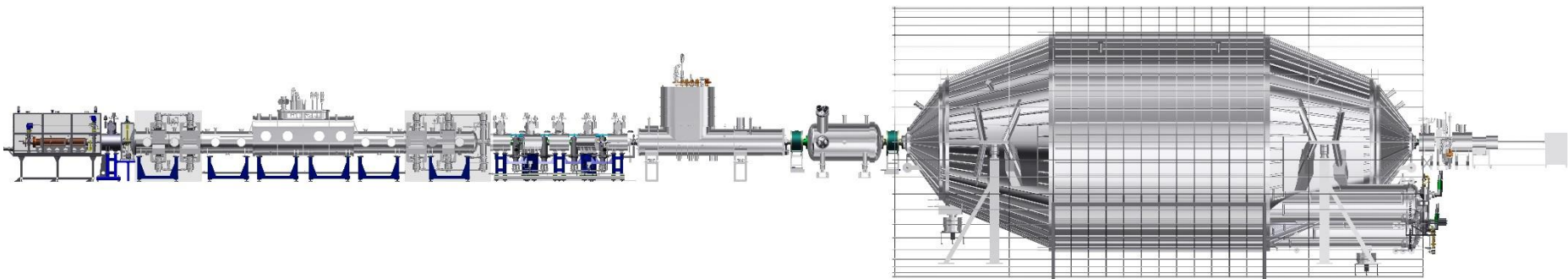


# A model for Rydberg-atom induced backgrounds resulting from deposition of Rn-progeny in the KATRIN Main Spectrometer

Fabian Harms for the KATRIN Collaboration, LRT Conference, Seoul 2017

Institute for Nuclear Physics (IKP), Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT)



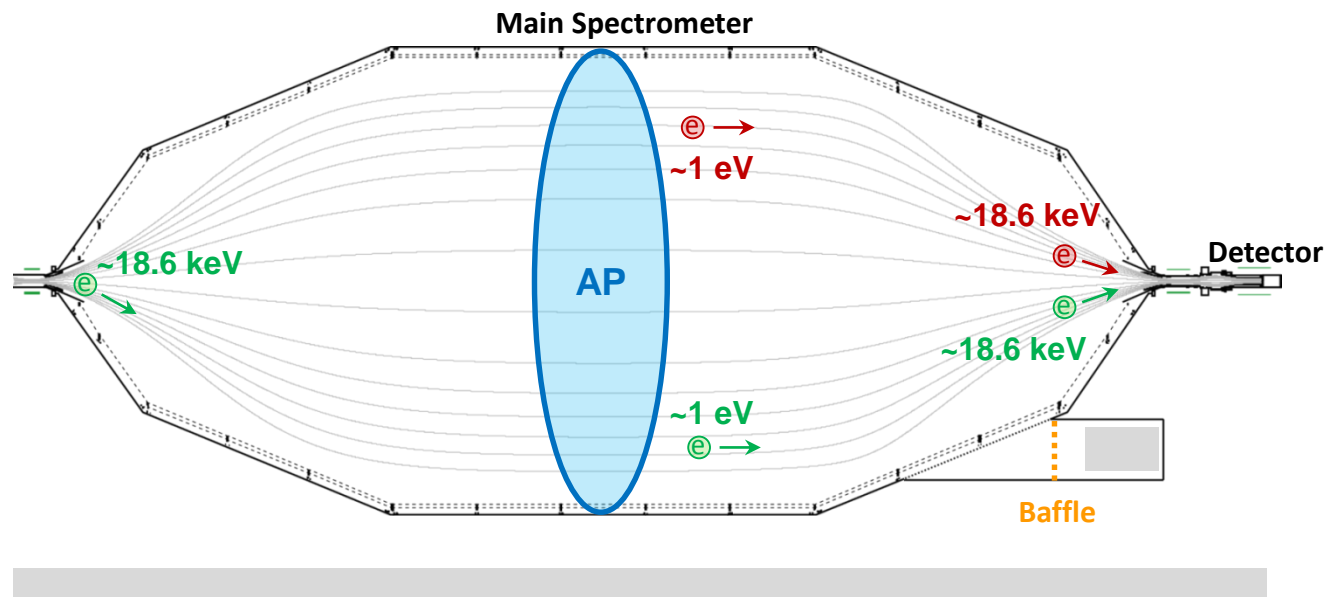
# Outline

- Background characteristics at KATRIN
- The Rydberg-atom based background model
- Radon progeny in the Main Spectrometer
- Conclusion & Outlook

# Background characteristics at KATRIN

## Overview

- Count rate of  $\sim 10$  mcps close to tritium endpoint  $\rightarrow$  Design background level in same order of magnitude.
- Main Spectrometer ( $1240 \text{ m}^3$ ) represents main source of background.
- Current background level is  $\sim 200 - 600$  mcps depending on electromagnetic field setting.

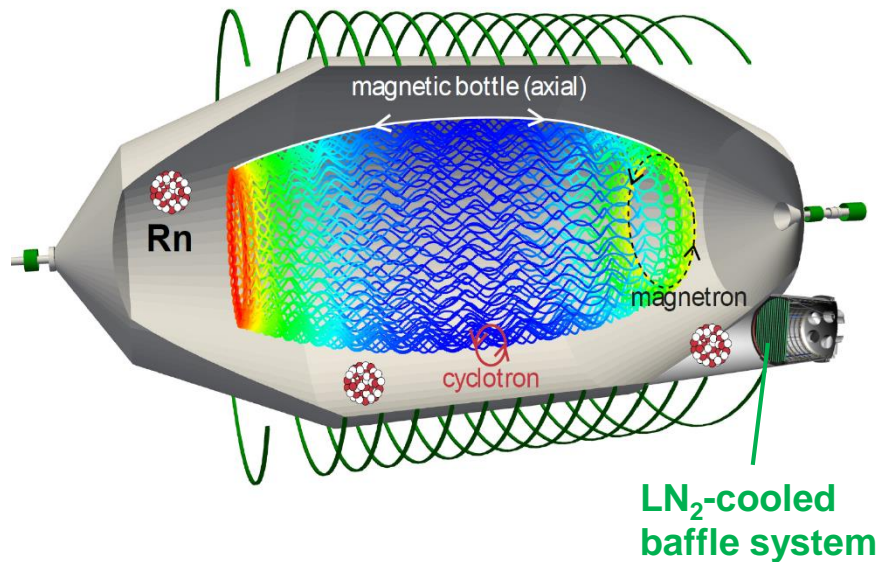


# Background characteristics at KATRIN

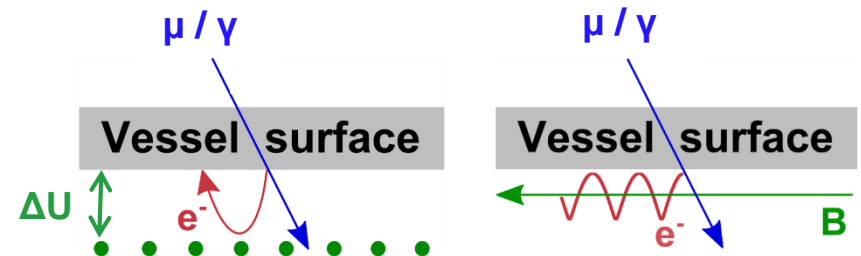
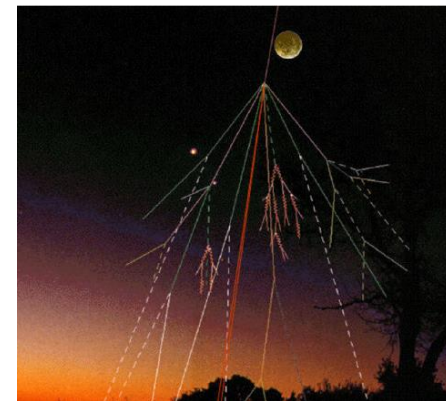
## Expected background sources

- Two main sources expected from earlier experiments with MAC-E filter spectrometers:

### Stored-particle related



### Secondary-electron emission related



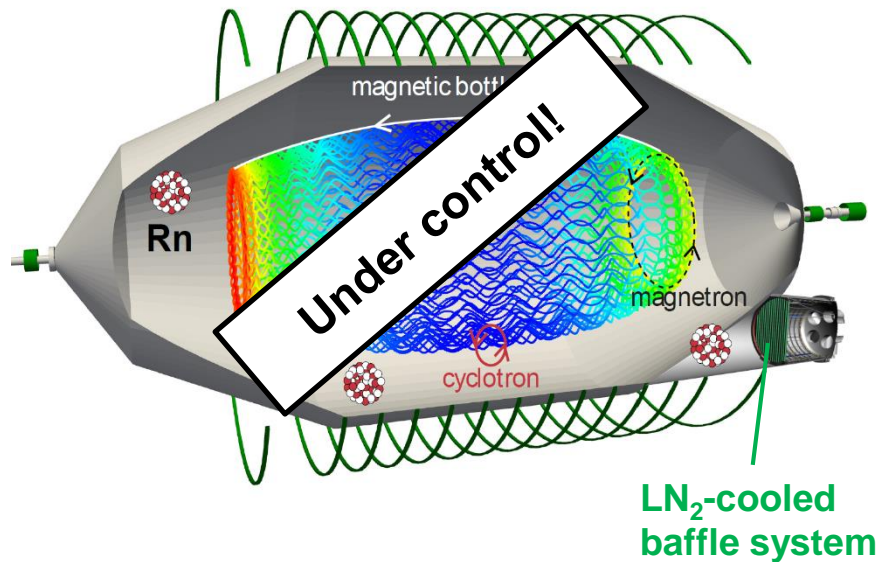


# Background characteristics at KATRIN

## Expected background sources

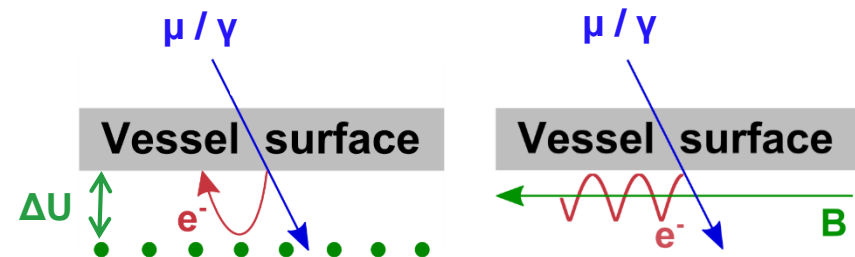
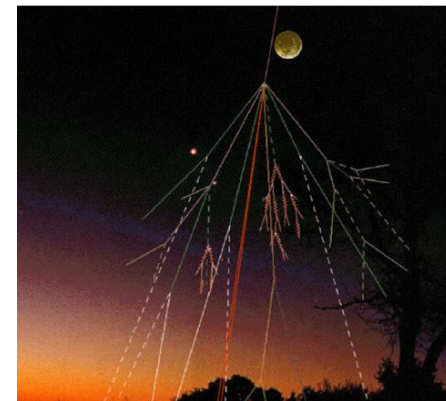
- Two main sources expected from earlier experiments with MAC-E filter spectrometers:

### Stored-particle related



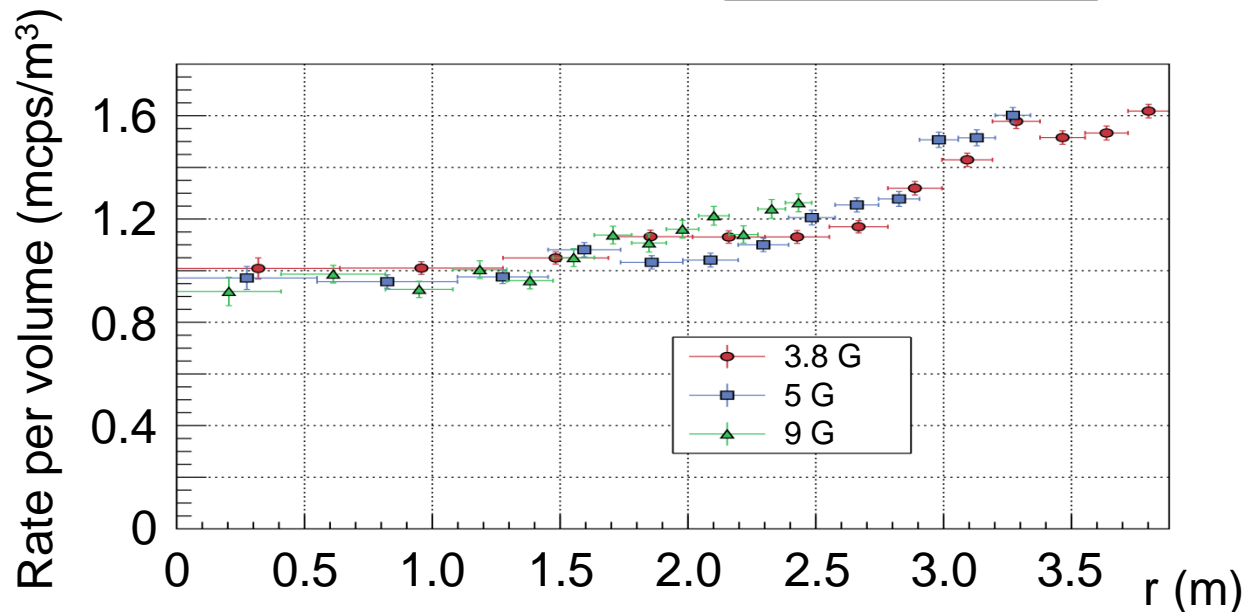
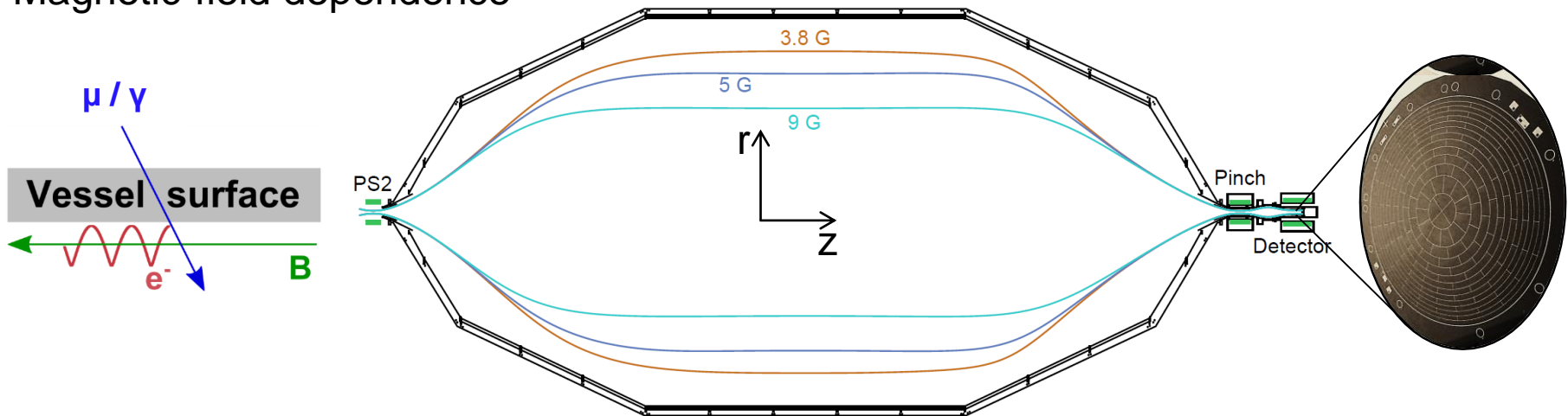
➔ See talk by J. Wolf

### Secondary-electron emission related



# Background characteristics at KATRIN

## Magnetic-field dependence



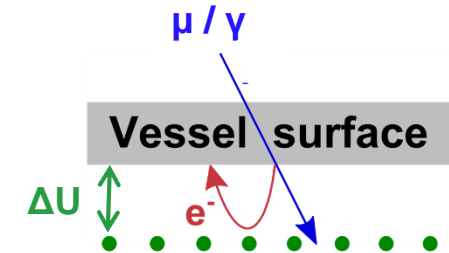
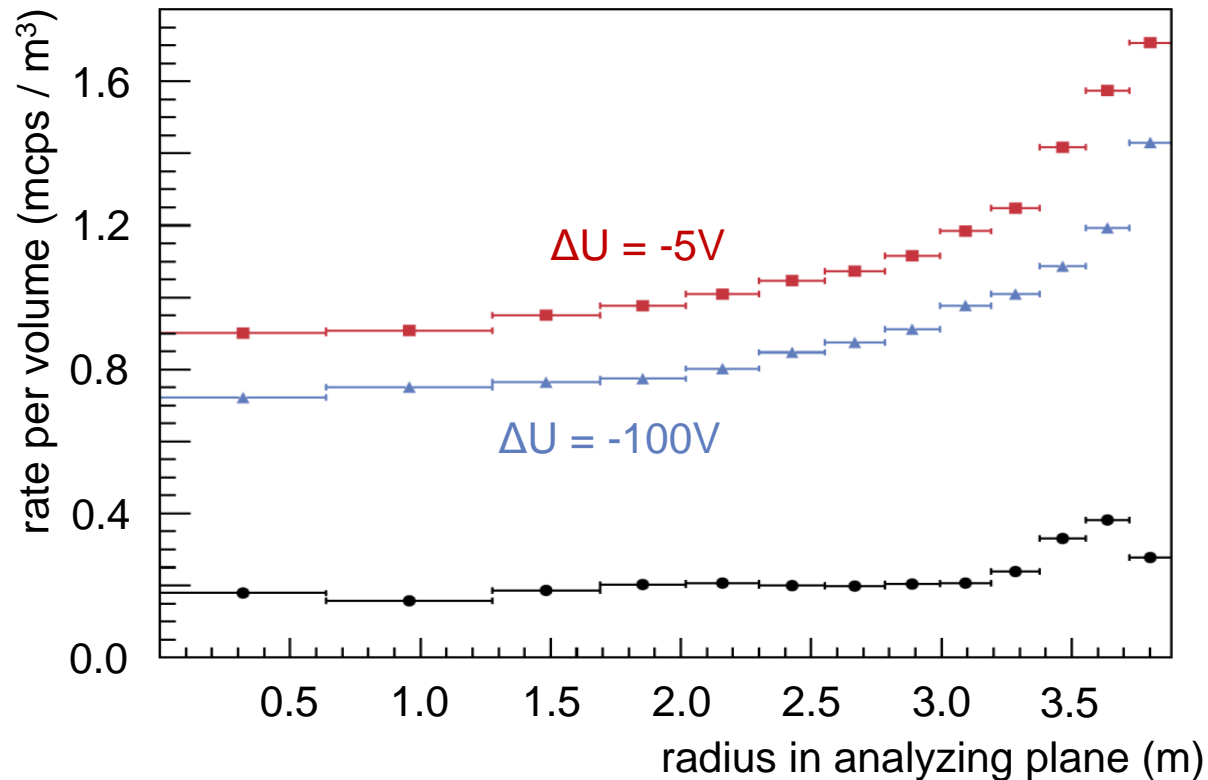
→ Background turns out to be independent of magnetic field strength

→ Purely volume dependent

# Background characteristics at KATRIN

## Electrostatic shielding

- Impact of electrostatic shielding on radial background distribution

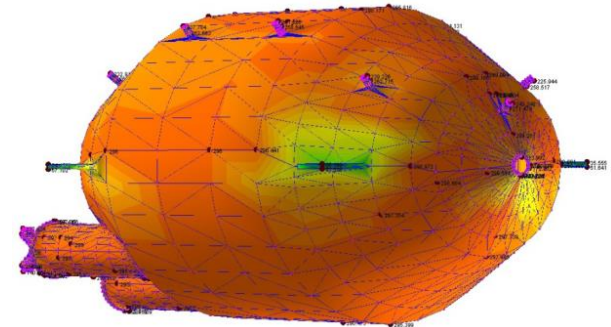
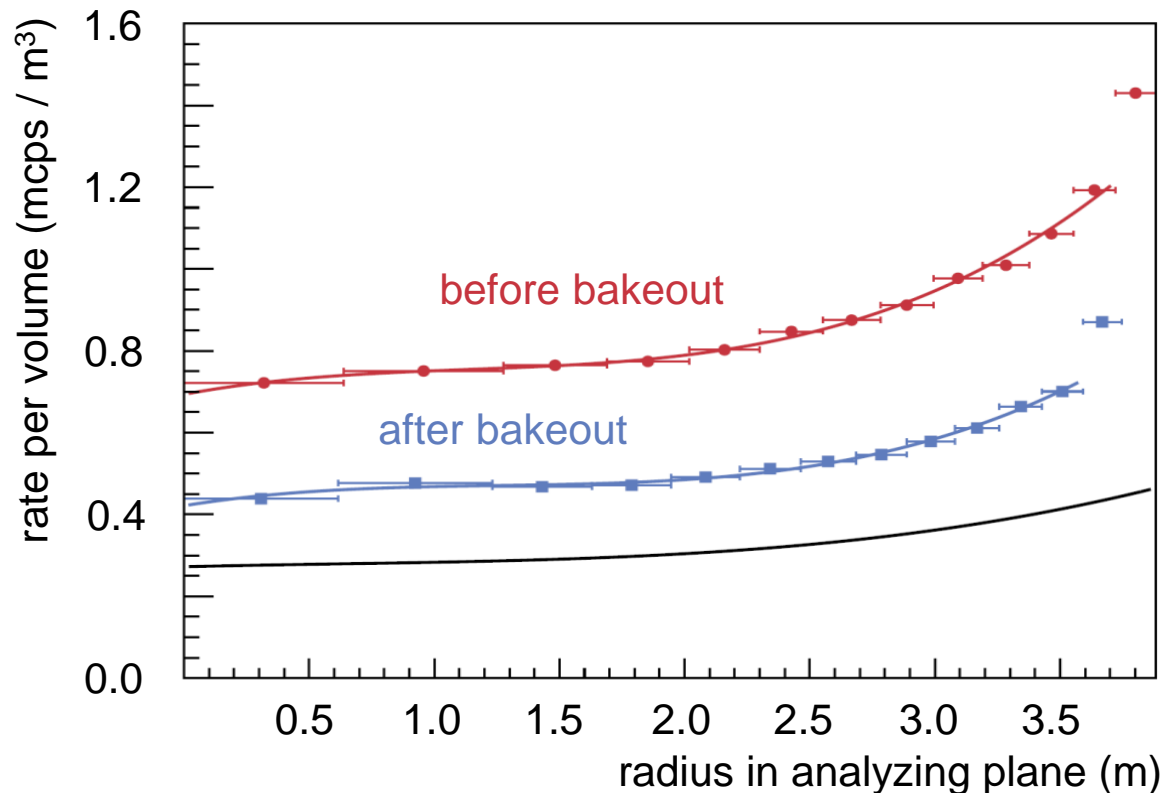


- Shielding impacts background radial independently
- Contradicts model of secondary-electron emission induced background

# Background characteristics at KATRIN

## Spectrometer bakeout

- Impact of spectrometer surface conditions on radial background profile



- Shielding impacts background radial independently
- Contradicts model of secondary-electron emission induced background

# The Rydberg-atom based background model

## Characteristics

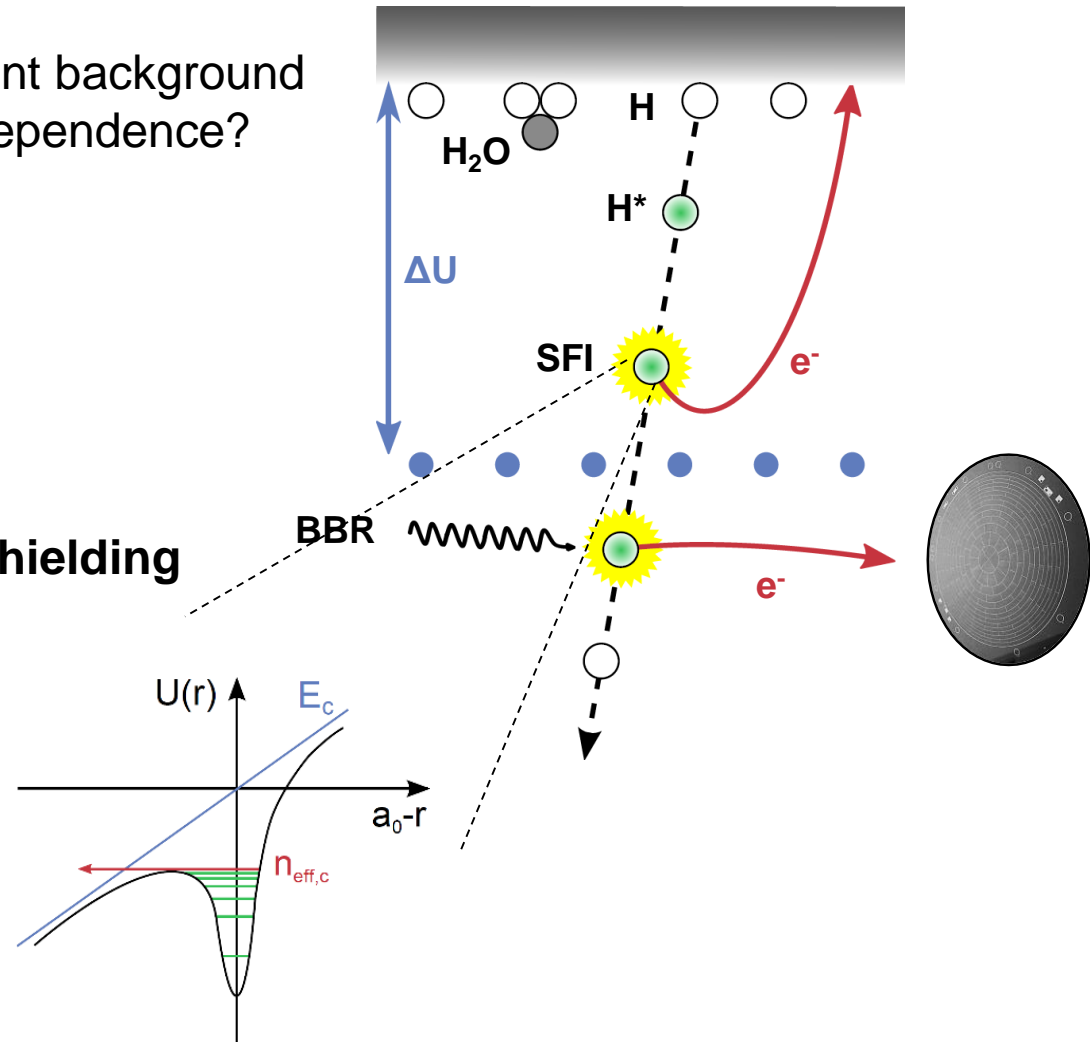
How to combine volume dependent background  
with surface conditions and  $\Delta U$ -dependence?

# The Rydberg-atom based background model

## Characteristics

How to combine volume dependent background with surface conditions and  $\Delta U$ -dependence?

- **Neutral messenger particles (Hydrogen Rydberg atoms)**
- Explains volume dependence.
- **Explains impact of electric shielding**
- Explains impact of bake-out.

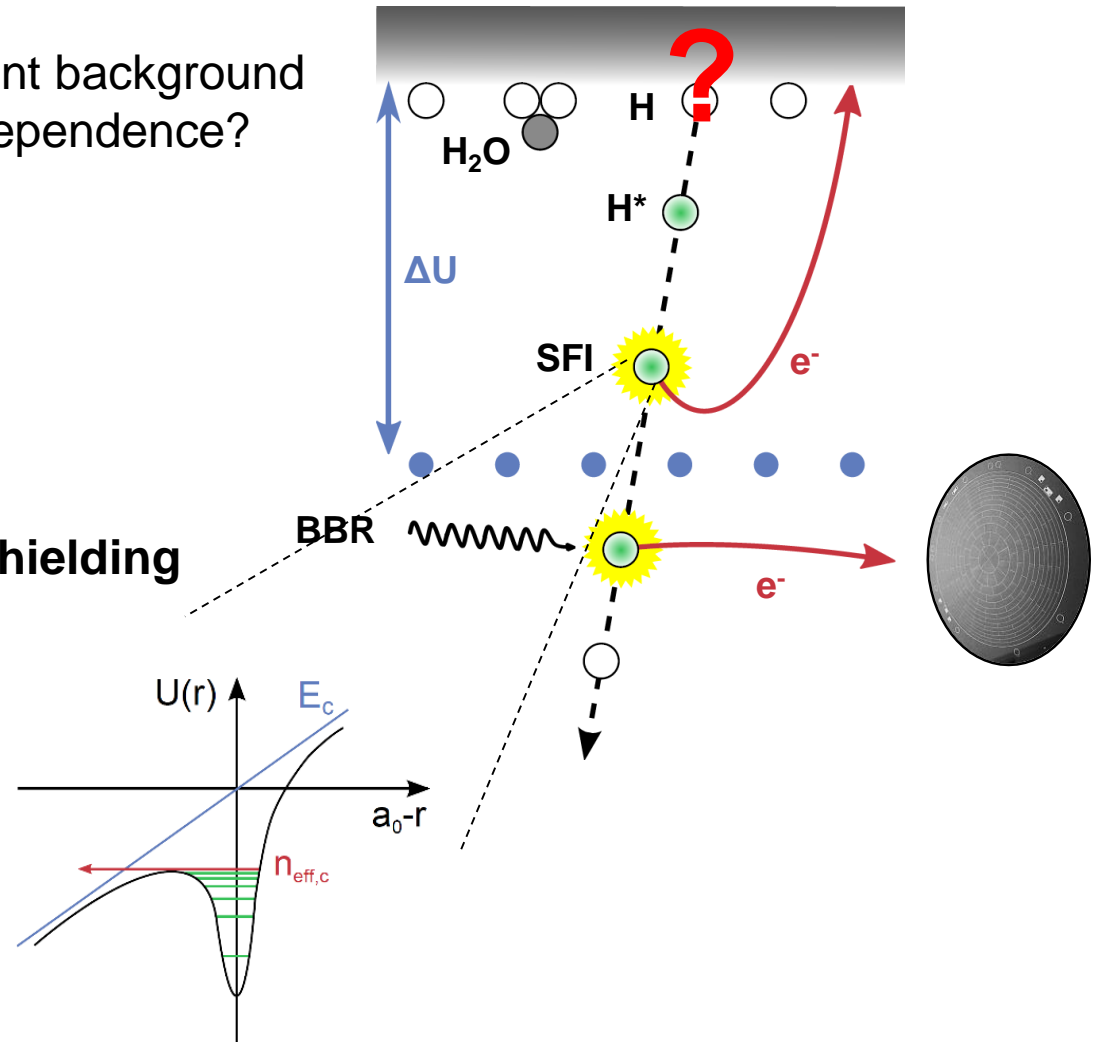


# The Rydberg-atom based background model

## Characteristics

How to combine volume dependent background with surface conditions and  $\Delta U$ -dependence?

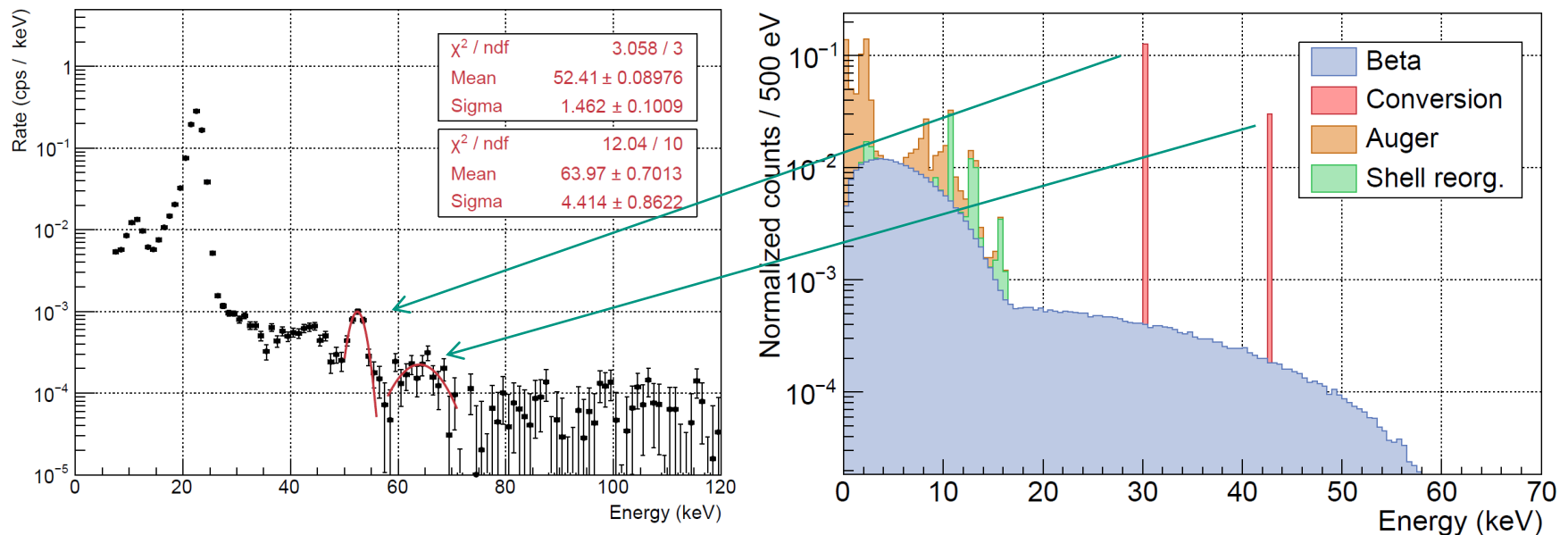
- **Neutral messenger particles (Hydrogen Rydberg atoms)**
- Explains volume dependence.
- **Explains impact of electric shielding**
- Explains impact of bake-out.
- Explains low-energy background electrons.
- **Generation mechanism?**



# Radon progeny in the Main Spectrometer

## Observation of $^{210}\text{Pb}$ signature

- Found small traces of  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  contamination in the Main Spectrometer ( $\approx 1\text{Bq} / \text{m}^2$ ).



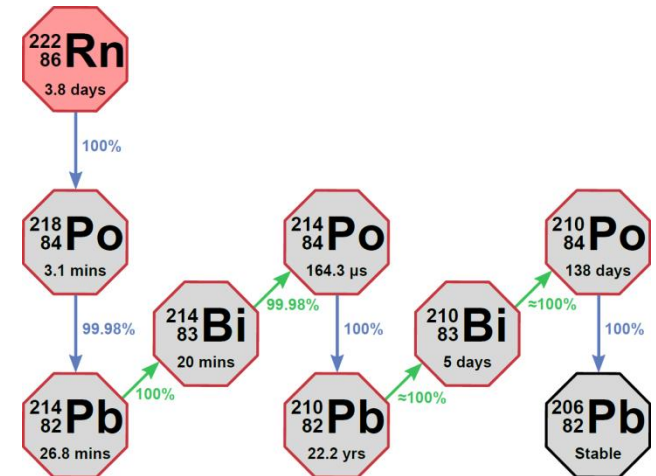
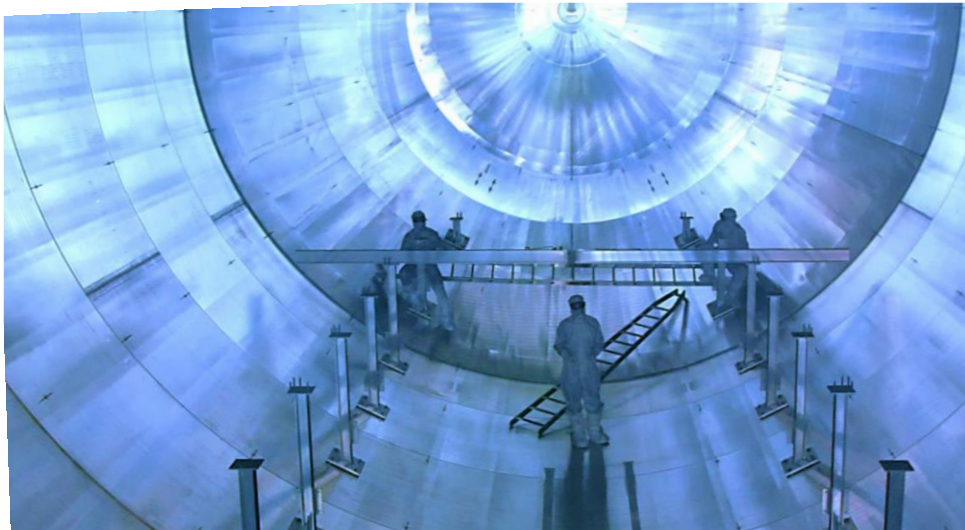
- $^{210}\text{Pb}$  must have been deposited in spectrometer over the course of inner electrode assembly and commissioning.



# Radon progeny in the Main Spectrometer

## Deposition mechanism

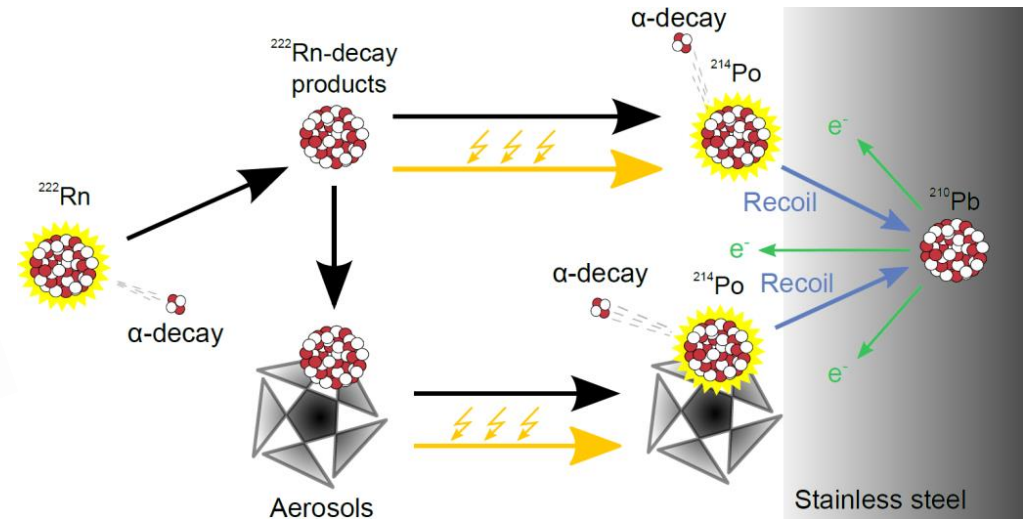
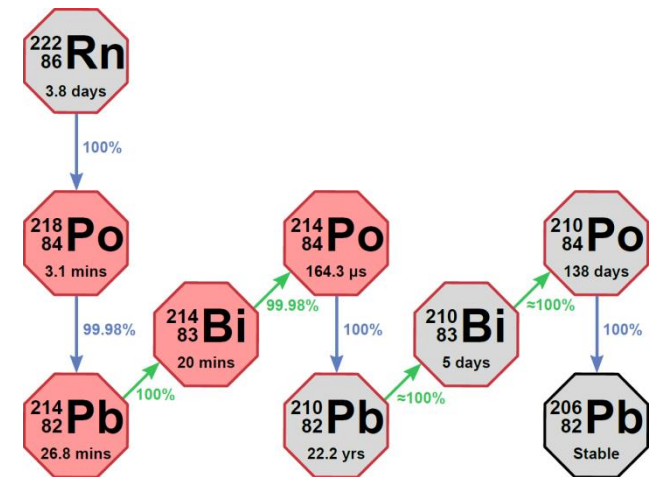
- Spectrometer was vented to ambient air for years during installation of inner electrode system.



# Radon progeny in the Main Spectrometer

## Deposition mechanism

- Spectrometer was vented to ambient air for years during installation of inner electrode system.
- Rn-progeny is plated-out on spectrometer surfaces by various transport mechanisms.



**A Radon Progeny Deposition Model**  
V. E. Guiseppe\*, S. R. Elliott†, A. Hime†, K. Rielage† and S. Westerdale†\*\*

\*University of South Dakota, Vermillion, South Dakota 57069  
†Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545  
\*\*Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

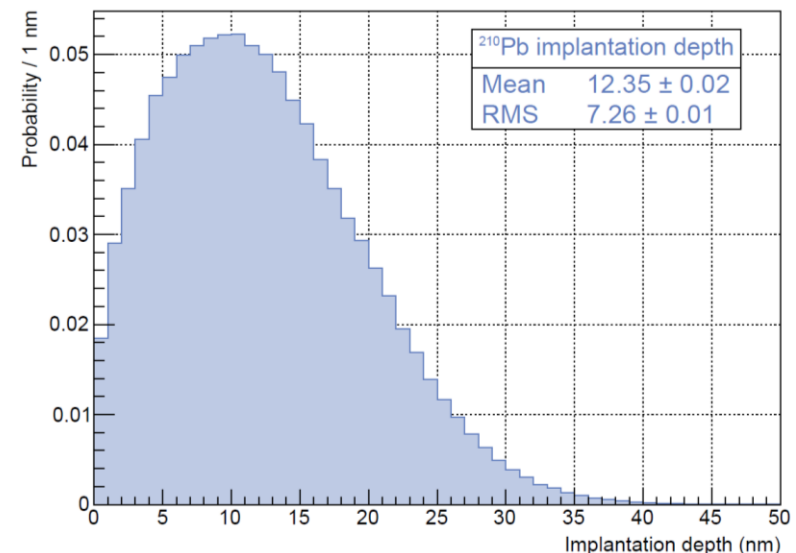
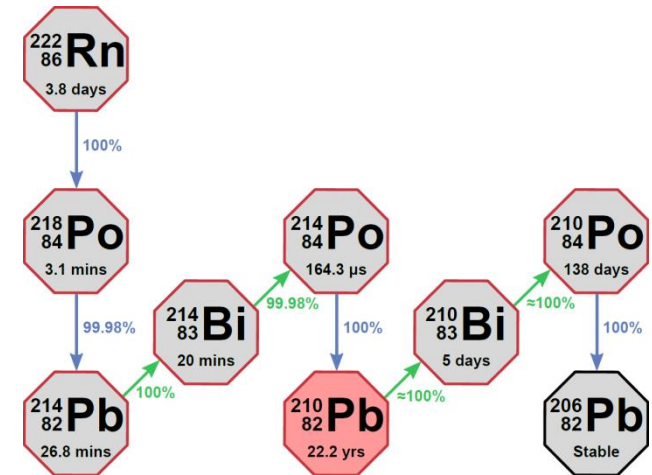
**Abstract.** The next generation low-background detectors operating underground aim for unprecedented low levels of radioactive backgrounds. Although the radioactive decays of airborne radon (particularly  $^{222}\text{Rn}$ ) and its subsequent progeny present in an experiment are potential backgrounds, also problematic is the deposition of radon progeny on detector materials. Exposure to radon at any stage of assembly of an experiment can result in surface contamination by progeny supported by the long half life (22 y) of  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  on sensitive locations of a detector. An understanding of the potential surface contamination from deposition will enable requirements of radon-reduced air and clean room environments for the assembly of low background experiments. It is known that there are a number of environmental factors that govern the deposition of progeny onto surfaces. However, existing models have not explored the impact of some environmental factors important for low background experiments. A test stand has been constructed to deposit radon progeny on various surfaces under a controlled environment in order to develop a deposition model. Results from this test stand and the resulting deposition model are presented.

Keywords: radon, low background, surface contamination  
PACS: 29.40.-n, 23.40.-s, 95.35.+d

# Radon progeny in the Main Spectrometer

## Deposition mechanism

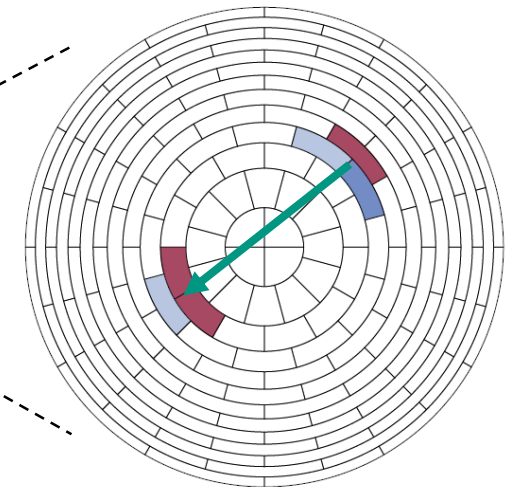
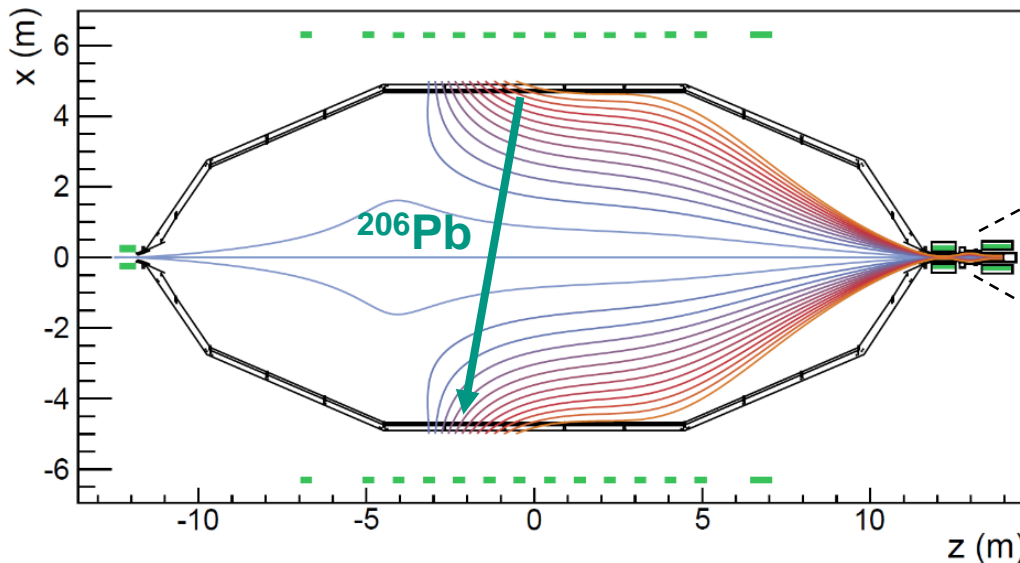
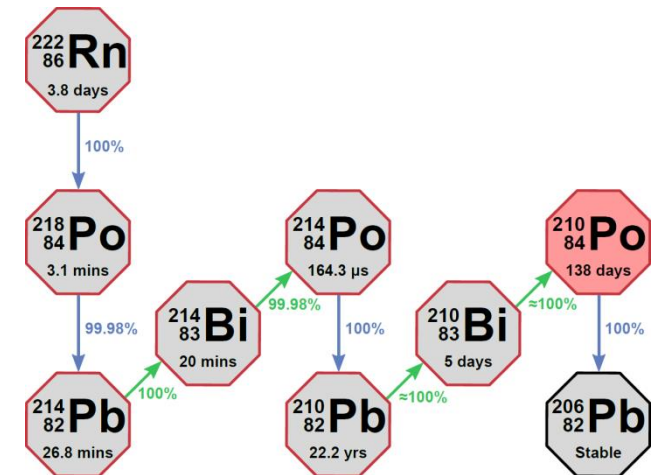
- Spectrometer was vented to ambient air for years during installation of inner electrode system.
- Rn-progeny is plated-out on spectrometer surfaces by various transport mechanisms.
- Implantation of  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  into sub-surface layers due to recoil of  $^{214}\text{Po}$ .
- No direct background contribution by  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  in KATRIN standard operation.



# Radon progeny in the Main Spectrometer

## Consequences

- Recoil of  $^{210}\text{Po}$   $\alpha$ -decay causes sputtering on the inner surfaces of the Main Spectrometer.
- Short bursts of secondary electron emission on ms-timescale.

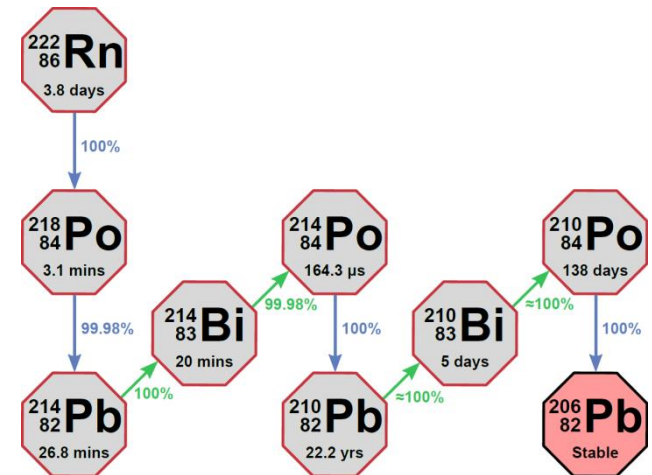




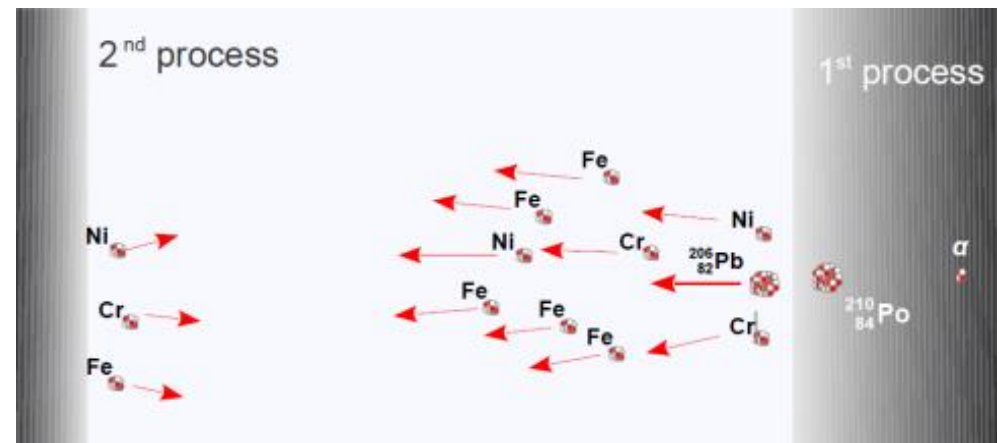
# Radon progeny in the Main Spectrometer

## Consequences

- Recoil of  $^{210}\text{Po}$   $\alpha$ -decay causes sputtering on the inner surfaces of the Main Spectrometer.
- Short bursts of secondary electron emission on ms-timescale.
- **Idea: Rydberg atoms are generated in sputtering process.**



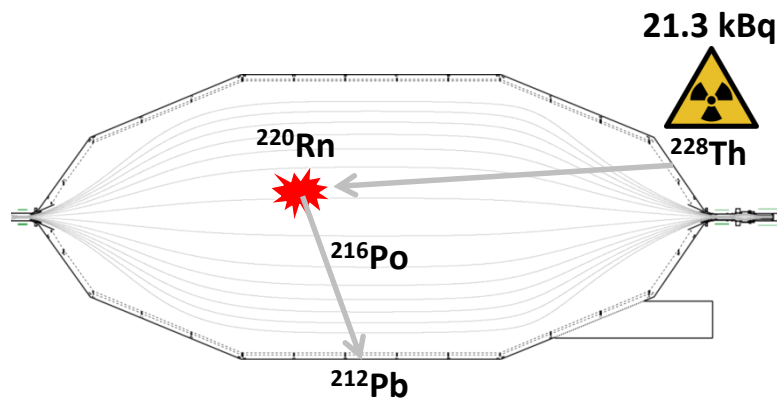
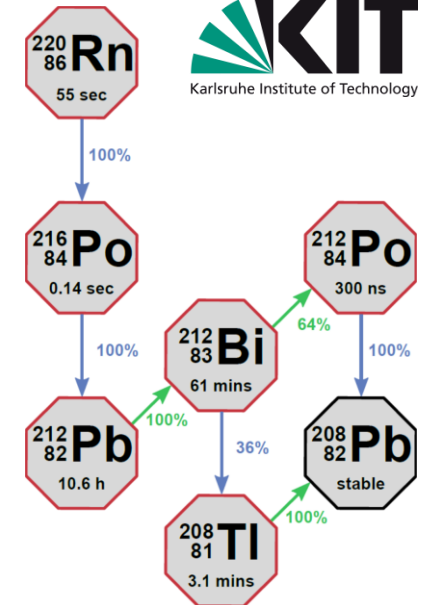
**Ion-Stimulated Desorption (ISD)**



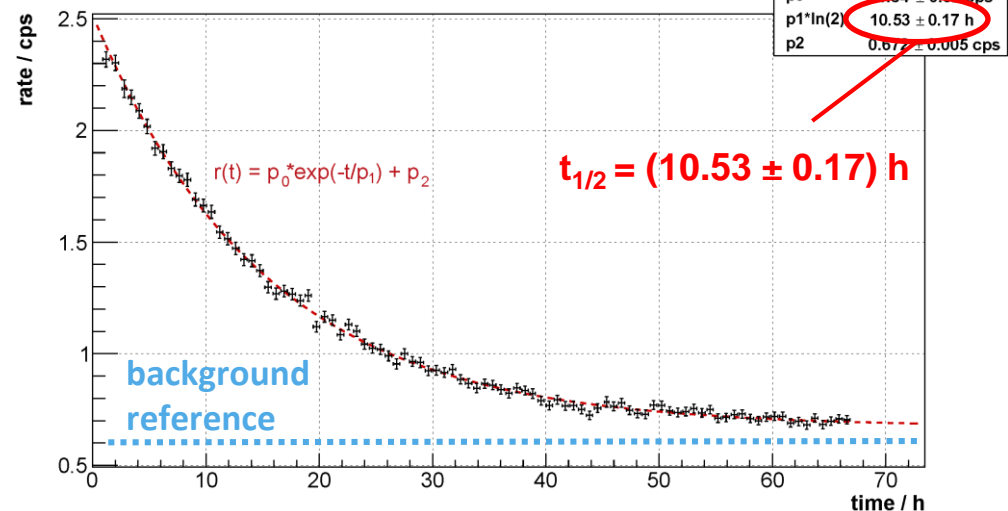
# Radon progeny in the Main Spectrometer

Experimental test

- Idea: Use short-lived alternative for  $^{210}\text{Pb} \rightarrow ^{212}\text{Pb}$ .
- Artificially contaminate Main Spectrometer surfaces.



Background rate after contamination:

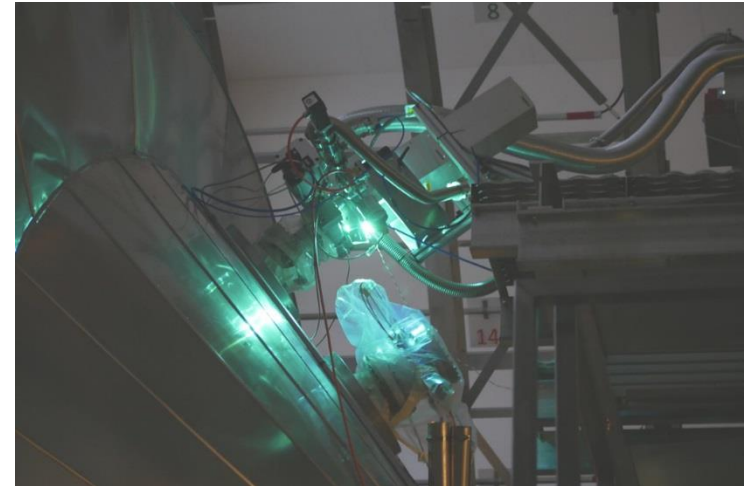


**$^{210}\text{Pb}$  contamination in Main Spectrometer is root cause of elevated background rate at KATRIN!**

# Radon progeny in the Main Spectrometer

Countermeasures against Rydberg background

- Cleaning inner surfaces to get rid of radon progeny.
  - Well established techniques from other experiments (Borexino, Gerda, etc.)
  - Difficult to carry out in case of KATRIN (vessel size, electrode system, etc.)
- Using strong UV light source (LightHammer) to reduce hydrogen reservoir on the inner spectrometer surface.
  - Tests are currently ongoing.



# Radon progeny in the Main Spectrometer

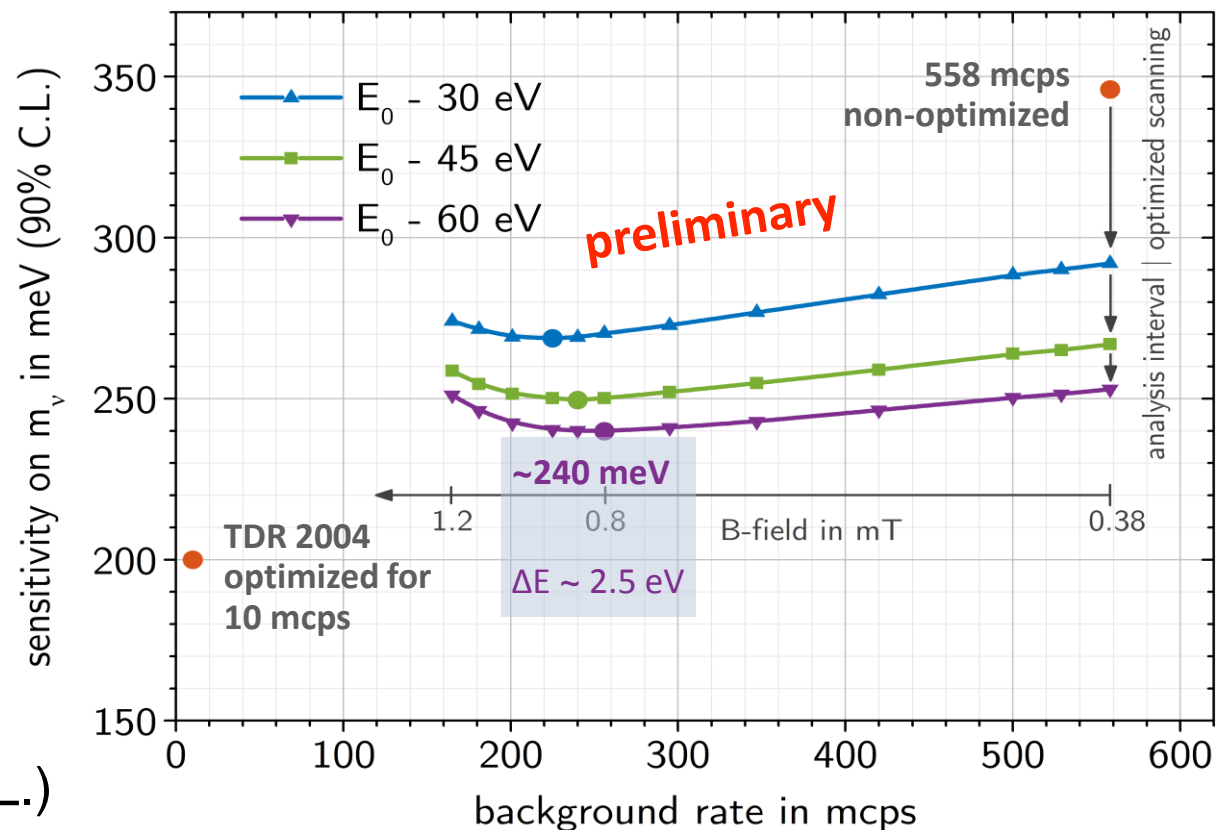
## Consequences of Rydberg background for KATRIN

- Measured background level is 56x higher than design level. Without any optimizations this worsens the KATRIN sensitivity to ~350 meV.

### Optimizations:

- Scanning strategy
- Analysis interval
- Reduce volume with drawback of worse energy resolution

- KATRIN still reaches a sensitivity of 240 meV (90% C.L.)

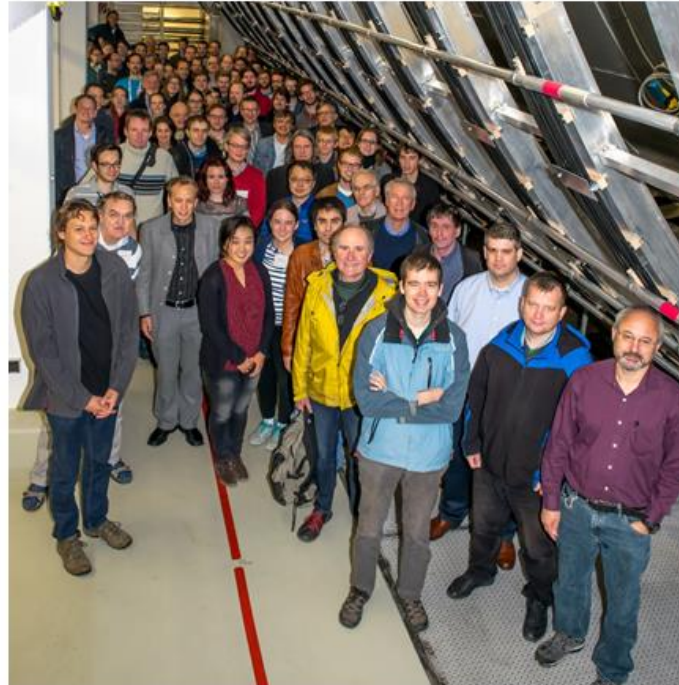
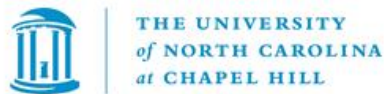




# Conclusion & Outlook

- Current background level at KATRIN significantly higher than design.
- Background not related to background sources observed in predecessor experiments.
- Background characteristics indicate neutral messenger particles from spectrometer walls that are being ionized in the volume  
→ Model of Rydberg atom induced background.
- Recent measurement results prove direct link between deposition of Rn-progeny on inner spectrometer surfaces and background level.
- Tests of intense UV light source as potential countermeasure are ongoing.
- Even with elevated background level, KATRIN can reach sensitivity of  $240 \text{ meV} / c^2$  (90% C.L.).

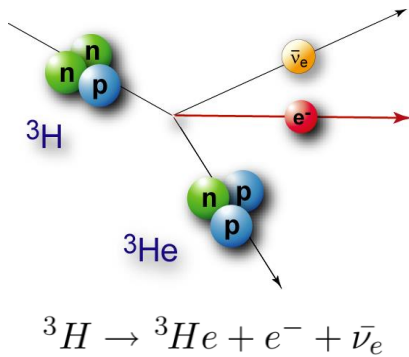
# The KATRIN Collaboration



# Backup Slides

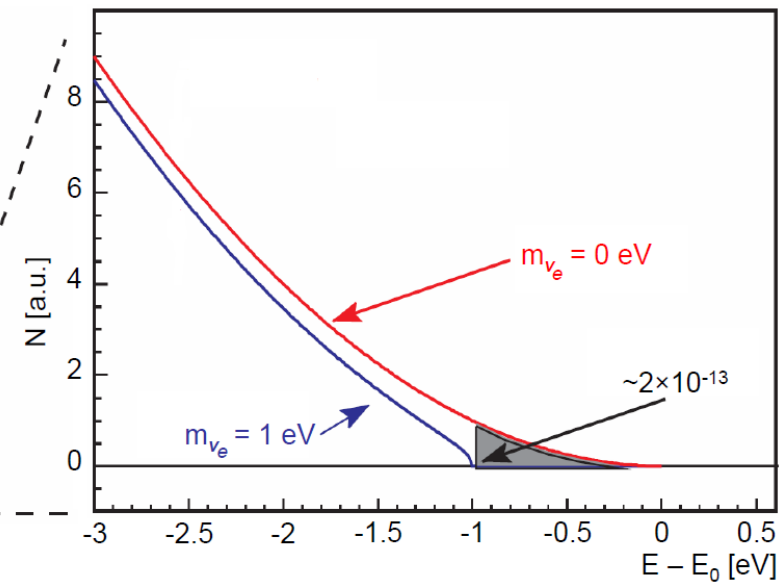
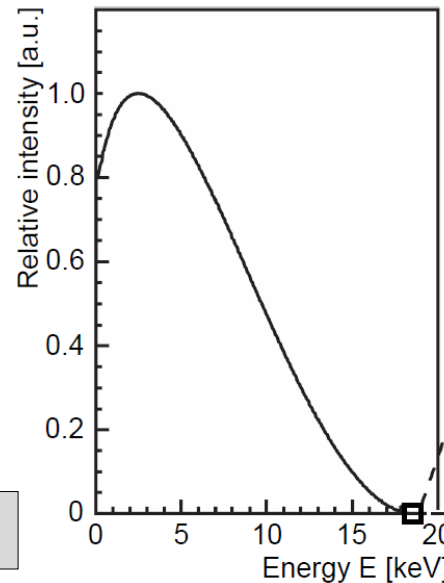
# The KATRIN experiment

## Single beta decay



$$t_{1/2} = 12.3 \text{ a}$$

$$E_0 = 18.6 \text{ keV}$$



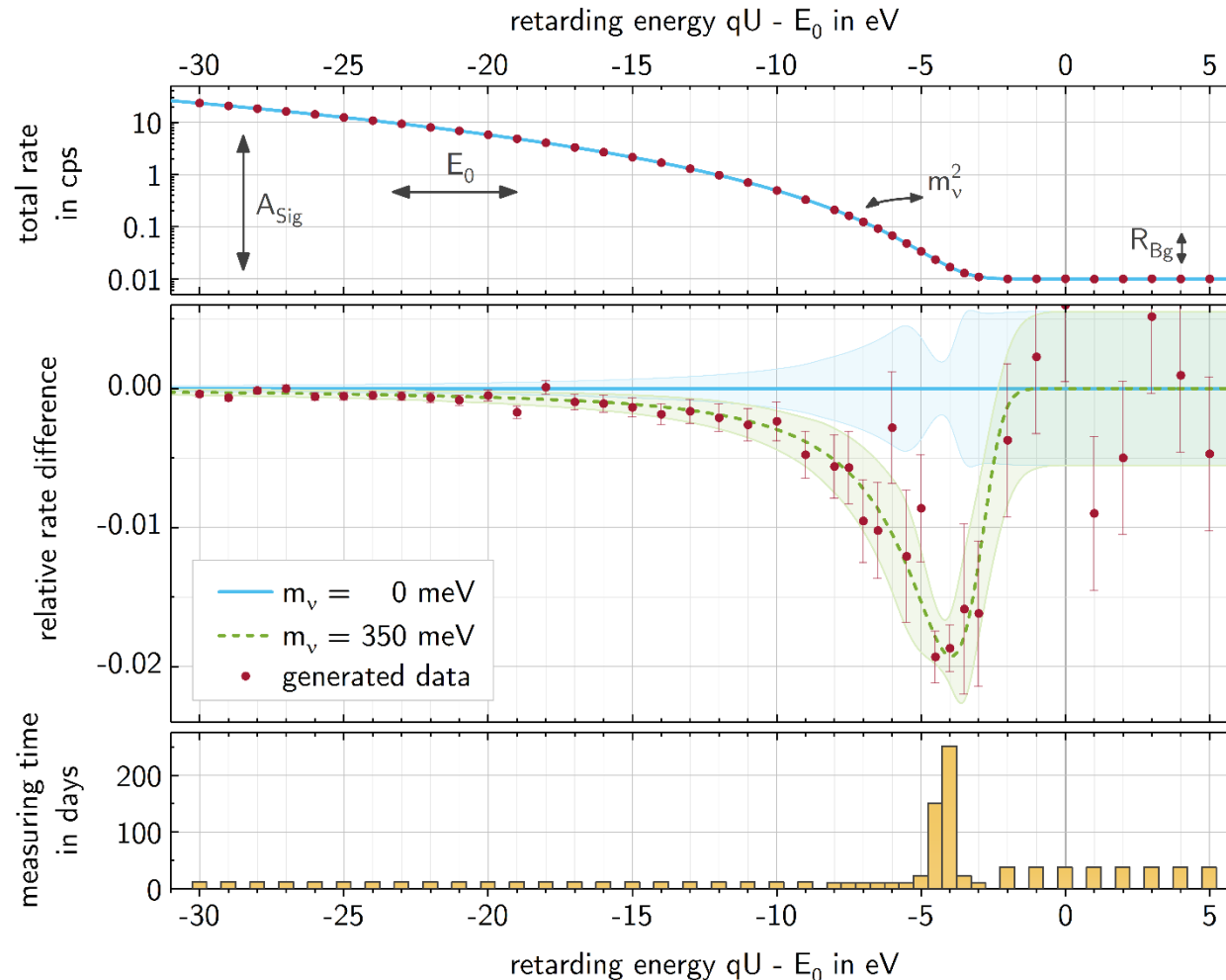
$$\frac{d\Gamma}{dE} = C p(E + m_e) (E_0 - E) \sqrt{(E_0 - E)^2 - m_{\nu_e}^2} F(E) \theta(E_0 - E - m_{\nu_e})$$

$$m_\nu < 0.2 \text{ eV (90 \% C.L.)}$$

$$m_{\nu_e}^2 = \sum_{i=1}^3 |U_{ei}|^2 m_i^2$$

# The KATRIN experiment

## Measurement principle



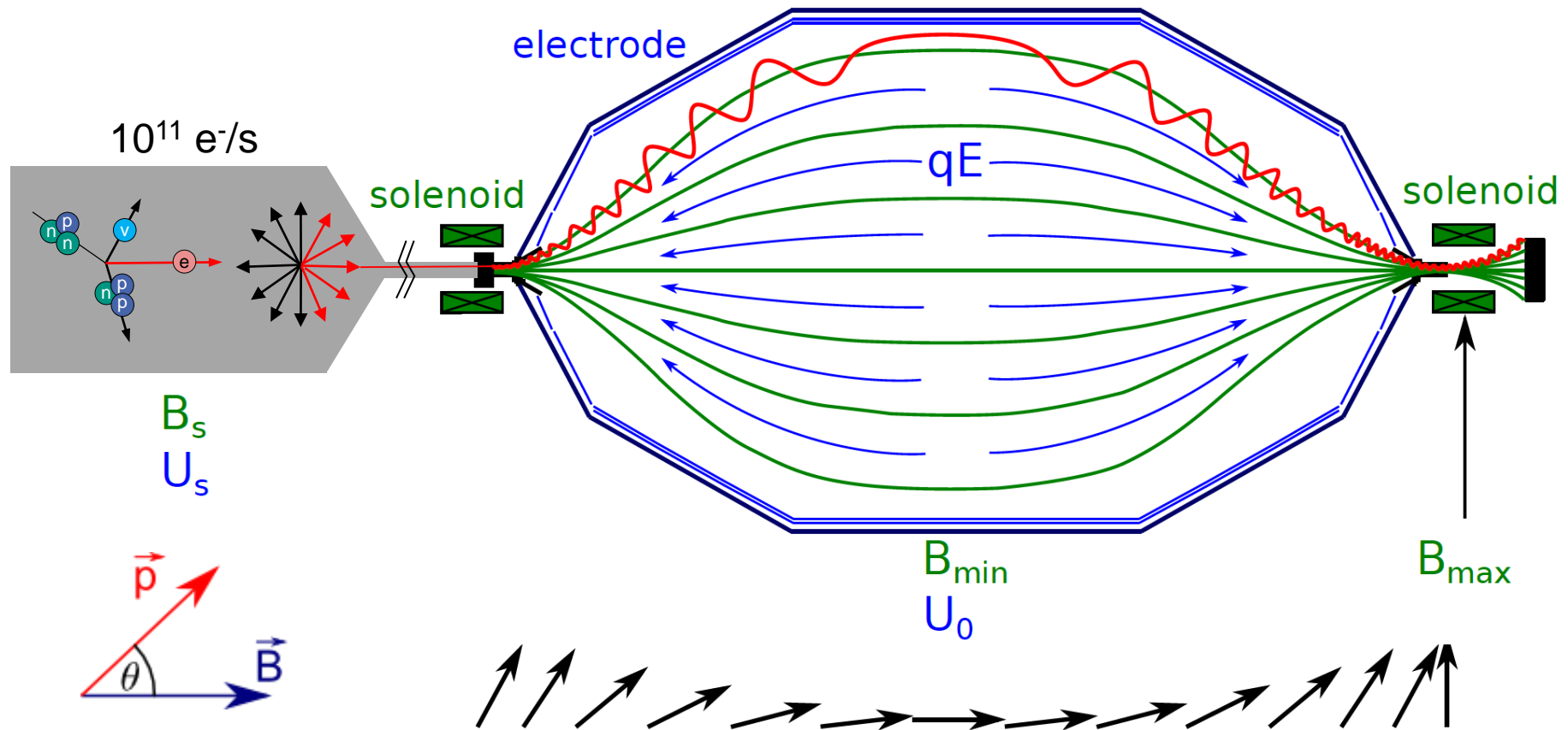
Integrated  $T_2$   $\beta$  spectrum close to kinematic endpoint at  $E_0 = 18.6$  keV

Impact of nonzero  $m_\nu$  on spectral shape is most pronounced a few eV below  $E_0$

Optimized measurement time distribution to increase sensitivity

# The KATRIN experiment

## MAC-E filter



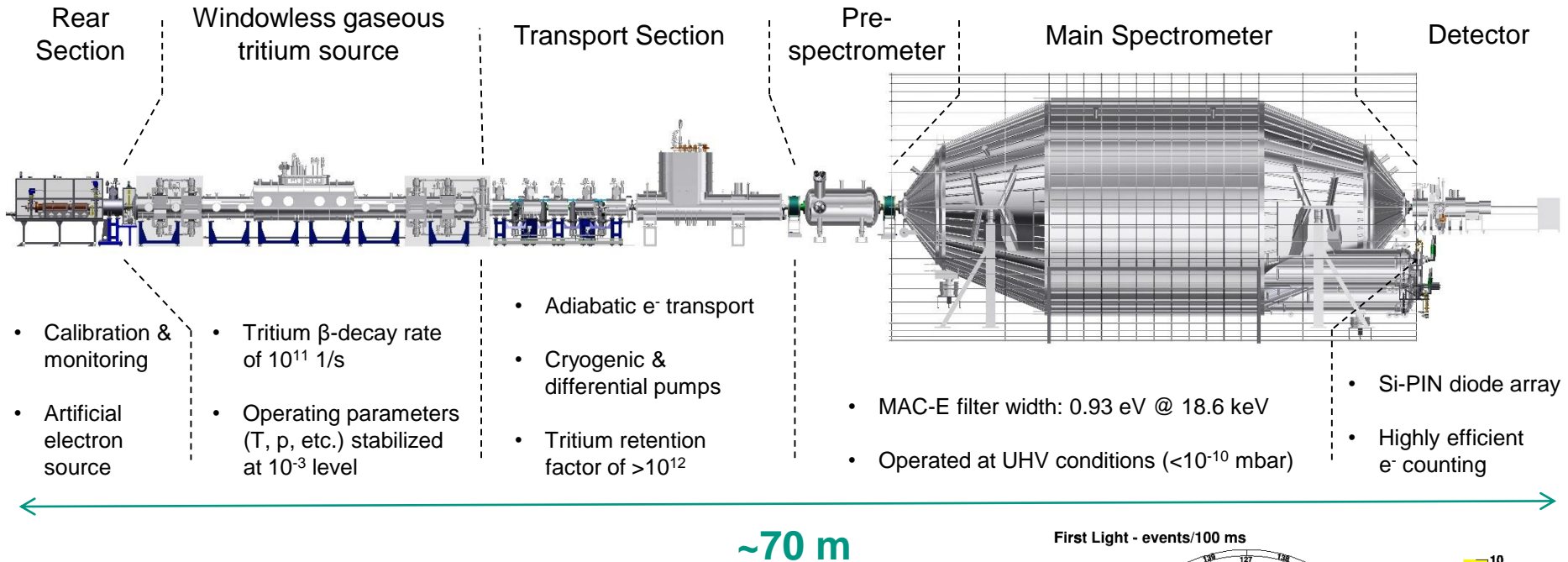
$$\mu = \frac{E_{\perp}}{B} = const.$$

$$E_{kin} = E_{||} + E_{\perp}$$

$$\Delta E = 0.93 \text{ eV}$$

# The KATRIN experiment

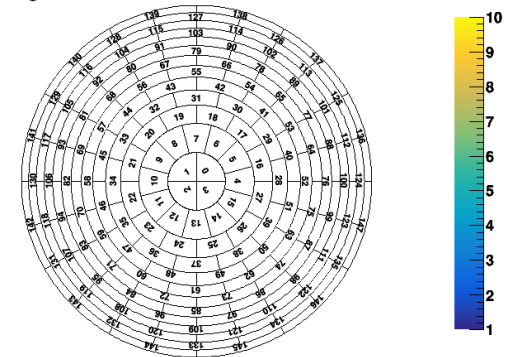
## Experimental beamline



➡ Closed beamline at **23<sup>rd</sup> September 2016**

➡ First Light event on **14<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

First Light - events/100 ms

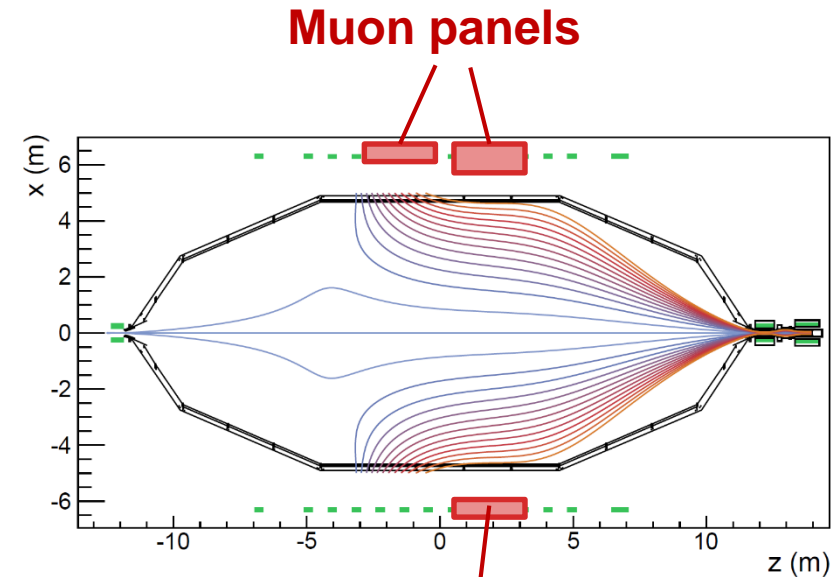
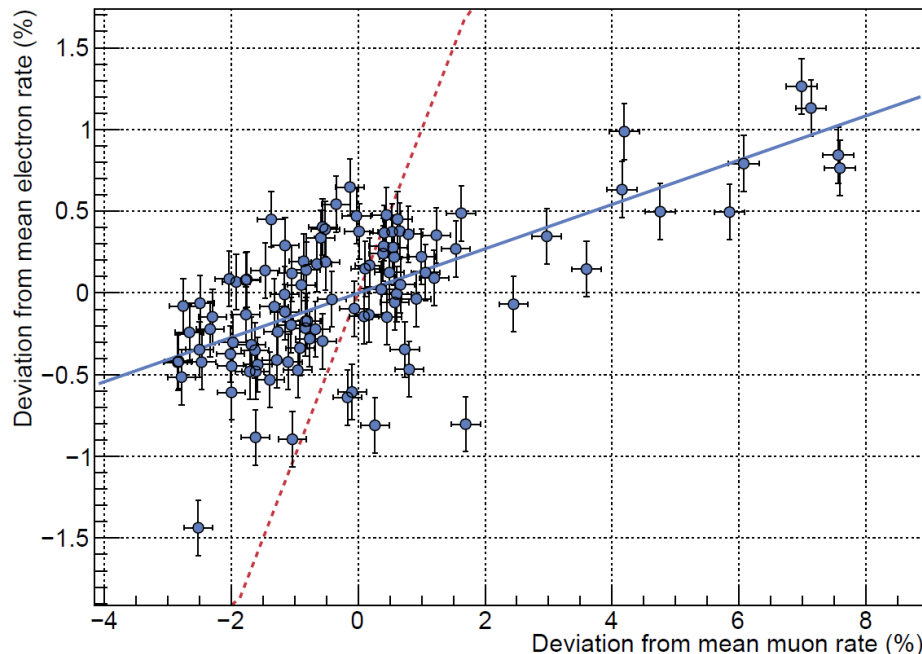




# Background characteristics at KATRIN

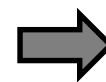
## Expected background sources

- Investigated muon vs. secondary electron correlation.
- Small fraction of secondary electron rate is found to be muon induced.



Muon panel

$$a = 13.6 \pm 0.8 \%$$



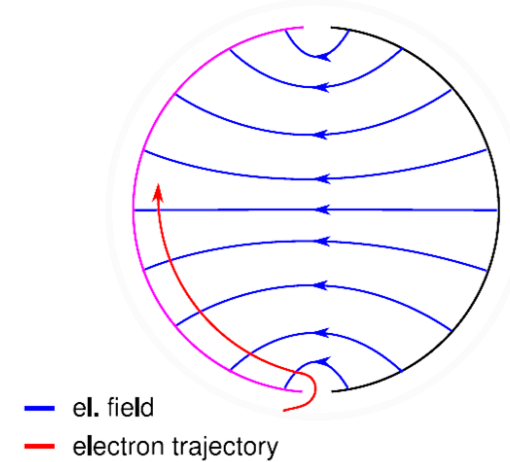
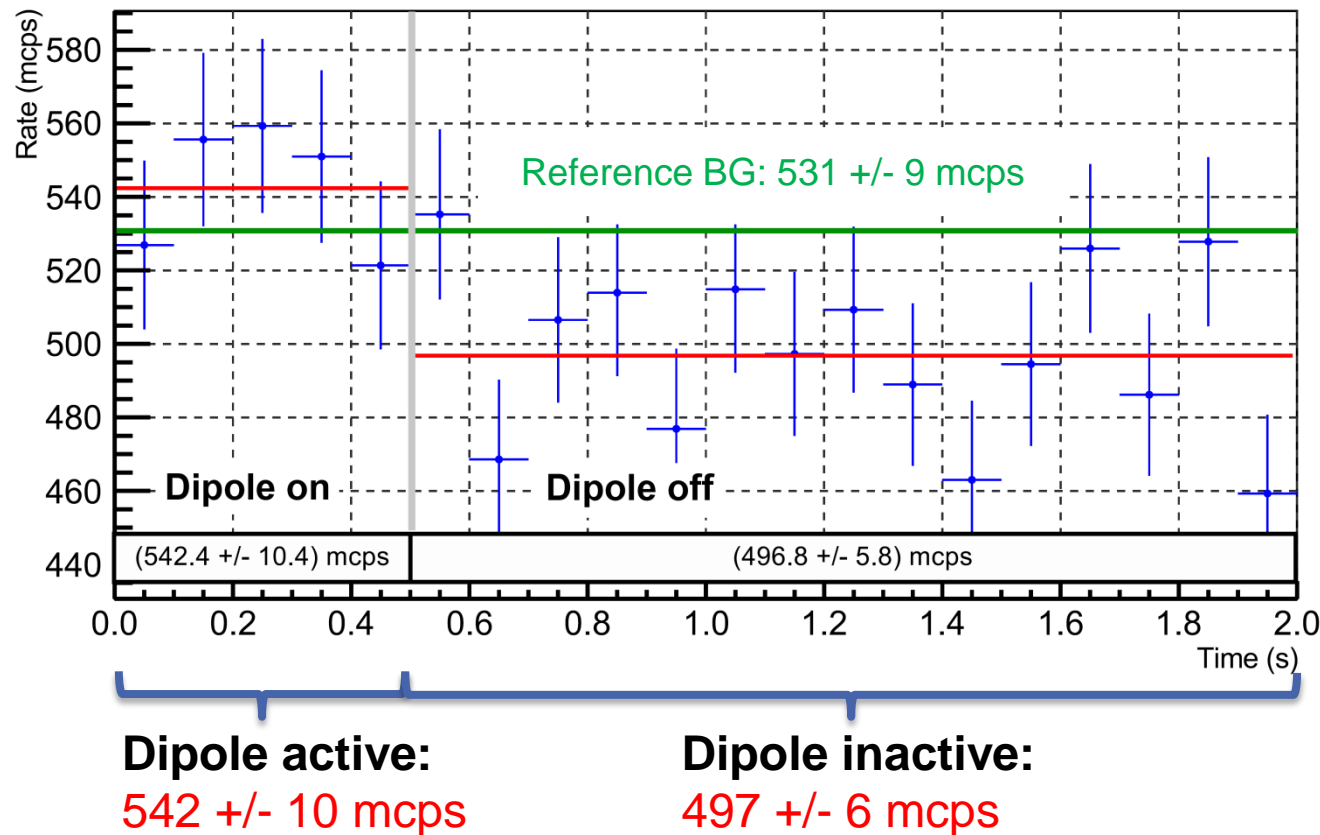
**For symmetric case no correlation was found!**



# Background characteristics at KATRIN

## Effect of electric dipole

- Electric dipole to drift-out stored particles of energies  $E > 1$  eV.



→ No significant impact of electric dipole on background level observed.

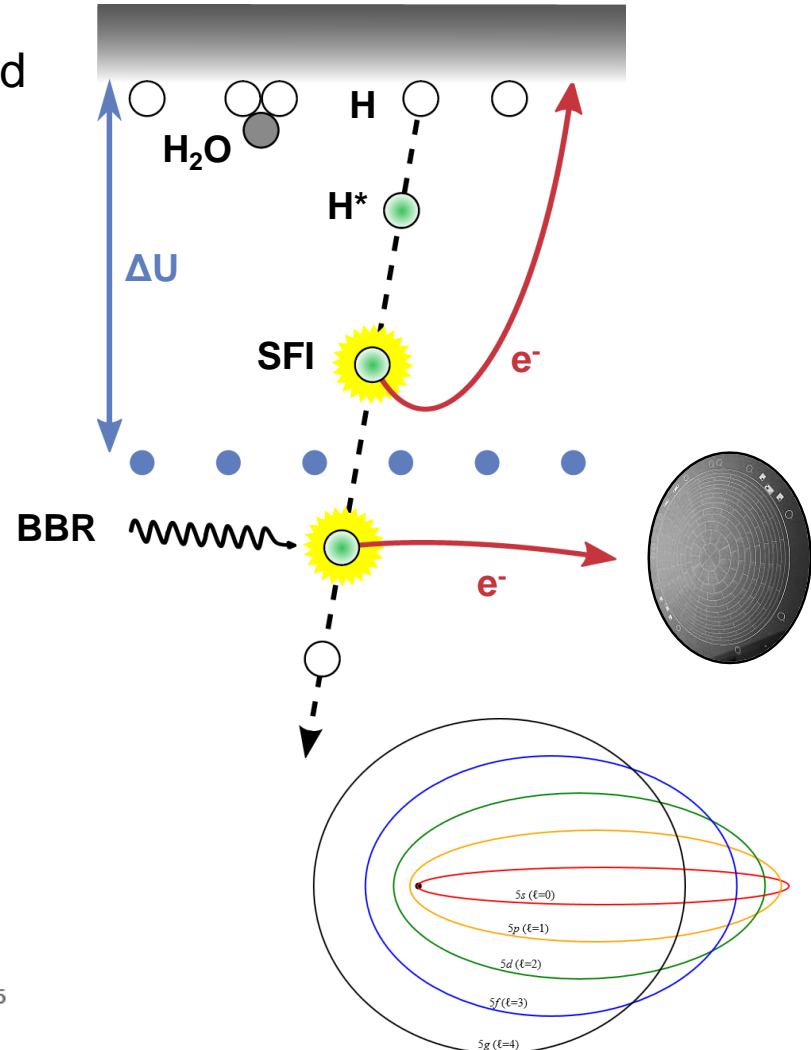
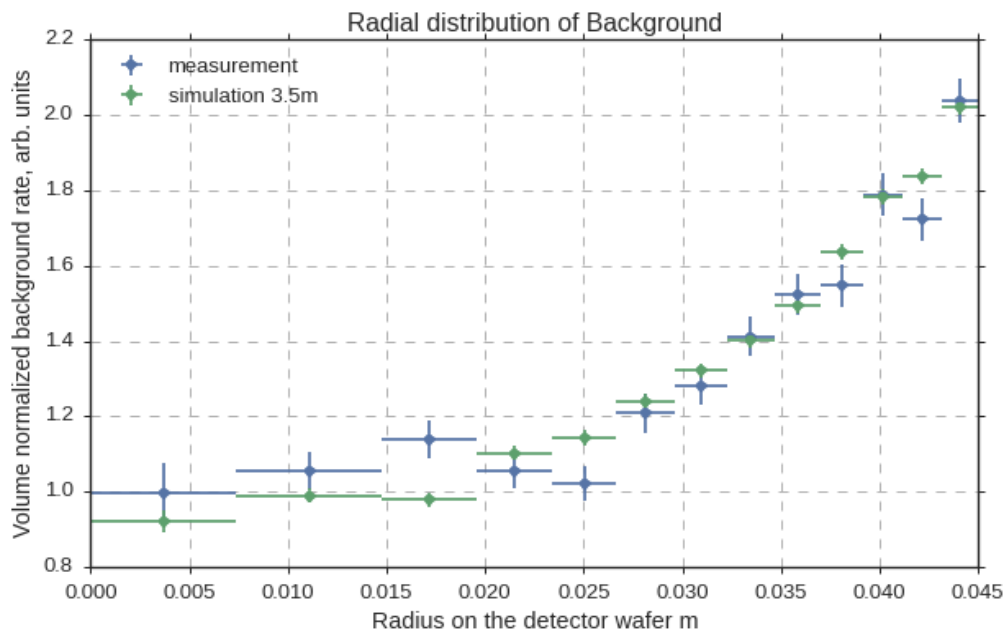
→ Background electrons must be low-energetic ( $E < 1$  eV).

# The Rydberg-atom based background model

## Characteristics

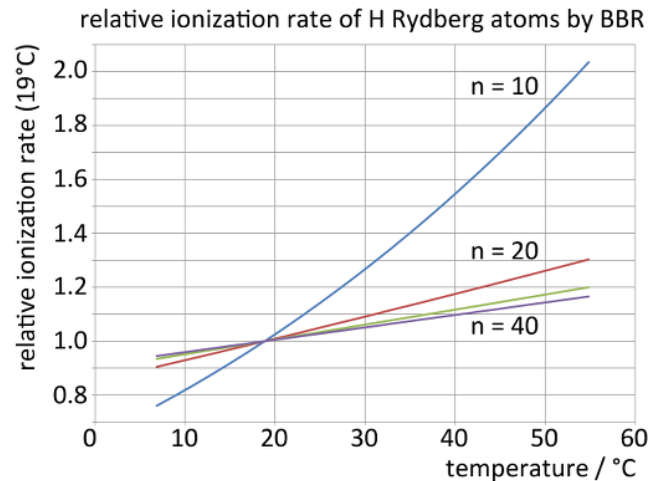
How to combine volume dependent background with surface conditions and  $\Delta U$ -dependence?

→ **Neutral messenger particles**  
(Hydrogen Rydberg atoms)

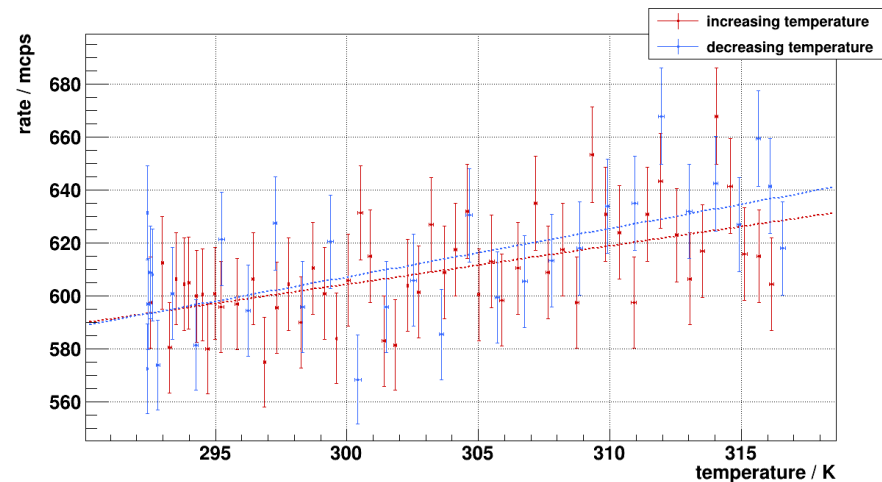


# Rydberg model – temperature dependence

- Spectrometer temperature was increased from 19°C to 43°C
- Linear increase expected for large  $n$
- Most of background could be due to Rydberg atoms



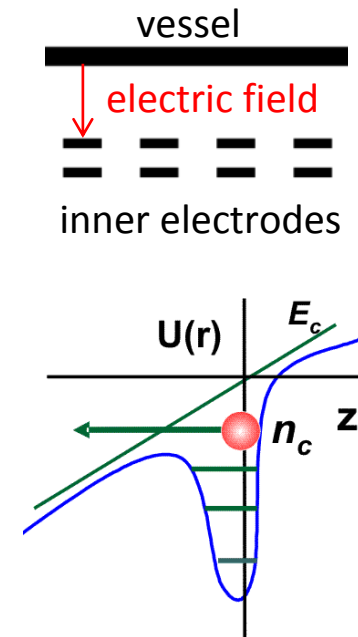
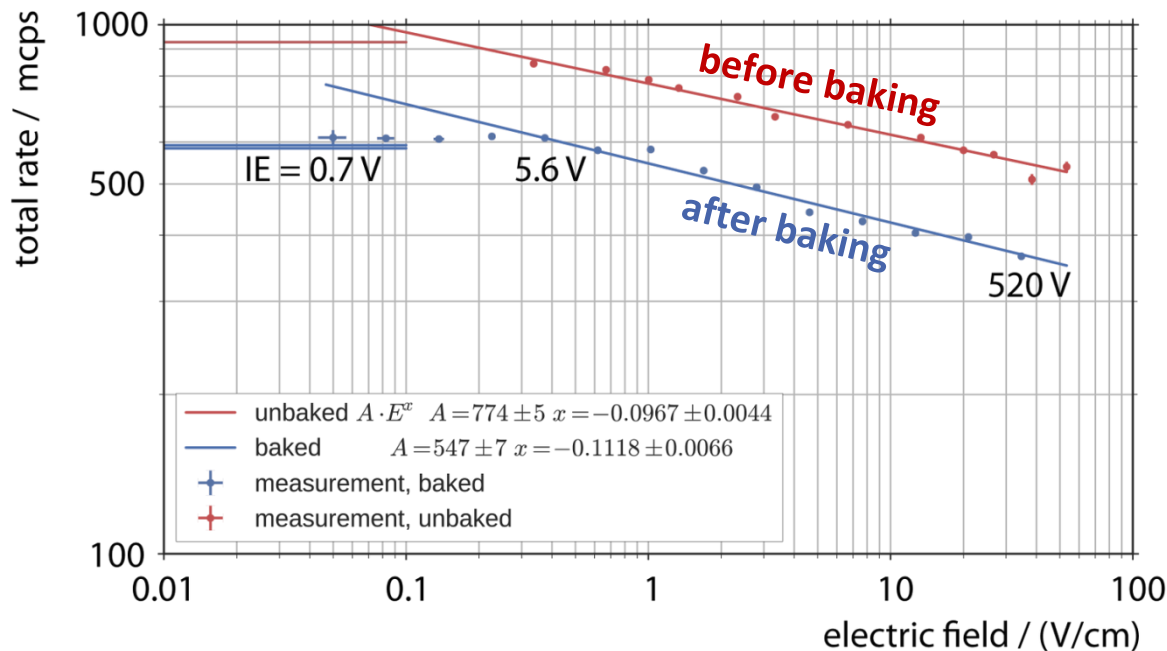
G.W. Lehman, "Rate of ionisation of H and Na Rydberg atoms by black-body radiation", J. Phys. B, 1983



normalized slope (average):  $0.79 \pm 0.12$

correlation factor: 0.6

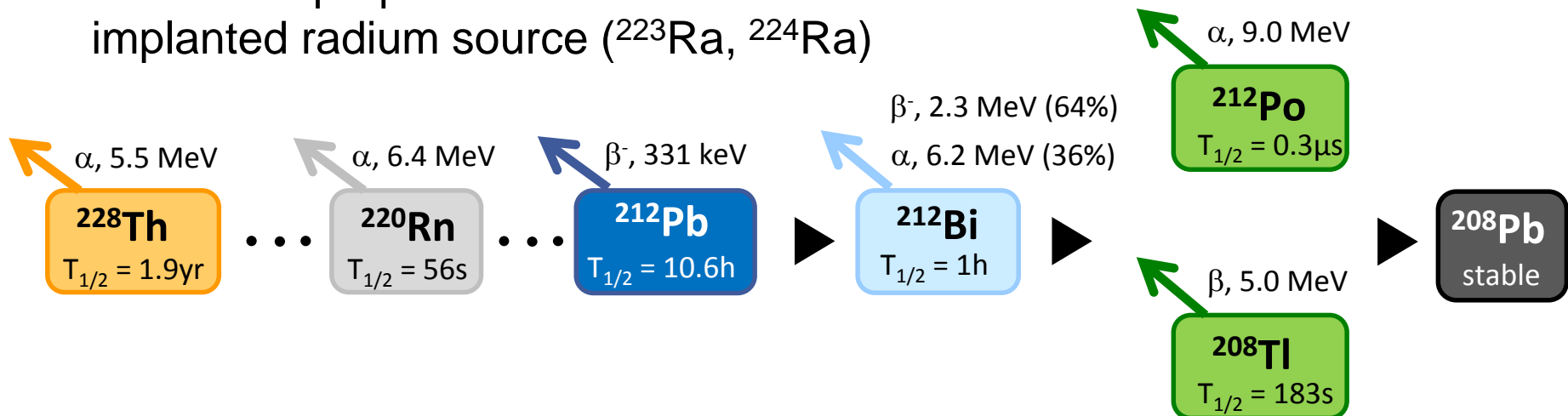
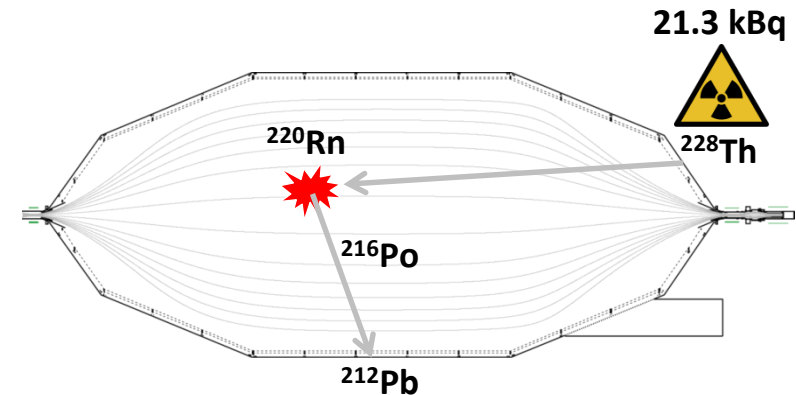
# Rydberg model – selective field ionization



- Spectrometer baking improved background, but same behavior after baking
- Rydberg atoms are ionized by the electric field between vessel and electrodes and hence can not reach the inner spectrometer volume

# Rydberg model test

- attach  $^{228}\text{Th}$  source to main spectrometer
- “contaminate” inner surface with  $^{212}\text{Pb}$
- close valve to  $^{228}\text{Th}$  source and check for exponentially decaying background rate
- alternative proposal: use short lived implanted radium source ( $^{223}\text{Ra}$ ,  $^{224}\text{Ra}$ )



# $^{228}\text{Th}$ source – contamination phase

$^{228}\text{Th}$  source (21.3 kBq)



- Source courtesy of XENON collaboration (Thanks to V. Hannen / C. Weinheimer)
- Exposure started on Dec 1st, 2016
- Exposure time 20h 6min (about  $2 \times T_{1/2}$ , 73%)

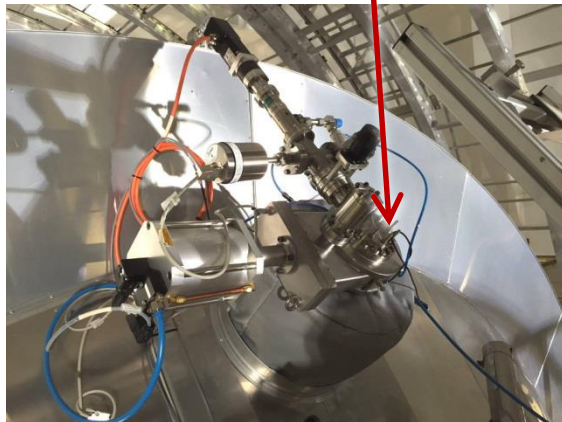


filter



rate after opening valve to source (warm baffles):

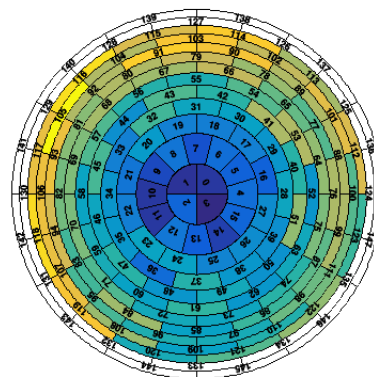
rate before closing valve to source (cold baffles):



MS pump port 100

Pixel Distribution Electron ROI

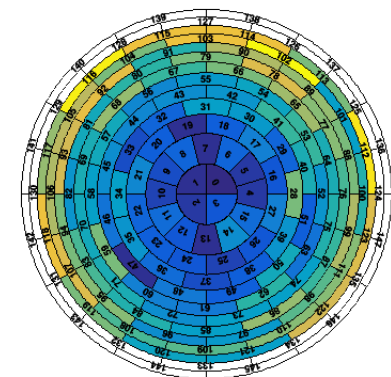
(cps)



$78 \pm 0.8$  cps

Pixel Distribution Electron ROI

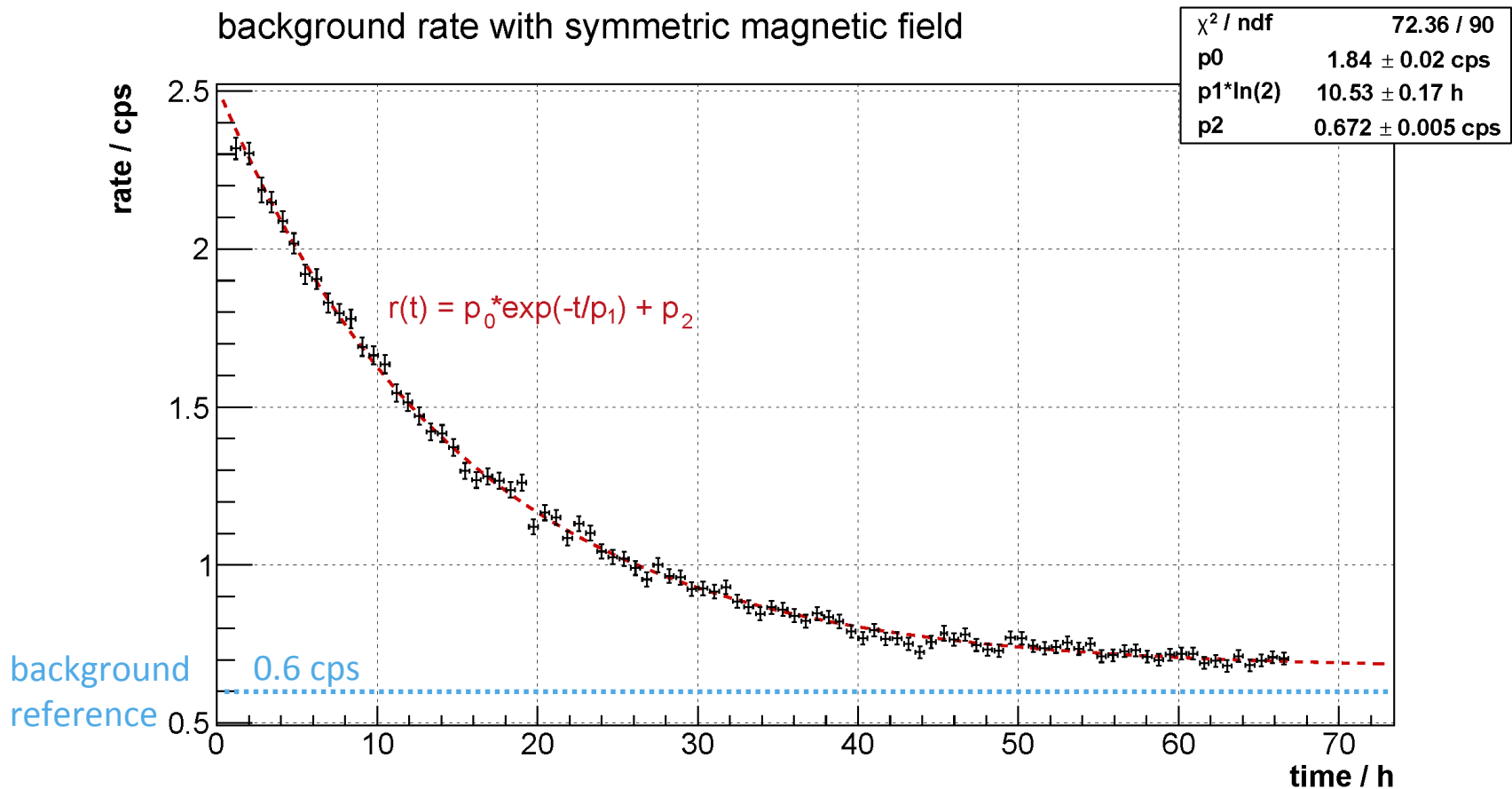
(cps)



$28 \pm 0.5$  cps

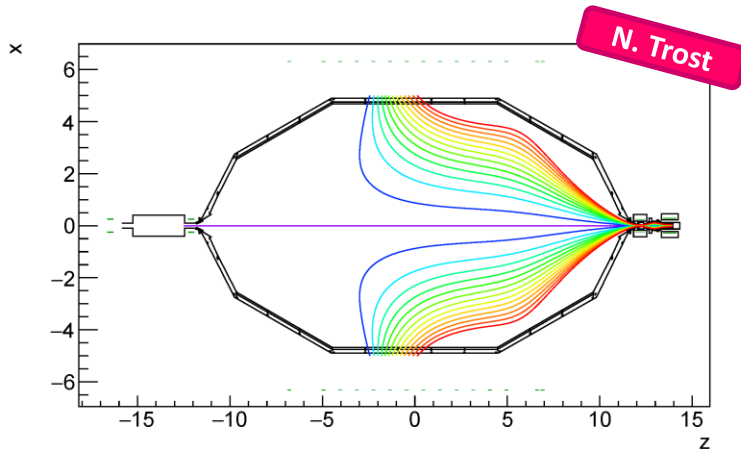
# $^{212}\text{Pb}$ contamination – decay phase

background rate with symmetric magnetic field



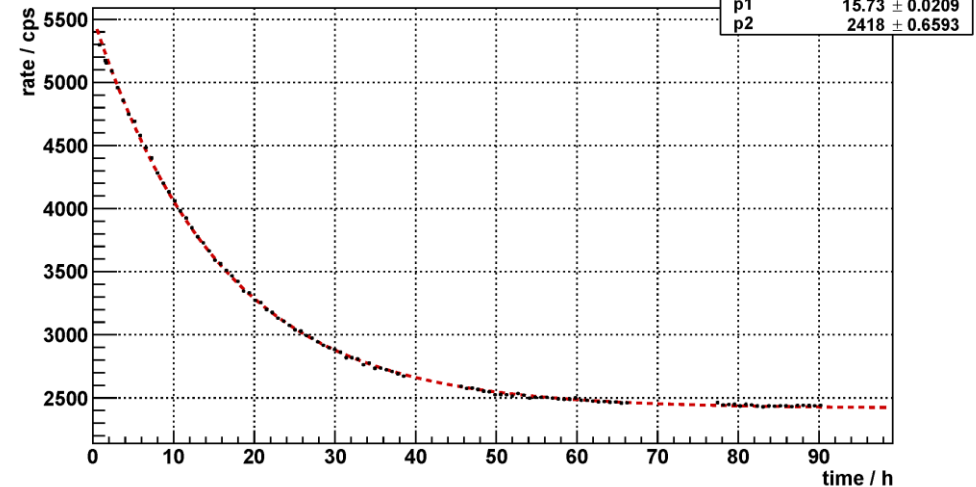
- Observed half-life matches  $^{212}\text{Pb}$  literature value of  $10.64 \pm 0.01$  very well
- Assuming similar processes,  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  contamination  $< 5.1 \text{ kBq}$

# $^{212}\text{Pb}$ contamination – decay phase

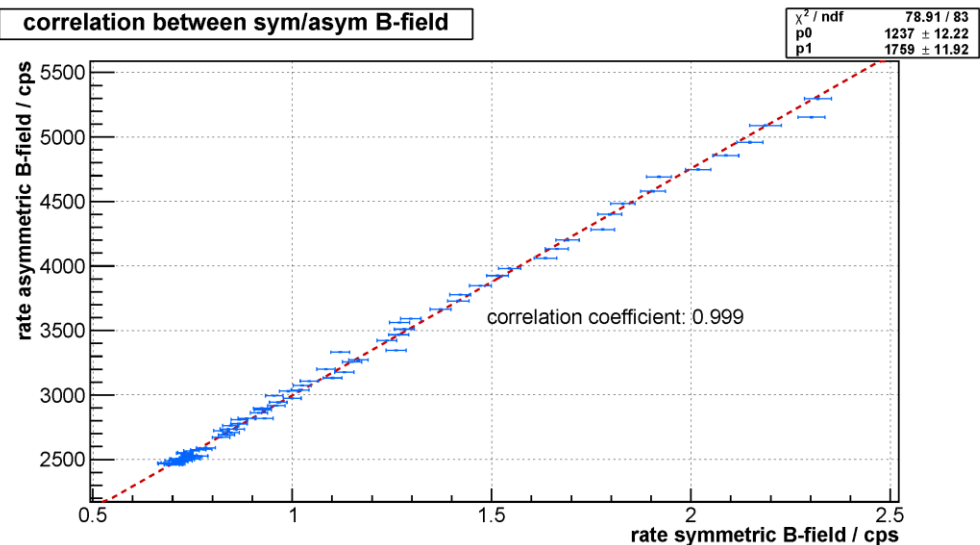


- rate from vessel wall shows the same exponential decay ( $T_{1/2} = 10.9$  h)
- There is a very strong correlation between electrons from the vessel wall and electrons from the spectrometer volume

rate - asymmetric B-field

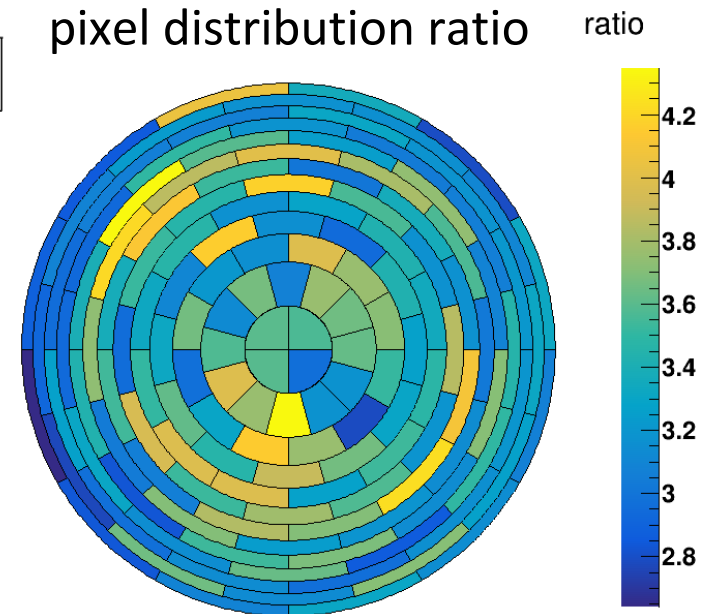
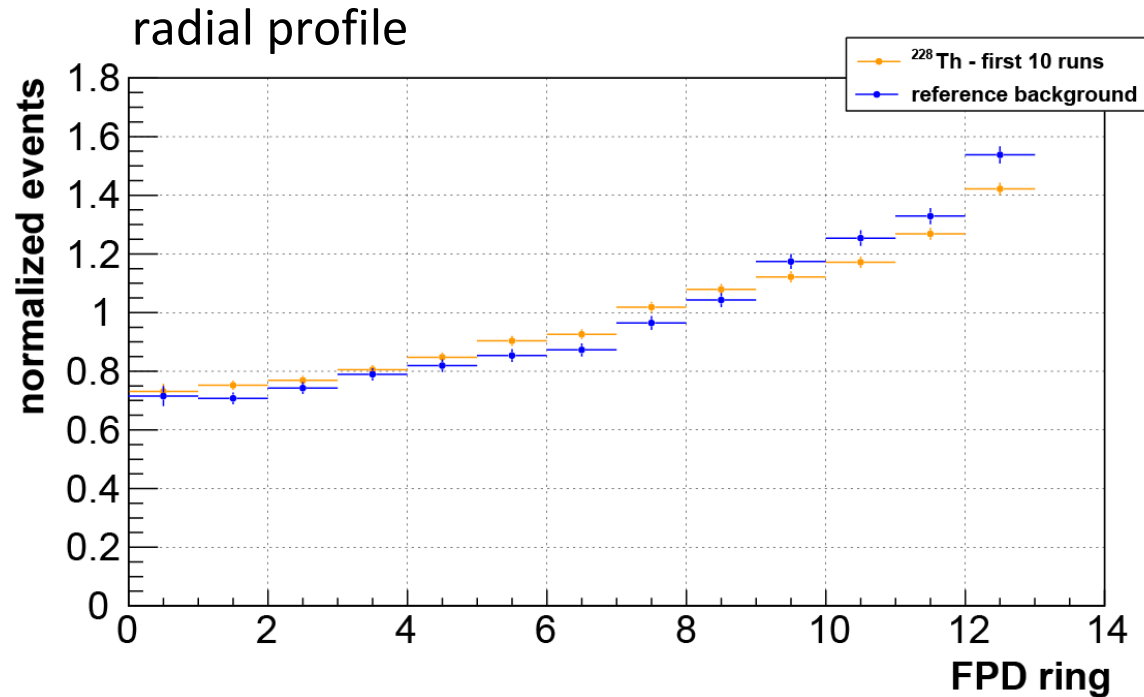


correlation between sym/asym B-field





# Background signature



■ induced background has the same behavior as existing background

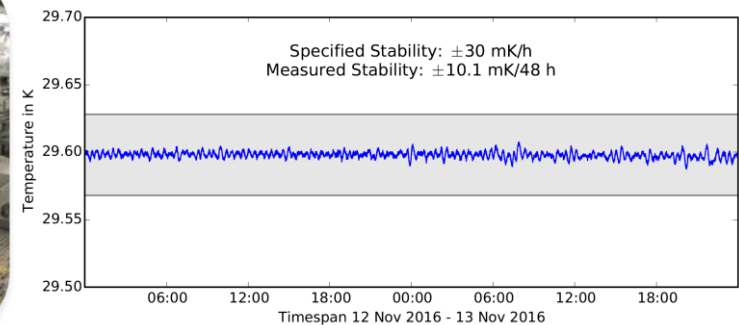
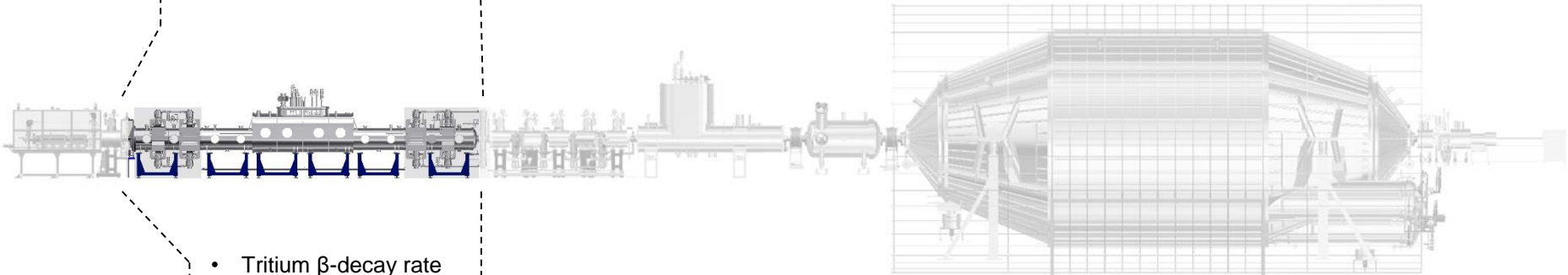
→ main spectrometer  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  contamination is root cause of background

# The experimental beamline

## Overview

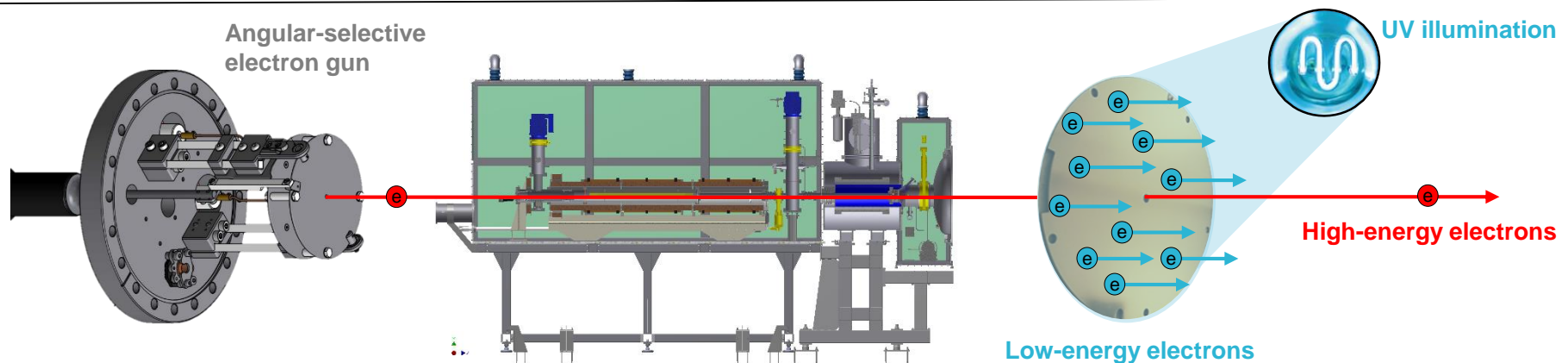
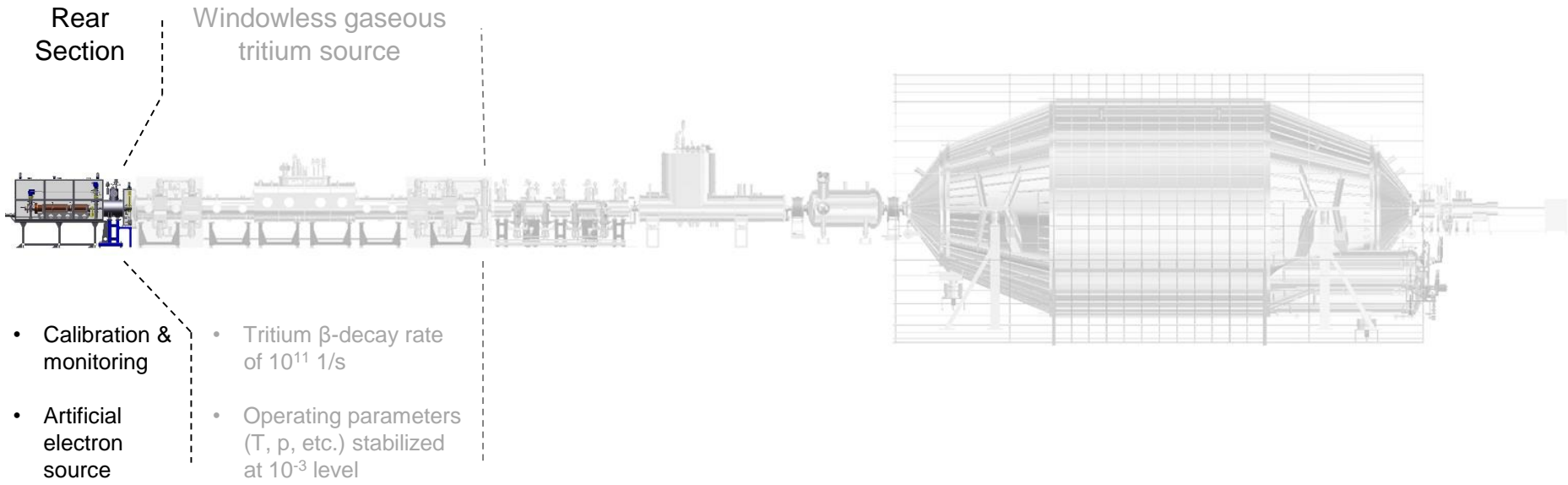
Windowless gaseous tritium source

- Tritium  $\beta$ -decay rate of  $10^{11}$  1/s
- Operating parameters (T, p, etc.) stabilized at  $10^{-3}$  level



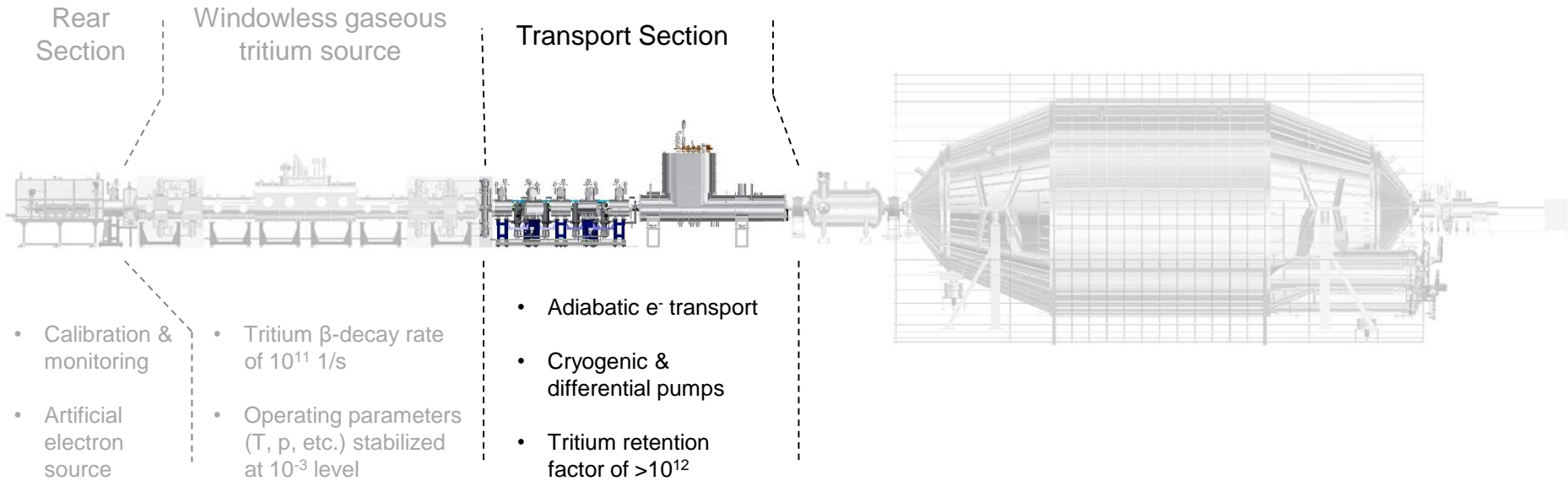
# The experimental beamline

## Overview

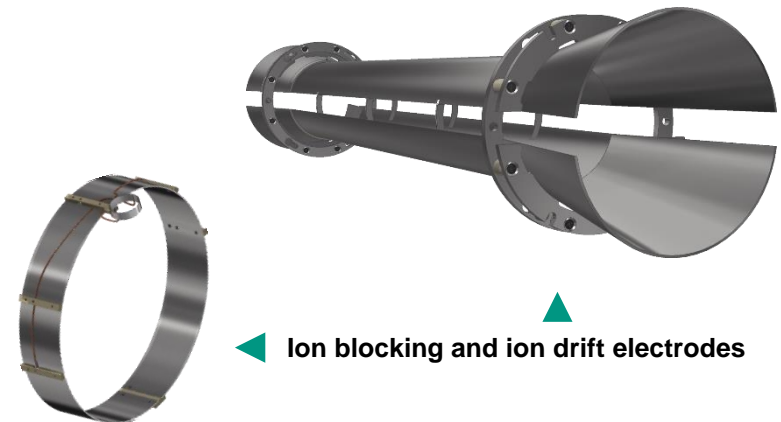


# The experimental beamline

## Overview

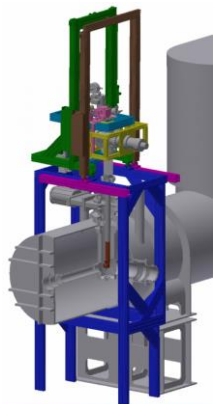
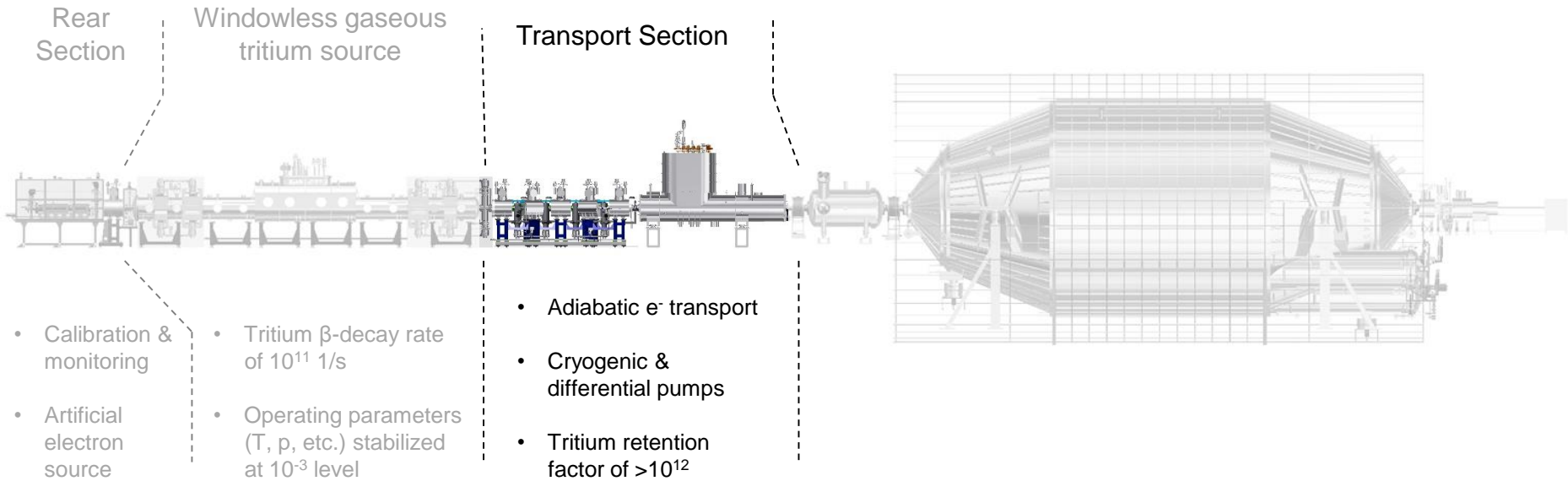


◀ Differential pumping section

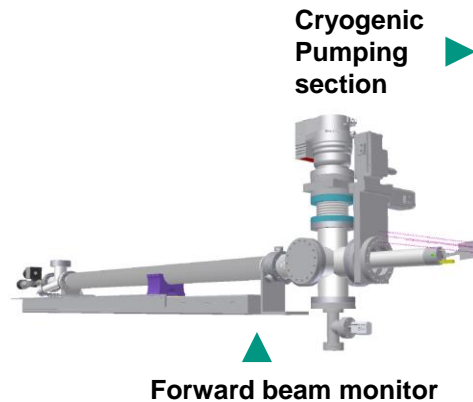


# The experimental beamline

## Overview



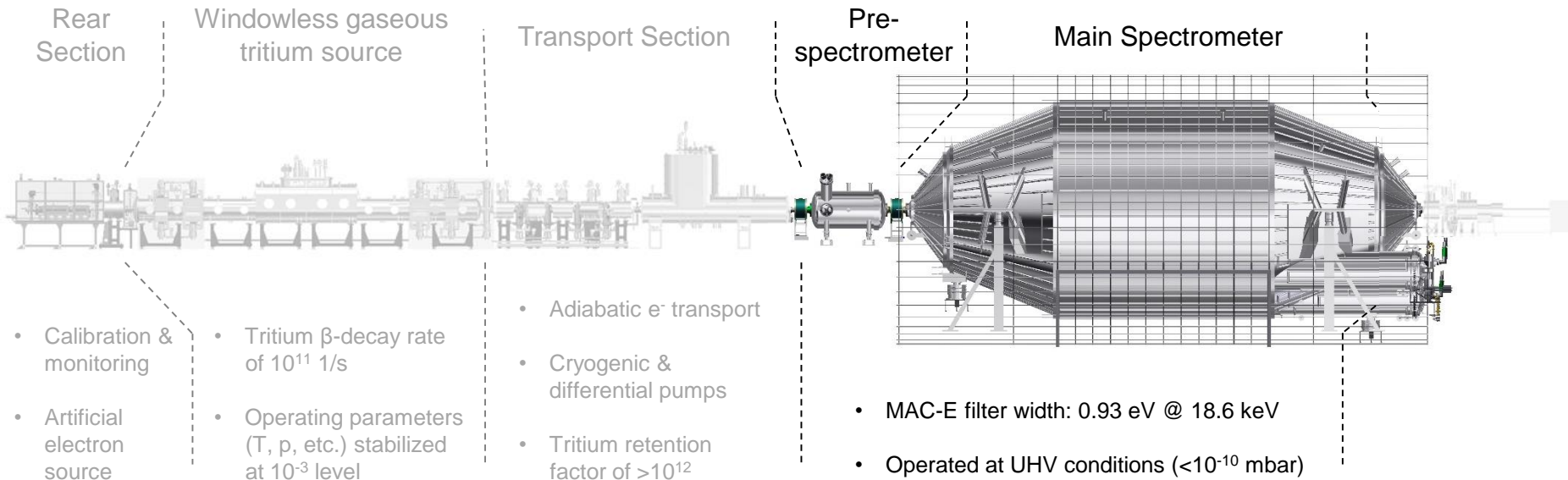
Condensed  $^{83m}\text{Kr}$  source





# The experimental beamline

## Overview



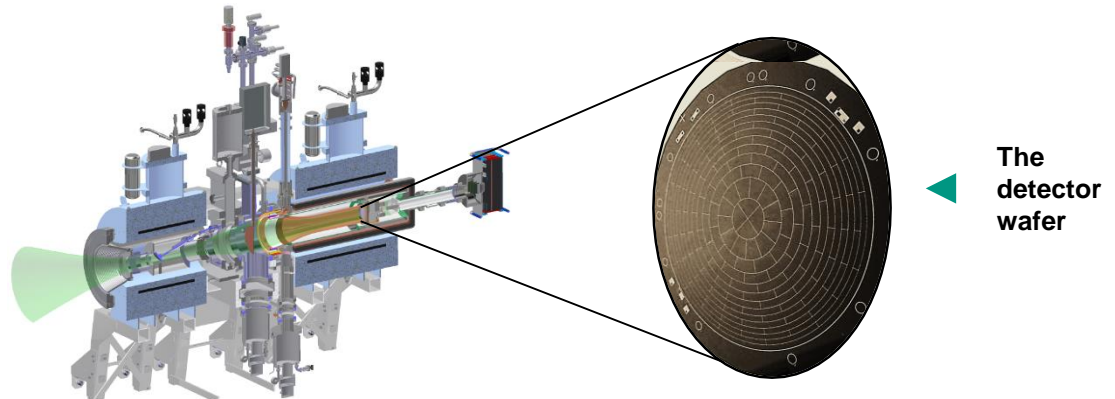
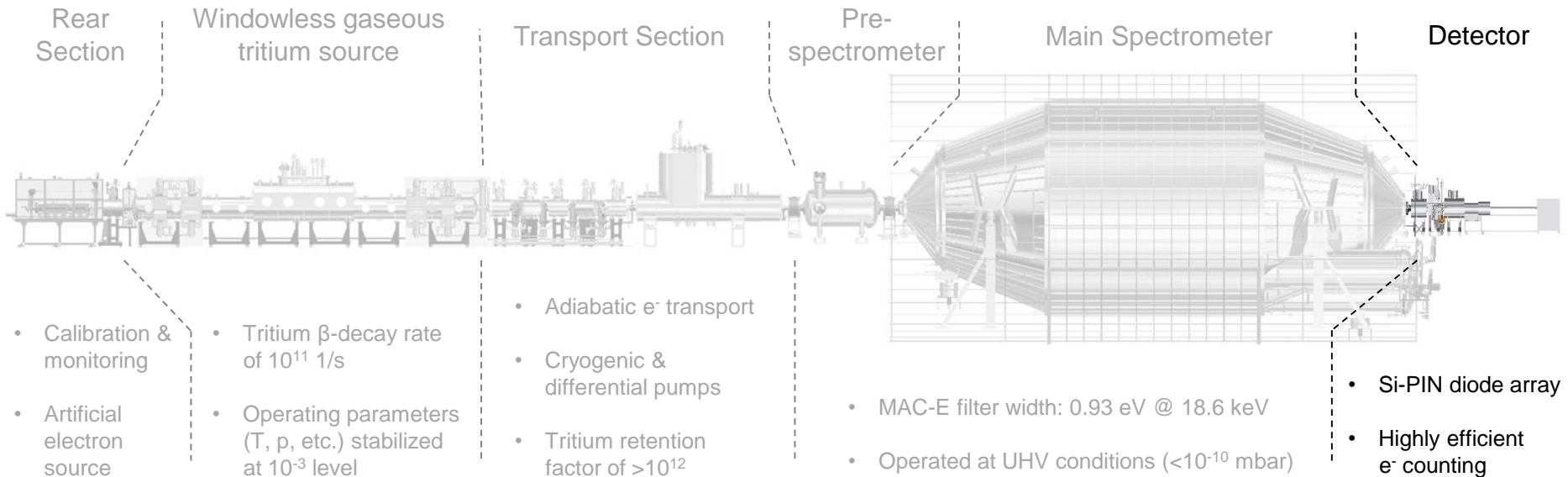
Main Spectrometer ➡

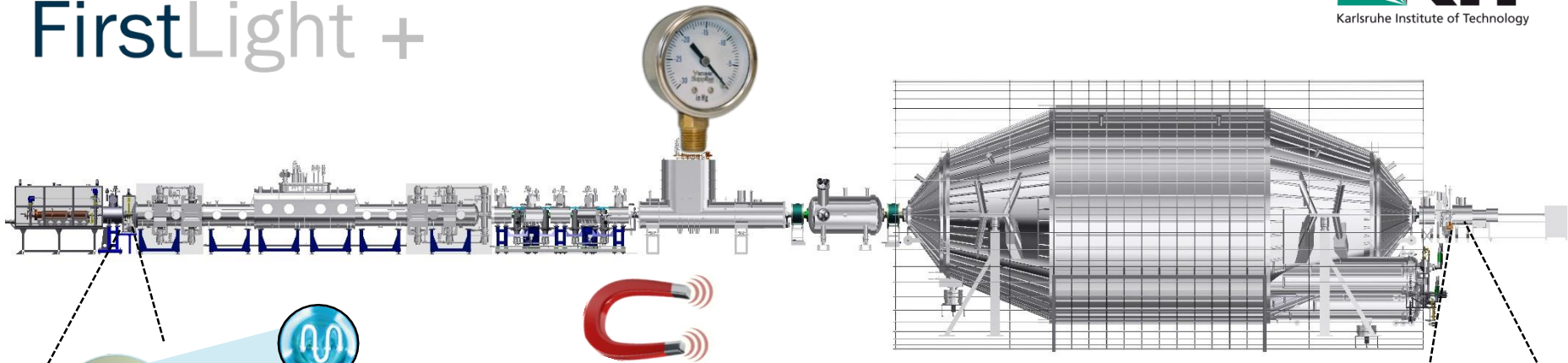


◀ Pre-Spectrometer

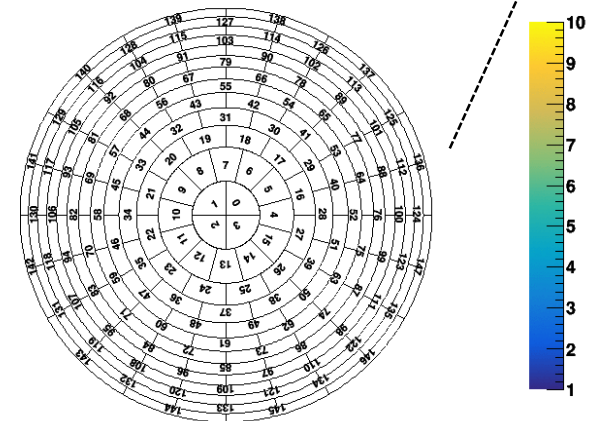
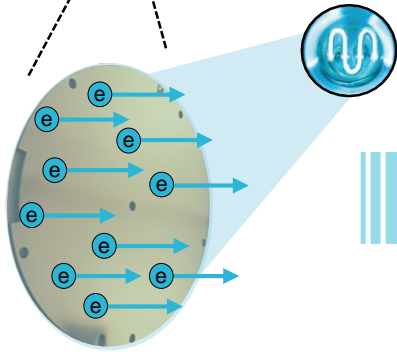
# The experimental beamline

## Overview



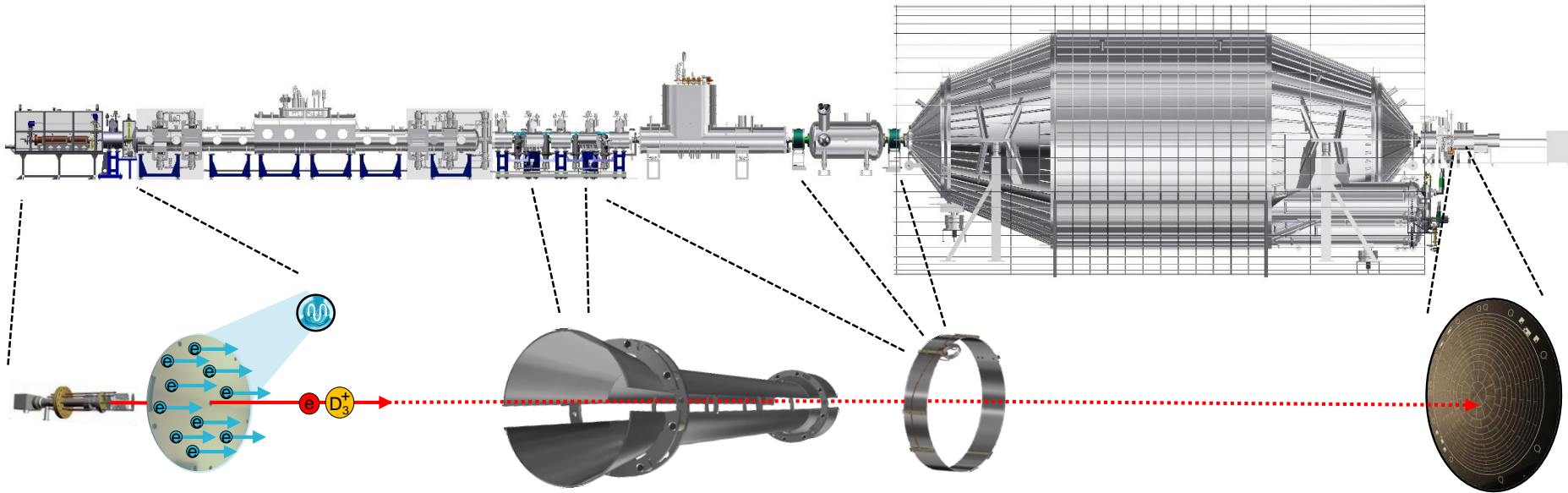


Magnetic guidance of electrons over 70 m

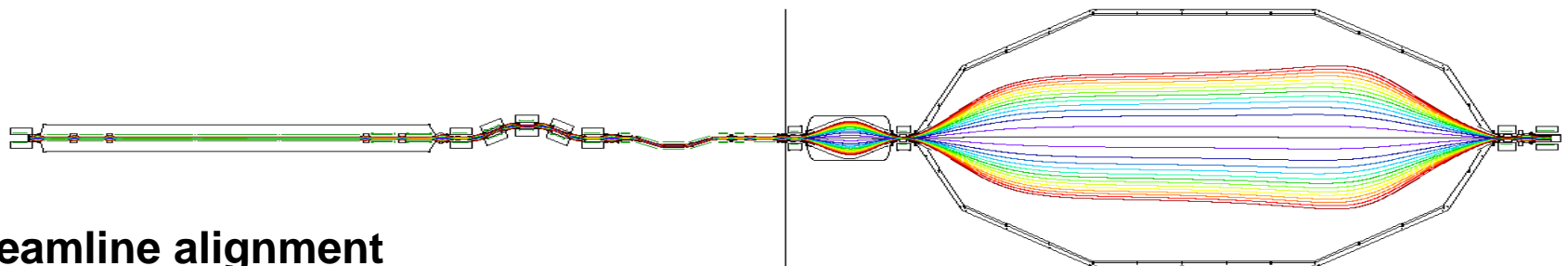




# First Light Measurements



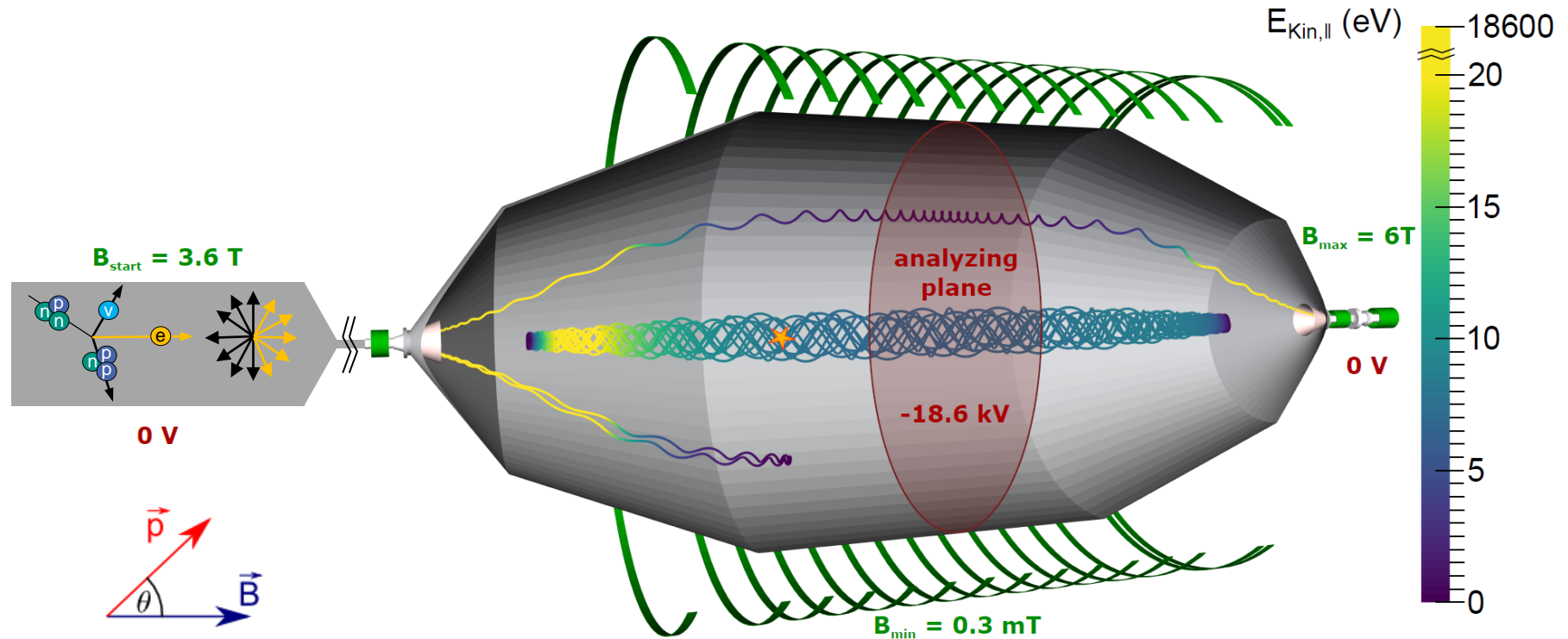
## Ion investigations



## Beamline alignment

# Neutrino-mass measurement with KATRIN

## Measurement principle – The MAC-E filter

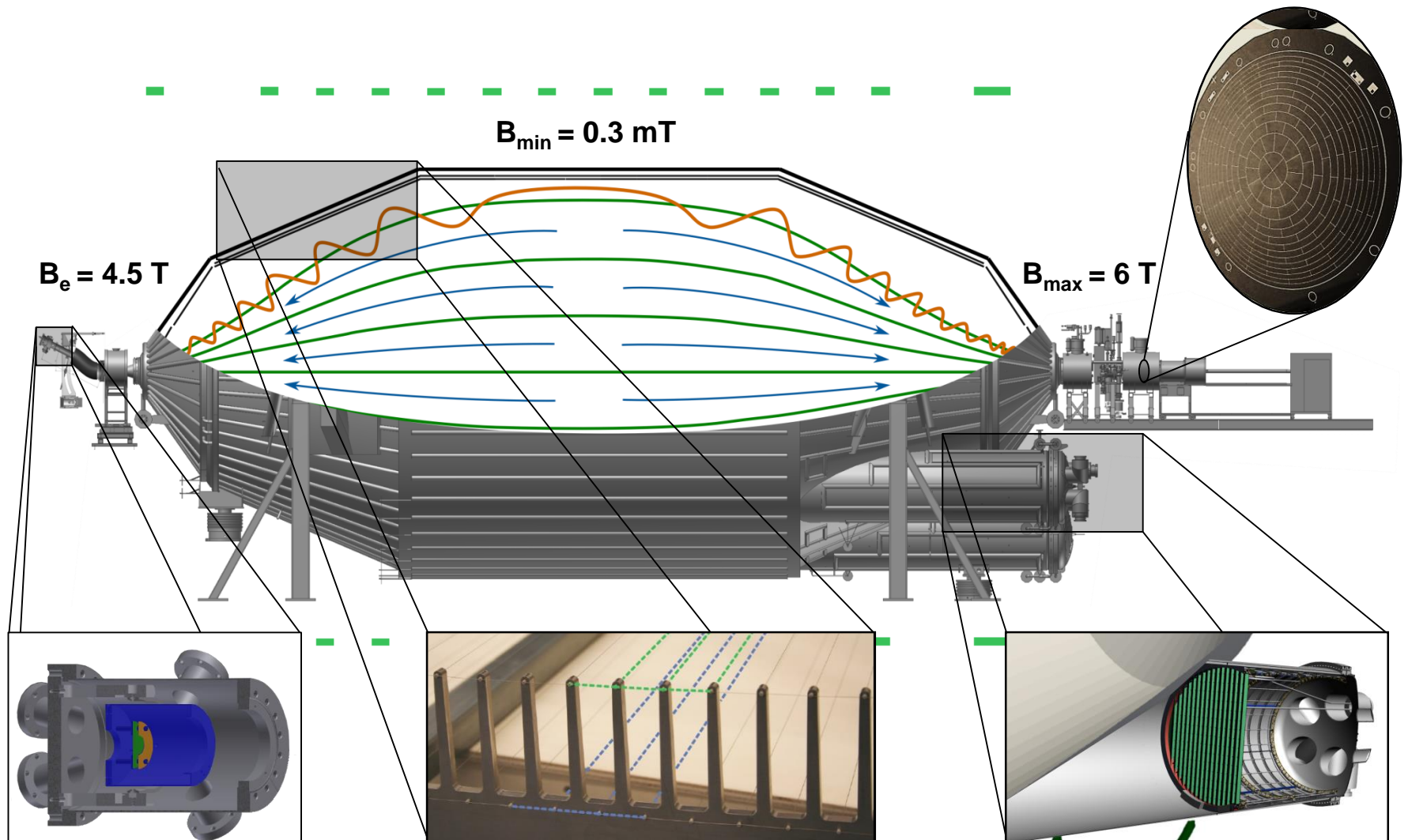


$$E_{\text{kin}} = E_{||} + E_{\perp}$$

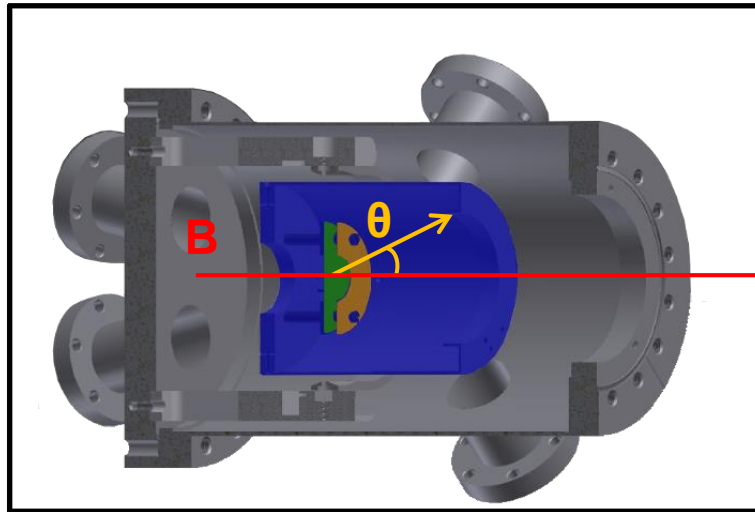
$$\mu = \frac{E_{\perp}}{B} = \text{const.}$$

$$\Delta E = \frac{B_{\min}}{B_{\max}} \cdot 18.6 \text{ keV} = 0.93 \text{ eV}$$

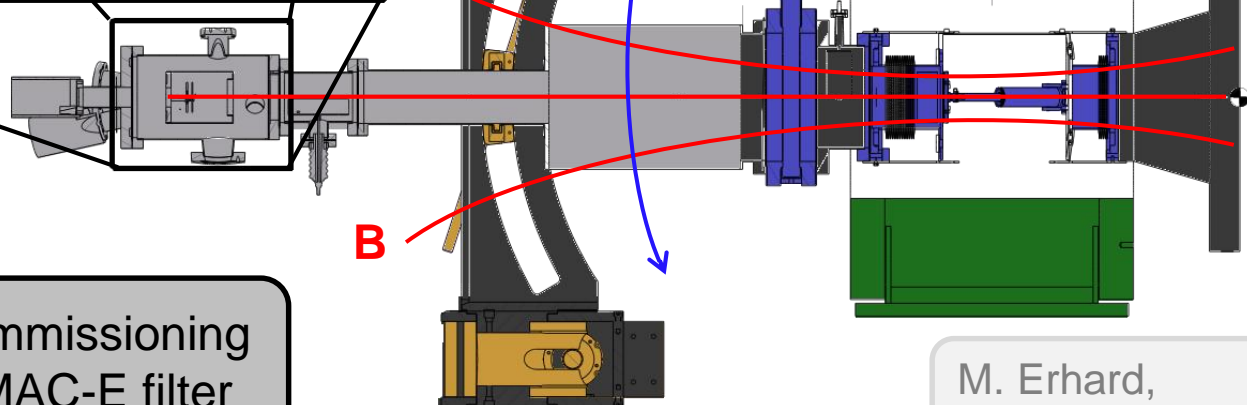
# Backup



# Backup



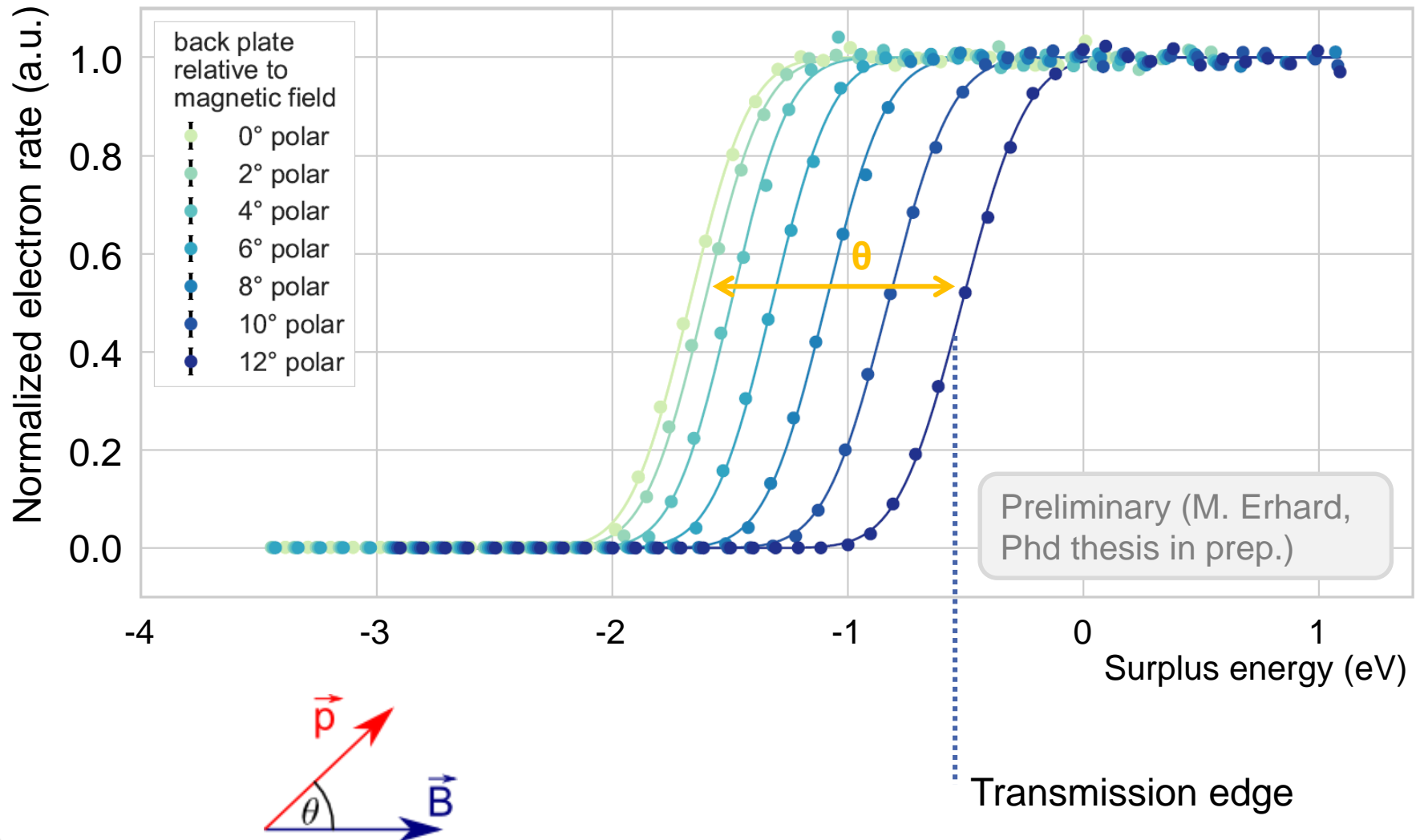
Monoenergetic, angular ( $\theta$ ) and radial ( $r$ ) selective electron source.



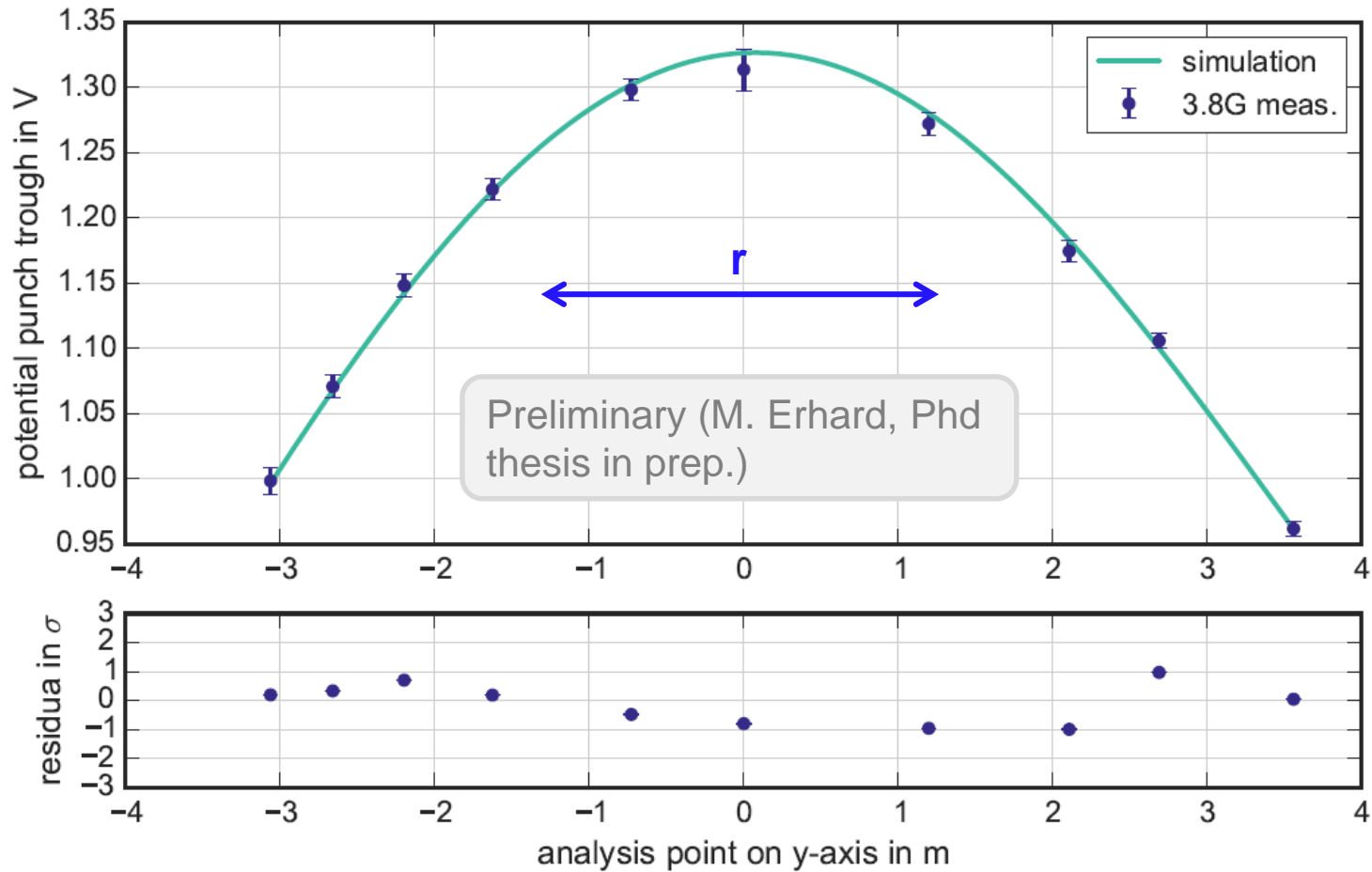
Used in SDS commissioning to characterize MAC-E filter

M. Erhard,  
Phd thesis in prep.

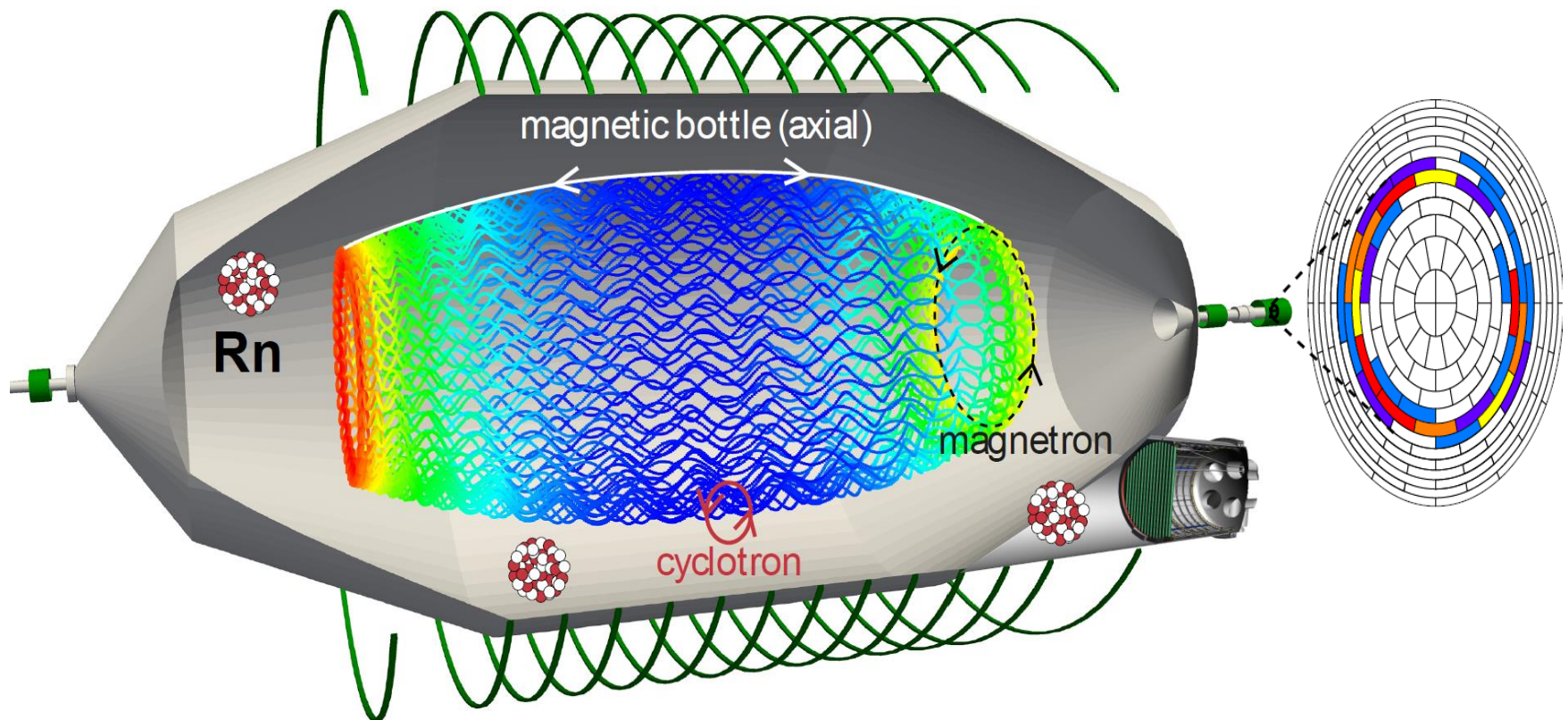
# Backup



# Backup



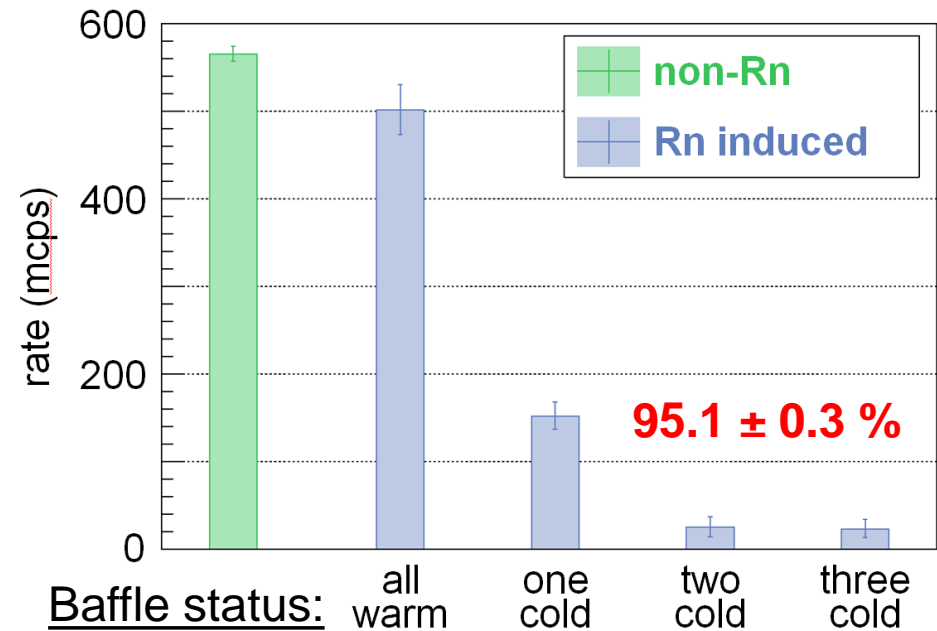
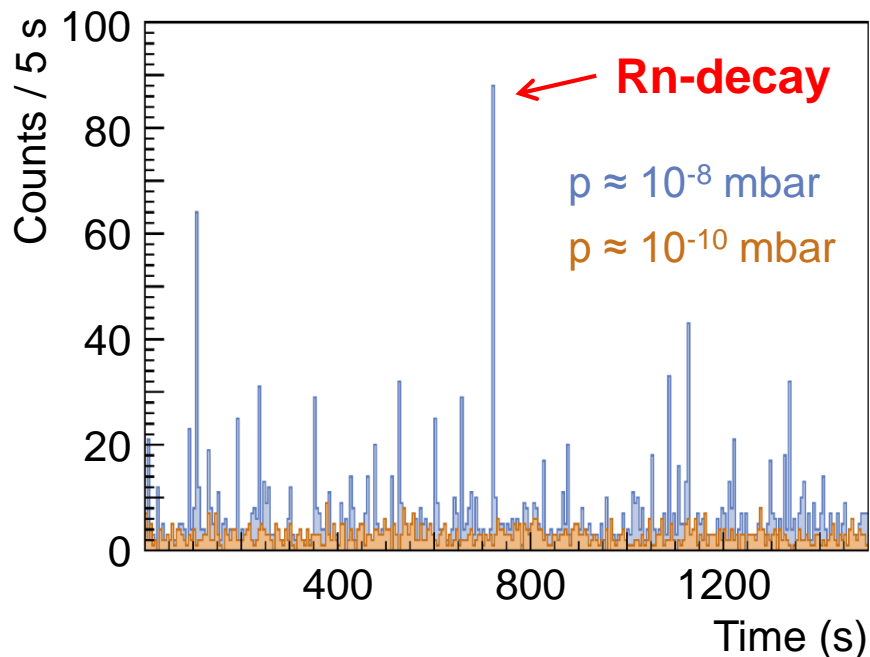




**Storage of keV-electrons emitted in radioactive decays**

# Backup

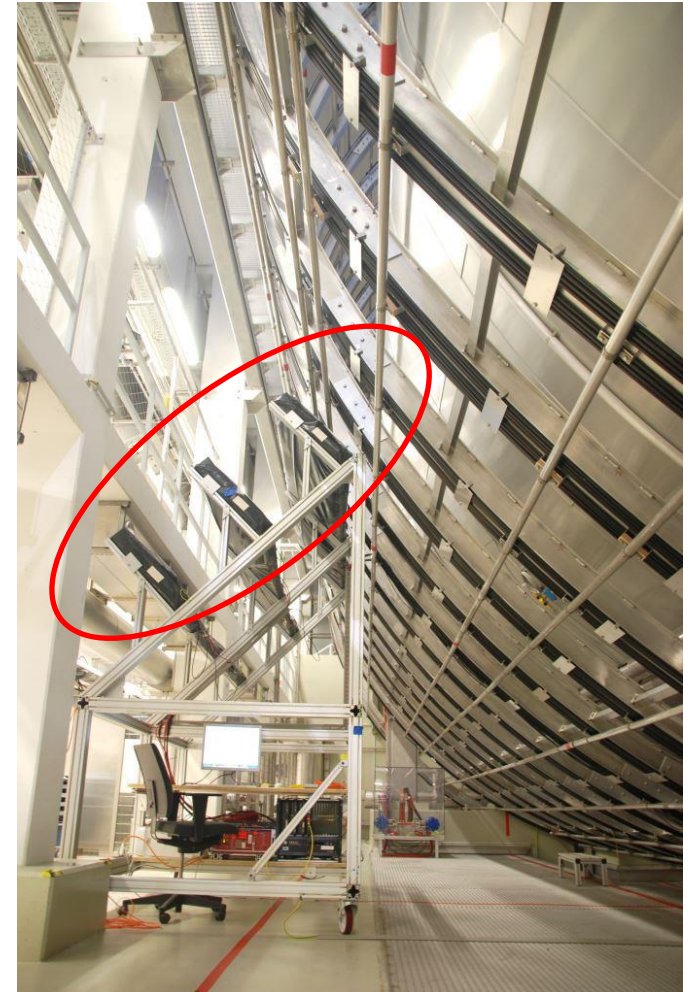
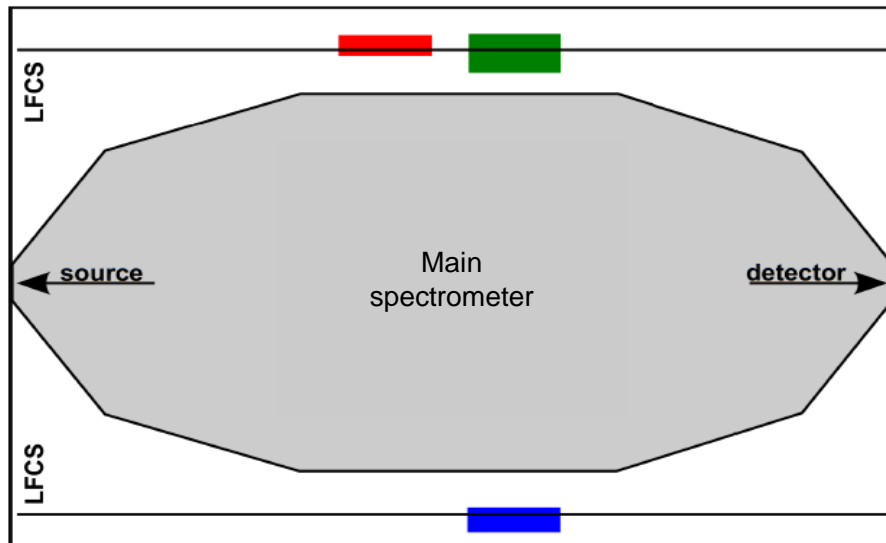
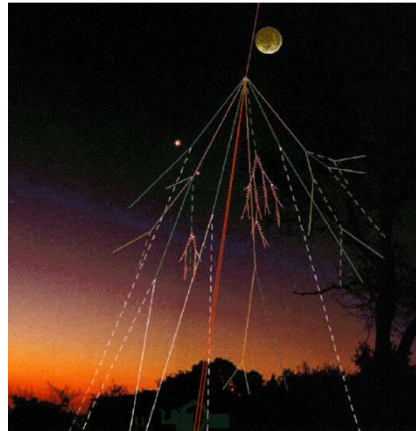
- Artificially elevate pressure in the spectrometer to reduce cool-down times.
- Identify single radon decays as spike in the background rate.
- Determine efficiency of LN<sub>2</sub>-baffle system as Rn countermeasure.



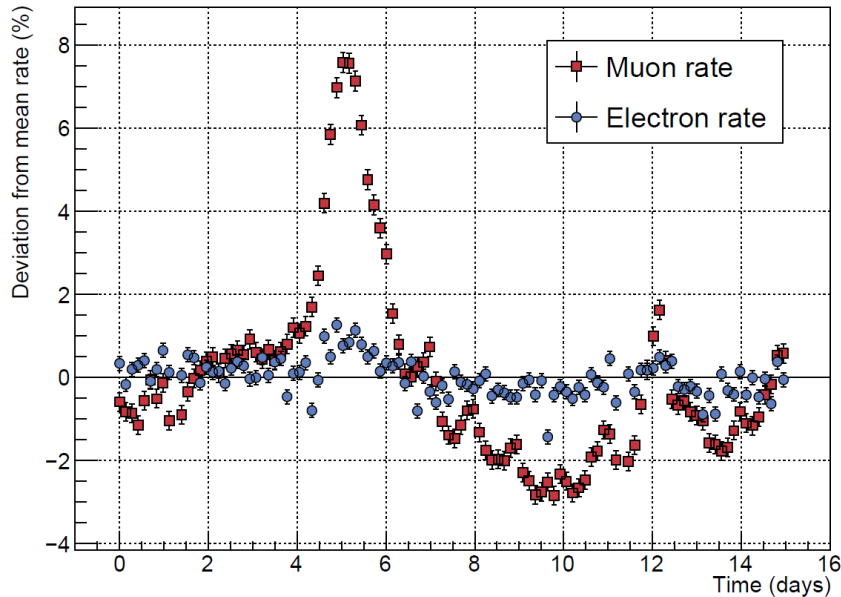


# Backup

- 75 000 muons / second
- Use muon veto to correlate flux to electron rate



# Backup

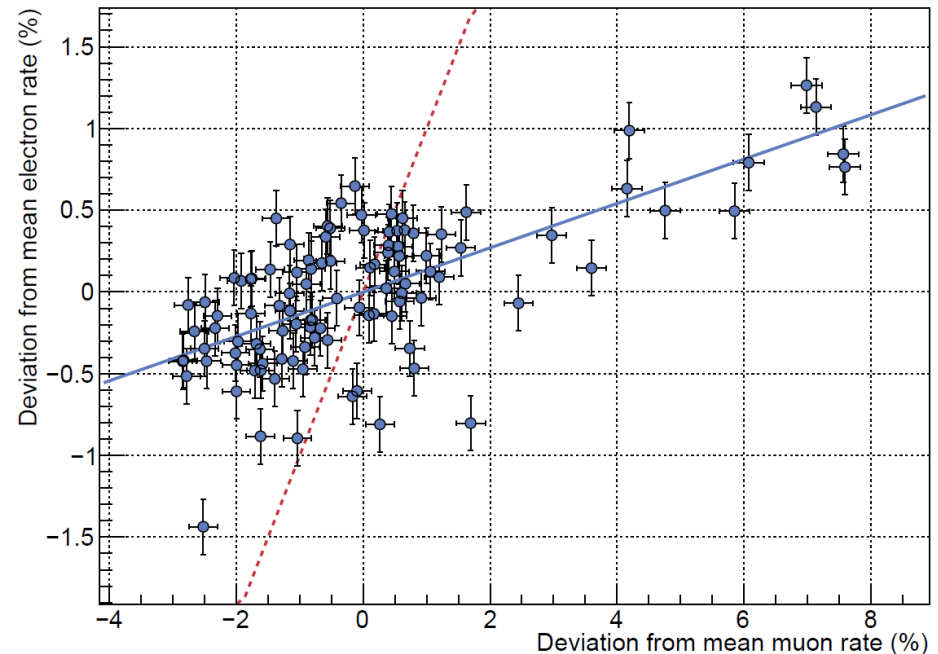


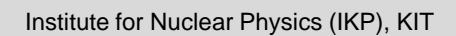
$$a = 13.6 \pm 0.8 \%$$

→ Only small fraction of secondary electrons are caused by muons!

$$R_e(t) = \alpha \cdot R_\mu(t) + C$$

$$\frac{R_e(t)}{\bar{R}_e} = \underbrace{\alpha \cdot \frac{\bar{R}_\mu}{\bar{R}_e}}_a \cdot \frac{R_\mu(t)}{\bar{R}_\mu} + \underbrace{\frac{C}{\bar{R}_e}}_{1-a}$$





# Backup

- Measurements with water shielding showed no significant background reduction.
- Characteristic clustering of secondary emission observed  
→ Use artificial  $\gamma$ -source to check for clustering of events.

