



# Direct high-precision determination of the electron capture $Q$ -value in $^{163}\text{Ho}$

Christoph Schweiger

Max-Planck-Institut für Kernphysik, Heidelberg

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# The electron neutrino mass

- **SM:** neutrinos are massless neutral fermions
- Experimental observation of neutrino flavour oscillations requires finite  $m_\nu$

Electron Capture in  
Holmium experiment



## Current best upper limits on $m_{\nu_e}$ :

Cosmology	0.12 eV/c <sup>2</sup> (95 % C.L.)
KATRIN ( $\bar{\nu}_e$ )	0.8 eV/c <sup>2</sup> (90 % C.L.)
ECHO ( $\nu_e$ )	150 eV/c <sup>2</sup> (95 % C.L.)

Aghanim, N. et al., *A&A* 641, A6 (2020)  
Aker, M. et al., *Nat. Phys.* 18, 160 (2022)  
Gastaldo, L. et al., *EPJ* 226, 1623 (2017)  
Velte, C. et al., *EPJ* 79, 1026 (2019)



# The electron neutrino mass

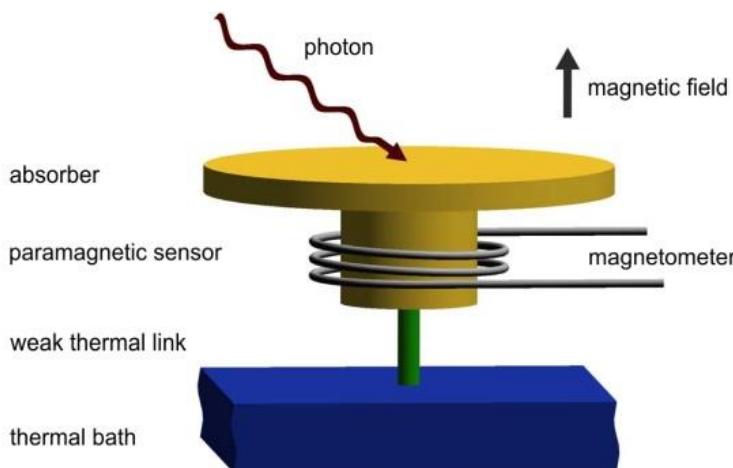
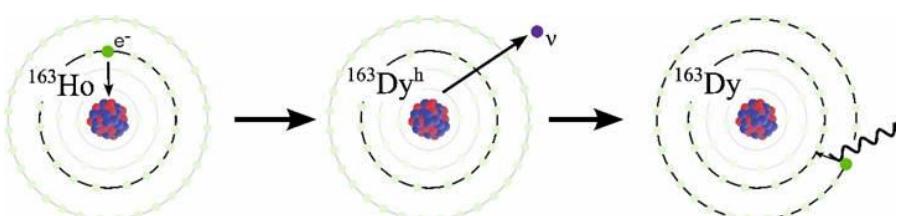
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**ECHo**

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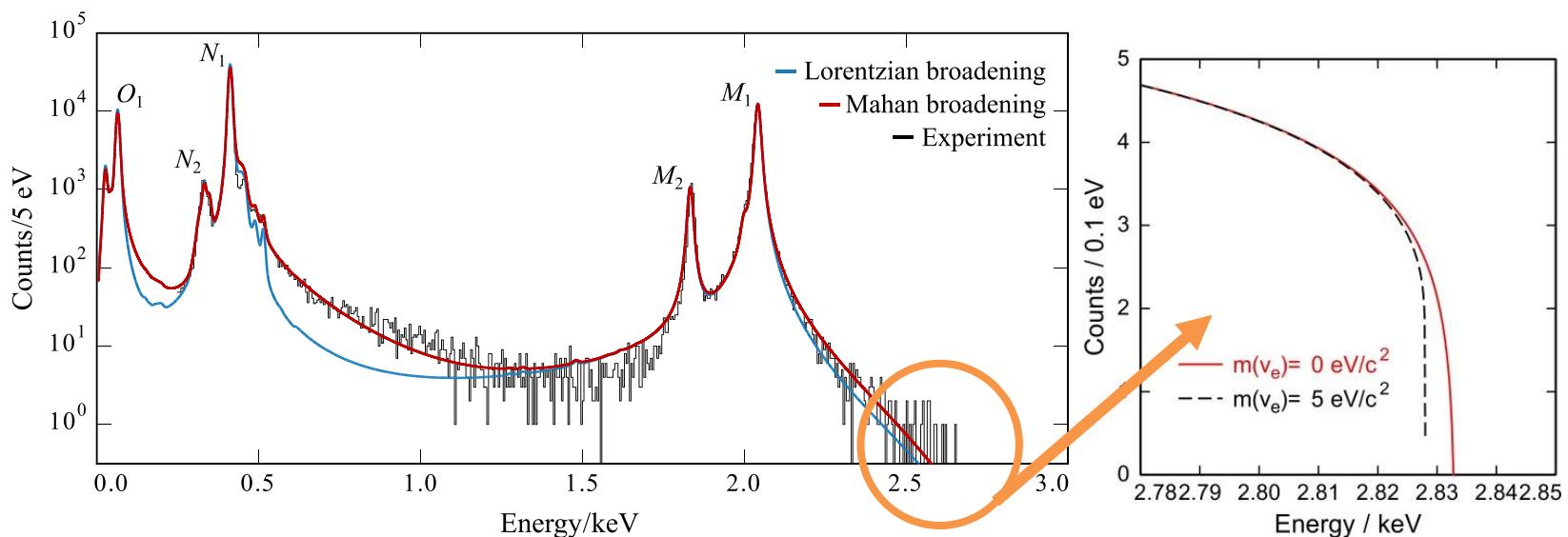
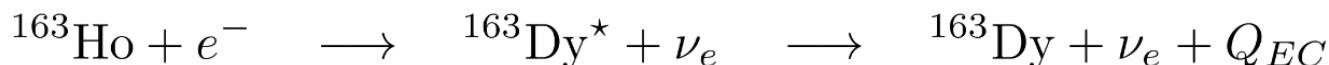


- Metallic magnetic calorimeters (MMCs) in a cryostat at 50 mK
- Energy resolution:  $\sim 1.6$  eV @ 6 keV
- $^{163}\text{Ho}$  implanted directly in the absorber

Aghanim, N. et al., *A&A* 641, A6 (2020)  
 Aker, M. et al., *Nat. Phys.* 18, 160 (2022)  
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# The electron neutrino mass



From fitting a theoretical spectrum:

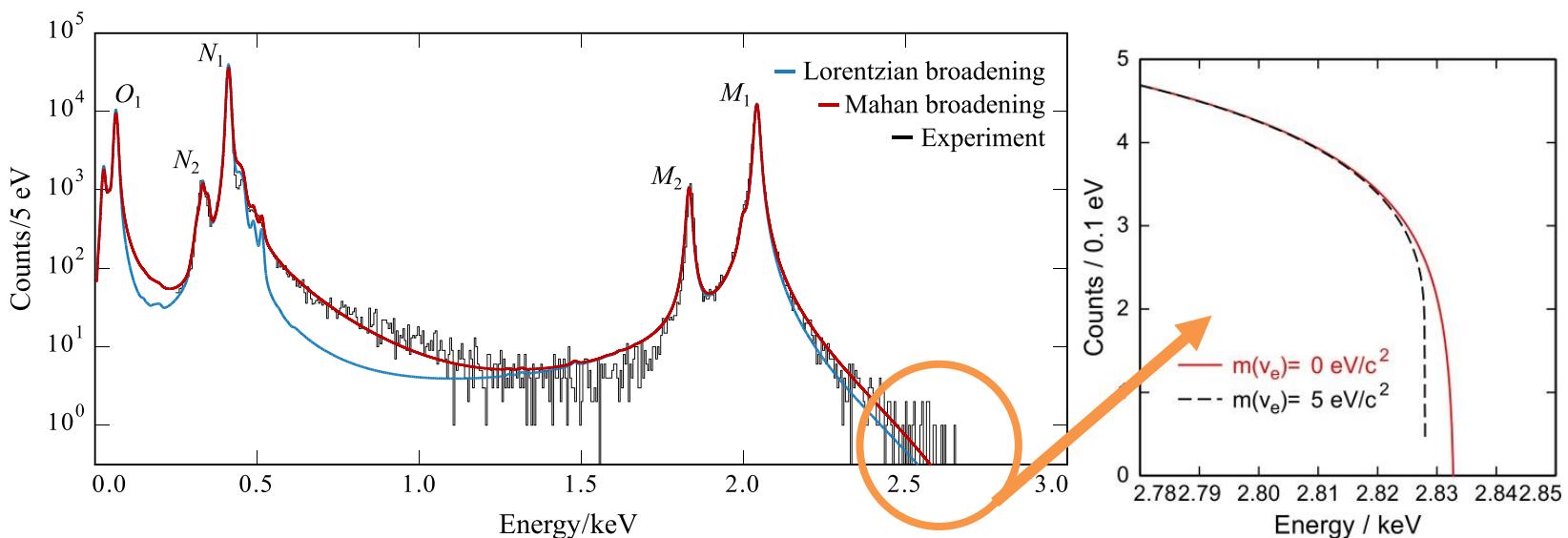
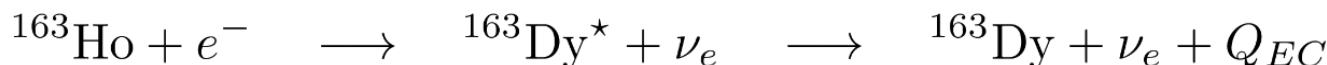
- Electron neutrino mass
- $Q$ -value of the transition

Gastaldo, L. et al., EPJ 226, 1623 (2017)

Velte, C. et al., EPJ 79, 1026 (2019)



# The electron neutrino mass



**Check for systematic uncertainties:**

From fitting a theoretical spectrum:

- Electron neutrino mass
- $Q$ -value of the transition

$$Q_{EC} = \Delta m ({}^{163}\text{Ho} - {}^{163}\text{Dy}) c^2$$

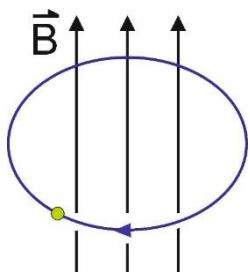
**High-precision Penning-trap mass spectrometry**

Gastaldo, L. et al., EPJ 226, 1623 (2017)

Velte, C. et al., EPJ 79, 1026 (2019)

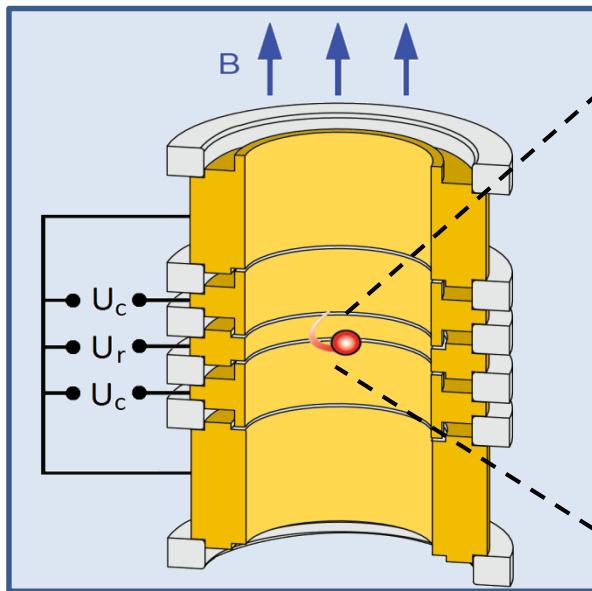


# Penning-trap mass spectrometry (PTMS)



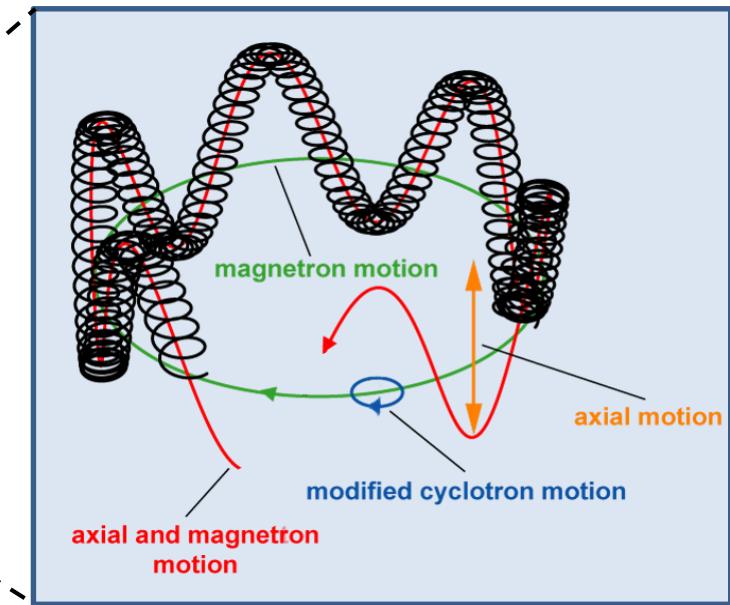
Free-space  
**cyclotron**  
frequency

$$\omega_c = \frac{q}{m} B$$



Invariance theorem:

$$\omega_c^2 = \omega_+^2 + \omega_z^2 + \omega_-^2$$



**Three independent eigenmotions:**

Modified cyclotron motion ( $\omega_+$ )

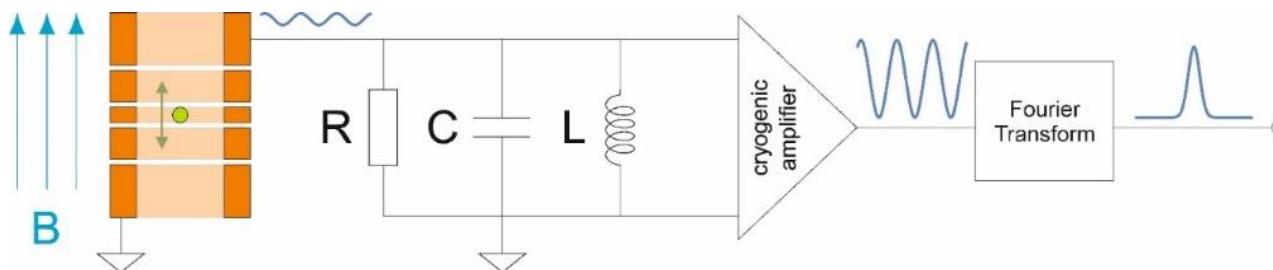
Axial motion ( $\omega_z$ )

Magnetron motion ( $\omega_-$ )

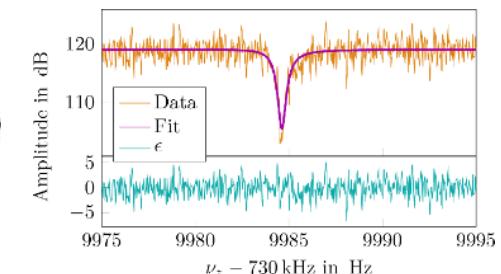
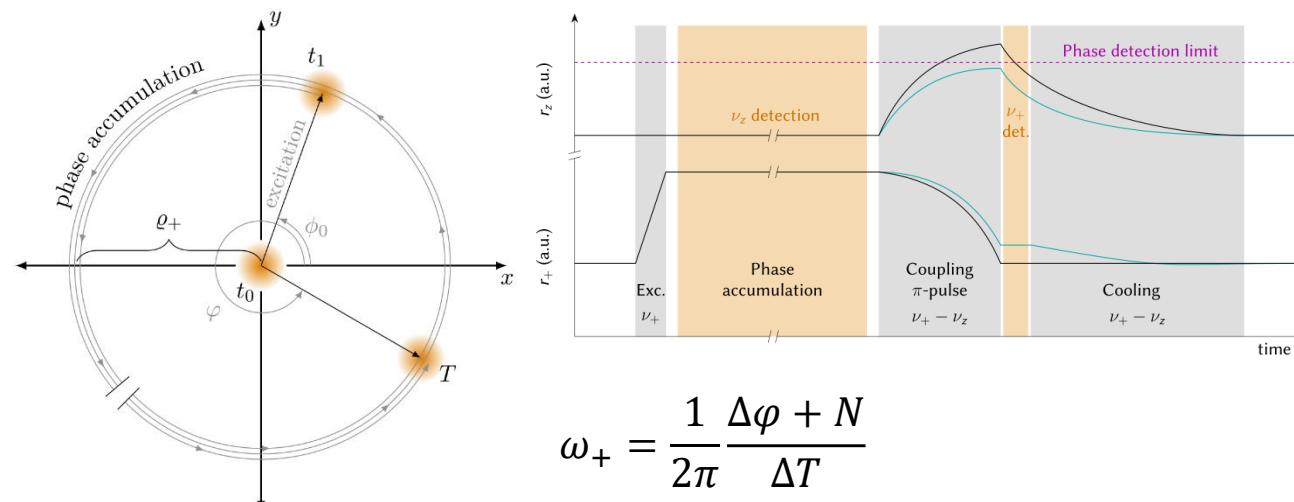
Brown, L. et al., Rev. Mod. Phys. 58, 233 (1986)



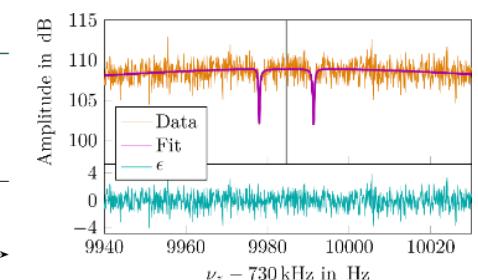
# Eigenfrequency measurement (FT-ICR)



$\omega_+$  Pulse and Phase (PnP) - method



Direct measurement of  
 $\omega_z$  by dip method



Sideband – coupling of  
 $\omega_-$  to  $\omega_z$

Sturm, S. et al., *PRL* 107, 143003 (2011)  
Schüssler R., PhD thesis



# Features of the PENTATRAP experiment

**Mass-ratio measurements** of stable and long-lived highly charged ions with a **fractional uncertainty below  $10^{-11}$**

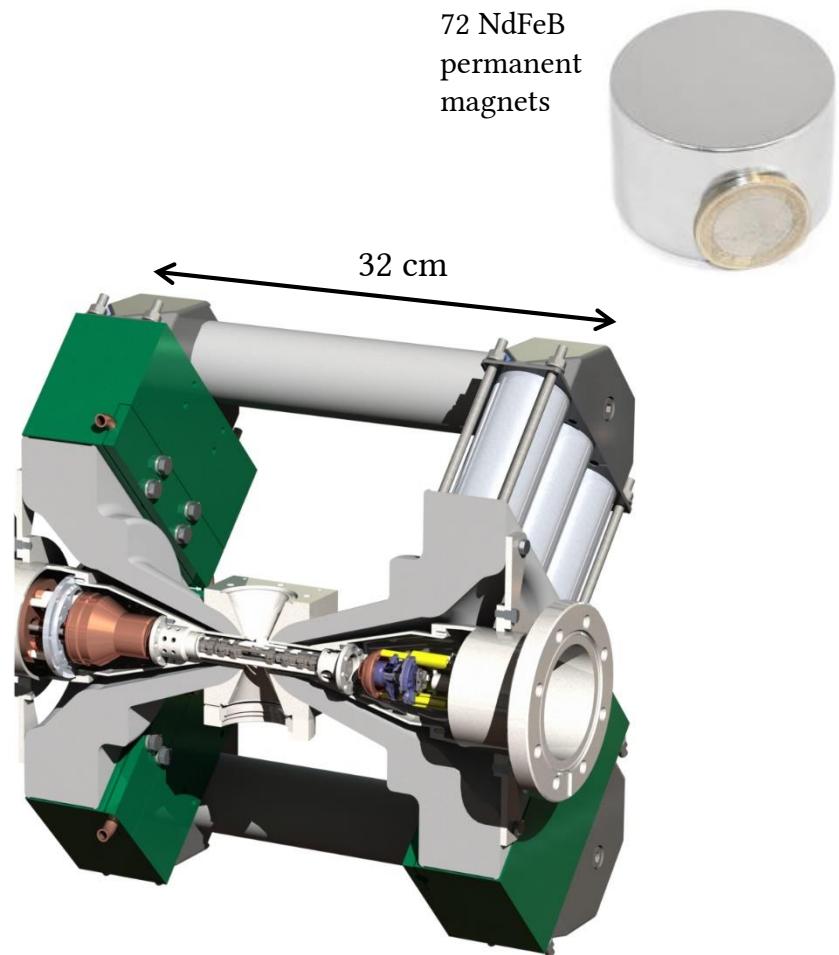
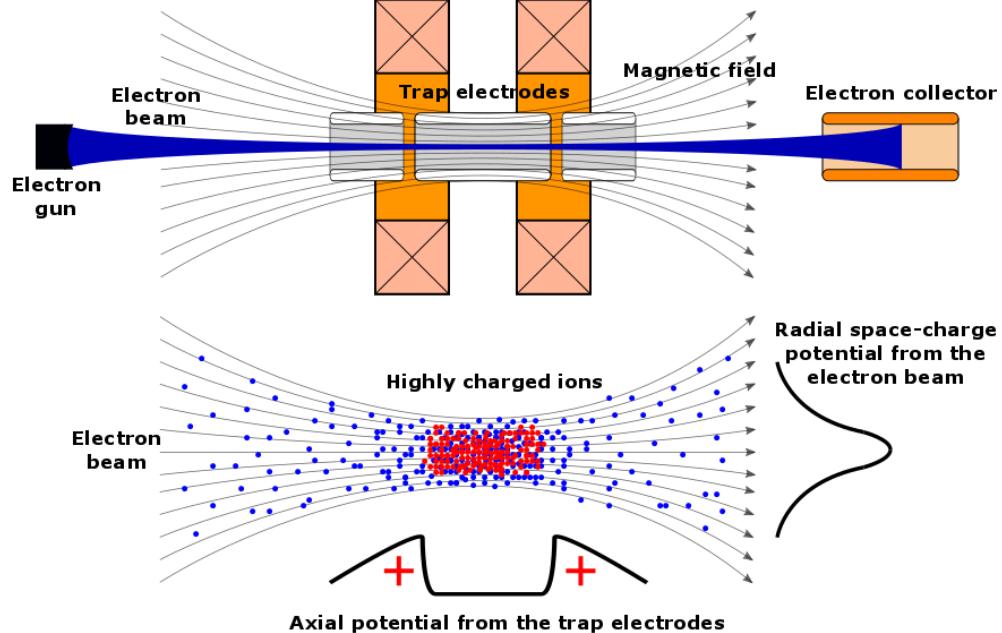
## Unique features

- Trap tower consisting of 5 cylindrical Penning traps
- Strong magnetic field (7 T)
- Pressure and level stabilization for the superconducting magnet
- Temperature stabilized lab ( $<0.05\text{K}/30 \text{ min}$ )
- Non-destructive image-current detection and phase sensitive measurements
- Ultra stable voltage source StaReP Future: Josephson Junction voltage supply
- **Access to highly charged ions**





# Heidelberg compact EBITs



Micke, P. et al., Rev. Sci. Instr. 89, 063109 (2018)



# Highly charged ions of $^{163}\text{Ho}$

**Challenge:**  $^{163}\text{Ho}$  is a synthetic radioisotope with a half life of  $\sim 4600$  y

- Production by neutron irradiation of  $^{162}\text{Er}$  and chemical separation
- Only small quantities available:  $10^{16}$  atoms corresponding to 2.7  $\mu\text{g}$

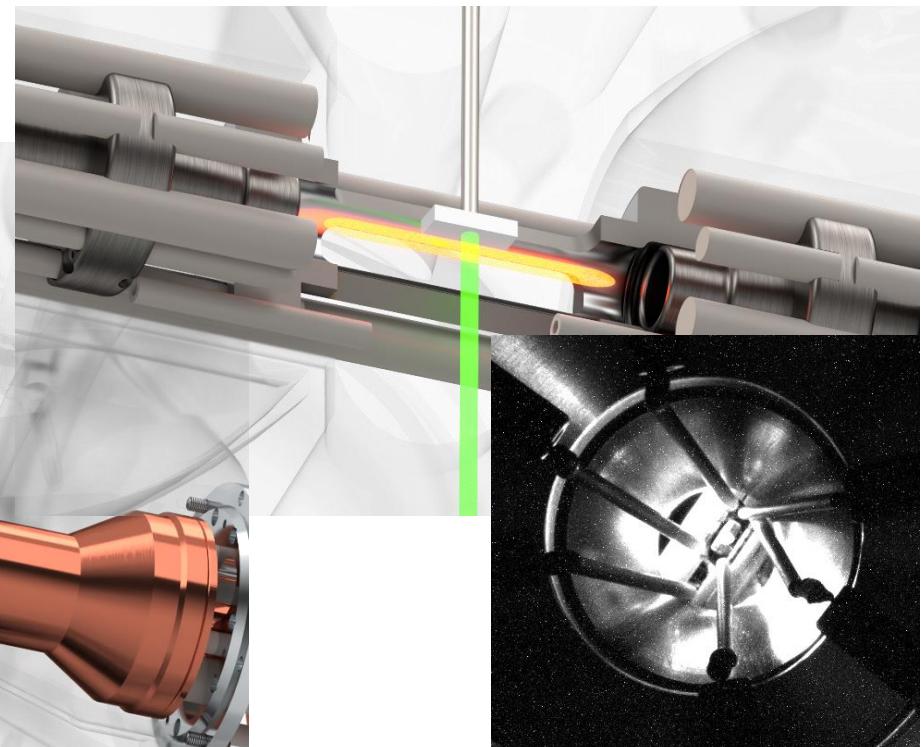
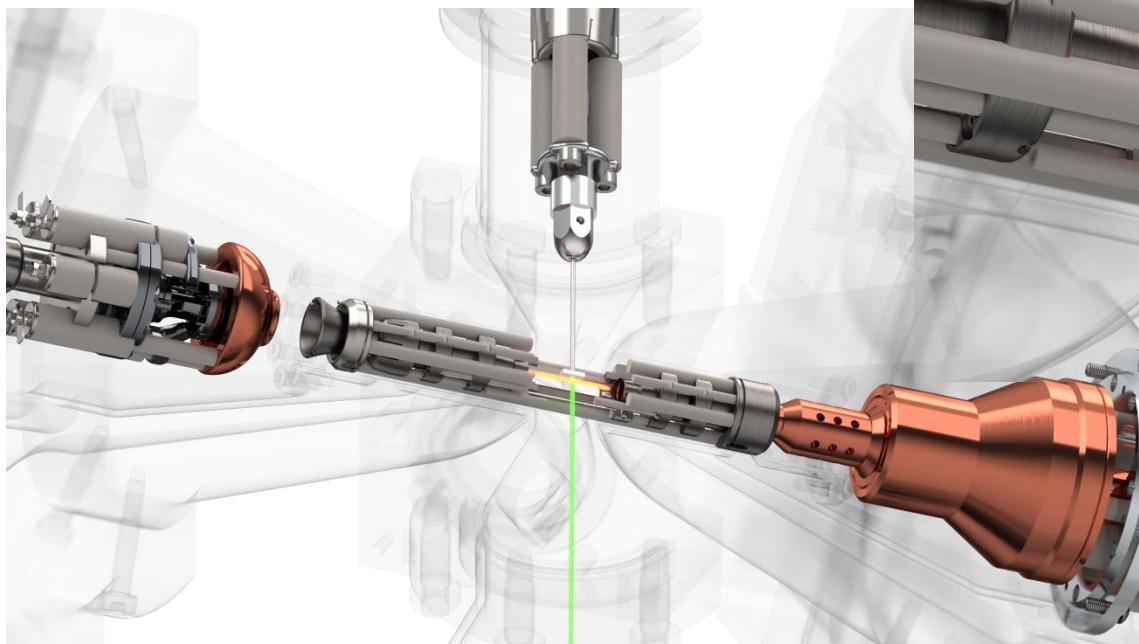
Dorrer, H. et al., Radiochim. Acta 106, 535 (2018)

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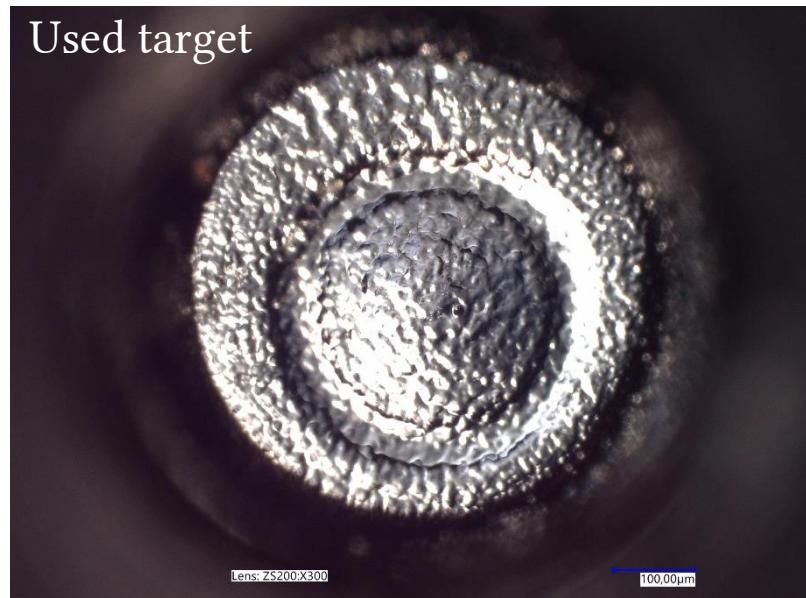
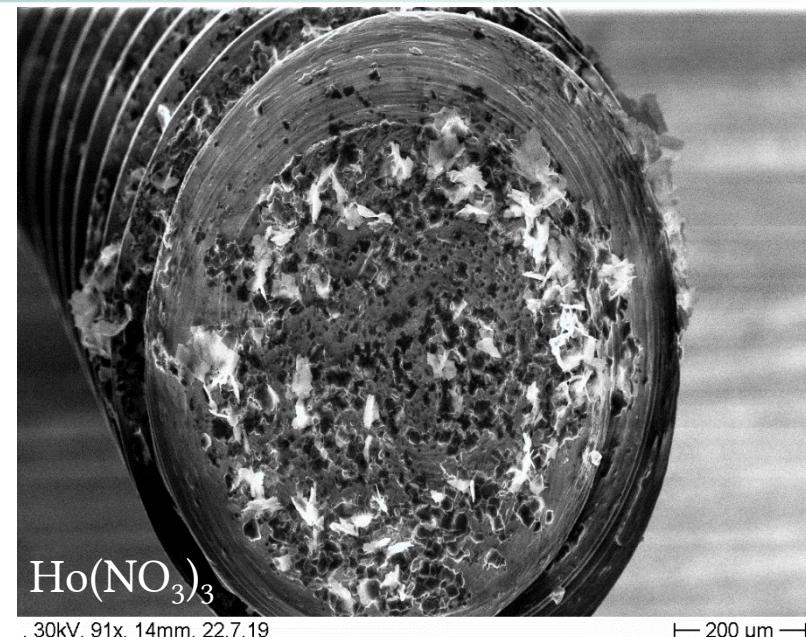
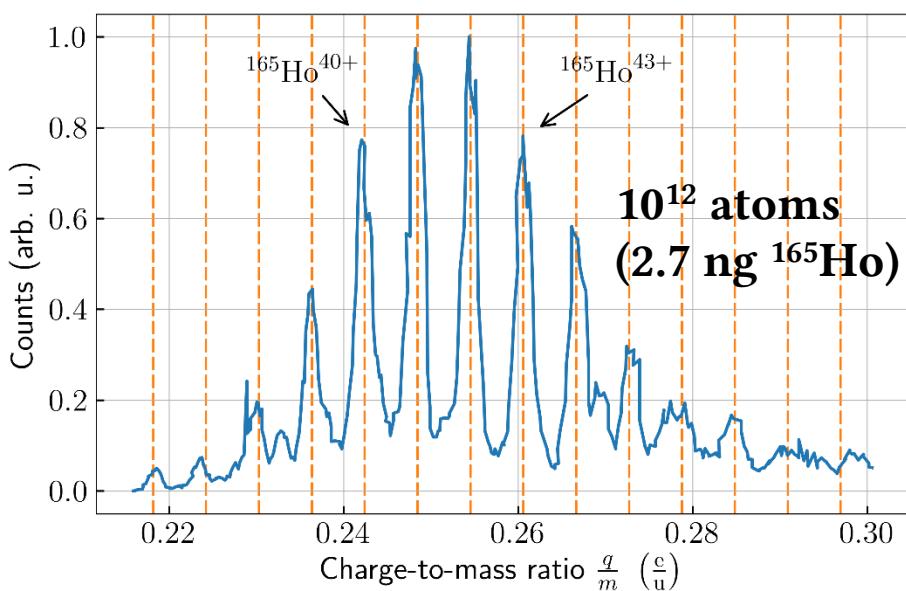
## In-trap laser desorption technique



Dorrer, H. et al., Radiochim. Acta 106, 535 (2018)  
Schweiger, Ch. et al., RSI 90, 123201 (2019)

# Small holmium targets

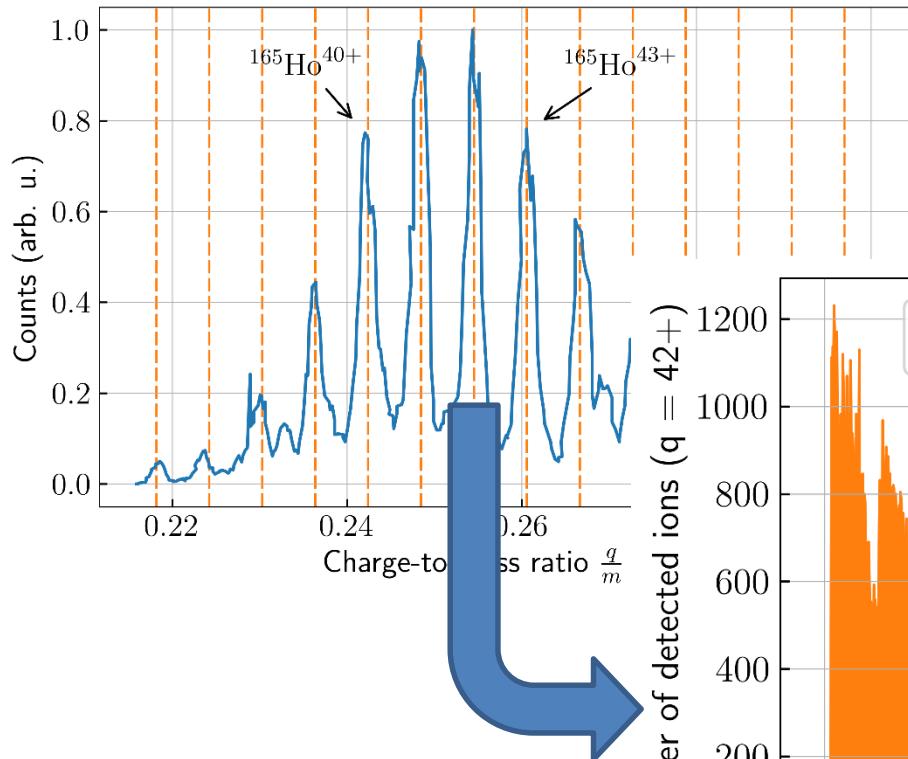
- 1 mm diameter Ti-wire
- Targets with known number of  $^{165}\text{Ho}$  atoms on the surface:  
Drop-on-demand inkjet printing technique  
(group of Ch. Düllmann @ JGU Mainz)



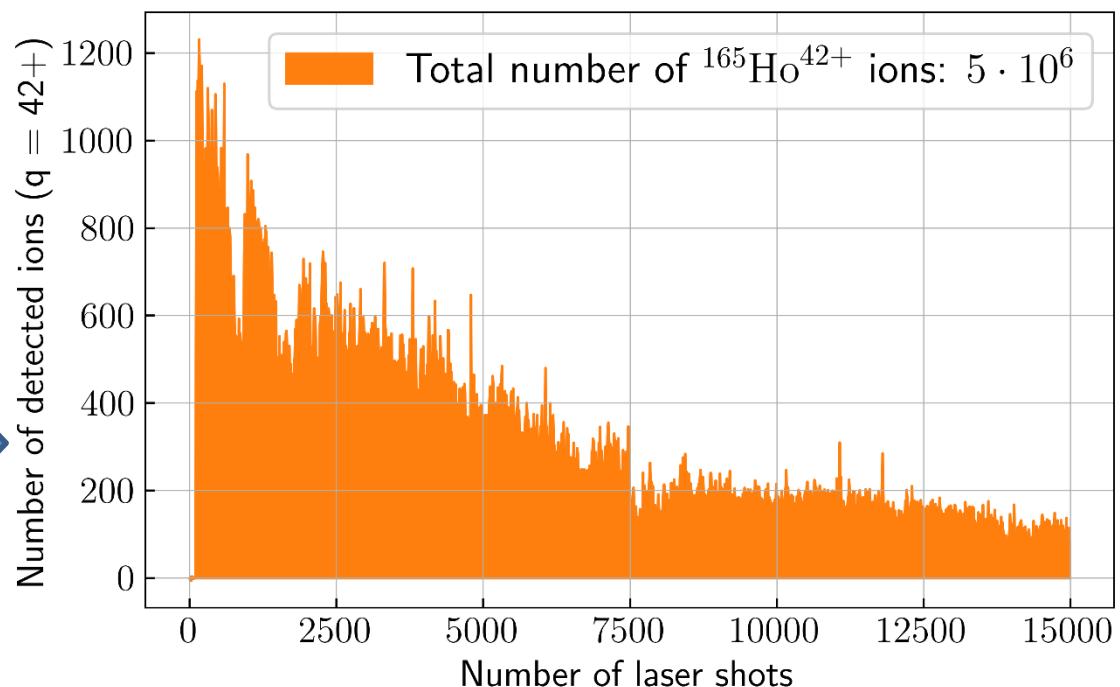
Schweiger, Ch. et al., RSI 90, 123201 (2019)

Haas, R. et al., NIM A 874, 43 (2017)

# Small holmium targets



- Target with  $10^{12}$  atoms
- At one laser spot position
- Laser pulse energy not increased

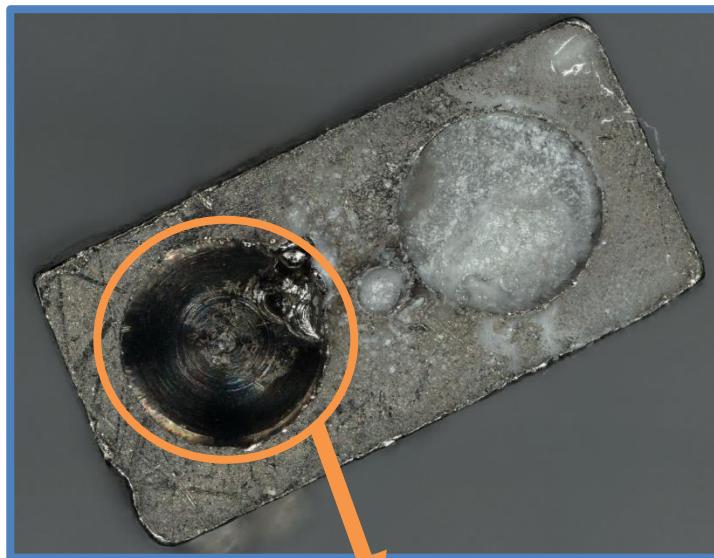


For the Q-value measurement:  
 $2 \times 10^{15}$  atoms of  $^{163}\text{Ho}$  used

Schweiger, Ch. et al., RSI 90, 123201 (2019)

Haas, R. et al., NIM A 874, 43 (2017)

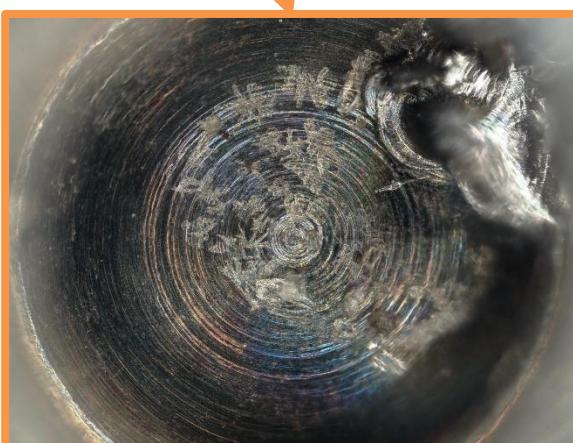
# $^{163}\text{Ho}/^{163}\text{Dy}$ targets



Target with  $10^{14}$  atoms of  $^{163}\text{Ho}$   
corresponding to 27 ng/481 Bq

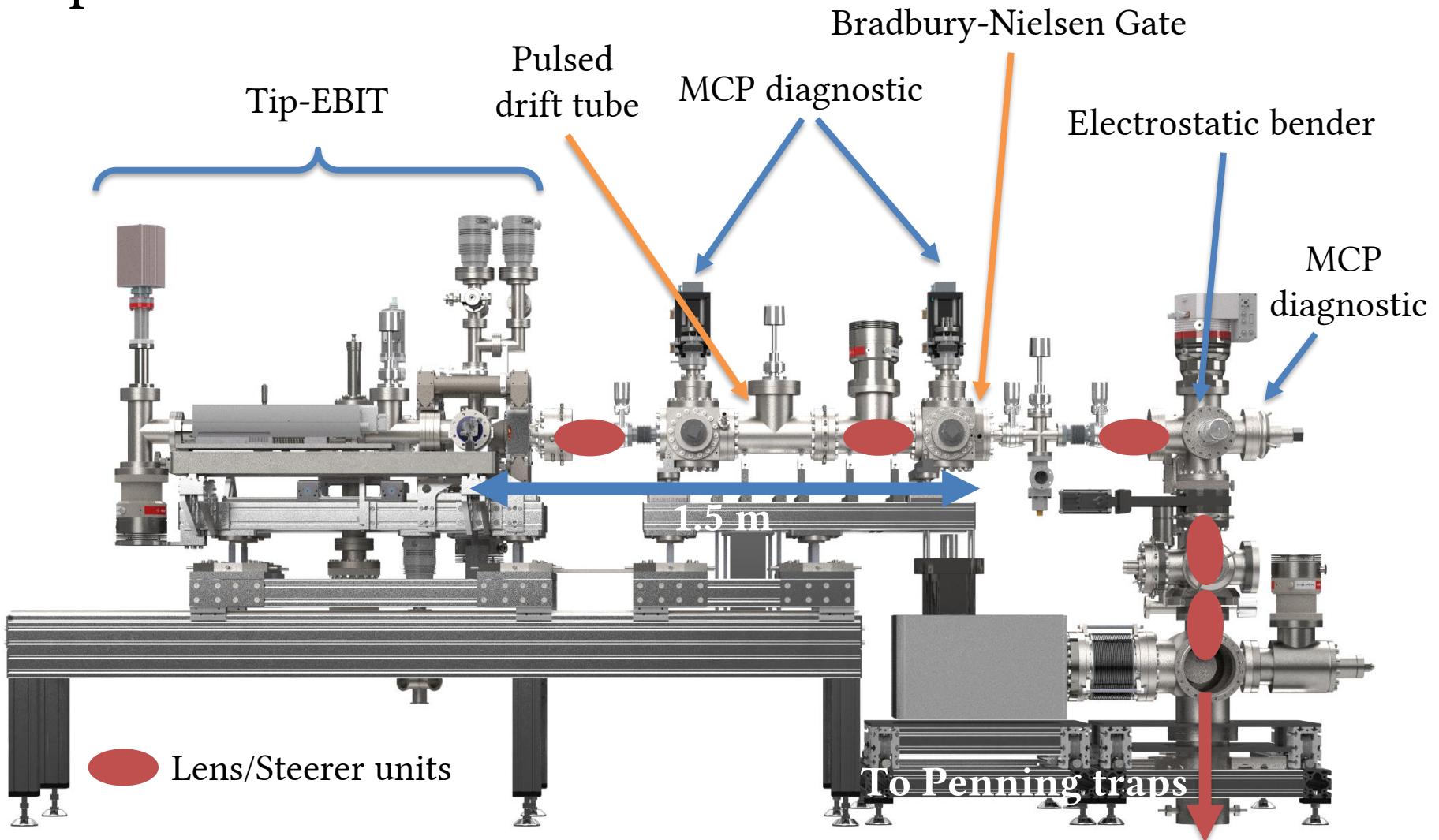


Laser  
desorption



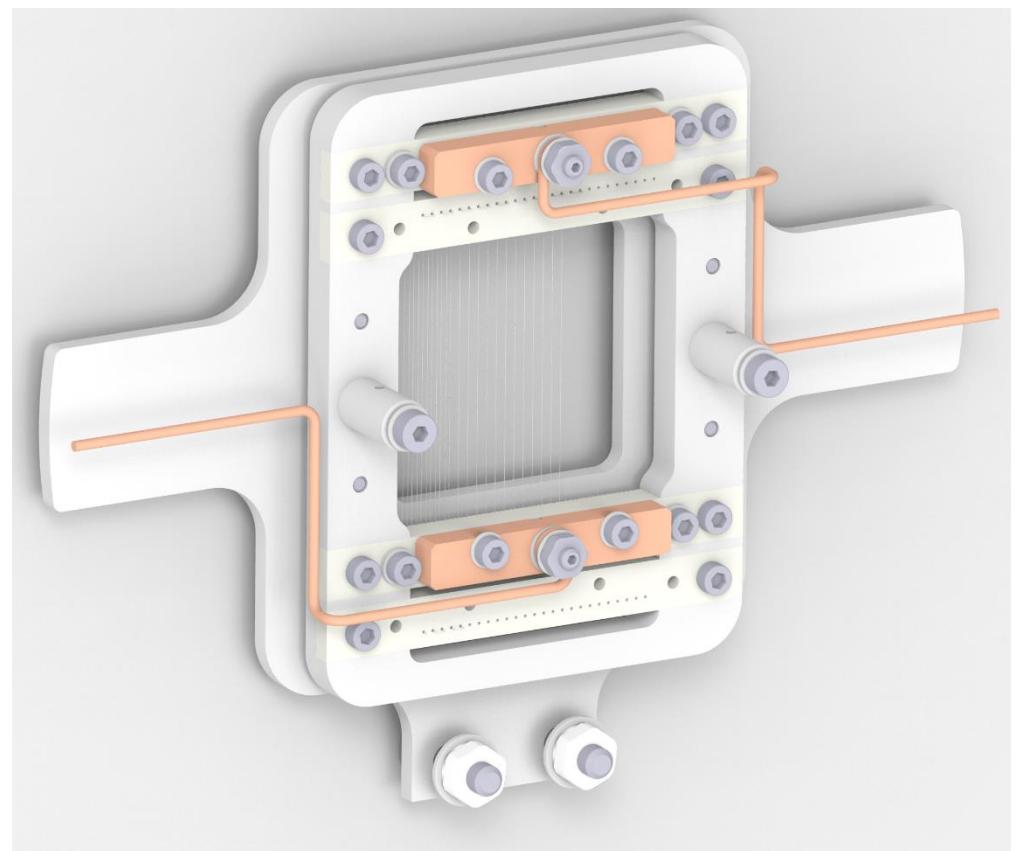
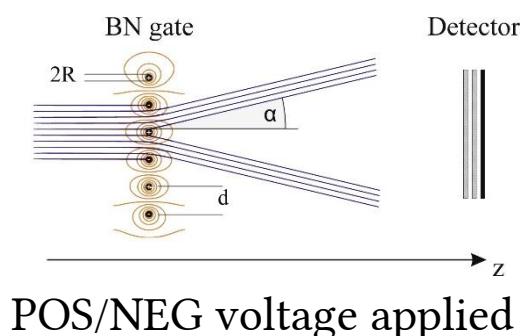
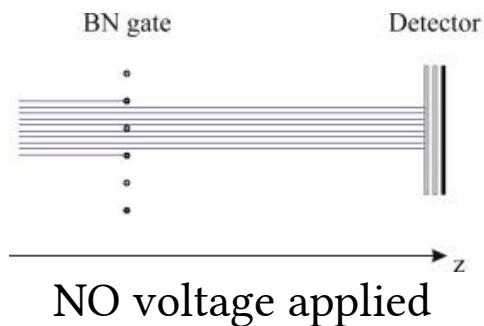


# Tip-EBIT beamline





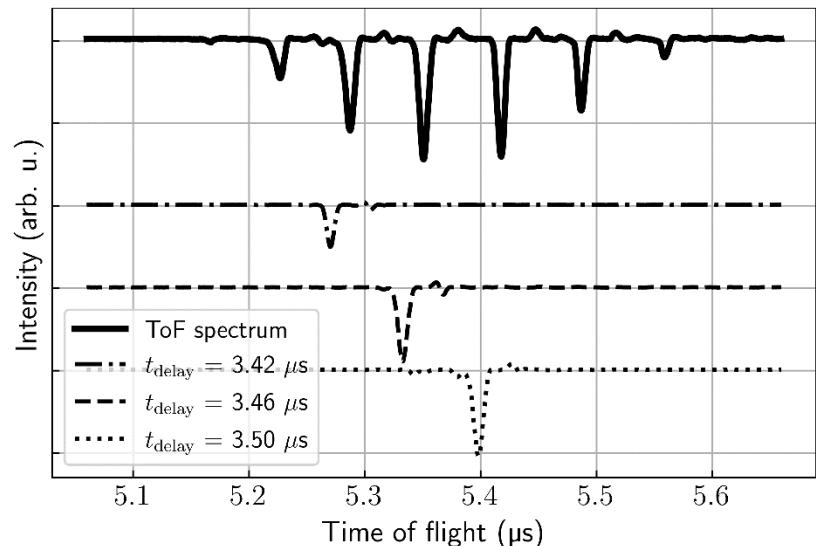
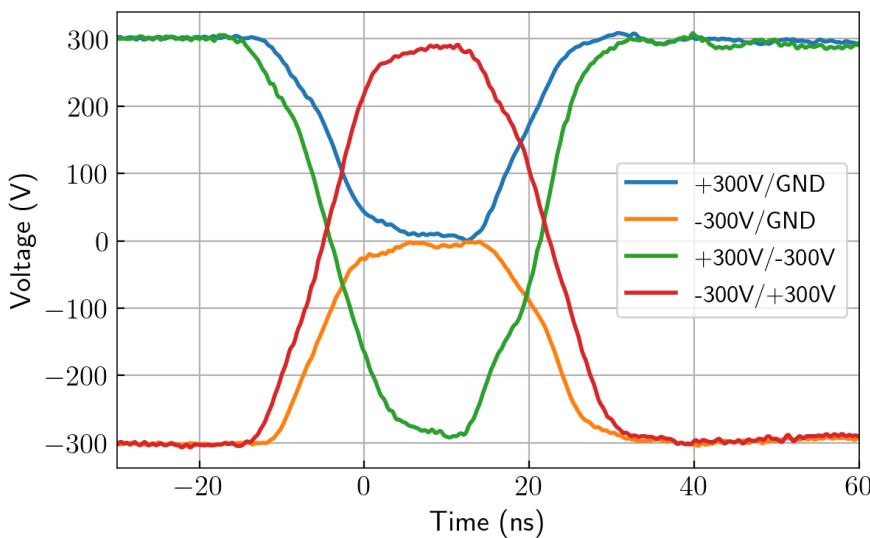
# Bradbury-Nielsen Gate





# Bradbury-Nielsen Gate performance

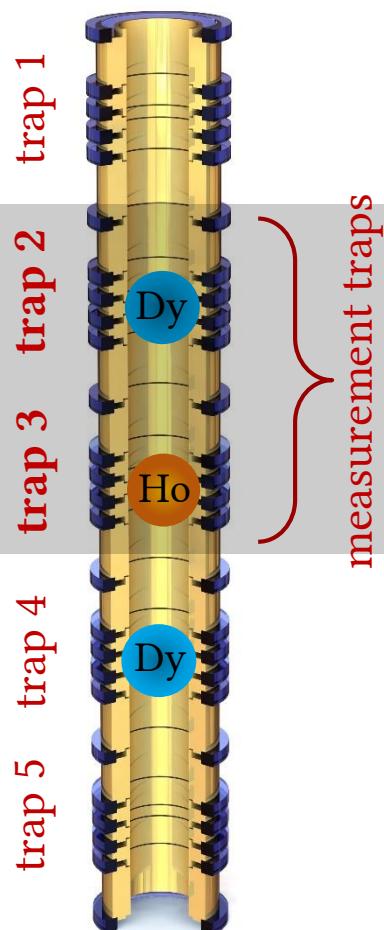
- Ion kinetic energy:  $\sim 4 \text{ keV/q}$
- Charge states  $\sim 70 \text{ ns}$  separated in ToF



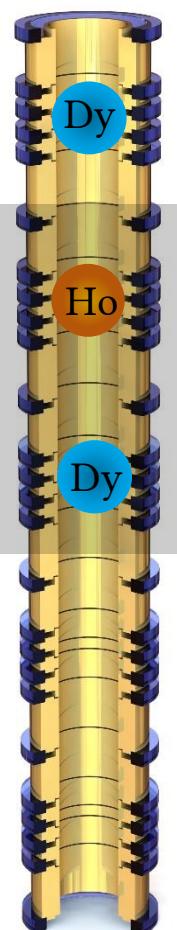
- Push-pull switch based on two N-channel power MOSFETs with gate drivers
- Pulse widths of  $\sim 20 \text{ ns}$  and rise/fall times of  $\sim 10 \text{ ns}$

# Measurement preparation and procedure

Position 1



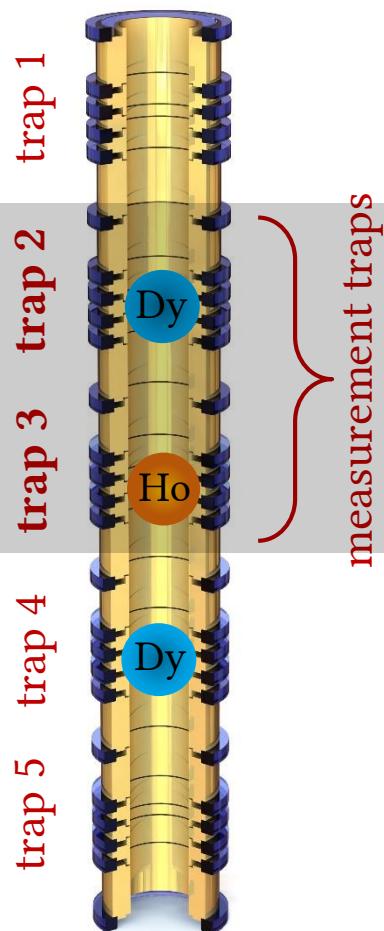
Position 2



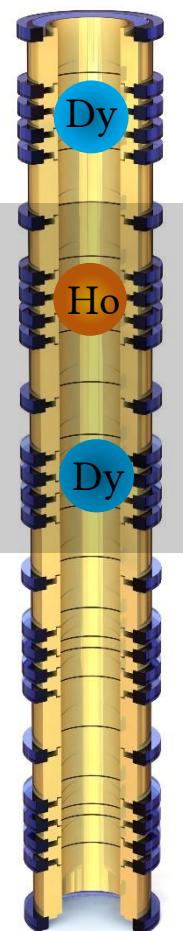


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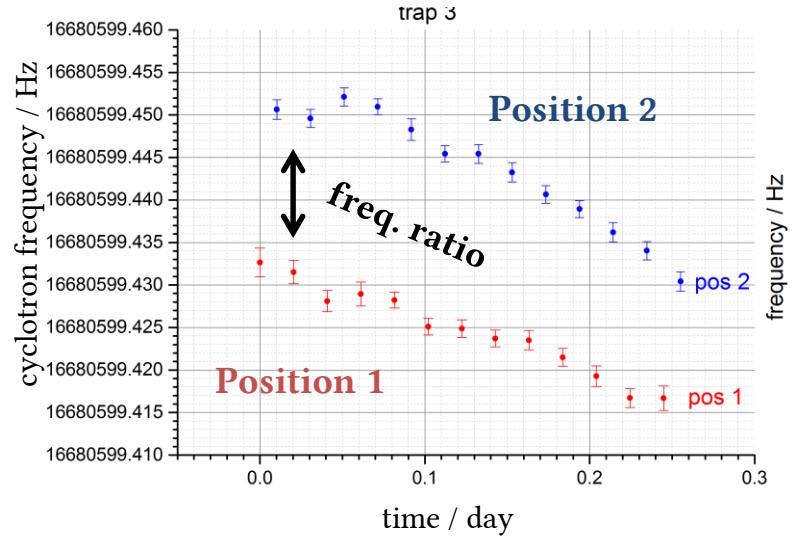
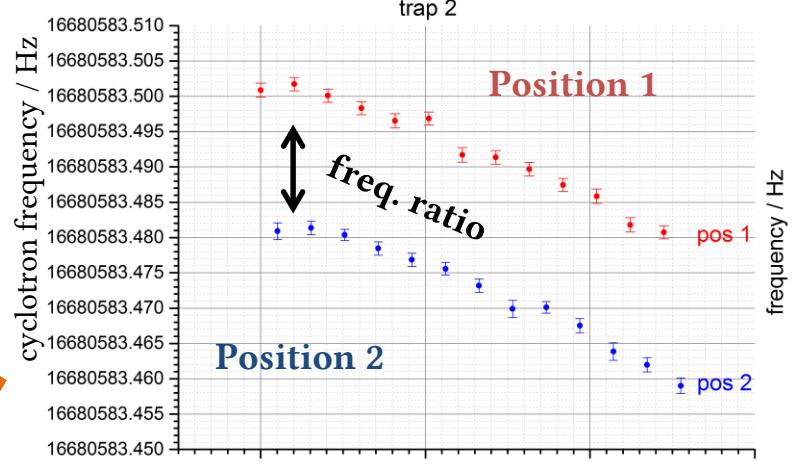


**Position 2**



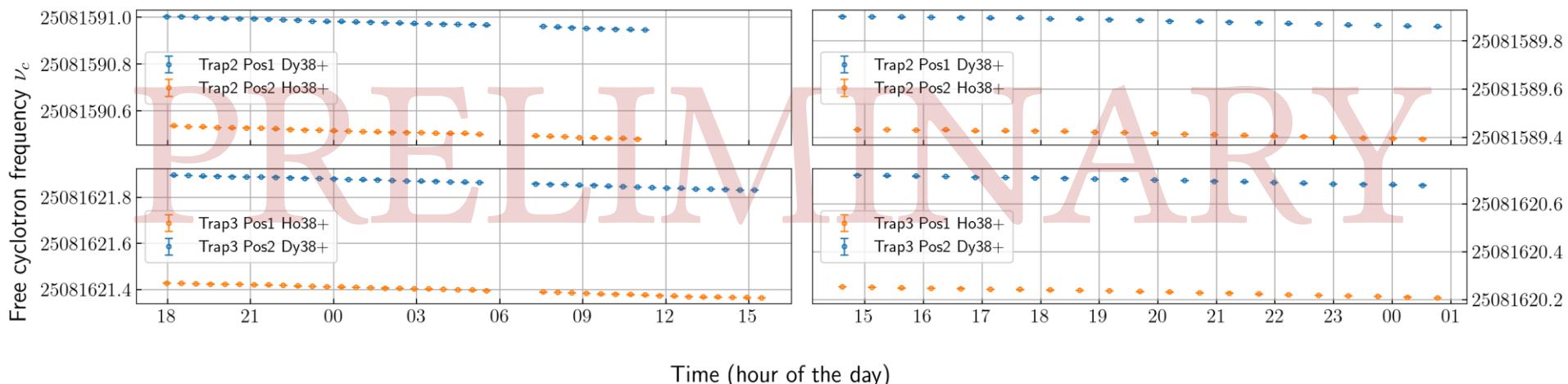
trap 2

trap 3



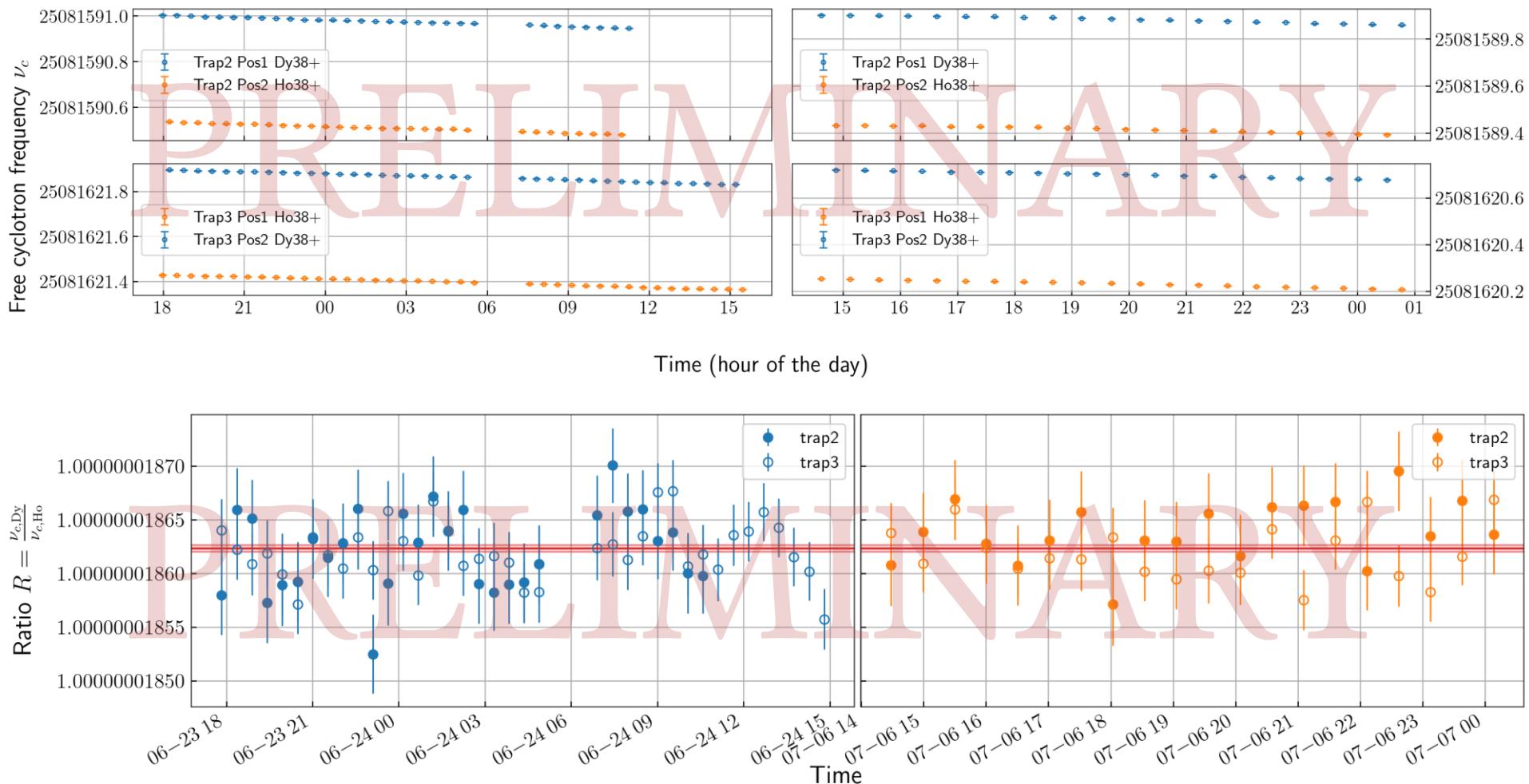


# Measurement of charge state $q=38+$



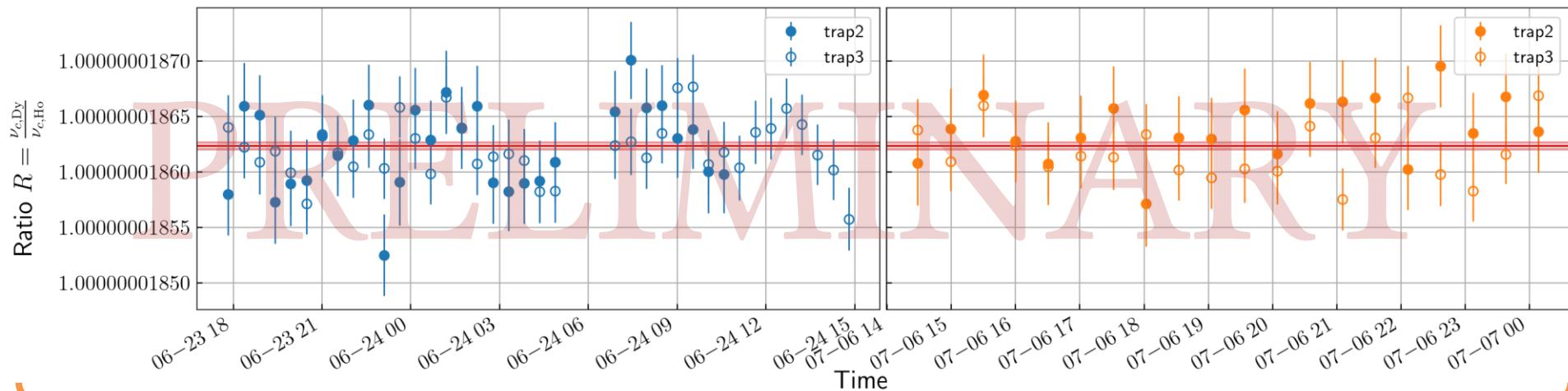


# Measurement of charge state $q=38+$





# Measurement of charge state $q=38+$



Calculated from AME,  
Electron mass (CODATA)  
and binding energies (NIST)

$$Q = m_{Dy}^{q+} (R_{q+} - 1) + \Delta E_B^{q+}$$

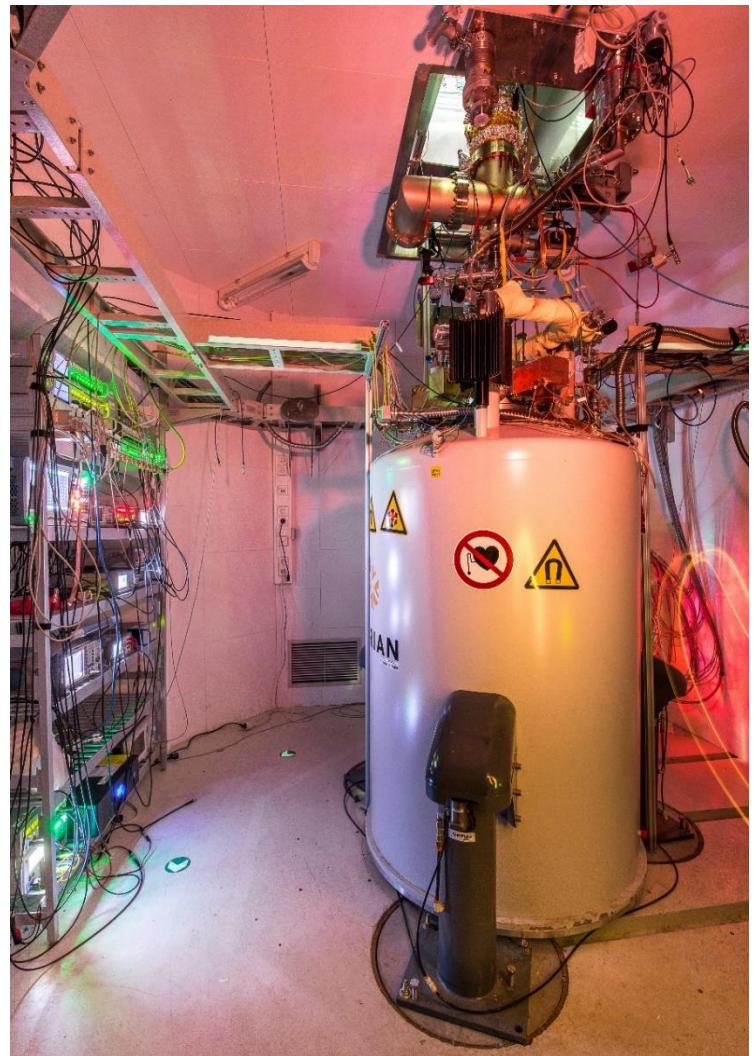
Z. Harman, P. Indelicato  
and M. Haverkort

<b>q</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>dR</b>	<b>Eb</b>	<b>dEb</b>	<b>Q</b>	<b>dQ</b>	<b>dR/R</b>
38	1.0000000186232842	3.0254163376677894e-12	37.39	0.7	2863.4	0.8	3.0E-12
39	1.0000000113074665	4.079252483056971e-12	1147.33	0.7	2863.2	0.9	4.1E-12
40	1.0000000115156475	3.4868062799341045e-12	1115.71	0.7	2863.2	0.9	3.5E-12



# Summary

- High-precision mass spectrometry for neutrino physics
- Requirements to reach this precision
- Production of HCl of rare isotopes
- Successful measurement of the  $^{163}\text{Ho}$   $Q$ -value





# PENTATRAP



MAX-PLANCK-GESELLSCHAFT



DFG Research Unit  
FOR 2202



Menno Door, Sergey Eliseev, Pavel Filianin, Jost Herkenhoff, Felix Herzog, Kathrin Kromer, Daniel Lange, Yuri N. Novikov, Alexander Rischka, Christoph Schweiger and Klaus Blaum

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Thank you for your attention!