

# From the Core of Red Giant Stars to the Edge of the Tumors



César Domingo Pardo  
IFIC (CSIC-University of Valencia)

*"Anselm Kiefer (German artist) is fascinated by the night sky and its different interpretations throughout history, particularly those describing it as a divine, mysterious kingdom recalling our origins and fate."*

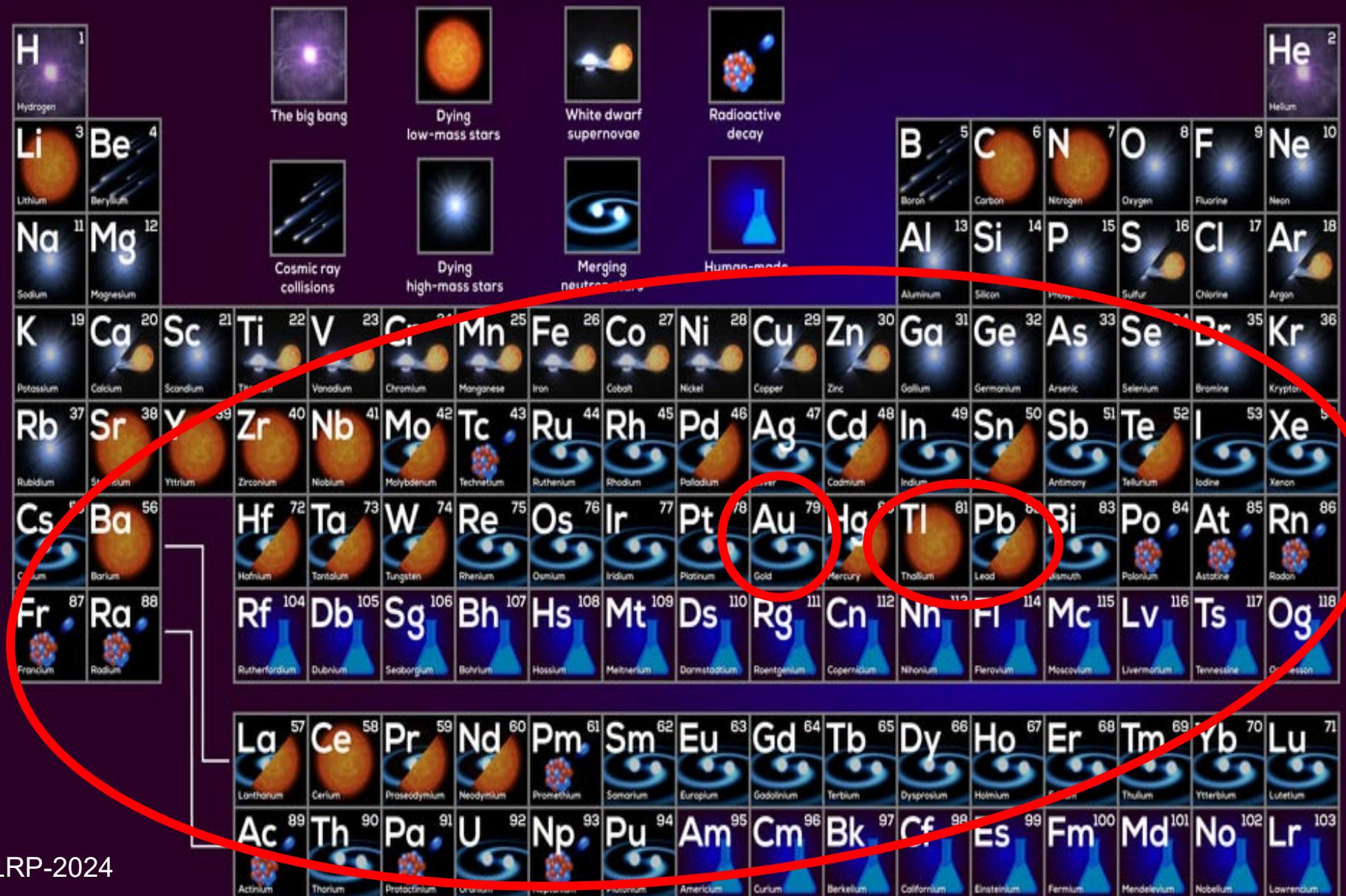
# Outline

- Heavy elements nucleosynthesis: How stars make gold (r-process) and lead (s-process)?
- Neutron-capture experiments at CERN n\_TOF: Red-Giant stars in the lab
- Enhancing detection sensitivity in neutron capture TOF experiments
- Beyond the limits: r-process neutron-reactions in the lab?
- From stars to tumors: ion-range & dose monitoring in hadron therapy
- Summary & Outlook



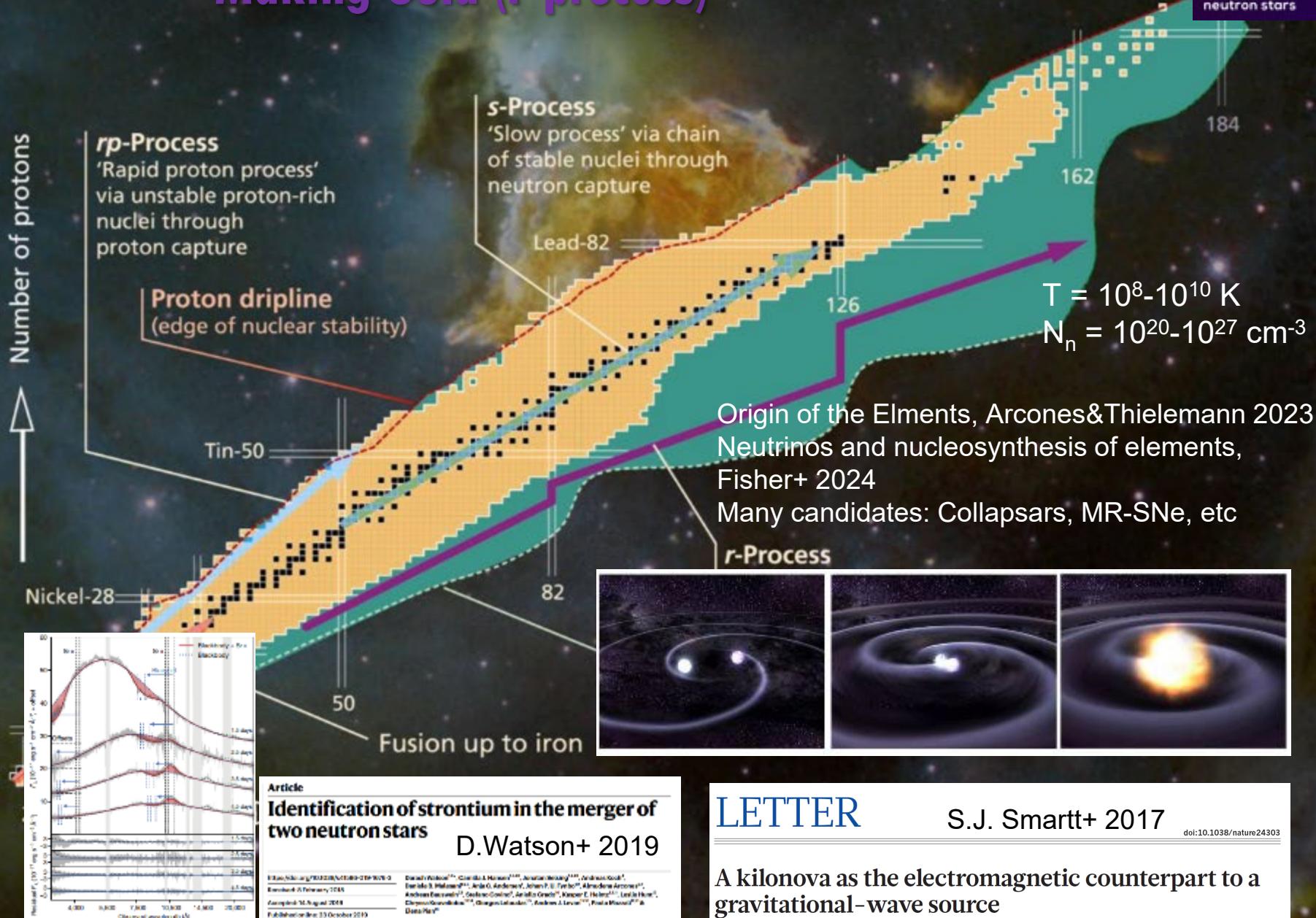
# The origin of the elements:

## Making Gold (r-process) and Lead (s-process)

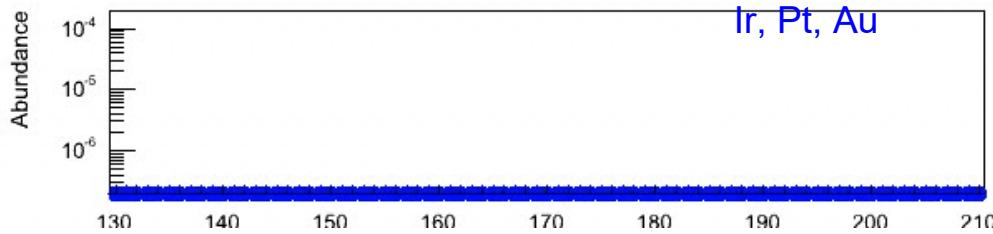
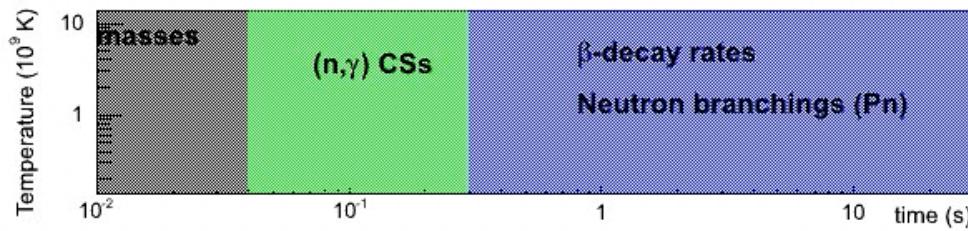
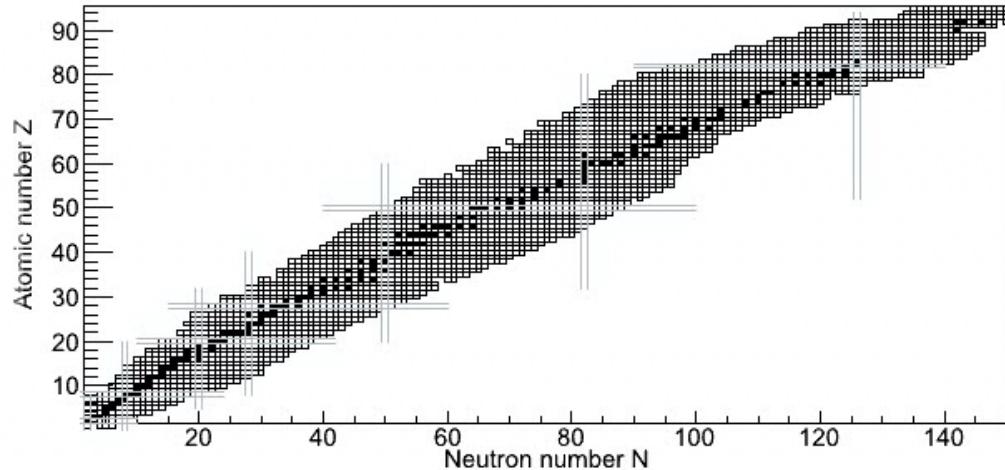




# Heavy Elements Nucleosynthesis: Making Gold (r-process)



# The r-process: all elements at once, in a few seconds



Most recent advanced NS-toolkit:

THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL SUPPLEMENT SERIES, 368:66 (29pp), 2023 October  
© 2023. The Author(s). Published by the American Astronomical Society.  
**OPEN ACCESS**

<https://doi.org/10.3847/1538-4365/ac034>

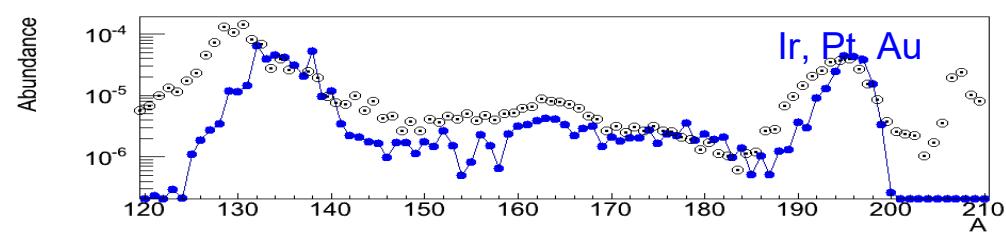
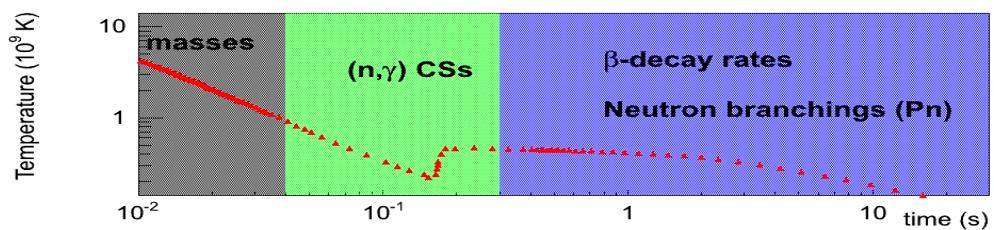
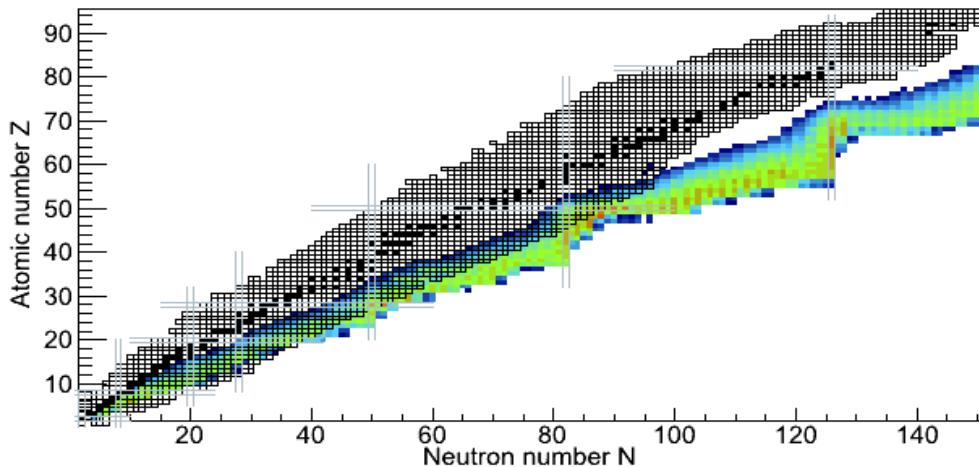


**The Nuclear Reaction Network WinNet**

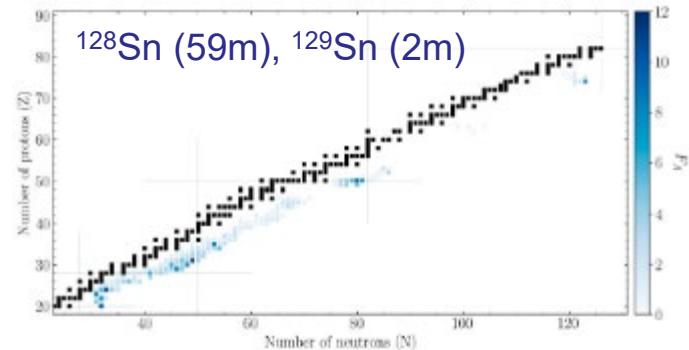
M. Reichert<sup>1</sup> , C. Wimeler<sup>2</sup>, O. Komšík<sup>1</sup> , A. Arcones<sup>1,3</sup> , J. Blas<sup>1</sup>, M. Eichler<sup>1</sup> , U. Frischknecht<sup>2</sup>, C. Fröhlich<sup>3</sup> , R. Hirai<sup>7,8</sup> , M. Jaeschke<sup>4</sup> , J. Kuska<sup>5</sup> , G. Martínez-Pinedo<sup>4,5</sup> , D. Martin<sup>4</sup> , D. Mazzal<sup>2</sup>, T. Rauscher<sup>1,6</sup> , and F.-K. Thielemann<sup>7,8</sup>

By CDP with ROOT, modSN-Thermotrajectory from AA+GMP'21,  
NucNet network code, B. Meyer et al., Clemson University  
FRDM+QRPA (P. Möller) + JINA Reaclib Database

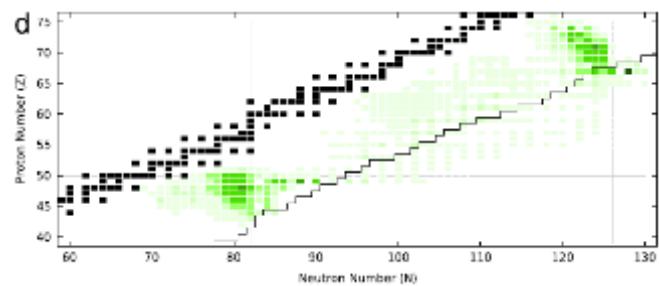
# The r-process: all elements at once, in a few seconds



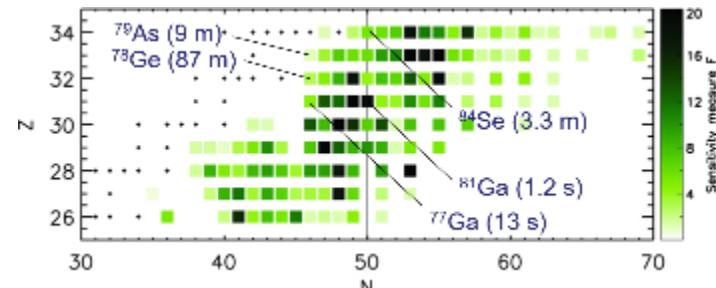
Important neutron-capture isotopes:



Vescovi+2022



Mumpower+2016

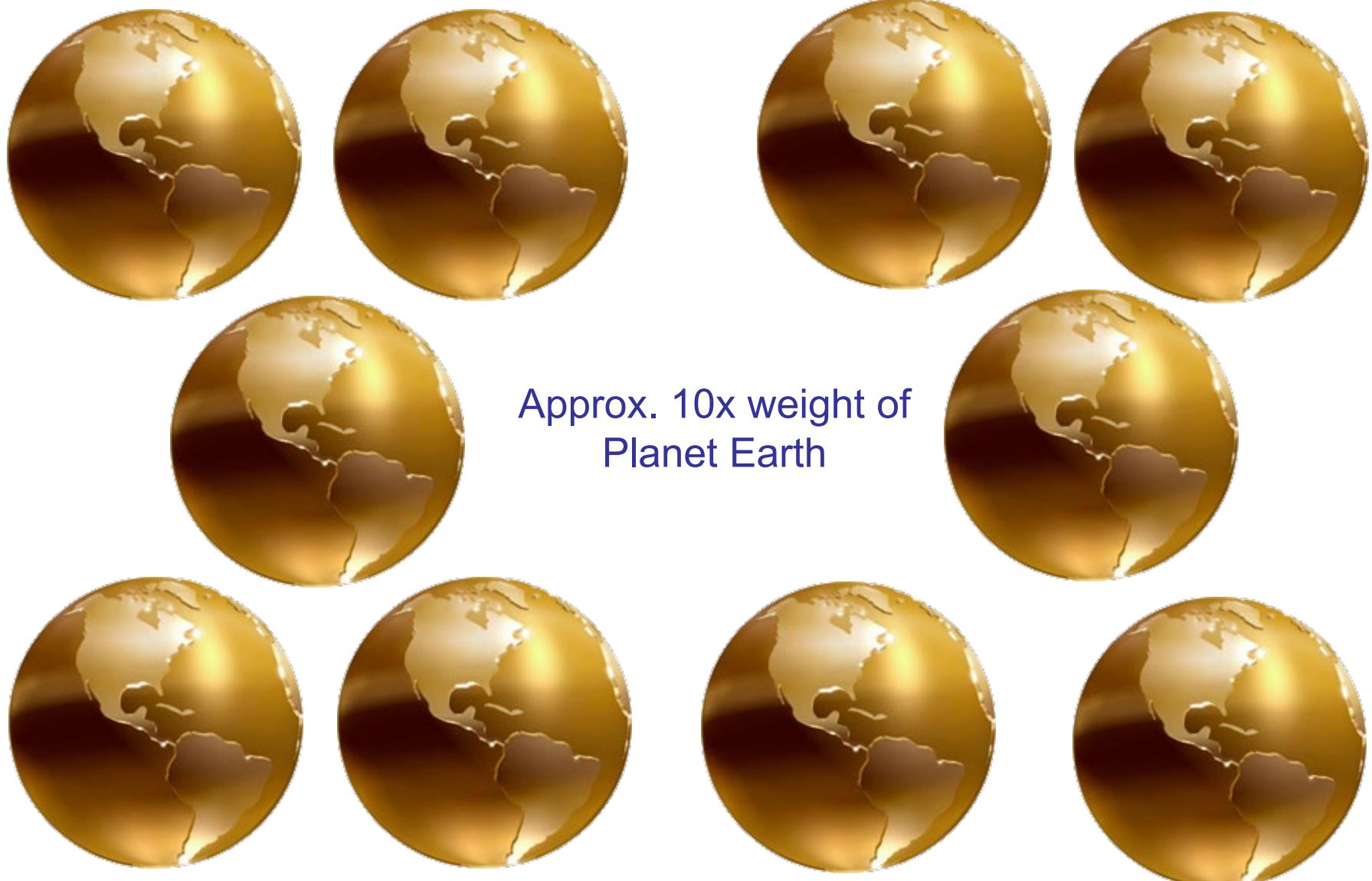


Surman+2014

# The r-process: How much gold is produced in one event?

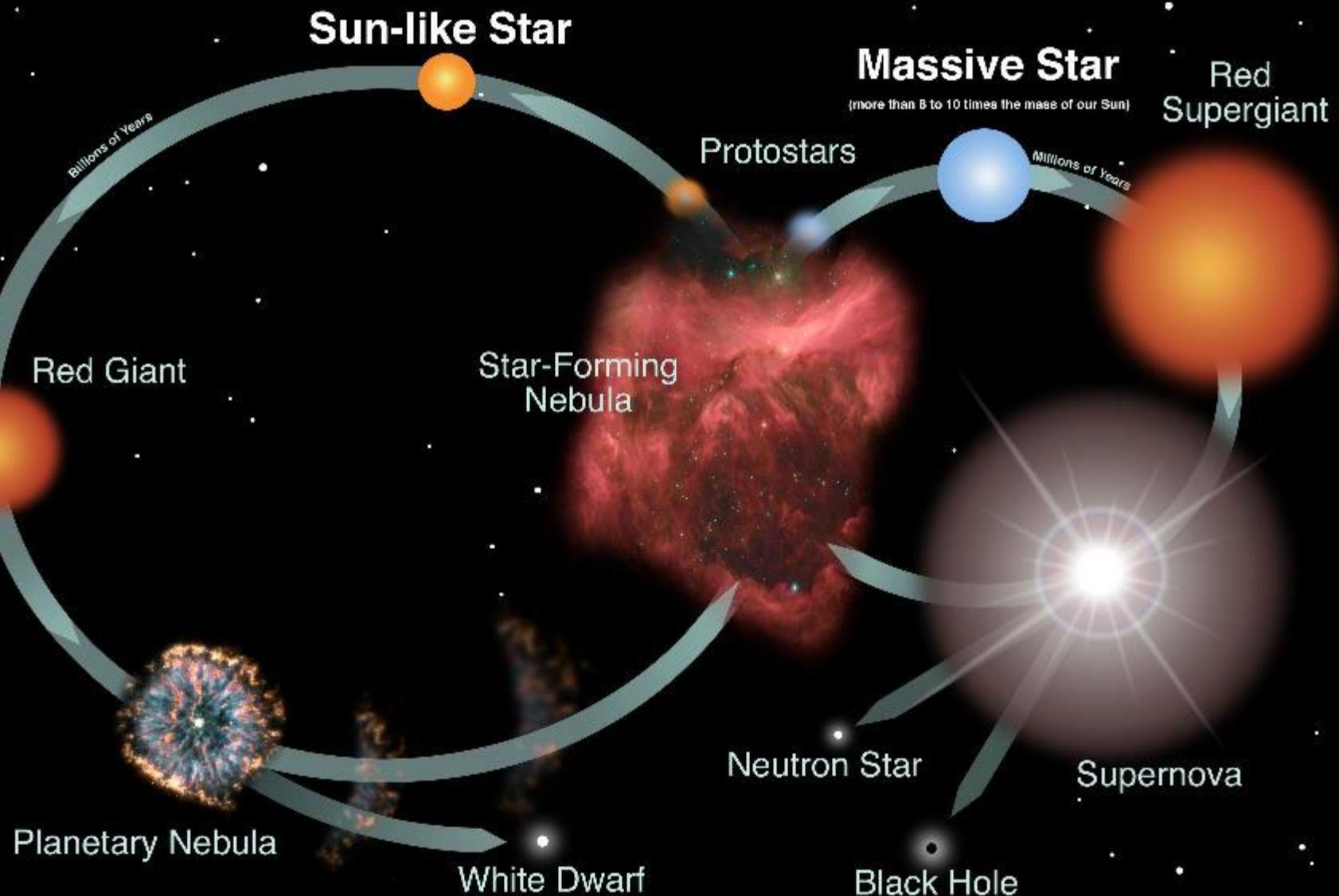


Merging  
neutron stars



Approx. 10x weight of  
Planet Earth

# The r-process: How much gold is produced in one event?

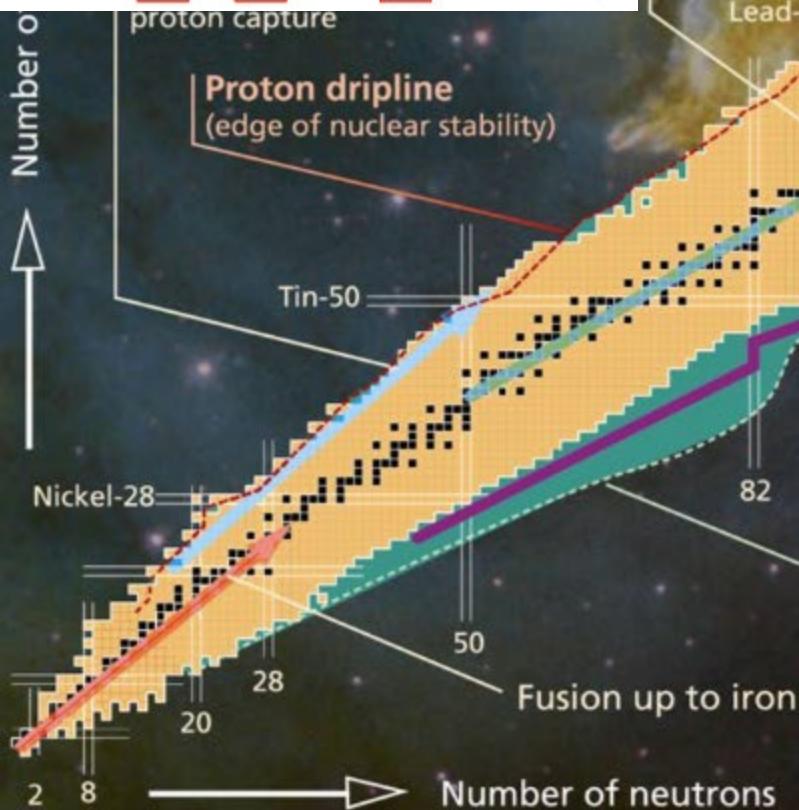
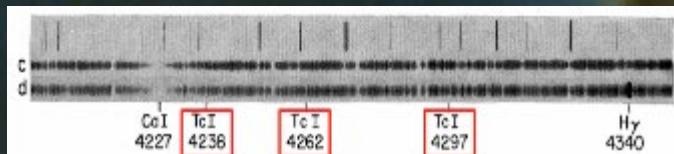


PAUL W. MEERILL

MOUNT WILSON AND PALOMAR OBSERVATORIES  
 CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON  
 CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY  
*Received February 27, 1952*

## ABSTRACT

This paper presents a brief survey of S-type spectra based largely on spectrograms with dispersion 9 Å/mm of eight stars obtained by L. S. Bowen with the 200-inch telescope. The intensities of several groups of absorption lines and bands and of the more important emission lines are compared in various stars. Radial velocities from both bright and dark lines and a supplementary list of absorption lines identified in the green region are included. The remarkable behavior of certain bright lines of V<sub>t</sub> I and of Cr I in the spectrum of R Cygni is described.



# REVIEWS OF MODERN PHYSICS

VOLUME 29, NUMBER 4

OCTOBER, 1957

**Synthesis of the Elements in Stars\***

E. MARGARET BURBIDGE, G. R. BURBIDGE, WILLIAM A. FOWLER, AND F. HOYLE

Kellogg Radiation Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, and  
 Mount Wilson and Palomar Observatories, Carnegie Institution of Washington,  
 California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California

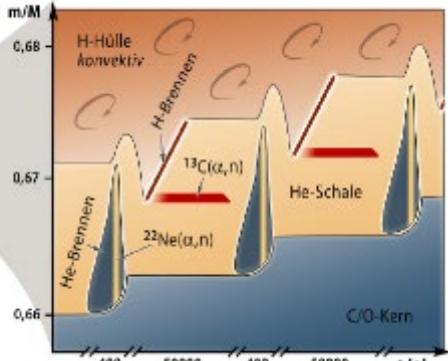
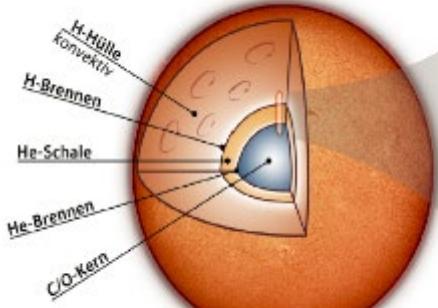
"It is the stars, The stars above us, govern our conditions";  
*(King Lear, Act IV, Scene 3)*

but perhaps

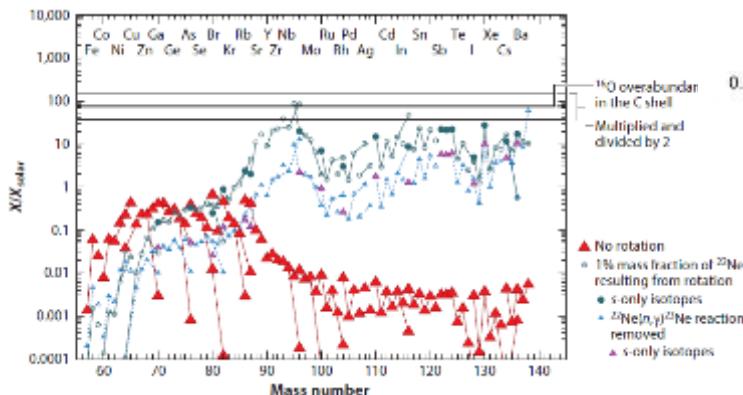
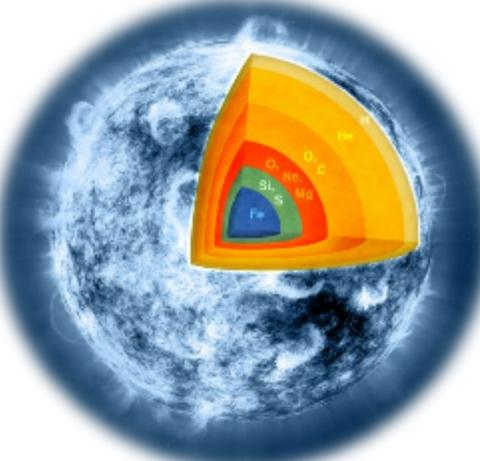
"The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, But in ourselves,"  
*(Julius Caesar, Act I, Scene 2)*



# Many open questions in s-process nucleosynthesis



- C13-pocket
- Rotation
- Metallicity
- Stellar mass
- Thermal gradients



## Rotating massive stars: From first stars to gamma ray bursts

André Maeder<sup>1</sup> and Georges Meynet<sup>1</sup>

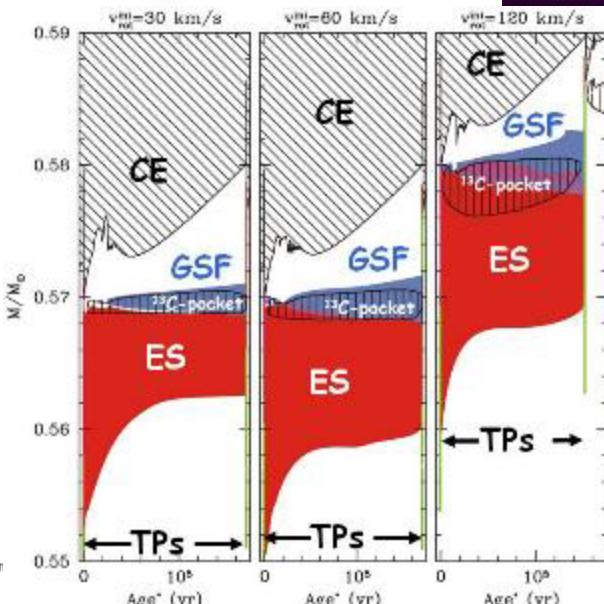
Geneva Observatory, University of Geneva, 51 chemin des Maillettes,  
CH-1290 Versoix, Switzerland

LETTER

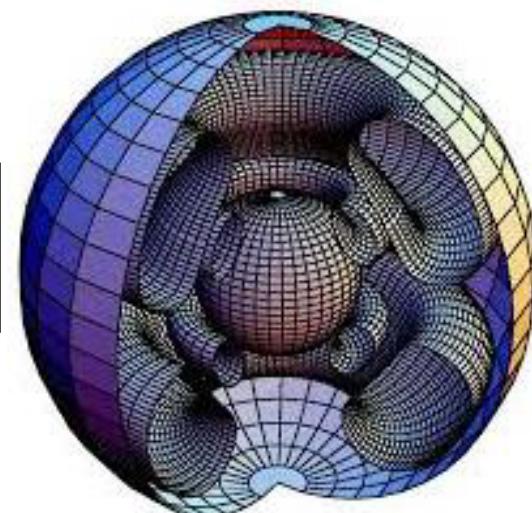
arXiv:1006.4693v1 [astro-ph]

## Imprints of fast-rotating massive stars in the Galactic Bulge

Olivier Chappell<sup>1,2</sup>, Ilse Kjeldsen<sup>2</sup>, Georges Meynet<sup>1</sup>, Raphael Rebolo<sup>3</sup>, Iván Ibar<sup>4</sup>, María Lára<sup>5</sup>,  
Tadej Lukačevič<sup>6</sup> & Alvaro Soria<sup>7</sup>

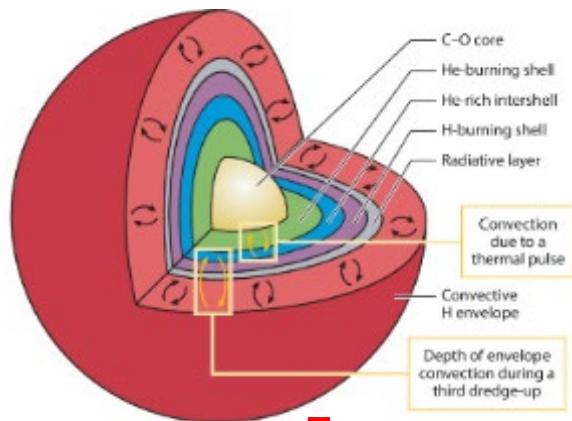


S. Cristallo+2014



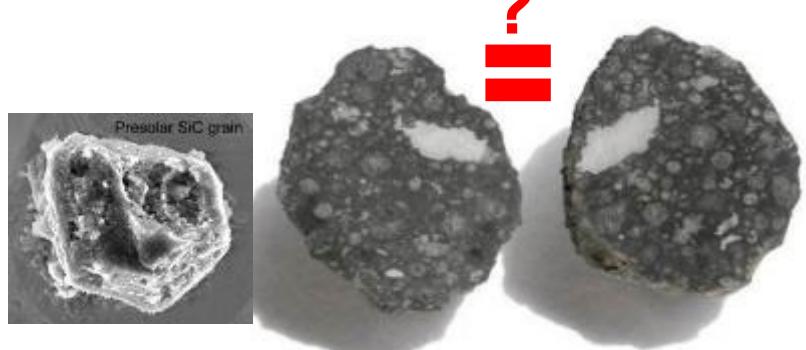
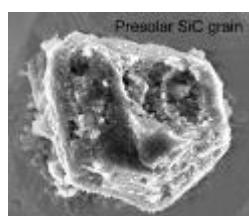
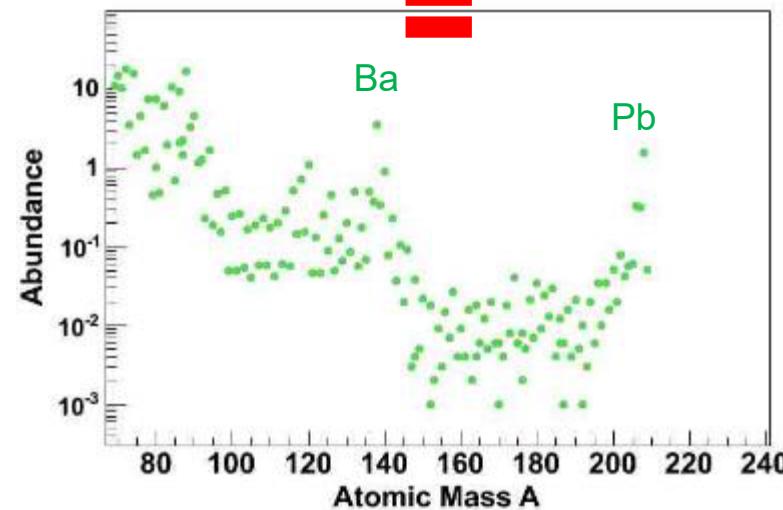
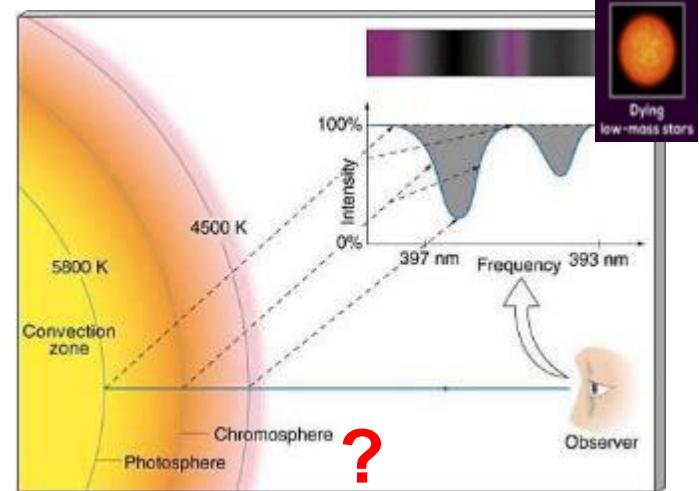
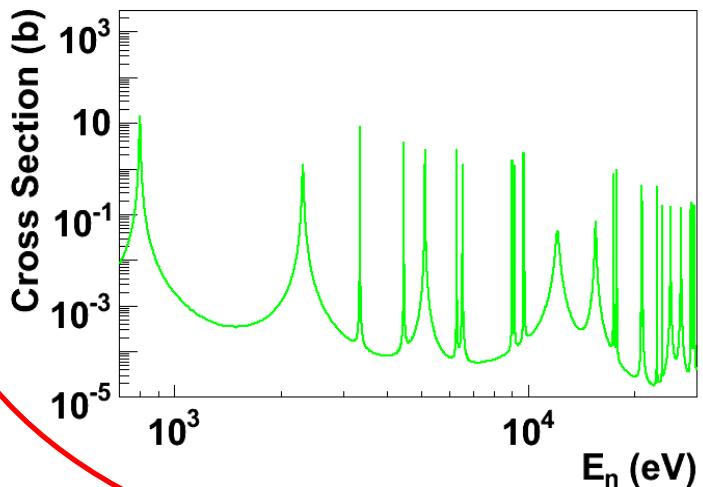
# How does it work?

Theory: Stellar model



Lugaro M. et al. 2023  
Annu. Rev. Nucl. Part. Sci. 2022:1-42

Experiment: neutron-capture cross sections



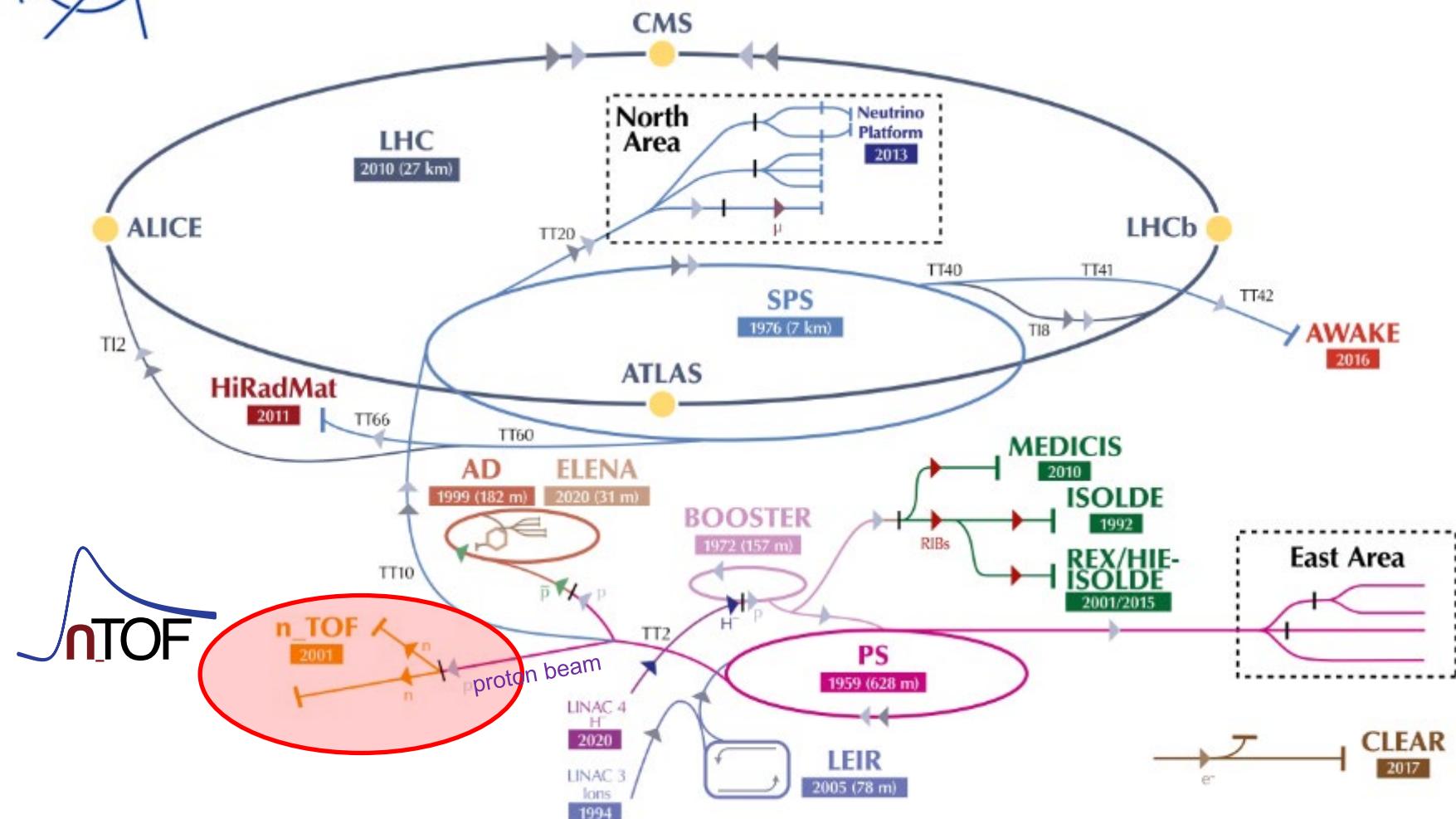
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# The CERN accelerator complex

## Complexe des accélérateurs du CERN

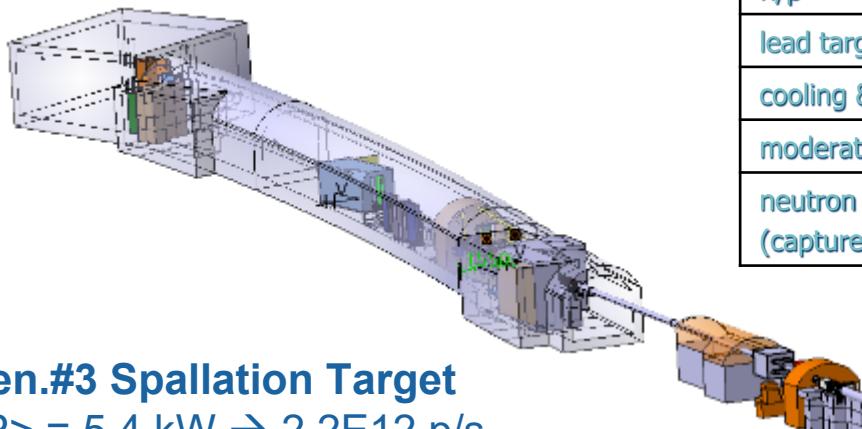


C. Rubbia et al., *A high resolution spallation driven facility at the CERN-PS to measure neutron cross sections in the interval from 1 eV to 250 MeV*, CERN/LHC/98-02(EET) 1998.

CERN n\_TOF Collaboration: 150 scientists, 41 institutions worldwide

n\_TOF + ISOLDE = 75% of PS proton Budget (!)

# The CERN n\_TOF facility: recreating stellar neutron reactions in the lab

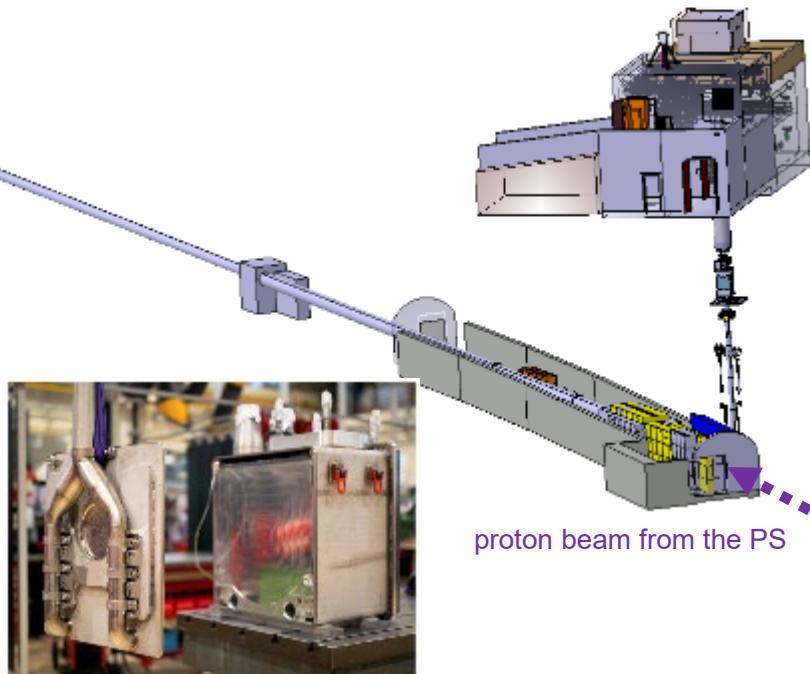
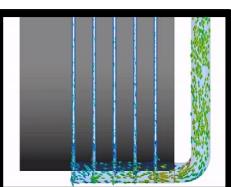
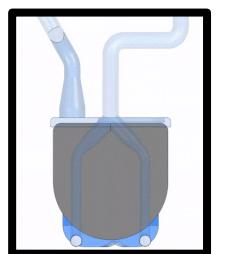
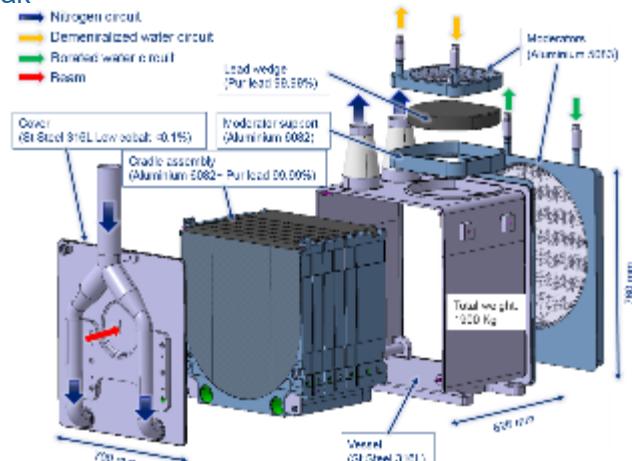


proton beam momentum	20 GeV/c
intensity (dedicated mode)	$8.5 \times 10^{12}$ protons/pulse
repetition frequency	1 pulse/1.2s
pulse width	6 ns (rms)
n/p	300
lead target dimensions	80x80x60 cm <sup>3</sup>
cooling & moderation material	N <sub>2</sub> & H <sub>2</sub> O (borated)
moderator thickness in the exit face	5 cm
neutron beam dimension in EAR-1 (capture mode)	2 cm (FWHM)

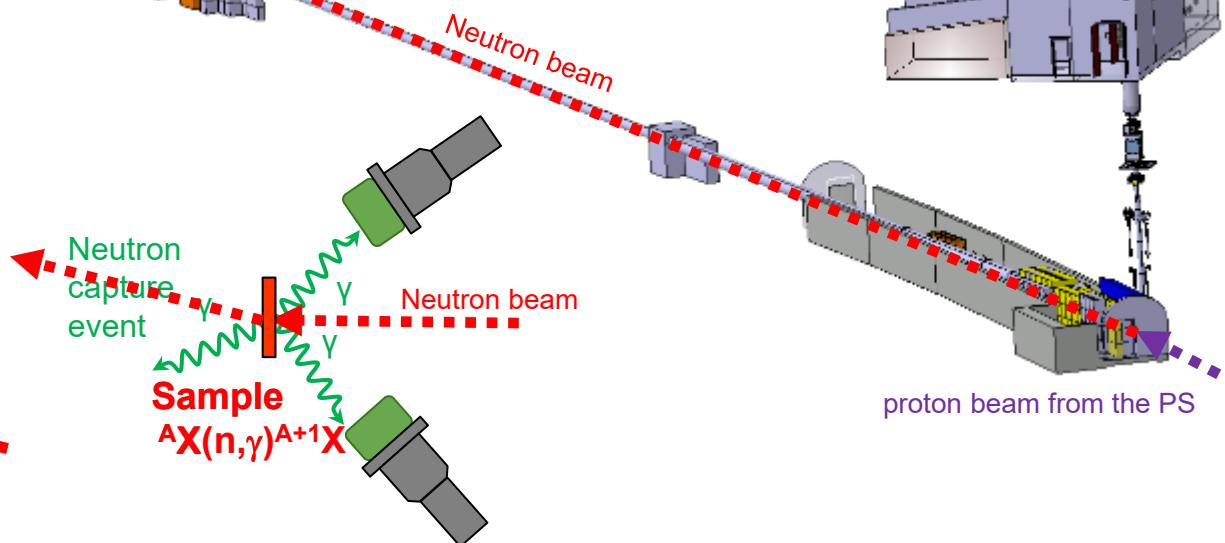
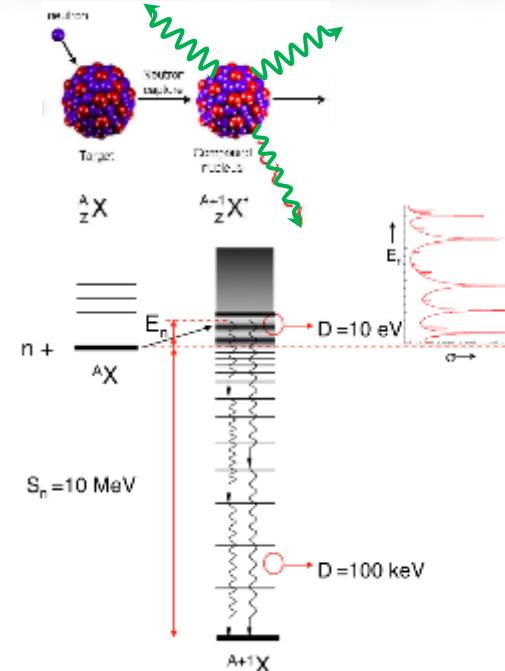
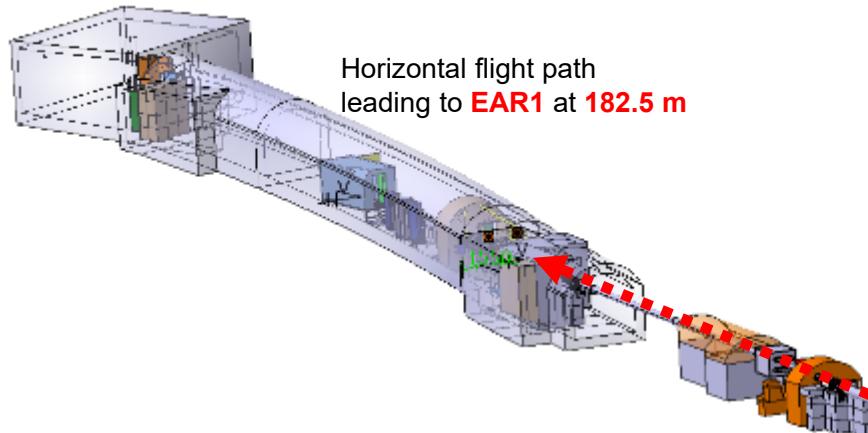
## Gen.#3 Spallation Target

$\langle P \rangle = 5.4 \text{ kW} \rightarrow 2.2 \times 10^{12} \text{ p/s}$

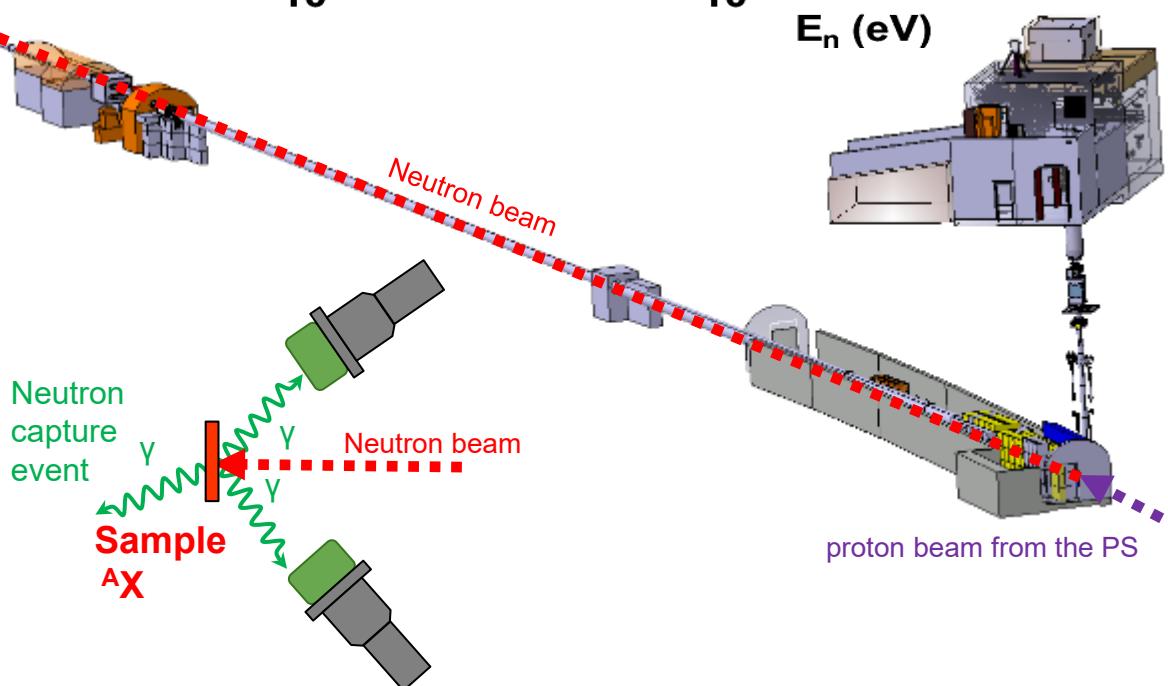
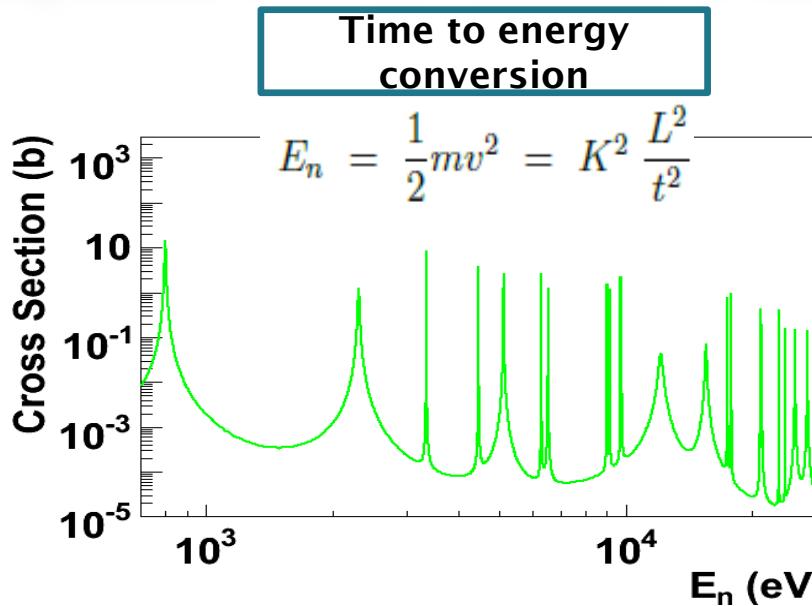
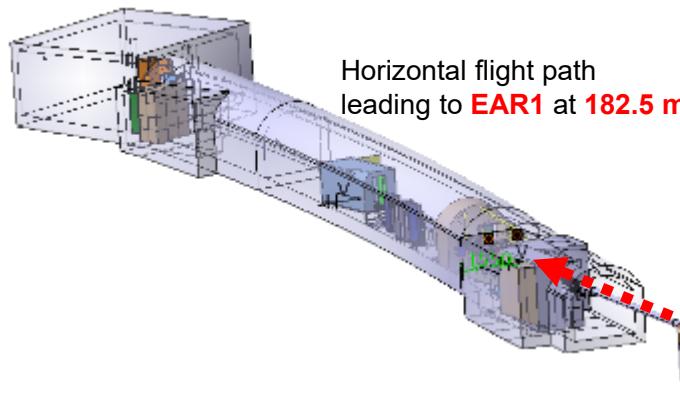
P<sub>peak</sub> = 1.6 TW



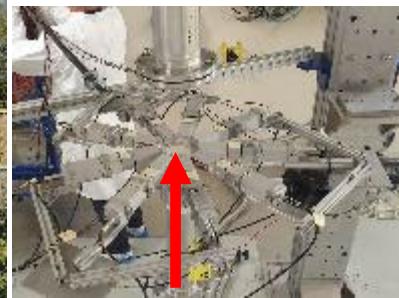
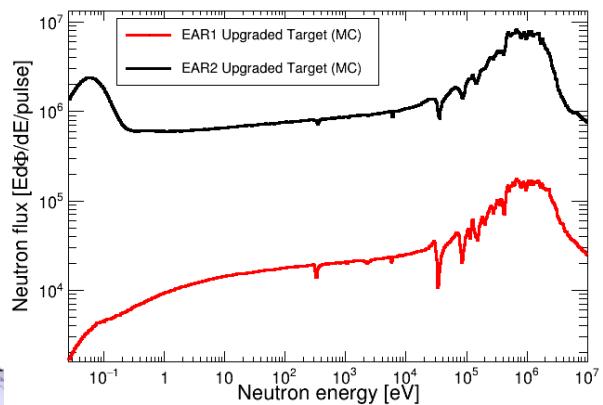
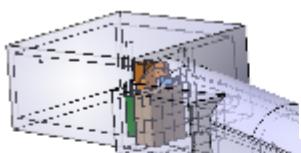
# The CERN n\_TOF facility: recreating stellar neutron reactions in the lab



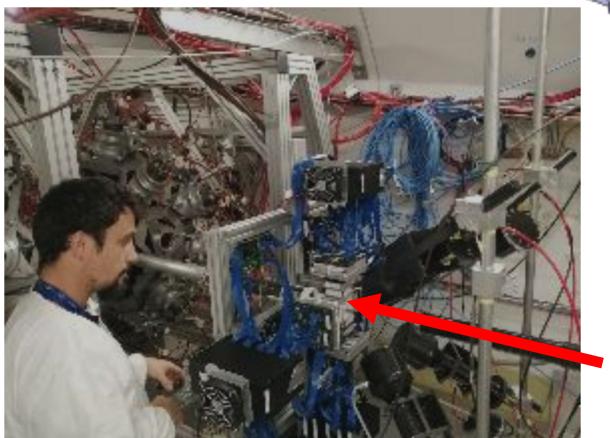
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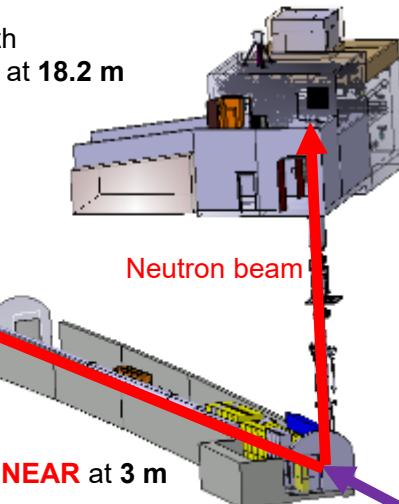
# The CERN n\_TOF facility: recreating stellar neutron reactions in the lab



Horizontal flight path  
leading to **EAR1** at 182.5 m

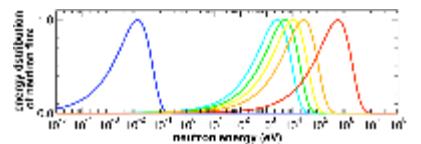


Vertical flight path  
leading to **EAR2** at 18.2 m



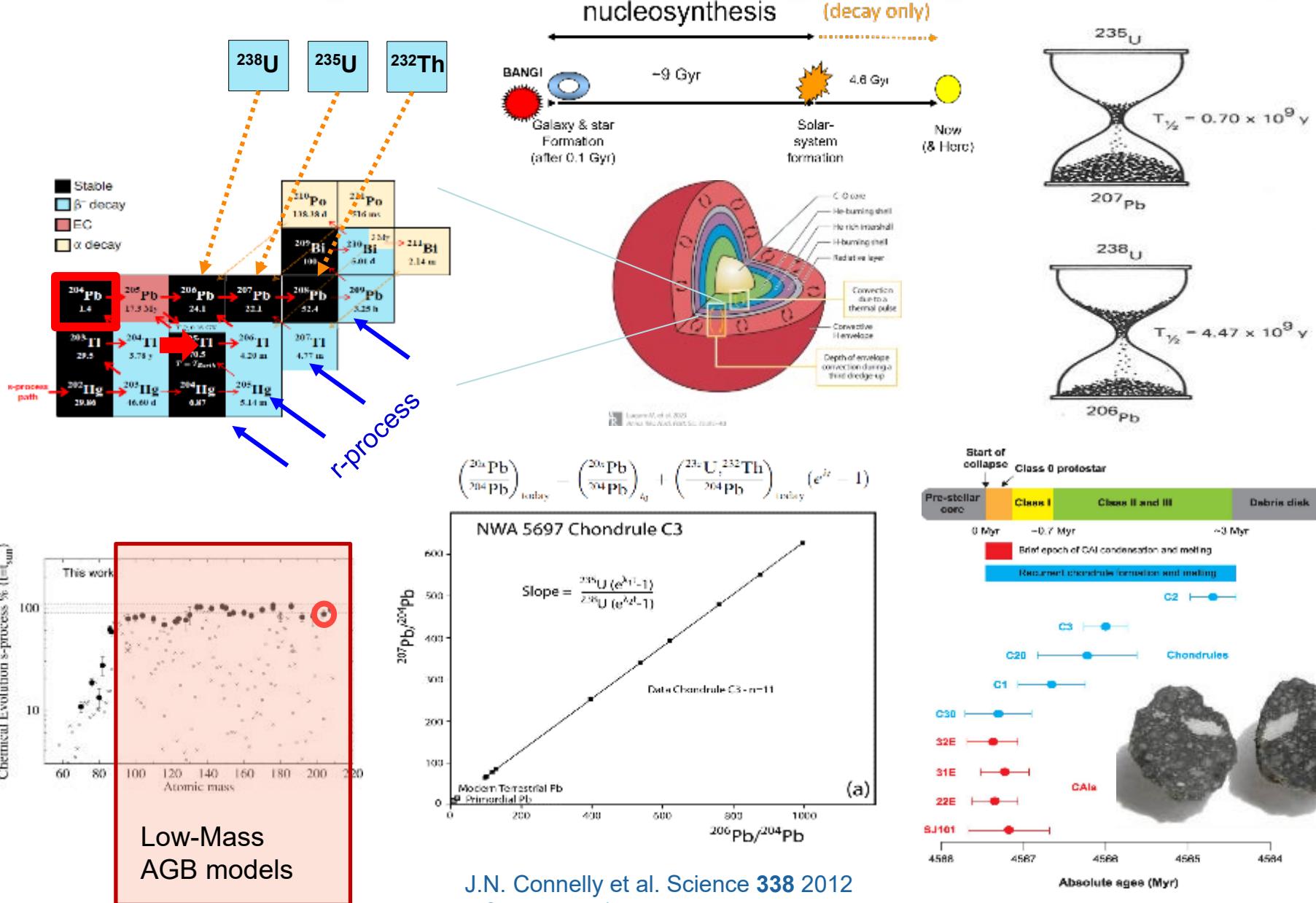
Neutron beam

NEAR at 3 m  
proton beam from the PS

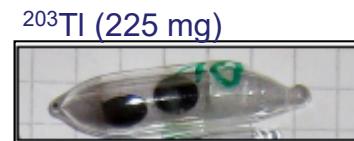
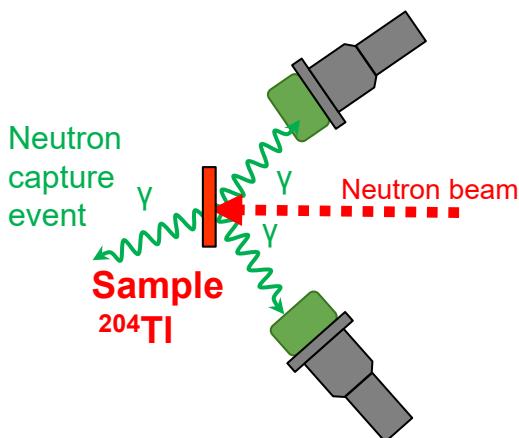
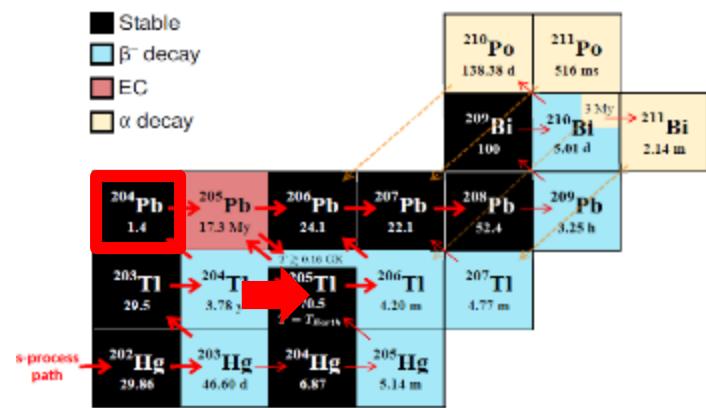




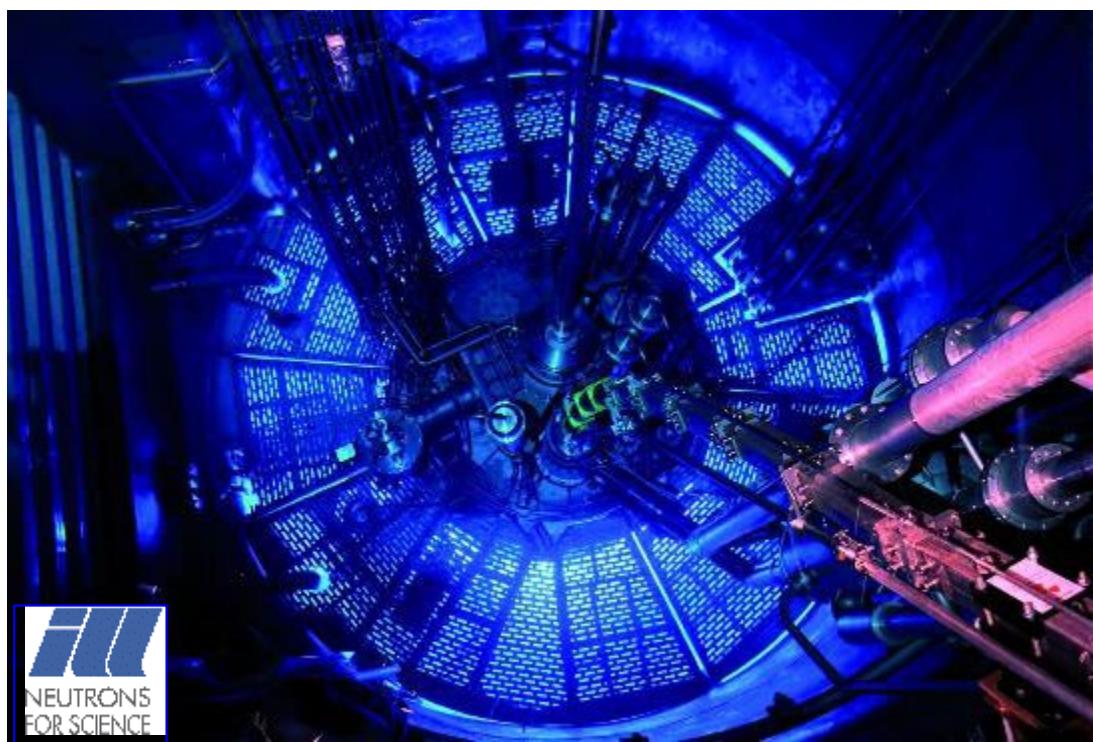
# $^{204}\text{Pb}$ : Calibrating AGB models & “defining” the age of our Solar System



# $^{204}\text{Pb}$ abundance determined by $^{204}\text{Tl}(n,\gamma)$

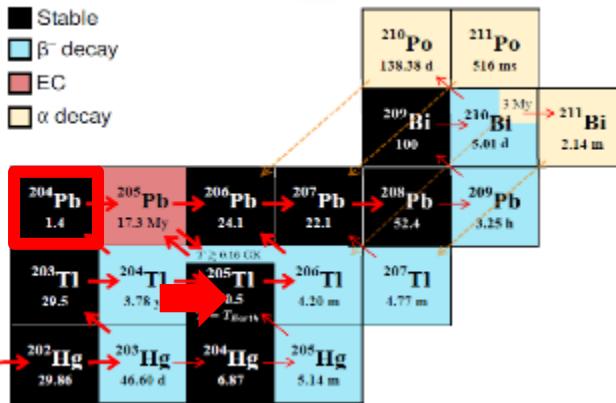


$^{203}\text{Tl}$  (216 mg)  
+  
 $^{204}\text{Tl}$  (9 mg)

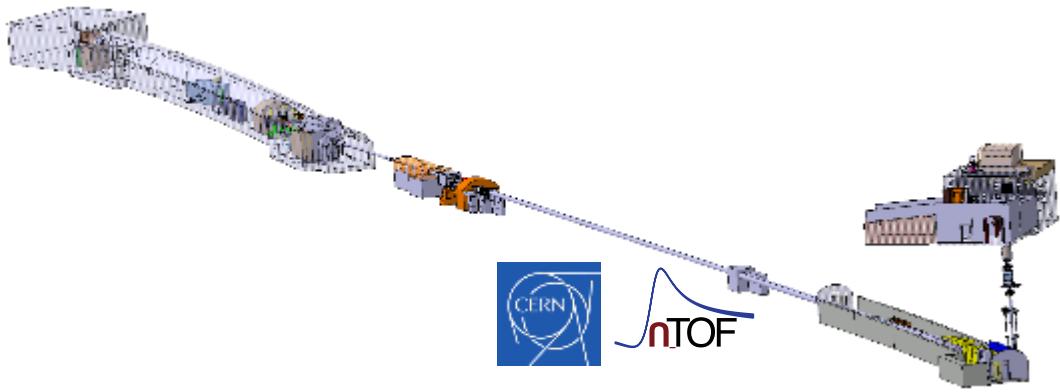
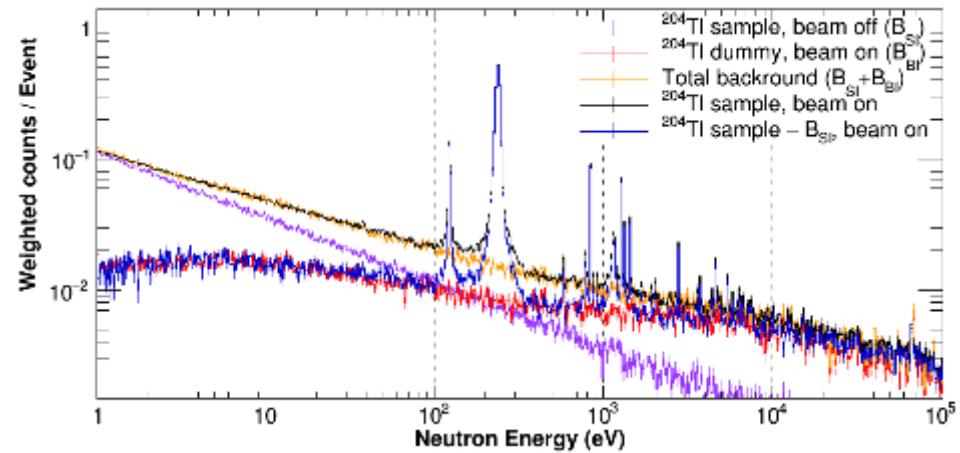
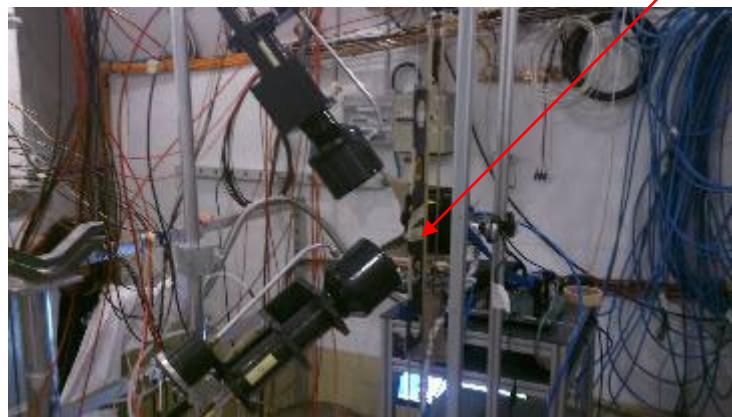


Mimicking stellar nucleosynthesis with a reactor to produce  $^{204}\text{Tl}$

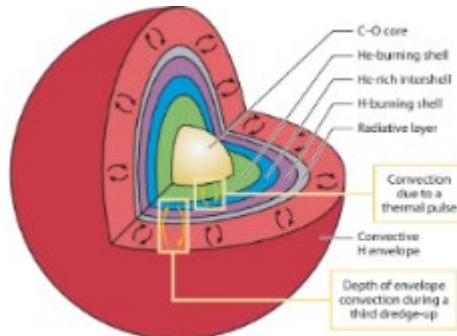
# $^{204}\text{TI}$ (3.78y) neutron-capture at CERN n\_TOF



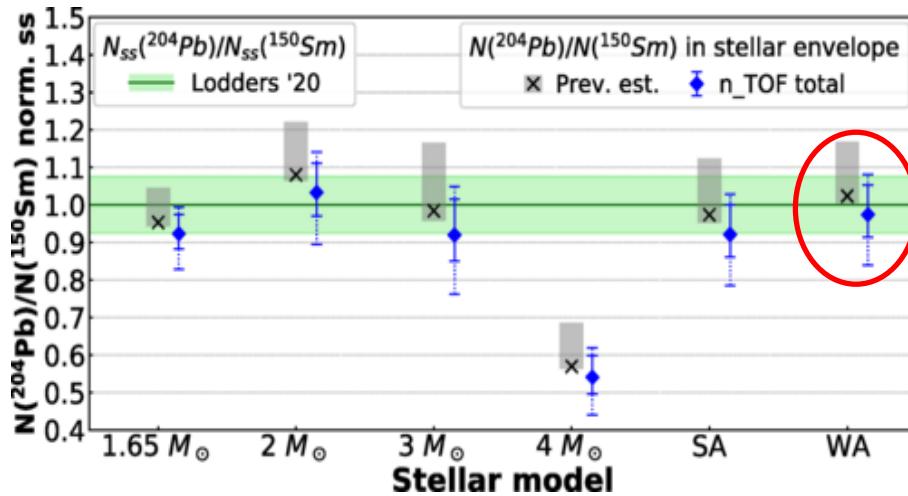
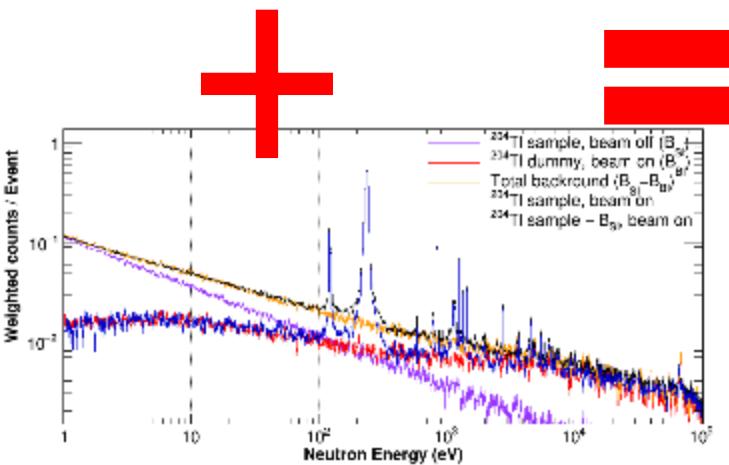
$^{203}\text{TI}$  (216 mg)  
+  
 $^{204}\text{TI}$  (9 mg)



# $^{204}\text{Pb}$ abundance determined by $^{204}\text{Tl}(n,\gamma)$



Lugenski, et al. 2021  
Annu. Rev. Nucl. Part. Sci. 72:311–48

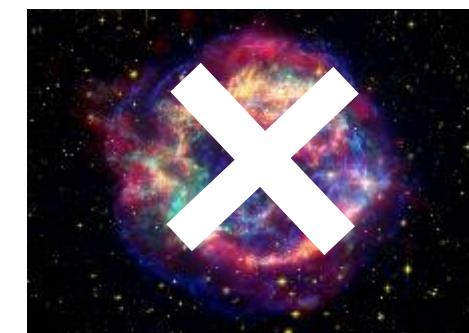


NUGRID  
MESA

The uncertainty arising from the  $^{204}\text{Tl}(n,\gamma)$  cross section on the *s*-process abundance of  $^{204}\text{Pb}$  has been reduced from  $\sim 30\%$  down to  $+8\%/-6\%$ , and the *s*-process calculations are in agreement with K. Lodders in 2021.

$^{204}\text{Pb}$  abundance of pure *s*-process origin:

- No need for fractionation mechanisms in early Solar system
- No need for invoking gamma-process contributions



# The $^{79}\text{Se}(n,\gamma)$ stellar thermometer

letters to nature

Nature 332, 700 - 702 (21 April 1998); doi:10.1038/332700a0

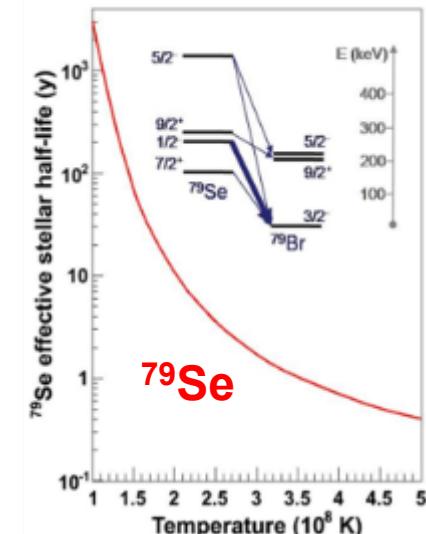


S-process krypton of variable isotopic composition in the Murchison meteorite

ULRICH OTT, FRIEDRICH BEGEMANN, JORG MANNING & SAMUEL EPSTEIN



s-only



NEUTRONS FOR SCIENCE



2.8 g of  $^{208}\text{Pb}$   
1.0 g of  $^{78}\text{Se}$

3 mg of  $^{79}\text{Se}$   
1.6 MBq of  $^{60}\text{Co}$   
5 MBq of  $^{75}\text{Se}$

PAUL SCHERRER INSTITUT



Nuclear Inst. and Methods in Physics Research, A 4139 (1999) 166-165



Nuclear Inst. and Methods in Physics Research, A

Journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/nima



Preparation of PbSe targets for  $^{79}\text{Se}$  neutron capture cross section studies

Natalia M. Chiriac\*, Emilio Andrea Mengoni\*, Iván Basilio\*, Javier Balibrea-Llanos\*,  
César Domínguez-Pardo\*, Ulli Küster\*, Jorge Lereñegui-Marcu\*, Mario Viechtbauer\*,  
Ivan Zadržniković\*, Dorothea Schumann\*, the  $n,\gamma$  collaboration

\*Instituto de Física Corpuscular - Centro Superior de Investigaciones Científicas-Servicio de Materiales, Spain

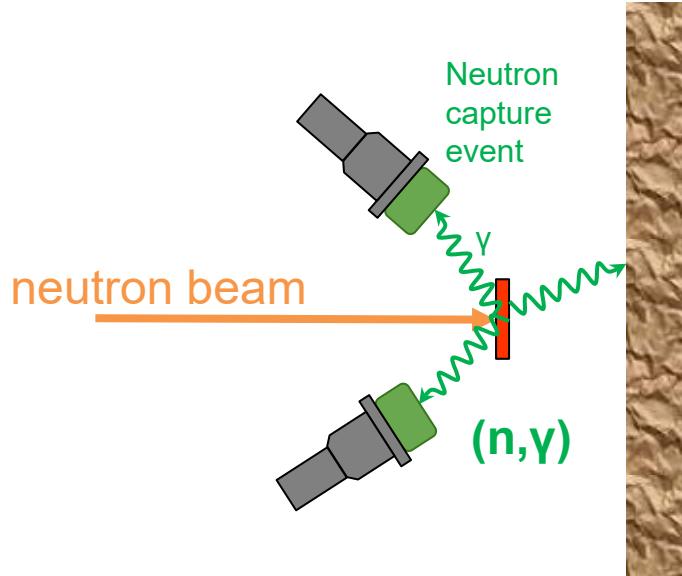
\*\*Institut Laue-Langevin, France

\*\*\*Forschungszentrum Jülich, Germany

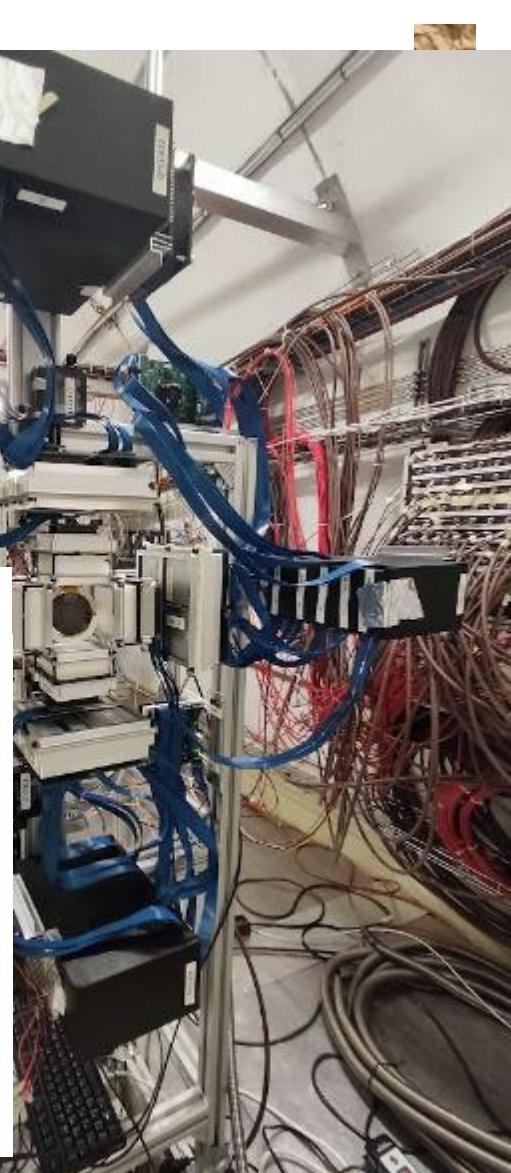
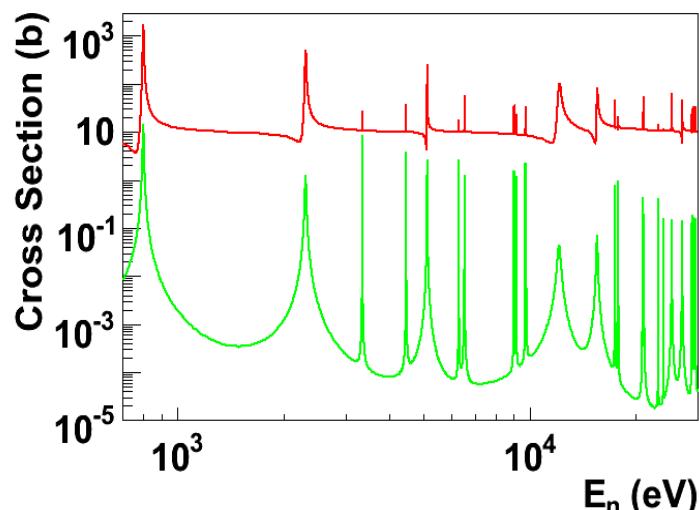
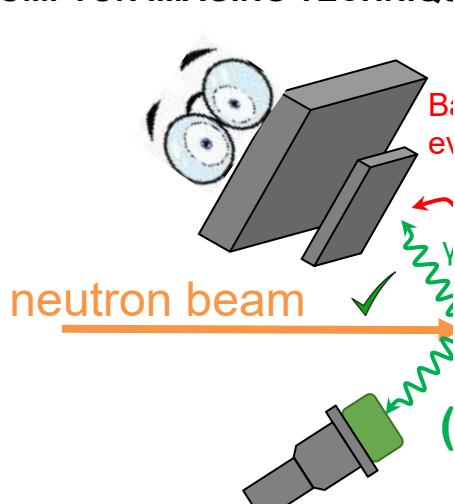
\*\*\*\*Alpen-Adria-Technische Universität Klagenfurt, Austria



# New techniques for enhanced sensitivity in $(n,\gamma)$ cross-section experiments



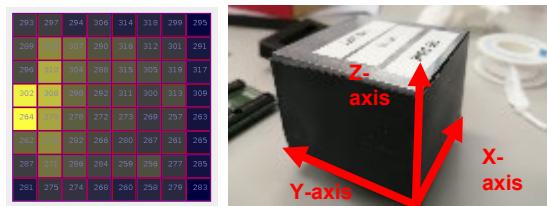
## COMPTON IMAGING TECHNIQUE



# Total-Energy Detector with g-ray imaging capability (i-TED):

- Need of **very high detection efficiency** → arrays of large monolithic crystals
- Need of **very low neutron sensitivity** → Customized design with  $\text{LaCl}_3(\text{Ce})$  and  ${}^6\text{Li}$ -HD-PE absorbers

3D- Spatial calibration techniques:



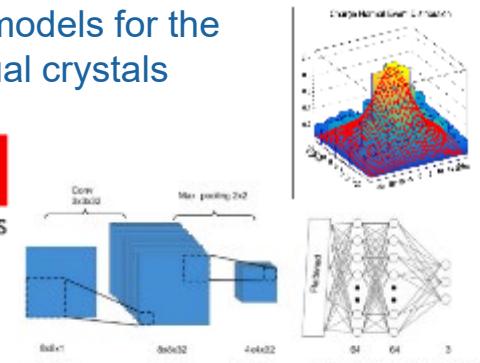
Final i-TED setup @ n\_TOF:



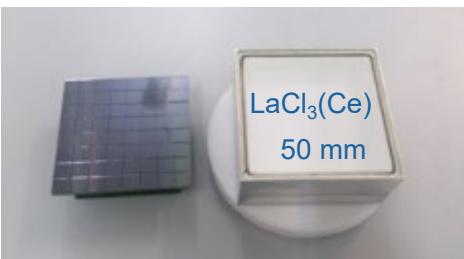
Neutron absorbers based on  ${}^6\text{Li}$ -enriched HD-PE: No  $\gamma$ -ray emission after neutron absorption by  ${}^6\text{Li}$  (!)

Convolutional Neural Network

3D keras models for the individual crystals



Crystal read-out and electronics:



Optical Photons simulation

P. Olleros et al. 2018 JINST13 P03014

ML-aided 3D-position reconstruction

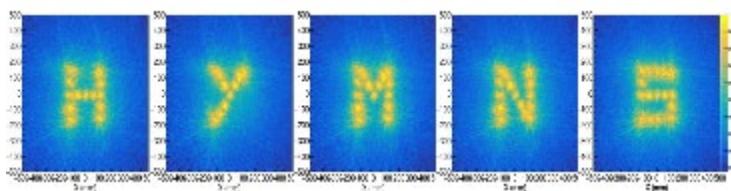
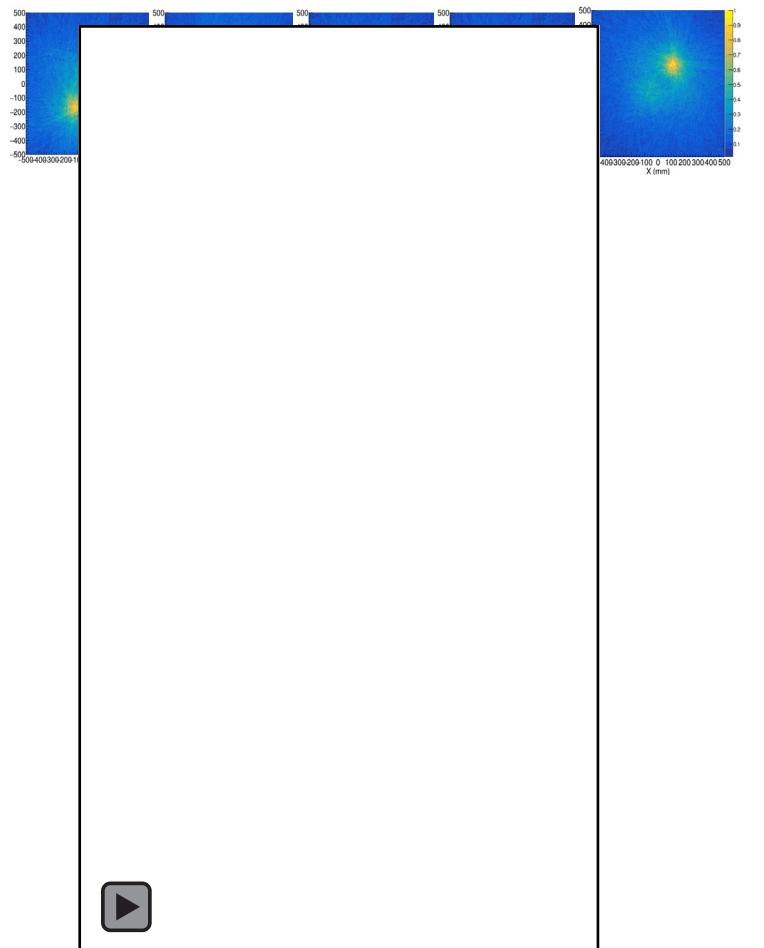
J. Balibrea et al. NIM-A (2020)

- In total: 20 Position-Sensitive Detectors
- $1150 \text{ cm}^3$  of  $\text{LaCl}_3(\text{Ce})$
- 1280 readout channels (4xKintex FPGA, 20xTOFPET2 ASICs, PETsys)



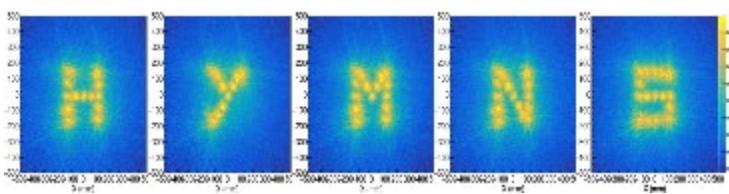
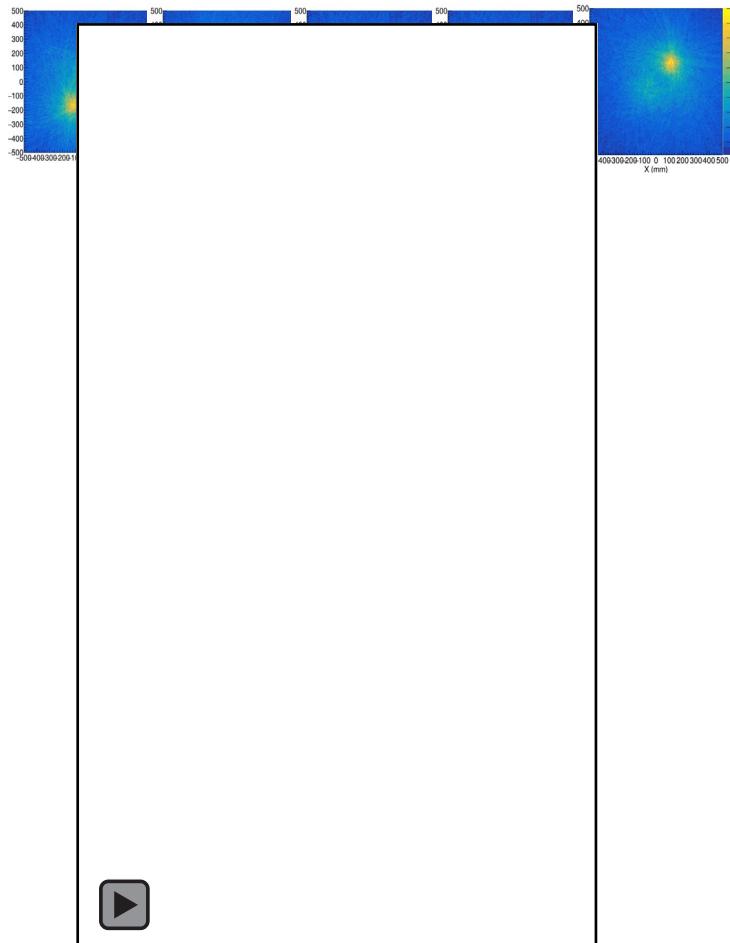
# Testing the gamma-ray vision capability of i-TED

Dynamic image: radioactive source in a remotely controlled XY-gantry imaged at multiple positions



# Testing the gamma-ray vision capability of i-TED

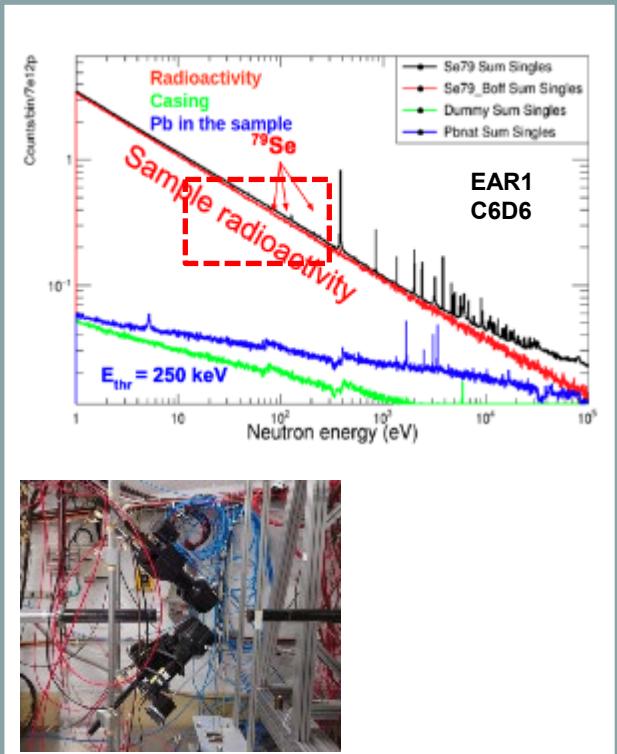
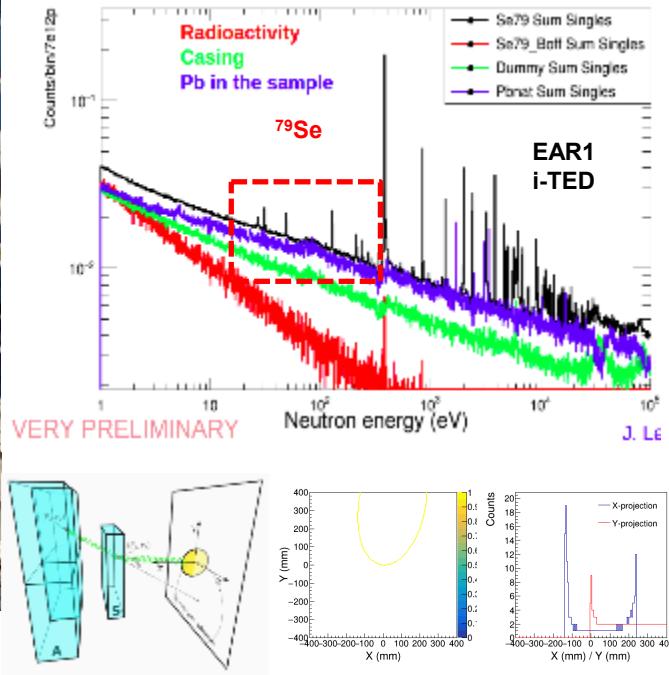
Dynamic image: radioactive source in a remotely controlled XY-gantry imaged at multiple positions



# The $^{79}\text{Se}(n,\gamma)$ stellar thermometer

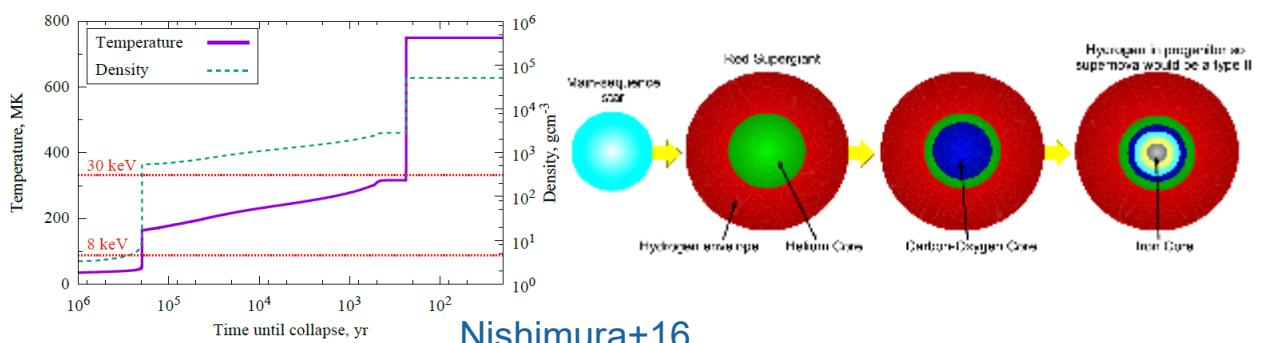


Comparison i-TED vs. Conventional C6D6 detectors



## PRELIMINARY RESULTS – DATA ANALYSIS IN PROGRESS-

[CDP, NIM-A 825 \(2016\)](#),  
V.Babiano et al. [NIM-A 953 \(2020\)](#)  
V.Babiano-Suarez et al., [EPJA \(2022\)](#)  
J. Lerendegui-Marco et al., [EPJWC \(2023\)](#)

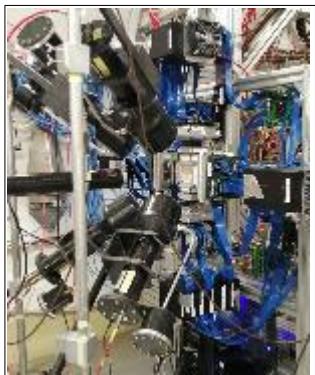


# Outline

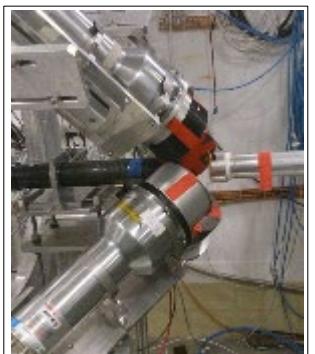
- Heavy elements nucleosynthesis: How stars make gold (r-process) and lead (s-process)?
- Neutron-capture experiments at CERN n\_TOF: Red-Giant stars in the lab
- Enhancing detection sensitivity in neutron capture TOF experiments
- **Beyond the limits: r-process neutron-reactions in the lab?**
- From stars to tumors: ion-range & dose monitoring in hadron therapy
- Summary & Outlook

# State-of-the-art TOF neutron-capture measurements: the limit?

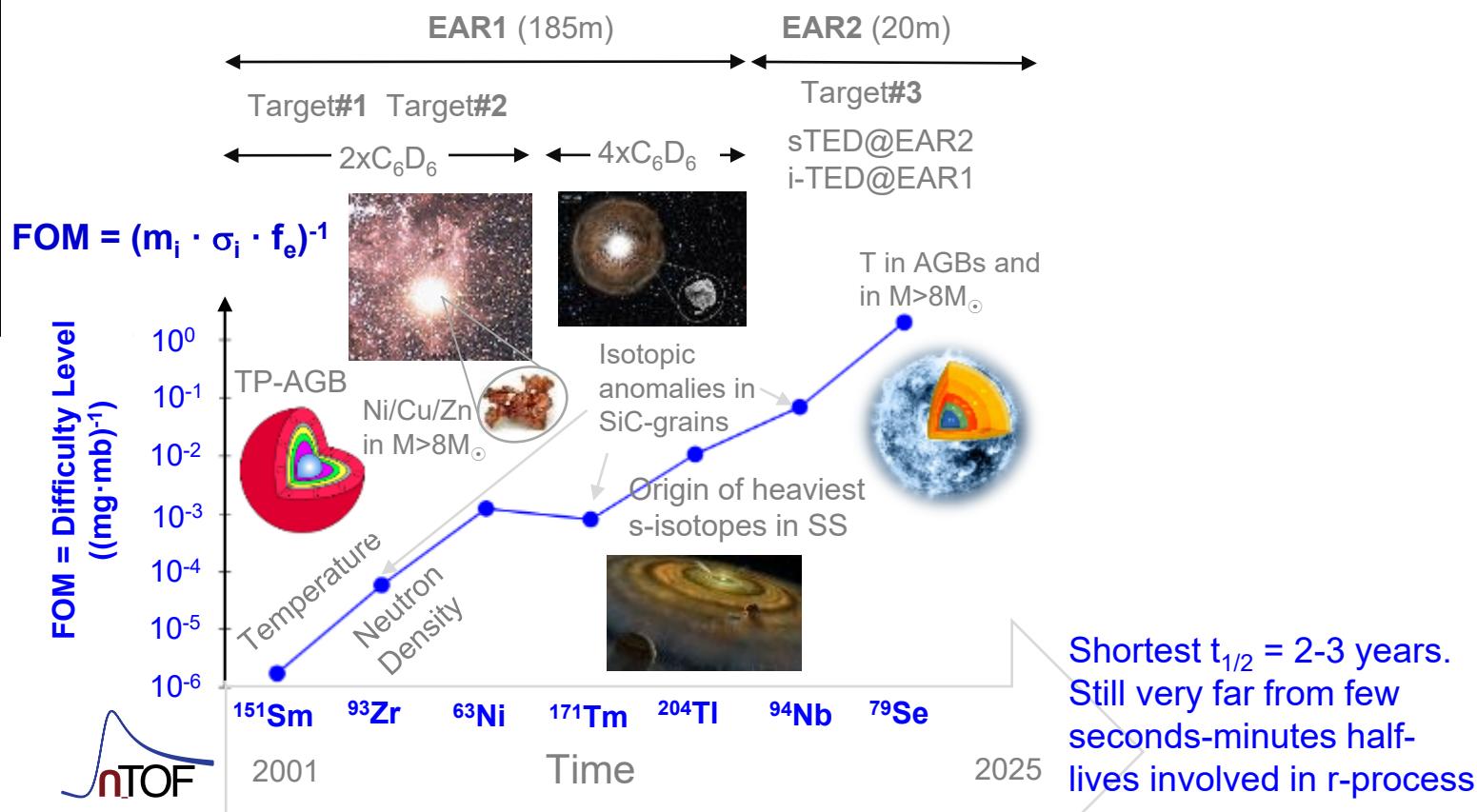
EAR1  $^{79}\text{Se}(n,\gamma)$ , 2022



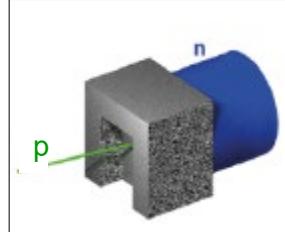
EAR1  $^{205}\text{Tl}(n,\gamma)$ , 2015



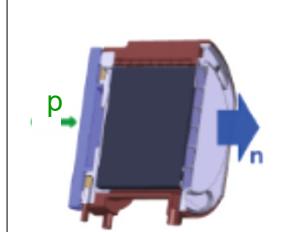
EAR1  $^{151}\text{Sm}(n,\gamma)$ , 2001



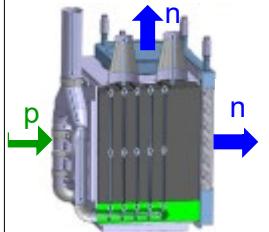
Target#1 (2000-2004)



Target#2 (2008-2018)



Target#3 (2021-present)

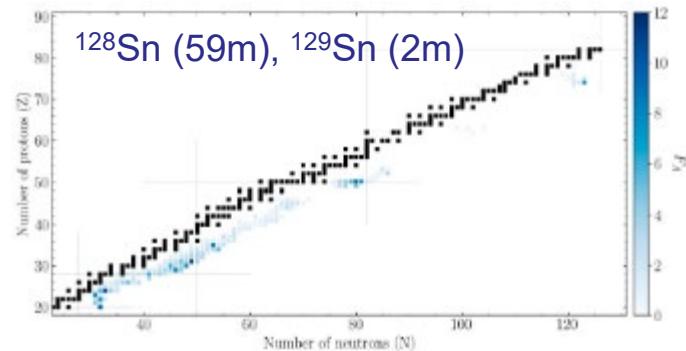


# How far are r-nuclei from direct ( $n, \gamma$ ) measurements?

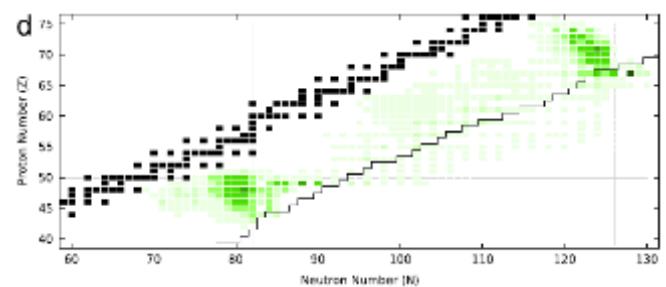
Limits in state-of-the-art TOF experiments:

- Sample  $> 10^{18}$  atoms
- Sample half-life
- Sample activity  $< 10$  MBq
- Sample purity / enrichment
- Neutron-induced backgrounds
- Detector count rates  $< 1$  MHz

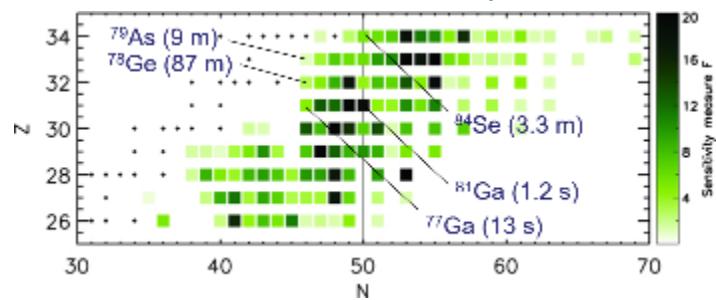
Important neutron-capture isotopes:



Vescovi+2022

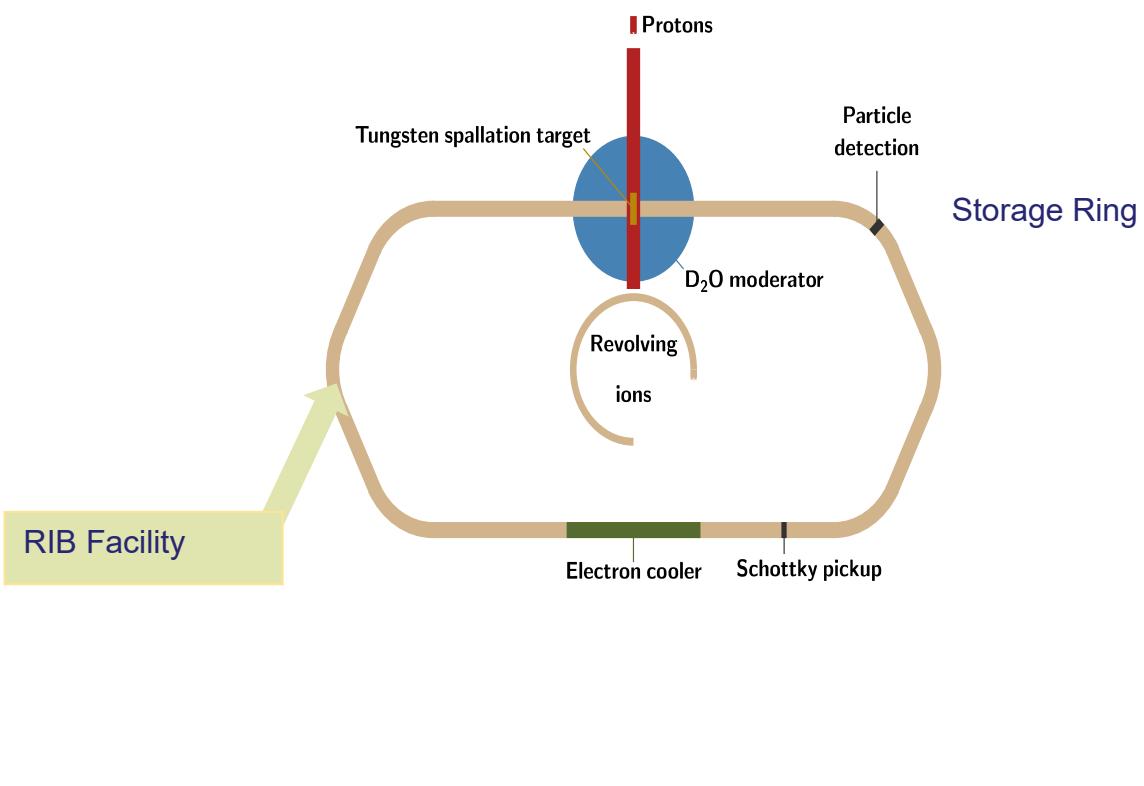


Mumpower+2016



Surman+2014

# How far are r-nuclei from direct ( $n, \gamma$ ) measurements?



PHYSICAL REVIEW ACCELERATORS AND BEAMS 20, 044701 (2017)

## Spallation-based neutron target for direct studies of neutron-induced reactions in inverse kinematics

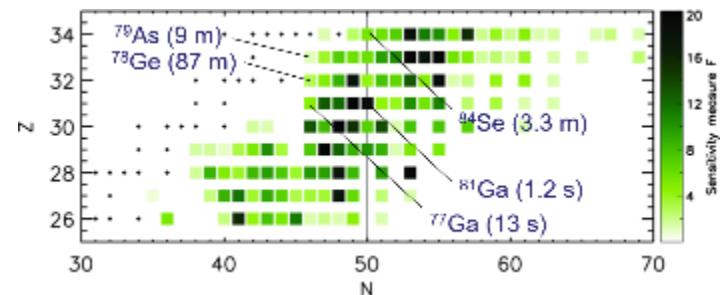
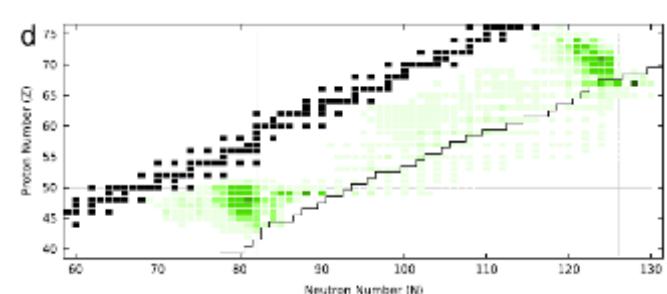
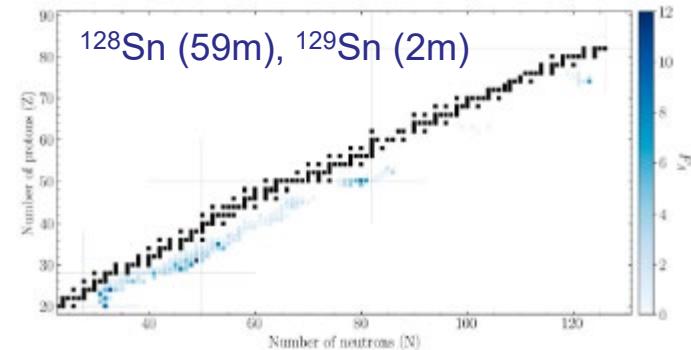
René Reifarth,<sup>\*</sup> Kathrin Göbel, Tanja Heftrich, and Mario Weigand  
Goethe-Universität Frankfurt, Frankfurt am Main, 60438 Frankfurt, Germany

Beatriz Jurado  
CENBG, 33175 Gradignan, France

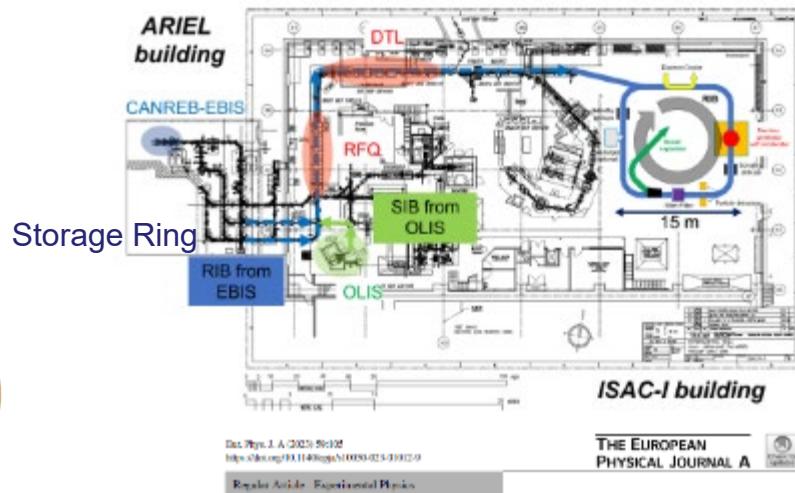
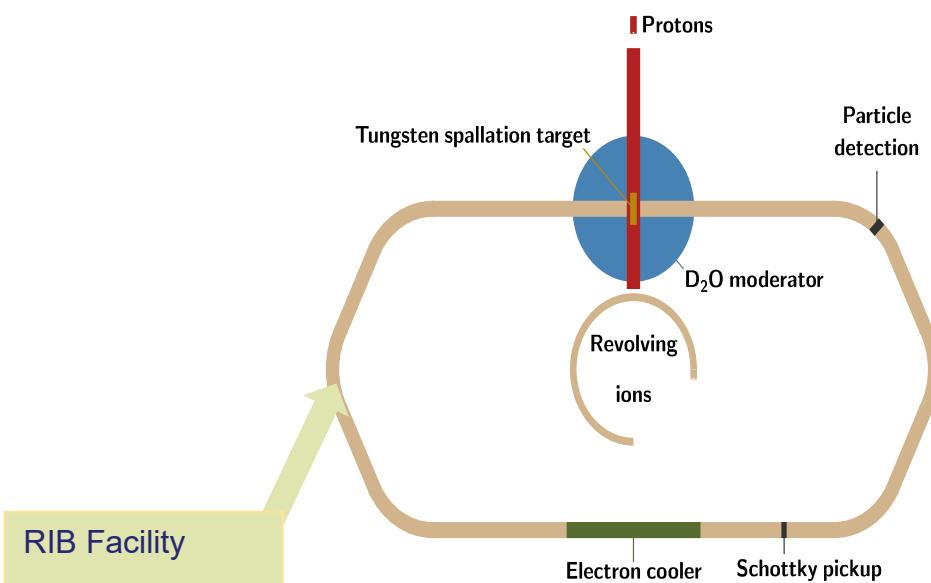
Franz Käppeler  
Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, 76131 Karlsruhe, Germany

Yuri A. Litvinov  
GSI Helmholtzzentrum für Schwerionenforschung, 64291 Darmstadt, Germany

Important neutron-capture isotopes:



# How far are r-nuclei from direct ( $n, \gamma$ ) measurements?



## Measuring neutron capture cross sections of radioactive nuclei

From activation of the PZK Van de Graaff to direct neutron captures in inverse kinematics with a storage ring at TRIUMF

Iris Dillmann<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Oliver Kester<sup>2</sup>, Richard Baumann<sup>2</sup>, Alan Chai<sup>2</sup>, Tobias Junginger<sup>1,2</sup>, Falk Kierig<sup>2</sup>, Barbara Kalcher<sup>1</sup>, Anikita Lenard<sup>1,2</sup>, Thomas Manthe<sup>2</sup>, Chris Rutz<sup>1</sup>, Nicole Yaneff<sup>2</sup>

20th International Conference on Ion Sources  
Journal of Physics: Conference Series  
2743 (2024) 012091  
IOP Publishing  
doi:10.1088/1742-6596/2743/1/012091

PHYSICAL REVIEW ACCELERATORS AND BEAMS 20, 044701 (2017)

## Spallation-based neutron target for direct studies of neutron-induced reactions in inverse kinematics

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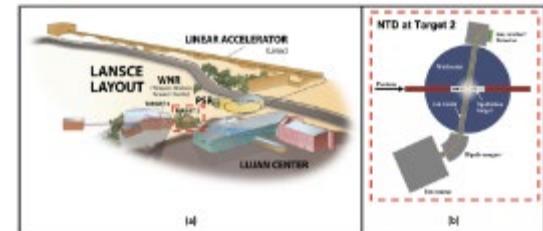
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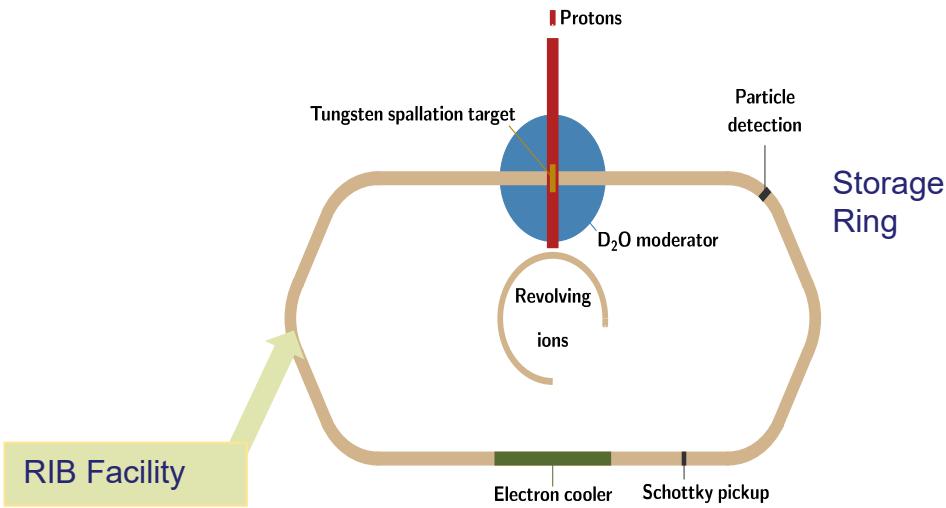
Yuri A. Litvinov  
GSI Helmholtzzentrum für Schwerionenforschung, 64291 Darmstadt, Germany

A high-intensity, low-energy heavy ion source for a neutron target proof-of-principle experiment at LANSCE

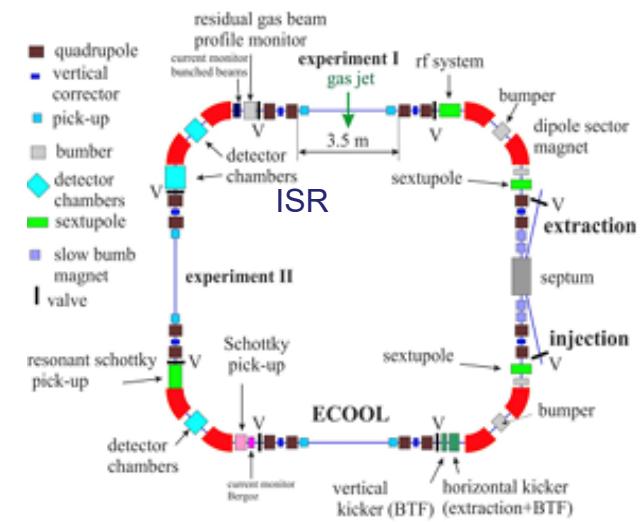
Andrew L. Cooper<sup>1</sup>, S. Mudry<sup>1</sup>, R. Reifarth<sup>2</sup>, A. Couture<sup>3</sup>, E. Bennett<sup>3</sup>, N. Gibson<sup>3</sup>, D. Gorelov<sup>3</sup>, C. Keoth<sup>3</sup>, A. Lovell<sup>3</sup>, G. Misch<sup>1</sup>, and M. Mumford<sup>1</sup>



# How far are r-nuclei from direct ( $n, \gamma$ ) measurements?



RIB Facility



→ISR Project (2030+?)

# Outline

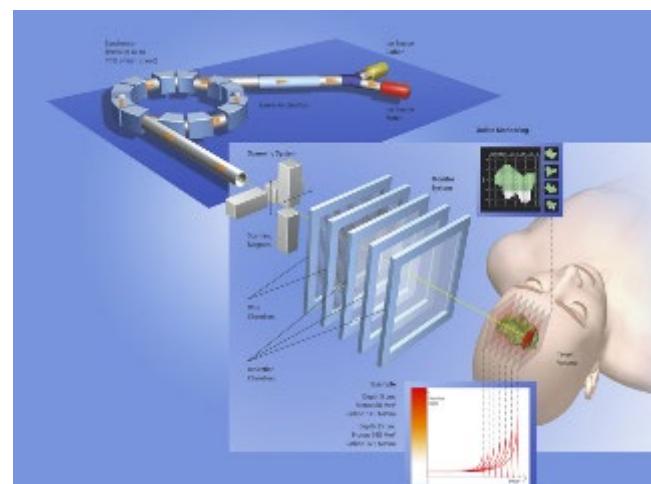
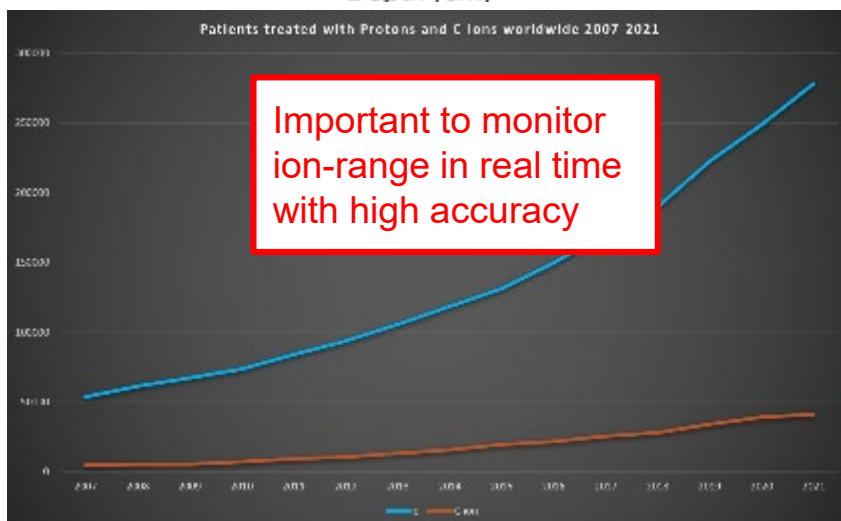
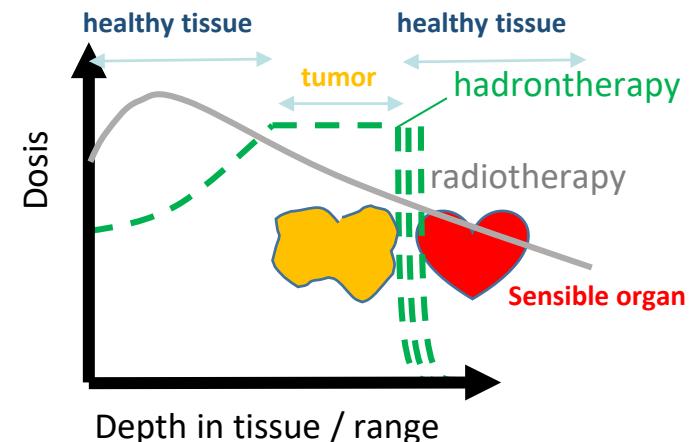
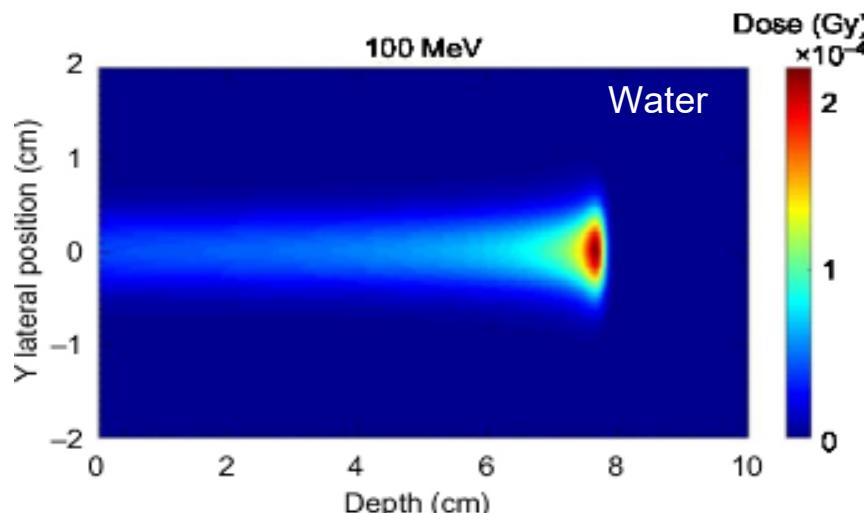
- Heavy elements nucleosynthesis: How stars make gold (r-process) and lead (s-process)?
- Neutron-capture experiments at CERN n\_TOF: AGB stars in the lab.
- Gamma-ray imaging: Enhancing the sensitivity in neutron capture TOF experiments
- Breaking the limits: r-process neutron reactions in the lab?
- From stars to tumors: ion-range & dose monitoring in hadron therapy
- Summary & Outlook



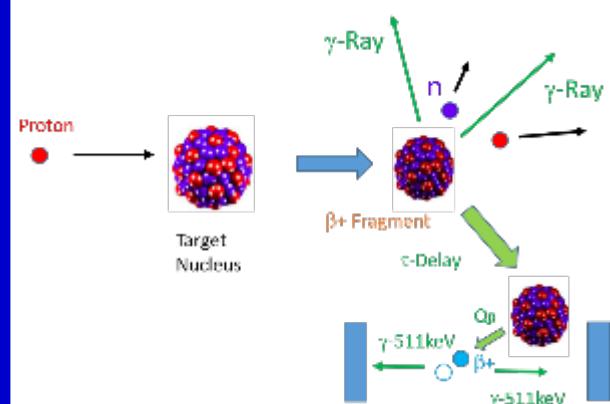
Artist: Anselm Kiefer  
Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao

# Therapeutic proton beams for localized tumor treatments

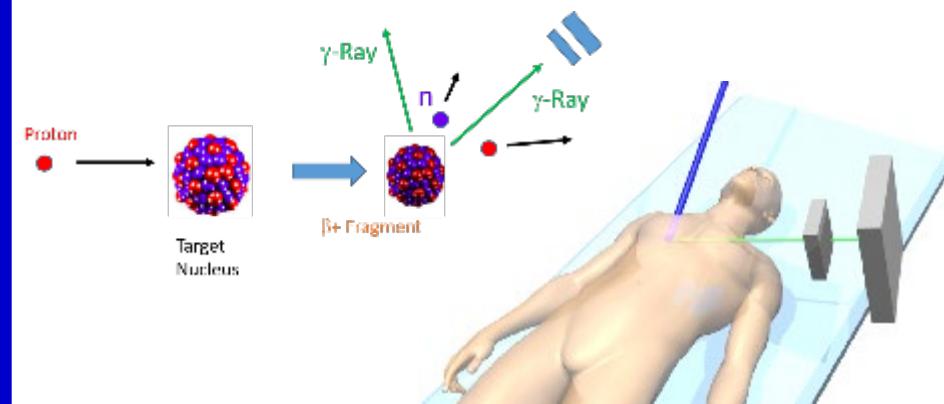
- Protons: maximum dose deposition at the end of their trajectory (Bragg peak), proposed by R. Wilson in 1946
- Minimize damage to neighbouring tissues
- Range uncertainties impose conservative safety margins of 3.5% + 3 mm



## PET monitoring



## Prompt-Gamma Imaging



### → Range verification via PET (Llacer, 1979)

- Generally based on  $^{15}\text{O}$  (2min),  $^{11}\text{C}$  (20min),  $^{10}\text{C}$  (20s)
- Sensitive to tissue stoichiometry and mass density
- Functional character: physiological processes and tumour RF
- In-Beam PET: GSI (Enghardt+20, Parodi+02); Excellent sensitivity (**2.5 mm,  $10^8\text{p}$** ) with  $^{12}\text{N}$  (11ms) and tomographic functionality (KVI-Group, Siemens PET heads)
- Advances with secondary C-beams at GSI+LMU groups (BARB) using radioactive beams of ( $^{10-11}\text{C}$ ) [Kostyleva+23, Boscolo+24, etc], and with  $^{14-15}\text{O}$  [Purushothaman+23].

Limitations with “conventional” proton-therapy:

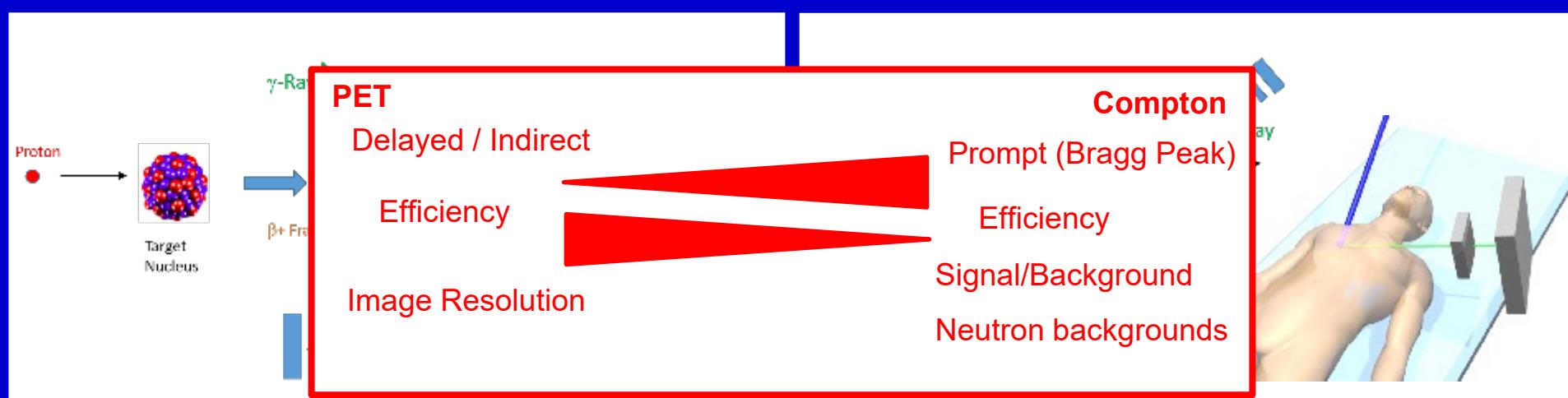
- Delayed (biological washout, organ motion...)
- Not directly coinciding with the Bragg peak
- Low counting statistics (10 Bq/ml) → Low efficiency

### → Range verification via Prompt Gamma Imaging (Stichelbault&Jongen, 2003)

- Slit camera in clinical use (Smeets+12) → 1-2 mm (1D)
- Most advanced electronic (Compton) imagers: Kabuki+09; Richard+12; Peterson+10; Kormoll+11; Thirolf+14, Llosa+13; etc
- High yield of high-energy  $\gamma$ -rays (2-6 MeV) at the Bragg peak → reliable signature of the ion-range
- Imaging resolution much more limited than in PET
- Low efficiency (particularly for more than two detection planes)
- Large neutron-induced backgrounds (in-beam)

# PET monitoring

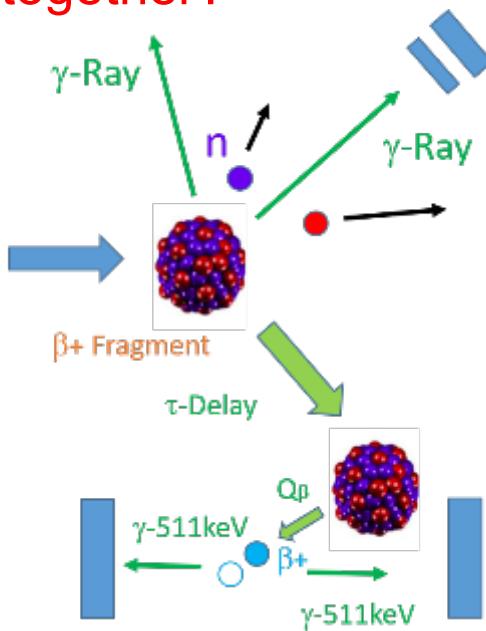
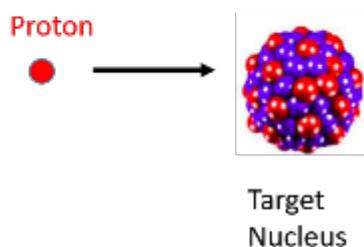
# Prompt-Gamma Imaging



→ Range verification via PET

- Generally based on  $^{15}\text{O}$  (radioisotope)
- Sensitive to tissue stoichiometry
- Functional character: physiologically relevant
- In-Beam PET: GSI (English) sensitivity (**2.5 mm,  $10^8$  photons**)
- Functionality (KVI-Group, etc.)
- Advances with secondary ion beams (BARB) using radioactive isotopes [Boscolo+24, etc], and with

## Prompt Gamma Compton & PET together?



Prompt Gamma Imaging (03)

→ (Heets+12) → 1-2 mm (1D)  
→ (Compton) imagers: Kabuki+09;  
→ (Bormann+11; Thiroff+14,

→ 2-6 MeV) at the Bragg range  
in the ion-range

→ More limited than in PET  
→ More than two detection  
→ Compounds (in-beam)

# Combining PET- and Compton-imaging possible?

K. Parodi, Nucl. Instr. Meth. A (2016)



## Prompt-gamma monitoring in hadrontherapy: A review

J. Krämer<sup>1</sup>, D. Duvergne<sup>1,\*</sup>, J.M. Letang<sup>2</sup>, S. Testa<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> WZL, Institute for Production Science, University of Siegen, Germany  
<sup>2</sup> Institut Curie, Paris, France  
<sup>3</sup> Institut Curie, Paris, France, and CNRS, Paris, France. \*Corresponding author for this article:  
daniel.duvergne@wzl.uni-siegen.de

### 2.3. Specificity of PG imaging

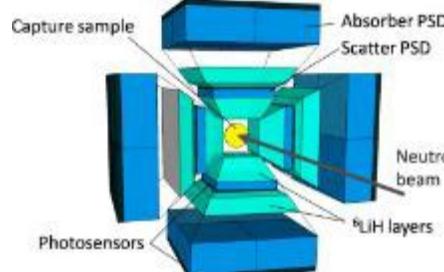
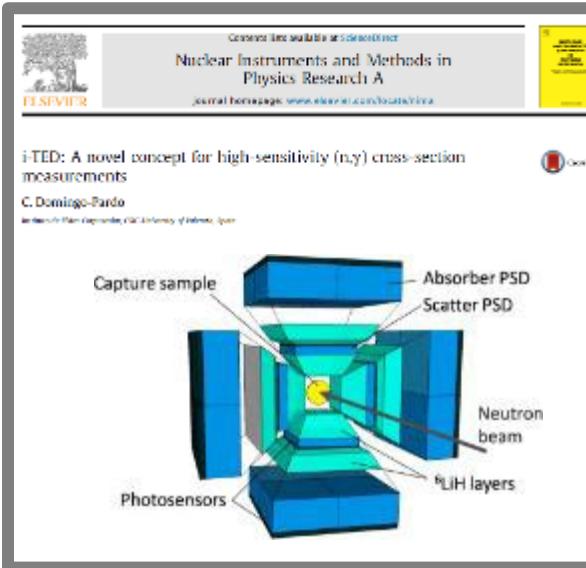
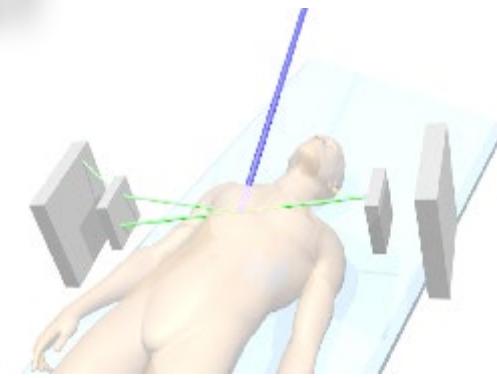
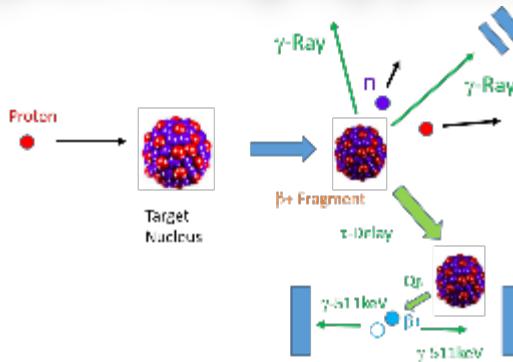
Table 2 presents the specificities of PG cameras for hadrontherapy with respect to conventional medical imaging. It is clear from these specificities that dedicated cameras are needed, with special features like high energy detection capability and count rate capability, and data acquisition systems that have to be adapted to the beam time structure.

For the particular objective of the precision for the falloff determination in the 1D-profile, the background plays a major role. Indeed, if we describe the falloff features in terms of contrast  $C$ , falloff width  $FW$  and background level  $B$ , it has been shown that the falloff retrieval precision  $FRP$  is determined by the following equation for homogeneous targets [32]:

$$FRP = \frac{\sqrt{B}}{C} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \quad (1)$$

where  $N$  is the number of incident ions. A striking result is that the falloff width has no influence on the  $FRP$ . This means that the priority when optimizing camera designs is the detection efficiency and the background rejection (shielding, TOF, ...).

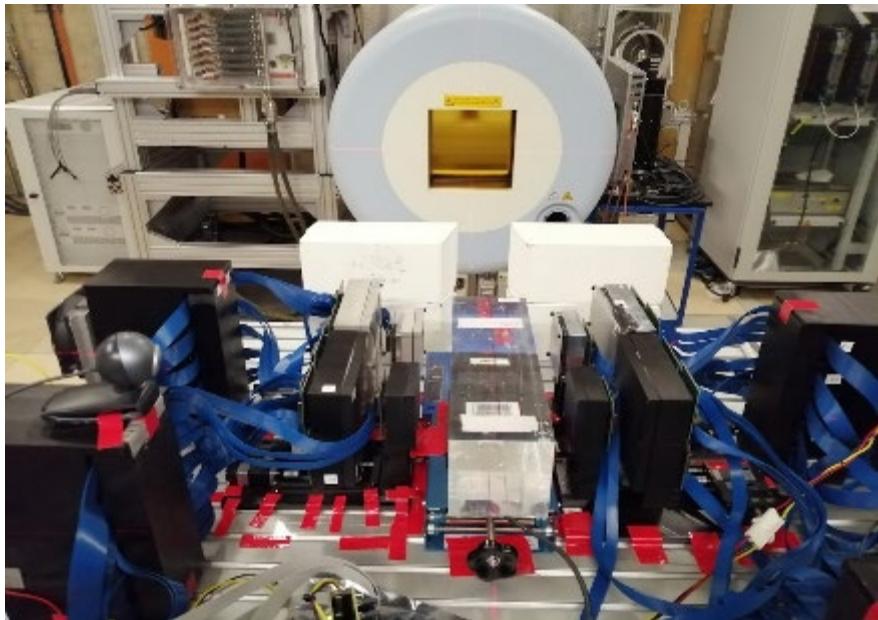
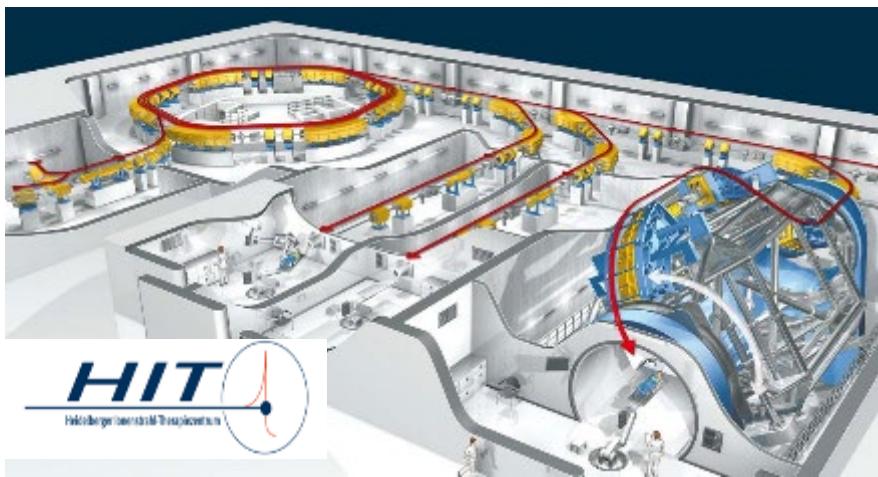
As we will see in Section 4, detection efficiencies of PG cameras – ranging from  $10^{-5}$  (collimated cameras) to  $10^{-4}$  (Compton cameras) – will lead to relatively low numbers of detected PG at spot level for pencil beam scanning systems.



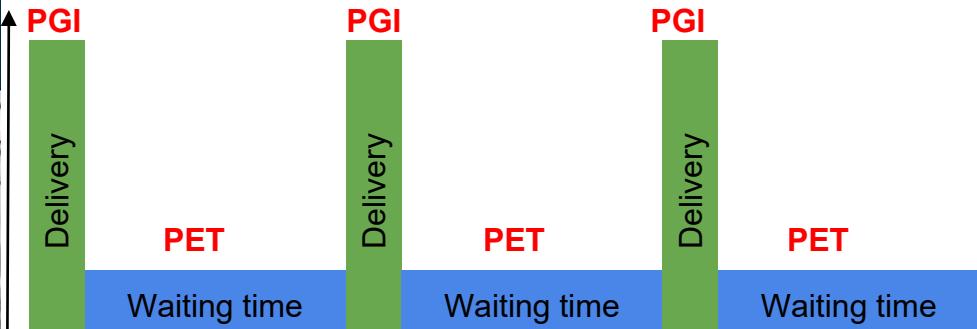
- High detection efficiency → Online real-time proton-range verification
- Low sensitivity to n-induced backgrounds → Improved S/B-ratio
- Good performance in the gamma-ray energy range up to 5-6 MeV
- Compact & lightweight → Compatible with clinical environment

# First PET-Compton pre-clinical tests at HIT-Heidelberg

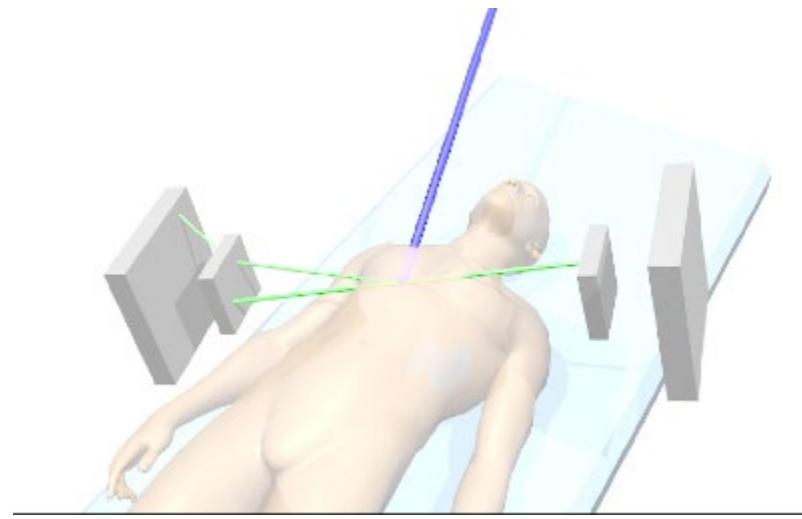
Heidelberg Hadrontherapy Center



Hybrid **PGI-PET** technique and **pulsed beams**



- Clinical proton-beam energy (55-200 MeV)
- Clinical proton-intensity ( $10^8$  p/point)

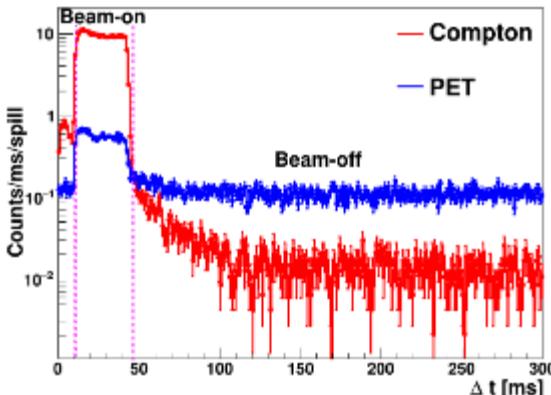
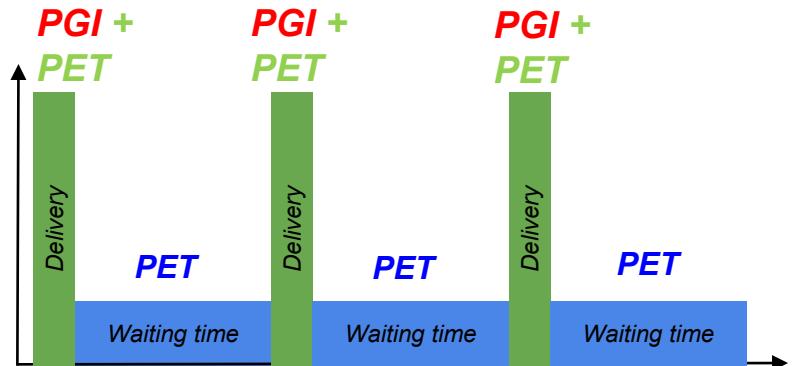
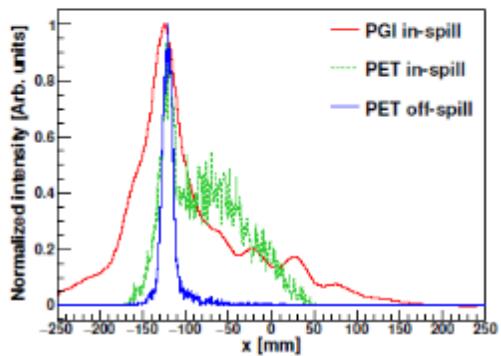
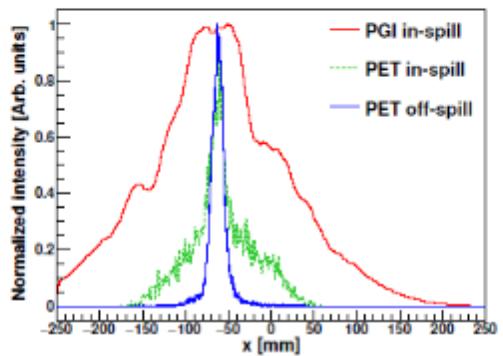
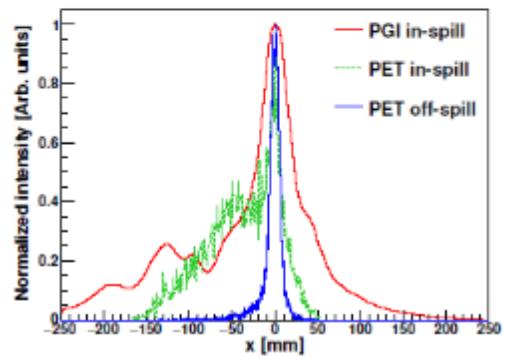
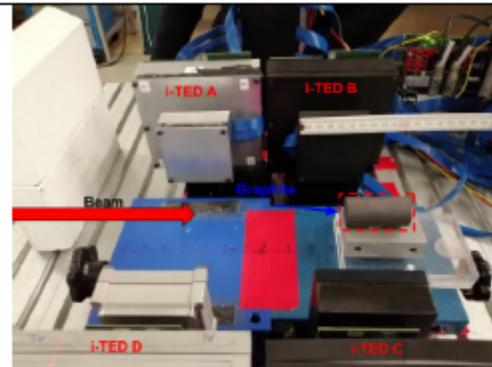
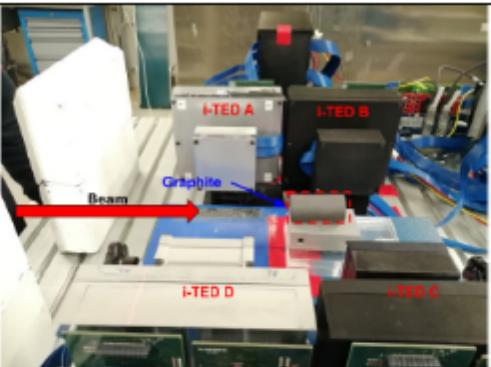
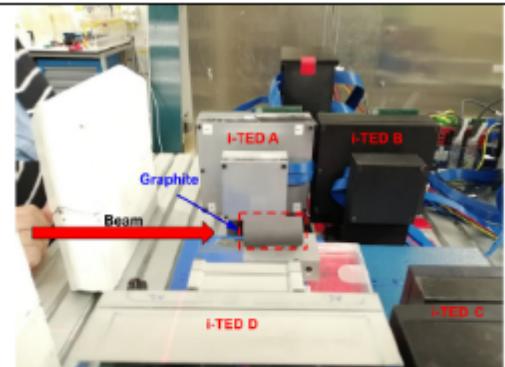


MC-Study: [J. Lerendegui-Marco, et al. Nat. Sci. Rep. 12, 2735 \(2022\)](#)

PoC @ 18 MeV: [J. Balibrea-Correa, et al. EPJ-Plus \(Nov.2022\)](#)

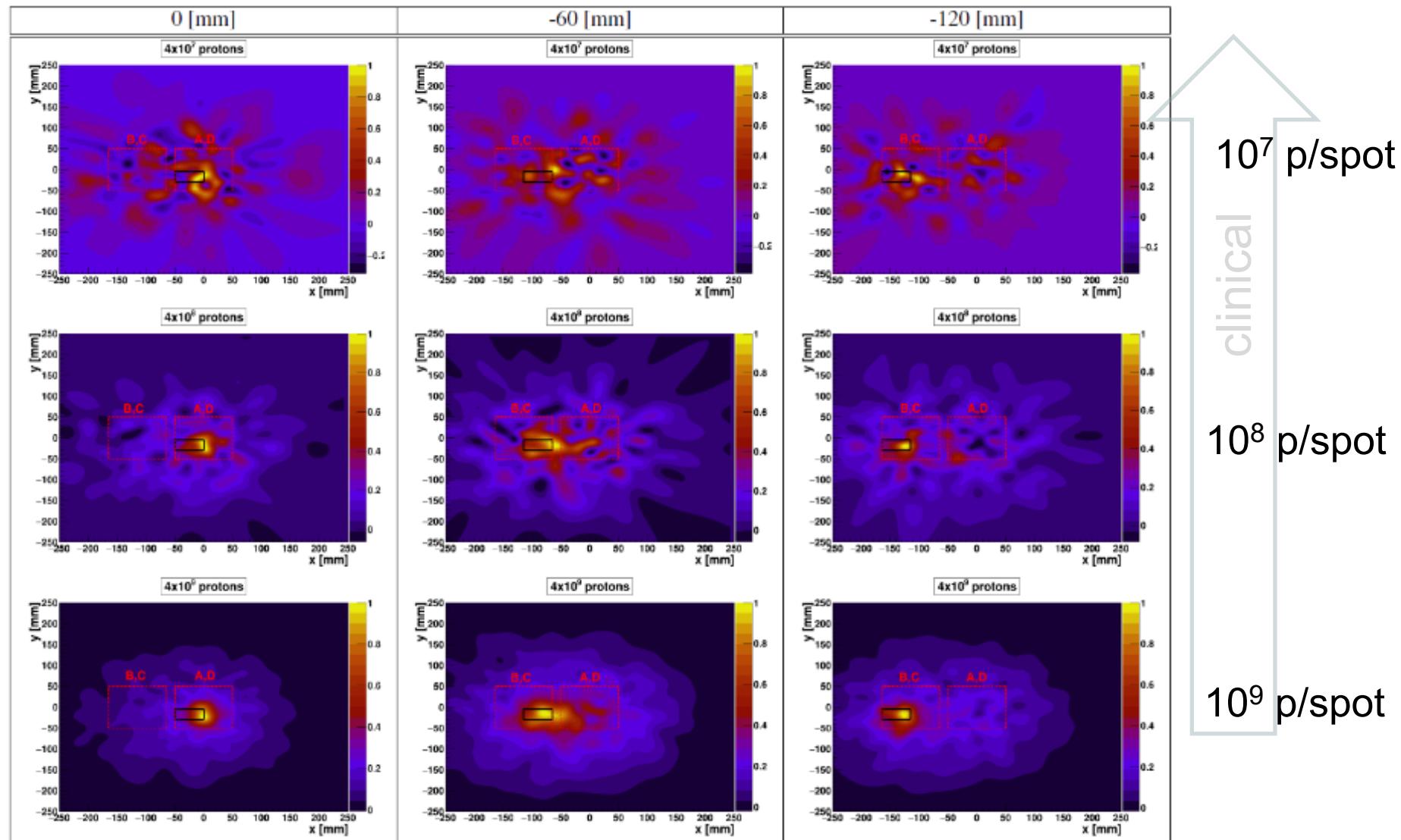
# First PET-Compton pre-clinical tests at HIT-Heidelberg

55 MeV p-beam  $10^9$  p/spot on Graphite Target @ three positions



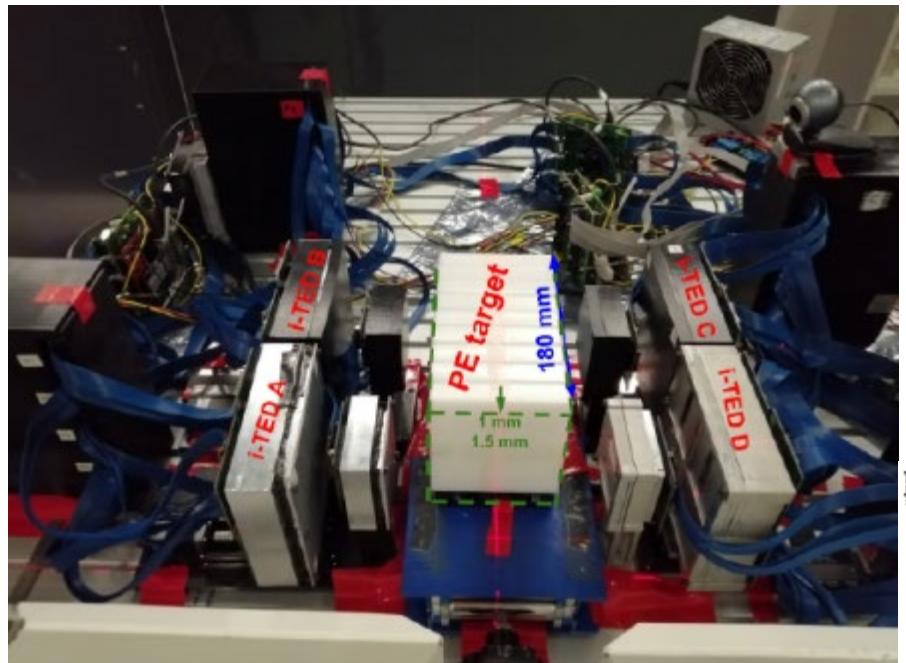
# First PET-Compton pre-clinical tests at HIT-Heidelberg

55 MeV p-beam  $10^9$  p/spot on Graphite Target @ three positions / Compton PGI:

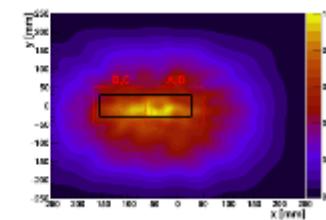
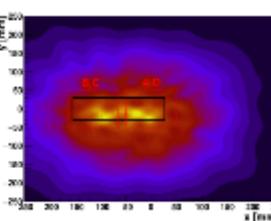
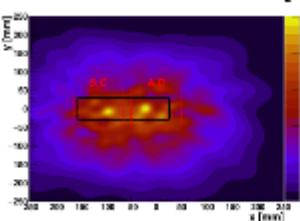
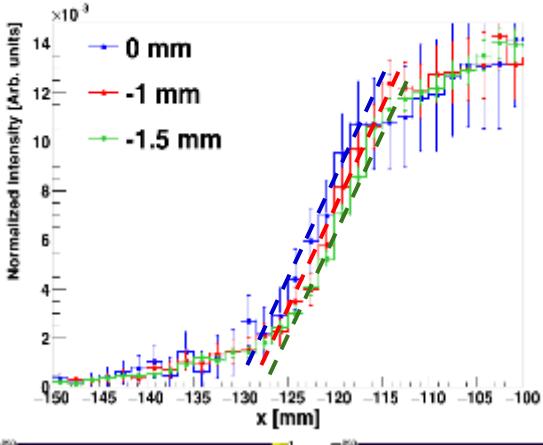


# First PET-Compton pre-clinical tests at HIT-Heidelberg

150 MeV p-beam  $10^9$  p/spot on PE-Target @ three positions



PET in-beam off-spill → mm sensitivity



Estimated  
Compton PGI  
Sensitivity 15mm  
at  $10^9$  p/spot

- Improve geometry → Higher statistics/spot
- Suppress background → Better S/B

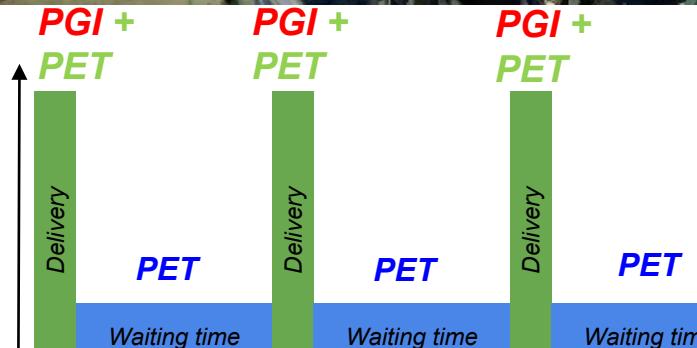
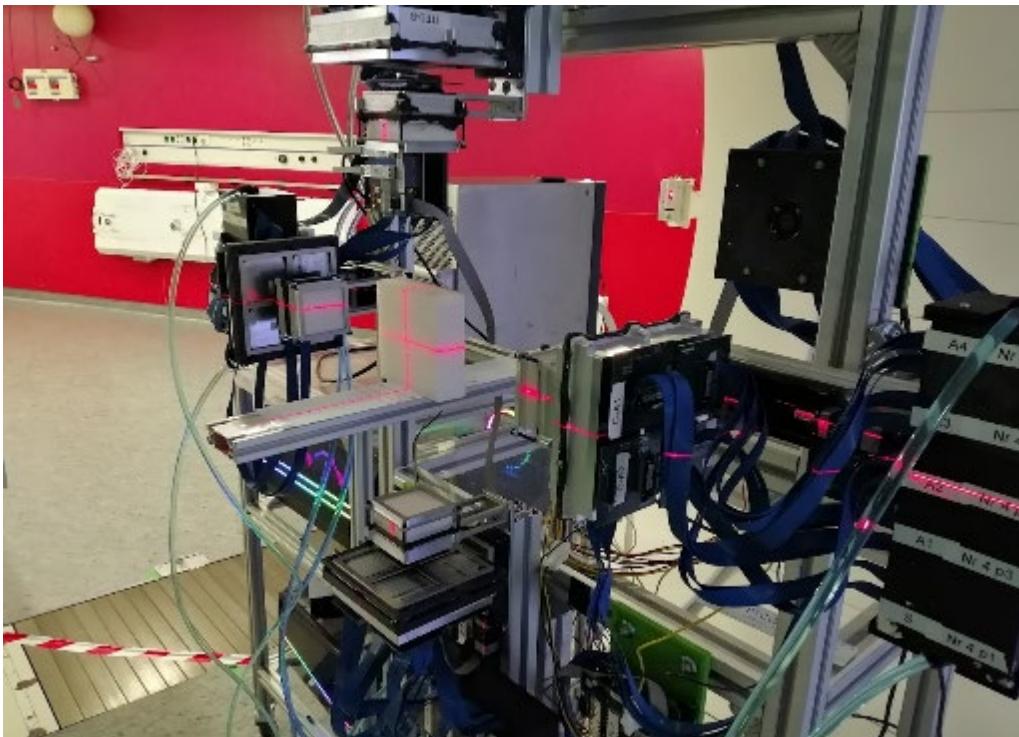
# First PET-Compton pre-clinical tests at WPE



ERC-POC  
GNVISION

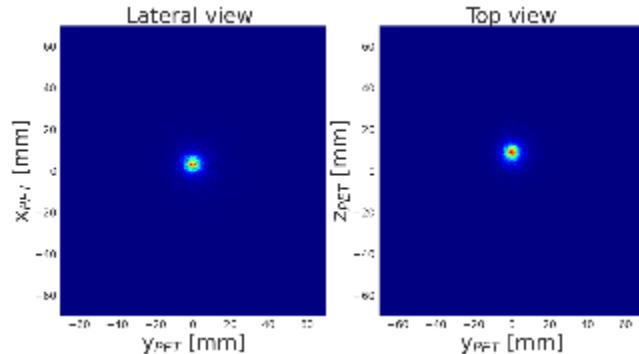


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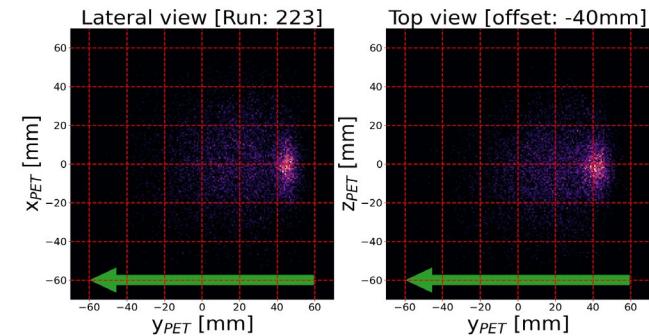


Isochronous Normal Conducting  
Cyclotron (**IBA-ProteusPlus**) @ WPE

PET Calibration:



PET in-beam off-spill (range shift):



Prel. Est. < 2mm sensitivity for 1E8 p

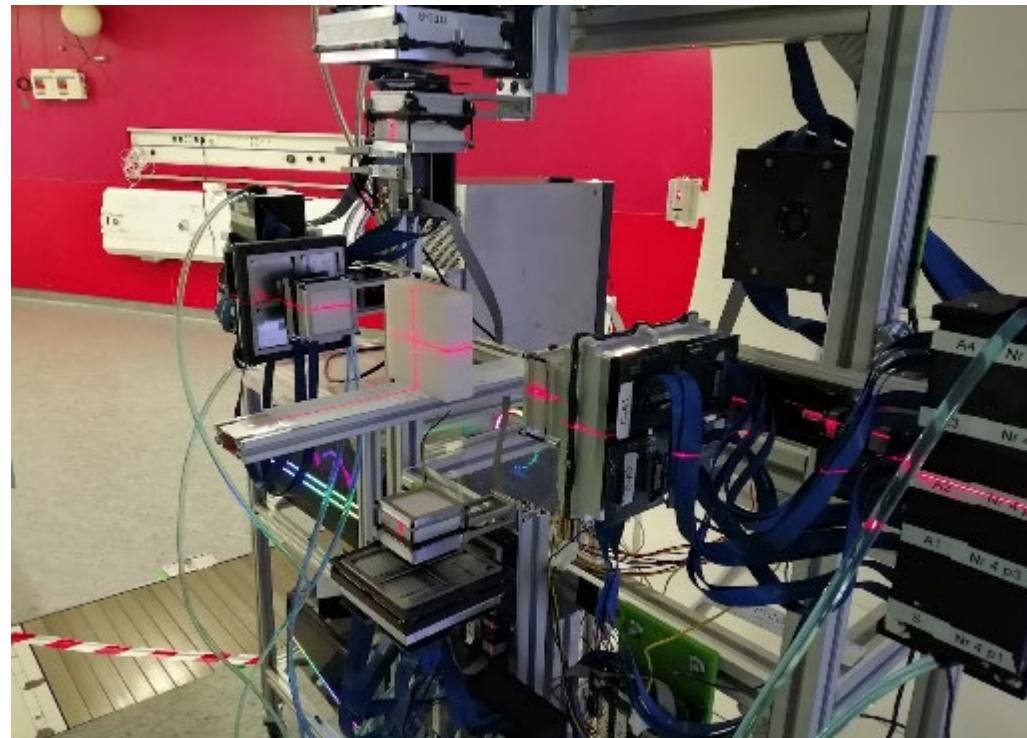
# First PET-Compton pre-clinical tests at WPE



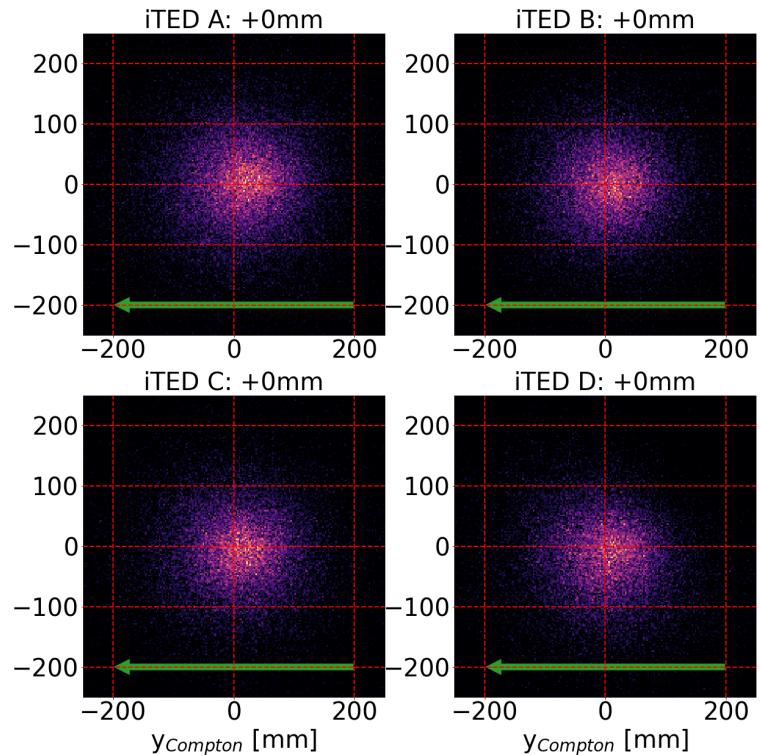
ERC-POC  
GNVISION



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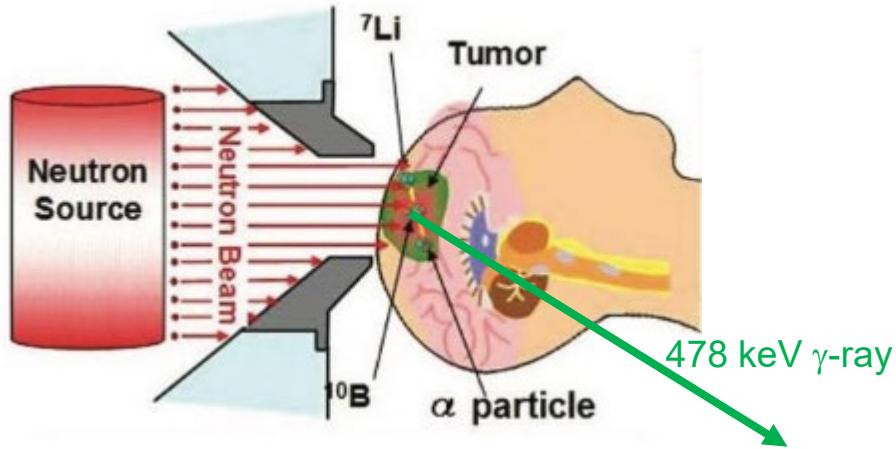
Compton PGI:



Prel. Est. <4mm sensitivity for 1E8 p

- Possible to combine Compton & PET with same apparatus using a cyclotron-based machine
- Data analysis in progress (!)

# Dosimetry with therapeutic neutron fields



- Regular patient treatment: 2 (Japan)
- Clinical trial: 6 (Japan, China, Korea, Taiwan)
- Commissioning, Development & Construction

- **BNCT** is an emerging treatment that aims at improving the therapeutic ratio for traditionally difficult to treat tumors.
- Clinically: Glioblastoma multiforme, meningioma, head, neck, lung, breast cancers, etc [Malouff+21]
- **Dosimetry in BNCT presents challenges:**
  - Neutrons interaction within the body
  - Uncertainties associated with the uptake of boron.
- **Current treatment planning:** strong **extrapolations** of boron uptake by the tumor derived from prior PET scans.

**Solution?**: online boron-uptake monitoring and spatial distribution via the Compton imaging of the 478 keV line

## Challenges:

- Very large count rates (MHz at 50 cm)
- Neutron-induced backgrounds

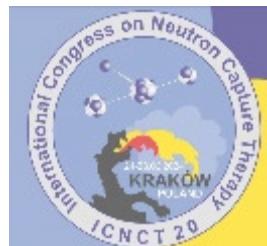
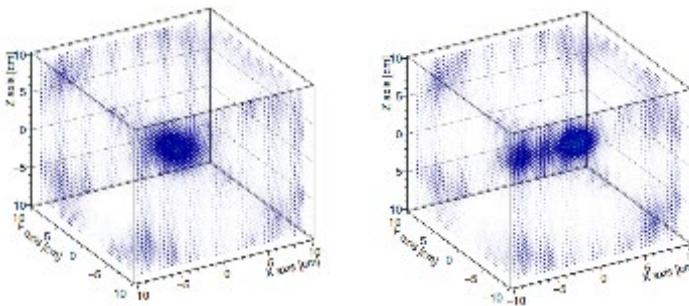
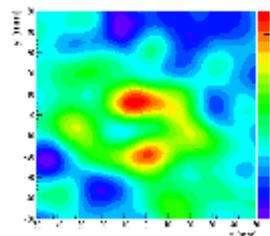
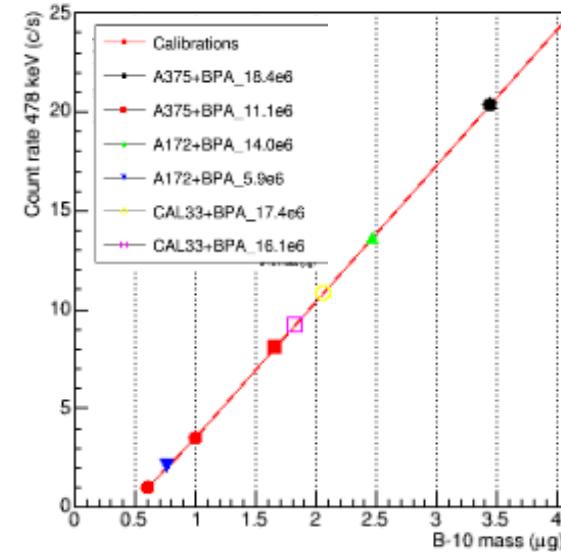
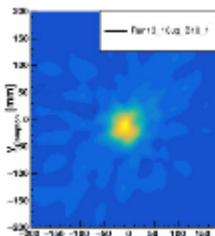
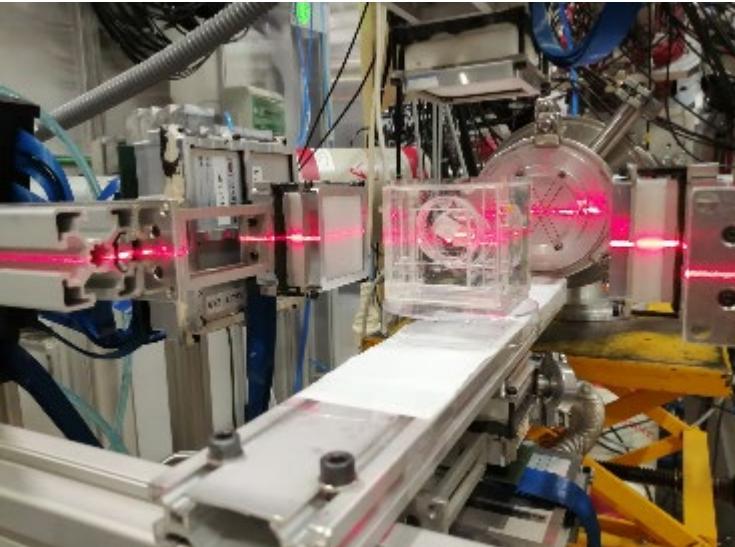
# Dosimetry with therapeutic neutron fields



- Highly demanding online 3D-reconstruction
- New algorithms required for quasi-real time imaging



ERC-POC  
AMA



PRELIMINARY RESULTS  
WORK IN PROGRESS



Next steps:  
- first tests at clinical facility

B. Gameiro et al. (2024) <https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2411.04785>

P. Torres-Sanchez et al. (2024) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apradiso.2024.111649>

J. Lerendegui-Marco et al. (2024) <https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2409.05687>

# Summary & Outlook

The CERN accelerator complex  
Complexe des accélérateurs du CERN

