



Geant4 simulations to study the efficiency and cross-talk probability in the new neutron correlator NArCoS

G. Santagati¹, **E.V. Pagano**², C. Boiano³, G. Cardella¹, A. Castoldi^{4,3}, E. De Filippo¹, E. Geraci^{5,1}, B. Gnoffo^{5,1}, C. Guazzoni^{4,3}, G. Lanzalone^{6,2}, C. Maiolino², N. S. Martorana¹, A. Pagano¹, S. Pirrone¹, **CHIRONE Coll.** G. Politi^{5,1}, F. Risitano^{7,1}, F. Rizzo^{5,2,8}, P. Russotto², M. Trimarchi^{7,1}, and C. Zagami^{5,2,8}.

¹INFN Sezione di Catania, Catania, Italy

²INFN Laboratori Nazionali del Sud, Catania, Italy

³INFN Sezione di Milano, Catania, Italy

⁴Politecnico di Milano, Dip. Elettronica, Informazione e Bioingegneria, Milano, Italy

⁵Dipartimento di Fisica e Astronomia, Università di Catania, Catania, Italy

⁶Università di Enna "Kore", Enna, Italy

⁷Dipartimento di Scienze MIFT, Università di Messina, Messina, Italy

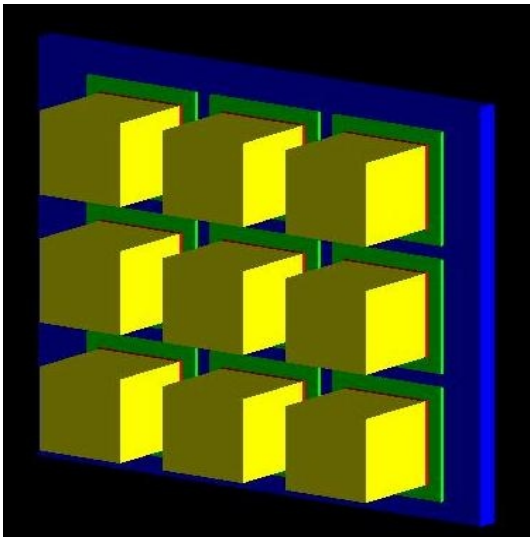
⁸CSFNSM Centro Siciliano di Fisica Nucleare e Struttura della Materia, Catania, Italy

**Supported by
PRIN ANCHISE
(2020H8YFRE)**

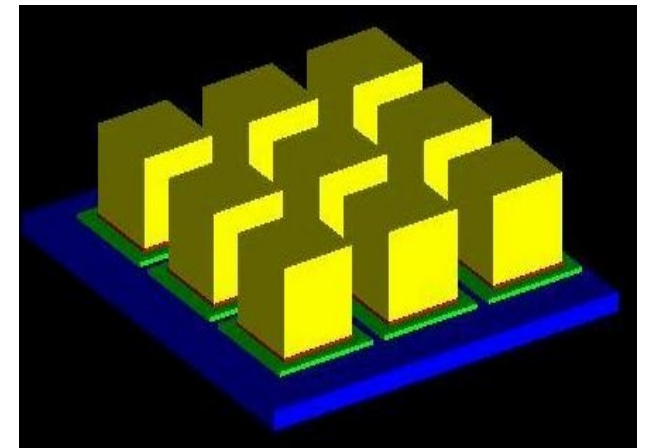
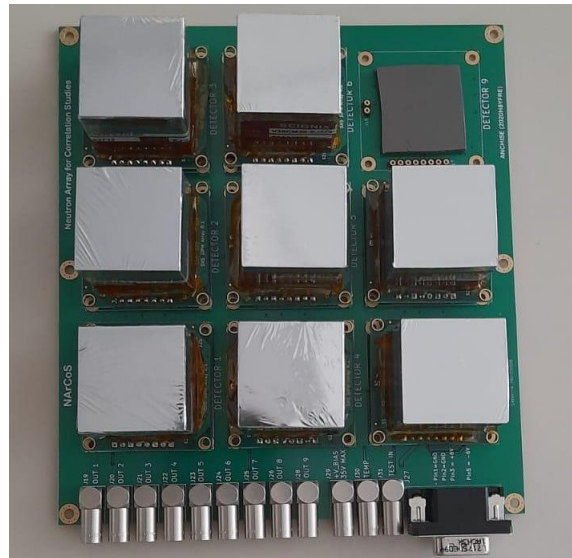


The CROSSTEST experiment

- Present calculations are preparatory for the CROSSTEST experiment
Spokepersons: E.V. Pagano, T. Marchi, G. Politi, P. Russotto.
- Neutron beam from $p+{}^7\text{Li} \rightarrow {}^7\text{Be}+n$ @ 5.5 MeV.
- Two different detector configurations will be tested:



Matrix configuration



Three-cluster configuration

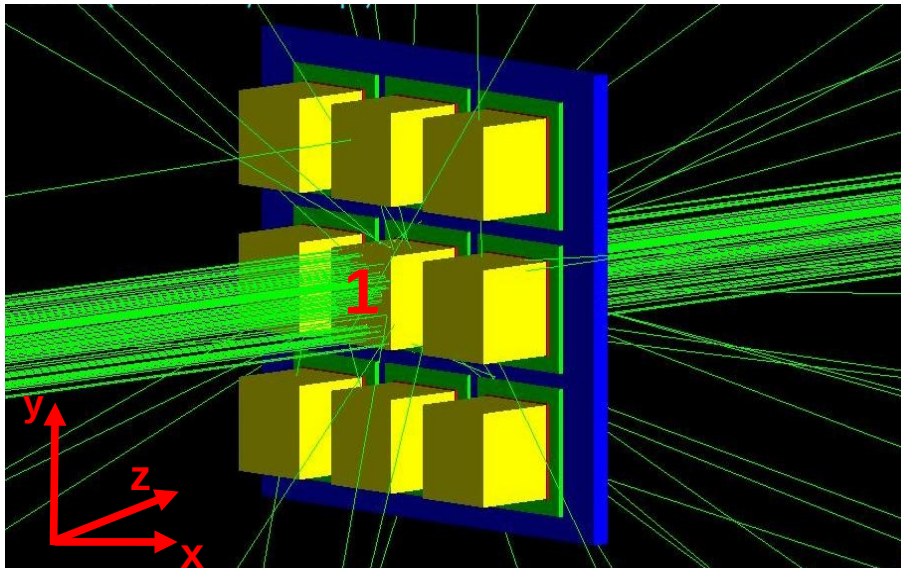
Matrix configuration: CT estimation

Cross-talk definition:

$$CT = \text{Detected} - \sum_{i=1}^9 \text{Cell}_i$$

Detected := Integral of the number of particles detected by the whole Matrix detector configuration.

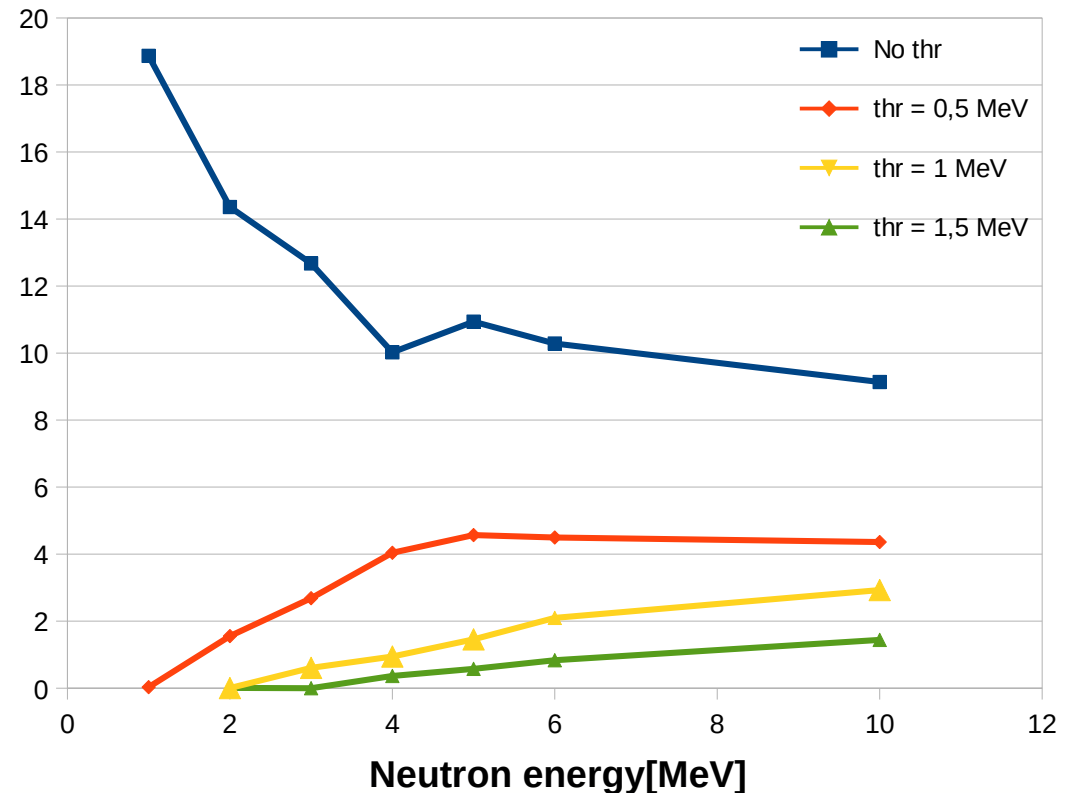
Cell_i := Number of particles detected by one and only single detector cell *i*



Simulated beam:

- 10^5 neutrons in air configuration
- $E_{inc} = \{1,2,3,4,5,6,10\}$ MeV
- Uniform distribution impinging on the central cell
- Cell detection thresholds: $\{0.0,0.5,1.0,1.5\}$ MeV

Cross-talk[%]



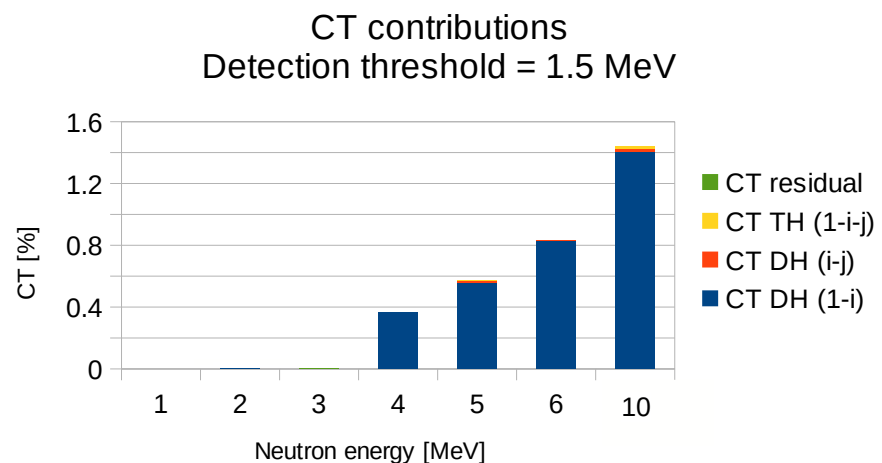
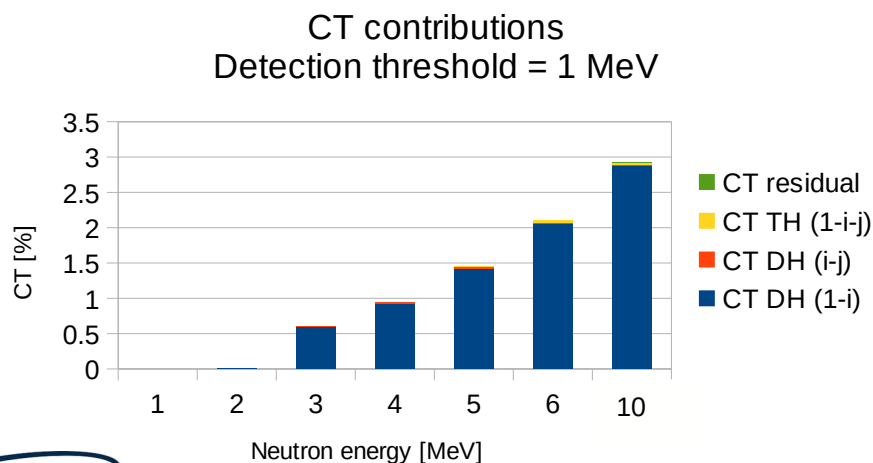
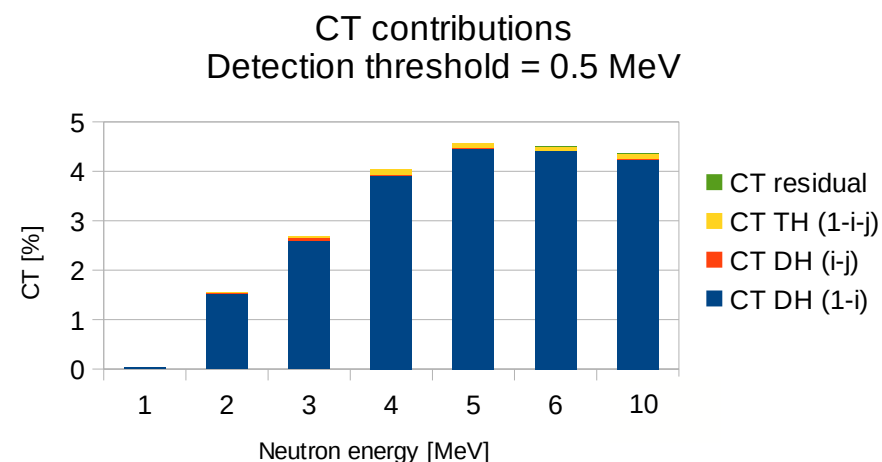
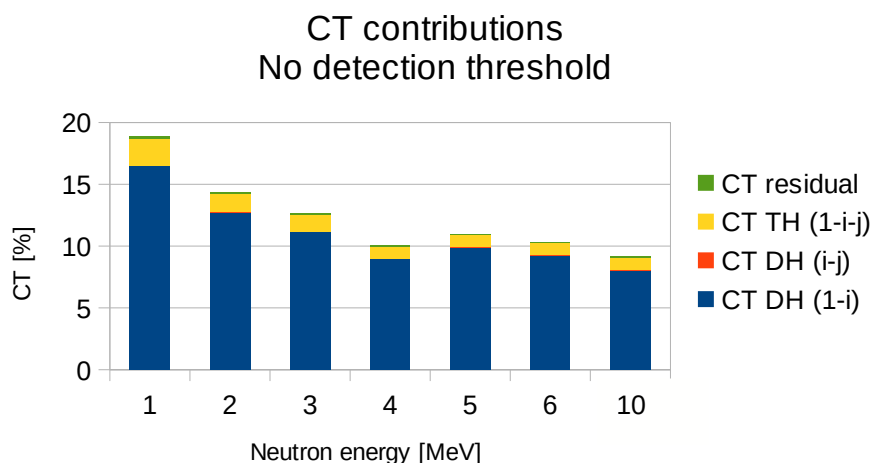
Matrix configuration: CT contributions

CT DH (1-i) := Double-hits cross-talk from cell 1 to cell i with $i = \{2, \dots, 9\}$.

CT DH (i-j) := Double-hits cross-talk from cell i to cell j with $i = \{2, \dots, 9\}$ and $j = \{2, \dots, 9\}$ and $i \neq j$.

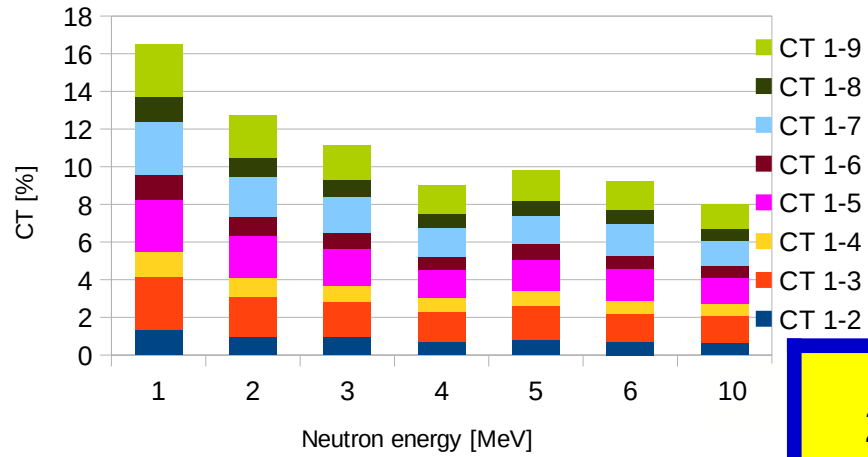
CT TH (1-i-j) := Triple-hits cross-talk from cell 1 to cell i to cell j, with $i = \{2, \dots, 9\}$ and $j = \{2, \dots, 9\}$ and $i \neq j$.

CT residual := All other possible cross-talk combinations.

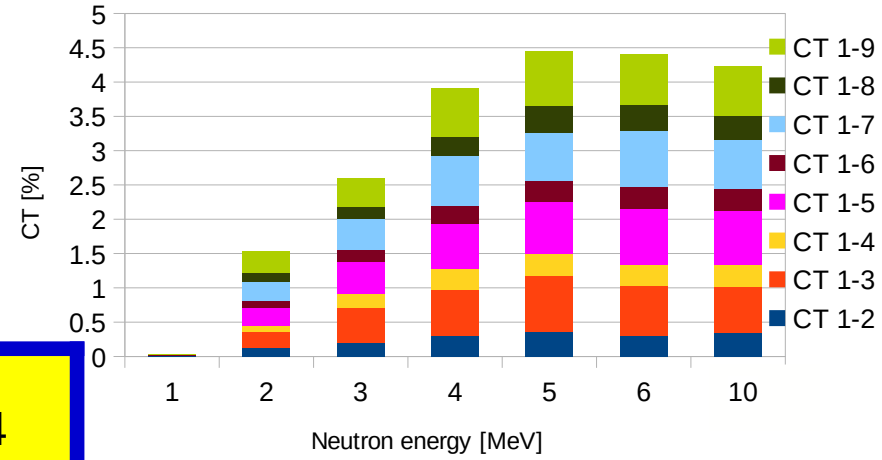


Matrix configuration: DH CT distributions

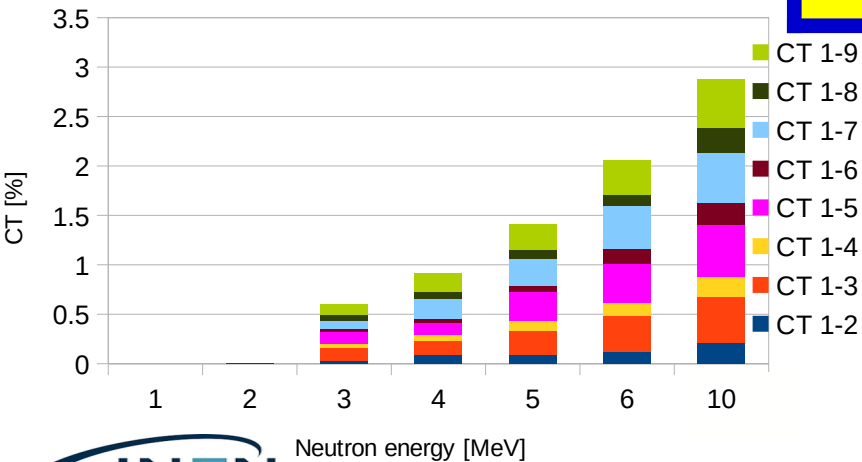
CT DH (1-i) distributions
No detection threshold



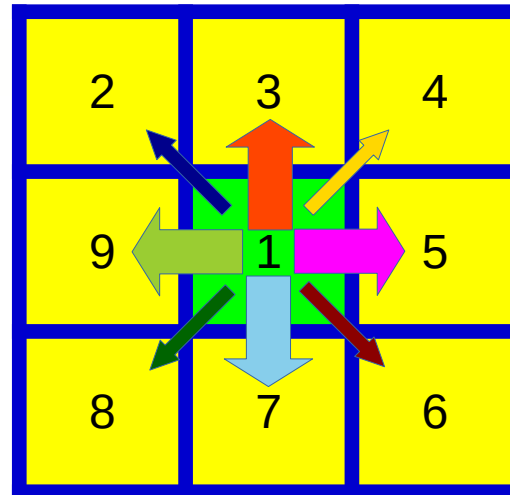
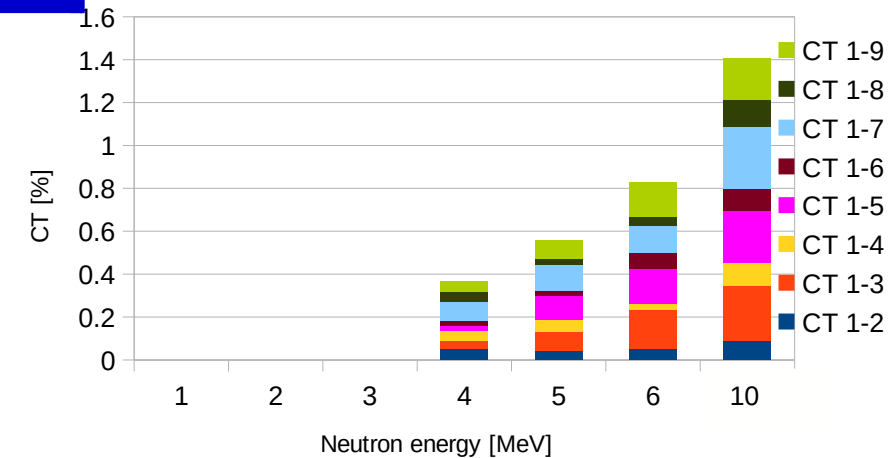
CT DH (1-i) distributions
Detection threshold=0.5 MeV



CT DH (1-i) distributions
Detection threshold= 1 MeV



CT DH (1-i) distributions
Detection threshold= 1.5 MeV



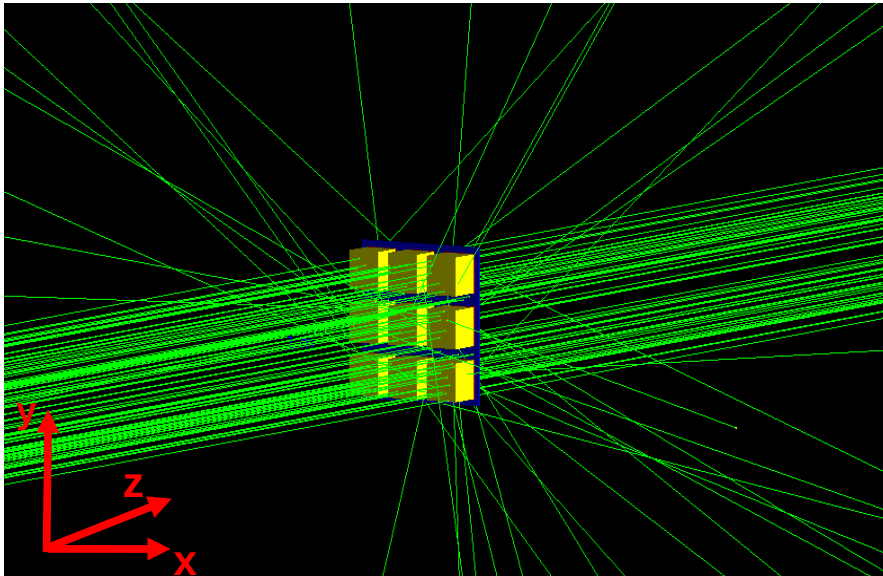
Matrix configuration: Efficiency estimation

Detection efficiency definition:

$$\text{Efficiency} = \text{Detected} / \text{Total}$$

Detected:= Integral of the number of particles detected by the whole Matrix detector configuration.

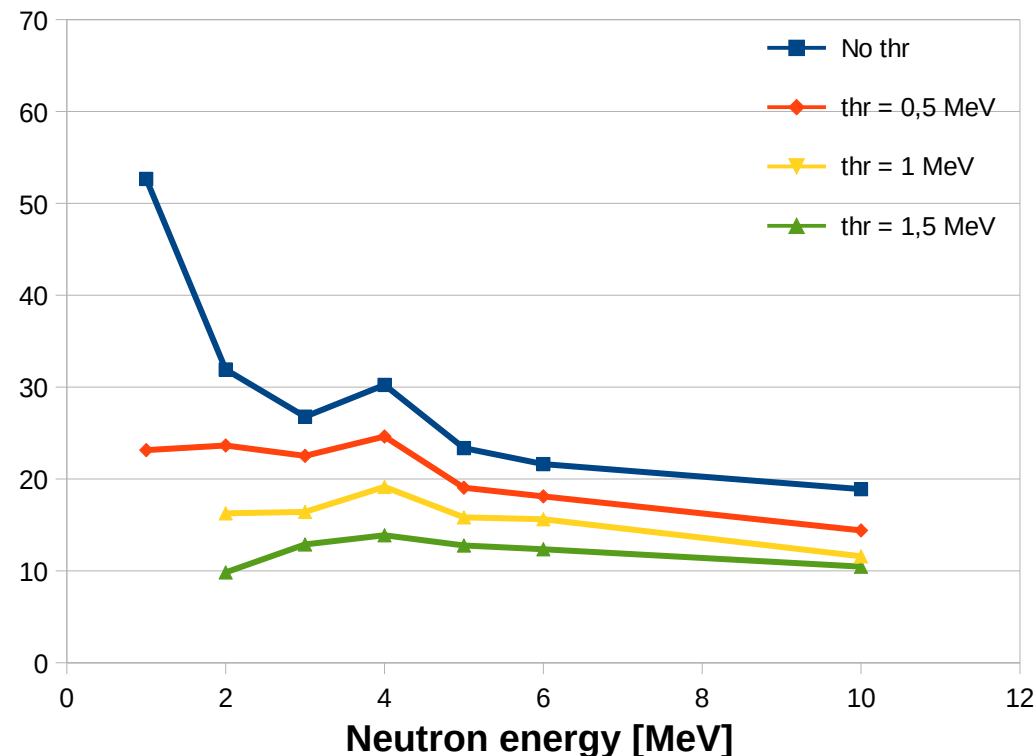
Total:= Number of neutrons simulated impinging on the entire Matrix detector configuration surface.



Simulated beam:

- 10^6 neutrons in air configuration
- $E_{\text{inc}} = \{1,2,3,4,5,6,10\}$ MeV
- Uniform distribution impinging on the entire Matrix surface
- Cell detection thresholds: $\{0.0,0.5,1.0,1.5\}$ MeV

Efficiency[%]



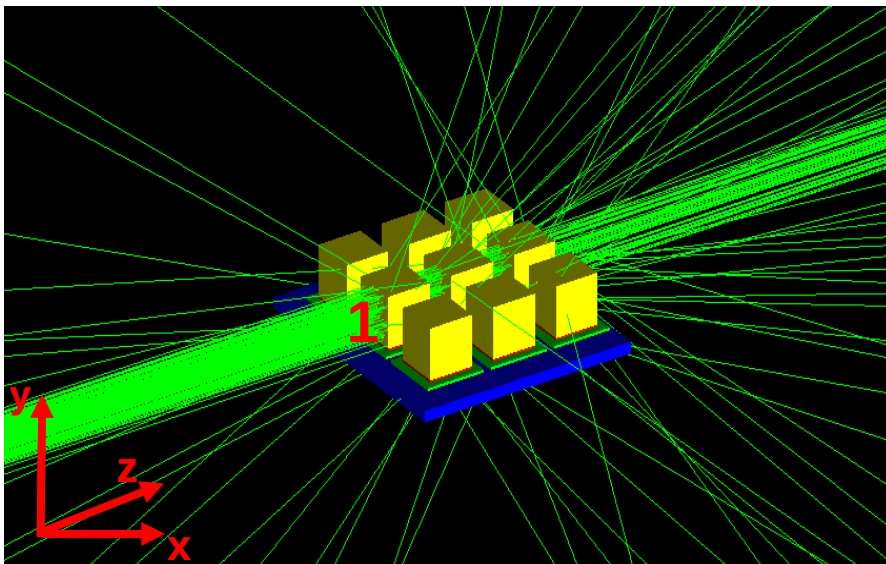
Three-cluster configuration: CT estimation

Cross-talk definition:

$$CT = \text{Detected} - \sum_{i=1}^9 \text{Cell}_i$$

Detected:= Integral of the number of particles detected by the whole three-cluster detector configuration.

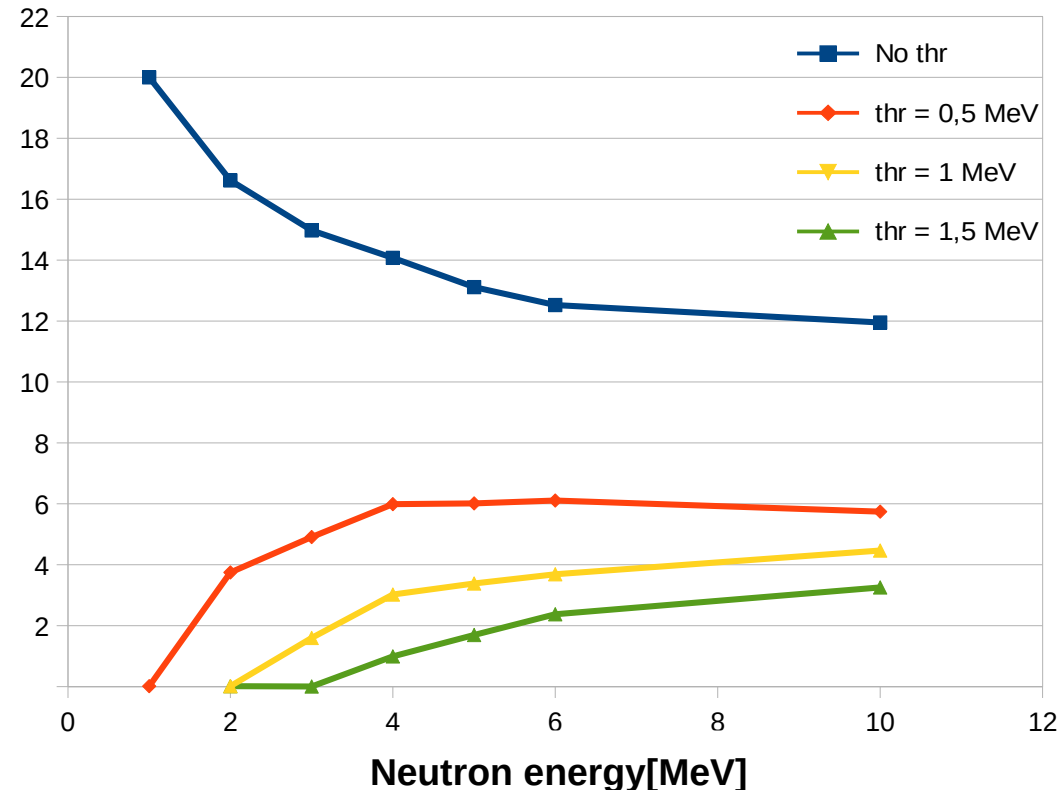
Cell_i:= Number of particles detected by one and only single detector cell i



Simulated beam:

- 10^5 neutrons in air configuration
- $E_{inc} = \{1,2,3,4,5,6,10\}$ MeV
- Uniform distribution impinging on the central cell
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Cross-talk [%]



Three-cluster configuration: CT contributions

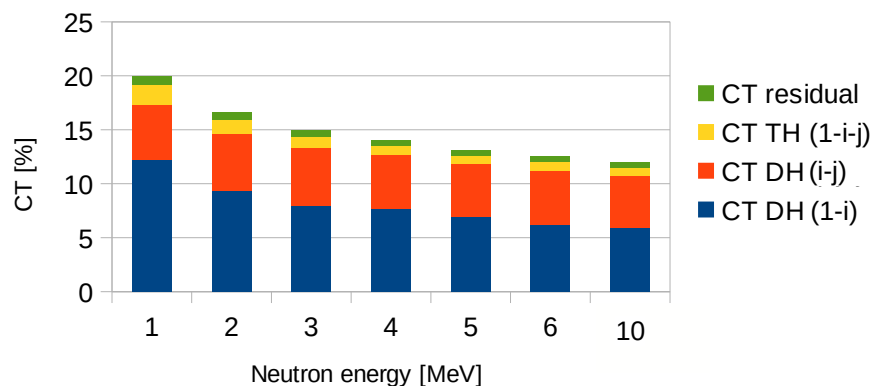
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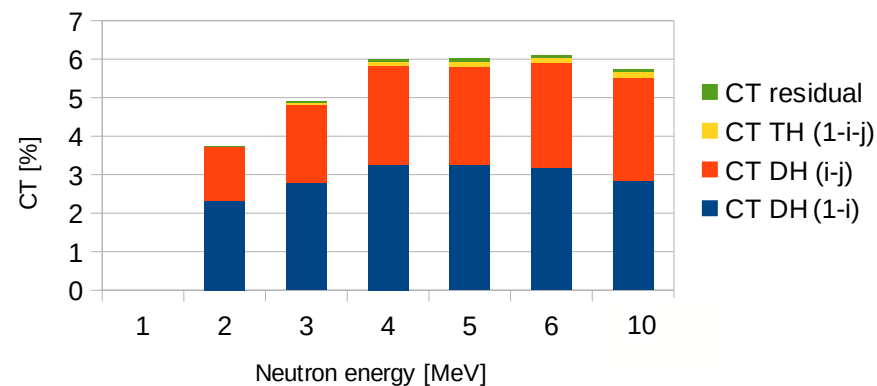
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CT residual := All other possible cross-talk combinations.

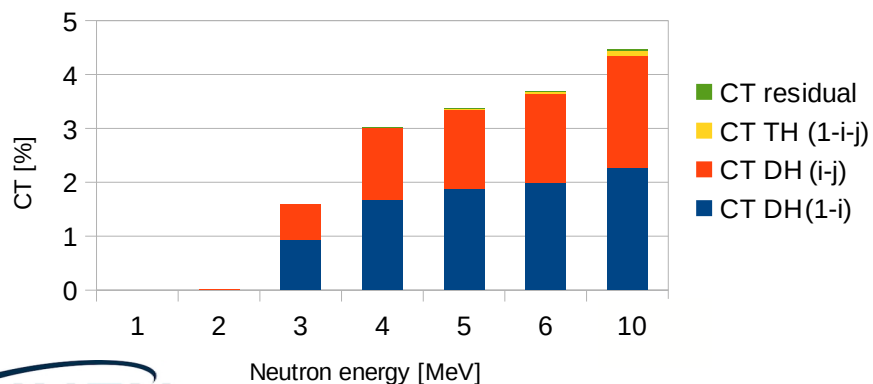
CT contributions
No detection threshold



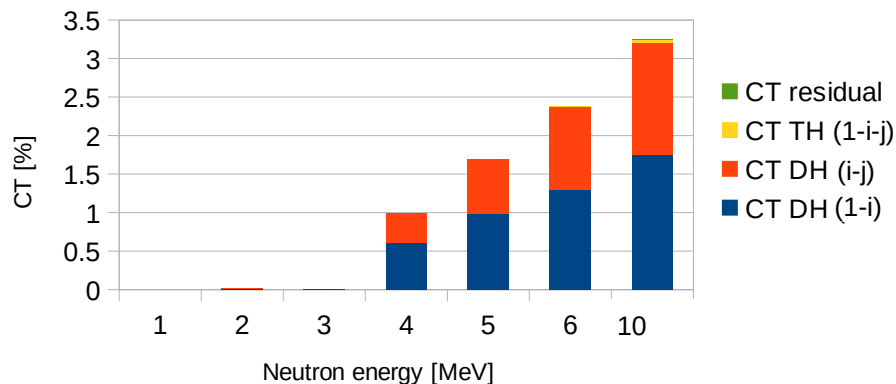
CT contributions
Detection threshold = 0.5 MeV



CT contributions
Detection threshold = 1 MeV

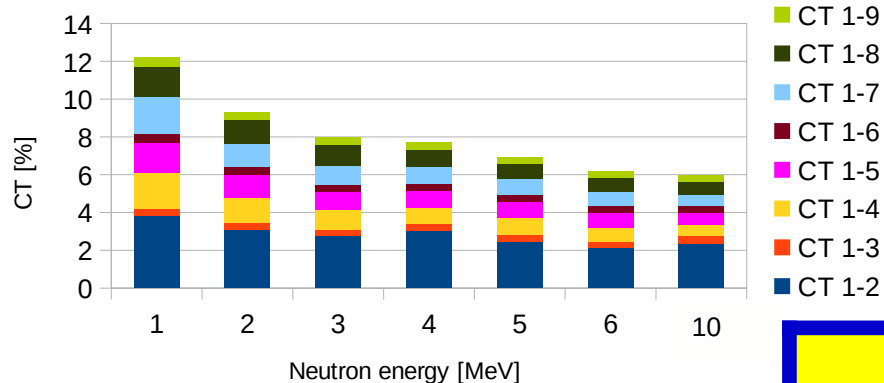


CT distributions
Detection threshold = 1.5 MeV

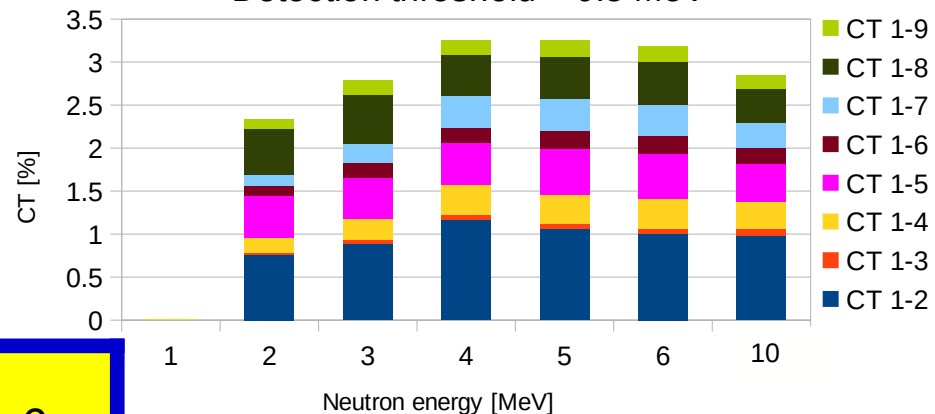


Three-cluster conf.: CT DH (1-i) distributions

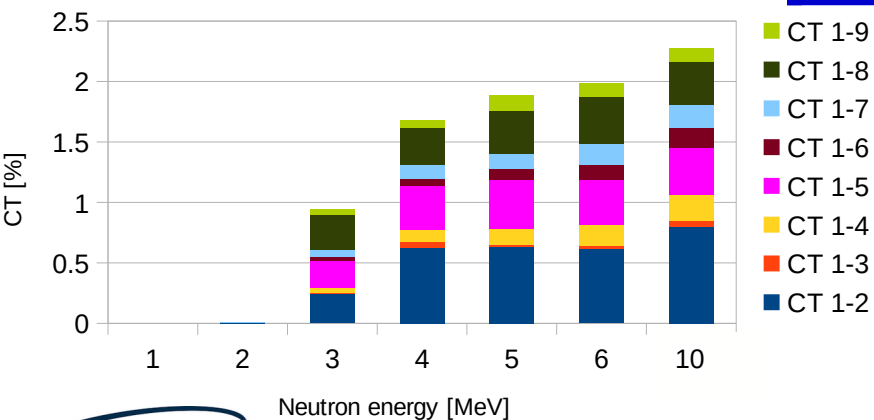
CT DH (1-i) distributions
No detection threshold



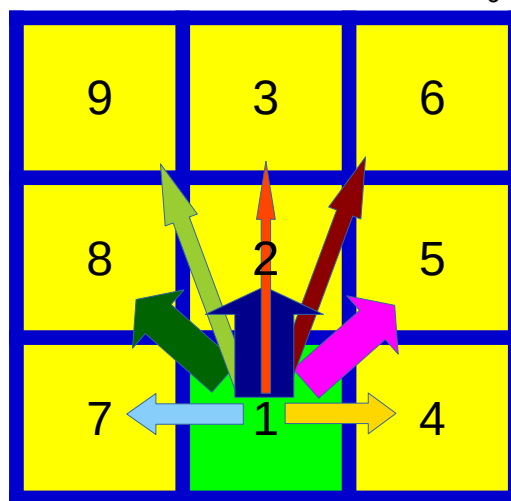
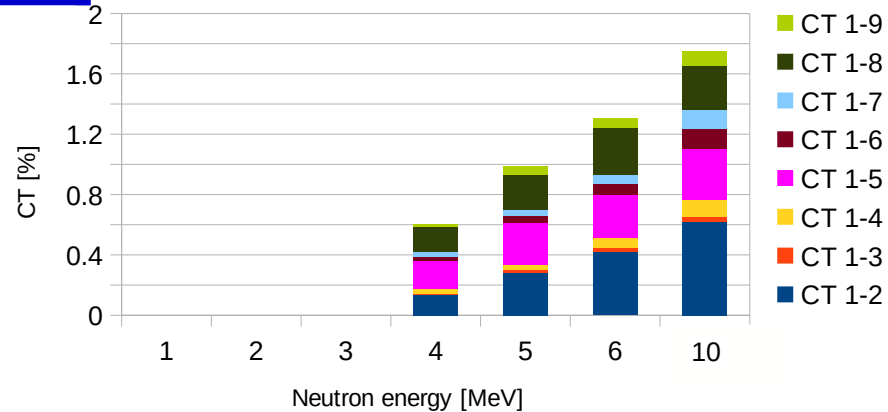
CT DH (1-i) distributions
Detection threshold = 0.5 MeV



CT DH (1-i) distributions
Detection threshold = 1 MeV

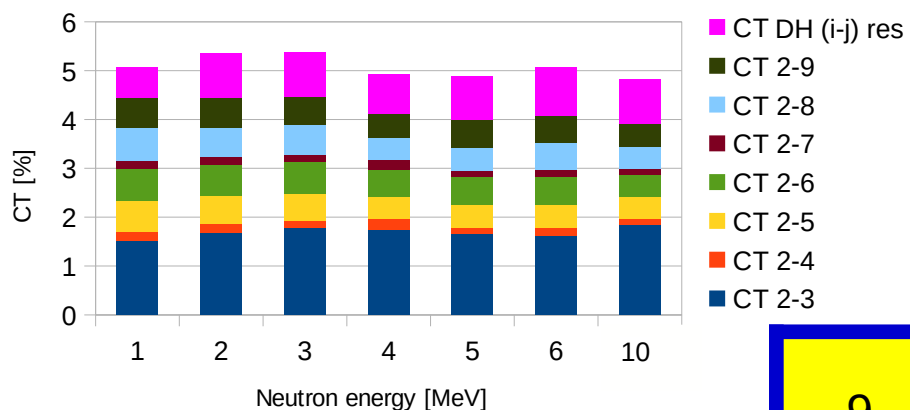


CT DH (1-i) distributions
Detection threshold = 1.5 MeV

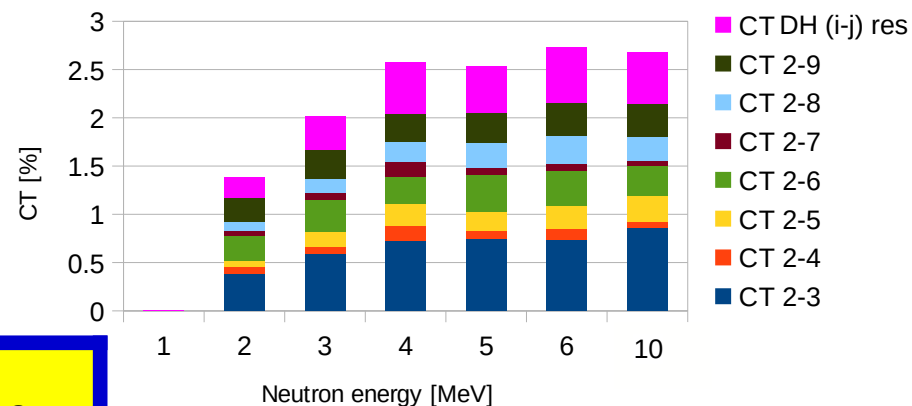


Three-cluster conf.: CT DH (2-i) distributions

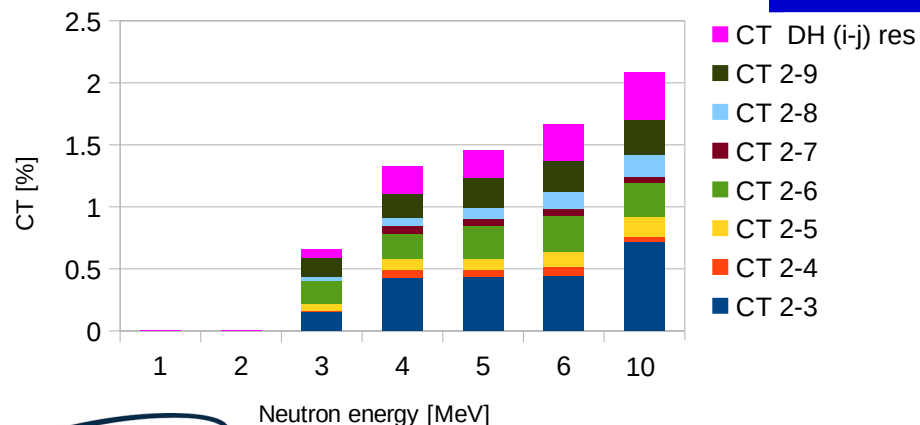
CT DH (i-j) distributions
No detection threshold



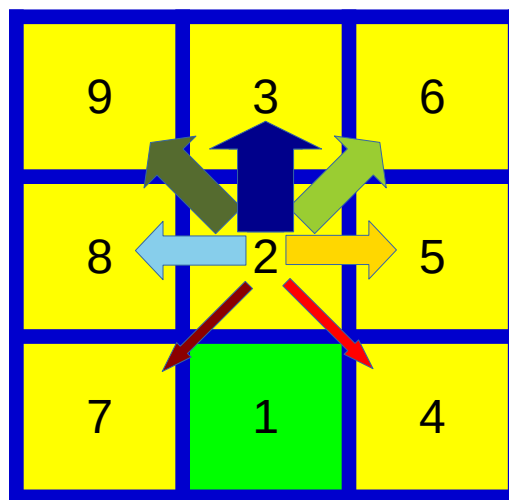
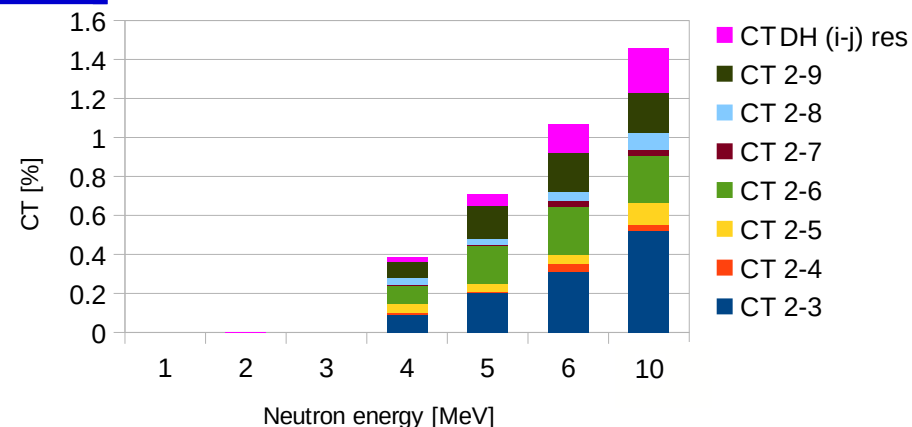
CT DH (i-j) distributions
Detection threshold =0.5 MeV



CT DH (i-j) distributions
Detection threshold =1 MeV



CT DH (i-j) distributions
Detection threshold =1.5 MeV



Three-cluster configuration: Efficiency estimation

Detection efficiency definition:

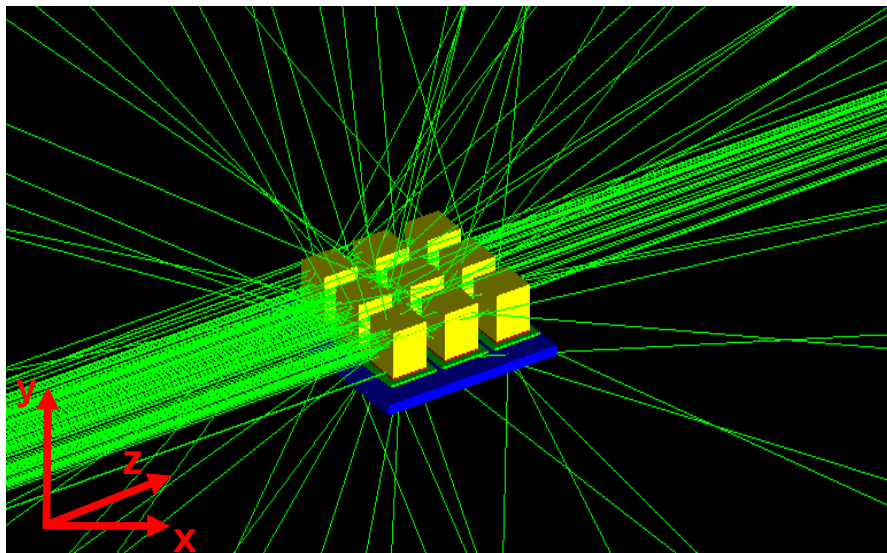
$$\text{Efficiency} = \text{Detected} / \text{Total}$$

Detected:= Integral of the number of particles detected by the whole three-cluster detector configuration

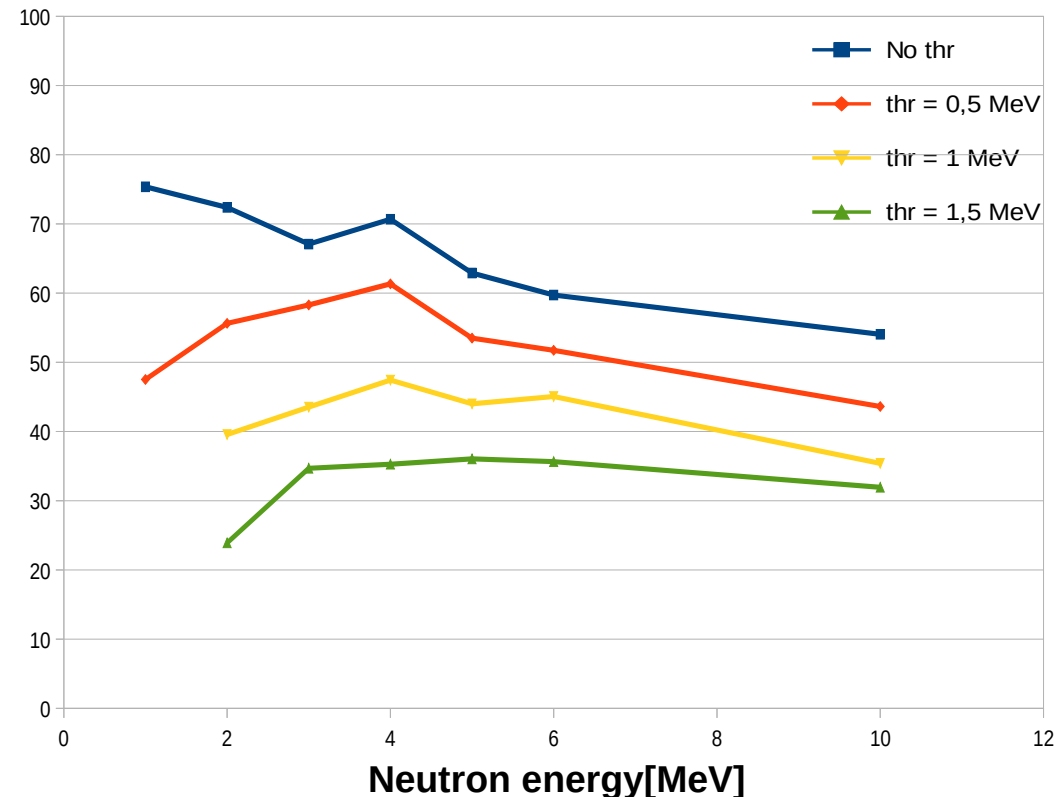
Total:= Number of neutrons simulated impinging on the entire three-cluster detector configuration surface.

Simulated beam:

- 10^6 neutrons in air configuration
- $E_{\text{inc}} = \{1,2,3,4,5,6,10\}$ MeV
- Uniform distribution impinging on the entire three-cluster surface
- Cells detection thresholds: $\{0.0,0.5,1.0,1.5\}$ MeV



Efficiency[%]



Future calculations

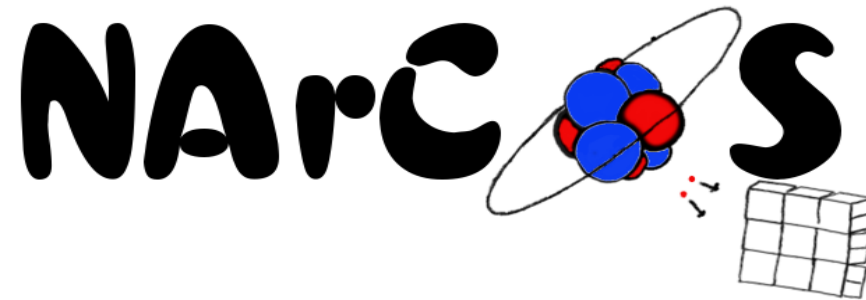
- Particle tracking code implementation (event by event information).
- Volume and edge effects estimations.
- Mechanical structure effects.
- Background estimation (Cosmic-Rays and environmental contributions)
- Extension to higher energy neutron distributions.
- Attenuator material (or veto detectors) between cells (possible solution for charged particles cross-talk).
- Final detector configuration (64 elementary cells).

Conclusions & Outlook

According to the simulations

- Due to high cross-talk probabilities it is not possible to work with very low detection thresholds.
- Reasonable cross-talk probabilities ($\sim 1-4\%$) in both geometrical configurations were found with 1-1.5 MeV detection thresholds.
- Higher detection efficiency ($\sim 33-40\%$) were found for the three-cluster configuration respect to the matrix configuration ($\sim 11-15\%$) with 1-1.5 MeV detection threshold.
- ✓ A prototype test will be performed at the end of November 2023 at LNL using a neutron beam and the experimental results will be compared with simulations.

Thanks for your attention!

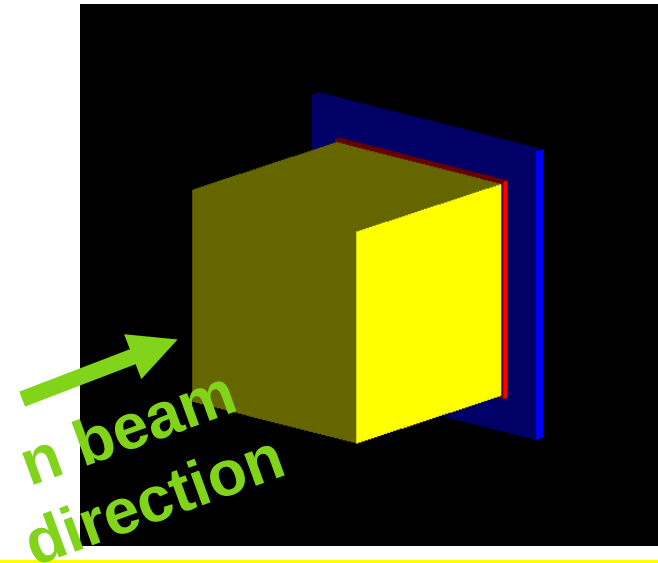


EJ276-G elementary cell



Each elementary cell of EJ276G ($3 \times 3 \times 3 \text{ cm}^3$) is equipped with a matrix of 25 SiPM ($6 \times 6 \text{ mm}^2$) of $30 \mu\text{m}$ of thickness ($\approx 40\text{k}$ microcells).

The SiPM matrix is coupled with the plastic having their PAC and bias/temperature compensation circuit



EJ276-G scintillator cell dimension:

- $3 \times 3 \times 3 \text{ cm}^3$

SiPM matrix chip dimension:

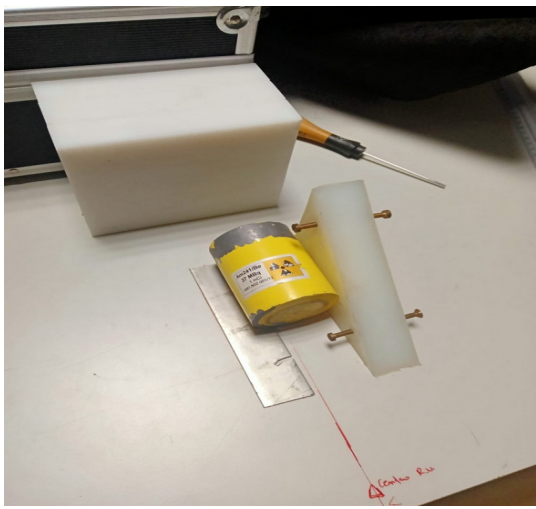
- $30.7 \times 30.7 \times 0.96 \text{ mm}^3$

PCB board dimension:

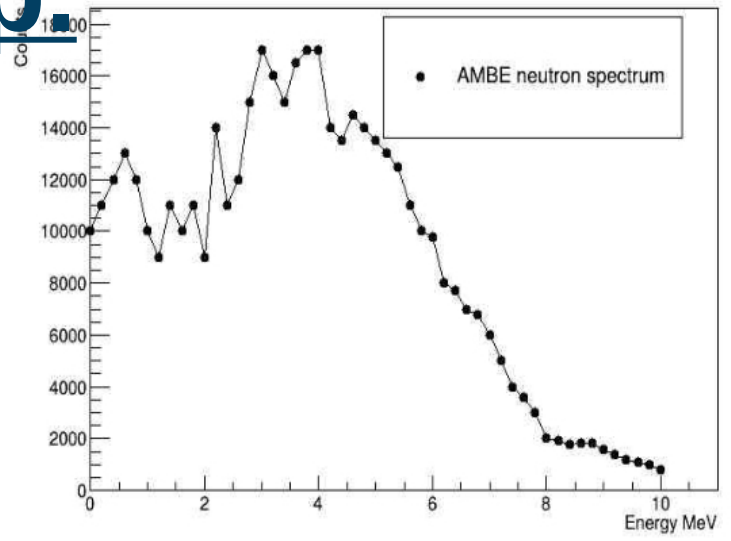
- $40.8 \times 40.8 \times 1.6 \text{ mm}^3$

- GEANT4 Libraries used:
QGSP_BIC_HP

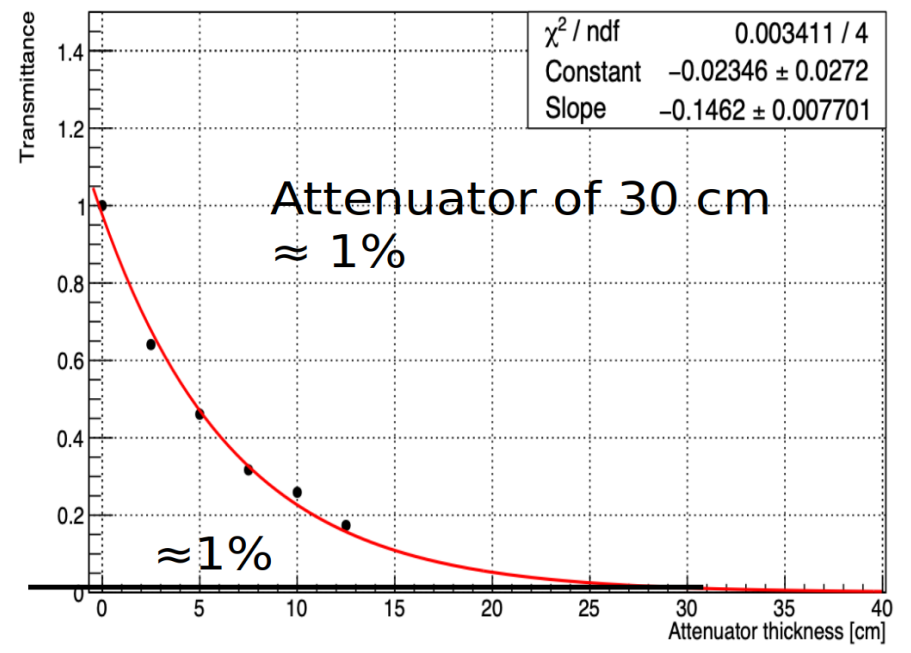
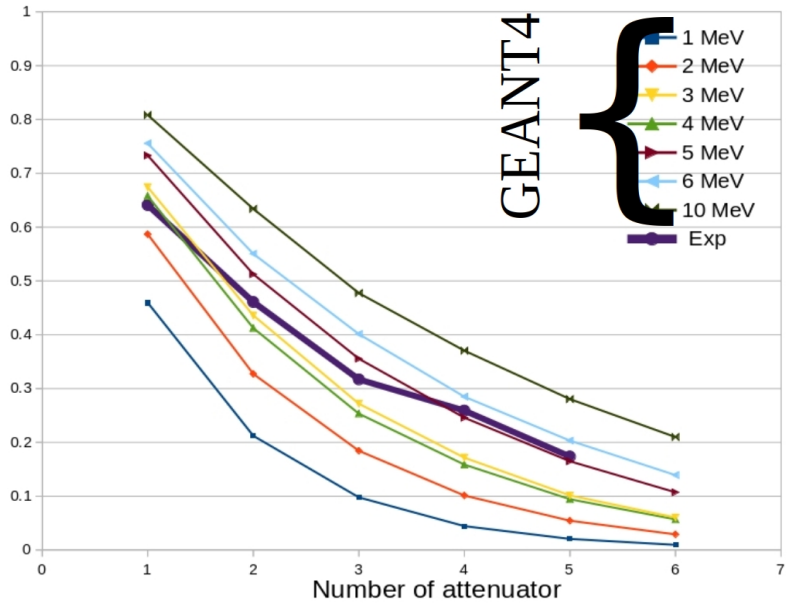
Attenuation study for the CROSSTEST



exp.



Transmittance



Physics cases and application

Energy of interest: $2 \text{ MeV} \leq E_n \leq 50 \text{ MeV}$ (having particular attention for Fermi energy regime)

Nuclear fundamental physics

In medium nuclear interaction

Intensity interferometry (HBT effect)

n-n, n-p, n-LCP, n-IMF, n-TLF, n-PLF

Studies on nuclear symmetry energy (EOS) and its dependence on the nuclear density

Neutron stars

Reaction mechanism

Reaction times

Clustering and nuclear structure of unbound exotic nuclei

Validation of nuclear dynamics model (BUU, QMD)

Measurements of the neutron signal in the n-rich RIBs (SPES, SPIRAL2, FRIB, FAIR)

Some applications

Radioprotection

Measurement of neutron flux (single measurement, cross section)

Validation of MC based code (GEANT4, MCNPX)

Homeland security

Purpose of the project: fundamental nuclear physics examples

Intensity interferometry (HBT effect)

Correlation functions $1 + R(q) = C \frac{Y_{Coinc}(q)}{Y_{Uncor}(q)}$

Space-time characterization of the emitting source

N. Colonna et al., PRL 75, 23 (1995) 4190-4193

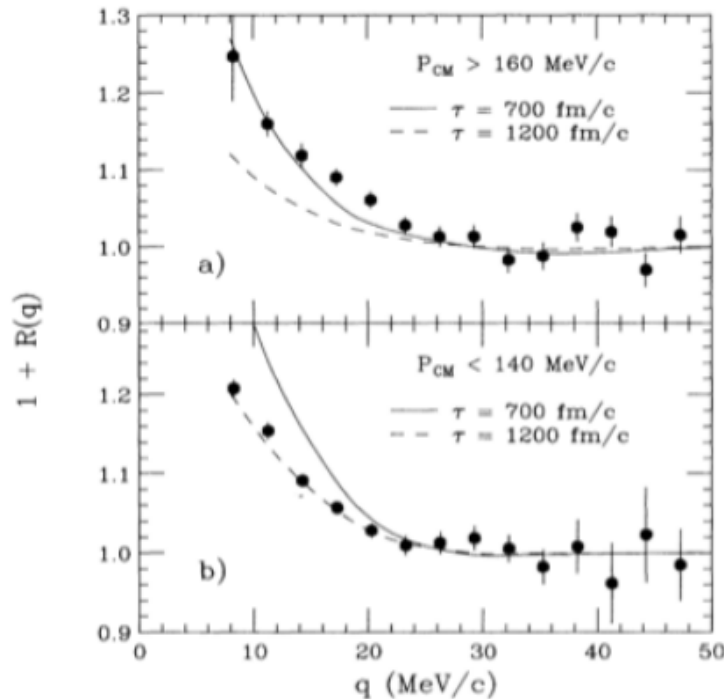


FIG. 3. Angle-integrated correlation functions for two cuts on the total neutron pair momentum in the compound nucleus frame. The solid and dashed curves are results of theoretical calculations with the indicated emission time scales.

R. Ghetti et al., PRL 87, 10 (2001)

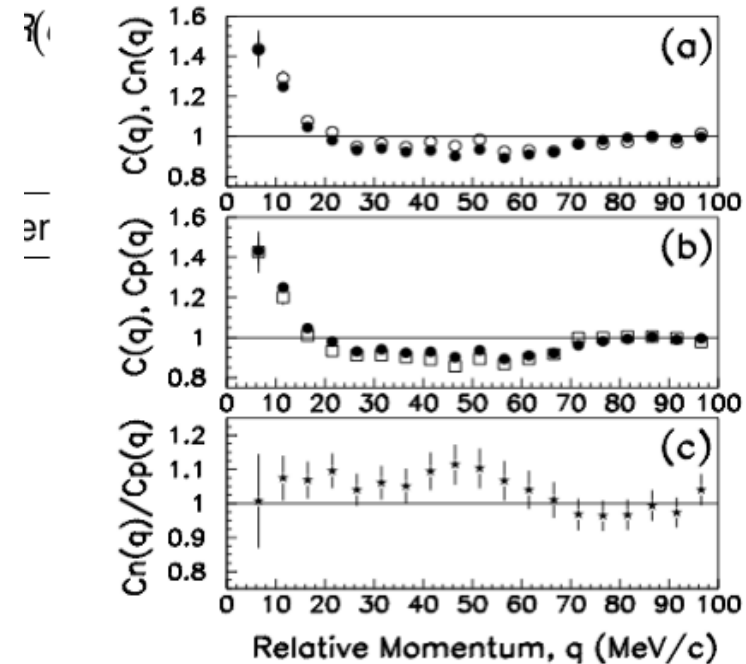
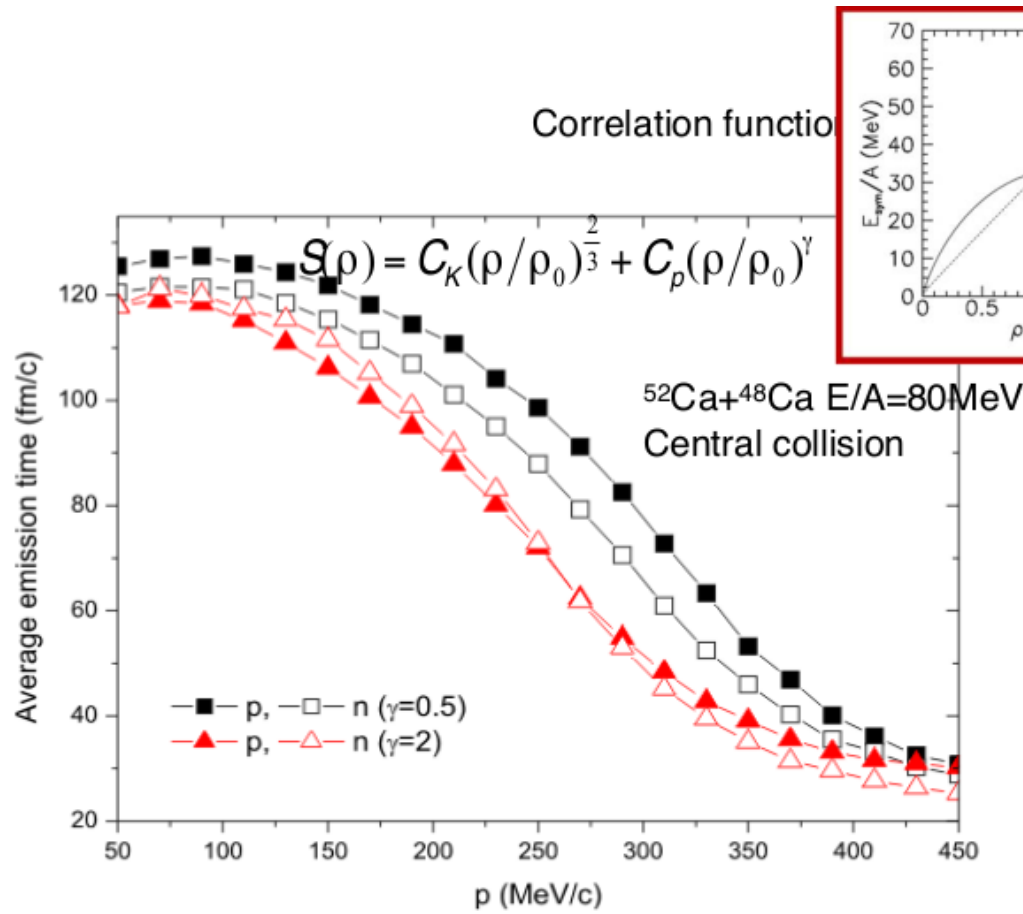
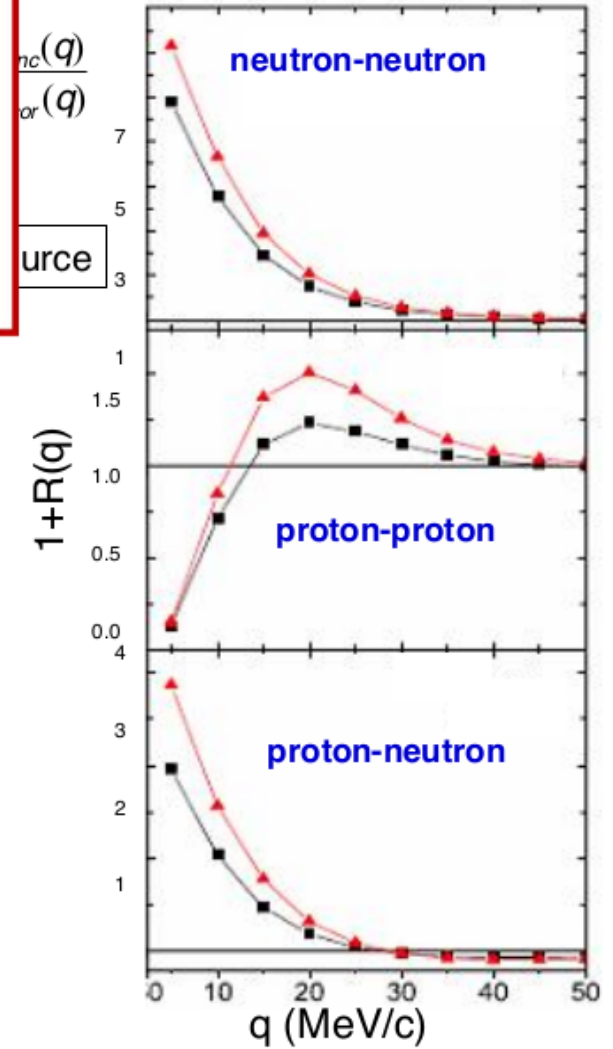


FIG. 2. Experimental ungated np correlation function $C(q)$, from the $E/A = 45$ MeV $^{58}\text{Ni} + ^{27}\text{Al}$ reaction [solid dots in panels (a),(b)] compared to panel (a), open circles: $C_n(q)$, constructed from pairs of type $E_n > E_p$, and panel (b), open squares: $C_p(q)$, constructed from pairs of type $E_n < E_p$. The ratio C_n/C_p is shown in panel (c).

Purpose of the project: fundamental nuclear physics examples



Lie-Wen Chen et al., PRL (2003); PRC(2005)



Purpose of the project application examples

Anti-cancer therapy:
Risk of secondary radio-induced cancers

In proton therapy, in particular in the pediatric one (but not only), the “damage” caused from the neutron to the healthy cells is one of the principal causes of the so called “secondary radio-induced tumors” in particular if there are used degraders or collimators (passive technique)[1].

[1] Hall, E. J (2006) Intensity-modulated radiation therapy, protons, and the risk of second cancers.
Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys 65: 1-7.

Validation of Monte Carlo codes

Measurement of cross sections ($d^2\sigma/d\theta dE$) have a huge interest for the validations of Monte Carlo code like GEANT4 in particular for neutrons in the Fermi energy regime

Neutron Camera

Possible device for homeland security and health safety to be installed in airports, ports, etc...

Purpose of the project: fundamental nuclear physics examples

Intensity interferometry (HBT effect)

Correlation functions $1 + R(q) = C \frac{Y_{\text{Coinc}}(q)}{Y_{\text{Uncor}}(q)}$

Space-time characterization of the emitting source

N. Colonna et al., PRL 75, 23 (1995) 4190-4193

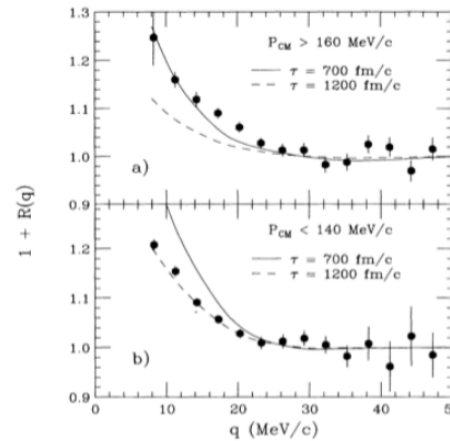


FIG. 3. Angle-integrated correlation functions for two cuts on the total neutron pair momentum in the compound nucleus frame. The solid and dashed curves are results of theoretical calculations with the indicated emission time scales.

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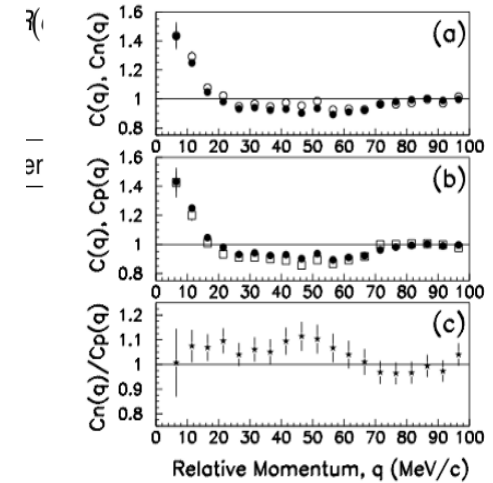
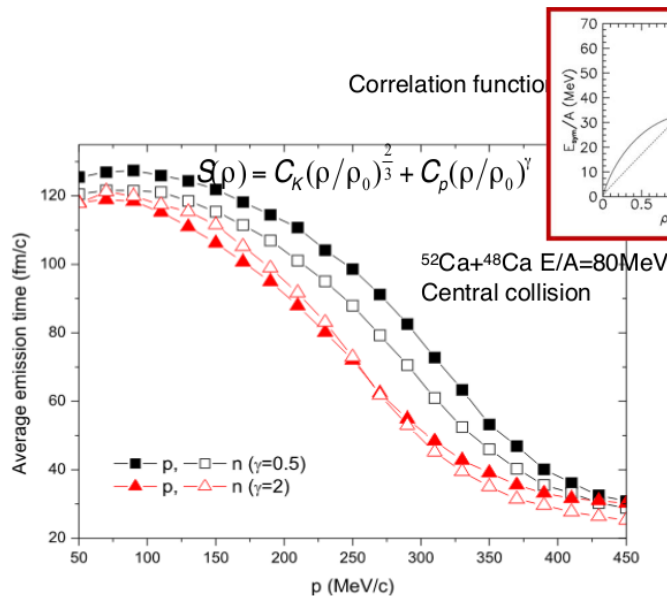
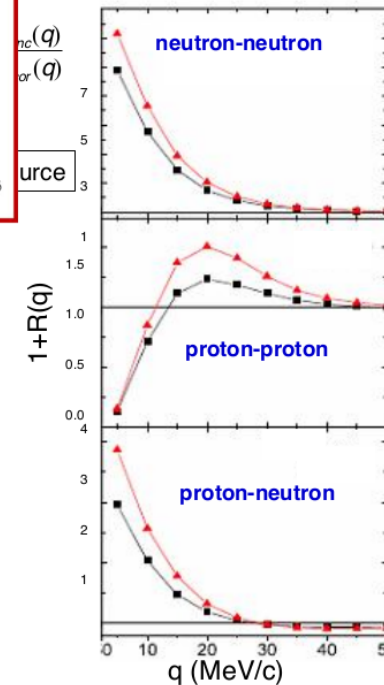


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Lie-Wen Chen et al., PRL (2003); PRC(2005)



Cross-talk

È un problema poco rilevante in misure in singola mentre non si può sottovalutare per misure in coincidenza e soprattutto a piccoli impulsi relativi!

N. Colonna et al., NIM A 381 (1996) 472-480

$$E_{diff} = E_1 - \frac{1}{2} m (d_{min} / \Delta t)^2$$

E_1 è l'energia del neutrone più veloce

D_{min} è la minima distanza tra due rivelatori colpiti

Δt è la differenza temporale tra i due rivelatori colpiti

E_{diff} rappresenta l'energia persa dal neutrone al primo detector

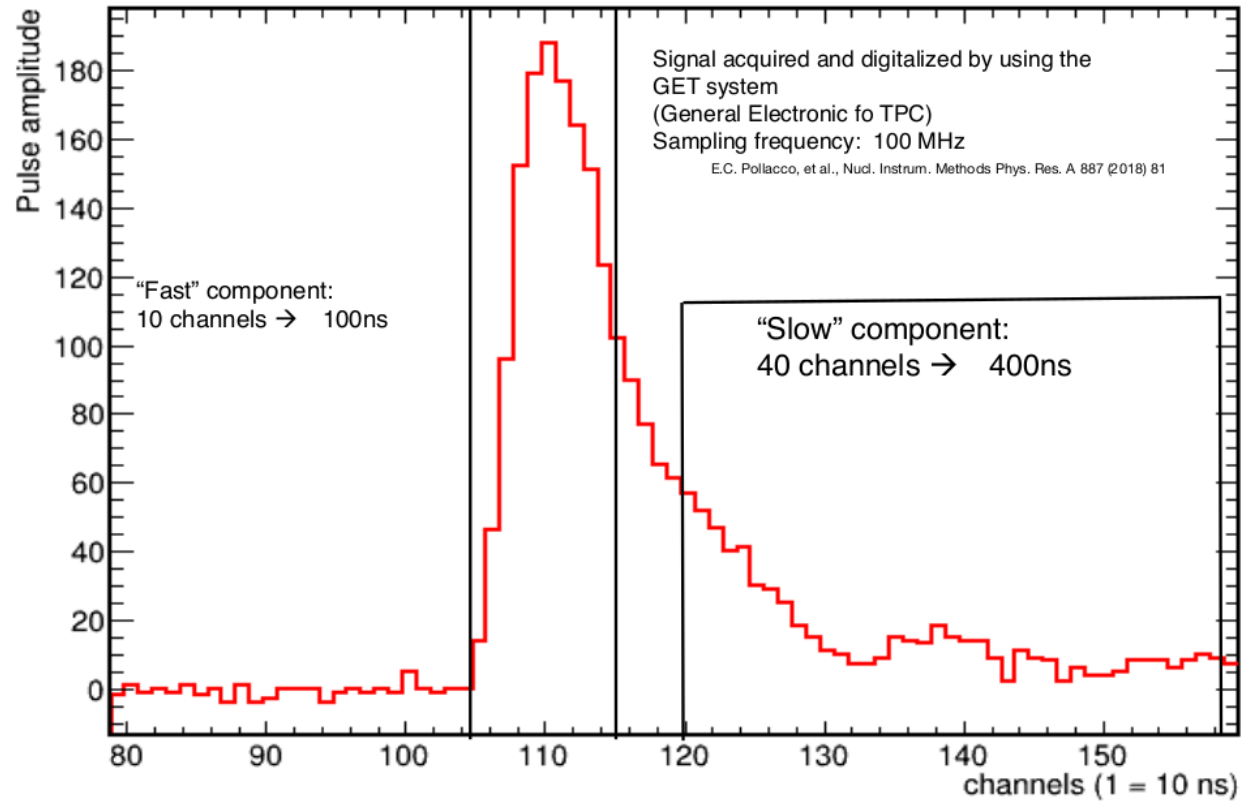
L'energia minima che dovrebbe possedere il neutrone scatterato dal primo detector per raggiungere il secondo detector nel tempo Δt

Se $E_{diff} < 0$ la coincidenza è reale

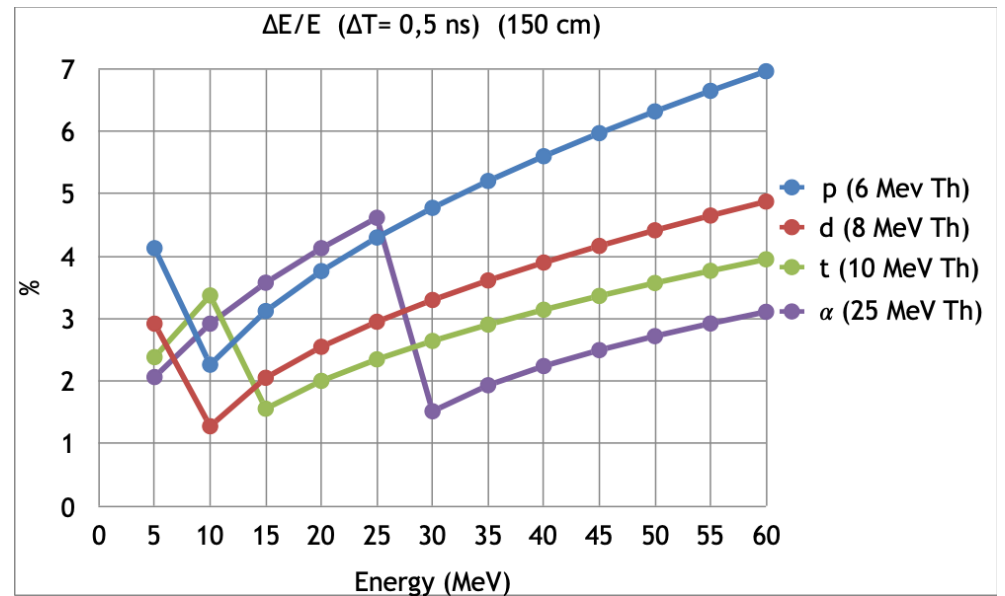
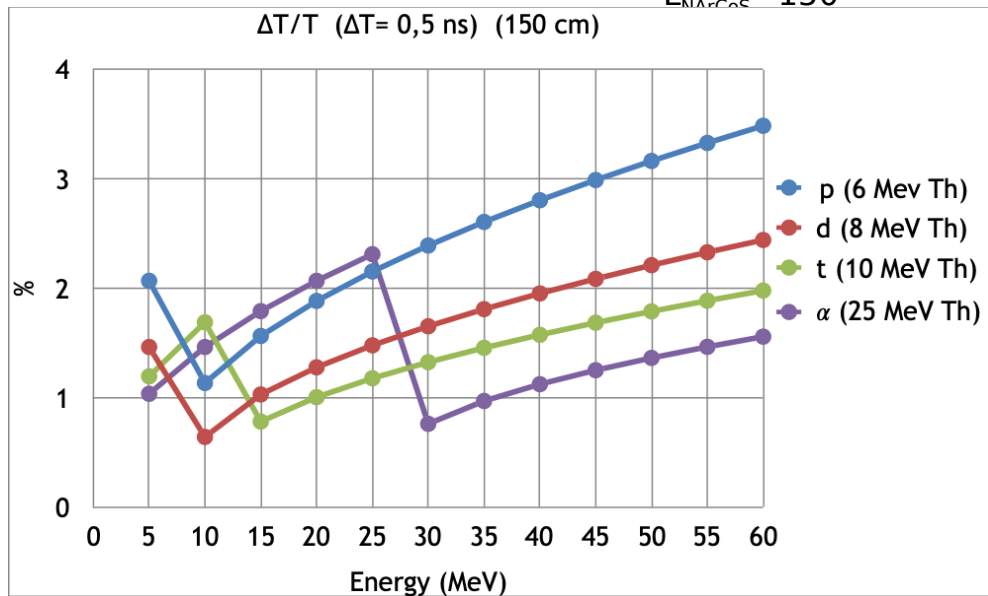
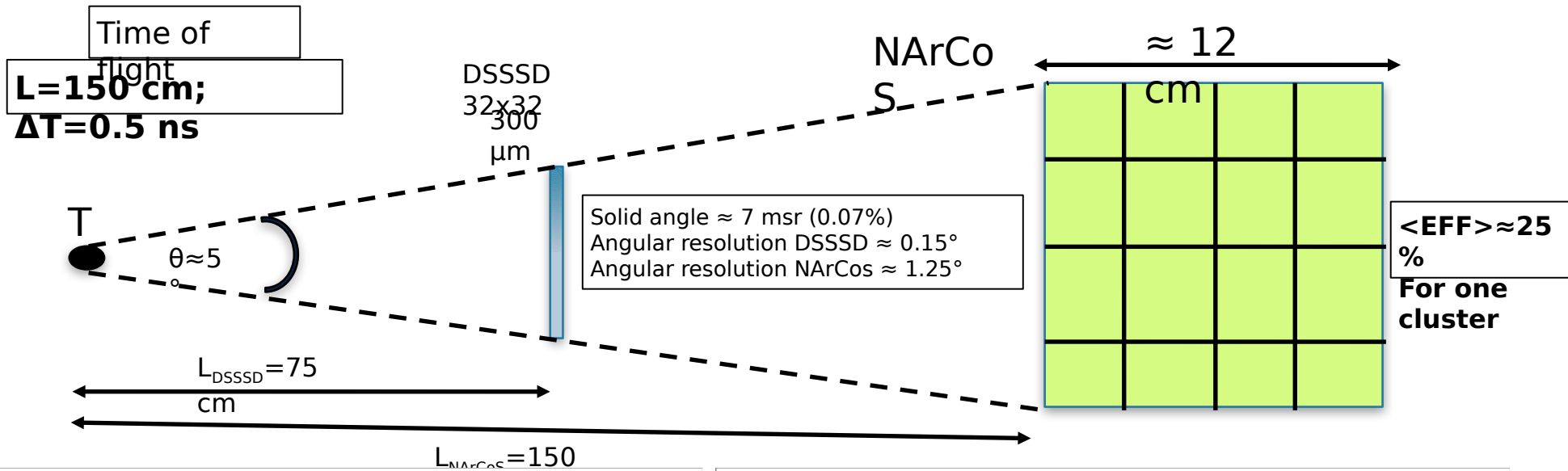
Se $E_{diff} > 0$ ulteriori analisi statistiche sono necessarie

Digitalized signal

Traces_BaseRestore_3_0_channel_41



Expected performances

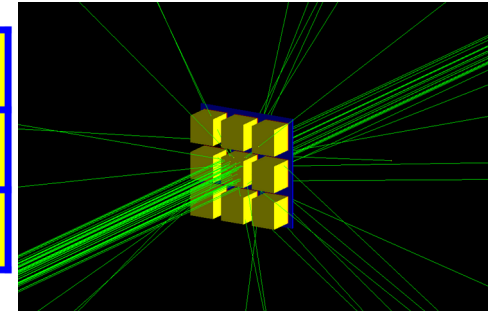


Matrix detector configuration

Typical numerical example:

Cross-talk probability distributions for $E_{inc} = 5$ MeV

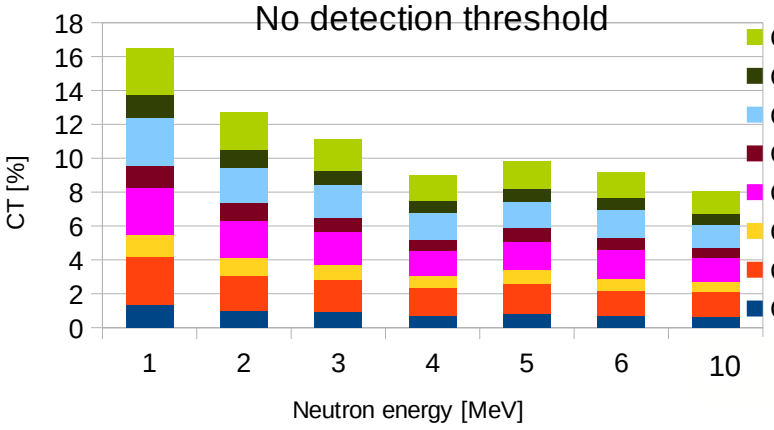
2	3	4
9	1	5
8	7	6



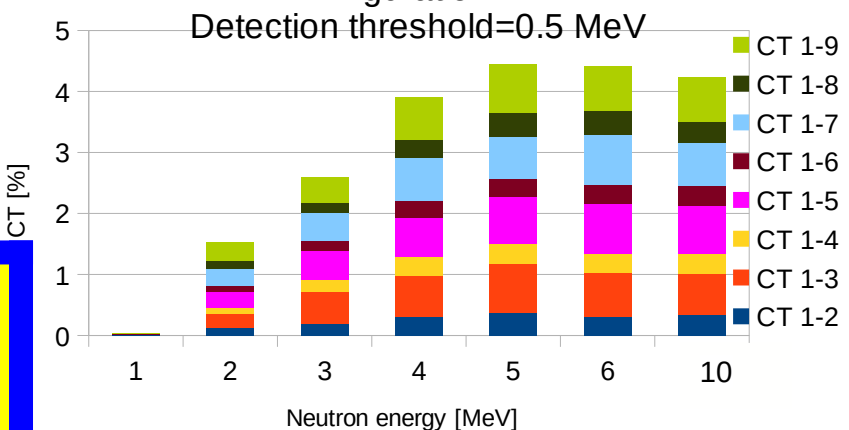
Threshold [MeV]	Tot	ID=1	CT 1-2	CT 1-3	CT 1-4	CT 1-5	CT 1-6	CT 1-7	CT 1-8	CT 1-9	CT [%] double hits from ID=1	CT [%] all other possible combinations	Total CT[%]
0.0	35588	30692	313	710	321	736	318	723	345	767	11.94	1.62	13.56
			0.88	1.99	0.91	2.07	0.89	2.03	0.97	2.15			
0.5	27139	25259	121	305	116	277	115	297	129	300	6.12	0.22	6.34
			0.45	1.12	0.43	1.02	0.42	1.09	0.47	1.11			
1.0	21987	20848	31	79	18	82	31	98	38	106	2.01	0.06	2.07
			0.14	0.36	0.08	0.37	0.14	0.41	0.09	0.42			
1.5	17574	16822	4	23	8	23	12	33	10	31	0.82	0.03	0.85
			0.02	0.13	0.05	0.13	0.07	0.19	0.06	0.18			

Matrix configuration: DH CT distribution

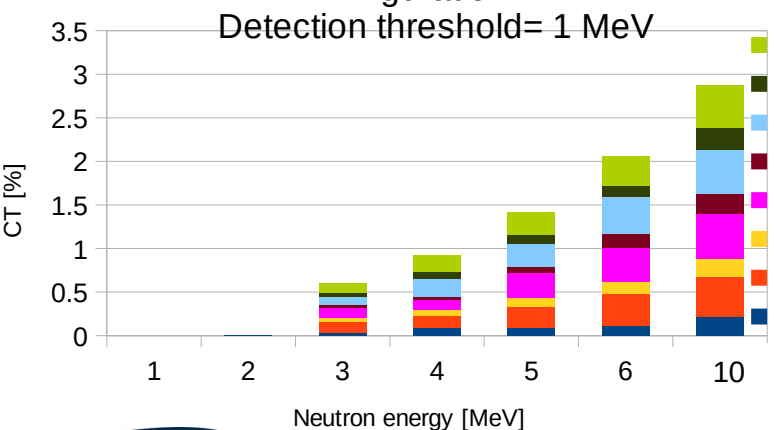
CT DH (1-i) distributions for the matrix configuration



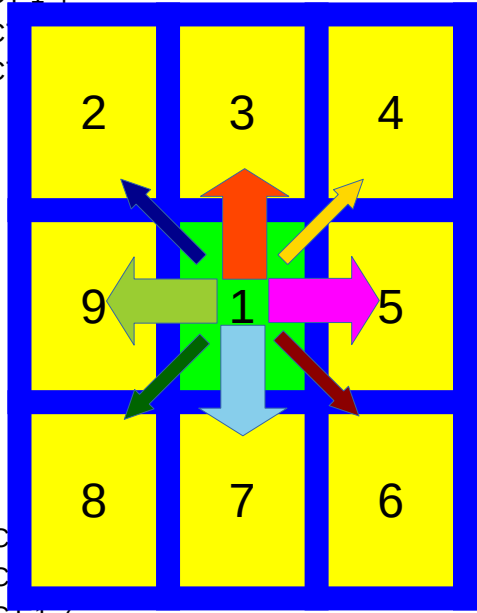
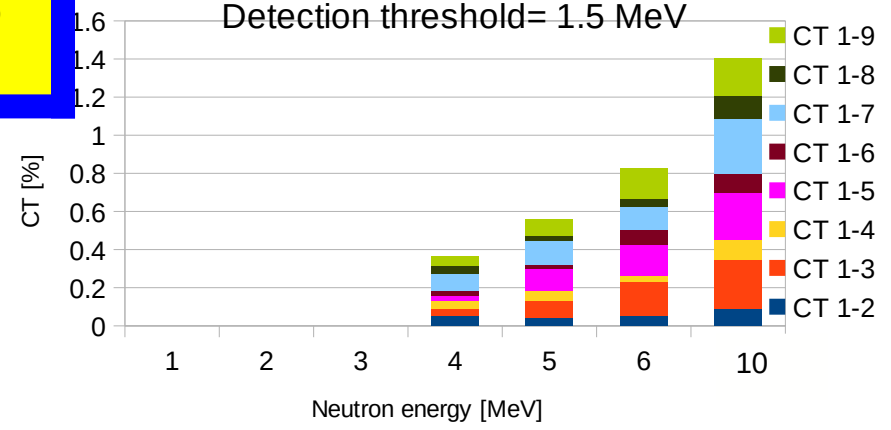
CT DH (1-i) distributions for the matrix configuration



CT DH (1-i) distributions for the matrix configuration



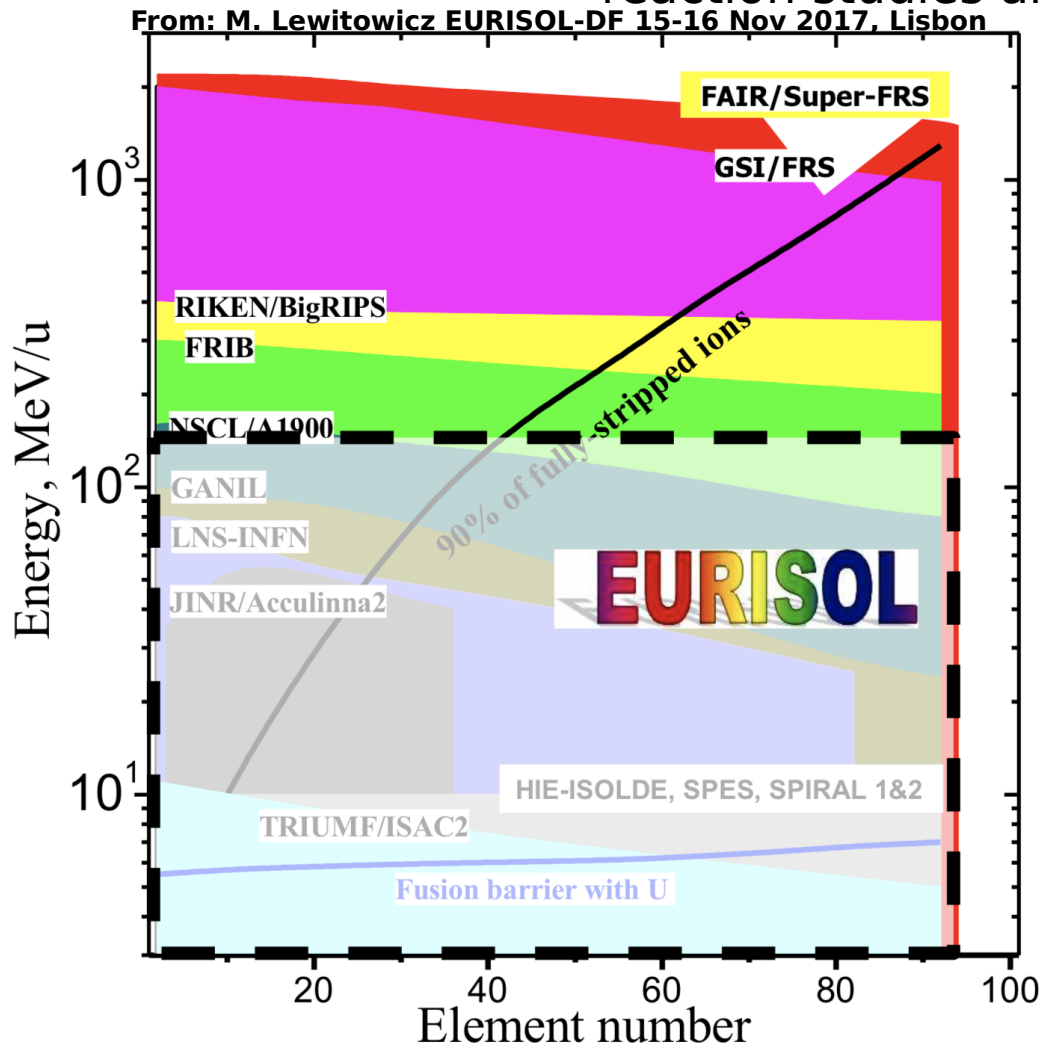
CT DH (1-i) distributions for the matrix configuration



Project's motivations

The advent of new facilities for Radioactive Ion Beams (RIBs), in particular for the n-rich ones, supports the idea of realizing a prototype able to detect charged particles and neutrons with high energy and angular resolution for reaction studies and applications.

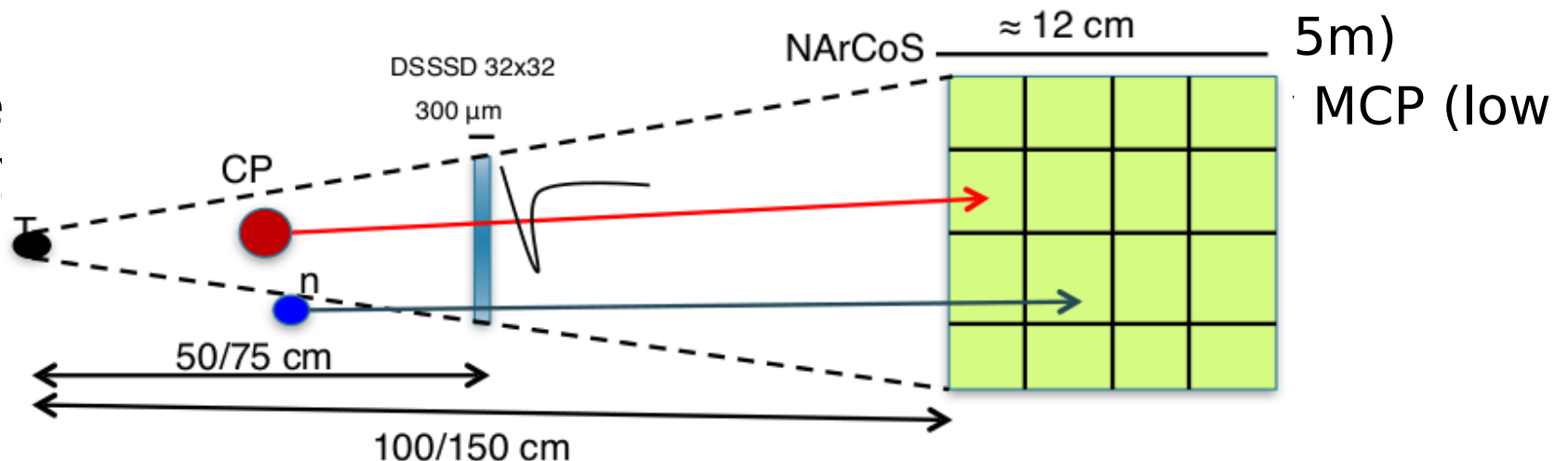
The RIBs are an important opportunity
(C. Horovitz)



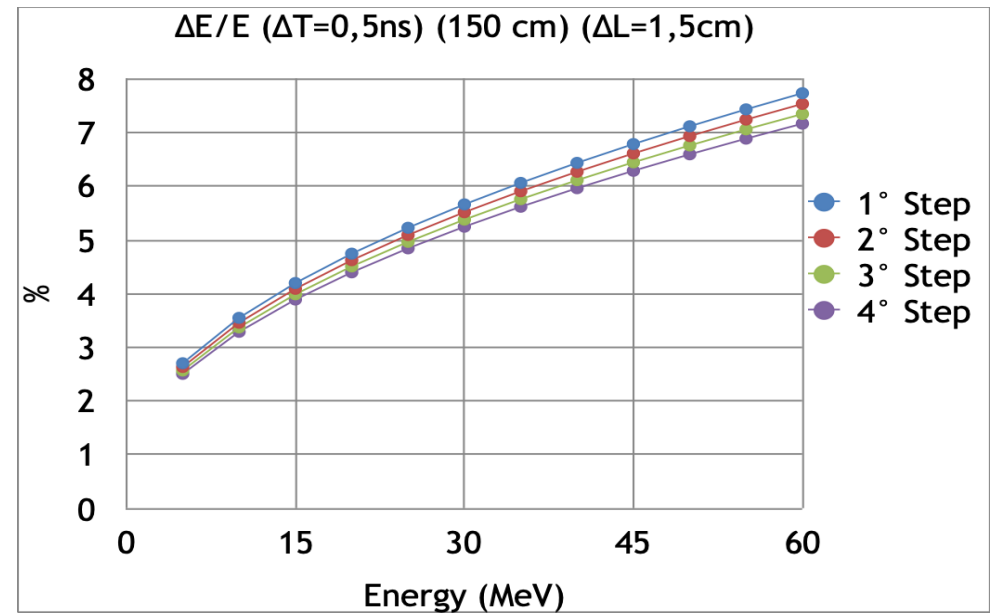
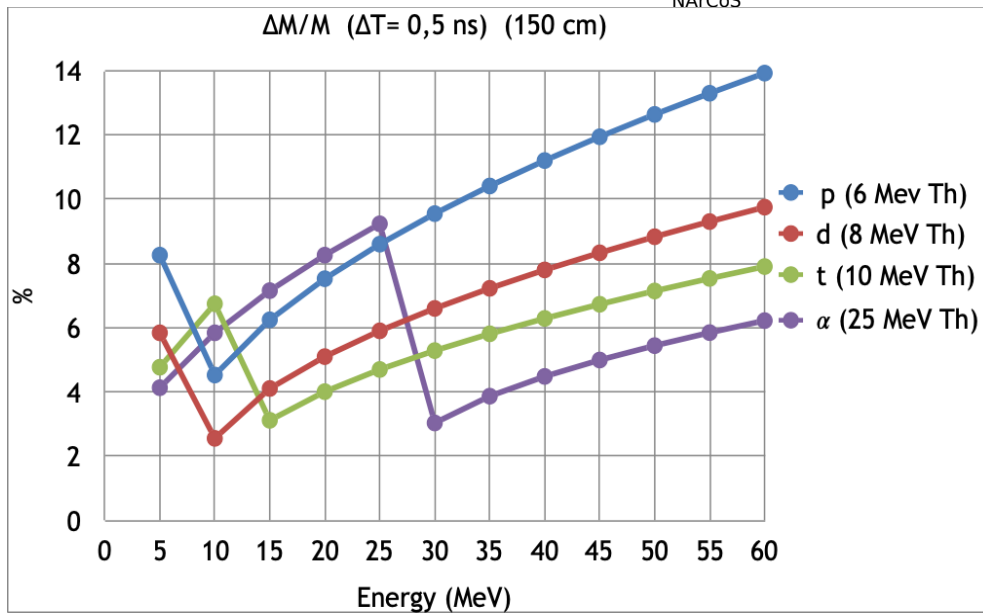
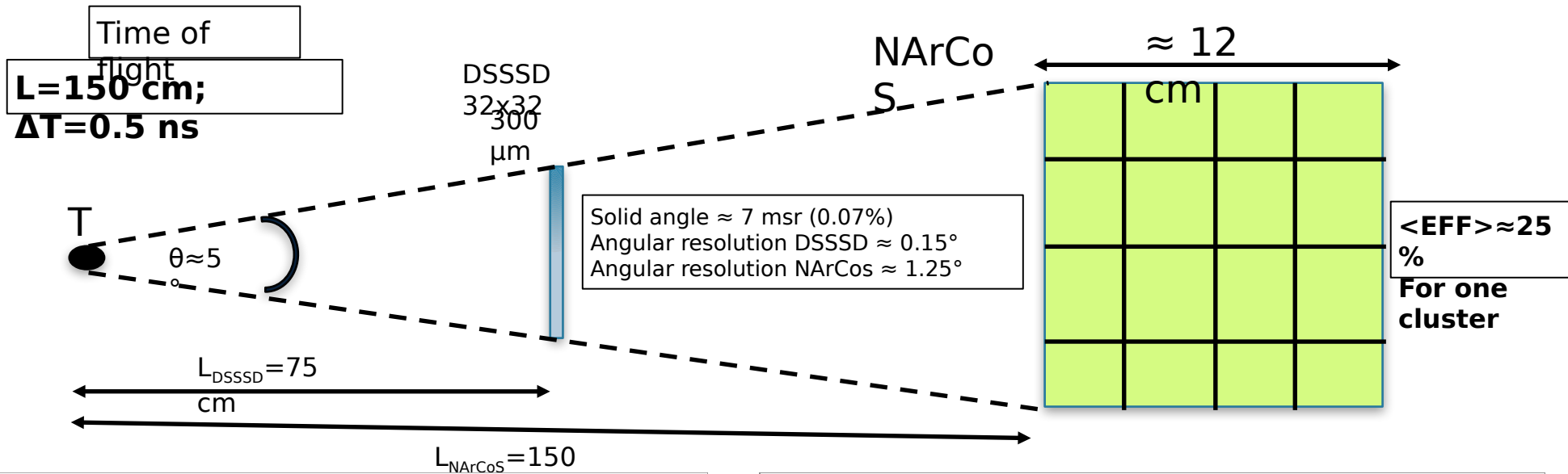
Idea

To realize a prototype of detector able to detect at the same time charged particles and neutrons with high energy and angular resolution for reaction studies and applications.

- Candidate: The plastic scintillator EJ276 Green type (ex EJ299-33) ($3 \times 3 \times 3 \text{ cm}^3$)
- 1 cluster: 4 consecutively cubes $\rightarrow 3 \times 3 \times 12 \text{ cm}^3$
- Reading the light signal: SiPM and digitalization
- Neutron detection efficiency $\approx 50\%$ for the prototype (16 clusters)
- Modular, reconfigurable (in mechanic and electronic)
- Discrimination (in energy and angular resolution)
- Energy
- TOF measurement
- Intensity



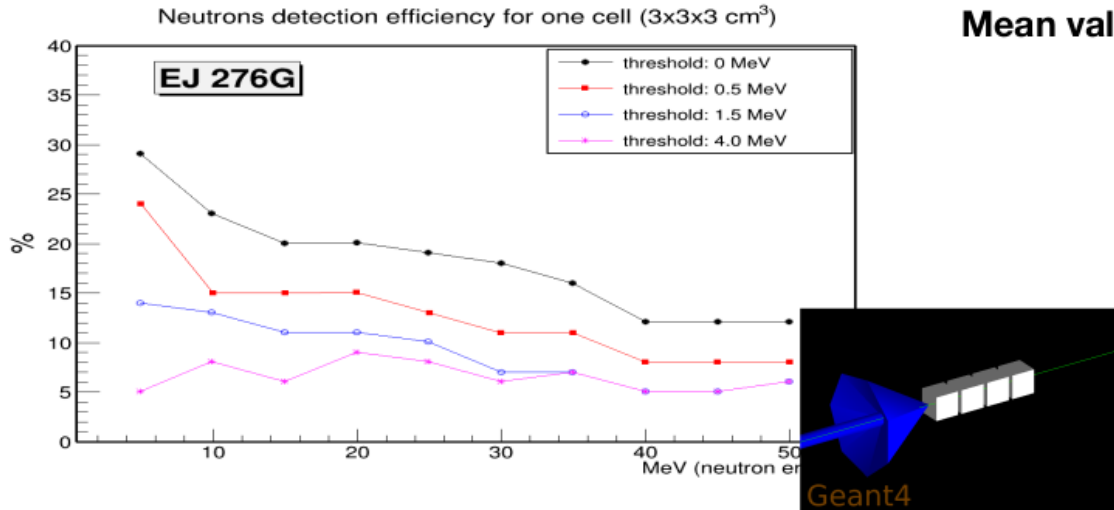
Expected performances



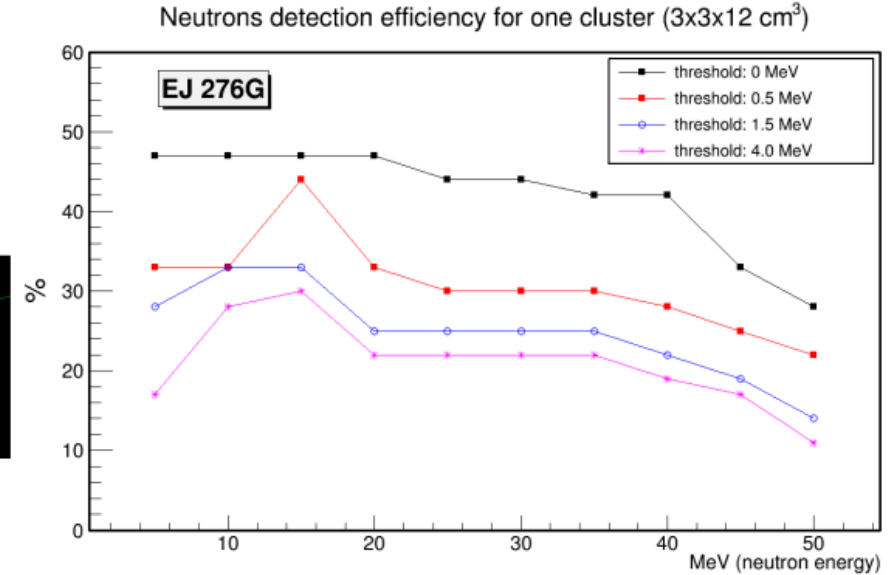
Expected performances

Geant4 simulation in order to estimate the neutron detection efficiency

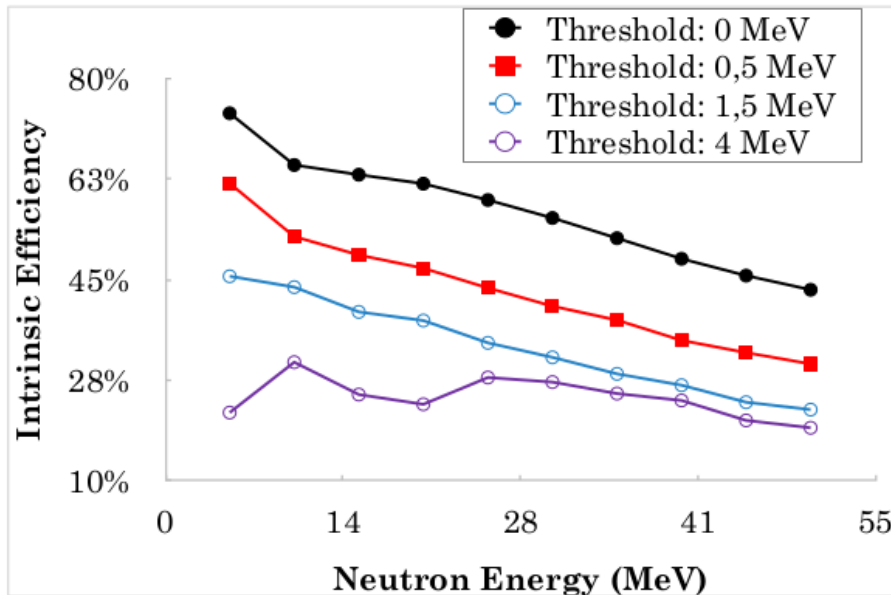
Mean value for one detection cell (3x3x3 cm³) ≅ 9%



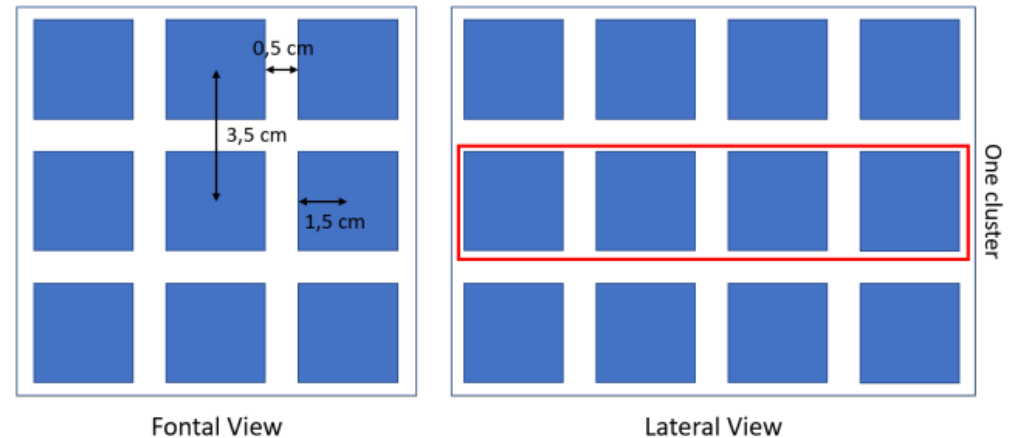
Mean value for one detection cluster (3x3x12 cm³) ≅ 25%



Mean value for a 36-cell array (9x9x12 cm³) ≅ 33%



Scheme of Simulation Geometry:
36 (3 x 3 x 4) cell array



Latest results: tests by using the SiPM

➤ Detector Configurations:

- EJ-276G + PMT
- EJ-276 + i-Spector
- EJ-276G + i-Spector

➤ Lab. measurements with radioactive sources:

- Vacuum Chamber
- Pb shield
- Gamma sources: ^{133}Ba , ^{137}Cs , ^{60}Co , ^{152}Eu
- Alpha source: ^{241}Am
- Digitizer from CAEN

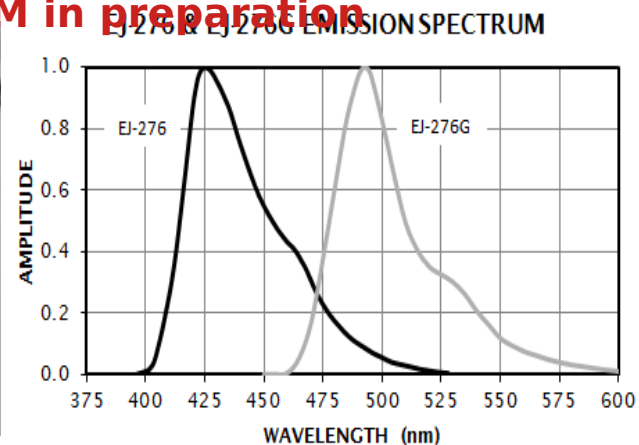
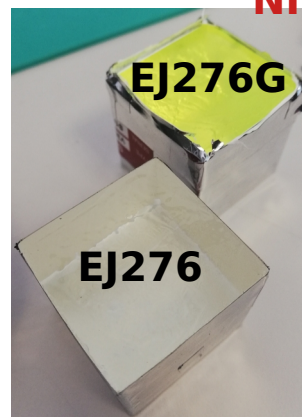
➤ Data analysis of heavy ion reactions:

- CHIMERA scattering chamber (LNS)
- Detector at 11° in lab frame
- Beam: ^{124}Sn at 20 MeV/A (CHIFAR experiment)
- Targets: ^{64}Zn and ^{64}Ni



example of signal and integration windows

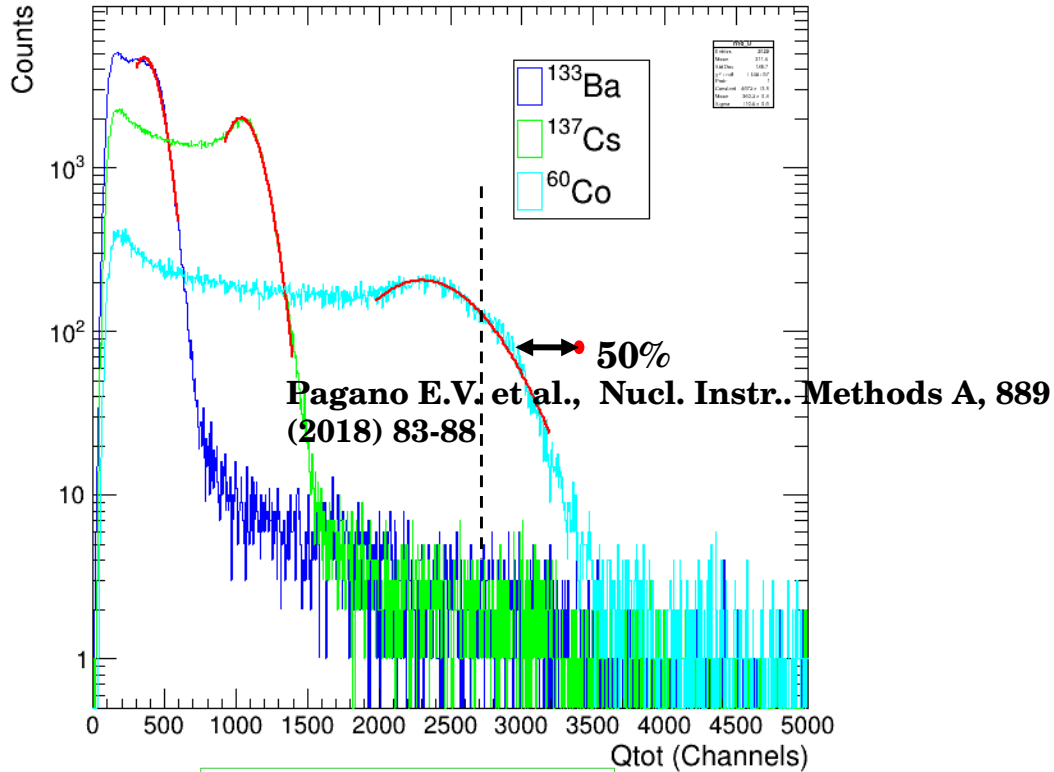
E.V.Pagano, G. Politi, A. Simancas, G. Santagati et al.
NIM in preparation



i-Spector from
CAEN (3x3 cm
SiPM and
electronics)

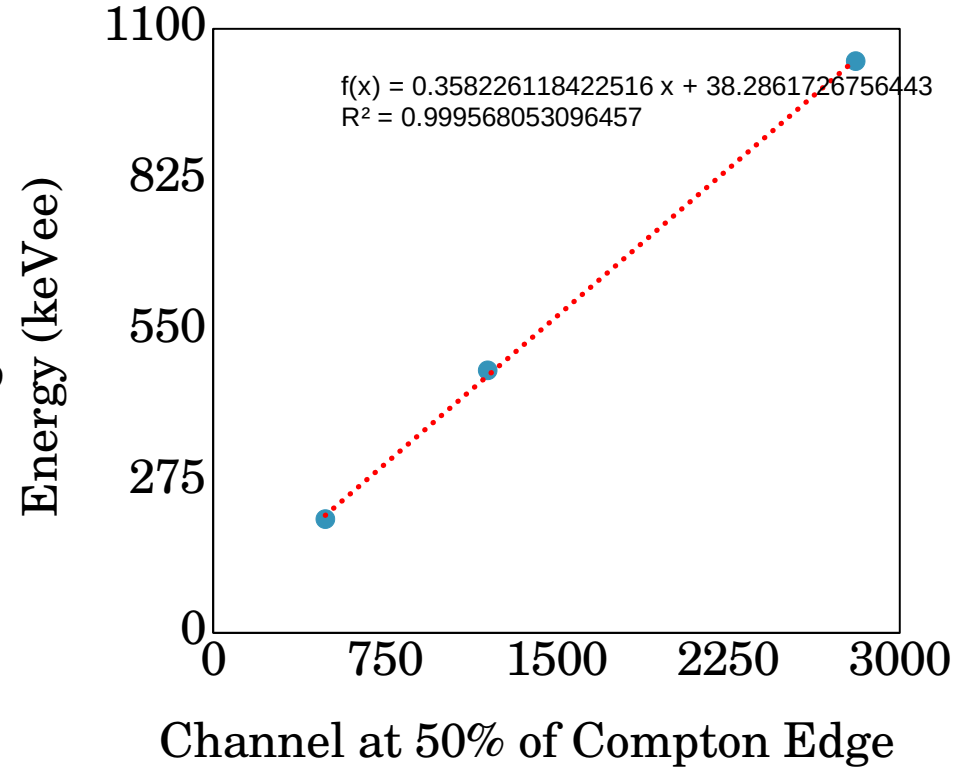
Gamma spectra

Gamma Spectra



EJ-276G + i-Spector

Energy Calibration



PSD studies using sources

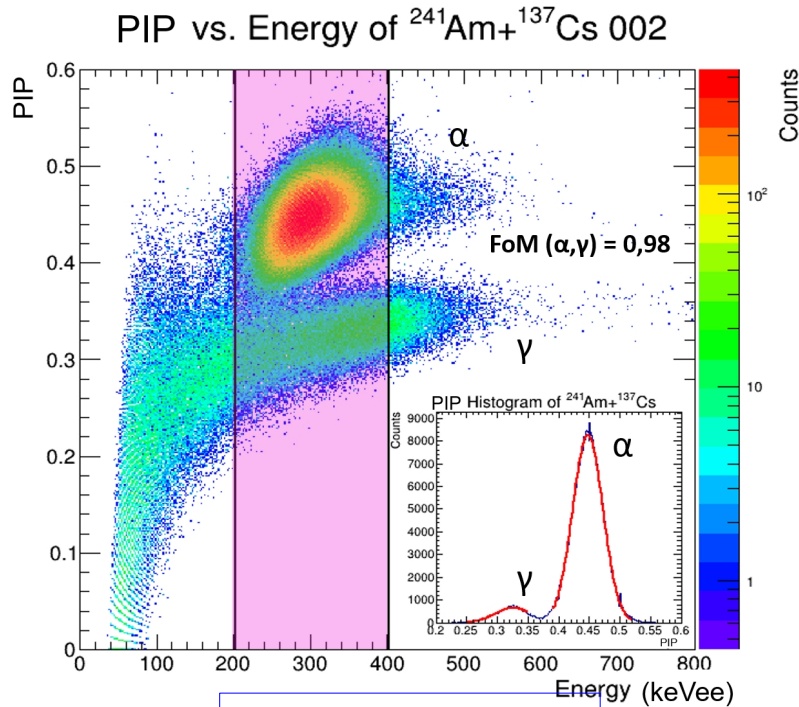
Test with radioactive sources (low background)

Particle Identification Parameter

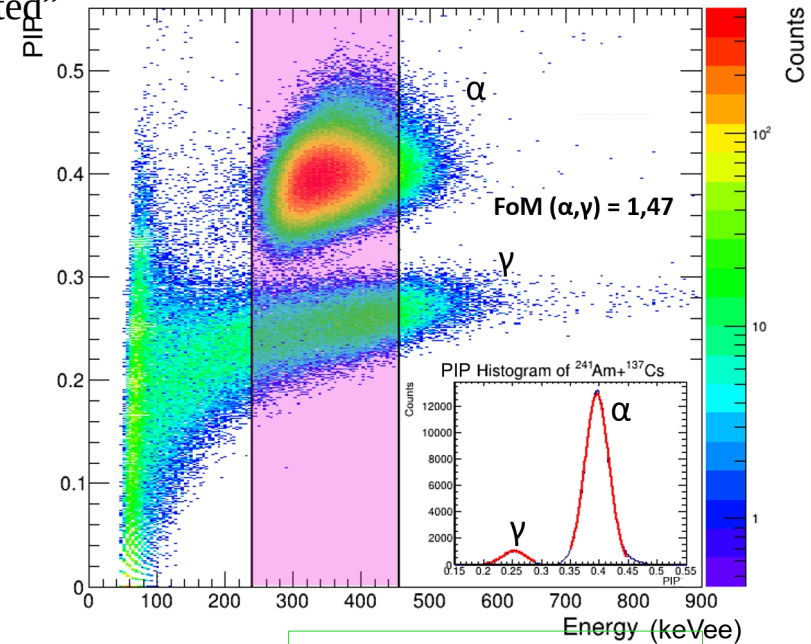
$$PIP = 1 - \frac{Q_{fast}}{Q_{tot}} = \frac{Q_{slow}}{Q_{tot}}$$

Sources $^{241}\text{Am} + ^{137}\text{Cs}$. Setup: EJ276 + SiPM (I-spector). EJ276G + SiPM (I-spector)

Comparison between the two plastic versions: the “ordinary” and the “green shifted”



EJ-276 + i-Spector



EJ-276G + i-Spector

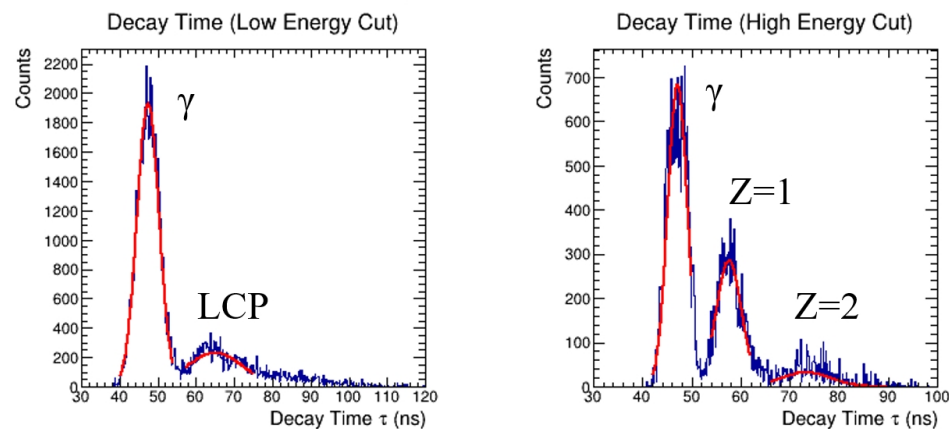
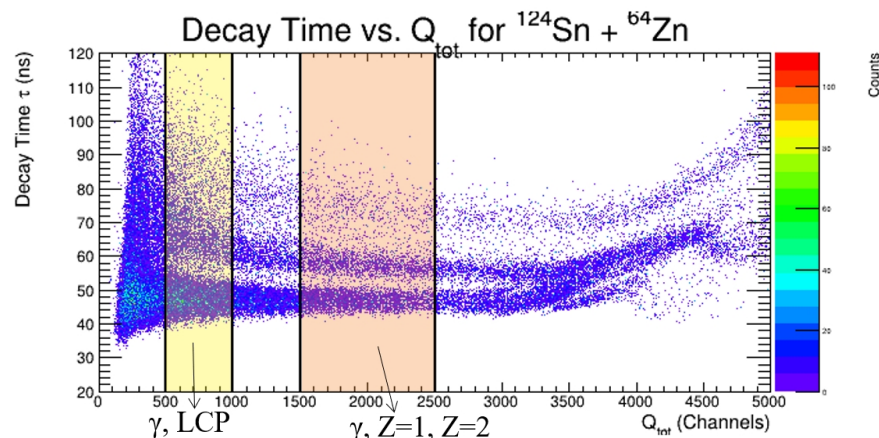
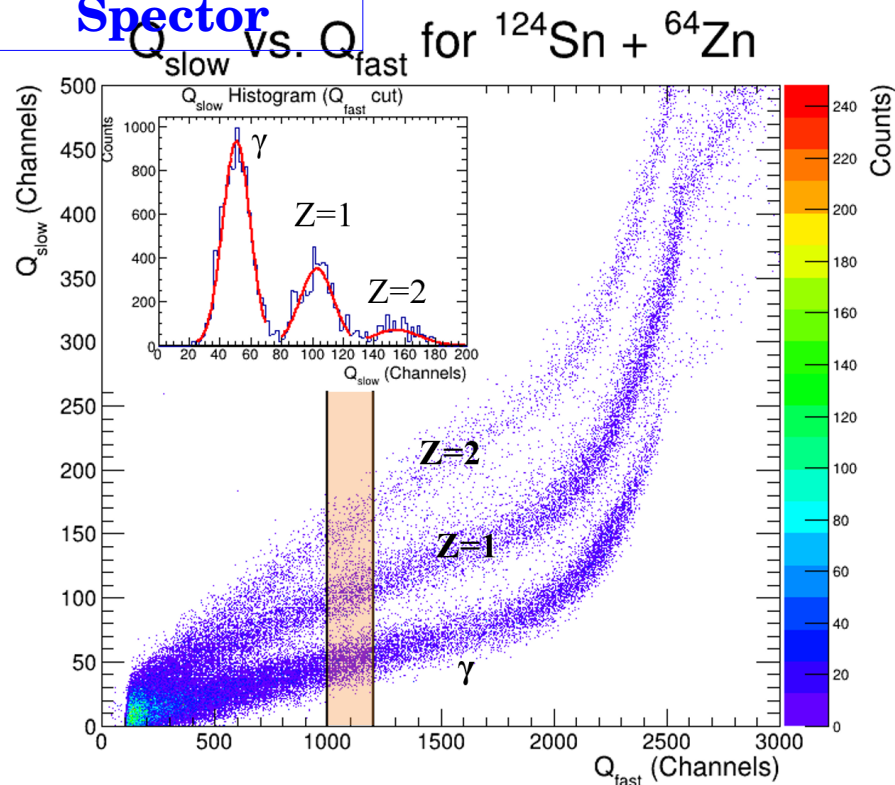
Detector	FoM
i-Spector + EJ-276	0.98
i-Spector + EJ-276G	1.47
PMT + EJ-276G	1.03

PSD studies using beams

AR exp @LNS (spokesperson: EVP, E. De Filippo, P. Russo)

Test with beam (high background). Setup: EJ276 + PMT (1.6 kV) reaction $^{124}\text{Sn} + ^{64}\text{Zn}$ @ 20 A MeV

EJ-276 + i-Spectror



PSD Method	FoM(γ , $Z=1$)	FoM($Z=1$, $Z=2$)	FoM(γ , LCP)
Integration	1.08	0.78	-
	0.95	0.87	0.71

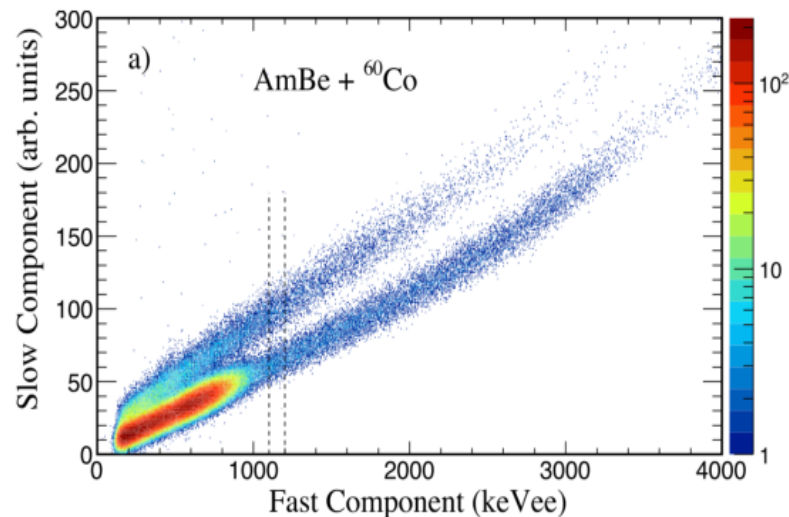
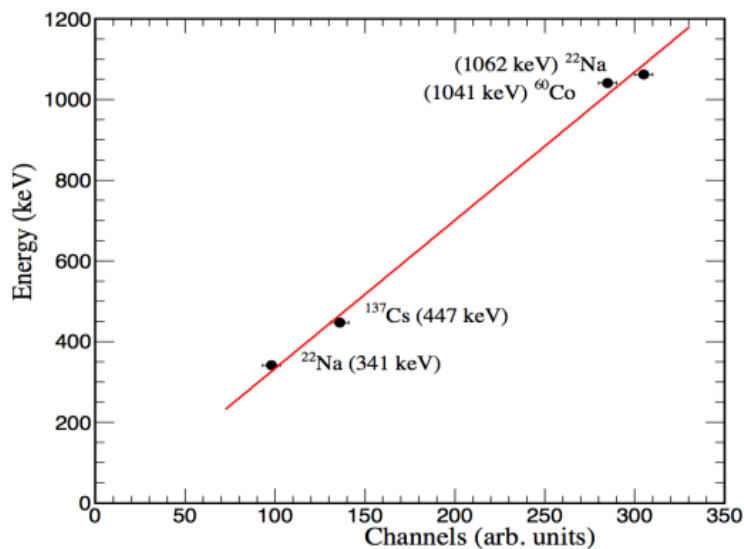
LCP = Light Charged Particles
Neutrons included in $Z=1$

More information about the "Decay time" identification tech

E. V. Pagano et al. NIM A 905 (2018) 47-52

Some spectra with sources

E. V. Pagano et al. NIM A 889 (2018) 83-88



Detection threshold ≈ 0.7 MeV
 Discrimination threshold ≈ 1.5 MeV ($\text{FOM}_{\text{PSD}}=0.43$)

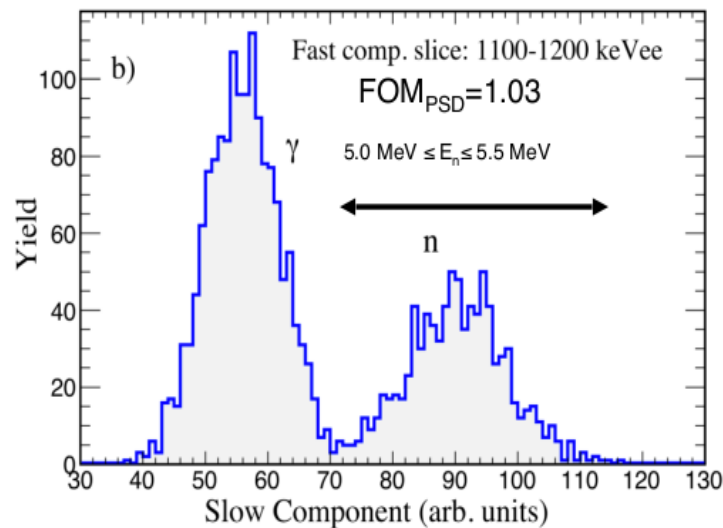
$$L_{\text{out}} = A \cdot E_{\text{dep}} - B \cdot (1 - e^{-C E_{\text{dep}}})$$

$$A = 0.8 \text{ MeVee} \cdot \text{MeV}^{-1};$$

$$B = 3.9 \text{ MeVee};$$

$$C = 0.19 \text{ MeV}^{-1};$$

C. C. Lawrence et al., NIM A759 (2014) 16



Time spectra: $^{24}\text{Mg} + ^{90}\text{Zr}$ @ $71 \text{ MeV} < E < 81 \text{ MeV}$ reaction

E. V. Pagano et al. NIM A 905 (2018) 47-52

