

The SANDA and APRENDE European nuclear data projects

Daniel Cano Ott on behalf of the SANDA and APRENDE partners

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What are nuclear data?

Almost every nuclear application that requires minimal accuracy must be supported by well-validated experimental data. Nuclear models are not able to predict (by themselves) accurately the microscopic properties of nuclei.

Differential data

- **Nuclear reaction data:** cross sections (probability of reaction as a function of energy), energy distributions, multiplicity and angular distributions of reaction products ...
- **Decay and nuclear structure data:** modes of disintegration, half-lives, probabilities of emission of particles (multiplicities, energies, angular correlations), information on the nuclear structure (energy, spin and parity) ...

- **Integral data.** Macroscopic properties of nuclear systems, some of them measured or determined with high accuracy. They are typically used for the test and validation of microscopic data.

All these quantities are called **nuclear data**.

Nuclear data are essential for every nuclear application

- Nuclear theory.
- Nuclear technologies: reactor operation and design, nuclear fuel cycle, criticality...
- Fusion reactors: neutronics, diagnostics, activation...
- Nuclear astrophysics.
- Medical applications: therapy, imaging, dosimetry...
- Detector design and calibrations.
- Dosimetry.
- Nuclear forensics.
- Homeland security.
- Climate studies.
- Planetary science.
- Space applications.
- Oil searches.
- Non-destructive analysis techniques.

...

In the beginning... there was Fermi

During the Manhattan project, when reactor engineers were stumped by the lack of nuclear data, they would put their problems to **Fermi**.

Fermi would protest that he could not help them, because the number they wanted had not been measured and could not be predicted. The engineers, ignoring Fermi's protest, began reciting slowly a series of numbers while watching his eyes closely.

The **correct number** would produce an **involuntary twinkle in Fermi's eyes**.

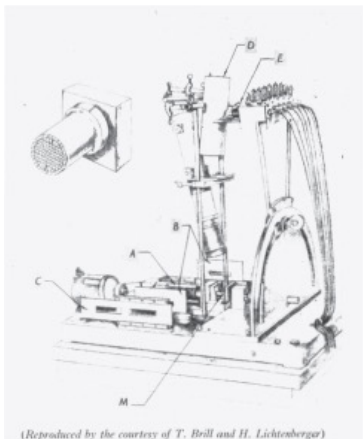
ANL – <https://ahf.nuclearmuseum.org/voices/oral-histories/fermi-love-part-3/>

A Thermal Neutron Velocity Selector and Its Application to the Measurement of the Cross Section of Boron

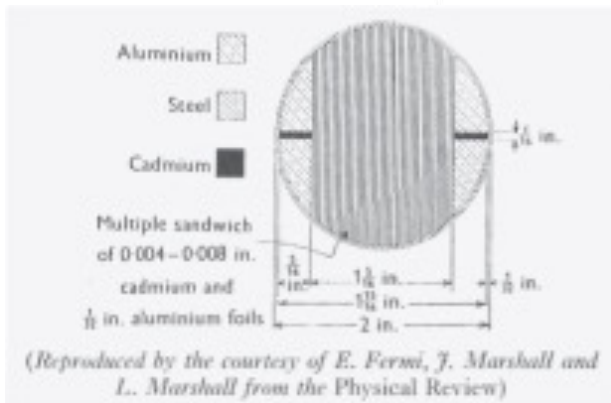
E. FERMI, J. MARSHALL, AND L. MARSHALL

Argonne National Laboratory,* University of Chicago, Chicago,** Illinois

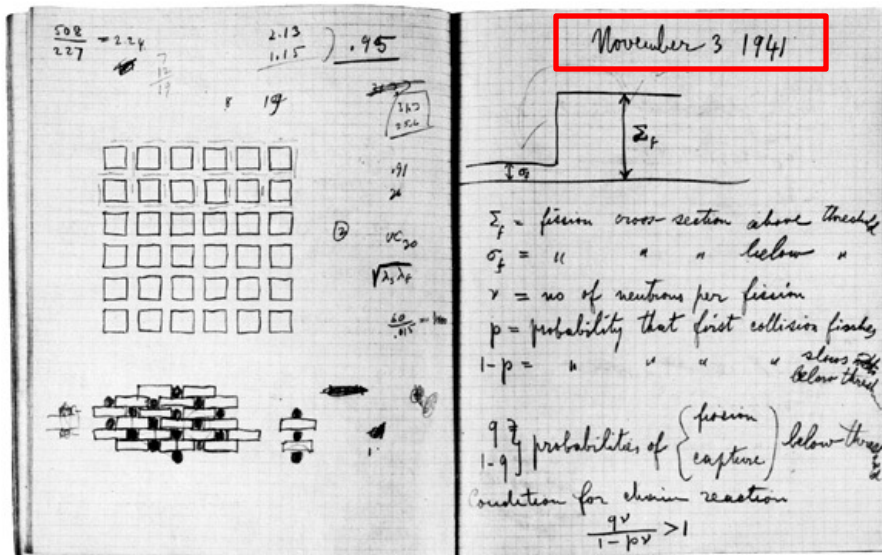
(Received April 25, 1947)



(Reproduced by the courtesy of T. Brill and H. Lichtenberger)



(Reproduced by the courtesy of E. Fermi, J. Marshall and L. Marshall from the Physical Review)



(1941) FERMI's notebook with the design of Chicago PILE-1 (1942)

During the Manhattan project

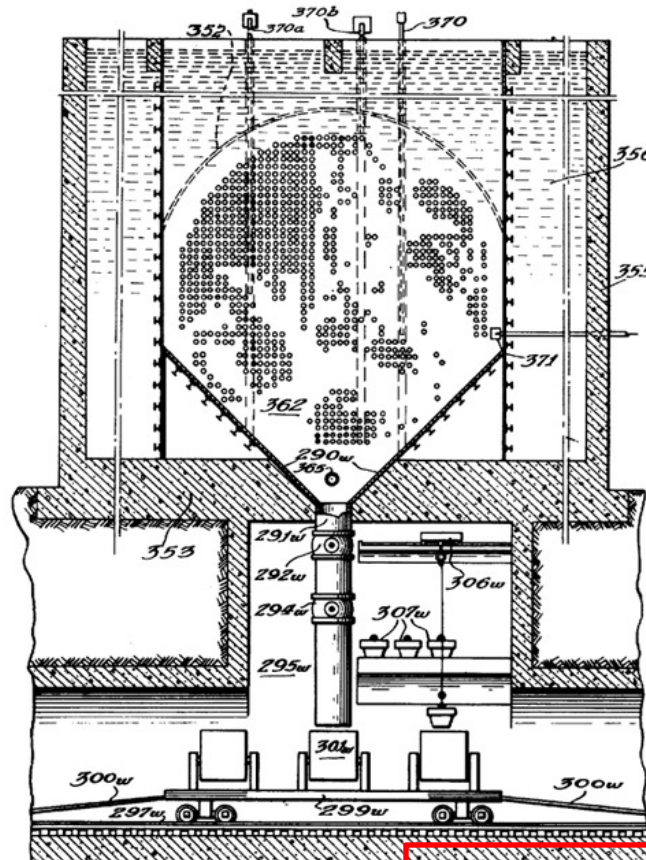
May 17, 1955

E. FERMI ET AL
NEUTRONIC REACTOR

2,708,656

Filed Dec. 19, 1944

27 Sheets-Sheet 25



Witnesses:
Herbert E. Hinton
Francis W. Taylor
Henry K. Johnson

Inventors:
Enrico Fermi
Leo Szilard

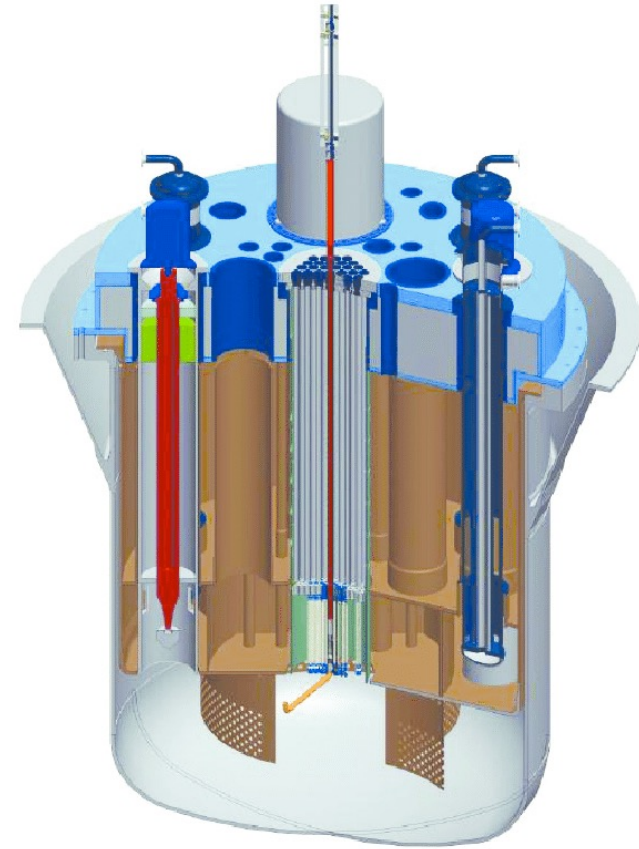
By Robert A. Tompkins
Attorney

(1945) Patent on Fermi-Szilard reactor design.

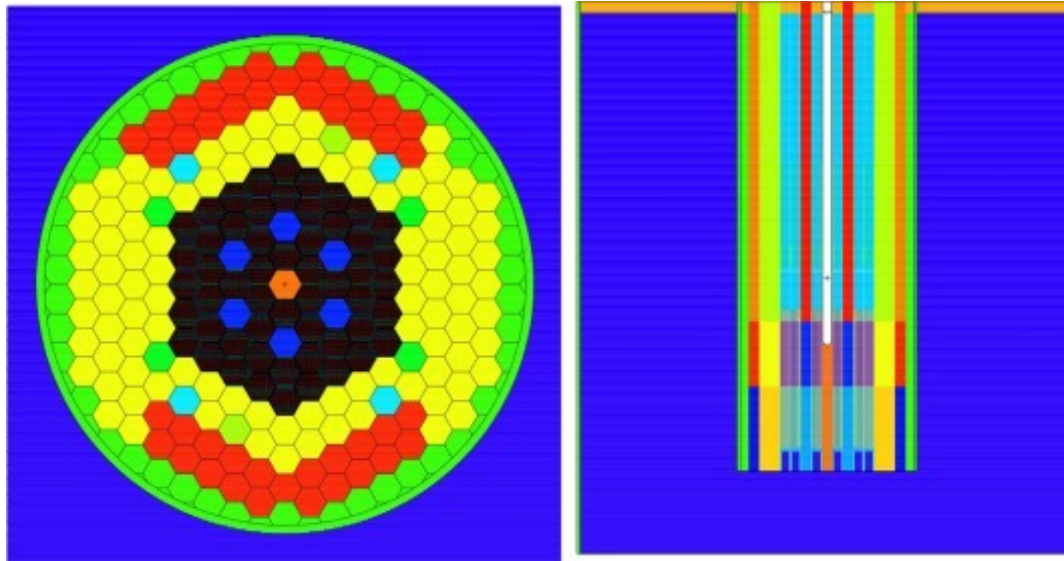
80 years later...

Unfortunately, we don't have Fermi!

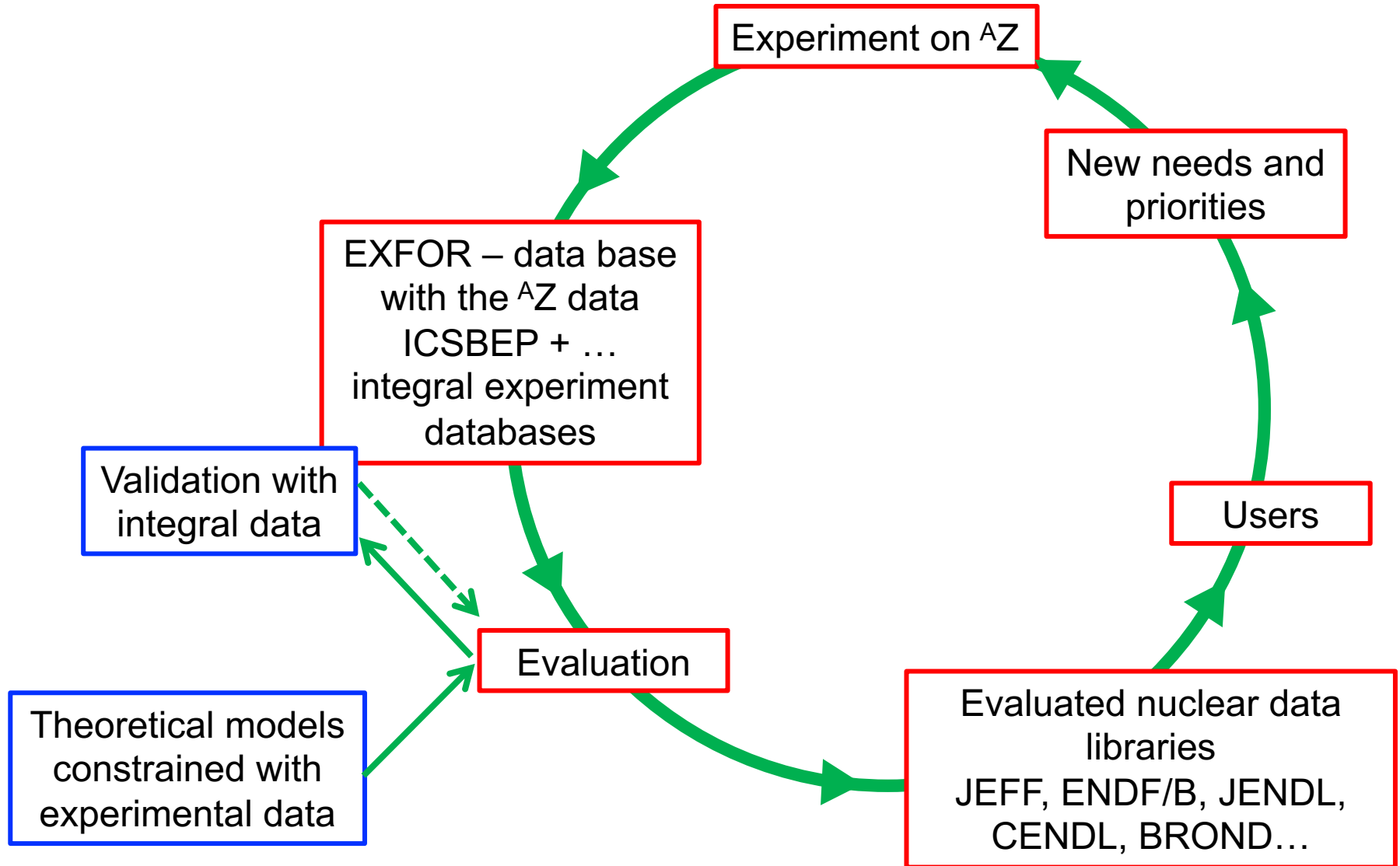
1. Better Monte Carlo simulation tools, deterministic codes, and computers.
2. Powerful and well characterised neutron sources, advanced detectors, and data acquisition systems for producing high quality data.
3. Evaluators.
4. Complex validation methodologies.



The MYRRHA Accelerator Driven System



The nuclear data cycle



Nuclear data projects in Europe

HINDAS (16)

KU-Leuven 3.3 M€
2000 - 2003

High and
Intermediate energy
Nuclear
Data for
Accelerator-driven
Systems

IP-EUROTRANS (~20)

KIT ~1 M€ NUDATRA
2005 - 2010

EUROpean research programme
for the
TRANSmutation
of high-level nuclear waste
in an accelerator driven systems

CHANDA (36)

CIEMAT ~5.4 M€
2013 - 2018

solving
CHALLENGES in
Nuclear
DATA

APRENDE (36+4)

CIEMAT ~4 M€
2024 – 2028

Addressing
PRIORITIES of
EVALUATED
Nuclear
Data in
Europe

National funding + Transnational access programs (ERINDA, EUFRAT, ARIEL, OFFERR, EURO-LABS) + Education & training (ARIEL, ENEN2+)

n TOF-ADS (18)

CERN 2.4 M€
2000 – 2004

Data for
Accelerator
Driven
Systems
nuclear data

CANDIDE (14)

UU ~1 M€
2007 - 2008

Coordination
Action on
Nuclear
Data for
Industrial
Development in
Europe

ANDES (21)

CIEMAT ~3 M€
2010 - 2013

Coordination
Accurate
Nuclear
Data for nuclear
Energy
Sustainability

SANDA (36)

CIEMAT ~5.4 M€
2019 - 2024

Supplying
Accurate
Nuclear
Data for energy and
non-energy
Applications

SANDA and APRENDE

Topics covered:

- Detector development and infrastructure upgrades
 - New measurements
 - Sample preparation (stable and radioactive)
 - Evaluation of nuclear data
 - Validation & integral experiments
 - Transnational access
 - Education & Training
- } **APRENDE / dedicated ARIEL project during SANDA**

APRENDE has the ambition to improve nuclear data for the European priorities:

- All aspects of spent nuclear fuel (SNF),
- **Reactor operational characteristics** such as reactivity versus burnup, transients, and margins,
- **Advanced reactor and fuel cycle development** including small modular reactors (SMR) and GenIV systems based on Pb, Na coolants, molten salts, or an accelerator like MYRRHA,
- **Criticality safety** and shielding for safety assessments and safety assessment methodologies,
- **Non-Energy applications**, radiation protection.

SANDA and APRENDE

Topics covered:

- Detector development and infrastructure upgrades
 - New measurements
 - Sample preparation (stable and radioactive)
 - Evaluation of nuclear data
 - Validation & integral experiments
 - Transnational access
 - Education & Training
- APRENDE / dedicated ARIEL project during SANDA**

APRENDE / dedicated ARIEL project during SANDA to improve nuclear data for the European priorities:

- All aspects of spent nuclear fuel (SNF),
- Reactor operational characteristics, reactivity versus burnup, transients, and margins,
- Advanced reactor and fuel cycle developments, including modular reactors (SMR) and GenIV systems based on Pb, Na coolants, molten salt reactors, and accelerator like MYRRHA,
- Criticality safety and shielding for safety assessments and safety assessment methodologies,
- Non-Energy applications, radiation protection.

Emphasis on the training of new evaluators

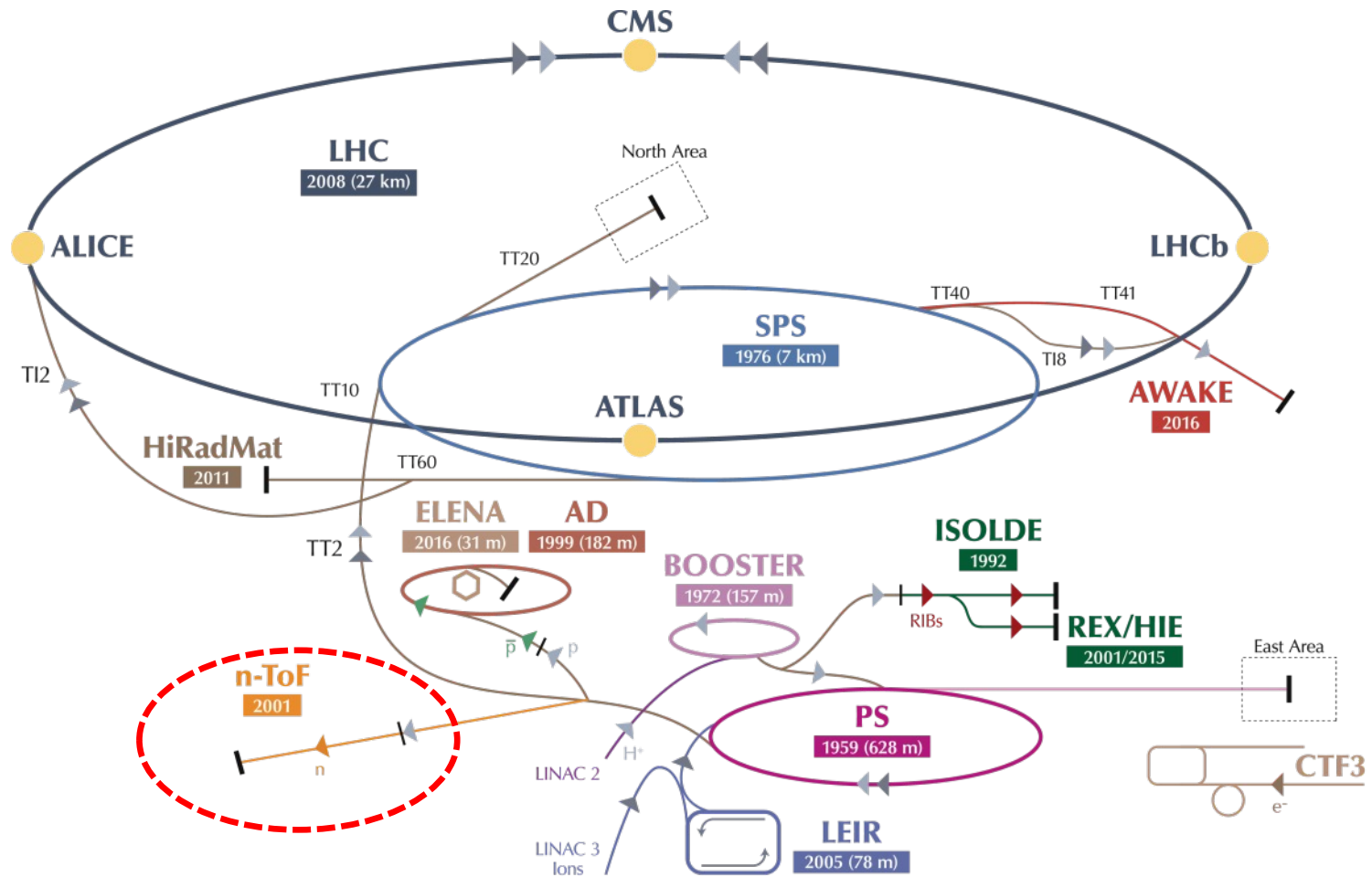
A few selected facilities

Facilities participating in APRENDE

List of the facilities participating in SANDA and APRENDE:

- CERN (CH, international laboratory): n_TOF
- JRC Geel (BE, European Commission): GELINA (neutron TOF) and MONNET (Tandem for monochromatic neutrons)
- GANIL / SPIRAL2 (FR): Neutrons For Science (NFS) & ions
- HZDR (GE): nELBE
- CNRS (FR): AIFIRA (ion beams), ALTO (LICORNE) and GENESIS (14 MeV)
- PTB (GE): reference neutron fields
- JYU (FI): ions
- IFIN-HH (RO): ions & neutrons
- Centro Nacional de Aceleradores (CNA): neutrons & ions
- CVREZ (CZ): LR-0 experimental reactor.

n_TOF @ CERN



The n_TOF collaboration

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V. Babiano-Suarez⁷
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M. Barbagallo^{1,10}
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D. Bosnar¹²
A. Brown¹³
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D. Cano-Ott²
A. Casanovas¹⁷
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E. Chiaveri^{1,11}
N. Colonna¹⁰
G. Cortés¹⁷
M. A. Cortés-Giraldo¹⁸
L. Cosentino³
S. Cristallo^{14,19}
L. A. Damone^{10,20}
P. J. Davies¹¹
M. Diakaki^{21,1}

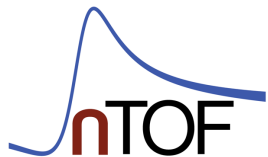
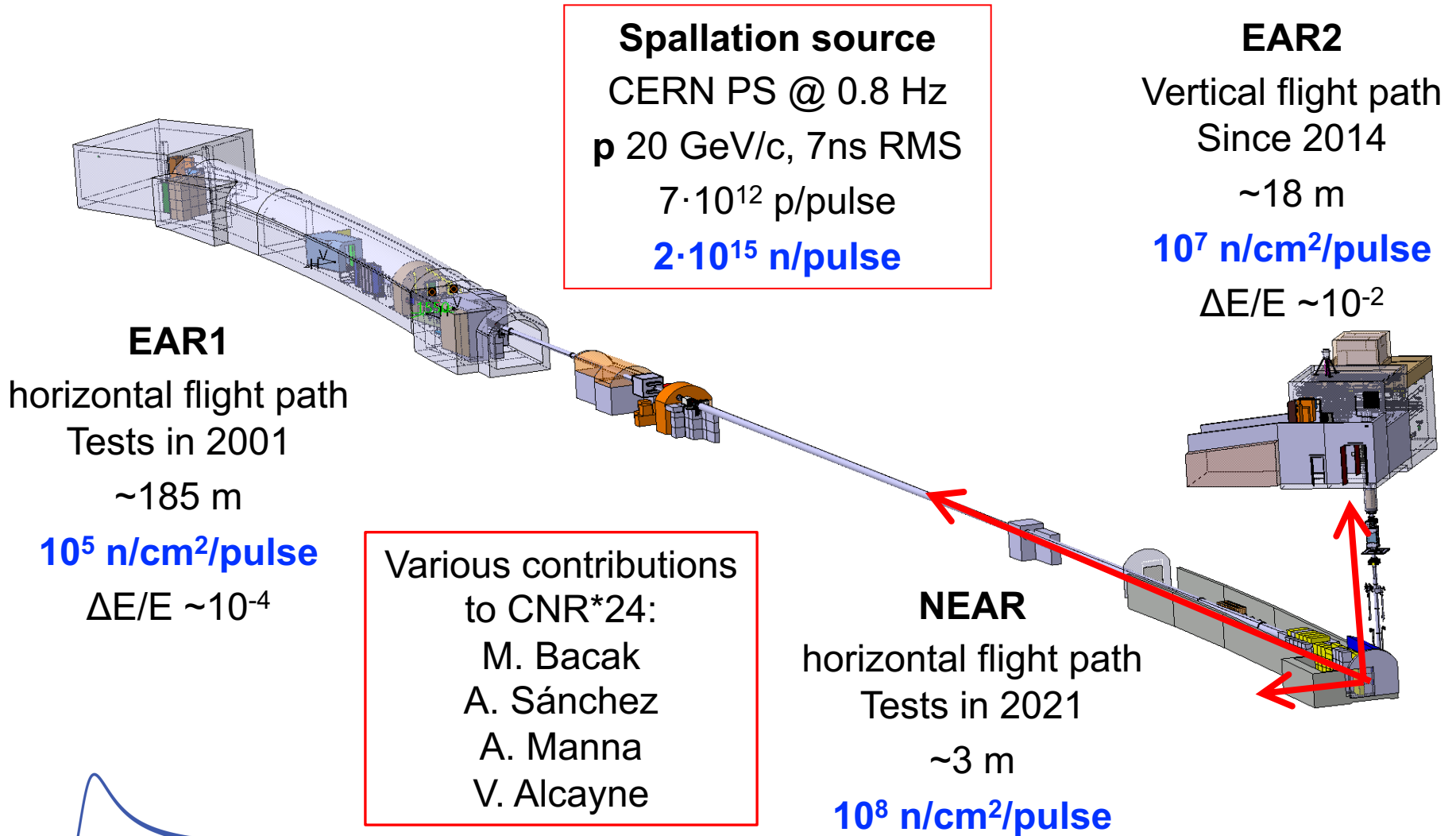
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A. Gawlik⁵
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H. Harada²⁹
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A. Junghans³¹
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Y. Kadi¹
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I. Knapová³³
M. Kokkoris²¹
Y. Kopatch²⁶
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M. Mastromarco¹
E. A. Maugeri²³
A. Mazzone^{10,37}
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P. M. Milazzo³⁹
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C. Petrone⁴¹
E. Pirovano²⁴

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D. Vescovi^{10,14}
V. Vlachoudis¹
R. Vlastou²¹
A. Wallner⁴⁷
P. J. Woods²²
T. Wright¹¹
P. Žugec¹²

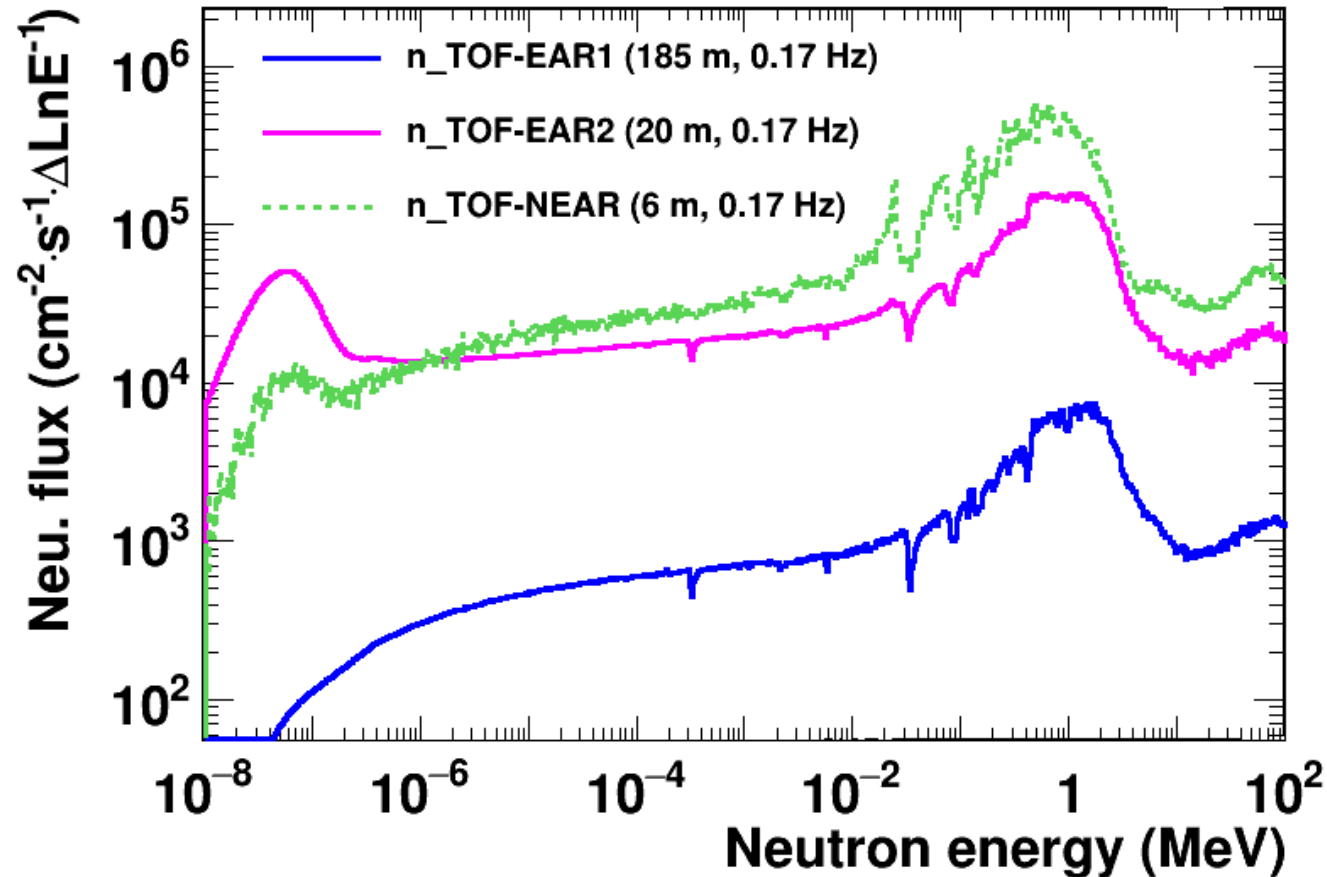


The n_TOF facility



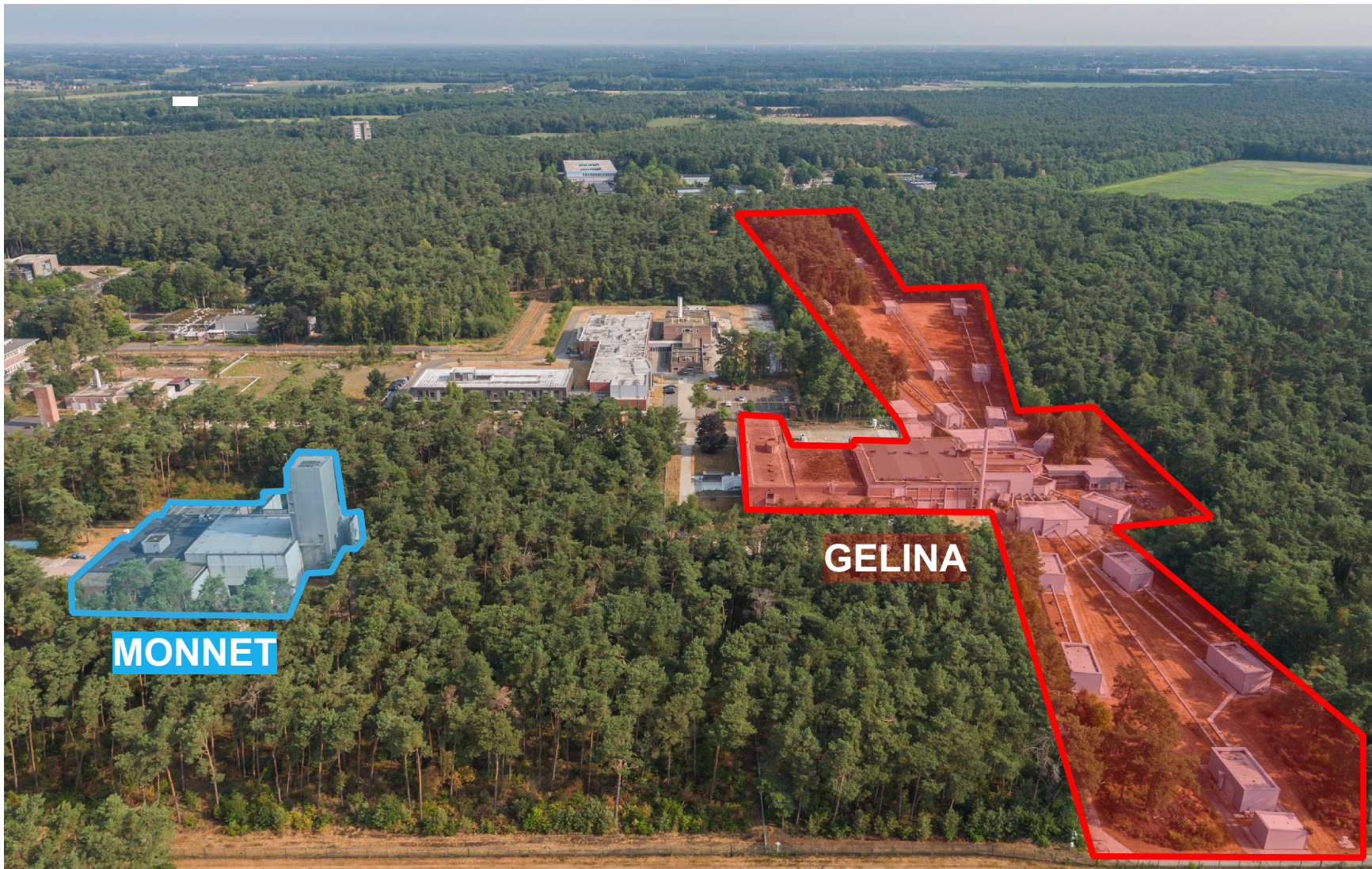
[N. Patronis et al. EPJ Techniques and Instrumentation 10, 13 \(2023\)](#)

n_TOF fluence

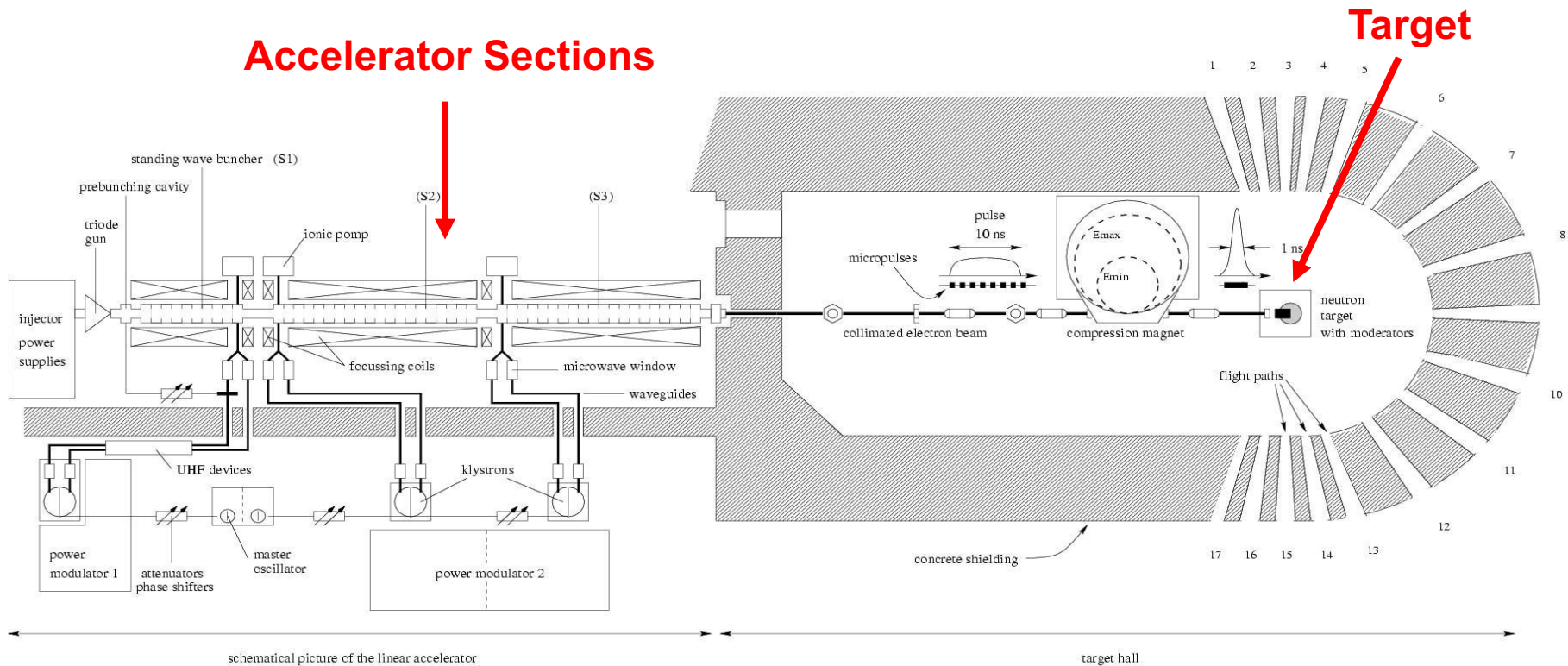


Very high fluence/pulse, low repetition rate.

JRC – Geel: GELINA and MONNET



The GELINA TOF facility



Normal operating parameters

Average current : 70 pA
 Maximum electron energy : 130 MeV
 Mean Power : 7 kW

Frequency : up to 800 Hz
 Pulse width : 1-2 ns
 Neutron fluence : **$2 \cdot 10^{13}$**

GELINA neutron fluence

Measurement

Transmission

Capture

Elastic scattering

Inelastic scattering

Fission, (n,p), (n, α)

Flight paths

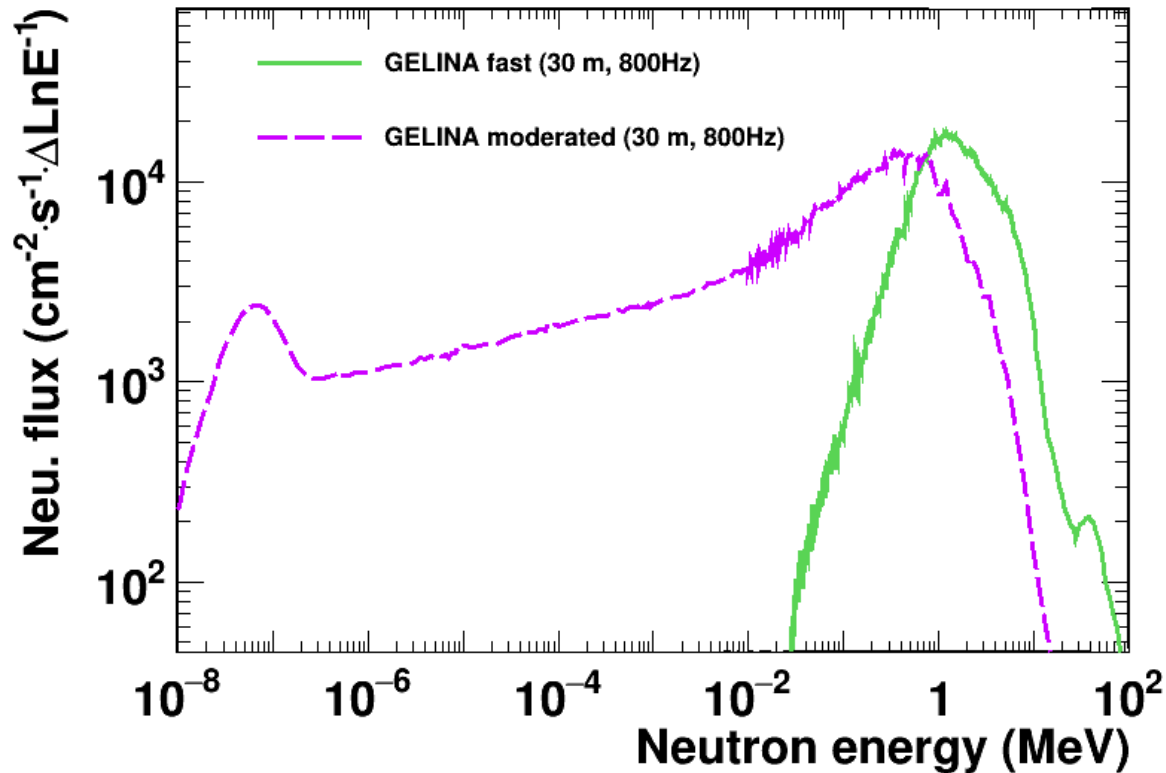
10 m, 30m, 50 m

10 m, 30 m, 60 m

30 m

30 m, 100 m

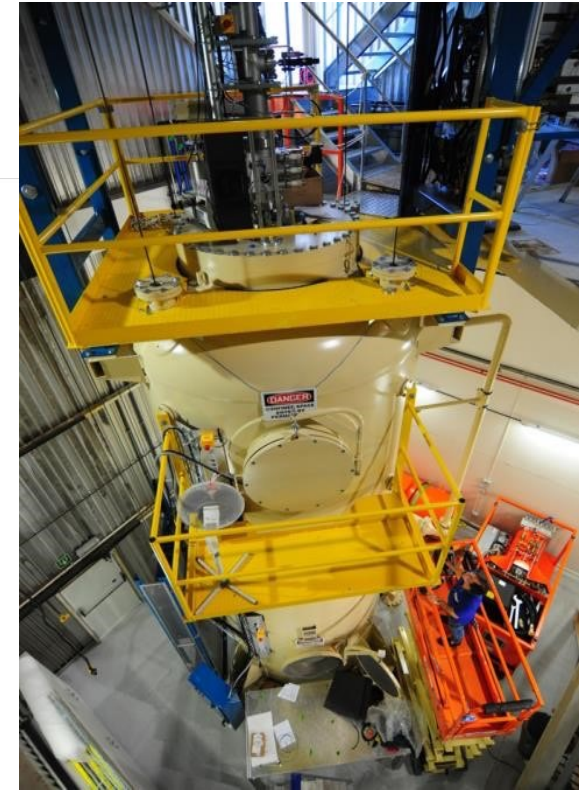
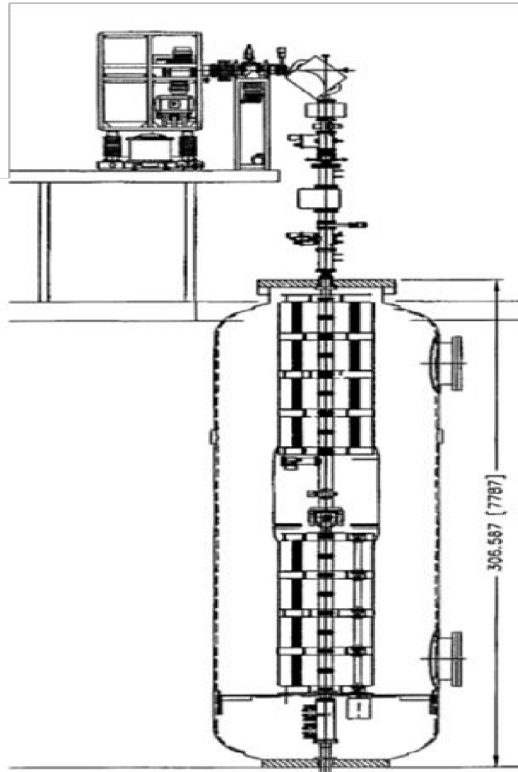
10 m



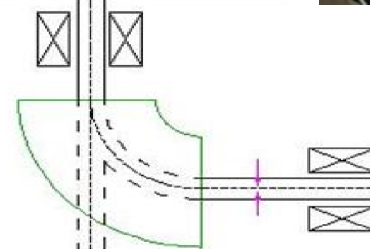
MONo eNERgetic neutrons by Tandem (MONNET)



3.5 MV NEC Tandem

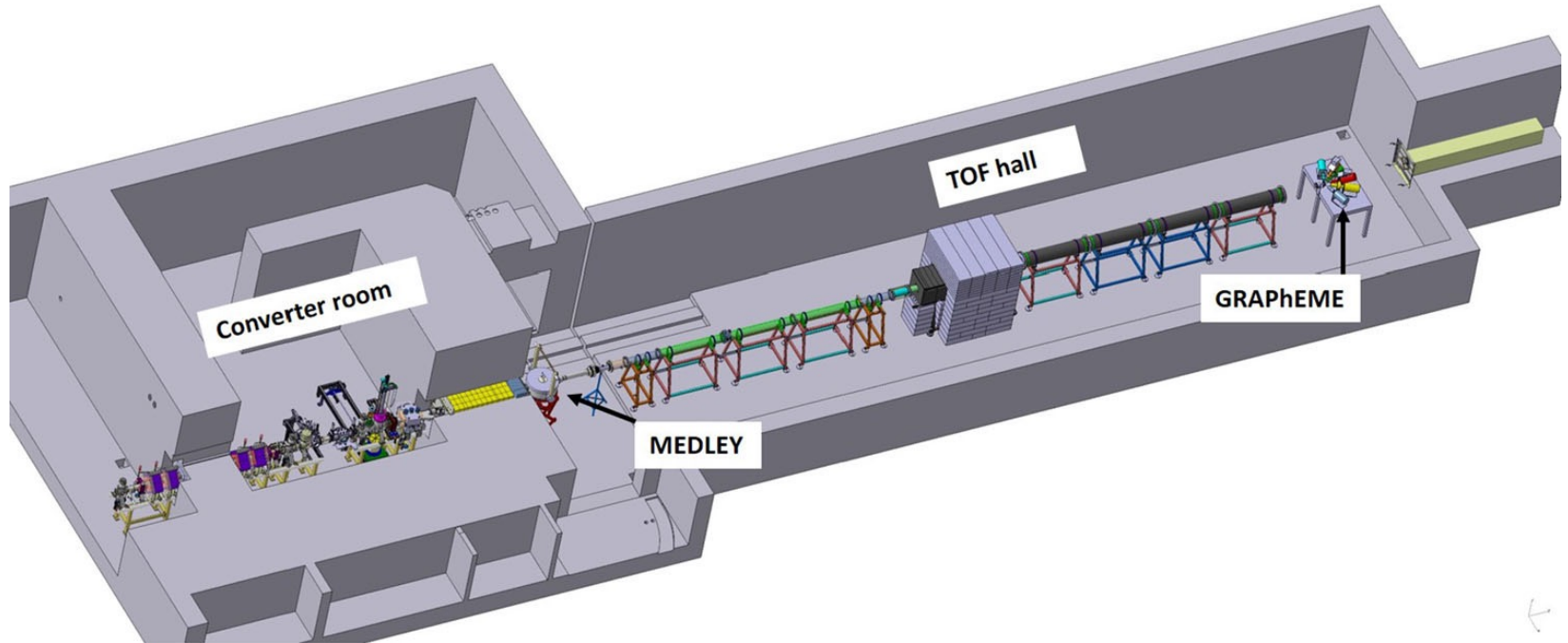


Protons, deuterons and α -particles
DC ($p, d < 50 \text{ pA}$)
Pulse beam (1 – 2 ns)
 E_n : 200 keV – 7 MeV



Neutrons for Science – NFS @ SPIRAL-2

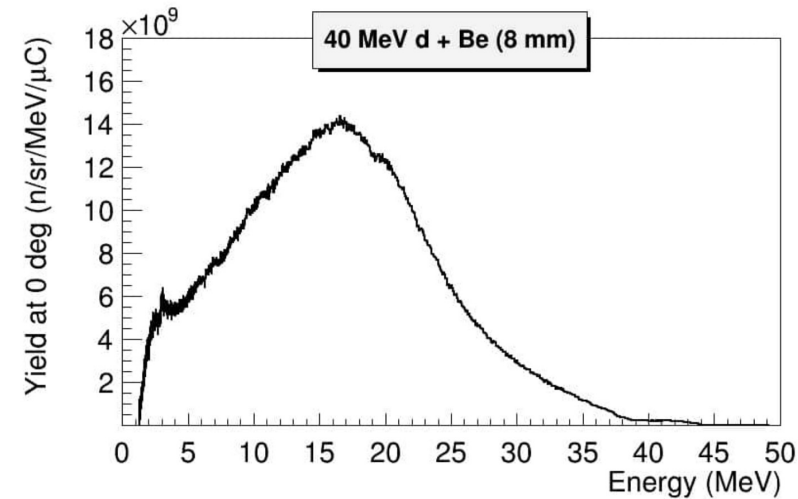
Driven by the high intensity SPIRAL-2 deuteron accelerator.



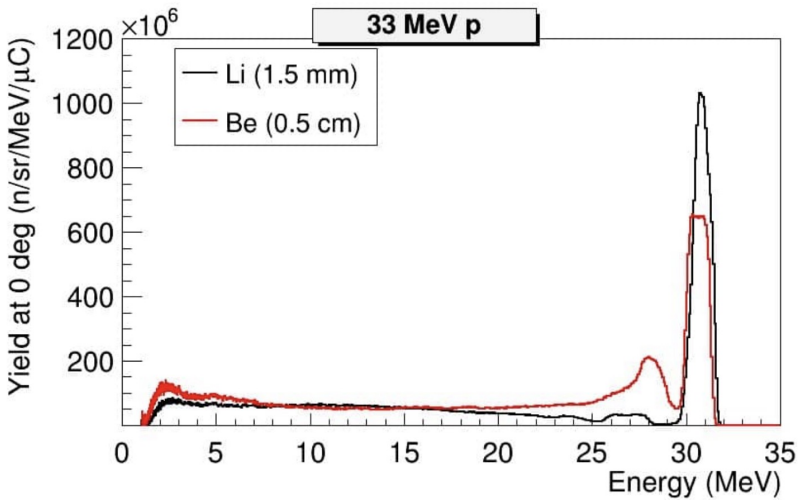
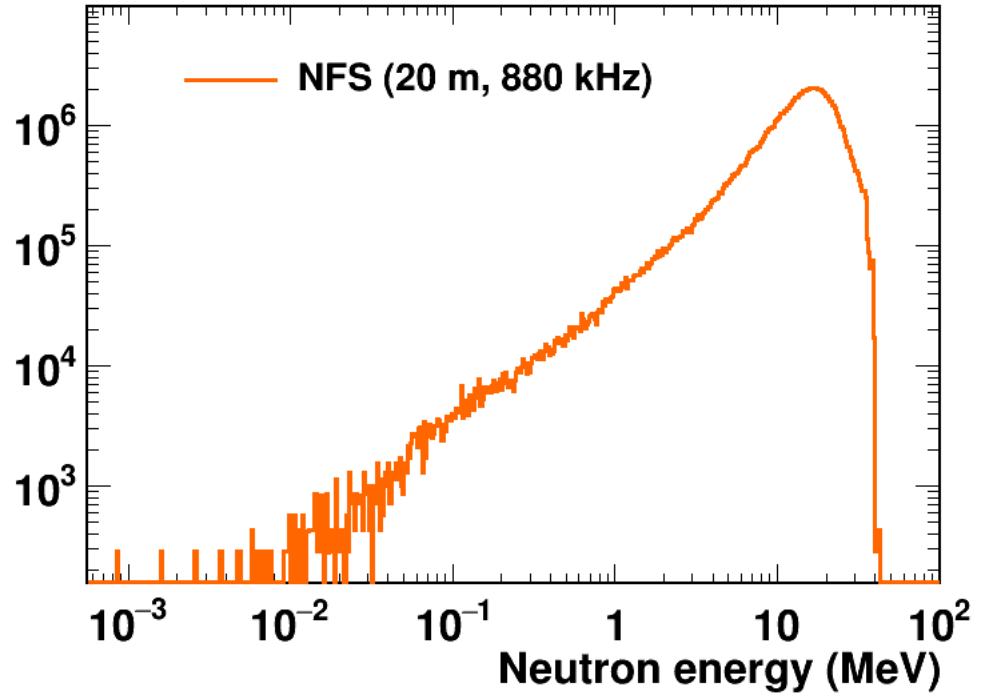
Production mechanism: ${}^9\text{Be}(d,xn)$, ${}^7\text{Li}(p,xn)$ and $\text{natC}(d,xn)$

I_d 50 μA

Neutrons for Science – NFS @ SPIRAL-2



Neu. flux (cm⁻²·s⁻¹· Δ LnE⁻¹)

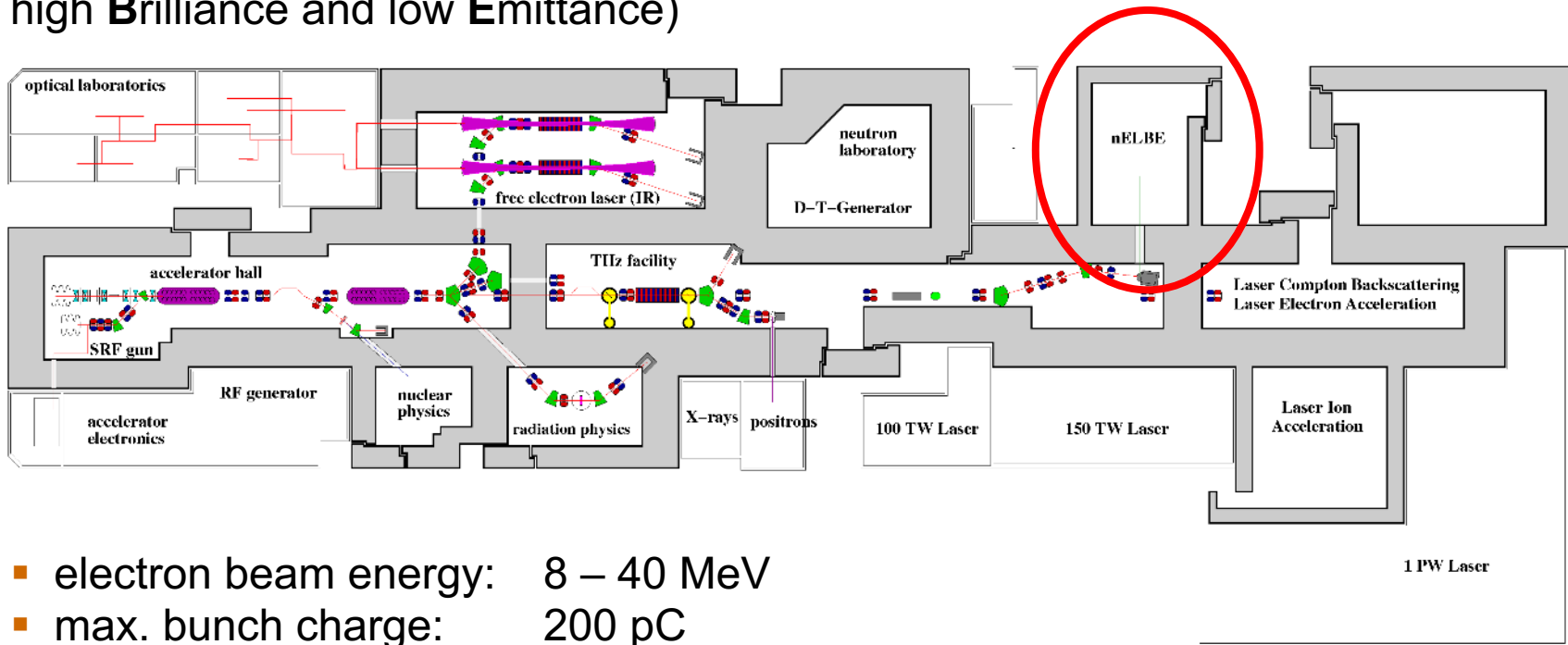


High energy neutron fluence with a high repetition rate.

Fig 2: Continuous and quasi-mono-energetic beams of neutrons produced at NFS. Neutron yields at 0° produced by a) 40 MeV deuteron beam on a Be (8 mm) converter (upper panel), b) 33 MeV proton beam on thin lithium and beryllium converters.

nELBE – The neutron time-of-flight facility at ELBE

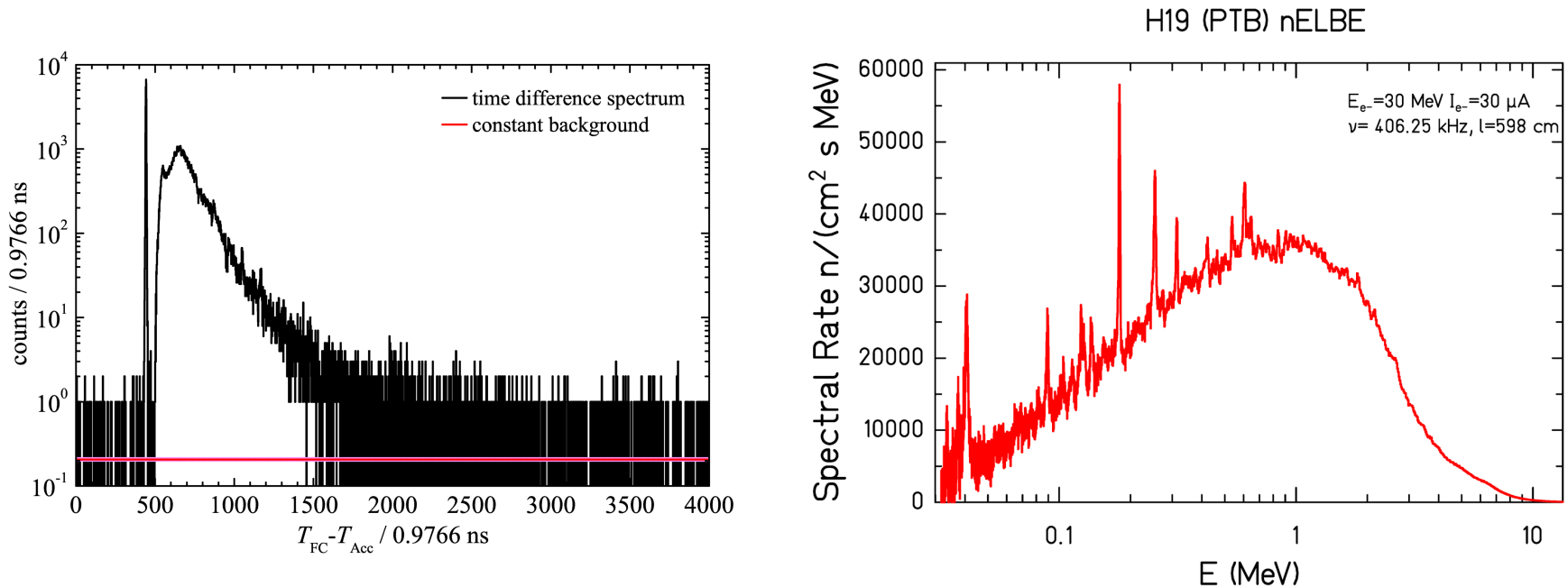
ELBE - Center for high-power radiation sources (**E**lectron **L**inac for beams with high **B**rilliance and low **E**mittance)



- electron beam energy: 8 – 40 MeV
- max. bunch charge: 200 pC
- repetition rate (cw): $13/2^n$ MHz ($n = 0 - 7$)
- max. mean beam current: 1 mA
- micro pulse length: ca. 5 ps

<http://www.hzdr.de/elbe>

nELBE neutron spectrum



Photoneutron spectrum (measured with the PTB ^{235}U fission chamber H19)

TOF spectrum: Photofission from bremsstrahlung and neutron induced fission

Photoneutron spectrum similar to the fission neutron spectrum

Neutron time of flight range 100 ns – 2,5 μ s

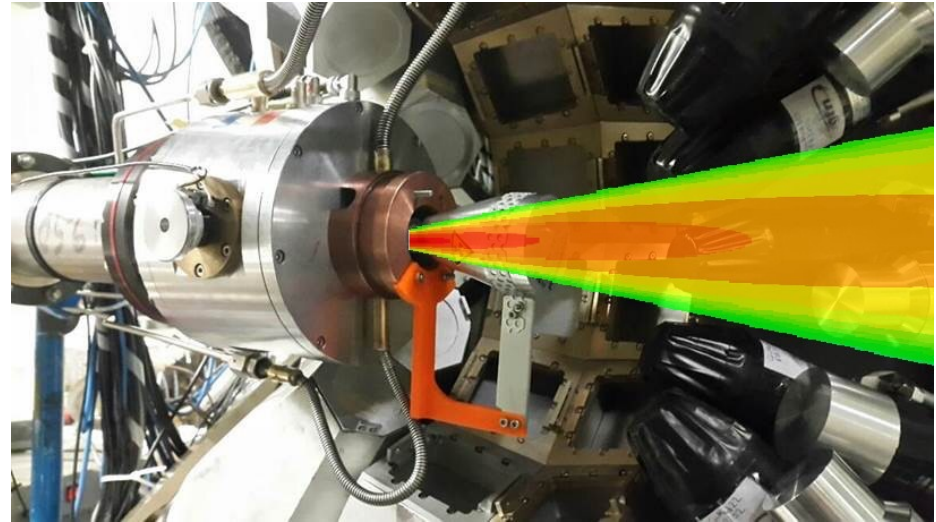
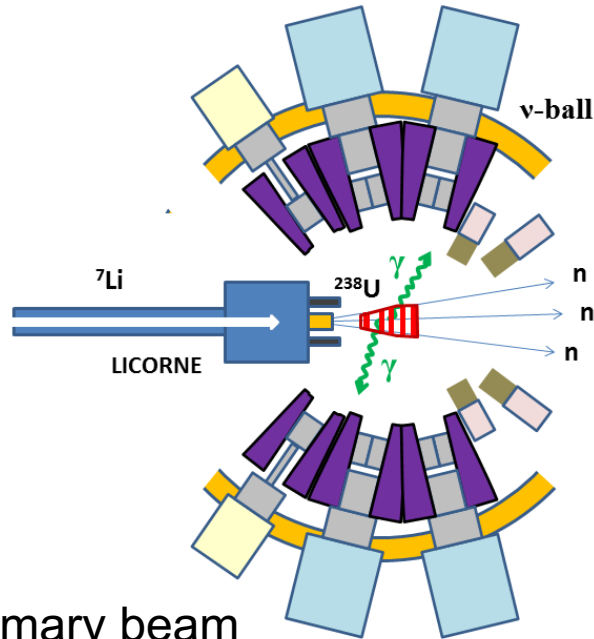
Neutron energy range from 100 keV – 7 MeV

Neutron spectral rate on target ca. **$2 \cdot 10^4$ n/(cm² s MeV)**

[R. Beyer et al., NIM A723 \(2013\) 151](#)

The LICORNE facility

LICORNE: The unique inverse kinematics neutron source of the ALTO facility



Primary beam
(400ns – pulsed)
 2×10^{11} /s

Gas target

Secondary beam
 2×10^7 n/s

Samples
up to 10^5 fissions/s

${}^7\text{Li}$ (16 MeV)

H_2

1.5 MeV neutrons

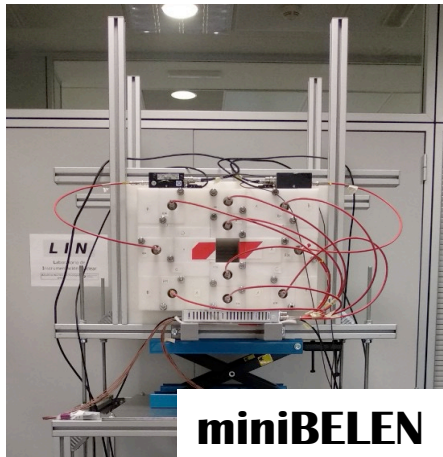
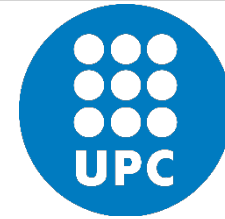
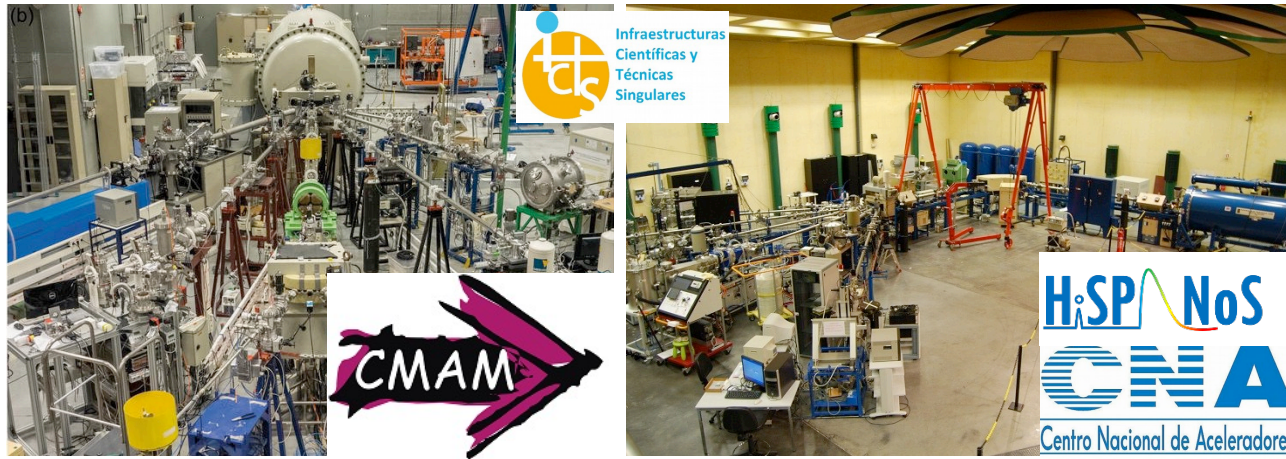
${}^{238}\text{U}$
 ${}^{232}\text{Th}$ ~100 g

200 nA

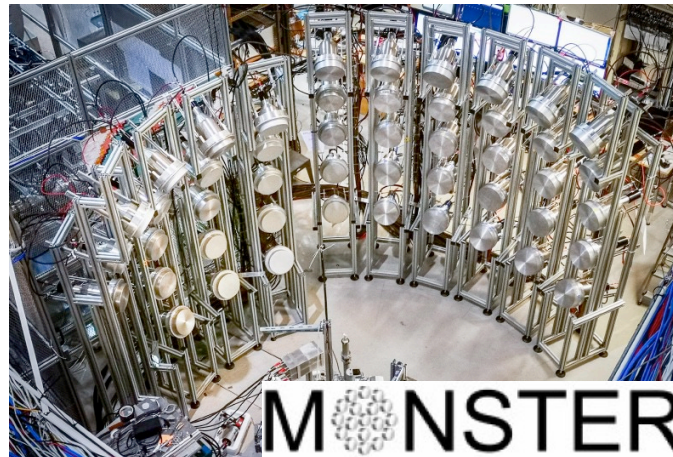
3×10^{20} atoms/cm²

Measurements of (A,N) Yields and spectra (MANY)

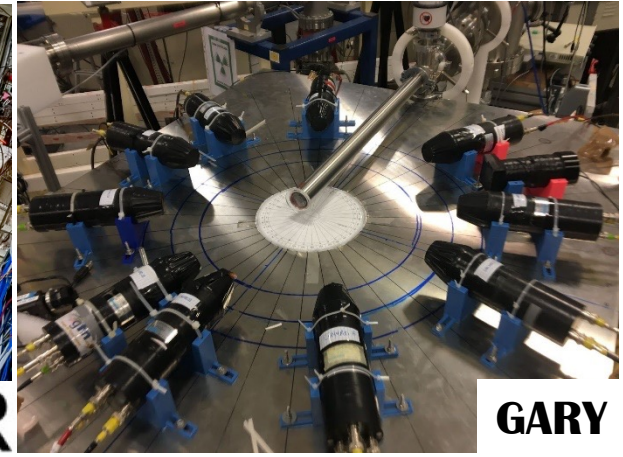
Two Spanish facilities with electrostatic accelerators:



miniBELEN



MONSTER



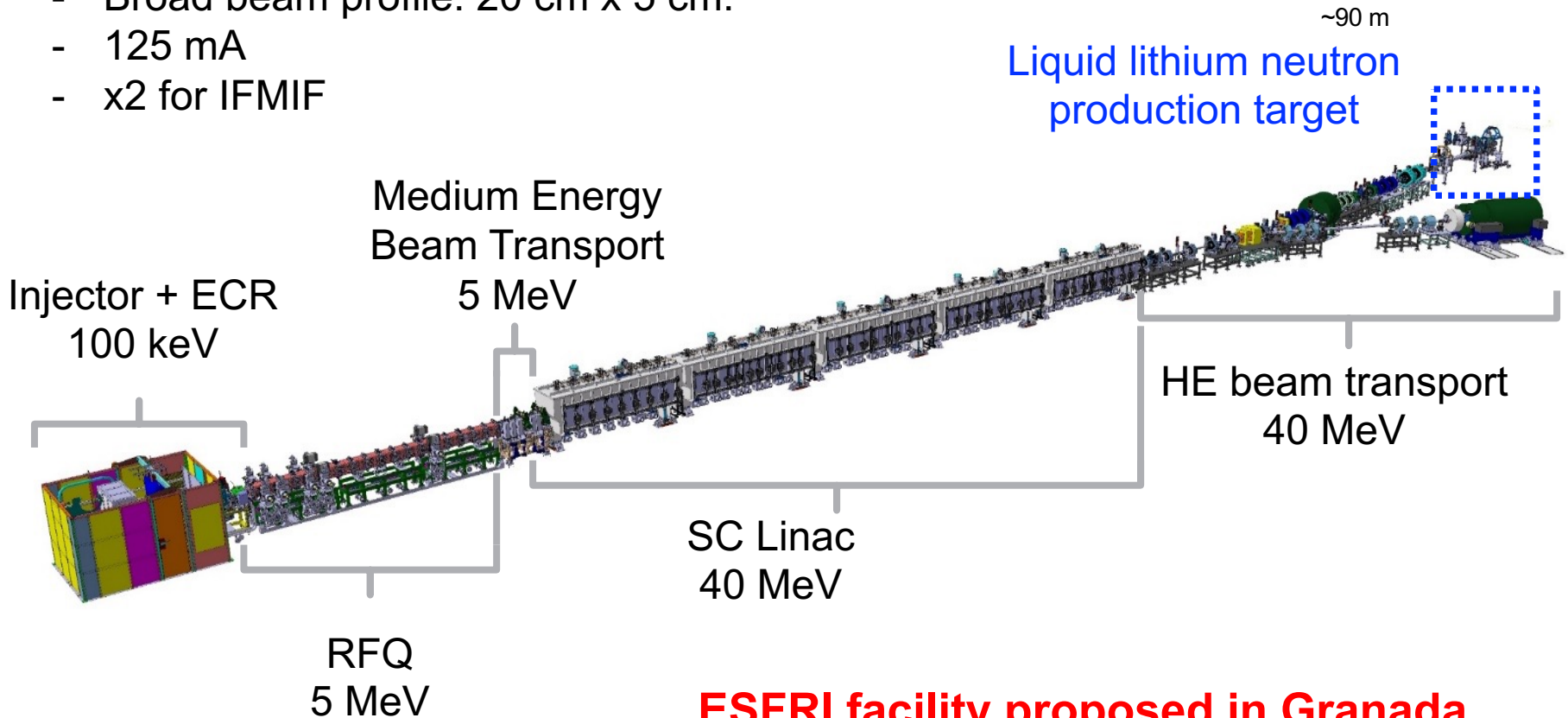
GARY

Time for one ad

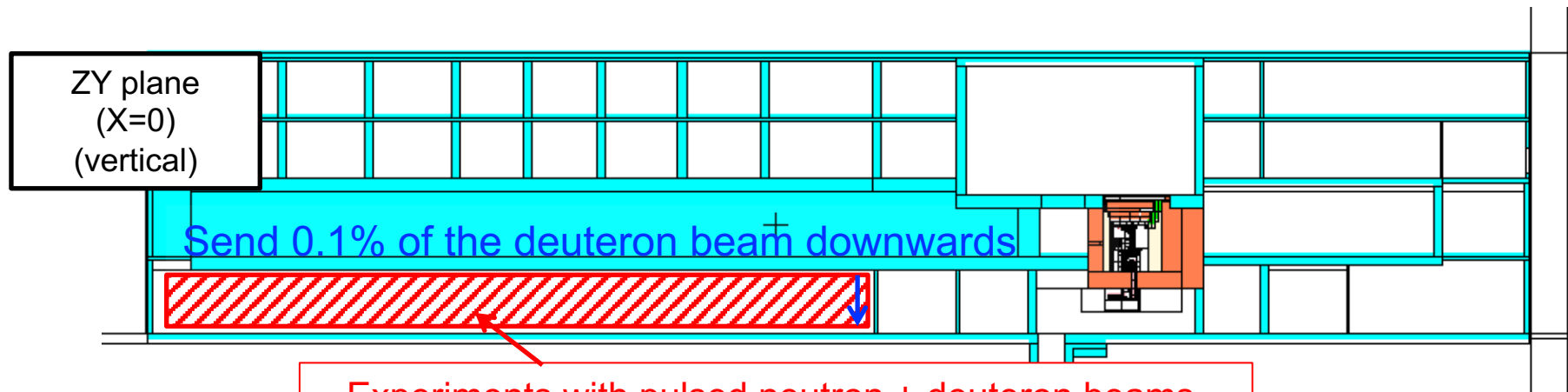
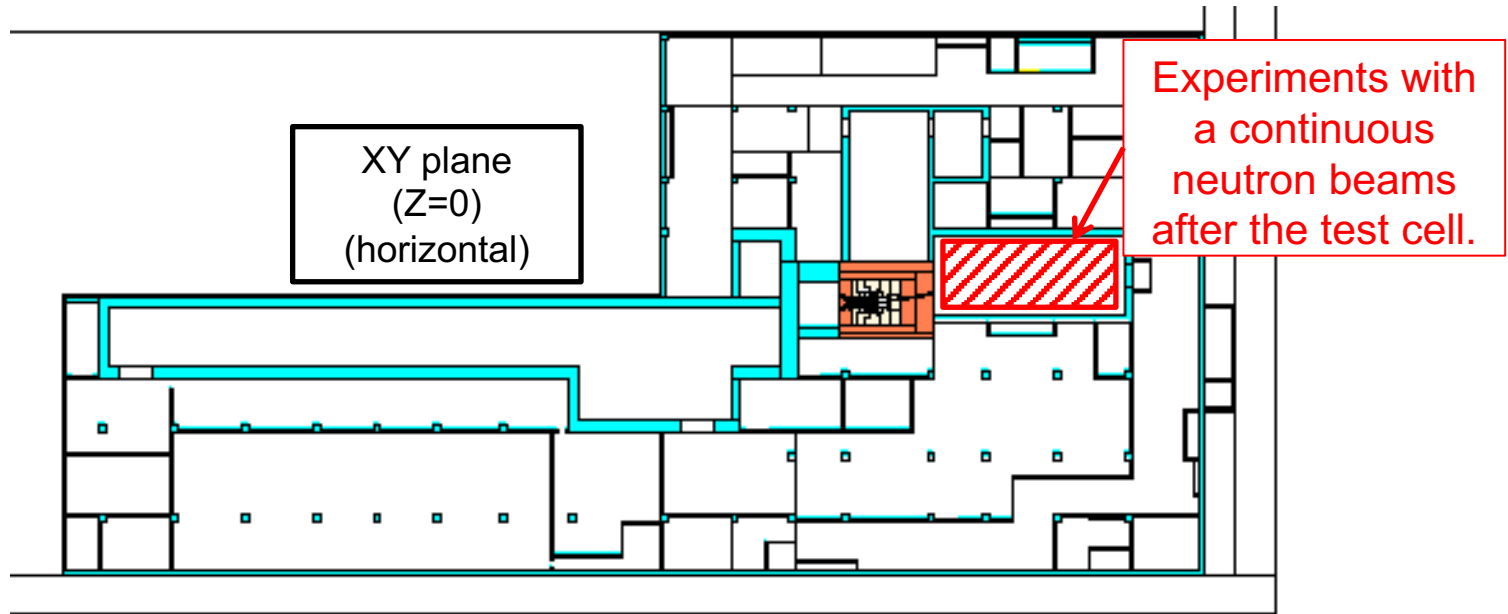
Demo Oriented NEutron Source (DONES)

One of the most powerful accelerators in the world:

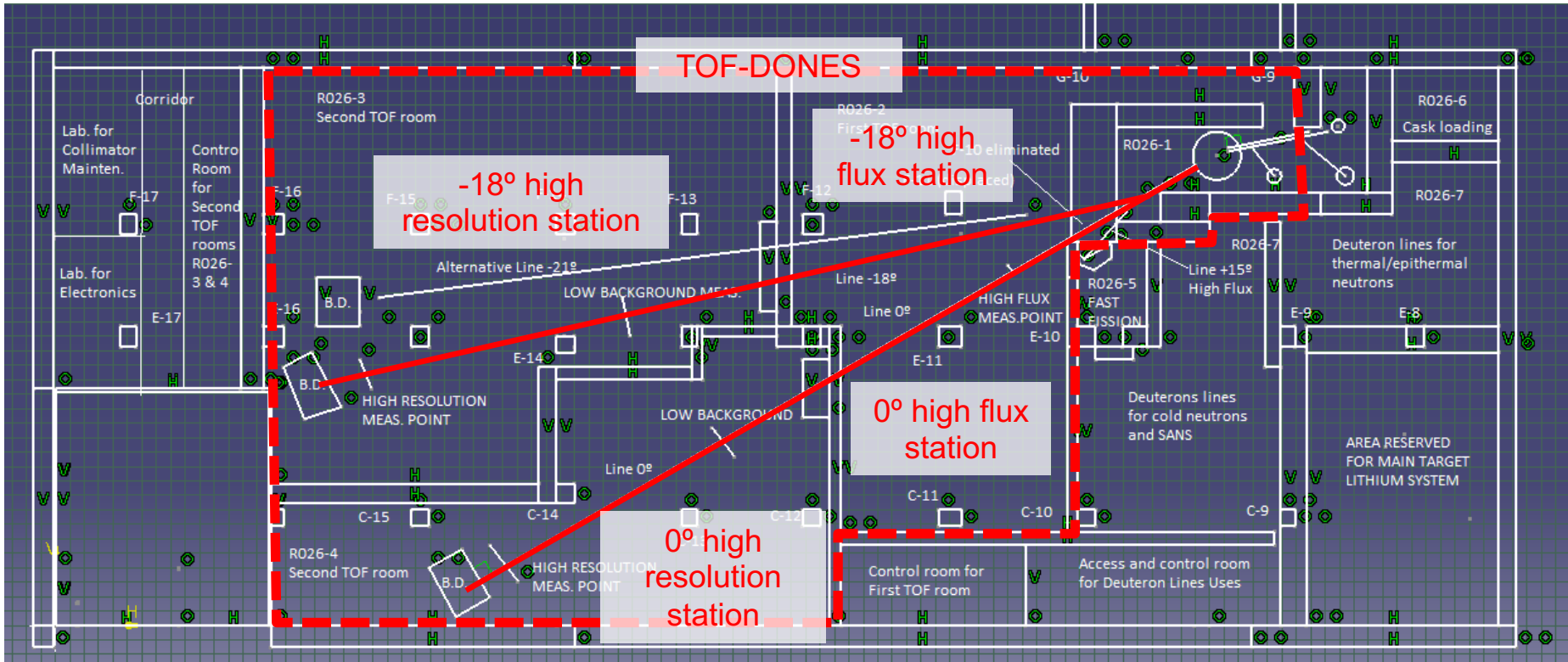
- 40 MeV deuterons.
- Broad beam profile: 20 cm x 5 cm.
- 125 mA
- x2 for IFMIF



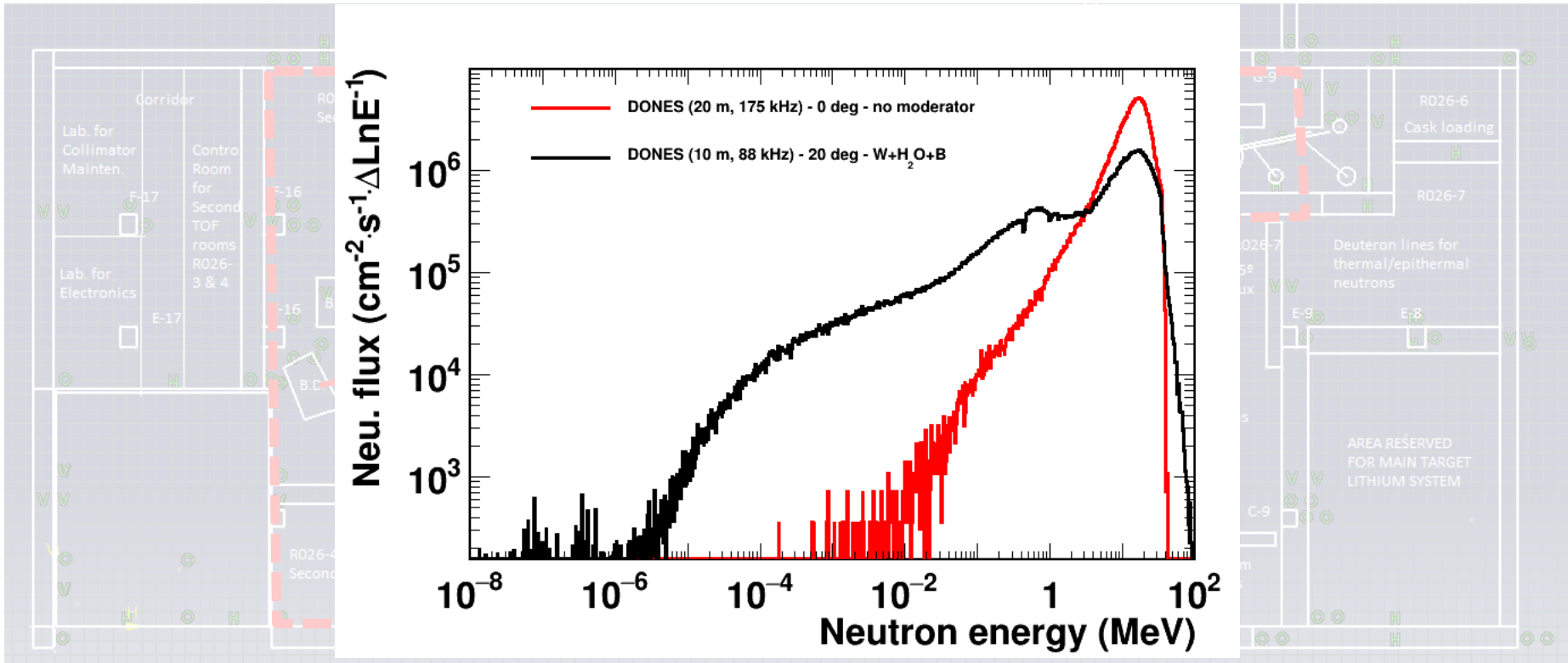
The DONES facility



The TOF-DONES layout



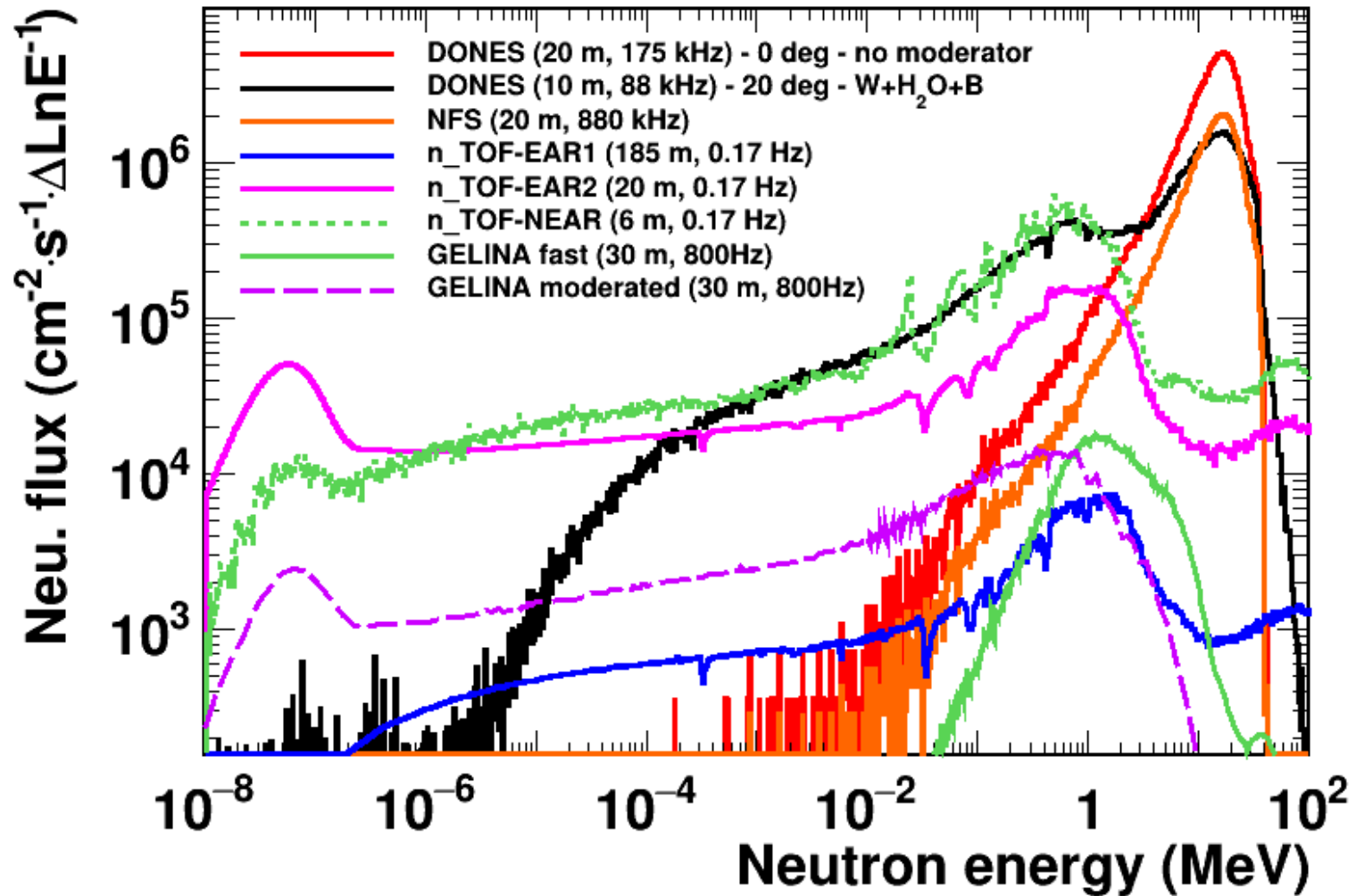
Neutron flux of TOF DONES



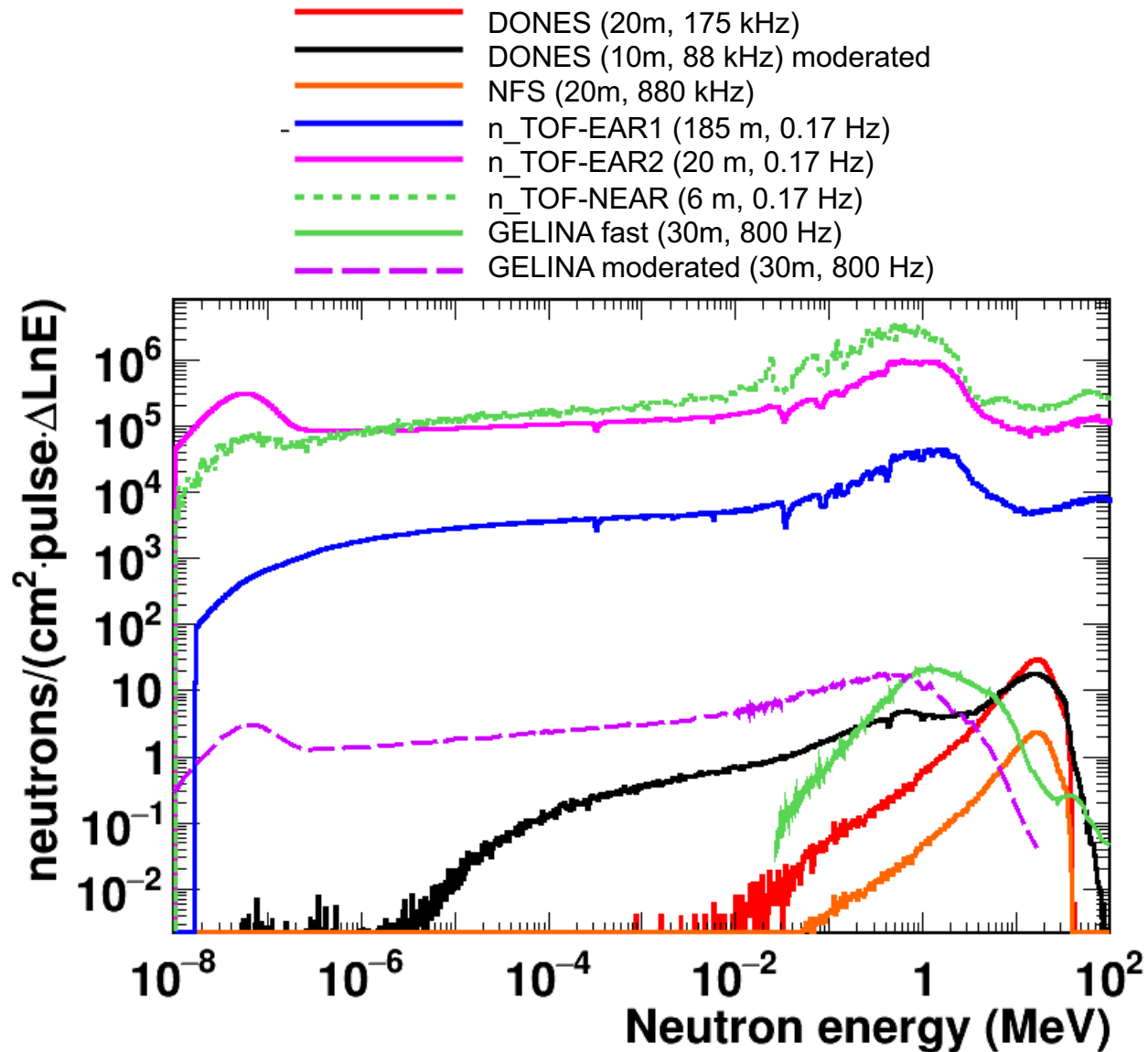
Summary table of facilities

	L	E_n	(n,tot)	(n,γ)	(n,f)	(n,xn)	(n,n'γ)	(n,el)	F.Y.	Act.
n_TOF	185 m 20 m 60 m	meV – GeV	in progress	X	X	under study	under study	-	X	X
GELINA	3 m – 400 m	meV – MeV	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-
NFS	40 m	1 – 40 MeV	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-
nELBE	5 m	0.1 – 10 MeV	X	-	X	X	X	X	-	-

Comparison of the facilities: fluences

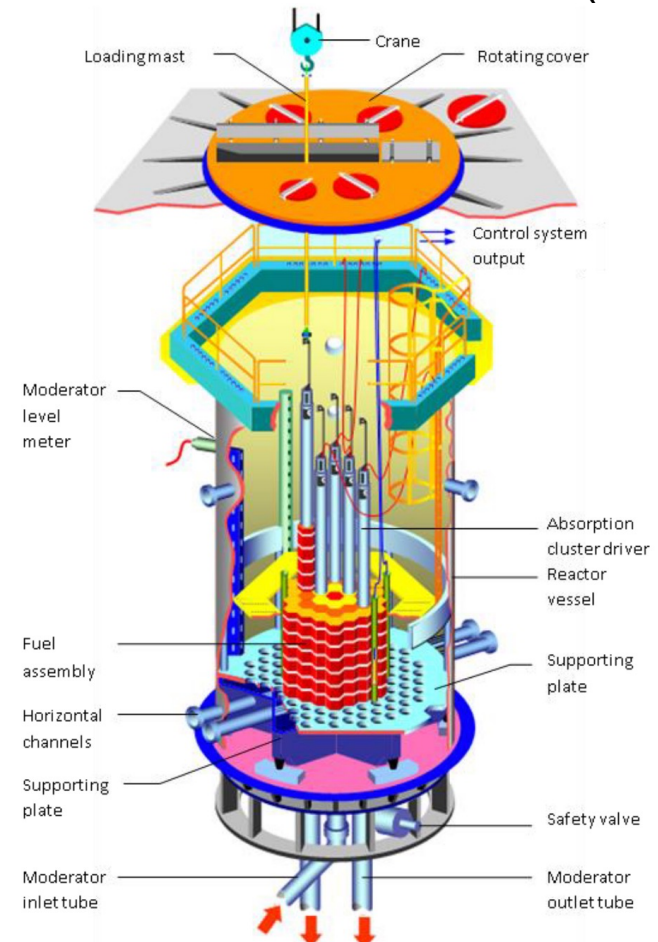
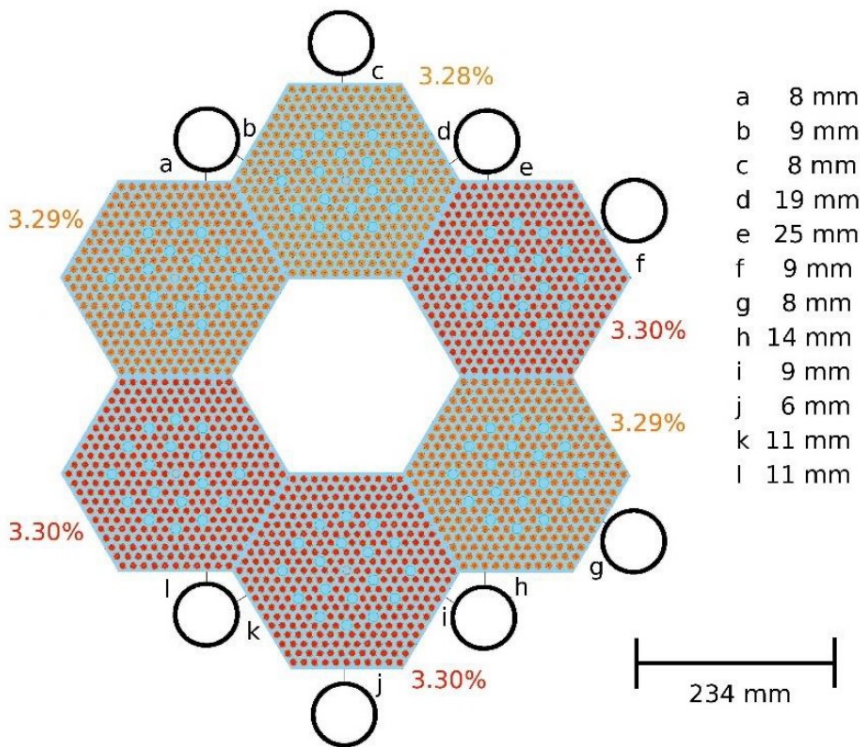


Comparison of the facilities: neutrones / pulse

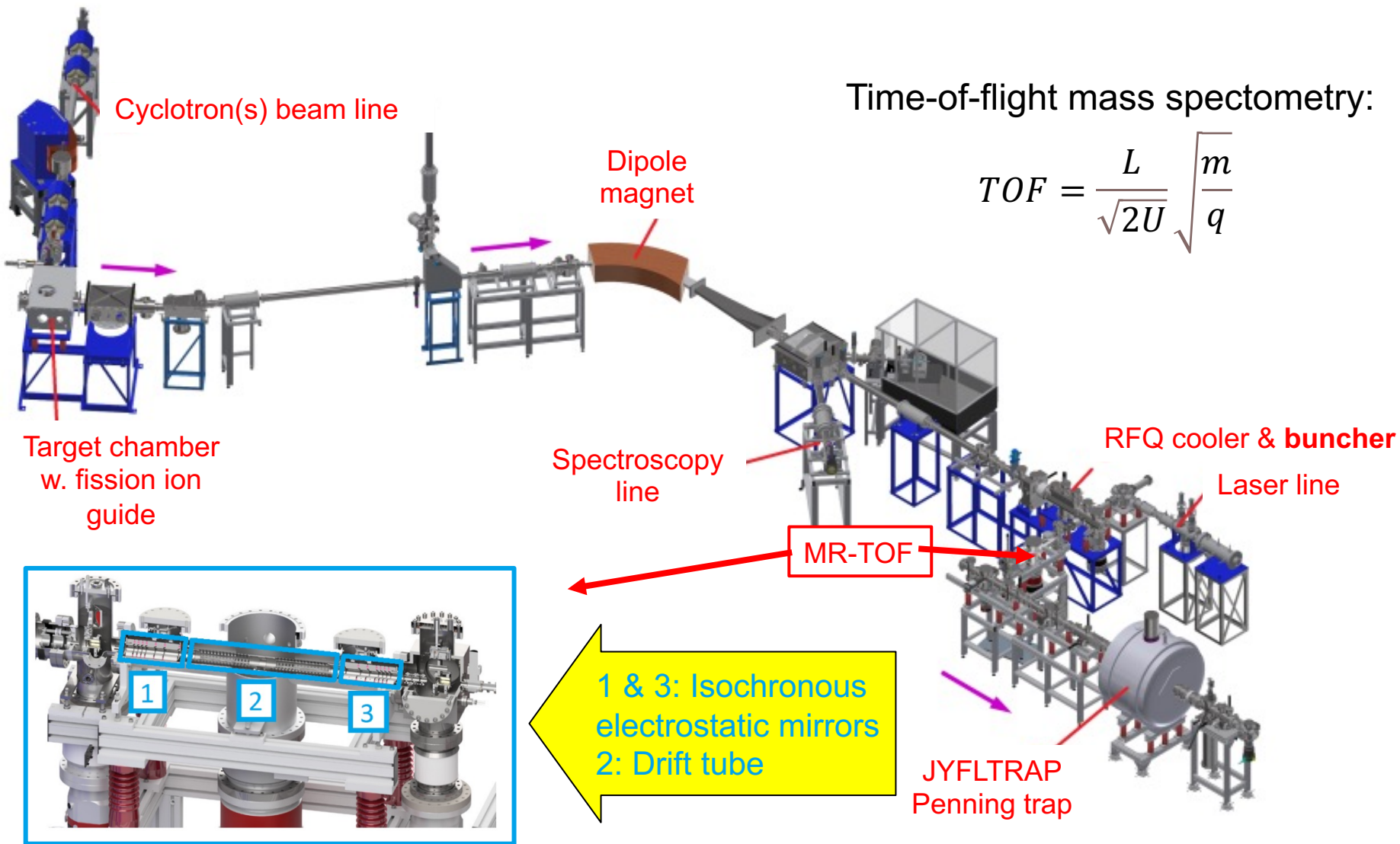


LR-0 reactor at CVREZ

The **LR-0** is a zero-power light water pool type reactor operated by the Research Centre Řež (Czech Republic). Continuous nominal power is 1 kW with a thermal neutron flux of about $10^9 \text{ cm}^{-2}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ and a fast neutron flux (above 1 MeV) of $2 \times 10^8 \text{ cm}^{-2}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$.



IGISOL with PI-ICR technique and MR-TOF device

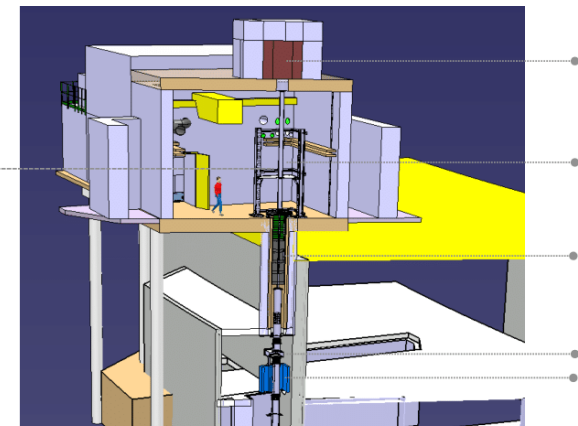
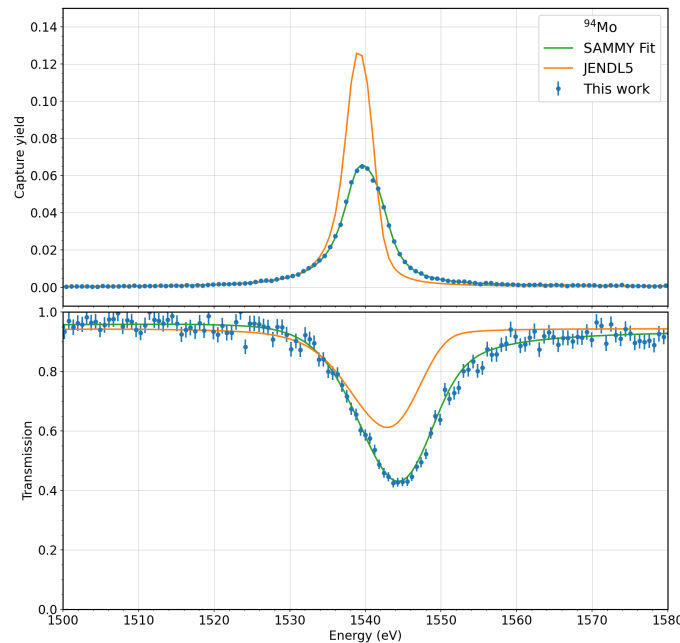


Measurements

$^{94,95,96}\text{Mo}(n,\gamma)$ and (n,tot) cross section measurements

Multi-facility experiment at GELINA and two n_TOF experimental areas.

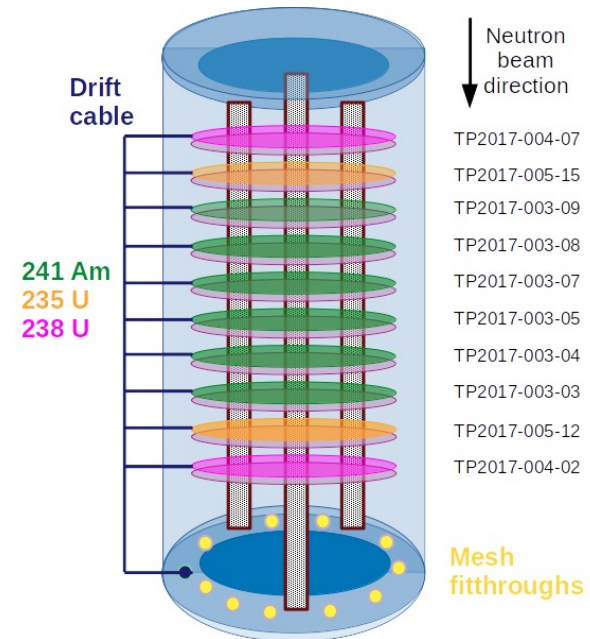
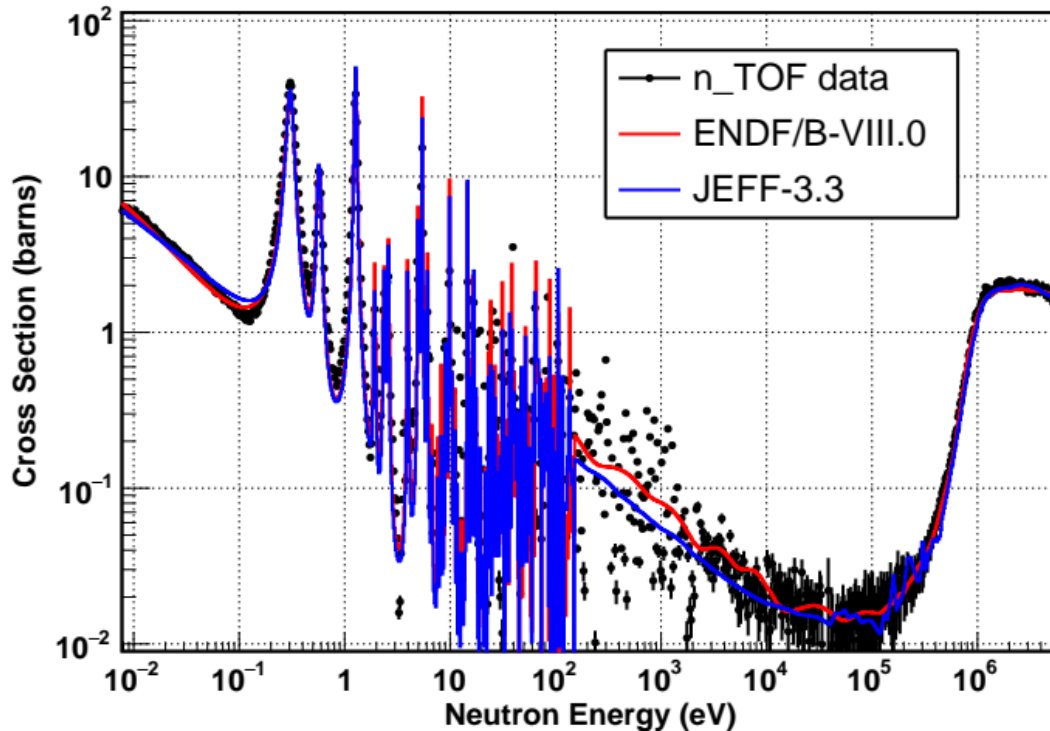
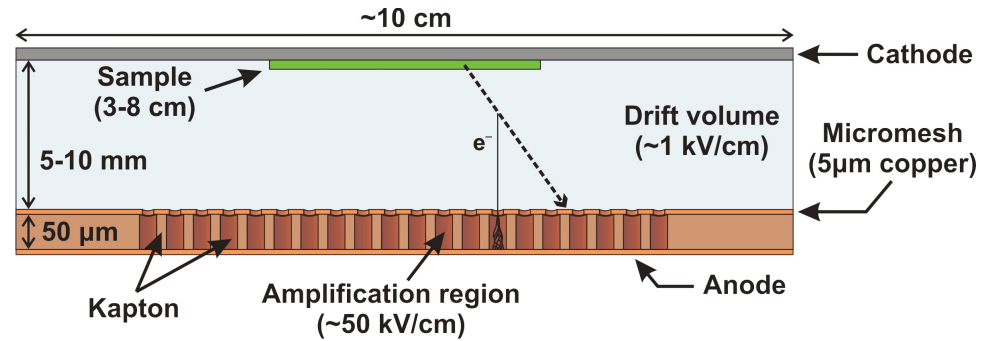
- Transmission measurement with enriched pellets at 10 m station of GELINA
- Transmission measurements with natural samples at 50 m station of GELINA
- Capture measurements at n_TOF EAR1 (185 m) and EAR2 (20 m)



Isotope	Mass (mg)
^{94}Mo (98.97%)	1,952.6
^{95}Mo (95.40%)	1,974.5
^{96}Mo (95.90%)	1,917.5
natMo-5 μm	2,014.0
natMo-350 μm	1,989.0



Measurement done at EAR2
 Specific activity of ^{241}Am : 127 MBq/mg
 Micromegas detectors (MICRO- Mesh
 Gaseous Structure) detectors
 ^{241}Am (0.77 mg) + ^{235}U + ^{238}U



PhD thesis of Zinovia Eleme (UIO)

$^{239}\text{Pu}(n,\gamma)$ and (n,f) / $^{233}\text{U}(n,n'\gamma)$, $^{13}\text{N}(n,n'\gamma)$

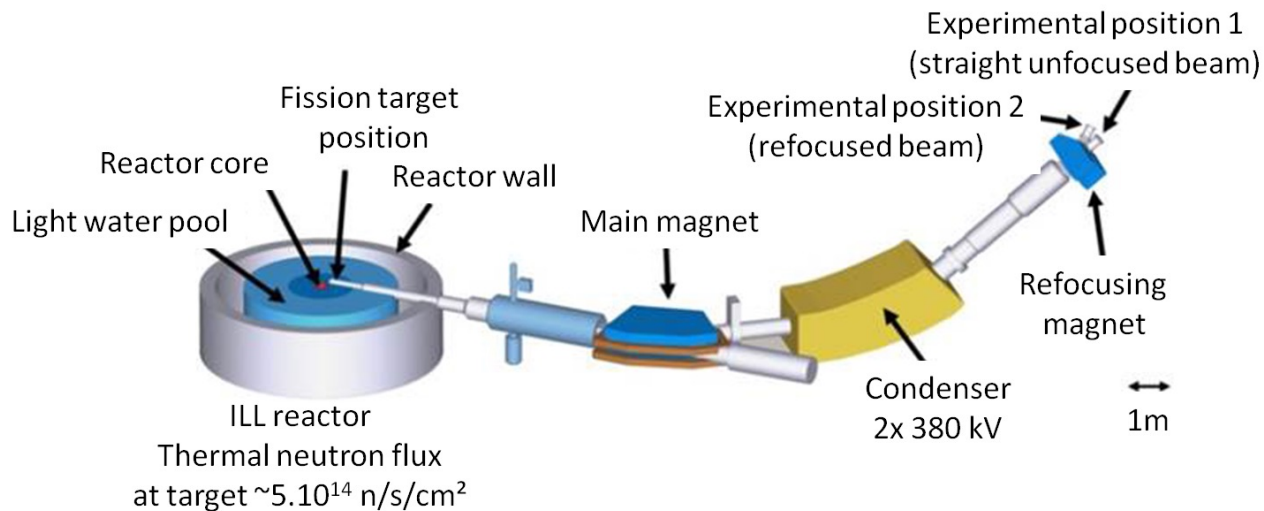
$^{239}\text{Pu}(n,\gamma)$ and (n,f) / $^{233}\text{U}(n,n'\gamma)$, $^{13}\text{N}(n,n'\gamma)$

No spoiler:

See the talks by A. Sánchez (^{239}Pu) and Maëlle Kerveno (inelastic xs measurements)



Fission yield measurements at ILL - Grenoble



Lohengrin:

Selection in A/q & E/q

A : mass

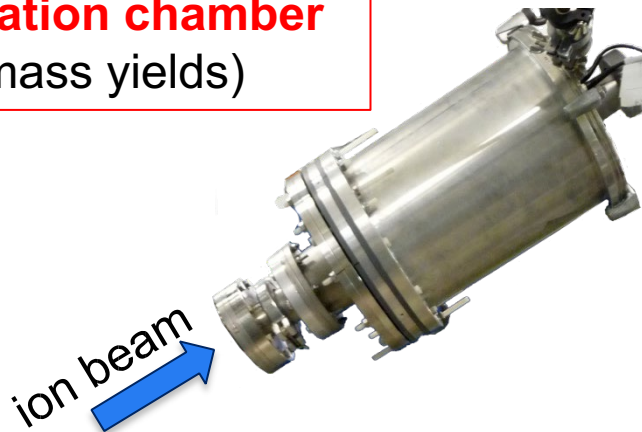
q : ionic charge

E : kinetic energy

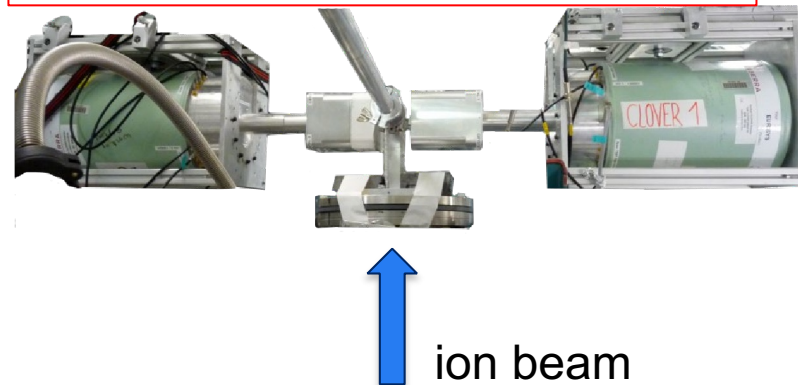
Flight path : 23 m

Flight time $\sim \mu\text{s}$

Measurements with an **ionisation chamber** (mass yields)



Or with **HPGe detectors** (isotopic yields, isomeric ratios)

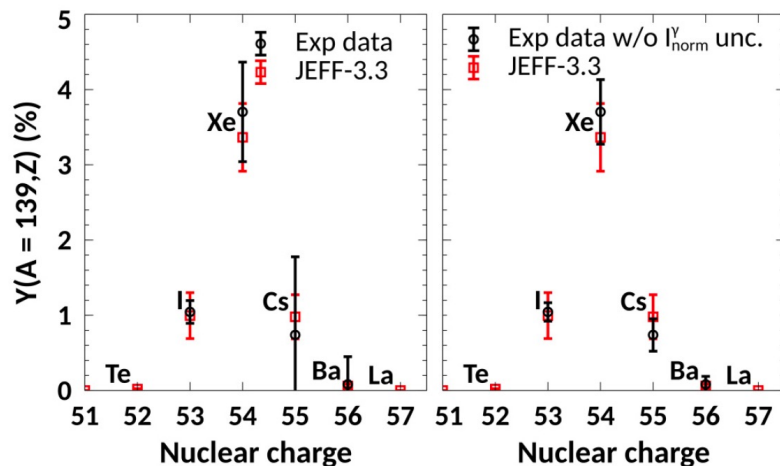


Fission yield measurements at ILL - Grenoble

Absolute isotopic yields for $^{241}\text{Pu}(n_{\text{th}},f)$

New measurement and analysis protocol

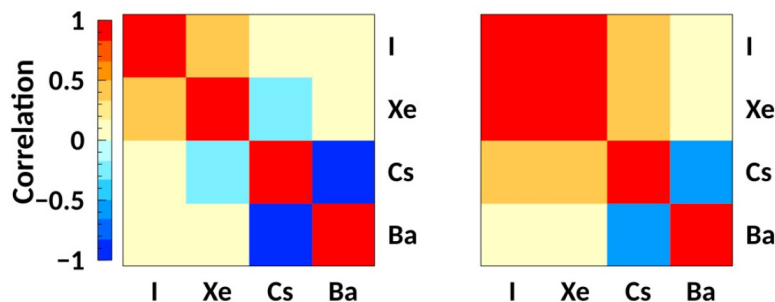
Evaluation of the systematic of the setup (correlations E-q, target burnup...) and computation of the experimental variance-covariance matrices



Mass A = 139:

All the uncertainties propagated (left)

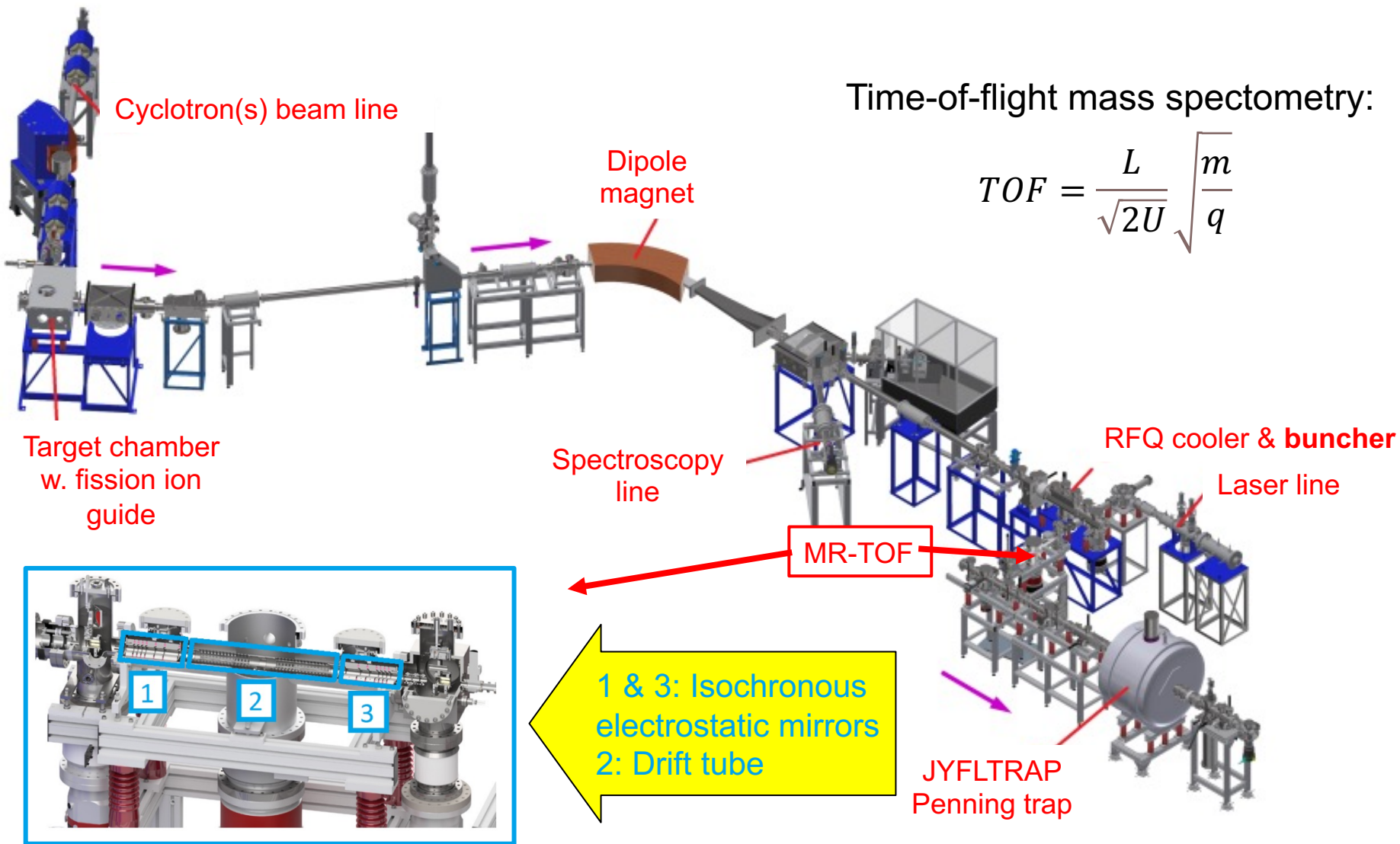
Case where the uncertainty of the normalization the normalization intensity is equal to zero



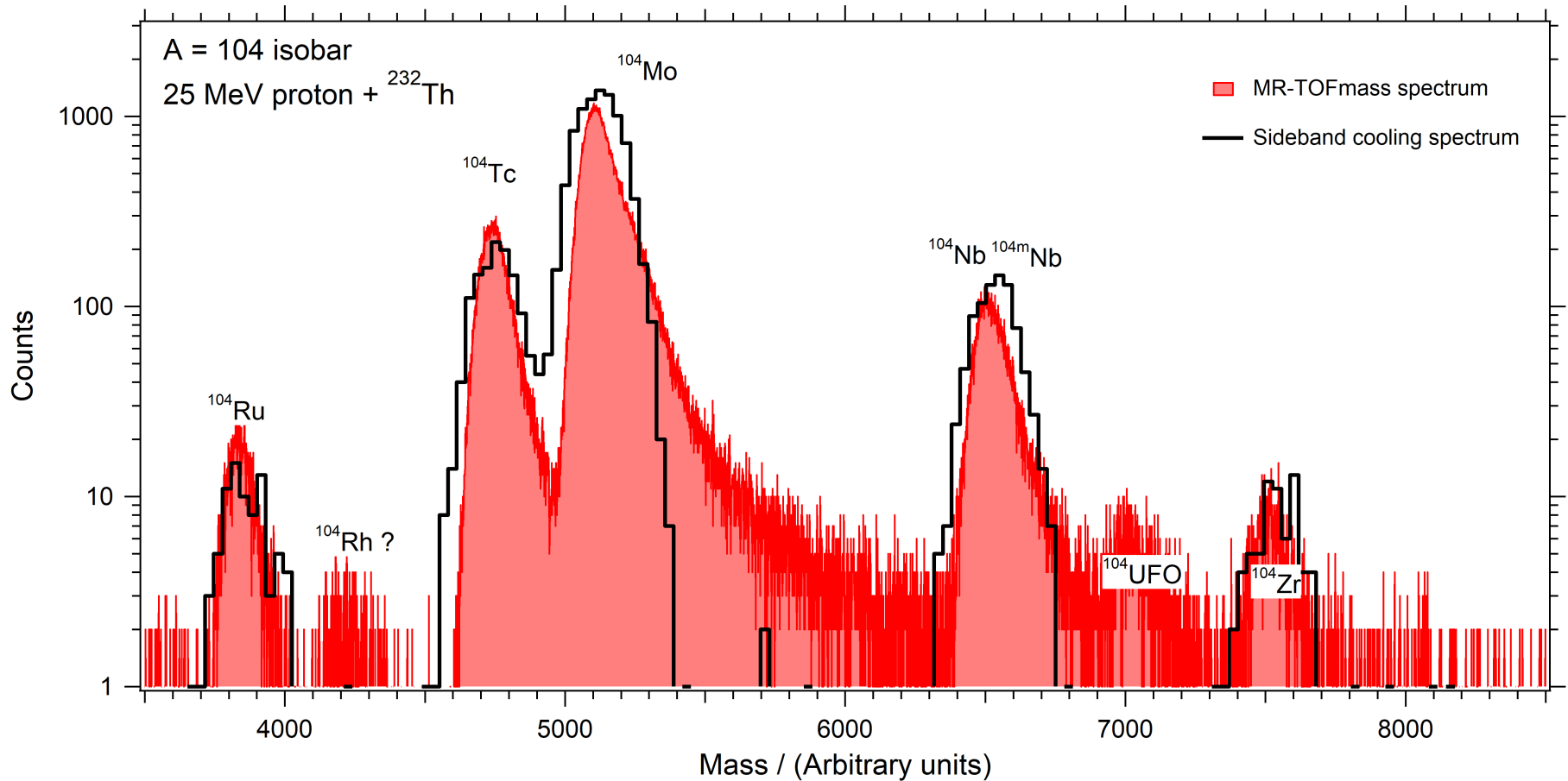
→ uncertainties mainly coming from nuclear decay data

*S. Julien-Laferrière et al.,
Phy. Rev. C **102**, 034602 (2020)*

IGISOL with PI-ICR technique and MR-TOF device



Fission with PI-ICR technique and MR-TOF device



Activation cross sections for proton therapy

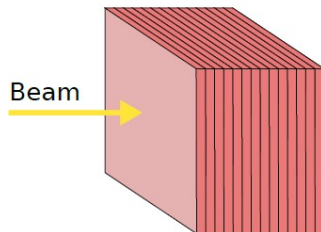
Isotope	Half-life	Q_{β^+} (MeV)	Reaction channel	Threshold (MeV)
^{11}C	20.36 min	0.960	$^{12}\text{C}(p,x)^{11}\text{C}$	17.9
			$^{14}\text{N}(p,x)^{11}\text{C}$	3.13
			$^{16}\text{O}(p,x)^{11}\text{C}$	23.6
^{13}N	9.97 min	1.198	$^{12}\text{C}(p,x)^{13}\text{N}$	-
			$^{14}\text{N}(p,x)^{13}\text{N}$	8.93
			$^{16}\text{O}(p,x)^{13}\text{N}$	5.55
^{15}O	122 s	1.735	$^{14}\text{N}(p,x)^{15}\text{O}$	-
			$^{16}\text{O}(p,x)^{15}\text{O}$	14.3
^{12}N	11 ms	16.316	$^{12}\text{C}(p,x)^{12}\text{N}$	19.6
^{38m}K	0.925	5.022	$^{40}\text{Ca}(p,x)^{38m}\text{K}$	14.0
^{29}P	4.14 s	3.921	$^{31}\text{P}(p,x)^{29}\text{P}$	15.6



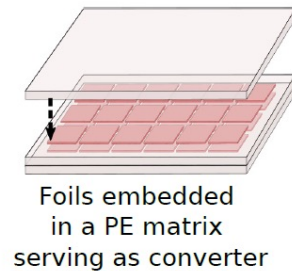
PhD Thesis of Teresa Rodríguez-González.
Courtesy of C. Guerrero

T. Rodríguez et al., *Rad. Phys. Chem.* 190 (2022)
T. Rodríguez et al., *Nucl. Data Sheets* 187 (2023)

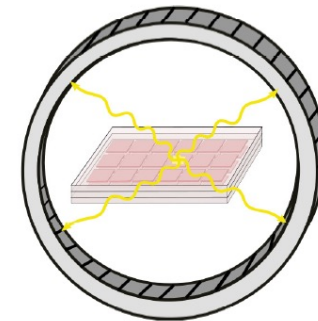
1. Single irradiation



2. Positioning



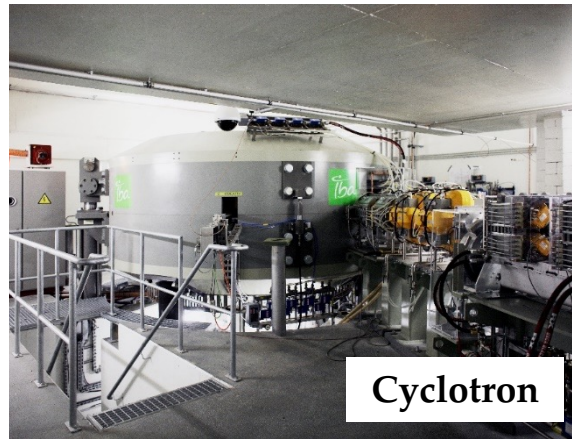
3. PET measurement



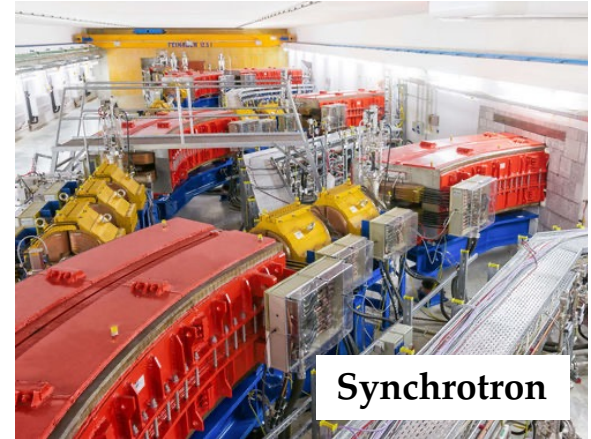
Irradiation facilities



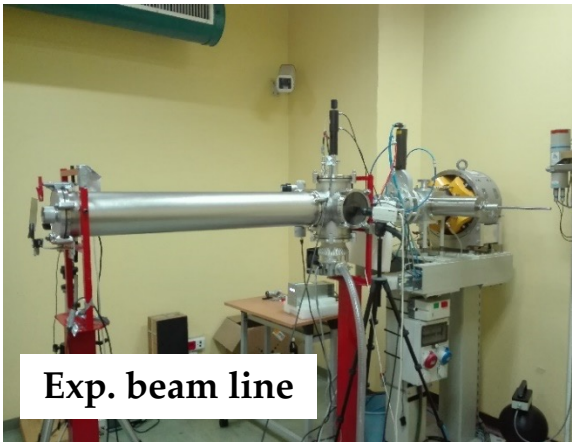
Cyclotron



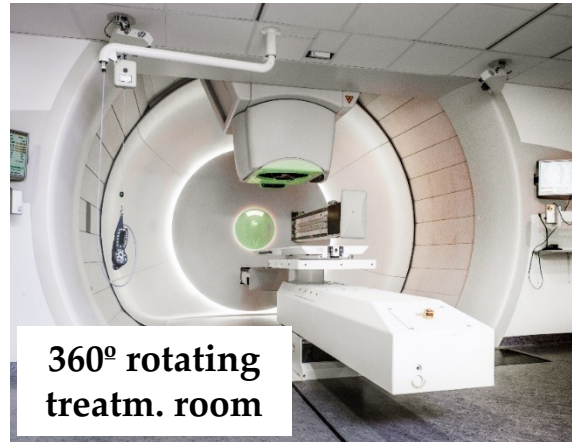
Cyclotron



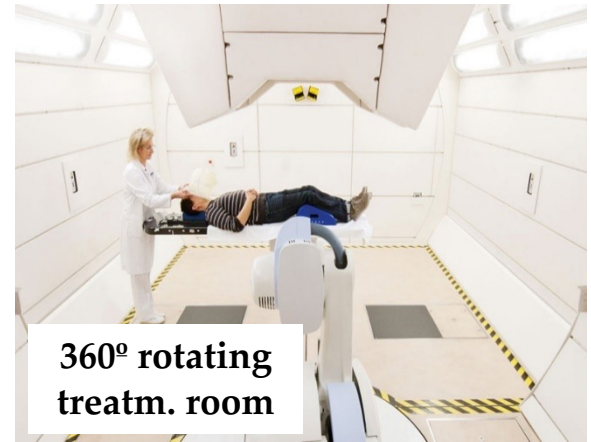
Synchrotron



Exp. beam line

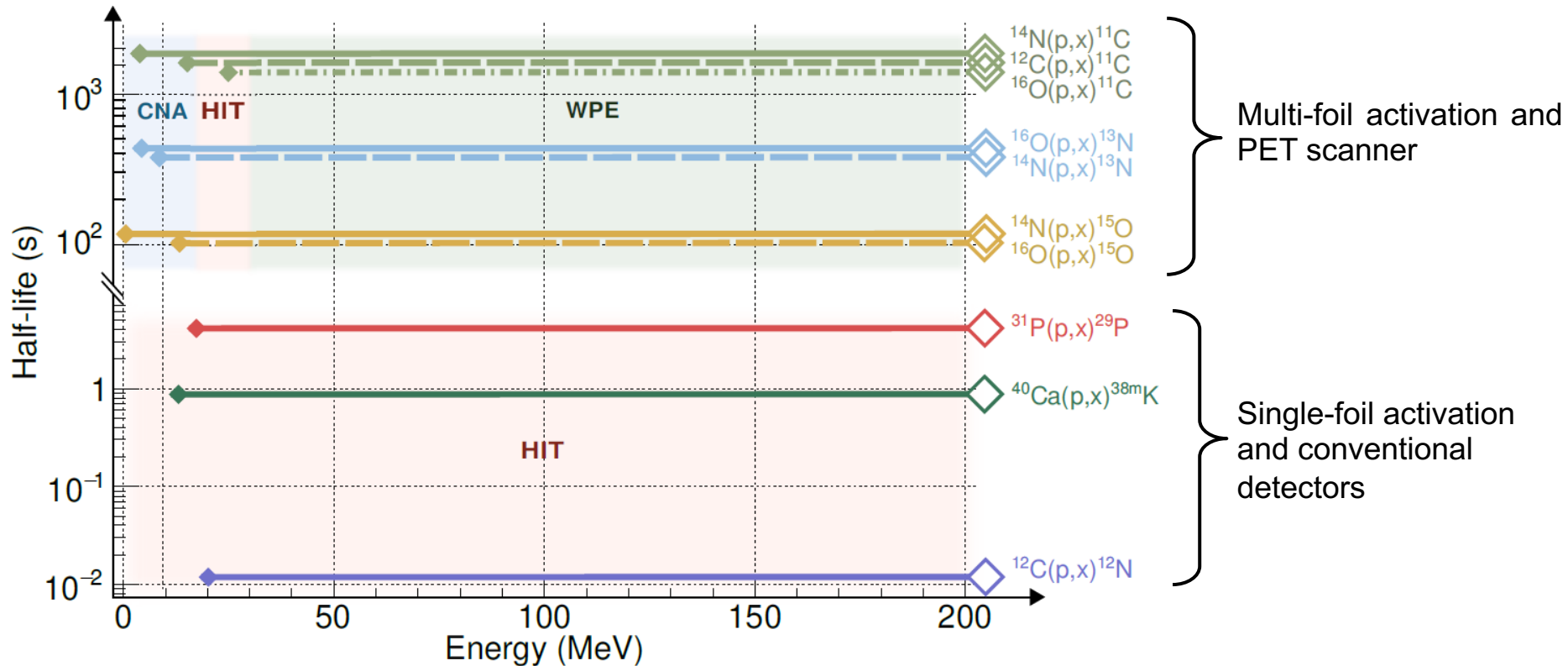


360° rotating treatm. room



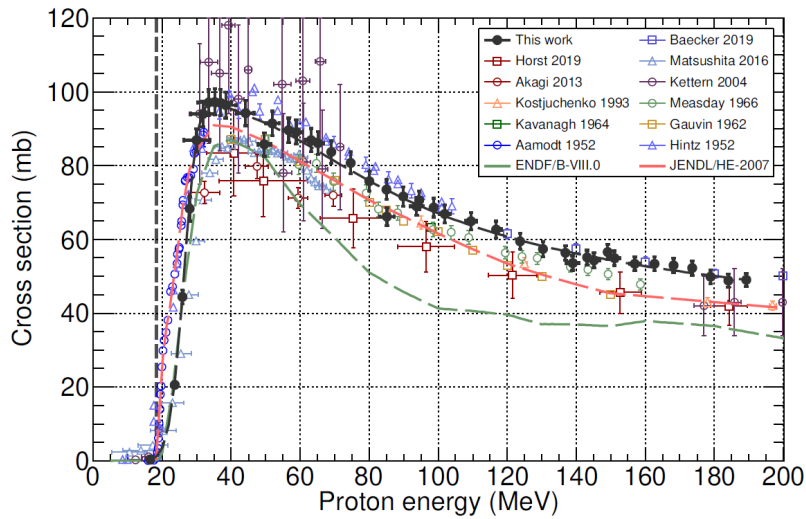
360° rotating treatm. room

Multi facility experimental campaign

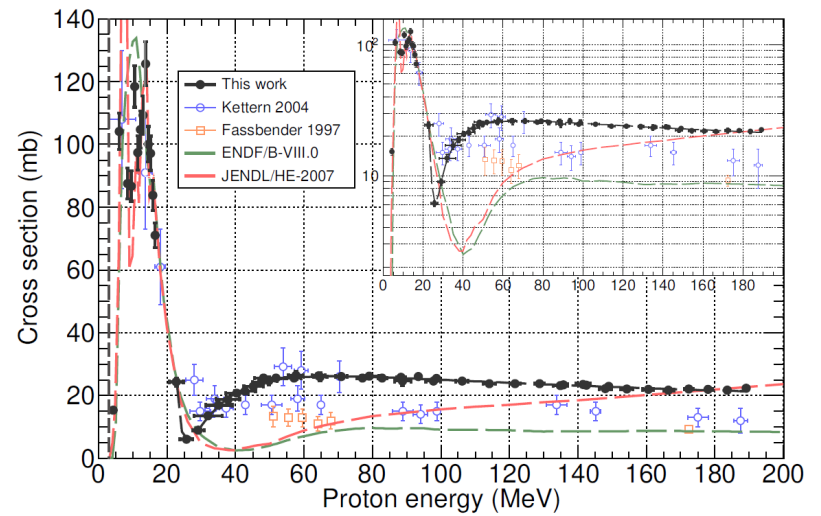


A few results

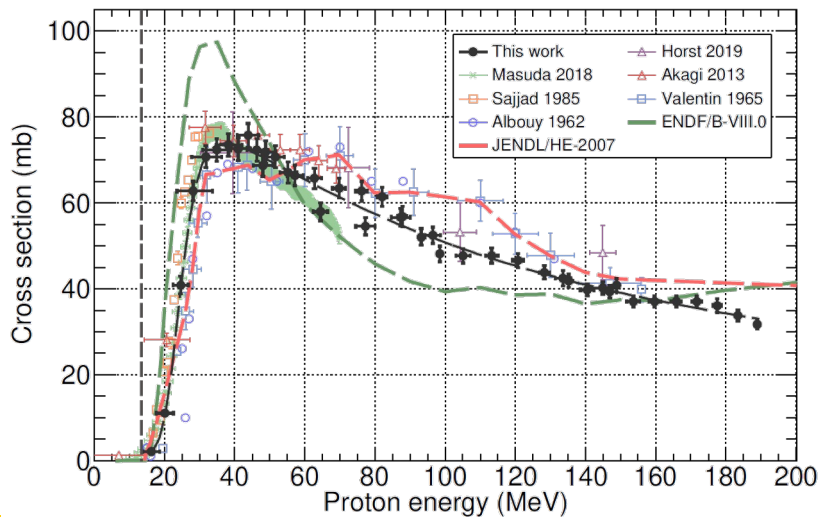
$^{12}\text{C}(p,x)^{11}\text{C}$



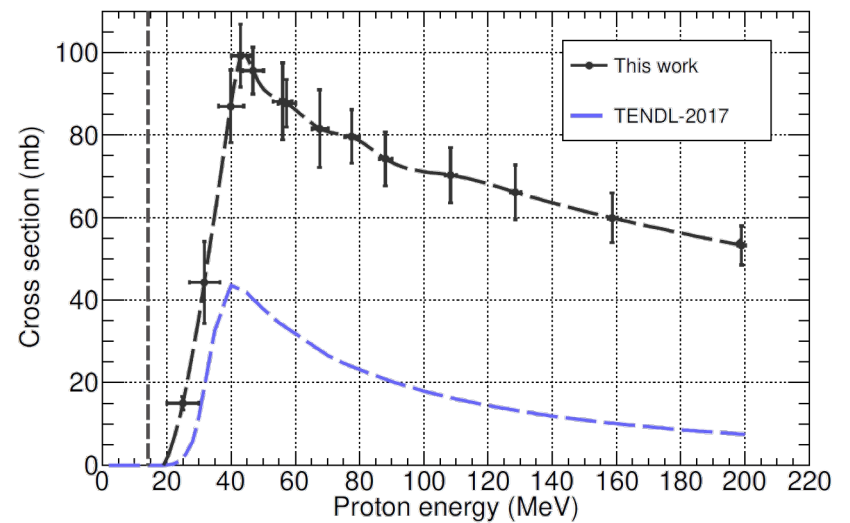
$^{14}\text{N}(p,x)^{11}\text{C}$



$^{16}\text{O}(p,x)^{15}\text{O}$



$^{40}\text{Ca}(p,x)^{38m}\text{K}$



Measurements carried out in SANDA

(p,x)	(n,ch.p.)	(n,f)	(n,inel)	(n,γ)	decay b-n	decay T1/2	Fission yields	SACS
$^{12}\text{C}(p,\gamma)^{13}\text{N}$	$^{\text{nat}}\text{C}(n,\text{lchp})$	$^{235}\text{U}(n,f)$	$^{197}\text{Au}(n,2n)$	$^{92}\text{Mo}(n,\gamma)$	Ni-75	^{106}Ru	^{235}U	^{117}Sn
$^{12}\text{C}(p,x)^{11}\text{C}$	$^{14}\text{N}(n,p)^{14}\text{C}$	$^{230}\text{Th}(n,f)$	$^{197}\text{Au}(n,3n)$	$^{94}\text{Mo}(n,\gamma)$	Ni-76	^{153}Sm	^{237}Pa	^{60}Ni
$^{14}\text{N}(p,x)^{11}\text{C}$	$^{16}\text{O}(n,\alpha)$	$^{239}\text{Pu}(n,f)$	$^{209}\text{Bi}(n,3n)$	$^{95}\text{Mo}(n,\gamma)$	Cu-76	^{166}Ho		
$^{14}\text{N}(p,x)^{13}\text{N}$	$^{\text{nat}}\text{C}(n,\text{ch.p.})$	$^{239}\text{Pu}(n,f)$	$^{209}\text{Bi}(n,4n)$	$^{239}\text{Pu}(n,\gamma)$	Cu-77	^{186}Re		
$^{14}\text{N}(p,\alpha)^{11}\text{C}$		$^{241}\text{Am}(n,f)$	$^{58}\text{Ni}(n,2n)/^{27}\text{Al}(n,\alpha)$		Cu-78	^{212}Pb		
$^{14}\text{N}(p,\gamma)^{15}\text{O}$			$^{19}\text{F}(n,2n)/^{27}\text{Al}(n,\alpha)$		Cu-79	^{225}Ac		
$^{16}\text{O}(p,\alpha)^{13}\text{N}$			$^{239}\text{Pu}(n,n'\gamma)$		Zn-79	^{223}Ra		
$^{16}\text{O}(p,3p3n)^{11}\text{C}$			$^{233}\text{U}(n,n'\gamma)$		Zn-80			
$^{16}\text{O}(p,x)^{11}\text{C}$			$^{14}\text{N}(n,n'\gamma)$		Zn-81			
$^{16}\text{O}(p,x)^{13}\text{N}$			$^{35}\text{Cl}(n,n'\gamma)$		Ga-82			
$^{16}\text{O}(p,x)^{15}\text{O}$			$^{37}\text{Cl}(n,n'\gamma)$		Ga-83			

12	5	6	12	5	12	8	3	3
66								

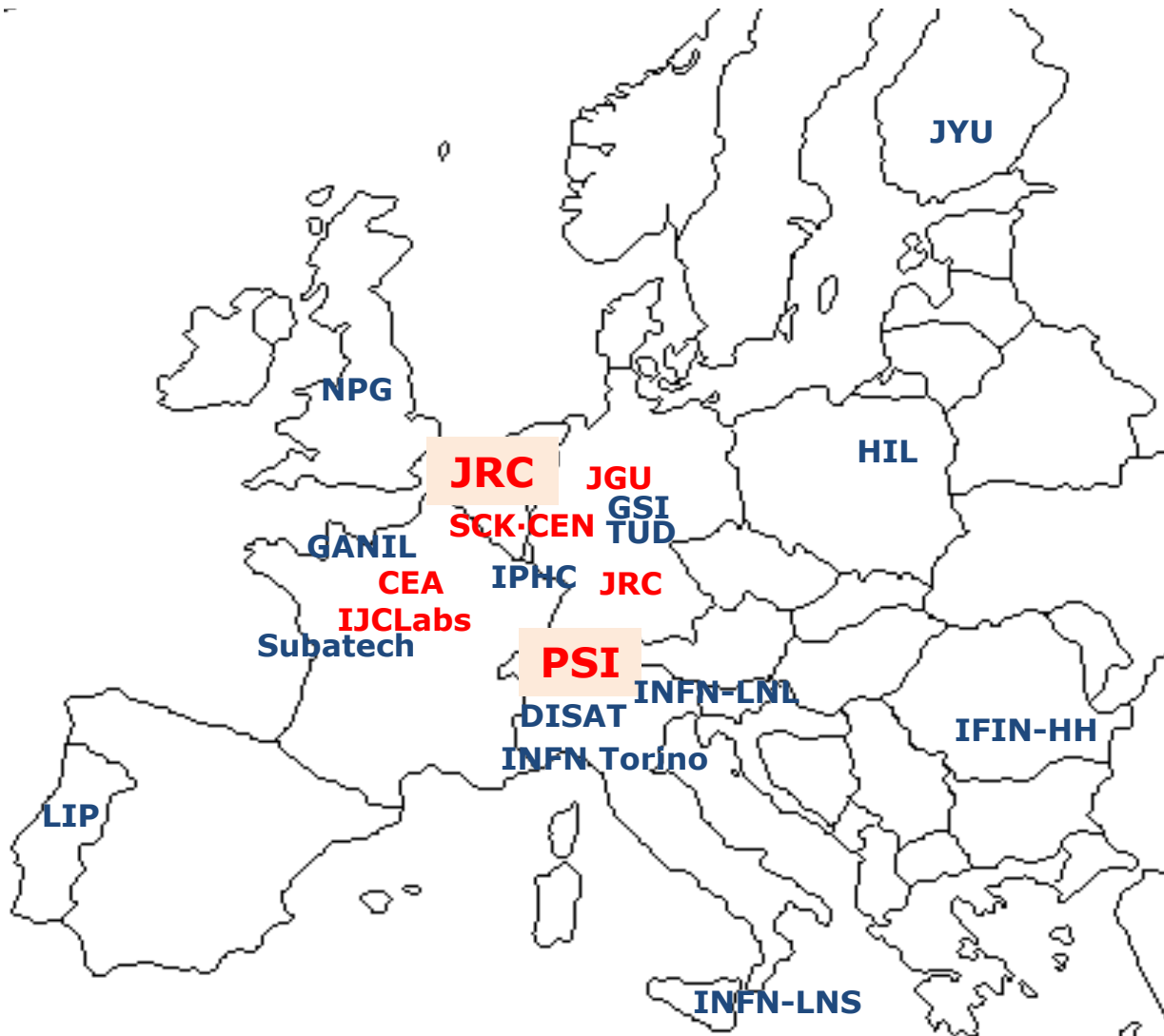
Measurements proposed in APRENDE

(α,n)	(ch.p.,xn)	(n,ch.p.)	(n,el)	(n,f)	(n,inel)	(n, γ)	decay	PFNS	Fission yields
$^9\text{Be}(\alpha,n)$	$^7\text{Li}(d,2n)^7\text{Be}$	$^{35}\text{Cl}(n,p)$	$^{54}\text{Fe}(n,n)$	$^{242}\text{Pu}(n,f)$	$^{56}\text{Fe}(n,n')$	$^{59}\text{Co}(n,\gamma)$	^{91}Br	^{239}Pu	^{235}U
$^{10}\text{B}(\alpha,n)^{13}\text{N}$	$^6\text{Li}(d,n)^7\text{Be}$	$^{35}\text{Cl}(n,\alpha)$	$^{65}\text{Cu}(n,n)$	$^{241}\text{Pu}(n,f)$	$^{56}\text{Fe}(n,n)$	$^{65}\text{Cu}(n,\gamma)$	^{91}Kr	^{252}Cf	^{233}U
$^{27}\text{Al}(\alpha,n)$		$^{54}\text{Fe}(n,\alpha)$	$^{63}\text{Cu}(n,n)$	$^{240}\text{Pu}(n,f)$	$^{54}\text{Fe}(n,2n)$	$^{63}\text{Cu}(n,\gamma)$	^{92}Rb		^{239}Pu
			$^{208}\text{Pb}(n,n)$	$^{239}\text{Pu}(n,f)$	$^{54}\text{Fe}(n,n')$	$^{109}\text{Ag}(n,\gamma)$	^{96}Y		^{243}Cm
			$^{206}\text{Pb}(n,n)$	$^{243}\text{Am}(n,f)$	$^{65}\text{Cu}(n,n')$	$^{167}\text{Er}(n,\gamma)$	^{99}Nb		^{252}Cf
					$^{63}\text{Cu}(n,n')$	$^{166}\text{Er}(n,\gamma)$			
					$^{92}\text{Zr}(n,n'\gamma)$	$^{186}\text{W}(n,\gamma)$			
					$^{90}\text{Zr}(n,n'\gamma)$	$^{209}\text{Bi}(n,\gamma)$			
					$^{208}\text{Pb}(n,n')$	$^{232}\text{Th}(n,\gamma)$			
					$^{206}\text{Pb}(n,n')$	$^{238}\text{U}(n,\gamma)$			
					$^{238}\text{U}(n,2n\gamma)$	$^{241}\text{Pu}(n,\gamma)$			
					$^{238}\text{U}(n,3n\gamma)$				

3	2	3	5	5	12	11	5	2	5
53									

Production of samples

European target laboratories



Stable

Radioactive

Boundary conditions:

- For own experiments
- With a collaboration agreement

Targets prepared for SANDA

Isotope	Experiment @	Target lab
^{179}Ta	TRIGA Mainz	PSI
^{79}Se	n_TOF	PSI
^{94}Nb	n_TOF	PSI
^{94}Nb	n_TOF	PSI
^{10}Be	NL Argonne	PSI
$^{50,53}\text{Cr}$	n_TOF	PSI
$^{50,53}\text{Cr}$	n_TOF	PSI
^{239}Pu	n_TOF	JRC–Geel
^{239}Pu (various)	GELINA	JRC–Geel
^{235}U (various)	NFS	JRC–Geel
^{238}U (various)	NFS	JRC–Geel

Targets produced in SANDA

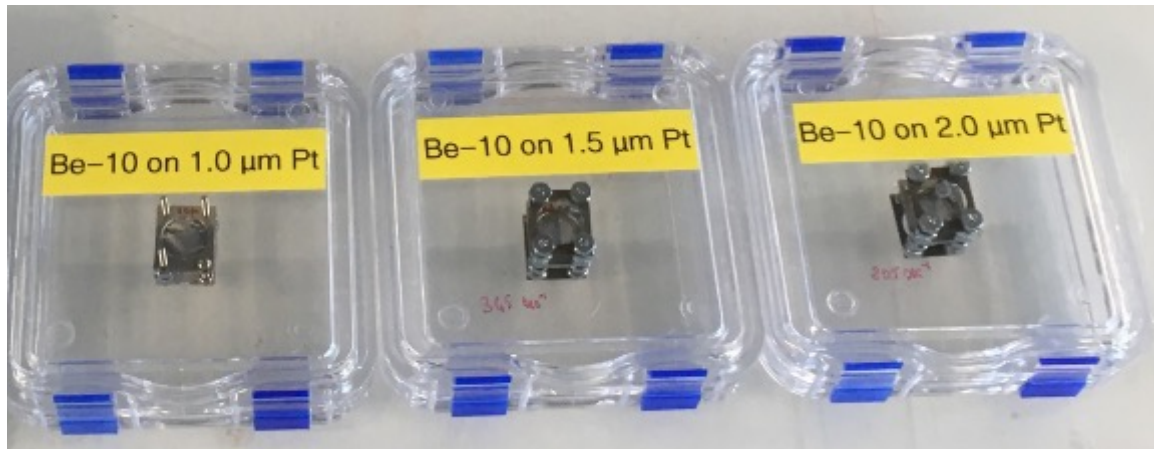
molecular plating of $^{10}\text{Be}(\text{OH})_2$ solution on thin Pt foils at PSI

Backing

1 μm , 1.5 μm and 2 μm thick Pt foil, \varnothing 7 mm

Deposit

160 $\mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$ ^{10}Be (500 $\mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$ Be)



^{10}Be target on a 1 μm platinum foil that was used in the experiment

Collaboration with University of York, UK and Argonne National Laboratory, Illinois, USA.

Targets produced in SANDA



A 304 mg of high purity ^{93}Nb wires were shaped in a spiral pattern at PSI and afterwards activated at the high-flux nuclear ILL-Grenoble reactor for 51 days.

The target was then analyzed at PSI by a customized HPGe gamma-ray spectroscopy set-up.

^{94}Nb activity: 10.1 MBq

Targets produced in SANDA

$^{238}\text{UF}_4$ deposits by physical vapour deposition at JRC Geel

Backing

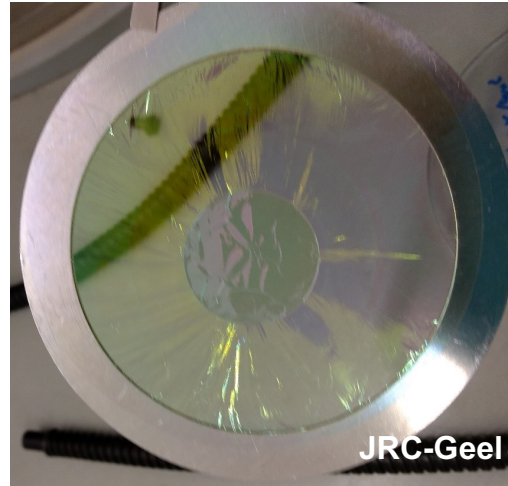
34 $\mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$ polyimide foil
on 1 mm thick Al ring Ø_{out} 90 mm
 Ø_{in} 70 mm

Deposit

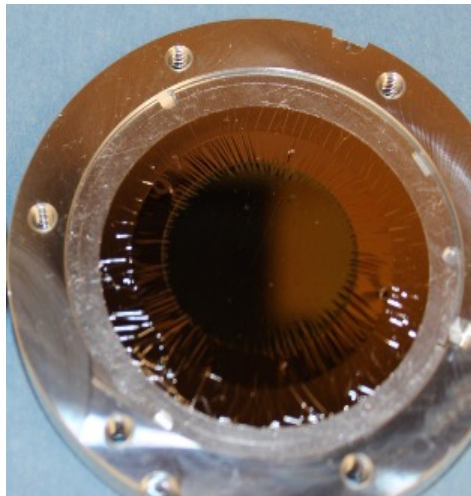
^{238}U diameter: 20 mm

^{238}U areal density: 377 $\mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$

^{238}U mass: 1.84 mg



Al layer 87nm. Physical vapour deposition CEA



Material: 99.998 at% ^{238}U

Deposited layer: UF_4

Mass ^{238}U : 4.43 mg

Areal density ^{238}U : 628 $\mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$

Deposit diameter: 29.96 mm

Physical vapour deposition JRC-Geel

Targets produced in SANDA

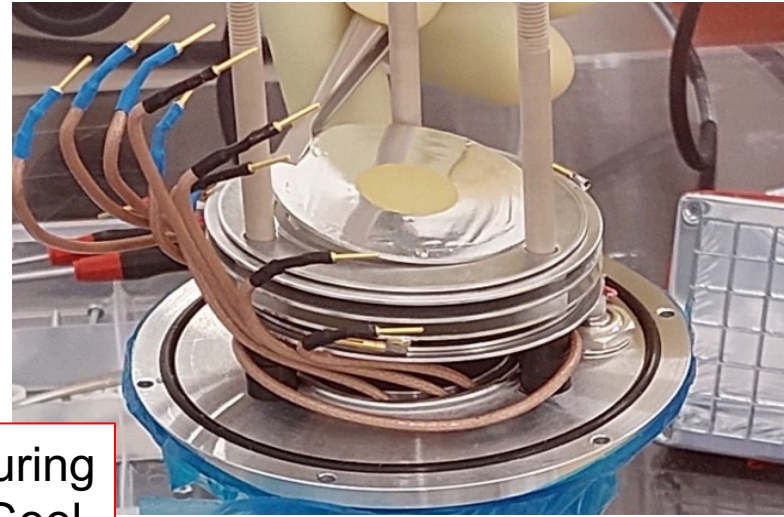
Deposit

^{239}Pu diameter: 20 mm

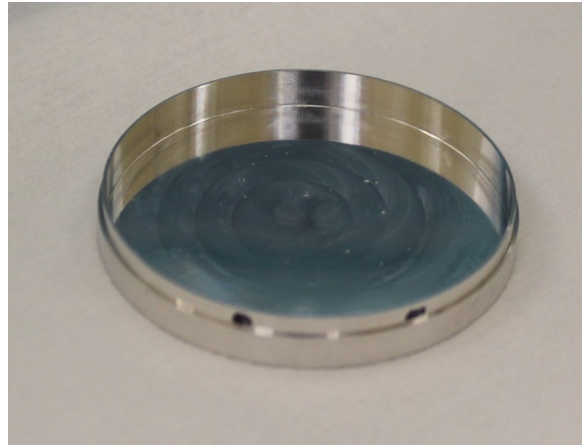
^{239}Pu areal density: 320-330 $\mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$

Backing

20 μm Al foil



^{239}Pu (99.902% pure) targets during the mounting process at JRC – Geel.



Material provided by
SCK·CEN

2 g of ^{239}Pu powder
canned in a container,
 \varnothing 50mm, thickness 0.5
mm at JRC-Geel.

The PROMAS Project (SANDA and APRENDE)

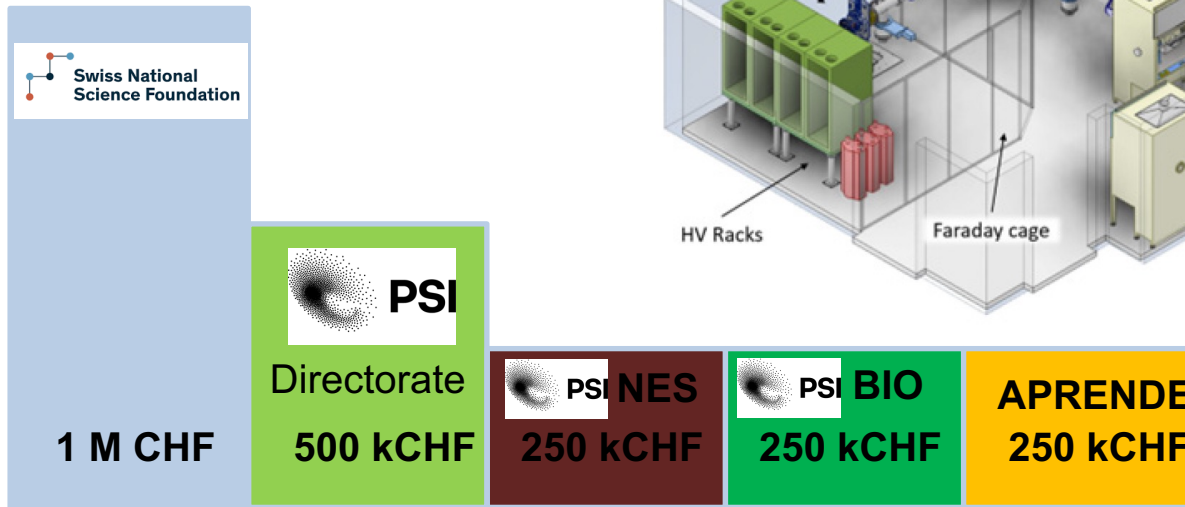
Preparative Offline Mass Separation

Project was submitted in May 2024.

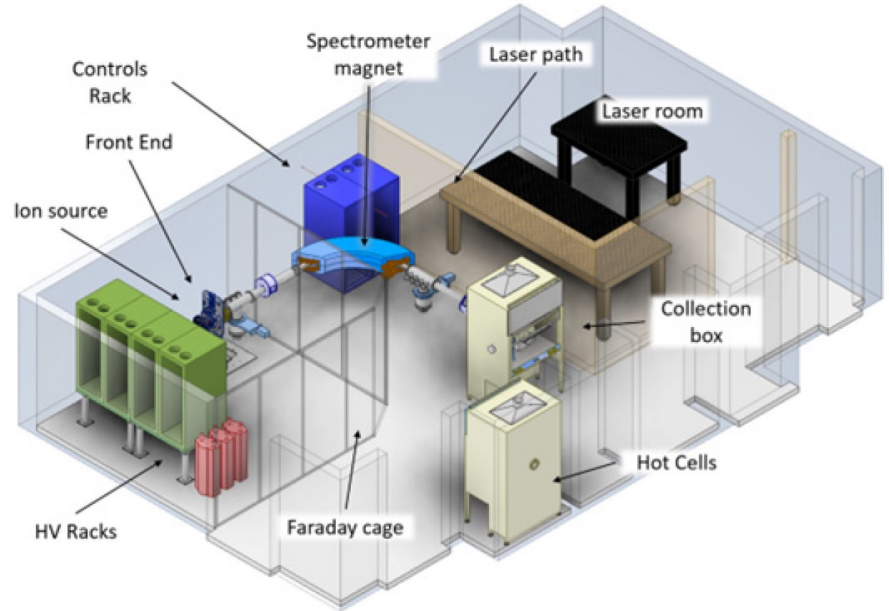
Project starts: 01.12.2024

Project ends: 30.11.2025

Project Budget: 2.250 kCHF



Total budget: 2.250 kCHF



PAUL SCHERRER INSTITUT

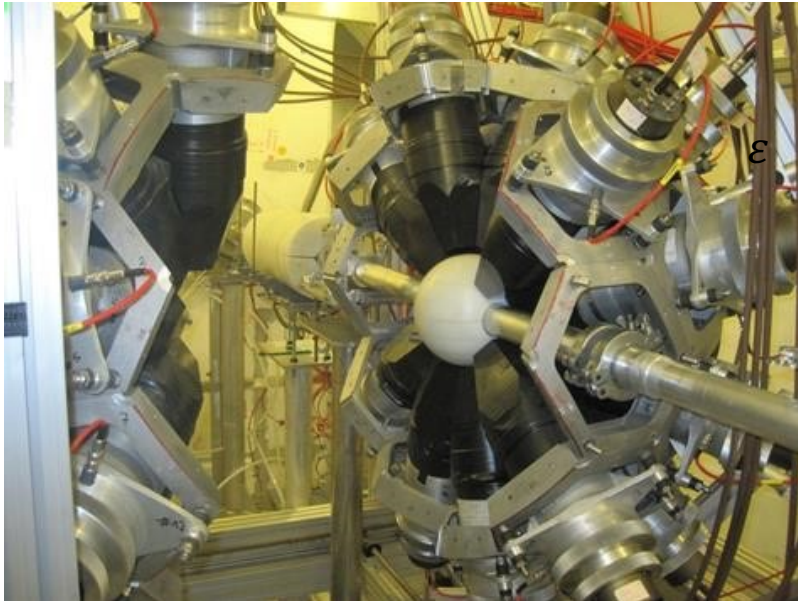


Development of detectors

Improved γ -ray detectors for capture measurements

(n, γ) cross section measurements are performed using γ -ray detectors. At n_TOF EAR1 (185 m flight path):

- 40 crystal BaF₂ Total Absorption Calorimeter
- Various types of C₆D₆ liquid scintillators (Al and carbon fibre housing)



$$\epsilon = 100\%$$

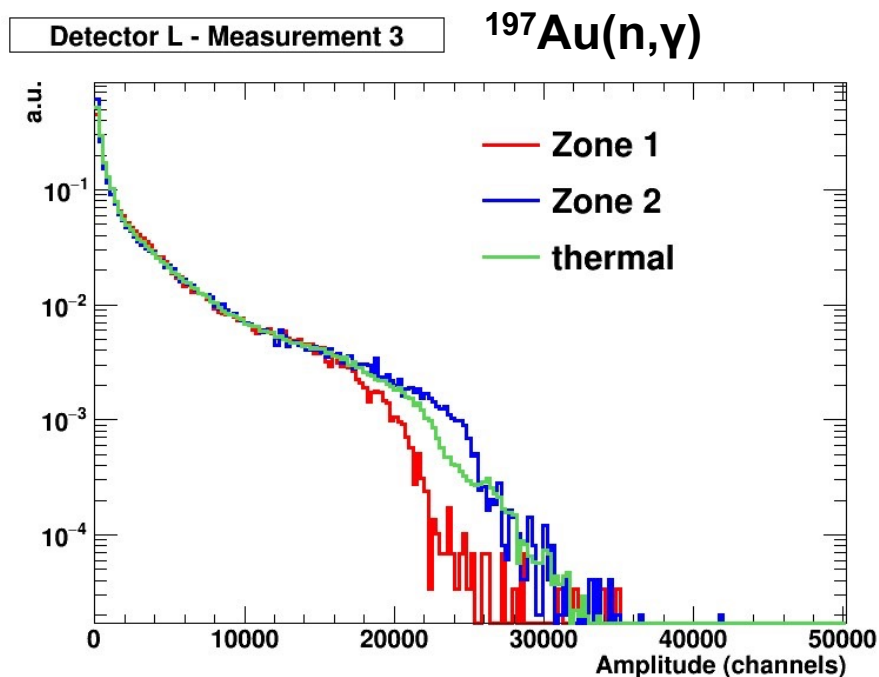
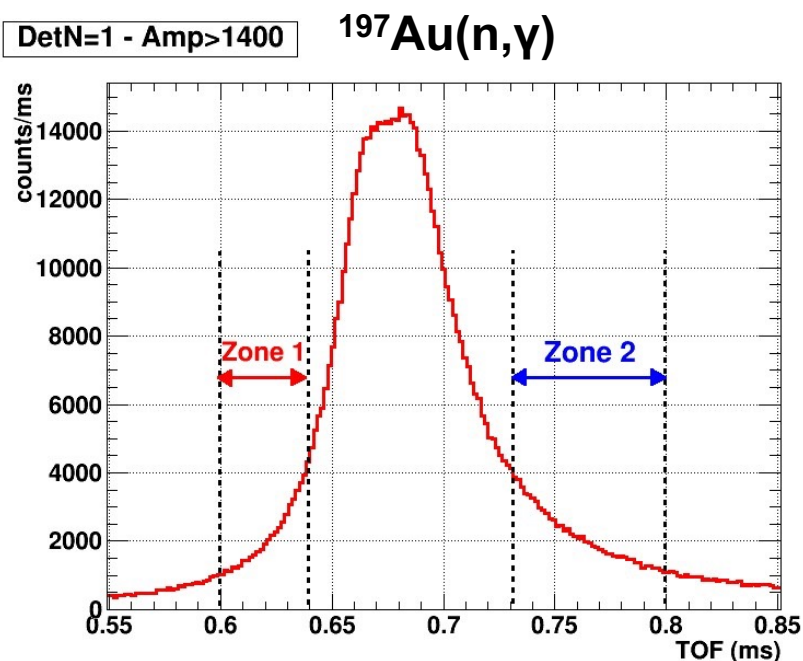


$$\epsilon \approx k \cdot \sum E_{\gamma}$$

Extreme counting rate coinditions

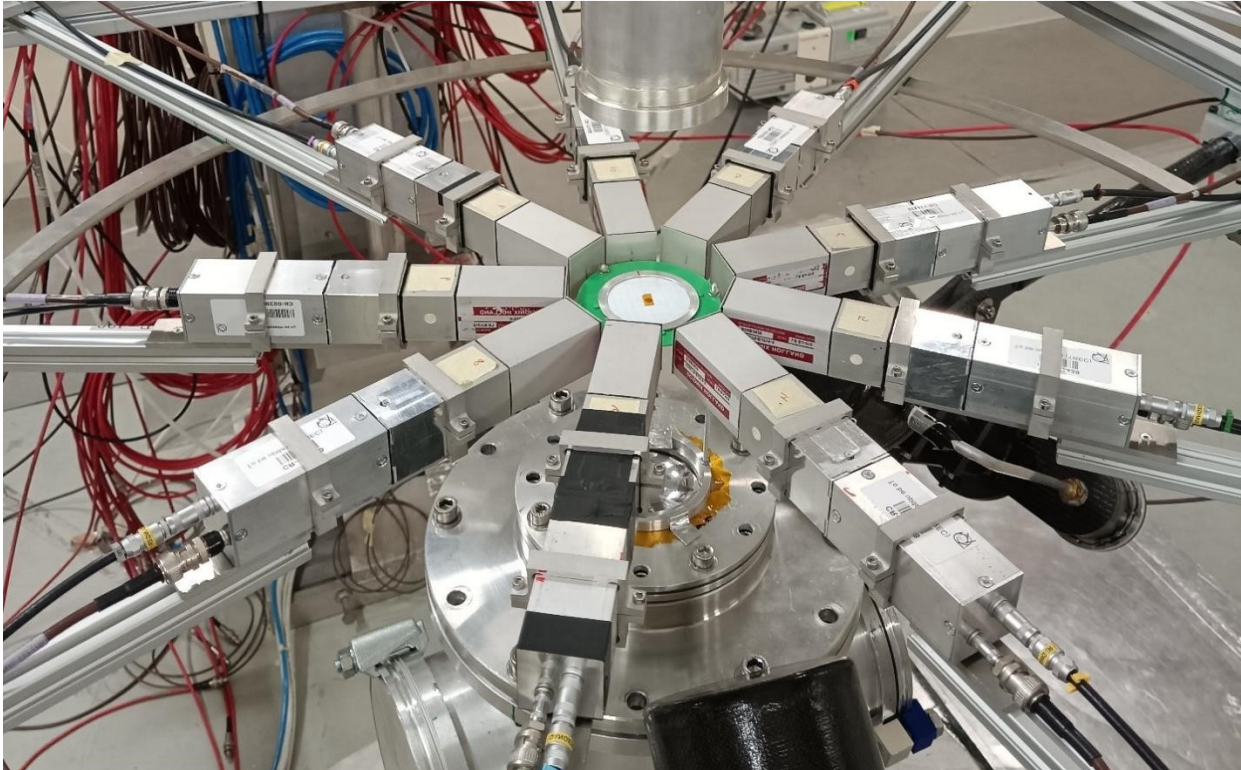
2014 -> construction of the EAR2 20 m flight path.

The counting rates in EAR2 are ~300 times larger than counting rates in EAR1 (10^7 cps). The γ -ray detectors designed for EAR1 did not work properly in EAR2.



The segmented TED detector (sTED)

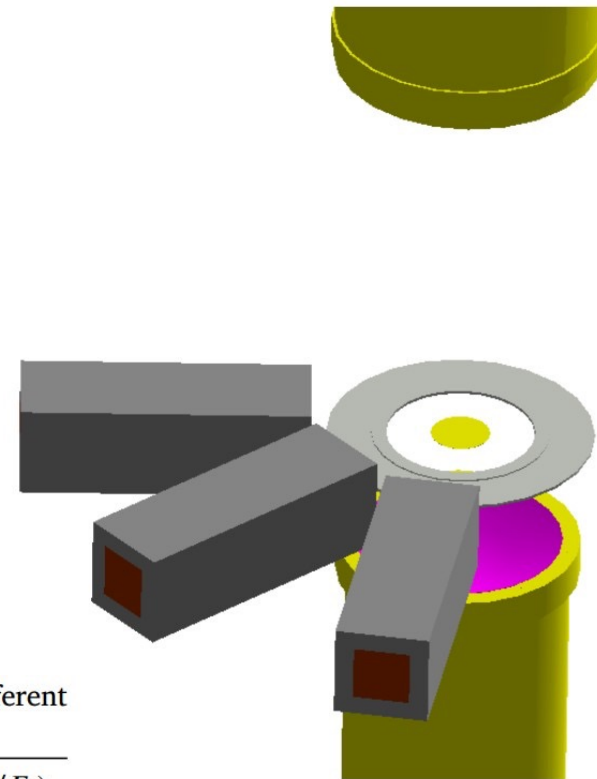
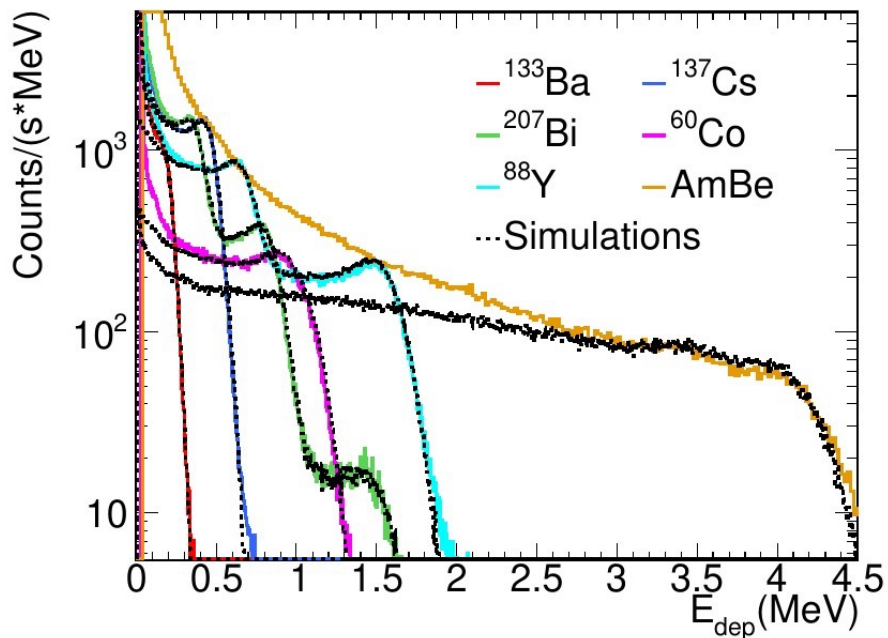
Simple idea: use smaller detectors & improved photomultipliers and VD



V. Alcayne et al., A Segmented Total Energy Detector (sTED) optimized for (n, γ) cross-section measurements at n_TOF EAR2, Radiat. Phys. Chem. 217, 111525 (2024).

E. Mendoza et al., Neutron capture measurements with high efficiency detectors and the Pulse Height Weighting Technique, Nucl. Instr. Meth. 1047, 167894 (2023).

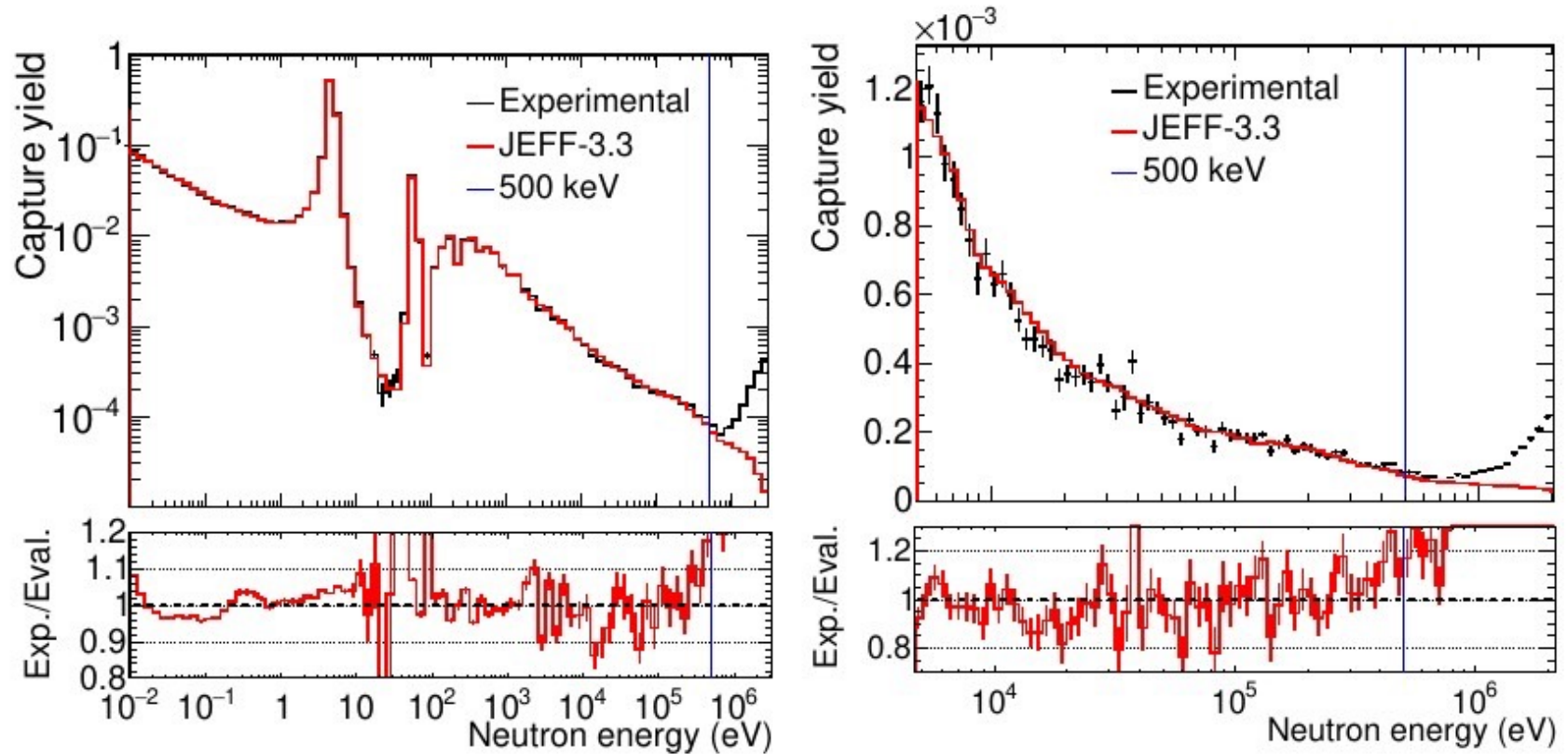
Characterisation of the sTED detectors



Estimation of the neutron sensitivities $((\epsilon_n/\epsilon_\gamma) \cdot (\Gamma_n/\Gamma_\gamma))$ of one sTED module for different nuclei and resonances. For details see the text.

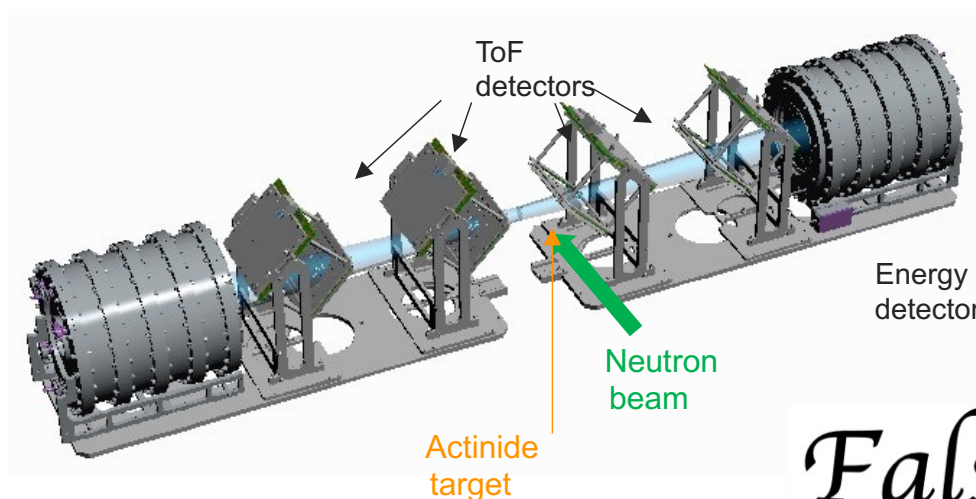
Isotope	E_n (eV)	$\frac{\Gamma_n}{\Gamma_\gamma}$	$\frac{\epsilon_n}{\epsilon_\gamma}$	$(\epsilon_n/\epsilon_\gamma) \cdot (\Gamma_n/\Gamma_\gamma)$
^{197}Au	4.91	$1.2 \cdot 10^{-1}$	$1.6 \cdot 10^{-3}$	$2.0 \cdot 10^{-4}$
^{240}Pu	5.01	$8.4 \cdot 10^{-2}$	$1.6 \cdot 10^{-3}$	$1.4 \cdot 10^{-4}$
^{244}Cm	7.66	4.9	$1.6 \cdot 10^{-3}$	$8.0 \cdot 10^{-3}$
^{244}Cm	86.1	$6.6 \cdot 10^{-1}$	$5.5 \cdot 10^{-4}$	$3.6 \cdot 10^{-4}$
^{207}Bi	12 100	$2.2 \cdot 10^3$	$1.1 \cdot 10^{-4}$	$2.4 \cdot 10^{-1}$
^{207}Pb	41 100	$3.7 \cdot 10^2$	$2.3 \cdot 10^{-4}$	$8.4 \cdot 10^{-2}$

Validation with the reference $^{197}\text{Au}(n,\gamma)$ cross section

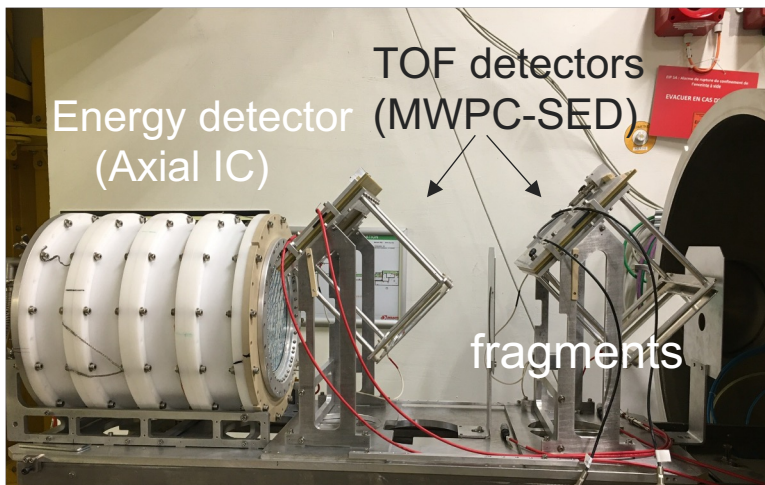


The sTED are now the standard capture setup for n_TOF EAR2. They (9 sTEDs) have been used to measure: $^{94,95,96}\text{Mo}(n,\gamma)$, $^{79}\text{Se}(n,\gamma)$, $^{28,29,30}\text{Si}(n,\gamma)$, $^{64}\text{Ni}(n,\gamma)$, $^{160}\text{Gd}(n,\gamma)$, $^{209}\text{Bi}(n,\gamma)$, $^{146}\text{Nd}(n,\gamma)$, $^{97,98}\text{Mo}(n,\gamma)$. **18 more on the way!**

Fission yield detector (FALSTAFF)

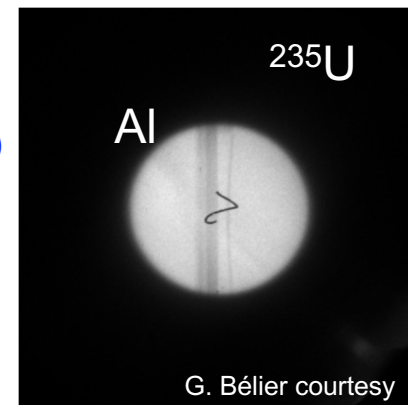


Falstaff



^{235}U target:

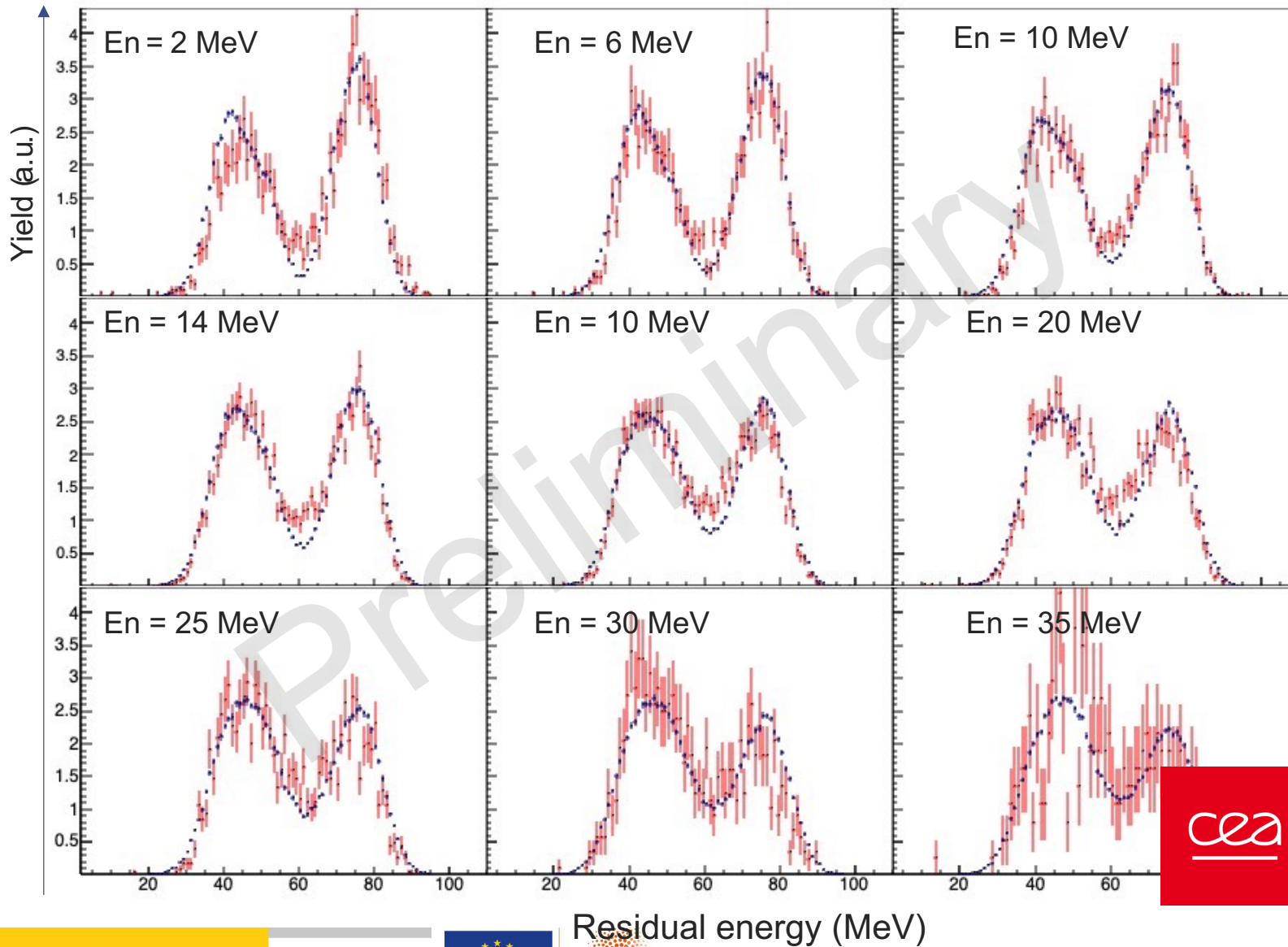
- JRC-Geel (99.94% ^{235}U)
- $195 \mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$
- F 28 mm
- 1.2 mg
- Ta backing
- Al support



Courtesy by D. Doré (CEA)

^{235}U fission yields measured at NFS

E_{neut} bin width : 1 MeV



cea

irfu



GOBIERNO DE ESPAÑA

MINISTERIO DE CIENCIA, INNOVACIÓN Y UNIVERSIDADES

Ciemat
Centro de Investigaciones Energéticas, Medioambientales y Tecnológicas



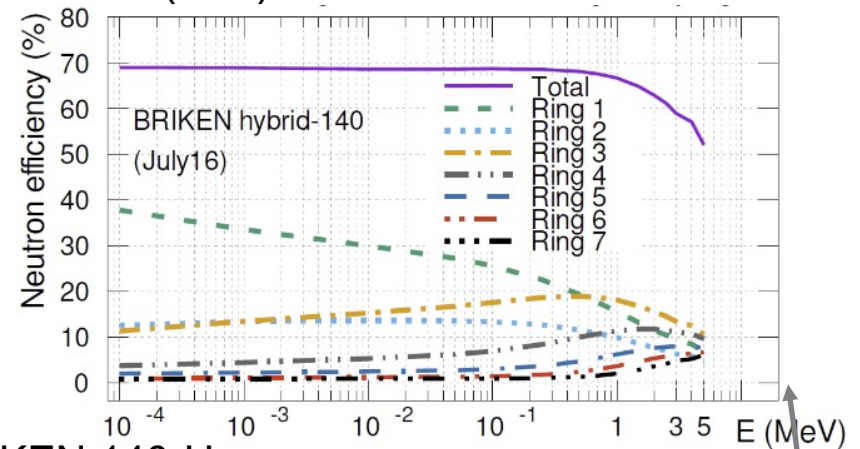
erc
European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

CNR*24, IAEA 8th – 12th of July

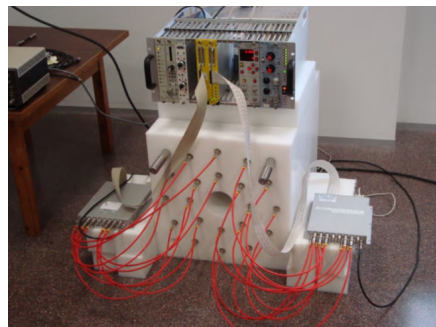
BEta-deLayEd Neutron detector (BELEN)

Measurements of β -delayed neutron emission probabilities (P_{xn} values) are typically measured with high efficiency detectors (^3He) embedded in a moderator (polyethylene) matrix.

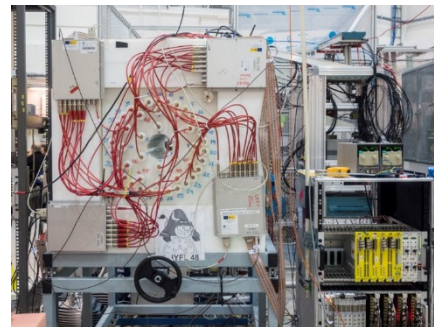
- Maximise the efficiency
- Flat response (ϵ vs E_n)



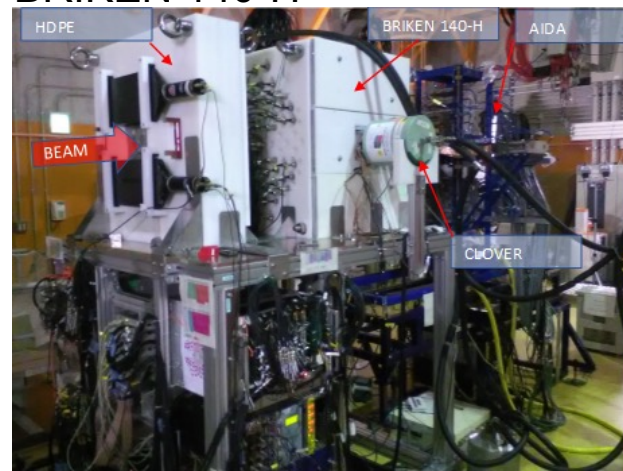
BELEN 20



BELEN 48



BRIKEN 140-H



$\rightarrow P_{1n}, P_{2n}, \dots$

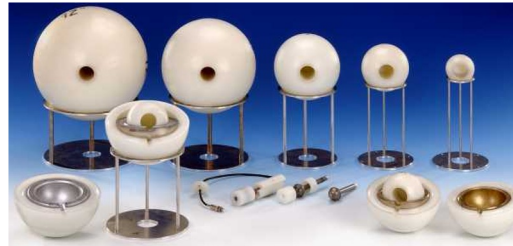
BRIKEN was the world largest moderated neutron counter for beta-delayed neutrons!

[A. Tarifeño-Saldivia et. al. J. Instrum. \(2017\)](#)

BELEN with spectrometric capabilities

Bonner spheres (BS) spectrometers is a widespread technique for neutron spectrometry.

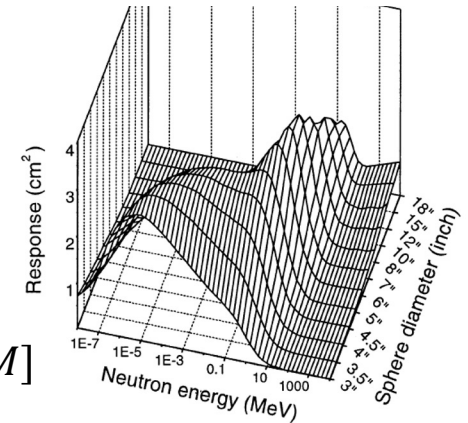
- Moderated proportional neutron counters. Useful from thermal to GeV region.
- Ill-posed linear inverse problem!
- Extensive MC simulations and unfolding algorithms are required



$$M_i = \int R_i(E)\phi(E)dE$$

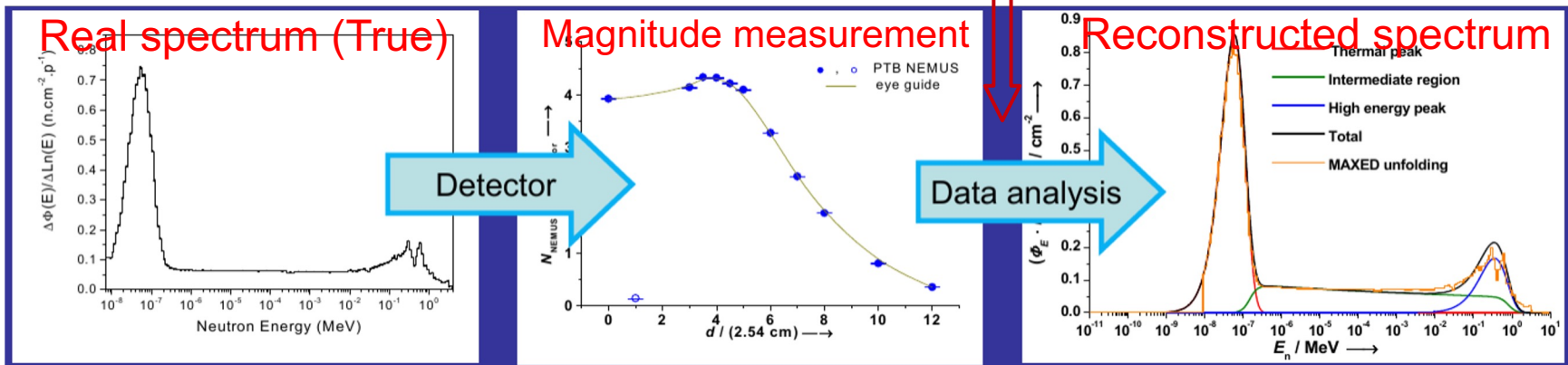
$$M_i = \sum_j R_{ij}\phi_j \quad \rightarrow \quad [\phi] = [R]^{-1}[M]$$

MC computed response matrix R_{ij}

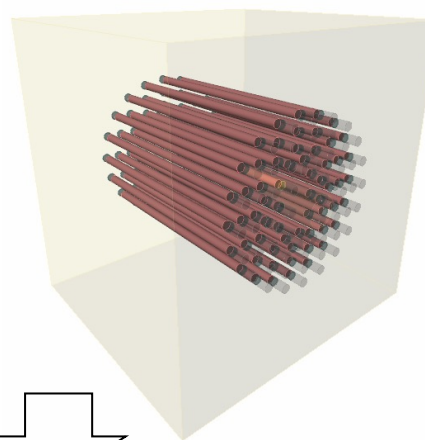
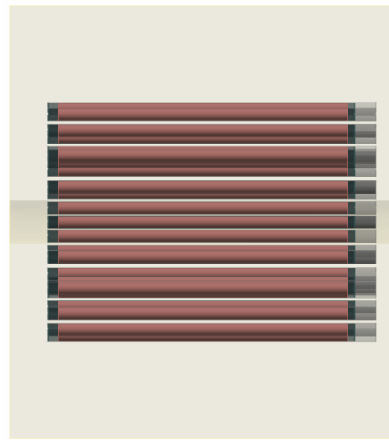
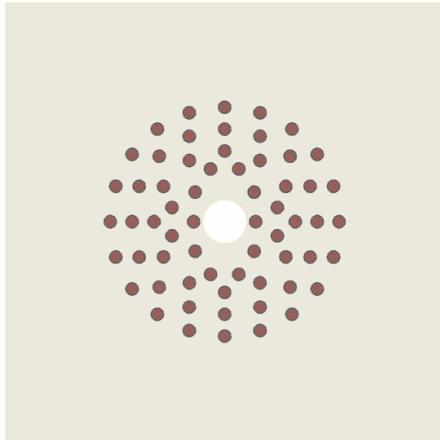


Unfolding algorithm

← Educated guess of n-spectrum

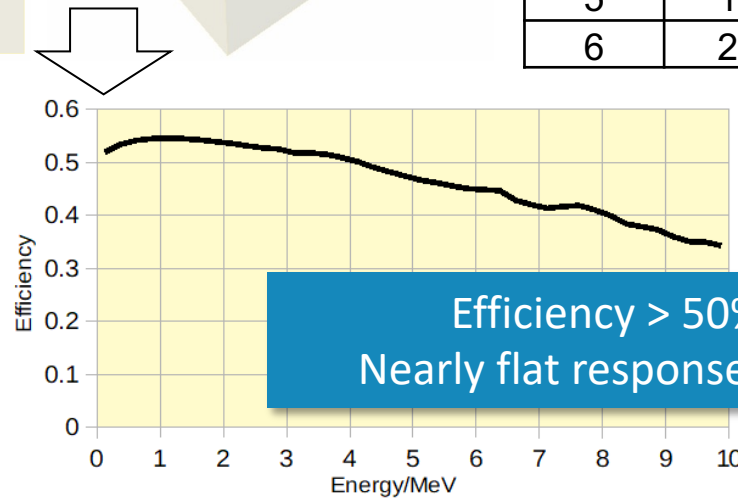
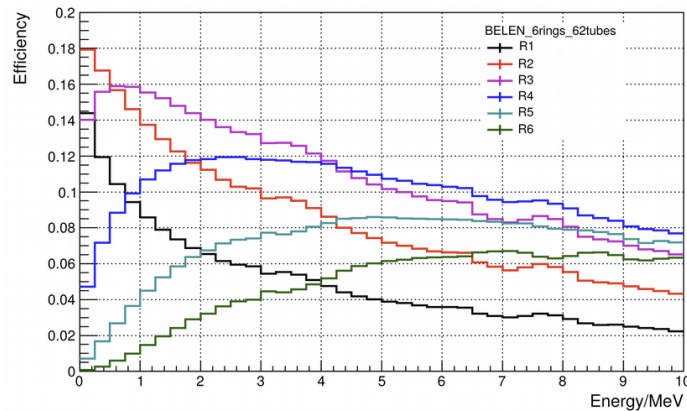


Beta-dELayEd Neutron detector (BELEN)



Best candidate!

Ring	Tubes	R, cm
1	2	6.38
2	4	8.58
3	8	11.20
4	12	14.50
5	16	19.00
6	20	23.50



GOBIERNO DE ESPAÑA

MINISTERIO DE CIENCIA, INNOVACIÓN Y UNIVERSIDADES



CNR*24, IAEA 8th – 12th of July

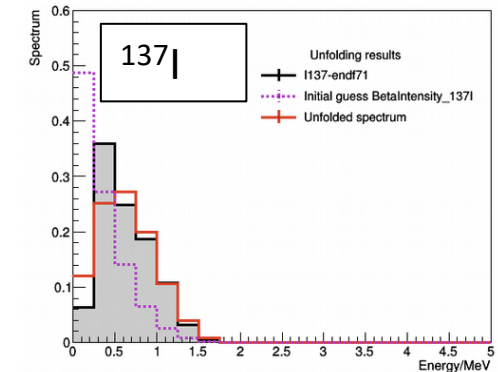
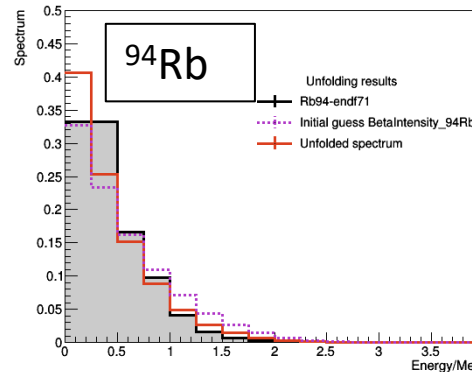
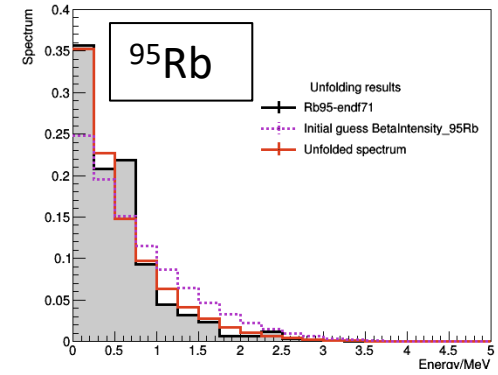
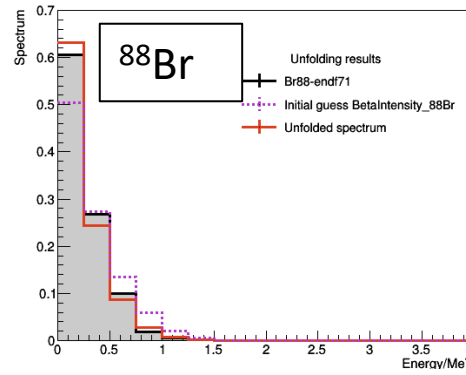
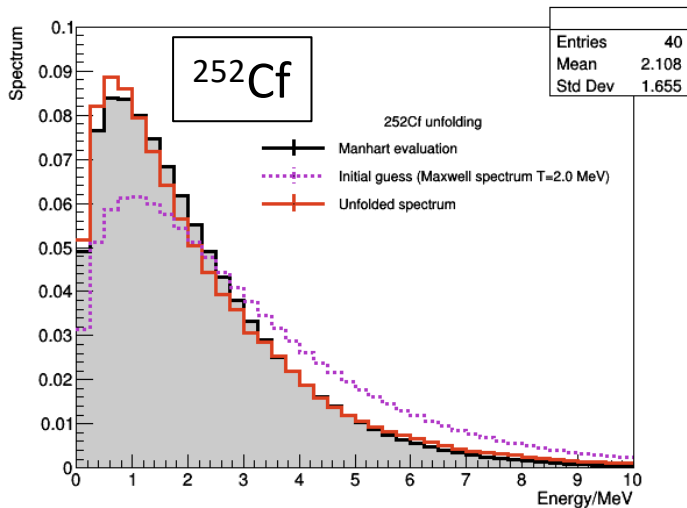
Beta-dELayEd Neutron detector (BELEN)

Nucleus	Q_{bn} , MeV	$\langle E \rangle$, MeV
Cf-252	---	2.13
Br-88	1.922	0.2515
Rb-94	3.452	0.4424
Rb-95	4.883	0.5295
I-137	2.001	0.6298

Simulation of virtual decays and analysis of the data



Nucleus	Ratio $\langle E \rangle$
Cf-252	1.019
Br-88	1.033
Rb-94	1.032
Rb-95	1.091
I-137	1.023



Evaluation

Improvements of TALYS & EMPIRE

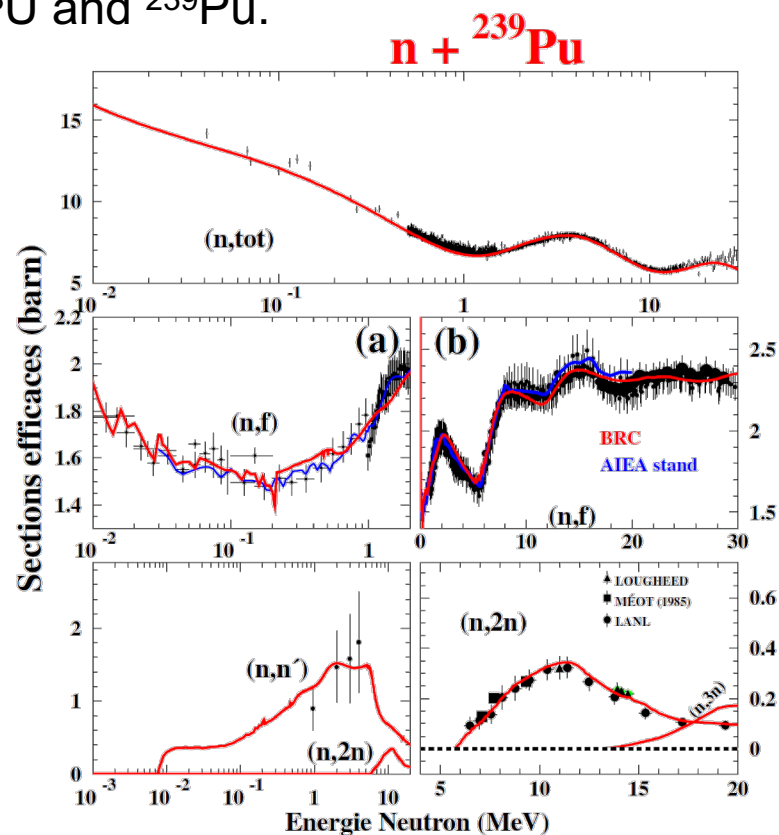
- New OMP developed by P. Romain.
- New photon strength functions based on QRPA (S. Goriely, S. Hilaire, S. Peru)
- Evaluation of the high energy part of $^{235,238}\text{U}$ and ^{239}Pu .



Courtesy of S. Hilaire
and G. Noguere

- Actinides like $^{235,238}\text{U}$, ^{239}Pu , ^{239}Np and ^{241}Am (CEA/DEN, CEA/DAM/DIF, CNRS)
- Fission fragments Sm, Nd, Cs, Mo, Ru, Eu, Gd, Rh: CEA/DEN, PSI)
- New Cr evaluations (U Uppsala)
- Light elements ^{16}O , ^9Be (TU Wien)

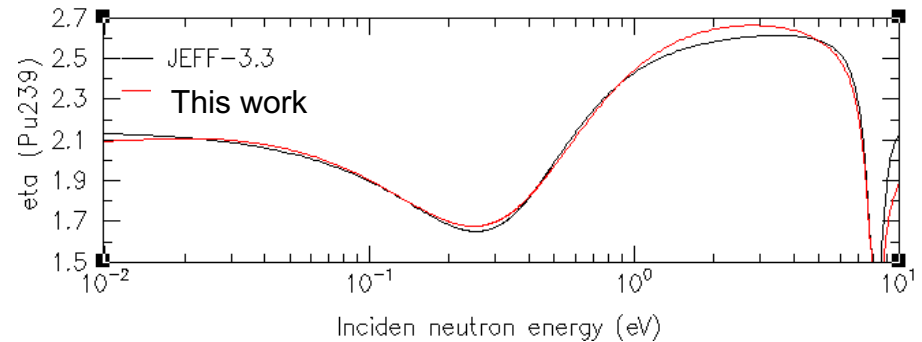
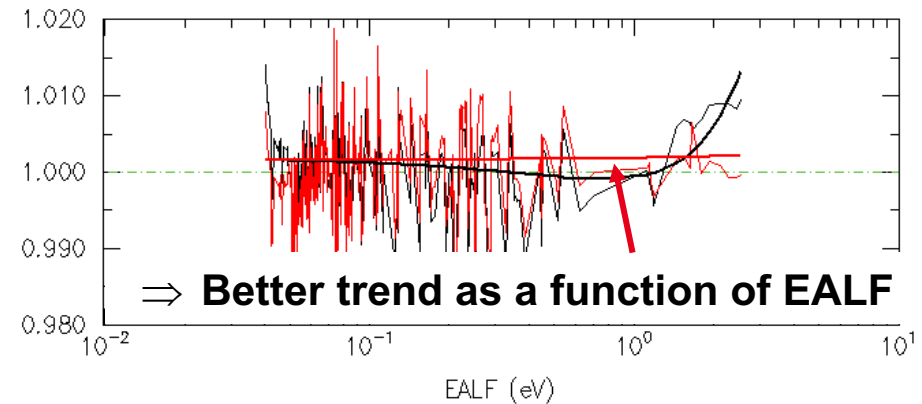
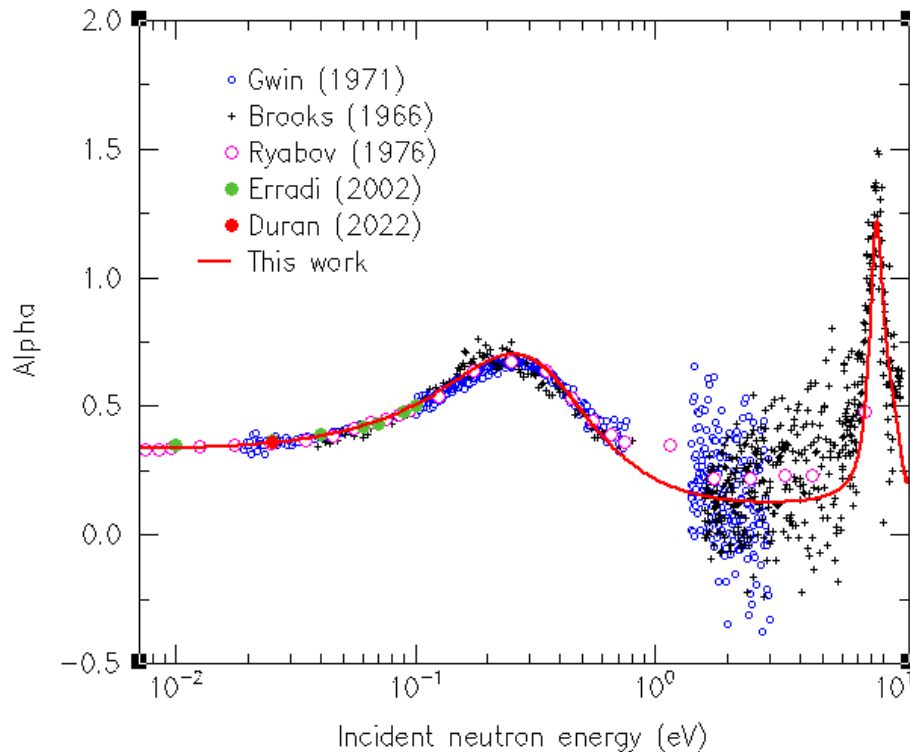
Evaluations will be part of **JEFF-4**



Evaluation and modelling: ^{239}Pu



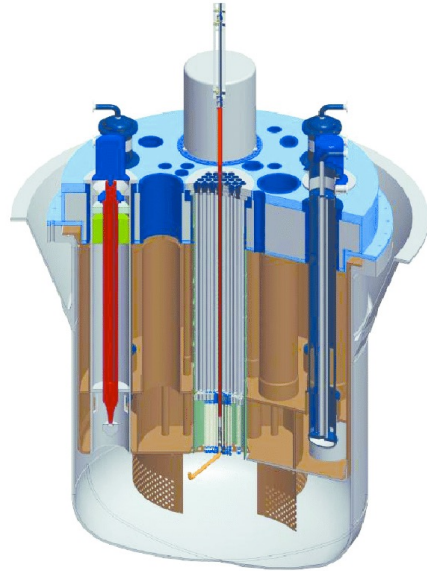
Courtesy of G. Noguere



Validation & sensitivity analyses

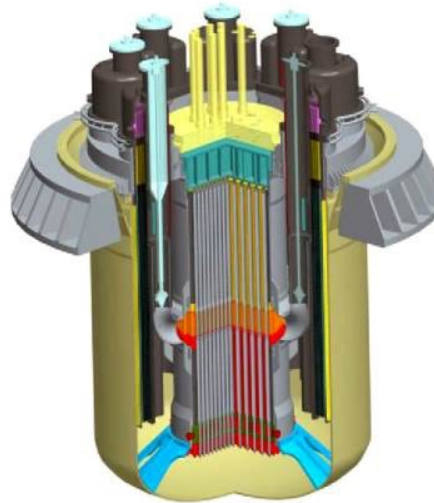
Nuclear data needs for advanced reactor designs

4 different advanced reactor technologies are being explored in Europe:



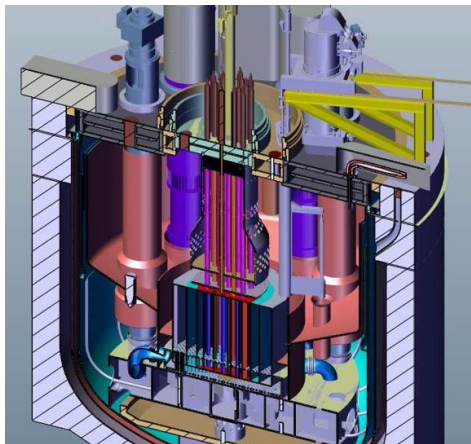
MYRRHA

Pb/Bi-cooled
Accelerator Driven
System that can
also be operated
in critical mode.
 $< 100 \text{ MW}_{\text{th}}$



ALFRED

Pb-cooled critical
reactor.
 $\sim 300 \text{ MW}_{\text{th}}$

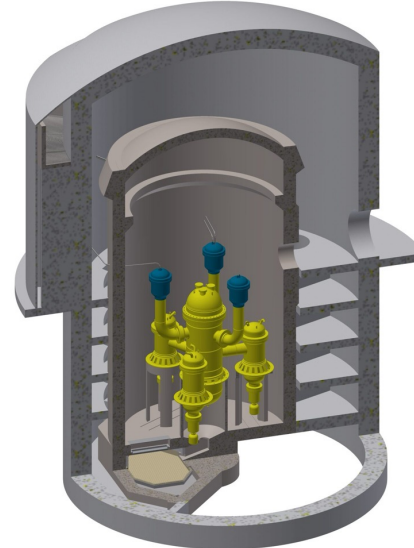


ASTRID

Na-cooled critical
reactor.
 $\sim 1500 \text{ MW}_{\text{th}}$

ESFR

Na-cooled critical
reactor.
 $\sim 3600 \text{ MW}_{\text{th}}$



ALEGRO

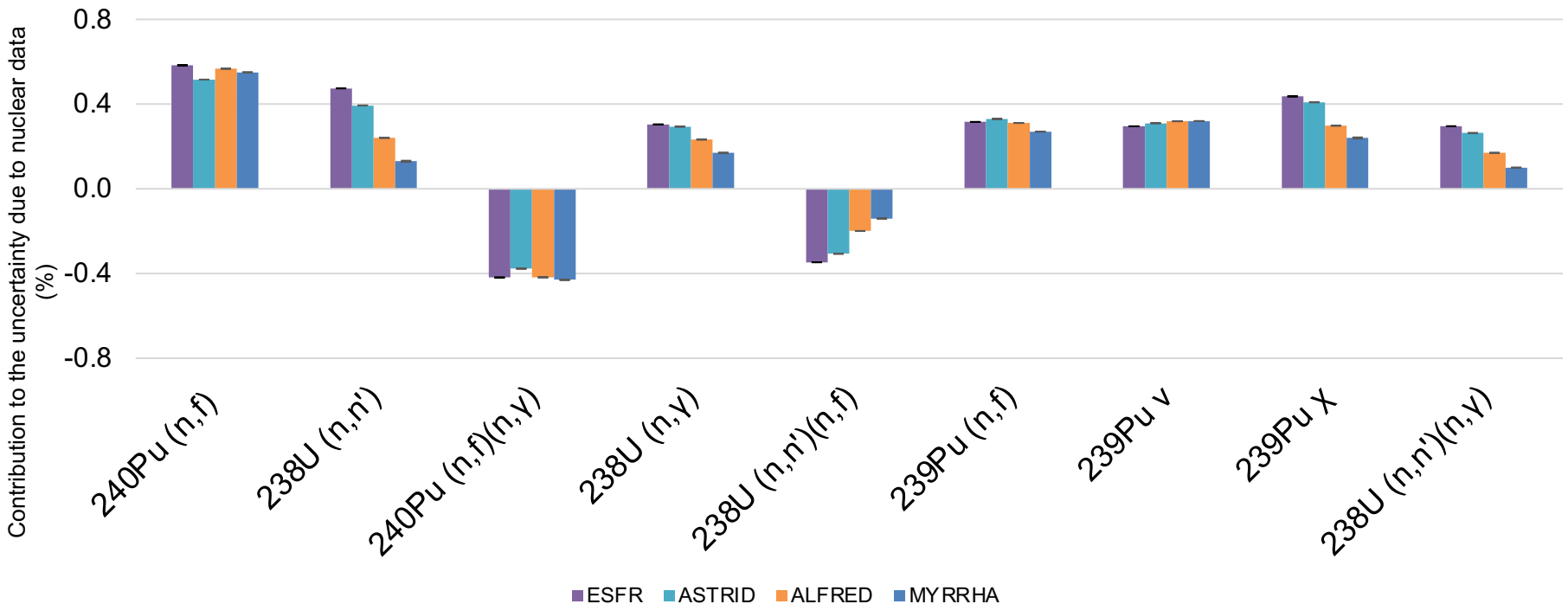
Gas-cooled fast
critical reactor.
 $\sim 75 \text{ MW}_{\text{th}}$

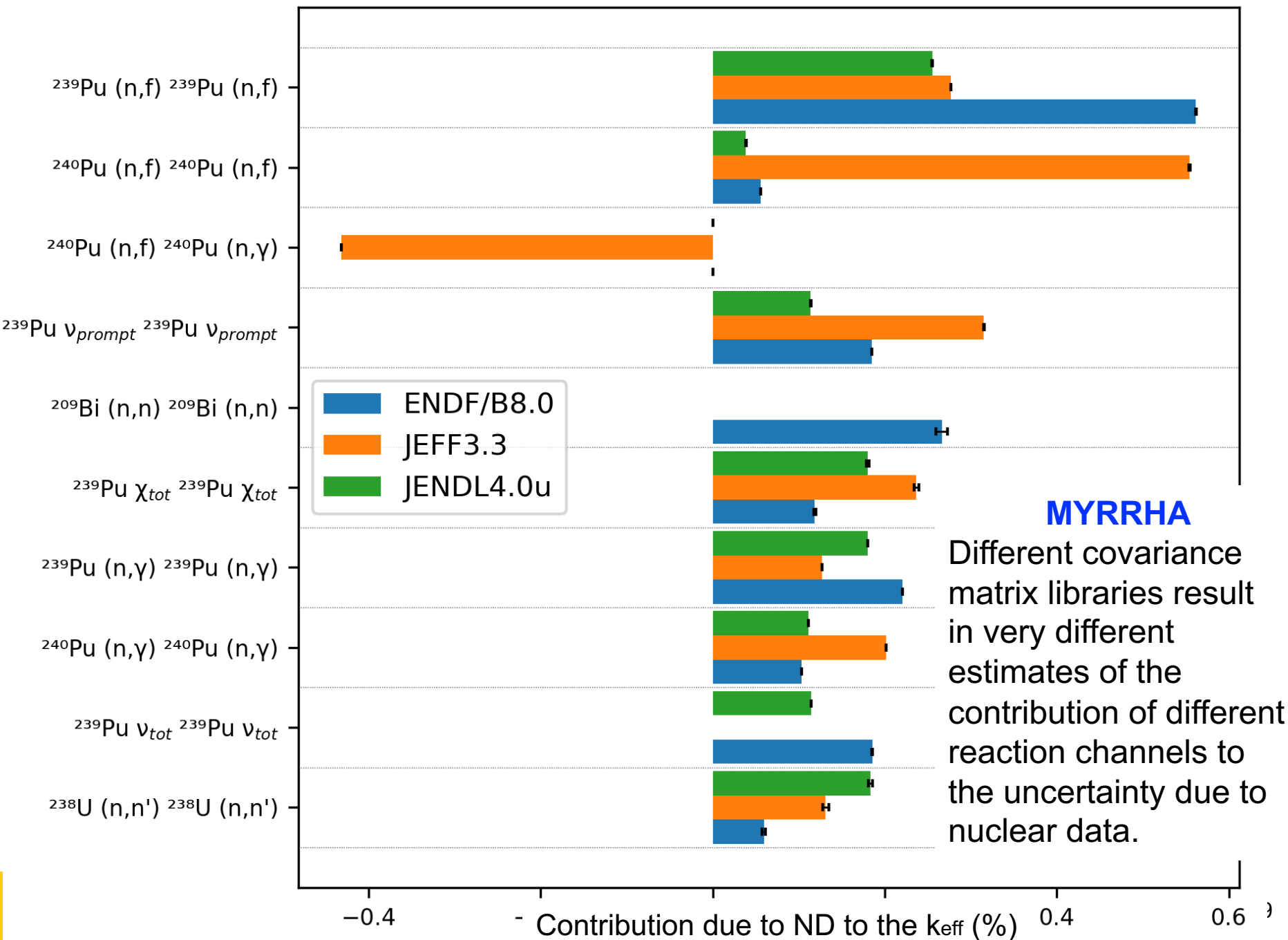
Uncertainties due to nuclear data

These four examples of different systems do not meet the target accuracy for the k_{eff} because of the uncertainty due to nuclear data.

SYSTEM	k_{eff}	Unc ND (%)	TA
ESFR	1.00499(9)	1.04%	0.2 %
ASTRID	1.00779(8)	0.97%	0.2 %
ALFRED	0.99904(10)	0.877%	0.435%
MYRRHA	1.01542(3)	0.76%	0.3%

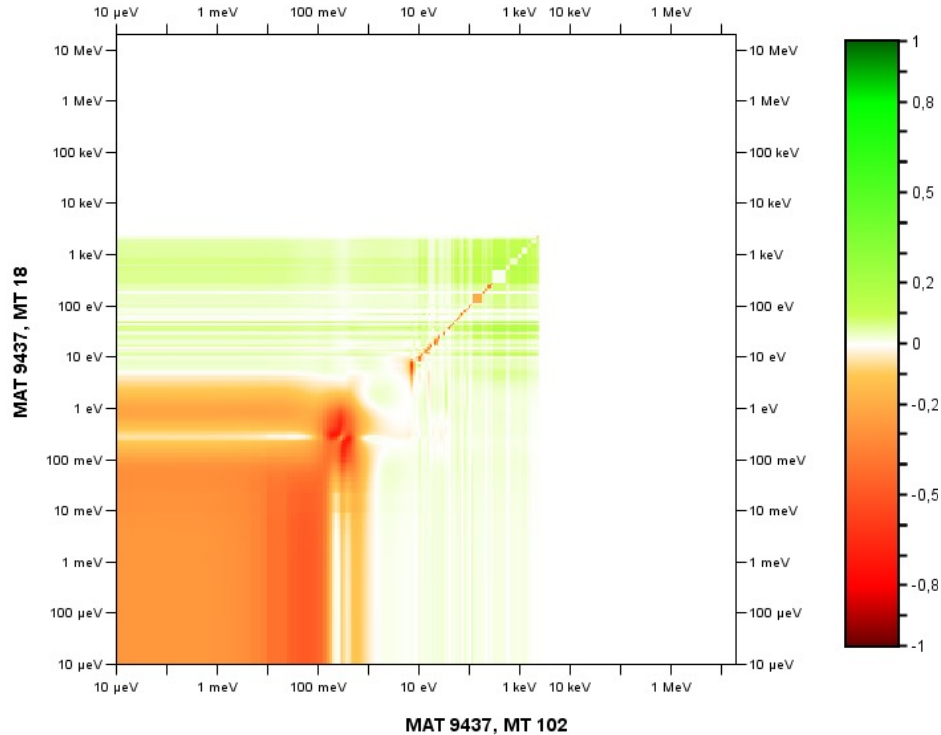
Uncertainty contributions to k_{eff}



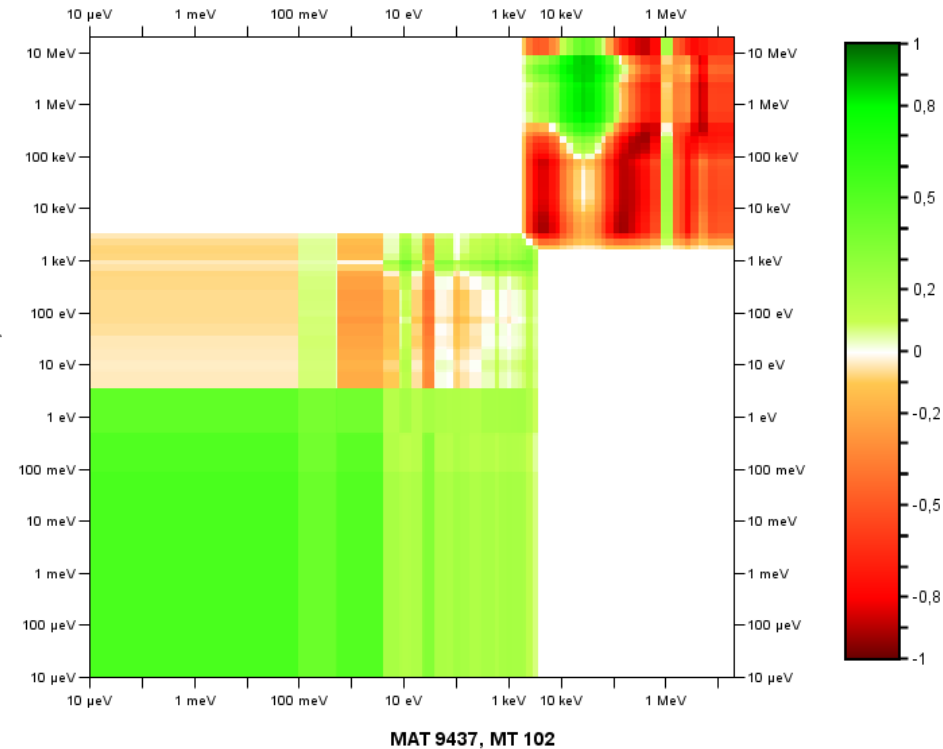


Significant differences in the covariance matrices

Correlation



Correlation



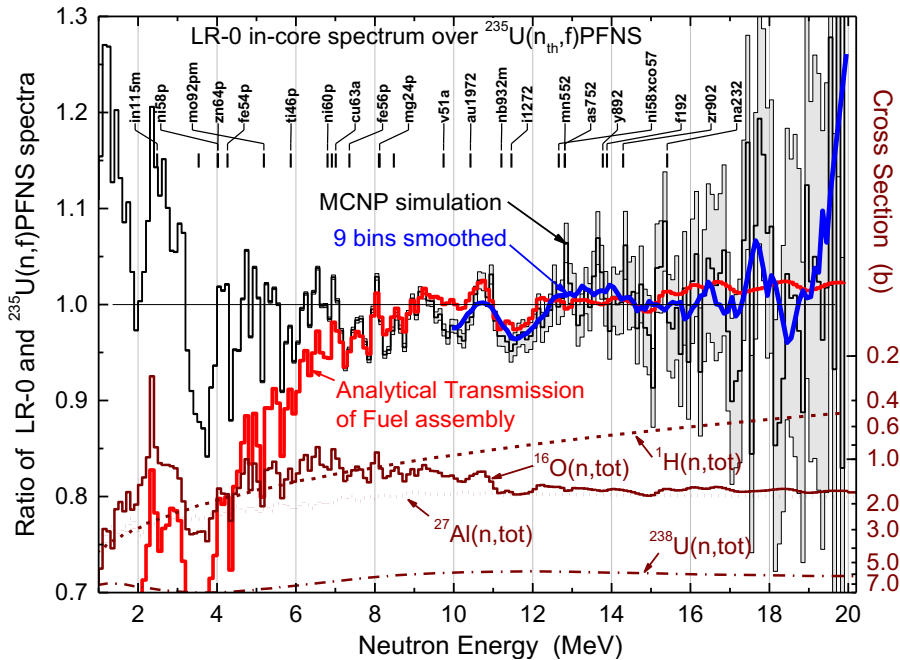
JENDL-4.0u: ^{239}Pu (n,f) (n, γ)

JEFF-3.3: ^{239}Pu (n,f) (n, γ)

Integral experiments

Integral experiments at LR-0

SACS measured in LR-0 corrected to ^{235}U PFNS.



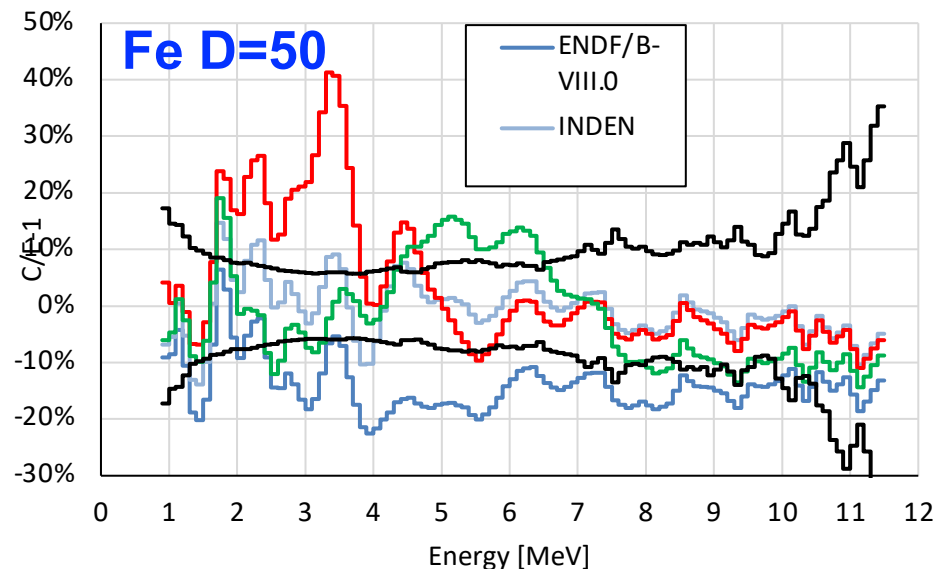
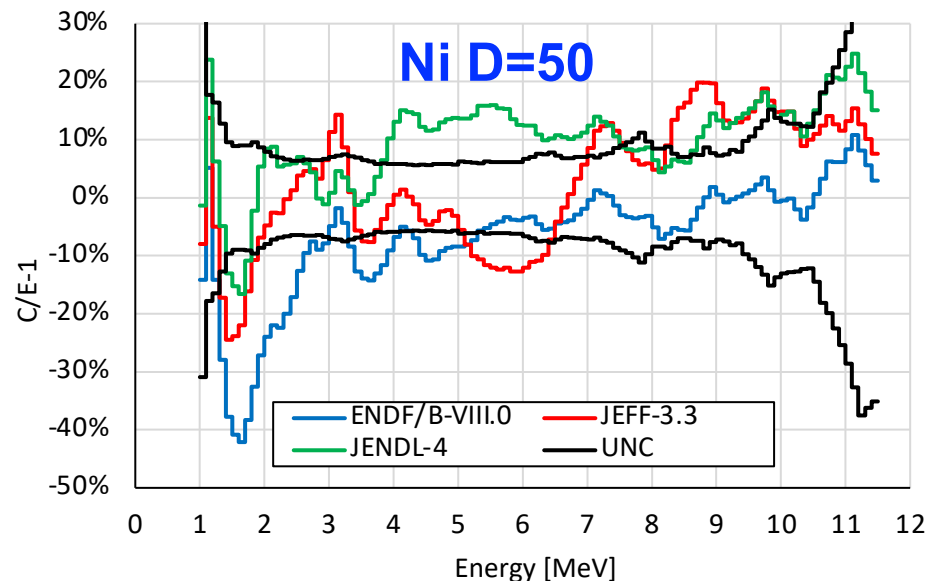
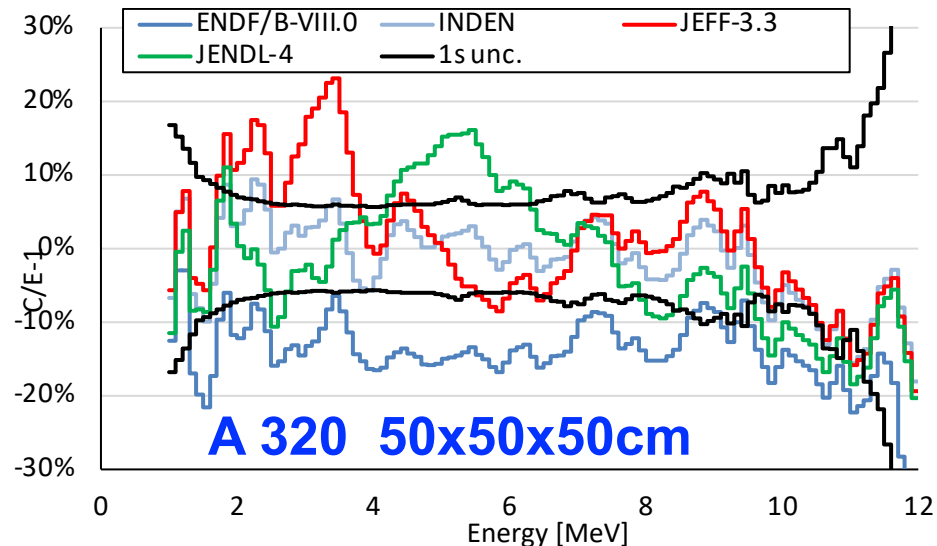
	$E_{50\%}$	SACS [mb]	Rel. unc.	Eval./E-1
$^{115}\text{In}(n,n')$	2.589	209.3	2.70%	-10.30%
$^{47}\text{Ti}(n,p)$	3.647	17.97	2.00%	-0.70%
$^{64}\text{Zn}(n,p)$	4.036	38.21	5.30%	1.80%
$^{58}\text{Ni}(n,p)$	4.051	106.1	2.20%	2.00%
$^{54}\text{Fe}(n,p)$	4.294	78.33	2.40%	-0.30%
$^{92}\text{Mo}(n,p)$	5.19	6.938	2.20%	-3.60%
$^{46}\text{Ti}(n,p)$	5.862	10.72	2.20%	7.40%
$^{60}\text{Ni}(n,p)$	6.811	2.086	8.50%	4.50%
$^{63}\text{Cu}(n,\alpha)$	7.019	0.5009	2.90%	3.30%
$^{54}\text{Fe}(n,\alpha)$	7.205	0.8707	10.50%	-0.70%
$^{56}\text{Fe}(n,p)$	7.362	1.05	2.60%	2.80%
$^{48}\text{Ti}(n,p)$	8.103	0.2909	2.60%	3.60%
$^{24}\text{Mg}(n,p)$	8.125	1.412	4.60%	2.60%
$^{27}\text{Al}(n,\alpha)$	8.471	0.6764	2.30%	3.60%
$^{51}\text{V}(n,\alpha)$	9.737	0.0234	3.50%	4.00%
$^{197}\text{Au}(n,2n)$	10.414	3.372	4.00%	0.40%
$^{93}\text{Nb}(n,2n)^{92*}$	11.21	0.4307	3.10%	0.90%
$^{127}\text{I}(n,2n)$	11.459	1.177	4.00%	1.80%
$^{55}\text{Mn}(n,2n)$	12.796	0.2324	4.50%	0.00%
$^{75}\text{As}(n,2n)$	12.797	0.3228	4.30%	-1.10%
$^{89}\text{Y}(n,2n)$	13.797	0.1698	3.20%	0.80%
$^{19}\text{F}(n,2n)$	13.911	0.00769	4.00%	5.90%
$^{90}\text{Zr}(n,2n)$	14.32	0.1053	4.00%	-0.70%
$^{23}\text{Na}(n,2n)$	15.483	0.00394	4.80%	-1.90%

Benchmarking

ALARM-CF-NI-SHIELD-001 “Neutron Activation Foils and Fast Neutron Leakage Spectra from **Nickel Sphere** with ^{252}Cf Source in the Center”

ALARM-CF-FE-SHIELD-002 “Neutron Activation Foils and Fast Neutron Leakage Spectra from **Iron Sphere** with ^{252}Cf Source in the Center”

ALARM-CF-SST-SHIELD-001 “Neutron Activation Foils and Fast Neutron Leakage Spectra from a **Stainless Steel 321 Block** with a ^{252}Cf Source in the Center.”



Summary & conclusions

- **High-quality nuclear data are essential** for ensuring the safety and optimal operation of existing nuclear reactors, managing nuclear waste, designing news systems, and for many non-energy nuclear applications.
- Europe has a rather **large inter-disciplinary Nuclear Data community**, which has benefited from several EURATOM projects since FP6, among which EUROTRANS/ NUDATRA, ANDES, EUFRAT, ERINDA, CHANDA, and now SANDA, ARIEL and now APRENDE (2024 – 2028).
- The **community is well organized** and has **strong links** with the International Agencies (**IAEA, NEA/OECD**) and JEFF.
- The amount of work carried out in the EC ND projects is huge.

However, **the situation is precarious**, since it depends mainly on the variable (and underfinanced) EURATOM calls for its funding.

Nuclear data projects in Europe

HINDAS (16)

KU-Leuven 3.3 M€
2000 - 2003
 High and Intermediate energy Nuclear Data for Accelerator-driven Systems

IP-EUROTRANS (~20)

KIT ~1 M€ NUDATRA
2005 - 2010
 EUROpean research programme for the TRANSmutation of high-level nuclear waste in an accelerator driven systems

CHANDA (36)

CIEMAT ~5.4 M€
2013 - 2018
 solving CHALLENGES in Nuclear DATA

APRENDE (36+4)

CIEMAT ~4 M€
2024 – 2028
 Addressing PRIORITIES of Evaluated Nuclear Data in Europe

National funding + Transnational access programs (ERINDA, EUFRAT, ARIEL, OFFERR, EURO-LABS) + Education & training (ARIEL, ENEN2+)

n TOF-ADS (18)

CERN 2.4 M€
2000 – 2004
 Data for Accelerator Driven Systems nucleard data

CANDIDE (14)

UU ~1 M€
2007 - 2008
 Coordination Action on Nuclear Data for Industrial Development in Europe

ANDES (21)

CIEMAT ~3 M€
2010 - 2013
 Coordination Accurate Nuclear Data for nuclear Energy Sustainability

SANDA (36)

CIEMAT ~5.4 M€
2019 - 2024
 Supplying Accurate Nuclear Data for energy and non-energy Applications

Towards a European ND program

Towards a sustainable European ND program

- Mobilization of Member States representatives for the inclusion of a new nuclear data project in HORIZON-EURATOM-2023-NRT-01-06 -> **APRENDE project**.
- Joint effort between IAEA and NuPECC (preparing the long-range plan 2024). Organisation of **Consultants' Meeting on Comprehensive European plan to acquire and curate nuclear data** with invited participants representing nuclear physics research and EU ND community.
- Side event at the IAEA 2023 conference on **Providing the Best Nuclear Data for Tomorrow's Nuclear Solutions: Challenges and Opportunities**.
- **NuPECC long-range plan** will emphasise the importance of mastering the complete ND cycle and maintain the competences.

Towards a sustainable European ND program (ii)

A European ND program (similar to the one existing in the USA) is needed:

- Bring together ND providers, database managers and stakeholders from all the domains needing ND to discuss current needs.
- Ensure the coordination of the work done by the ND community in Europe, identifying challenges and opportunities, and guarantying that ND end up in nuclear databases.
- Support key infrastructures for the production of ND.
- Ensure that a sufficient workforce is available, in particular for evaluation.
- Invest in education and training to bring new people into the nuclear data community.
- Ensure the liaison with international partners and agencies (NEA, IAEA).

The SANDA participants

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER
PANEPISTIMIO IOANNINON
UNIVERSITAT POLITECNICA DE CATALUNYA
UNIVERSIDAD POLITECNICA DE MADRID
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Organisation Europeenne pour la Recherche Nucleaire

Centrum Vyzkumu Rez sro

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LGI sustainable innovation

Nuclear research and consultancy group

Ethnicon metsovion polytechnion

Institut Mines Telecom

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Universidad Politecnica de Madrid

Universidad de Sevilla

Sofia University St Kliment Ohridski

Uppsala Universitet

Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne

Paul Scherrer Institut

United Kingdom atomic energy authority

NPL management limited

The University of Edinburgh

European Nuclear Education Network

Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique

Nantes Université

Paul Scherrer Institut

Ecole Polytechnique de Lausanne

National Physical Laboratory

University of Edinburgh

Announcement: ND2025 in Madrid



An excellent conference for presenting your work!

<https://www.nd2025madrid.com/>

Abstract submission is open!

Spare slides

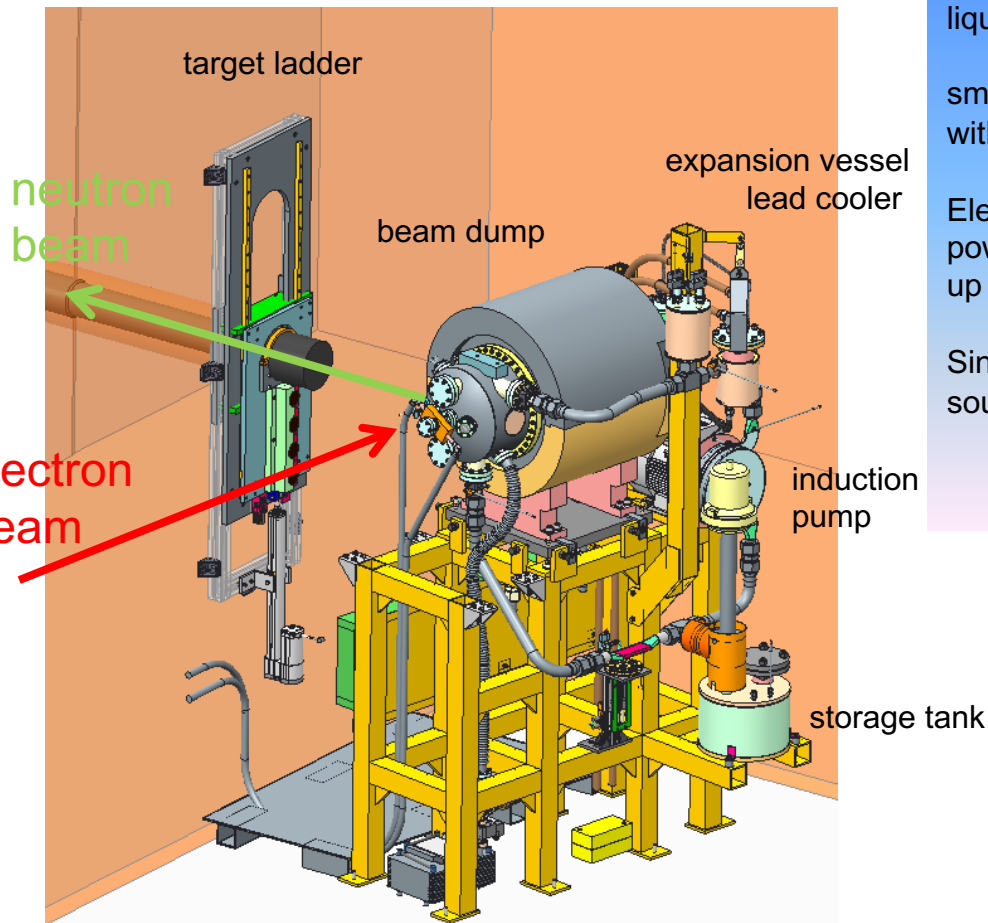
Nuclear Science for the Manhattan Project and Comparison to Today's ENDF Data

by M. B Chadwick

Nuclear Technology 207 (2021)

<https://doi.org/10.1080/00295450.2021.1901002>

Liquid Pb-loop



CAD design: Armin Winter

[E. Altstadt et al., Ann. Nucl. Energy 34 \(2007\) 36](#)

liquid lead circuit for heat transport

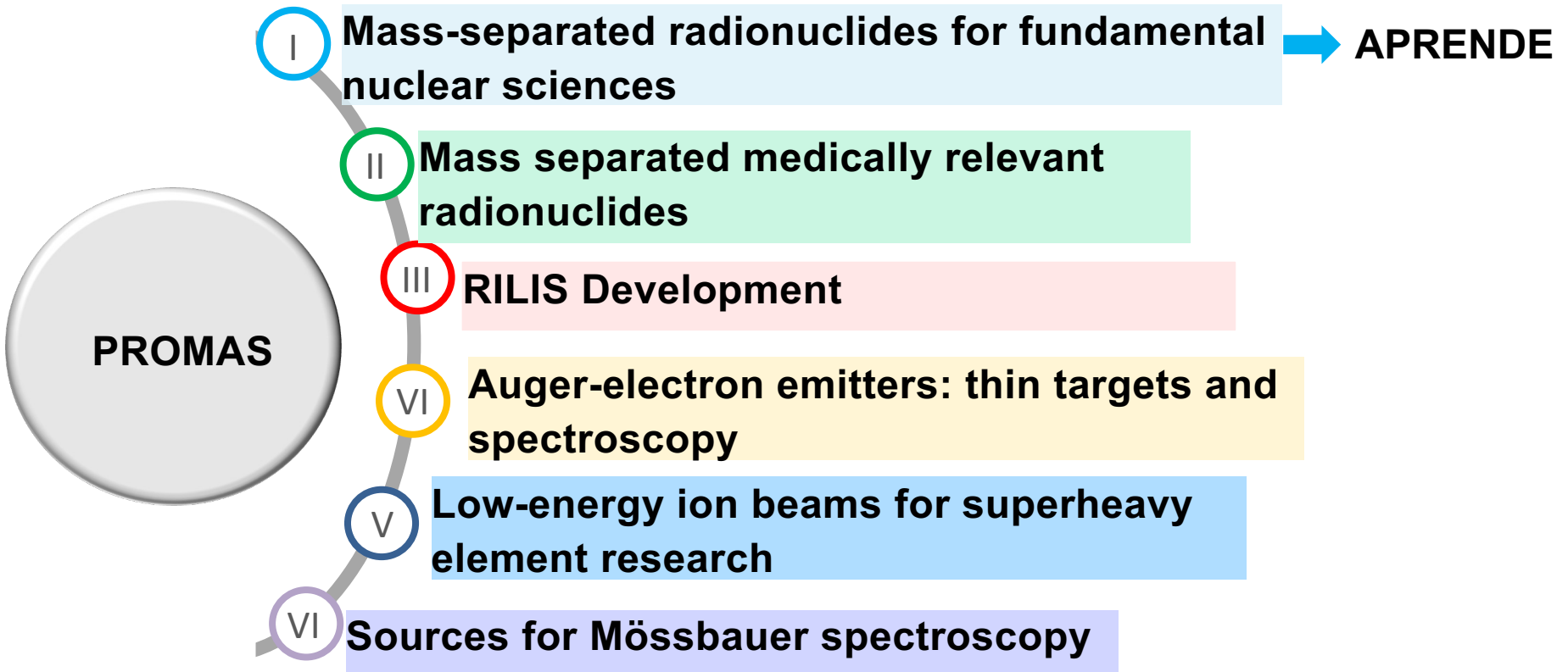
small Mo tube (11 mm diam.)
with liquid lead as neutron radiator

Electron beam power up to 40 kW
power density in the neutron radiator
up to 25 kW/cm³

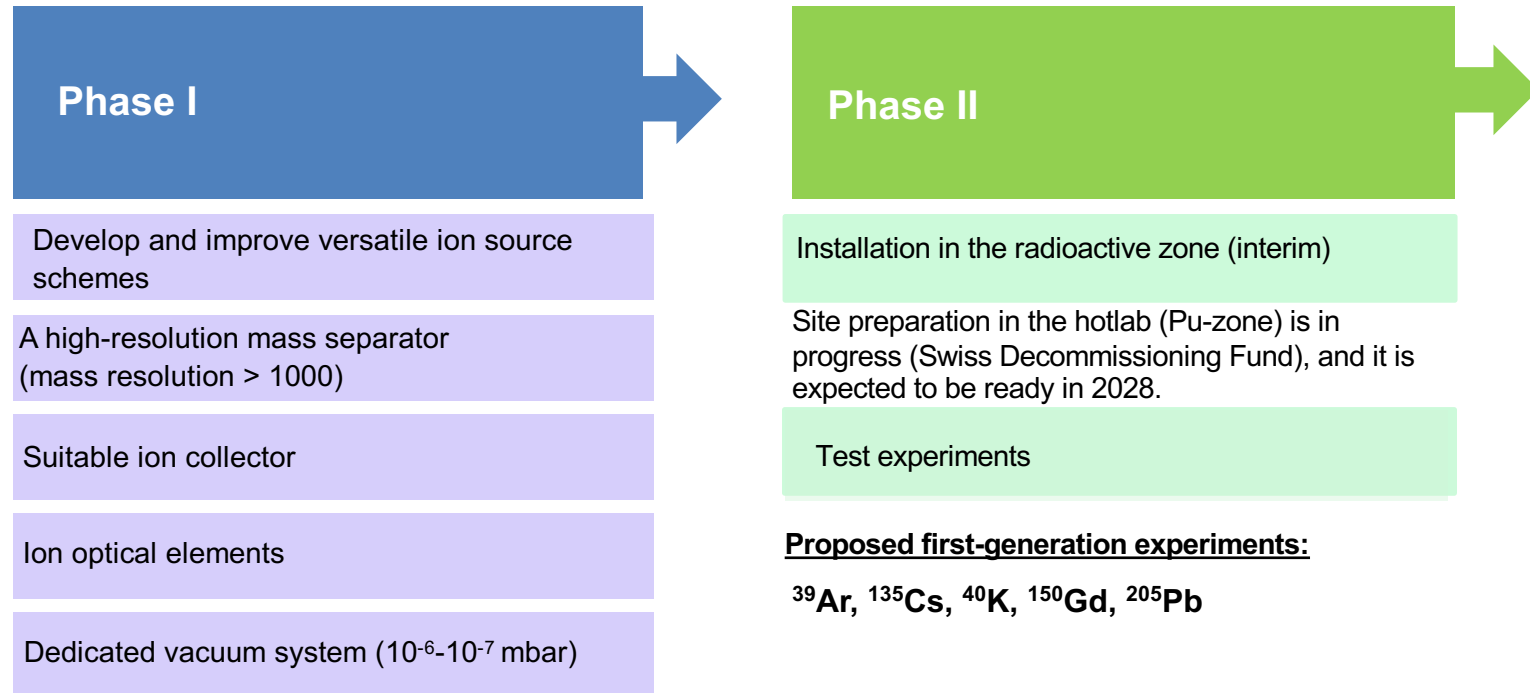
Single pulse to 400 kHz micropulse rate
source strength $6 \cdot 10^{11}$ n/s

***SRF injector for photo neutron production
variable repetition rate
bunch charge up to 300 pC
kicker for parallel operation of neutron tof
with high repetition rate experiments at ELBE***

The PROMAS program



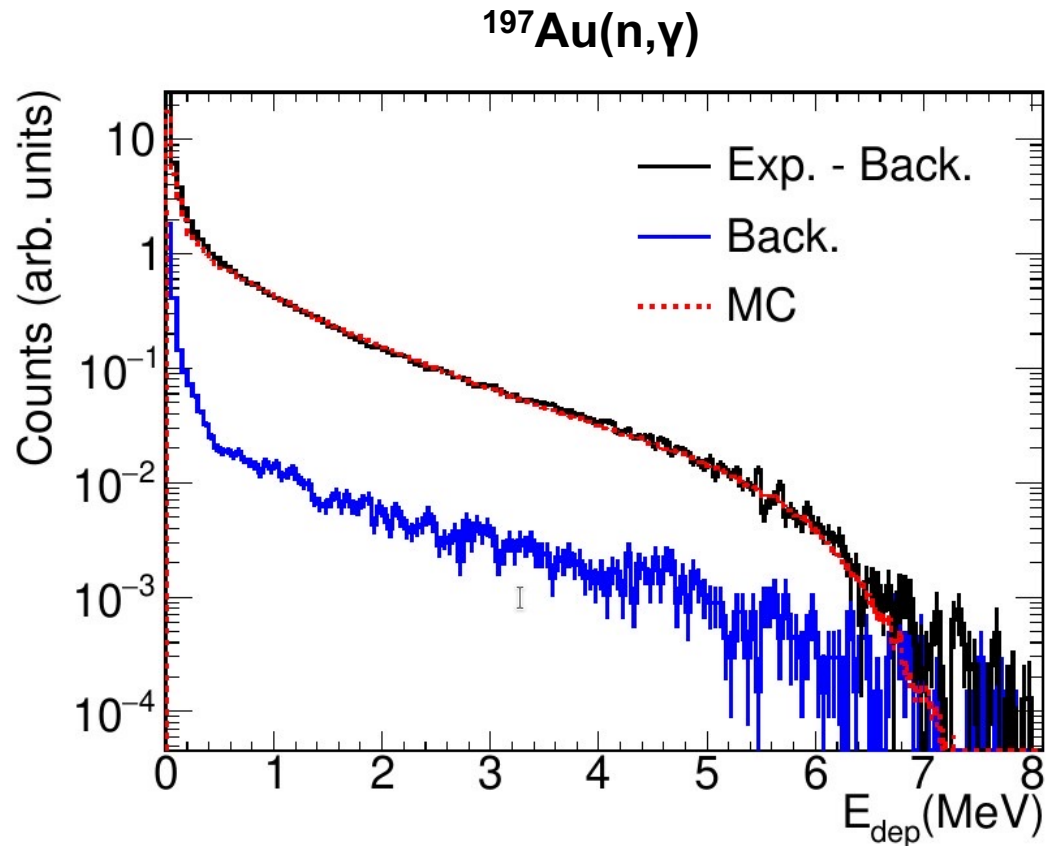
PROMAS project timeline



The infrastructure will be accessible to national and international academic research scientist.

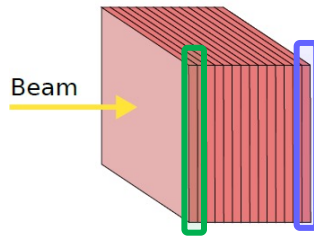
Characterisation of the sTED detectors

Experimental deposited energy spectra in one sTED module (Exp.-Back.) with background subtracted (Back.) and simulated with NuDEX+Geant4 (MC) for $^{197}\text{Au}(n,\gamma)$ cascades.

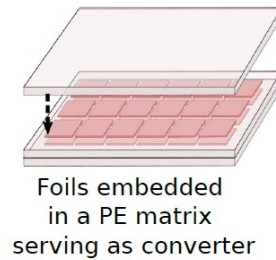


Multi-foil activation with PET scanner

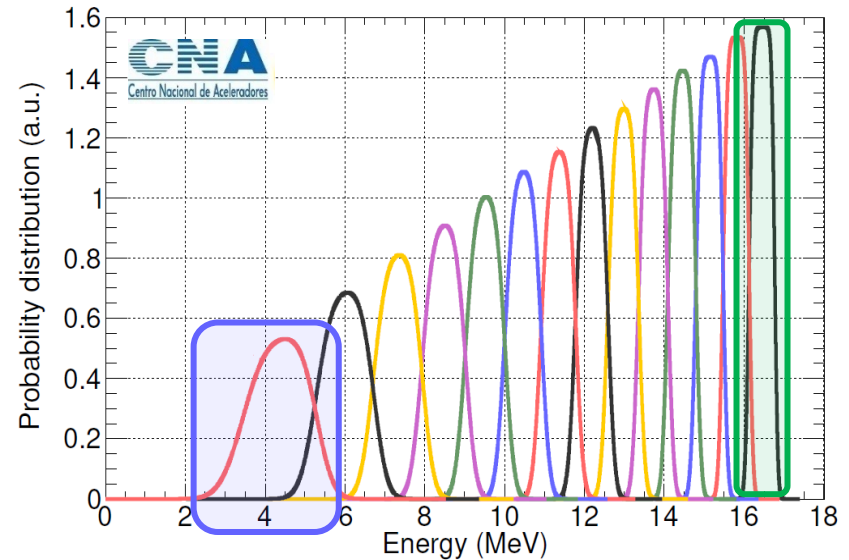
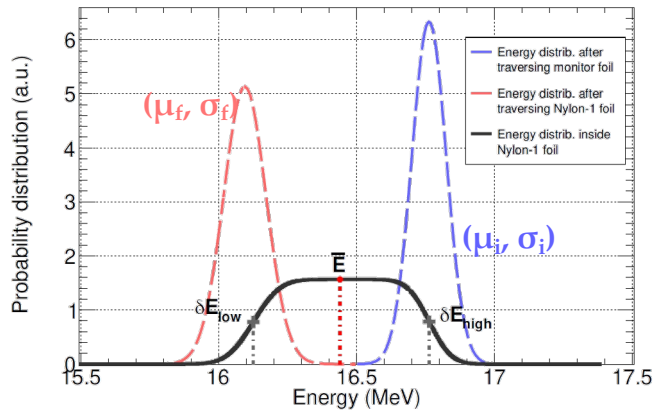
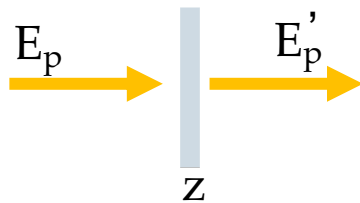
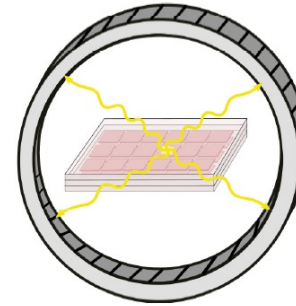
1. Single irradiation



2. Positioning

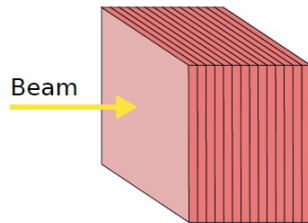


3. PET measurement

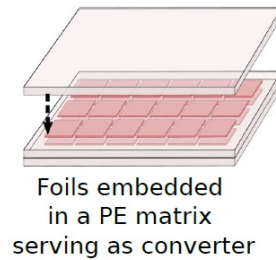


Multi-foil activation with PET scanner

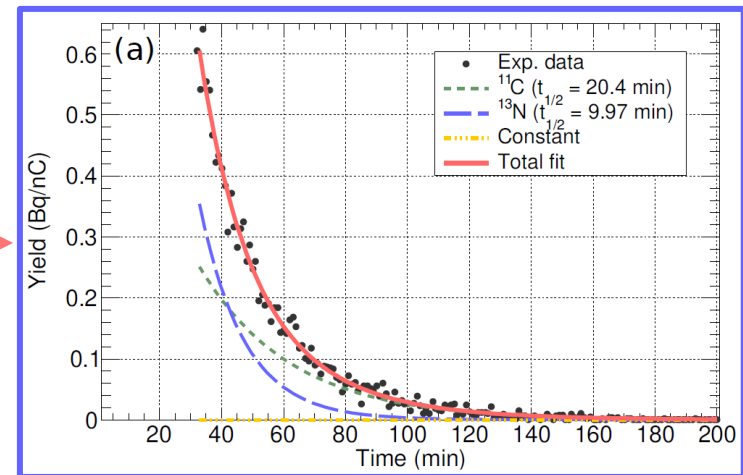
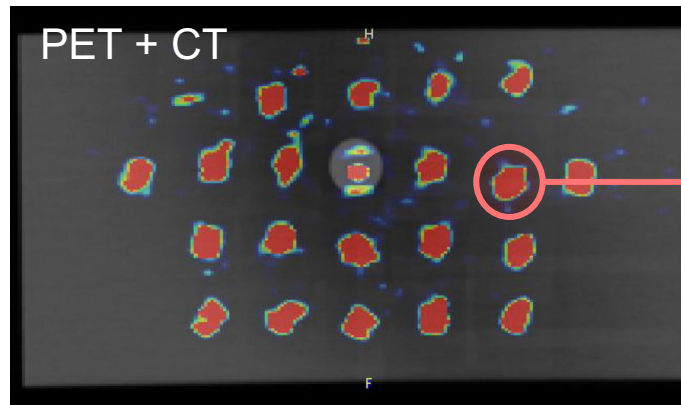
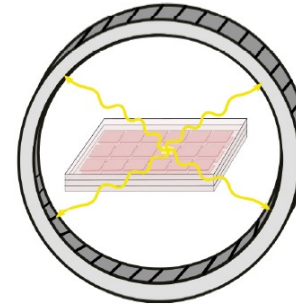
1. Single irradiation



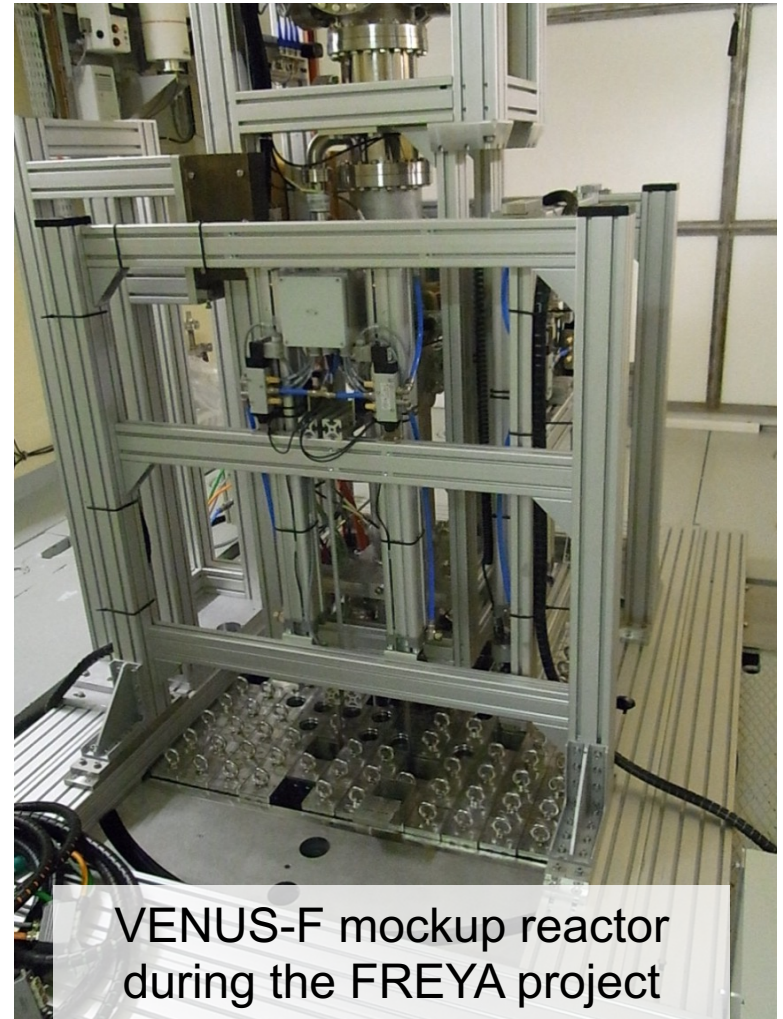
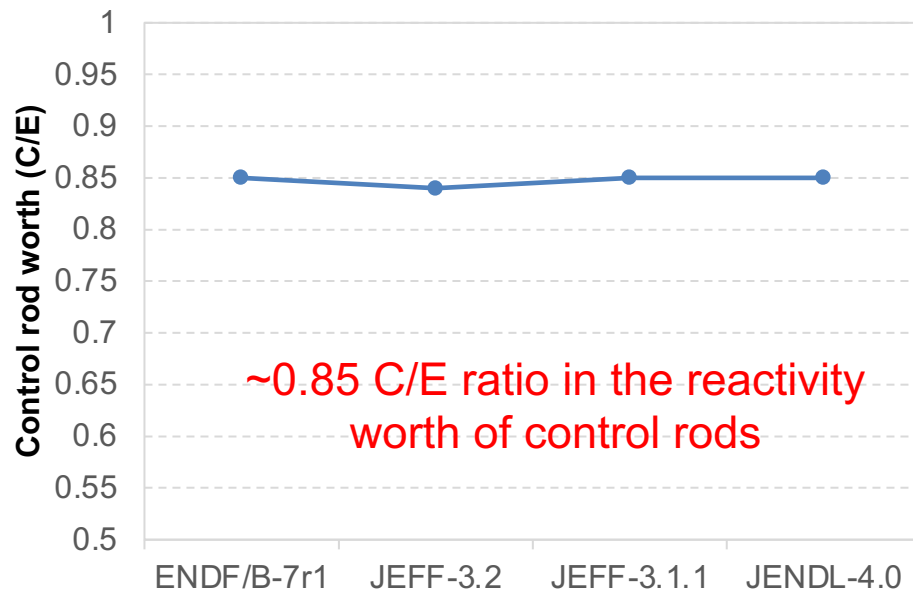
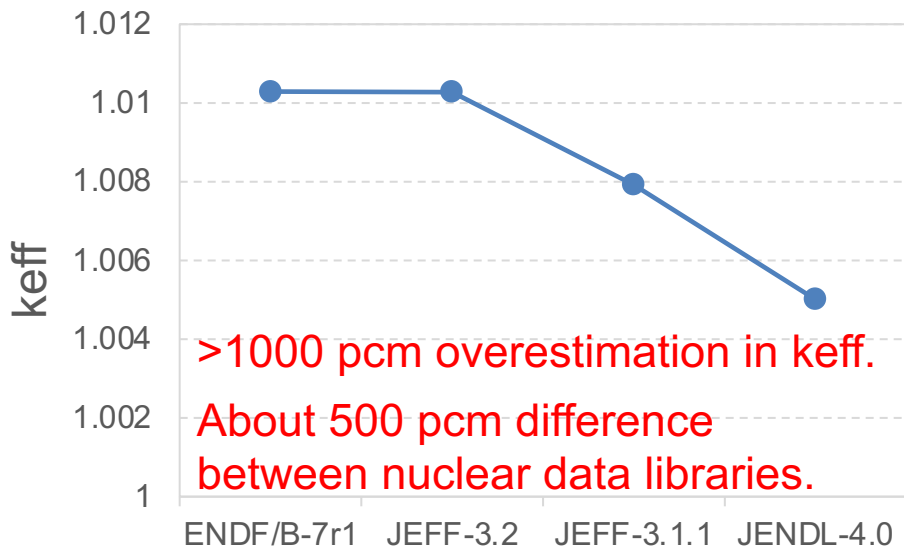
2. Positioning



3. PET measurement



Pb nuclear data



V. Bécares y D. Villamarín, *Resultados experimentales del proyecto FREYA dedicados al diseño y licenciamiento de MYRRHA/FASTEF.*