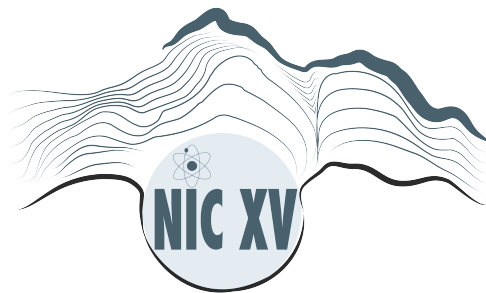


Data for *s process* from n_TOF



Nuclear data and
Astrophysics

Cristian Massimi
for the n_TOF Collaboration



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM - UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

IL PRESENTE MATERIALE È RISERVATO AL PERSONALE DELL'UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA E NON PUÒ ESSERE UTILIZZATO AI TERMINI DI LEGGE DA ALTRE PERSONE O PER FINI NON ISTITUZIONALI



Outline



- **The n_TOF project**

Objectives, basic parameters, instrumentation

- **Examples of measurements and their impact on *s*-process nucleosynthesis**

Branch-point isotopes, neutron sources, *s*-only isotopes, *s*-process bottleneck, weak component

- **Future program**

Facility upgrade 2019-2021, measurements 2021-2030





The n_TOF project



1. Atominstitut, Technische Universität Wien, Austria
2. University of Vienna, Faculty of Physics, Austria
3. European Commission JRC, Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements (IRMM)
4. Department of Physics, Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb, Croatia
5. Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic
6. Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique/IN2P3 - IPN, Orsay, France
7. Commissariat à l'Énergie Atomique (CEA) Saclay - Irfu, Gif-sur-Yvette, France
8. Johann-Wolfgang-Goethe Universität, Frankfurt, Germany
9. Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Campus Nord, Institut für Kernphysik, Karlsruhe, Germany
10. National Technical University of Athens (NTUA), Greece
11. Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki, Greece
12. Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Mumbai, India
13. ENEA Bologna e
14. Dipartimento di Fisica, e Astronomia, Università di Bologna
15. Sezione INFN di Bologna, INFN Bari, Bologna, LNL, Perugia, Trieste, LNS
16. Uniwersytet Łódzki, Lodz, Poland
17. Instituto Tecnológico e Nuclear, Instituto Superior Técnico, Universidade Técnica de Lisboa, Portugal
18. Horia Hulubei National Institute of Physics and Nuclear Engineering – Bucharest, Romania
19. Centro de Investigaciones Energeticas Medioambientales y Tecnológicas (CIEMAT), Madrid, Spain
20. Instituto de Fisica Corpuscular, CSIC-Universidad de Valencia, Spain
21. Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Barcelona, Spain
22. Universidad de Sevilla, Spain
23. Universidade de Santiago de Compostela, Spain
24. Department of Physics and Astronomy - University of Basel, Basel, Switzerland
25. European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), Geneva, Switzerland
26. Paul Scherrer Institut, Villigen PSI, Switzerland
27. University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester, UK
28. University of York, Heslington, York, UK



~ 130 researchers

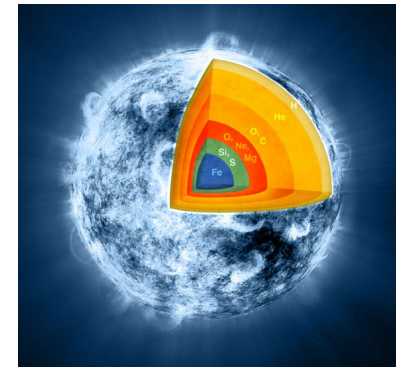
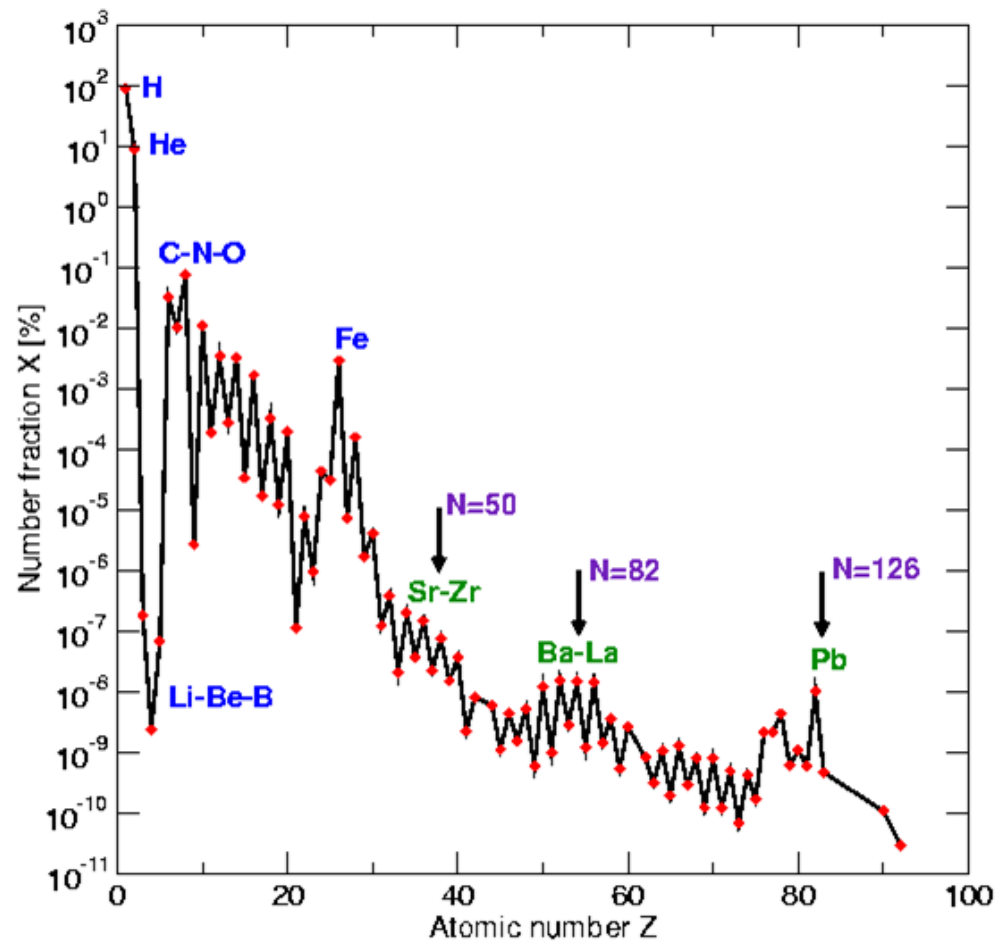
ALMA MATER STUDIORUM - UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

The n_TOF project

Objective: to provide Nuclear Data for Science (and Technology)

How the elements are synthesized in the Universe?

Big Bang



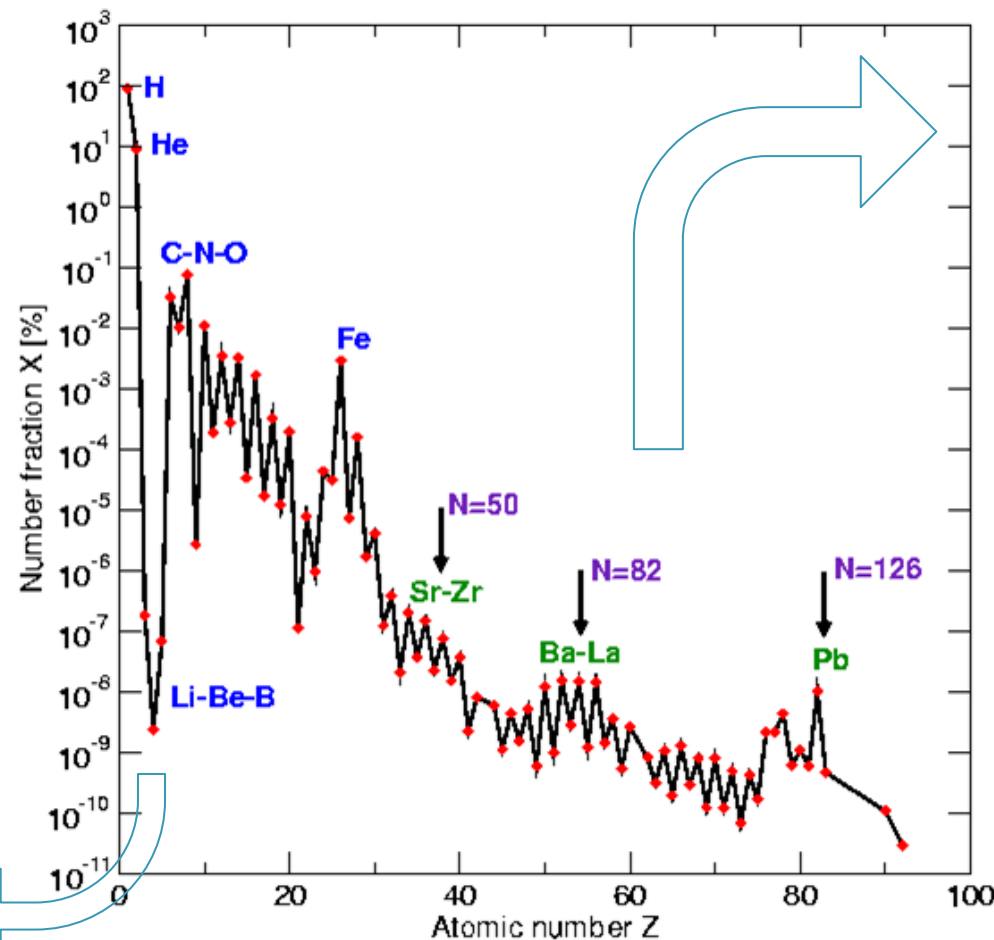
The n_TOF project

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BBN:

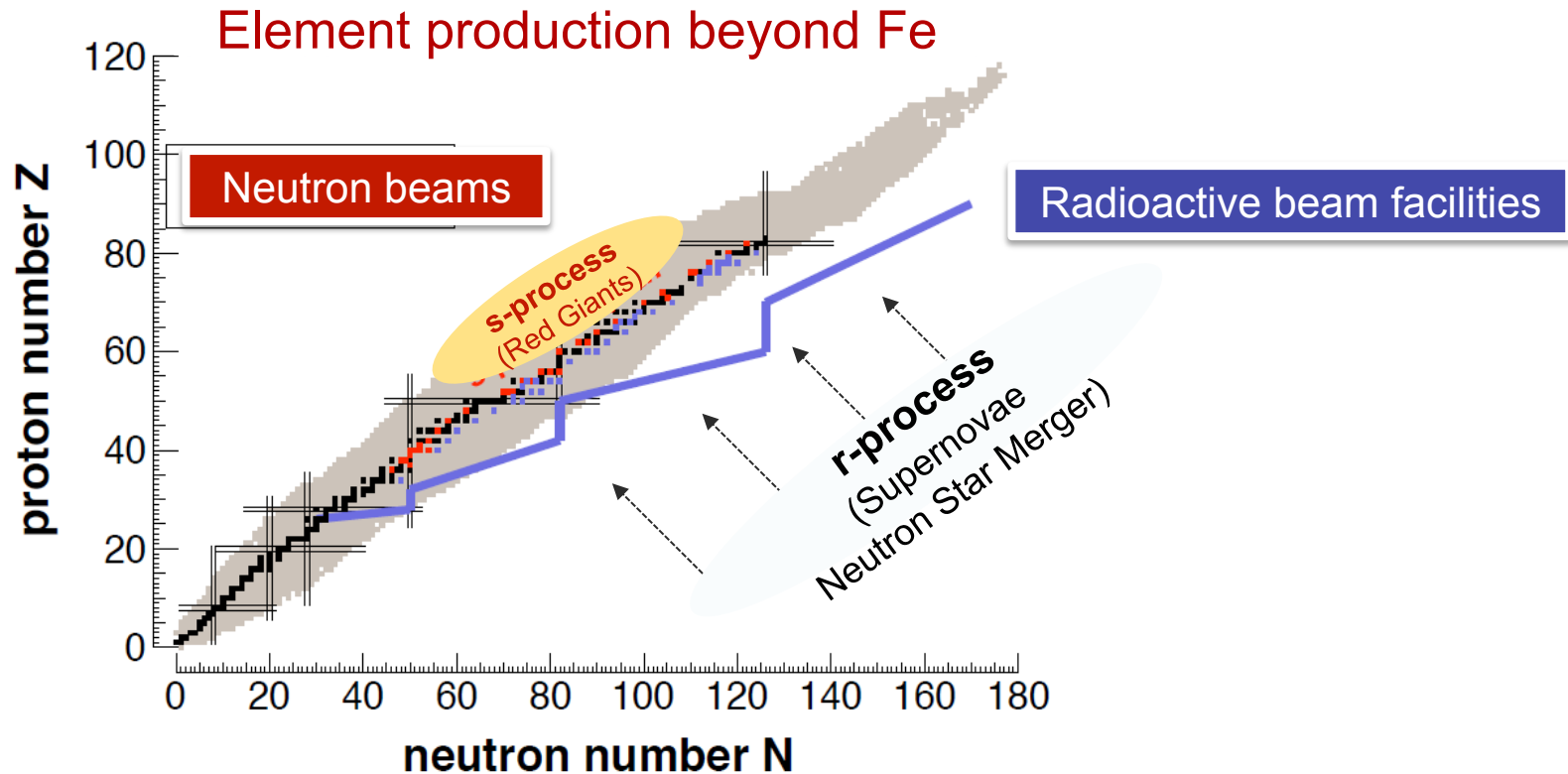
- ${}^7\text{Be}(n,p)$ cross section measurement for the Cosmological Lithium Problem at the n_TOF facility at CERN, L. Damone Wednesday 27, 10:00



s process:

- Neutron induced reactions in Astrophysics, by C. Lederer, Wednesday 27 12:00
- Posters**
- The neutron capture cross section measurement of the thallium isotopes ${}^{203}\text{Tl}$, ${}^{204}\text{Tl}$ and ${}^{205}\text{Tl}$ at the n_TOF facility at CERN, A. Casanovas
- Measurement of the ${}^{16}\text{O}(n,\alpha){}^{13}\text{C}$ reaction cross-section at the CERN n_TOF facility - S. Urlass
- The Stellar ${}^{72}\text{Ge}(n,\gamma)$ Cross Section: A First Measurement at n_TOF, M. Dietz

The n_TOF project



s-process (slow process):

- **Capture times** long relative to decay time
- Involves mostly **stable isotopes**
- $N_n = 10^8 \text{ n/cm}^3$, $E_n = 0.3 - 300 \text{ keV}$

r-process (rapid process):

- **Capture times** short relative to decay times
- Produces **unstable isotopes** (neutron-rich)
- $N_n = 10^{20-30} \text{ n/cm}^3$

The n_TOF project

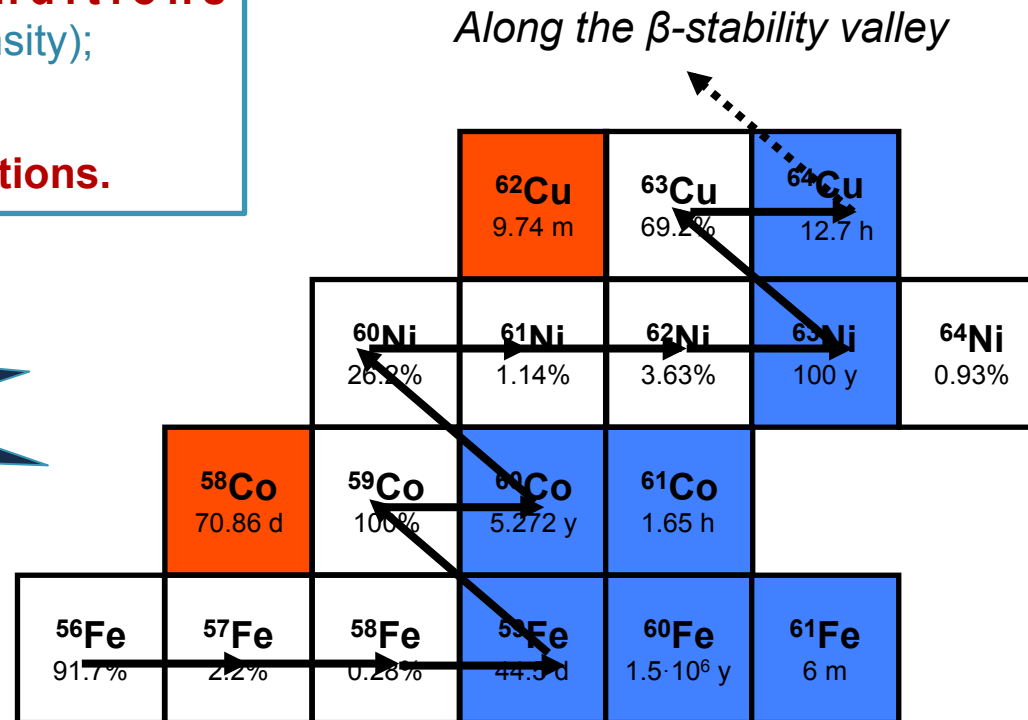
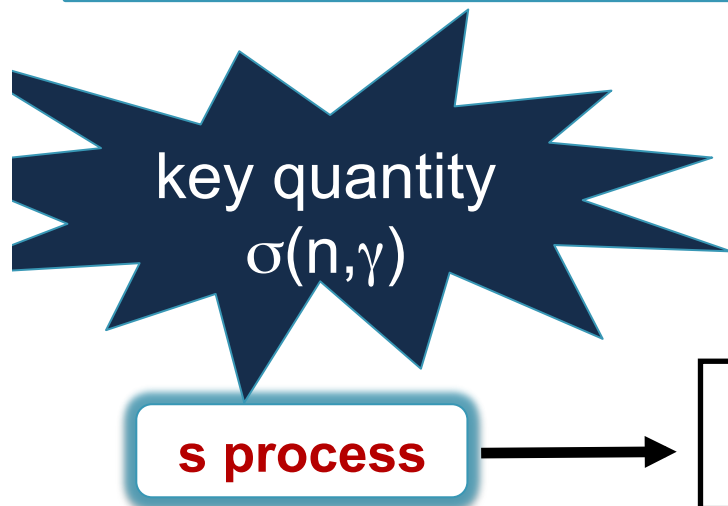
s-process nucleosynthesis proceeds through **neutron capture** reactions and successive **β decay**.

The abundance of elements in the Universe depends on:

- **thermodynamic conditions** (temperature and neutron density);
- β -decay rate;
- **neutron capture cross-sections.**

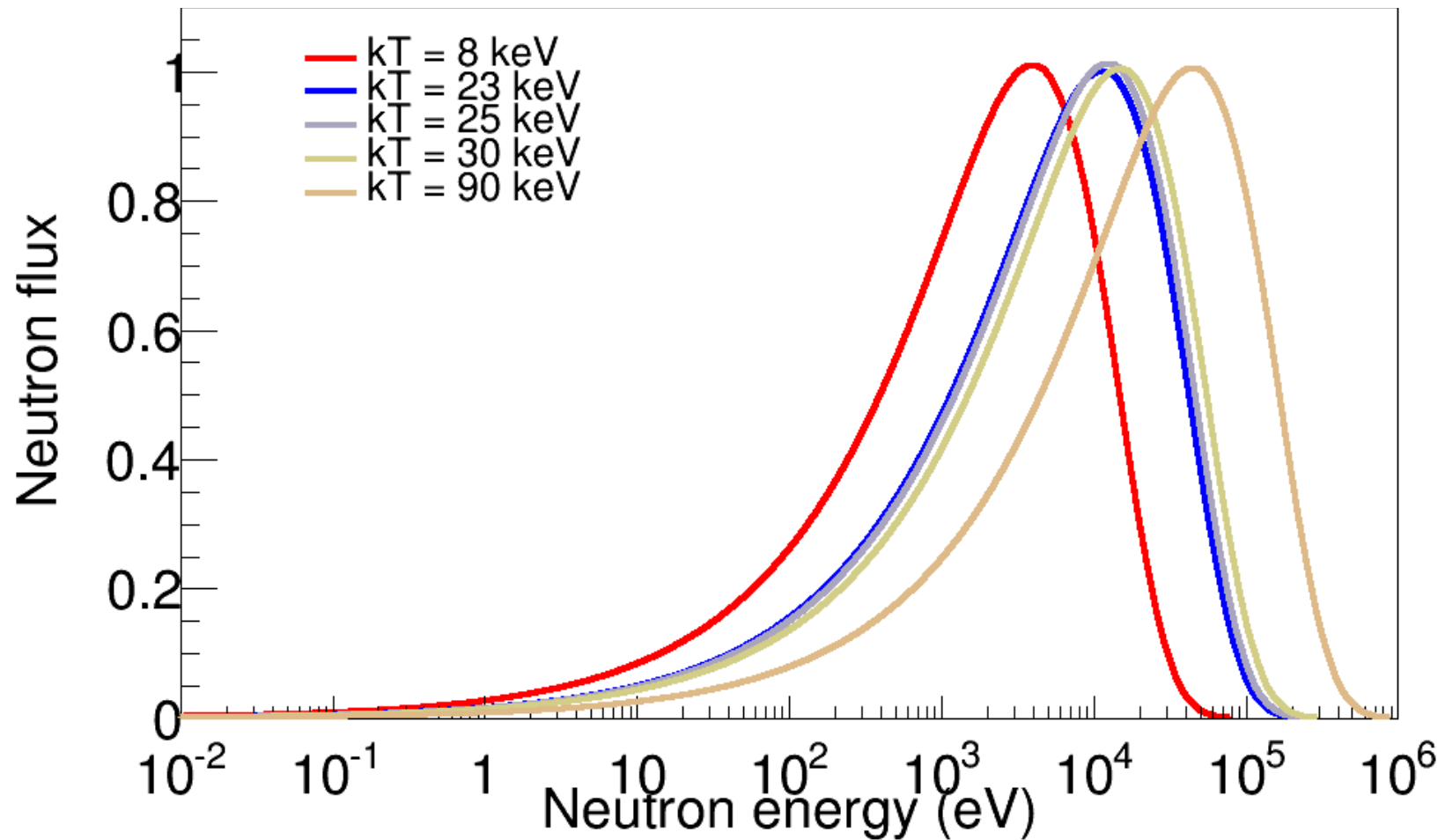
Need of **accurate** (n, γ) cross-sections:

- refine models of stellar nucleosynthesis in the Universe;
- obtain information on the **stellar environment and evolution**



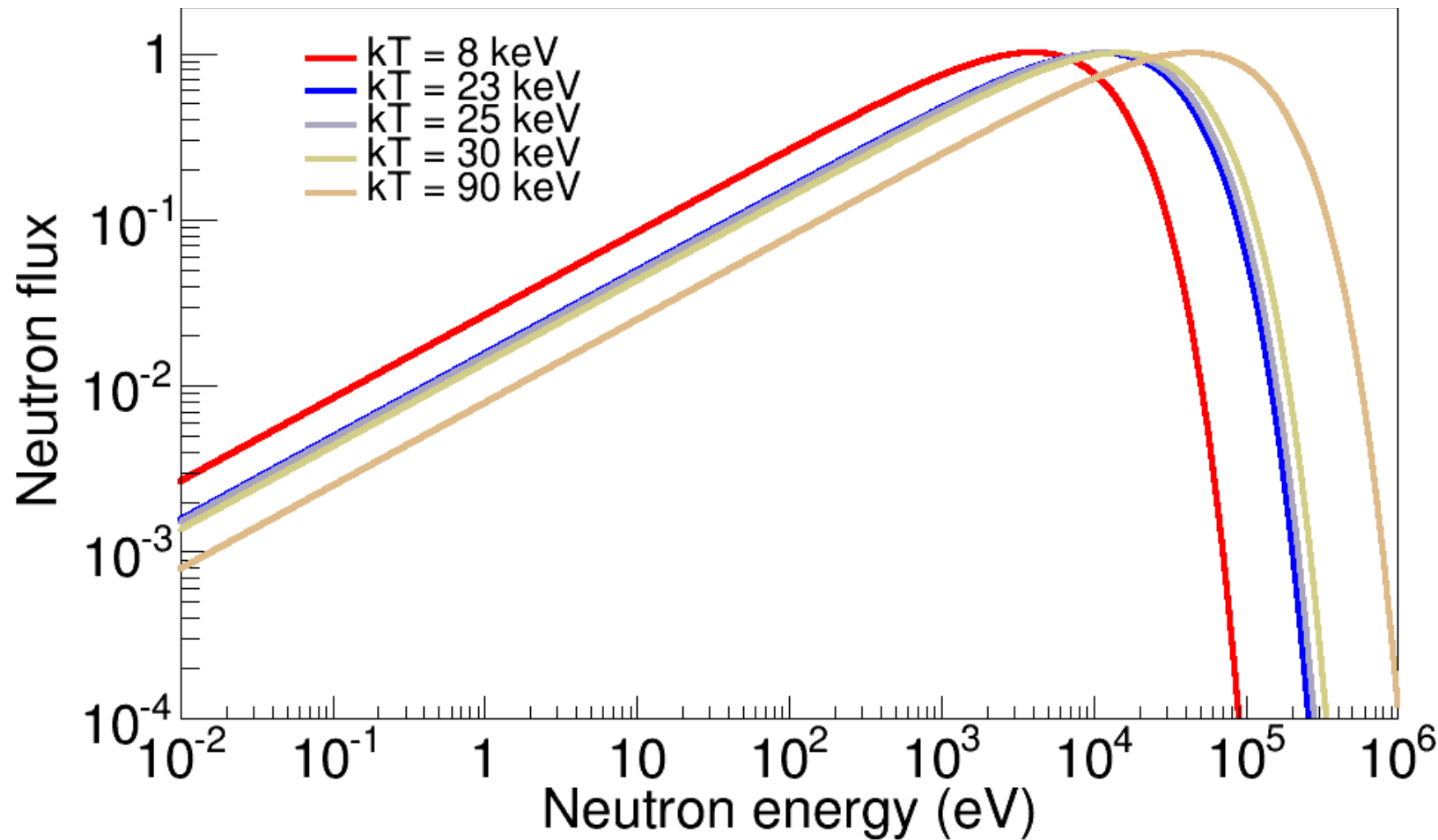
The n_TOF project

Stellar spectra: AGB (8, 23 keV) and Massive stars (25, 90 keV)



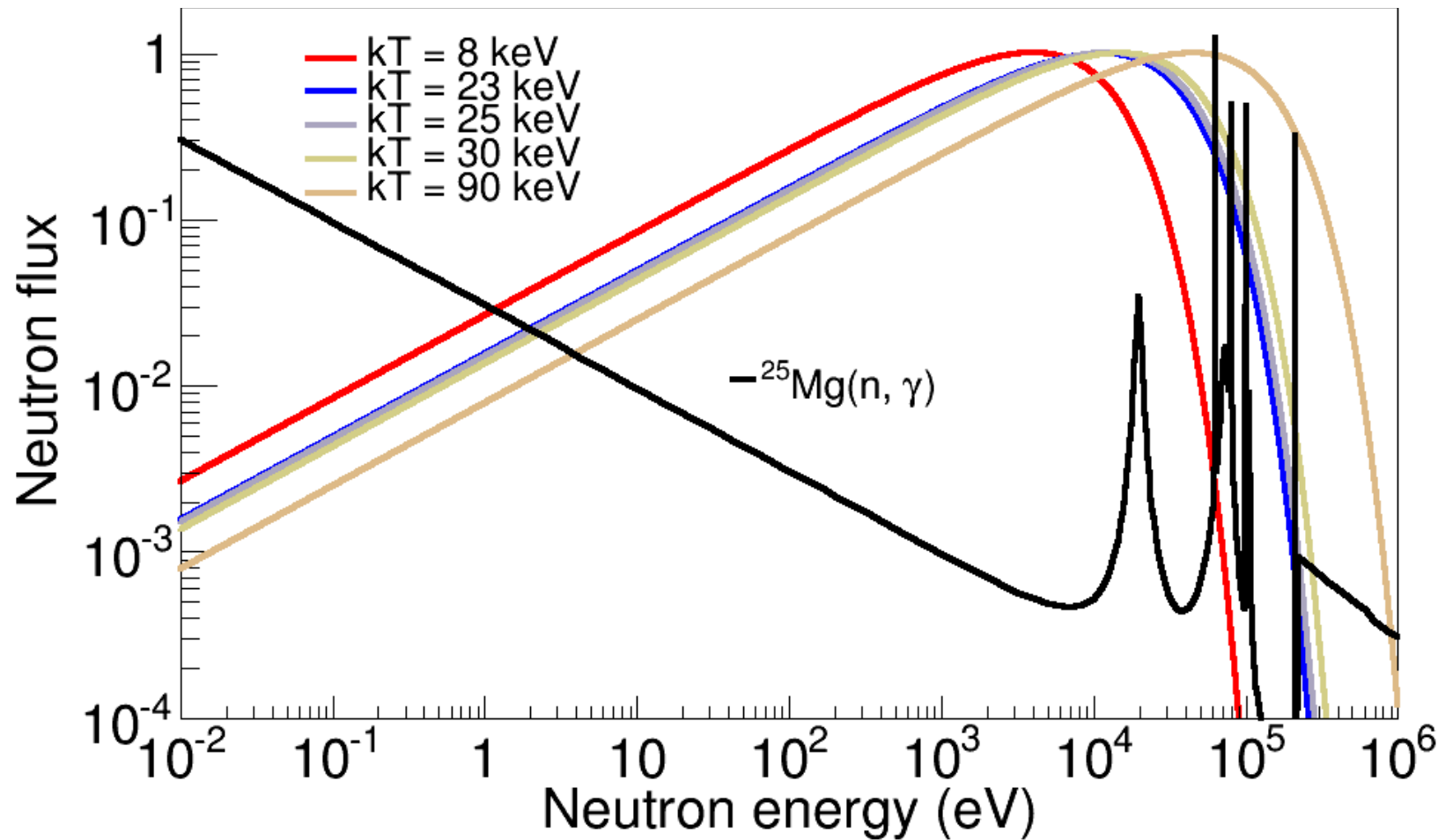
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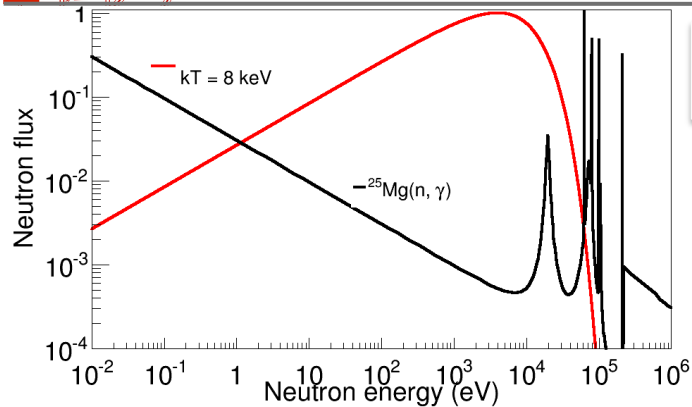


The n_TOF project

Stellar spectra: AGB (8, 23 keV) and Massive stars (25, 90 keV)



The n_TOF project



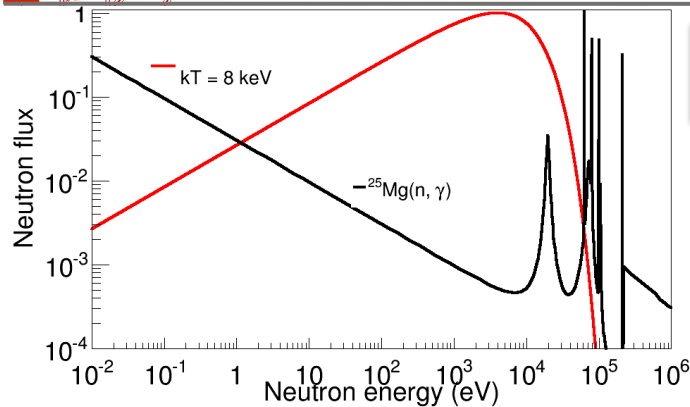
For Astrophysical applications it is important to determine **Maxwellian Averaged Cross-Sections (MACS)**, for various temperatures (kT depends on stellar site).

Reaction rate ($\text{cm}^{-3}\text{s}^{-1}$): $r = N_A N_n v \sigma(v)$

$$\rightarrow r = N_A N_n \langle \sigma \cdot v \rangle$$

$$MACS \equiv \frac{\langle \sigma \cdot v \rangle}{v_T} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi} (kT)^2} \int_0^\infty \sigma(E) E e^{-E/(kT)} dE$$

The n_TOF project



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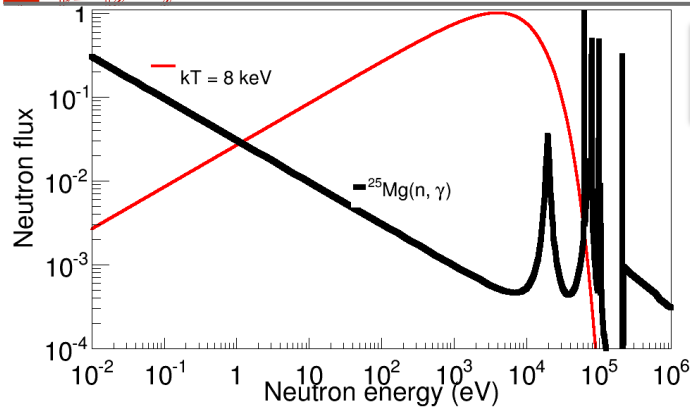
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Two methods are used to determine MACS:

The n_TOF project



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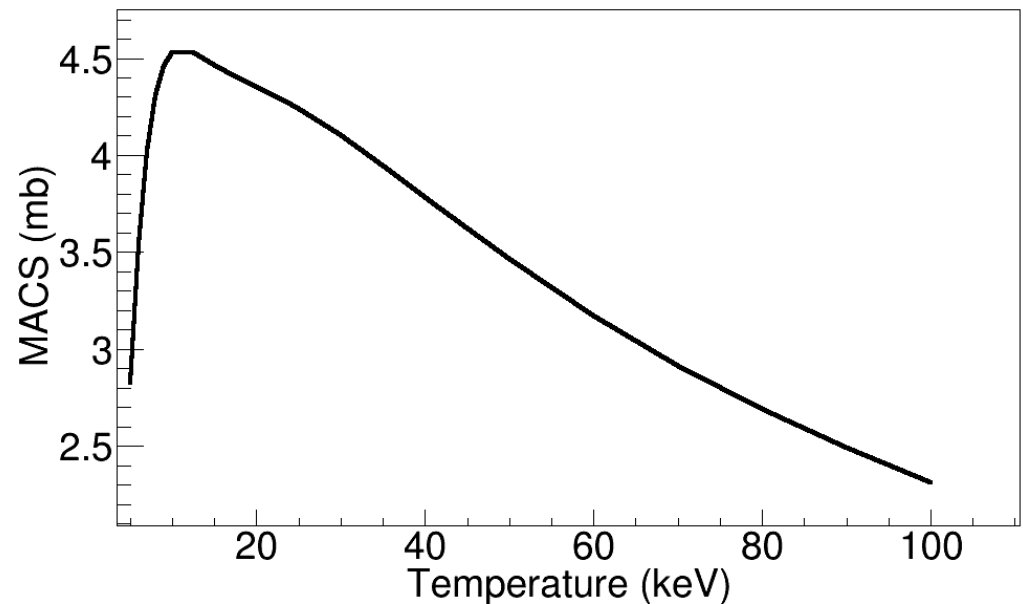
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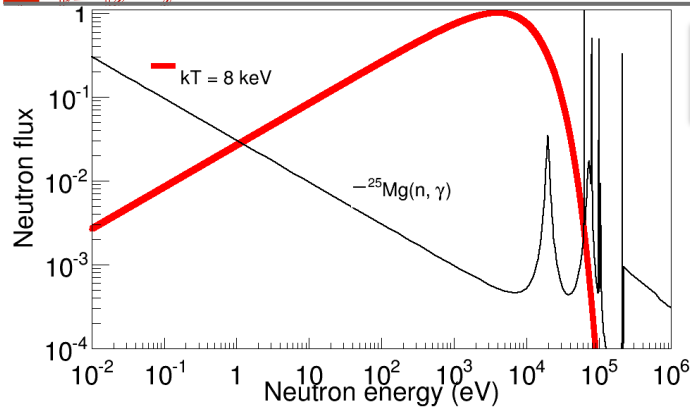
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1. measurement of **energy dependent** neutron capture cross-sections;



The n_TOF project



For Astrophysical applications it is important to determine **Maxwellian Averaged Cross-Sections (MACS)**, for various temperatures (kT depends on stellar site).

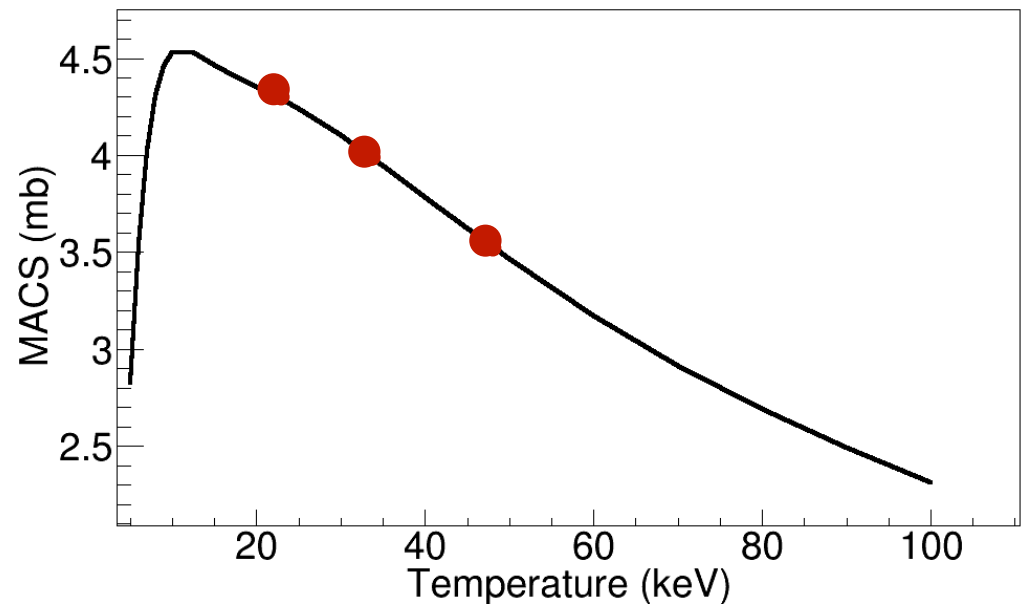
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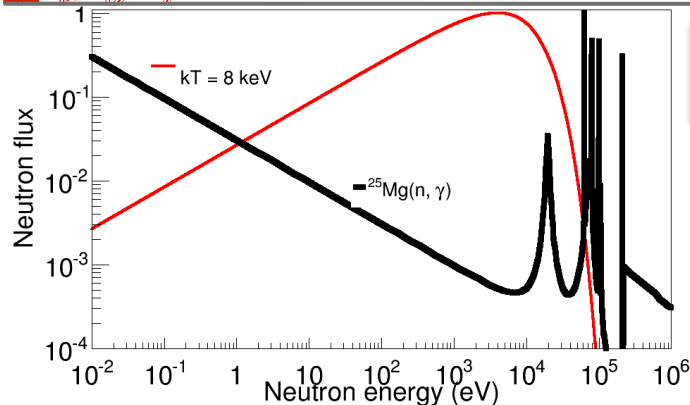
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Two methods are used to determine MACS:

1. measurement of **energy dependent** neutron capture cross-sections;
2. **integral measurement** (energy integrated) using neutron beams with suitable energy spectrum.



The n_TOF project



For Astrophysical applications it is important to determine **Maxwellian Averaged Cross-Sections (MACS)**, for various temperatures (kT depends on stellar site).

Reaction rate ($\text{cm}^{-3}\text{s}^{-1}$): $r = N_A N_n v \sigma(v)$

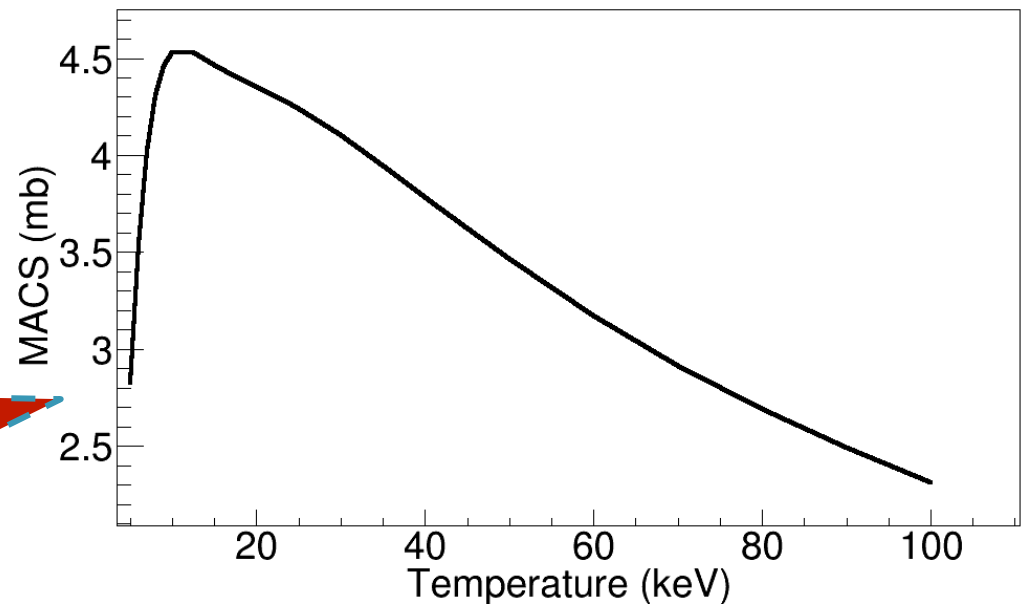
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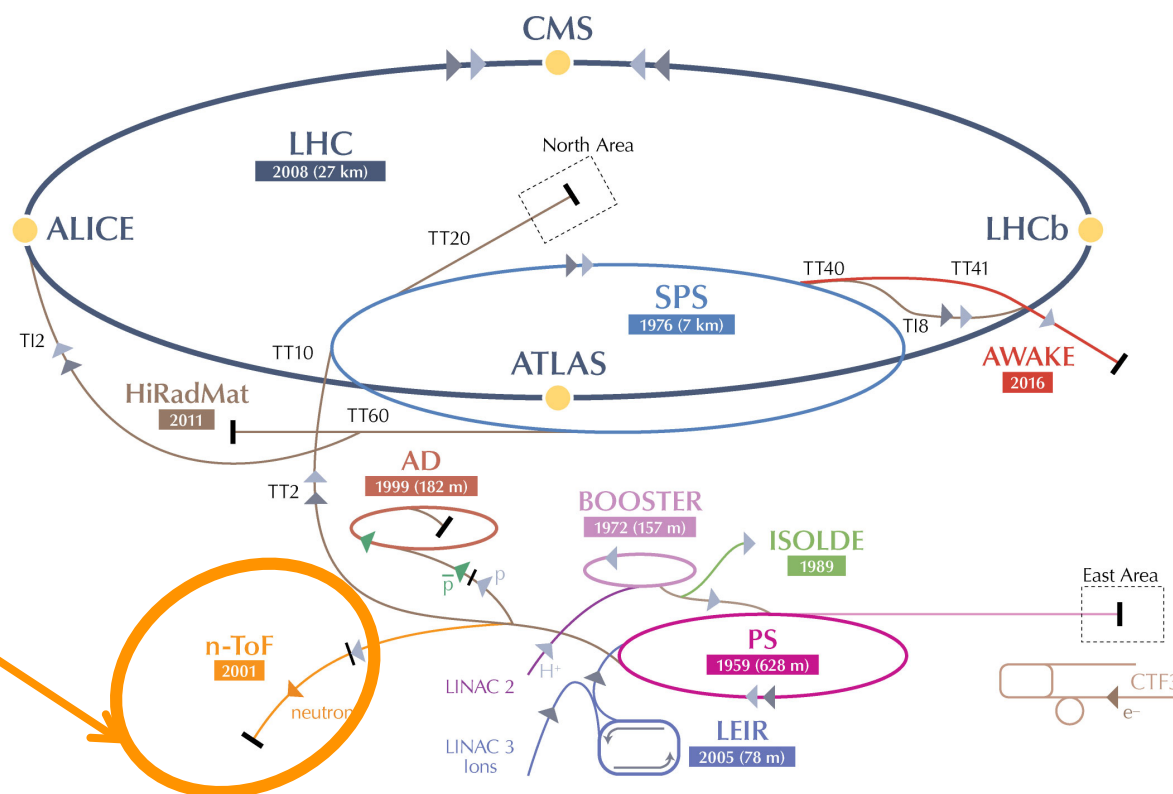
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n_TOF
@
CERN

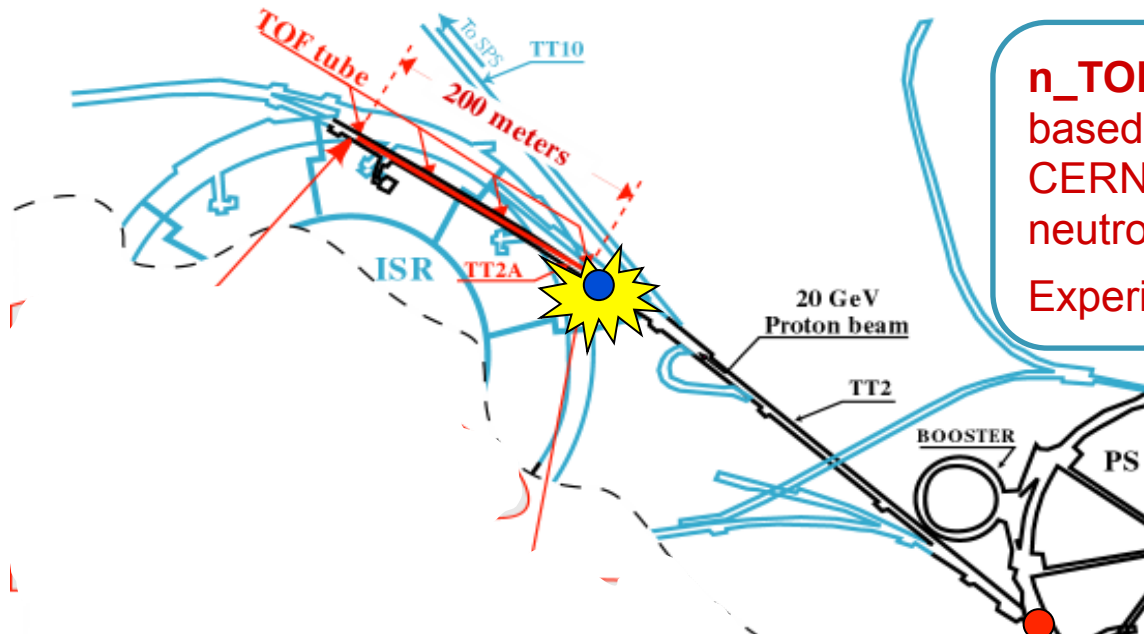


The n_TOF project

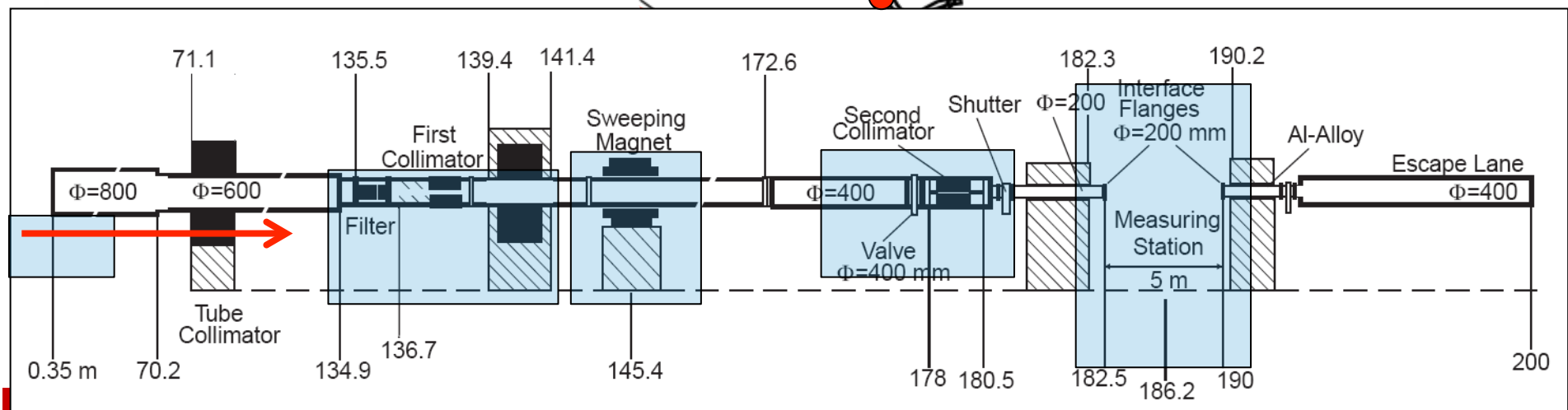


Neutron Time-Of-Flight
facility: n_TOF

The n_TOF project

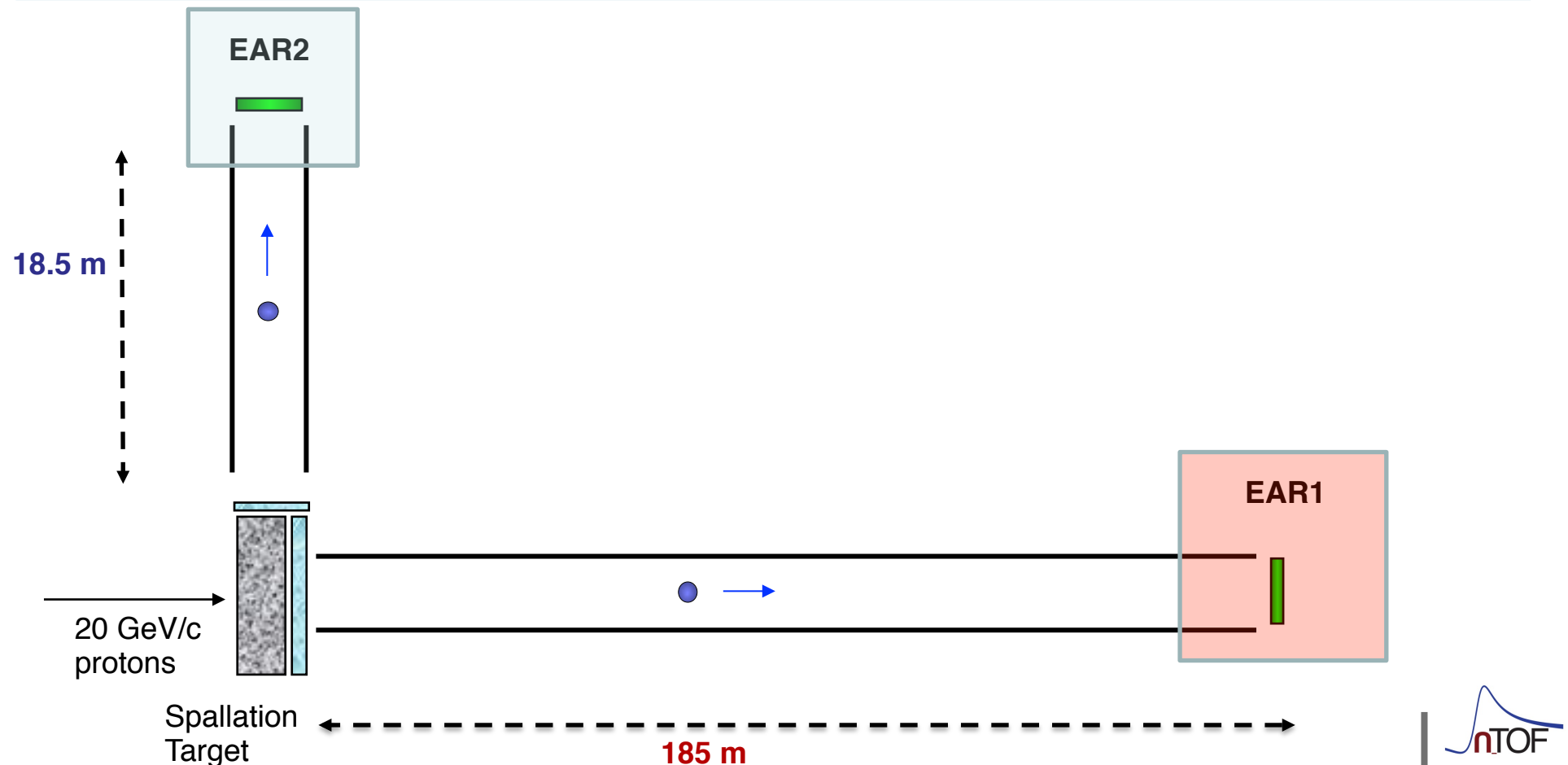


n_TOF is a **spallation** neutron source based on **20 GeV/c protons** from the CERN PS hitting a **Pb block** (~ 300 neutrons per proton and $\sim 7 \times 10^{12}$ ppp).
Experimental area at **185 m** and **18.5 m**.



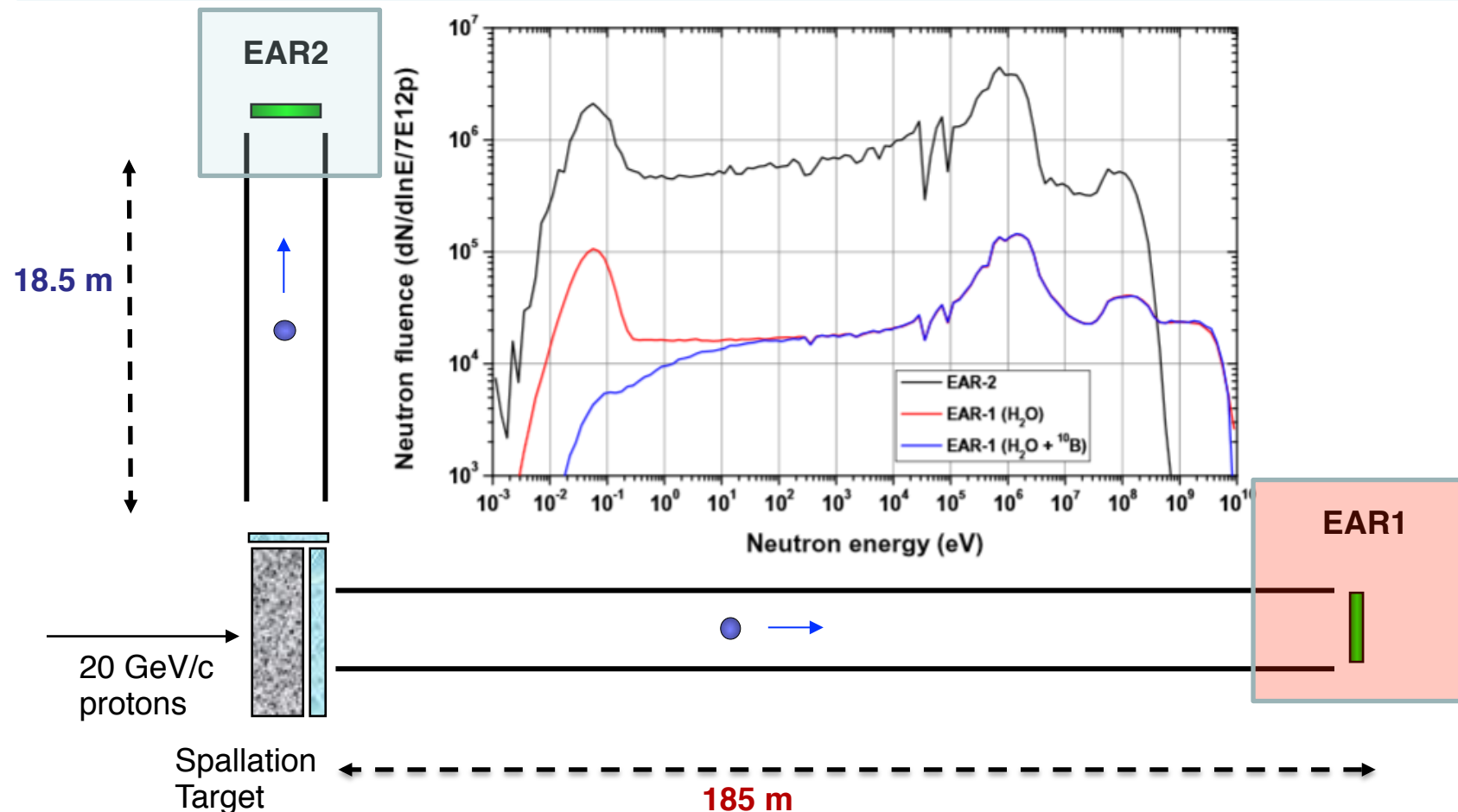
The n_TOF project

The advance of n_TOF are a direct consequence of the characteristics of the **PS proton beam: high energy, high peak current, low duty cycle.**



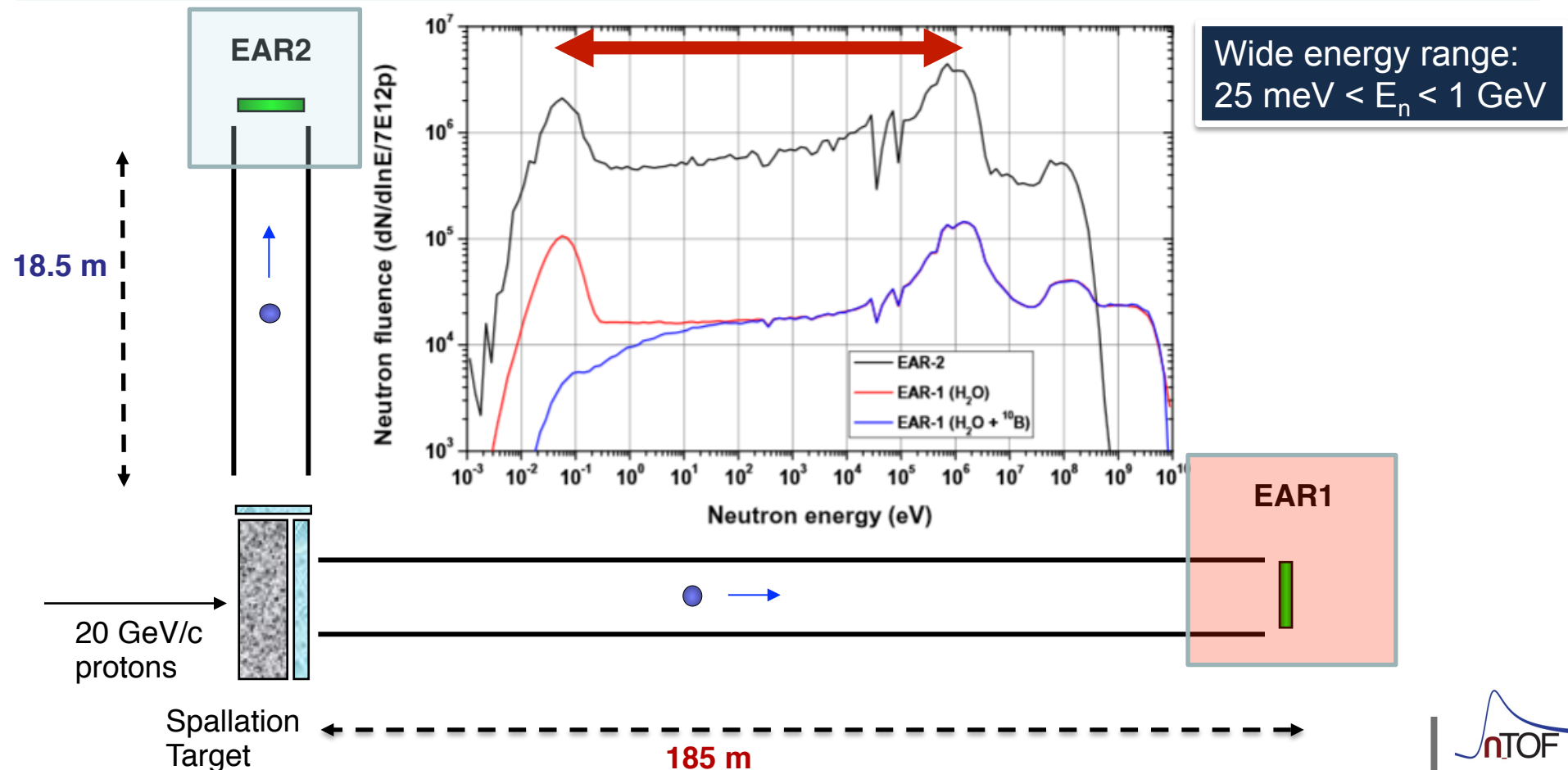
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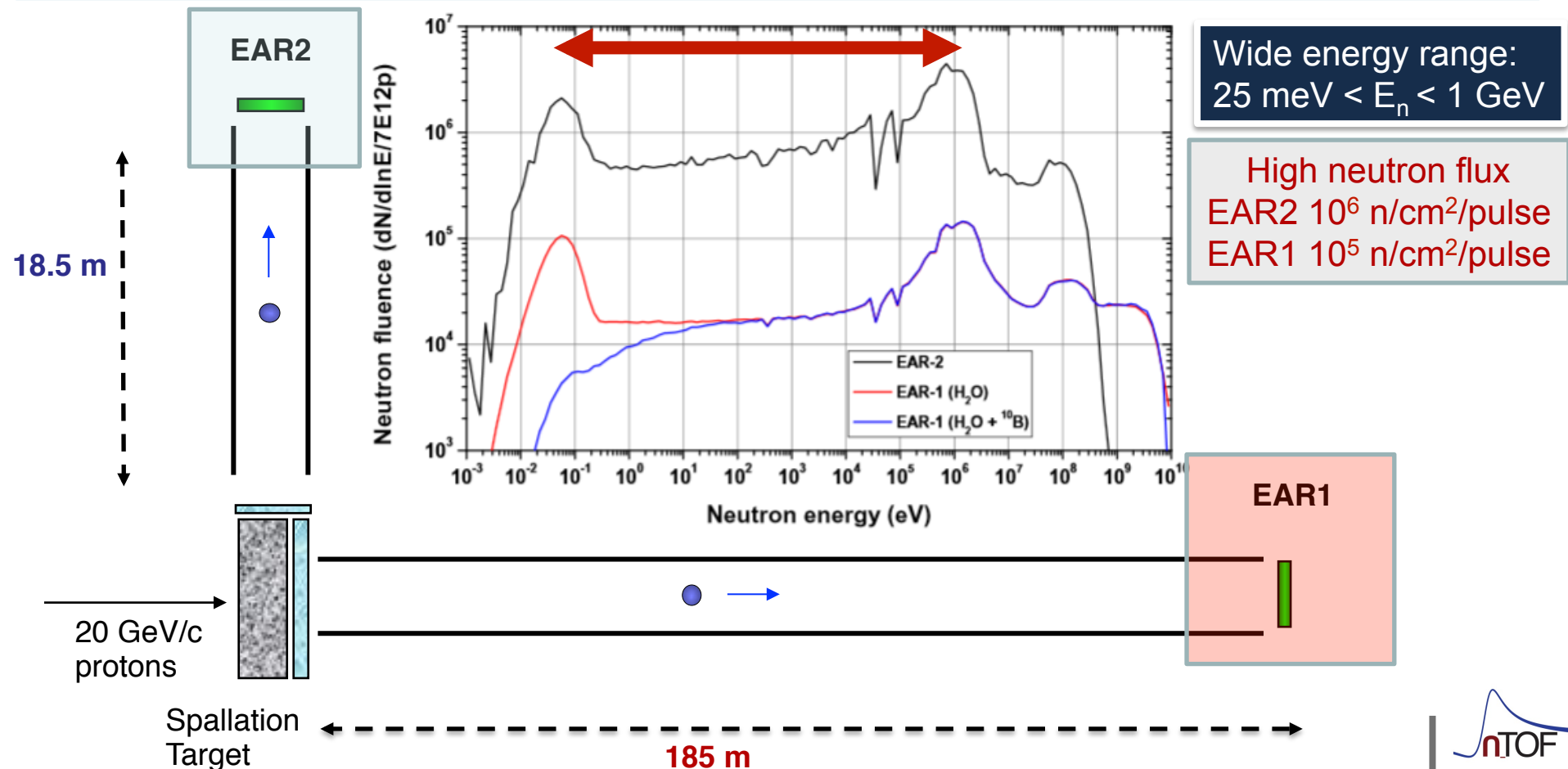
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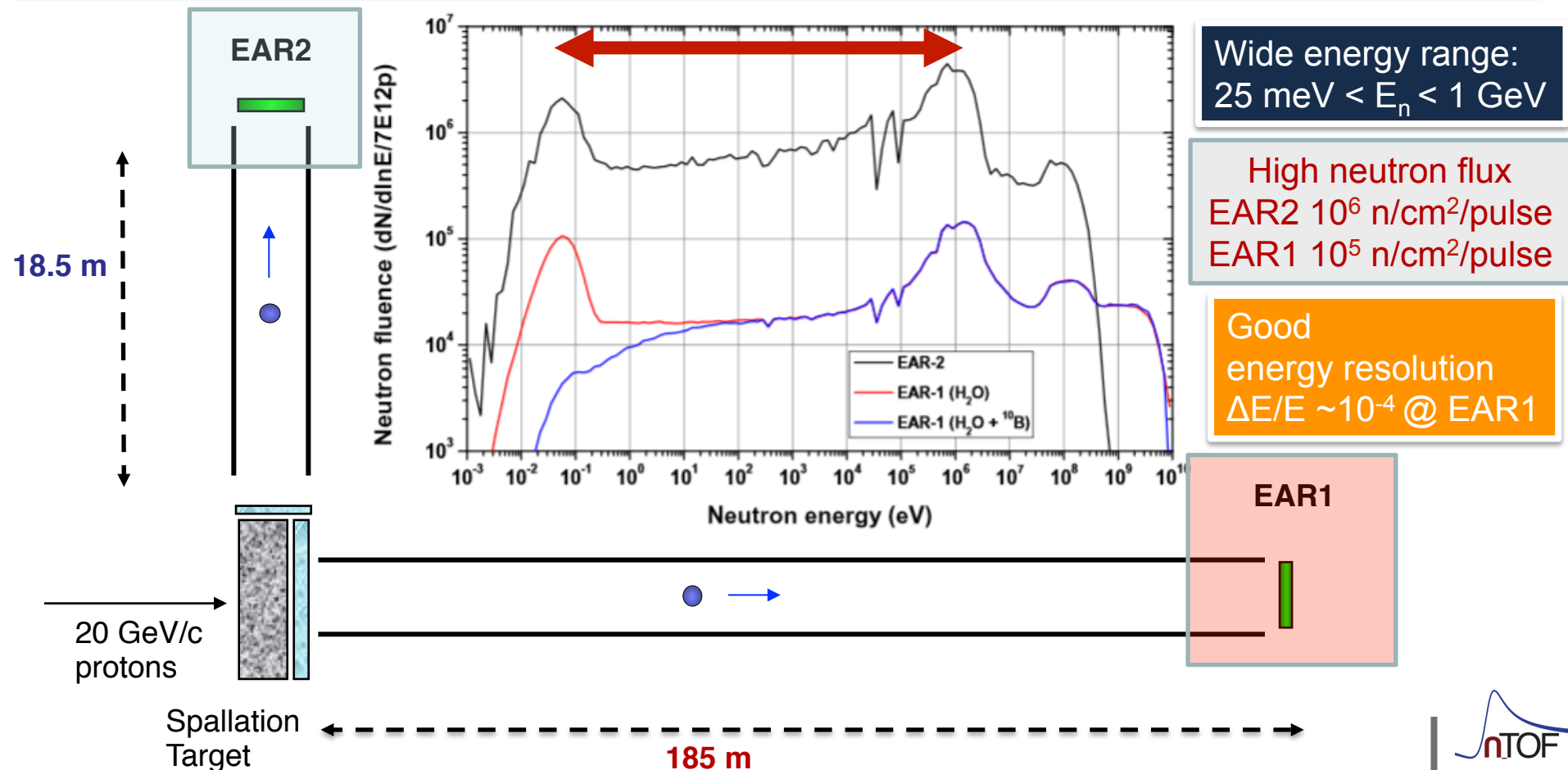
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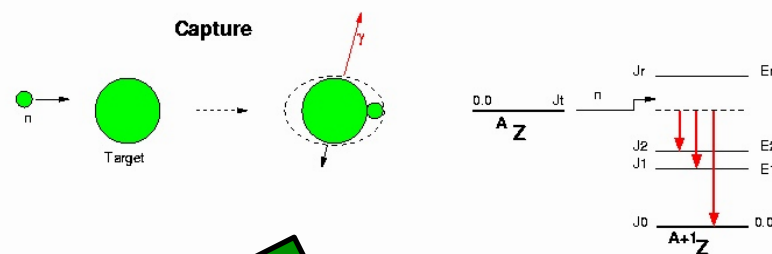
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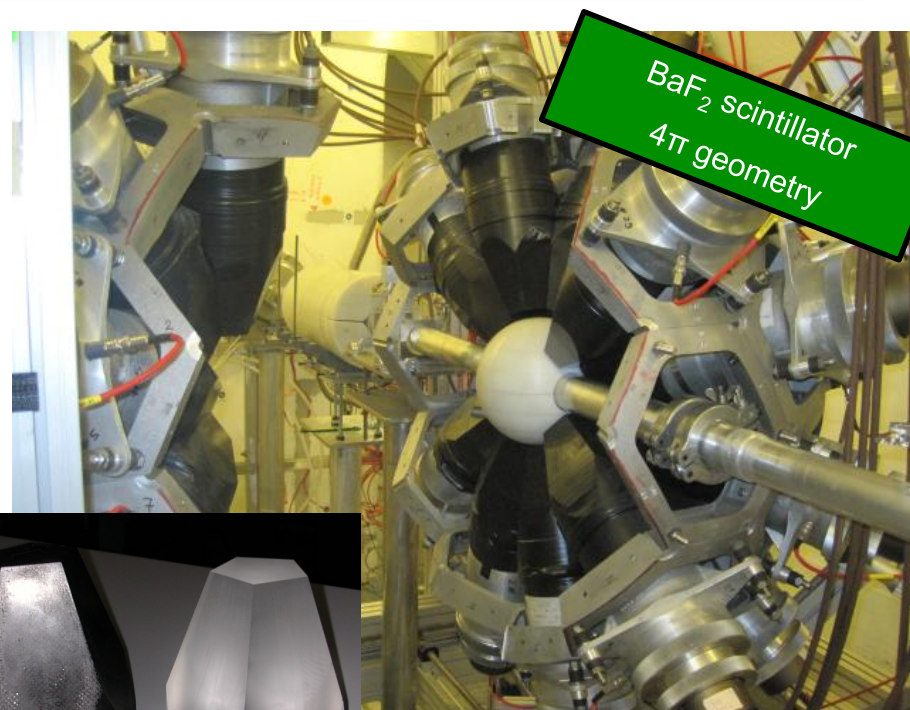


The n_TOF project

Detectors for (n, γ) reaction



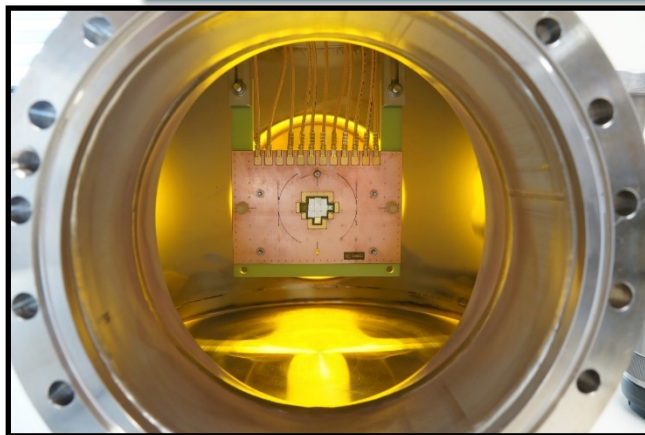
Capture reactions are measured by detecting γ -rays emitted in the de-excitation process. **Two different systems**, to minimize different types of background



The n_TOF project

Detectors: (n,p) and (n, α) reactions

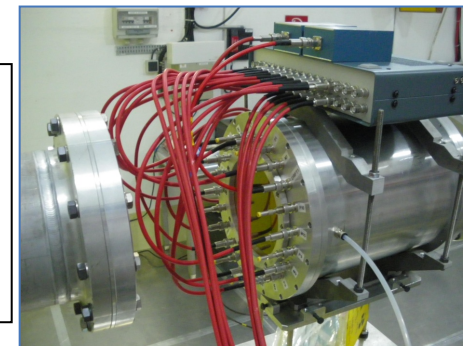
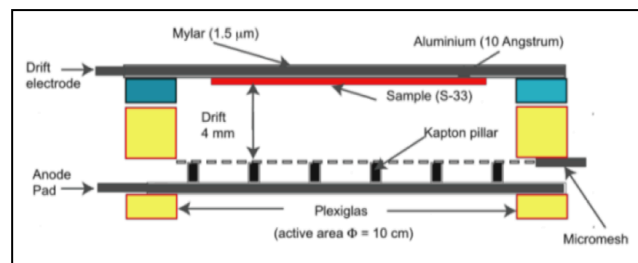
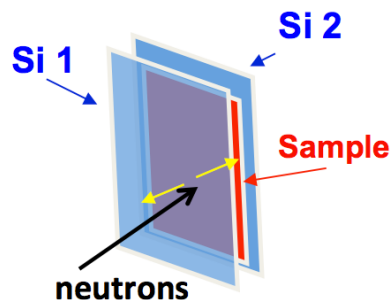
Gas and solid state detectors are used for detecting charged particles, depending on the energy region of interest and the Q-value of the reaction



Silicon detectors
Silicon sandwich
Diamond detector
 ΔE -E Telescopes

Micromegas chamber

- low-noise, high-gain, radiation-hard detector



Data for s process

Cross sections measured in 2001 - 2018

- ❖ Branching point isotopes:

^{151}Sm , ^{63}Ni , ^{147}Pm , ^{171}Tm , ^{203}Tl

- ❖ Abundances in presolar grains:

$^{91,92,93,94,96}\text{Zr}$

- ❖ Magic Nuclei and end-point:

^{139}La , ^{140}Ce , ^{90}Zr , ^{89}Y , ^{88}Sr , $^{204,206,207,208}\text{Pb}$, ^{209}Bi

- ❖ Seeds isotopes:

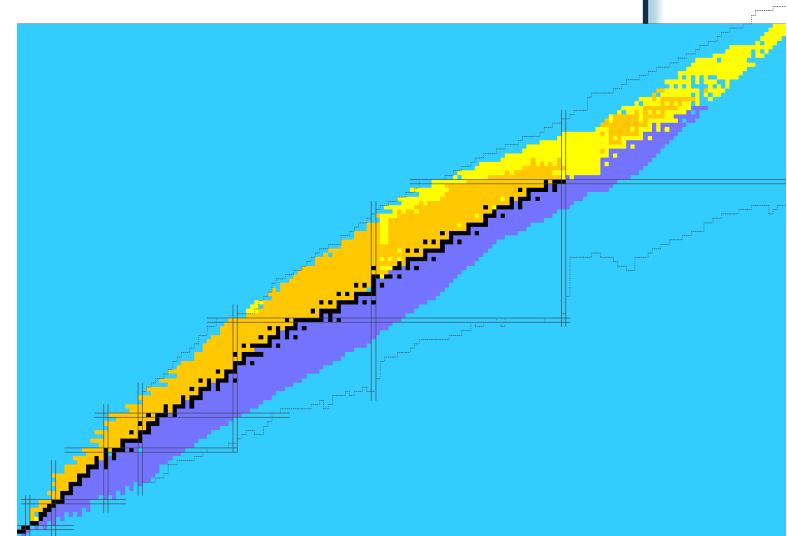
$^{54,56,57}\text{Fe}$, $^{58,60,62}\text{Ni}$, $^{59}\text{Ni}(n,\alpha)$

- ❖ Isotopes of special interest:

$^{186,187,188}\text{Os}$ (cosmochronometer), ^{197}Au (reference cross section), $^{24,25,26}\text{Mg}$, $^{33}\text{S}(n,\alpha)$, $^{14}\text{N}(n,p)$, $^{35}\text{Cl}(n,p)$, $^{26}\text{Al}(n,p)$, $^{26}\text{Al}(n,\alpha)$ (neutron poison), ^{154}Gd (s-only isotope), ^{68}Zn , $^{69,71}\text{Ga}$, $^{70,72,73,74,76}\text{Ge}$, $^{77,78,80}\text{Se}$ (weak component)

- ❖ Neutron Sources $^{22}\text{Ne}(\alpha,n)^{25}\text{Mg}$ and $^{13}\text{C}(\alpha,n)^{16}\text{O}$:

$n+^{25}\text{Mg}$, $n+^{16}\text{O}$



Data for s process

Cross sections measured in 2001 - 2018

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The neutron capture cross section measurement of the thallium isotopes ^{203}Tl , ^{204}Tl and ^{205}Tl at the n_TOF facility at CERN, A. Casanovas

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@ NICXV

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The Stellar $^{72}\text{Ge}(n,\gamma)$ Cross Section: A First Measurement at n_TOF, M. Dietz

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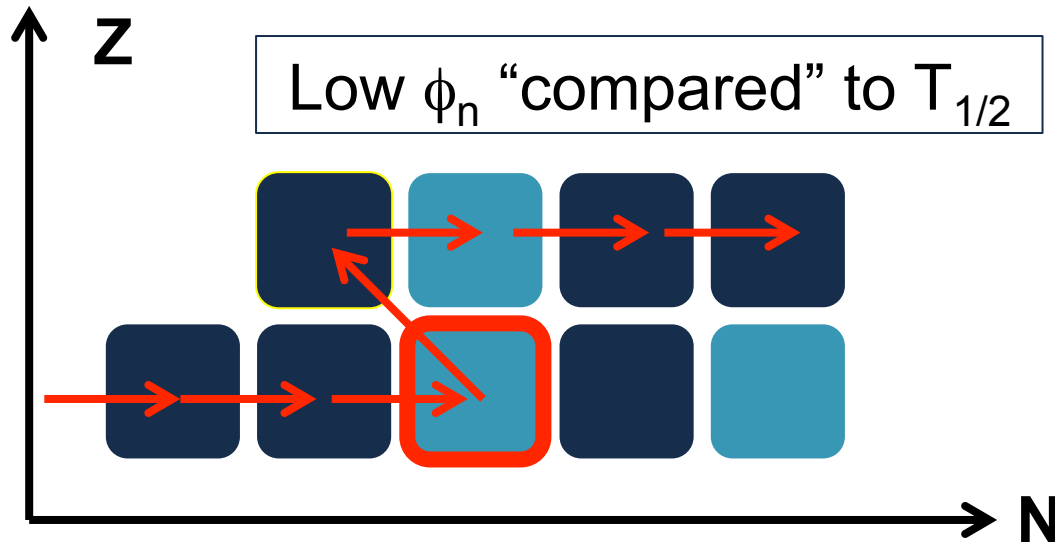
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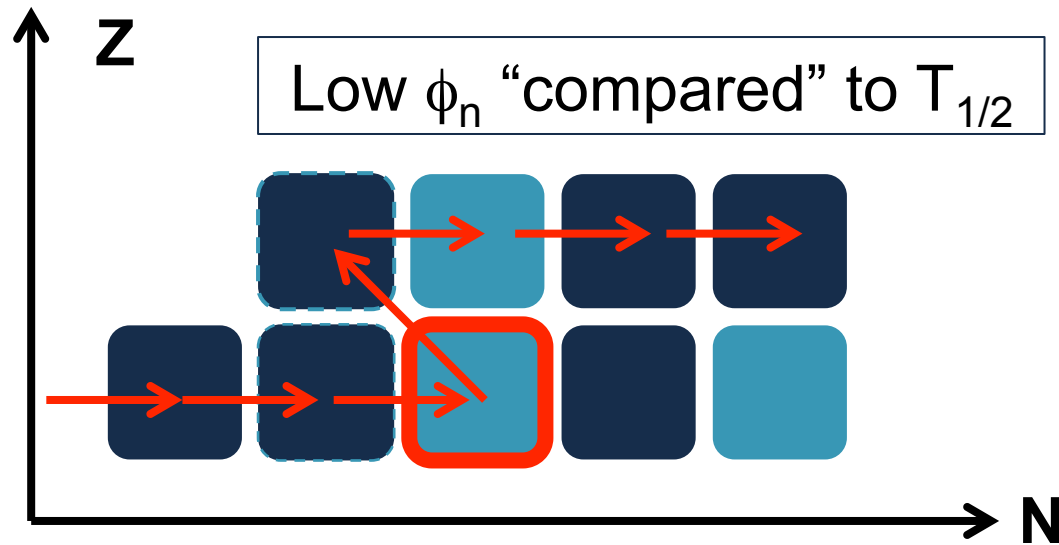
Measurement of the $^{16}\text{O}(n,\alpha)^{13}\text{C}$ reaction cross-section at the CERN n_TOF facility – S. Urlass

Branching point isotopes

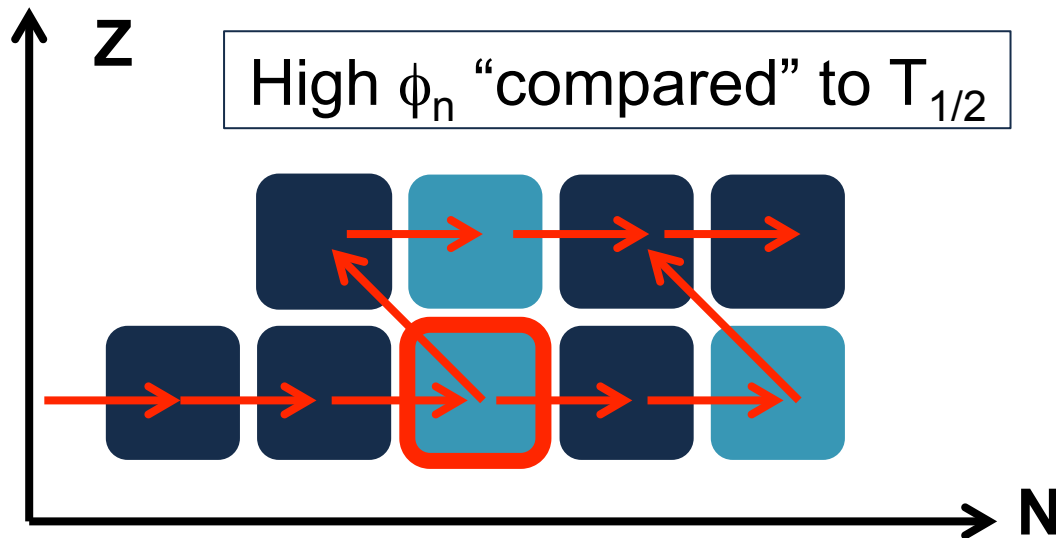


- STABLE
- Unstable against β^-
- (n, γ) reaction
- ↖ β^- decay

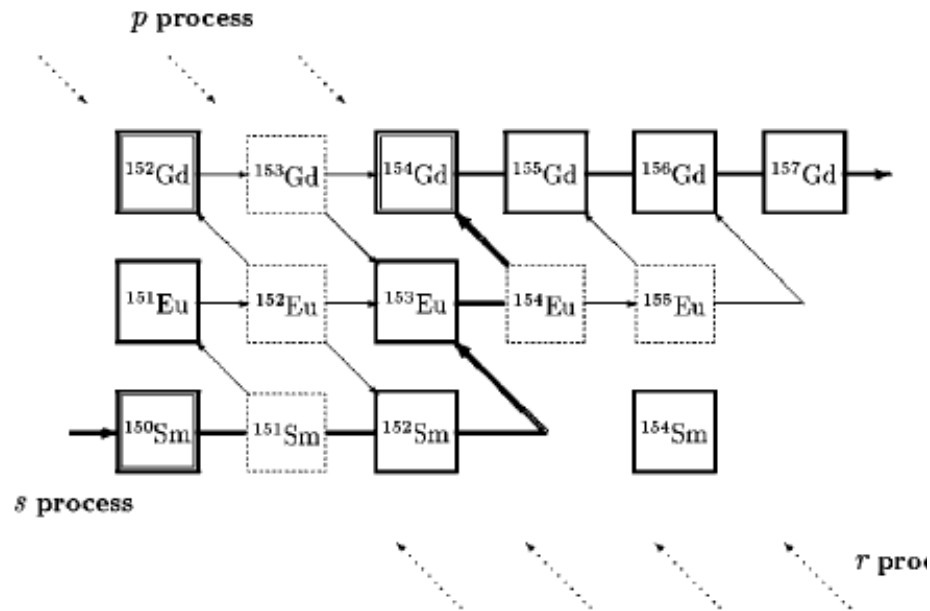
Branching point isotopes



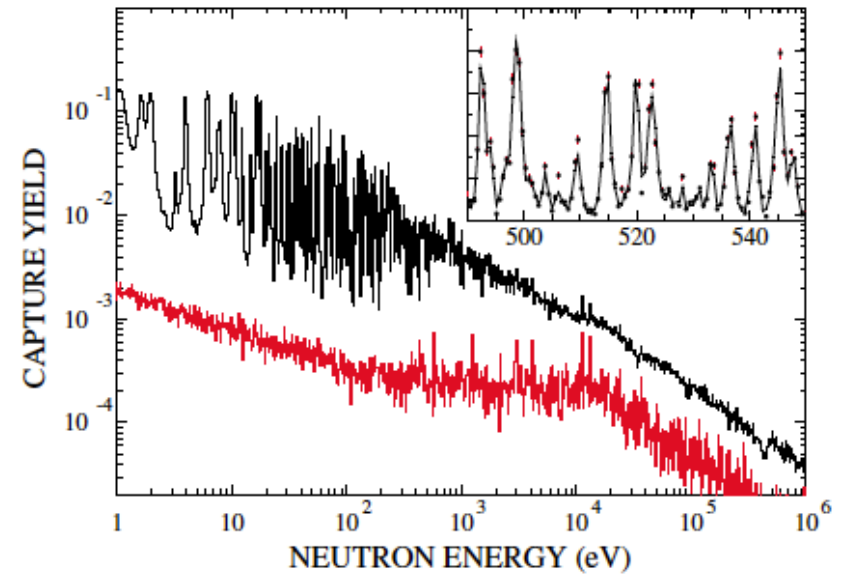
- STABLE
- Unstable against β^-
- (n, γ) reaction
- β^- decay
- s-process branching point



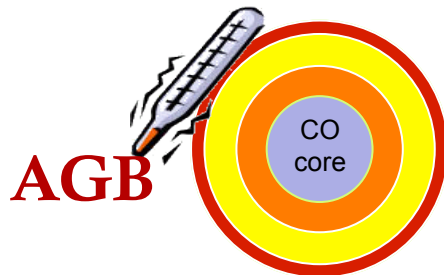
^{151}Sm : s process in AGB



Phys. Rev. Lett. **93**, 161103 (2004)

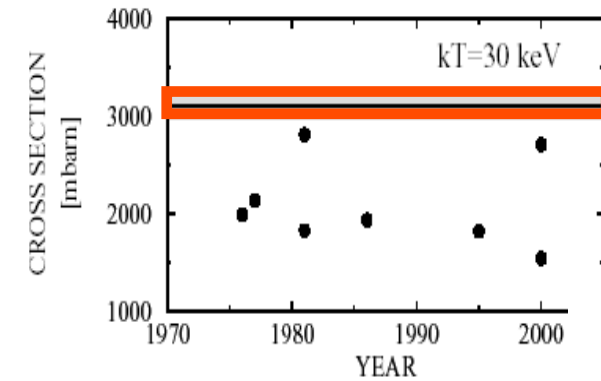


$$f_{\beta} = \frac{(\langle \sigma \rangle N)_{^{152}\text{Gd}}}{(\langle \sigma \rangle N)_{^{150}\text{Sm}}} = \frac{\lambda_{^{151}\text{Sm}}}{\lambda_{^{151}\text{Sm}} + n_n \langle \sigma v \rangle_{^{151}\text{Sm}}}$$



$$\langle \sigma \rangle = 3.1 \pm 0.16 \text{ b}$$

at $kT = 30 \text{ keV}$





Branching point isotopes



REVIEWS OF MODERN PHYSICS

The s process: Nuclear physics, stellar models, and observations, Vol. 83, 2011

Sample	Half-life (yr)	Q value (MeV)	Comment
^{63}Ni	100.1	β^- , 0.066	TOF work in progress (Couture, 2009), sample with low enrichment
^{79}Se	2.95×10^5	β^- , 0.159	Important branching, constrains s -process temperature in massive stars
^{81}Kr	2.29×10^5	EC, 0.322	Part of ^{79}Se branching
^{85}Kr	10.73	β^- , 0.687	Important branching, constrains neutron density in massive stars
^{95}Zr	64.02 d	β^- , 1.125	Not feasible in near future, but important for neutron density low-mass AGB stars
^{134}Cs	2.0652	β^- , 2.059	Important branching at $A = 134, 135$, sensitive to s -process temperature in low-mass AGB stars, measurement not feasible in near future
^{135}Cs	2.3×10^6	β^- , 0.269	So far only activation measurement at $kT = 25$ keV by Patronis <i>et al.</i> (2004)
^{147}Nd	10.981 d	β^- , 0.896	Important branching at $A = 147/148$, constrains neutron density in low-mass AGB stars
^{147}Pm	2.6234	β^- , 0.225	Part of branching at $A = 147/148$
^{148}Pm	5.368 d	β^- , 2.464	Not feasible in the near future
^{151}Sm	90	β^- , 0.076	Existing TOF measurements, full set of MACS data available (Abbondanno <i>et al.</i> , 2004a; Wisshak <i>et al.</i> , 2006c)
^{154}Eu	8.593	β^- , 1.978	Complex branching at $A = 154, 155$, sensitive to temperature and density
^{155}Eu	4.753	β^- , 0.246	So far only activation measurement at $kT = 25$ keV by Jaag and Käppeler (1995)
^{153}Gd	0.658	EC, 0.244	Part of branching at $A = 154, 155$
^{160}Tb	0.198	β^- , 1.833	Weak temperature-sensitive branching, very challenging experiment
^{163}Ho	4570	EC, 0.0026	Branching at $A = 163$ sensitive to mass density during s process, so far only activation measurement at $kT = 25$ keV by Jaag and Käppeler (1996b)
^{170}Tm	0.352	β^- , 0.968	Important branching, constrains neutron density in low-mass AGB stars
^{171}Tm	1.921	β^- , 0.098	Part of branching at $A = 170, 171$
^{179}Ta	1.82	EC, 0.115	Crucial for s -process contribution to ^{180}Ta , nature's rarest stable isotope
^{185}W	0.206	β^- , 0.432	Important branching, sensitive to neutron density and s -process temperature in low-mass AGB stars
^{204}Tl	3.78	β^- , 0.763	Determines $^{205}\text{Pb}/^{205}\text{Tl}$ clock for dating of early Solar System

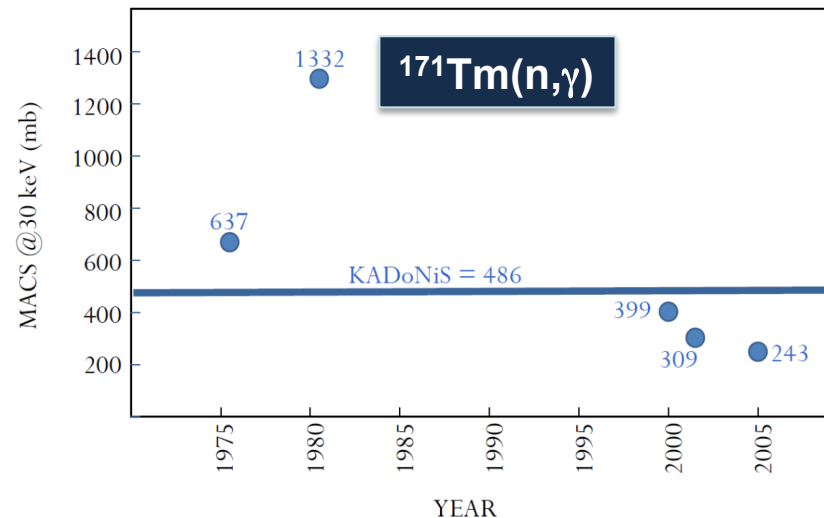
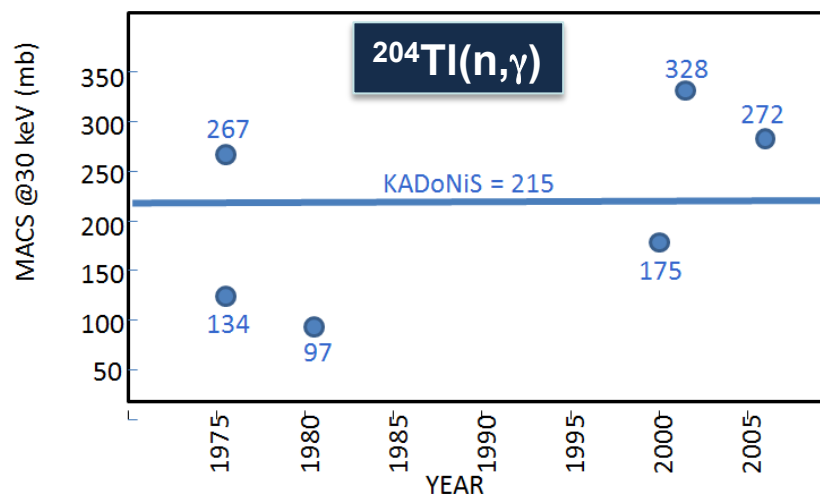
PRL 110, 022501 (2013)



PRL 93, 161103 (2004)

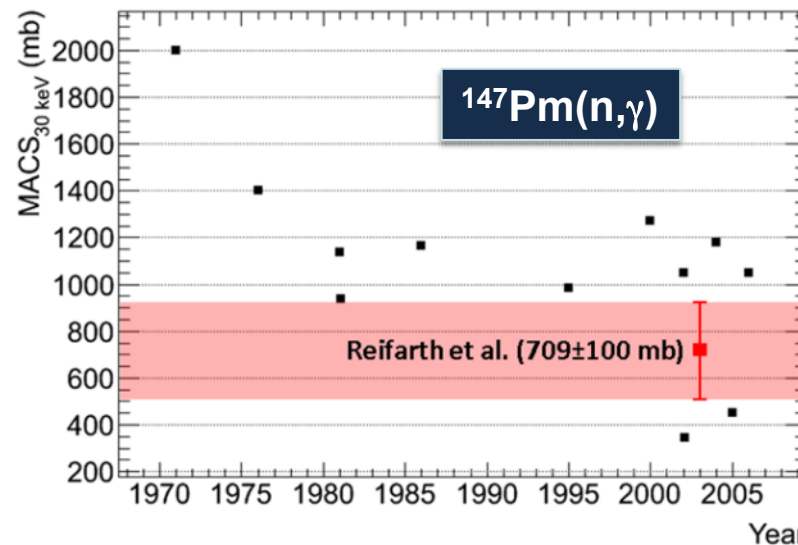


Branching point isotopes

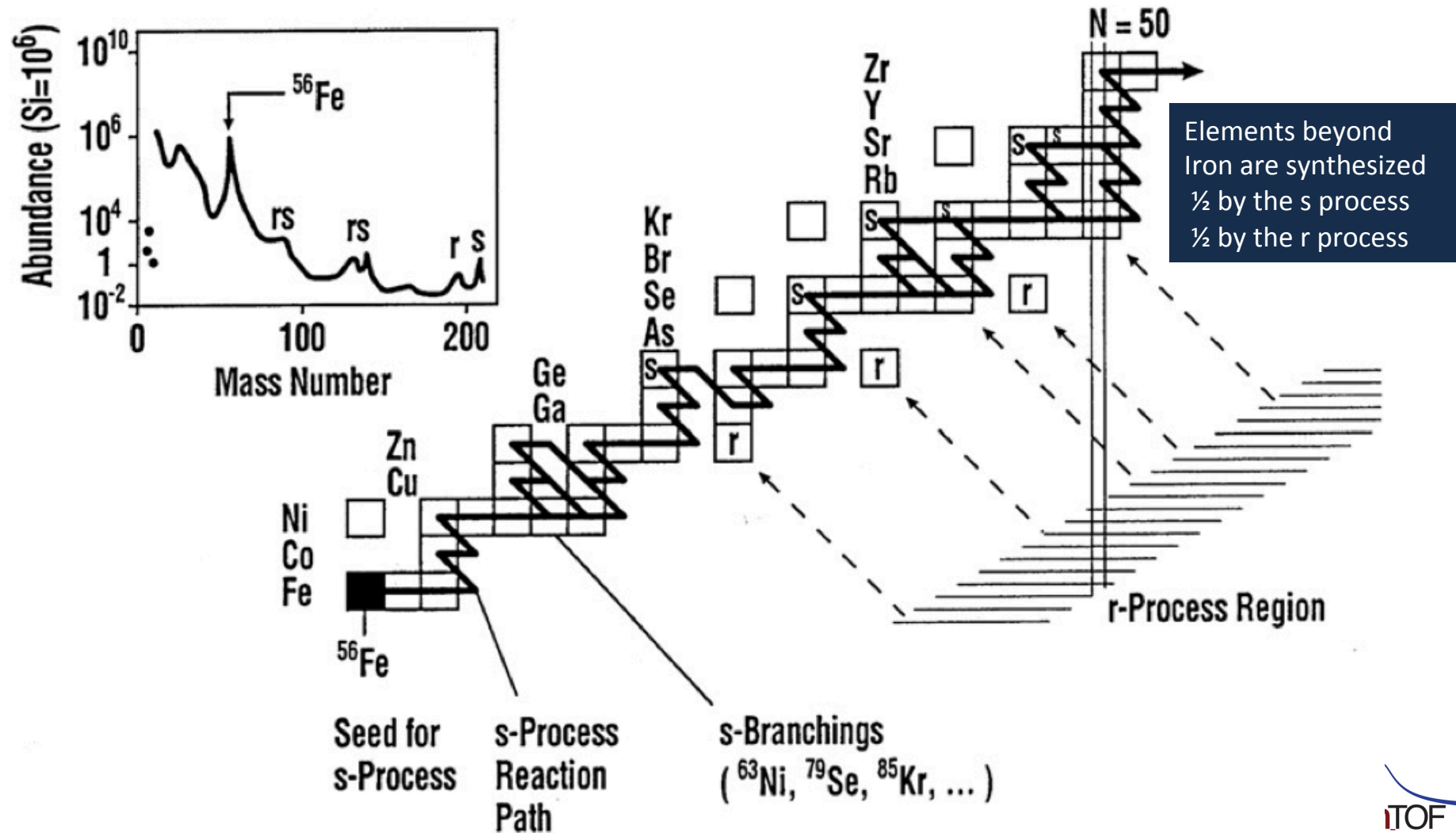


Ongoing studies

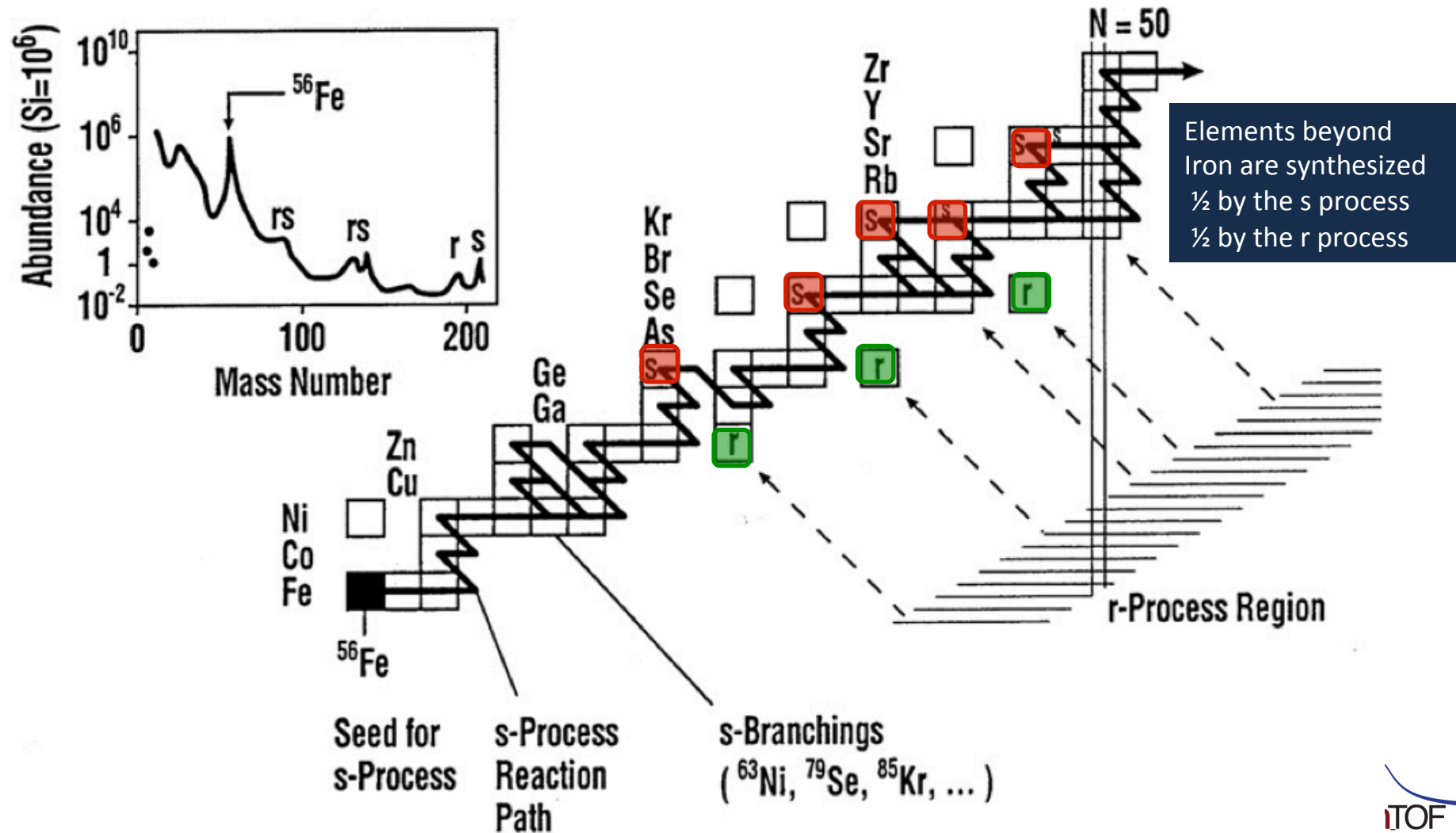
Short-lived branching isotopes (a few years) have either **never been measured before** or have been measured **only by activation** (a few tens of ng) at a fixed temperature.



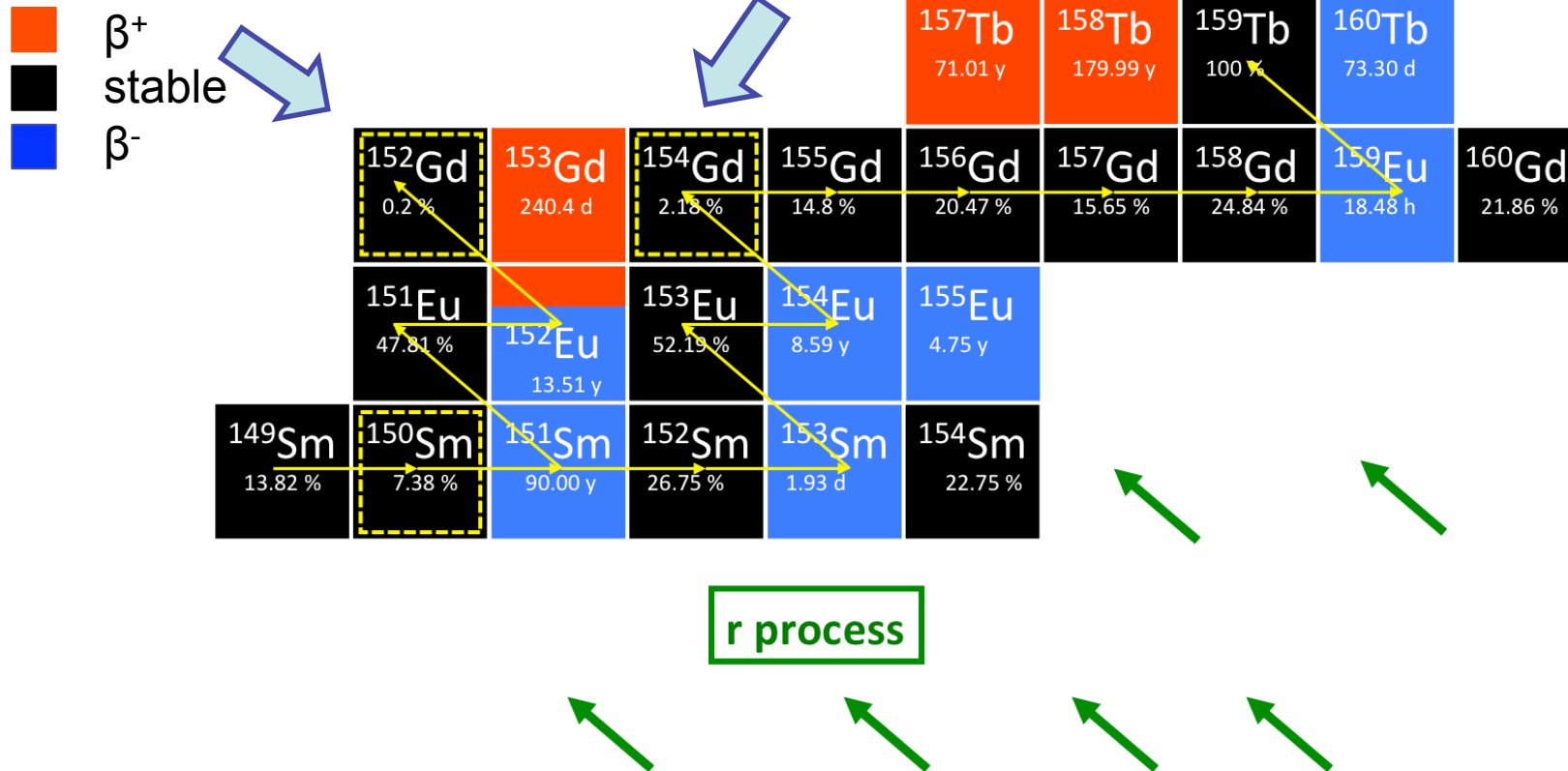
s-only isotopes



s-only isotopes



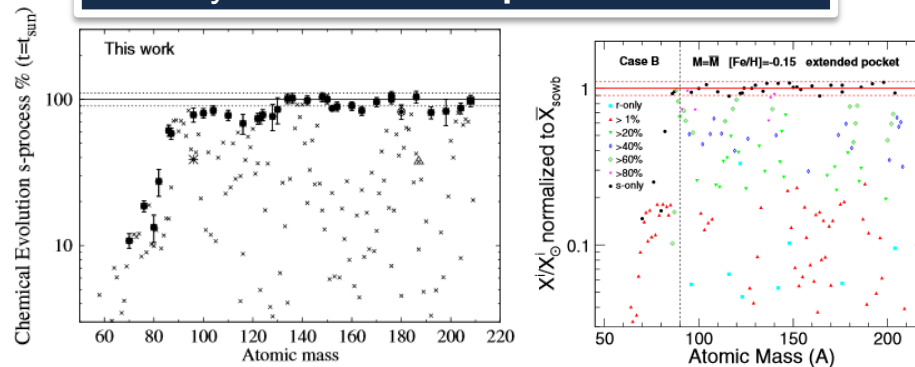
s-only isotopes



^{154}Gd = **s-only** isotope, it can be produced only via s process because they are shielded against the β -decay chains from the r-process region by the isobars samarium

s-only isotopes

3 very recent and independent studies:

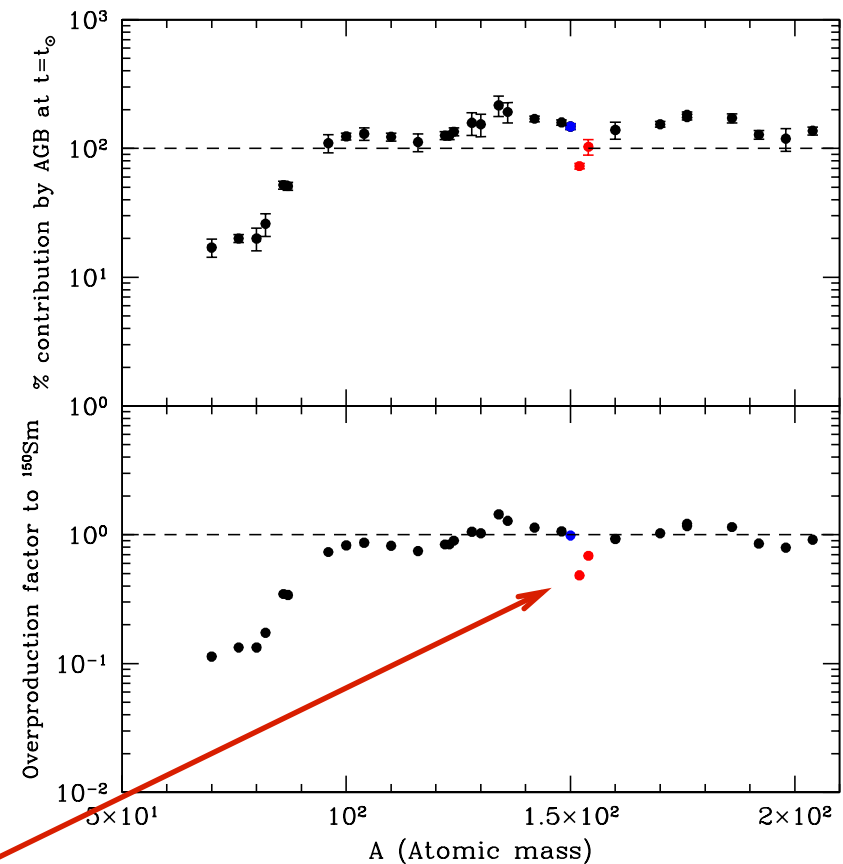


S. Bisterzo, *et al.*, The Astrophysical Journal **787** (2014) 10

C. Trippella, *et al.*, The Astrophysical Journal **787** (2014) 41

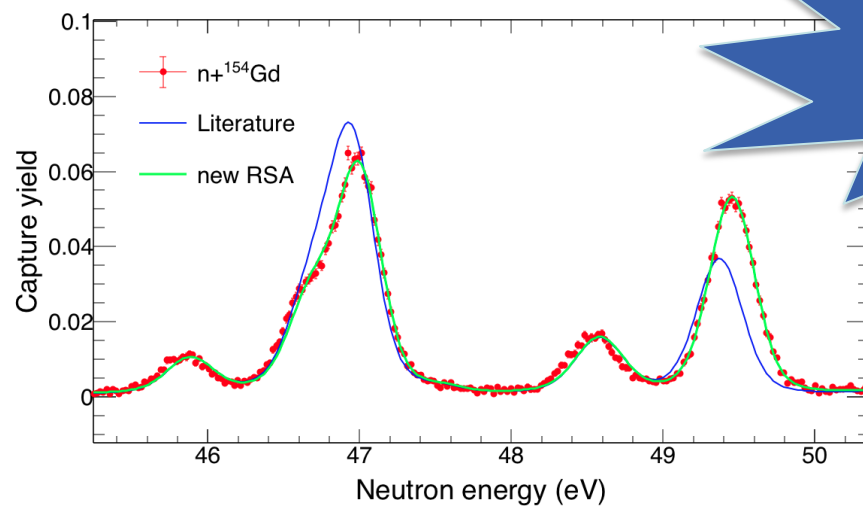
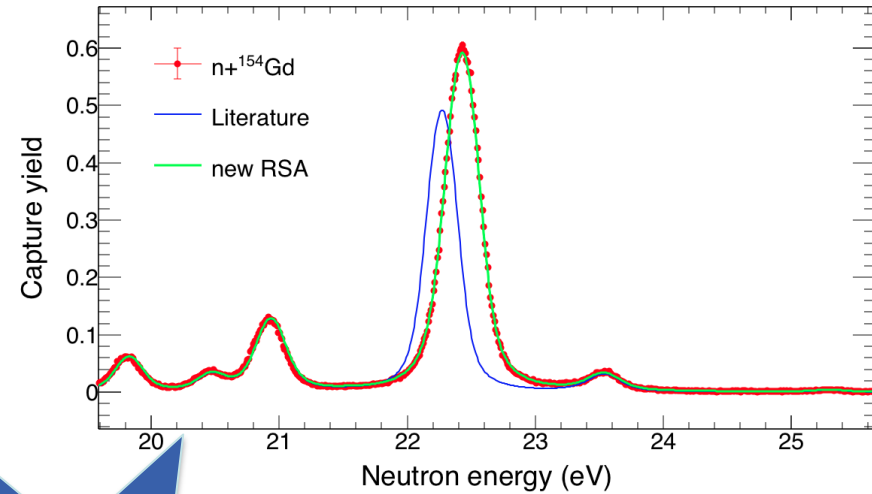
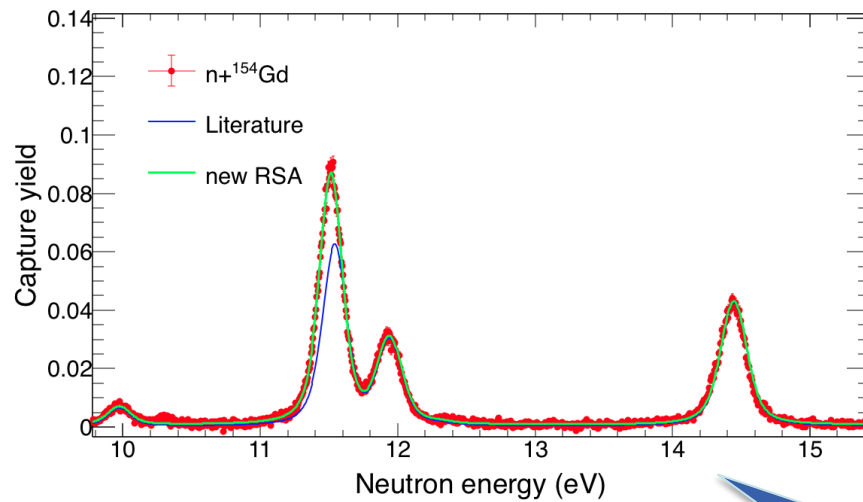
S. Cristallo, *et al.*, The Astrophysical Journal **801** (2015) 53

Disagreement of more than 20% between observation and model calculation of s-process abundances



THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL, 801:53 (14pp), 2015 March 1

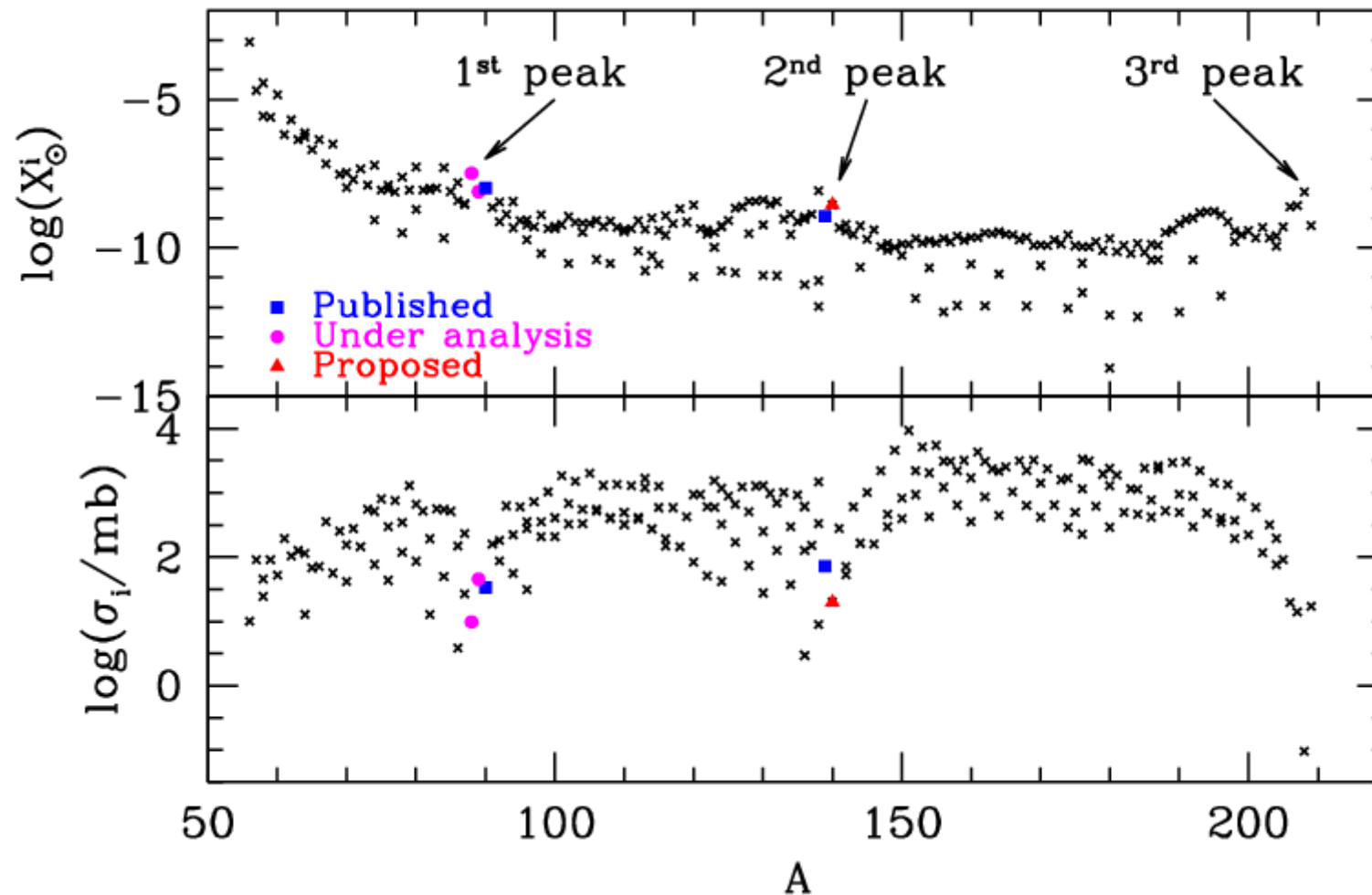
s-only isotopes



Measurement
August 2017

Preliminary R-Matrix
analysis of $^{154}\text{Gd}(n,\gamma)$
seems to largely
deviate from literature

Magic nuclei: s process peaks



Straniero, Cristallo & Piersanti 2014

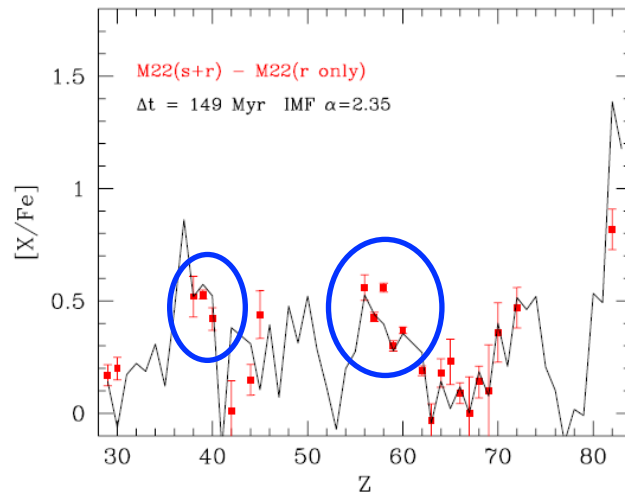


Figure 11. Best fit of the average *s*-process chemical pattern of stars in M22.

The pollution of AGB stars with a mass ranging between 3 to 6 M_{SUN} may account for most of the features of the *s*-process enrichment of M4 and M22.

Abundances of elements in the ***s*-process peak** are well reproduced **apart from Cerium**.

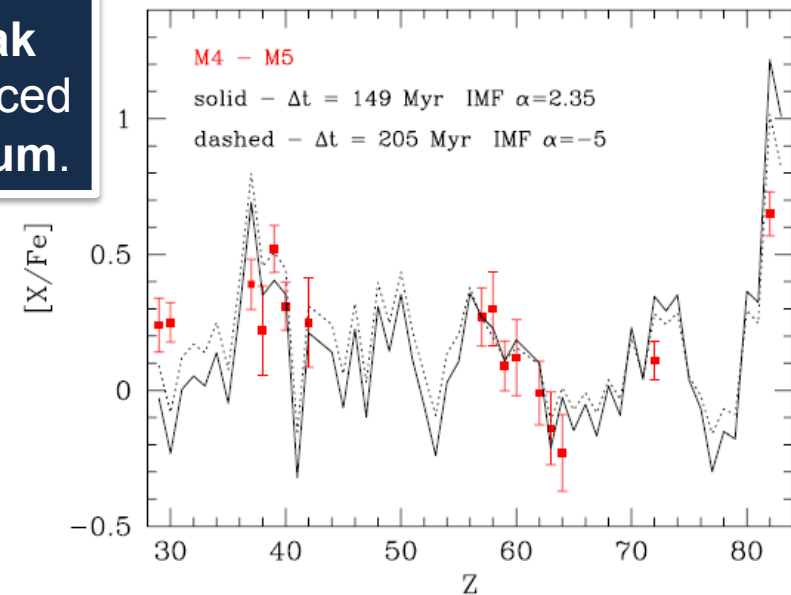


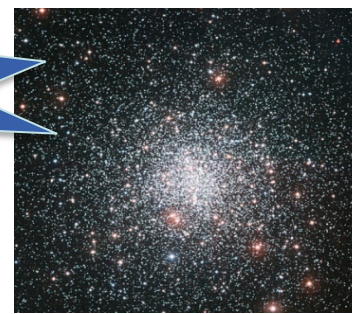
Figure 13. Best fit of the average *s*-process chemical pattern of stars in M4.

M22



Globular Cluster

M4

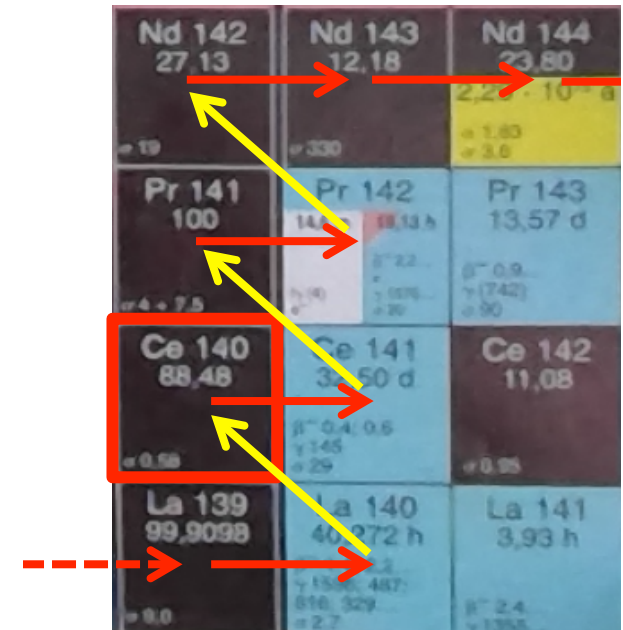
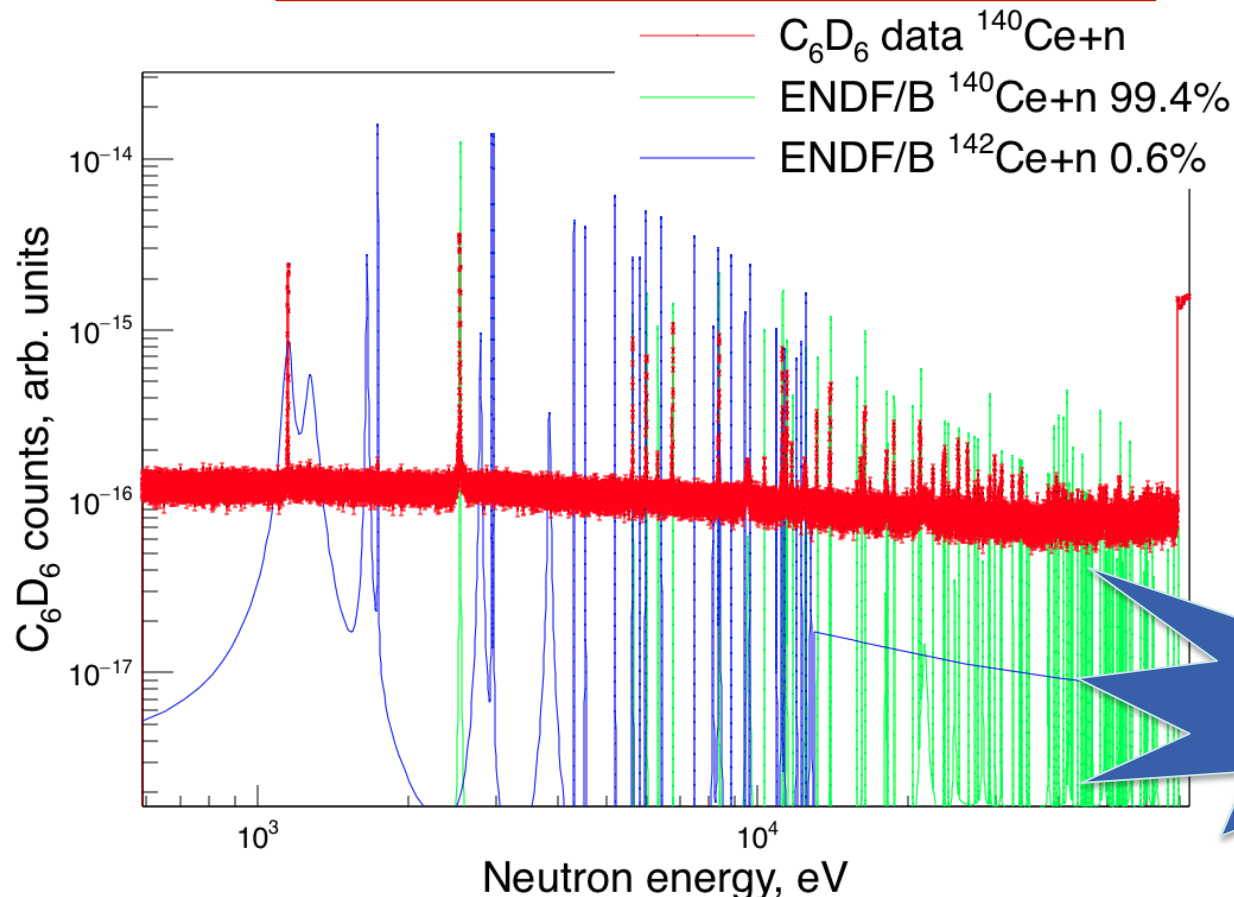


M5



Magic nuclei: s process peaks

^{140}Ce is the most abundant cerium isotope (88%)



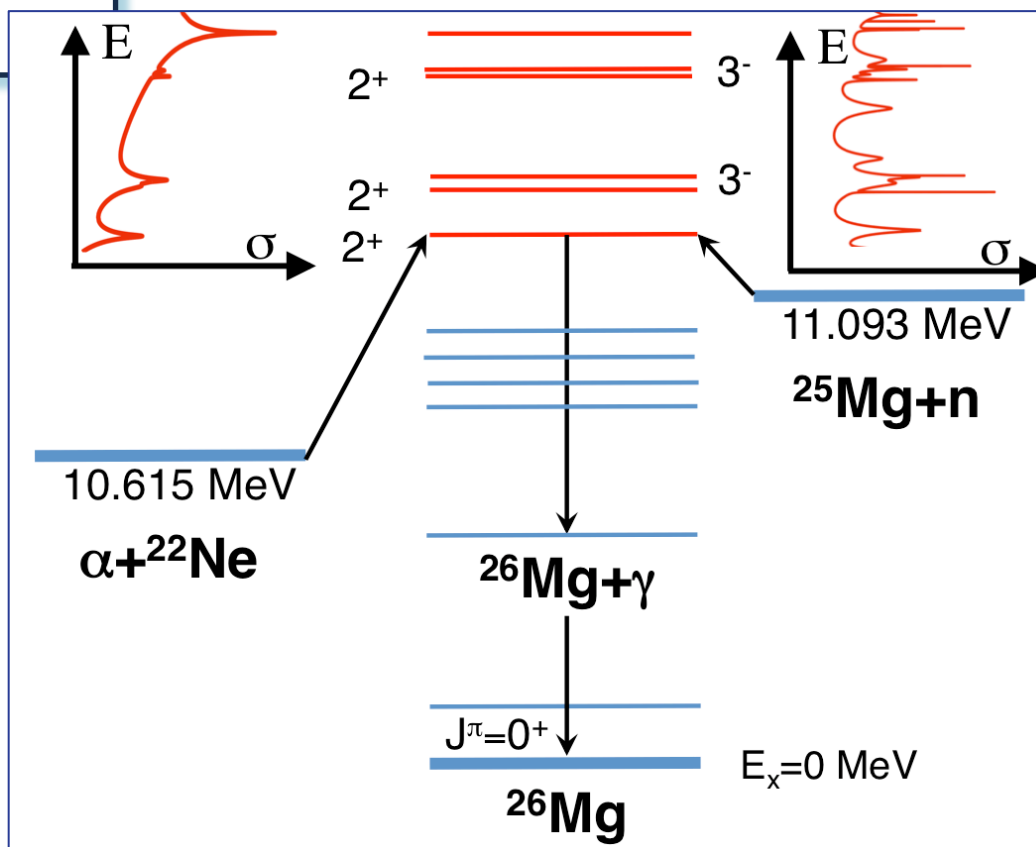
Measurement
May 2018

The case of ^{25}Mg

Constraints for the
 $^{22}\text{Ne}(\alpha, n)^{25}\text{Mg}$
 $^{22}\text{Ne}(\alpha, \gamma)^{26}\text{Mg}$
 reactions

Experimental evidence of natural spin parity states in the energy region of interest

	J^π
^{22}Ne	0^+
α	0^+



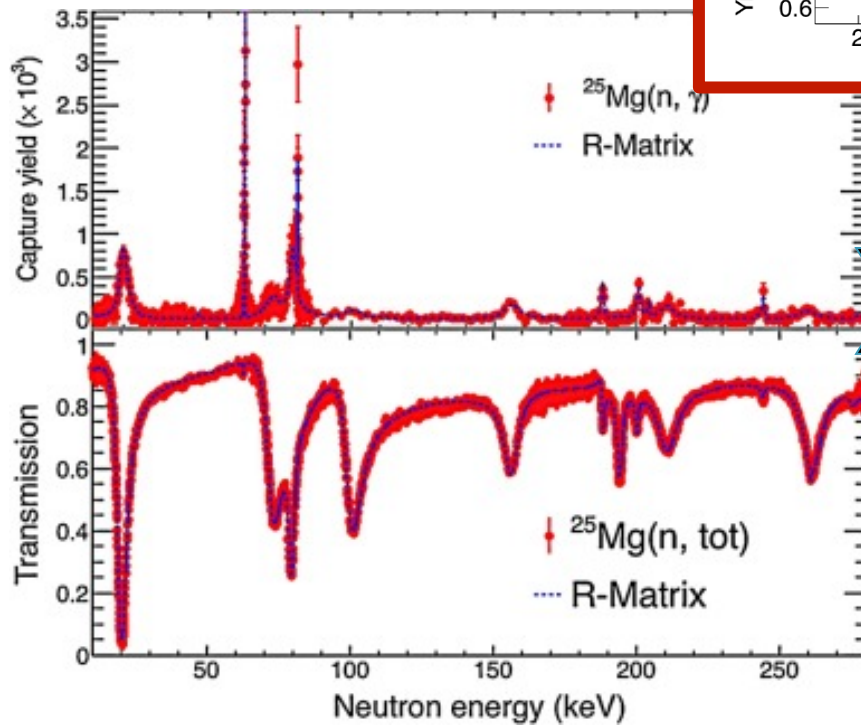
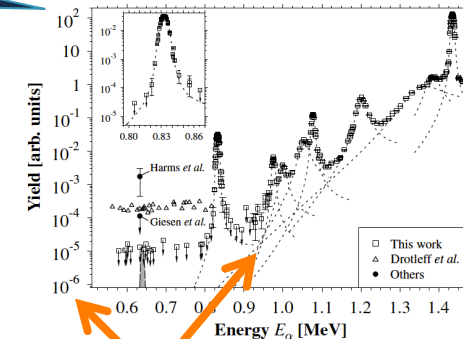
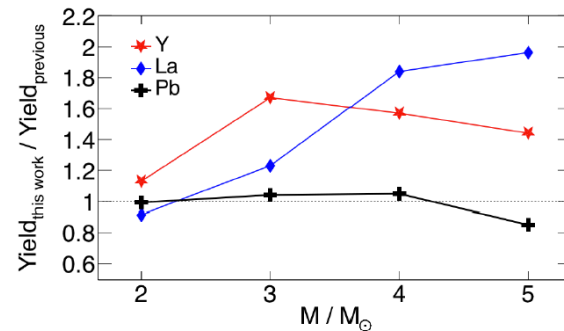
	J^π
^{25}Mg	$5/2^+$
n	$1/2^+$

The case of ^{25}Mg

s abundance

M. Jaeger, PRL **87** (2001) 20

Constraints for the
 $^{22}\text{Ne}(\alpha, n)^{25}\text{Mg}$
 $^{22}\text{Ne}(\alpha, \gamma)^{26}\text{Mg}$
 reactions



R-Matrix
analysis

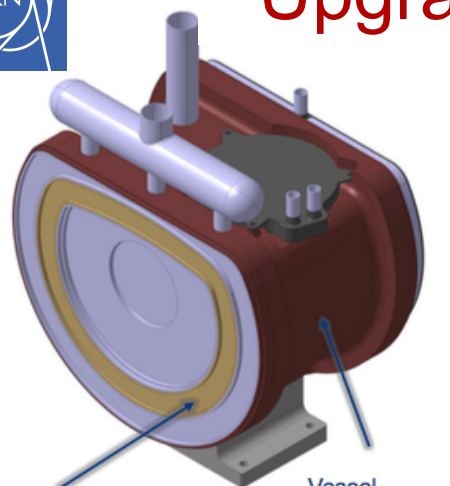
?

E_n (keV)	E_x (keV)	E_{α}^{Lab} (keV)	J^{π} (\hbar)	Γ_{γ} (eV)	Γ_n (eV)
19.92(1)	11112	589	2 ⁺	1.37(6)	2095(5)
62.73(1)	11154		1 ⁺	4.4(5)	7(2)
72.82(1)	11163	649	2 ⁺	2.8(2)	5310(50)
79.23(1)	11169	656	3 ⁻ (a)	3.3(2)	1940(20)
81.11(1)	11171			5(1)	1 – 30
100.33(2)	11190		3 ⁺	1.3(2)	5230(30)
155.83(2)	11243		2 ⁻	4.7(5)	5950(50)
187.95(2)	11274	779	2 ⁺	2.2(2)	410(10)
194.01(2)	11280	786	3 ⁻ (a)	0.3(1)	1810(20)
199.84(2)	11285		2 ⁻	4.8(4)	1030(30)
203.88(4)	11289			0.9(3)	3 – 20
210.23(3)	11295		2 ⁻	6.6(6)	7370(60)
243.98(2)	11328	843	2 ⁺ (b)	2.2(3)	171(6)
260.84(8)	11344			1.0(2)	300 – 3900
261.20(2)	11344		> 3	3.0(3)	6000 – 9000

Future 2021 - 2030



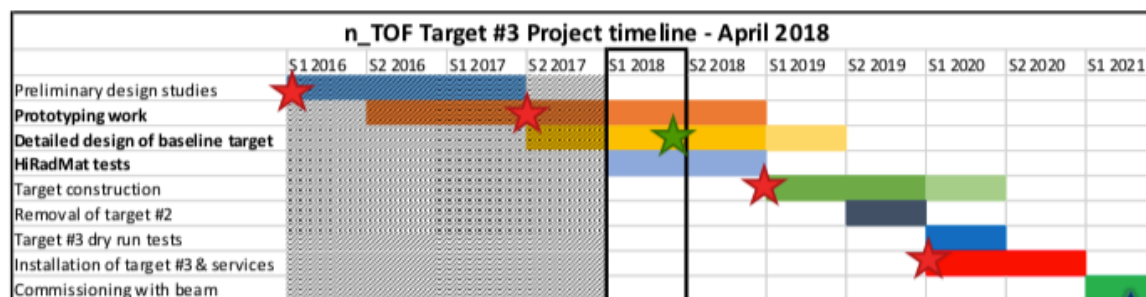
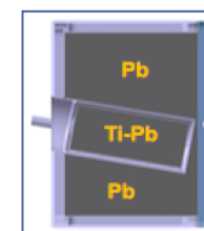
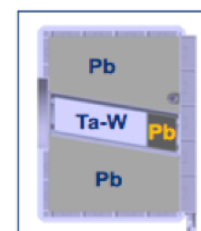
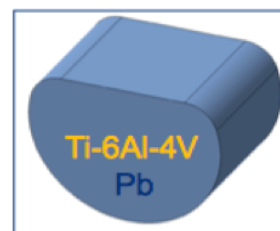
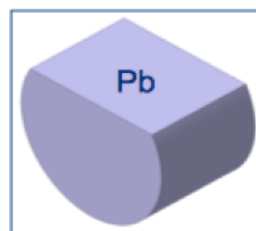
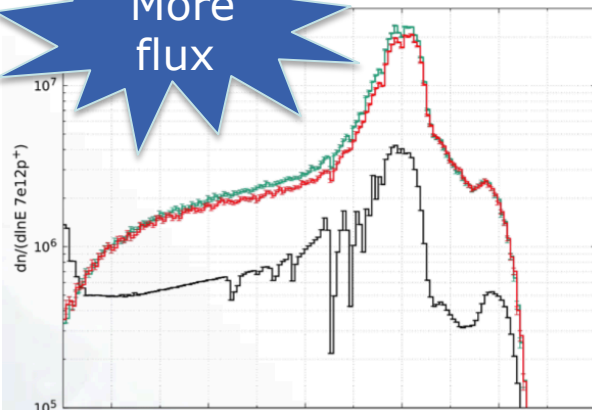
Upgrade: new spallation target ready by 2020



Proton window
St. steel 316L

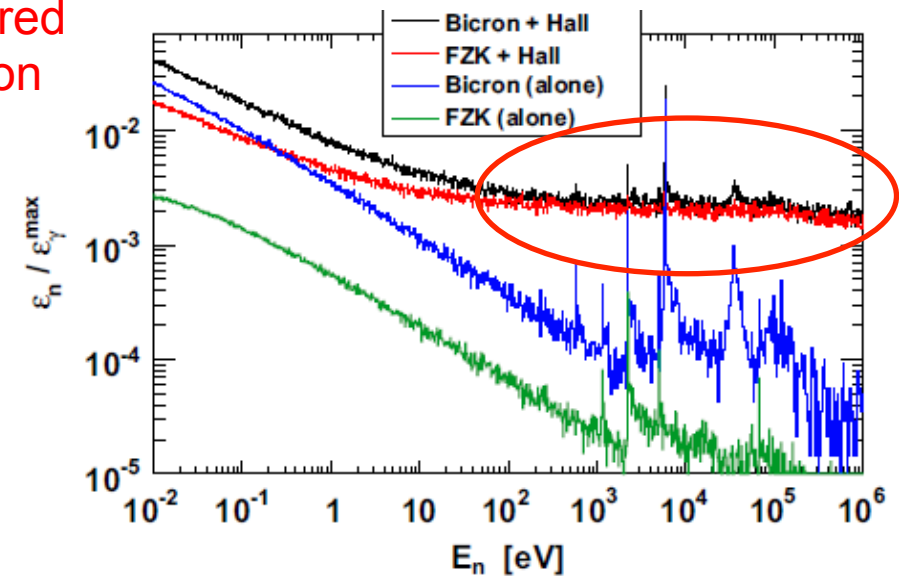
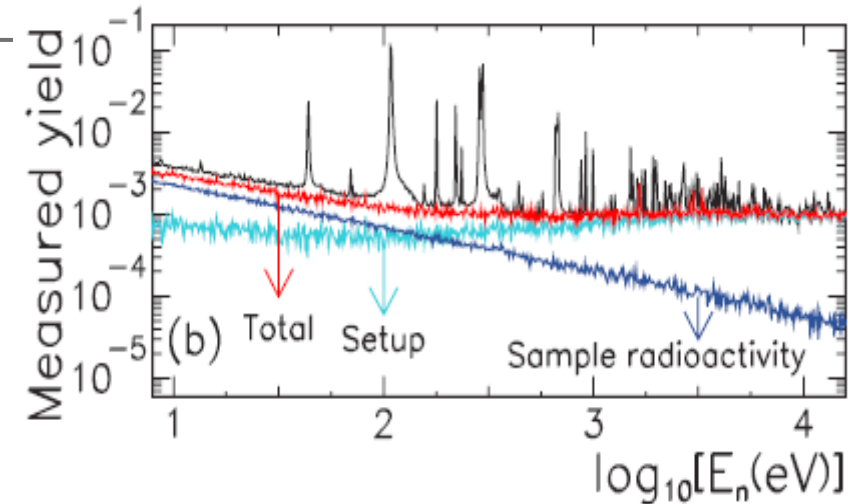
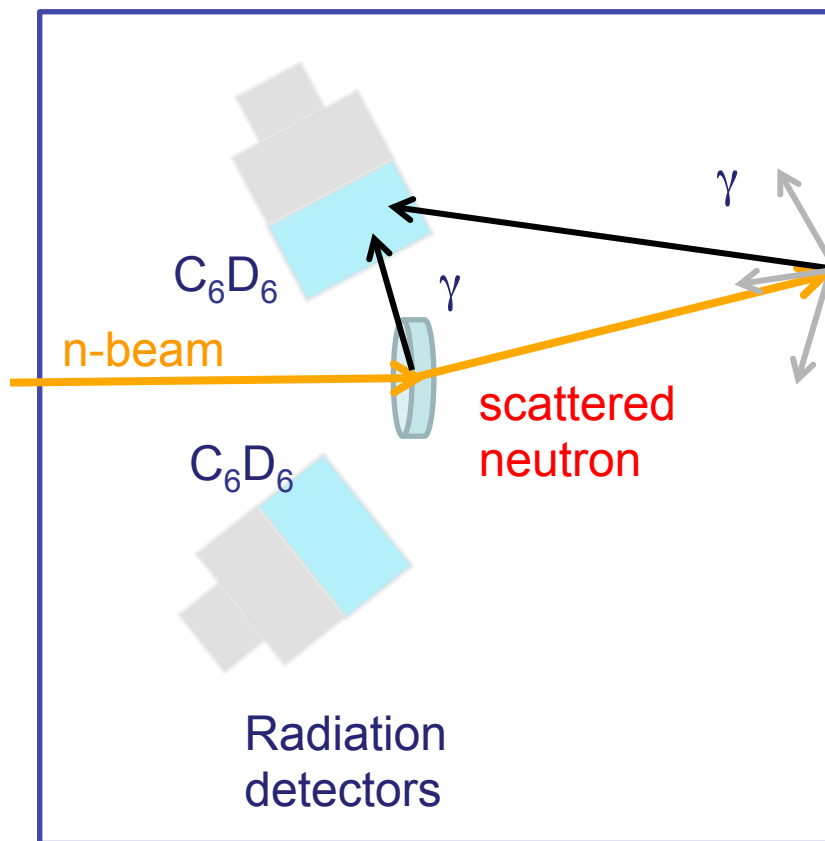
Vessel
St. steel 316L

More
flux

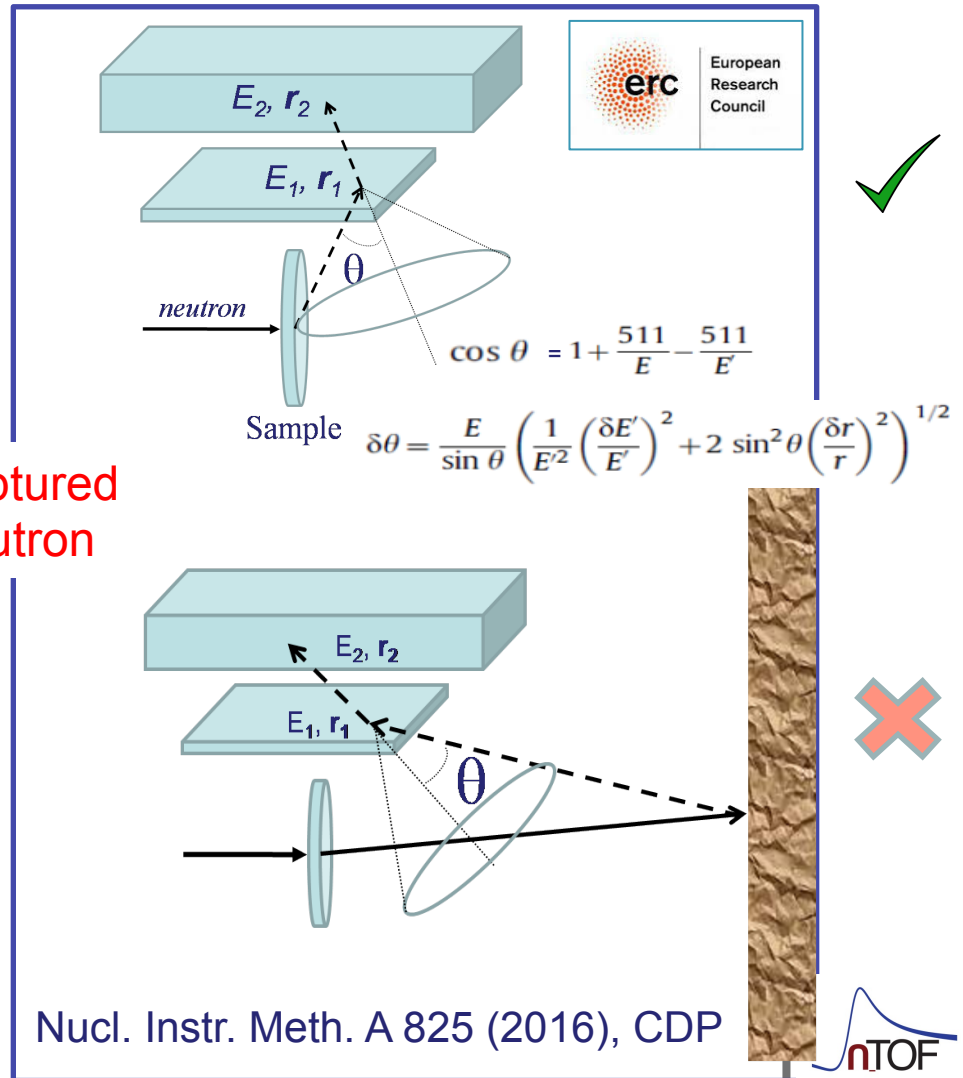
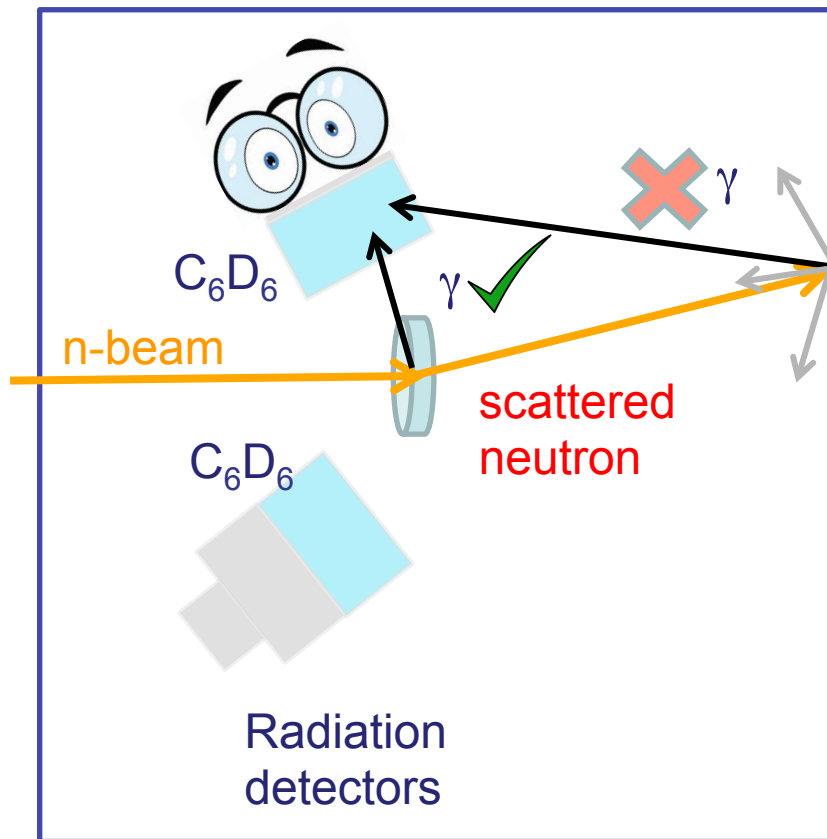


- T3 Project started early 2016
- Preliminary Design Review (PDR) June 2017 (EDMS 1837722)
- Intermediate Engineering Design Review (IEDR) 15th May 2018 ([link](#))
- Production Readiness Review (PRR) Q4 2018
- Target Installation Review (TIR) Q1 2020
- Target installation foreseen Q2 2020 + Beam on target S1 2021

Upgrade: new detector concept

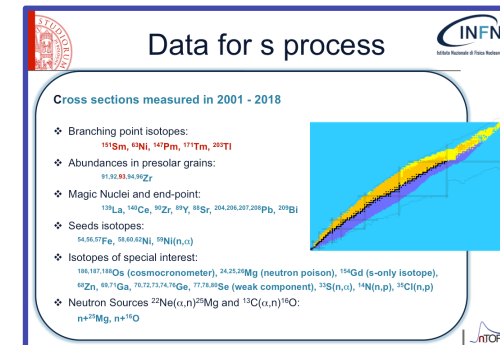


Upgrade: new detector concept



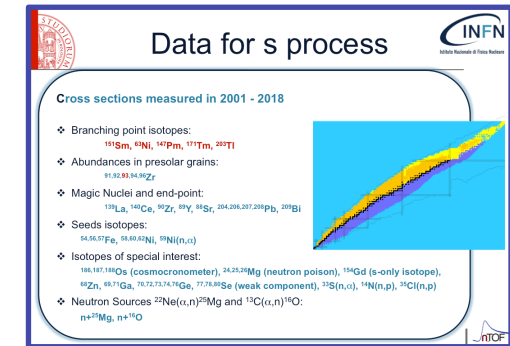
Conclusions

The n_TOF effort to improve cross section data for s process

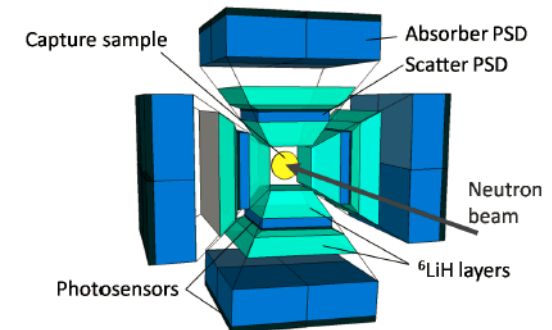


Conclusions

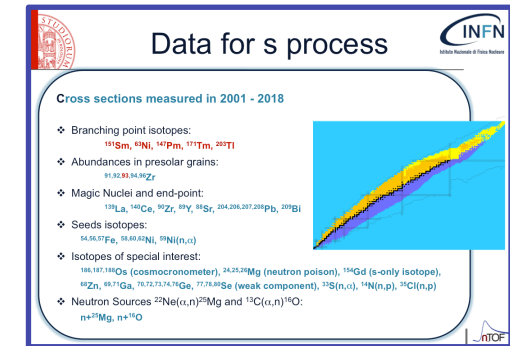
The n_TOF effort to improve cross section data for s process



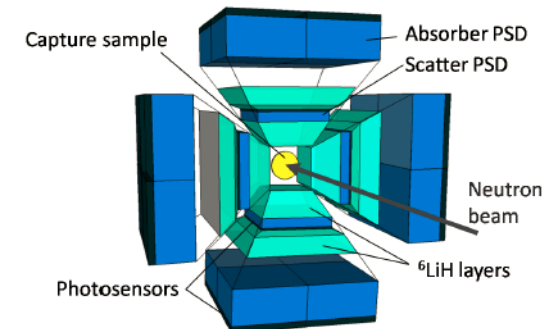
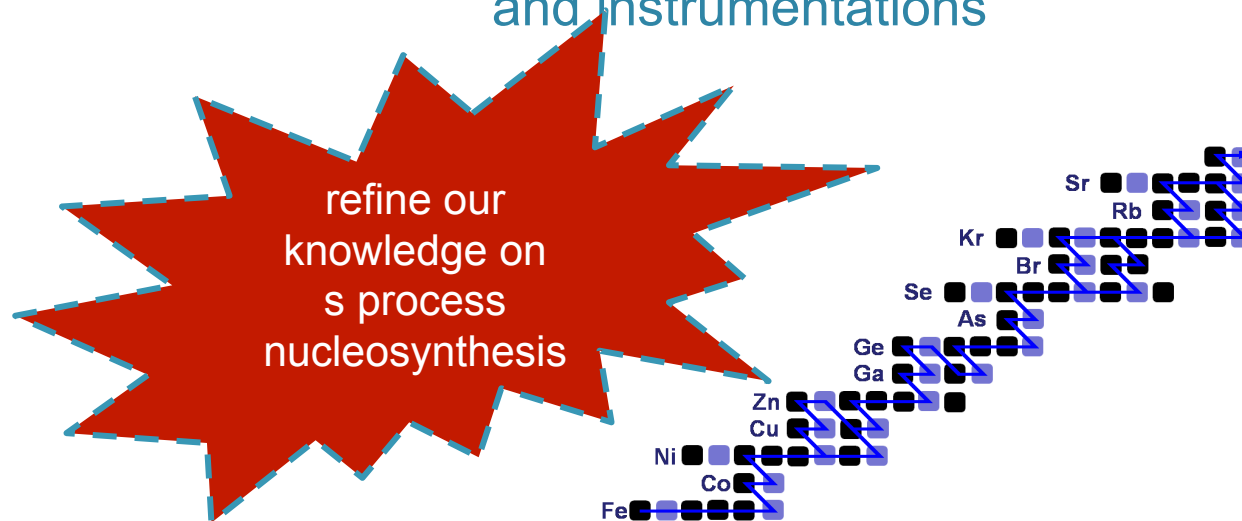
In the future (~ 2021 – 2030) challenging measurements: upgrade of the n_TOF facility and instrumentations



The n_TOF effort to improve cross section data for s process



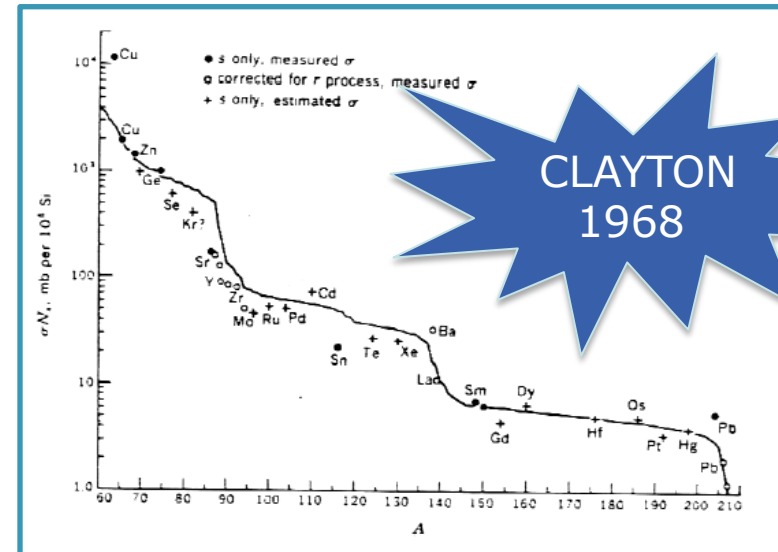
In the future (~ 2021 – 2030) challenging measurements: upgrade of the n_TOF facility and instrumentations



Conclusions

s process

“Easy” to be reproduced with an exponential distribution of neutron exposures.



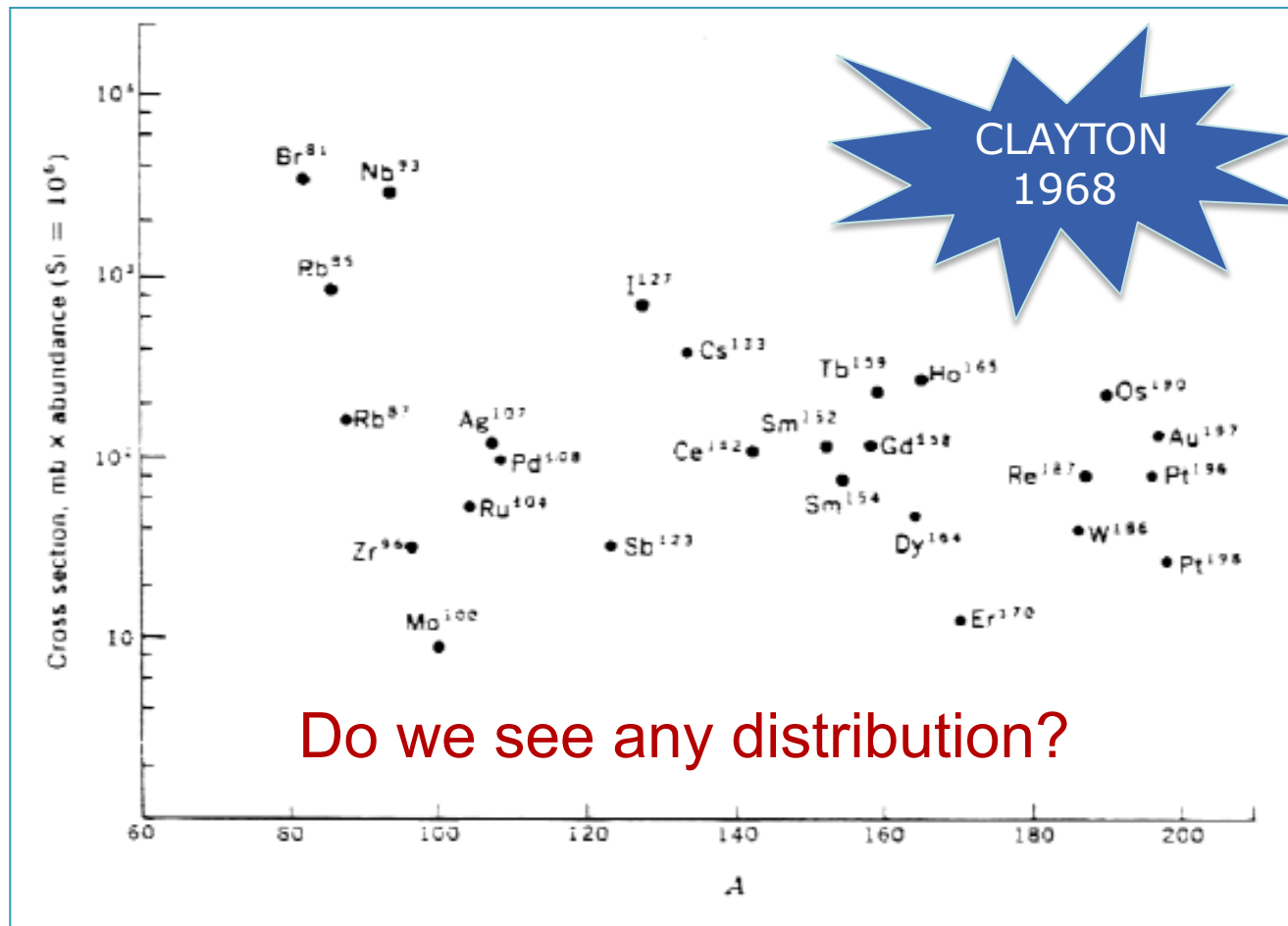
Moreover, given that the s-process occurs in a relatively low neutron-density environment, the neutron flow reaches equilibrium between nuclei with magic neutron numbers, where the product of the Maxwellian averaged stellar (n, γ) cross section of a nuclide, $\langle \sigma \rangle$, and its corresponding abundance, N_s , remains almost constant (the difference in the two product is much smaller than the magnitude of either one of them):

$$\langle \sigma \rangle_A N_A \approx \langle \sigma \rangle_{A+1} N_{A+1}$$

LOCAL
APPROXIMATION

Conclusions

r process





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