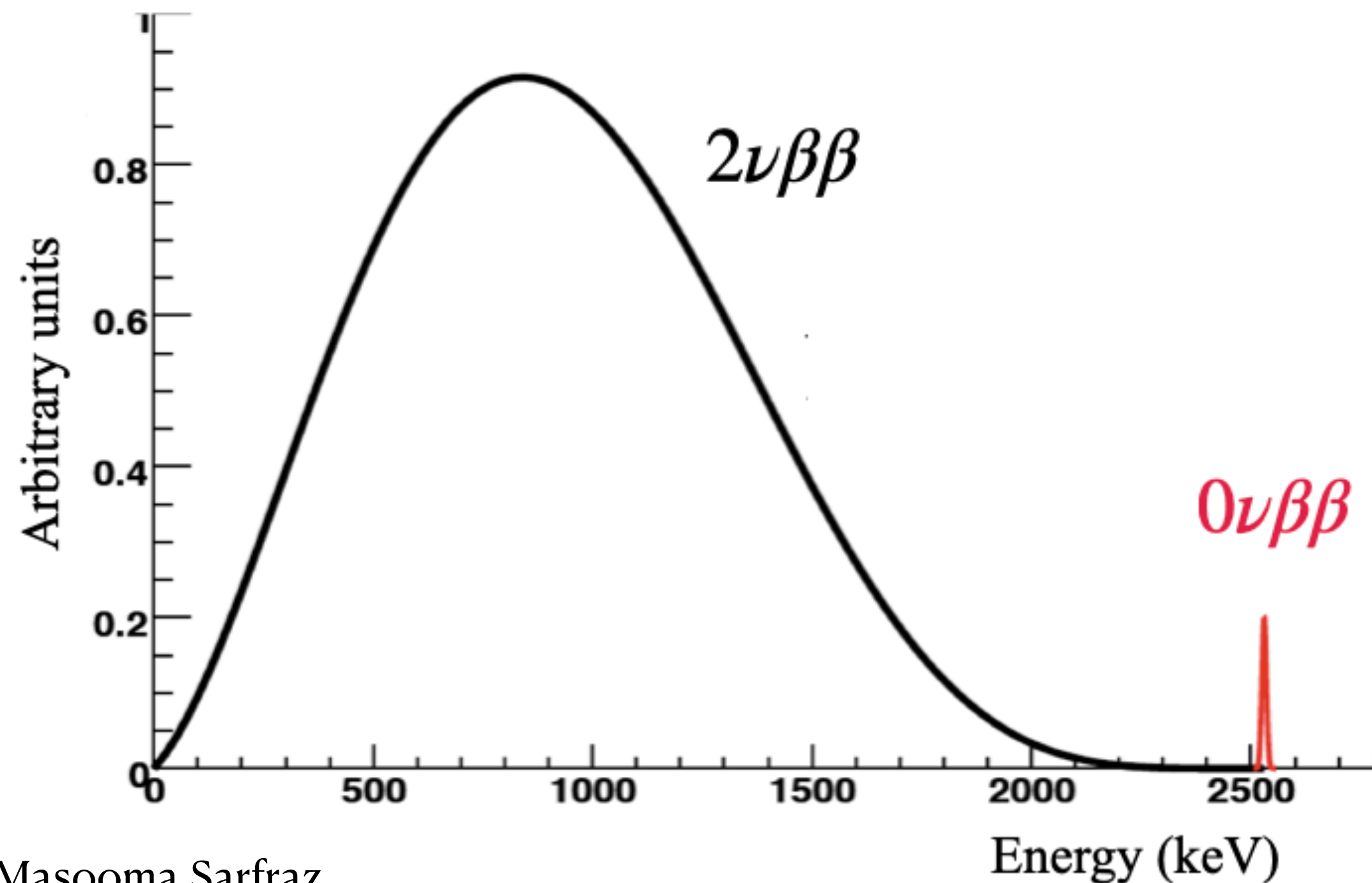
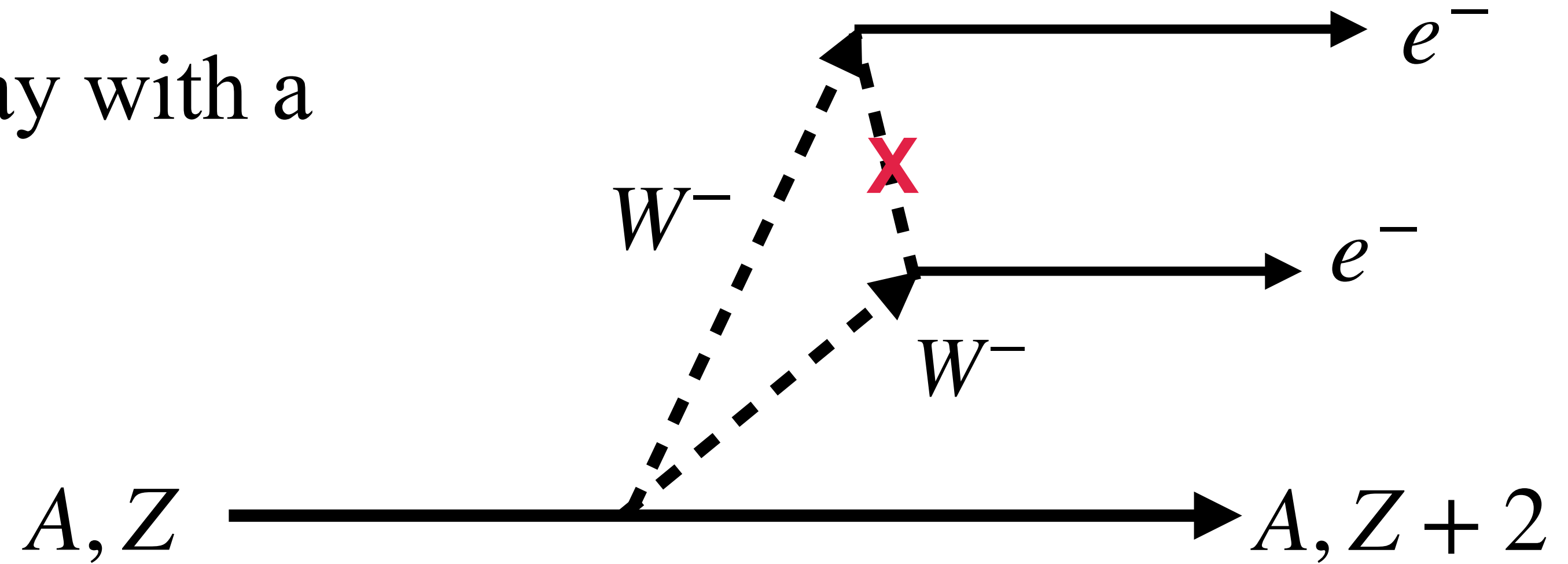
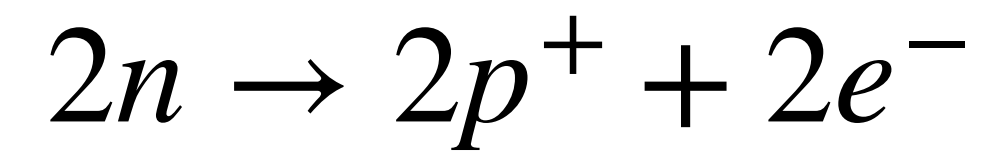
**$0\nu\beta\beta$**  : Ultra-rare hypothesized decay with a lifetime of  $>10^{26}$  yrs

$$2n \rightarrow 2p^+ + 2e^-$$



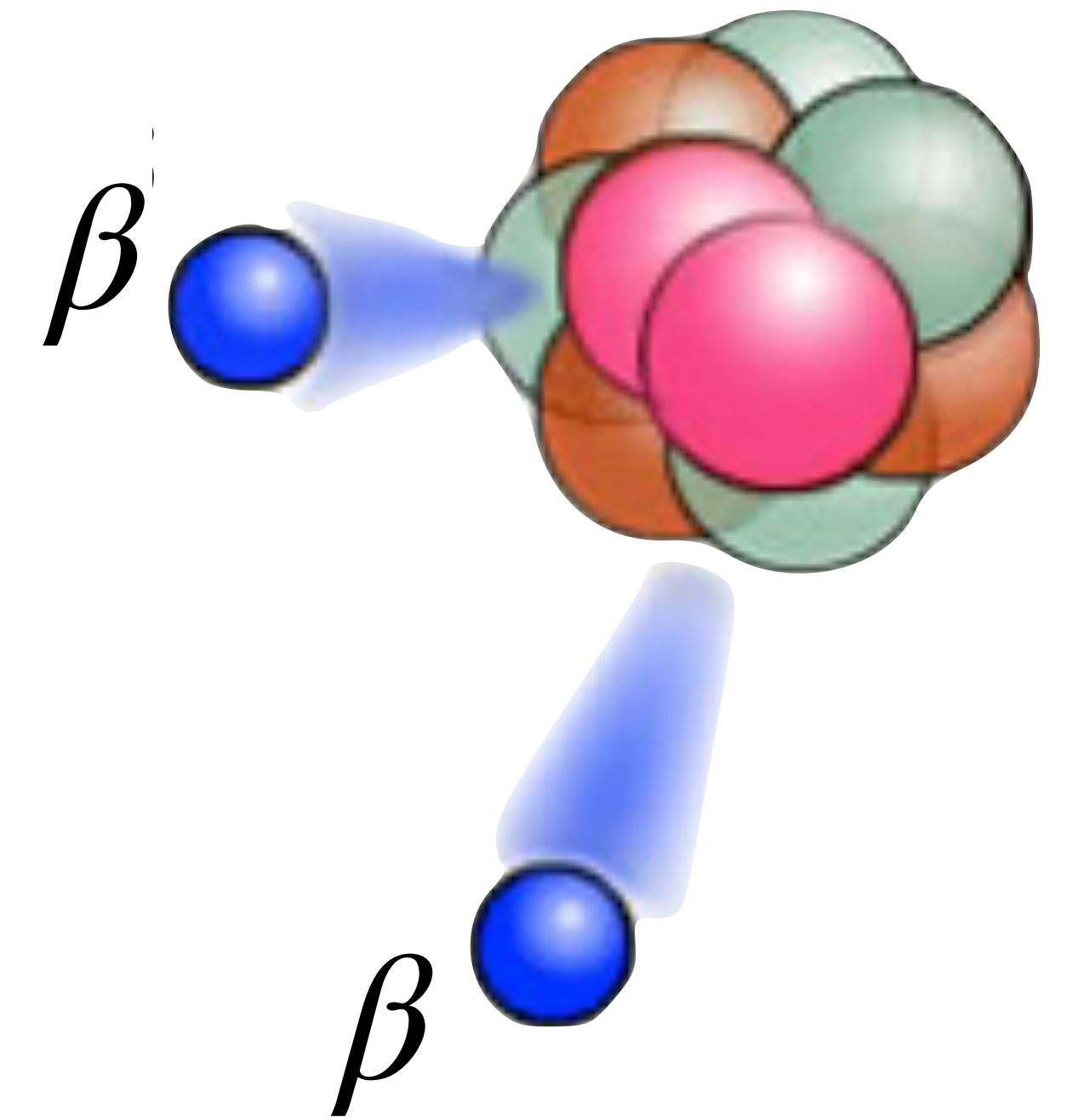
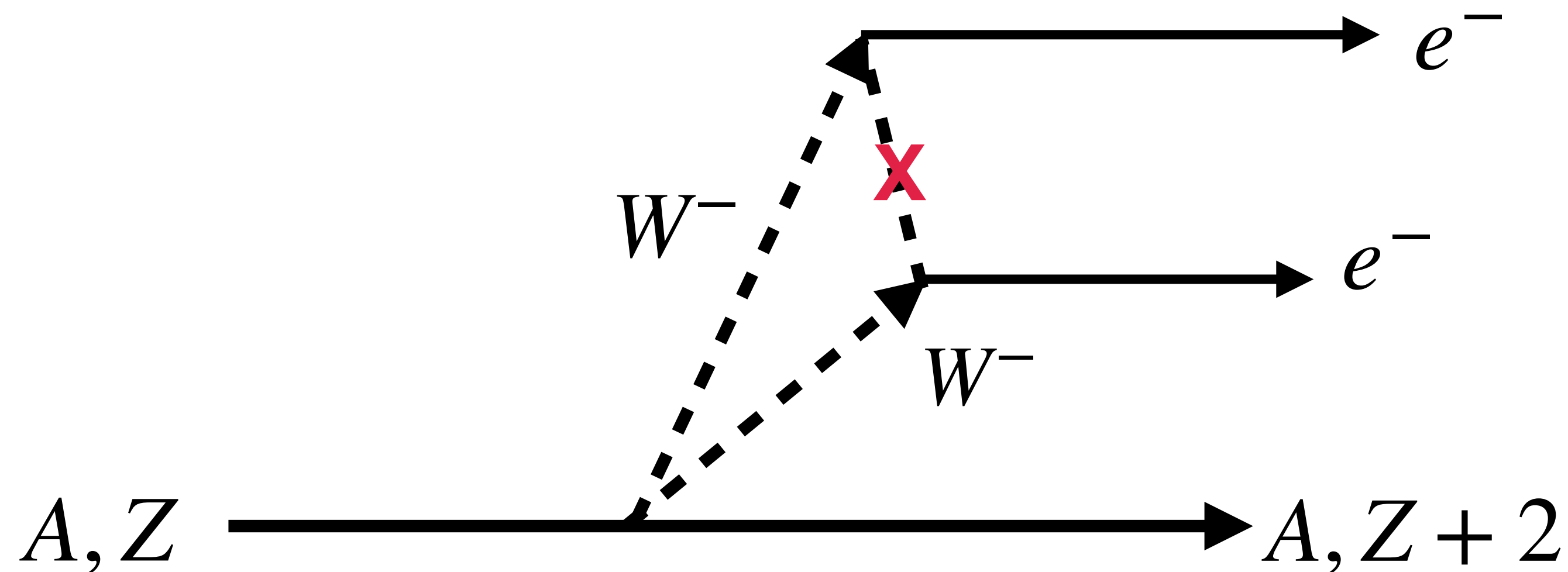
# Why double beta decay?

**$0\nu\beta\beta$**  : Ultra-rare hypothesized decay with a lifetime of  $>10^{26}$  yrs



Observation of neutrinoless double-beta decay ( $0\nu\beta\beta$ ) would be a groundbreaking discovery, providing direct evidence of Majorana nature of neutrinos.

- ☑ Neutrino is a Majorana particle
- ☑ New mechanism for neutrino's mass
- ☑ Lepton number violation





# Liquid scintillator detectors

## Pros:

- Self-shielding
- Multi-purpose neutrinos measurement
- Scaling

## Cons:

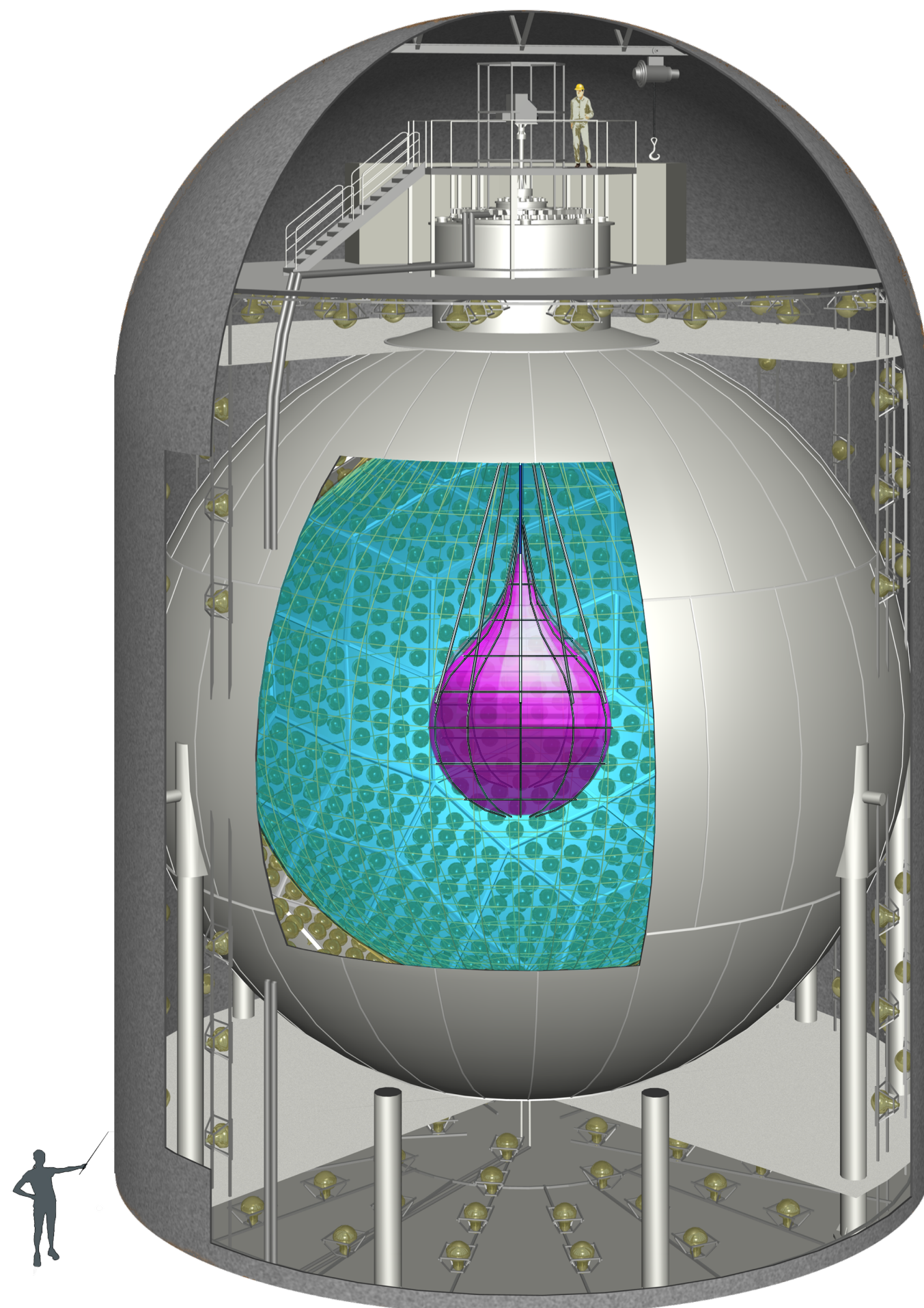
- Low energy resolution
- Some irreducible backgrounds



# Liquid scintillator detectors

## KamLAND-Zen800

World's leading limits on effective Majorana mass.  
 $T_{1/2} > 4.3 \times 10^{26}$  years for  $^{136}\text{Xe}$  at 90% C.L.  
PRL pre-print: arXiv:2406.11438



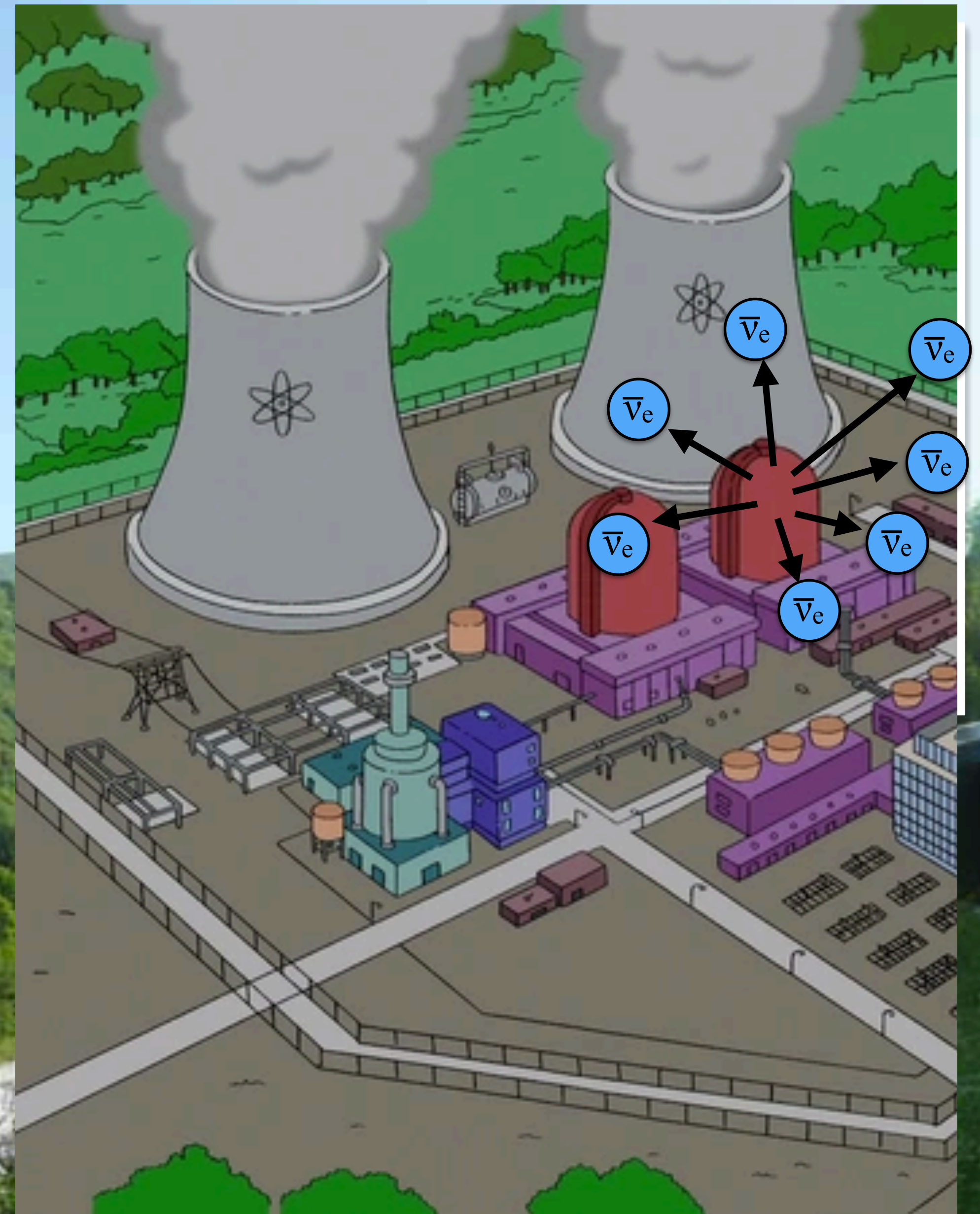
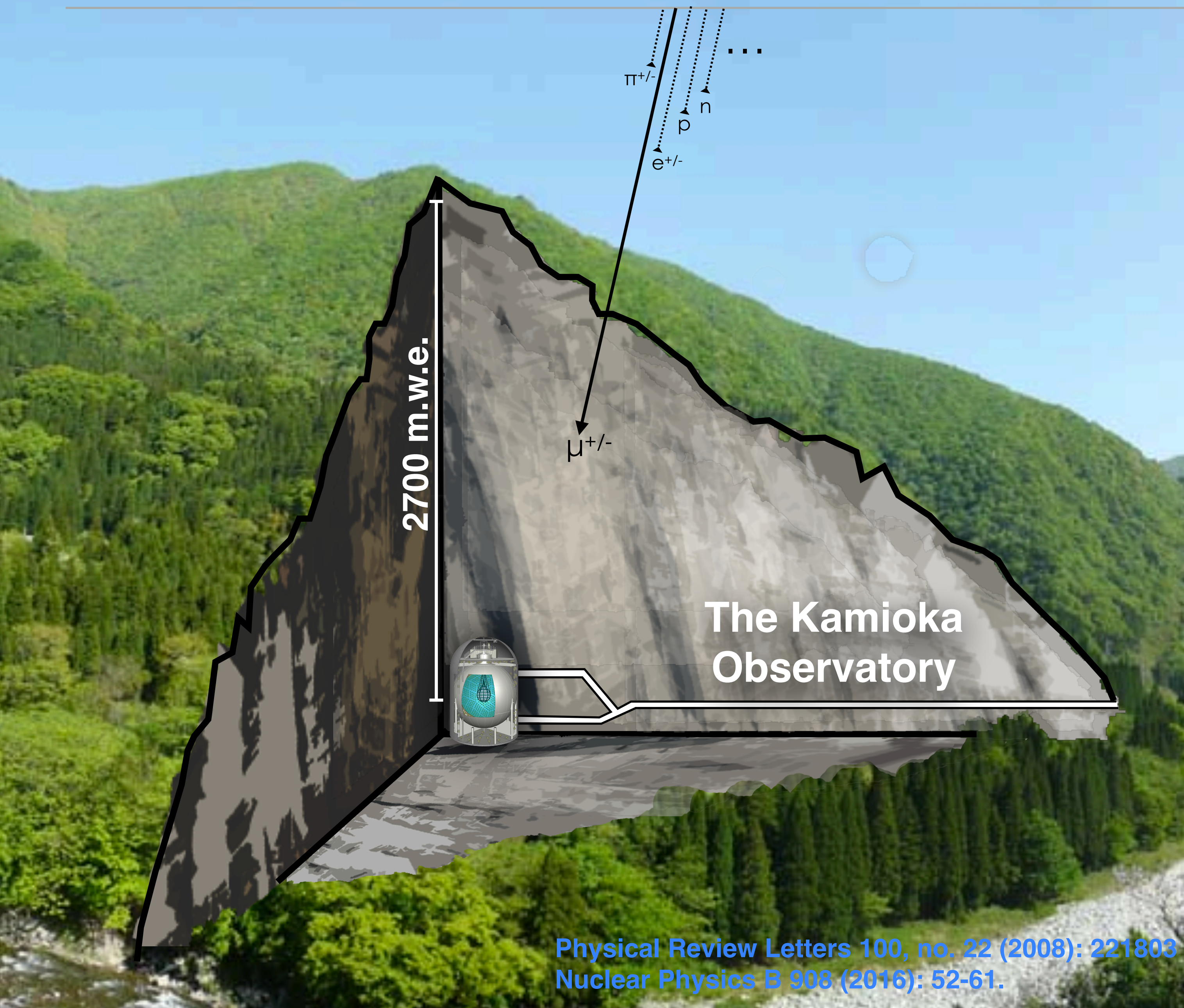


# *KamLAND (the Kamioka Liquid Scintillator Antineutrino Detector)*



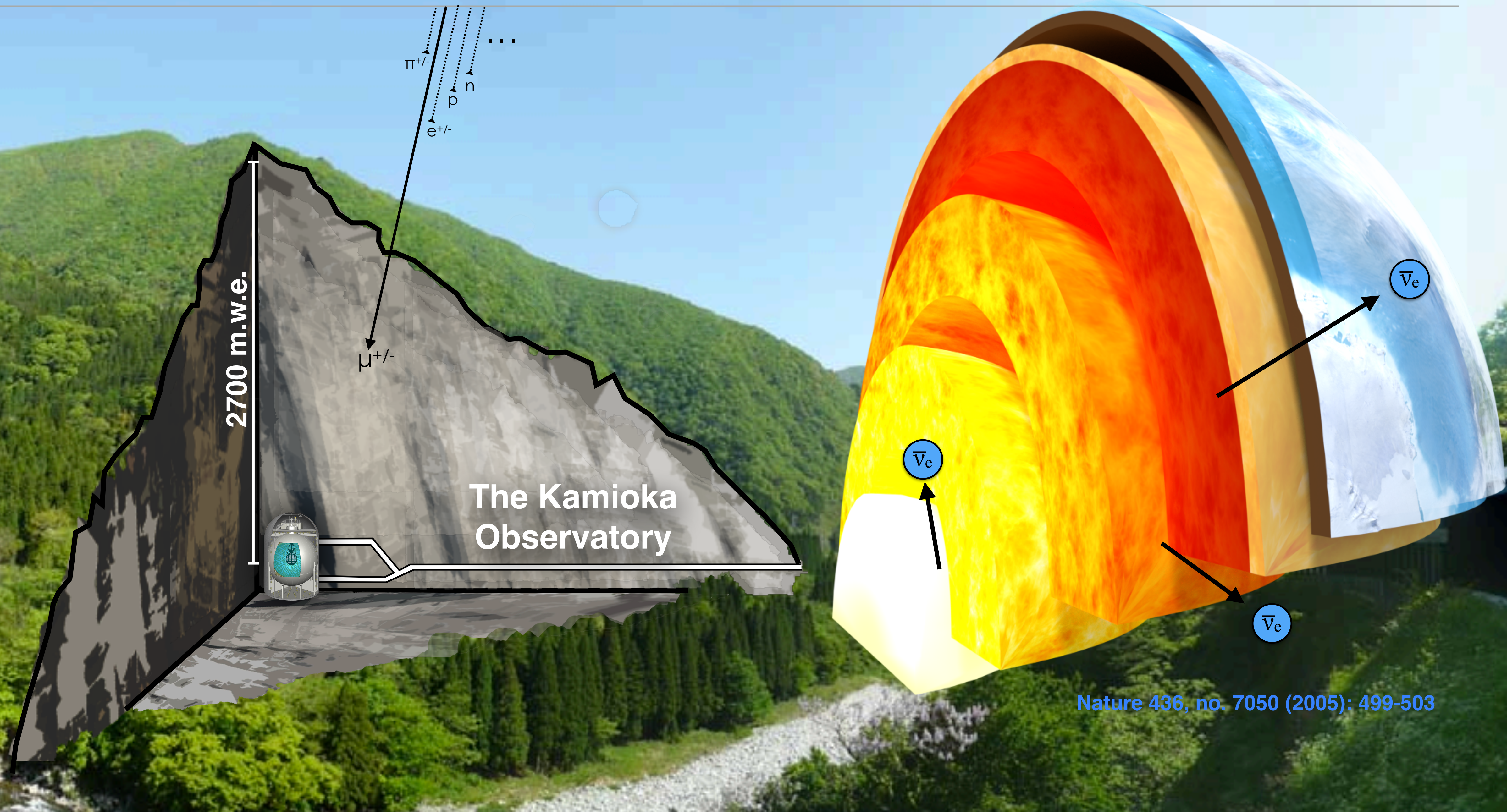


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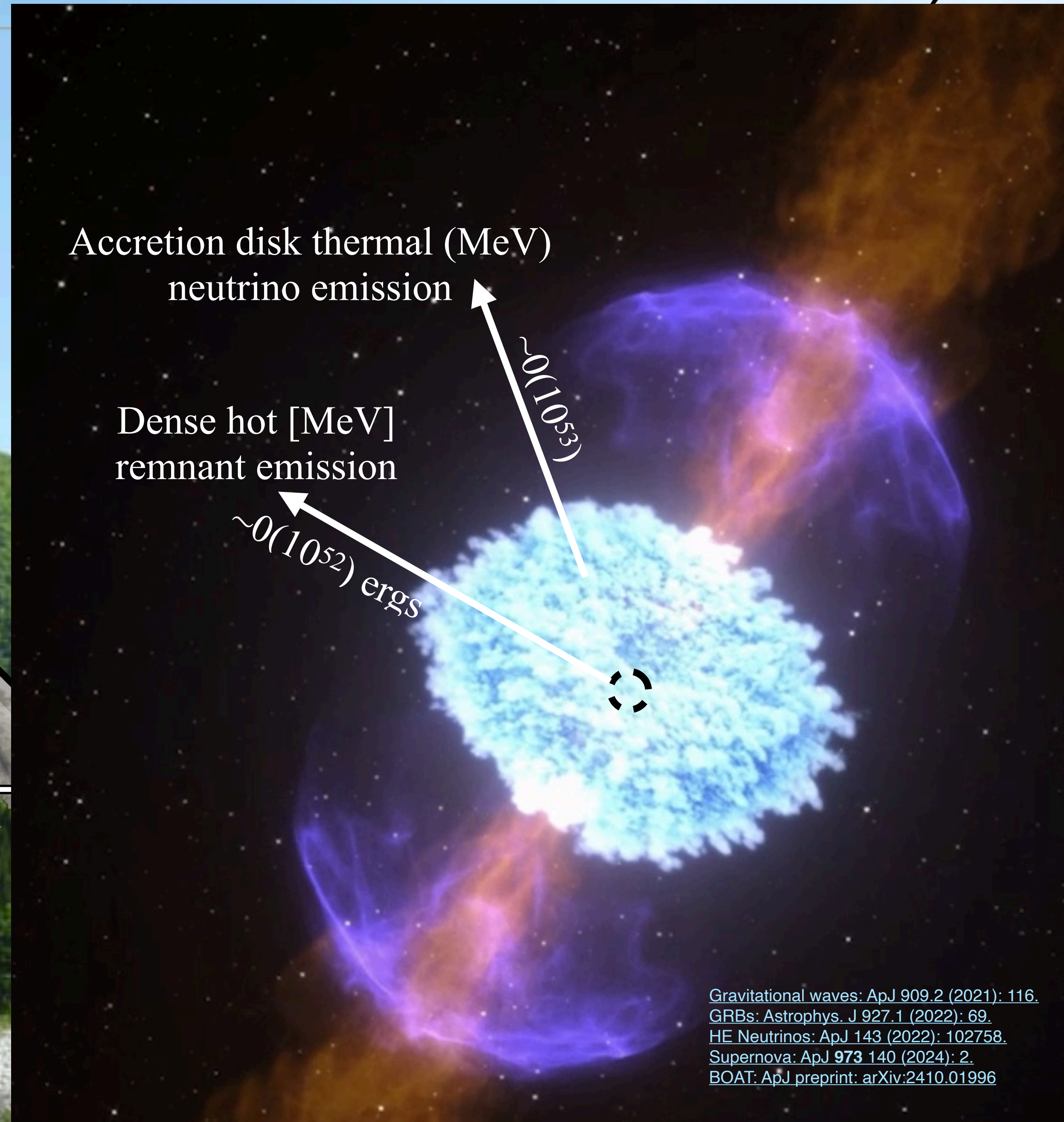
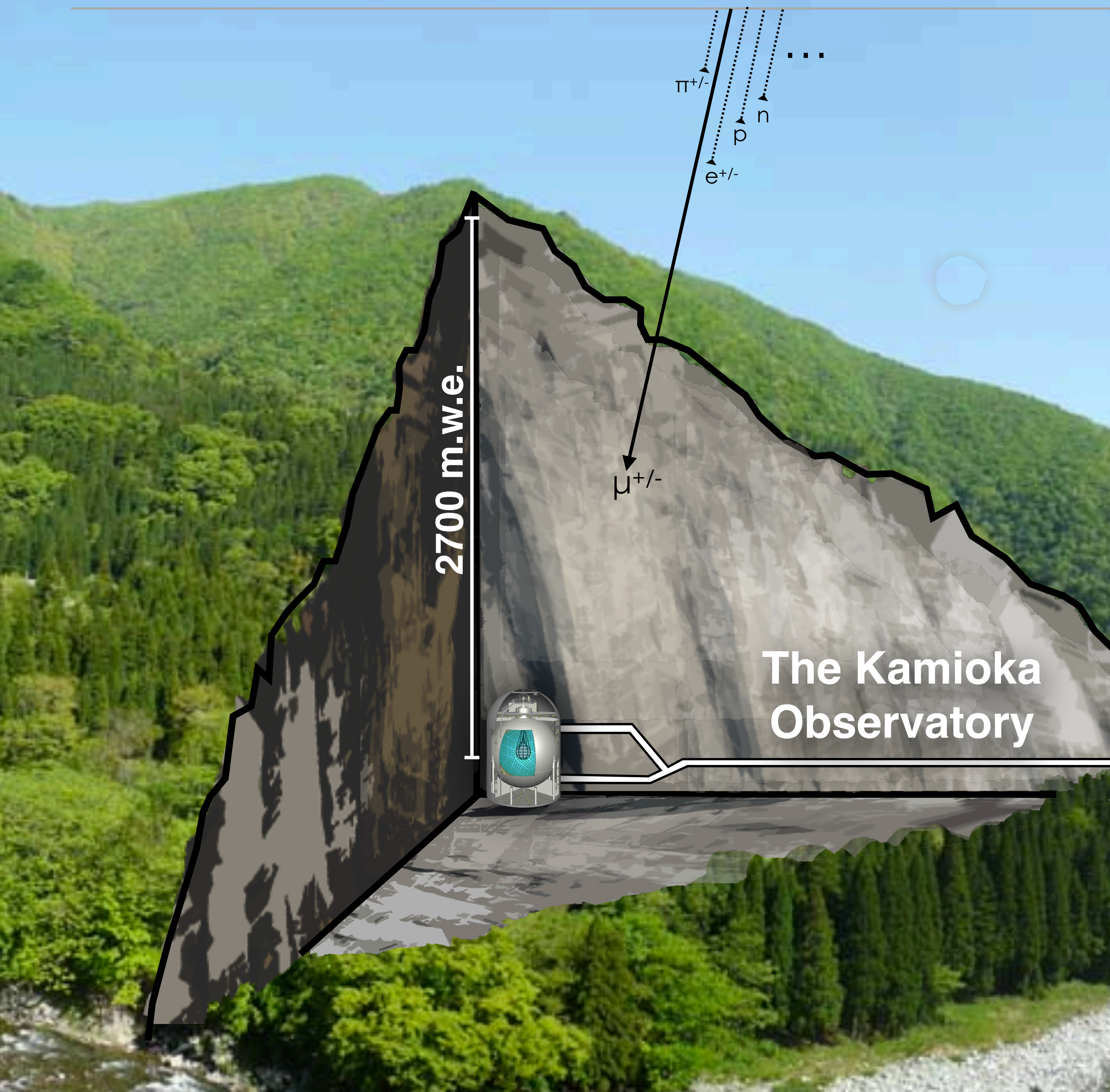
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Nature 436, no. 7050 (2005): 499-503



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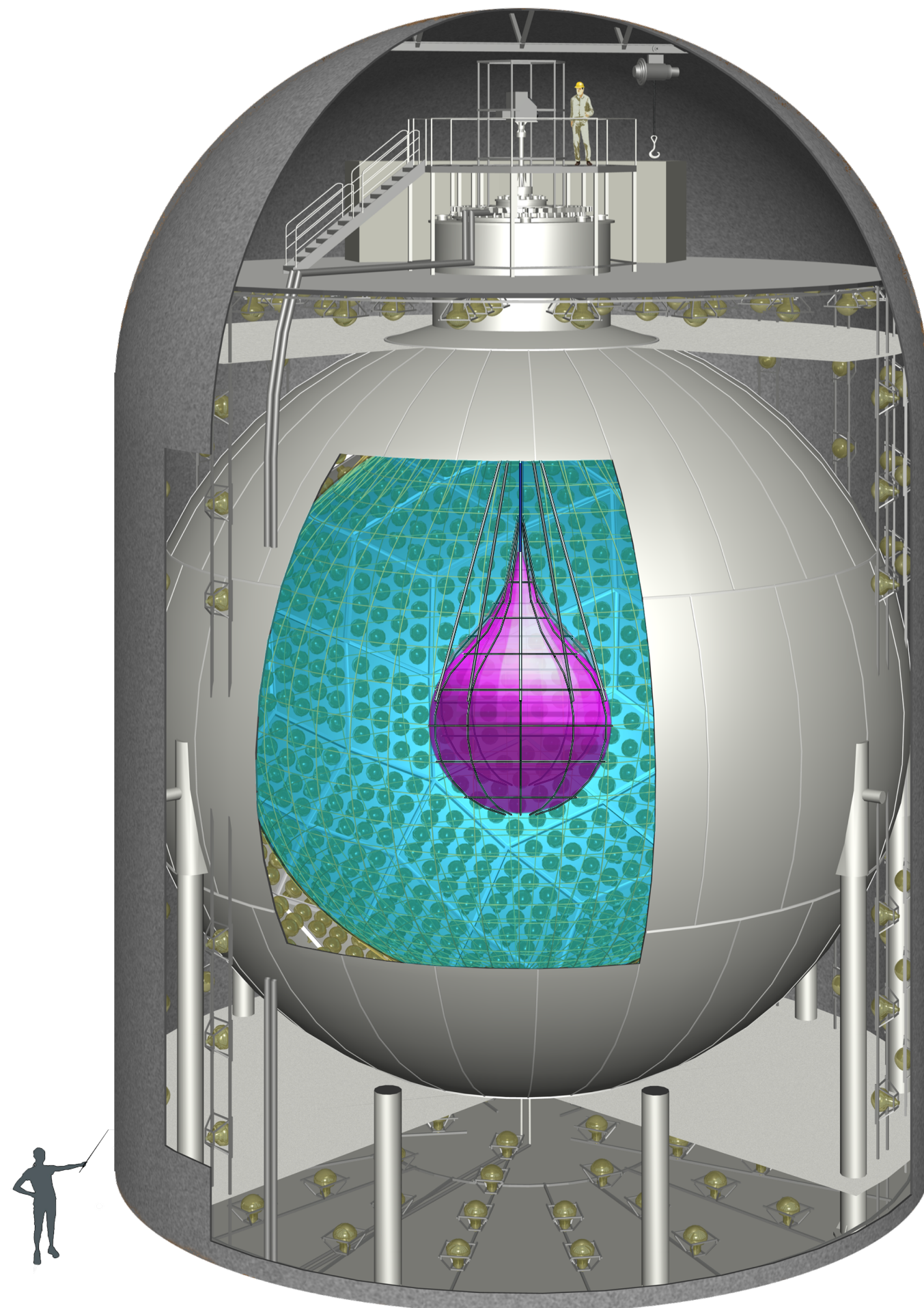


Gravitational waves: ApJ 909.2 (2021): 116.  
GRBs: Astrophys. J 927.1 (2022): 69.  
HE Neutrinos: ApJ 143 (2022): 102758.  
Supernova: ApJ **973** 140 (2024): 2.  
BOAT: ApJ preprint: arXiv:2410.01996



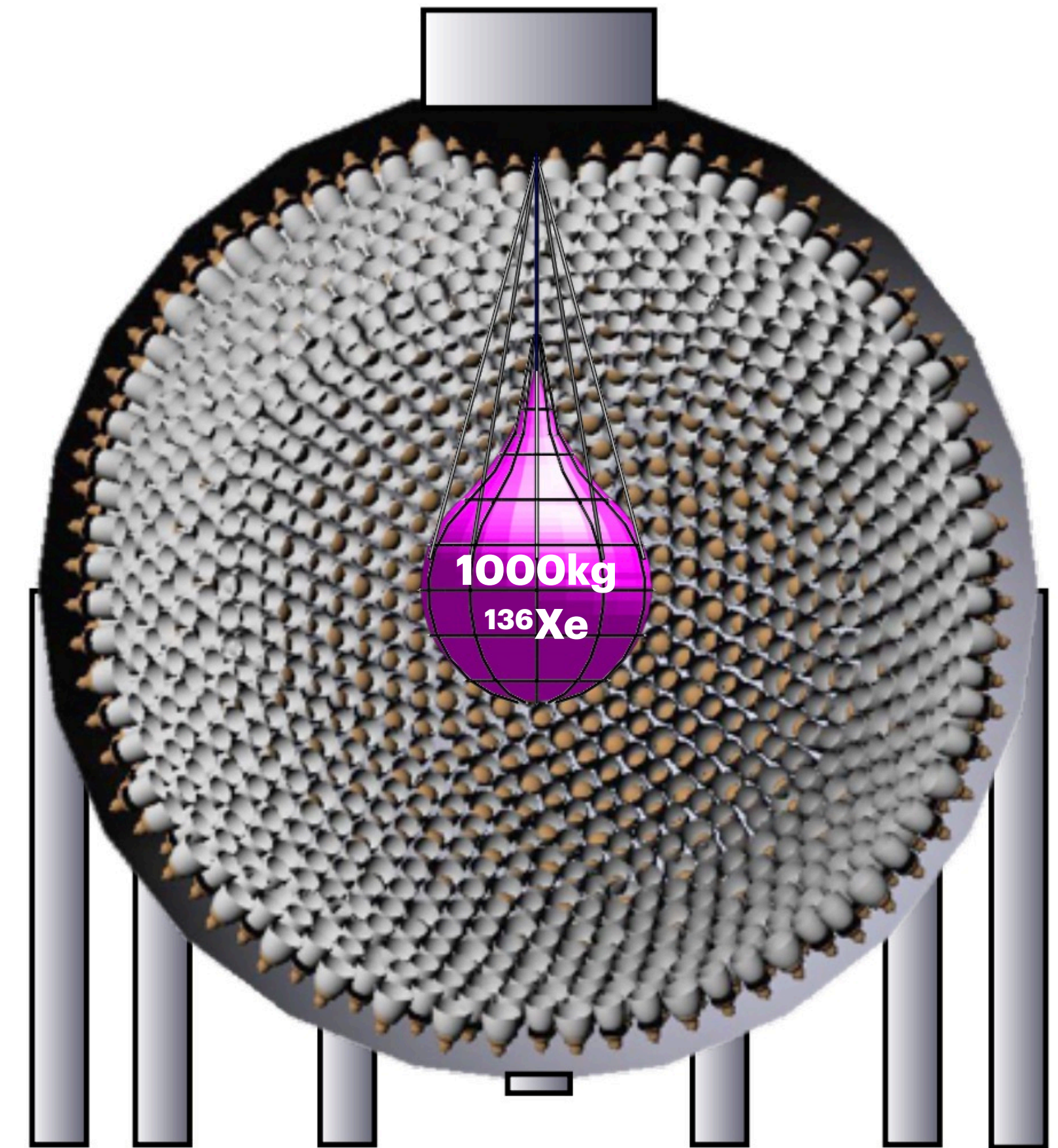
# Liquid scintillator detectors

## KamLAND-Zen800



KamLAND2-Zen is funded and will bootup in **2028**.

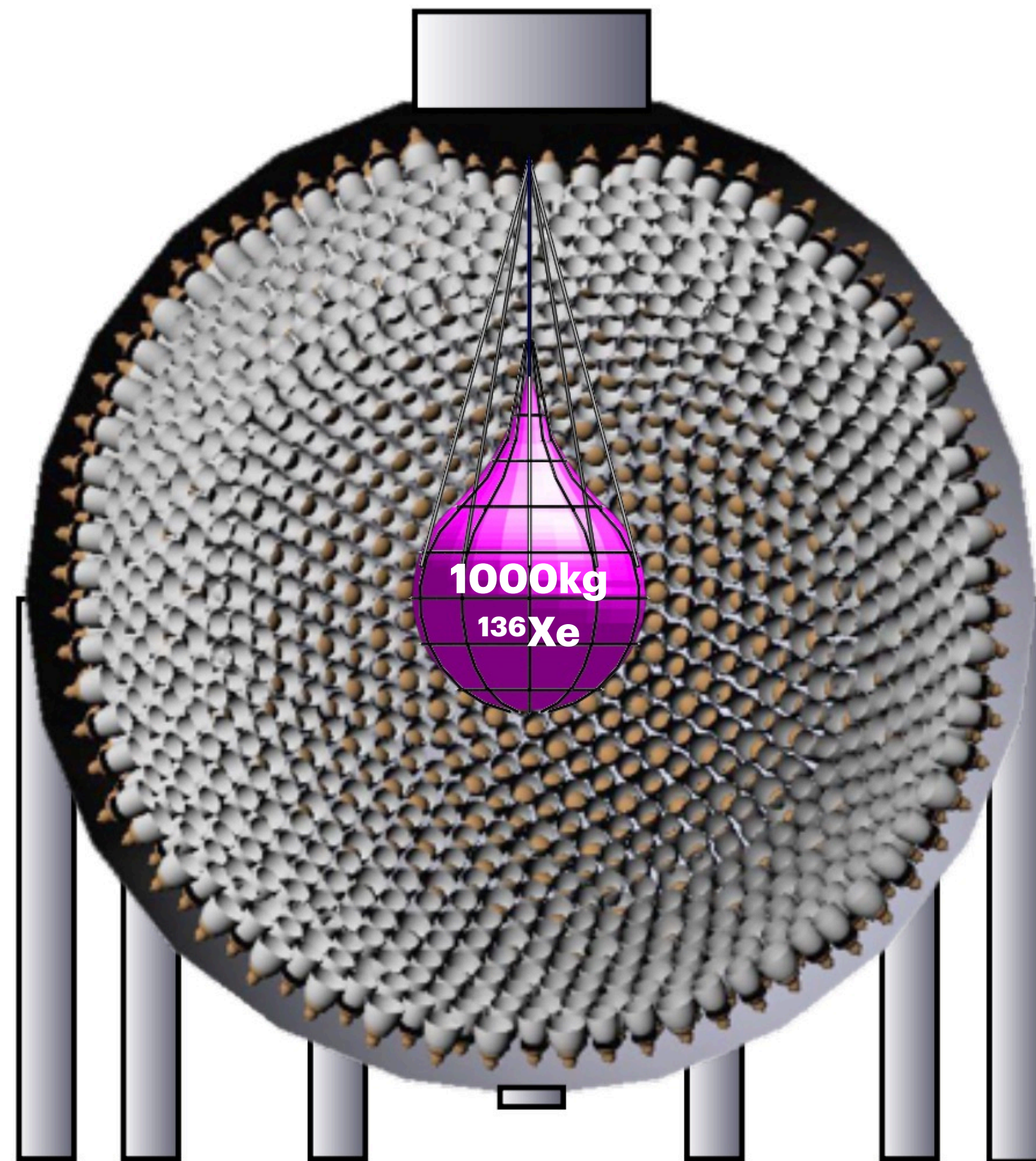
## Future: KamLAND2-Zen





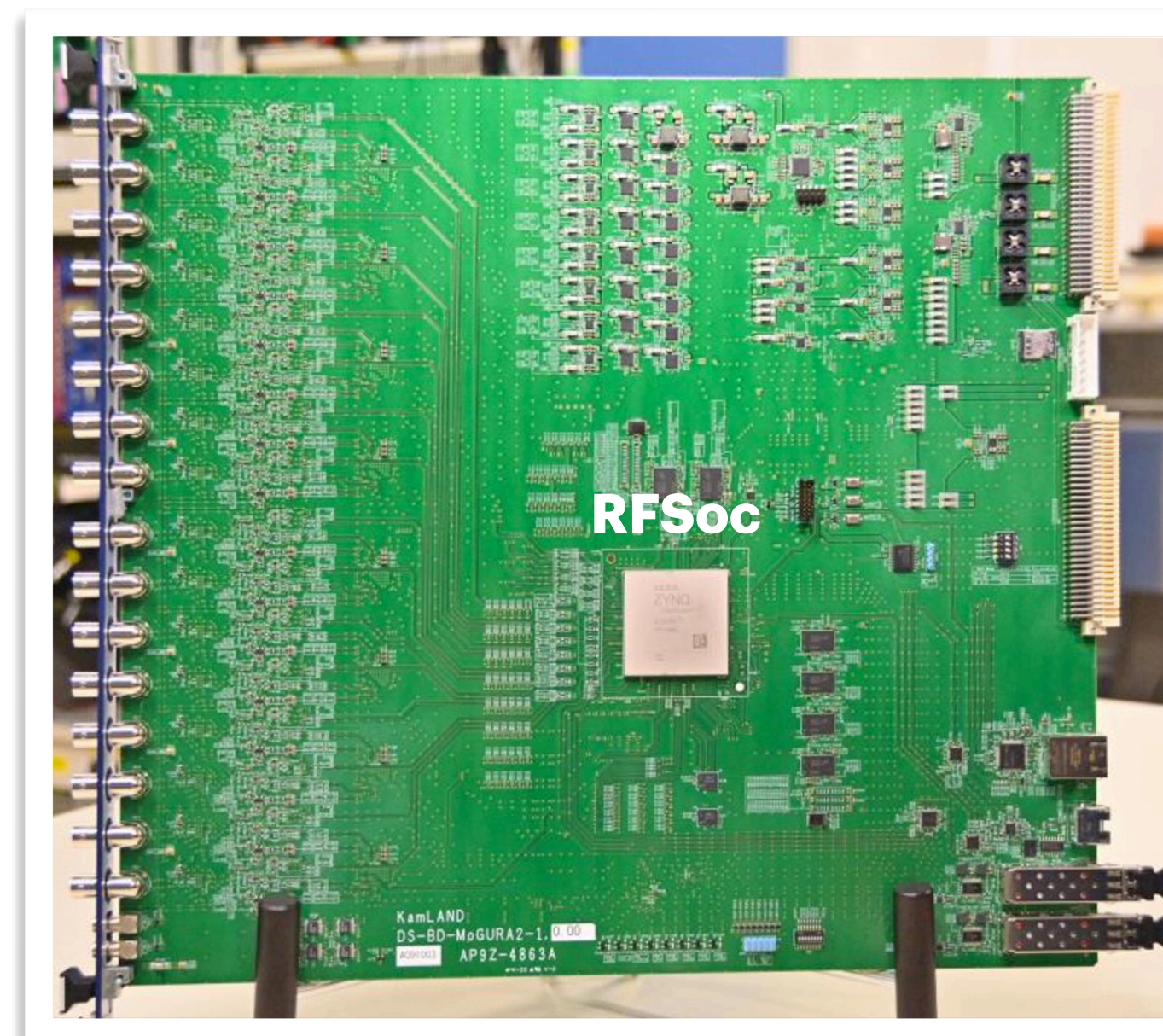
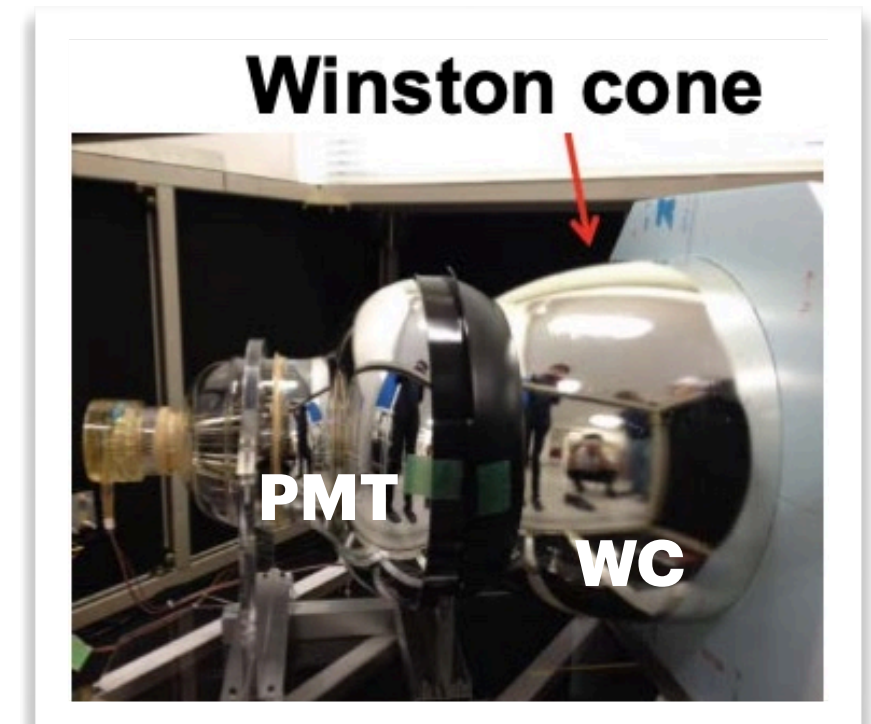
# KamLAND2-Zen

KamLAND2-Zen aims to cover the Inverted Ordering region.



**Improved energy resolution**  
Purpose: further separate  $2\nu\beta\beta$  from the  $0\nu\beta\beta$ .

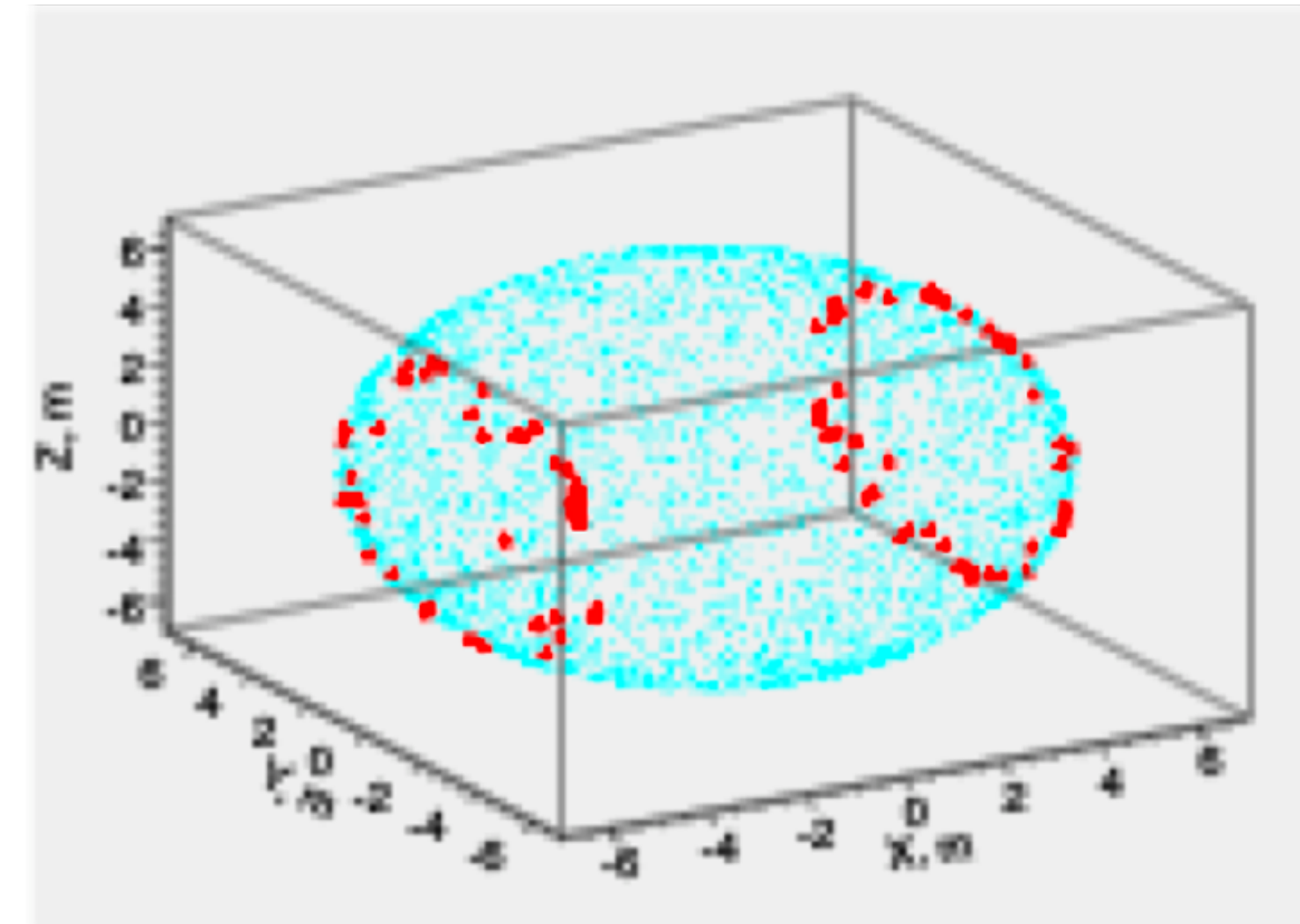
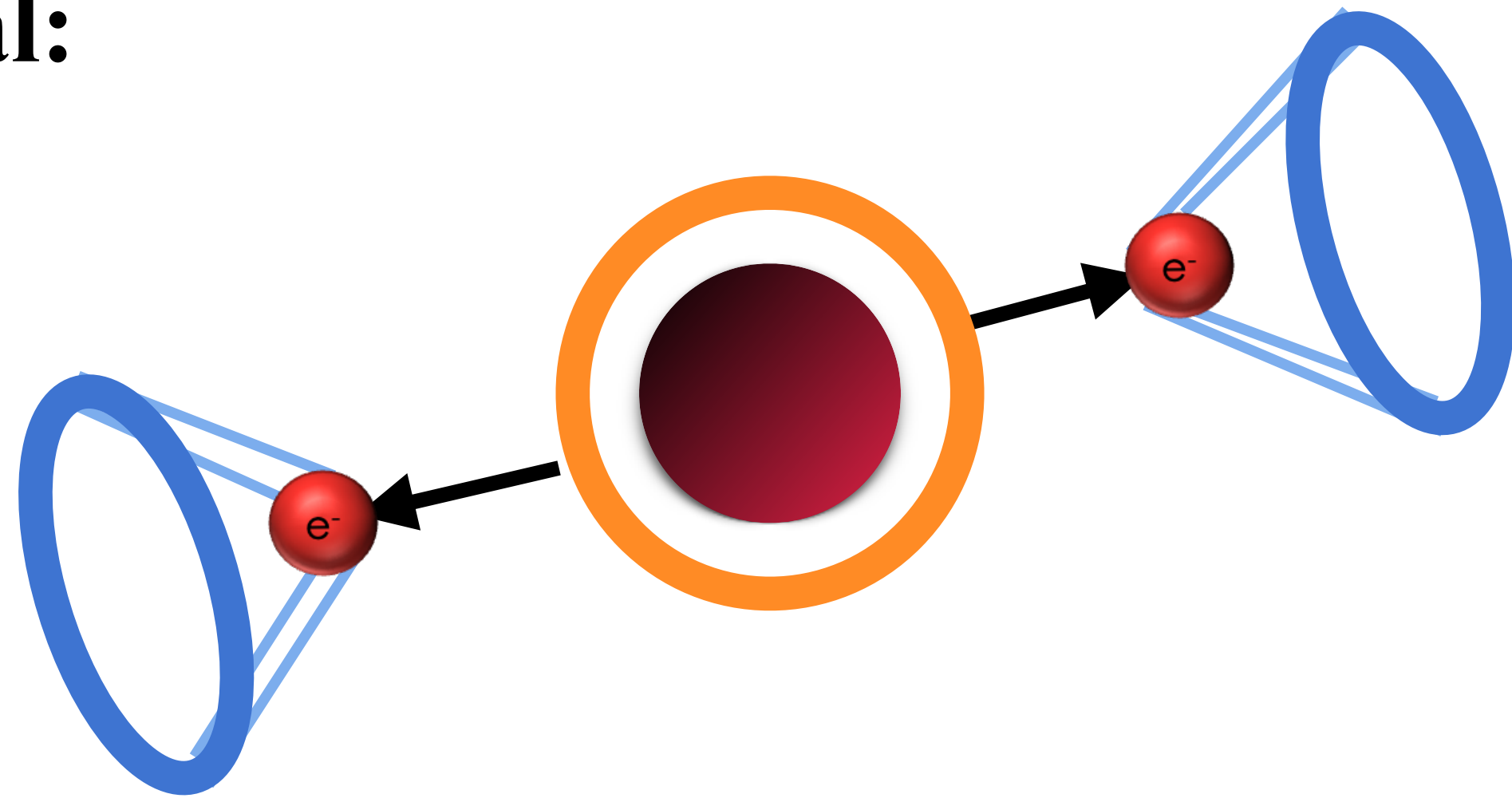
**State-of-the-art electronics**  
Purpose: Improve background suppression.



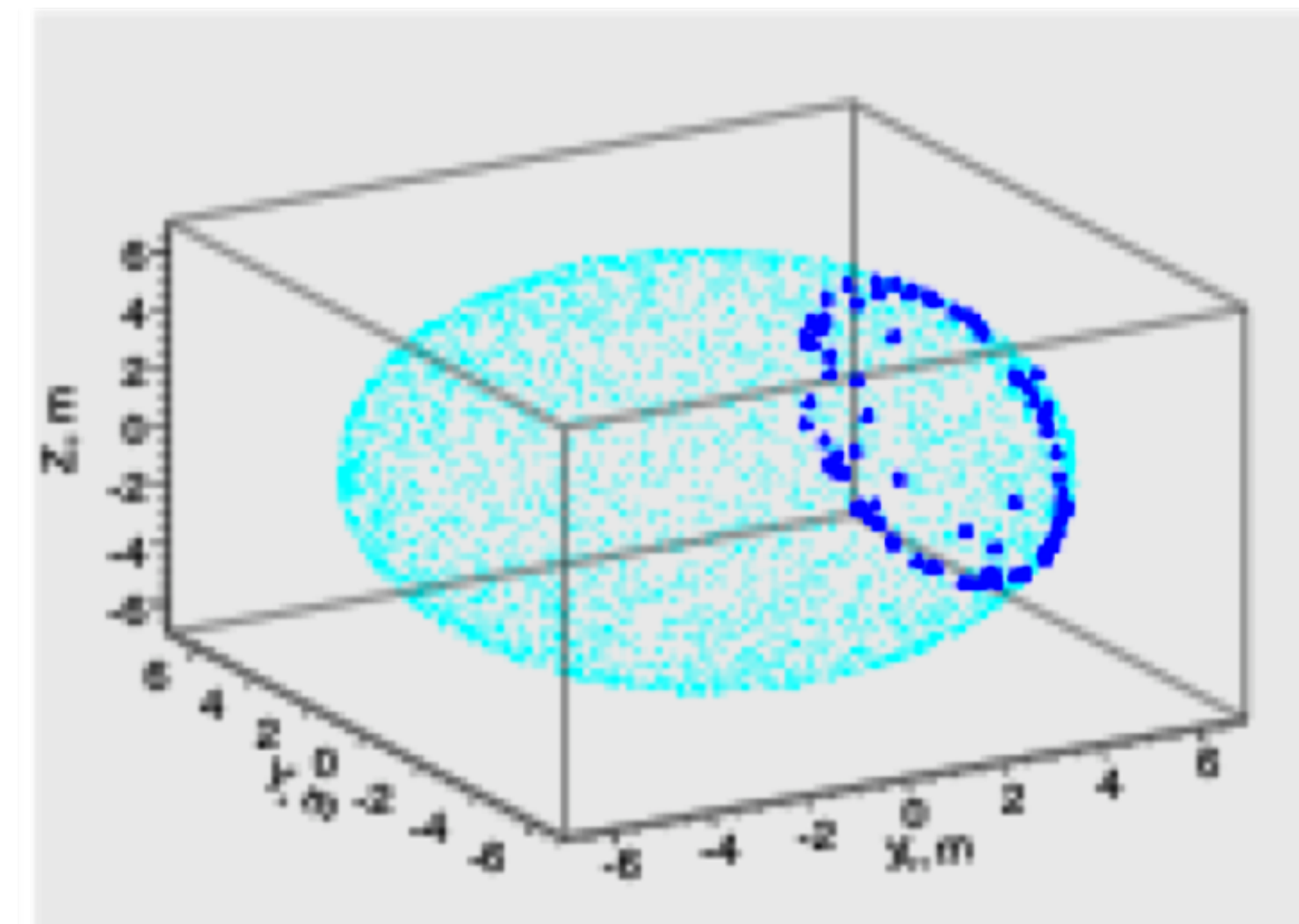
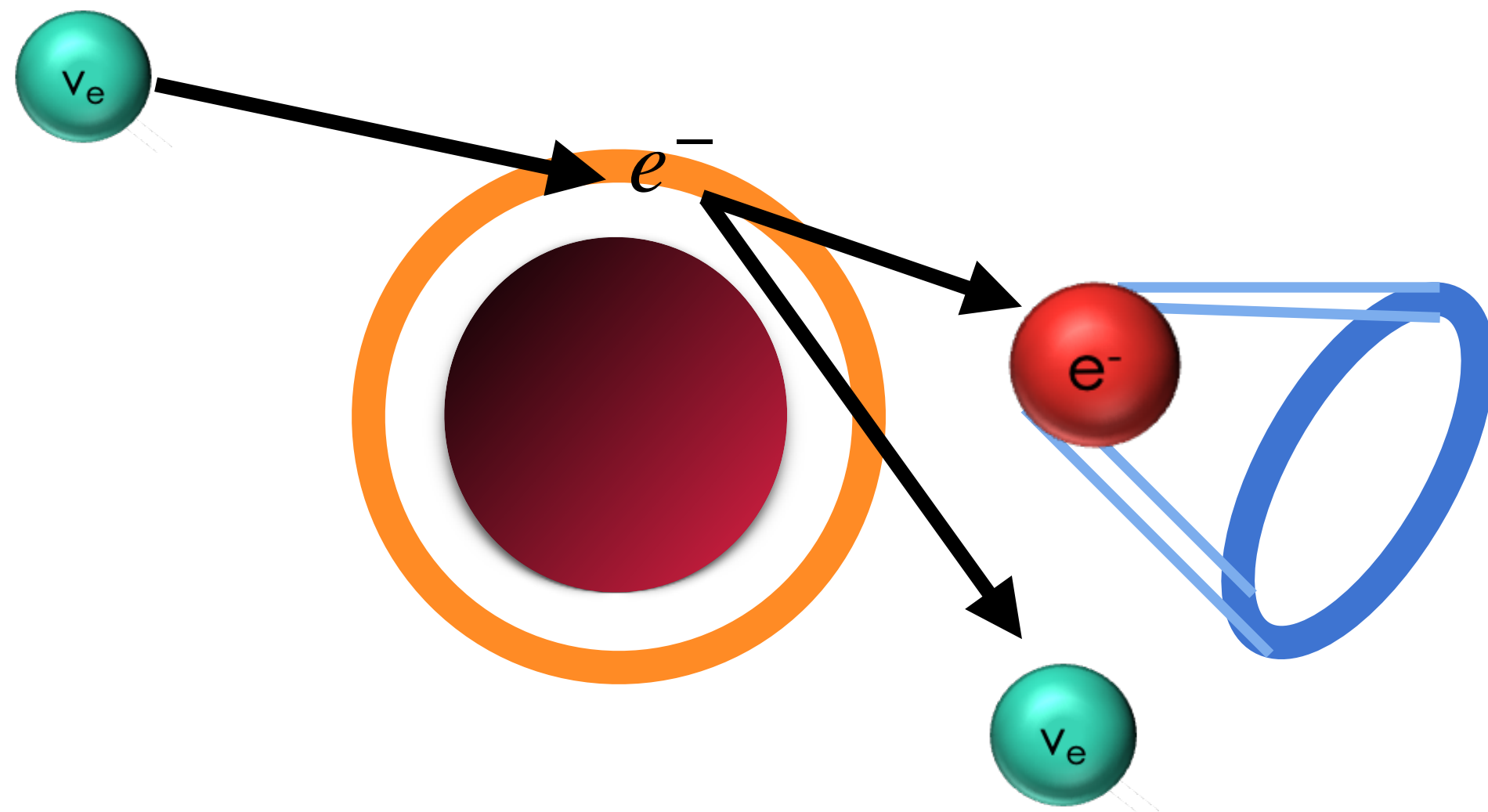


# Separating solar neutrino backgrounds from $0\nu\beta\beta$ signal

**Signal:**



**Background:**

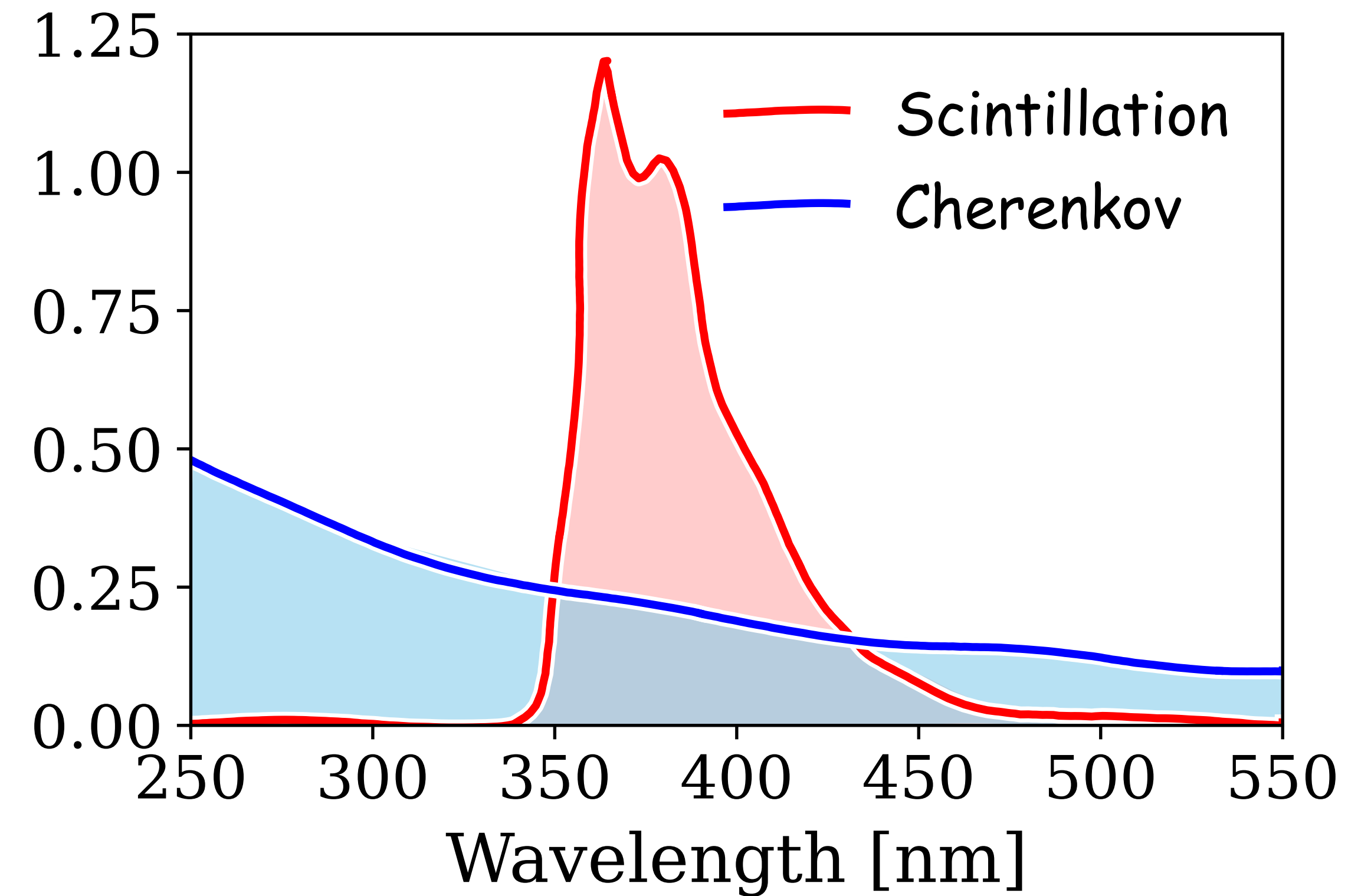


Figs. courtesy of A. Elagin



# Ways to reduce background

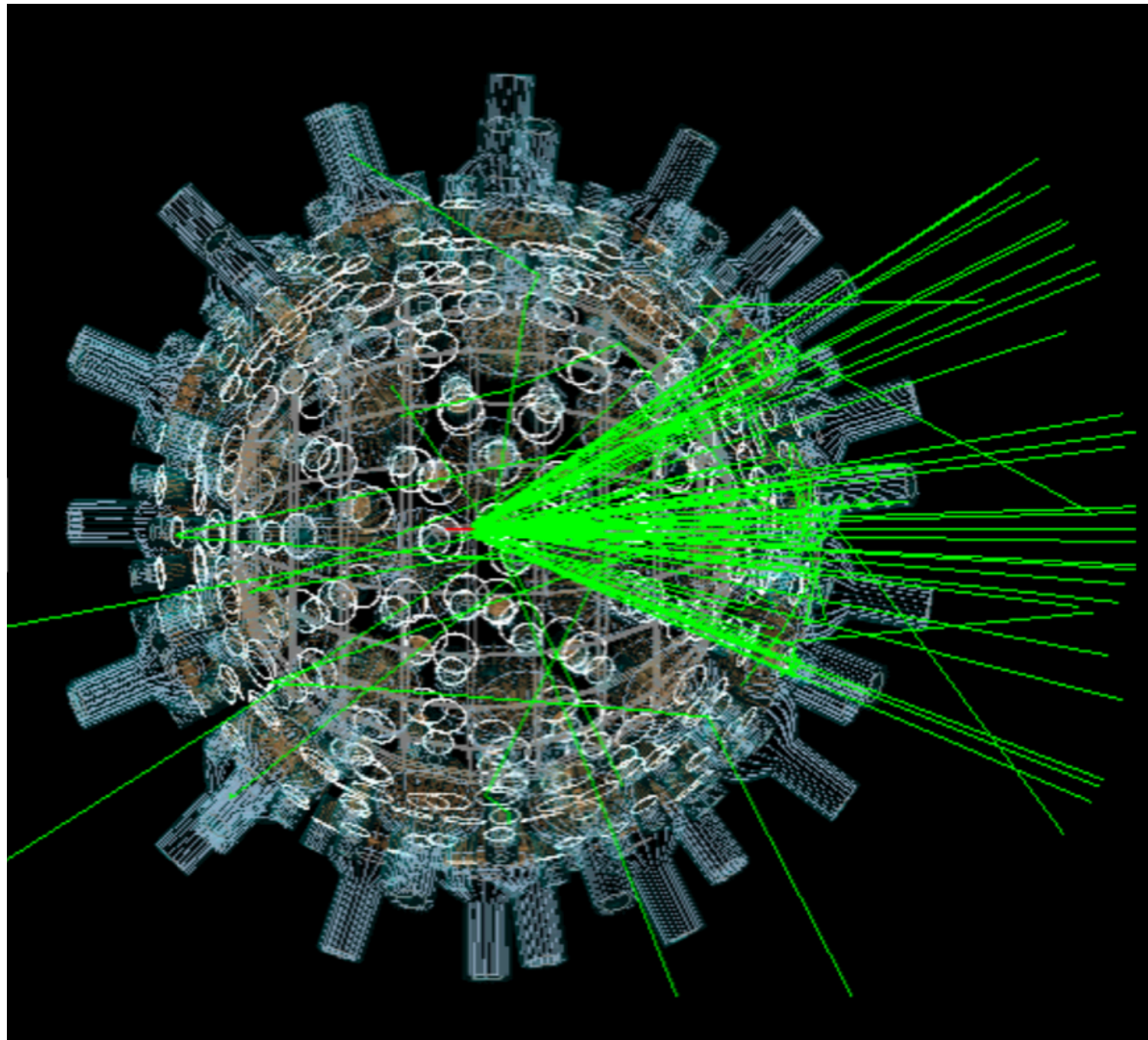
## 1. Using wavelength-shifting materials



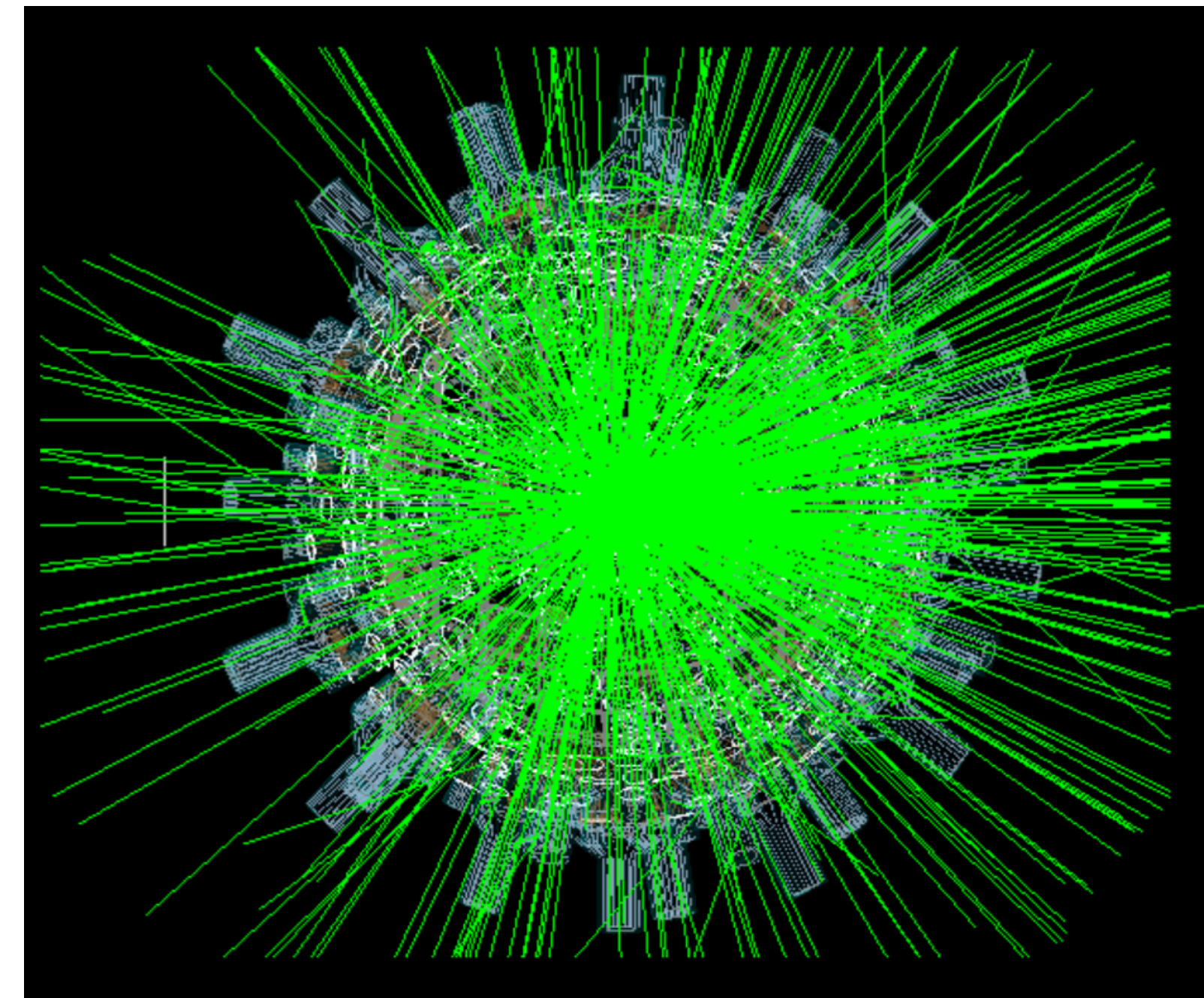


# Ways to reduce background

1. Using wavelength-shifting materials
2. Using directional reconstruction



**Cherenkov light**

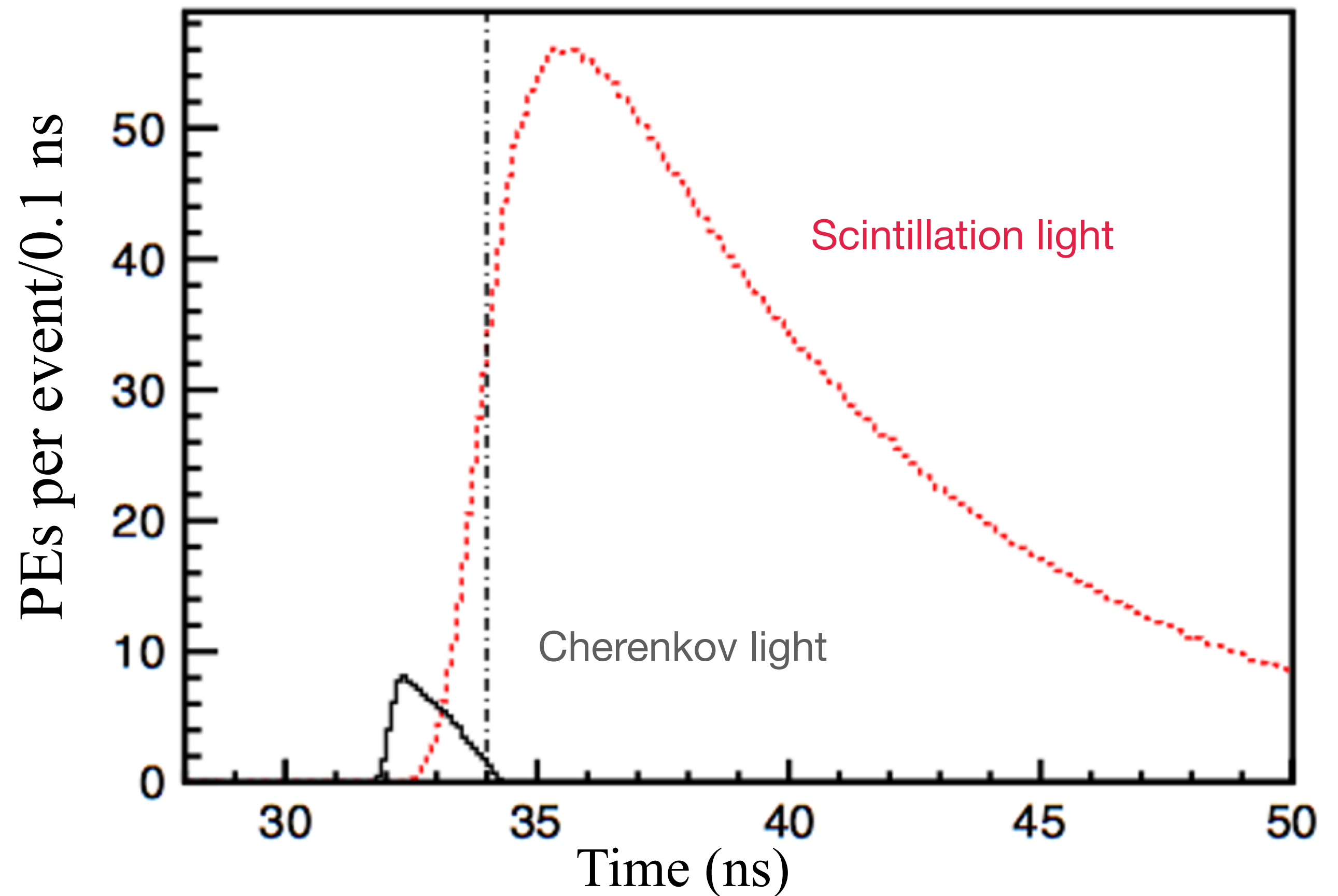


**Scintillation light**



# Ways to reduce background

1. Using wavelength-shifting materials
2. Using directional reconstruction
3. Using precise timing resolution

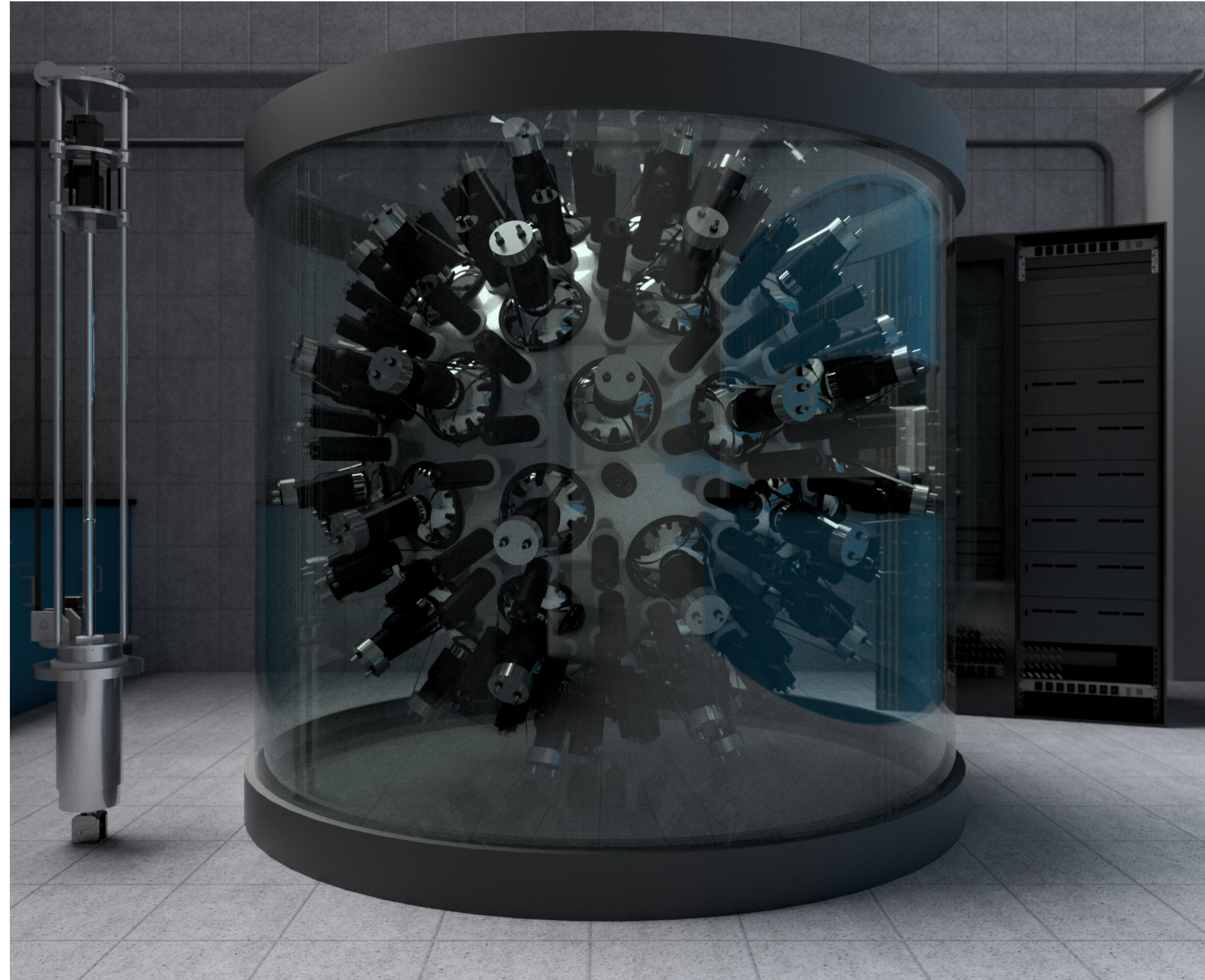


Simulation of KamLAND-Zen type detector for separating Cherenkov from prompt scintillation emission.



# NuDot detector @UD

NuDot detector is a 1m diameter acrylic vessel that is surrounded by  $4\pi$  array of high precision photomultiplier tubes (PMT) and large light collection PMTs.





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x151 Hamamatsu R13089

- 2" PMTs
- Low time-transit spread ( $\sigma = 200\text{ps}$ )





# NuDot detector @UD

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x151 Hamamatsu R13089

- 2" PMTs
- Low time-transit spread ( $\sigma = 200\text{ps}$ )

x59 Hamamatsu

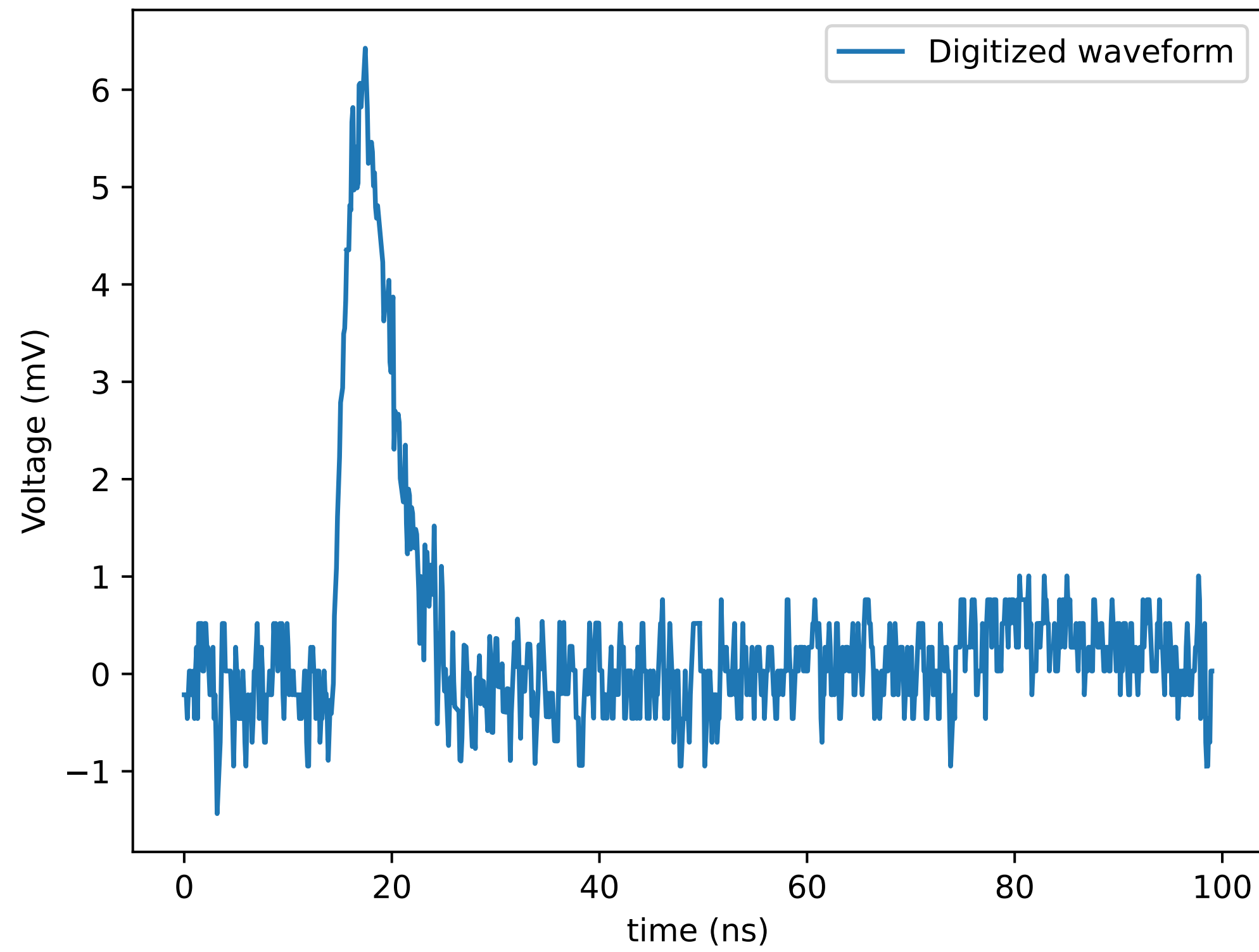
- 8" PMTs
- Large light collection area and high quantum efficiency

The acrylic vessel contains liquid scintillator, surrounded by PMTs, submerged in mineral oil buffer to provide structural support, passive shielding and optical coupling.

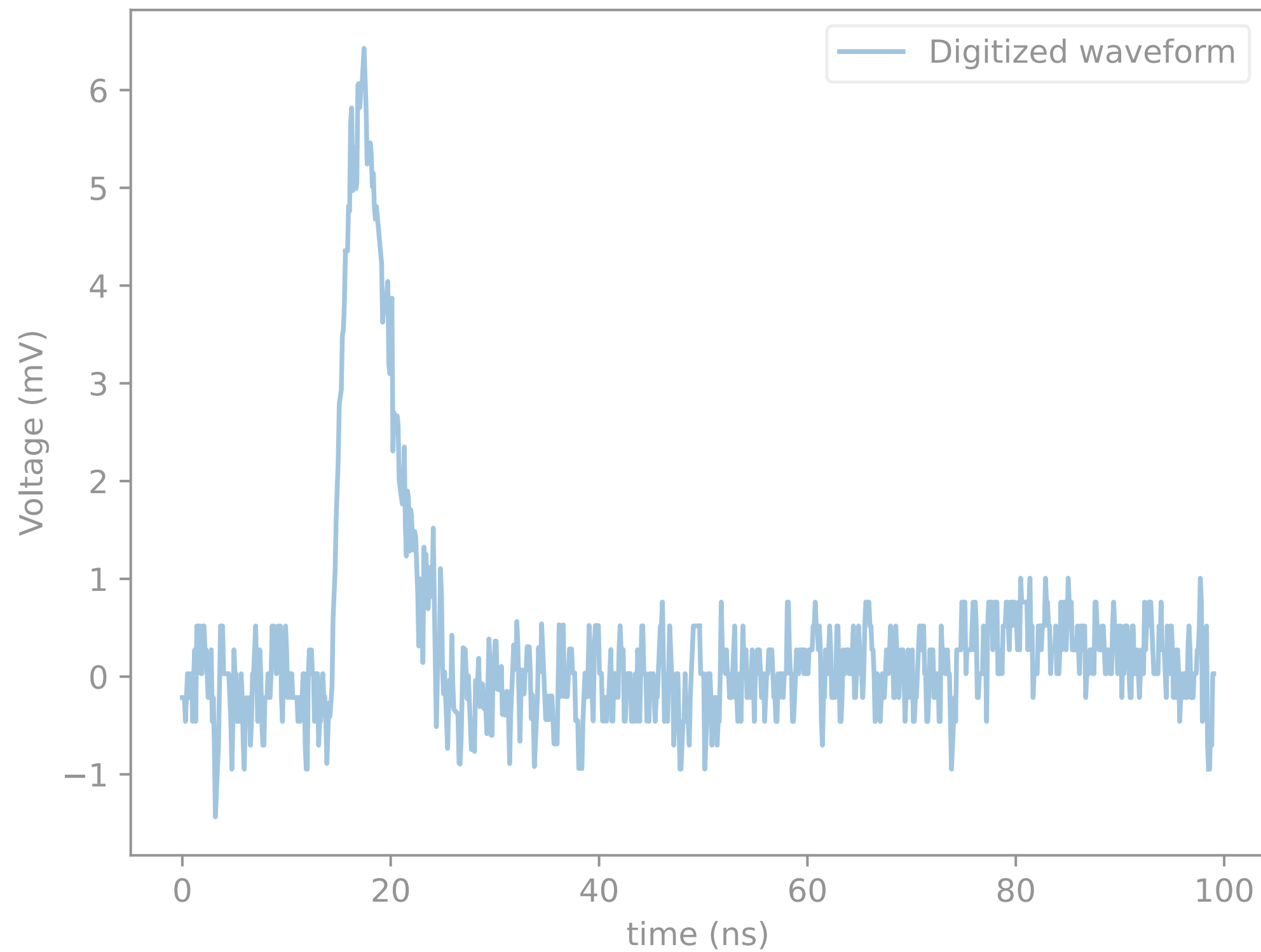




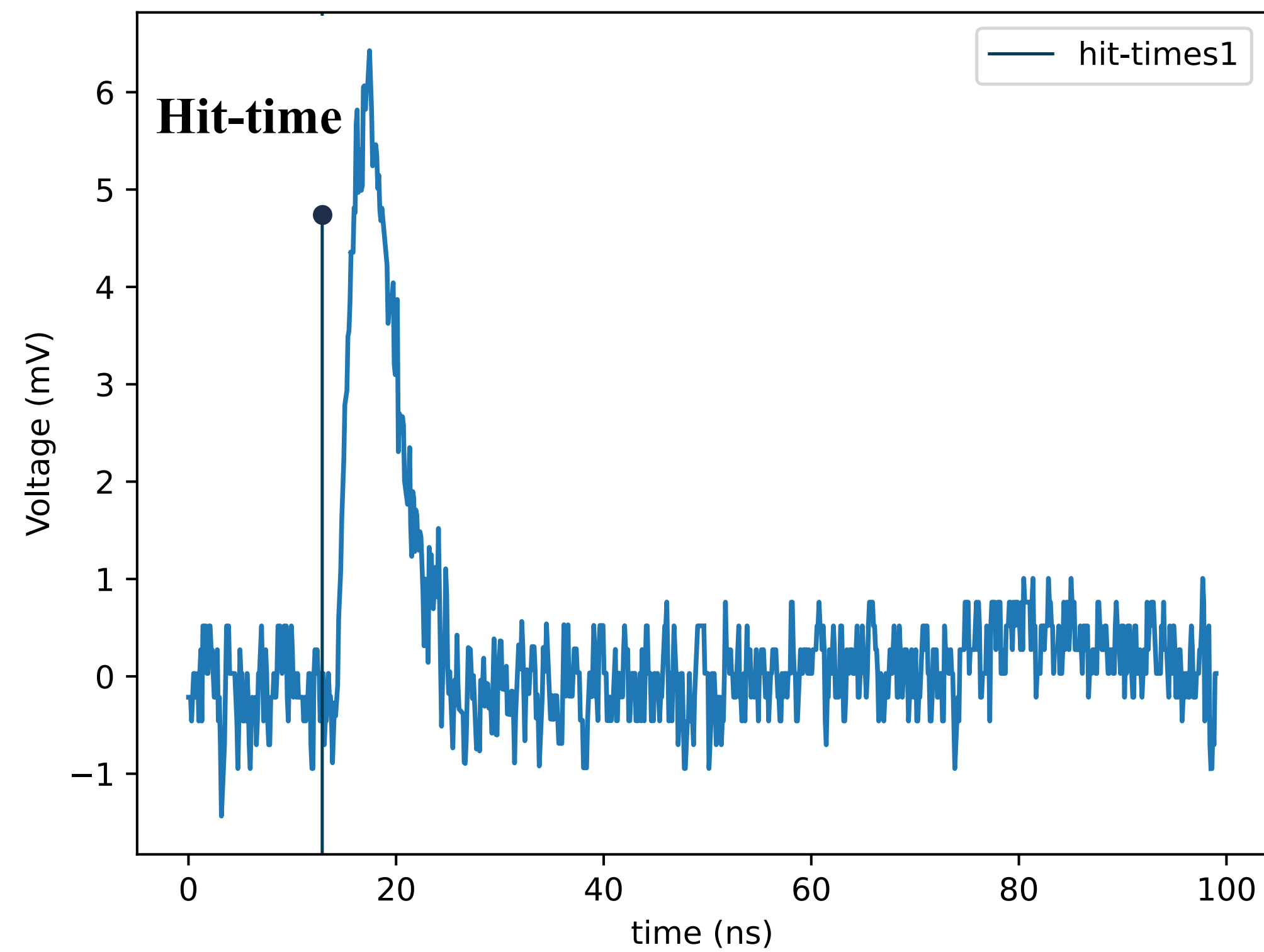
# Goals with ML



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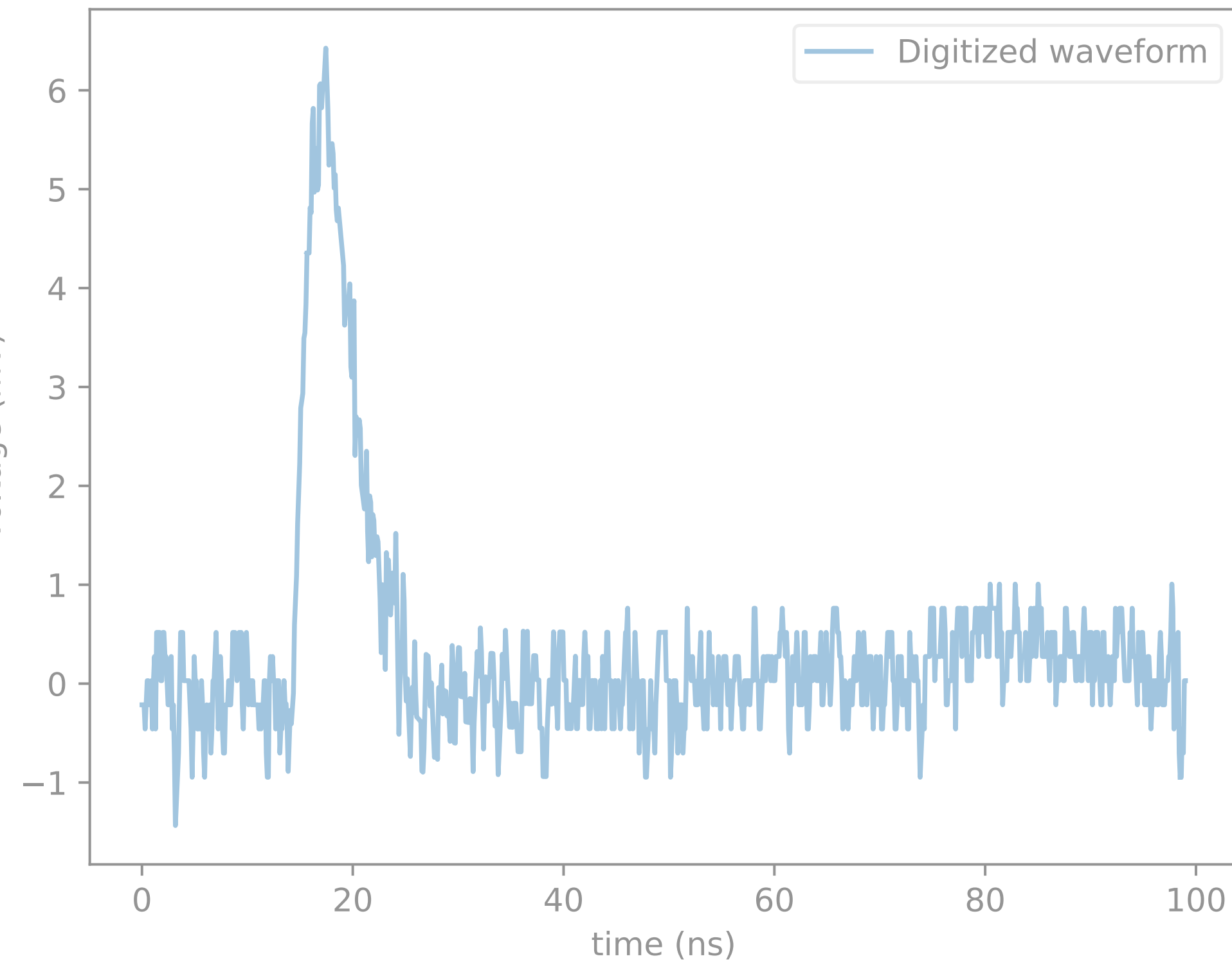
**Find the rising time of the pulse in digitized waveform.**



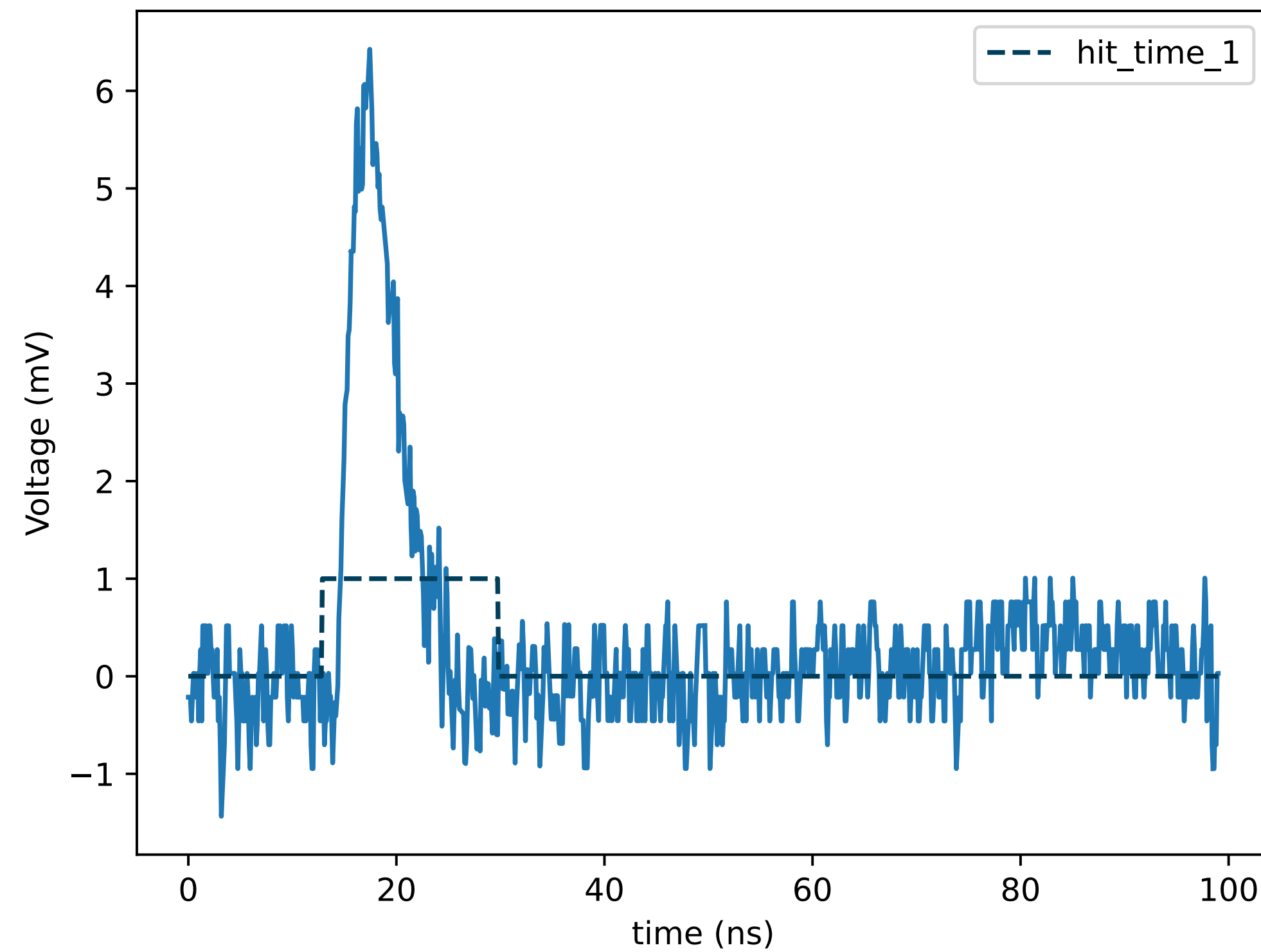


# Goals with ML

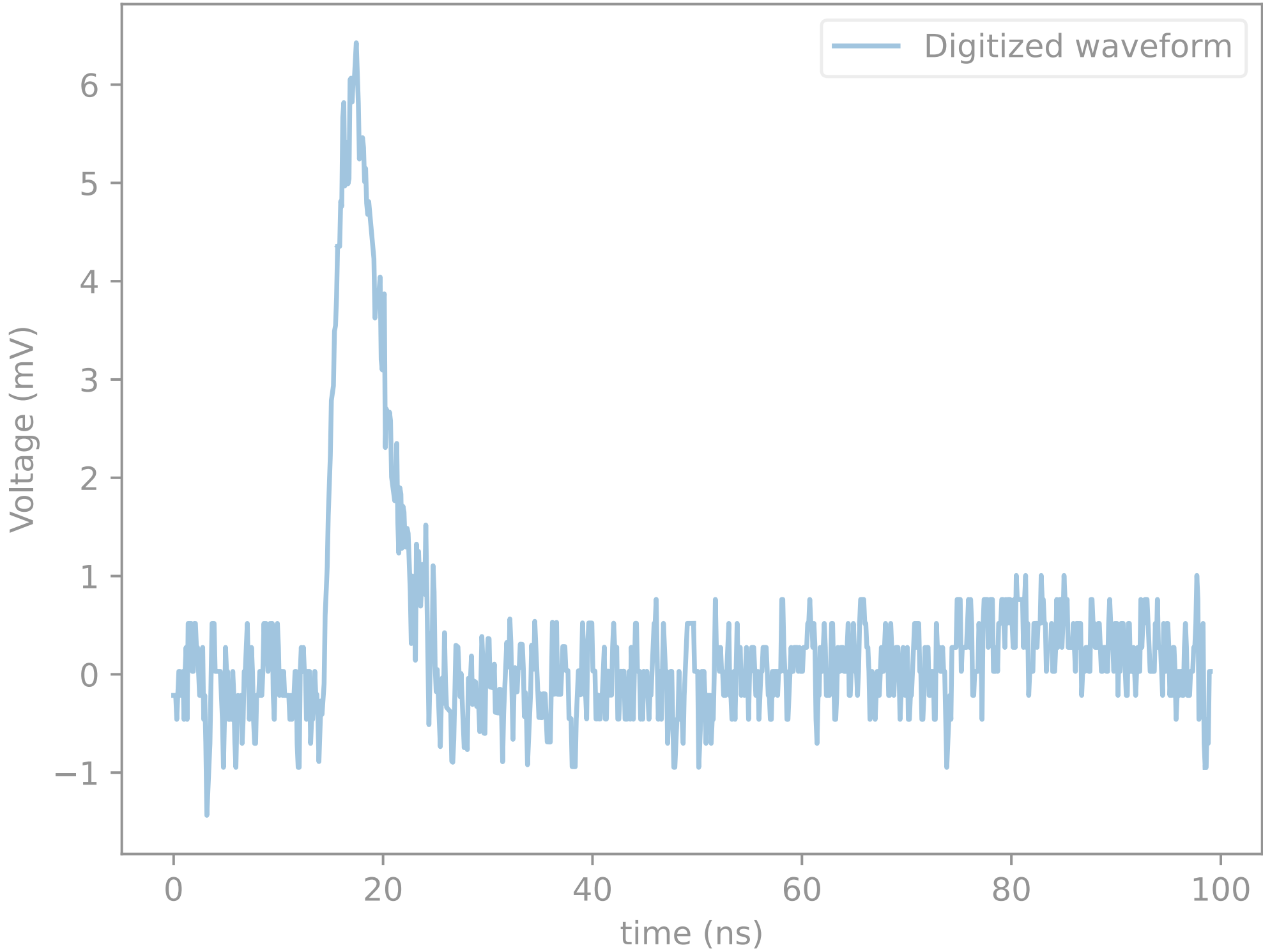
**Find the rising time of the pulse in digitized waveform.**



[0,0,0,0,0.....1,1,1,1.....0,0,0,0,0]

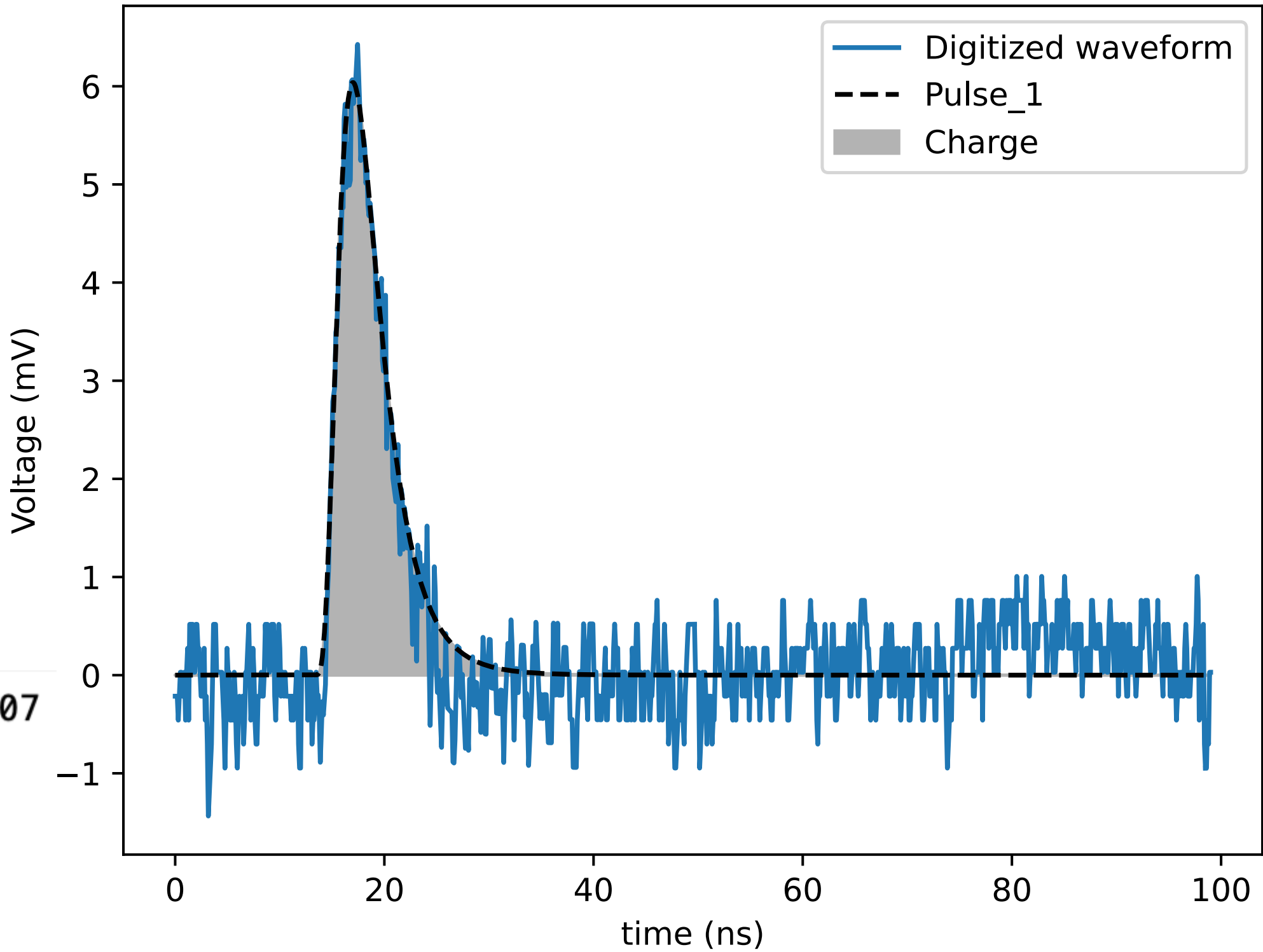


# Goals with ML

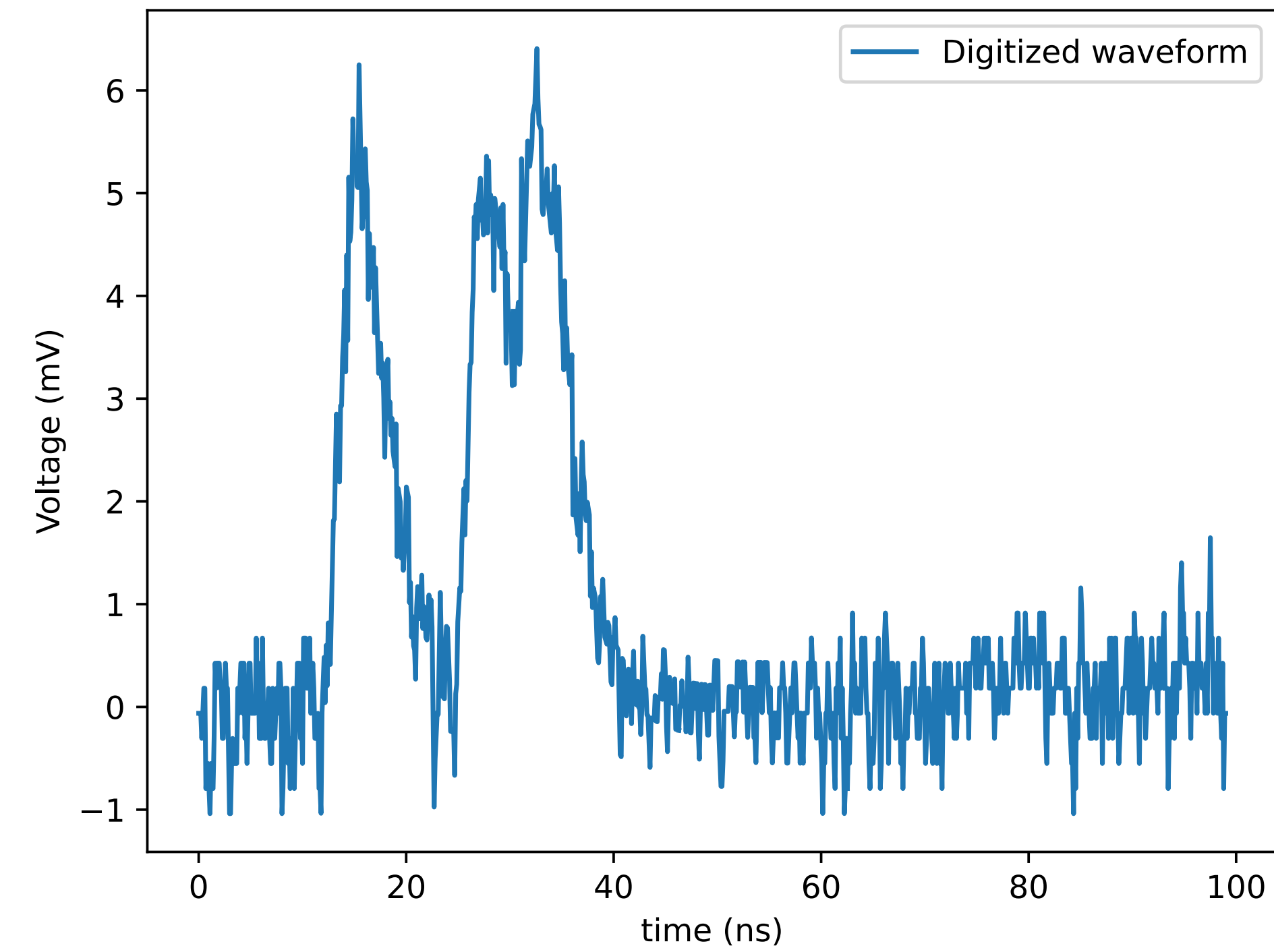


```
[[0.00000000e+00 0.00000000e+00 0.00000000e+00 ... 1.40309027e-07  
 1.38124454e-07 1.35975779e-07]]
```

**Find the charge of the pulse in the digitized waveform.**

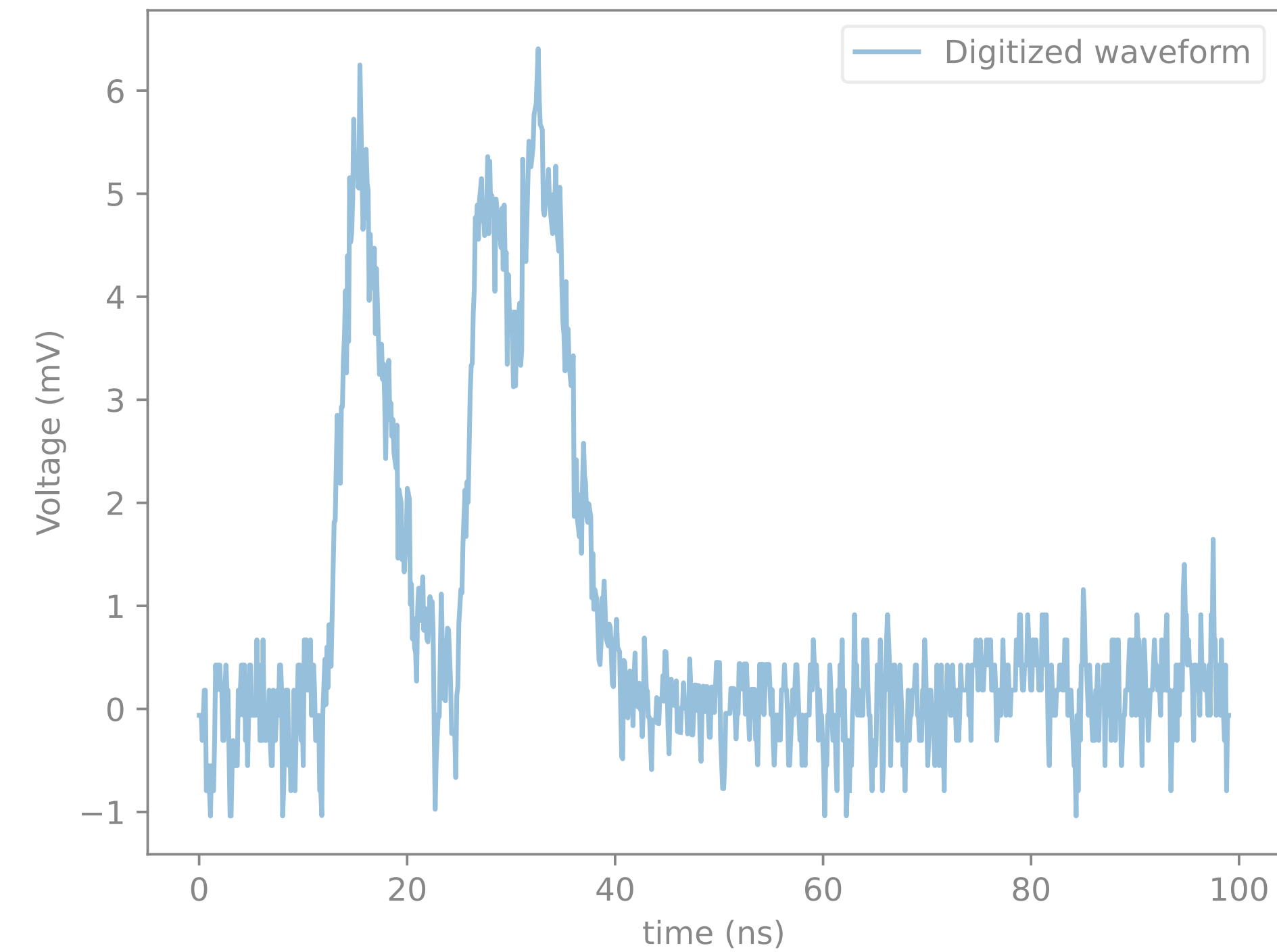


# Goals with ML



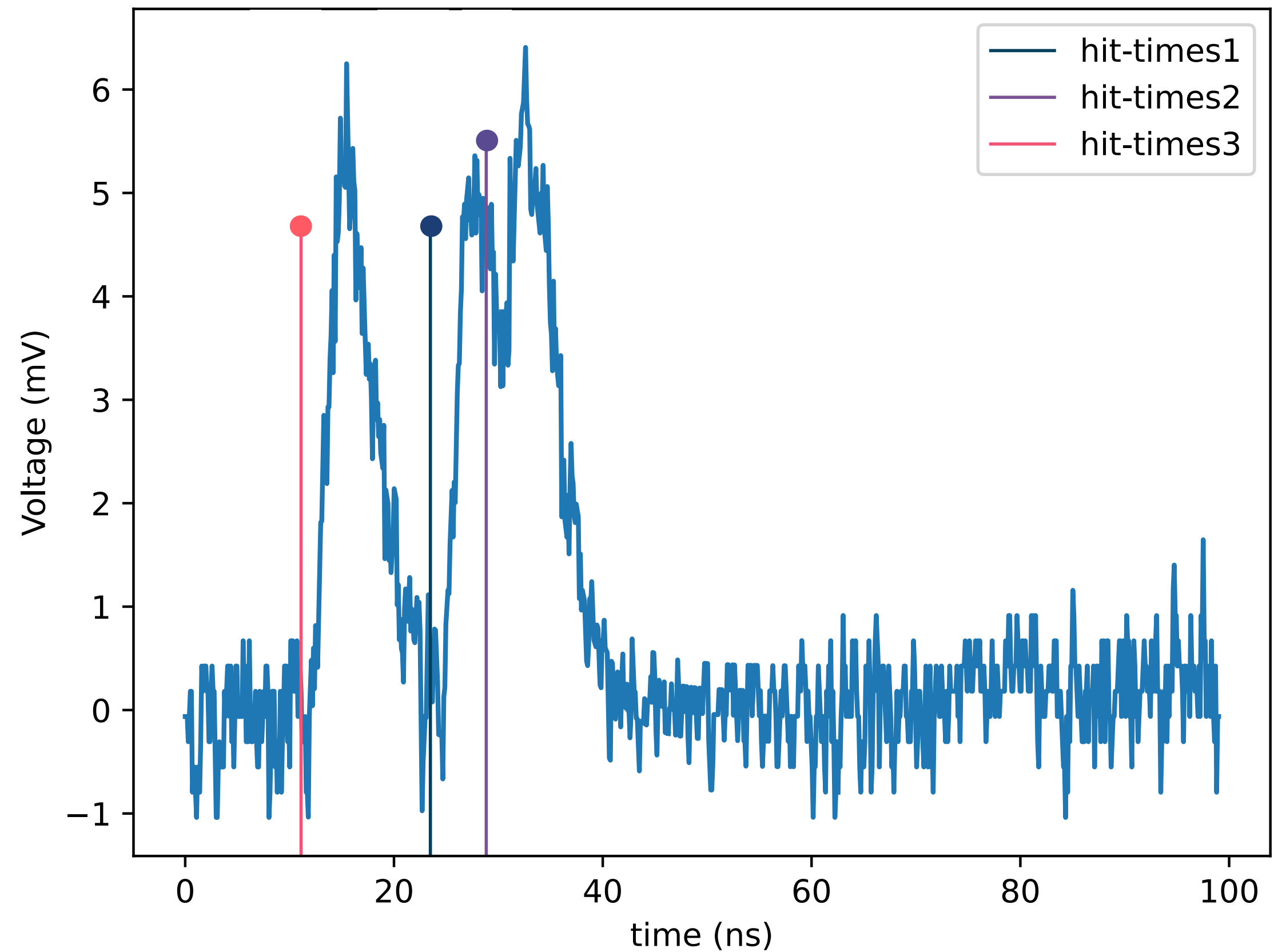
**Can the model do the same for more than a pulse?**

# Goals with ML



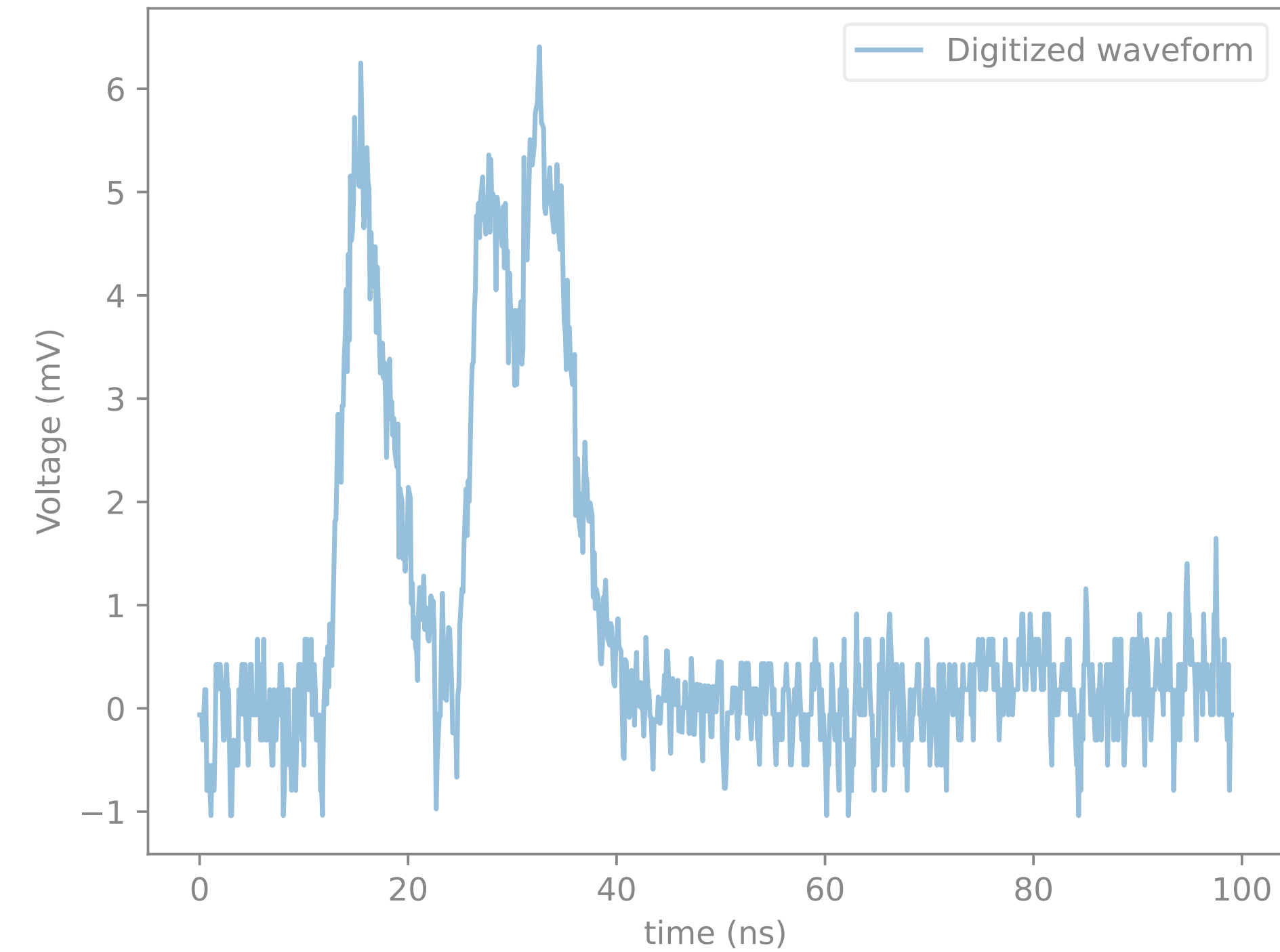
**Find the hit times of all the pulses in a waveform.**

**Can the model do the same for more than a pulse?**

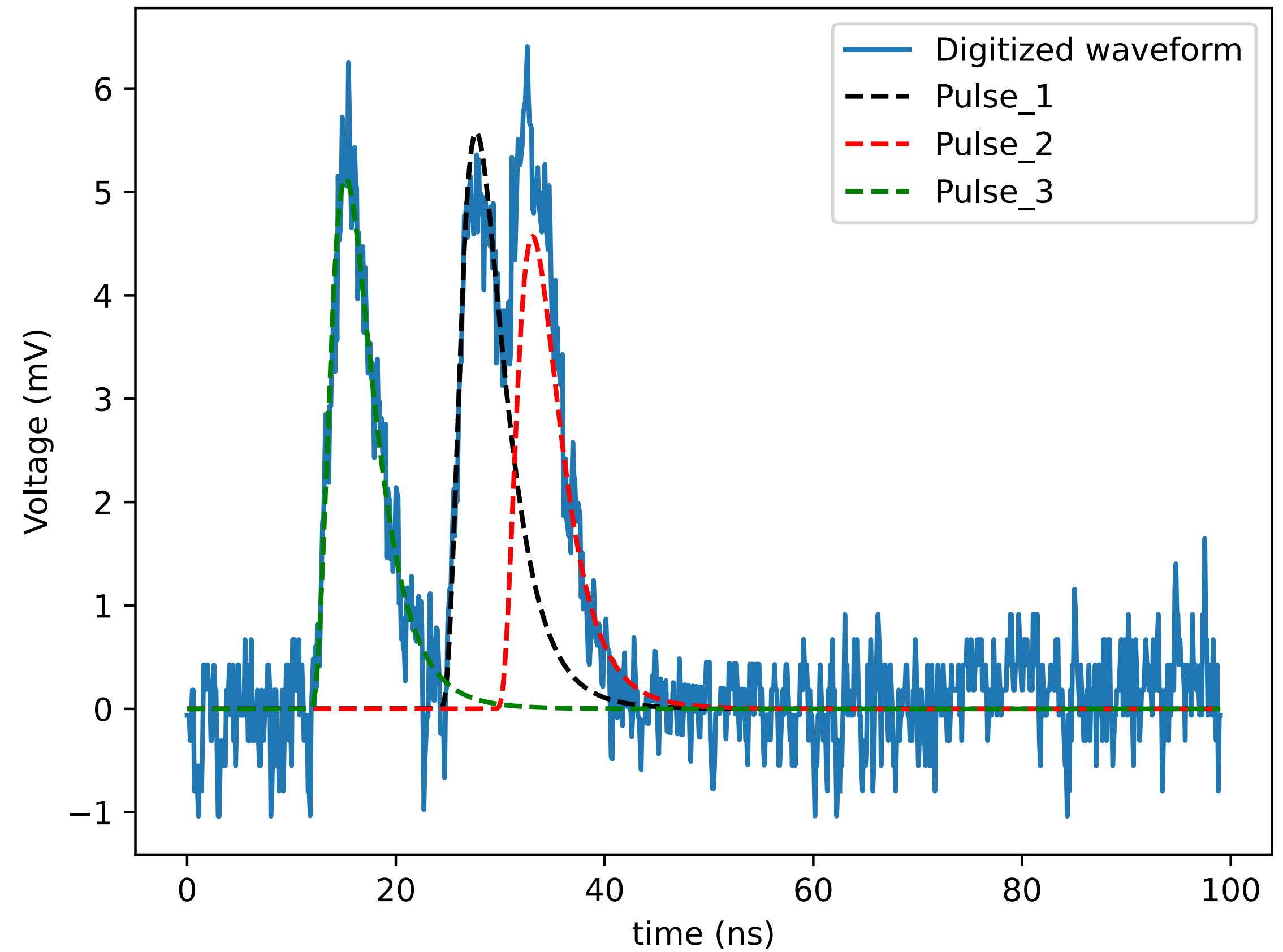


**[0,0..1,1...1,1..1,1.....0,0.....0,0,0]**

# Goals with ML



**Can the model do the same for more than a pulse?**



**Find the charge of all the pulses in a waveform.**

# Machine Learning

## UNet architecture

- U-Net is a deep learning model designed for **semantic segmentation**.
- It is commonly used in **medical imaging** (e.g., tumor detection) and **satellite image analysis**.











# UNet architecture

## Semantic Segmentation

- **Semantic segmentation** involves pixel by pixel categorization in a meaningful way.



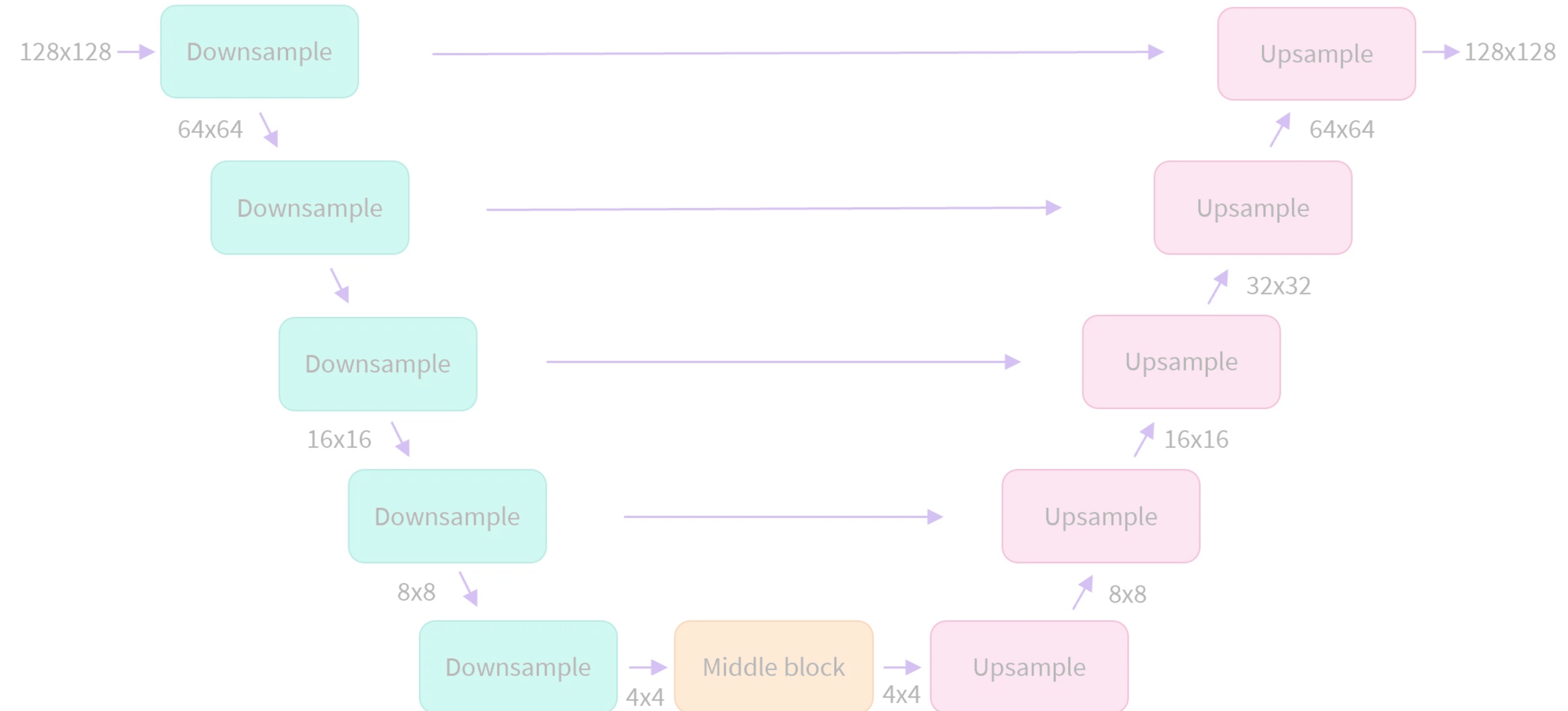
 Road	 Sidewalk	 Building	 Fence
 Pole	 Vegetation	 Vehicle	 Unlabel

# Machine Learning

## UNet architecture

### U-Shape Design:

The architecture has two parts: an **encoder** (left side) and a **decoder** (right side).





# Machine Learning

## UNet architecture

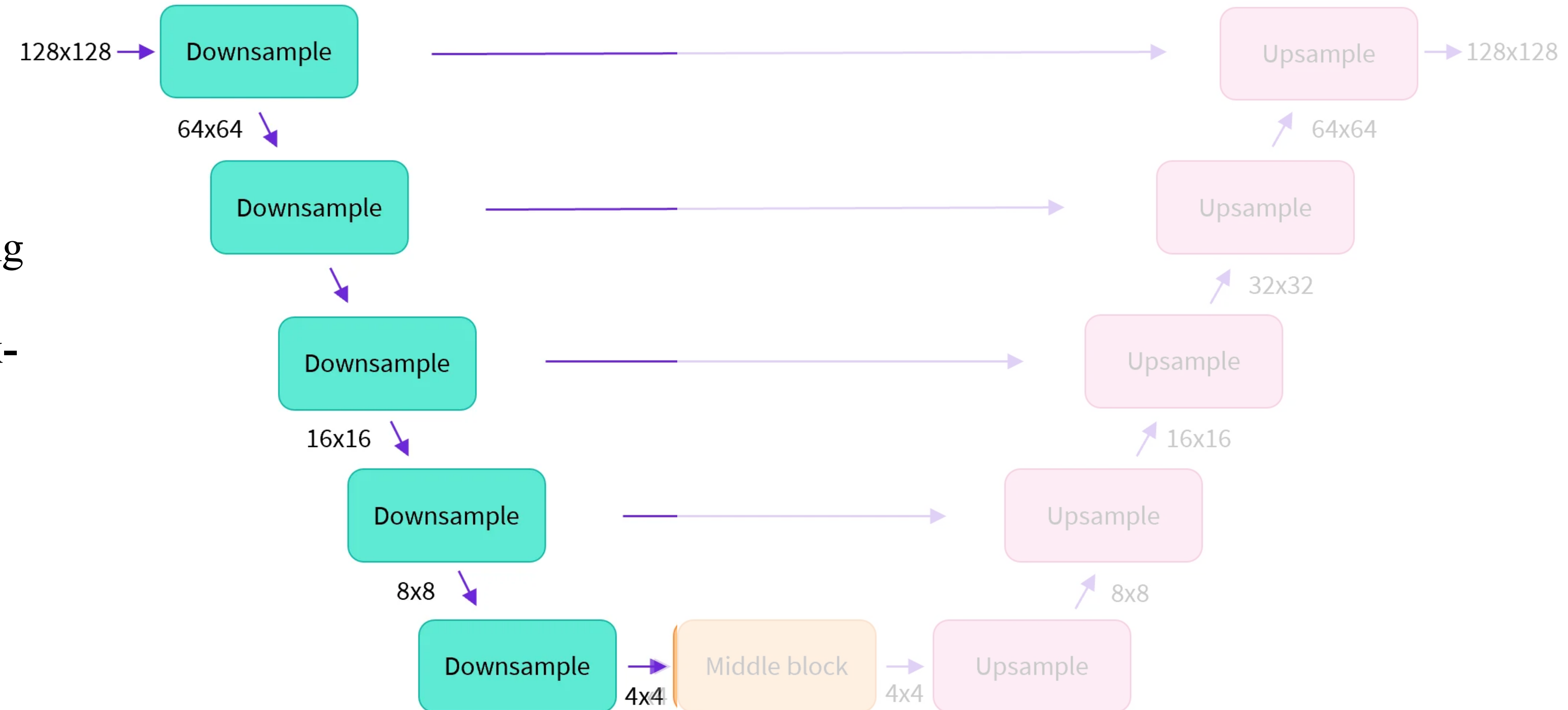
### U-Shape Design:

The architecture has two parts: an **encoder** (left side) and a **decoder** (right side).

### Encoder (Downsampling):

Extracts important features by reducing the image size step by step.

Uses layers like **convolution** and **max-pooling** to focus on the "what" of the image.



# Machine Learning

## UNet architecture

### U-Shape Design:

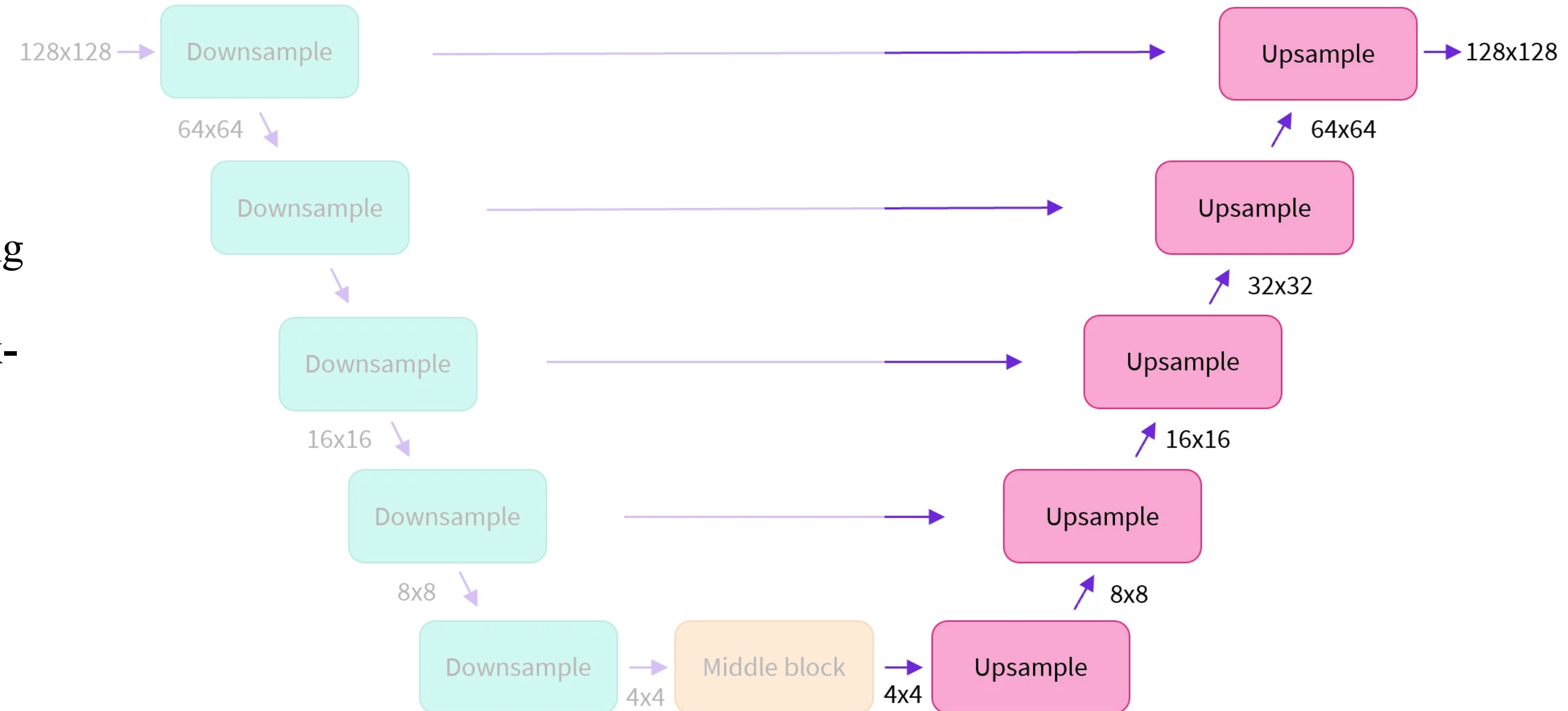
The architecture has two parts: an **encoder** (left side) and a **decoder** (right side).

### Encoder (Downsampling):

Extracts important features by reducing the image size step by step.  
Uses layers like **convolution** and **max-pooling** to focus on the "what" of the image.

### Decoder (Upsampling):

Reconstructs the image size while assigning each pixel a category.  
Combines **features from the encoder** with upsampled data to retain details.



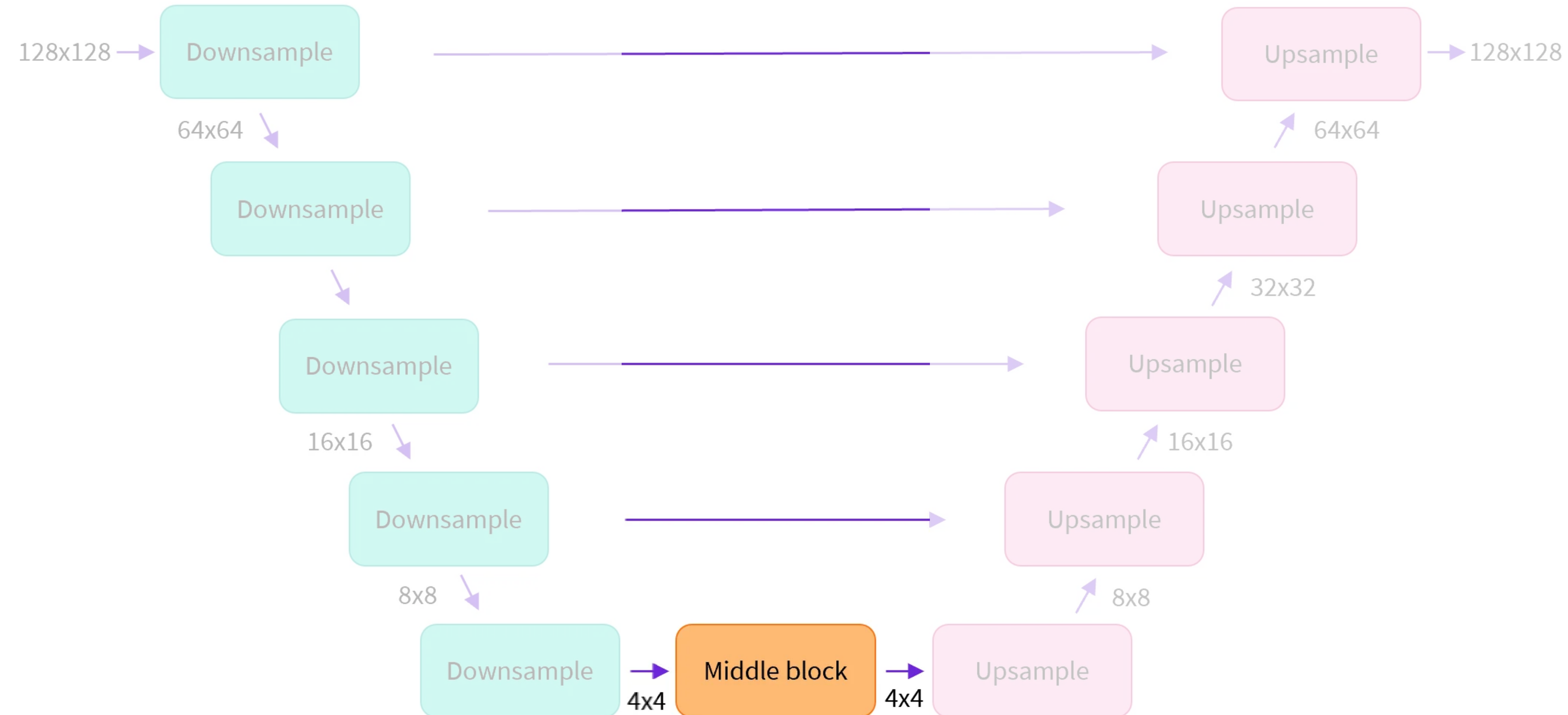


# Machine Learning

## UNet architecture

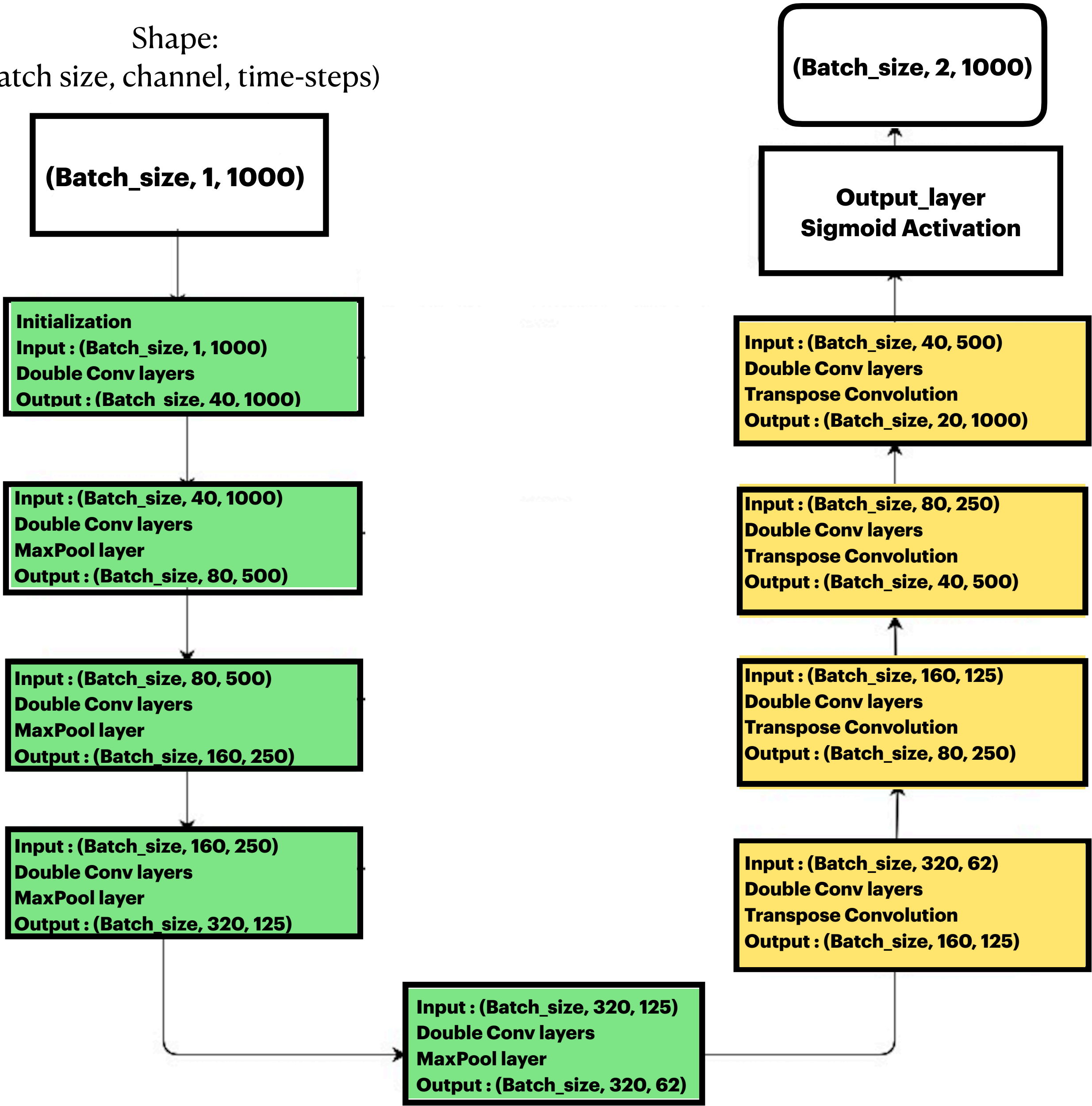
### Skip Connections:

Links encoder and decoder layers to preserve fine details during reconstruction.



# Classification UNet architecture

Shape:  
(Batch size, channel, time-steps)





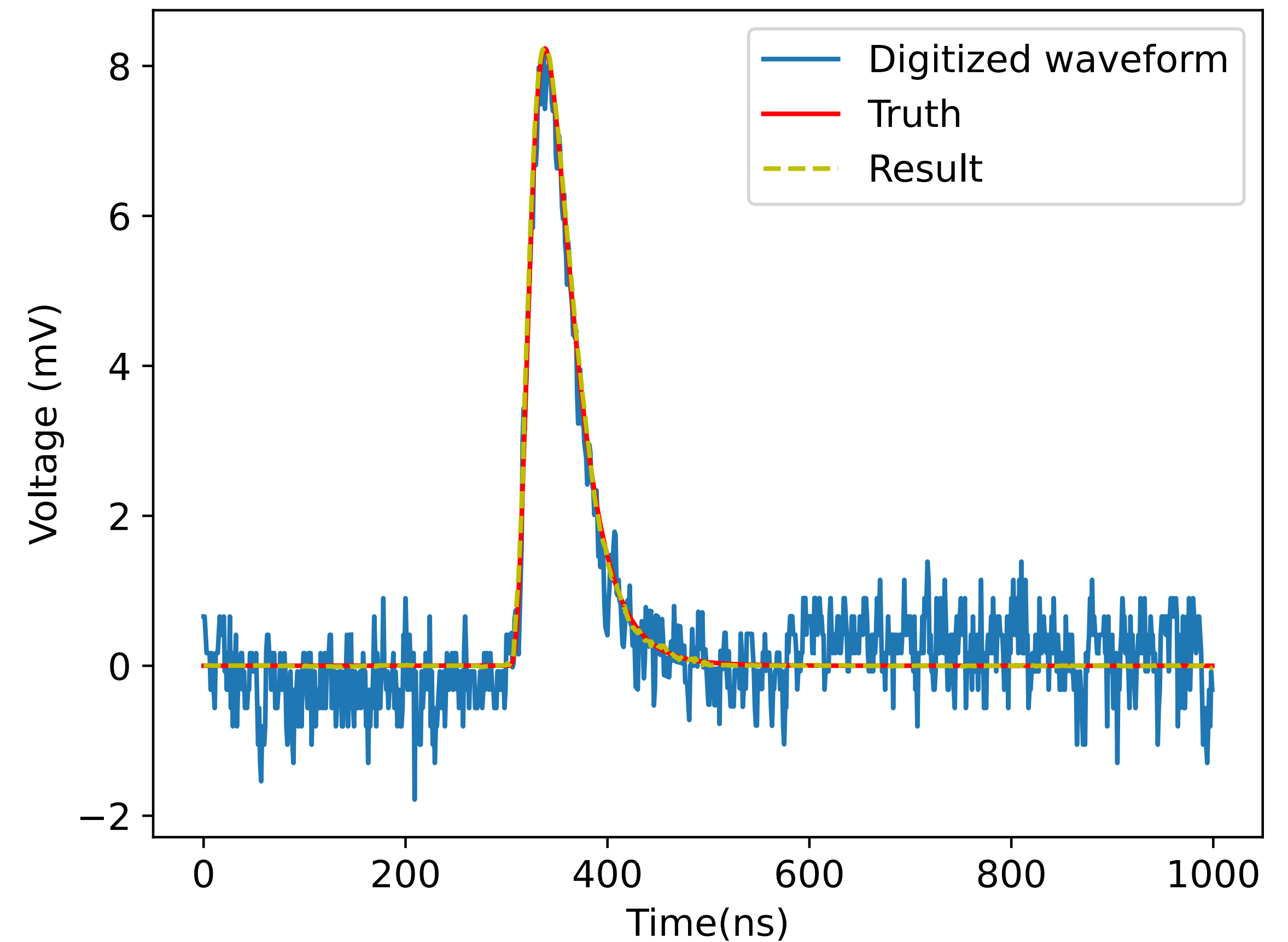
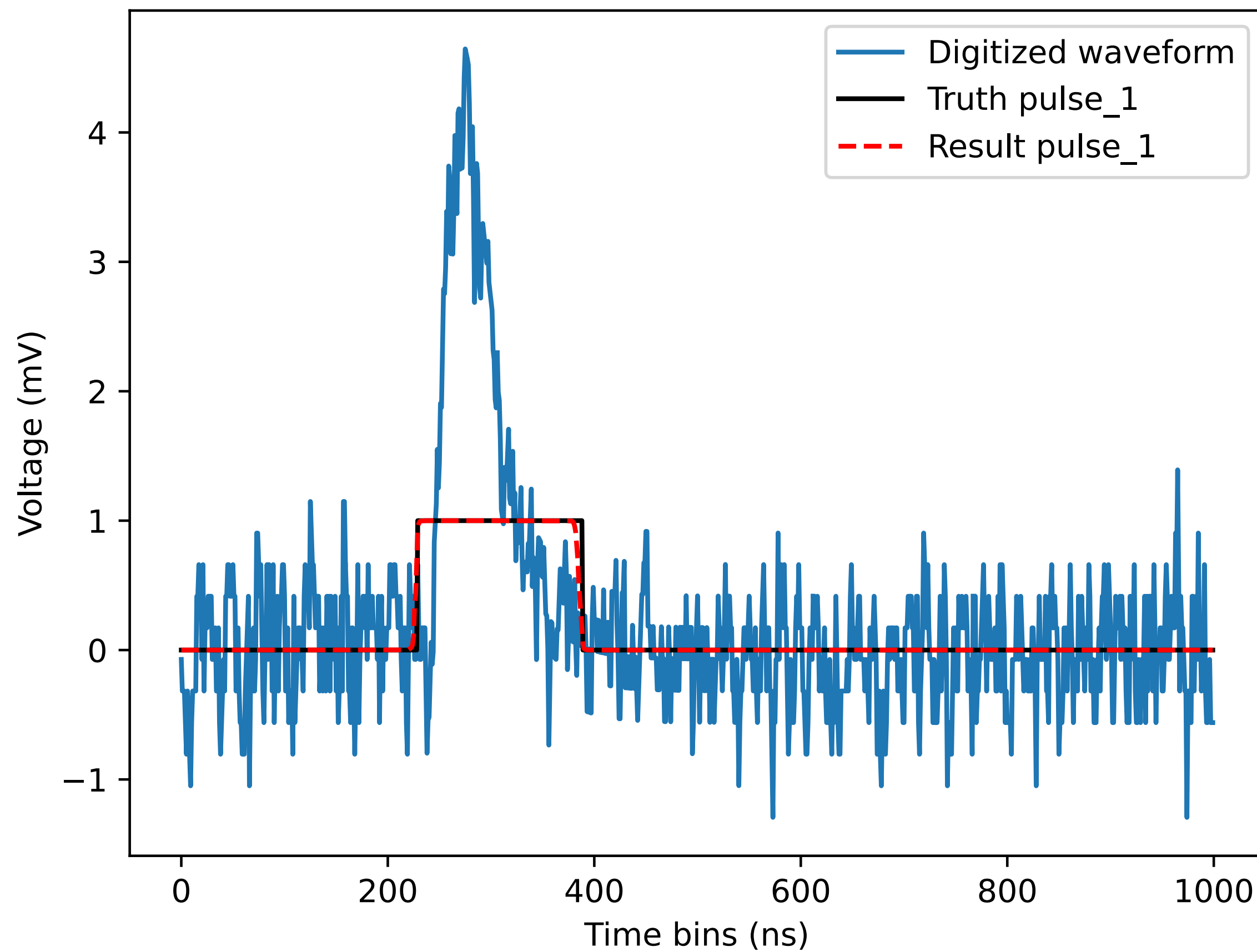
# Pulse analysis using machine learning

Classification:

Regression:

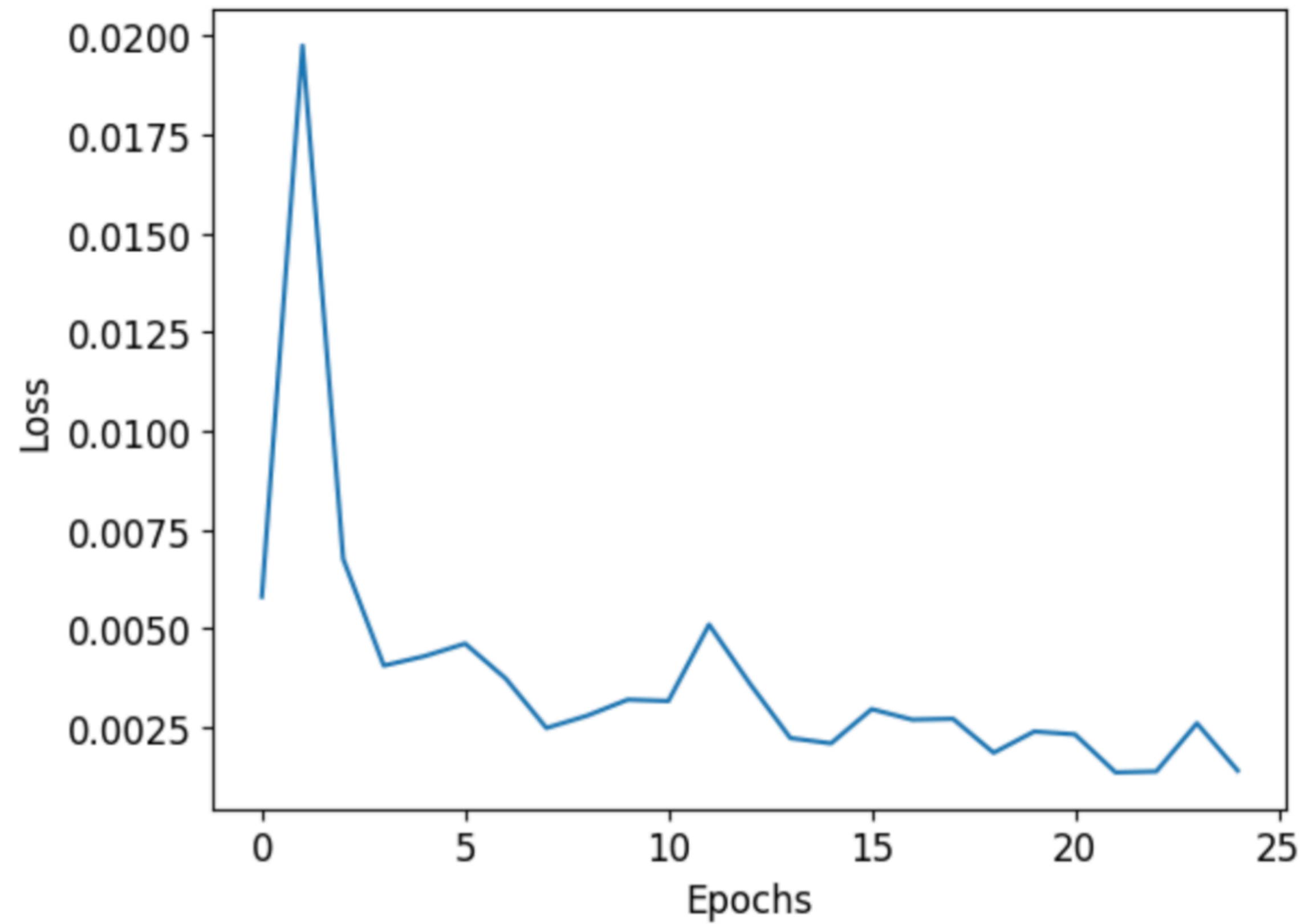
Hit time:

Charge:

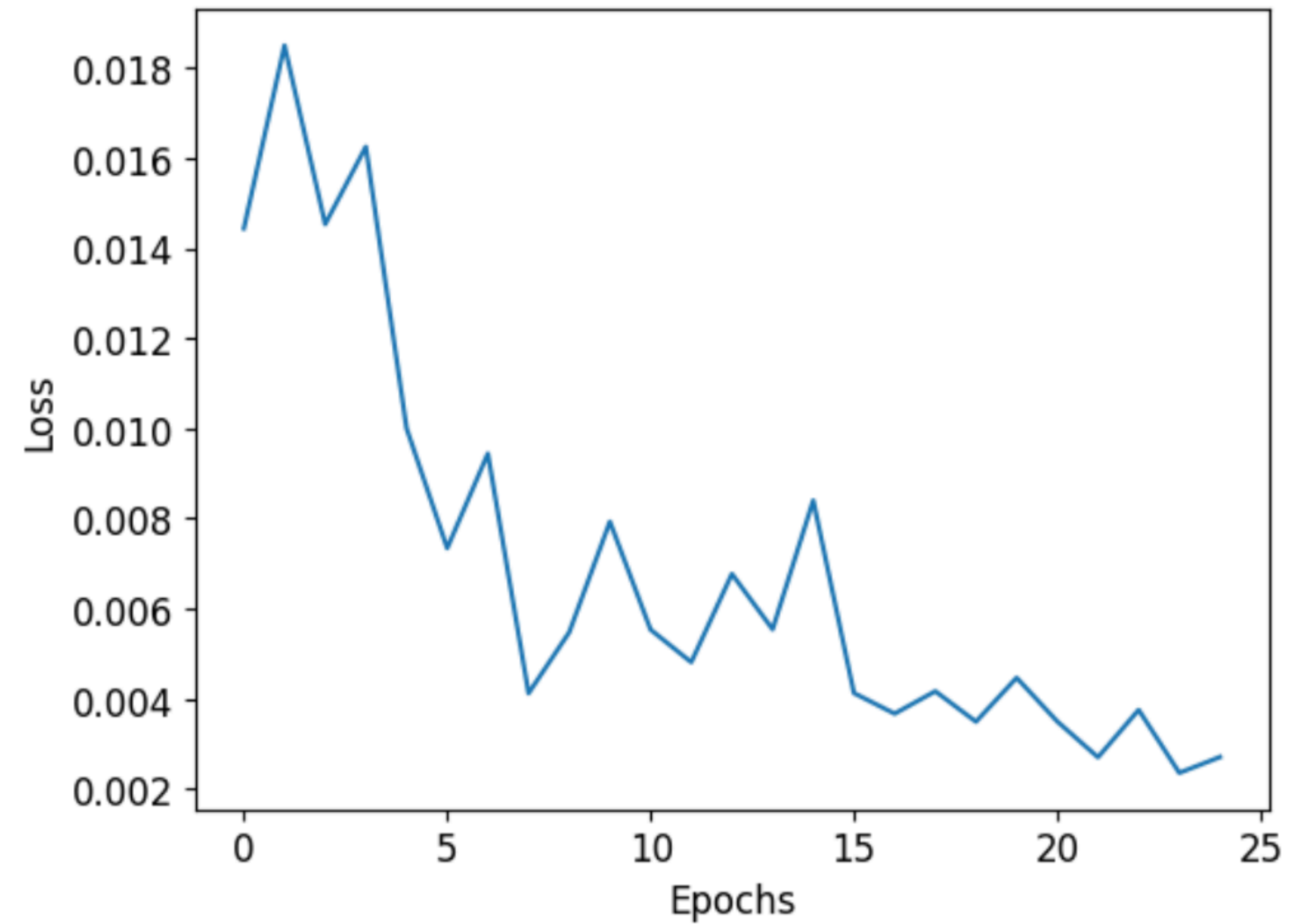


# Loss curves

## Regression

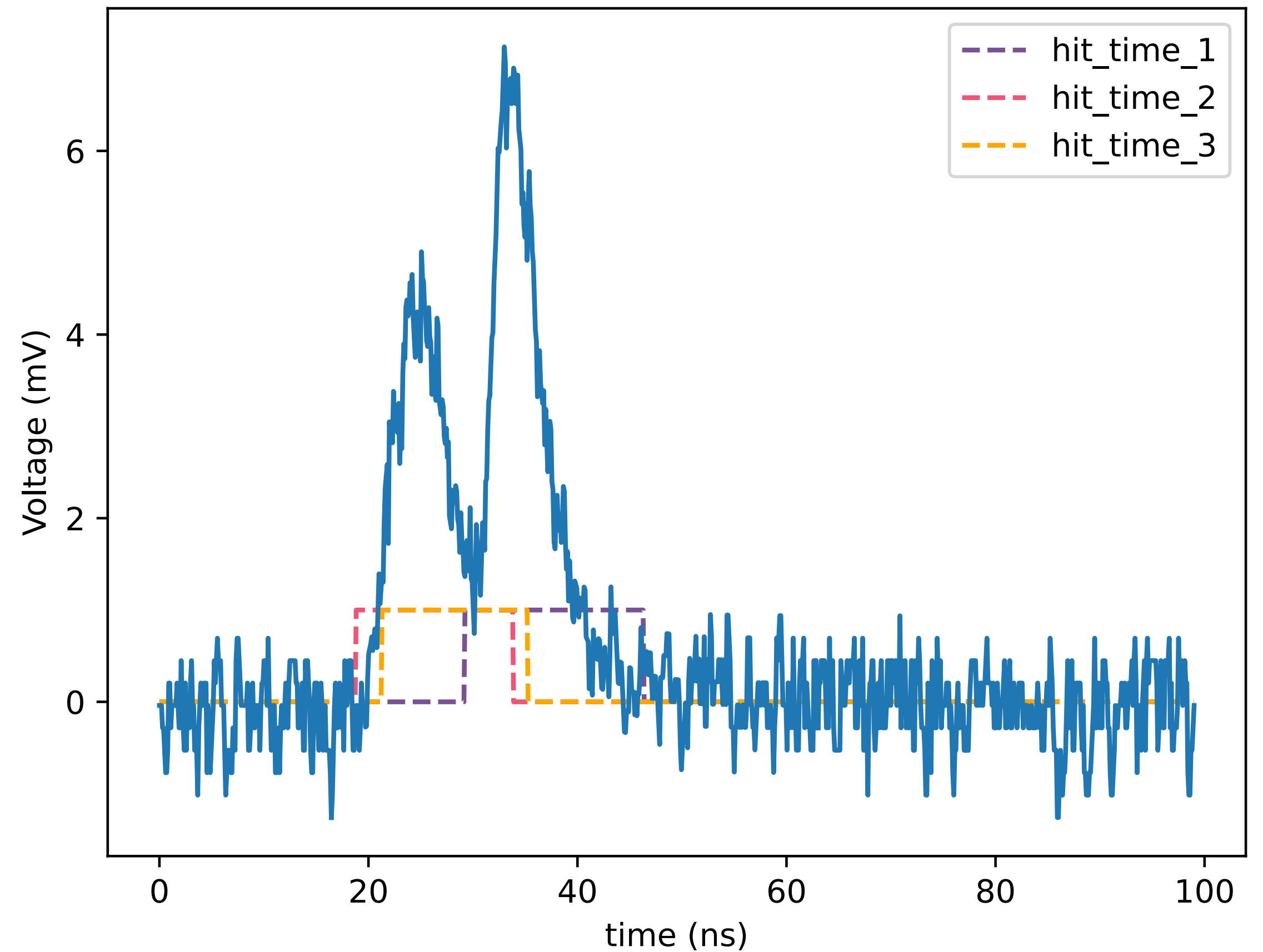
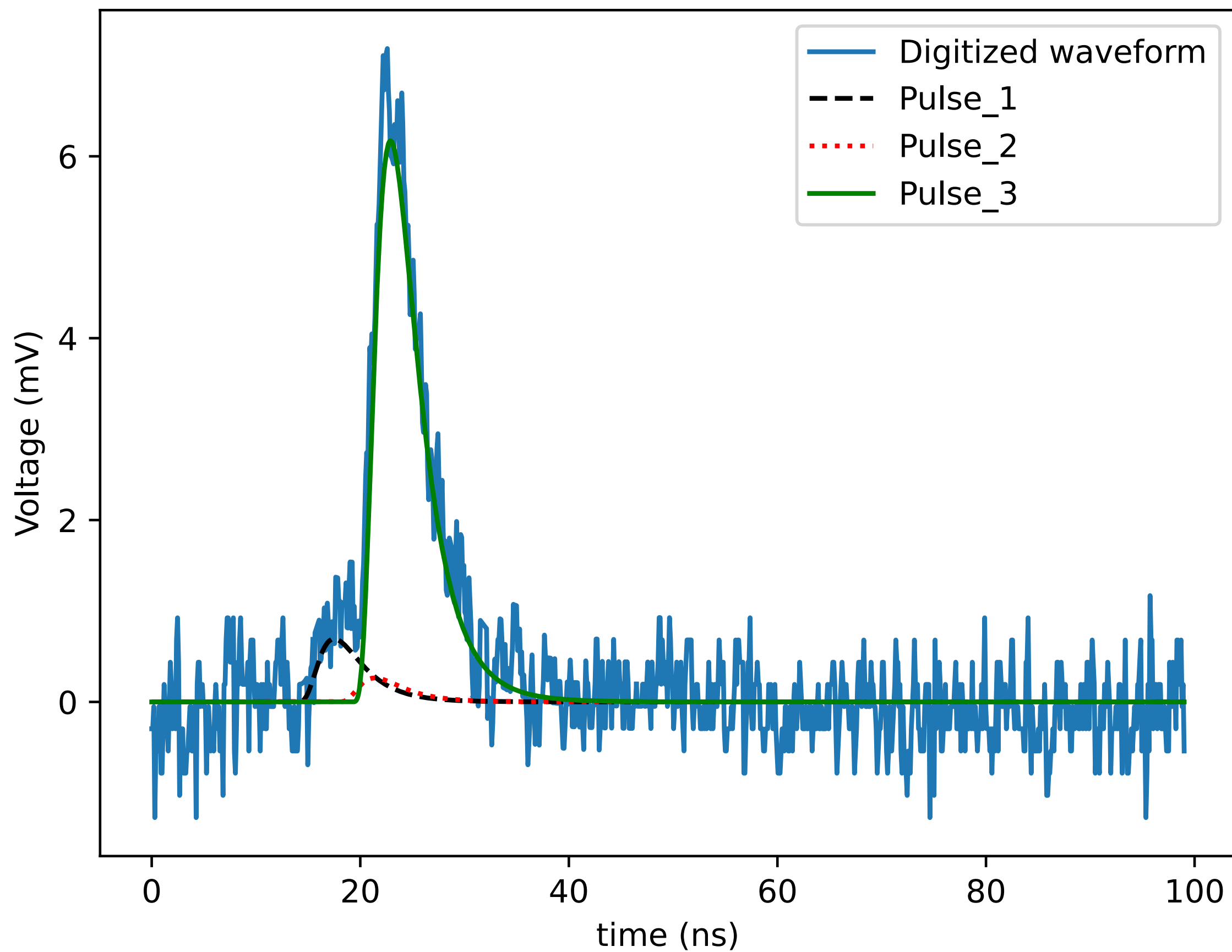


## Classification



# Future work

\*Working on multi-pulse analysis





# Future work

- ✱ Developing new DAQ state-of-the-art hardware  
-> RFSoc technology
- Generic technology for pulse extraction





# Summary

- We are trying to explain matter anti-matter asymmetry using liquid scintillator technology by looking for rare  $0\nu\beta\beta$  events.
- Building up NuDot as a R&D testbed for reducing backgrounds in these detectors.
- The particular solar neutrino background requires precise timing resolution, so the ML algorithm aims to extract the time.
- We can extract a single photoelectron's time and charge. However, there is still room for improvement.



Input from the ML experts, ideas on scaling, multi-pulses, and architecture.

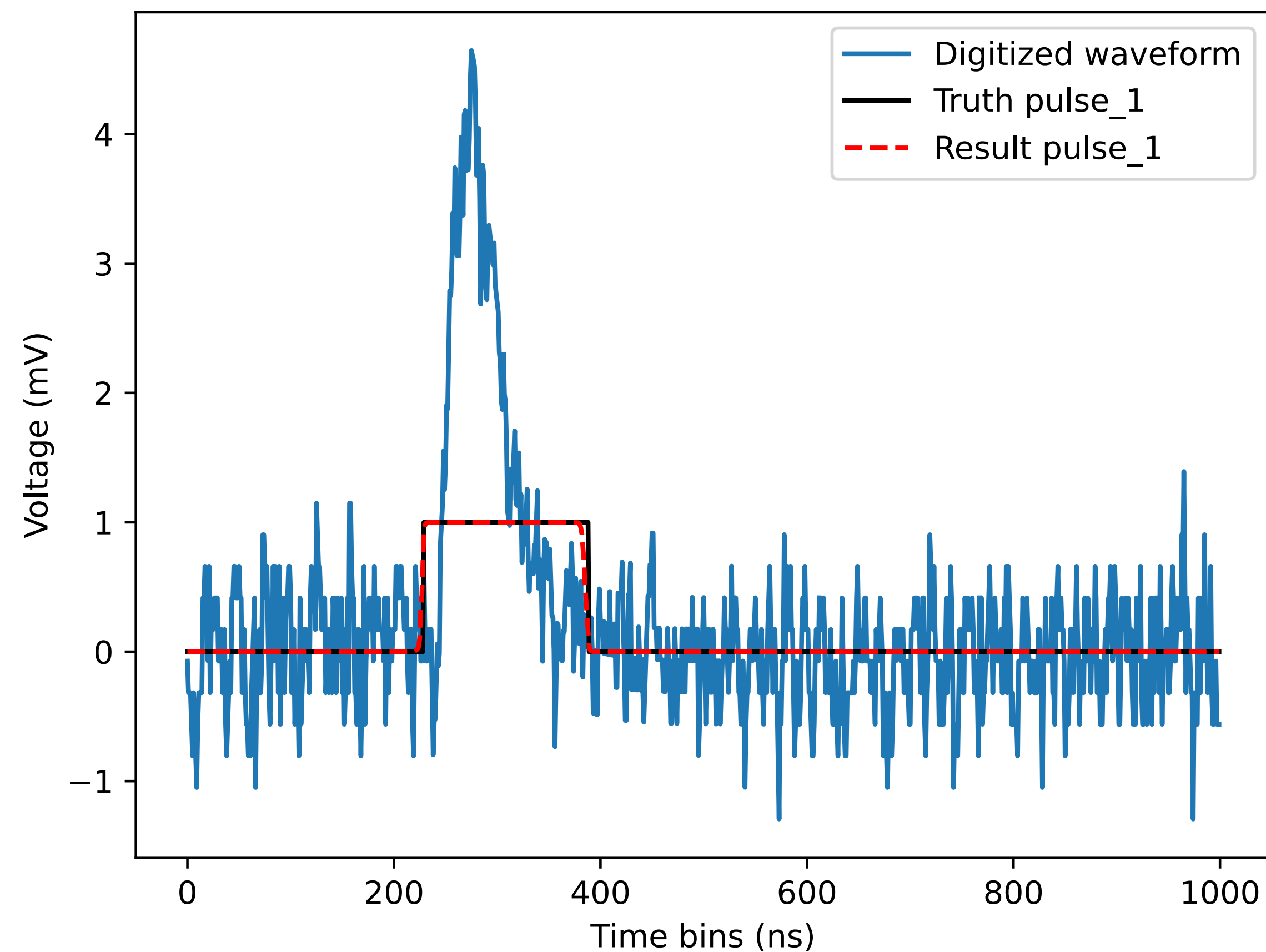
Suggestions for ML on chip.



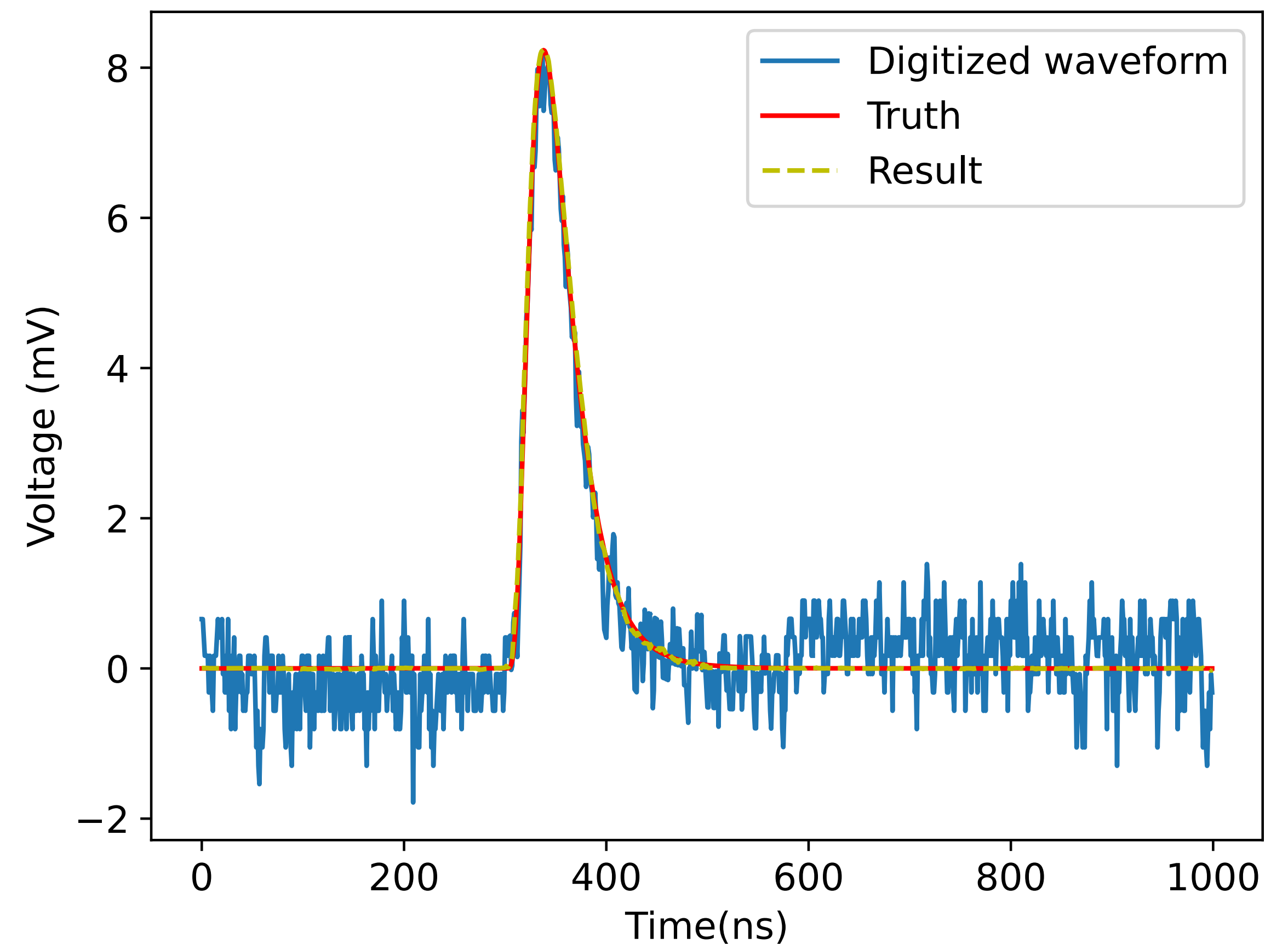
# Backup slides

# Pulse analysis using machine learning

Loss function : BCELoss  
Activation function: LeakyReLU  
Optimizer: Adam  
Output layer activation : Sigmoid



Loss function : MSELoss  
Activation function: LeakyReLU  
Optimizer: SGD

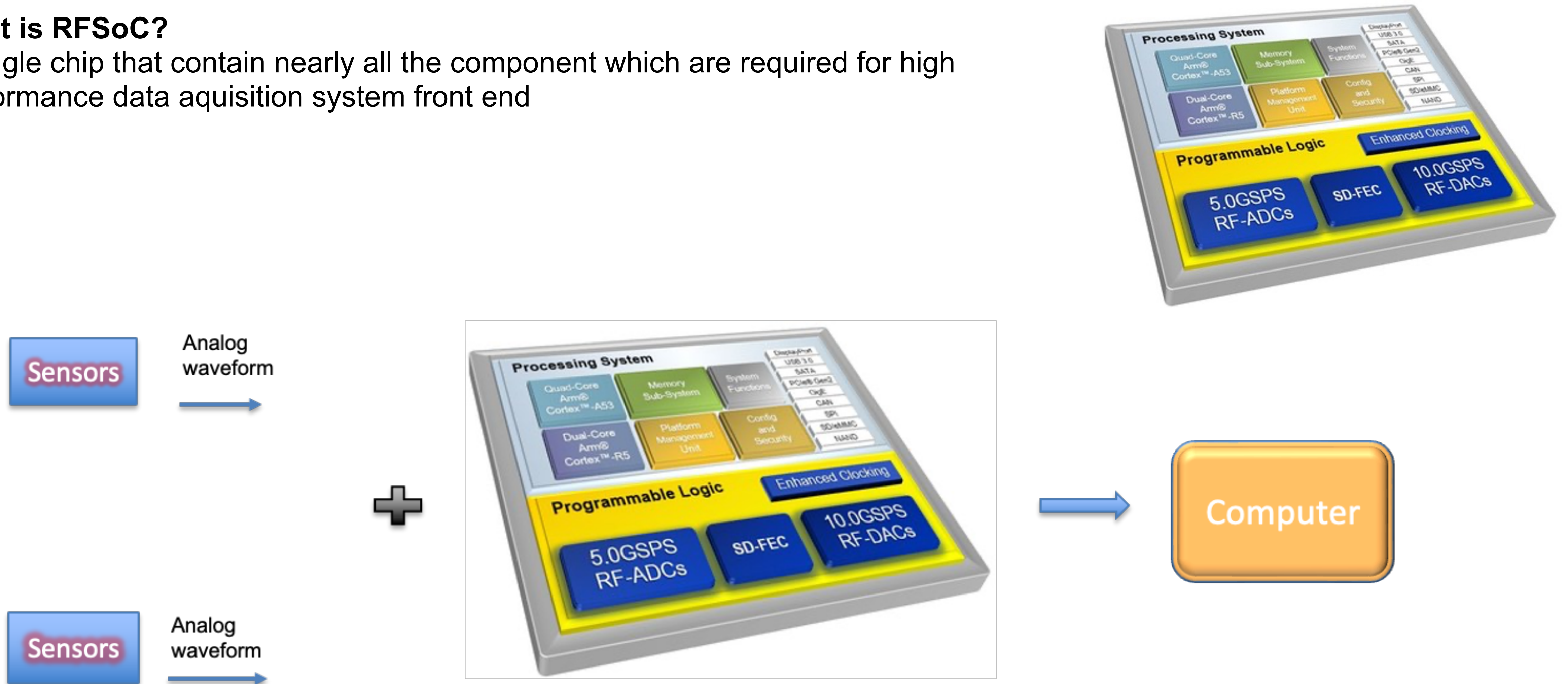




# Radio-Frequency System on a Chip

## What is RFSoc?

A single chip that contains nearly all the components which are required for high performance data acquisition system front end



# RFSoc

## A Conventional System

