

# Superconducting Array for Low-Energy Radiation (SALER)

Driss GUILLET

for the SALER collaboration

LPC Caen



SALER experiment - ISOL



# I. Introduction and Motivations

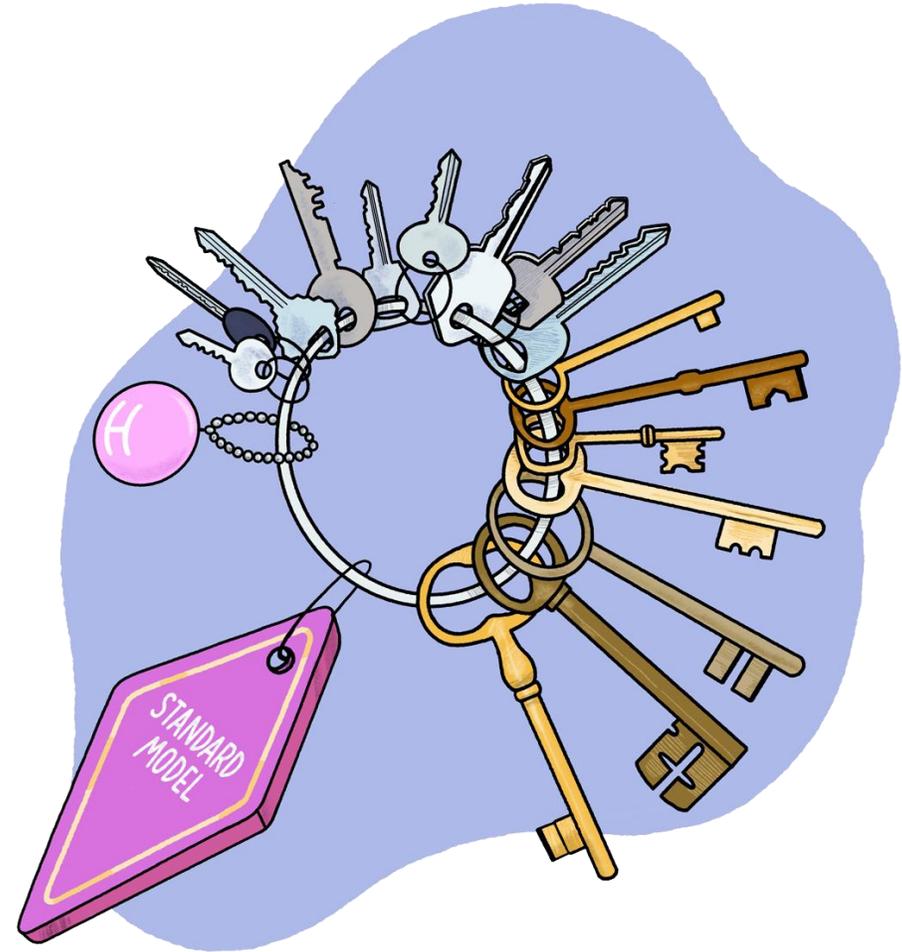


SALER experiment - ISOL



# Beta decay to probe BSM physics

- Standard Model provides the most robust predictions to date

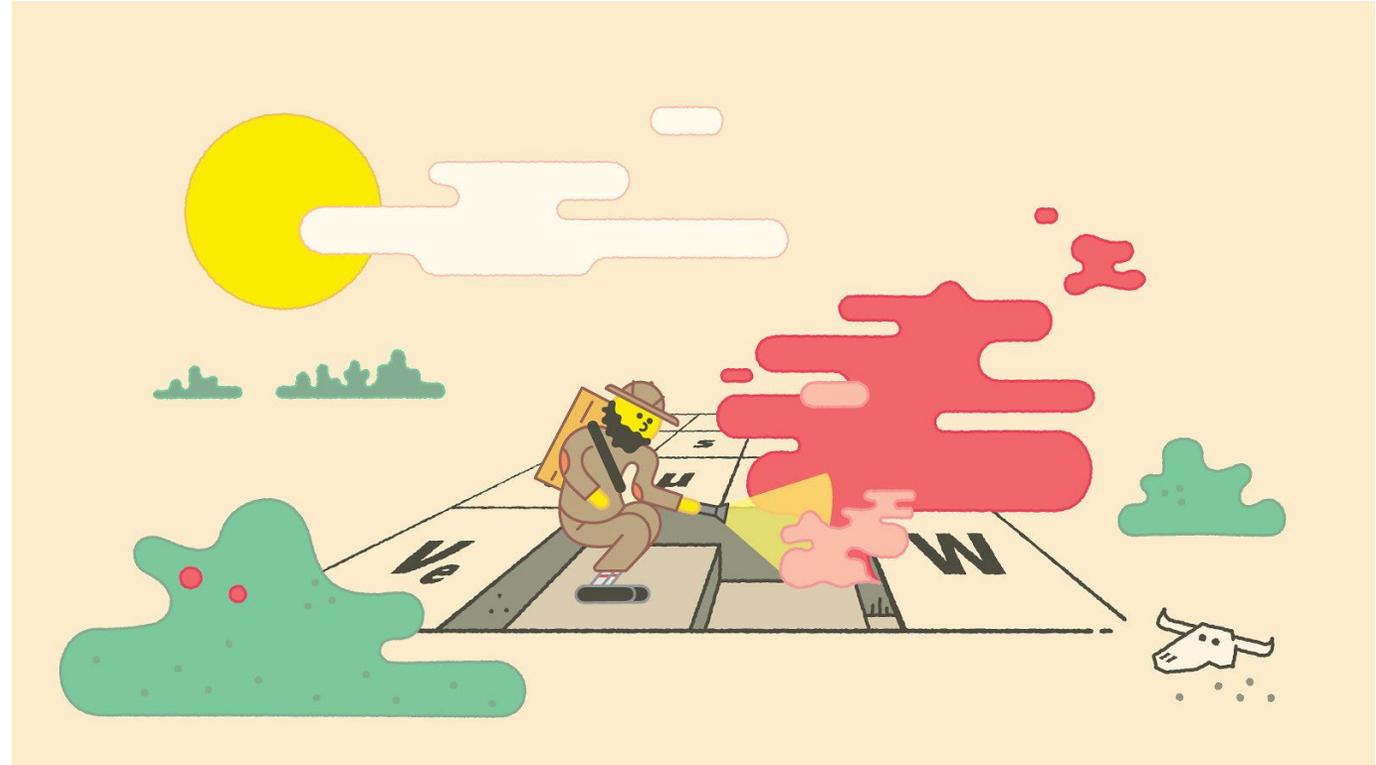


Artwork by Sandbox Studio



# Beta decay to probe BSM physics

- Standard Model provides the most robust predictions to date
- **Weak interactions studies** are especially interesting for BSM searches

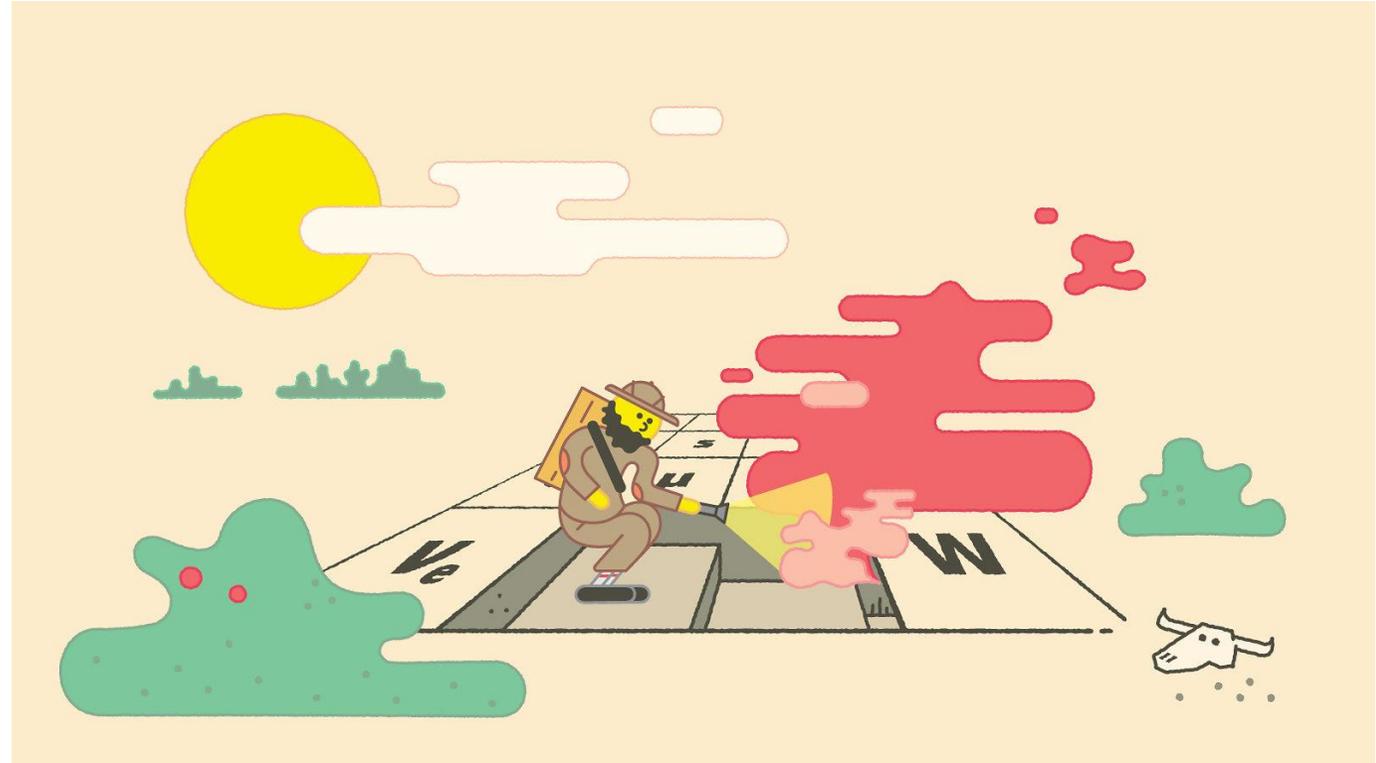


Artwork by Sandbox Studio



# Beta decay to probe BSM physics

- Standard Model provides the most robust predictions to date
- **Weak interactions studies** are especially interesting for BSM searches
- **Beta decay is competitive**, with several probes for high precision measurements



Artwork by Sandbox Studio



# Probing CKM matrix unitarity

---

- Study beta decay spectra **to test CKM matrix unitarity**

$$\begin{pmatrix} d \\ s \\ b \end{pmatrix}_w = \begin{pmatrix} V_{ud} & V_{us} & V_{ub} \\ V_{cd} & V_{cs} & V_{cb} \\ V_{td} & V_{ts} & V_{tb} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} d \\ s \\ b \end{pmatrix}_m$$



# Probing CKM matrix unitarity

---

- Study beta decay spectra **to test CKM matrix unitarity**

$$\begin{pmatrix} d \\ s \\ b \end{pmatrix}_w = \begin{pmatrix} V_{ud} & V_{us} & V_{ub} \\ V_{cd} & V_{cs} & V_{cb} \\ V_{td} & V_{ts} & V_{tb} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} d \\ s \\ b \end{pmatrix}_m$$

$$|V_{ud}|^2 + |V_{us}|^2 + |V_{ub}|^2 = 1$$



# Probing CKM matrix unitarity

- Study beta decay spectra **to test CKM matrix unitarity**

$$\begin{pmatrix} d \\ s \\ b \end{pmatrix}_w = \begin{pmatrix} V_{ud} & V_{us} & V_{ub} \\ V_{cd} & V_{cs} & V_{cb} \\ V_{td} & V_{ts} & V_{tb} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} d \\ s \\ b \end{pmatrix}_m$$

- Largest element in the row :  $V_{ud}$

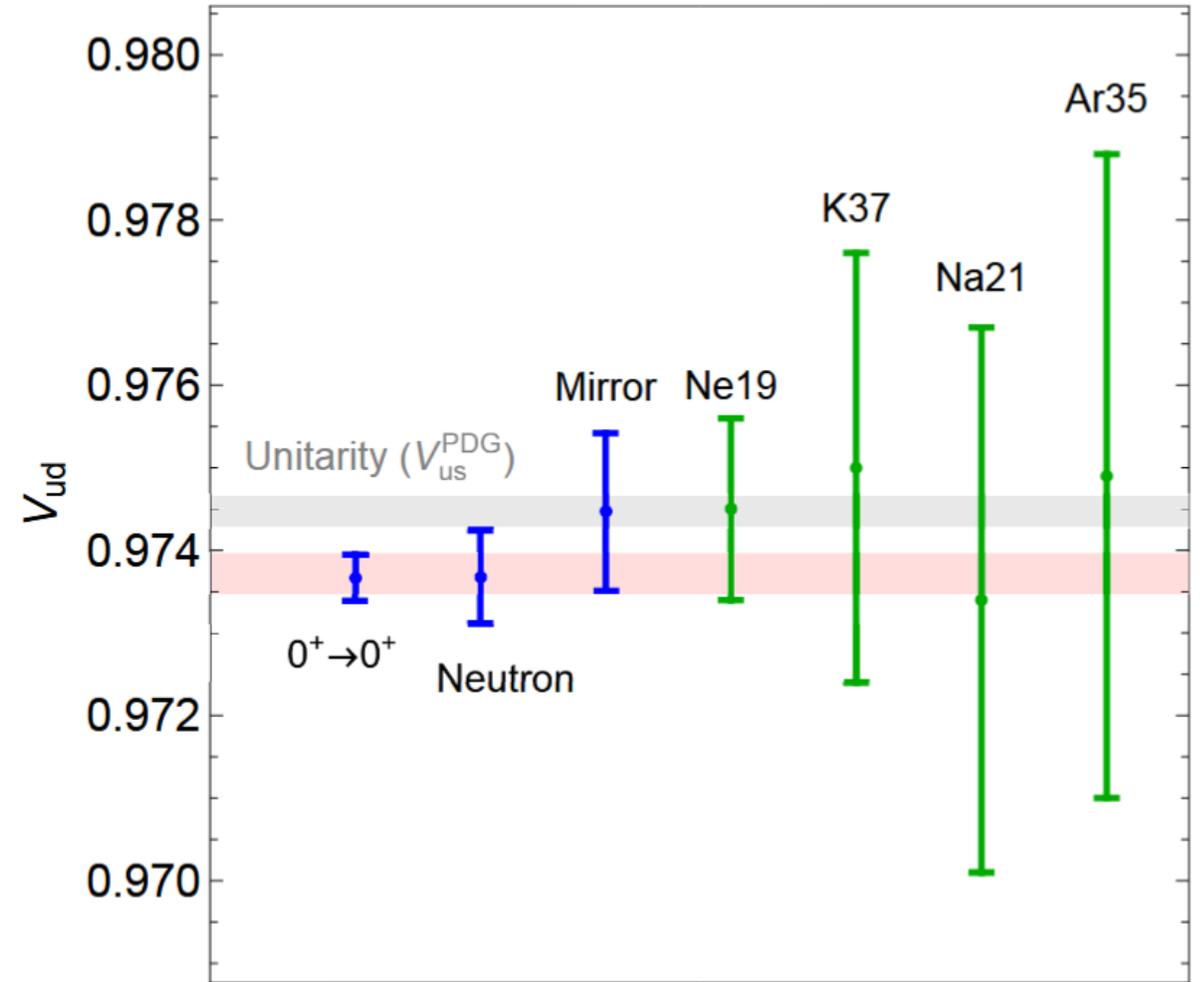
$$|V_{ud}|^2 + |V_{us}|^2 + |V_{ub}|^2 = 1$$

$\sim 0.973$   $\sim 10^{-5}$



# Probing CKM matrix unitarity

- Study beta decay spectra **to test CKM matrix unitarity**
- Largest element in the row :  $V_{ud}$
- $1\sigma$  deviation from unitarity



Adam Falkowski, Martín González-Alonso and Oscar Naviliat-Cuncicc, 2021



# Why recoil spectroscopy ?

---

- How to access  $V_{ud}$  using beta decay ?



# Why recoil spectroscopy ?

---

- How to access  $V_{ud}$  using beta decay ?

- Obtain  $V_{ud}$  through the **mixing ratio** for mirror decays

$$\mathcal{F}t^{mirror} \left[ 1 + \frac{f_A}{f_V} \rho^2 \right] = \frac{K}{G_F^2 V_{ud}^2 g_v^2 (1 + \Delta V_R)}$$



# Why recoil spectroscopy ?

- How to access  $V_{ud}$  using beta decay ?

- Obtain  $V_{ud}$  through the **mixing ratio** for mirror decays

$$\mathcal{F}t^{mirror} \left[ 1 + \frac{f_A}{f_V} \rho^2 \right] = \frac{K}{G_F^2 V_{ud}^2 g_v^2 (1 + \Delta V_R)}$$

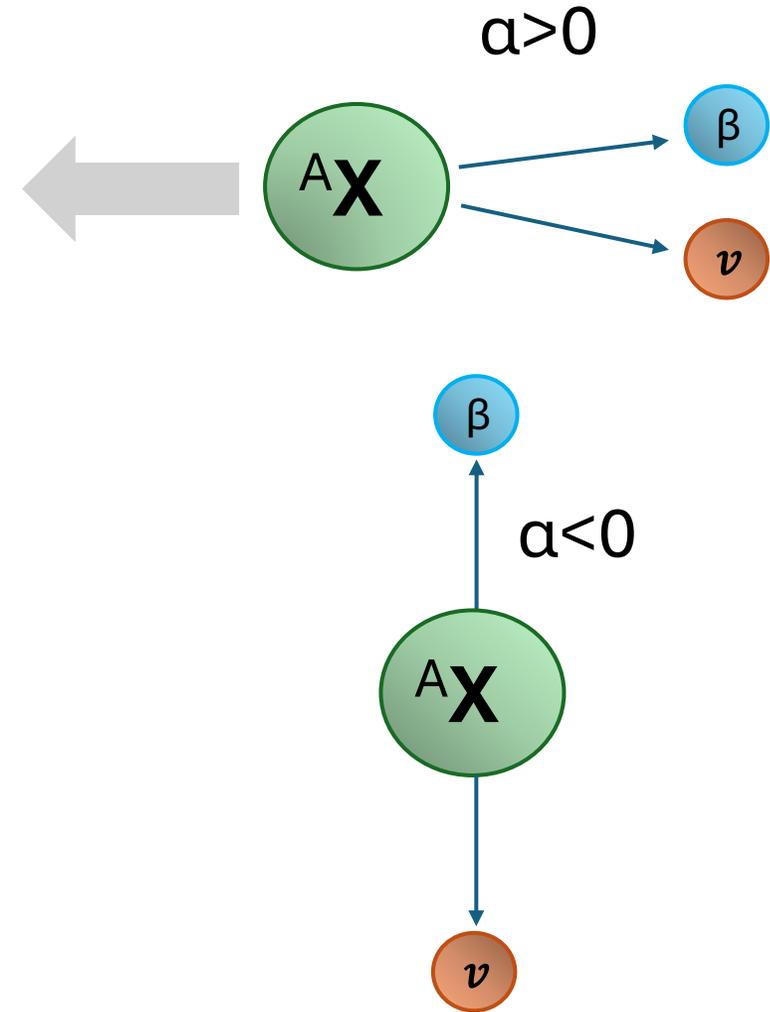
- Then use **mixing ratio** to get  $a$  the angular correlation parameter

$$a_{\beta\nu} \approx \frac{1 - \rho^2/3}{1 + \rho^2}$$



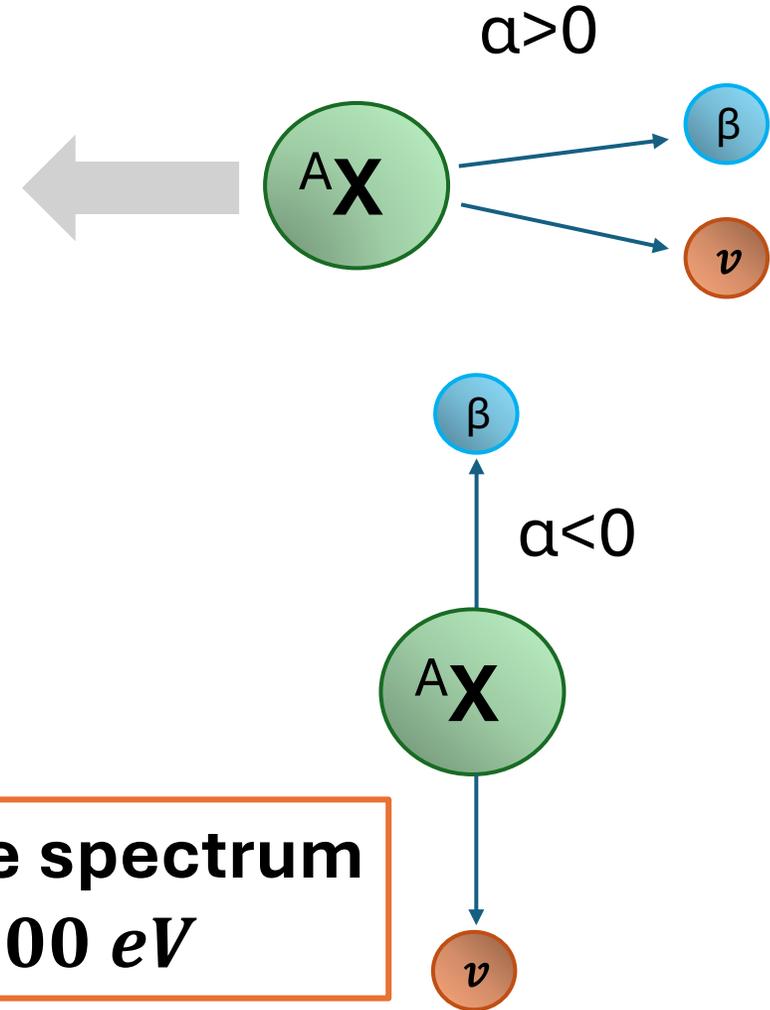
# Why recoil spectroscopy ?

- How to access  $V_{ud}$  using beta decay ?
- Obtain  $V_{ud}$  through the **mixing ratio** for mirror decays
- Then use **mixing ratio** to get  $\alpha$  the angular correlation parameter
- Recoil spectrum sensitive to  $\alpha$   
→ **recoil spectroscopy**



# Why recoil spectroscopy ?

- How to access  $V_{ud}$  using beta decay ?
- Obtain  $V_{ud}$  through the **mixing ratio** for mirror decays
- Then use **mixing ratio** to get  $\alpha$  the angular correlation parameter
- Recoil spectrum sensitive to  $\alpha$   
→ **recoil spectroscopy**



# II. Superconducting Tunnel Junctions



SALER experiment - ISOL



# Superconducting Tunnel Junctions (STJ)

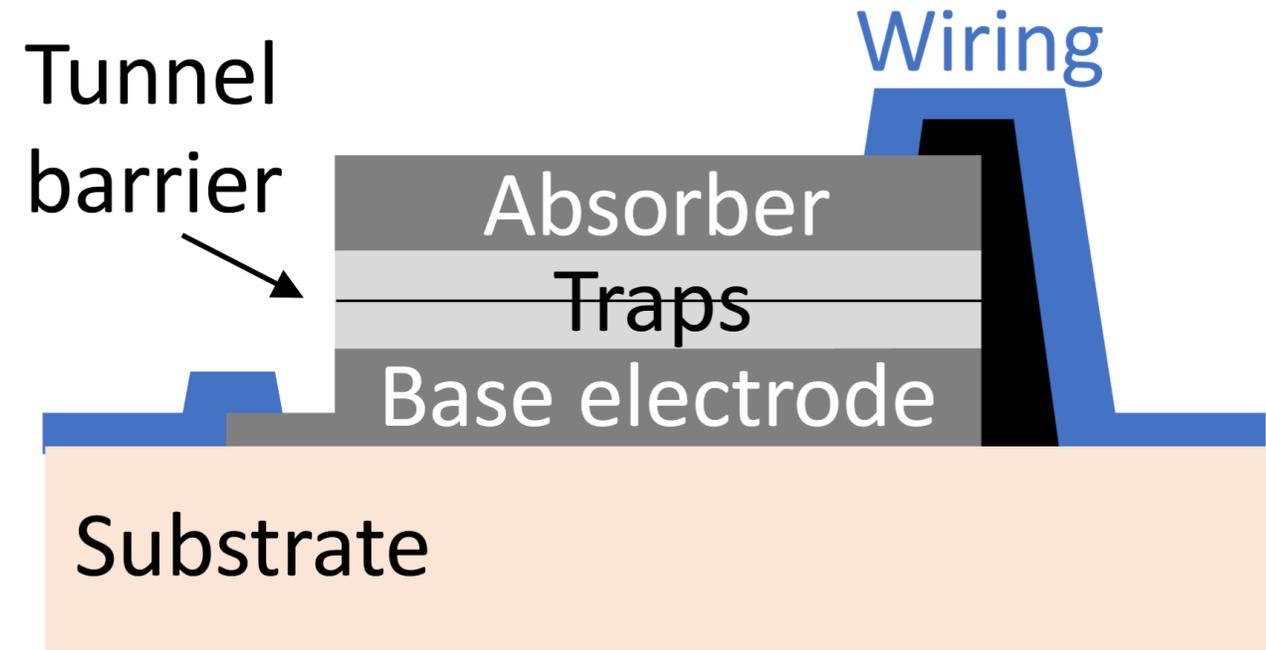
---

- Josephson Junction with multi layers  $\sim 500 \text{ nm}$



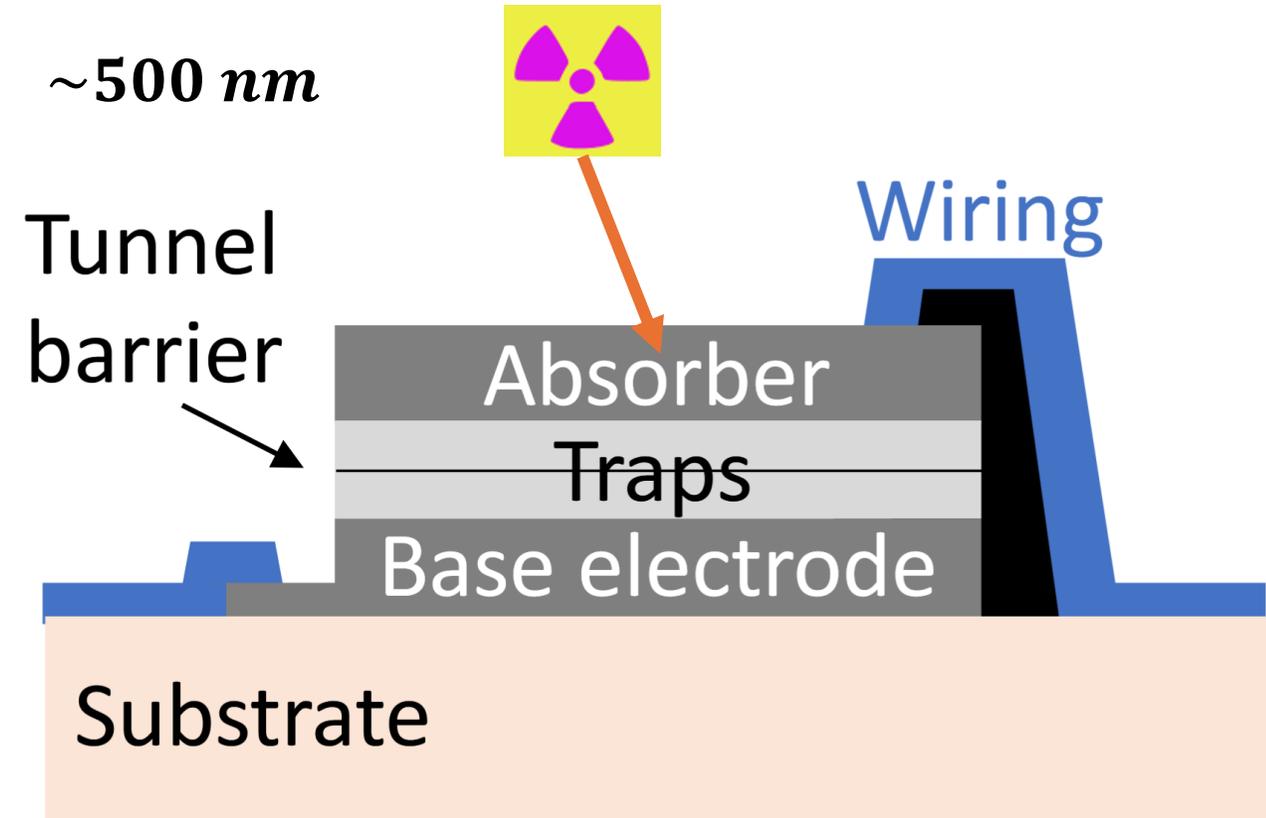
# Superconducting Tunnel Junctions (STJ)

- Josephson Junction with multi layers  $\sim 500 \text{ nm}$



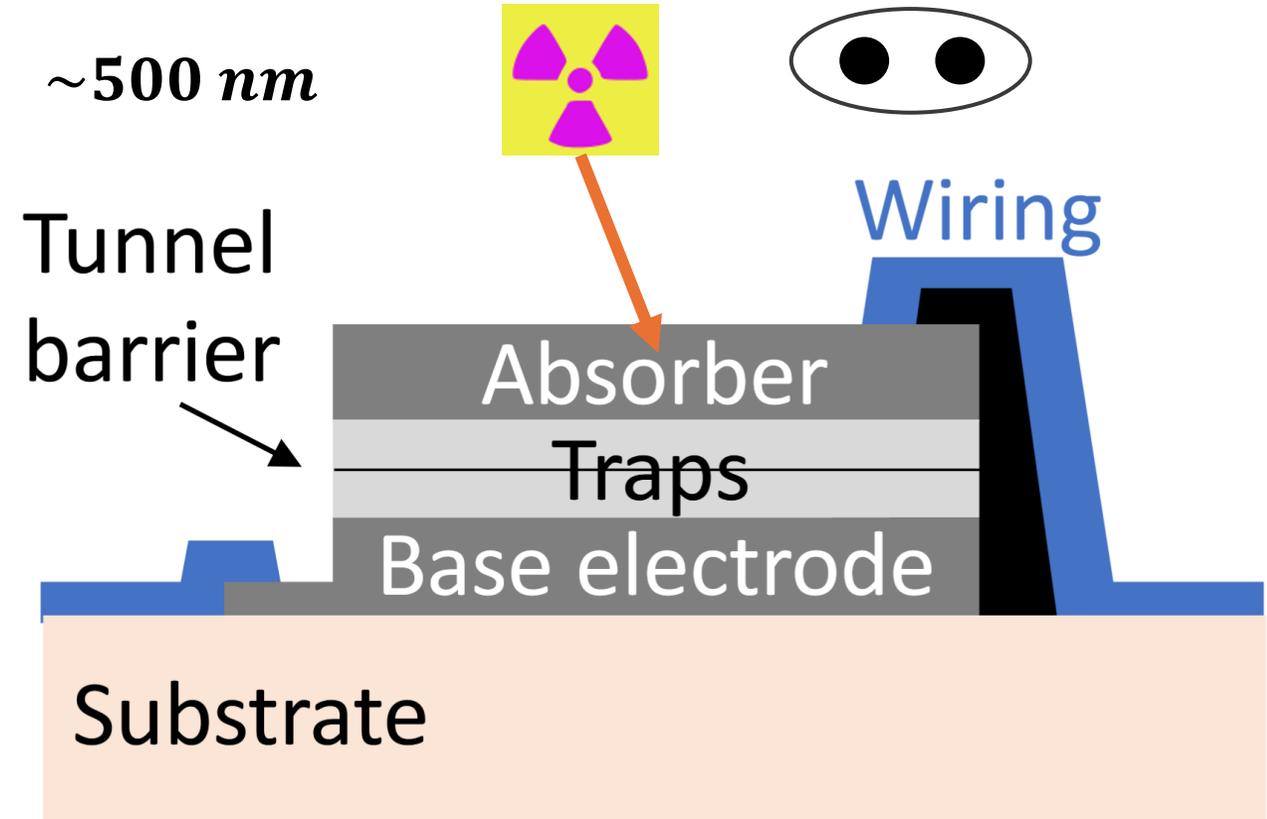
# Superconducting Tunnel Junctions (STJ)

- Josephson Junction with multi layers  $\sim 500 \text{ nm}$



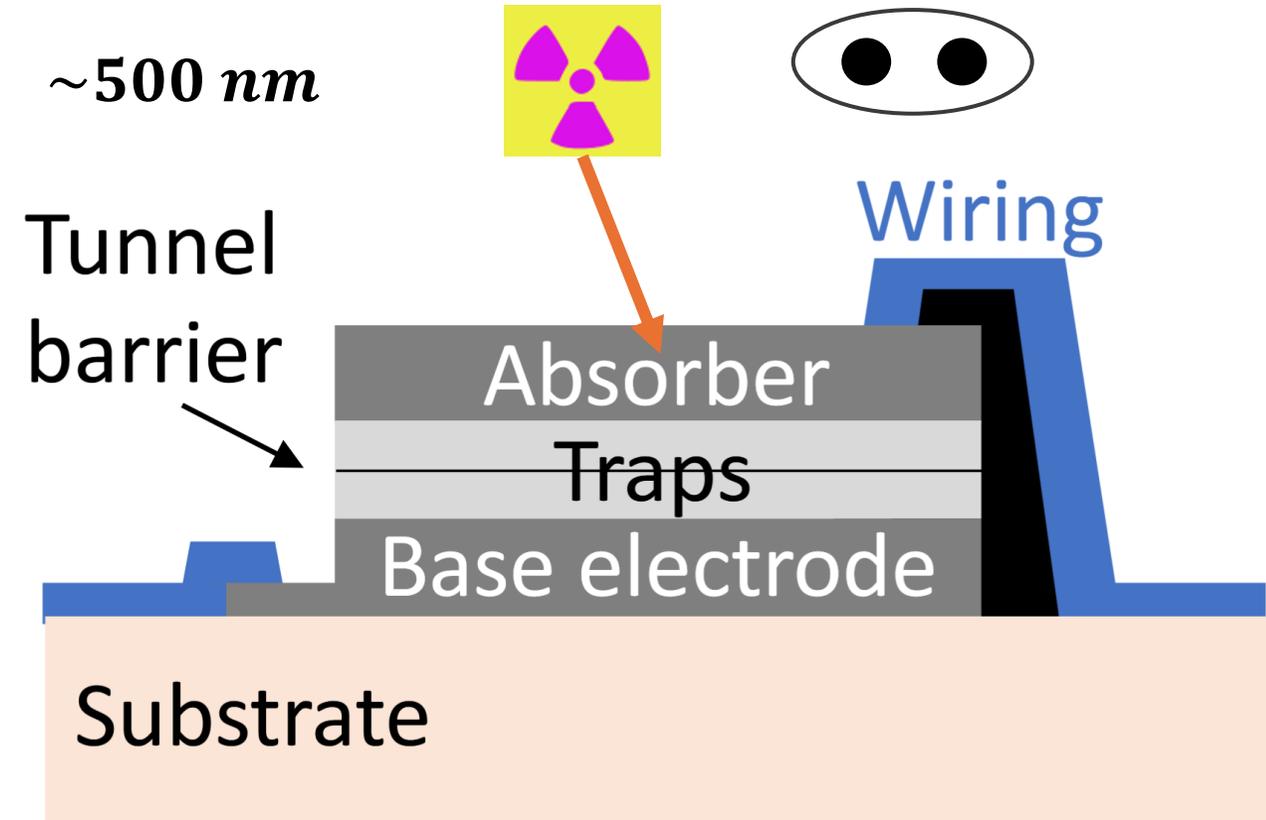
# Superconducting Tunnel Junctions (STJ)

- Josephson Junction with multi layers  $\sim 500 \text{ nm}$



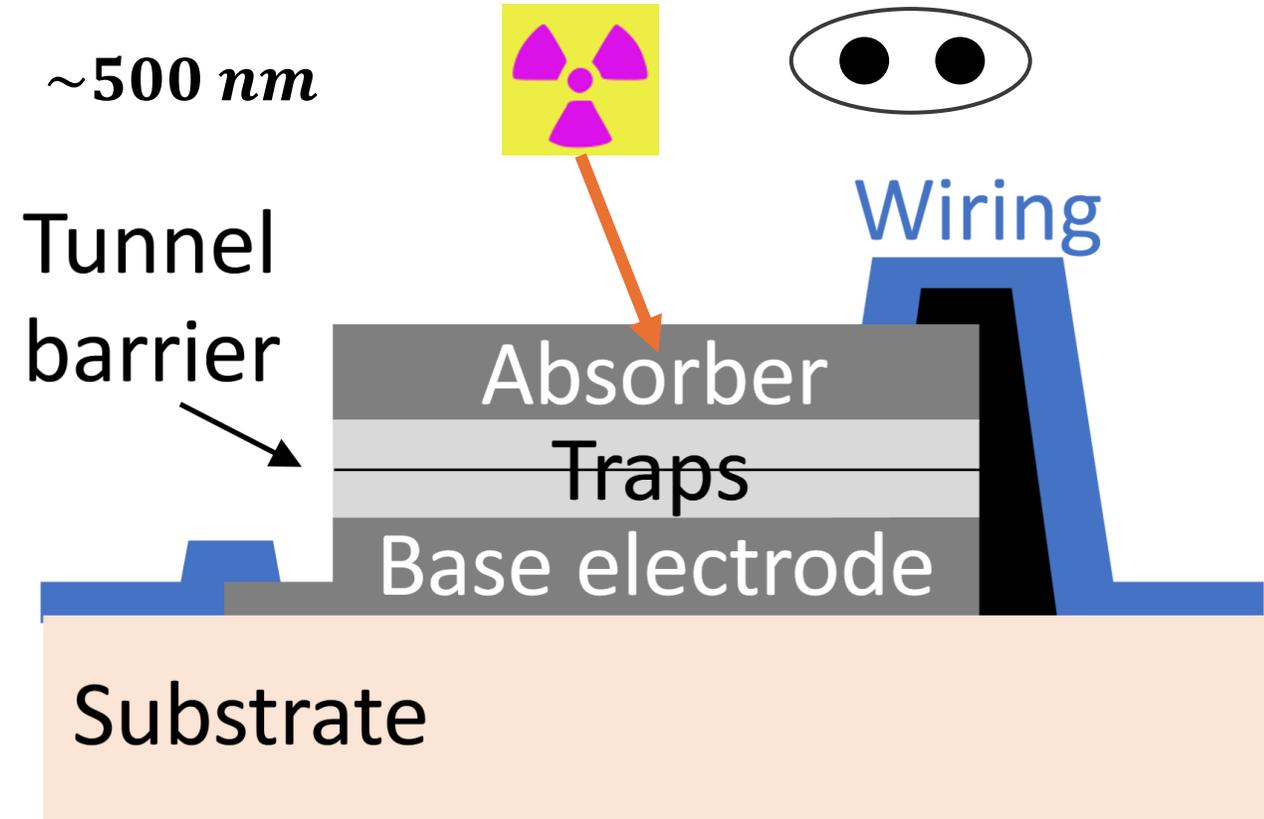
# Superconducting Tunnel Junctions (STJ)

- Josephson Junction with multi layers  $\sim 500 \text{ nm}$
- Current in the biased barrier  
→ recombine the momentum



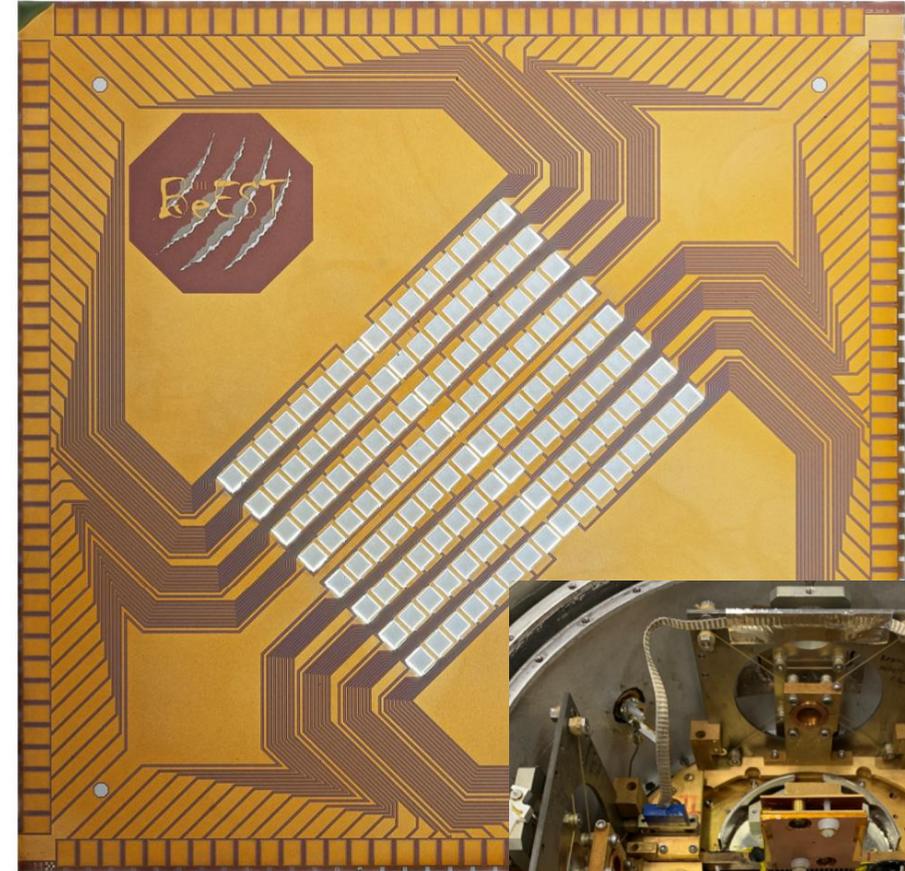
# Superconducting Tunnel Junctions (STJ)

- Josephson Junction with multi layers  $\sim 500 \text{ nm}$
- Current in the biased barrier  
→ recombine the momentum
- **eV scale resolution**
- **$> 10^3$  counts/s per pixel**
- Low threshold

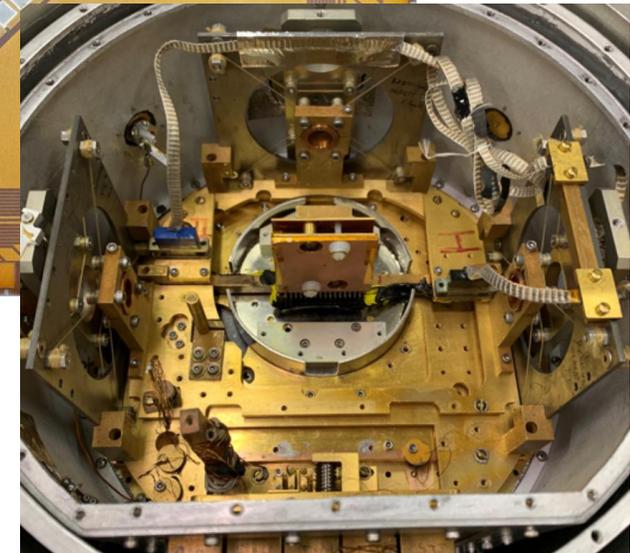


# Superconducting Tunnel Junctions

- Josephson Junction with multi layers
- Current in the biased barrier  
→ recombine the momentum
- **eV scale resolution**
- **$> 10^3$  counts/s per pixel**
- Low threshold



**128-pixel STJ**



Cooled to 40 mK  
(ADR)



# BeEST experiment

---

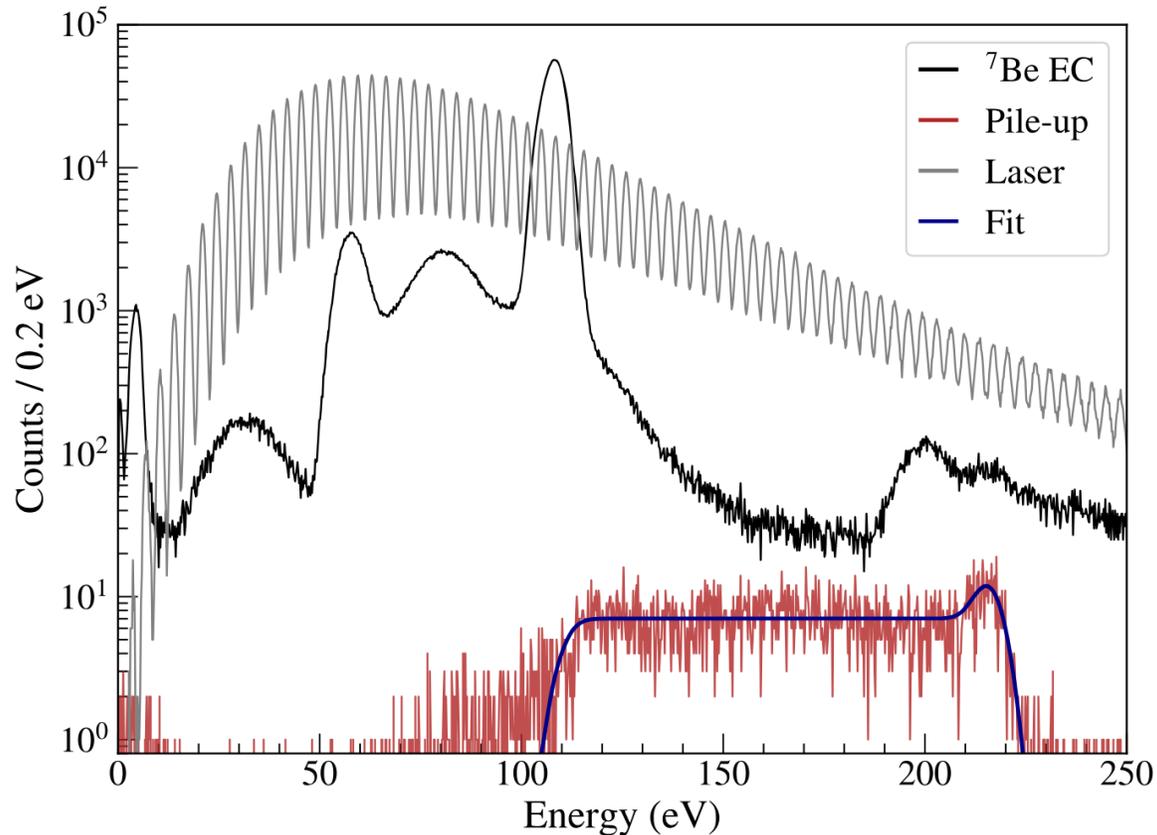
BeEST experiment used  ${}^7\text{Be}$  ( $T_{1/2} = 53$  days) **to search for keV-scale sterile neutrinos**



SALER experiment - ISOL

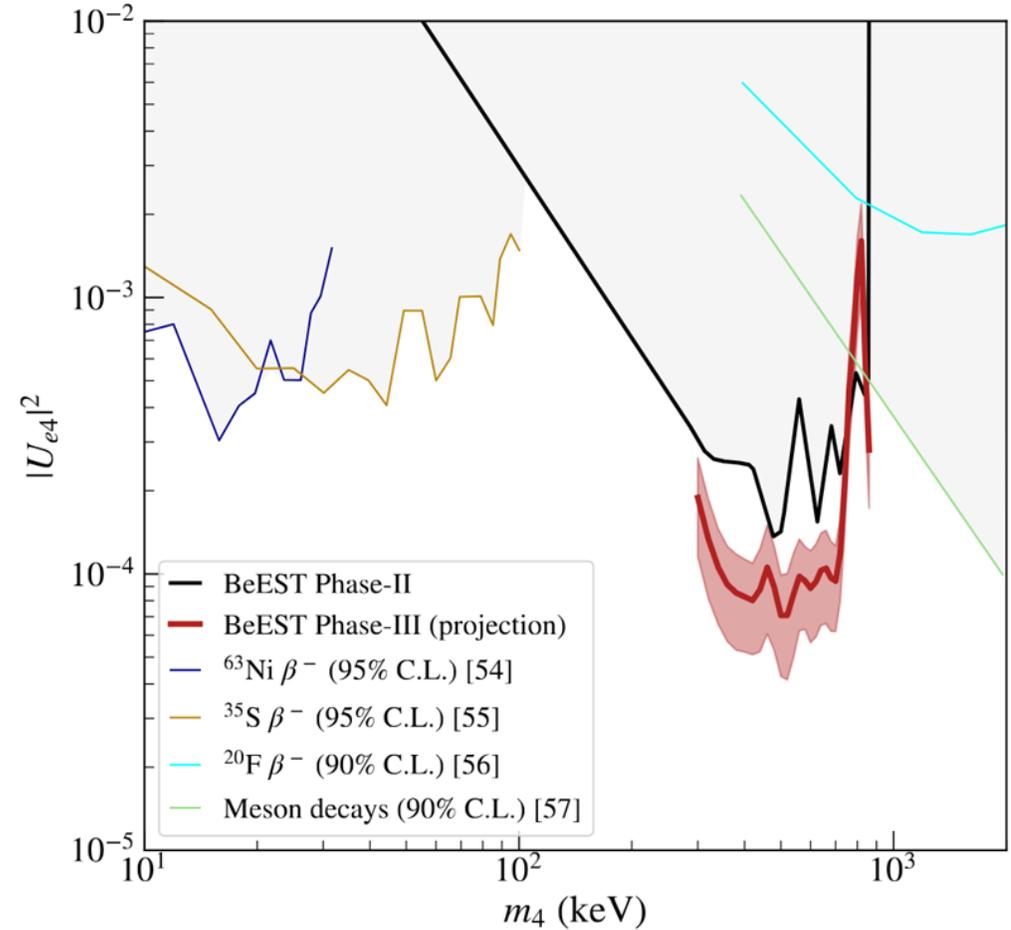
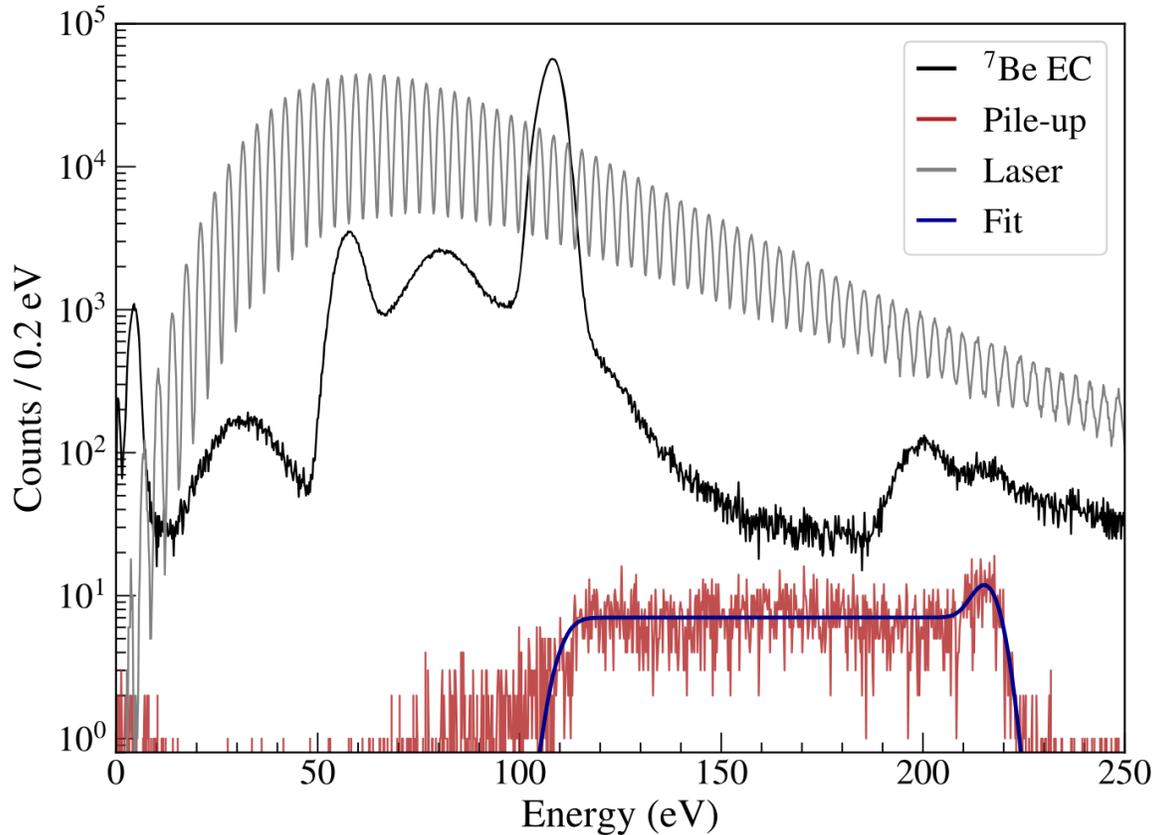
# BeEST experiment

BeEST experiment used  ${}^7\text{Be}$  ( $T_{1/2} = 53$  days) to search for keV-scale sterile neutrinos



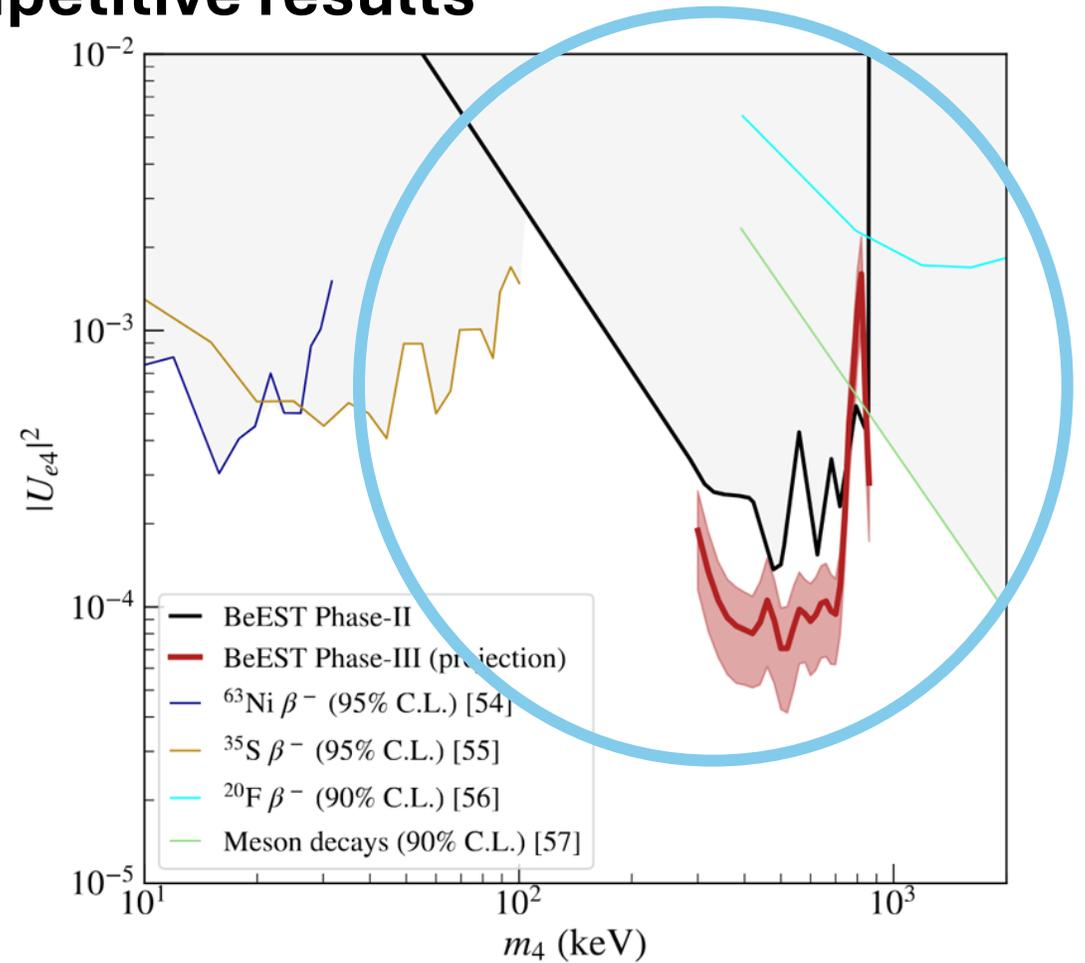
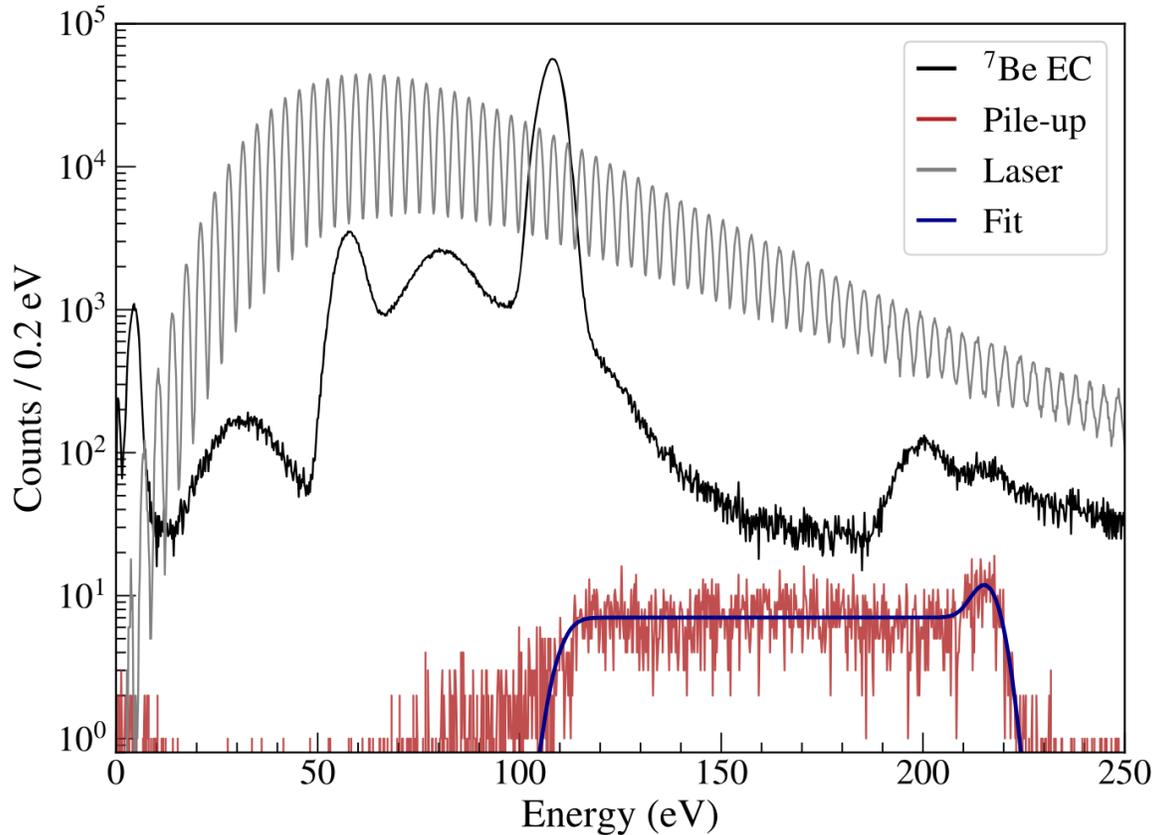
# BeEST experiment

BeEST experiment used  ${}^7\text{Be}$  ( $T_{1/2} = 53$  days) to search for keV-scale sterile neutrinos, with competitive results



# BeEST experiment

BeEST experiment used  ${}^7\text{Be}$  ( $T_{1/2} = 53$  days) to search for keV-scale sterile neutrinos, with competitive results



# How to use short-lived nuclei ?

---

- **Use STJs with short lived nuclei for nuclear recoil spectroscopy**



# How to use short-lived nuclei ?

---

- **Use STJs with short lived nuclei for nuclear recoil spectroscopy**
- Couple STJs detectors to a beamline (*on-line*)



# How to use short-lived nuclei ?

---

- **Use STJs with short lived nuclei for nuclear recoil spectroscopy**
- Couple STJs detectors to a beamline (*on-line*)
- Aim of the SALER experiment based at FRIB



# How to use short-lived nuclei ?

---

- **Use STJs with short lived nuclei for nuclear recoil spectroscopy**
- Couple STJs detectors to a beamline (*on-line*)
- Aim of the SALER experiment based at FRIB
- **With mirror decays for  $\rho$  :  $^{11}\text{C}$  and  $^{19}\text{Ne}$**



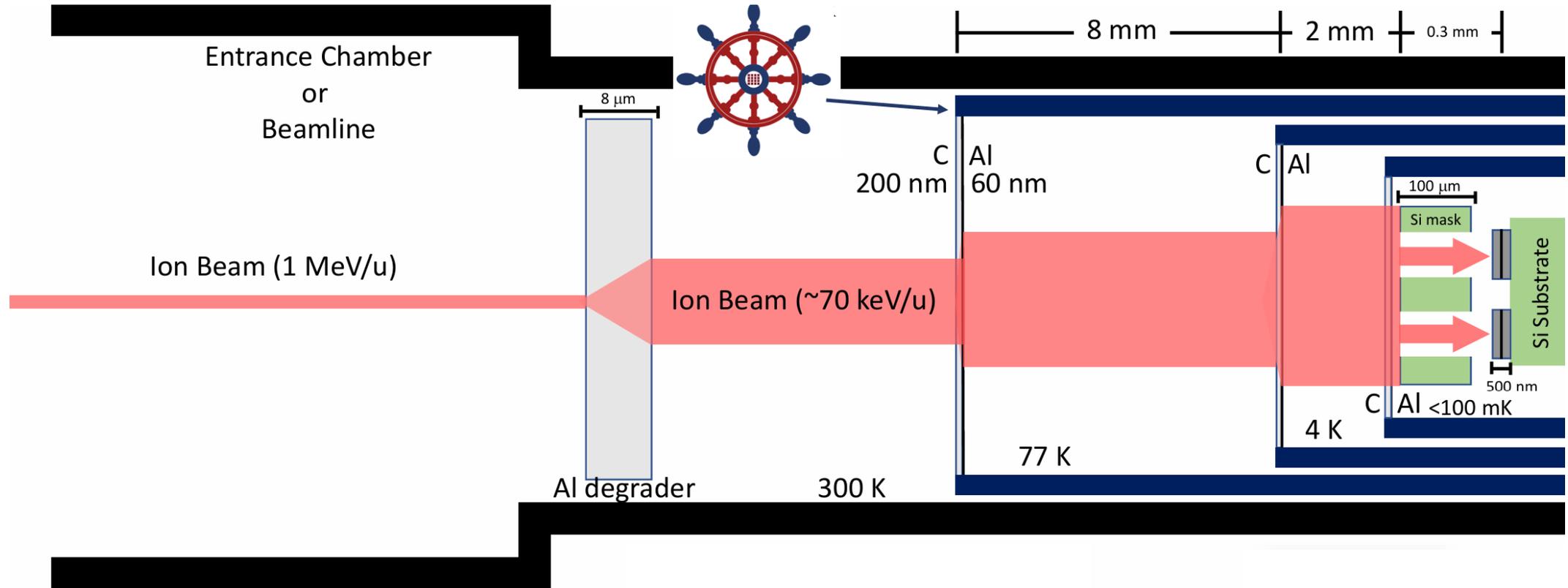
# III. SALER Set up



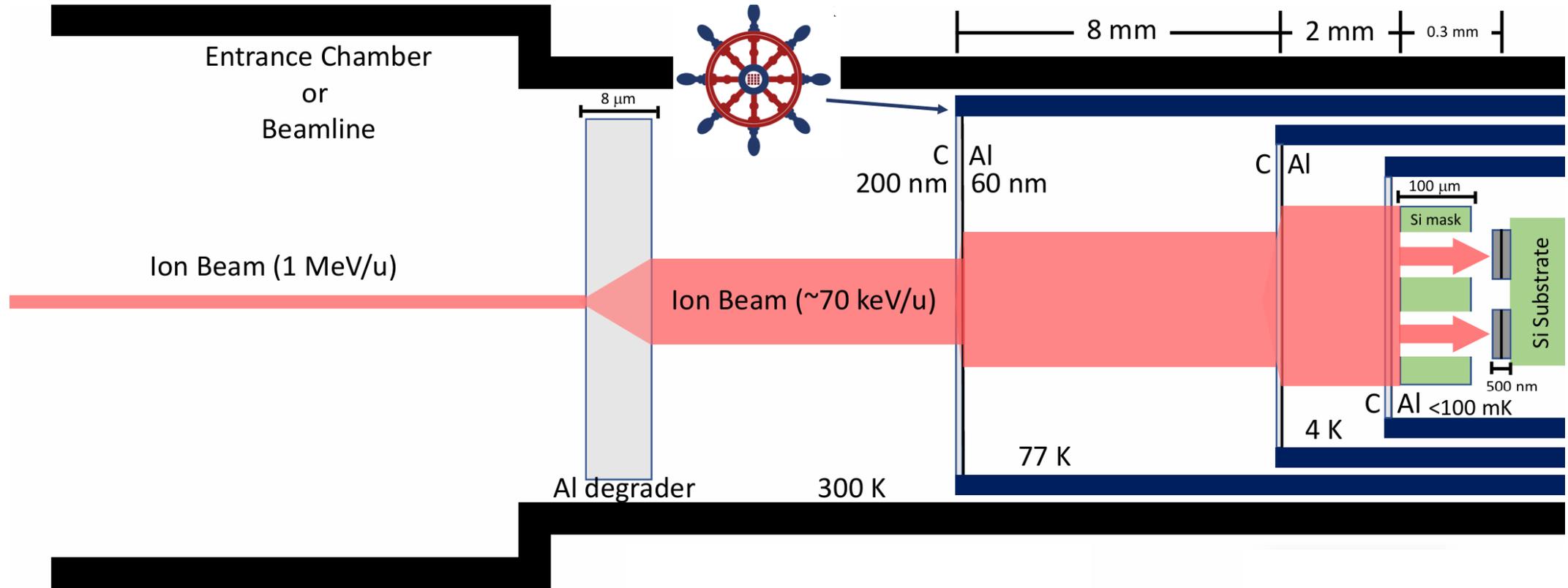
SALER experiment - ISOL



# SALER Experiment



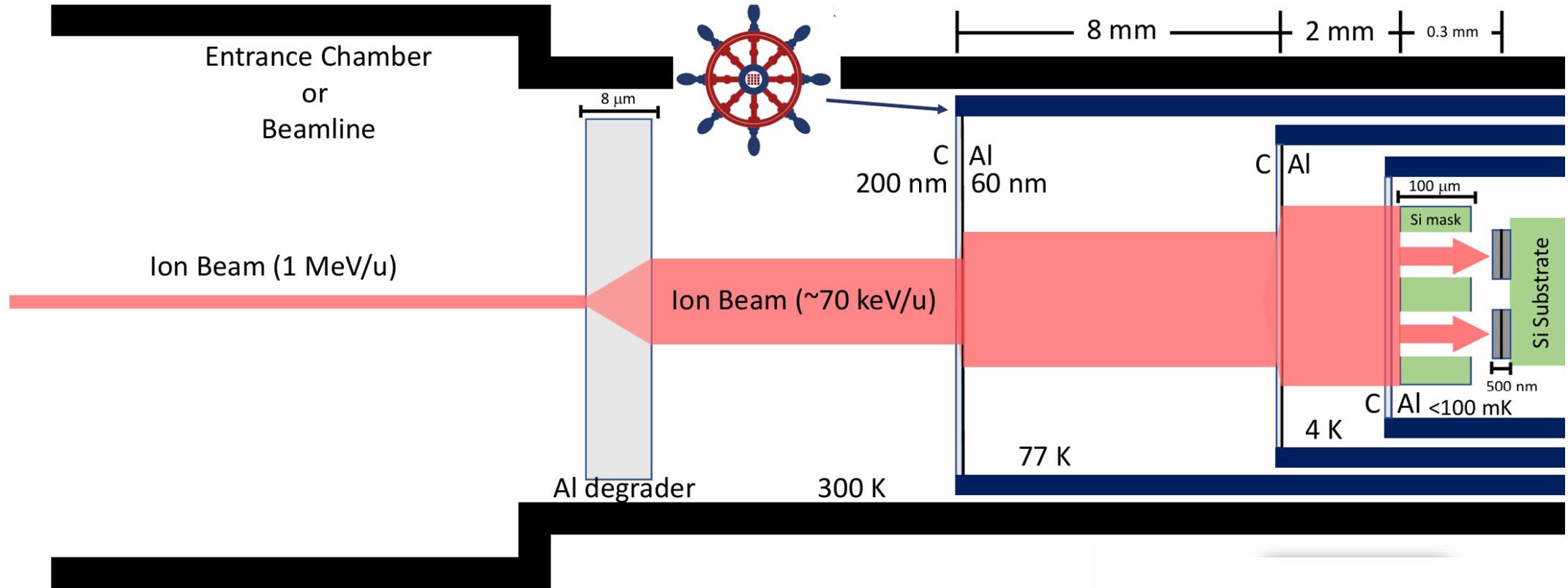
# SALER Experiment



**Stable beam commissioning in April/May !**



# SALER Experiment

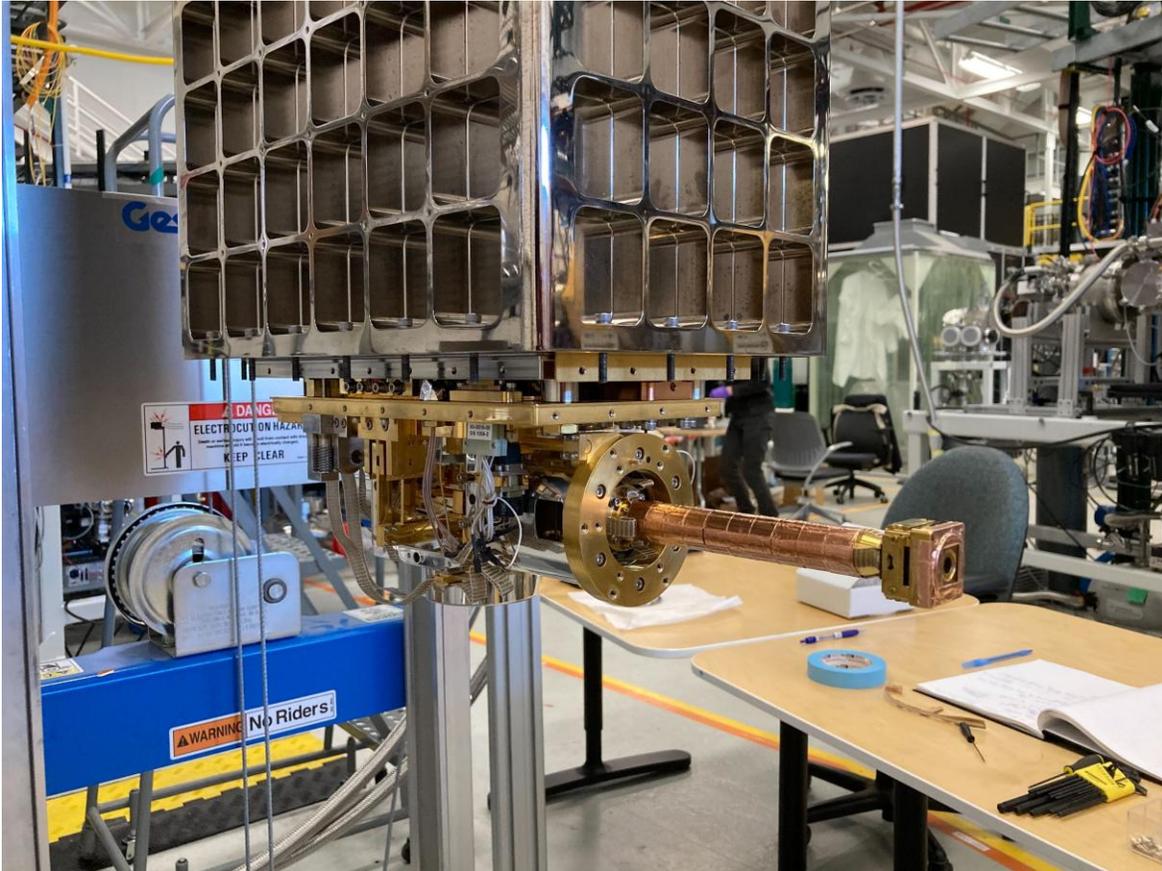


**Dress rehearsal /testing calibration procedure last week !**



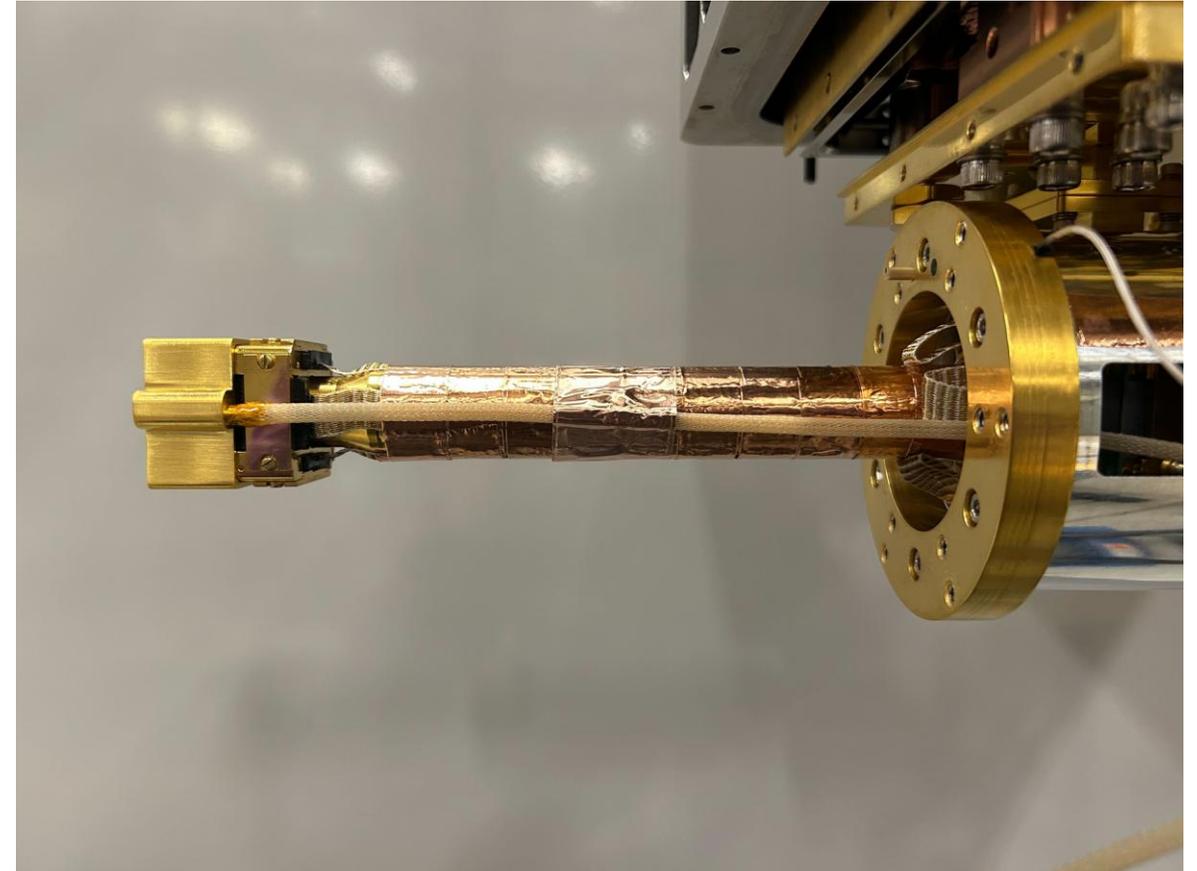
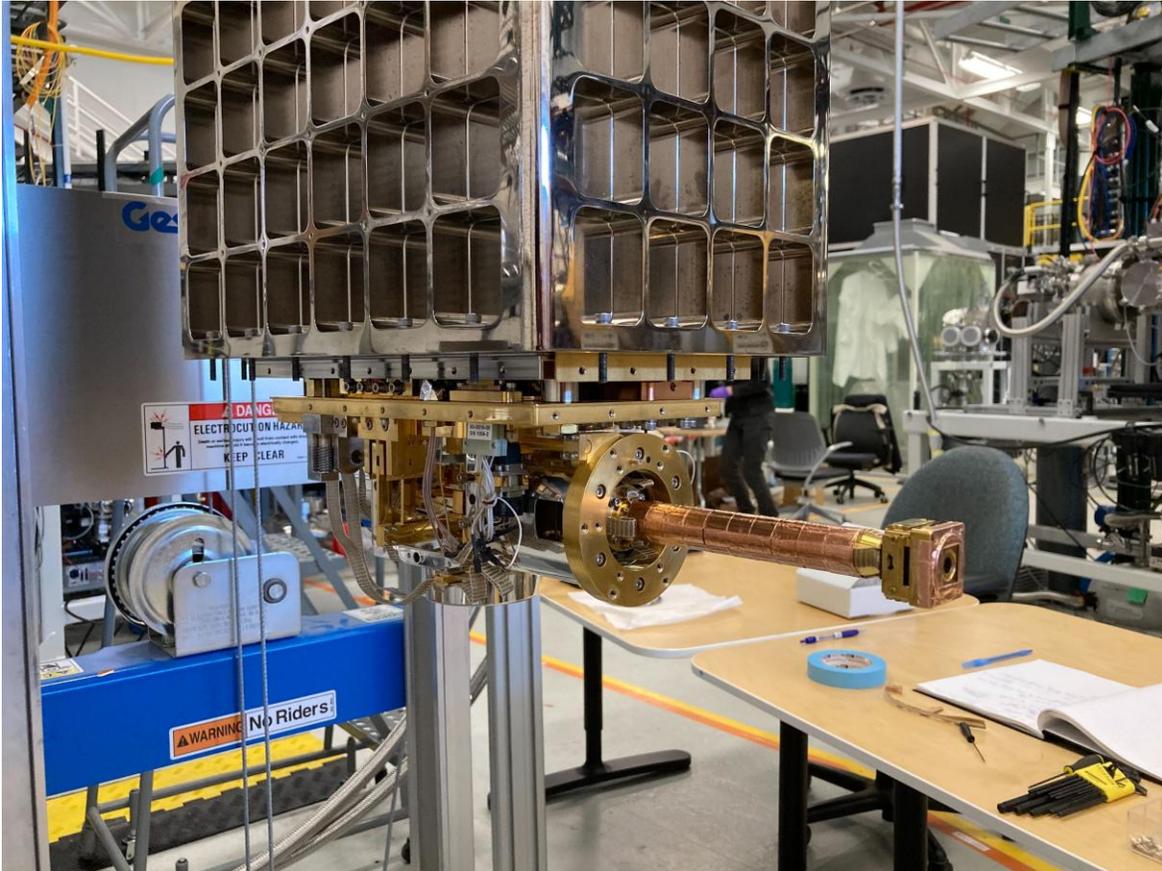
# Unshielded device

---

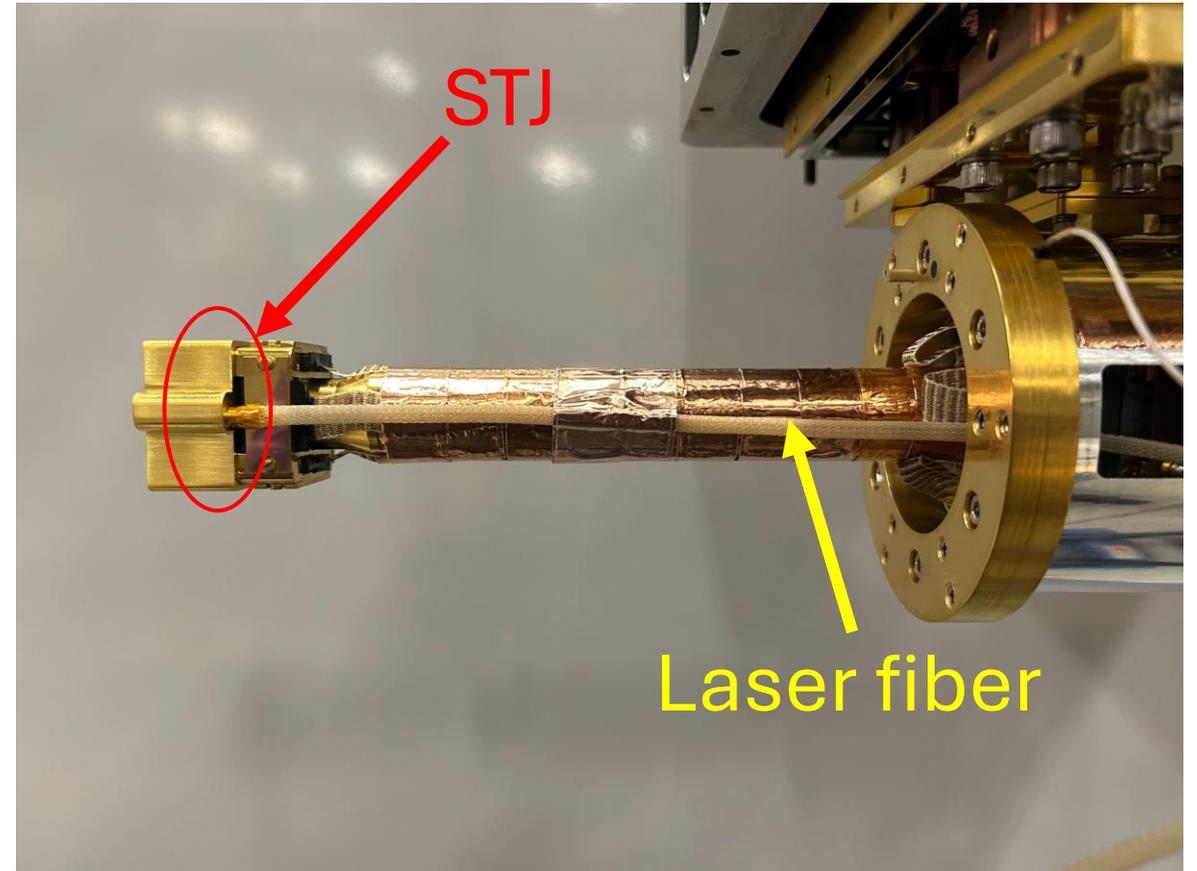
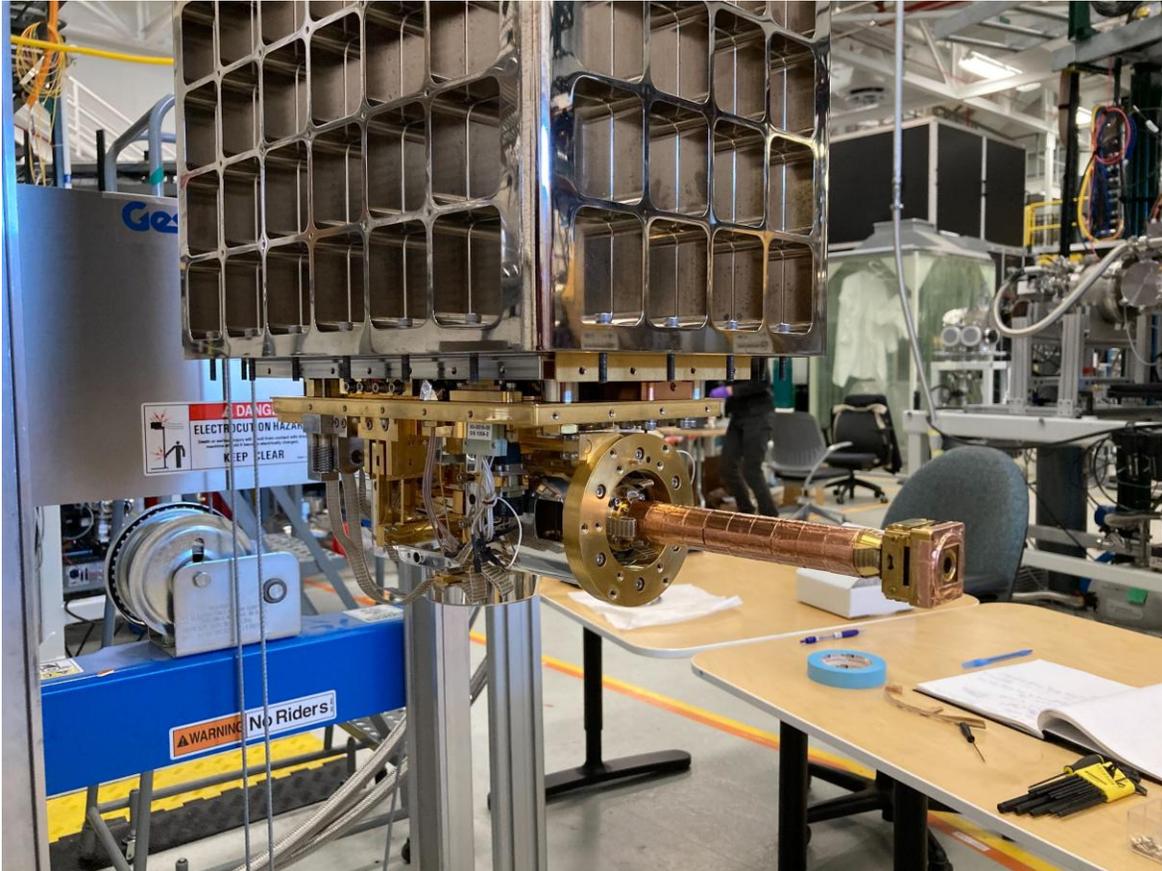


SALER experiment - ISOL

# Unshielded device



# Unshielded device



# Shielding



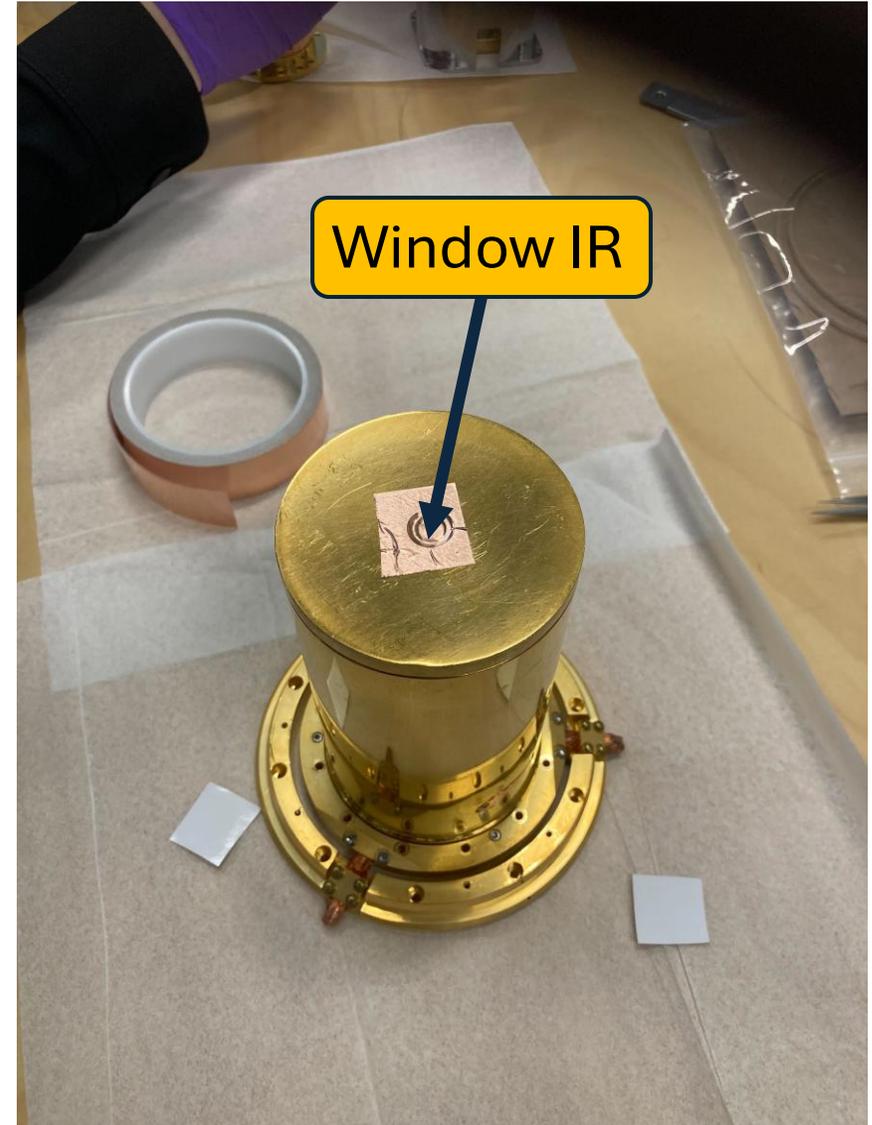
# Shielding



# Shielding

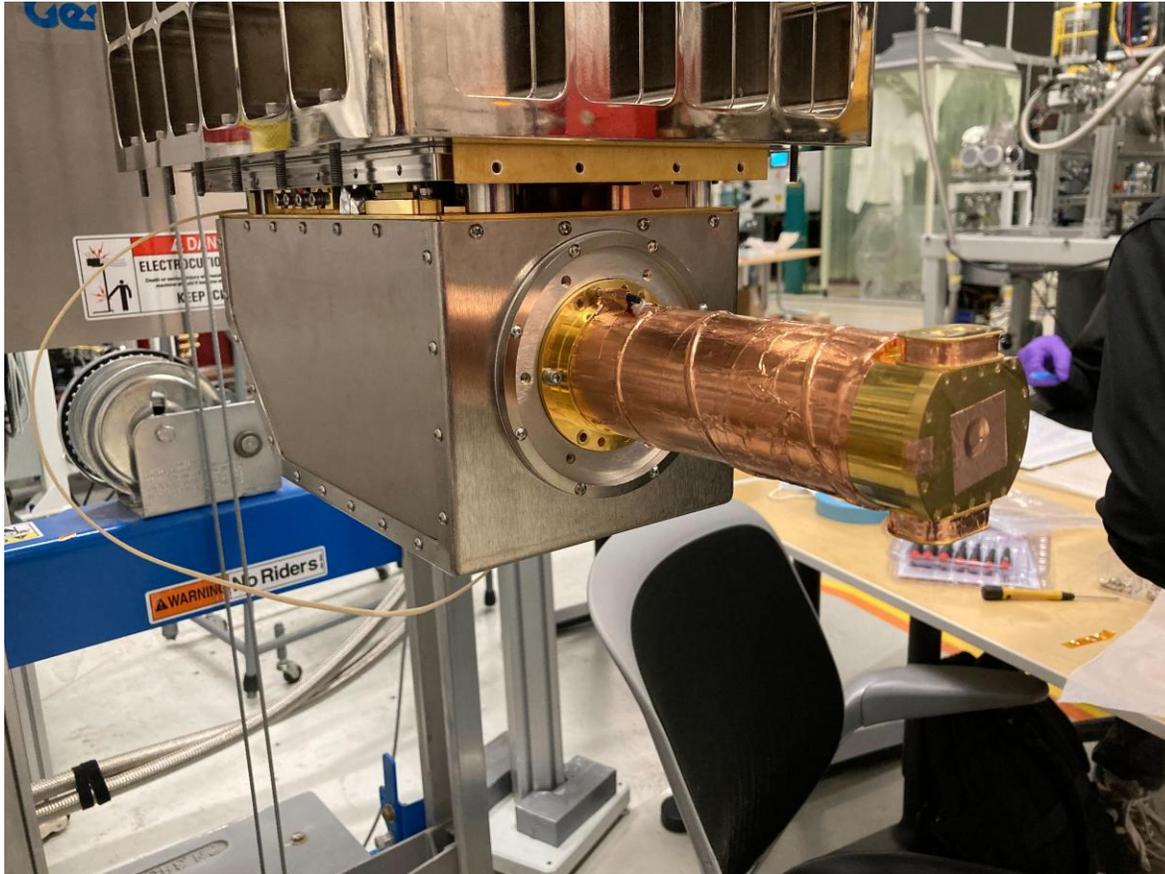


# Shielding



# Assembling

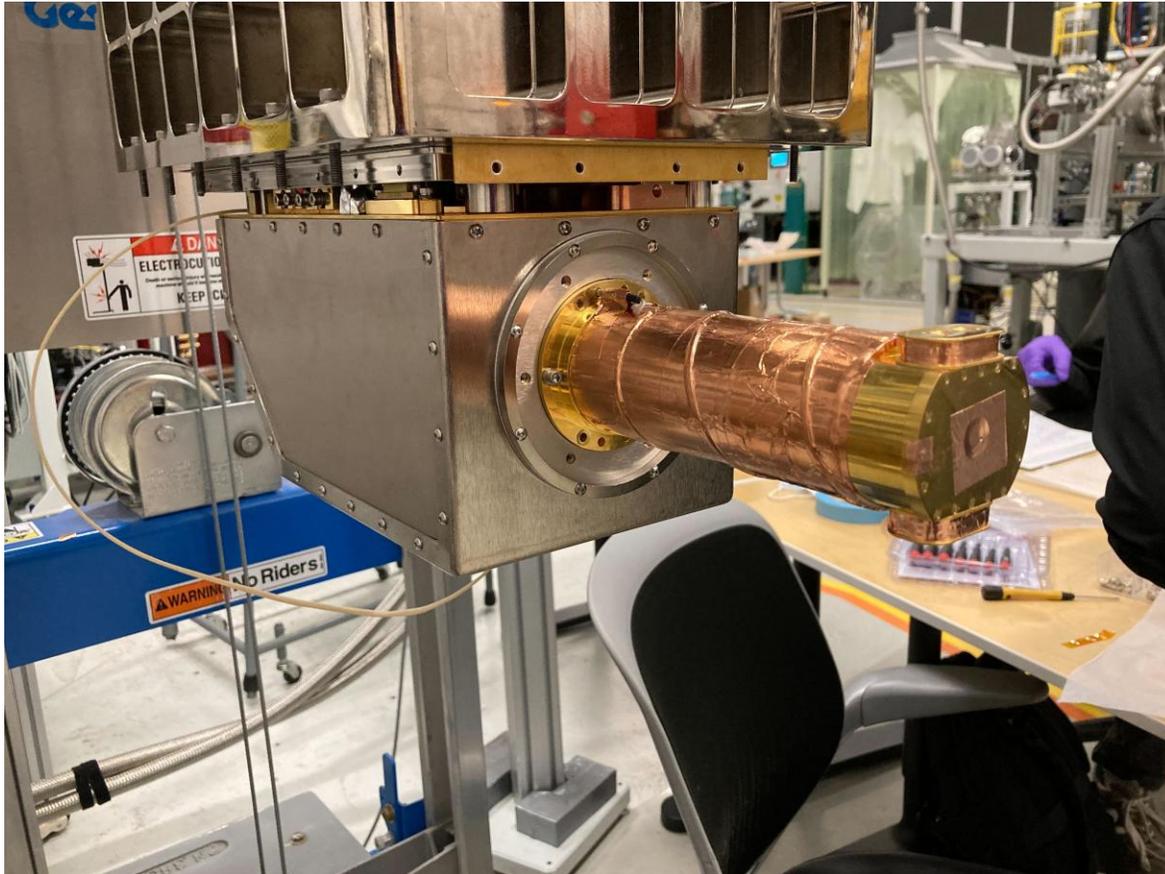
With the 4K shield



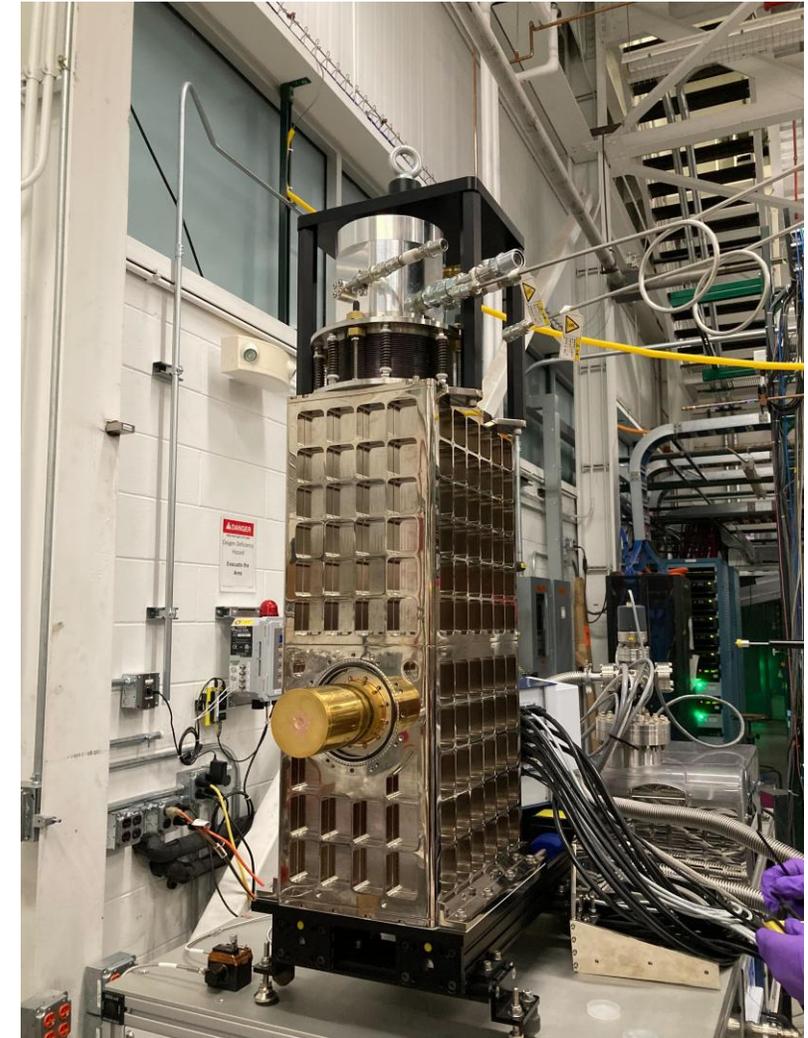
SALER experiment - ISOL

# Assembling

With the 4K shield

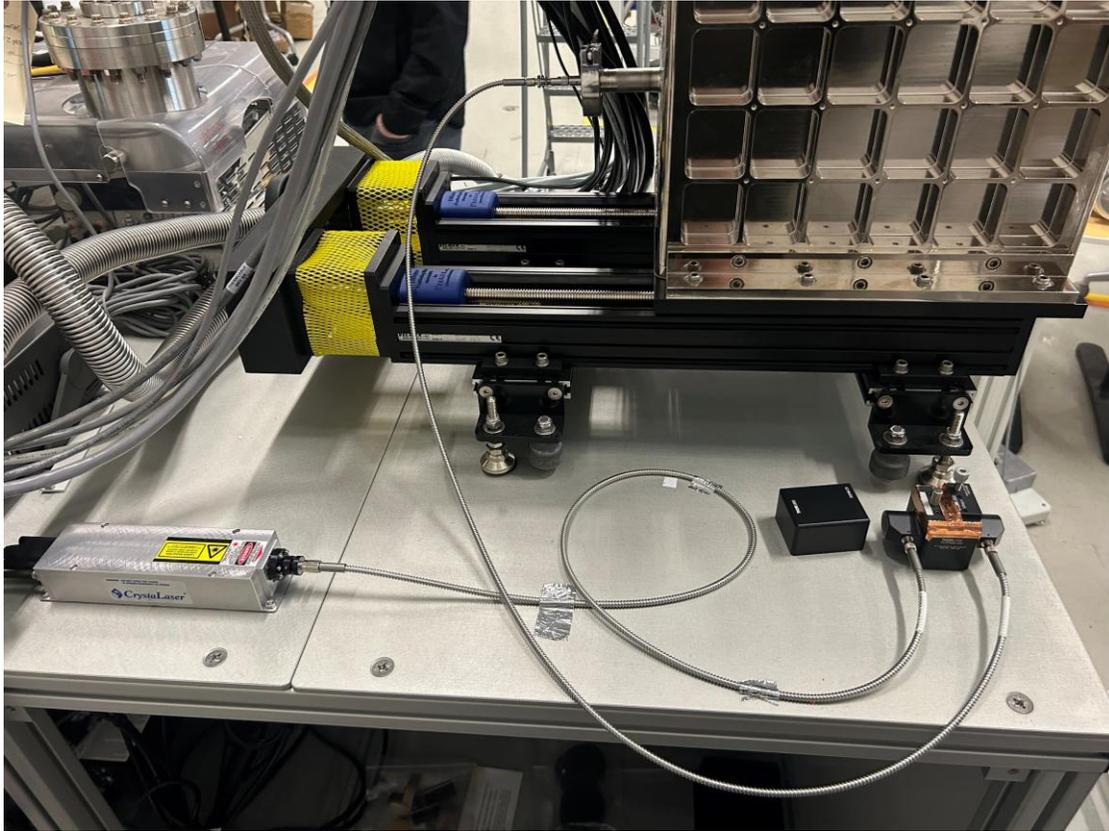


With the 50K shield



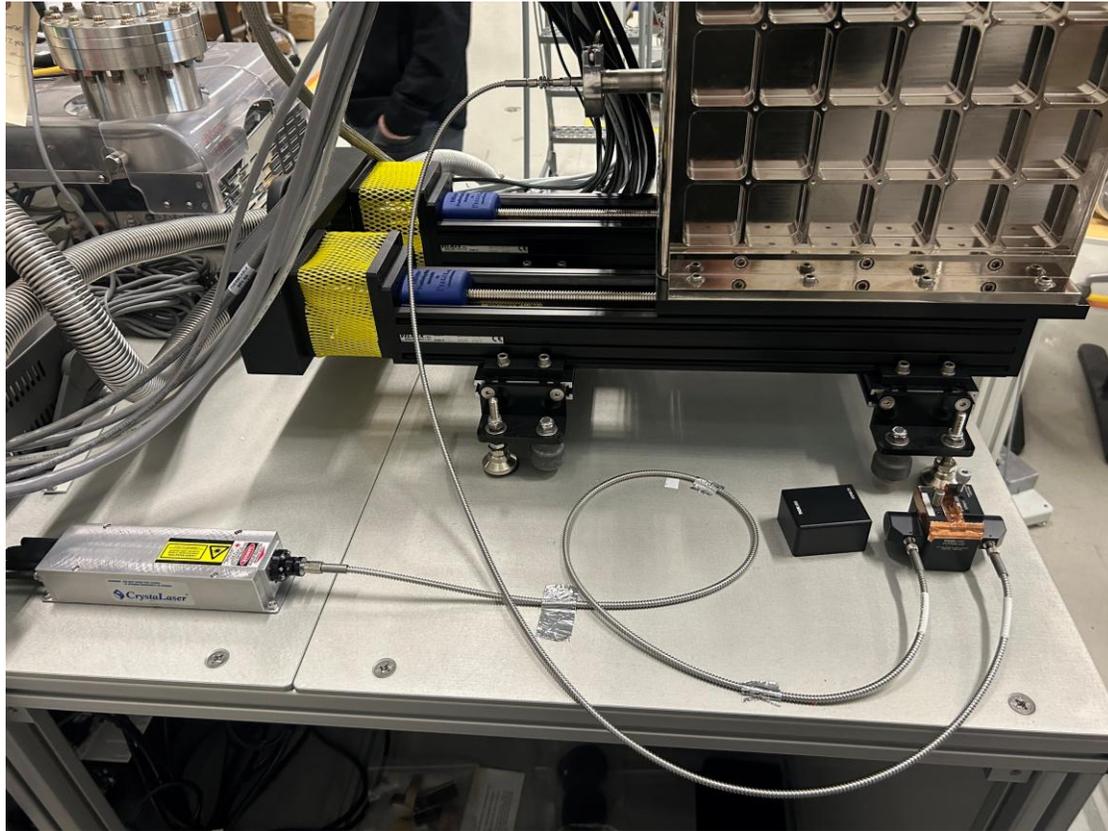
# Laser calibration

262 nm laser – 4.7 eV

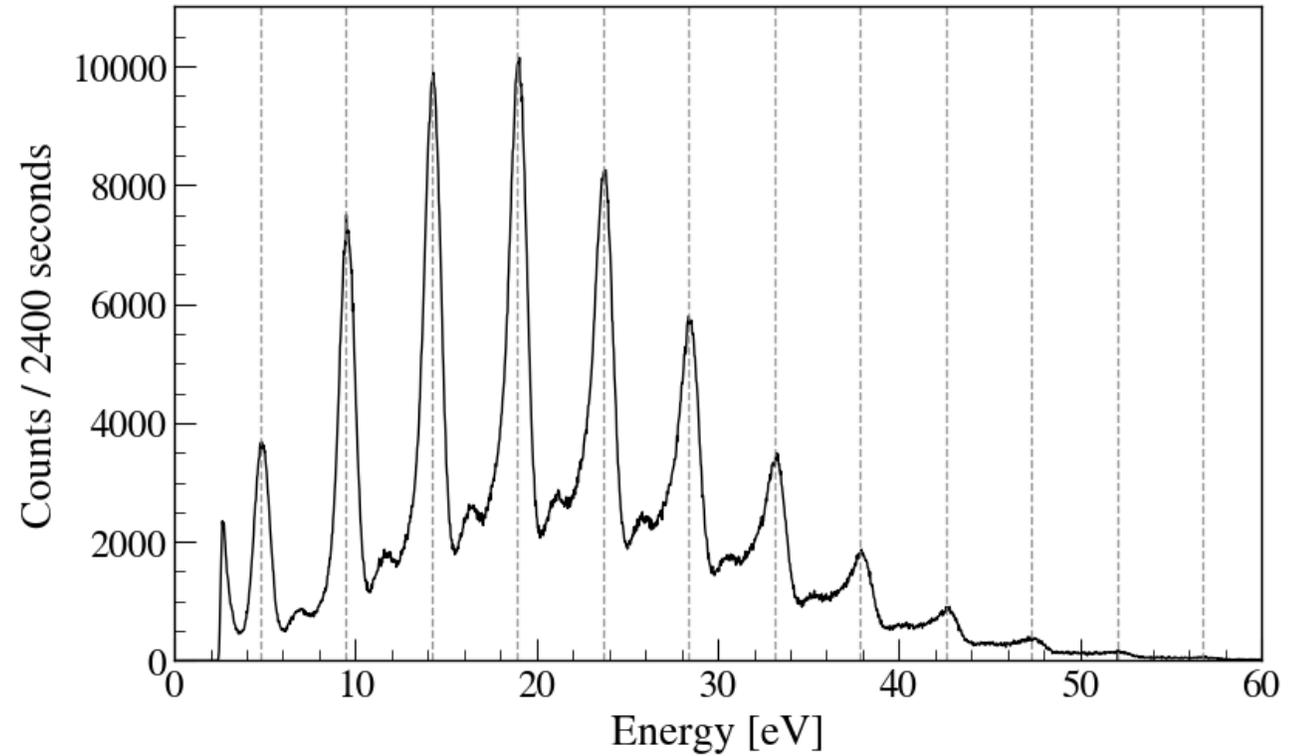


# Laser calibration

262 nm laser – 4.7 eV

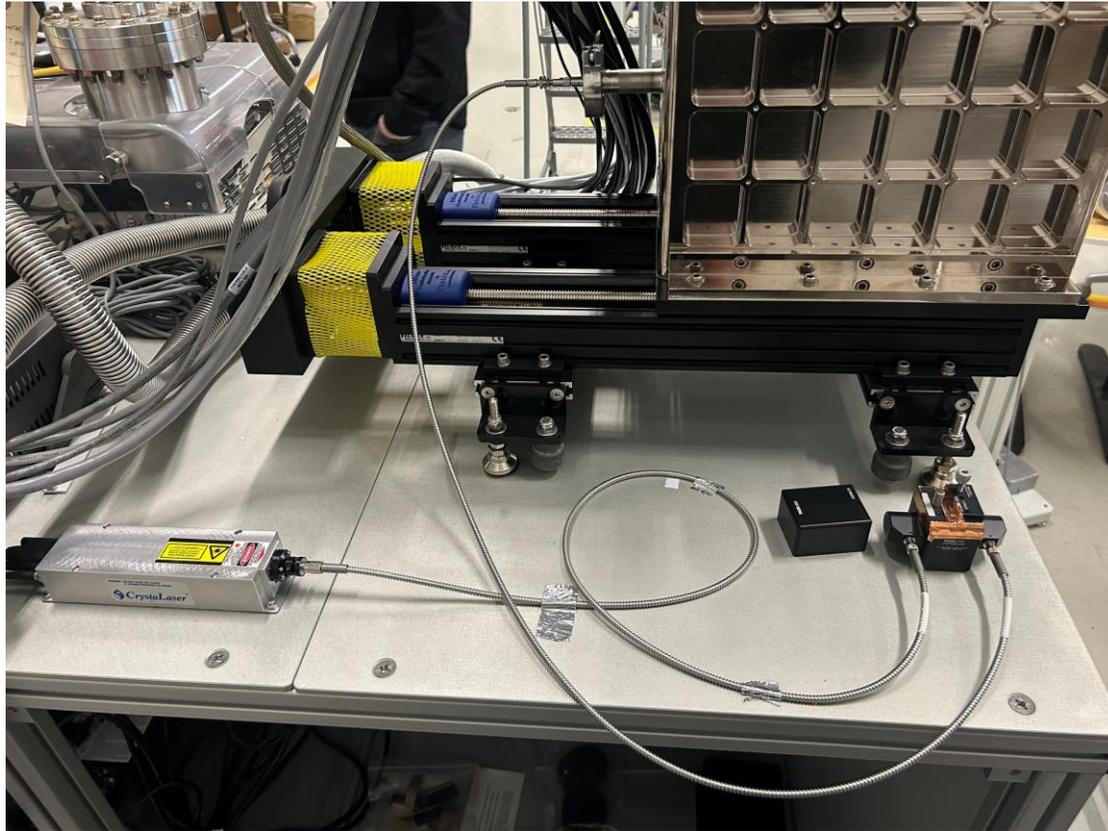


Spectrum for one pixel

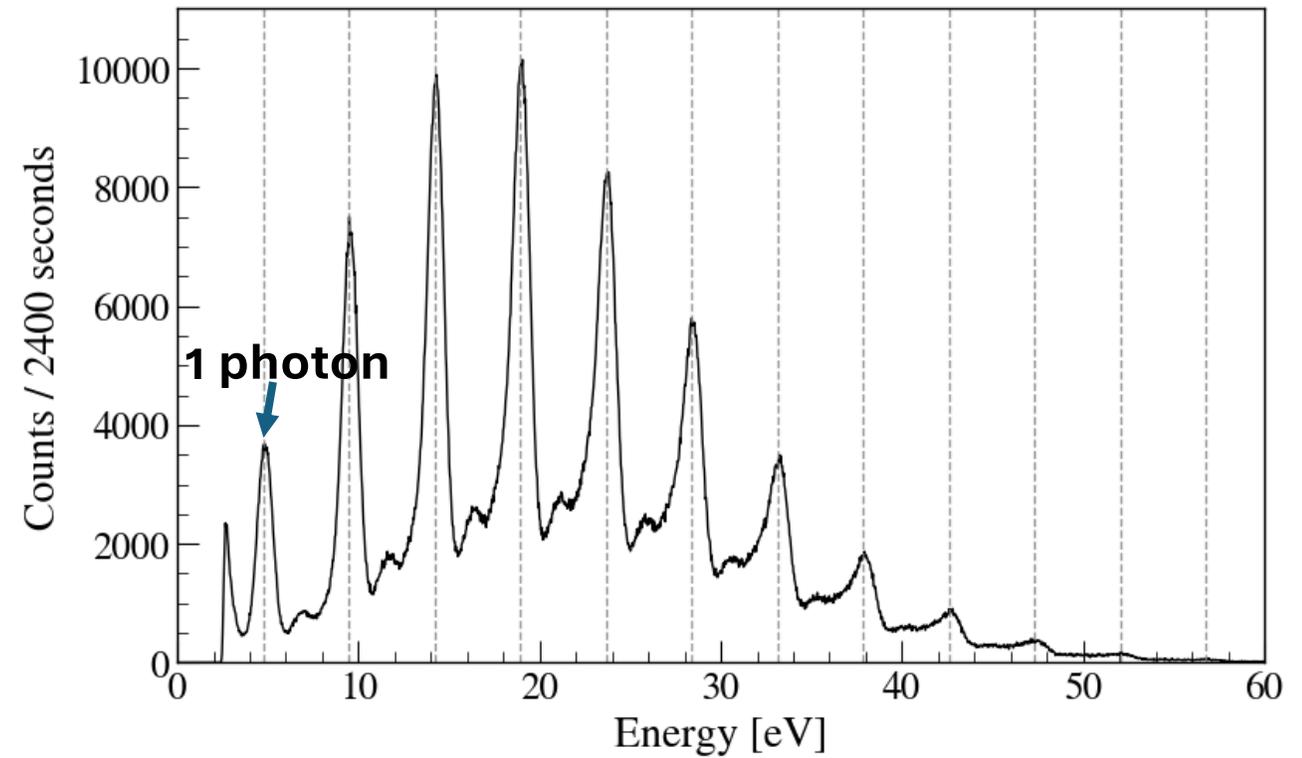


# Laser calibration

262 nm laser – 4.7 eV

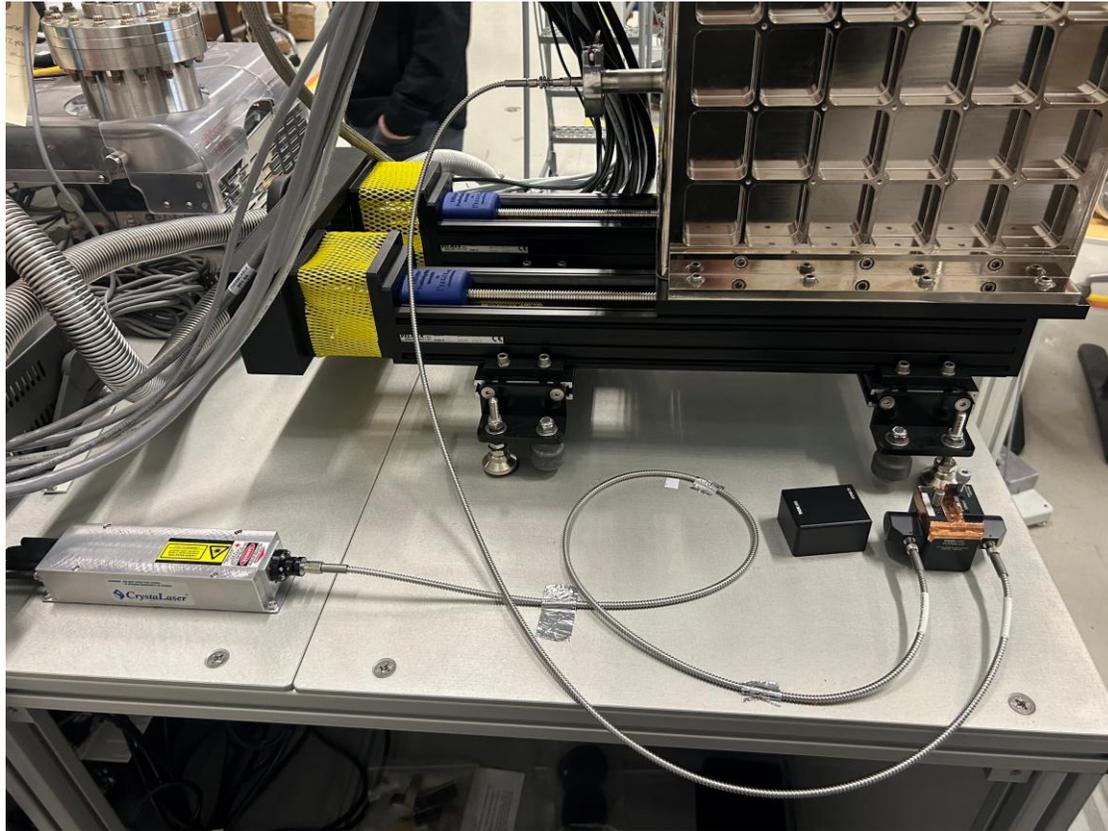


Spectrum for one pixel

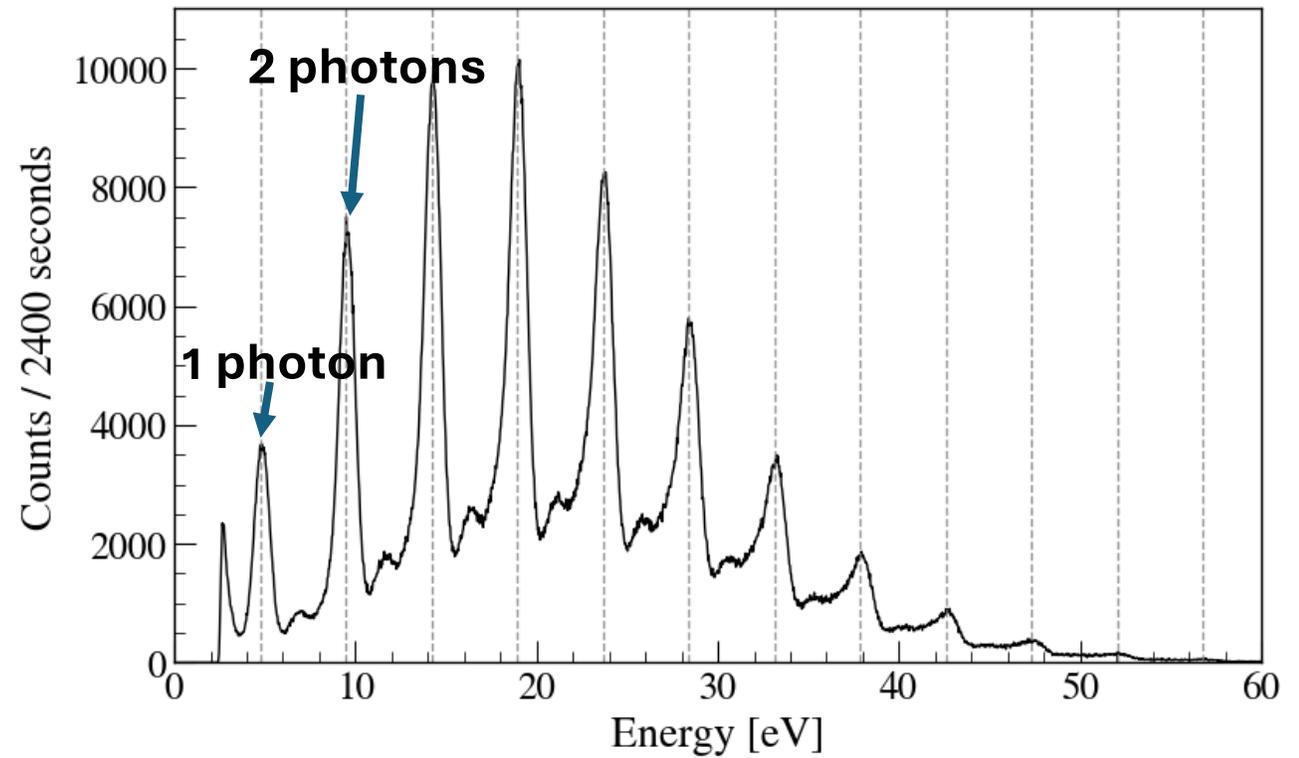


# Laser calibration

262 nm laser – 4.7 eV

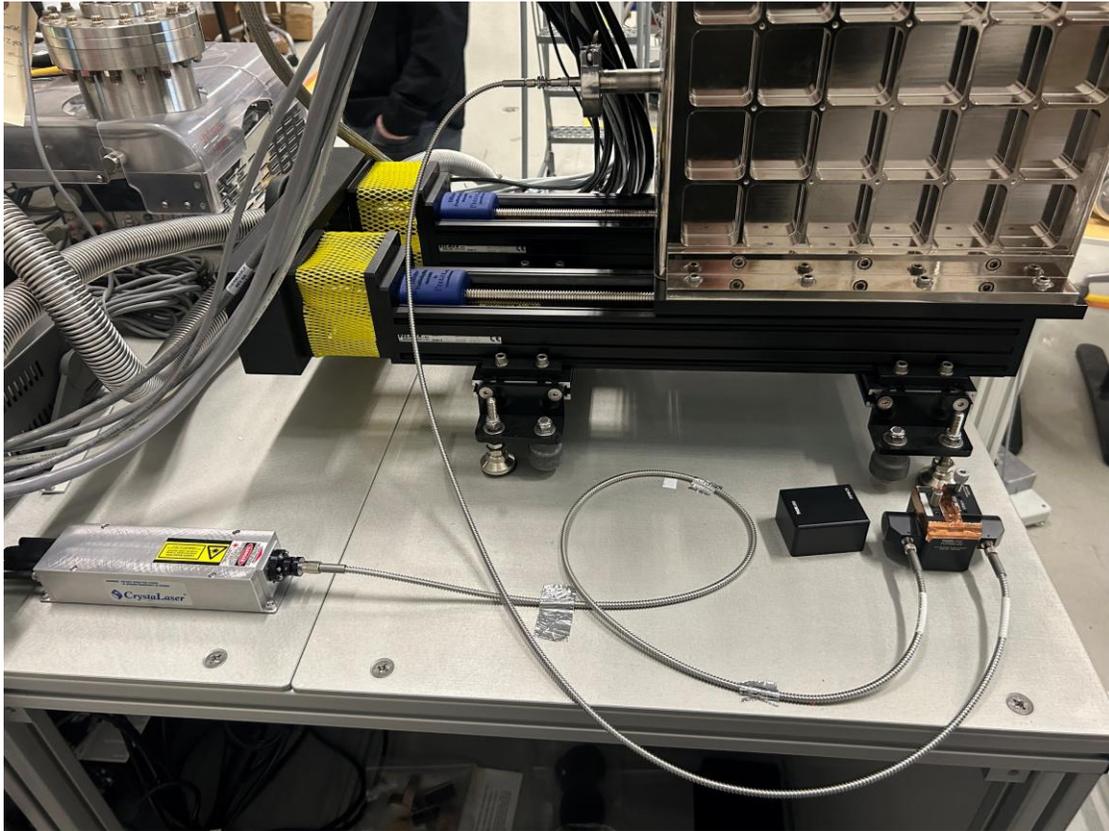


Spectrum for one pixel

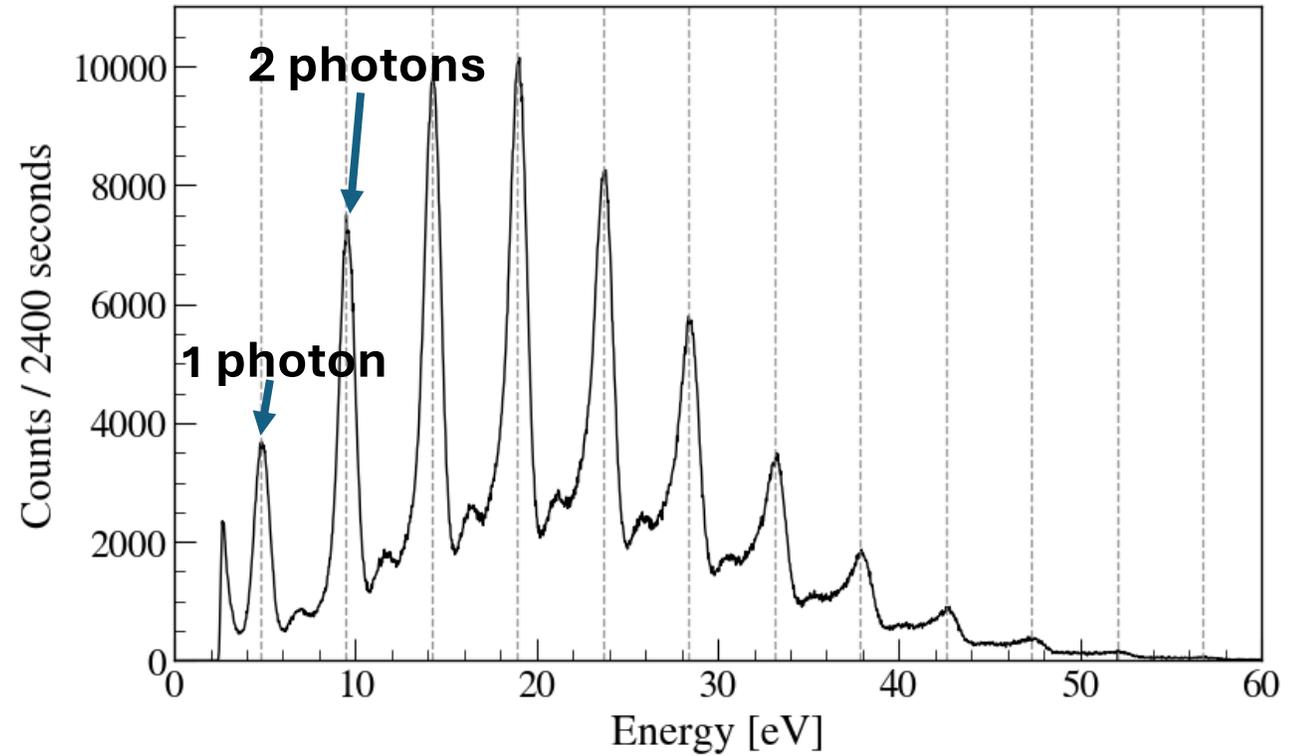


# Laser calibration

262 nm laser – 4.7 eV



Spectrum for one pixel



**Best one : 1.25 eV FWHM !**

# Conclusion and outlook

---

- STJs able to perform **at 1 - 4 eV resolution** in the range of interest



# Conclusion and outlook

---

- STJs able to perform **at 1 - 4 eV resolution** in the range of interest
- Stable beam in May, **radioactive beam in late 2026**



# Conclusion and outlook

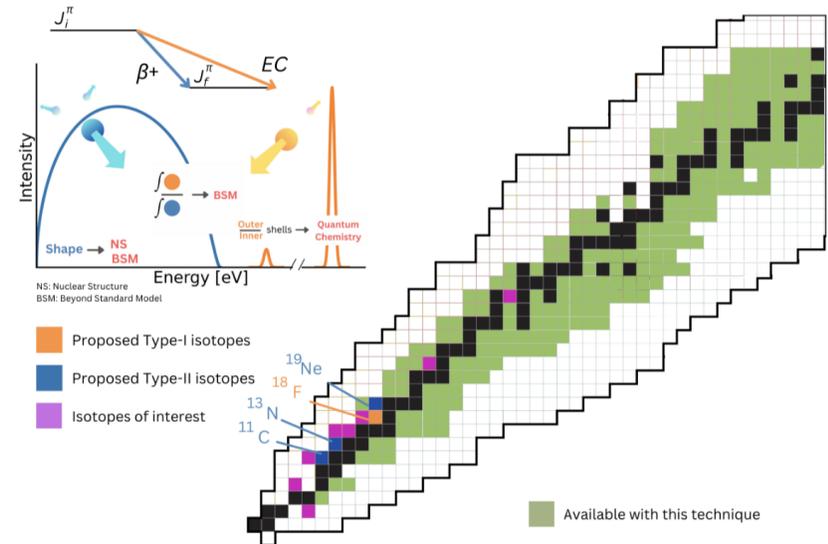
---

- STJs able to perform **at 1 - 4 eV resolution** in the range of interest
- Stable beam in May, **radioactive beam in late 2026**
- **Study electron scattering background for uncertainty budget**

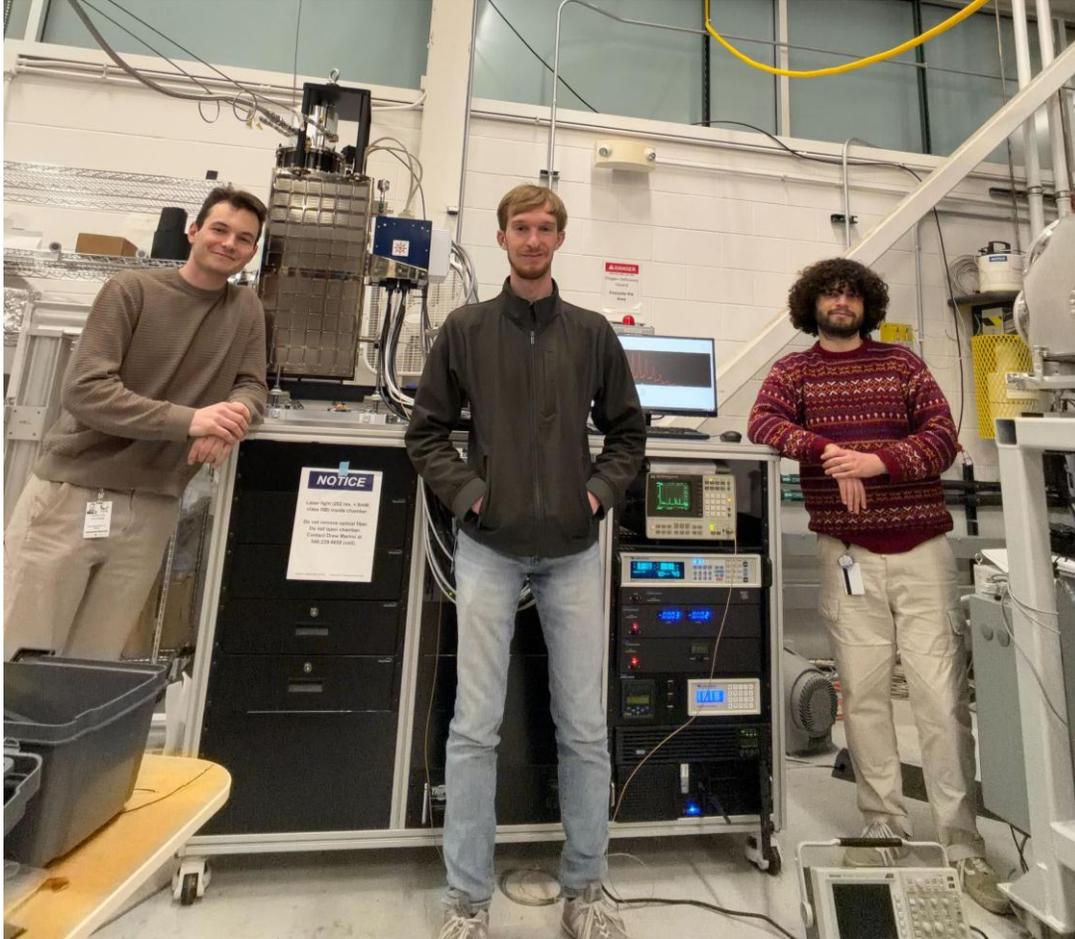


# Conclusion and outlook

- STJs able to perform **at 1 - 4 eV resolution** in the range of interest
- Stable beam in May, **radioactive beam in late 2026**
- **Study electron scattering background for uncertainty budget**
- Pave the way for ASGARD (at DESIR)



# Collaboration



**MINES**



**Lawrence Livermore  
National Laboratory**



**FRIB**



**U.S. DEPARTMENT  
of ENERGY**

**Office of  
Science**



SALER experiment - ISOL

# Thanks for listening !



SALER experiment - ISOL



# Back-up

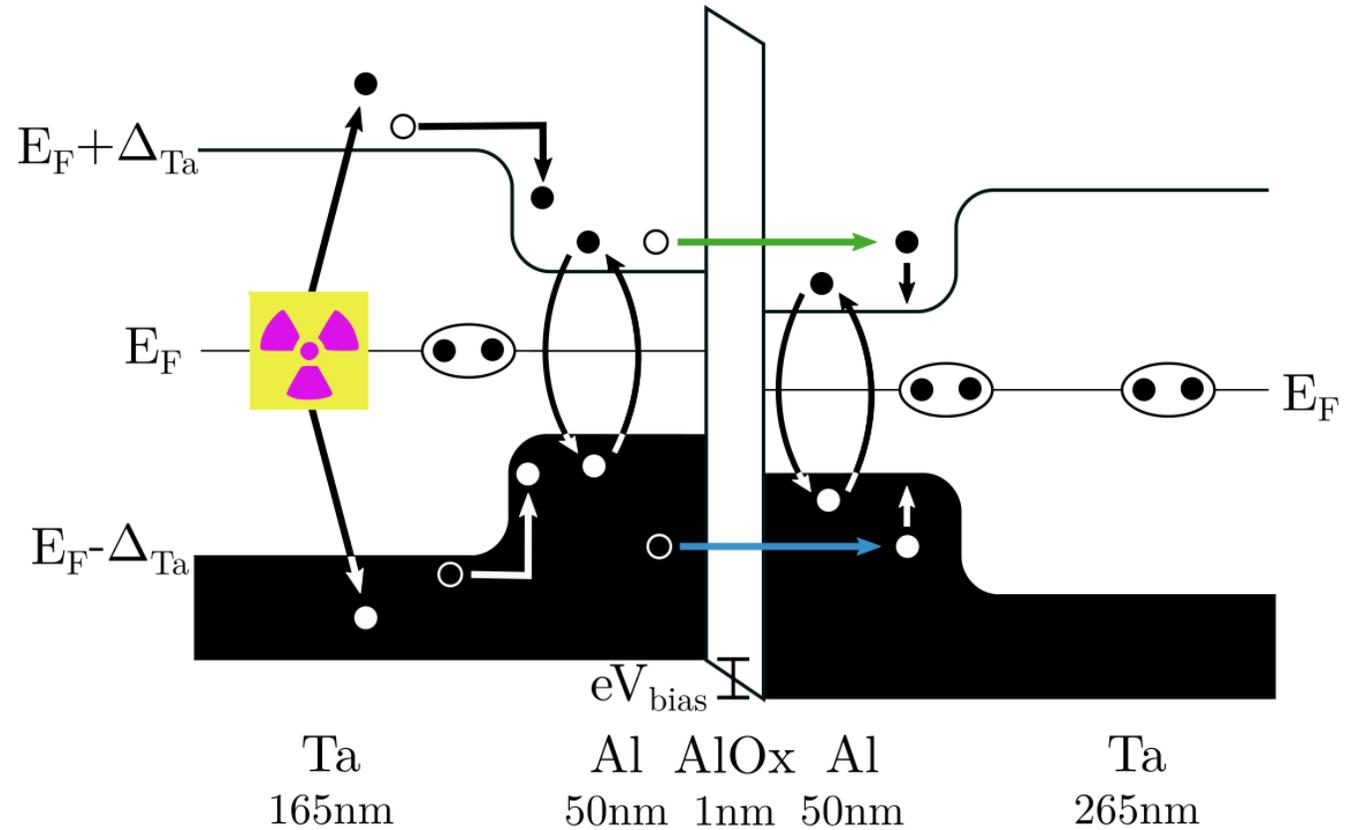


SALER experiment - ISOL



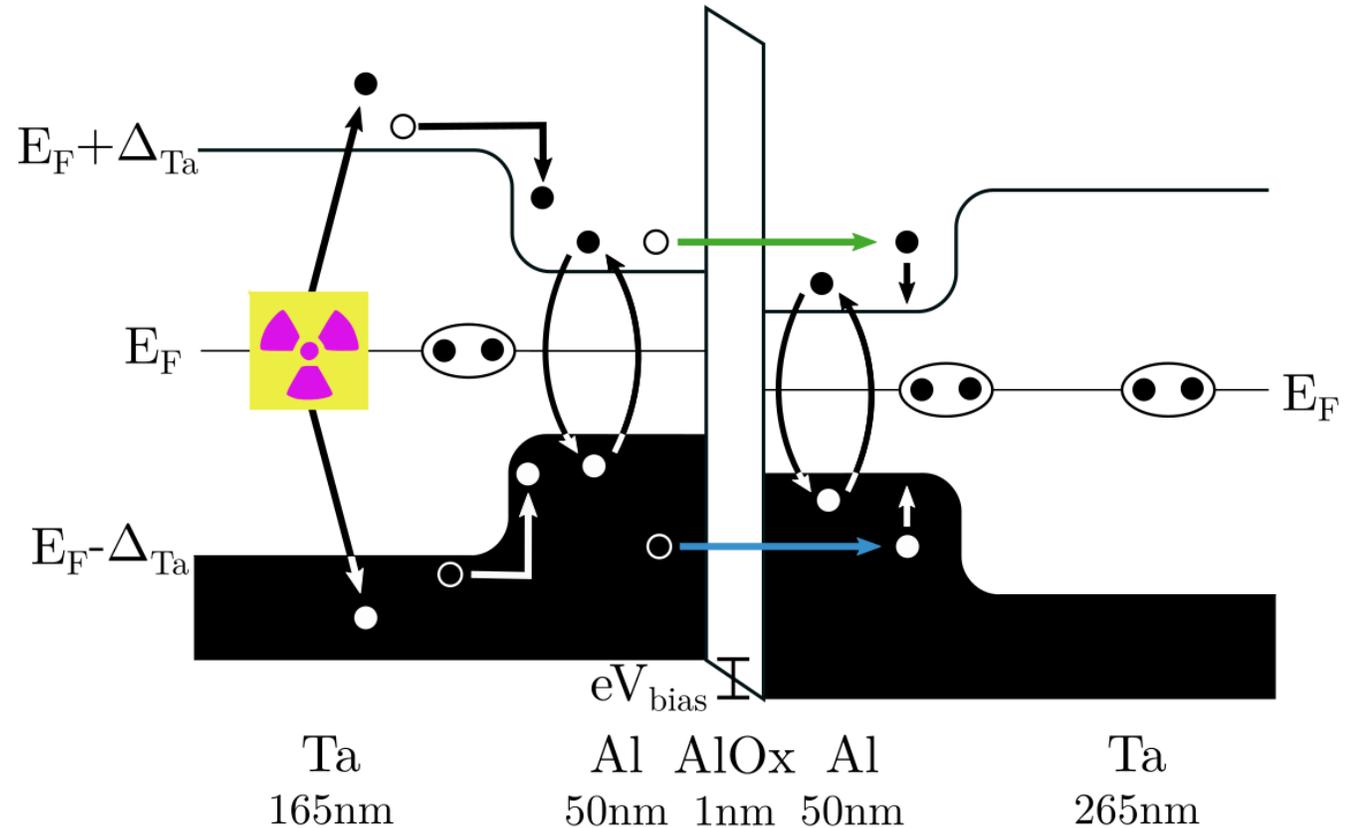
# Superconducting Tunnel Junctions

- Five layers detector : absorber, trapping layer, biased insulator, trapping layer and final layer
- Onset of superconductivity : formation of Cooper pairs



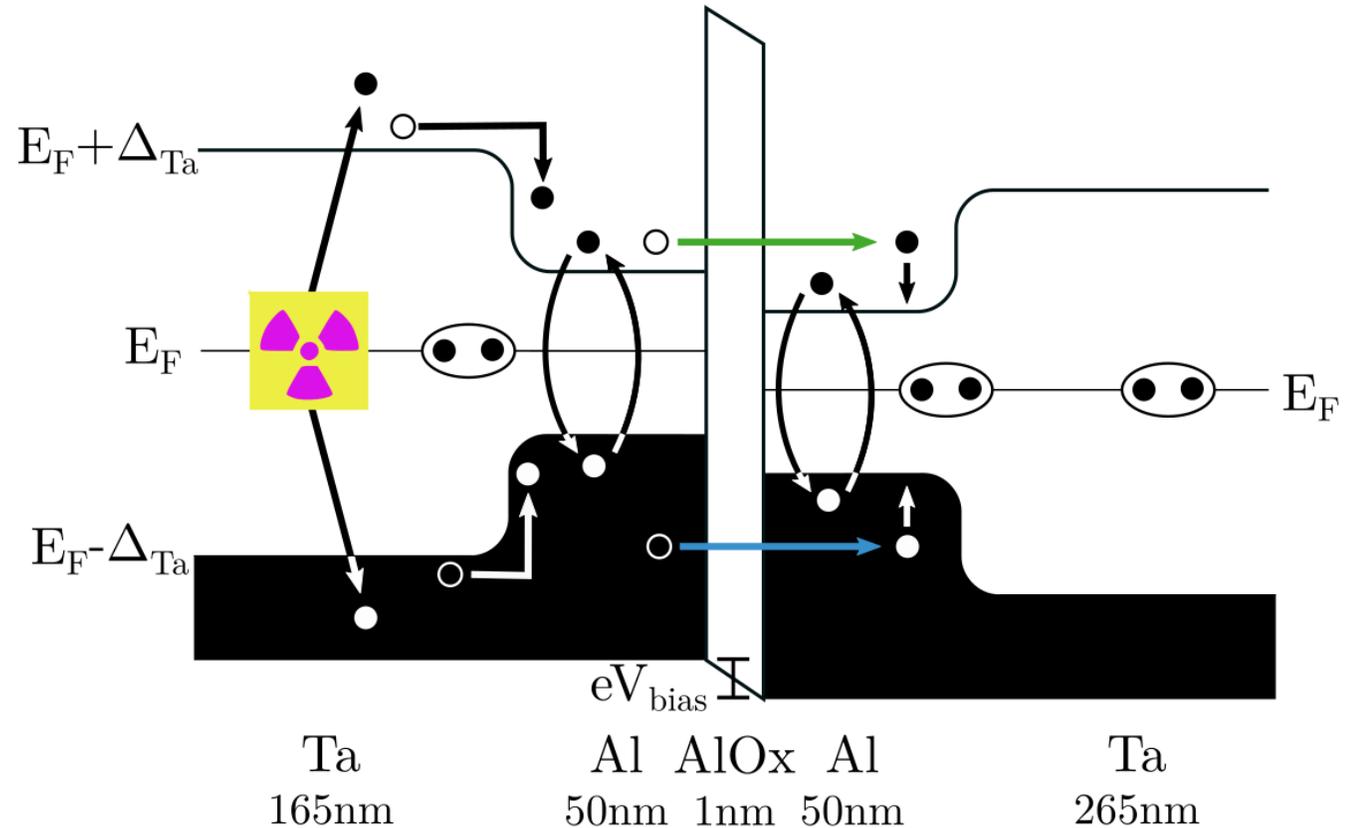
# Superconducting Tunnel Junctions

- Five layers detector : absorber, trapping layer, biased insulator, trapping layer and final layer
- Onset of superconductivity : formation of Cooper pairs
- Recoil breaks Cooper pairs and create a quasiparticle in the absorber
- Quasiparticles scatter down into the trapping layers, breaking other pairs in the process



# Superconducting Tunnel Junctions

- Five layers detector : absorber, trapping layer, biased insulator, trapping layer and final layer
- Onset of superconductivity : formation of Cooper pairs
- Recoil breaks Cooper pairs and create a quasiparticle in the absorber
- Quasiparticles scatter down into the trapping layers, breaking other pairs in the process
- **Measuring the tunneling current to recombine the momentum of the nucleus**



# About BeEST results

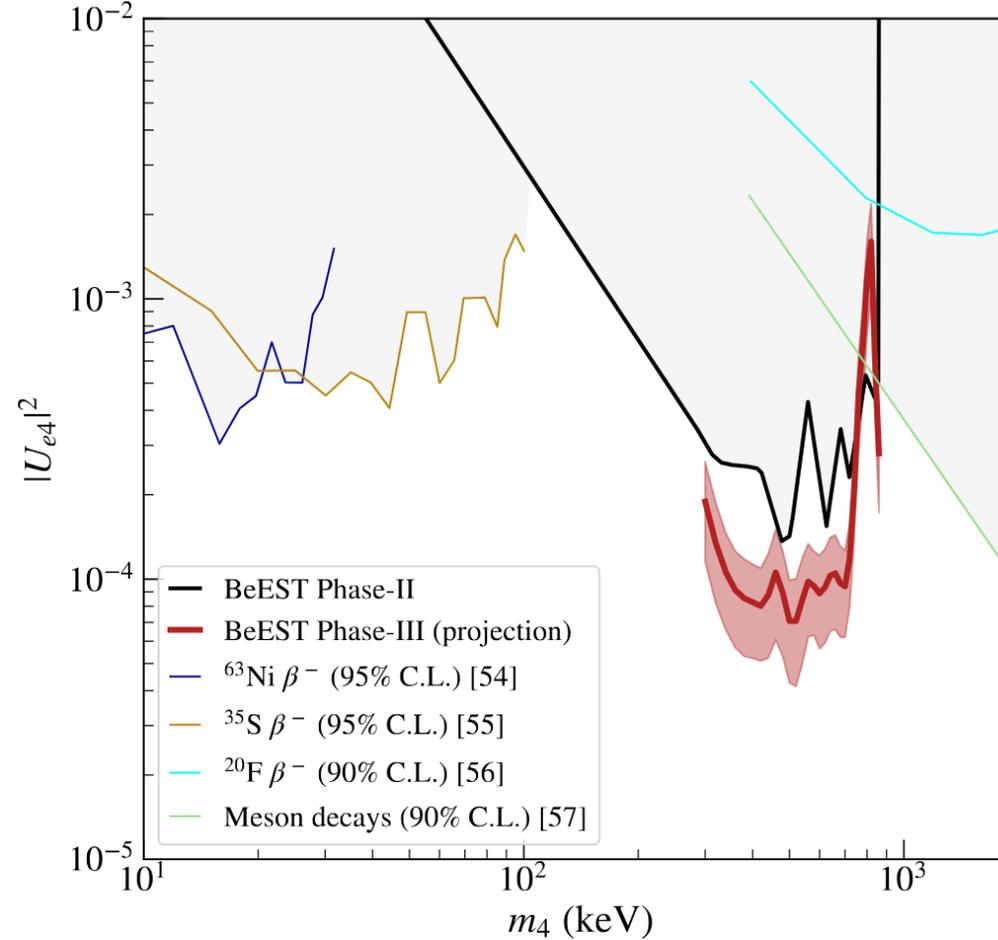


FIG. 25. Projected sensitivity for the BeEST Phase-III with  $1\sigma$  uncertainty band. Only the statistical considerations were made. Previous limits are shown in gray shaded regions [54–58].



# Statistical Uncertainties (from Andrew Marino's poster)

---

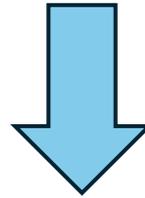
Species	$\delta V_{ud}$	$\delta V_{ud}$
	$\delta\rho$ only [ $10^{-4}$ ]	All uncertainties [ $10^{-4}$ ]
n	5.7	6.6
$^3\text{H}$	95	95
$^{11}\text{C}$	78	8.2
$^{13}\text{N}$	6.9	8.7
$^{15}\text{O}$	5.2	8.5
$^{17}\text{F}$	3.8	5.8
$^{19}\text{Ne}$	2.6	4.1



# Beta decay spectrum

---

$$\frac{d\Gamma}{dE_e d\Omega_\nu d\Omega_e} = \frac{G_F^2 F}{(2\pi)^5} p_e q^2 \left( 1 + a_{\beta\nu} \frac{\mathbf{p}_e \cdot \mathbf{p}_\nu}{E_e E_\nu} + b \frac{m_e}{E_e} + \dots \right)$$



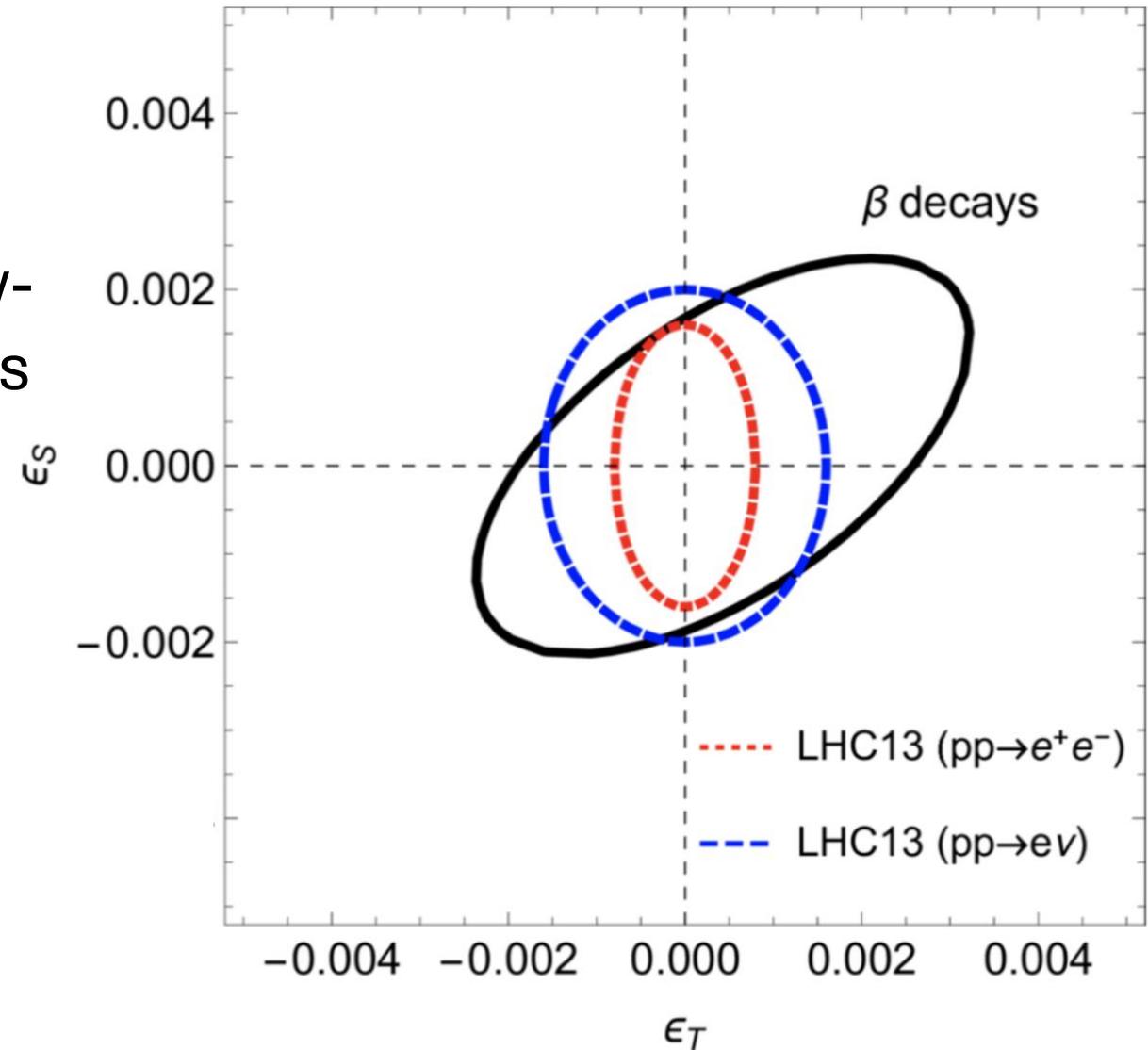
Integrate the angles

$$\frac{d\Gamma}{dE_f} \simeq$$

$$\frac{G_F^2}{4\pi^3} E_f \left\{ I^{110} + b I^{010} + \frac{a}{2} \left( p_f^2 I^{000} - I^{002} - I^{020} \right) + \alpha Z \left( I^{21-1} + \frac{a}{2} \left( p_f^2 I^{10-1} - I^{101} - I^{12-1} \right) \right) \right\}$$

# Beta decay to probe BSM physics

- High precision measurements at low-energies  $\rightarrow$  explore TeV-scale physics
- **In the search of exotic currents for the Standard Model, beta decay is competitive with LHC**



# Extension of SM Lagrangian (V.Dumenil)

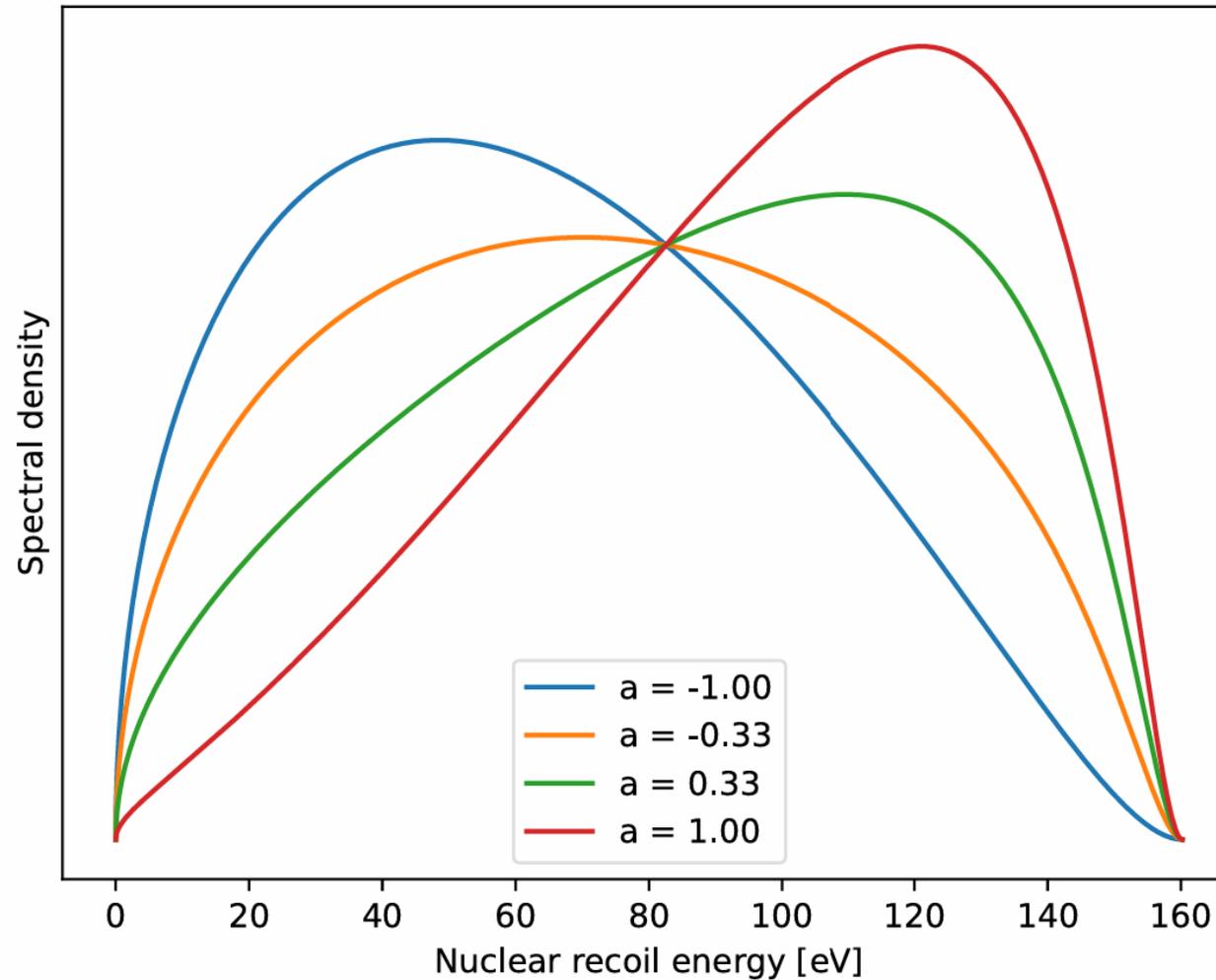
---

$$\mathcal{L}_{eff} = -\frac{G_F \tilde{V}_{ud}}{\sqrt{2}} \left\{ \bar{e} \gamma_\mu \nu_L \cdot \bar{u} \gamma^\mu [C_V - (C_A - 2\epsilon_R) \gamma^5] d + \epsilon_S \bar{e} \nu_L \cdot \bar{u} d \right. \\ \left. - \epsilon_P \bar{e} \nu_L \cdot \bar{u} \gamma^5 d + \epsilon_T \bar{e} \sigma_{\mu\nu} \nu_L \cdot \bar{u} \sigma^{\mu\nu} (1 - \gamma^5) d \right\}$$

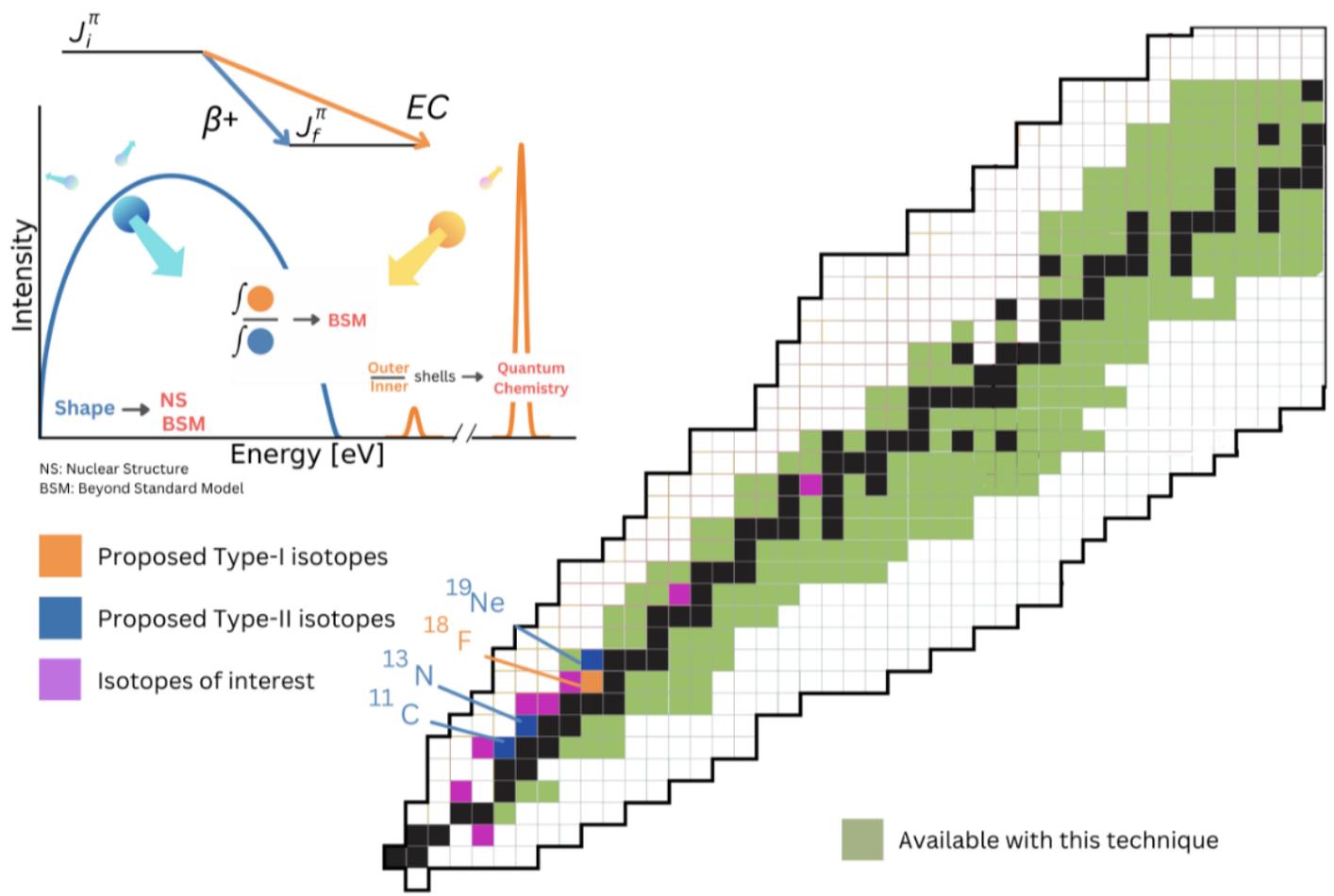
$\epsilon_i$  correspond to Right, Scalar, Pseudo-scalar and Tensor contribution respectively



# Effects on the recoil spectrum



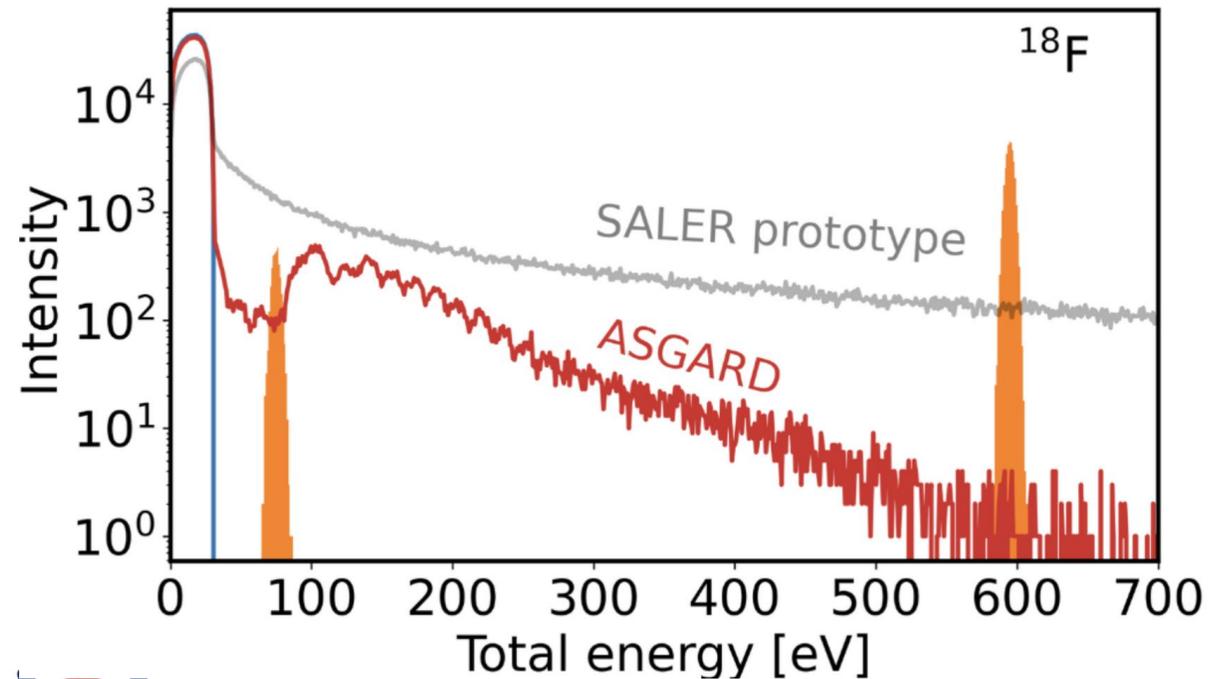
# ASGARD



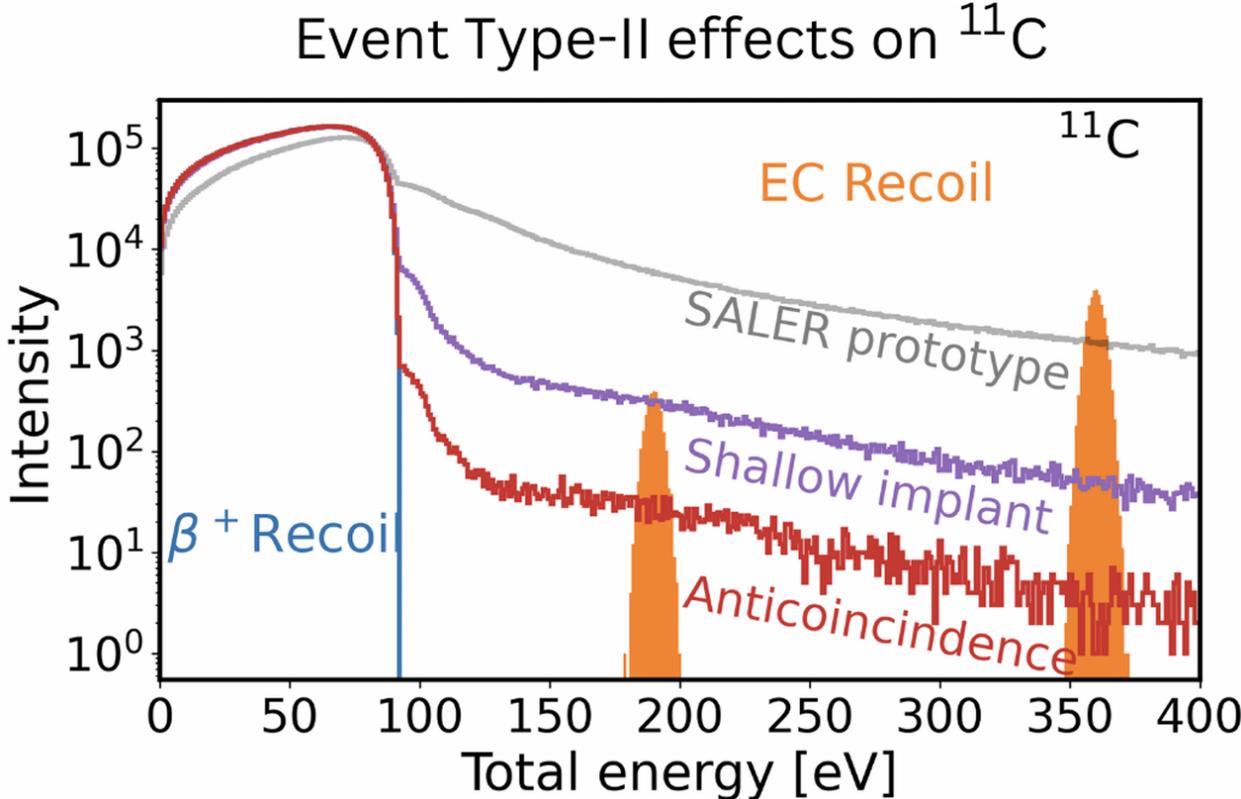
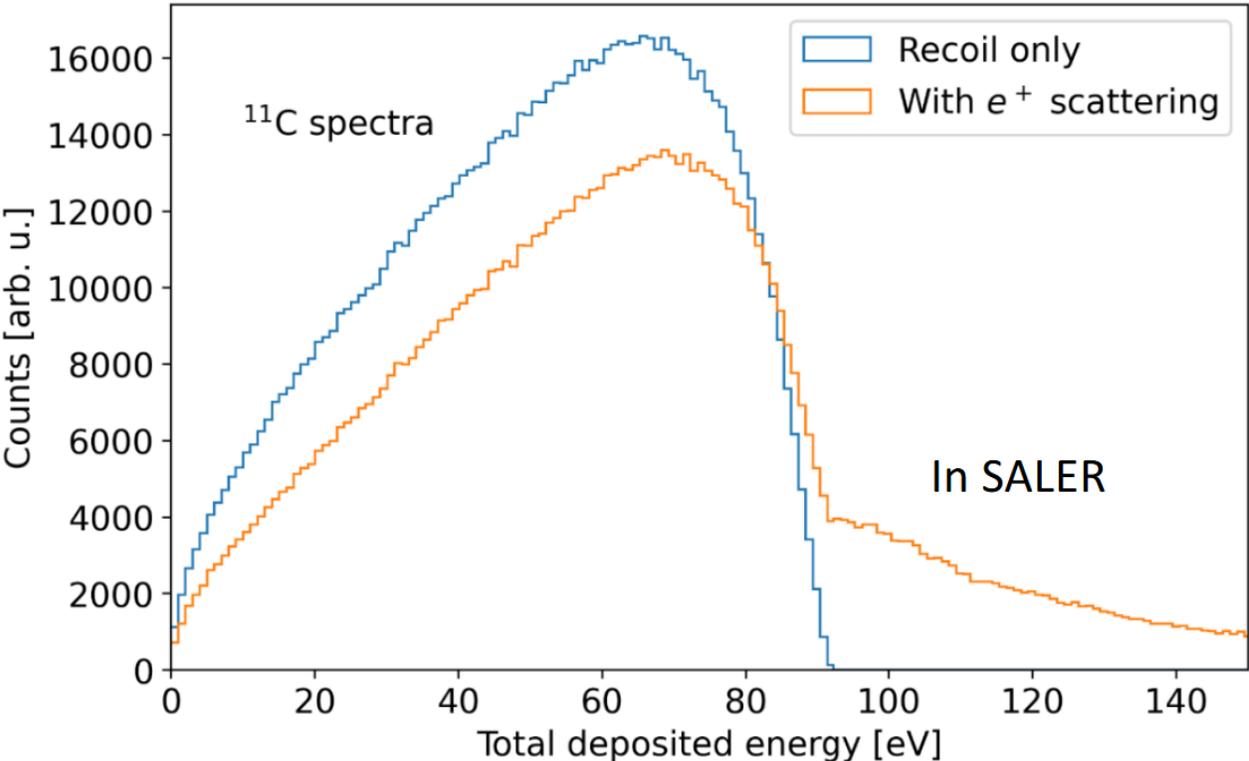
# What about fierz interference term ?

$$\frac{\lambda_{EC}}{\lambda_{\beta^+}} = \sum_{x=K,L,\dots} \frac{f_x}{f_{\beta^+}} \left[ \frac{1 + b_F m_e / E_x}{1 - b_F m_e / \bar{E}} \right] (1 + 0.001 \times \delta_{\text{theory}})$$

Event Type-III effects on  $^{18}\text{F}$

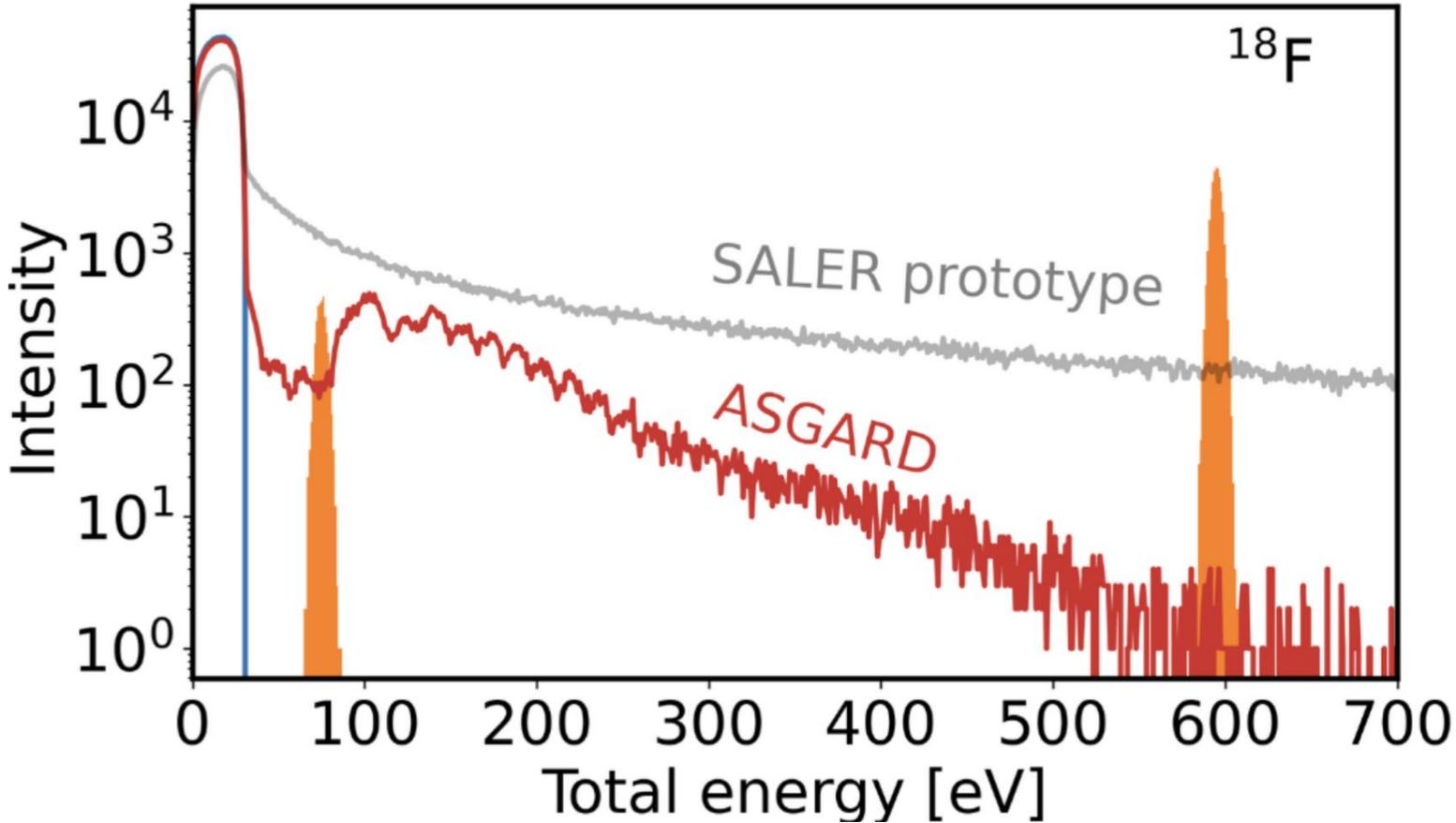


# Material effects

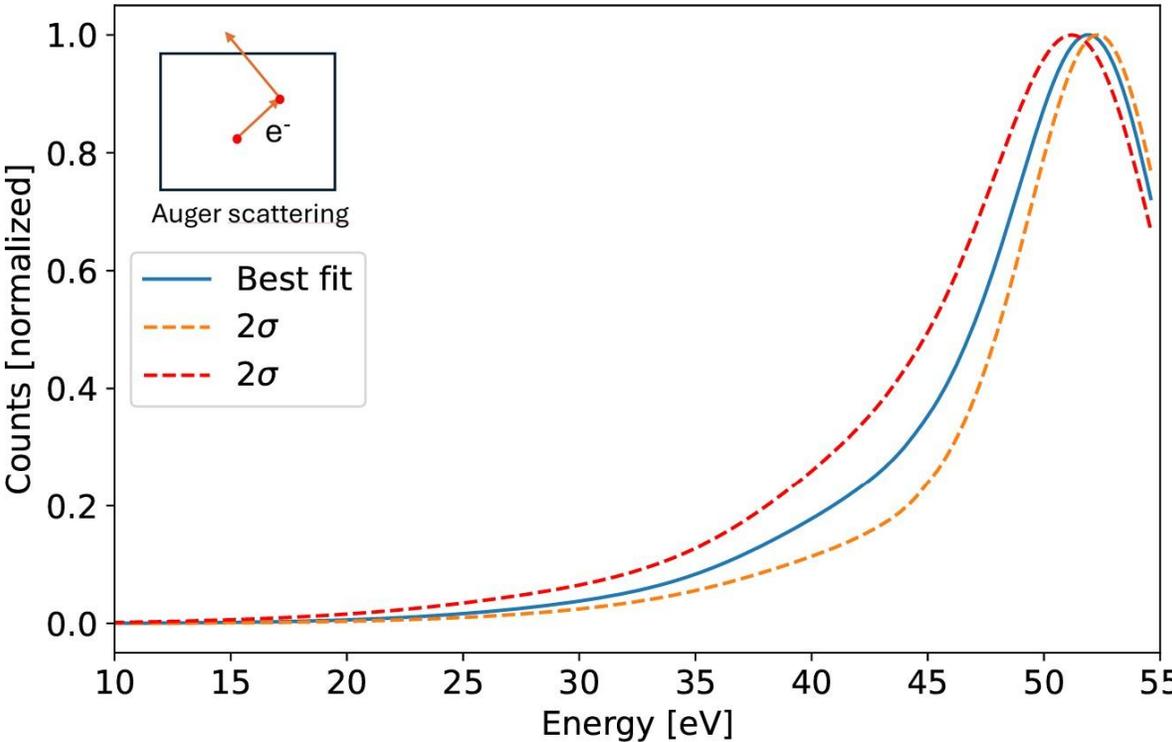
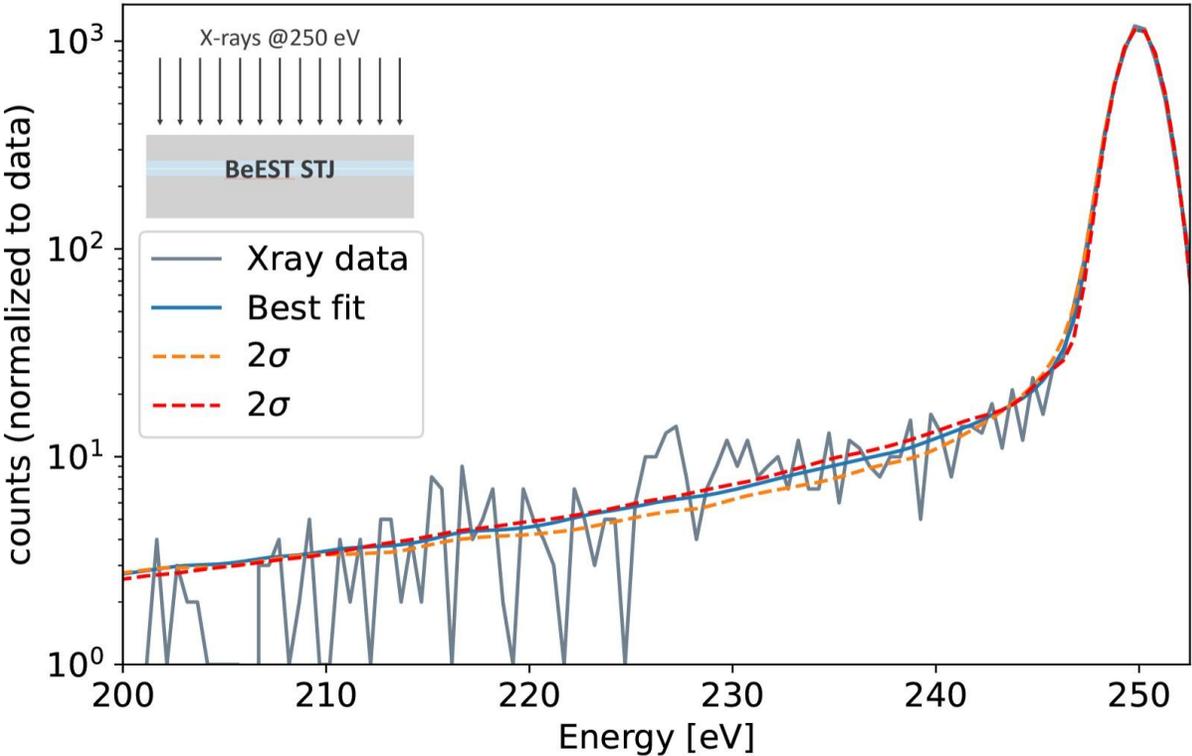


# The importance of background

Event Type-III effects on  $^{18}\text{F}$

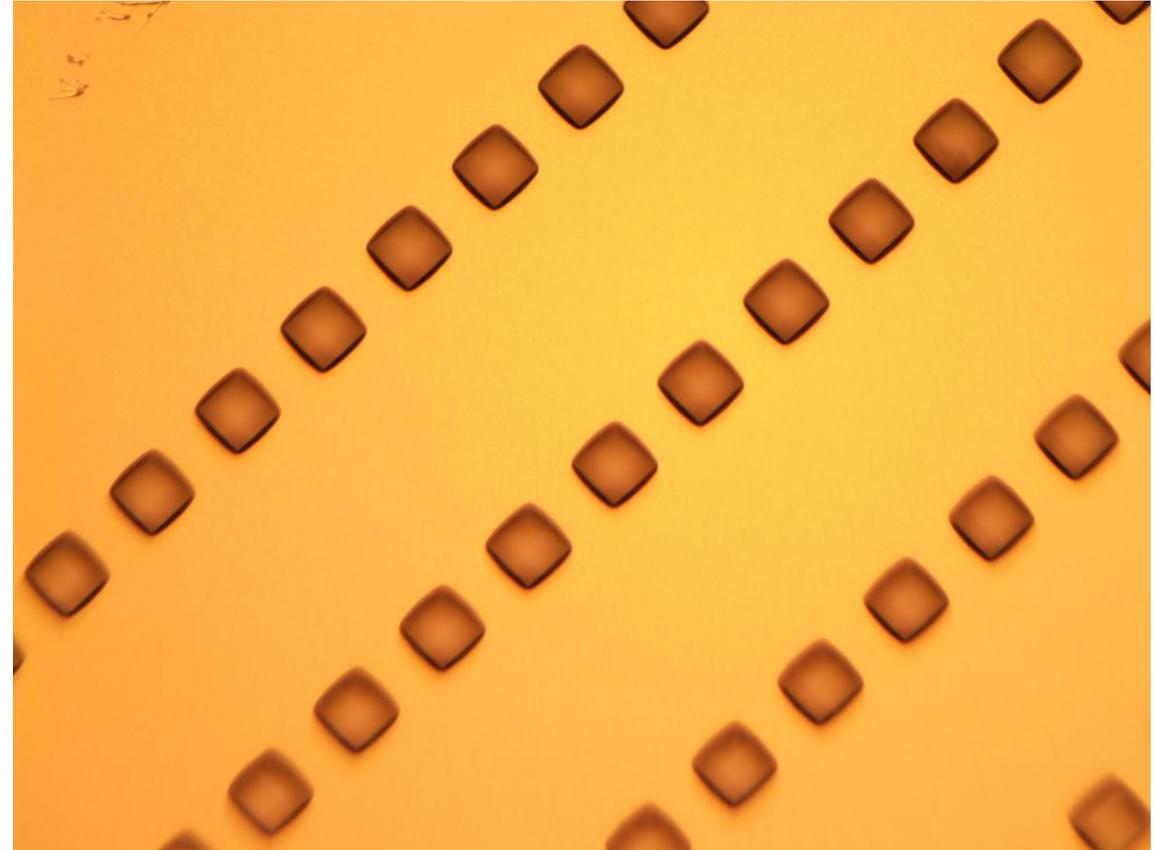
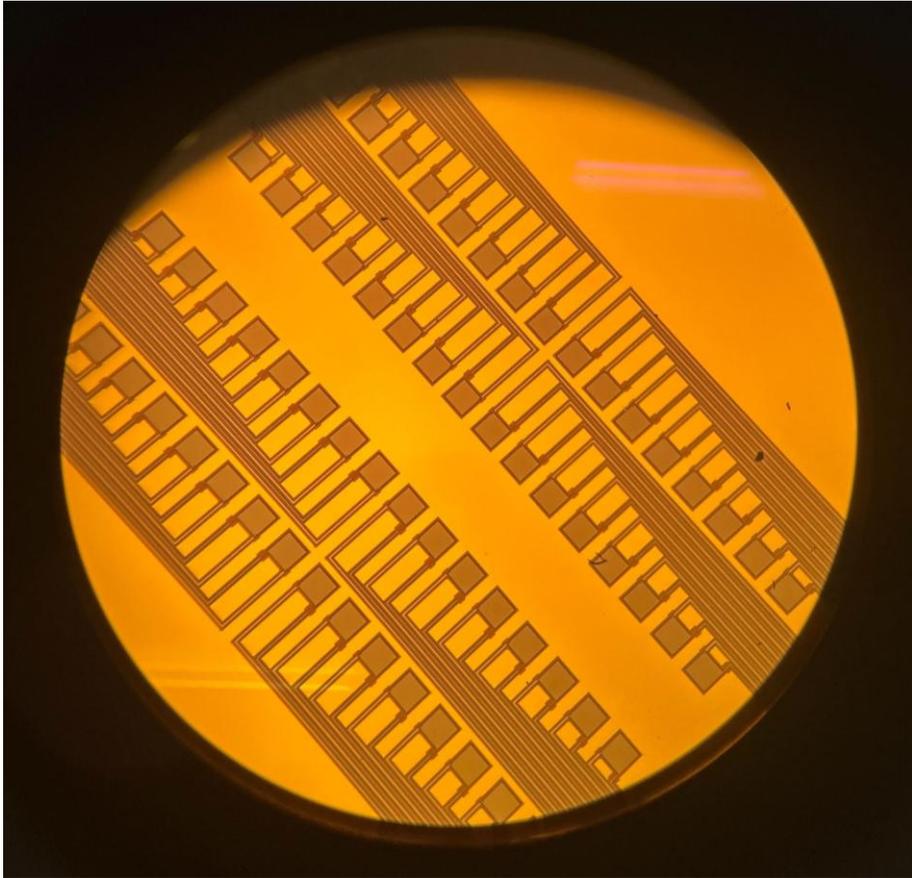


# Elastic cross-section studies

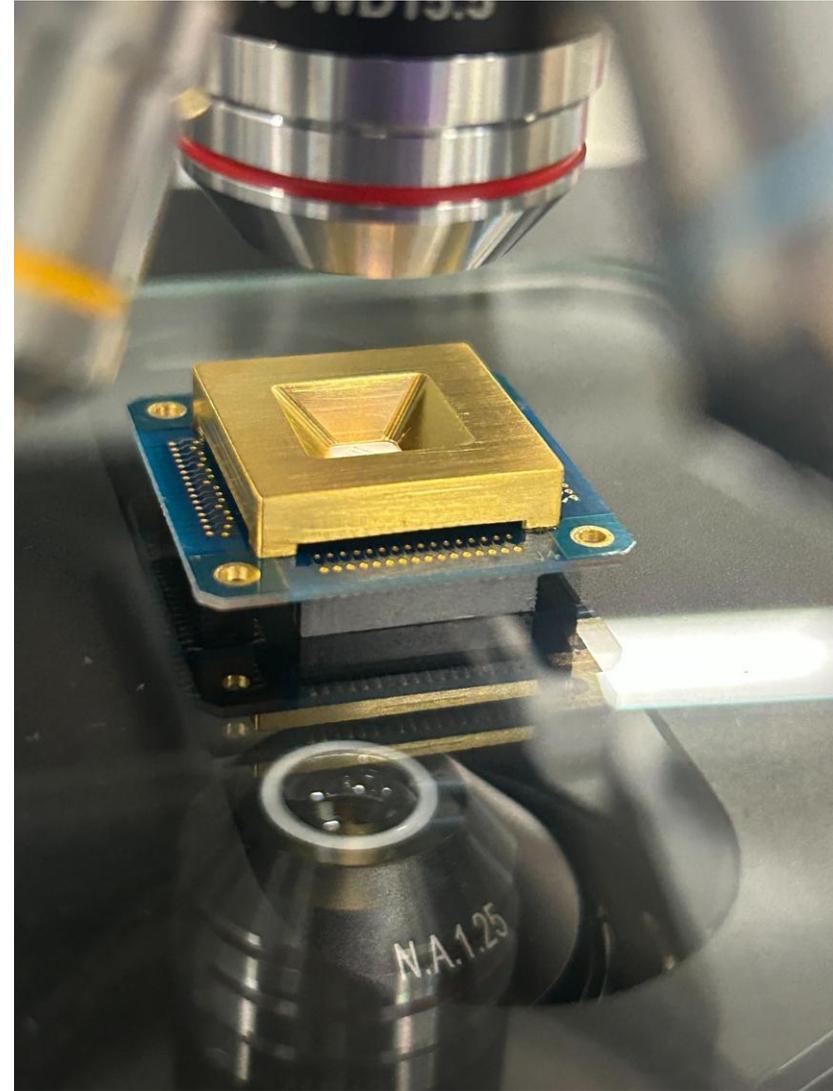
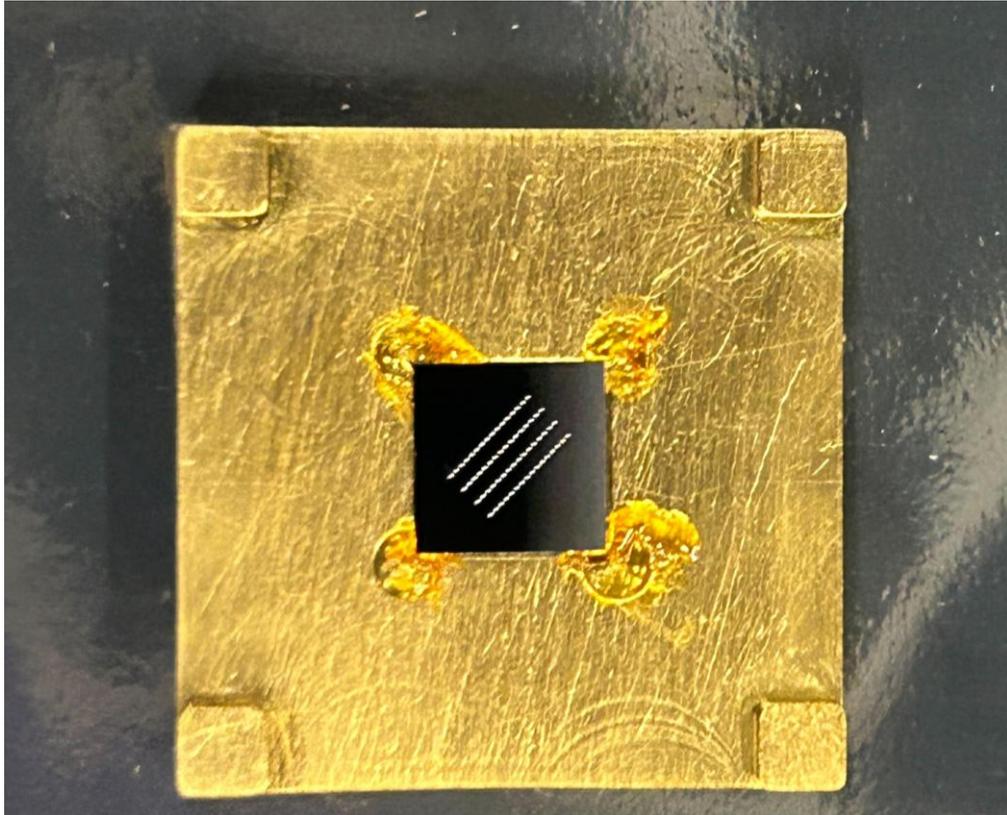


# STJs for SALER

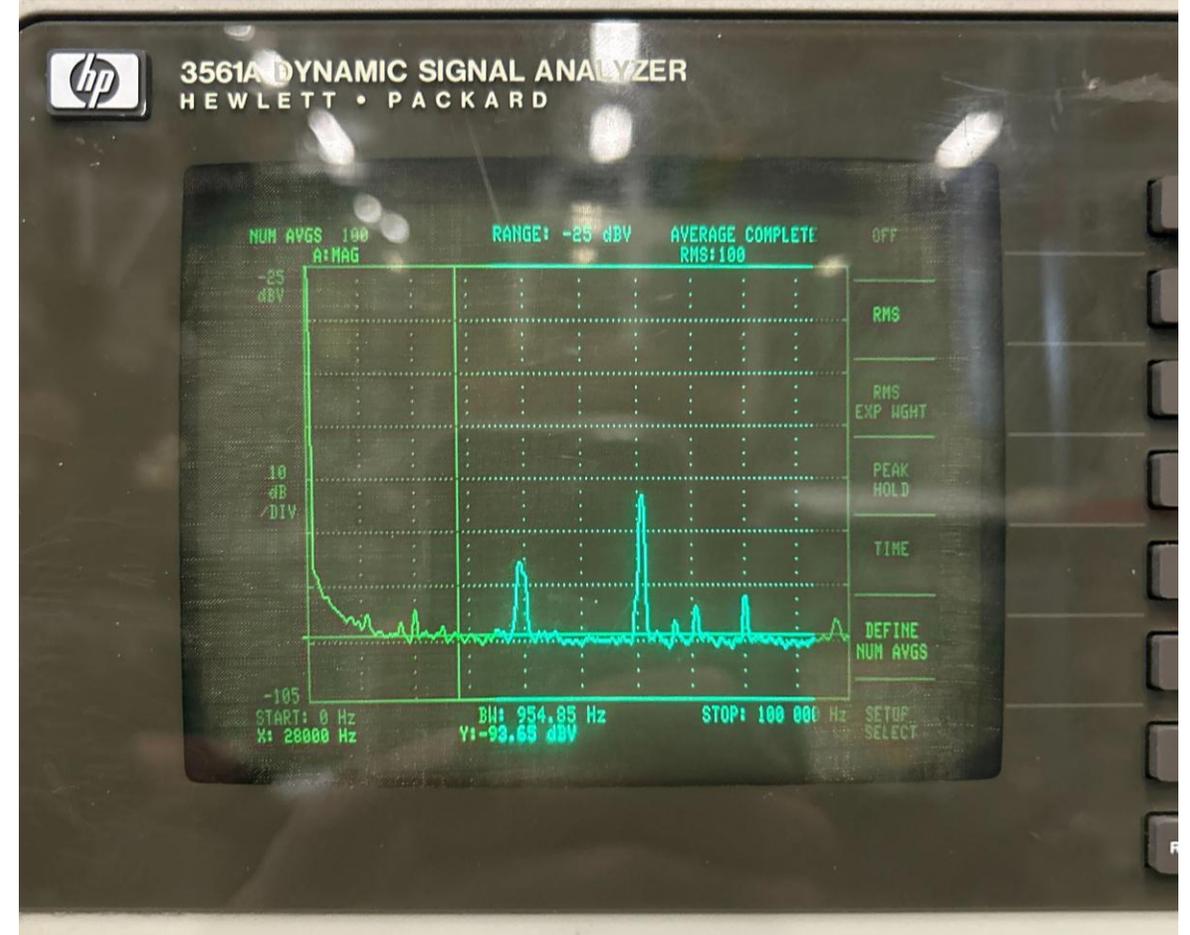
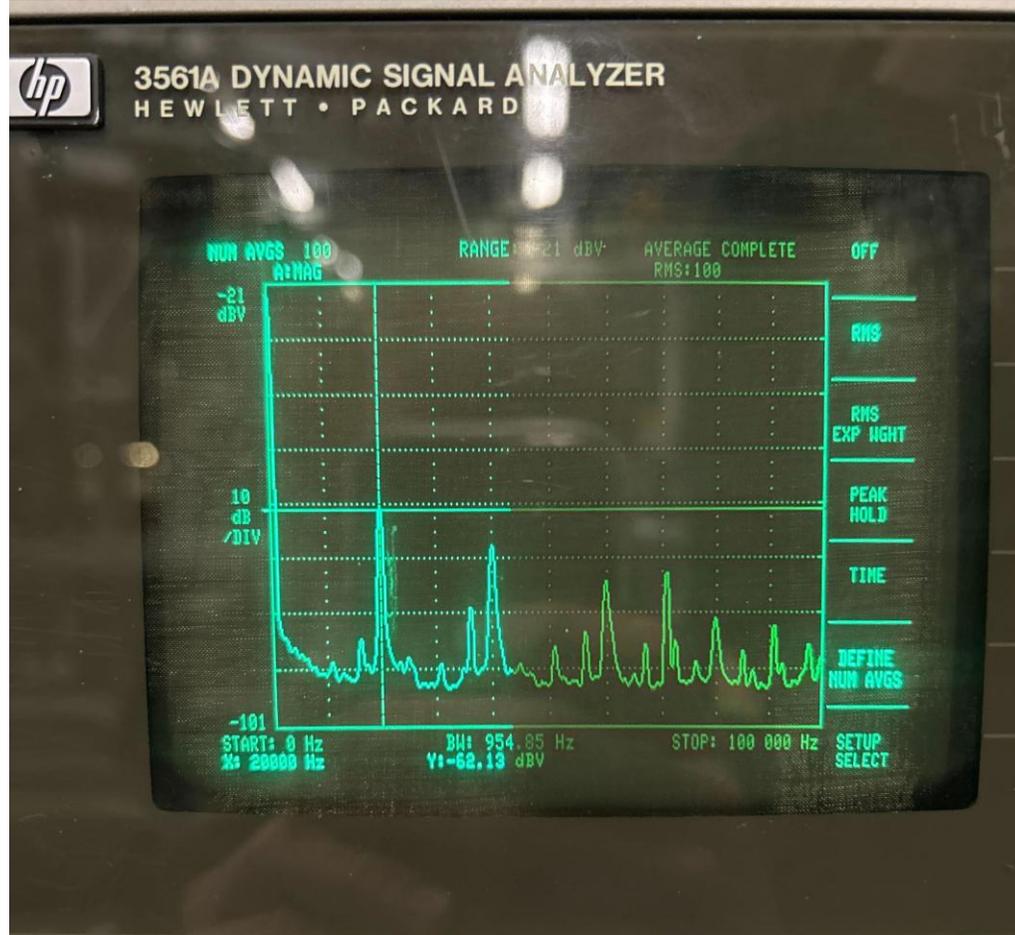
---



# STJs for SALER



# Electronic pickup

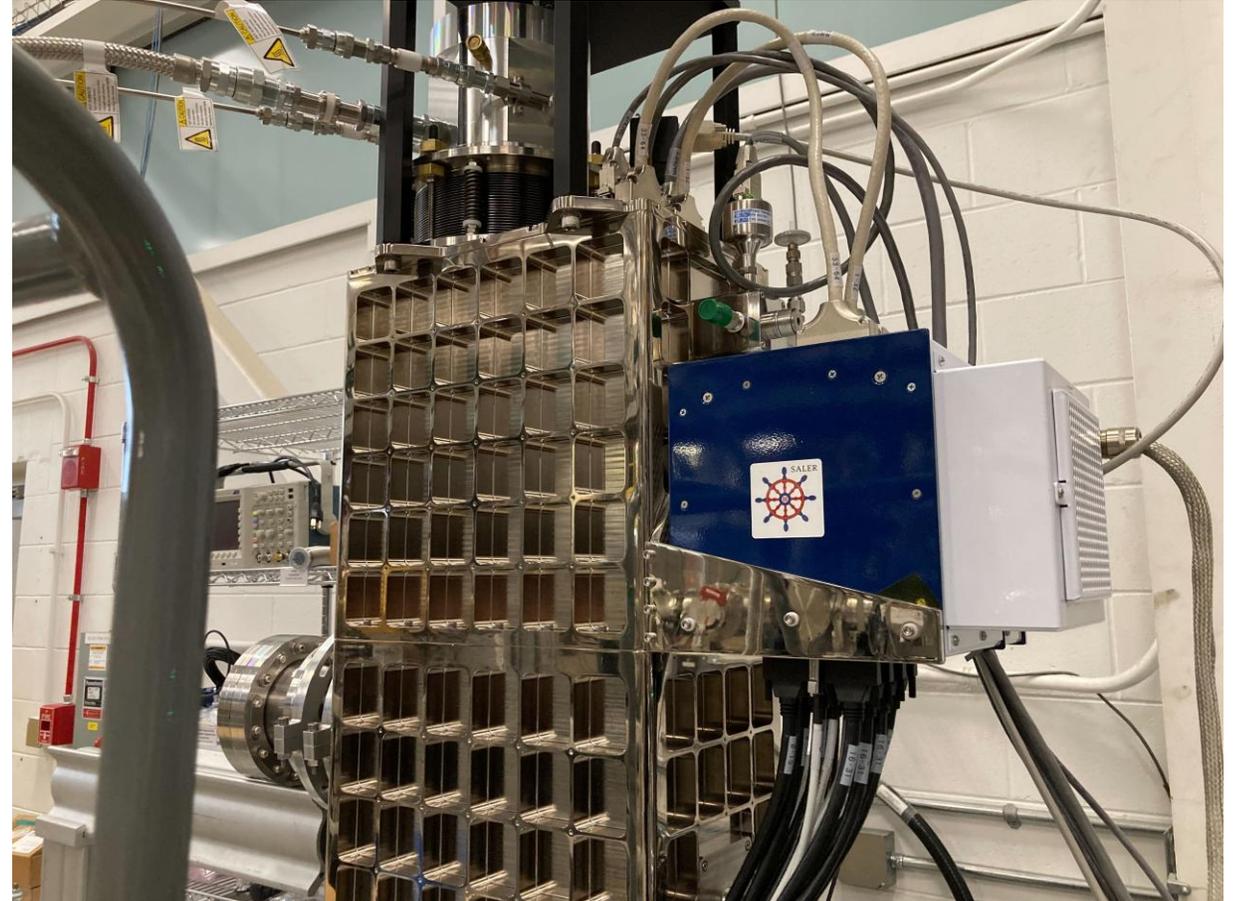


20 kHz noise

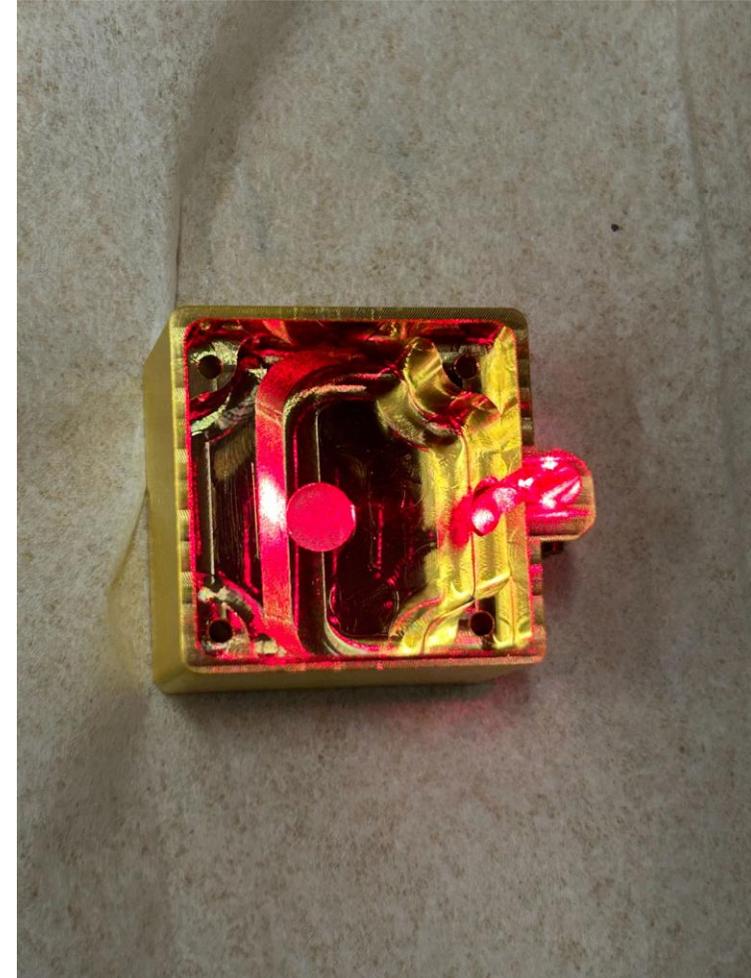
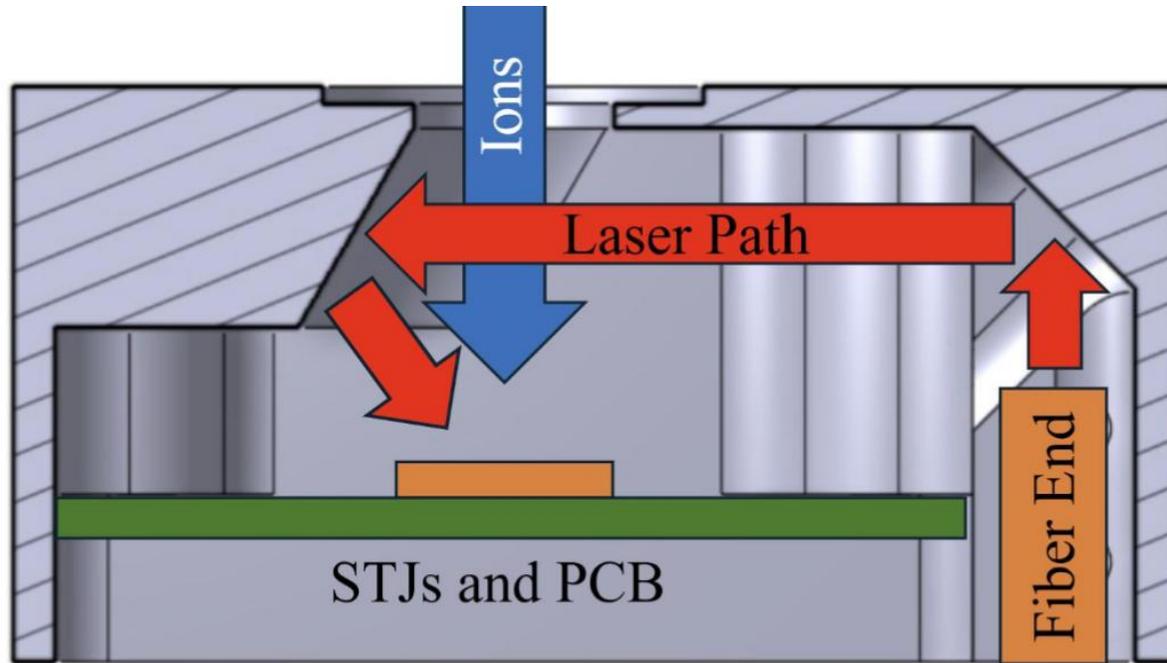


SALER experiment - ISOL

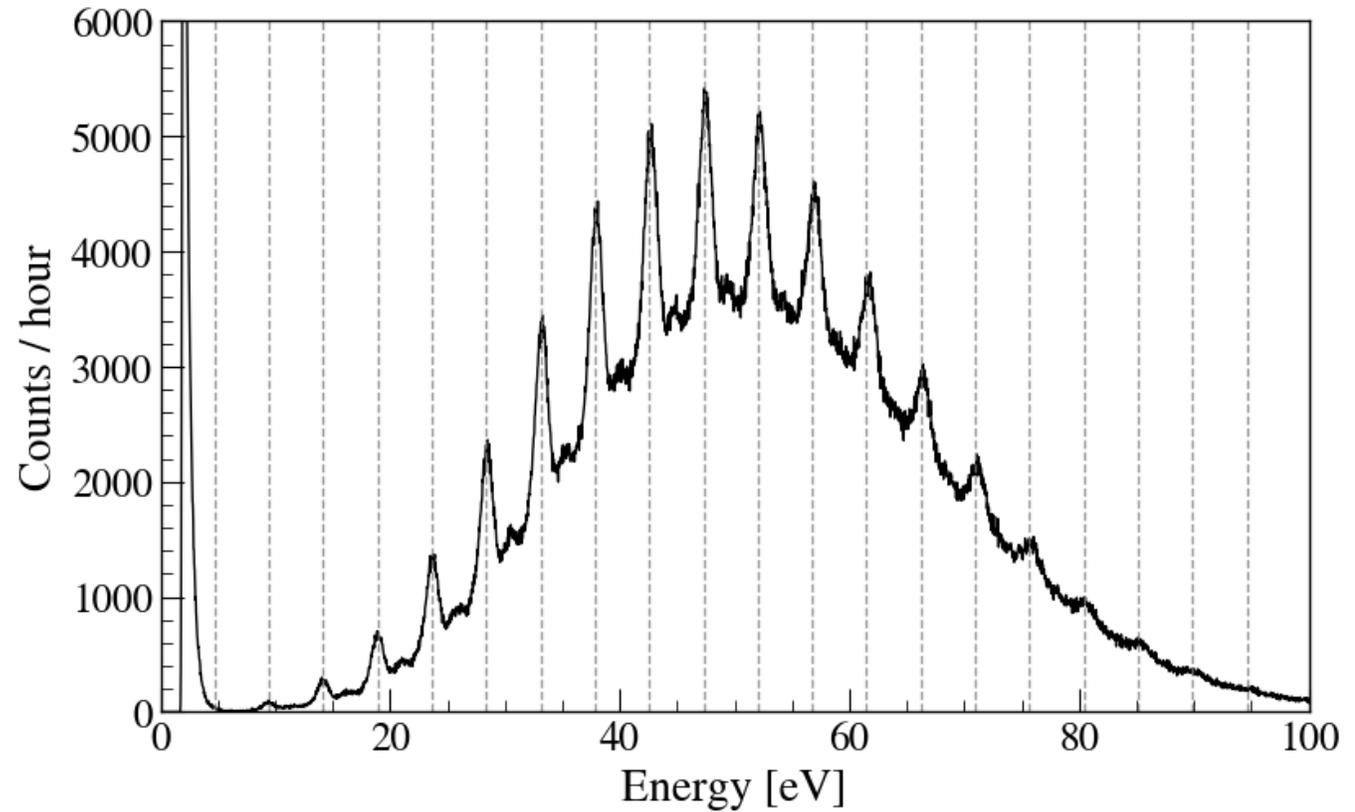
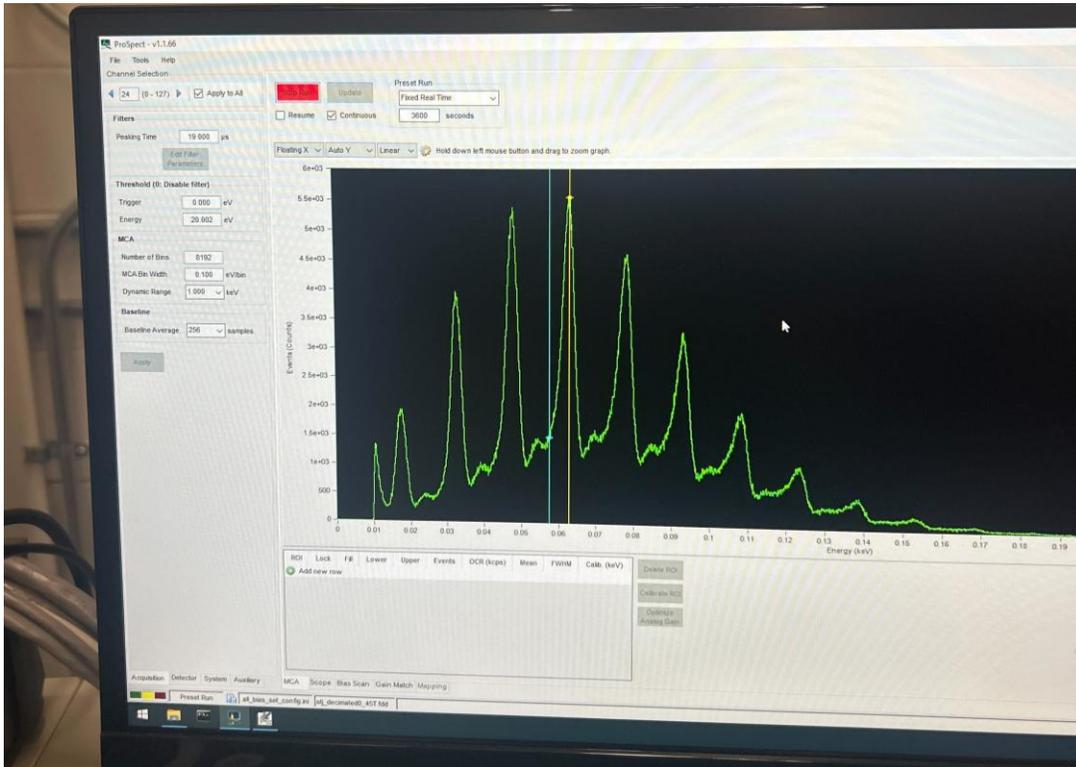
# Additional photos



# Laser calibration



# Additional laser photos



# STJs masks

