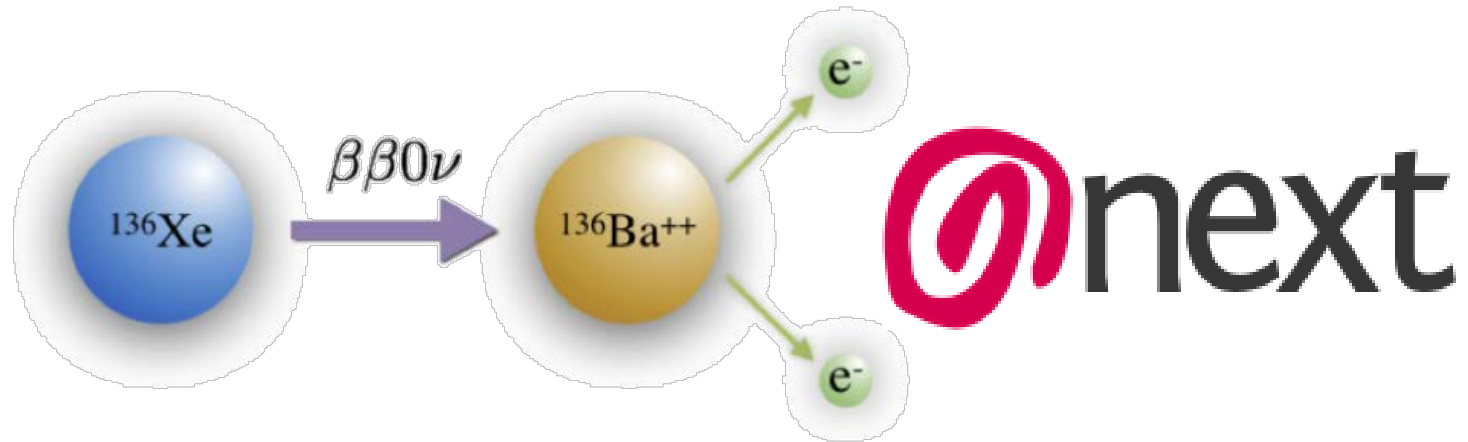


The **FBI** concept in the context of Ba-tagging for neutrinoless double beta decay events.

**F**luorescent **B**icolor **I**ndicator



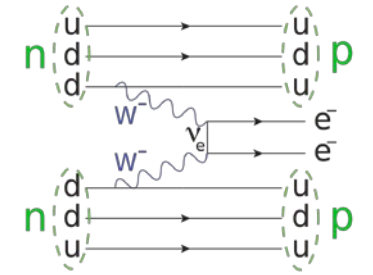
Detecting “tagging” the  $\text{Ba}^{++}$  signaling a  $\beta\beta 0\nu$  process in TPC xenon chambers.

Zoraida Freixa<sup>a,b</sup> on behalf of @next

Iván Rivilla,<sup>b,c</sup> Borja Aparicio,<sup>a</sup> Pablo Herrero,<sup>c,d</sup> Celia Rogero,<sup>d</sup> Francesc Monrabal,<sup>b,c</sup> Fernando P. Cossío,<sup>a</sup> Juan José Gómez-Cadenas<sup>b,c</sup>

<sup>a</sup> University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU), 20018 Donostia, Spain. <sup>b</sup> Ikerbasque, Basque Foundation for Science, 48009 Bilbao, Spain. <sup>c</sup> Donostia International Physics Center (DIPC), 20018 Donostia, Spain. <sup>d</sup> Materials Physics Center CFM (CSIC-UPV/EHU).20018, Donostia, Spain.

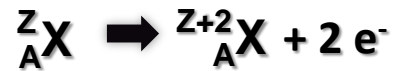
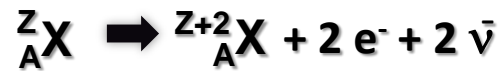
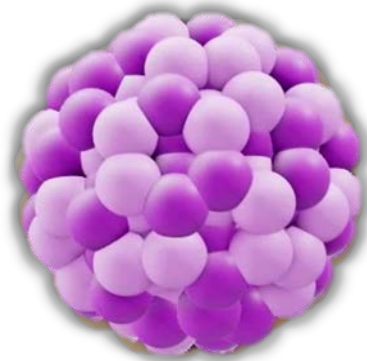
# How to confirm experimentally if neutrino is a Majorana particle?



$\beta\beta 2\nu$



$\beta\beta 0\nu$

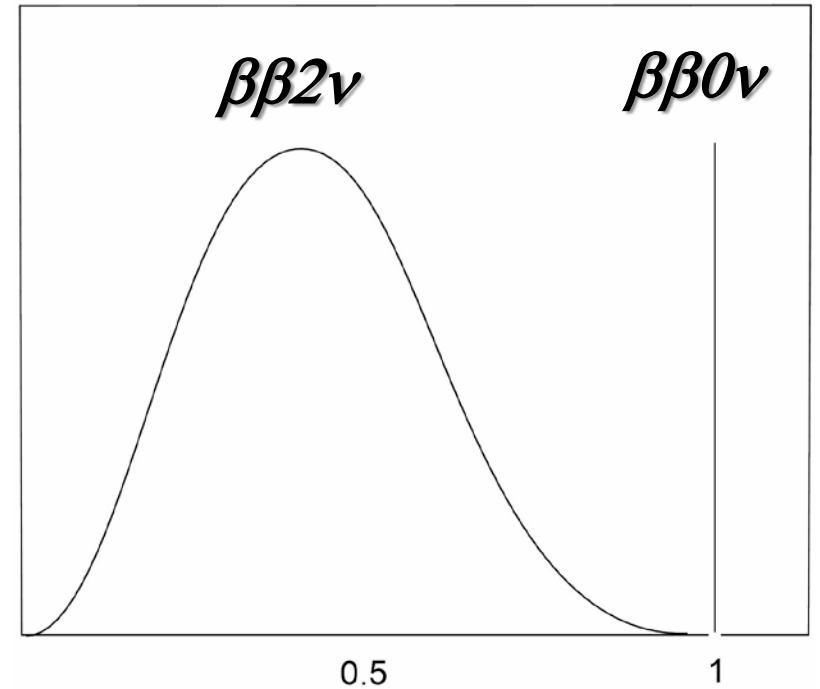


SM-allowed process  
Measured in several nuclei

Lepton number violating process  
Requires massive, Majorana neutrinos

$$T_{1/2}^{2\nu} \sim 10^{19} - 10^{21} \text{ yr}$$

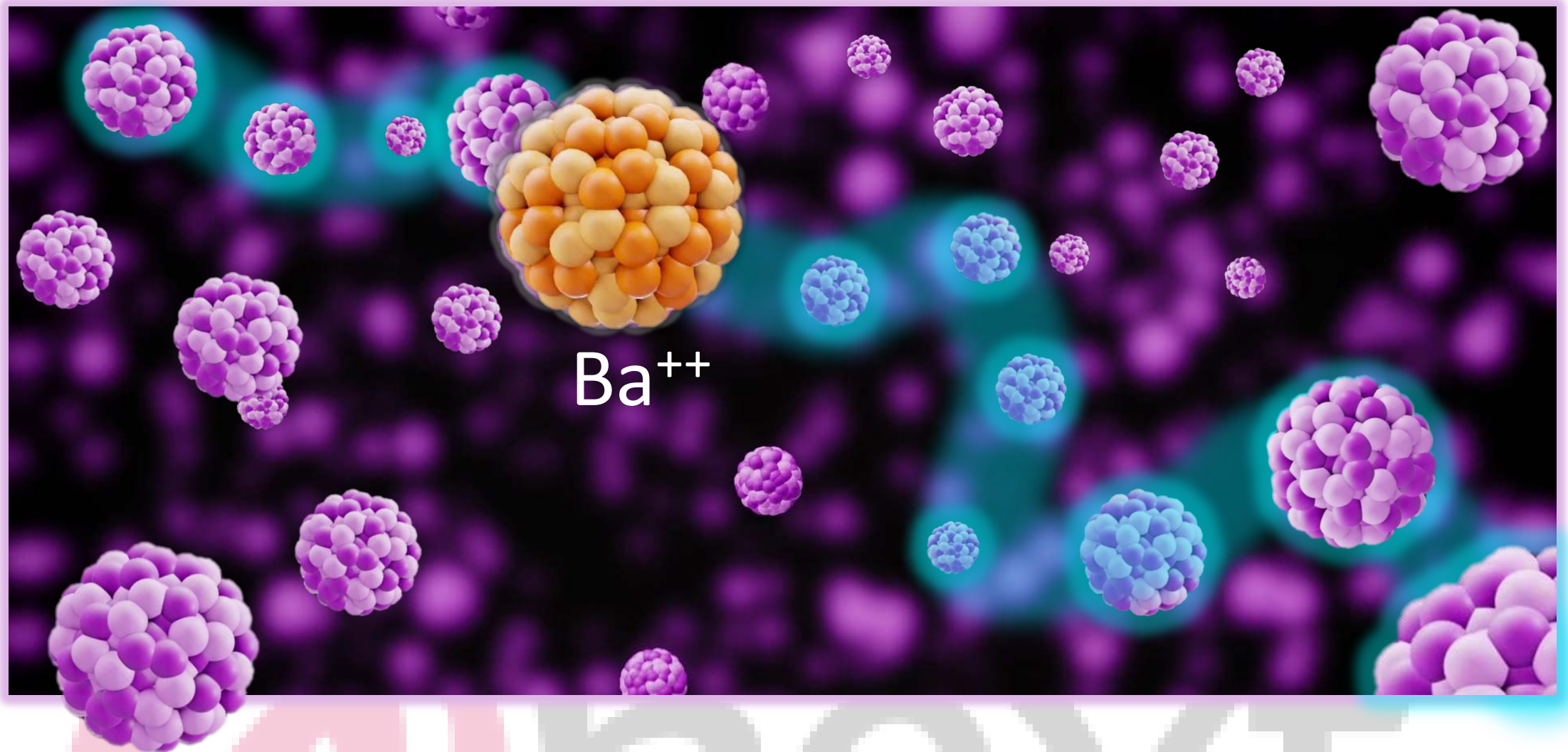
$$T_{1/2}^{0\nu} > 10^{26} \text{ yr}$$



$$(T_{e1} + T_{e2}) / Q_{\beta\beta}$$

How to confirm experimentally if neutrino is a Majorana particle?

$\beta\beta 0\nu$  in high-pressure  $^{136}\text{Xe}$  gas

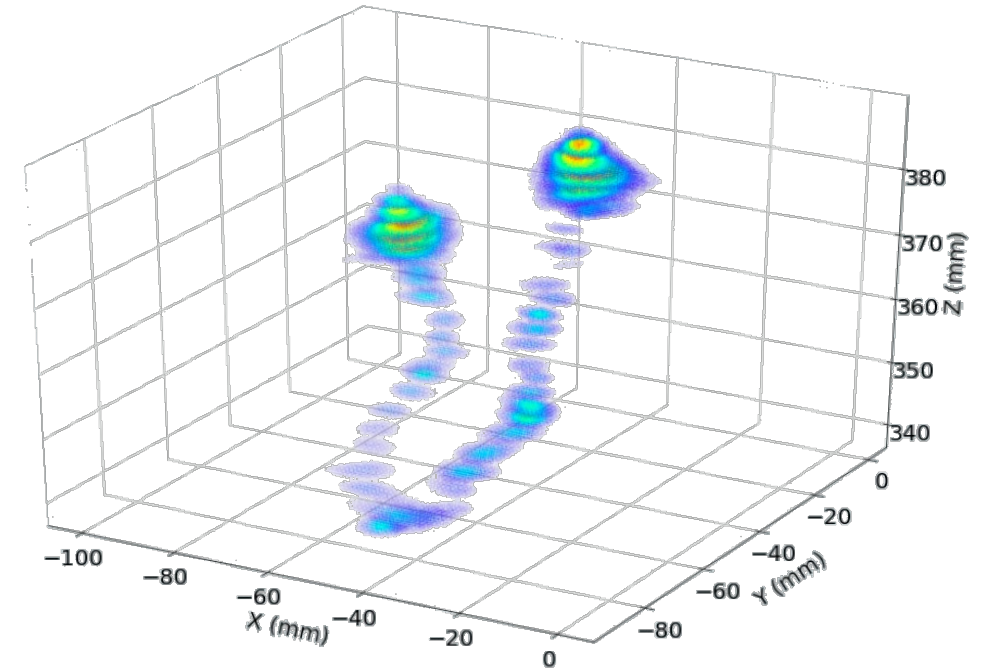
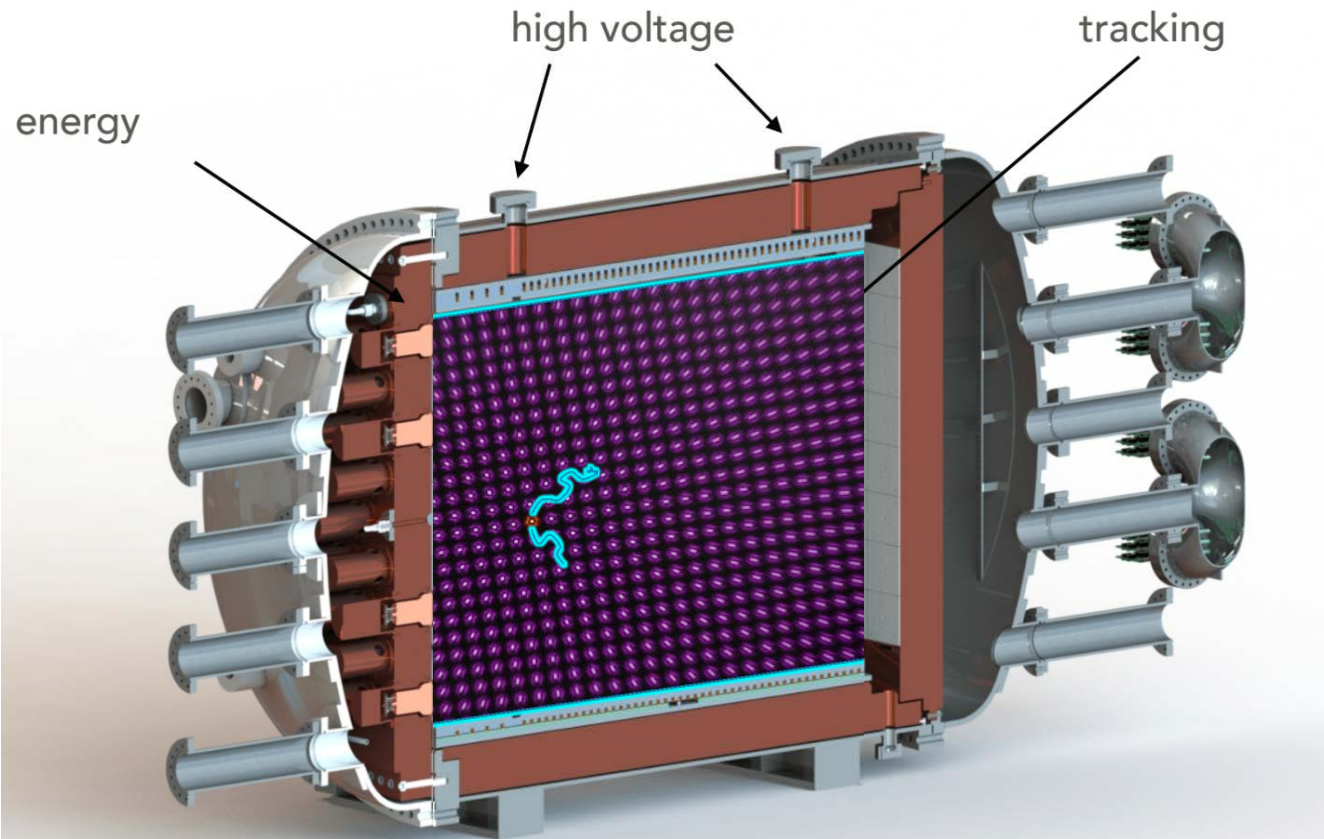


Detecting “tagging” the  $\text{Ba}^{++}$  signaling a  $\beta\beta 0\nu$  process has been a long sought holy grail of xenon chambers.



How to confirm experimentally if neutrino is a Majorana particle?

$\beta\beta 0\nu$  in high-pressure  $^{136}\text{Xe}$  gas



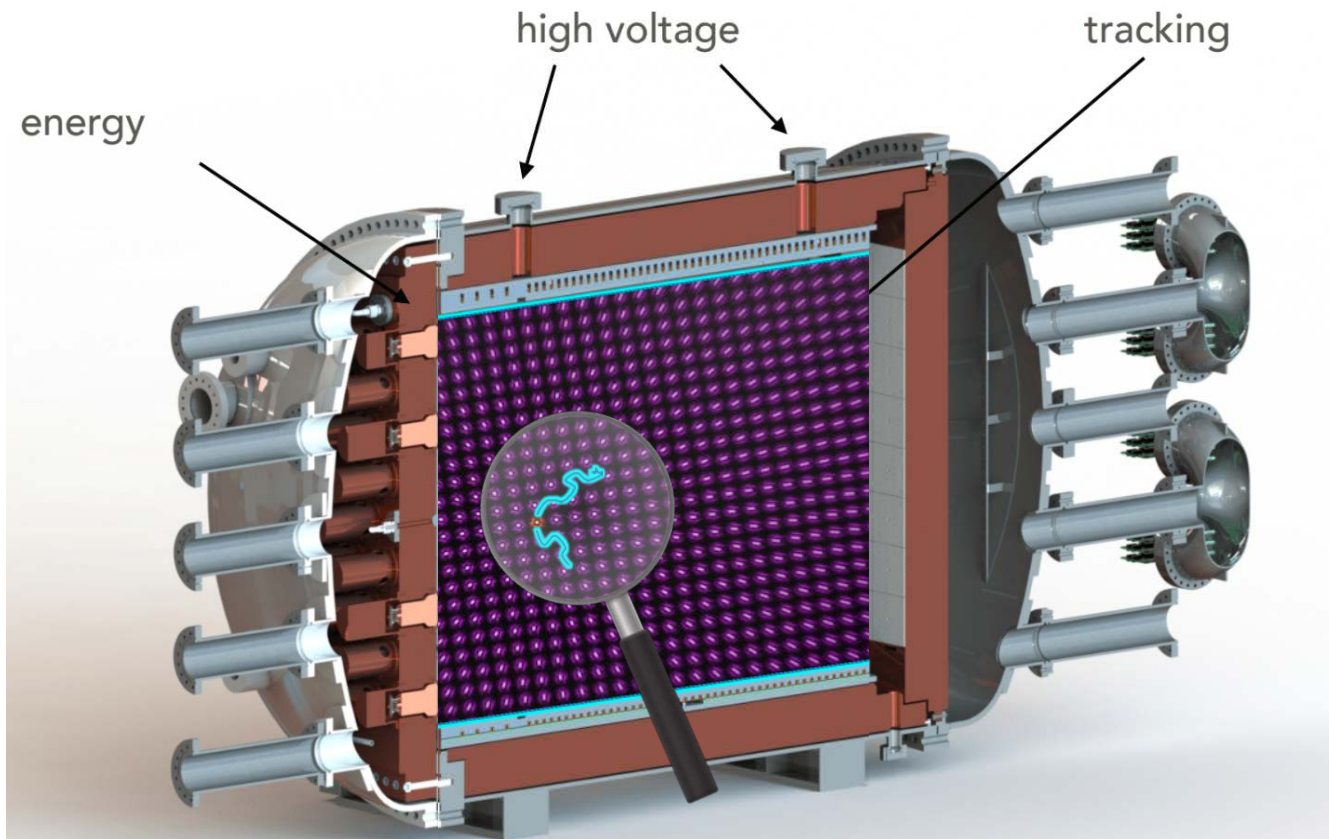
$\beta\beta 2\nu$  candidate at 2 MeV, showing 2 energy blobs at the extremes.

**Energy resolution better than 1% FWHM at  $Q_{\beta\beta}$ .**

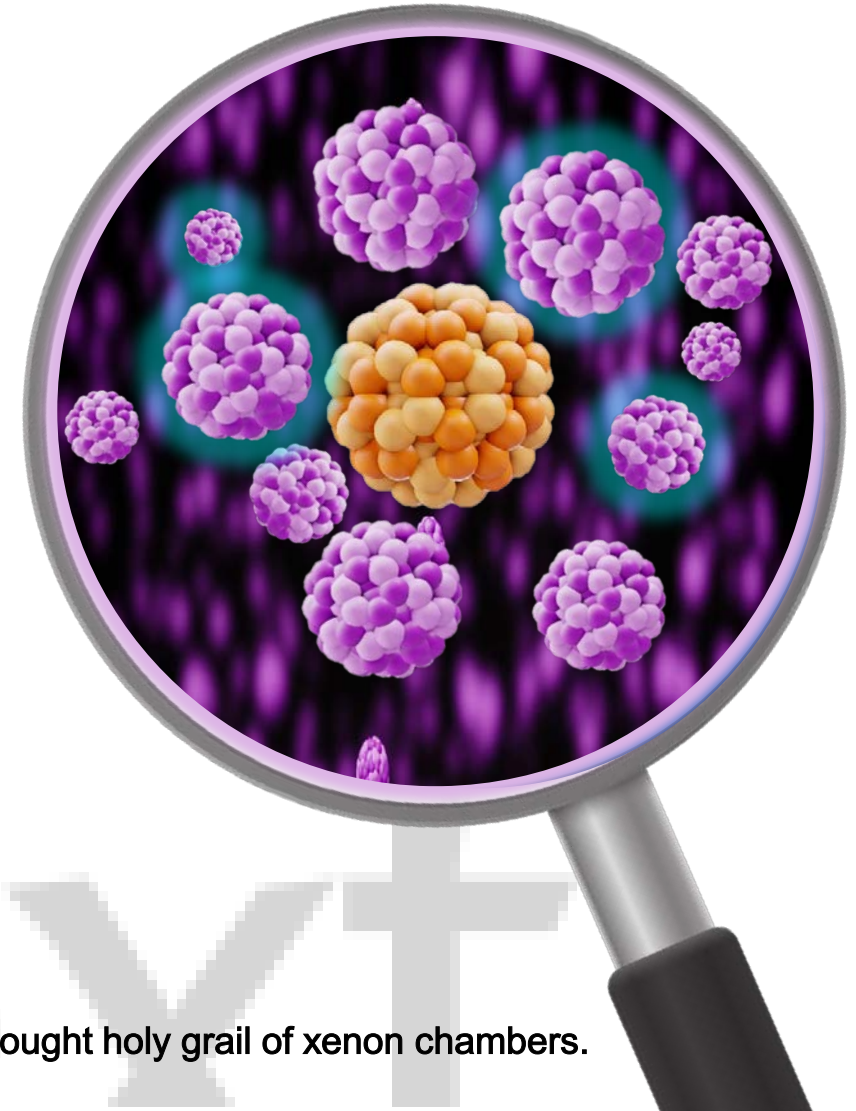
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How to confirm experimentally if neutrino is a Majorana particle?

$\beta\beta 0\nu$  in high-pressure  $^{136}\text{Xe}$  gas



$\text{Ba}^{++}$

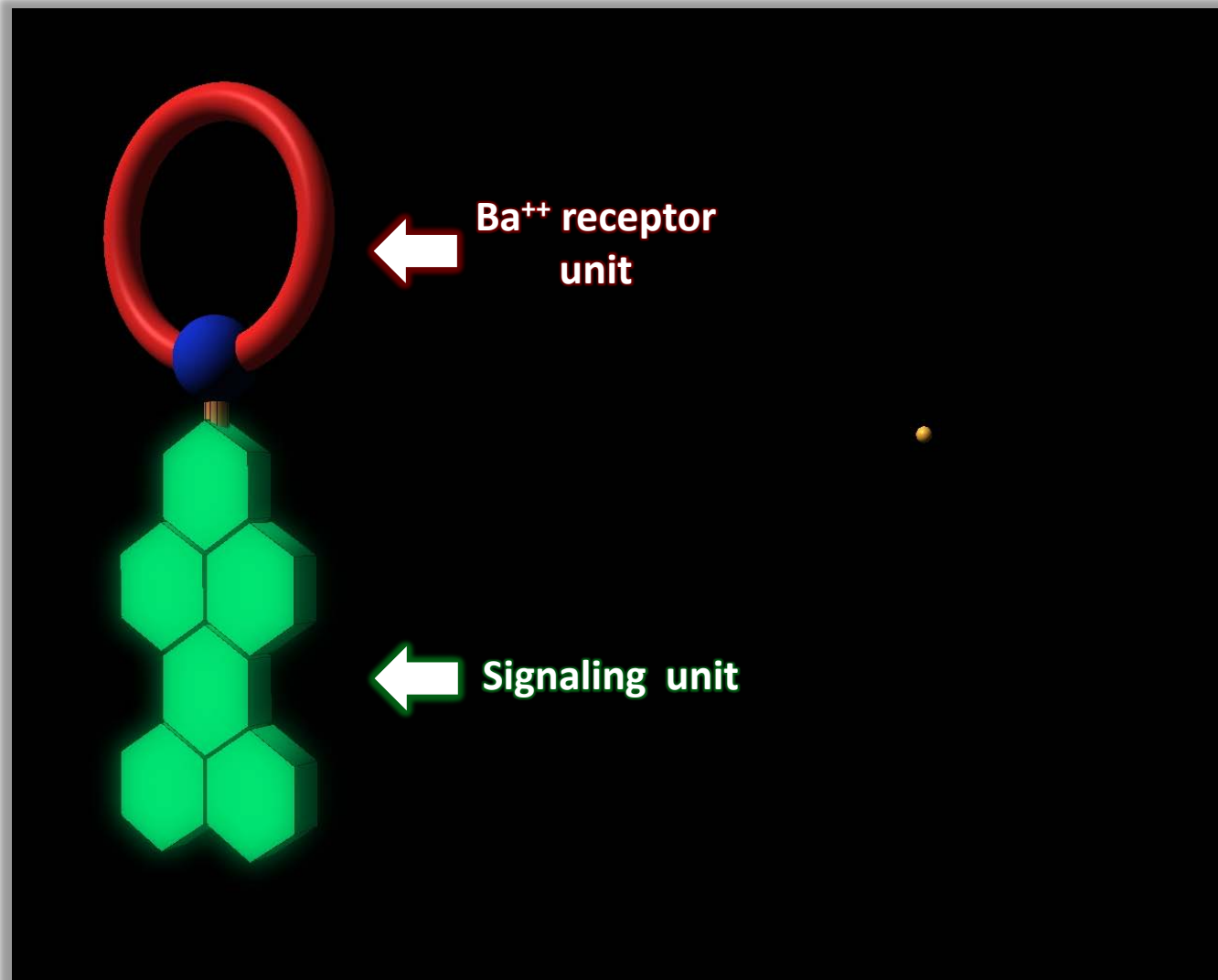


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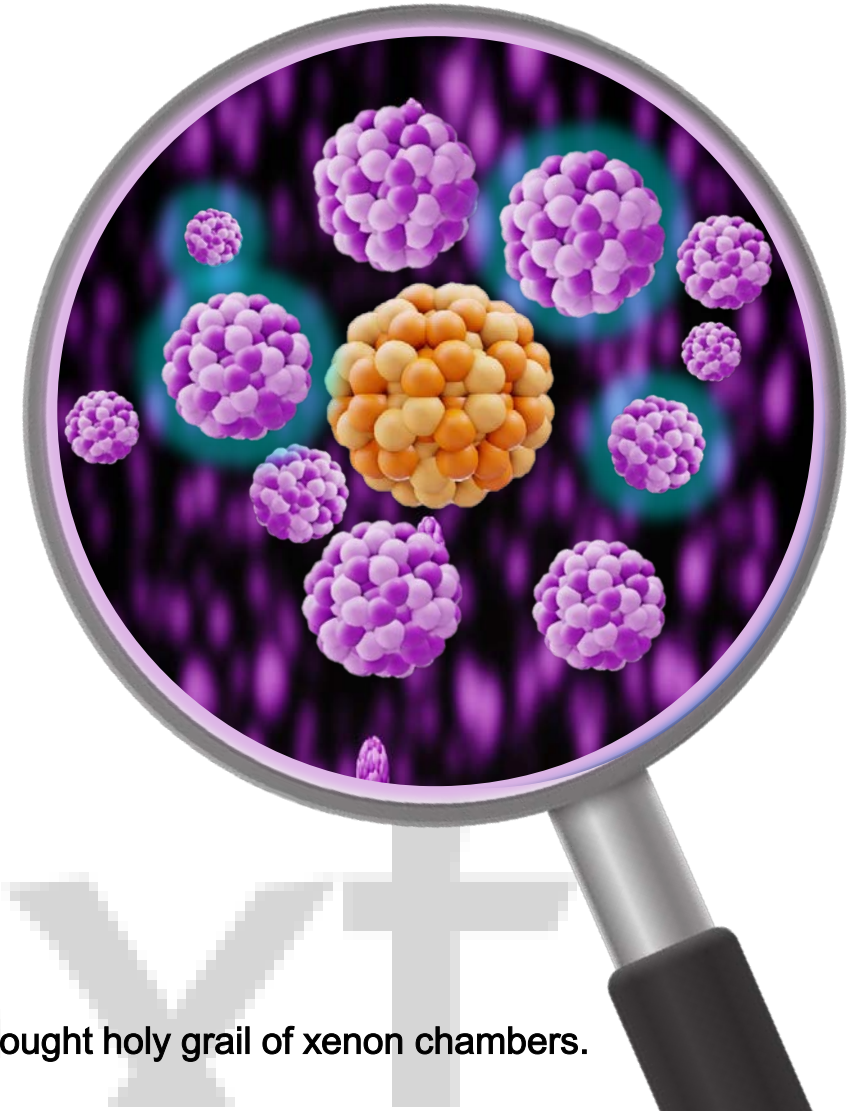


**Idea:** Exploit single molecule fluorescent imaging (SMFI) to visualise (“tag”) a single  $Ba^{++}$  ion as it arrives at the TPC cathode.

D. Nygren , *J.Phys.Conf.Ser.* **2015**, 650(1), 012002



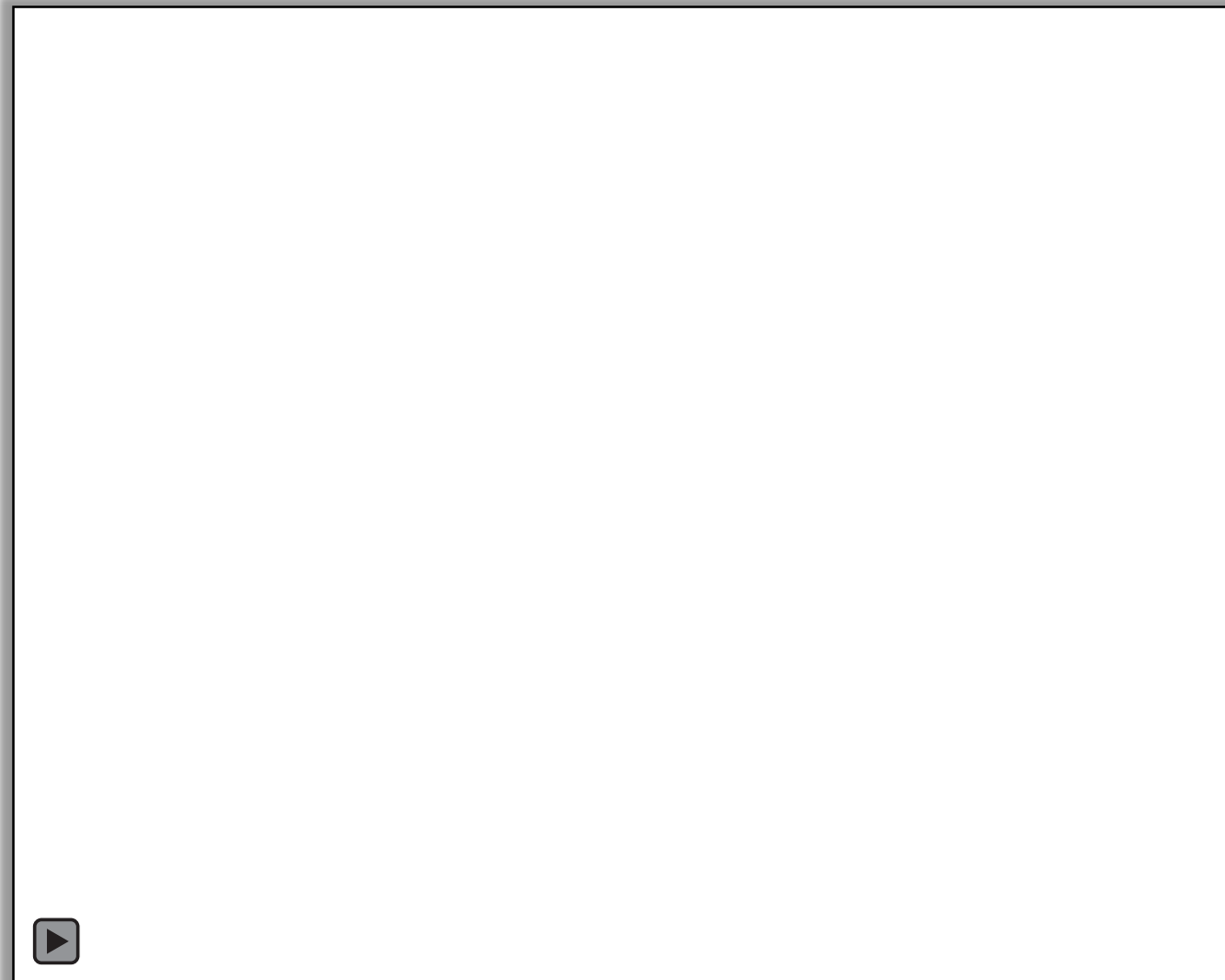
Ba<sup>++</sup>



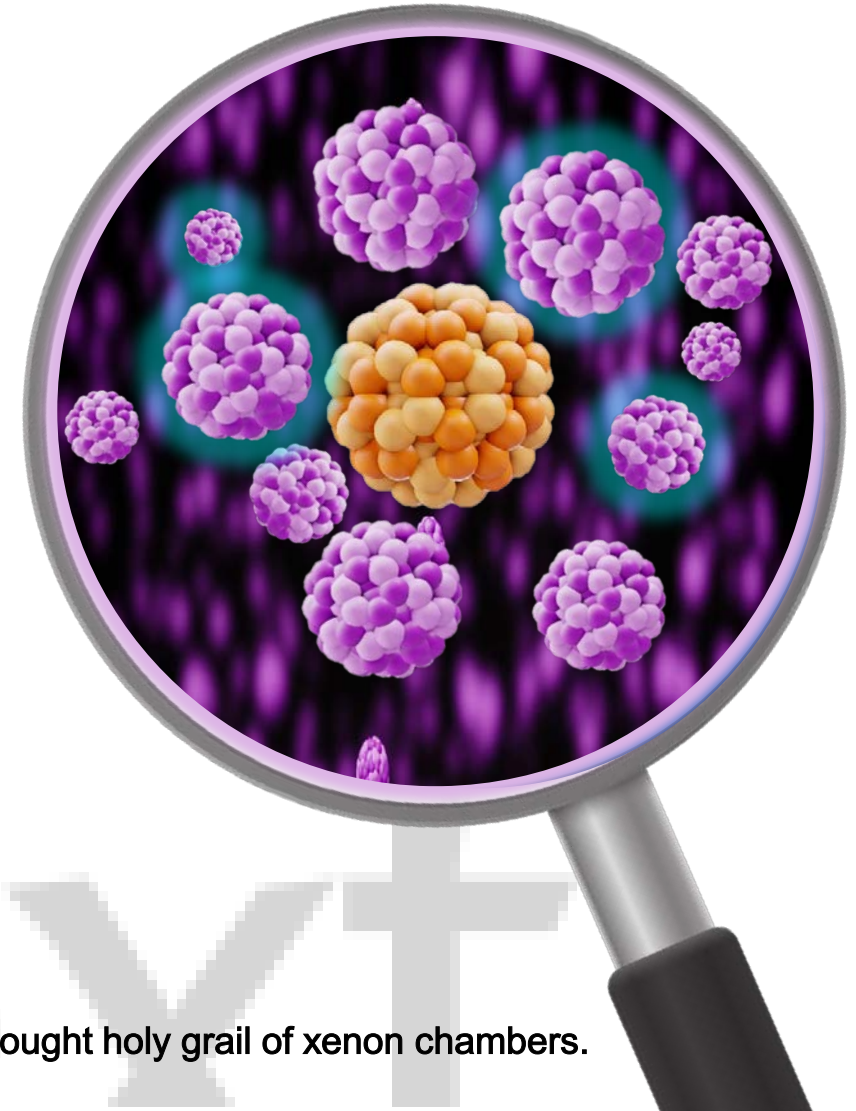
Detecting “tagging” the Ba<sup>++</sup> signaling a  $\beta\beta 0\nu$  process has been a long sought holy grail of xenon chambers.

**Idea:** Exploit single molecule fluorescent imaging (SMFI) to visualise (“tag”) a single  $Ba^{++}$  ion as it arrives at the TPC cathode.

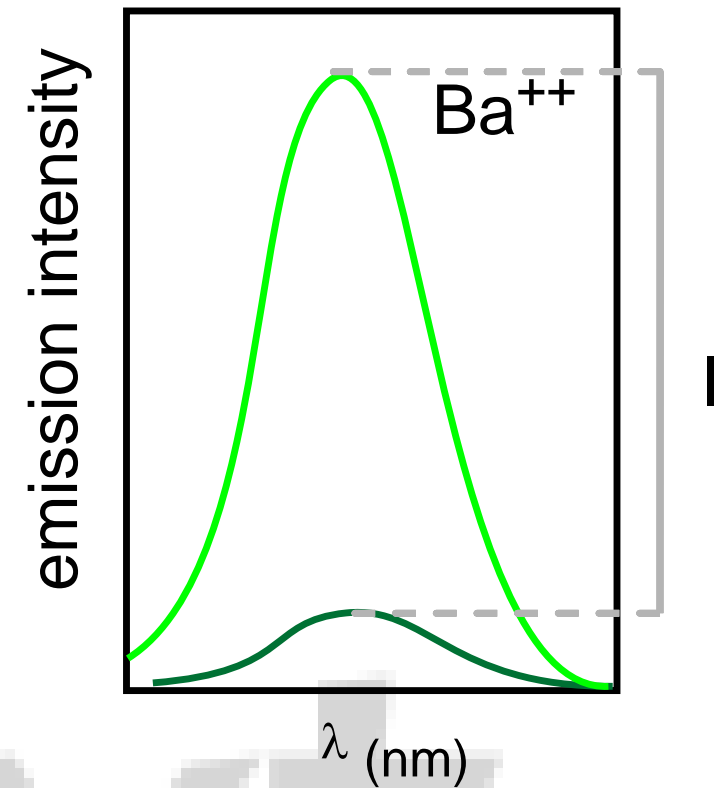
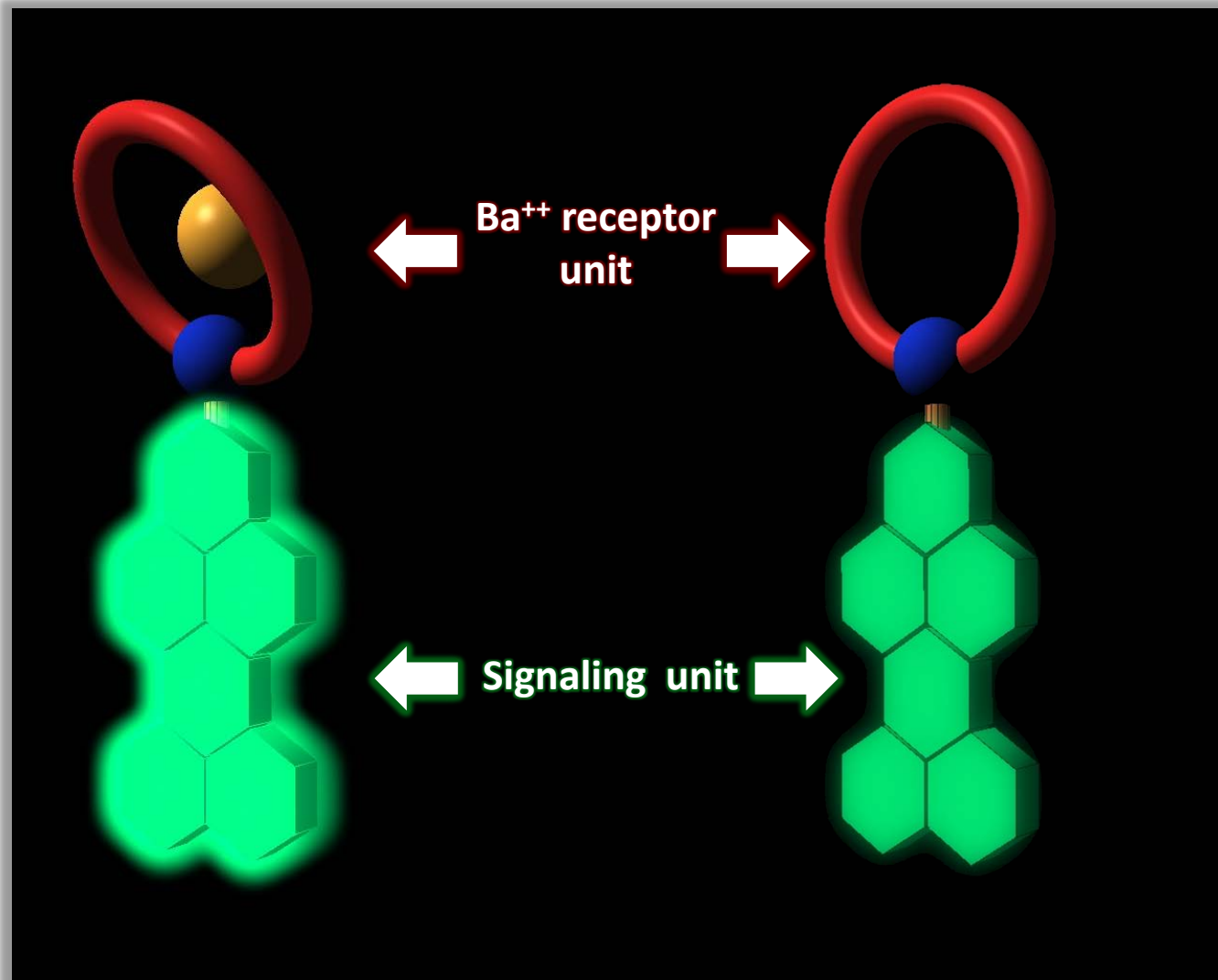
D. Nygren , *J.Phys.Conf.Ser.* **2015**, 650(1), 012002



$Ba^{++}$

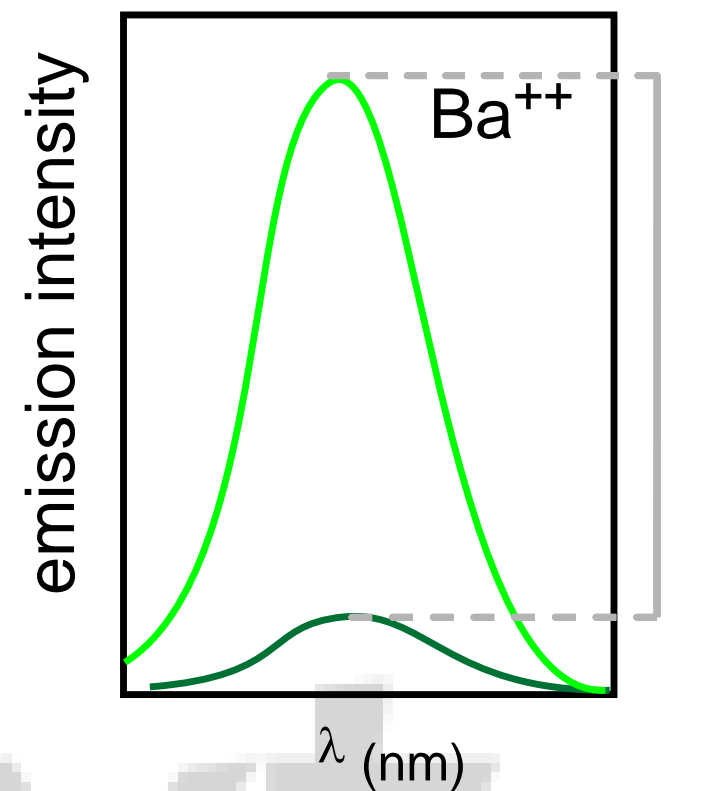
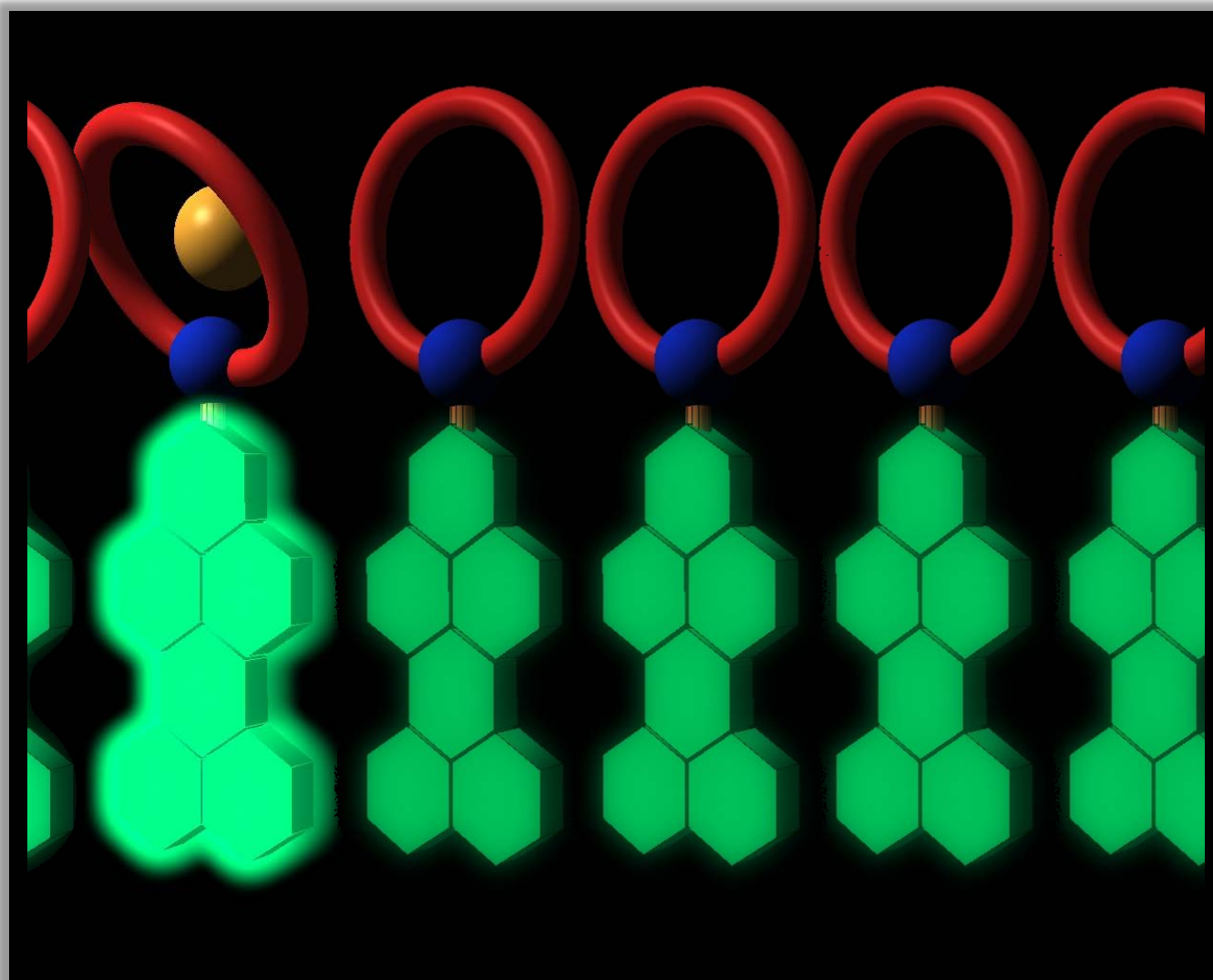


Detecting “tagging” the  $Ba^{++}$  signaling a  $\beta\beta 0\nu$  process has been a long sought holy grail of xenon chambers.



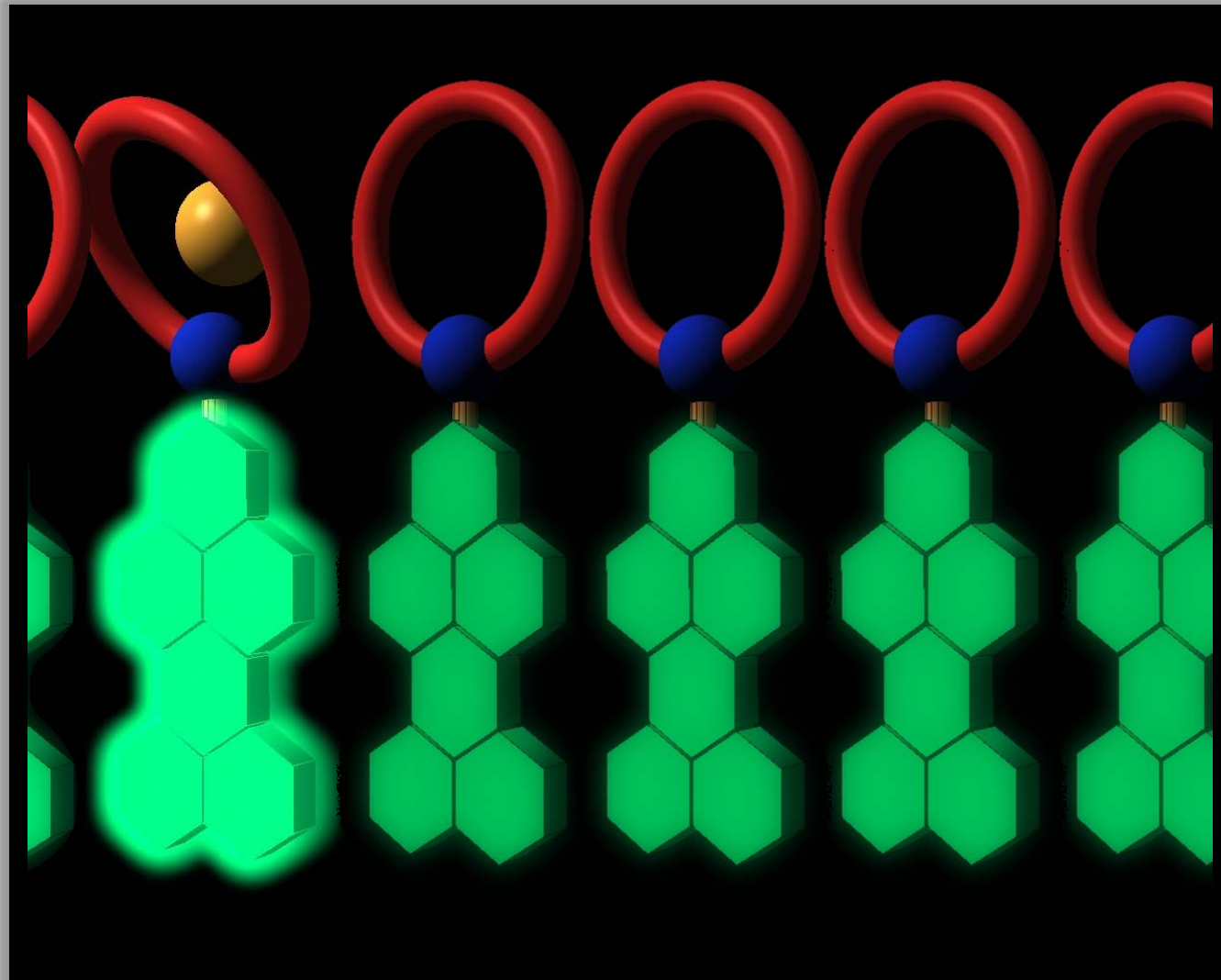
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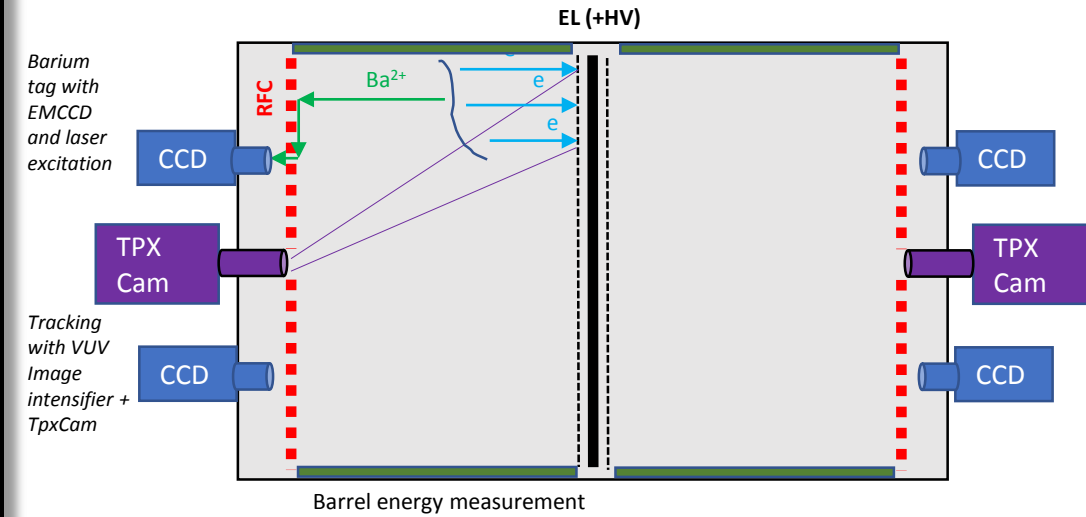


Detecting “tagging” the Ba<sup>++</sup> signaling a  $\beta\beta 0v$  process has been a long sought holy grail of xenon chambers.

# Dry single Ba<sup>++</sup> ion detection with off-on fluorescence



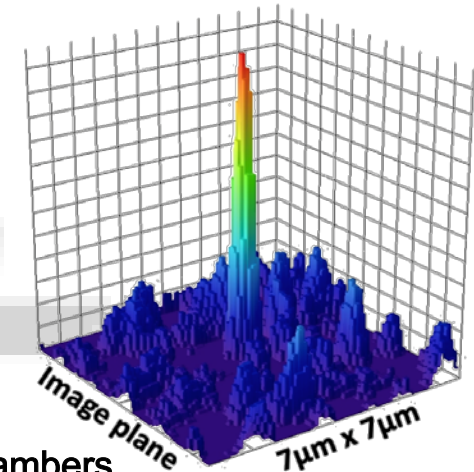
”CRAB” concept with RF carpet concentrators and camera-based topology measurement



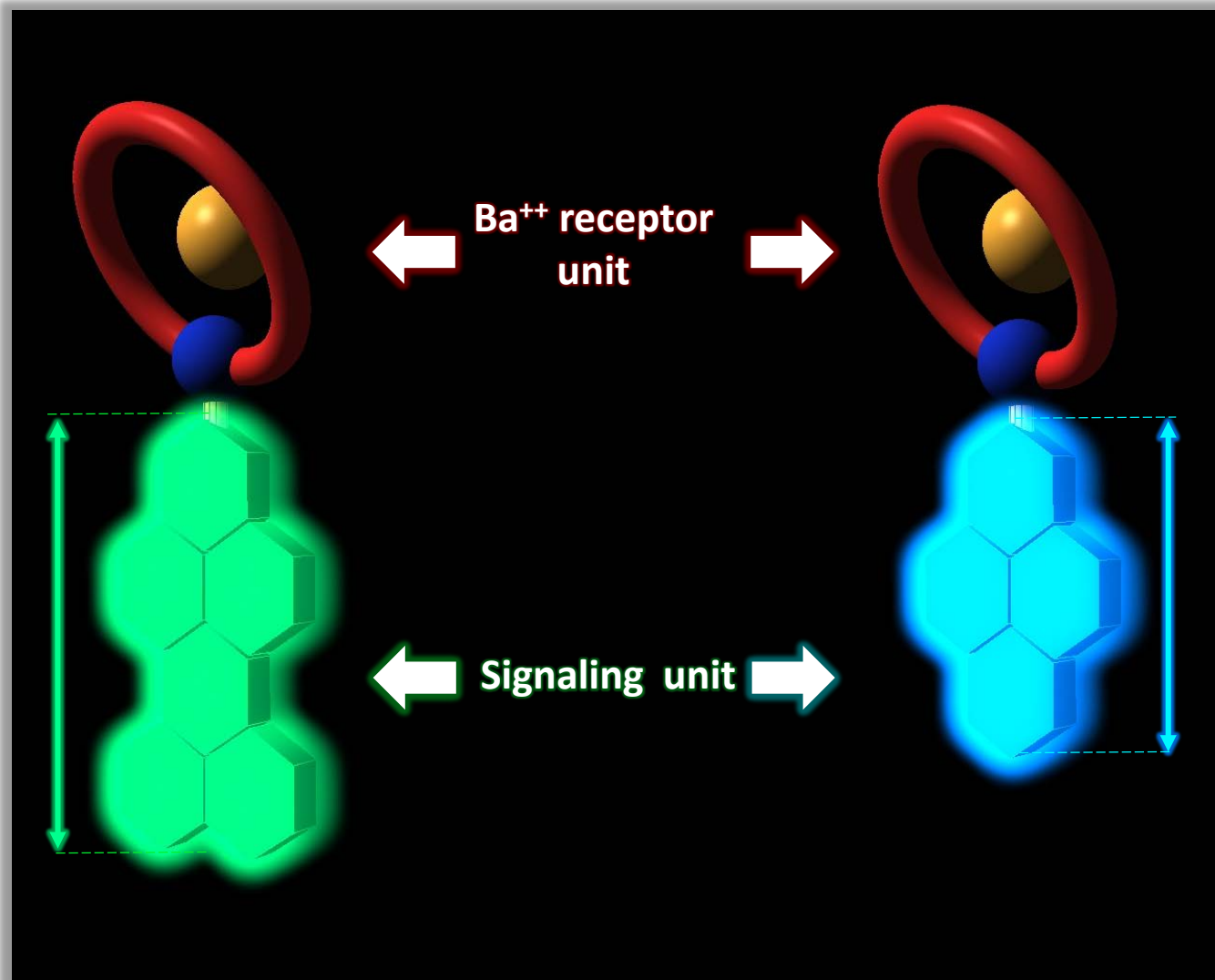
*Phys. Rev. Lett.* **2017**, *120*, 132504.

*Sci. Rep.* **2019**, *9*, 15097.

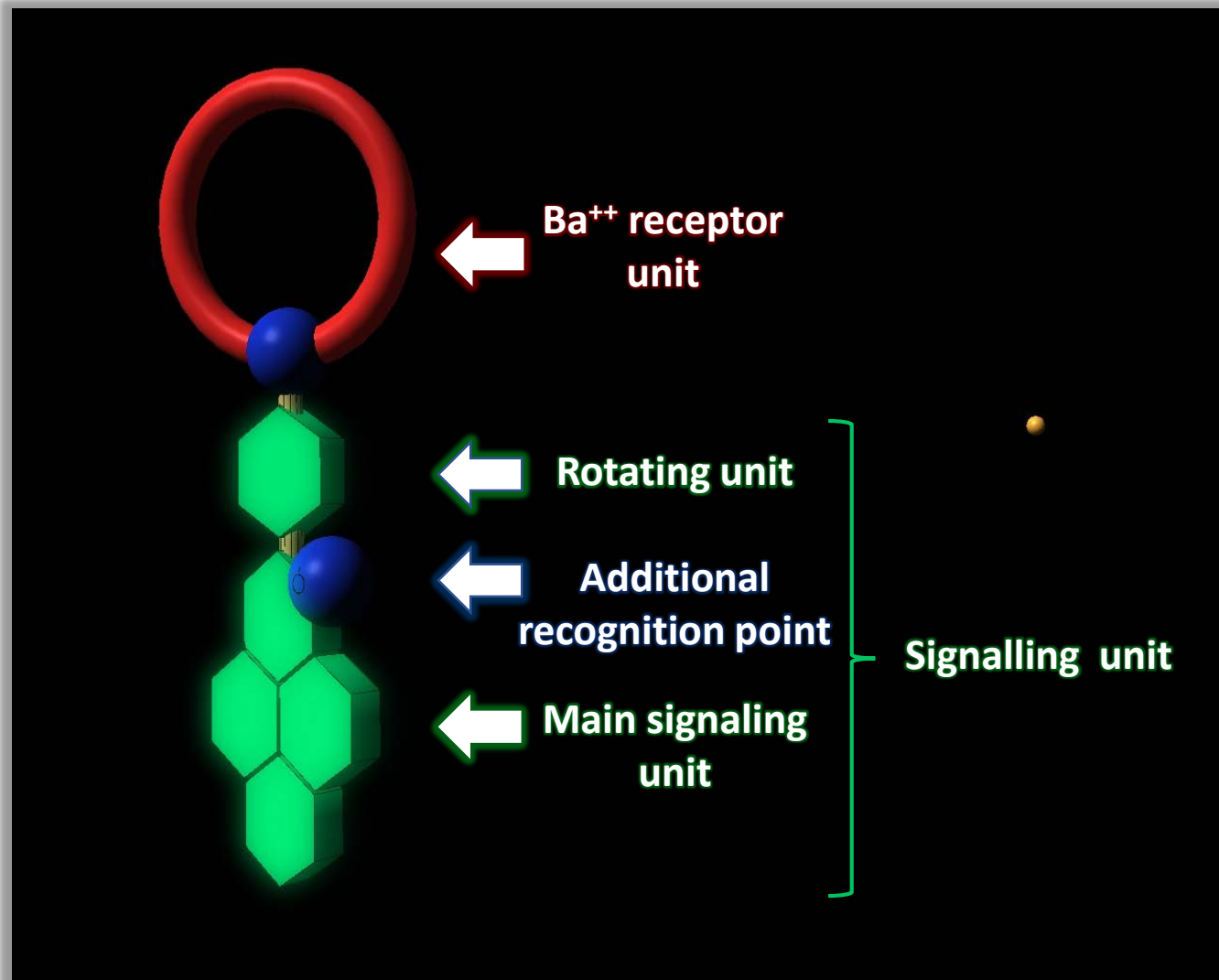
*ACS Sens.* **2021**, *6(1)*, 192–202



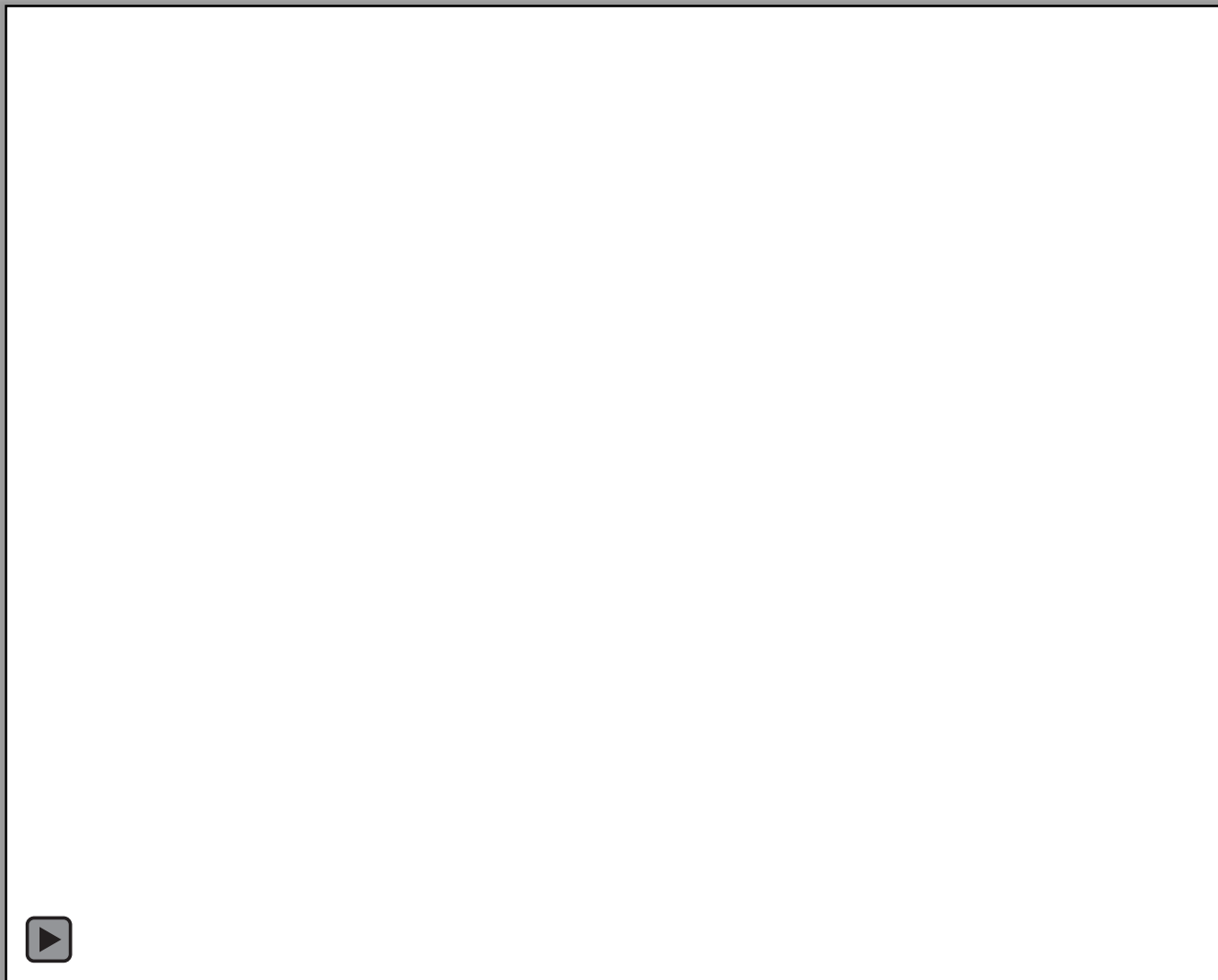
Detecting “tagging” the Ba<sup>++</sup> signaling a ββ0v process has been a long sought holy grail of xenon chambers.





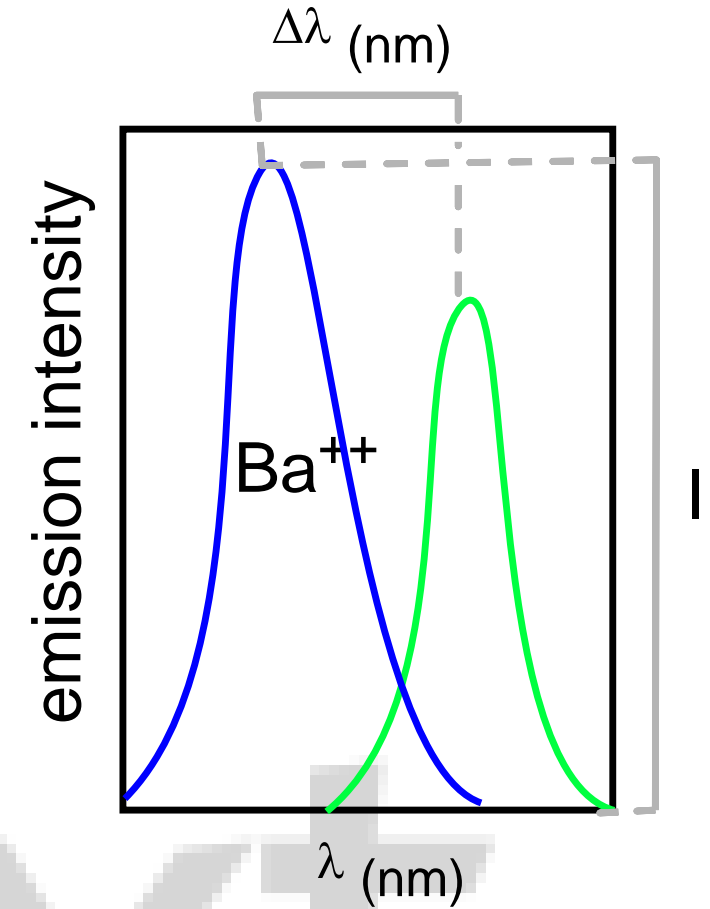
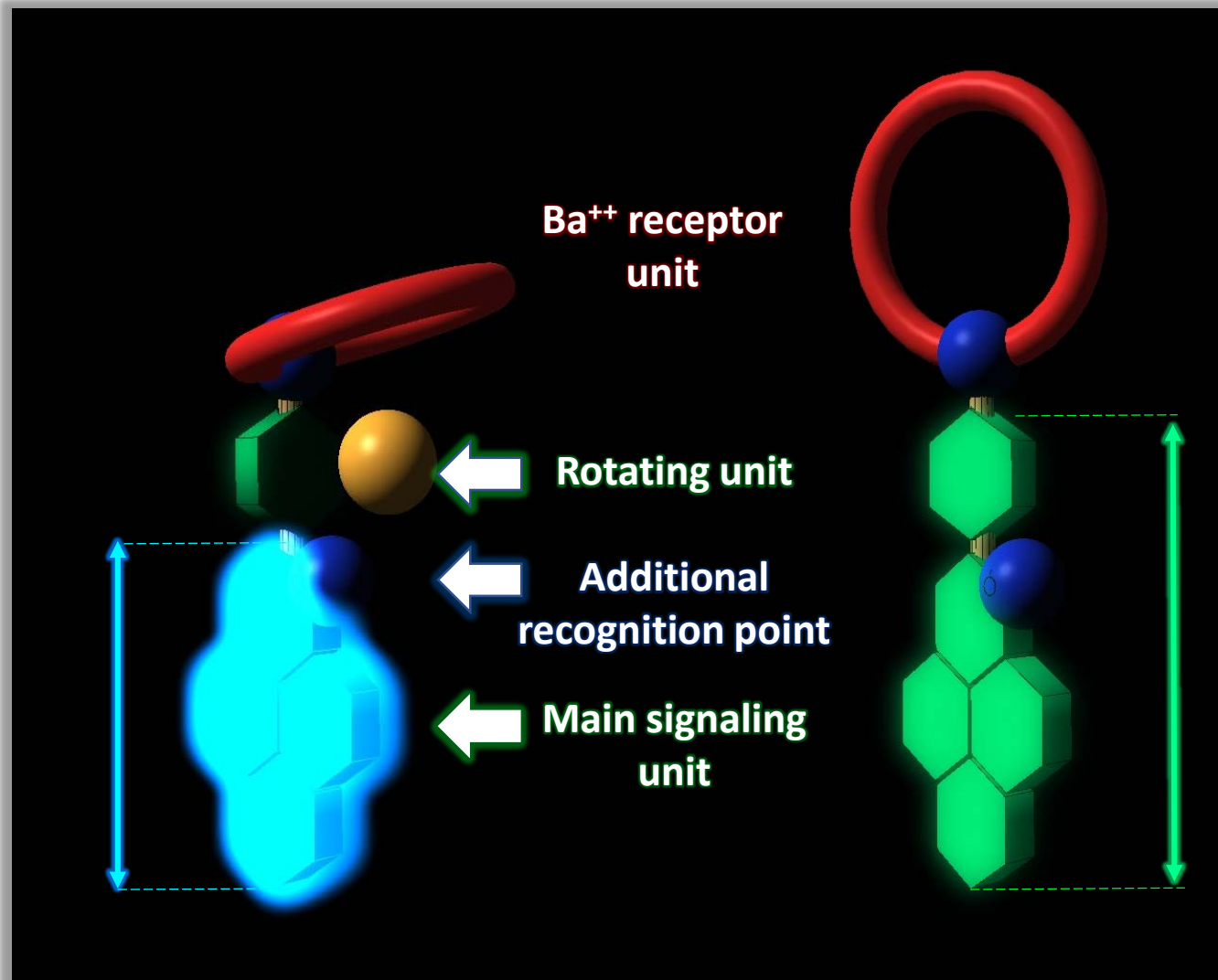


FBI concept



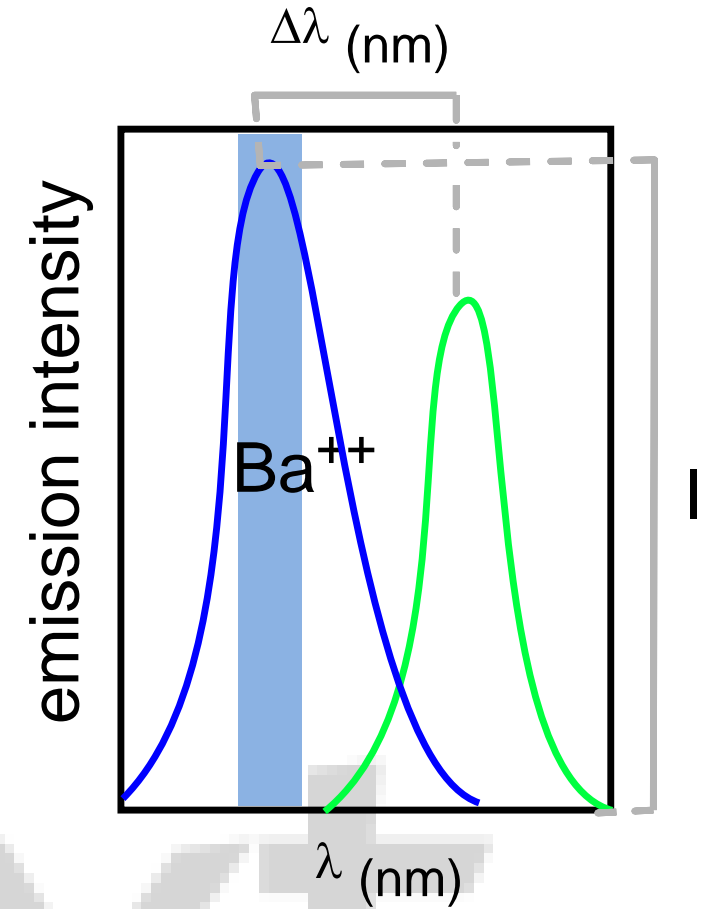
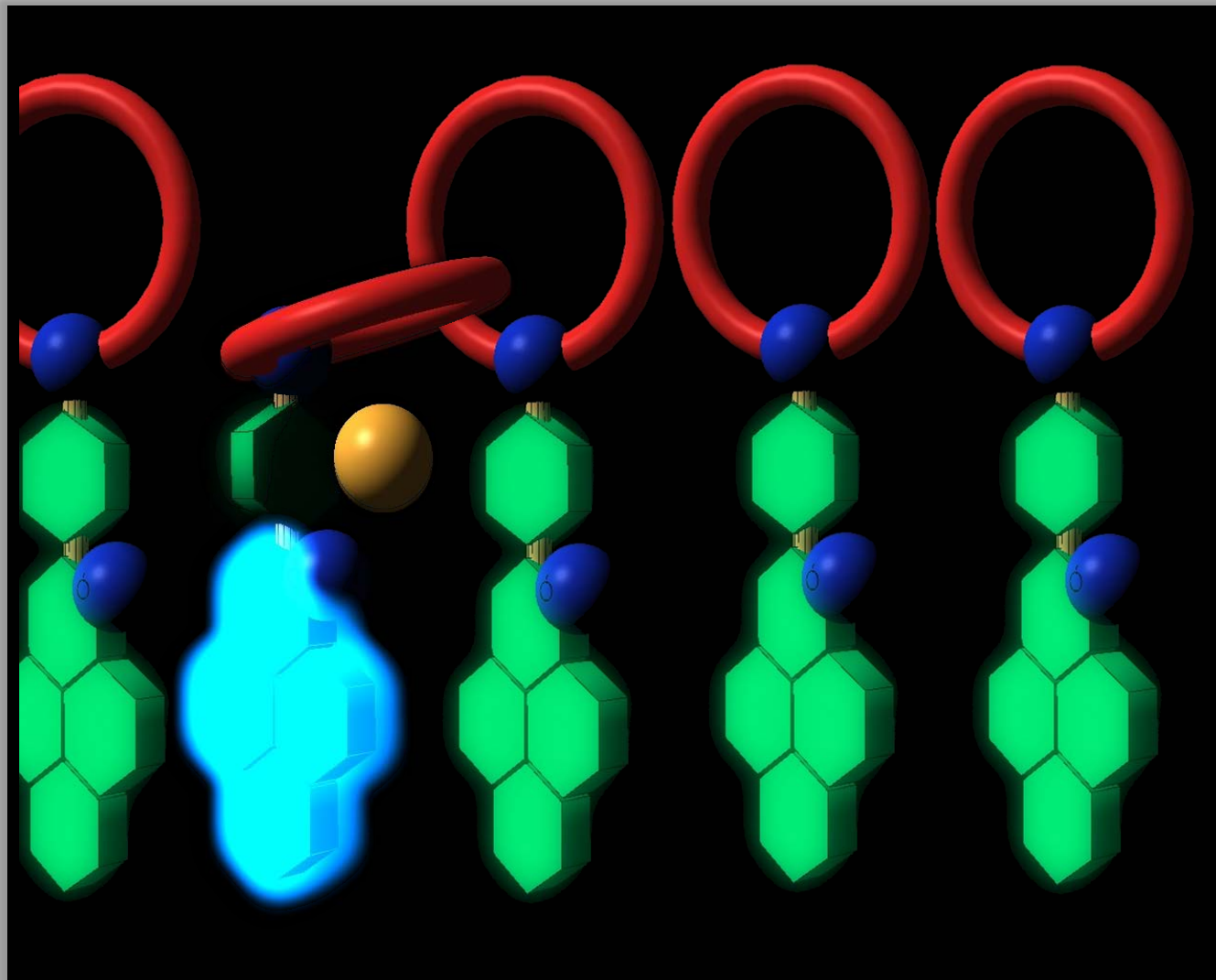
# Fluorescent Bicolour Indicator

FBI concept





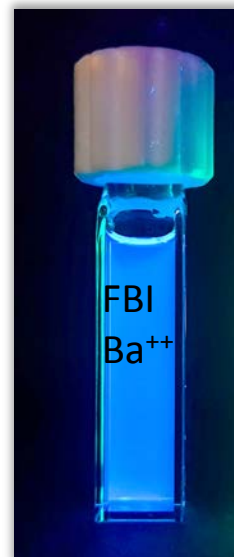
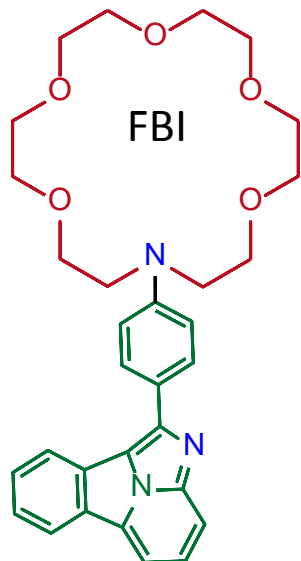
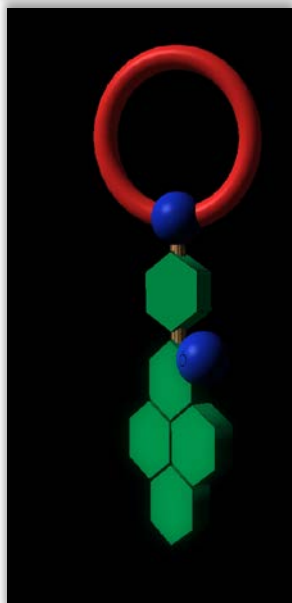
FBI concept



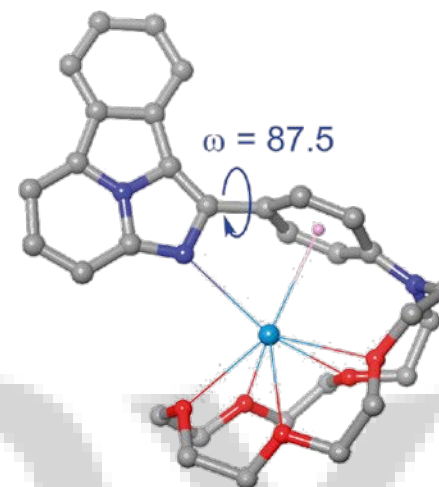
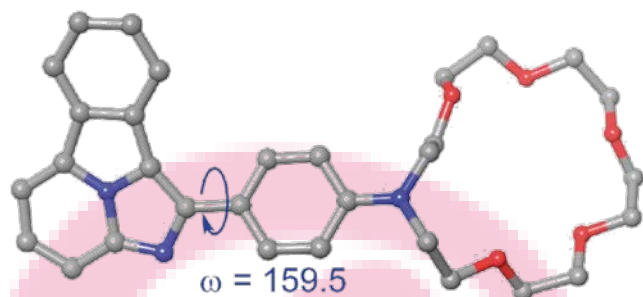
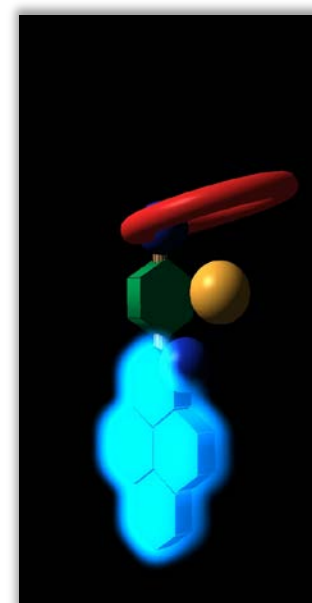
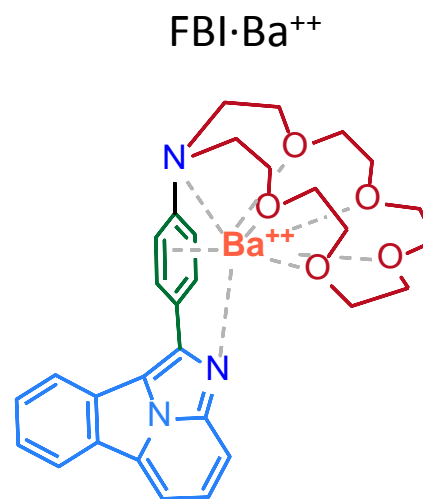


# Fluorescent Bicolour Indicator

Ba<sup>2+</sup> sensing in solution



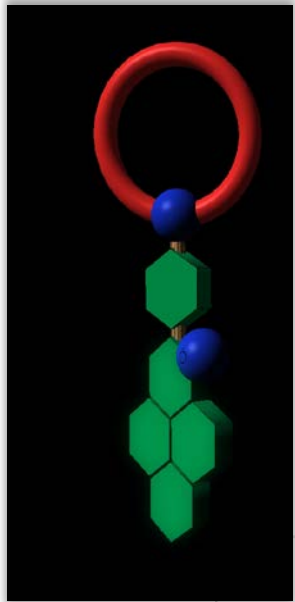
Excitation: 365 nm





# Fluorescent Bicolour Indicator

Ba<sup>++</sup> sensing in solid support



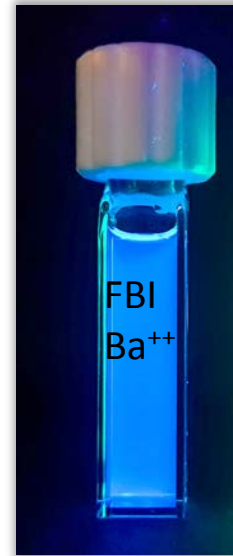
FBI



[FBI] =  $2.3 \times 10^{-5}$  mmol/mg of silica



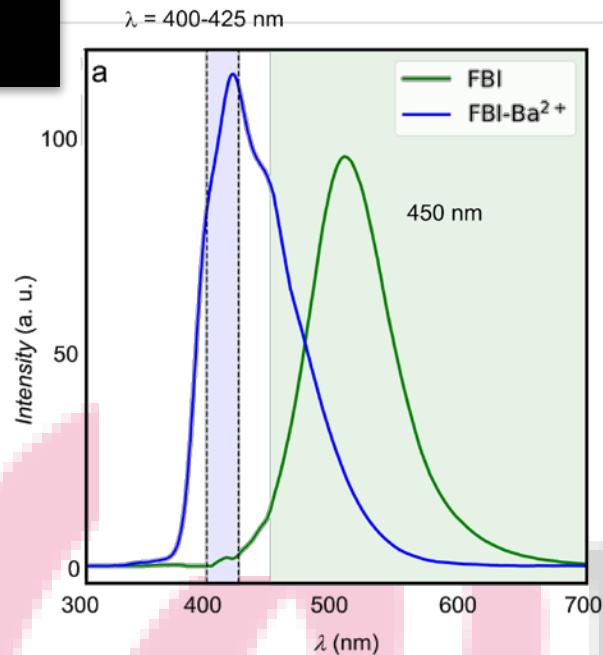
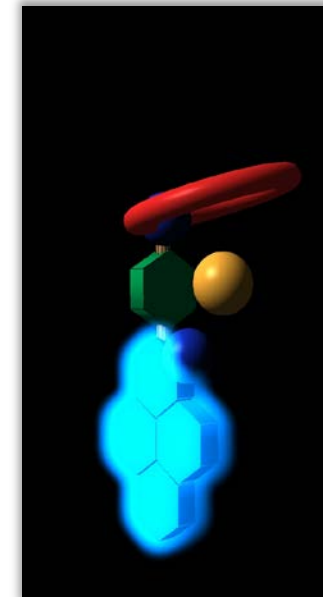
Excitation: 365 nm



FBI·Ba<sup>++</sup>



[FBI] =  $7.4 \times 10^{-8}$  mmol/mg of silica saturated in Ba(ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>



The FBI maintains its **fluorescent properties in solid phase** (silica gel)

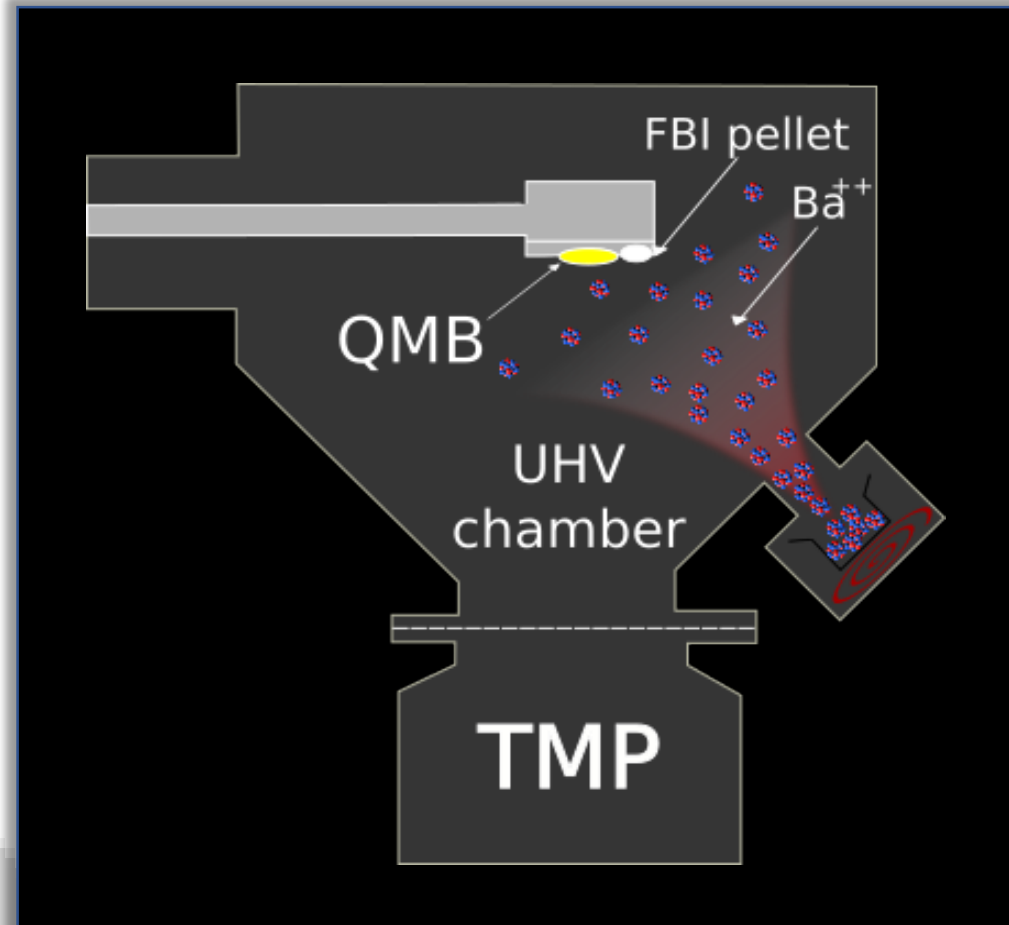
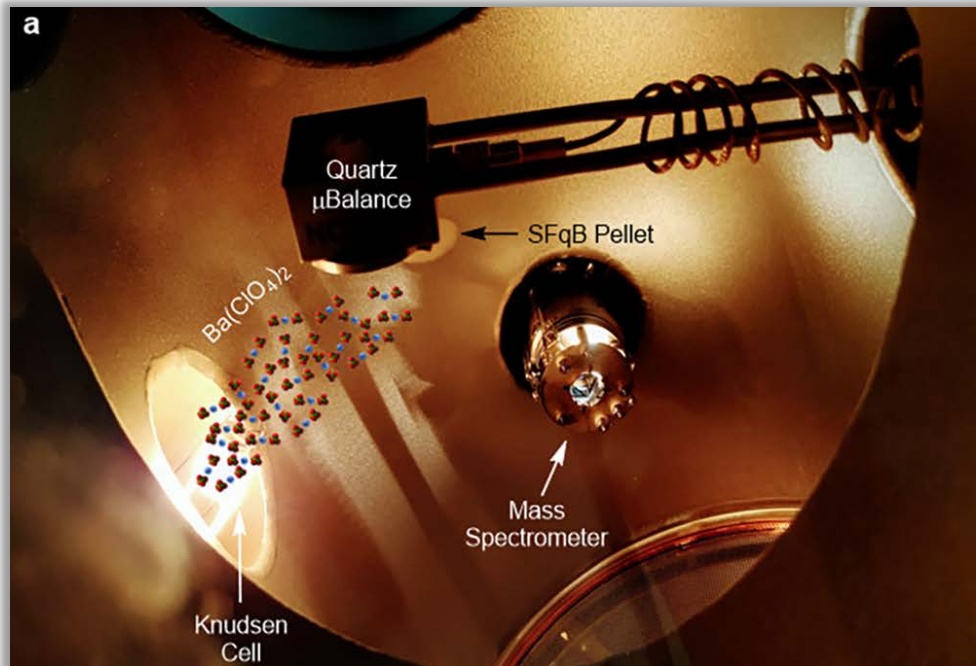
Calculated **discrimination factor FBI·Ba<sup>++</sup> vs FBI =  $(2.5 \pm 0.6) \times 10^4$**

Emission spectrum of the FBI (green line) and FBI·Ba (blue line) samples on silica, after silica subtraction. The FBI spectrum is scaled by a factor of 310 with respect to the FBI·Ba<sup>++</sup> spectrum. Excitation at 250 nm.

"Fluorescent bicolour sensor for low-background neutrinoless double  $\beta$  decay experiments", *Nature* **2020**, 583, 48-54.

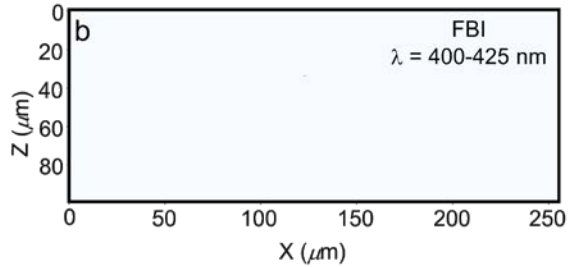
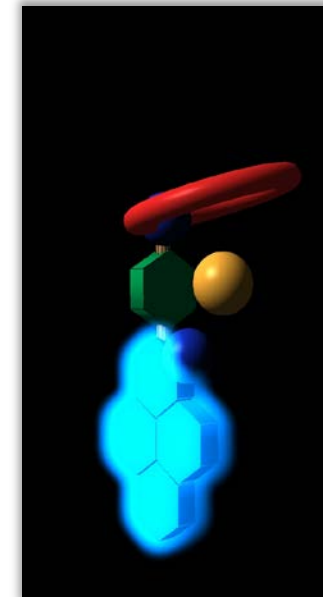
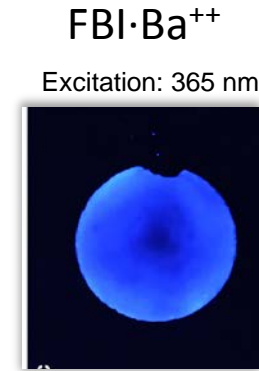
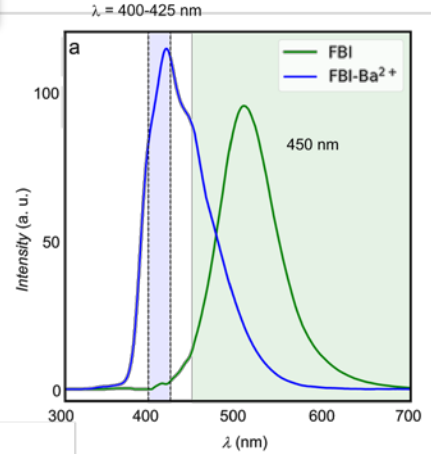
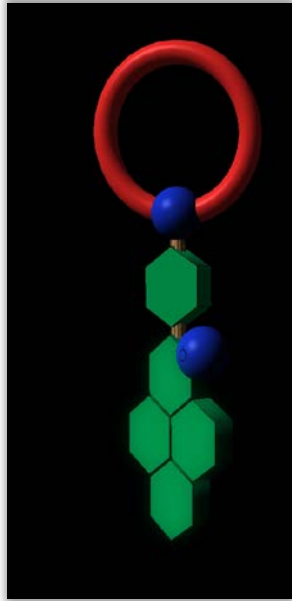
Ba<sup>++</sup> sensing in high-vacuum

FBI deposited  
on silica pellet

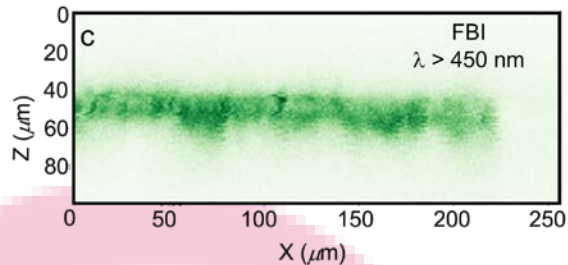
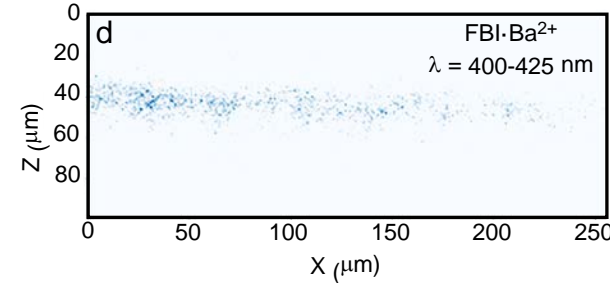


# Fluorescent Bicolour Indicator

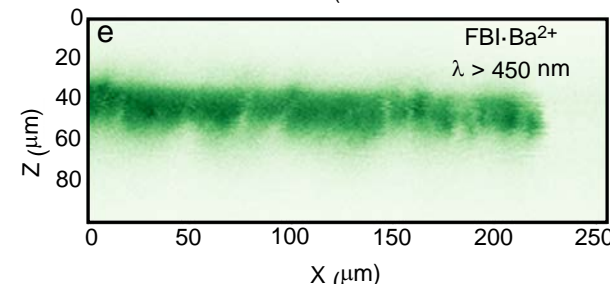
Ba<sup>++</sup> sensing in high-vacuum



blue filter  
 $\lambda = 400-425 \text{ nm}$



green filter  
 $\lambda > 450 \text{ nm}$



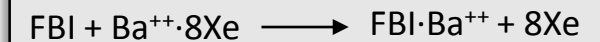
2 Photon Absorption Microscopy (excitation at 800 nm)

**FBI sensors capture Ba<sup>++</sup> in dry phase!**

## DFT-computed Gibbs reaction energies

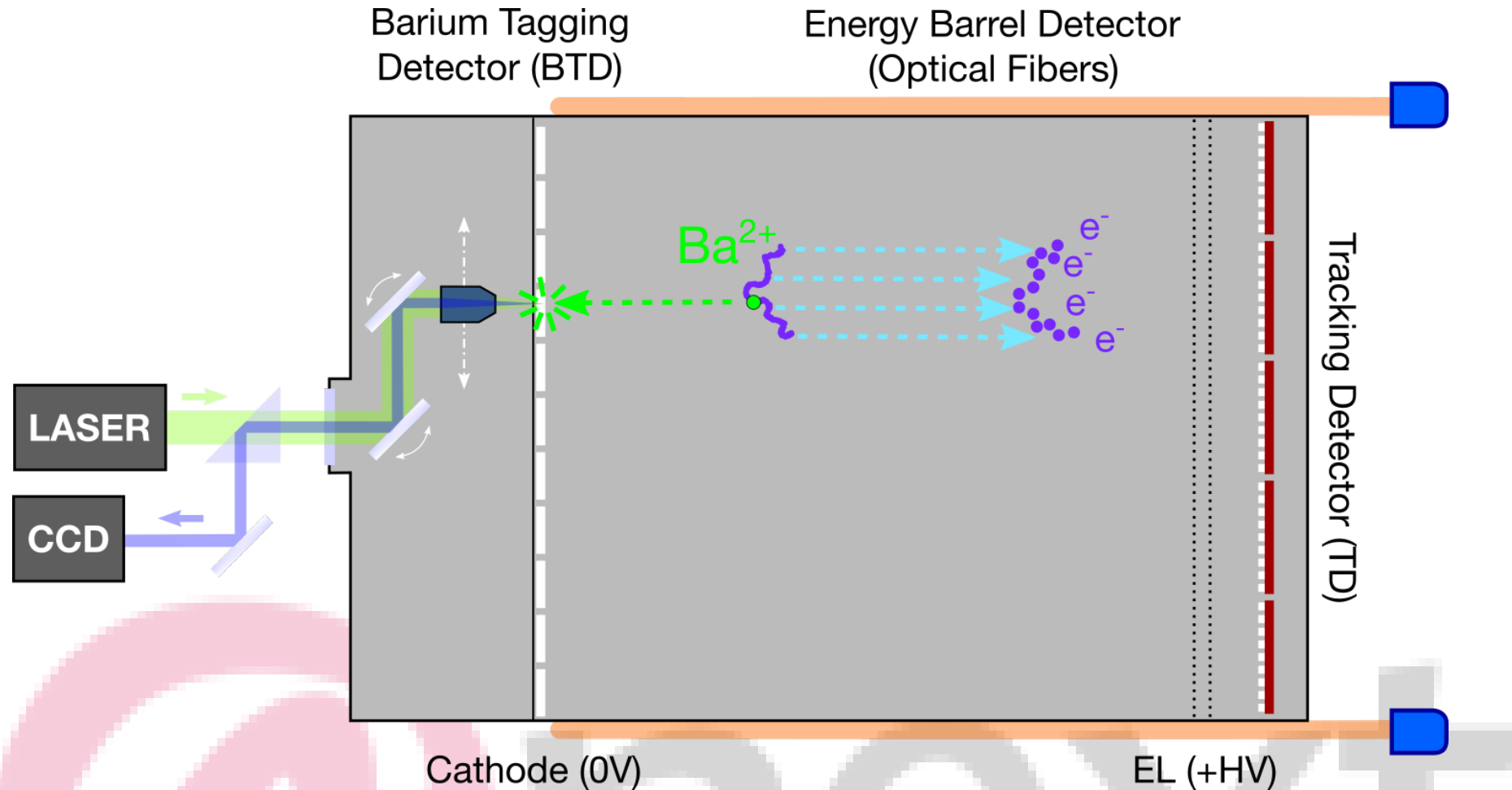


$$\Delta G_{\text{rx}} = -90 \text{ kcal/mol}$$



$$\Delta G_{\text{rx}} = -195.9 \text{ kcal/mol}$$

"BOLD" concept with fully active cathode, SiPM-based tracking and Energy Barrel Detector



## Fluorescent bicolour sensor for low-background neutrinoless double $\beta$ decay experiments

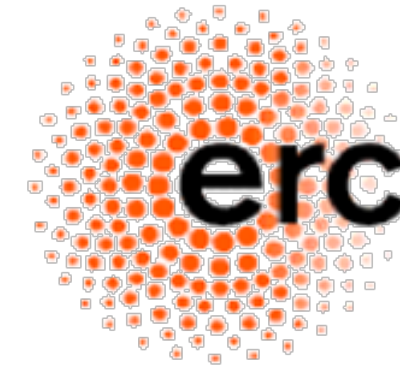
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-020-2431-5>

Received: 15 September 2019

Accepted: 3 April 2020

Published online: 22 June 2020

Iván Rivilla<sup>1</sup>, Borja Aparicio<sup>2</sup>, Juan M. Bueno<sup>3</sup>, David Casanova<sup>1,4</sup>, Claire Tonnelé<sup>1</sup>, Zoraida Freixa<sup>4,5</sup>, Pablo Herrero<sup>1</sup>, Celia Rogero<sup>1,6</sup>, José I. Miranda<sup>7</sup>, Rosa M. Martínez-Ojeda<sup>3</sup>, Francesc Monrabal<sup>1,4</sup>, Beñat Olave<sup>8</sup>, Thomas Schäfer<sup>4,8</sup>, Pablo Artal<sup>3</sup>, David Nygren<sup>9</sup>, Fernando P. Cossío<sup>1,2</sup> & Juan J. Gómez-Cadenas<sup>1,4</sup>



European  
Research  
Council

Synergy grant 2021- BOLD



LSC

Laboratorio Subterráneo Canfranc



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