



Direct Neutrino Mass Measurements

Alessandro Schwemmer (Technical University of Munich)

23rd International Workshop on Next Generation Nucleon Decay and Neutrino Detectors

CBPF, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

October 29, 2024

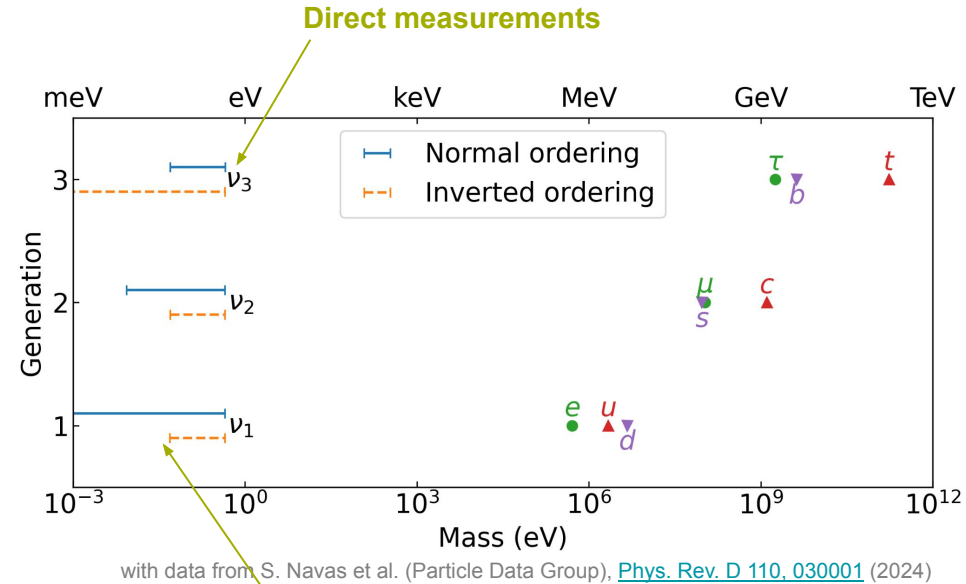


Motivation

- Neutrino oscillations imply **neutrinos have mass**

→ **Insensitive to absolute mass scale**

→ Neutrino **mass ordering** (hierarchy) not yet resolved

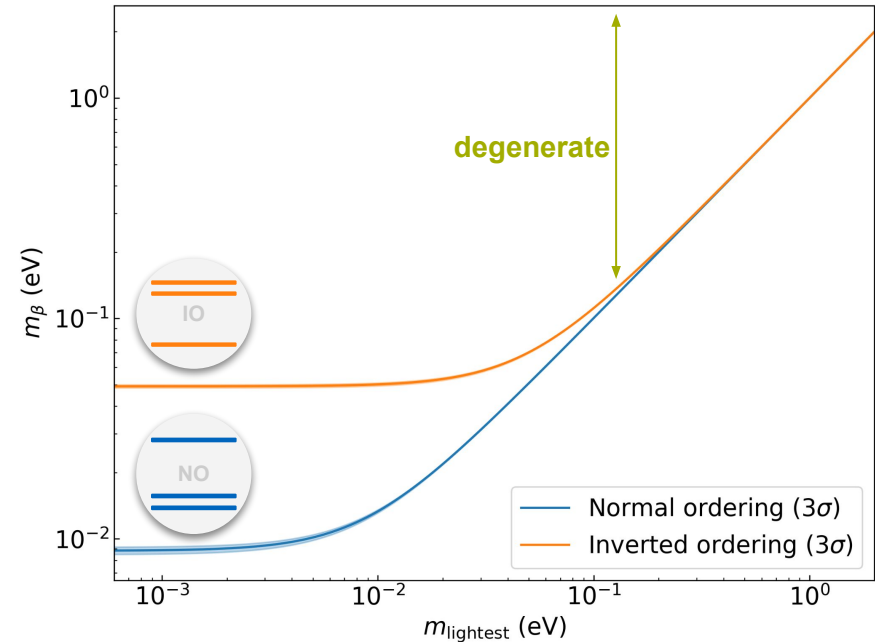


Motivation

- **Direct measurements** rely only on **kinematics** of β -decay / electron capture (EC) decay

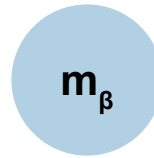
$$m_{\beta}^2 = \sum_i |U_{ei}|^2 m_i^2$$

→ **Independent** of neutrino nature



with data from S. Navas et al. (Particle Data Group), [Phys. Rev. D 110, 030001](https://arxiv.org/abs/2403.02635) (2024)

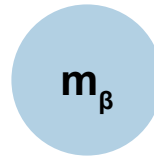
MAC-E
for β -decay



CRES
for β -decay

Calorimetry
for EC-decay

MAC-E
for β -decay

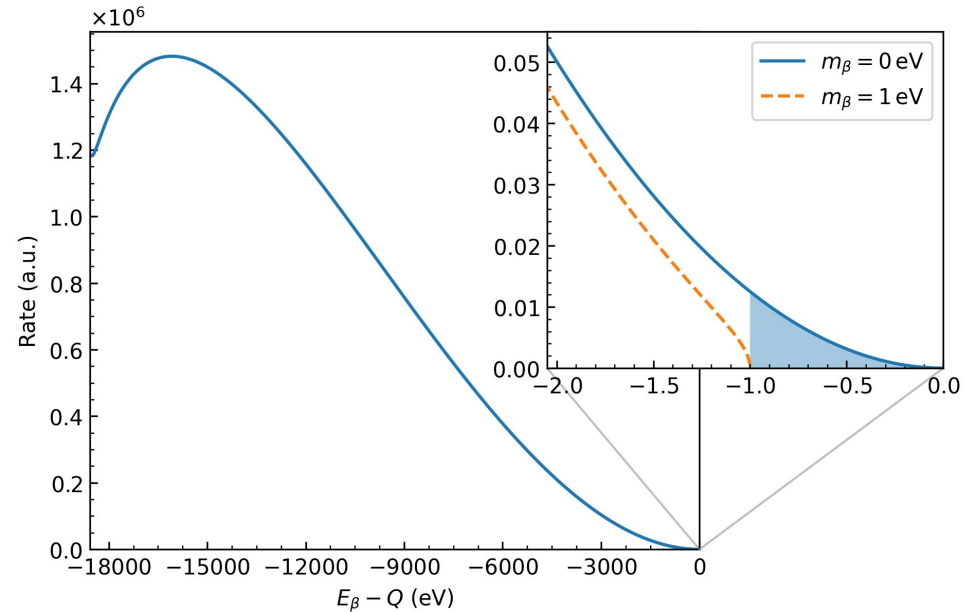


CRES
for β -decay

Calorimetry
for EC-decay

Tritium β -decay

- β^- -decay (of molecular tritium)
$$\text{T}_2 \rightarrow {}^3\text{HeT}^+ + \text{e}^- + \bar{\nu}_e$$
- Perform **electron spectroscopy**

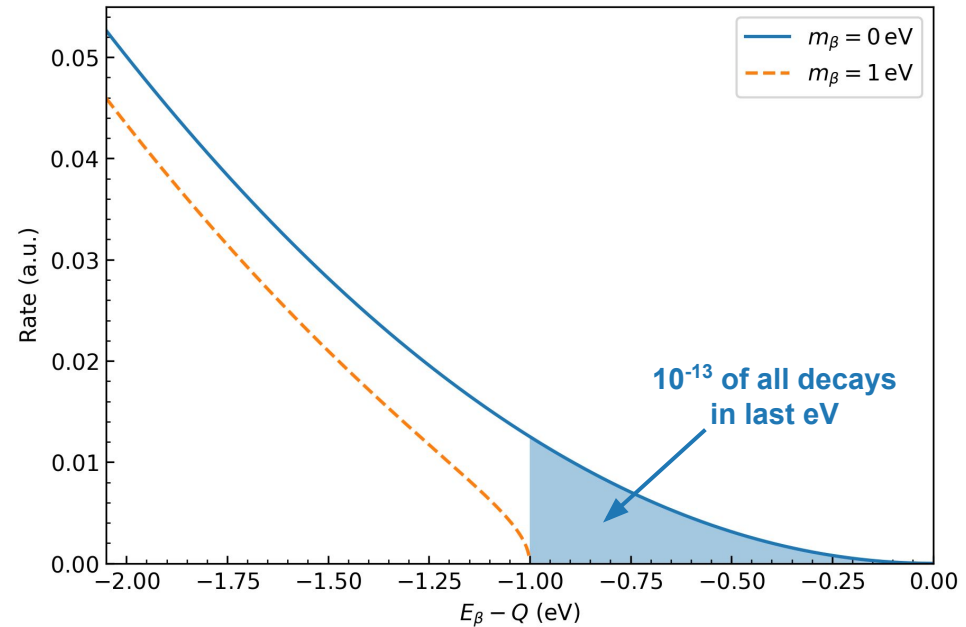


Tritium β -decay

- β^- -decay (of molecular tritium)



- Perform **electron spectroscopy**
- **Spectral distortion** near Q-value
 - **low background**
 - **high energy resolution** ($\sim 1\text{eV}$)
- Tritium **half life** $\tau \approx 12.3$ years
- Tritium **Q** ≈ 18.6 keV

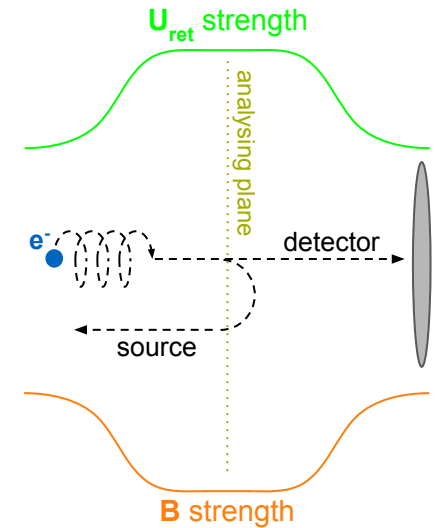


MAC-E filter

- **M**agnetic **A**diabatic **C**ollimation combined with an **E**lectrostatic Filter

→ **High-pass filter** for electrons

$$E_{\parallel} > qU_{ret}$$



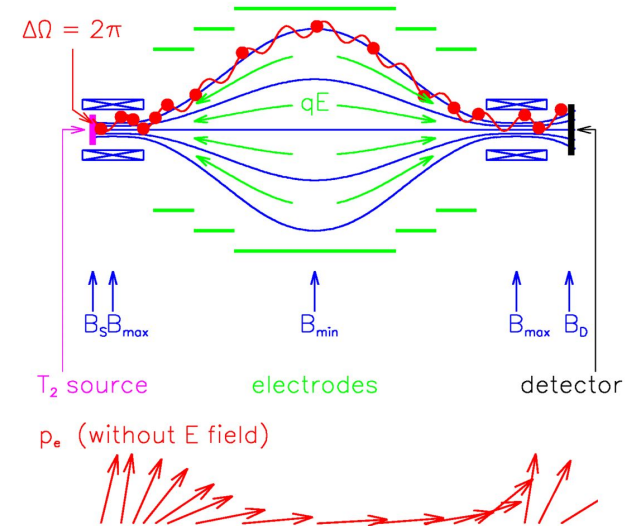
MAC-E filter

- **Magnetic Adiabatic Collimation** combined with an **Electrostatic Filter**

→ **High-pass filter** for electrons

$$E_{\parallel} > qU_{ret}$$

- High luminosity, **integral measurement**

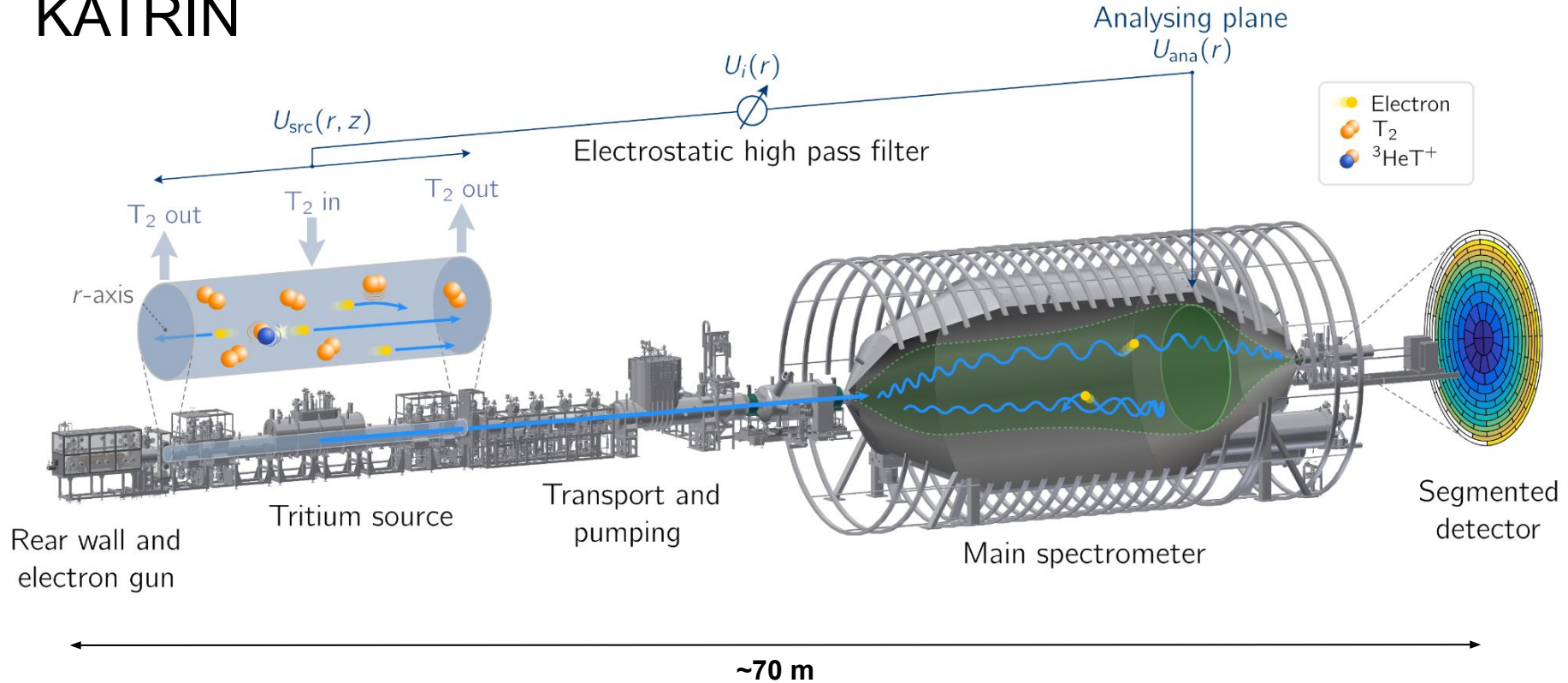


[KATRIN collaboration](#)

KATRIN

- Situated at Karlsruhe Institute of Technology
- International collaboration (~150 members)
- First science run in 2019

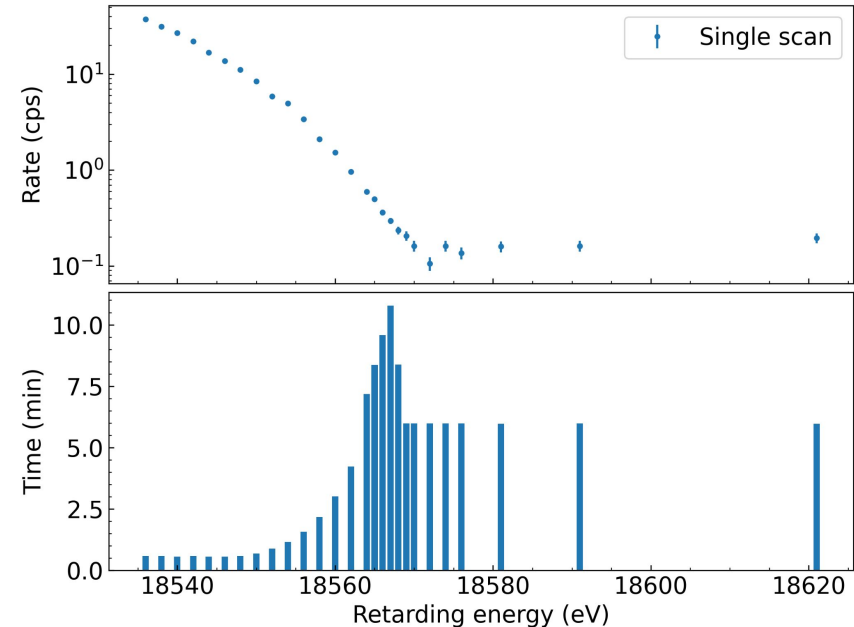
KATRIN



Details in: KATRIN collaboration, [JINST 16 \(2021\) T08015](#)

KATRIN measurement strategy

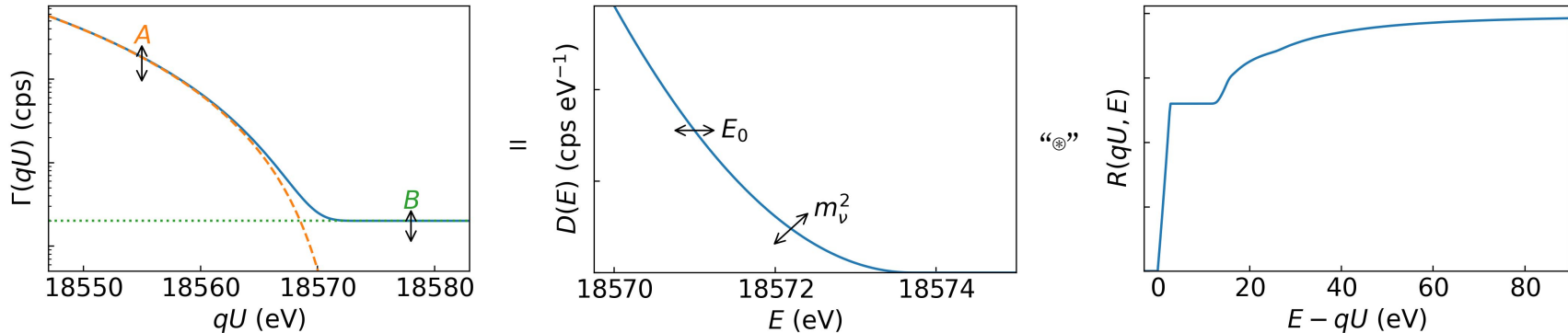
- **MAC-E filter:** Only electrons with $E_{\parallel} > qU_{ret}$ reach the detector
 - Vary retarding energy to **scan spectrum**
 - Count events at the detector
 - **Integral spectrum** (2-3h in total)
- **Repeat** scanning procedure a few 100 times to obtain **one measurement campaign**



KATRIN analysis strategy

- Maximum likelihood fit of **model**:

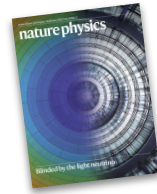
$$\Gamma(qU) \propto A \int_{qU}^{E_0} D(E; m_\beta^2, E_0) R(qU, E) dE + B$$



with free **amplitude** A , **squared neutrino mass** m_β^2 , **endpoint** E_0 and **background** B

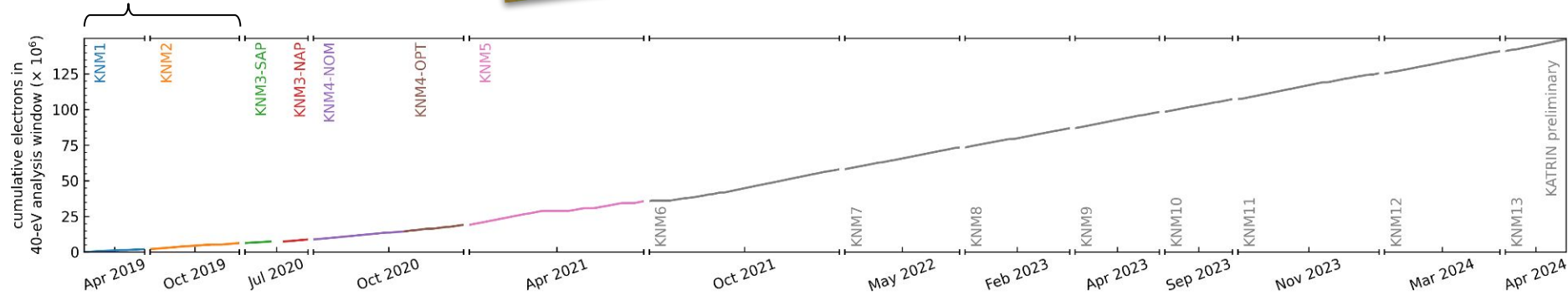
- Theoretical** (Fermi theory, molecular excitations) and **experimental** inputs (calibration measurements)
- Two-step **blinding** procedure (simulated data, blinded model)

Current status

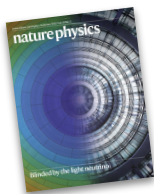


$m_\beta < 0.8 \text{ eV}$ (90% CL)

[Aker et al., [Nature Phys. 18 \(2022\) 2, 160-166](#)]

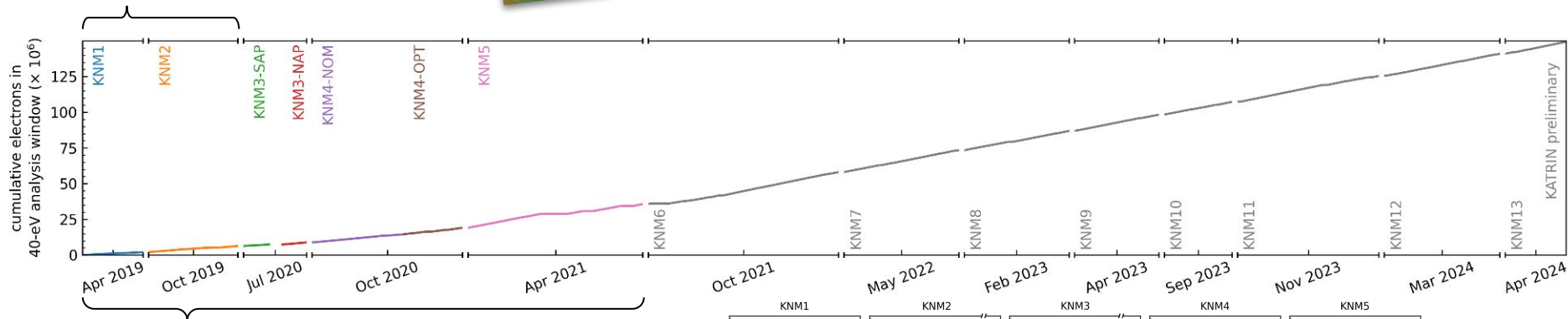


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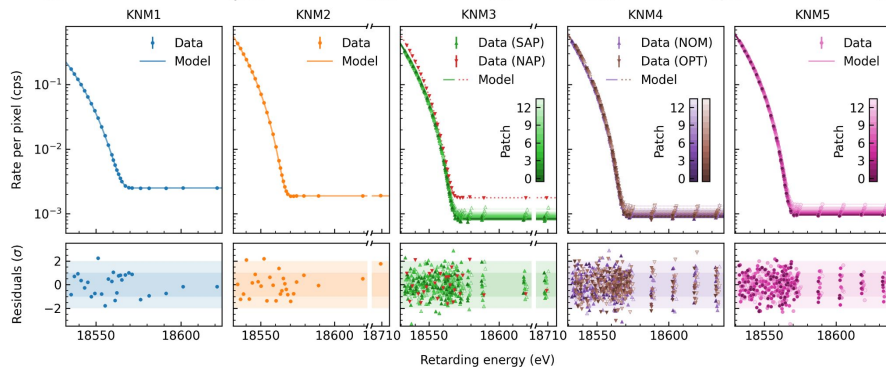
[Aker et al., [Nature Phys. 18 \(2022\) 2, 160-166](#)]



$m_\beta < 0.45 \text{ eV}$ (90% CL)

[Aker et al., [arxiv: 2406.13516](#)]

to be
publishd
soon



KATRIN latest results

- **259 days** of KATRIN data, **~36 Mio** electrons

- **Best fit** consistent with zero

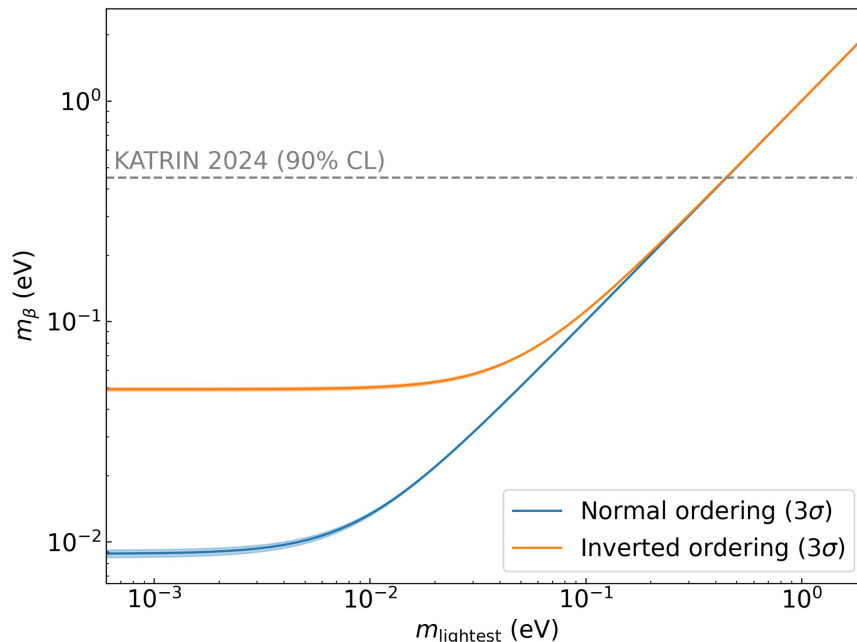
$$m_{\beta}^2 = -0.14^{+0.13}_{-0.15} \text{ eV}^2$$

- New **world-leading** upper limit

$$m_{\beta} < 0.45 \text{ eV (90\% CL)}$$

- Dominated by **statistical uncertainty**

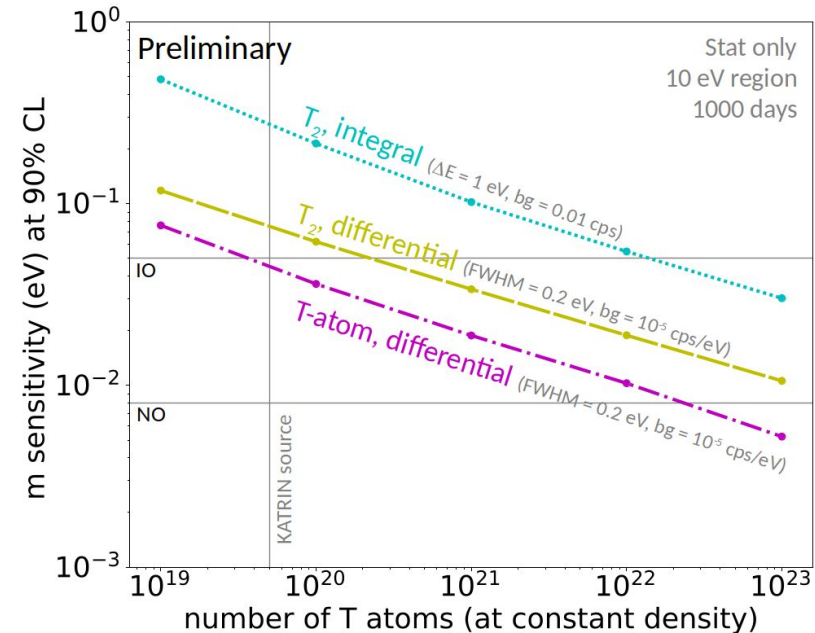
→ **Measuring** continues, goal: **1000 days** of KATRIN data



with data from S. Navas et al. (Particle Data Group), [Phys. Rev. D 110, 030001](#) (2024)

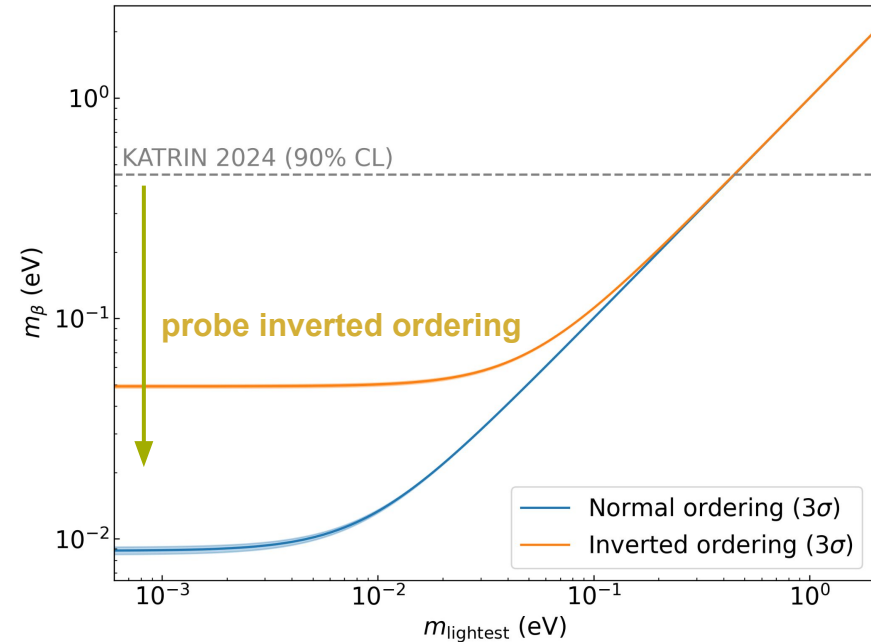
Beyond KATRIN

- **Leverage** existing infrastructure
- First **R&D projects** already launched
 - **New detector concepts**, e.g. micro-calorimeters
 - differential measurement
 - **Atomic source**
 - avoid limiting systematics of T_2

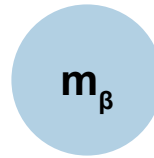


Beyond KATRIN

- **Leverage existing infrastructure**
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 - **New detector concepts**, e.g. micro-calorimeters
 - differential measurement
 - **Atomic source**
 - avoid limiting systematics of T_2
- Probe **inverted ordering** regime



MAC-E
for β -decay



CRES
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Calorimetry
for EC-decay

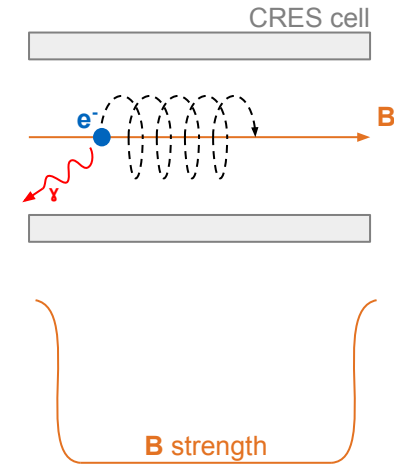
Cyclotron Radiation Emission Spectroscopy (CRES)

- Measurement of **cyclotron frequency** from **trapped electrons**

$$f_c = \frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{eB}{m_e + E_{\text{kin}}/c^2}$$

Esfahani et al., [PRL 131, 102502](#) (2023)

- **Background free, differential** measurement
- **eV-scale** energy resolution



Cyclotron Radiation Emission Spectroscopy (CRES)

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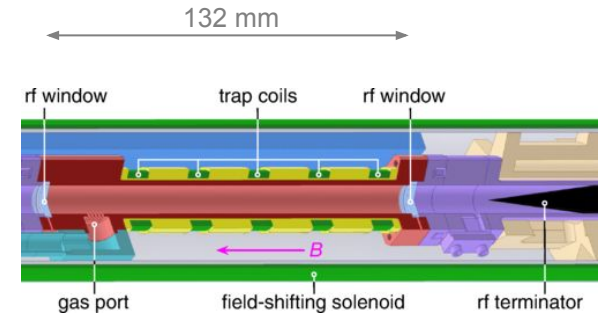
Esfahani et al., [PRL 131, 102502](#) (2023)

- **Background free, differential** measurement

- **eV-scale** energy resolution

→ Very **homogenous B-field** needed

→ Detection of **low-power radiation** (few fW at 1 T)

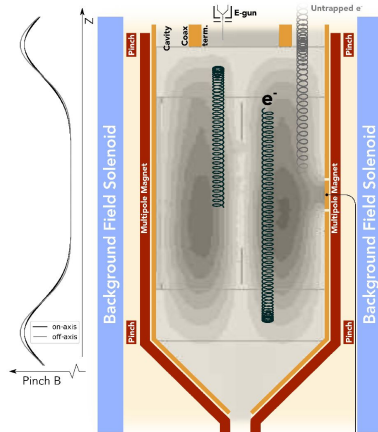


Project 8 CRES cell,
adapted from Esfahani et al., [PRL 131, 102502](#)
(2023)

Experiments

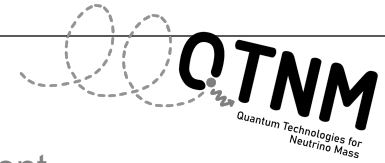
Project-8

- Cavity CRES + cold atomic tritium trap

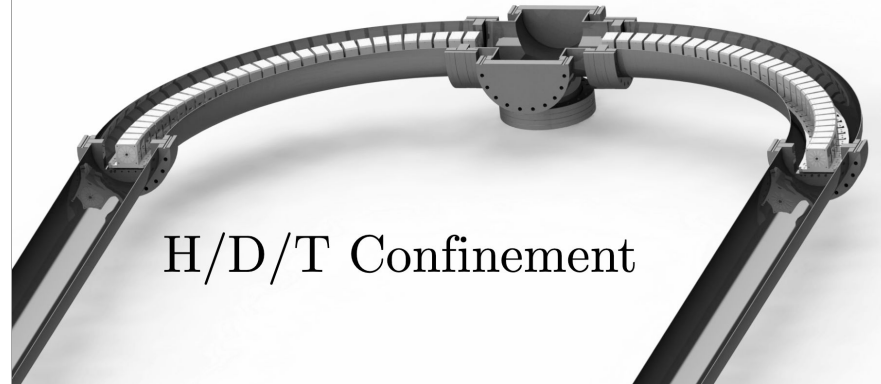


PROJECT 8

QTNM



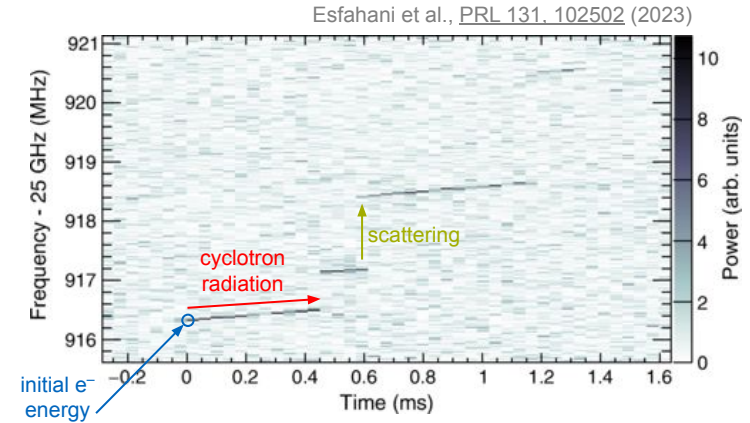
- Storage ring confinement
- New effort, conceptual stage



H/D/T Confinement

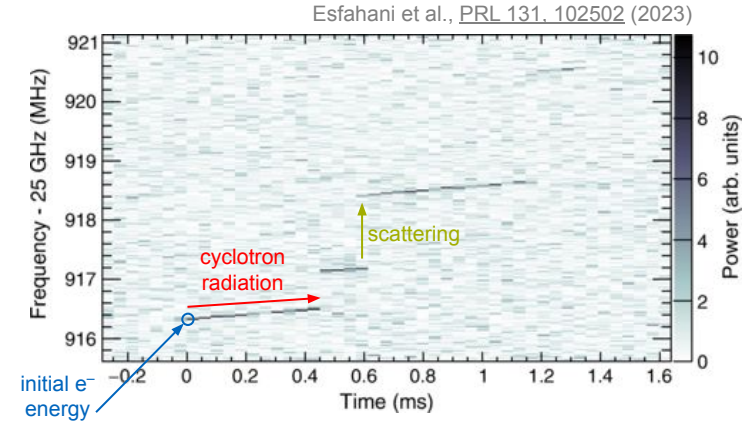
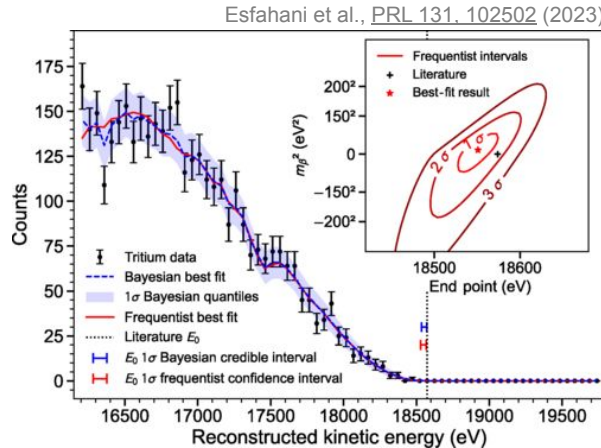
Project 8

→ **First CRES event** detected from a T_2 β -decay electron



Project 8

- **First CRES event** detected from a T_2 β -decay electron
- **No background** above Tritium endpoint observed



- First **frequency-based** upper limit:

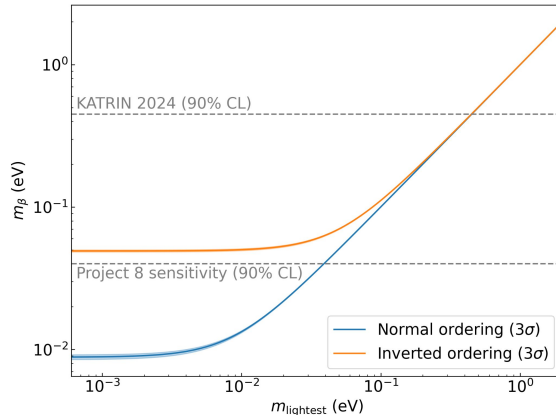
$$m_\beta < 155 \text{ eV (90 \% CL)}$$

Esfahani et al., [PRL 131, 102502 \(2023\)](#)

- Development of a **large-volume CRES** and an **atomic Tritium source**

Project 8

- **First CRES event** detected from a T_2 β -decay electron
- **No background** above Tritium endpoint observed

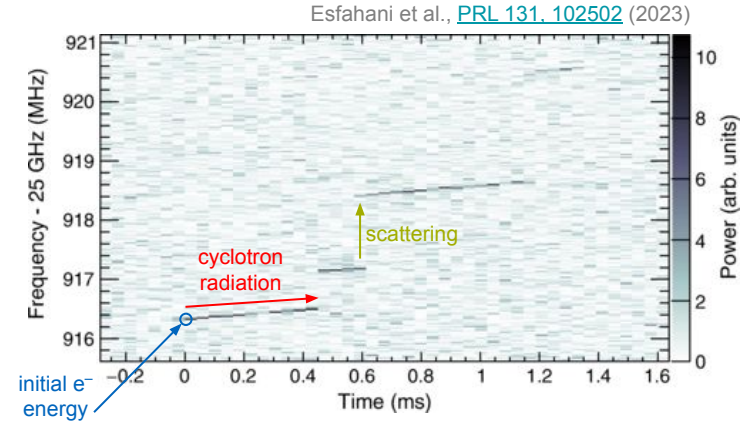


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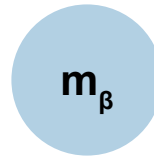
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Esfahani et al., [PRL 131, 102502](#) (2023)

- Development of a **large-volume CRES** and an **atomic Tritium source**
- **Goal:** Probe down towards **40 meV**



MAC-E
for β -decay

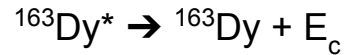
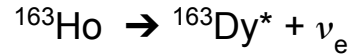


CRES
for β -decay

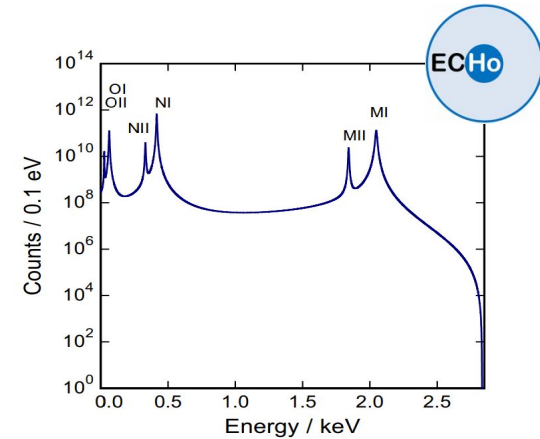
Calorimetry
for EC-decay

Holmium EC decay

- **Electron capture (EC) decay** (of ^{163}Ho):



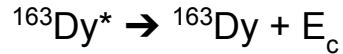
- De-excitation leads to **electron cascade**



Gastaldo et al., [EPJ Spec. Top. 226, 1623–1694](#) (2017).

Holmium EC decay

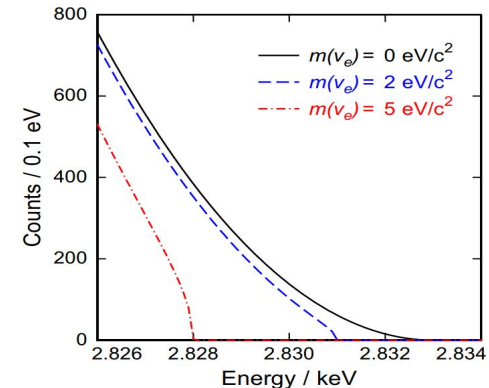
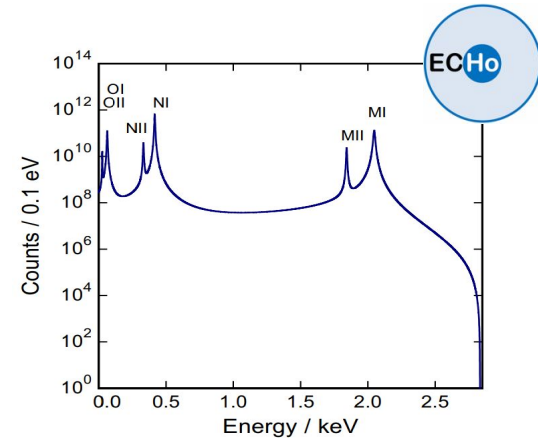
- **Electron capture (EC) decay** (of ^{163}Ho):



- De-excitation leads to **electron cascade**

→ **Spectral distortion** near Q-value

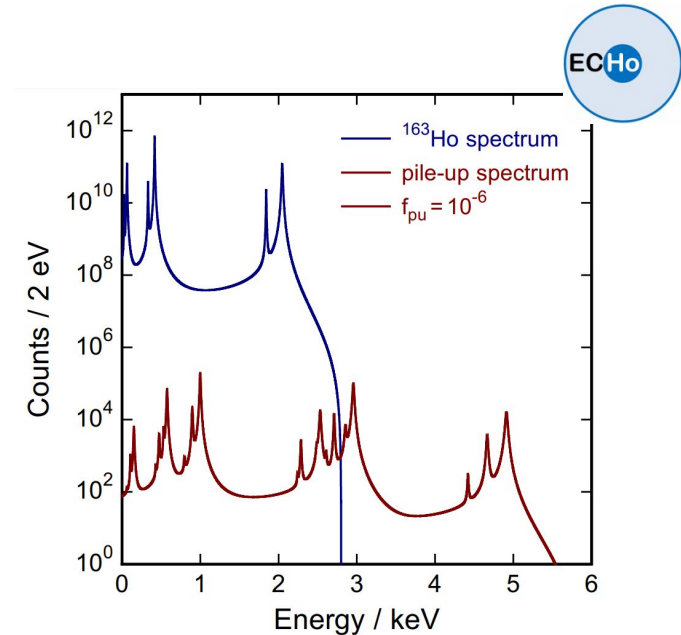
- **Half life** $\tau \approx 4570$ years
- $Q_{\text{EC}} \approx 2.8$ keV



Gastaldo et al., [EPJ Spec. Top. 226, 1623–1694](#) (2017).

Holmium EC decay

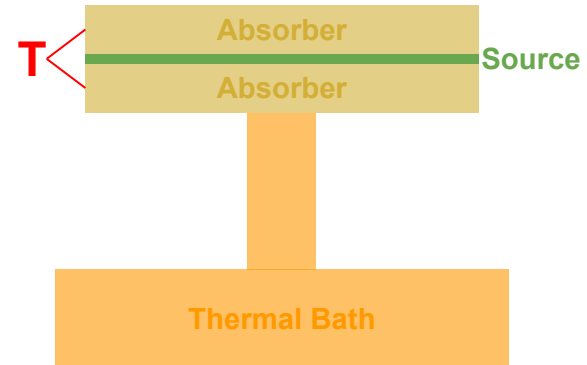
- **Precise modelling** of spectrum necessary
- Limit **unresolved pile-up**
- High number of **individual pixels**
- **Fast read-out** system



Gastaldo et al., [EPJ Spec. Top. 226, 1623–1694](#) (2017).

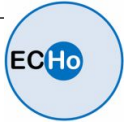
Calorimetry

- **Source implantation** in detector material
 - Measurement of **temperature** change: **calorimetric measurement**
 - Performed using **low-temperature micro-calorimetry**
- **Low background, differential** measurement



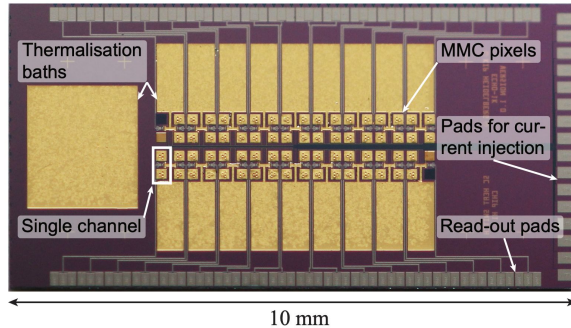
Experiments

ECHo



- Metallic magnetic calorimeters (MMC)

L. Gastaldo et al., [Eur. Phys. J. Spec. Top. 226](#) (2017)



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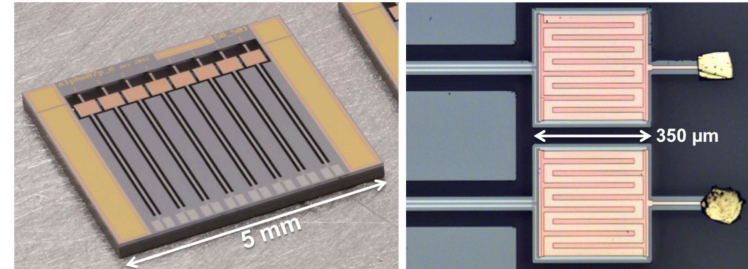


Holmes



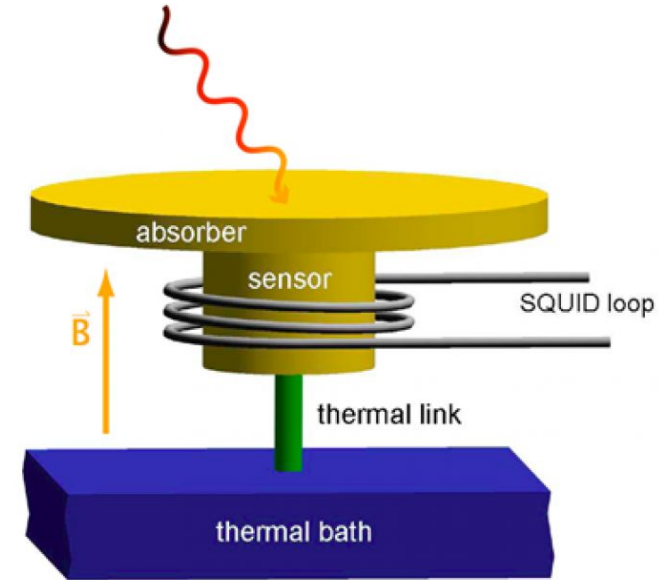
- Transition edge sensors (TES)

Hays-Wehle et al., [J Low Temp Phys 184. 492-497](#) (2016)



ECHo

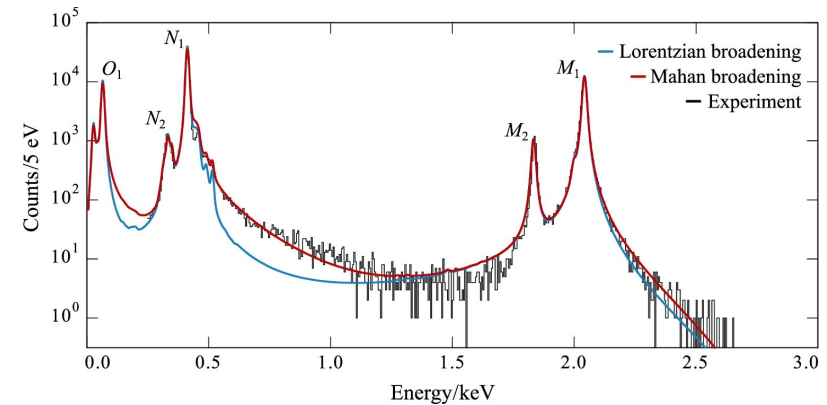
- Use of **metallic magnetic calorimeters** (MMCs)
- Measure change of **magnetization** due to **temperature increase**
- Enables **high energy resolution**



[ECHo Collaboration](#)

ECHo

- Use of **metallic magnetic calorimeters (MMCs)**
- Measure change of **magnetization** due to **temperature increase**
- Enables **high energy resolution**



Velte et al., [EPJ C 79, 1026 \(2019\)](#)

ECHo

- ECHo prototype (2019): $m_\beta < 150 \text{ eV}$ (95 % CL)

Velte et al., [EPJ C 79, 1026 \(2019\)](#)

- ECHo-1k (2024): $m_\beta < 19 \text{ eV}$ (90 % CL)

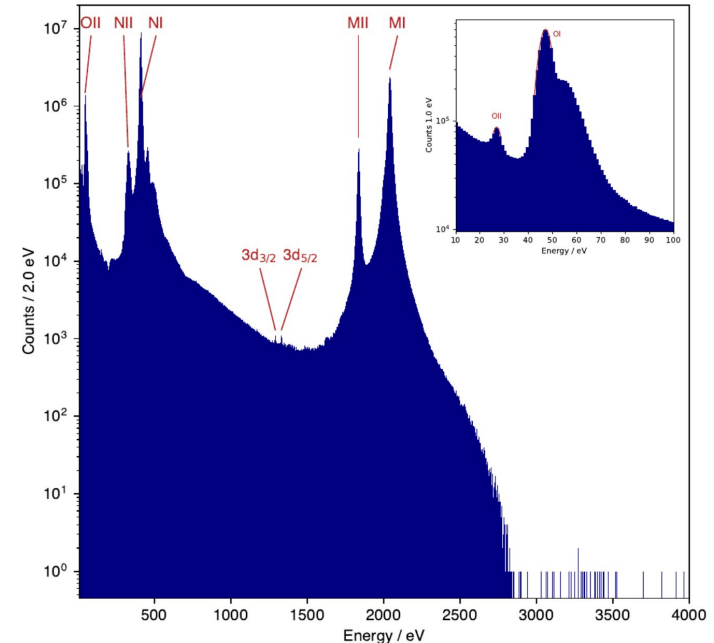
Talk by Nucciotti at [Neutrino 2024](#)

- $\sim 1 \text{ Bq / pixel}$
- $\Delta E_{\text{FWHM}} \approx 10 \text{ eV}$

- Echo-100k: Sensitivity of **1.5 eV** (90 % CL)

Increase **number of pixels** and **activity**

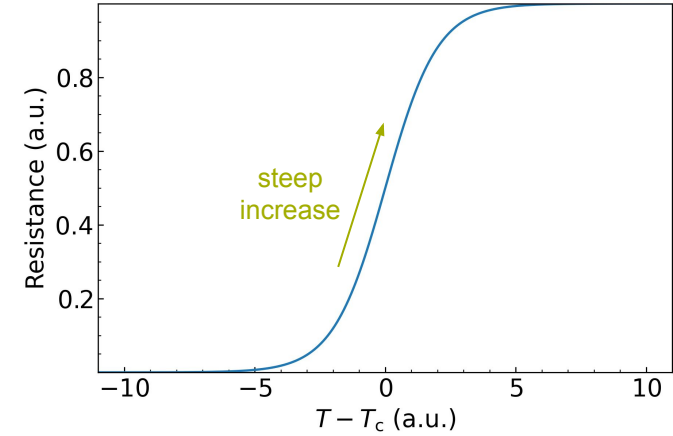
- Target sensitivity: **low sub-eV** level



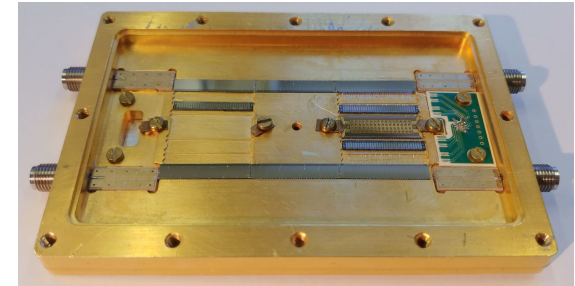
Talk by Nucciotti at [Neutrino 2024](#)

HOLMES

- Use of **transition edge sensors** (TES)
- Measure change of **resistance** due to **temperature increase**



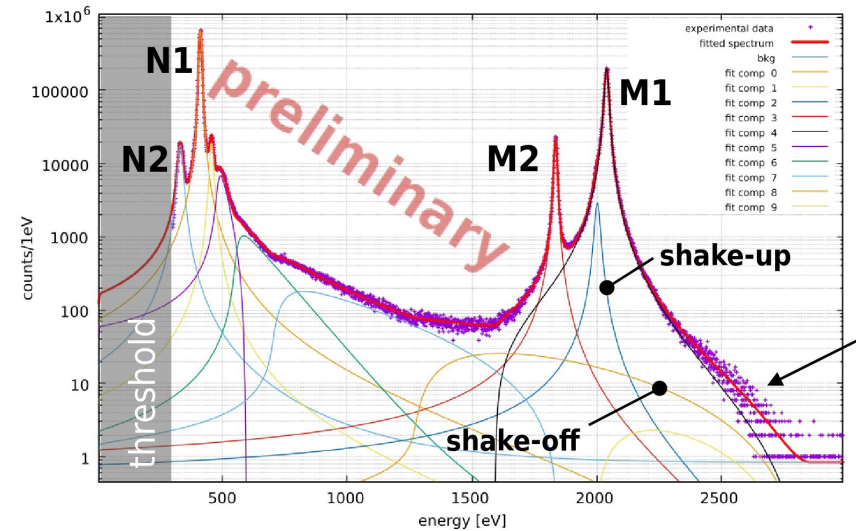
- ~50 active detectors
- ~0.3 Bq / pixel
- $\Delta E_{\text{FWHM}} \approx 7 \text{ eV}$



see talk by Nucciotti at [Neutrino 2024](#)

HOLMES

- Use of **transition edge sensors (TES)**
- Measure change of **resistance** due to **temperature increase**
- First preliminary result: $m_{\beta} < 28 \text{ eV}$ (90 % CL)
Talk by Nucciotti at [Neutrino 2024](#)
- Target sensitivity: low **sub-eV** level



Talk by Nucciotti at [Neutrino 2024](#)

Conclusion

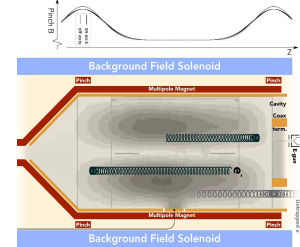
KATRIN

- New **leading upper limit** from **KATRIN**: $m_\beta < 0.45 \text{ eV}$
- **Continue** measuring, target **sensitivity** $m_\beta < 0.2 \text{ eV}$
- **R&D** phase started for **atomic source** and **micro-calorimeters**



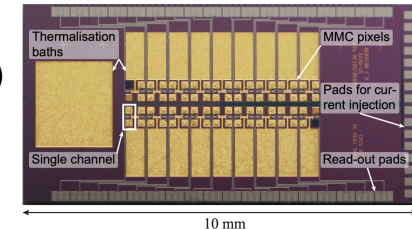
Project 8

- First **frequency-based** upper limit from **Project 8**: $m_\beta < 155 \text{ eV}$
- Development of **large-volume CRES** and **atomic source**



ECHo and HOLMES

- New / updated results: $m_\beta < 19 \text{ eV}$ (ECHo) and $m_\beta < 28 \text{ eV}$ (HOLMES)
- Increase **number of detectors** and **activity**



Thank you for your attention!

and thanks to the KATRIN collaboration
Project-8 collaboration
ECHO collaboration
Holmes collaboration
QTNM collaboration



KATRIN Collaboration meeting, October 2024



Nuclear
Physics
Institute



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at CHAPEL HILL

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UNIVERSITY of
WASHINGTON



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University



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Münster



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MILANO 1863



Backup

KATRIN timeline

end of 2025

end of 2027

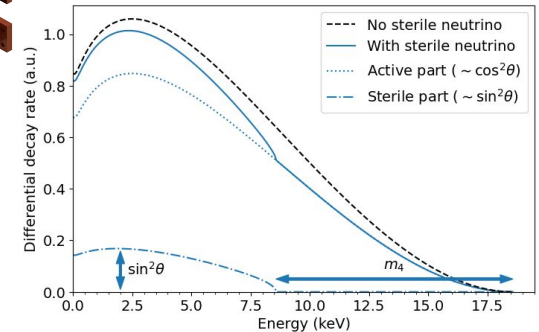
neutrino mass

keV-sterile neutrino search with TRISTAN

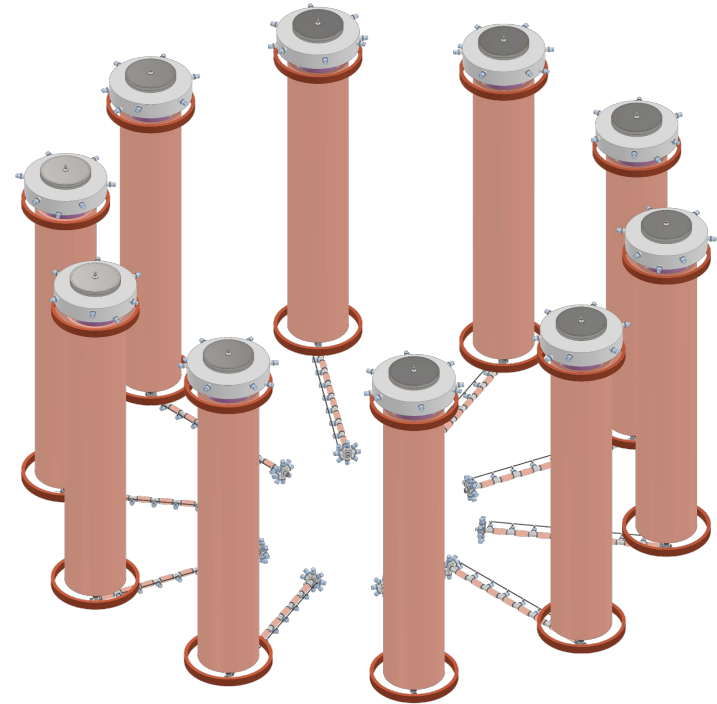
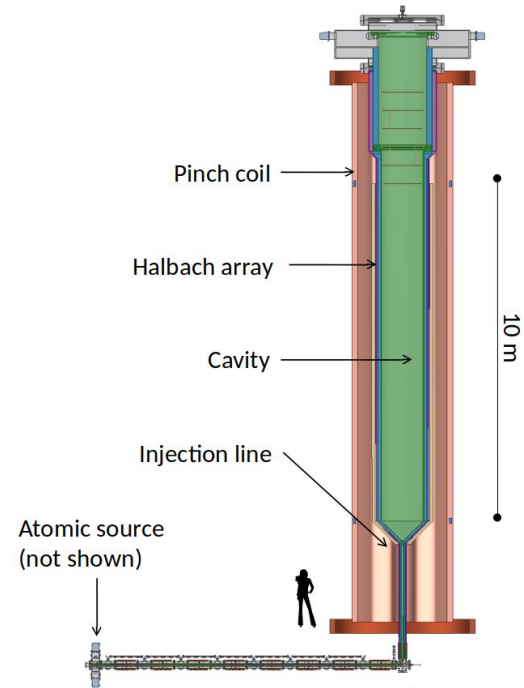
beyond KATRIN

- Measurement of **full tritium spectrum**
- Installation of **~1000-pixel silicon drift detectors**

Carminati et al., [NIM A 1049 \(2023\) 168046](#)

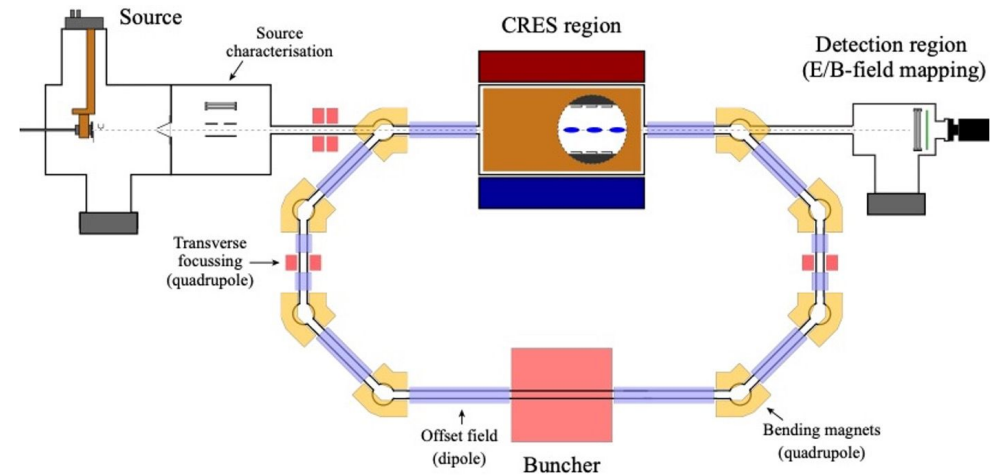


Project 8



Quantum Technologies for Neutrino Mass

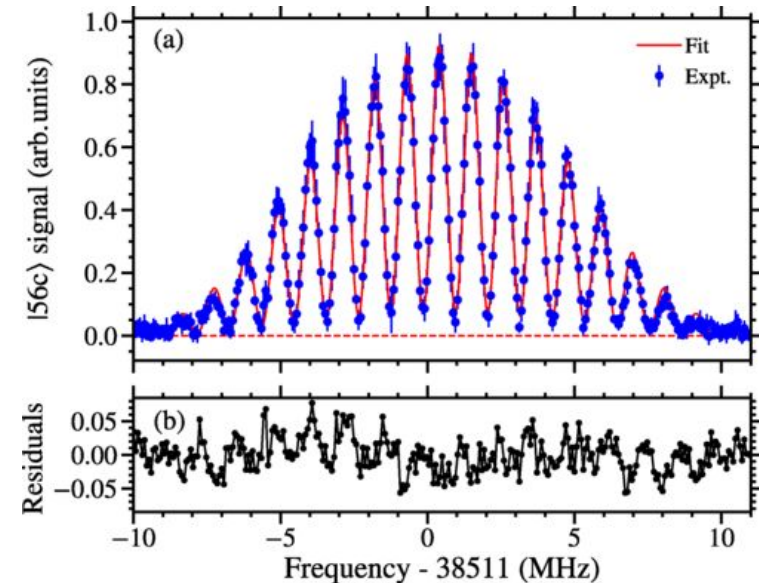
- Confine H/D/T atoms with **storage ring**
- β -decay in **CRES region**, detection of cyclotron radiation using **quantum amplifiers**



QTNM collaboration

Quantum Technologies for Neutrino Mass

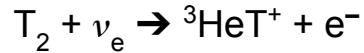
- **Confine H/D/T atoms with storage ring**
- β -decay in **CRES region**, detection of cyclotron radiation using **quantum amplifiers**
- **Rydberg Magnetometry** ($<1\mu\text{T}$ level sensitivity, $<1\text{mm}$ spatial resolution)



Zou et al., Phys. Rev. A 107, 062820 (2023)

PTOLEMY

- Detection of **cosmic neutrino background** $C\nu B$

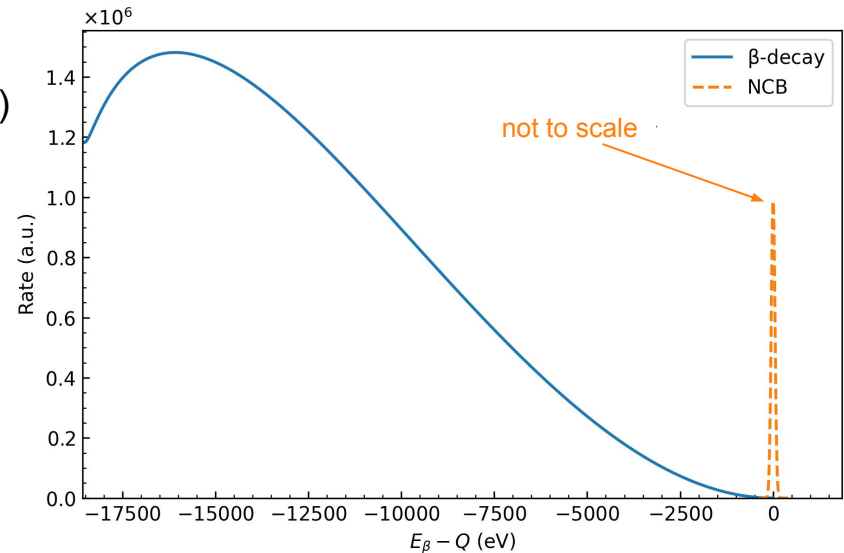


via **neutrino capture on β -decaying nuclei** (NCB)

Iwasaki et al., [arxiv:2404.00817](https://arxiv.org/abs/2404.00817)

- Investigate **neutrino properties** (e.g. mass ordering)
- Combination of **various technologies**
- Sensitivity to $m_\beta < 10 \text{ meV}$

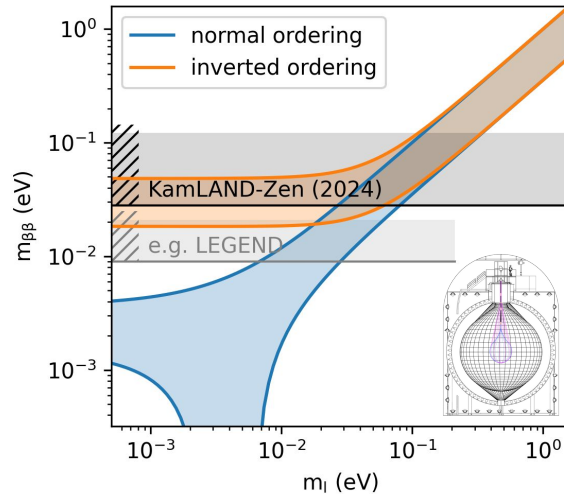
Betti et al., [JCAP07 \(2019\) 047](https://arxiv.org/abs/1907.047)



Neutrino Mass Observables

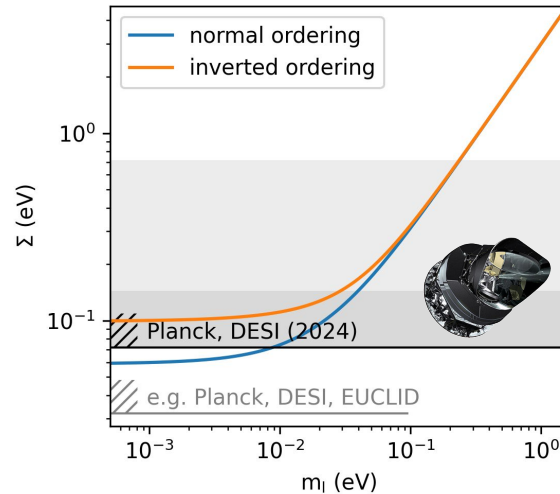
Neutrinoless $\beta\beta$ -decay

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



Cosmology

$$\Sigma = \sum_i m_i$$



β -decay kinematics

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

