

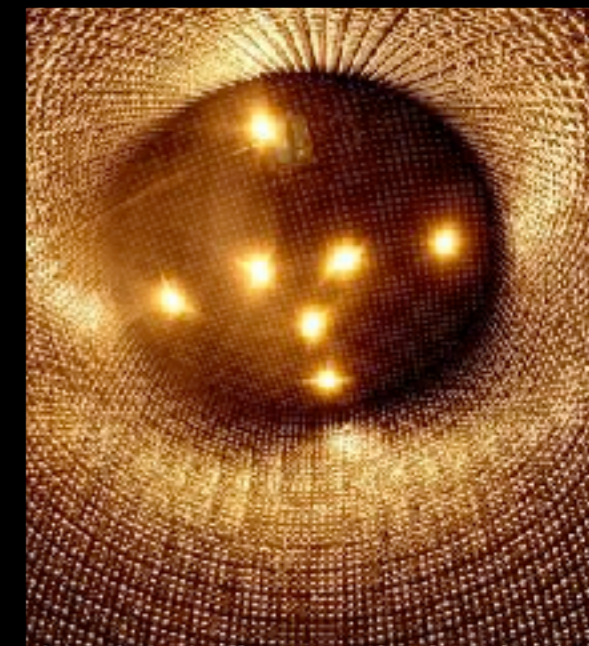
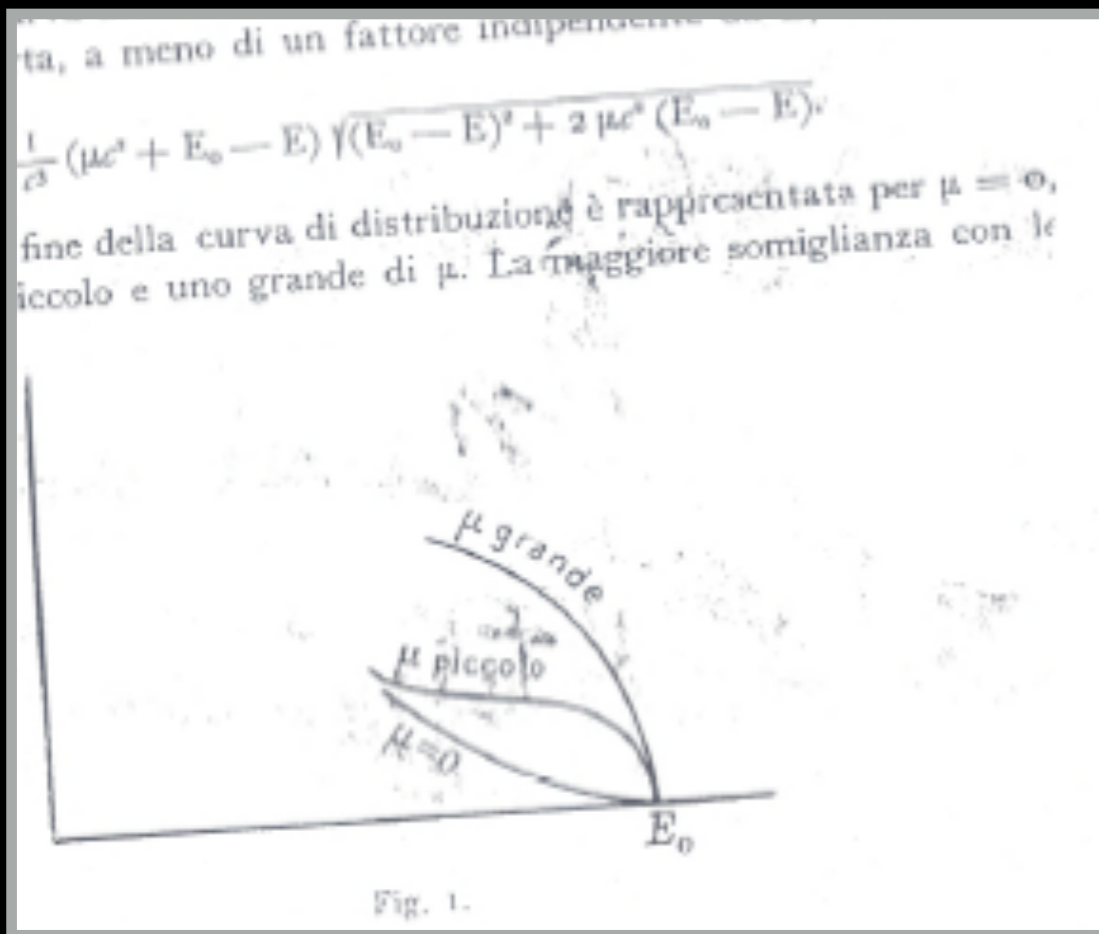
# The Project 8 Neutrino Experiment



∨ INFN-Roma \* Workshop 2020

July 8<sup>th</sup> 2020

Joseph A. Formaggio  
MIT

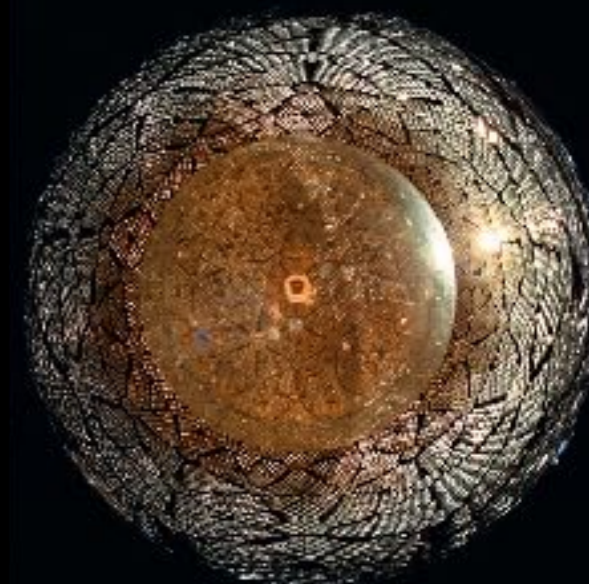


Takaaki Kajita  
(Super-Kamiokande)

We have made a very important advance over the past century. **Neutrinos have mass.**

That means that the mechanism by which neutrinos gain mass is **different** from the other fermions.

This discovery leads to specific **predictions...**



Arthur B. McDonald  
(Sudbury Neutrino Observatory)

# Quarks

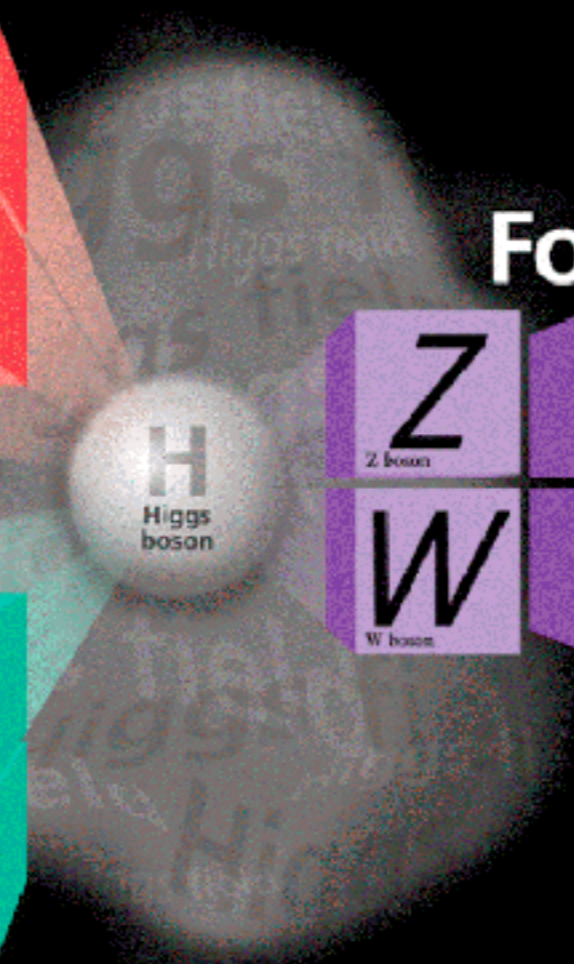
$u$ up	$c$ charm	$t$ top
$d$ down	$s$ strange	$b$ bottom

$e$ electron	$\mu$ muon	$\tau$ tau
$\nu_e$ electron neutrino	$\nu_\mu$ muon neutrino	$\nu_\tau$ tau neutrino

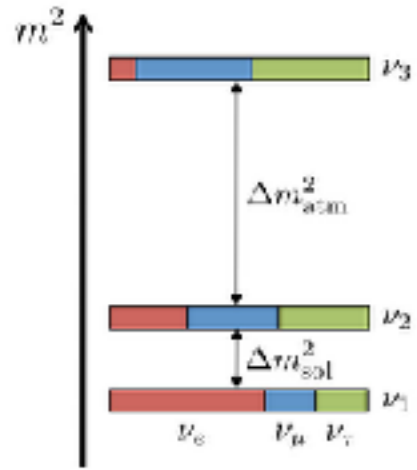
# Leptons

# Forces

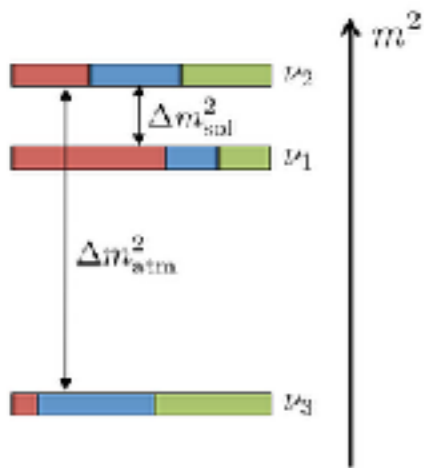
$Z$ Z boson	$\gamma$ photon
$W$ W boson	$g$ gluon



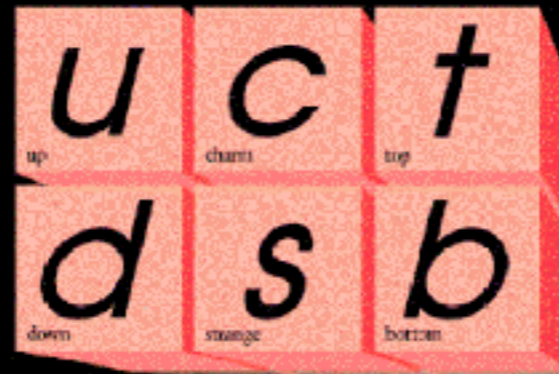
### normal hierarchy (NH)



### inverted hierarchy (IH)



## Quarks



## Forces



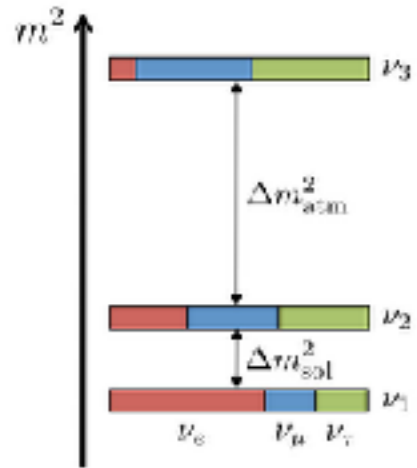
## Leptons

# The Origin of Mass

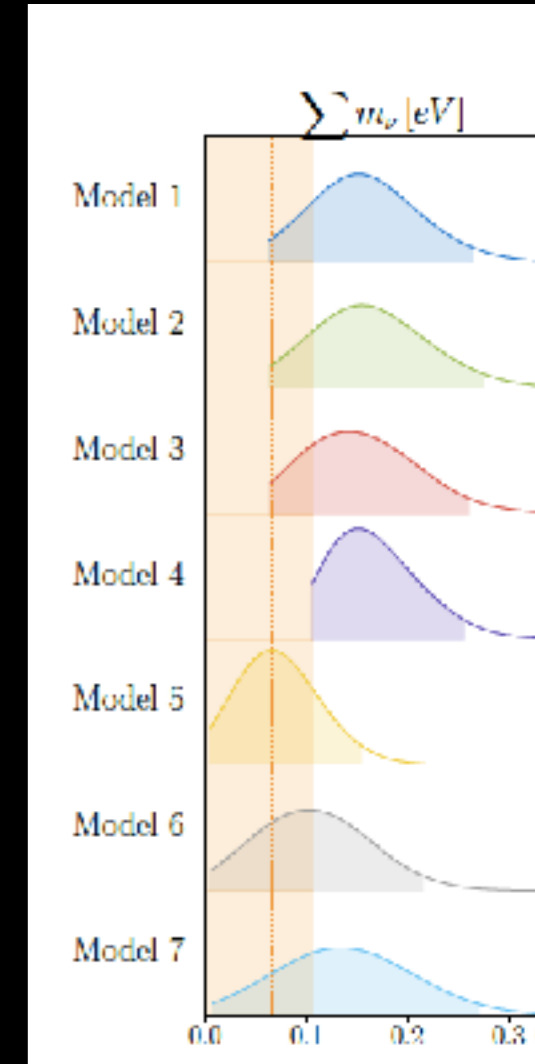
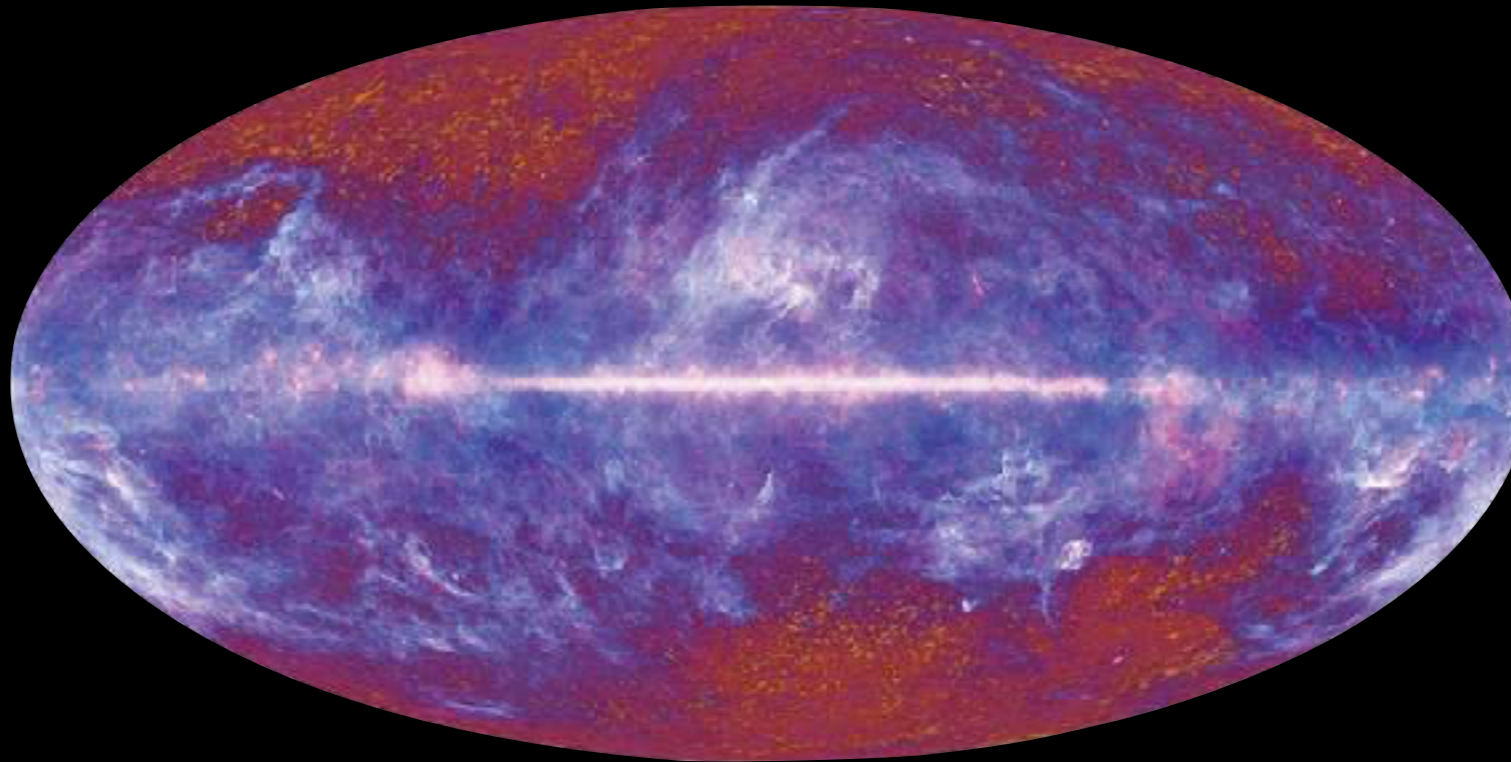
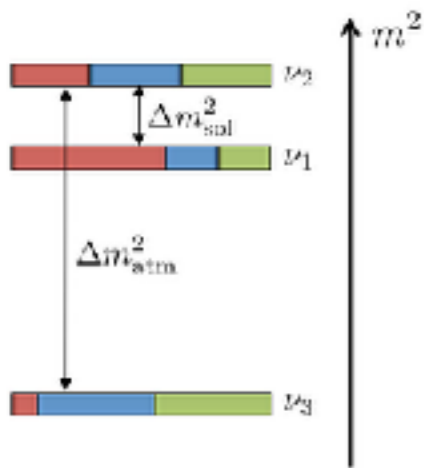
The mechanism by which particles gain mass in the Standard Model may not apply for neutrinos.

The neutrino mass mechanism remains unknown.

### normal hierarchy (NH)



### inverted hierarchy (IH)



## The Origin of Mass

## Impact on Cosmology

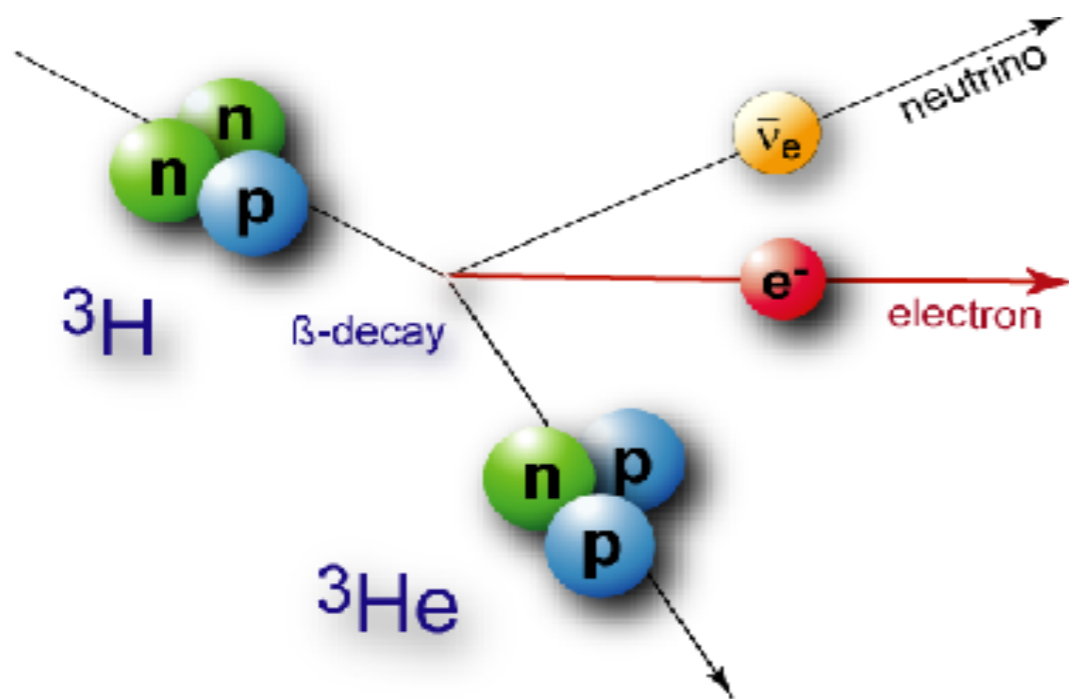
The mechanism by which particles gain mass in the Standard Model may not apply for neutrinos.

Given the primordial abundance of neutrinos, even a small finite mass has a measurable impact on cosmic evolution.

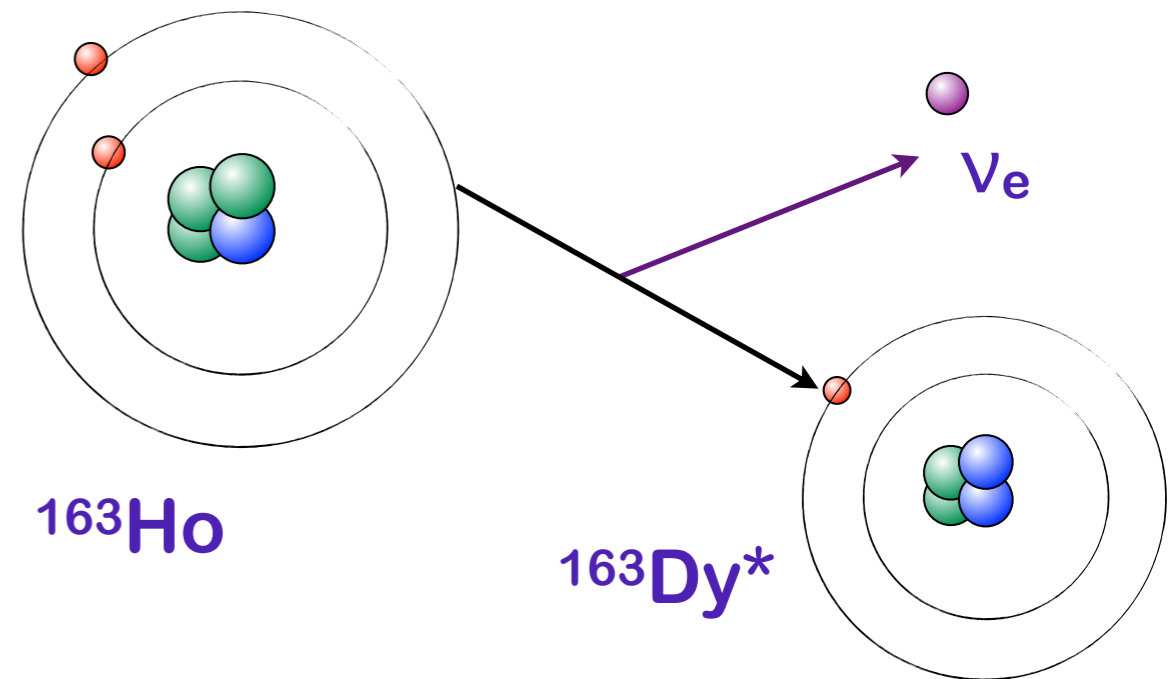
The neutrino mass mechanism remains unknown.

Measurable in next generation of experiments.

## Tritium beta decay

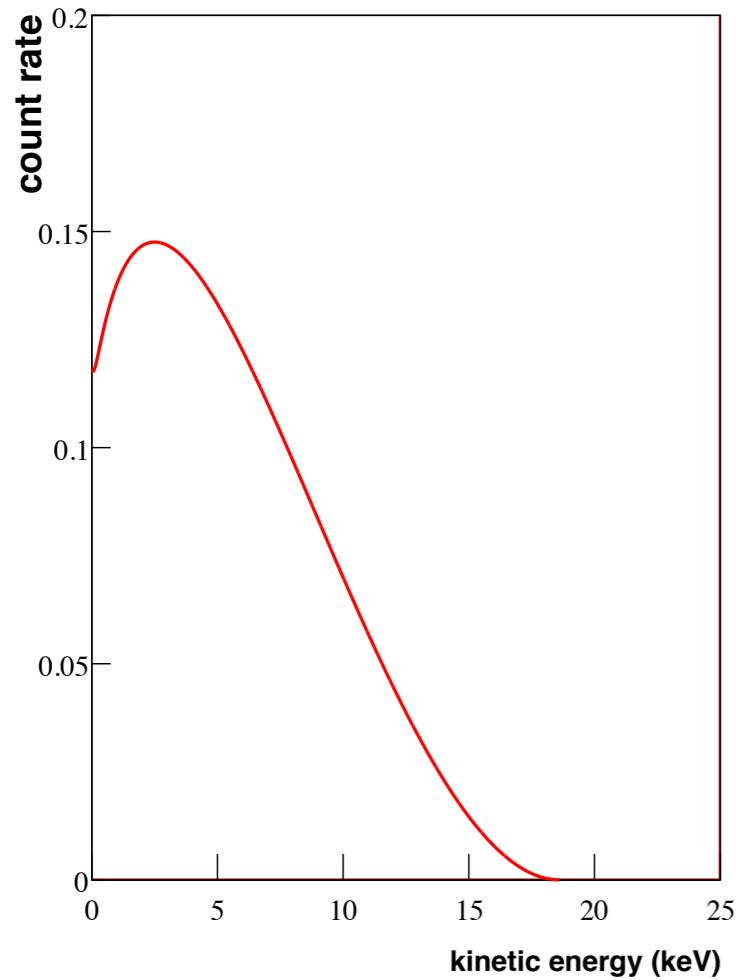


## Holmium electron capture



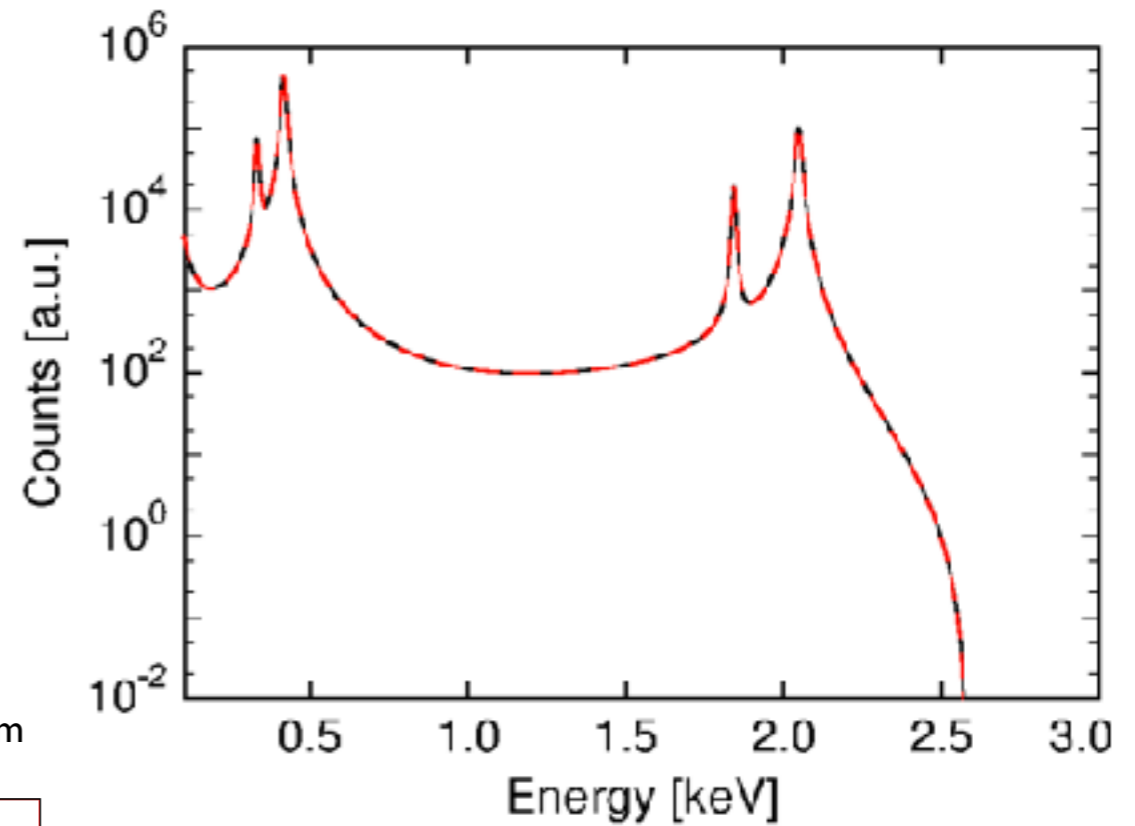
*Kinematic spectra from beta decay or electron capture embed the neutrino mass near the endpoint.*

Electron Energy

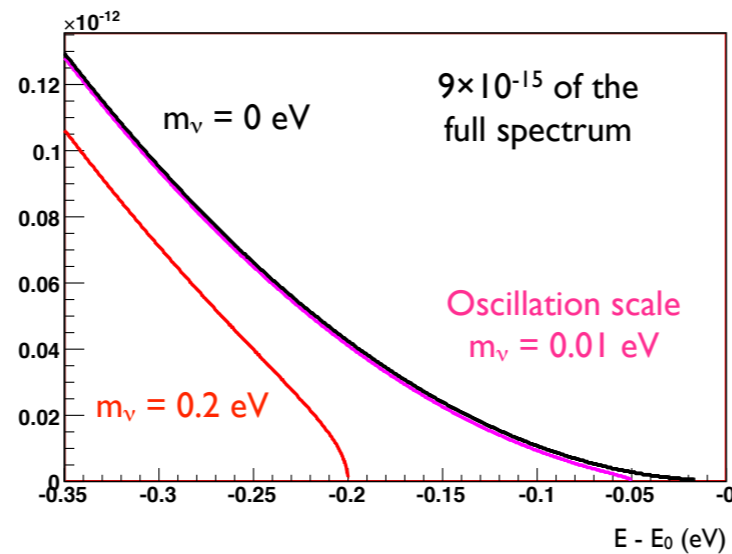


$$\dot{N} \propto p_\nu E_\nu$$

In both cases,  
differential spectrum  
depends on the  
neutrino momentum.



Endpoint of the Tritium  $\beta$ -decay Spectrum



$$m_\beta^2 = \sum_i |U_{ei}|^2 m_{\nu i}^2$$

**Kinematic spectra from beta decay or electron capture embed  
the neutrino mass near the endpoint.**



$^3\text{H}$

18.5 keV

$\tau_{1/2}$  12.3 yrs



$^{163}\text{Ho}$

2.83 keV

$\tau_{1/2}$  4570 yrs



$^{187}\text{Re}$

2.5 keV

$\tau_{1/2}$  4.5 Gyrs



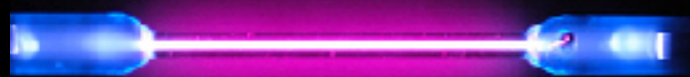
$^{115}\text{In}$

155 eV

$\tau_{1/2}$   $4.1 \times 10^{20}$  yrs

*First,  
pick a source...*





$^3\text{H}$

18.5 keV

$\tau_{1/2}$  12.3 yrs



$^{163}\text{Ho}$

2.83 keV

$\tau_{1/2}$  4570 yrs



$^{187}\text{Re}$

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$^{115}\text{In}$

155 eV

$\tau_{1/2}$   $4.1 \times 10^{20}$  yrs



$^3\text{H}$

18.5 keV

$\tau_{1/2}$  12.3 yrs

Electromagnetic/ Frequency

KATRIN - Project 8



$^{163}\text{Ho}$

2.83 keV

$\tau_{1/2}$  4570 yrs

Calorimetric

ECHO - HOLMES



$^{187}\text{Re}$

2.5 keV

$\tau_{1/2}$  4.5 Gyrs

MARE (ended)



$^{115}\text{In}$

155 eV

$\tau_{1/2}$   $4.1 \times 10^{20}$  yrs

No experiment yet



*Electron transfers all of its energy to the absorbing medium.*

**Calorimetric**  
(Cryogenic Bolometers)

*Electromagnetic filtering of electrons of selected energy.*

**Electromagnetic Collimation**  
(MAC-E Filter)



*Use photon spontaneous emission from electron in magnetic field.*

**Frequency-Based**  
(Cyclotron Radiation Emission Spectroscopy)



*Use photon spontaneous emission from  
electron in magnetic field.*

**Frequency-Based**  
(Cyclotron Radiation Emission Spectroscopy)

# Cyclotron Radiation Emission Spectroscopy (CRES)



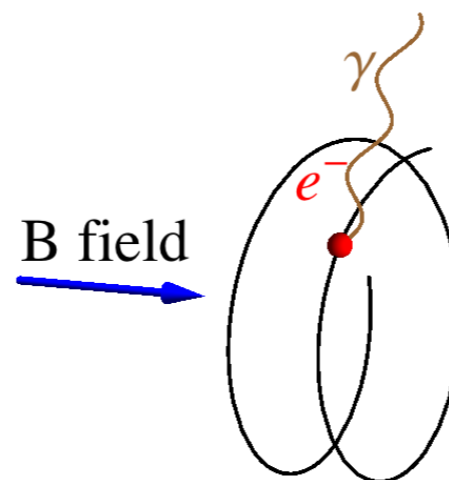
A. L. Schawlow

*“Never  
measure  
anything but  
frequency.”*



O. Heaviside

*Use frequency measurement of cyclotron radiation from single electrons:*



- Source transparent to microwave radiation
- No e<sup>-</sup> transport from source to detector
- Leverages precision inherent in frequency techniques



**PROJECT 8**

Frequency Approach

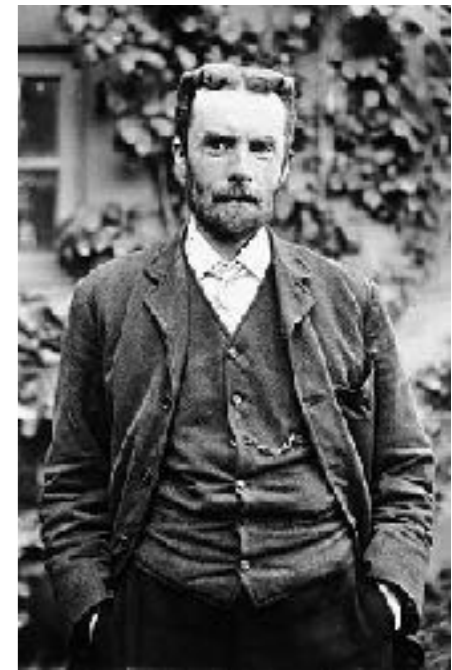


# Cyclotron Radiation Emission Spectroscopy (CRES)

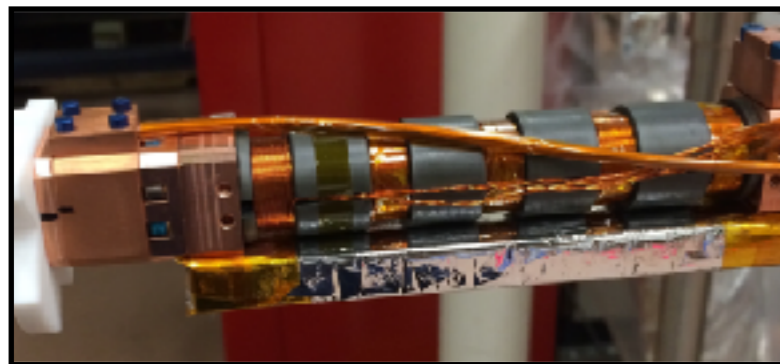


A. L. Schawlow

*“Never  
measure  
anything but  
frequency.”*



O. Heaviside



**PROJECT 8**

Frequency Approach



$$f_c = \frac{f_{c,0}}{\gamma} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{eB}{m_e c^2 + E_{\text{kin}}}$$

$$f_{c,0} = 27.992\,491\,10(6) \text{ GHz T}^{-1}$$

- *Narrow band region of interest (@26 GHz).*
- *Small, but detectable power emitted.*

$$P(17.8 \text{ keV}, 90^\circ, 1 \text{ T}) = 1 \text{ fW}$$

$$P(30.2 \text{ keV}, 90^\circ, 1 \text{ T}) = 1.7 \text{ fW}$$

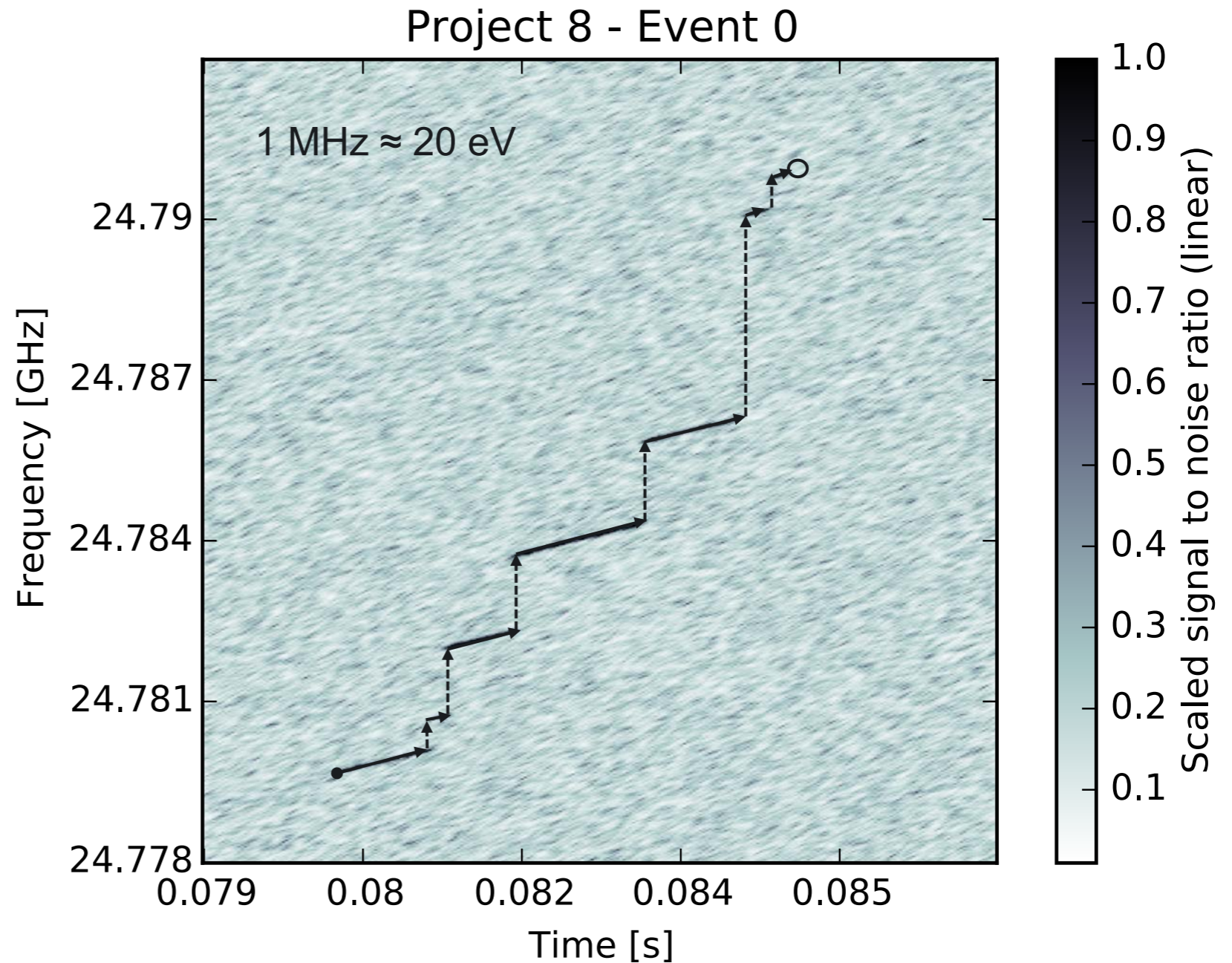
●  
start frequency of the first track gives kinetic energy.

↗  
frequency chirps linearly, corresponding to  $\sim 1$  fW radiative loss.

↖  
electron scatters inelastically, losing energy and changing pitch angle.

○  
Eventually, scatters to an untrapped angle

Energy (keV)



*A "typical" event  
(actually, this was our first event)*

# A Phased Approach

## Phase I:

*Demonstrate CRES technique on  $^{83m}\text{Kr}$  mono-energetic electrons.*

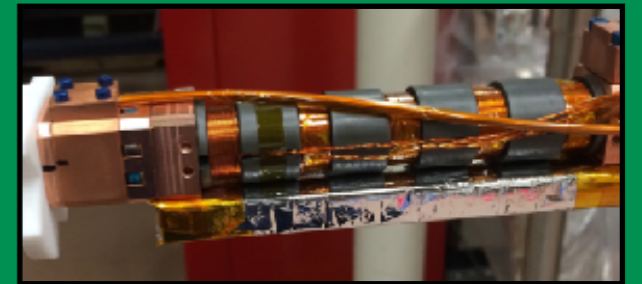
*Status: Complete! Technique demonstrated.*



## Phase II:

*First  $T_2$  spectrum. Extract endpoint. Study systematics and backgrounds.*

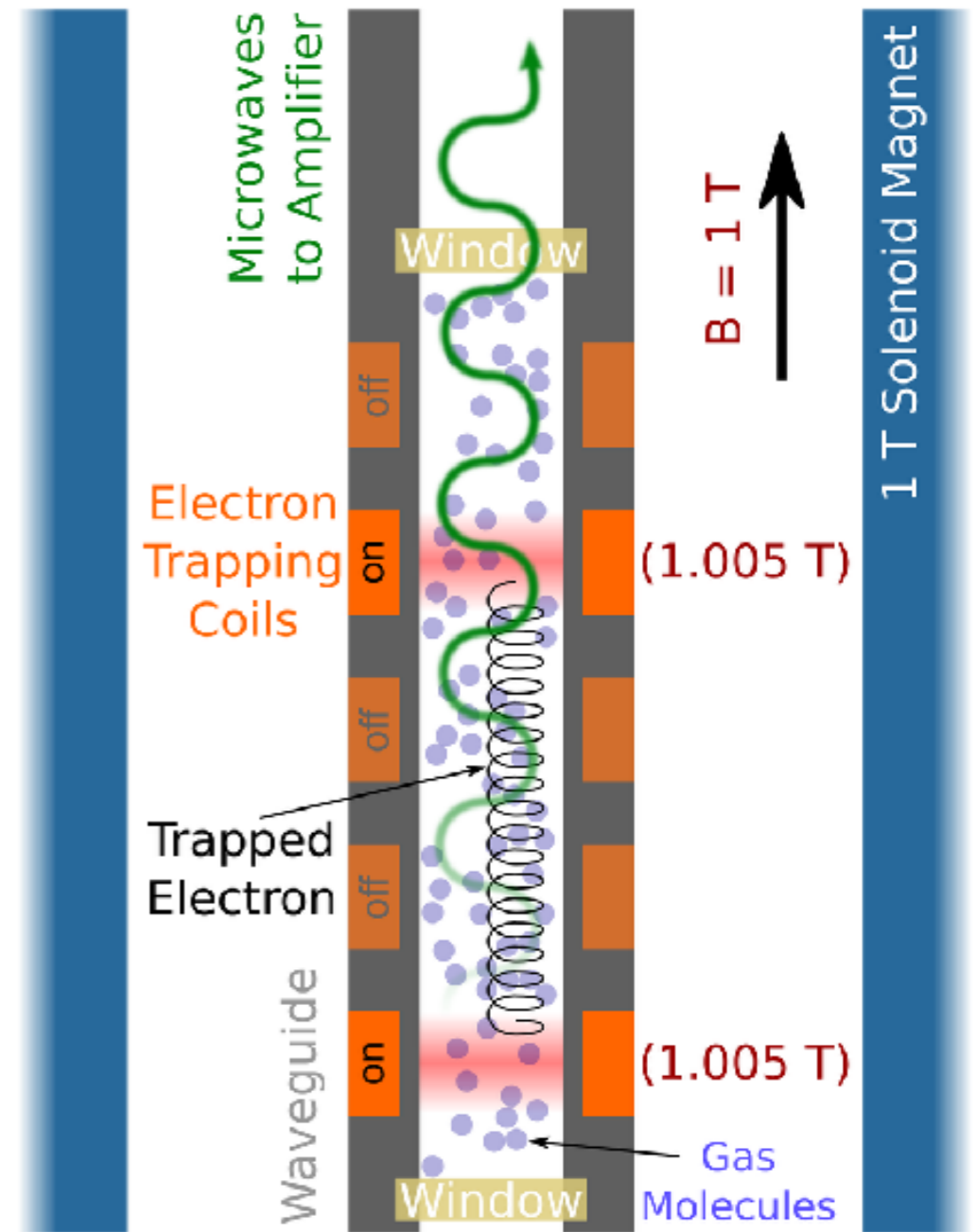
*Status: Ongoing until beginning of 2020.*







- ❖ Trapping coils arranged to provide deep and shallow traps.
- ❖ Commissioned using krypton gas, but optimized for tritium gas flow.



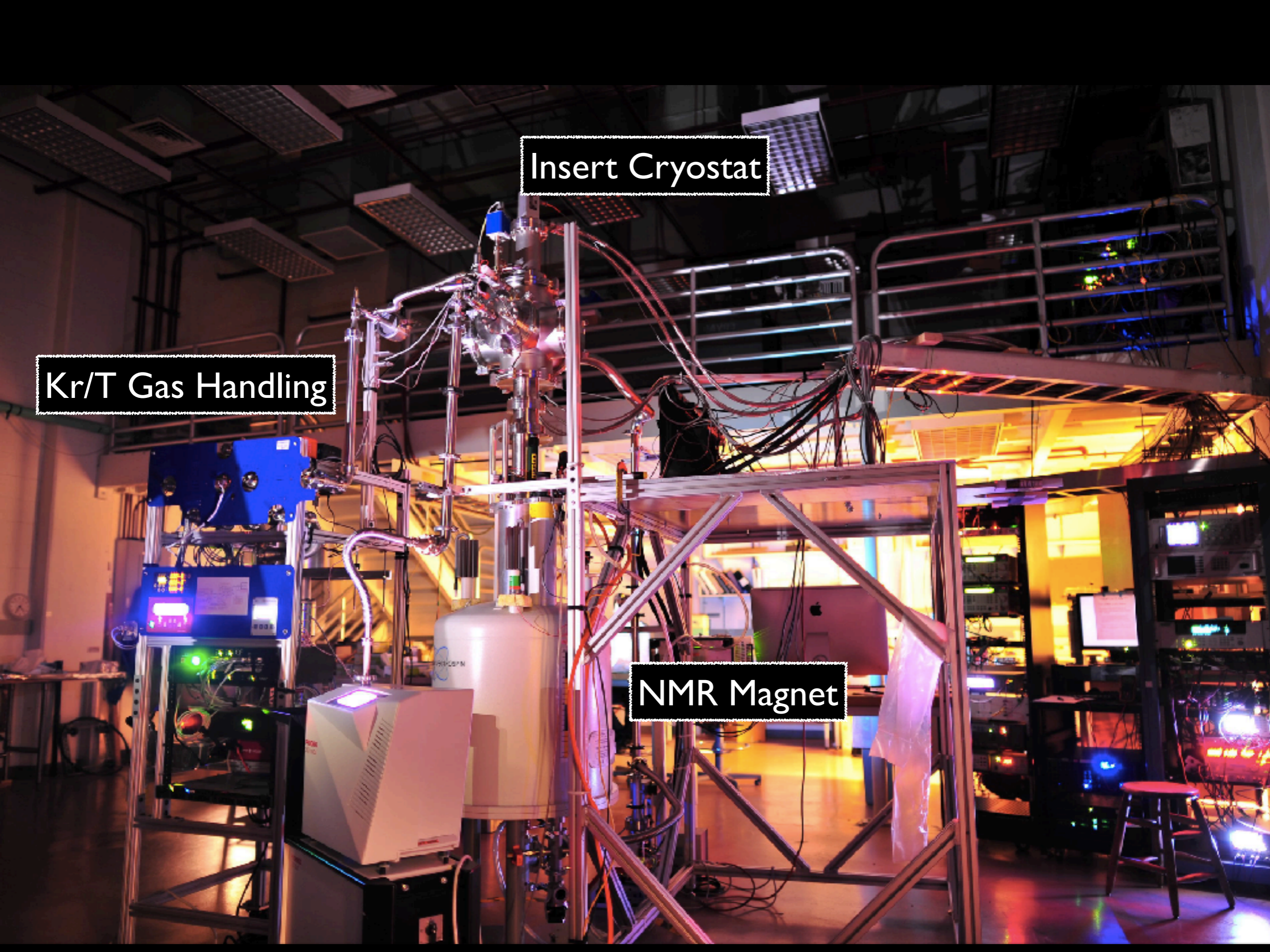
## The Phase II Tritium Insert

**Goal:** Provide a first demonstration of CRES technique using tritium.

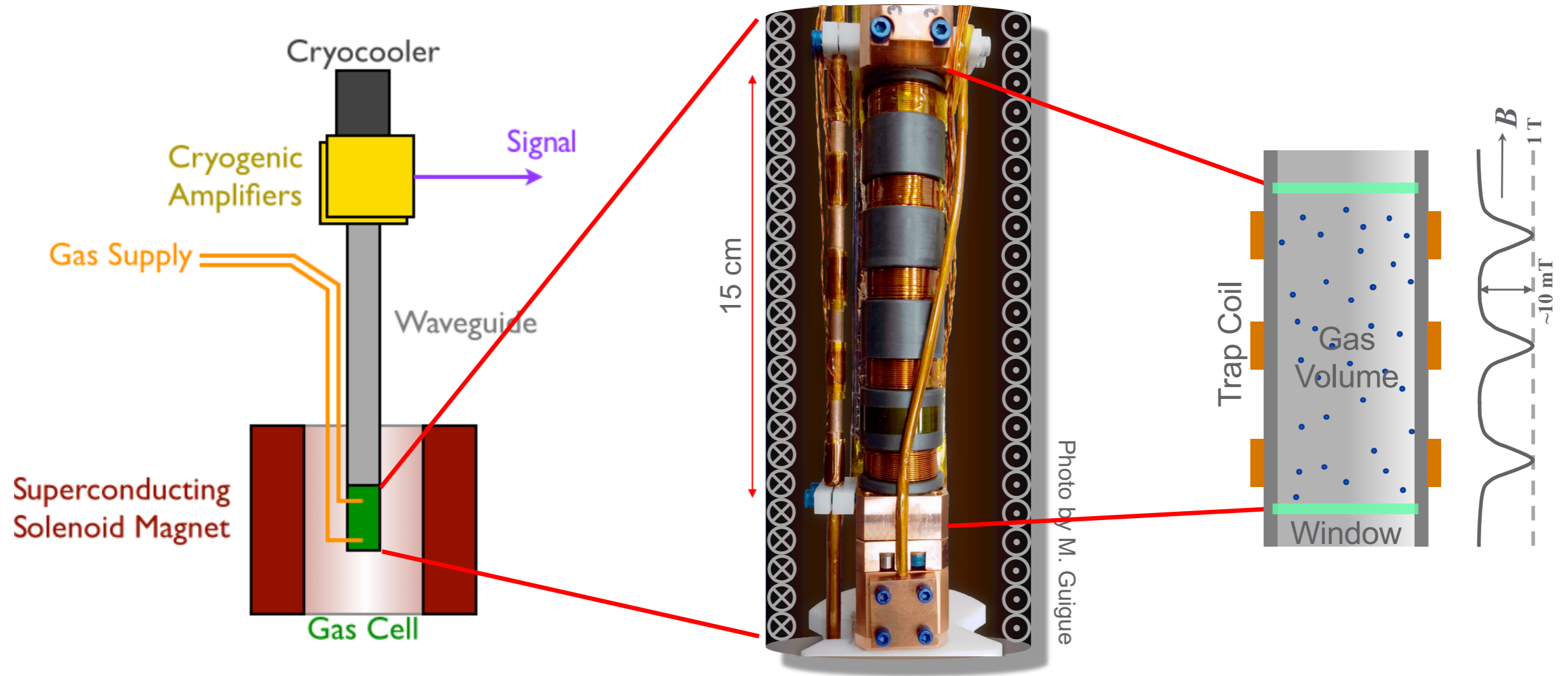
Insert Cryostat

Kr/T Gas Handling

NMR Magnet

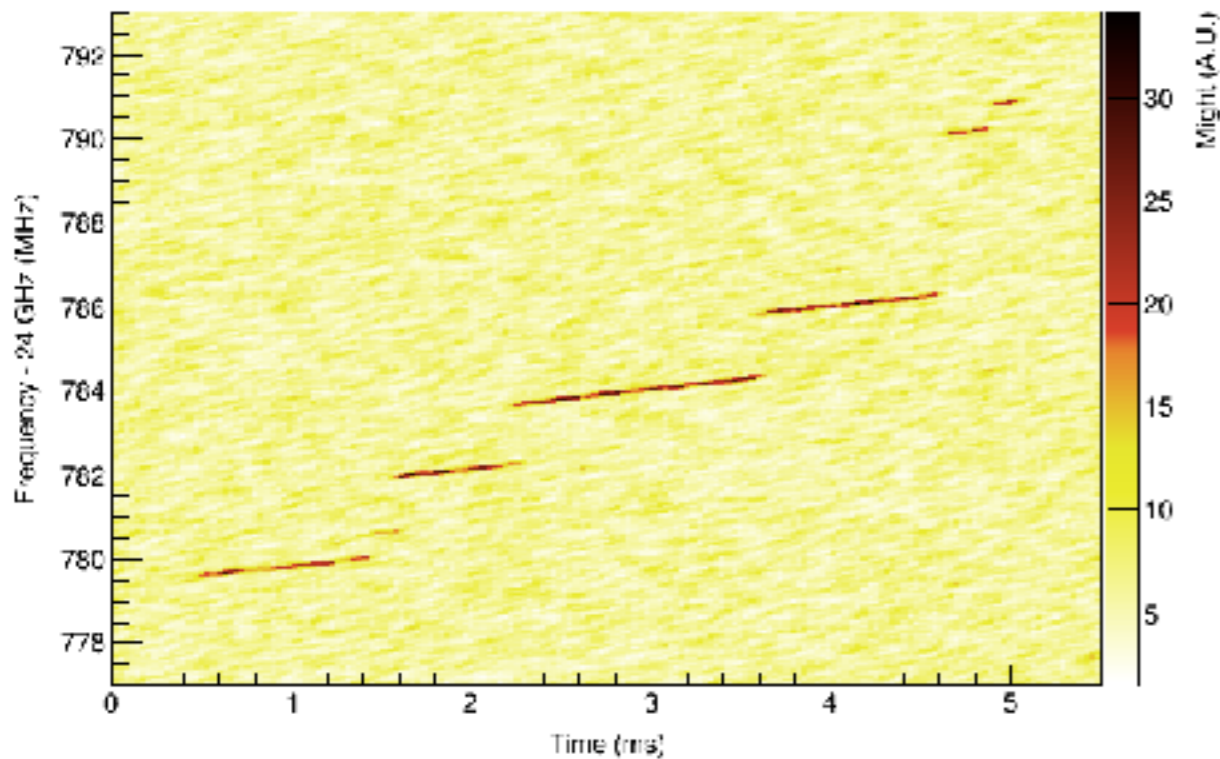


# Basic Layout

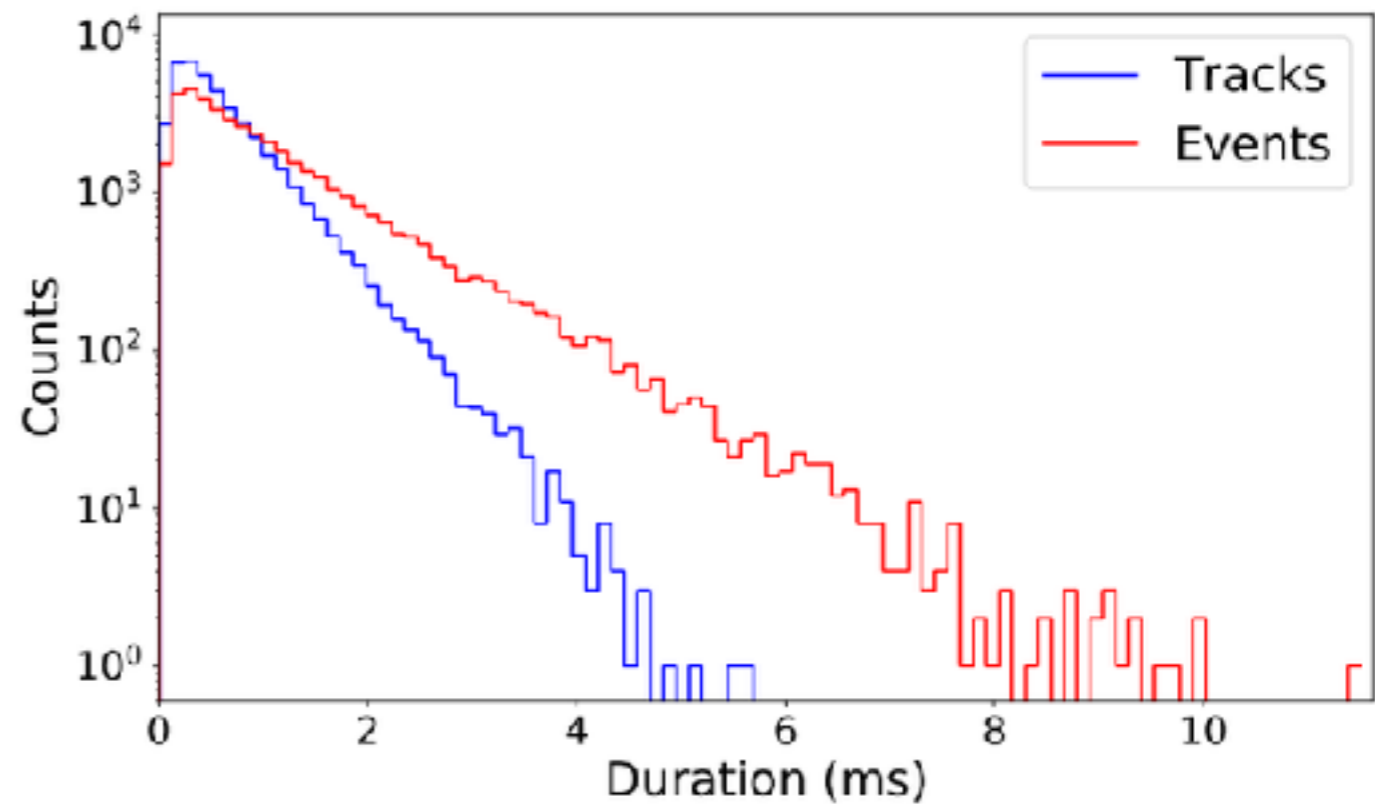


Main system consists of a  
waveguide + magnetic trap + gas supply

# Reconstructing Events



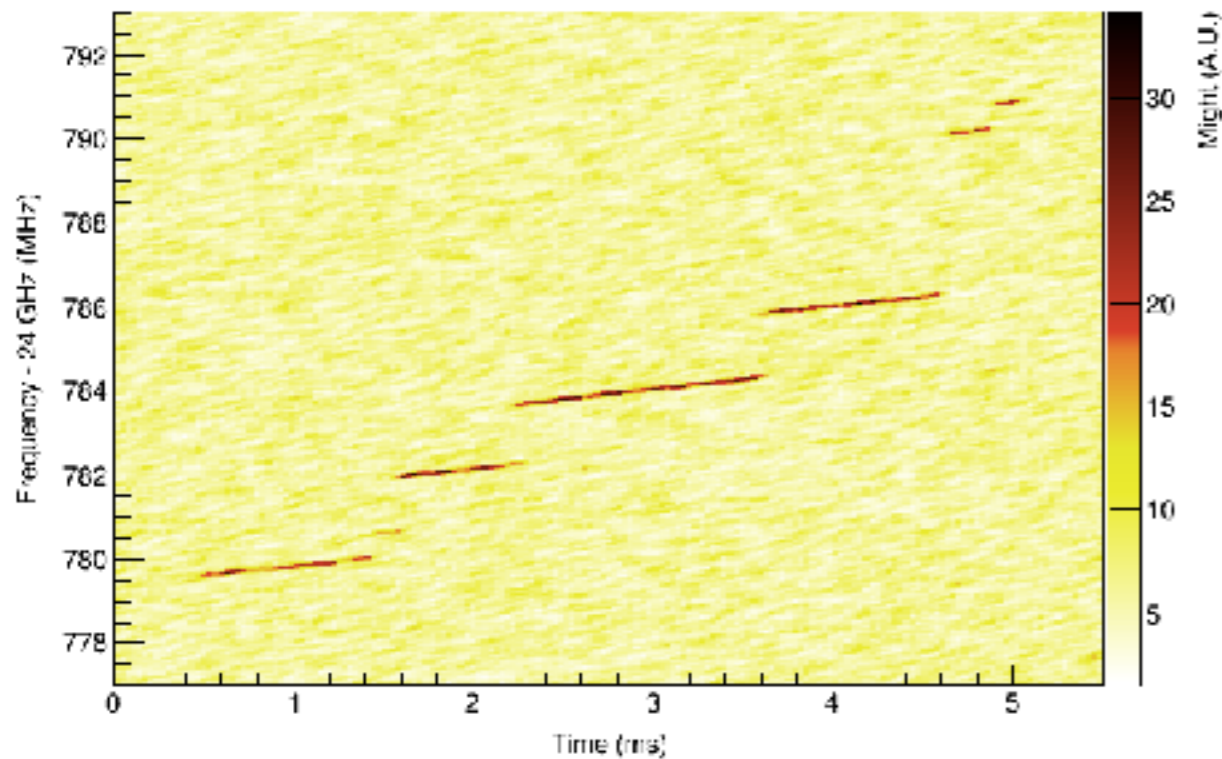
Power spectrogram



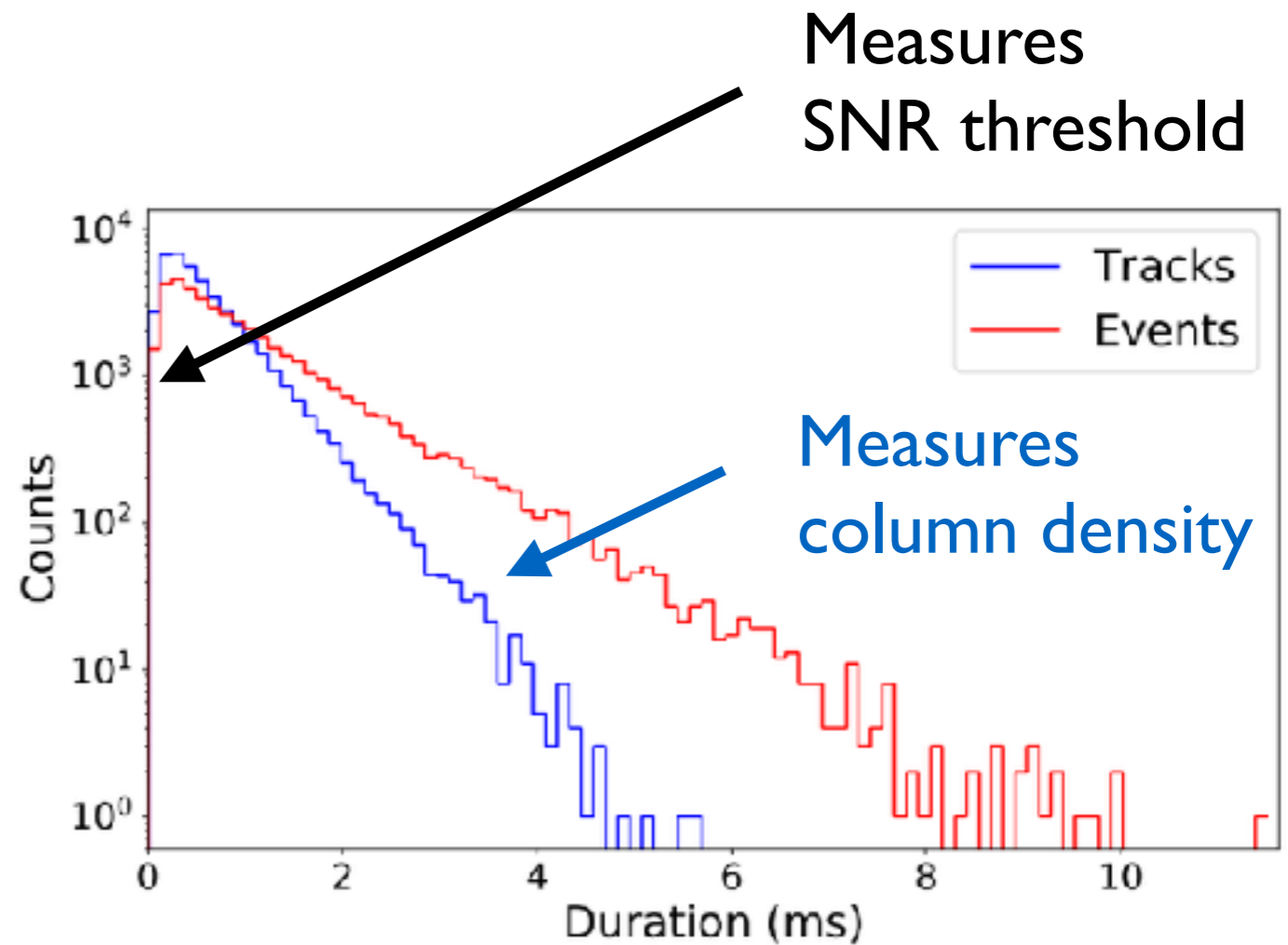
Reconstructed tracks and events

*Reconstruction of events extends as short as 120  $\mu$ s.  
Predicted background from mis-reconstructed noise:  
less than 1 event in planned Phase II  $T_2$  data campaign*

# Reconstructing Events



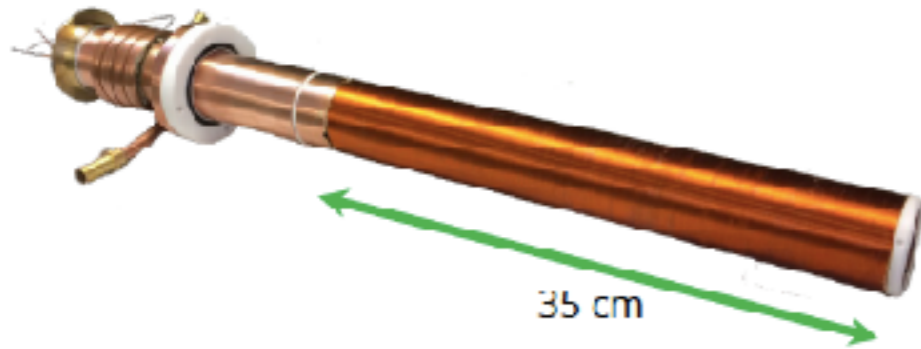
Power spectrogram



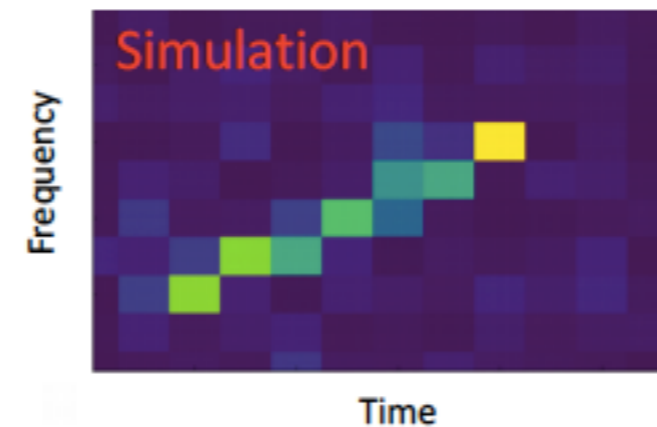
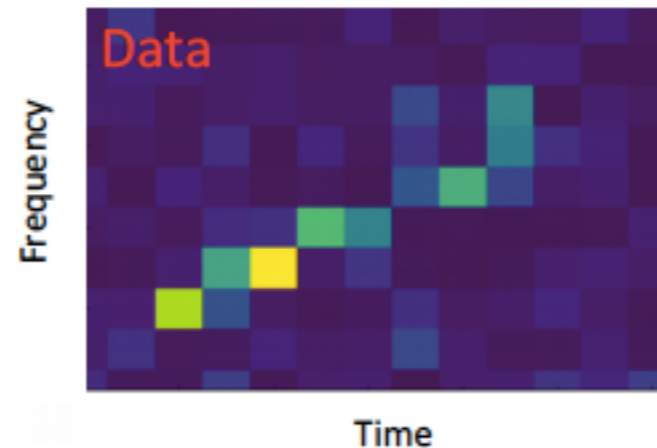
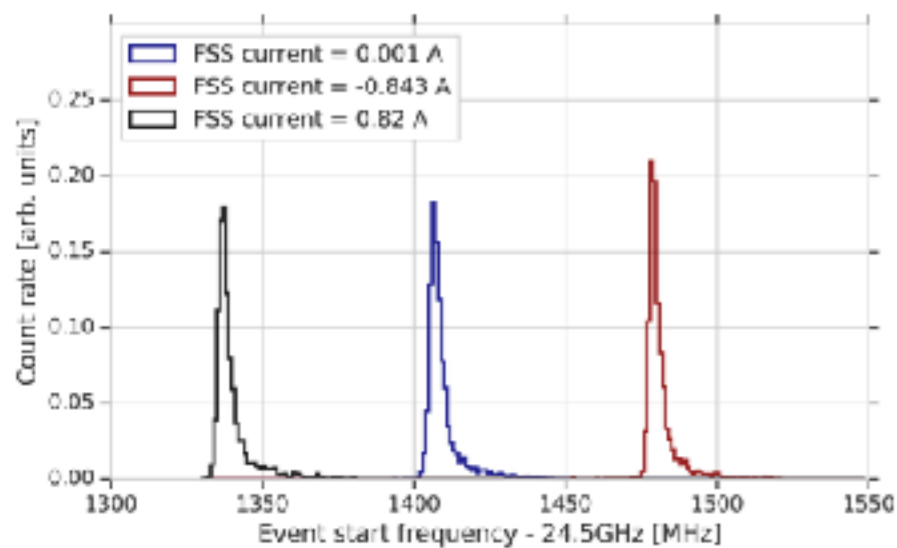
Reconstructed tracks and events

*Reconstruction of events extends as short as 120  $\mu$ s.  
Predicted background from mis-reconstructed noise:  
less than 1 event in planned Phase II  $T_2$  data campaign*

# Calibrating Efficiency

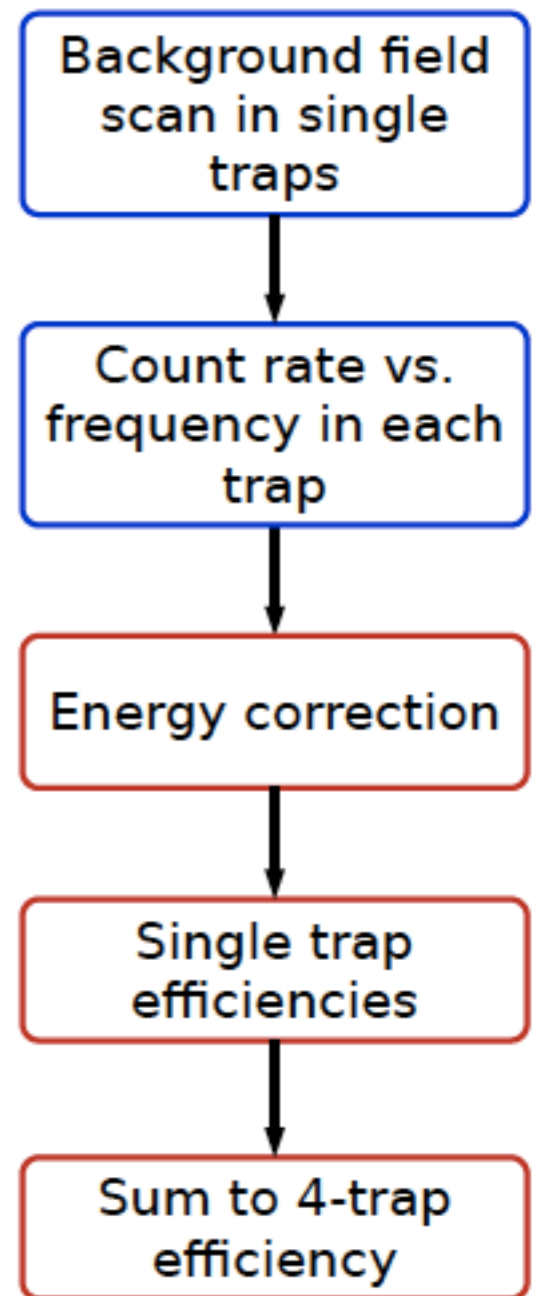


Use a *field-shifting solenoid* to sweep the 17.8 keV  $^{83}\text{mKr}$  conversion line across the frequency region of interest for tritium data to determine SNR vs. frequency

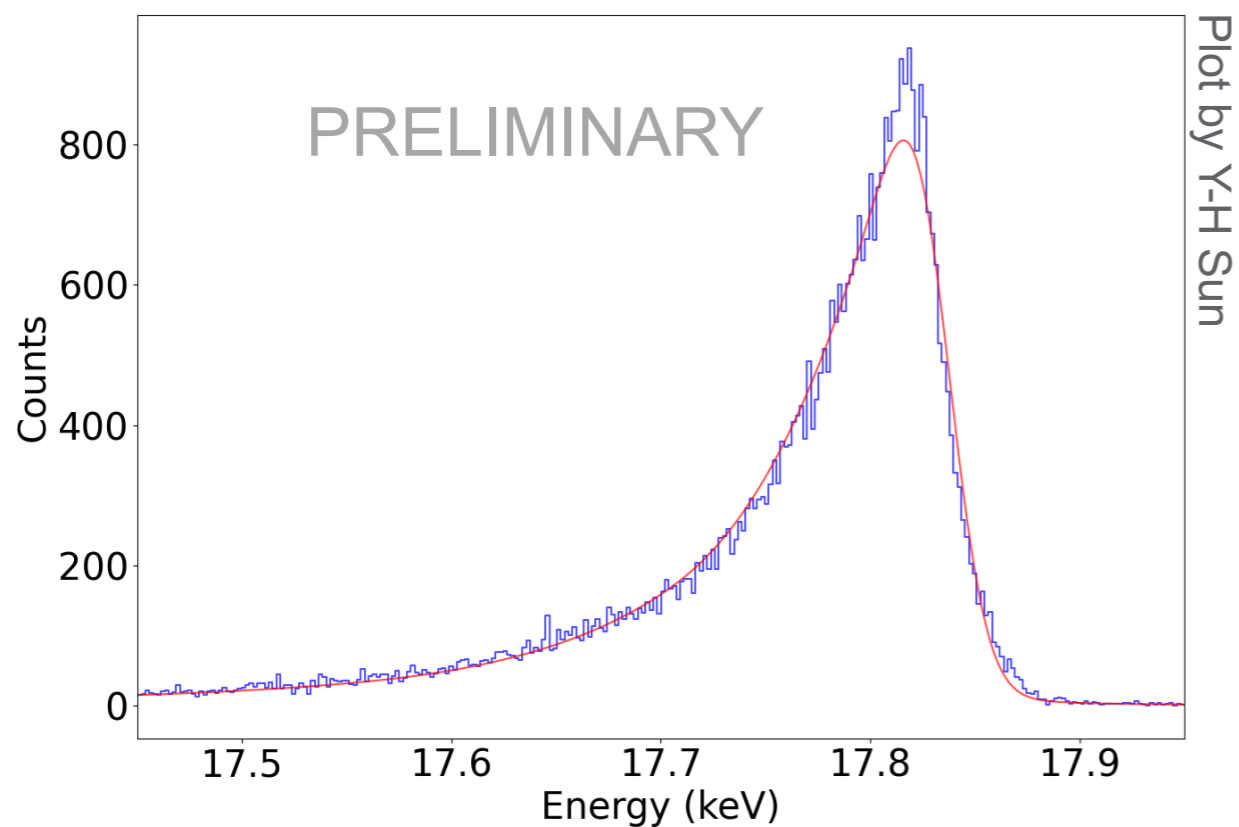


Use detailed Monte Carlo to simulate and study CRES event topologies.

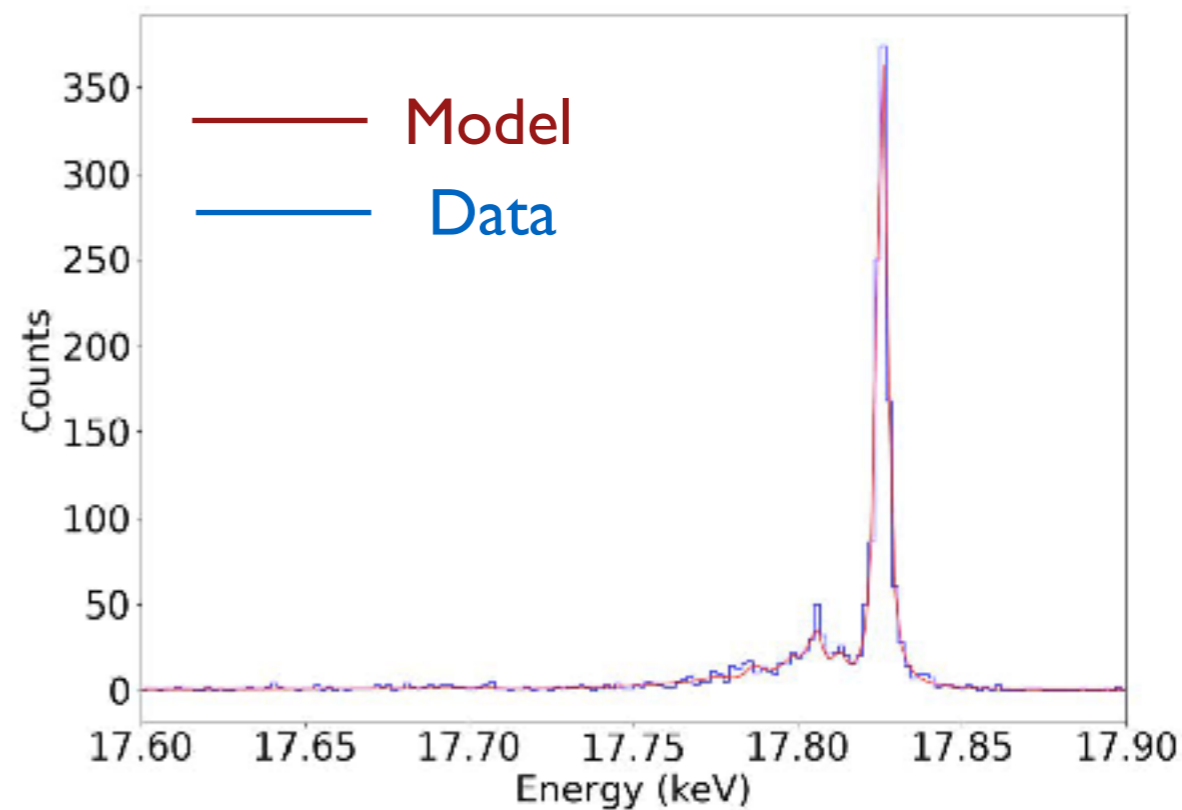
[LOCUST: NJP 21 10.1088 \(2019\)](#)



# Trap Configurations



**Deep Trap**

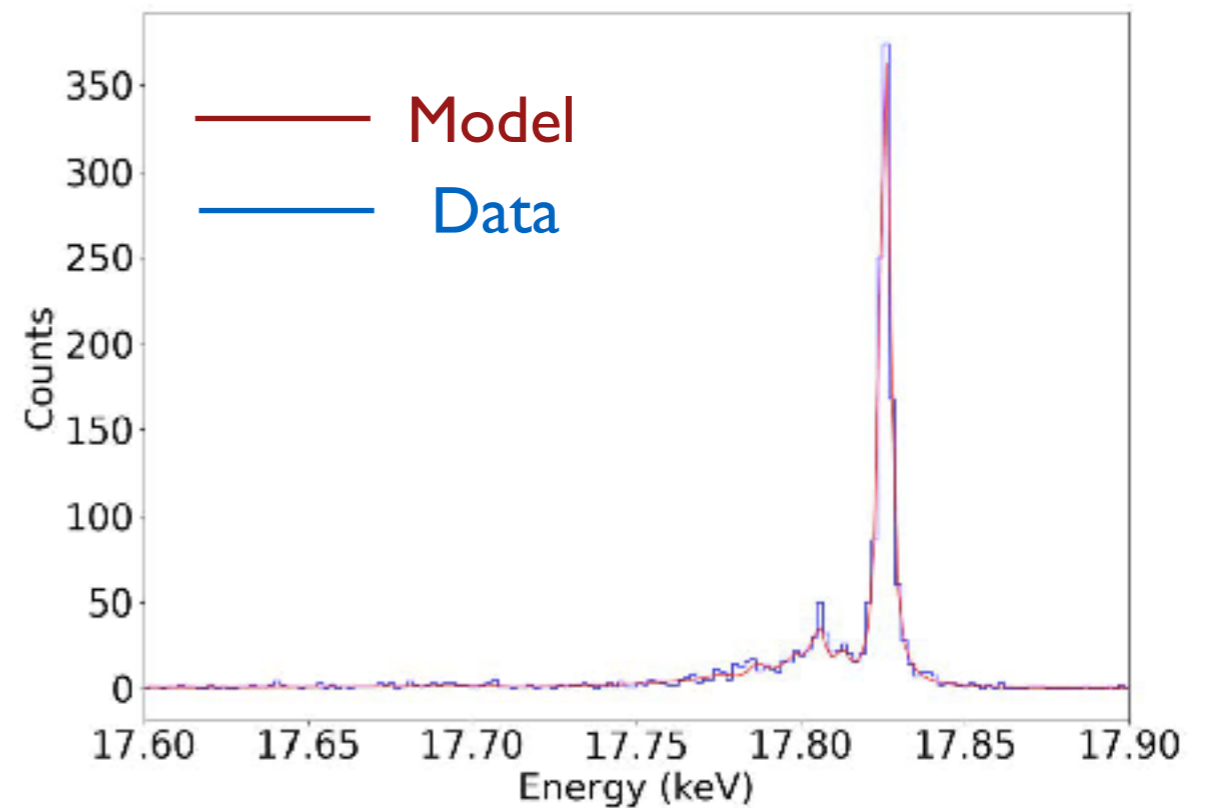
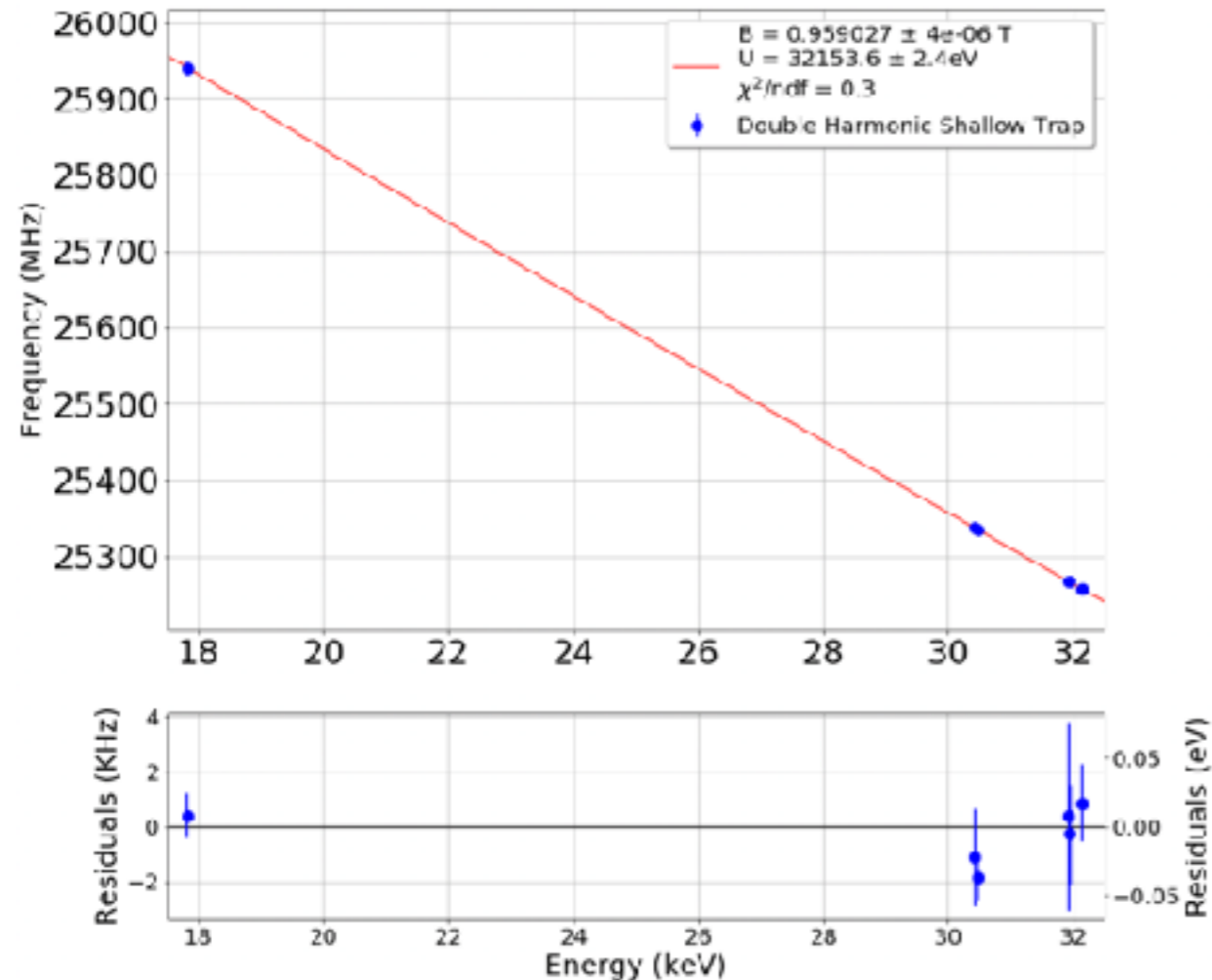


**Shallow Trap**

We usually operate in one of two possible configurations:  
(a) **deep trap** for high statistics; (b) **shallow trap** for high precision.

Best demonstrated instrumental width:  **$2.0 \pm 0.1$  eV (FWHM)**  
(2.8 eV natural line width)

# Shallow Trap Linearity Measurements



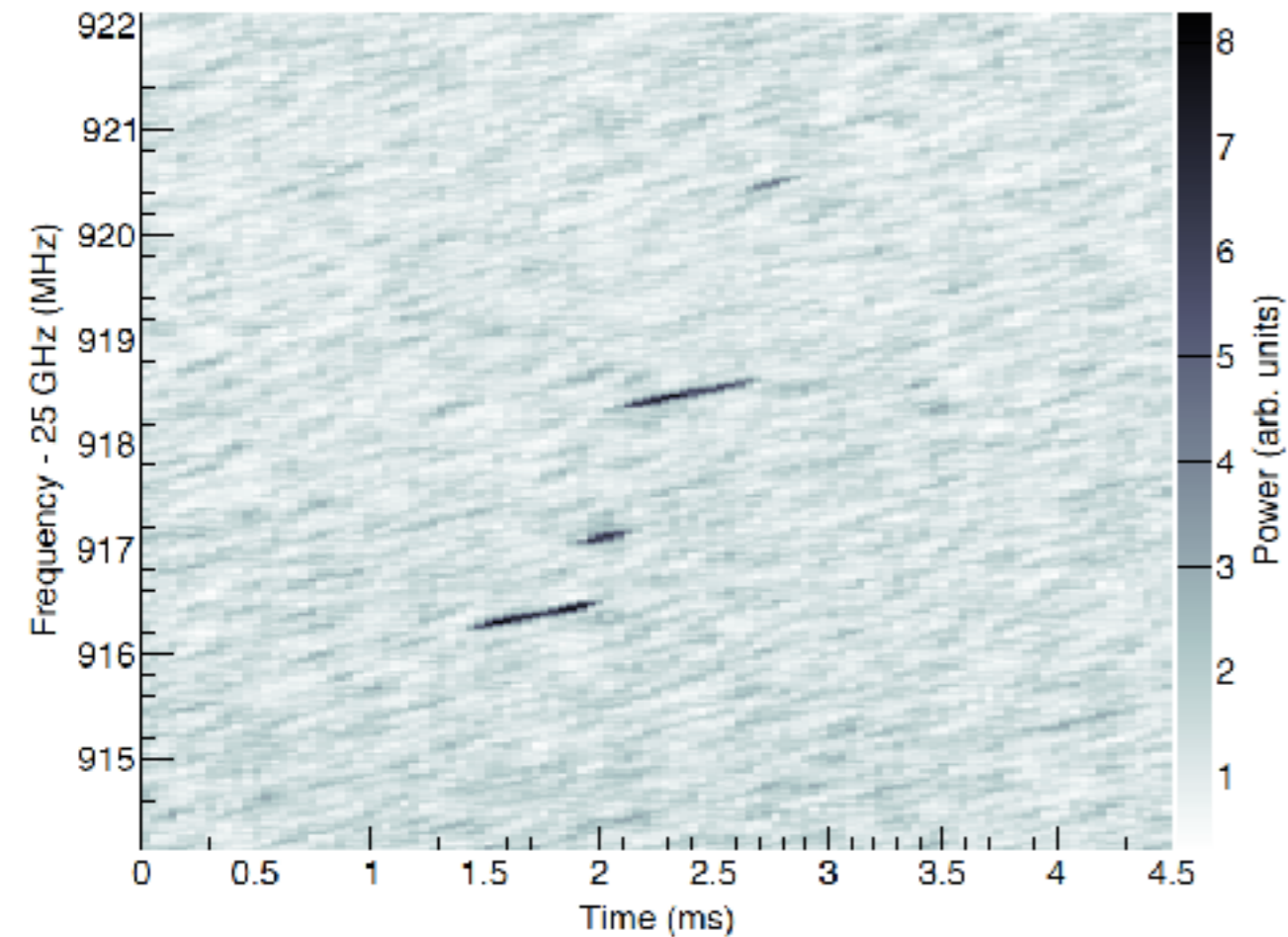
- 32-keV  $\gamma$  energy:  $(32153.6 \pm 2.4)$  eV
- Vénos, et al:  $(32151.7 \pm 0.5)$  eV  
Appl. Radiat. Isot. **63** 323-7 (2005)

*We can also test the linearity of the technique by measuring multiple mono-energetic lines from  $^{83m}\text{Kr}$ .*

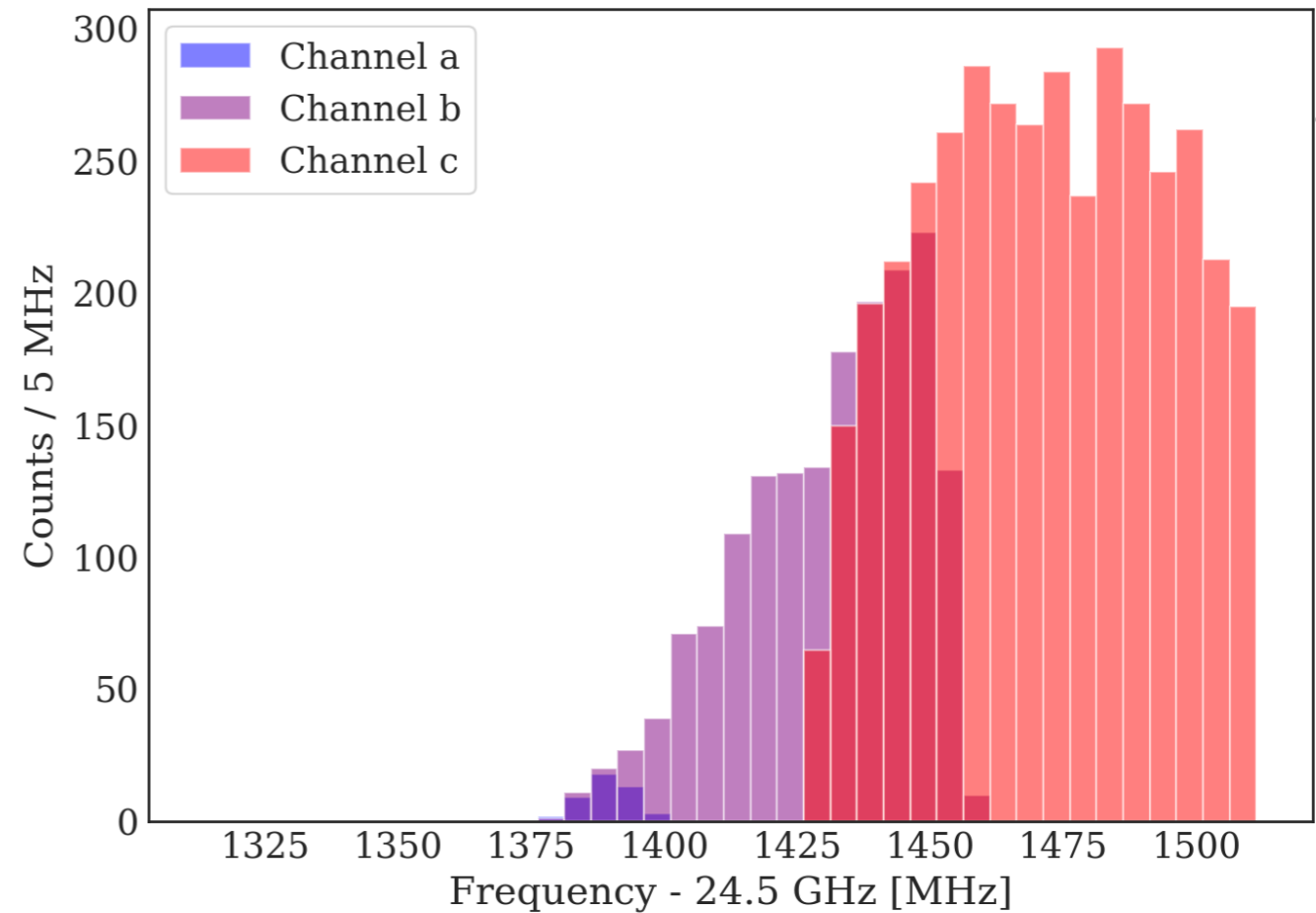
*Excellent agreement with previous measurements.*



# First tritium CRES spectrum



T<sub>2</sub> frequency spectrum

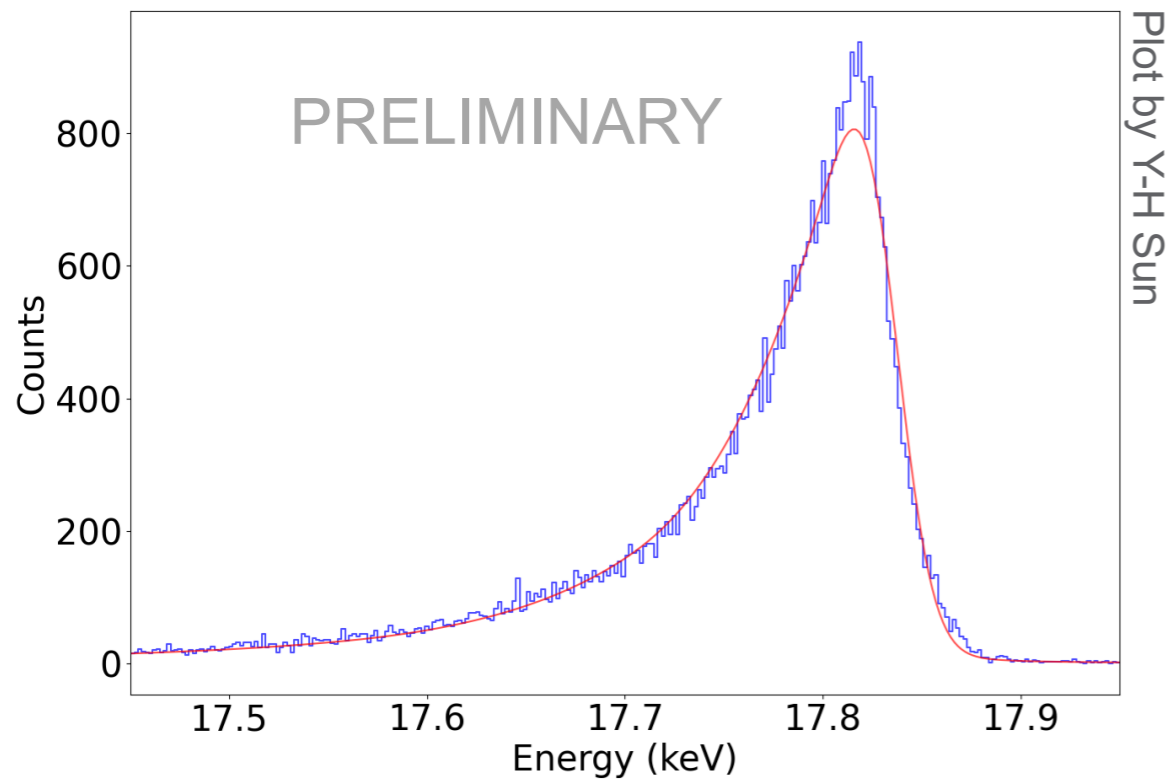


## First tritium from Phase 2:

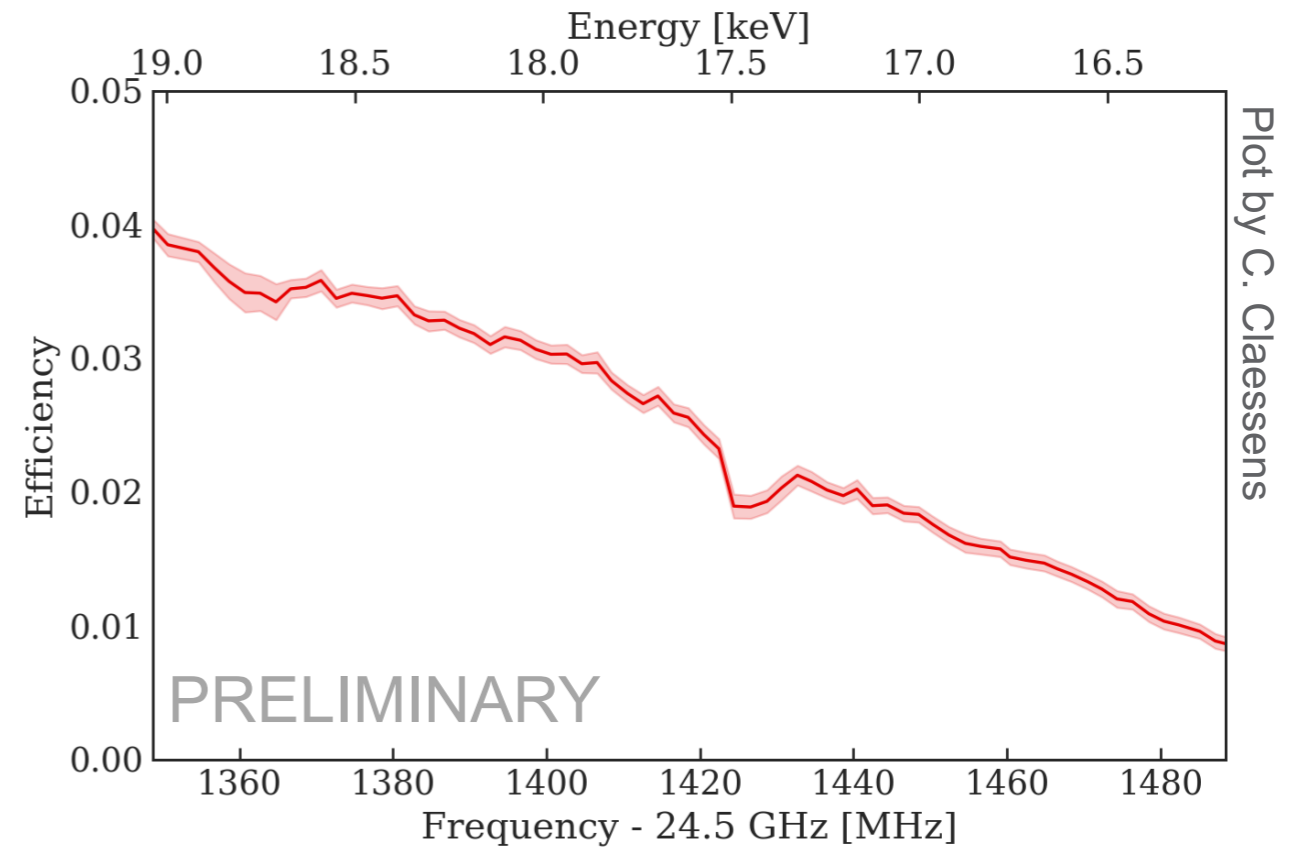
- Data taken from winter 2019-2020 (82 days of livetime).
- Four-coil "deep" trap configuration with 1 mm<sup>3</sup> active volume.
- Three overlapping frequency bands which cover 16.2-18.6 keV
- 3770 unique counts.

# Unfolding Spectrum

Instrumental Lineshape



Detection Efficiency



## First tritium from Phase 2:

- *The krypton data is used to constrain the instrumental energy resolution.*
- *A scan of the krypton 17 keV line provides a measurement of the detector efficiency.*

# First tritium CRES spectrum

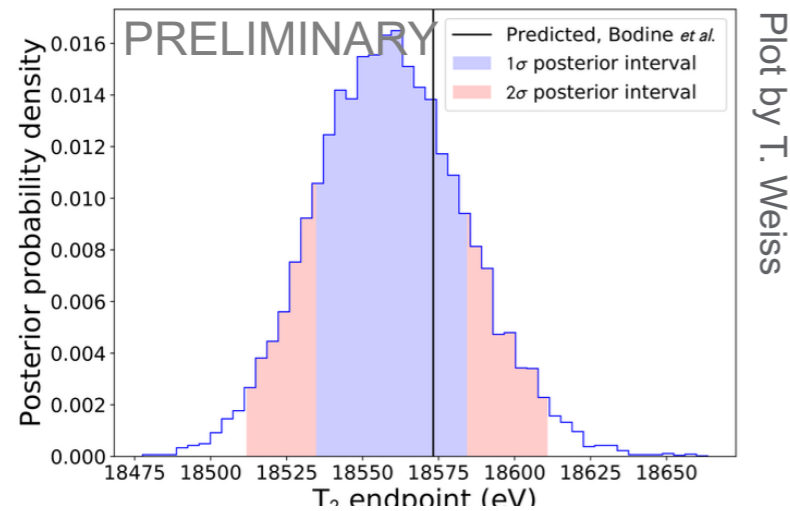
$T_2$  endpoint result:

$$E_0 = (18559.4_{-24.7}^{+24.9}) \text{ eV}$$

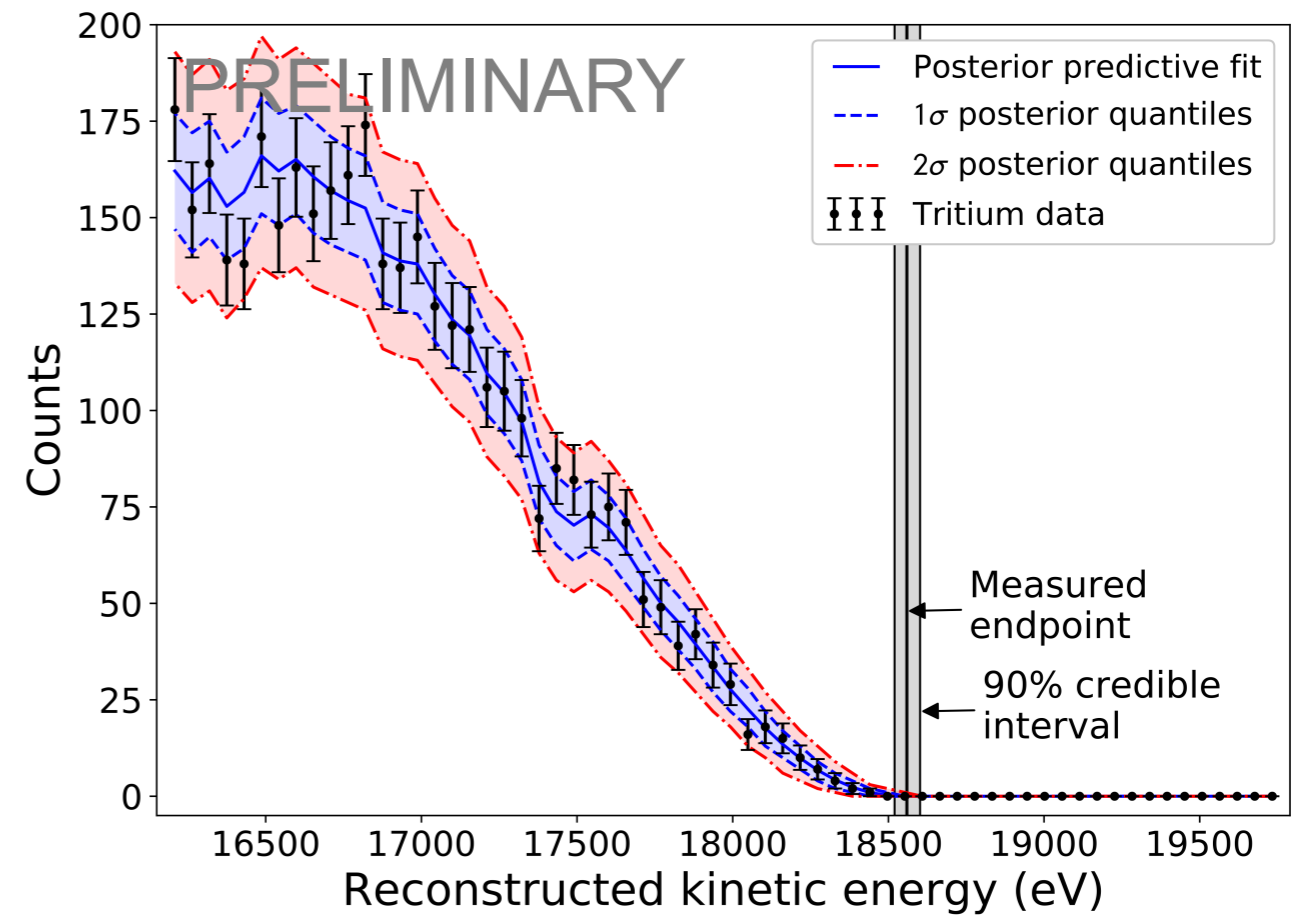
Background rate:

$$\leq 3 \times 10^{-10} \text{ eV}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1} \text{ (90\% C.I.)}$$

Posterior distribution



Energy spectrum and posterior fit



*We extract a first tritium spectrum using the CRES technique.*

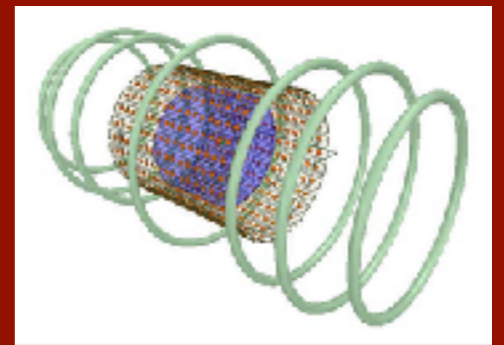
*Background levels controlled to better than  $<0.3$  nHz/eV.*

# Going Forward...

## Phase III:

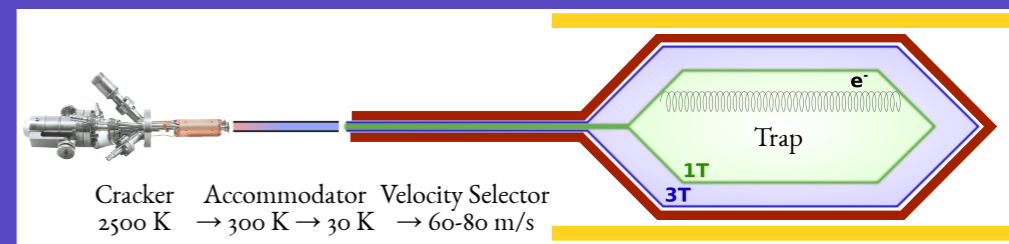
(a) RF Demonstrator (200 cm<sup>3</sup> volume, eV mass sensitivity)

(b) Atomic T Demonstrator (trap atomic tritium at high densities)



## Phase IV:

Atomic tritium source. Inverted ordering reach (40 meV)



*Wish to transition from small circular waveguide cell to large volume system.*

*Major new obstacles:*

- ◆ *Maintaining signal to noise across larger volume*
- ◆ *Field homogeneity for energy reconstruction*



*Phase III*

**Goal:** *Expand technique to large volumes*

*Wish to transition from small circular waveguide cell to large volume system.*

*Major new obstacles:*

- ◆ *Maintaining signal to noise across larger volume*
- ◆ *Field homogeneity for energy reconstruction*

*Remedies:*

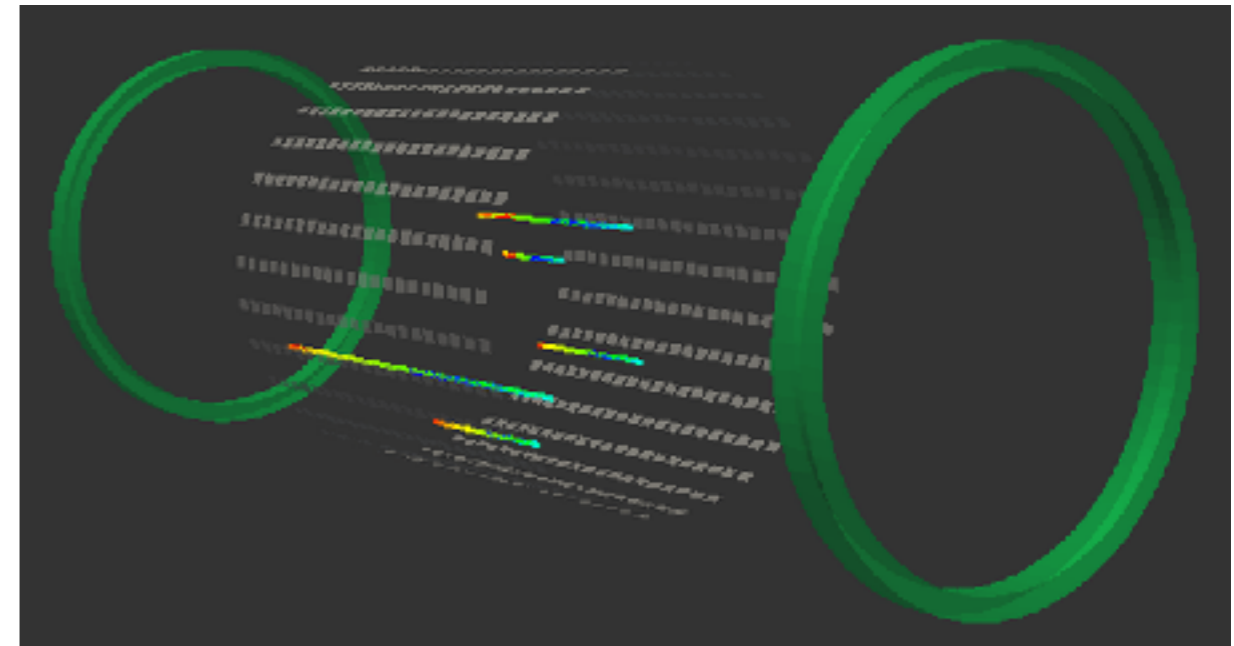
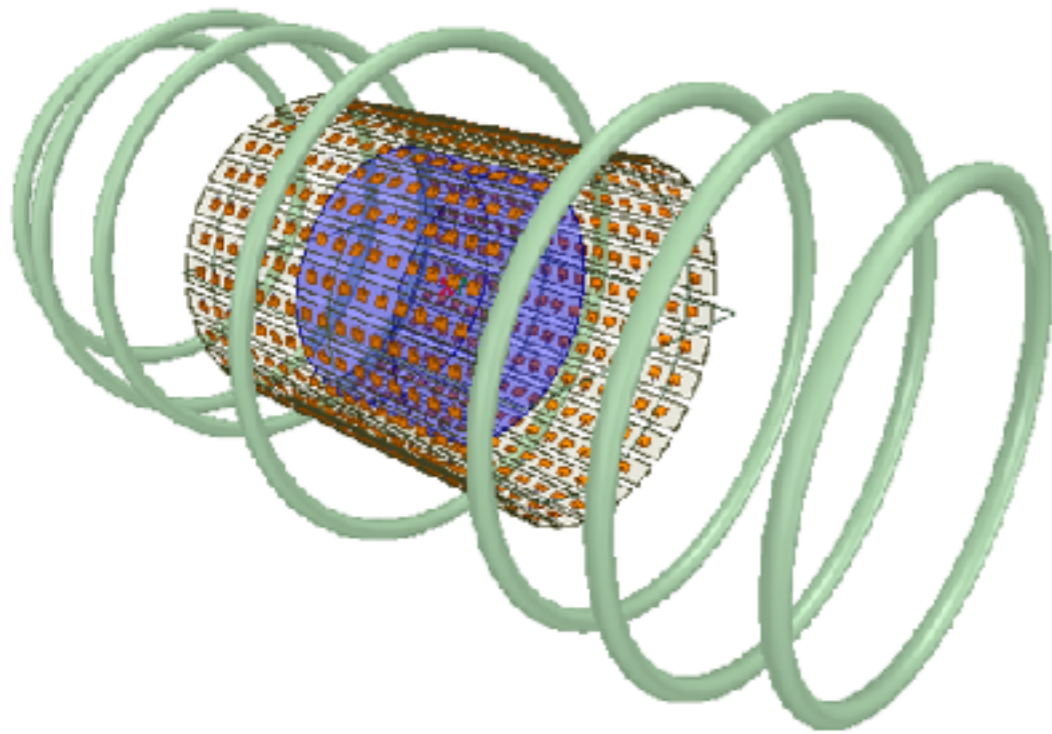
- ◆ *Switch from single waveguide to patch array system*
- ◆ *Radial reconstruction*



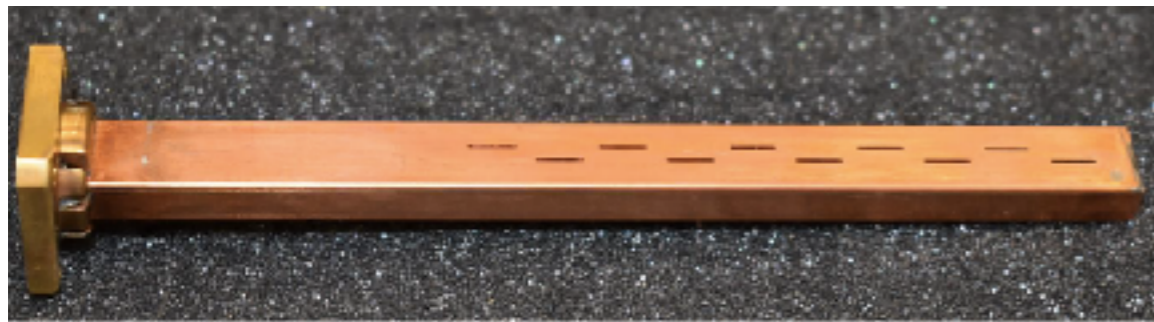
**Phase III**

**Goal:** Expand technique to large volumes

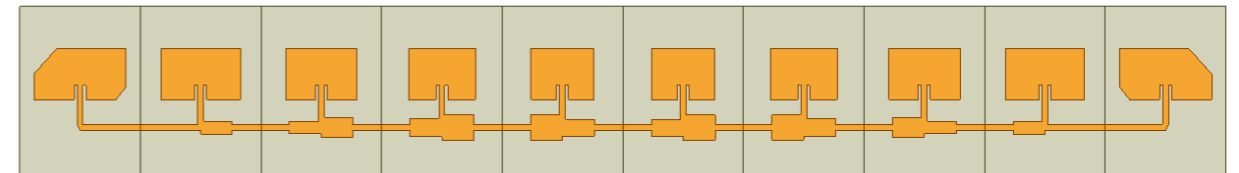
# New Antenna Arrays



Conceptual design of RF array  
design options



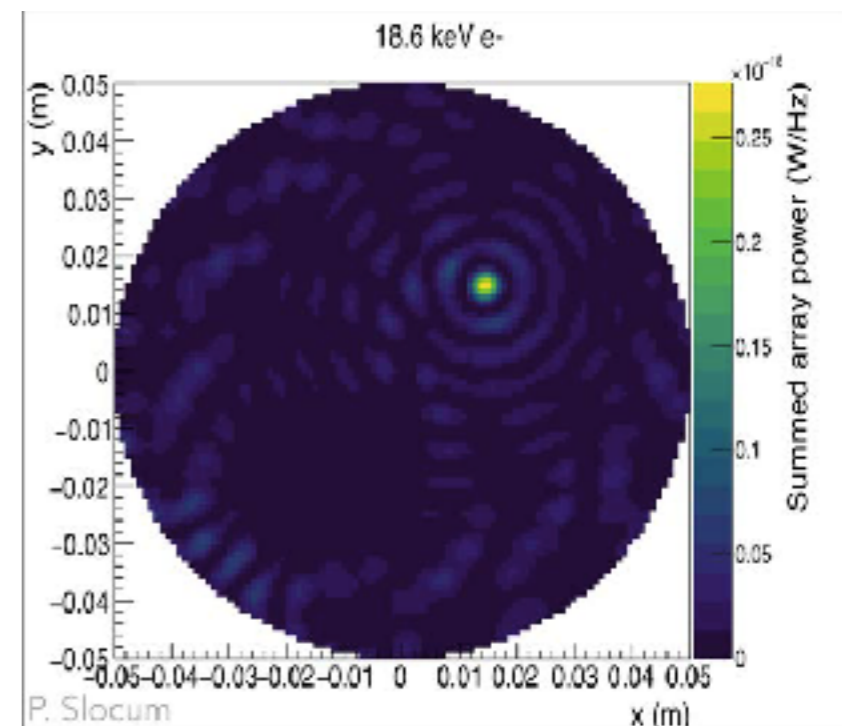
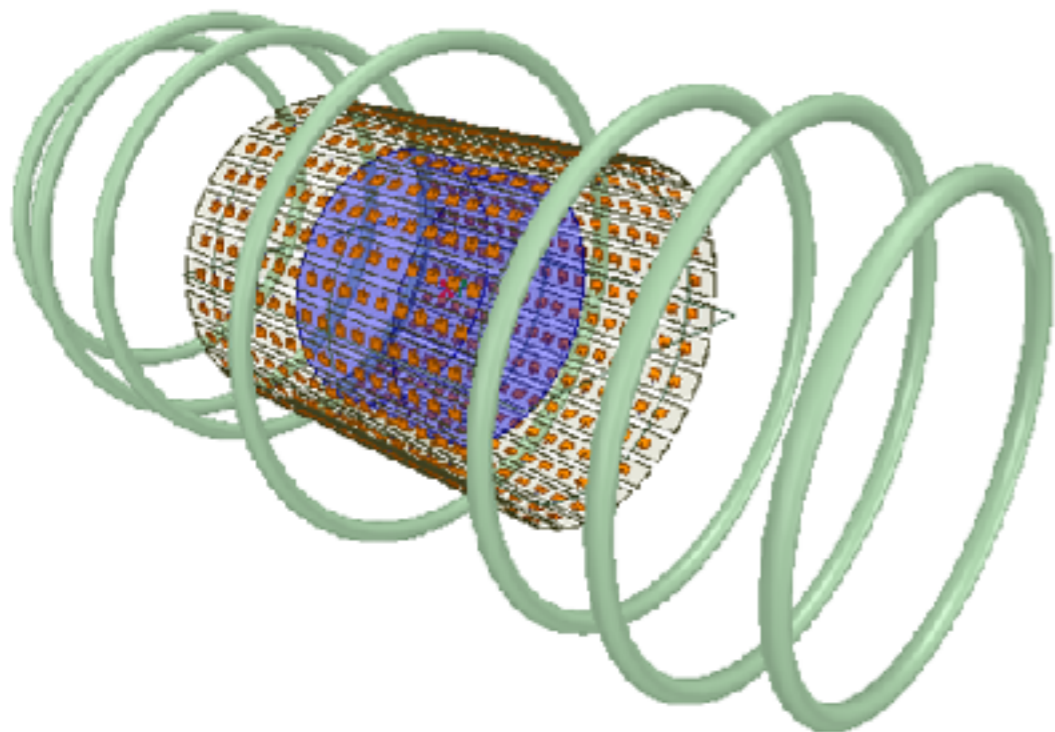
Waveguide Slot Array



Patch Antenna Array

Full design campaign underway to characterize signal-to-noise  
and localization expected from new phased antenna array.

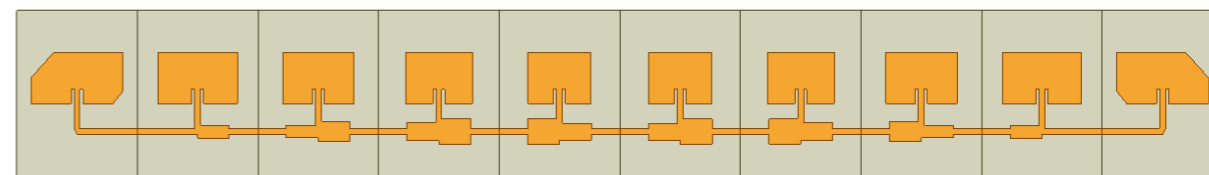
# New Antenna Arrays



Conceptual design of RF array  
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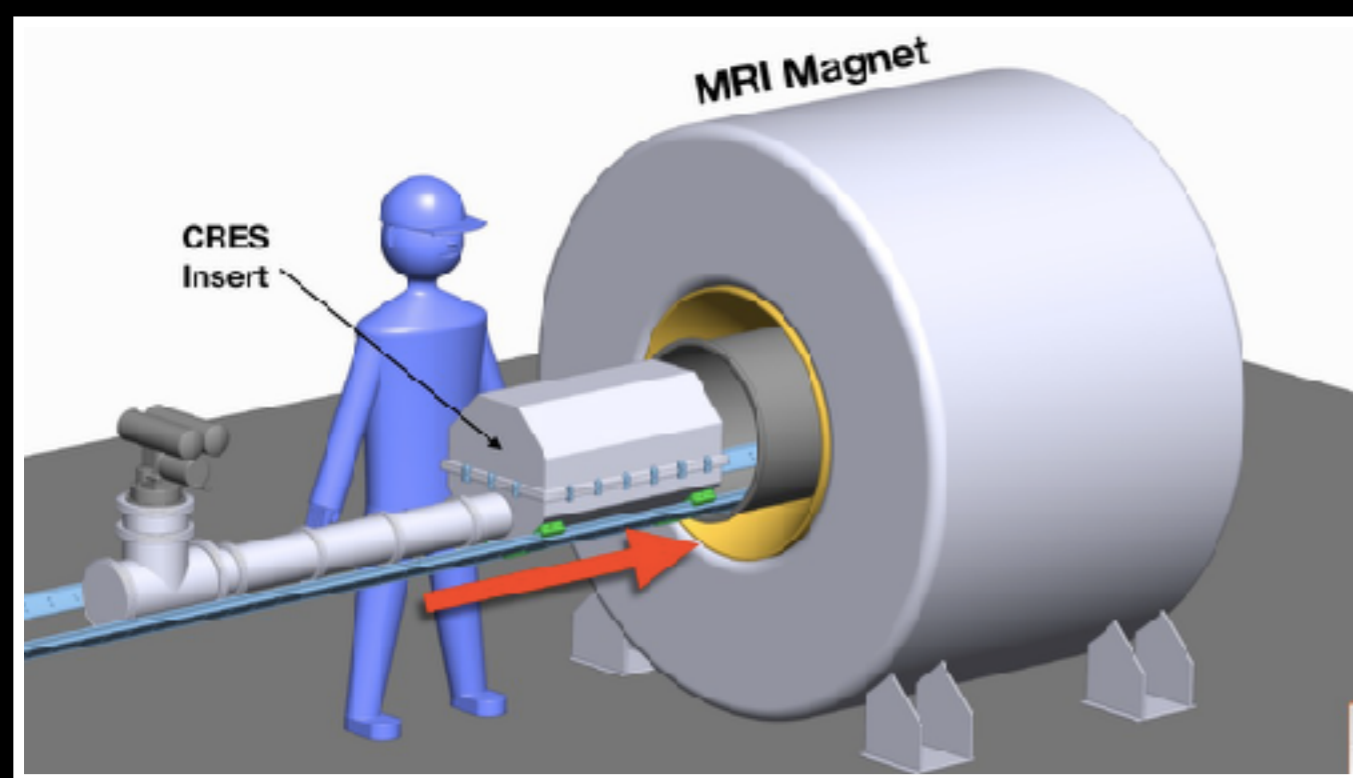
Waveguide Slot Array



Patch Antenna Array

Full design campaign underway to characterize signal-to-noise  
and localization expected from new phased antenna array.





*Need 1 T magnetic field.  
10-20 cm long (200 cm<sup>3</sup>)  
magnetic "bathtub" trap.*

*Large bore MRI  
magnet  
installed and  
running*

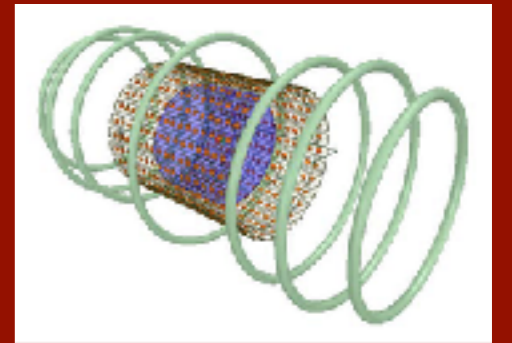


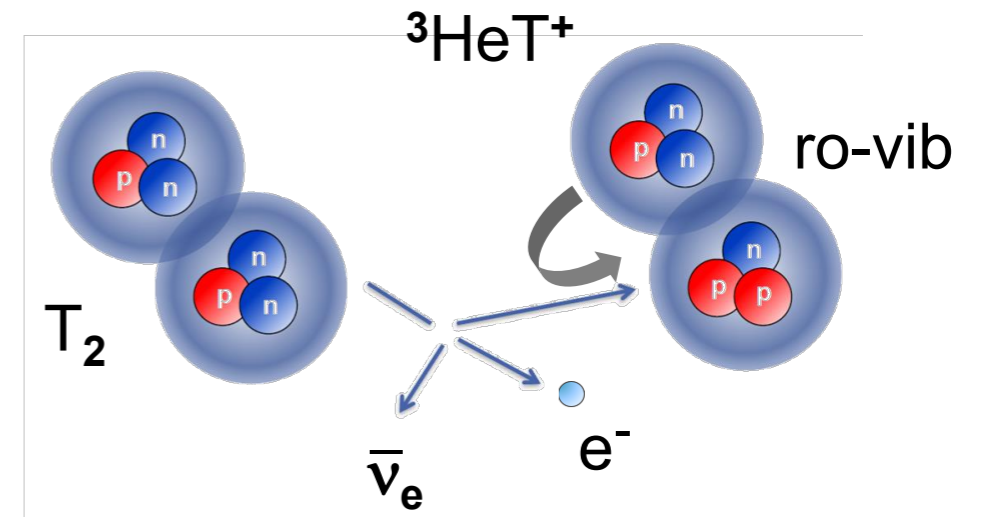
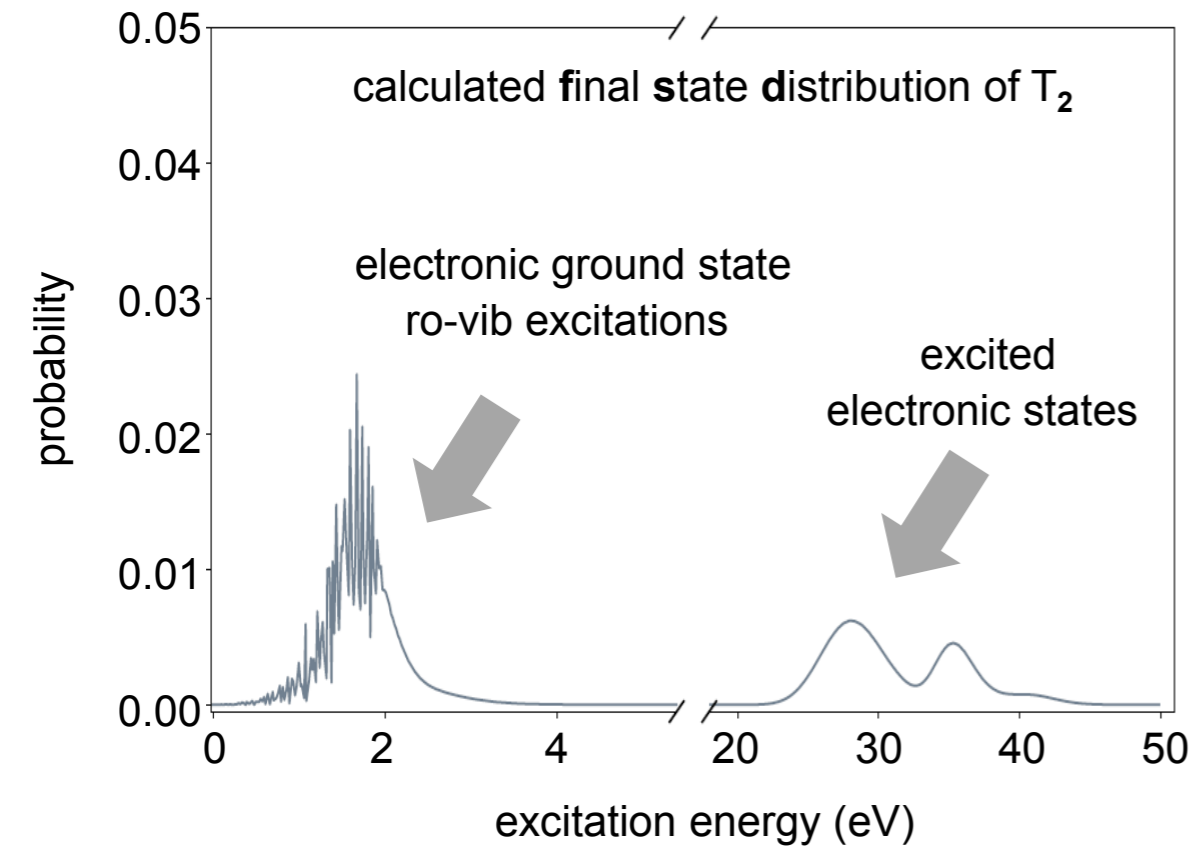
# Forward...

## Phase III:

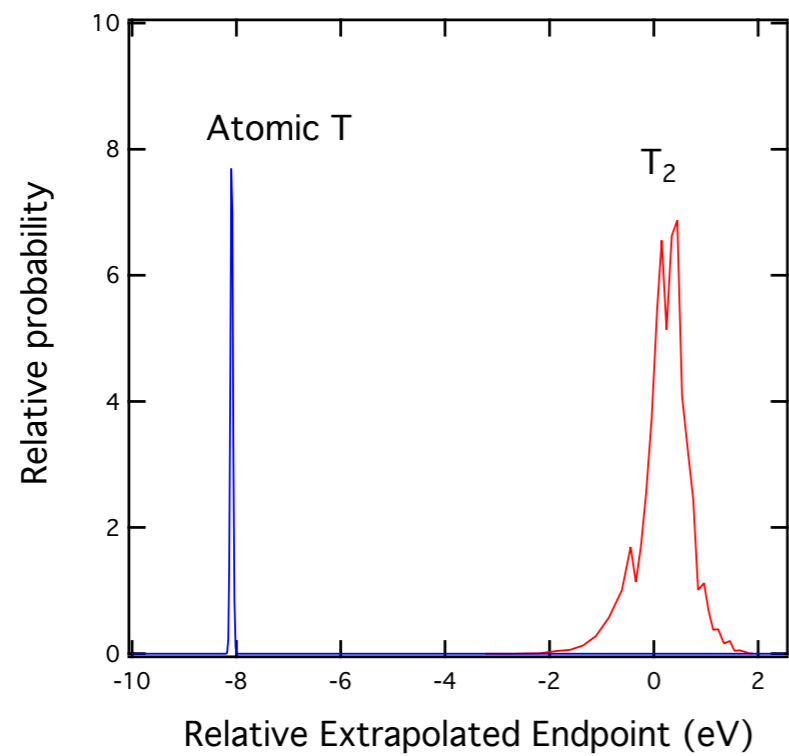
(a) *RF Demonstrator (200 cm<sup>3</sup> volume, eV mass sensitivity)*

(b) *Atomic T Demonstrator (trap atomic tritium at high densities)*



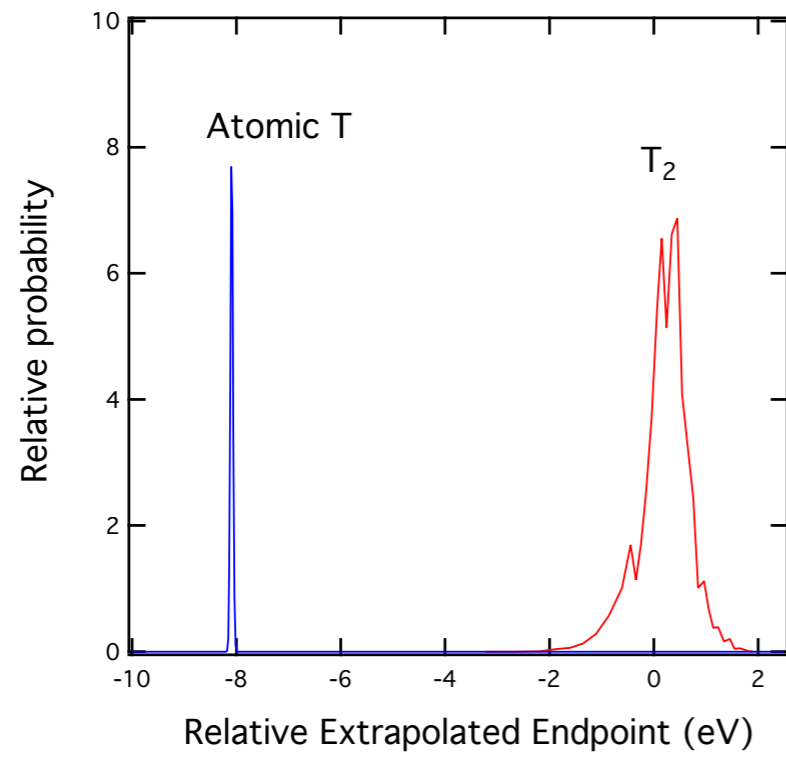


Need to overcome molecular final states to reach "inverted" scale.



Atomic tritium provides a narrower profile, allowing one to access inverted scale.

Need to overcome molecular final states to reach "inverted" scale.



Atomic tritium provides a narrower profile, allowing one to access inverted scale.

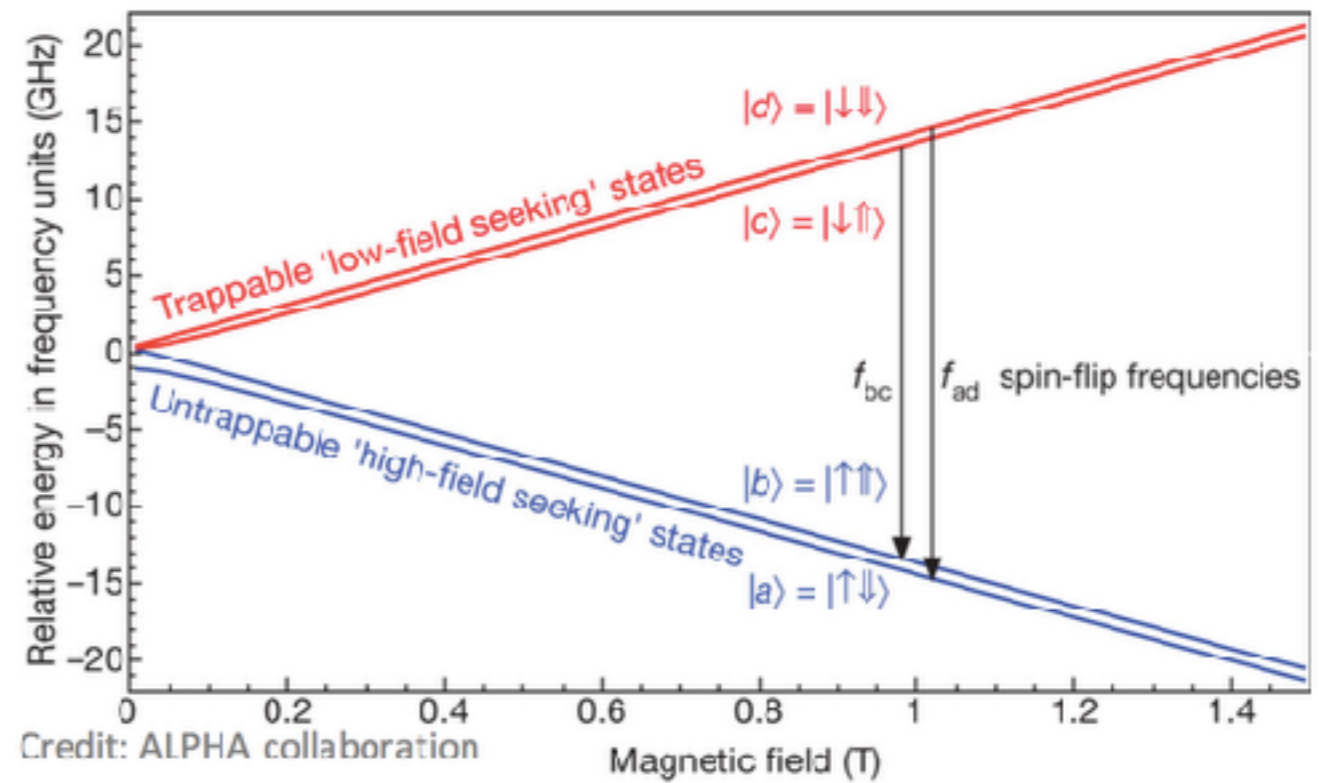
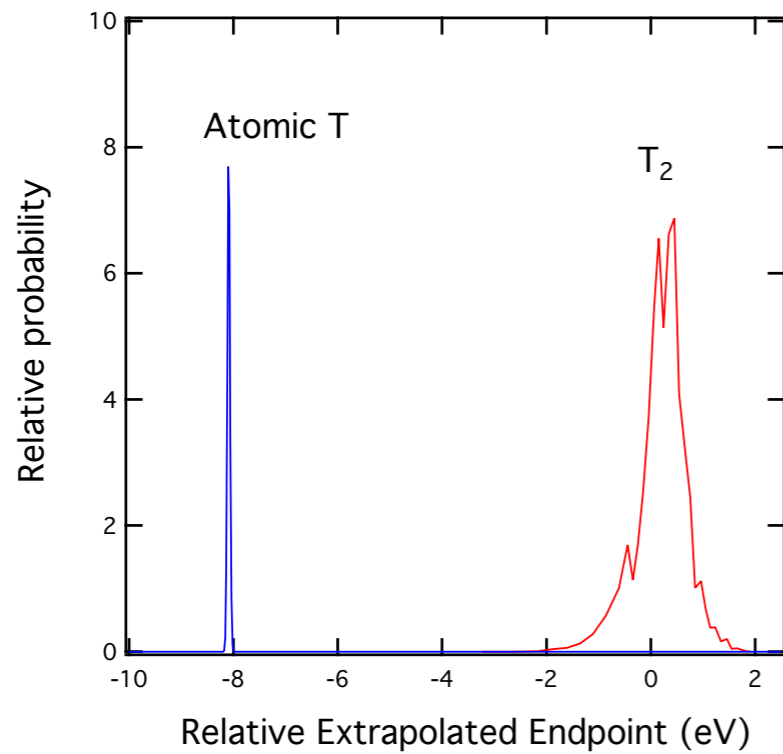
Need to overcome molecular final states to reach "inverted" scale.

### Challenges?

How to create?

How to trap?

How to keep purity?



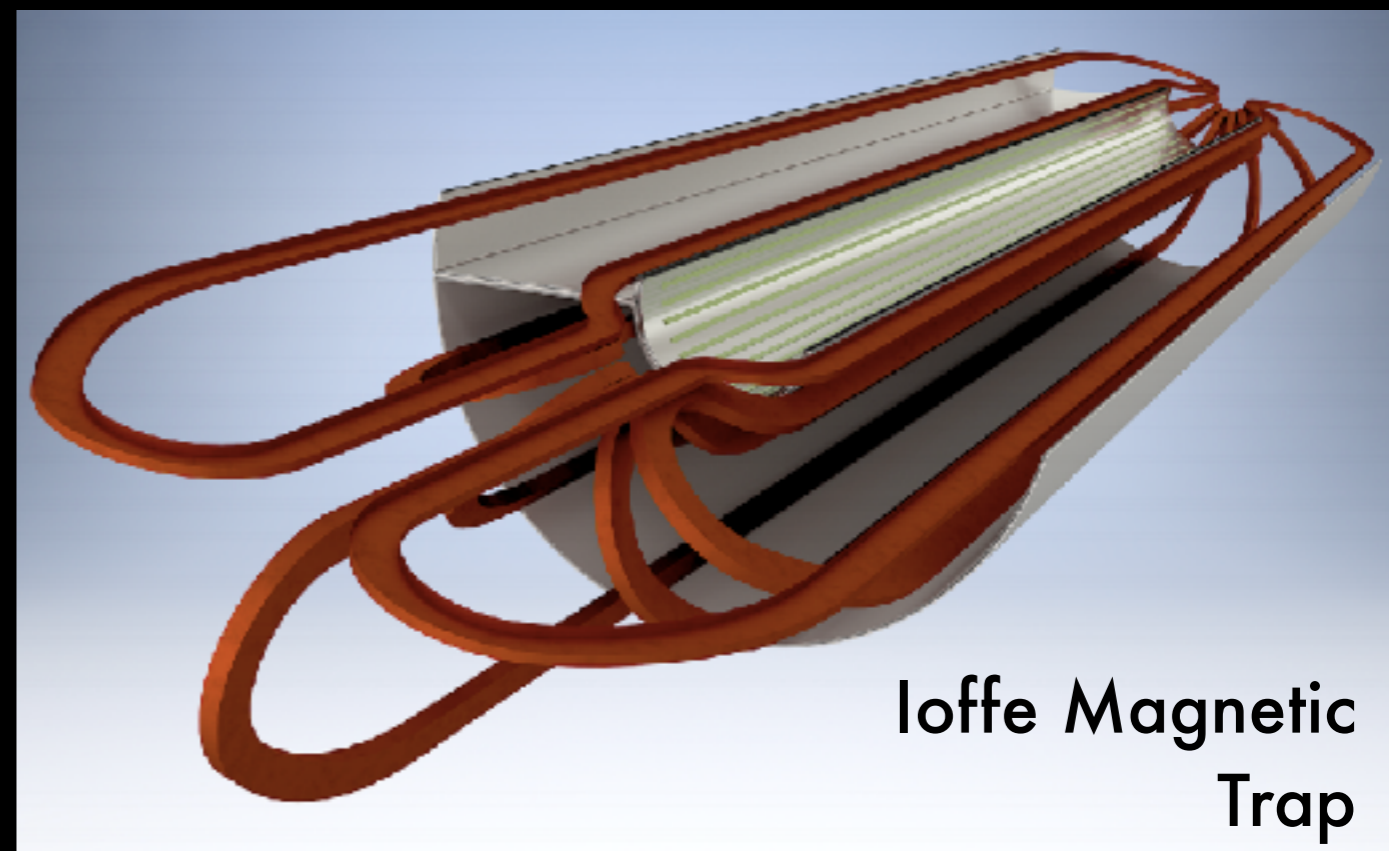
H, D and T have unpaired electrons (non-zero  $\mu$ )

Atom tend to (anti-)align with B-field if change is adiabatic

Potential energy...

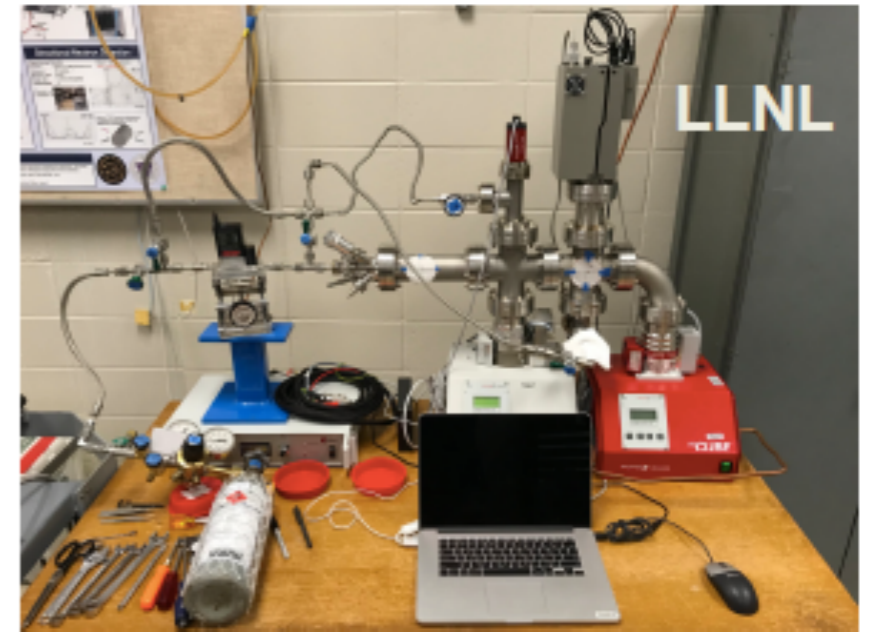
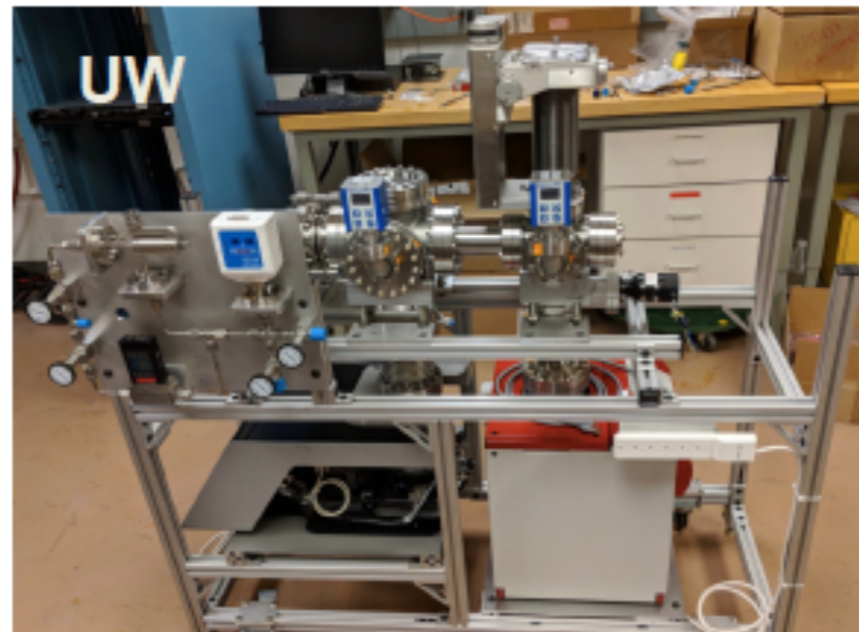
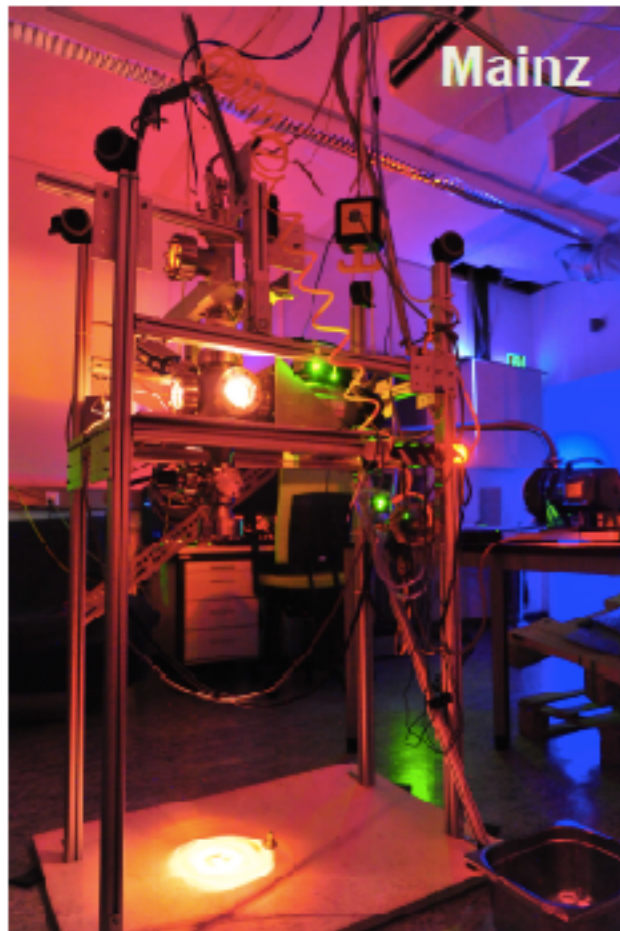
$$\Delta E = -\vec{\mu} \cdot \vec{B}$$

(atoms follow field mimimim)



Solution: A large volume magnetic trap for T atoms

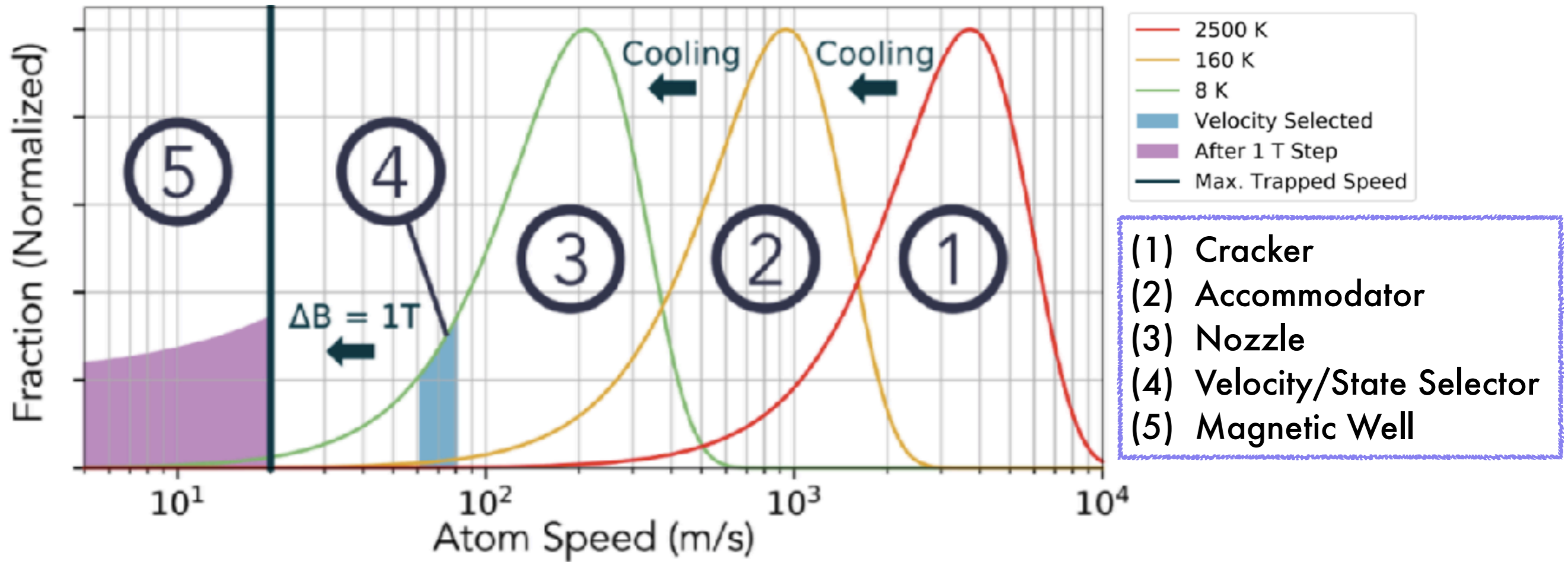
# Making Atomic Tritium



Thermal Cracker

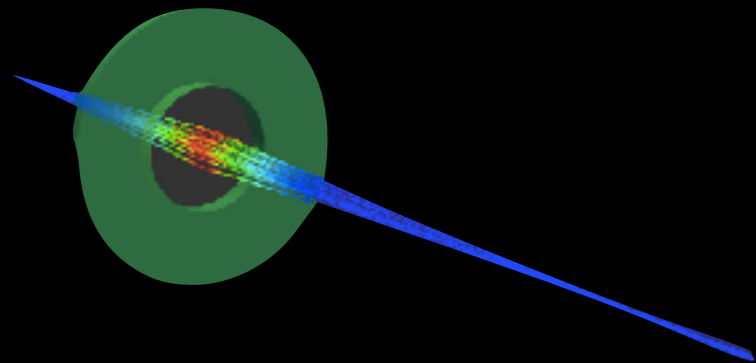
*Simultaneous efforts to create large flow of tritium atoms, typically at about 100 times higher than commercial crackers (at high temperatures)*

# Cooling Atomic Tritium

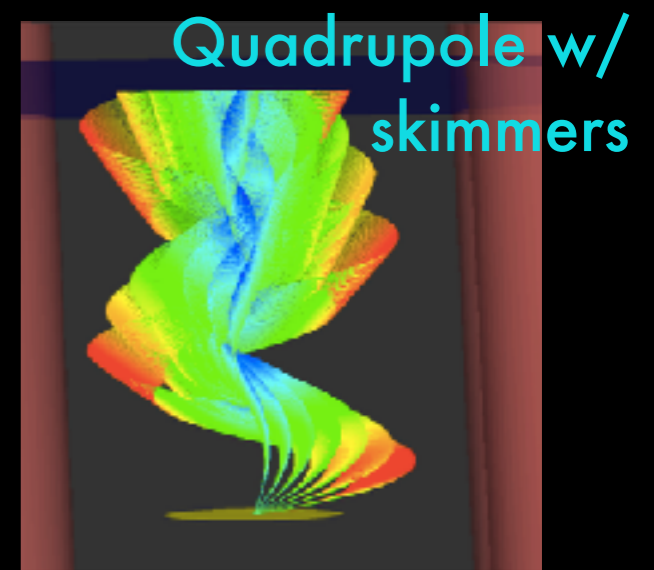


*Need to reach sub-kelvin temperatures  
to trap atomic tritium  
(from very high cracking temperatures).*

*R&D for velocity/state selector*



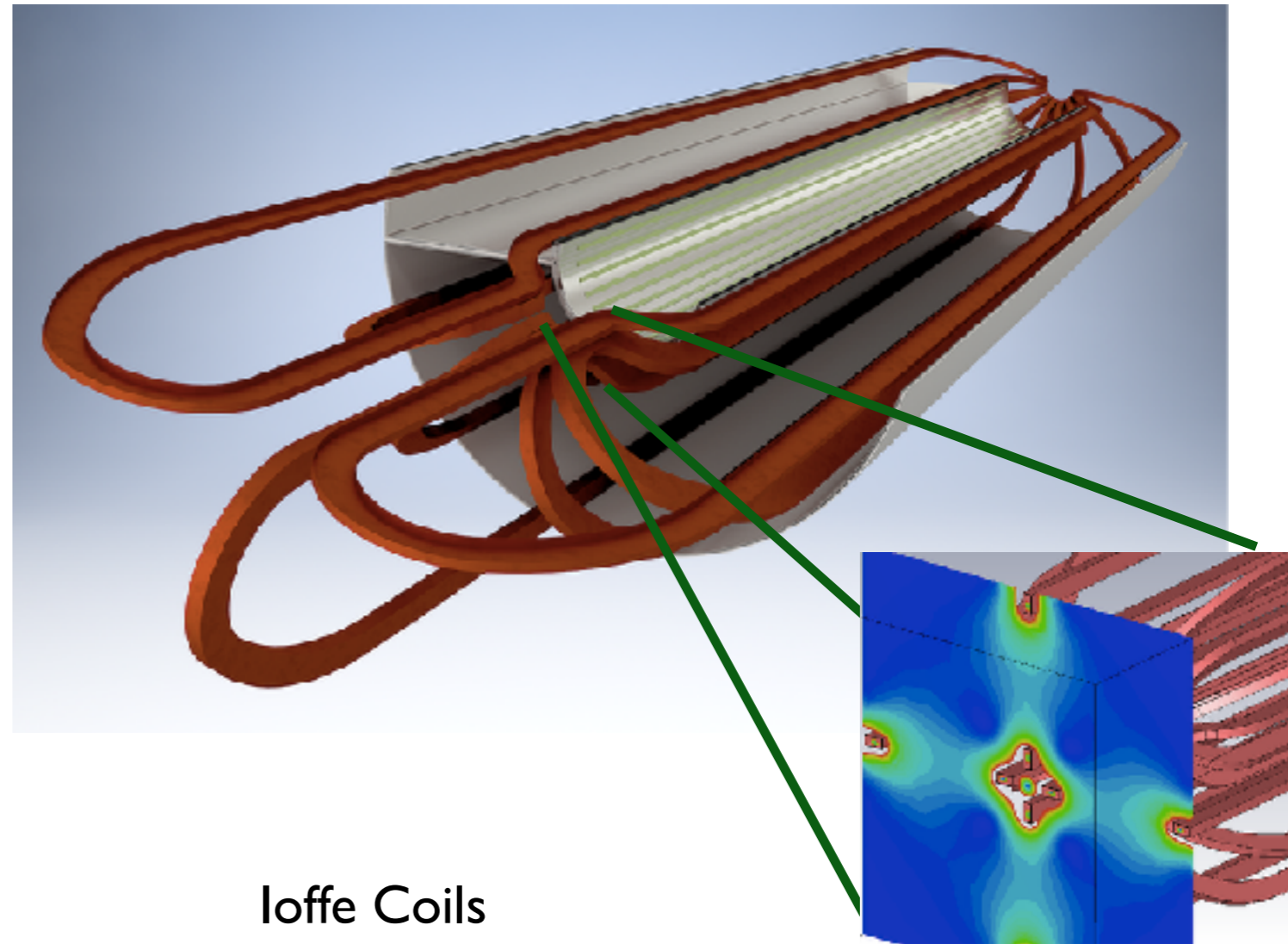
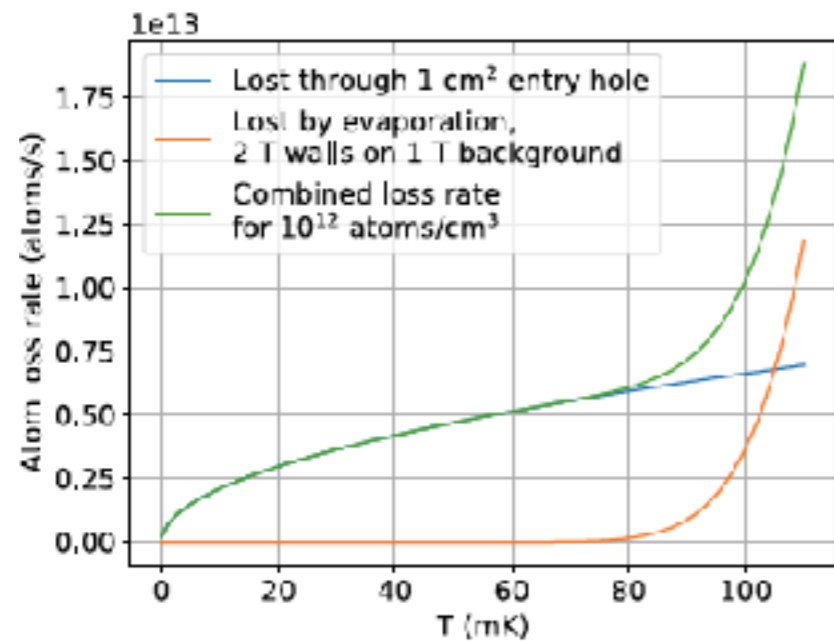
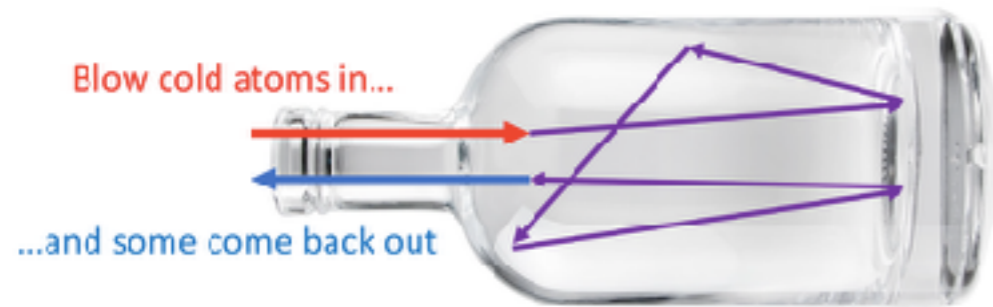
**Magnetic lens**



**Quadrupole w/  
skimmers**



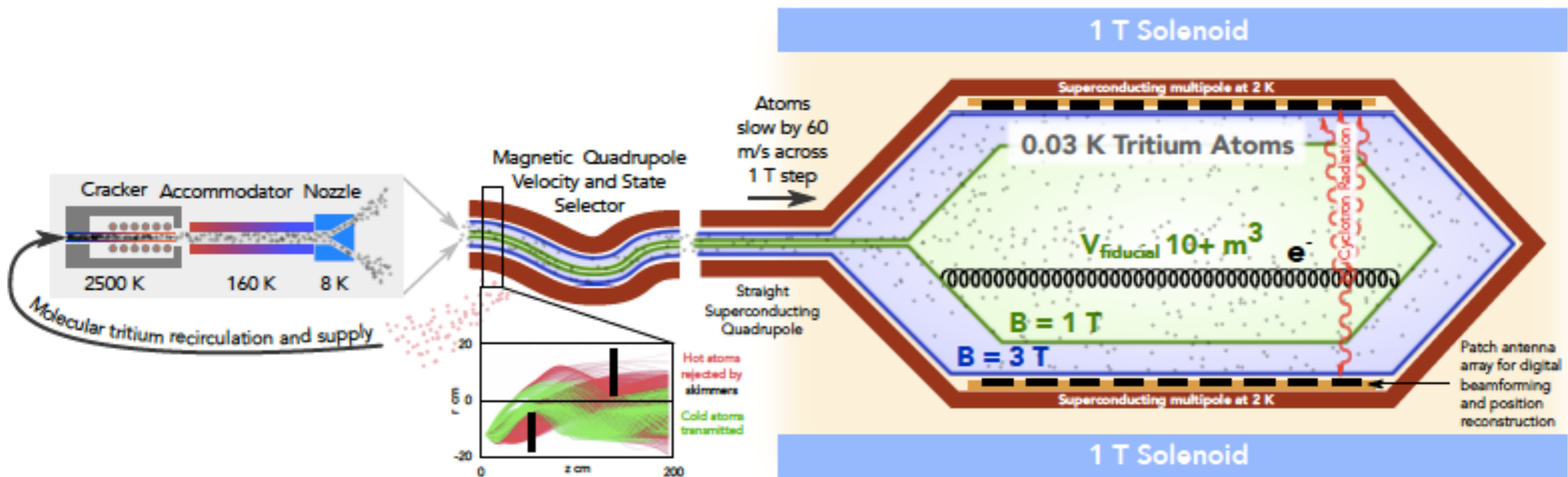
# Trapping Atomic Tritium



*Pursuing an open Ioffe trap to contain tritium atoms at cold temperatures.*

*(Also exploring Halbach configuration for atom trapping)*

# Phase IV

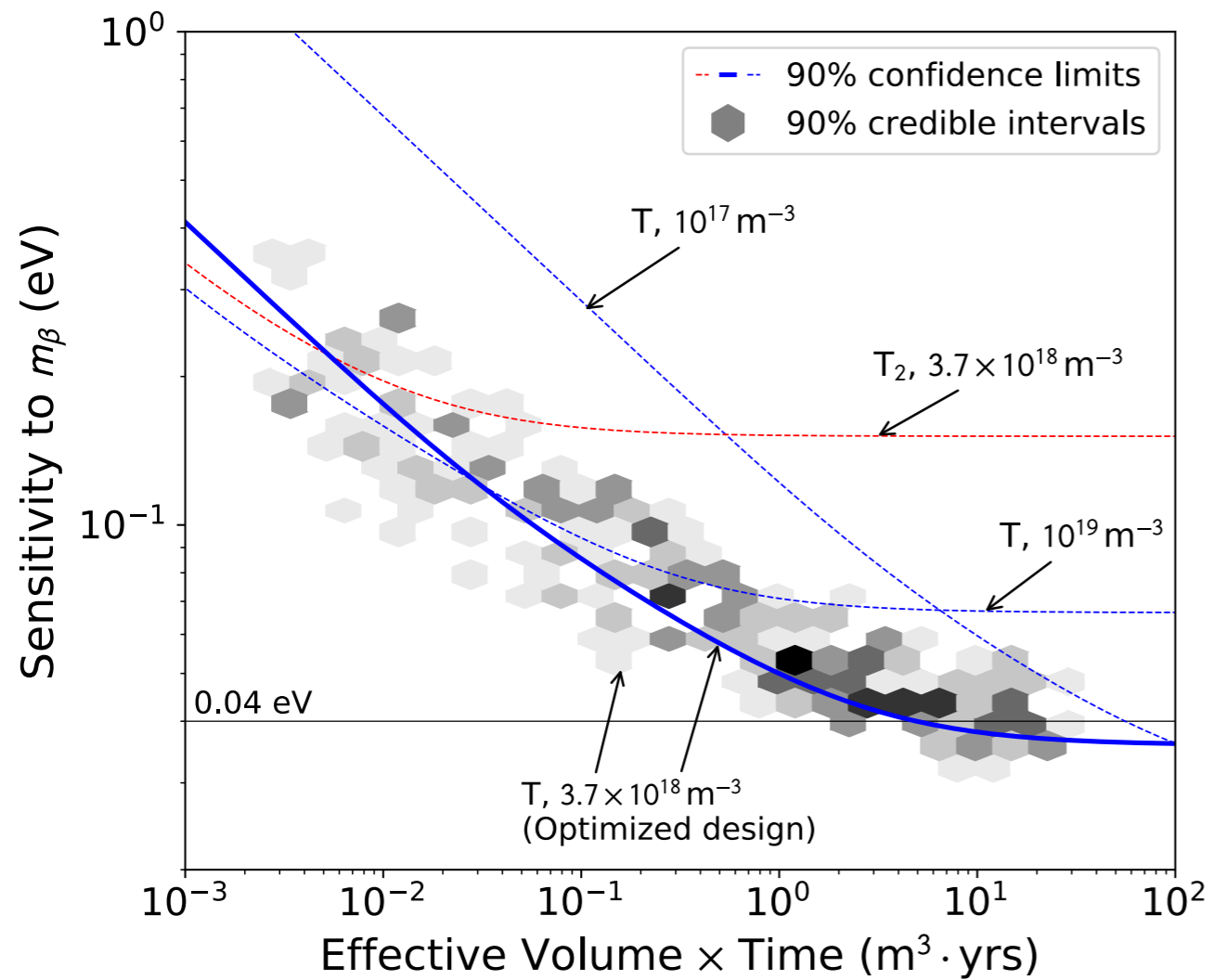


Ultimate atomic tritium experiment combines R&D from Phase III into large RF array tritium trap.

Atomic source, transport, and trap combined for large ( $\text{m}^3$ ) instrumented volume.

Target Mass Sensitivity

$$m_{\beta} < 40 \text{ meV}$$



## Systematics and Sensitivity

Optimized density of  $3.7 \times 10^{18}$  atoms/m<sup>3</sup>

Assume exposure of 5 m<sup>3</sup> y

Full Bayesian analysis

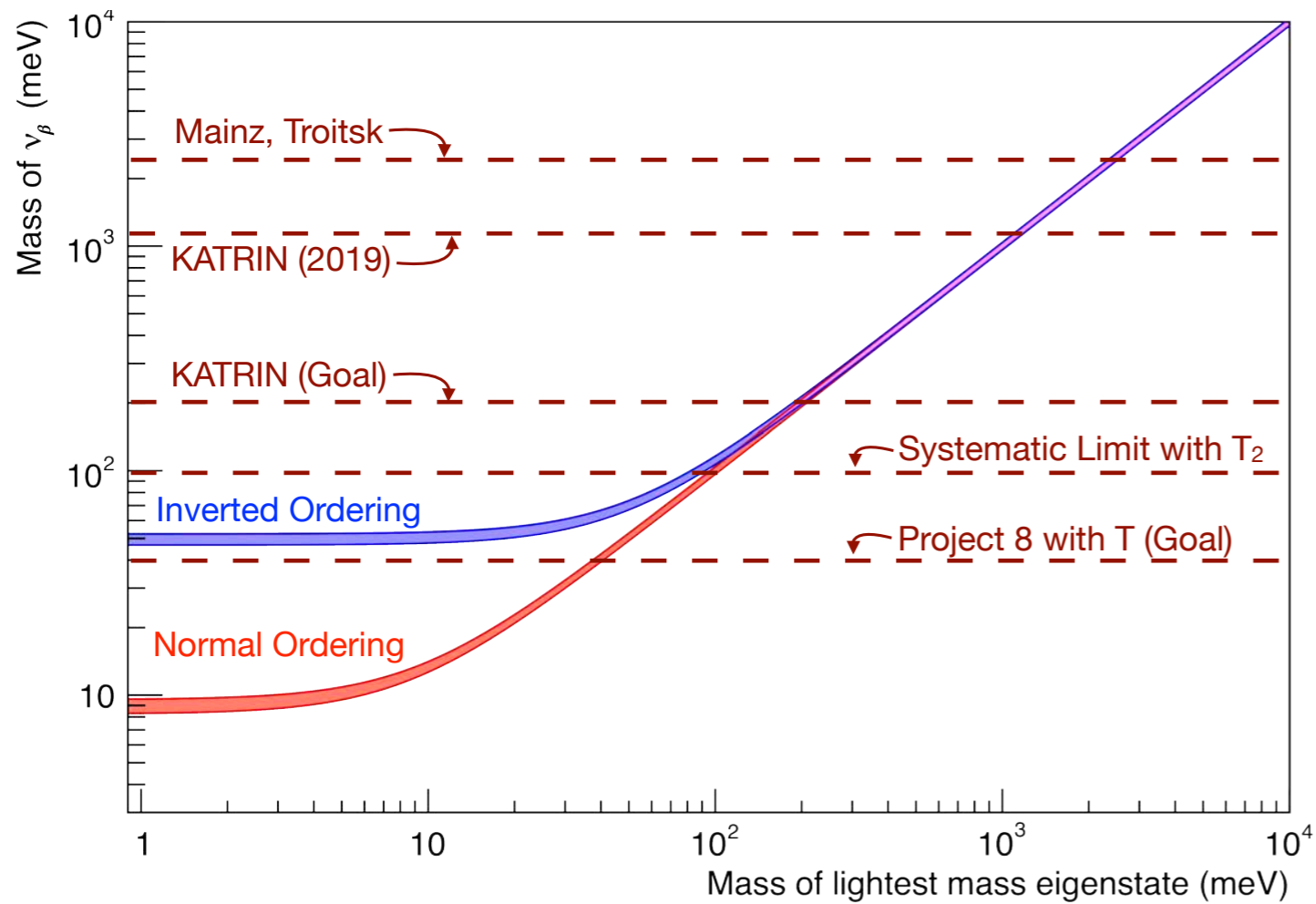
Magnetic field uniformity of 0.1 ppm

Optimal energy resolution:

$$\sigma_E \cong (115 \pm 2) \text{ meV.}$$

## Phase IV

**Goal:** Break into the inverted neutrino mass scale



## Systematics and Sensitivity

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Full Bayesian analysis

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## Phase IV

**Goal:** Break into the inverted neutrino mass scale

## A Quick Summary

CRES can now be added as a **demonstrated** technique for studying beta decay.

Phase II has been completed, with better understanding on **systematics**.

CRES continues to expand, with the eventual target of using an **atomic tritium** source.

Thanks for  
your attention!

