

# Beyond Standard Model Neutrino Studies with Rare Isotopes in Quantum Sensors

---

Kyle Leach  
Colorado School of Mines

Developing New Directions in Fundamental Physics (DND)  
New Physics with Radioactives

November 5, 2020

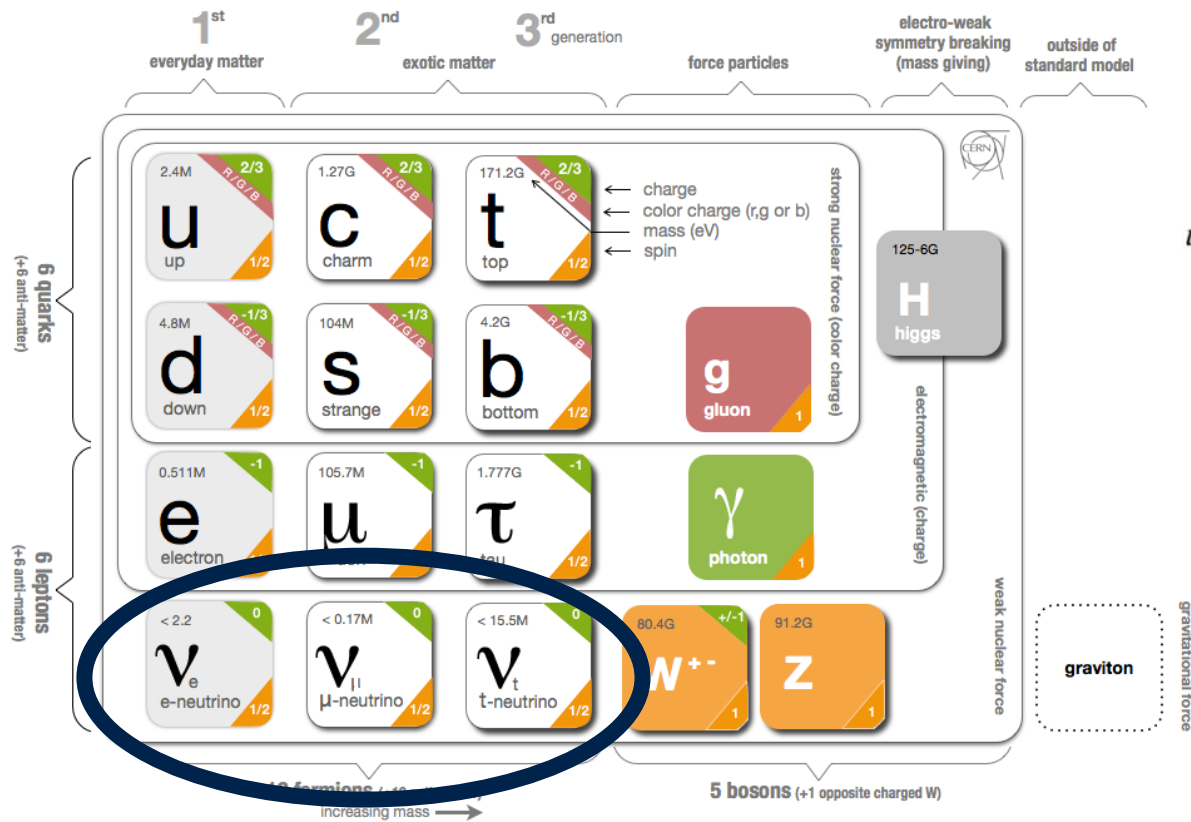


[beest.mines.edu](http://beest.mines.edu)

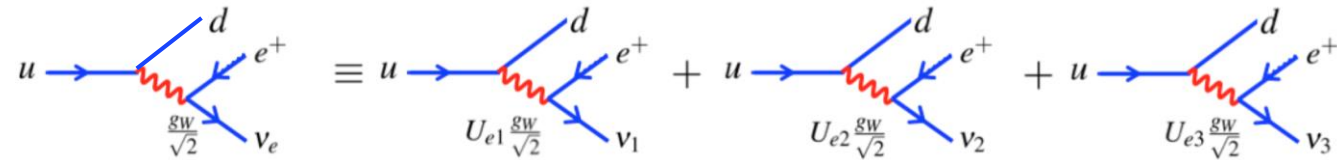
# Neutrinos in the Standard Model

- In the SM, there are three generations of neutrino that are defined in terms of their weak-interaction eigenstates.

- These weak interaction eigenstates are not equal to the mass eigenstates, and are related via a unitary transformation – the PMNS matrix (analogous to CKM).



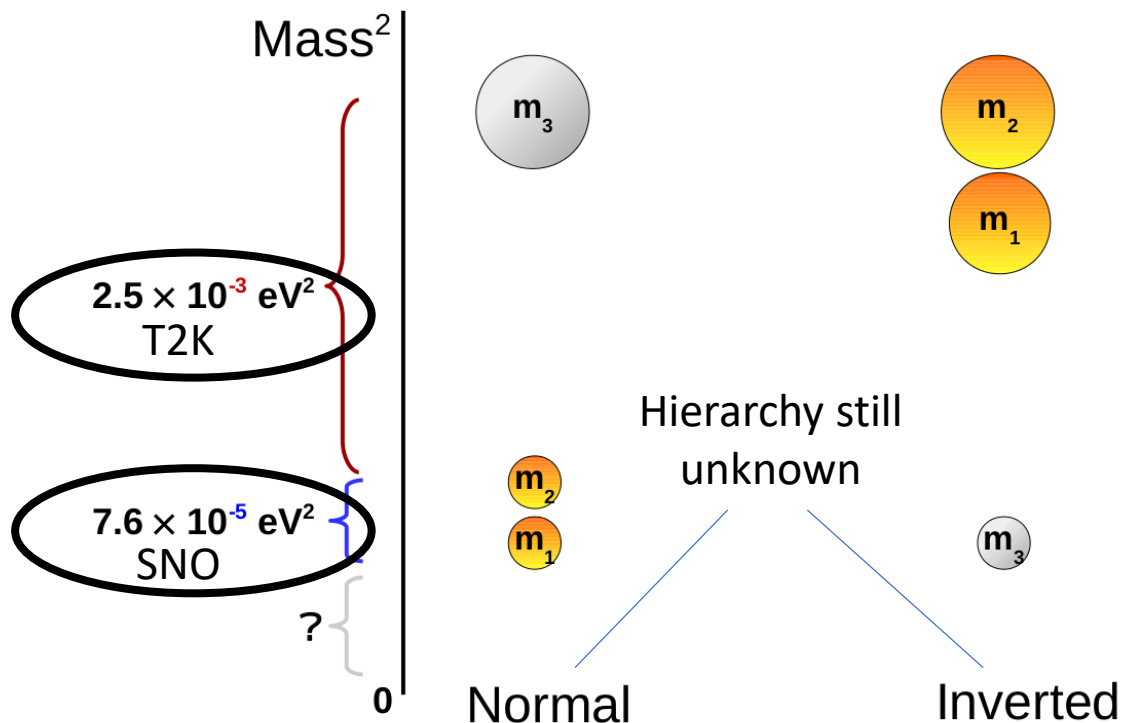
$$\begin{pmatrix} \nu_e \\ \nu_\mu \\ \nu_\tau \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} U_{e1} & U_{e2} & U_{e3} \\ U_{\mu1} & U_{\mu2} & U_{\mu3} \\ U_{\tau1} & U_{\tau2} & U_{\tau3} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \nu_1 \\ \nu_2 \\ \nu_3 \end{pmatrix}$$



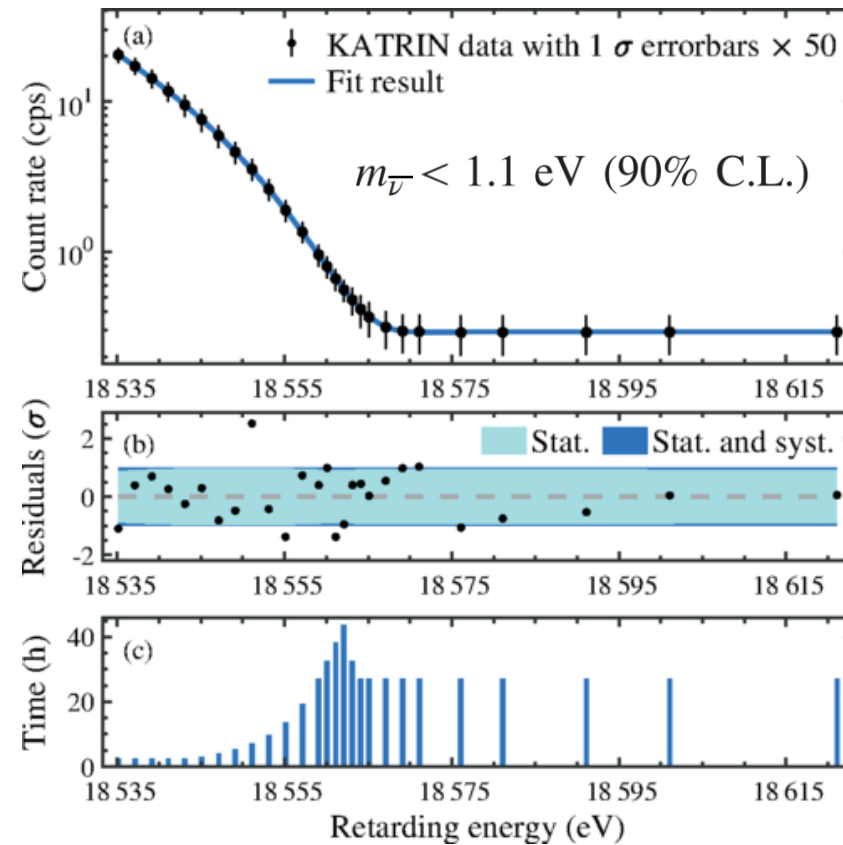
- Unlike the CKM matrix in the quark sector, the PMNS matrix is not diagonal, and shows significant mixing – the origin of which has garnered much speculation.
- This is known as the flavour puzzle, and is one of the big open questions in subatomic physics.

# Neutrino Masses: What do (we think) we Know?

## Neutrino Mass Splittings (Oscillation Experiments)



## Absolute anti-neutrino mass limits ( $\beta^-$ Decay Experiments)



KATRIN Collaboration, PRL **123**, 221802 (2019)

# BSM Physics in the Neutrino Sector

Oscillation experiments have been a powerhouse for neutrino physics studies for nearly 30 years  
 ....but precision  $\beta$  decay measurements are catching up

## Massive Neutrinos!

VOLUME 81, NUMBER 8 PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS 24 AUGUST 1998

### Evidence for Oscillation of Atmospheric Neutrinos

VOLUME 87, NUMBER 7 PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS 13 AUGUST 2001

### Measurement of the Rate of $\nu_e + d \rightarrow p + p + e^-$ Interactions Produced by $^8\text{B}$ Solar Neutrinos at the Sudbury Neutrino Observatory

## The Nobel Prize in Physics 2015

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has decided to award the Nobel Prize in Physics for 2015 to

Takaaki Kajita

Super-Kamiokande Collaboration  
 University of Tokyo, Kashiwa, Japan

Arthur B. McDonald

Sudbury Neutrino Observatory Collaboration  
 Queen's University, Kingston, Canada



© Nobel Media AB. Photo: A. Malmqvist  
 Takaaki Kajita  
 Prize share: 1/2

© Nobel Media AB. Photo: A. Malmqvist  
 Arthur B. McDonald  
 Prize share: 1/2

"for the discovery of neutrino oscillations, which shows that neutrinos have mass"

## Discovery of eV Sterile Neutrinos?

VOLUME 77, NUMBER 15 PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS 7 OCTOBER 1996

### Evidence for $\bar{\nu}_\mu \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_e$ Oscillations from the LSND Experiment at the Los Alamos Meson Physics Facility

C. Athanassopoulos,<sup>12</sup> L. B. Auerbach,<sup>12</sup> R. L. Burman,<sup>7</sup> I. Cohen,<sup>6</sup> D. O. Caldwell,<sup>3</sup> B. D. Dieterle,<sup>10</sup> J. B. Donahue,<sup>7</sup> A. M. Eisner,<sup>4</sup> A. Fazely,<sup>11</sup> F. J. Federspiel,<sup>7</sup> G. T. Garvey,<sup>7</sup> M. Gray,<sup>3</sup> R. M. Gunasingha,<sup>8</sup> R. Imlay,<sup>8</sup> K. Johnston,<sup>9</sup> H. J. Kim,<sup>8</sup> W. C. Louis,<sup>7</sup> R. Majkic,<sup>12</sup> J. Margulies,<sup>12</sup> K. McIlhany,<sup>1</sup> W. Metcalf,<sup>8</sup> G. B. Mills,<sup>7</sup> R. A. Reeder,<sup>10</sup> V. Sandberg,<sup>7</sup> D. Smith,<sup>5</sup> I. Stancu,<sup>1</sup> W. Strossman,<sup>1</sup> R. Tayloe,<sup>7</sup> G. J. VanDalen,<sup>1</sup> W. Vernon,<sup>2,4</sup> N. Wadia,<sup>8</sup> J. Waltz,<sup>5</sup> Y.-X. Wang,<sup>4</sup> D. H. White,<sup>7</sup> D. Works,<sup>12</sup> Y. Xiao,<sup>12</sup> S. Yellin<sup>3</sup>  
 LSND Collaboration

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS 121, 221801 (2018)

Editors' Suggestion Featured in Physics

### Significant Excess of Electronlike Events in the MiniBooNE Short-Baseline Neutrino Experiment

A. A. Aguilar-Arevalo,<sup>13</sup> B. C. Brown,<sup>6</sup> L. Bugel,<sup>12</sup> G. Cheng,<sup>5</sup> J. M. Conrad,<sup>12</sup> R. L. Cooper,<sup>10,15</sup> R. Dharmapalan,<sup>1,2</sup> A. Diaz,<sup>12</sup> Z. Djuric,<sup>2</sup> D. A. Finley,<sup>6</sup> R. Ford,<sup>6</sup> F. G. Garcia,<sup>6</sup> G. T. Garvey,<sup>10</sup> J. Grange,<sup>7</sup> E.-C. Huang,<sup>10</sup> W. Huelsnitz,<sup>10</sup> C. Ignarra,<sup>12</sup> R. A. Johnson,<sup>3</sup> G. Karagiorgi,<sup>5</sup> T. Katori,<sup>12,16</sup> T. Kobilarcik,<sup>6</sup> W. C. Louis,<sup>10</sup> C. Mariani,<sup>19</sup> W. Marsh,<sup>6</sup> G. B. Mills,<sup>10,\*</sup> J. Mirabal,<sup>10</sup> J. Monroe,<sup>18</sup> C. D. Moore,<sup>6</sup> J. Mousseau,<sup>14</sup> P. Nienaber,<sup>17</sup> J. Nowak,<sup>9</sup> B. Osmanov,<sup>7</sup> Z. Pavlovic,<sup>6</sup> D. Perevalov,<sup>6</sup> H. Ray,<sup>7</sup> B. P. Roe,<sup>14</sup> A. D. Russell,<sup>6</sup> M. H. Shaevitz,<sup>5</sup> J. Spitz,<sup>14</sup> I. Stancu,<sup>1</sup> R. Tayloe,<sup>8</sup> R. T. Thornton,<sup>10</sup> M. Tzanov,<sup>4,11</sup> R. G. Van de Water,<sup>10</sup> D. H. White,<sup>10,\*</sup> D. A. Wickremasinghe,<sup>3</sup> and E. D. Zimmerman<sup>4</sup>

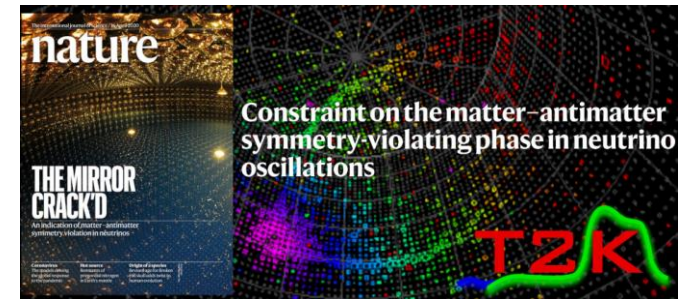
(MiniBooNE Collaboration)

## Combined LSND and MiniBooNE fit:

$$\Delta m^2 = 0.041 \text{ eV}^2 @ 6.0\sigma$$

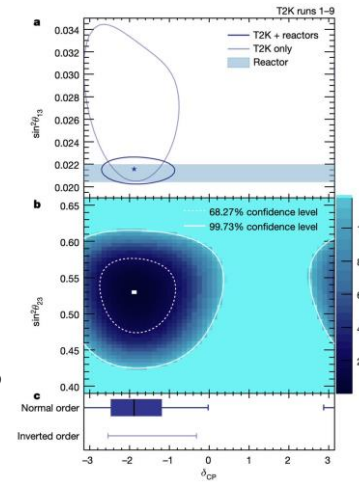
## Hints of CP Violation?

Nature 580, 339–344 (2020)



- $\delta_{\text{CP}} = 0$  or  $\pi$ , excluded @ 95% C.L

- $3\sigma$  limits on  $\delta_{\text{CP}}$





# “The Era of Anomalies”

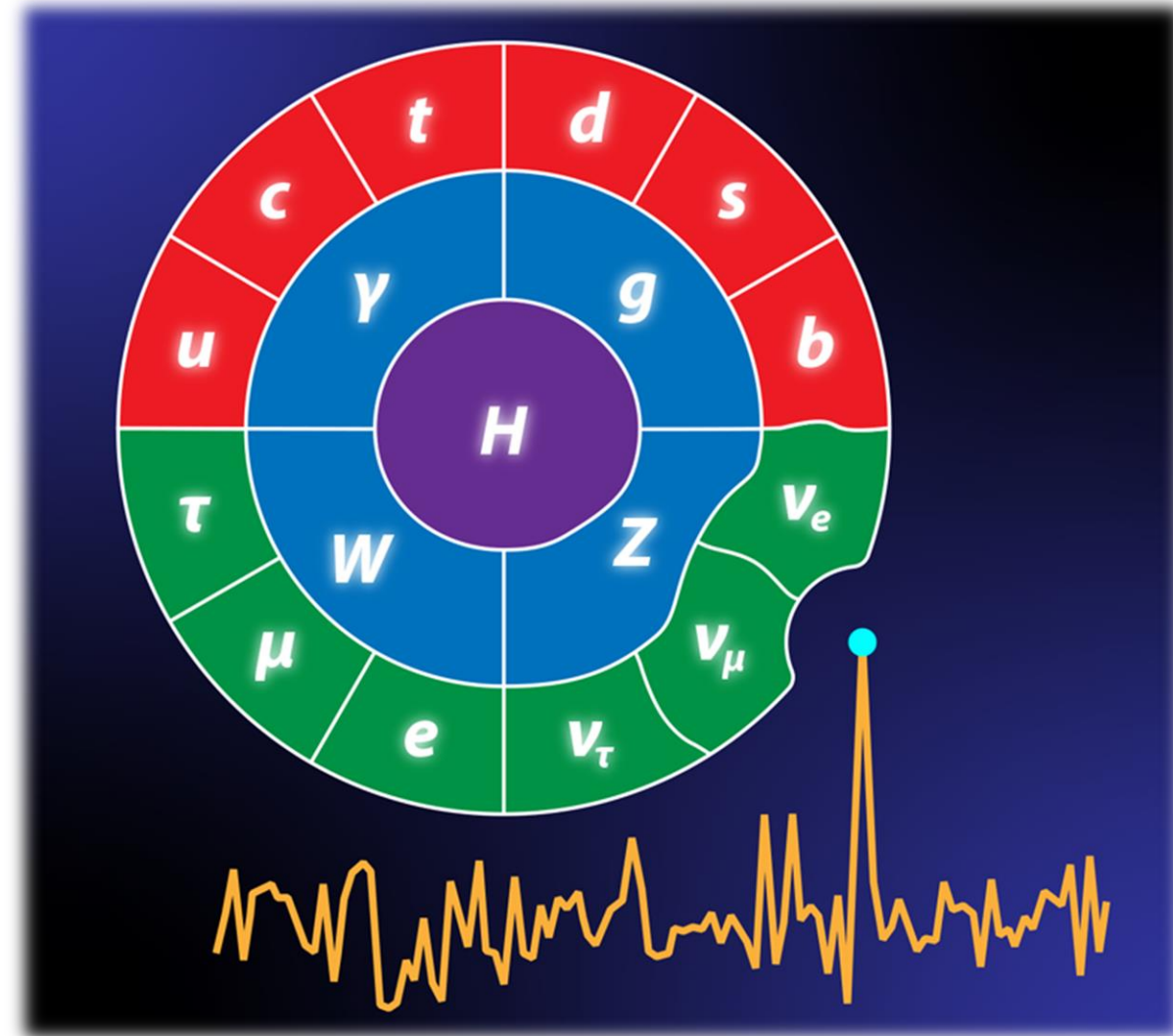
## The Era of Anomalies

May 14, 2020 • Physics 13, 79

Particle physicists are faced with a growing list of “anomalies”—experimental results that conflict with the standard model but fail to overturn it for lack of sufficient evidence.

- These statistical “anomalies” (in the  $3\sigma$  range) provide some hints to what might lie beyond our SM
- They can help point us in the direction where new searches, with new detection methods (different associated systematics) and more control should focus.

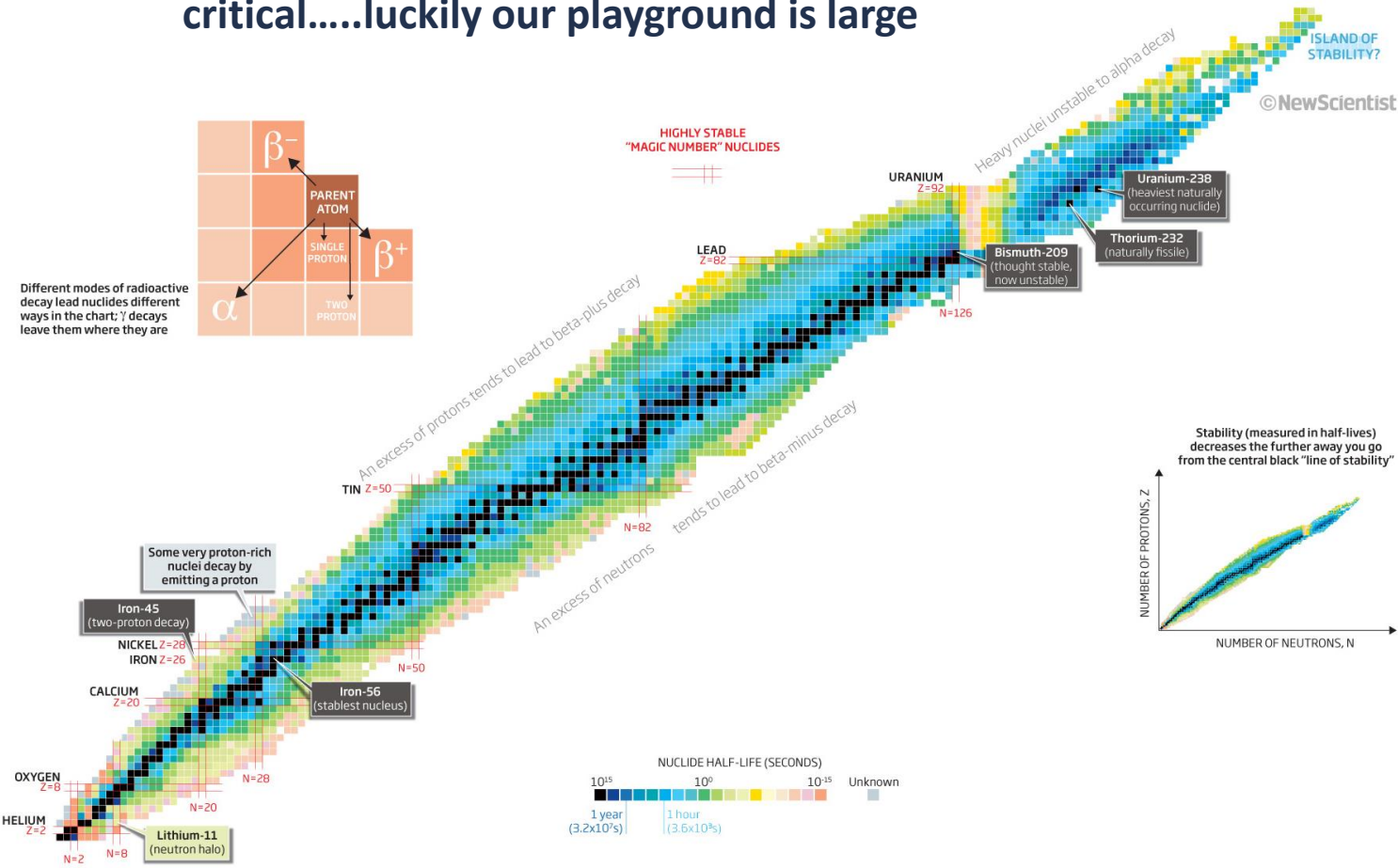
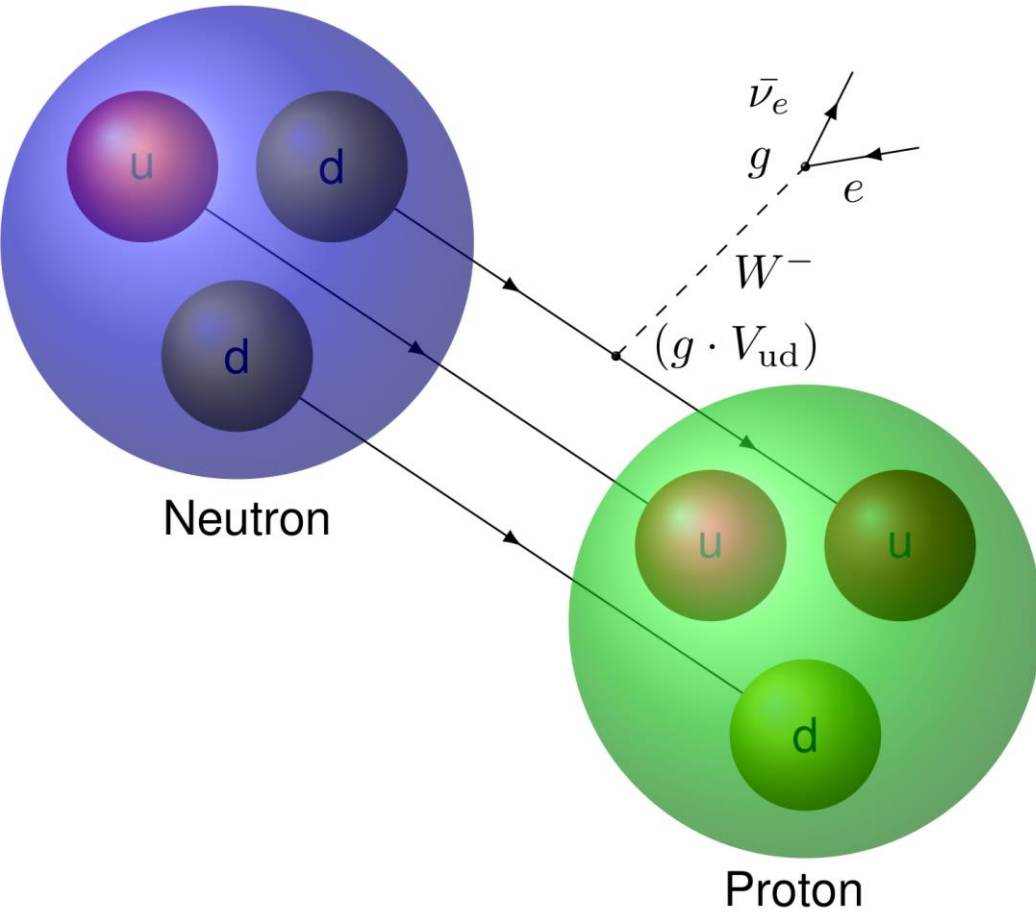
***There is significant need for definitive, model independent searches for BSM physics in the neutrino sector***



# Nuclear $\beta$ Decay as a Probe of New Physics

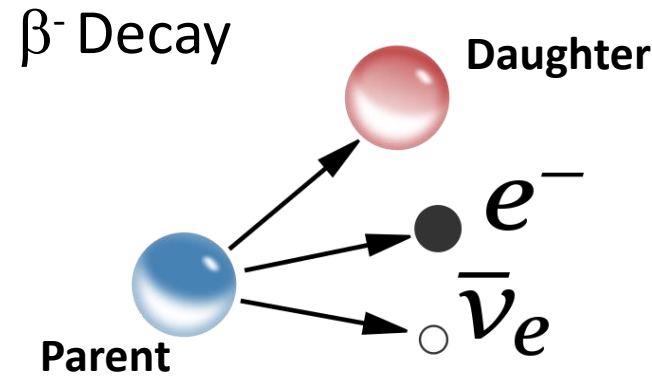
(.....New Physics with Radioactives?)

Selection of initial and final quantum states is critical....luckily our playground is large



P. Walker, New Scientist Magazine (2011)

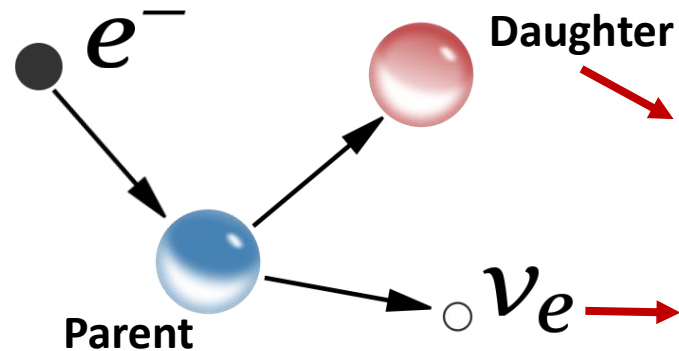
# The Model Independent Nature of Beta Decay



- Decay momentum reconstruction is a simple, model-independent approach to heavy neutrino searches

R. Davis, Phys. Rev. **86**, 976 (1952)  
 R. Shrock, Phys. Lett. B **96**, 159 (1980)  
 G. Finocchiaro and R.E. Shrock, Phys. Rev. D **46**, R888(R) (1992)  
 M.M. Hindi *et al.*, Phys. Rev. C **58**, 2512 (1998)

EC Decay



- The process is tremendously simplified for electron capture (EC) since there are only two final bodies that share energy/momentum

$$T_d = \frac{Q_{EC}^2 - m_\nu^2 c^4}{2(Q_{EC} + m_d c^2)}$$

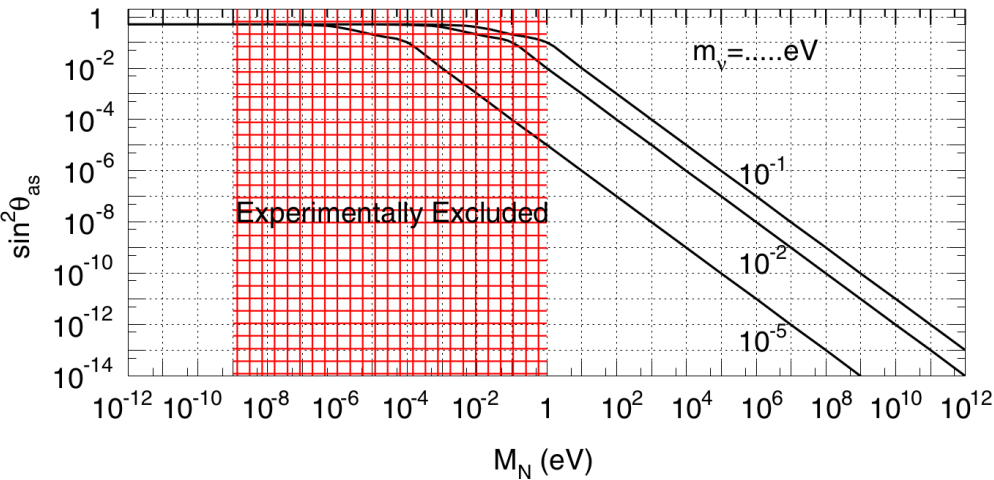
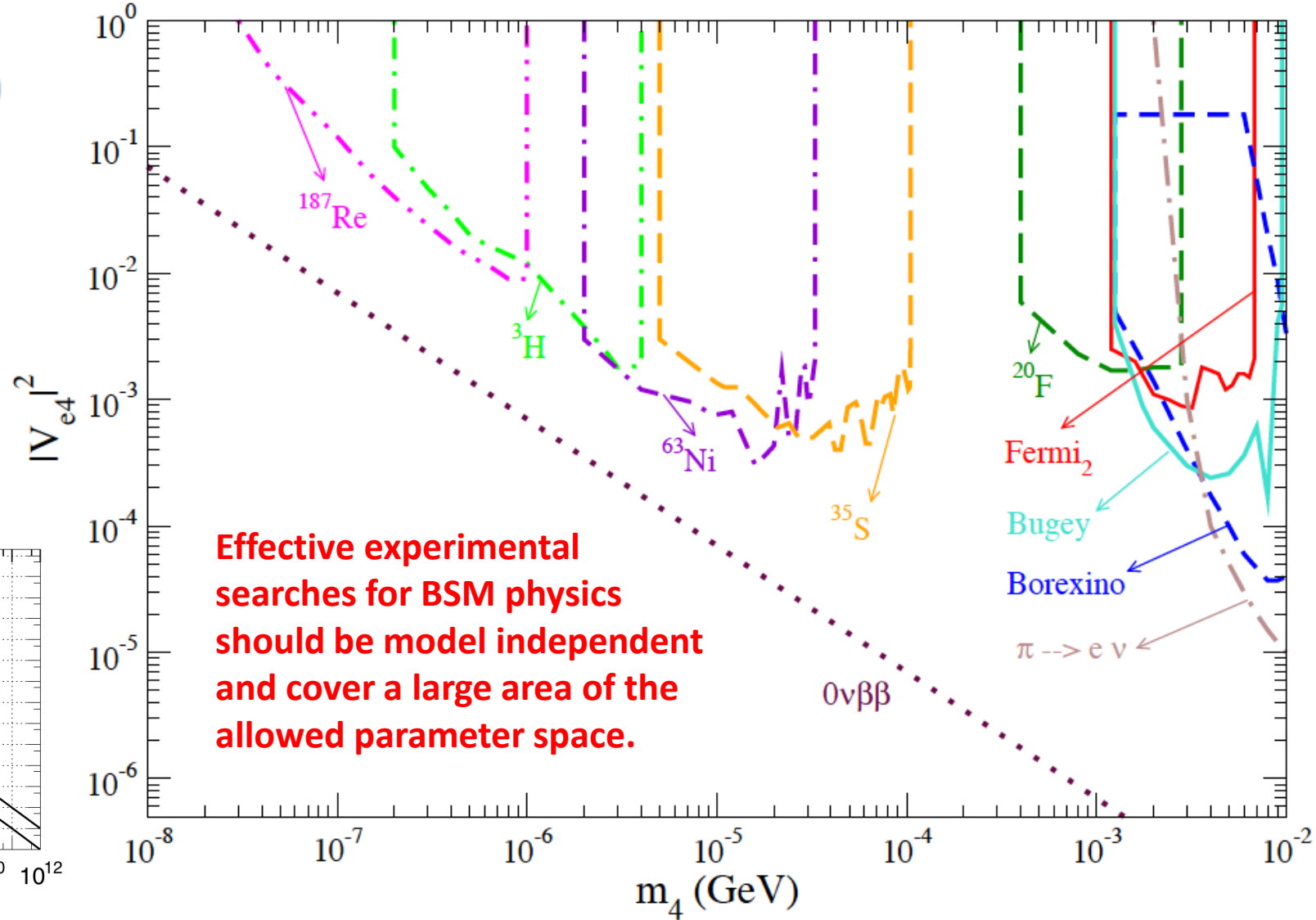
$$T_\nu = \frac{(m_\nu c^2 - Q_{EC})(c^2(m_\nu - 2m_d) - Q_{EC})}{2(m_d c^2 + Q_{EC})}$$

*Takeaway: Beta decay provides a sensitive, model independent probe of any new physics in the neutrino sector that couples to their mass states*

# Model Independent Searches for BSM Neutrinos



$$\begin{bmatrix} \nu_e \\ \nu_\mu \\ \nu_\tau \\ \nu_{s1} \\ \nu_{s2} \\ \nu_{s3} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} U_{e1} & U_{e2} & U_{e3} & U_{e4} & U_{e5} & U_{e6} \\ U_{\mu1} & U_{\mu2} & U_{\mu3} & U_{\mu4} & U_{\mu5} & U_{\mu6} \\ U_{\tau1} & U_{\tau2} & U_{\tau3} & U_{\tau4} & U_{\tau5} & U_{\tau6} \\ U_{s11} & U_{s12} & U_{s13} & U_{s14} & U_{s15} & U_{s16} \\ U_{s21} & U_{s22} & U_{s23} & U_{s24} & U_{s25} & U_{s26} \\ U_{s31} & U_{s32} & U_{s33} & U_{s34} & U_{s35} & U_{s36} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \nu_1 \\ \nu_2 \\ \nu_3 \\ \nu_4 \\ \nu_5 \\ \nu_6 \end{bmatrix}$$



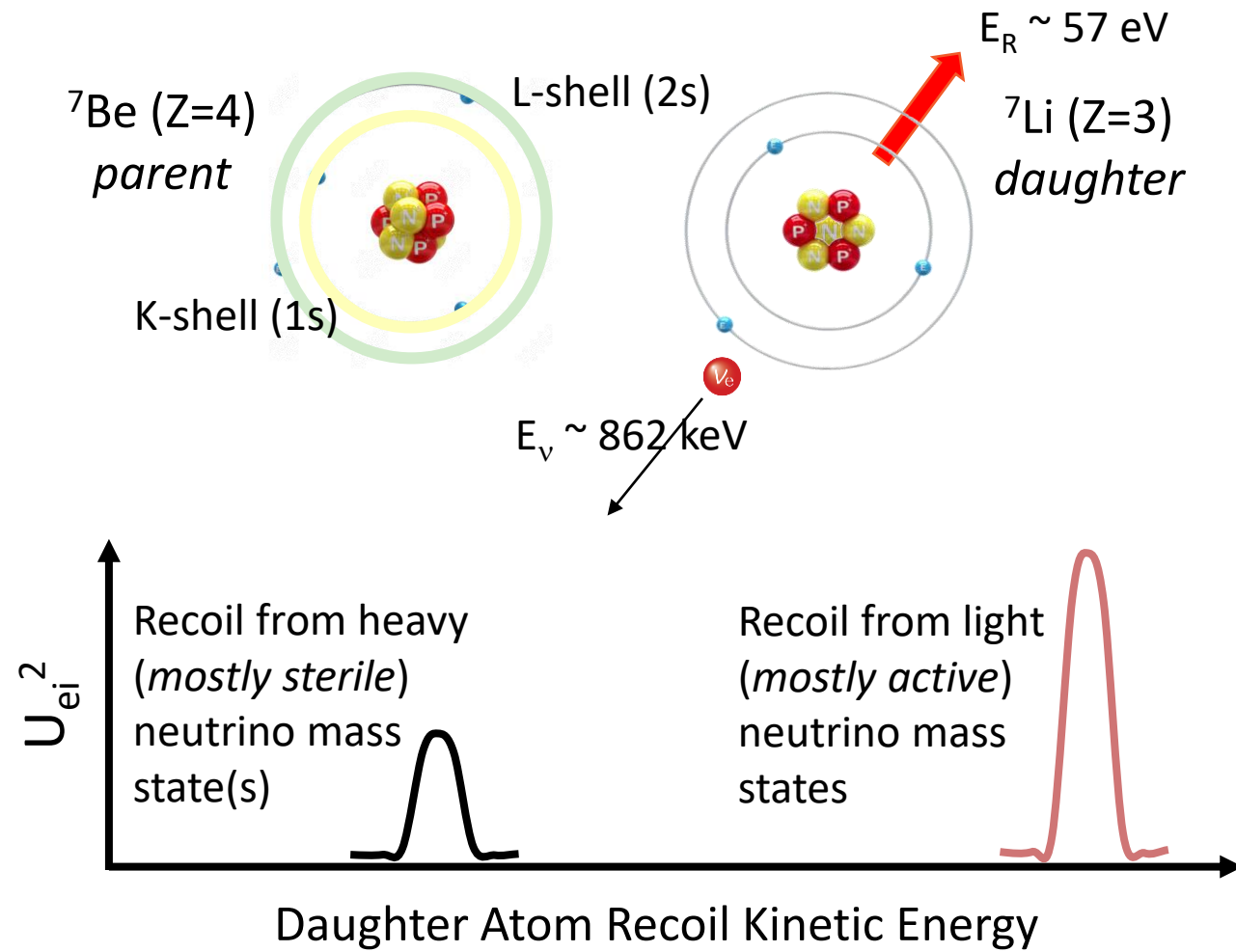
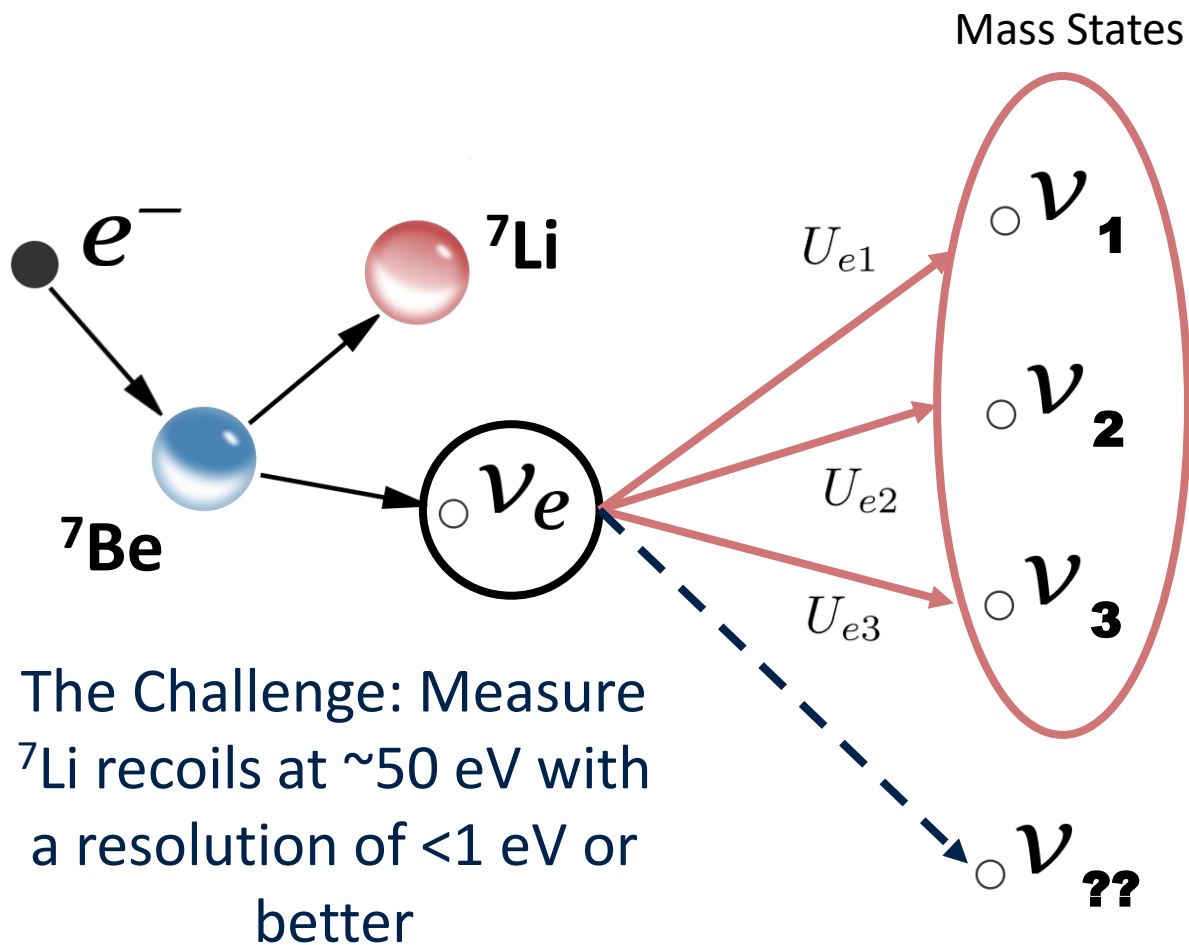
Andre de Gouvea, Wei-Chih Huang, and James Jenkins, Phys. Rev. D **80**, 073007 (2009)

J. Barea, J. Kotila, and F. Iachello, Phys. Rev. D **92**, 093001 (2015)



# Neutrino Studies with the Electron Capture Decay of ${}^7\text{Be}$

- ${}^7\text{Be}$  is the ideal case for neutrino studies using this method.
  - Simple atomic and nuclear structure and largest  $Q$ -value (862 keV) of all pure EC cases
    - ➔ Highest maximum recoil energy



# Quantum Sensing and Nuclear Physics

“The need for quantum sensors permeates the entire field of NP, encompassing [all] physics arguments and scientific objectives..”

**Nuclear Physics and  
Quantum Information Science**  
Report by the NSAC QIS Subcommittee (October 2019)



**Quantum Sensors 1.0:** Devices such as transition edge sensors (TESs), superconducting nanowire single photon detectors (SNSPDs), microwave kinetic inductance detectors (MKIDs), Josephson parametric amplifiers (JPAs), [and Superconducting Tunnel Junctions (STJs)]. Their use essentially spans all subfields, including condensed matter, atomic, molecular and optical physics, NP, HEP, and astronomy. **They play critical roles in cosmic microwave background searches, sub-millimeter astrophysics, and dark matter searches.**

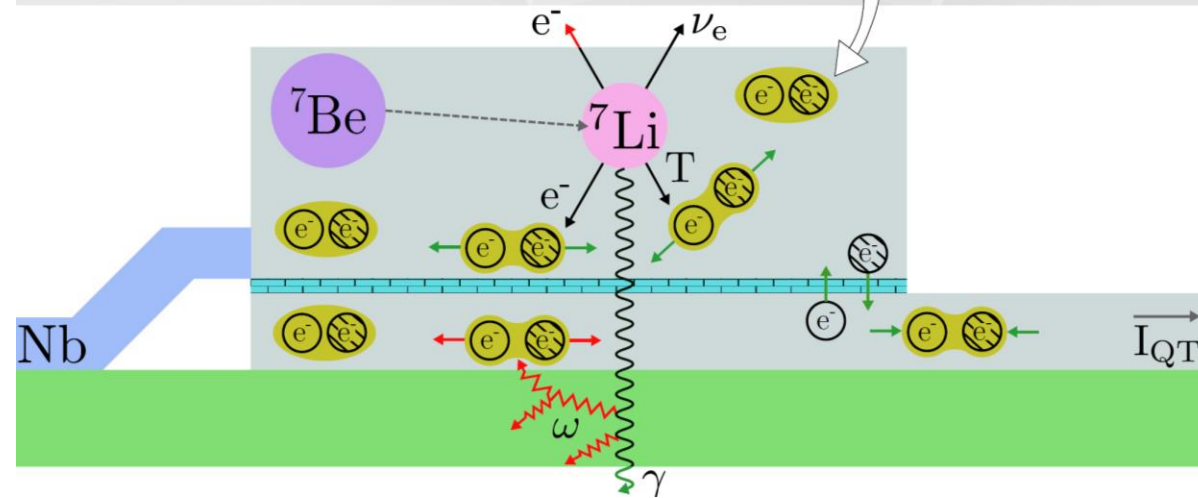
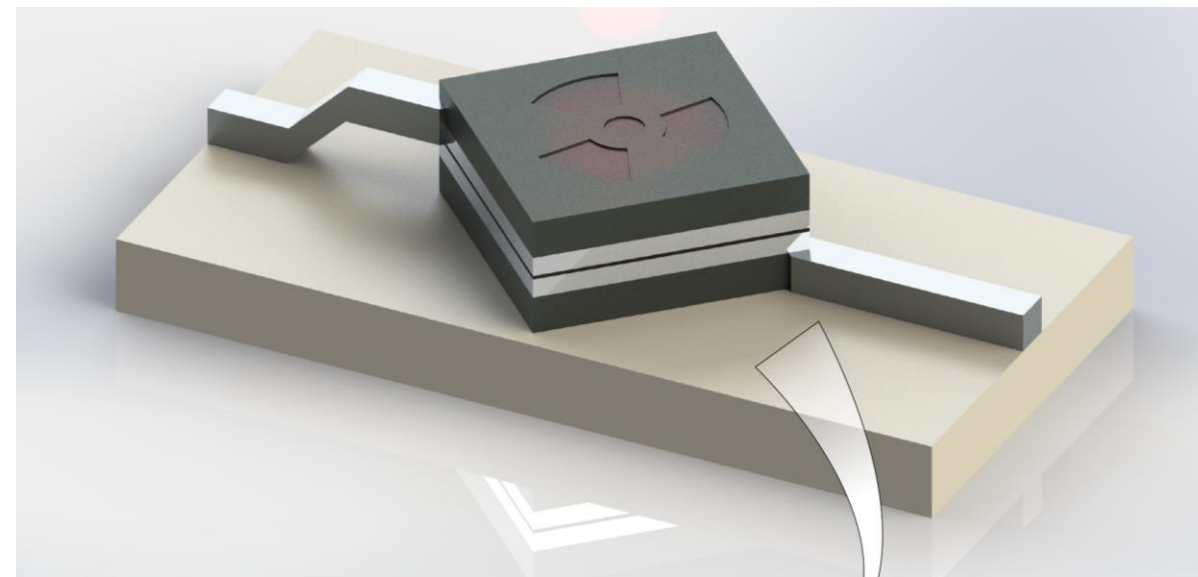
← In use currently for NP

**Quantum Sensors 2.0:** Devices whose operation depends explicitly on quantum phenomena such as superposition of states (coherence) and/or entanglement to achieve superior performance. **These devices use quantum systems and quantum manipulations that frequently share basic elements with those used for QC with qubits.** However, their design is specific to sensing applications.

← On the horizon for NP

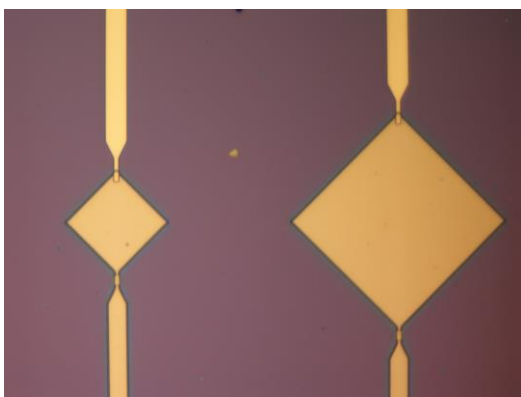
# Superconducting Tunnel Junction (STJ) Quantum Sensing

- Two electrodes separated by a thin insulating tunnel barrier
- Superconducting energy gap  $\Delta$  is of order  $\sim \text{meV}$   
 → High Energy Resolution ( $\sim 1 \text{ eV}$ )
- Timing resolution on the order of  $\mu\text{s}$ , making it among the fastest high-resolution quantum sensors available  
 → “High” Rate ( $10^4 \text{ s}^{-1}$  per pixel)



Can exploit strength of BSM searches with RIBs

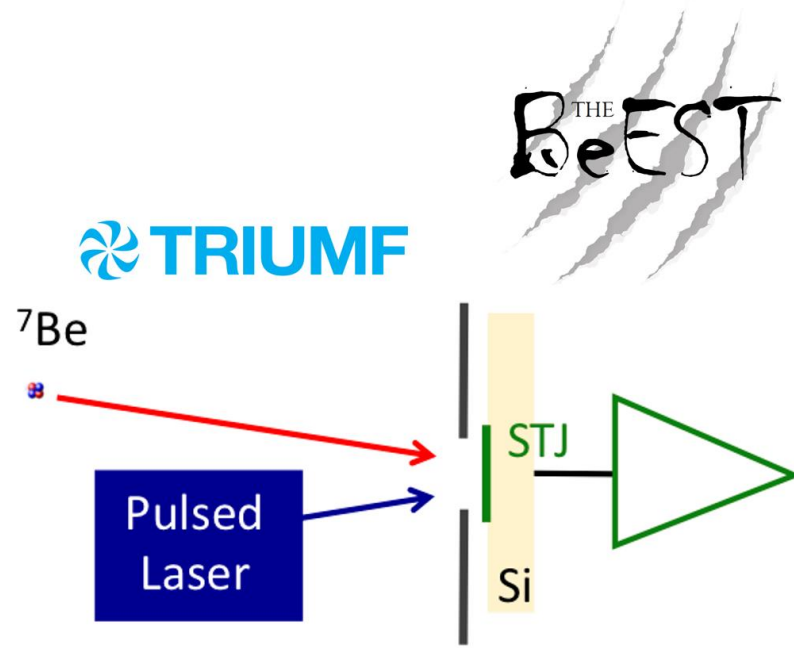
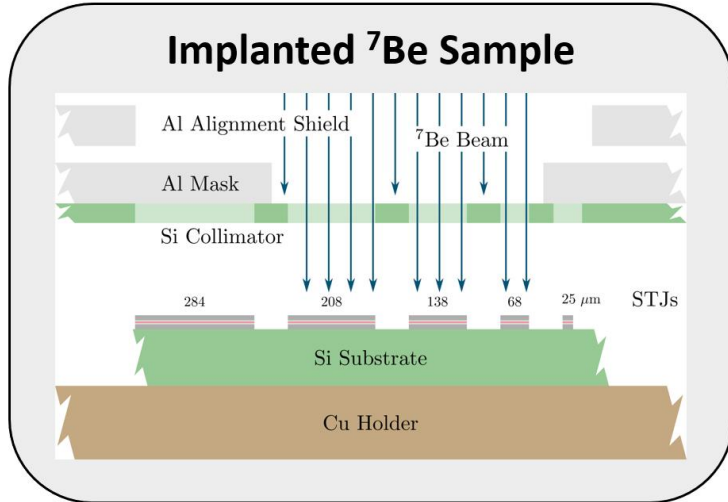
Josephson Junctions



68 x 68  $\mu\text{m}^2$

138 x 138  $\mu\text{m}^2$

# The BeEST Experimental Concept



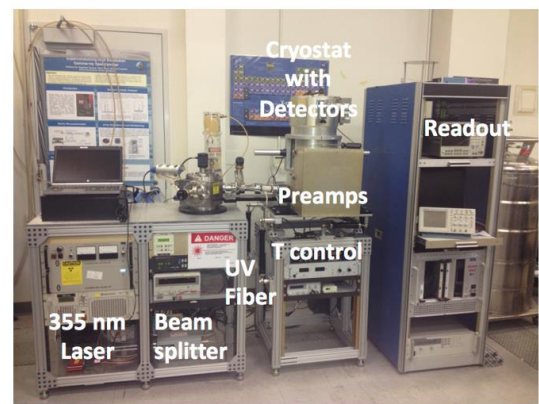
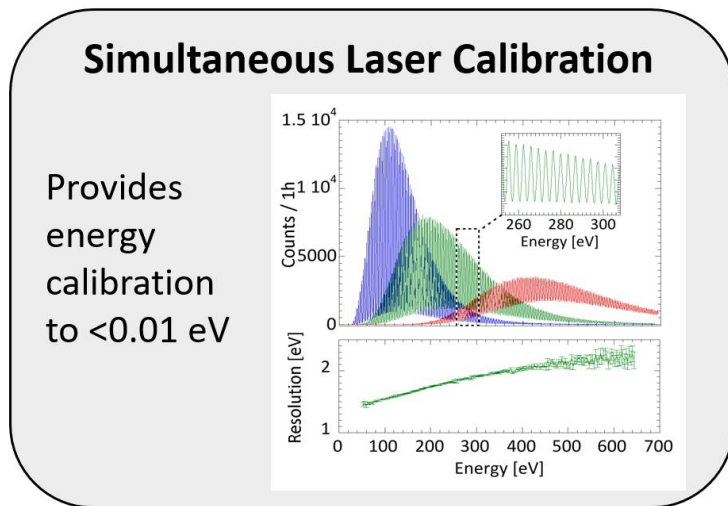
### Ta-Based STJ Detectors

“Test” chips with 10 pixels of 5 sizes

#### Phase-I

#### Phase-II

Cooled to 100 mK in an adiabatic demagnetization refrigerator (ADR)

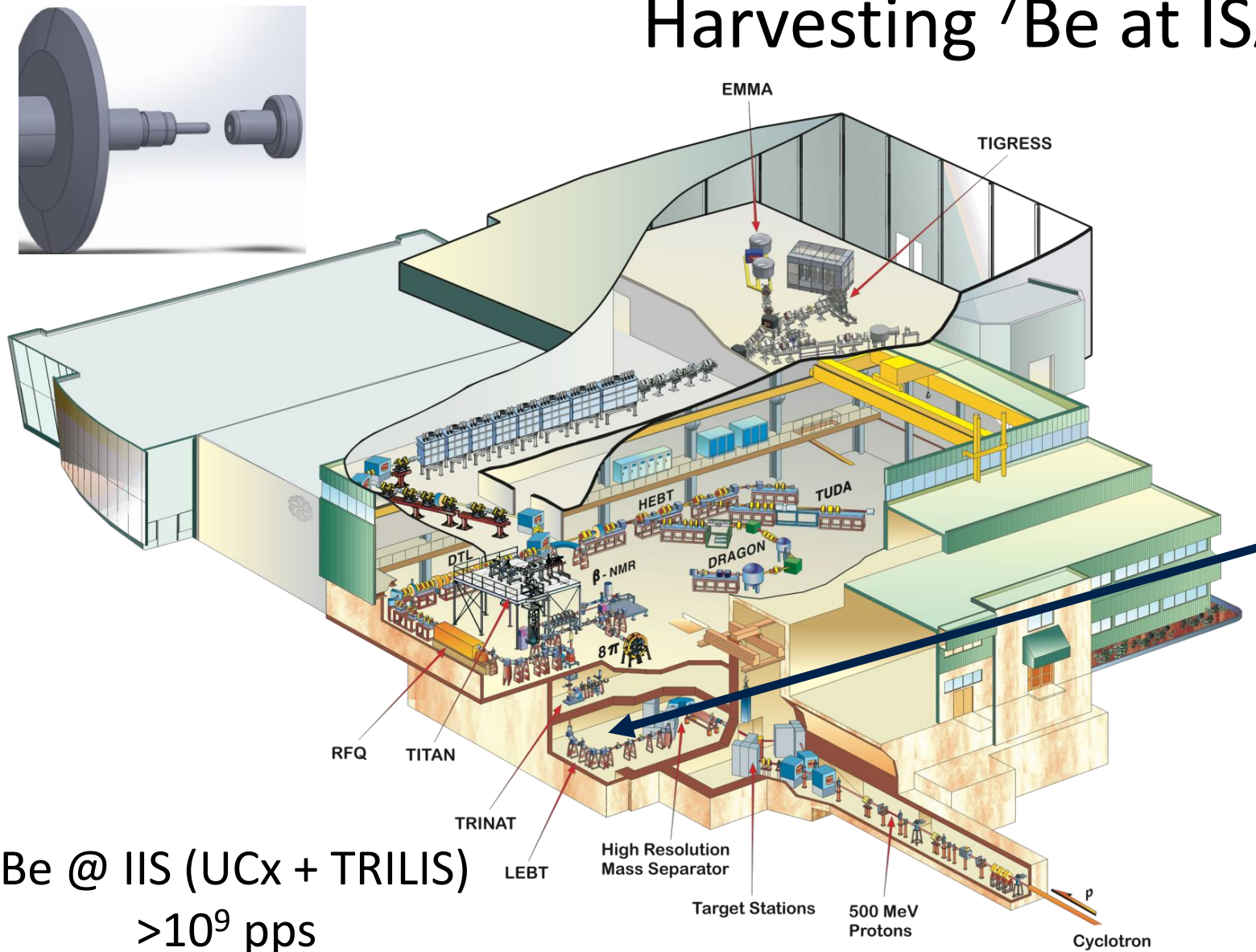


Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

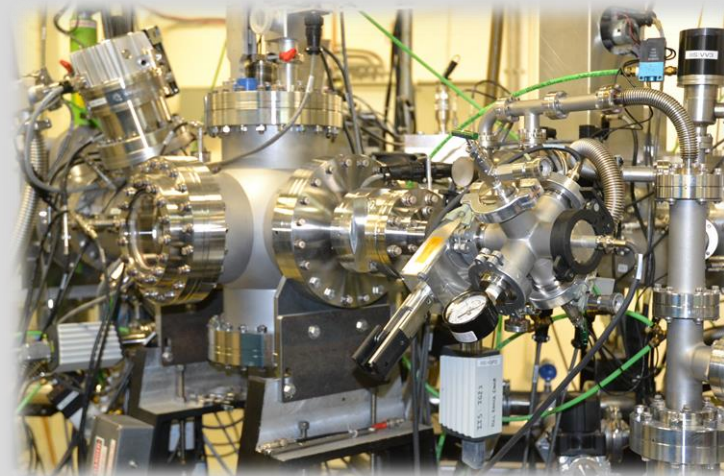
S. Fretwell *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Lett. **125**, 032701 (2020)  
 S. Friedrich *et al.*, arXiv:2010.09603 (2020)



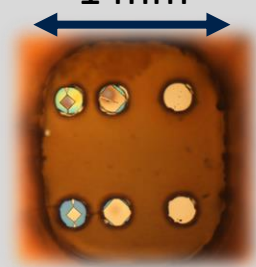
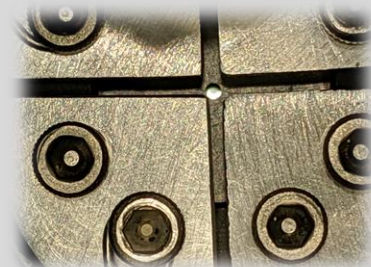
# Harvesting $^7\text{Be}$ at ISAC



The ISAC Implantation Station



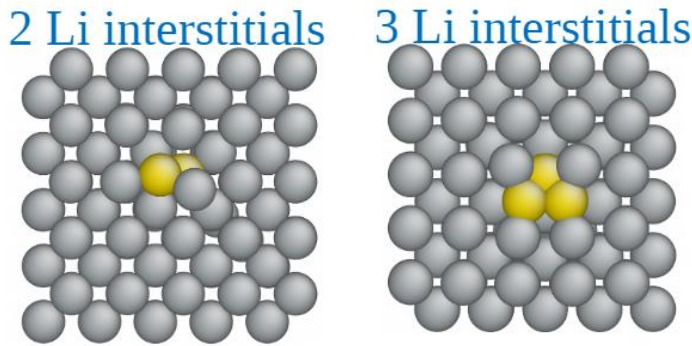
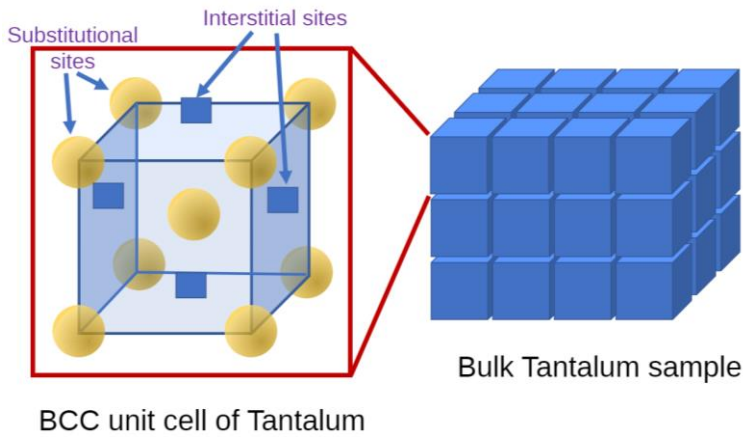
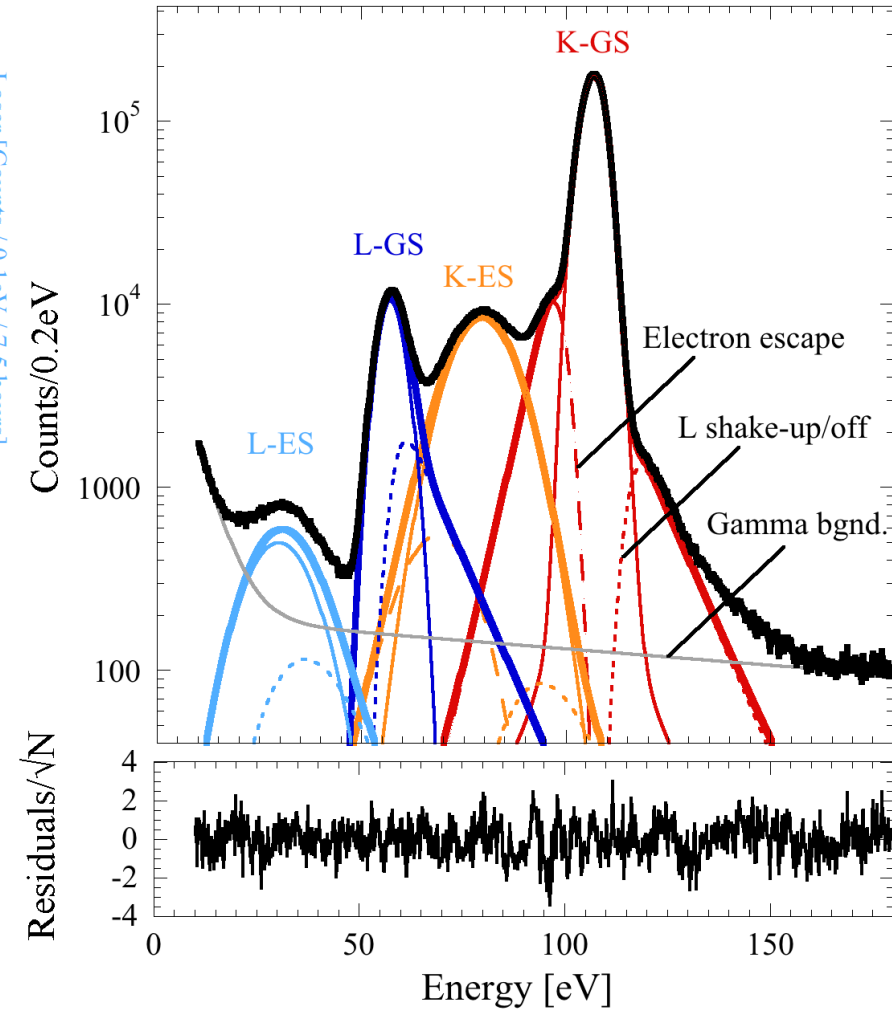
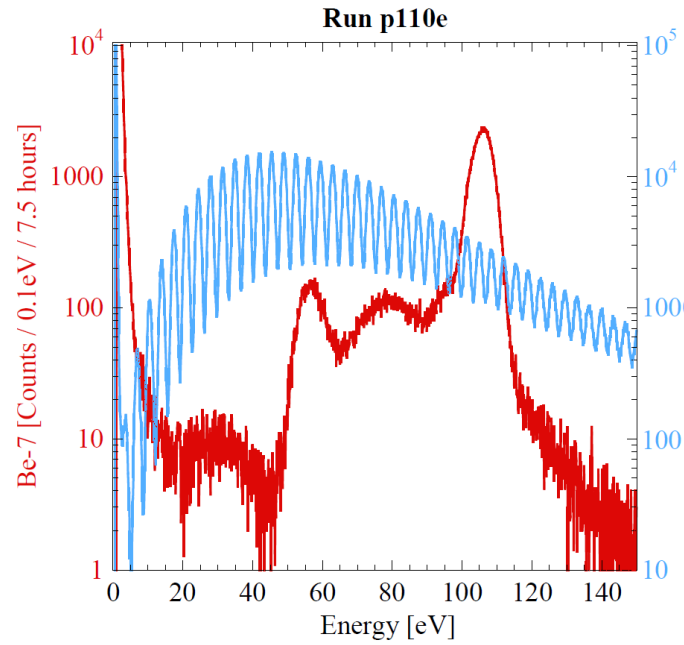
1 mm



$^7\text{Be}$  @ IIS (UCx + TRILIS)  
 $>10^9$  pps

# First Nuclear Recoil Experiments with STJs

- Proof-of-concept
- Laser calibration precision <10 meV
  - Non-linearity of order  $10^{-4}$  per eV  
S. Friedrich et al., J Low Temp Phys (2020)
- Energy Resolution:
  - Laser peaks: 1.4 to 2.9 eV
  - Recoil peaks: 6 eV
    - Likely due to in-medium effects of Be/Li in Ta

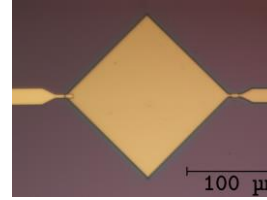


Vince Lordi and Amit Samanta – Quantum Simulation Group (LLNL)

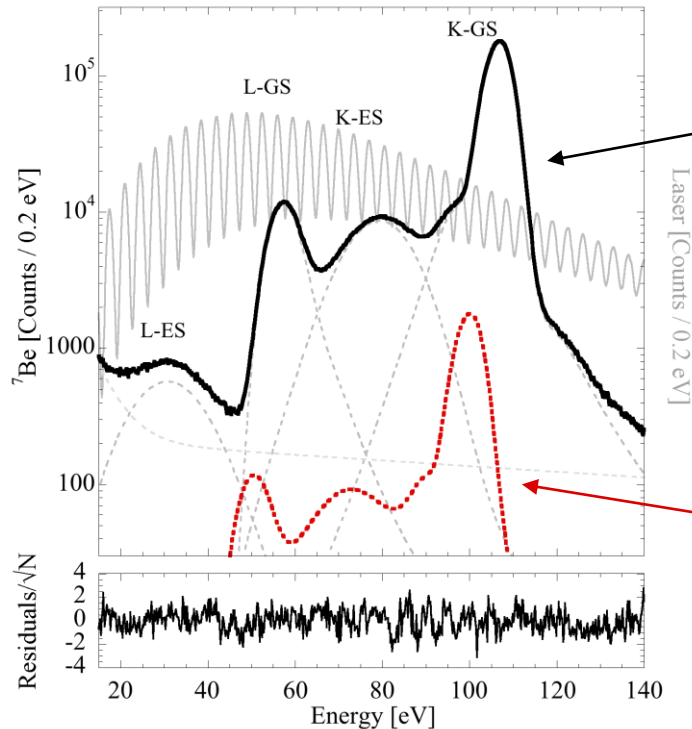
S. Fretwell et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. **125**, 032701 (2020)

# First Limits from “Low-Rate” Phase-II Data

- Phase-II data from a single  $138 \times 138 \mu\text{m}^2$  STJ counting at low rate ( $\sim 10$  Bq)



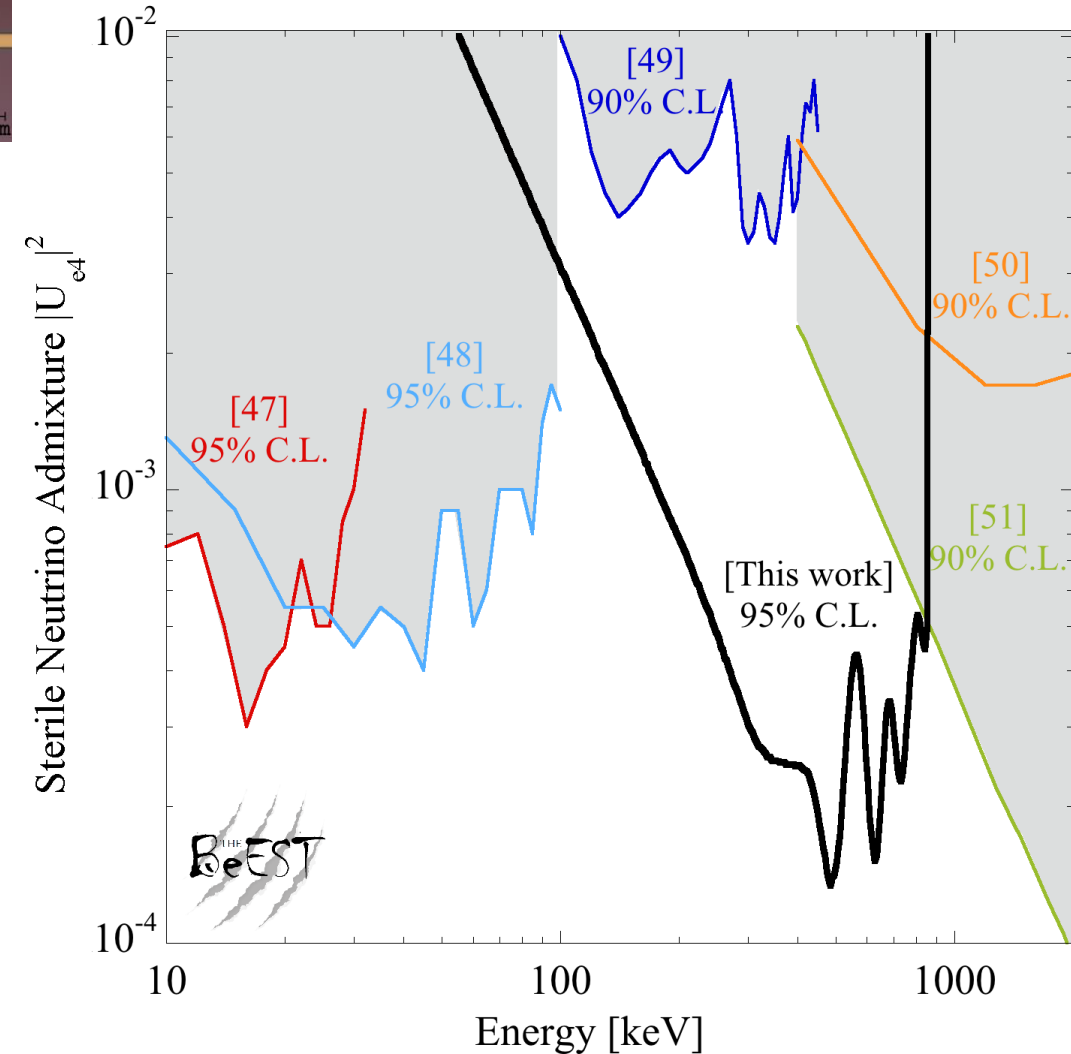
- Novel laser calibration scheme via individual photon counting
  - Precision characterization and energy calibration ( $< 0.01$  eV)



Recoil spectrum generated by pseudo-degenerate mass states from  $\sim 28$  days of counting

Example of signal that would be generated by 300 keV neutrino with 1% mixing

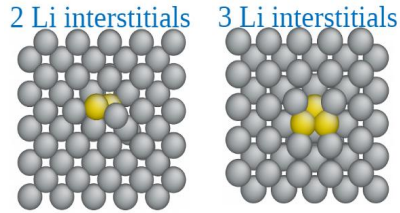
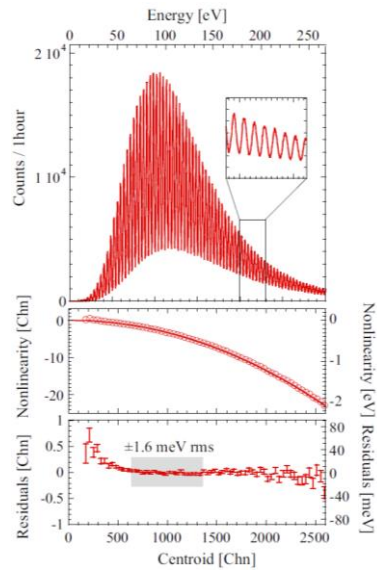
- Up to an order of magnitude improvement for limits on heavy neutrino admixtures to  $\nu_e$  for masses of 100 – 850 keV



S. Friedrich *et al.*, arXiv:2010.09603 (2020)



# Phases of the BeEST Experiment



## Phase-IV

Operation of 128-Pixel Arrays of Al-Based STJs in Dilution Refrigerator

>2026: *SuperBeEST*  
10,000-pixels  
of Hf-based STJs

## Phase-III

Scaling to 36- and 112-Pixel Arrays of Ta-Based STJs

2025

2022

2021

## Phase-II

First Limits and Precision Device Characterization

- *J. Low Temp. Phys.* **200**, 200 (2020)
- arXiv:2010.09603 (2020)

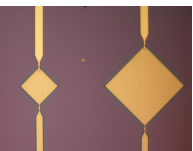
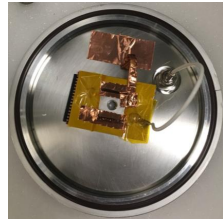
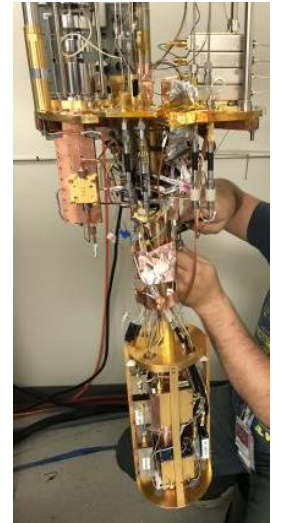
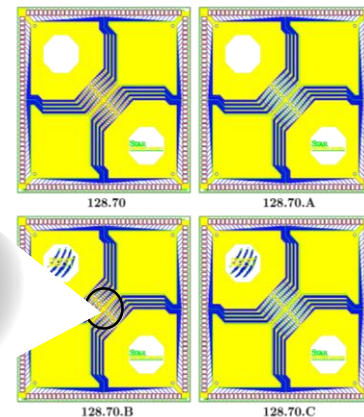
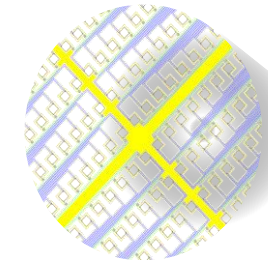
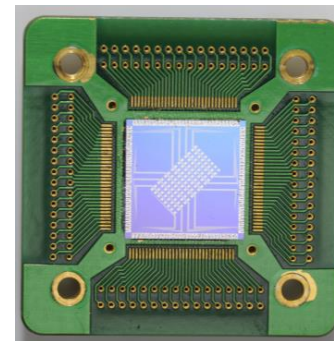
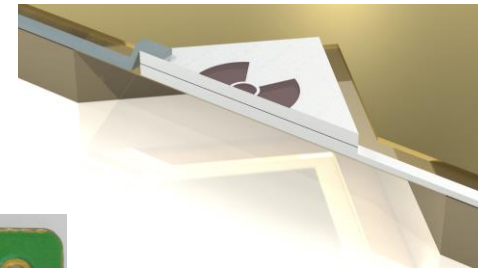
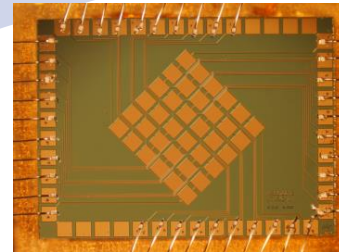
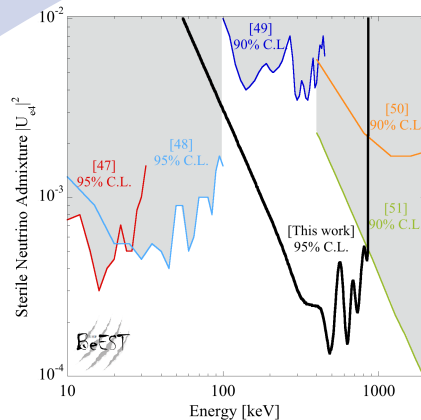
2020

## Phase-I

Proof of Concept

- *PRL* **125**, 032701 (2020)

2018





# STJ Detector Development for NP



Stephan Friedrich  
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory



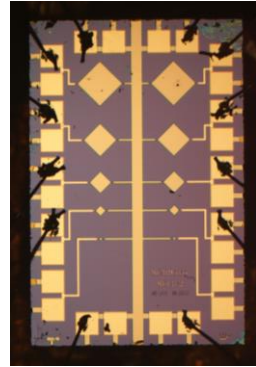
Spencer Fretwell



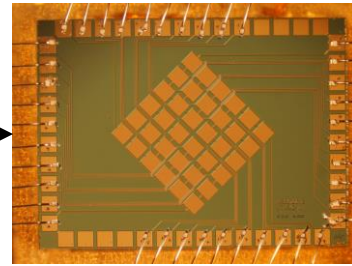
NNIS Fellow



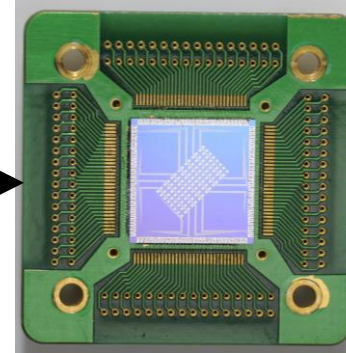
10 "Test" Pixels



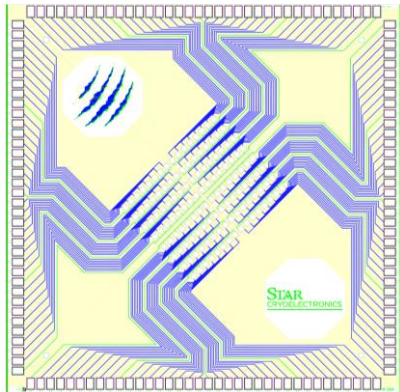
36-Pixel Array



112-Pixel Array



128-Pixel AI Array



BeEST (current)  
BeEST (in-progress)

*SuperBeEST*

Superconductor used as absorber	<sup>2</sup> (energy gap)	Theoretical <sup>2</sup> E at 6 keV (single tunneling)	Theoretical <sup>2</sup> E at 6 keV (multiple tunneling)	<sup>2</sup> E Achieved at 6 keV	Resolution at 0.1 keV
Niobium	1.52 meV	4.3 eV	10.6 eV	24 eV (LLNL)	3 eV
Tantalum	0.71 meV	2.9 eV	7.2 eV	13 eV (Yale)	1.5 eV
Aluminum	0.17 meV	1.4 eV	3.5 eV	12 eV (T.U. Munich)	0.8 eV
Titanium	0.052 meV	0.8 eV	2.0 eV		
Hafnium	0.017 meV	0.46 eV	1.1 eV		0.2 eV

Table Courtesy C.K. Stahle (NASA Goddard)

**Gentle nudge from John this morning:**

***“I hear a convenor kindly reminding the goal is to help TRIUMF and CENPA figure out what to do :)”***

**So, how can TRIUMF or CENPA exploit these ideas?**

# Superconducting Array for Low-Energy Radiation

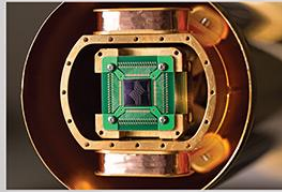


- Adaptation of commercial STJ units designed for synchrotron beamline science and other high-resolution X-ray measurements.

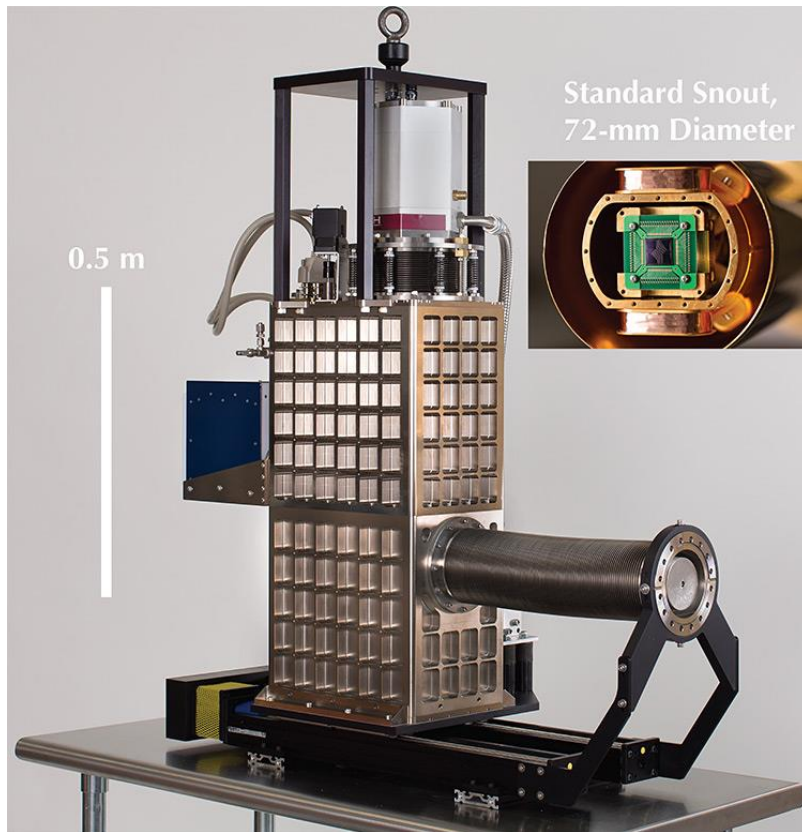
**STAR**  
CRYOELECTRONICS

- 128-pixel array of detectors that cover an area of  $\sim 5\text{mm}^2$  with electron/photon energy resolution of  $<10\text{ eV}$  at  $\sim 500\text{ eV}$ .
- Cryogen-free dry ADR (0.1 K) with room-temperature electronics.
- Choice of STJs leverages the high-intensities (count rates) of RIBs at ISAC – with the trade-off of  $E < 10\text{ keV}$
- Nuclear recoil measurements via direct implantation may be possible for nuclei with  $T_{1/2} \sim$  seconds or longer

Standard Snout,  
72-mm Diameter



0.5 m





# Commercial Beam-Line Ready Options for 10 mK Operation

## Technical Specifications

**Note:** Cooling power is measured on experimental flange outside MXC.

### LH250

	<b>GUARANTEED</b>
Base temperature	10 mK
Cooling power @ 20 mK	10 $\mu$ W
Cooling power @ 100 mK	250 $\mu$ W
Cooling power @ 120 mK	360 $\mu$ W
Cool-down time to base	24 hrs

### LH400

	<b>GUARANTEED</b>
Base temperature	10 mK
Cooling power @ 20 mK	12 $\mu$ W
Cooling power @ 100 mK	400 $\mu$ W
Cooling power @ 120 mK	575 $\mu$ W
Cool-down time to base	24 hrs

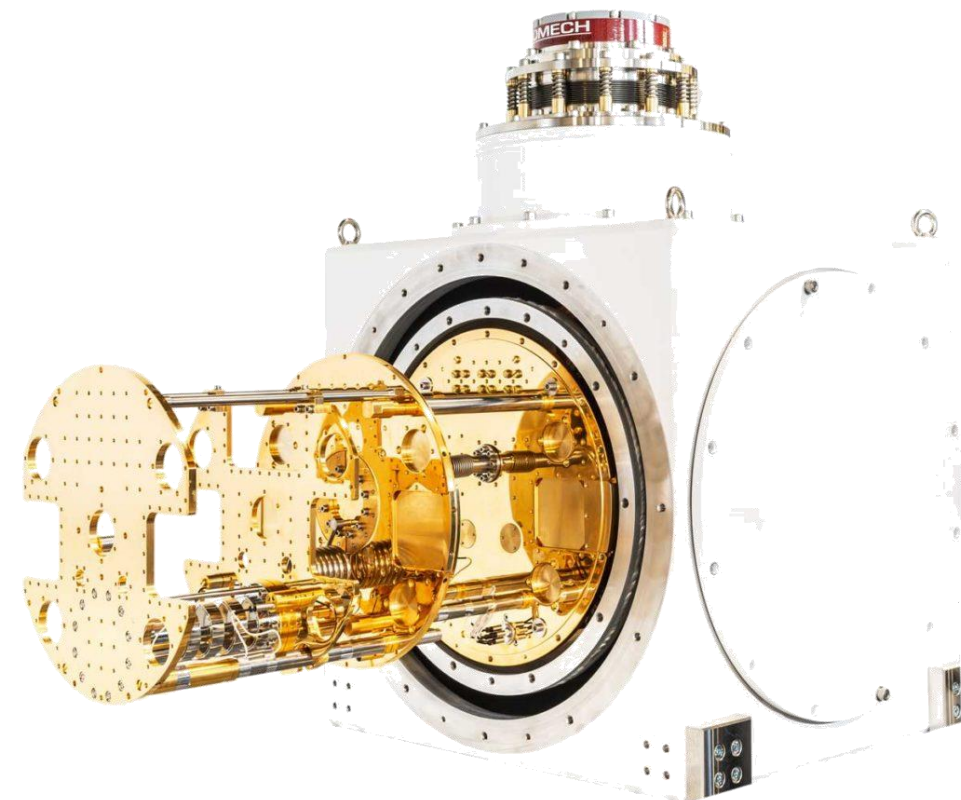
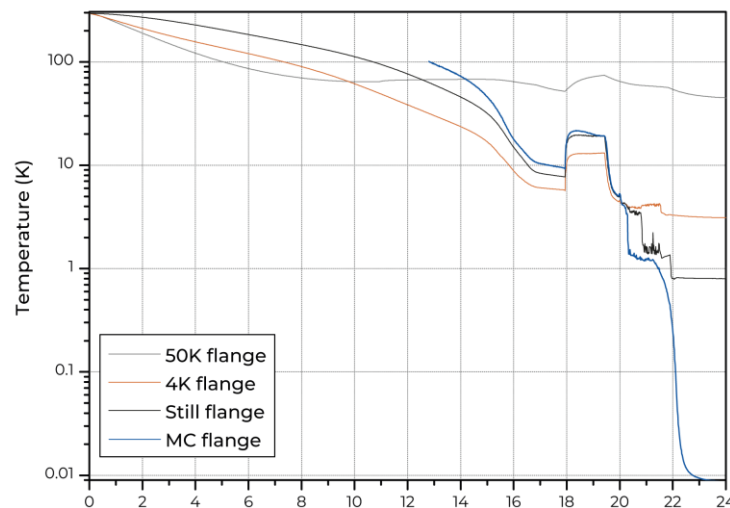
## LH System

The horizontal model LH is a low-height, compact and truly horizontal dilution refrigerator system capable of operation under different tilt angles. It is ideal for beamline, telescope or detector experiments.

### Eight LOS Access Ports

All line-of-sight ports reach from room temperature to mixing chamber.

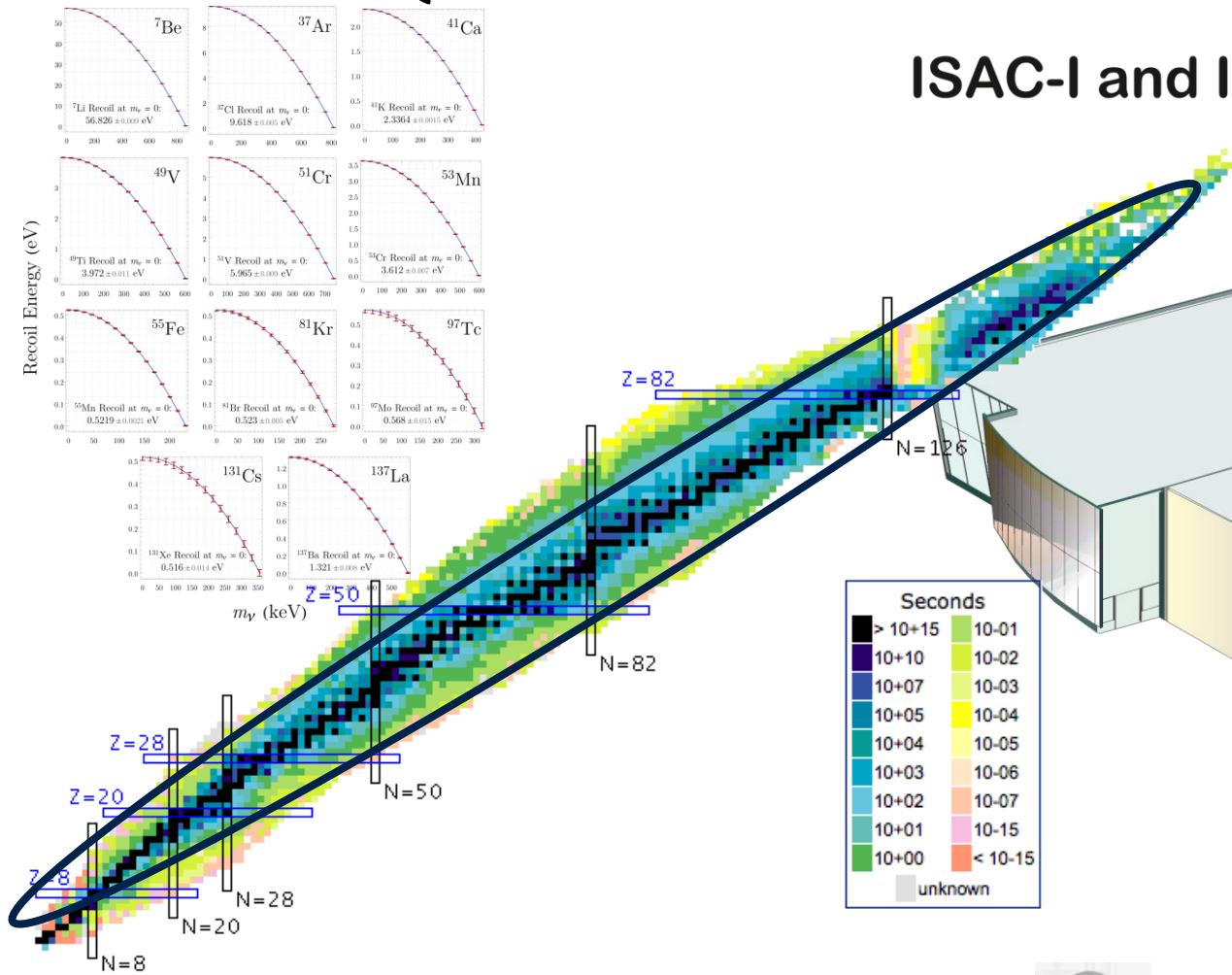
- 2 x KF63 slotted in all flanges
- 4 x KF40
- 2 x KF16





# Quantum Sensors and Short-Lived RIBs at ISAC

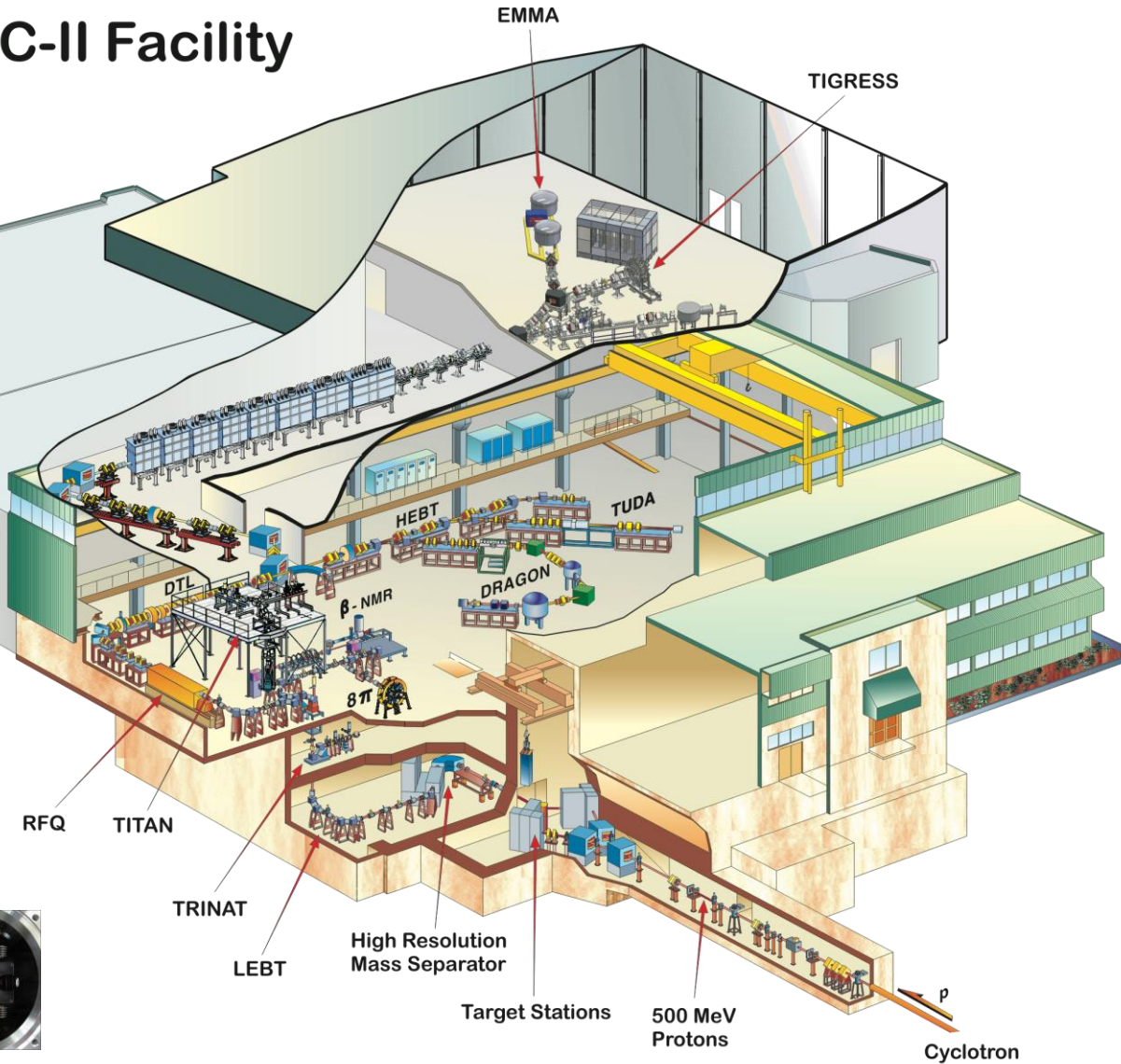
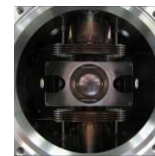
## ISAC-I and ISAC-II Facility



Low-Energy: Photons, electrons, or recoils



GRIFFIN



# Conclusions

- Quantum sensors can be powerful tools in our search for BSM physics using nuclei/atoms. In particular, STJs allow for high-rate experiments to probe weak BSM physics S. Fretwell *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Lett. **125**, 032701 (2020)
- Physics case and device selection is critical as these devices are not “one size fits all” options for all nuclear spectroscopy
- The Beryllium Electron capture in Superconducting Tunnel junctions (BeEST) experiment uses momentum reconstruction in the EC decay of  ${}^7\text{Be}$  to search for heavy neutrino mass states in the 5-860 keV range. S. Friedrich *et al.*, arXiv:2010.09603 (2020)
- In the near future, we will have sensitivity to heavy mass states from 5-860 keV with couplings as low as  $10^{-7}$ .
- Decay momentum reconstruction is a simple, model-independent approach to heavy neutrino searches, and will also be employed in future complementary efforts using nuclear decay of  ${}^3\text{H}$  (KATRIN, Project 8),  ${}^{131}\text{Cs}$  (HUNTER), and  ${}^{163}\text{Ho}$  (ECHO, HOLMES) to provide high-sensitivity searches from the eV to MeV scale.
- At ISAC, in particular, one could envision using short-lived species to do direct implantation, or measure low-energy radiation to very high precision.

# The BeEST



Kyle Leach  
Connor Bray  
Spencer Fretwell  
Steven Barber  
Alan Durick  
Drew Marino



Stephan Friedrich  
Geon-Bo Kim  
Vince Lordi  
Amit Samanta



Jens Dilling  
Annika Lennarz  
Peter Machule  
Dave McKeen  
Chris Ruiz

Faculty/Staff  
PDF  
Graduate  
Undergraduate



Sean Liddick



Ad Hall  
Jack Harris  
Bill Warburton



Francisco Ponce



Matt Redshaw  
Ramesh Bhandri



Xavier Mougeot



Robin Cantor



Oscar Naviliat-Cuncic

## Funding



The EMPIR initiative is co-funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme and the EMPIR Participating States







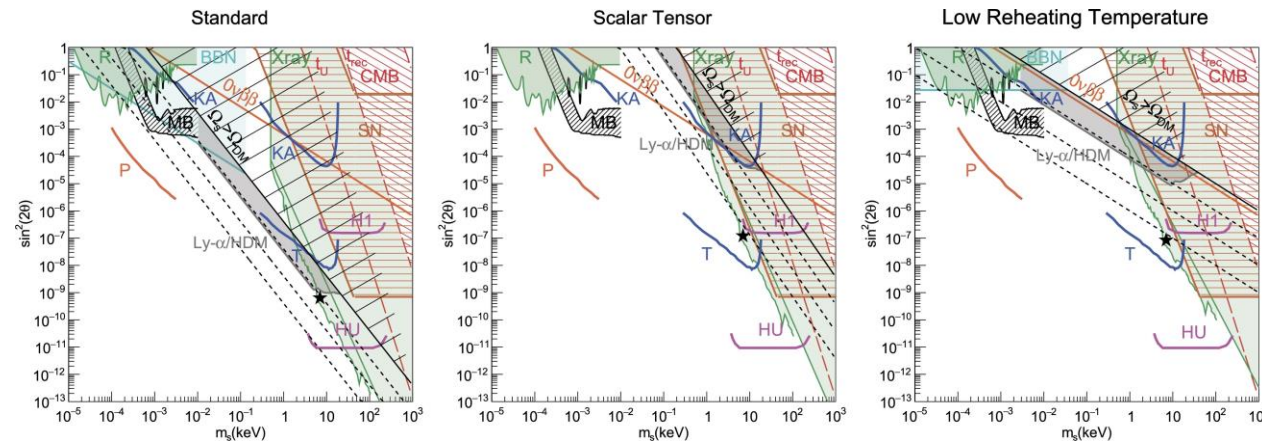
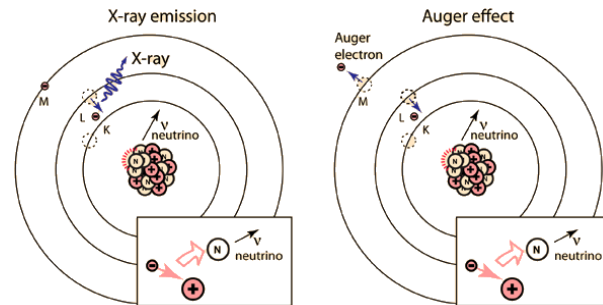
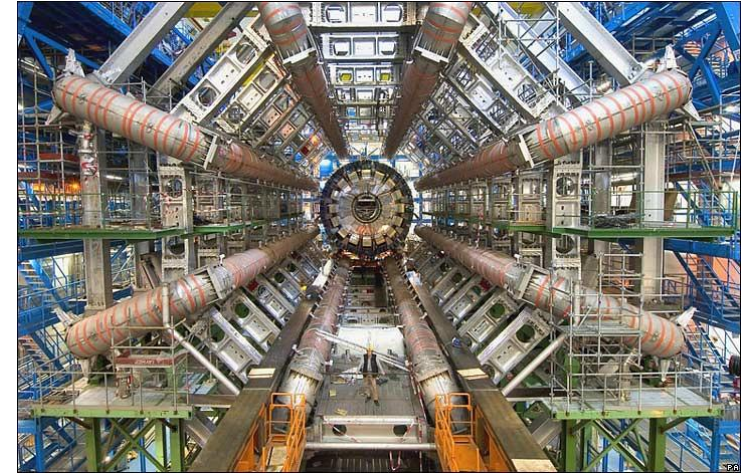
Backup Slides



# Nuclear $\beta$ Decay as a Probe of New Physics

First, we need to ask a few questions:

1. What can we uniquely probe in the era of the LHC?
2. Are model predictions of observable couplings to BSM physics within reach?
3. Do we understand the nuclear and atomic structures well enough to make definite conclusions?



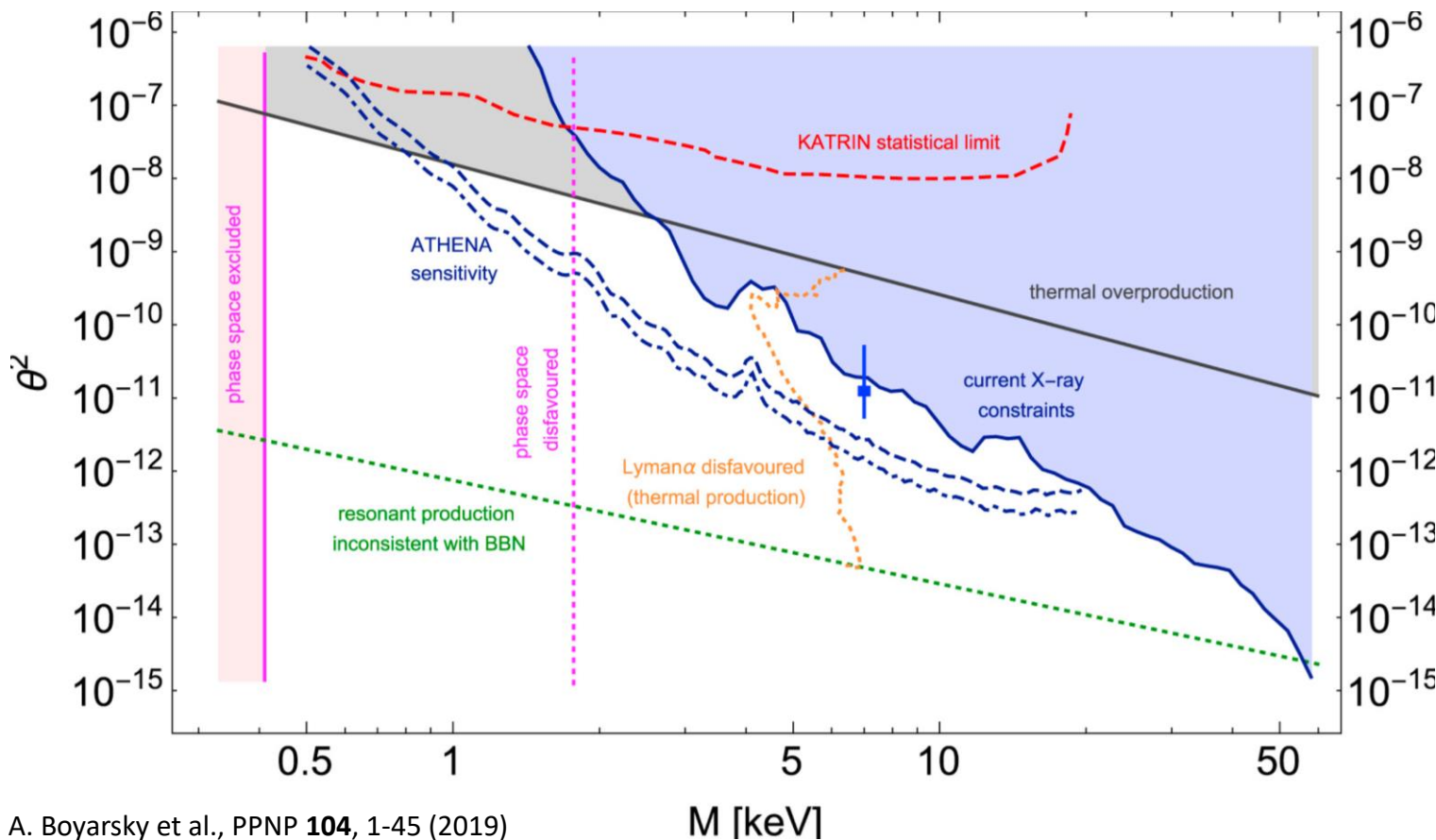
Graciela B. Gelmini, Philip Lu, Volodymyr Takhistov, PLB **800**, 135113 (2020)

# keV-Scale Sterile Neutrinos as Dark Matter

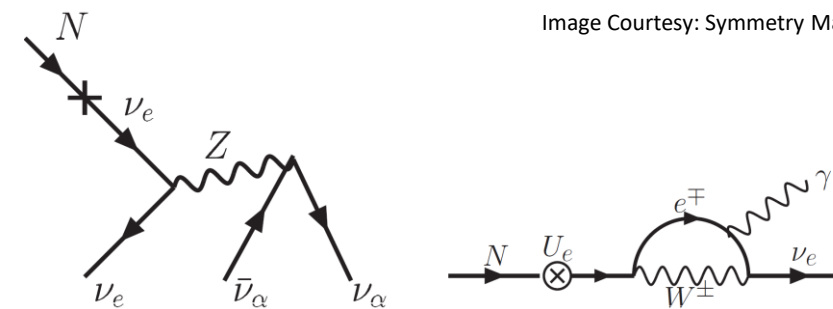


Image Courtesy: Symmetry Magazine

- Extensions to the SM that extend the PMNS matrix (eg. type-I seesaw mechanism) can generate a heavy neutrino that is on the keV mass scale - an excellent candidate for DM



A. Boyarsky et al., PNP **104**, 1-45 (2019)



R. Adhikari et al., JCAP **25** (2017)

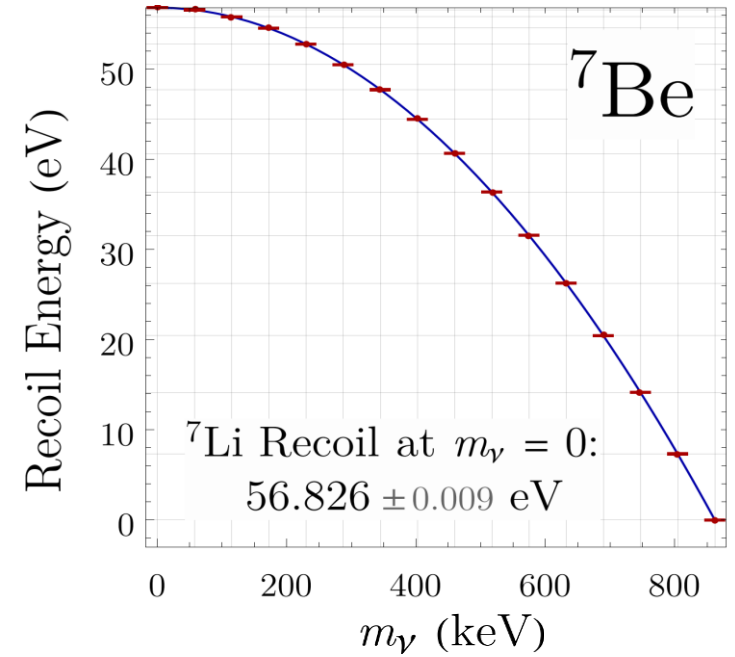
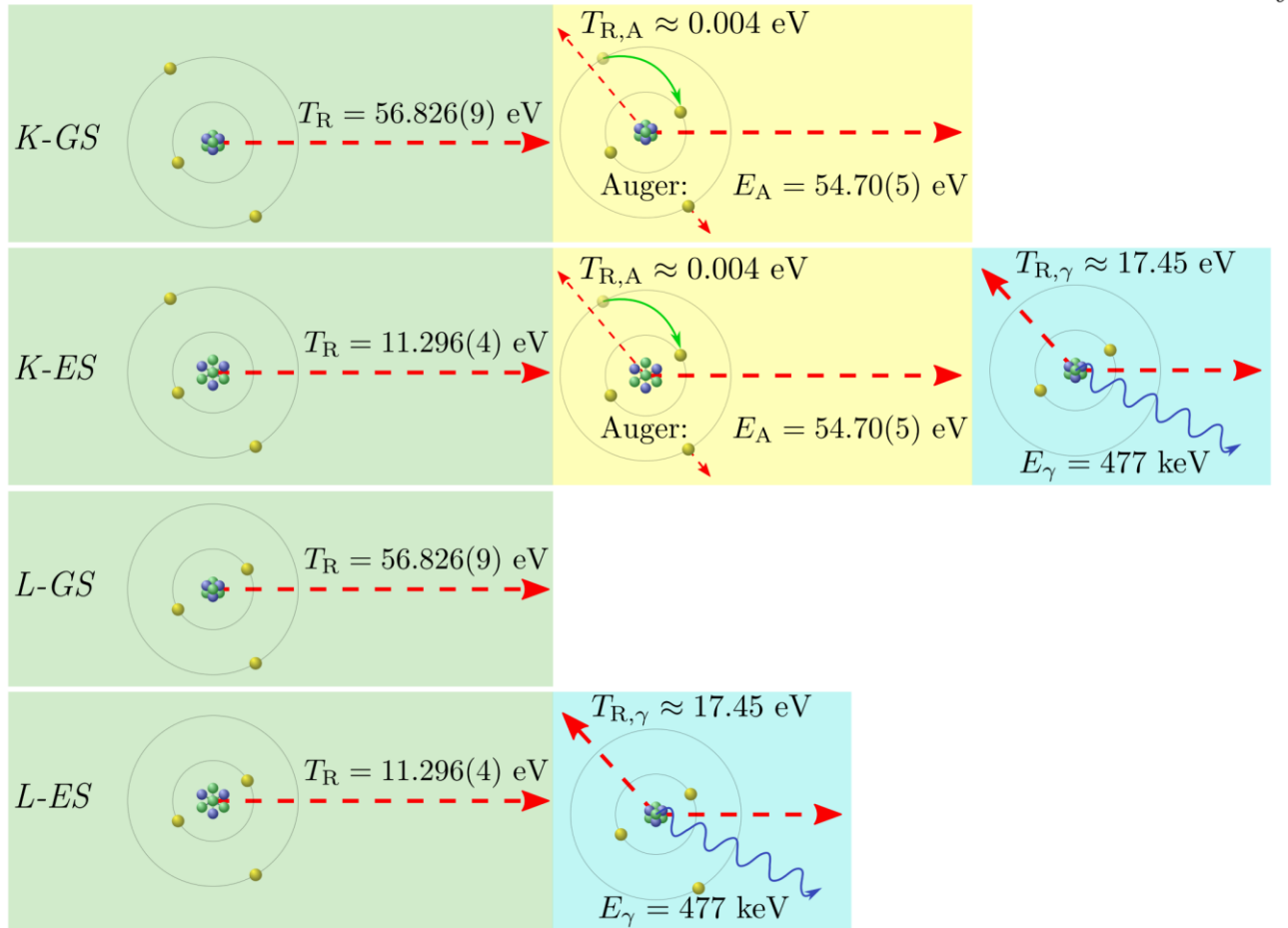
These limits can be powerful, but are **heavily model dependent** and only provide useful limits *if* (for example) they have an observable annihilation or decay mode

# $^7\text{Be}$ Decay Processes

Nuclear  $\gamma$  Emission: 72 fs

Auger Emission: 1-100 fs

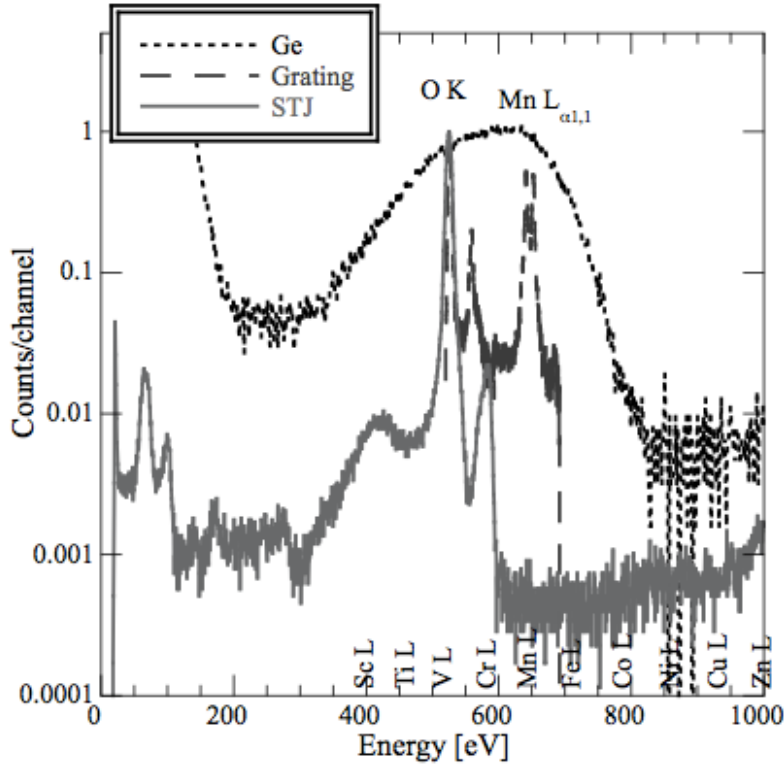
Slowdown: 250-1200 fs



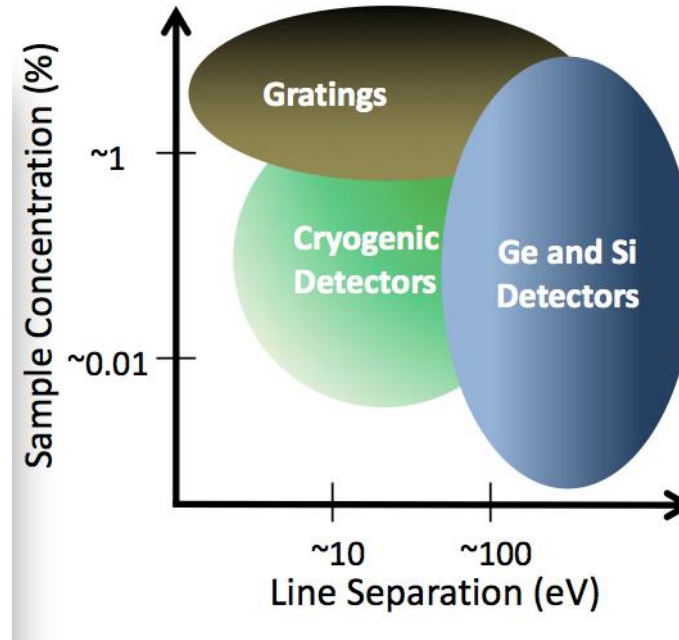


# High-Resolution Low-Temperature Detectors

O. Drury, IEEE Tr. Appl. Sc **15**, 613 (2005)

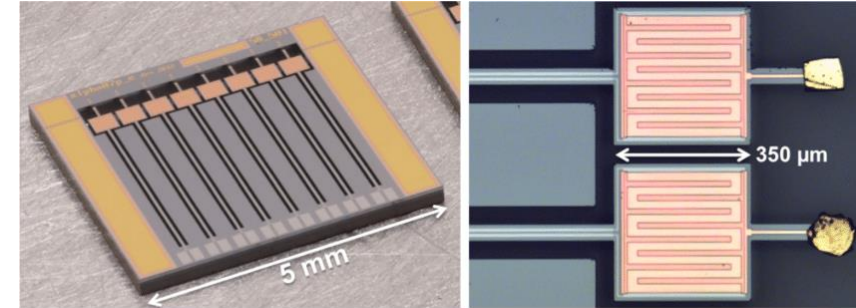


Higher resolution than Si or Ge,  
Higher efficiency than gratings.

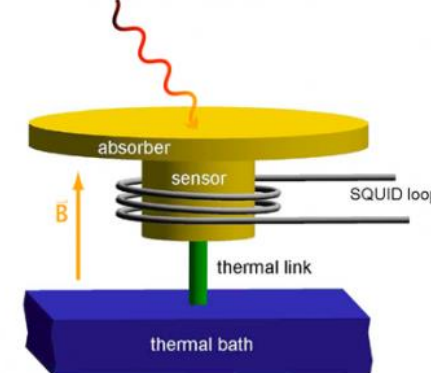


Soft X-ray spectroscopy  
of dilute samples.

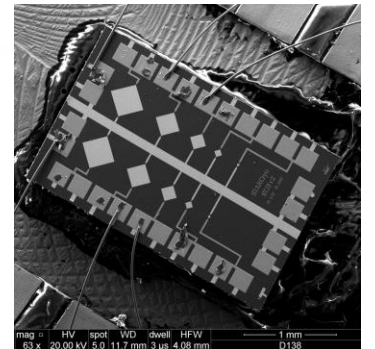
## Transition Edge Sensor (TES)



## Magnetic Microcalorimeter (MMC)



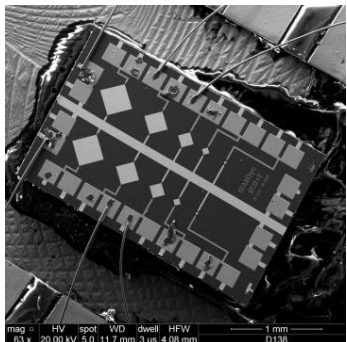
## Superconducting Tunnel Junction (STJ)



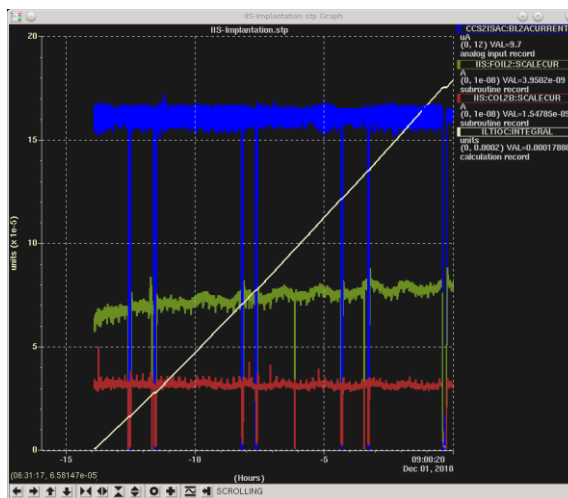
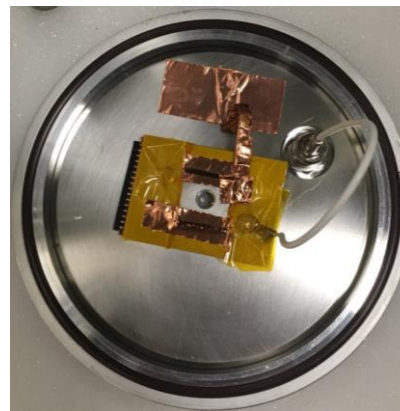
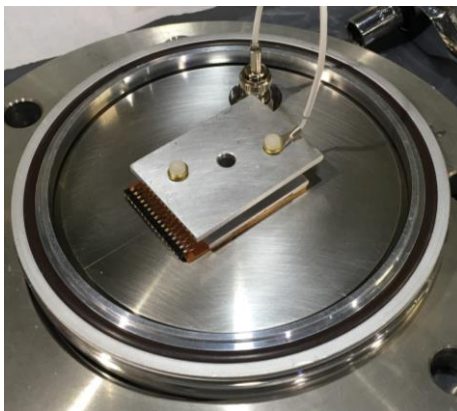
Slide Courtesy: Stephan Friedrich

# Our Proof of Concept (Implantation 1 - Dec 2018)

- Goal: Demonstrate the BeEST concept
- “Test” chip from LLNL



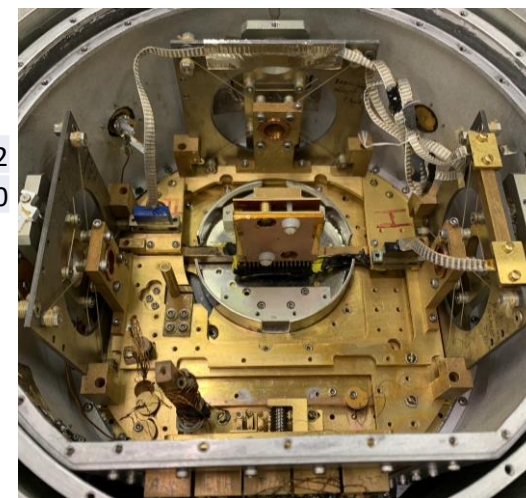
F. Ponce et al., Phys. Rev. C **97**, 054310 (2018)



12 hr implantation:

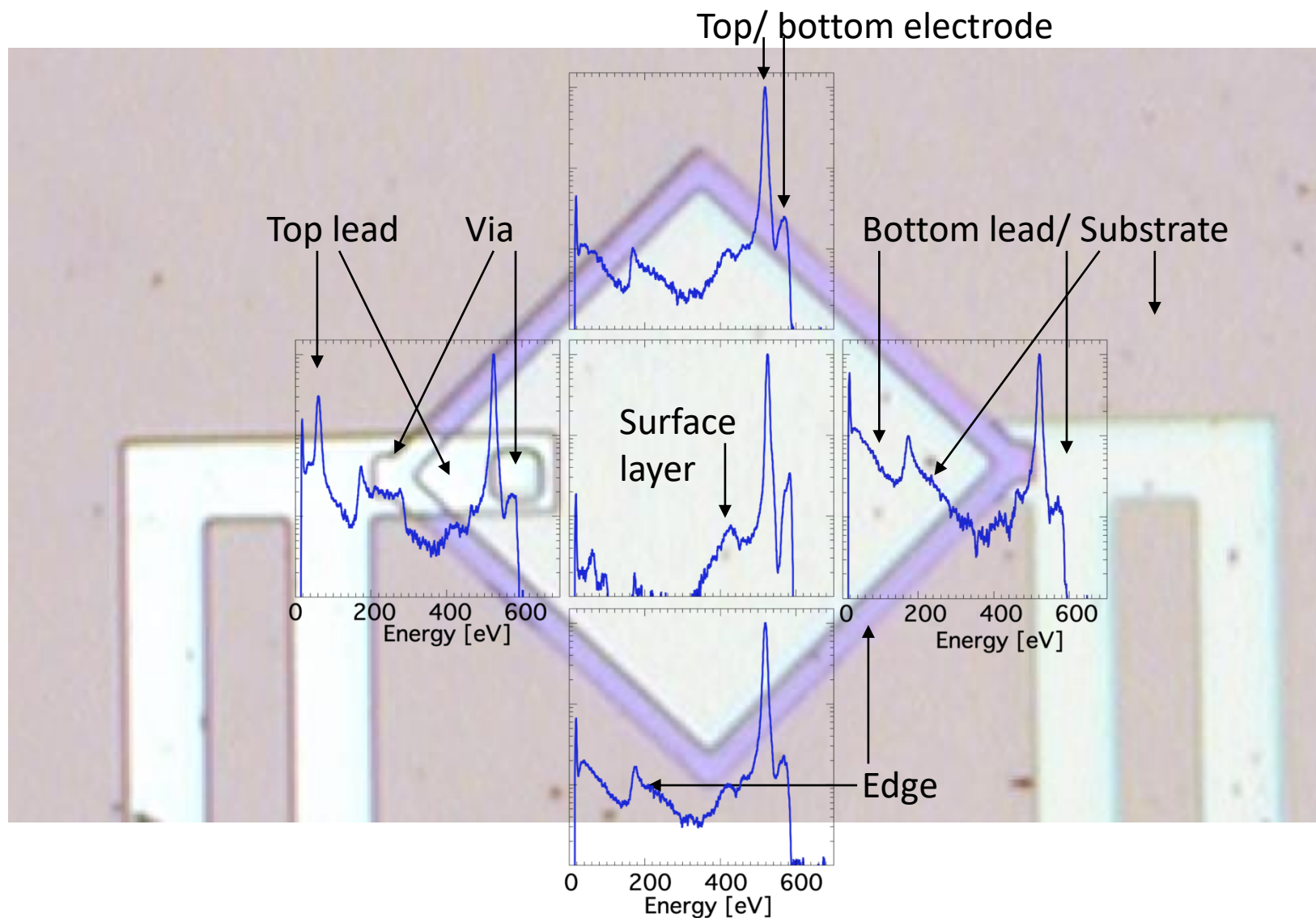
Total Implanted (Li+Be)	1.23E+12
7Be Implanted	4.68E+10

Measured activity on chip: 7.5(4) kBq





# STJ Line Shape (of very old Nb-STJs)



## Experiment:

- Illuminate different parts of STJ
- Use focused 500 eV X-ray beam
- Identify source of artifacts

## STJ Improvements since then:

- Replace Nb by Ta  $\Rightarrow$  Line splitting  $\downarrow$
- No  $\text{SiO}_2$  on surface  $\Rightarrow$  No artifact
- Narrower base layer edge
- Smaller overlap of top lead

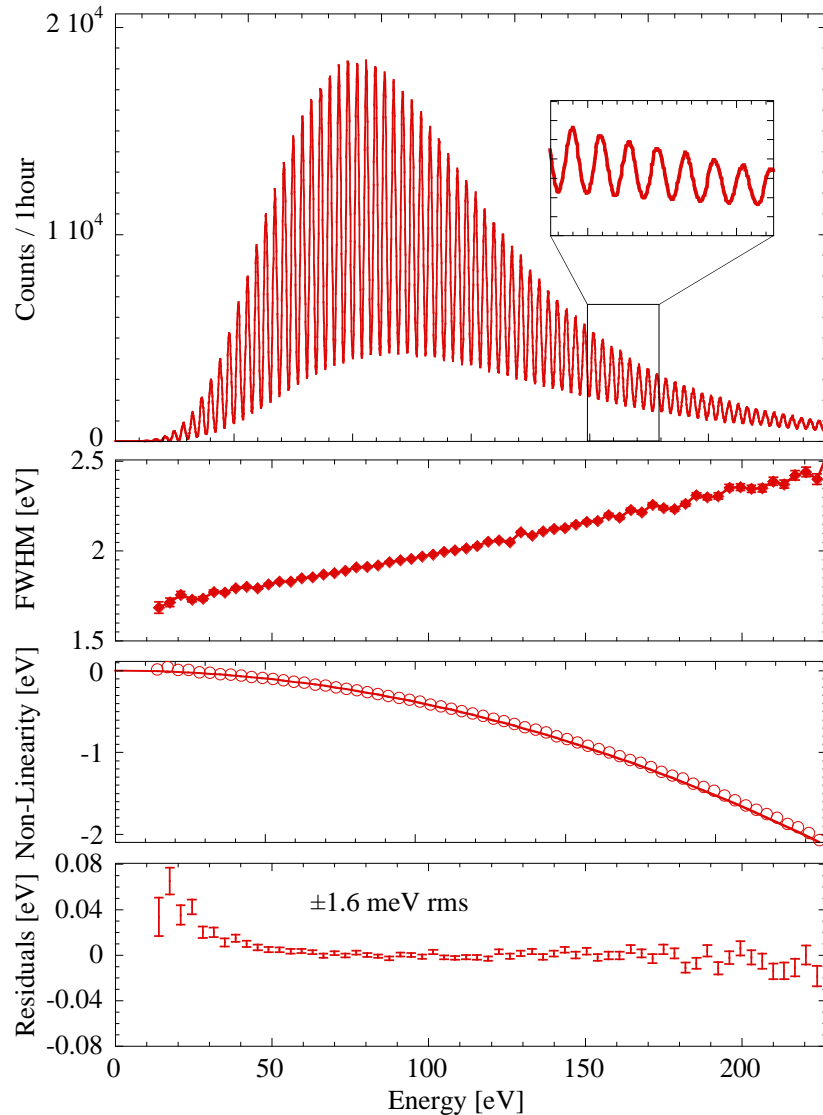
## Planned Improvements

- Replace Ta by thick Pb, no Ta base  $\Rightarrow$  Higher efficiency at high E
- STJ on membrane, use collimator  $\Rightarrow$  No substrate and edge effects

Slide Courtesy: Stephan Friedrich



# STJ Performance: Resolution and Linearity



**Pulsed 355 nm (3.5eV) laser at 5,000 Hz**

⇒ Comb of peaks at integer multiples of 3.5 eV

⇒ Energy resolution between ~1.5 and ~2.5 eV FWHM

⇒ Only quadratic non-linearity

⇒ Calibration accuracy of order ±1 meV in 1 hour

S. Friedrich et al., J. Low Temp. Phys. **200**, 200 (2020)