


Search for keV sterile neutrinos

16th PATRAS Workshop

Thibaut Houdy, Susanne Mertens

18th of June, 2021

What are neutrinos?

Neutrinos oscillate → they are massive  2015

Standard Model (SM)

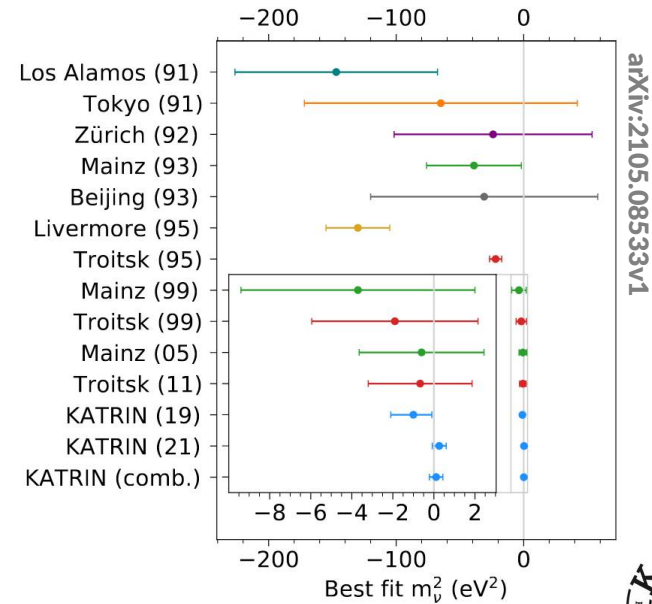
Quarks	$\frac{2}{3}$ Left u Right up	$\frac{2}{3}$ Left c Right charm	$\frac{2}{3}$ Left t Right top
	$-\frac{1}{3}$ Left d Right down	$-\frac{1}{3}$ Left s Right strange	$-\frac{1}{3}$ Left b Right bottom
	< 1 eV Left ν_e Right	< 1 eV Left ν_μ Right	< 1 eV Left ν_τ Right
	-1 Left e Right electron	-1 Left μ Right muon	-1 Left τ Right tau

What are neutrinos?

Neutrinos oscillate → they are massive



What is their mass?



$m_\nu < 0.9 \text{ eV}$ at 90% CL

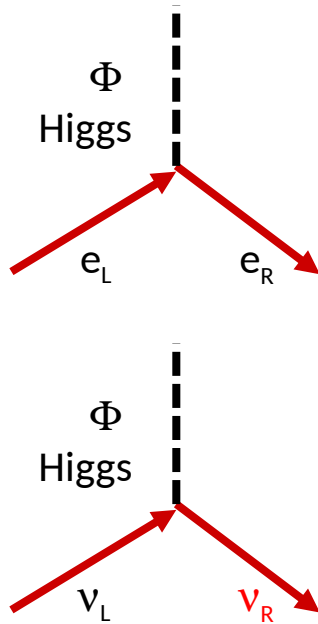


What are neutrinos?

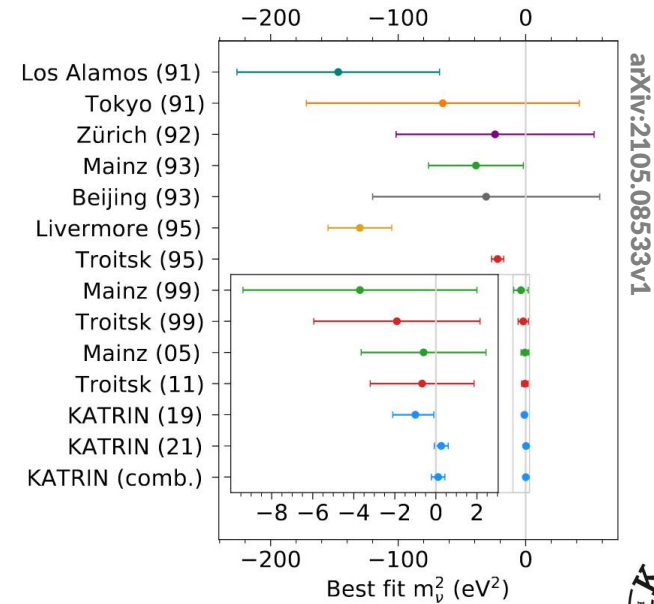
Neutrinos oscillate → they are massive



How is it generated?



What is their mass?



$m_\nu < 0.9 \text{ eV}$ at 90% CL



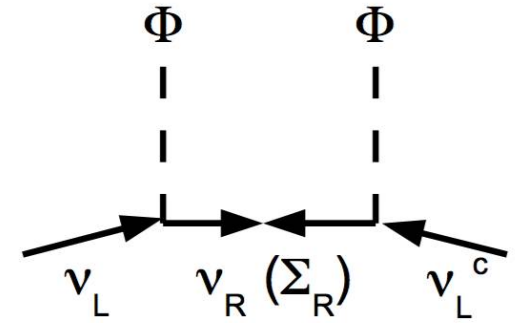
What are neutrinos?

Neutrinos oscillate → they are massive

Mass generation → existence of a sterile neutrino? (ex: See-Saw mechanism)

$2/3$ Left u Right up 2.4 MeV	$2/3$ Left c Right charm 1.27 GeV	$2/3$ Left t Right top 171.2 GeV
$-1/3$ Left d Right down 4.8 MeV	$-1/3$ Left s Right strange 104 MeV	$-1/3$ Left b Right bottom 4.2 GeV
0 Left ν_e Right electron neutrino < 1 eV	0 Left ν_μ Right muon neutrino < 1 eV	0 Left ν_τ Right tau neutrino < 1 eV
-1 Left e Right electron 0.511 MeV	-1 Left μ Right muon 105.7 MeV	-1 Left τ Right tau 1.777 GeV

L. Canetti et al. PRL 110 061801 (2013)



What are neutrinos?

Neutrinos oscillate → they are massive

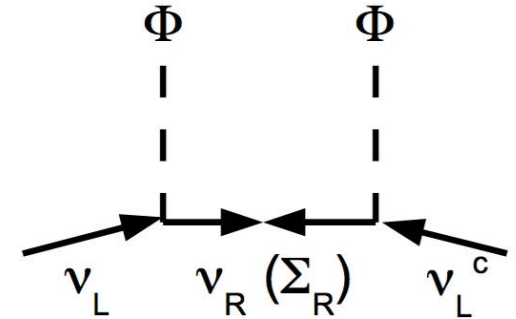
Mass generation → existence of a sterile neutrino? (ex: See-Saw mechanism)

Simple extension of the standard model (ex: ν MSM¹)



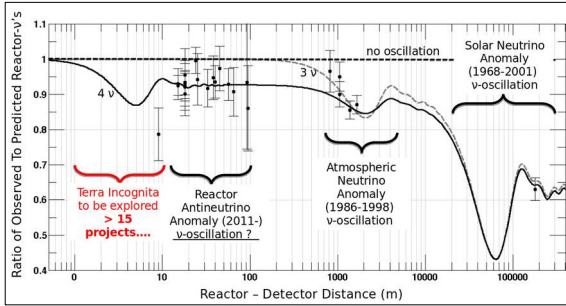
2/3 Left u up Right	2/3 Left c charm Right	2/3 Left t top Right
-1/3 Left d down Right	-1/3 Left s strange Right	-1/3 Left b bottom Right
< 1 eV Left ν_e	~keV Left N_1 sterile neutrino	< 1 eV Left ν_μ
	~GeV Left N_2 sterile neutrino	< 1 eV Left ν_τ
	~GeV Left N_3 sterile neutrino	
-1 Left e electron Right	-1 Left μ muon Right	-1 Left τ tau Right

L. Canetti, et al. PRL 110 061801 (2013)

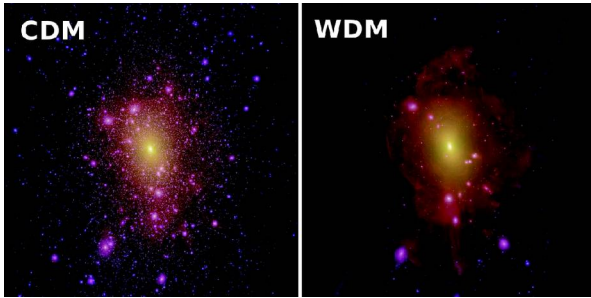


1. T. Asaka, S. Blanchet and M. Shaposhnikov The ν MSM, dark matter and neutrino masses, Phys. Lett. B631:151-156 (2005)

Is there a sterile neutrino ?



eV-scale:
Resolve anomalies in oscillation experiments



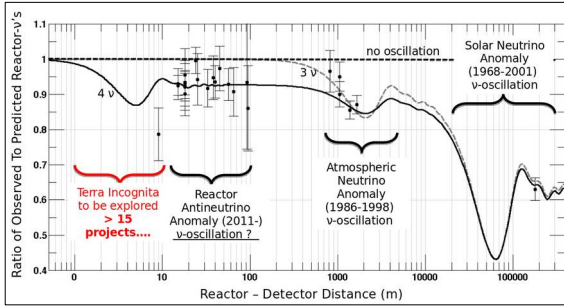
keV-scale:
Dark Matter candidate



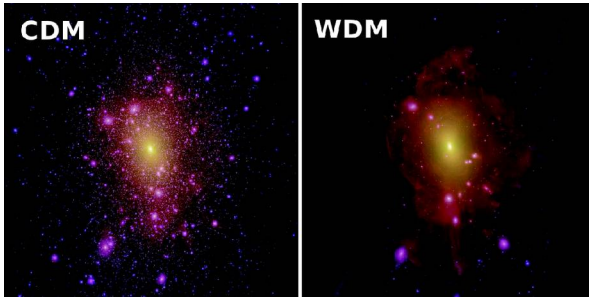
GeV-scale:
See-saw candidate

$\frac{2}{3}$ Left u up Right	$\frac{2}{3}$ Left c charm Right	$\frac{2}{3}$ Left t top Right
$-\frac{1}{3}$ Left d down Right	$-\frac{1}{3}$ Left s strange Right	$-\frac{1}{3}$ Left b bottom Right
$< 1 \text{ eV}$ Left ν_e Right	$\sim \text{eV} ?$ Left N_1 sterile neutrino Right	$< 1 \text{ eV}$ Left ν_μ Right
$< 1 \text{ eV}$ Left ν_e Right	$\sim \text{keV} ?$ Left N_2 sterile neutrino Right	$< 1 \text{ eV}$ Left ν_τ Right
$< 1 \text{ eV}$ Left ν_e Right	$\sim \text{keV} ?$ Left N_3 sterile neutrino Right	$< 1 \text{ eV}$ Left ν_τ Right
0 Left e electron Right	0 Left μ muon Right	0 Left τ tau Right

Is there a sterile neutrino ?



eV-scale:
Resolve anomalies in oscillation experiments



keV-scale:
Dark Matter candidate

2/3 Left up Right	2.4 MeV u	2/3 Left charm Right	1.27 GeV c	2/3 Left top Right	171.2 GeV t
-1/3 Left down Right	4.8 MeV d	-1/3 Left strange Right	104 MeV s	-1/3 Left bottom Right	4.2 GeV b
< 1 eV Left sterile neutrino Right	\sim eV ? N₁	< 1 eV Left sterile neutrino Right	\sim keV ? N₂	< 1 eV Left sterile neutrino Right	\sim GeV ? N₃
-1 Left electron Right	0.511 MeV e	-1 Left muon Right	105.7 MeV μ	-1 Left tau Right	1.777 GeV τ

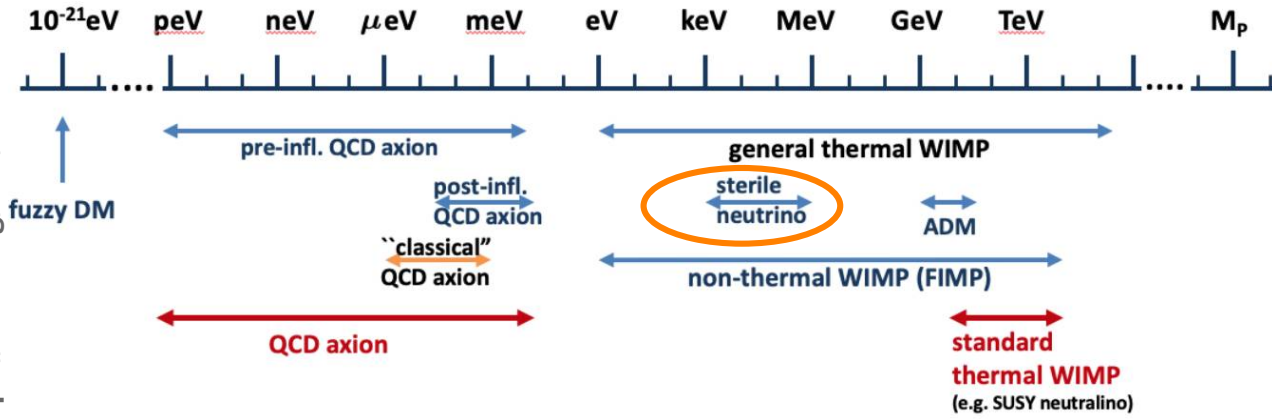
Journal of **Cosmology and Astroparticle Physics**
An IOP and SISSA journal

R. Adhikari et al JCAP01(2017)025

**A White Paper on keV sterile neutrino
Dark Matter**

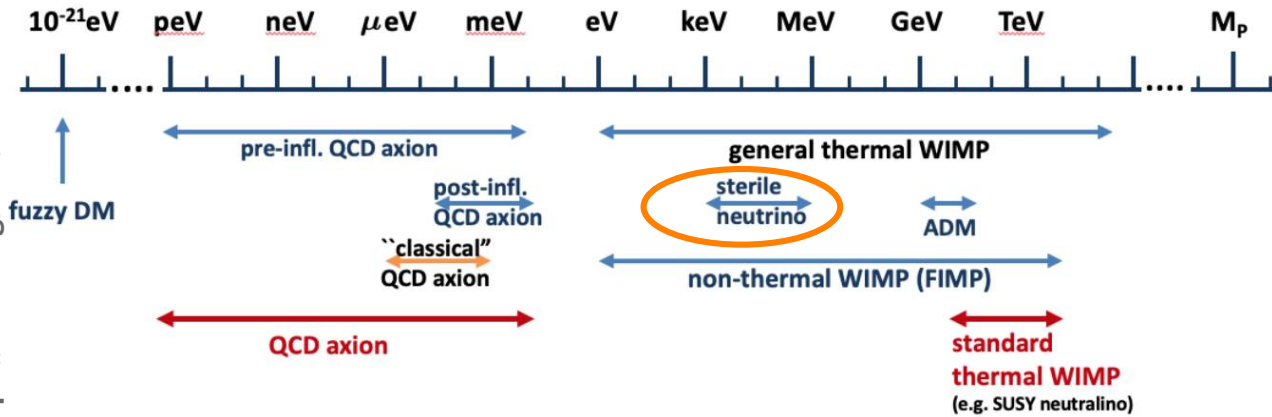
keV-sterile neutrinos as Dark Matter

<https://arxiv.org/abs/2104.07634>



keV-sterile neutrinos as Dark Matter

<https://arxiv.org/abs/2104.07634>

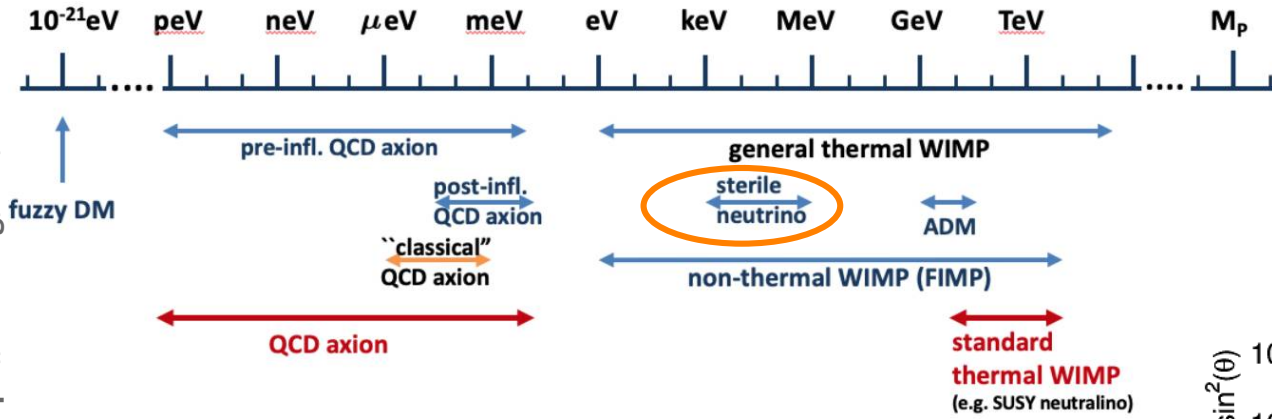


Production mechanisms:

- Thermal production
- Oscillation from active ν via scattering (Dodelson-Widrow)
- Enhancement via leptonnumber (Shi-Fuller)
- Decay of heavy scalar
- and many others...

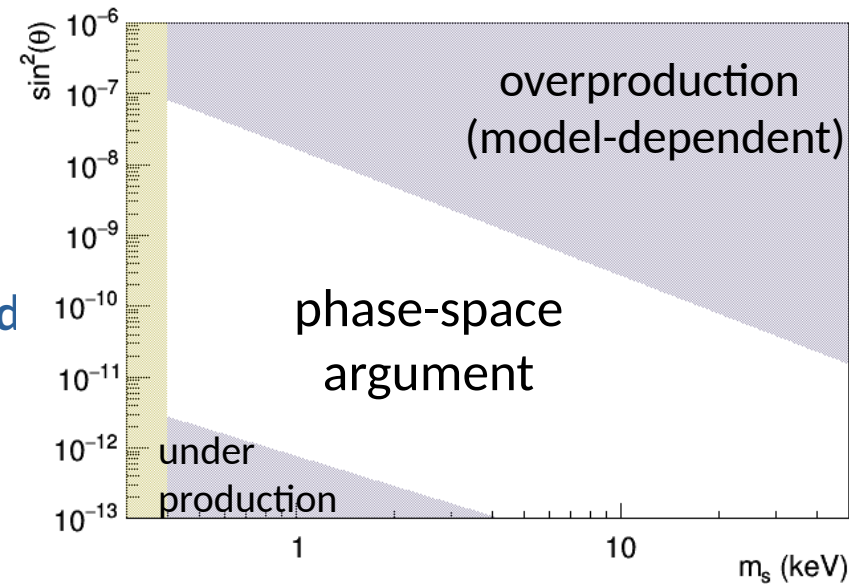
keV-sterile neutrinos as Dark Matter

<https://arxiv.org/abs/2104.07634>

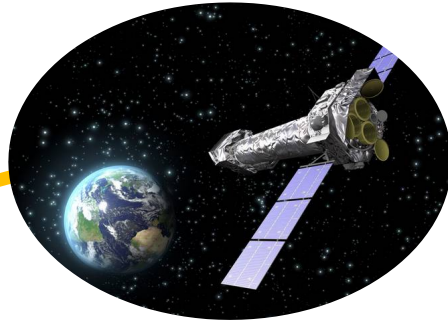


Production mechanisms:

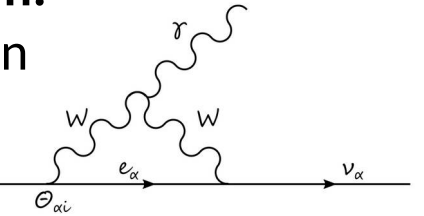
- Thermal production
- Oscillation from active ν via scattering (Dodelson-Wid
- Enhancement via leptonnumber (Shi-Fuller)
- Decay of heavy scalar
- and many others...



Experimental searches



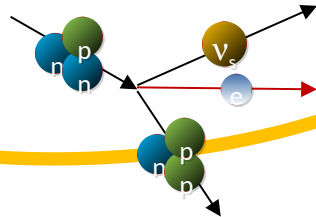
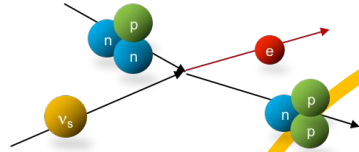
Indirect Detection:
e.g. XMM Newton



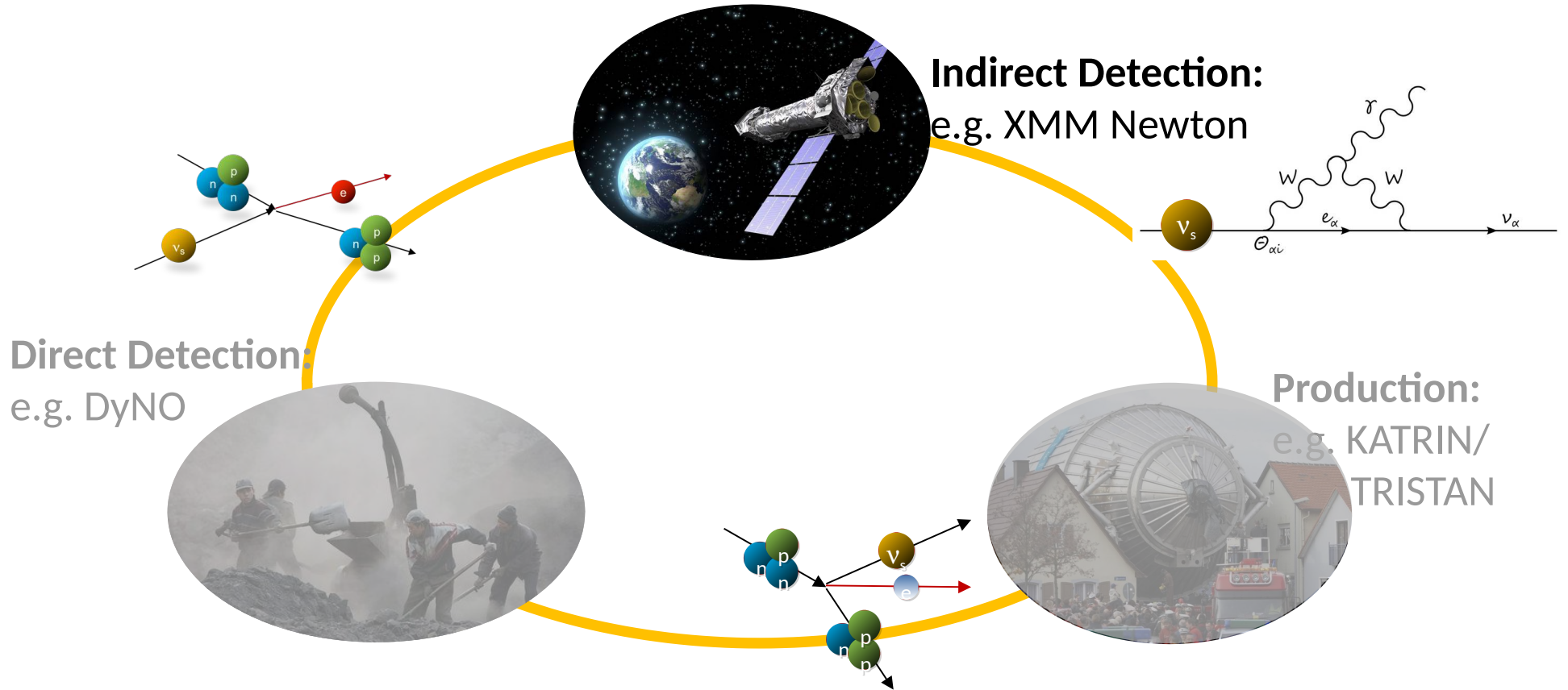
Direct Detection:
e.g. DyNO



Production:
e.g. KATRIN/
TRISTAN



Experimental searches



Indirect searches

- Structure formations

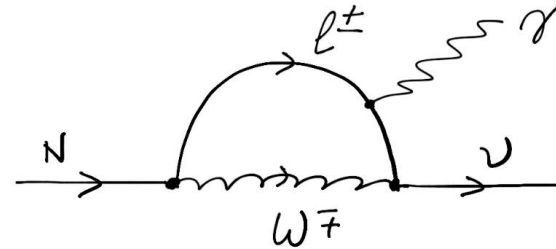
- Radiative decay

Looking for keV x-ray signals emitted in high density DM locations via radiative decay of sterile neutrino

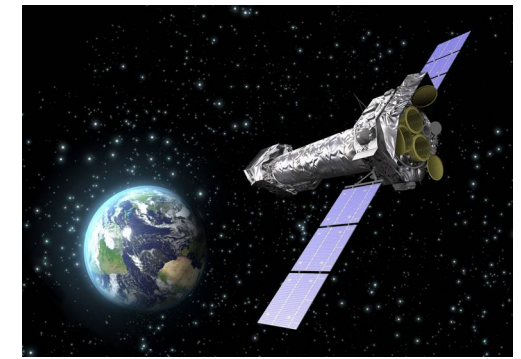
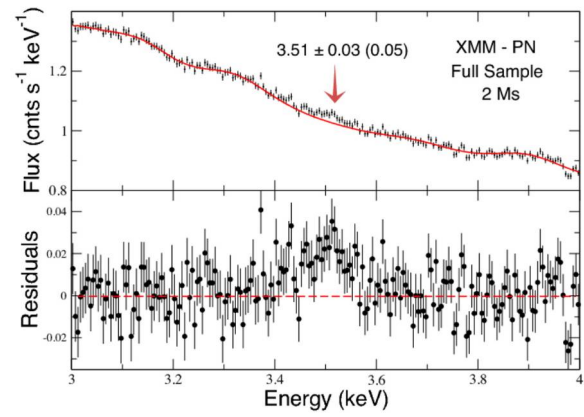
→ signal at 3.5 keV observed by stacking galaxy clusters (XMM-Newton, Suzaku, Chandra), in Andromeda and Milky Way

Some results are contradictory (Hitomi)

Atomic transition is still discussed

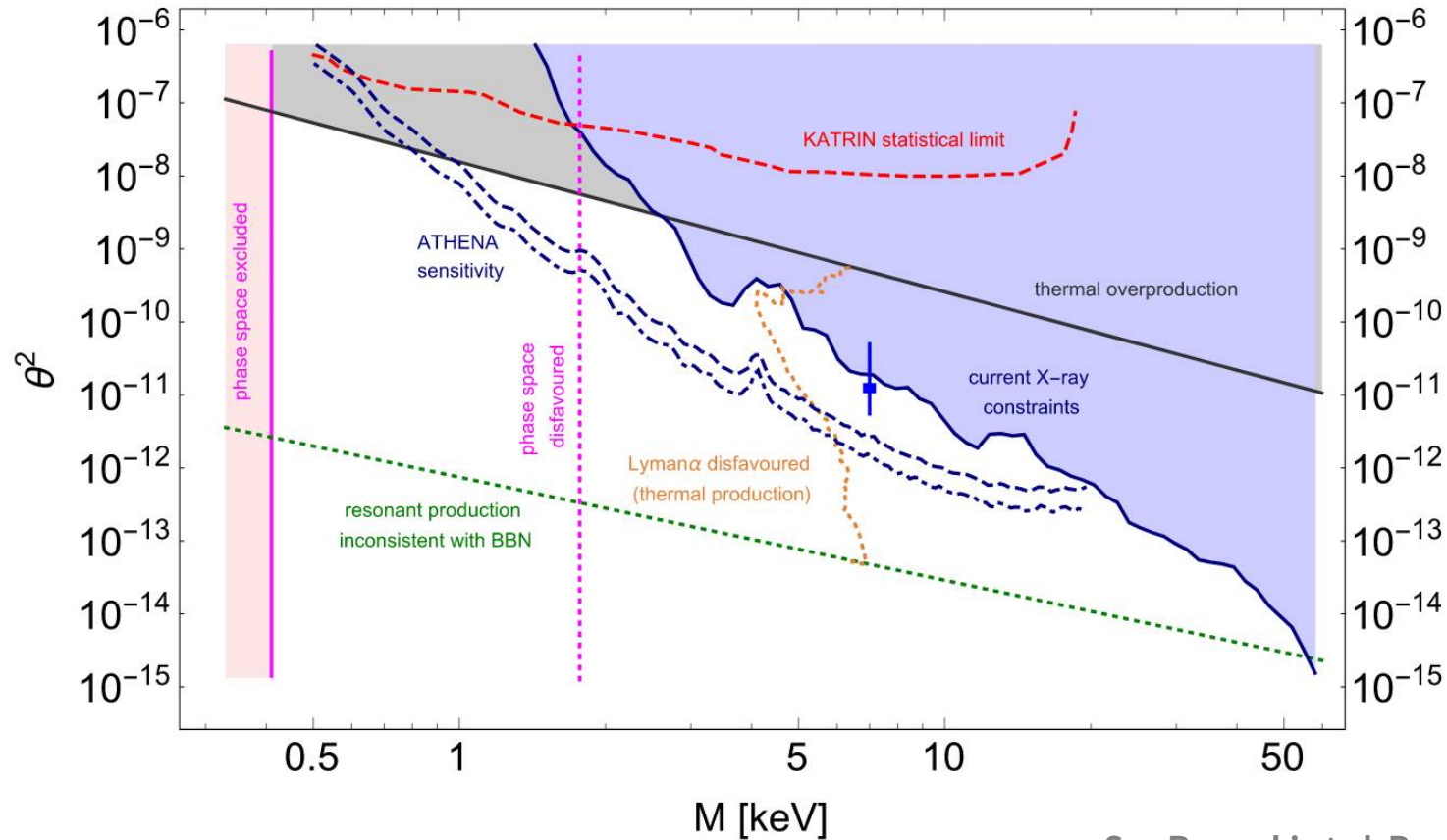


Radiative decay of sterile neutrino



Bulbulet al1402.2301, Boyarskyet al1402.4119
Dessert et al, Science 367 (2020)

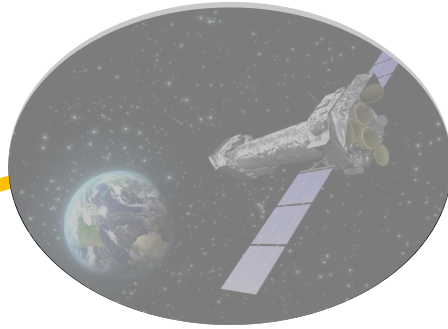
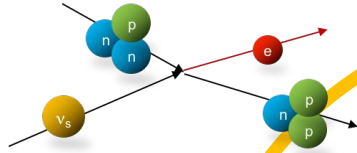
keV-sterile neutrinos as Dark Matter



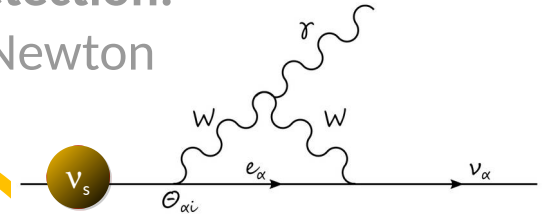
See Boyarski et al, Progress in Particle and Nuclear Physics 104, 1-45 (2019)

Experimental searches

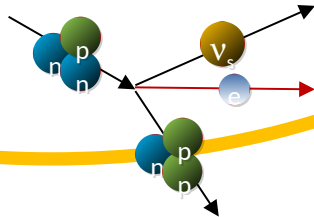
Direct Detection:
e.g. DyNO



Indirect Detection:
e.g. XMM Newton

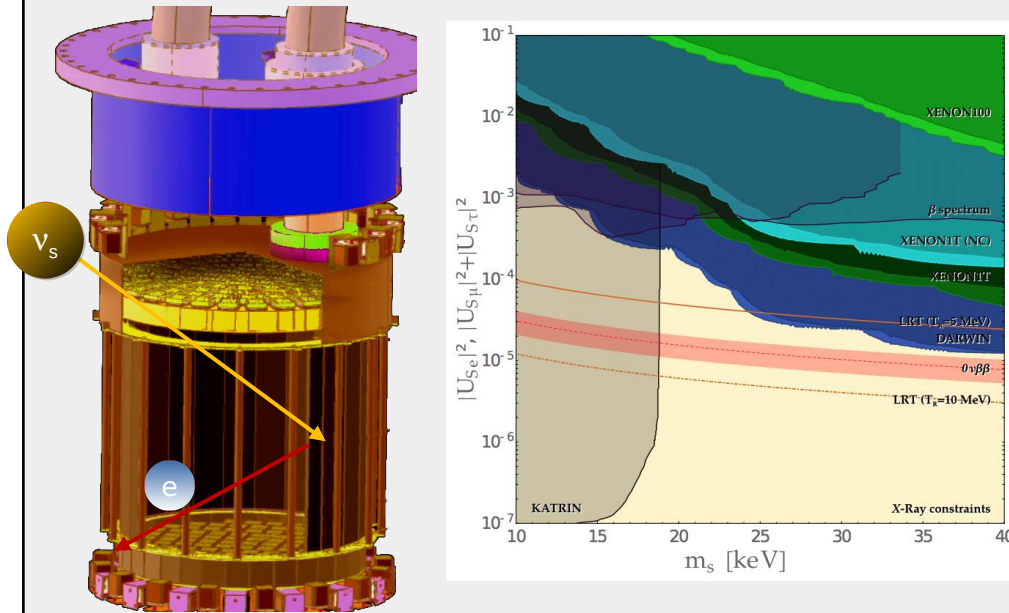


Production:
e.g. KATRIN/
TRISTAN



Direct detection

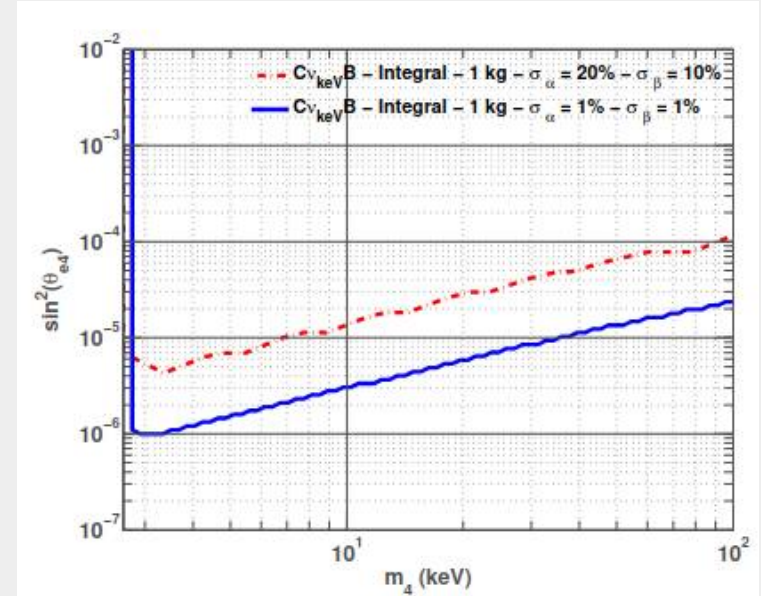
- Electronic recoil in massive DM exp.



XENON1T, XENONNT, DARWIN

Miguel D. Campos, Werner Rodejohann: Phys. Rev. D 94, 095010 (2016)

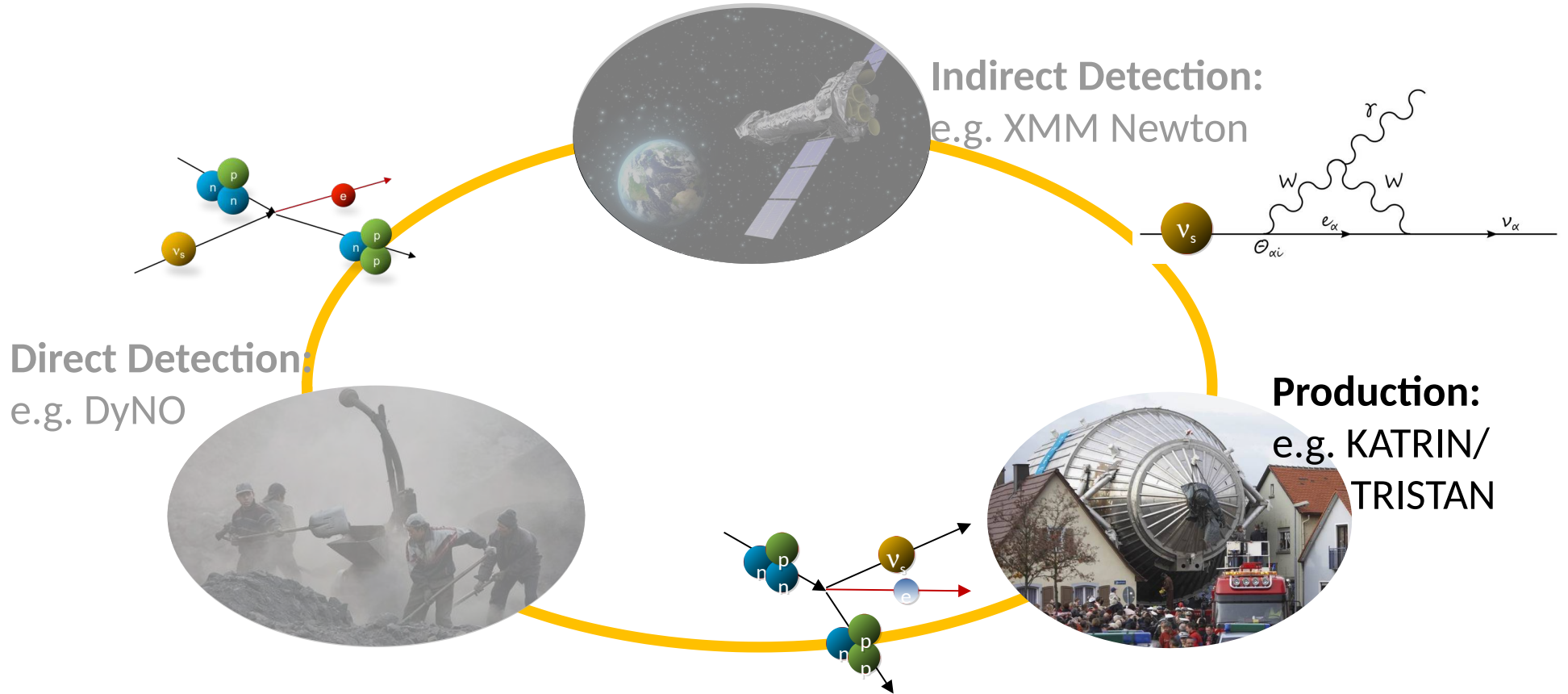
- Neutrino capture on stable isotope



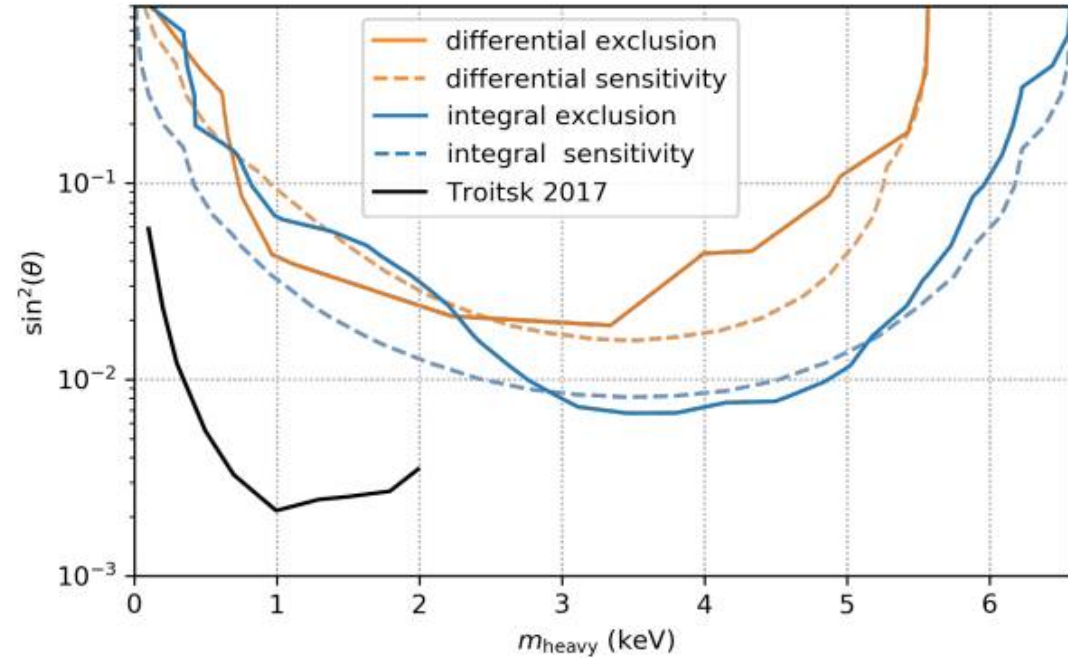
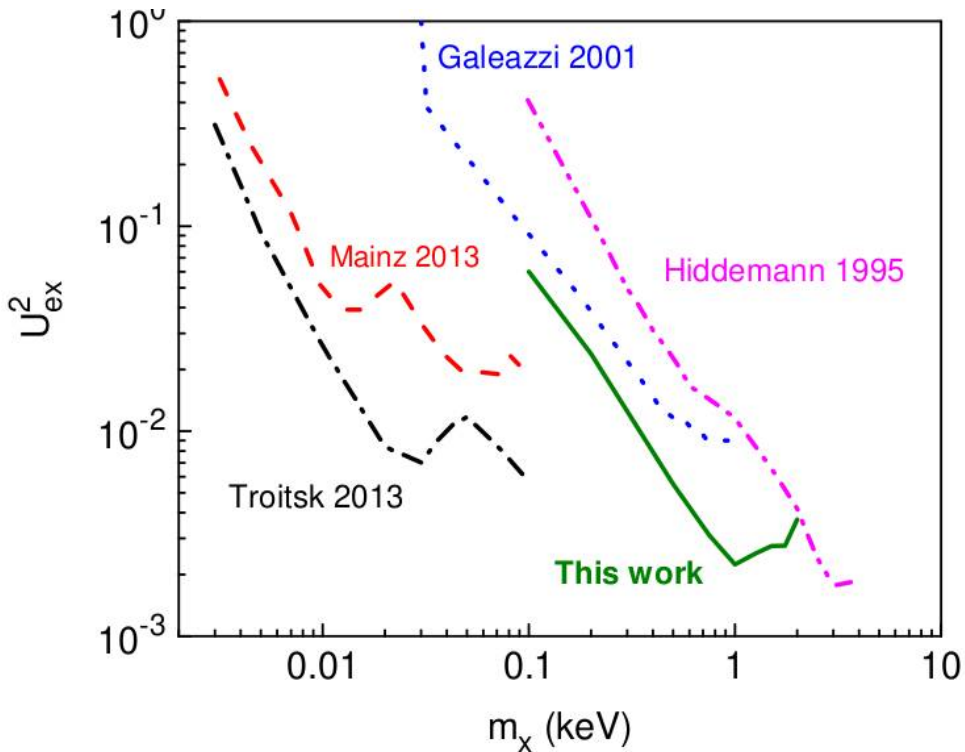
arXiv:1609.04671v2

Dyno:
Neutrino capture on ^{163}Dy to produce ^{163}Ho . Extraction and measure of Ho/Do

Experimental searches



Production

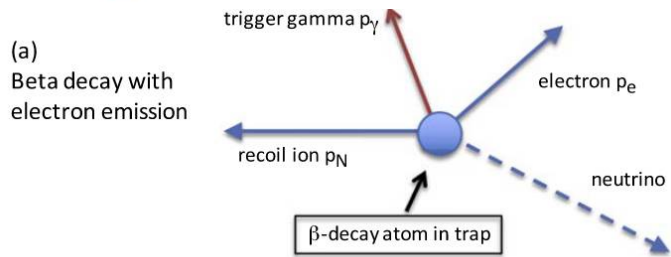


Abdurashitov, J.N., Belesev, A.I., Chernov, V.G. et al. *Jetp Lett.* 105, 753–757 (2017)

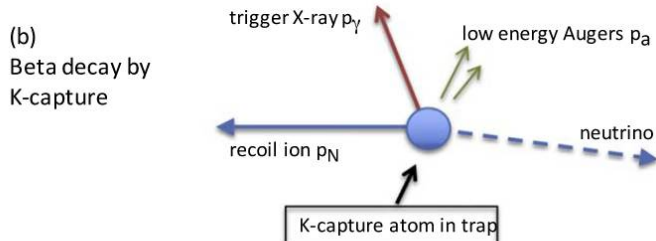
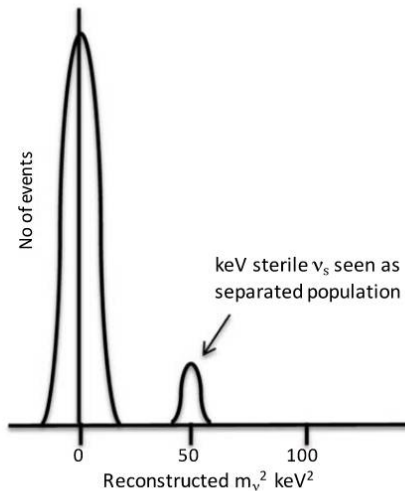
Brunst T., Houdy T. et al. *JINST14 P11013* (2019)

Total Energy–Momentum reconstruction

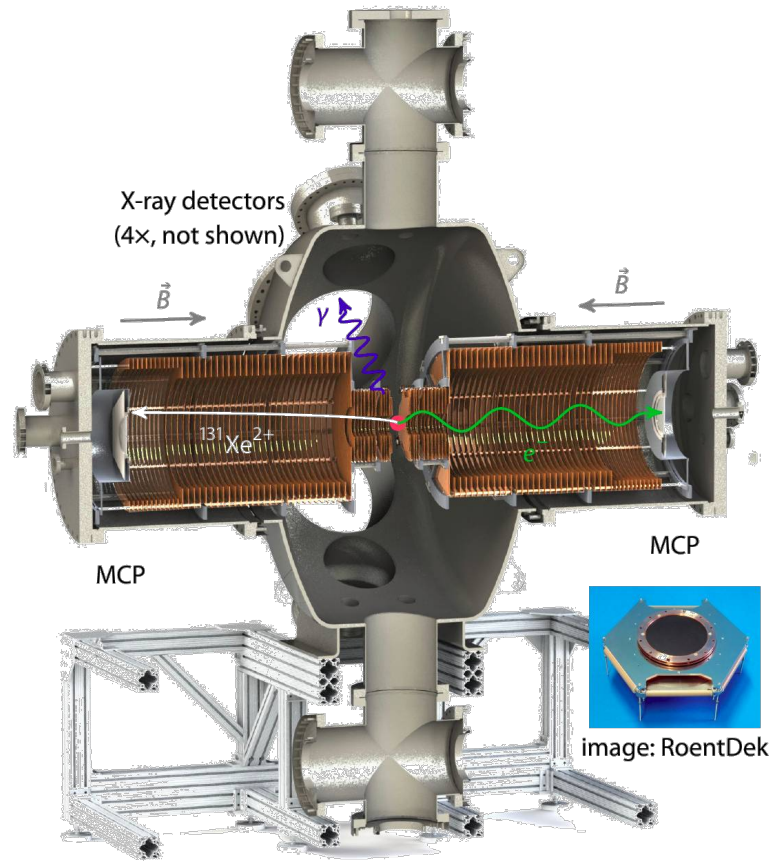
HUNTER



$$m_\nu^2 = [Q - E_e - E_\gamma - E_N]^2 - [\mathbf{p}_\gamma + \mathbf{p}_e + \mathbf{p}_N]^2$$



$$m_\nu^2 = [Q - E_a - E_\gamma - E_N]^2 - [\mathbf{p}_\gamma + \mathbf{p}_a + \mathbf{p}_N]^2$$

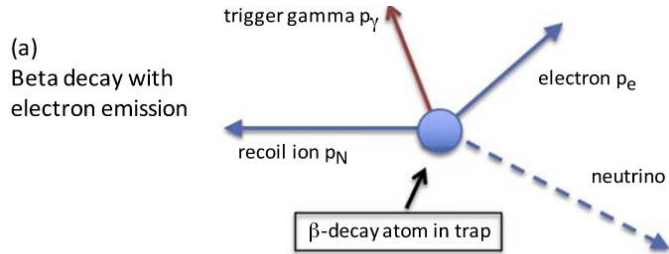


Possible source: atoms in a Magneto-Optical Trap (e.g. ^{203}Hg , ^{131}Cs , ^7Be)
 Possible detector: Cold Target Recoil Ion Momentum Spectroscopy, COLTRIMS

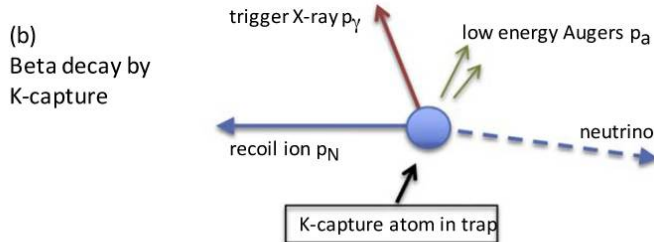
Peter F Smith 2019 New J. Phys.21 053022

Total Energy–Momentum reconstruction

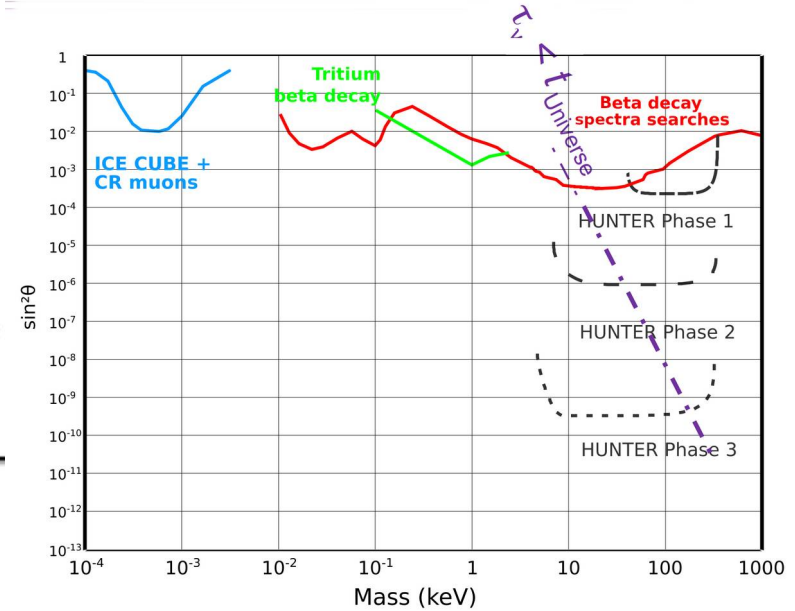
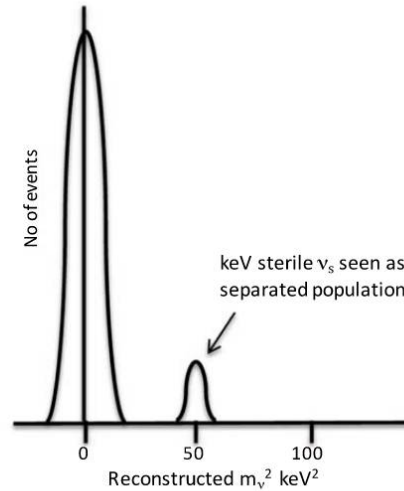
HUNTER



$$m_\nu^2 = [Q - E_e - E_\gamma - E_N]^2 - [\mathbf{p}_\gamma + \mathbf{p}_e + \mathbf{p}_N]^2$$



$$m_\nu^2 = [Q - E_a - E_\gamma - E_N]^2 - [\mathbf{p}_\gamma + \mathbf{p}_a + \mathbf{p}_N]^2$$



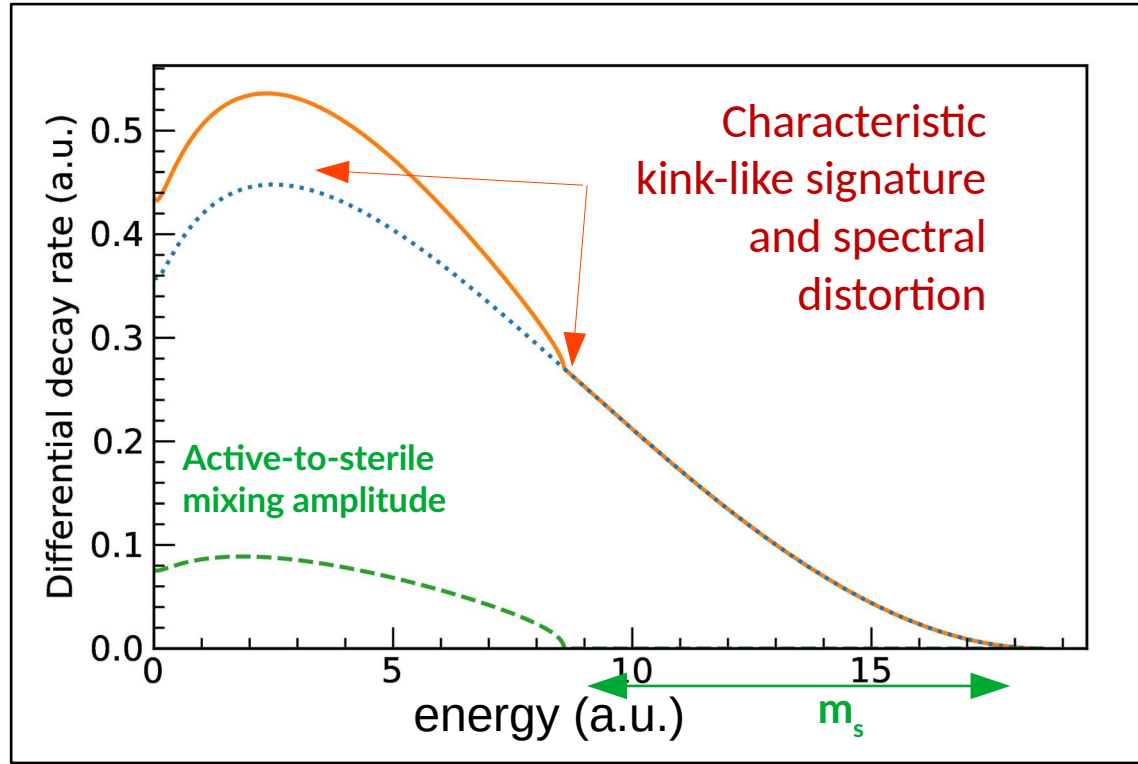
Possible source: atoms in a Magneto-Optical Trap (e.g. ^{203}Hg , ^{131}Cs , ^7Be)
 Possible detector: Cold Target Recoil Ion Momentum Spectroscopy, COLTRIMS

Peter F Smith 2019 New J. Phys.21 053022

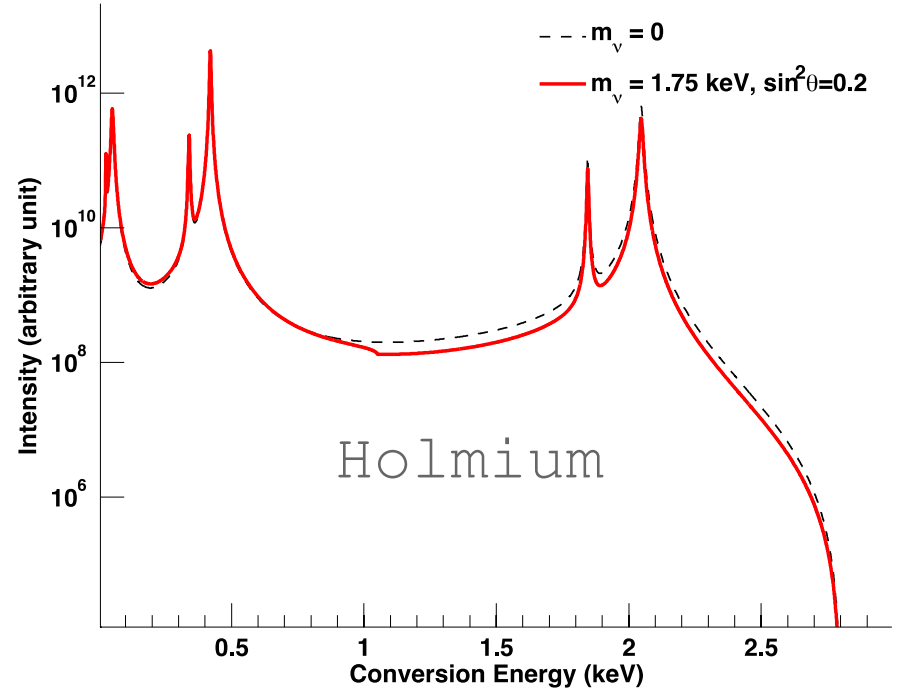
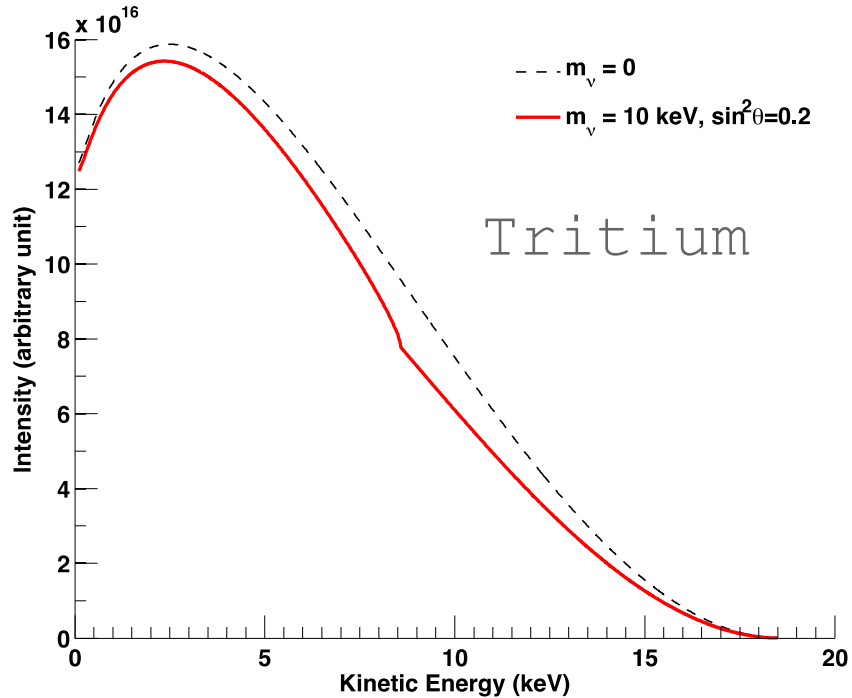
Studying β -decay

Existence of a new mass eigenstate distorts the shape of the β -decay

$$\frac{d\Gamma}{dE} = \cos 2\theta \frac{d\Gamma}{dE}(m_\beta) + \sin 2\theta \frac{d\Gamma}{dE}(m_s)$$



Studying β -decay



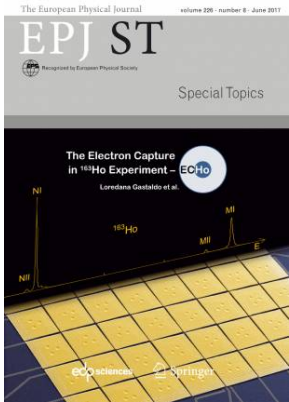
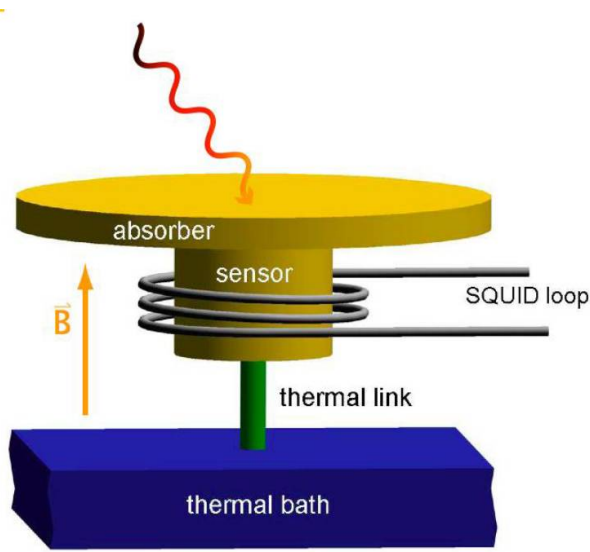
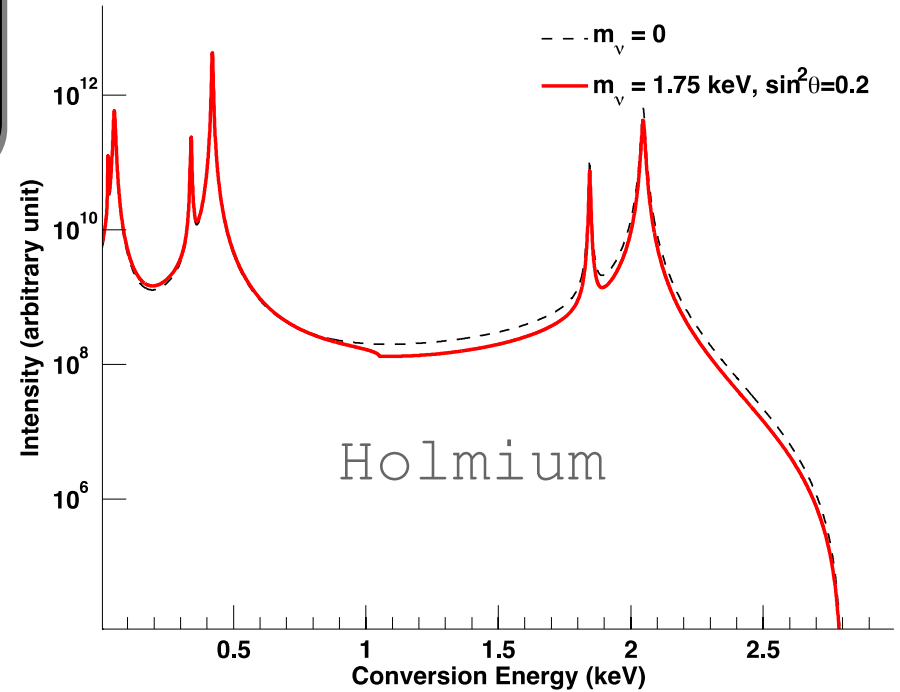
Different mass sensitivities, complexity of modelling, experimental challenges

Studying β -decay



- Metallic Magnetic Calorimeter with SQUID multiplexing read-out
- 5 eV FWHM resolution
- 4 pixels with 0.18 Bq

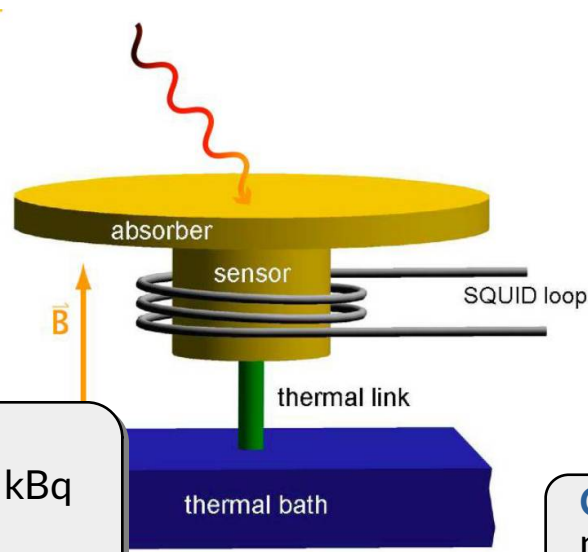
C.Velte et al. Eur. Phys. J. C (2019) 79:1026



Studying β -decay



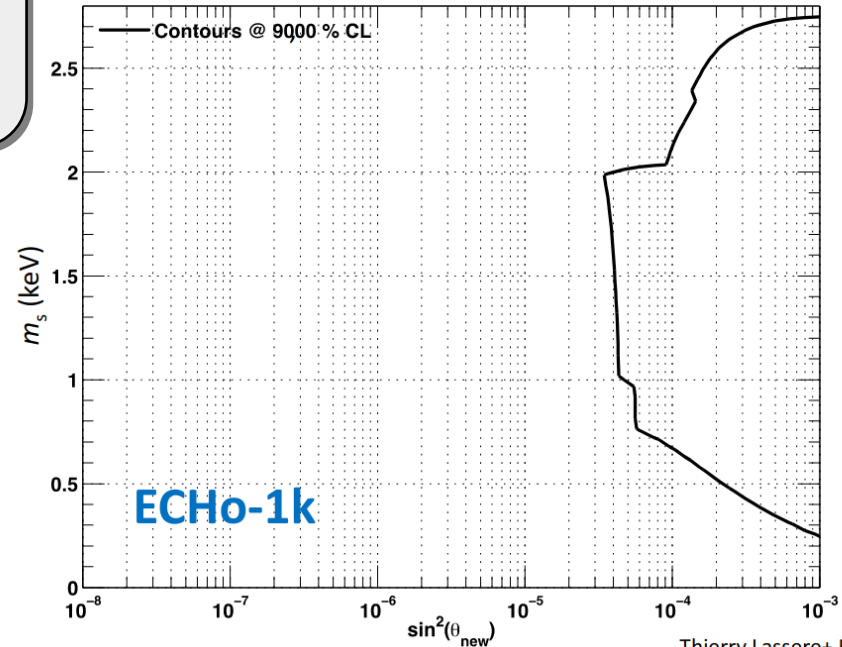
- Metallic Magnetic Calorimeter with SQUID multiplexing read-out
- 5 eV FWHM resolution
- 4 pixels with 0.18 Bq



Target of ECHO-1k

- Total activity of 1 kBq
- 1 eV resolution
- 10 eV sensitivity on m_ν

Statistical Fluctuation – No Pile Up – Counts = $1e10$
Theoretical Spectrum Supposed to be perfectly known



Clemens Hassel, The Status of the ECHO experiment for investigation of keV sterile neutrinos, International School for Astrophysics, 2015

Thierry Lasserre+ ECHO, in progress

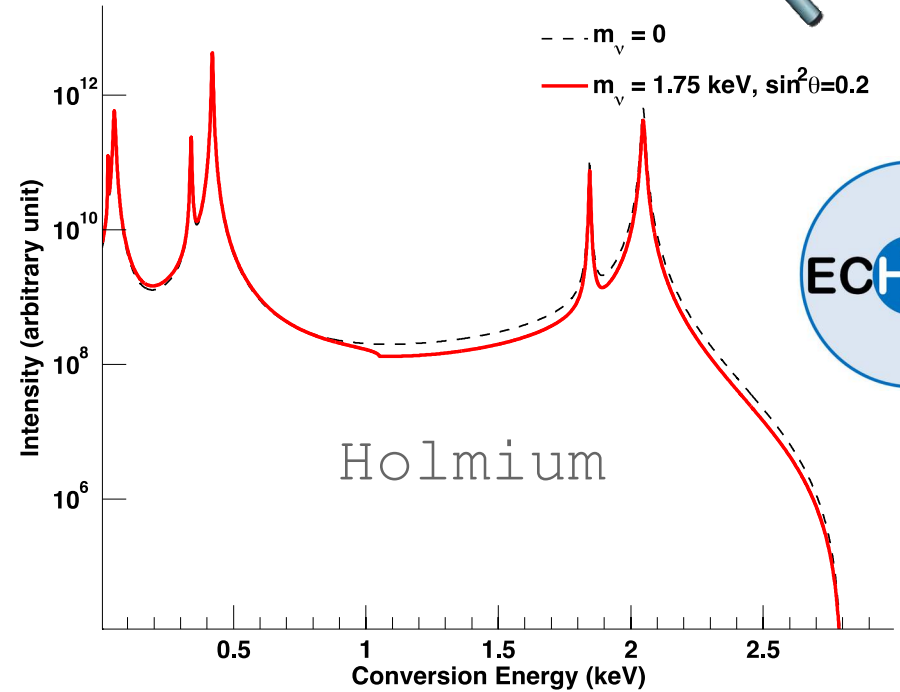
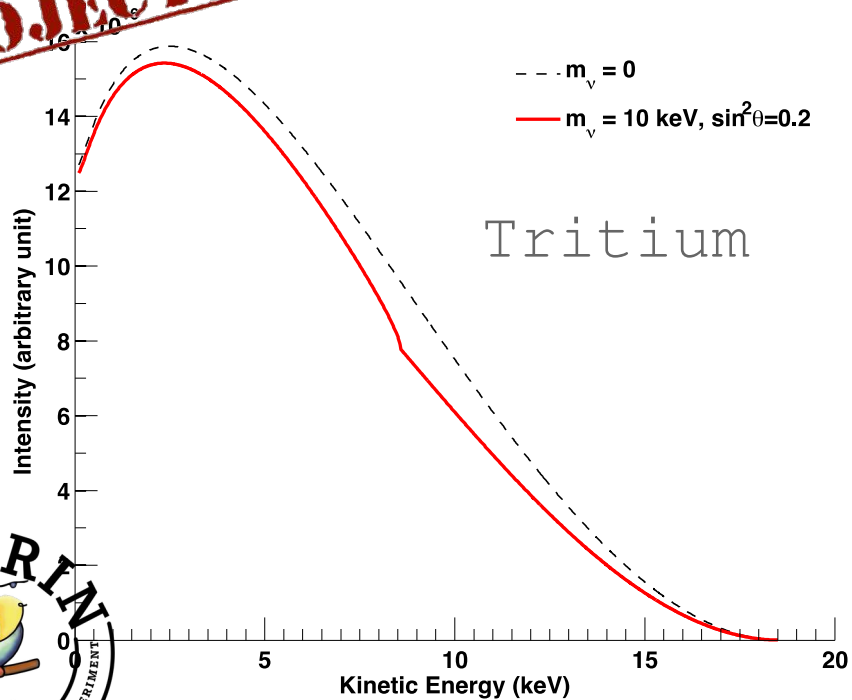
Challenges:

pile-up, multiplexing, statistics, background, theoretical description of the spectrum

Studying β -decay

PROJECT 8

HOLMES



Karlsruhe TRitium Neutrino Experiment : KATRIN

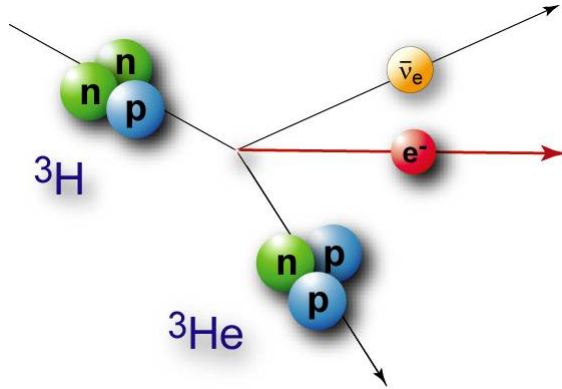


- Experimental site : Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT)
- International Collaboration (150 members)
- Design sensitivity: 0.2 eV (90% CL)

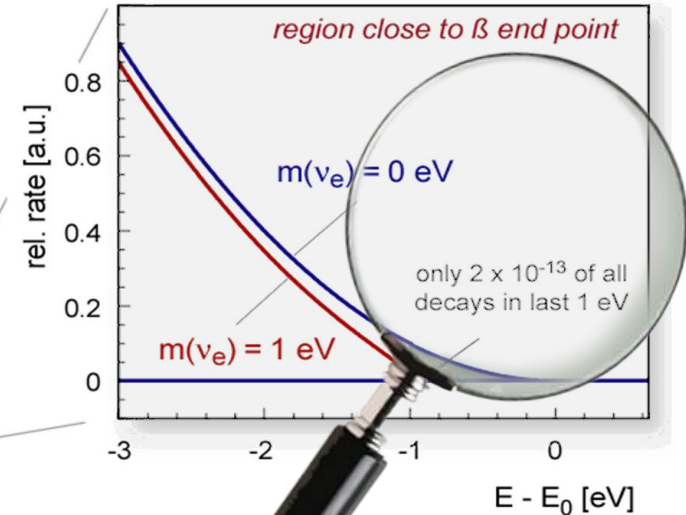
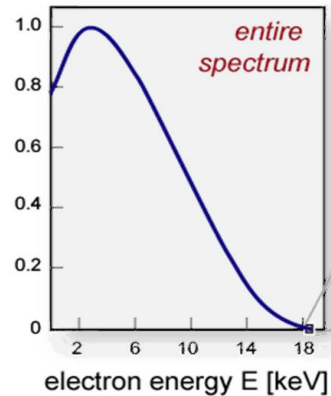


KATRIN

General Idea



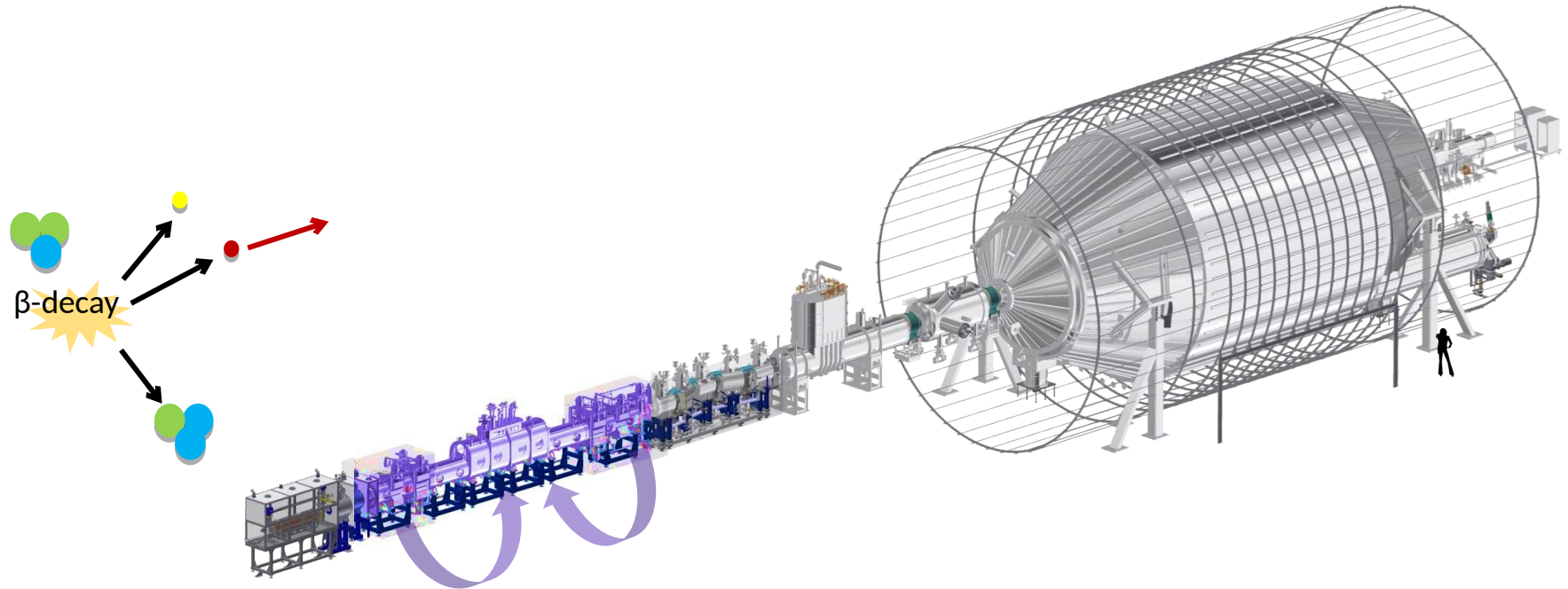
- Ultra-strong β -source 10^{11} decays/s
- Low background level < 0.1 cps
- Excellent energy resolution ~ 1 eV
- Precise understanding of spectrum



KATRIN Working Principle

Windowless gaseous tritium source

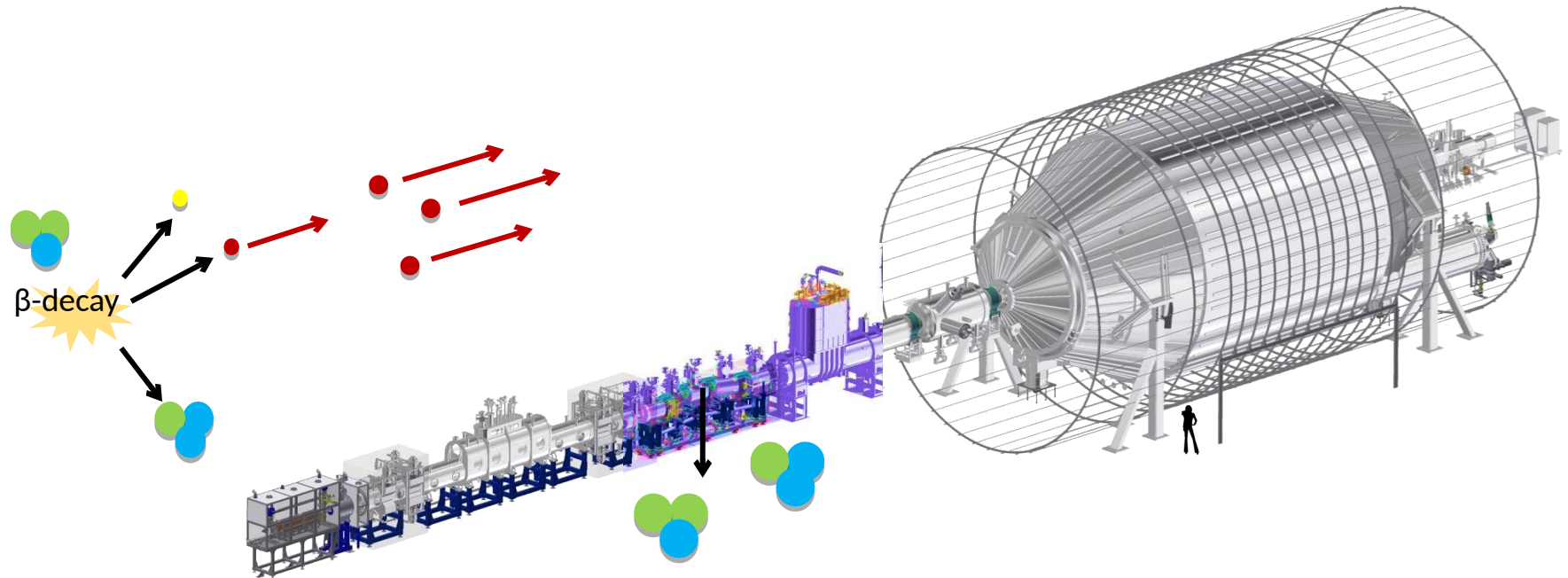
- molecular tritium in closed loop system
- 10^{11} decays/s



KATRIN Working Principle

Transport section

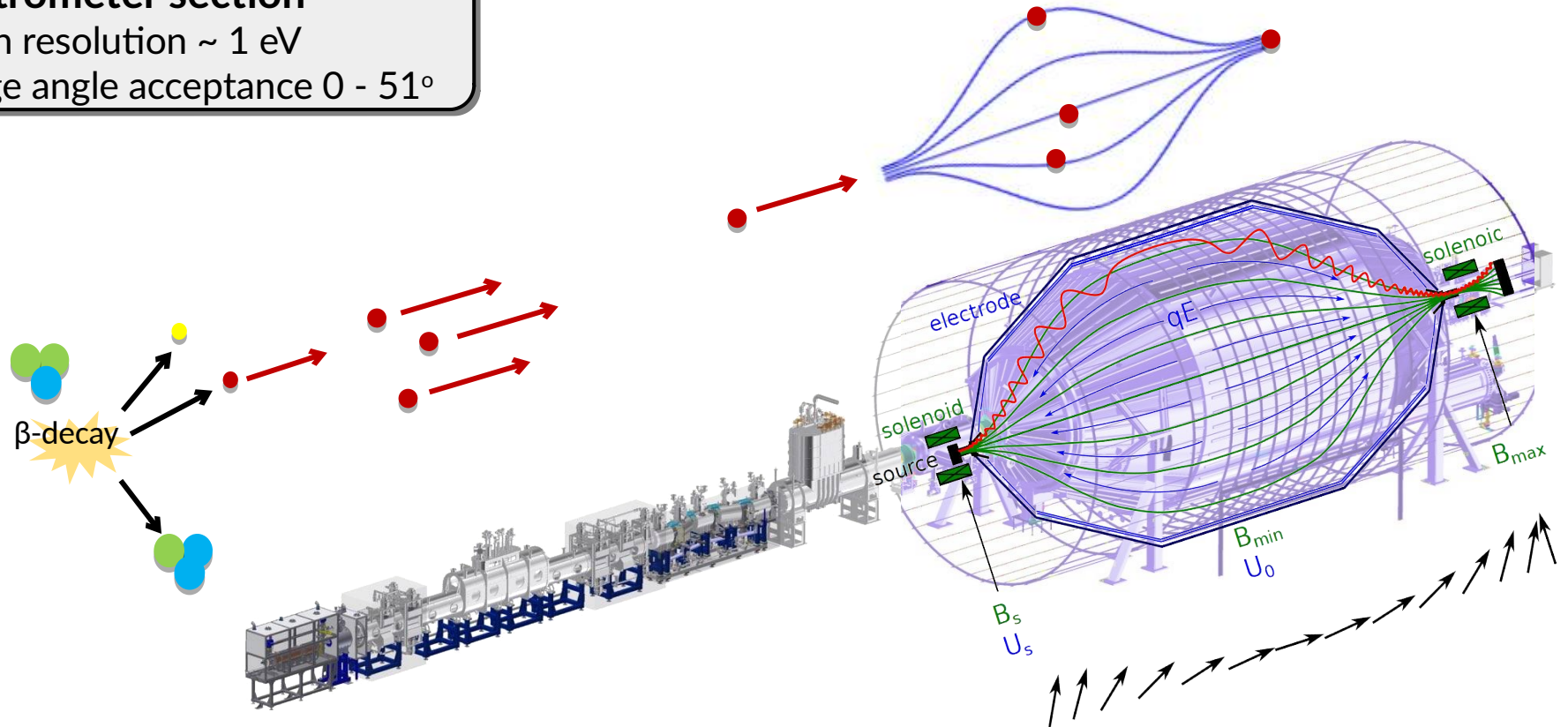
- magnetic guidance of electrons (@ 4 T)
- tritium flow reduction by $> 10^{14}$ + tritium ion removal



KATRIN Working Principle

Spectrometer section

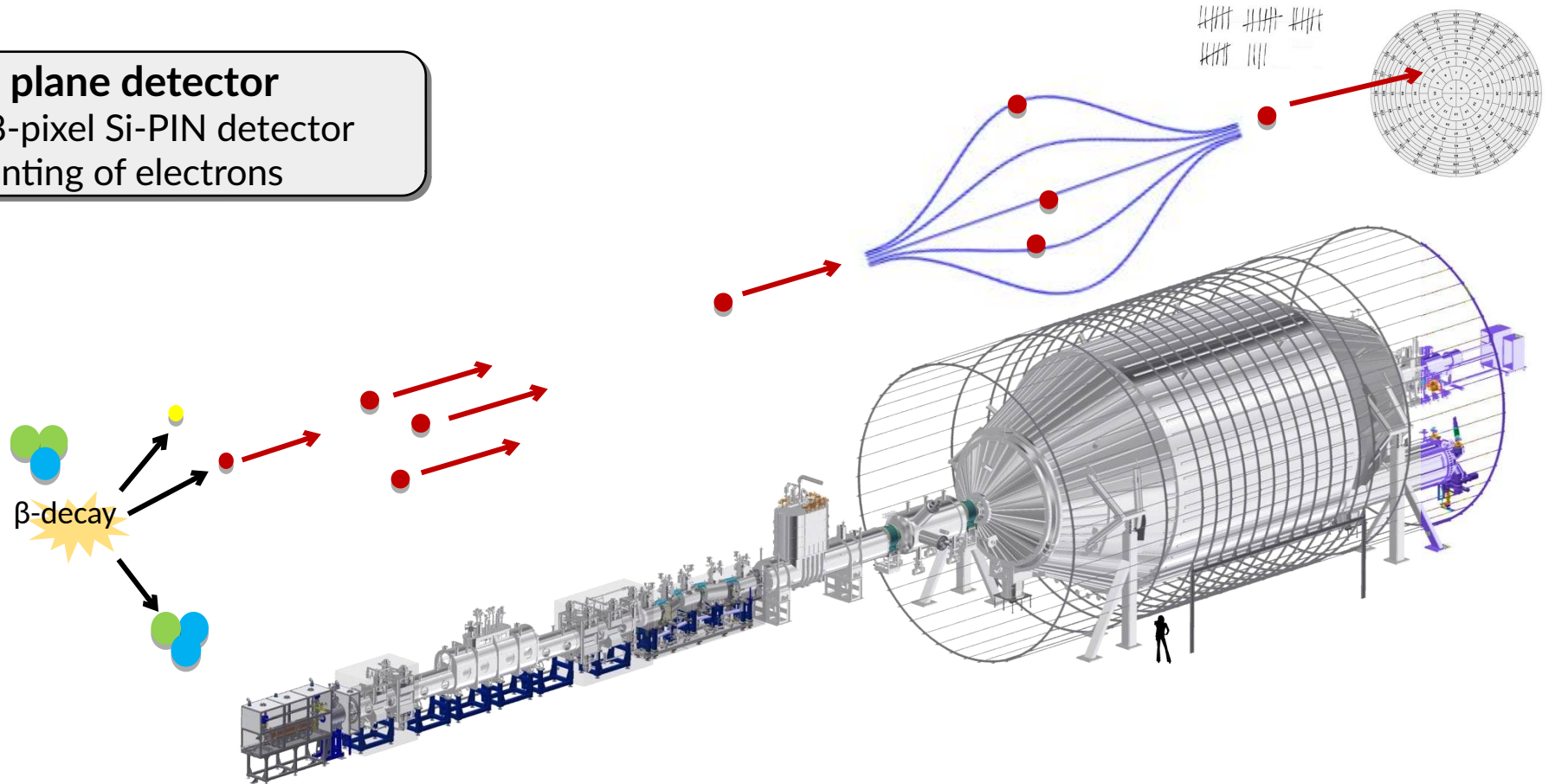
- high resolution ~ 1 eV
- large angle acceptance $0 - 51^\circ$



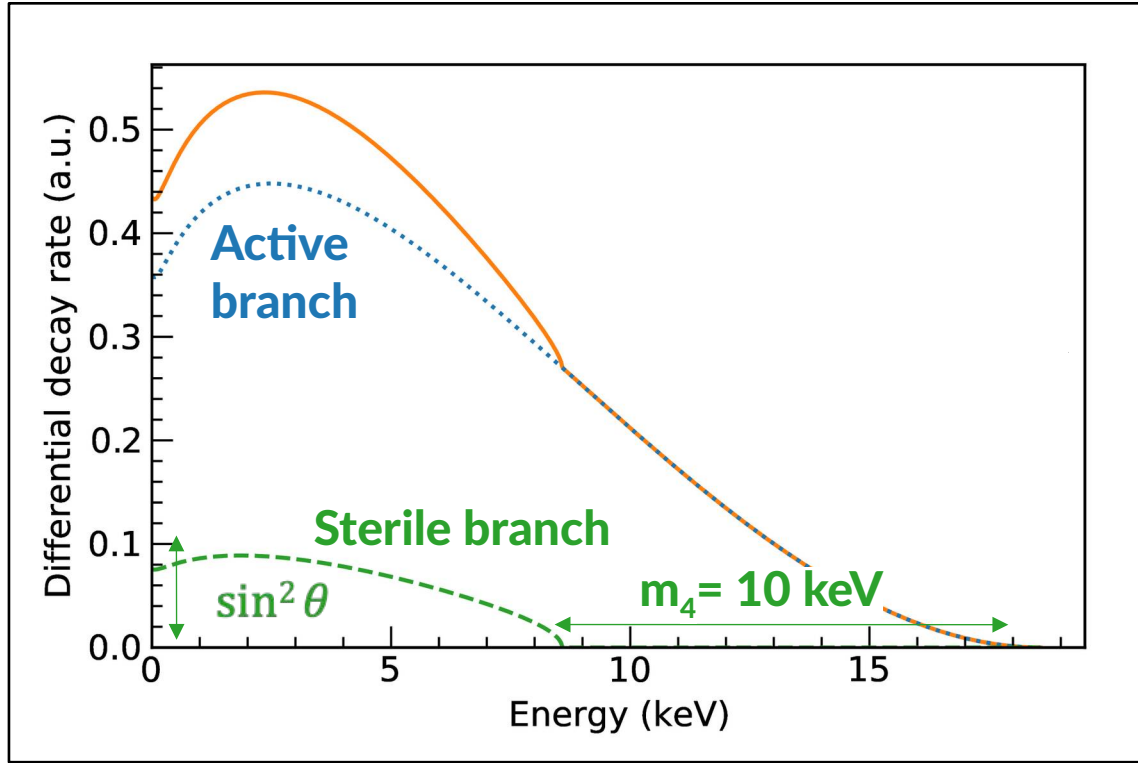
KATRIN Working Principle

Focal plane detector

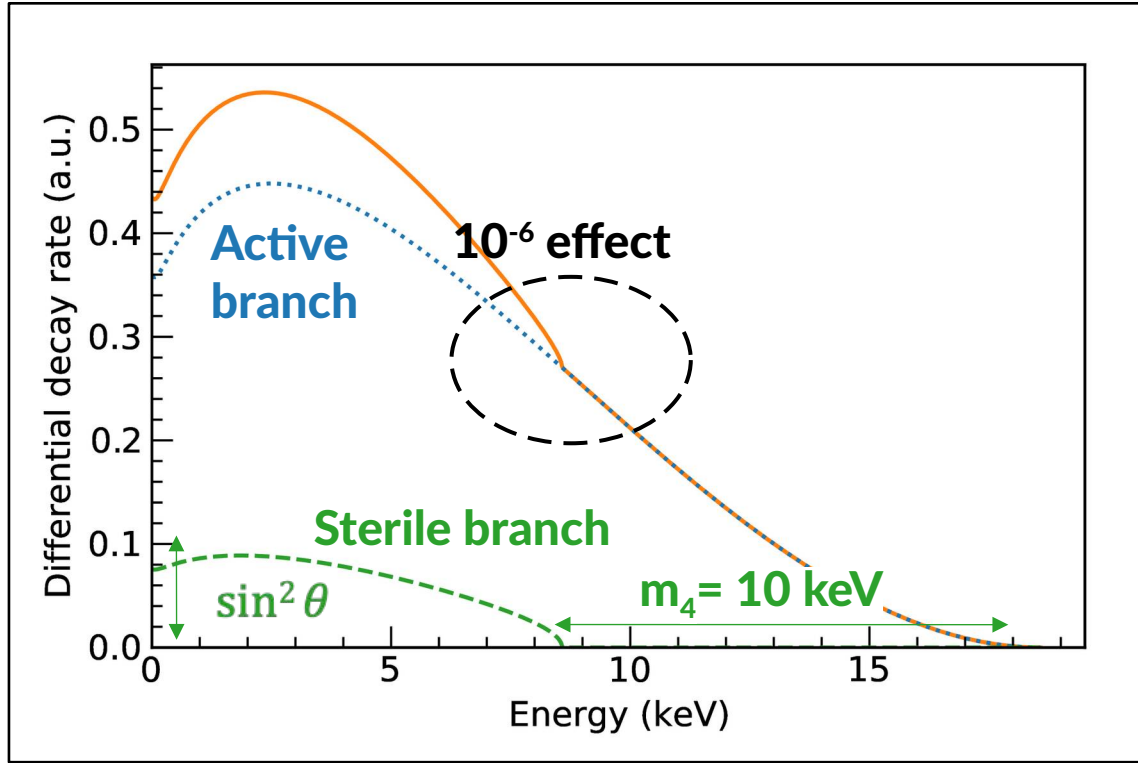
- 148-pixel Si-PIN detector
- counting of electrons



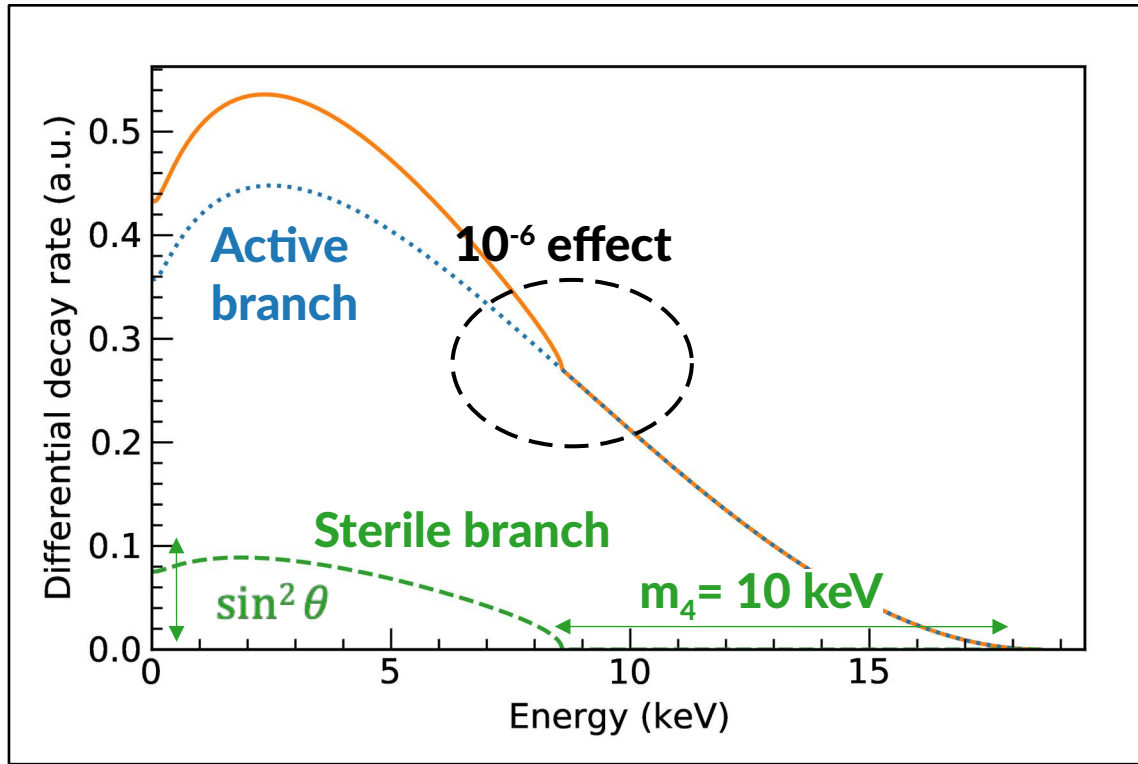
keV-sterile signature in β -decay



keV-sterile signature in β -decay



keV-sterile signature in β -decay



Stringent limit from **astrophysical** and **cosmological** observations ($\sin^2(\theta) < 10^{-7}$):

→ Dramatic **increase of the count rate** (up to 3×10^8 Hz)

→ Integral and differential phases (detector with **good resolution**)

→ Highly **pixelised**

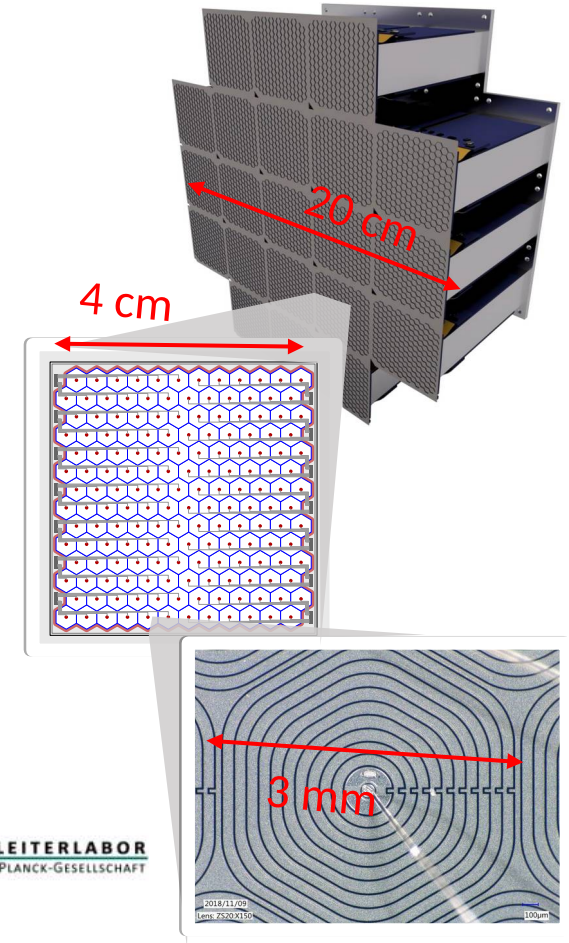
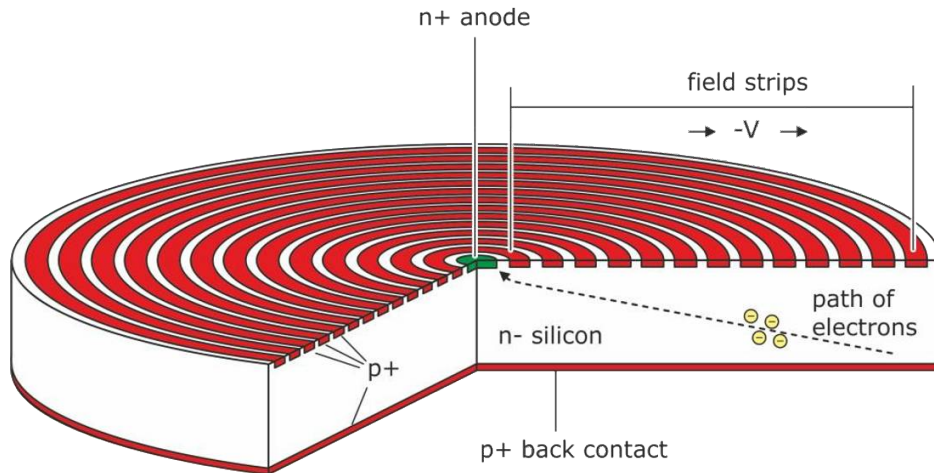
→ **new detector is needed : the TRISTAN project**



TRISTAN Project

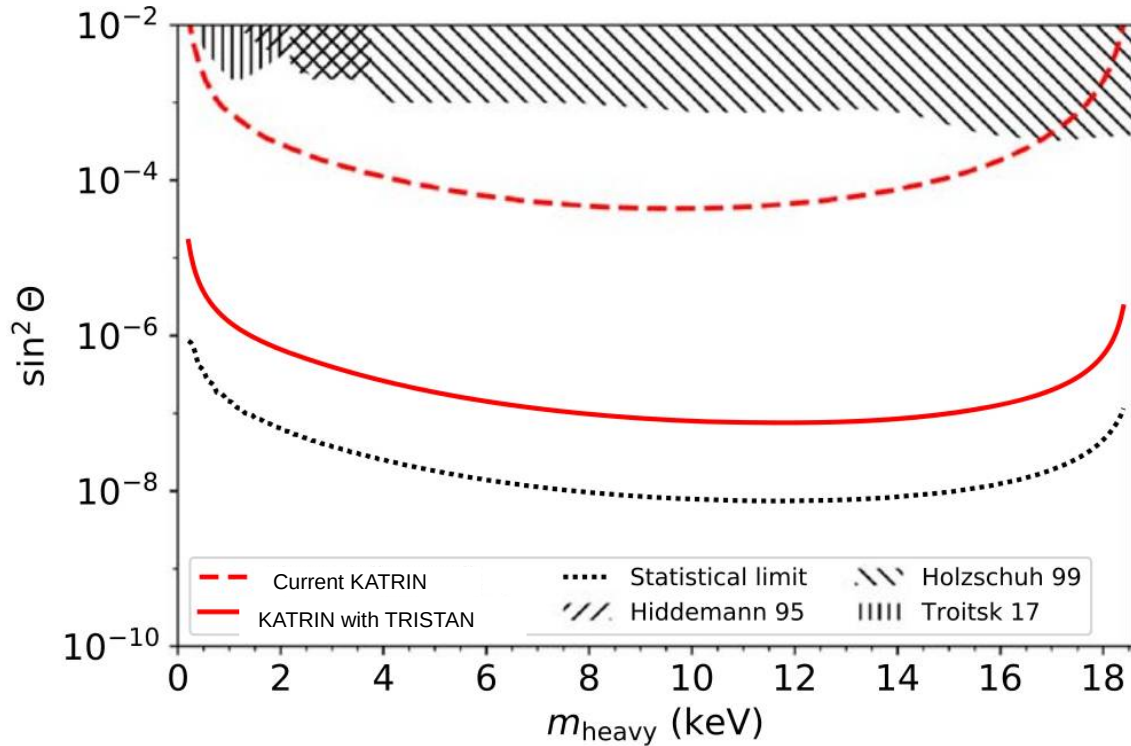
Capability of handling high rates ($> 3 \times 10^8$ cps)
+ Excellent energy resolution (300 eV @ 20 keV)

- Silicon Drift Detector (SDD) Technology
- Novelty: large number of pixels (about 3500)
- Novelty: application to high-precision β -spectroscopy

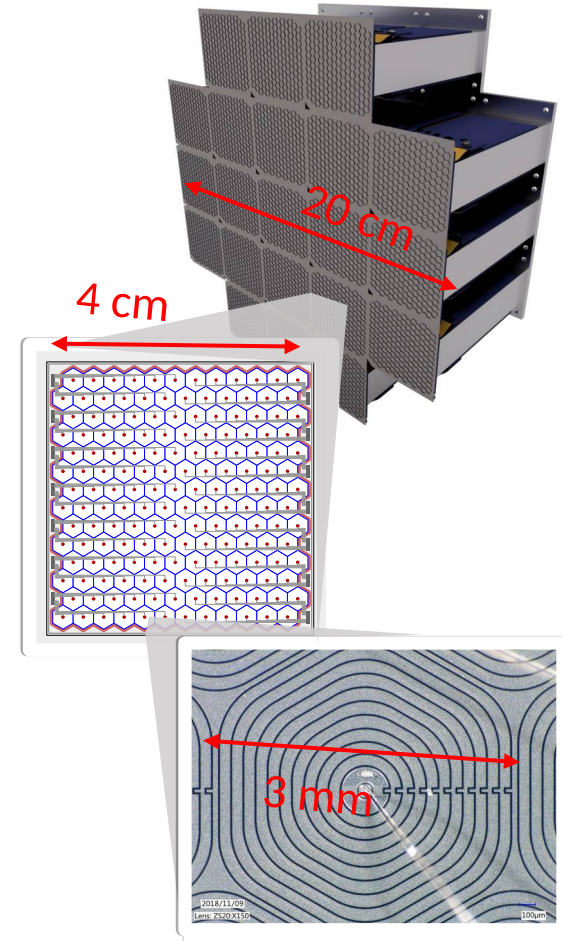


TRISTAN Project

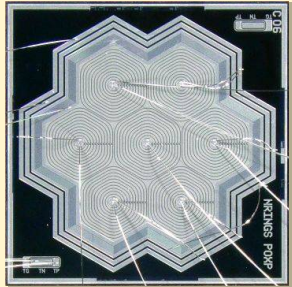
TRISTAN : Development of a large area SDD array and read-out system to look for keV-sterile neutrino with the KATRIN experiment



J.Phys. G46 (2019) no.6, 065203

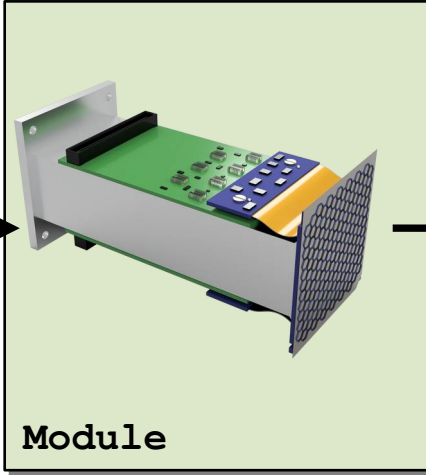


Staged approach



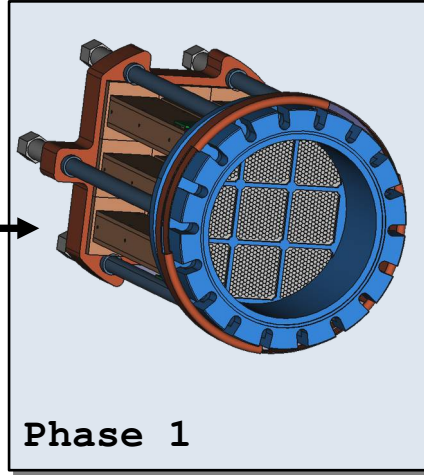
Prototypes

x24



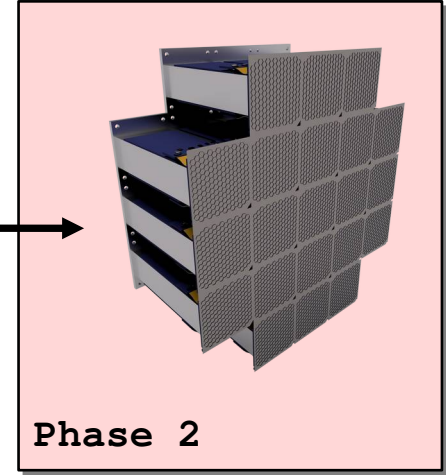
Module

x9



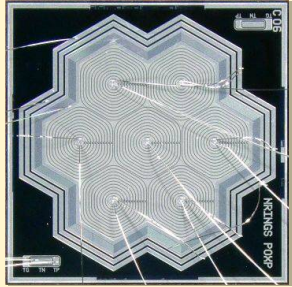
Phase 1

x2.5



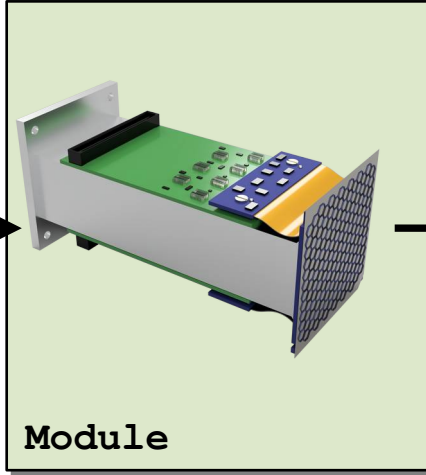
Phase 2

Staged approach



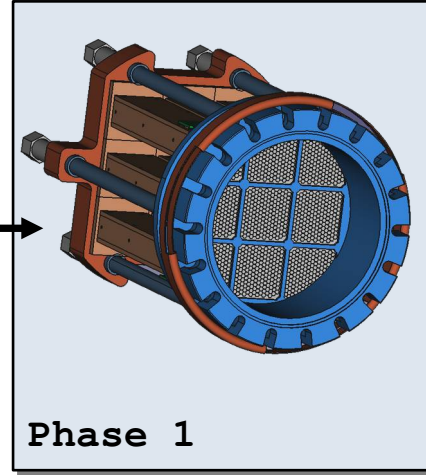
Prototypes

x24



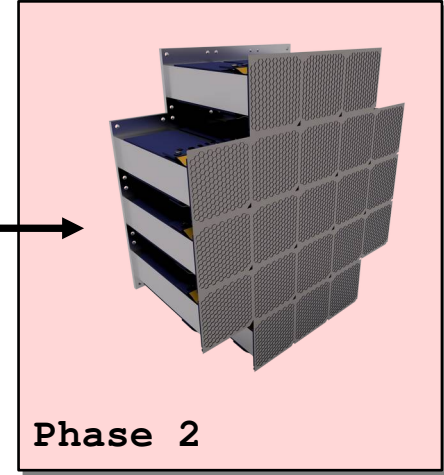
Module

x9



Phase 1

x2.5



Phase 2

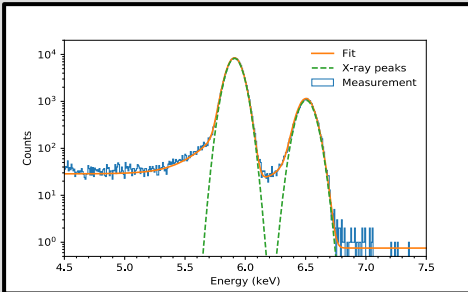
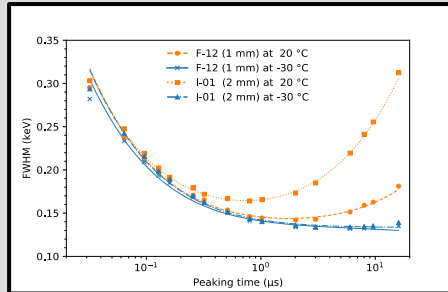
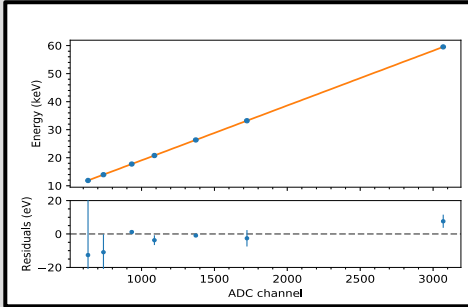
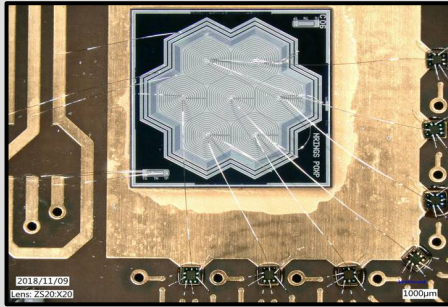
TRISTAN prototype

- 7-pixels with external CMOS

Prototype results

Photon response

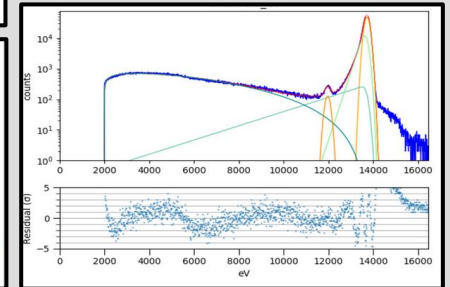
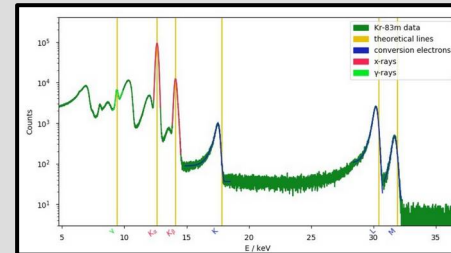
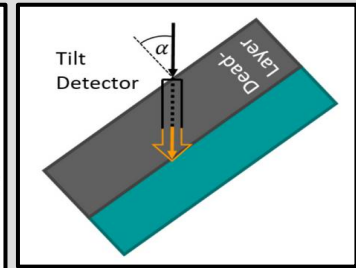
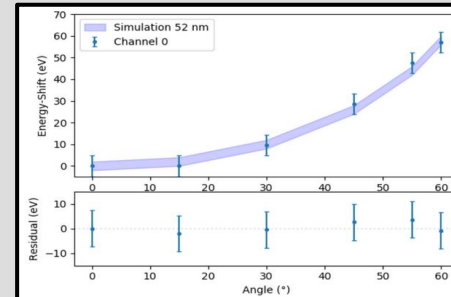
- 130 eV (FWHM) at 6 keV
- <150 eV (FWHM) for <1 μ s shaping time
- 0.1 % linearity over 60 keV range



J. Phys. G46 46 065203 (2019)

Electron response

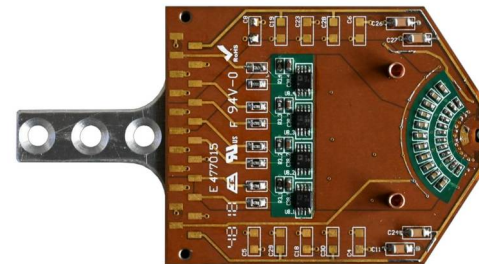
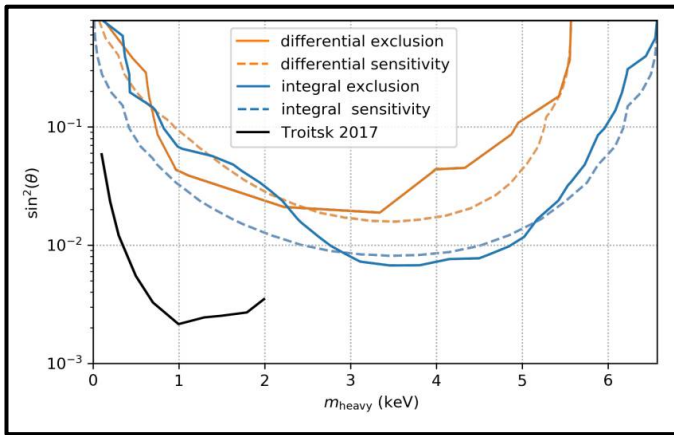
- Semi empirical model in construction
- Dead-layer measurements using e-gun (tilting the detector) and ^{241}Am sources



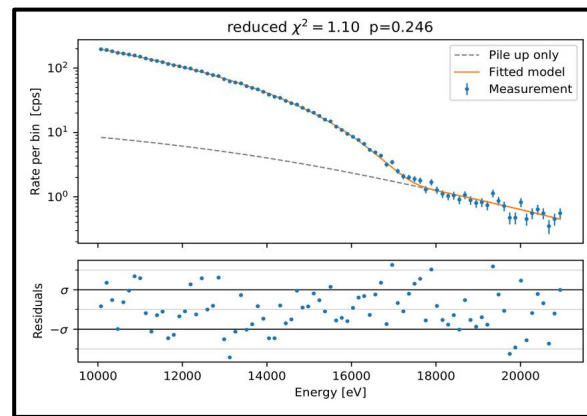
J. Phys. G: 48 015008 (2021)

Prototype applications

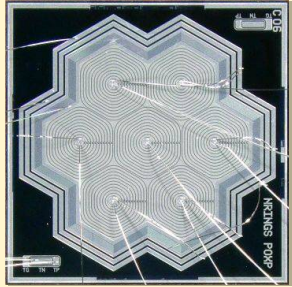
2017-2019 :
TRISTAN 7-pixels prototype implemented in
Troitsk nu mass spectrometer → differential
and integral measurements



2019-2020 :
TRISTAN 7-pixels prototype implemented in
KATRIN as **Forward Beam Monitor**.
Monitoring since KNM2

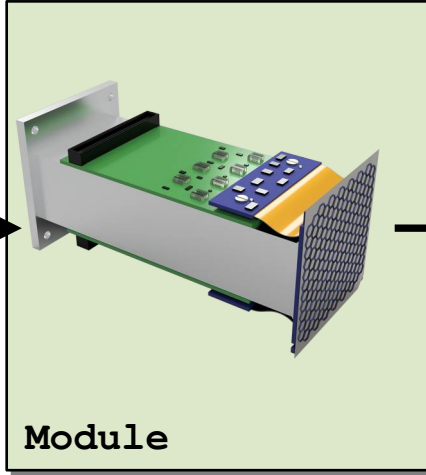


Staged approach



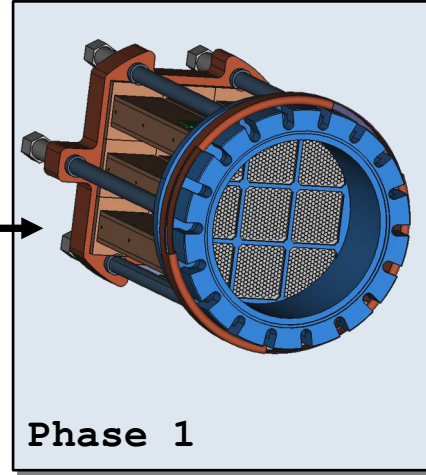
Prototypes

x24



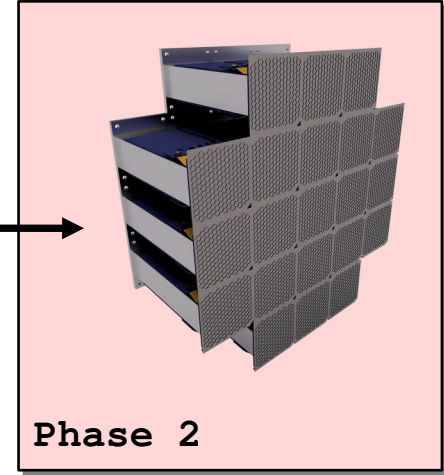
Module

x9



Phase 1

x2.5

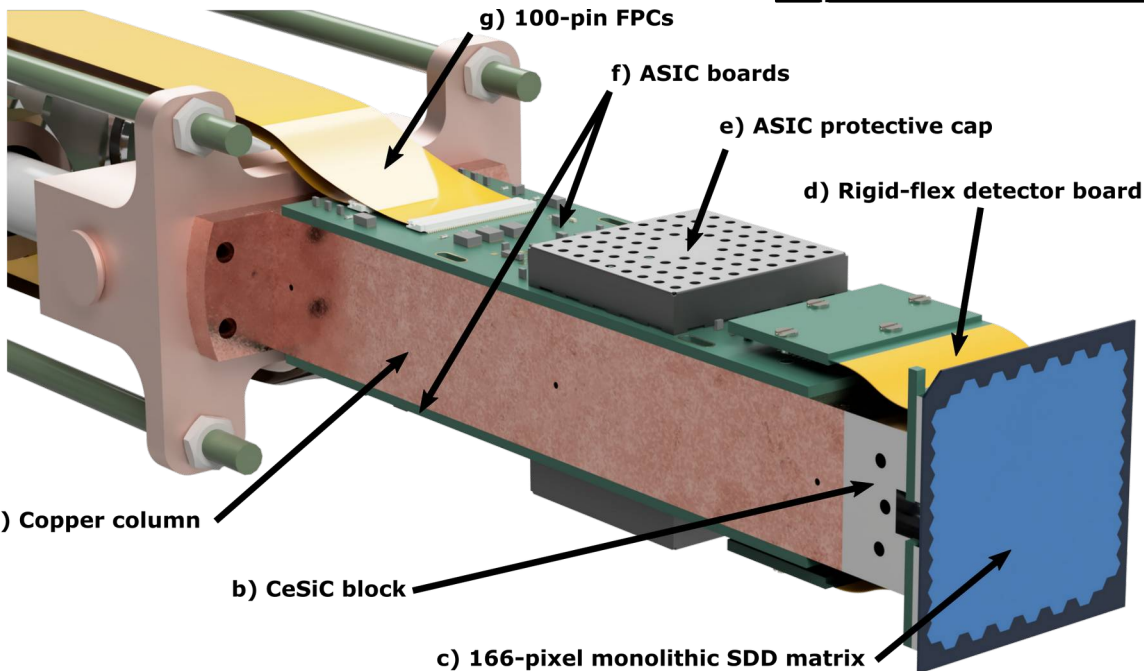
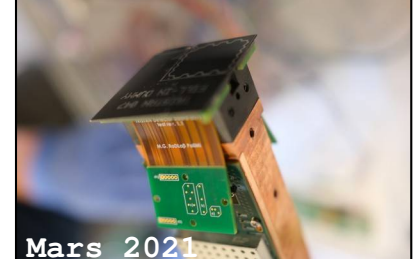
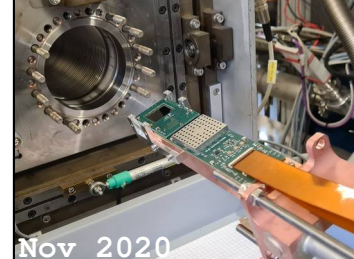
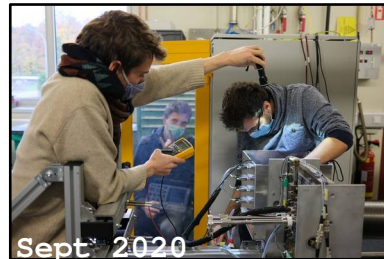


Phase 2

TRISTAN module

- 166-pixels with integrated JFET

Design of the TRISTAN Module

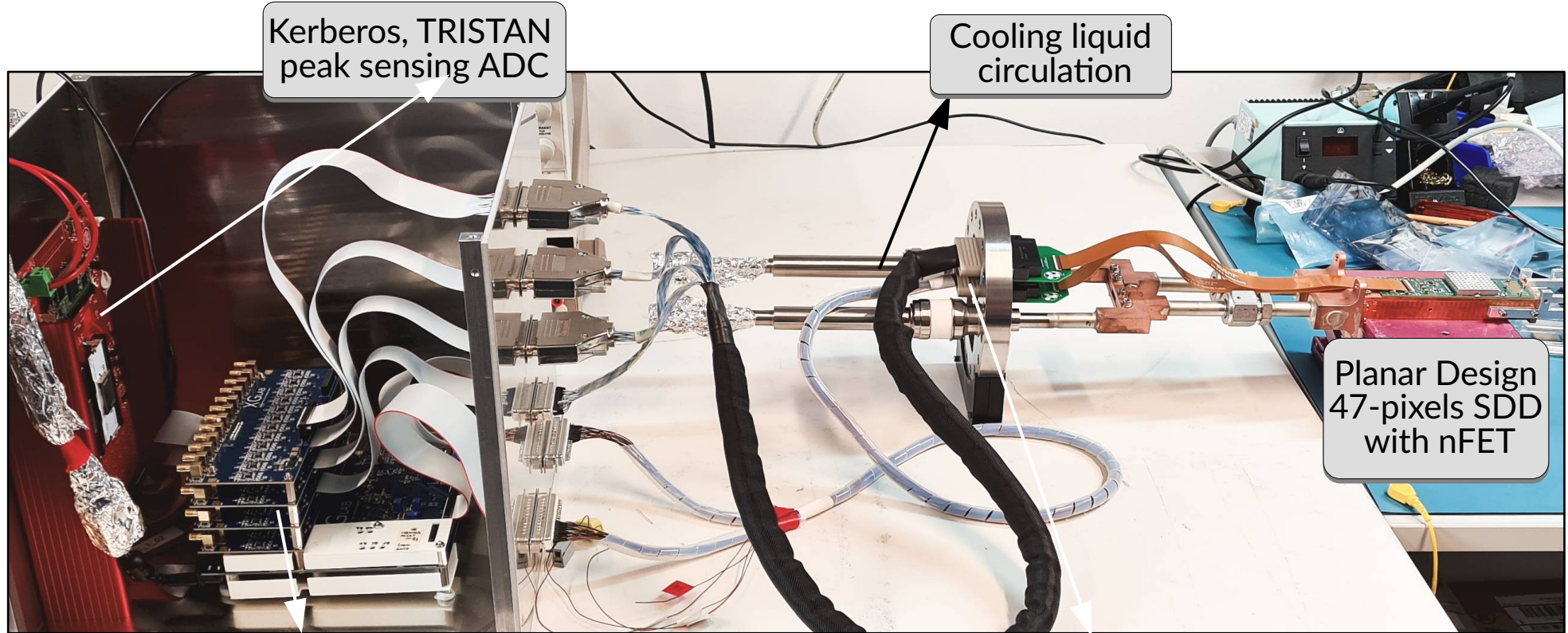


Operating 166-pix SDD in UHV (10^{-8} mbar), cool (-80°C), intense B field (~ 1 T), low noise (< 300 eV FWHM)

- Large SDD matrix with integrated FET
- CeSiC : carbon-fiber reinforced silicon carbide
- Rigid-flex with high density
- Dedicated ASIC
- 1-m long Kapton flex cable

TRISTAN Module

1st operation of a 47-pix TRISTAN SDD on Oct 2020



Kerberos, TRISTAN
peak sensing ADC

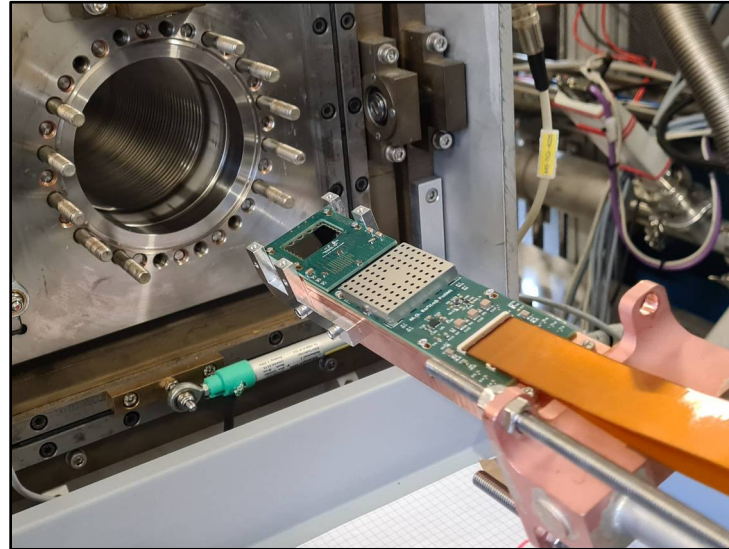
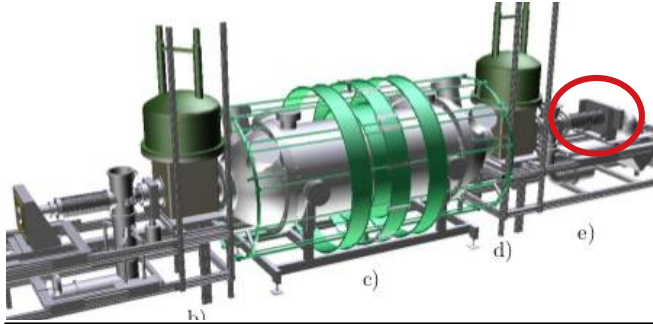
Cooling liquid
circulation

Planar Design
47-pixels SDD
with nFET

48-ch bias board

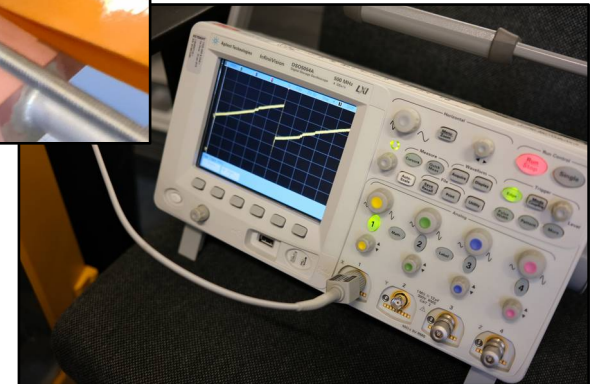
400 pins micro-D
CF100 flange

TRISTAN Module Integration



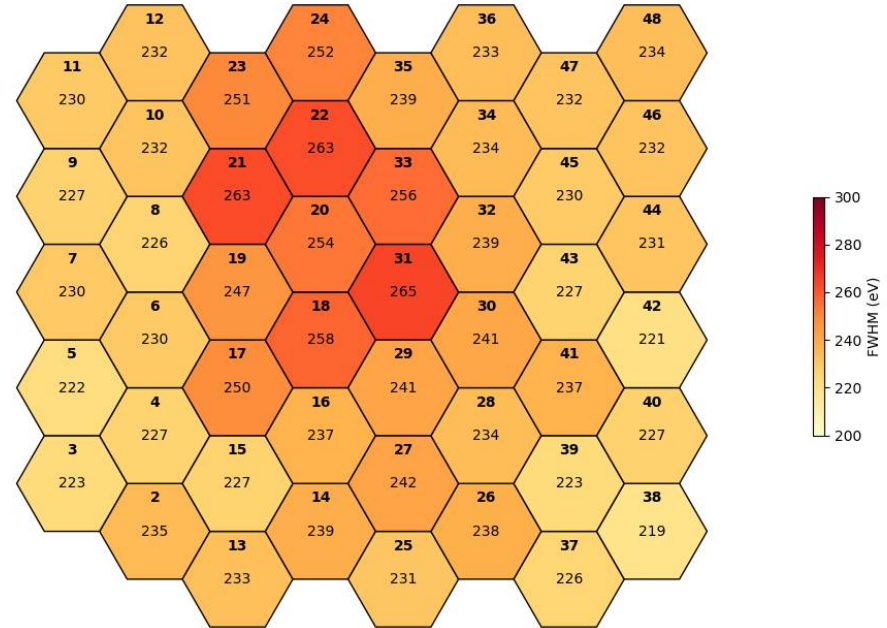
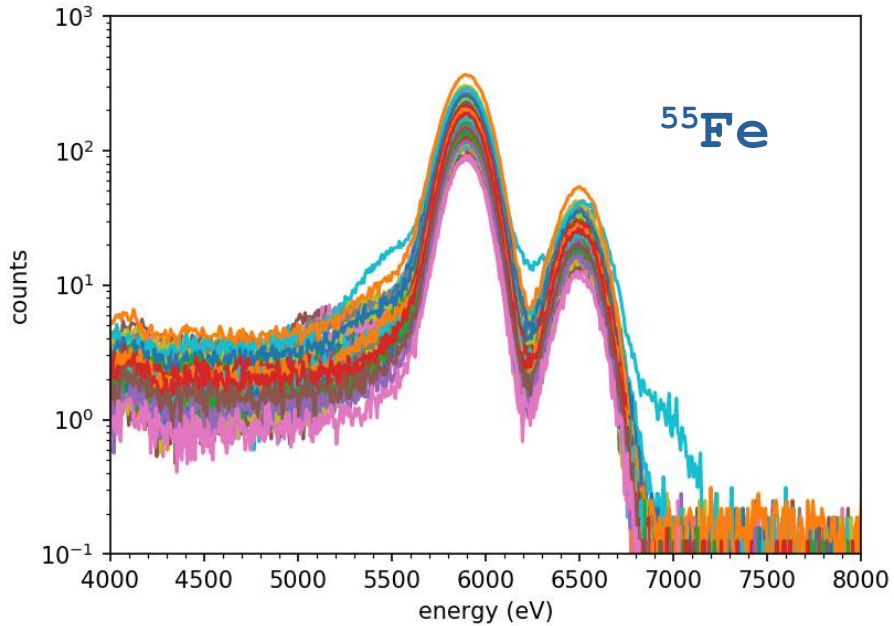
Test in **realistic conditions**

- Ultra High Vacuum
- Magnetic Fields
- Cooling system



Insertion of a 47-pix planar design → test the full chain of acquisition

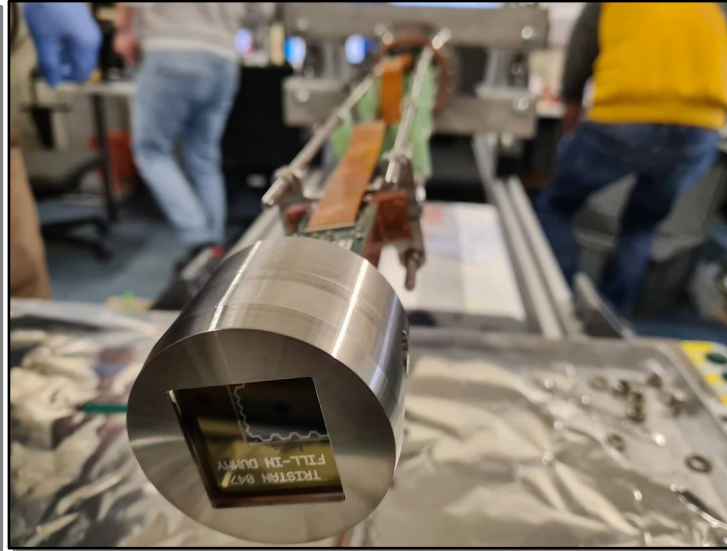
TRISTAN Module Integration



^{55}Fe x-rays

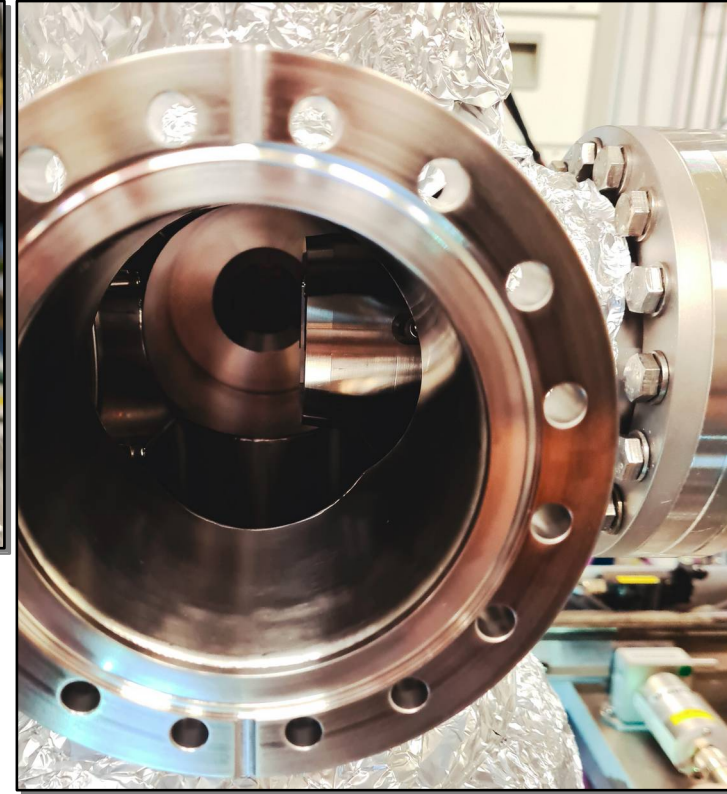
- Test with integrated set-up
- Homogeneous
- Stable

TRISTAN Module Integration



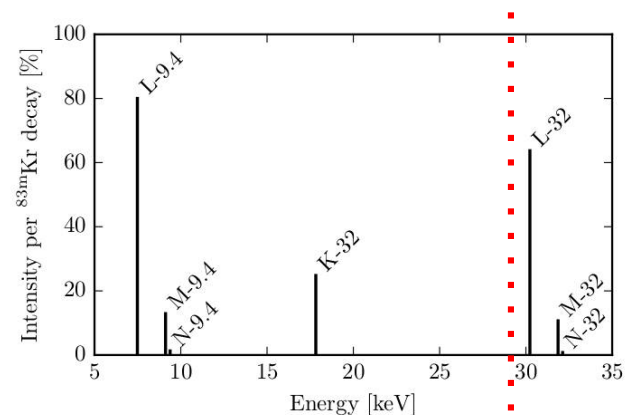
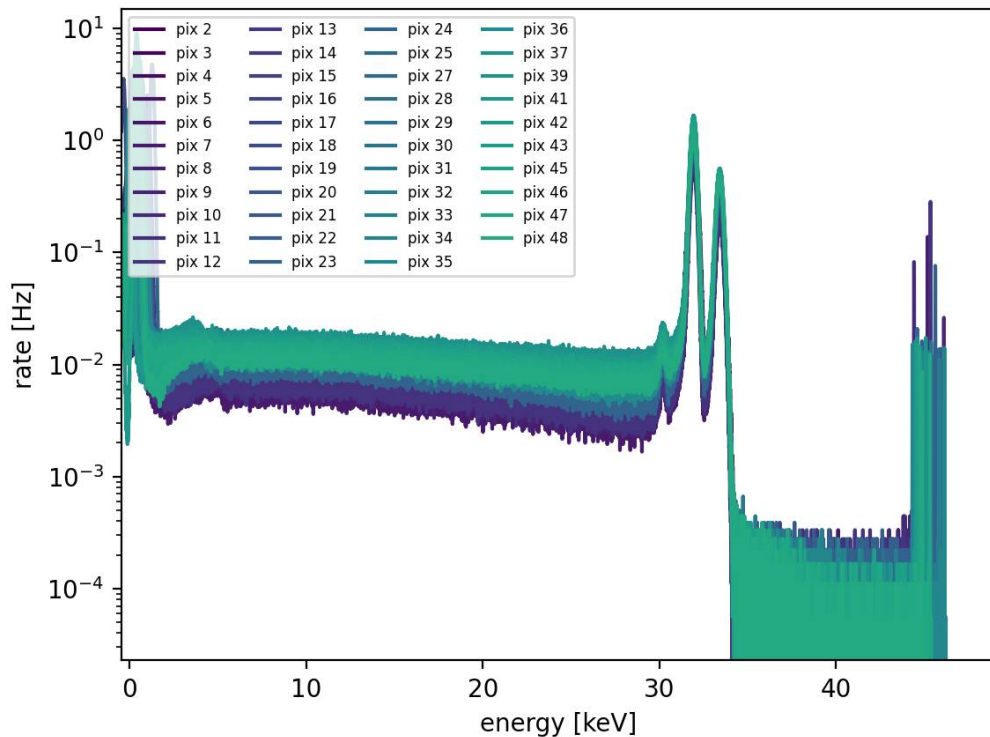
^{83m}Kr electrons from MoS

- Monoenergetic
- Vacuum (10^{-8} mbar)
- Operating at -50°C

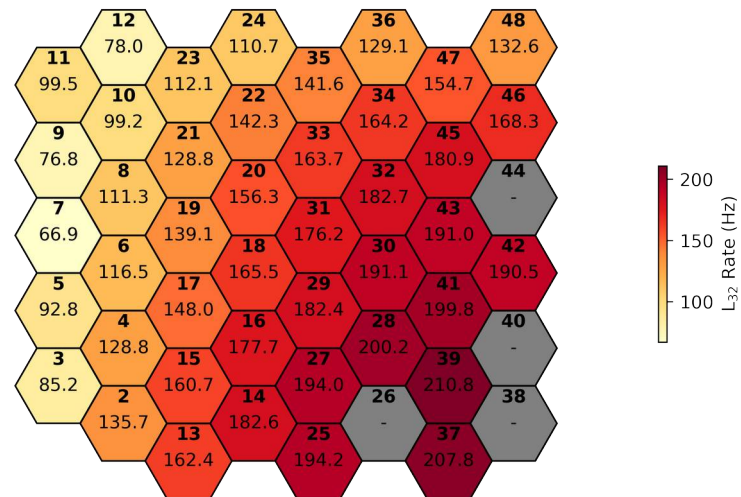


1st electron light with a 47-pix TRISTAN inside MoS KATRIN on April 2021

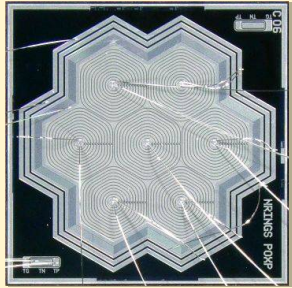
TRISTAN Module Integration



- Studying of the **electron response**
- Analyzing plane HV to 30 kV to focus on L32 line
- Size of the source \sim size of the detector

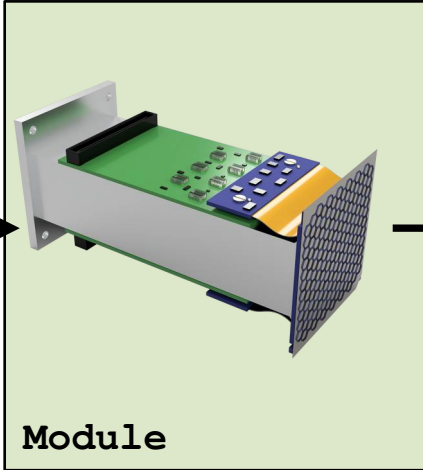


Staged approach



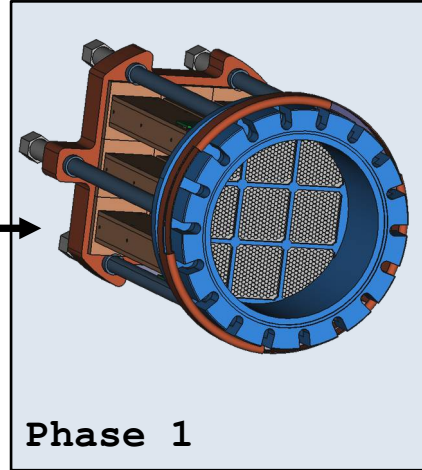
Prototypes

x24



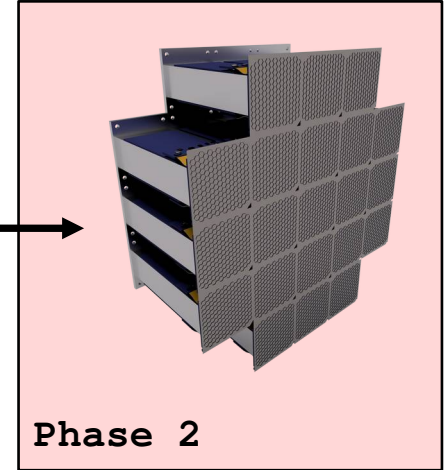
Module

x9



Phase 1

x2.5



Phase 2

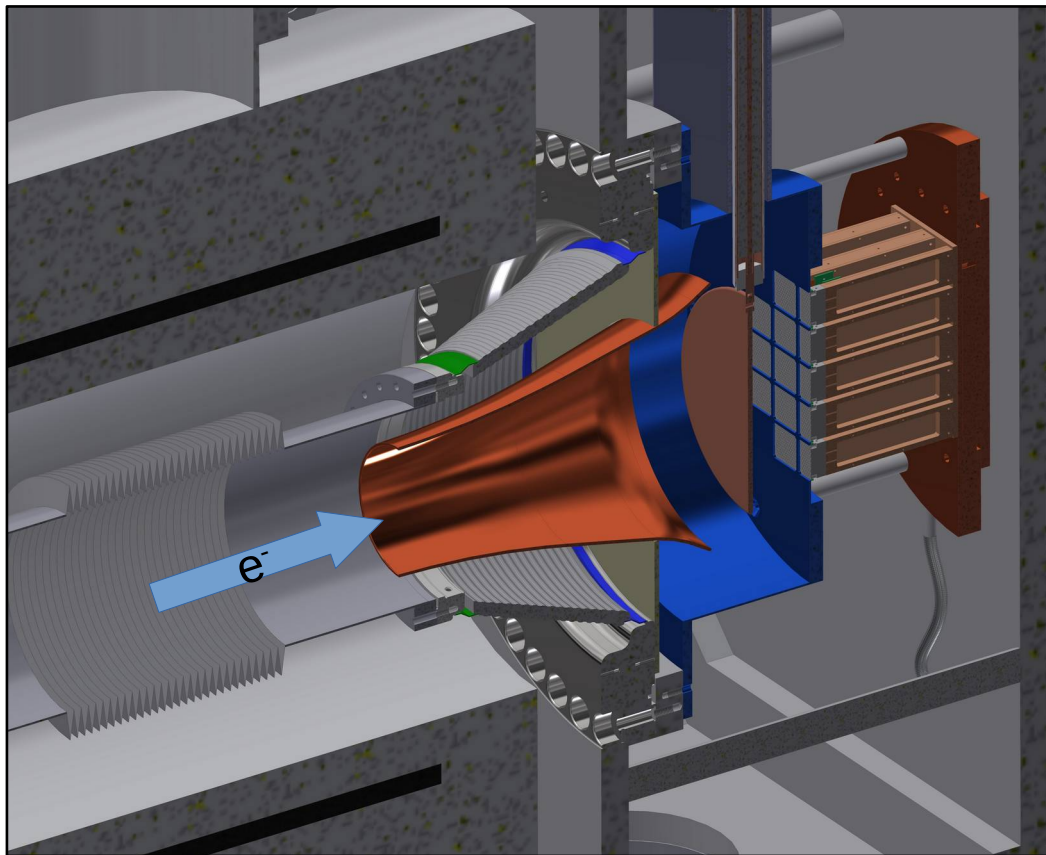
Mini-TRISTAN

- 9 x modules
→ 1500 pixels

Full TRISTAN

- 21 x modules
→ 3500 pixels

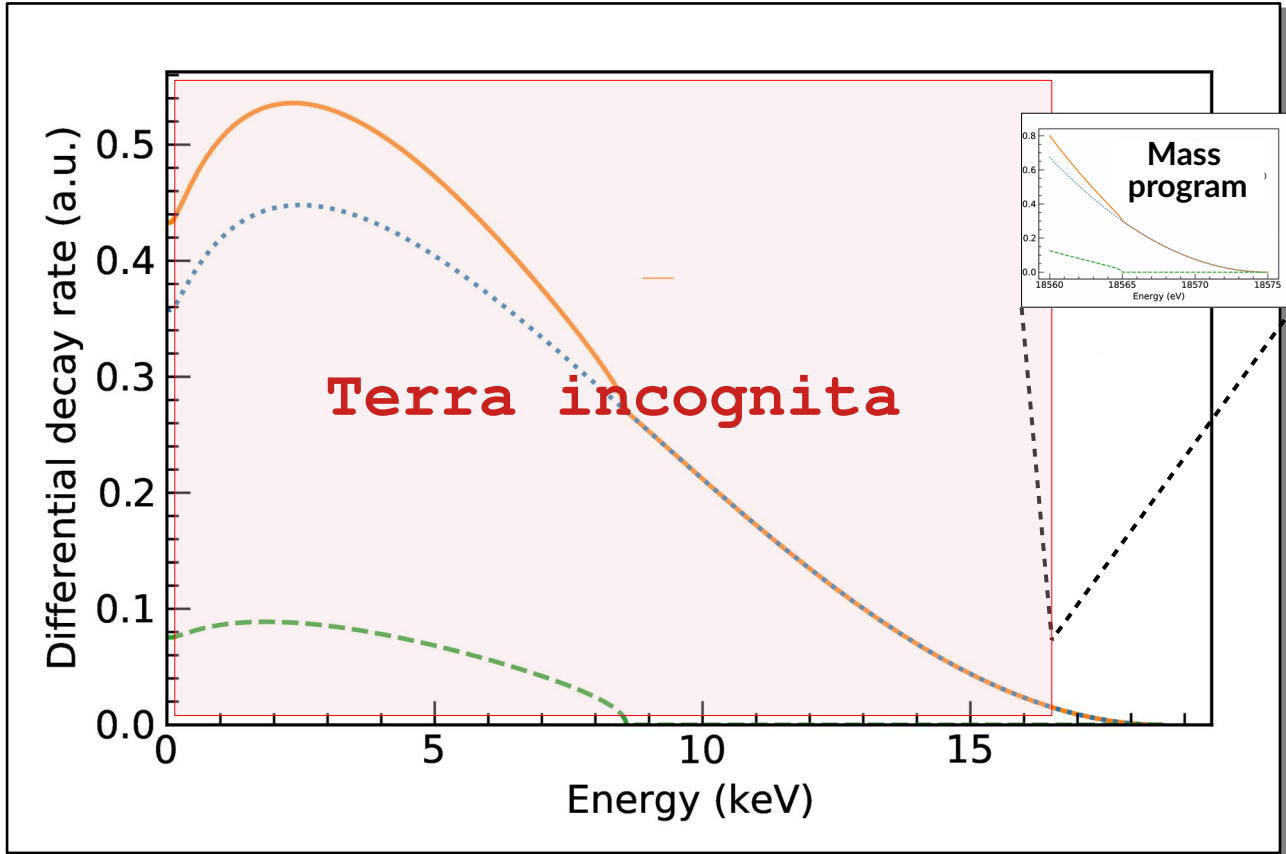
TRISTAN Final Detector



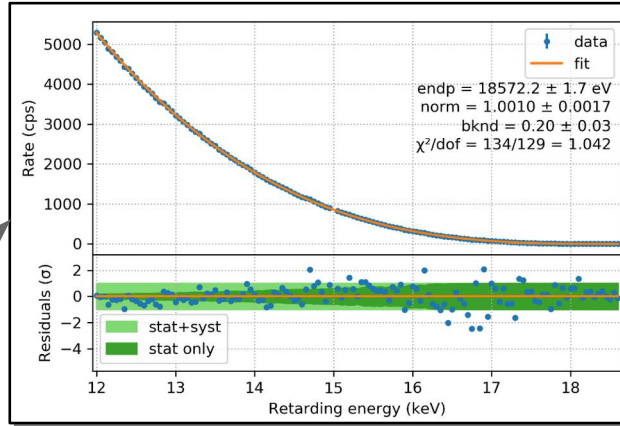
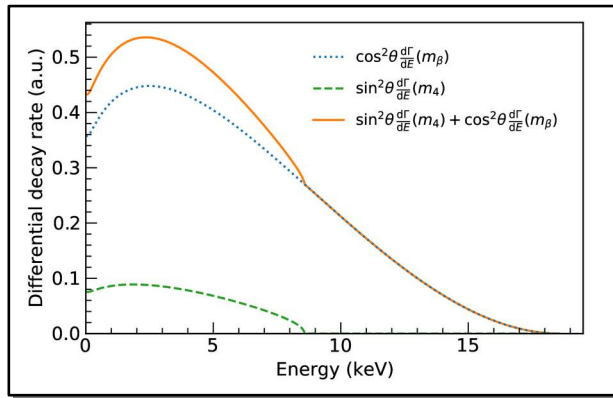
Next milestones :

- **New DAQ** system
- **Full model** of the tritium spectrum
- **First physics runs** with **9 modules** in the KATRIN beamline (~ 2022)

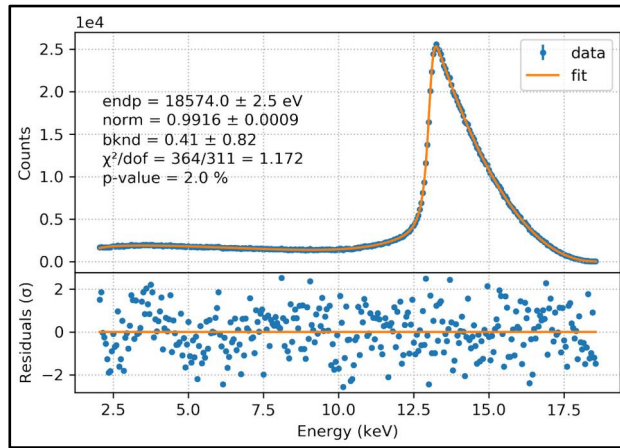
Deep Tritium Model



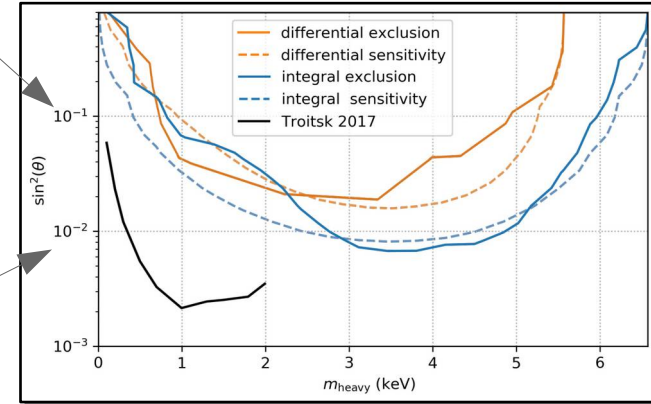
Deep Tritium Model



JINST 14 P11013 (2019)



JINST 14 P11013 (2019)



Deep Tritium Model : effects to consider

Effect can be different for differential and integral mode

Rear-Wall

- Back-scattering
- Auger electron emission
- Residual beta-activity

Source

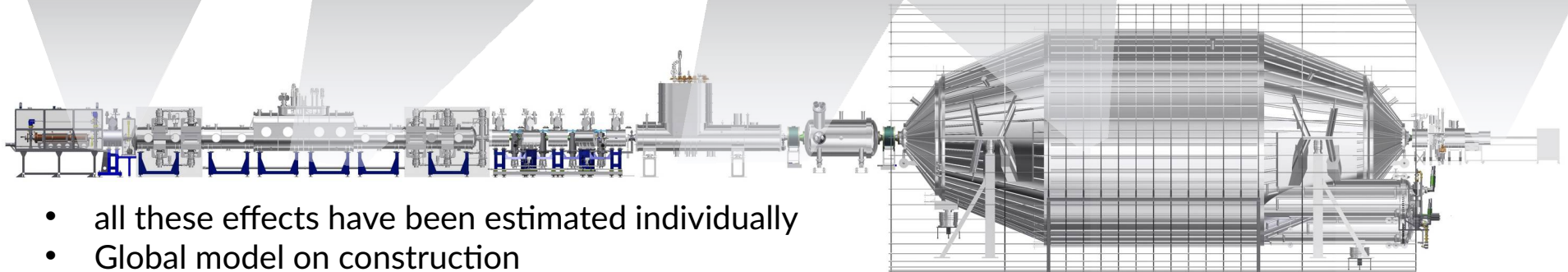
- Scattering
- Magnetic traps
- Plasma effects
- Stability
- Gas composition and impurities

Transport - Spectrometer

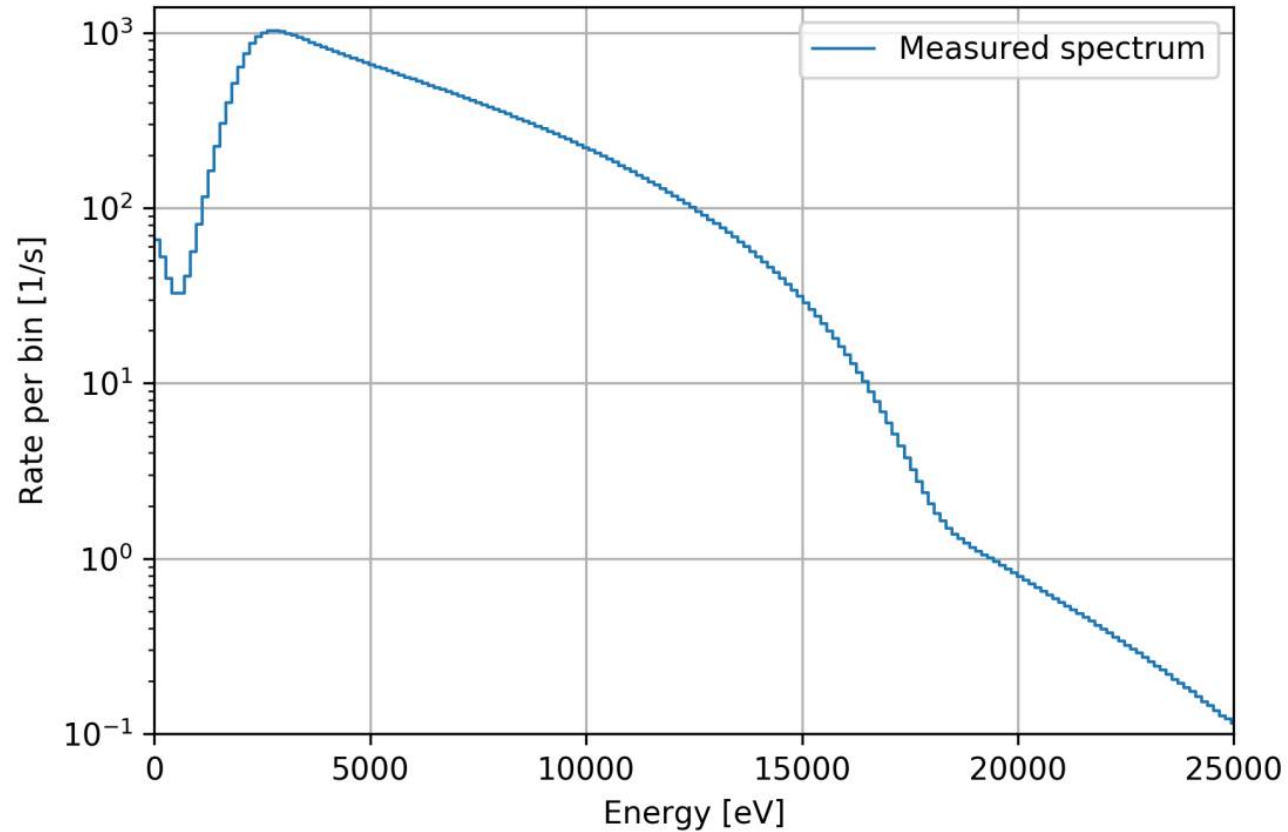
- Non-adiabaticity transport
- Synchrotron radiation
- HV stability
- Background
- B-field stab.

Detector

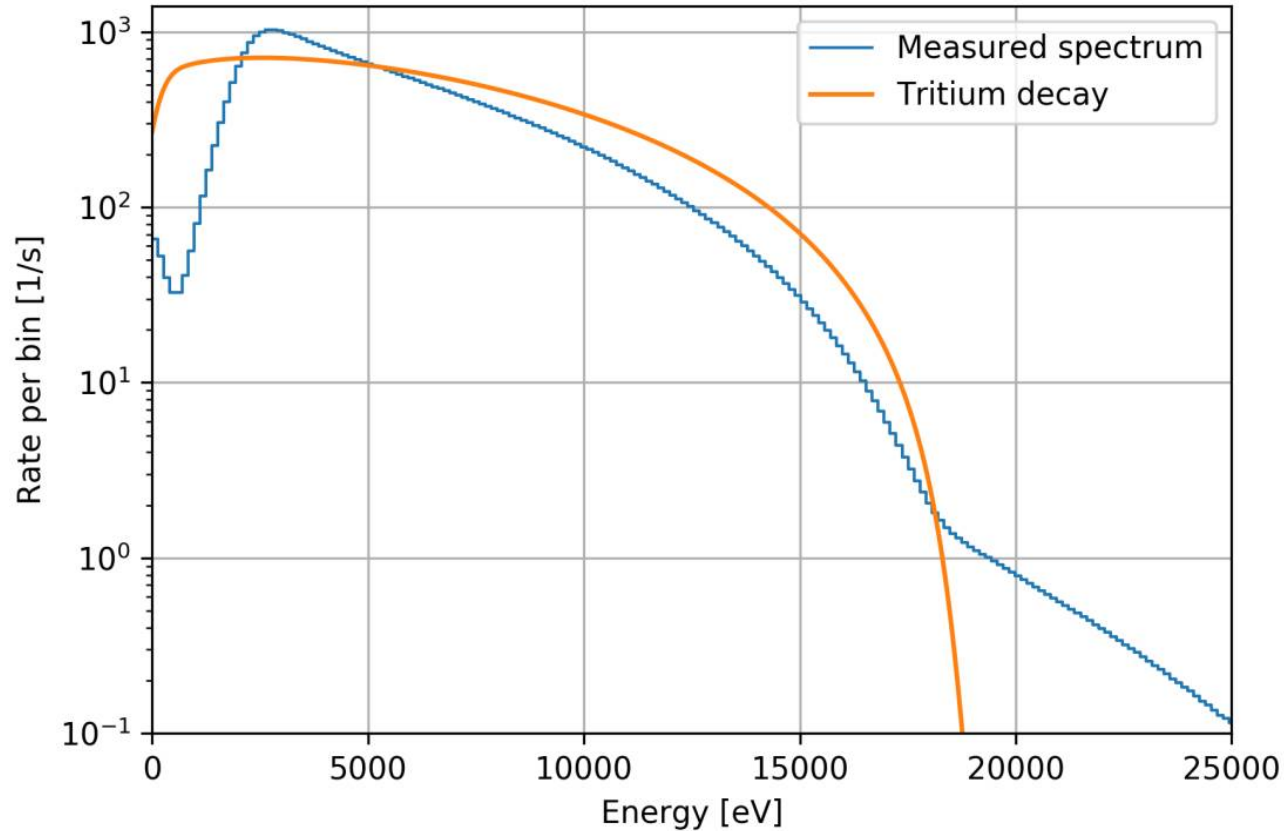
- SDD response
- Read-out resp
- ADC NL
- Post acceleration electrode
- Pile-up, backscattering
- Penning traps
- Stability



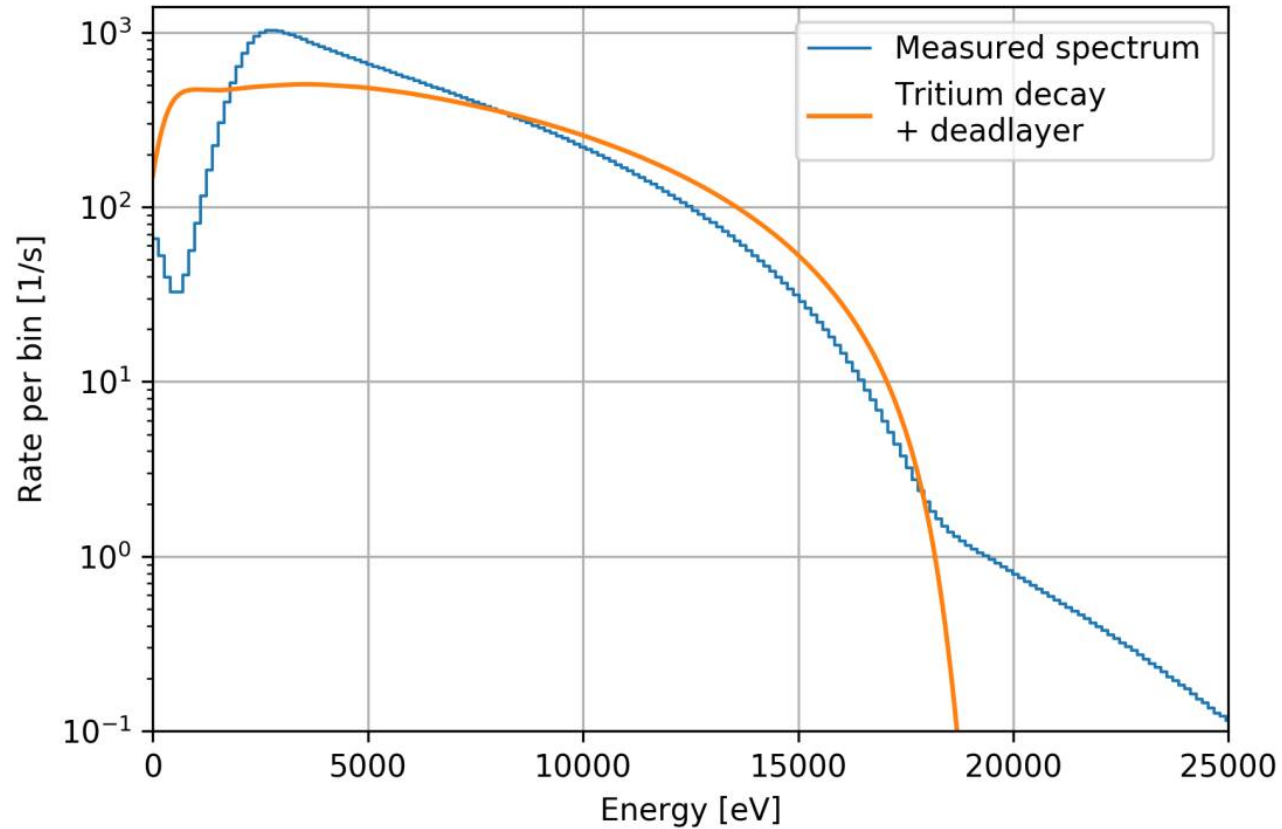
Deep Tritium Model : illustration



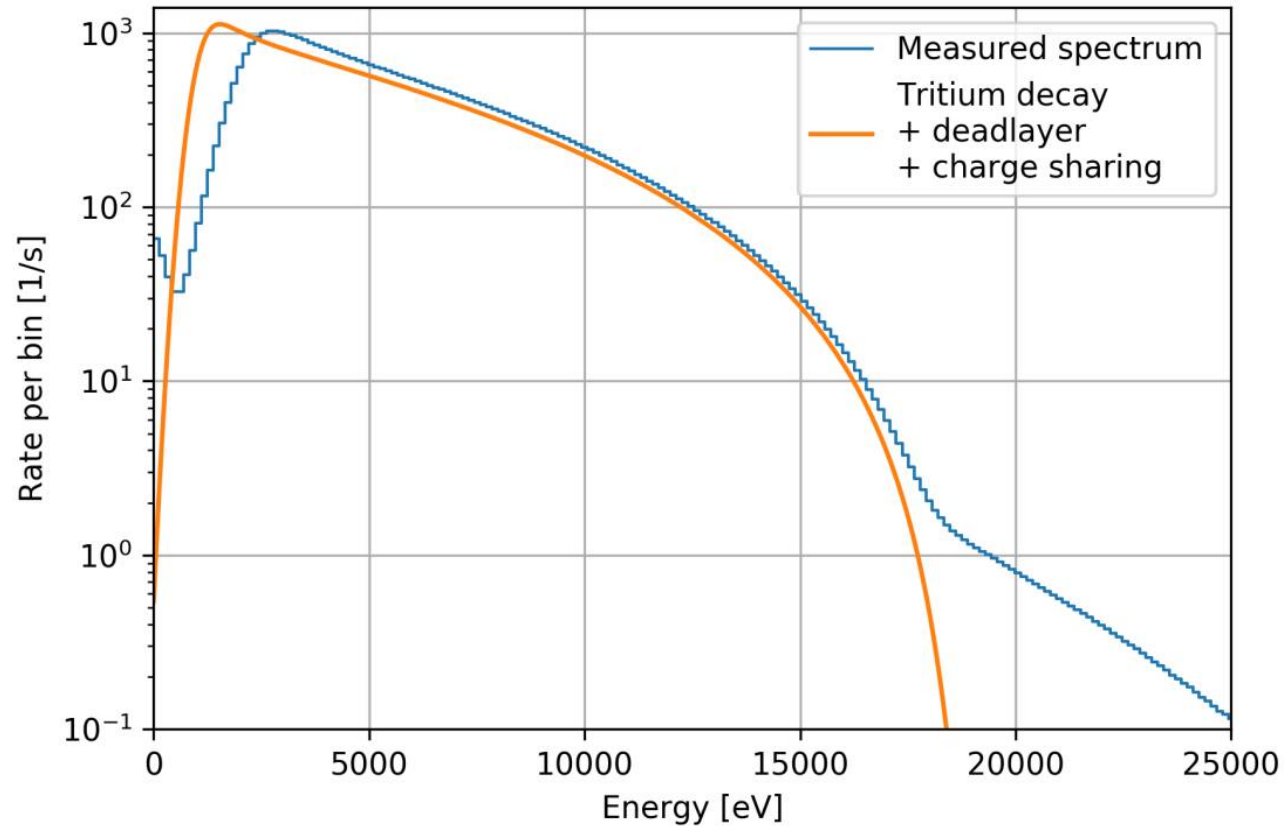
Deep Tritium Model : illustration



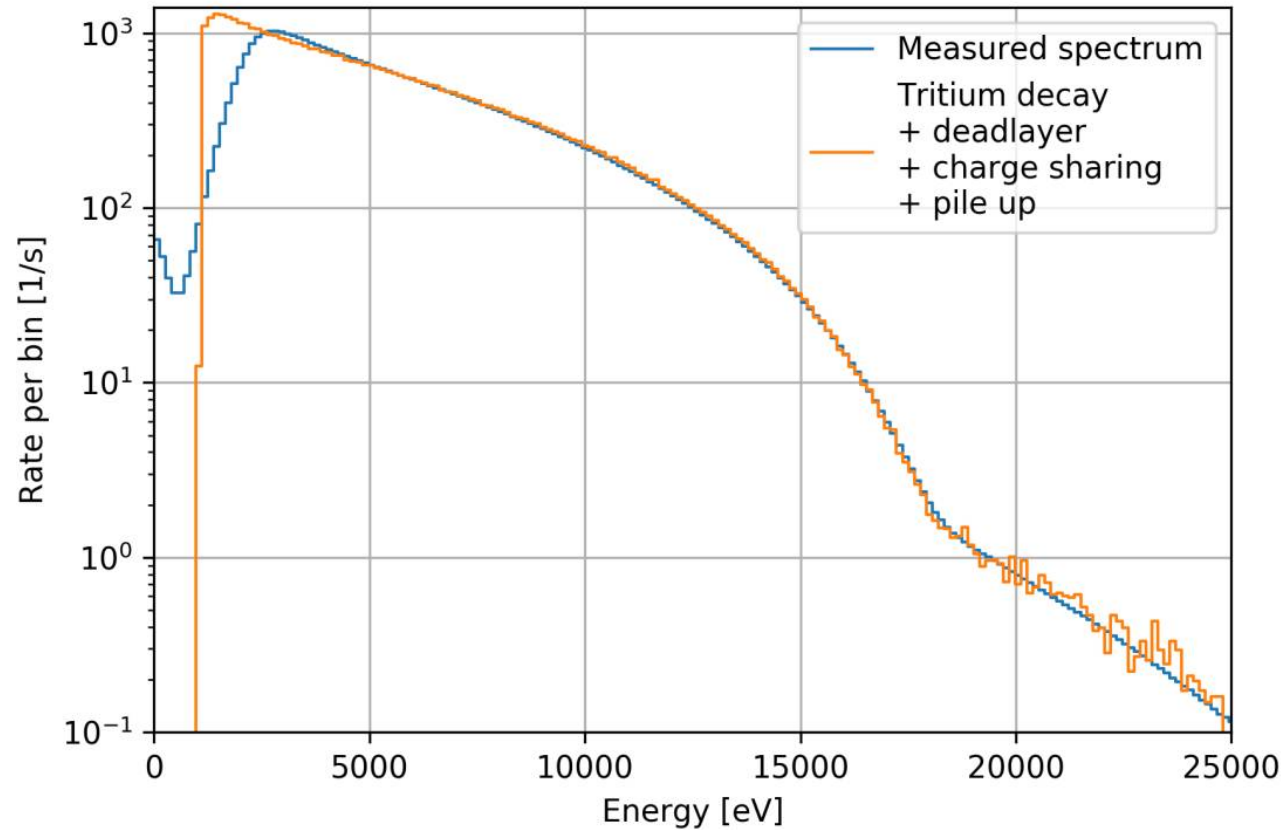
Deep Tritium Model : illustration



Deep Tritium Model : illustration

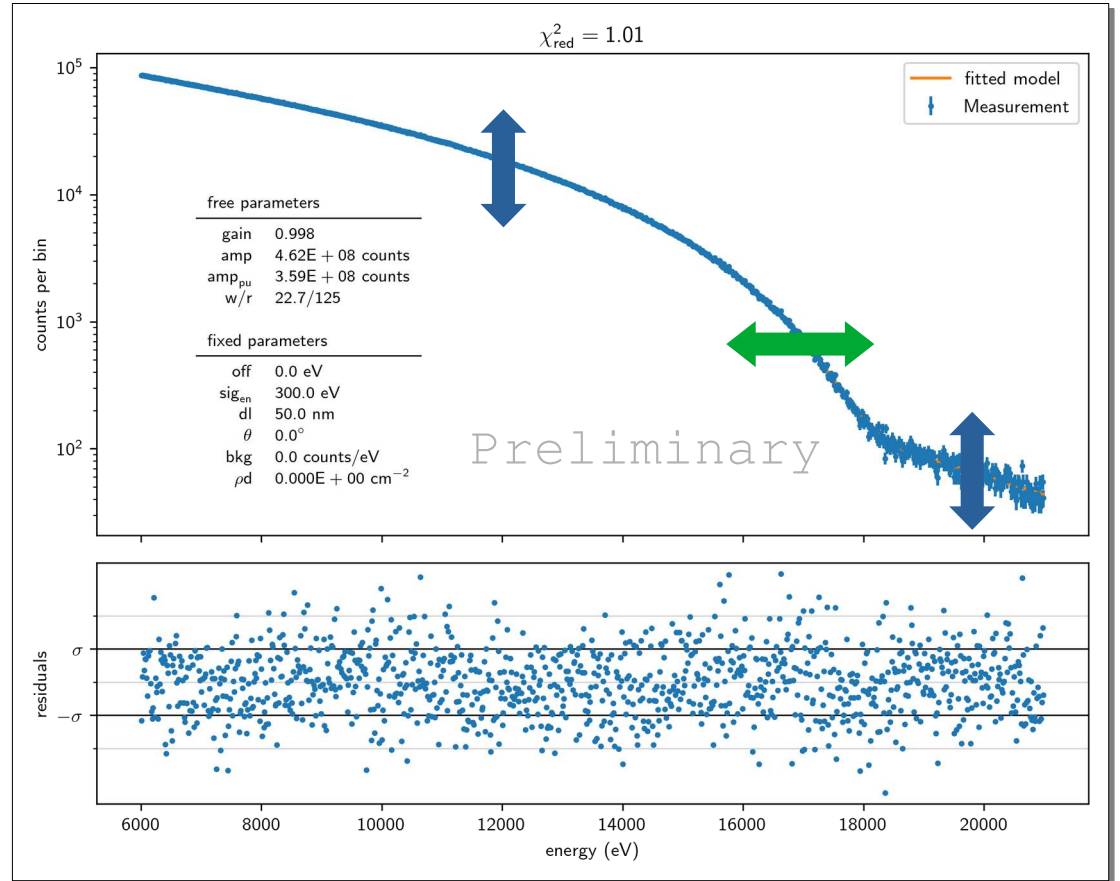


Deep Tritium Model : illustration



Deep Tritium Model : illustration

- Development of a full model for complete sensitivity studies
- **1h of nominal mass campaign**
- Total countrate: 16079 cps
- Countrate in ROI: 7496 cps
- Counts : $2.3 \cdot 10^6$ electrons



Conclusion

- Sterile neutrinos are a natural extension of the SM
- keV-sterile neutrinos are a viable dark matter candidate
- New ideas are being explored to search to search these particles. Exciting new measurements are coming!

KATRIN now holds the best direct limit on the neutrino mass

TRISTAN is getting ready to allow KATRIN to search for keV-sterile neutrinos



Thank you all



ECHO

Statistical Fluctuation – No Pile Up – Counts = 1e10
Theoretical Spectrum Supposed to be perfectly known

