



EUROPEAN  
SPALLATION  
SOURCE

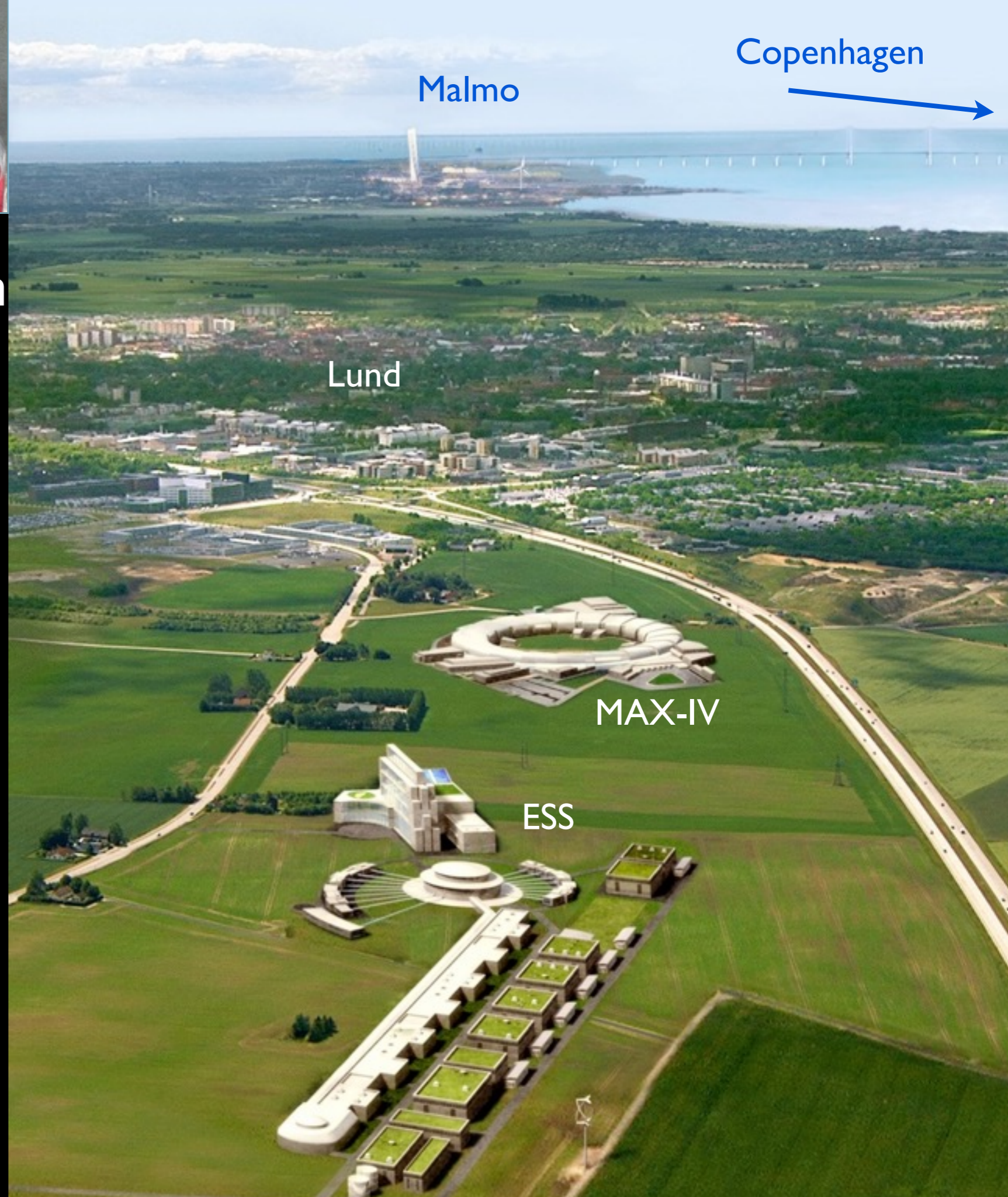


# Detectors for Spallation Sources

- Neutron Scattering Science
- How to design
- Detectors for the ESS
- Summary

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Detector Group Leader

NDRA2016



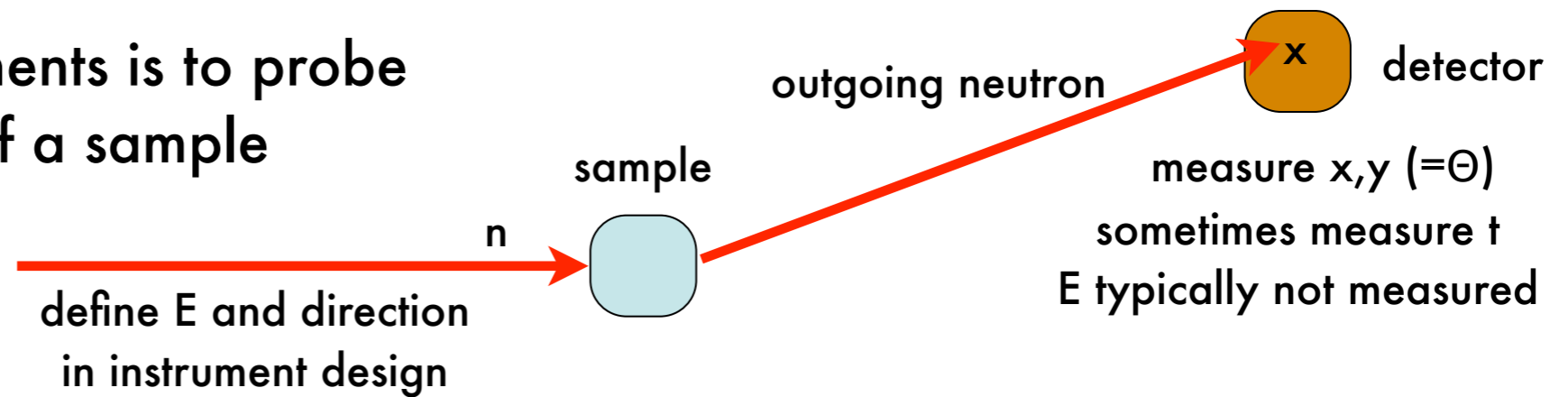
# What I am going to talk about

- What is needed?
  - Always design to science goals (but not too closely)
- How to select based on the requirements
  - What can happen to a neutron?
  - Triangle of data/simulation/analytical calculation
  - Rate, dynamic range and noise
  - Resolution
  - Efficiency
  - Background
- Requirements for the European Spallation Source
- Specific examples
- Summary and a few observations

Try and work through as an example of how detector geometries are selected

# Why?

- The purpose of the instruments is to probe with neutrons some aspect of a sample



- Very generically, this can be divided into elastic and inelastic categories
  - elastic: gives information on where atoms are
  - inelastic: gives information on what atoms do (ie move)
- This is measuring the cross sections:

elastic

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}(\lambda, 2\theta, \psi)$$

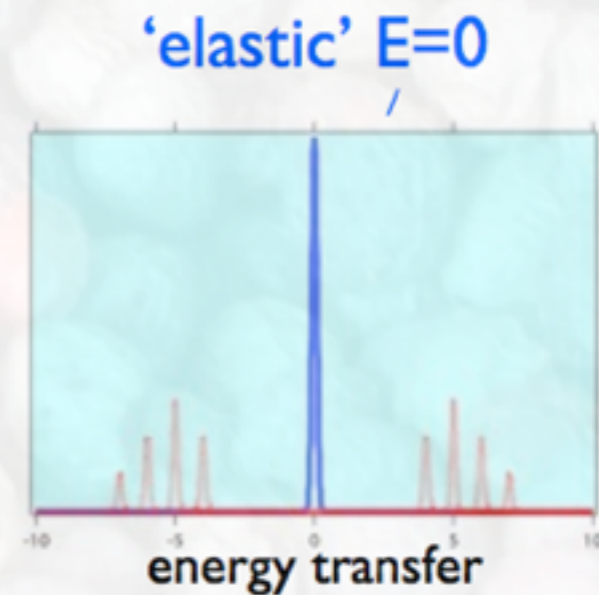
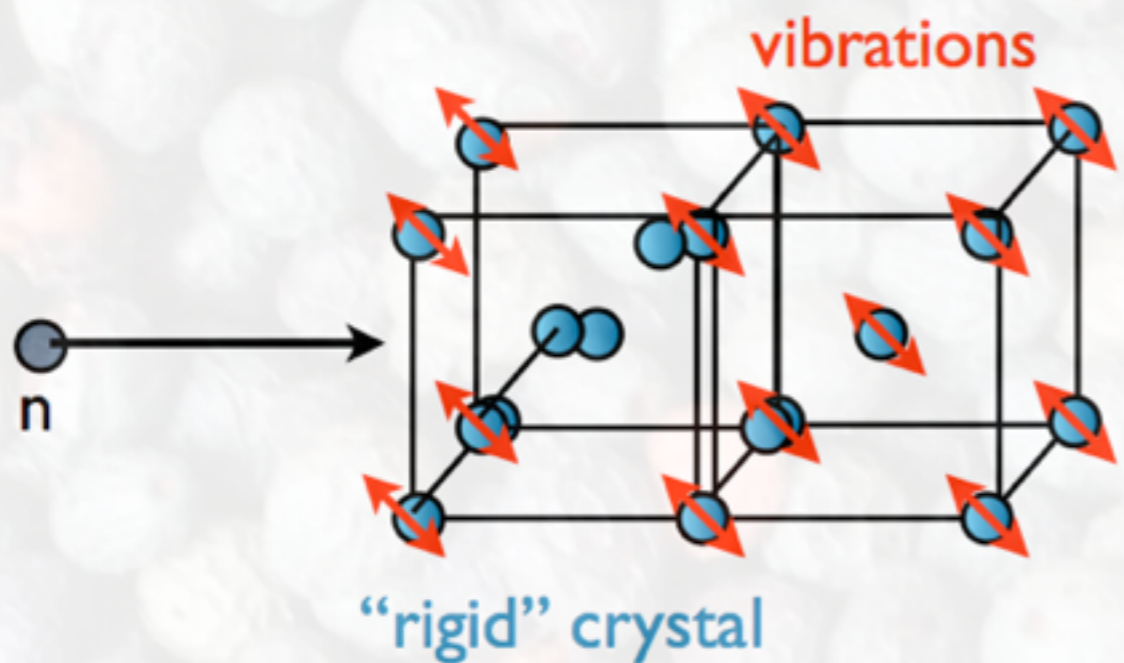
- cross section / scattering probability into a solid angle, as a function of wavelength, scattering angle and aximuthal angle

inelastic

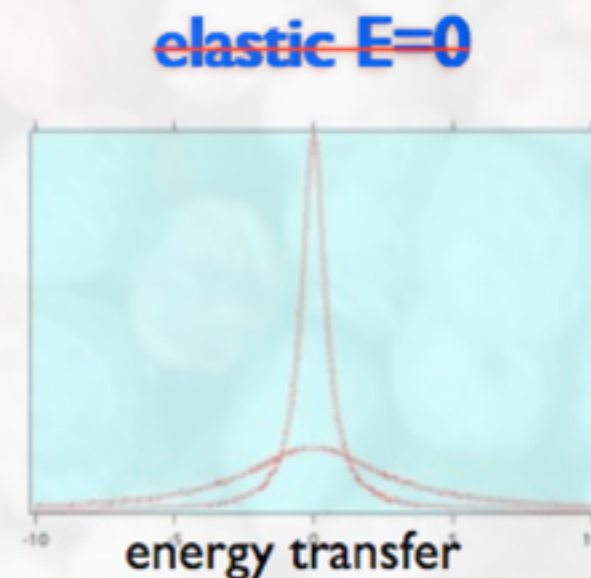
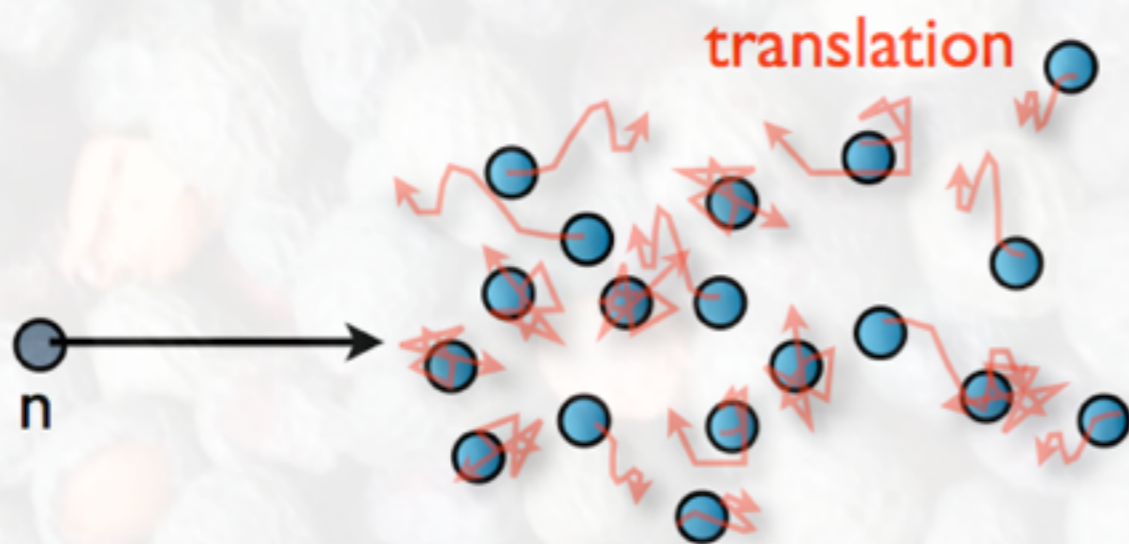
$$\frac{d^2\sigma}{d\Omega dE}(\lambda_{in}, \lambda_{sc}, 2\theta, \psi)$$

- double differential cross section / scattering probability into a solid angle, as a function of wavelength, scattered wavelength scattering angle and aximuthal angle

# Elastic vs Inelastic



‘inelastic’  $E=\pm dE$



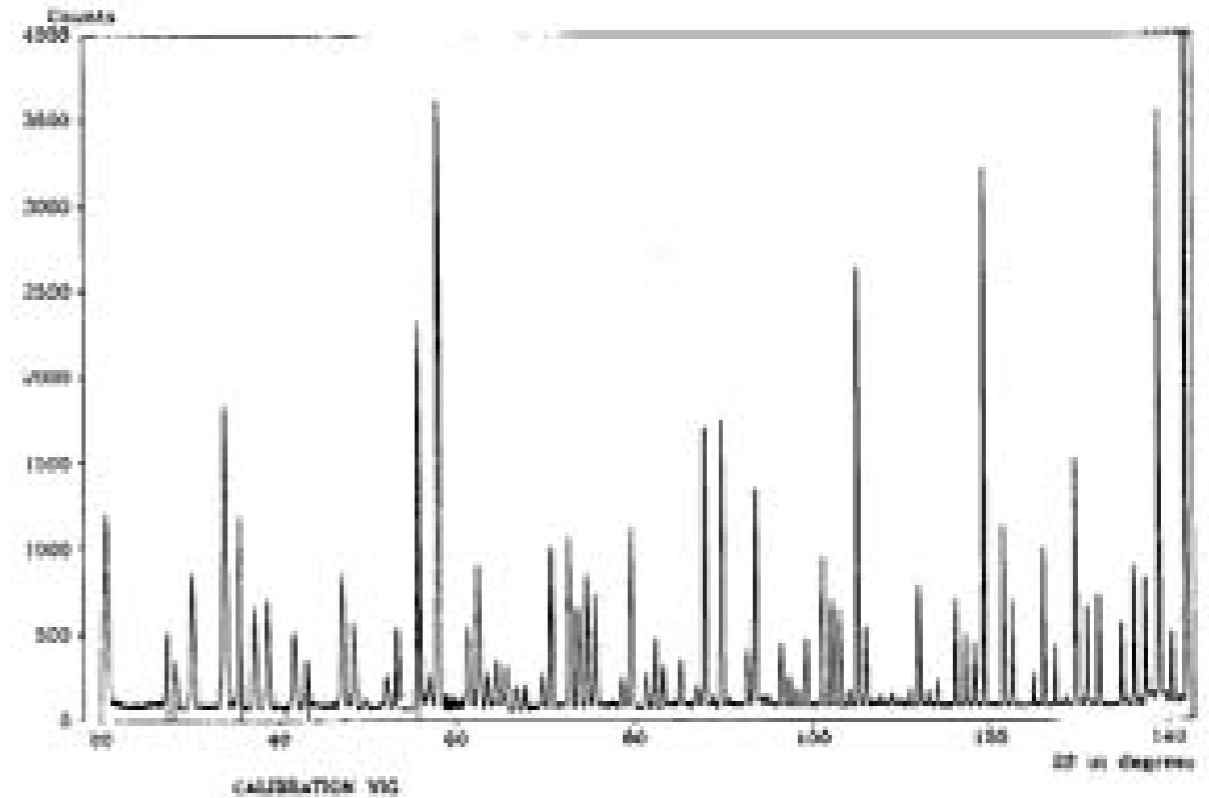
‘quasielastic’: centered at  $E=0$

fast moving scatterers, e.g. liquid

# Detectors are tools

Basically, in some form,  
you want to measure  
Bragg's equation

$$n\lambda = 2d \sin \theta$$



Define the neutron wavelength with your instrument design

Detectors allow you to measure theta

It means that you can calculate "d"

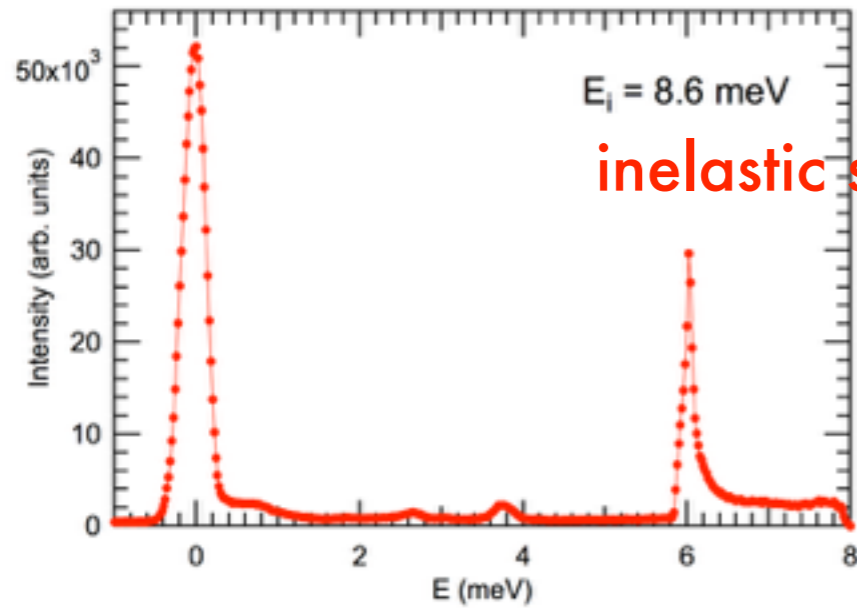
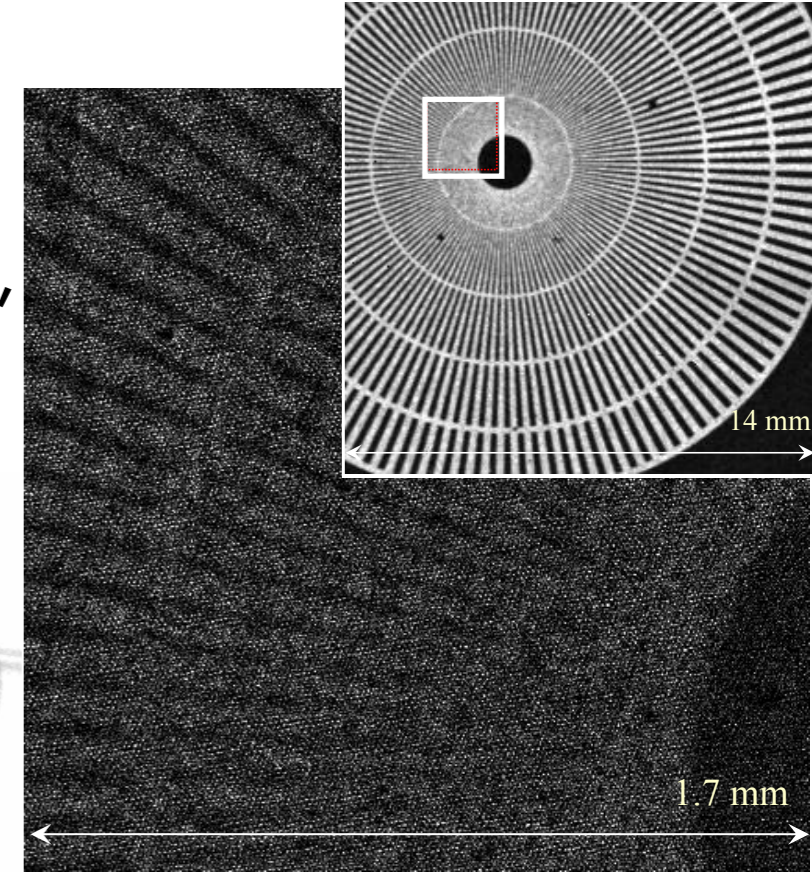
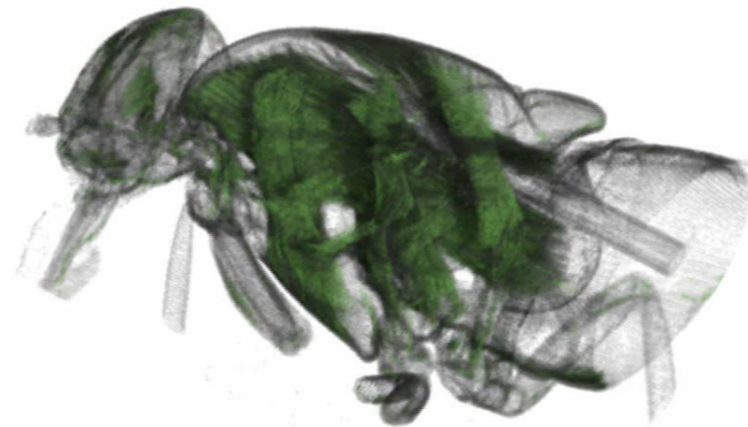
Therefore the detector should be designed to give you the most appropriate measurement of scattering angle for a instrument class **"horses for courses"**

# What do the detectors need to measure?

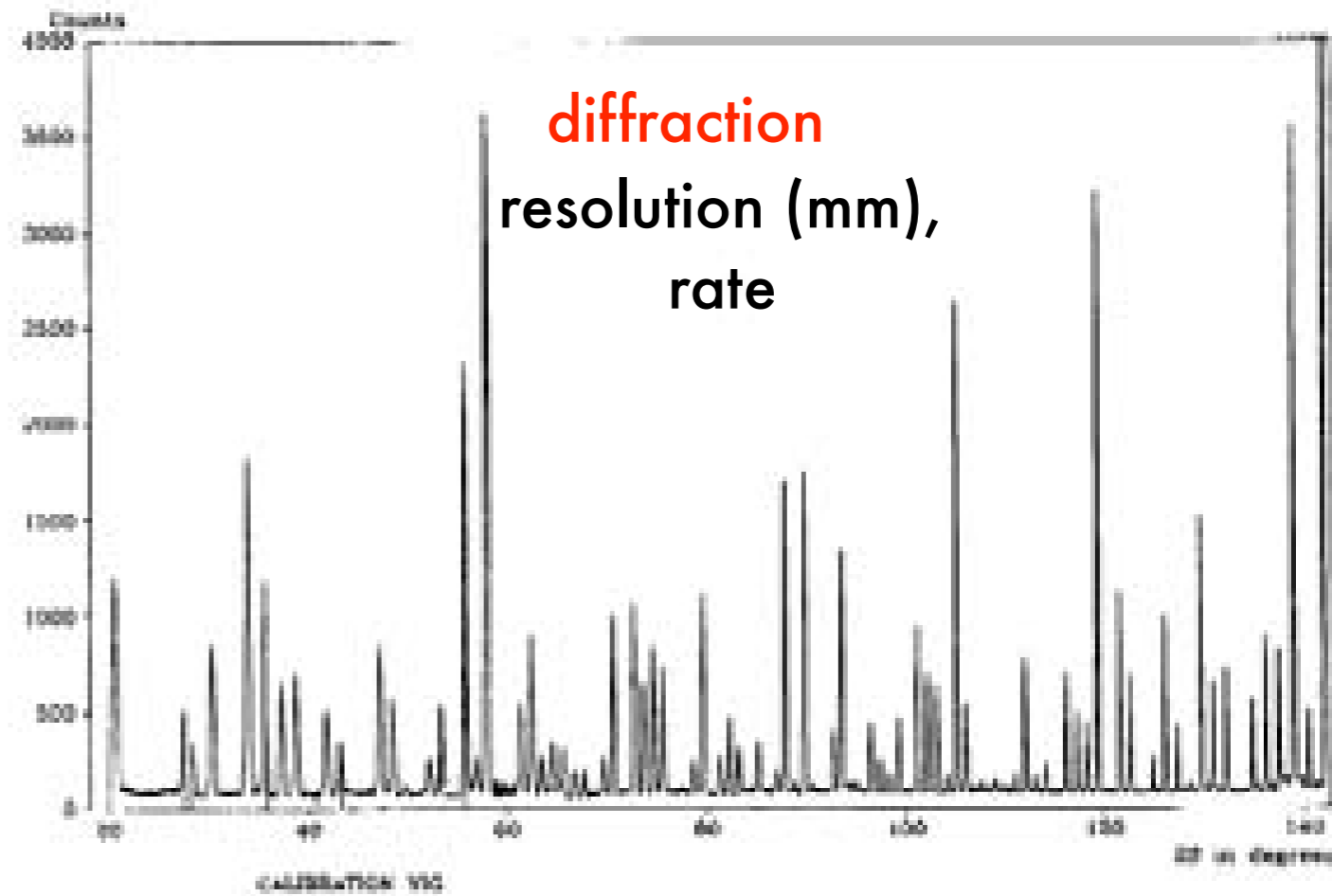
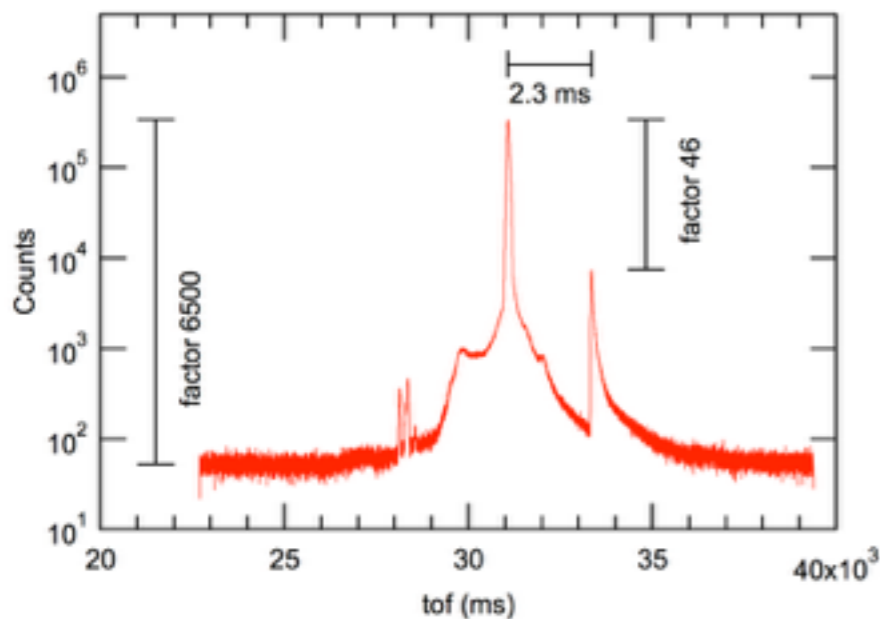
- Neutron Scattering for materials science comprise a great variety of instruments as tools for studying materials
- High efficiency is expected
- Each has its own "figure of merit"

"horses for courses"

**imaging**  
resolution (<100um),  
rate



**inelastic scattering**  
area, cost,  
background



**diffraction**  
resolution (mm),  
rate

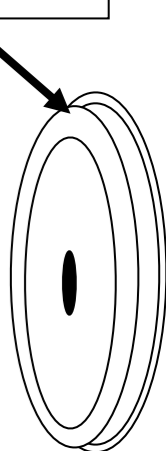
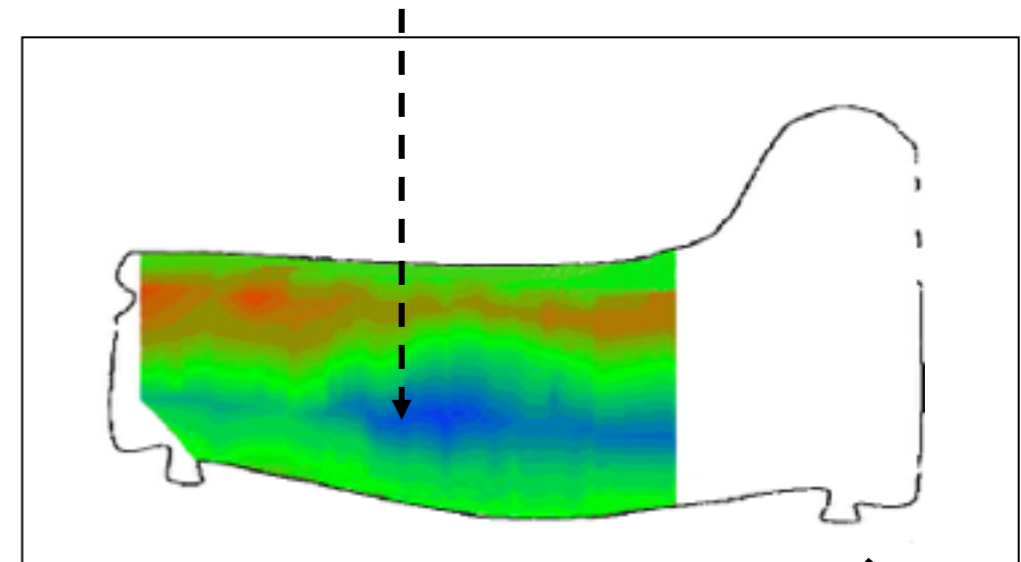


# Neutron can see deep inside matter...



ICE accident, Eschede

Neutrons see **(tensile) stress** inside bulky metal parts that caused wheel failure: **standard engineering theory of plastic deformation stresses in error in the 1990s!!**



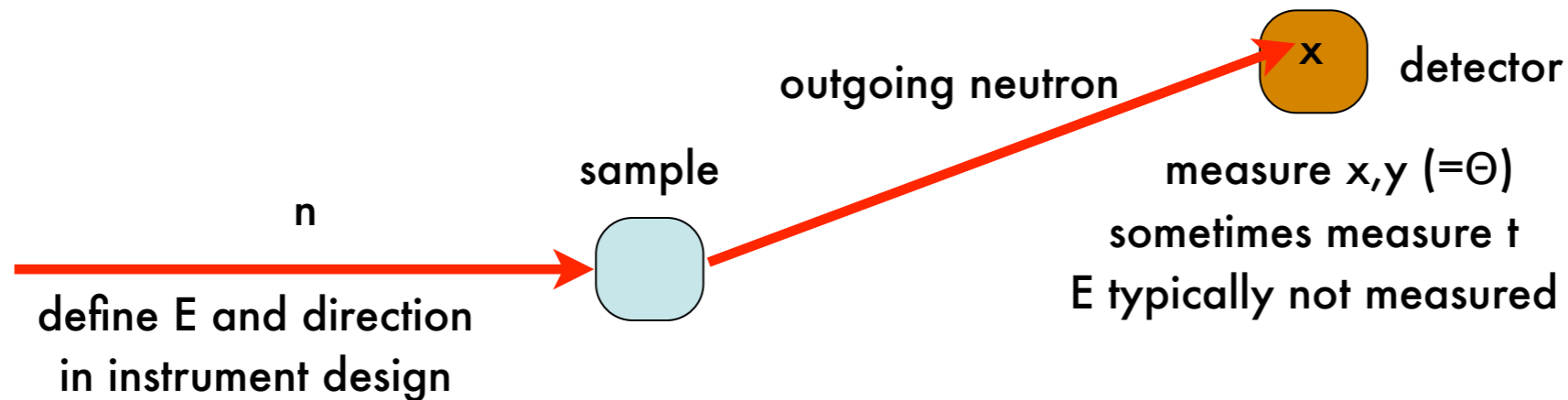
**Knowledge based society??**  
**Safety philosophy?**  
**Industrial / proprietary use**

# Detector Requirements

- How to define the requirements
  - What can happen to a neutron?
  - Triangle: data/simulation/analytical.
  - Rate
  - Resolution
  - Efficiency
  - Background



# Neutron Detectors - what information do you get?



- Scattering angle measured through  $x,y$  position of the neutron detected
- Time of detection often used
  - It is vital to have good time resolution for instruments at spallation sources
- Energy typically not measured
  - In some ways, the holy grail to have a good energy measurement of the neutron?
- Detector needs to be adapted to the expectations for that instrument
  - Not one design fits all

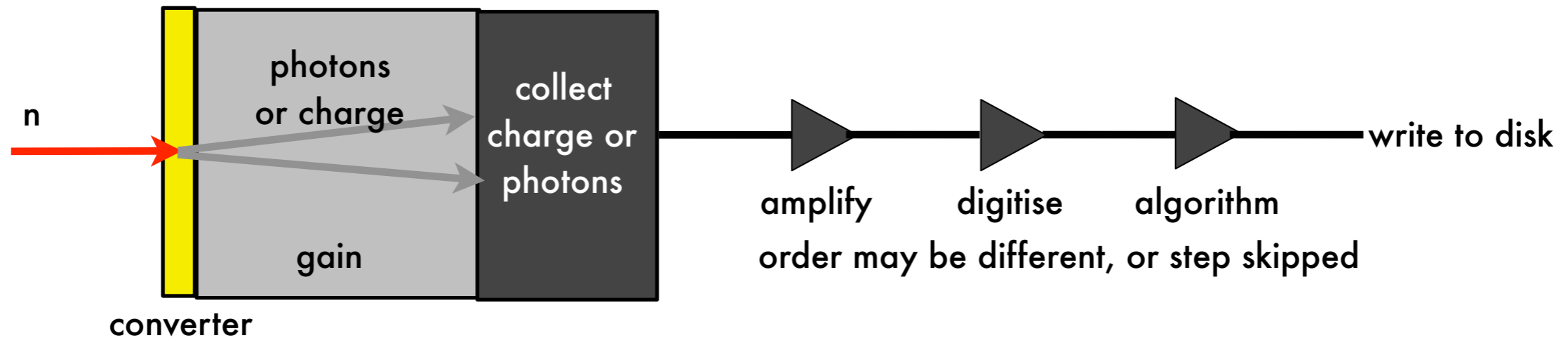
Cost is always a limiting factor in the design of detectors  
Schedule will determine what you can do about it

# Detectors - what do we mean? An analogy ...



# Basic Principles of Neutron Detectors

- Need to produce a measurable electric signal
- Not possible to directly detect slow neutrons - energy is too low
- Need to use nuclear reactions to convert neutrons into charged particles
- Then indirectly detect the charged particles in a charged particle detector
- Amplify, digitise, process as needed.
- Store data on disk



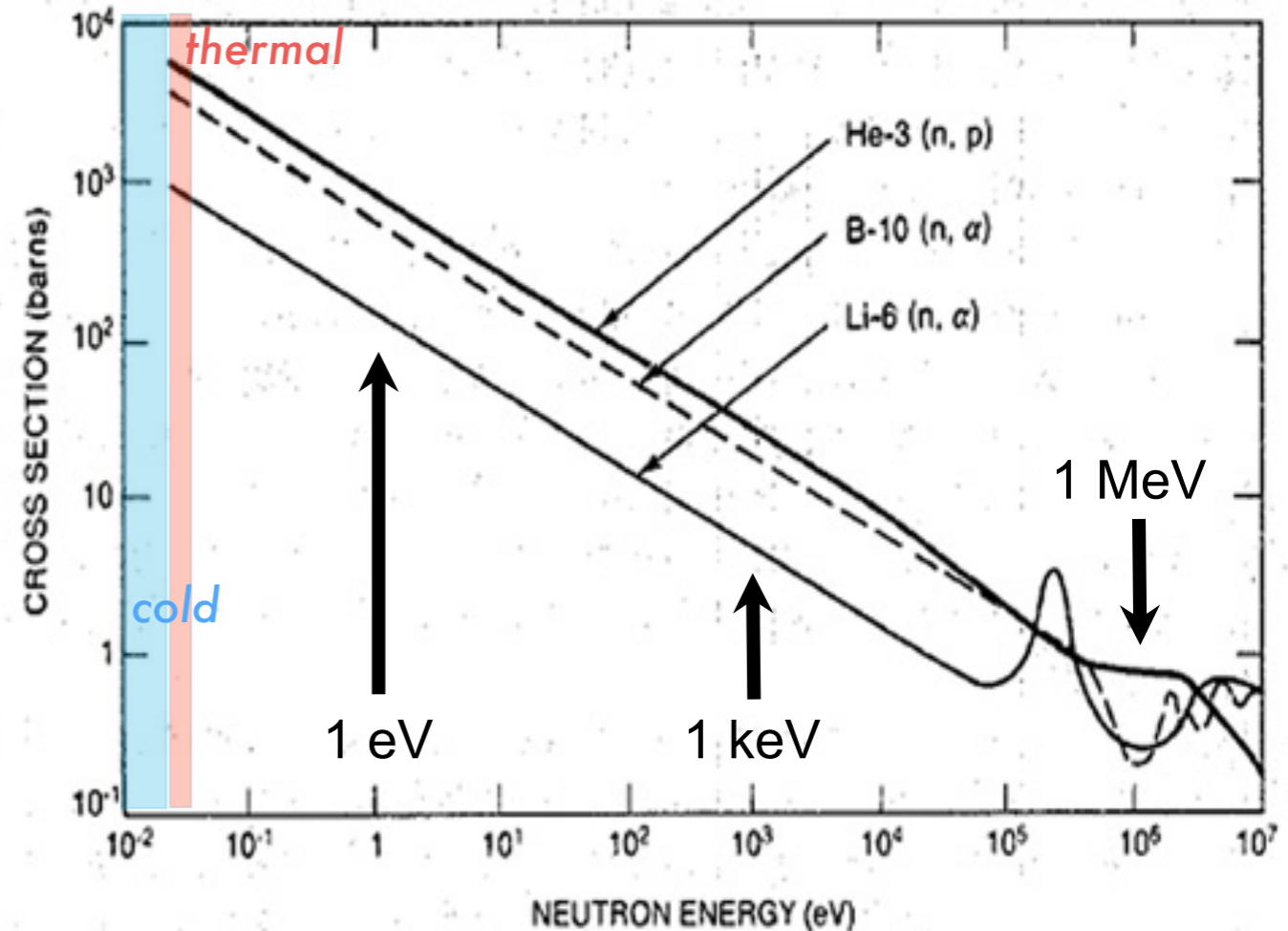
# Isotopes Suitable as Cold and Thermal Neutron Convertors

reaction	energy	particle	energy	particle	energy
$n(^3\text{He}, p)^3\text{H}$	+0.77 MeV	p	0.57 MeV	$^3\text{H}$	0.19 MeV
$n(^6\text{Li}, \alpha)^3\text{H}$	+4.79 MeV	$\alpha$	2.05 MeV	$^3\text{H}$	2.74 MeV
93 % $n(^{10}\text{B}, \alpha)^7\text{Li} + 2.3 \text{ MeV} + \gamma(0.48\text{MeV})$		$\alpha$	1.47 MeV	$^7\text{Li}$	0.83 MeV
7 % $n(^{10}\text{B}, \alpha)^7\text{Li}$	+2.79 MeV	$\alpha$	1.77 MeV	$^7\text{Li}$	1.01 MeV
$n(^{235}\text{U}, \text{Lfi}) \text{Hfi}$	+ ~ 100 MeV	Lfi	$\leq 80 \text{ MeV}$	Hfi	$\leq 60 \text{ MeV}$
$n(^{157}\text{Gd}, \text{Gd}) e^-$	+ $\leq 0.182 \text{ MeV}$	conversion electron			0.07 to 0.182 MeV

- Only a few isotopes with sufficient interaction cross section
- To be useful in a detector application, reaction products need to be easily detectable

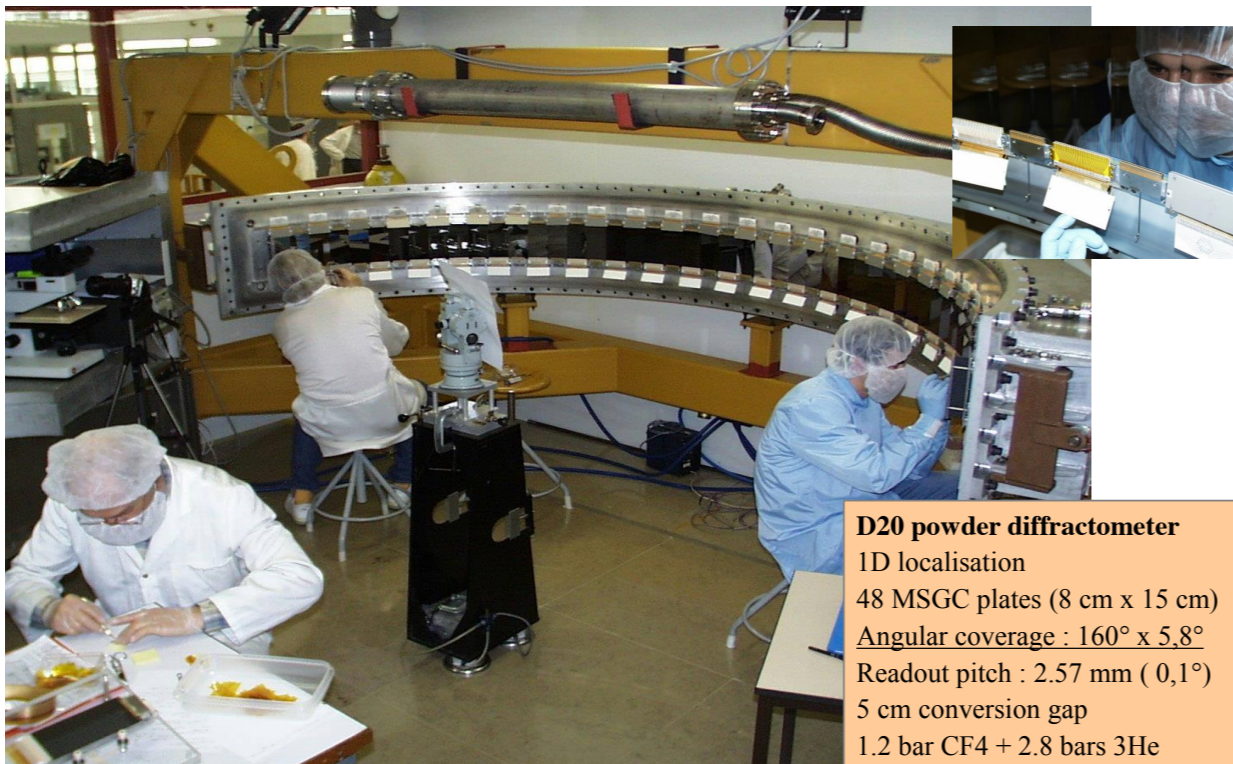
**Table 1: Commonly used isotopes for thermal neutron detection, reaction products and their kinetic energies.**

- In region of interest, cross sections scale roughly as  $1/v$
- G. Breit, E.Wiegner, Phys. Rev., Vol. 49, 519, (1936)
- Presently >80% of neutron detectors worldwide are Helium-3 based



- Helium-3 Tubes most common
- Typically 3-20 bar Helium-3
- 8mm-50mm diameter common
- Using a resistive wire, position resolution along the wire of ca. 1% possible

Curved 1D MSGC for the D20 Powder Diffractometer (2000)



**D20 powder diffractometer**  
1D localisation  
48 MSGC plates (8 cm x 15 cm)  
Angular coverage :  $160^\circ \times 5,8^\circ$   
Readout pitch : 2.57 mm (  $0,1^\circ$  )  
5 cm conversion gap  
1.2 bar CF4 + 2.8 bars 3He  
Efficiency 60% @ 0.8 Å

can be large arrays of 10s of m<sup>2</sup>

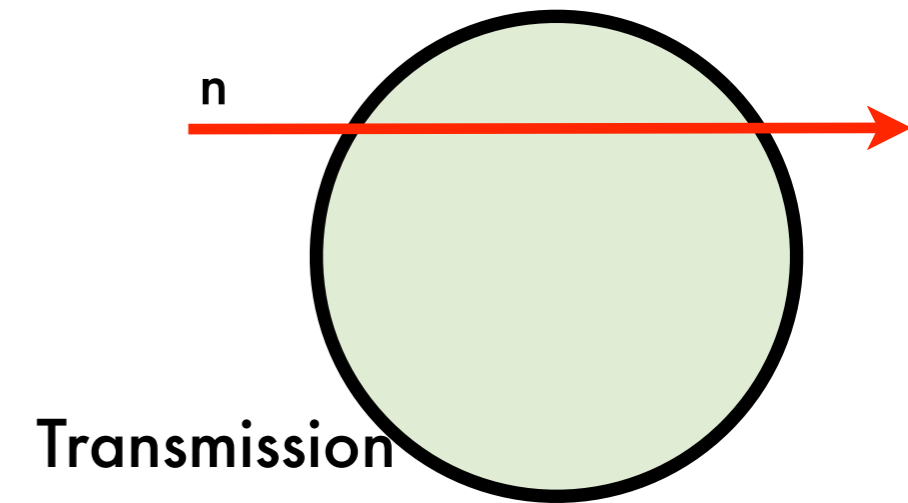
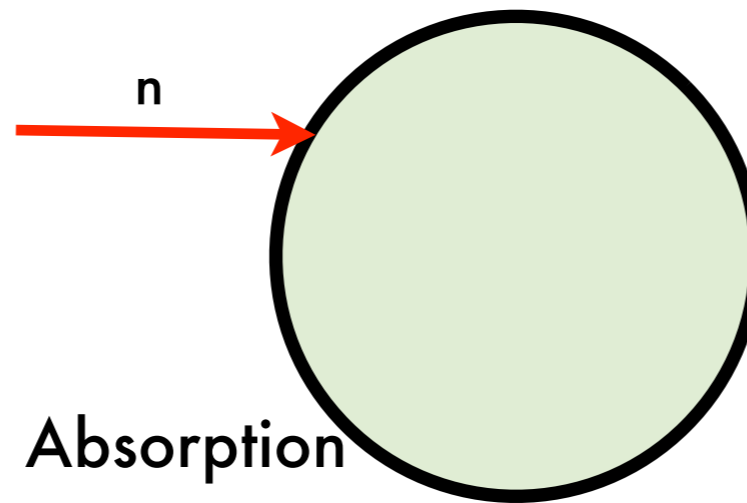
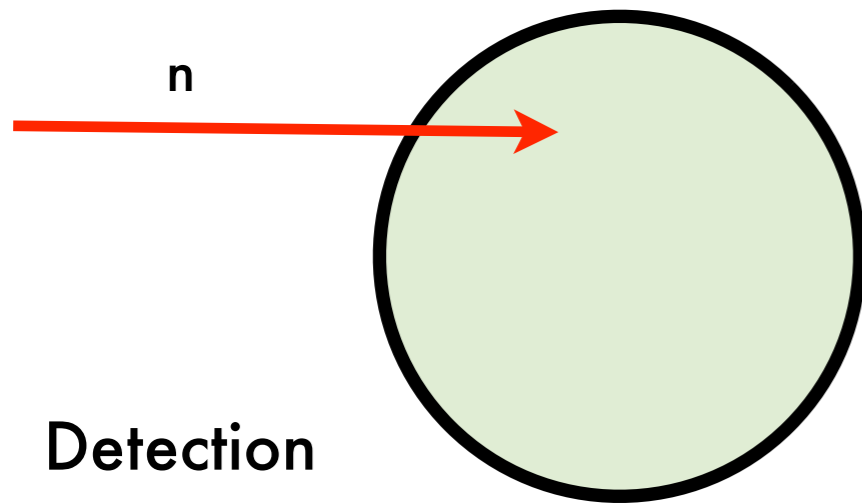


- First micro pattern gaseous detectors was MSGC invented by A Oed at the ILL in 1988
- Rate and resolution advantages
- Helium-3 MSGCs in operation

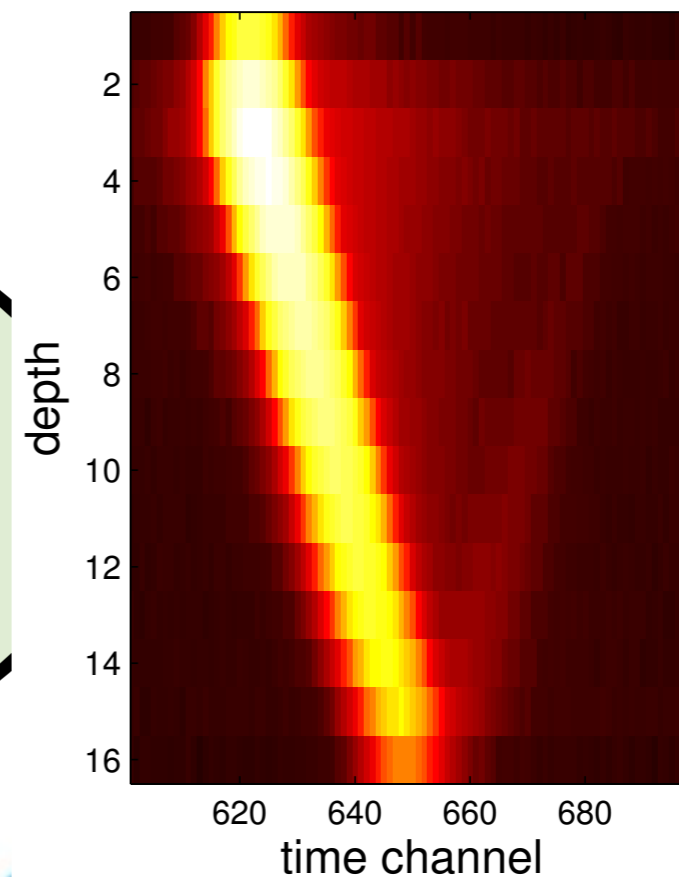
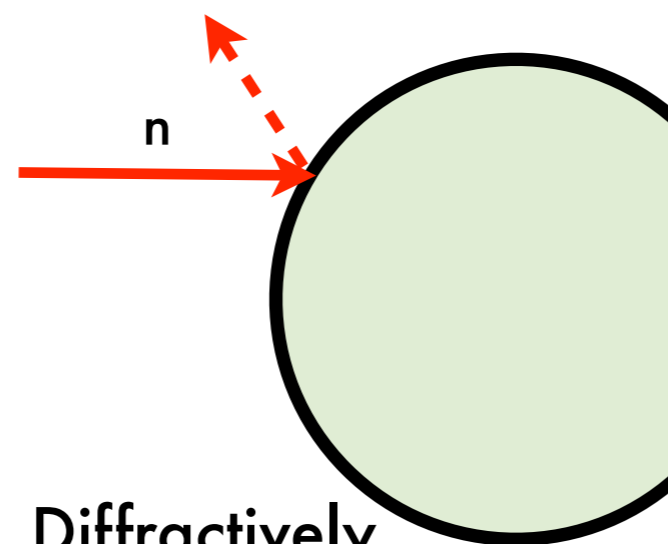
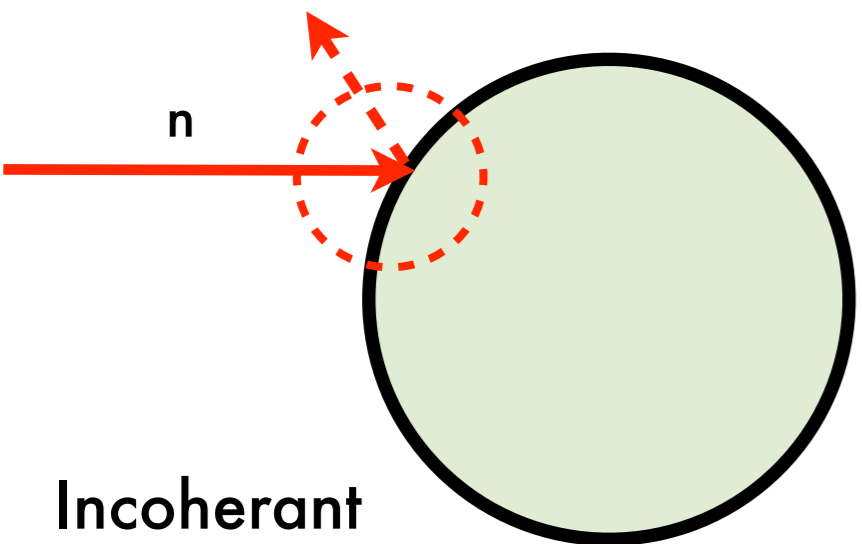
# What can happen to a neutron?

- Detection.
- Absorption.
- Transmission.
- Incoherent scattering
- Diffractive Scattering

eg on a generic He-3 tube



log<sub>10</sub>(rate) @4.6Å

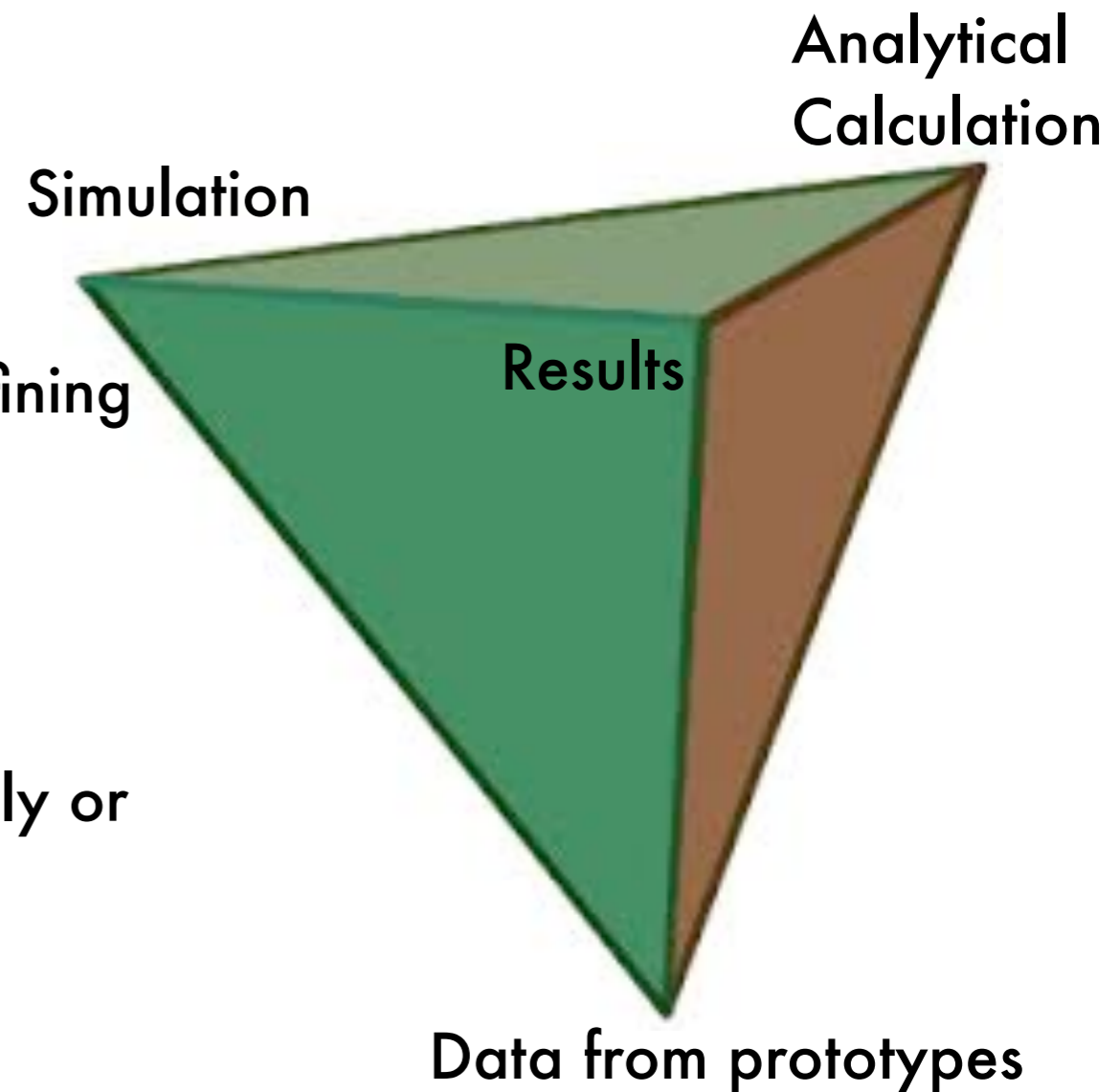


ILL-ESS-LiU  
Collaboration



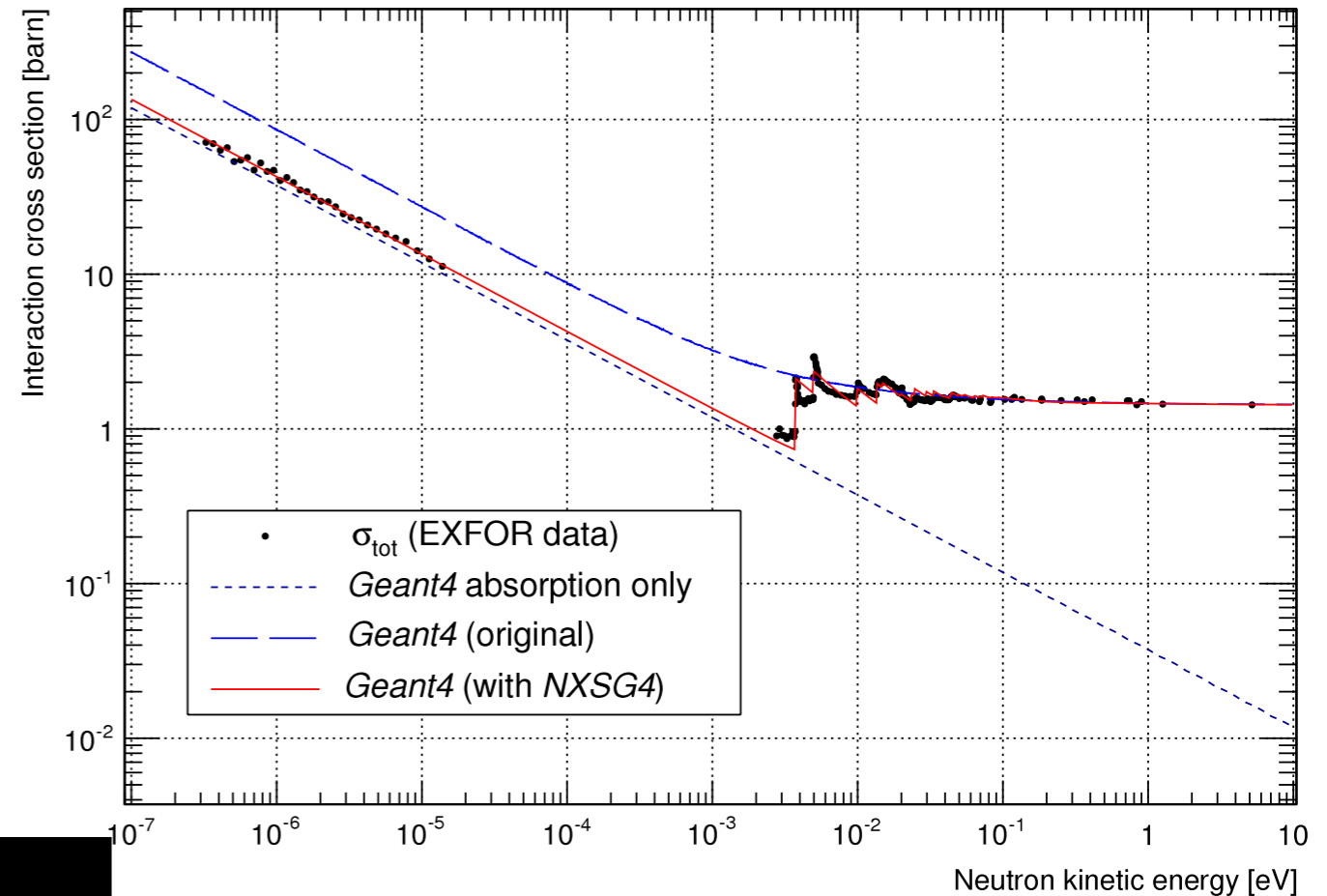
# Calculation, Simulation, Data and All That

- As you have heard, simulation is a very powerful tool
- ... but the computer will always lie to you ...
- Data from prototype tests is golden
- Lack of ability to trigger independently on the neutron means some degree of arbitrariness in defining the measurement
- Checking that your measured data is correct is complicated
- Additionally, always try and calculate analytically or “back of envelope” what your expectation is
- (Or at least upper and lower limits)
- Use all 3 of these together to understand the performance of your prototypes
- Expect “features” and non-agreement and investigate them
- Iterative

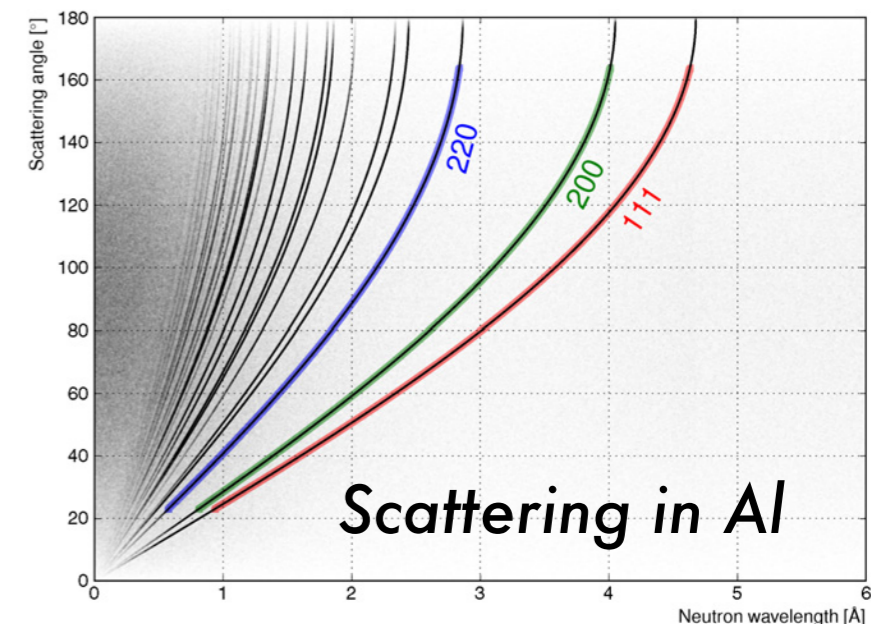
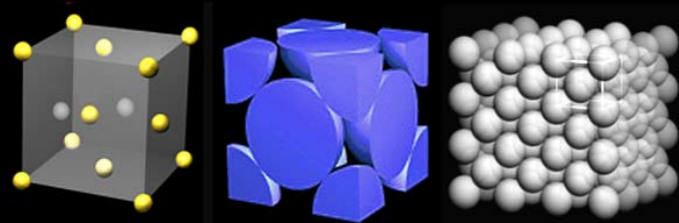


# Neutron diffraction in polycrystalline materials: Add-on for GEANT4

- GEANT4 is an invaluable simulation tool
- However, thermal/cold neutrons not well validated
- No support for crystal diffraction
- A new plugin NXSG4 allows neutron diffraction in polycrystalline materials
- Based upon nxs library, used in McStas, Vitess
- Using simple unit cell parameters, only low energy neutron scattering is overridden. All other GEANT4 capability retained.



```
(tkittel@localhost data)> cat Al.nxs
space_group = 225
lattice_a = 4.049
lattice_b = 4.049
lattice_c = 4.049
lattice_alpha = 90
lattice_beta = 90
lattice_gamma = 90
[atoms]
add atom = Al 3.449 0.008 0.23 26.98 429.0 0.0 0.0 0.0
```



- Available at <http://cern.ch/nxsg4>
- J. Comp Phys Comm 189 (2015) 114



# Simulation of Neutron Scattering in Crystalline Materials

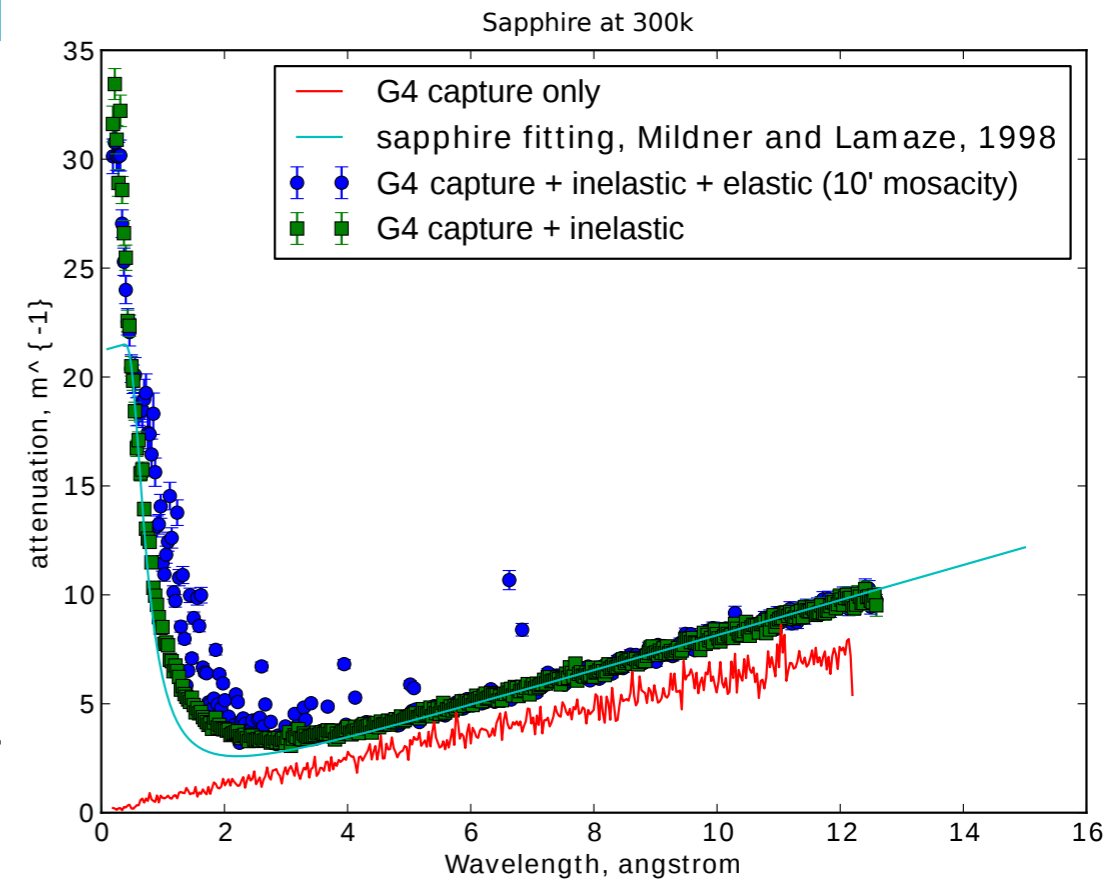
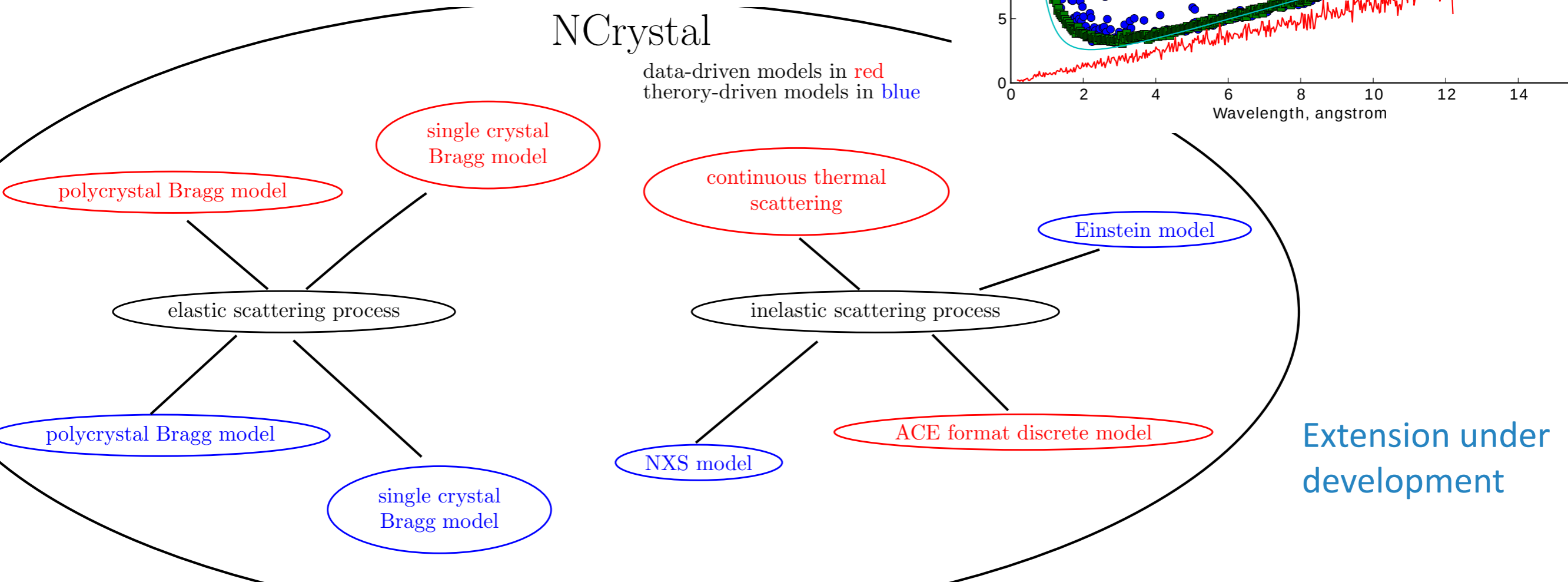
- “NCrystal” models physics of thermal neutron transport in poly- and single-crystalline materials
- Interface to MC models: GEANT4, MCNP, McStas

The scattering physics in NCrystal is a combination of the inelastic and elastic scattering processes. The double differential cross section describes the likelihood of a neutron being scattered into a small solid angle  $d\Omega$  with final energy between  $E'$  and  $E' + dE'$ . It can be expressed as

$$\frac{\partial^2 \sigma}{\partial E' \partial \Omega} = \frac{\partial^2 \sigma_{in}}{\partial E' \partial \Omega} + \frac{\partial^2 \sigma_{el}}{\partial E' \partial \Omega}$$

NCrystal

data-driven models in red  
theory-driven models in blue

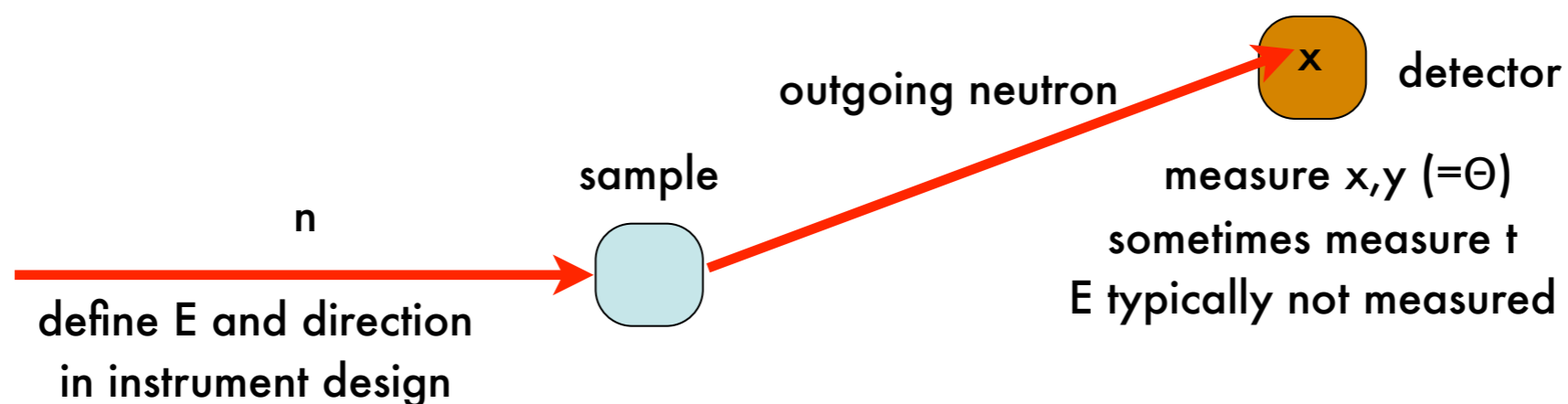


Extension under development

# Definitions and Standards



# Definitions of Performance

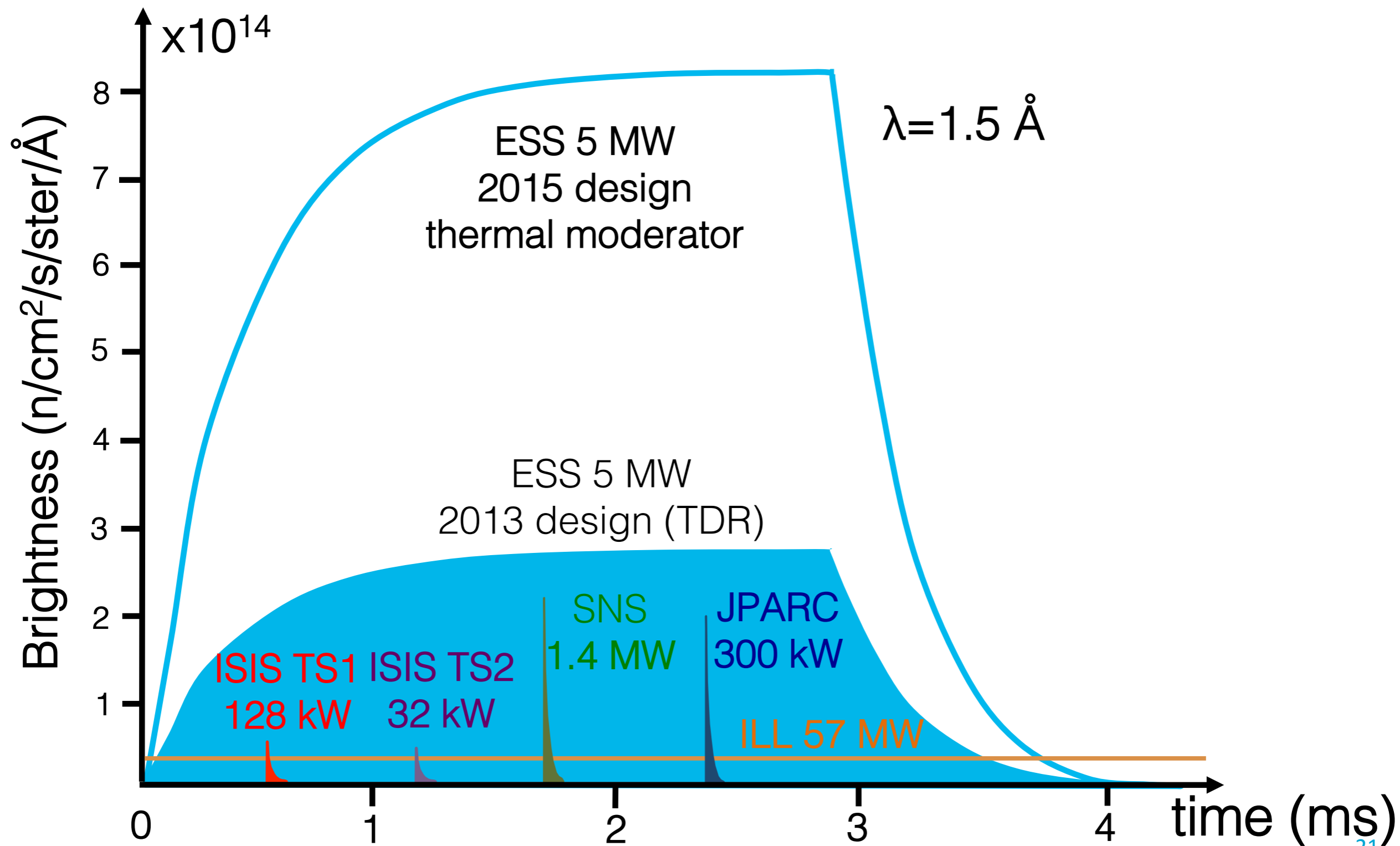


- Position/angular resolution: how well the position of detection is measured
- Time resolution: how well the time-of-arrival of the neutron is measured
- Efficiency: probability that a given neutron will be detected
- Noise: rate of fake hits
- Dynamic range: the “headroom” between noise and maximum rate
- Rate capability: the maximum rate of neutrons that can be detected either locally or globally
- (In-)Scattering: fraction of neutrons scattered from somewhere they shouldn't have (sample or instrument)
- Gamma rejection: fraction of gamma's that are falsely identified as a neutron
- A detector will often be described solely in terms of efficiency and resolution, whereas the scientific performance may be determined by S/N, background, scattering, gamma sensitivity

# Rate

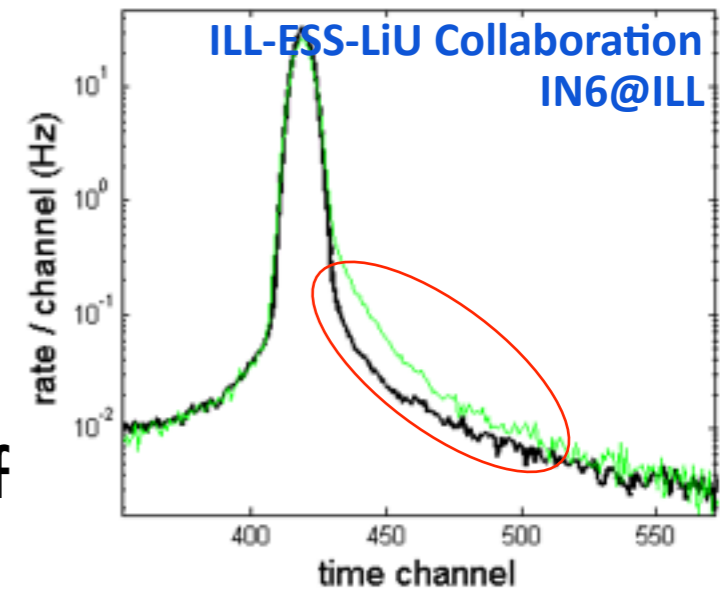
- Rate is the number of neutrons incident per unit time
- For ESS, rate is a key issues for many instruments designs
- Three numbers of interest for assessing a detector choice:
  - Global rate: rate (Hz) over a larger area: detector unit or  $m^2$
  - Local rate: rate over a smaller (channel/pixel): Hz/ca.  $mm^2$
  - Local instantaneous rate: hits during a small interval of time over a smaller (channel/pixel): hits/100us-ms/ca.  $mm^2$
  - The relevant size of the unit depends upon the details of the detection process
- Details of the detector system as a whole are important
- Even if the detection process can handle the rate, it might be that bottlenecks occur further on
- Important to keep in mind for the electronics and readout design of the detector

# Challenge for Rate

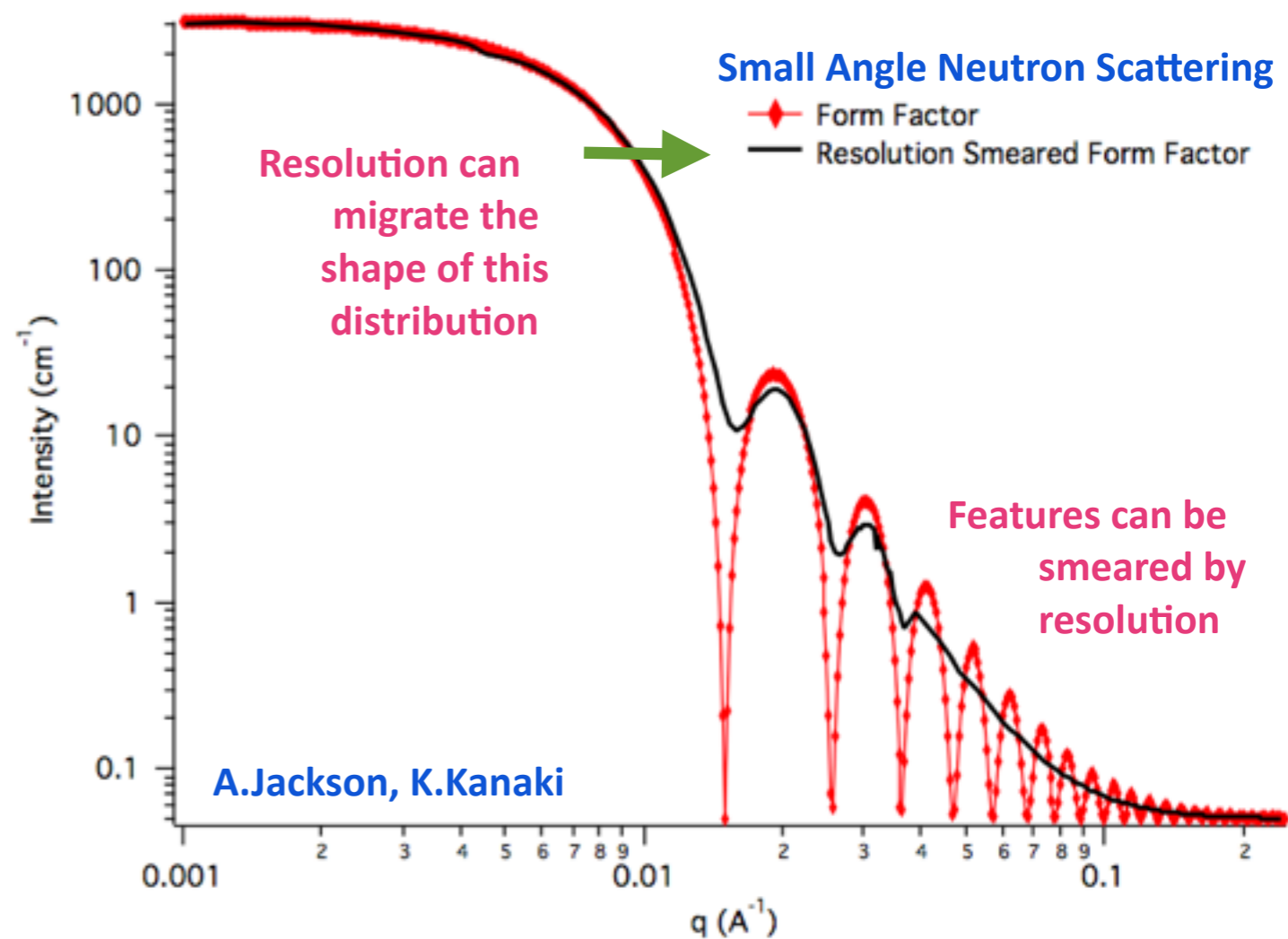
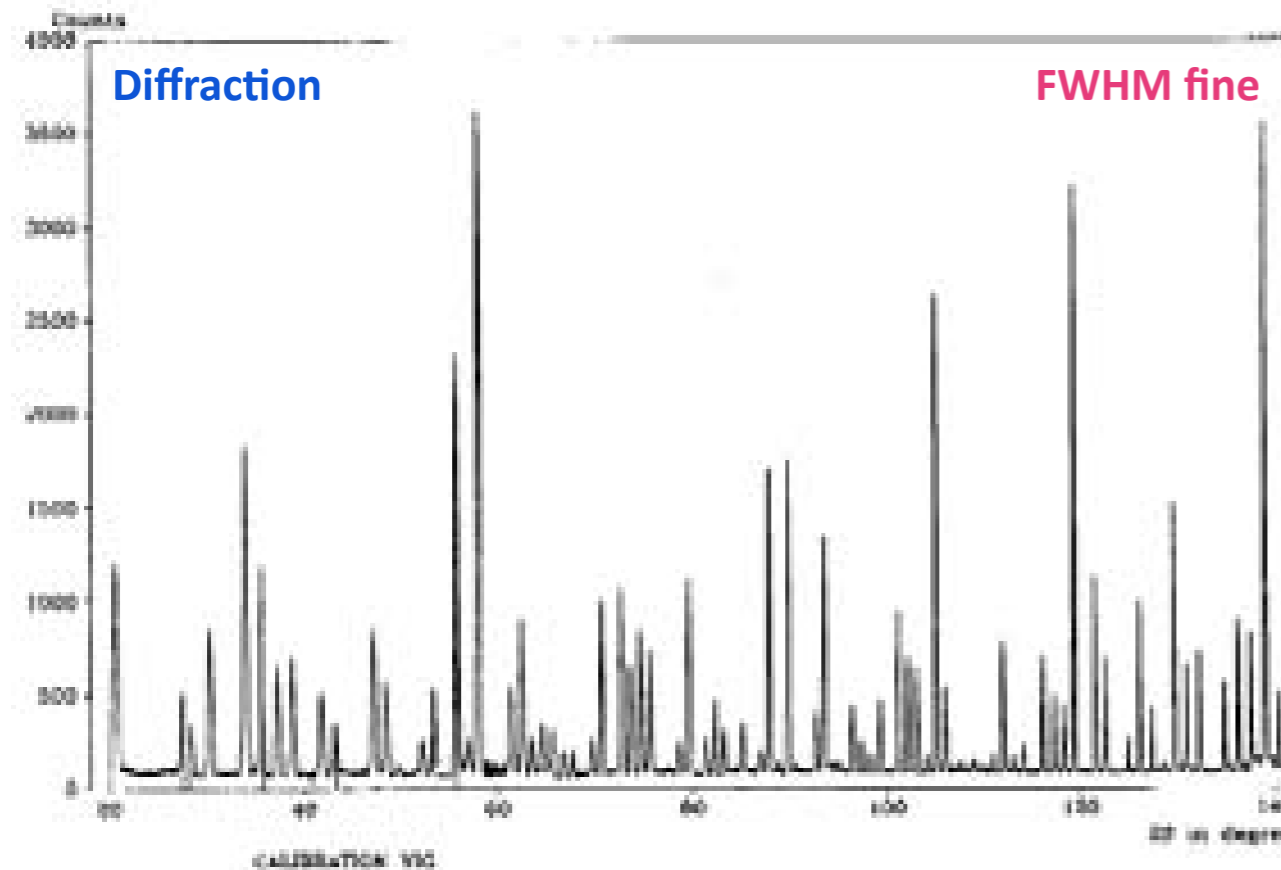


# Position Resolution

- The position resolution is the distribution of the measured position of the neutron compared to the true position of the neutron
- Typically simply quoted as a Full-Width-Half-Maximum or width of a Gaussian fit
- However, the details of this distribution are important depending upon the application
- In particular be careful of quickly falling distributions: resolution can smear out features, and change the measurements from the plot



example of smearing  
from Al scattering

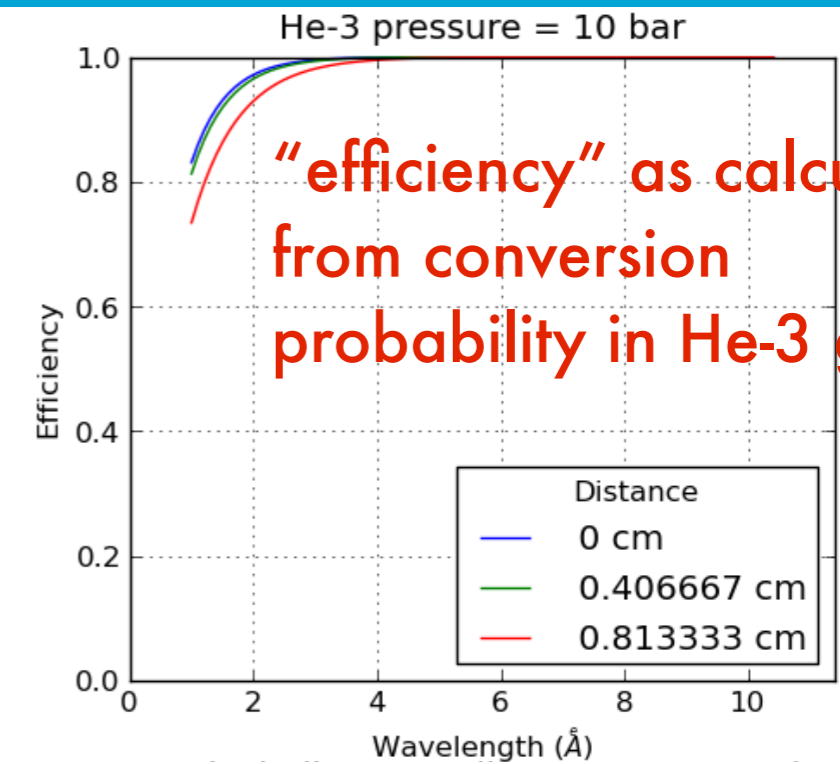
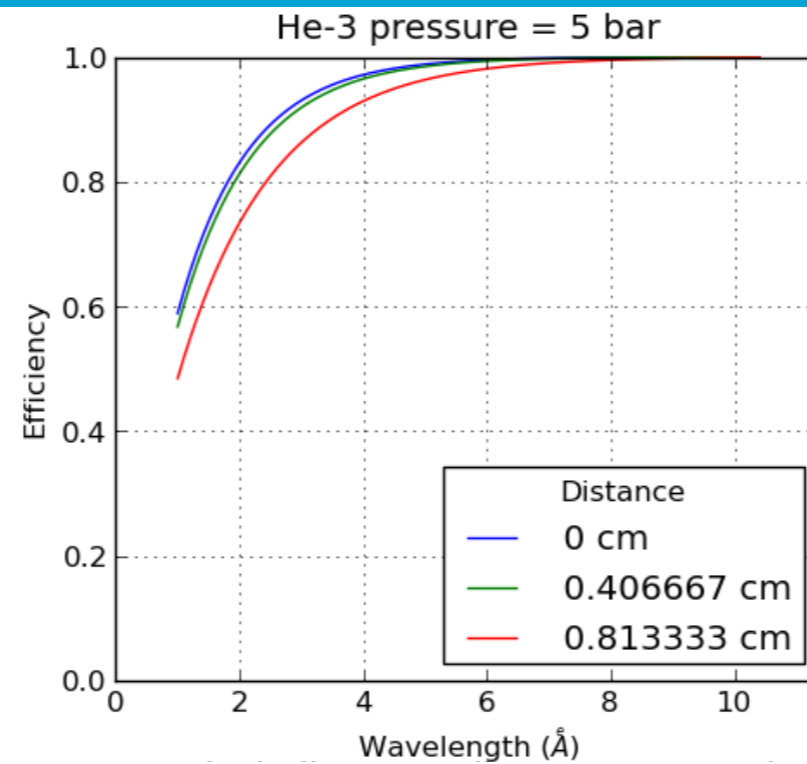
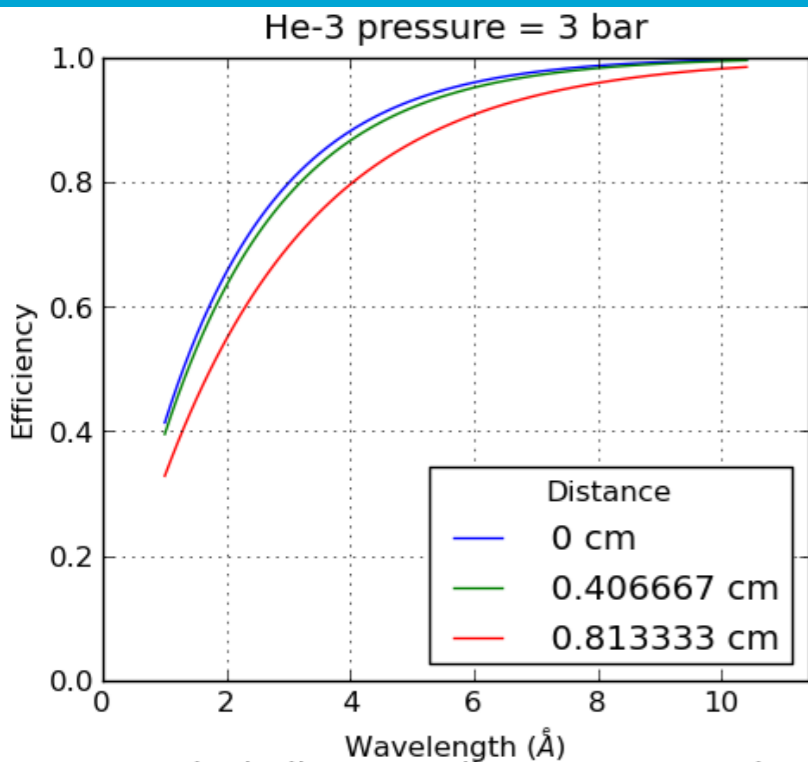


# Efficiency

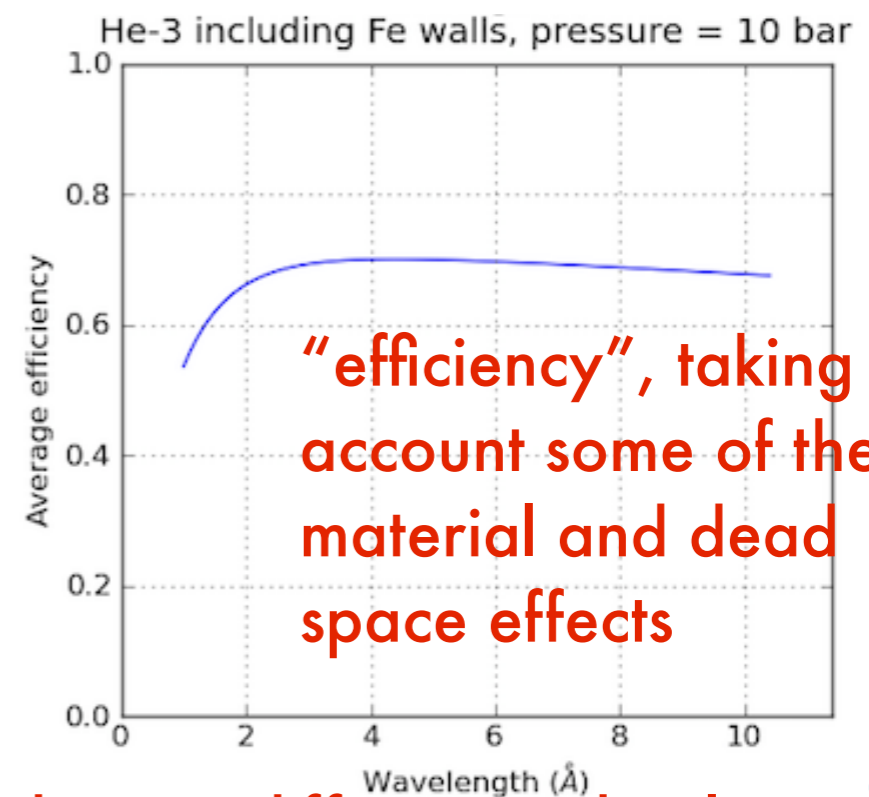
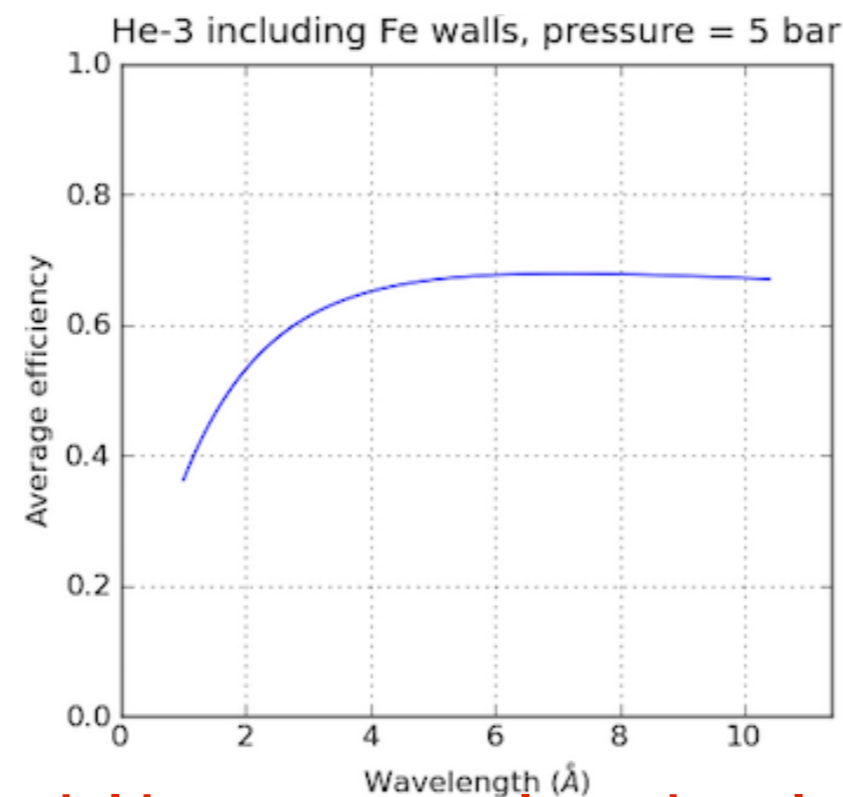
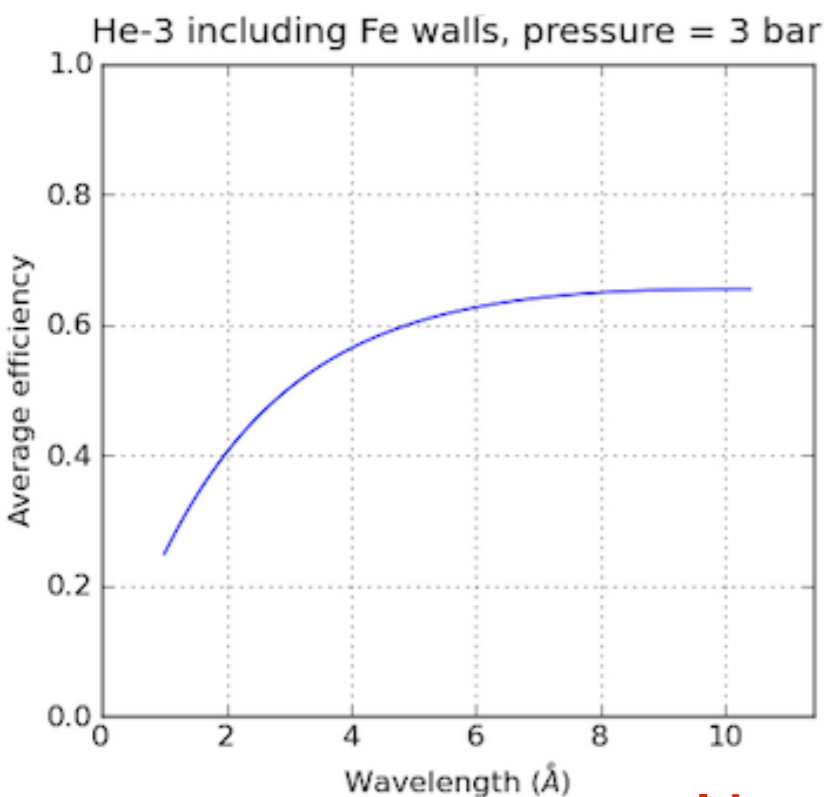
- Efficiency is the fraction of neutrons detected compared to the true number of neutrons
- Typically this is quoted as a point-like efficiency, at the most efficient point in the detector, also in the most efficient configuration of the detector
- Important to quote efficiency at the working point, and explain why the working point is there
- Additionally, whilst the point peak efficiency is a useful number, probably more useful:
  - global efficiency = detected neutrons into solid angle of interest / true number of neutrons into solid angle of interest
  - The solid angle of interest is that subtended by the detector system from the scattering sample
  - This then takes into account dead material (absorption and scattering), non-active areas, etc etc
- As the wavelength dependence of the efficiency is high, need a well-defined wavelength of the neutrons to make the measurement - not moderated radioactive sources
- Lastly, neutron efficiency typically is measured with respect to a “reference detector”
  - Clearly the understanding of this detector needs to be excellent
  - Need to understand possible systematic effects
  - eg background on both detectors needs to be known and corrected for
  - Using an additional detector / method highly desirable to reduce errors
  - Uncertainty evaluation

# He-3 Efficiency

Example of typical large area application:



“efficiency” as calculated from conversion probability in He-3 gas



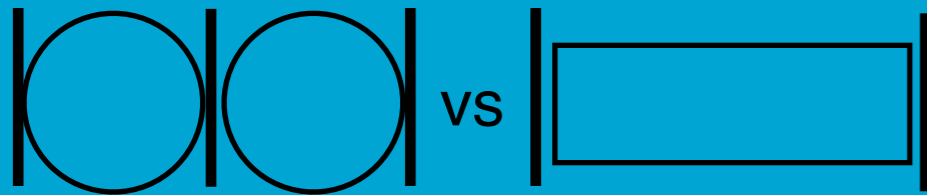
“efficiency”, taking into account some of the material and dead space effects

Important to compare like-with-like, in particular when looking at different technologies<sup>†</sup>



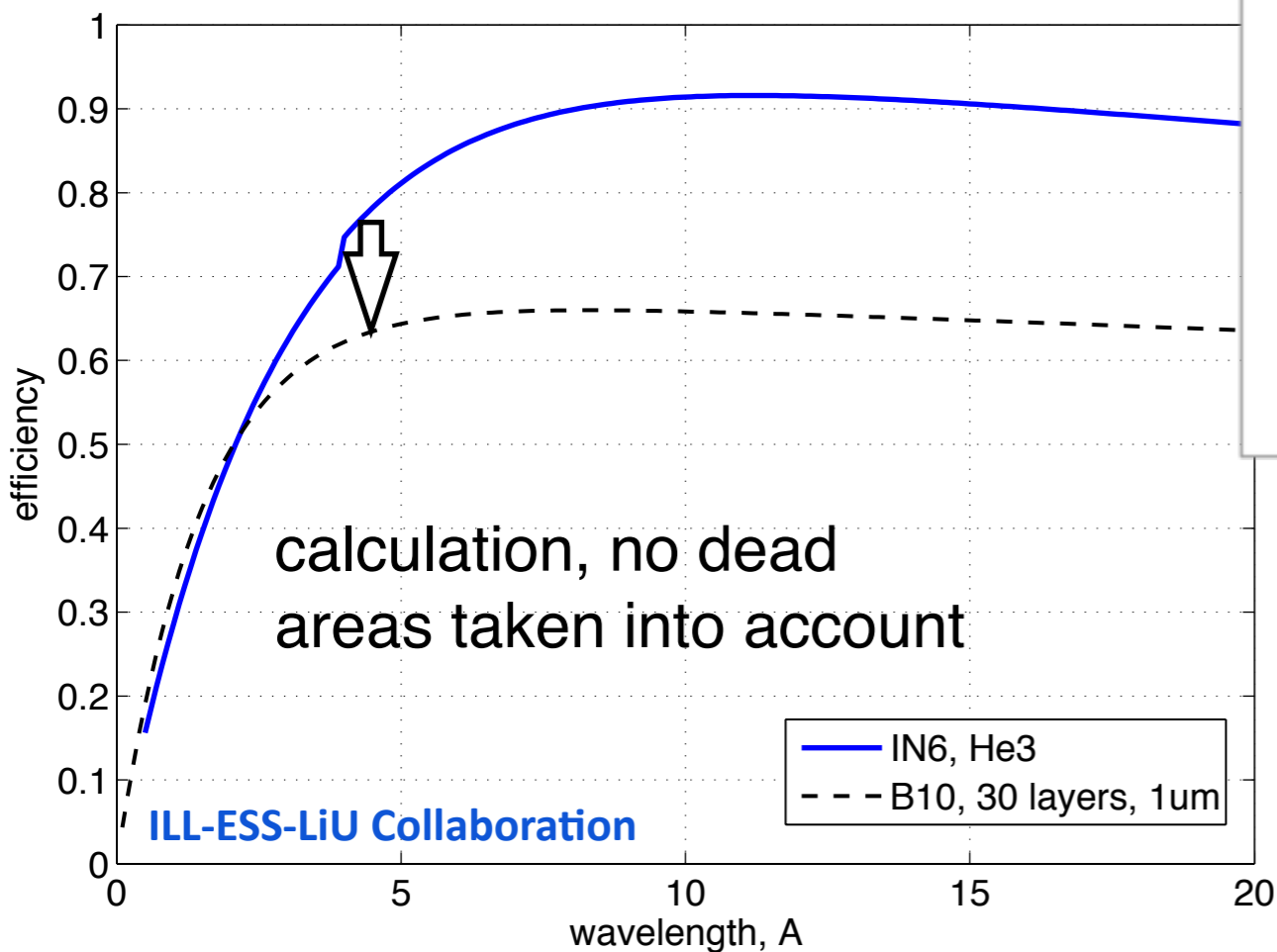
# Quality and Standards: Detection Efficiency

cartoon:

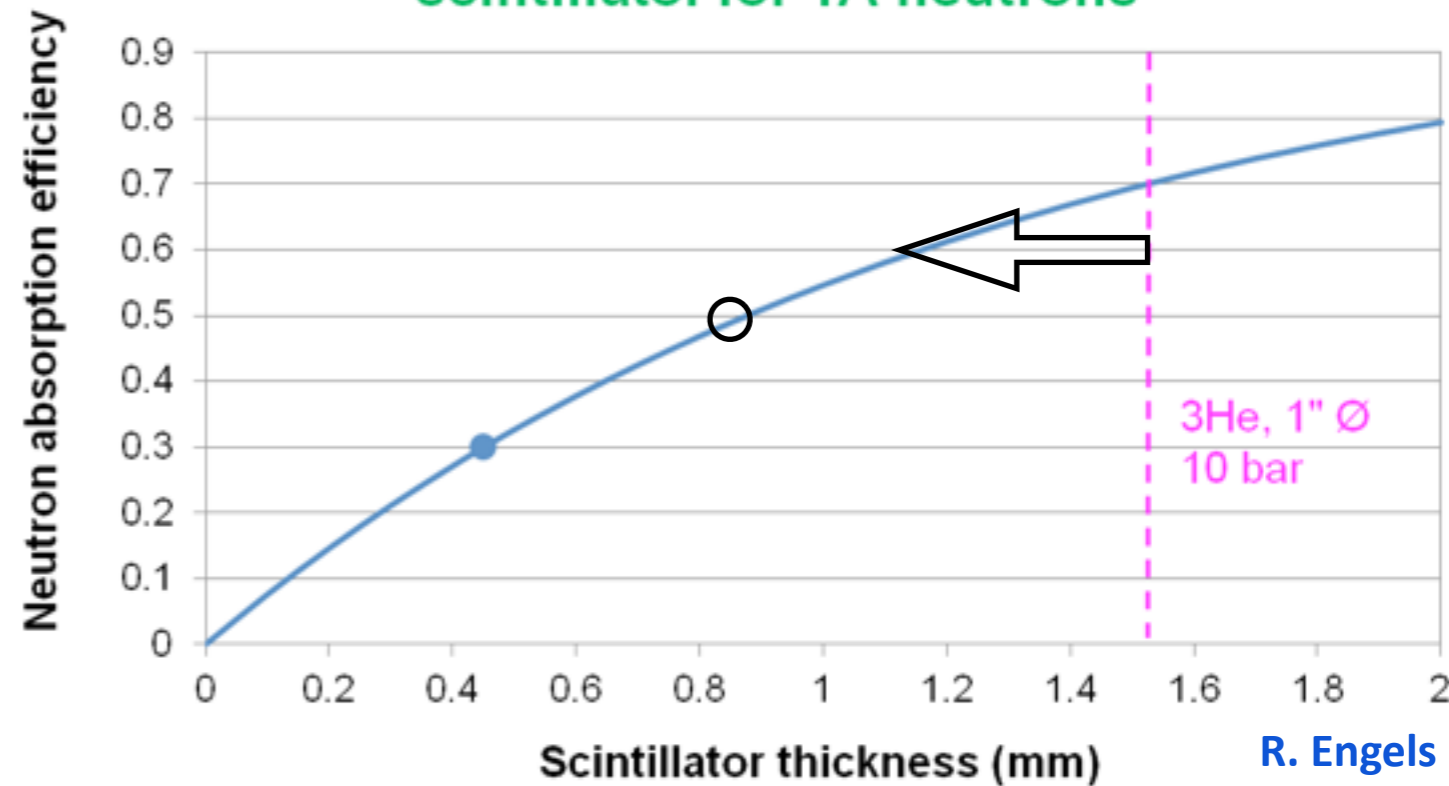


“boundary conditions matter”

- Helium-3 is the gold standard, in particular in terms of detection efficiency
- However, efficiency numbers have rarely compared like-with-like



Absorption efficiency of AST 2:1 ZnS/LiF scintillator for 1Å neutrons

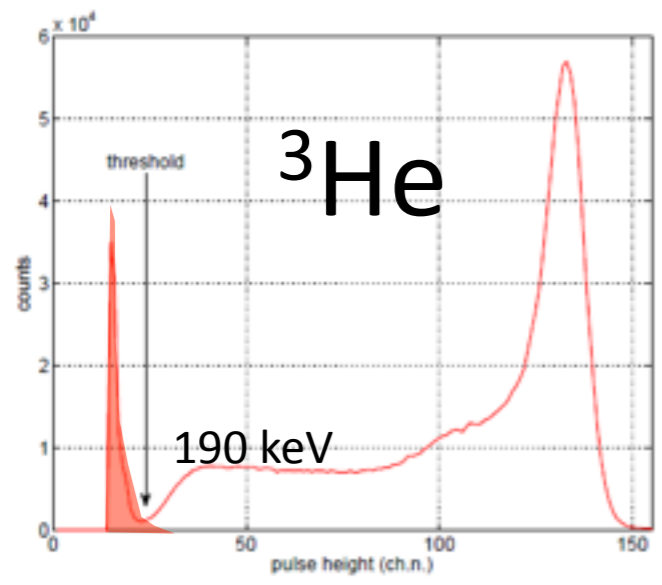


- Arrow indicate effect of dead regions into account with He-3 tubes
- Alternate technologies starting to approach raw efficiency numbers
- There is a need to compare like-with-like for the detailed instrument operating conditions
- Gamma rejection is a similar issue

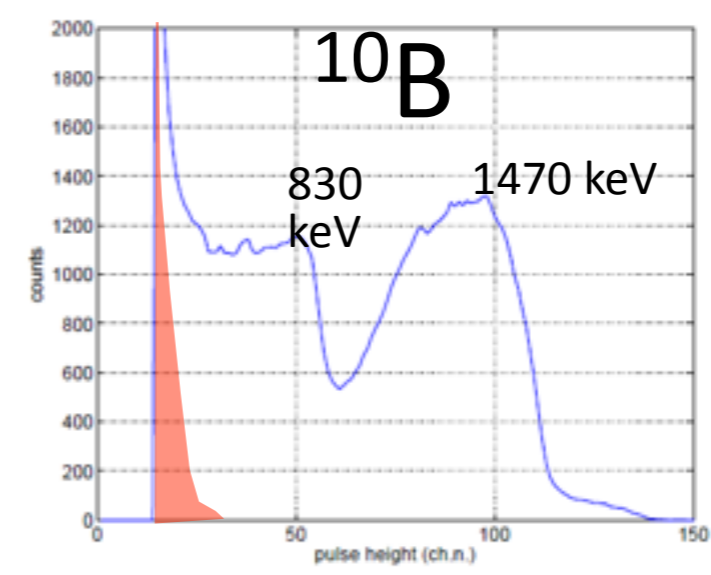
Standards definition key part of ensuring best cost/quality detectors

**compare like-with-like**

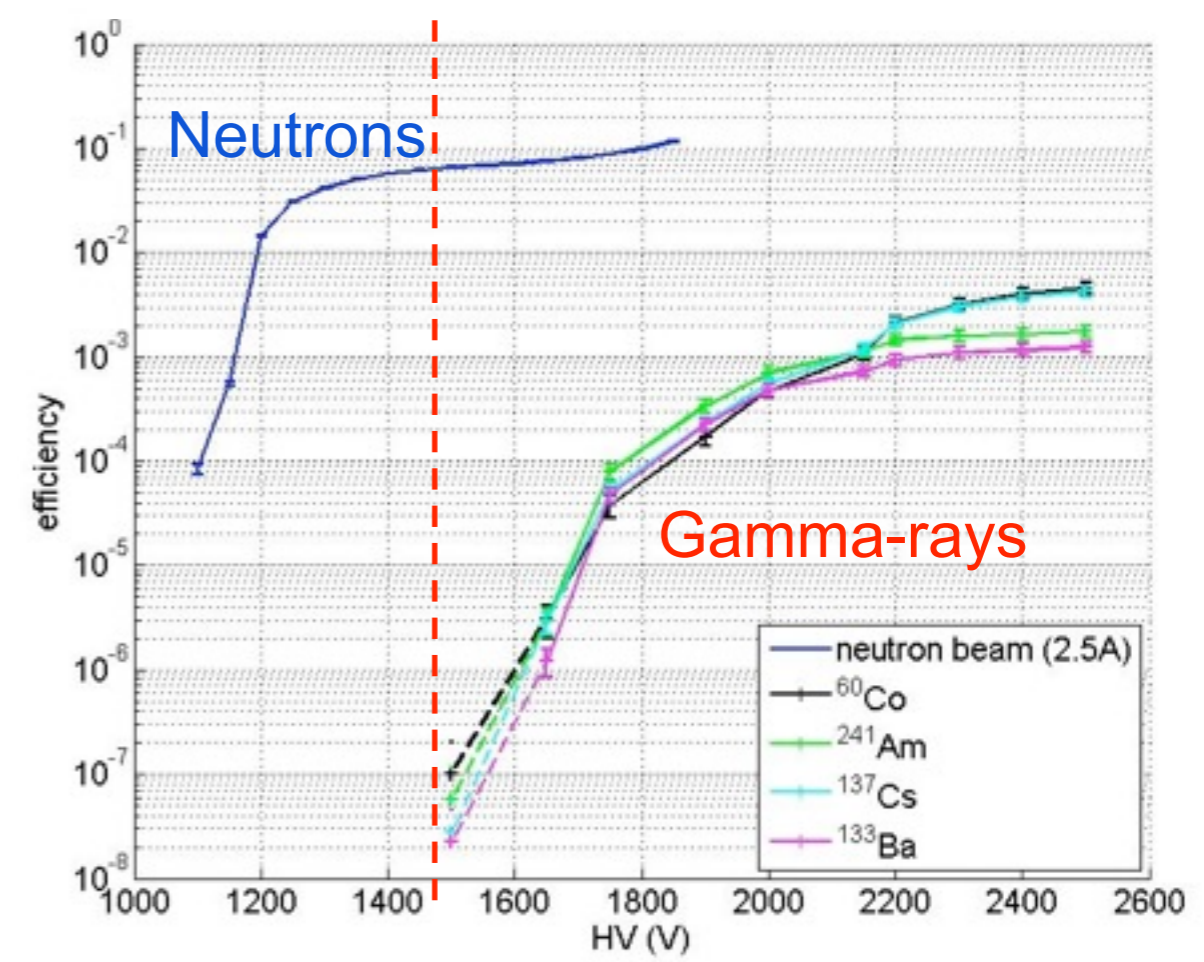
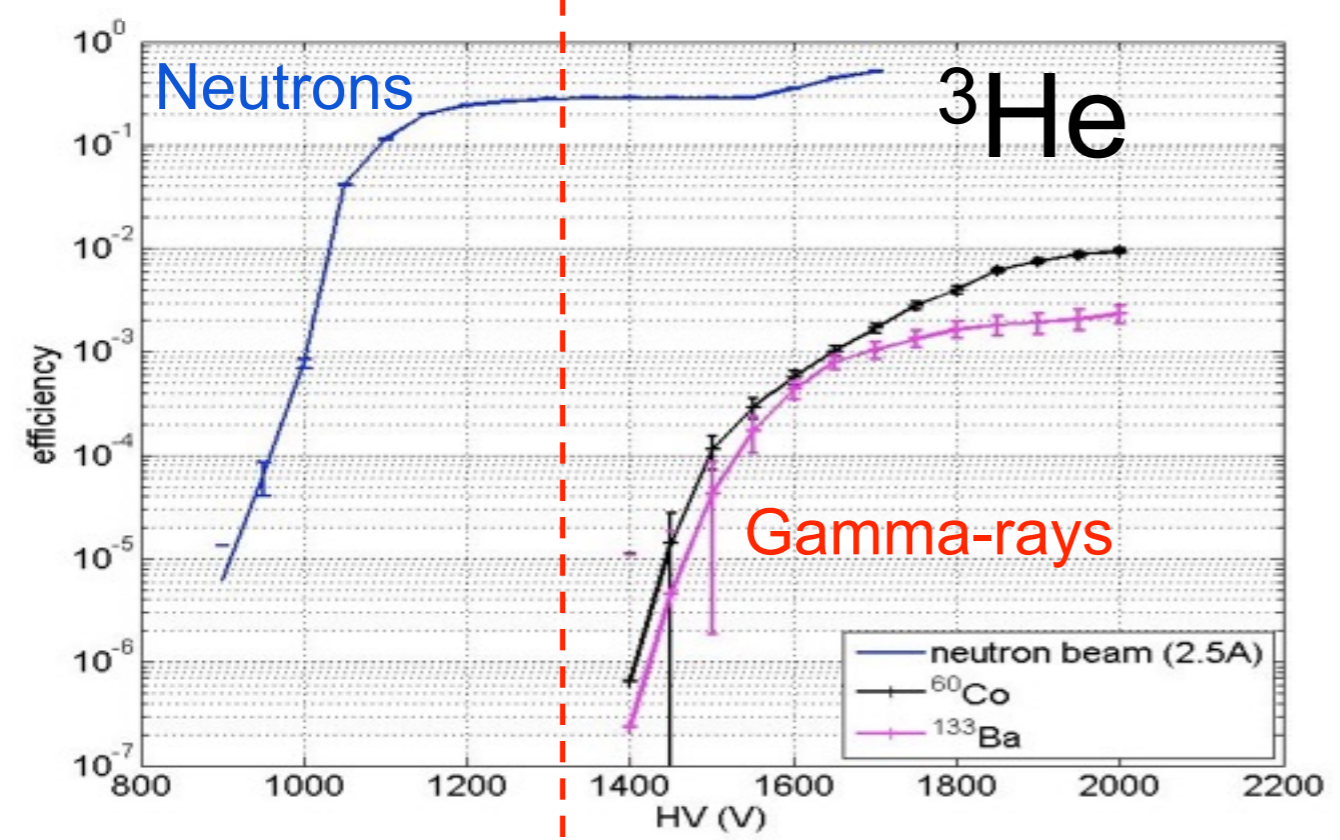
Especially necessary with commercial suppliers, to define what we want measured



**<10<sup>-6</sup>**



**<10<sup>-6</sup>**



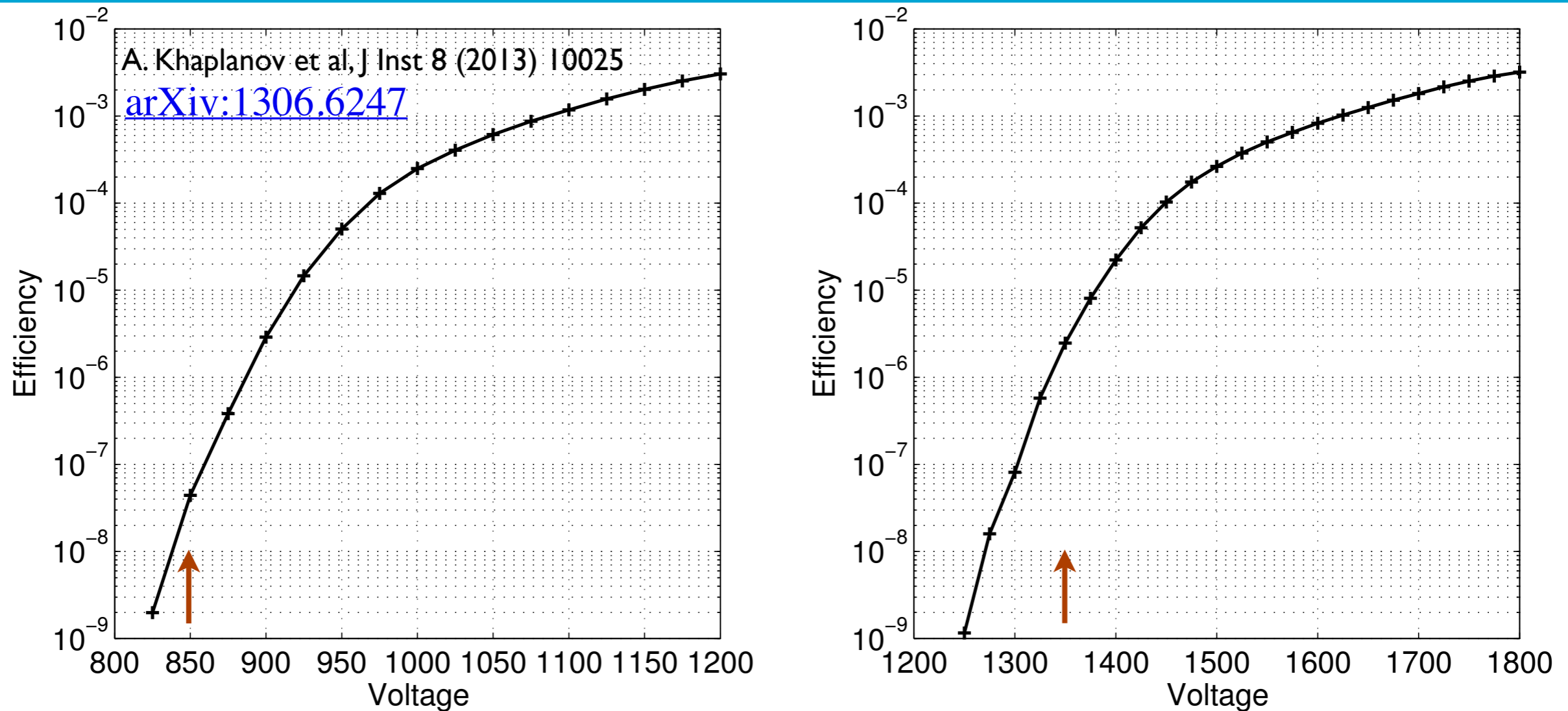
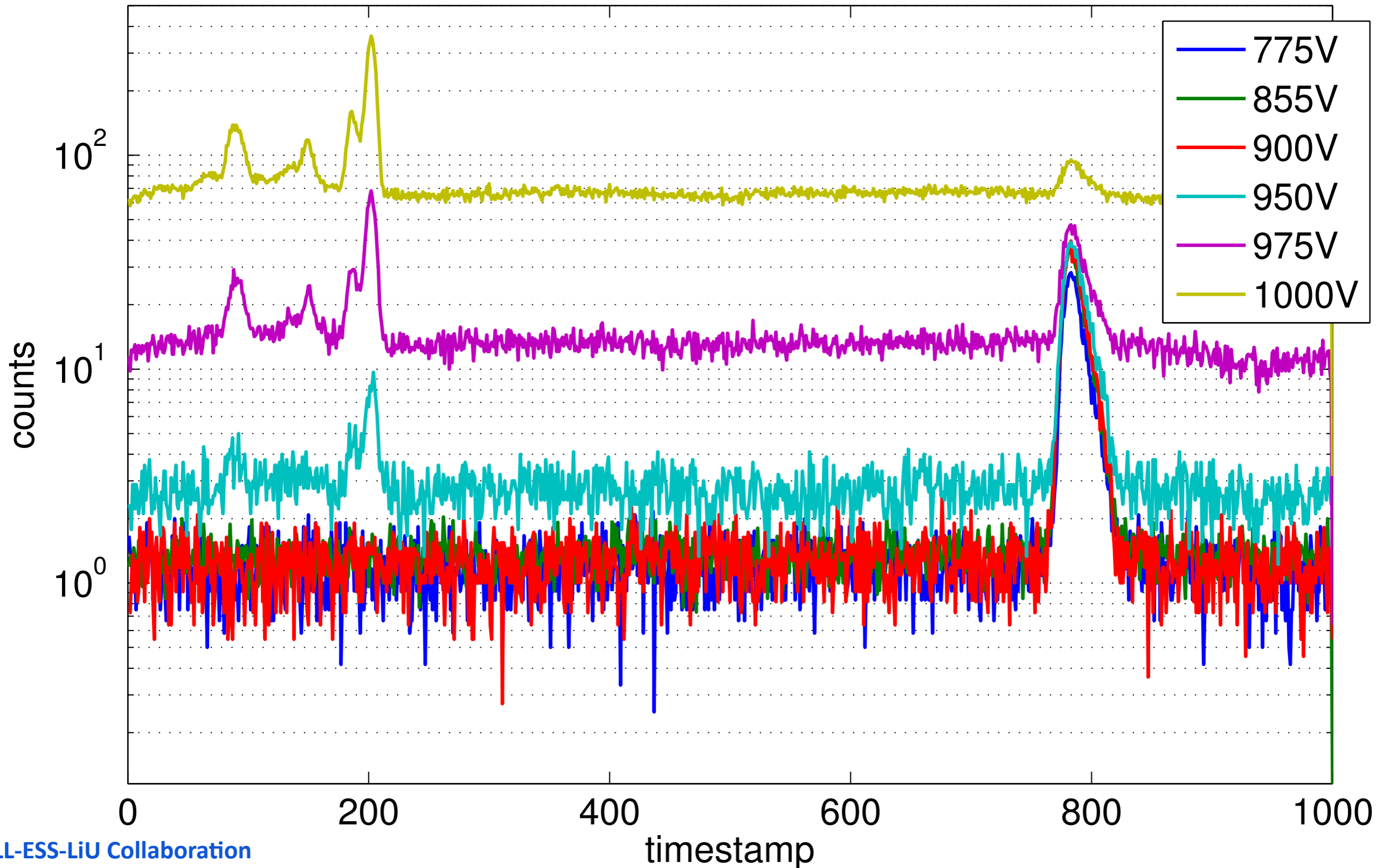


Figure 8: Plateau measurement with the Multi-Grid  $^{10}\text{B}$  detector (left) and a Multi-Tube  $^3\text{He}$  detector (right) with a strong  $^{137}\text{Cs}$  source.

**Quote gamma sensitivity at same working point as detection efficiency**

Working on standards definition for other backgrounds and beam monitors

# Turning a neutron detector into a gamma detector

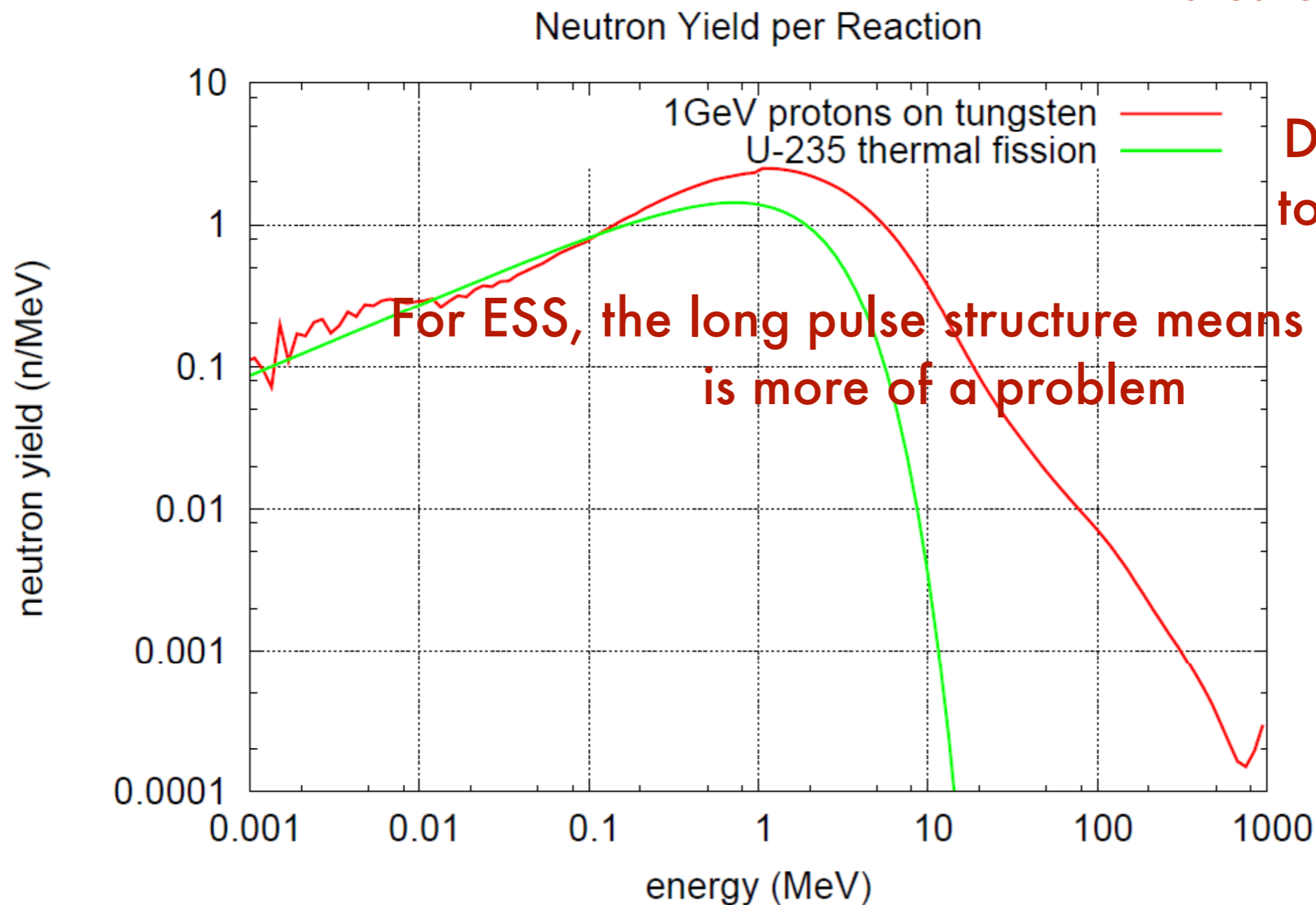


fast neutrons are a menace for spallation sources

# Why are we here today?

## Fission and Spallation Neutron Spectra

For ESS, good control of backgrounds is going to be an indicator of success



For ESS, the long pulse structure means that this is more of a problem

Detector insensitive to backgrounds are a good start

# Detectors for the European Spallation Source

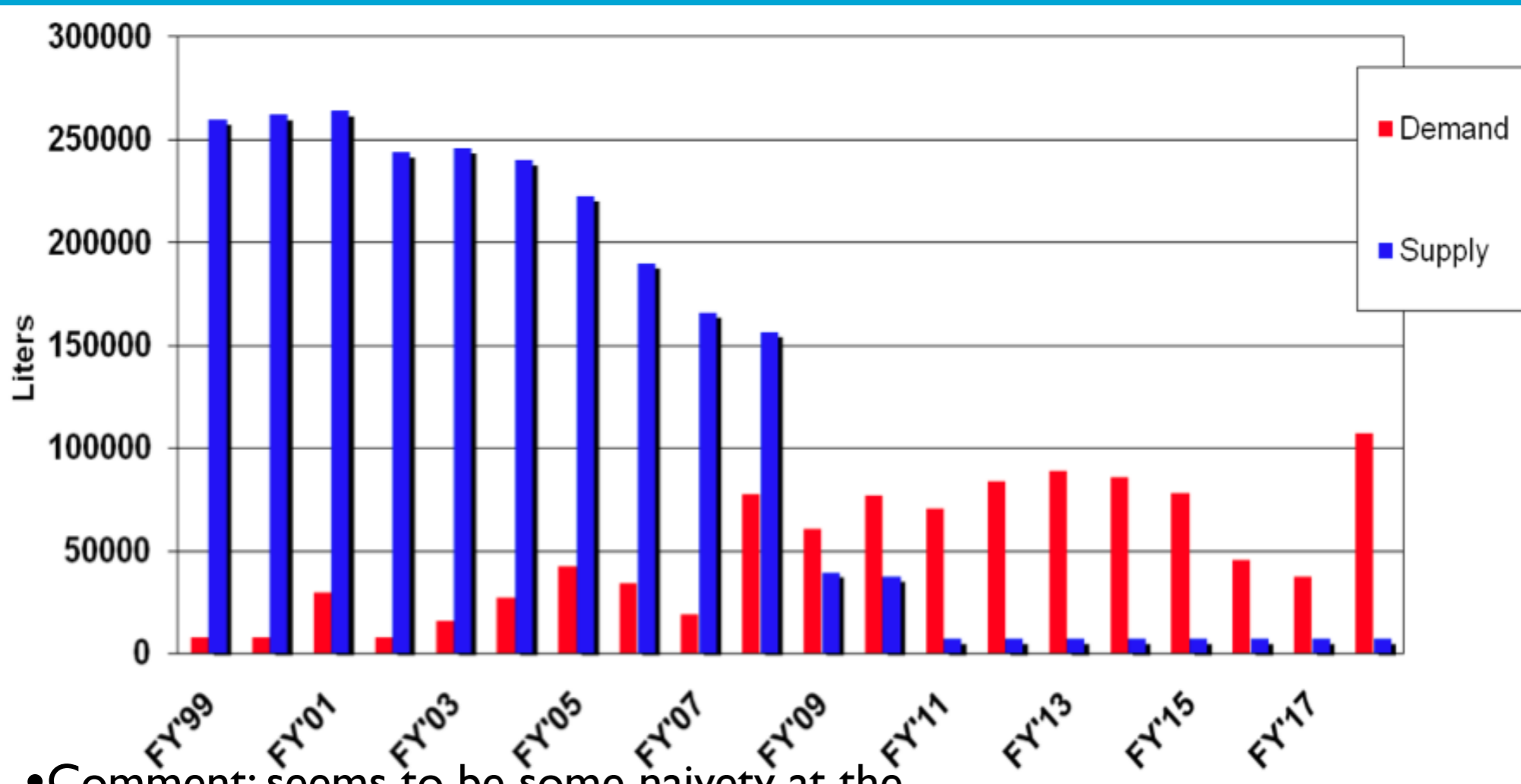
- Context
- Instruments at the European Spallation Source
- Requirements for the Instruments
- Detector design and developments to fulfill those requirements ESS requirements

# The ESS Site



2011

# Helium-3 Crisis



....an appropriate initial reaction ...

- Comment: seems to be some naivety at the moment as stocks are being emptied rapidly  
**Aside ... maybe He-3 detectors are anyway not what is needed for ESS? eg rate, resolution reaching the limit ...**

**Crisis or opportunity ... ?**

**For almost all instrument classes, detectors are a limitation on performance**



Since ca. 2009



# Schedule ...















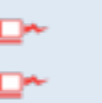

















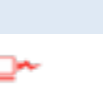


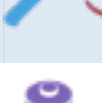














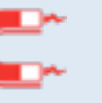





















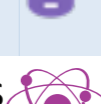
- 5 years until first neutrons ...









# Instruments and their Requirements



# Science Drivers for the Reference Instrument Suite from the Technical Design Report

Multi-Purpose Imaging	    
General-Purpose SANS	   
Broadband SANS	 
Surface Scattering	   
Horizontal Reflectometer	  
Vertical Reflectometer	   
Thermal Powder Diffractometer	   
Bispectral Power Diffractometer	   
Pulsed Monochromatic Powder Diffractometer	  
Materials Science Diffractometer	 
Extreme Conditions Instrument	  
Single-Crystal Magnetism Diffractometer	 
Macromolecular Diffractometer	 

Cold Chopper Spectrometer	  
Bispectral Chopper Spectrometer	   
Thermal Chopper Spectrometer	  
Cold Crystal-Analyser Spectrometer	   
Vibrational Spectroscopy	  
Backscattering Spectrometer	  
High-Resolution Spin-Echo	   
Wide-Angle Spin-Echo	   
Fundamental & Particle Physics	

	life sciences		magnetism & superconductivity
	soft condensed matter		engineering & geo-sciences
	chemistry of materials		archeology & heritage conservation
	energy research		fundamental & particle physics

## Instrument Design

## Implications for Detectors

Smaller samples

Better Resolution  
(position and time)  
Channel count

Higher flux, shorter experiments

Rate capability and data volume

More detailed studies

Lower background, lower S:B  
Larger dynamic range

Multiple methods on 1 instrument  
Larger solid angle coverage

Larger area coverage  
Lower cost of detectors

Also: scarcity of Helium-3 ...

Developments required for detectors for new Instruments



## **TEAMWORK**

**Share Victory. Share Defeat.**

Everyone should play to their strengths



LUNDS  
UNIVERSITET



Science & Technology  
Facilities Council



Science & Technology Facilities Council  
ISIS



Consiglio Nazionale Ricerche



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Stöteroggestraße 71 | 21339 Lüneburg  
Tel.: +49 (0) 4131/248932



CDT GmbH  
CASCADE  
Detector  
Technologies



Helmholtz-Zentrum  
Geesthacht  
Zentrum für Material- und Küstenforschung



UNIVERSITY OF MALTA  
L-Università ta' Malta

Risø DTU  
National Laboratory for Sustainable Energy

ideas



IFE  
Institute for Energy Technology

JÜLICH  
FORSCHUNGSZENTRUM

Mittuniversitetet  
MID SWEDEN UNIVERSITY

icnd.org {



INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEUTRON DETECTORS }

# Scope: Detector Requirements for Instruments

Instrument	Detector Area [m <sup>2</sup> ]	Wavelength Range [Å]	Time Resolution [μs]	Resolution [mm]
Multi-Purpose Imaging	0.5	1-20	1	0.001 - 0.5
General Purpose Polarised SANS	5	4-20	100	10
Broad-Band Small Sample SANS	14	2-20	100	1
Surface Scattering	5	4-20	100	10
Horizontal Reflectometer	0.5	5-30	100	1
Vertical Reflectometer	0.5	5-30	100	1
Thermal Powder Diffractometer	20	0.6-6	<10	2x2
Bi-Spectral Powder Diffractometer	20	0.8-10	<10	2.5x2.5
Pulsed Monochromatic Powder Diffractometer	4	0.6-5	<100	2 x 5
Material Science & Engineering Diffractometer	10	0.5-5	10	2
Extreme Conditions Instrument	10	1-10	<10	3x5
Single Crystal Magnetism Diffractometer	6	0.8-10	100	2.5x2.5
Macromolecular Diffractometer	1	1.5-3.3	1000	0.2
Cold Chopper Spectrometer	80	1 -20	10	10
Bi-Spectral Chopper Spectrometer	50	0.8-20	10	10
Thermal Chopper Spectrometer	50	0.6-4	10	10
Cold Crystal-Analyser Spectrometer	1	2-8	<10	5-10
Vibrational Spectroscopy	1	0.4-5	<10	10
Backscattering Spectrometer	0.3	2-8	<10	10
High-Resolution Spin Echo	0.3	4-25	100	10
Wide-Angle Spin Echo	3	2-15	100	10
Fundamental & Particle Physics	0.5	5-30	1	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>282.6</b>			

• Specifications very varied

• Typically superior to what is presently state-of-the-art at existing sources

• In many cases, instrument performance dominated by S:B rather than raw specifications here

**COST!**

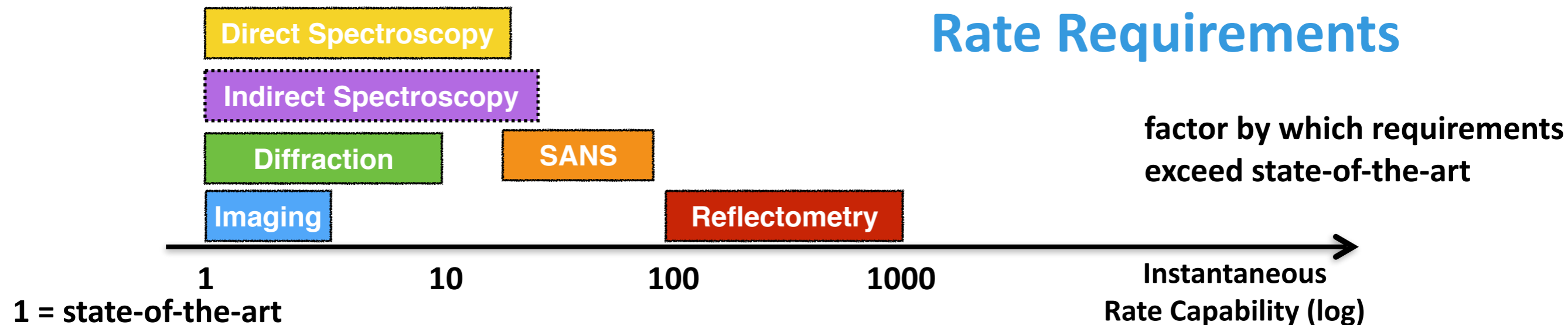
**RATE!**

Table 2.5: Estimated detector requirements for the 22 reference instruments in terms of detector area, typical wavelength range of measurements and desired spatial and time resolution.

# Requirements Challenge for Detectors for ESS: *beyond detector present state-of-the-art*

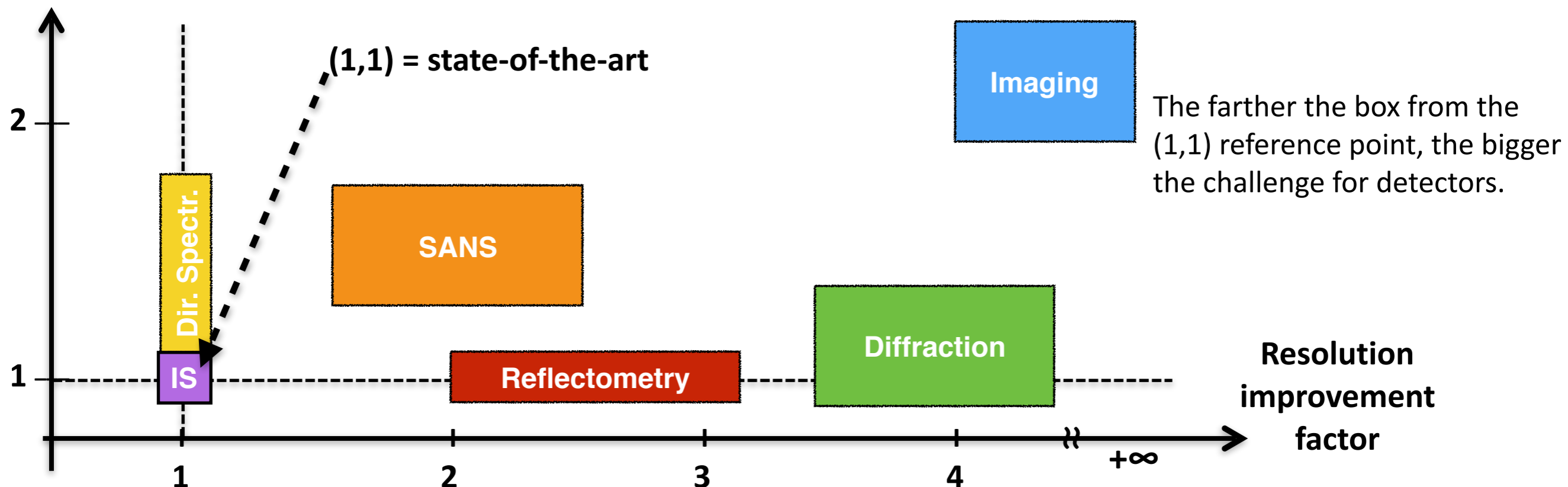


## Rate Requirements



## Resolution and Area Requirements

Increase factor detector area





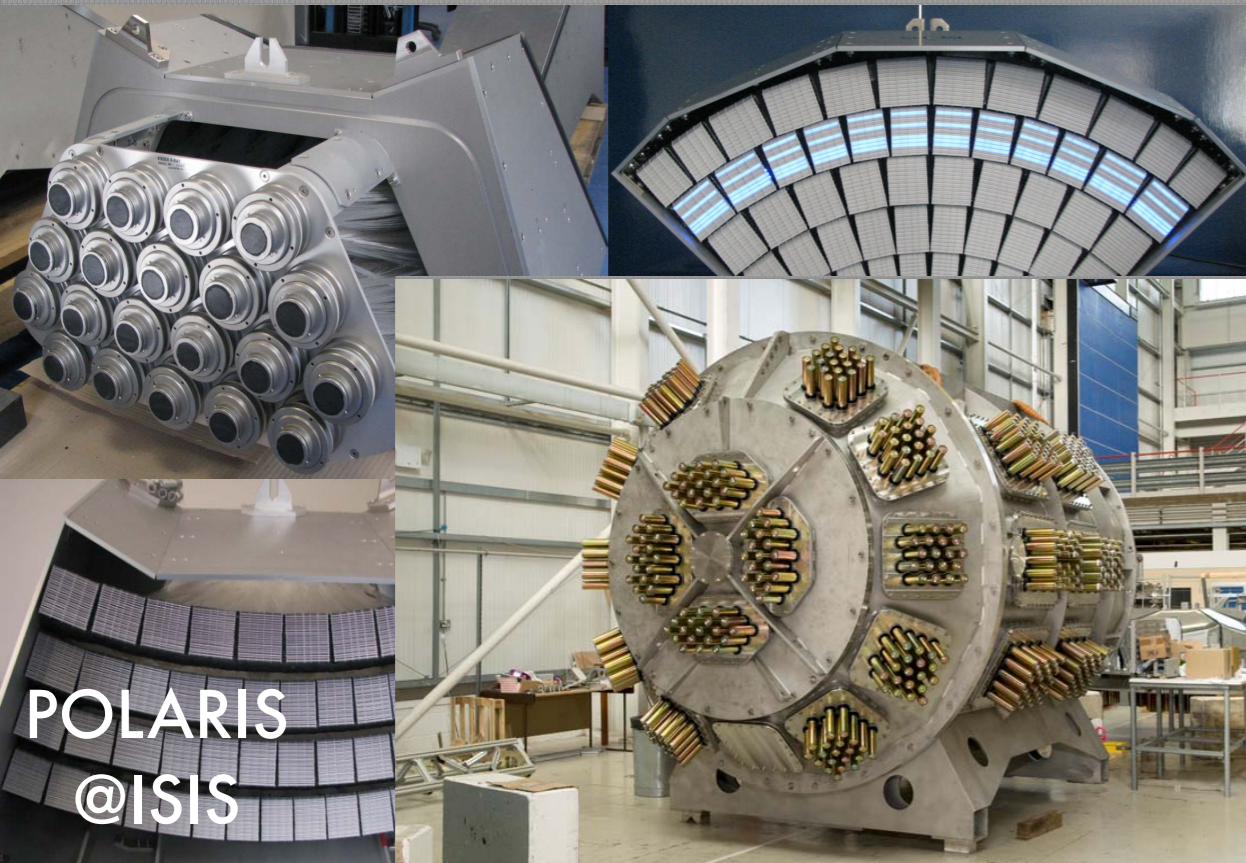
# Detectors for ESS: strategy update for 16 instruments



Instrument class	Instrument sub-class	Instrument	Key requirements for detectors	Preferred detector technology	Ongoing developments (funding source)
Large-scale structures	Small Angle Scattering	SKADI	Pixel size, count-rate	Scintillators	SonDe (EU SonDe)
		LOKI		10B-based	BandGem
	Reflectometry	FREIA	Pixel size, count-rate	10B-based	MultiBlade (EU BrightnESS)
		ESTIA			
Diffraction	Powder diffraction	DREAM	Pixel size, count-rate	10B-based	Jalousie
		HEIMDAL		Scintillators/10B-based	
	Single-crystal diffraction	MAGIC	Pixel size, count-rate	10B-based	Jalousie
		NMX	Pixel size, large area	Gd-based	GdGEM uTPC(EU BrightnESS)
Engineering	Strain scanning	BEER	Pixel size, count-rate	10B-based	AmCLD, A1CLD
	Imaging and tomography	ODIN	Pixel size	Scintillators, MCP, wire chambers	
Spectroscopy	Direct geometry	C-SPEC	Large area ( <sup>3</sup> He-gas unaffordable)	10B-based	MultiGrid (EU BrightnESS)
		T-REX			
		VOR			
	Indirect geometry	BIFROST	Count-rate	3He-based	
		MIRACLES			
		VESPA	Count-rate	3He-based	
SPIN-ECHO	Spin-echo	tbd	tbd	3He-based/10B-based	

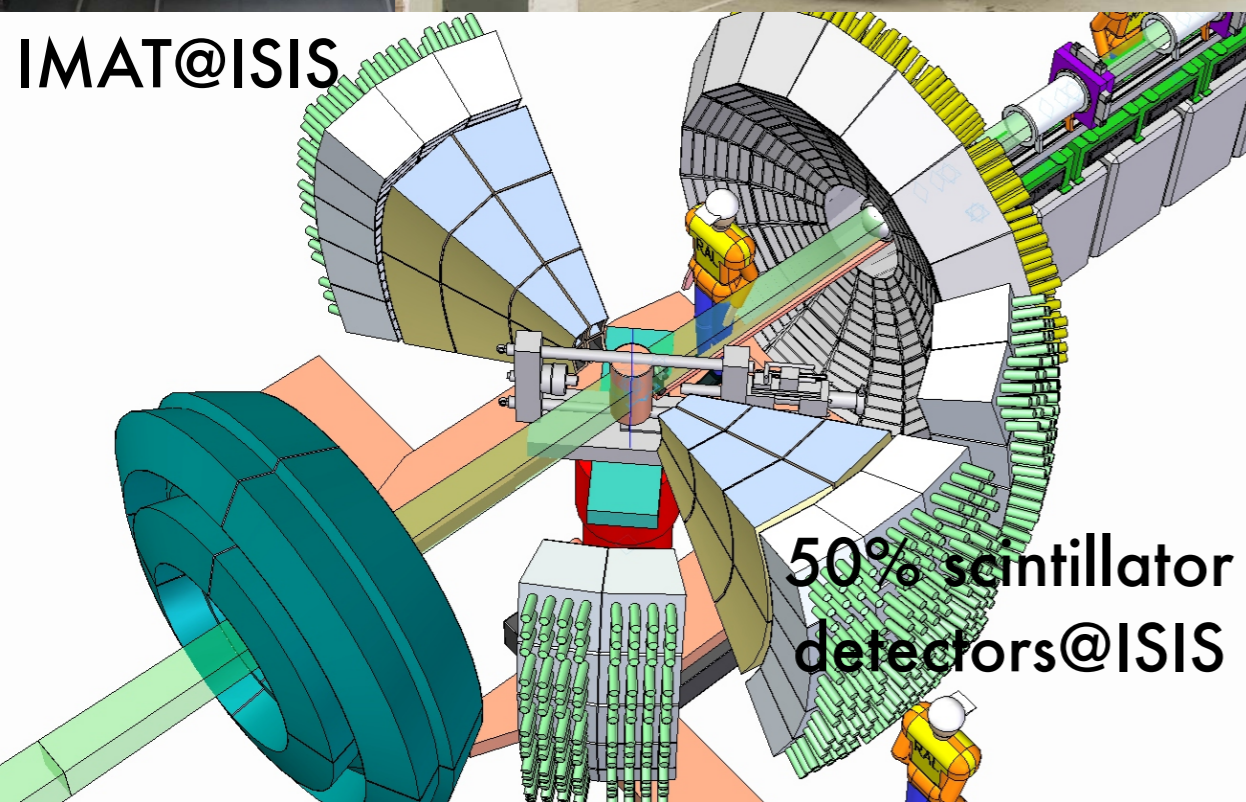
# Scintillator Neutron Detectors

## POLARIS DETECTORS

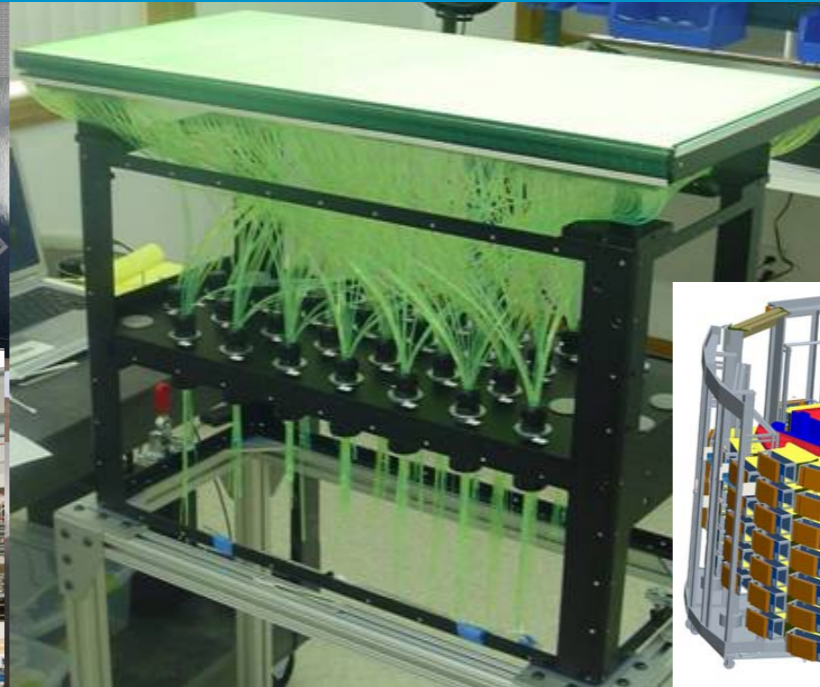


POLARIS  
@ISIS

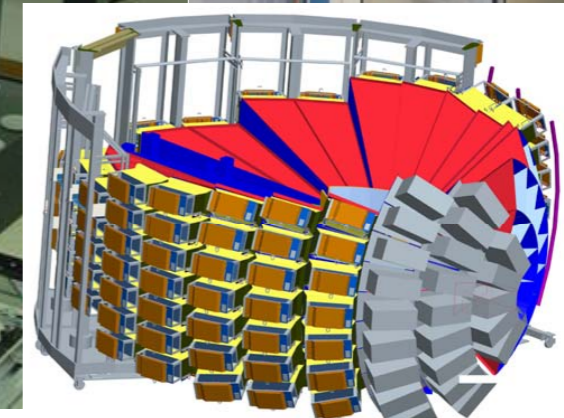
## IMAT@ISIS



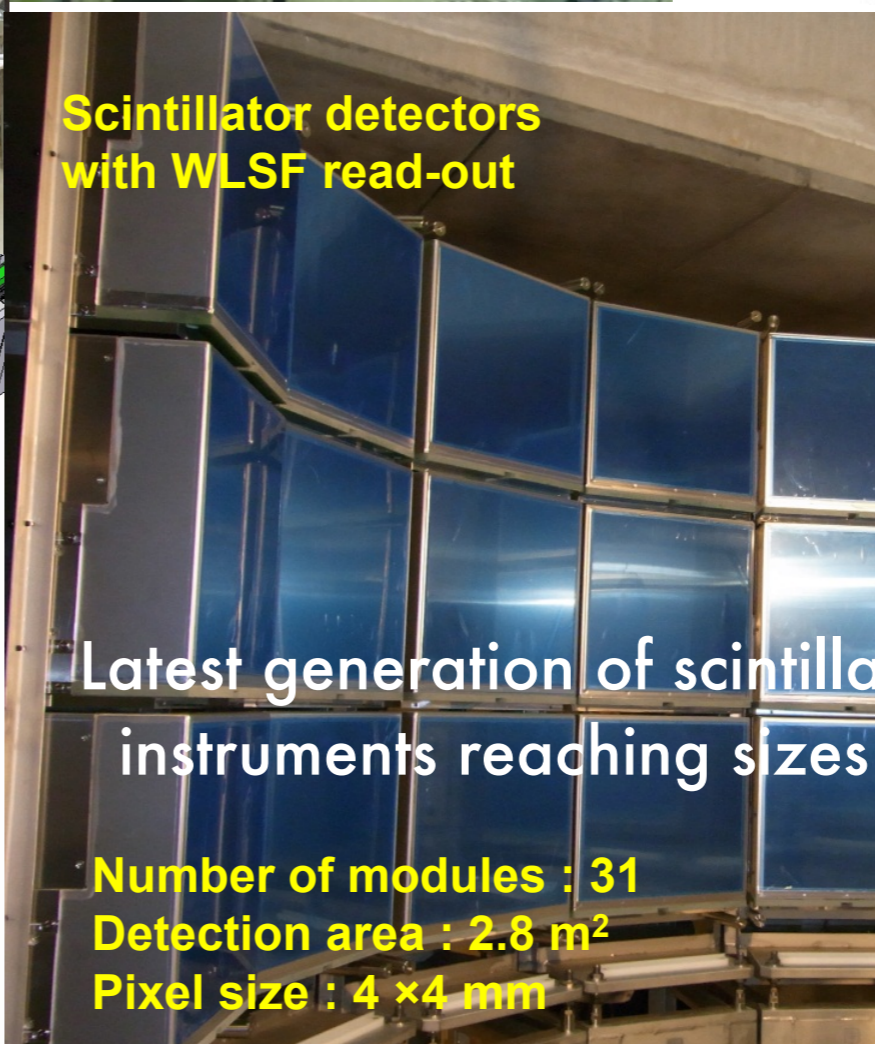
50% scintillator  
detectors@ISIS



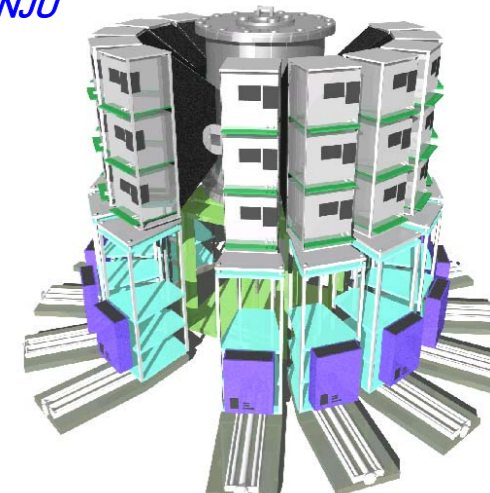
## POWGEN@SNS



Scintillator detectors  
with WLSF read-out



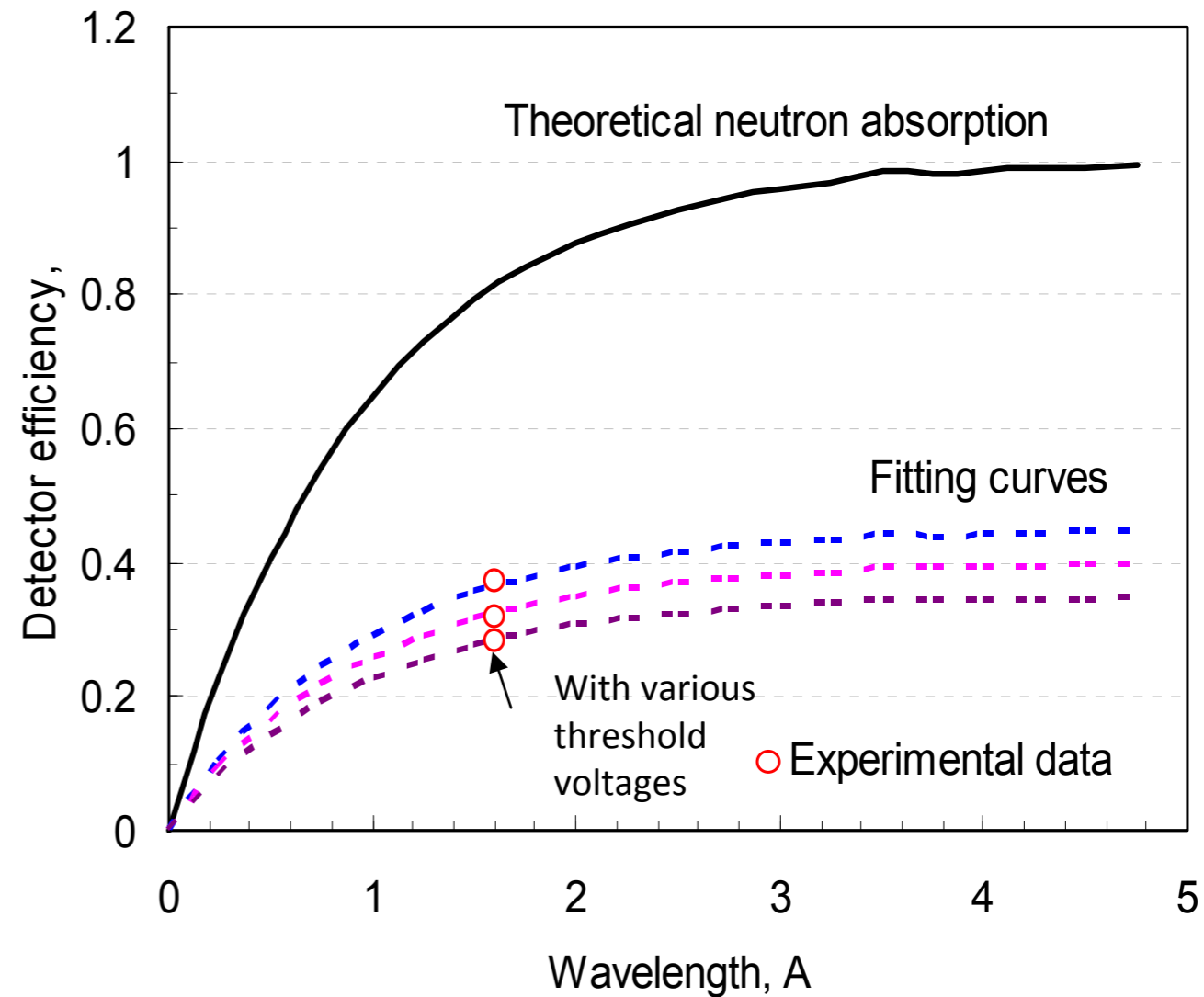
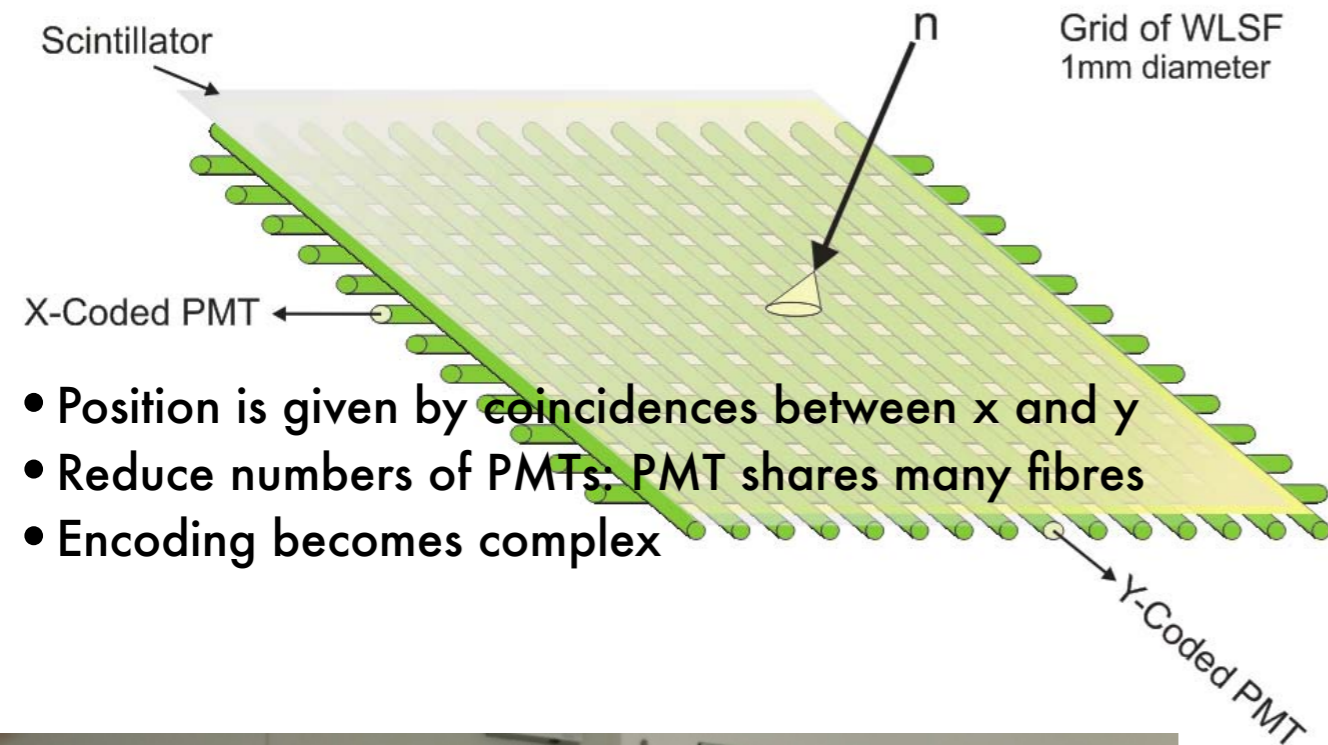
## SENJU



Latest generation of scintillator detectors on  
instruments reaching sizes of  $>10-20\text{m}^2$

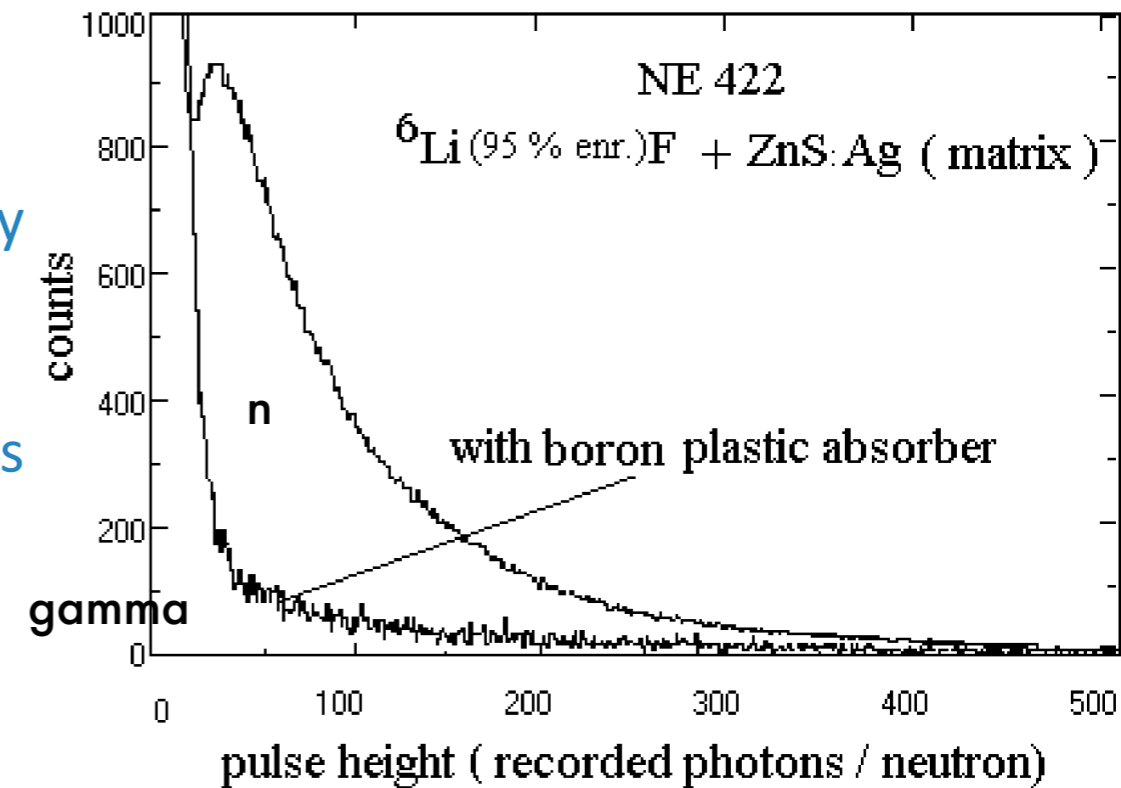
Number of modules : 31  
Detection area :  $2.8\text{ m}^2$   
Pixel size :  $4 \times 4\text{ mm}$

SENJU@JPARC



- Scintillator typically used:  ${}^6\text{Li}$  embedded in ZnS
- Scintillator detectors tend to be used for more thermal neutrons
- Efficiencies of 30-40% for thermal neutrons
- 2D position resolutions of few mm possible

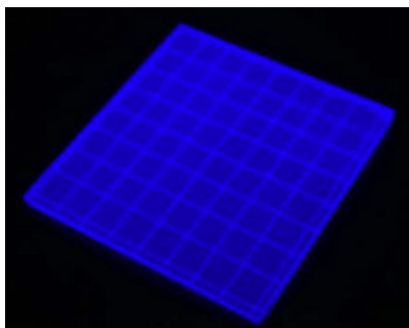
- Now pushing the limits of scintillator detector technology
  - Gamma/n pulse shape discrimination
  - Scintillation decay time (secondary >10us for ZnS)
- Big improvements need novel better scintillator materials or improvement in rate capability



Develop a high-resolution neutron detector technique for enabling the construction of position-sensitive neutron detectors for high flux sources.

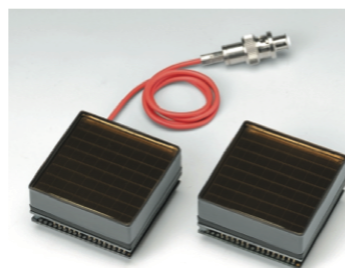
- high-flux capability for handling the peak-flux of up-to-date spallation sources (x 20 over current detectors)
- high-resolution of 3 mm by single-pixel technique, below by interpolation
- high detection efficiency of up to 80 %

Grooved  
Li glass



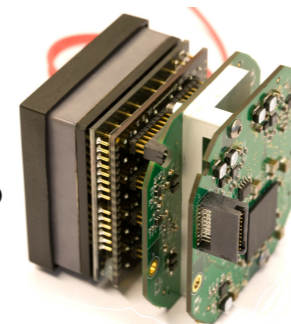
+

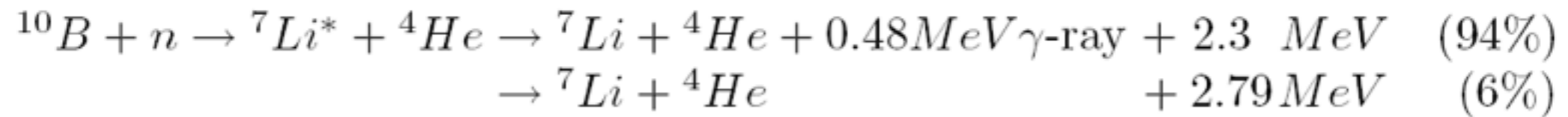
MA-PMT



+

IDEAS  
ROSMAP





Efficiency limited at  $\sim 5\%$  ( $2.5\text{\AA}$ ) for a single layer

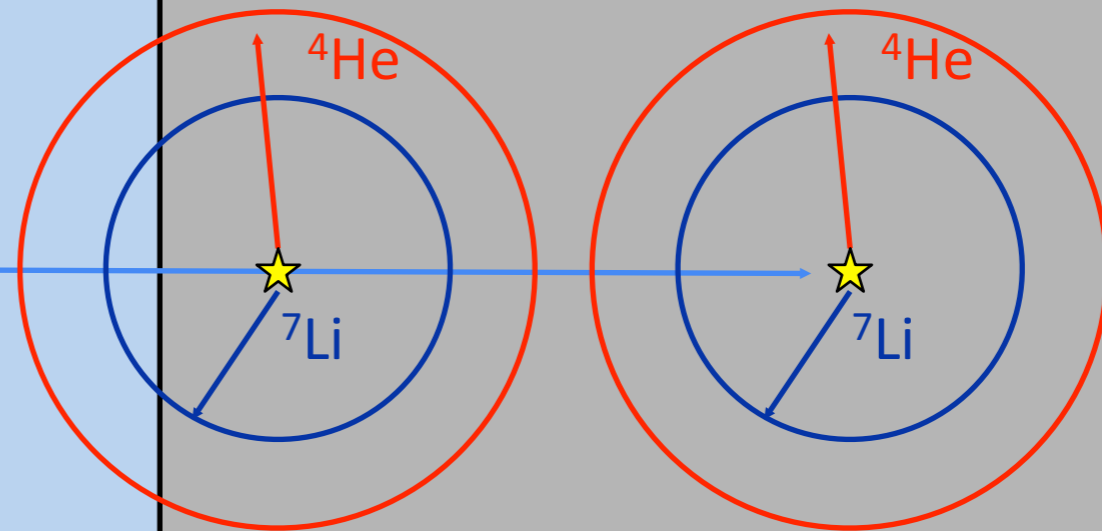
- $^{\text{nat}}\text{B}$  contains  
80 at.%  $^{11}\text{B}$  and  
20 at.%  $^{10}\text{B}$

neutron



gas volume

$^{10}\text{B}_4\text{C}$  layer



- Boron is difficult to deposit
- Use  $^{10}\text{B}_4\text{C}$
- Conductive, stable

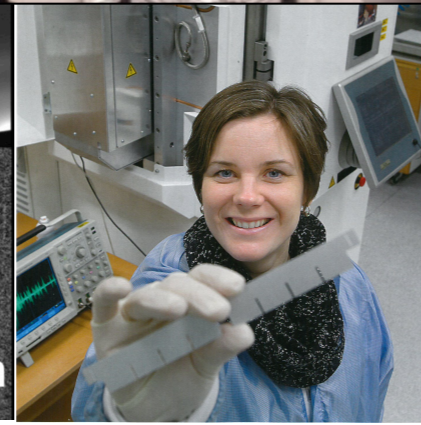
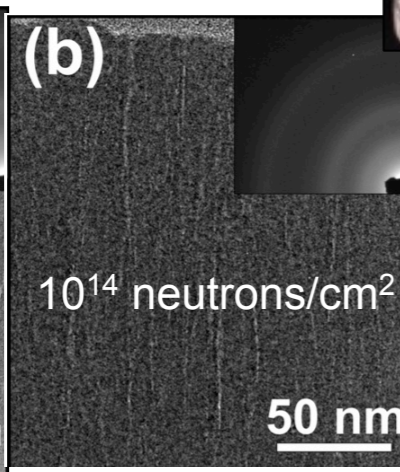
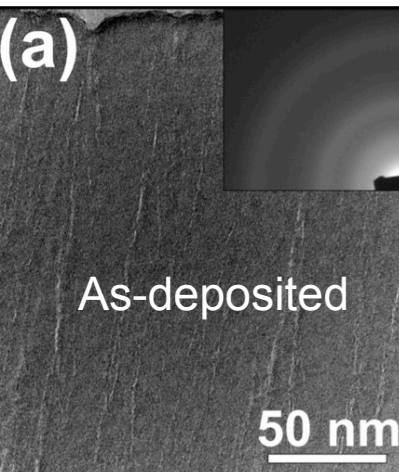
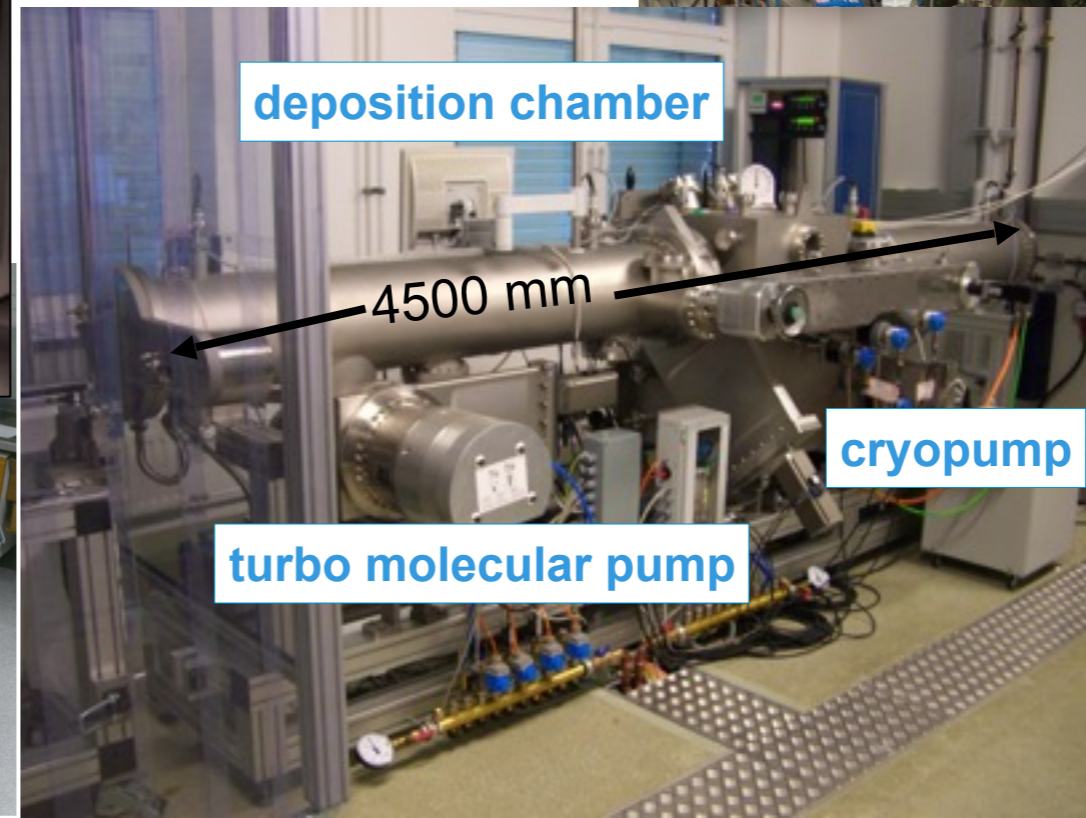


- A number of groups have shown it is possible to deposit large areas of high quality Boron Carbide cheaply
- PVD Magnetron Sputtering
- Deposition parameters highly adaptable
- A very interdisciplinary effort

Helmholtz-Zentrum  
Geesthacht  
Centre for Materials and Coastal Research



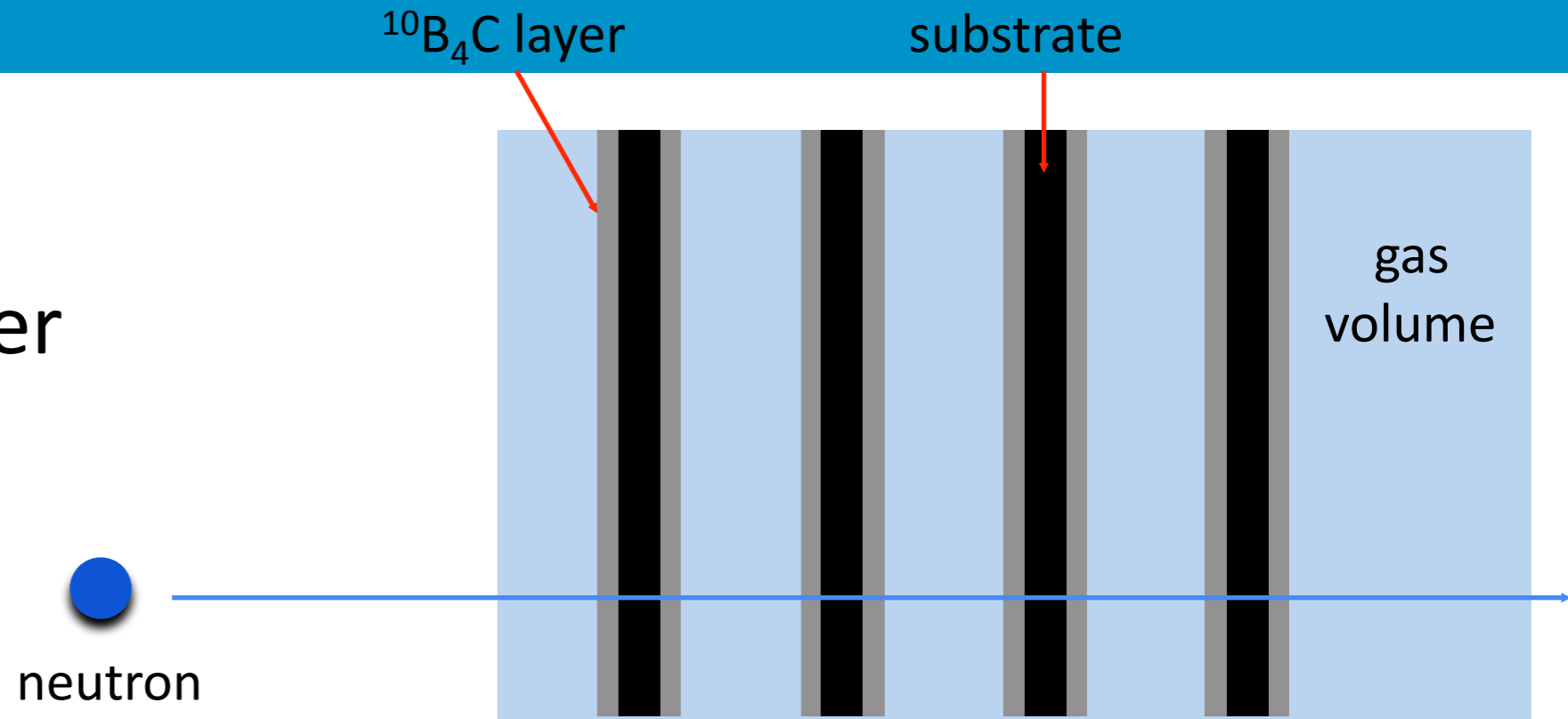
- ESS-Linköping Deposition Facility
- Industrial Coating Machine
- Capacity:  $>1000\text{m}^2/\text{year}$  coated with  $^{10}\text{B}_4\text{C}$



# Enhancing the efficiency of $^{10}\text{B}$ -based Neutron Detectors

1

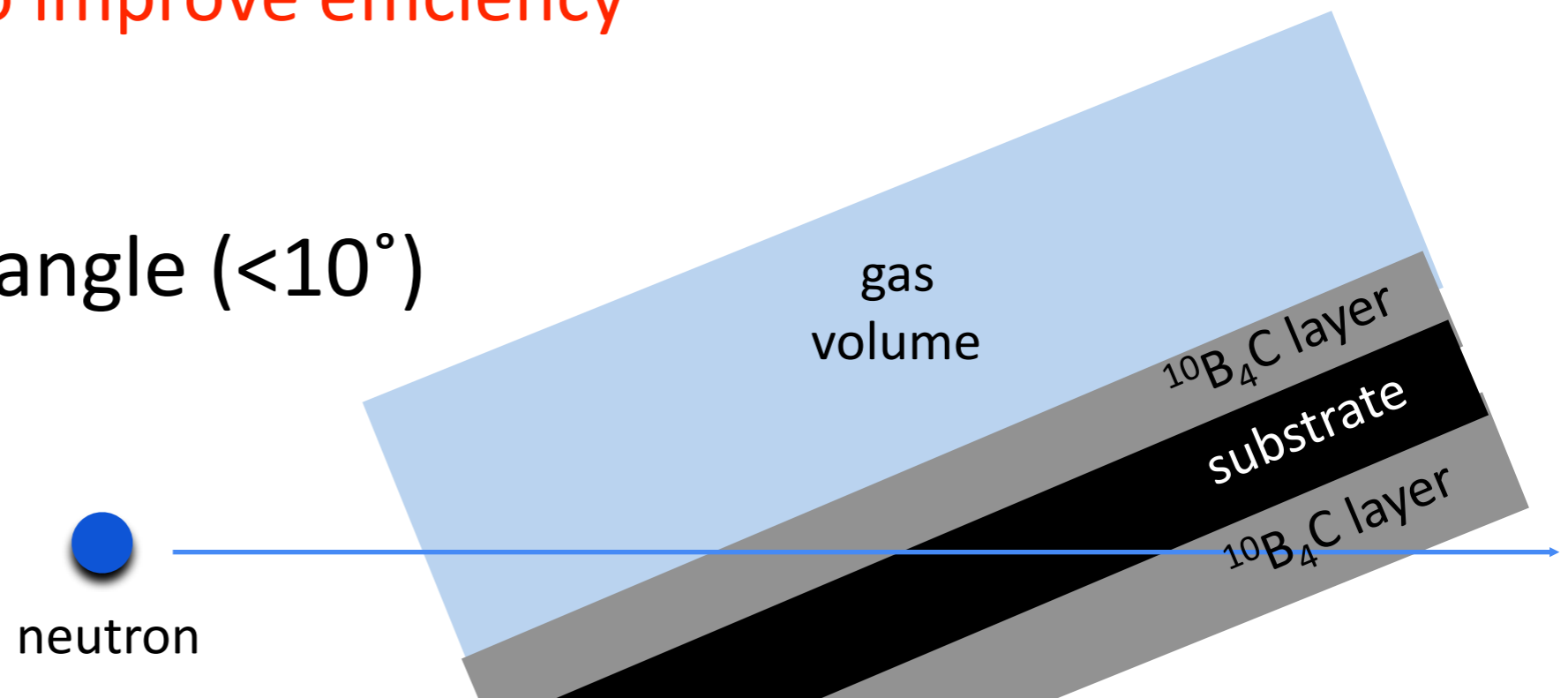
Multi layer



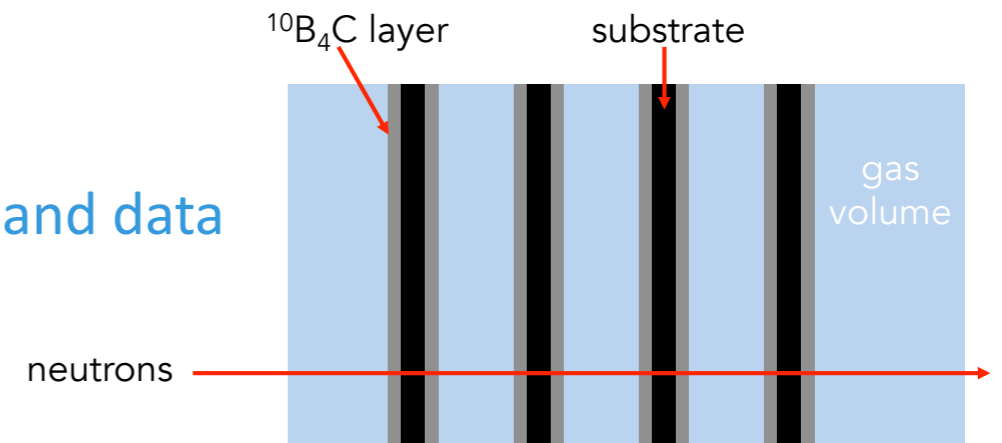
Generic approaches to improve efficiency

2

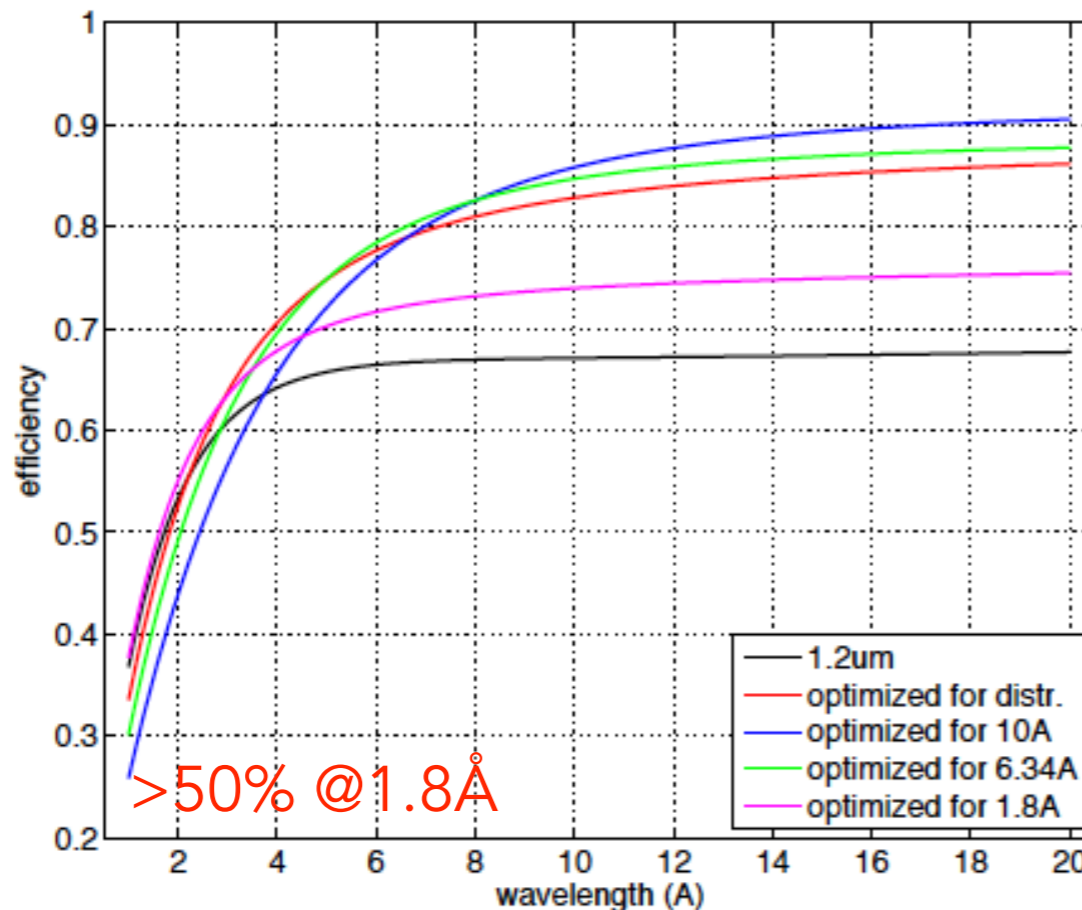
Grazing angle ( $<10^\circ$ )



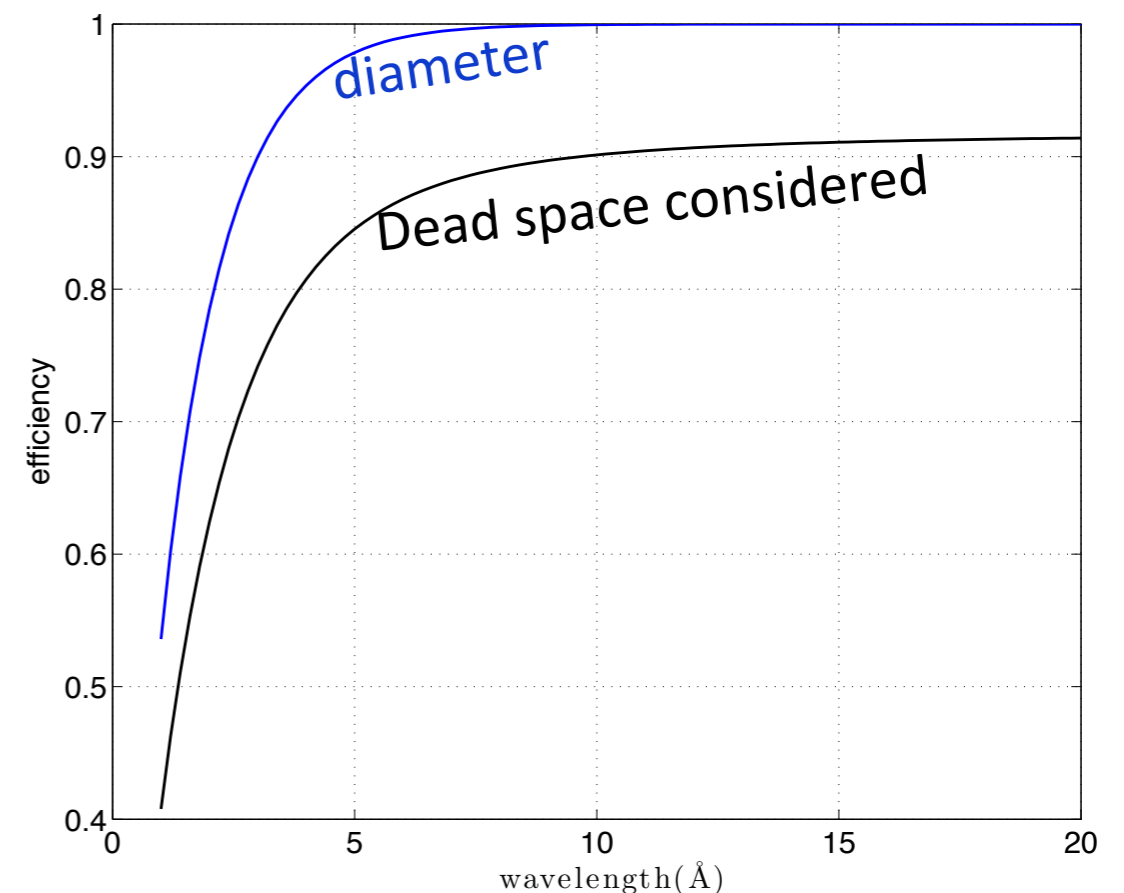
- Single layer is only ca.5%
- Calculations done by many groups
- Analytical calculations extensively verified with prototypes and data
- Details matter: just like for  $^3\text{He}$
- Multilayer configuration (example):



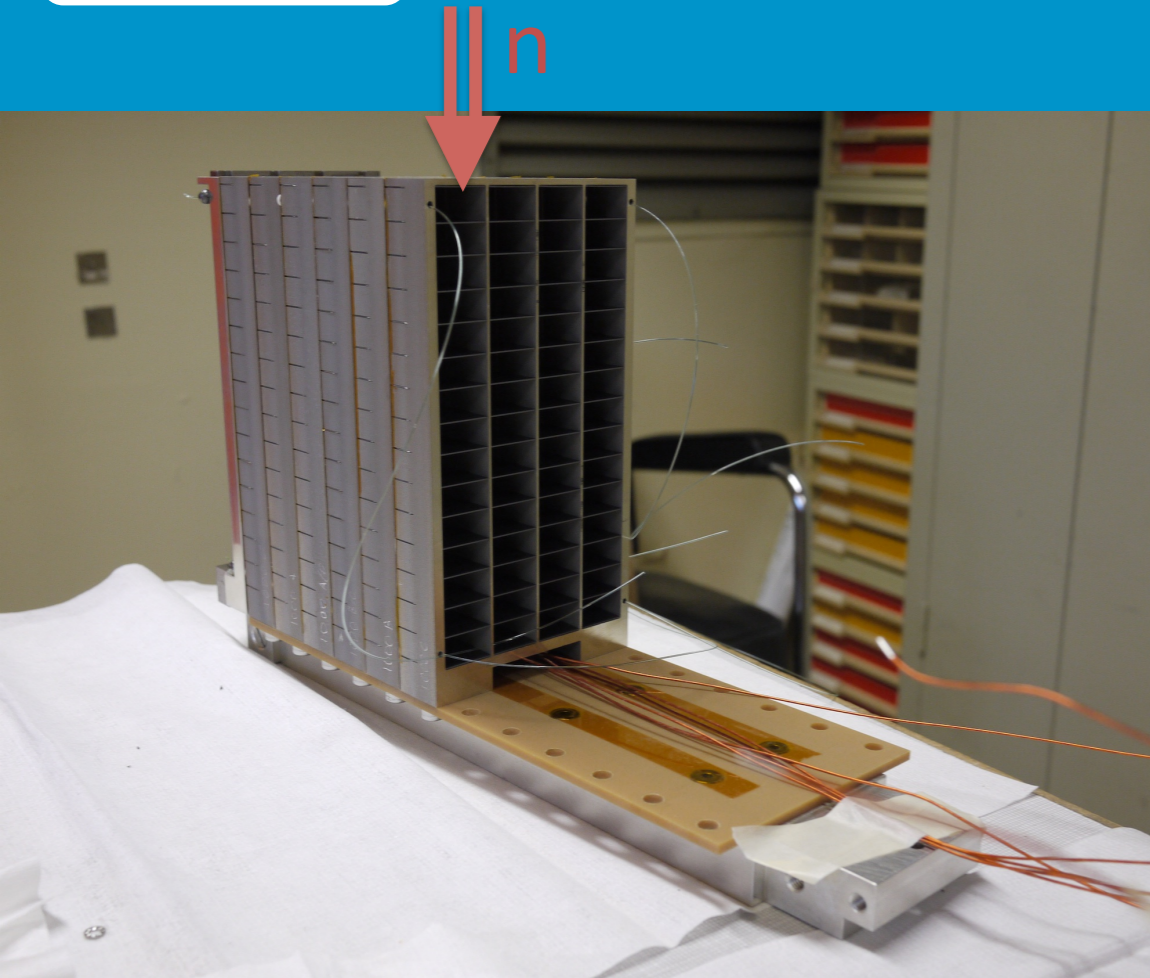
Multi-Grid



$^3\text{He}$  tubes – 1 inch – 4.75 bar



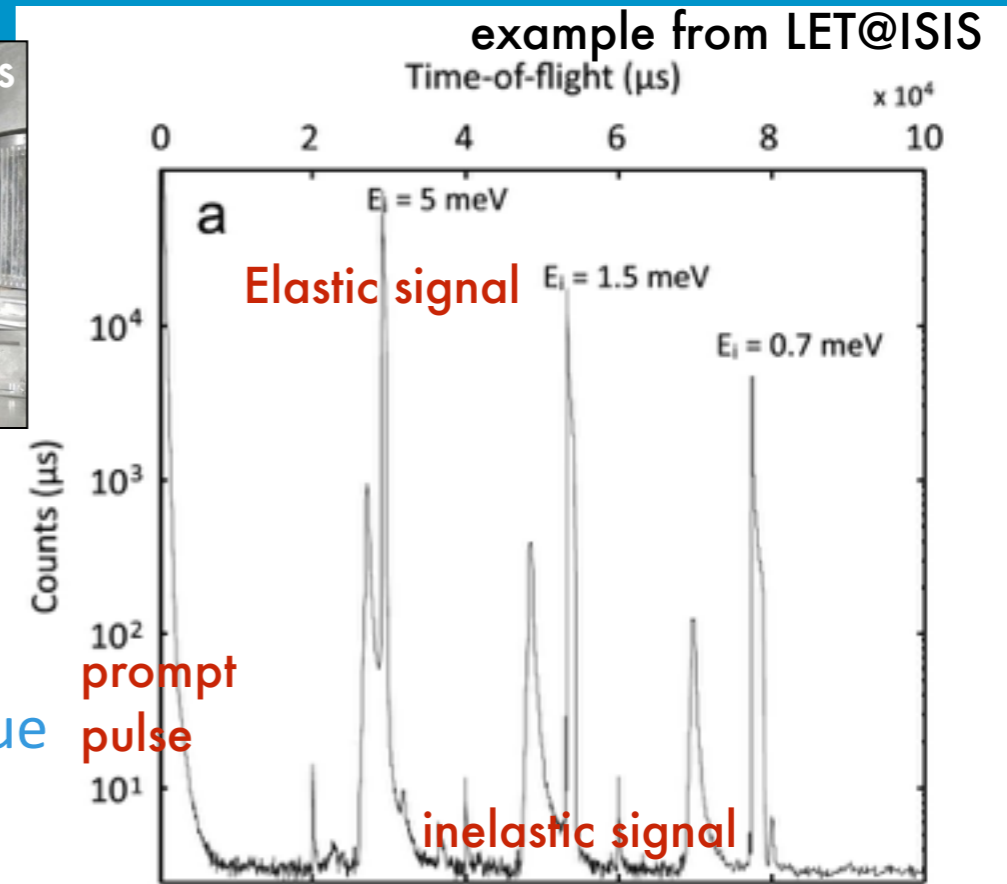




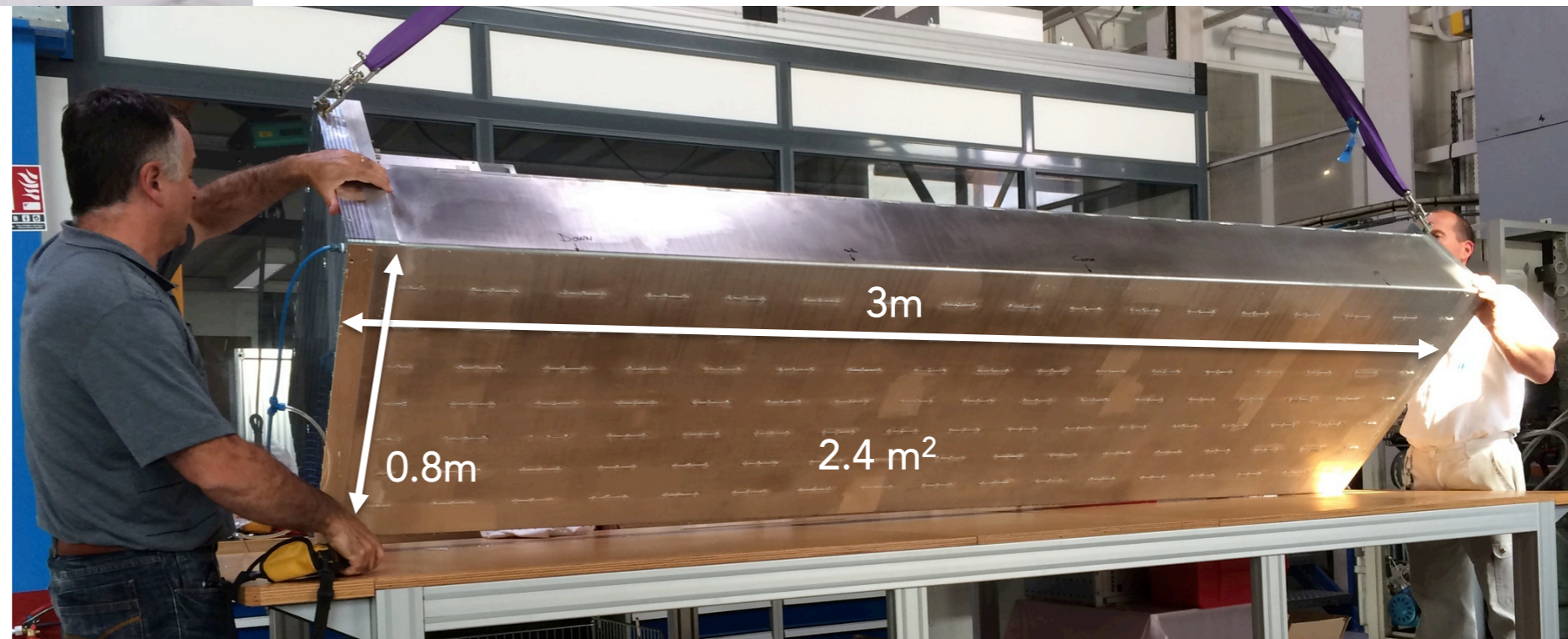
aim: replace He-3 for this



- Very background sensitive technique



- Designed as replacement for He-3 tubes for largest area detectors
- Cheap and modular design
- Possible to build large area detectors again
- 20-50m<sup>2</sup> envisaged for ESS



(slide from B. Guerard)

CLUSTER OF RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES  
FOR SYNERGIES IN PHYSICS



Participants: ESS, ILL, LiU

# $^{10}\text{B}_4\text{C}$ thin film Multi-Grid detectors

The goal of the CRISP / WP15 work package is to show that the Multi-Grid concept +  $\text{B}_4\text{C}$  thin film converters is an alternative to  $^3\text{He}$  for large area detectors

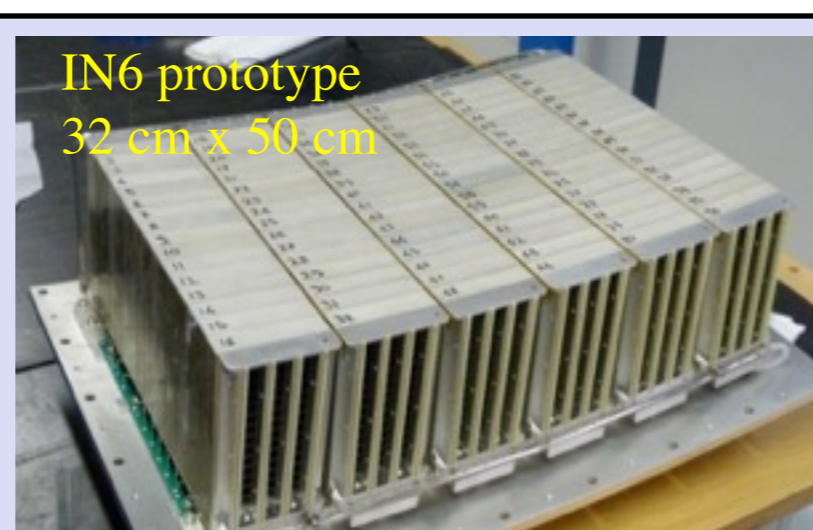


Single column prototype  
200 cm x 8 cm

96 Grids and 60 wires readout individually

- 50% efficiency measured @2.5 Å
- $\text{B}_4\text{C}$  coating process validated
- Film characterization
- Simulation of the detector
- Centre Of Gravity localization in Y
- Gamma sensitivity measured
- Ar- $\text{CO}_2$  &  $\text{CF}_4$  tested at [0.2 - 1] Bar

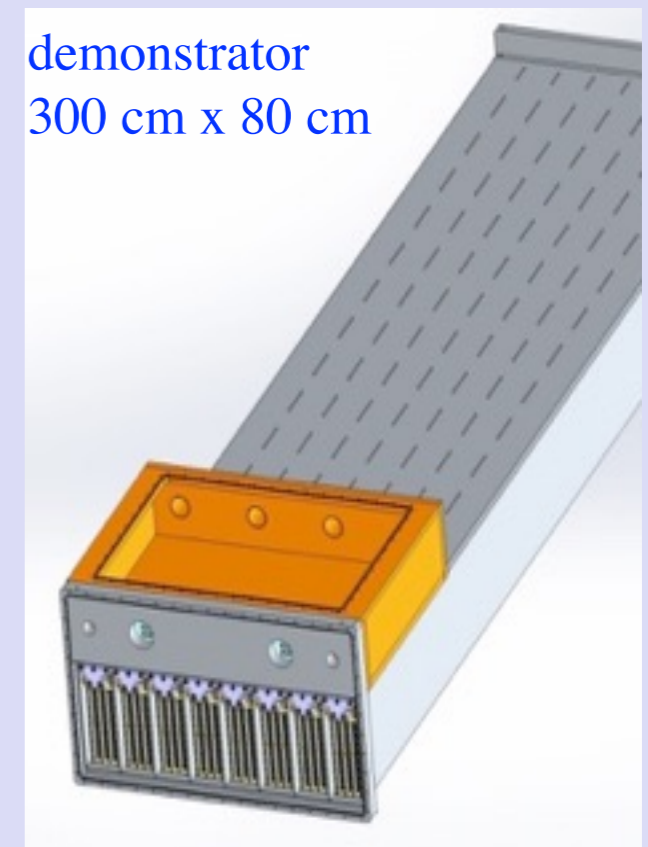
Where we were last year



IN6 prototype  
32 cm x 50 cm

- 96 grids and 360 wires
- Grids of same Y connected by 3 → 32 channels
- Wires  $X_n$  &  $X_{n+1}$  connected with resistors → 24 channels
- Measurements on IN6
- Background observed, solved
- back scattering measured
- Electronics validated
- Demonstrator in fabrication

What has been achieved since then



demonstrator  
300 cm x 80 cm

- 1024 grids/ 512 wires
- 256 x (4Grids) cath channels
- Wires  $X_n$  &  $X_{n+1}$  connected with resistors → 32 channels
- Pressure vessel tested
- Mass production of  $\text{B}_4\text{C}$  (70 m<sup>2</sup> !) and detector components
- real detector operational

Where we want to be next year

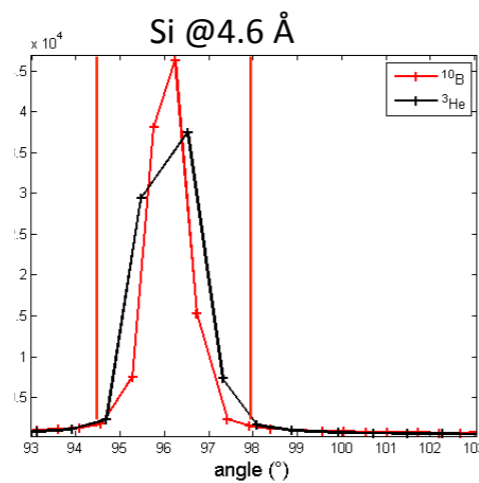
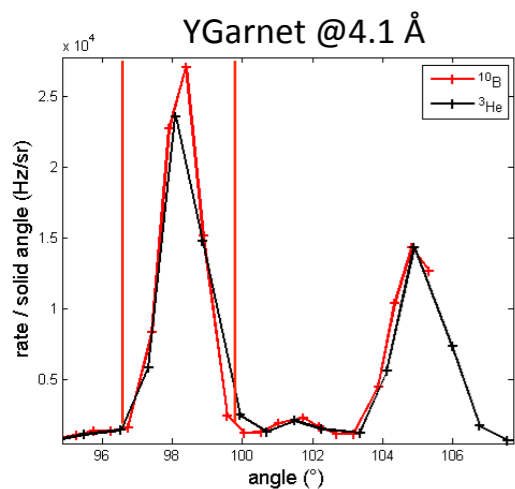
# Multigrid Design: IN6 Demonstrator



IN6 Demonstrator



• Performance basically matches Helium-3

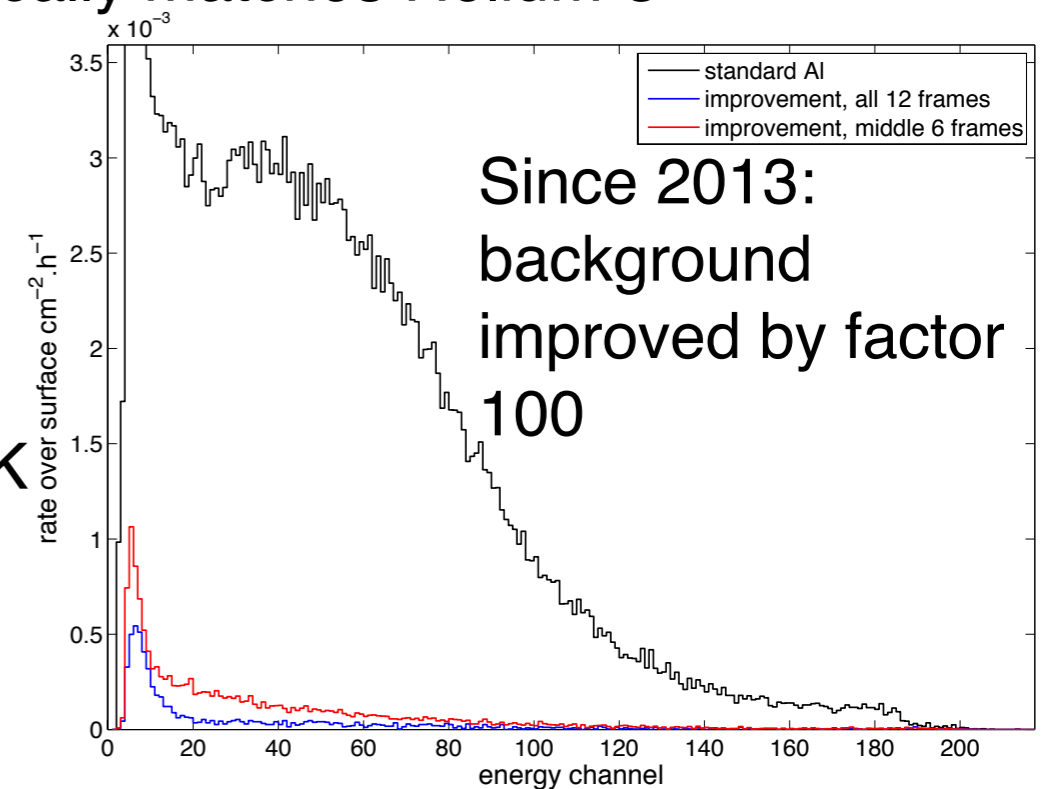


Ratio of integrated rates in Bragg peaks :

- 4.1 Å :  $\text{rate}^{(10\text{B})} / \text{rate}^{(3\text{He})} = 1.08$

- 4.6 Å :  $\text{rate}^{(10\text{B})} / \text{rate}^{(3\text{He})} = 0.97$

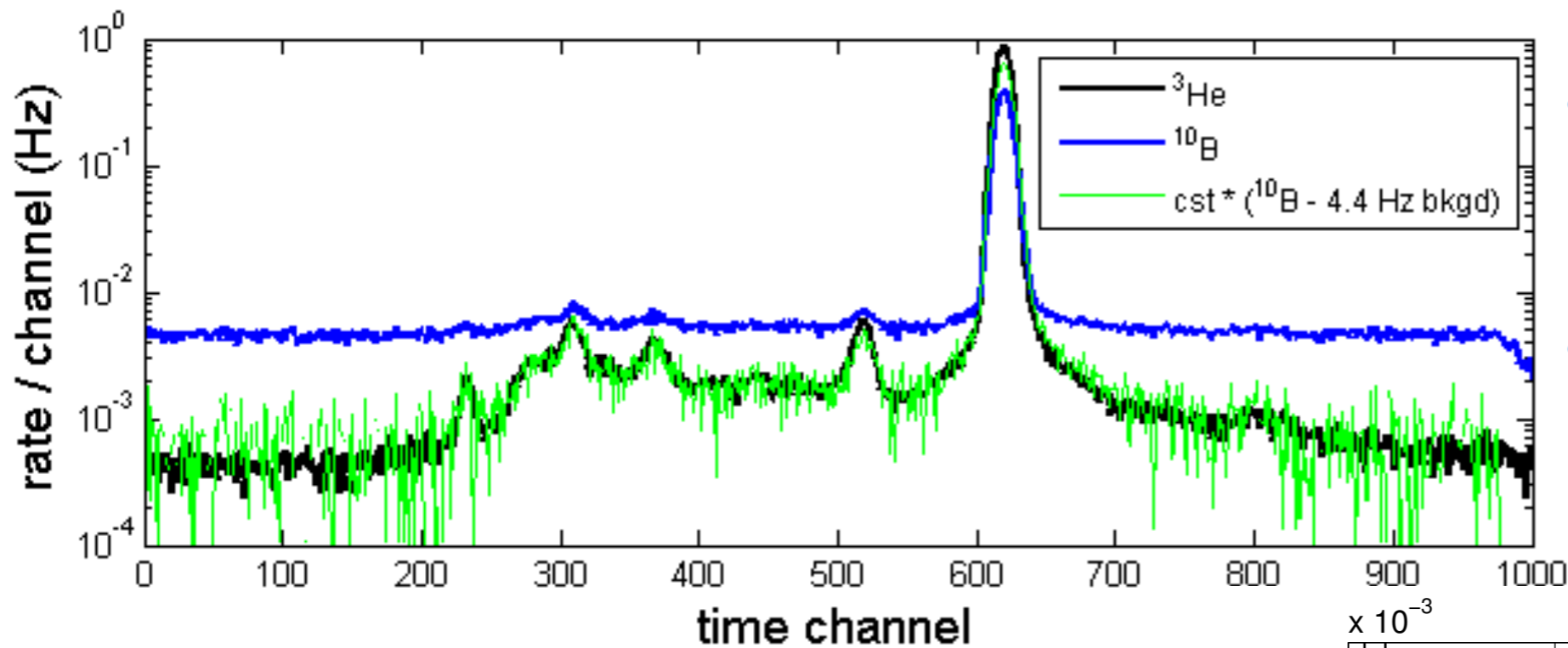
- Efficiency - OK
- Data - OK
- Scattering - OK
- Gamma rej - OK
- t resolution - OK
- x,y resolution - OK



Since 2013:  
background  
improved by factor  
**100**

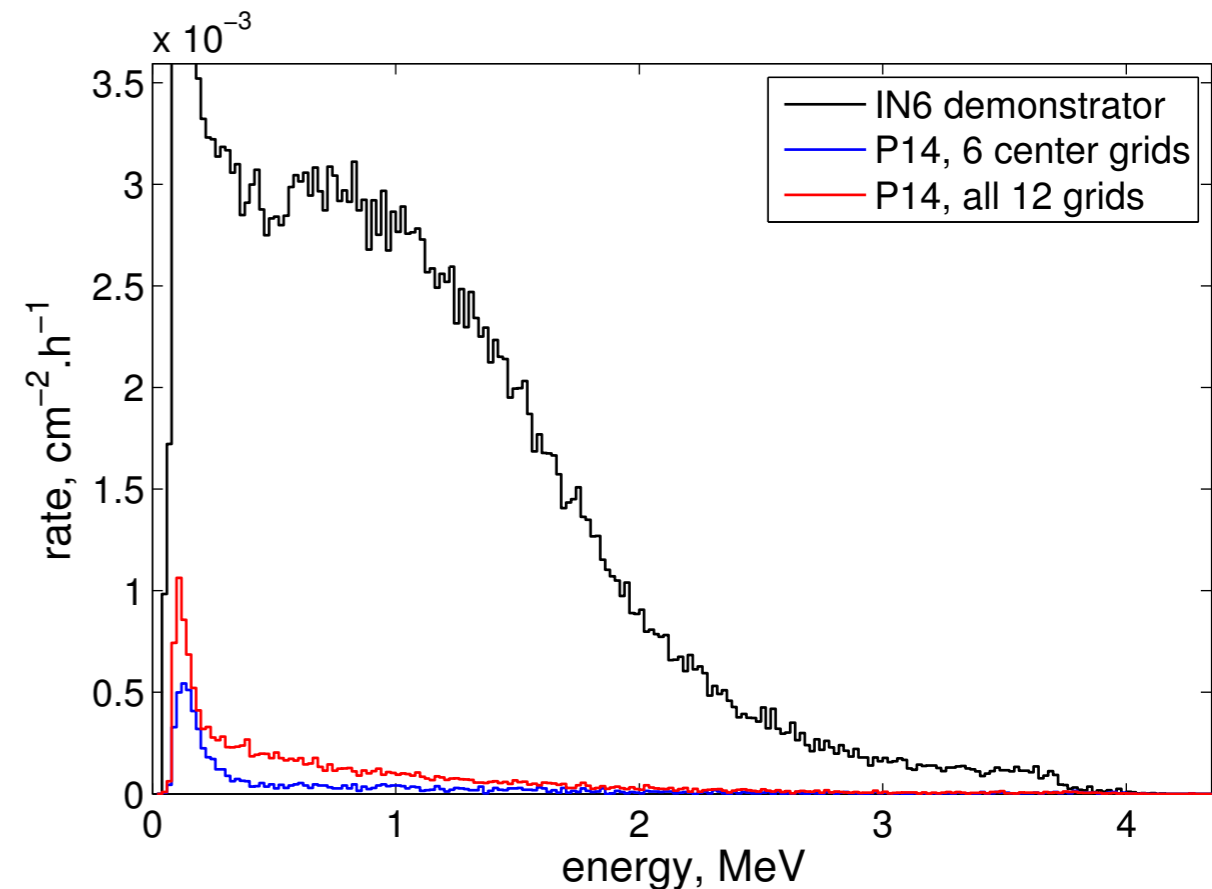
- background from alpha's in Al seen
- Plating or ultrapure Al solves it: now ok

# Background from natural radioactivity in Aluminium

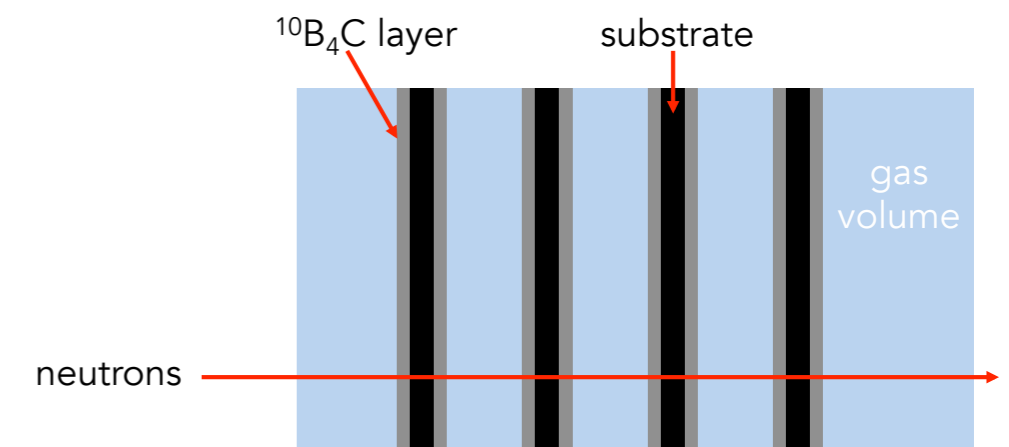
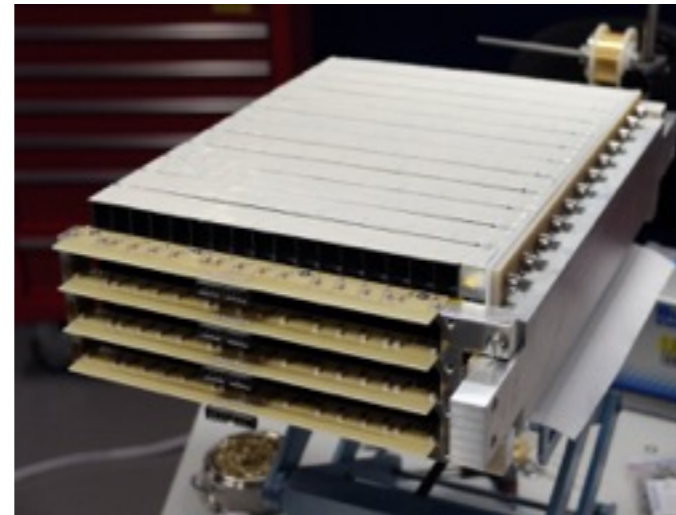
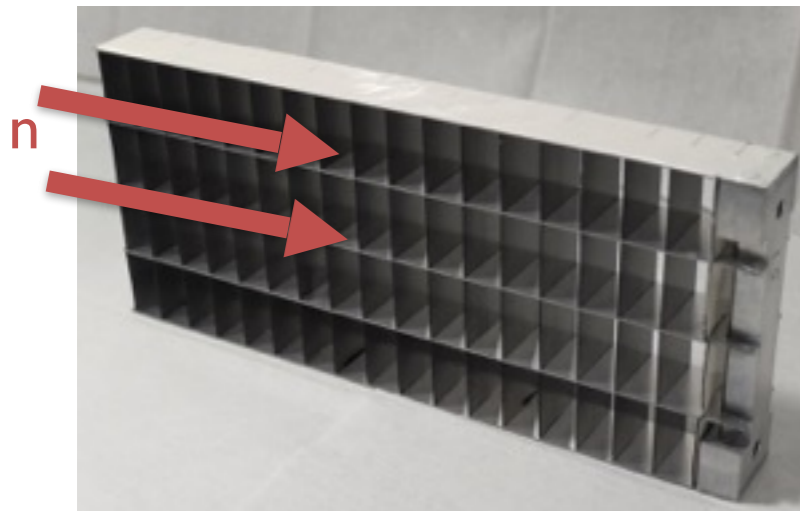


- Side-by-side test of prototype on IN6 instrument at ILL
- Performance matched He-3 except constant background level

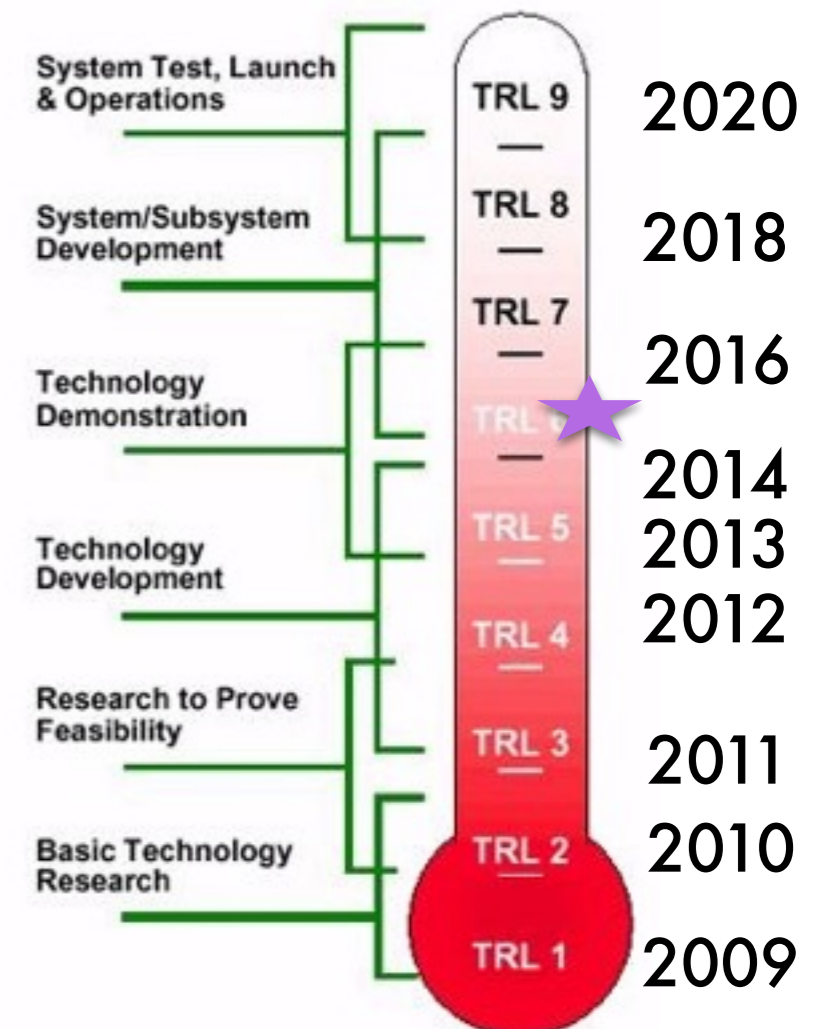
- Source: natural alpha radioactivity in Aluminium
- By using ultrapure- or Nickel-plated- Aluminium removed this background

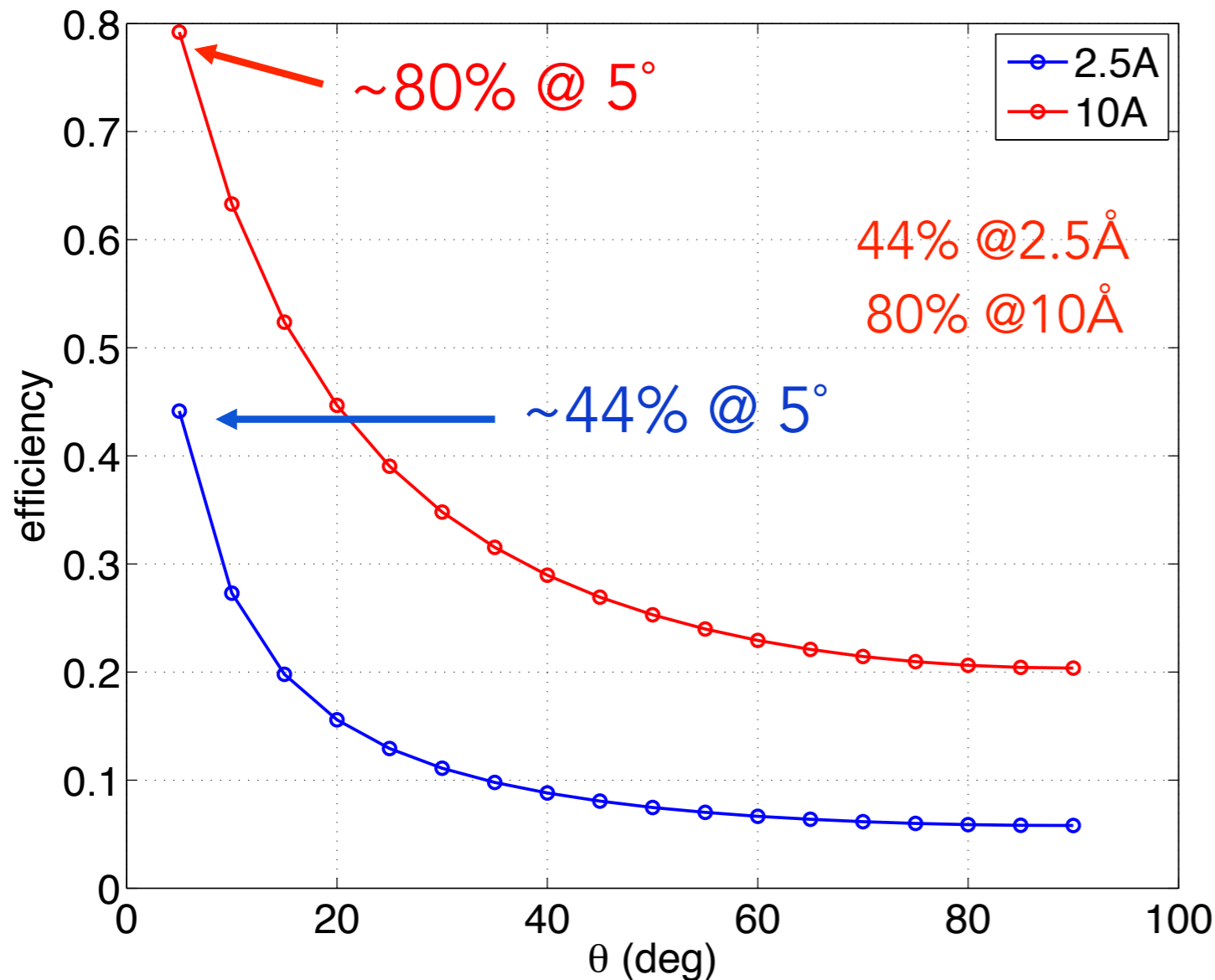
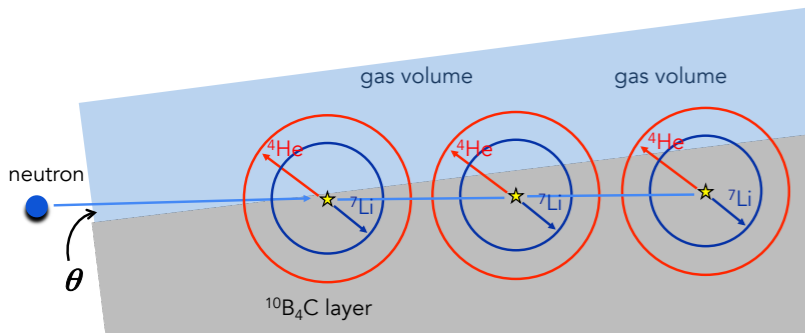


# Large Area Detectors: Multi-Grid Design

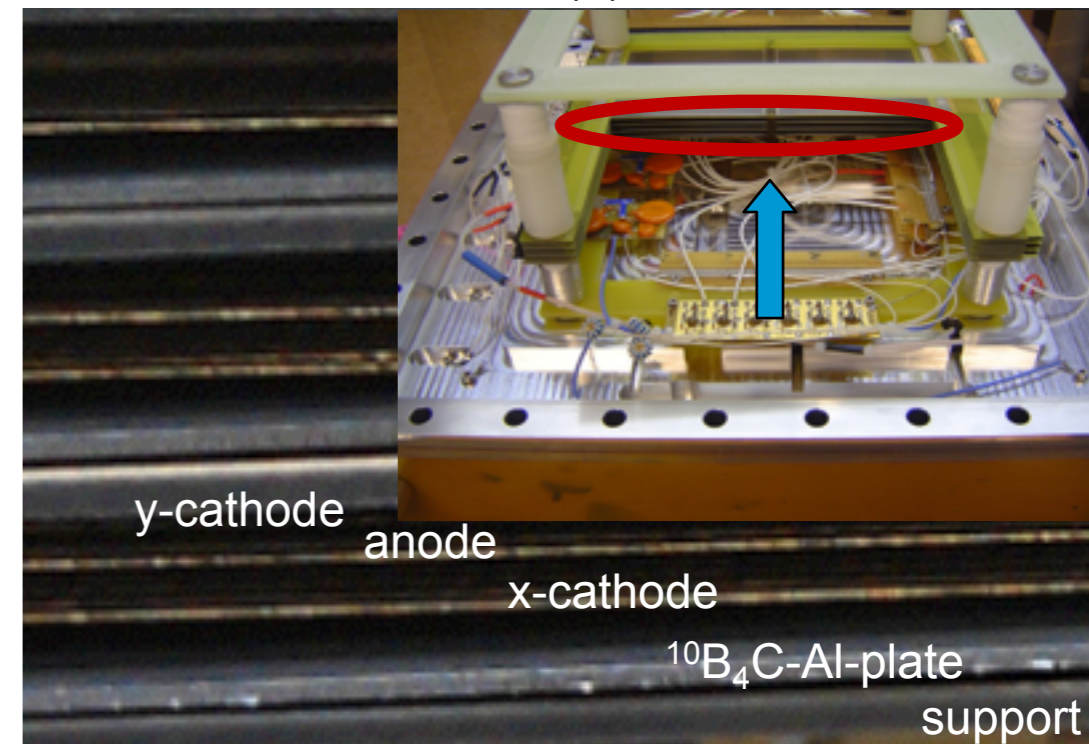
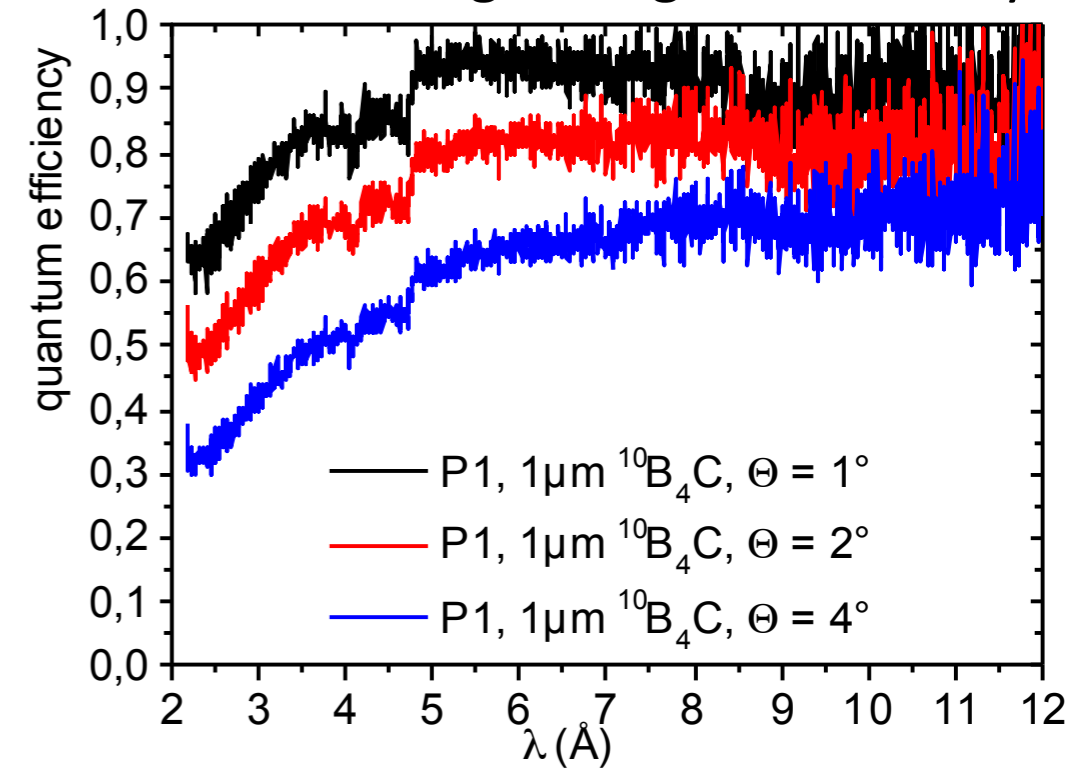


Technology Demonstrators of Scientific Performance planned for:  
CNCS@SNS and TOFTOF@FRMII





smaller inclined angles: higher efficiency



# Neutron Reflectometry: A Rate Challenge

- Rate requirements is high:
  - Intensity of new sources
  - Time structure of pulse
  - Advanced design instruments

ESS requirements

area ( $mm \times mm$ )	spatial resolution ( $mm \times mm$ )	global rate ( $s^{-1}$ )	local rate ( $s^{-1}mm^{-2}$ )
$500 \times 500$	$[\leq 0.5, 2] \times 2$	$[5, 100] \cdot 10^5$	$[5, 300] \cdot 10^2$

The state of the art

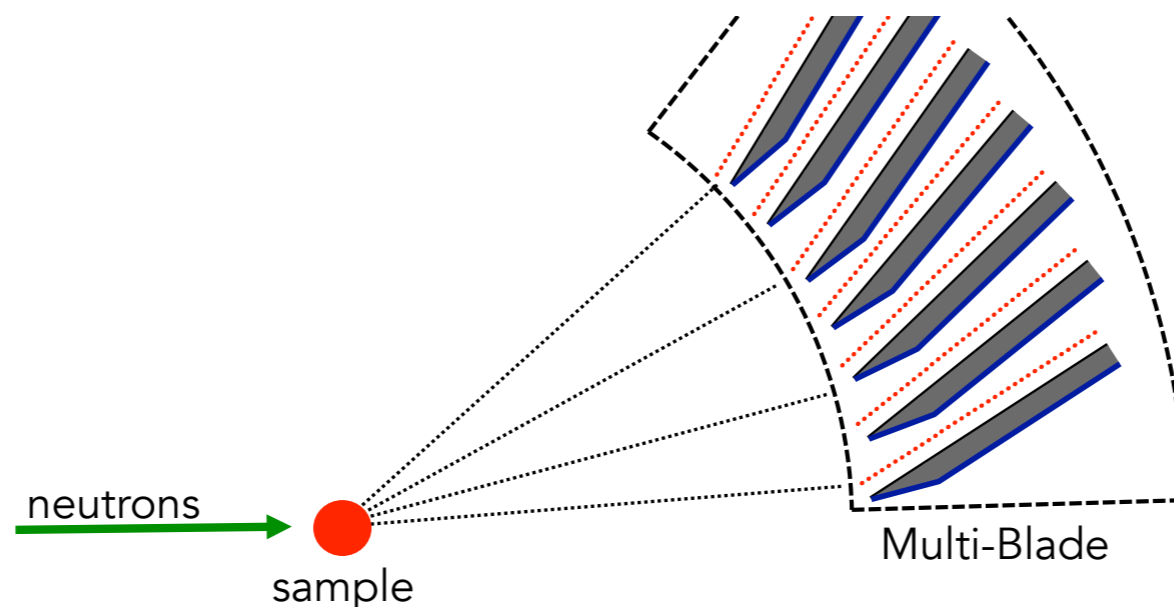
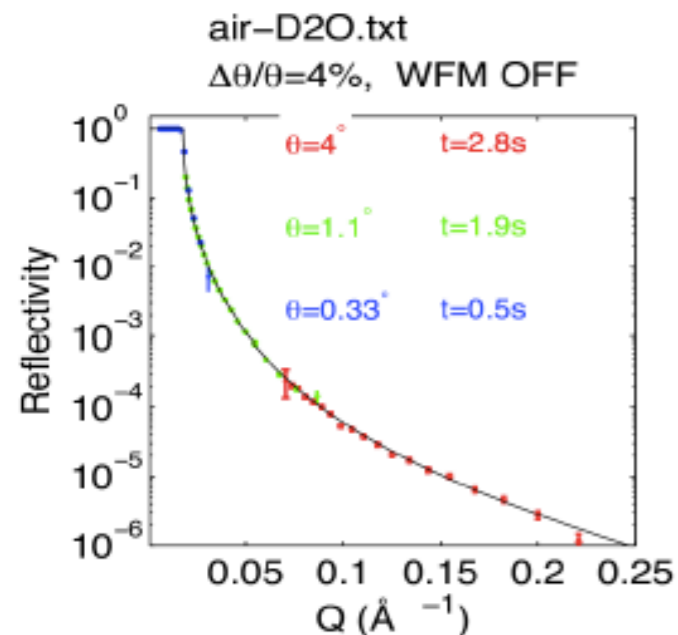
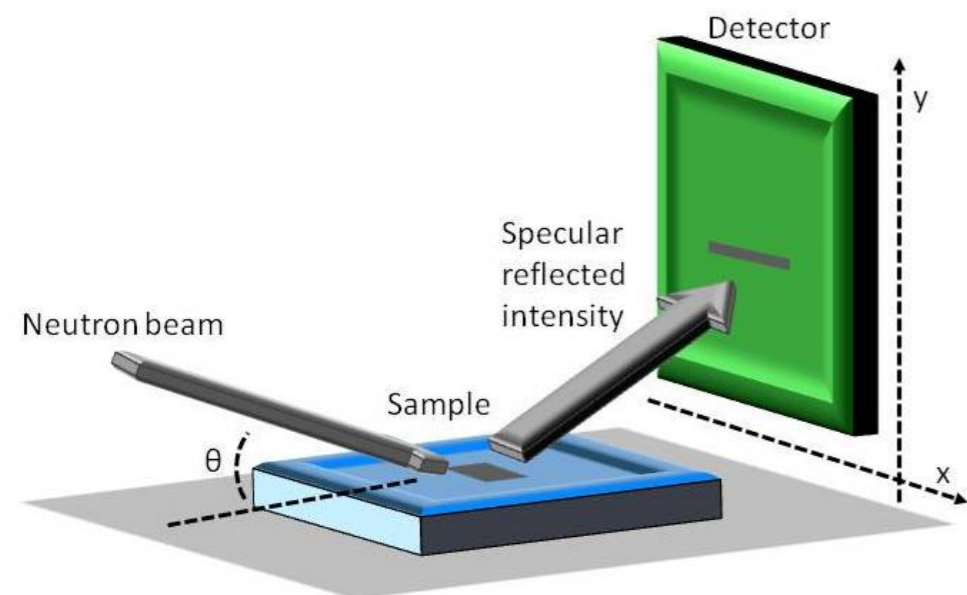
area ( $mm \times mm$ )	spatial resolution ( $mm \times mm$ )	global rate ( $s^{-1}$ )	local rate ( $s^{-1}mm^{-2}$ )
$500 \times 500$	$1 \times 2$	$100 \cdot 10^5$	300

Multi-Blade

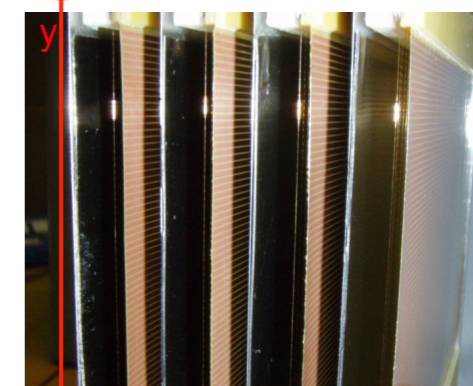
area ( $mm \times mm$ )	spatial resolution ( $mm \times mm$ )	global rate ( $s^{-1}$ )	local rate ( $s^{-1}mm^{-2}$ )
	$0.3 \times 4$		$>1000$

<sup>3</sup>He  
 technology

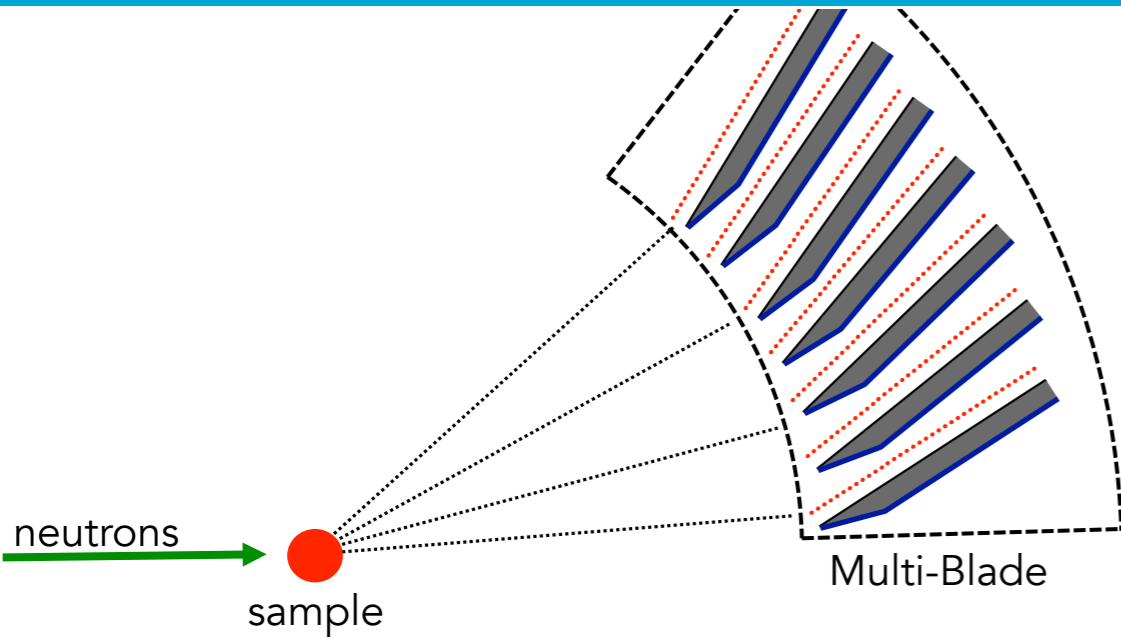
<sup>10</sup>B  
 technology



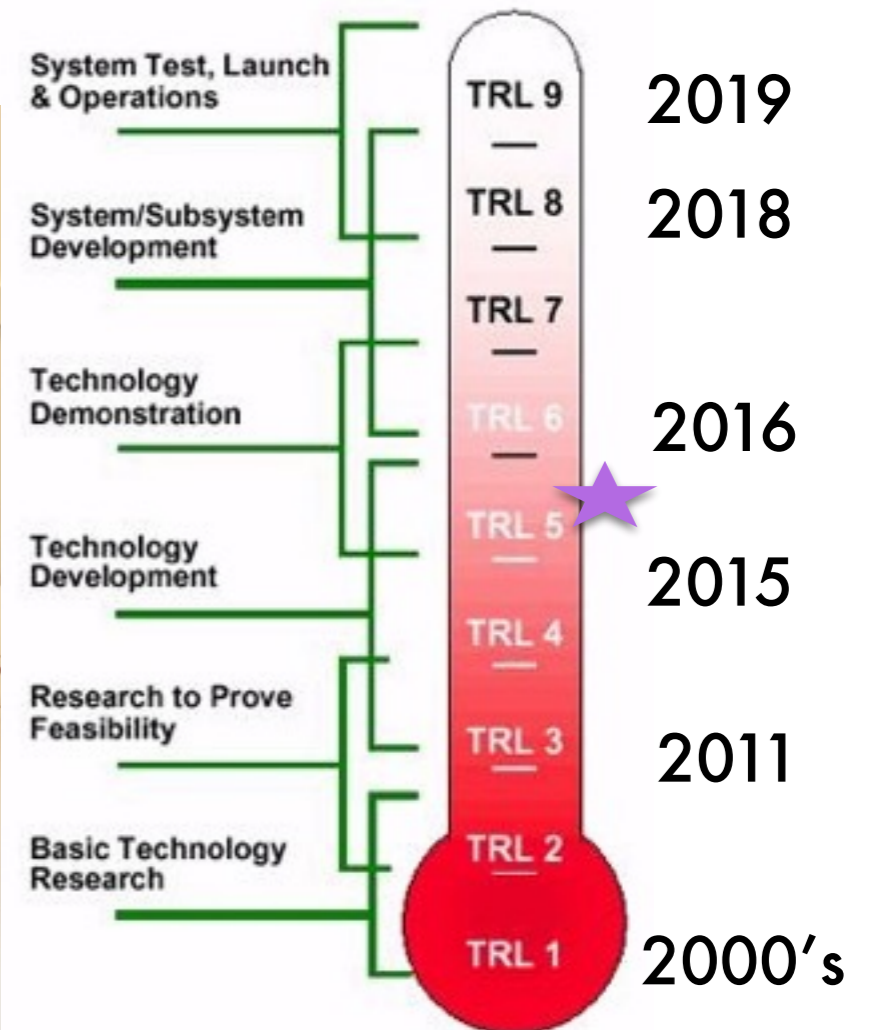
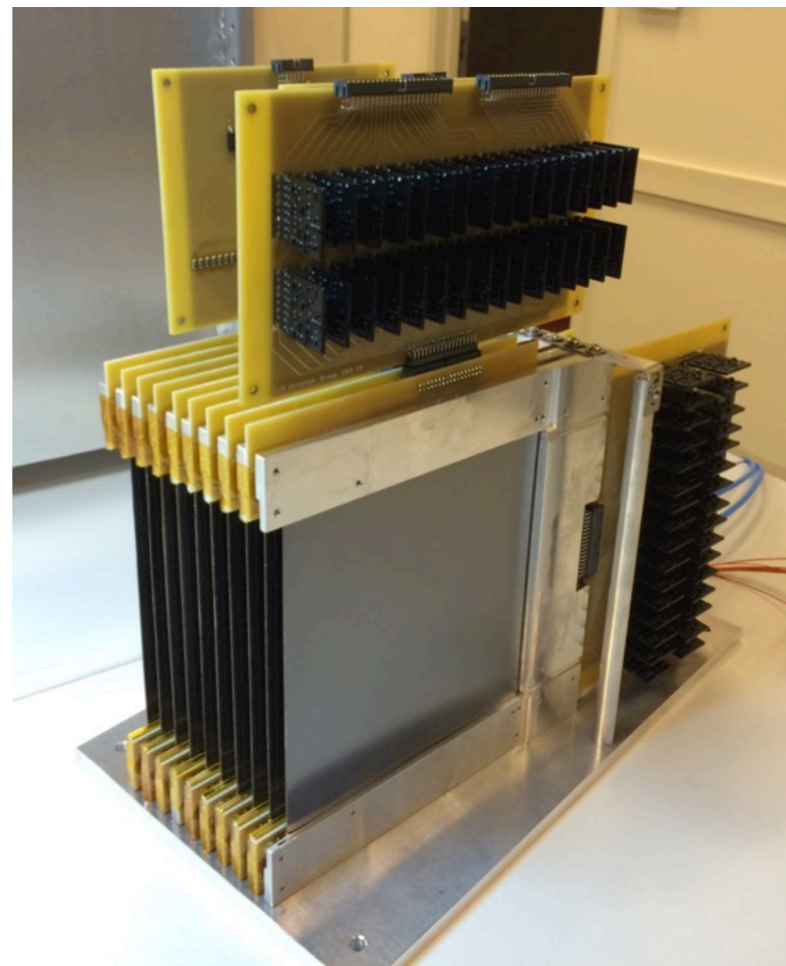
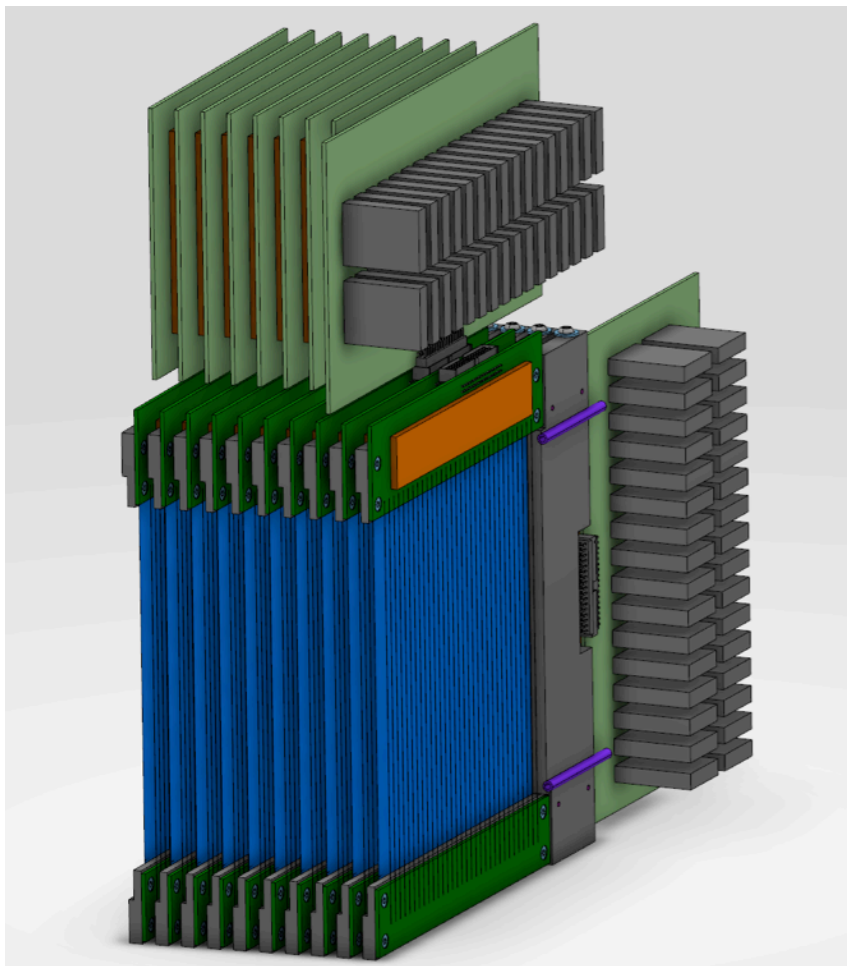
- Multi-blade design:
- High rate capability
  - Sum-mm resolution



# Multi-Blade Design

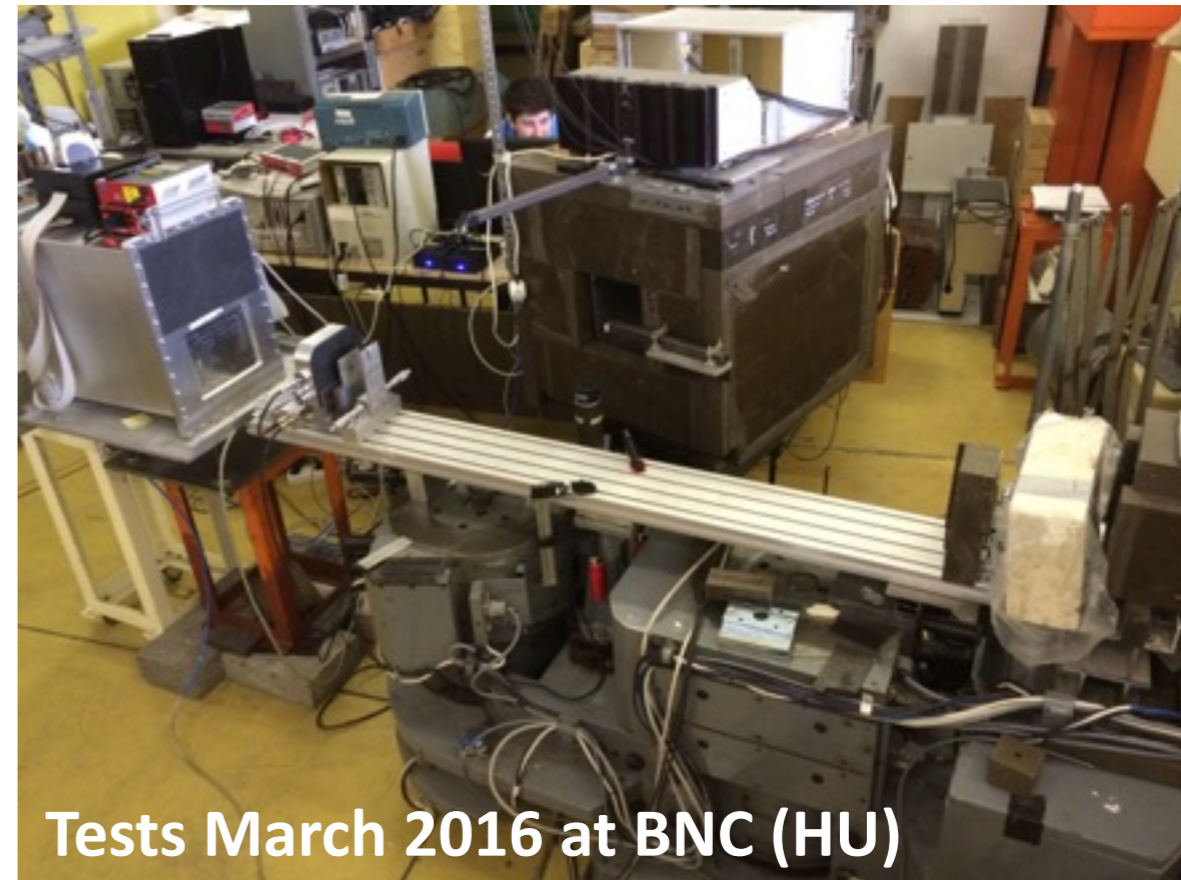
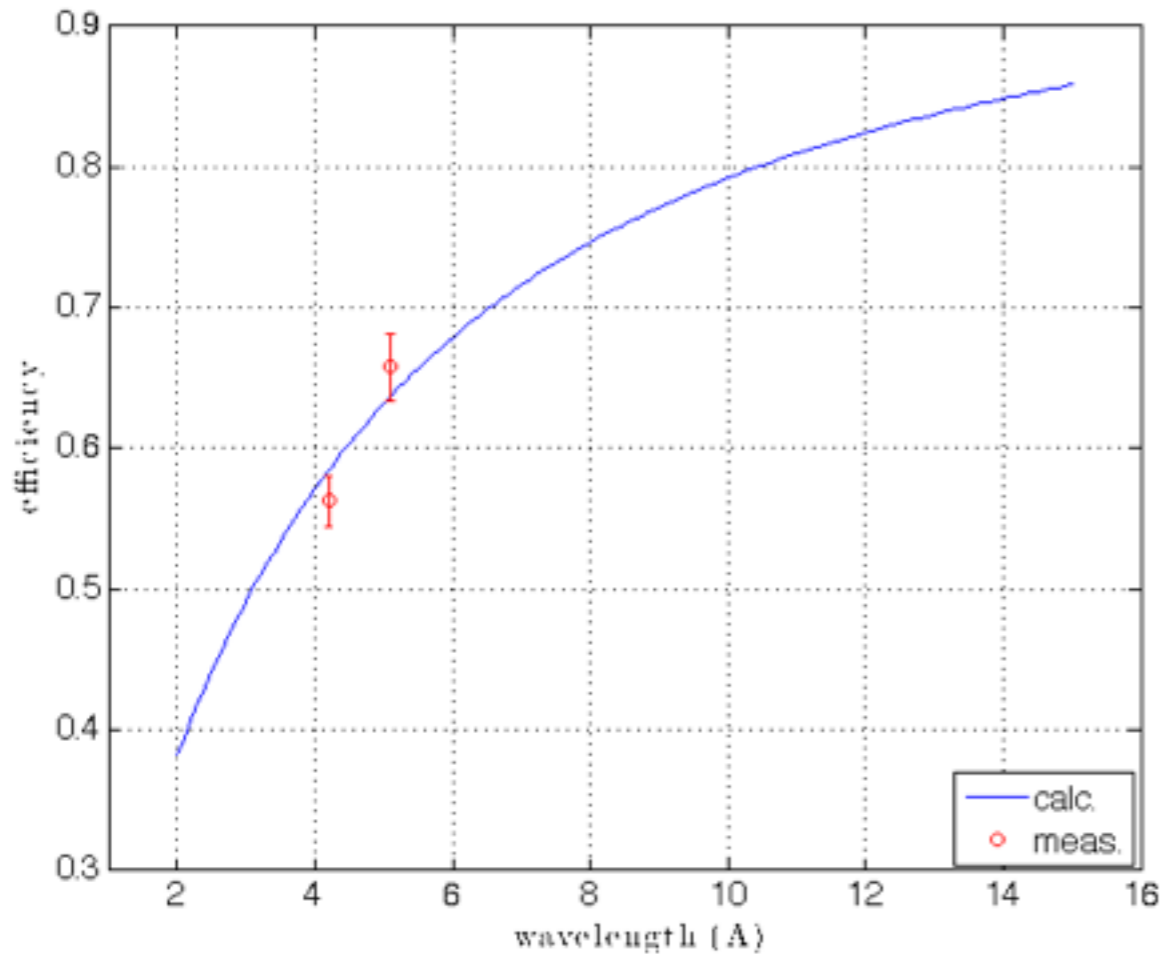


- Design simple: "KISS"
- Modular
- Cheap
- Make design available
- "Open Source Hardware"

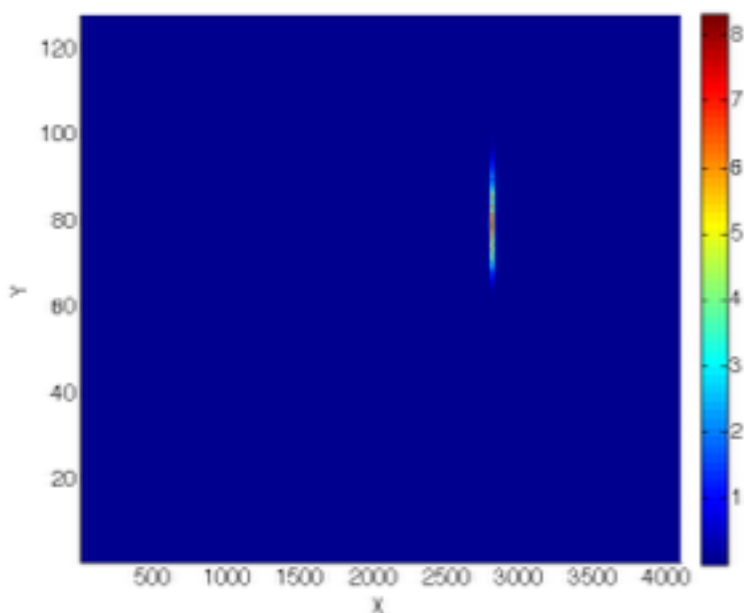




# Multi-Blade Design

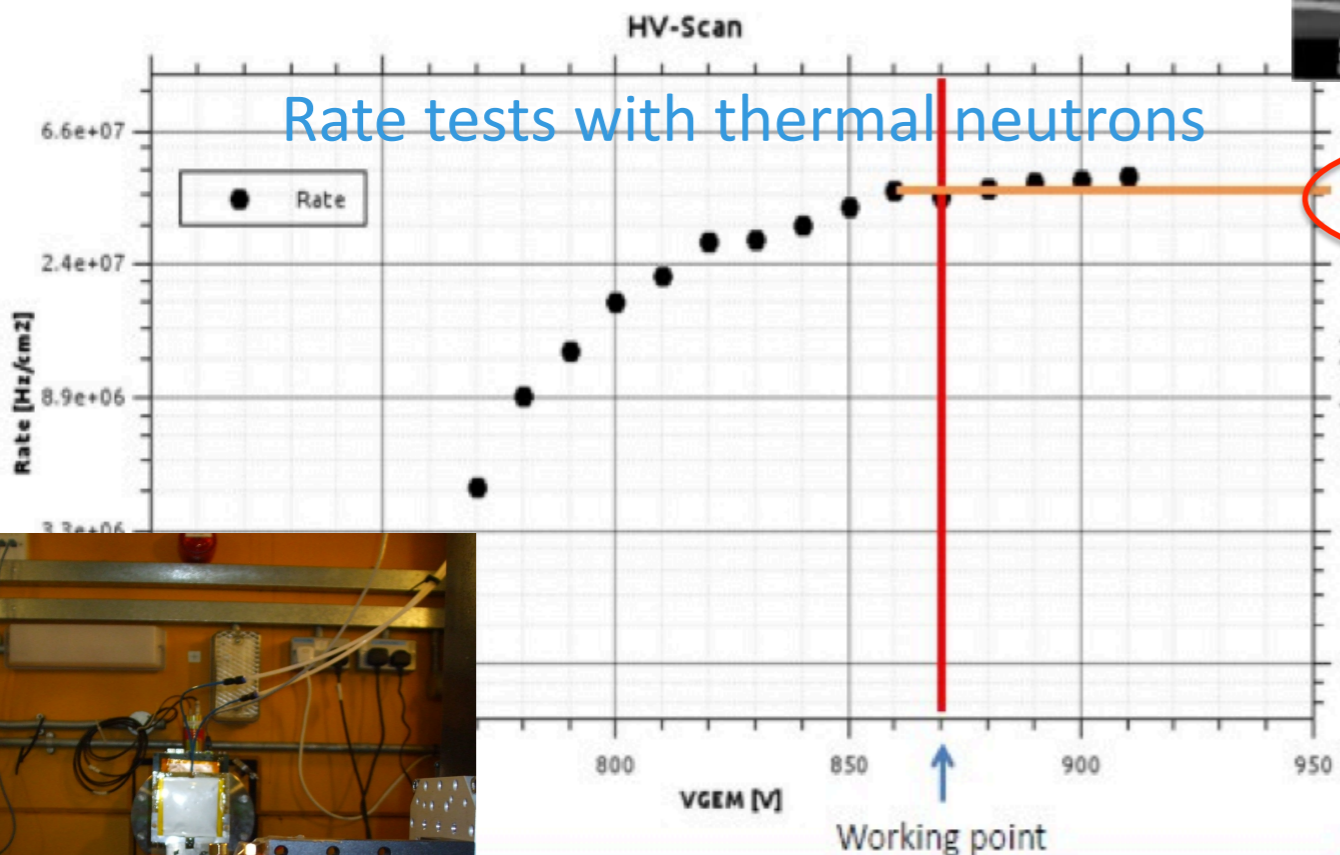
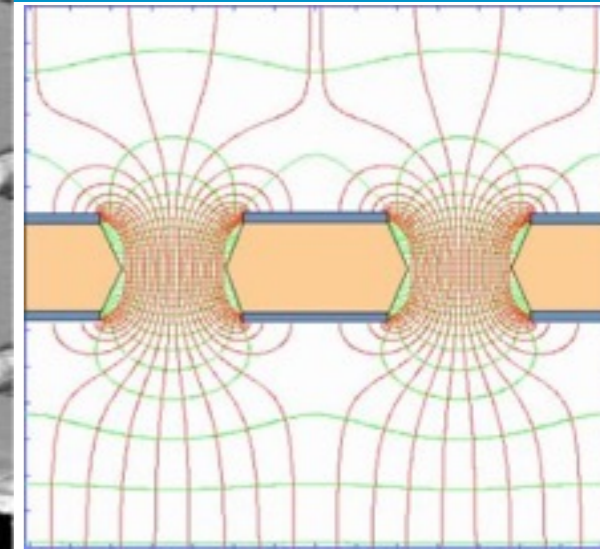
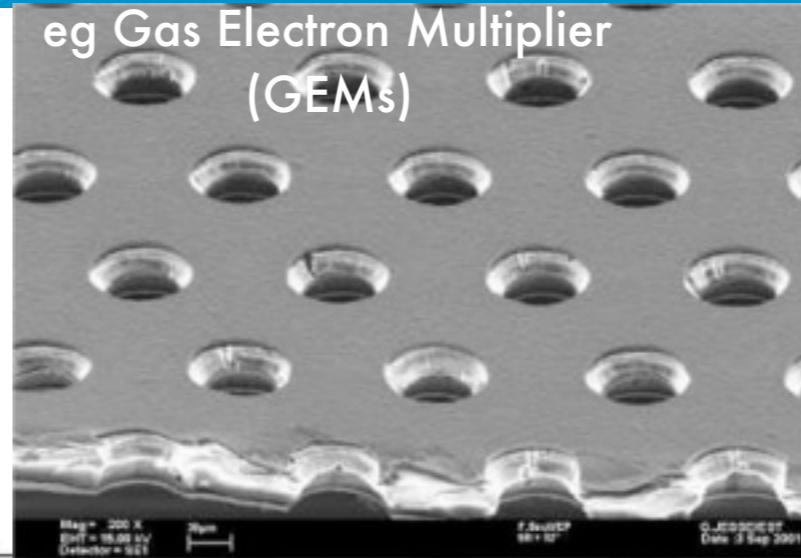


Tests March 2016 at BNC (HU)



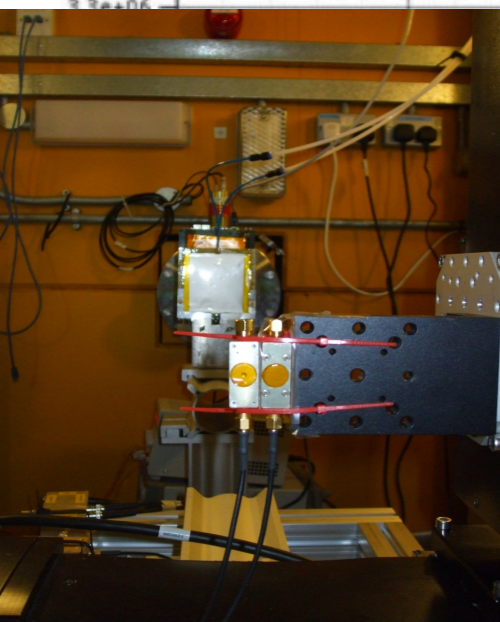
- Counting rate capability: no saturation observed up to  $22\text{kHz}/\text{mm}^2$
- ca.  $0.4\text{mm}$  x resolution
- Further tests later in year, including scientific demonstration on reflectometry instruments

- Field started by A Oed at the ILL with the micro-strip gas chamber (MSGC) in 1988
- Now widespread: many variants
- Potentially very good resolution and very high rate capability



← 40 MHz/cm<sup>2</sup>

- Growing interest for applications for neutron detection
- 2 workshops organised by CERN RD51 Collaboration (with HEPTECH) on Neutron Detection using MPGDs



Summary of 1st workshop for MPGDs for neutron detection: arXiv:1410.0107

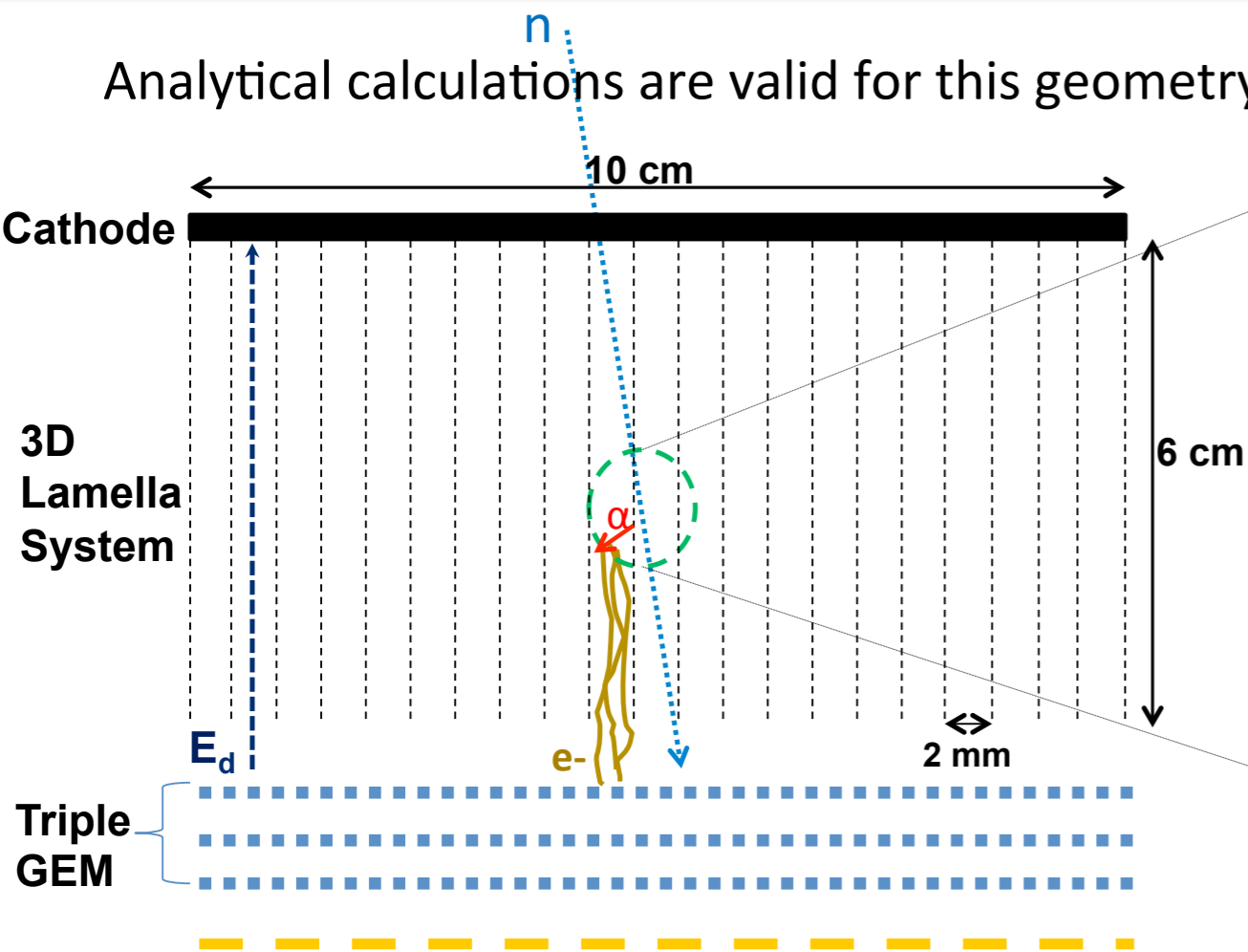
2nd Workshop: <https://indico.cern.ch/event/365380/>

# BANDGEM Detector



EUROPEAN SPALLATION SOURCE

Analytical calculations are valid for this geometry

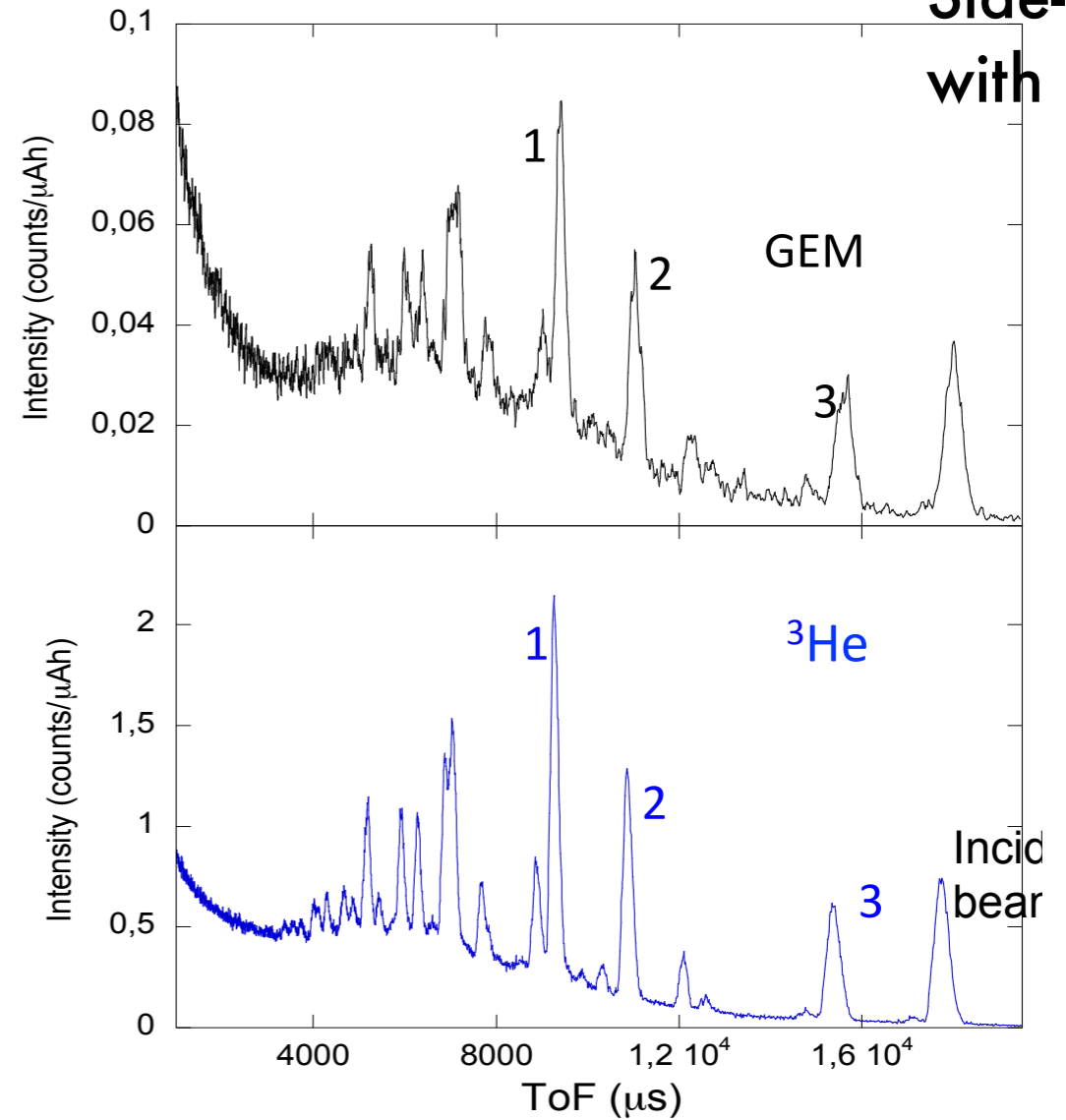


**Padded Anode**

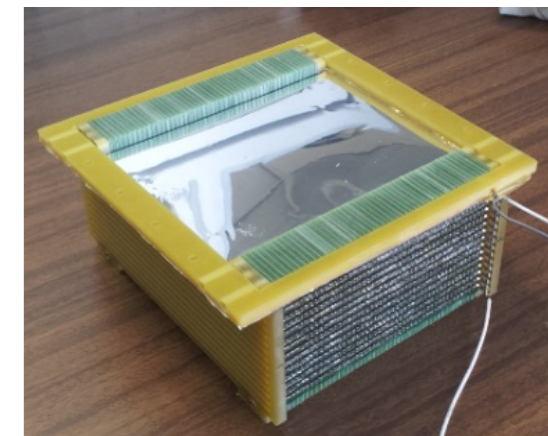
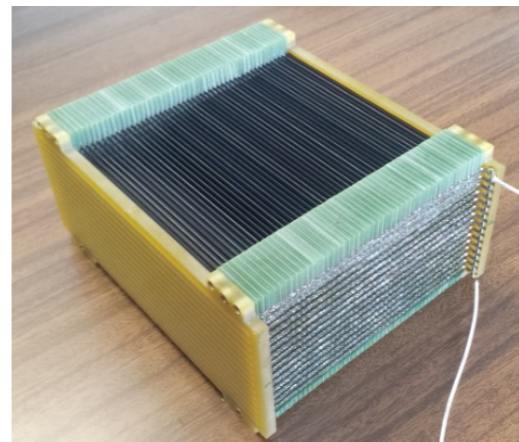
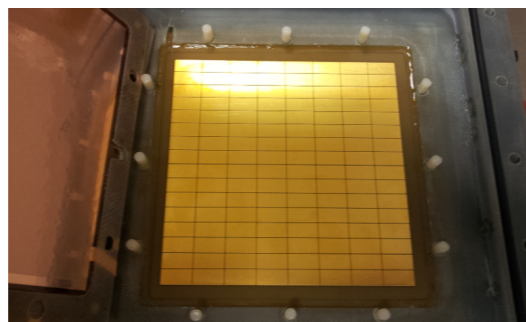
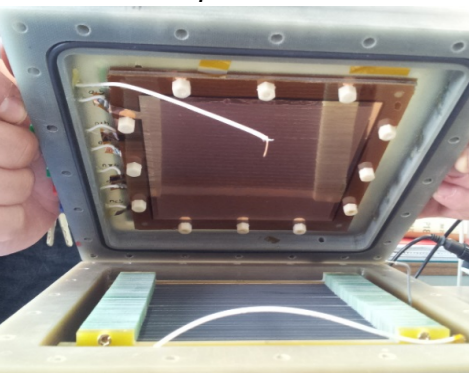
**Alumina lamellae coated on both sides with  $^{10}\text{B}_4\text{C}$**

Using low  $\theta$  values (few degs) the path of the neutron inside the  $\text{B}_4\text{C}$  is increased  $\rightarrow$  Higher efficiency when detector is inclined

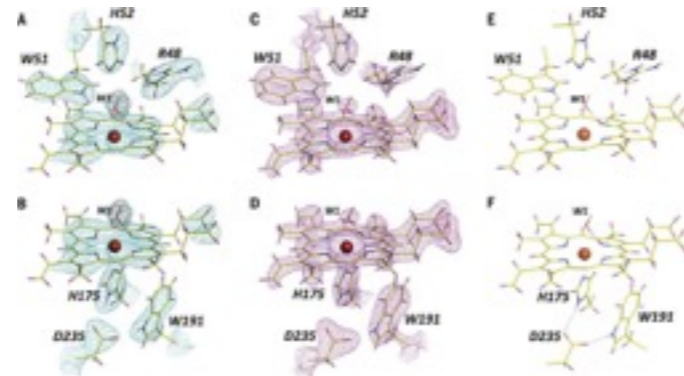
Side-by-side with He-3



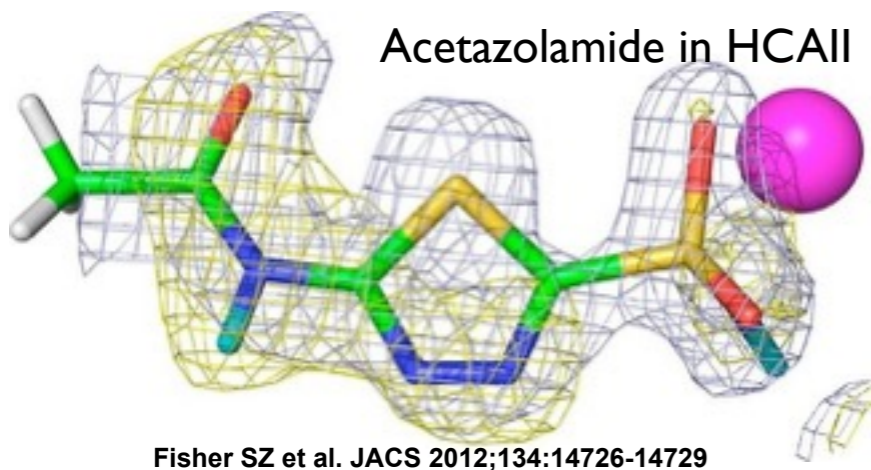
14



# Where are hydrogens important?



Casadei CM et al. Science 2014;345:193-197



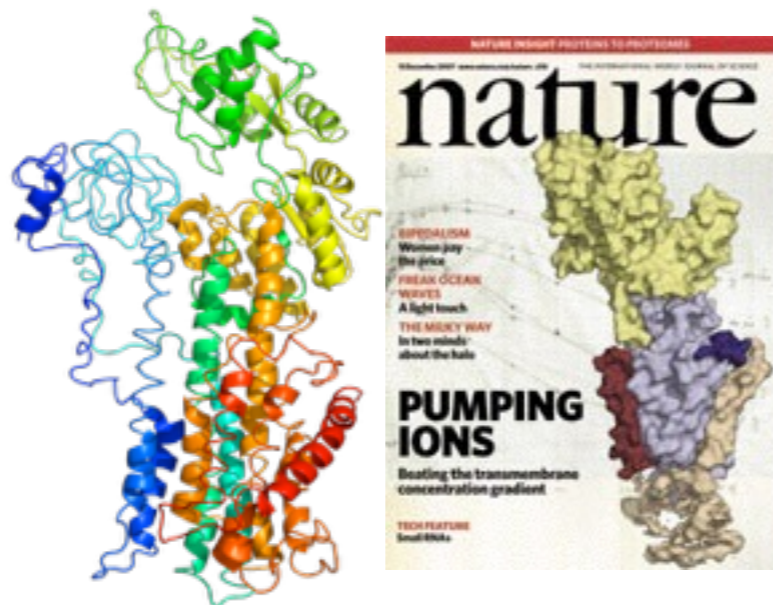
Fisher SZ et al. JACS 2012;134:14726-14729

Enzyme mechanisms

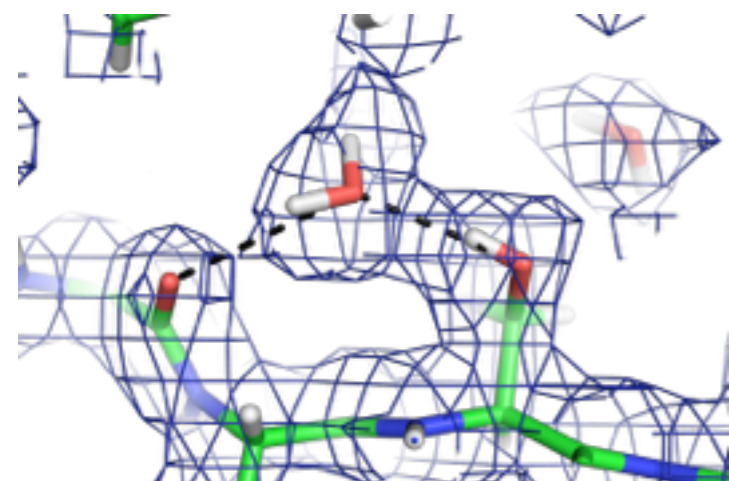
Protein-ligand interactions

Proton transport across

Drug design



# Neutron Macromolecular Crystallography

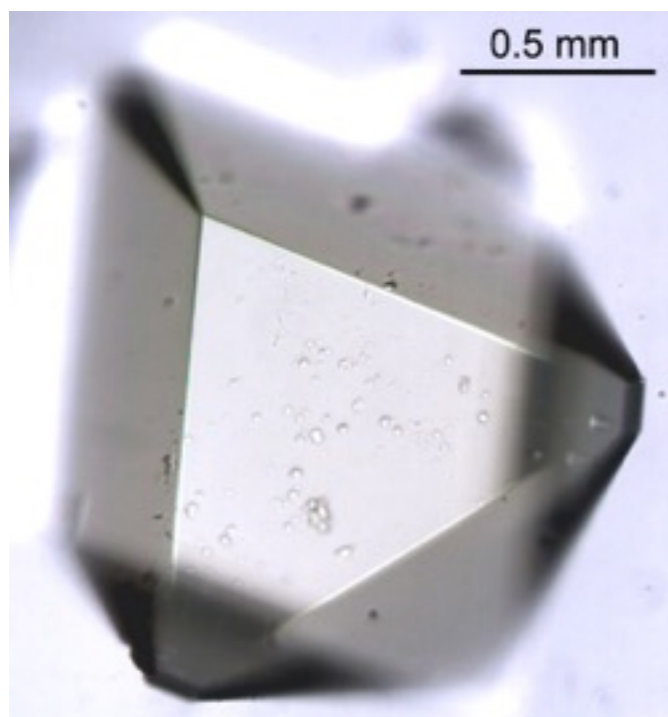


X-Ray structures: >100 000  
Neutron Structures <100  
A huge opportunity?

- 😊 Hydrogens are visible
- 😊 No radiation damage
- 😞 Large crystals needed
- 😞 Data collection takes weeks
- 😞 Few instruments available

Key advantages of ESS:

- Macromolecular Diffractometer
- Smaller crystals needed (200  $\mu\text{m}$  vs. 1 mm)
- Data collection faster (days vs. weeks)
- Larger unit cells possible (300  $\text{\AA}$  vs. 150  $\text{\AA}$ )



## NMX Instrument



Bovine heart  
cytochrome c  
oxidase

P2<sub>1</sub>2<sub>1</sub>2<sub>1</sub>

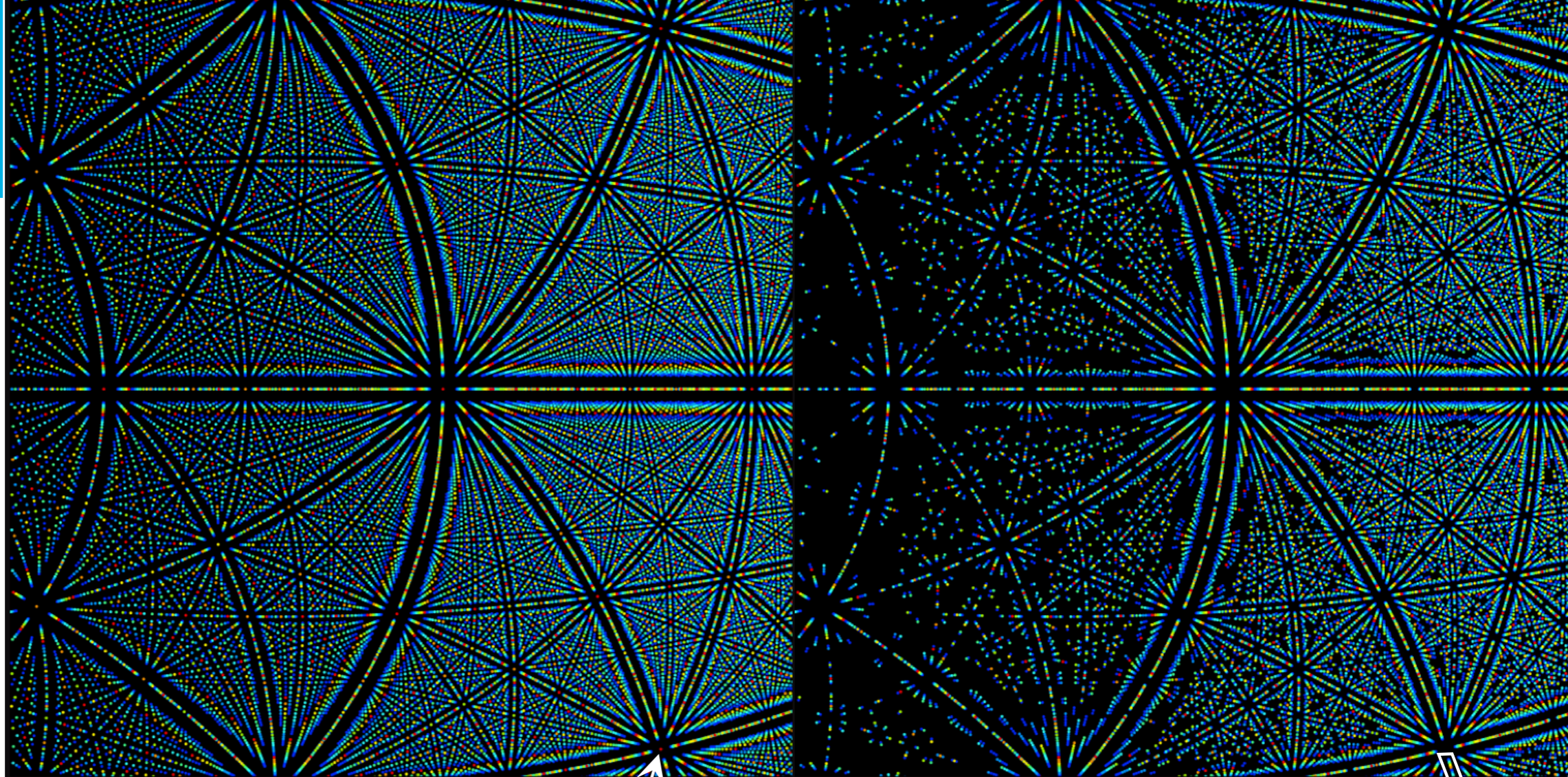
a = 182.59 Å

b = 205.40 Å

c = 178.25 Å

Detector  
distance 1 m

<<1mm spatial  
resolution to be  
able to integrate  
intensities



All reflections

14	28	42	(3.409 Å, 134.4 ms)	21	35	49	(2.809 Å, 110.8 ms)
15	29	43	(3.309 Å, 130.5 ms)	22	36	50	(2.739 Å, 108.0 ms)
16	30	44	(3.215 Å, 126.8 ms)	23	37	51	(2.672 Å, 105.4 ms)
17	31	45	(3.124 Å, 123.2 ms)	24	38	52	(2.608 Å, 102.9 ms)
18	32	46	(3.040 Å, 119.9 ms)	25	39	53	(2.548 Å, 100.5 ms)
19	33	47	(2.959 Å, 116.7 ms)	26	40	54	(2.489 Å, 98.2 ms)
20	34	48	(2.882 Å, 113.6 ms)				

Spatial overlaps only

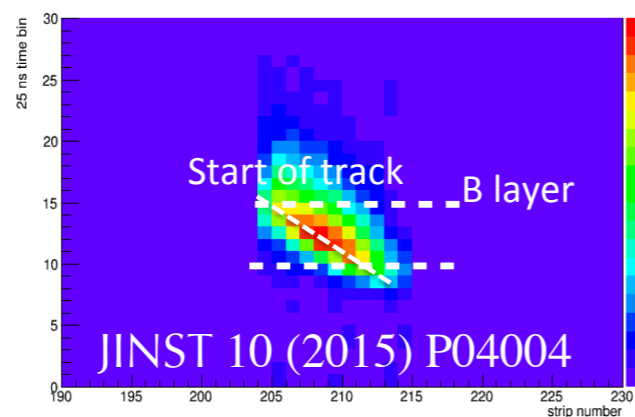
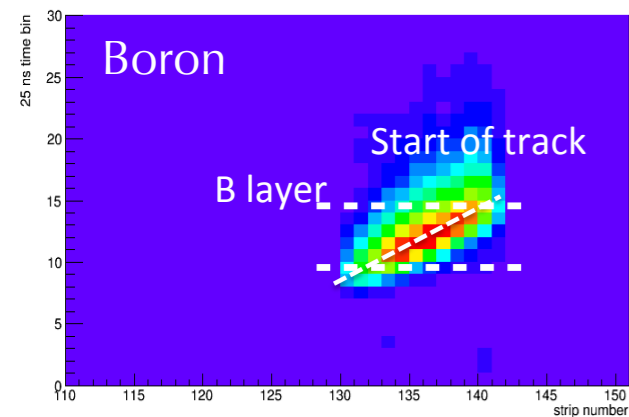
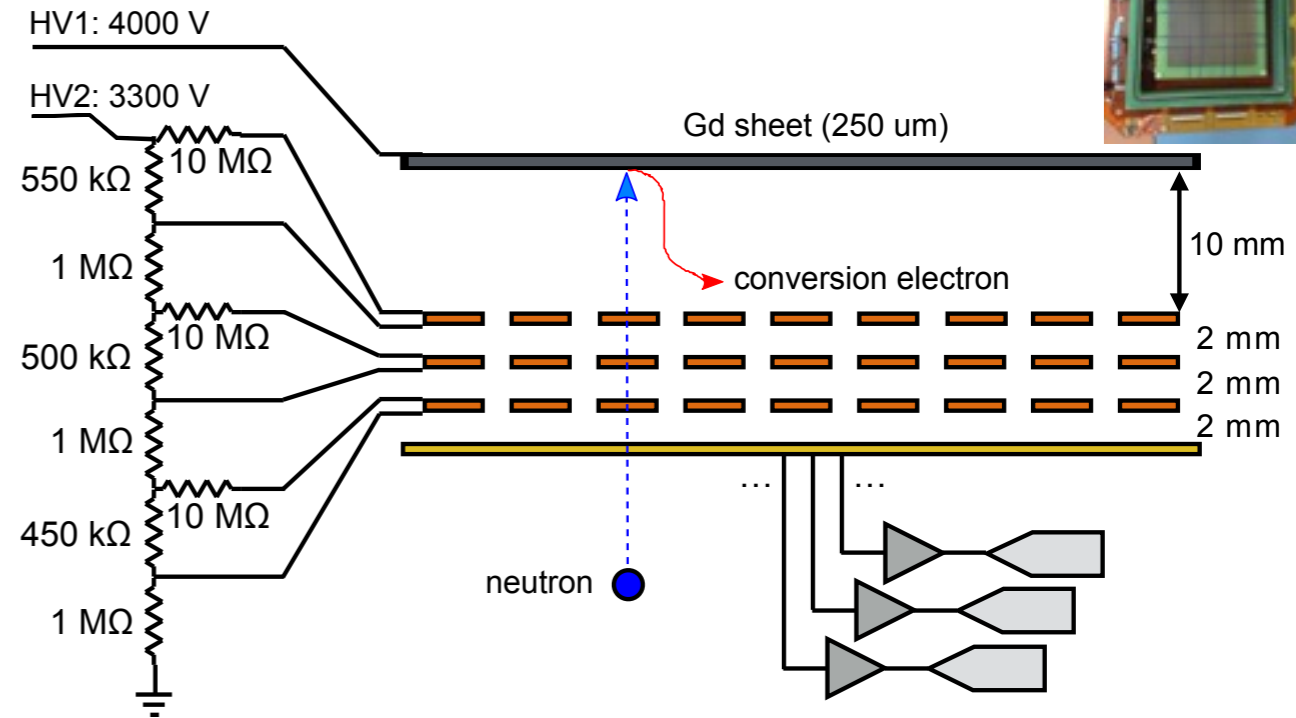
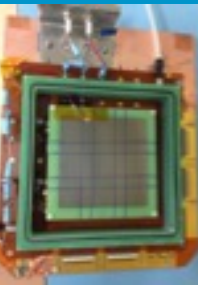
27	53	79	(1.812 Å, 71.4 ms)
22	43	64	(2.236 Å, 88.2 ms)
18	35	52	(2.752 Å, 108.5 ms)
17	33	49	(2.920 Å, 115.1 ms)
19	37	55	(2.602 Å, 102.6 ms)
15	29	43	(3.327 Å, 131.2 ms)
27	52	77	(1.856 Å, 96.4 ms)
26	50	74	(1.933 Å, 76.2 ms)
24	46	68	(2.103 Å, 82.9 ms)
22	42	62	(2.306 Å, 90.9 ms)
21	40	59	(2.424 Å, 95.6 ms)
20	38	56	(2.553 Å, 100.7 ms)
28	53	78	(1.833 Å, 72.3 ms)



Generated using the  
Daresbury Laue Suite

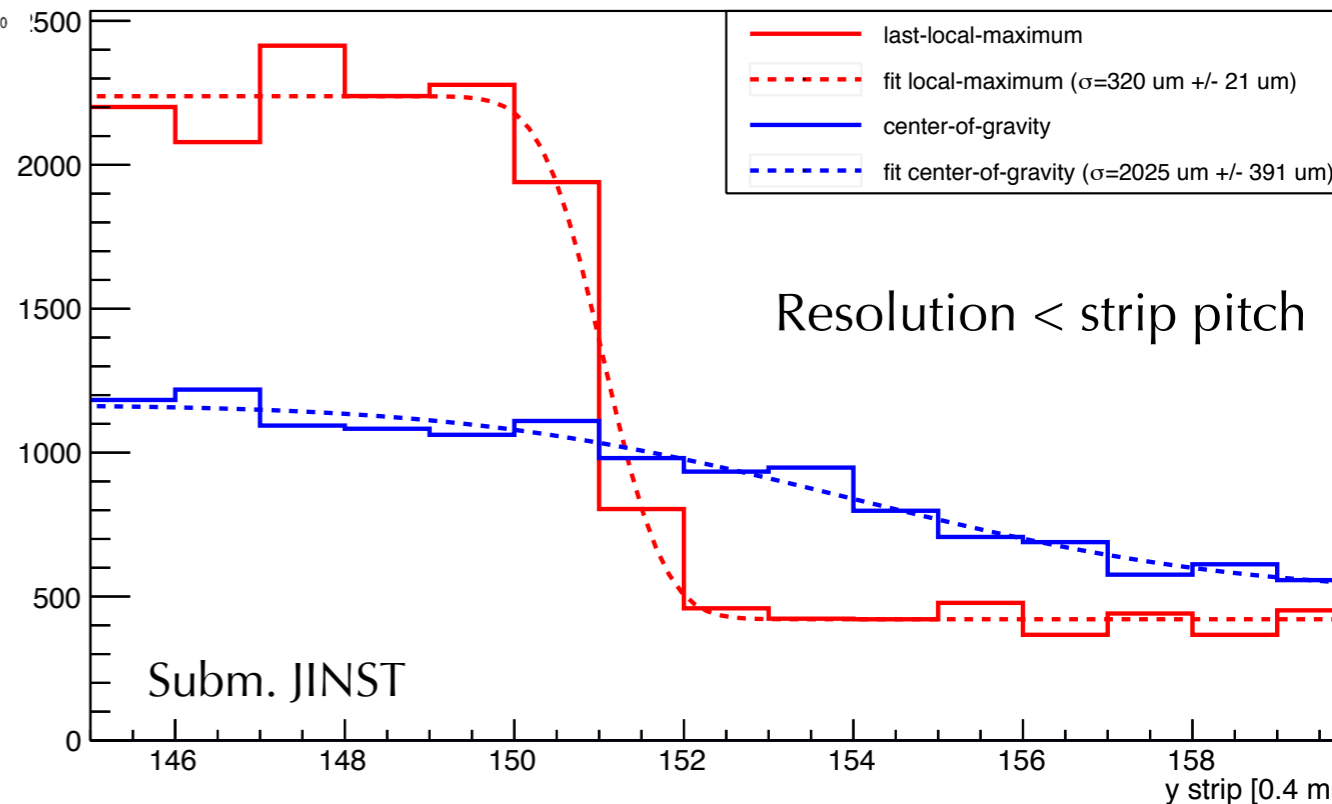
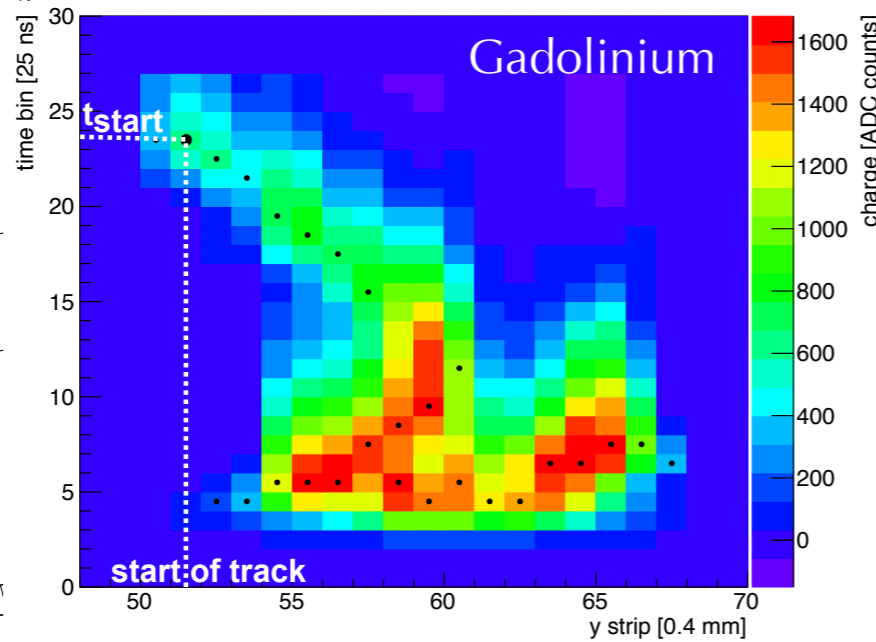
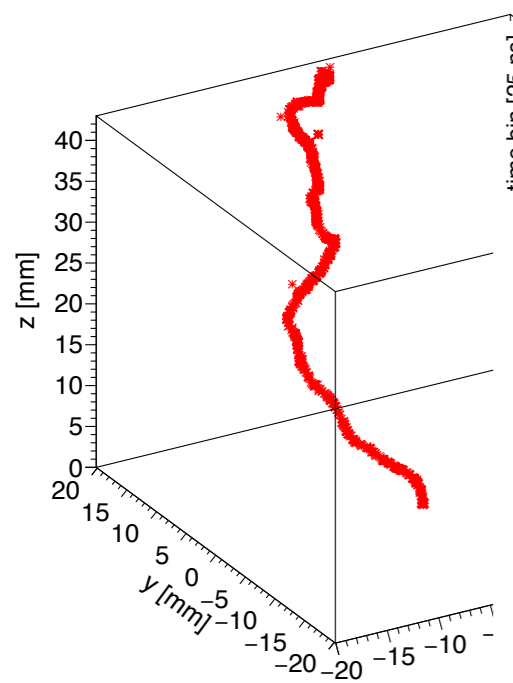
Campbell et al. J. Appl. Cryst. (1998). 31, 496-502  
Artz et al. J. Appl. Cryst. (1999). 32, 554-562  
Helliwell, J.R. et al. J. Appl. Cryst. (1989) 22, 483-497

- NMX:  $\ll 1\text{mm}$  position resolution requirement, Time Resolved, ca.  $1\text{m}^2$  detector area
- Take Micro Time Projection Chamber concept from ATLAS experiment upgrade
- Resolution: use single layer Gd, look for electrons



Track x

Track y



# Summary



# Collaborations for Construction Phase

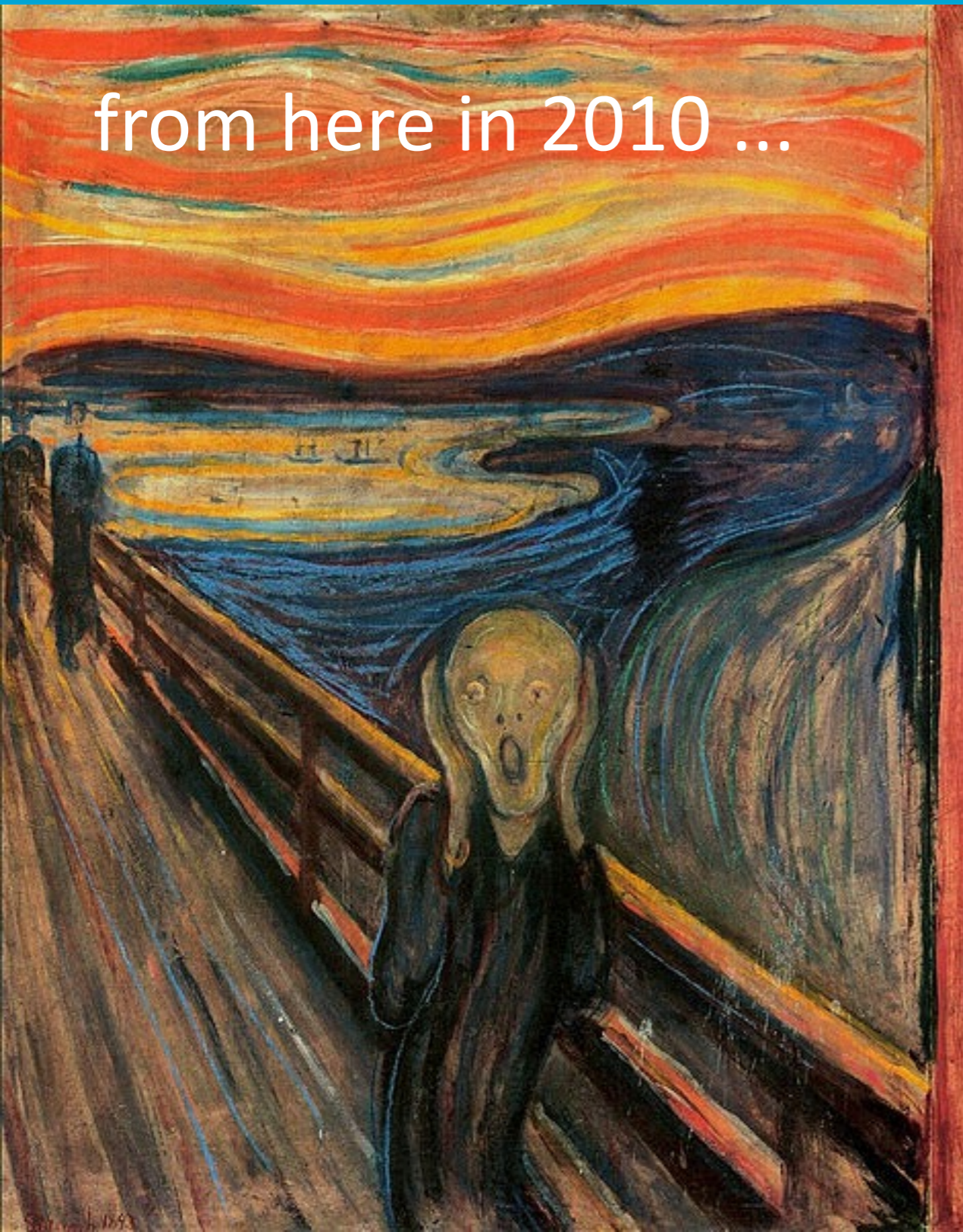
Instrument construction started for first 3 instruments

Challenge: select collaborative partners to build performant detectors



# Mood Message for the R+D so far ...

from here in 2010 ...

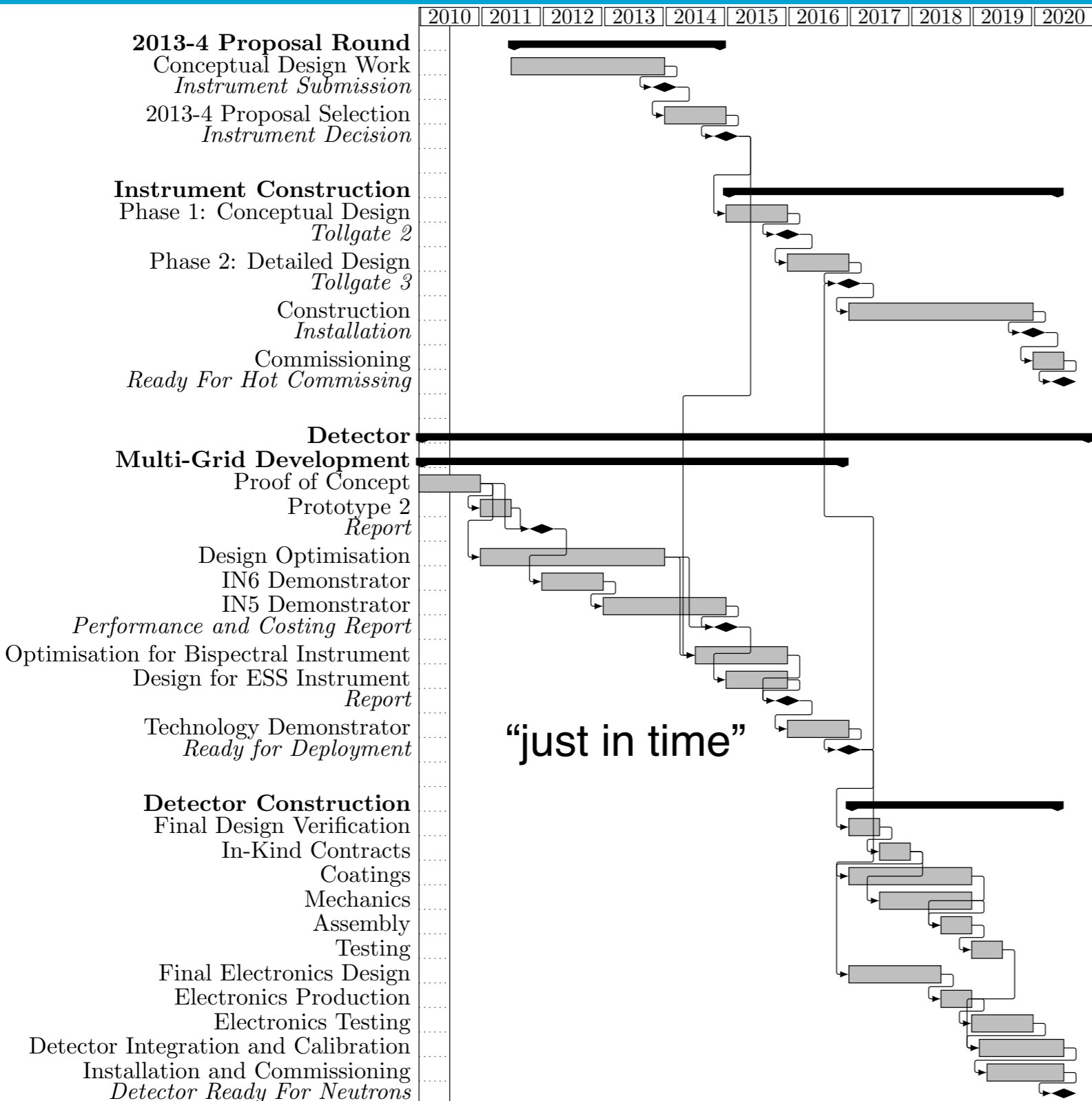


to here in 2014...



- Development time is long: typically 10 years from conception to utilisation
- Solve challenges one at a time, and remain calm

# Timeline for detectors



- Here is the timeline for a thermal chopper spectrometer with one concept for detector technology

- note: 10 years from concept to (potential) utilisation

- note: neither the proof of concept nor construction phases dominate the timeline, but rather the numerous prototyping and demonstration phases in between

“just in time”

- 2019 is tomorrow: it means that any detectors built for then are well progressed with developments now

# Teamwork ...



# Summary

- Huge progress from the community as a whole for solving the Helium-3 crisis
- Very significant challenges still ahead for detectors ...
- Instrument construction for ESS started ...
- Remember: typically 10 years concept to beamline
- We need to utilise the considerable expertise that exists across Europe
- Challenge is only achievable using in-kind
- Need to build up centres of excellence in Europe rather than a large numbers of all-rounders
  
- Used ESS as an example for how detector technologies are chosen
  
- Make sure that you define what you measure clearly and unambiguously
- Publish what you do: too many of the best results remain forgotten and are redone 3-10 years later

