

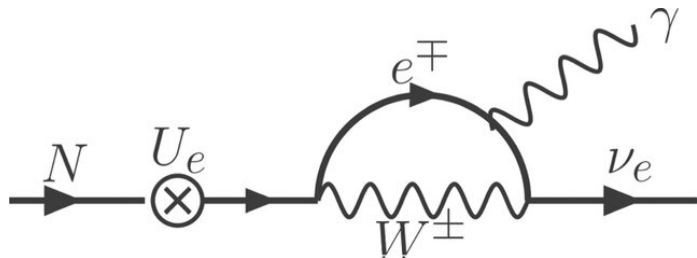
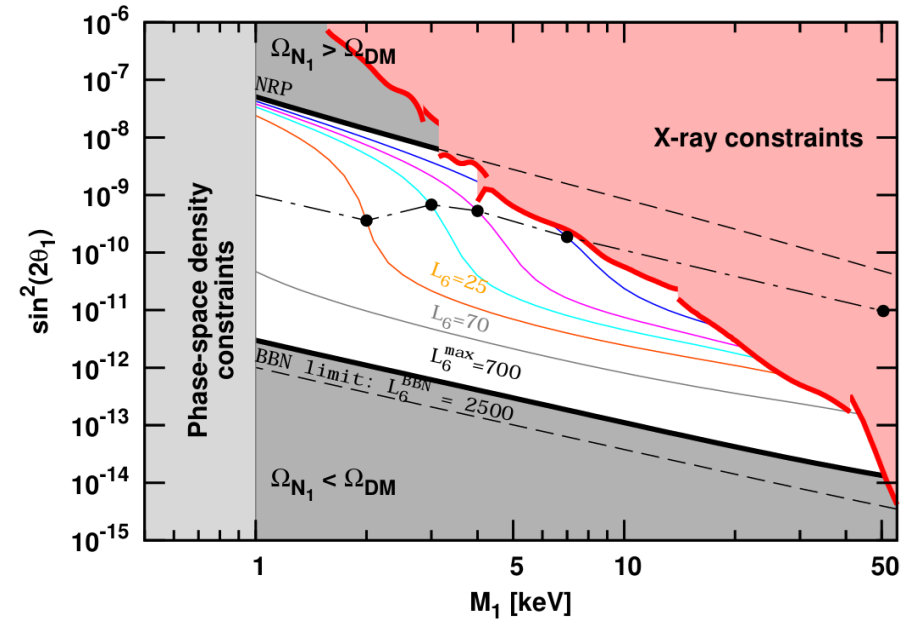
Constraints on Generalized Neutrino Interactions in the keV Region of the Tritium β -Decay Spectrum

Jeong Yeol Yang

Yong Chang Lee, Kyung Rae Woo, Yong Hamb Kim

Motivation

- Neutrino oscillation: massive neutrino in BSM
- What is made of the dark matter?
- Can sterile neutrino solve above problems?
- X-ray in decay of heavy neutrino
 - : But pretty depending on cosmological heavy neutrino production
 - : such as DW, Shi-Fuller mech., Reheating temperature (MeV? GeV?).
- **Need model independent measurement: Tritium Beta decay**



$$m_N = 2E_{X\text{-ray peak}}$$

$$\Gamma_{N \rightarrow \nu \gamma} = \frac{9 \alpha G_F^2}{1024 \pi^4} \sin^2(2\theta) M^5 \simeq 1.38 \times 10^{-22} \sin^2(2\theta) \left(\frac{M}{1 \text{ keV}} \right)^5 \text{ s}^{-1}$$

Why **tritium** beta spectrum?

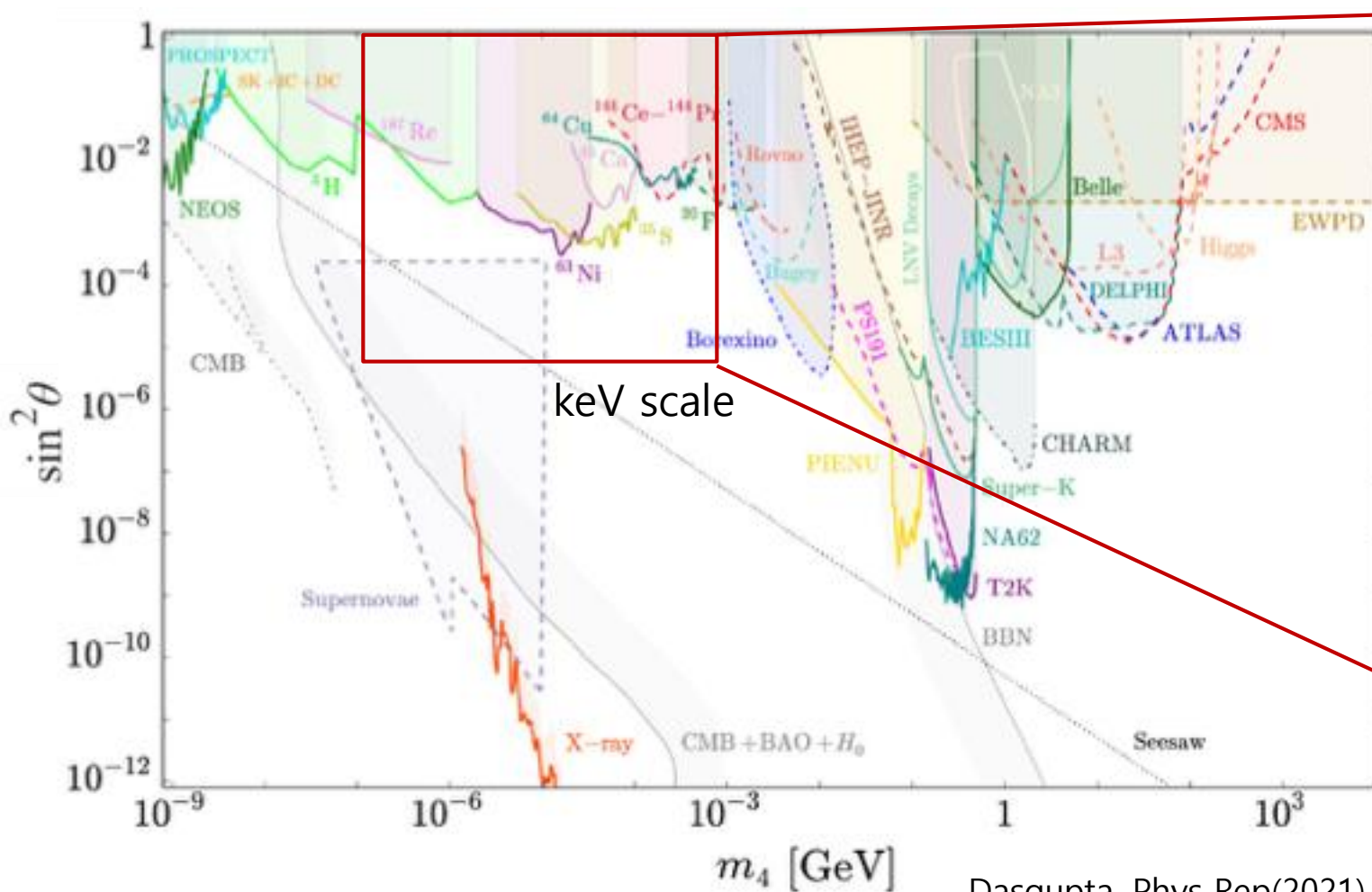
- Very well studied comparably easy in approximation.
 - : Only 3 nucleons(pnn), 1 or 2 electrons.
 - : Well defined effective Lagrangian, atomic and relativistic correction
- WDM for keV-scale mass, $Q=18.59\text{keV}$.
- Enough reliable precedent experiment (e.g. KATRIN, Mainz, Troitsk)

The invariant β -decay amplitude is given by

$$M = \frac{GFV_{ud}}{\sqrt{2}} \bar{u}(P_e) \gamma_\alpha (1 - \gamma_5) v(P_\nu) \times \bar{u}(P_f) \left[G_V(q^2) \gamma^\alpha + i \frac{G_M(q^2)}{2M_i} \sigma^{\alpha\beta} q_\beta - G_A(q^2) \gamma^\alpha \gamma_5 - G_P(q^2) q^\alpha \gamma_5 \right] u(P_i).$$
$$G_V(q^2) = \frac{g_V}{\left(1 - \frac{q^2}{M_V^2}\right)^2}, \quad G_M(q^2) = \frac{g_M}{\left(1 - \frac{q^2}{M_V^2}\right)^2},$$
$$G_A(q^2) = \frac{g_A}{\left(1 - \frac{q^2}{M_A^2}\right)^2}.$$

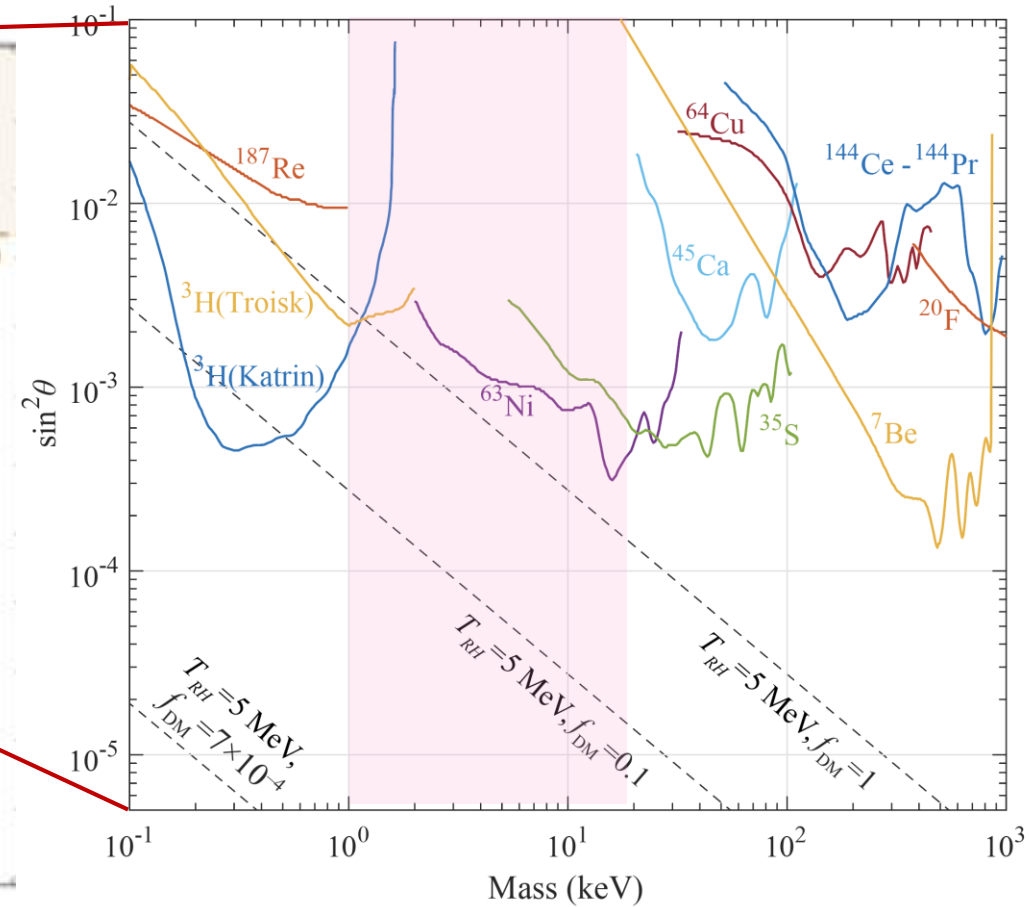
PhysRevC.77.055502

ROI for measurement



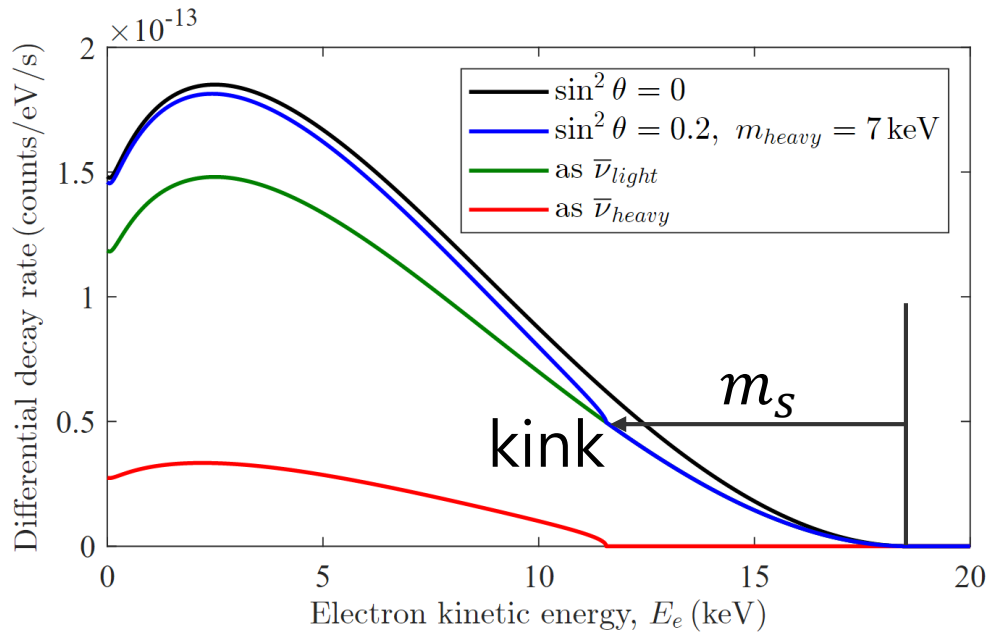
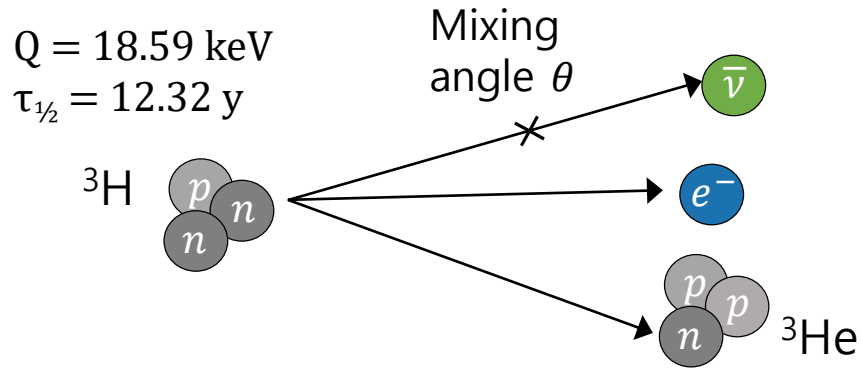
Dasgupta, Phys Rep(2021)

ROI of this work



The dashed lines from Low Reheating Temperature (LRT) model Abazajian, PRD (2023)

^3H β -decay Spectrum with sterile ν emission



- Sterile neutrino (ν_s) feebly mixing with active neutrino (ν_e)

$$\begin{pmatrix} \nu_e \\ \nu_s \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & \sin \theta \\ -\sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \nu_{\text{light}} \\ \nu_{\text{heavy}} \end{pmatrix}$$

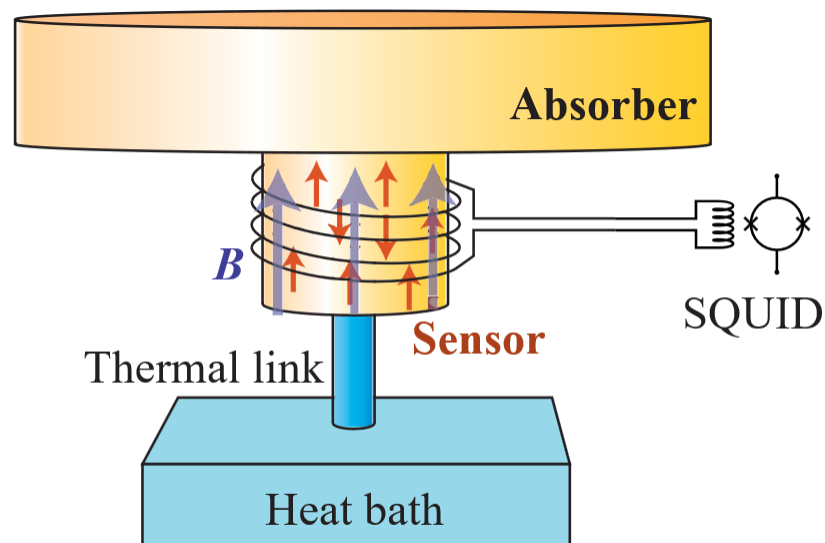
$$\frac{d\Gamma_{\text{tot}}}{dE}(E_e; m_{\text{light}}, m_{\text{heavy}})$$

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

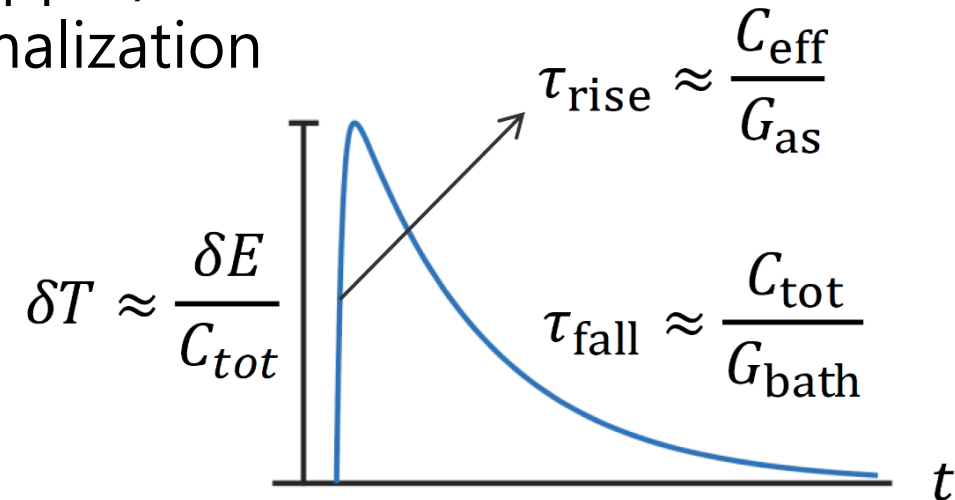
- β -decay spectrum for ν_{heavy} is added to that for ν_{light} with angle normalization factor.
- Non-differentiable point at $Q - m_s$

Measurement of decay event

- Beta with kinetic energy \rightarrow heat in crystal \rightarrow Heated Ag:Er under current coil \rightarrow Induced current in coil \rightarrow Signal

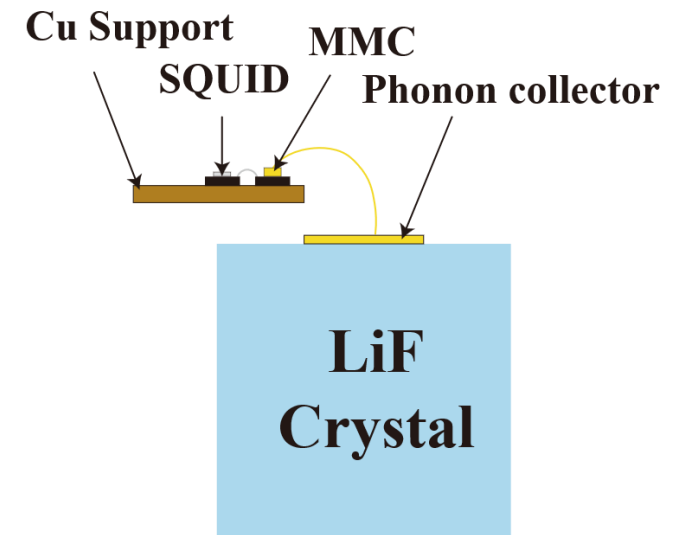
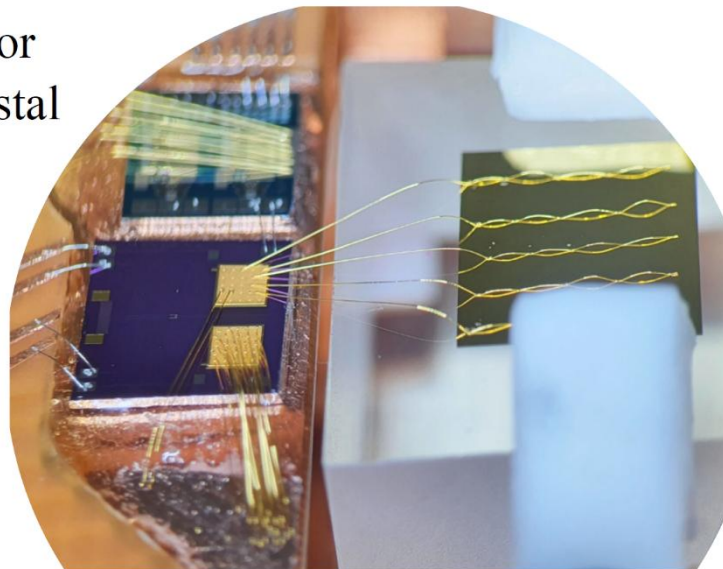
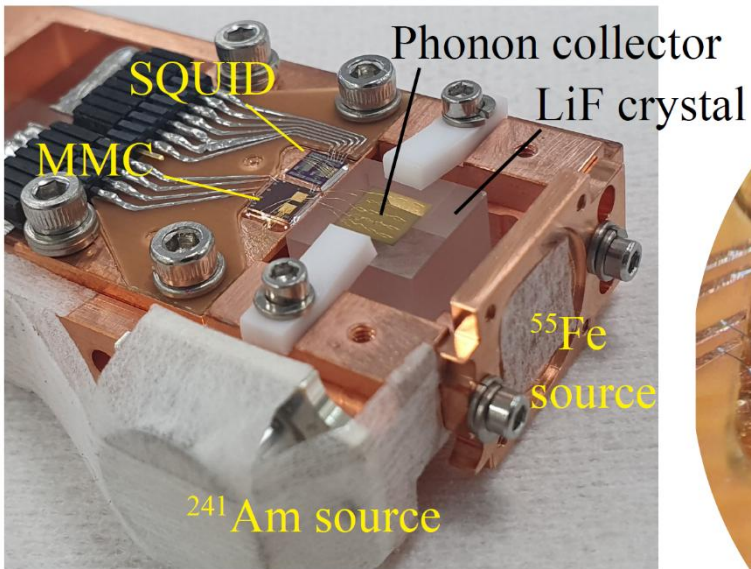


- Paramagnetic alloy in a magnetic field
- Au:Er, Ag:Er (300-1000 ppm)
- Metal host - Fast thermalization
- High resolution
- Good linearity
- Large dynamic range

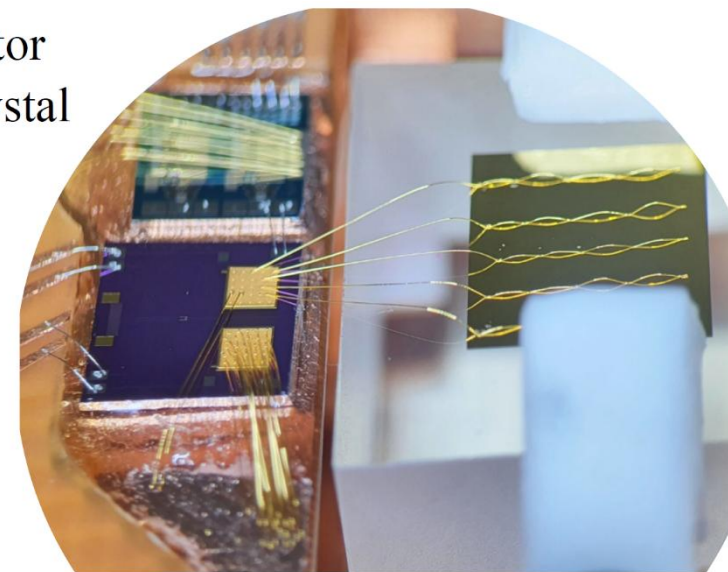
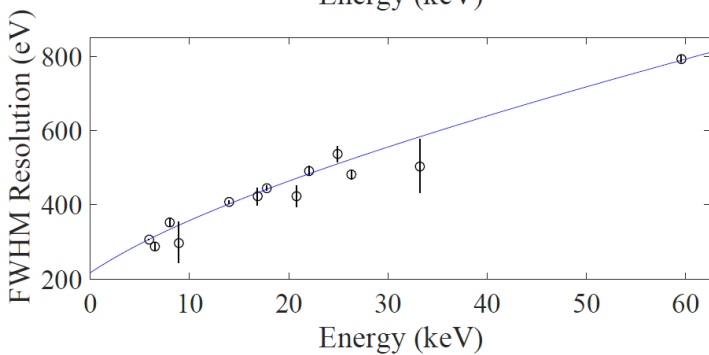
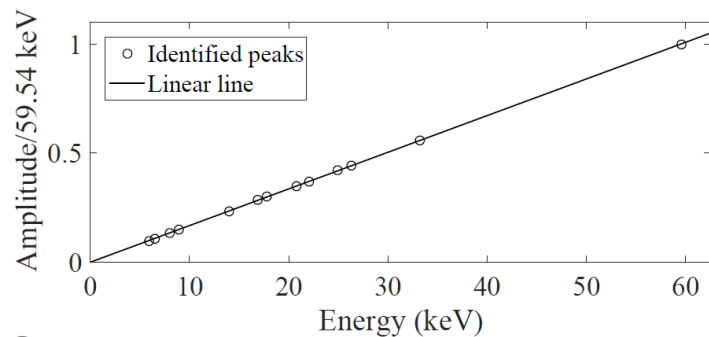
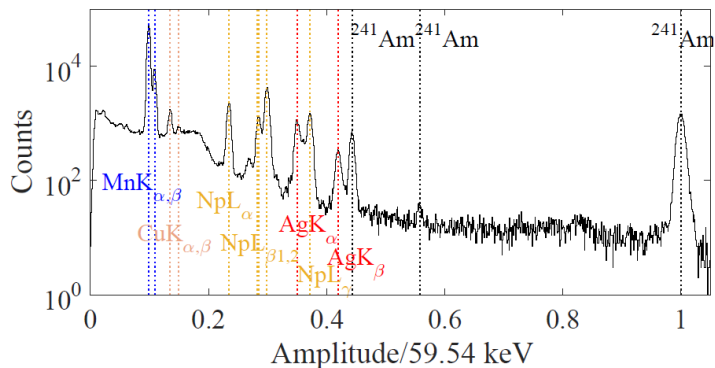


Measurement of decay event

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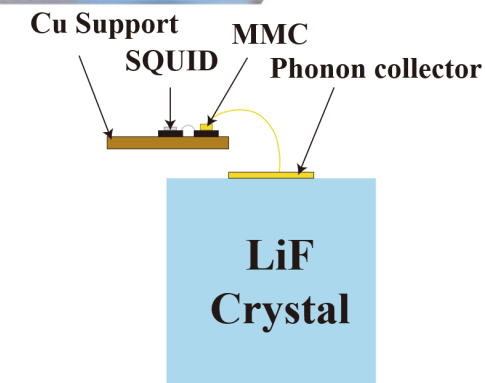


Detector Performance Basics (Before neutron activation)



Measurement with internal ^{55}Fe and ^{241}Am sources

- Background measurement
- All the peaks are clearly identified.
- Excellent linearity in energy calibration
- Excellent energy resolution (0.2~0.4 keV FWHM) in the ROI

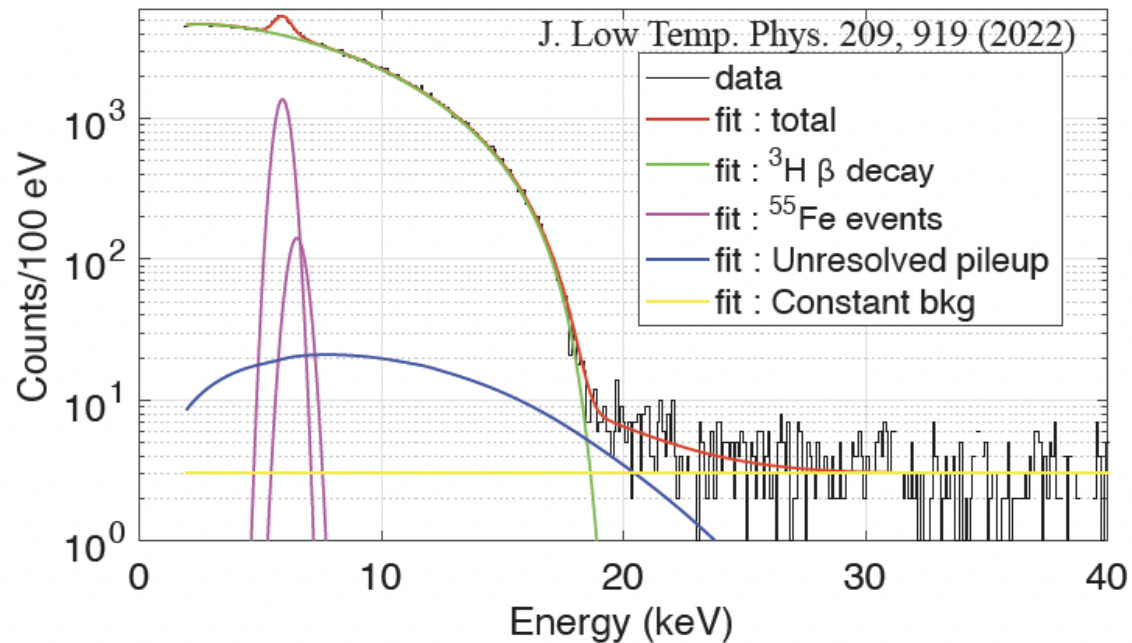
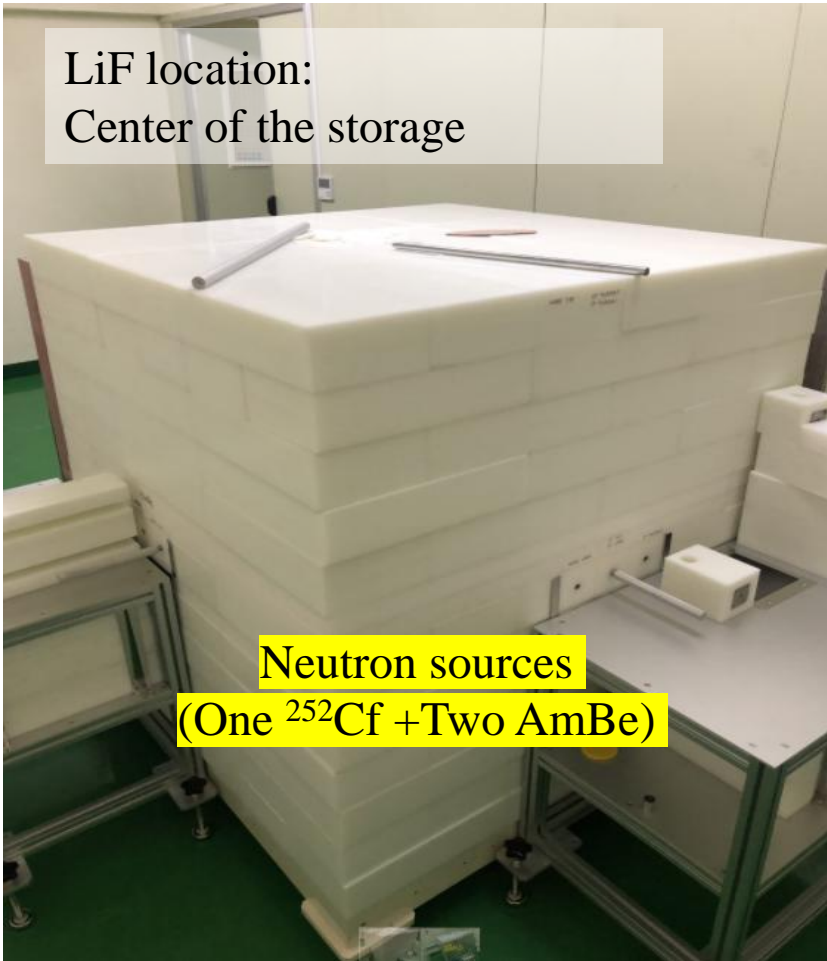
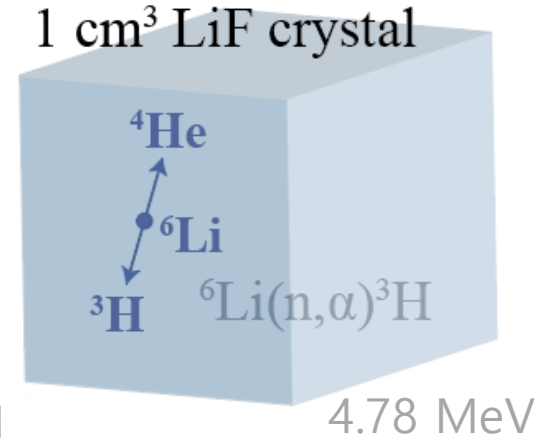
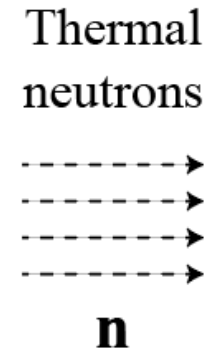


^3H Production in LiF Cubic Crystals

Mean free path:
2.3 mm in LiF with 7.6 % ^6Li

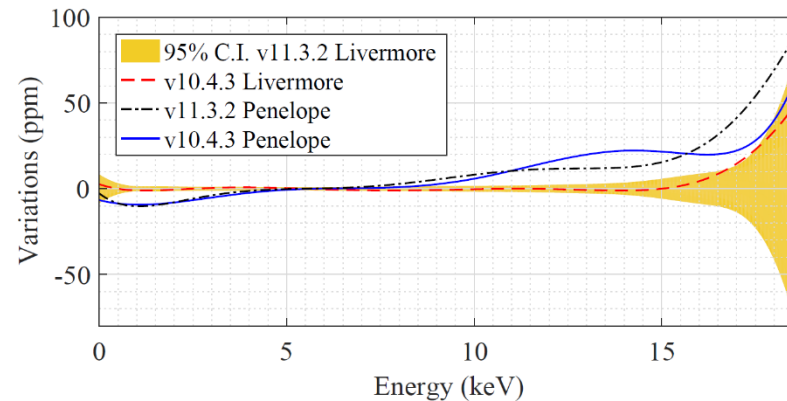
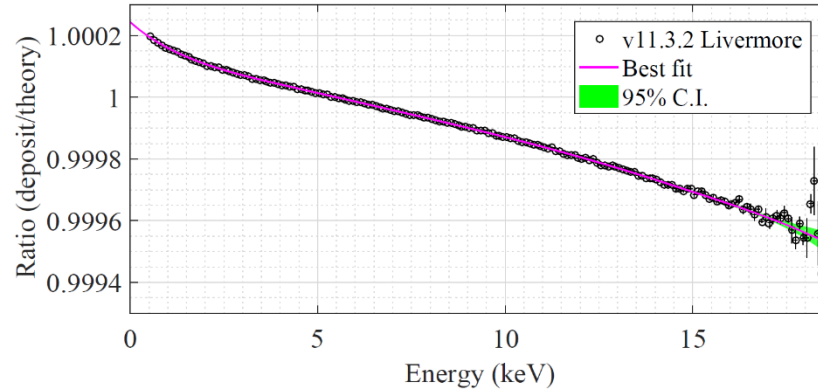
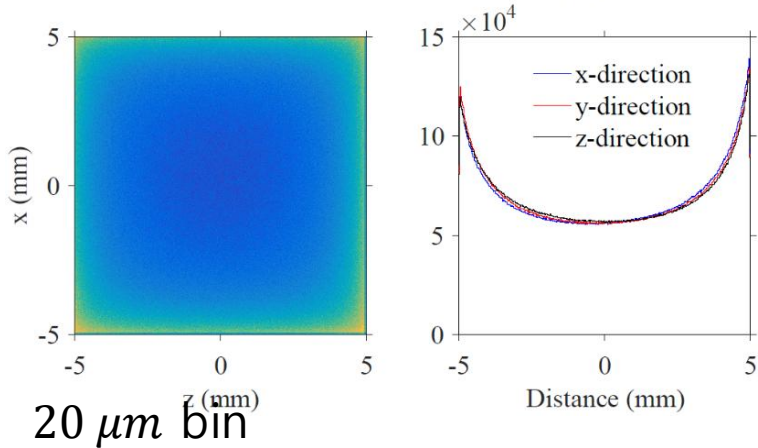
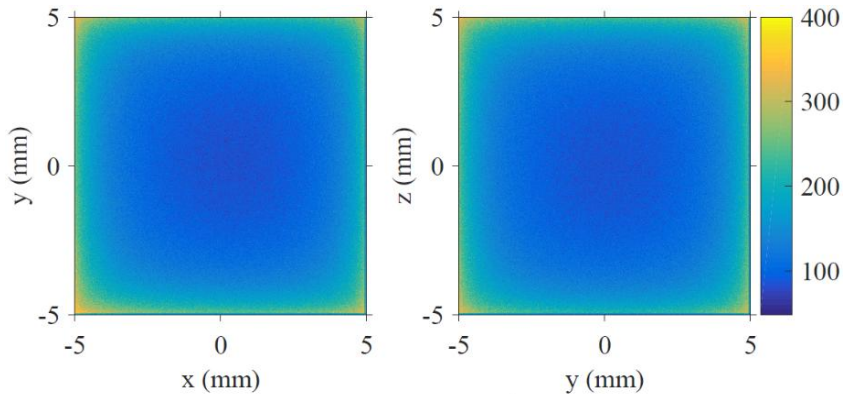
LiF location:
Center of the storage

Neutron irradiation at KRISS
Week exposure \rightarrow 20 Bq ^3H



10-hour spectrum
using the first LiF(^3H)
with ^{55}Fe source

Surface issues (^3H distribution and energy loss)



- ✓ **Non-uniform ^3H distribution LiF**
: $\lambda_n = 2.3\text{mm}, r_{stop,T} = 33\mu\text{m}$
- ✓ **Possible energy loss for escape**
: $r_{stop,\beta(18\text{keV})}$ in LiF = $0.5 \mu\text{m}$
- ✓ **Correction uncertainty**
: Up to GEANT4 library, 10ppm different in energy spectrum

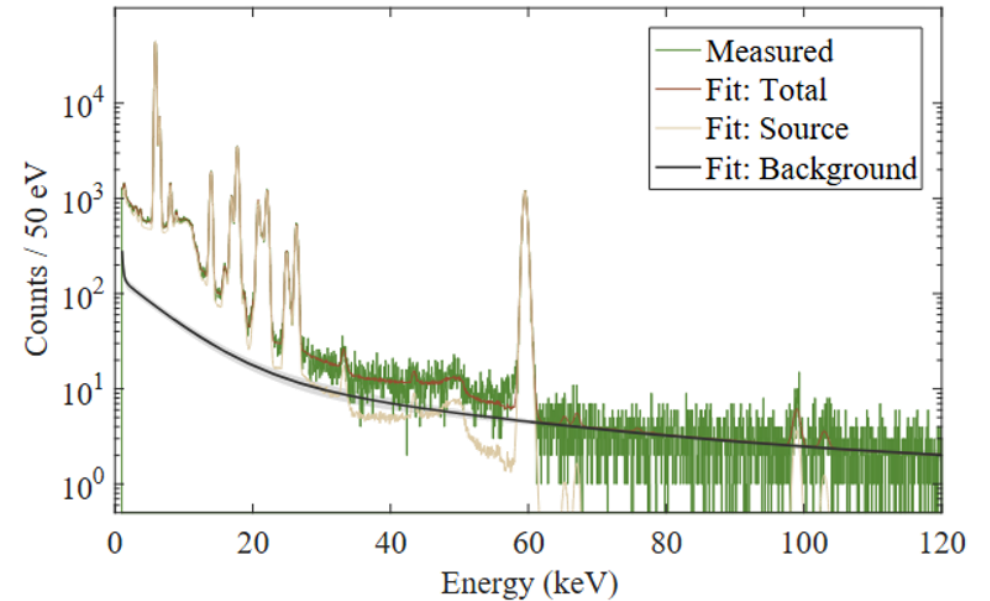
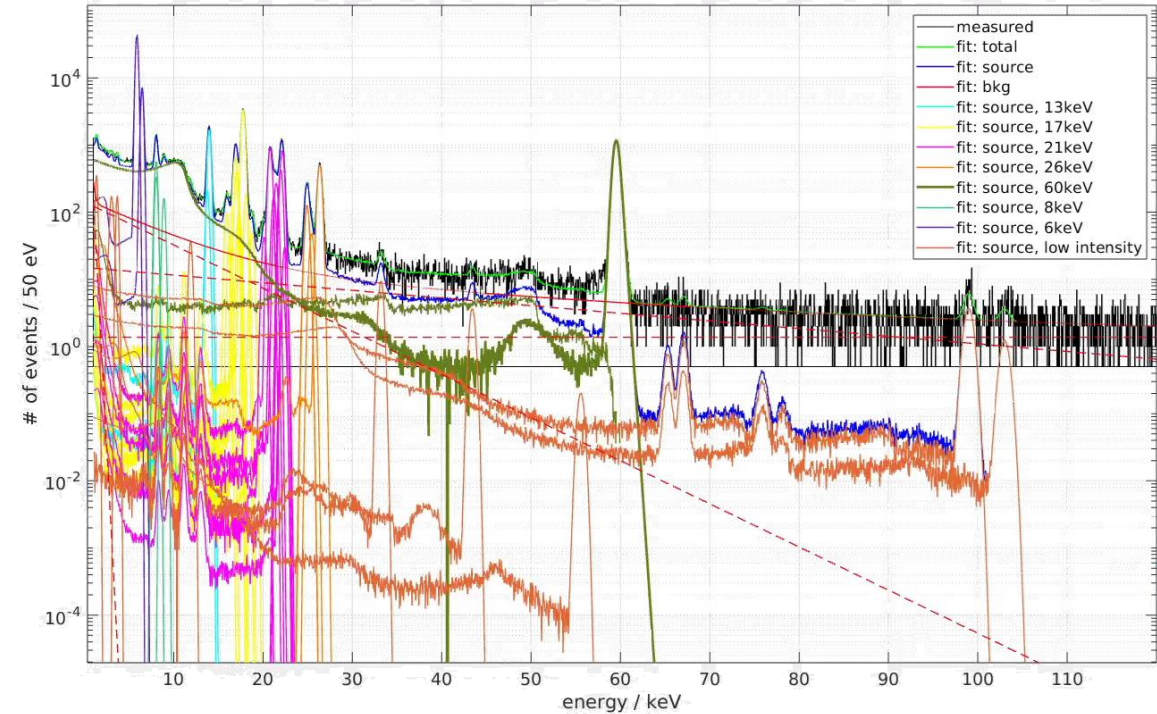
These effects are well understood from MC simulation and accounted for in the analysis.

Background spectrum

- Fit range: 1~120keV
- Expect spectrum: full peak + continuum + bkg(3 exponential + constant)
- Full peak: Gaussian or tailed Gaussian function fitted to measured spectrum
- Continuum: from simulation, share same normalization with full peak

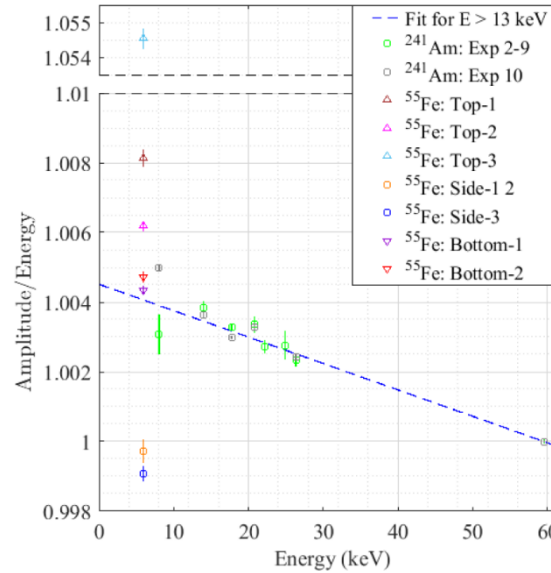
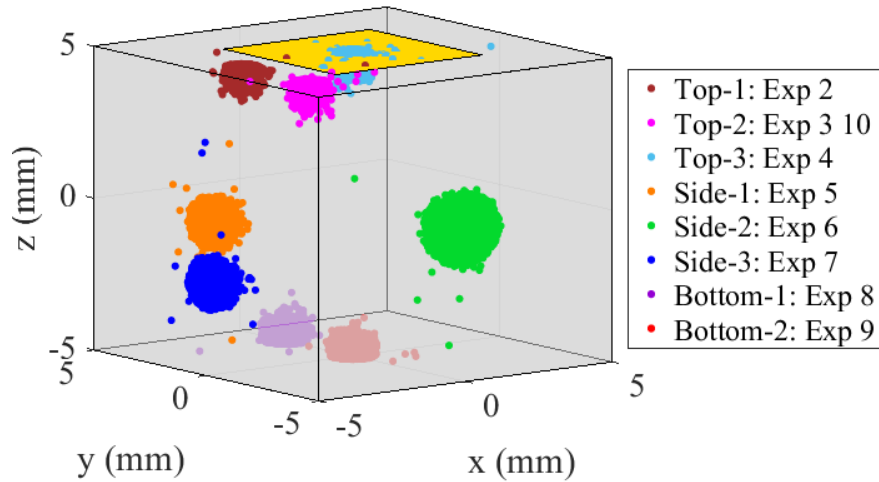
*** special treat: for 60keV, separate continuum into (secondary el's) and (not by secondary el's). Full peak and (not by secondary el's) share same normalization, and (secondary el's) has own normalization parameter
 -> X 3.2 (fit result)

- $\chi^2 / \text{ndf} = 2640.8 / 2335$



Calibration (Energy + Position)

Simulated positions of 5.9 keV X-ray events (Mn K_{α}) absorbed in the LiF crystal from various ^{55}Fe source locations used in Exp. 2–10.

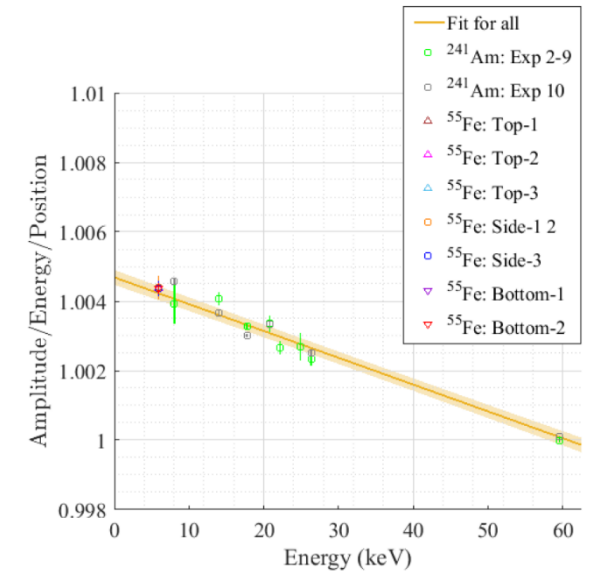


Exp.	Refrigerator	Calibration sources
1	DR	^{55}Fe , ^{241}Am with Ag collimator
2–9	ADR	^{55}Fe , ^{241}Am with Ag collimator
10	ADR	^{55}Fe , ^{241}Am with Cu collimator
11 ^a	Calibration	^{55}Fe , (Ag, W) ^b
	β -spectrum	^{55}Fe

^a Exp. 11 was carried out after neutron activation.

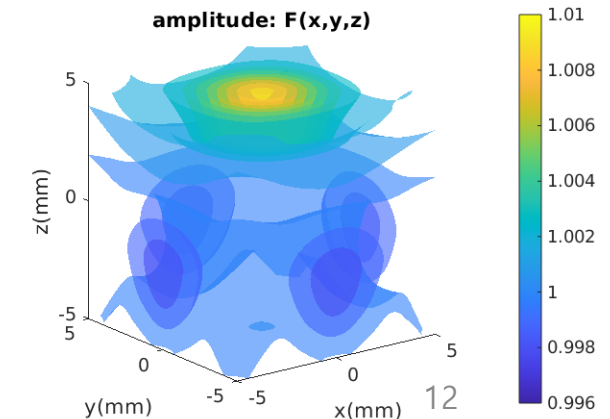
^b Characteristic X-rays of Ag and W could be activated from external γ sources during the calibration run.

Position calibration



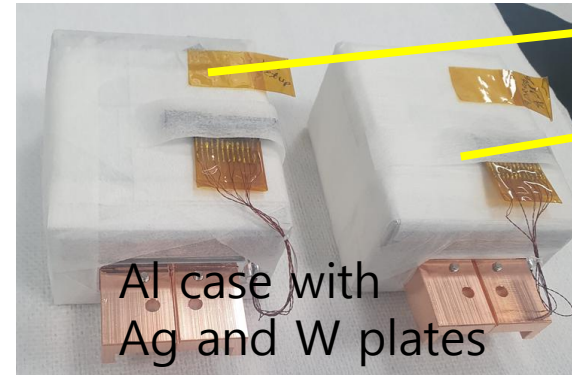
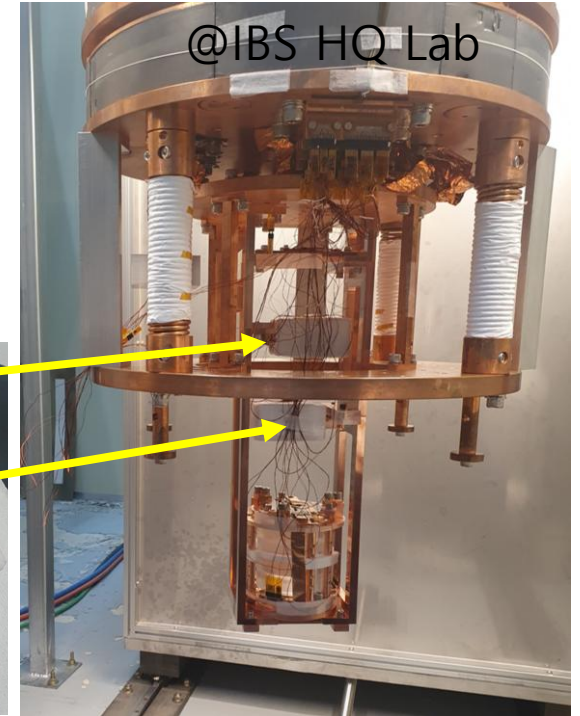
$$\text{Amp} = (\text{Position function})(\alpha E^2 + \beta E)$$

- Each calibration peak corresponds to the energy and position of the events in the crystal.
- Calibration measurements were carried out in various source locations (^{55}Fe and ^{241}Am) for 21 event sets for energy-position calibrations.

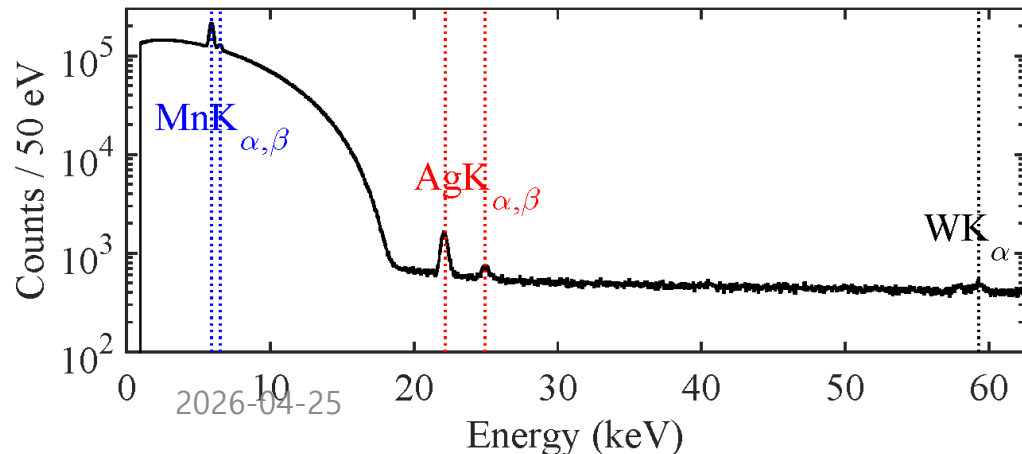


LiFE-SNS Phase1: two setups (After neutron activation)

- The setups are attached to a dry DR surrounded by a Pb shield at the Daejeon IBS HQ lab. (Above-ground)
- Two detector modules: LiF(³H) + MMC with 30 Bq and 39 Bq
- Two-stage temperature control system with $\Delta T_{rms} \sim 0.5 \mu\text{K}$
- An internal ⁵⁵Fe source is employed on each crystal.
- Data taking period: May~Dec/2024



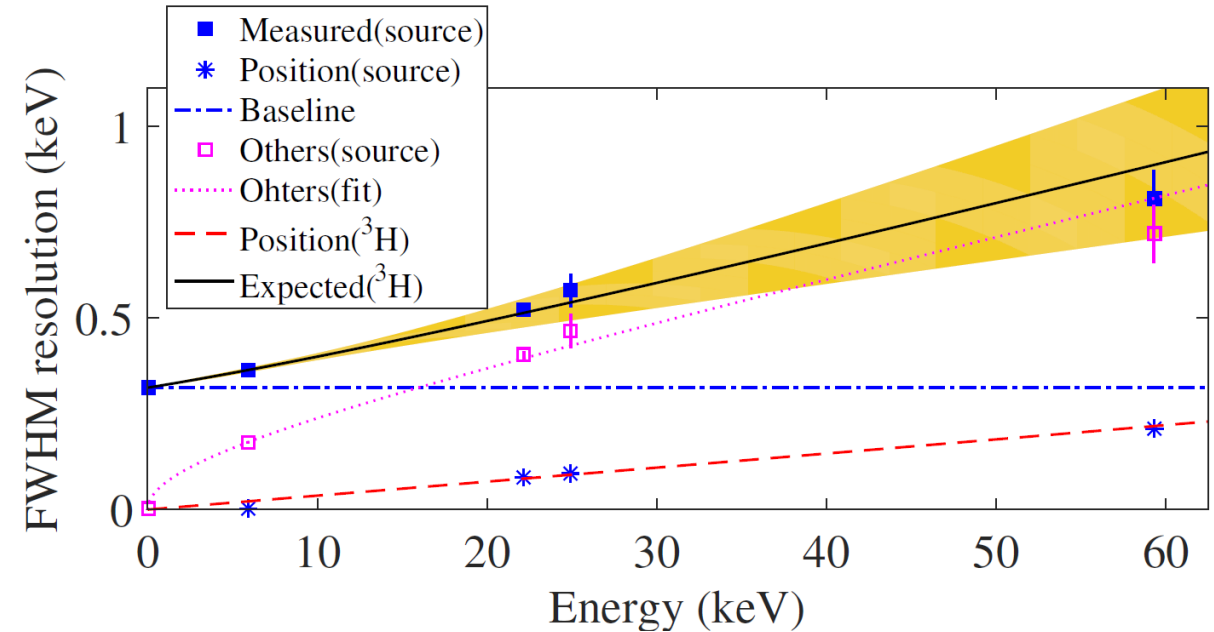
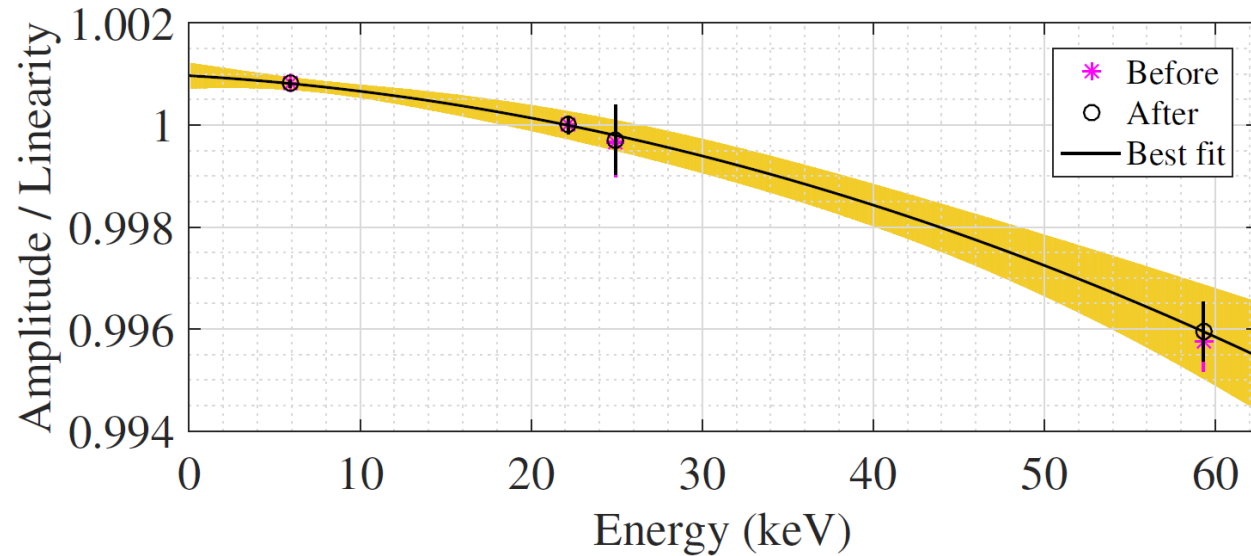
Two weeks calibration run with ³H in LiF



- After neutron irradiation, internal ⁵⁵Fe + X-ray fluorescence
- Metal plates of (Ag, W on s.c. shield)
 - Activated by external gamma sources
 - ⁵⁵Fe(5.9, 6.5 keV): On
 - Ag(22 keV, 25 keV), W(59 keV), Pb(75 keV): On and Off

Energy calibration result (**After** neutron activation)

Position dependence correction



- Reasonable linearity and resolution are found.
- The calibration with the position correction function works for calibration lines.
- The uncertainties of the calibration curve and the resolution curve were incorporated as systematic errors.

Theoretical ${}^3\text{H}$ spectrum

3eV @ endpoint

✓ **Energy deposit in LiF:** $E_{\text{deposit}} = E_{\beta^-} + E_{\text{Recoil}} + E_{\text{Deexcitation}} + E_{\text{neutralization}} = Q - E_\nu$
 24.5873(1+), 79.0052(2+)
 eV

✓ Theoretical expectations are well-studied.

- Relativistic ${}^3\text{H}$ β spectrum including V-A, Weak magnetism current

$$M = \frac{G_F V_{ud}}{\sqrt{2}} \bar{u}(P_e) \gamma_\alpha (1 - \gamma_5) v(P_\nu) \bar{u}(p_f) \left[G_V(q^2) + \frac{iG_M(q^2)}{2M_N} \sigma^{\alpha\beta} q_\beta - G_A(q^2) \gamma^\alpha \gamma_5 \right] u(p_i)$$

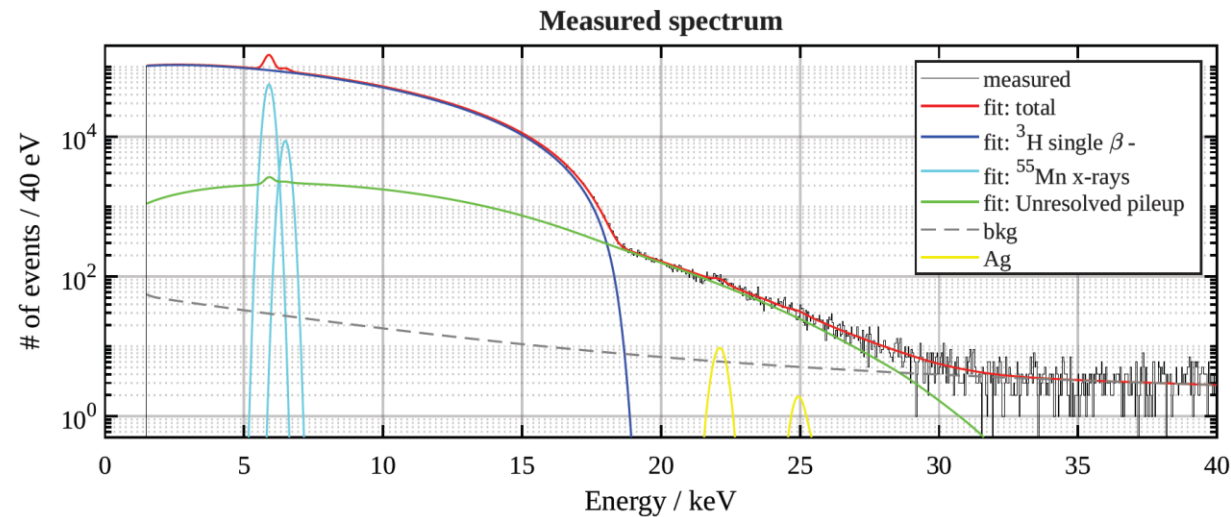
- Fermi function, Recoiled coulomb potential, Finite nuclear size correction, Screened Coulomb correction
- Radiative correction
- Spectral shape is determined by initial and final atomic states
 Transition probability accounting for exchange effect between β^- and electron (bound).

${}^3\text{H}^0 \rightarrow \nu + \beta^- + {}^3\text{He}^+ + \text{neutralization} : \text{many } \text{He}^+ \text{ states from } n = 1 \sim 30$

${}^3\text{H}^0 \rightarrow \nu + \beta^- + {}^3\text{He}^{2+} + e^- + \text{neutralization} : \text{He}^{2+} \text{ continuum}$

Refs: PRC 77, 055502 (2008), PRC 76, 045501 (2007), JCAP08(2014)038, JHEP 2016, 40 (2016), RMP. 90, 015008 (2018), JCAP02(2015)020, JHEP 2023, 144 (2023)

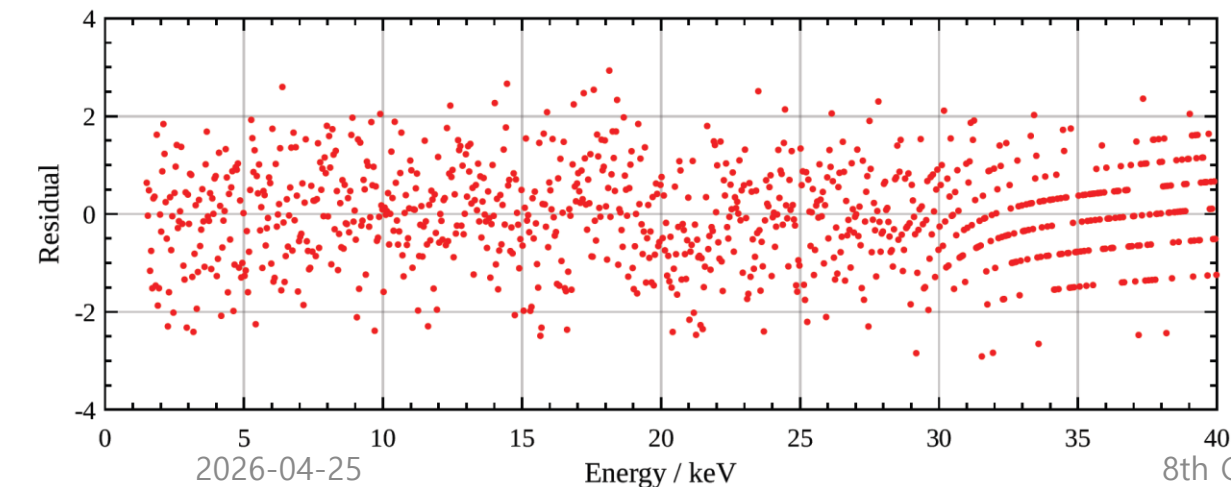
^3H β decay spectrum fit: Using 10 days of one channel



Null hypothesis

$\chi^2/\text{NDF} = 991.43/953$ in the analysis range 1.5~40 keV

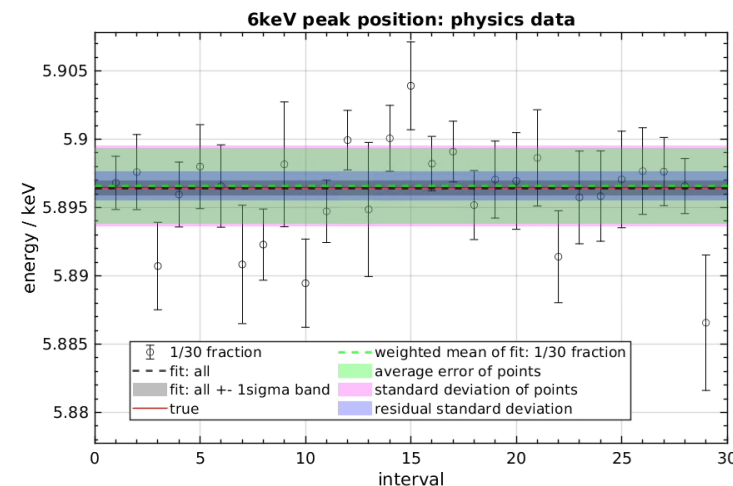
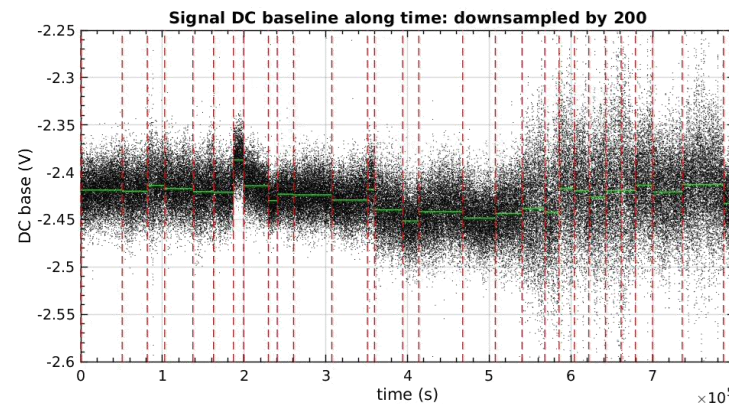
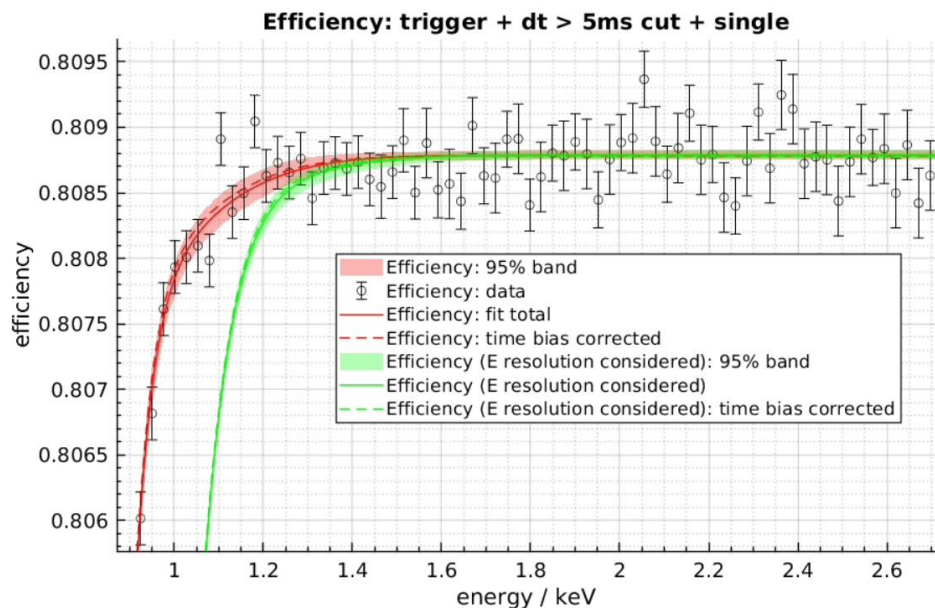
- ➔ Good agreement between the measured and expected values.
- ➔ We can activate the routine for sterile branch search.



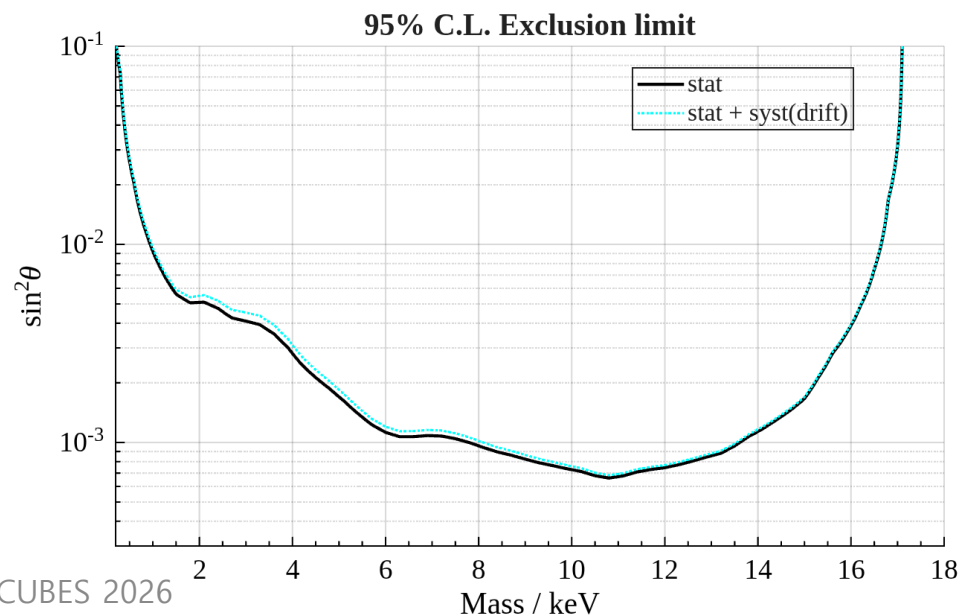
We included

- ^3H distribution in the LiF crystal
- Position calibration function
- One channel 10-day data
(~1/20 of the measured data)

Systematic Uncertainty

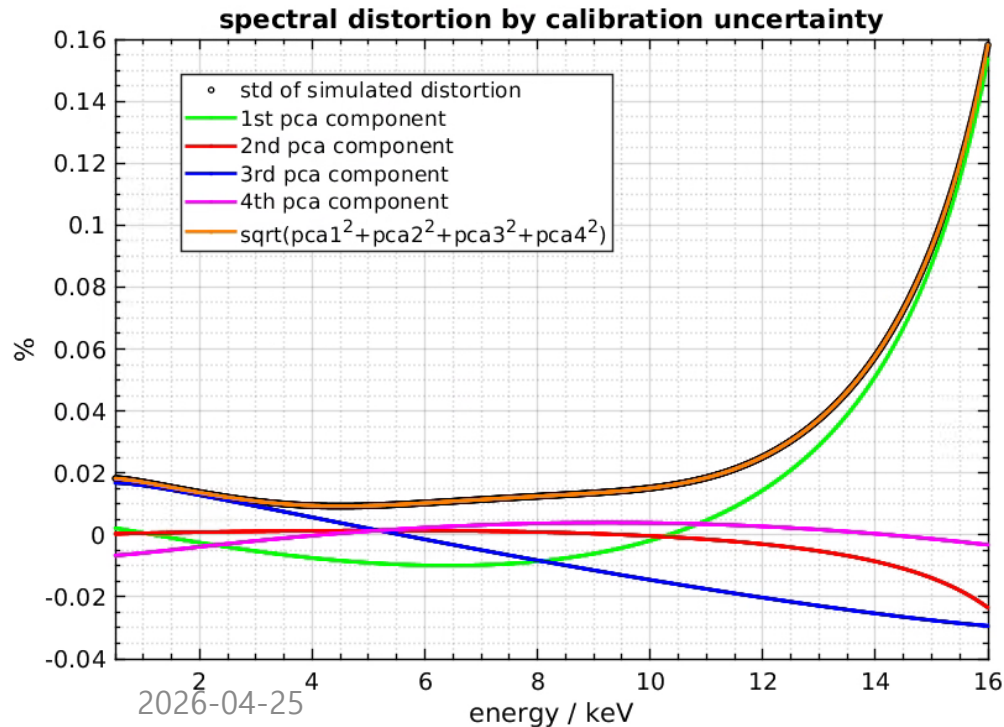
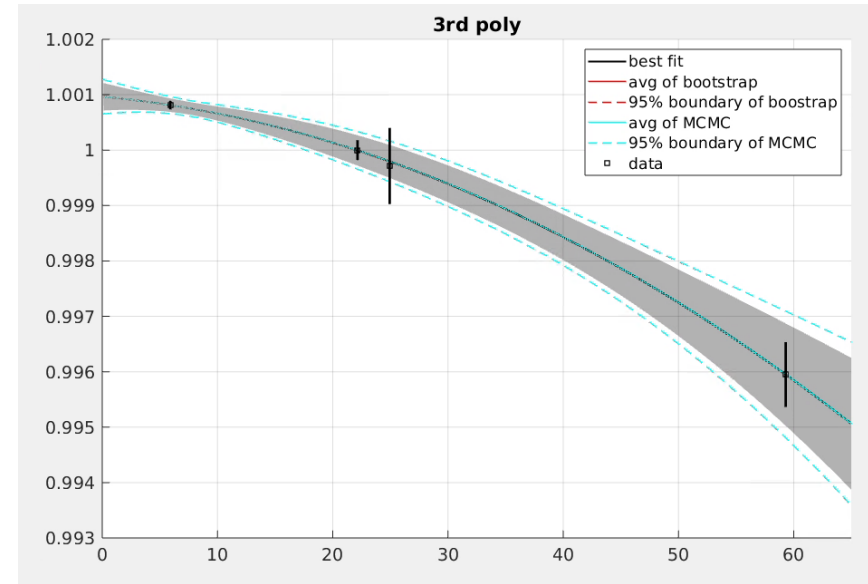


- Scaled templates are injected into the real data stream, and the fraction that passes the same data processing pipeline as the real data is evaluated.
- Negligible deviation from flatness above 1.5keV (Total 45 ppm deviation @ 1.5keV region)

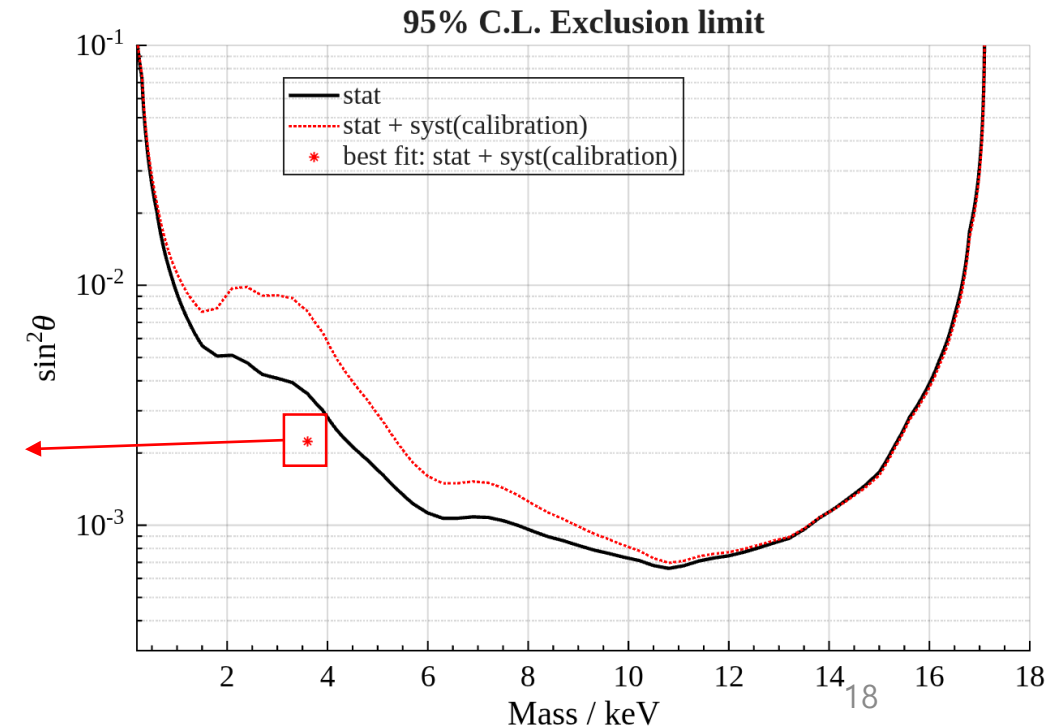


3. Uncertainty in energy calibration

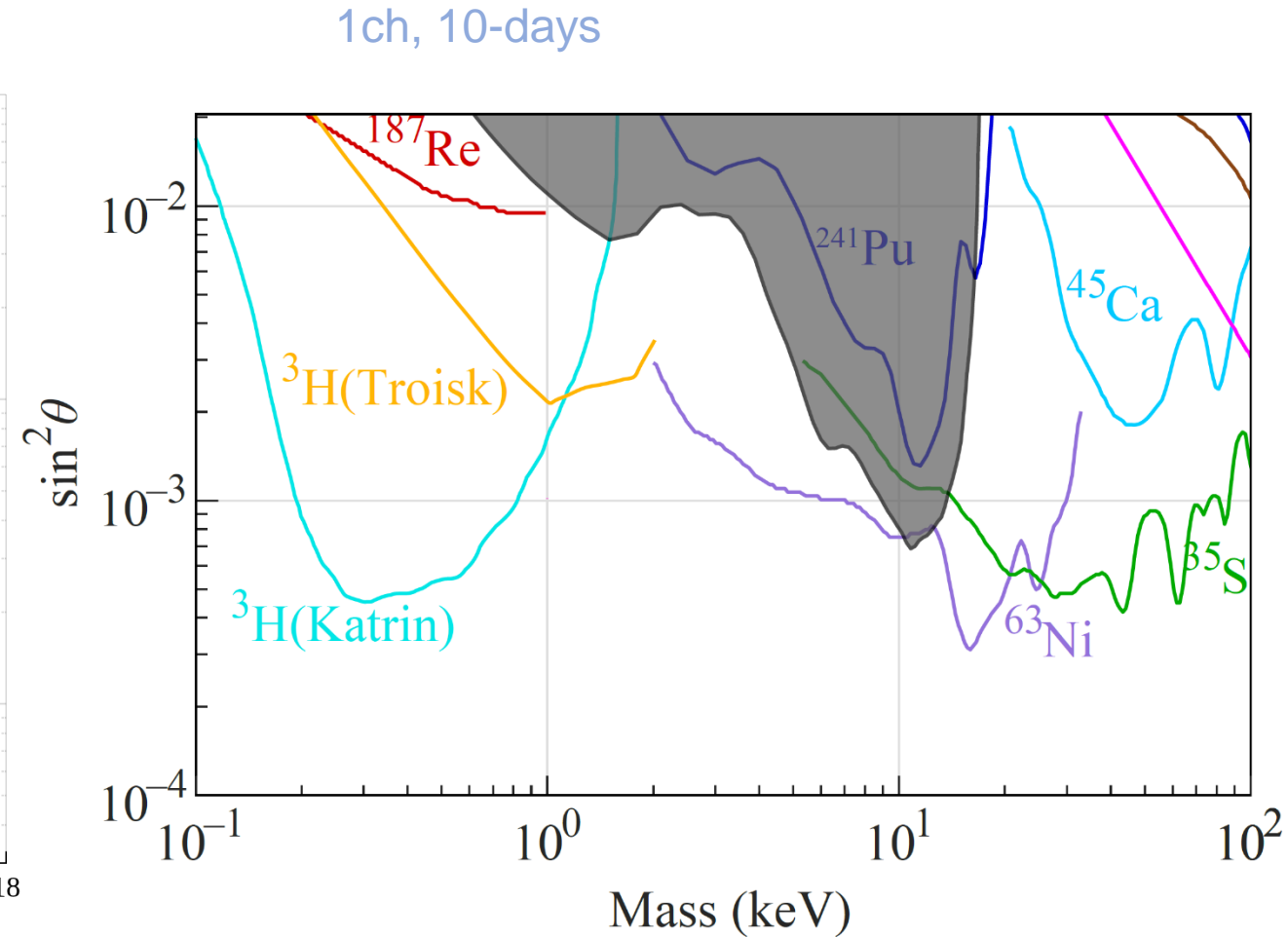
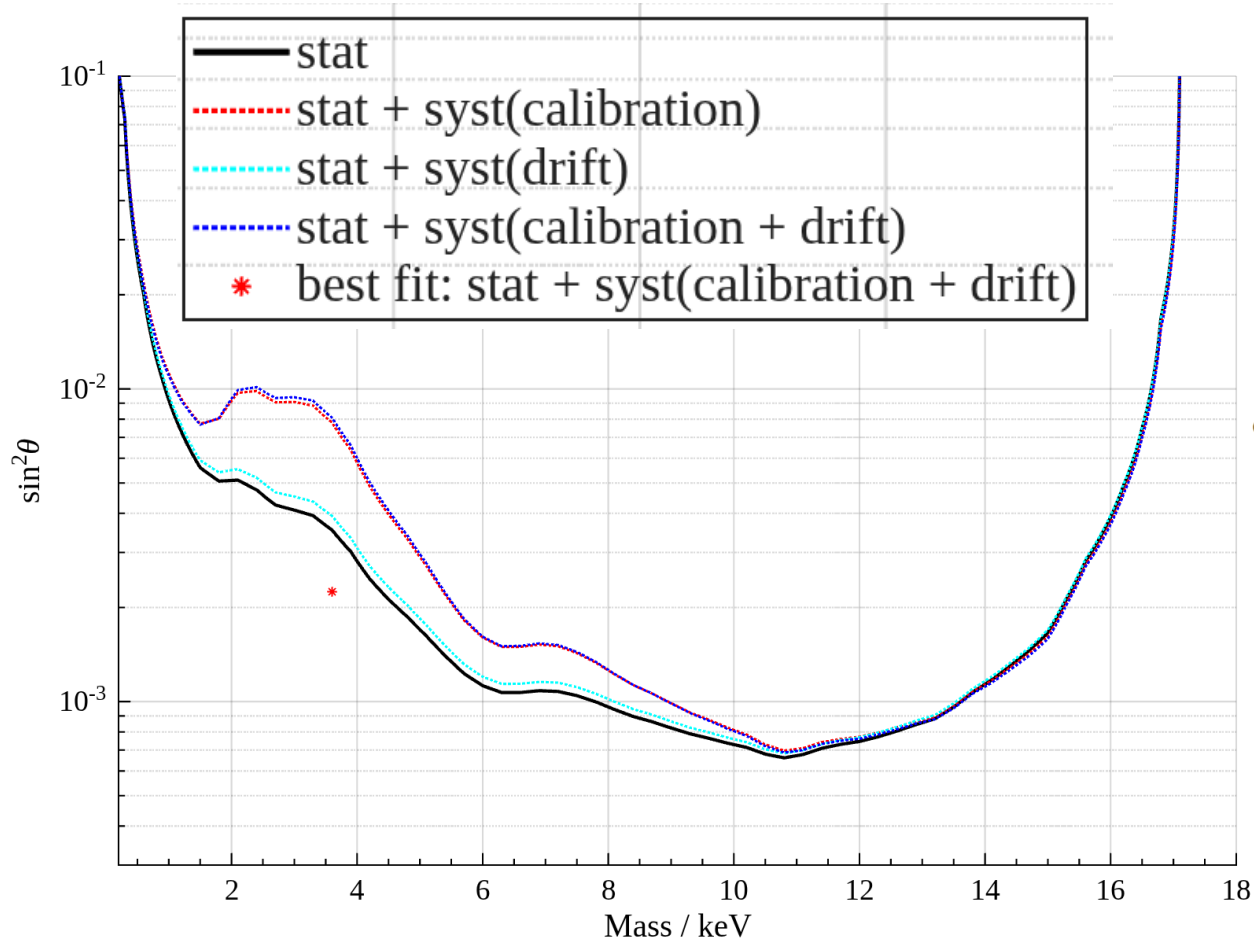
- The calibration curve, modeled as a third-order polynomial constrained to pass through the origin, is constructed from four calibration points. Its uncertainty arises from the limited number of points (four, corresponding to two degrees of freedom) as well as the statistical uncertainties of each point.
- A bootstrap method, taken as a conservative approach, is applied to generate random realizations of the energy calibration curve and to evaluate the resulting distortions in the spectrum.
- Most of the spectral distortion is captured by four PCA components.



- In the statistical-only fit, the null model provides the best fit.
- When this systematic is included, a global minimum appears at 3.5 keV; however, the improvement over the null model is not significant ($\Delta\chi^2 \approx -1$).



Exclusion limit with 1-ch 10-day data



General Neutrino Interaction

- Actually, sterile neutrino is one of GNI.

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{GNI}}^{\text{CC}} = -\frac{G_F V_{\gamma\delta}}{\sqrt{2}} \sum_{j=1}^{10} \left(\begin{matrix} (\sim) \\ \epsilon_{j,\text{ud}} \end{matrix} \right)^{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} (\bar{e}_\alpha \mathcal{O}_j \nu_\beta) (\bar{u}_\gamma \mathcal{O}'_j d_\delta) + \text{H.c.}, \quad (\text{under Lorentz invariant})$$

↖ CKM matrix (mixing between quarks)
 ↗ Flavour index with PMNS matrix (neutrino mixing)

- If there is no mixing,

$$: -\frac{G_F}{\sqrt{2}} \left((g_V^2 + 3g_A^2) + \sum \epsilon_j (\bar{e} \mathcal{O}_j \nu) (\bar{u} \mathcal{O}'_j d) \right) + h.c.$$

- For other experiment $\epsilon \sim 10^{-3}$, so if our sensitivity for mixing angle $\sim 10^{-3}$, we can test further BSM parameters.

KATRIN PRL134, 251801 (2025)

j	e_j	\mathcal{O}_j	\mathcal{O}'_j
1	ϵ_L	$\gamma_\mu(1 - \gamma^5)$	$\gamma^\mu(1 - \gamma^5)$
2	$\tilde{\epsilon}_L$	$\gamma_\mu(1 + \gamma^5)$	$\gamma^\mu(1 - \gamma^5)$
3	ϵ_R	$\gamma_\mu(1 - \gamma^5)$	$\gamma^\mu(1 + \gamma^5)$
4	$\tilde{\epsilon}_R$	$\gamma_\mu(1 + \gamma^5)$	$\gamma^\mu(1 + \gamma^5)$
5	ϵ_S	$(1 - \gamma^5)$	1
6	$\tilde{\epsilon}_S$	$(1 + \gamma^5)$	1
7	$-\epsilon_P$	$(1 - \gamma^5)$	γ^5
8	$-\tilde{\epsilon}_P$	$(1 + \gamma^5)$	γ^5
9	ϵ_T	$\sigma_{\mu\nu}(1 - \gamma^5)$	$\sigma^{\mu\nu}(1 - \gamma^5)$
10	$\tilde{\epsilon}_T$	$\sigma_{\mu\nu}(1 + \gamma^5)$	$\sigma^{\mu\nu}(1 + \gamma^5)$

GNI terms

$$\left(\frac{d\Gamma}{dE}\right)_j = \frac{G_F^2 V_{ud}^2}{2\pi^3} \sqrt{(E + m_e)^2 - m_e^2} (E + m_e)(E_0 - E) \sqrt{(E_0 - E)^2 - m_j^2} \xi \left[\boxed{1 + b \frac{m_e}{E + m_e}} - b' \frac{m_j}{E_0 - E} - c \frac{m_e m_j}{(E + m_e)(E_0 - E)} \right]$$

~ 1
 $\sim -(b' + c) * \frac{m_N}{E_\nu} \rightarrow -b' \frac{m_N}{E_\nu}$

- ξ : Normalization like mixing angle
- $b' m_N / E_\nu$
: Distortion of energy spectrum
: Heavy mass induces large distortion

For N instead of β , $U \rightarrow S$, $T \rightarrow V$

SM model \rightarrow

$$\xi_\beta = |U_{ei}|^2 [(g_V^2 + 3g_A^2)(1 + |\epsilon_L|^2 + |\epsilon_R|^2 + 2\text{Re}(\epsilon_L)) + 2(g_V^2 - 3g_A^2)(\text{Re}(\epsilon_R \epsilon_L^*) + \text{Re}(\epsilon_R)) + g_S^2 |\epsilon_S|^2 + 48g_T^2 |\epsilon_T|^2] + |T_{ei}|^2 [(g_V^2 + 3g_A^2)(|\tilde{\epsilon}_L|^2 + |\tilde{\epsilon}_R|^2) + 2(g_V^2 - 3g_A^2)\text{Re}(\tilde{\epsilon}_R \tilde{\epsilon}_L^*) + g_S^2 |\tilde{\epsilon}_S|^2 + 48g_T^2 |\tilde{\epsilon}_T|^2],$$

$$\xi_\beta b_\beta = |U_{ei}|^2 [2g_S g_V \text{Re}(\epsilon_S(1 + \epsilon_L + \epsilon_R)^*) - 24g_A g_T \text{Re}(\epsilon_T(1 + \epsilon_L - \epsilon_R)^*)] + |T_{ei}|^2 [2g_S g_V \text{Re}(\tilde{\epsilon}_S(\tilde{\epsilon}_L + \tilde{\epsilon}_R)^*) + 24g_A g_T \text{Re}(\tilde{\epsilon}_T(\tilde{\epsilon}_L - \tilde{\epsilon}_R)^*)]$$

$$\xi_\beta b'_\beta = \text{Re}(U_{ei} T_{ei}) [2g_V g_S \{ \text{Re}(\tilde{\epsilon}_S(1 + \epsilon_L + \epsilon_R)^*) + \text{Re}(\epsilon_S(\tilde{\epsilon}_L + \tilde{\epsilon}_R)^*) \} - 24g_A g_T \{ \text{Re}(\tilde{\epsilon}_T(1 + \epsilon_L - \epsilon_R)^*) - \text{Re}(\epsilon_T(\tilde{\epsilon}_L - \tilde{\epsilon}_R)^*) \}],$$

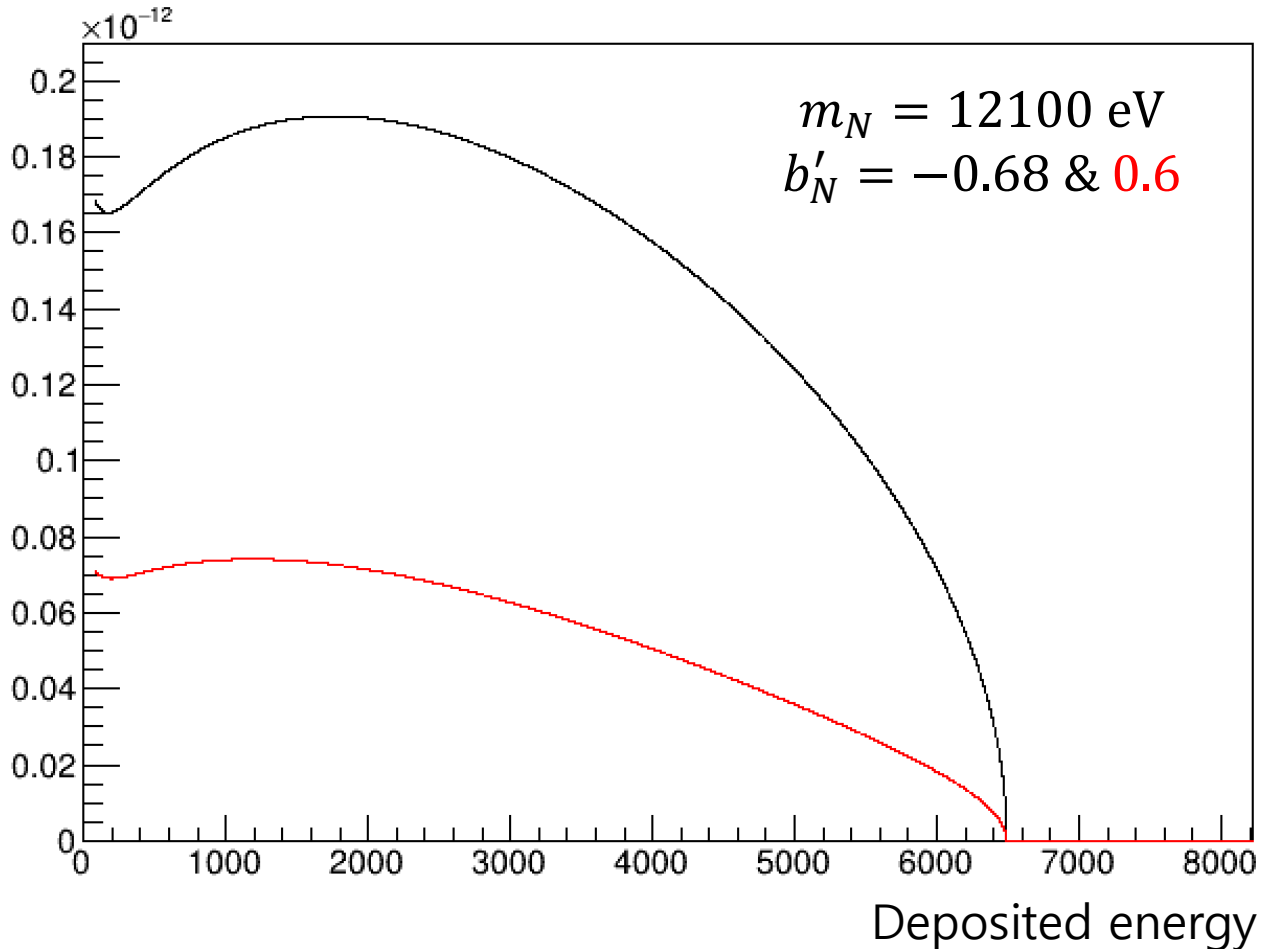
$$\xi_\beta c_\beta = \text{Re}(U_{ei} T_{ei}) [2g_V^2 \text{Re}((\tilde{\epsilon}_L + \tilde{\epsilon}_R)(1 + \epsilon_L + \epsilon_R)^*) - 6g_A^2 \text{Re}((\tilde{\epsilon}_L - \tilde{\epsilon}_R)(1 + \epsilon_L - \epsilon_R)^*) + 2g_S^2 \text{Re}(\epsilon_S \tilde{\epsilon}_S^*) + 96g_T^2 \text{Re}(\epsilon_T \tilde{\epsilon}_T^*)].$$

Tritium beta spectrum

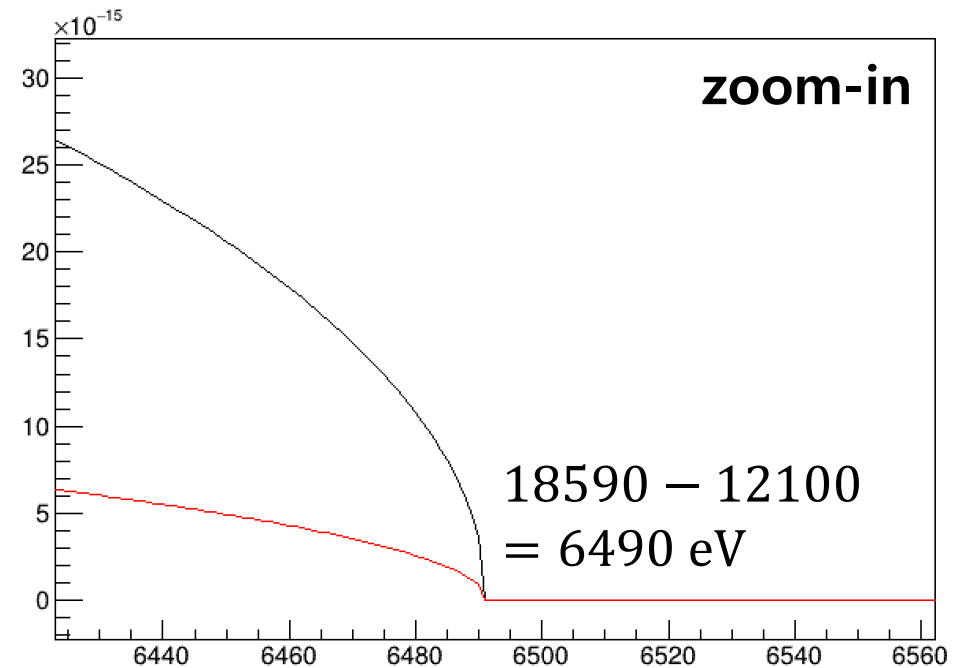
$$\frac{d\Gamma}{dE} = \frac{G_F^2 V_{ud}^2}{2\pi^3} F(E, 2) \sqrt{(E + m_e)^2 - m_e^2} (E + m_e) \cdot \sum_j \sum_{k=\beta, N} \zeta_j \varepsilon_j \sqrt{\varepsilon_j^2 - m_k^2} \xi_k \left[1 - b'_k \frac{m_k}{\varepsilon_j} \right] \Theta(\varepsilon_j - m_k).$$

- Additional corrections : Relativistic Fermi function, Exchange effect, radiative correction, Recoiled Coulomb correction, Finite nuclear size correction, Screened Coulomb correction.
- j stands for 30 atomic states (shake-up) and continuum state (shake-off)
- β : electron neutrino, N : sterile neutrino
- GNI effect : $\xi_{k=\beta, N}$, $b_{k=\beta, N}'$

Spectrum shape for (m_N, b'_N)



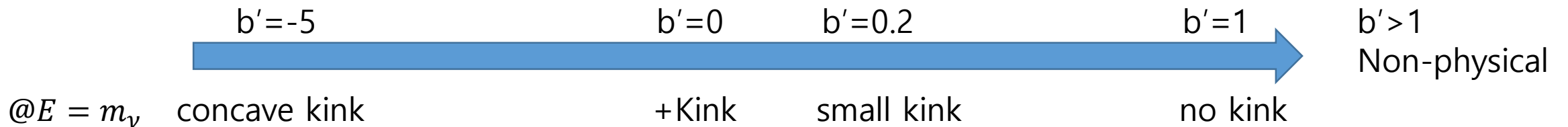
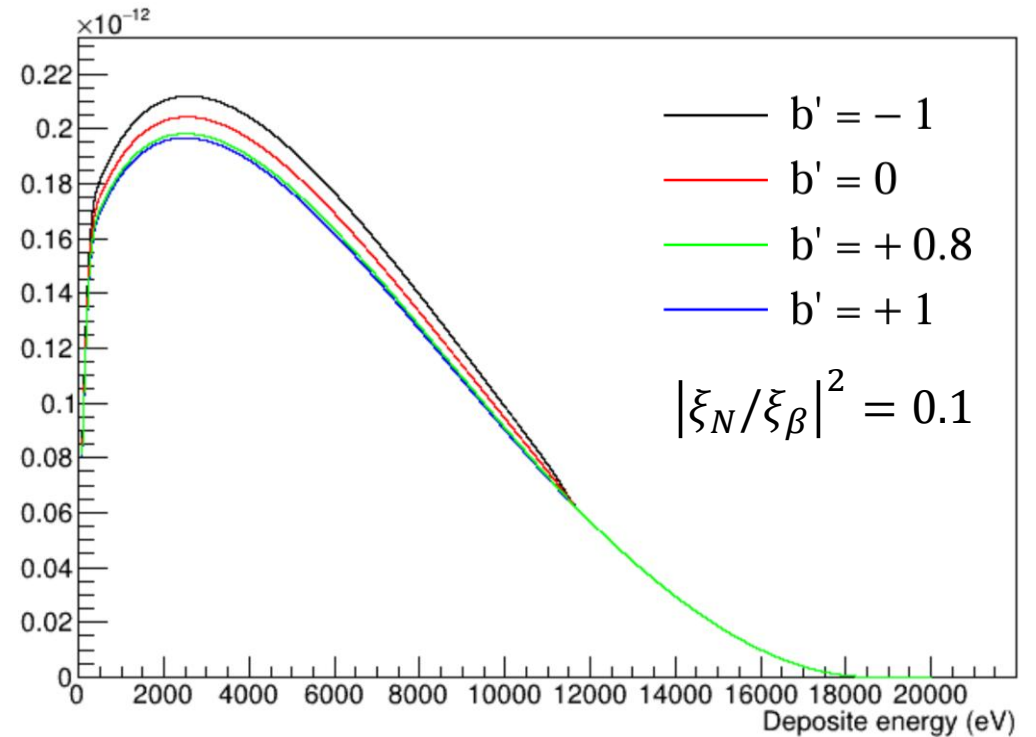
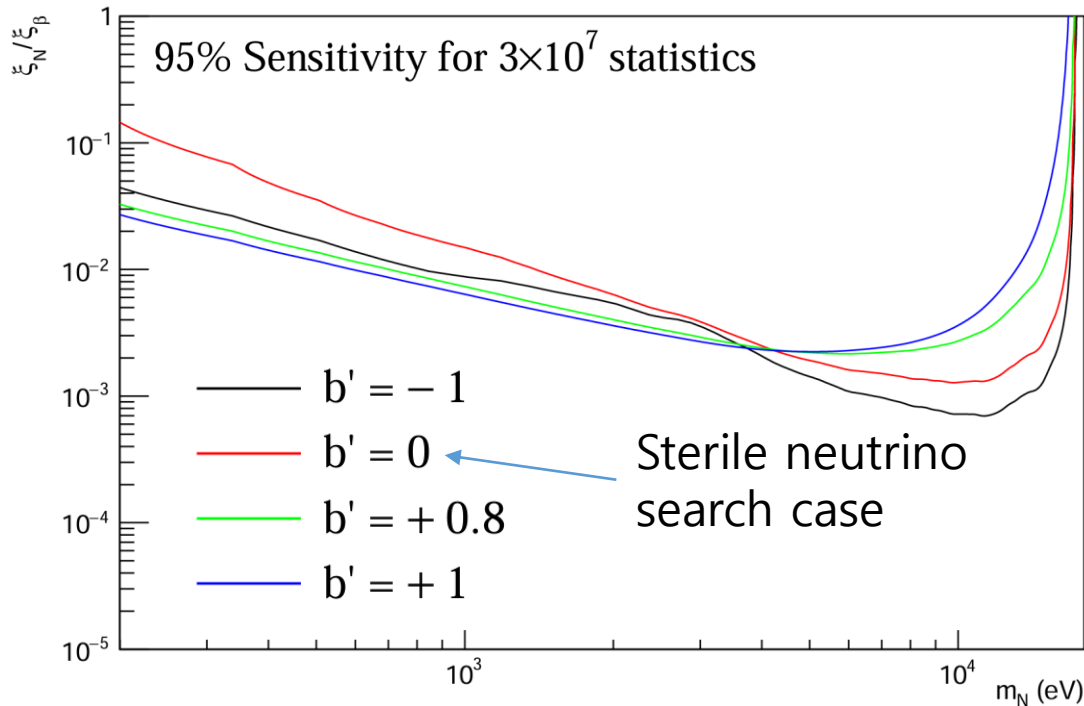
$$\frac{d\Gamma}{dE} = A(E, m_e) \sum_j \zeta_j \varepsilon_j \left(\sqrt{\varepsilon_j^2 - m_N^2} \zeta_N \left(1 - b'_N \frac{m_N}{\varepsilon_j} \right) \right)$$



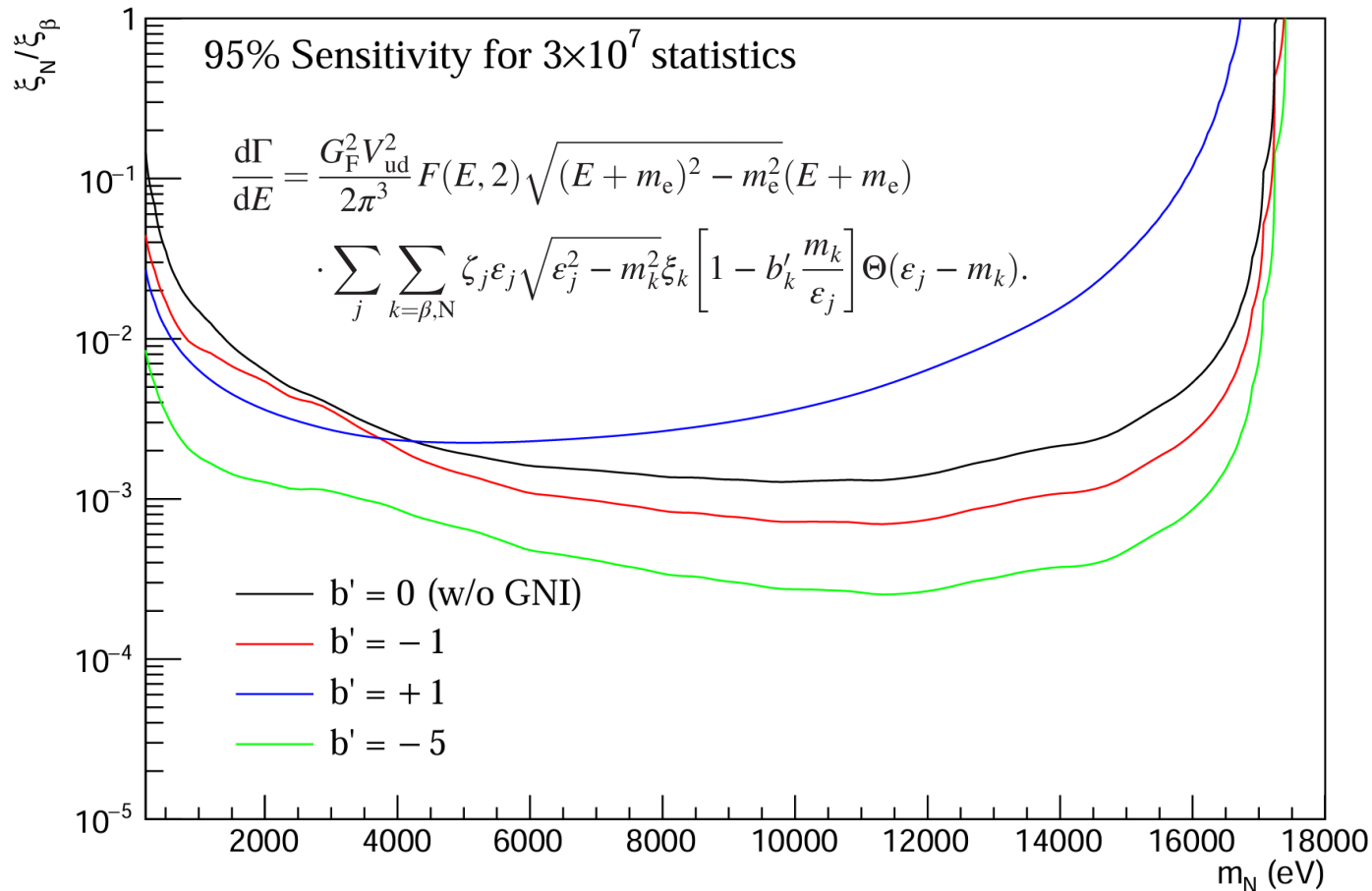
Grid of parameters for sensitivity

- Parameters: $\xi_\beta, b'_\beta, m_\beta = 0, \xi_N, b'_N, m_N$
- $\frac{d\Gamma}{dE} = A(E, m_e) \sum_j \zeta_j \varepsilon_j \left(\left(\sqrt{\varepsilon_j^2 - m_N^2} \xi_N (1 - b'_N \frac{m_N}{\varepsilon_j}) \right) + \left(\sqrt{\varepsilon_j^2 - m_\beta^2} \xi_\beta (1 - b'_\beta \frac{m_\beta}{\varepsilon_j}) \right) \right)$
- GNI effect $\propto \xi_k$ and $\xi_k b'_k m_k$
- For SM & sterile neutrino,
- $\xi_\beta \sim |U_{eN}|^2 (g_V^2 + 3g_A^2) (1 + |\epsilon_R^2|) \sim 5.79 (\pm 0.5\%)$: fix as 1
- $\xi_N \sim (g_V^2 + 3g_A^2) (|S_{eN}|^2 + |V_{eN}|^2 |\tilde{\epsilon}_L|^2)$, leading term $|S_{ei}|^2$ means mixing. : 201 in [5E-5, 10]
- $b'_N \sim |S_{eN}| |T_{eN}| \tilde{\epsilon}_{L,R,S,T} (1 + \tilde{\epsilon}_{L,R,S,T} \pm \tilde{\epsilon}_{L,R,S,T}) / \xi_N$ can varies $-5 \sim 5$: 101 in [-5,5]
- m_N : 111 in [0,18590] eV (bin=169eV)

Shape distortion of b'



Sensitivity and ROI for GNI effect



1. $|S|^2$: mixing between heavy mass and light mass state (< 0.001 , $|V|^2 = 1 - |S|^2$)
2. $\tilde{\epsilon}_S < 10^{-2}$
3. $\tilde{\epsilon}_T < 10^{-3}$ *PhysRevLett.134.251801*

Leading term (1st order of ϵ , $g_{V,A,S,T} = 1$)
 : $b' = \frac{V}{S} * 2(\tilde{\epsilon}_S - 12\tilde{\epsilon}_T) > 60 * (\tilde{\epsilon}_S - 12\tilde{\epsilon}_T)$
 if $-\tilde{\epsilon}_S + 12\tilde{\epsilon}_T$ is enough large, $b' = -5$

Most sensitive at $m_N = 11\text{keV}$
 for tritium beta spectrum

	$m_\nu < 4\text{keV}$	$4\text{keV} < m_\nu$
b'	-5~0	-5~1

Sensitivity ($\xi_N/\xi_\beta, b'_N$) for $m_N = 11\text{keV}$

- At $m_\nu = 11\text{keV}$ for 2 cases
: $|S|^2 = 1 \times 10^{-3}, 1 \times 10^{-5}$

- For 95% sensitivity,

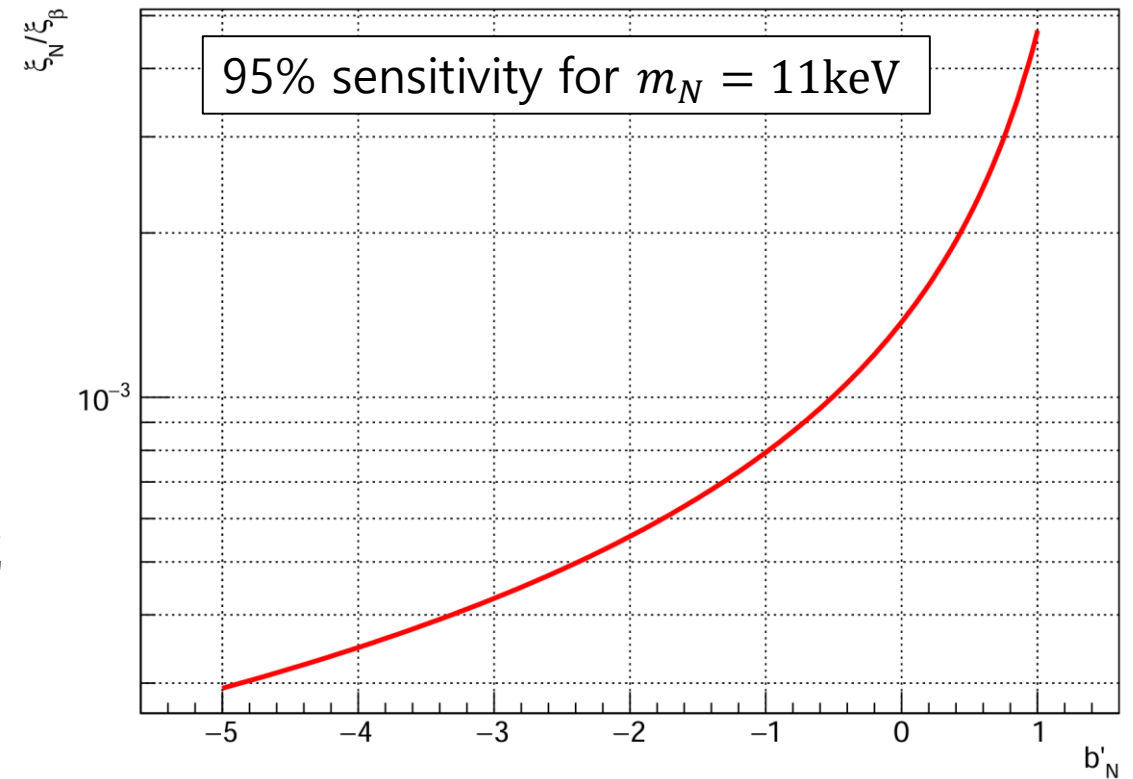
$$\xi_N(b' = -5) = 2.93 \times 10^{-4}$$

$$\xi_N(b' = 1) = 4.69 \times 10^{-3}$$

- Input values

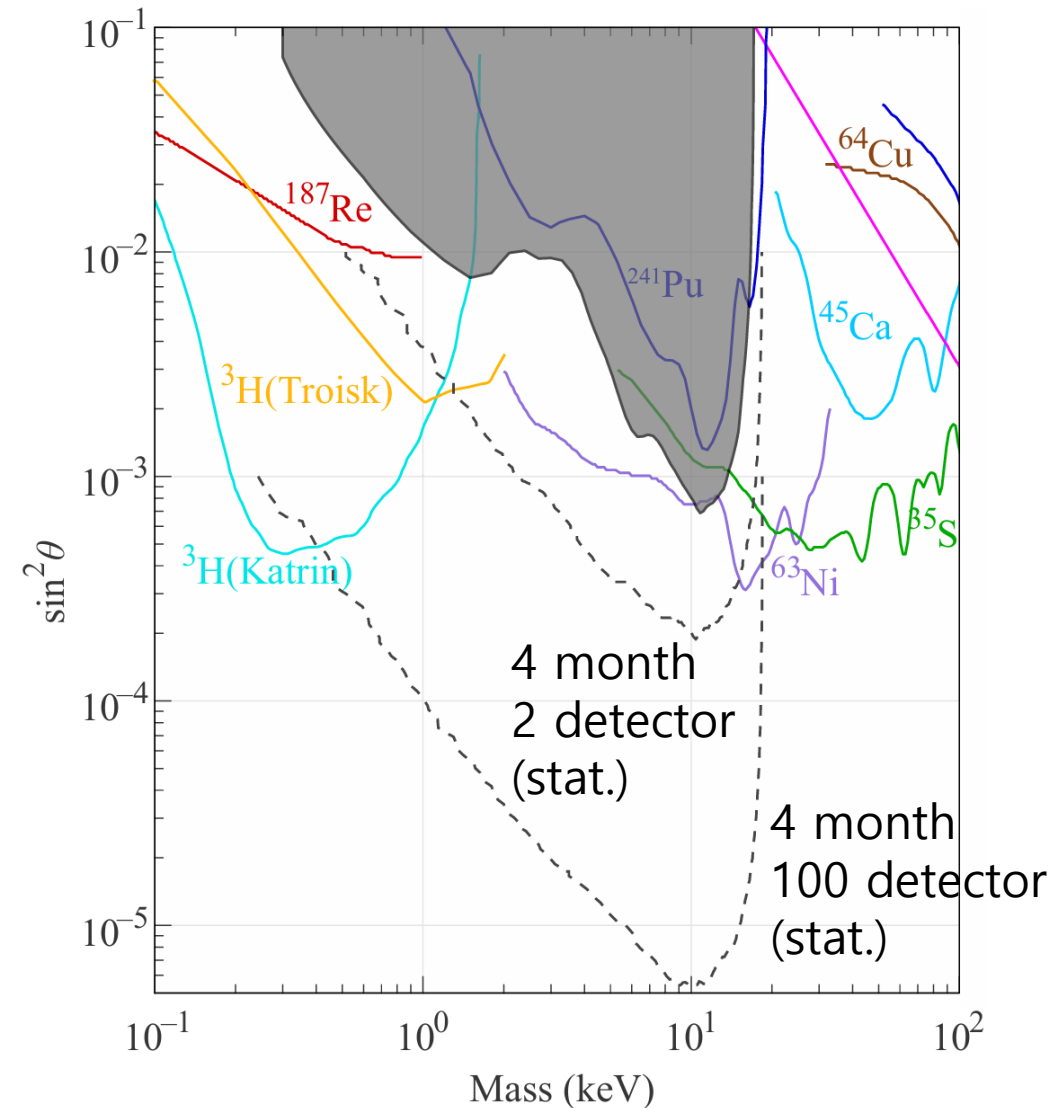
$$g_V = 1.0, \quad g_A/g_V = 1.2646, \quad g_S = 1.02$$

$$g_P = 349, \quad g_T = 1.02$$



Summary

- For sterile neutrino search, we can reach lowest limit 10^{-3} at 11keV mass using only 10 day data-set (1 crystal).
- For 4 month data-set(for 2crystal), we expect best limit in 1-18keV region.
- We would make first result for GNI for search full range in tritium beta spectrum soon.



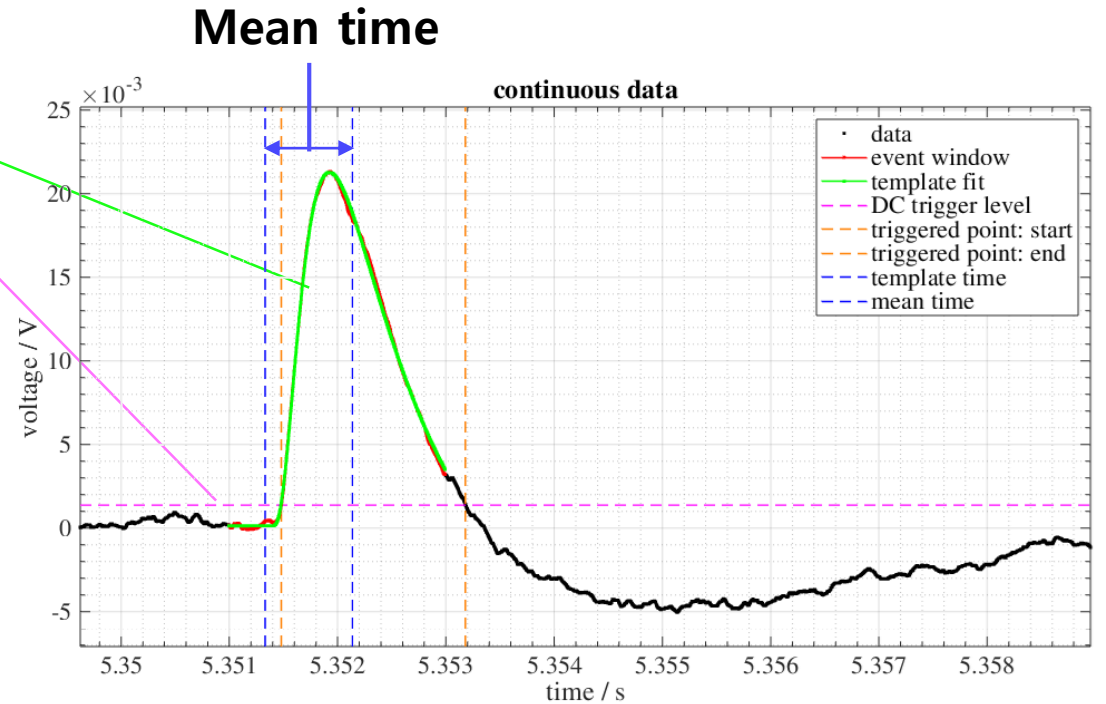
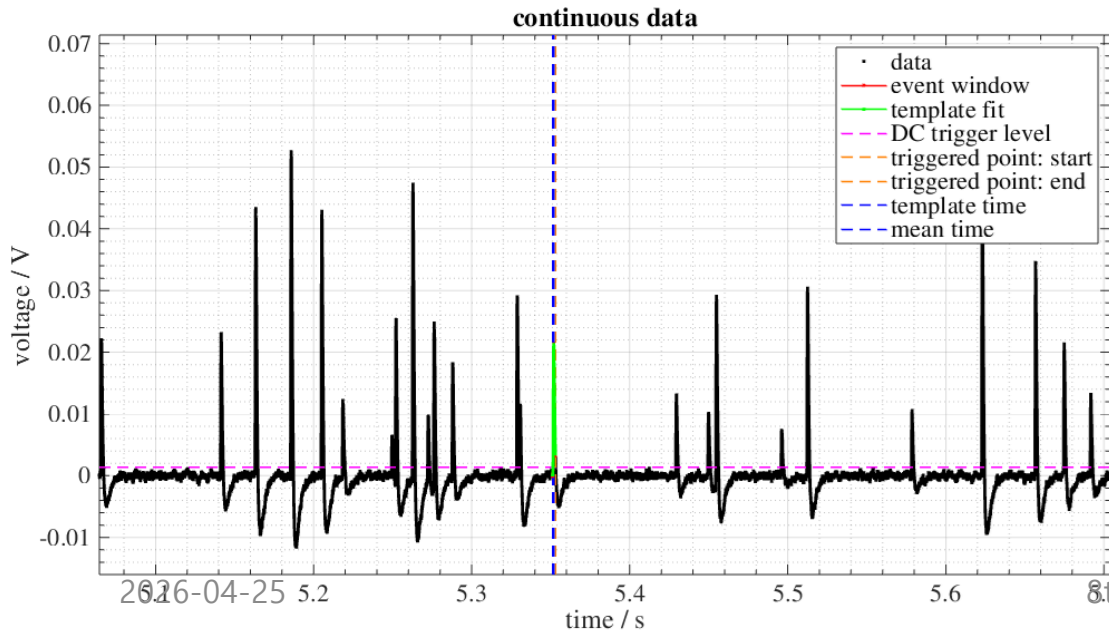
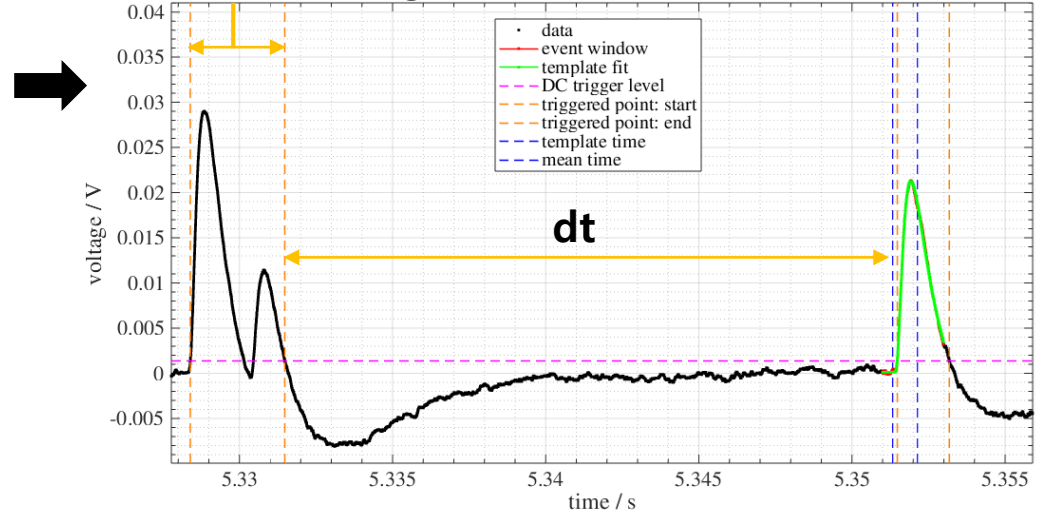
Data processing

Relation to previous signal

width of previous signal

For continuous data

1. Applying frequency filter with band pass: [0.1kHz 1.5kHz]
2. Event trigger with DC trigger level(360eV) and 1ms dead time
3. Template fit to triggered event to calculate pulse amplitude
4. Event cut with 3 parameters:
 - 1. loose cut for width of previous signal & $dt > 8\text{ms}$,
 - 2. Mean time cut



Pseudo data

- Make continuous pseudo data with long (~100ms) **signal template** and **noise** and **event rate** (3H, Mn 6keV peaks) from real data and expected energy spectrum of 3H decay
- Template is scaled along energy calibration
 - Apply same trigger logic, event selection criteria as real data

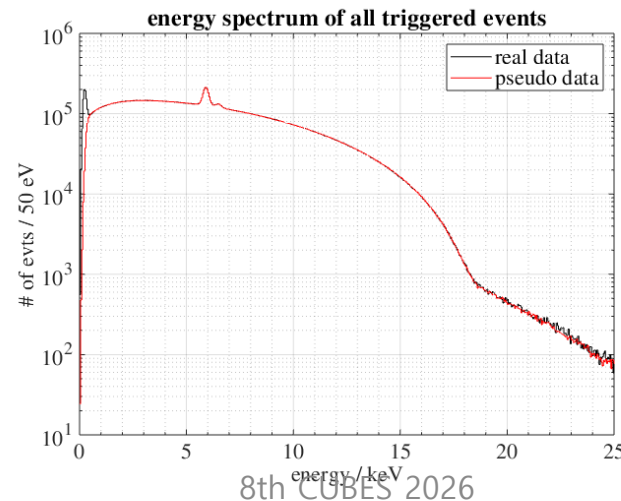
To calculate

- Efficiency estimation, **especially for single event**
- Bias correction in pulse amplitude for low energy signal
- Unresolved pileup spectrum

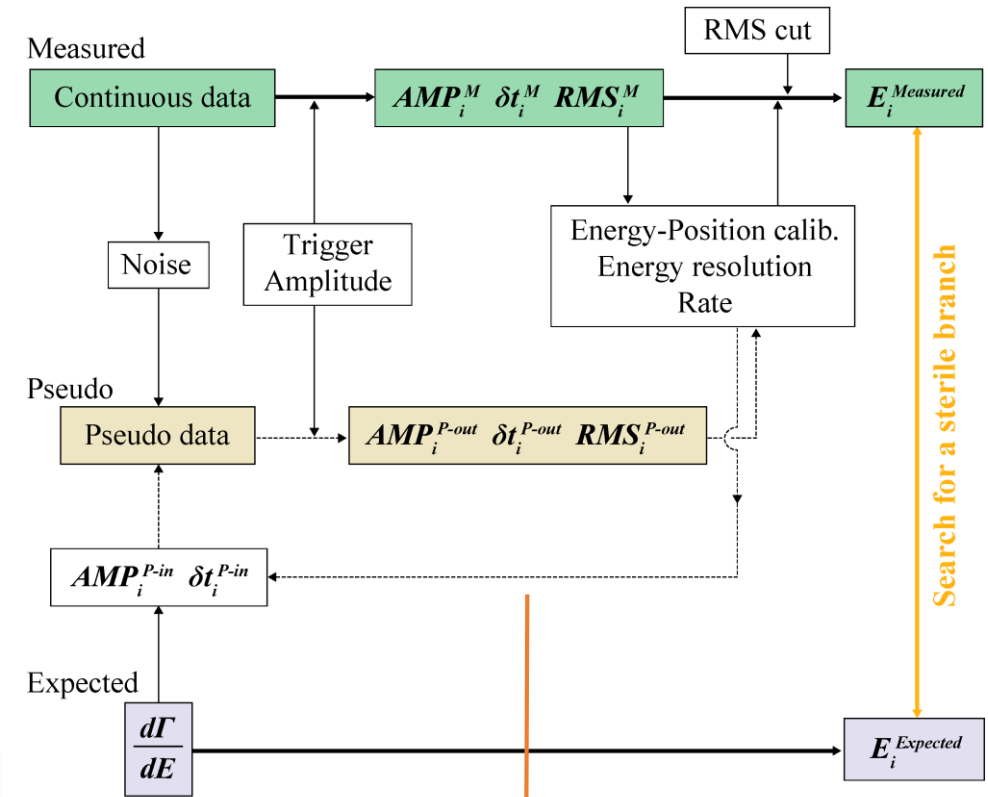
Expect spectrum $T(E)$ to fit measured

$$T(E) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (S(E')/\text{Eff}(E')) * R(E, E') dE' + D(E) + \text{bkg}(E)$$

- $S(E)$: theoretical 3H spectrum,
- $\text{Eff}(E')$: efficiency for single event,
- R : detector resolution,
- $D(E)$: Unresolved pileup spectrum
- $\text{bkg}(E)$: background spectrum



Schematic of analysis flow



2-3 times iteration needed to saturate the value of event rate & bias correction