



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM  
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

# Neutrons @ FOOT

**Cristian Massimi**  
for the working group

Department of Physics and Astronomy

# Program

- **Neutrons** produced in the **target** and in the **environment** (MC simulations)
- **Neutron** detection using the **standard FOOT setup** (principle)
- Some limitations (qualitative)
- Event by event analysis (TOF wall + BGO)
- Towards a test beam @ CNAO (characterization of BGO)

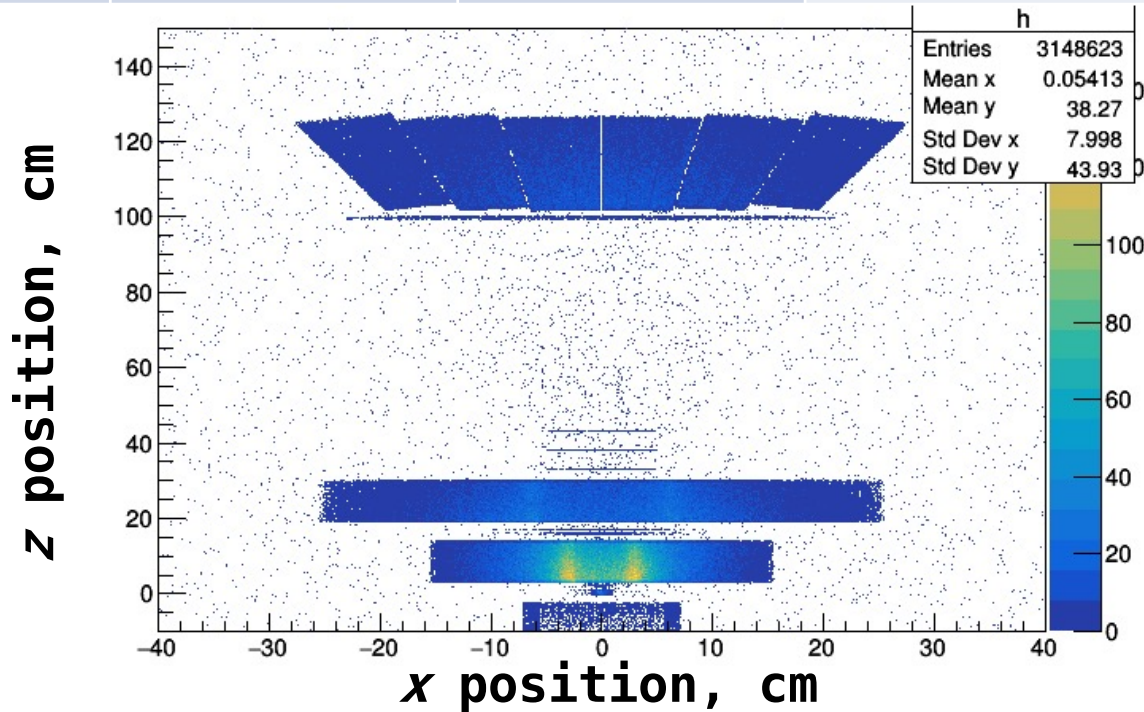
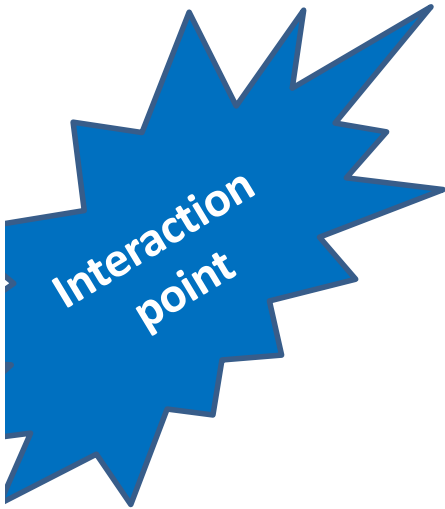
} RECAP

# MC simulations – neutrons from target & environment

5E7  
primaries

$^{16}\text{O} + \text{C}_2\text{H}_4$  @200MeV/u (newgeom) statistics: 1.4E6 fragmentations

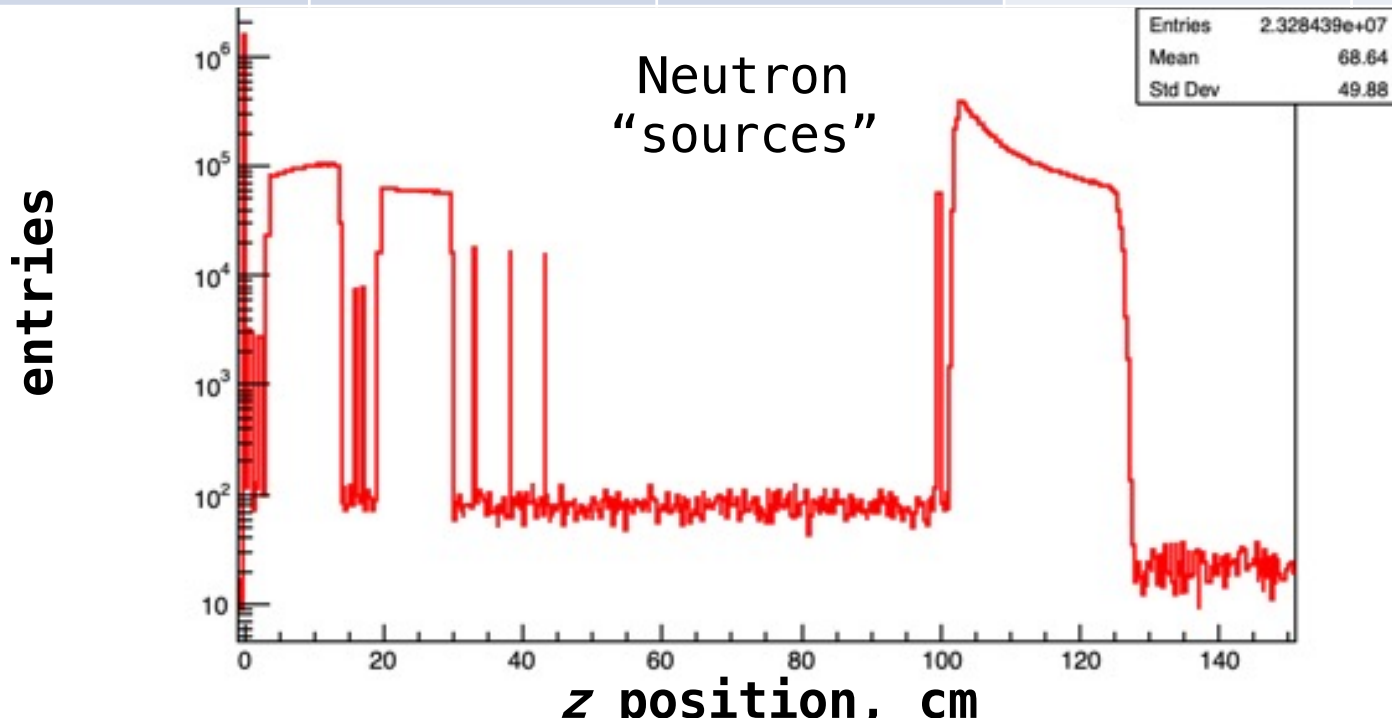
	Neutrons ( $10^6$ ) Produced	Neutrons ( $10^6$ ) interacting Magnets	Neutrons ( $10^6$ ) towards Calorimeter	Neutrons ( $10^6$ ) interacting Calorimeter	Neutrons ( $10^6$ ) arriving to the world
target	3.2	1.3 (40%)	0.6 (20%)	<b>0.4</b>	1.4



# MC simulations – neutrons from target & environment

$^{16}\text{O}+\text{C}_2\text{H}_4$  @200MeV/u (newgeom) statistics: 1.4E6 fragmentations

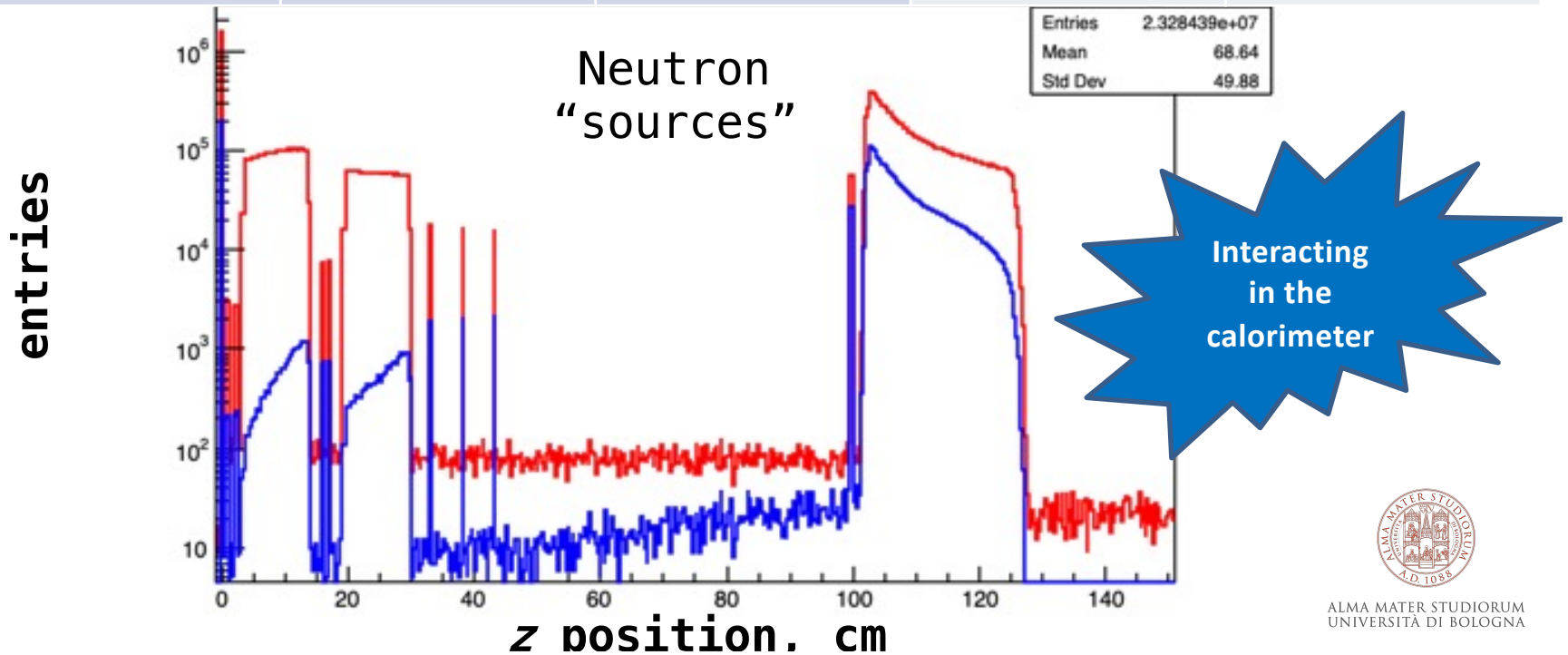
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target	3.2	1.3 (40%)	0.6 (20%)	<b>0.4</b>	1.4
magnets	6.5				
Cal.	13.3				



# MC simulations – neutrons from target & environment

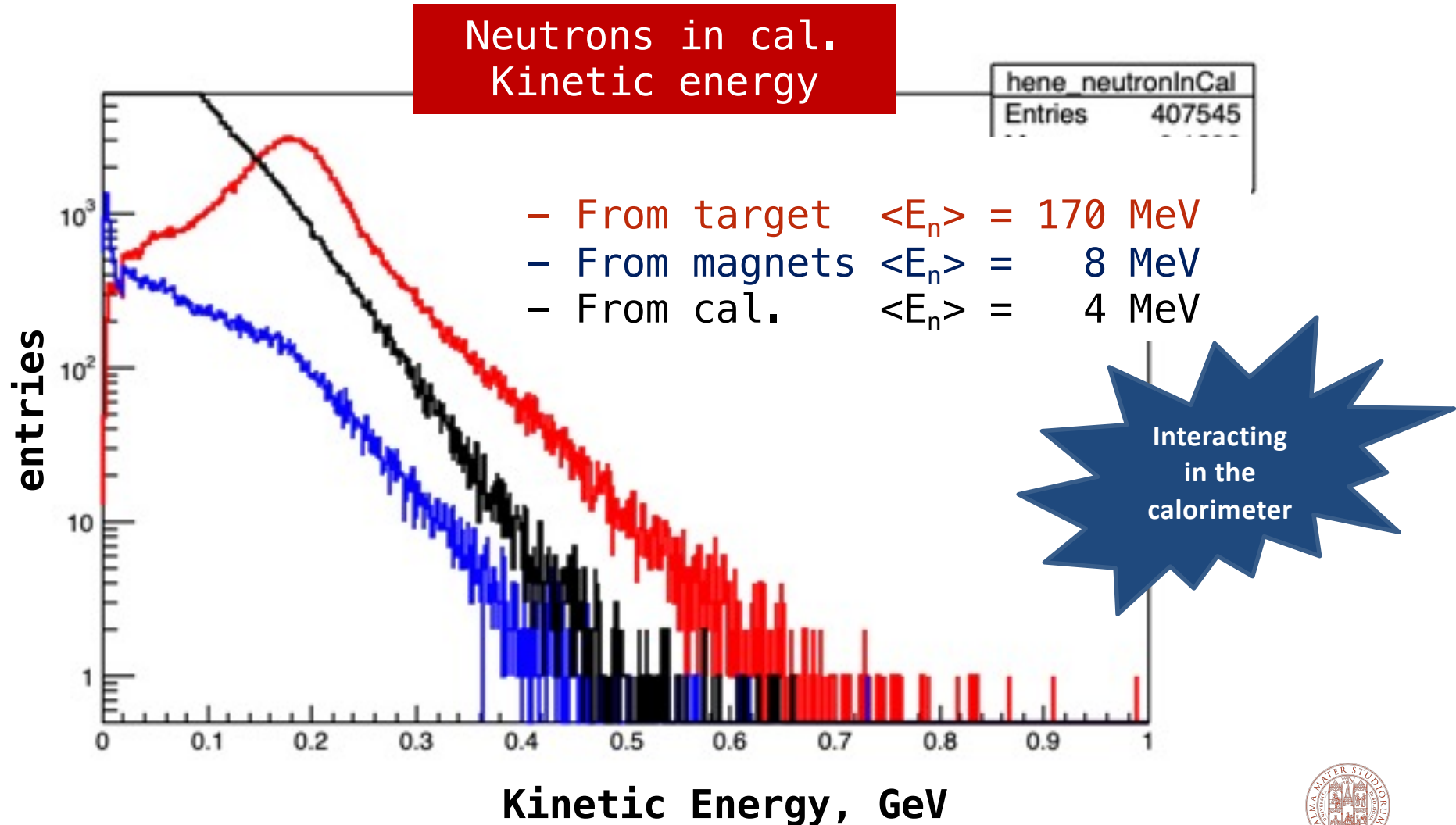
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	Neutrons ( $10^6$ ) Produced	Neutrons ( $10^6$ ) interacting Magnets	Neutrons ( $10^6$ ) towards Calorimeter	Neutrons ( $10^6$ ) interacting Calorimeter	Neutrons ( $10^6$ ) arriving to the world
target	3.2	1.3 (40%)	0.6 (20%)	<b>0.4</b>	1.4
magnets	6.5			<b>0.06</b>	14.8
Cal.	13.3			<b>3.1</b>	



# MC simulations – neutrons from target & environment

$^{16}\text{O} + \text{C}_2\text{H}_4$  @200MeV/u (newgeom) statistics: 1.4E6 fragmentations



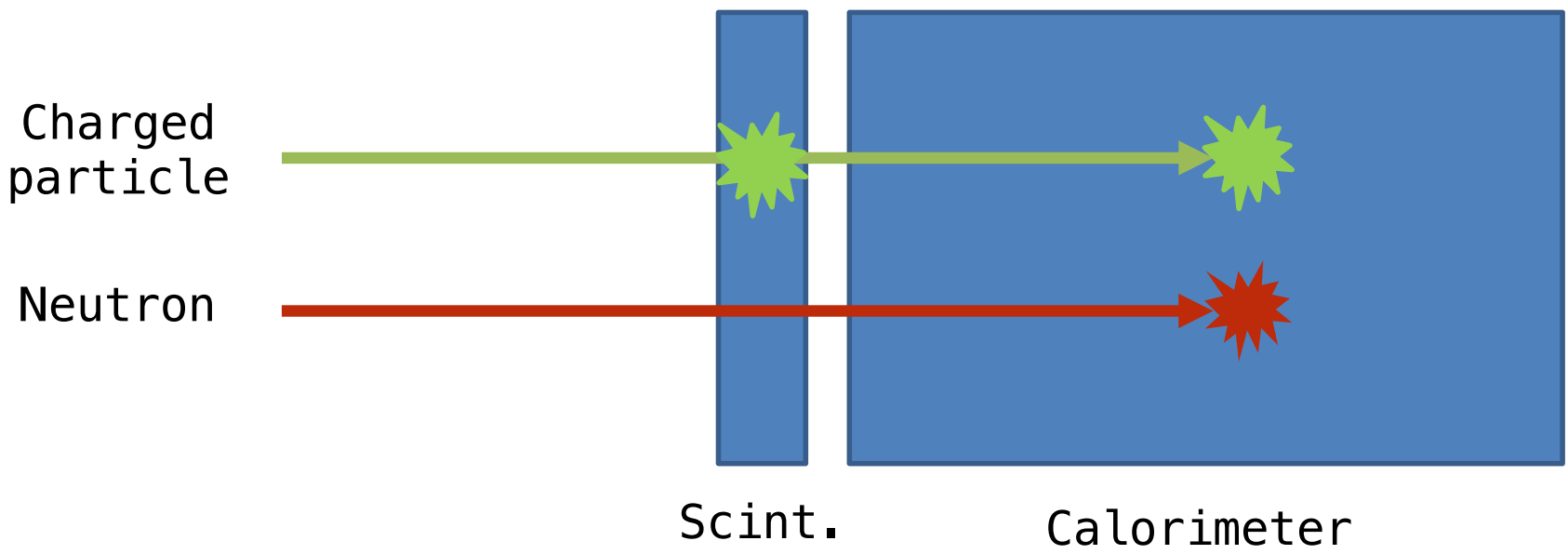
# MC simulations – neutrons from target & environment

## Some comments:

- **Large production** of **neutrons** outside the  $C_2H_4$  target.
  - **Avoid** detectors based on moderation (sensitive to thermal neutrons)
  - Only **high-energy neutrons** originating from target can have experimental **signature higher than background** .
- **Neutrons from the target** interacting in the calorimeter are a **factor 6 >** neutrons from the **magnets**. With condition on  $\Delta E$  → **factor 10**.
- **Neutrons from the calorimeter** need to be **tagged**.
- **How to discriminate  $\gamma$  rays?**

# Detecting neutrons with existing setup

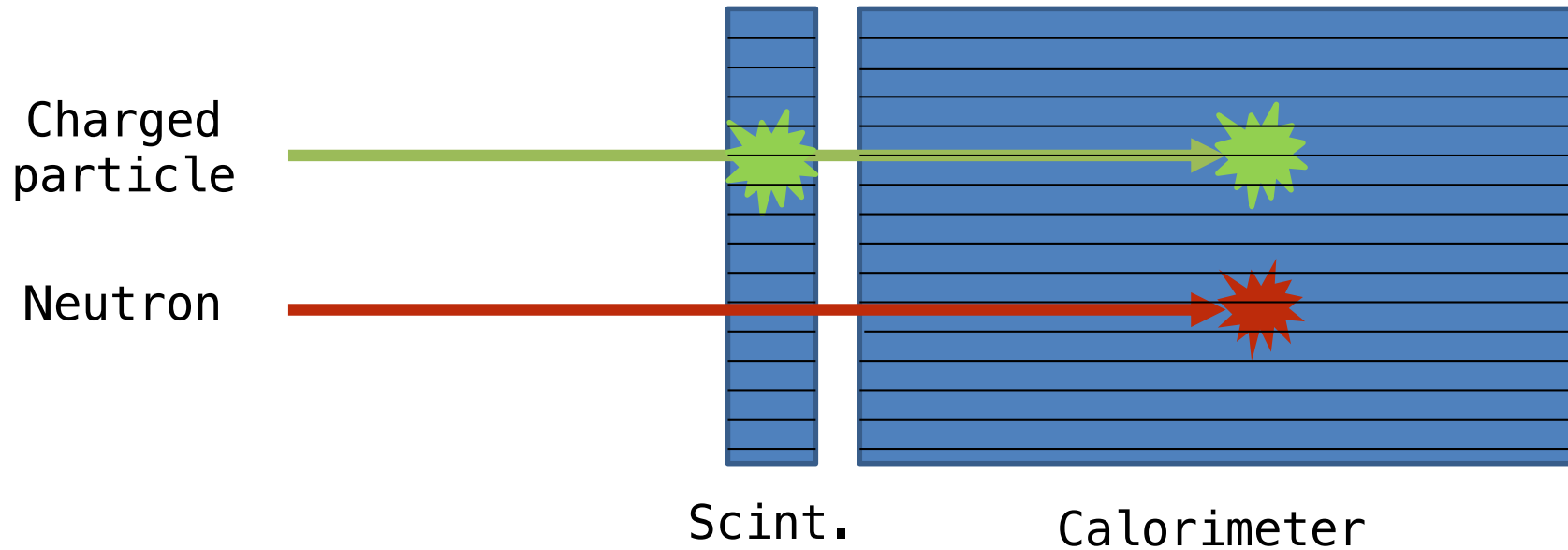
Basic idea: **anticoincidence scintillator – calorimeter**





# Detecting neutrons with existing setup

Basic idea: **anticoincidence scintillator – calorimeter**



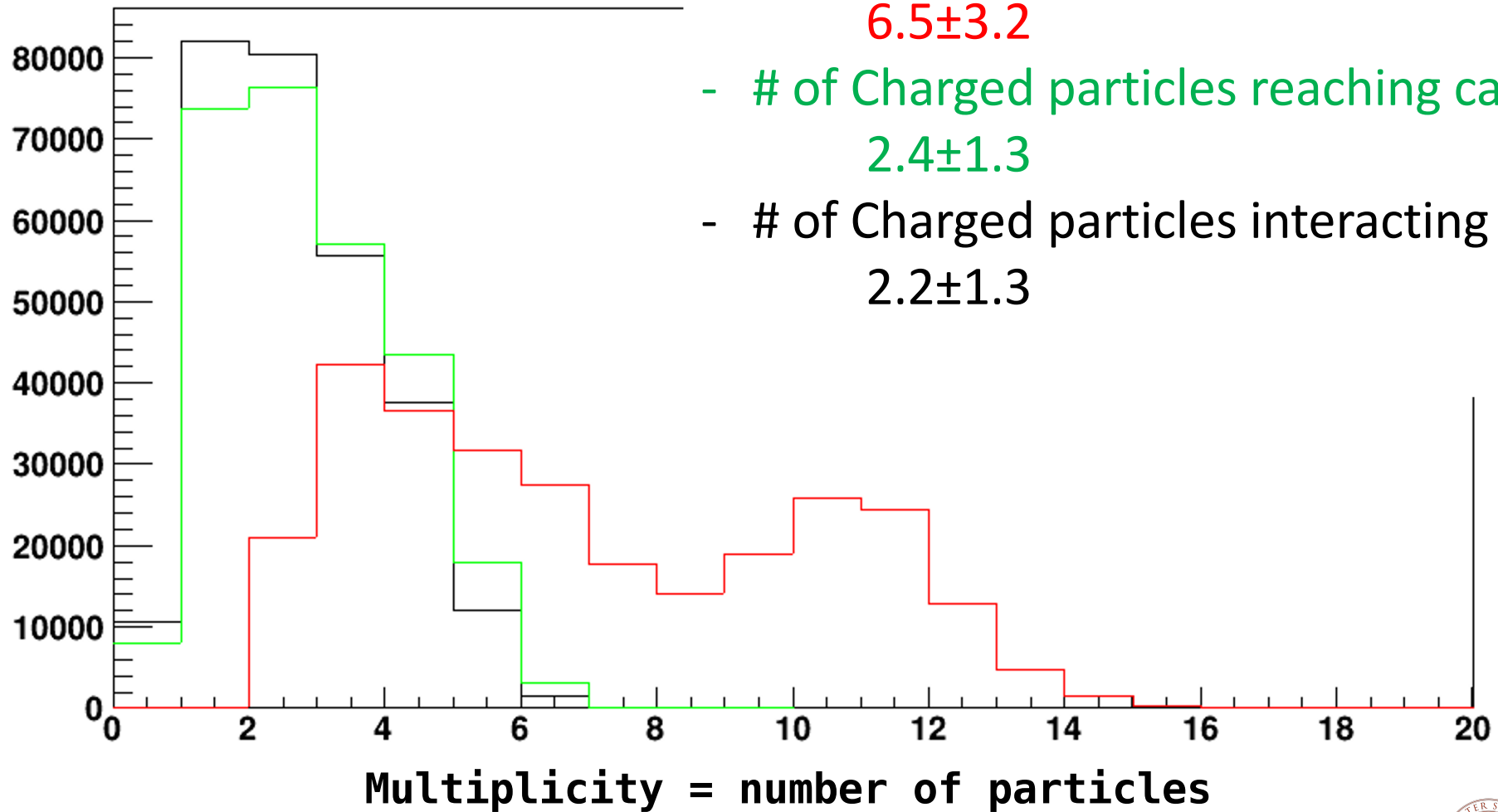
Average number of particles produced per fragmentation ?  
Granularity of scintillator and calorimeter high enough ?

**NEW**

NEW

# Detecting neutrons with existing setup

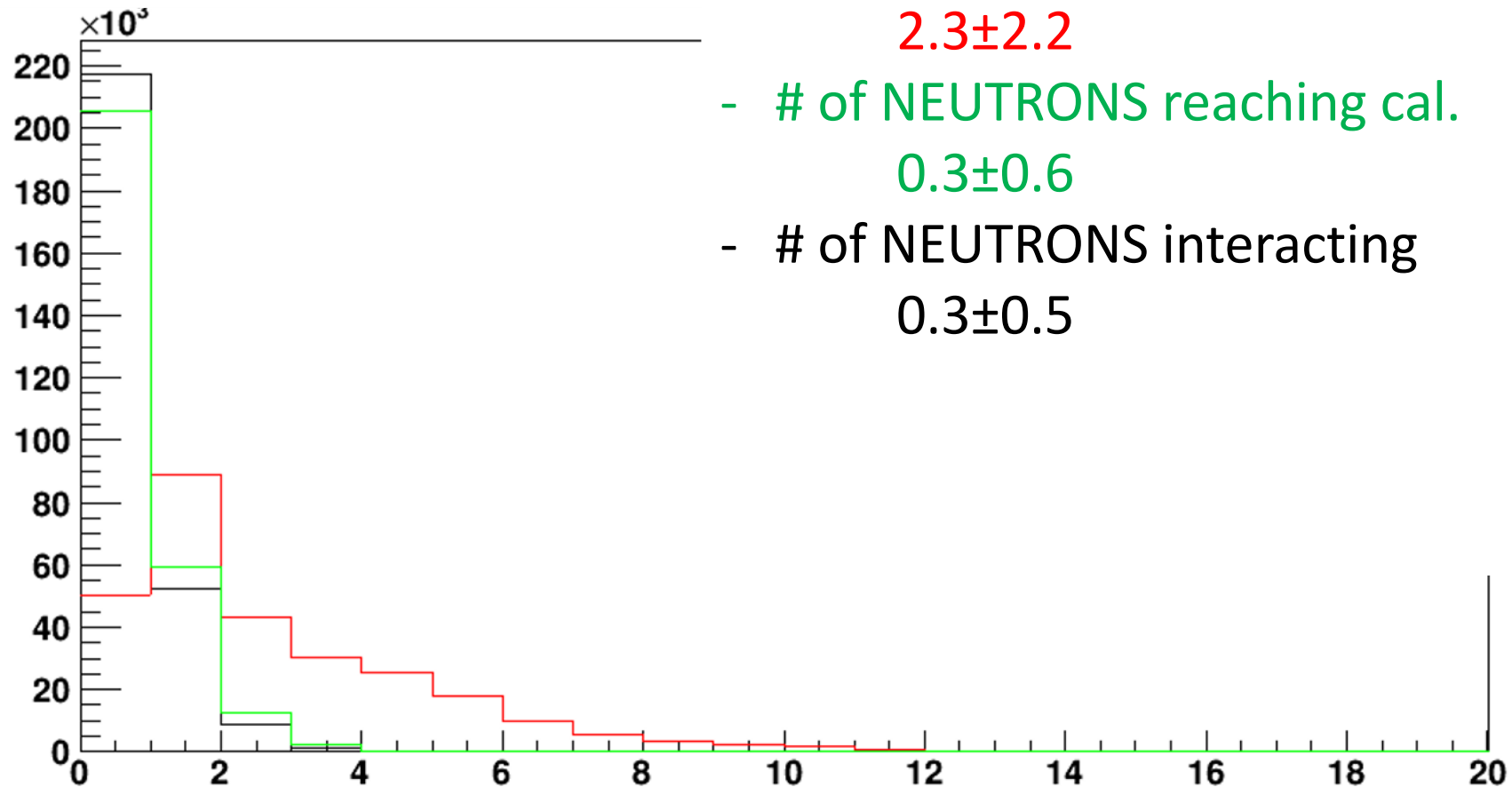
- # of Charged particles from target  $6.5 \pm 3.2$
- # of Charged particles reaching cal.  $2.4 \pm 1.3$
- # of Charged particles interacting  $2.2 \pm 1.3$



NEW

# Detecting neutrons with existing setup

- # of NEUTRONS from target  
 $2.3 \pm 2.2$
- # of NEUTRONS reaching cal.  
 $0.3 \pm 0.6$
- # of NEUTRONS interacting  
 $0.3 \pm 0.5$

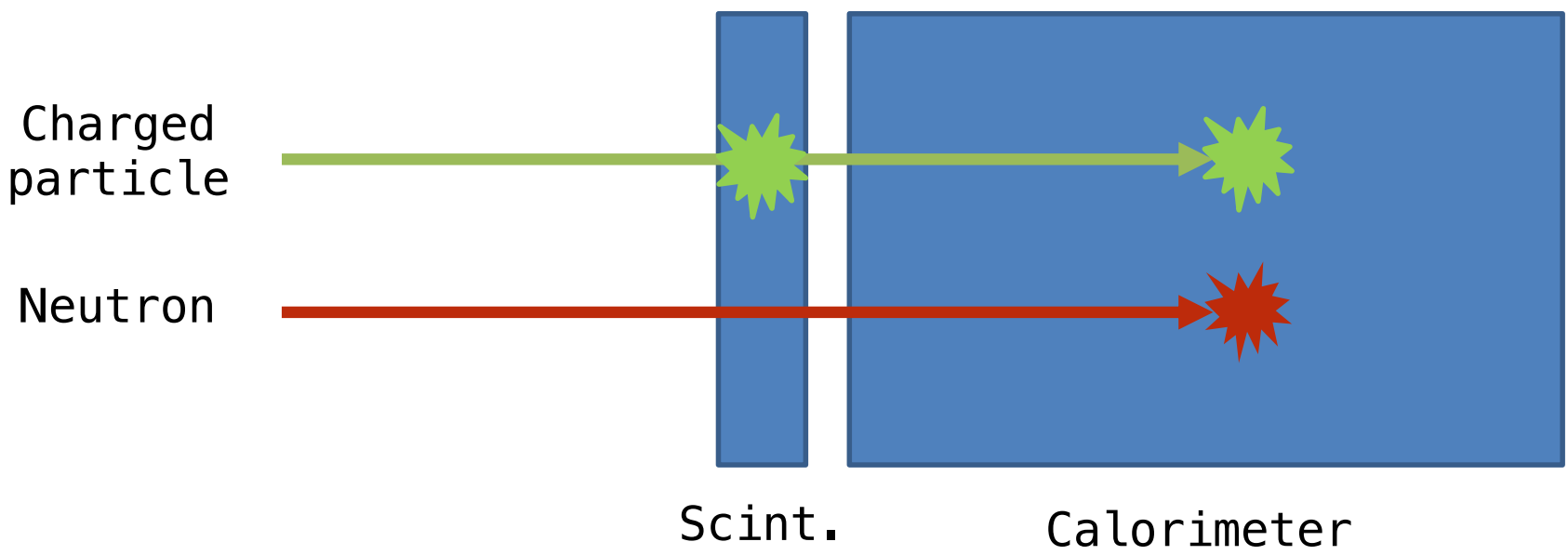


Multiplicity = number of particles

# Detecting neutrons with existing setup

# SUMMARY

Basic idea: **anticoincidence scintillator – calorimeter**



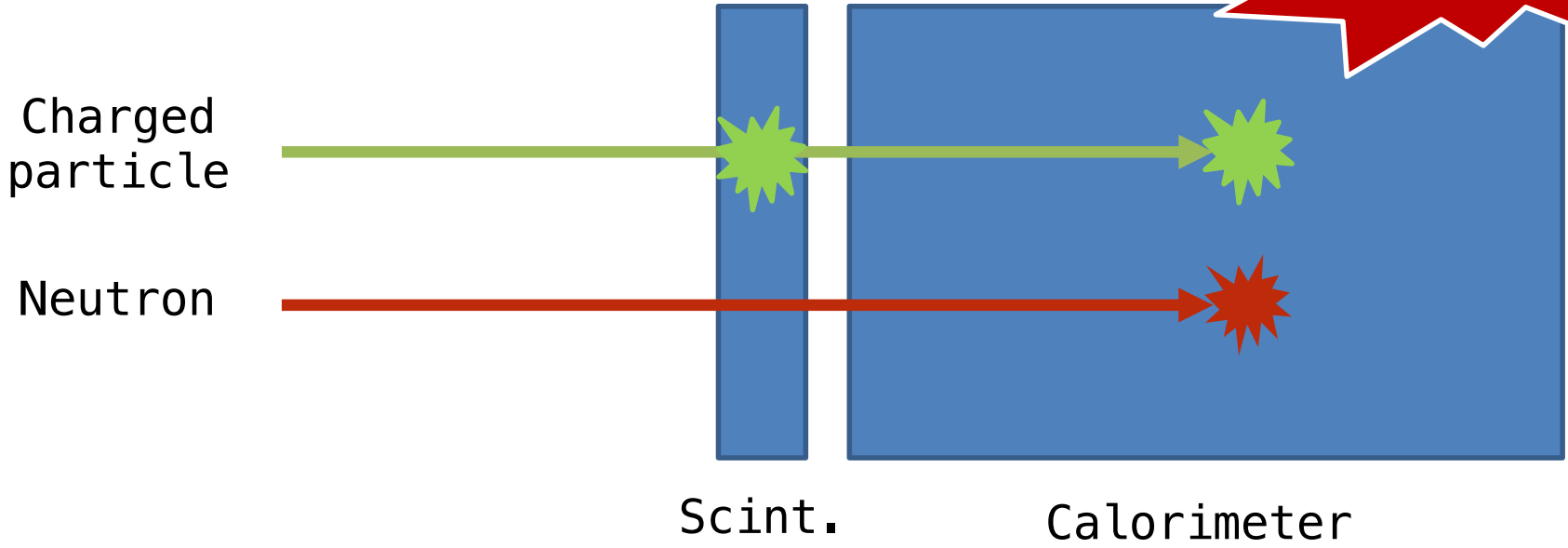
- Advantages**
- 1. Simple technique
  - 2. Exploits current setup

- Limitations**
- 1. Efficiency of the veto
  - 2. n/ $\gamma$  discrimination
  - 3. Tagging neutrons from calorimeter

# Detecting neutrons with existing setup

Basic idea: **anticoincidence scintillator – calorimeter**

**Limitation 1:  
veto**

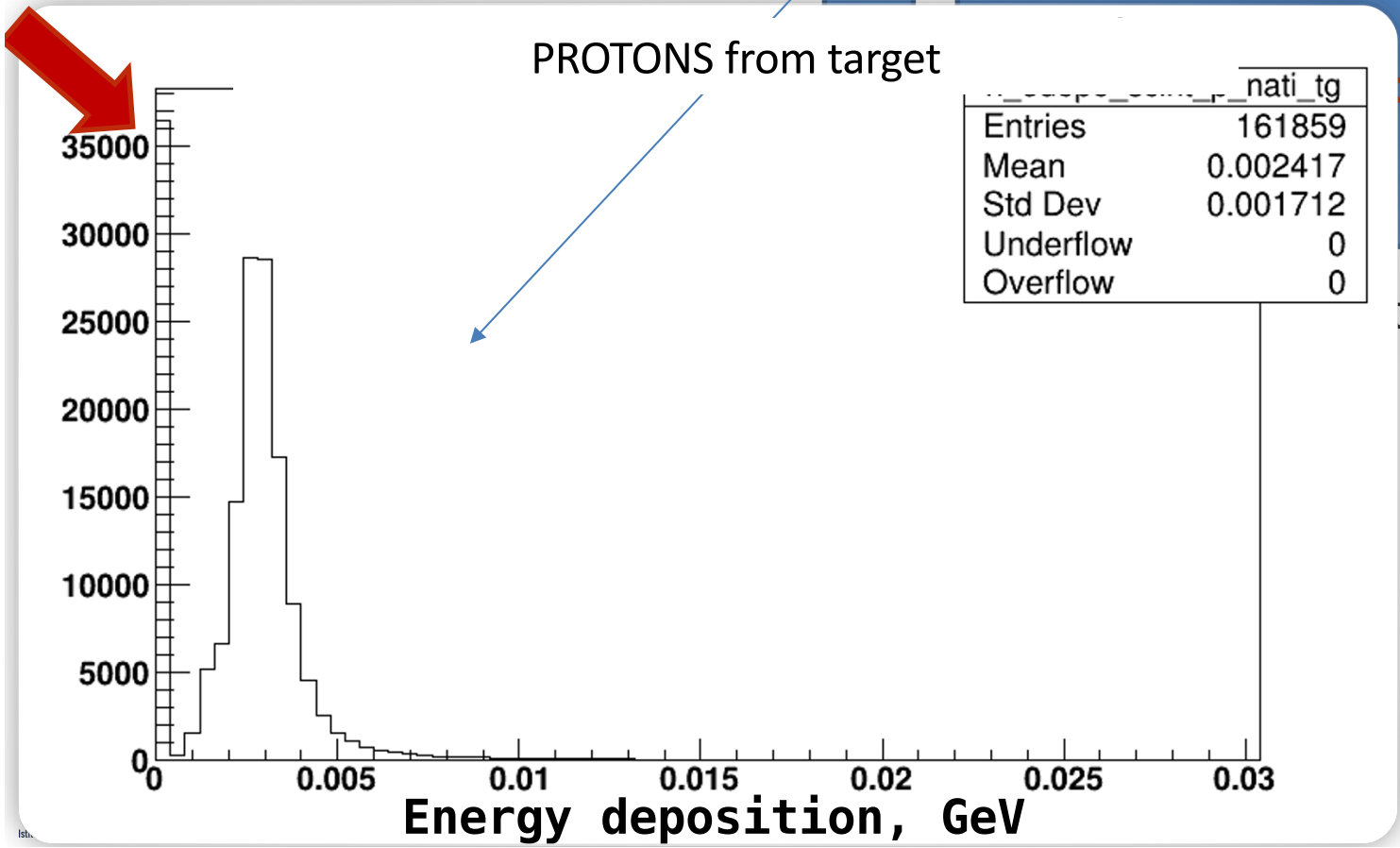


# Detecting neutrons with existing setup

Basic idea: **anticoincidence scintillator – calorimeter**



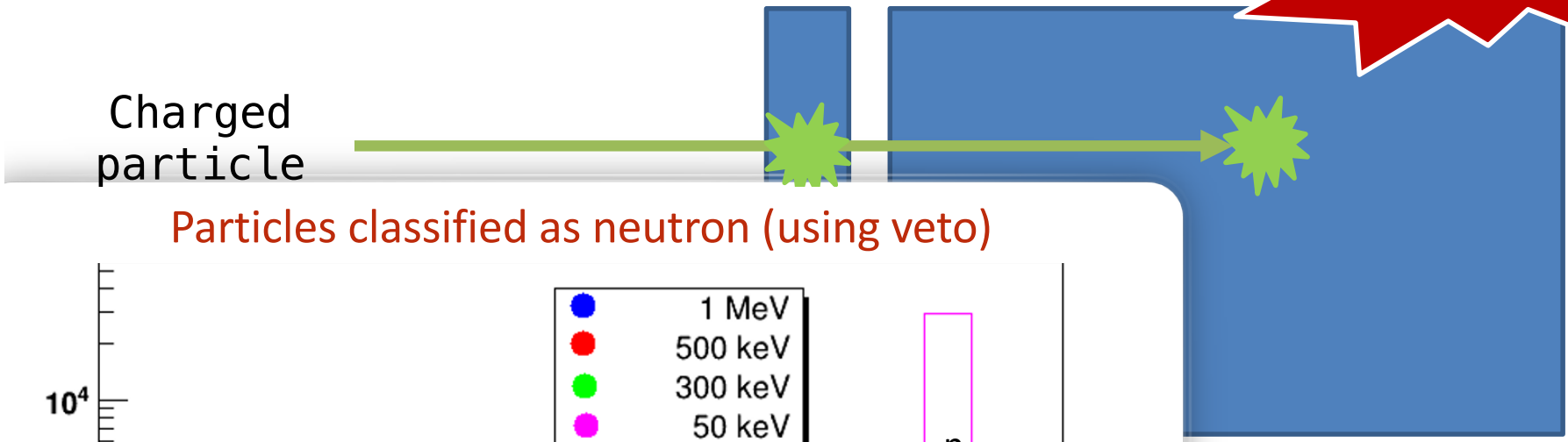
Charged particle



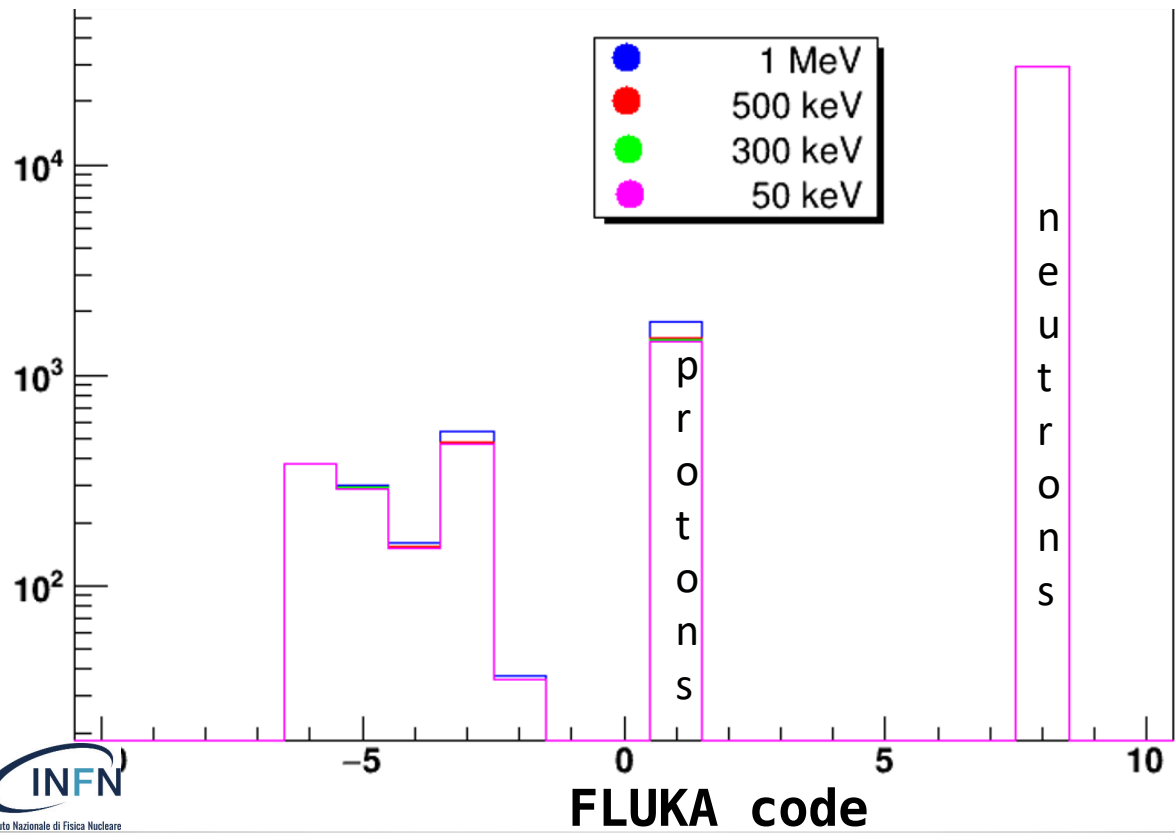
# Detecting neutrons with existing setup

Basic idea: **anticoincidence scintillator – calorimeter**

**Limitation 1:  
veto**



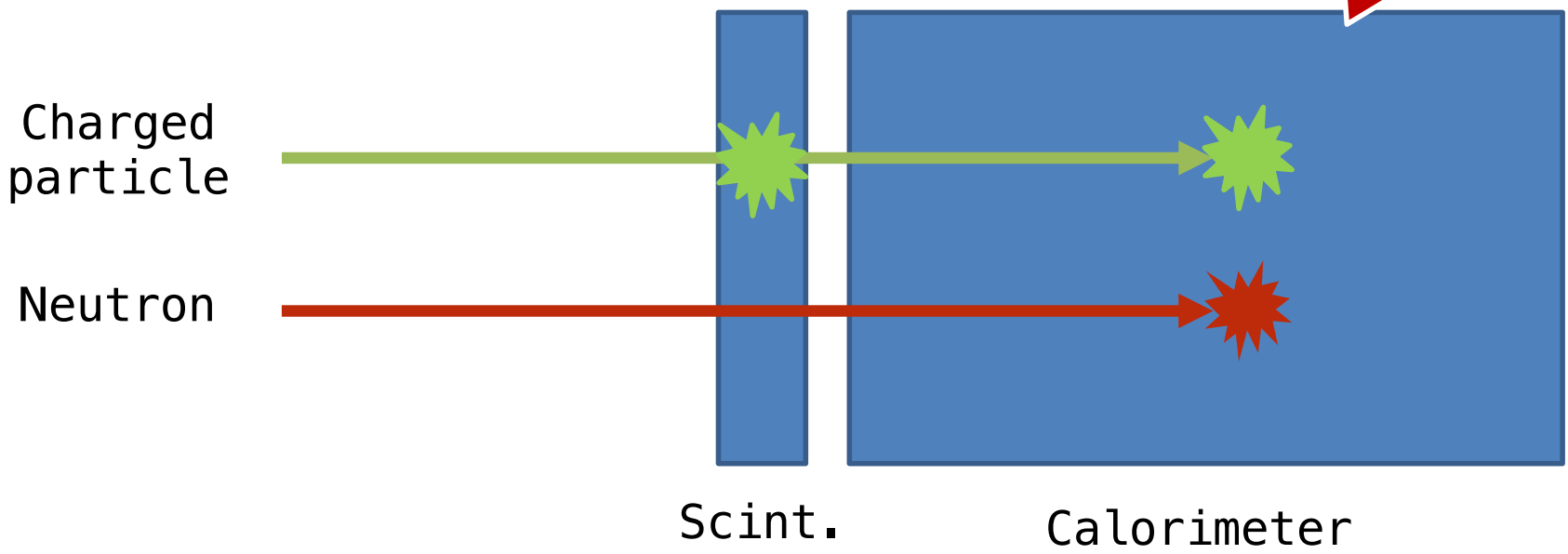
Particles classified as neutron (using veto)



# Detecting neutrons with existing setup

Limitation 2:  
 $n/\gamma$

Basic idea: **anticoincidence scintillator – calorimeter**

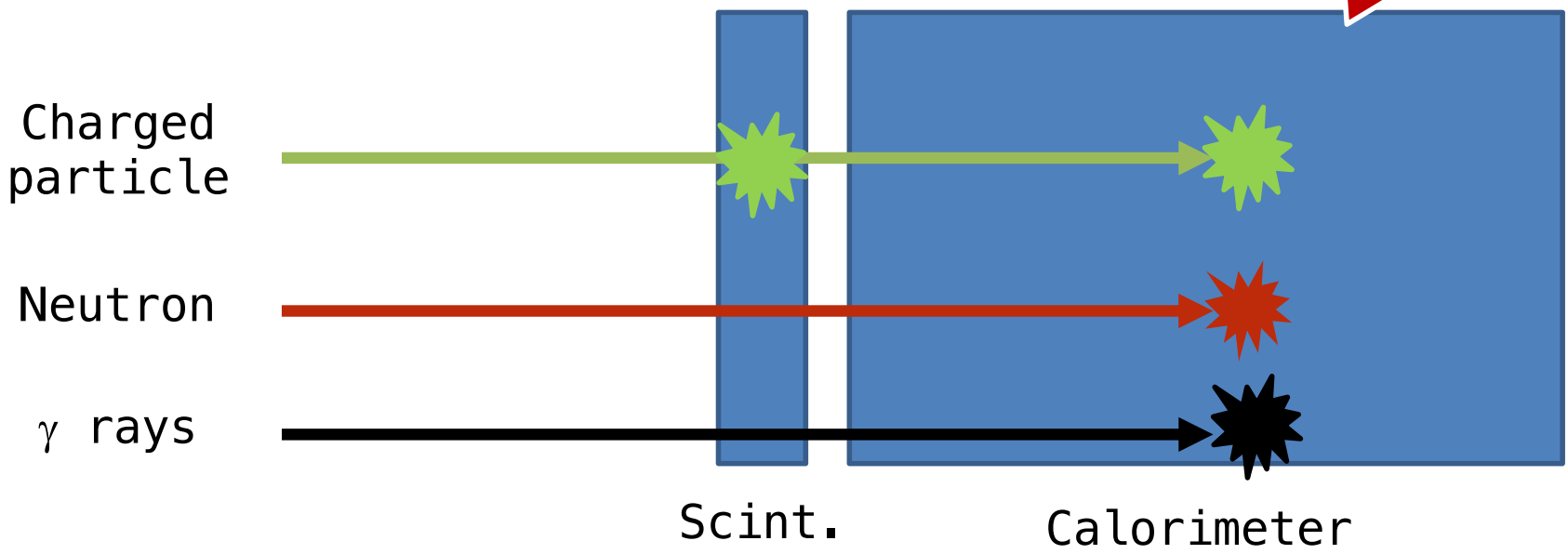




# Detecting neutrons with existing setup

Limitation 2:  
 $n/\gamma$

Basic idea: **anticoincidence scintillator – calorimeter**

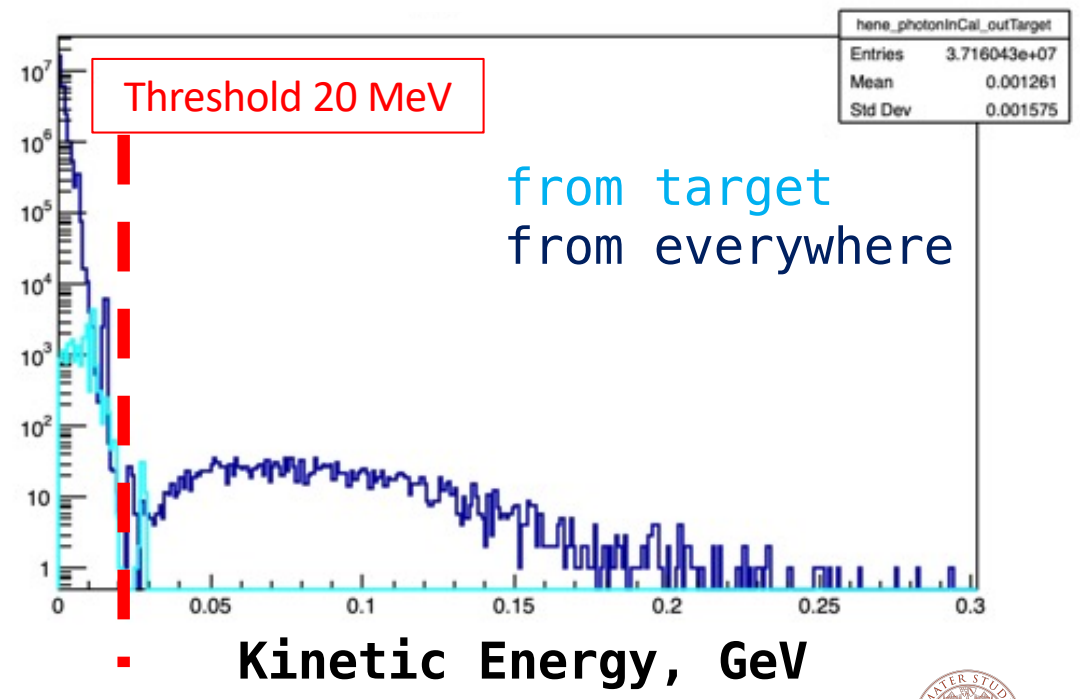
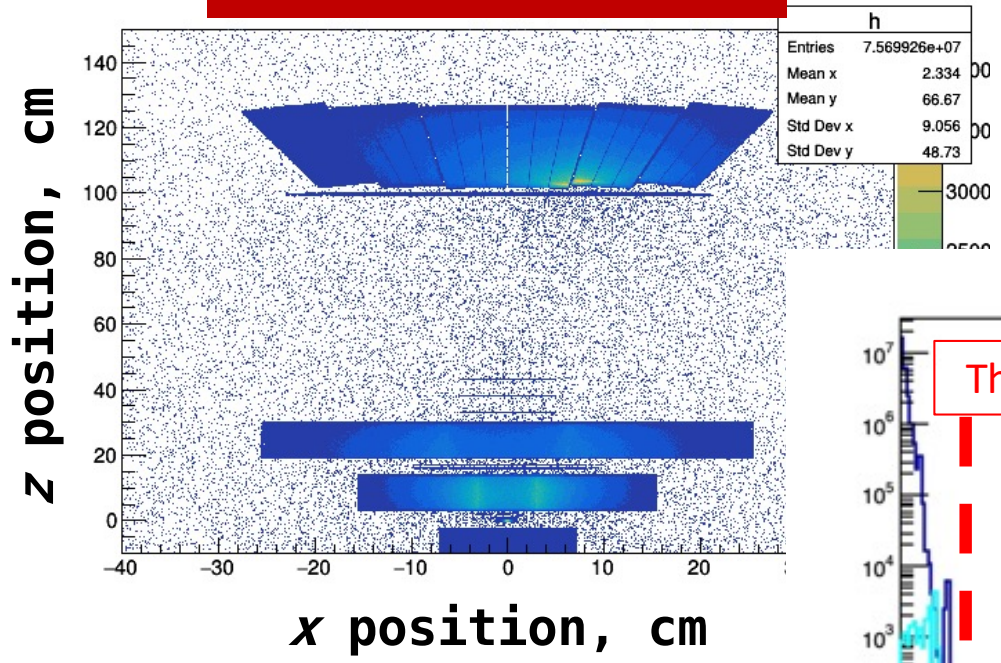


$\gamma$  rays can feature the same signature

# Detecting neutrons with existing setup

75.7x10<sup>6</sup>  $\gamma$  rays  
23.3x10<sup>6</sup> neutrons

**Limitation 2:  
n/ $\gamma$**

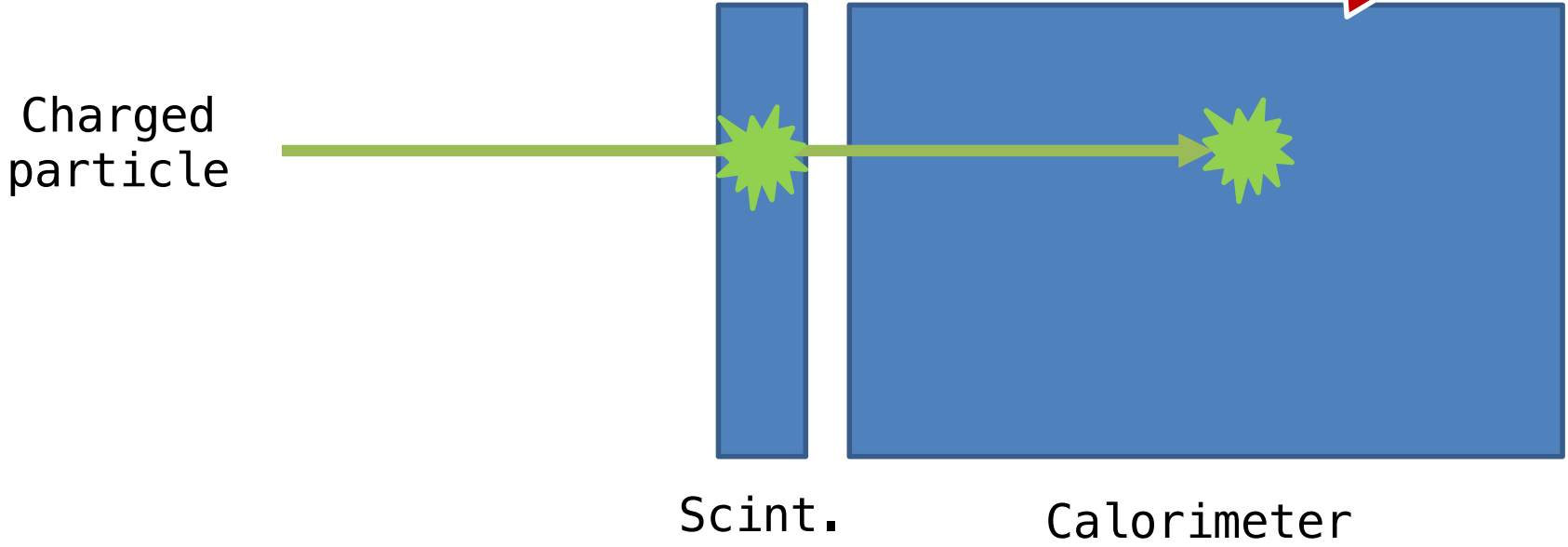


A discrimination level of 20 MeV makes this background negligible

# Detecting neutrons with existing setup

Limitation 3:  
cal. neutrons

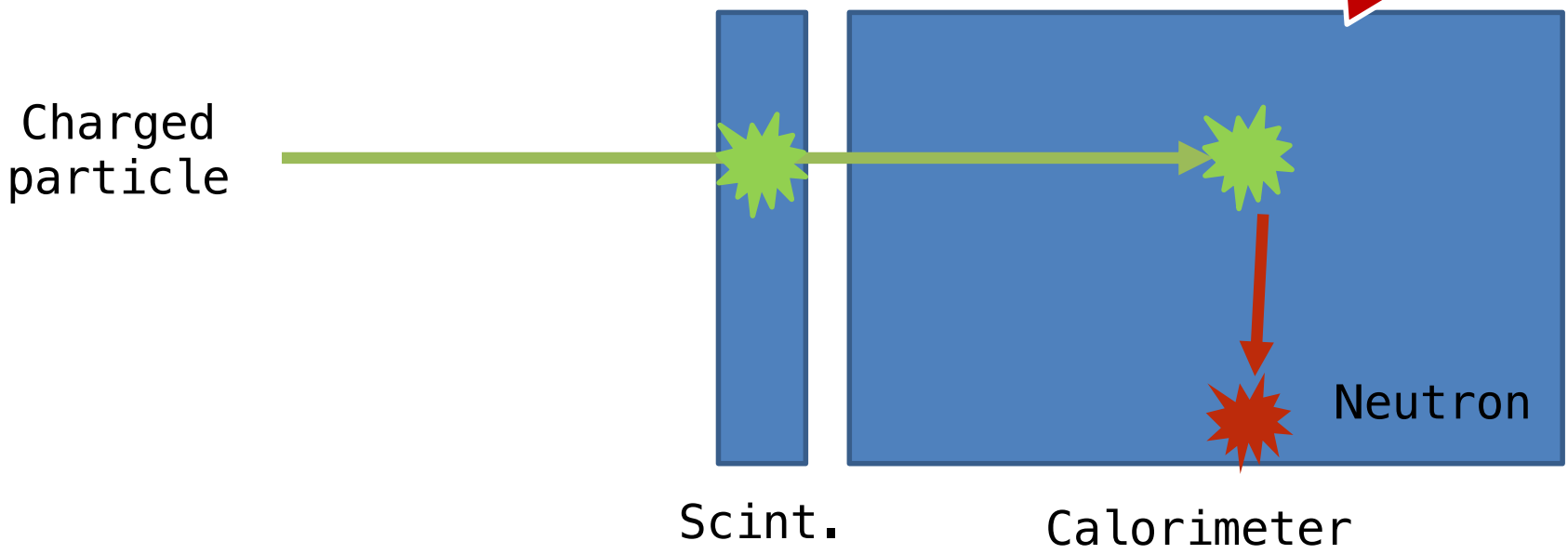
Basic idea: **anticoincidence scintillator – calorimeter**



# Detecting neutrons with existing setup

**Limitation 3:  
cal. neutrons**

Basic idea: **anticoincidence scintillator – calorimeter**

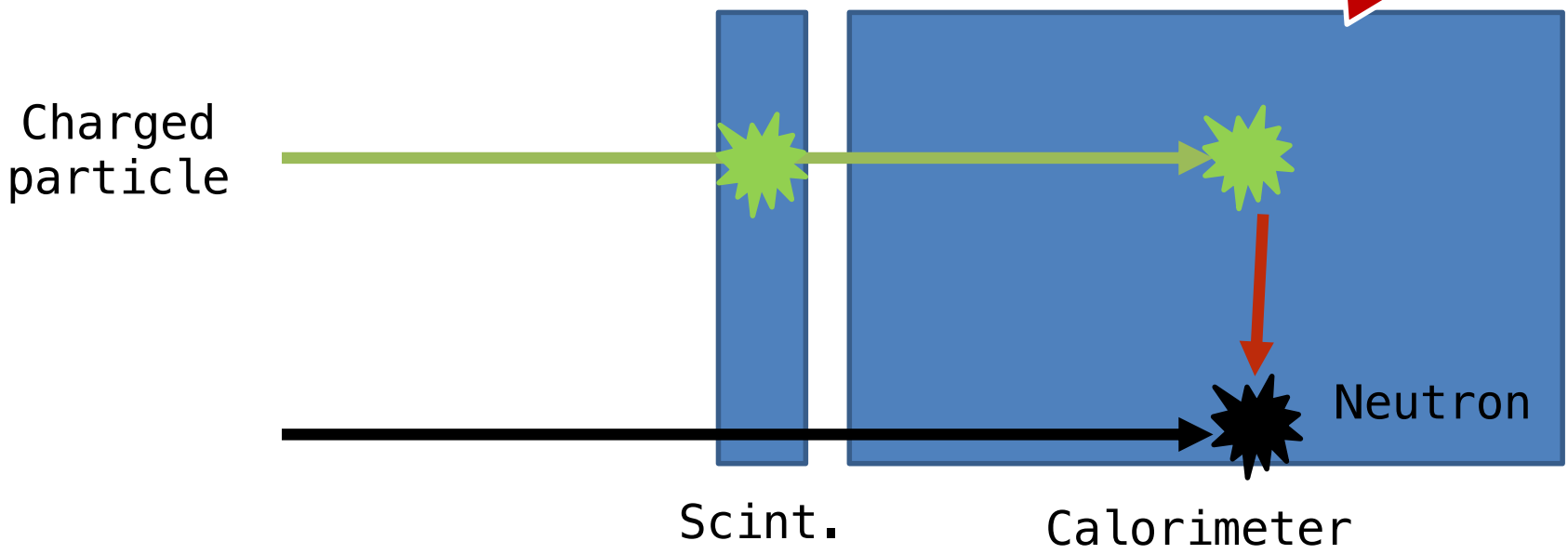


**Neutrons produced in the calorimeter cannot be easily tagged**

# Detecting neutrons with existing setup

**Limitation 3:  
cal. neutrons**

Basic idea: **anticoincidence scintillator – calorimeter**

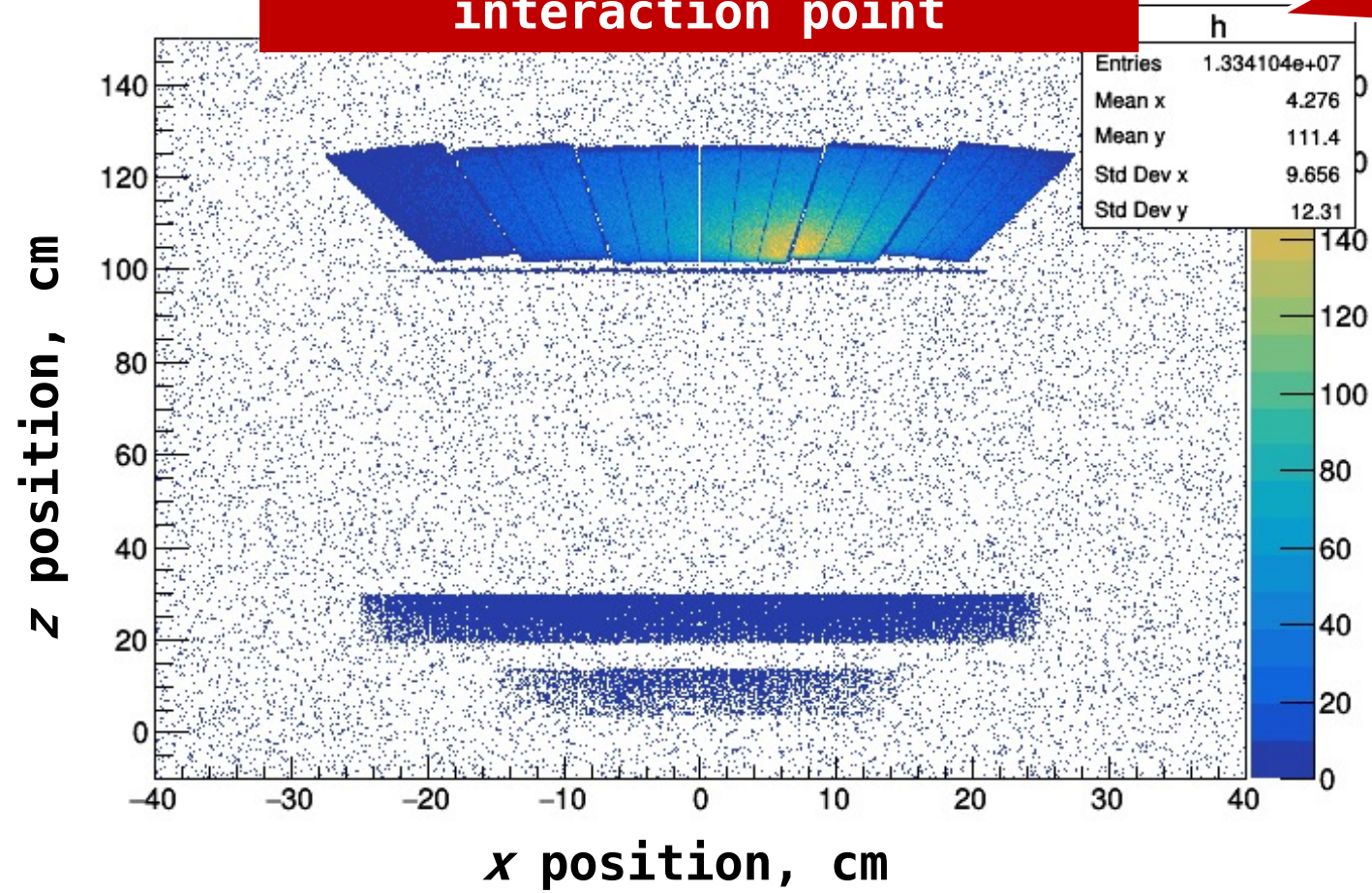


**Neutrons produced in the calorimeter cannot be easily tagged**

# Detecting neutrons with existing setup

Neutrons produced in cal.:  
interaction point

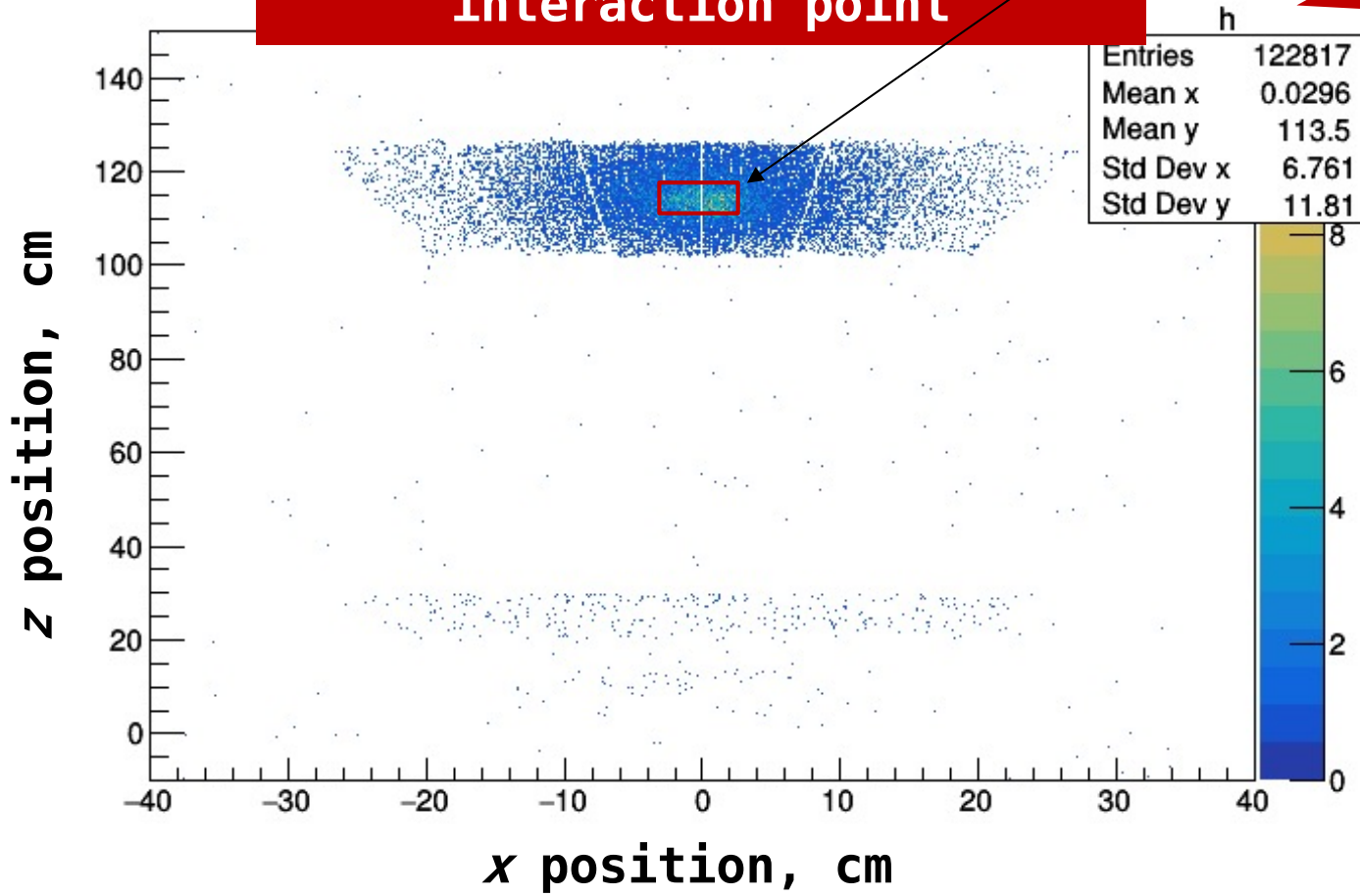
Limitation 3:  
cal. neutrons



# Detecting neutrons with existing setup

Neutrons produced here:  
**interaction point**

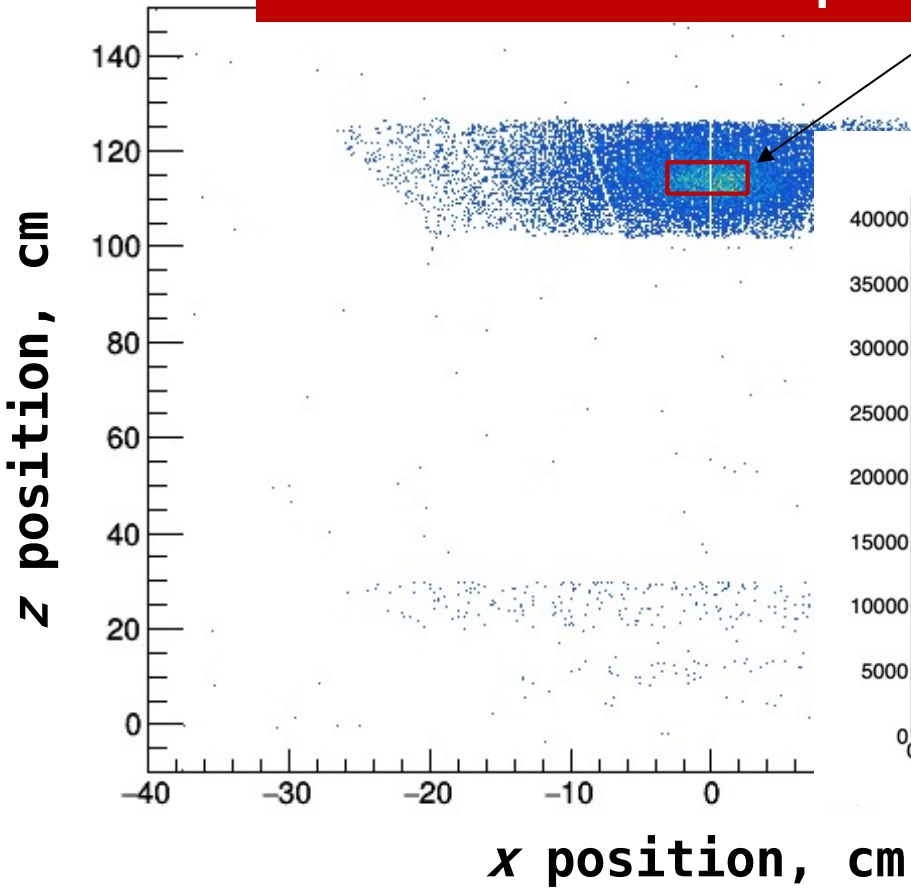
**Limitation 3:  
cal. neutrons**



# Detecting neutrons with existing setup

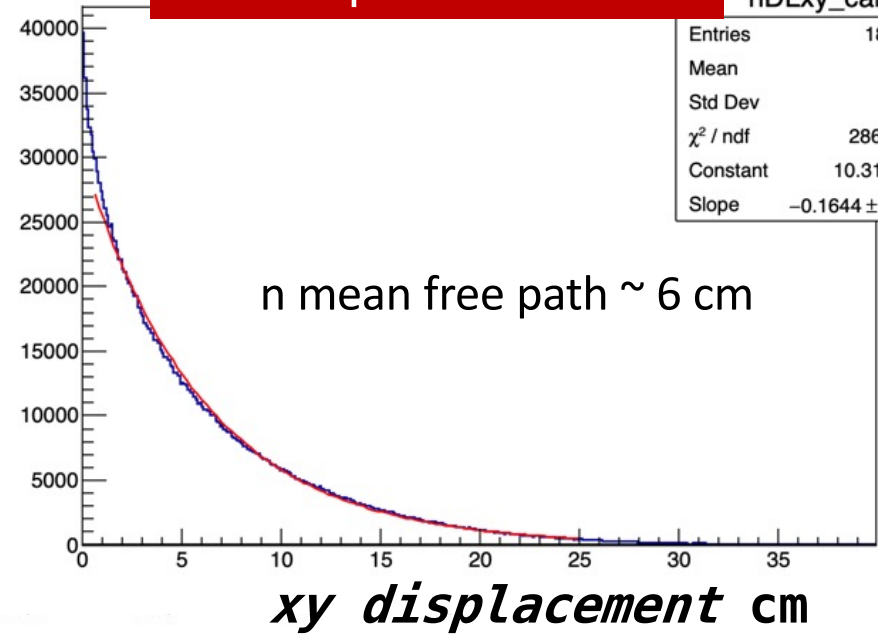
**Limitation 3:  
cal. neutrons**

**Neutrons produced here:  
interaction point**



h	
Entries	122817
Mean x	0.0296
Mean y	113.5

**Displacement**



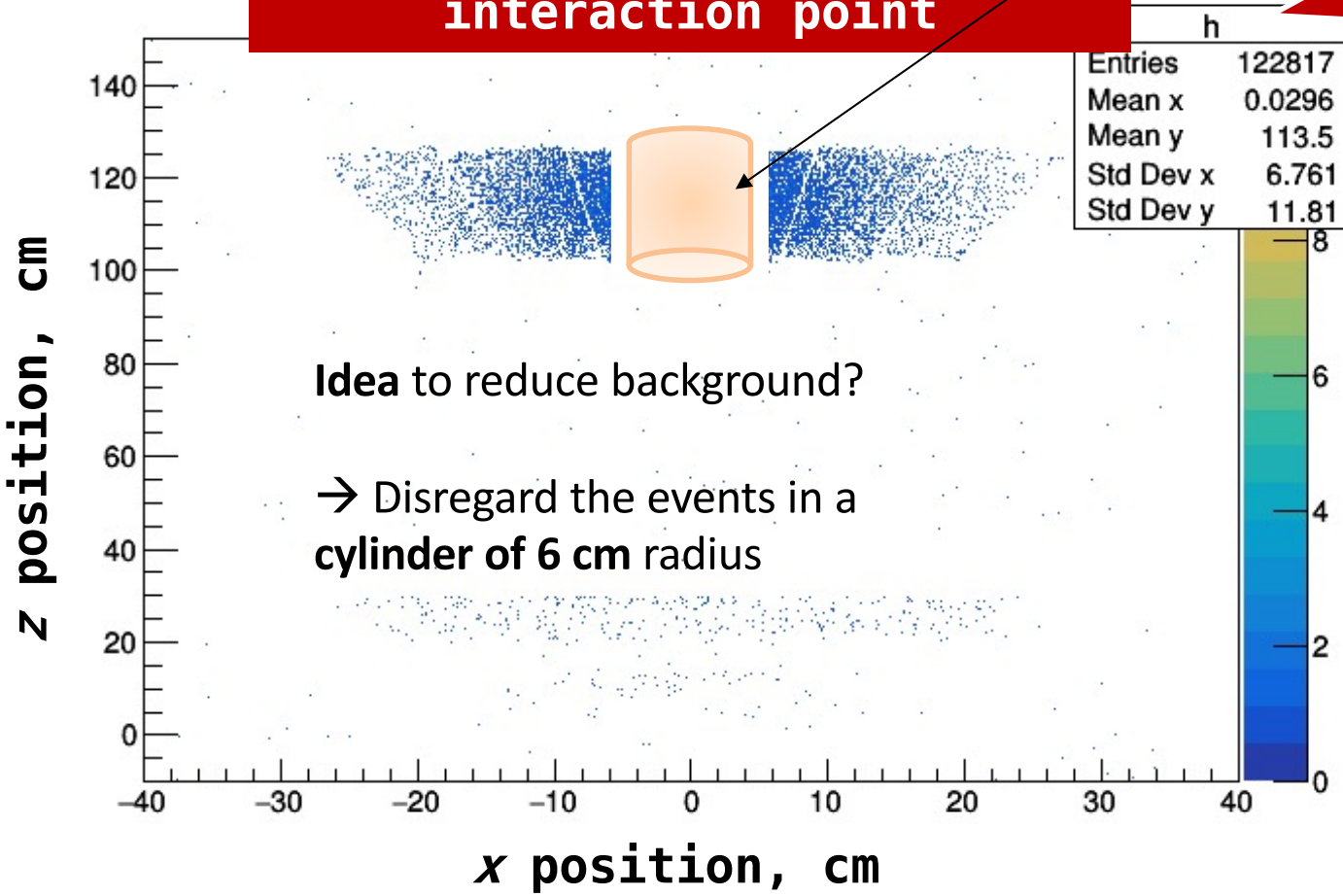
hDLxy_cal	
Entries	1851990
Mean	5.798
Std Dev	5.624
$\chi^2 / \text{ndf}$	2861 / 243
Constant	10.31 ± 0.00
Slope	-0.1644 ± 0.0002



# Detecting neutrons with existing setup

**Limitation 3:  
cal. neutrons**

**Neutrons produced here:  
interaction point**

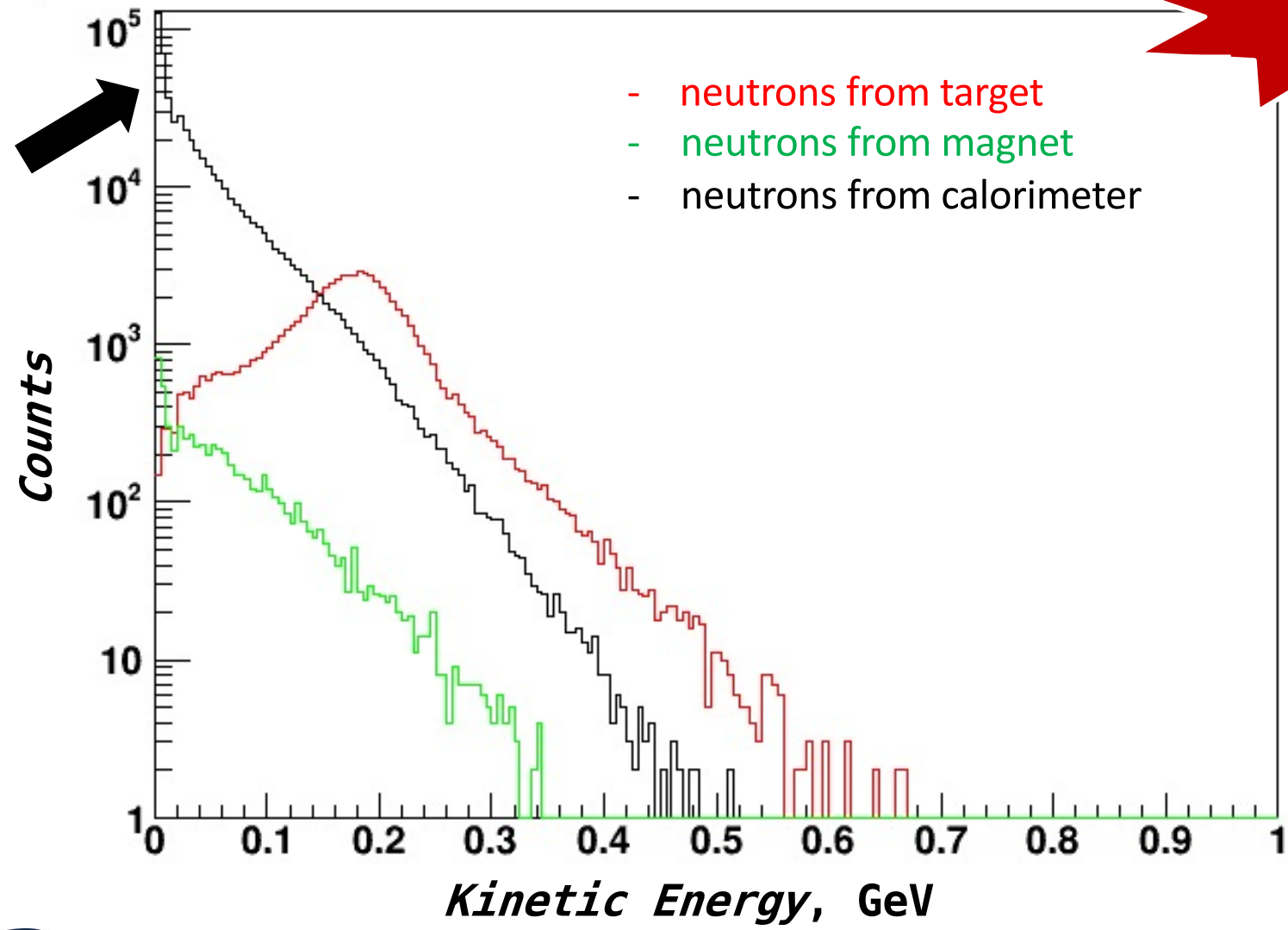


**Neutron kinetic  
energy is much larger  
in the cylinder**

# Detecting neutrons with existing setup

TRUE Monte Carlo

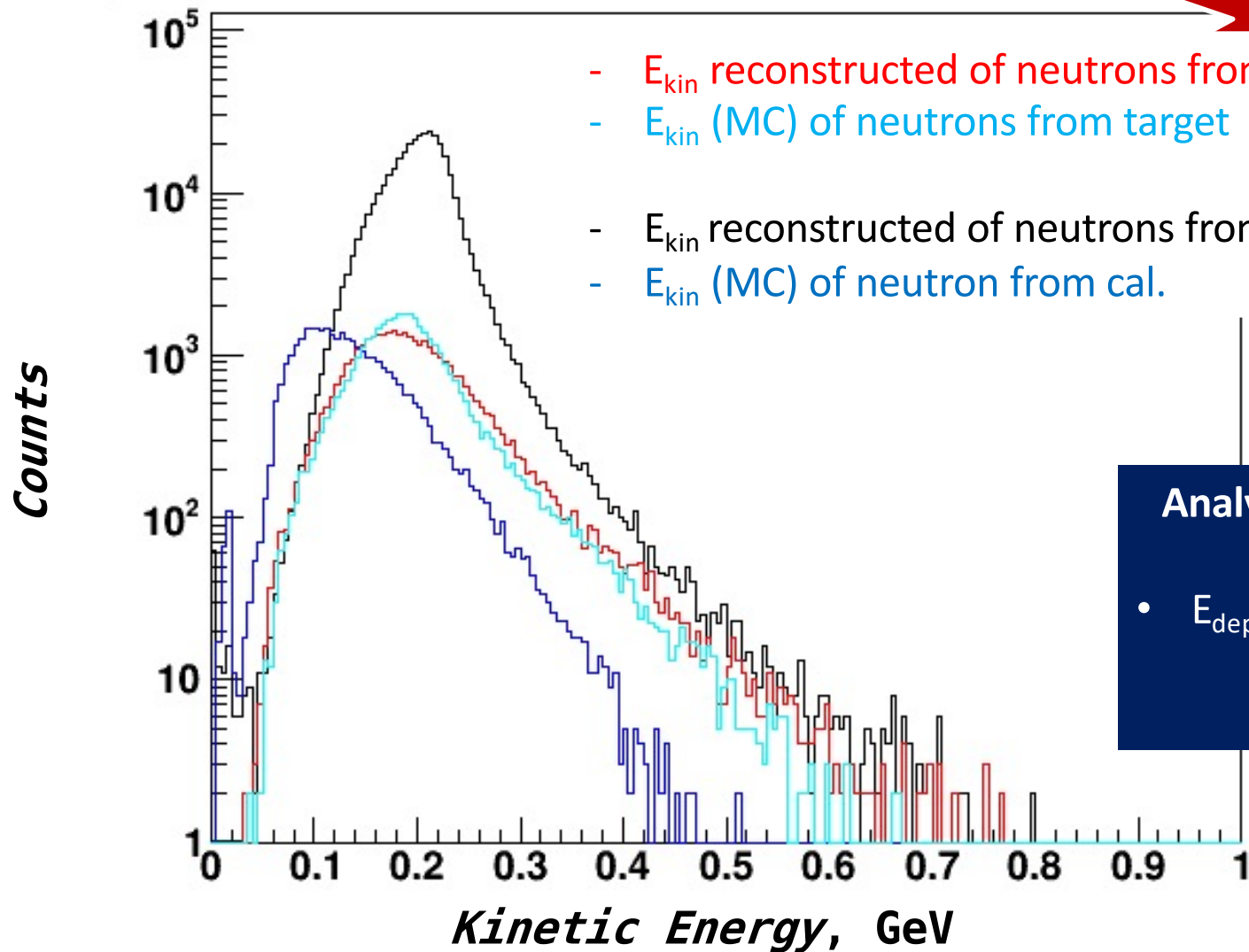
**Limitation 3:  
cal. neutrons**



# Detecting neutrons with existing setup

**Limitation 3:  
cal. neutrons**

TRUE Monte Carlo Vs reconstructed



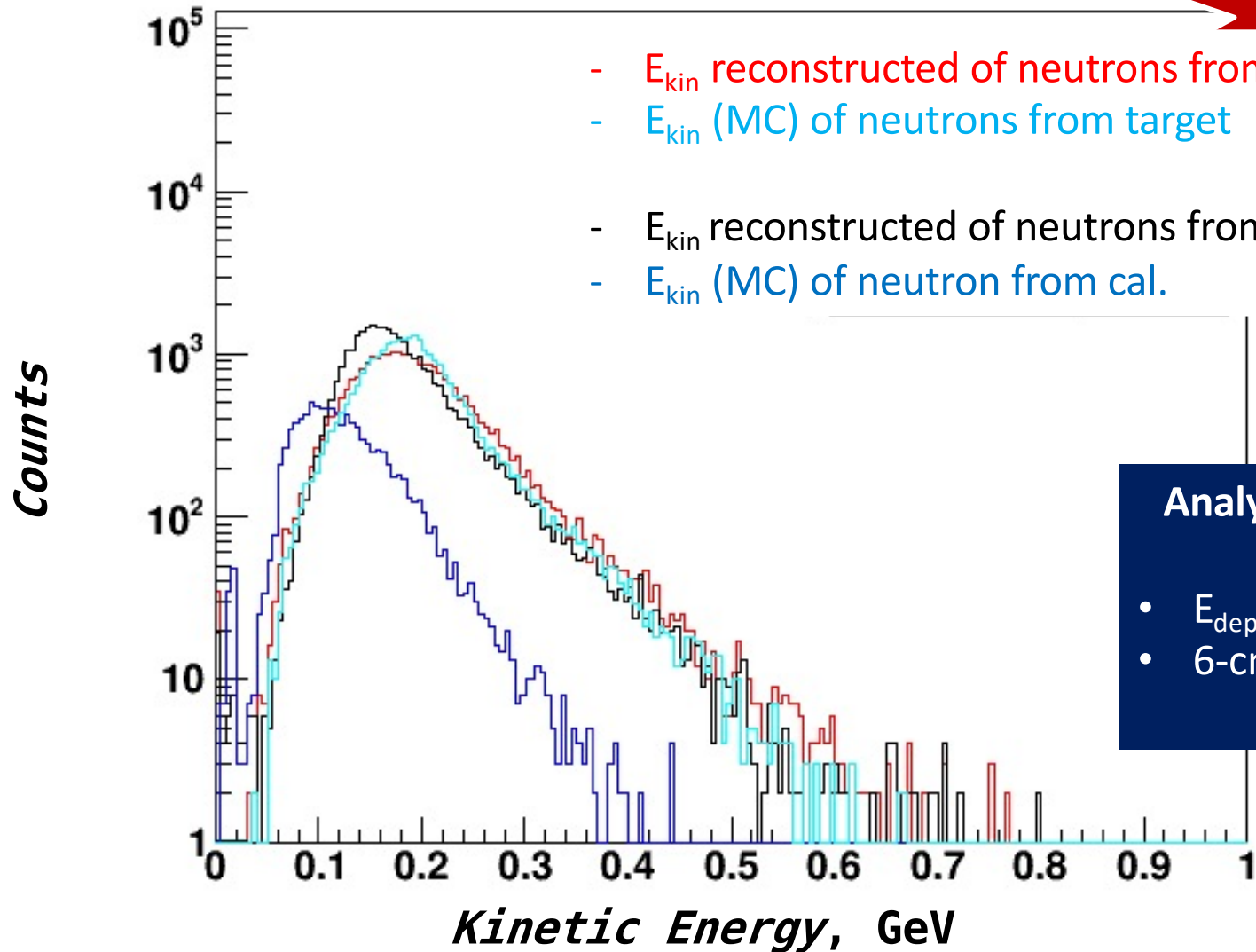
**Analysis condition:**

- $E_{dep, cal.} > 50 \text{ MeV}$

# Detecting neutrons with existing setup

**Limitation 3:  
cal. neutrons**

TRUE Monte Carlo Vs reconstructed



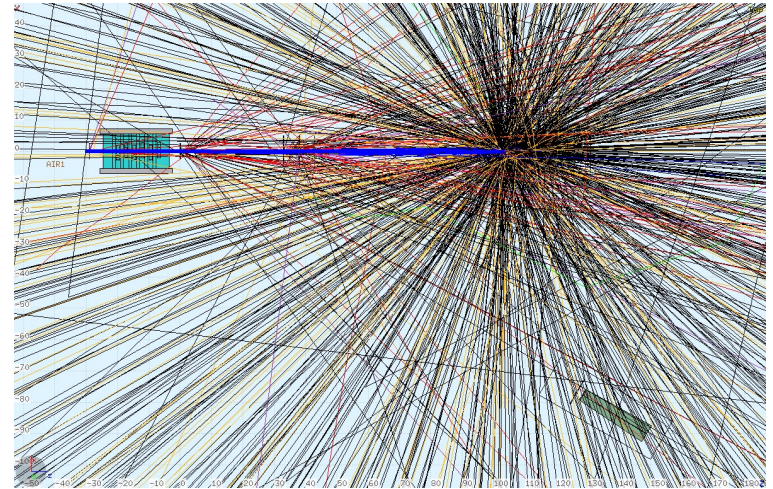
**Analysis condition:**

- $E_{dep, cal.} > 50$  MeV
- 6-cm cylinder

## Conclusions 1/2

- The system consisting of **BGO + TOF wall** is being studied for its use as neutron detector. A few remarks:

- The calorimeter acts as a **neutron source** when charged particles hit it;
- **Simultaneous measurement** of charged particle and **neutron** seems **very challenging** ( signal : backgrounds ~ 1 : 1) → need for more studies;
- ✓ **Most suited for dedicated neutron measurements**, out of the beam.
- ✓ **Veto** provided by TOF wall works ~ for **protons** (efficiency 70-80%). Should be larger.



# Towards a test beam @ CNAO

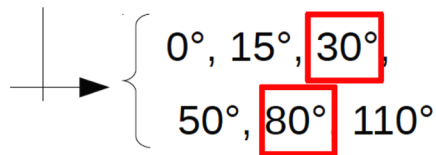
# Towards a test beam @ CNAO

Compare to literature

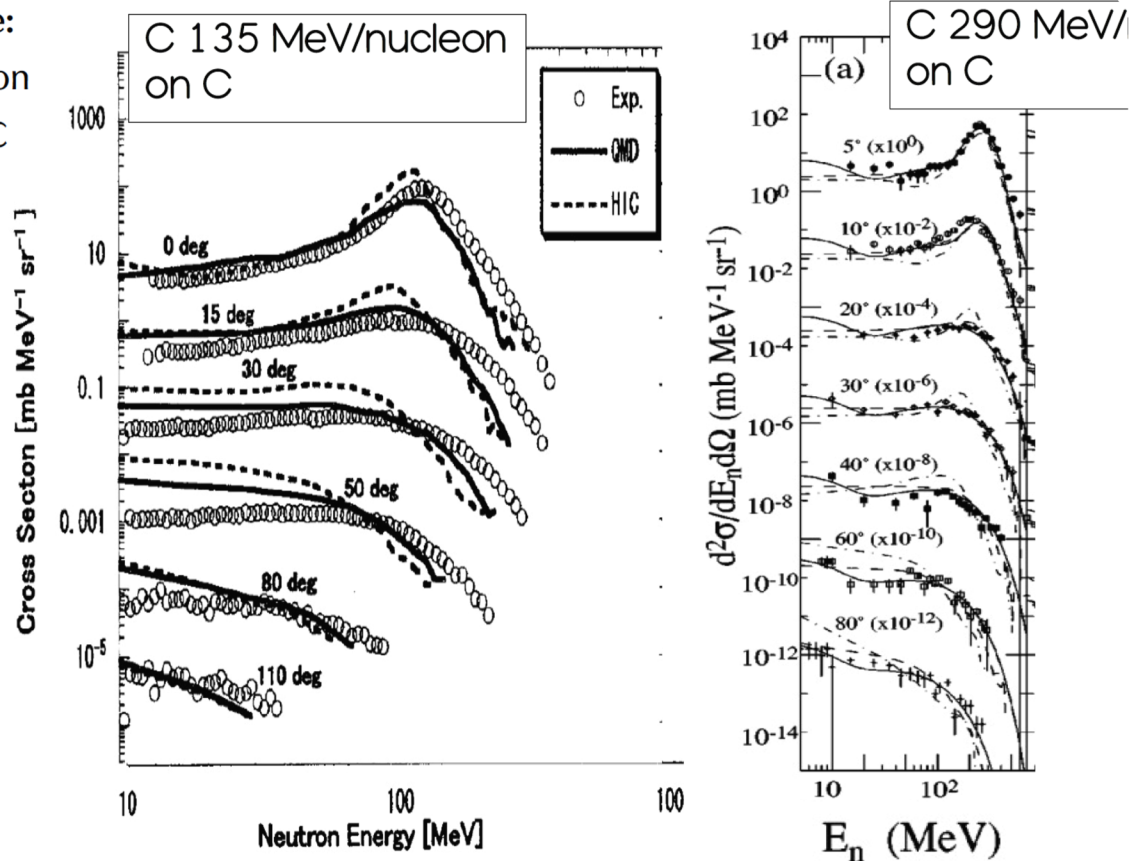
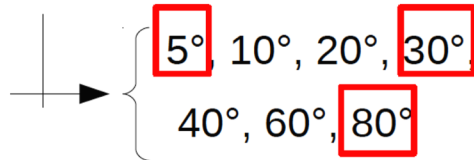
## $^{12}\text{C} + ^{12}\text{C}$ differential cross section

repeating experiments in the literature:  
 available differential inclusive cross section  
 for the production of neutron in  $^{12}\text{C} + ^{12}\text{C}$   
 reactions

$^{12}\text{C}$  @ 135 MeV/u



$^{12}\text{C}$  @ 290 MeV/u

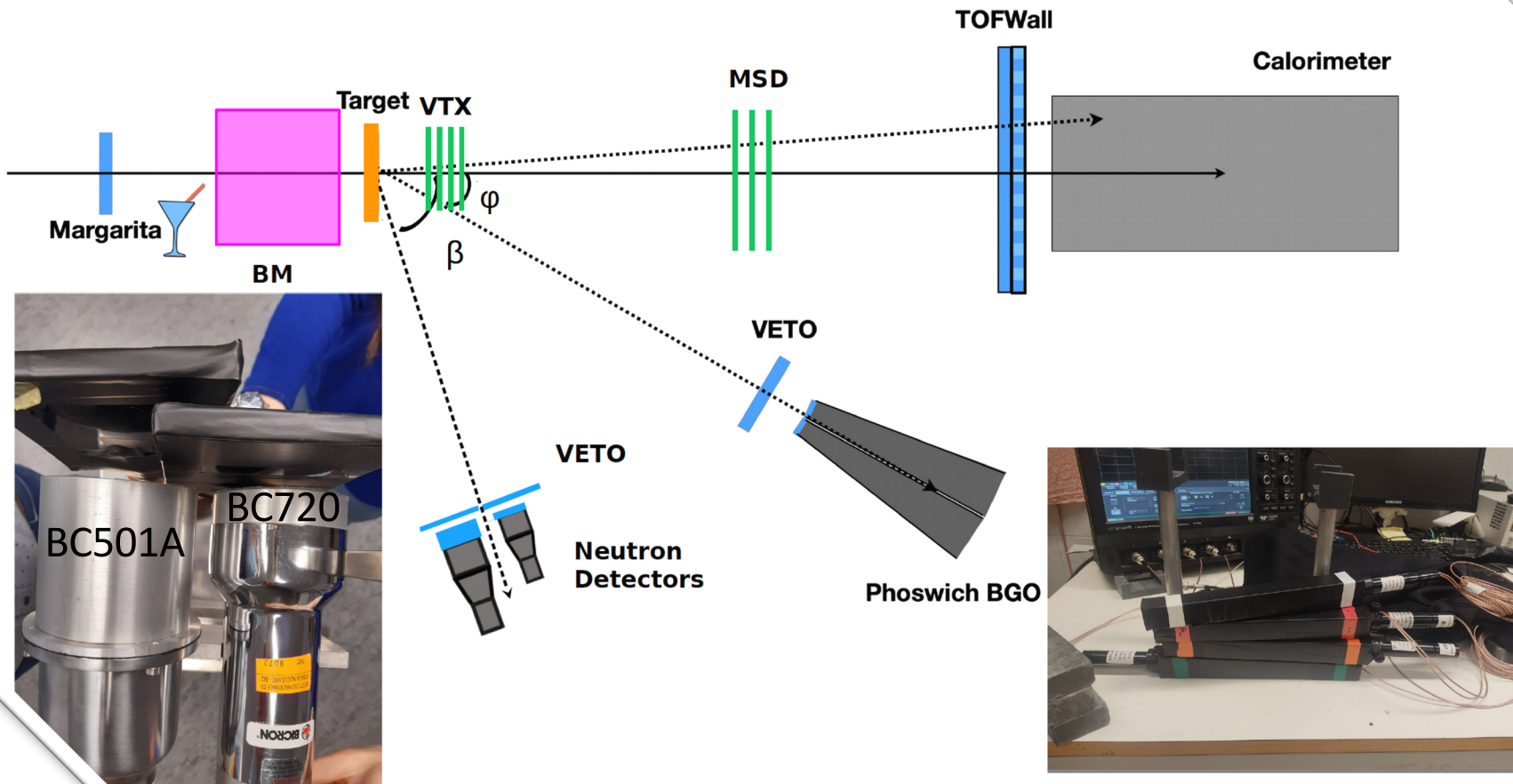


PHYSICAL REVIEW C 64 (2001) 034607 and 054609

# Towards a test beam @ CNAO

BC 501A  
BC 720  
4 BGO

## Test beam @CNAO - Possible setup



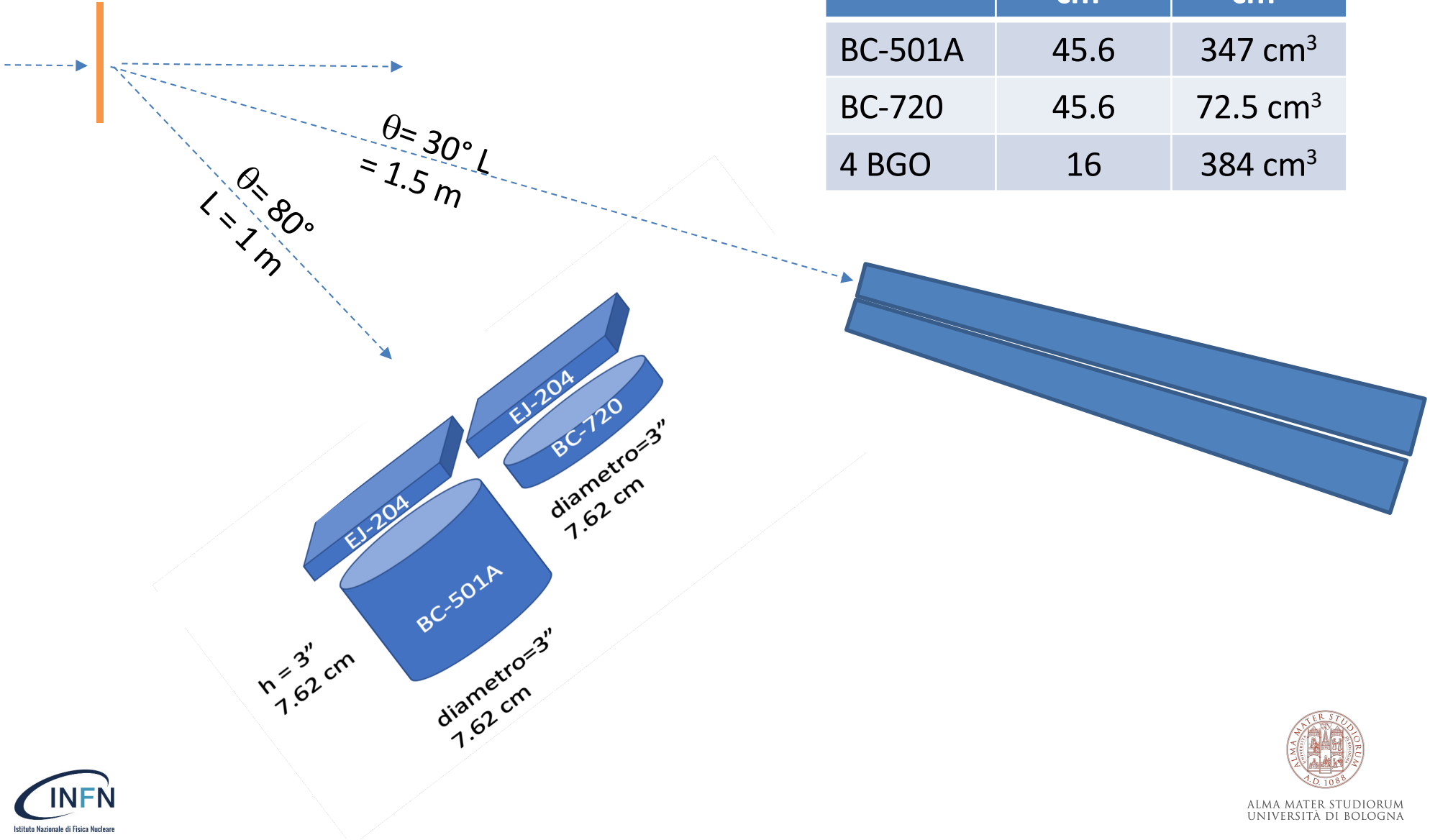
FOOT monthly meeting - 3 February 2021



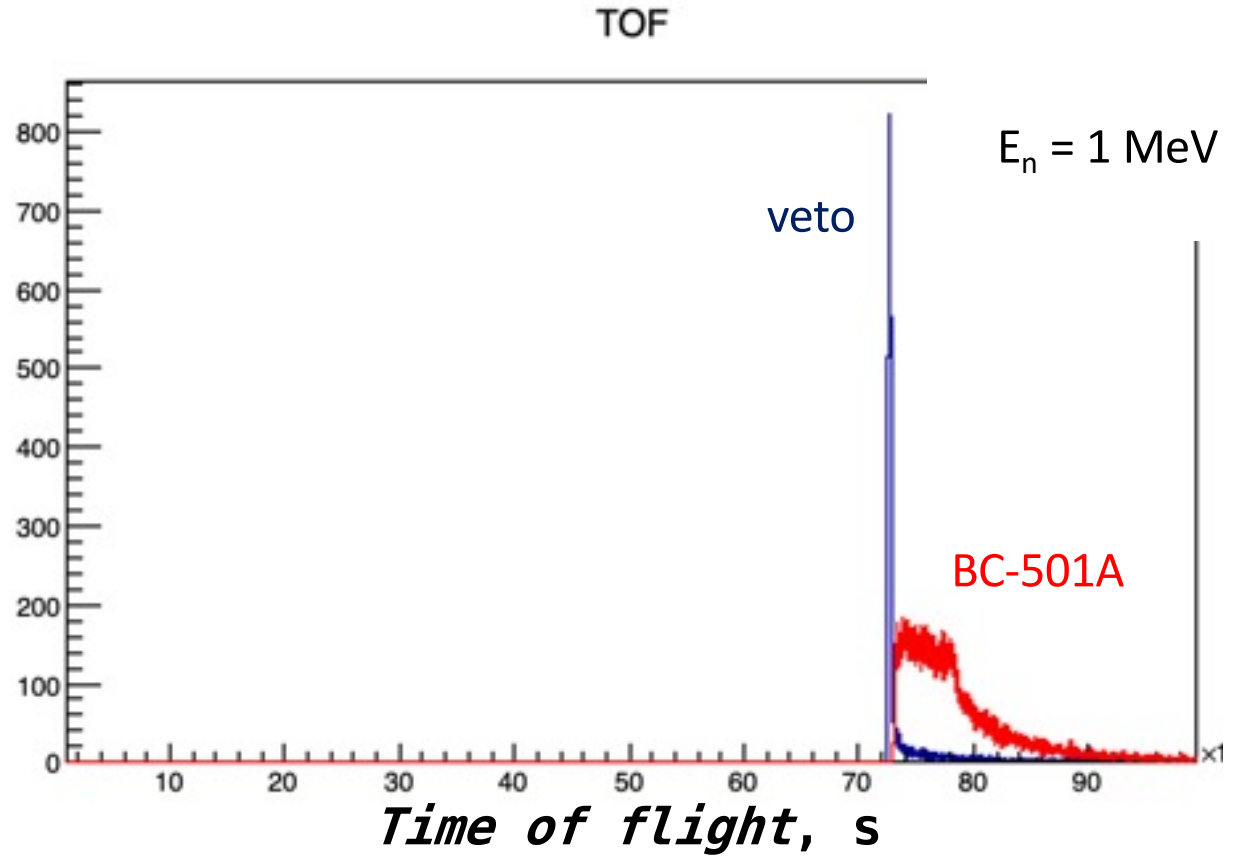
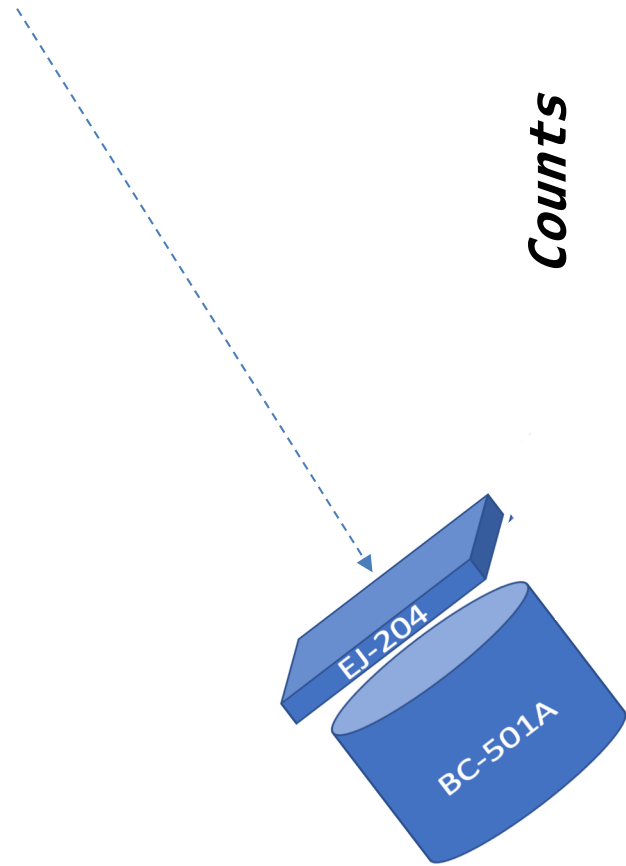
# Towards a test beam @ CNAO

**BC 501A  
BC 720  
4 BGO**

Detector	Area cm <sup>2</sup>	Volume cm <sup>3</sup>
BC-501A	45.6	347 cm <sup>3</sup>
BC-720	45.6	72.5 cm <sup>3</sup>
4 BGO	16	384 cm <sup>3</sup>

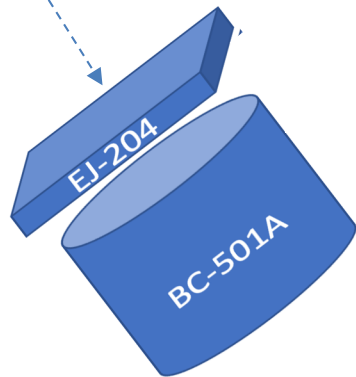


# Towards a test beam @ CNAO



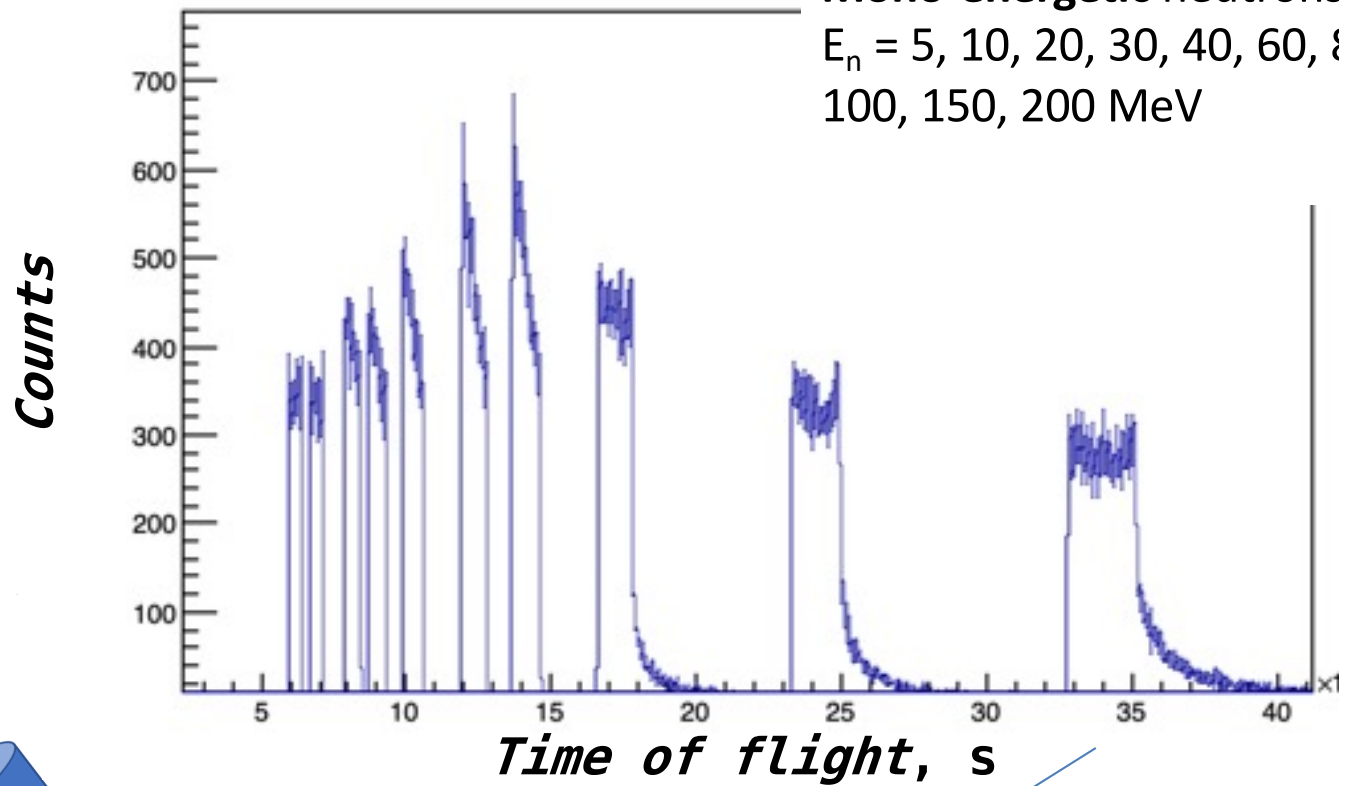
# Towards a test beam @ CNAO

$E_n$	TOF
1 MeV	72 ns
10 MeV	23 ns
50 MeV	10.6 ns
100 MeV	7.8 ns
200 MeV	5.9 ns



BC-501A

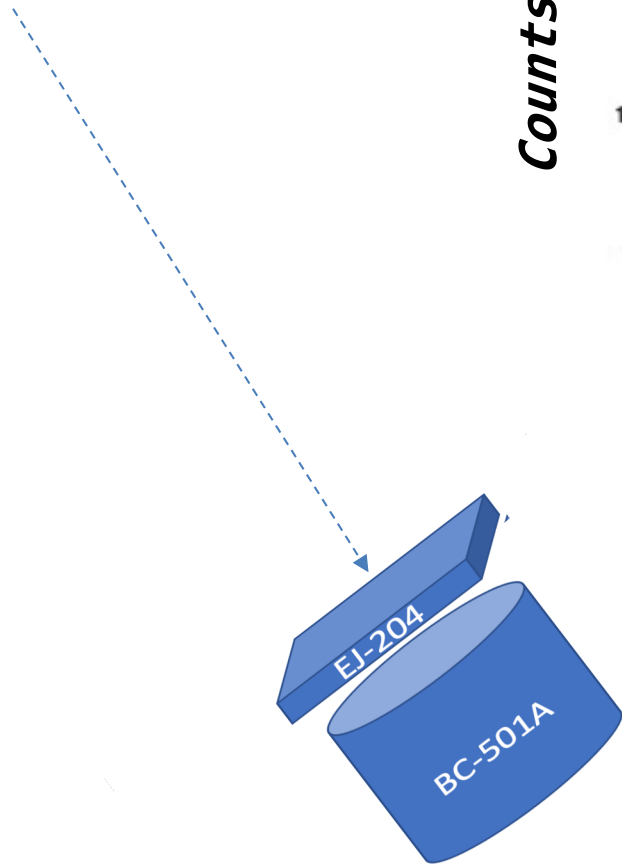
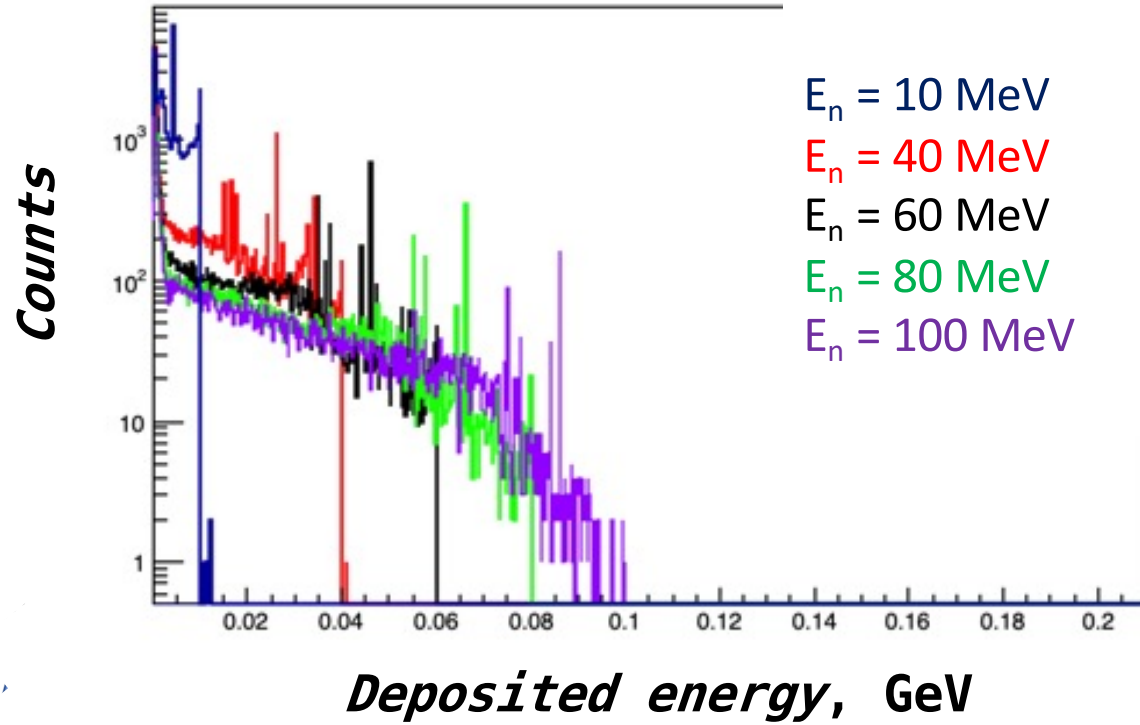
**Mono-energetic neutrons**  
 $E_n = 5, 10, 20, 30, 40, 60, 80, 100, 150, 200$  MeV



$$\frac{\Delta E_n}{E_n} = (\gamma + 1)\gamma \sqrt{\left(\frac{\Delta t}{t}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\Delta L}{L}\right)^2}$$

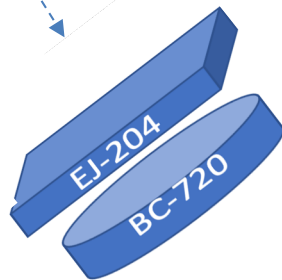
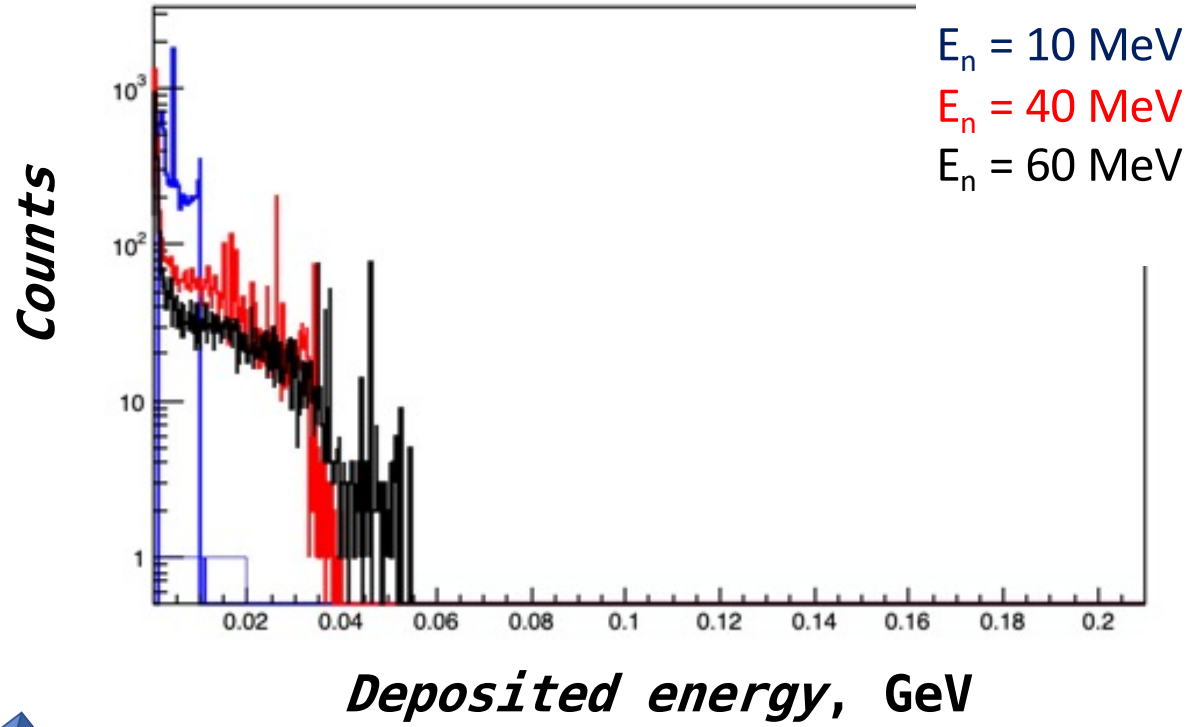
# Towards a test beam @ CNAO

BC-501A

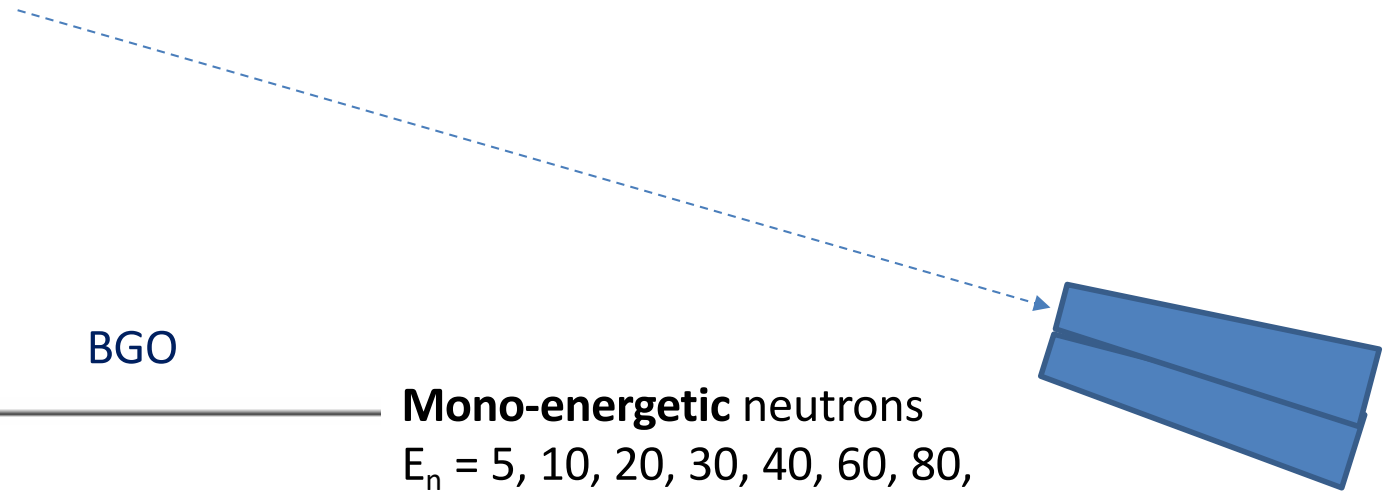


# Towards a test beam @ CNAO

BC-720



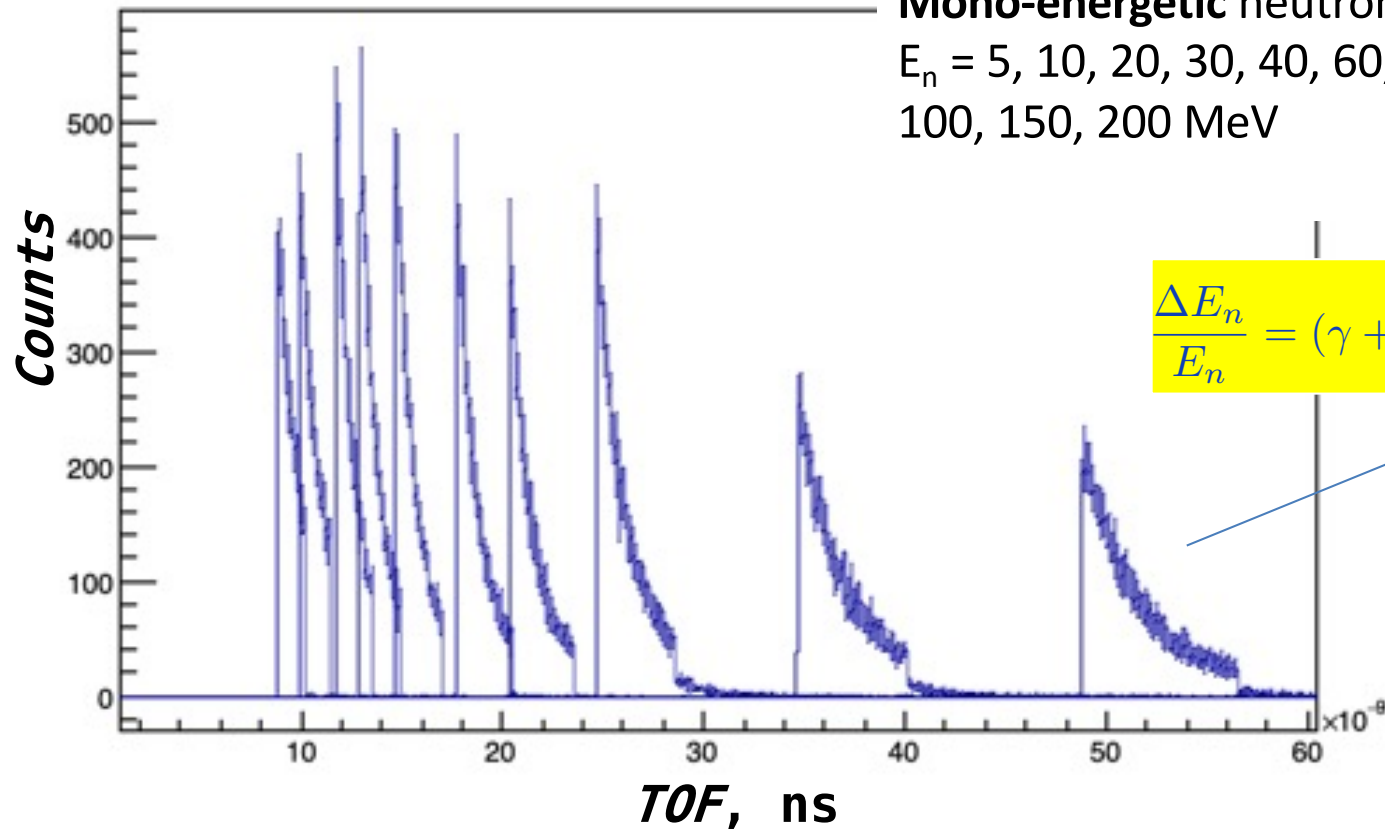
# Towards a test beam @ CNAO



BGO

**Mono-energetic neutrons**

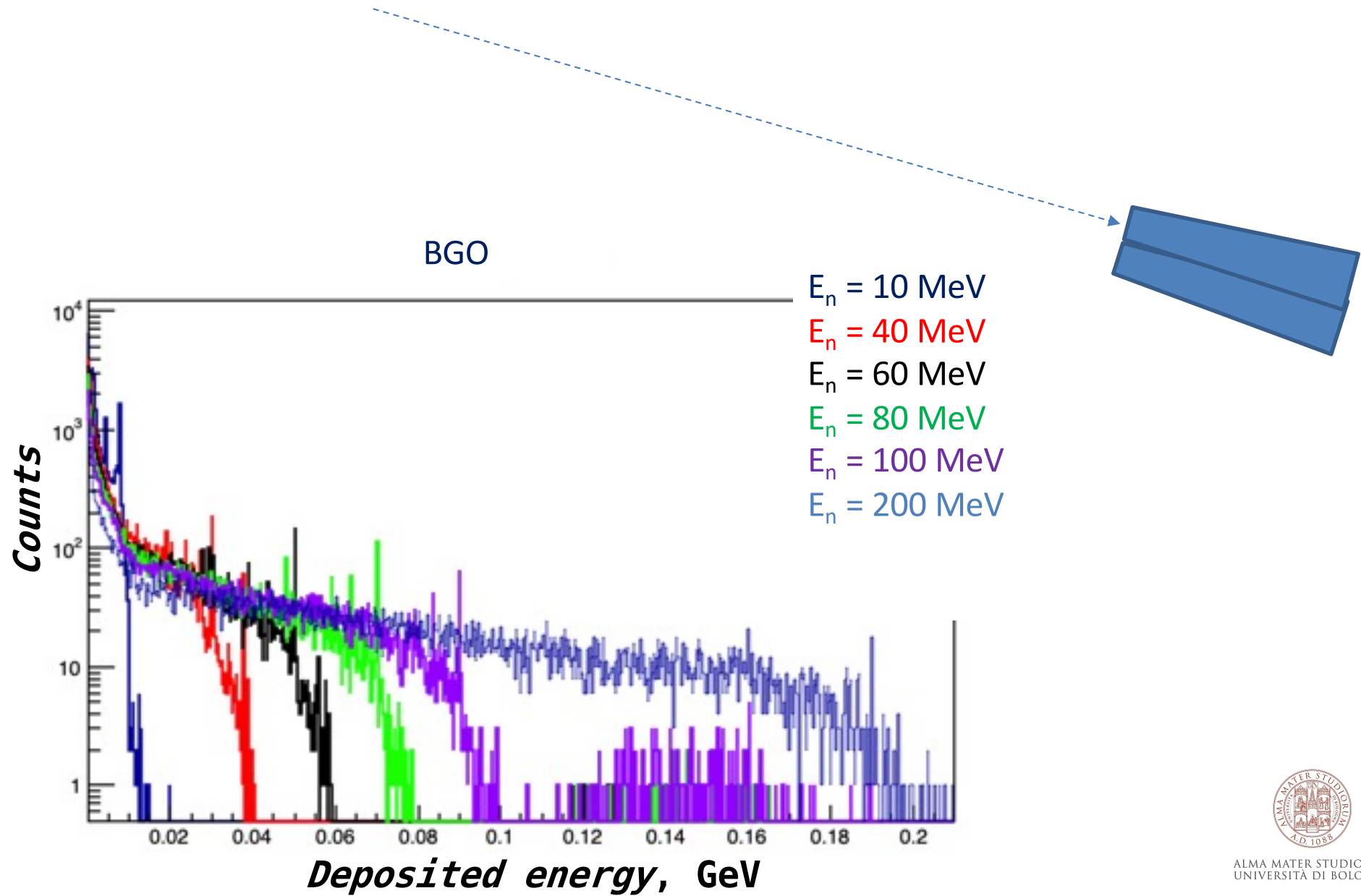
$E_n = 5, 10, 20, 30, 40, 60, 80, 100, 150, 200$  MeV



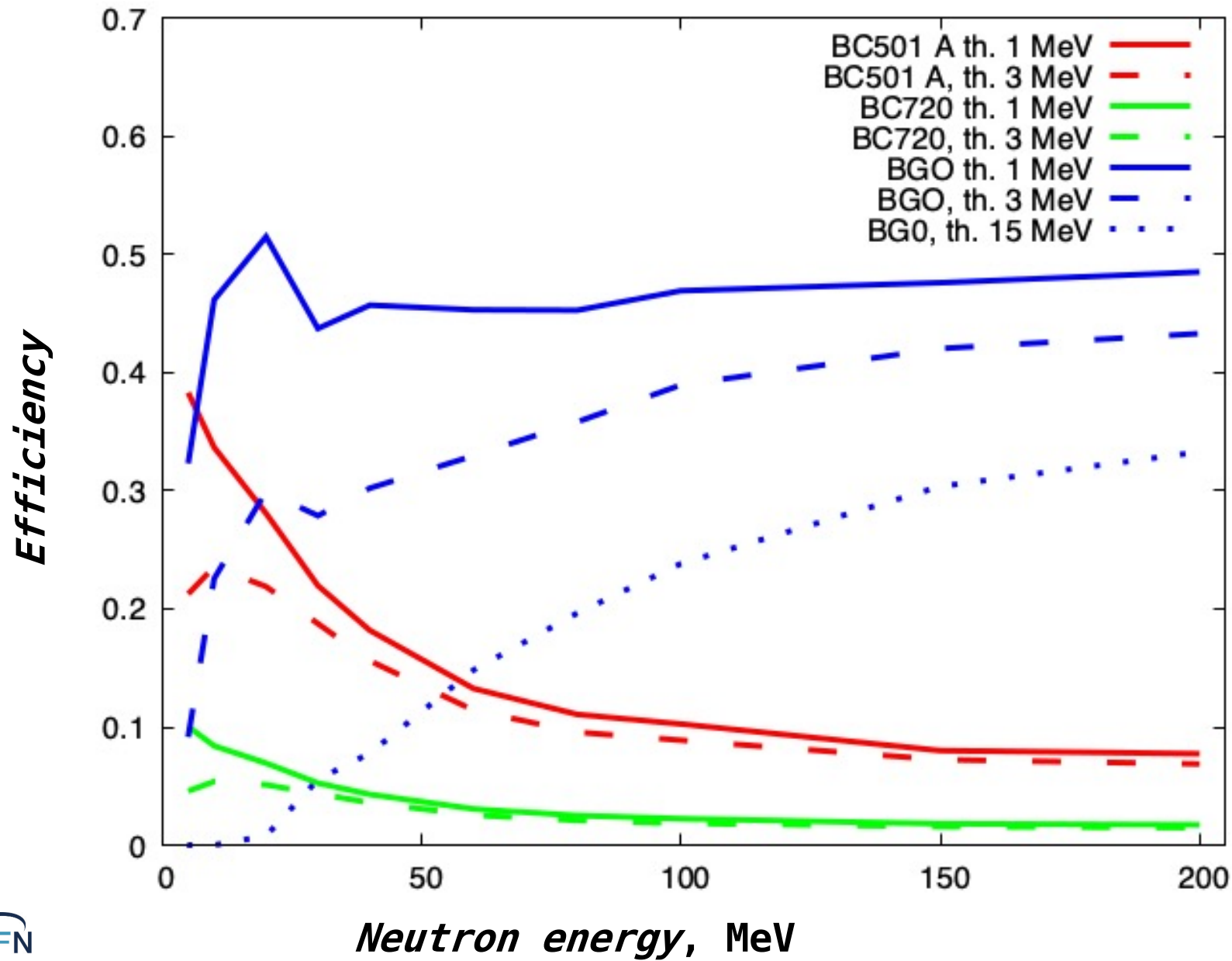
$$\frac{\Delta E_n}{E_n} = (\gamma + 1)\gamma \sqrt{\left(\frac{\Delta t}{t}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\Delta L}{L}\right)^2}$$



# Towards a test beam @ CNAO



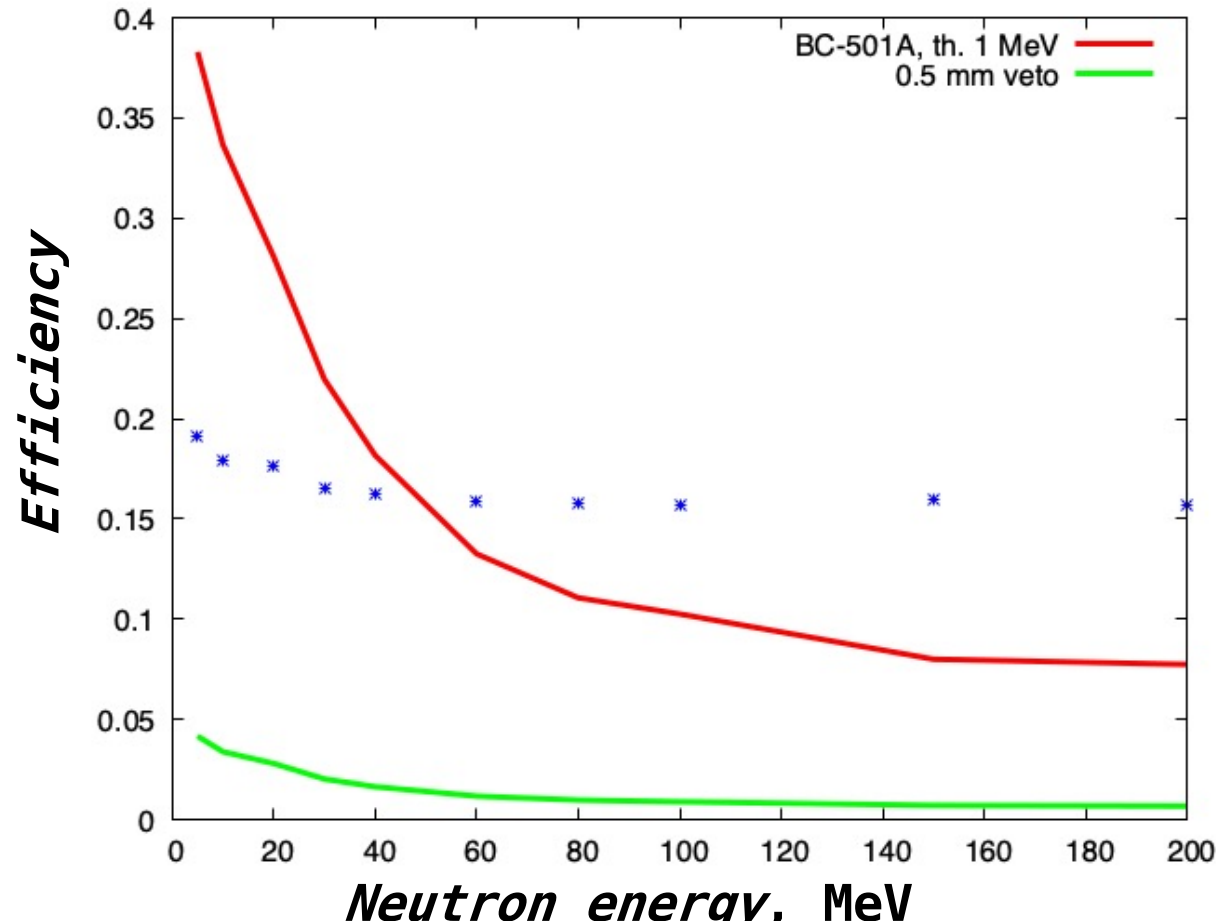
# Towards a test beam @ CNAO





## Conclusions 2/2

- A TEST @ CNAO can provide useful information about present and future detectors for neutron studies.
- Idea to improve the energy resolution?



- FLUKA simulations enable us to estimate the efficiency of the detectors and to optimize the thicknesses of the veto (ongoing)



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**Cristian Massimi**

Department of Physics and Astronomy

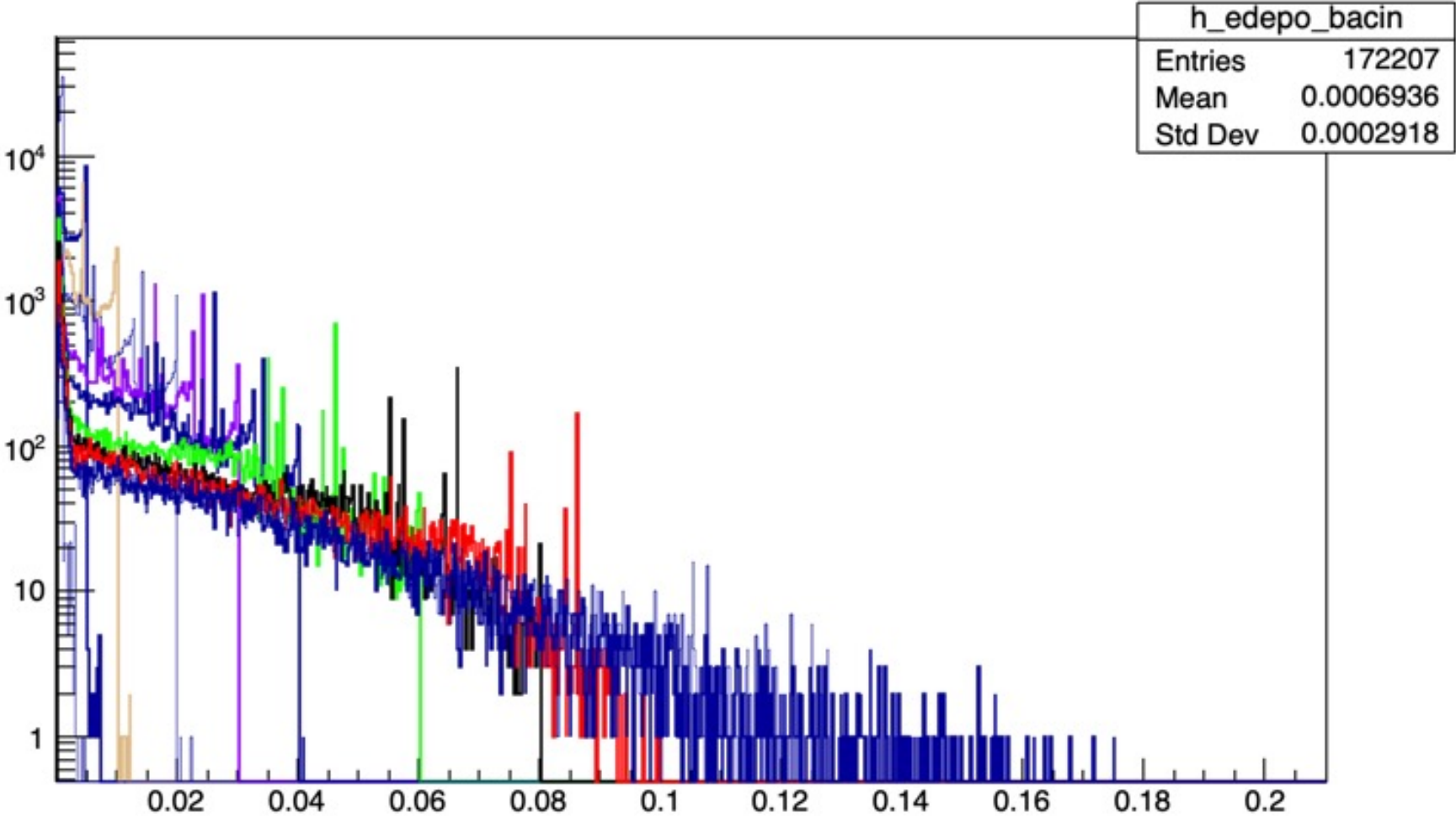
[cristian.massimi@unibo.it](mailto:cristian.massimi@unibo.it)

[www.unibo.it](http://www.unibo.it)

**backup**

# backup

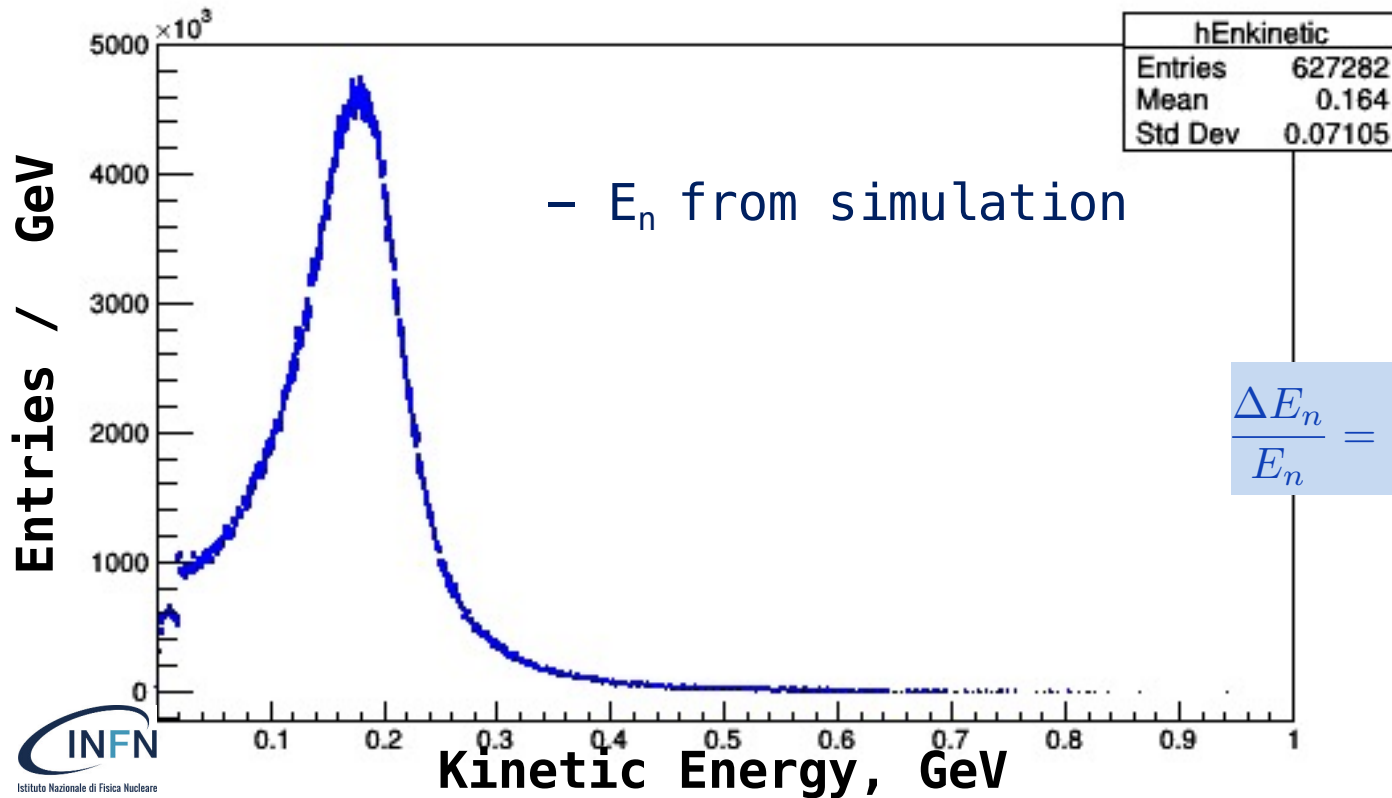
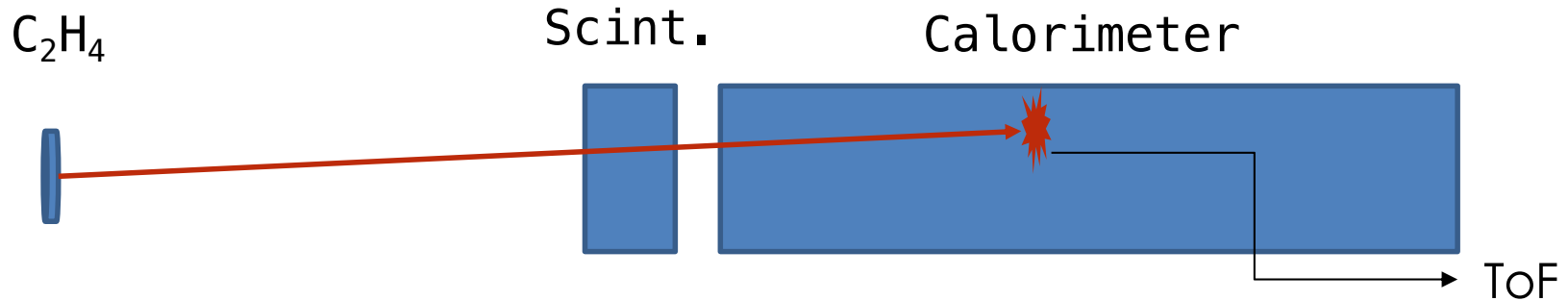
BC-501A



# Detecting neutrons with existing setup

$\Delta E/E$

Only events from the target



$$\gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-\beta^2}} = \frac{c\text{ToF}}{\sqrt{c^2\text{ToF}^2 - L^2}}$$

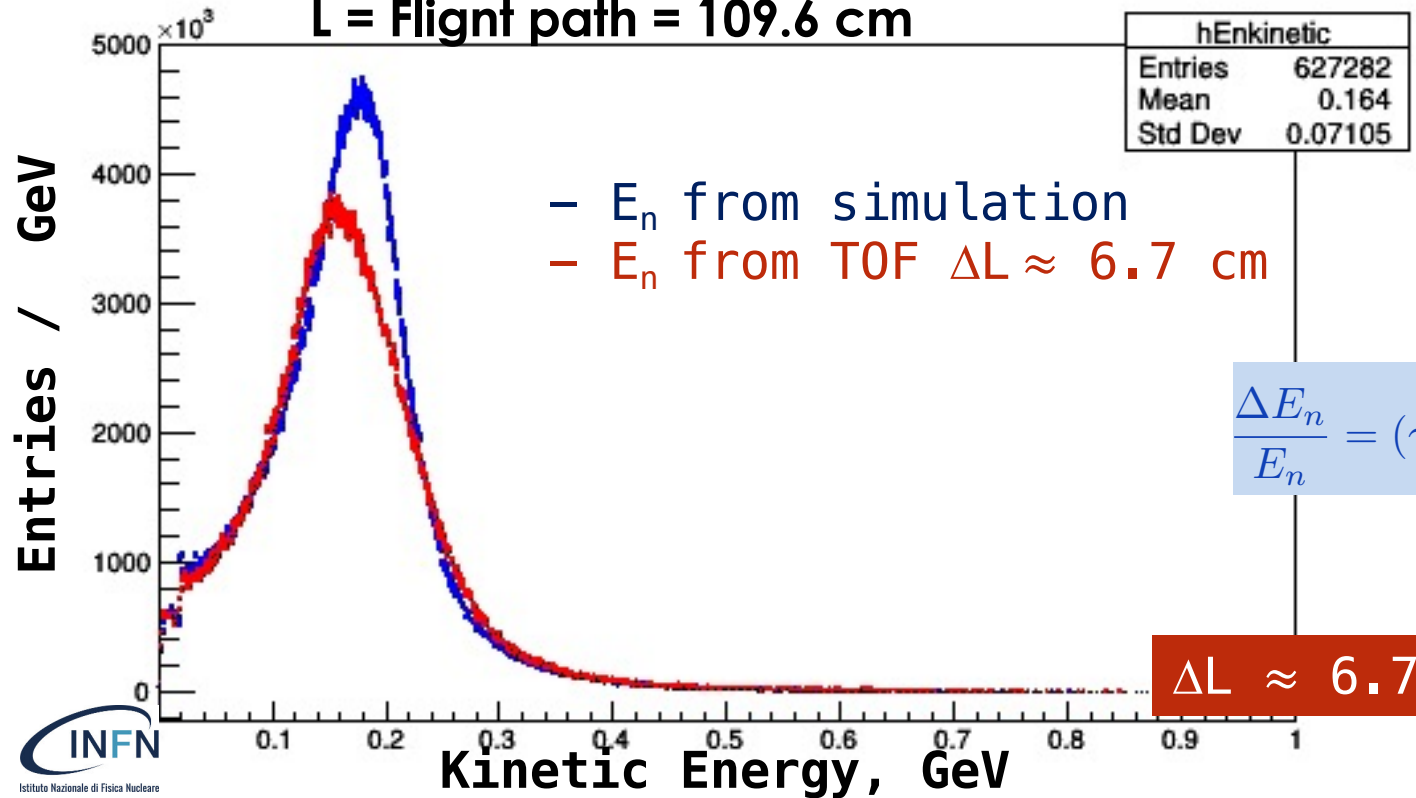
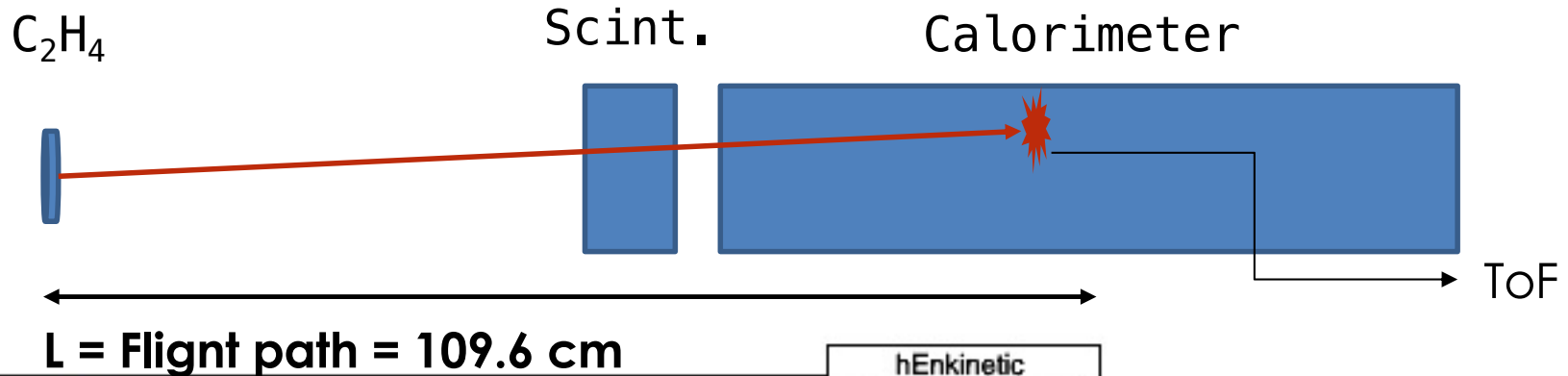
$$E_n = mc^2(\gamma - 1)$$

$$\frac{\Delta E_n}{E_n} = (\gamma + 1)\gamma \sqrt{\left(\frac{\Delta t}{t}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\Delta L}{L}\right)^2}$$

# Detecting neutrons with existing setup

$\Delta E/E$

Only events from the target



$$\gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-\beta^2}} = \frac{c\text{ToF}}{\sqrt{c^2\text{ToF}^2 - L^2}}$$

$$E_n = mc^2(\gamma - 1)$$

$$\frac{\Delta E_n}{E_n} = (\gamma + 1)\gamma \sqrt{\left(\frac{\Delta t}{t}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\Delta L}{L}\right)^2}$$

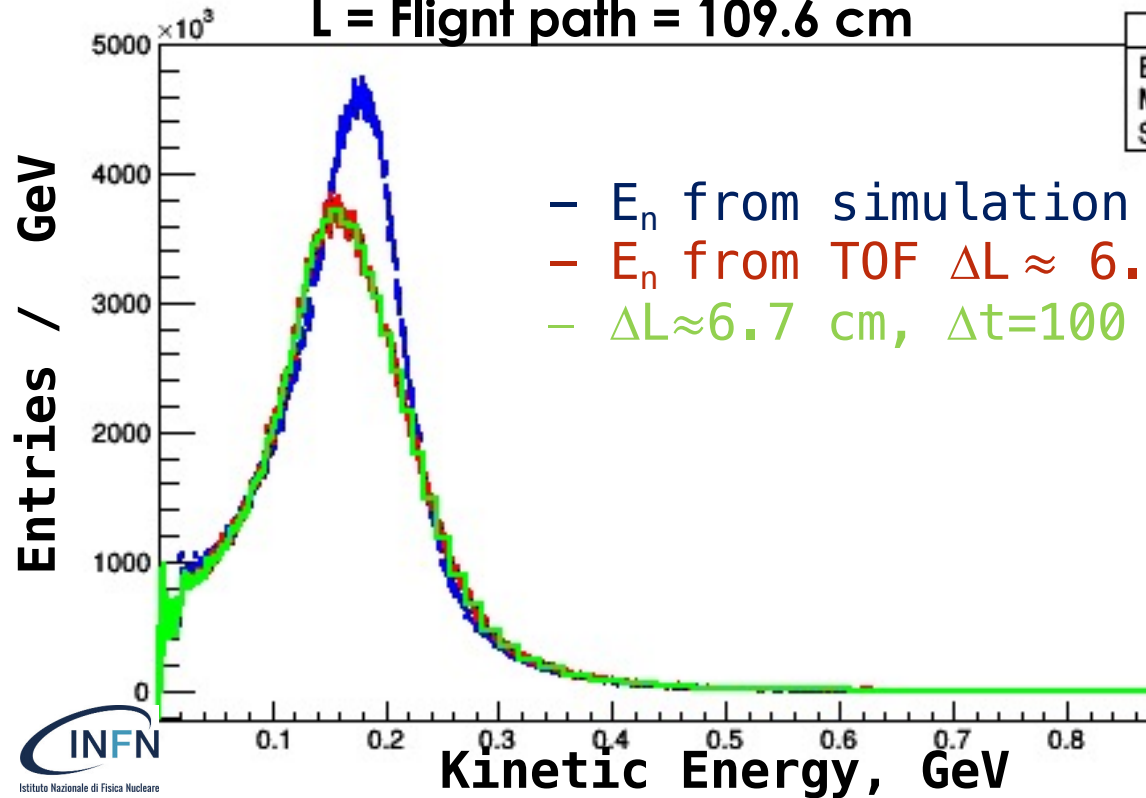
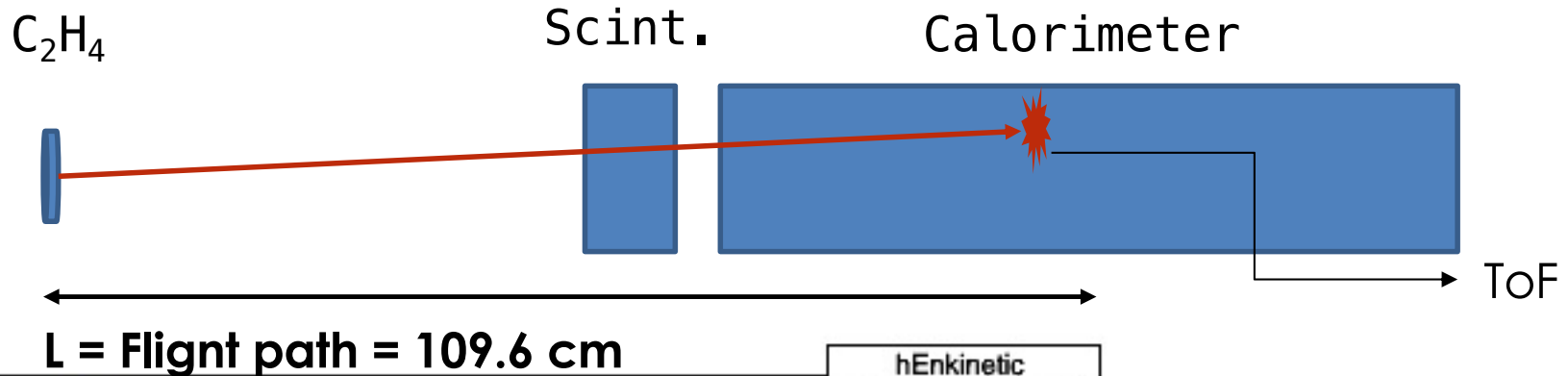
$\Delta L \approx 6.7 \text{ cm}$



# Detecting neutrons with existing setup

$\Delta E/E$

Only events from the target



hEnkinetic	
Entries	627282
Mean	0.164
Std Dev	0.07105

- $E_n$  from simulation
- $E_n$  from TOF  $\Delta L \approx 6.7$  cm
- $\Delta L \approx 6.7$  cm,  $\Delta t = 100$  ps

$$\gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-\beta^2}} = \frac{c\text{ToF}}{\sqrt{c^2\text{ToF}^2 - L^2}}$$

$$E_n = mc^2(\gamma - 1)$$

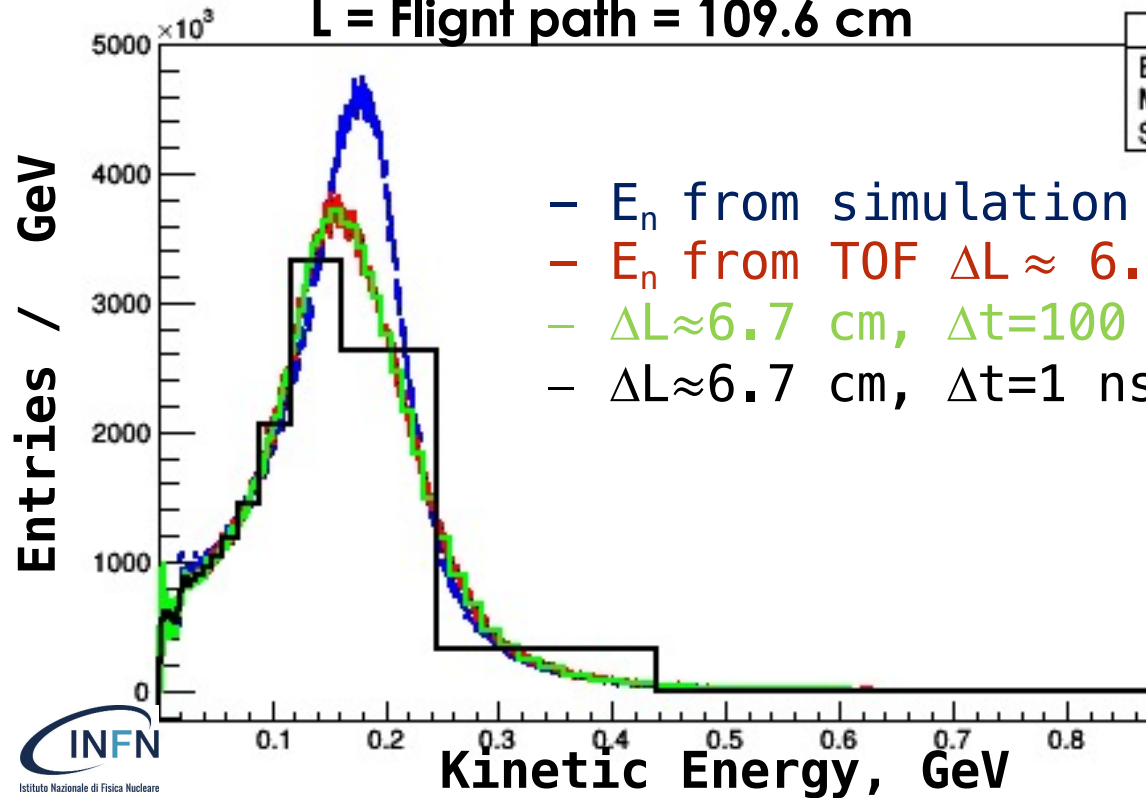
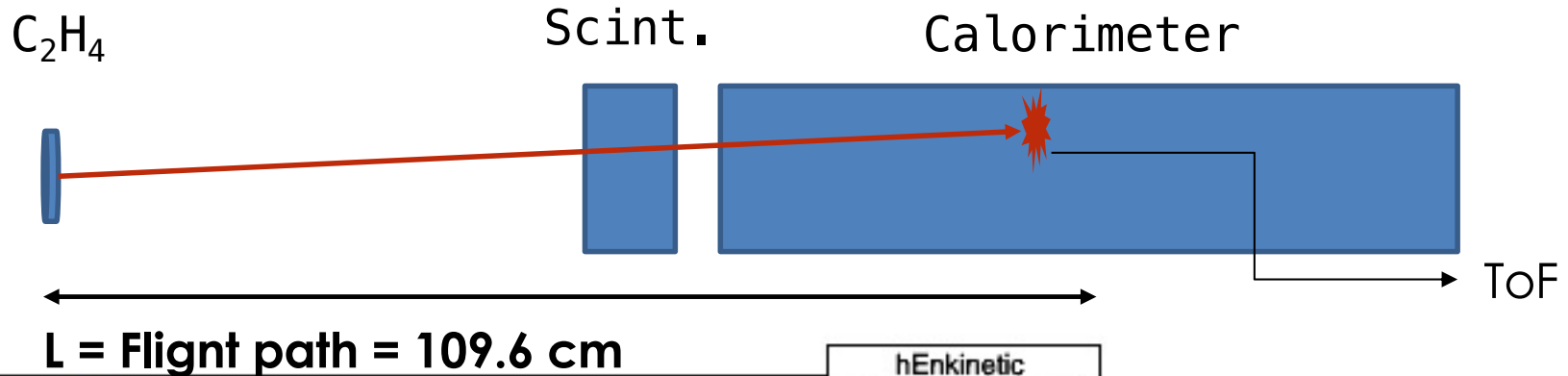
$$\frac{\Delta E_n}{E_n} = (\gamma + 1)\gamma \sqrt{\left(\frac{\Delta t}{t}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\Delta L}{L}\right)^2}$$

$\Delta L \approx 6.7$  cm  
 $\Delta t = 100$  ps

# Detecting neutrons with existing setup

$\Delta E/E$

Only events from the target



hEnkinetic	
Entries	627282
Mean	0.164
Std Dev	0.07105

- $E_n$  from simulation
- $E_n$  from TOF  $\Delta L \approx 6.7$  cm
- $\Delta L \approx 6.7$  cm,  $\Delta t = 100$  ps
- $\Delta L \approx 6.7$  cm,  $\Delta t = 1$  ns

$$\gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-\beta^2}} = \frac{c\text{ToF}}{\sqrt{c^2\text{ToF}^2 - L^2}}$$

$$E_n = mc^2(\gamma - 1)$$

$$\frac{\Delta E_n}{E_n} = (\gamma + 1)\gamma \sqrt{\left(\frac{\Delta t}{t}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\Delta L}{L}\right)^2}$$

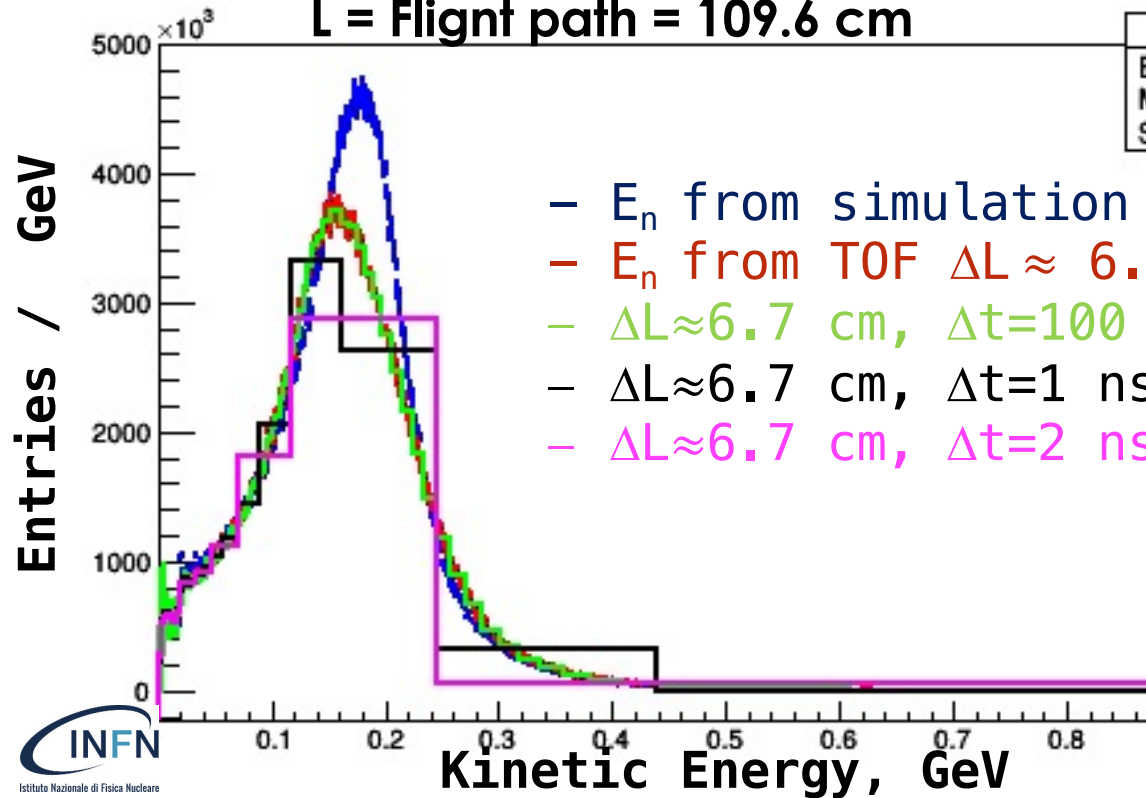
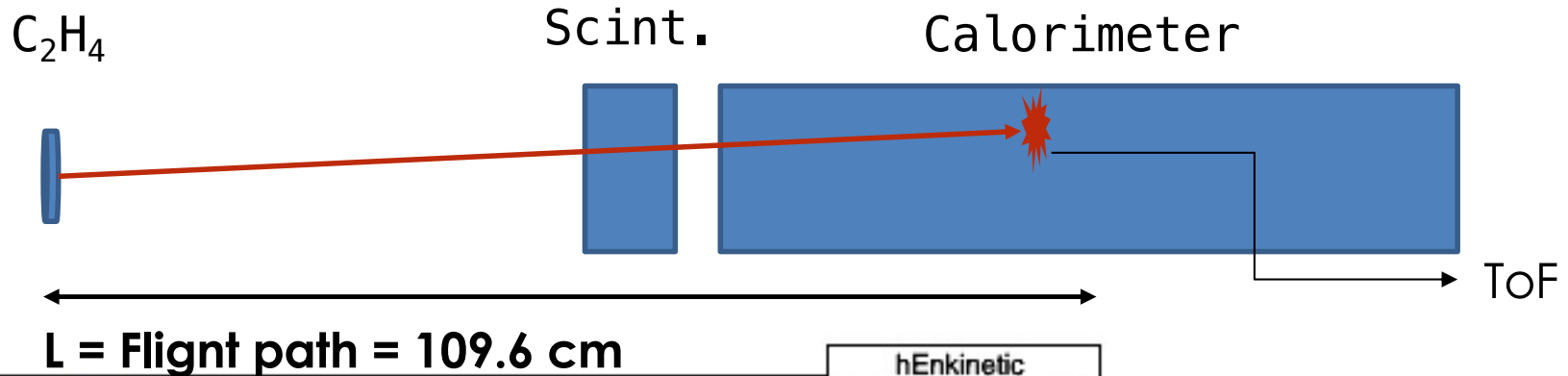
$\Delta L \approx 6.7$  cm  
 $\Delta t = 1$  ns



# Detecting neutrons with existing setup

$\Delta E/E$

Only events from the target



hEnkinetic	
Entries	627282
Mean	0.164
Std Dev	0.07105

- E<sub>n</sub> from simulation
- E<sub>n</sub> from TOF ΔL ≈ 6.7 cm
- ΔL ≈ 6.7 cm, Δt = 100 ps
- ΔL ≈ 6.7 cm, Δt = 1 ns
- ΔL ≈ 6.7 cm, Δt = 2 ns

$$\gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-\beta^2}} = \frac{c\text{ToF}}{\sqrt{c^2\text{ToF}^2 - L^2}}$$

$$E_n = mc^2(\gamma - 1)$$

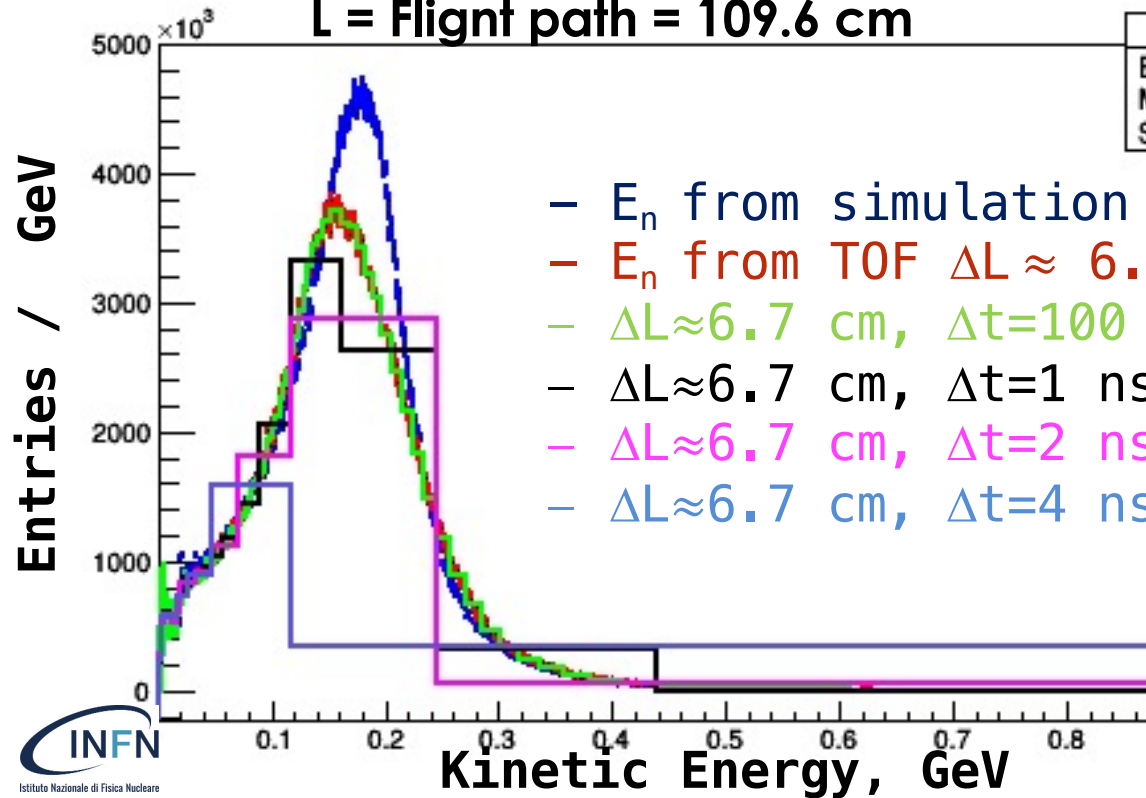
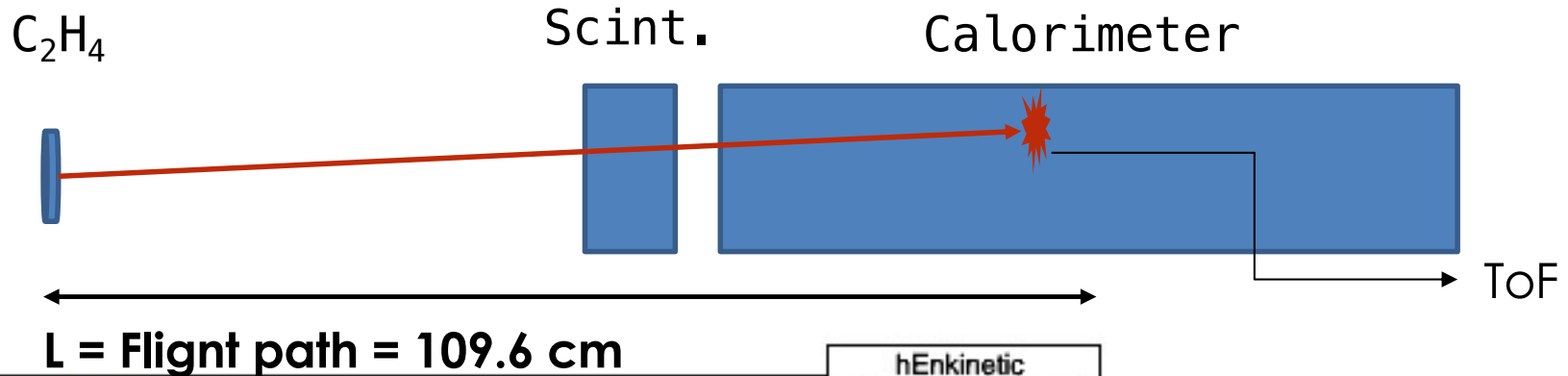
$$\frac{\Delta E_n}{E_n} = (\gamma + 1)\gamma \sqrt{\left(\frac{\Delta t}{t}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\Delta L}{L}\right)^2}$$

ΔL ≈ 6.7 cm  
Δt = 2 ns

# Detecting neutrons with existing setup

$\Delta E/E$

Only events from the target



hEnkinetic	
Entries	627282
Mean	0.164
Std Dev	0.07105

- E<sub>n</sub> from simulation
- E<sub>n</sub> from TOF  $\Delta L \approx 6.7$  cm
- $\Delta L \approx 6.7$  cm,  $\Delta t = 100$  ps
- $\Delta L \approx 6.7$  cm,  $\Delta t = 1$  ns
- $\Delta L \approx 6.7$  cm,  $\Delta t = 2$  ns
- $\Delta L \approx 6.7$  cm,  $\Delta t = 4$  ns

$$\gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-\beta^2}} = \frac{c \text{ToF}}{\sqrt{c^2 \text{ToF}^2 - L^2}}$$

$$E_n = mc^2(\gamma - 1)$$

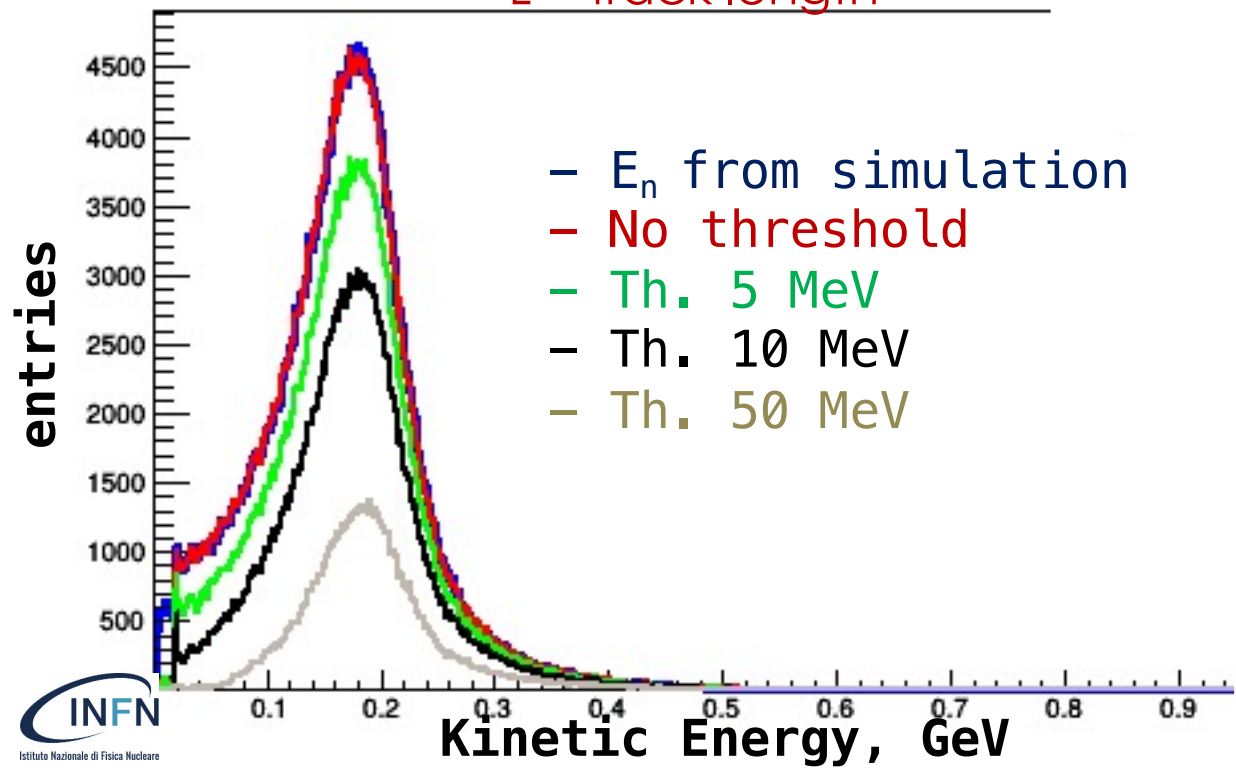
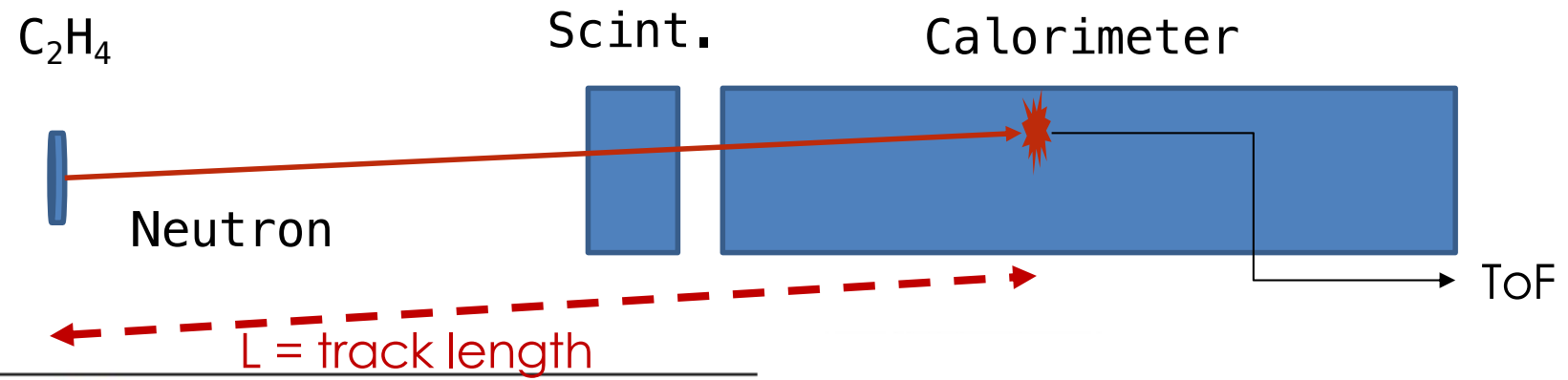
$$\frac{\Delta E_n}{E_n} = (\gamma + 1)\gamma \sqrt{\left(\frac{\Delta t}{t}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\Delta L}{L}\right)^2}$$

$\Delta L \approx 6.7$  cm  
 $\Delta t = 4$  ns

# Detecting neutrons with existing setup

# EFFICIENCY

Only events from the target



Threshold	Efficiency	
No	100%	<b>66%</b>
Fluka	75%	<b>46%</b>
5 MeV	55%	<b>34%</b>
10 MeV	45%	<b>28%</b>
20 MeV	40%	<b>23%</b>
50 MeV	20%	<b>12%</b>