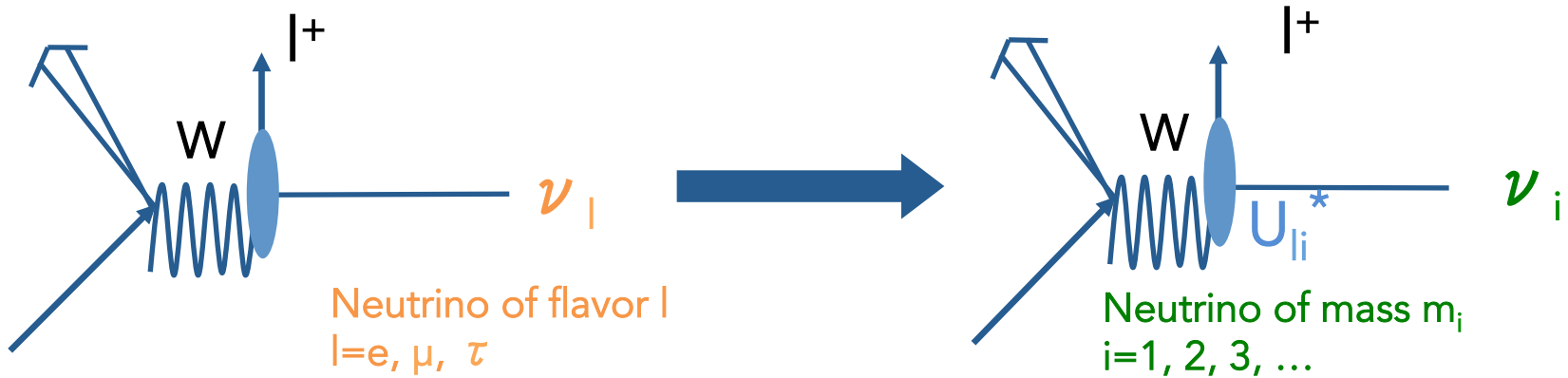


# Sterile Neutrinos at the eV and keV Scales

KAVLI INSTITUTE FOR THEORETICAL PHYSICS  
Symmetry Tests in Nuclei and Atoms  
September 19-23 2016

Thierry Lasserre  
Institute for Advanced Study, TU München  
CEA-Saclay, DRF/IRFU/SPP & APC

- 3 types, spin  $\frac{1}{2}$ , neutral, left handed,  $\sigma(1 \text{ MeV}) \approx 10^{-45-43} \text{ cm}^2$
- Neutrinos have tiny masses and mix:  $0.04 \text{ eV} < m_\nu < \approx 1 \text{ eV}$
- Two views on W decay:



- PMNS matrix U relates mass & flavor:  $|\nu_i\rangle = \sum U_{\alpha i} |\nu_\alpha\rangle$

$$P(\bar{\nu}_x \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_x) = 1 - \sin^2(2\theta_i) \sin\left(1.27 \frac{\Delta m_i^2 (\text{eV}^2) L (\text{m})}{E (\text{MeV})}\right)$$

# 3 $\nu$ Oscillation Formalism

## PMNS mixing matrix

$$U = \begin{matrix} \text{Atmospheric} \\ \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c_{23} & s_{23} \\ 0 & -s_{23} & c_{23} \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix} \times \begin{matrix} \text{Cross-Mixing} \\ \begin{bmatrix} c_{13} & 0 & s_{13}e^{-i\delta} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -s_{13}e^{i\delta} & 0 & c_{13} \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix} \times \begin{matrix} \text{Solar} \\ \begin{bmatrix} c_{12} & s_{12} & 0 \\ -s_{12} & c_{12} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix} \times \begin{matrix} \text{Majorana } \cancel{CP} \text{ phases} \\ \begin{bmatrix} e^{i\alpha_1/2} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & e^{i\alpha_2/2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

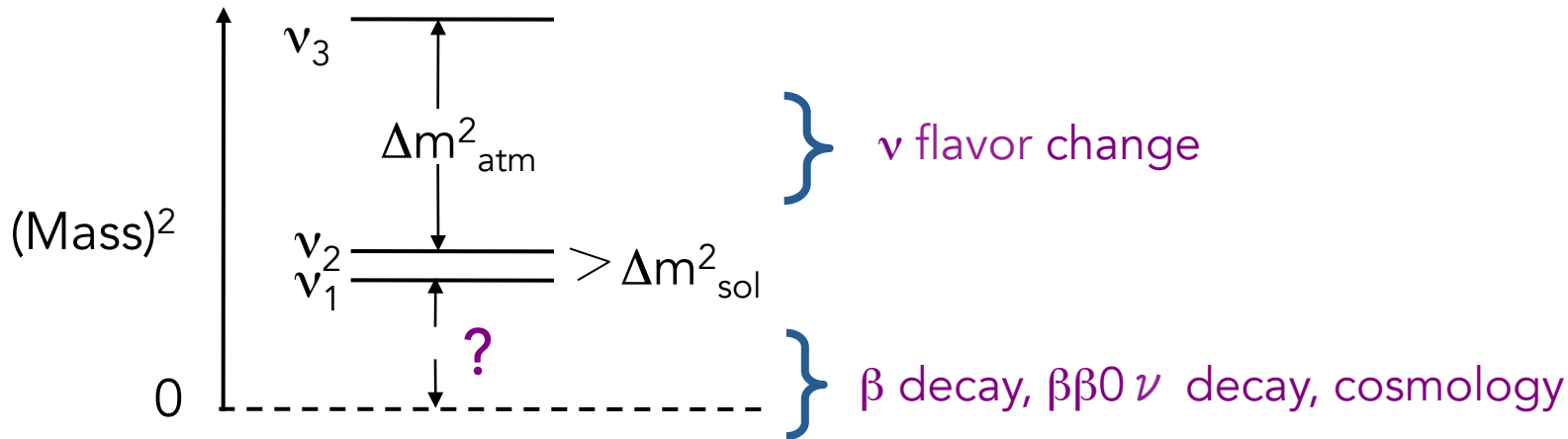
$q_{23}$  : "atm." mixing angle       $\theta_{13}$        $q_{12}$  : "solar" mixing angle

$\delta$  Dirac CP violating phase

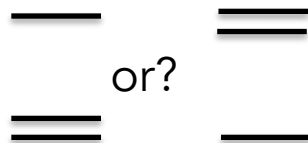
2 Majorana phases  
(L violating processes)

- 3 masses  $m_1, m_2, m_3$  :  $\Delta m_{\text{sol}}^2 = m_2^2 - m_1^2$  &  $\Delta m_{\text{atm}}^2 = |m_3^2 - m_1^2|$
- 3-flavour effects are suppressed since:  $\Delta m_{\text{sol}}^2 \ll \Delta m_{\text{atm}}^2$  (1/30) &  $\theta_{13} \ll 1$

- What are the masses of the mass eigenstates  $\nu_i$ ?



- Is the spectral pattern



$\bar{\nu}^{(-)}$  behavior in matter,  $\beta\beta 0 \nu$

- Is there any conserved Lepton Number (Dirac or Majorana neutrino) ?

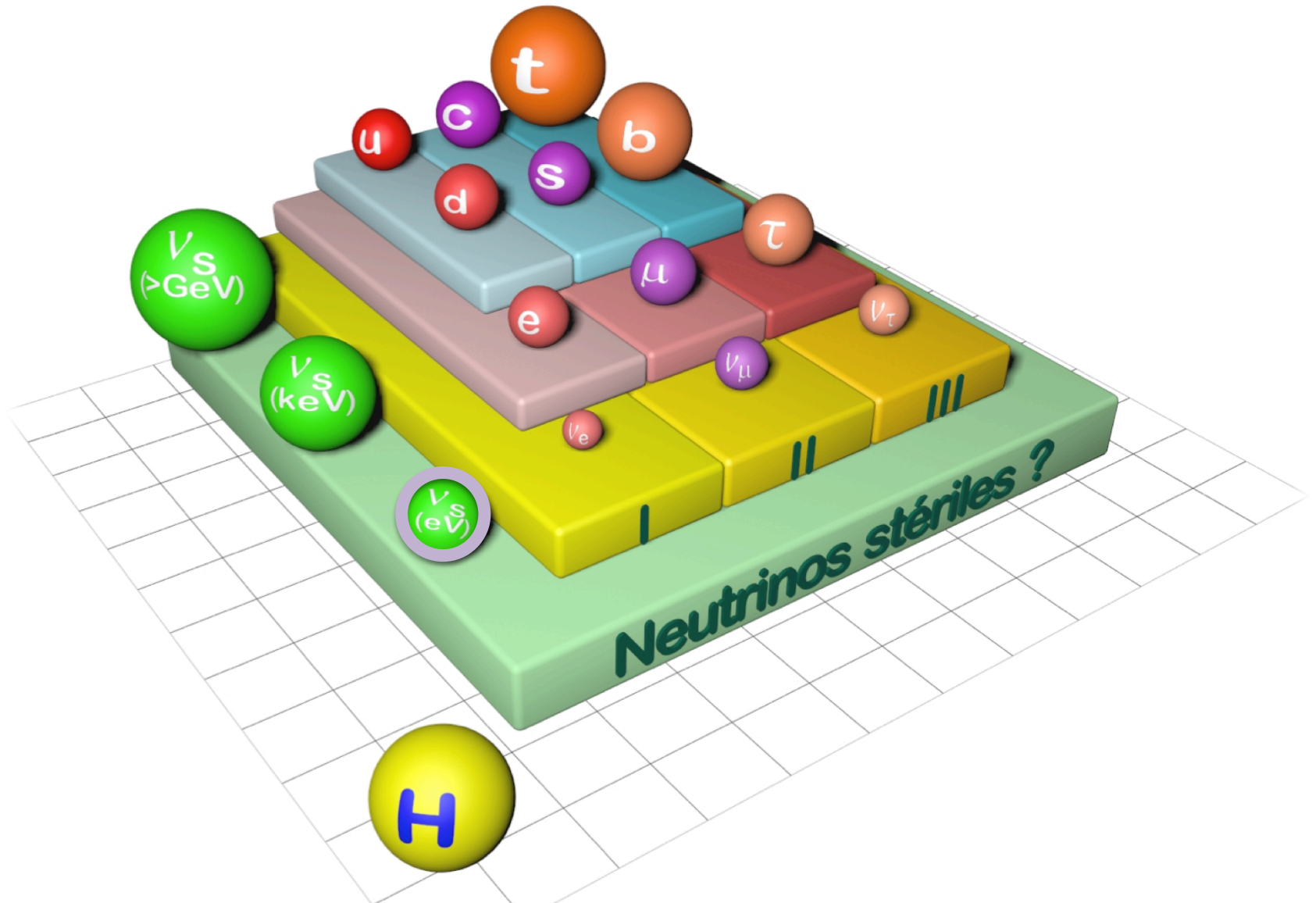
$\beta\beta 0 \nu$

- Precise measurements of the leptonic mixing matrix?
- Do the behavior of  $\nu$  violate CP?
- Is leptonic ~~CP~~ responsible for the matter-antimatter asymmetry?

}  $\nu$  flavor change

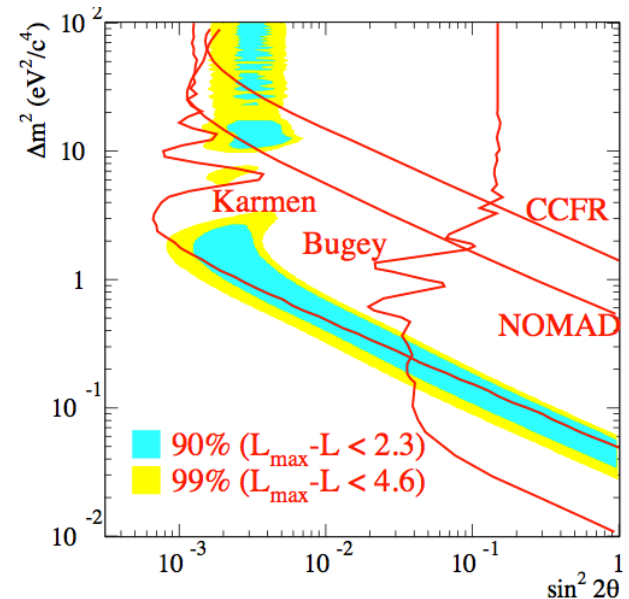
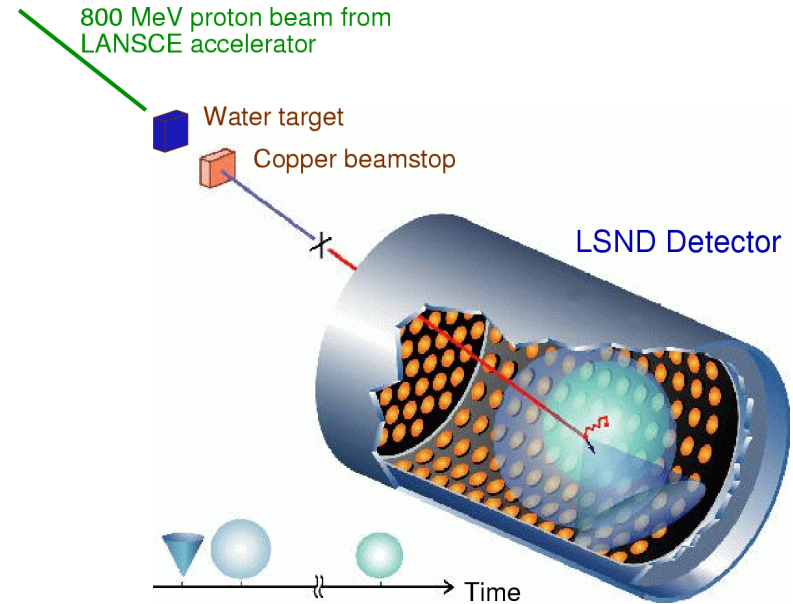
- Are there additional (sterile) neutrino states  $\nu$  flavor change, Cosmology

# Sterile Neutrinos at the eV-scale

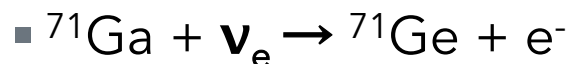


# LSND Anomaly (stopped $\pi^+$ beam)

- 1<sup>st</sup> results in 1995
- Channel: anti- $\nu_\mu \rightarrow$  anti- $\nu_e$
- Detection : anti- $\nu_e + {}^1\text{H} \rightarrow e^+ + n$
- Baseline: 30 m
- Energy:  $20 < E \text{ (MeV)} < 50$
- Status:
  - anti- $\nu_e$  excess observed  
 $\rightarrow 32.2 \pm 9.4 \pm 2.3 \text{ (} 3.8\sigma \text{)}$
  - not confirmed by Karmen
  - confirmed by MiniBooNE
- $\nu$ -Oscillation interpretation:
  - $\Delta m^2 > 0.1 \text{ eV}^2 \gg \Delta m_{\text{atm}}^2$



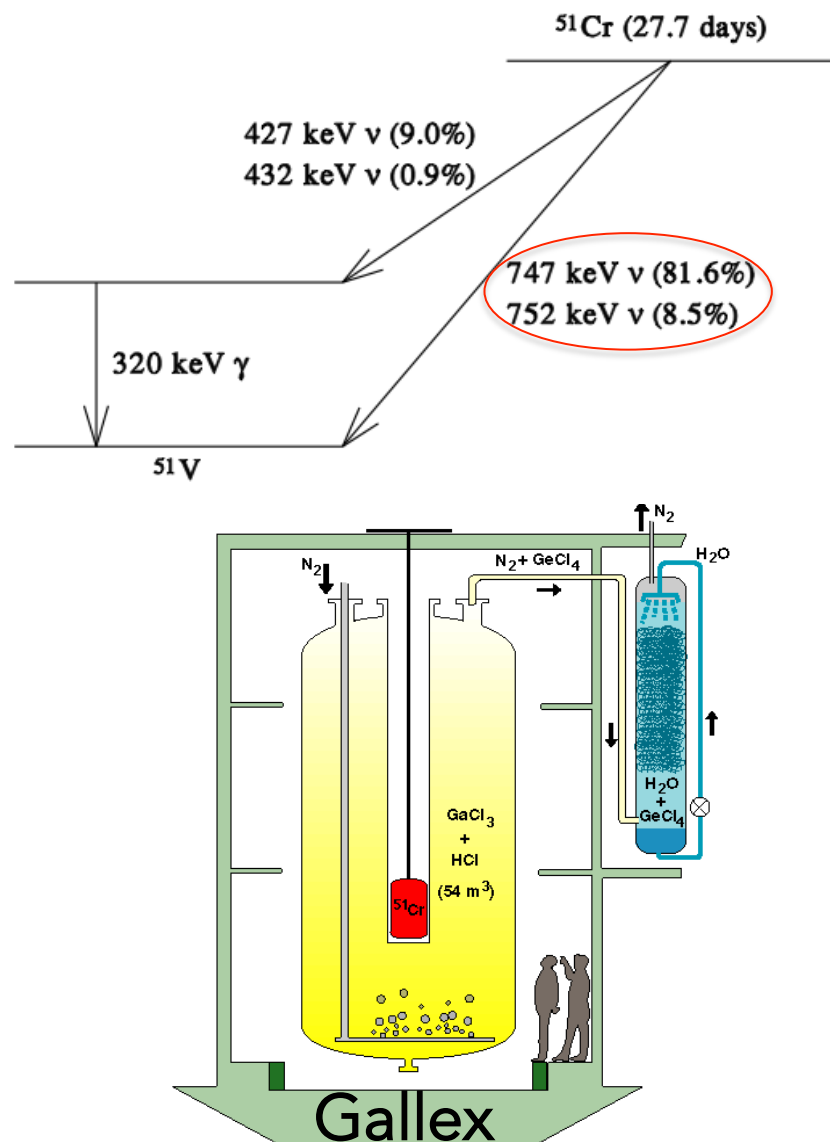
- Test of solar neutrino radiochemical detectors GALLEX and SAGE



- 4 calibration runs with 20-60 PBq Electron Capture  $\nu_e$  emitters

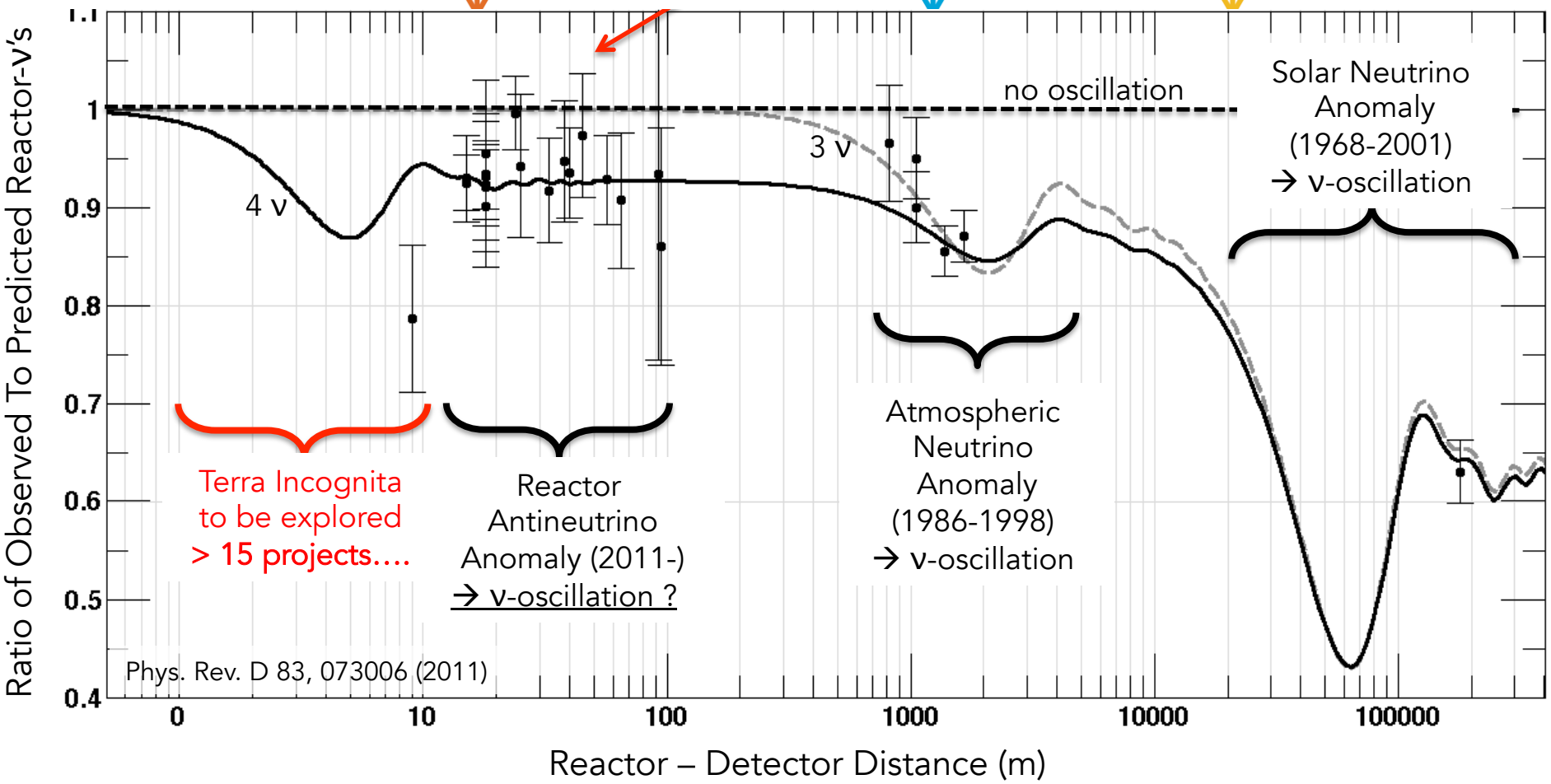
- Gallex,  $\langle L \rangle = 1.9$  m
    - ${}^{51}\text{Cr}$ , 750 keV
  - Sage,  $\langle L \rangle = 0.6$  m
    - ${}^{51}\text{Cr}$  &  ${}^{37}\text{Ar}$  (810 keV)

- Deficit observed
  - $3\sigma$  anomaly



# The Reactor Anomaly (RAA)

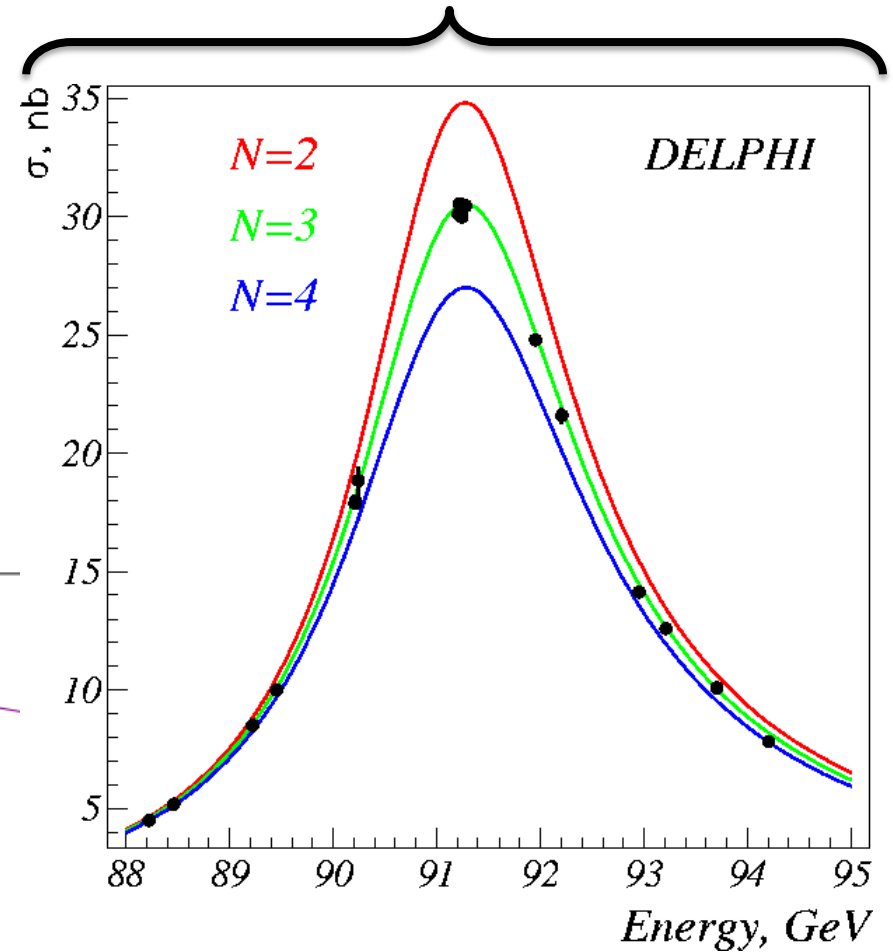
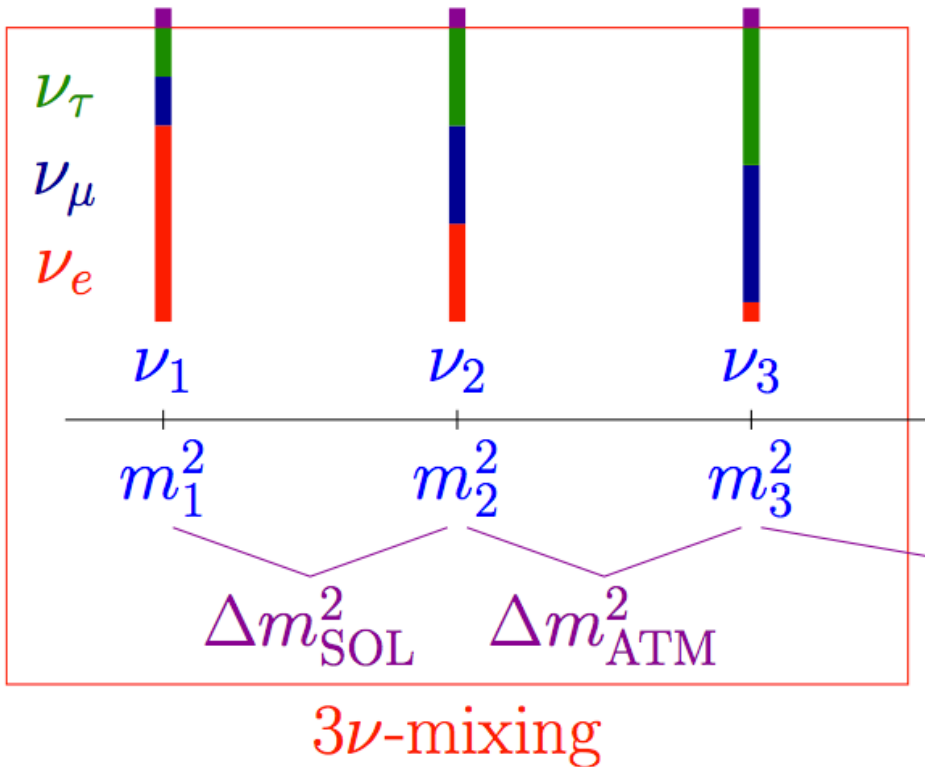
$$P_{\bar{\nu}_e \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_e} = 1 - \sin^2 2\Theta_{14} \sin^2 \left( 1.27 \Delta m_{41}^2 \frac{L}{E} \right) - c_{14}^4 \sin^2 2\Theta_{13} \sin^2 \left( 1.27 \Delta m_{31}^2 \frac{L}{E} \right) - c_{14}^4 c_{13}^2 \sin^2 2\Theta_{12} \sin^2 \left( 1.27 \Delta m_{21}^2 \frac{L}{E} \right)$$





# Three Active Neutrinos

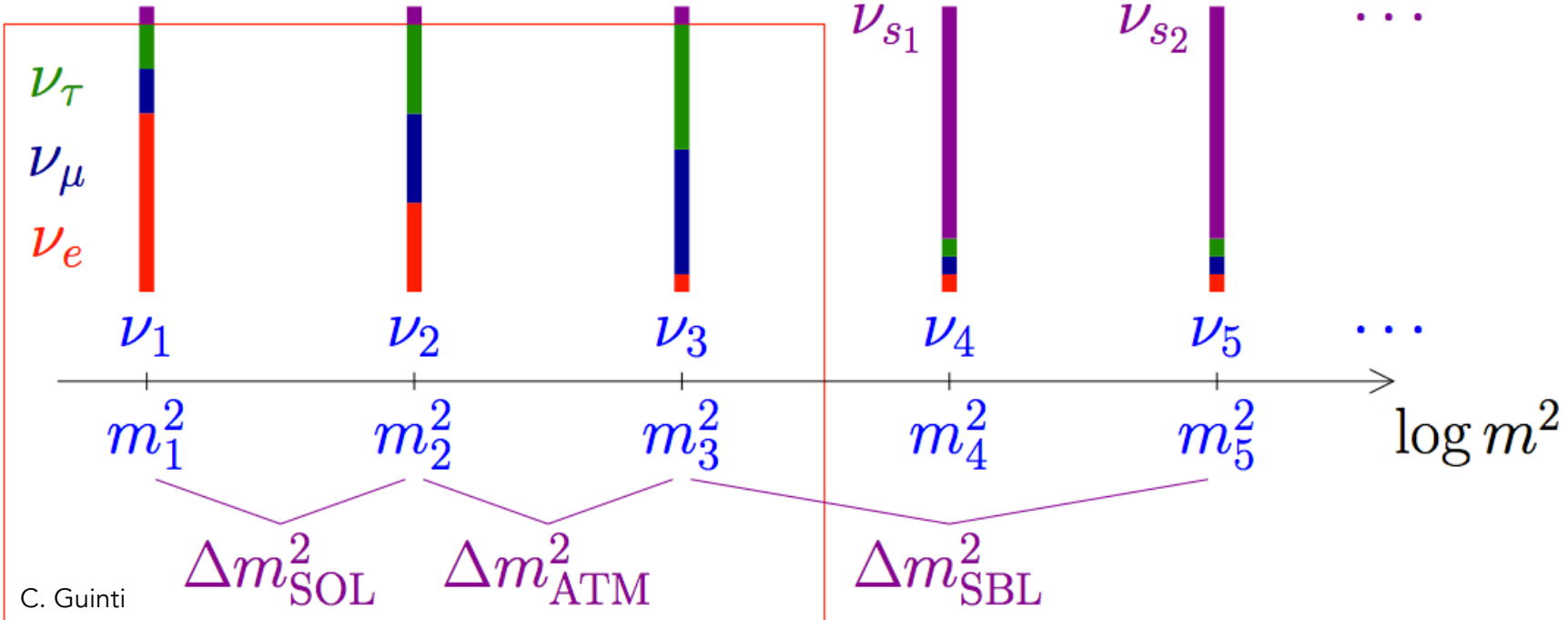
Only 3 light  $\nu$ 's coupling to Z boson



# Adding Sterile Neutrinos

No SM interactions.  
Mixing with active  $\nu$ 's

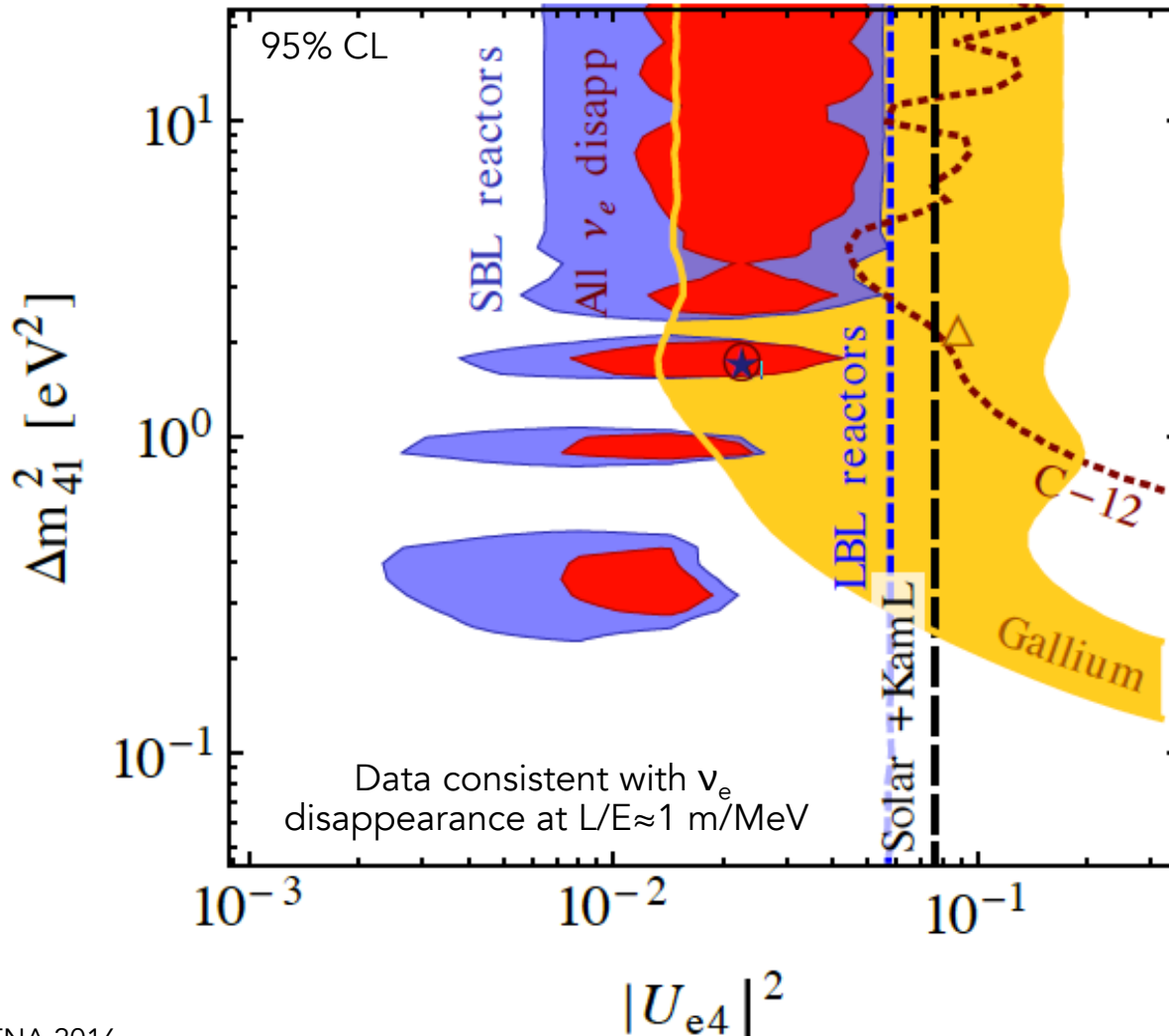
@credit: C. Giunti



**3 $\nu$ -mixing**

# $\bar{\nu}_e$ disappearance (3+1)

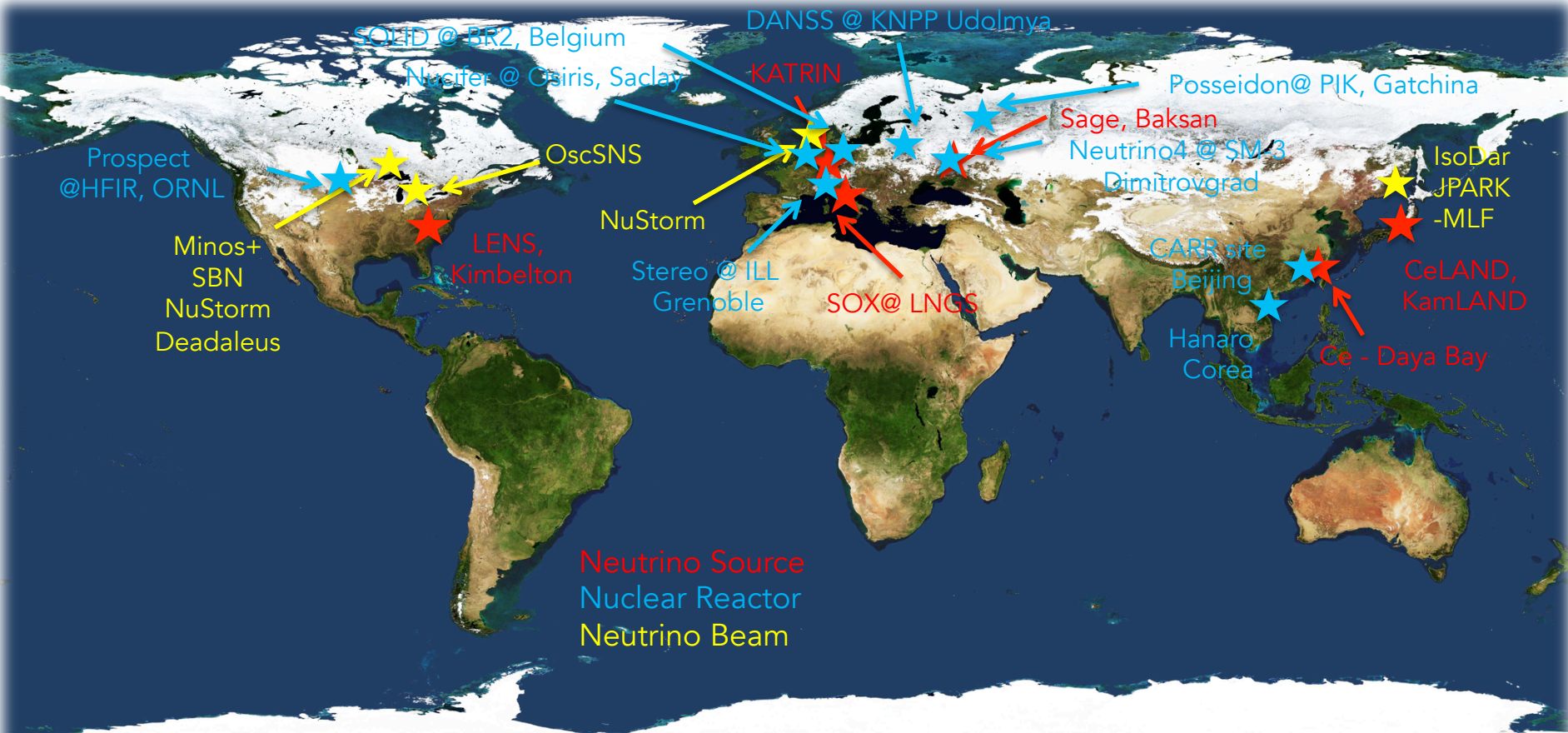
$$P_{ee} = 1 - \sin^2 2\theta_{ee} \sin^2 \frac{\Delta m_{41}^2}{4E} \quad \& \quad \sin^2 2\theta_{ee} = |U_{e4}|^2 (1 - |U_{e4}|^2)$$



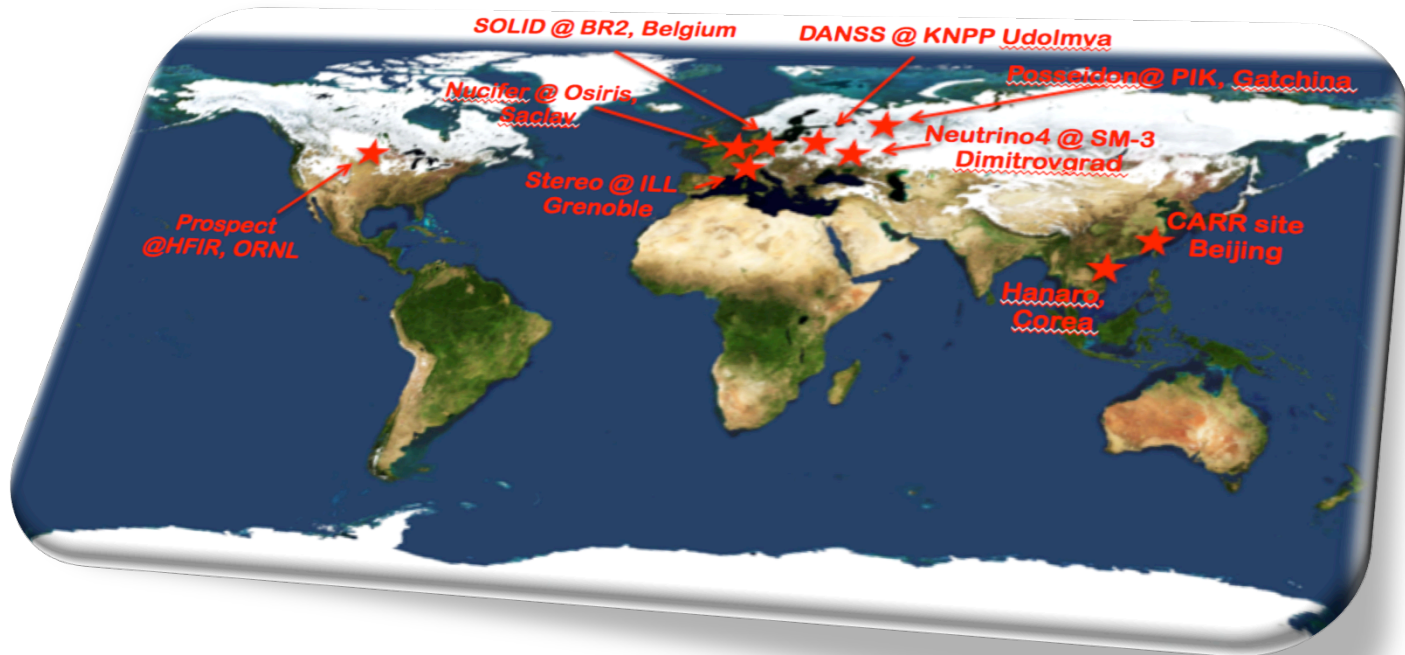
J. Kopp et al., [arXiv:1303.3011](https://arxiv.org/abs/1303.3011)

- GA & RAA : comparison between data and interaction rate prediction
  - Search for L, E, L/E pattern (shape only)
  - Complement with a rate analysis – need for an absolute calibration
- Input from sterile neutrino global fits
  - $\Delta m_{\text{new}}^2 \approx 0.1-10 \text{ eV}^2 \rightarrow L_{\text{osc}}(\text{m})=2.5 \frac{E(\text{MeV})}{\Delta m^2(\text{eV}^2)} \approx 1-10 \text{ m}$
  - $\sin^2(2\theta_{\text{new}}) \approx 0.01 - 0.2$
- Experimental requirements
  - $\Delta m_{\text{new}}^2 \approx \text{eV}^2$  : compact source < 1m & vertex resolution << 1m
  - $\sin^2(2\theta_{\text{new}})$  : experiment with few % stat. & syst. uncertainties

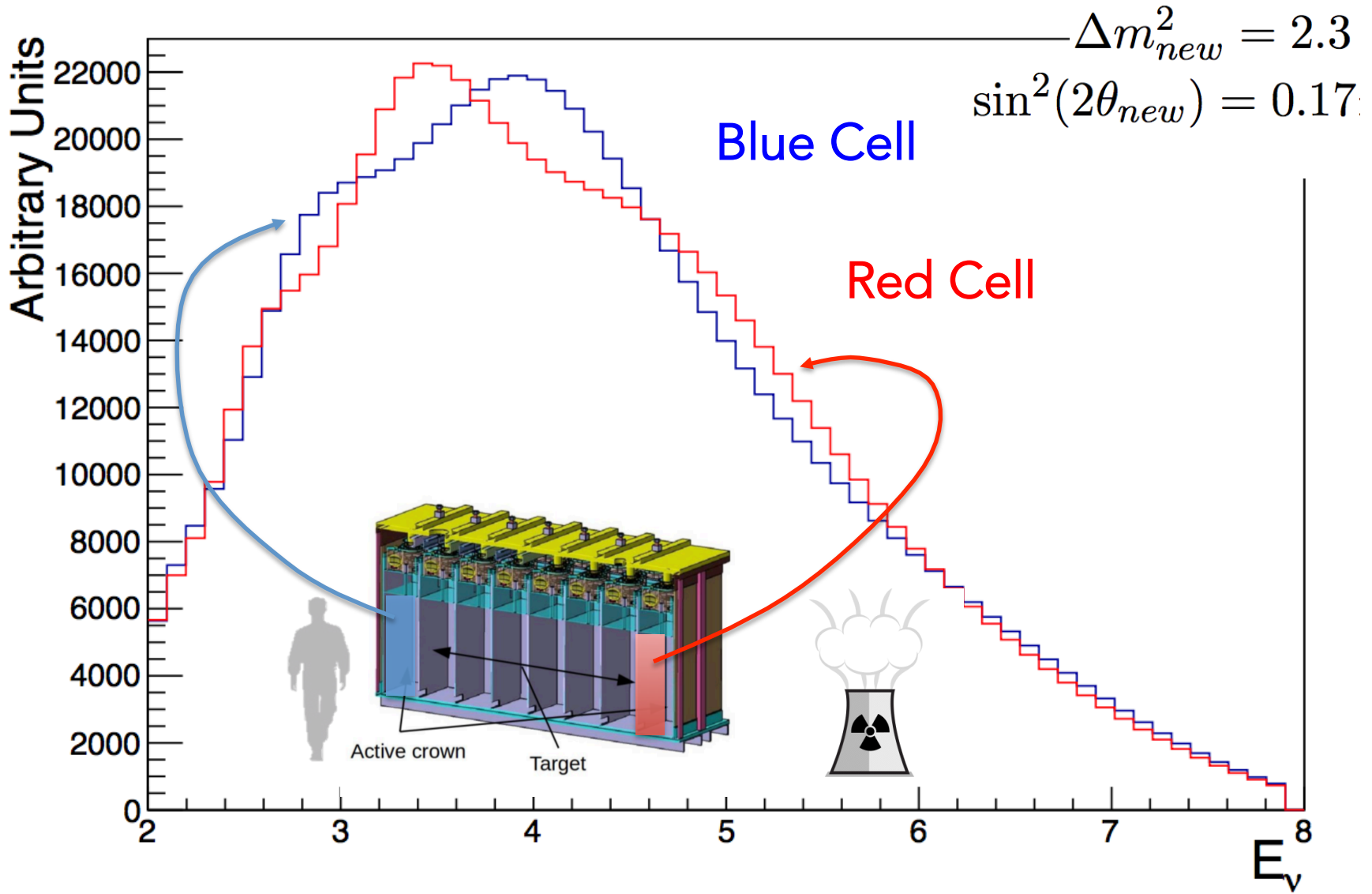
# Searches for eV Sterile- $\nu$



# eV Sterile- $\nu$ Search at Reactors



# Principle of the Measurement



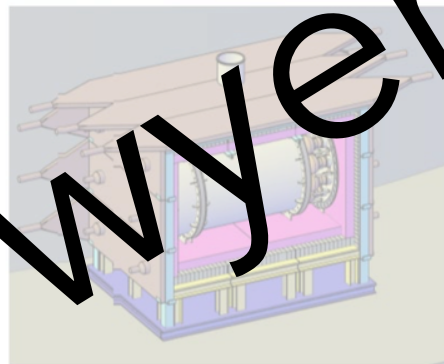
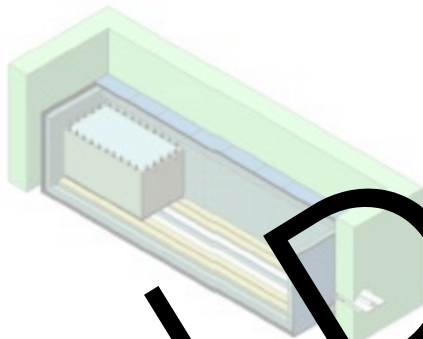
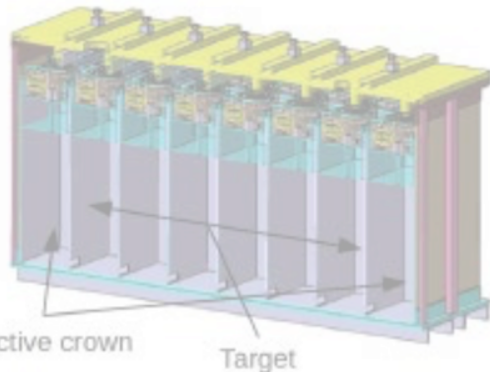
# A selection of Ongoing Efforts

**STEREO: Gd-LS detector** at 10m from ILL, France

**Neutrino-4: Gd-LS detector** at 6-12m from SM-3, Russia

**NEOS: Gd-LS detector** at ~30m from Hanbit, Korea

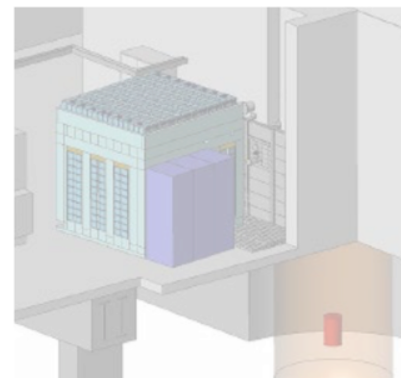
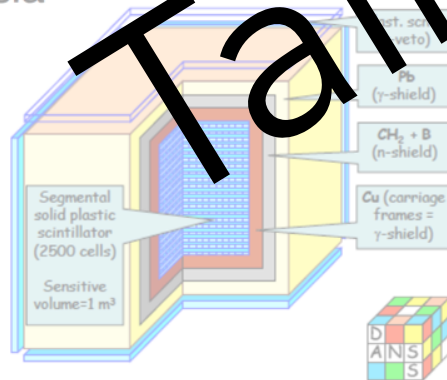
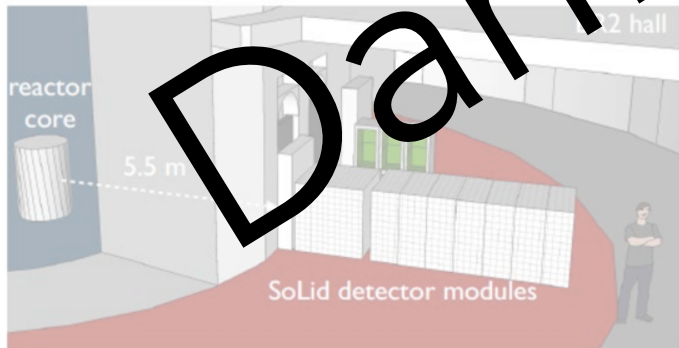
**NuLAT: Li-loaded plastic scintillator cubes**



**SoLid/CHANDLER: segmented composite scintillator cubes** at 5.5m from BR2, Belgium

**DANS: Segmented plastic scintillator** at ~10m from KNPP, Russia


**PROSPECT: Segmented <sup>6</sup>Li liquid scintillator** at 7-12m from HFIR, US



Daniel Dwyer's Talk



# $\nu$ Generator Proposals

Type	Detection	Background	Isotope	Production	Activity	Projects
$\nu_e$	$\nu_e e \rightarrow \nu_e e$ 5% $E_{res}$ 15cm $R_{res}$  or Radio-chemical	Detector Radioactivity  Solar $\nu$ (irreducible)	$^{51}\text{Cr}$ 0.75 MeV $t_{1/2}=26\text{d}$	$n_{th}$ irradiation in Reactor	>110 PBq	Sage LENS
					>370 PBq	SOX-Cr (SNO+)
		$\nu$ generator impurities	$^{37}\text{Ar}$ 0.8 MeV $t_{1/2}=35\text{d}$	$n_{fast}$ irradiation in Reactor (breeder)	>37 PBq	-
					185 PBq	Ricochet
 $\bar{\nu}_e$	$\bar{\nu}_e p \rightarrow e^+ n$ $E_{th}=1.8\text{ MeV}$  ( $e^+, n$ )  5% $E_{res}$ 15cm $R_{res}$	reactor $\nu$ , geo $\nu$ ,	$^{144}\text{Ce}$ $E < 3\text{ MeV}$ $t_{1/2}=285\text{d}$	spent nuclear fuel reprocessing + REE extraction	3.7 PBq	CeLAND Ce-SOX
					n generator impurities	$^{90}\text{Sr}$ $^{106}\text{Rh}$
		-	-			
	$^3\text{H} \rightarrow \text{He } e^- \bar{n}_e$ EC/b-decay	Kink search	$^3\text{H}$ $E < 18\text{ keV}$	Irradiation in reactors	110 GBq	KATRIN (Mare/Echo)

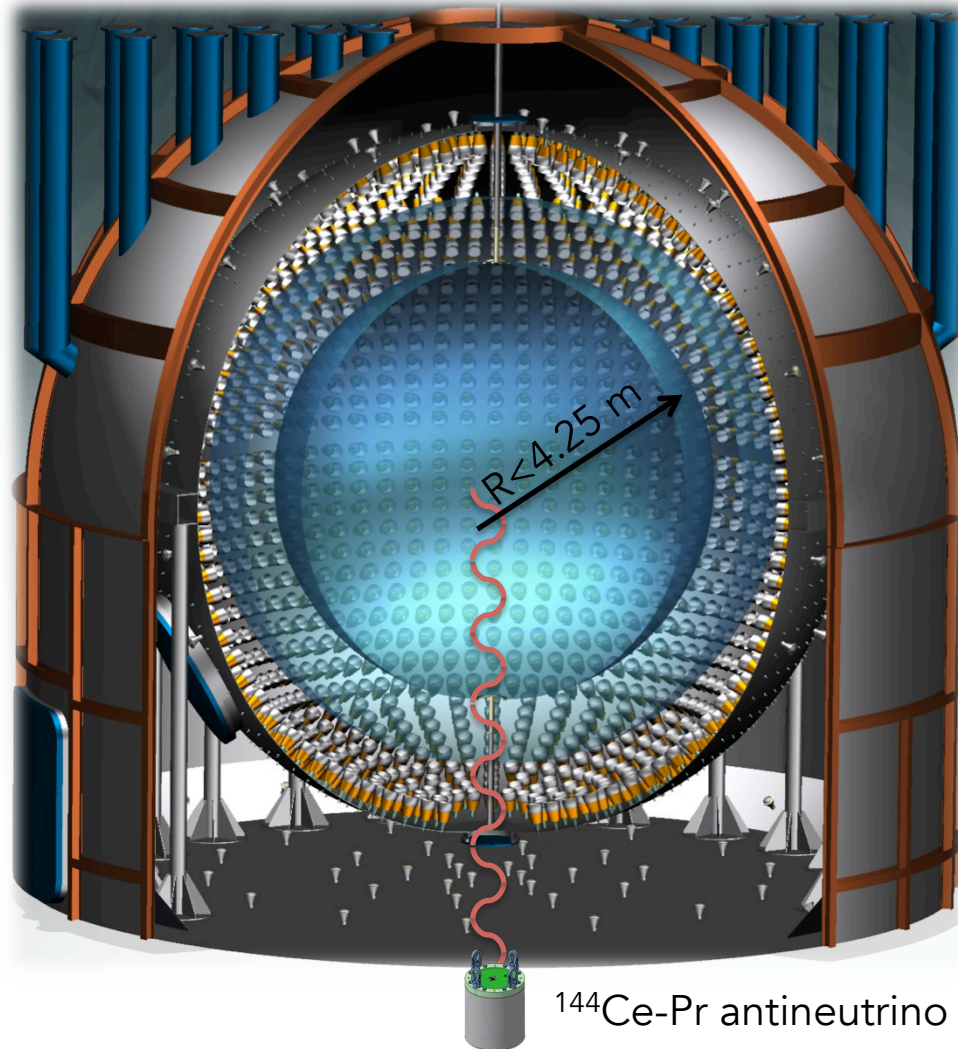
# Sterile- $\nu$ Search with a $^{144}\text{Ce}$ source: CeSOX



# Concept of CeSOX

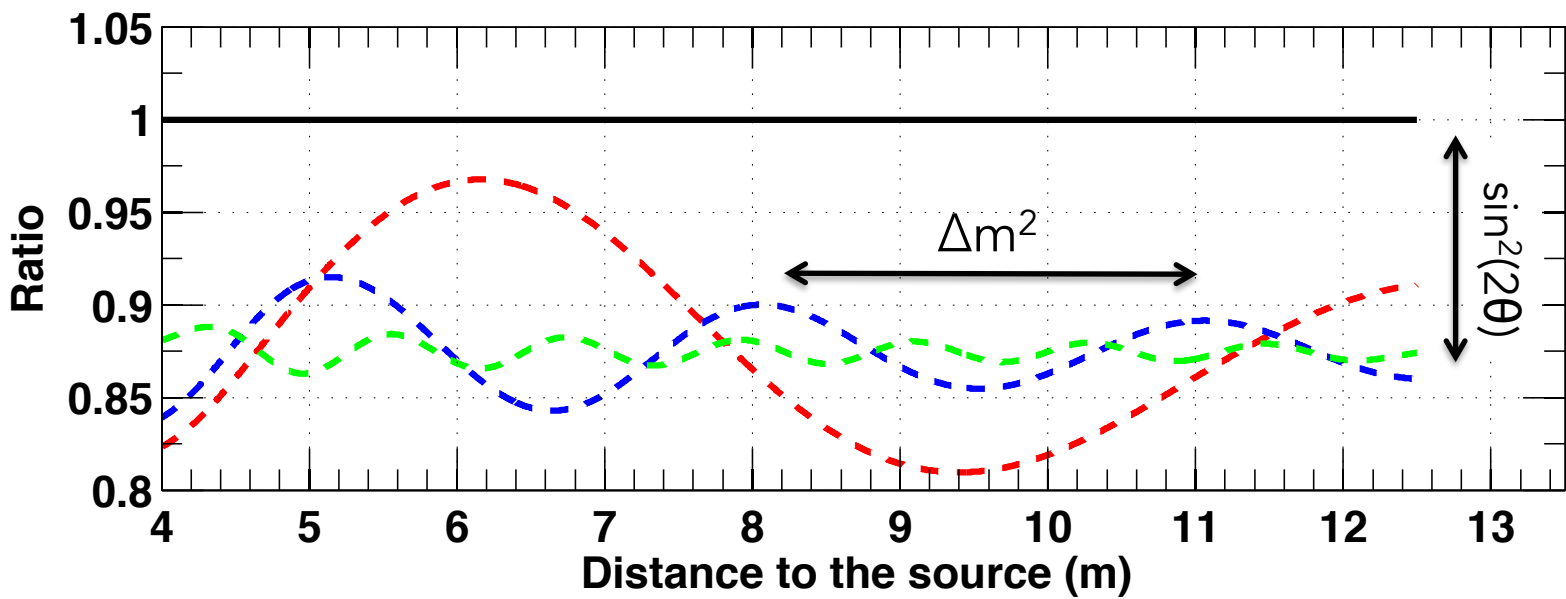
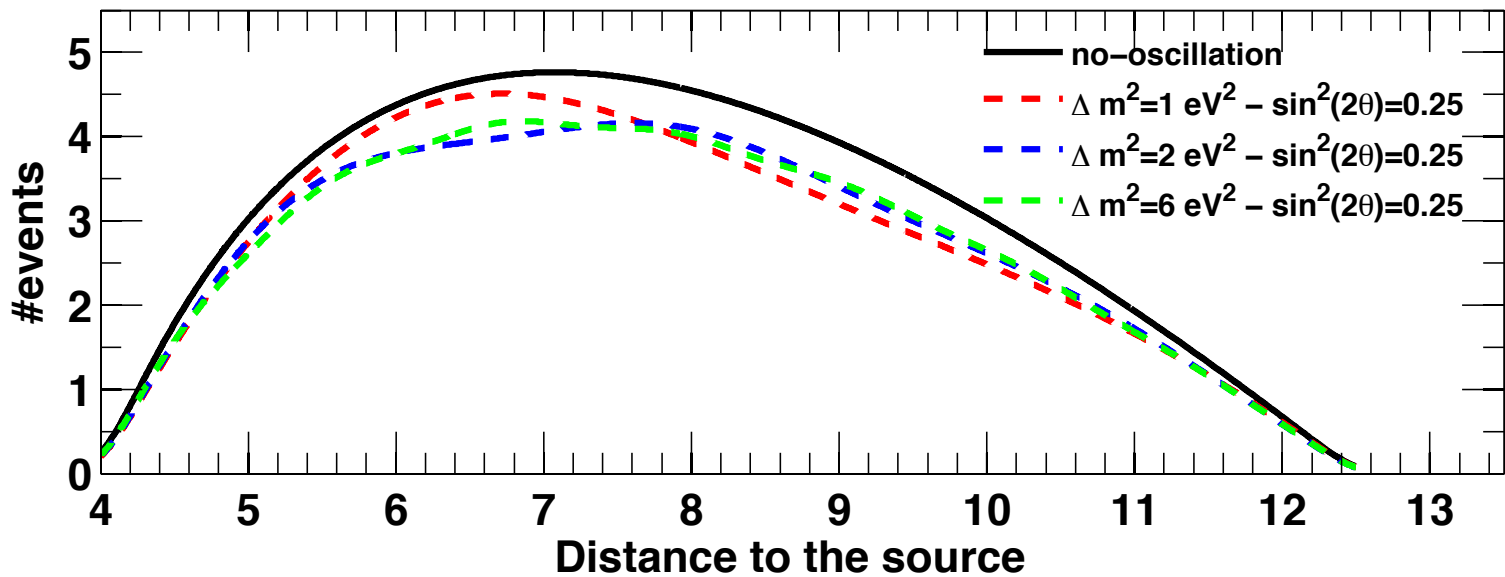
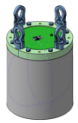
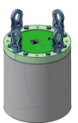


**Shape only:** Search for a neutrino oscillation pattern  
**Rate+Shape:** Include ratio of observed to expected  $\nu$  rate



$^{144}\text{Ce-Pr}$  antineutrino source

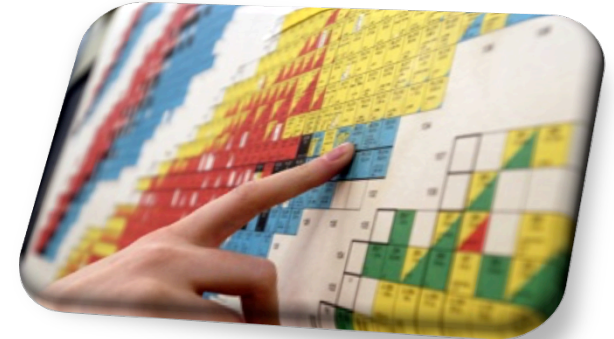
# Oscillometry inside BOREXINO



# Antineutrino Emitter

(ITEP N°90 1994, PRL 107, 201801, 2011)

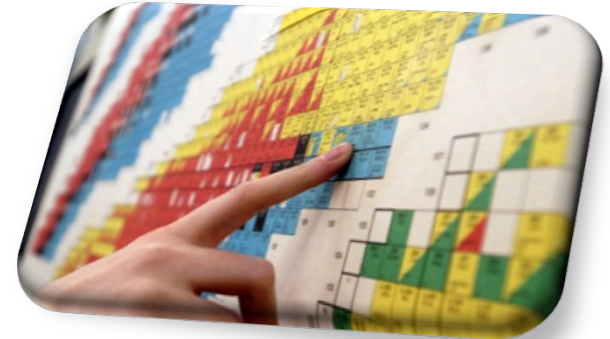
- $\bar{\nu}_e$  detection:  $\bar{\nu}_e + p \rightarrow e^+ + n$ 
  - large IBD cross section  $\rightarrow$  5 PBq
  - $(e^+, n)$  coincidence  $\rightarrow$  mitigate backgrounds



- ???
  - Abundant fission product
  - : long-lived & low- $Q_\beta$   
time to produce, transport, use
  - : short-lived & high- $Q_\beta$   
 $\bar{\nu}_e$ -emitter above IBD threshold

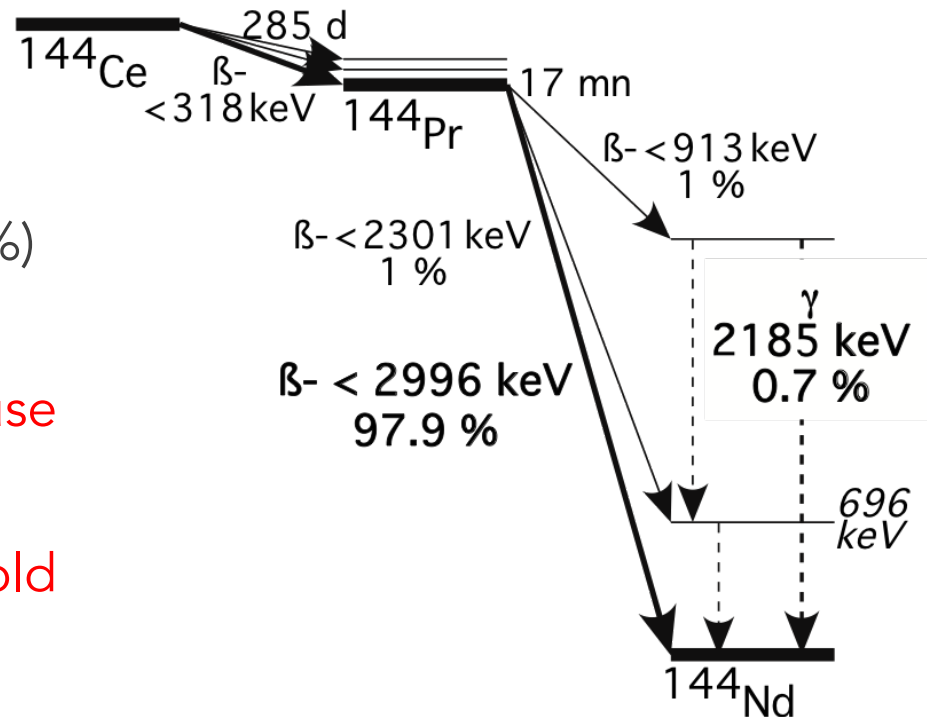
(ITEP N°90 1994, PRL 107, 201801, 2011)

- $\bar{\nu}_e$  detection:  $\bar{\nu}_e + p \rightarrow e^+ + n$ 
  - large IBD cross section  $\rightarrow$  5 PBq
  - $(e^+, n)$  coincidence  $\rightarrow$  mitigate backgrounds



## ■ $^{144}\text{Ce}-^{144}\text{Pr}$

- Abundant fission product (5%)
- $^{144}\text{Ce}$ : long-lived & low- $Q_\beta$   
time to produce, transport, use
- $^{144}\text{Pr}$ : short-lived & high- $Q_\beta$   
 $\bar{\nu}_e$ -emitter above IBD threshold



- Start from 2y old spent nuclear fuel

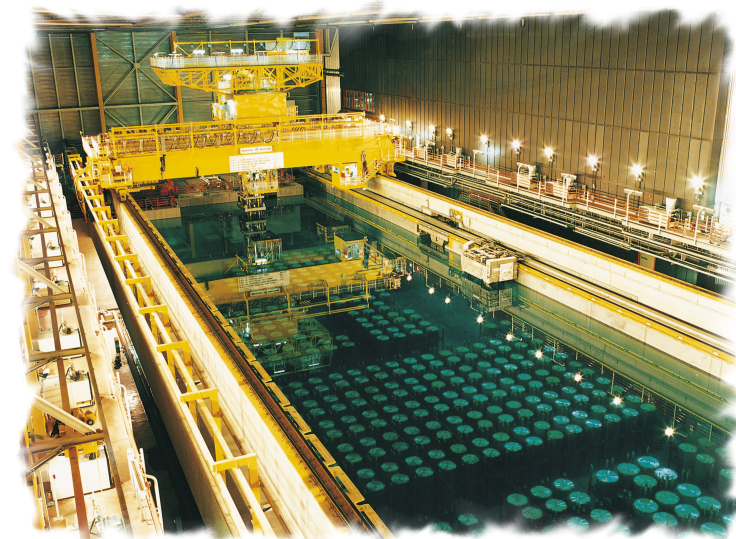
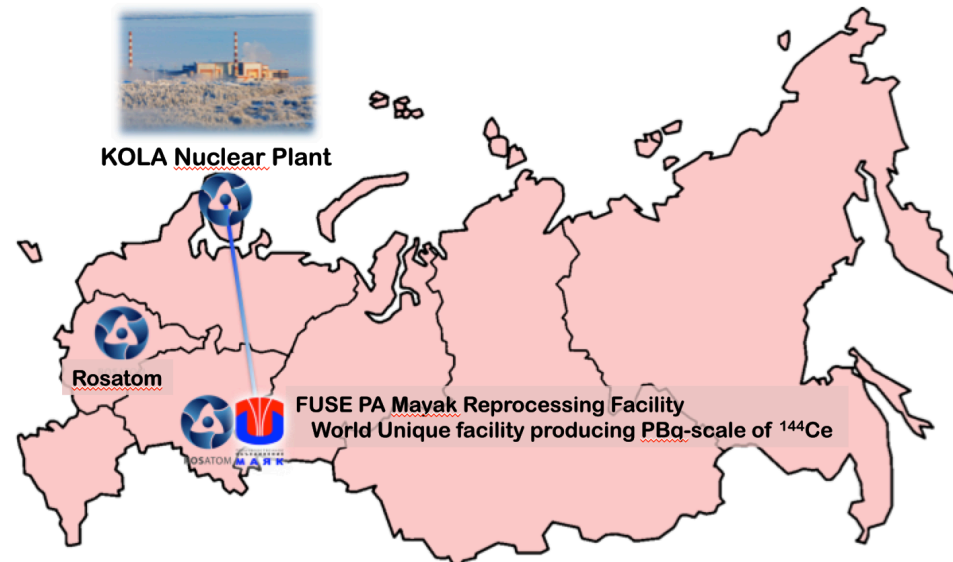
## Radiochemical Plant

- U and Pu recovered by reprocessing of SNF (Purex®)
- Removal of  $^{137}\text{Cs}$ ,  $^{90}\text{Sr}$ ,  $^{106}\text{Ru}$
- Extraction of Cerium
- Primary encapsulation
- Activity measurement ( $\approx 5\%$ )

## Radioisotope Plant

- Source (CeANG) manufacture
- Certification SFRM / ISO 9978
- Loading into tungsten shield
- Loading into TN-MTR cask

- 2012-15: R&D. 2017: production



# Cerium Extraction

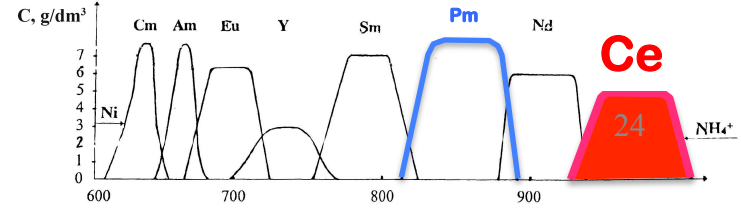
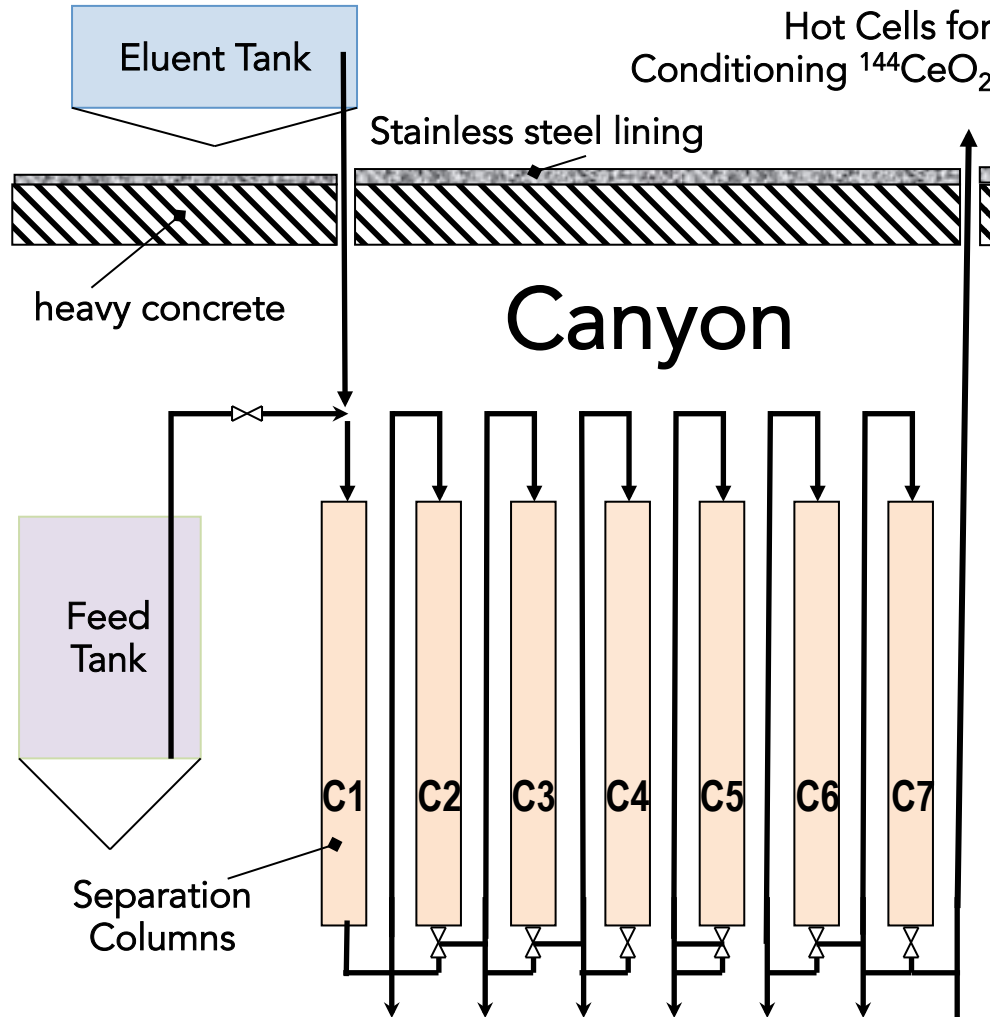
- Complexing agent displacement chromatography

- Separation of Cerium
  - From Lanthanum
  - From Praseodymium
  - From other radio-impurities

- Extra-purification for  $^{244}\text{Cm}$ 
  - Neutron emitter

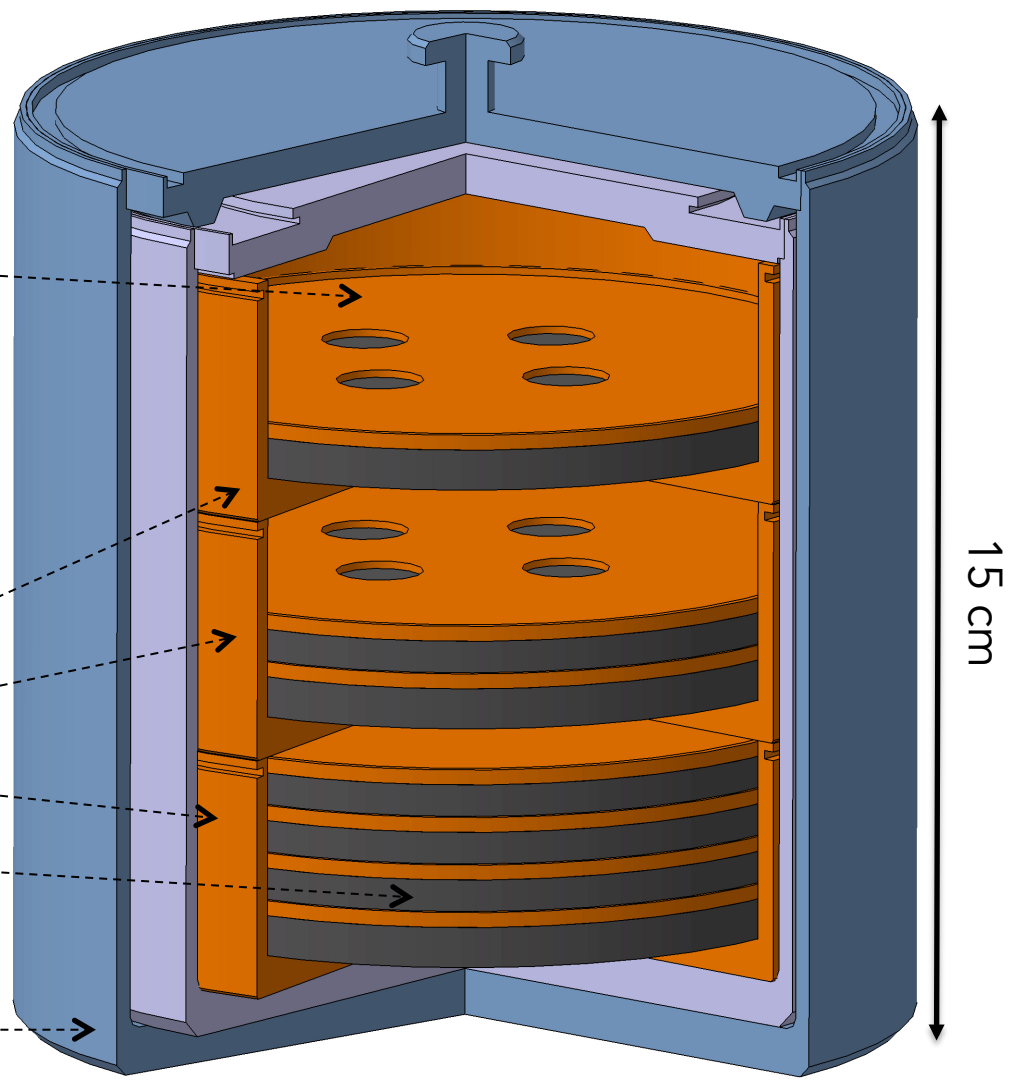
- Control of radio-impurities
  - $\gamma$  and  $\alpha$  spectroscopy
  - ICP-MS

- Precipitation in oxalate  $\text{Ce}_2(\text{C}_2\text{O}_4)_3$





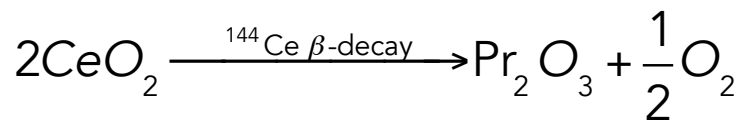
- 3.7 – 5.5 PBq – 1200 W
- Free volume: 25%
- Sketch of CeO<sub>2</sub> inside SFRM capsule
  - CeO<sub>2</sub> pellets 2.5 g/cm<sup>3</sup>
  - Cu-disk radiators
  - 3 Cu-capsule
  - T(CeO<sub>2</sub>) < 600 °C
  - T(Out Cap) < 500 °C



ISO 9978:1992(E) – ISO 2919

# Inner Capsule Pressure

- The radioactive decay of  $^{144}\text{Ce}$  in the form of  $\text{CeO}_2$  releases  $\text{O}_2$

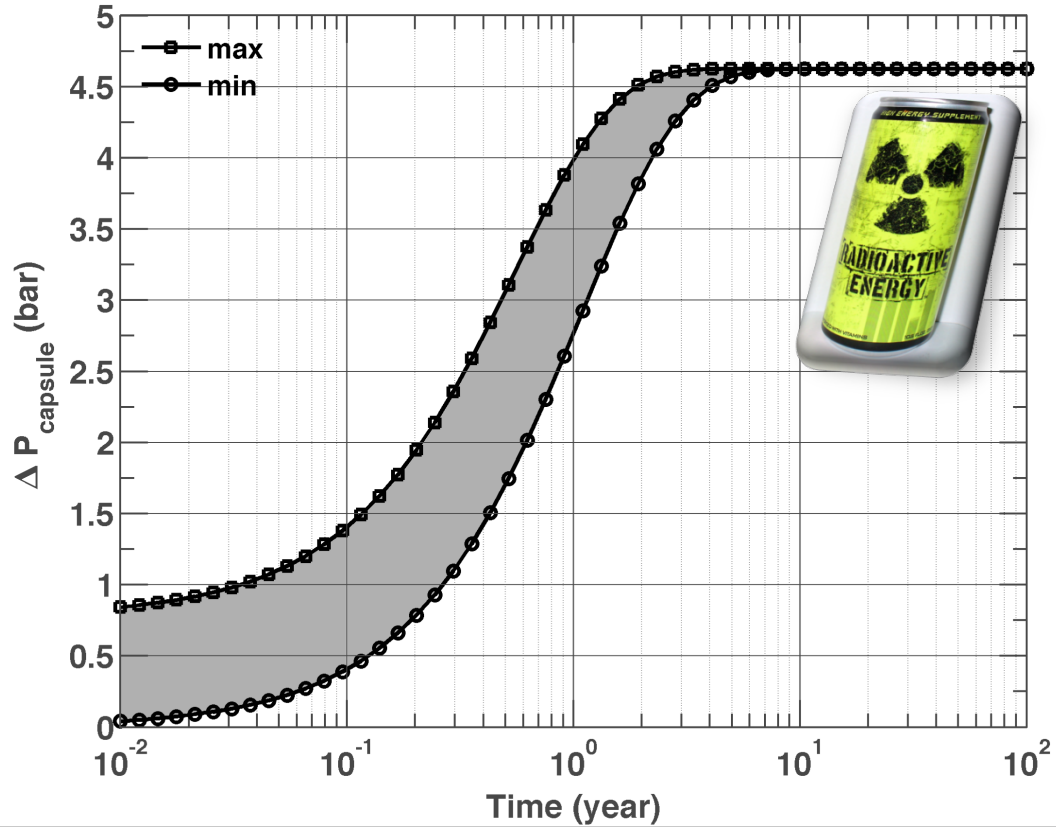


- $\text{CeO}_2$ : Cerium oxidation state = +IV
- $\text{Pr}_2\text{O}_3$ : Praseodymium oxidation state = +III

## Pressure evolution

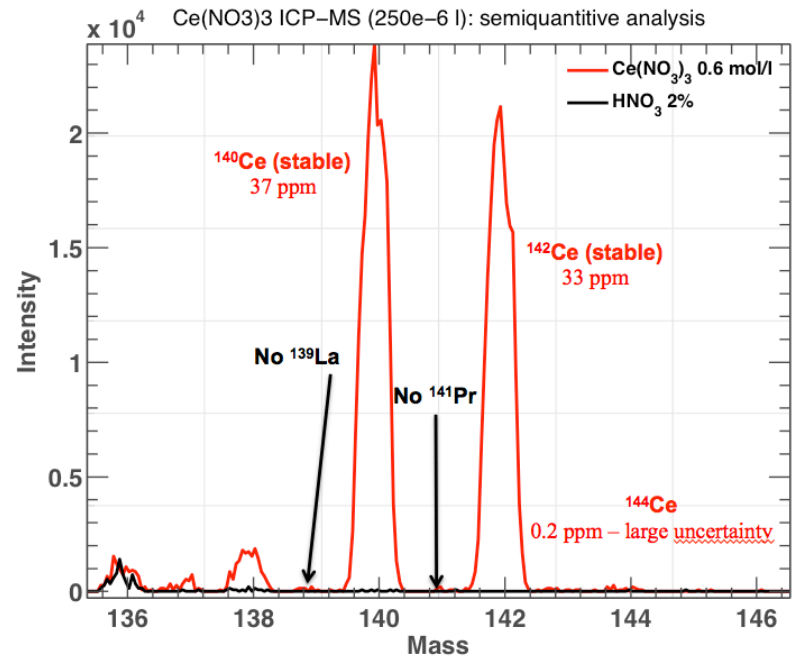
- Increase due to the production of  $\text{O}_2$
- Decrease due to the CeANG cooling as  $^{144}\text{Ce}$  decays
- Maximum pressure reached after 3 years at  $\Delta P < 5$  bar

shielded capsule - f=0.25 -  $A_0 = 5.5$  PBq - Gas at 300 °C

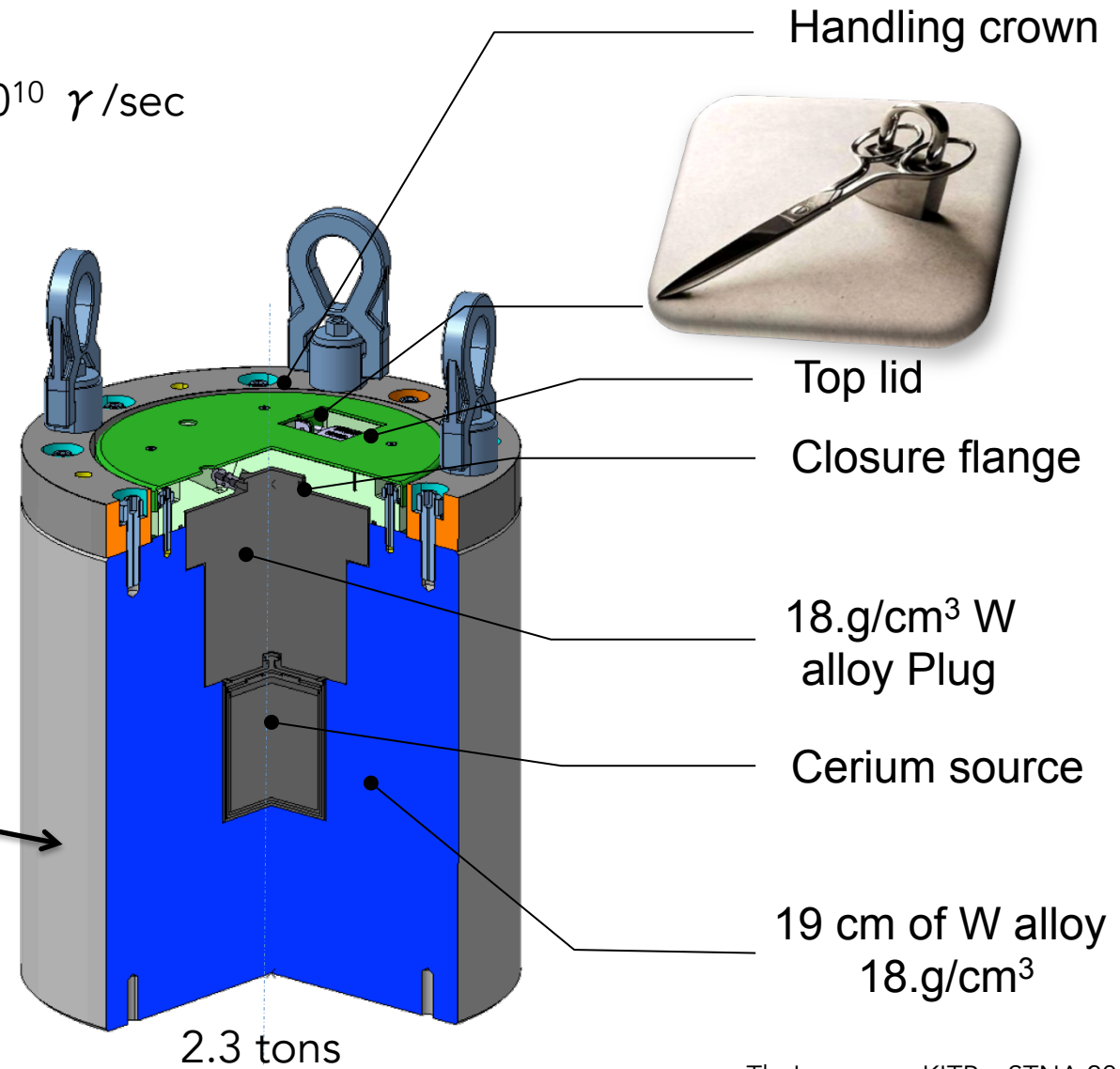
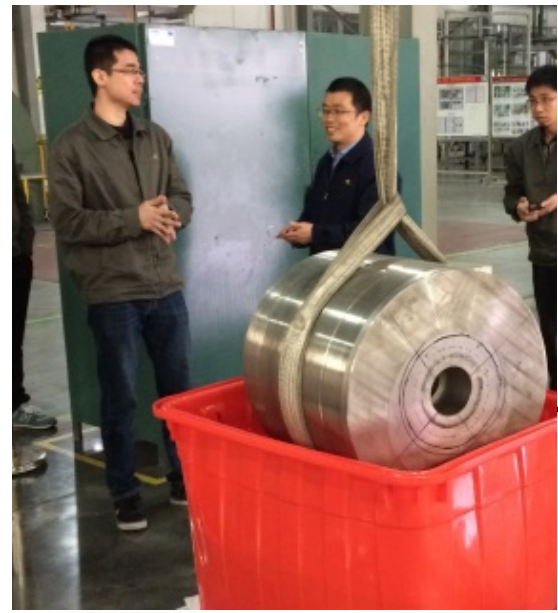
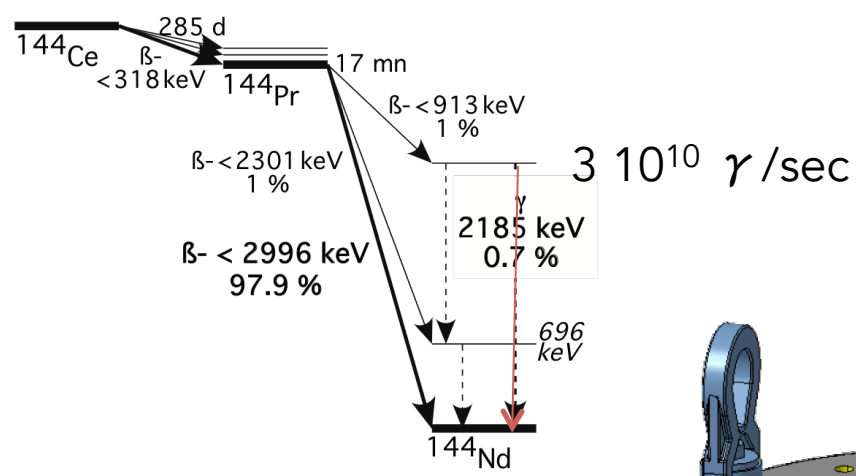


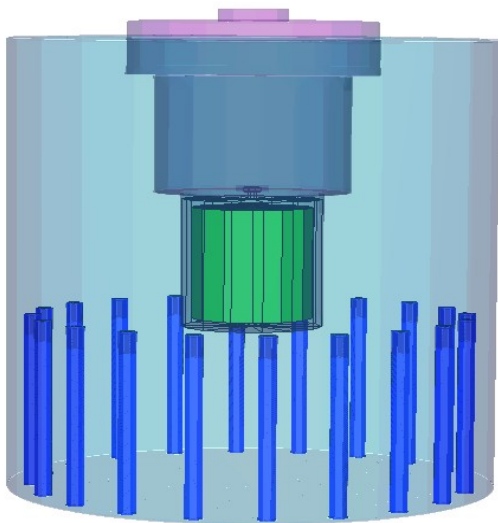
# $^{144}\text{Ce}$ samples (Mayak)

- Pilot production in Mayak (2013)
  - PBq-scale – 6 y old fuel
  - $30\text{ cm}^3\text{ Ce}(\text{NO}_3)_3$   
60 kBq of  $^{144}\text{Ce}$
- ICP-MS and  $\alpha$ -spectroscopy
  - Cerium extraction process
  - Neutron emitter impurities
- $\gamma$ -spectroscopy
  - $\beta / \gamma$  impurities
- $\beta$ -spectroscopy
  - $^{144}\text{Ce}$  &  $^{144}\text{Pr}$   $\beta$ -spectra (W/Bq)
  - $^{144}\text{Pr}$   $\beta$ -spectrum: expected  $\nu$ -rate



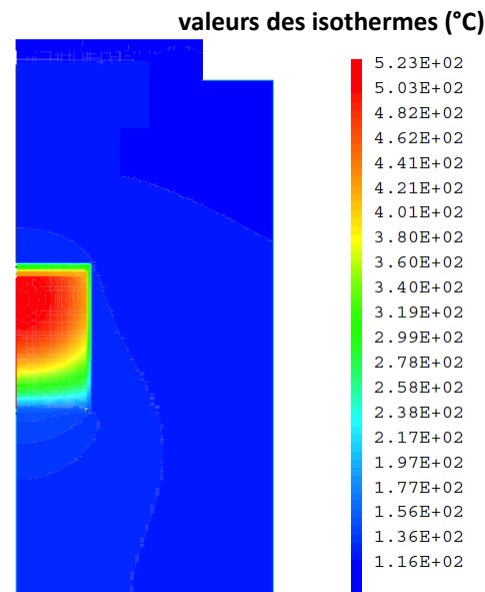
# High Density Tungsten Shield



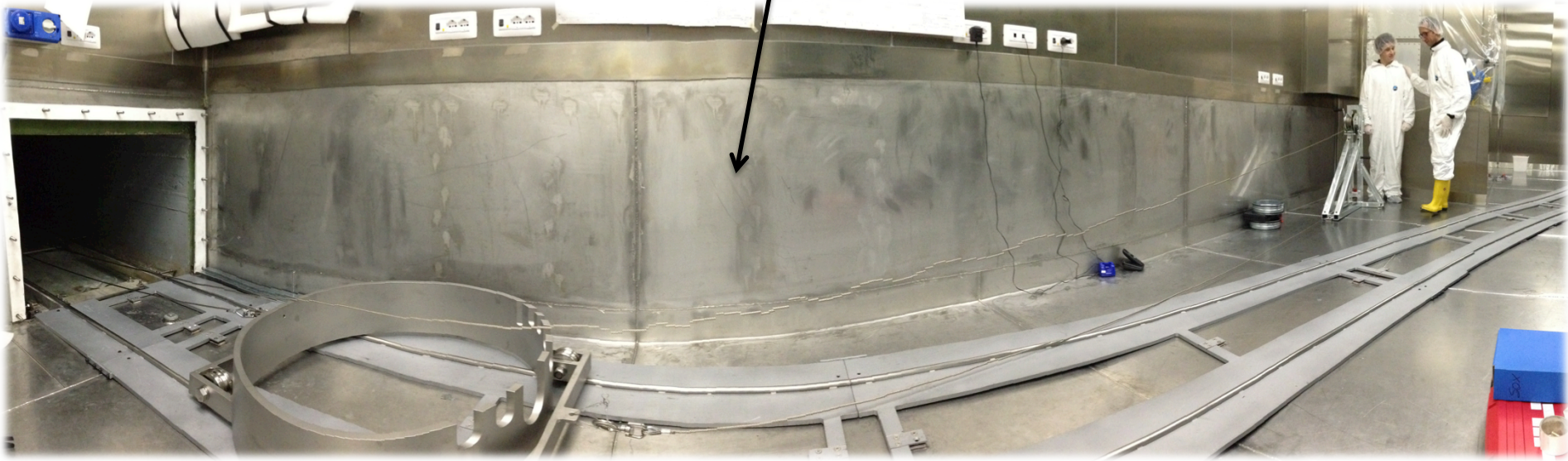
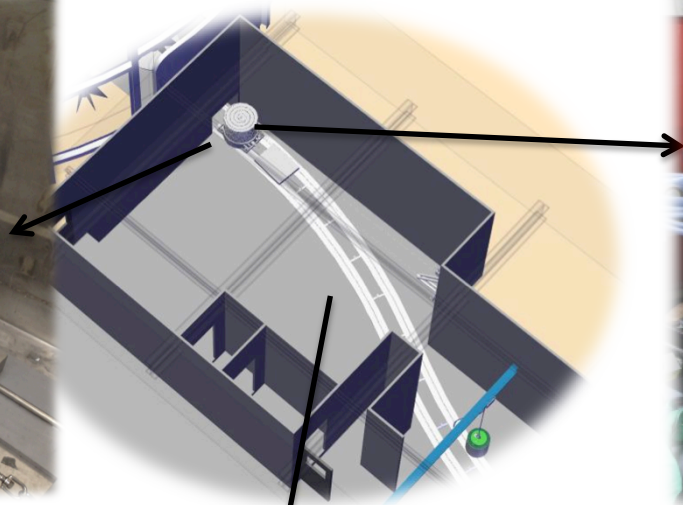


- **Radiation Dose**
  - 5.5 PBq in  $^{144}\text{Ce}$
  - **Gamma dose**
    - at 1 m <  $8 \mu\text{Sv/h}$
    - origin:  $^{144}\text{Pr}$  de-excitation
  - **Neutron dose**
    - at 1 m <  $5 \text{ nSv/h}$
    - origin:  $^{244}\text{Cm}$  SF ( $<10^5 \text{ n/s}$ )

- **Thermal Features**
  - 5.5 PBq in  $^{144}\text{Ce}$
  - **Cerium**
    - $T < 550 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$
  - **Capsule**
    - $T < 400 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$
  - **Shielding**
    - $T < 80 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$



# Installation Status

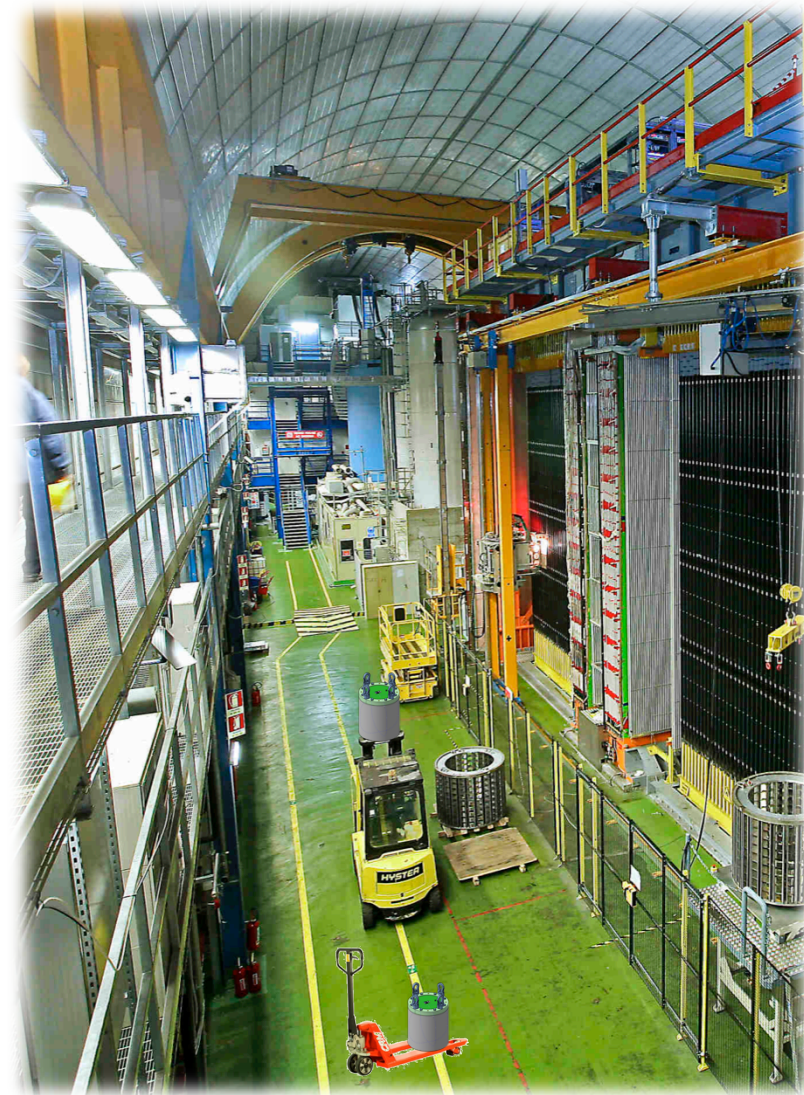
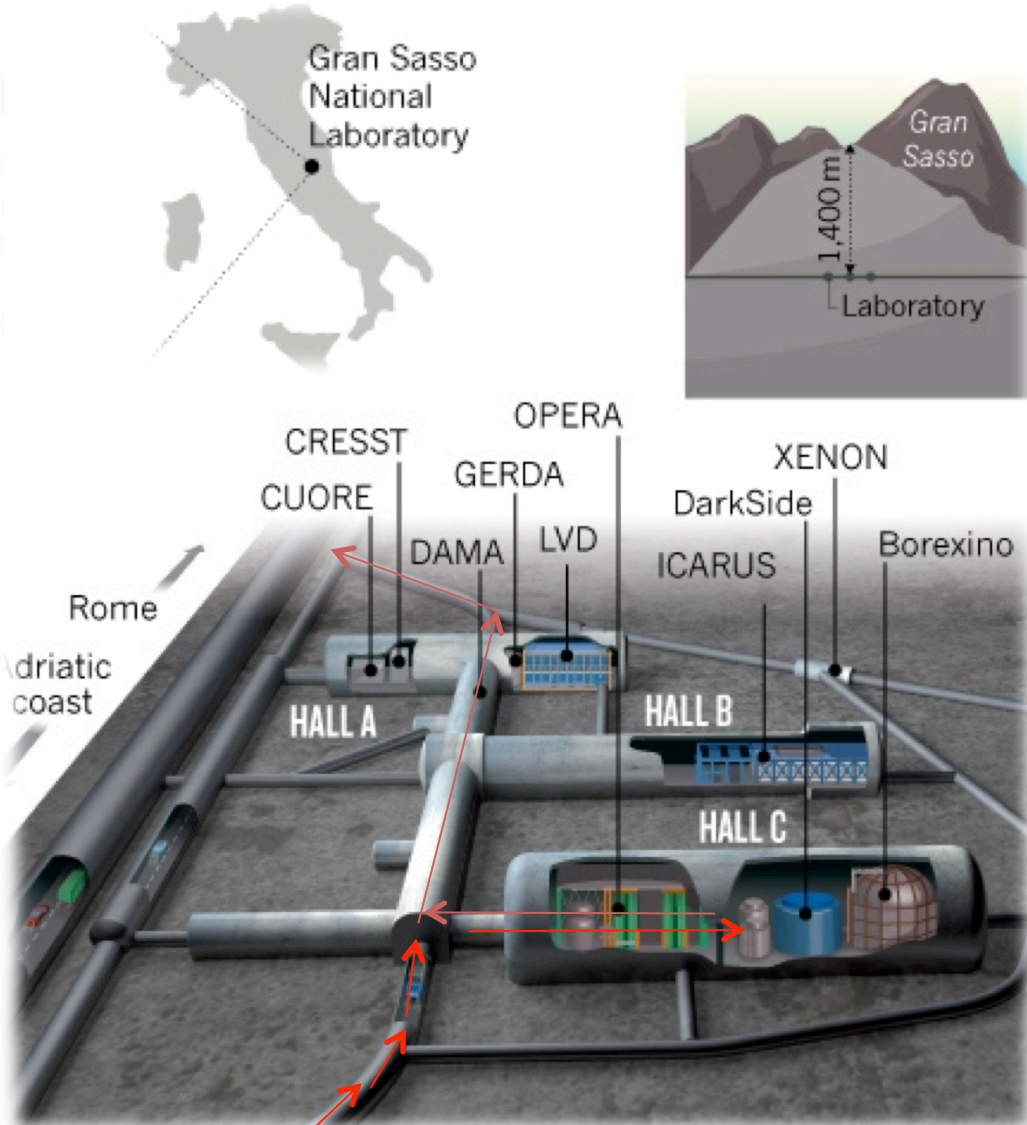


# Transport & Logistics

- IAEA Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material
- Train / Dedicated Boat/ Truck: 3 weeks (5% activity loss)



# Arrival at LNGS

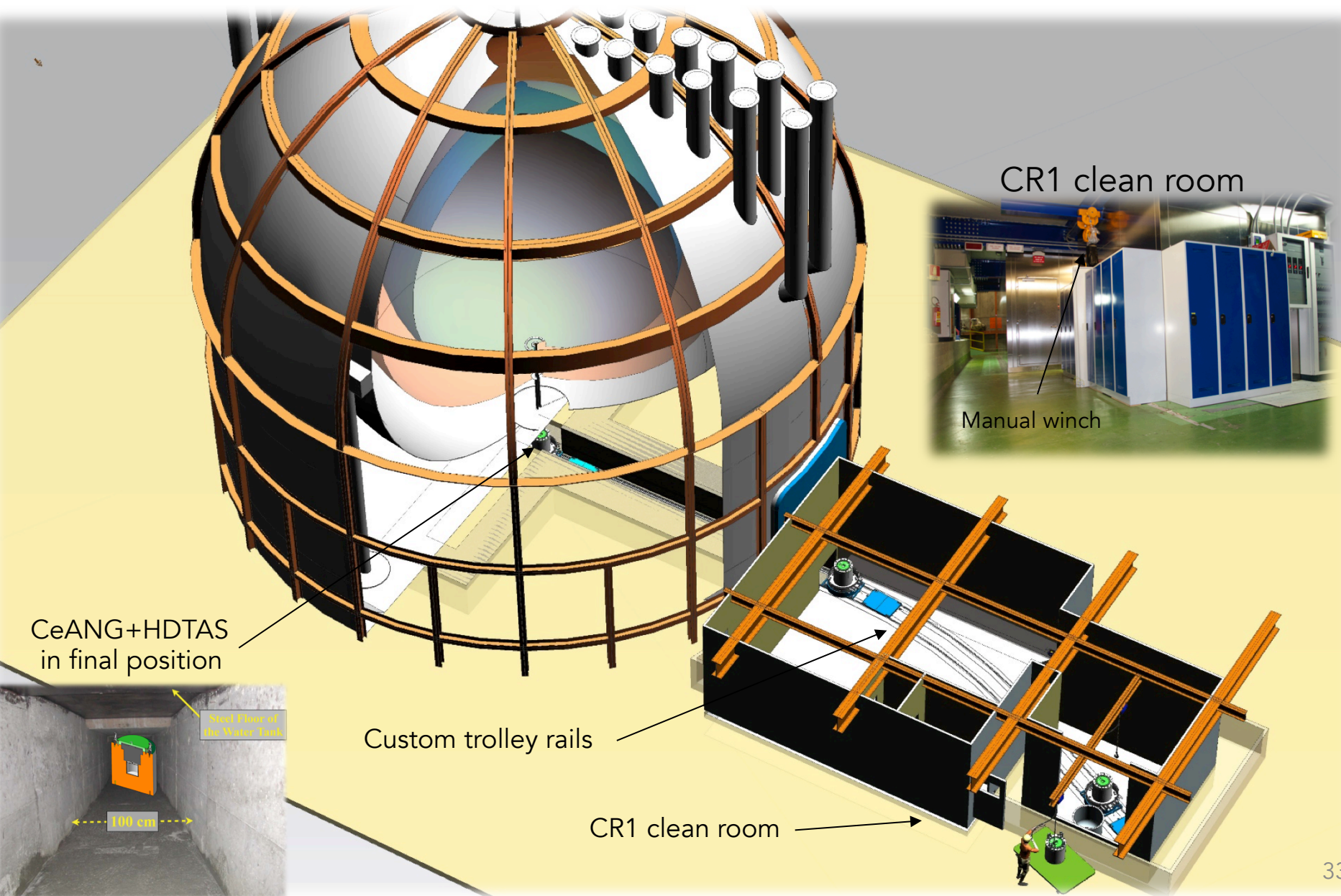


Gran Sasso National Laboratory

Hall C (Opera / Borexino)



# Deployment



CR1 clean room

Manual winch

CeANG+HDTAS  
in final position

Custom trolley rails

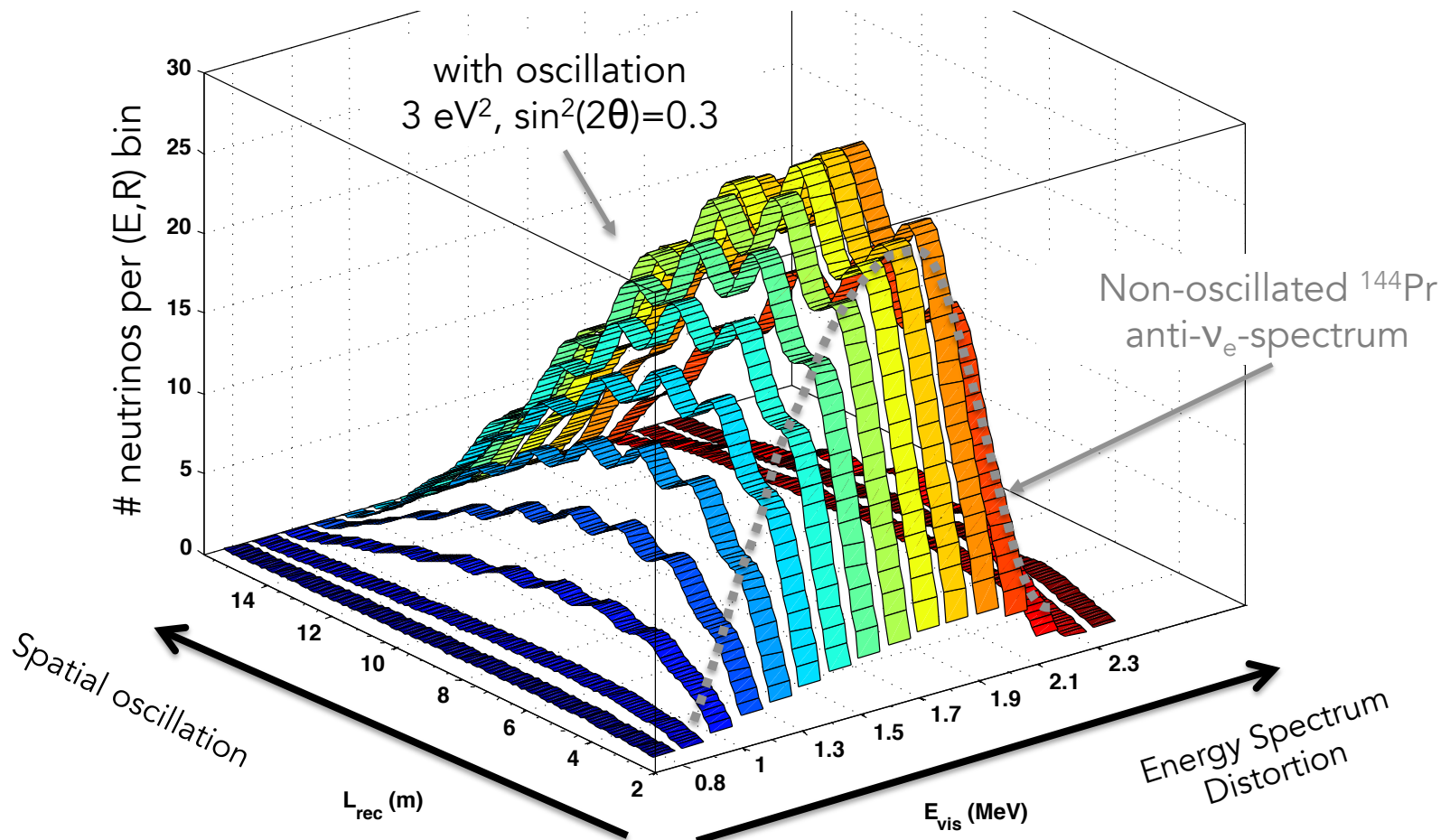
CR1 clean room

Final Floor of  
the Water Tank

100 cm

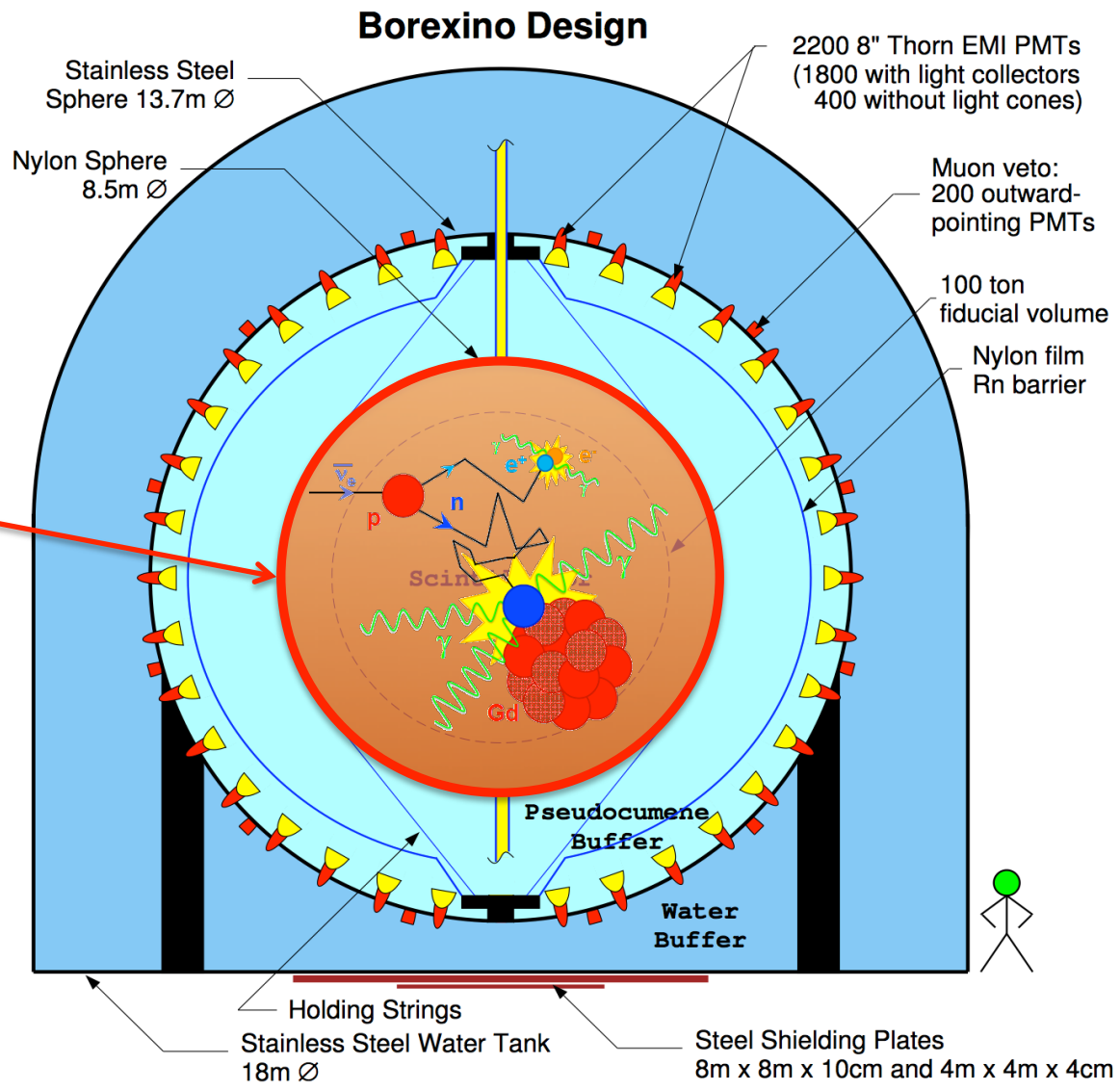
# Expected Signal: 30/d (3.7 PBq)

$$\frac{d^5 N_{\bar{\nu}_e}}{dt dE d^3 \mathcal{V}_{\text{det}}} = \mathcal{A}_0 e^{-t \lambda_{\text{Ce}}} \eta_p \varepsilon \frac{1}{4\pi L^2} \sigma_{\text{IBD}}(E) S_{\text{Ce}}(E) \times \mathcal{P}(L, E)$$

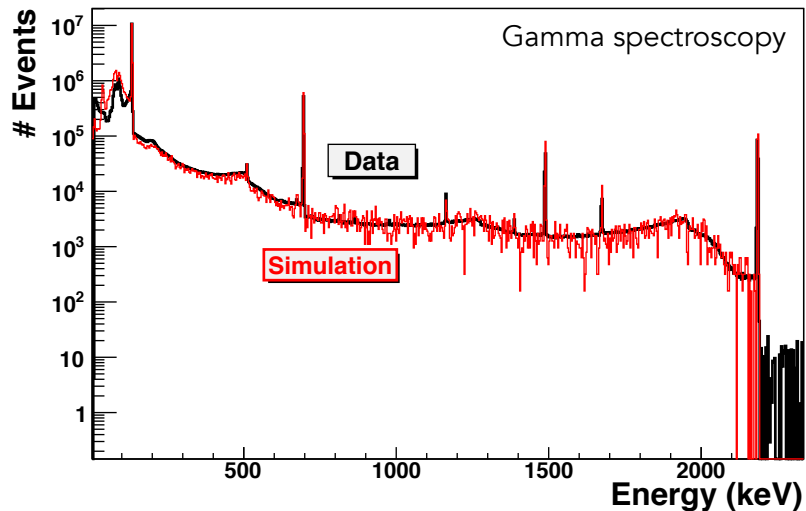


# Borexino

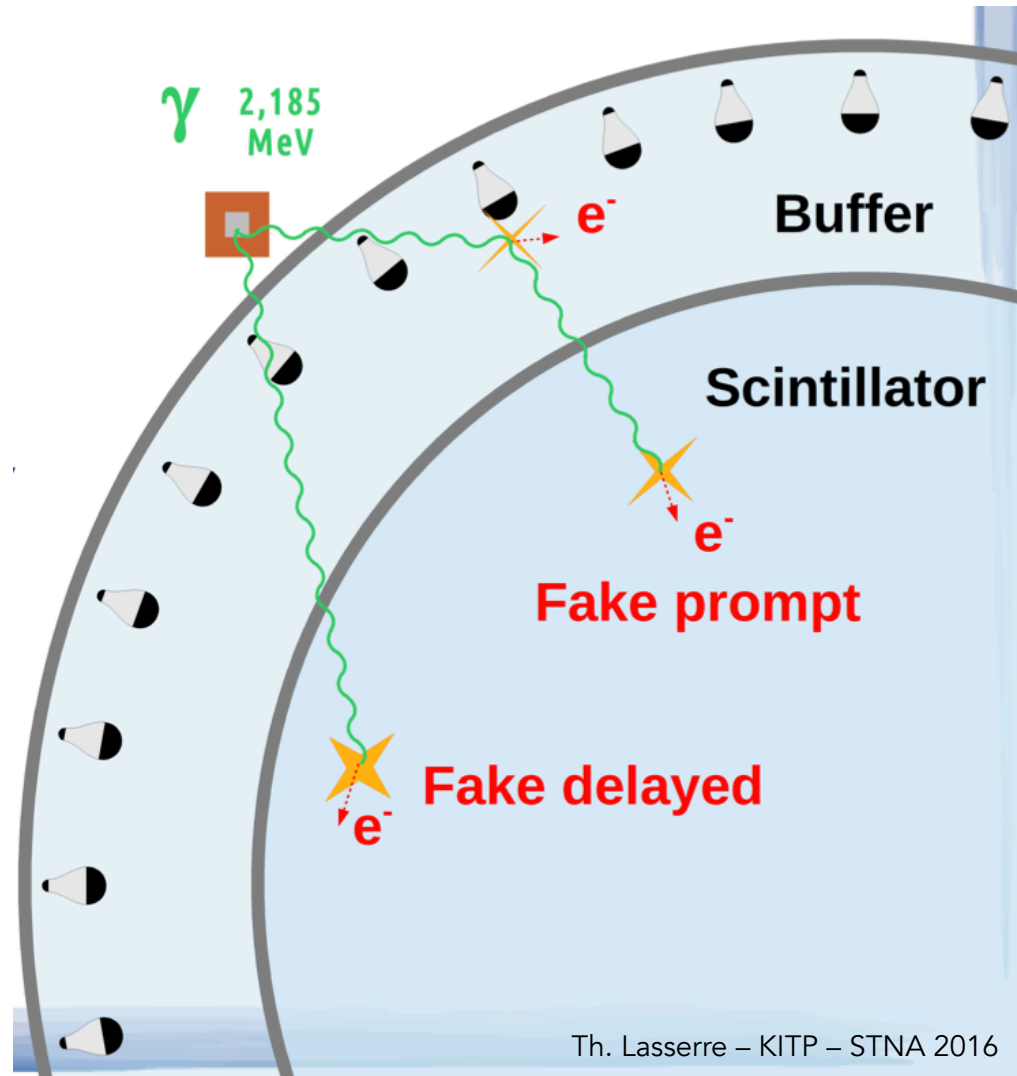
- CeSOX target
- $R < 4.25 \text{ m}$
  - 280 tons
  - $\text{C}_6\text{H}_{12}$
  - $\#H: 1.7 \cdot 10^{31}$



- Random coincidence between two  $\gamma$ 's from the  $^{144}\text{Ce}$  source
- $^{144}\text{Ce}$  sample: no  $\gamma$  contamination @  $10^{-4}$  Bq / Bq of  $^{144}\text{Ce}$

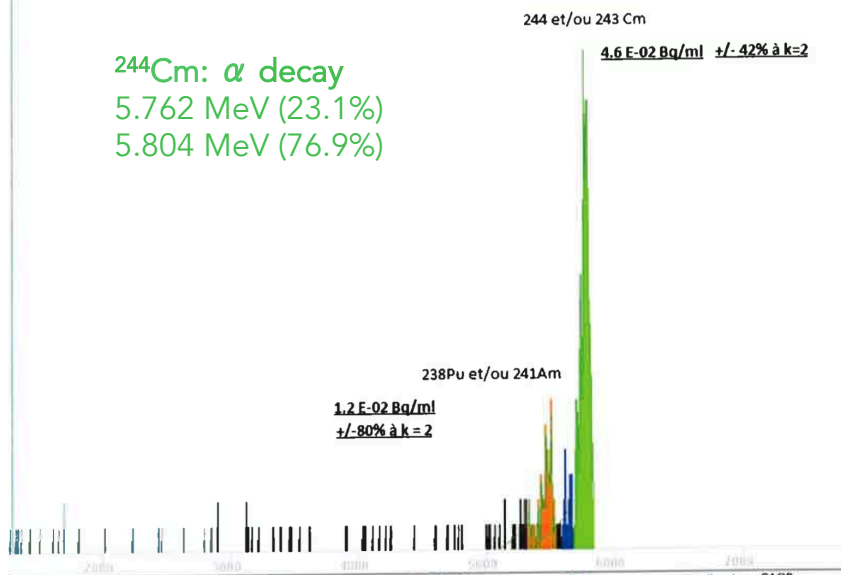


- Strict control of impurities  
→ shall be negligible

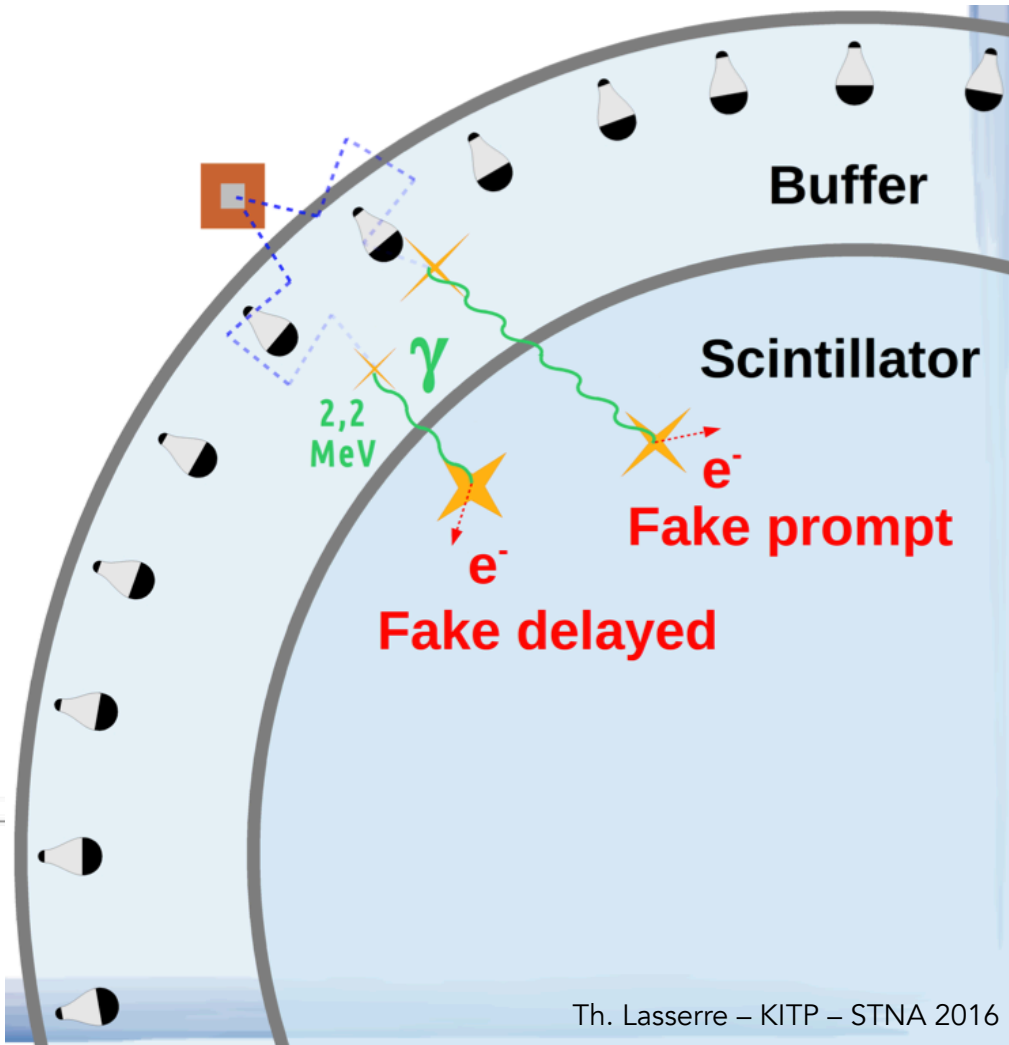


# Neutron Induced Background

- 2 neutrons from spontaneous fission → 2 neutron captures → 2  $\gamma$ 's
- CeANG test production:
- $10^{-5}$  Bq  $^{244}\text{Cm}$  / Bq  $^{144}\text{Ce}$



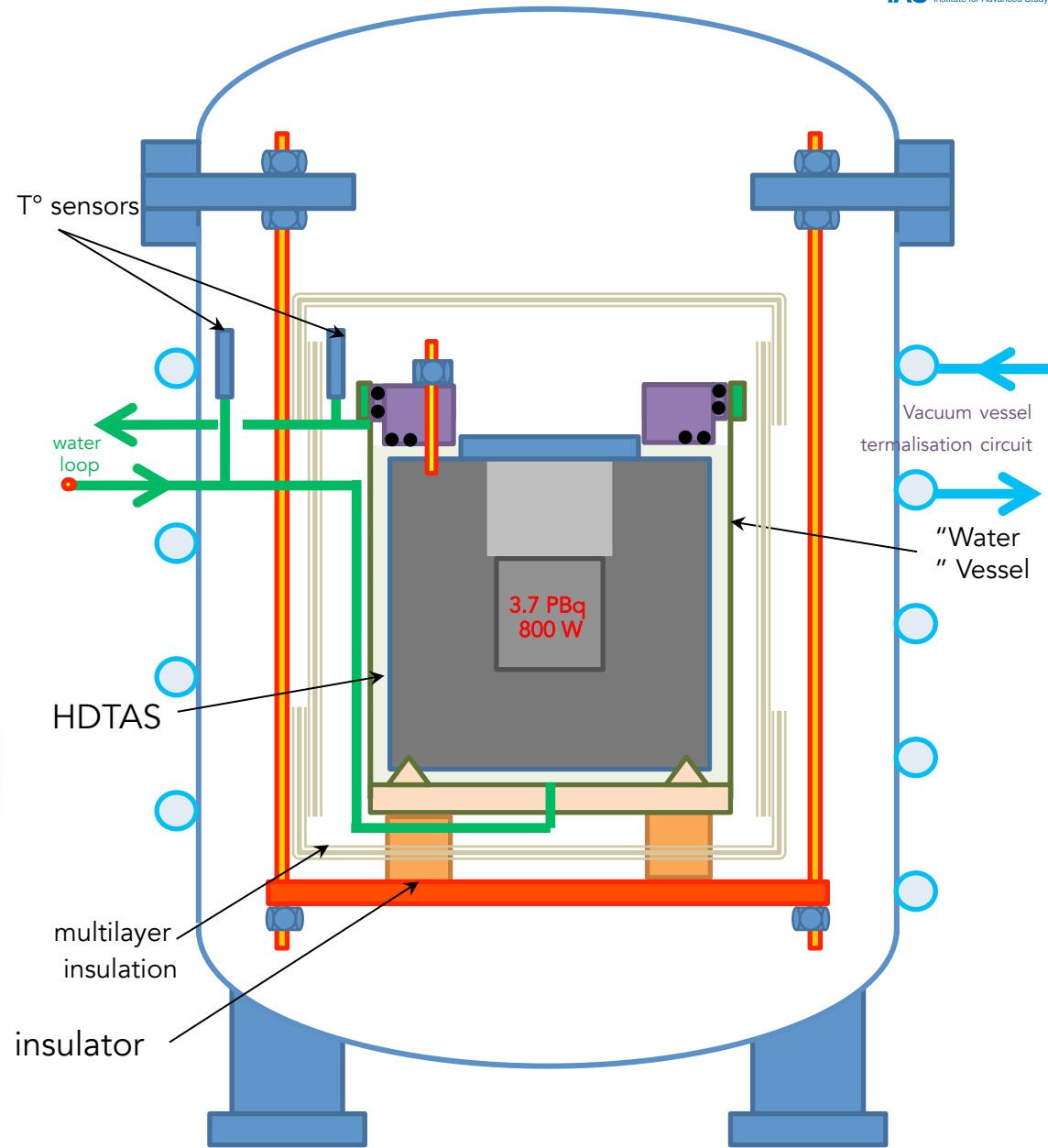
- Strict control of radioimpurities → shall be negligible



# CeANG Activity: Calorimeter(s)

$$A \text{ (Bq)} = \frac{\text{CeANG Heat (W)}}{\left\langle E \right\rangle \text{ per decay of } ^{144}\text{Ce-}^{144}\text{Pr}}$$

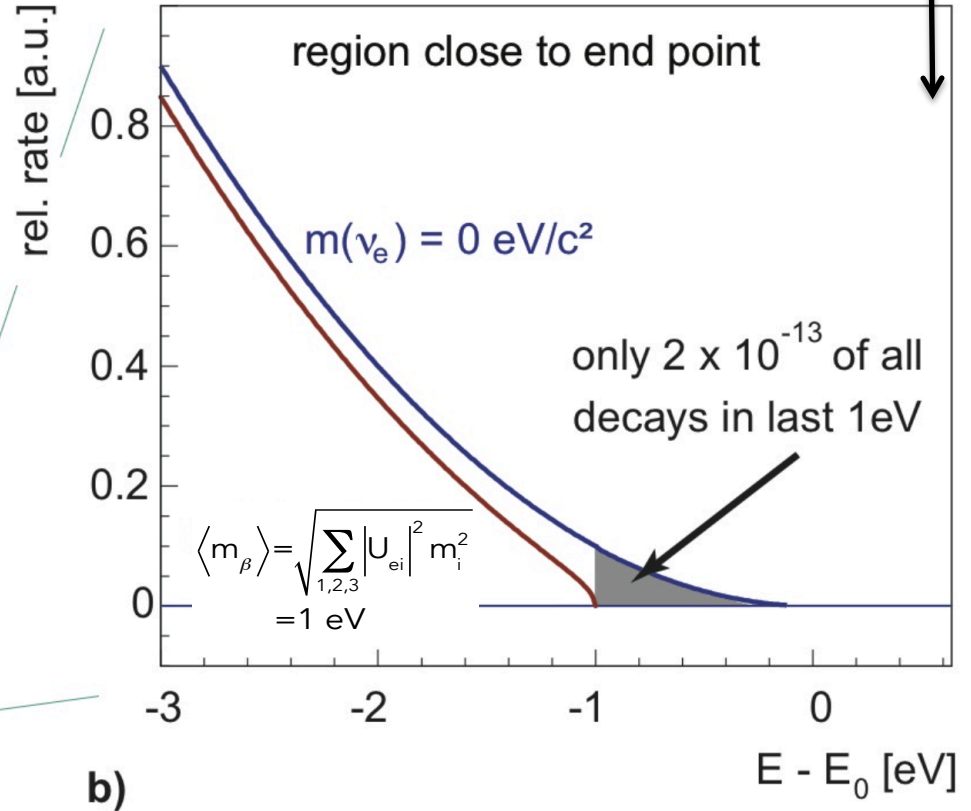
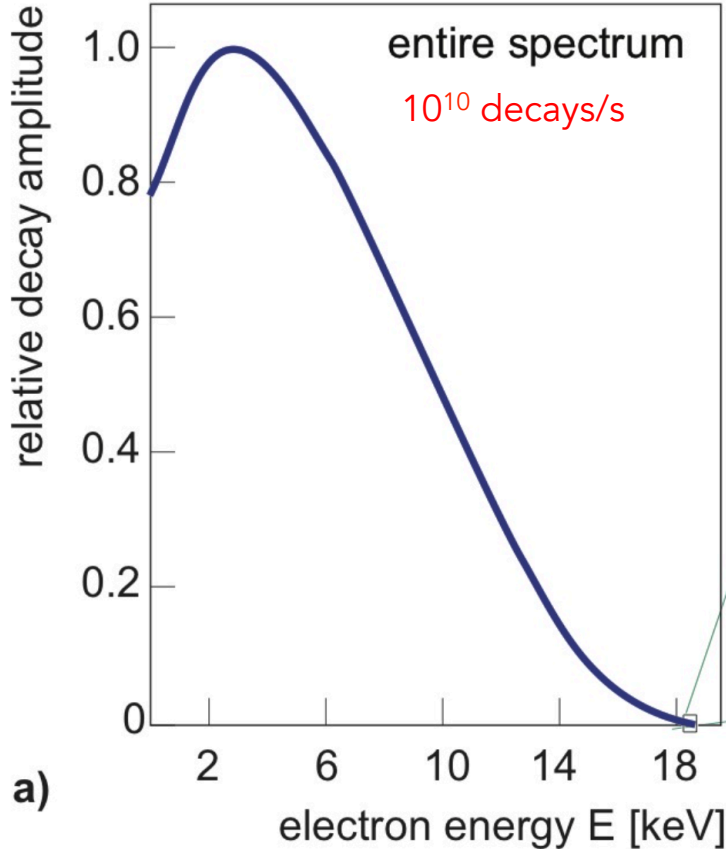
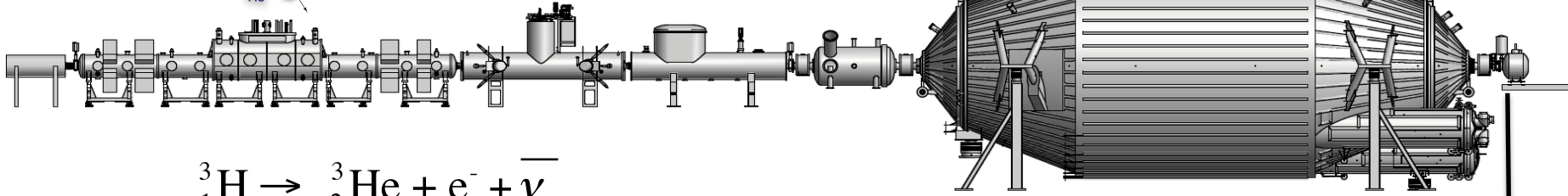
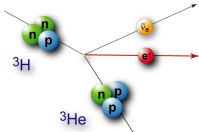
- Measure water flow and  $T^\circ$  at in/outlets:  $\dot{Q} = \dot{m}C(T_{in} - T_{out})$ 
  - $\approx 1.5\%$  precision
  - Minimizing heat leaks
  - Calibration with a dummy electrical source



# eV Sterile- $\nu$ Search with a Tritium Source: KATRIN



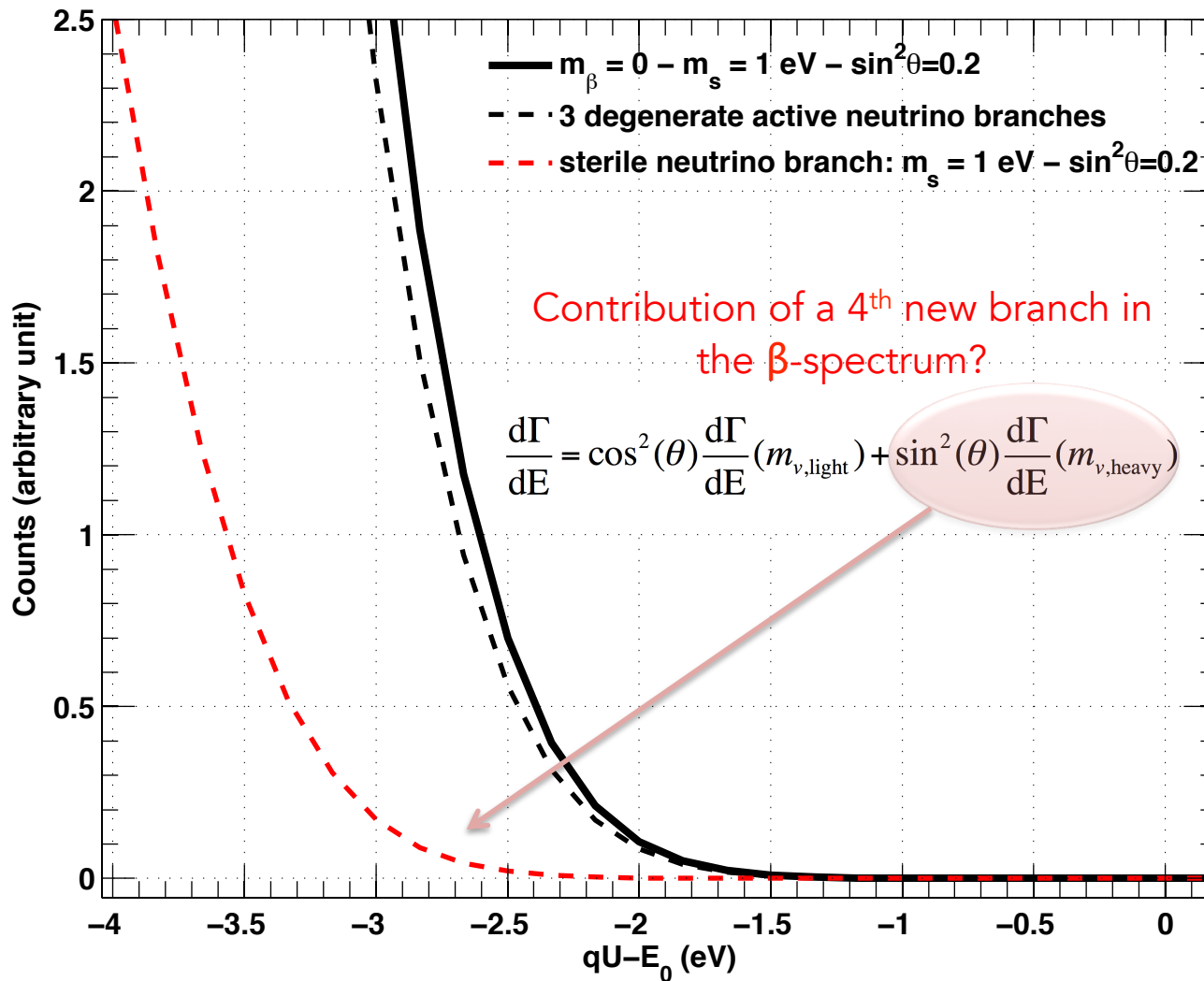
# Active $\nu$ Mass with KATRIN



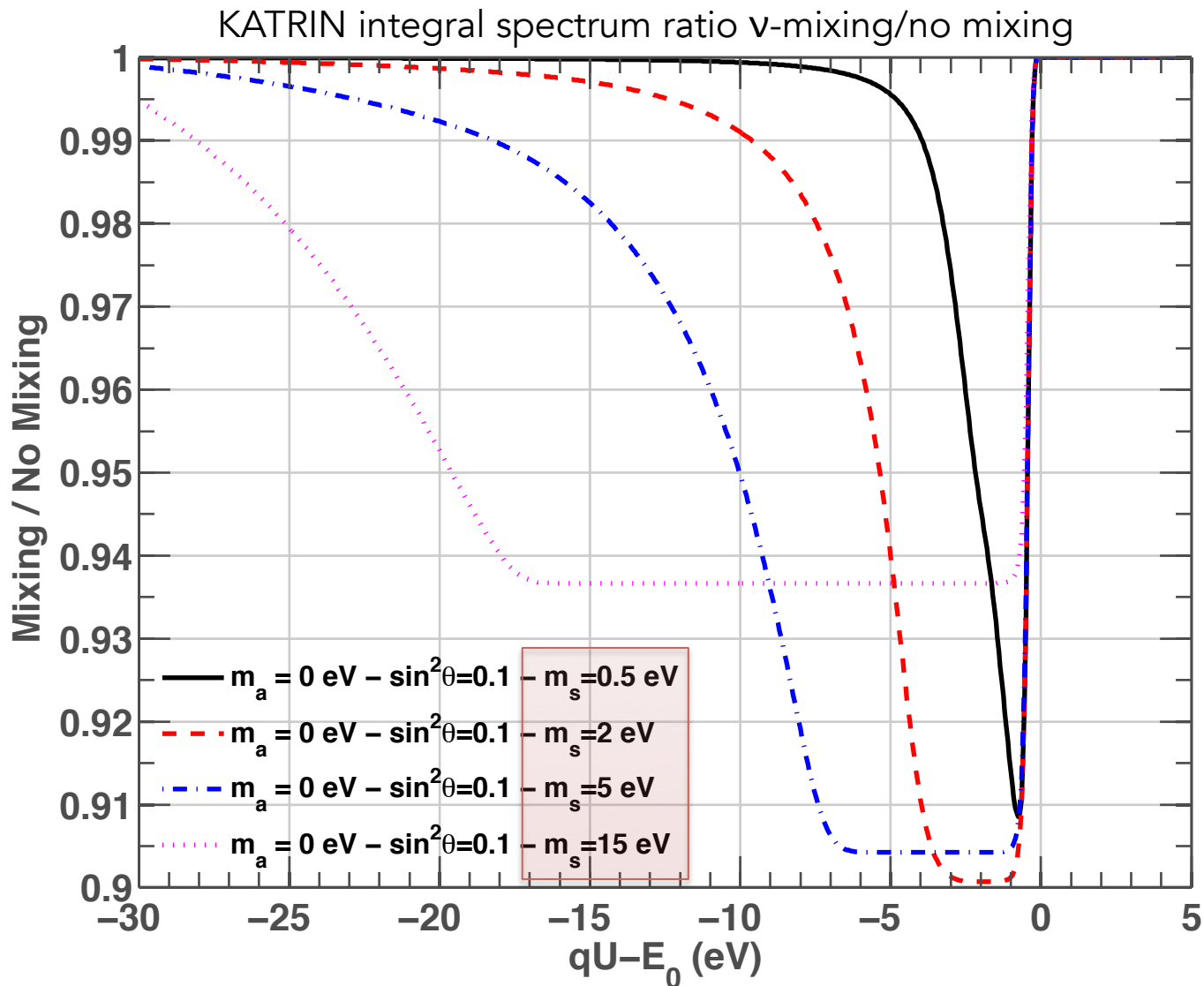


# Light Sterile Neutrino in KATRIN

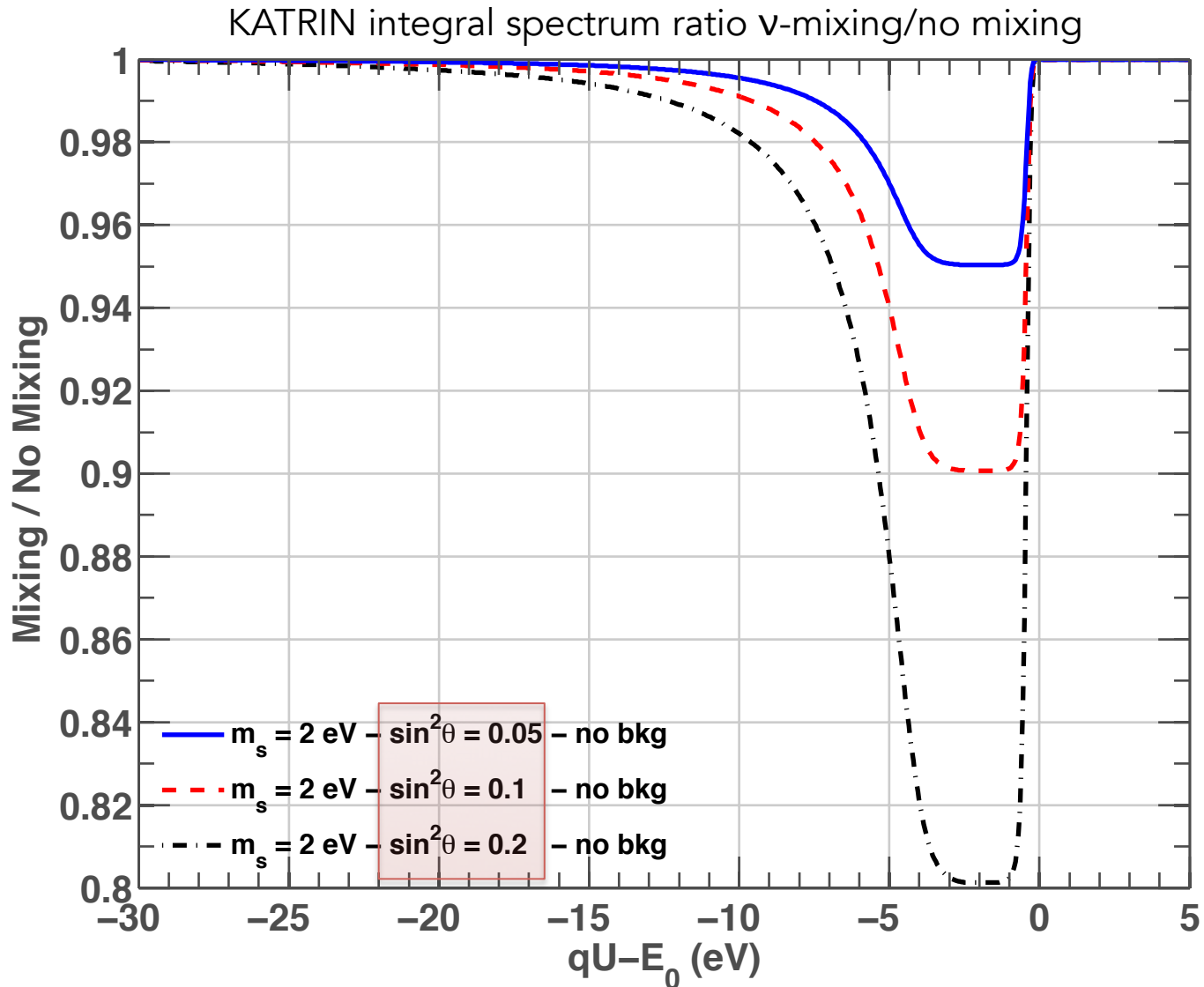
Integral Tritium  $\beta$ -decay spectrum near endpoint  $E_0=18.575$  keV



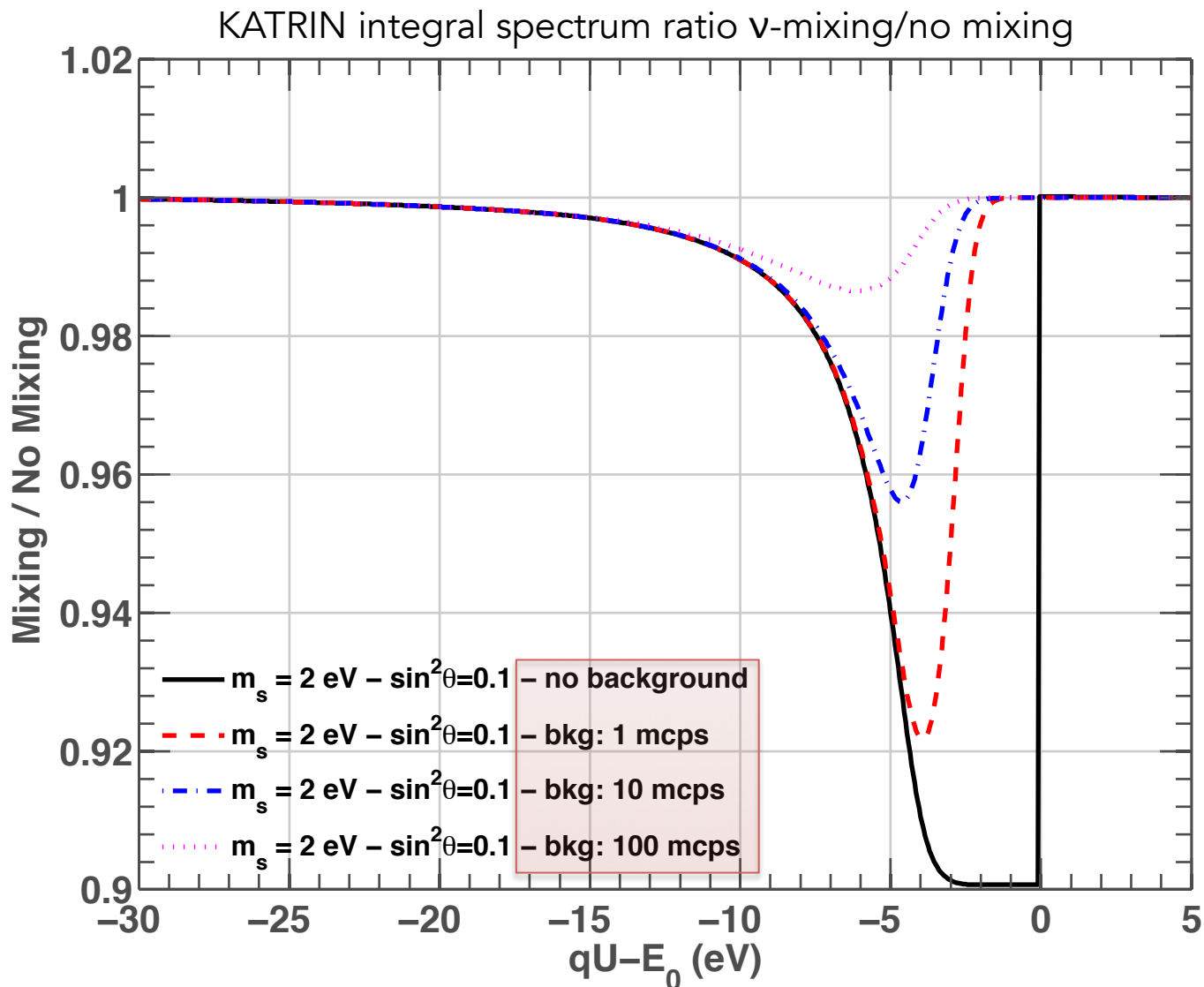
# Impact of the sterile $\nu$ mass



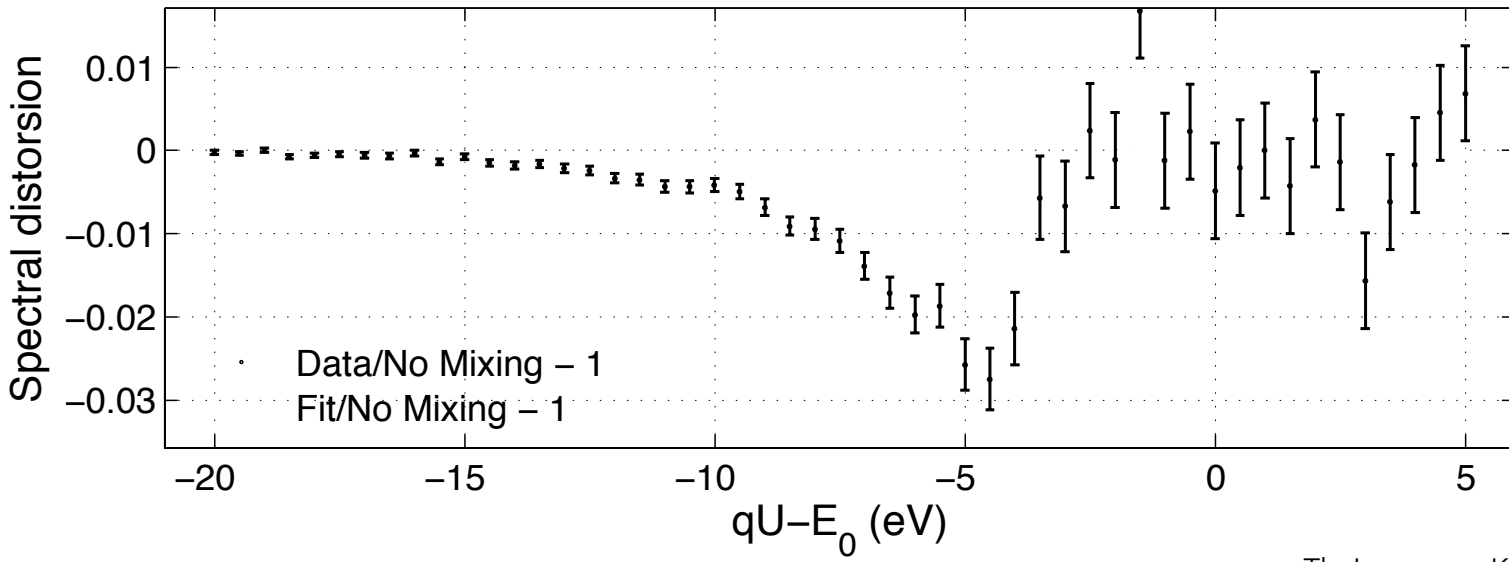
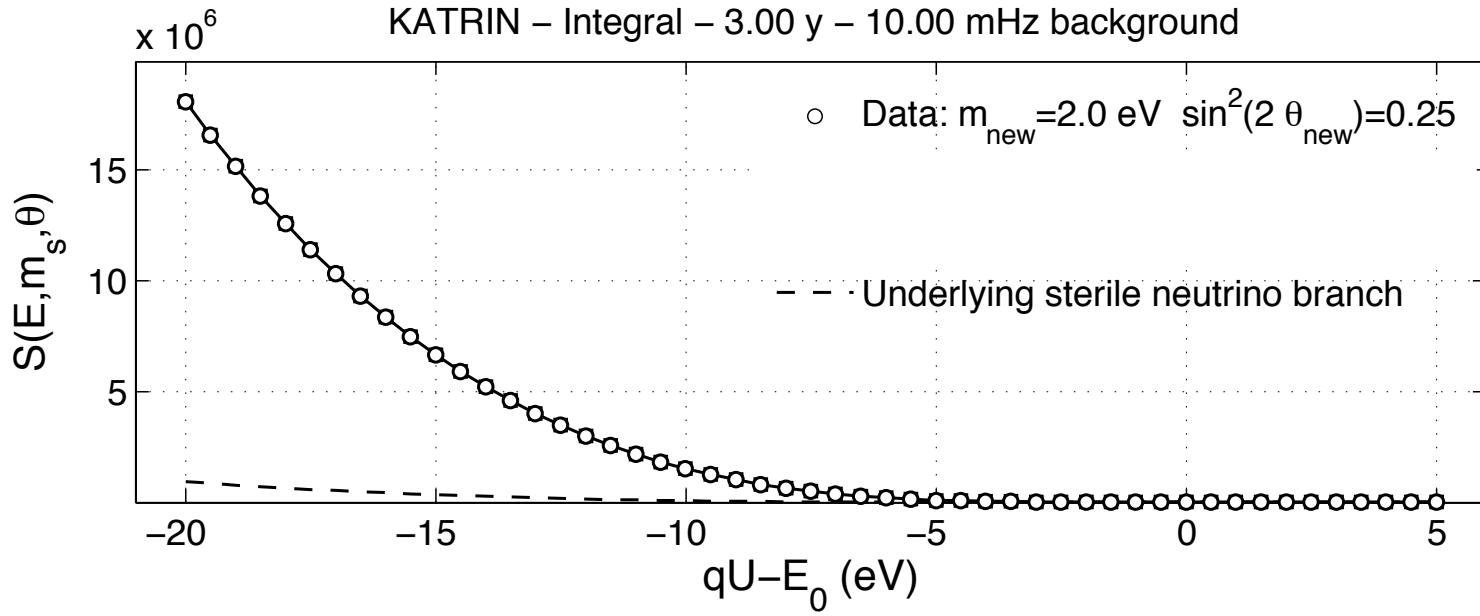
# Impact of the sterile $\nu$ mixing

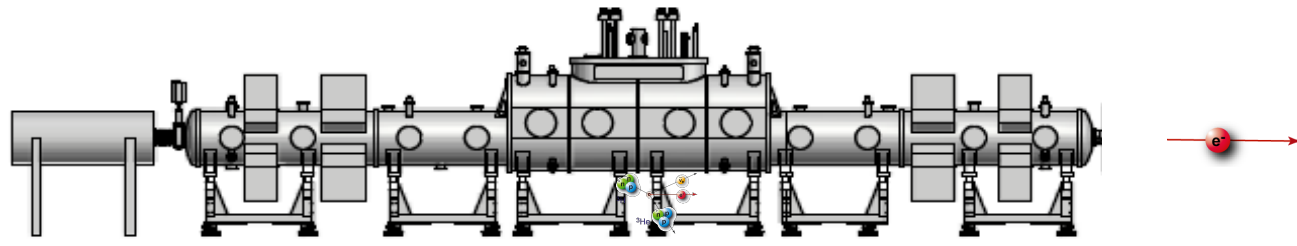


# Impact of backgrounds



# Signal & Statistical Uncertainty



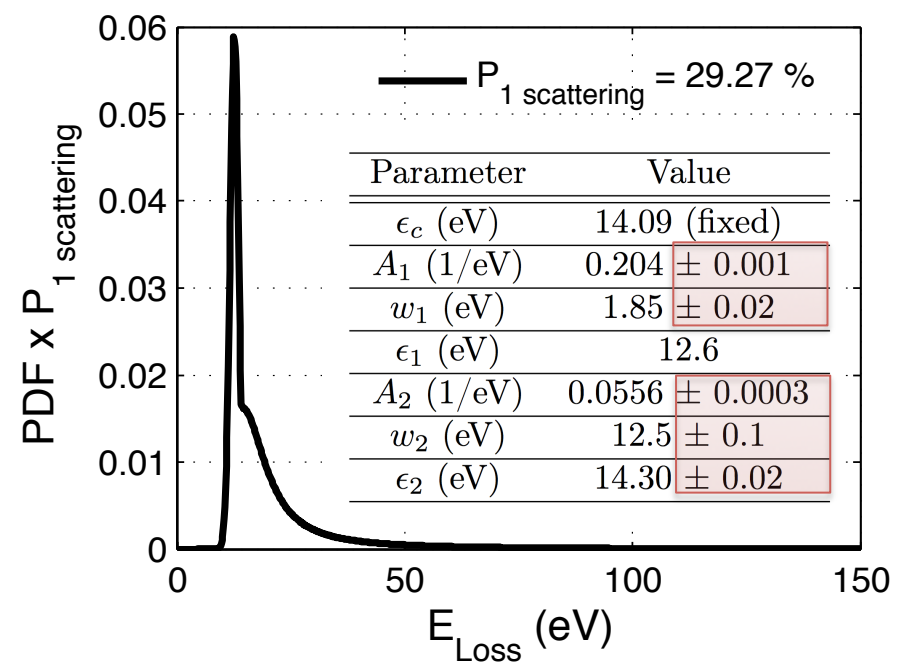
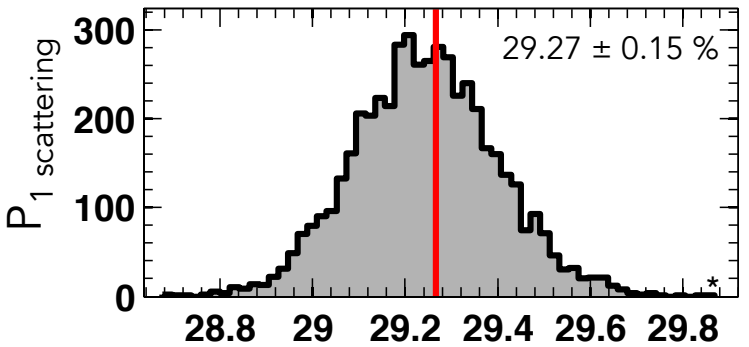


## Systematics: Electron-T<sub>2</sub> scattering

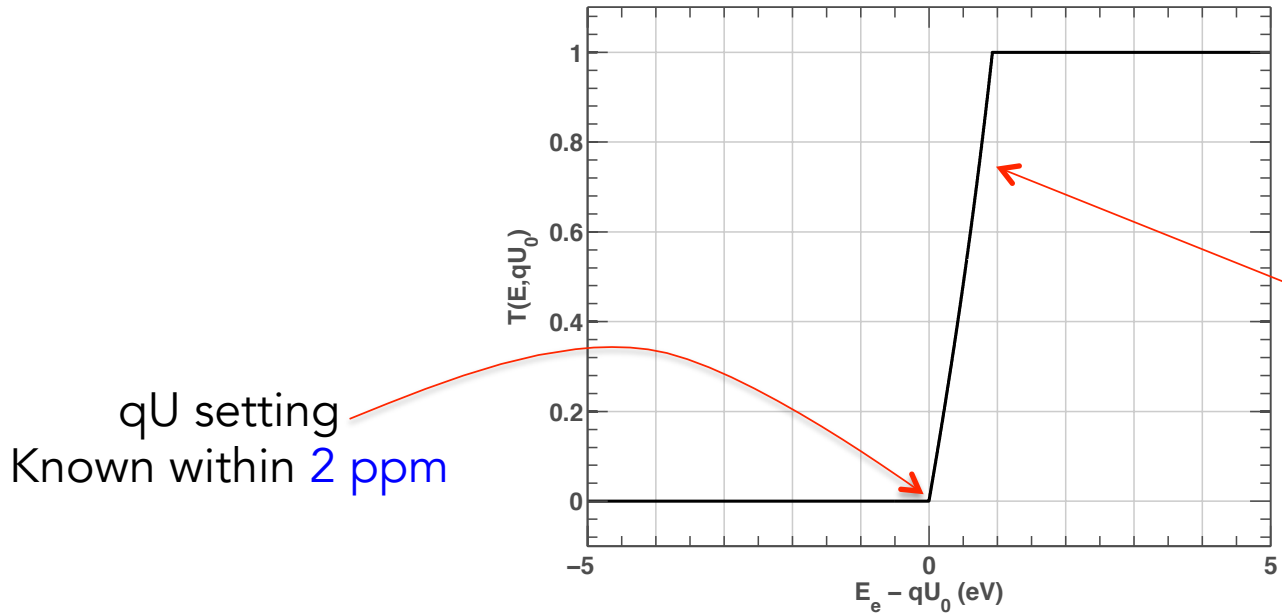
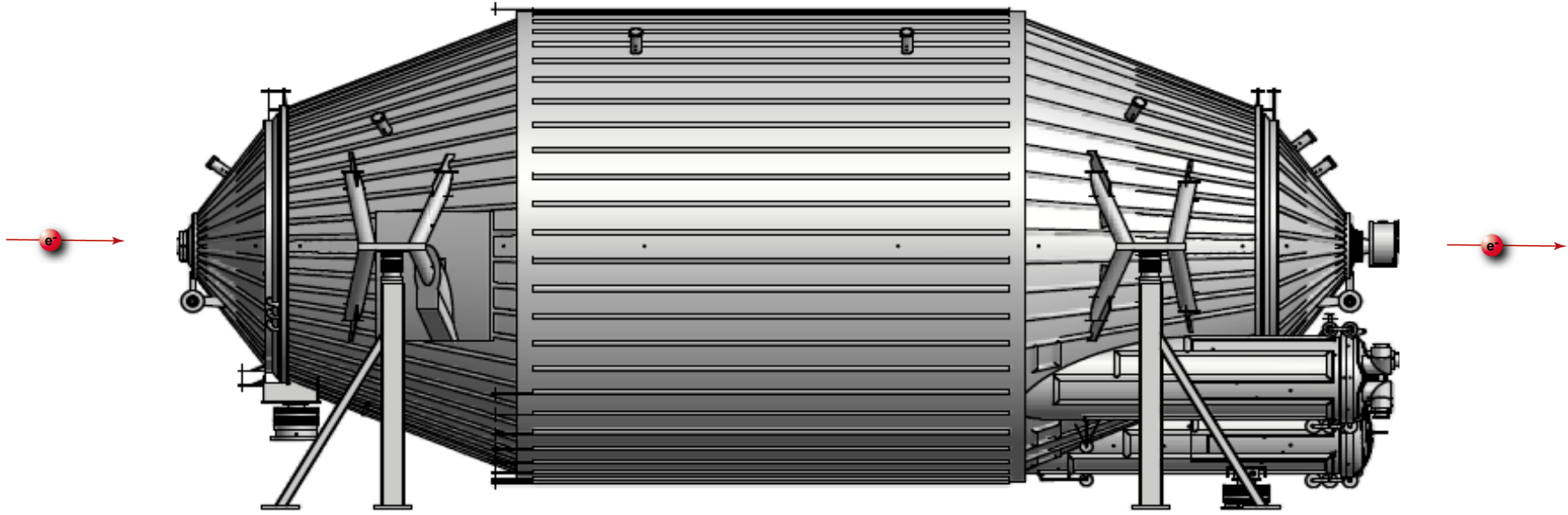
- Scattering probabilities (correlated)

- $B_s \pm 0.5\%$
- $B_{max} \pm 0.5\%$
- $\rho d \pm 0.5\%$
- $\sigma_{IS} \pm 1\%$

- Energy Loss (uncorrelated)



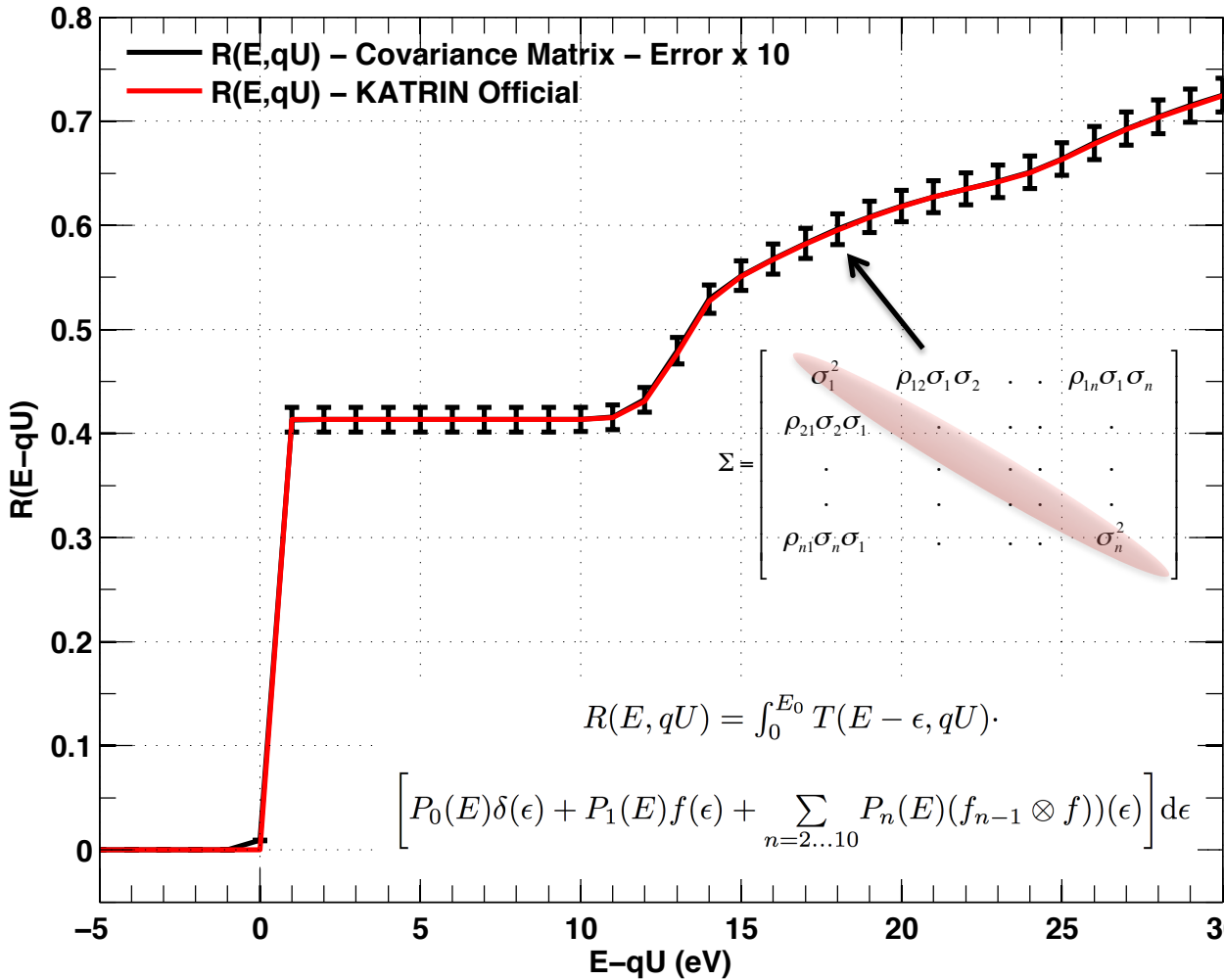
# Spectrometer Induced Systematics



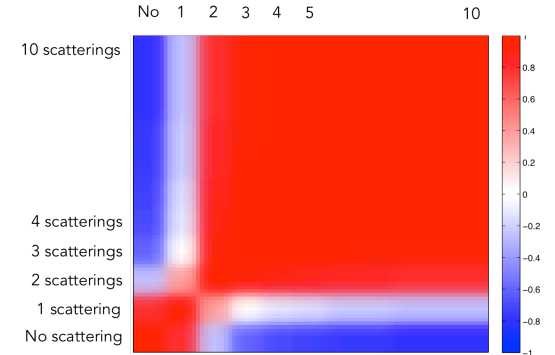
Energy Resolution  
 $\Delta E_e / E_e = B_A / B_{\max}$   
 Known within  $\pm 1\%$

# Response Function with Uncertainties

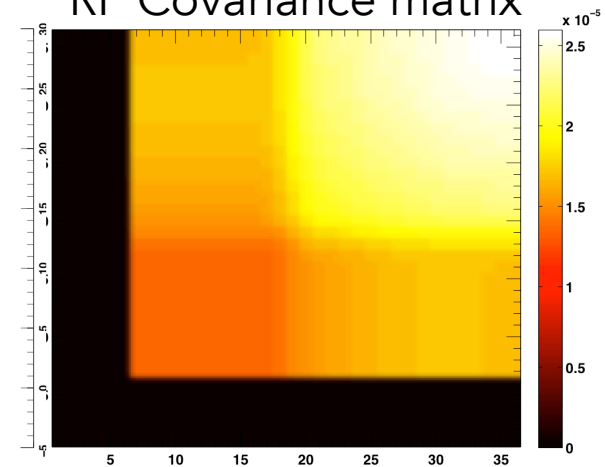
5000 KATRINs simulated varying Source + Spectrometers parameters



## IS probabilities correlation



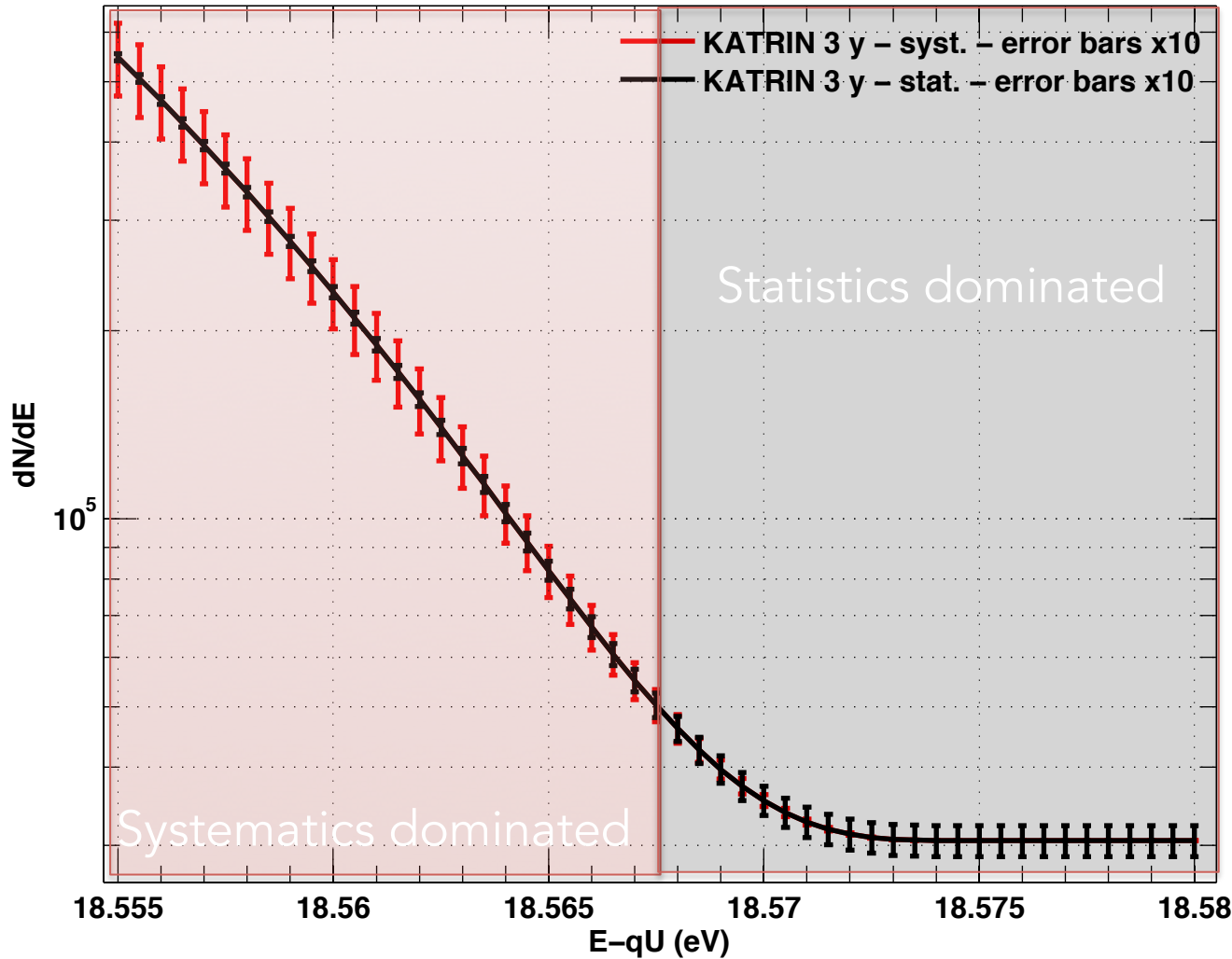
## RF Covariance matrix



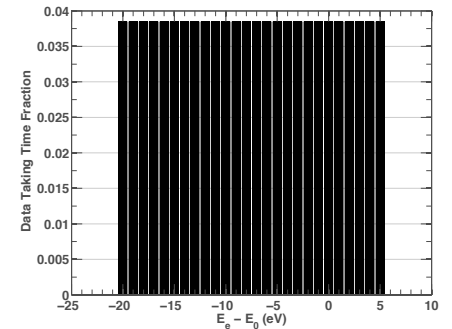


# Integral Spectrum With Uncertainties

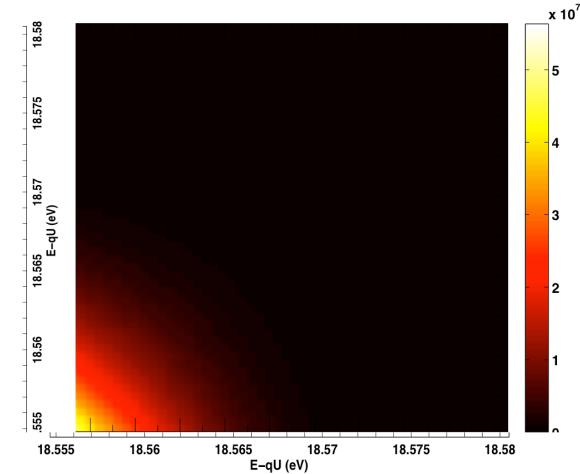
3 years - 10 mcps background - uncorrelated



Scanning time distribution



Covariance matrix



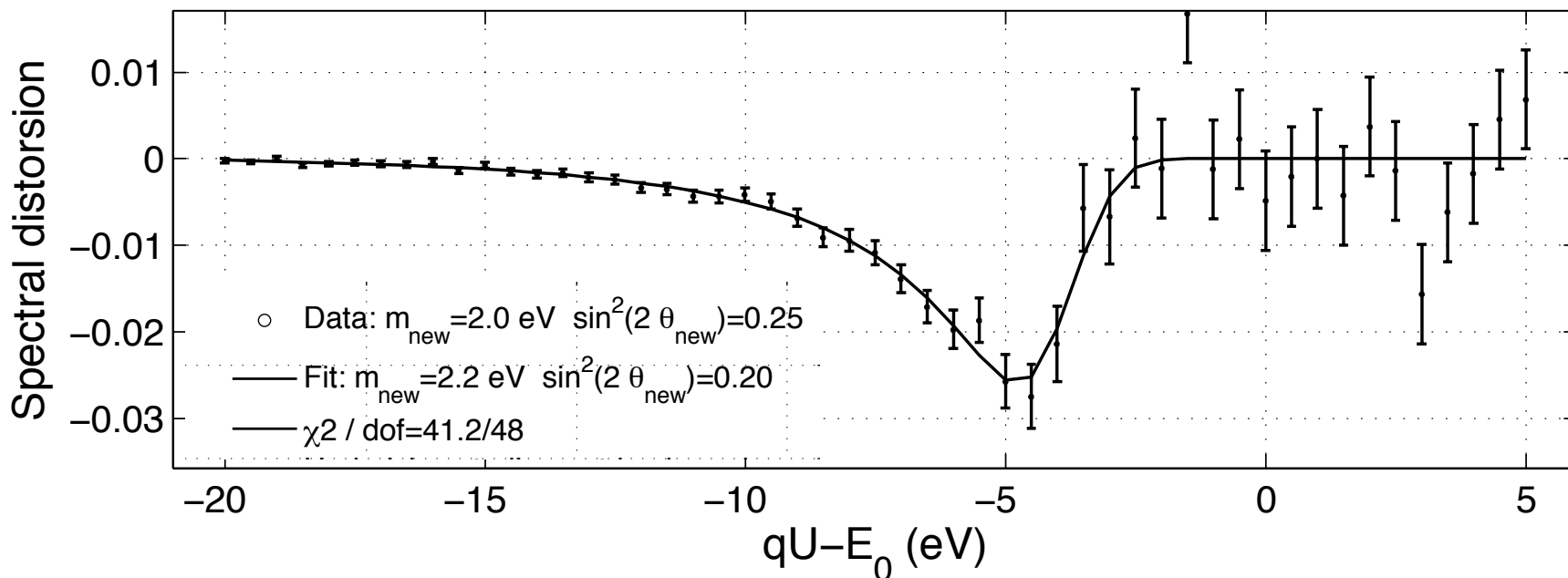
# Fit of the Sterile Neutrino Signal

$$\chi^2 = \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^N (y_i - f(x_i|\alpha))(y_j - f(x_j|\alpha))(V^{-1})_{ij}$$

Covariance matrix

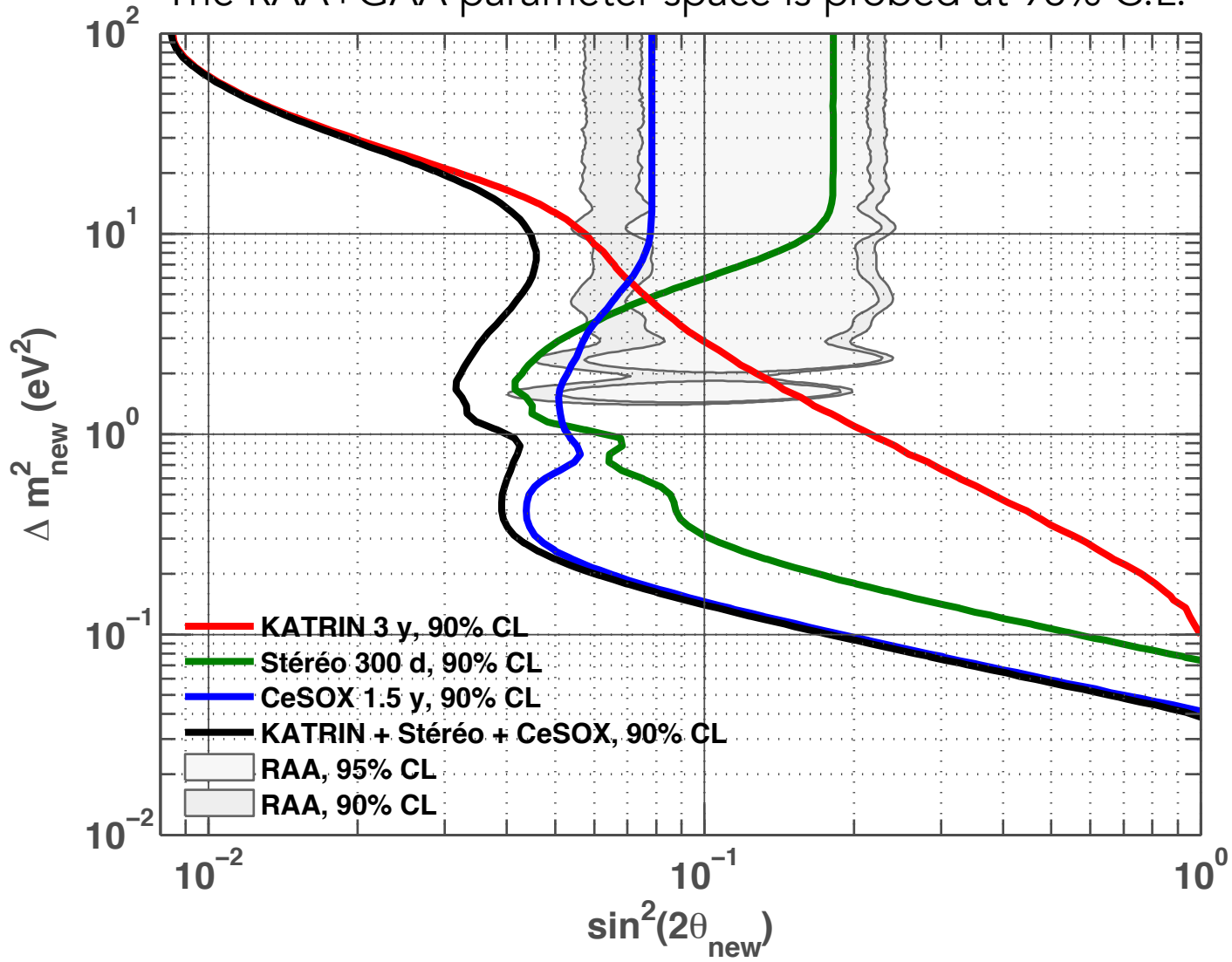
$$V = V_{\text{stat}} + V_{\text{RF}} + \dots$$

- Normalization - Free parameter
- $\sin^2(\Theta)$  - Free parameter
- Sterile mass (eV) - Free parameter
- Endpoint/Q-value shift - Free parameter + Pulls term with  $\sigma = 1$  eV
- Background rate - Free parameter + Pulls term with  $\sigma = 10\%$



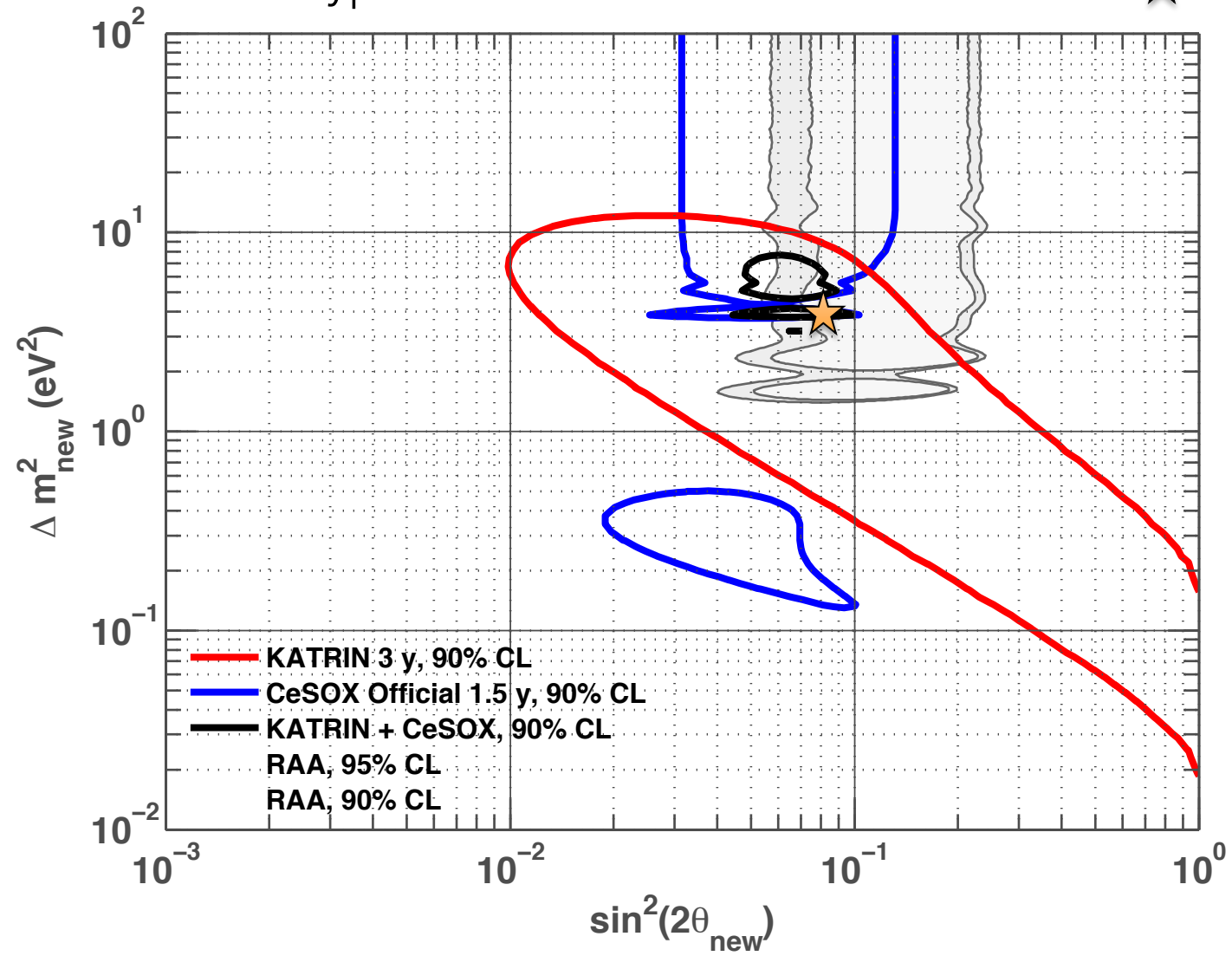
# KATRIN + Stéréo + CeSOX

The RAA+GAA parameter space is probed at 98% C.L.



# CeSOX+ KATRIN Interplay

True hypothesis:  $m=2000$  meV –  $\sin^2 2\theta=0.08$  ★



# eV Sterile- $\nu$ Search with Beams: SNB

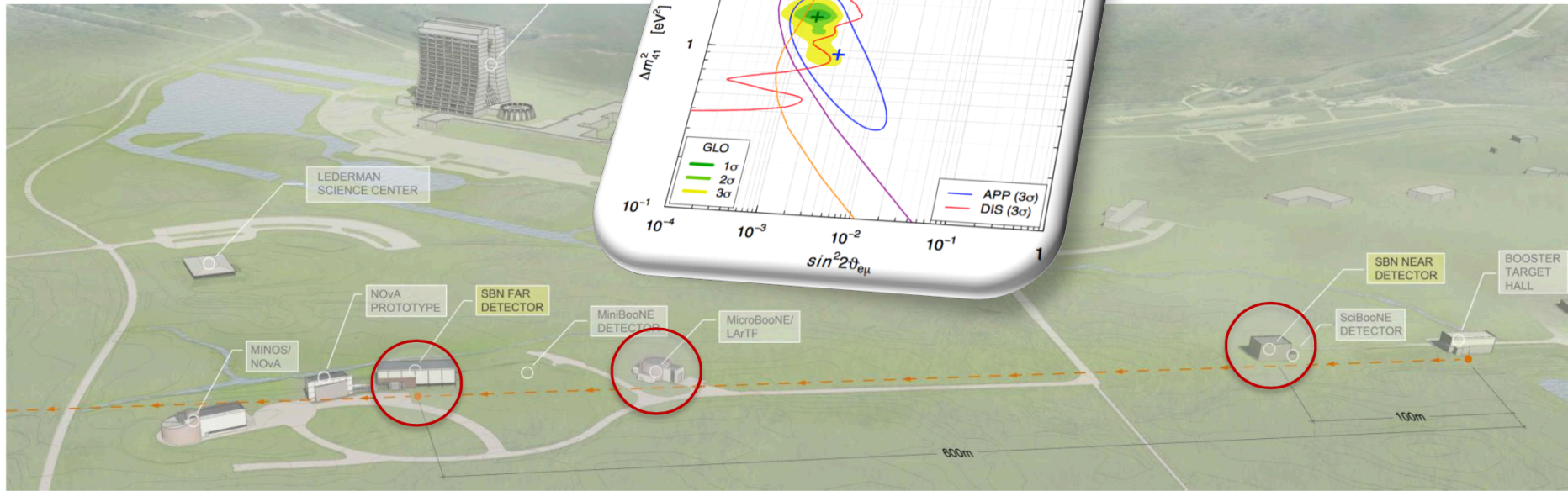


# $\nu$ beam proposals

Type	Source	App. /Dis.	Oscillation Channels	Projects
Isotope Decay at Rest	$p + {}^9\text{Be} \rightarrow {}^8\text{Li} + 2p$ $n + {}^7\text{Li} \rightarrow {}^8\text{Li}$ ${}^8\text{Li} \rightarrow {}^9\text{Be} + e^- + \bar{\nu}_e$	Dis.	$\bar{\nu}_e \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_e$	IsoDAR
Pion (Kaon) Decay at Rest	$\pi^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu_\mu$ $\quad \quad \quad \searrow$ $\quad \quad \quad e^+ \bar{\nu}_\mu \nu_e$	App. & Dis.	$\bar{\nu}_\mu \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_e$ $\nu_e \rightarrow \nu_e$	OscSNS, KDAR, JPARC-MLF
Pion Decay in Flight	$\pi^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu_\mu$ $\quad \quad \quad \searrow$ $\quad \quad \quad e^+ \bar{\nu}_\mu \nu_e$	App. & Dis.	$\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e$ $\bar{\nu}_\mu \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_e$ $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\mu$ $\nu_e \rightarrow \nu_e$	MINOS+, nuPRISM, <b>SBN 2018</b>
Low-E Neutrino Factory	$\mu^+ \rightarrow e^+ \bar{\nu}_\mu \nu_e$ $\mu^- \rightarrow e^- \nu_\mu \bar{\nu}_e$	App. & Dis.	$\nu_e \rightarrow \nu_\mu$ $\bar{\nu}_e \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_\mu$ $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\mu$ $\bar{\nu}_\mu \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_e$	$\nu$ STORM

Start SNB Neutrino Program with Icarus in 2018/19

# The Fermilab SBN program

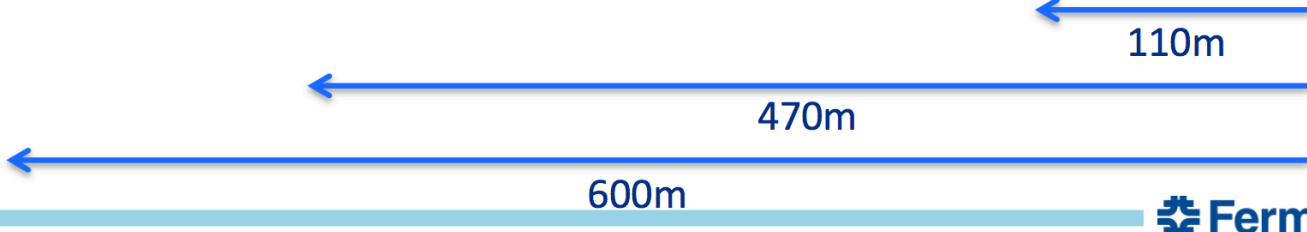


ICARUS  
Fewer  $\nu_\mu$ ?  
More  $\nu_e$ ?

MicroBooNE  
Fewer  $\nu_\mu$ ?  
More  $\nu_e$ ?

SBND  
 $\nu_\mu$   
 $\sim 1\% \nu_e$

Produce  
 $\nu_\mu$   
 $\sim 1\% \nu_e$



- 3  $\sigma$  anomalies calling for clarification

→  $\Delta m^2 \approx eV^2$  Sterile Neutrino? Or Experimental Artifacts?

- Caveat: tensions in global fits

- Reactor Neutrinos – 3 years timescale

- Challenge: background mitigation

- Radioactive Sources – 3 years timescale

- KATRIN

- Challenge: backgrounds

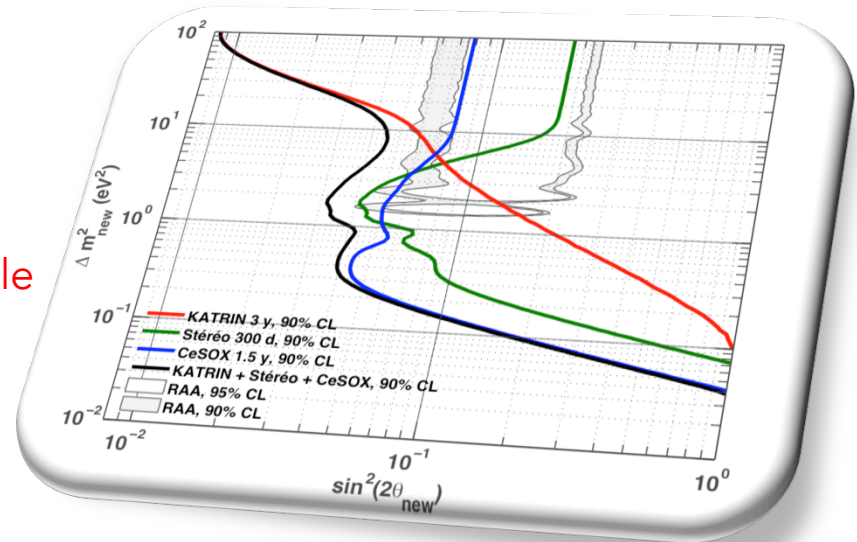
- CeSOX

- Challenges: isotope production, transportation, authorizations

- Neutrino Beams – 5-10 years timescale

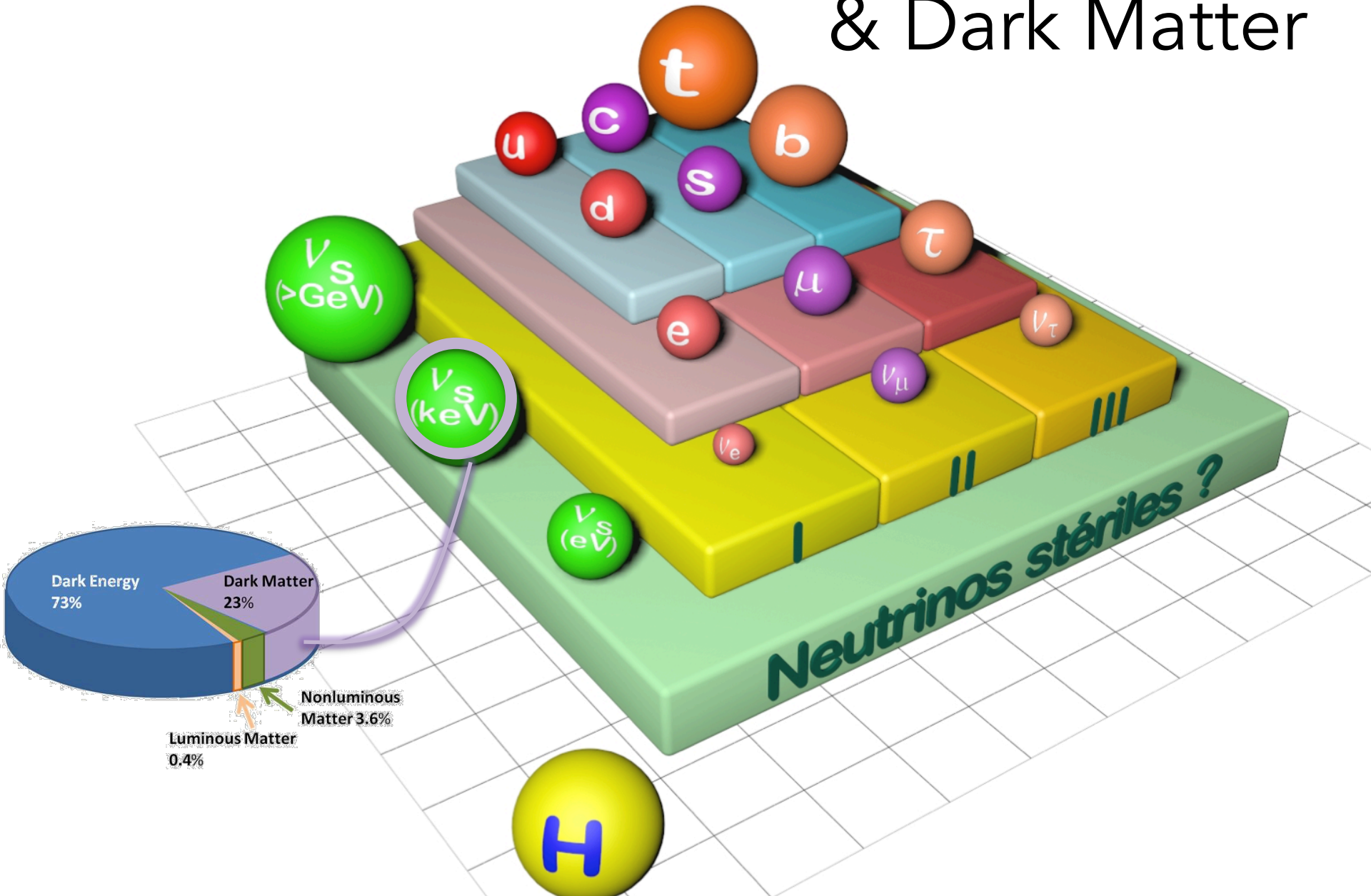
- Added value: allow studying sterile neutrino phenomenology, in case?

- Other tests with  $(\beta\beta)0\nu$ -decay, cosmological data





# Sterile Neutrinos at the keV-scale & Dark Matter



## ■ Right-handed $\nu$ 's

- A 'natural' extension of the SM
- Possibility for a new – arbitrary – mass Eigenstate in the keV-range
- Mix (oscillate) with active  $\nu$ 's  
 $\sin^2\theta_{e4} < 10^{-6}$  ... challenging for all experiments!

## ■ keV Sterile $\nu$ are suitable DM candidates :

- Can be produced in the Early Universe
- Abundance depends on production mechanism (thermal or not)
- Cosmological life-time
- Can suppress galactic-scale structures in the Universe

## A White Paper on keV Sterile Neutrino Dark Matter

Editors: M. Drewes<sup>1</sup>, T. Lasserre<sup>2</sup>, A. Merle<sup>3</sup>, S. Mertens<sup>4</sup>

**Authors:** R. Adhikari<sup>61</sup> M. Agostini<sup>84</sup> N. Anh Ky<sup>39,73</sup> T. Araki<sup>57</sup> M. Archidiacono<sup>34</sup> M. Bahr<sup>70</sup> J. Behrens<sup>69</sup> F. Bezrukov<sup>64</sup> P.S. Bhupal Dev<sup>31</sup> D. Borah<sup>35</sup> A. Boyarsky<sup>45</sup> A. de Gouvea<sup>62</sup> C.A. de S. Pires<sup>37</sup> H.J. de Vega<sup>19</sup> A.G. Dias<sup>36</sup> P. Di Bari<sup>32</sup> Z. Djurcic<sup>21</sup> K. Dolde<sup>7</sup> H. Dorrer<sup>81</sup> M. Durero<sup>3</sup> O. Dragoun<sup>71</sup> M. Drewes<sup>1</sup> Ch.E. Düllmann<sup>81,83</sup> K. Eberhardt<sup>81</sup> S. Eliseev<sup>86</sup> C. Enss<sup>50</sup> N.W. Evans<sup>53</sup> A. Faessler<sup>85</sup> P. Filianin<sup>86</sup> V. Fischer<sup>3</sup> A. Fleischmann<sup>50</sup> J.A. Formaggio<sup>20</sup> J. Franse<sup>16</sup> F.M. Fraenkle<sup>7</sup> C.S. Frenk<sup>63</sup> G. Fuller<sup>75</sup> L. Gastaldo<sup>50</sup> A. Garzilli<sup>16</sup> C. Giunti<sup>22</sup> F. Glück<sup>7,66</sup> M.C. Goodman<sup>21</sup> M.C. Gonzalez-Garcia<sup>19</sup> D. Gorbunov<sup>65,72</sup> J. Hamann<sup>40</sup> V. Hannen<sup>69</sup> S. Hannestad<sup>34</sup> J. Heeck<sup>11</sup> S.H. Hansen<sup>33</sup> C. Hassel<sup>50</sup> F. Hofmann<sup>80</sup> T. Houdy<sup>2,4</sup> A. Huber<sup>7</sup> D. Iakubovskiy<sup>43</sup> A. Ianni<sup>27</sup> A. Ibarra<sup>1</sup> R. Jacobsson<sup>87</sup> T. Jeltema<sup>76</sup> S. Kempf<sup>50</sup> T. Kieck<sup>81,82</sup> M. Korzeczek<sup>7,2</sup> V. Korneukhov<sup>42</sup> T. Lachenmaier<sup>13</sup> M. Laine<sup>74</sup> P. Langacker<sup>66,67</sup> T. Lasserre<sup>1,2,3,4</sup> J. Lesgourgues<sup>15</sup> D. Lhuillier<sup>3</sup> Y. F. Li<sup>77</sup> W. Liao<sup>79</sup> A.W. Long<sup>30</sup> M. Maltoni<sup>26</sup> G. Mangano<sup>24</sup> N.E. Mavromatos<sup>44</sup> N. Menci<sup>58</sup> A. Merle<sup>5</sup> S. Mertens<sup>6,7</sup> A. Mirizzi<sup>25,46</sup> B. Monreal<sup>70</sup> A. Nozik<sup>65,72</sup> A. Neronov<sup>49</sup> V. Niro<sup>26</sup> Y. Novikov<sup>52</sup> L. Oberauer<sup>1</sup> E. Otten<sup>82</sup> N. Palanque-Deslaurier<sup>3</sup> M. Pallavicini<sup>23</sup> V.S. Pantuev<sup>65</sup> E. Papastergis<sup>51</sup> S. Parke<sup>78</sup> S. Pastor<sup>28</sup> A. Patwardhan<sup>75</sup> A. Pilaftsis<sup>54</sup> D.C. Radford<sup>91</sup> P. C.-O. Ranitzsch<sup>69</sup> O. Rest<sup>69</sup> D.J. Robinson<sup>17</sup> P.S. Rodrigues da Silva<sup>37</sup> O. Ruchayskiy<sup>89,10</sup> N.G. Sanchez<sup>8</sup> M. Sasaki<sup>12</sup> N. Saviano<sup>55</sup> A. Schneider<sup>60</sup> F. Schneider<sup>81,82</sup> T. Schwetz<sup>30</sup>

<sup>1</sup>marcodrewes@gmail.com

<sup>2</sup>thierry.lasserre@cea.fr

<sup>3</sup>amerle@mpp.mpg.de

<sup>4</sup>smertens@lbl.gov

S. Schönert<sup>1</sup> F. Shankar<sup>32</sup> N. Steinbrink<sup>69</sup> L. Strigari<sup>56</sup> F. Suekane<sup>41</sup> B. Suerfu<sup>68</sup> R. Takahashi<sup>38</sup> N. Thi Hong Van<sup>39</sup> I. Tkachev<sup>65</sup> M. Totzauer<sup>5</sup> Y. Tsai<sup>18</sup> C.G. Tully<sup>68</sup> K. Valerius<sup>7</sup> J. Valle<sup>28</sup> D. Venos<sup>71</sup> M. Viel<sup>47,48</sup> M.Y. Wang<sup>59</sup> C. Weinheimer<sup>69</sup> K. Wendt<sup>82</sup> L. Winslow<sup>20</sup> J. Wolf<sup>7</sup> M. Wurm<sup>14</sup> Z. Xing<sup>77</sup> S. Zhou<sup>77</sup> K. Zuber<sup>88</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Physik-Department and Excellence Cluster Universe, Technische Universität München, James-Frank-Str. 1, 85748 Garching

<sup>2</sup>Commissariat à l'énergie atomique et aux énergies alternatives, Centre de Saclay, DSM/IRFU, 91191 Gif-sur-Yvette, France

<sup>3</sup>Institute for Advance Study, Technische Universität München, James-Frank-Str. 1, 85748 Garching

<sup>4</sup>AstroParticule et Cosmologie, Université Paris Diderot, CNRS/IN2P3, CEA/IRFU, Observatoire de Paris, Sorbonne Paris Cité, 75205 Paris Cedex 13, France

<sup>5</sup>Max-Planck-Institut für Physik (Werner-Heisenberg-Institut), Fohringer Ring 6, 80805 München, Germany

<sup>6</sup>Institute for Nuclear and Particle Astrophysics, Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, Berkeley, CA 94720, USA

<sup>7</sup>KCETA, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, 76021 Karlsruhe, Germany

<sup>8</sup>CNRS LERMA Observatoire de Paris, PSL, UPMC Sorbonne Universités

<sup>9</sup>CNRS LPTHE UPMC Univ P. et M. Curie Paris VI

<sup>10</sup>Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne, FSB/ITP/LPPC, BSP, CH-1015, Lausanne, Switzerland

<sup>11</sup>Service de Physique Théorique, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Boulevard du Triomphe, CP225, 1050 Brussels, Belgium

<sup>12</sup>Institute for Astronomy and Astrophysics, Kepler Center for Astro and Particle Physics, University of Tübingen, Germany

<sup>13</sup>Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen, Physikalisches Institut, 72076 Tübingen, Germany

<sup>14</sup>Institute of Physics and EC PRISMA, University of Mainz

<sup>15</sup>Institute for Theoretical Particle Physics and Cosmology (TTK), RWTH Aachen University, D-52056 Aachen, Germany

<sup>16</sup>Lorentz Institute, Leiden University, Niels Bohrweg 2, Leiden, NL-2333 CA, The Netherlands

<sup>17</sup>Department of Physics, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720, USA

<sup>18</sup>UC Davis

<sup>19</sup>C.N.Yang Institute for Theoretical Physics, SUNY at Stony Brook, Stony Brook, NY 11794-3840, USA

<sup>20</sup>Massachusetts Institute of Technology

<sup>21</sup>Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Illinois 60439, USA

<sup>22</sup>INFN, Sezione di Torino, Via P. Giuria 1, I-10125 Torino, Italy

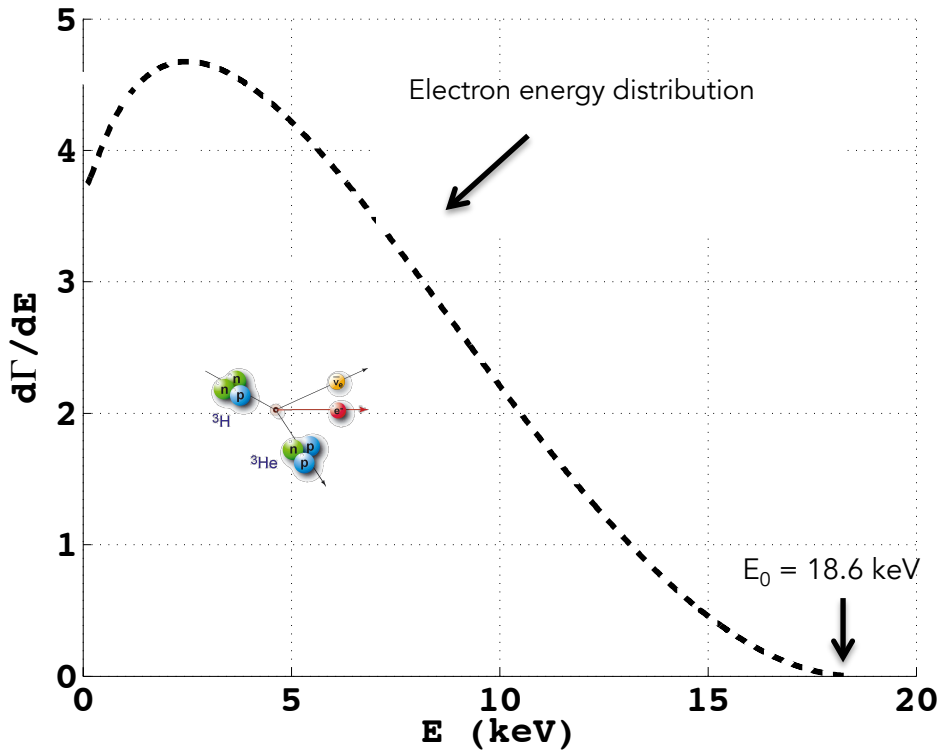
- Interdisciplinary review of the physics case, constraints, and perspectives
- 140 authors from 91 institutions – Submitted to JCAP

# Search for keV Neutrino with KATRIN/TRISTAN

TRitium  $\beta$ -decay to Search for STerile N neutrino

# keV neutrino signal in $^3\text{H}$ $\beta$ -decay

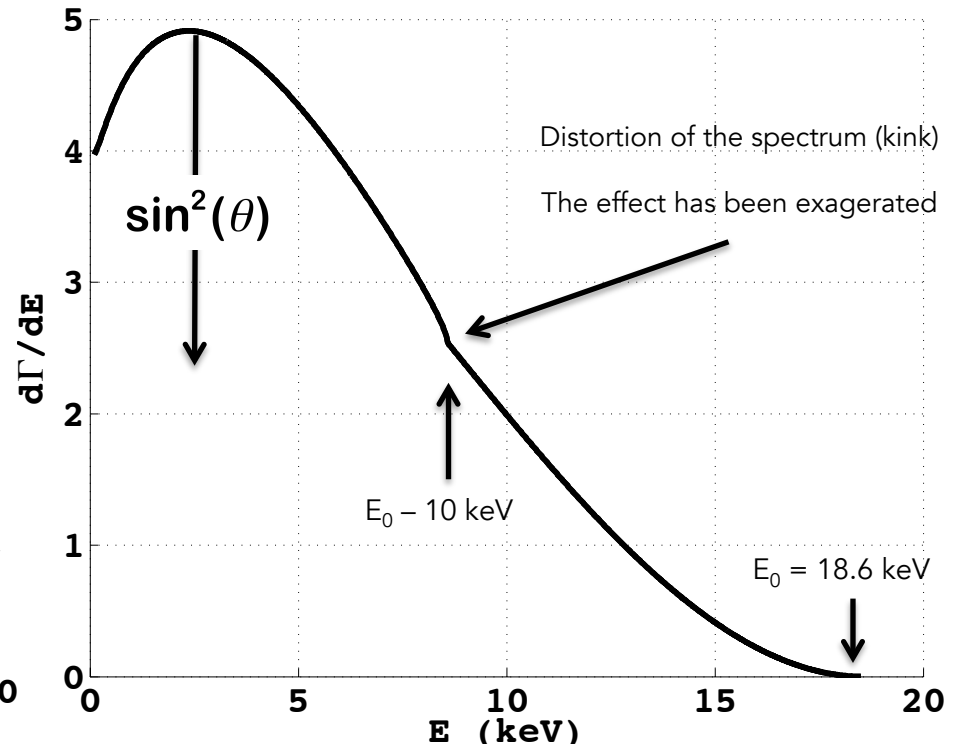
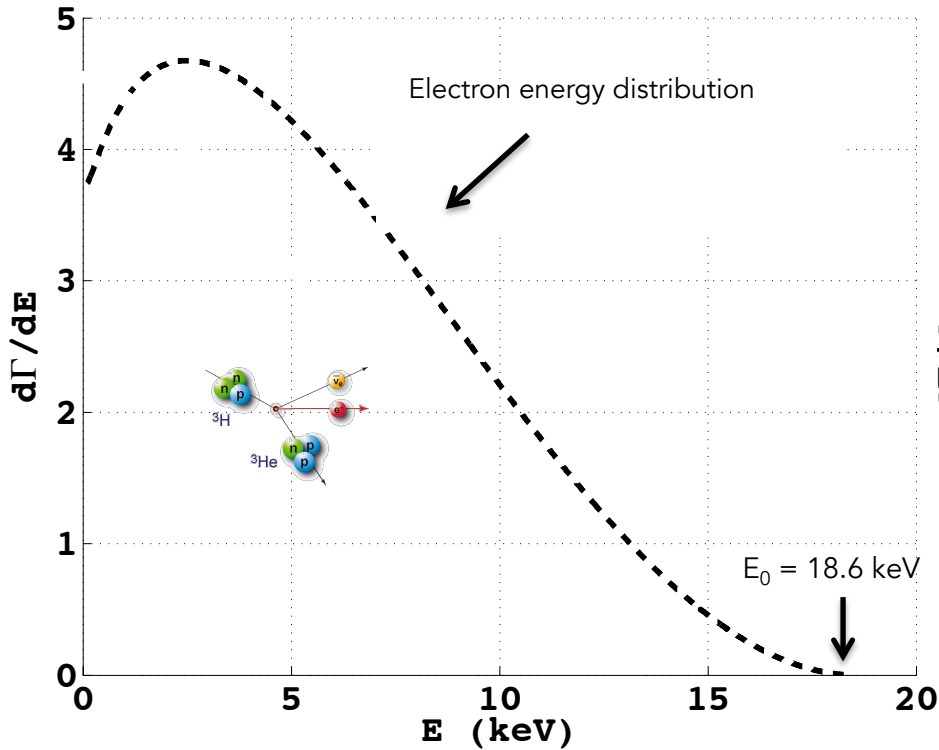
No Sterile Neutrino



# keV neutrino signal in $^3\text{H}$ $\beta$ -decay

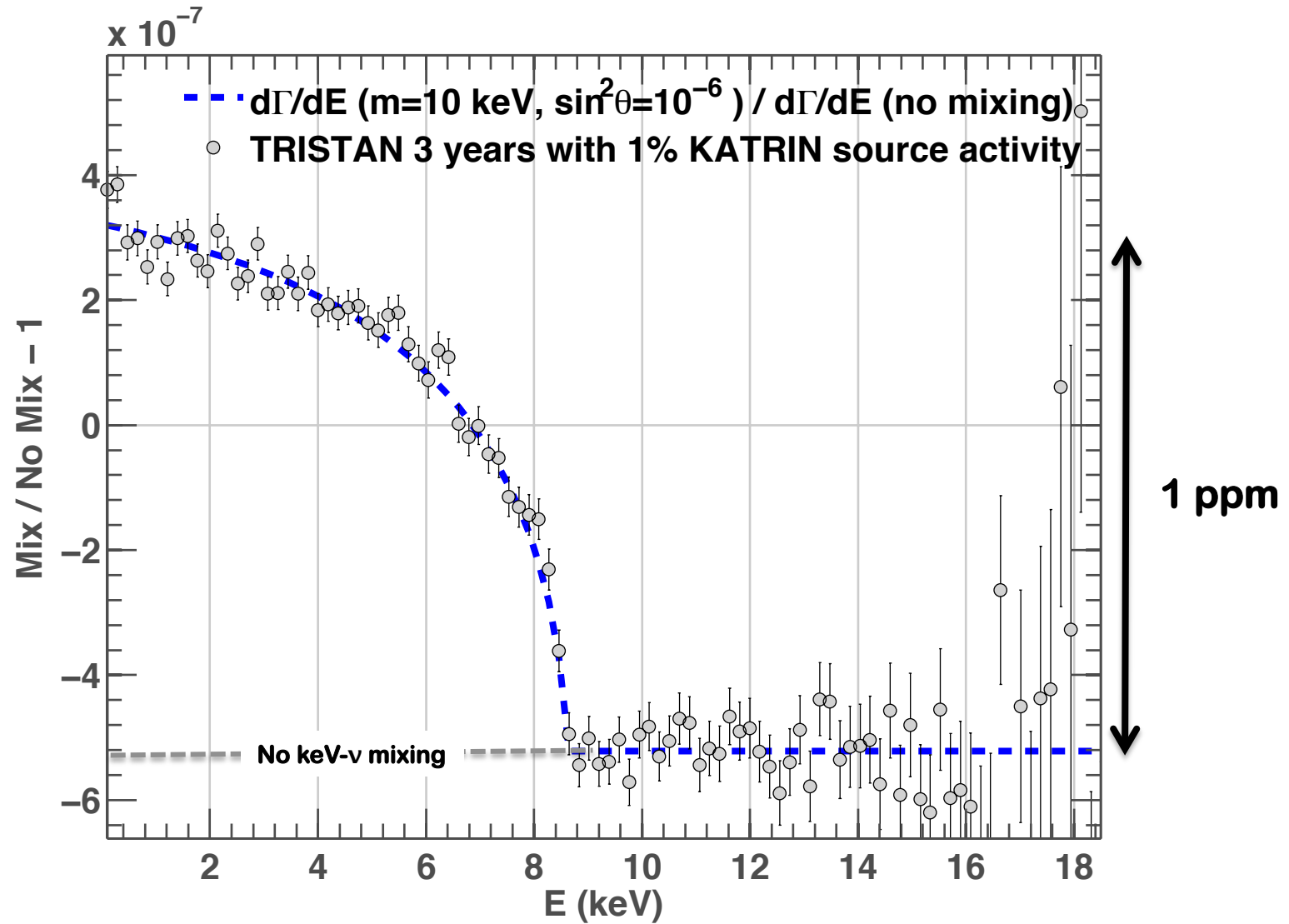
No Sterile Neutrino

10 keV Sterile Neutrino



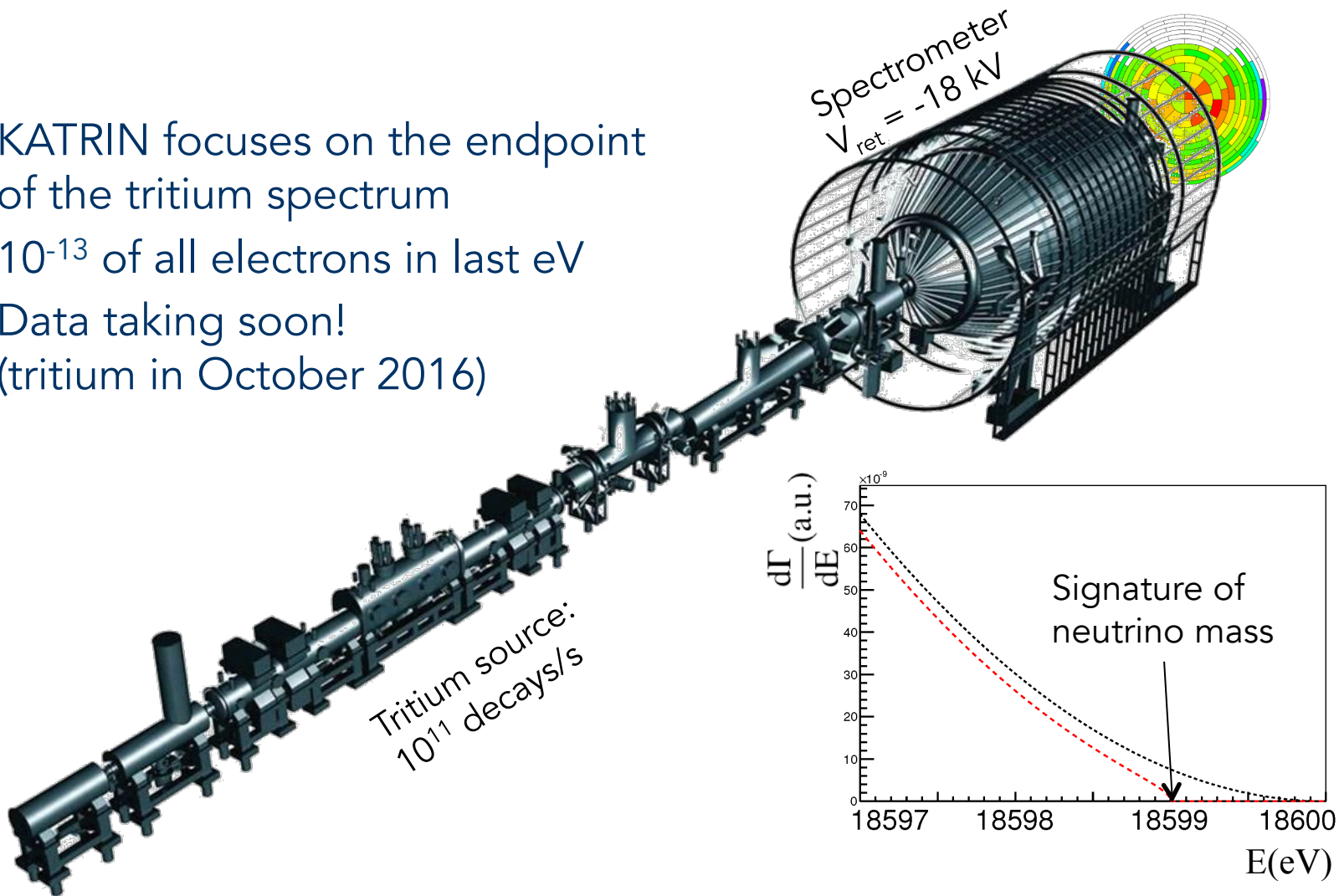
$$\frac{d\Gamma}{dE} = \cos^2(\theta) \frac{d\Gamma}{dE}(m_{\nu,\text{light}}) + \sin^2(\theta) \frac{d\Gamma}{dE}(m_{\nu,\text{heavy}})$$

# Dark Matter calls for a tiny mixing...



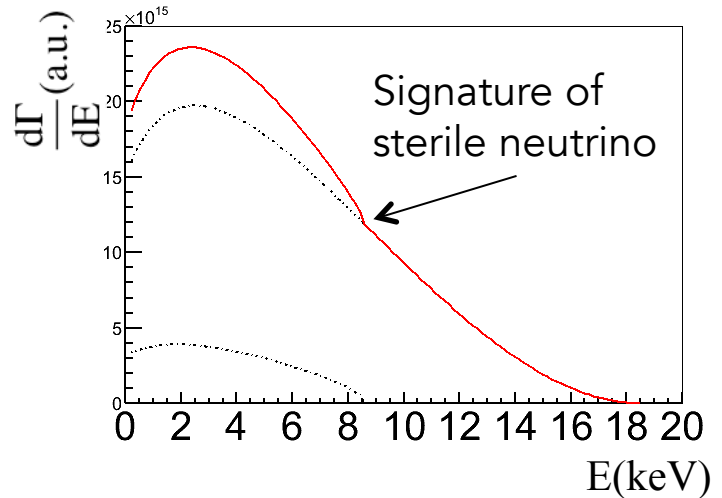
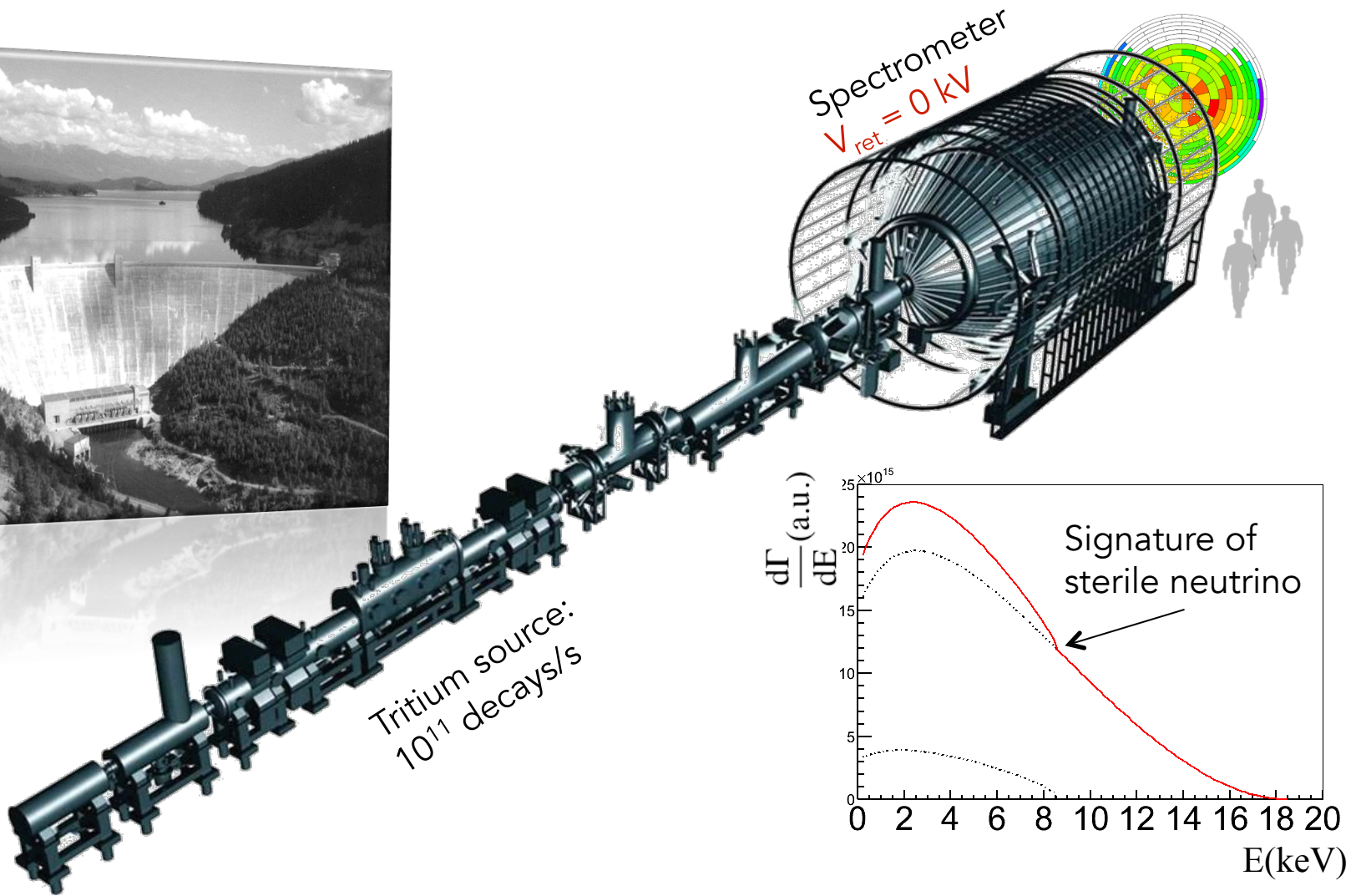
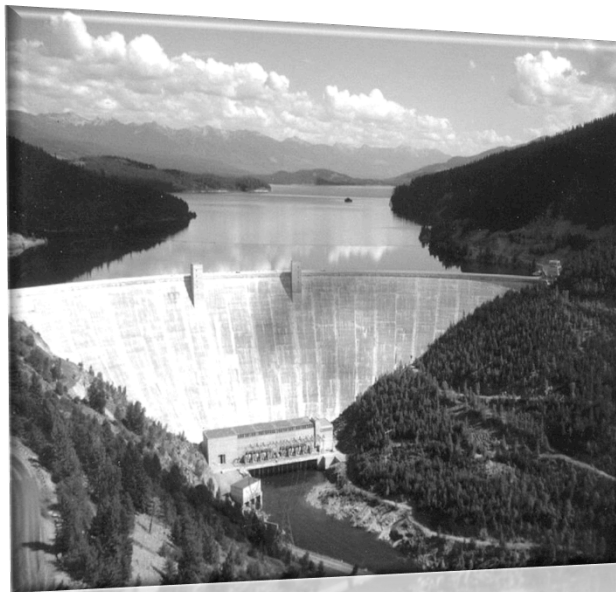
# Can we use KATRIN?

- KATRIN focuses on the endpoint of the tritium spectrum
- $10^{-13}$  of all electrons in last eV
- Data taking soon!  
(tritium in October 2016)

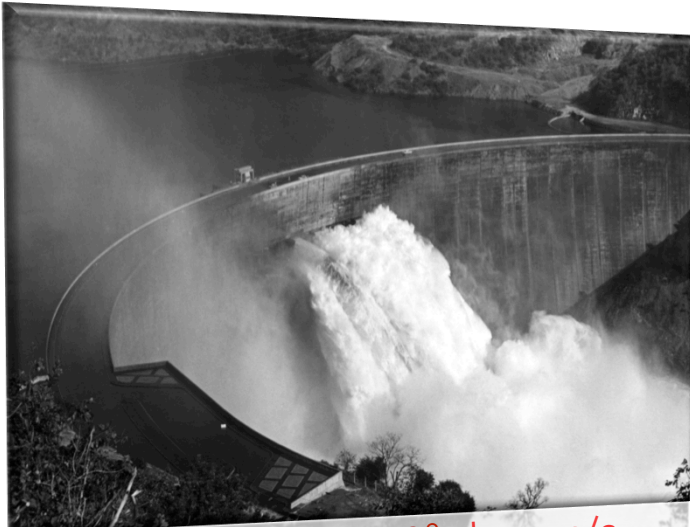




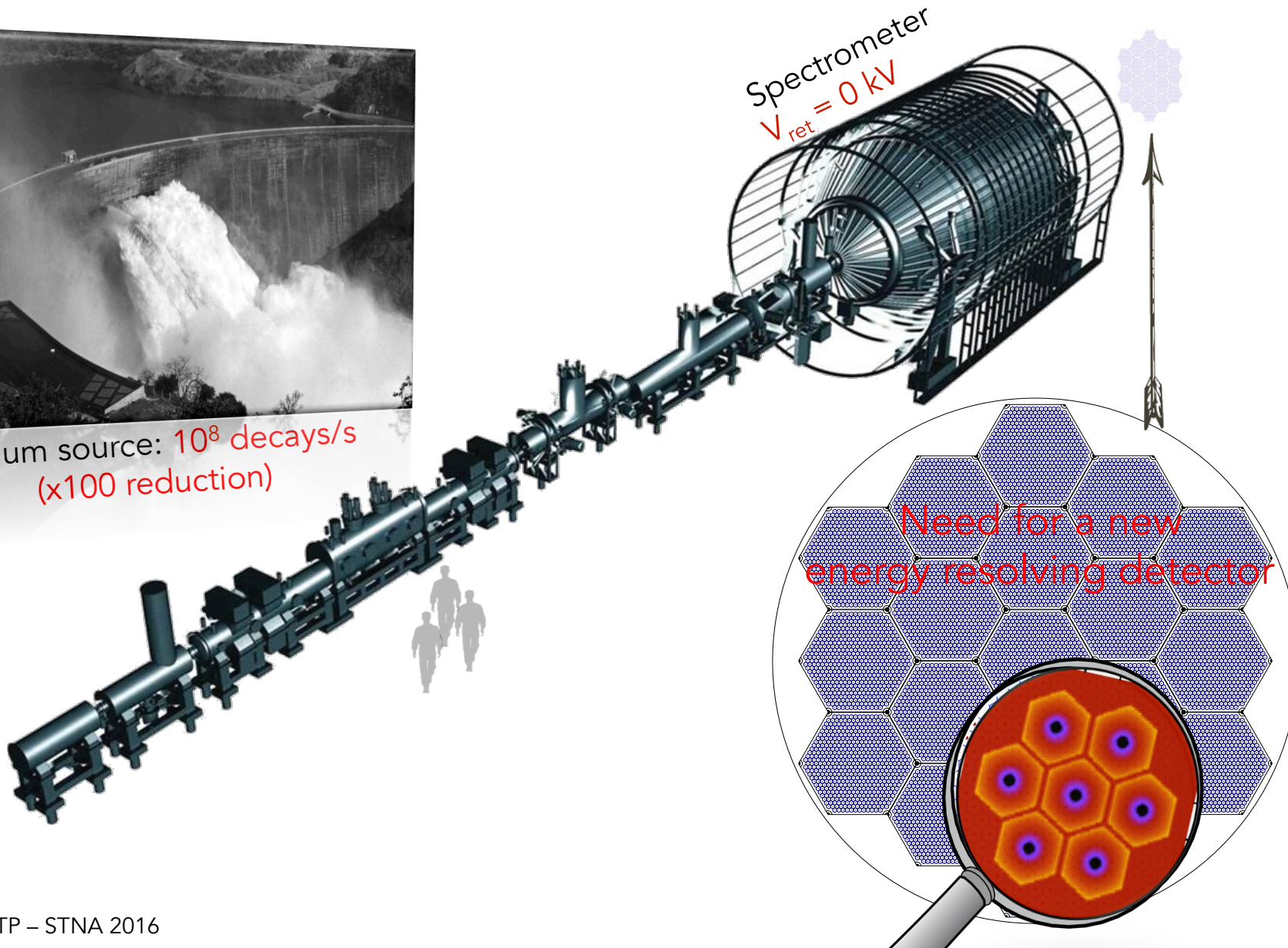
# An Upgrade: KATRIN/TRISTAN



# The TRISTAN project



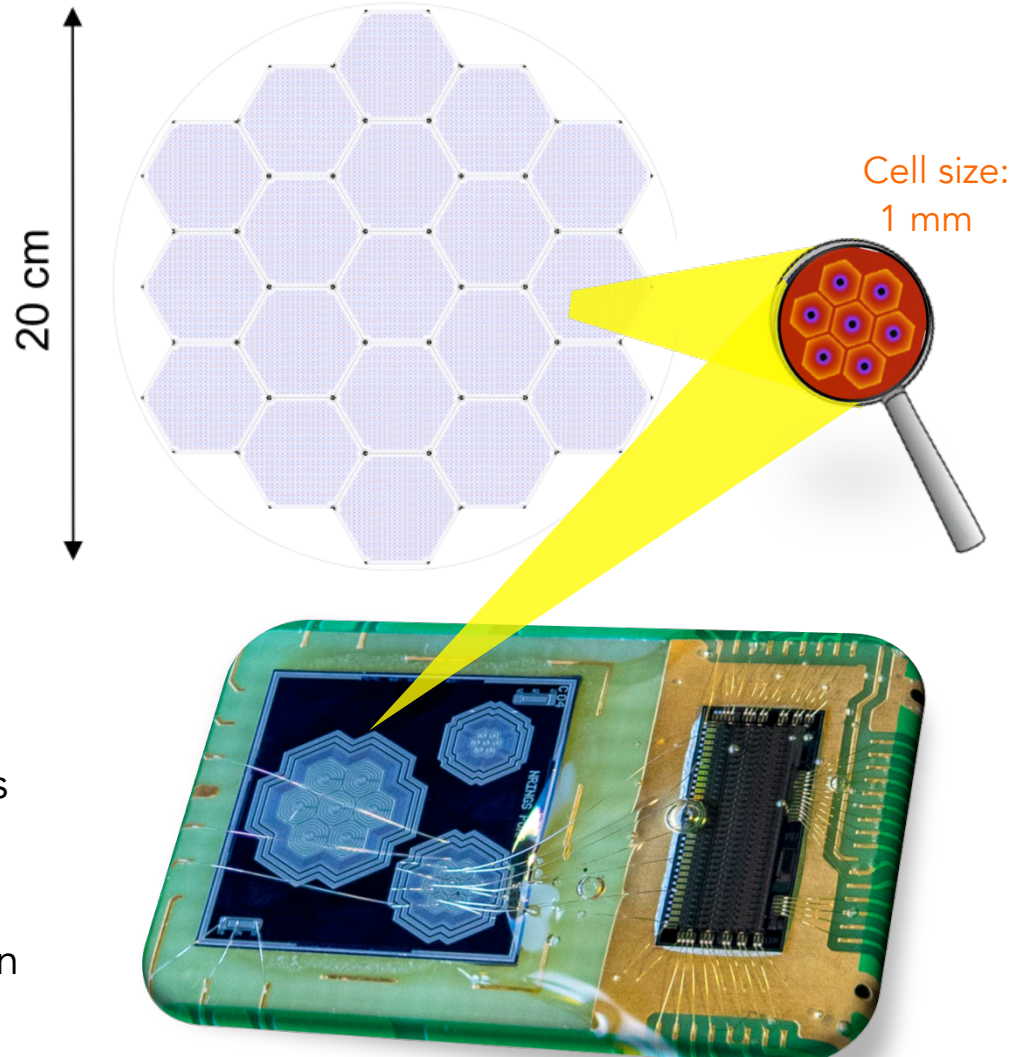
Tritium source:  $10^8$  decays/s  
(x100 reduction)



Need for a new energy resolving detector

# KATRIN Upgrade: New detector

- Measure ultra-accurately the entire tritium  $\beta$ -decay spectrum
  - Minimize pile-up
  - 10 000 to 100 000 pixels
- Energy resolving silicon detector
  - Low threshold:
    - 10 nm dead layer
  - Energy resolution
    - $\approx 300$  eV @20 keV
  - Minimize charge sharing between pixels
- Minimize and control systematics
  - Backscattering of  $e^-$  on silicon
    - Optimize geometry and B-fields
    - Active veto?
  - Sophisticated readout system
    - Low noise – accurate digitization



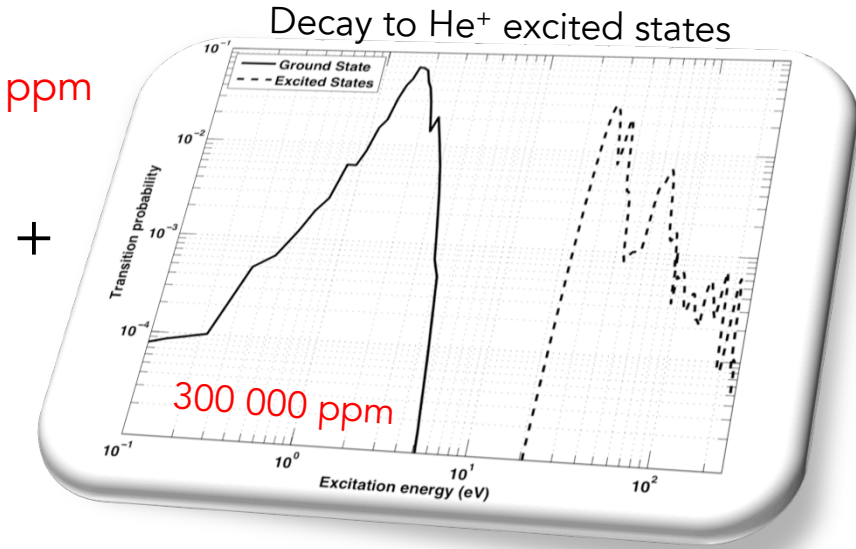
# Tritium $\beta$ -decay Modeling

$$\frac{d\Gamma}{dE_e}(m_{\nu_i}) = C \cdot p_e E_e \cdot \sqrt{(E_e - E_0)^2 - m_{\nu_i}^2} \cdot (E_e - E_0) \cdot F(E_e, Z)$$

↑
↑
↑  
 Tritium Activity                      Phase space factor                      Relativistic Fermi function – O(1) effect

$$\left(\frac{d\Gamma}{dE_e}\right)^{\text{corr}} = \frac{d\Gamma}{dE_e} \cdot \left[ \prod_{\Psi=L_0, S, E, Q, R, G} \Psi(E_e, Z) \right]$$

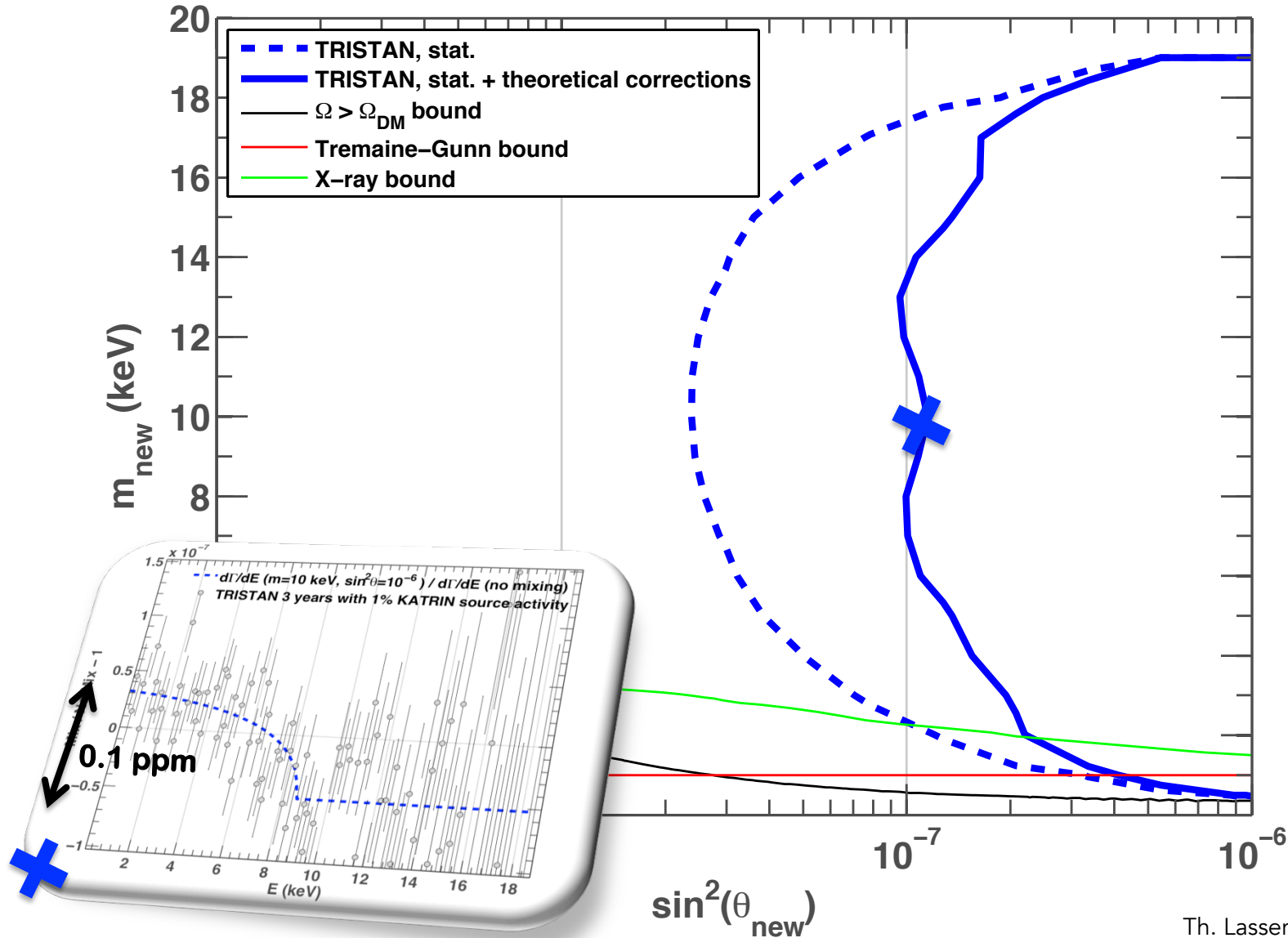
- Screening Correction (S) – 1000 ppm
- $\beta$ -electron to orbital electron exchange (E) - 1000 ppm
- He recoil corrections  $\text{\textcircled{R}}$  - 50 ppm
  - 3 body decay
  - weak magnetism
  - V-A correction
- Recoiling Coulomb field (Q) – 100 ppm
- Finite extension of the nucleus
  - Coulomb field
  - weak interaction ( $L_0, C$ )
- Radiative corrections (G) – 1000 ppm



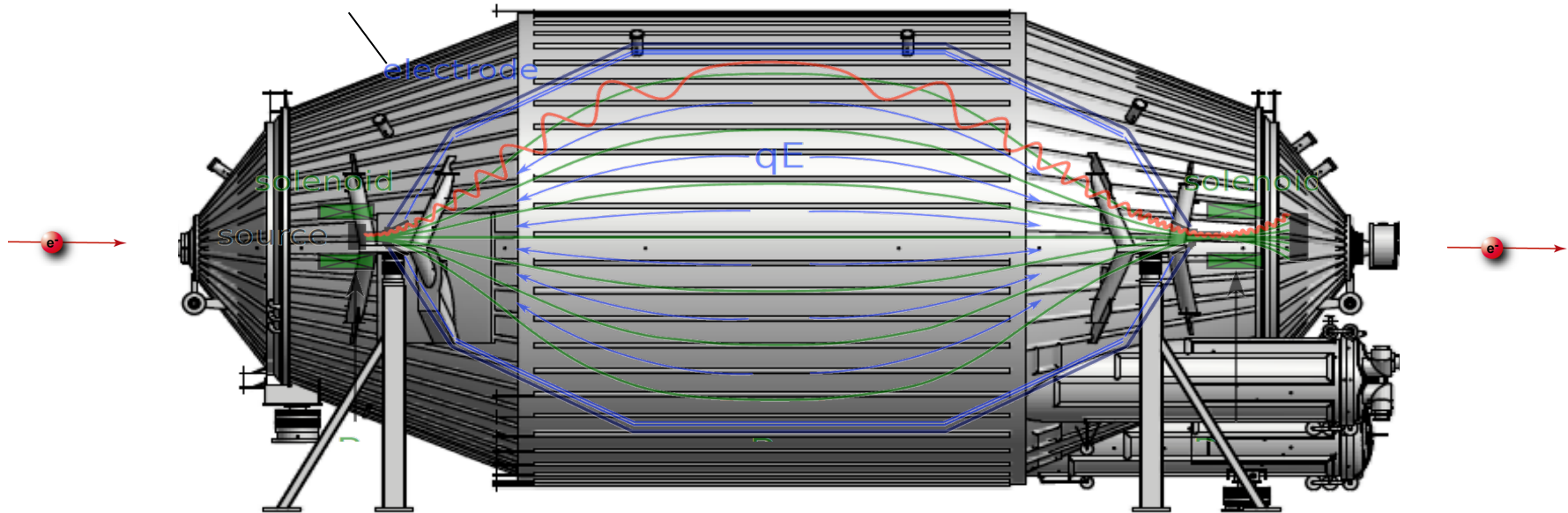
# KATRIN/TRISTAN Statistical Sensitivity

S. Mertens, T. L. et al. JCAP 1502 (2015) 02, 020

TRISTAN 90% CL, 3y,  $8 \cdot 10^{16} e^-$  (1% KATRIN source strength)



# KATRIN Upgrade: Spectrometer



## ■ Differential measurement

- Retarding potential  $qU \approx 0$  keV  
eq. to no use of spectrometer

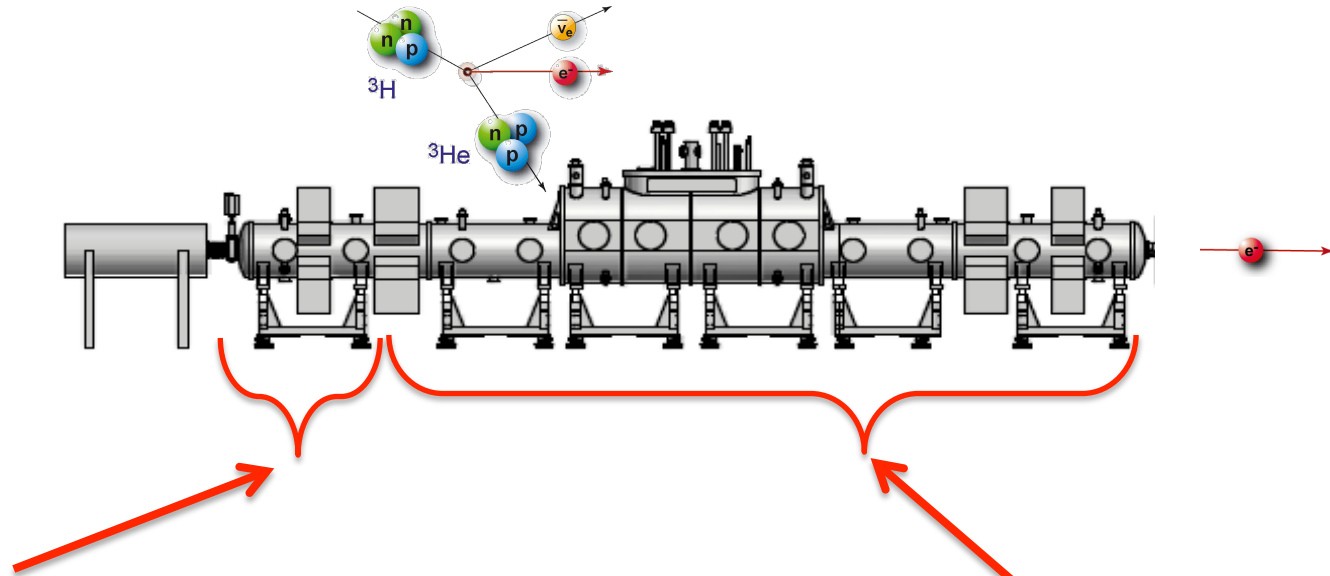
## ■ Integral measurement

- Retarding potential  $qU$  scan  
from 1 to 19 keV

Magnetic field settings to be optimized

Differential / Integral can be combined to minimize systematics

# KATRIN Upgrade: Tritium Source



- Rear wall – defines 0-potential

- To be modified to mitigate

- backscattering of electrons
    - emission of auger electrons

- KATRIN: gold, 20 cm

- Upgrade: Beryllium >> 20 cm

- Windowless molecular tritium Source (WGTS)

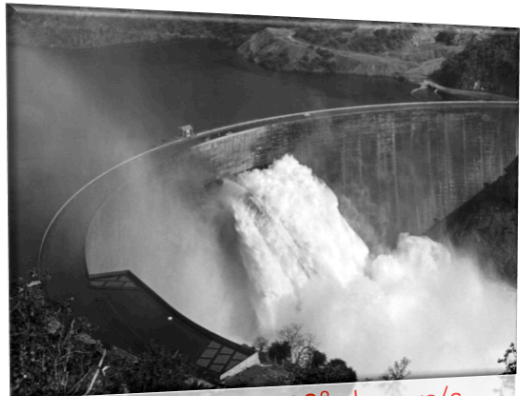
- X 100 reduction →  $10^8$  decays/sec

- Reduction of e-scattering

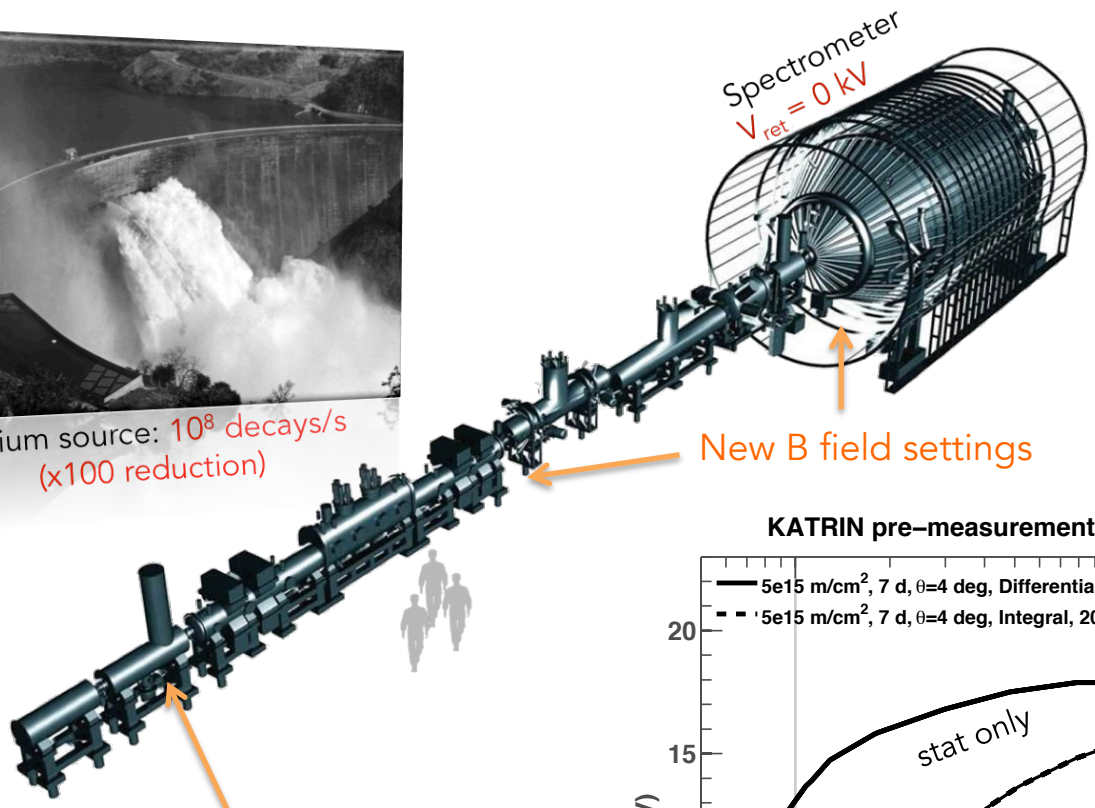
- Mitigate e-rate on detector

- Reduce activity fluctuations  $< 10^{-3}$

# Feasibility Run with KATRIN - 2017

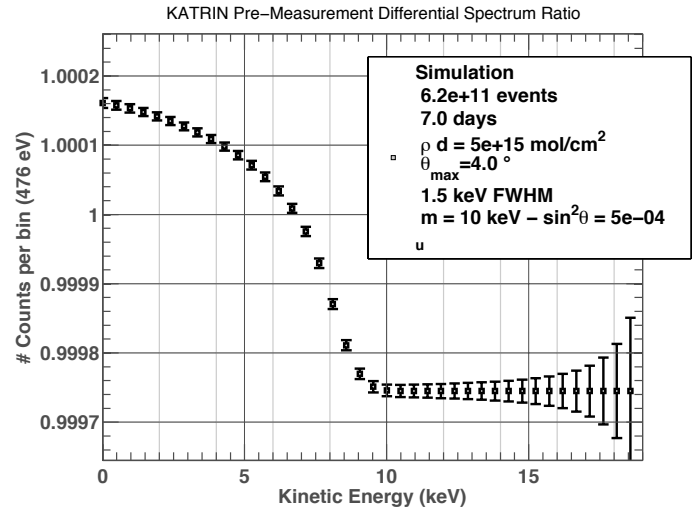


Tritium source:  $10^8$  decays/s  
(x100 reduction)

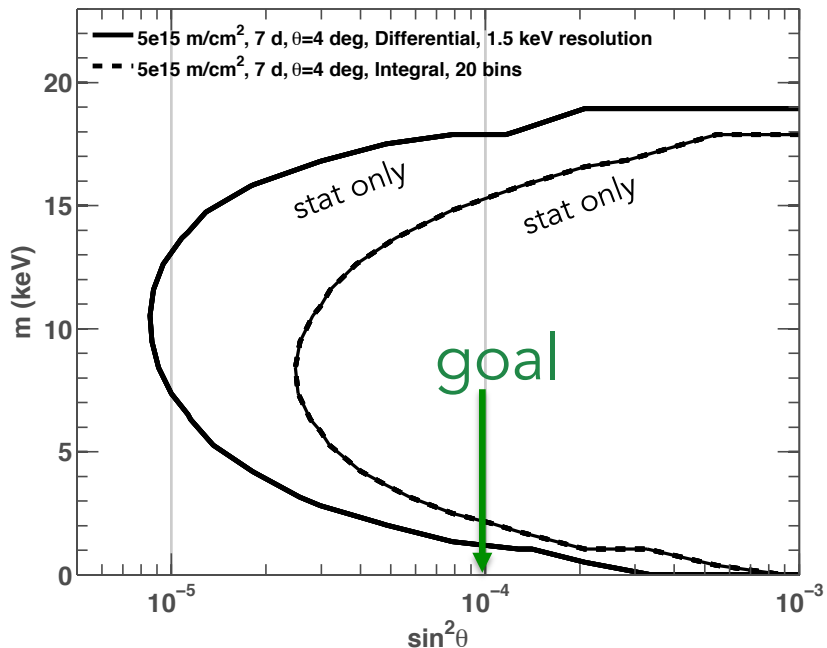


New B field settings

Modified rear wall?



KATRIN pre-measurement sensitivity at 90% CL





# Direct Search for Sterile Neutrino Dark Matter with a Stable Dysprosium 163 Target

Direct Search for keV Sterile Neutrino Dark Matter with a Stable Dysprosium Target  
T. Lasserre,<sup>1,2,3</sup> K. Altenmueller,<sup>1,3,4</sup> M. Cribier,<sup>1,2</sup> A. Merle,<sup>5</sup> S. Mertens,<sup>4,5,6</sup> and M. Vivier<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Commissariat à l'Energie Atomique et aux Energies Alternatives,  
Centre de Saclay, IRFU, 91191 Gif-sur-Yvette, France  
<sup>2</sup> Astroparticule et Cosmologie APC, 10 rue Alice Domon et Léonie Duquet, 75205 Paris cedex 13, France  
<sup>3</sup> Institute for Advanced Study, Technische Universität München,  
James-Frank-Str. 1, 85748 Garching, Germany  
<sup>4</sup> Physik-Department and Excellence Cluster Universe,  
Technische Universität München, James-Frank-Str. 1, 85748 Garching  
<sup>5</sup> Max-Planck-Institut für Physik (Werner-Heisenberg-Institut), Fohringer Ring 6, 80805 München, Germany  
<sup>6</sup> Institut für Kernphysik, Karlsruher Institut für Technologie (KIT), D-76021 Karlsruhe, Germany  
(Dated: September 15, 2016)

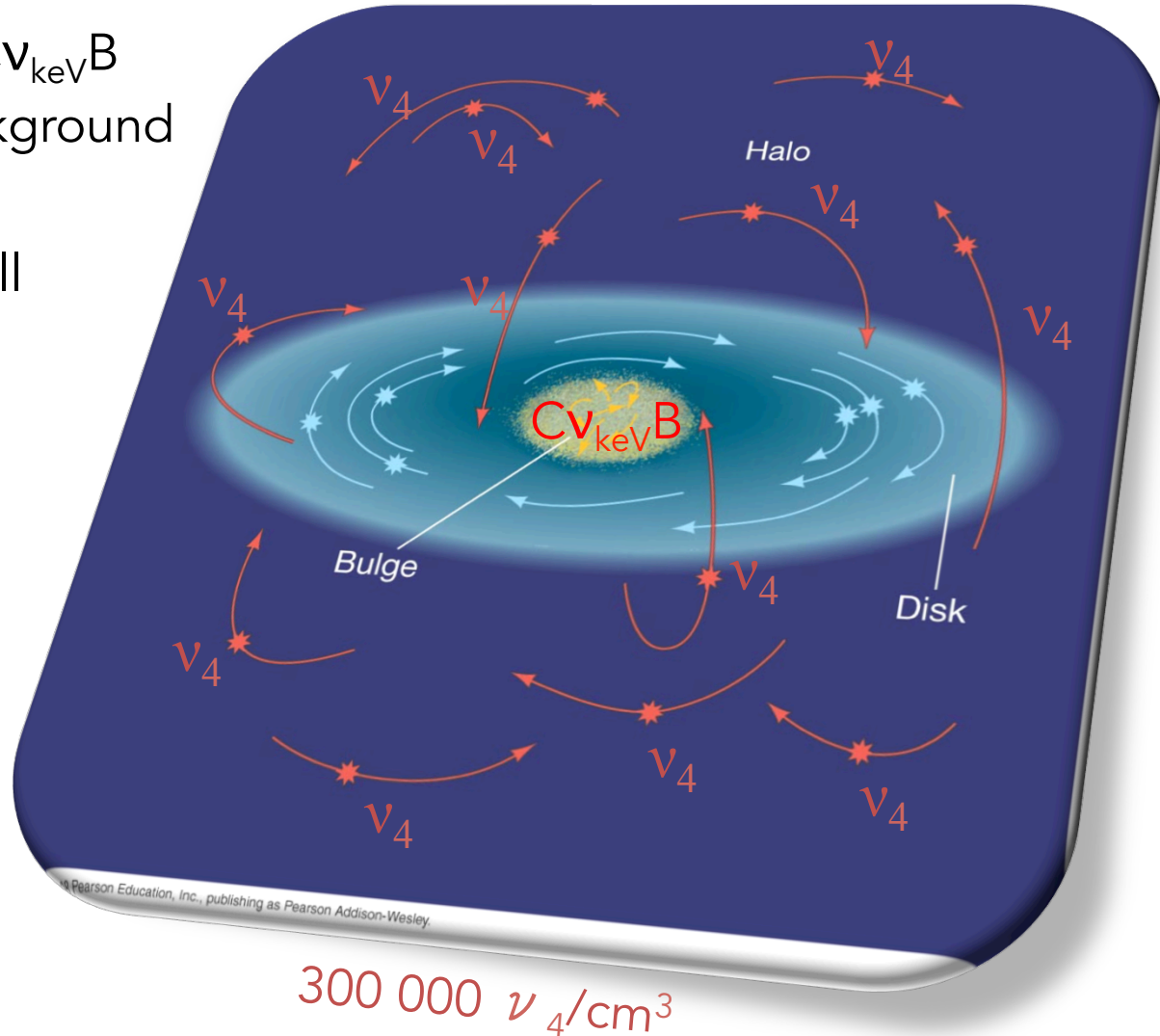
We investigate a new method to search for keV-scale sterile neutrinos that could account for Dark Matter. Neutrinos trapped in our galaxy could be captured on stable <sup>163</sup>Dy if their mass is greater than 2.83 keV. Two experimental realizations are studied, an integral counting of <sup>163</sup>Ho atoms in dysprosium-rich ores and a real-time measurement of the emerging electron spectrum in a dysprosium-based detector. The capture rates are compared to the solar neutrino and radioac- tive backgrounds. An integral counting experiment using several kilograms of <sup>163</sup>Dy could reach a sensitivity for the sterile-to-active mixing angle  $\sin^2 \theta_{41}$  of  $10^{-5}$  significantly exceeding current laboratory limits. Mixing angles as low as  $\sin^2 \theta_{41} \sim 10^{-7} / m_{163Dy}(\text{ton})$  could possibly be explored with a real-time experiment.

15 Sep 2016

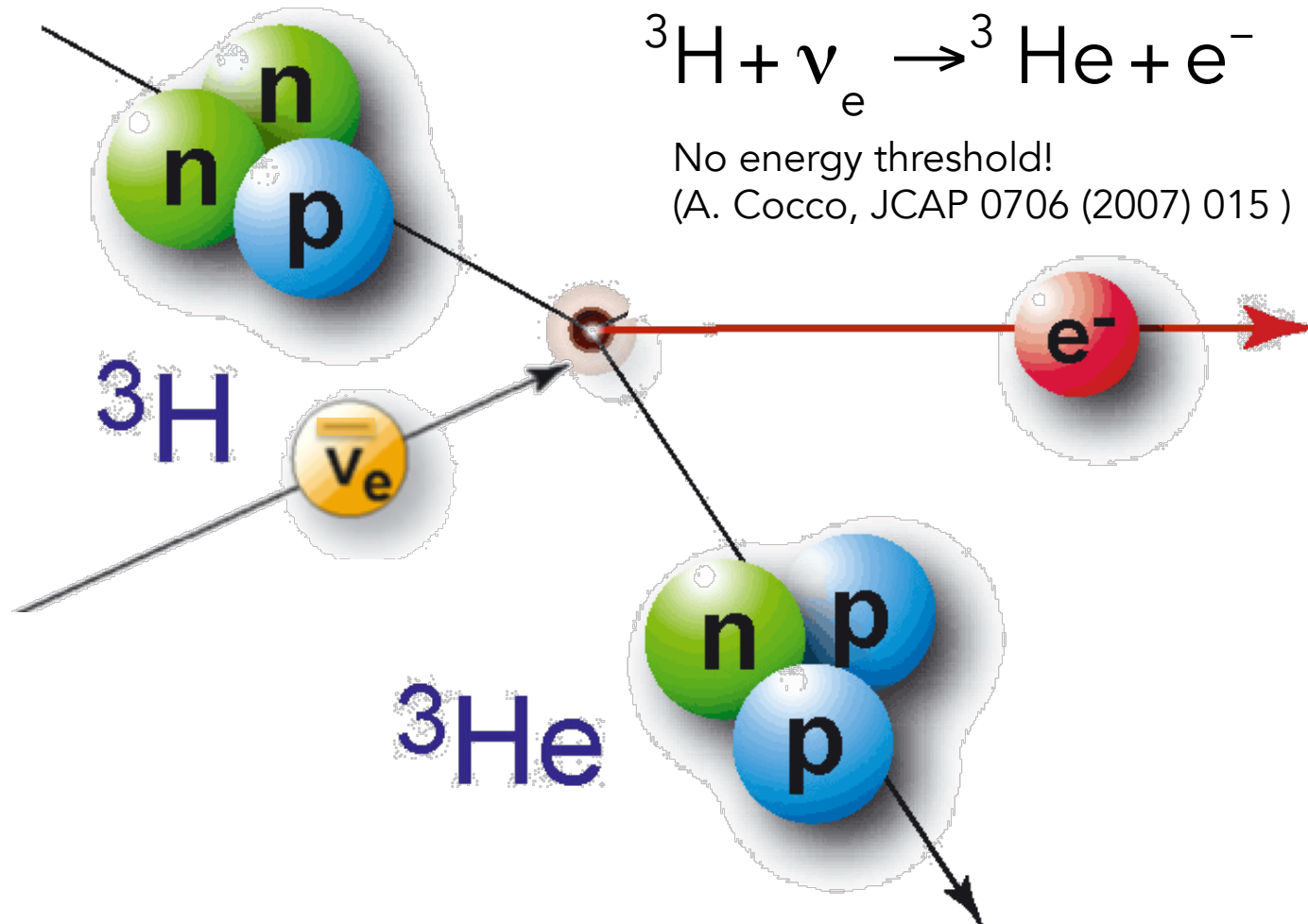
arXiv:1609.04671

**NEW**

- keV relic neutrinos =  $C\nu_{\text{keV}}B$   
Cosmic Massive  $\nu$  Background
- Cluster in potential well of Galaxies
- $n_{\nu_4} \approx 3 \cdot 10^5 / m_4 \text{ (keV)}$  per  $\text{cm}^3$
- X 1000 more than active  $C\nu B$  !
- Velocity: 220 km/s

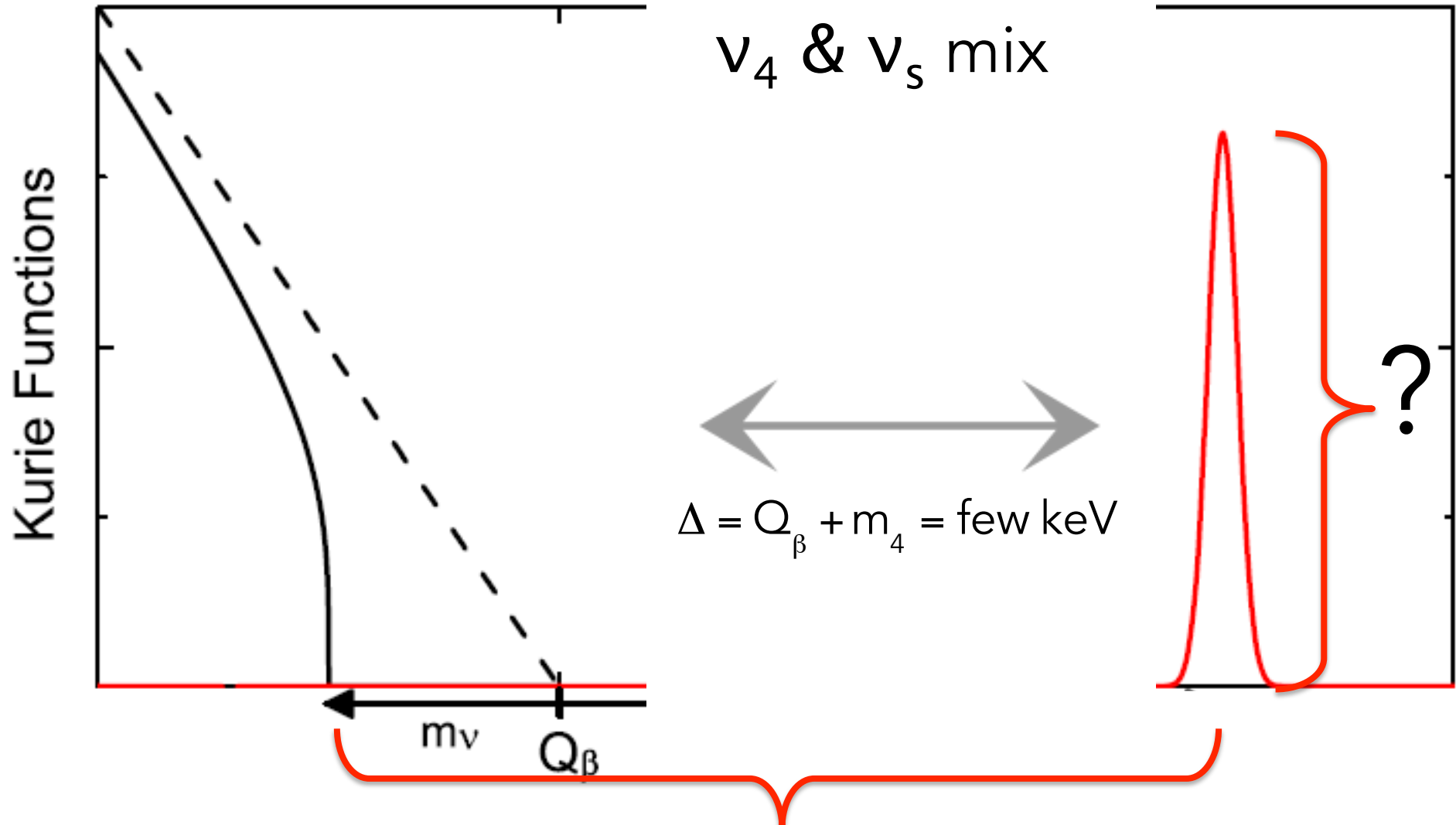


# $\nu$ -Capture on Radioactive Nuclei



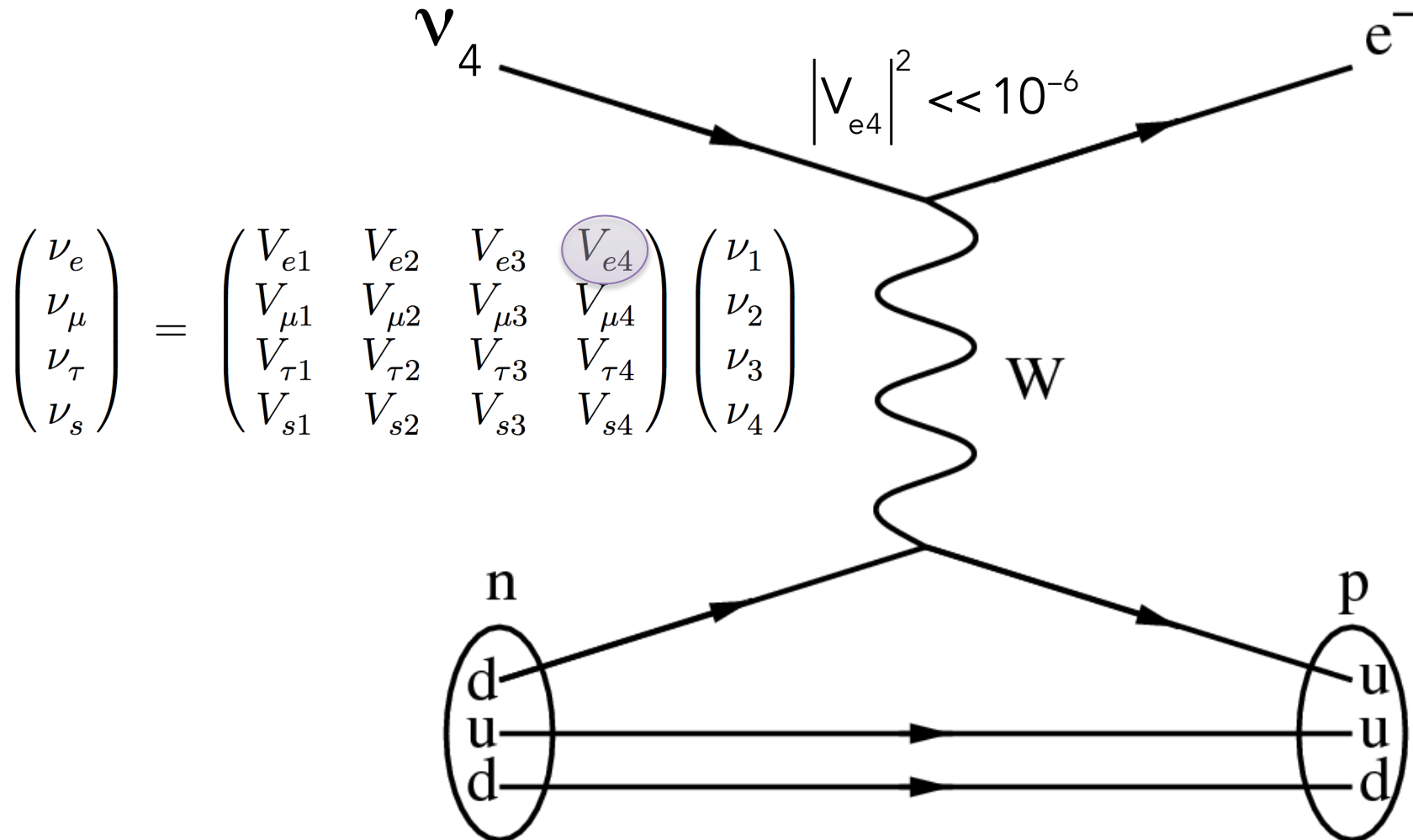
Suitable for Cosmic active/sterile  $\nu$  Background detection

# (Sterile) keV Neutrino Capture: Signal



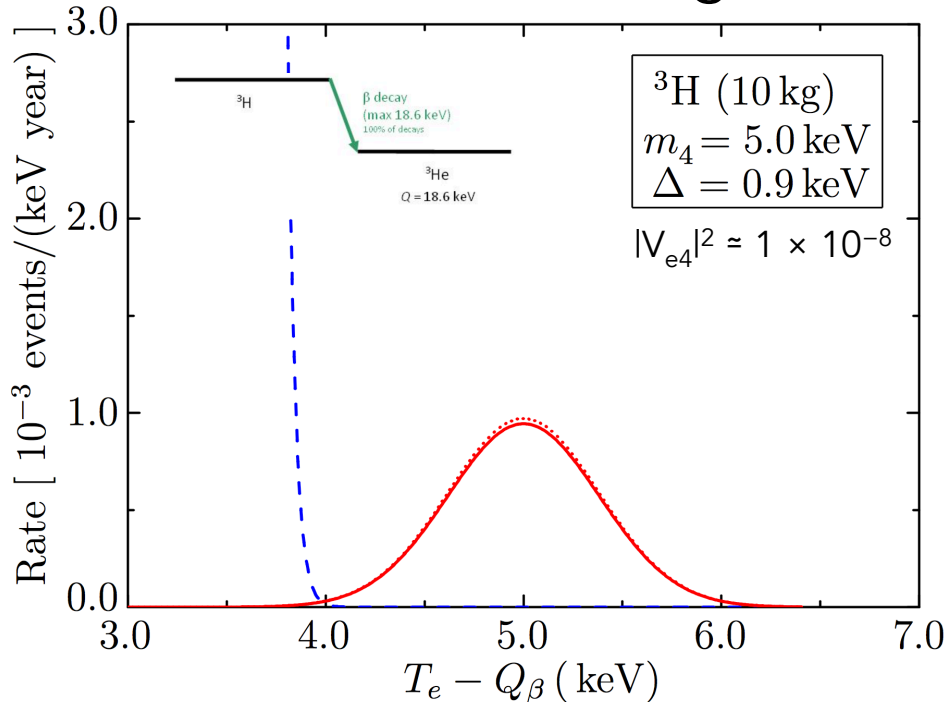
# keV Sterile Neutrino Capture: Rate

Process suppressed by the  $\nu_e$  to  $\nu_4$  mixing

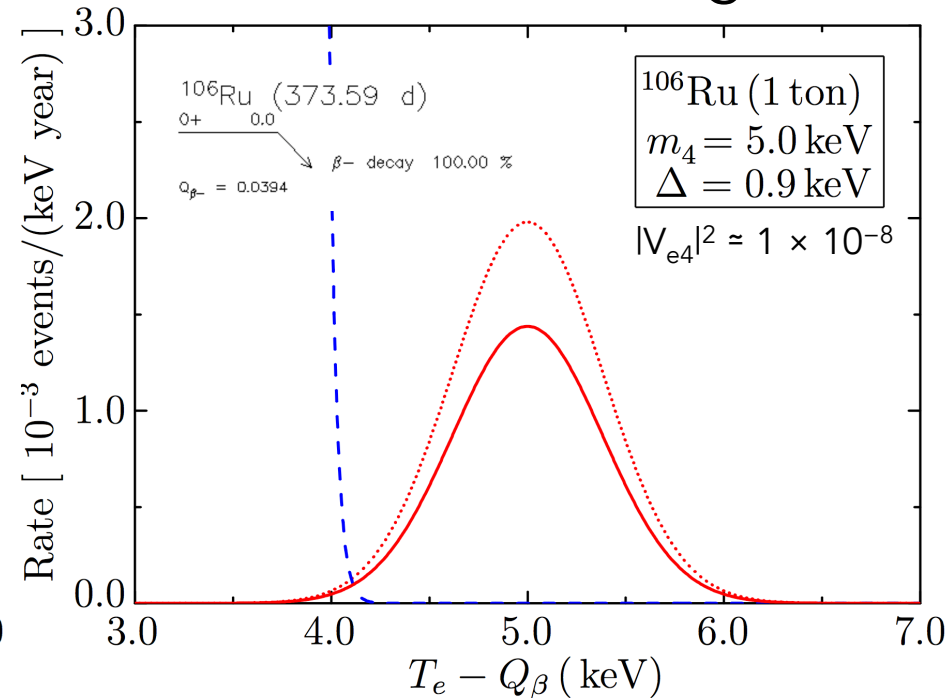


# Towards $\sin^2\Theta=10^{-8}$ with ${}^3\text{H}/{}^{106}\text{Ru}$

Tritium – 10 kg



${}^{106}\text{Ru}$  – 1000 kg



- Tritium: 50  $\mu\text{g}$  in KATRIN, ITER total inventory is 2 kg...
  - ${}^{106}\text{Ru}$ : radioactive sources produced at the level of a few g...
- beyond reasonable technological reach (major safety issues too)



~~IM~~POSSIBLE

*Capture Rate  $\infty$*

*Cross section*

*CM  $\nu$  B density & velocity*

*→ Target Mass: use a stable target...*

*→ Exposure Time: Integral search...*

*Mixing*

keV  $\nu$ -capture on a stable target

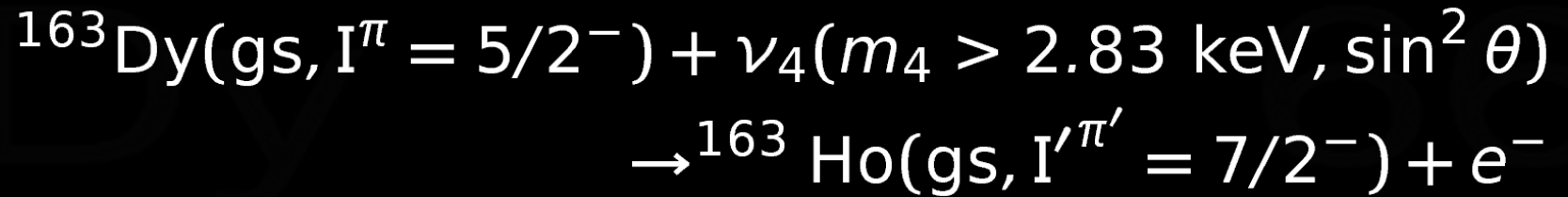
- Amount of energy available

$$Q_{\nu e\text{-capture}} = M_n(S) - M_n(D) - m_e + m_\nu = Q_{\beta^-}^{\text{tab}} + m_\nu$$

- CvB – capture process forbidden if  $Q_{\beta^-}^{\text{tab}} < 0$   
( $m_\nu < 1$  eV and tiny kinetic energy)
- Cv<sub>keV</sub>B – allowed for massive neutrinos  $-m_{\nu 4} < Q_{\beta^-}^{\text{tab}} \leq 0$   
(reaction stimulated by keV neutrino mass)

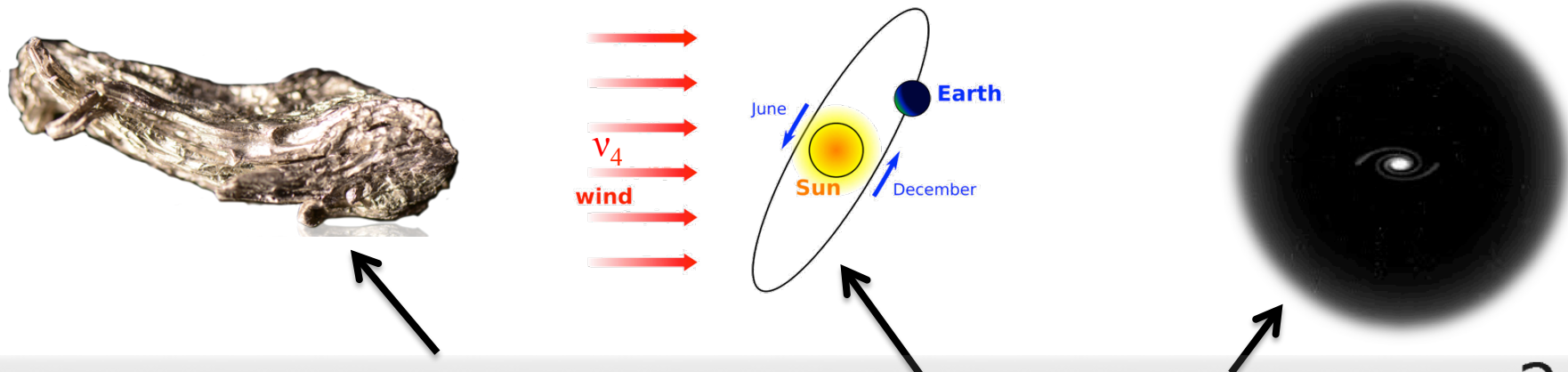


# New Target Candidate: $^{163}\text{Dy}$

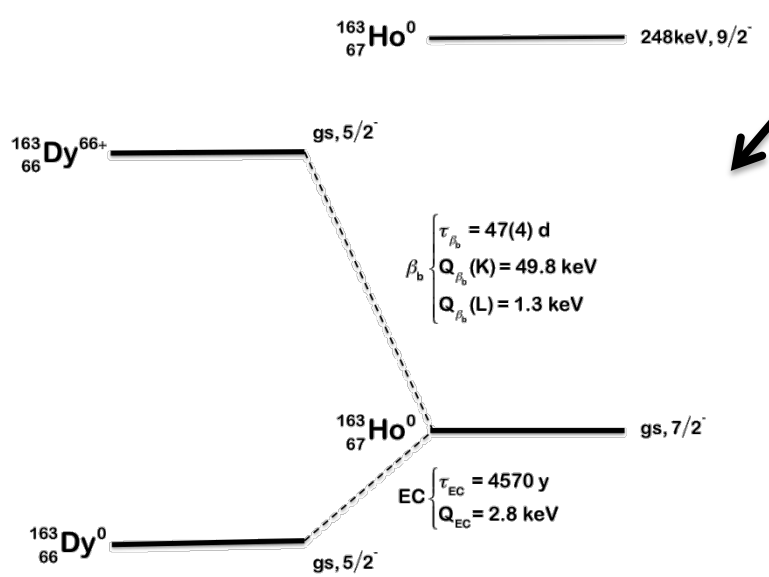


$^{163}\text{Dy}$  – 25% natural abundance

# Prompt Capture Rate



$$R_{163\text{Ho}} = N_{163\text{Dy}} \cdot \langle \sigma_c v_{v_4} \rangle \cdot n_{v_4} \cdot \sin^2 \theta$$



$$\begin{pmatrix} \nu_e \\ \nu_\mu \\ \nu_\tau \\ \nu_s \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} V_{e1} & V_{e2} & V_{e3} & V_{e4} \\ V_{\mu1} & V_{\mu2} & V_{\mu3} & V_{\mu4} \\ V_{\tau1} & V_{\tau2} & V_{\tau3} & V_{\tau4} \\ V_{s1} & V_{s2} & V_{s3} & V_{s4} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \nu_1 \\ \nu_2 \\ \nu_3 \\ \nu_4 \end{pmatrix}$$

# Prompt Capture Rate

1 ton

220km/s

$n_{\nu 4} = 3 \cdot 10^5 \frac{1 \text{keV}}{m_4} \text{cm}^{-3}$

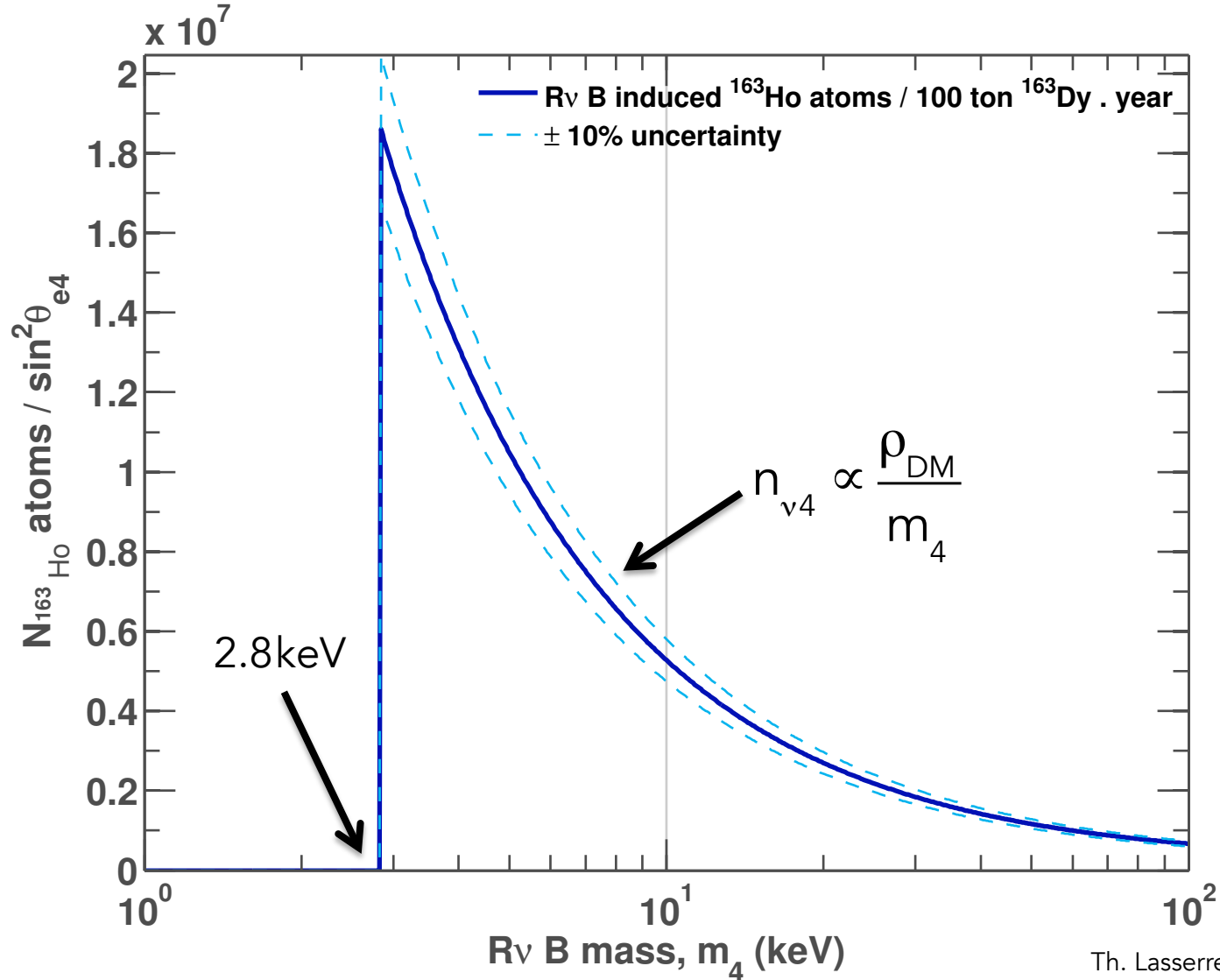
$$R_{163\text{Ho}} = N_{163\text{Dy}} \cdot \langle \sigma_C v_{\nu 4} \rangle \cdot n_{\nu 4} \cdot \sin^2 \theta$$

$\ll 10^{-3}$

$$\sigma = G_F^2 \cdot \cos^2 \theta_C / \pi \cdot |\mathcal{M}_{nucl}|^2 \cdot \frac{2I'+1}{2I+1} \cdot \left\langle \frac{c}{v_{\nu 4}} \cdot E_e \cdot p_e \cdot F(E_e) \right\rangle \text{cm}^2$$

# Prompt Capture Rate

$m_4 = 5 \text{ keV} : 10^6 \times \sin^2 \theta_{e4}$   $^{163}\text{Ho}$  atoms produced in 1 ton of  $^{163}\text{Dy}$  exposed for 10 y

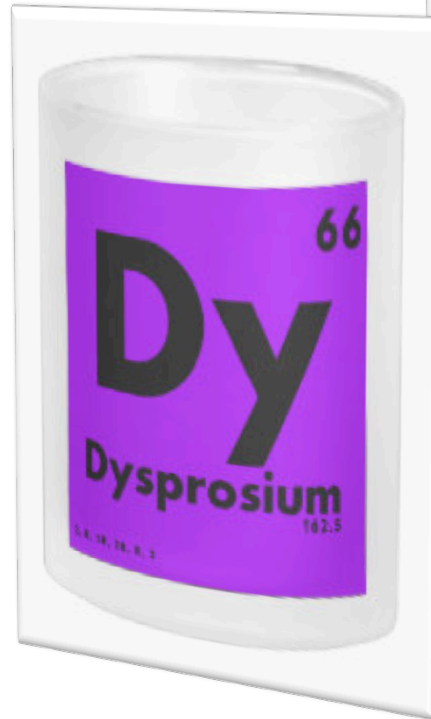


# Two Measurement Approaches

- **Integral:**  
#<sup>163</sup>Ho atom counting



- **Real-time:**  
 $Rv_{\text{keV}}B$   
e<sup>-</sup>-spectroscopy



# Integral: # $^{163}\text{Ho}$ counting



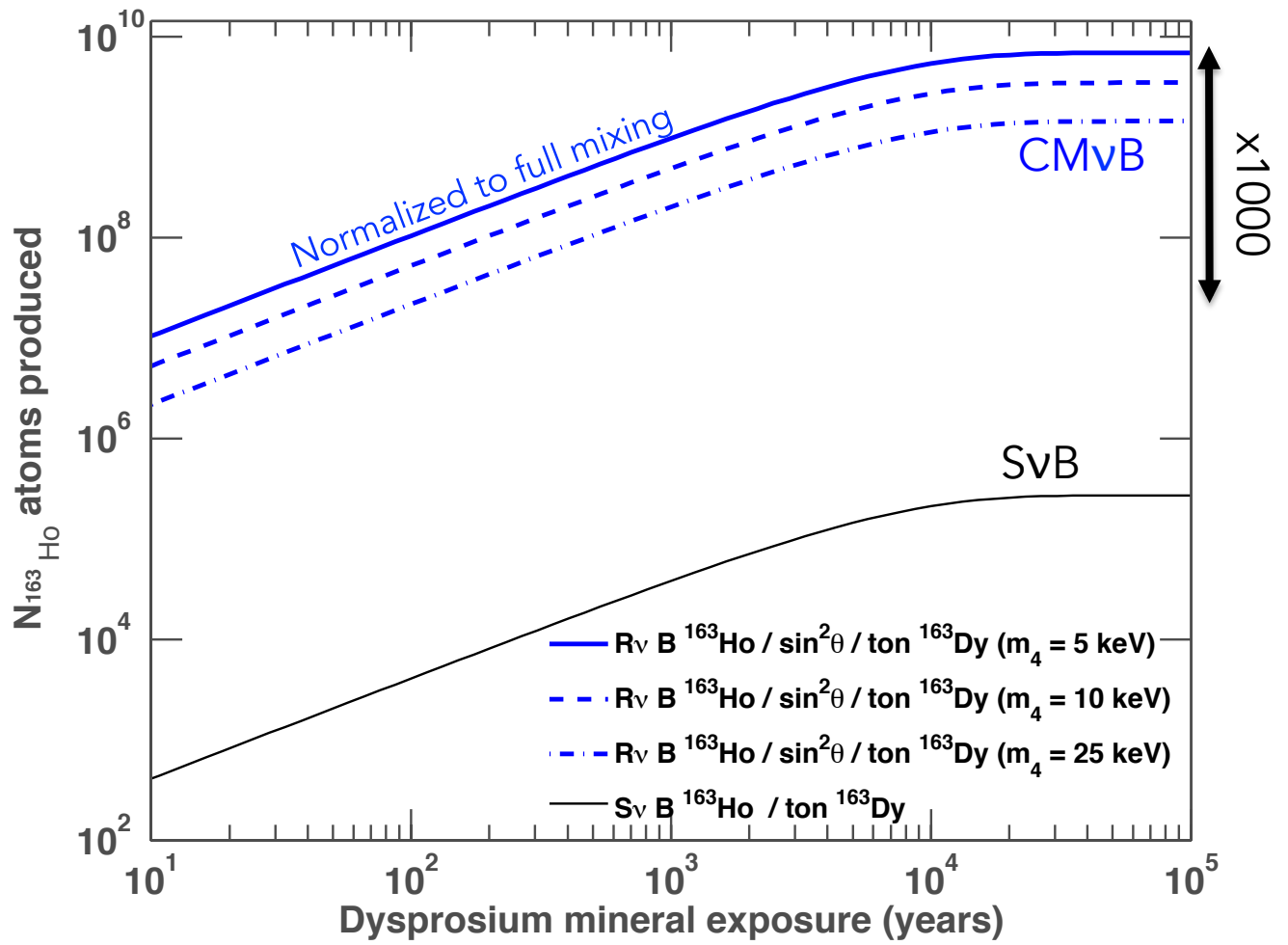
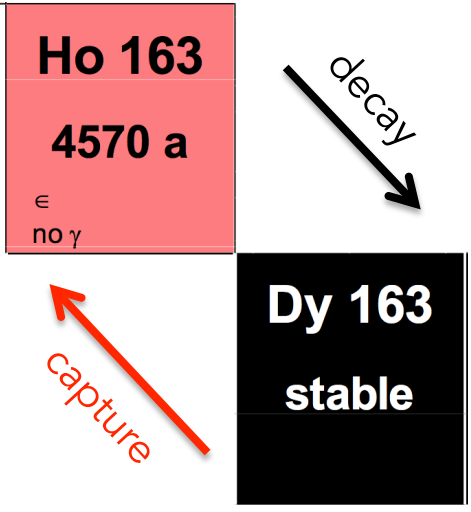
- Extract  $^{163}\text{Dy}$  from ore and count  $^{163}\text{Ho}$  atoms induced by  $C \nu_{\text{keV}} B$
- Two main advantages:
  - $^{163}\text{Dy}$  can be handled in large quantity without radiation hazard
  - $^{163}\text{Dy}$  ore is being exposed for geological times, enhancing the number of captures (x1000)
- Challenges:
  - Isolate and count low number of  $^{163}\text{Ho}$  atoms with high efficiency
  - Background: solar neutrinos, natural cosmogenic production, ...

# $^{163}\text{Ho}$ : Integral Production

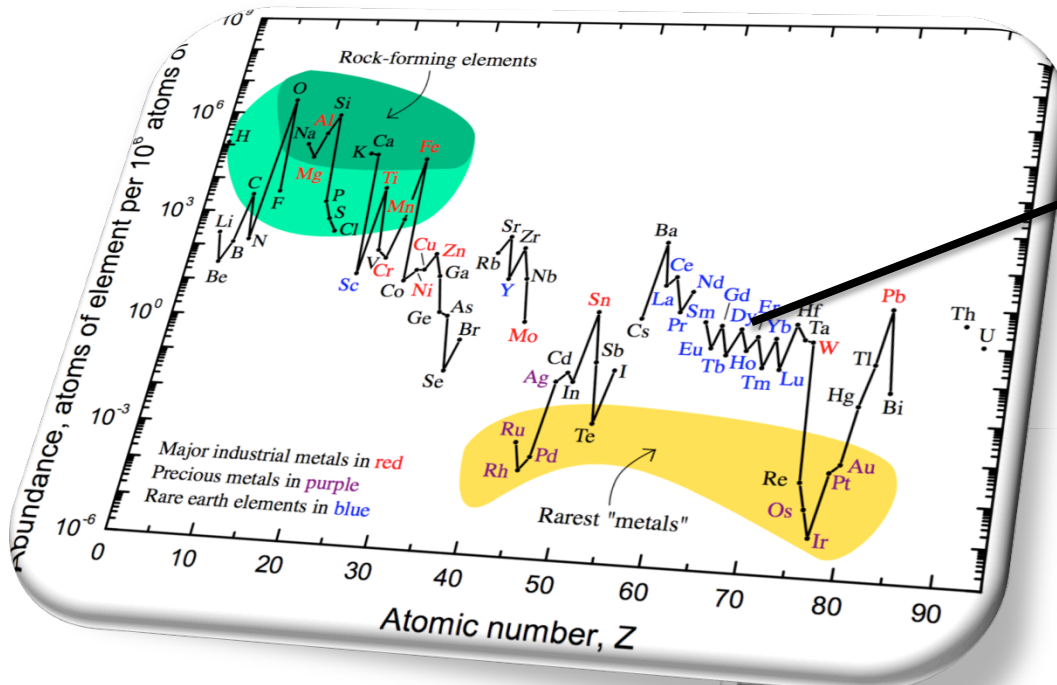


Accumulation of  $\nu$ -capture on  $^{163}\text{Dy}$  in the last 30 000 years

$$m_4 = 5 \text{ keV}: 7 \cdot 10^9 \cdot \sin^2\theta_{e4} \text{ } ^{163}\text{Ho in 1 ton of } ^{163}\text{Dy}$$



# Abundance of $^{163}\text{Dy}$ and $^{163}\text{Ho}$



Abundant Target:  
 $^{163}\text{Dy} = 25\%$  of Dy

Zero natural abundance of  $^{163}\text{Ho}$  reported in the literature...

					Yb 168 0.123 α 2400
					Tm 167 9.25 d ε; γ 532... m
Er 68	Er 162 0.139 α 19	Er 163 75 m ε; β <sup>+</sup> ... γ (1114); g	Er 164 1.601 α 13	Er 165 10.3 h ε no γ	Er 166 33.503 α 17
Ho 67			Ho 163 1.1 s α 298	Ho 164 4570 a α 337... ε	Ho 165 100 α 3.1 + 58
Dy 66	Dy 160 2.329 α 60	Dy 161 18.889 α 600	Dy 162 25.475 α 170	Dy 163 24.896 α 120	Dy 164 28.260 α 1610 + 10



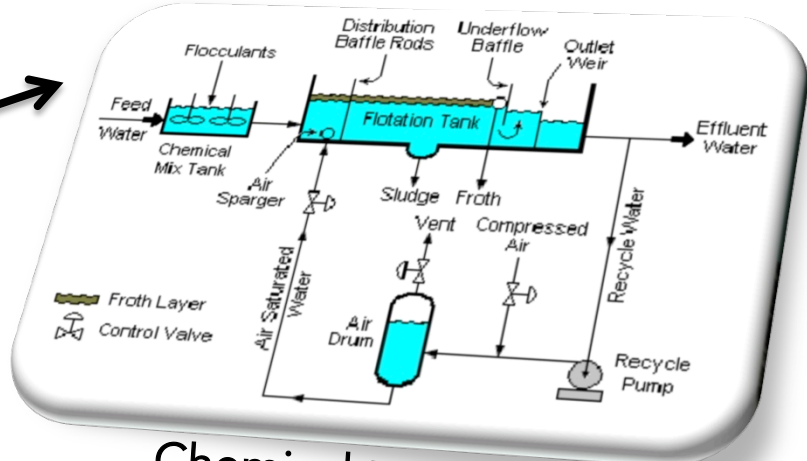
# Challenge: counting $^{163}\text{Ho}$ Atoms



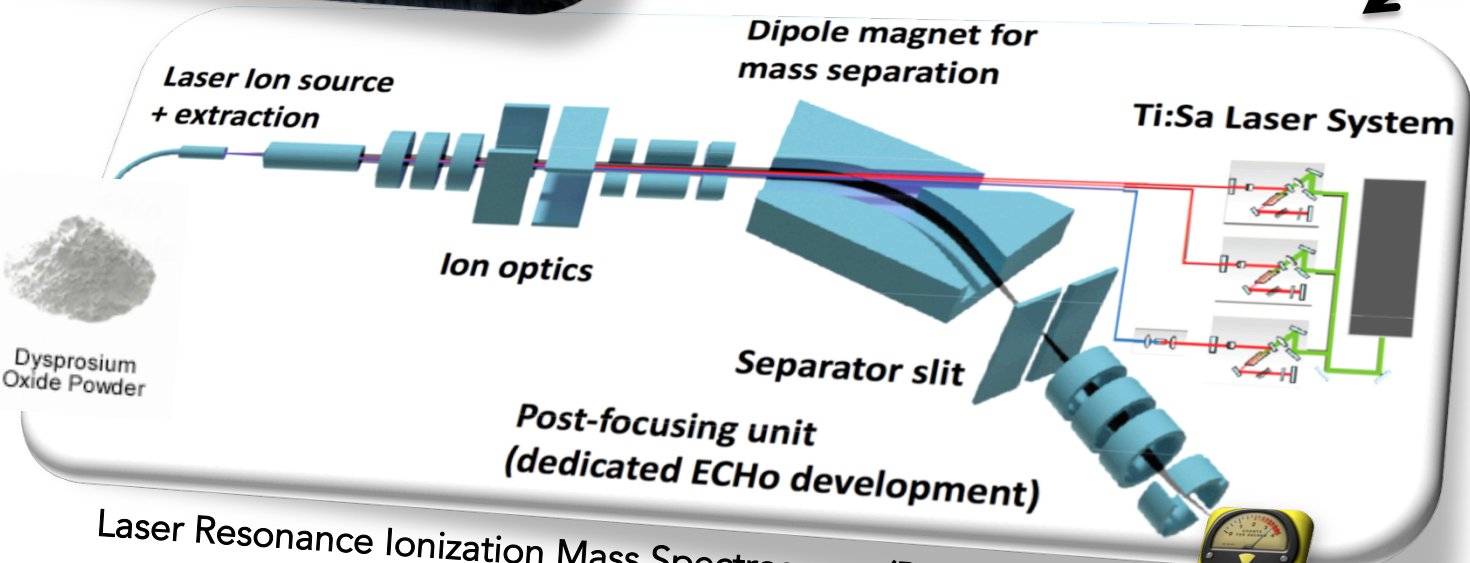
Ore extraction (underground)



$10^8 \sin^2\theta$  atoms of  $^{163}\text{Ho}$  per 1 kg of  $^{163}\text{Dy}$



Chemical treatment



Laser Resonance Ionization Mass Spectrometry (Risiko)



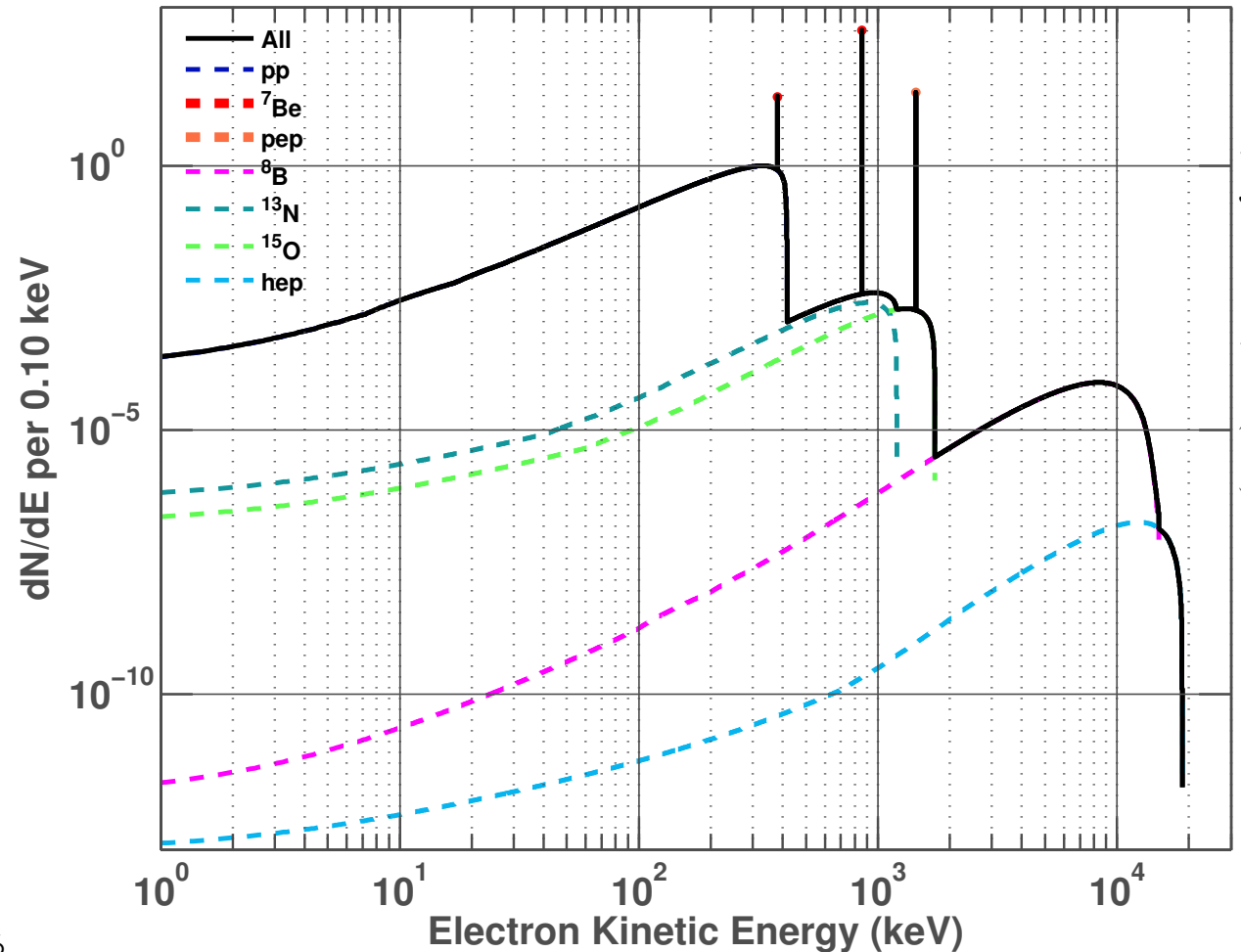
Holmiummeter-163

# Solar Neutrino Background (SvB)



Solar  $\nu$  are captured too:  $3 \cdot 10^5$   $^{163}\text{Ho}$  atoms per ton of  $^{163}\text{Dy}$

1 ton of  $^{163}\text{Dy}$  – 10 years – solar- $\nu$  capture on  $^{163}\text{Dy}$  (MSW)

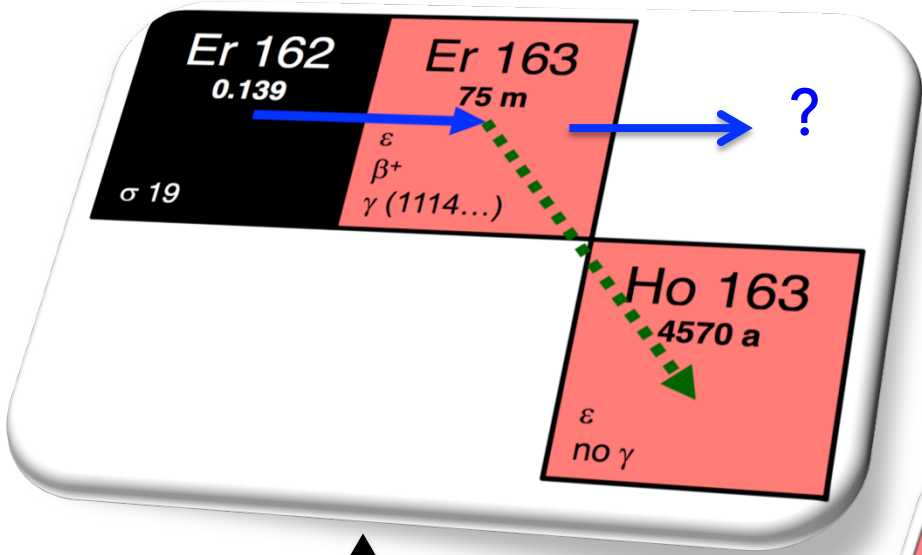


C. Bennett, Phys. Rev. C36, 1522 (1987)

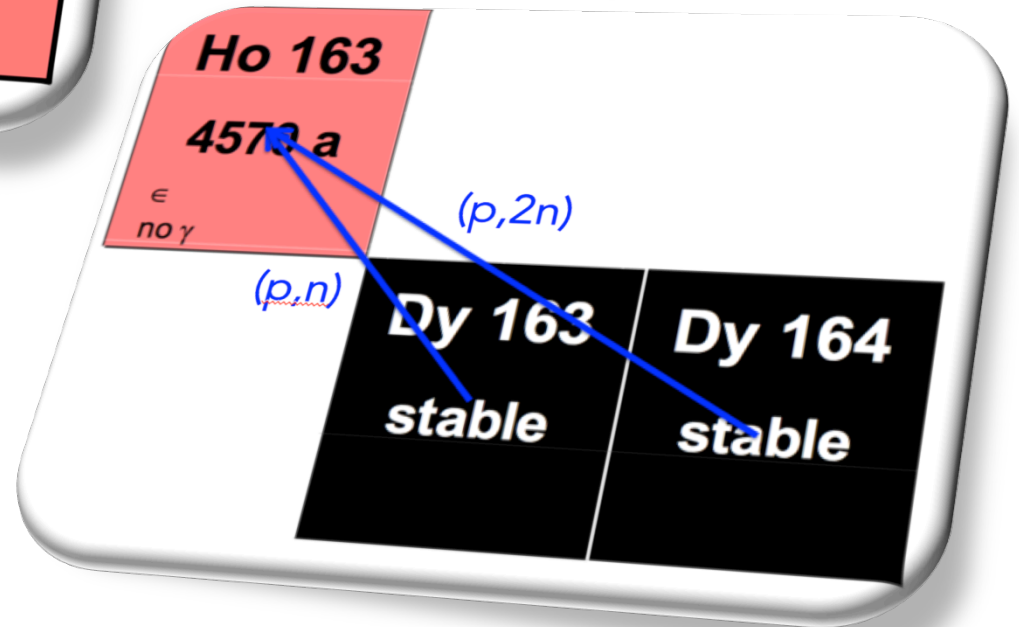
# Cosmogenic $^{163}\text{Ho}$ Production



< 1000  $^{163}\text{Ho}$  atoms per 1 ton  $^{163}\text{Dy}$  – Less than SvB/GvB

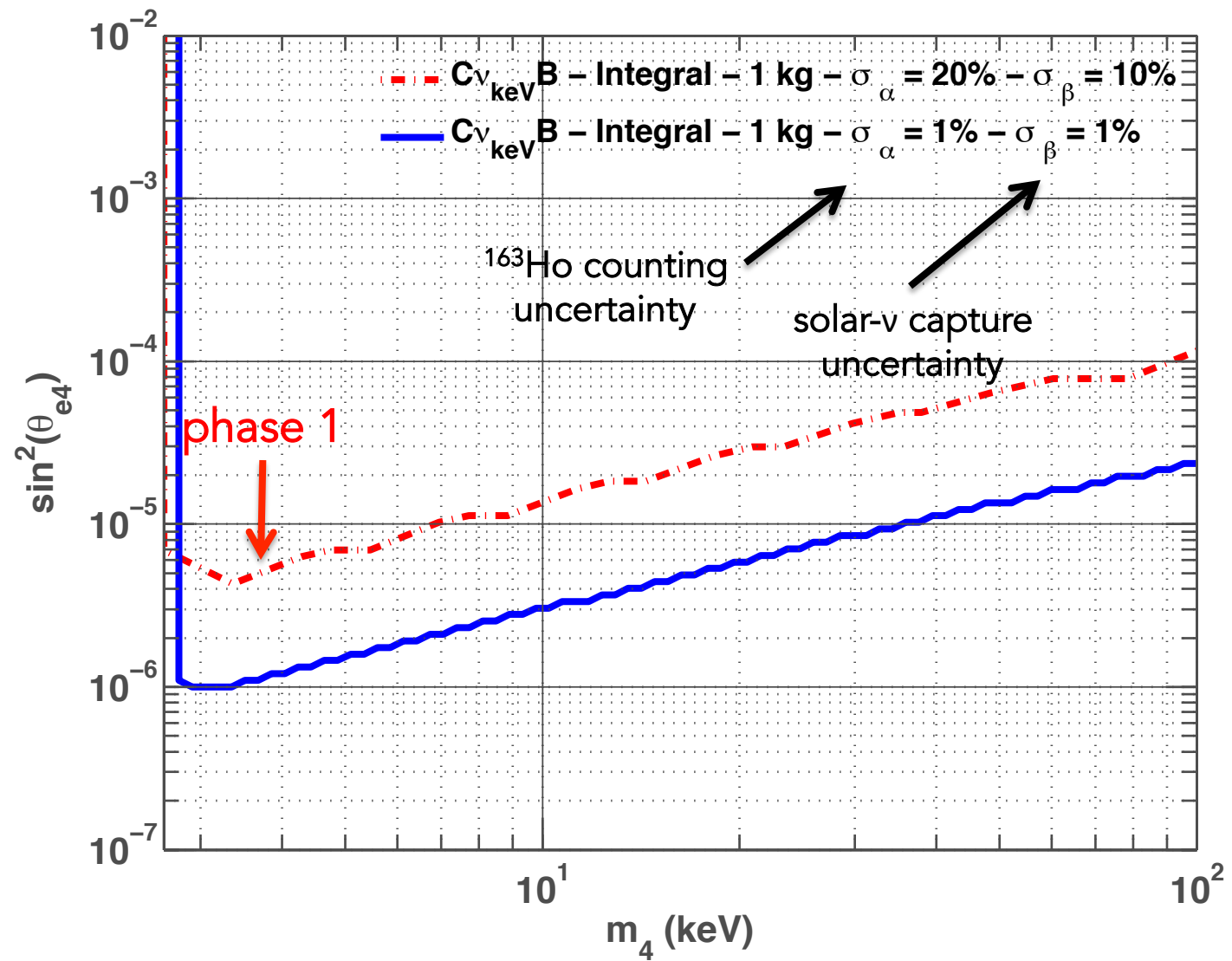


(fast, > 10 MeV)  
Proton irradiation  
Cosmic rays



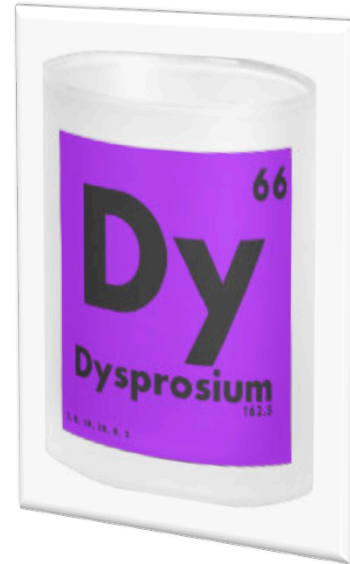
(slow, 0.025 eV)  
Neutron irradiation  
 $^{238}\text{U}$  fission

# Integral Sensitivity (preliminary)

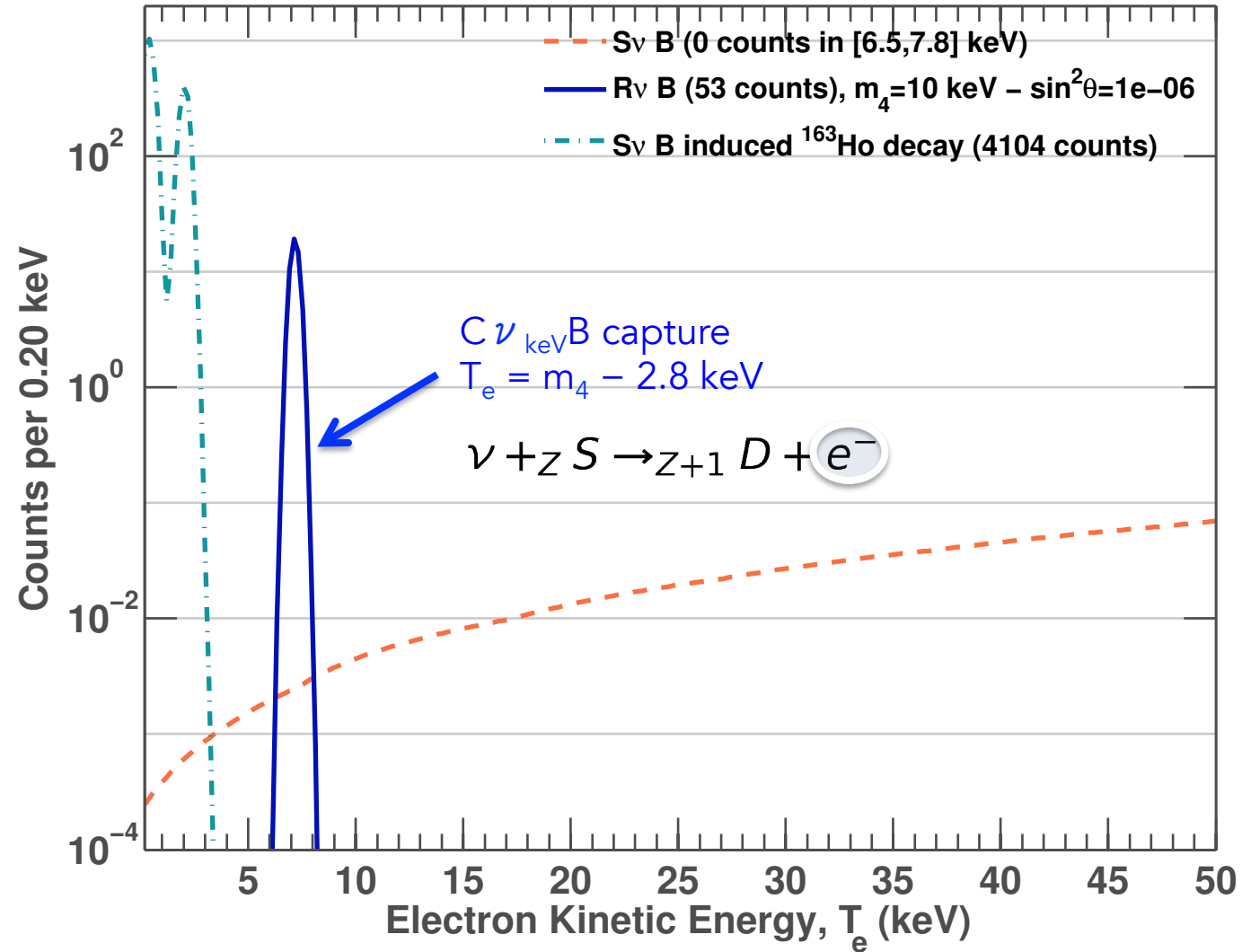
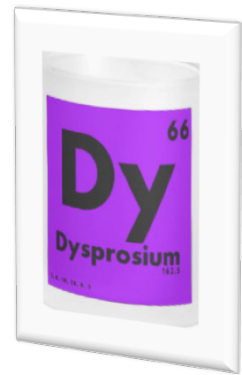


# Real-Time Approach: Concept

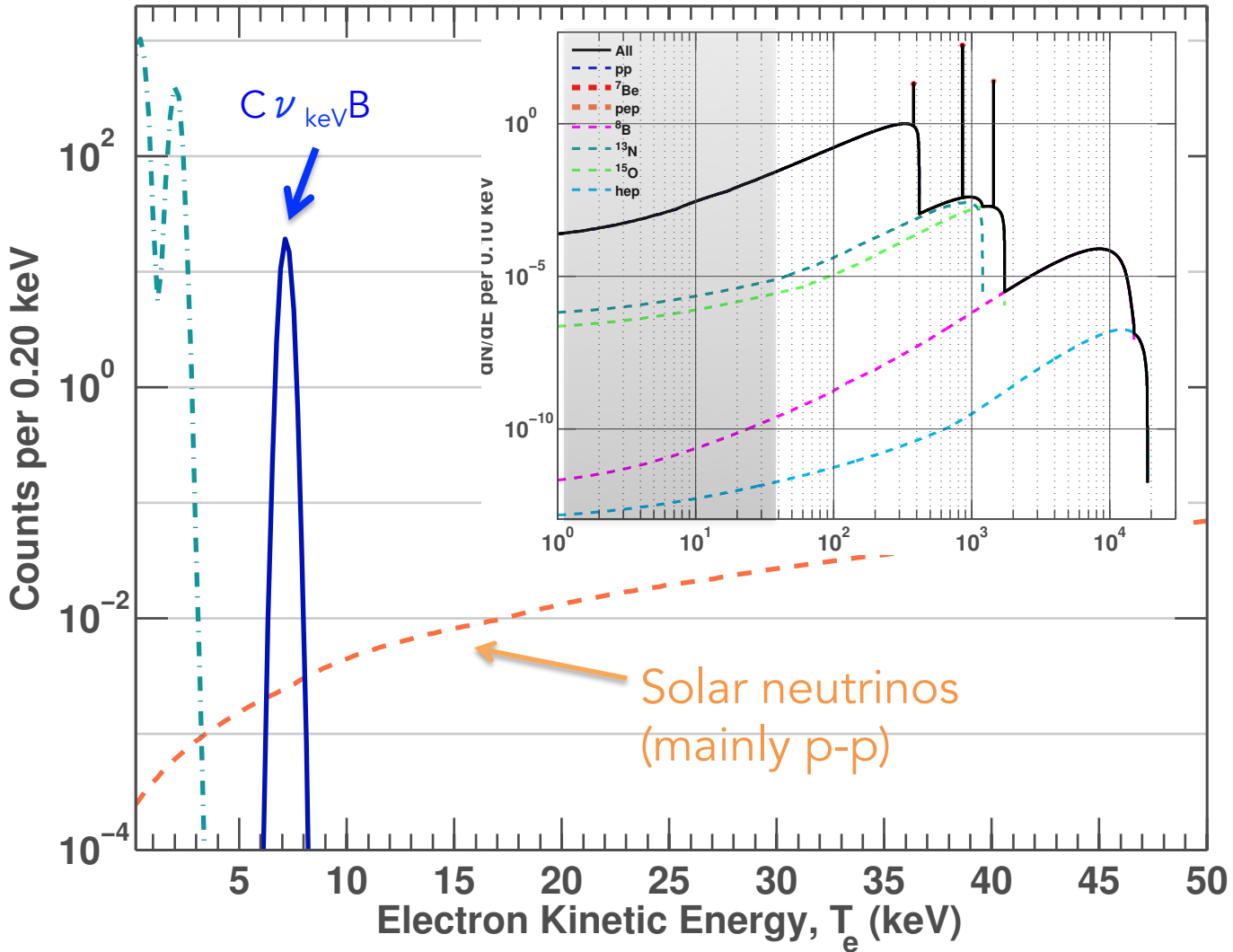
- Search for an electron peak induced by  $C \nu_{\text{keV}} B$  capture on  $^{163}\text{Dy}$  in an active Dy-based detector
  - Signature similar to  $0\nu\beta\beta$  decay
  - Energy-scale similar to Dark Matter WIMP search
- Two main advantages:
  - $S \nu B$  becomes negligible in the region of interest
  - Constrain both the sterile neutrino mass and mixing
- Challenges
  - Detector design, R&D, and realization
  - Backgrounds



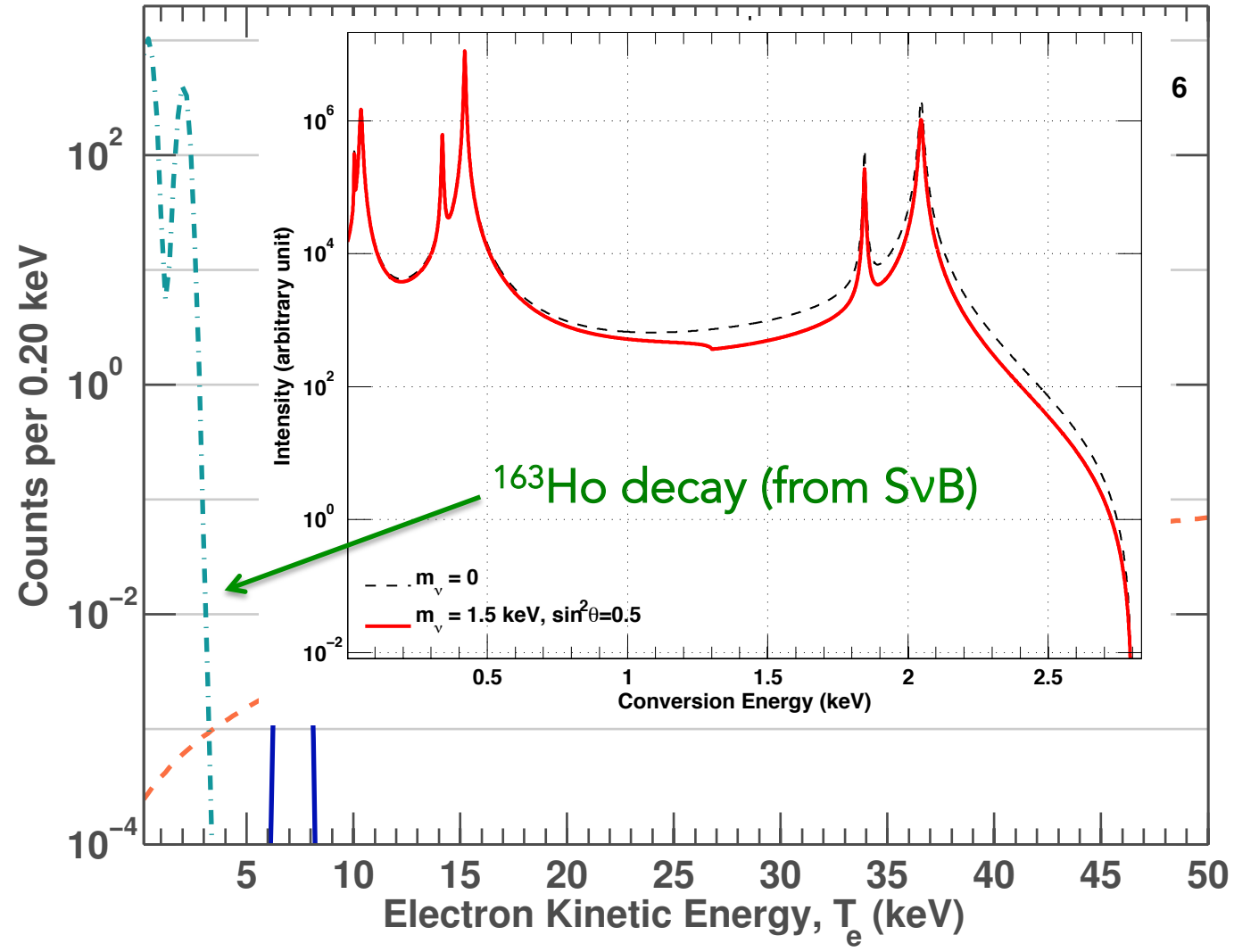
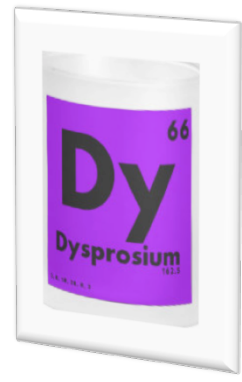
# Signal for $\sin^2\Theta=10^{-6}$



# Solar Neutrino Background

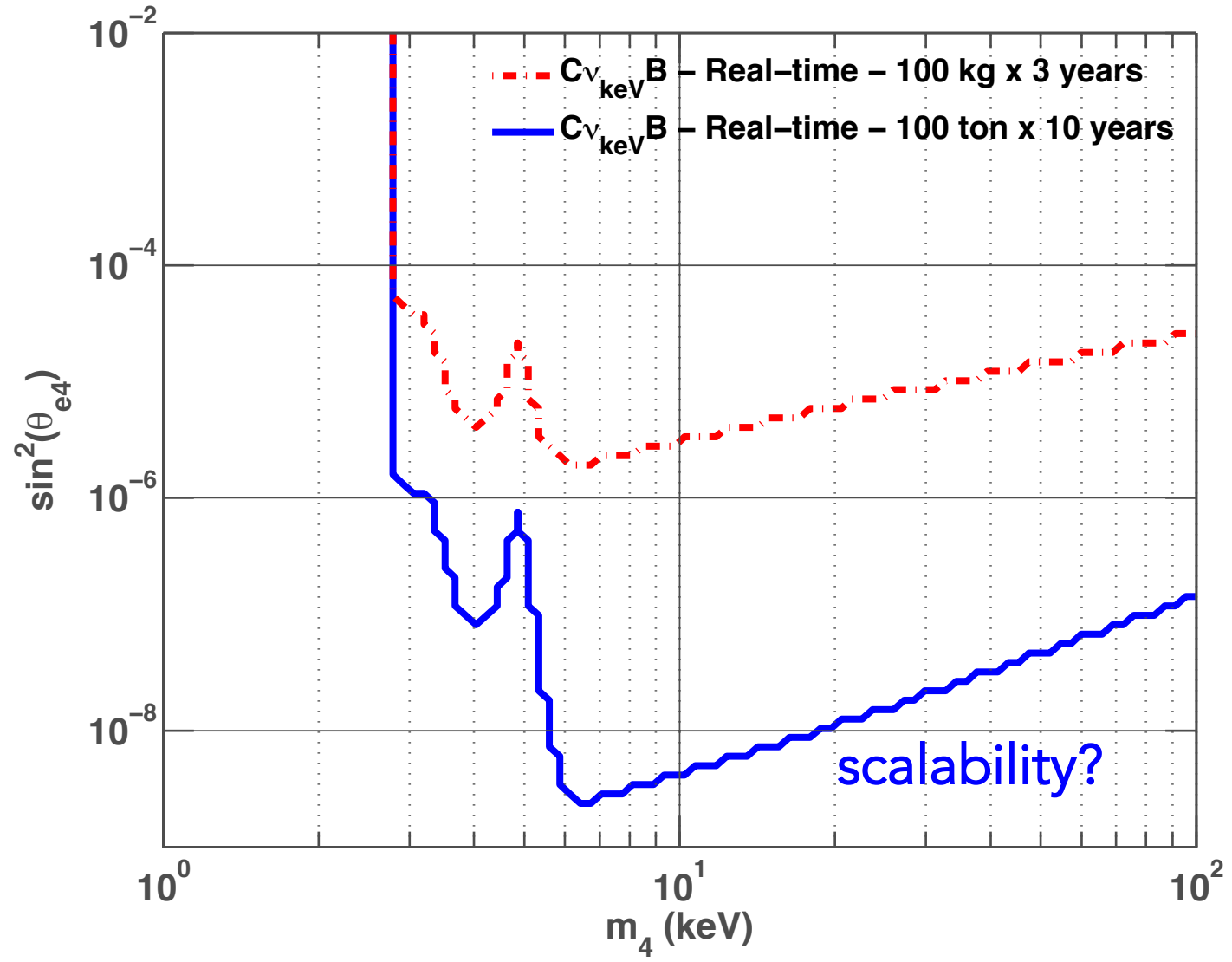
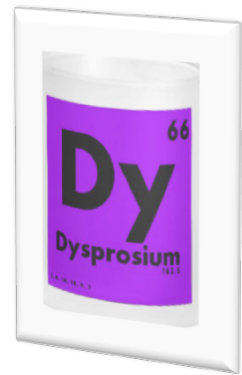


# $^{163}\text{Ho}$ Decays at low energy





# Direct Sensitivity (preliminary)



# keV-scale: Conclusions and Outlook

## Direct Search for keV Sterile Neutrino Dark Matter with a Stable Dysprosium Target

T. Lasserre,<sup>1,2,3,\*</sup> K. Altenmueller,<sup>1,3,4</sup> M. Cribier,<sup>1,2</sup> A. Merle,<sup>5</sup> S. Mertens,<sup>4,5,6</sup> and M. Vivier<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Commissariat à l'Energie Atomique et aux Energies Alternatives, Centre de Saclay, IRFU, 91191 Gif-sur-Yvette, France

<sup>2</sup> Astroparticule et Cosmologie APC, 10 rue Alice Domon et Léonie Duquet, 75205 Paris cedex 13, France

<sup>3</sup> Institute for Advanced Study, Technische Universität München, James-Franck-Str. 1, 85748 Garching, Germany

<sup>4</sup> Physik-Department and Excellence Cluster Universe, Technische Universität München, James-Franck-Str. 1, 85748 Garching

<sup>5</sup> Max-Planck-Institut für Physik (Werner-Heisenberg-Institut), Foehringer Ring 6, 80805 München, Germany

<sup>6</sup> Institut für Kernphysik, Karlsruher Institut für Technologie (KIT), D-76021 Karlsruhe, Germany

(Dated: September 15, 2016)

We investigate a new method to search for keV-scale sterile neutrinos that could account for Dark Matter. Neutrinos trapped in our galaxy could be captured on stable  $^{163}\text{Dy}$  if their mass is greater than 2.83 keV. Two experimental realizations are studied, an integral counting of  $^{163}\text{Ho}$  atoms in dysprosium-rich ores and a real-time measurement of the emerging electron spectrum in a dysprosium-based detector. The capture rates are compared to the solar neutrino and radioactive backgrounds. An integral counting experiment using several kilograms of  $^{163}\text{Dy}$  could reach a sensitivity for the sterile-to-active mixing angle  $\sin^2 \theta_{e4}$  of  $10^{-5}$  significantly exceeding current laboratory limits. Mixing angles as low as  $\sin^2 \theta_{e4} \sim 10^{-7}$  /  $m_{163\text{Dy}}$ (ton) could possibly be explored with a real-time experiment.

15 Sep 2016



$^{163}\text{Ho}$	Integral per ton of $^{163}\text{Dy}$	Real-time per ton of $^{163}\text{Dy}$ per 10y
Cosmic keV $\nu$ $\sin^2 \theta = 10^{-5}$	$10^5$	500
Solar $\nu$	$10^5$	<1
Geo- $\nu$	<1	<<1
$^{163}\text{Ho}_{\text{nat}}$	<1000	---

