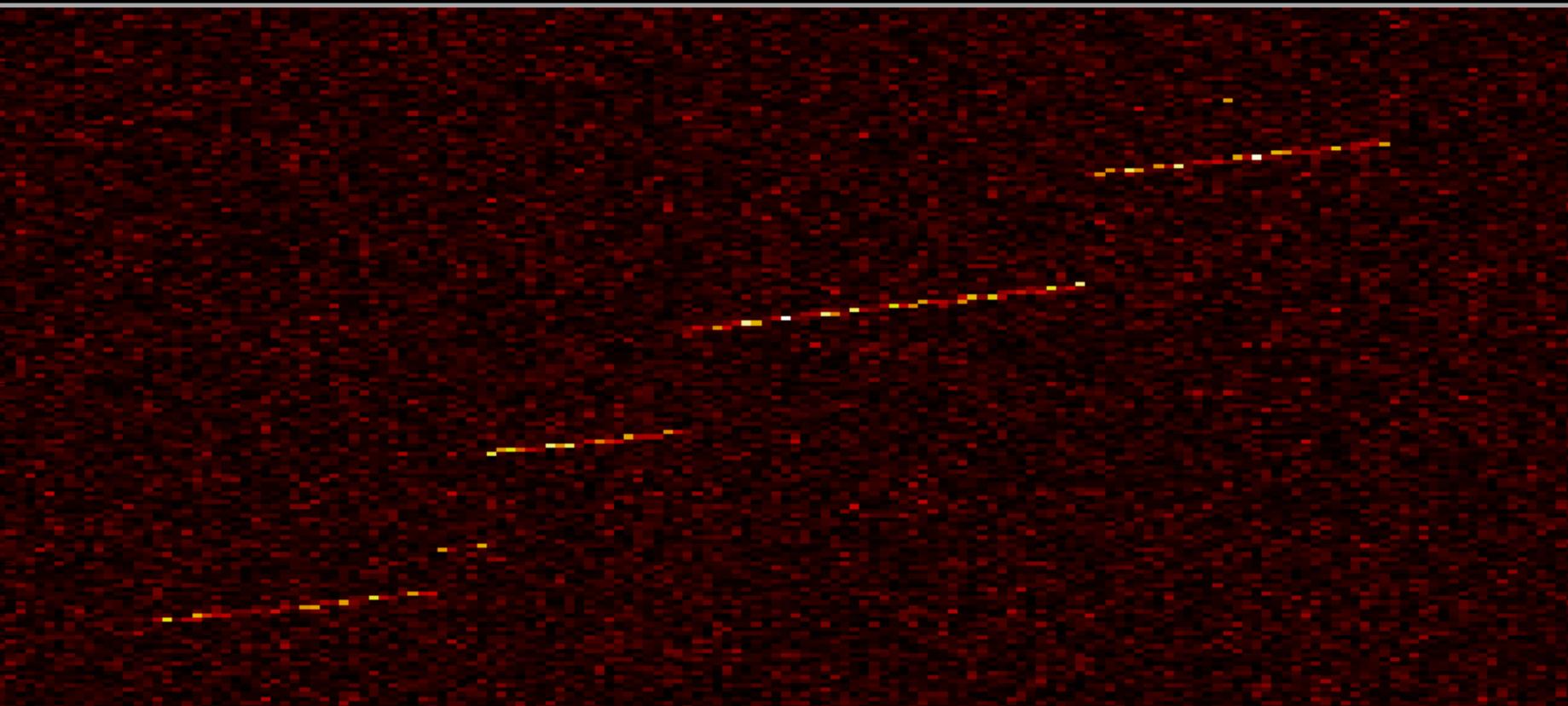


## Probing the Mass Scale of Neutrinos

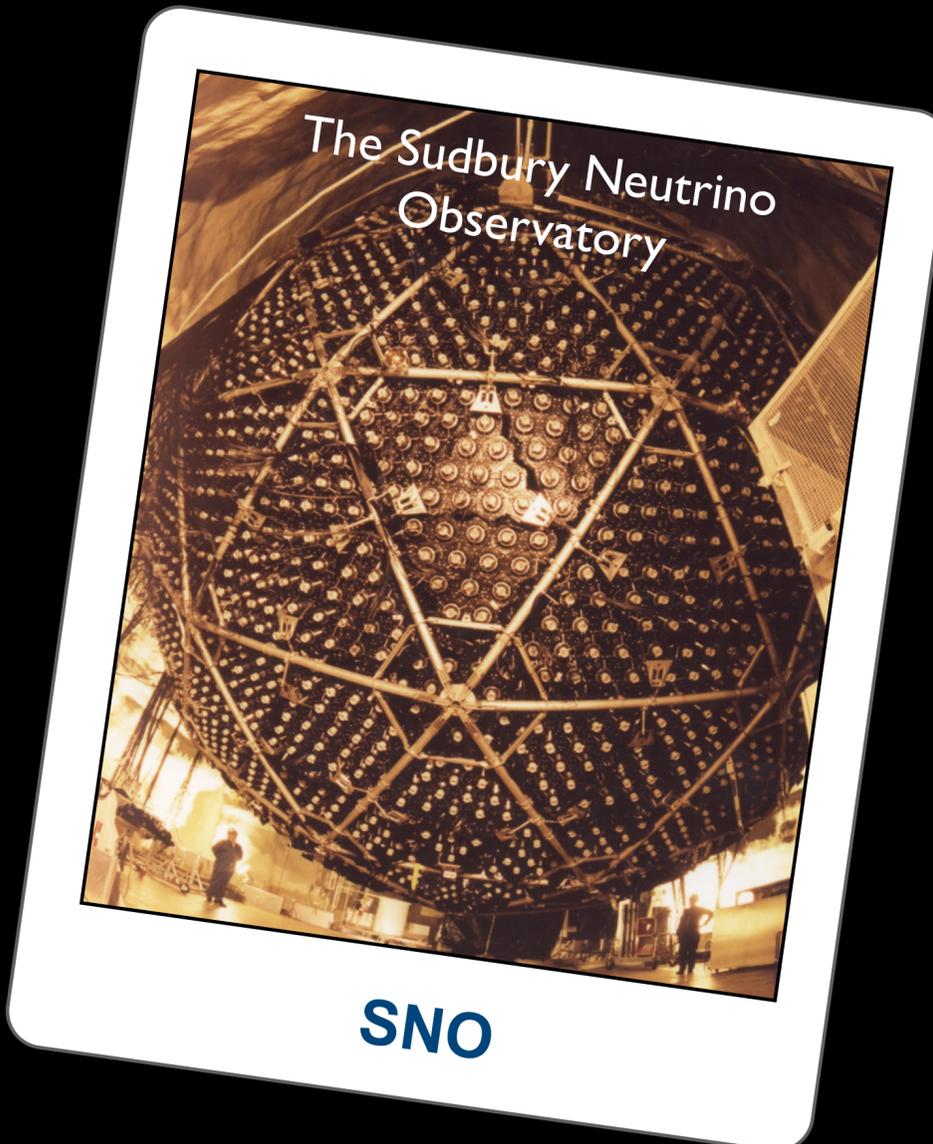


Neutrino Telescopes  
Joseph A. Formaggio  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology



A myriad of experiments helped demonstrate that neutrinos transmute flavor (oscillations).

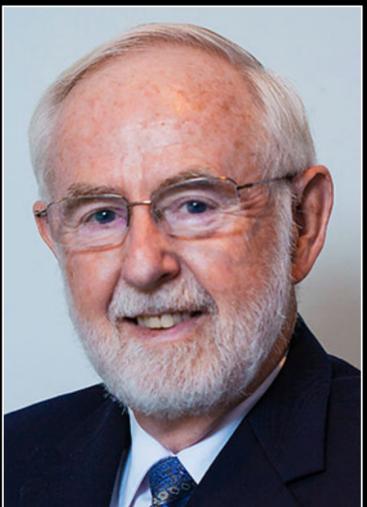
There are predictions that stem from alteration of the Standard Model.



However, oscillation experiments cannot reveal the neutrino mass scale directly.

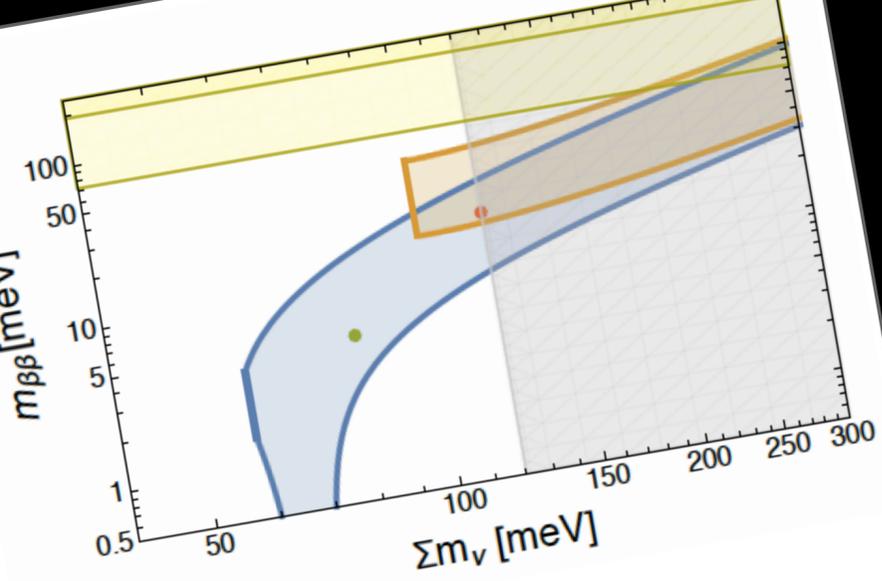


Takaaki Kajita  
(Super-Kamiokande)



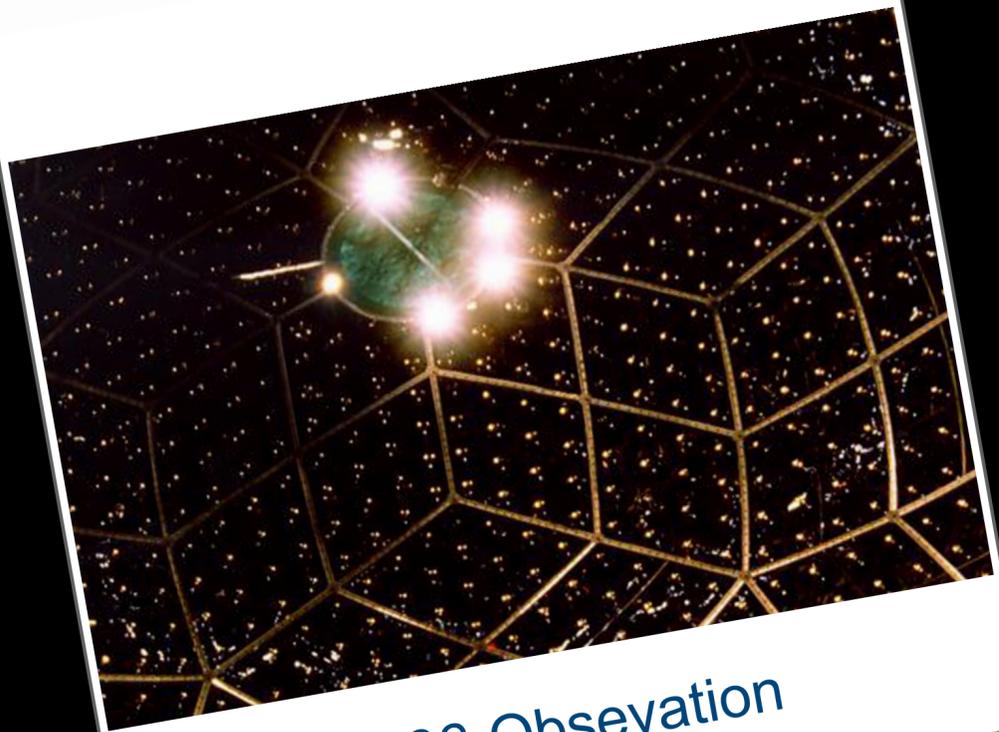
Arthur B. McDonald  
(Sudbury Neutrino Observatory)

*So... how do we access what is  
the scale of neutrino masses?*

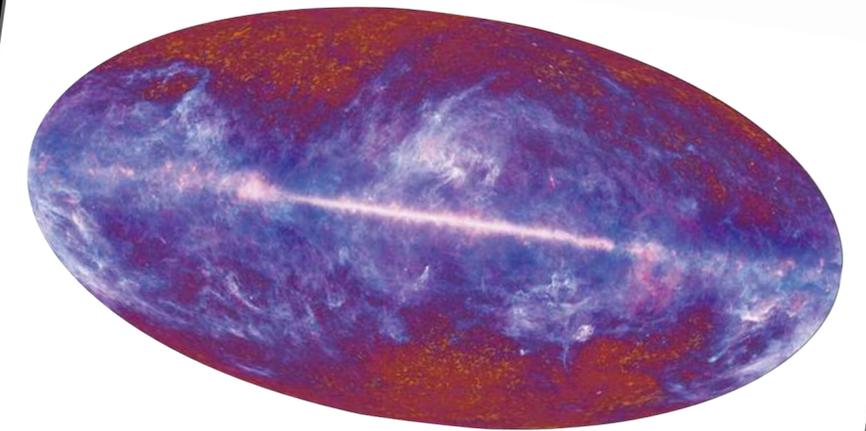
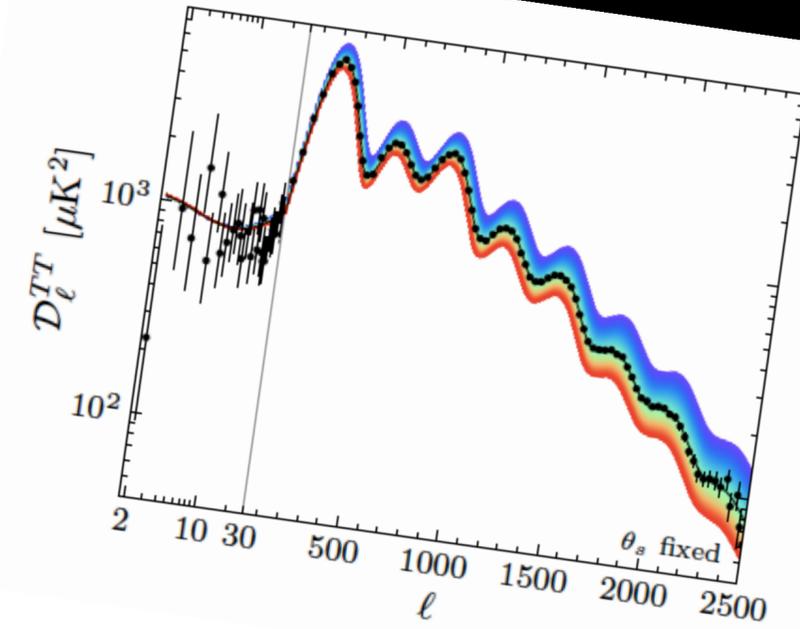


Neutrino oscillations,  
 neutrinoless double beta  
 decay  
 and  
 cosmology

all help shed light on the  
 neutrino mass scale  
 (see talks in this conference).

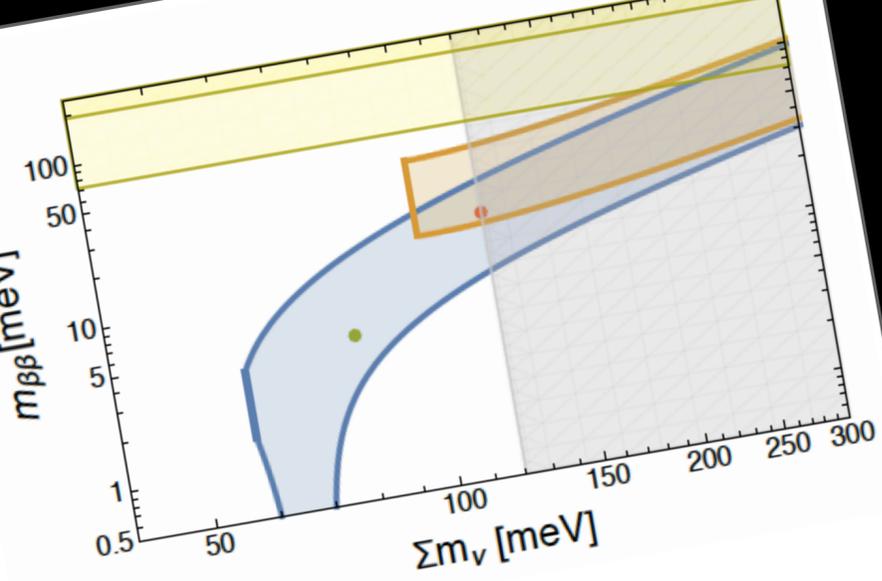


$0\nu\beta\beta$  Observation



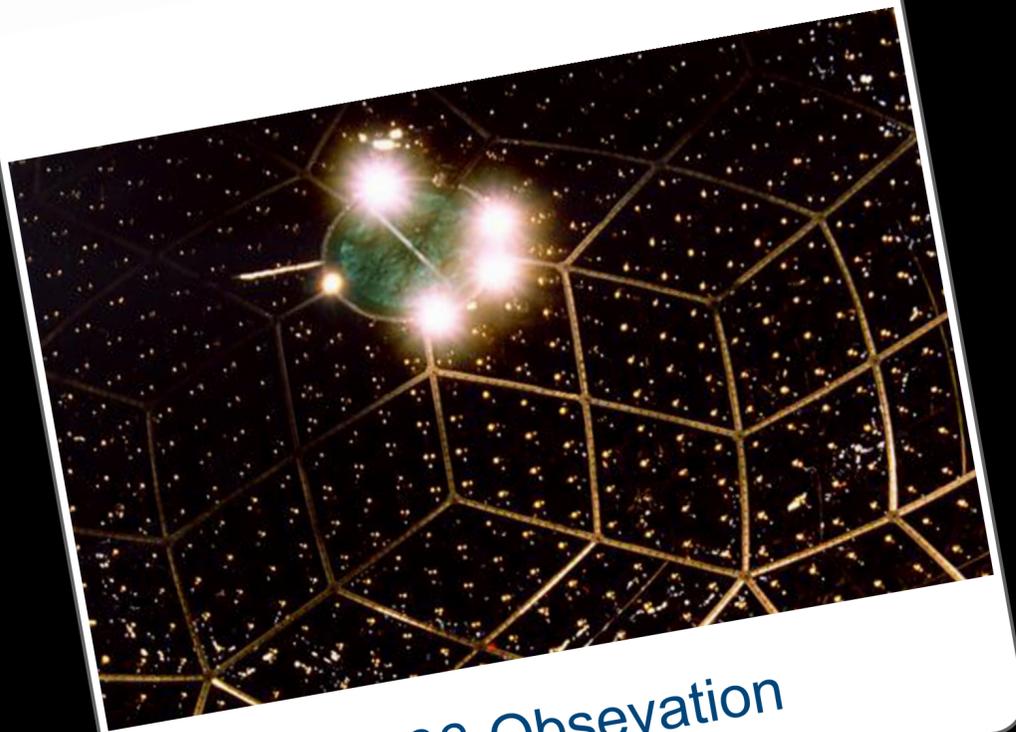
Cosmological Constraints

However, these methods rely on  
 underlying assumptions  
 ( $\Lambda$ CDM, lepton number violation)



Neutrino oscillations,  
 neutrinoless double beta  
 decay  
 and  
 cosmology

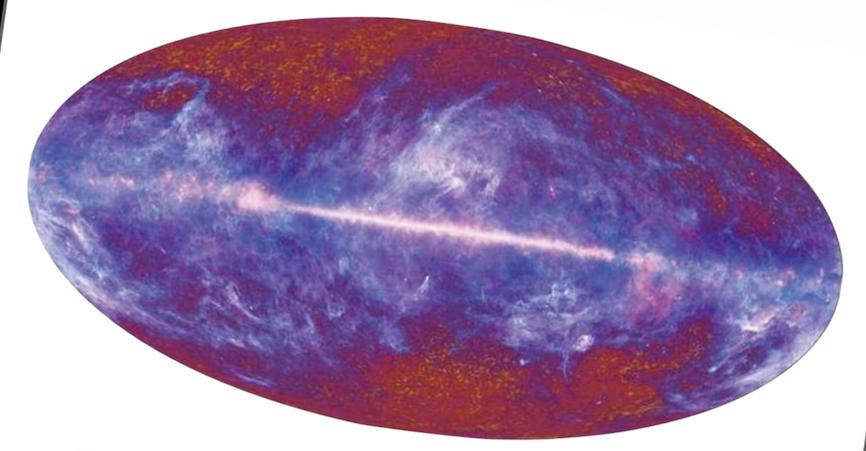
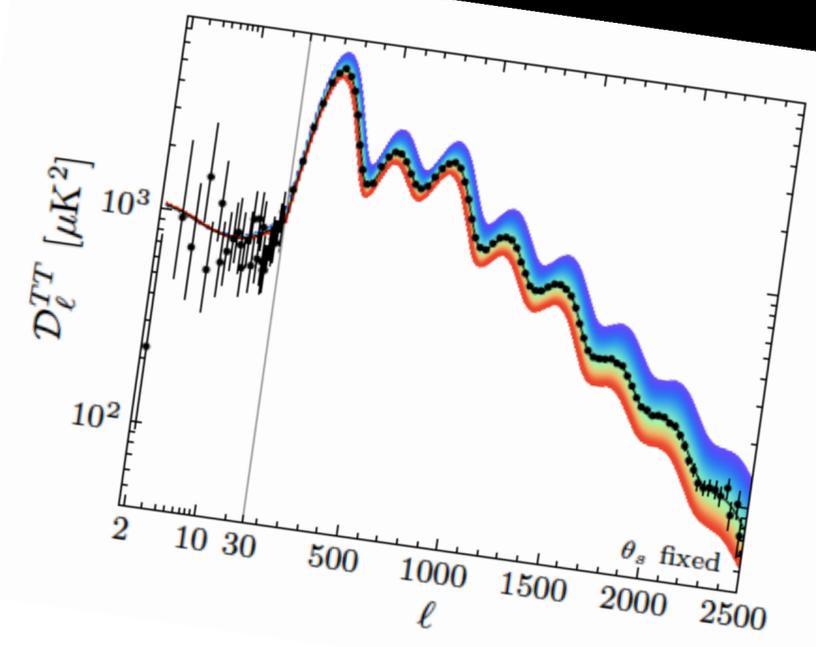
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$0\nu\beta\beta$  Observation

⇐ Monday's Talk

However, these methods rely on  
 underlying assumptions  
 ( $\Lambda$ CDM, lepton number violation)



Cosmological Constraints

Thursday's Talk ⇒

*All these methods indirectly  
access the neutrino mass scale*

*All these methods indirectly  
access the neutrino mass scale*

*A **direct** method must rely on kinematics  
to determine the neutrino mass.*

*All these methods indirectly  
access the neutrino mass scale*

$$E \stackrel{?}{=} p c$$

A **direct** method must rely on kinematics  
to determine the neutrino mass.



First suggested by Francis Perrin in 1933

*“On peut essayer de déduire de la forme des spectres continus d’émission une indication sur la valeur de cette masse inconnue...”*

[One could attempt to deduce from the shape of the continuous emission spectra an indication of the value of this unknown mass.. ]



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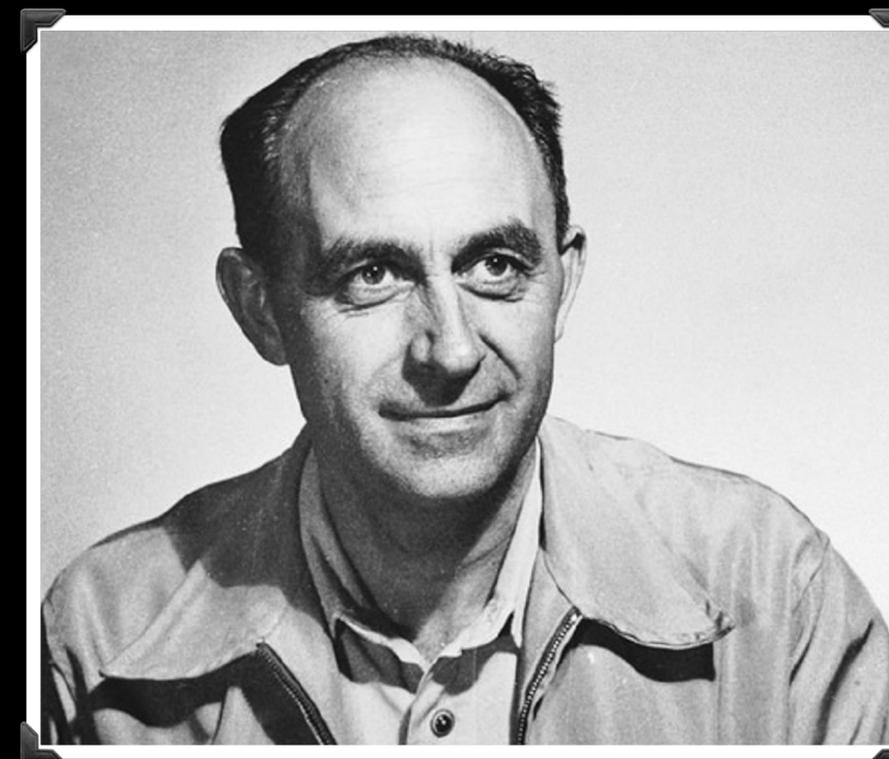
*“On peut essayer de déduire de la forme des spectres continus d’émission une indication sur la valeur de cette masse inconnue...”*

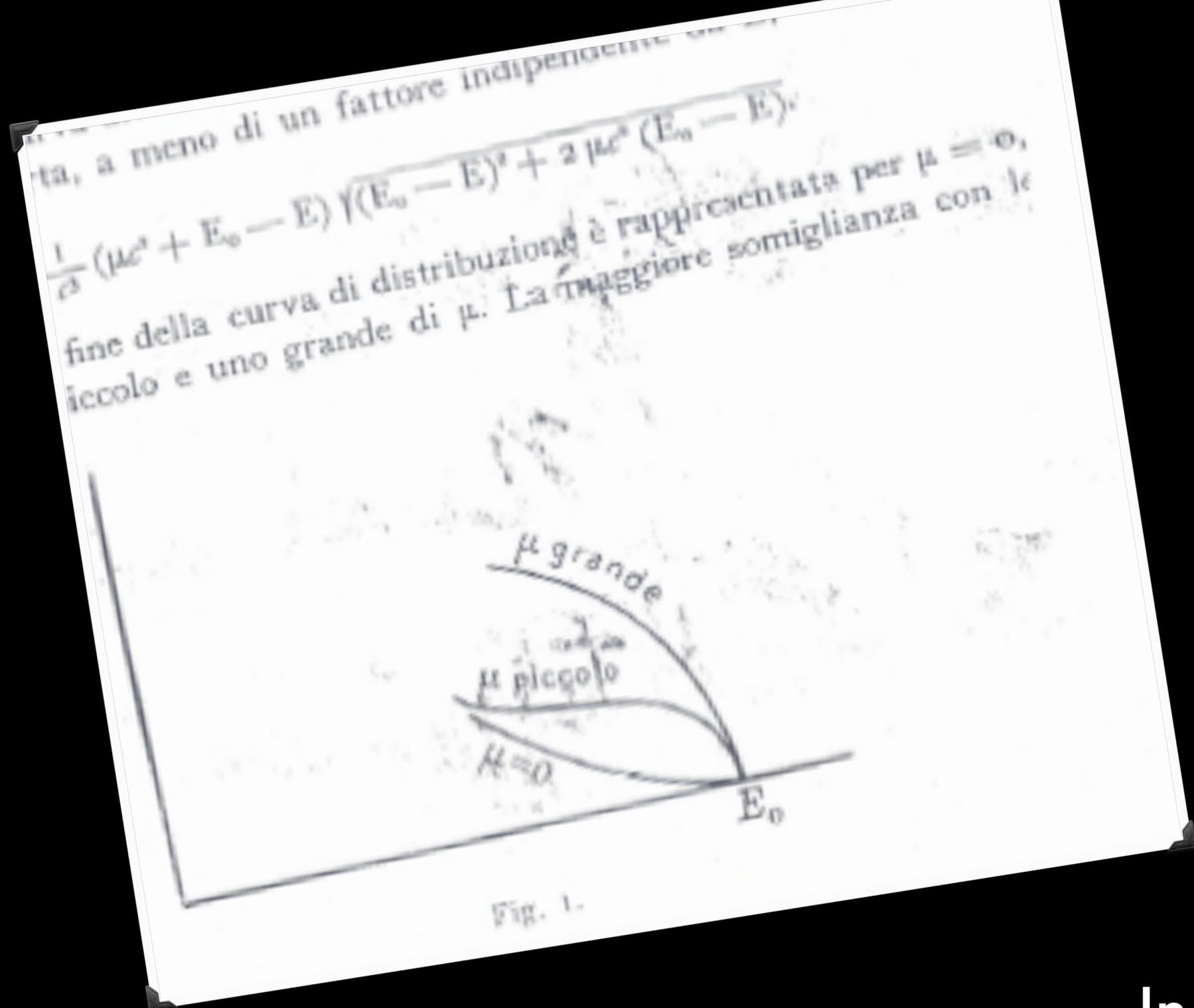
[One could attempt to deduce from the shape of the continuous emission spectra an indication of the value of this unknown mass... ]

Enrico Fermi independently came to the same conclusion in his seminal 1934 paper on weak decay.

*“Arriviamo così a concludere che la massa del neutrino è uguale a zero o, in ogni caso, piccola in confronto della massa dell’elettrone ( $\sim$ ) ...”*

[We thus conclude that the mass of the neutrino is equal to zero or, in any case, small enough in comparison to the mass of the electron.]

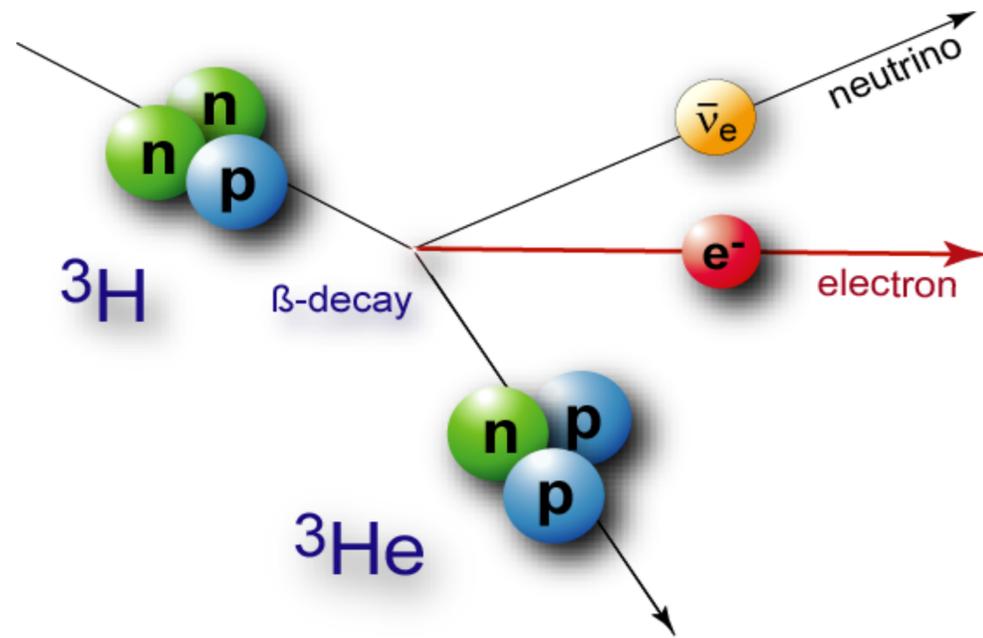




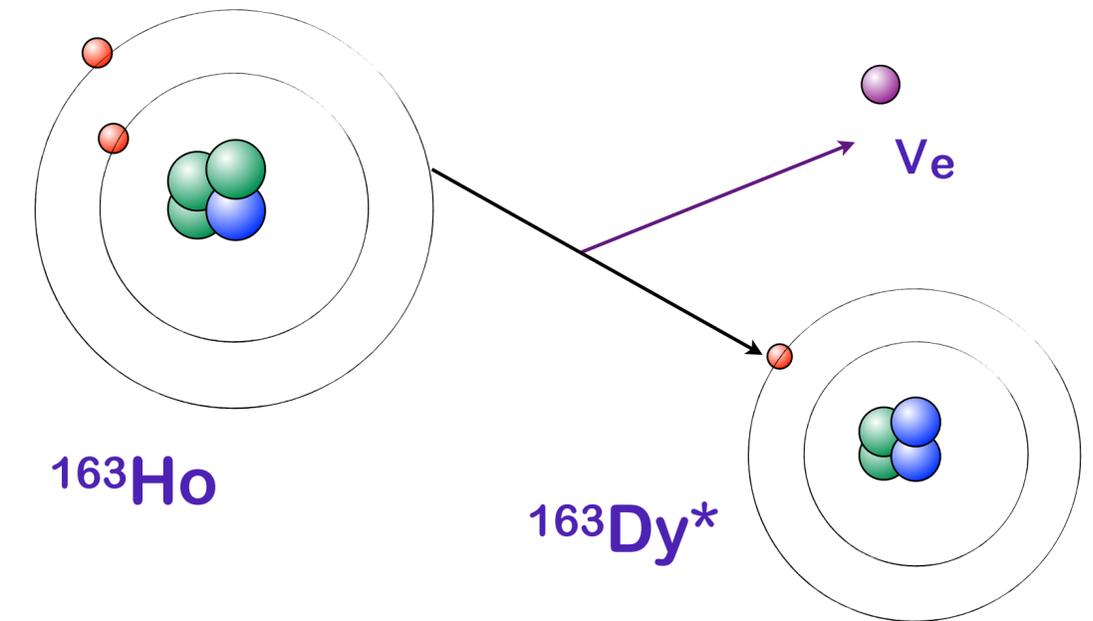
I ragazzi di via Panisperna.

In his paper, Fermi already sketches out how one can do this.

## Tritium beta decay

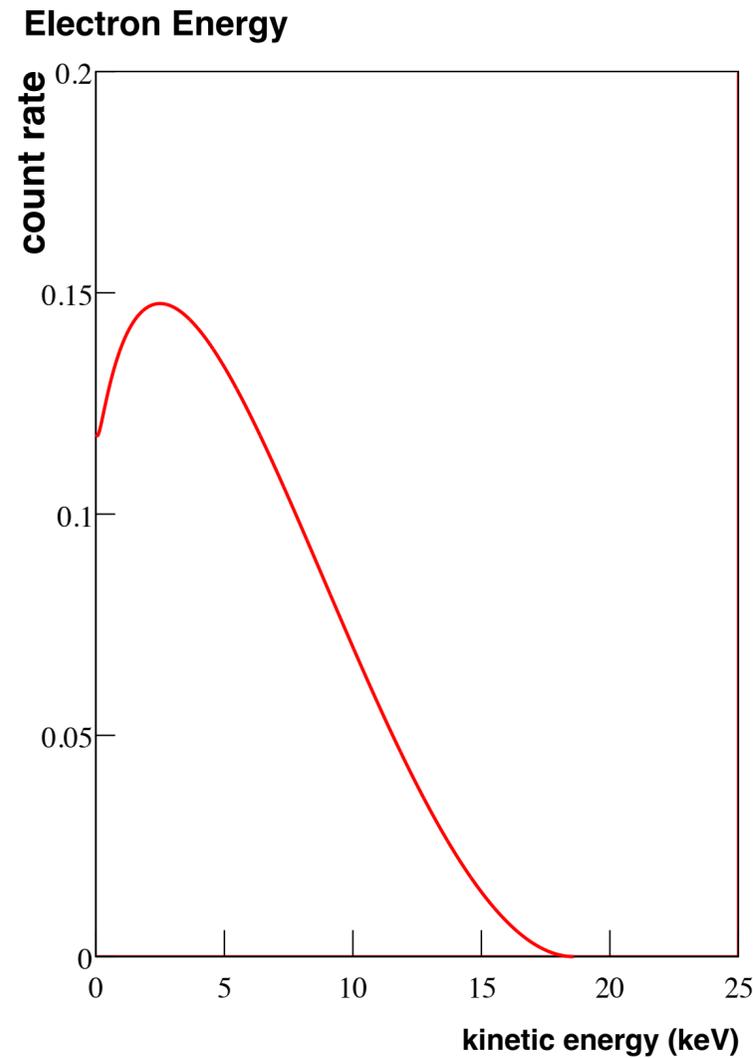


## Holmium electron capture



For both beta decay and electron capture, the information about the neutrino mass comes from the phase space dependence on the neutrino momentum.

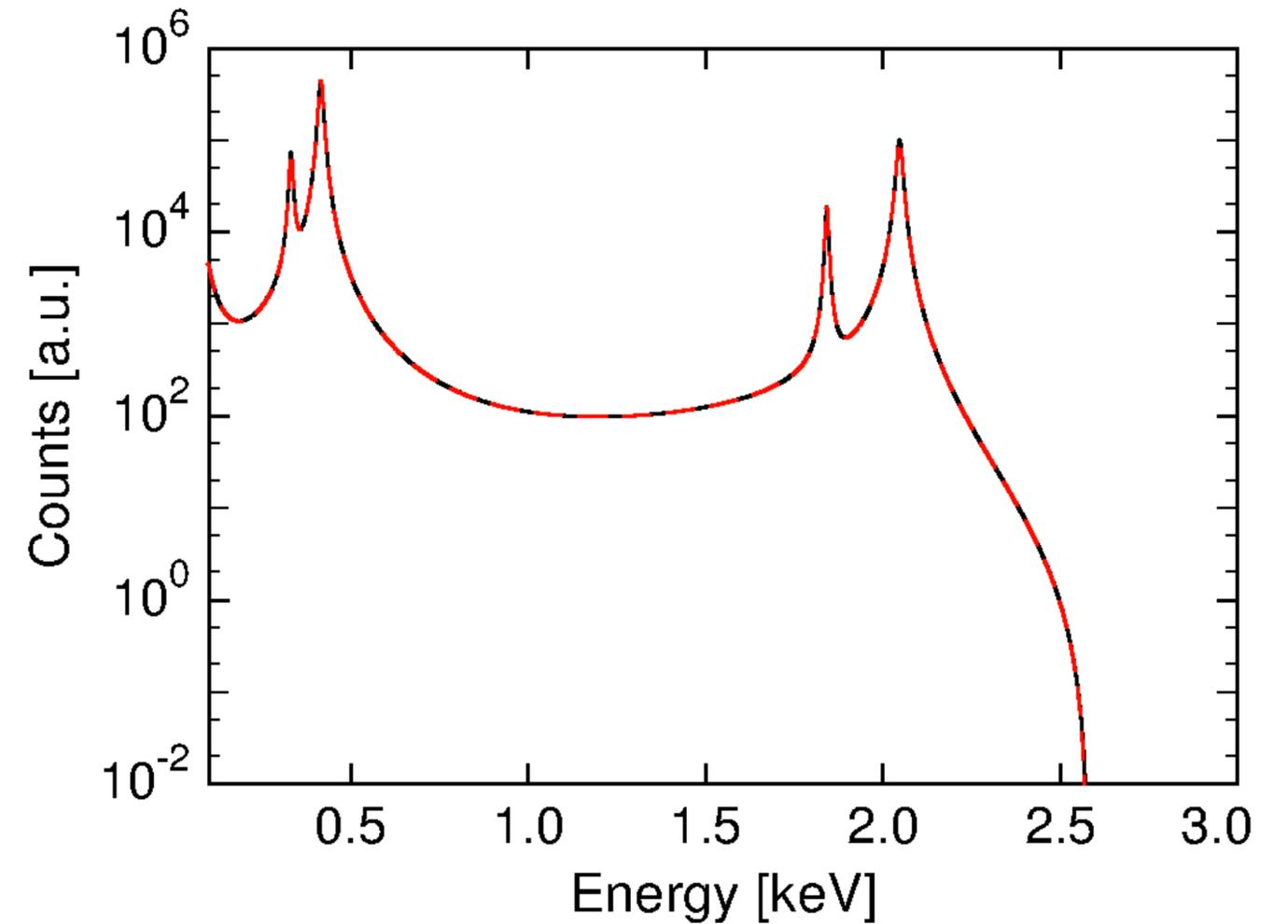
## Tritium beta decay



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

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

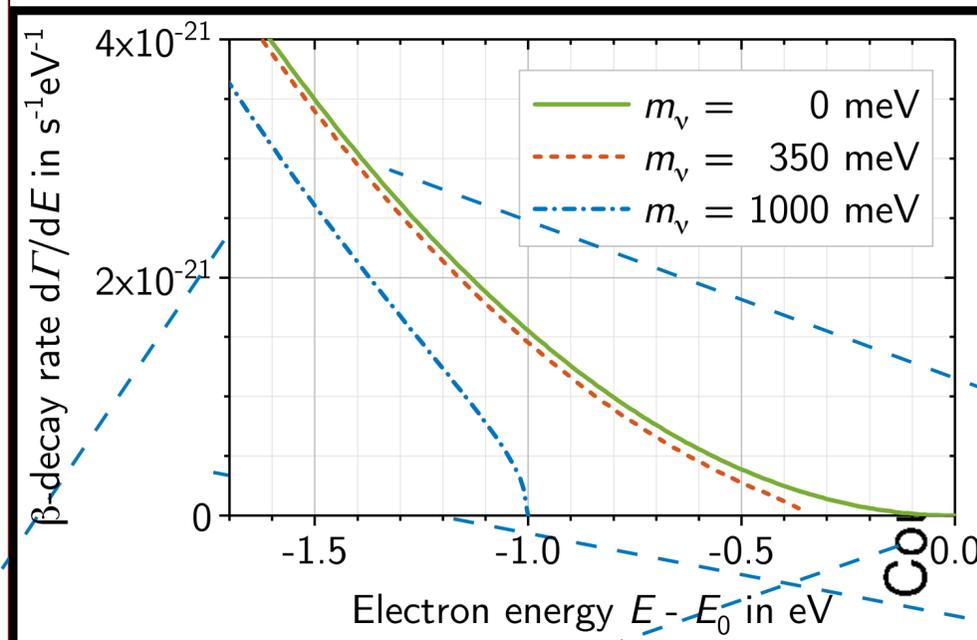
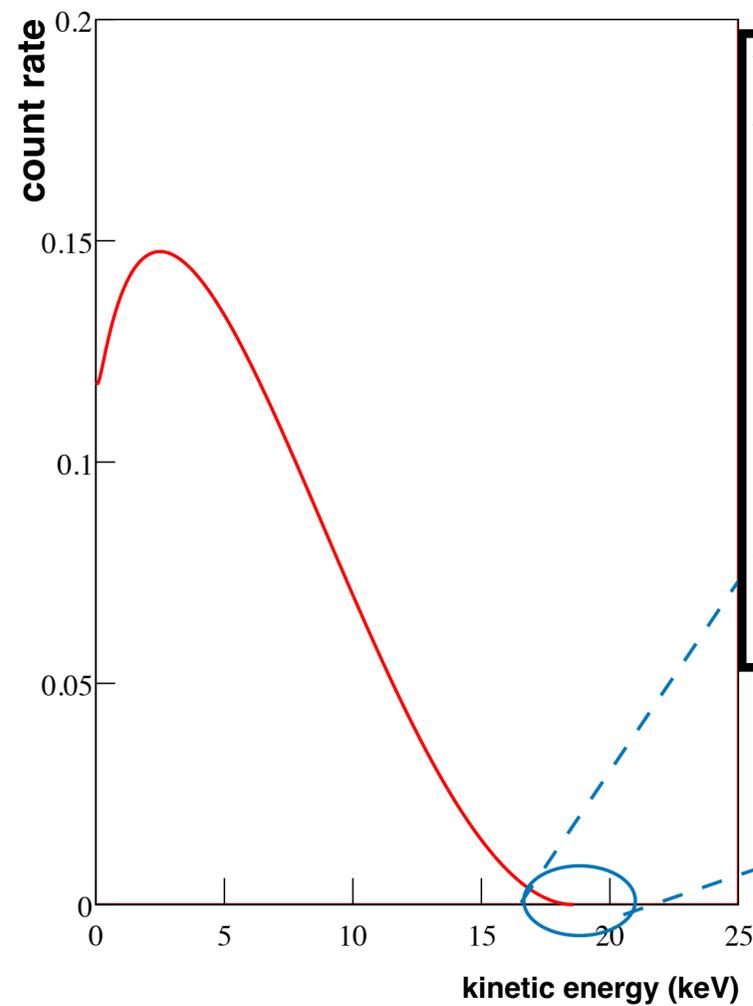
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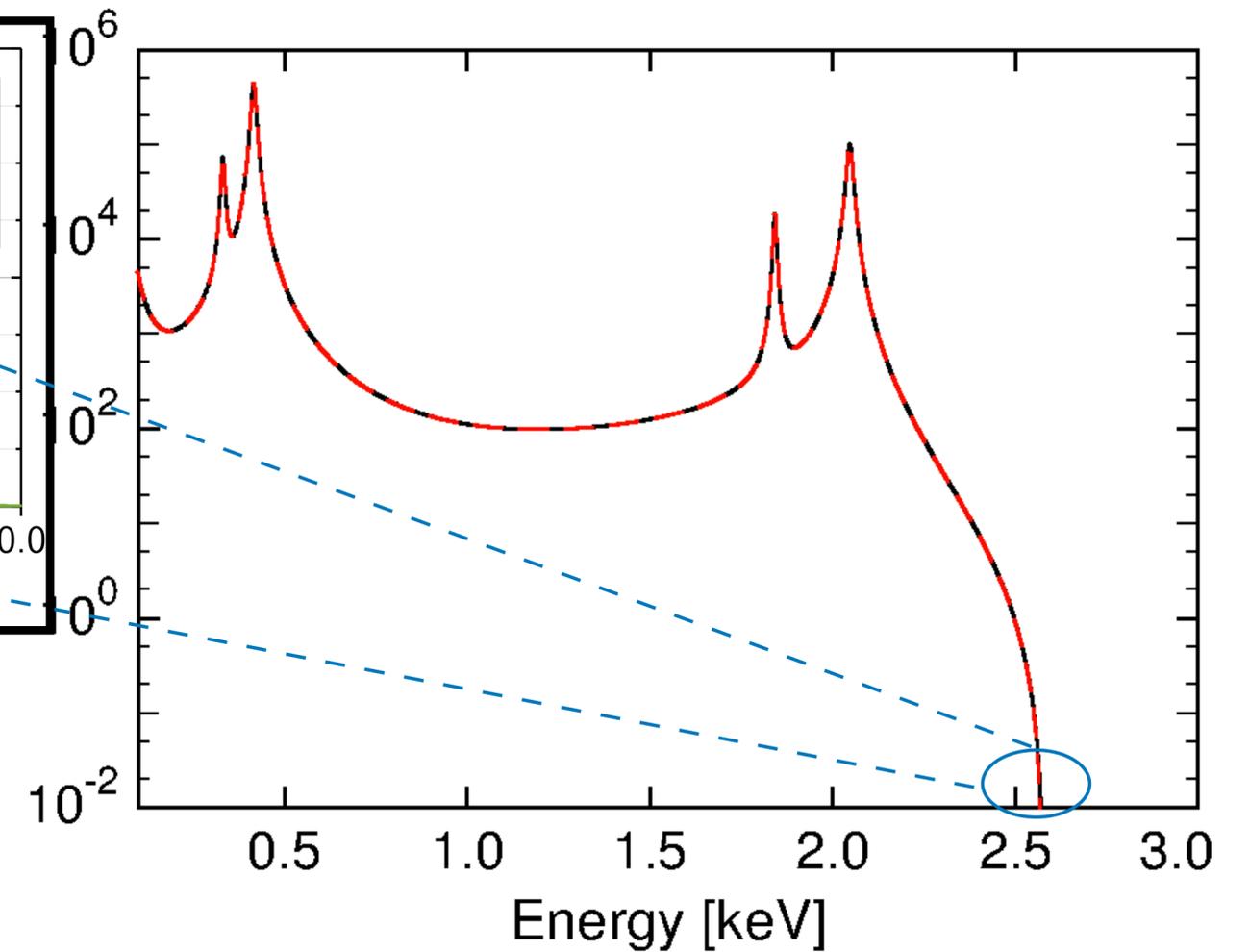
## Tritium beta decay

Electron Energy



$$m_\beta = \sqrt{\sum_i |U_{ei}|^2 m_i^2}$$

## Holmium electron capture



We define  $m_\beta$  as the incoherent weighted sum of the neutrino mass eigenvalues.

The neutrino mass effect is most pronounced at the end of the decay spectrum.

$^3\text{H}_2$   
  
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  
 $\tau_{1/2}$   $4.4 \times 10^{14}$  yrs

*First,  
pick a source...*

$^{135}\text{Cs}$   
  
440 eV  
 $\tau_{1/2}$   $1.5 \times 10^6$  yrs

Isotope	Spin-Parity	Half-life y	Specific Activity Bq/g	$Q_A$ eV	Branching ratio	Last eV	Source Mass g
$^3\text{H}_2$	$\frac{1}{2}^+ \rightarrow \frac{1}{2}^+$	12.3	$3.6 \times 10^{14}$	18591	0.57	$2.9 \times 10^{-13}$	$2.0 \times 10^{-7}$
$^{115}\text{In}$	$\frac{9}{2}^+ \rightarrow \frac{3}{2}^+$	$4.4 \times 10^{14}$	0.26	147	$1.2 \times 10^{-6}$	$5.0 \times 10^{-7}$	$7.5 \times 10^7$
$^{135}\text{Cs}$	$\frac{7}{2}^+ \rightarrow \frac{1}{2}^-$	$1.5 \times 10^6$	$6.8 \times 10^7$	440	$(0.04 - 16) \times 10^{-6}$	$2.2 \times 10^{-8}$	0.4 - 217
$^{187}\text{Re}$	$\frac{5}{2}^+ \rightarrow \frac{1}{2}^-$	$4.3 \times 10^{10}$	$1.6 \times 10^3$	2470	1.0	$1.2 \times 10^{-10}$	57
$^{163}\text{Ho}$	$\frac{7}{2}^- \rightarrow \frac{5}{2}^-$	4750	$1.8 \times 10^{10}$	2858		$\sim 10^{-12}$	$\sim 1.0 \times 10^{-5}$

$^{135}\text{Cs}$  and  $^{115}\text{In}$  look attractive for their low endpoint and because decays can be tagged.  
But they suffer from minuscule branching ratios.

Other new ultra-low  $\beta$ /EC targets, such as  $^{76}\text{As}$  and  $^{155}\text{Tb}$ , currently under study.

Issues with  $^{187}\text{Re}$  make it impractical.

Tritium and holmium are the top candidates of study for now.

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*Amount needed  
to see 1 event  
per day in last eV*

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## MAC-E Filter

*Magnetic Adiabatic Collimation with Electromagnetic filtering*

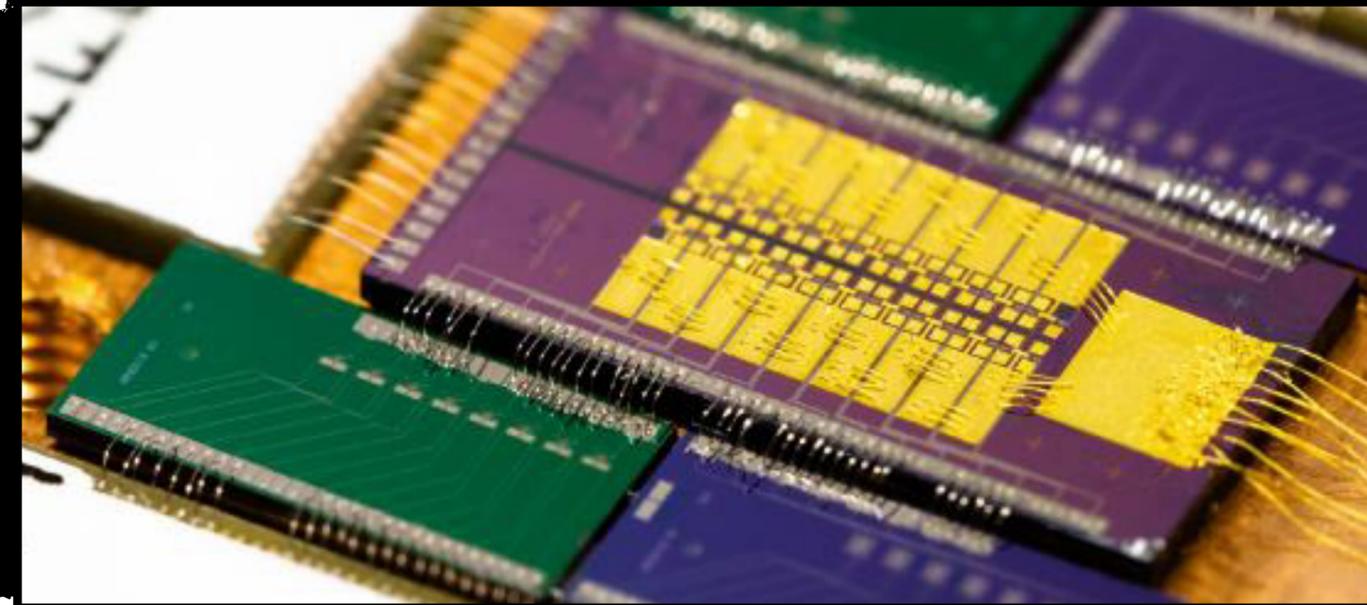
Experiment(s): Mainz, Troisk, **KATRIN**



## Calorimetry

*Total energy absorption using bolometers.*

Experiment(s): **ECHO, HOLMES**



## Cyclotron Radiation Emission Spectroscopy

*Microwave frequency measurement.*

Experiment(s): **Project 8, CRESDA**



## MAC-E Filter

*Magnetic Adiabatic Collimation with Electromagnetic filtering*

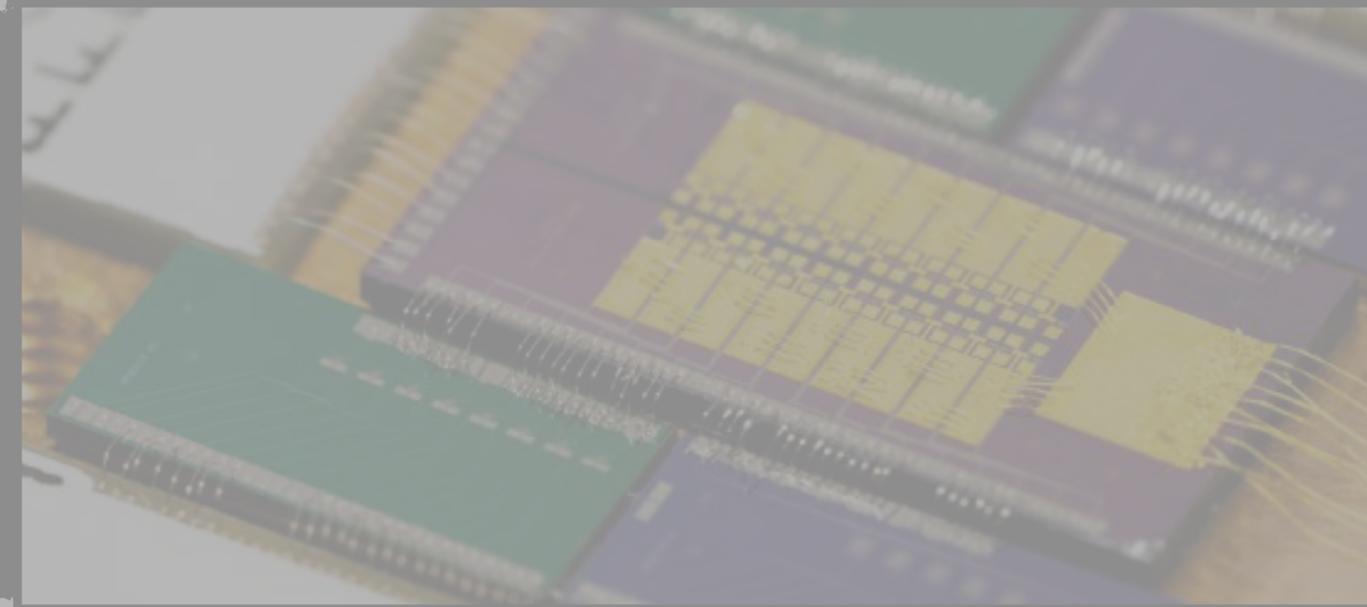
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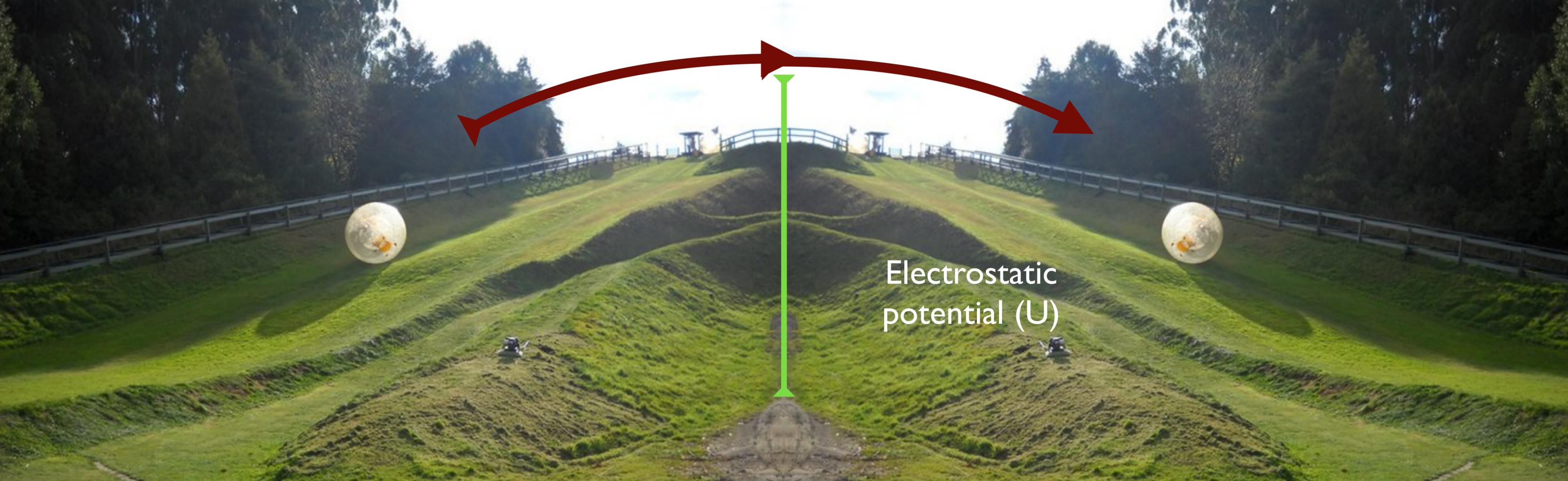


## Cyclotron Radiation Emission Spectroscopy

*Microwave frequency measurement.*

Experiment(s): **Project 8, CRESDA**





High Magnetic  
Field ( $B_s$ )

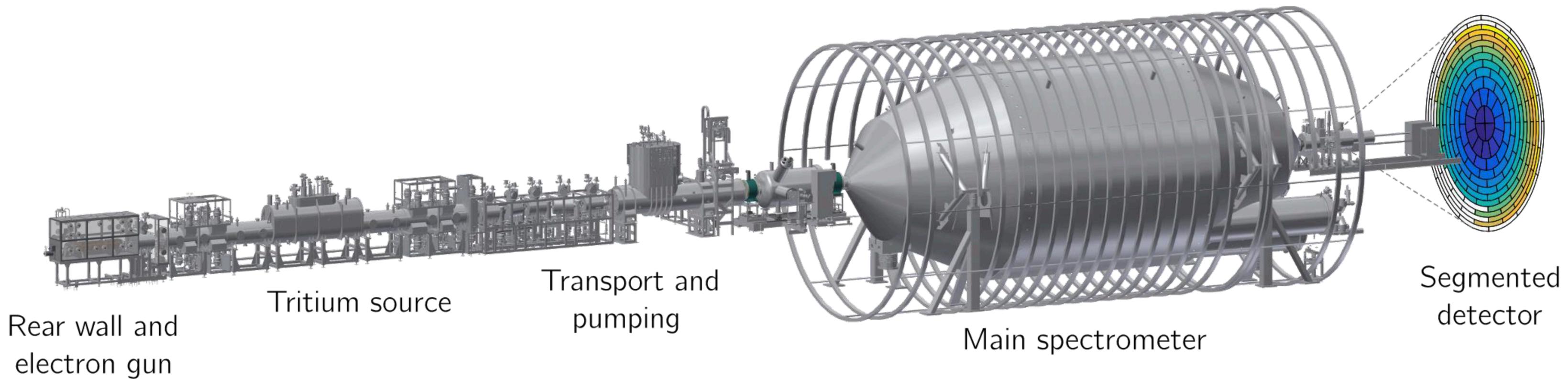
Low Field  
 $B_A$

High Magnetic  
Field ( $B_s$ )

## Magnetic Adiabatic Collimation w/ Electrostatic Filtering

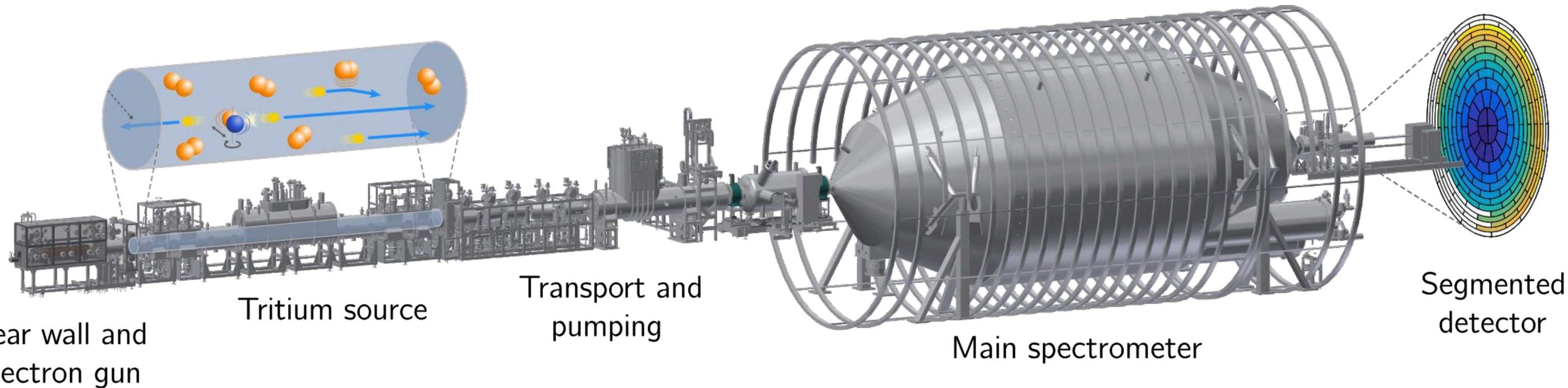
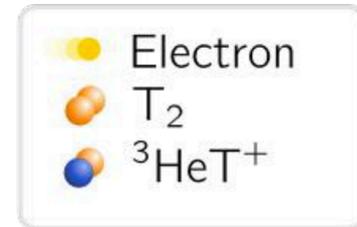
*(only electrons with enough energy can overcome potential barrier)*

Karlsruhe Tritium Neutrino Experiment: Sensitivity goal of  $m_\beta \leq 200 \text{ meV}/c^2$  (at 90% C.L.).  
Use molecular  $T_2$  as source, using *filtering* to measure electron energies.



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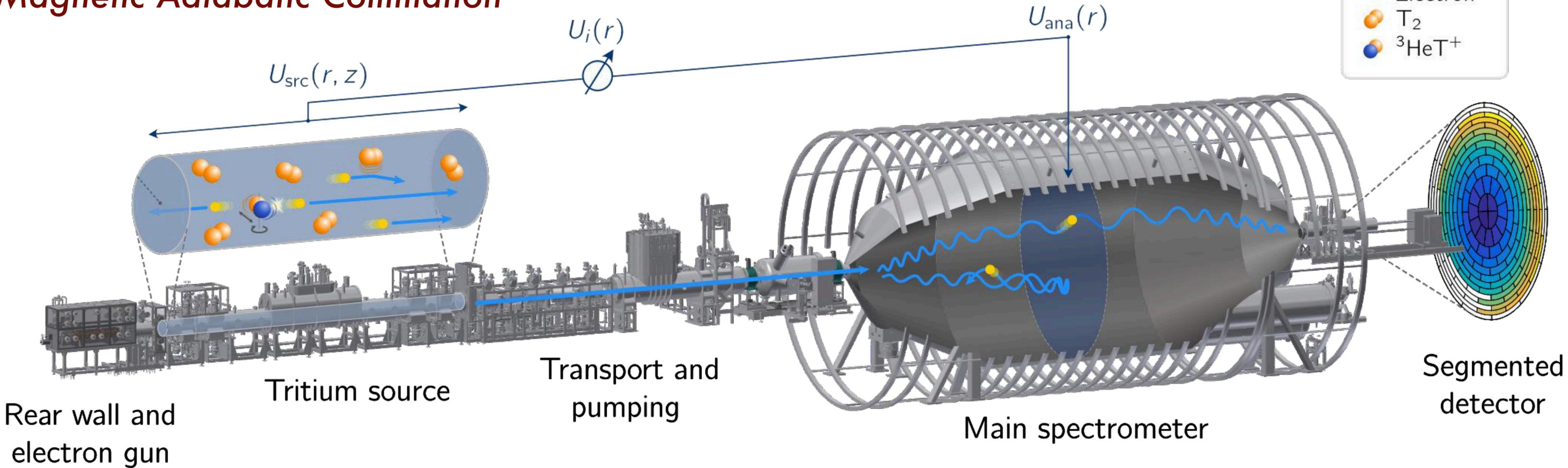
# Magnetic Adiabatic Collimation



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# Magnetic Adiabatic Collimation

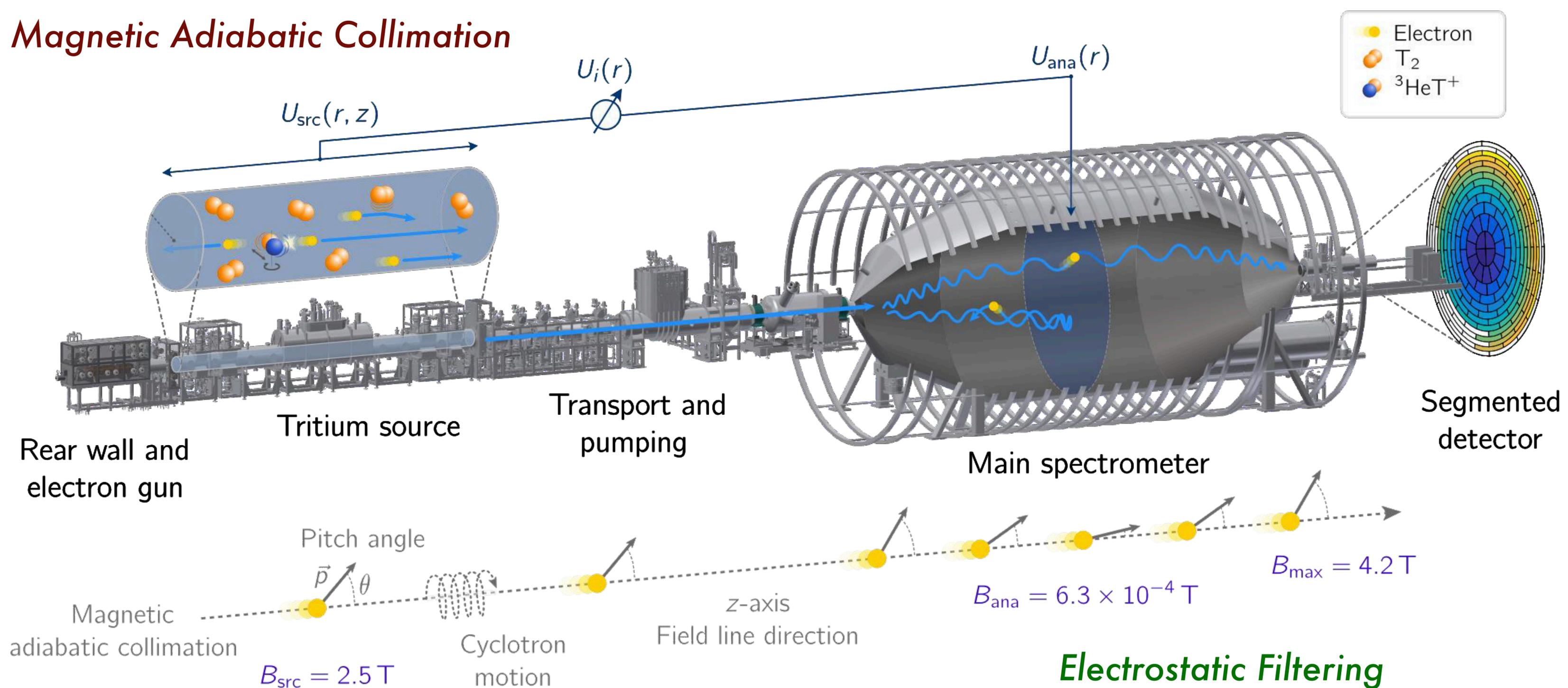
- Electron
- $T_2$
- ${}^3\text{HeT}^+$



## Electrostatic Filtering

Karlsruhe Tritium Neutrino Experiment: Sensitivity goal of  $m_\beta \leq 200 \text{ meV}/c^2$  (at 90% C.L.).  
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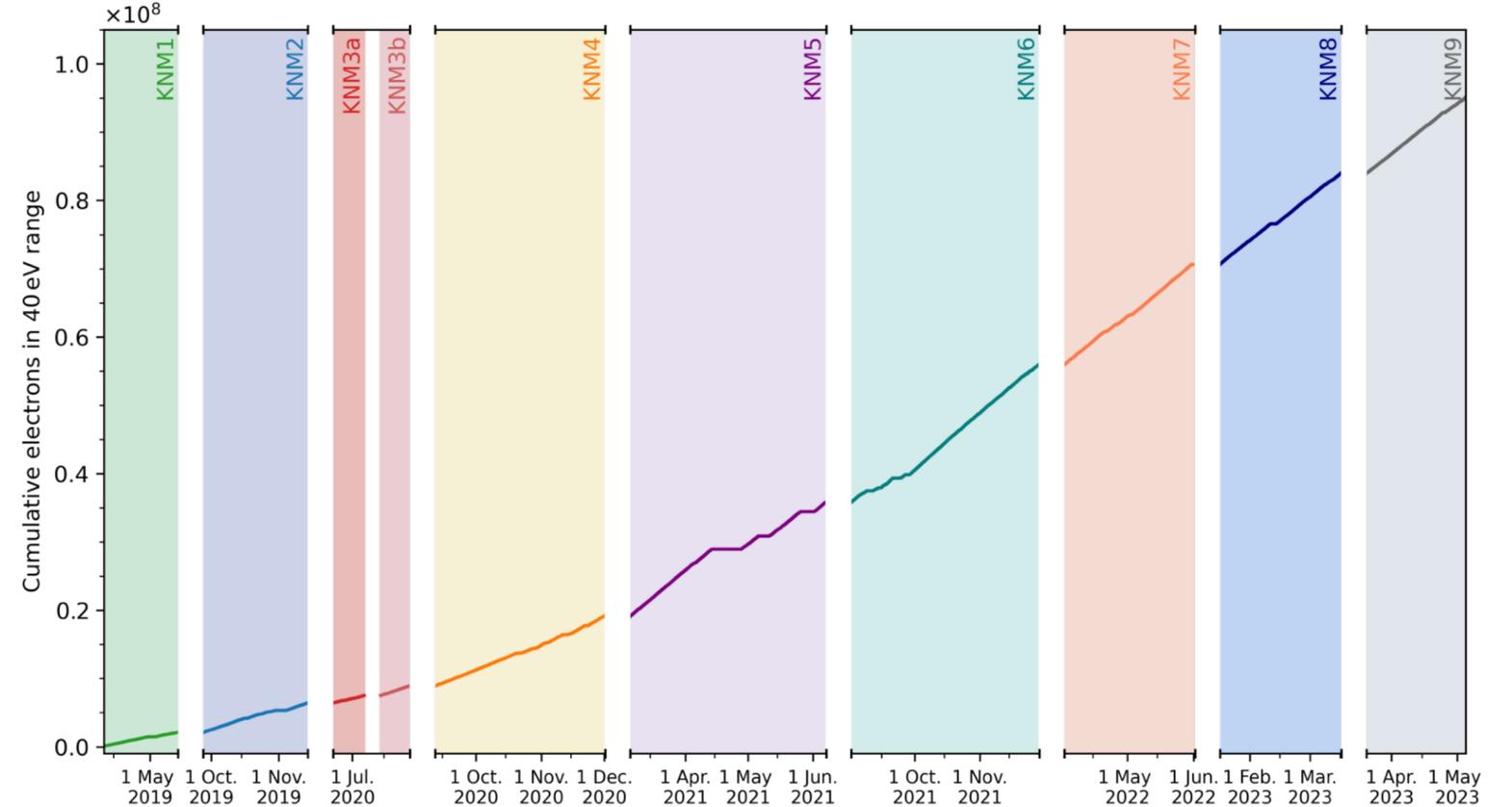


A long journey in the making...

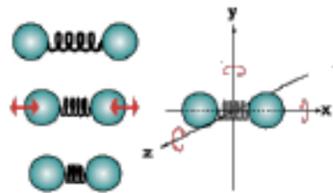
*Data taking commenced in May 2019 and is ongoing.*



**Statistical  
Uncertainty**



**Molecular Final States**



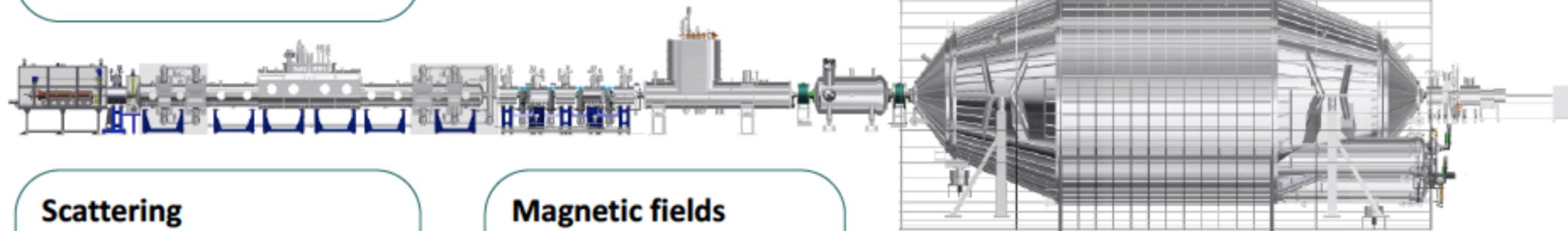
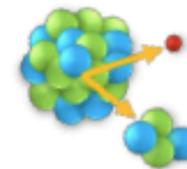
**Potential Variation**

- Plasma potential
- qU variations



**Background:**

- time correlation
- retarding potential dependence



**Scattering**

- energy loss
- column density



**Magnetic fields**

- source
- spectrometer
- detector



**Data combination**



*Detailed control of systematics and backgrounds.*



Phys. Rev. Lett. 123, 221802 (2019)  
Phys. Rev. D. 104 (1), 012005 (2021)

Limits from 1<sup>st</sup> Campaign:

$$m_\beta < 1.1 \text{ eV (@ 90 \% C.L.)}$$

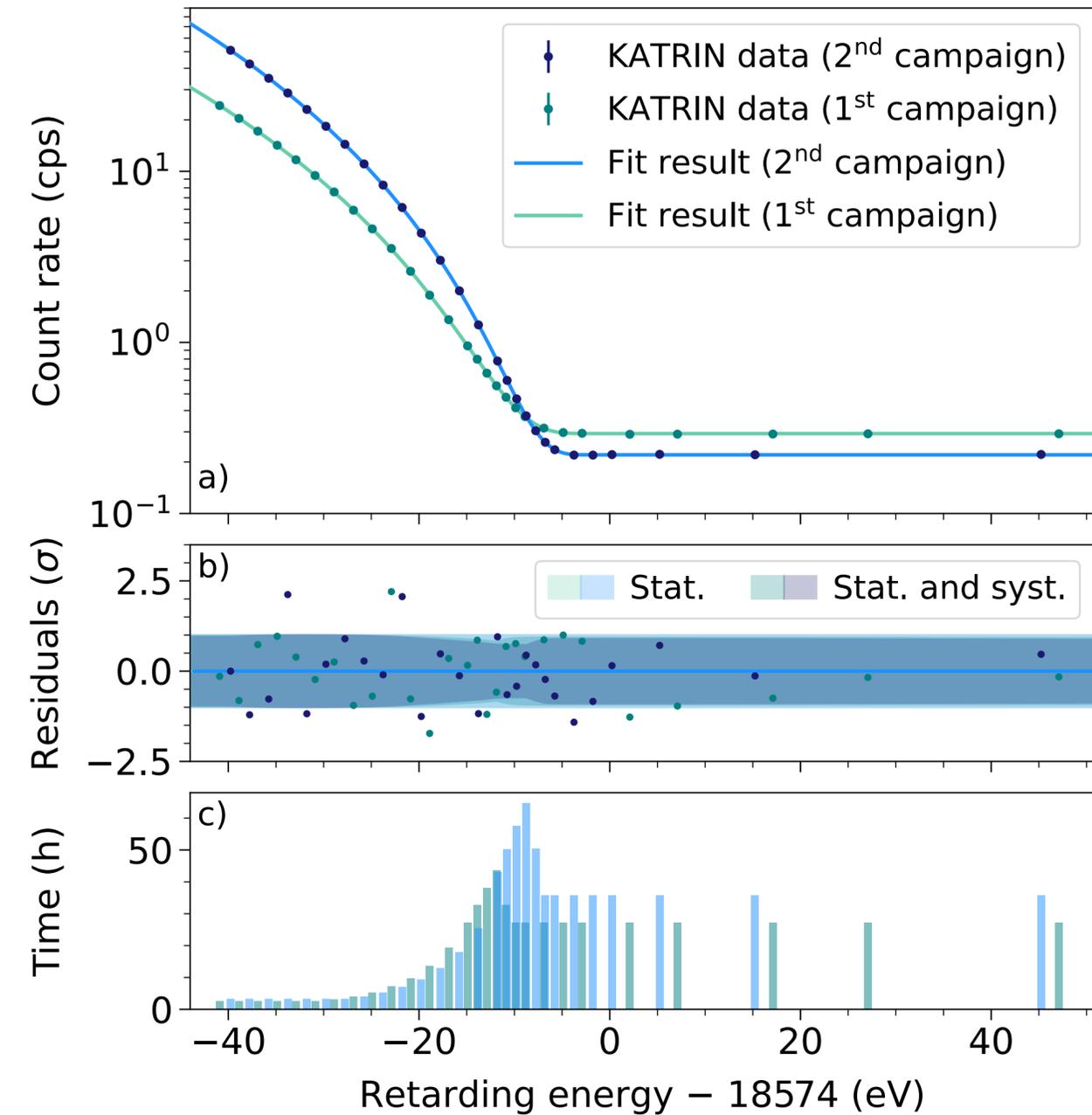


Nat. Phys. 18, 160–166 (2022)

Combined 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Campaign:

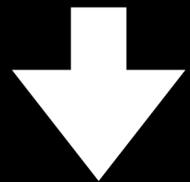
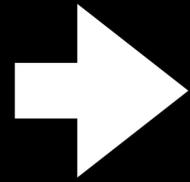
$$m_\beta < 0.8 \text{ eV (@ 90 \% C.L.)}$$

For the first  
time  
the eV  
scale is  
broken!

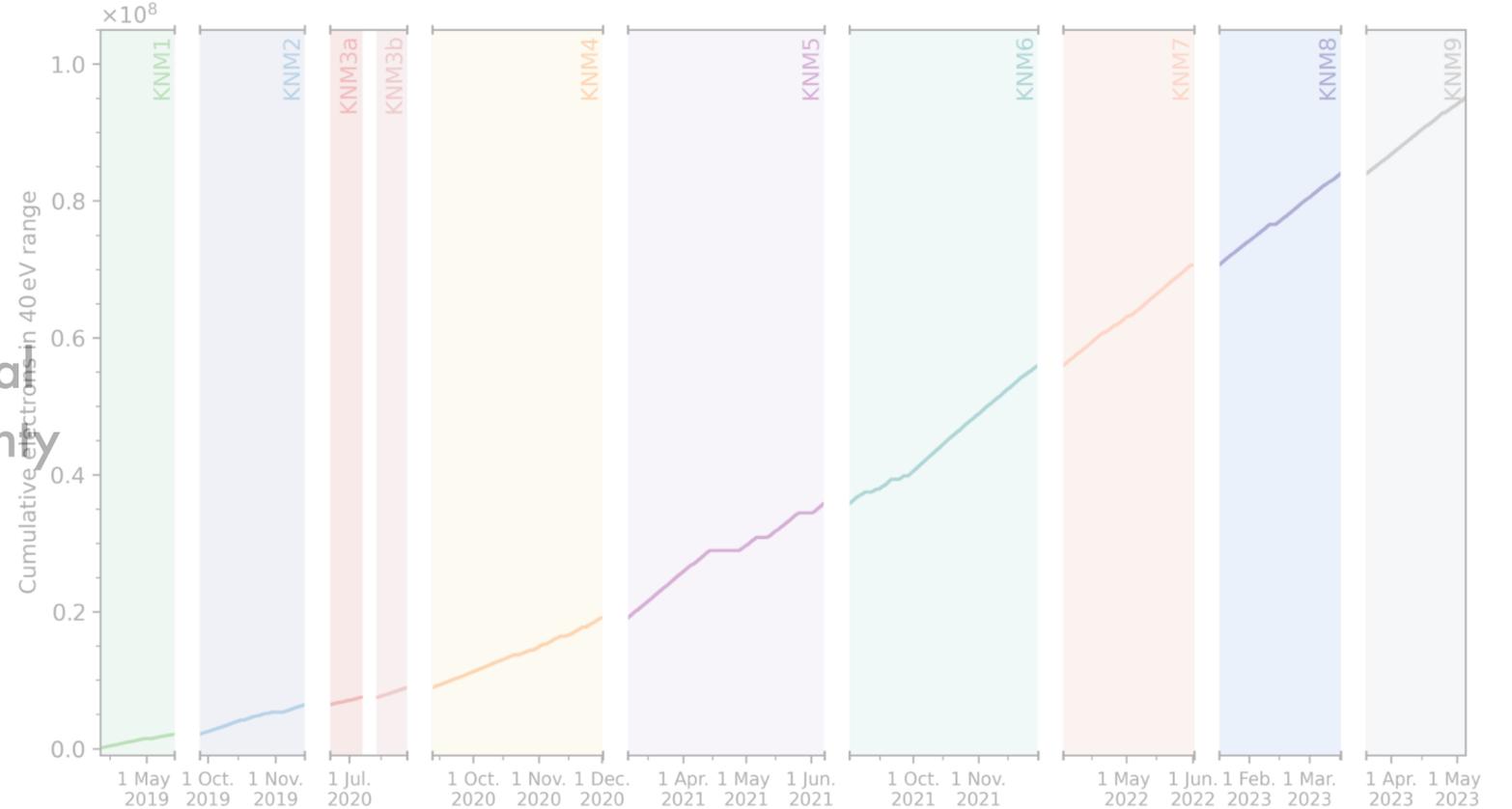


Up Next...

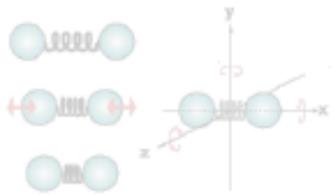
Systematics and statistics continuously improving



Statistical Uncertainty



### Molecular Final States



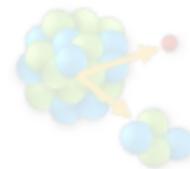
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- column density



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- source
- spectrometer
- detector



### Data combination



Analysis of first five runs is being finalized:

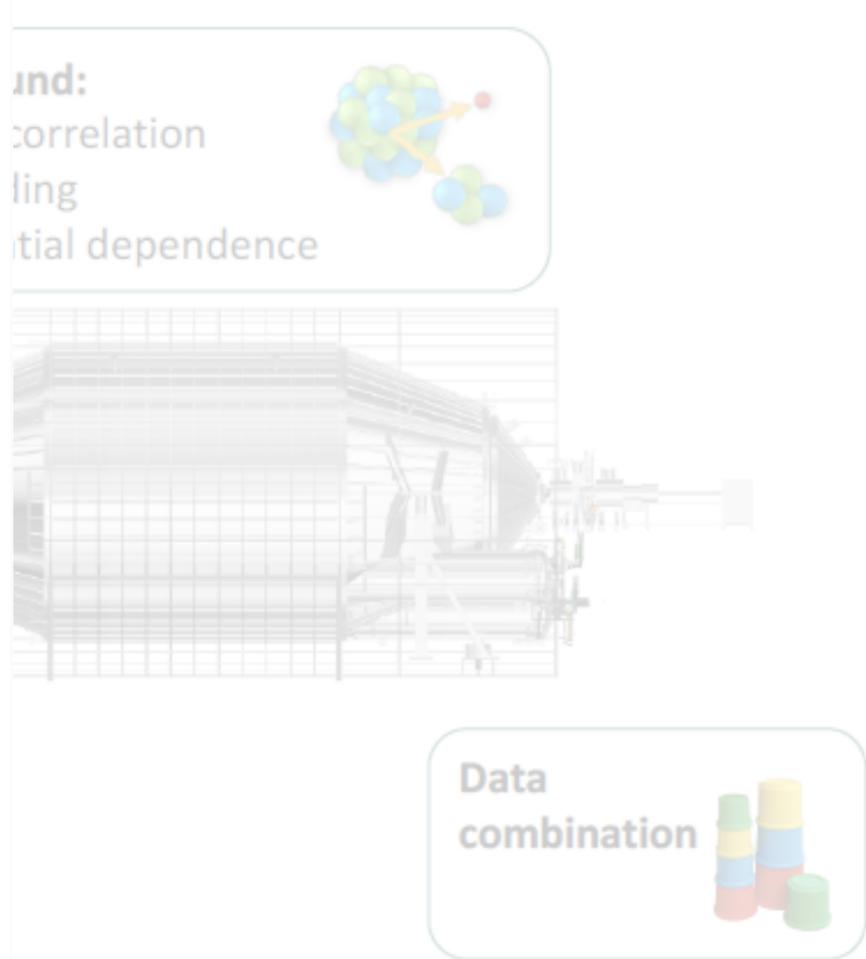
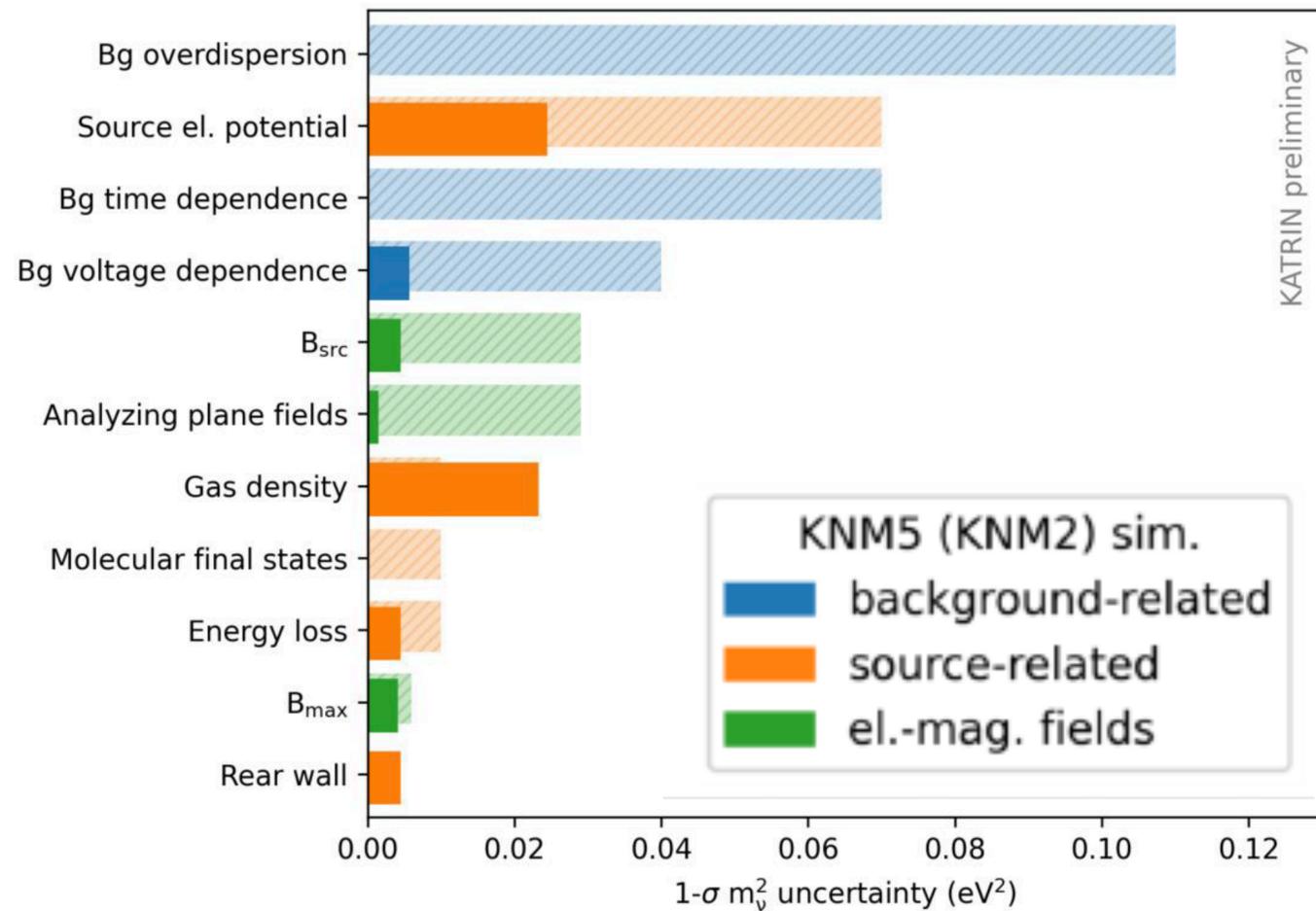
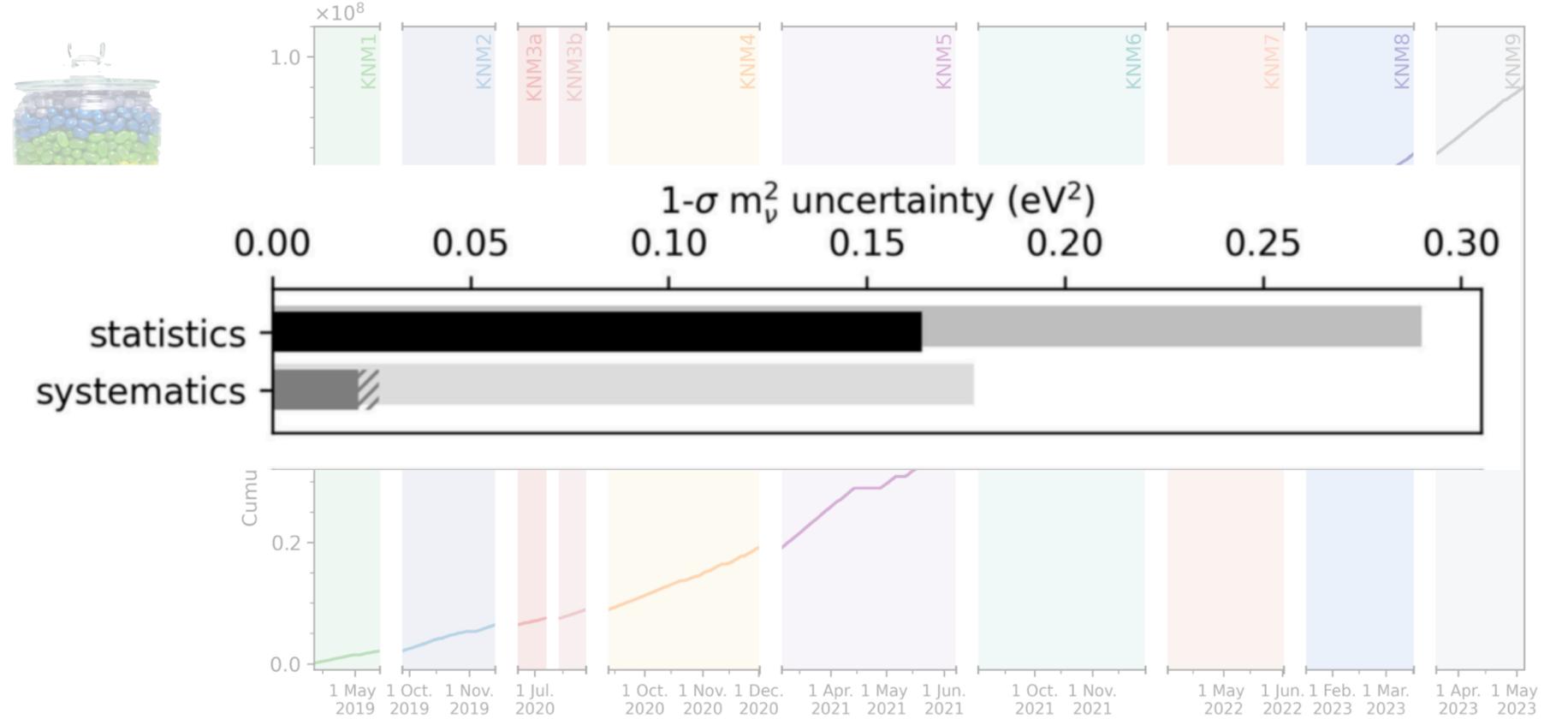
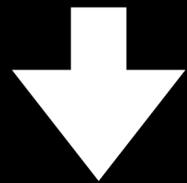
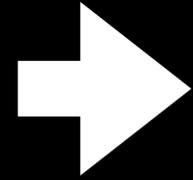
**Sensitivity: 0.5 eV (90% C.L.)**

KNM11 data taking ongoing

Planned data taking until 2025 to complete 1000 days of measurement.

Up Next...

Systematics and statistics continuously improving



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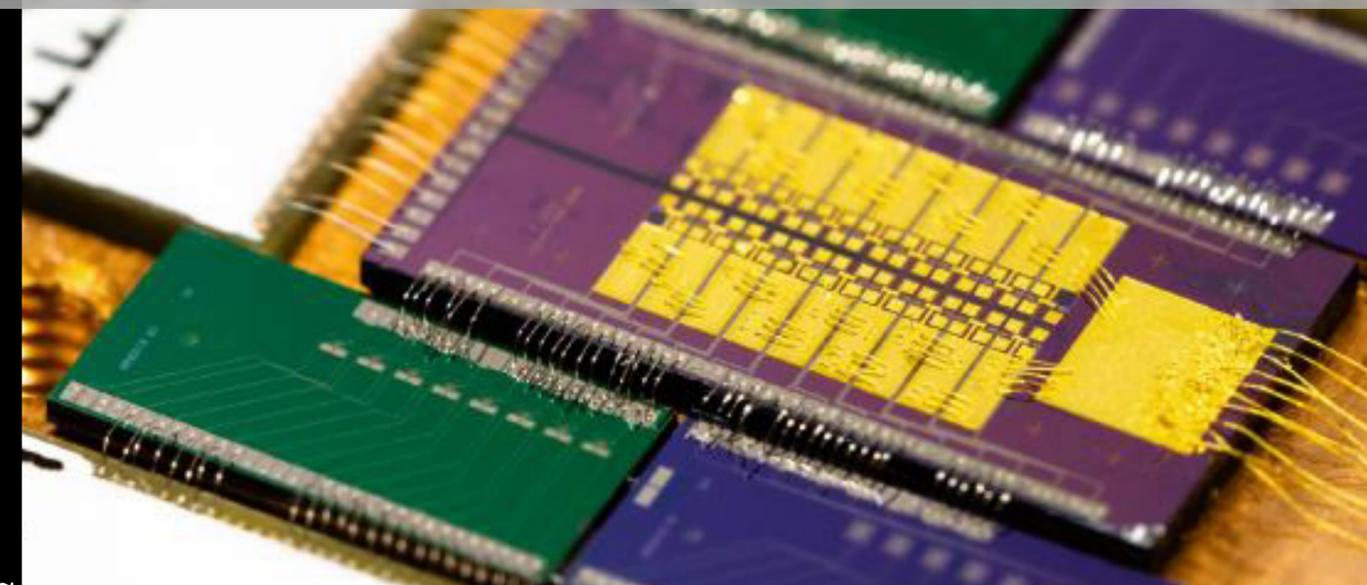
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*Total energy absorption using bolometers.*

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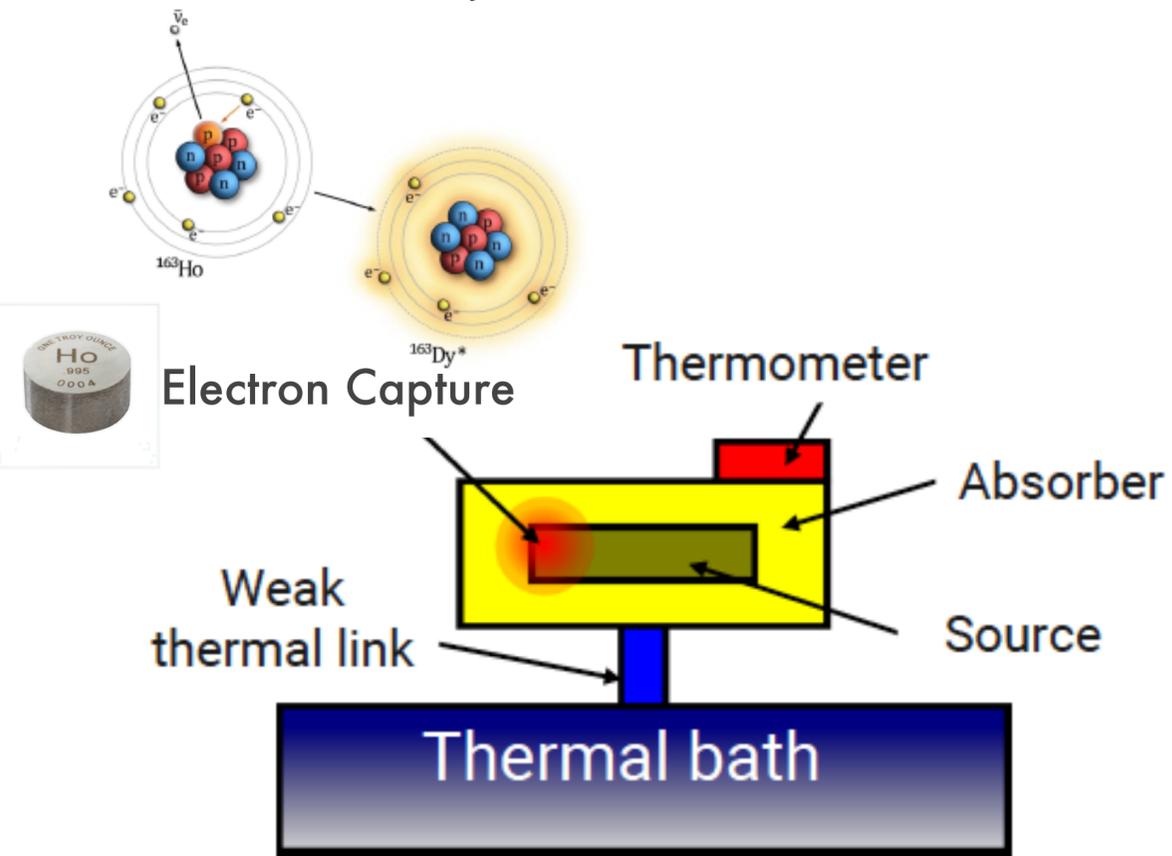
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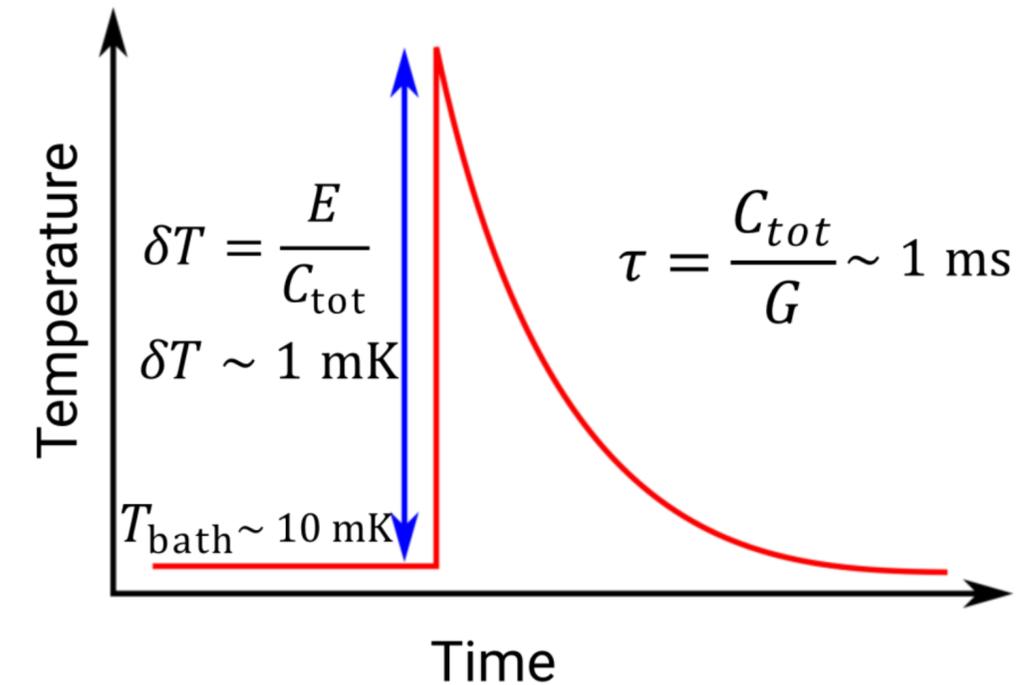
Experiment(s): **Project 8, CRESDA**



## $\mu$ -calometer



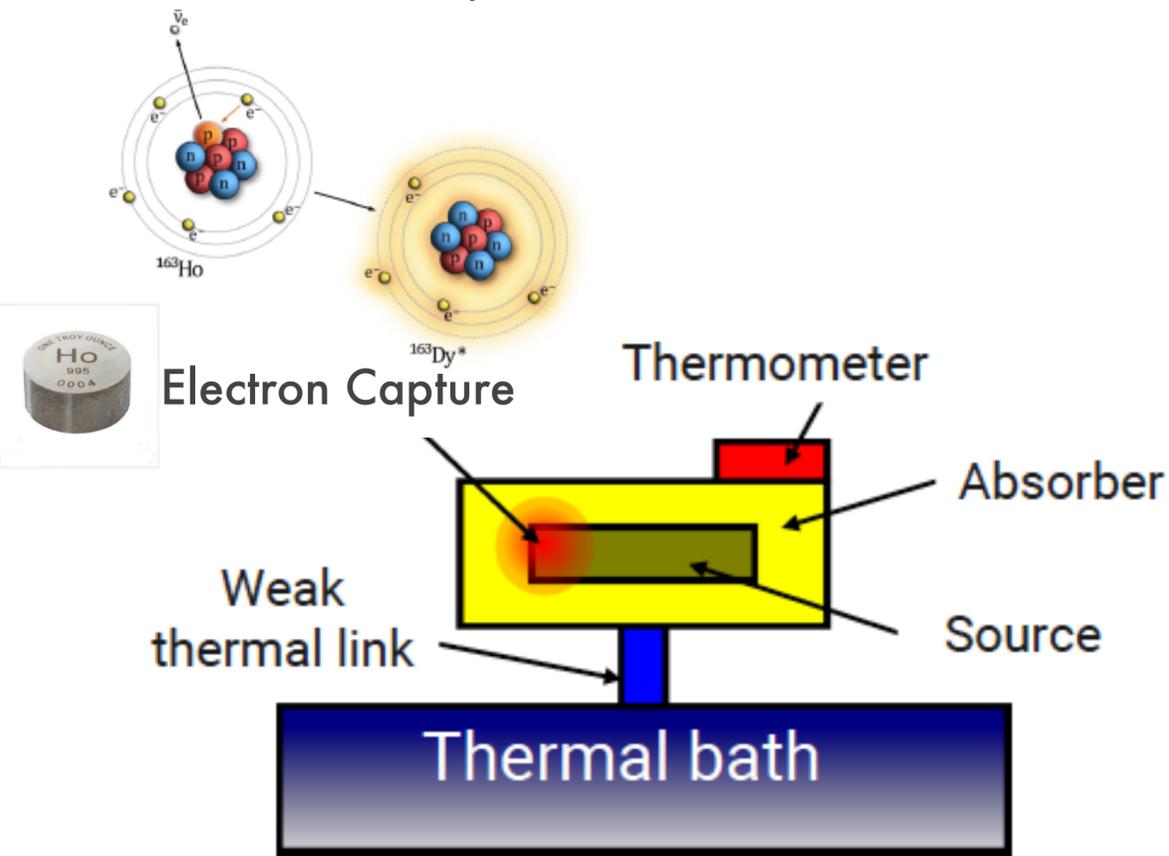
## Energy Measurement



Calorimeters can access full decay of electron capture process of  $^{187}\text{Ho}$ .

Leverage high energy resolution of micro-calorimeters to measure EC spectrum.

# $\mu$ -calometer



# Readout?

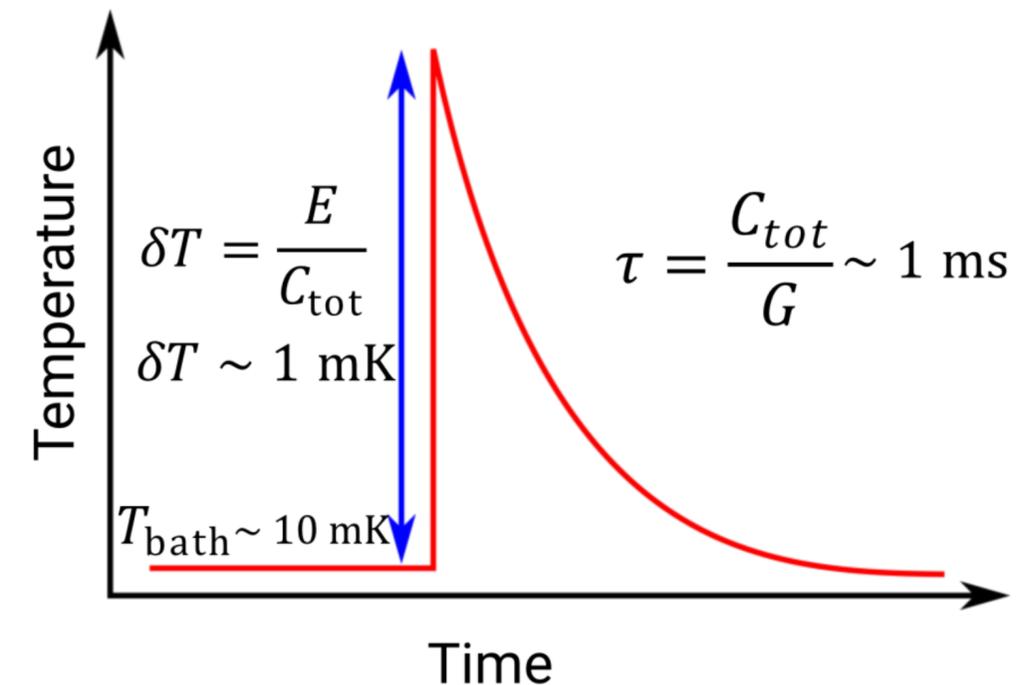
Magnetic microcalorimeters?



Transition Edge Sensors?

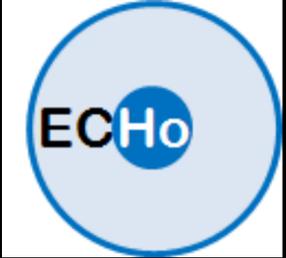


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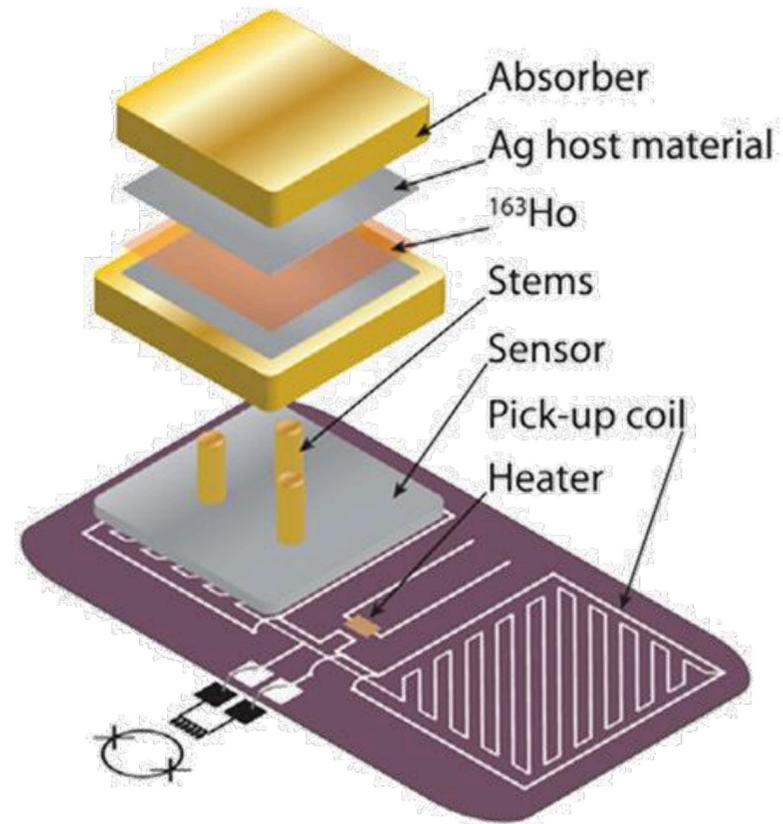


# : Proof-of-Principle

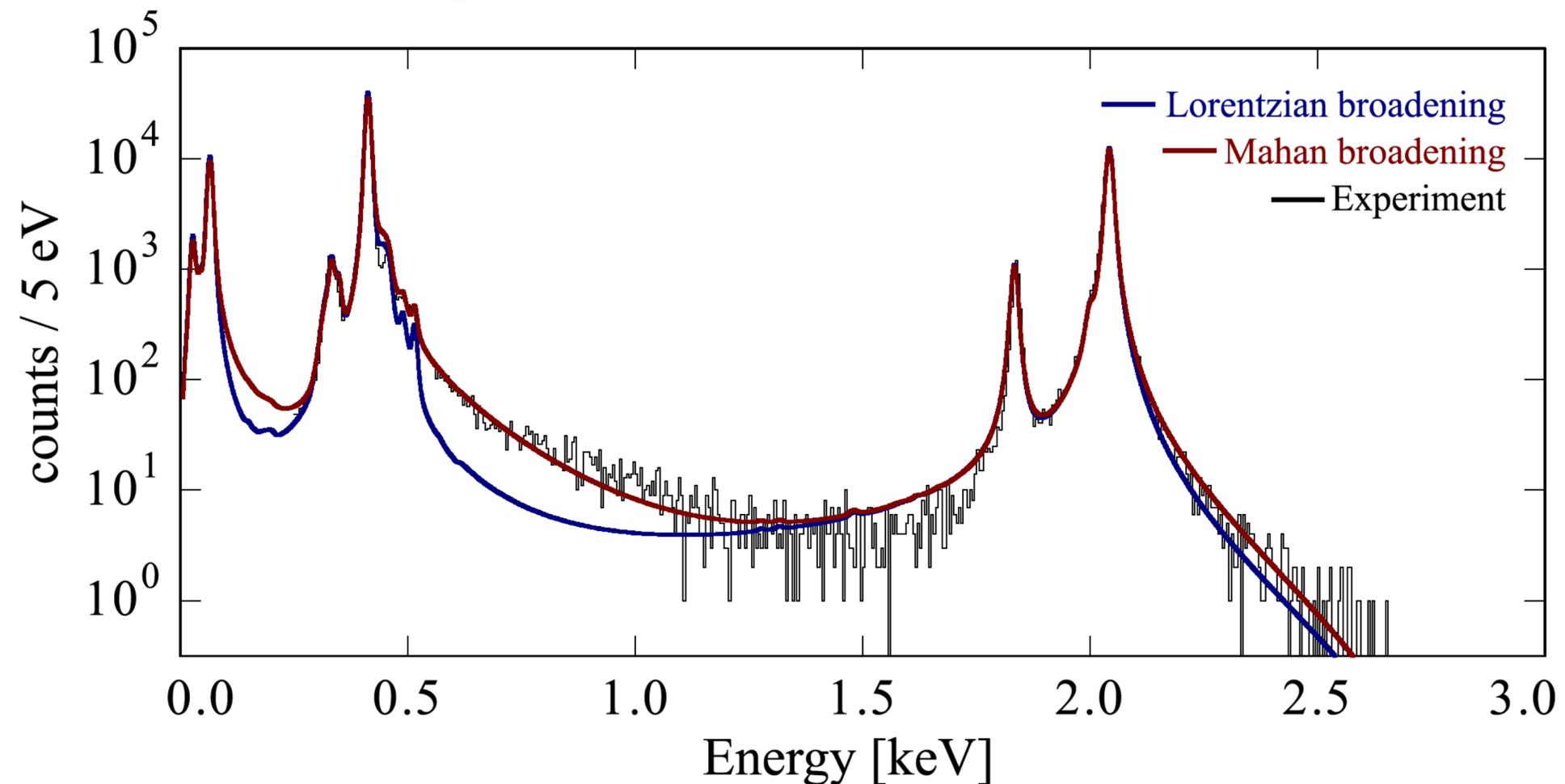
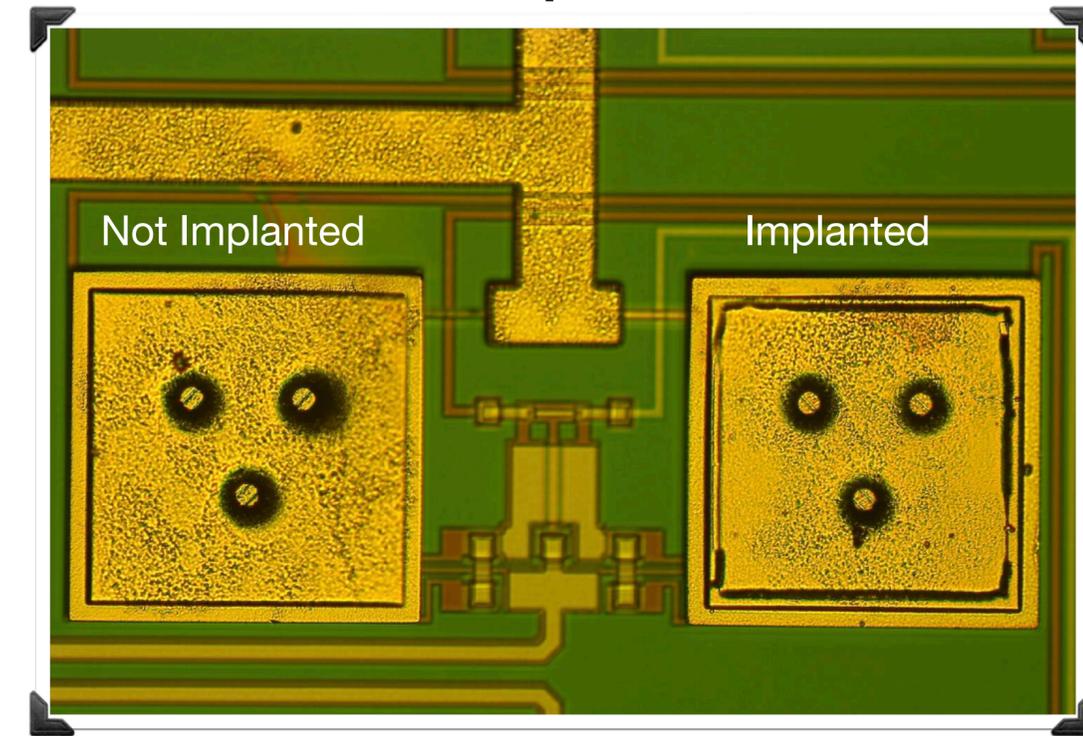
*Proof of principle measurement taken with 4 day measurement with 4 pixels.*

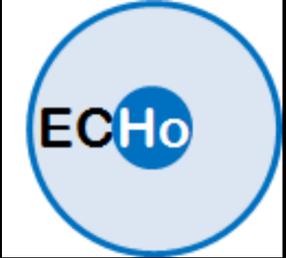
$Q_{EC} : (2838 \pm 14) \text{ eV}$   
 $m_{\beta} < 150 \text{ eV (95\% C.L.)}$

*Also demonstrated low background & high energy resolution.*



## $^{163}\text{Ho}$ Implantation





# : Coming Up

## ECHO-1k –high-statistics spectrum

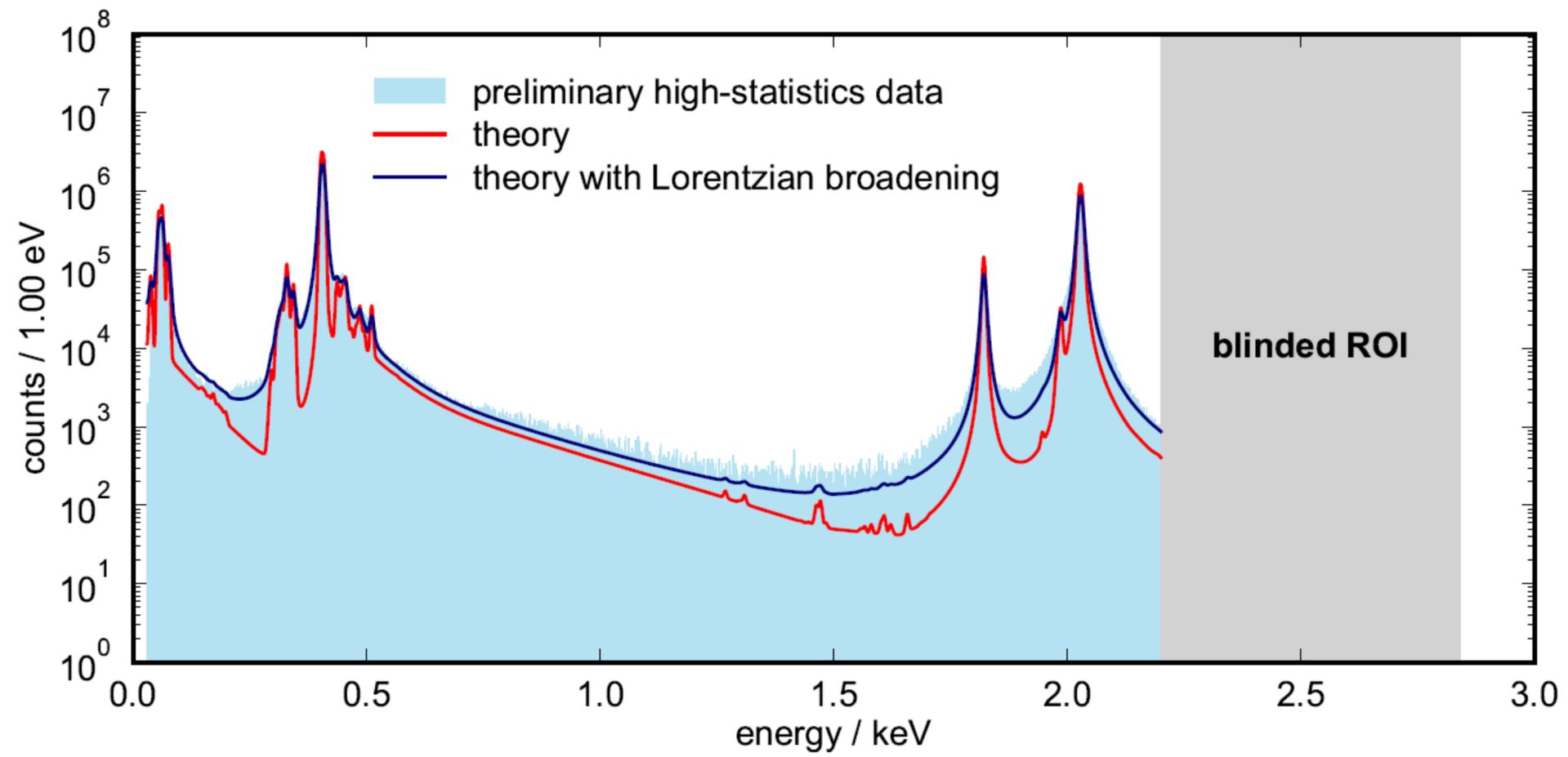
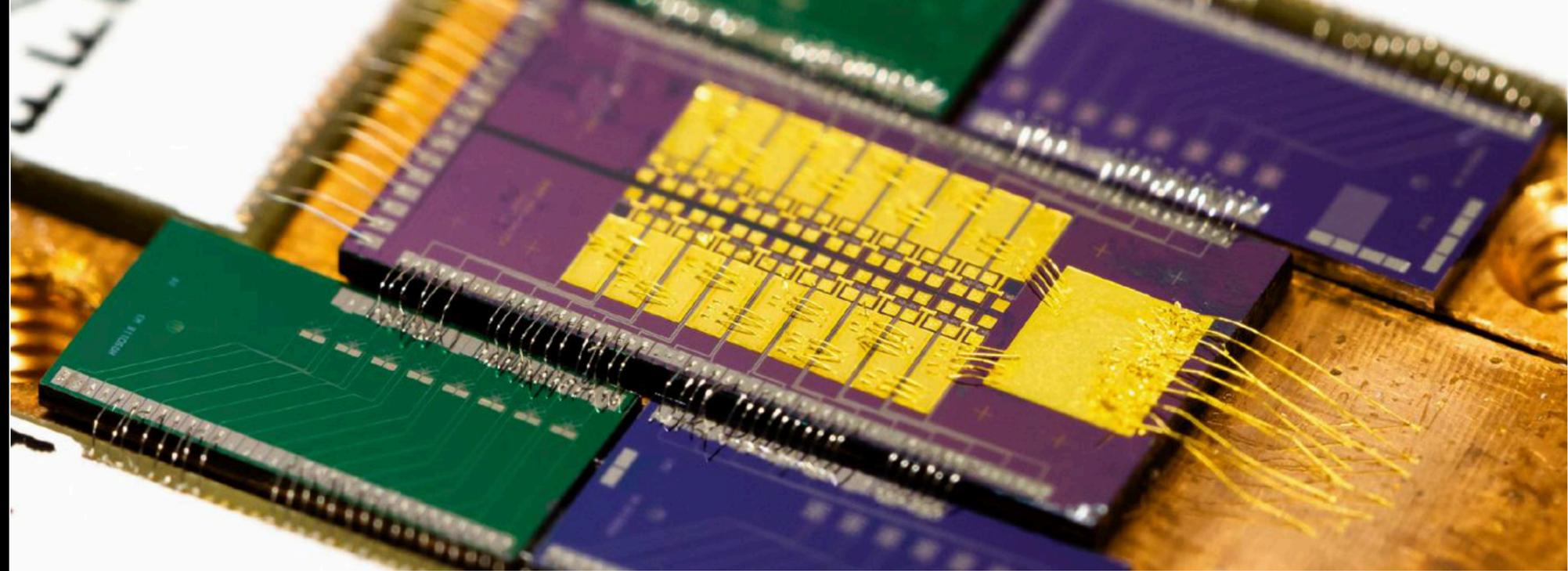
Au-chip : 23 pixel with implanted  $^{163}\text{Ho}$

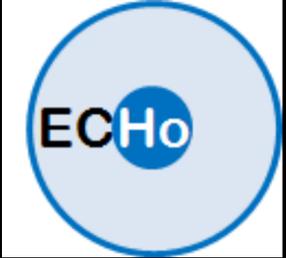
Ag-chip : 32 pixel with implanted  $^{163}\text{Ho}$

100M decay events collected.

Ongoing analysis of systematics

Expected sensitivity:  $m_\beta < 20 \text{ eV}$  (95% C.L.)





# : Coming Up

## ECHO-1k –high-statistics spectrum

Au-chip : 23 pixel with implanted  $^{163}\text{Ho}$

Ag-chip : 32 pixel with implanted  $^{163}\text{Ho}$

100M decay events collected.

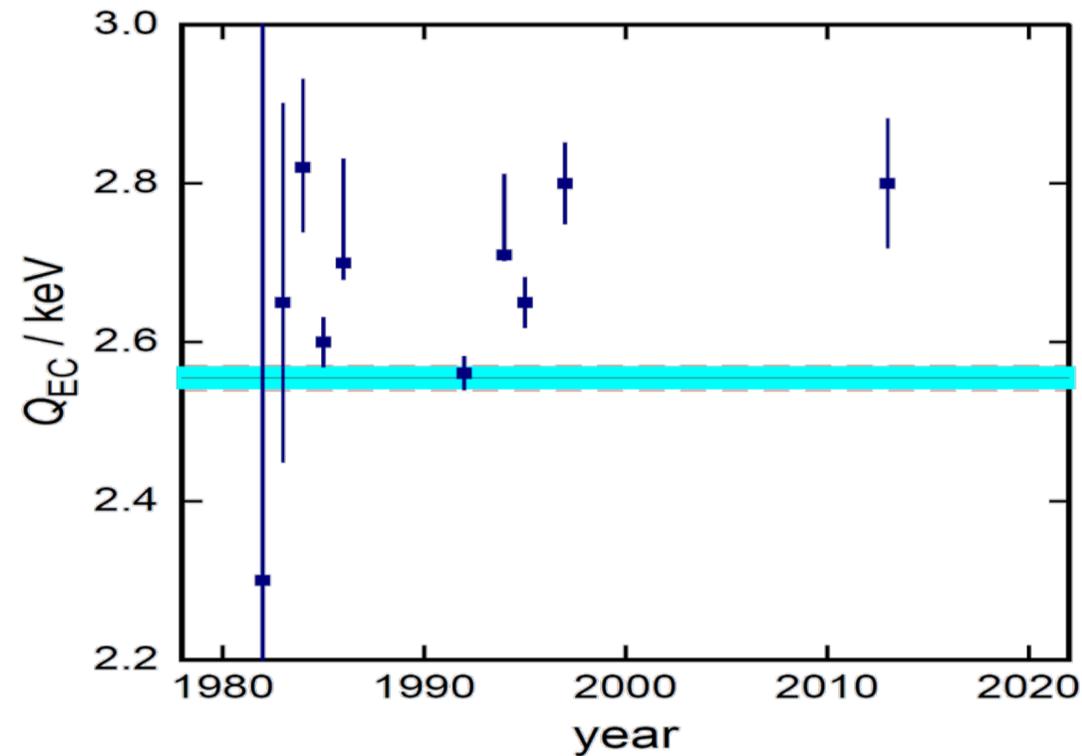
Ongoing analysis of systematics

Expected sensitivity:  $m_\beta < 20 \text{ eV}$  (95% C.L.)

ECHO-100k

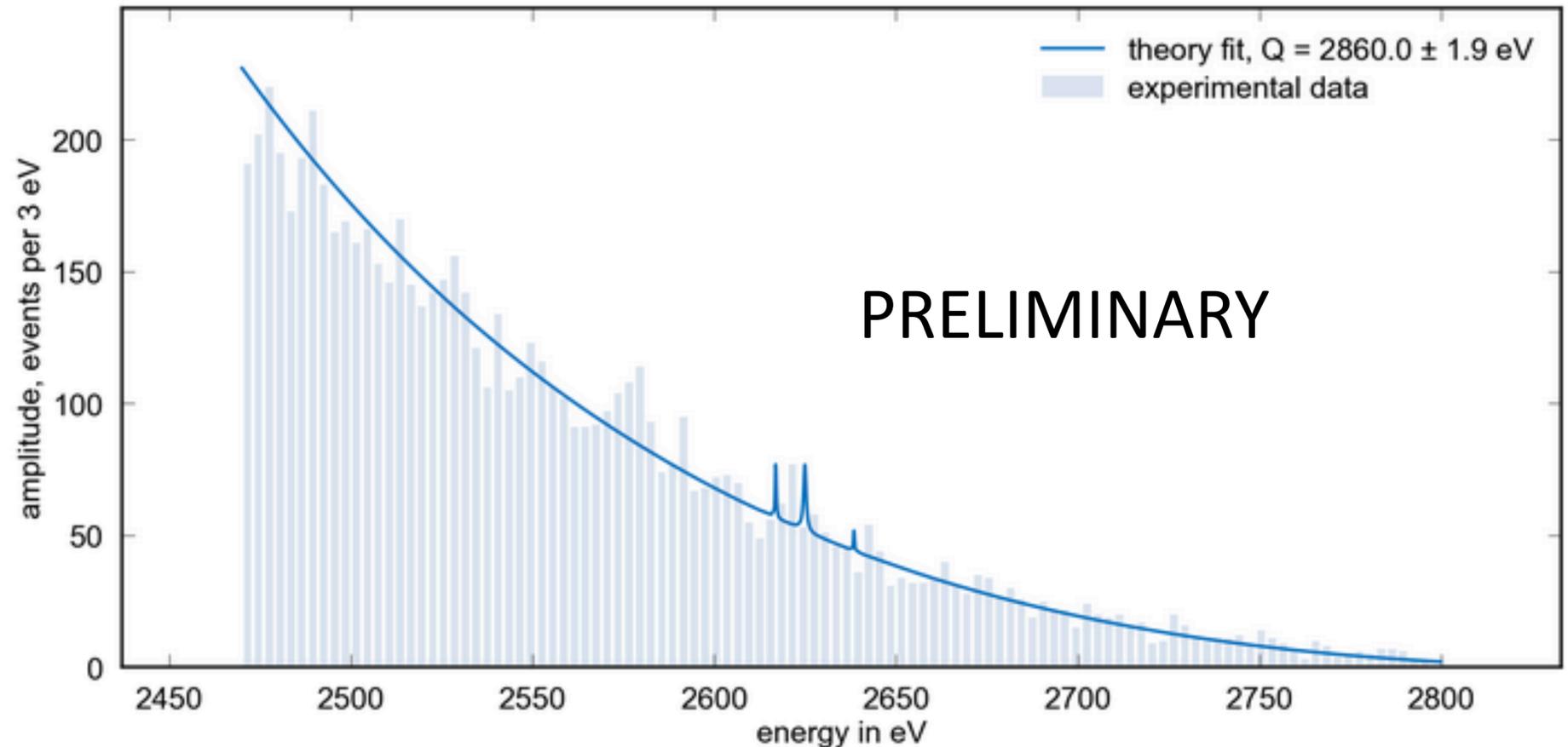
(1200 detectors)

under construction for eV level sensitivity.



PRELIMINARY

$$Q_{EC} = (2860 \pm 2_{\text{stat}} \pm 5_{\text{syst}}) \text{ eV}$$

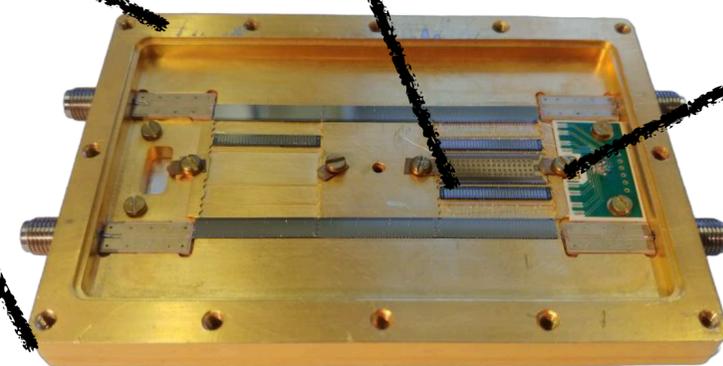
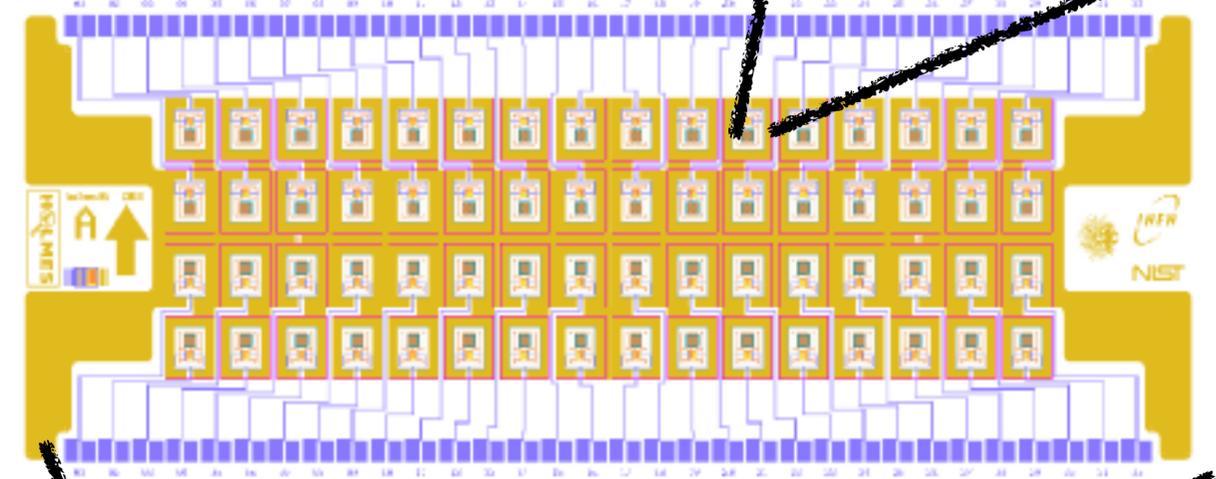
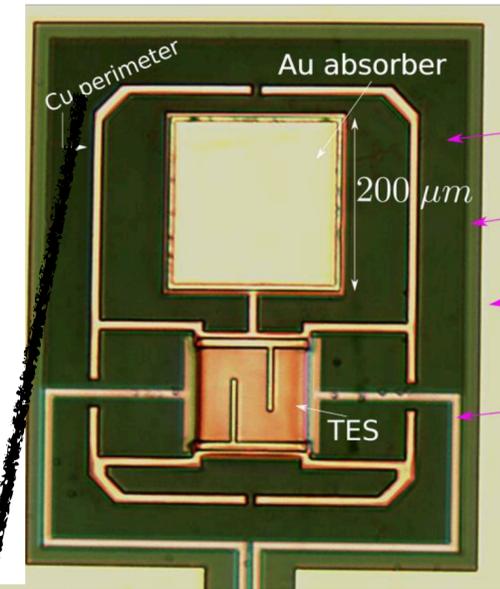
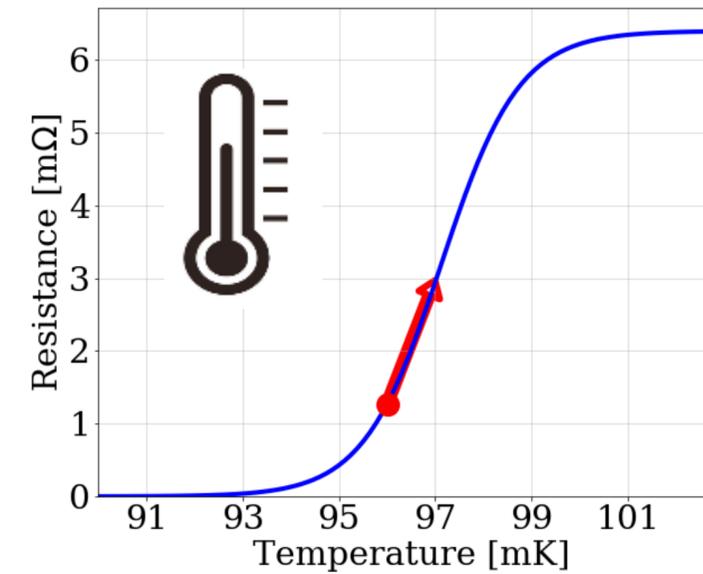


PRELIMINARY



*Transition edge sensors, consisting of superconductor film operated in the region between resistive and the superconducting state.*

*Very sensitive thermometer, able to detect a temperature variation on the order of a fraction of mK.*





First detector array finalized in June 2023. First spectrum shows:

*No. of pixels: 4*

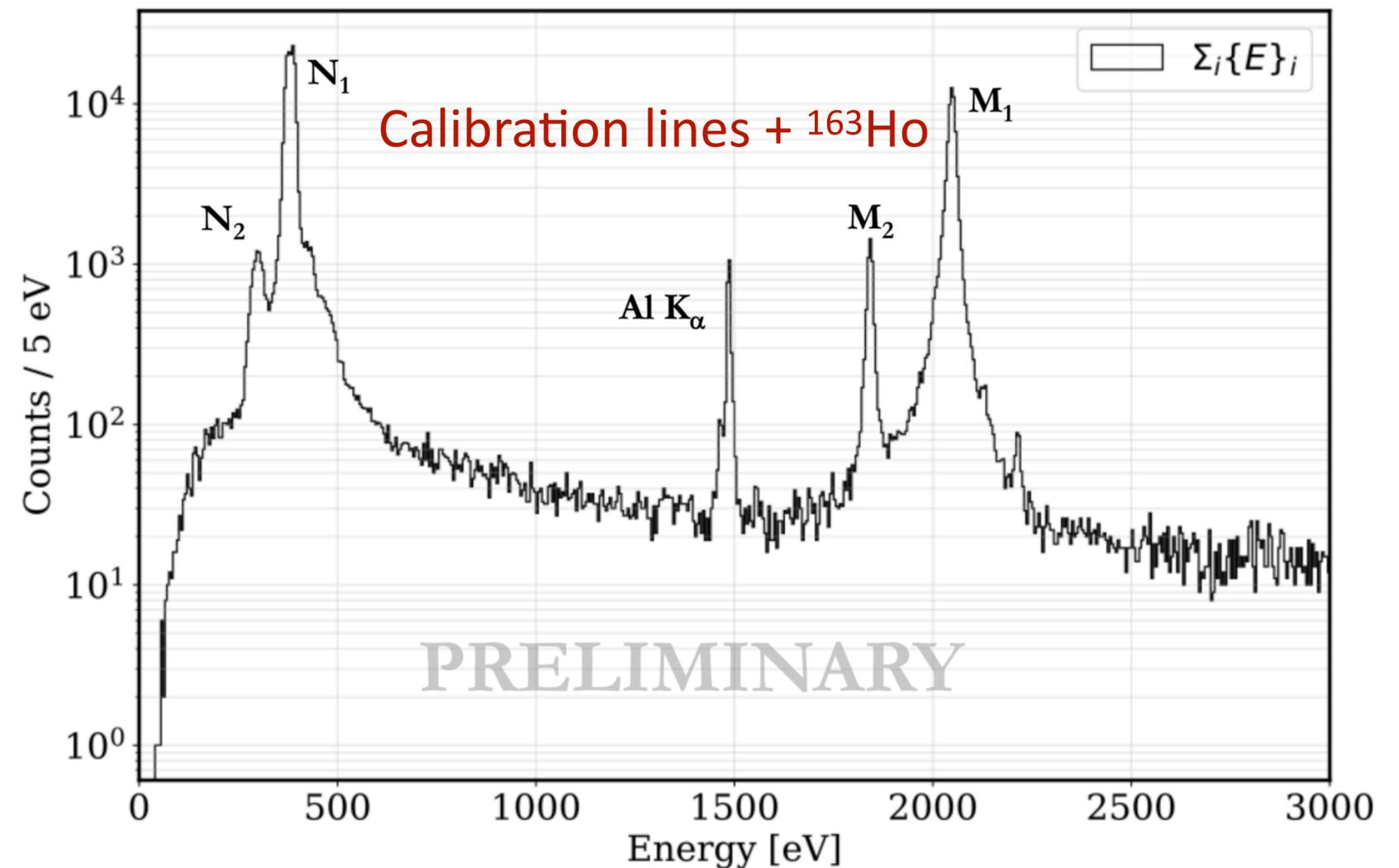
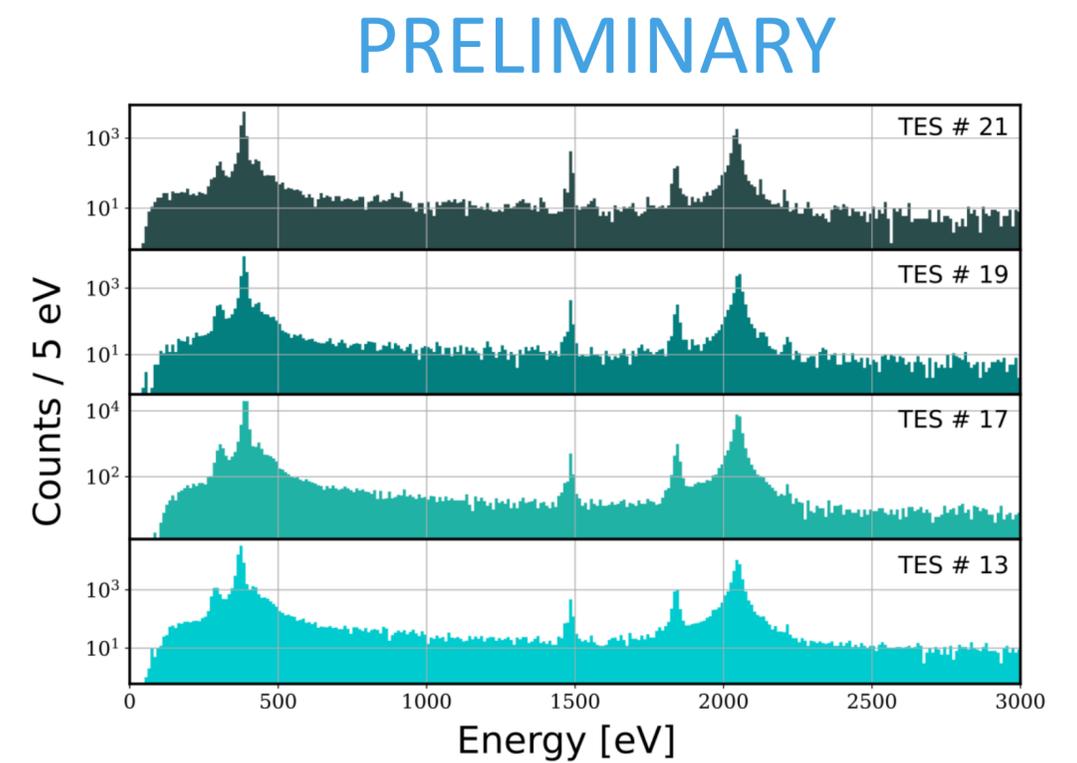
*Acquisition time: 48.5 hours*

*Activity  $\approx 0.5$  Bq (0.1 – 1 Bq)*

*Energy Resolution = 6–8 eV @ 6keV*

New array implantation should be completed soon. Mass limit expected around 10 eV.

Spectra  
from 1<sup>st</sup>  
4 pixels



## MAC-E Filter

*Magnetic Adiabatic Collimation with Electromagnetic filtering*

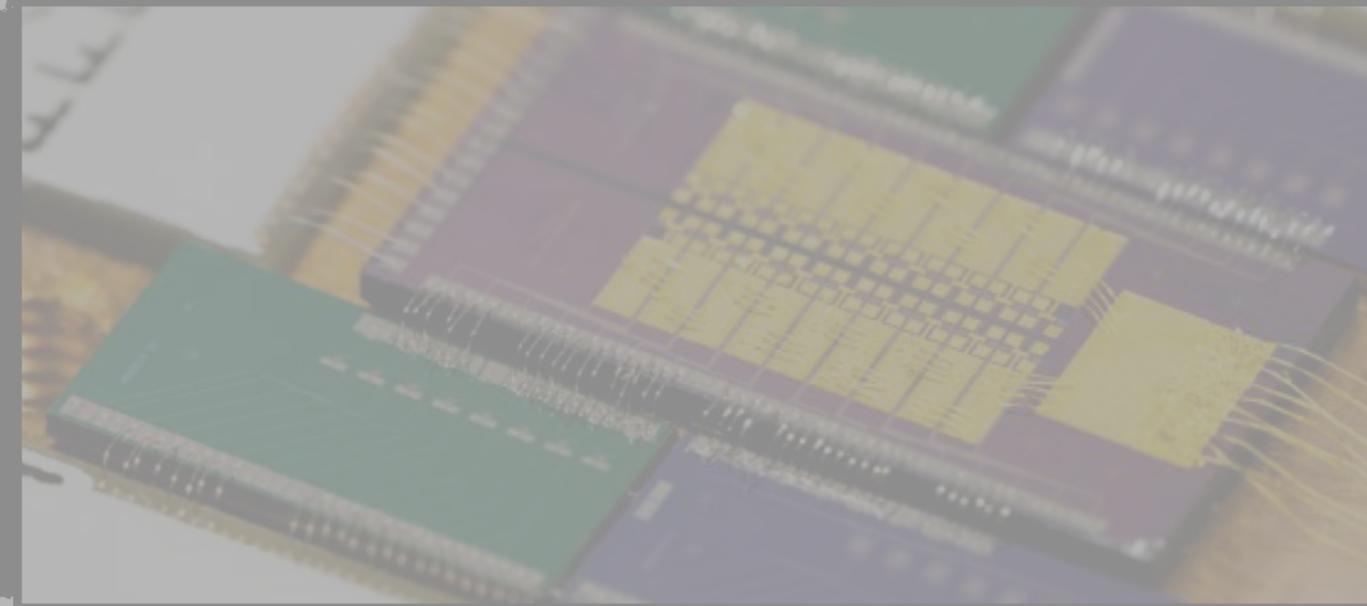
Experiment(s): Mainz, Troisk, **KATRIN**



## Calorimetry

*Total energy absorption using bolometers.*

Experiment(s): **ECHO, HOLMES**



## Cyclotron Radiation Emission Spectroscopy

*Microwave frequency measurement.*

Experiment(s): **Project 8, CRESDA**



# Cyclotron Radiation Emission Spectroscopy (CRES)

Leverages relativistic frequency shift of an electron's cyclotron radiation to measure the kinetic energy of the beta decay electron.

- *Source transparent to microwave radiation*
- *No  $e^-$  transport from source to detector*
- *Leverages precision inherent in frequency techniques*



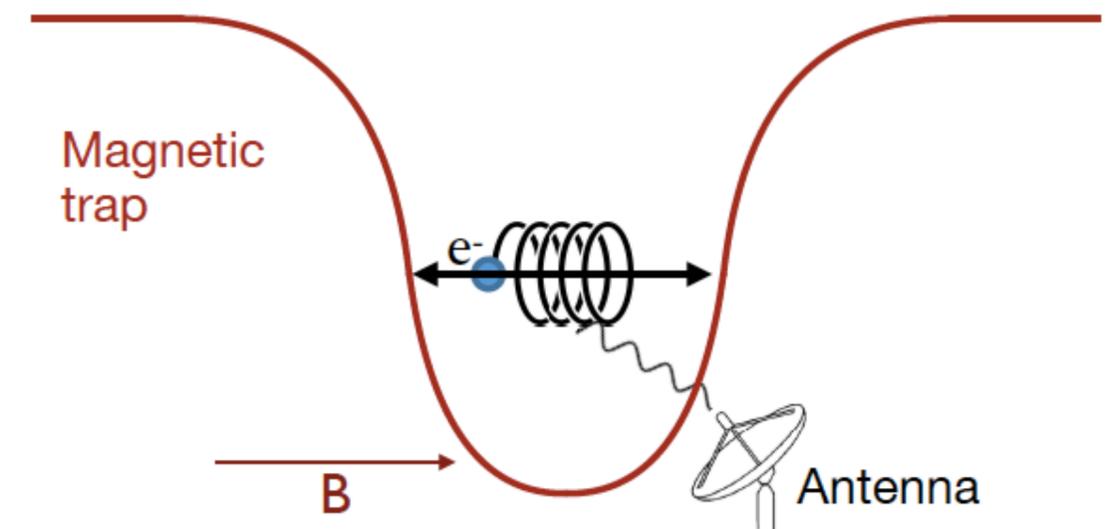
A. L. Schawlow

**PROJECT 8**

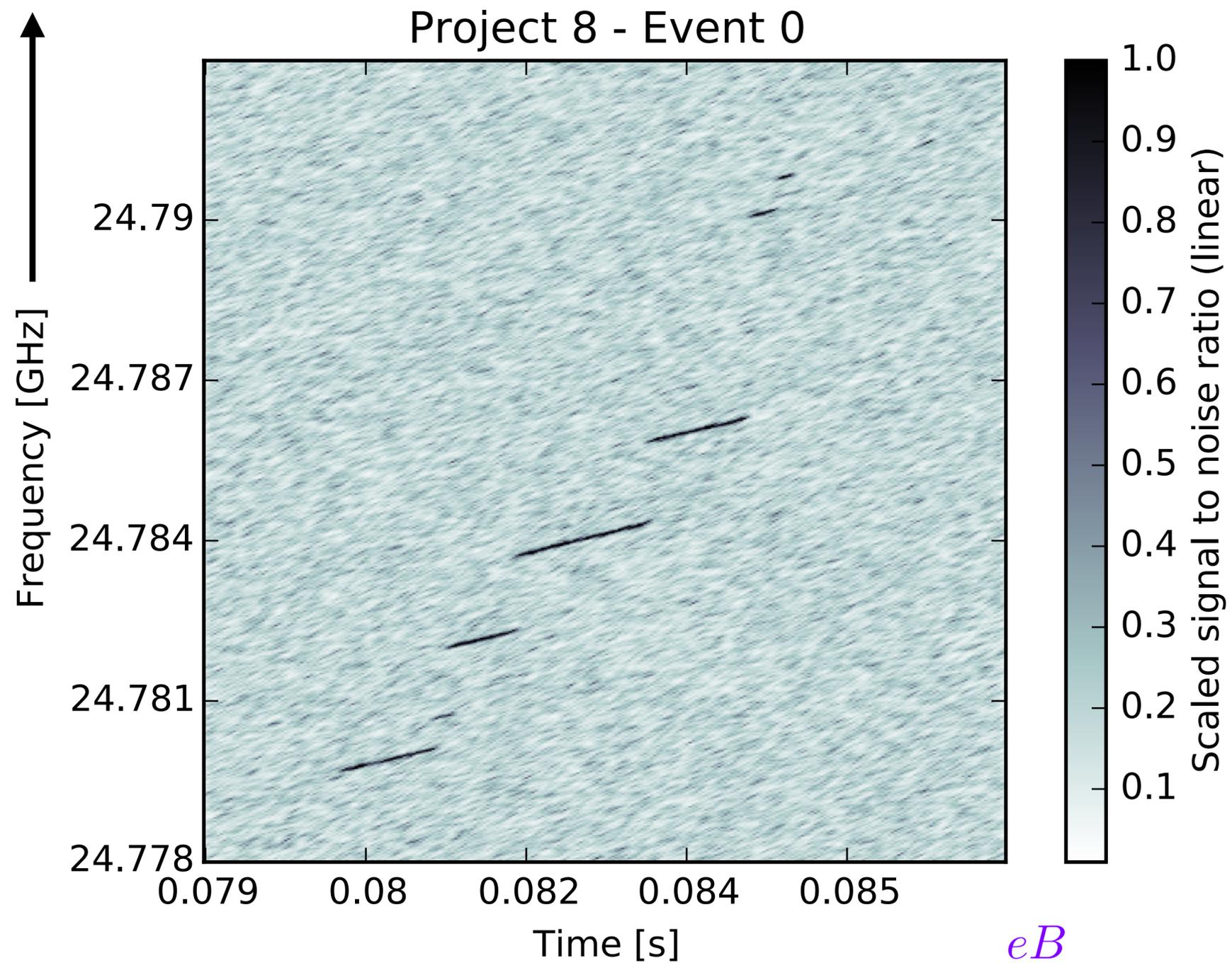


O. Heaviside

*“Never measure anything but frequency.”*

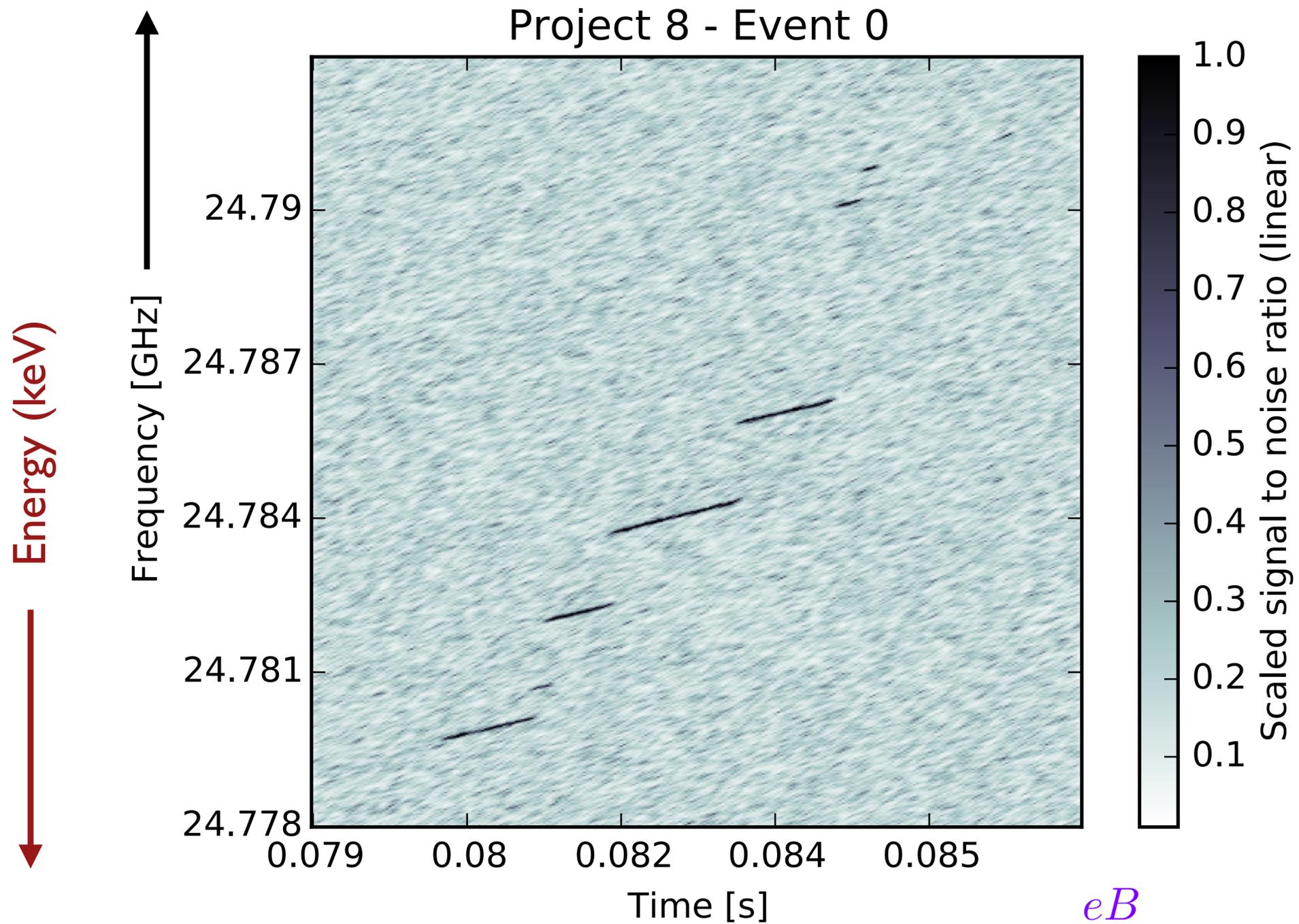


$$f_c = \frac{f_{c,0}}{\gamma} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{eB}{m_e c^2 + E_{\text{kin}}}$$



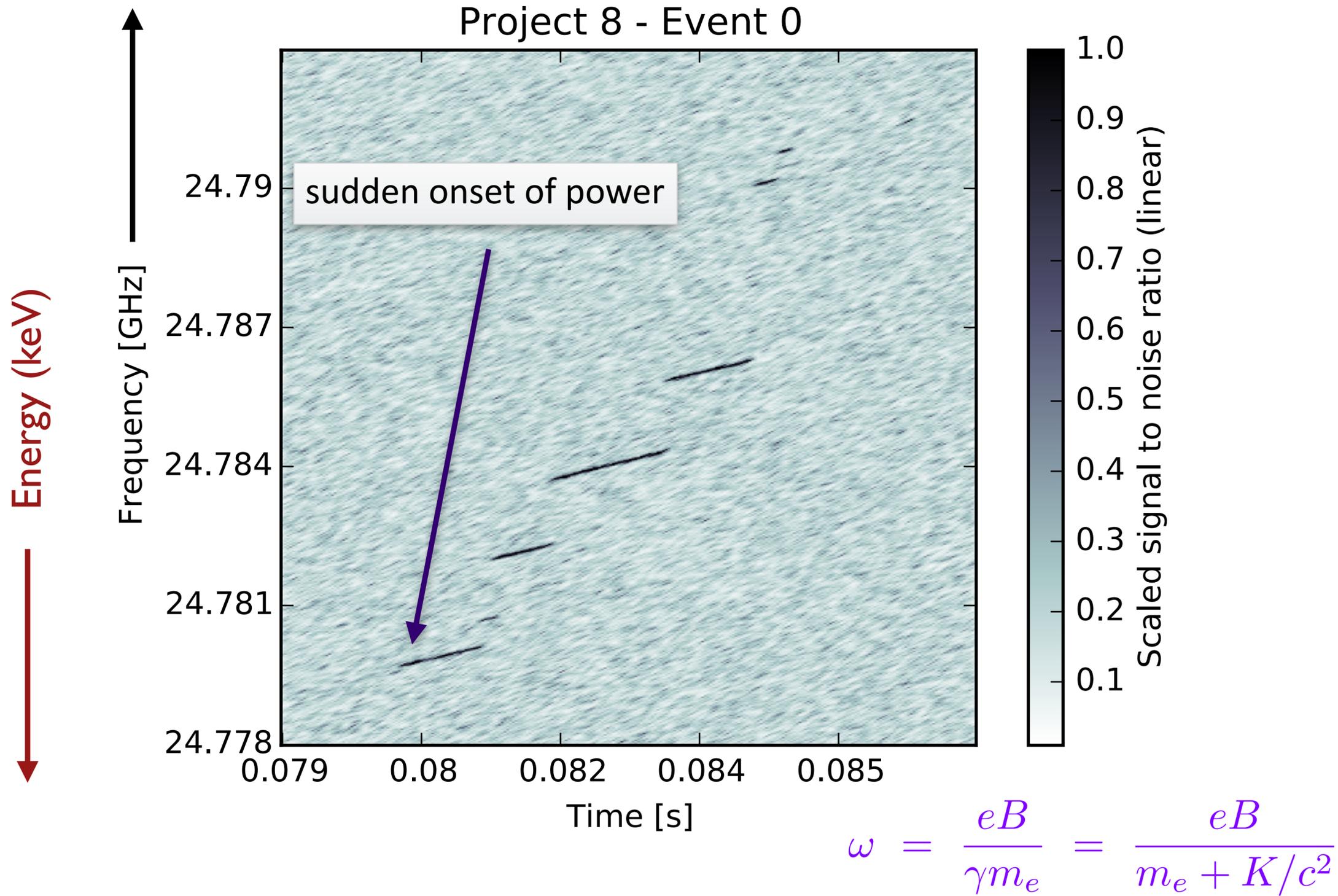
$$\omega = \frac{eB}{\gamma m_e} = \frac{eB}{m_e + K/c^2}$$

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

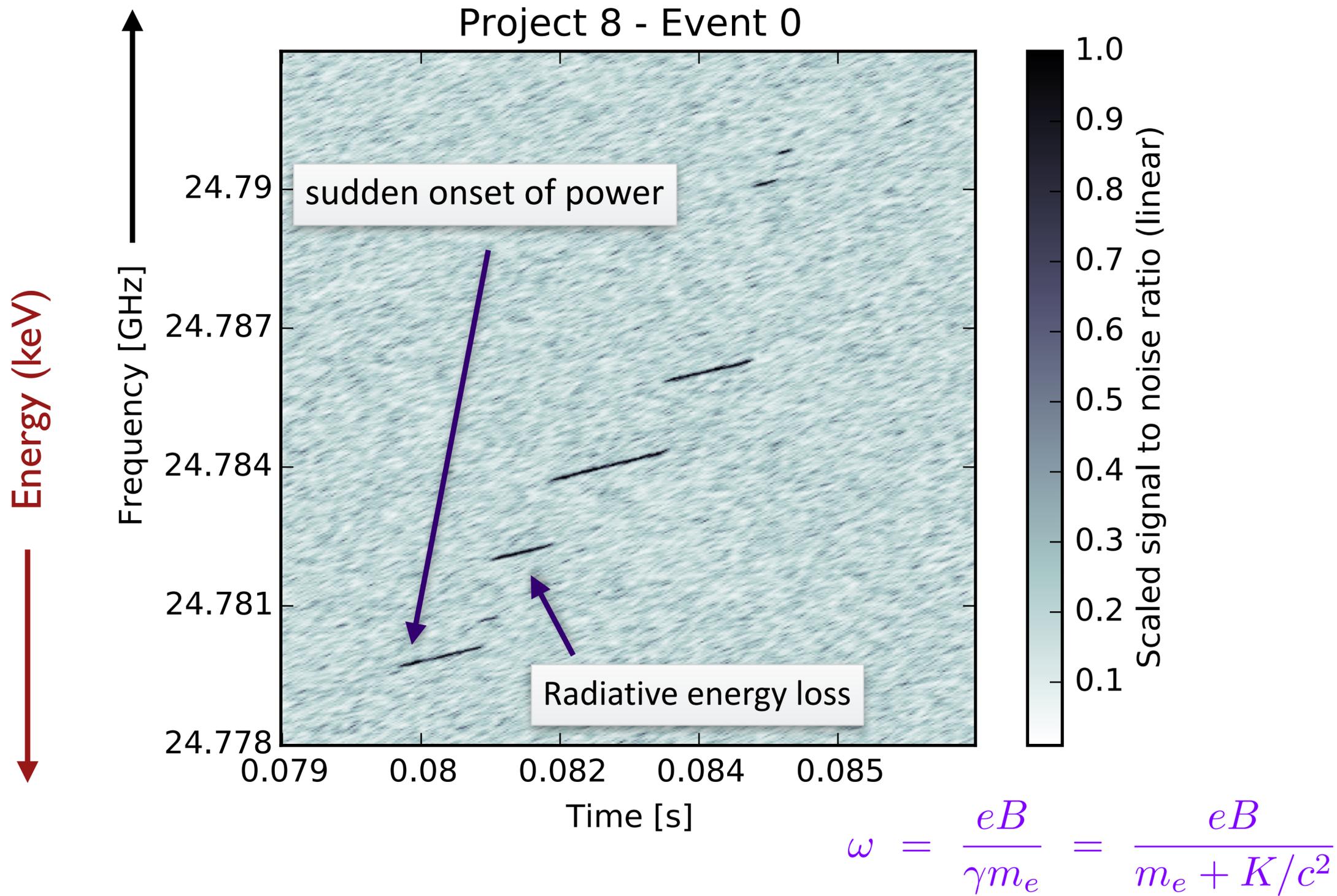


$$\omega = \frac{eB}{\gamma m_e} = \frac{eB}{m_e + K/c^2}$$

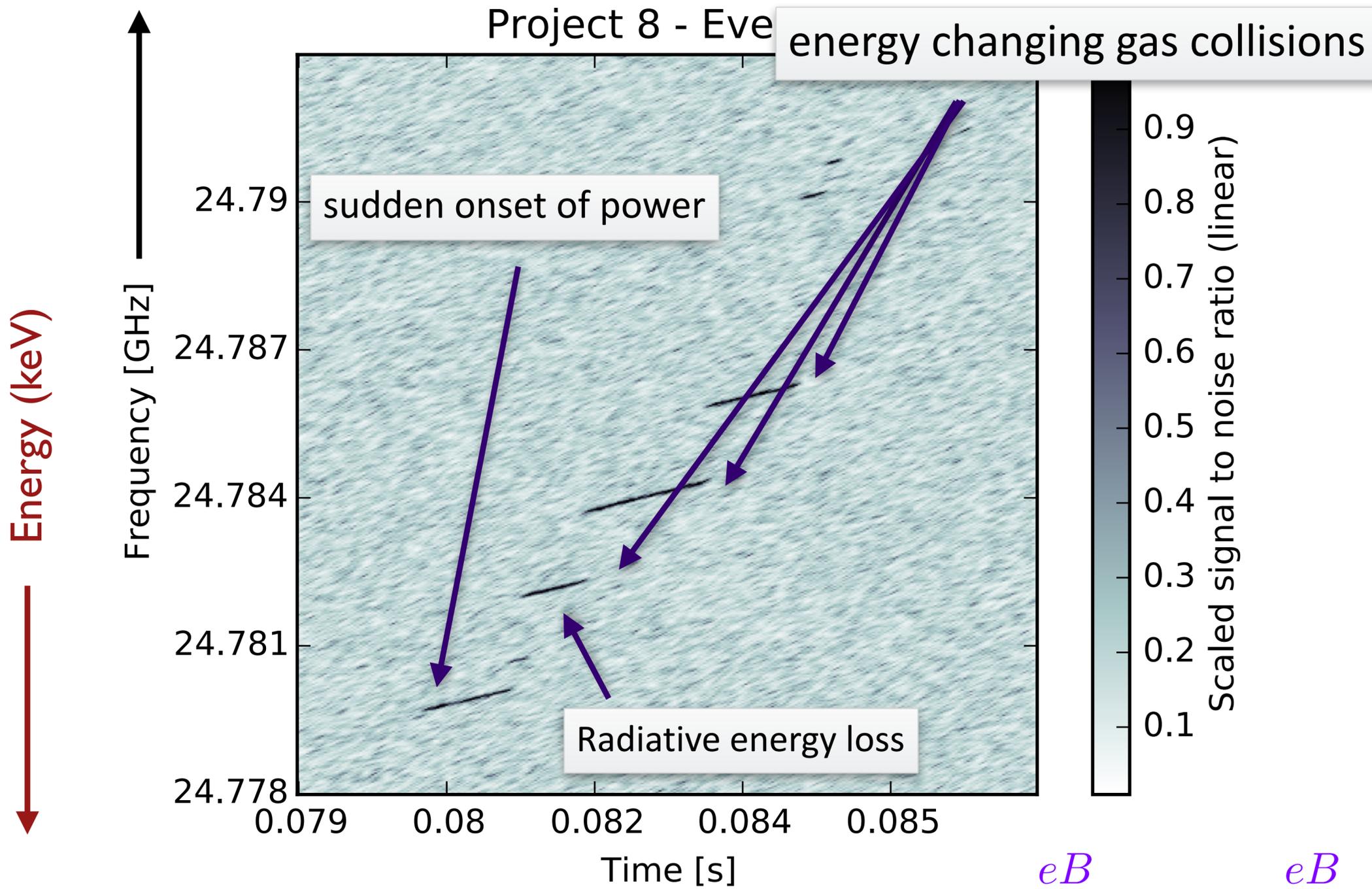
**A "typical" event**  
(actually, this was our first event)



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



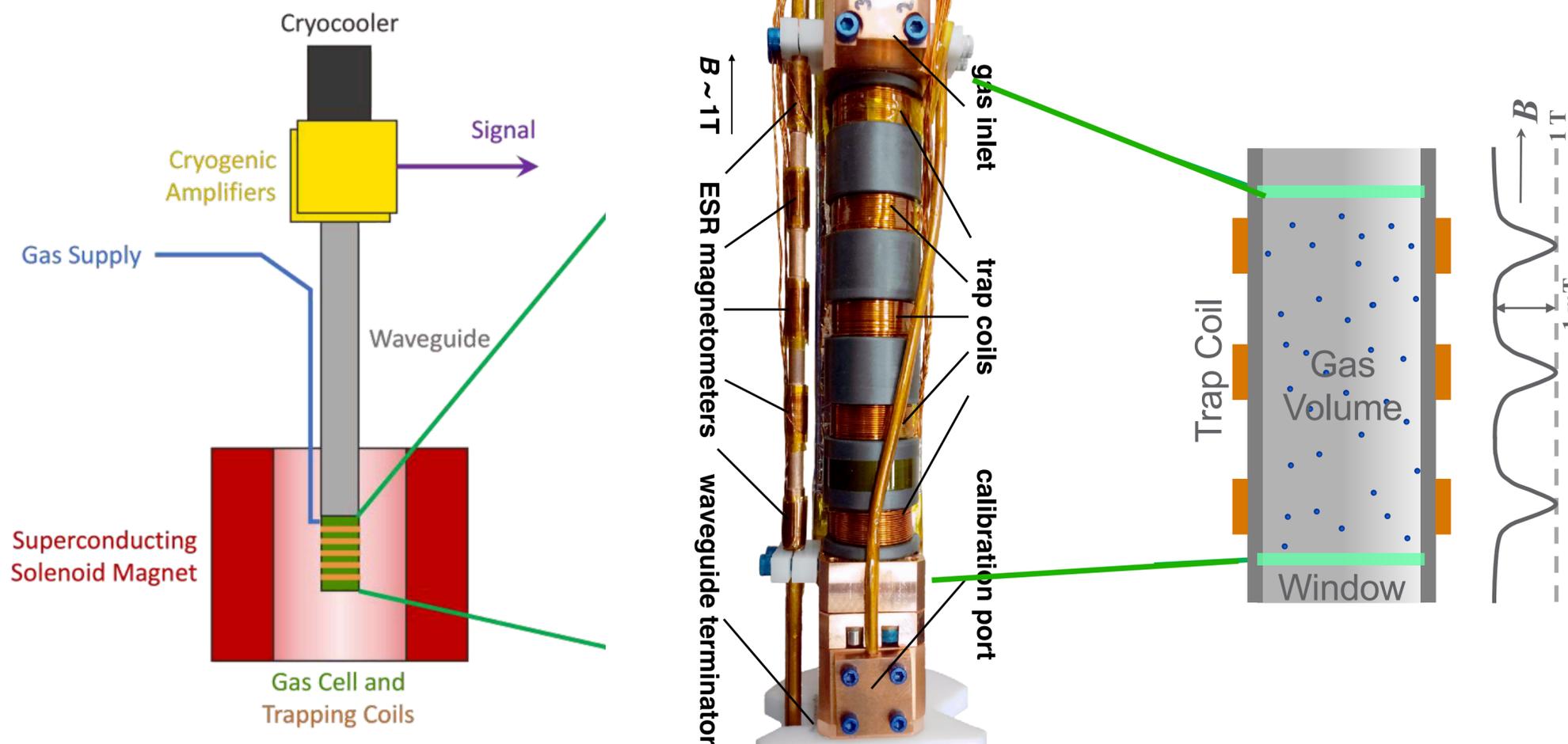
**A "typical" event**  
*(actually, this was our first event)*



$$\omega = \frac{eB}{\gamma m_e} = \frac{eB}{m_e + K/c^2}$$

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

# Phase II Results

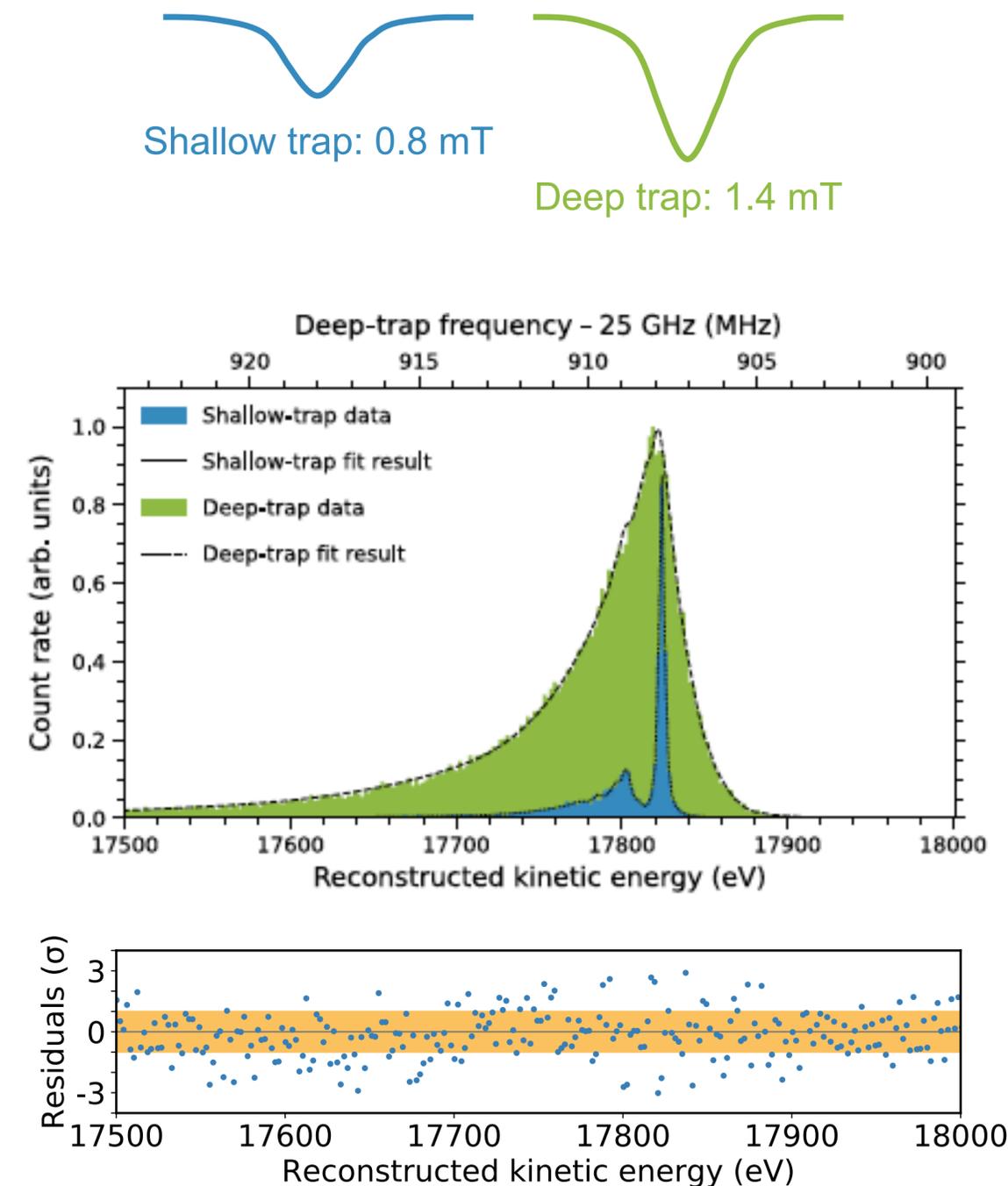


Phase II CRES instrument provides  $1\text{mm}^3$  volume inside waveguide

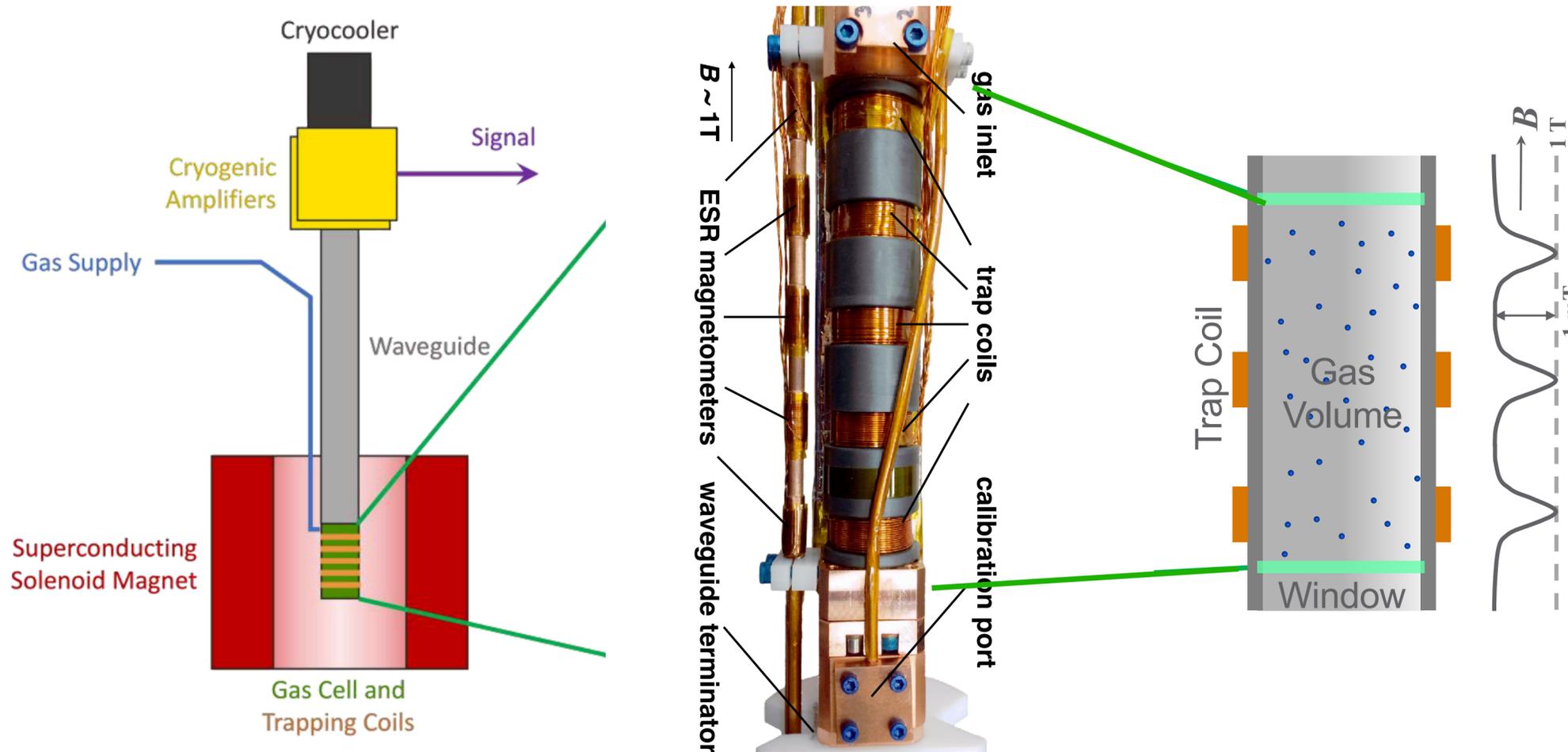
First endpoint CRES measurement conducted with no observed background in 81 days of data taking.

$^{83}\text{mKr}$   
Spectrum

*Ashtari Esfahani et al*  
*Phys. Rev. Lett.* 131,  
102502 (2023)



# Phase II Results



Phase II CRES instrument provides  $1\text{ mm}^3$  volume inside waveguide

First endpoint CRES measurement conducted with no observed background in 81 days of data taking.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Tritium Spectrum

*Ashtari Esfahani et al  
Phys. Rev. Lett. 131,  
102502 (2023)*

### T2 Endpoint

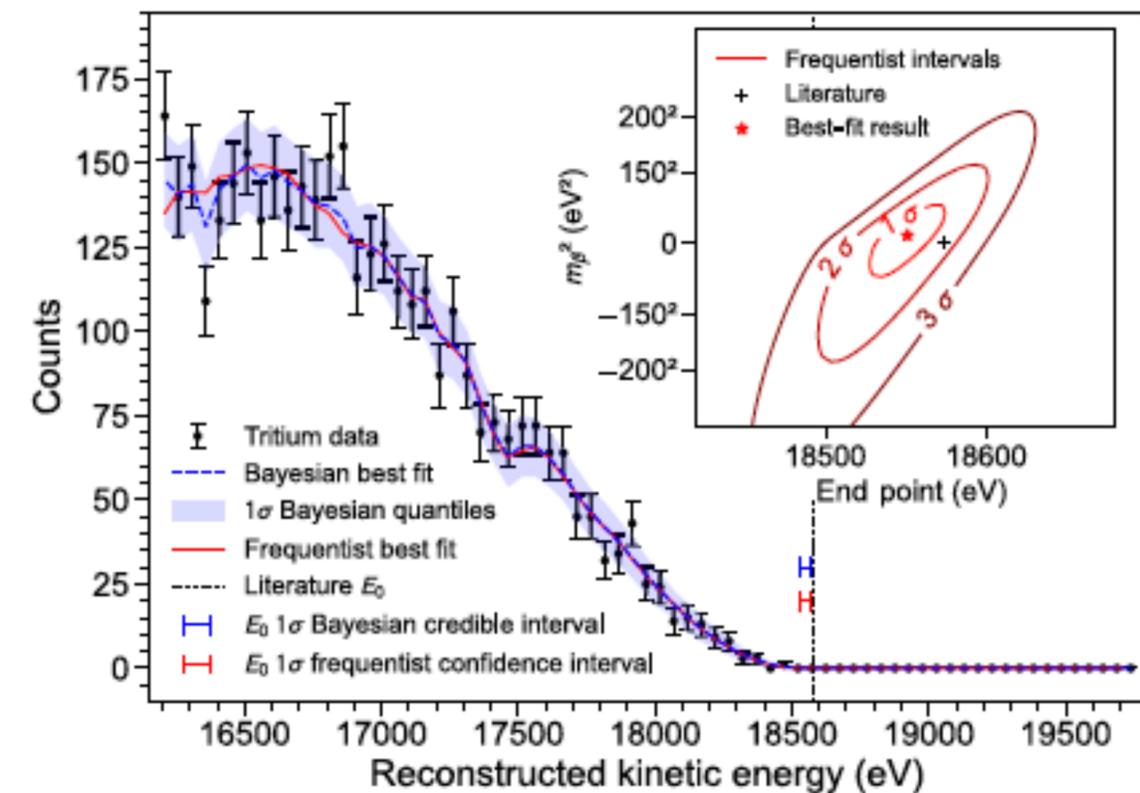
Bayesian:  $E_0 = (18553^{+18}_{-19})\text{ eV}$   
Frequentist:  $E_0 = (18548^{+19}_{-19})\text{ eV}$

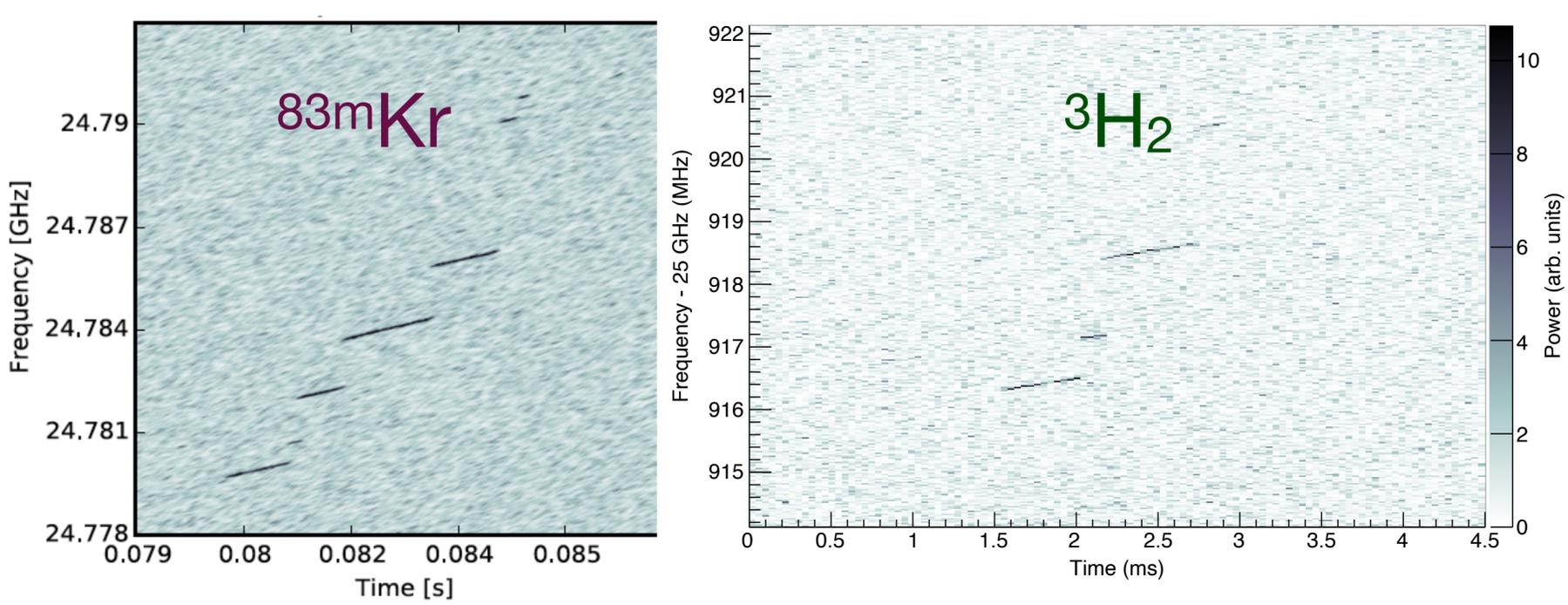
### Neutrino Mass

Bayesian:  $m_\beta < 155\text{ eV}$   
Frequentist:  $m_\beta < 152\text{ eV}$

### Background rate

$< 3 \times 10^{-10}\text{ eV}^{-1}\text{ s}^{-1}$

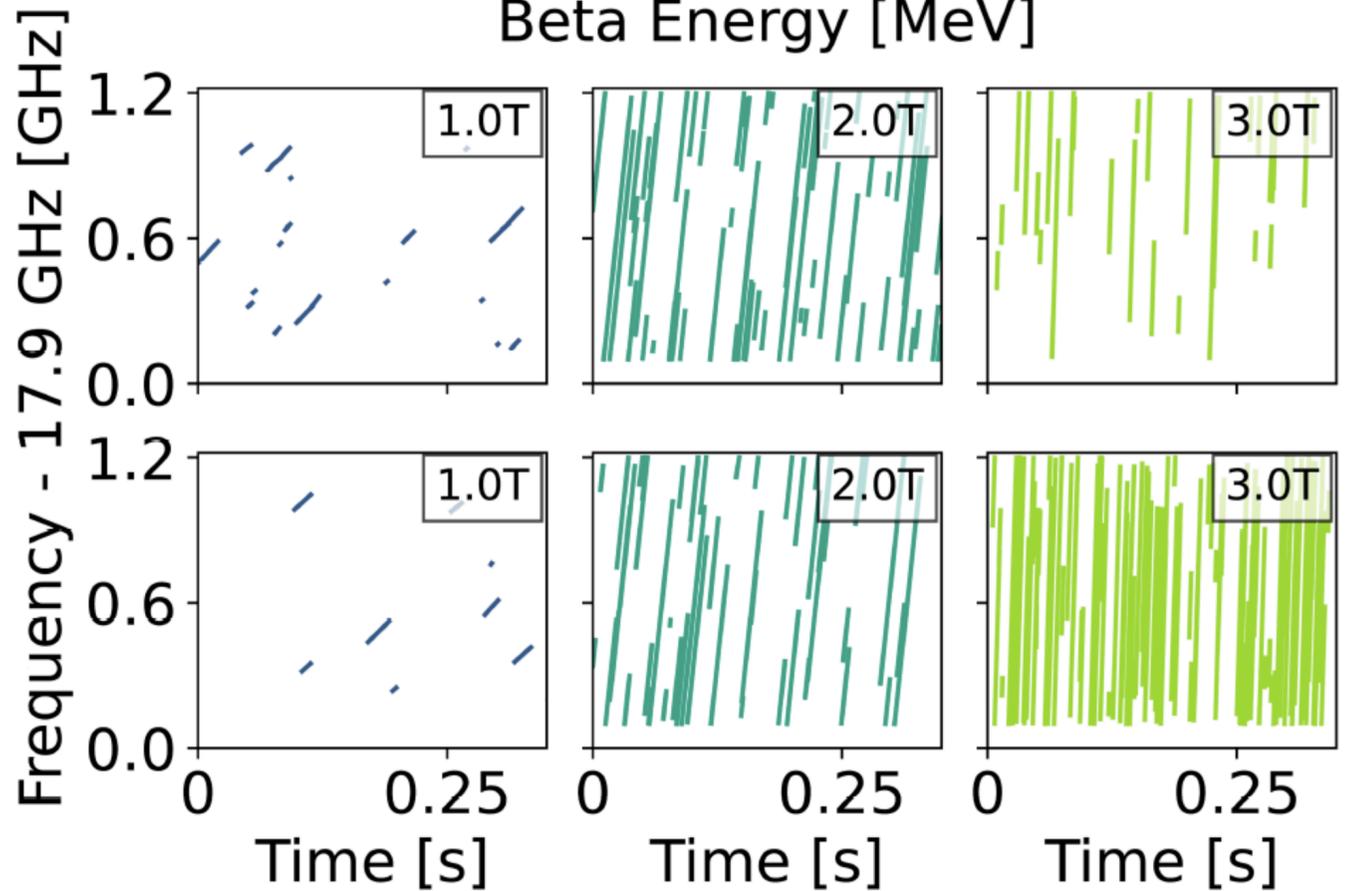




**PROJECT 8**



Beta Energy [MeV]



<sup>19</sup>Ne

<sup>6</sup>He

# Who Else Uses CRES?

- <sup>6</sup>He-CRES: For beta decay spectrum (<sup>6</sup>He, <sup>19</sup>Ne) (spectrum courtesy of <sup>6</sup>He coll.)
- CRES-X: For gamma detection & non-proliferation.
- QTNM / CRESDA: For neutrino mass measurements. Collaborative with Project 8.

CRES is no longer unique to Project 8 experiments.

*How do we access the next scale  
of neutrino masses?*

*How do we access the next scale  
of neutrino masses?*

## *General Principles...*

- *High energy resolution*
- *Background-free operation*
- *Better target mass scaling*
- *Well-understood, highly resolved source*

*How do we access the next scale  
of neutrino masses?*

## *General Principles...*

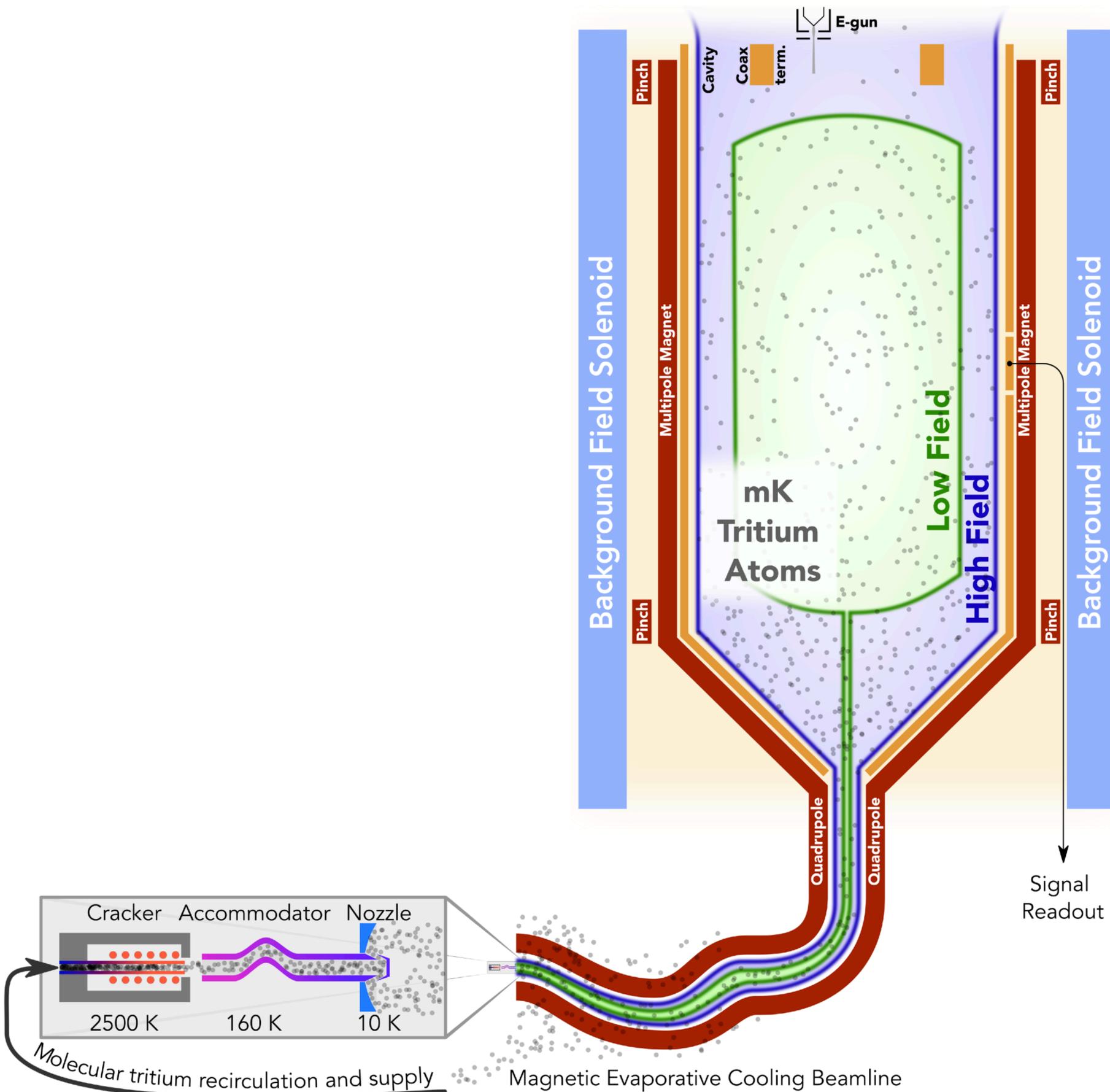
- High energy resolution*
- Background-free operation*
- Better target mass scaling*
- Well-understood, highly resolved source*

*N.B.: I will focus on the tritium efforts, revealing my  
own biases and prejudices.  
But the principles still apply broadly.*

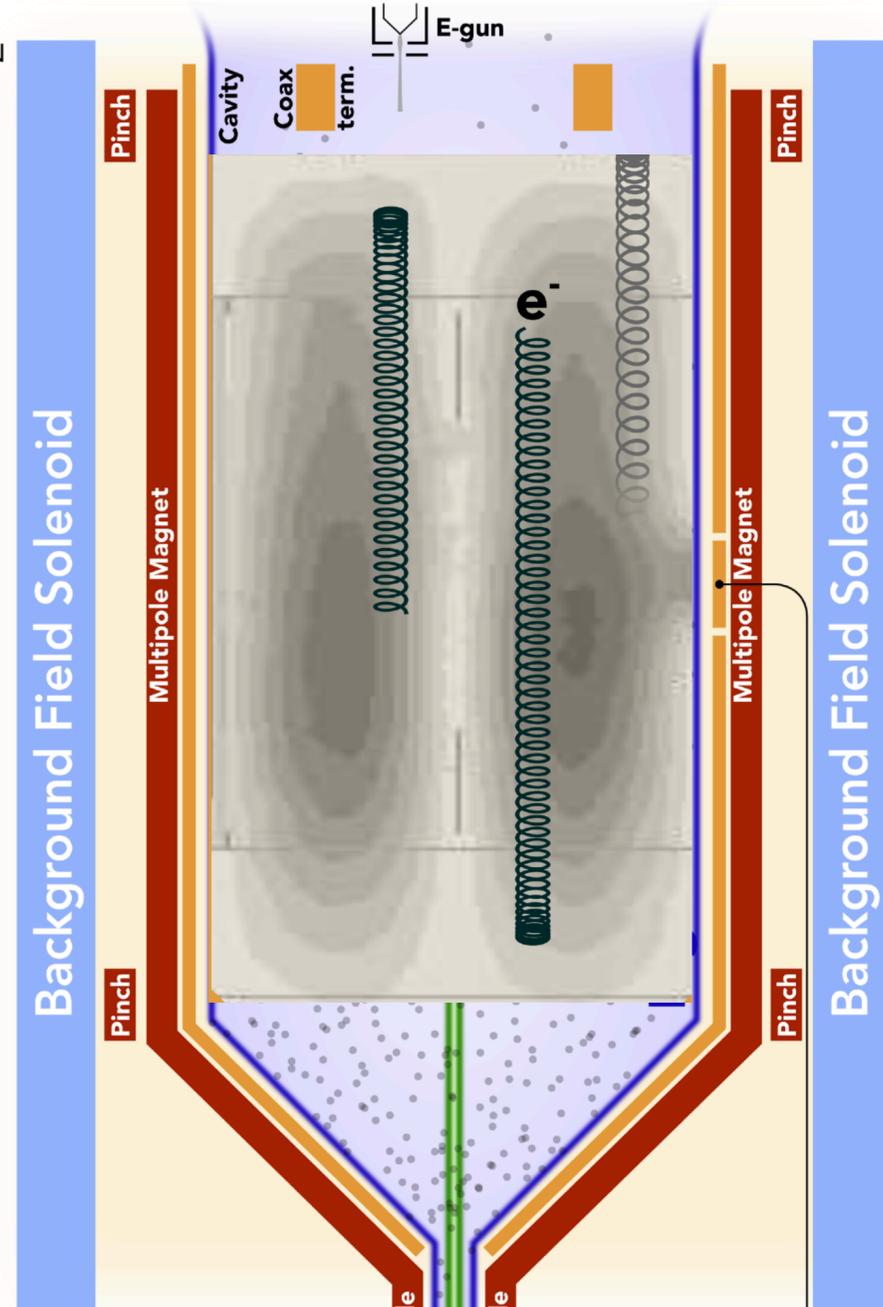
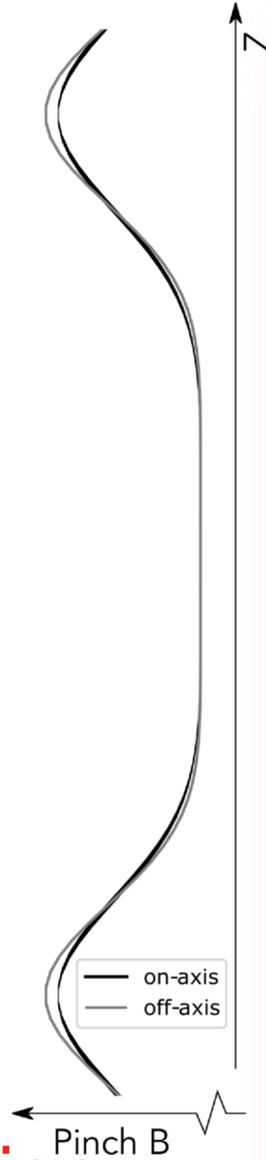
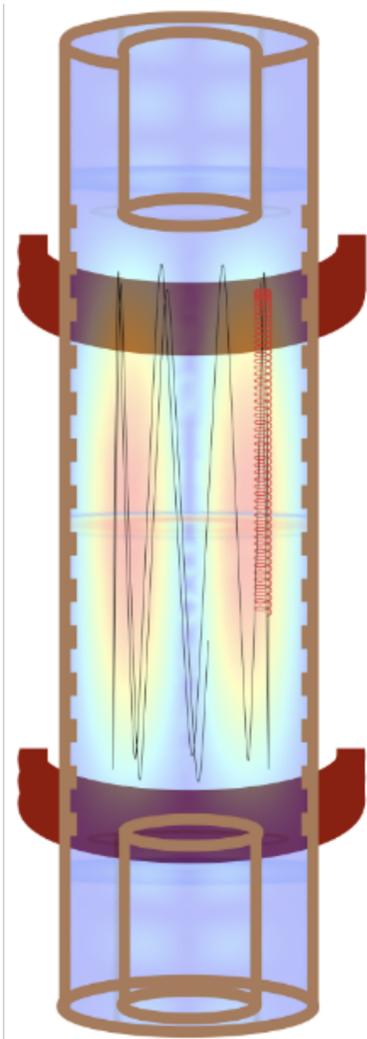
# Project 8 Phase III

Two main R&D focal points:

- Expand the volume  $\Rightarrow$  Cavities
- Clean source  $\Rightarrow$  Atomic tritium



$e^-$



$f_c$  : cyclotron motion

$f_a$  : axial motion

$f_{\nabla B}$  : grad-B motion

Need to expand volume by using a cavity apparatus at a lower magnetic field.

## Low Field Cavities

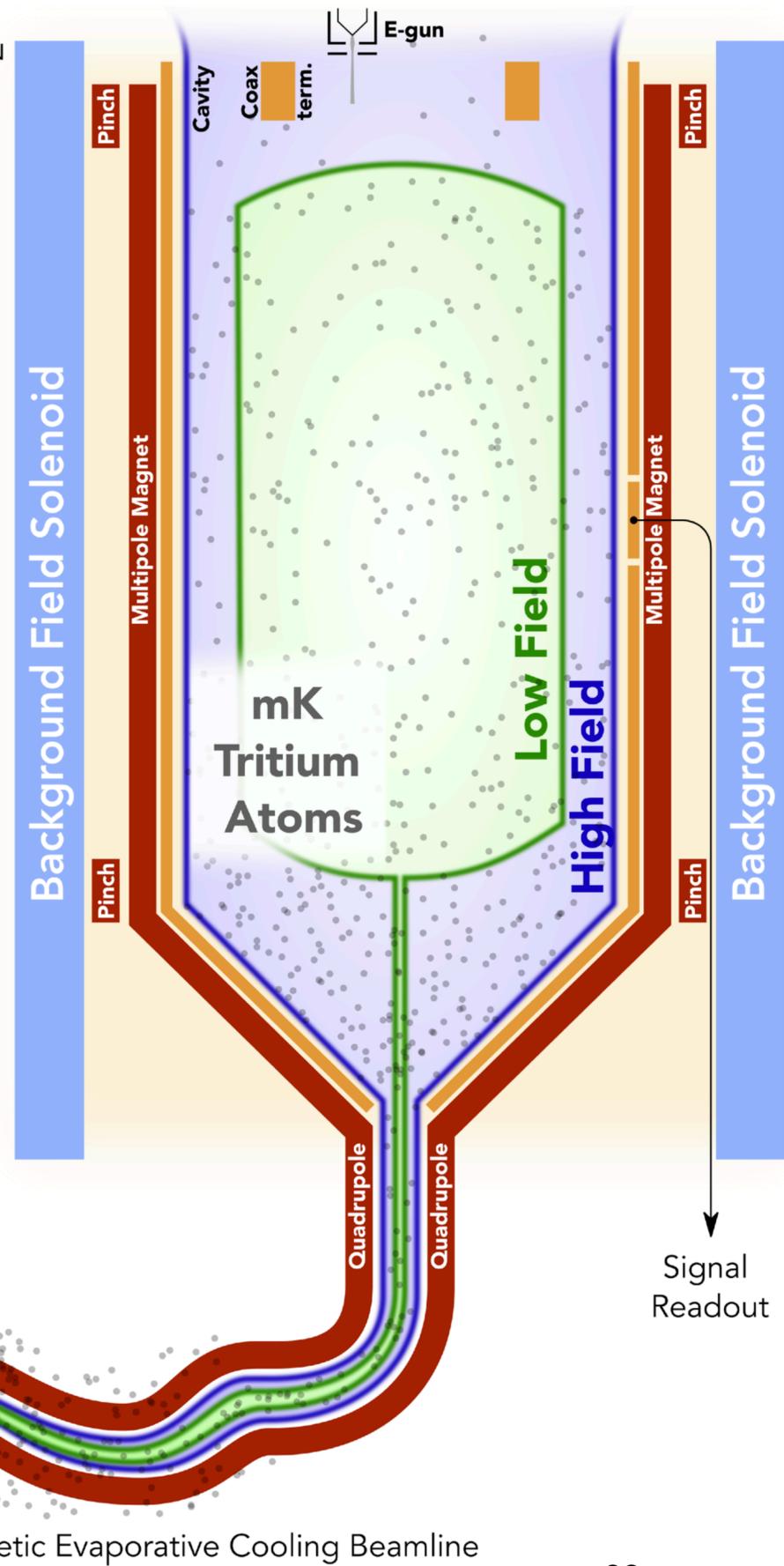
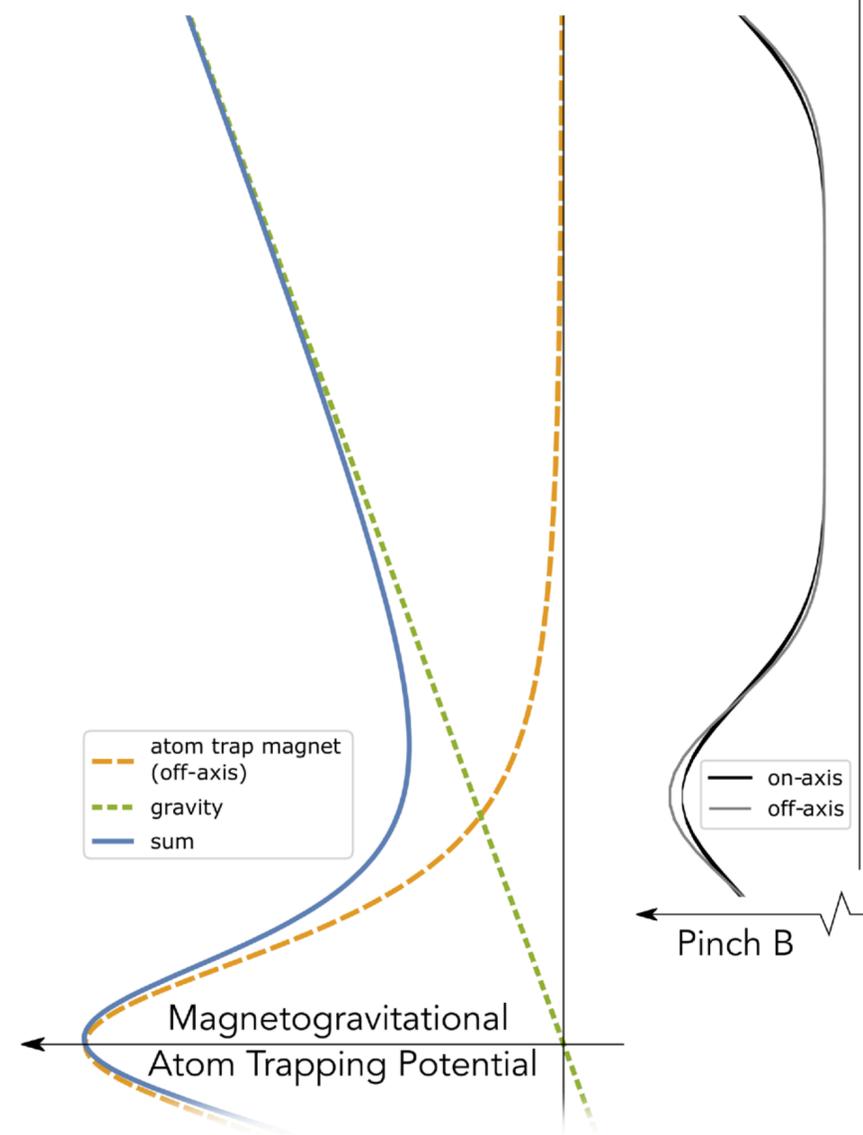
Dropping field/frequency increases effective volume.

$$f_c \approx 325 \text{ MHz}$$

$$V_{\text{eff}} \approx 11 \text{ m}^3$$

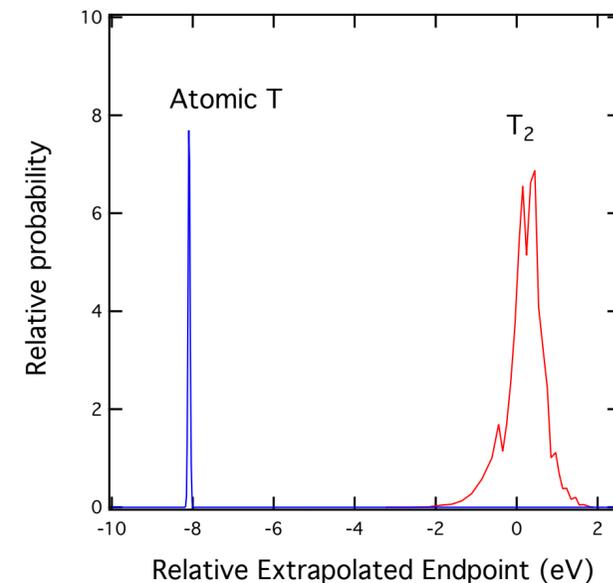
Extremely low power signals (zeptowatts), but is detectable over predicted thermal noise.

# Atomic Tritium



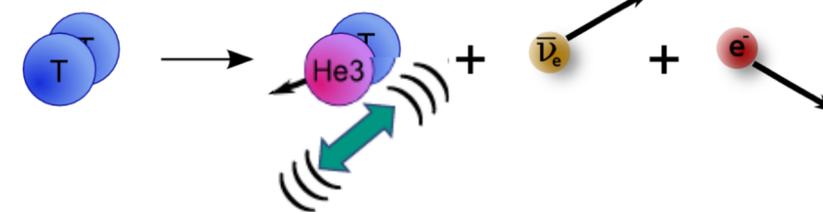
Atomic

Doppler only



Molecular

Rotational  
Vibrational



Rotational and vibrational states both broaden the final states, and add theoretical uncertainty.

Switching to an atomic source removes this uncertainty, but requires magneto-gravitational trapping. Prefers lower magnetic fields.

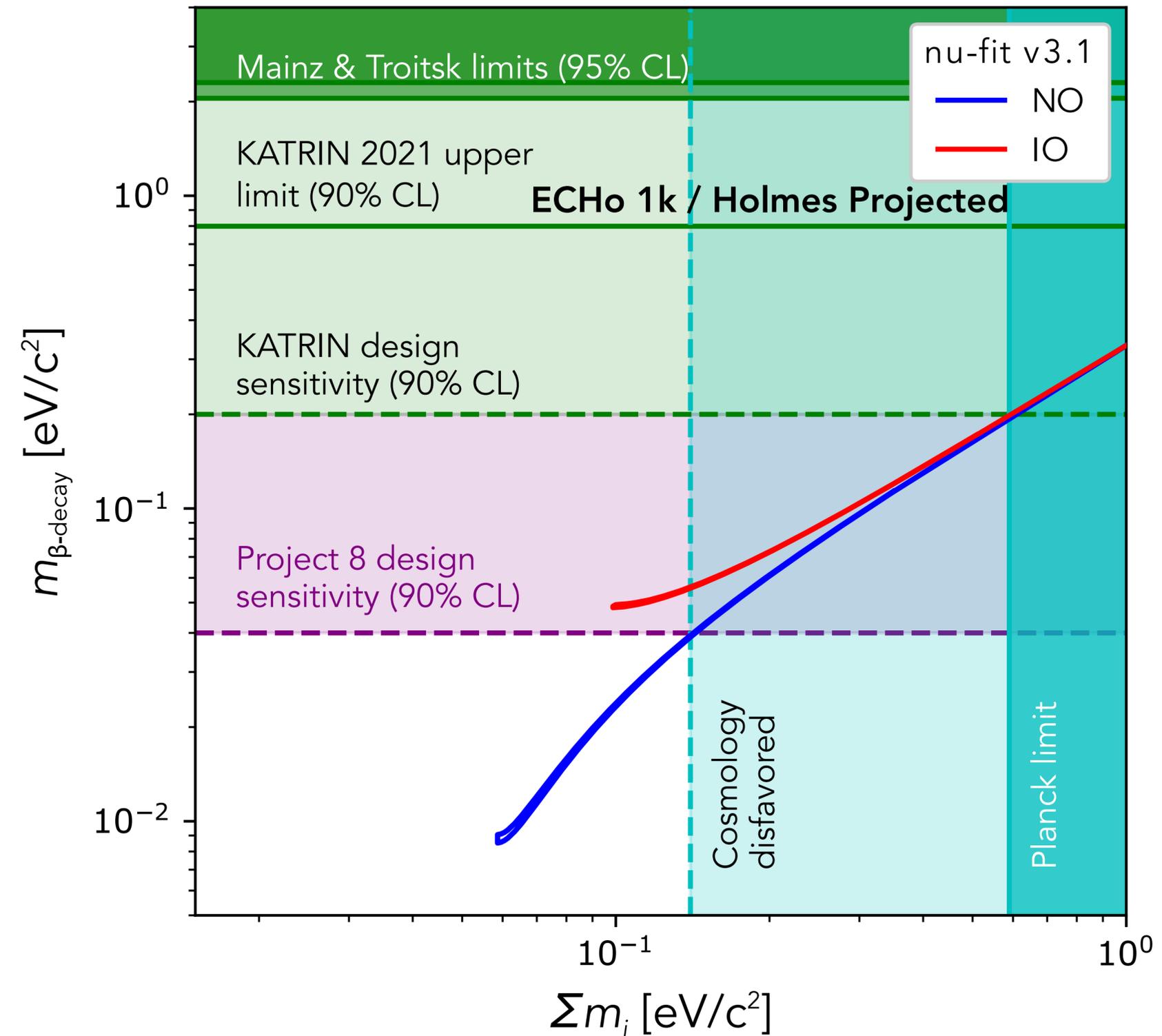
# Next-Generation Experiments

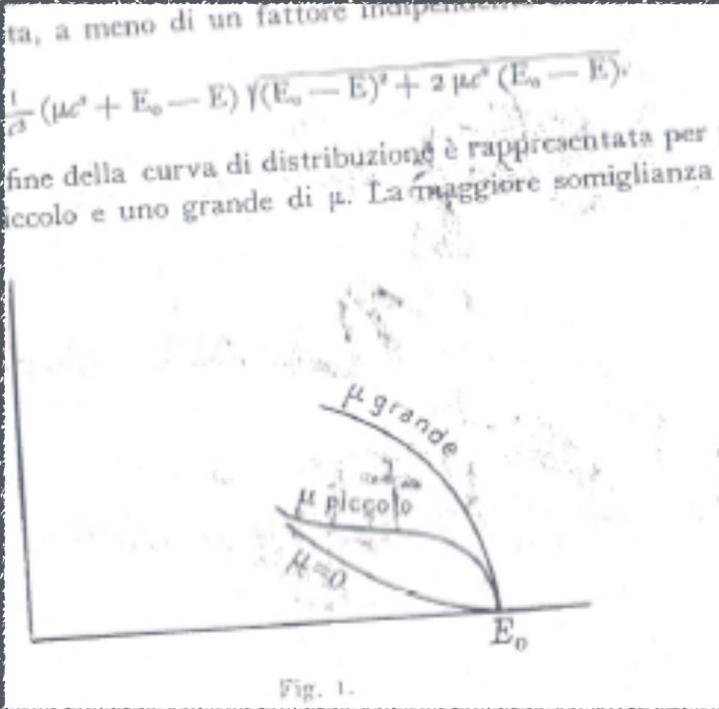
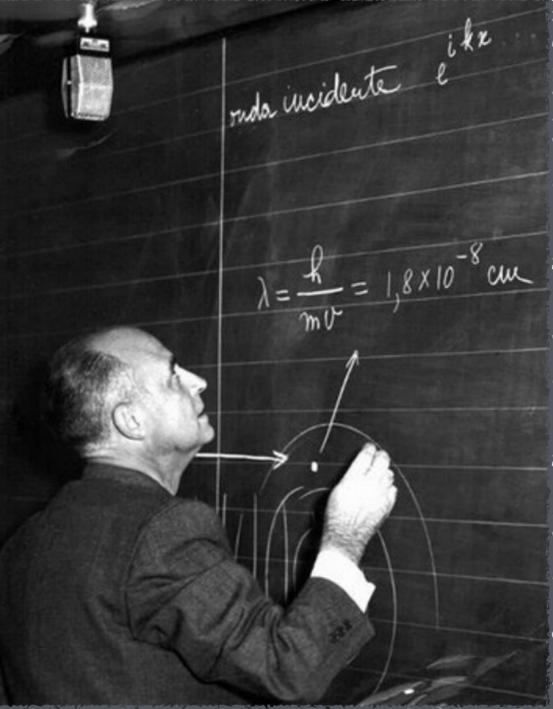
The next stage of direct matter experiments would need to satisfy a number of criteria.

- Higher energy resolution
- Background-free operation
- Differential spectrum
- Well-understood, highly resolved source

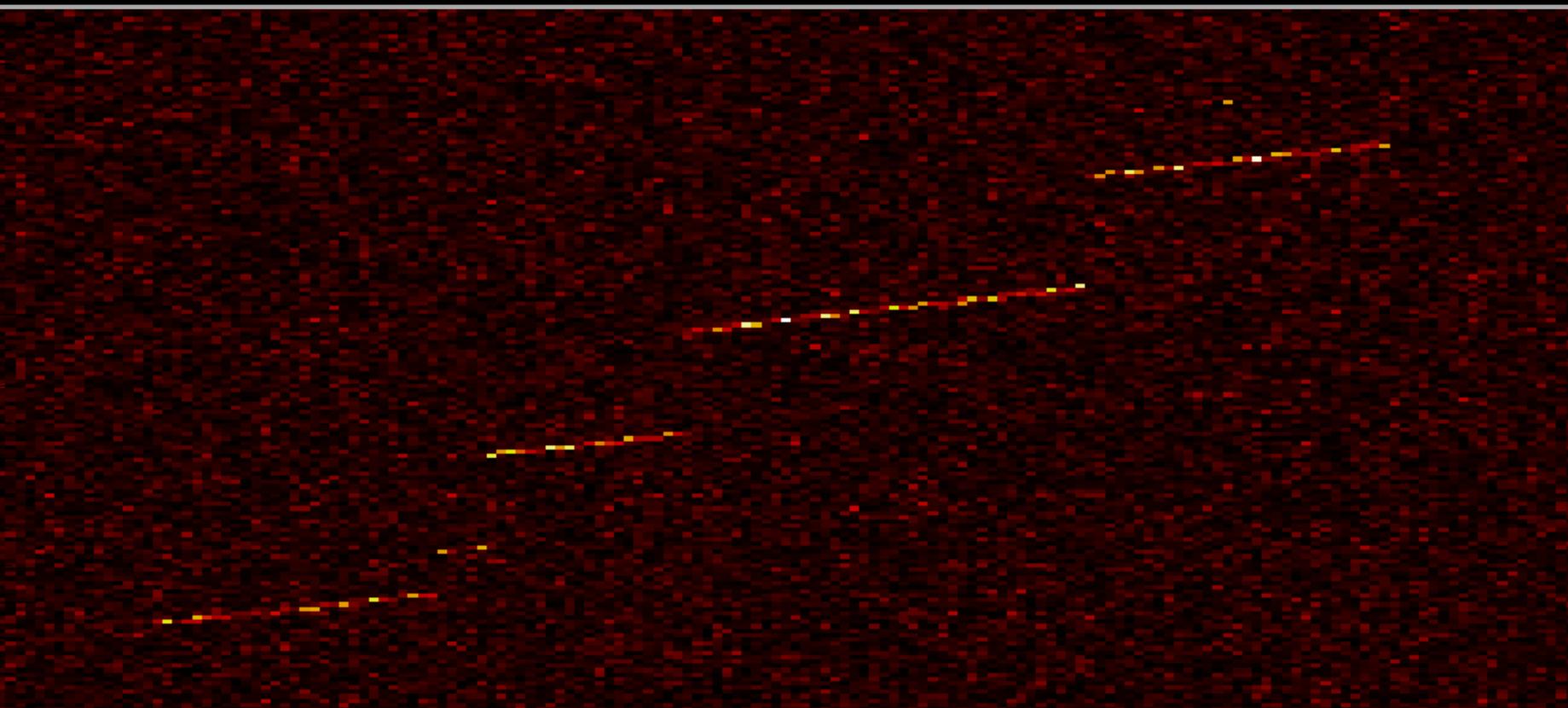
A push that drives going from molecular to atomic tritium.

- High resolution spectrum
- No vibrational/rotational broadening.





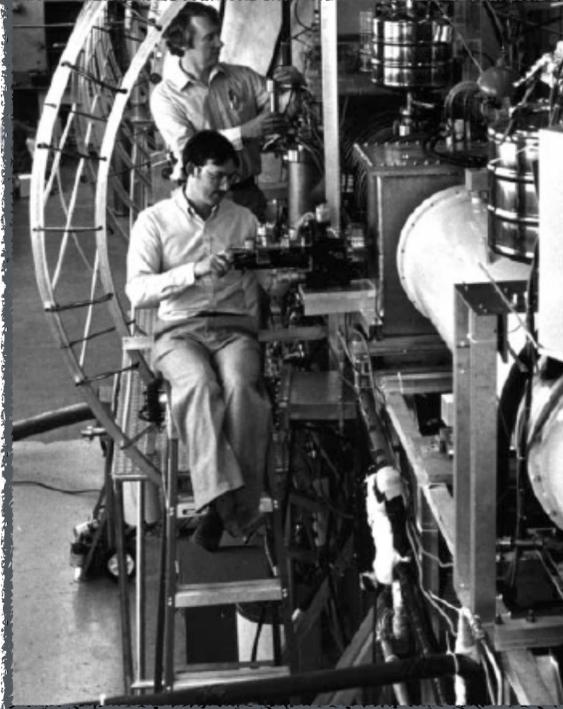
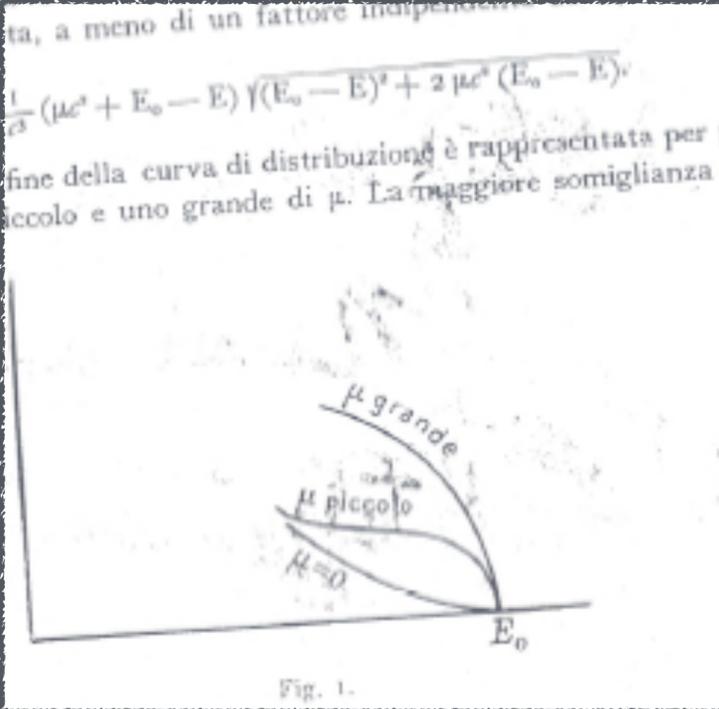
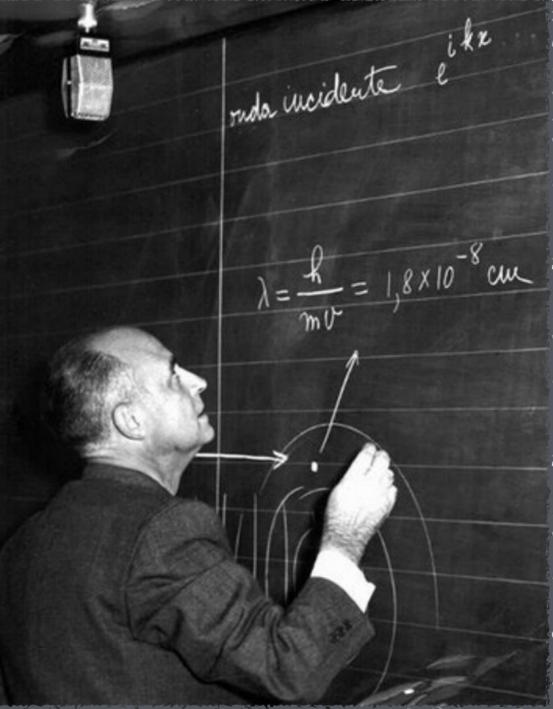
## Summary



**KATRIN** nears completion of its mission, with a projected sensitivity at the quasi-degenerate scale.

Both **calorimetry** and **CRES** style experiments have demonstrated their proof-of-principle measurements. All are next expanding to the eV scale.

Strong push for atomic tritium source, as a path toward the inverted scale in next-generation tritium experiments.



*Thank you for your attention*

