

# The Project 8 collaboration has recorded its first tritium spectrum using the CRES technique.

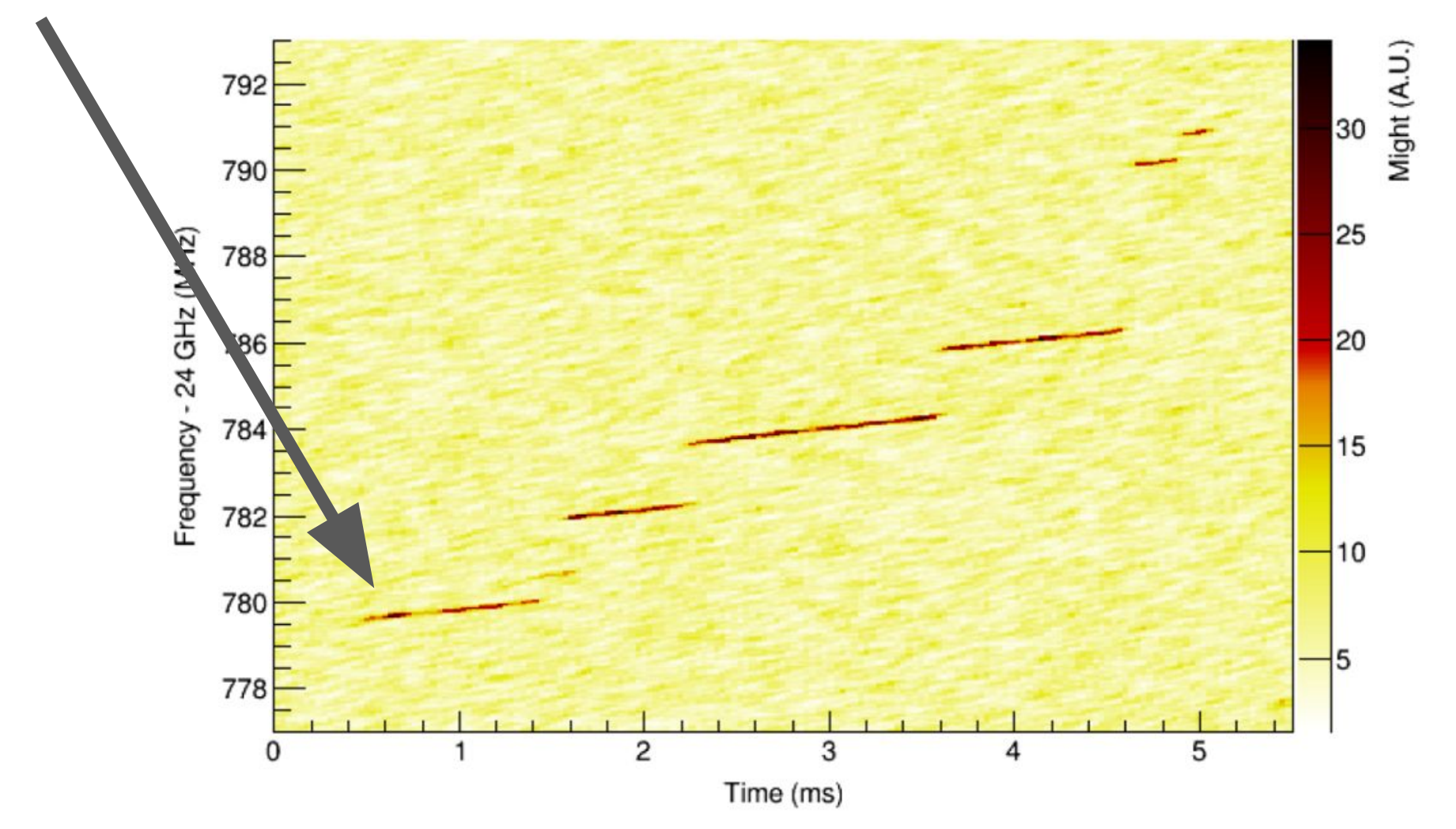
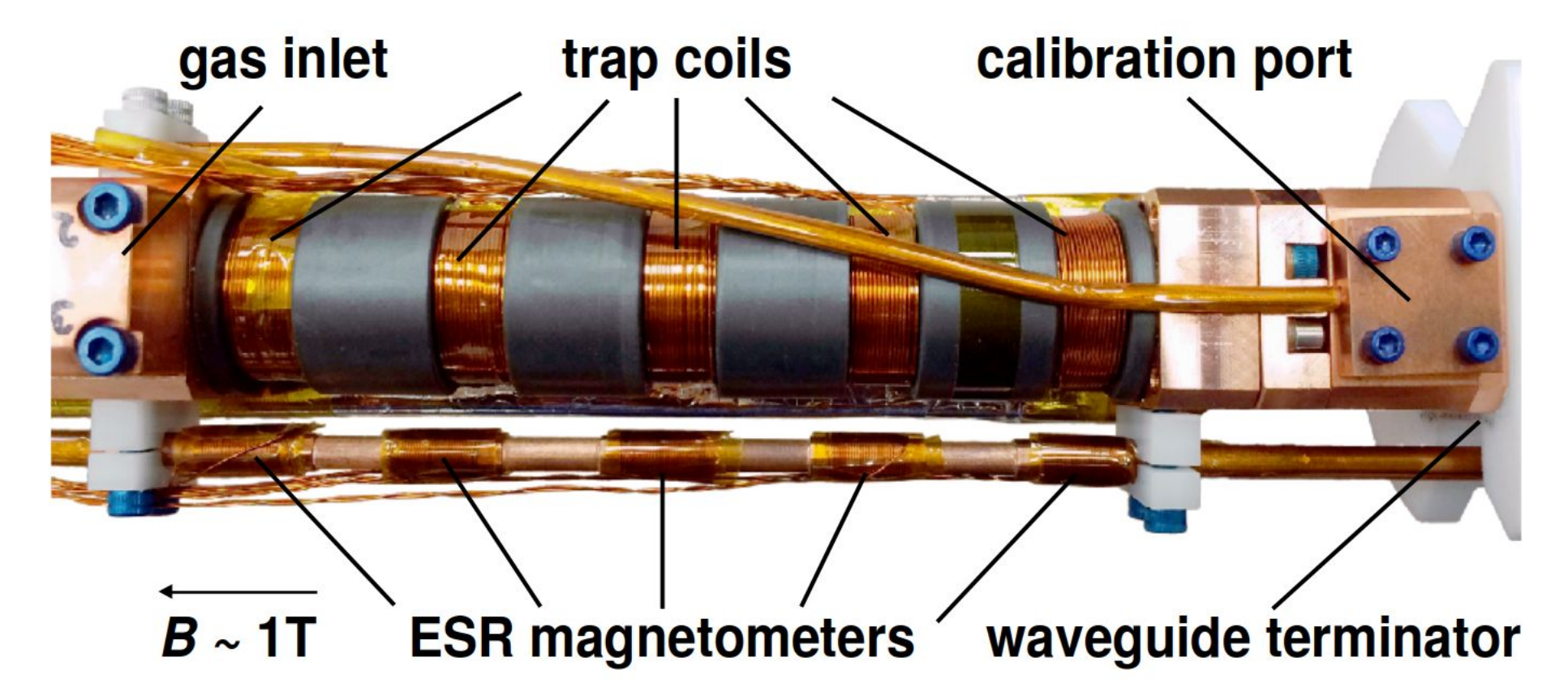
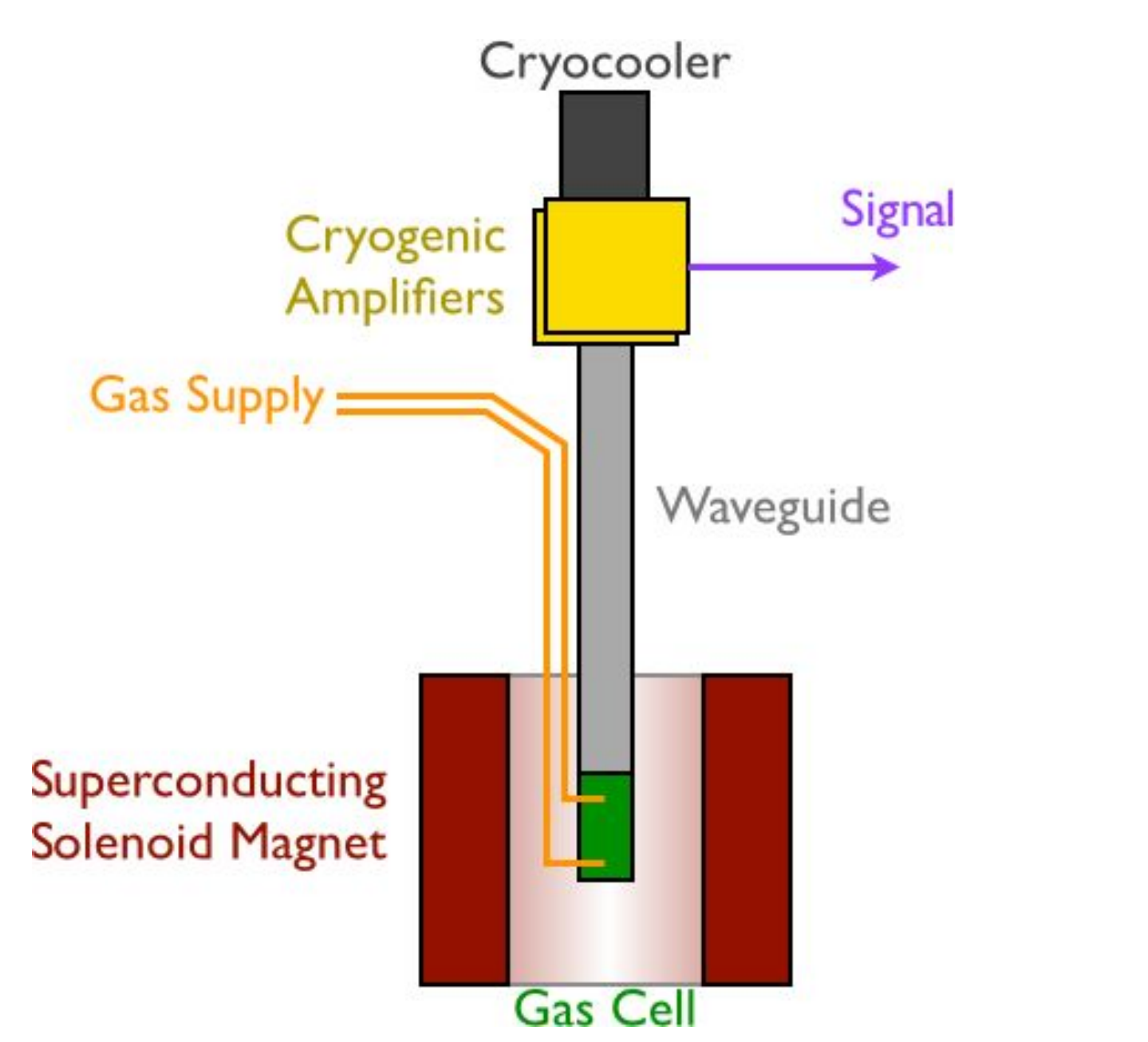
**PROJECT 8**

W. Pettus<sup>1</sup>, M. Fertl<sup>2</sup>, C. Claessens<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Washington, Seattle, USA <sup>2</sup>Johannes Gutenberg - Universität Mainz, Mainz, Germany

## Tritium CRES\* setup

- Magnetically trapped electrons from T2 decay emit cyclotron radiation inside a microwave guide.
- Amplification → Mixing → Digitization → Fourier Transformation → Track identification
- Initial cyclotron frequency (prior to radiative or scattering losses) encodes the decay energy

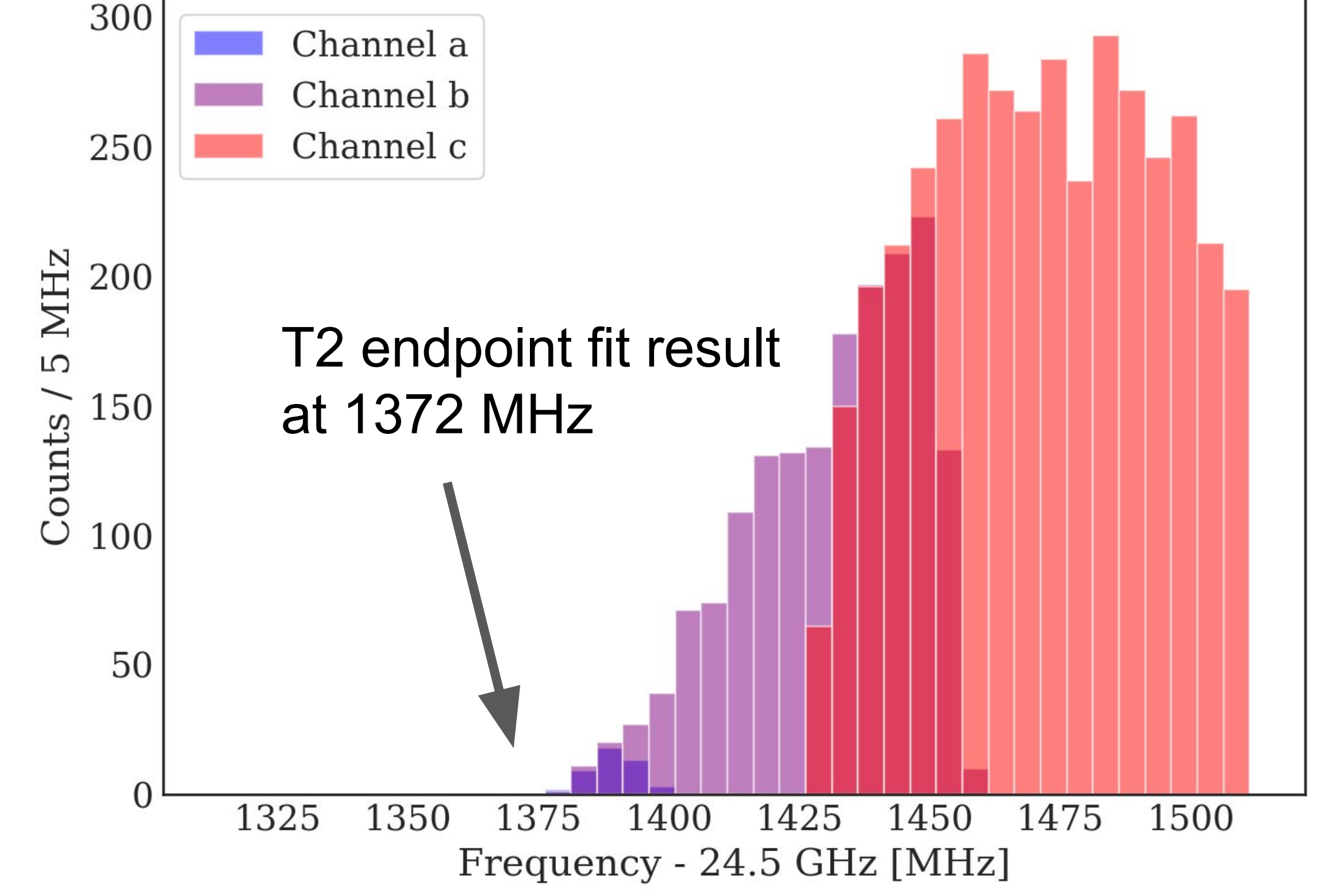


\*CRES: Cyclotron Radiation Emission Spectroscopy

## Data set characteristics

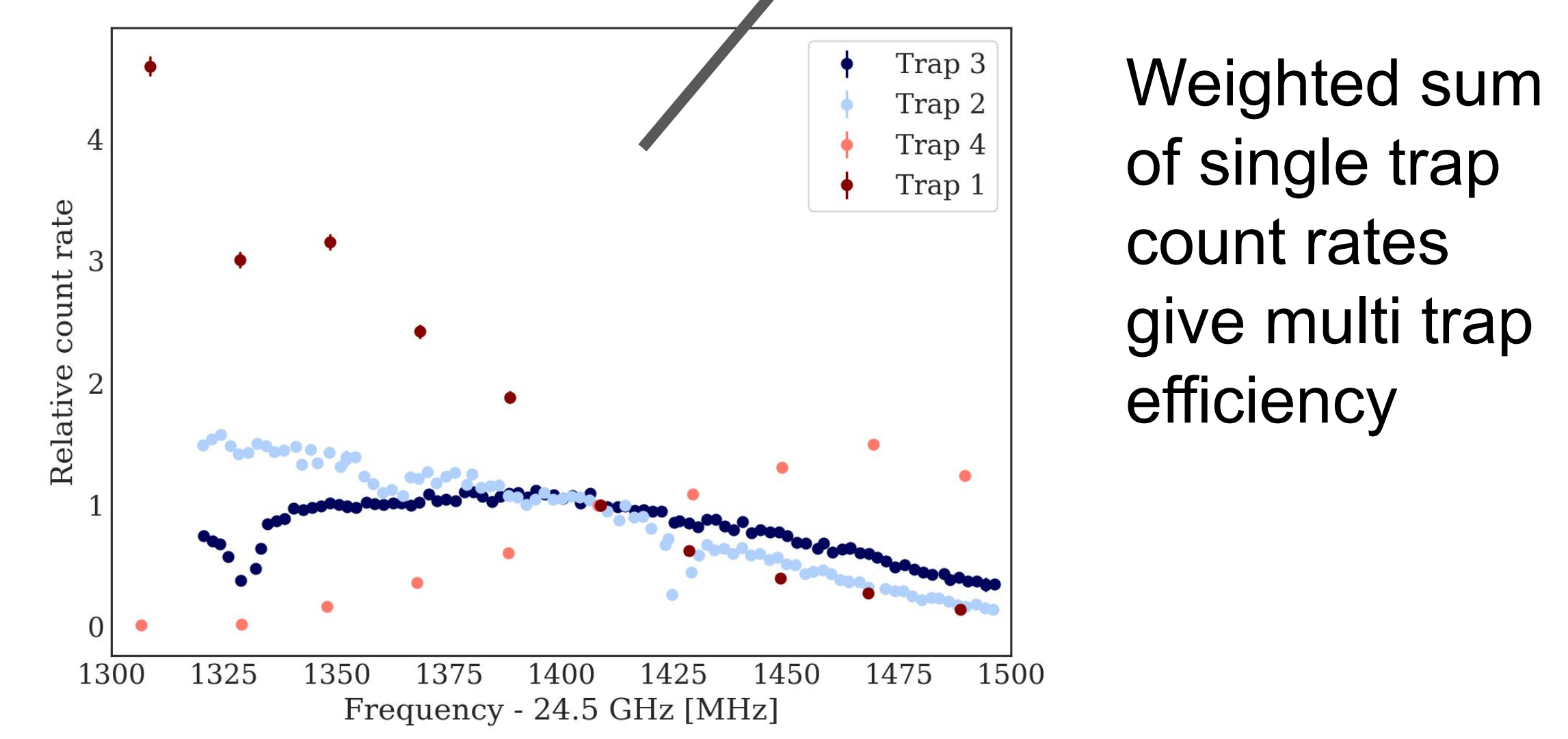
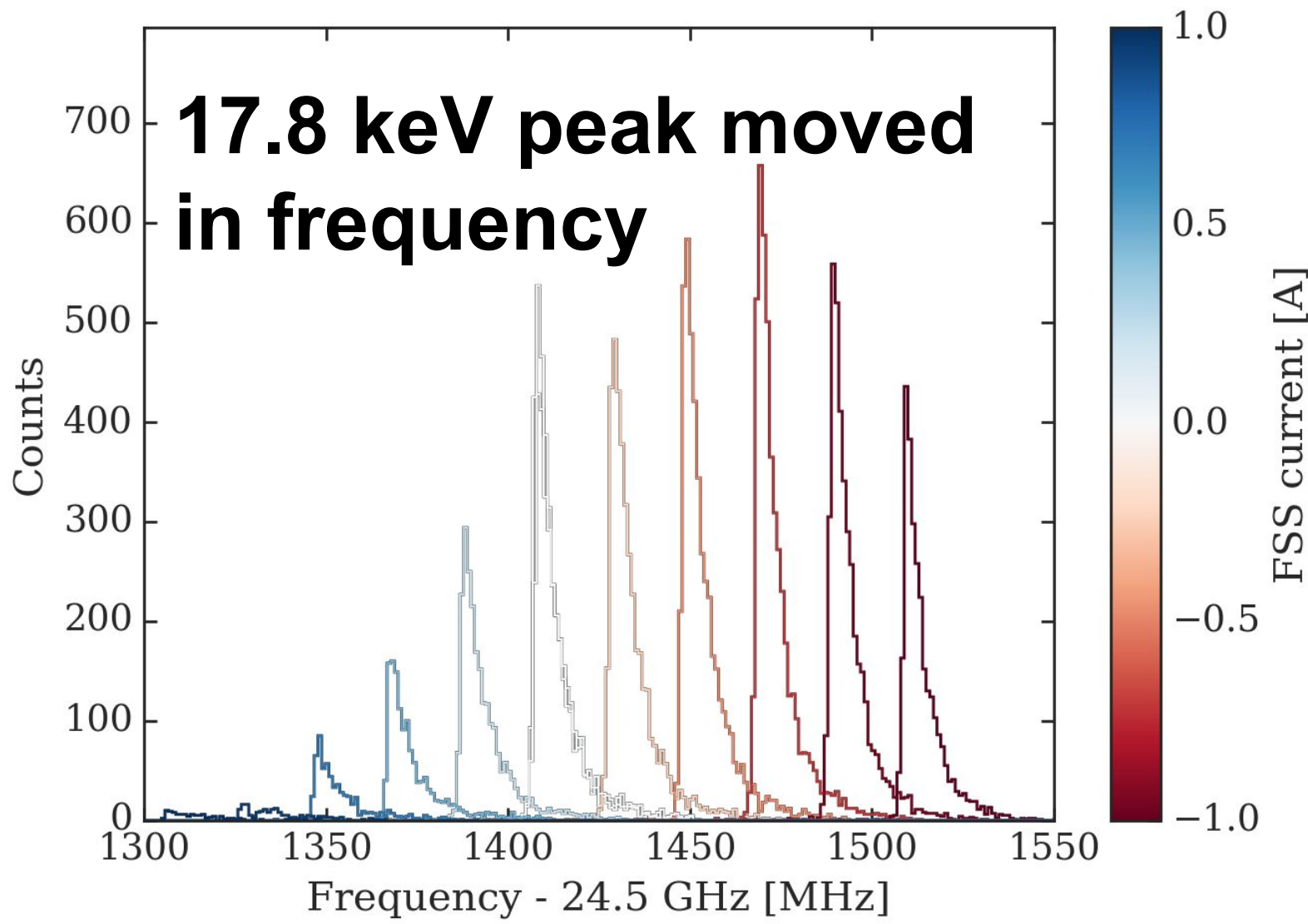
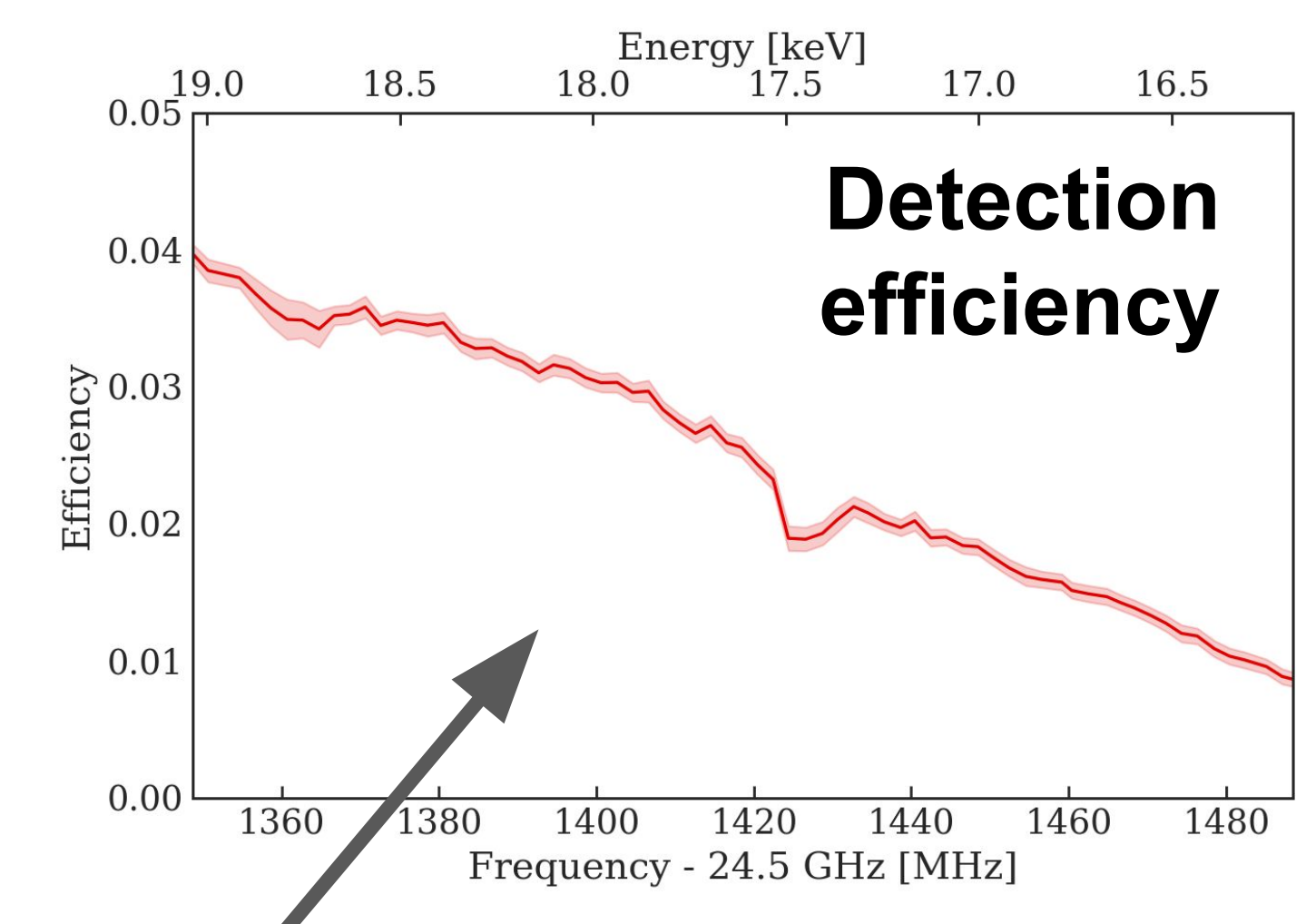
- 3 overlapping frequency bands to cover 16.2 - 18.6 keV
- 82 net days, 5694 total counts
- 3594 unique counts
- **No events beyond endpoint** → background rate:  $\leq 3 \cdot 10^{-10}$  /eV/s (90% C.I.)

## Event histogram in frequency space



## Detection efficiency, energy resolution and gas scattering induced line shape variation

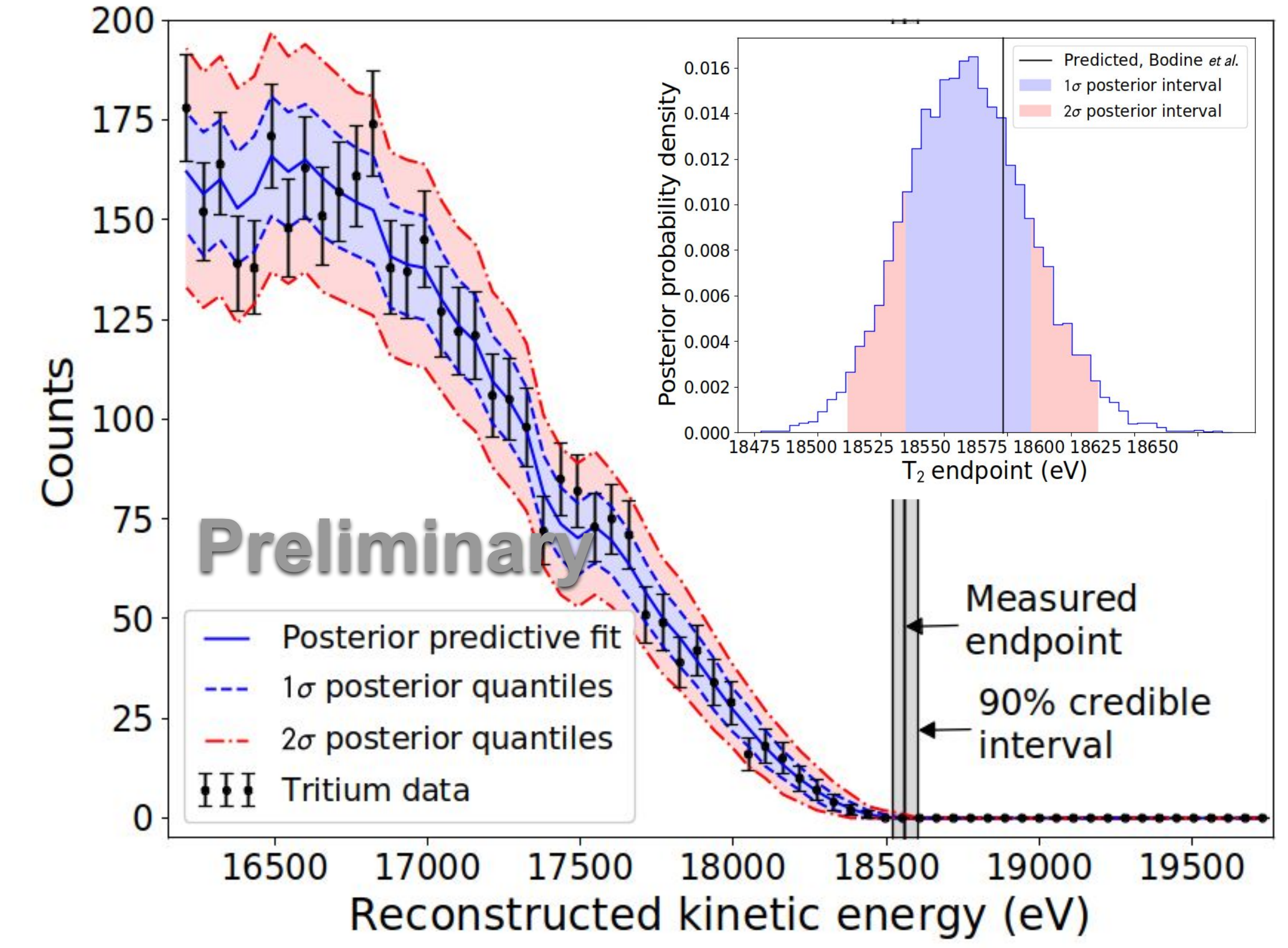
- Frequency dependent event detection efficiency
- Field shifting solenoid: move monoenergetic <sup>83m</sup>Kr K-line across frequency region of interest for T2



## Spectrum reconstruction and analysis

- Validation of analysis chain with MC generated data sets
- Spectrum model accounts for line-shape (convolution) and detection efficiency (multiplication).
- Bayesian and frequentist analyses ongoing
- **Preliminary bayesian endpoint result\* with 92% coverage:**  
18559.4<sup>+42.4</sup><sub>-39.6</sub> eV (90% C.I.)

## Tritium spectrum fit in energy



\*Contribution from helium scattering not yet included. Expected effect is a few eV endpoint shift.

**Acknowledgment:** This work is supported by the US DOE Office of Nuclear Physics, the US NSF, the PRISMA+ Cluster of Excellence at the University of Mainz, and internal investments at all institutions.