

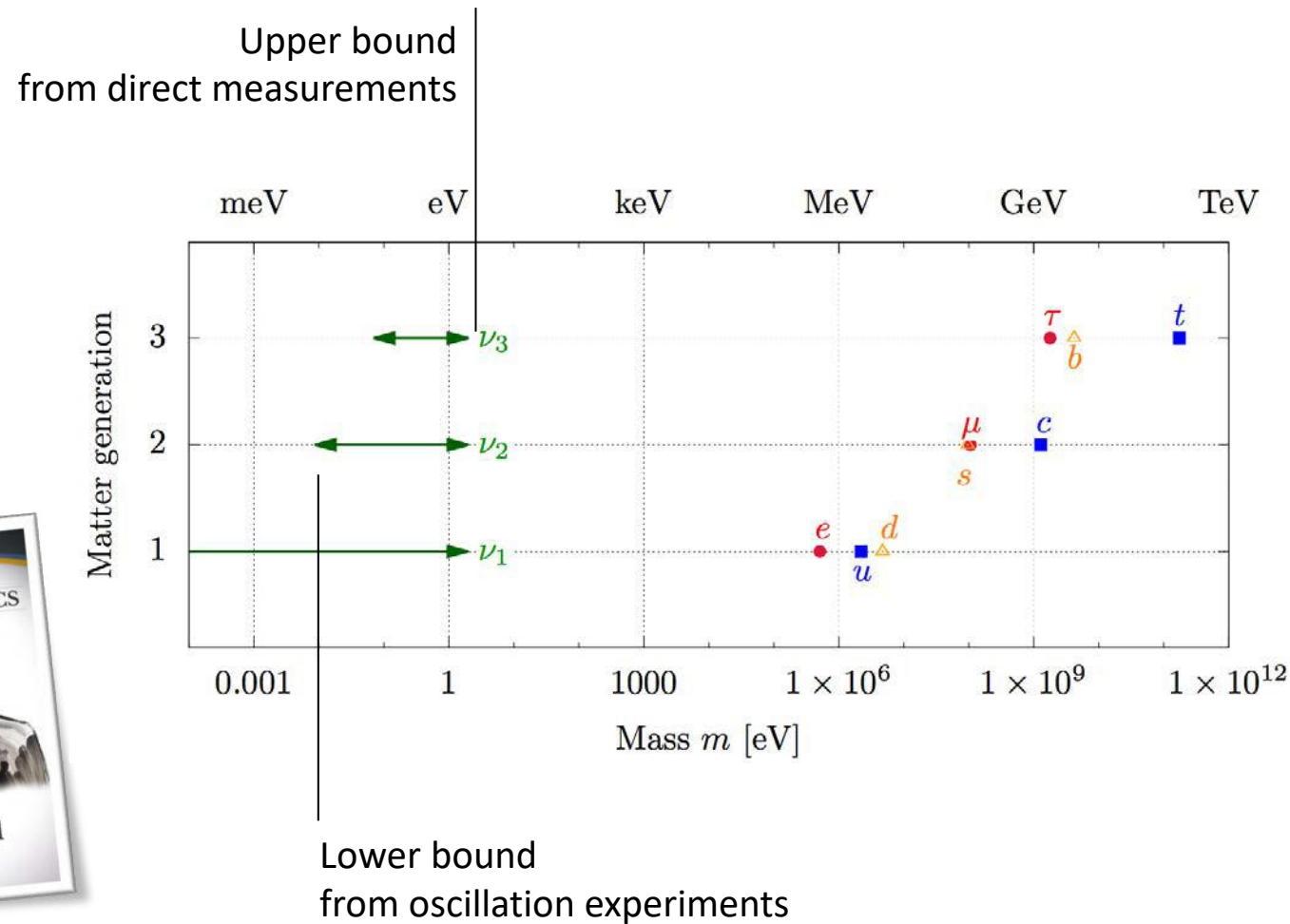
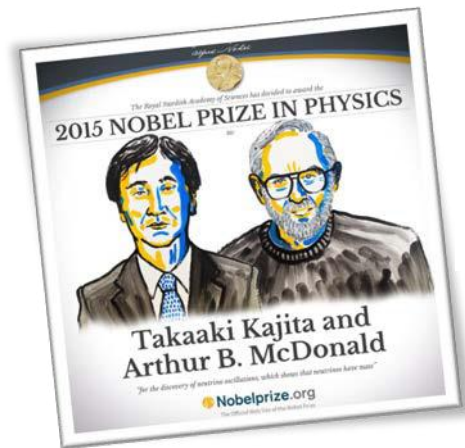
# Neutrino mixing and mass

## Part 2: mass



Prof. Dr. Susanne Mertens  
Technical University Munich

# Neutrino mass

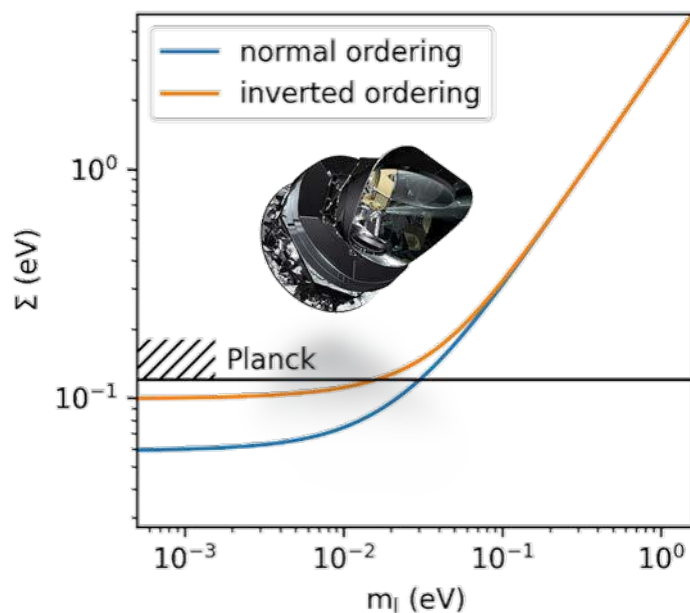




# Neutrino mass

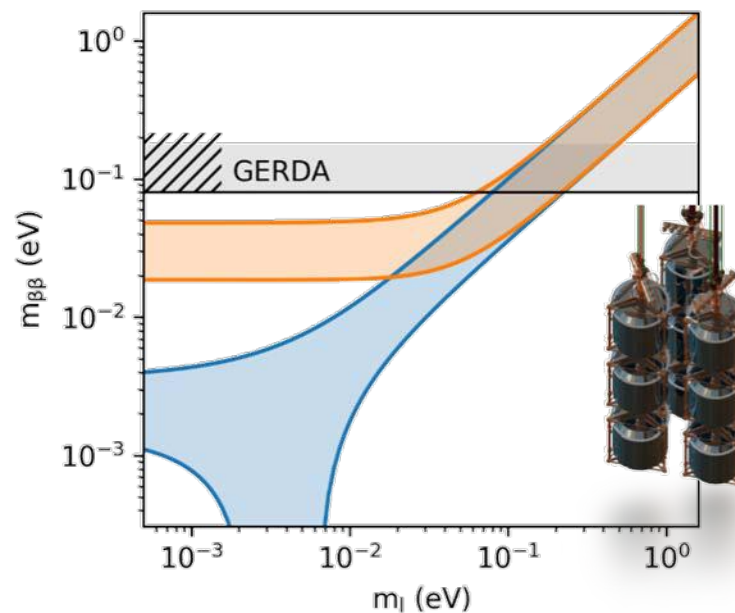
## Cosmology

$$\Sigma = \sum_i m_i$$



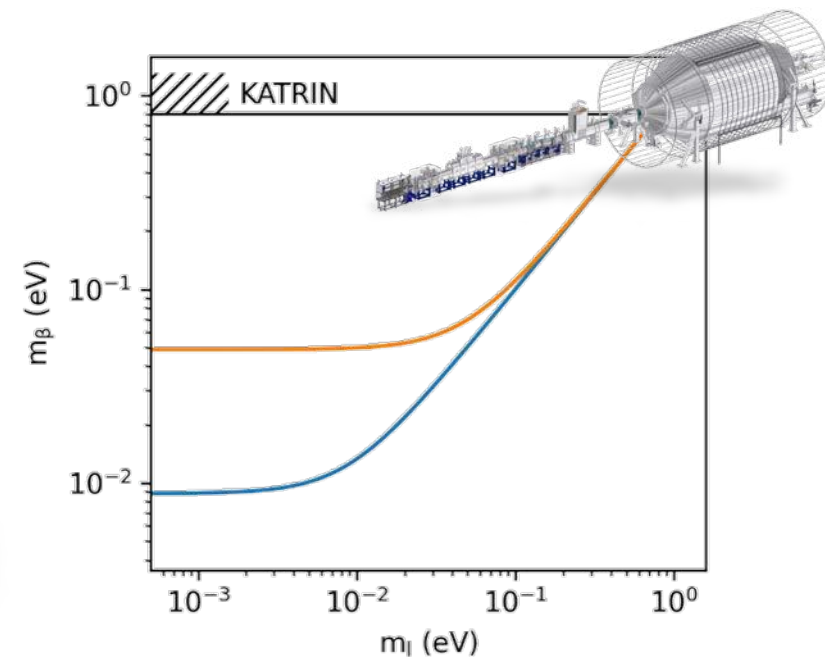
## Neutrinoless $\beta\beta$ decay

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



## $\beta$ -decay kinematics

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



# Questions for today

How to measure the  
neutrino mass from  
cosmology

...and from  $0\nu\beta\beta$  ?

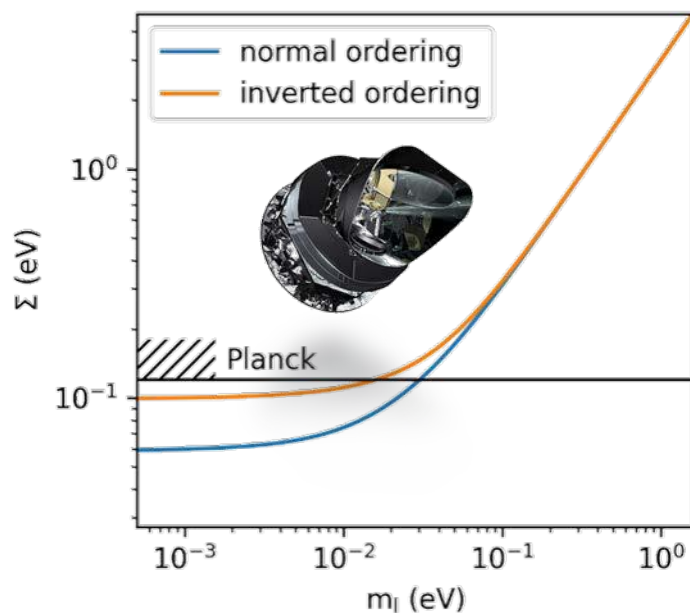
...and directly ?

What can we learn if we  
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# Neutrino mass

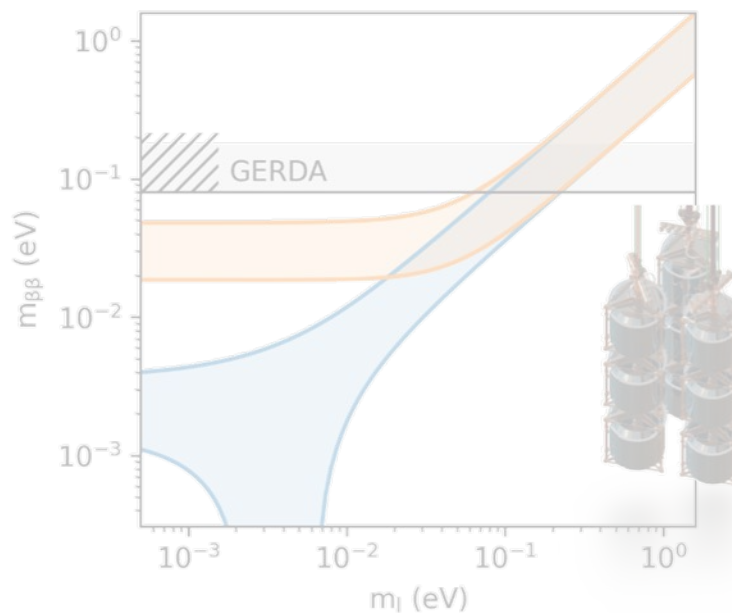
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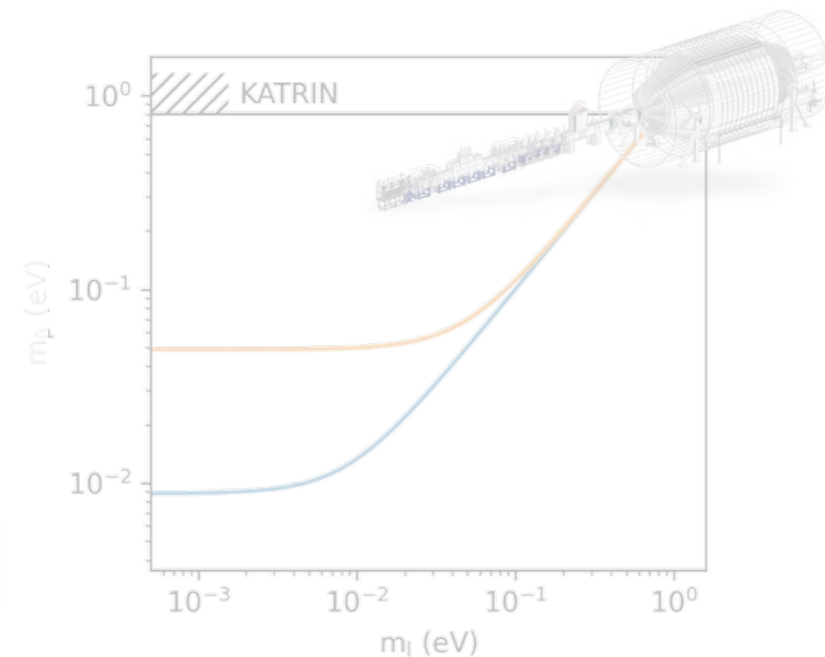
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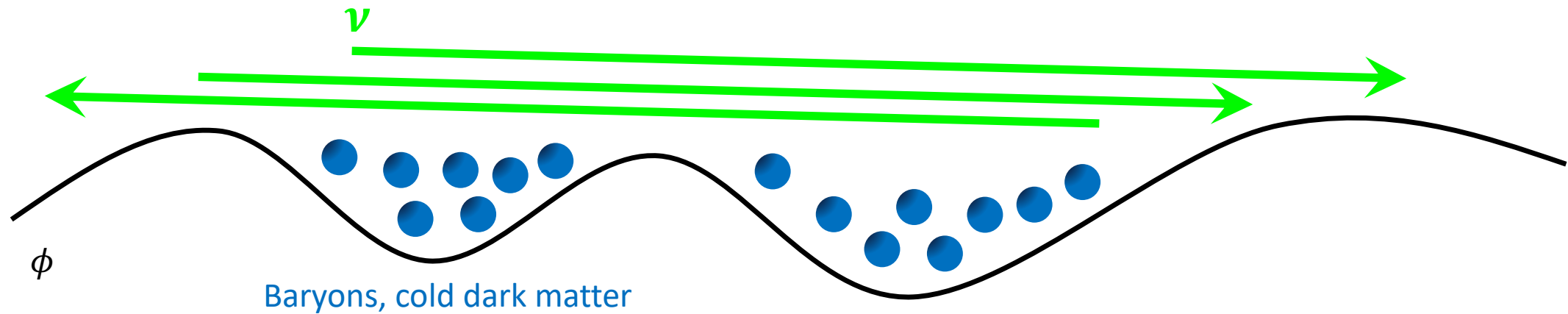


# Neutrinos in the universe

- Freeze-out of  $\nu$ 's 1 s after big bang
- Neutrinos are the most abundant matter particle in the universe
- Today 300 neutrinos per cubic centimeter from the Big Bang
- Even if light they can impact the structure formation



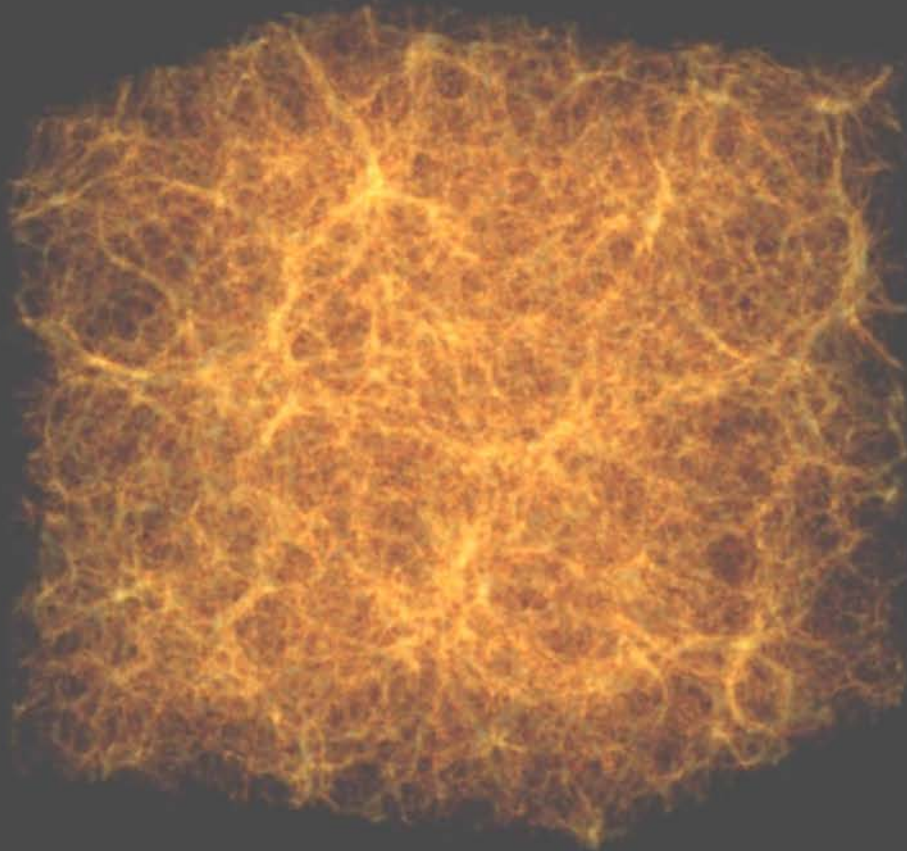
# Neutrinos as cosmic architects



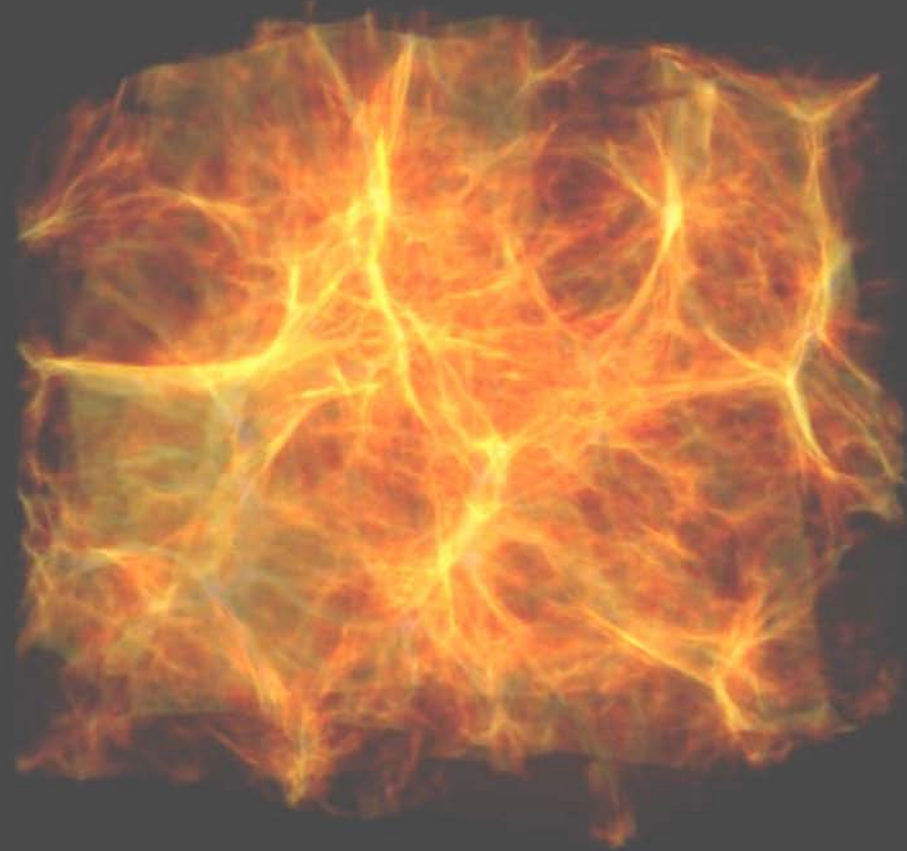
# Neutrinos as cosmic architects

$Z = 0.00$

$\Sigma m_\nu = 0 \text{ eV}$



$\Sigma m_\nu = 6.9 \text{ eV}$





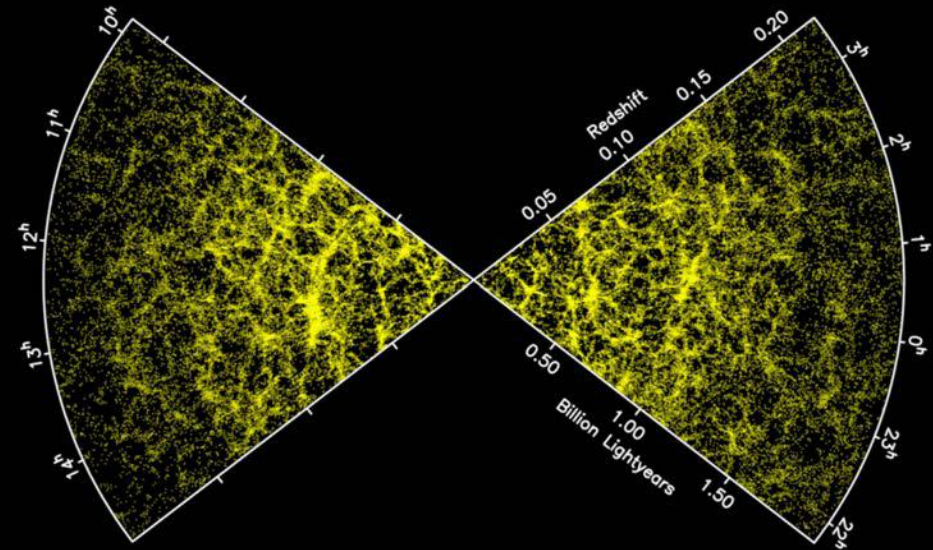
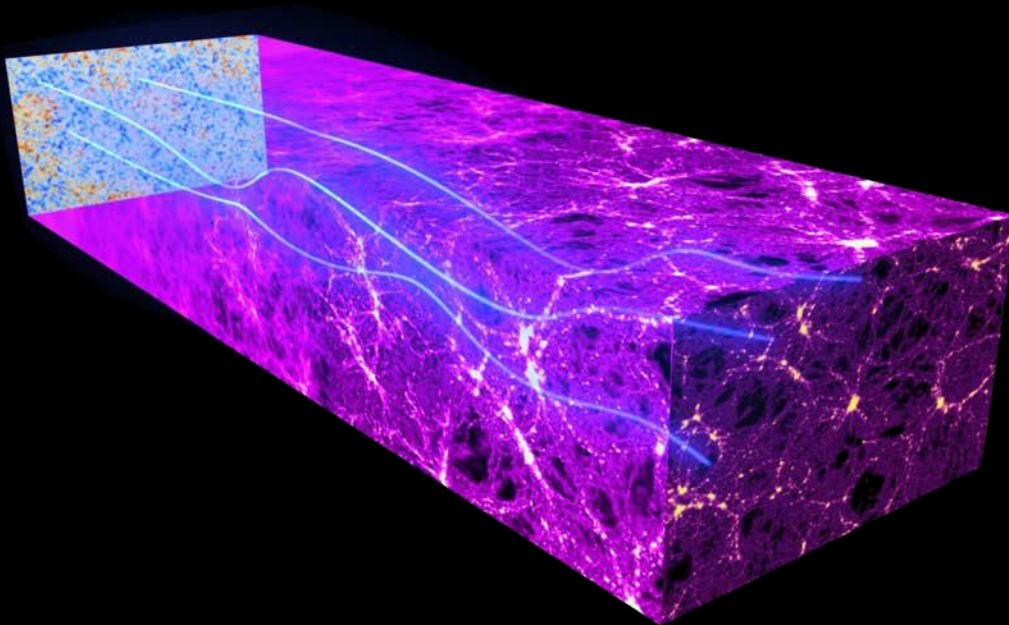
# Cosmological probes

## Cosmic microwave background

- CMB temperature anisotropy
- CMB polarization
- CMB lensing

## Galaxy surveys

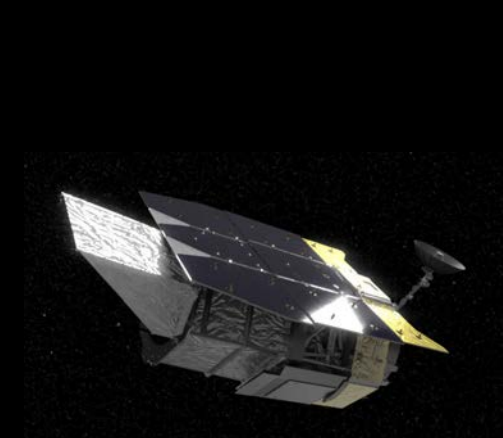
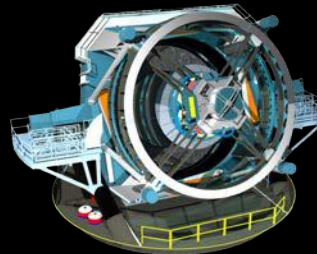
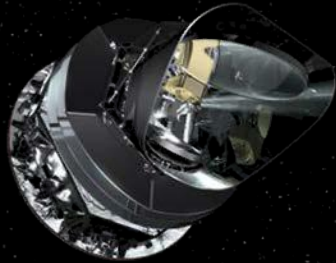
- 3-d galaxy distribution
- weak lensing at different redshift
- Lyman- $\alpha$  forest



# Missions

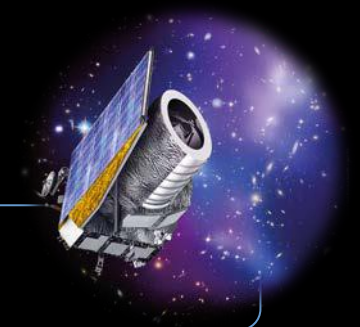
## Cosmic microwave background

- Planck satellite
- Simons Observatory (1808.07445)
- CMB-S4 (1610.02743)
- LiteBIRD (1801.06987)



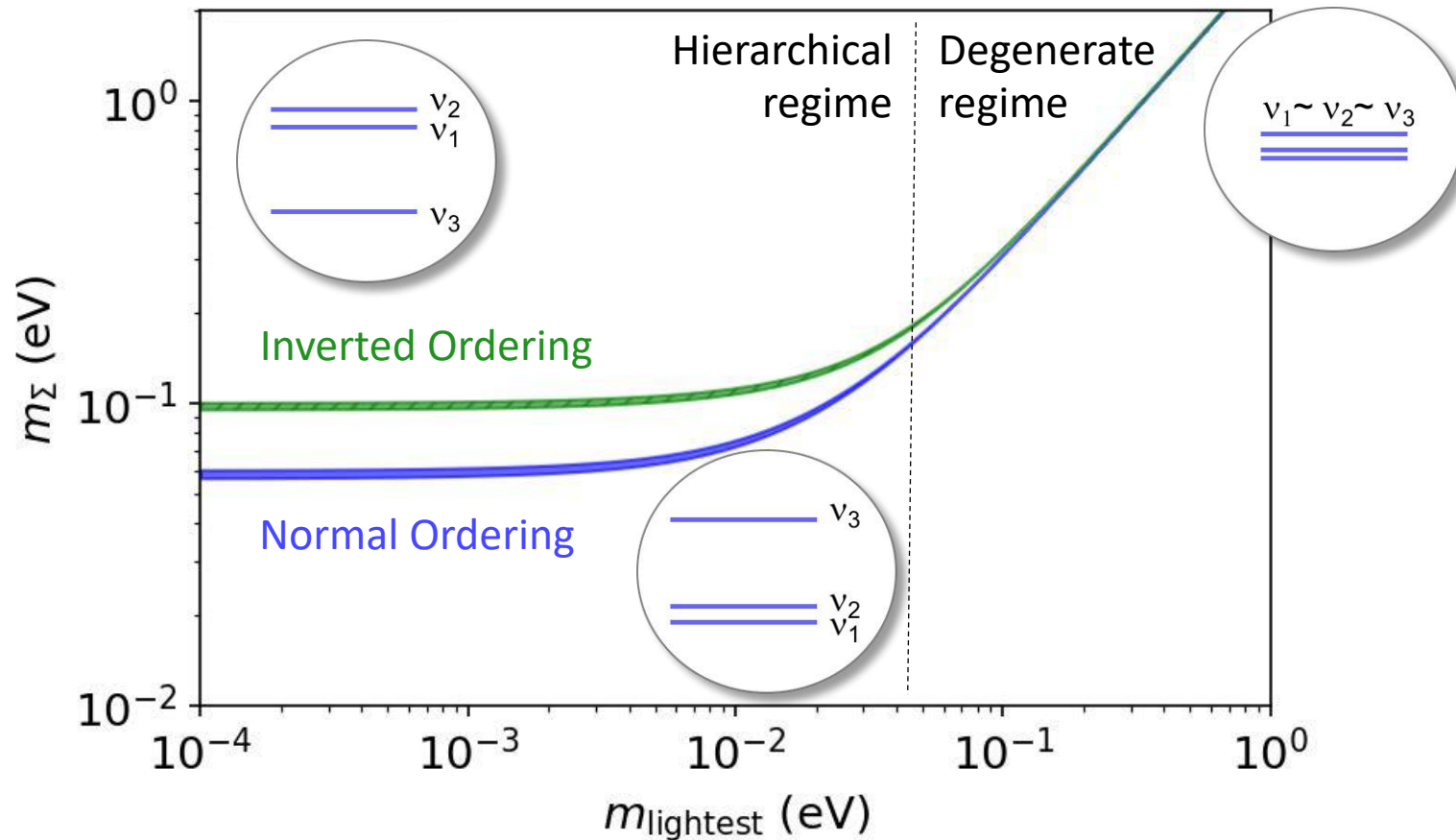
## Galaxy surveys

- Dark Energy Spectroscopic Instrument (DESI)
  - EUCLID (1110.3193)
- LSST (Vera Rubin Obs.) (0912.0201)
- WFIRST (now: NGRST) (1208.4012)



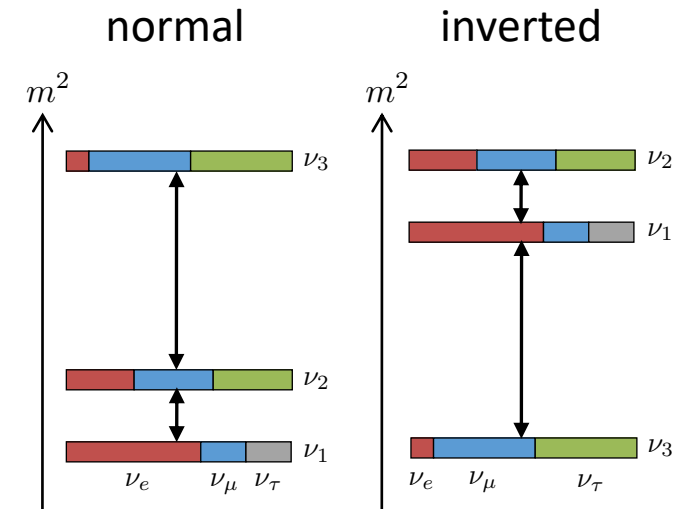


# Where do we stand?

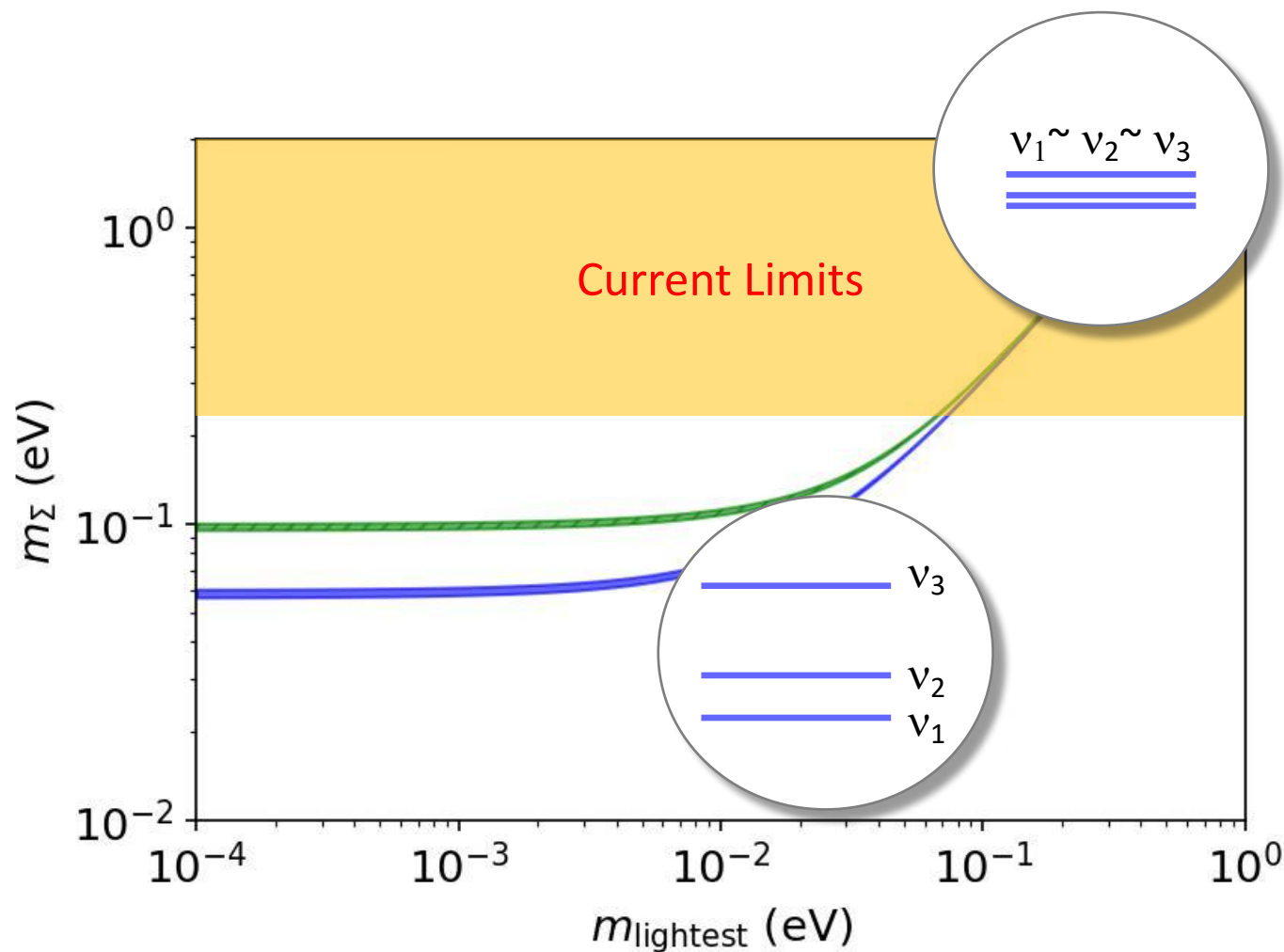


- Observable: sum of neutrino mass eigenstates:  

$$m_\Sigma = \sum_i m_i$$



# Where do we stand?



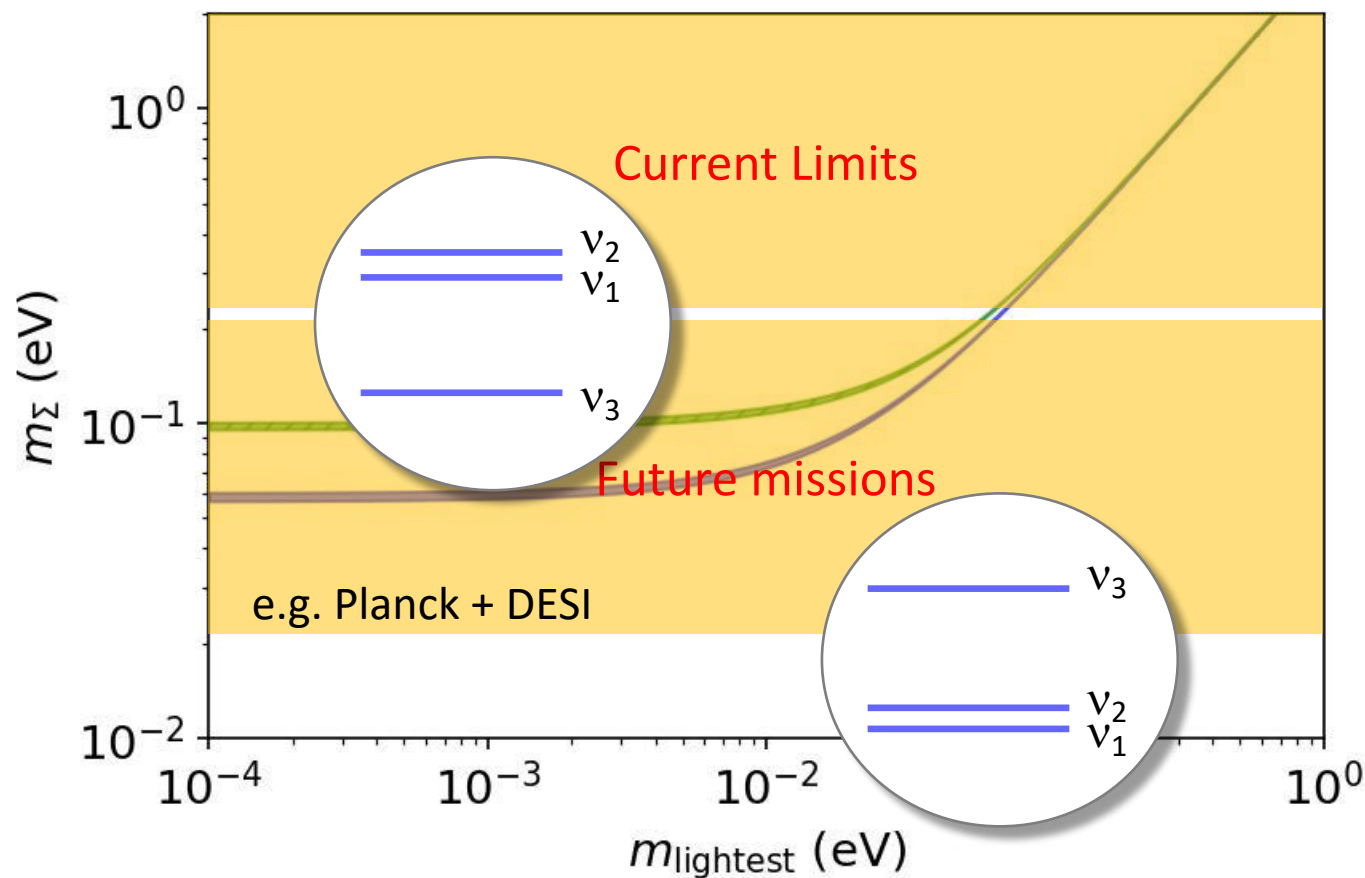
## Current best limits:

Planck 2018: arXiv:1807.06209v1

- $\sum m_\nu < 540$  meV (TT + lowE)
- $\sum m_\nu < 260$  meV (TTTEEE + lowE)
- $\sum m_\nu < 240$  meV (TTTEEE + lowE + lensing)
- $\sum m_\nu < 120$  meV (TTTEEE + lowE + lensing + BAO)



# Where do we go?



## Current best limits:

Planck 2018: arXiv:1807.06209v1

- $\sum m_\nu < 120 - 540$  meV

## Future missions:

- $\sigma(\sum m_\nu) \sim 50$  meV (CMB)
- $\sigma(\sum m_\nu) \sim 20$  meV (CMB + BAO)
- $\sigma(\sum m_\nu) \sim 10$  meV (CMB + BAO + LSS)

### Careful:

cosmology sees the amount of hot dark matter  
not a direct neutrino mass measurement  
= model-dependent

# Questions for today

How to measure the neutrino mass from cosmology

...and from  $0\nu\beta\beta$  ?

...and directly ?

What can we learn if we measure nothing?

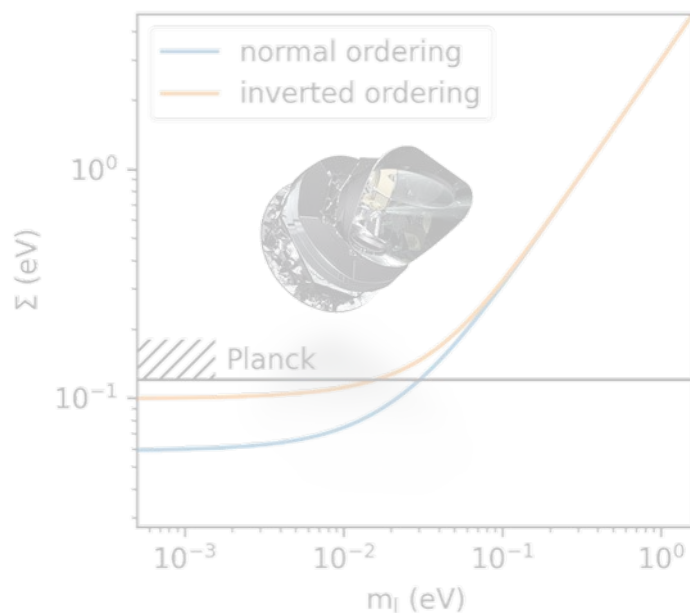
- Neutrinos are hot dark matter and wash out small scale structure
- Imprint in CMB and LSS
- Sensitivity at  $\sum m_\nu < 0.2 \text{ eV}$



# Neutrino mass

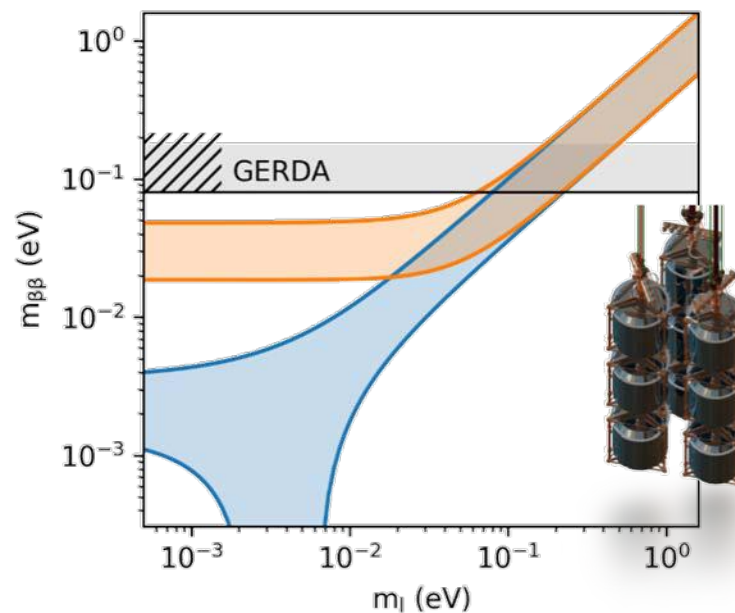
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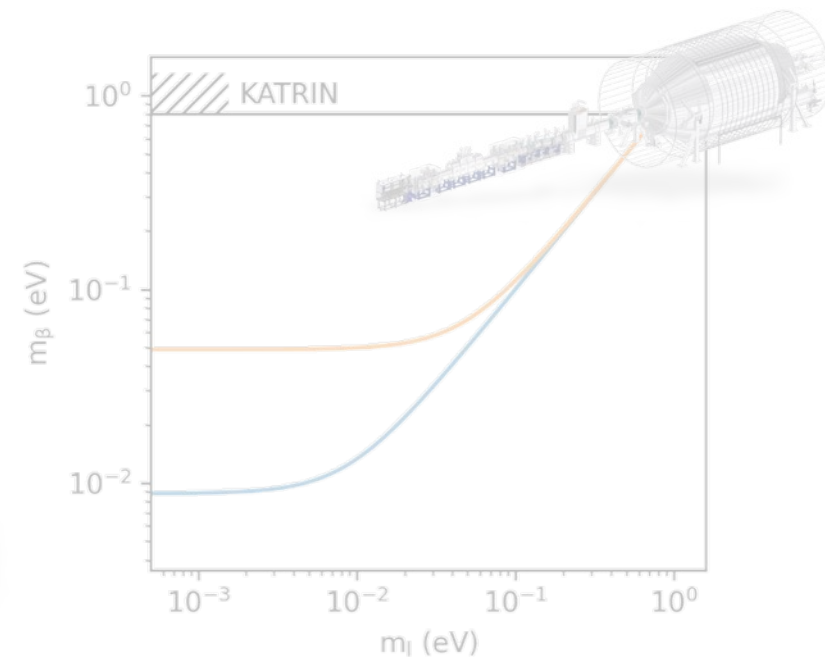
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$$m_{\beta\beta} = \left| \sum_i U_{ei}^2 m_i \right|$$



## $\beta$ -decay kinematics

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



# The nature of neutrinos

Dirac:

*„Neutrinos and antineutrinos are different“*

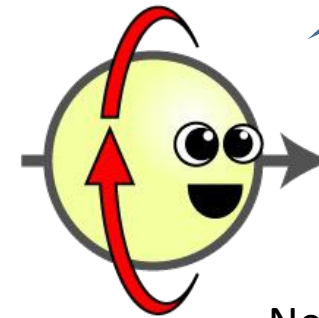
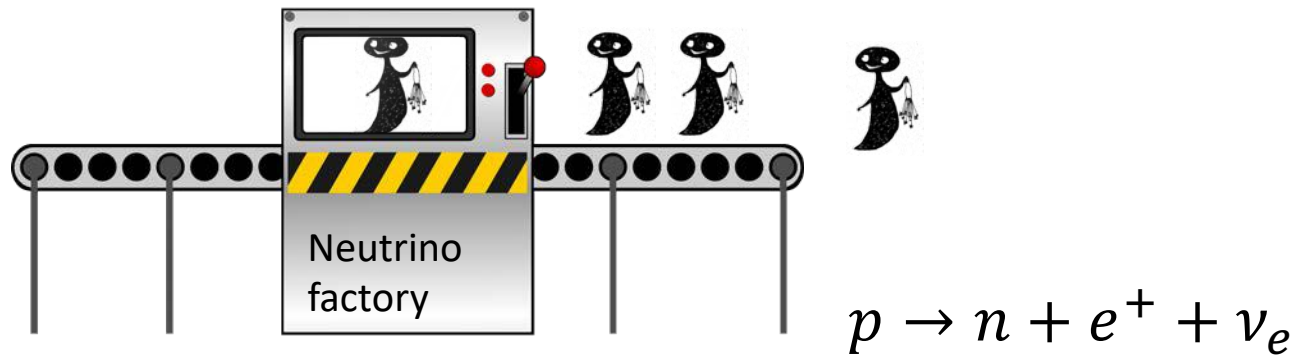


Majorana:

*„Neutrinos are their own antiparticle“*

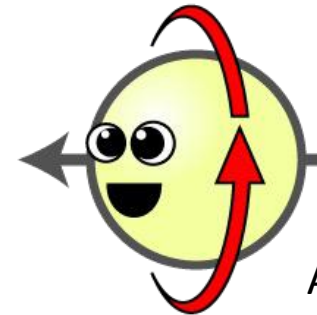
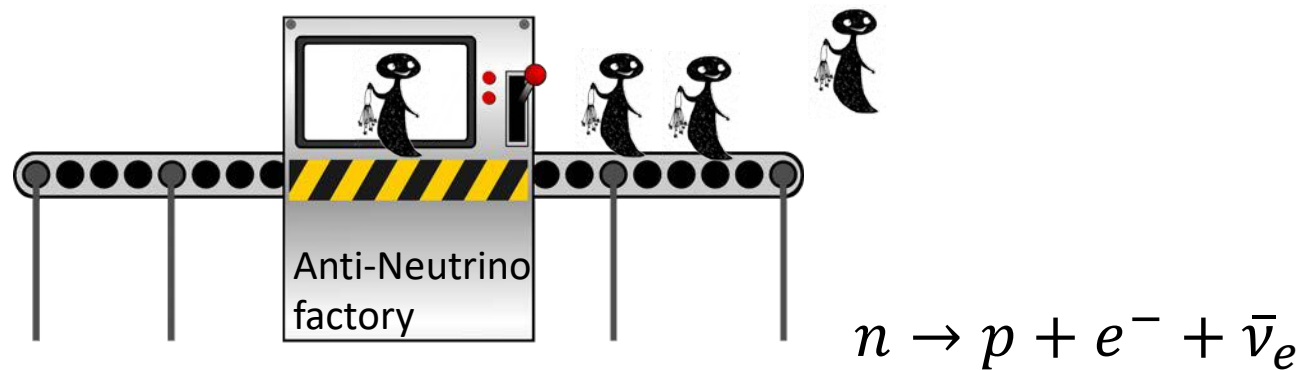


# Helicity of Neutrinos



helicity:  
projection of  
spin onto  
momentum

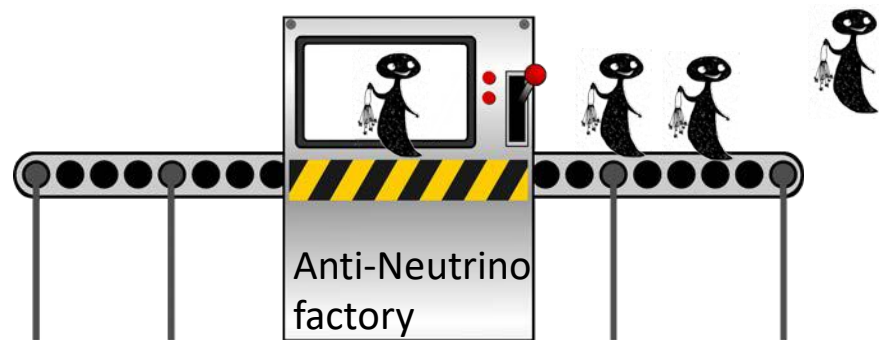
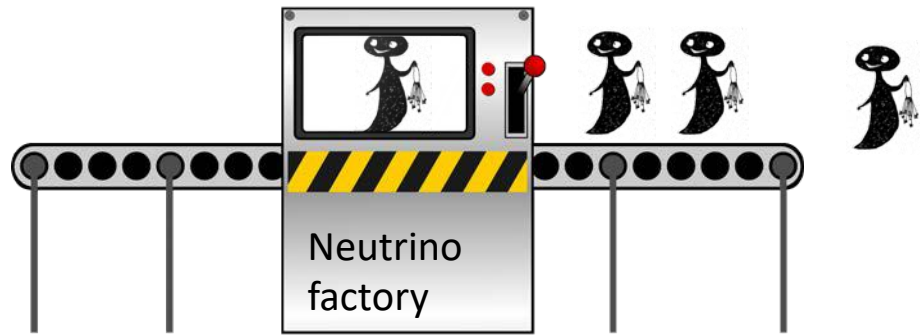
Neutrinos are left-handed



Antineutrinos are right-handed



# Helicity of Neutrinos



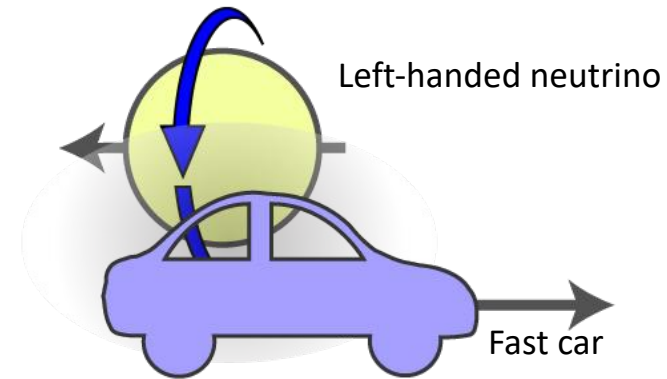
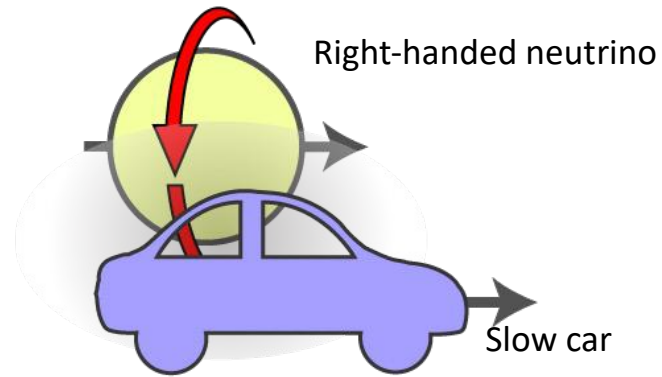
**Majorana:**  
*"That's the only difference"*



**Dirac:**  
*"There is a more fundamental difference between the two"*



# How can we test who is right?

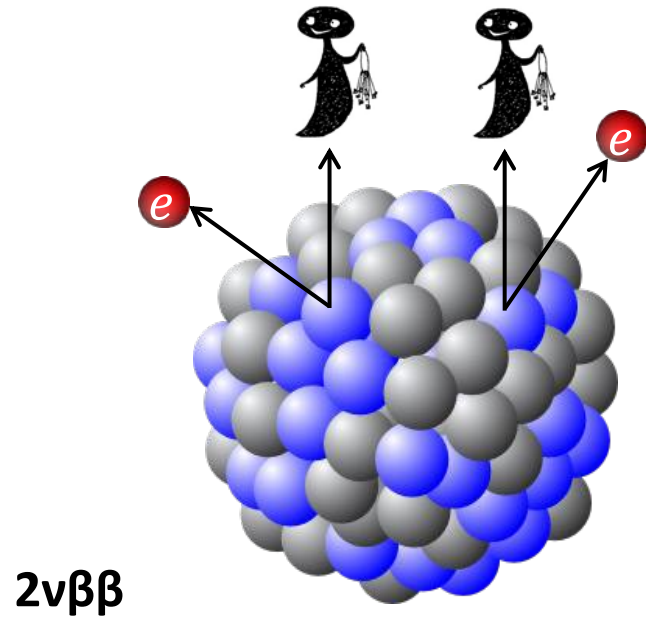


**Dirac:**  
*"The neutrino is **not identical** to the known antineutrino"*



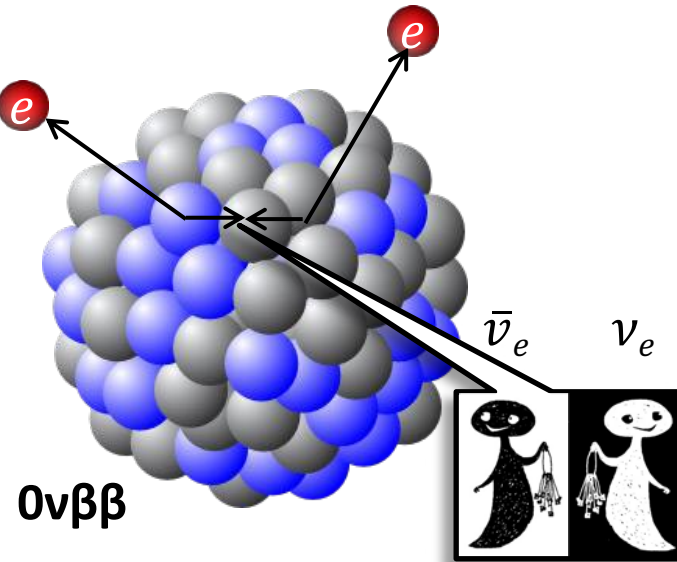
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# How can we test who is right?



$$n \rightarrow p + e^- + \bar{\nu}_e$$

$$n \rightarrow p + e^- + \bar{\nu}_e$$

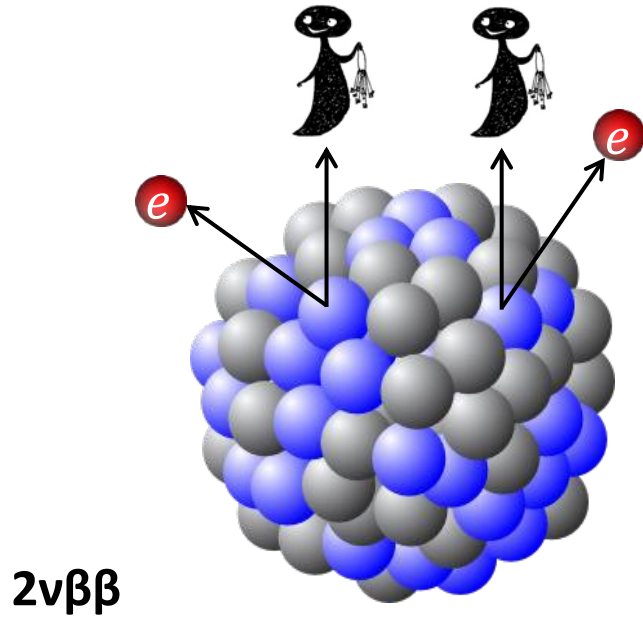


$$n \rightarrow p + e^- + \bar{\nu}_e$$

$$n + \nu_e \rightarrow p + e^-$$

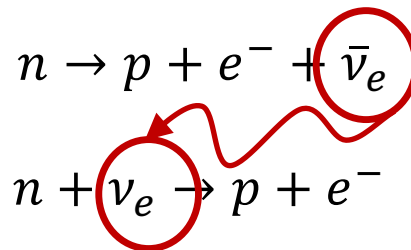
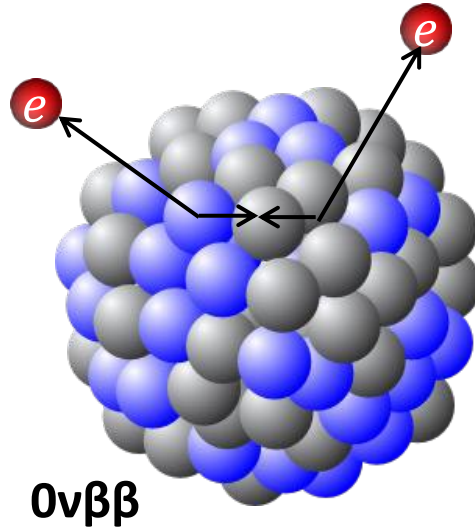


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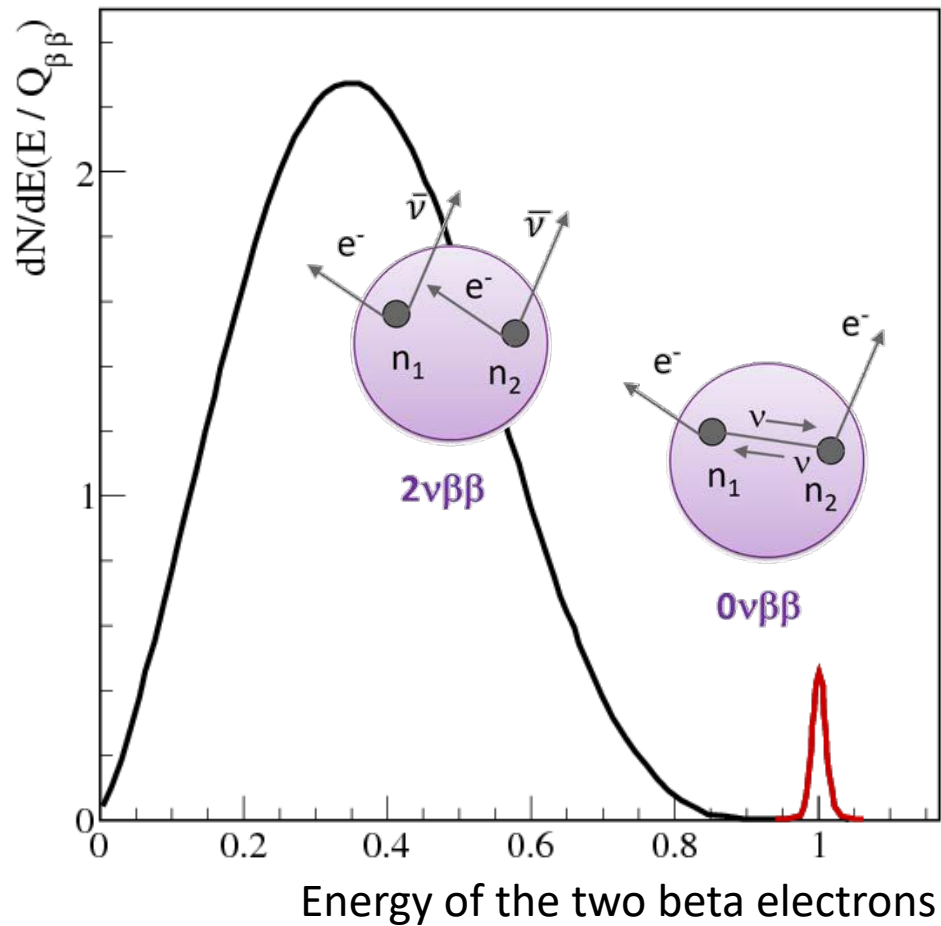


**Dirac:** "The reaction is not possible"



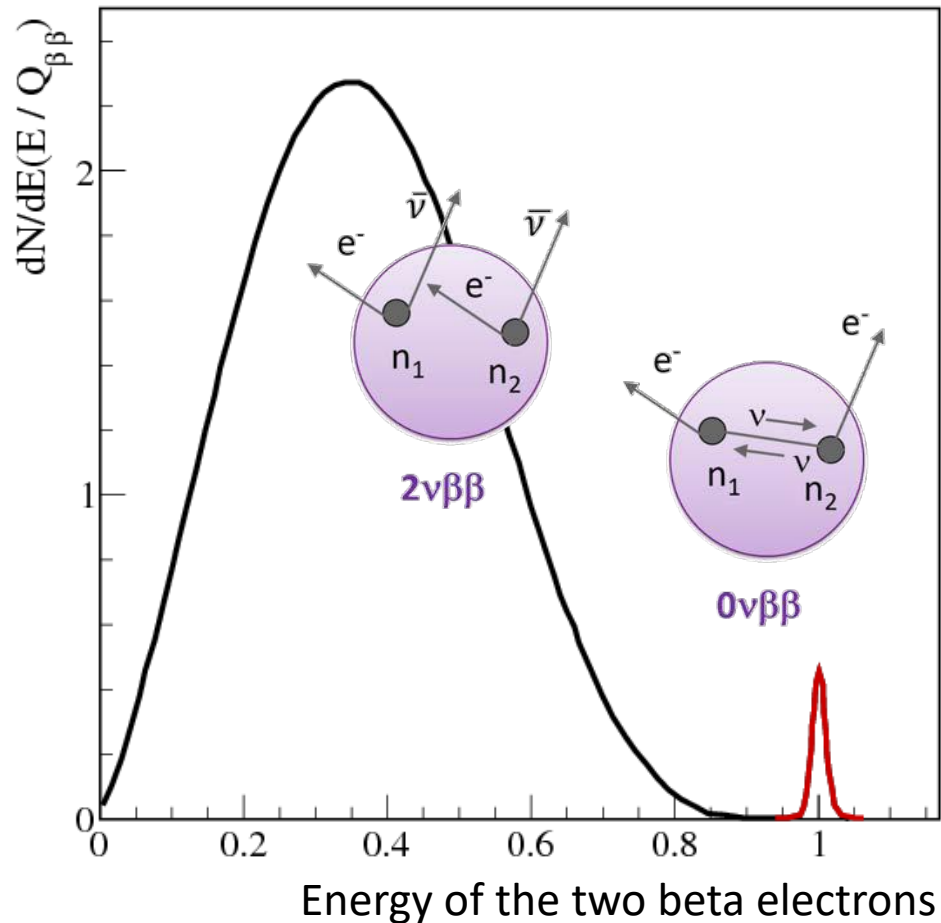
**Majorana:** "This reaction should be possible."

# Neutrinoless double beta decay: signature



$^{48}\text{Ca}$ ,  $^{76}\text{Ge}$ ,  $^{82}\text{Se}$ ,  $^{96}\text{Zr}$ ,  $^{100}\text{Mo}$ ,  $^{110}\text{Pd}$ ,  $^{116}\text{Cd}$ ,  $^{124}\text{Sn}$ ,  $^{130}\text{Te}$ ,  $^{136}\text{Xe}$ ,  $^{150}\text{Nd}$

# Neutrinoless double beta decay

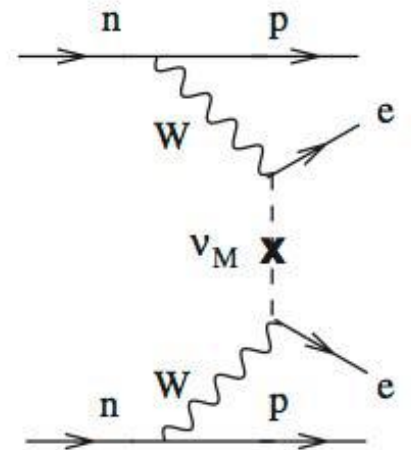


If  $0\nu\beta\beta$  was discovered:

- Proof that Majorana is right
- **Discovery of matter-creating process**  
→ **shed light on matter-anti-matter asymmetry**
- Lepton number is violated

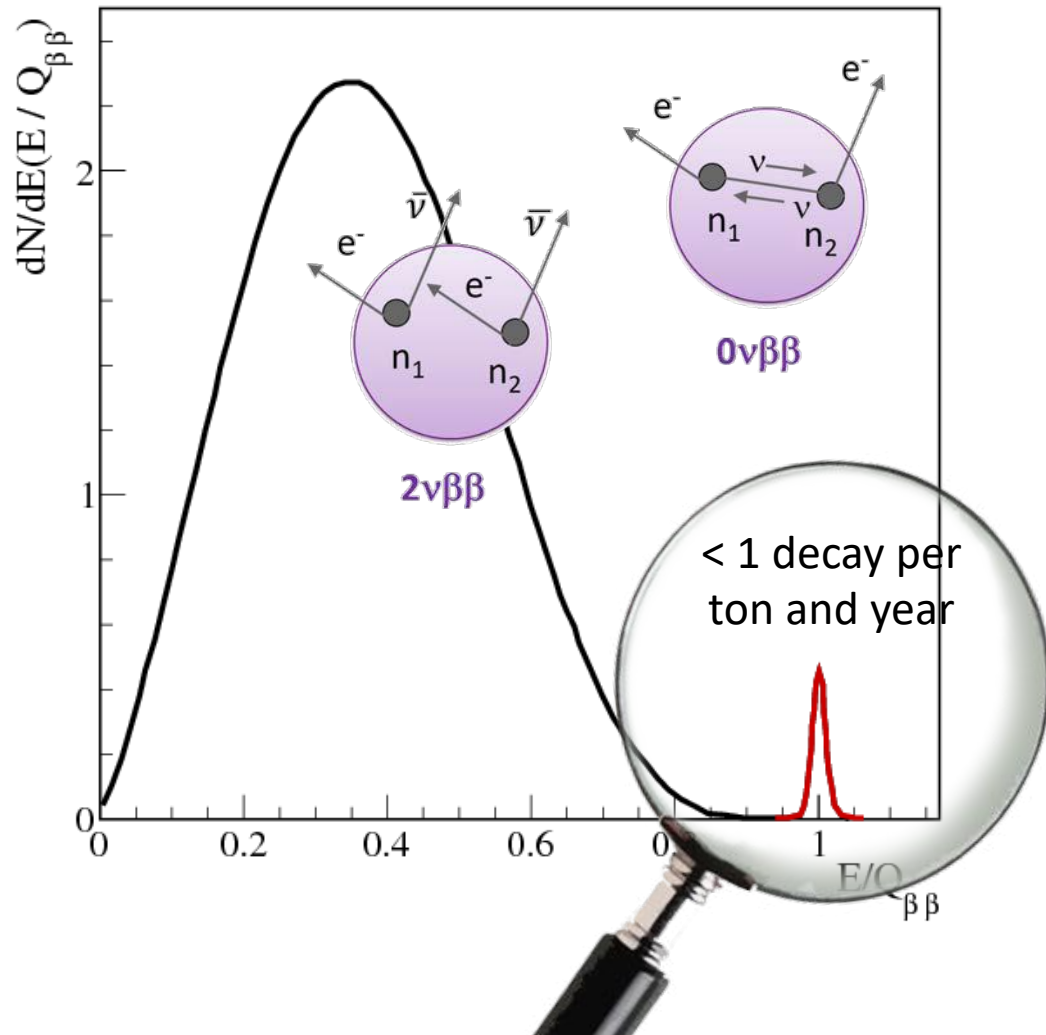
- Half life reveals neutrino mass  

$$\frac{1}{T_{1/2}^{0\nu}} = G_{0\nu}(Q, Z) \cdot |M^{0\nu}|^2 \cdot m_{\beta\beta}^2$$





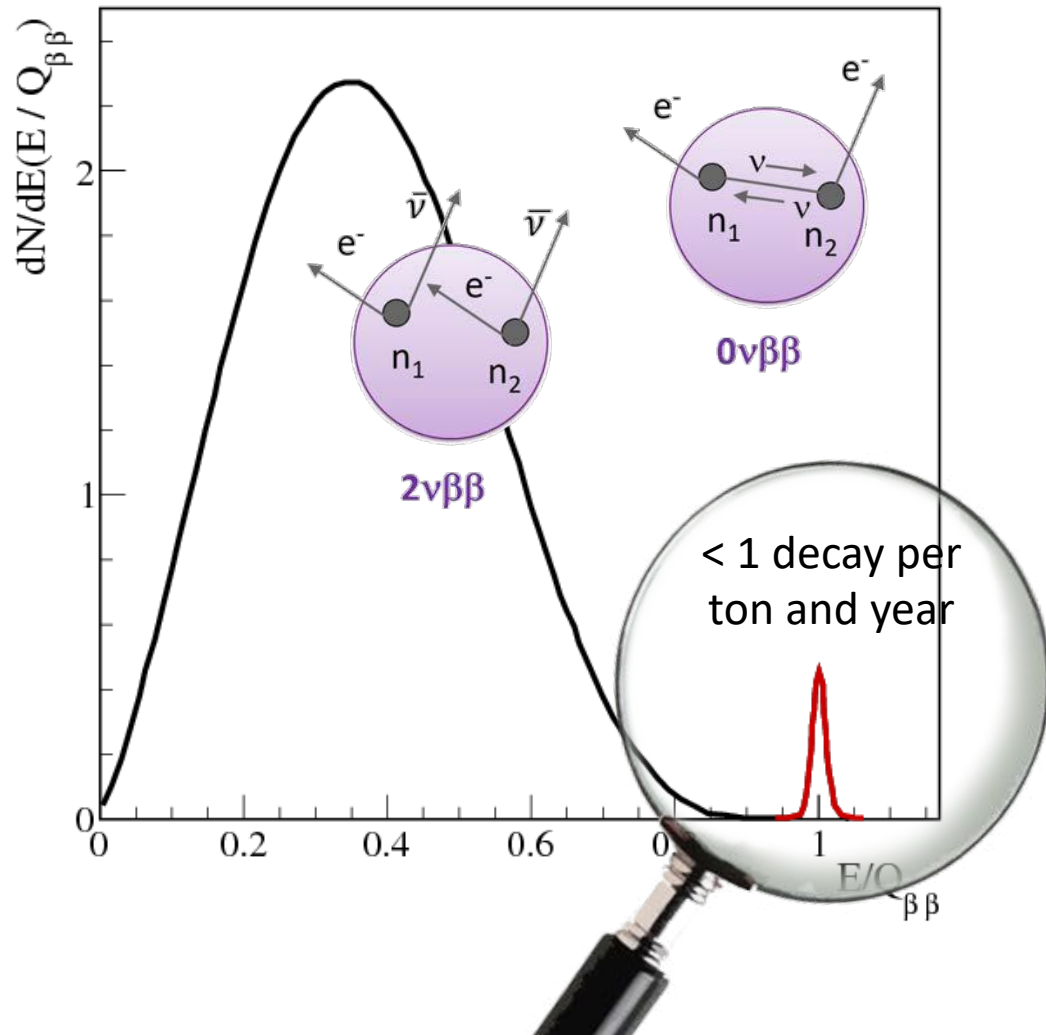
# The Challenge



- What do we need to realize an experiment?



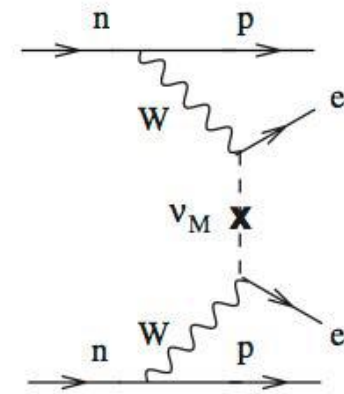
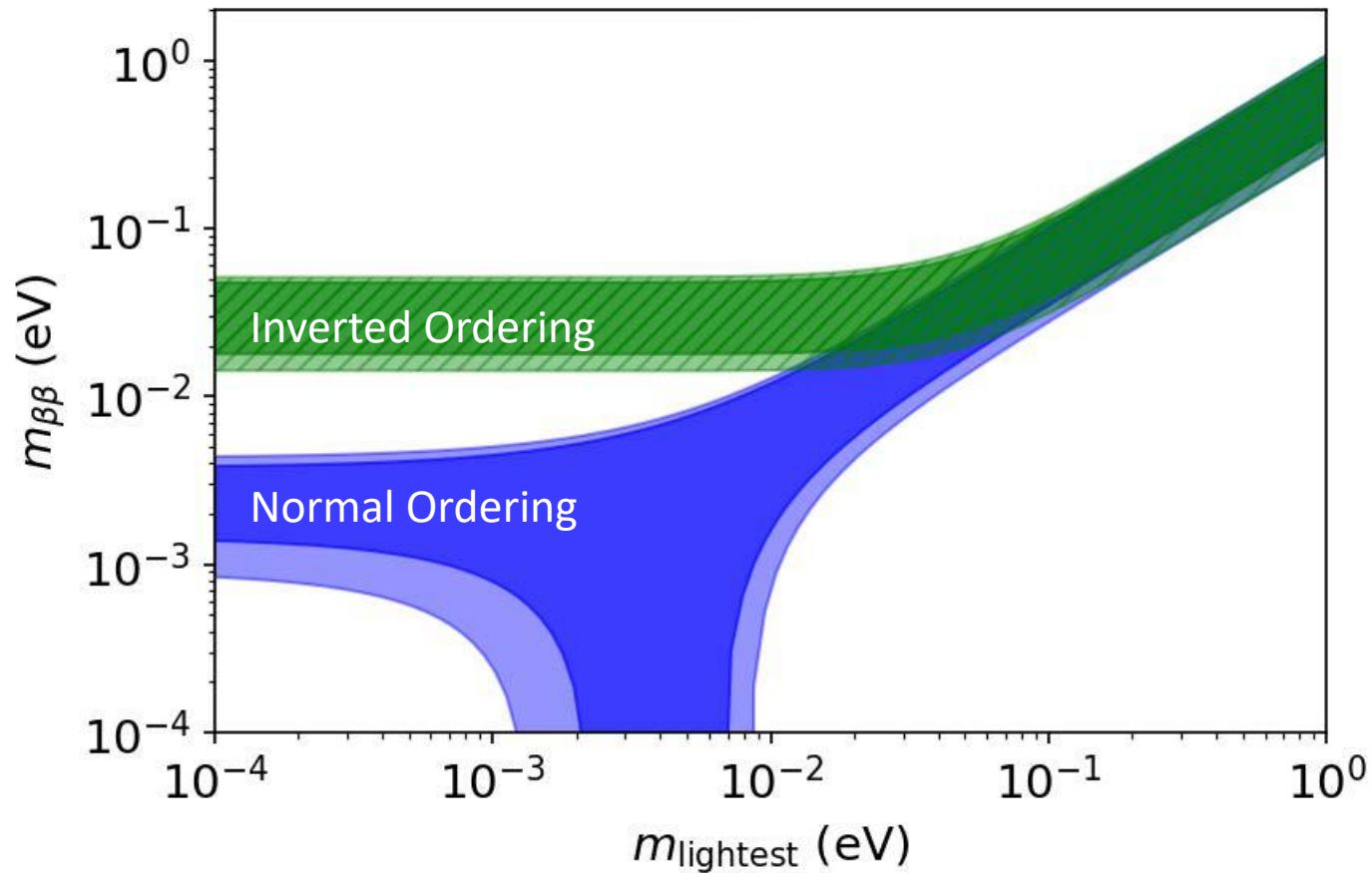
# The Challenge



## Key requirements:

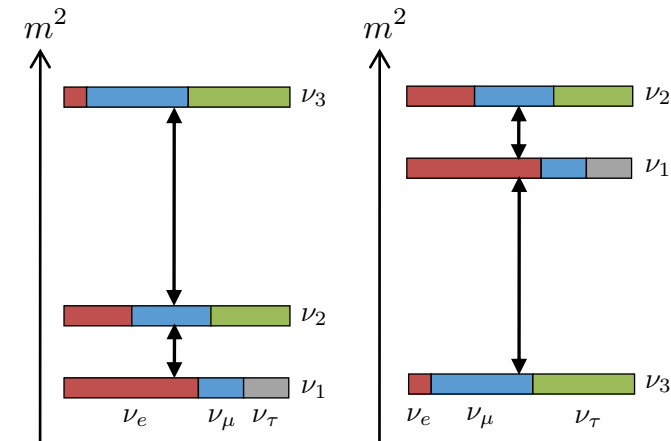
- Large exposure (tonne-scale)
- Excellent energy resolution ( $\sim 1\%$  @  $Q_{\beta\beta}$ )
- Low background ( $< 1$  cts/year/t/ROI)

# Where do we stand?



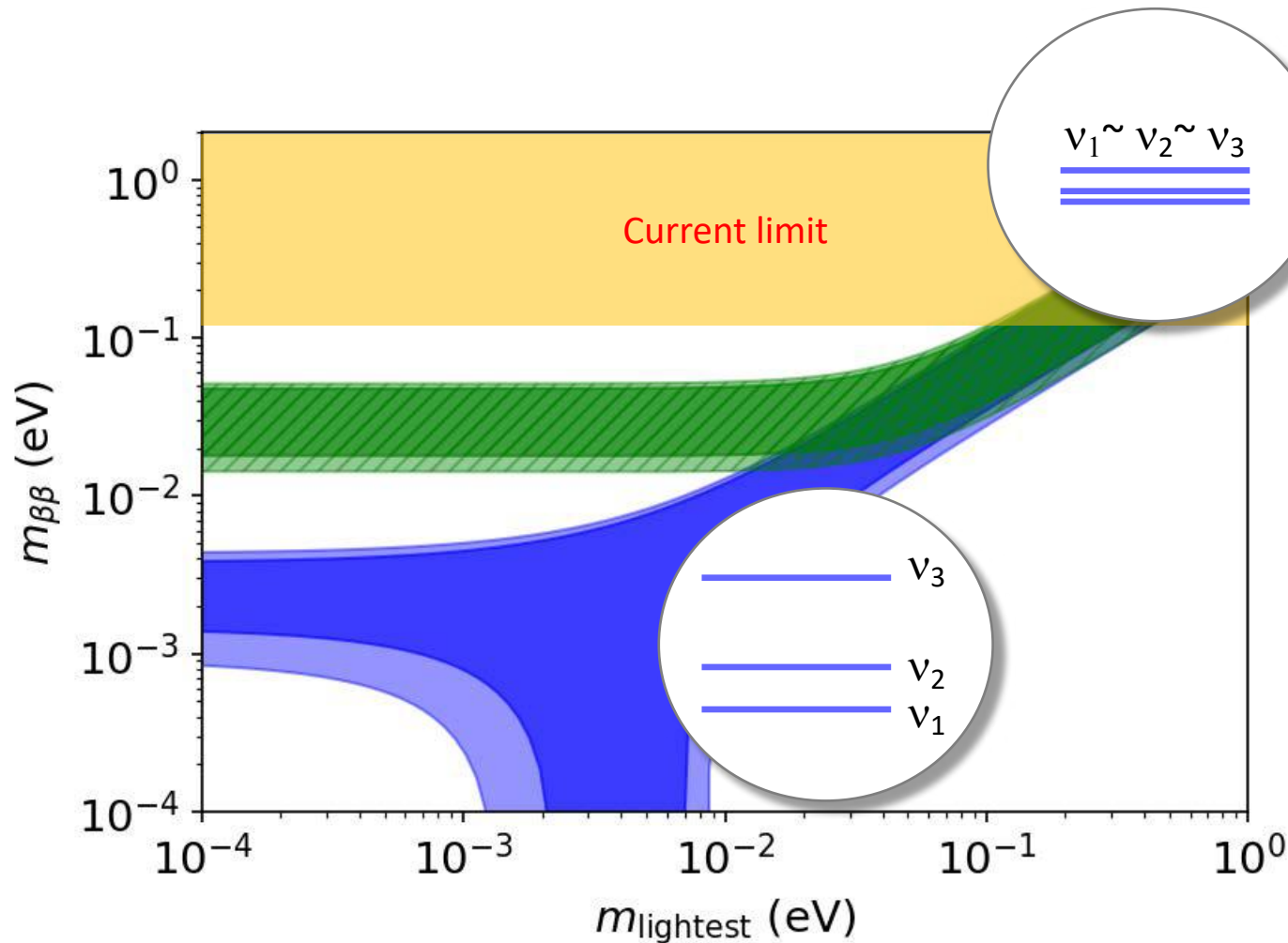
- Observable: Coherent sum of neutrino mass eigenstates:

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



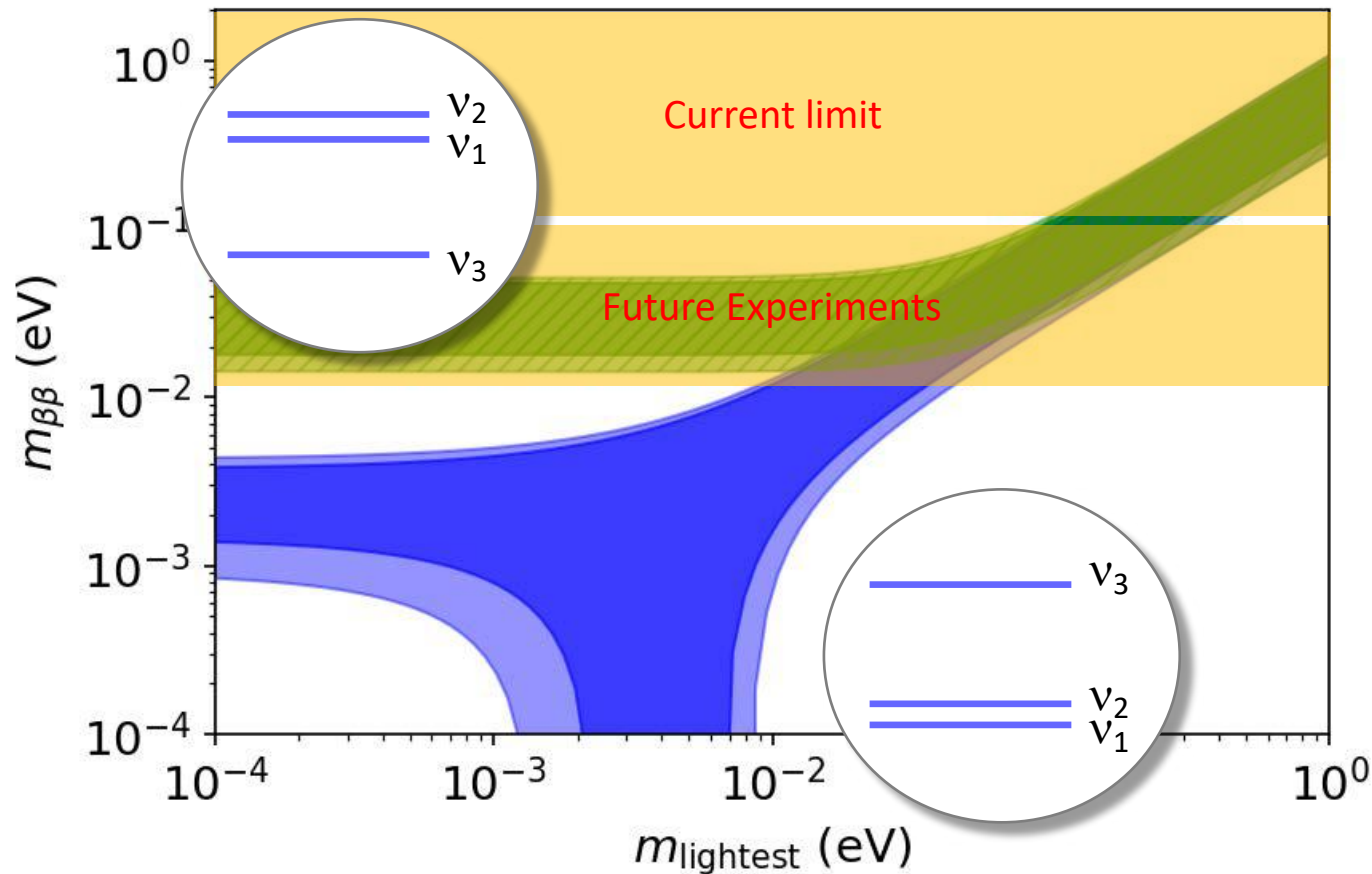


# Where do we stand?



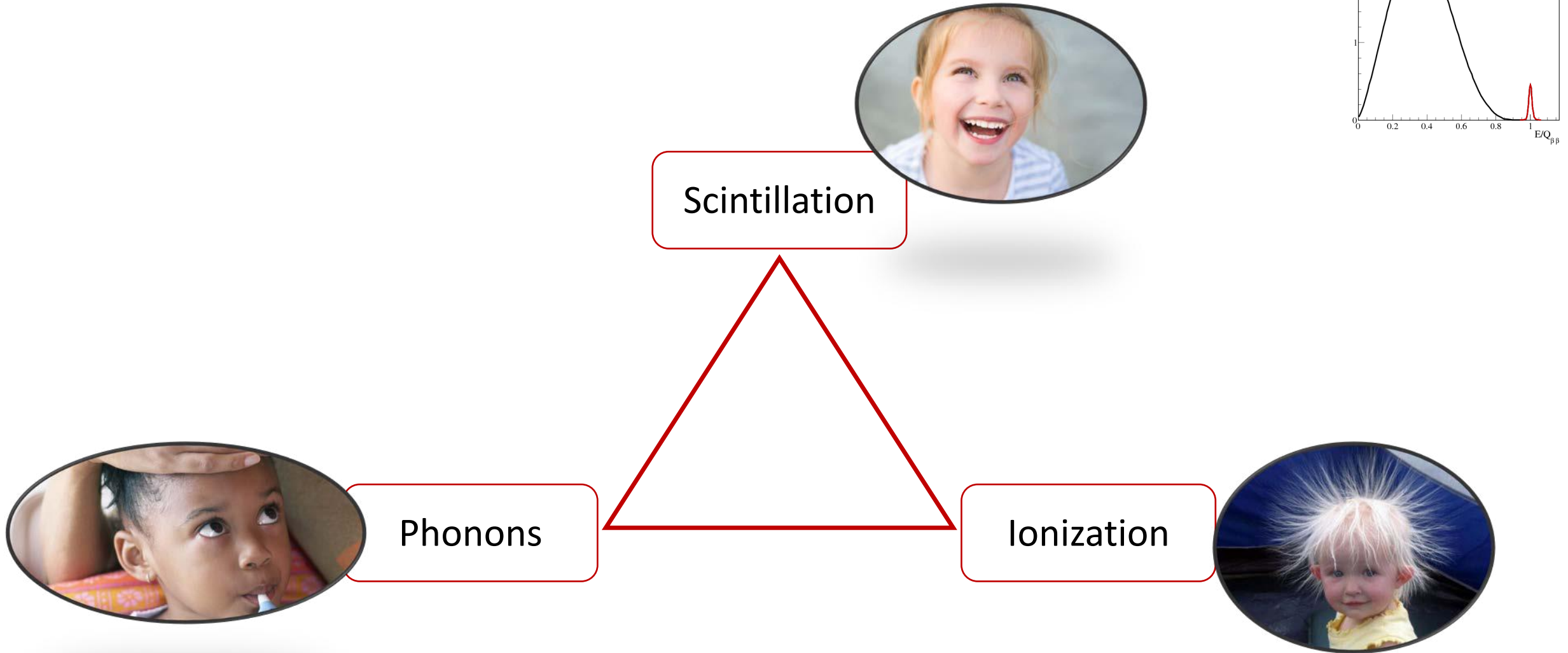
- Current limits (GERDA):  
 $T_{1/2} > \mathcal{O}(10^{26} \text{ y})$  (90% CL)  
 $m_{\beta\beta} < \mathcal{O}(100) \text{ meV}$   
Phys. Rev. Lett. 117 (2016), 082503  
Phys. Rev. Lett. 120 (2018) 132503

# Where do we stand?



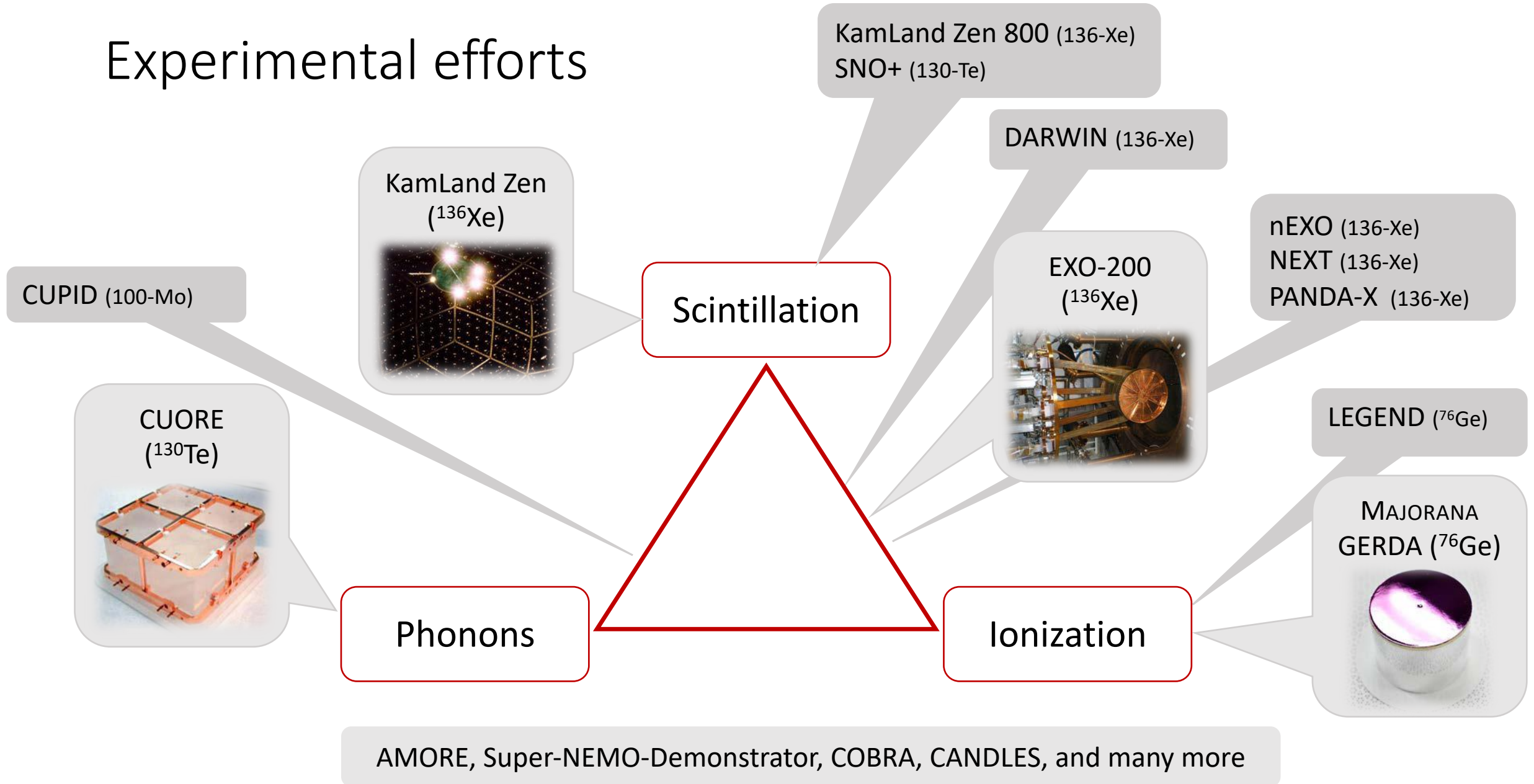
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Phys. Rev. Lett. 117 (2016), 082503  
Phys. Rev. Lett. 120 (2018) 132503
- Goal of future experiments:  
Probe inverted mass ordering

# Experimental efforts

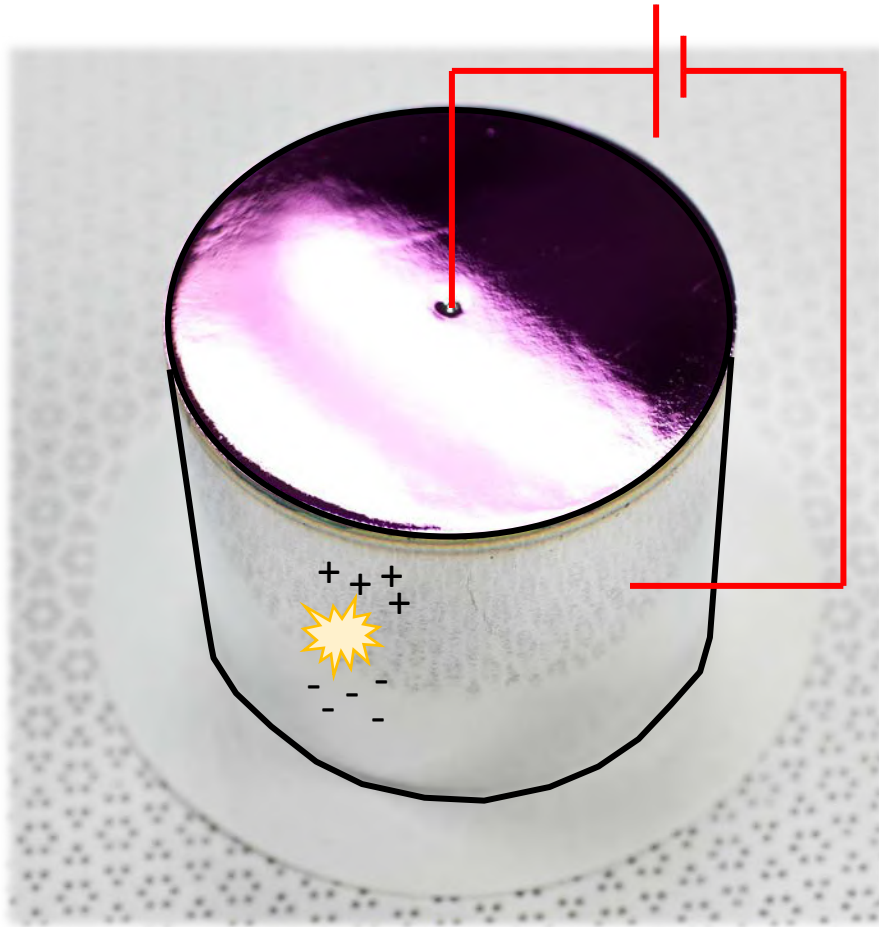




# Experimental efforts



# Experimental efforts



## Germanium Semiconductors

- ✓ Enrichment to 87% in  $^{76}\text{Ge}$  ( $Q_{\beta\beta}=2039$  keV)
- ✓ Excellent energy resolution (0.12% FWHM @  $Q_{\beta\beta}$ )
- ✓ Pulse-shape-discrimination against background

Ionization

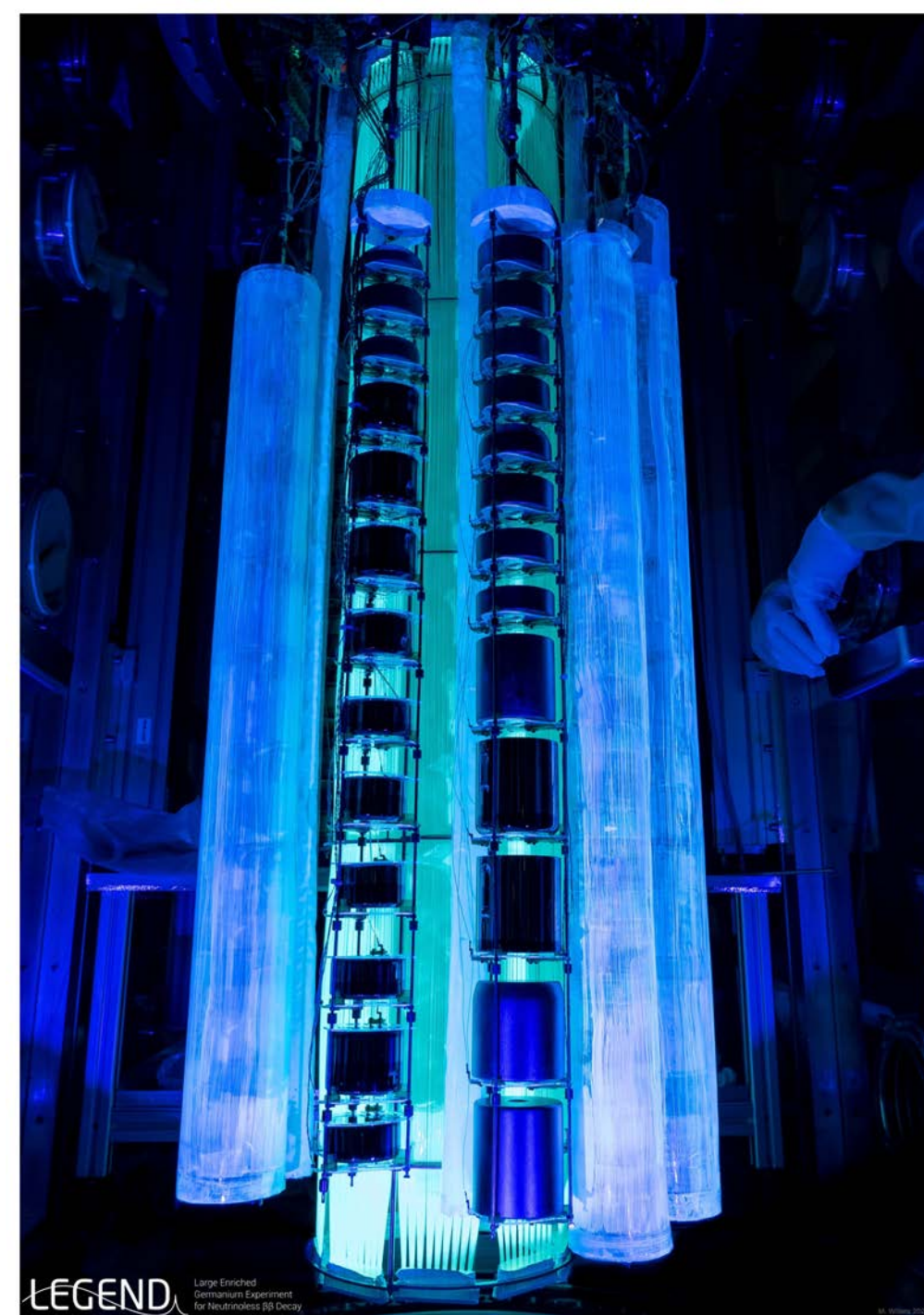
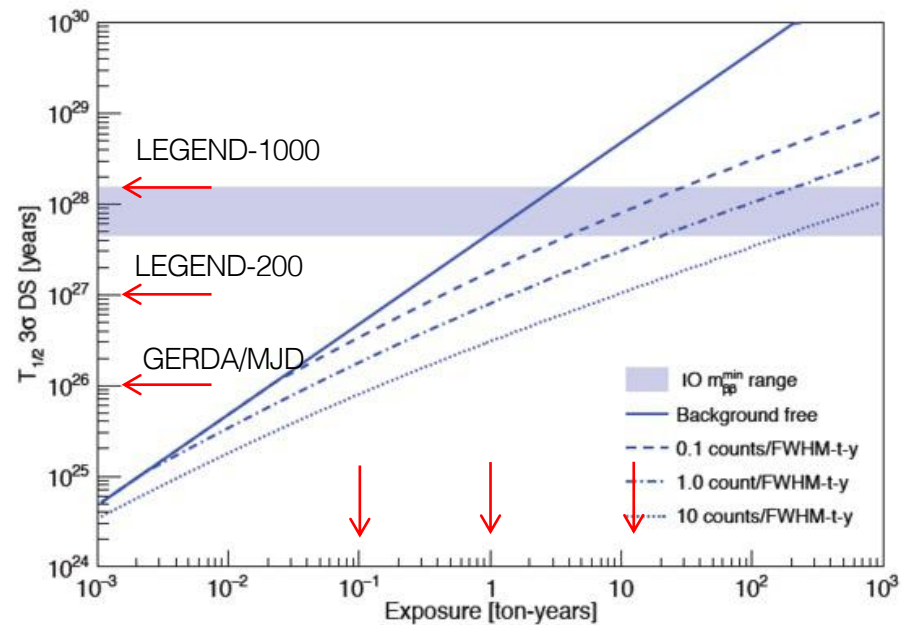
LEGEND ( $^{76}\text{Ge}$ )

MAJORANA  
GERDA ( $^{76}\text{Ge}$ )



# LEGEND

- **LEGEND-200:** running with ~100 detectors
- **LEGEND-1000:** 1000 kg of Ge (staged)
- $T_{1/2}$  ( $3\sigma$  DS)  $> 10^{28}$  yr,  $m_{\beta\beta} < 10 - 17$  meV





# Questions for today

How to measure the neutrino mass from cosmology

- Neutrinos are hot dark matter and wash out small scale structure
- Imprint in CMB and LSS
- Sensitivity at  $\sum m_\nu < 0.2 \text{ eV}$

...and from  $0\nu\beta\beta$  ?

- Half life of the  $0\nu\beta\beta$  decay depends on mass of neutrino
- Signal = peak at  $Q_{\beta\beta}$
- Sensitivity at  $m_{\beta\beta} < 0.2 \text{ eV}$

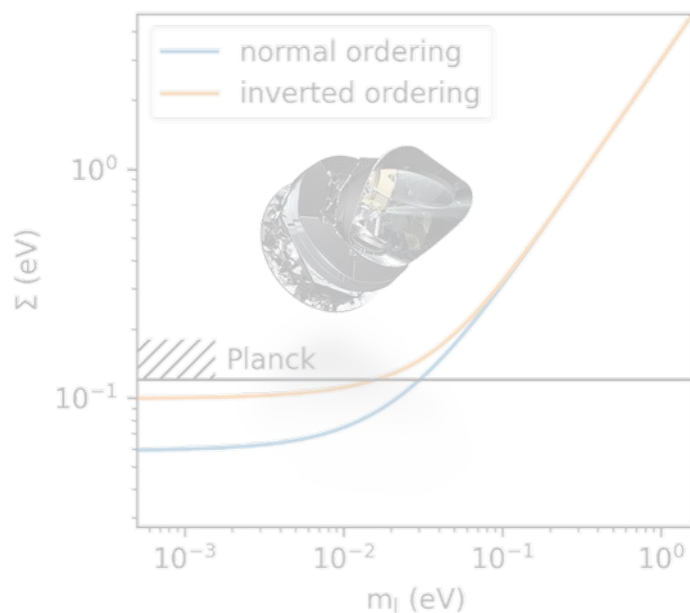
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# Neutrino mass

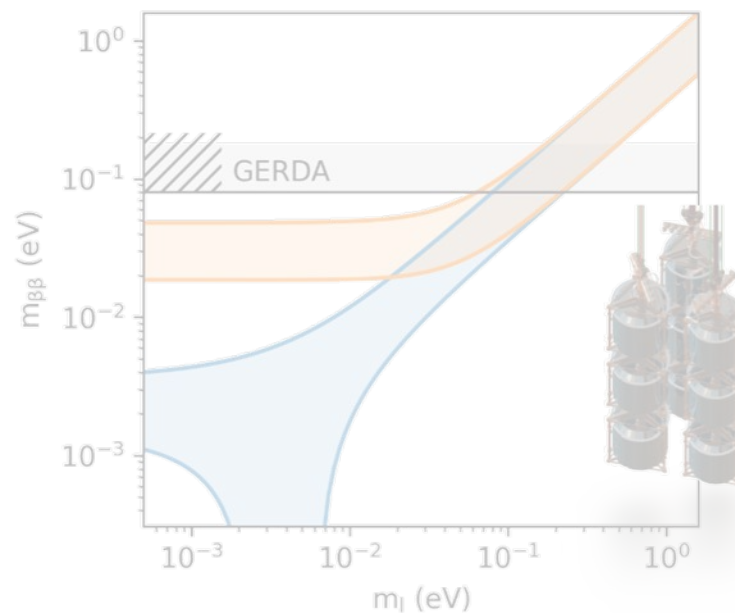
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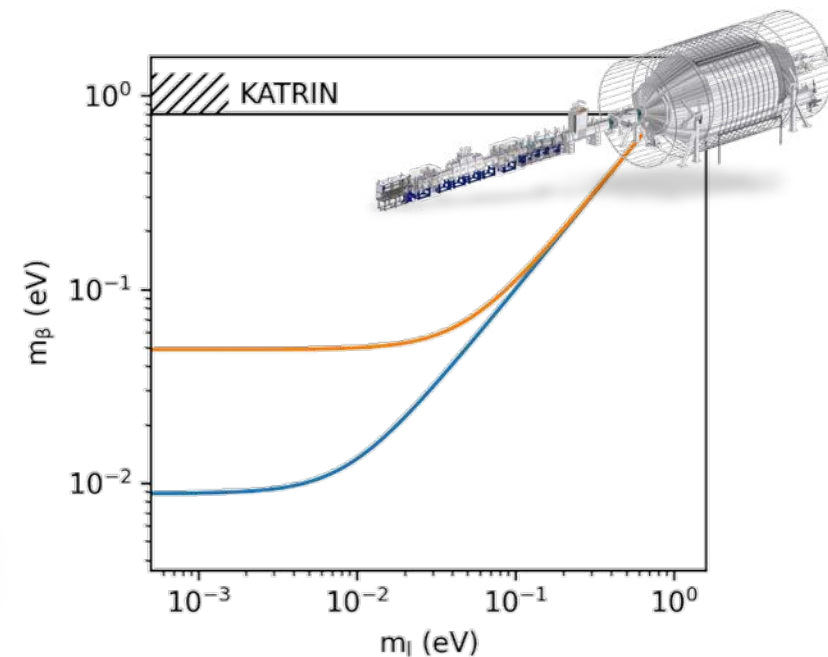
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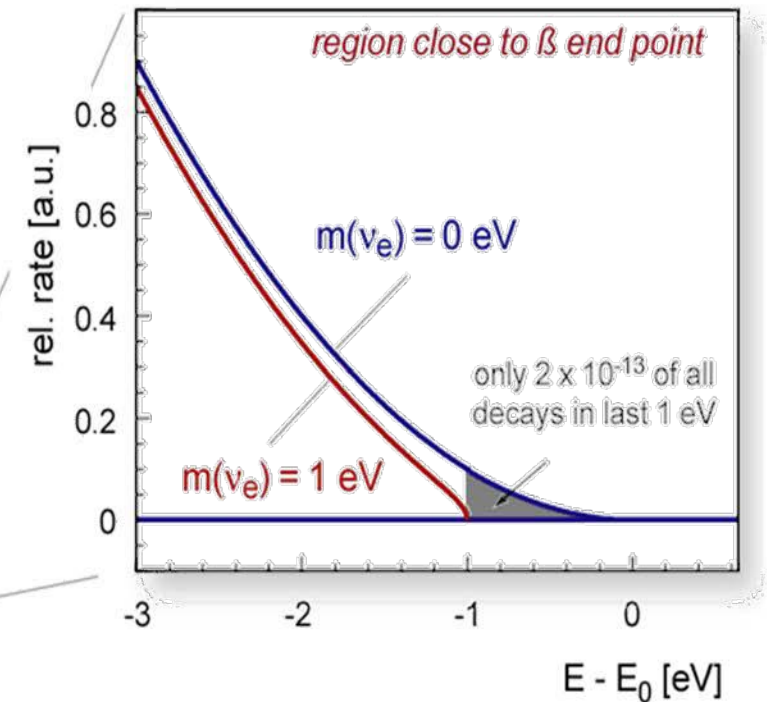
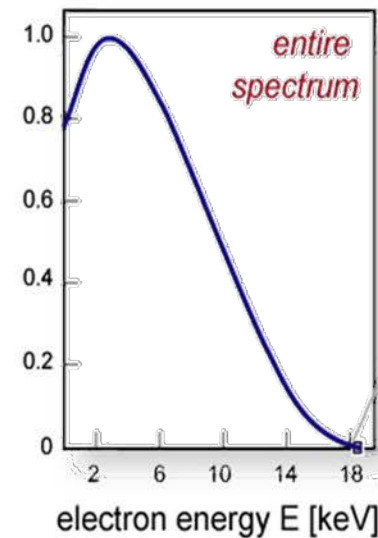
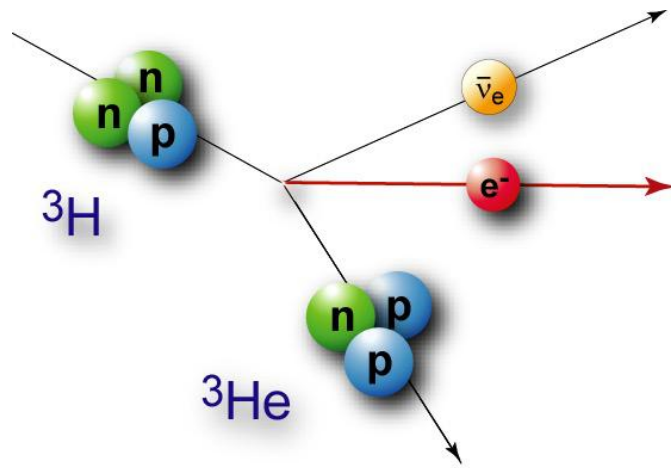
$$m_\beta = \sqrt{\sum_i |U_{ei}^2| m_i^2}$$



# Direct neutrino mass measurement

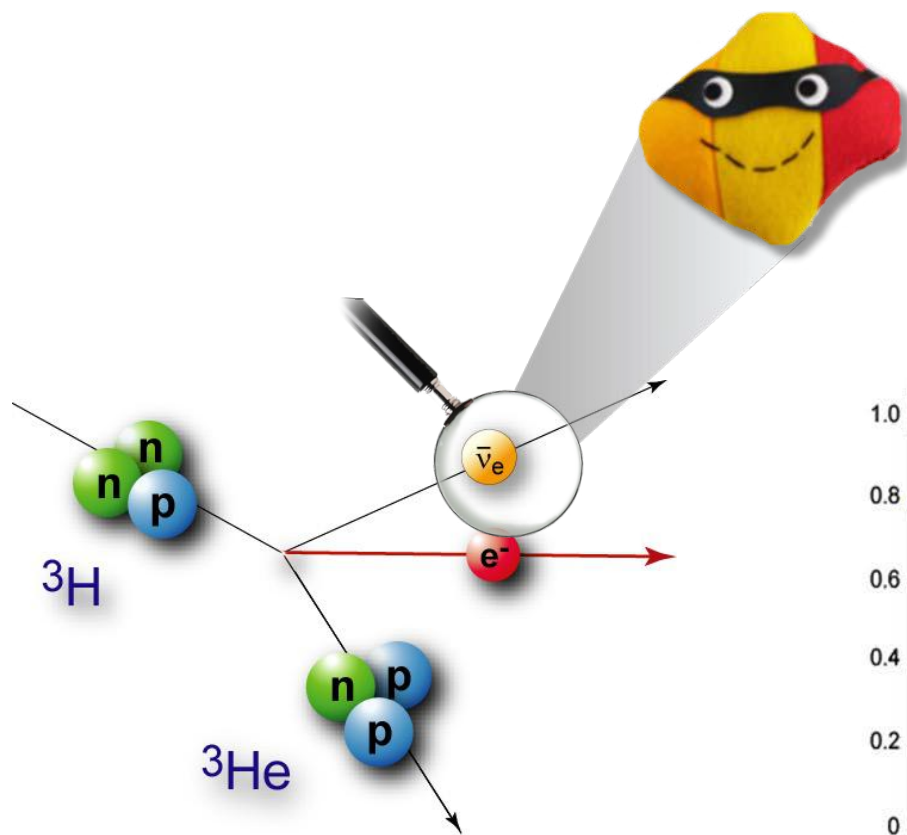
Non-zero neutrino mass distorts the spectrum close to the endpoint

- ✓ Independent of cosmology
- ✓ Independent of neutrino nature

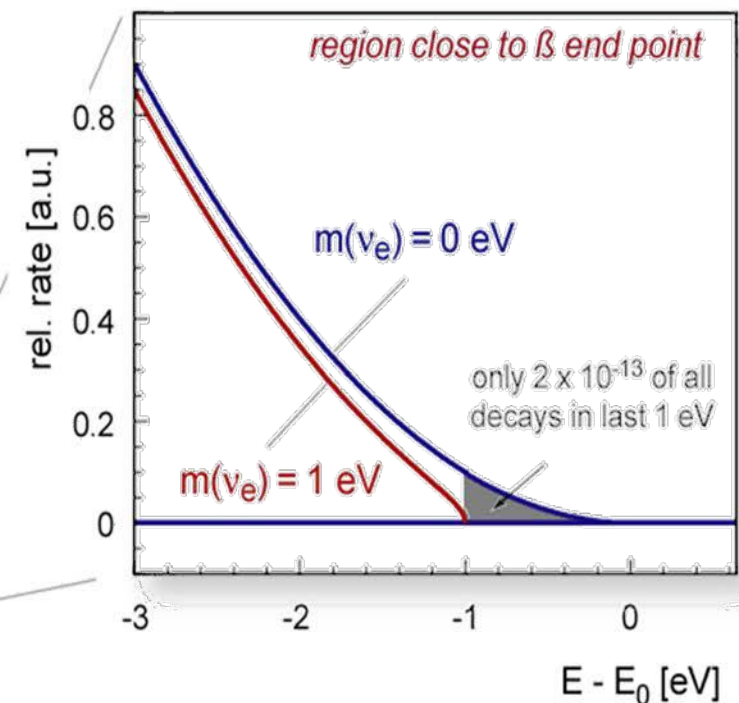
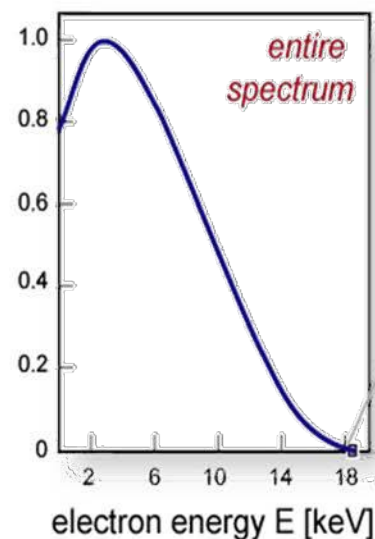
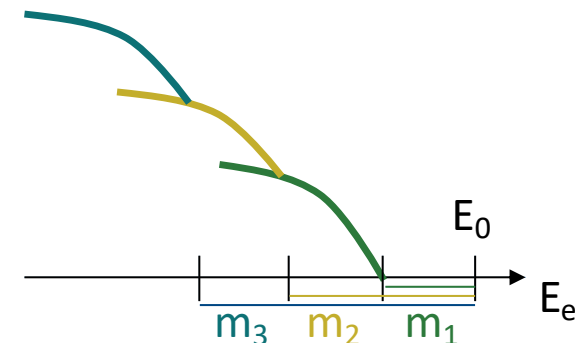




# Direct neutrino mass measurement



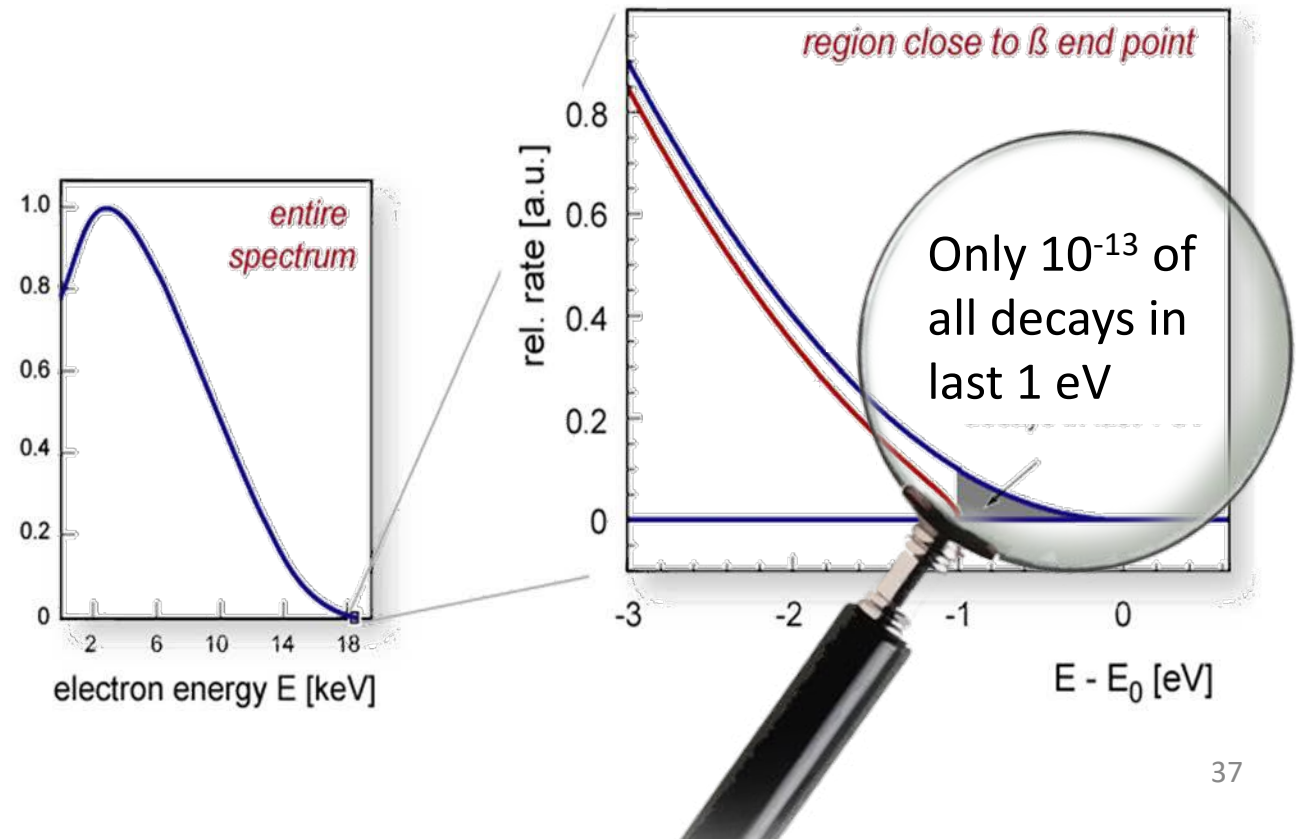
$$m_\beta = \sqrt{\sum_i |U_{ei}|^2 \cdot m_i^2}$$





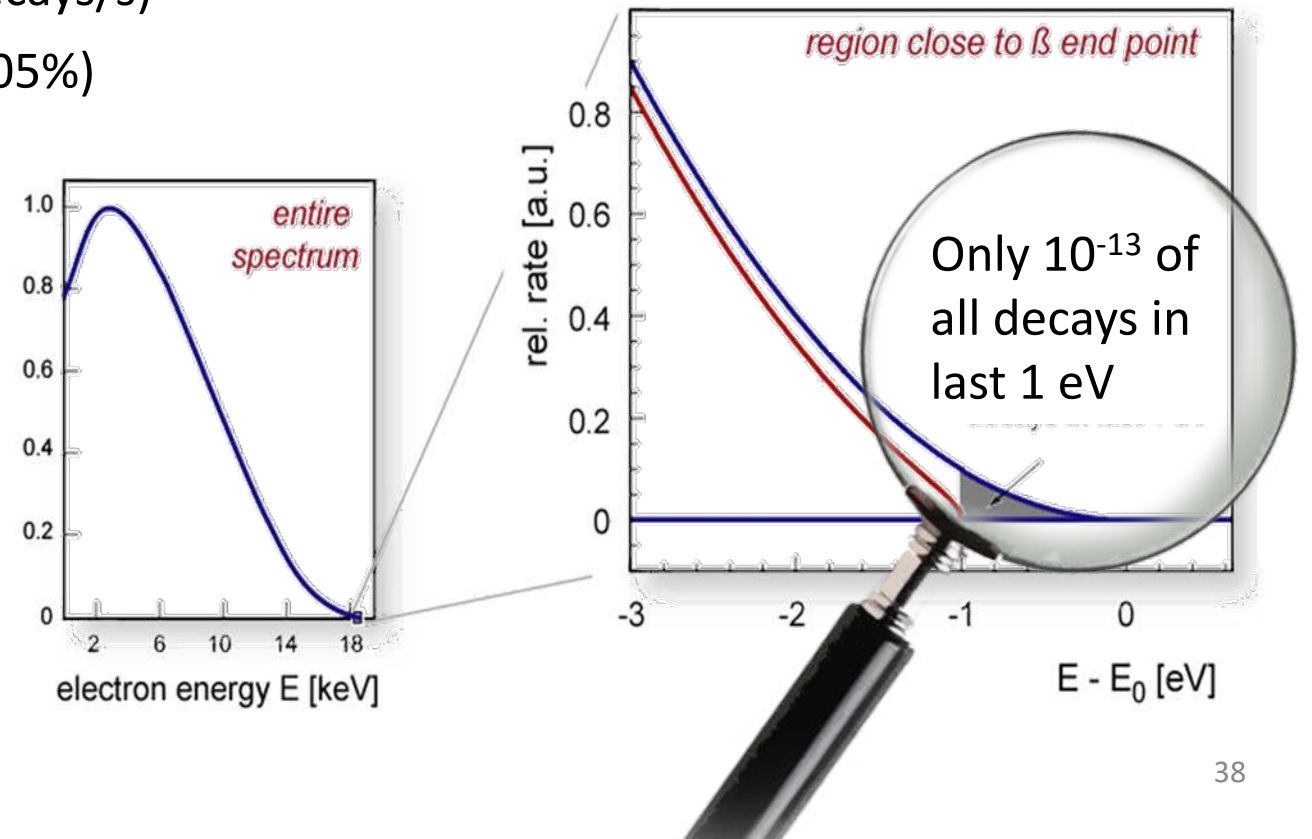
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- What do we need to realize an experiment?

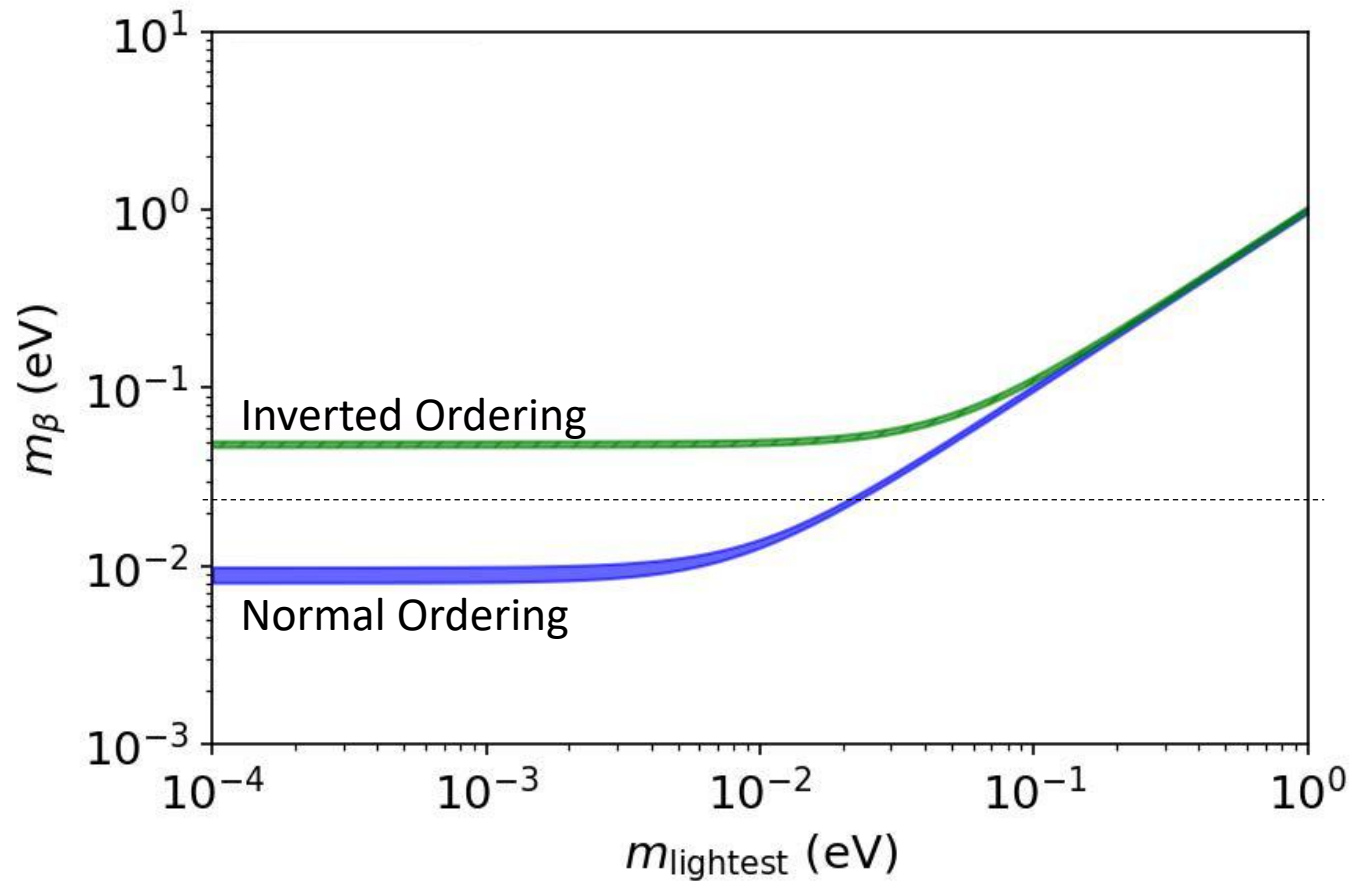


# The challenge

- What do we need to realize an experiment?
- ✓ Ultra-strong radioactive source ( $10^{11}$  decays/s)
- ✓ Excellent energy resolution ( $\sim 1$  eV, 0.005%)
- ✓ Low background ( $< 100$  mcps)

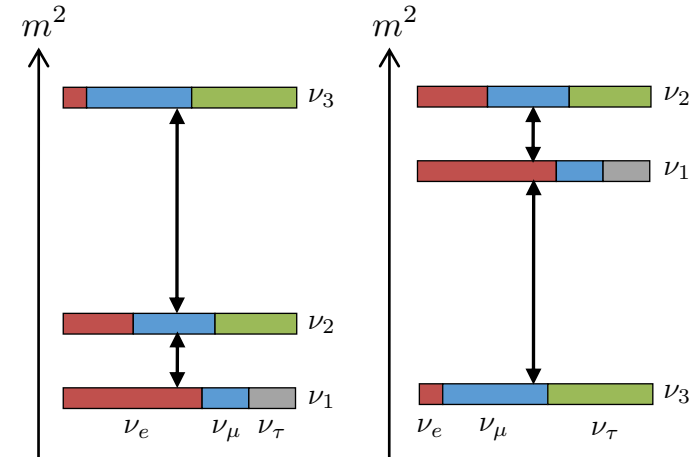


# Where do we stand?

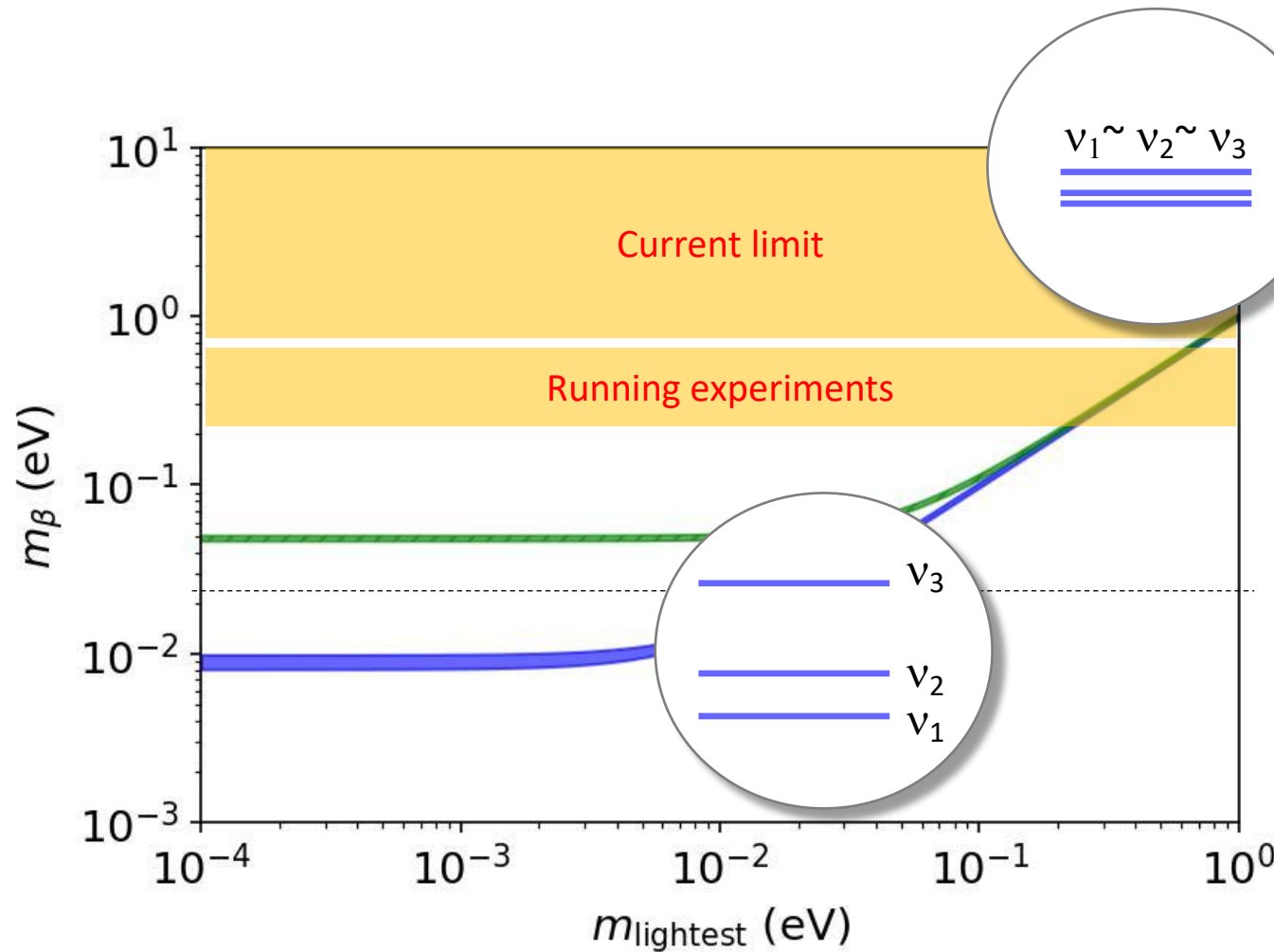


Observable:

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

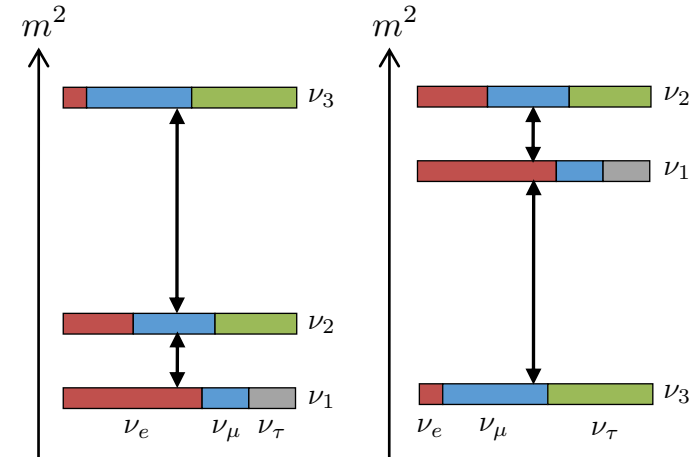


# Where do we stand?



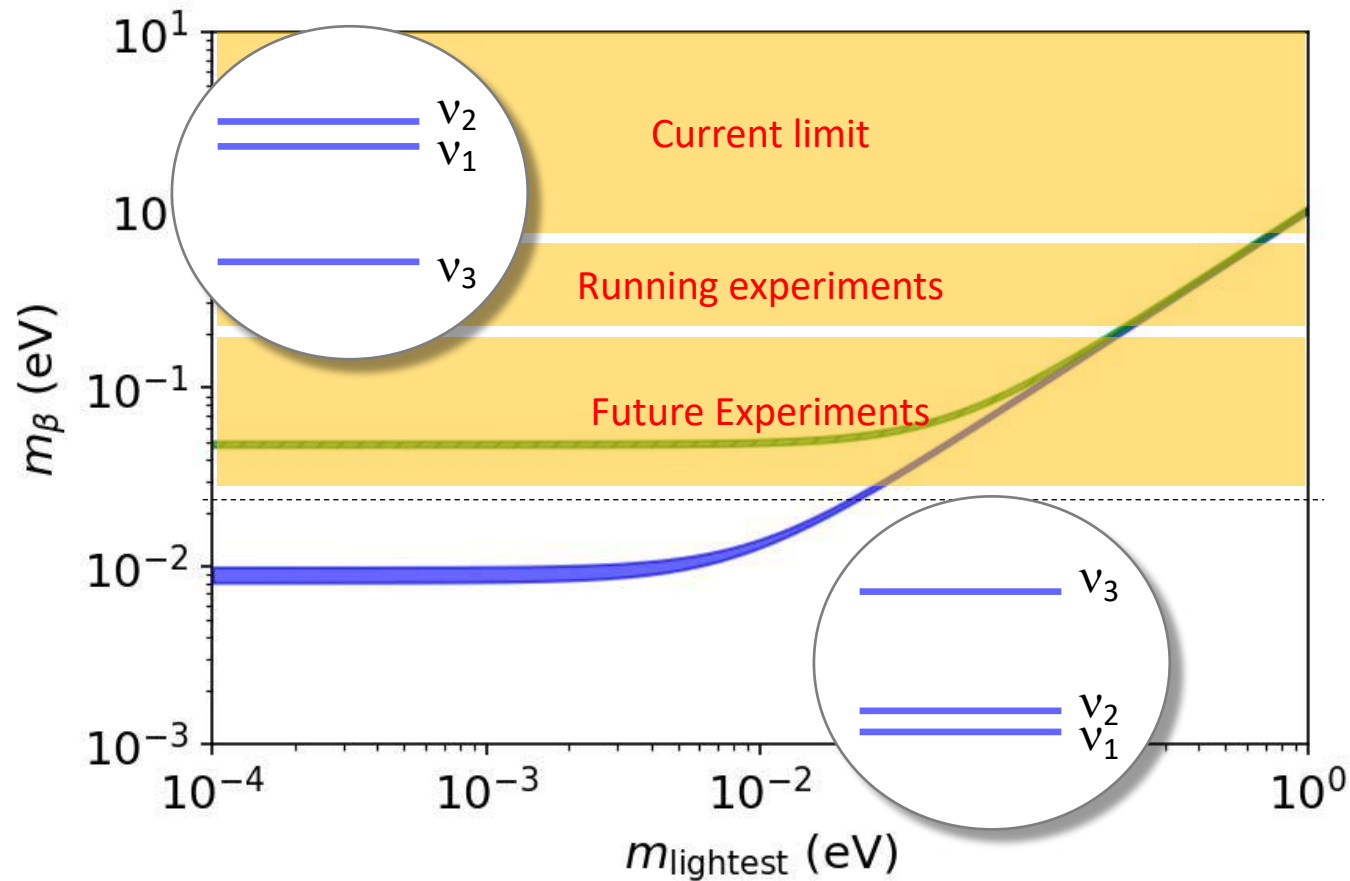
Observable:

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



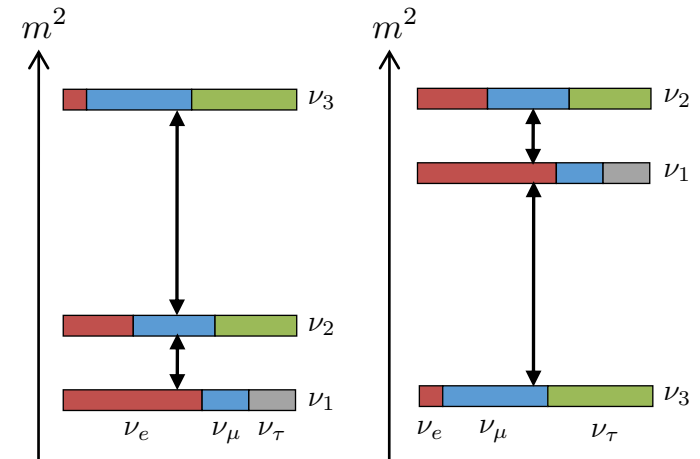


# Where do we stand?



Observable:

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



# Experimental efforts



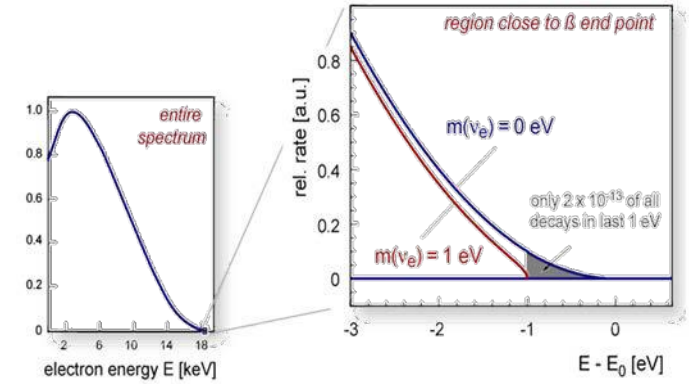
Electrostatic  
filter (MAC-E)



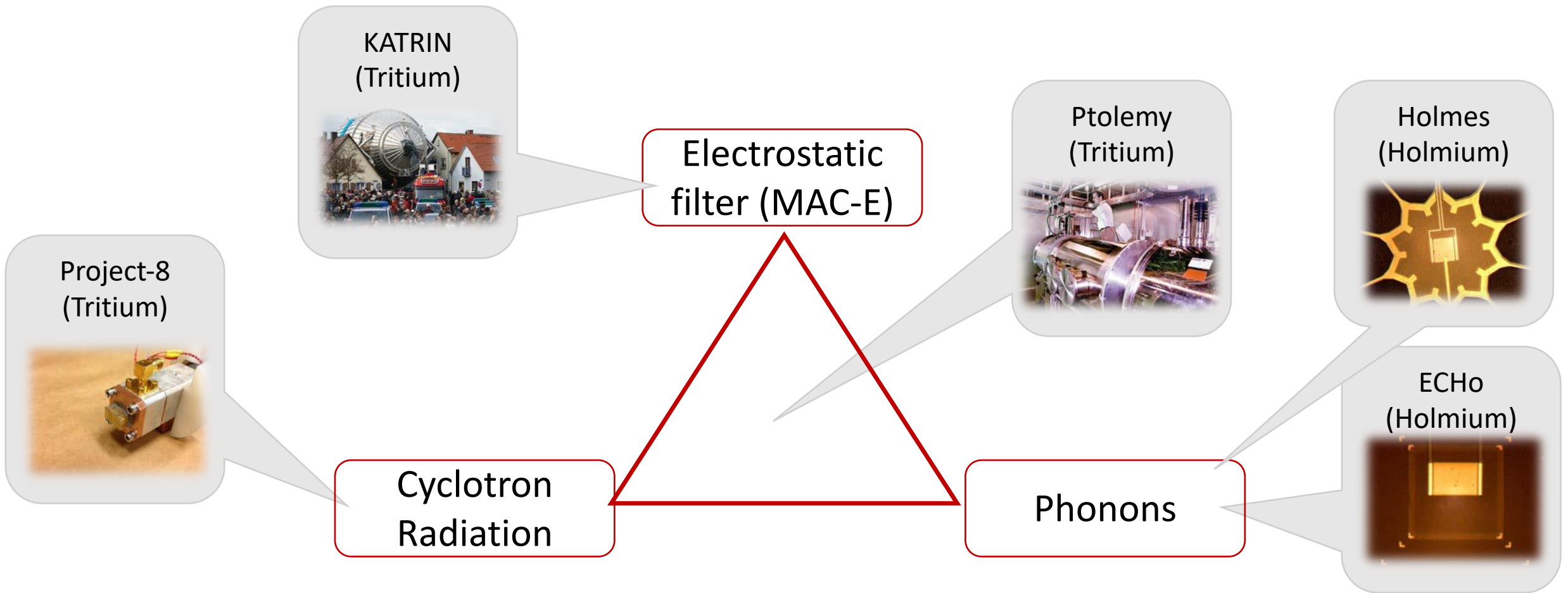
Cyclotron  
Radiation



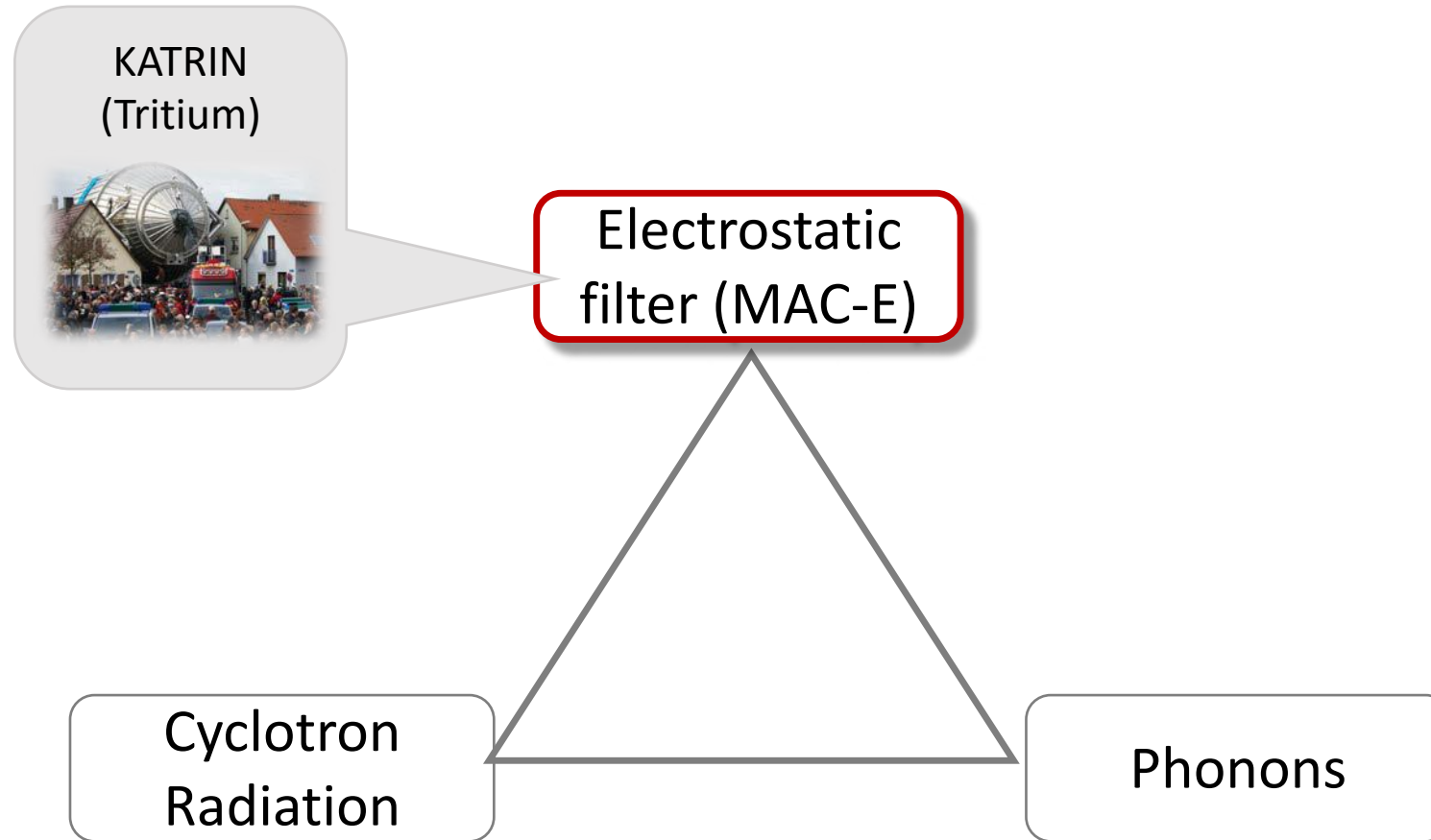
Phonons



# Experimental efforts

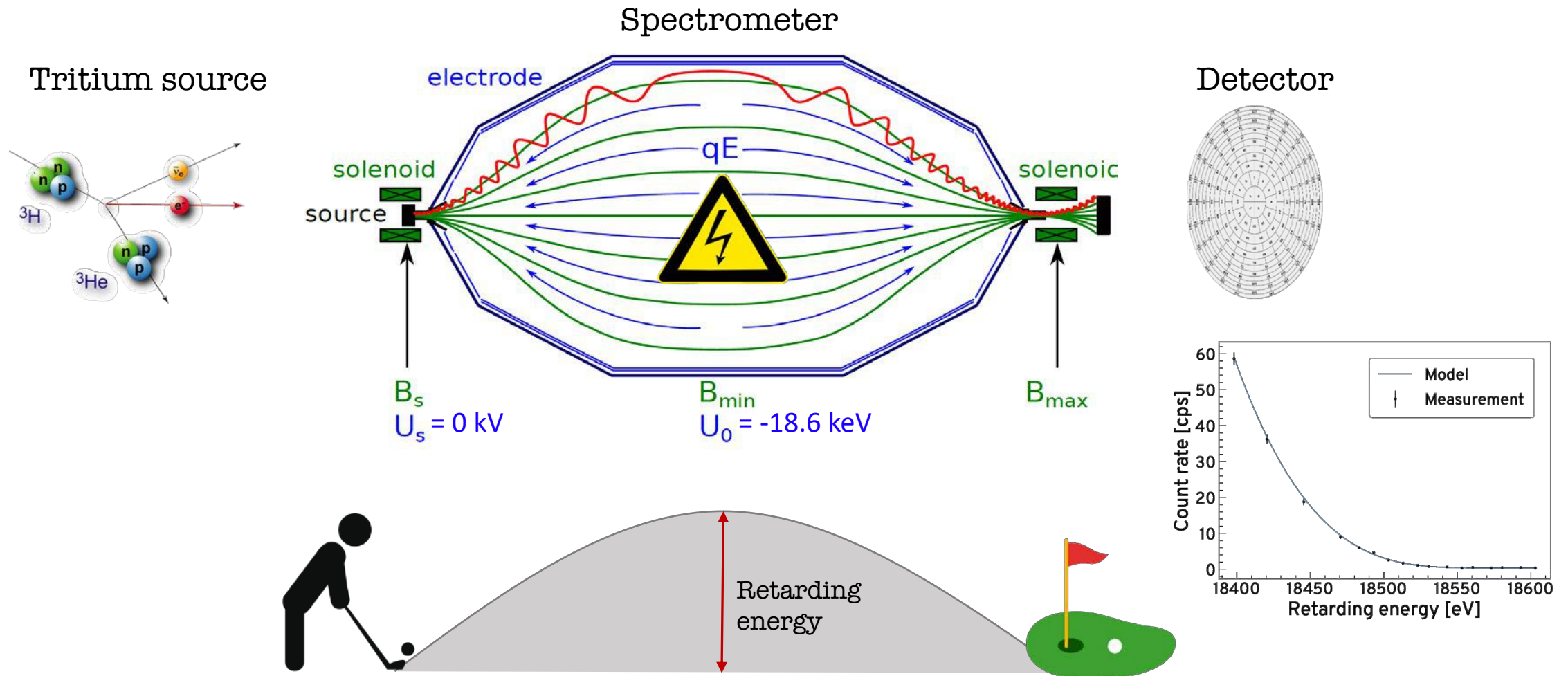


# Experimental efforts

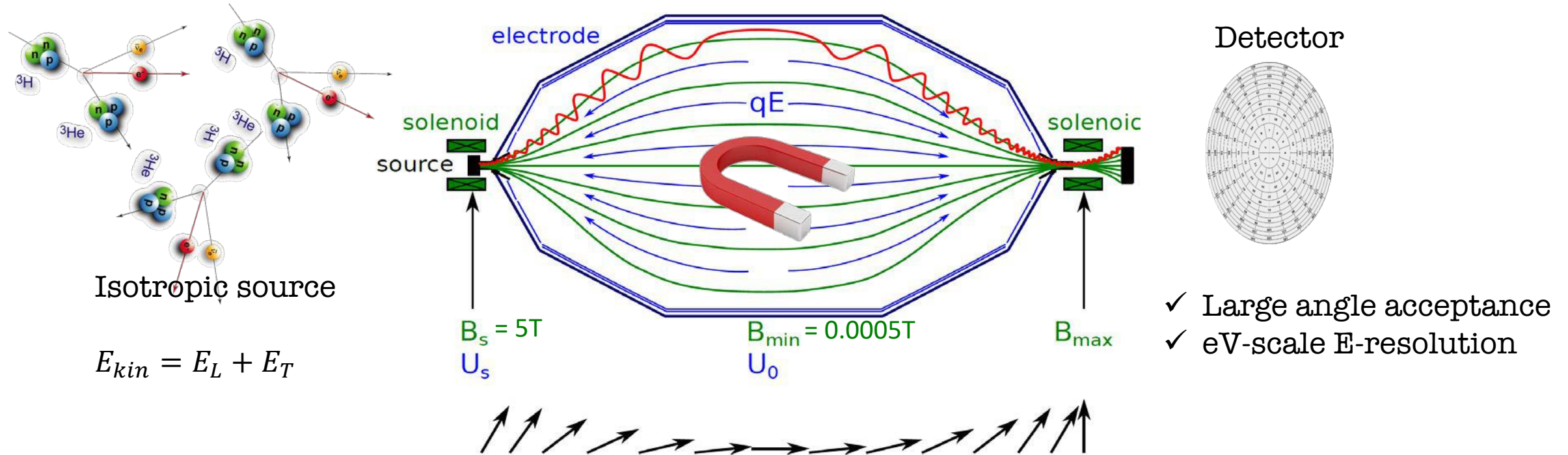




# MAC-E-Filter



# MAC-E-Filter



$$E_T^{center} = E_T^{start} \cdot \frac{B^{center}}{B^{start}} \rightarrow E_T^{center,max} = E \cdot \frac{B^{center}}{B^{start}} \approx 2 \text{ eV}$$

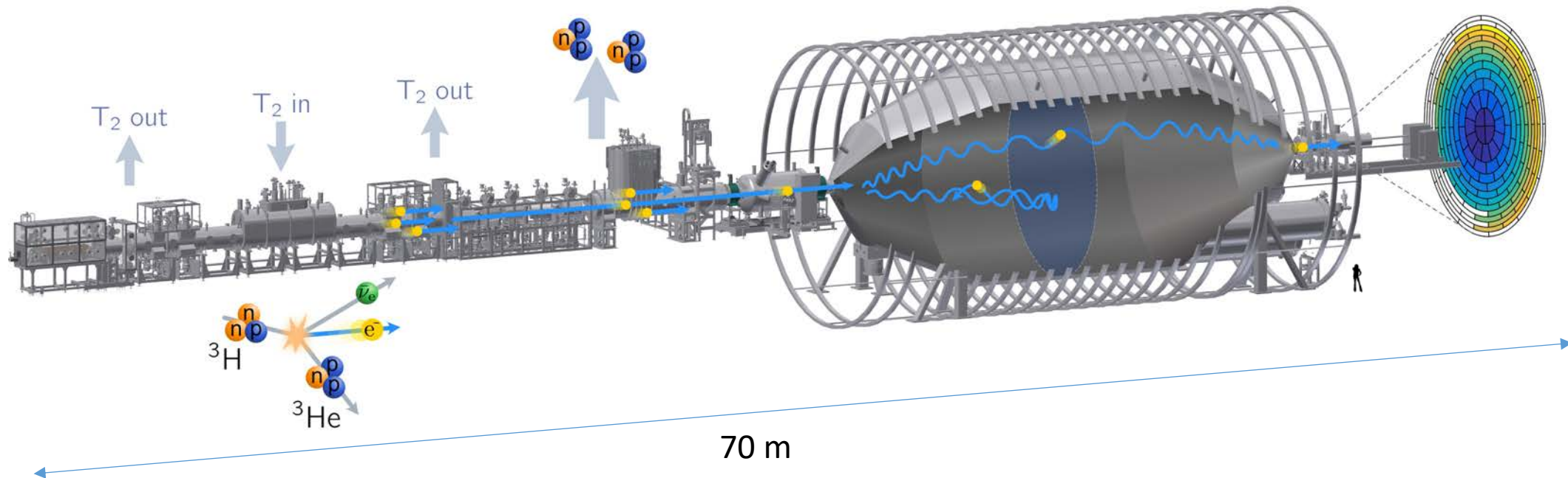


# Karlsruhe Tritium Neutrino Experiment





# Working Principle

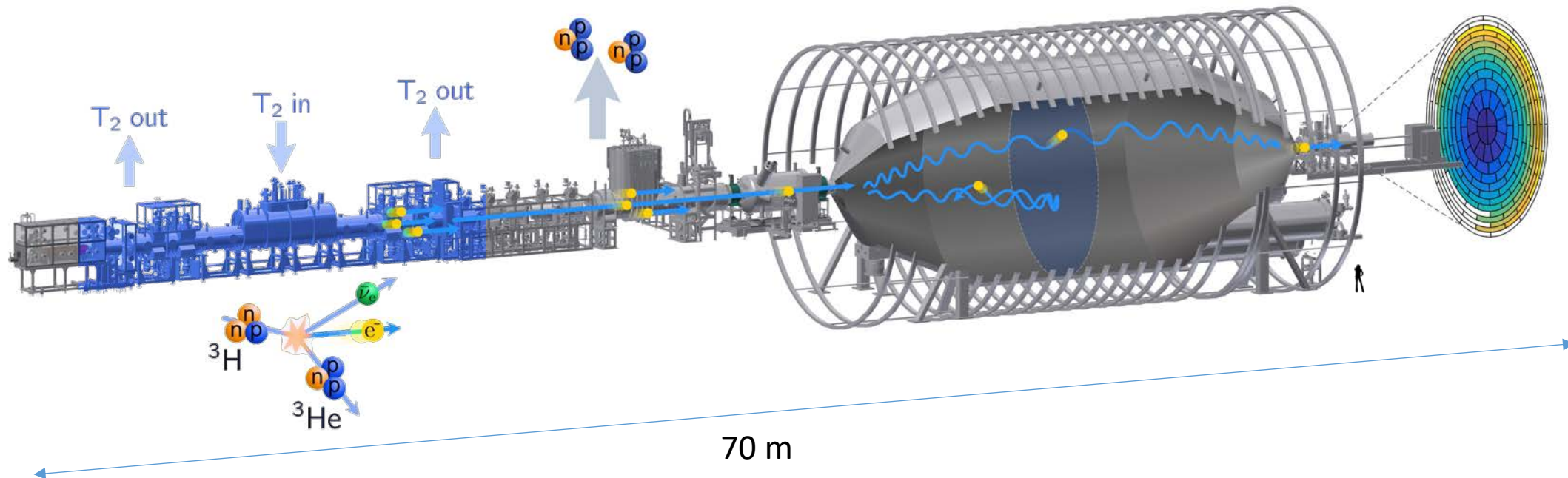




# Working Principle

## Tritium source

- 100  $\mu\text{g}$  of gaseous  $\text{T}_2$
- $10^{11}$   $\text{T}_2$  decays/s



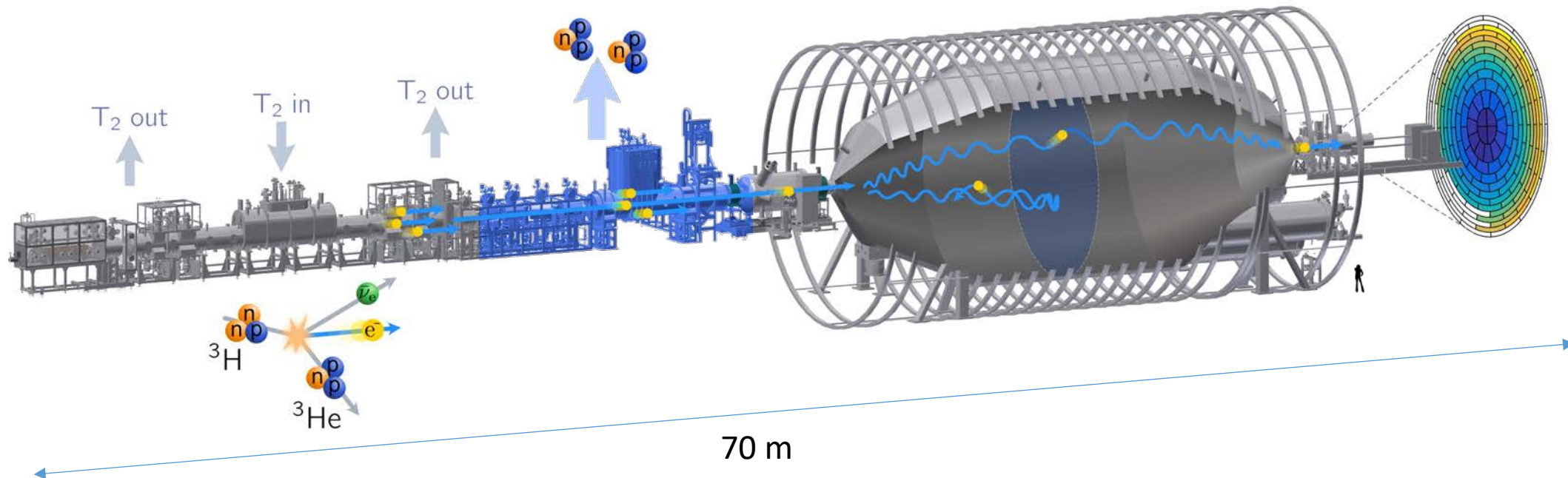
# Working Principle

## Tritium source

- 100  $\mu\text{g}$  of gaseous  $\text{T}_2$
- $10^{11}$   $\text{T}_2$  decays/s

## Transport section

- Guidance of electrons
- Removal of tritium



## Working Principle

## Tritium source

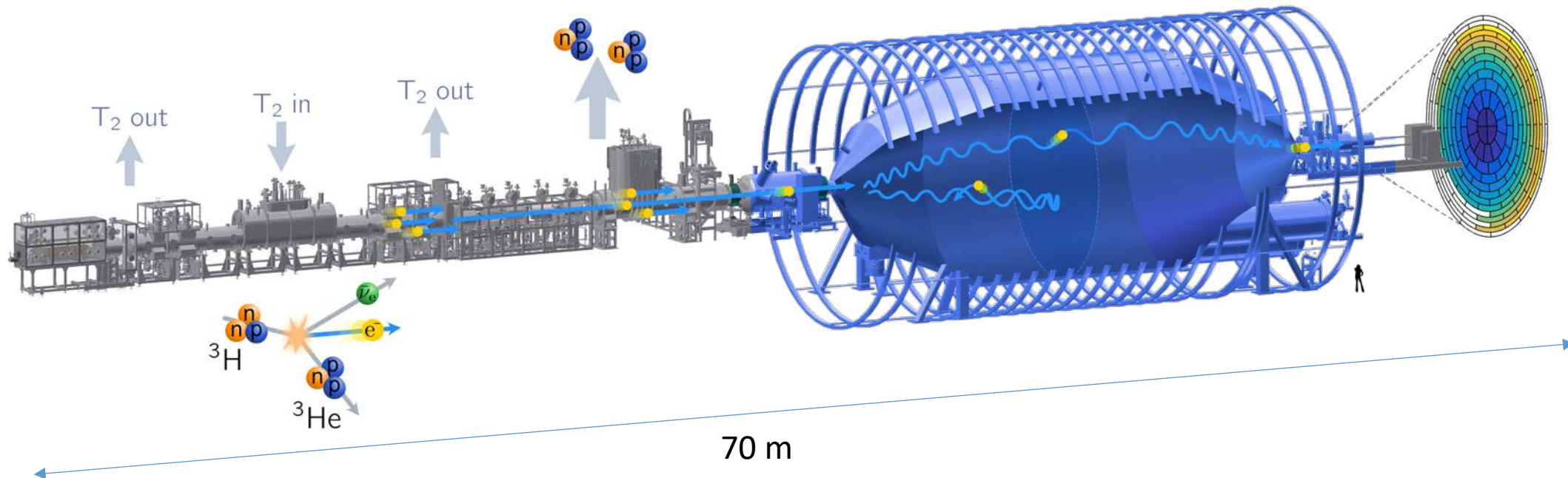
- 100  $\mu\text{g}$  of gaseous  $\text{T}_2$
- $10^{11}$   $\text{T}_2$  decays/s

## Transport section

- Guidance of electrons
- Removal of tritium

## Spectrometer

- Electrostatic filter
- MAC-E filter principle



# Working Principle

## Tritium source

- 100  $\mu\text{g}$  of gaseous  $\text{T}_2$
- $10^{11}$   $\text{T}_2$  decays/s

## Transport section

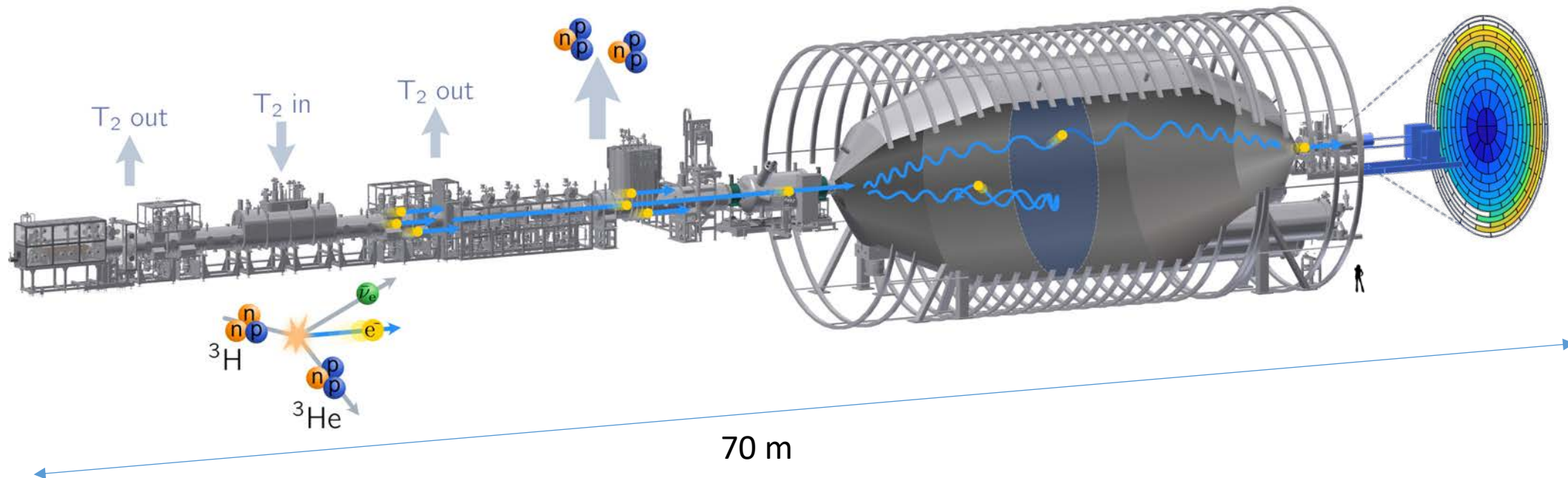
- Guidance of electrons
- Removal of tritium

## Spectrometer

- Electrostatic filter
- MAC-E filter principle

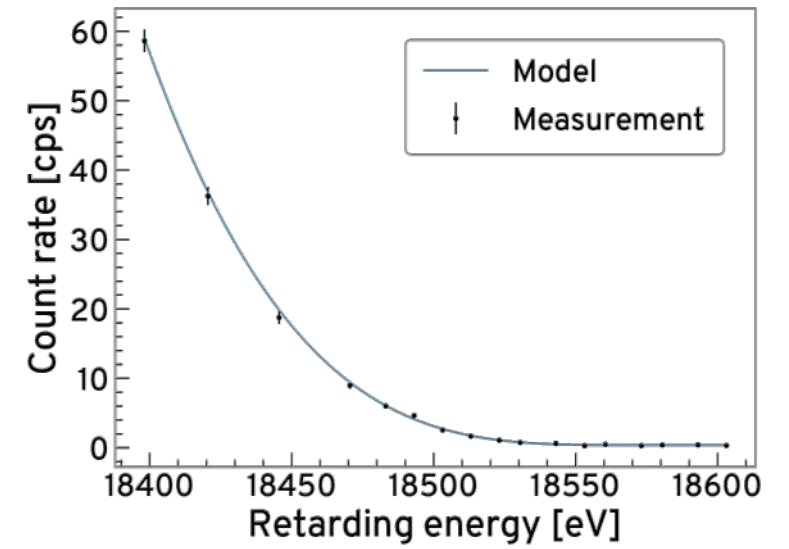
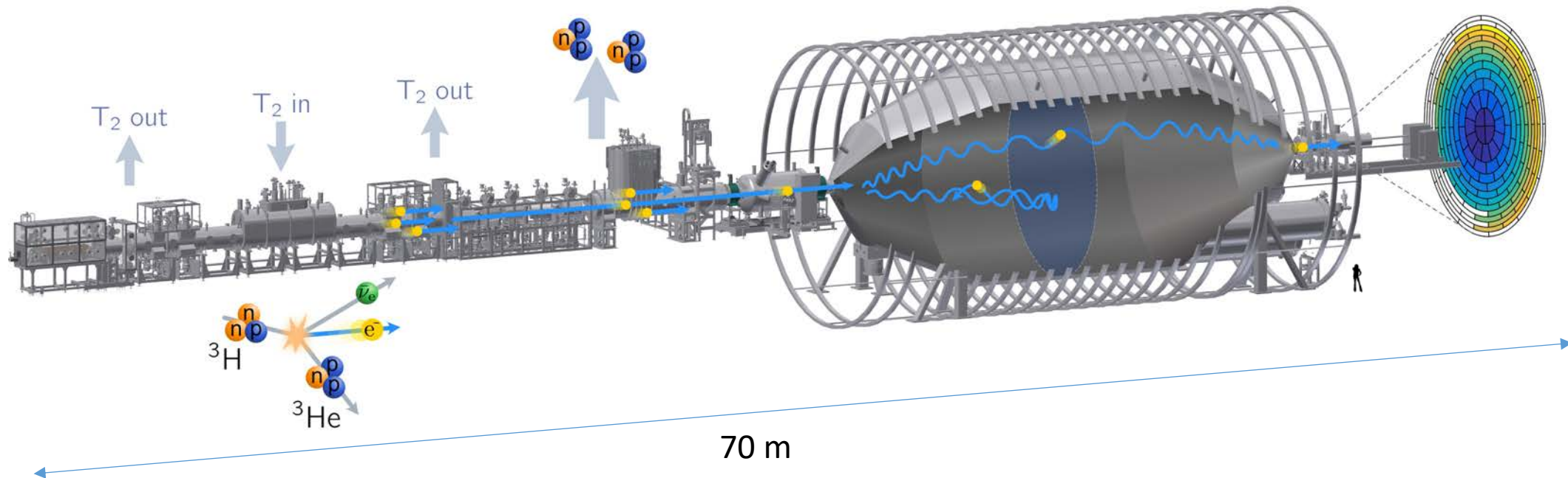
## Detector

- Counts electrons
- Rate vs potential

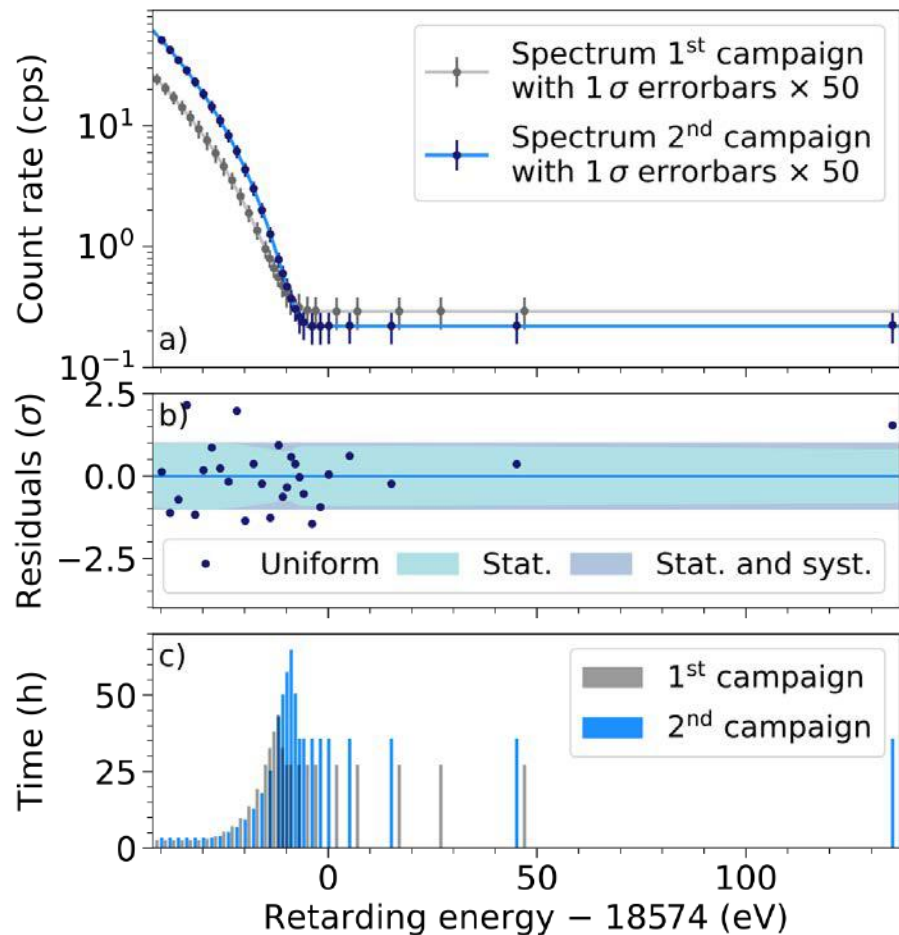




# Working Principle



# Latest results



## First campaign:

- total statistics: 2 million events
- best fit:  $m_\nu^2 = (-1.0^{+0.9}_{-1.1}) \text{ eV}^2 \text{ (stat. dom.)}$
- limit:  $m_\nu < 1.1 \text{ eV (90\% CL)}$

*PRL. 123, 221802 (2019)*

*Phys. Rev. D 104, 012005 (2021)*

## Second campaign:

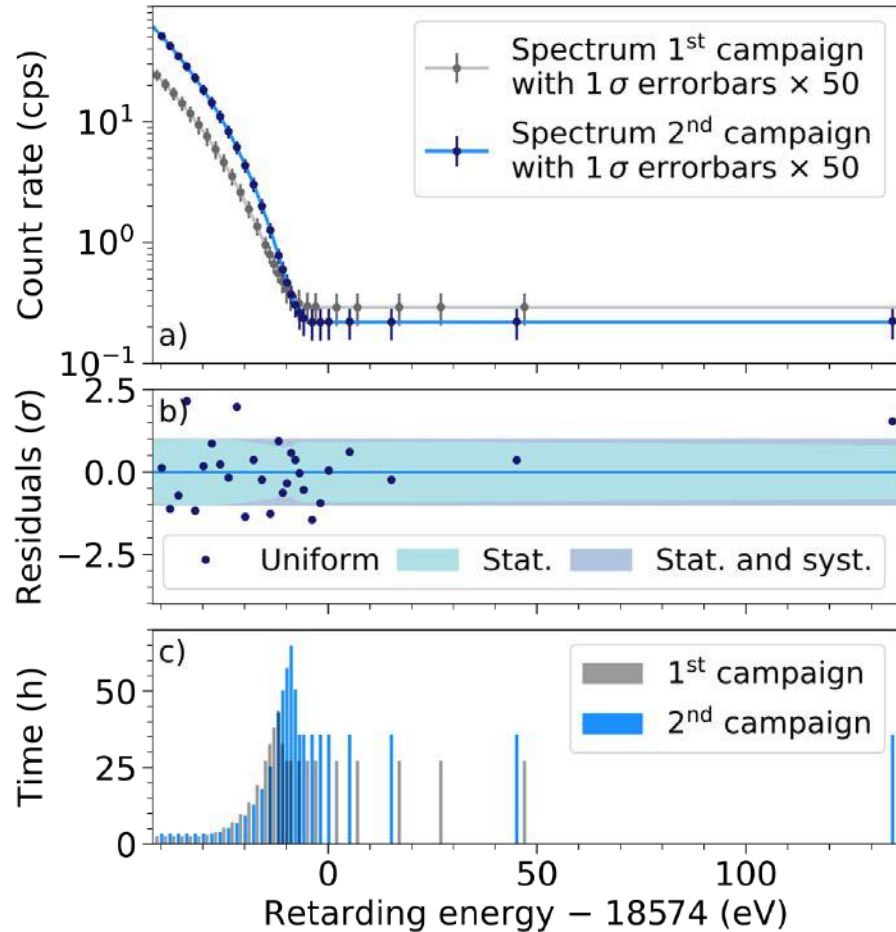
- total statistics: 4 million events
- best fit:  $m_\nu^2 = (0.26^{+0.34}_{-0.34}) \text{ eV}^2 \text{ (stat. dom.)}$
- limit:  $m_\nu < 0.9 \text{ eV (90\% CL)}$

*Nat. Phys. 18, 160–166 (2022)*

- Combined result:  $m_\nu < 0.8 \text{ eV (90\% CL)}$**



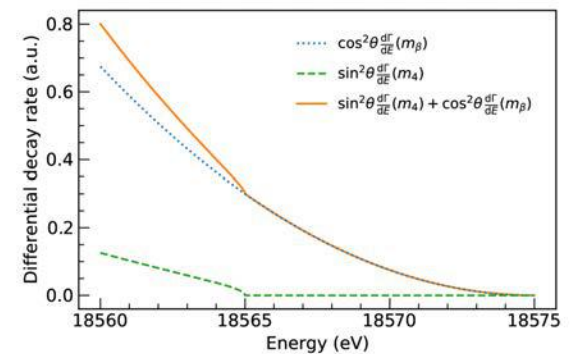
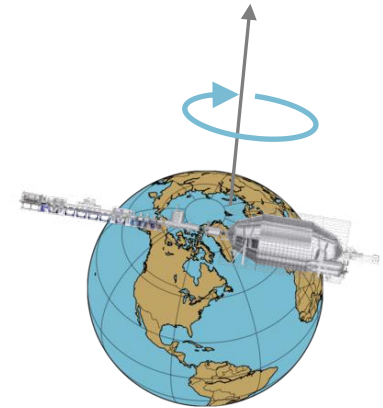
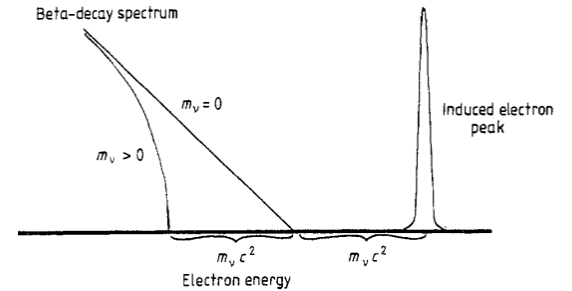
# Latest results



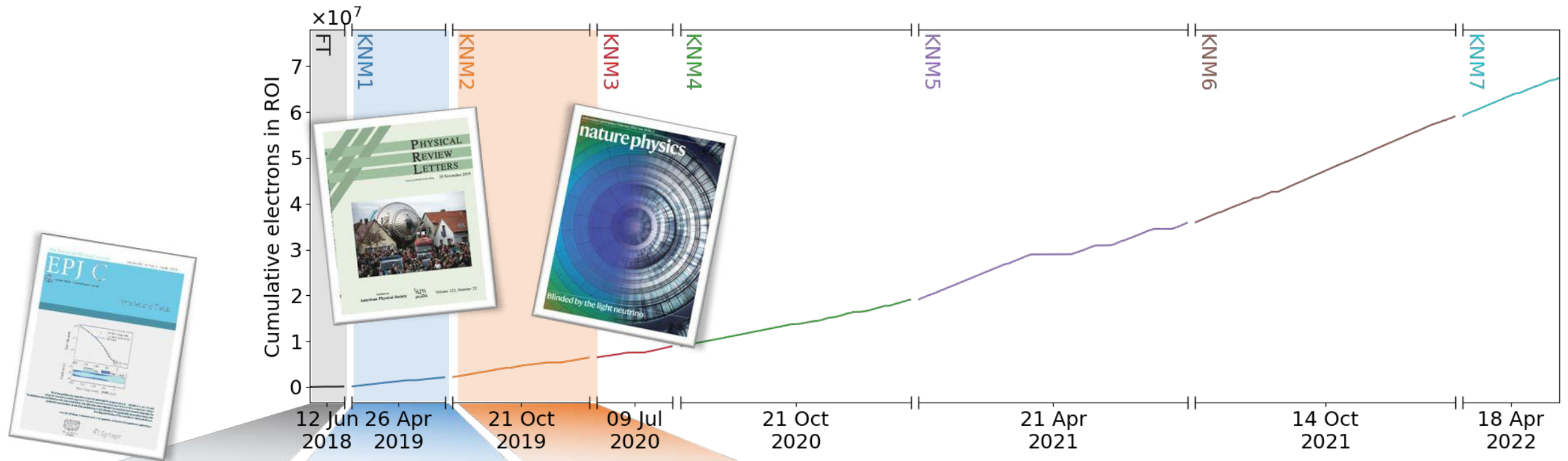
- ✓ Search for relic big-bang neutrinos  
Phys. Rev. Lett. **129**, 011806 (2022)

- ✓ Search for violation of Lorentz invariance  
arxiv:2207.06326 (2022)

- ✓ Search for light sterile neutrinos  
Phys. Rev. Lett. **126**, 091803 (2021)  
Phys. Rev. D **105**, 072004 (2022)



# KATRIN Data Taking Overview



- Commissioning
- Only 0.5% tritium

EPJ C 80, 264 (2020)

- 1<sup>st</sup>  $m_\nu$  campaign
- $m_\nu < 1.1$  eV

PRL 123, 221802 (2019)

Phys. Rev. D 104, 012005 (2021)

- 2<sup>nd</sup>  $m_\nu$  campaign
- $m_\nu < 0.8$  eV

Nat. Phys. 18, 160–166 (2022)

+ sterile and relic neutrino searches:

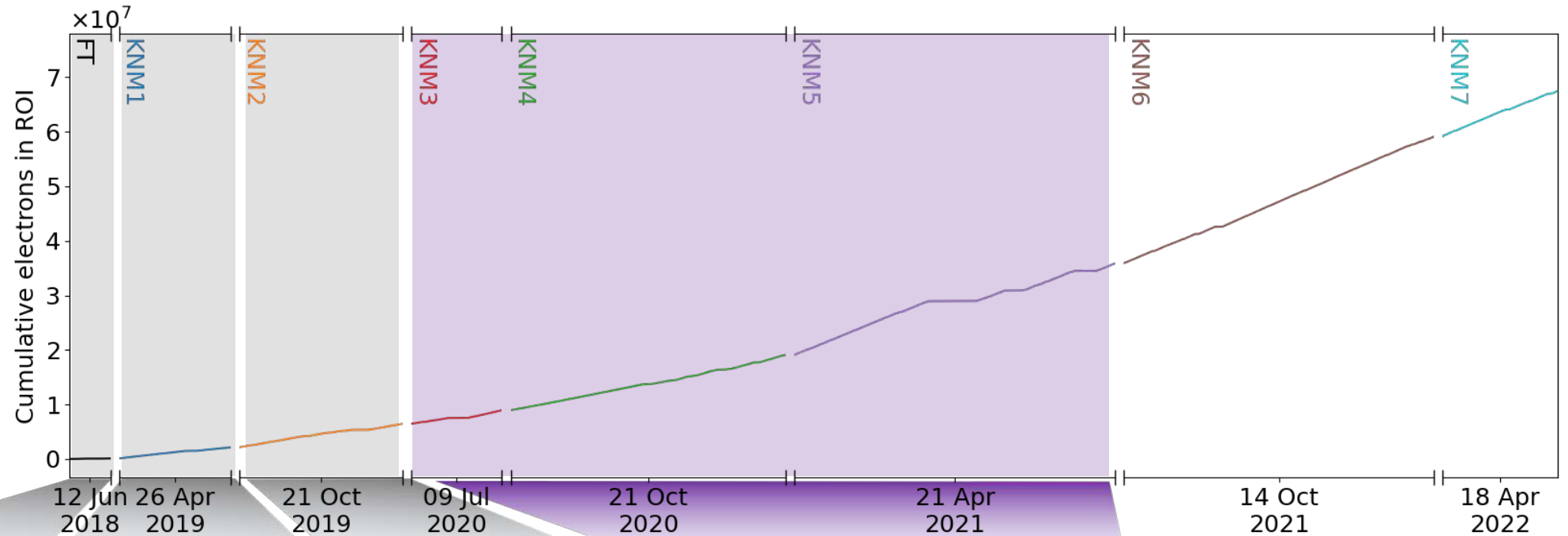
PRL 126, 091803 (2021)

PRD 105, 072004 (2022)

arXiv:2202.04587 (2022)



# What's next ?



- Commissioning
- Only 0.5% tritium

EPJ C 80, 264 (2020)

- 1<sup>st</sup>  $m_\nu$  campaign
- $m_\nu < 1.1$  eV

PRL. 123, 221802 (2019)

Phys. Rev. D 104, 012005 (2021)

- 2<sup>nd</sup>  $m_\nu$  campaign
- $m_\nu < 0.8$  eV

Nat. Phys. 18, 160–166 (2022)

- New result this year



→  
Data taking until 2026

# Experimental efforts

Electrostatic  
filter (MAC-E)

Project-8  
(Tritium)



Cyclotron  
Radiation

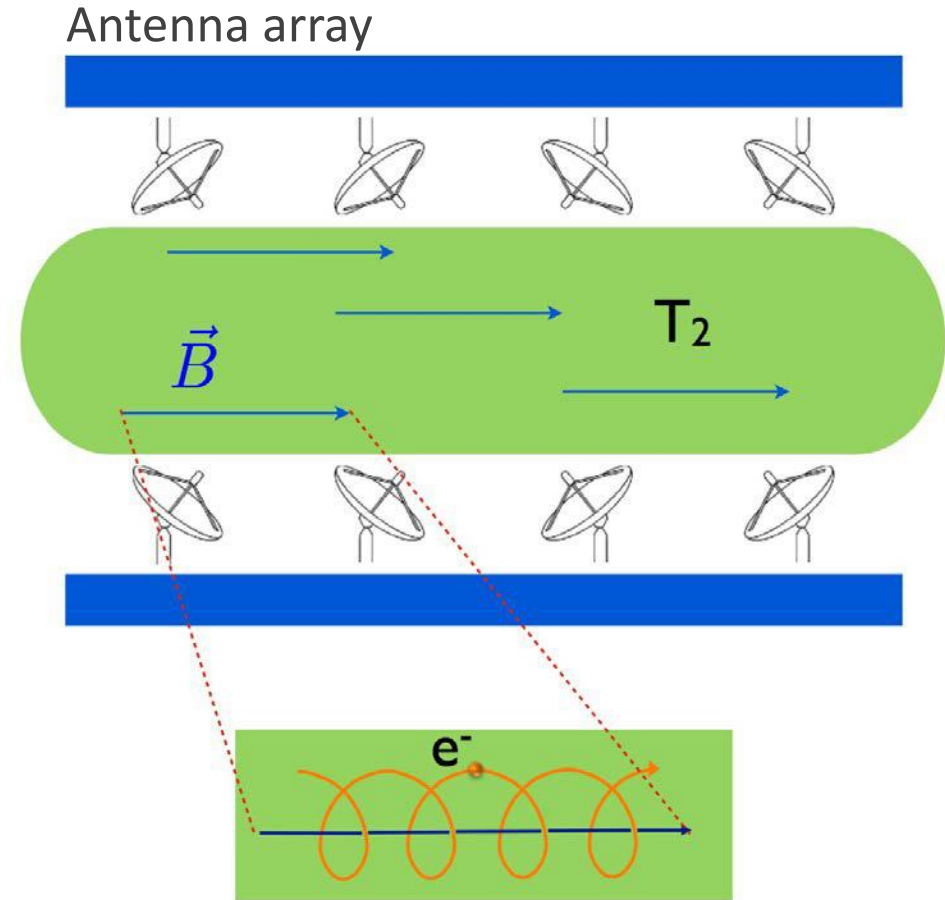
Phonons

# Working principle

- **Technology:**  
Cyclotron Radiation Emission Spectroscopy (CRES)

$$\omega(\gamma) = \frac{\omega_0}{\gamma} = \frac{eB}{E + m_e}$$

- **Advantage**
  - Differential measurement
  - Source = detector



# Project 8

- **Recent Achievements**

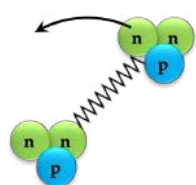
- ✓ Proof of concept
- ✓ First tritium spectra measured  
 $\Delta E = 2 \text{ eV (FWHM)}$ ,  $b < 3 \times 10^{-11} \text{ eV}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$
- ✓ **First neutrino mass limit:  $m_\nu < 185 \text{ eV}$  (90% CI.)**

- **Next steps / challenges:**

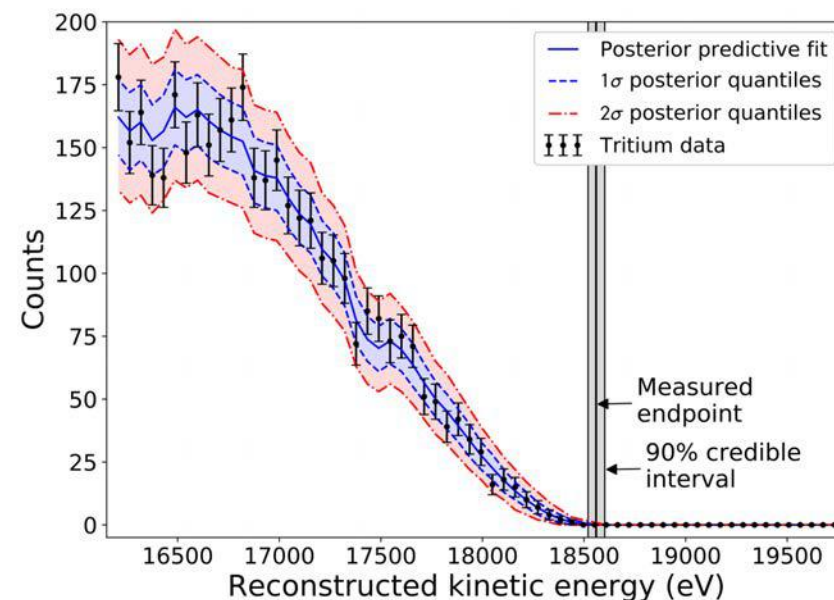
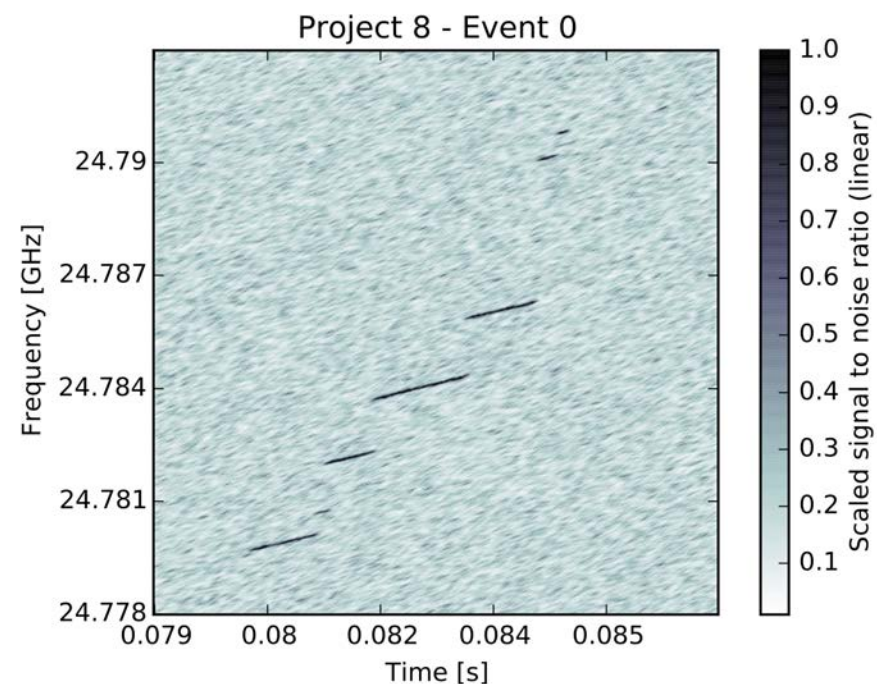
- large-volume traps ( $\text{m}^3$ ) (cavity resonator)
- develop atomic tritium source

- **Ultimate goal:**

- 0.04 eV sensitivity (150 meV resolution)  
[arXiv:2203.07349](https://arxiv.org/abs/2203.07349) (2022)

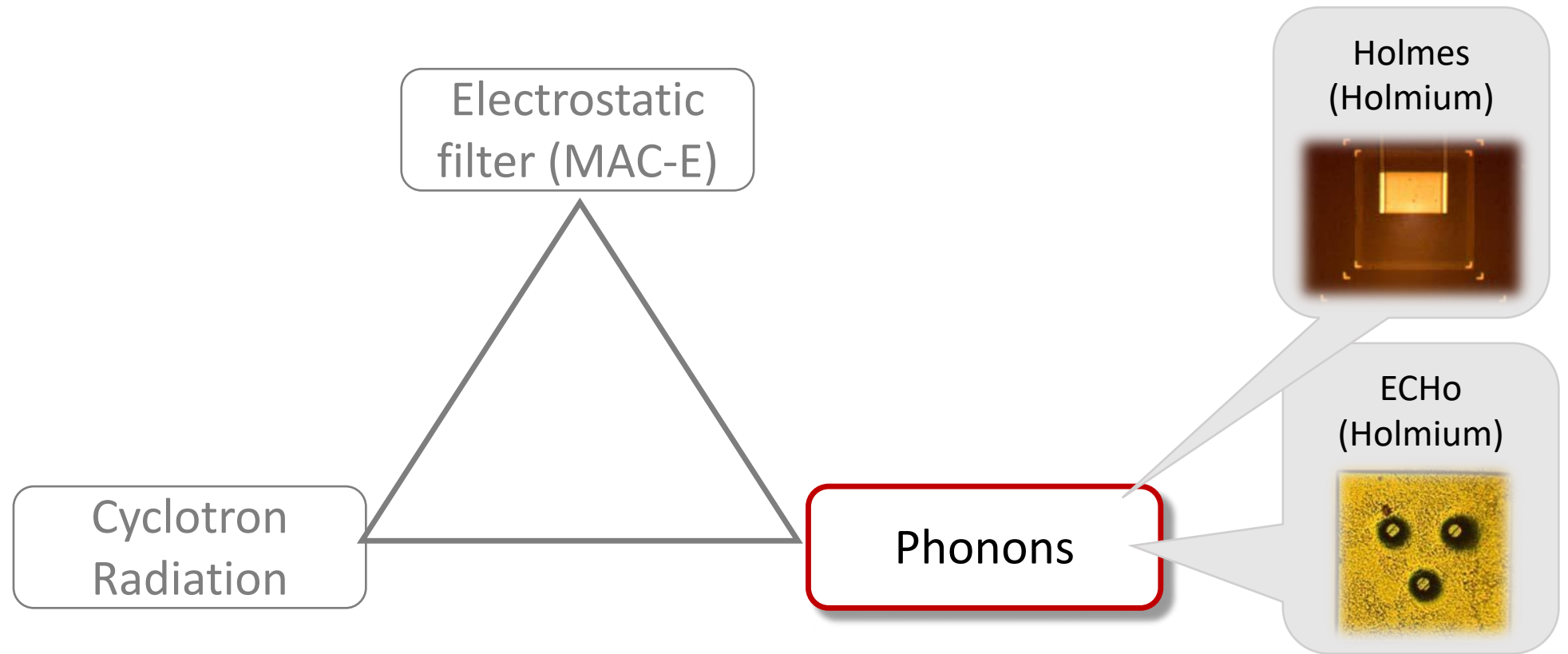


15 cm

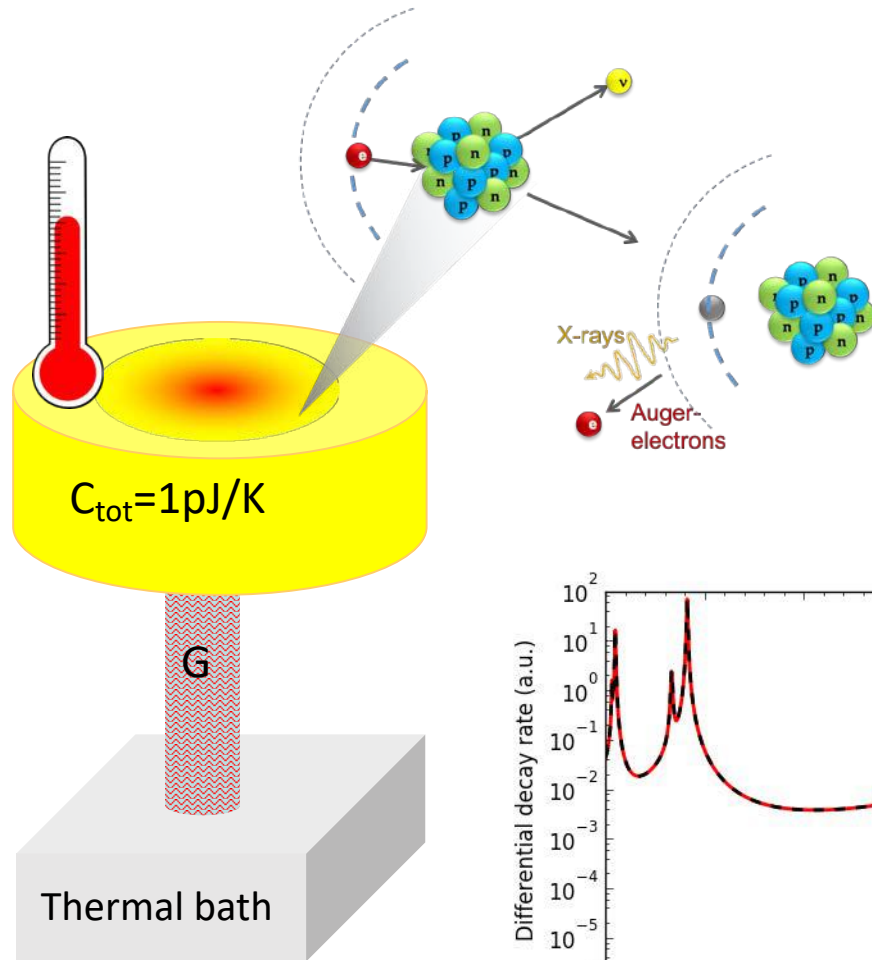




# Experimental efforts



# Working principle

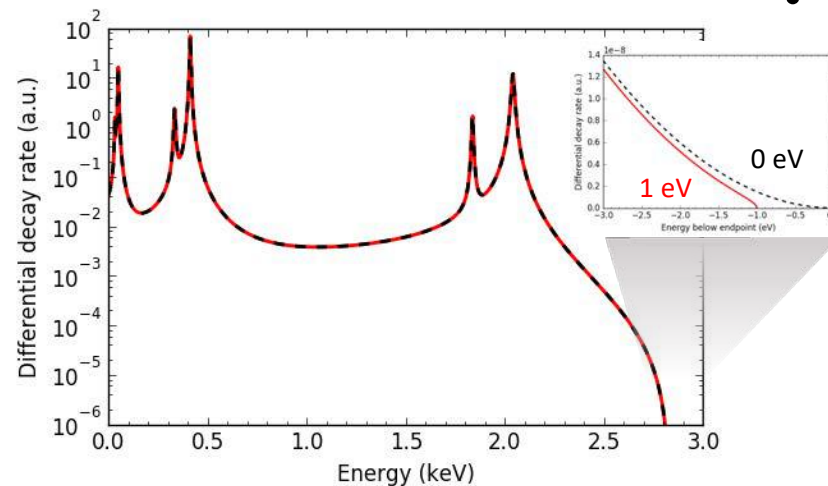


## Technology:

- Low-temperature micro-calorimetry  
A. De Rujula and M. Lusignoli, *Phys. Lett.* **118B** (1982)
- Holmium enclosed in absorber
- Measure decay energy via temperature rise

## Advantage

- Differential measurement
- Source = detector



# ECHo

- **Achievements**

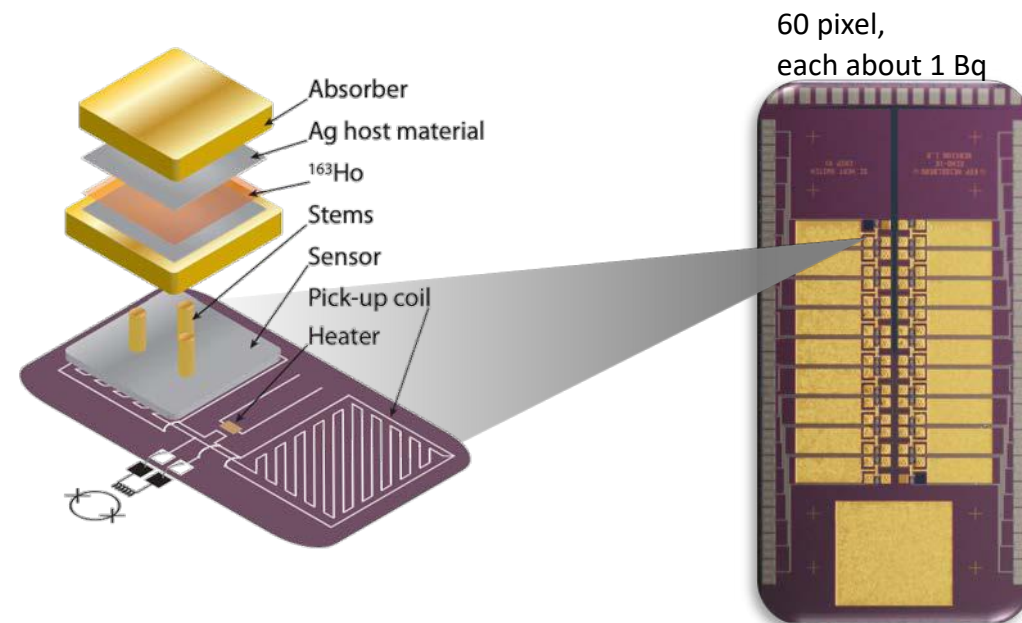
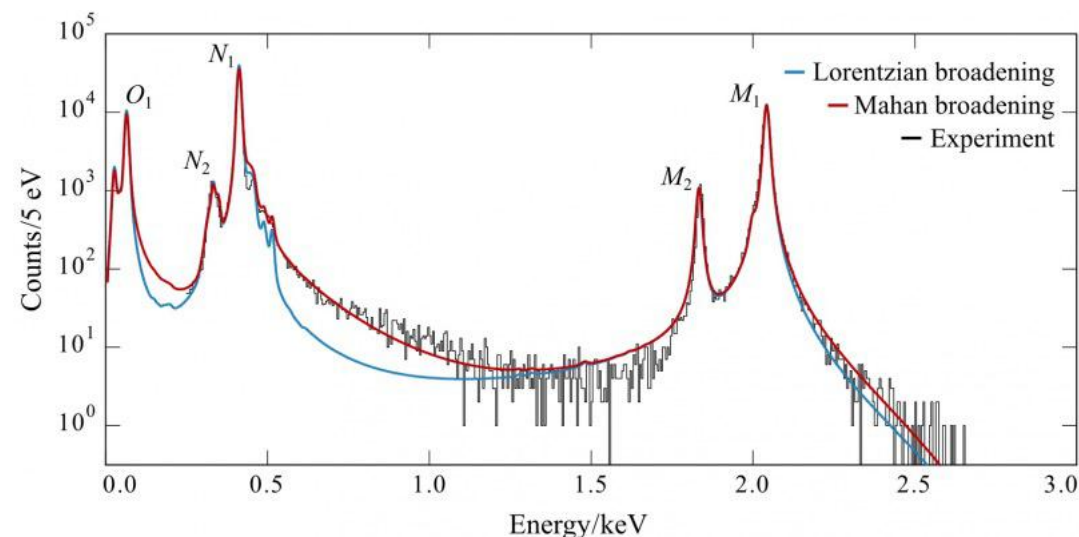
- ✓ first holmium spectra measured  
 $\Delta E = 5$  eV (FWHM),  $b < 1.6 \times 10^{-4} \text{ eV}^{-1} \text{ pixel}^{-1} \text{ day}^{-1}$
- ✓ first neutrino mass limit:  $m < 150$  eV (95% C.L.)  
*EPJ-C 79 1026 (2019)*
- ✓ refined theoretical calculations  
*Phys.Rev.C 97 (2018) and New J. Phys. 22 (2020) 093018*
- ✓ **ECHo-1k completed: ~60 Bq (>  $10^8$  events)**  
*EPJ-C 81, 963 (2021)*

- **Next steps/challenges**

- Scaling to higher activity per pixel and more pixels
- ECHo-100k:  $m < 1.5$  eV

- **Ultimate goal:**

- low sub-eV sensitivity



# Questions for today

How to measure the neutrino mass from cosmology

- Neutrinos are hot dark matter and wash out small scale structure
- Imprint in CMB and LSS
- Sensitivity at  $\sum m_\nu < 0.2 \text{ eV}$

...and from  $0\nu\beta\beta$  ?

- Half life of the  $0\nu\beta\beta$  decay depends on mass of neutrino
- Signal = peak at  $Q_{\beta\beta}$
- Sensitivity at  $m_{\beta\beta} < 0.2 \text{ eV}$

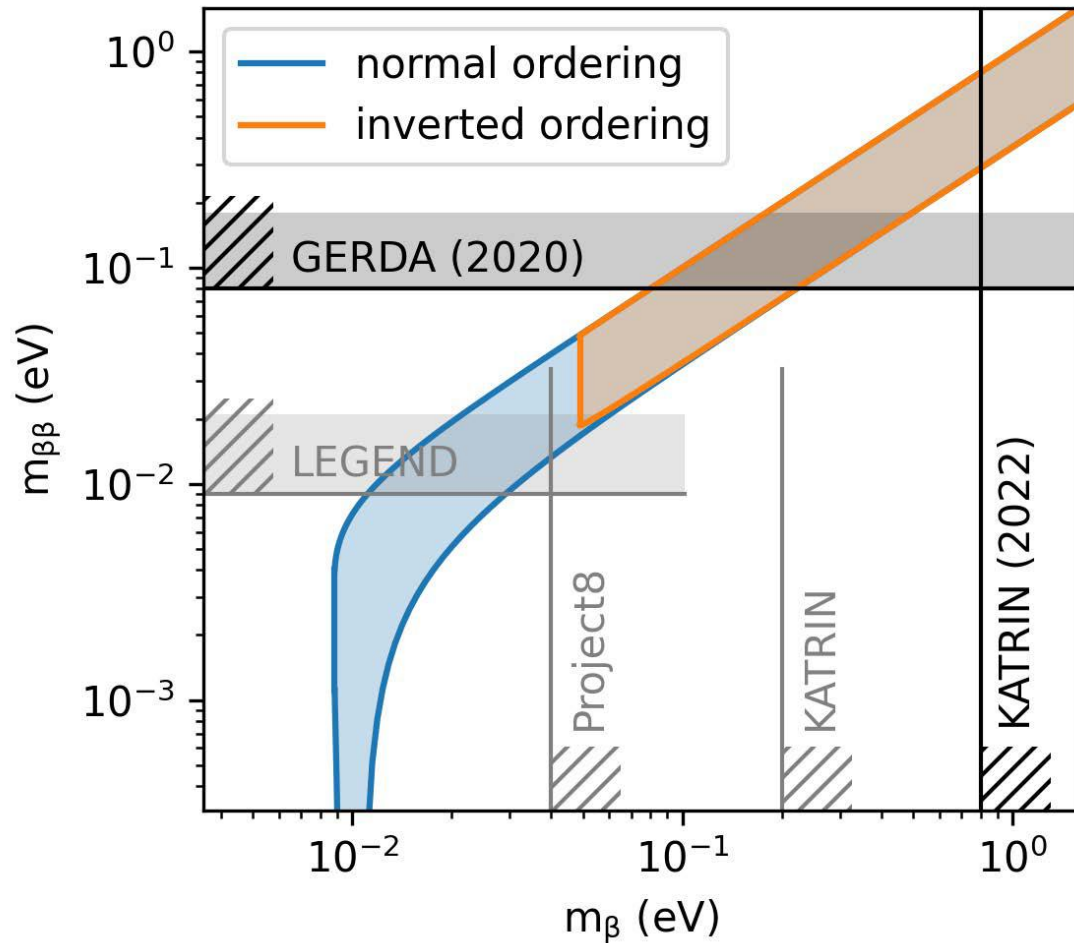
...and directly ?

- Neutrino mass reduces energy of beta
- Distortion of beta spectrum close to endpoint
- Sensitivity at  $m_\beta < 0.8 \text{ eV}$

What can we learn if we measure nothing?



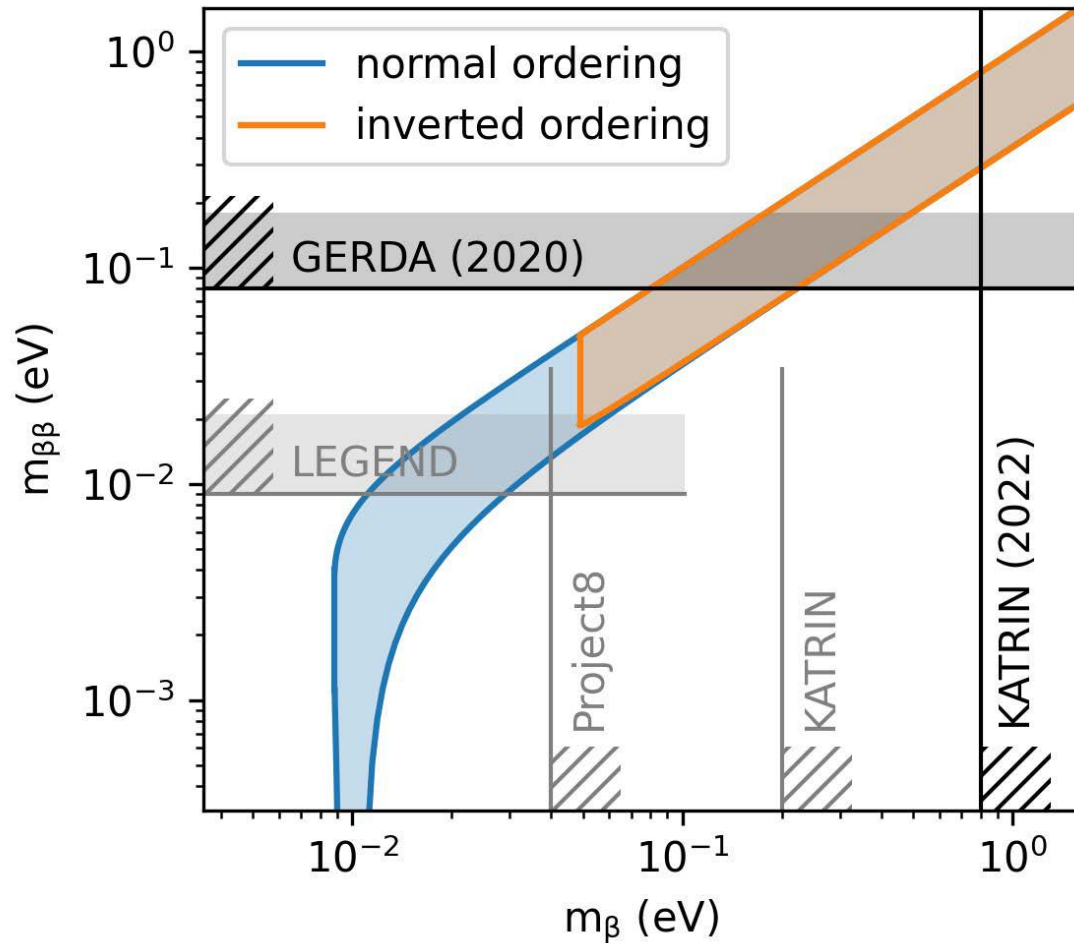
# Complementarity



**Puzzle 1:** If Project-8 would measure a neutrino mass and LEGEND would not observe a signal

**Puzzle 2:** If LEGEND would see a signal and Project-8 would not measure the neutrino mass...

# Complementarity



**Puzzle 1:** If Project-8 would measure a neutrino mass, **but** LEGEND would not observe a signal

- Neutrino is a Dirac particle
- (Or something is very wrong with our understanding of nuclear/neutrino physics)

**Puzzle 2:** If LEGEND would see a signal, **but** Project-8 would not measure the neutrino mass...

- different lepton number violating mediator than light Majorana neutrino exchange

# Questions for today

How to measure the neutrino mass from cosmology

- Neutrinos are hot dark matter and wash out small scale structure
- Imprint in CMB and LSS
- Sensitivity at  $\sum m_\nu < 0.2 \text{ eV}$

...and from  $0\nu\beta\beta$  ?

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...and directly ?

- Neutrino mass reduces energy of beta
- Distortion of beta spectrum close to endpoint
- Sensitivity at  $m_\beta < 0.8 \text{ eV}$

What can we learn if we measure nothing?

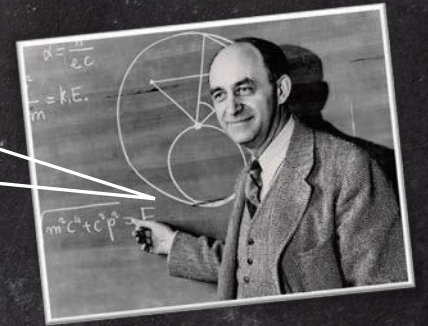
- Probes measure different combinations of  $m_i$
- Observables are complementary
- We need all three of them

Back up



# Let's have a closer look

This is the formula for beta-decay



$$\frac{d\Gamma}{dE} = \sum_i |U_{ei}|^2 C \cdot F(E, Z) \cdot (E + m_e) \cdot (E_0 - E) \cdot \sqrt{(E + m_e)^2 - m_e^2} \cdot \sqrt{(E_0 - E)^2 - m_i^2}$$

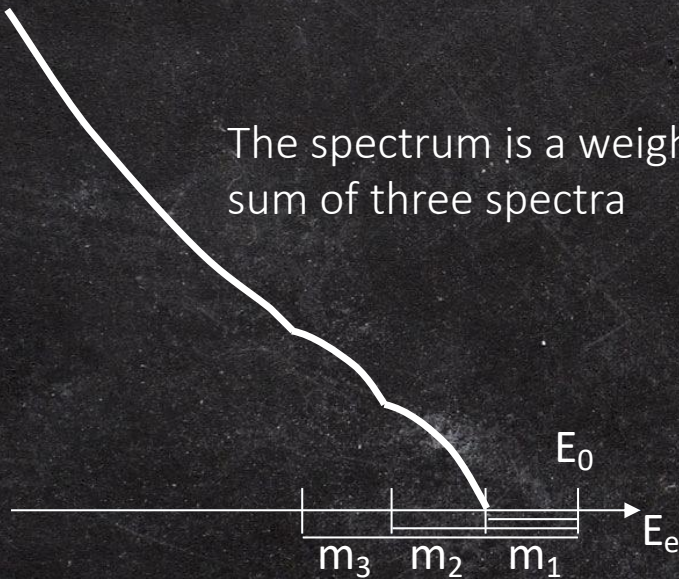
Electron  
energy

Neutrino  
energy

Electron  
momentum

Neutrino  
momentum

The spectrum is a weighted  
sum of three spectra



$$m_i < 0.5 \text{ eV}$$



# Let's have a closer look

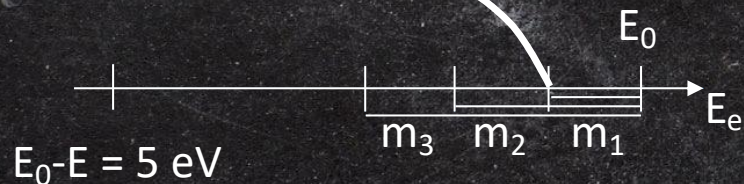
We measure „far away“ from the endpoint



$$\frac{d\Gamma}{dE} = \sum_i |U_{ei}|^2 C \cdot F(E, Z) \cdot (E + m_e) \cdot (E_0 - E) \cdot \sqrt{(E + m_e)^2 - m_e^2} \cdot \sqrt{(E_0 - E)^2 - m_i^2}$$

$$\sqrt{1+x} \approx 1 + \frac{1}{2}x + \dots$$

The spectrum is a weighted sum of three spectra



$$m_i < 0.5 \text{ eV}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_i |U_{ei}|^2 (E_0 - E) \sqrt{1 - \frac{m_i^2}{(E_0 - E)^2}} \\ & \approx \sum_i |U_{ei}|^2 (E_0 - E) \left( 1 - \frac{1}{2} \frac{m_i^2}{(E_0 - E)^2} \right) \\ & = (E_0 - E) \left( 1 - \frac{1}{2} \frac{\sum_i |U_{ei}|^2 m_i^2}{(E_0 - E)^2} \right) \\ & = \sqrt{(E_0 - E)^2 - \sum_i |U_{ei}|^2 m_i^2} \end{aligned}$$



Let's have a closer look

$$\frac{d\Gamma}{dE} = \sum_i |U_{ei}|^2 C \cdot F(E, Z) \cdot (E + m_e) \cdot (E_0 - E) \cdot \sqrt{(E + m_e)^2 - m_e^2} \cdot \sqrt{(E_0 - E)^2 - m_i^2}$$

$$\frac{d\Gamma}{dE} \approx C \cdot F(E, Z) \cdot (E + m_e) \cdot (E_0 - E) \cdot \sqrt{(E + m_e)^2 - m_e^2} \cdot \sqrt{(E_0 - E)^2 - \sum_i |U_{ei}|^2 m_i^2}$$

$$m_\nu^2 \equiv \sum_i |U_{ei}|^2 m_i^2$$

*incoherent sum of neutrino mass eigenstates*



# Helicity vs Chirality

---

## Helicity

$$h = \frac{\vec{S} \cdot \vec{p}}{|\vec{p}|}$$

Weak interaction does not know about helicity

Helicity of massive particle depends on reference frame

Physical particles occur with a definite helicity in nature

## Chirality

$$P_L = \frac{1 - \gamma^5}{2}$$

Weak interaction projects out a chiral component of the field

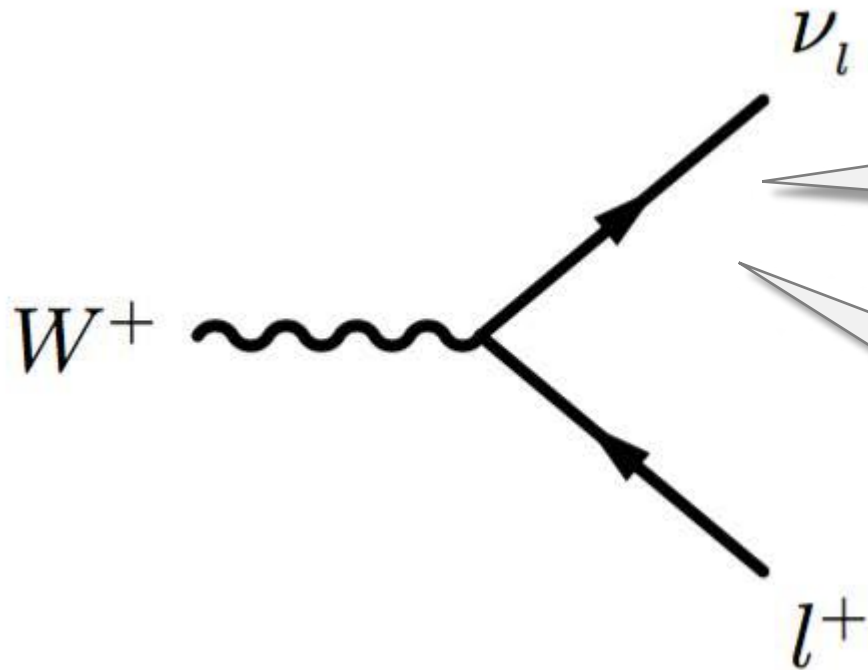
Chirality is frame independent

Physical particles have no defined chirality

---



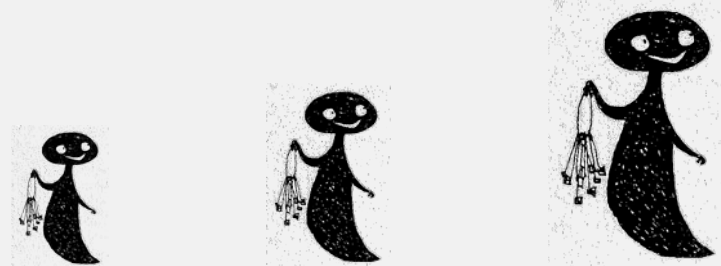
# Chirality vs Helicity



QM superposition of **helicity** eigenstates  
(composition determined by  $m/E$ )



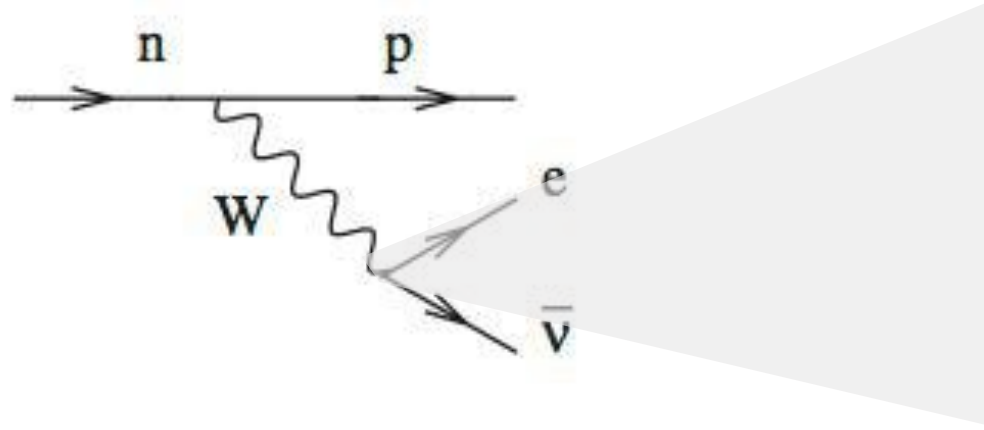
QM superposition of **mass** eigenstates  
(composition determined by PMNS matrix)



# Helicity vs Chirality

$$n \rightarrow p + e + \bar{\nu}_e$$

$$\nu_e + n \rightarrow p + e$$



- Projection on **electron neutrino flavor** = super position of mass eigenstate
- The physical neutrino, is the one that propagates through space, it has a definite mass (and no definite flavor)

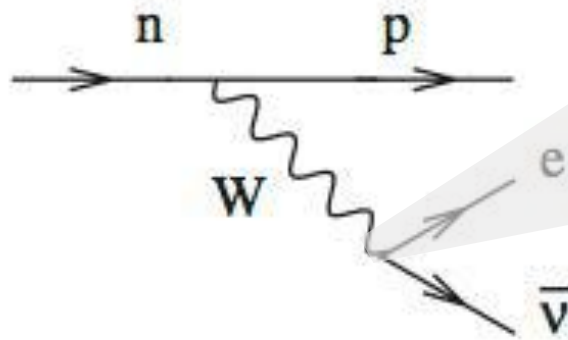
A diagram showing the composition of neutrino flavors. A small red sphere labeled "Electron Neutrino" is equal to the sum of three larger spheres: a large magenta sphere labeled "Neutrino1", a medium cyan sphere labeled "Neutrino2", and a small green sphere labeled "Neutrino3".

Electron Neutrino = Neutrino1 + Neutrino2 + Neutrino3

# Helicity vs Chirality

$$n \rightarrow p + e + \bar{\nu}_e$$

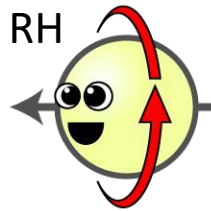
$$\nu_e + n \rightarrow p + e$$



- Projection on **right-chiral** component of anti neutrino field

Massless case:

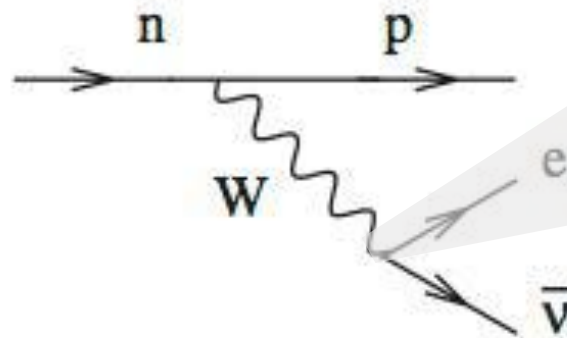
- The physical neutrino appears only with **right-handed helicity**



# Helicity vs Chirality

$$n \rightarrow p + e + \bar{\nu}_e$$

$$\nu_e + n \rightarrow p + e$$

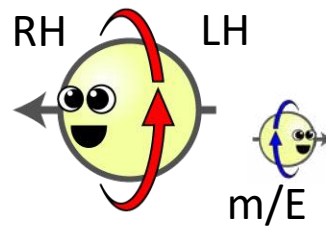


- Projection on **right-chiral** component of anti neutrino field

Massive case:

- The physical neutrino appears mostly with **right-handed helicity** and a bit  $O(m/E)$  of **left-handed helicity**

Quantum mechanical  
superposition

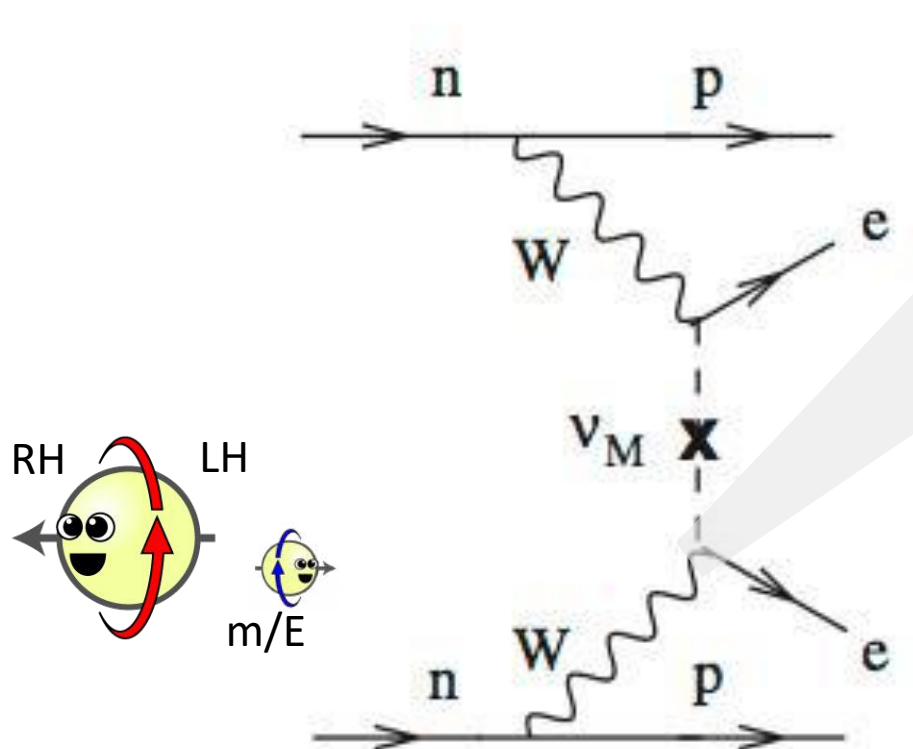




# Helicity vs Chirality

$$n \rightarrow p + e + \bar{\nu}_e$$

$$\nu_e + n \rightarrow p + e$$



LH: will be completely absorbed

RH: A tiny bit  $\sim O(m/E)$  will be absorbed

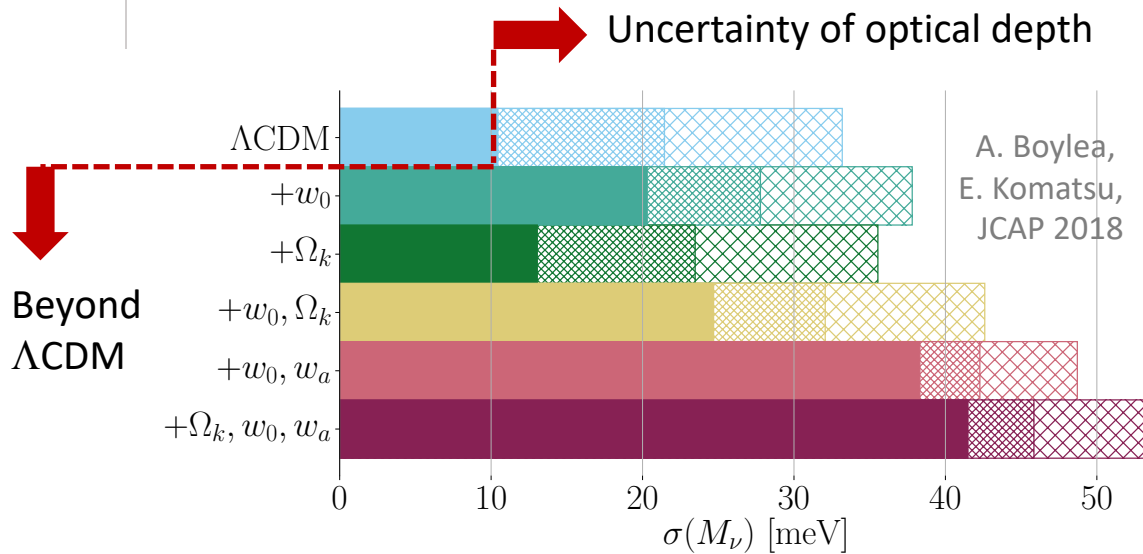
- Projection on **right-chiral** component of anti neutrino field

Massive case:

- The physical neutrino appears mostly with **right-handed helicity** and a bit  $O(m/E)$  of **left-handed helicity**
- The vertex will absorb with almost no suppression the left-handed helicity neutrino and a  $O(m/E)$  fraction of the right-handed helicity neutrino
- The decay can occur, but is suppressed with  $m_\nu$

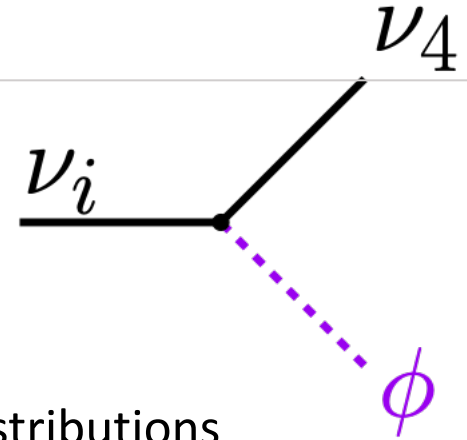
# Model dependence

## Cosmology



- Beyond  $\Lambda$ CDM
- Bounds relaxed up to factor of  $\sim 3$

## Neutrino physics



- Non-standard p or T distributions  
Farzan & Hannestad 1510.02201  
Oldengott et al. 1901.04352  
Alvey, Escudero, Sabti, Schwetz 2111.14870v
  - Invisible neutrino decay  
Escudero, López-Pavón, Rius, Sandner 2007.04994  
Chacko et al. 1909.05275, 2112.13862
  - Time-dependent neutrino mass  
Dvali & Funcke 1602.03191  
Lorenz et al. 2102.13618
- Bounds relaxed up to  $\sum m_\nu < 3$  eV