

Definition of a standard neutron field with the ${}^7\text{Li}(p,n){}^7\text{Be}$ reaction

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A. Mengoni⁵, M. Mosconi³, R. Nolte³, A. Wallner¹

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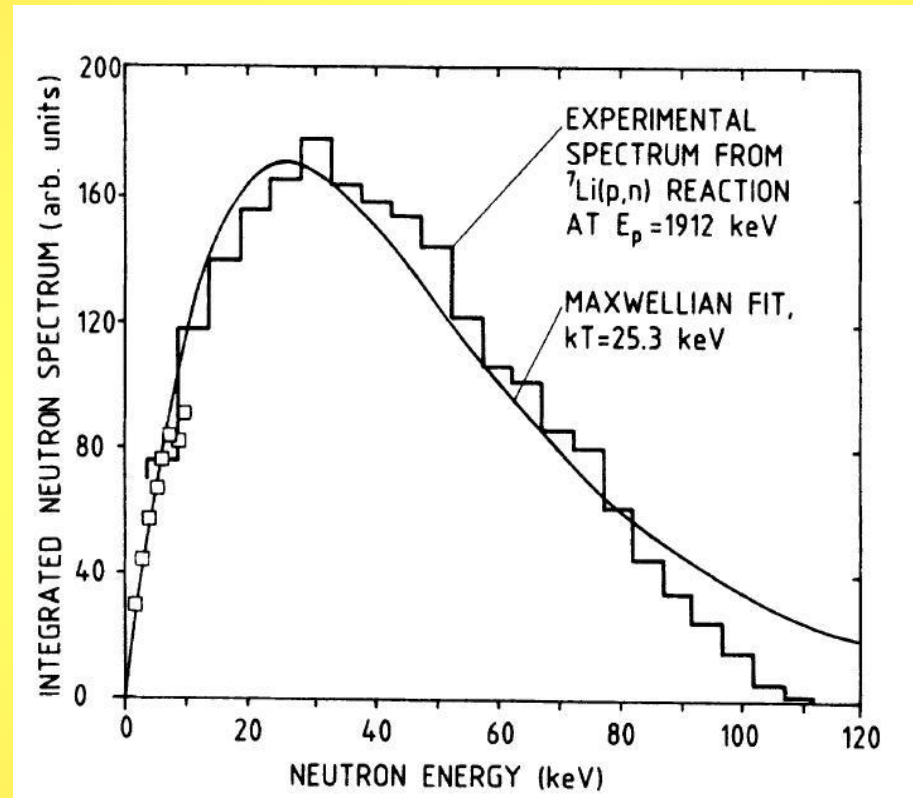
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⁵ IAEA, Nuclear Data Section, Vienna, Vienna

${}^7\text{Li}(p,n){}^7\text{Be}$ as neutron source

- for $E_p=1912$ keV \rightarrow quasi-maxwellian energy distribution with $kT=25$ keV
- neutron emission: forward peaked with 120° opening angle

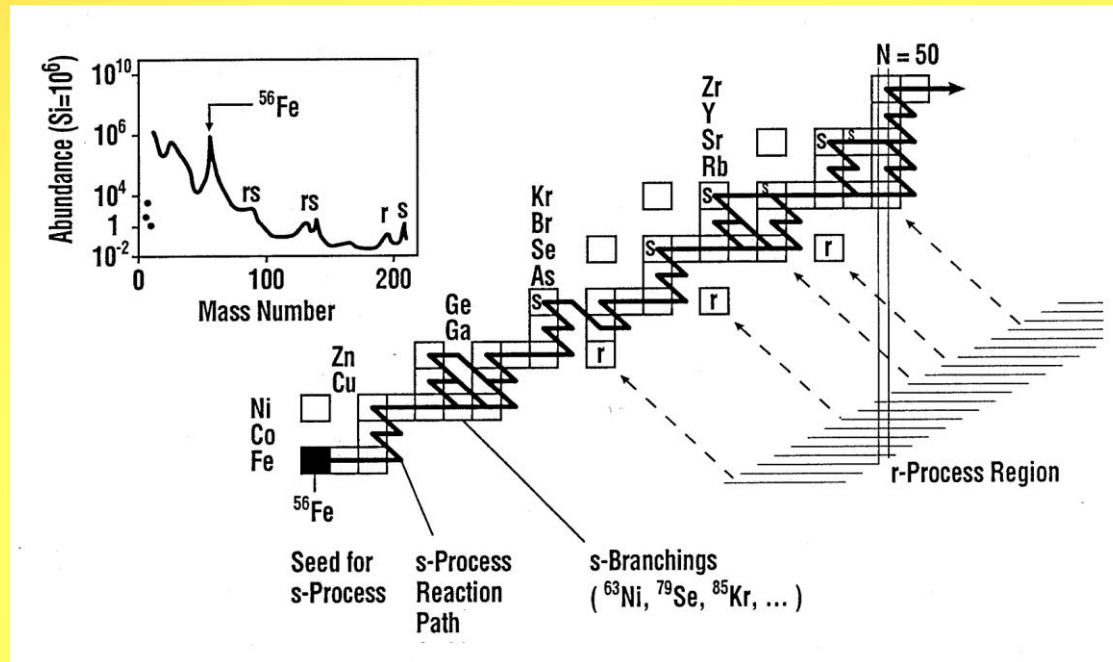


Ratynski and Käppeler, Phys. Rev. C **37** (1988)

Motivation

Nucleosynthesis in stars beyond Fe:

- s-process (slow neutron capture) responsible for 50% of abundances between Fe and Bi

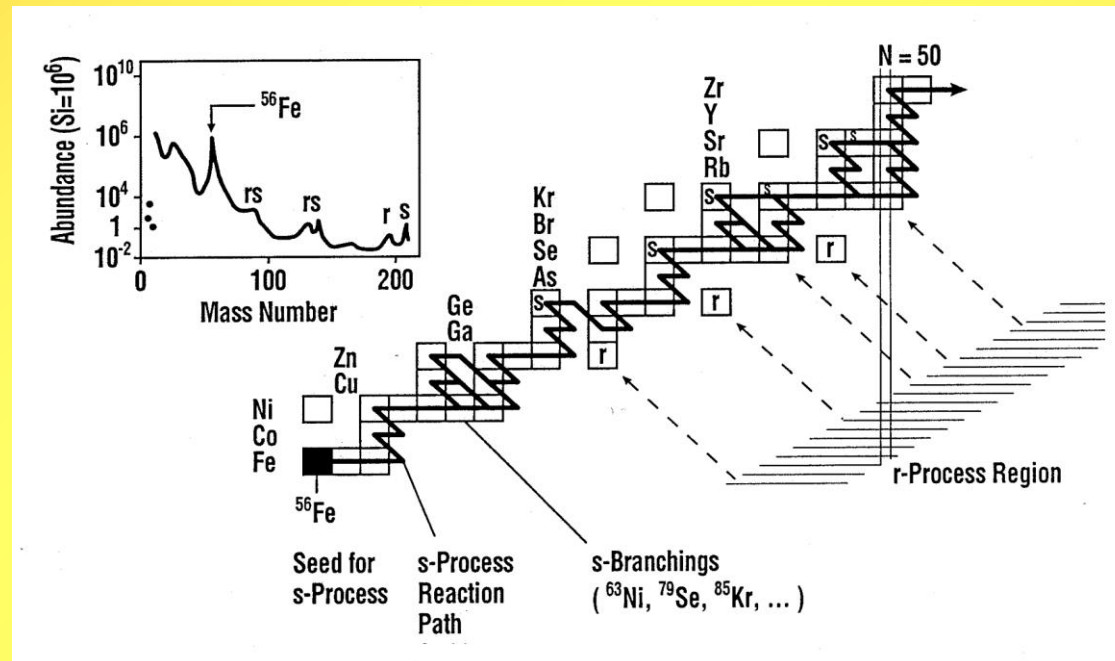


F. Käppeler, A. Mengoni, Nucl. Phys. A 777 (2006)

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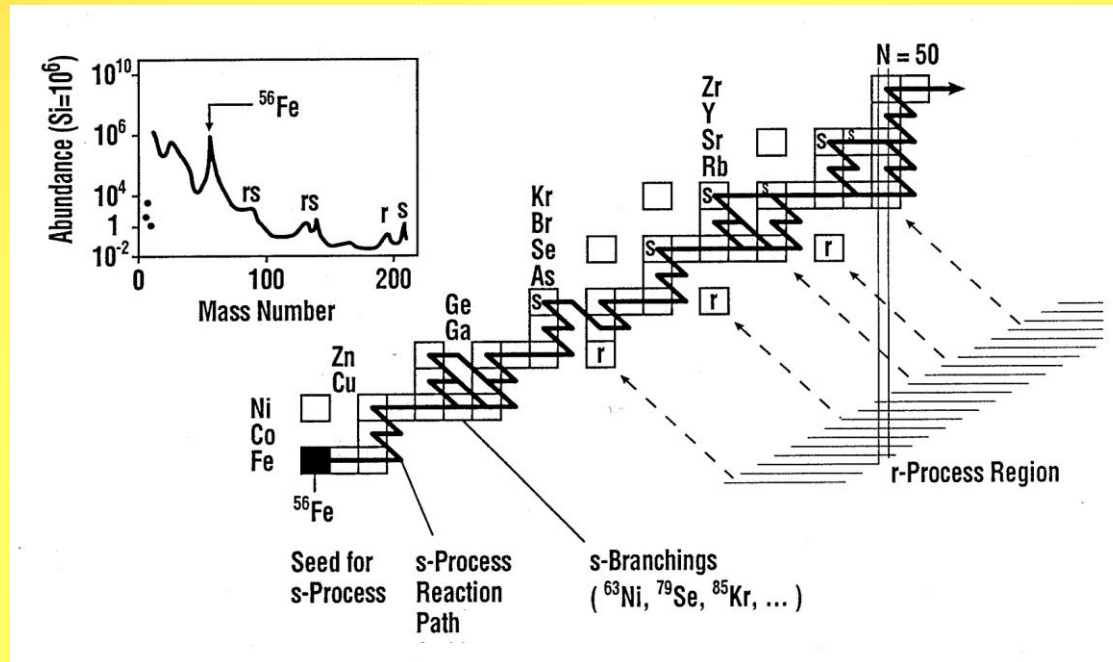


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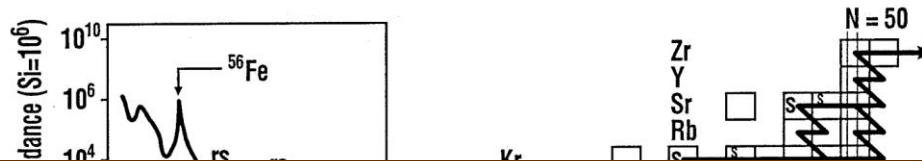


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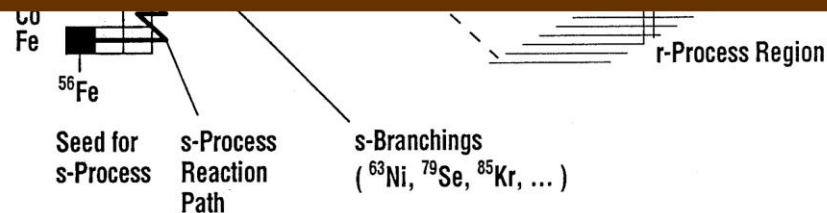
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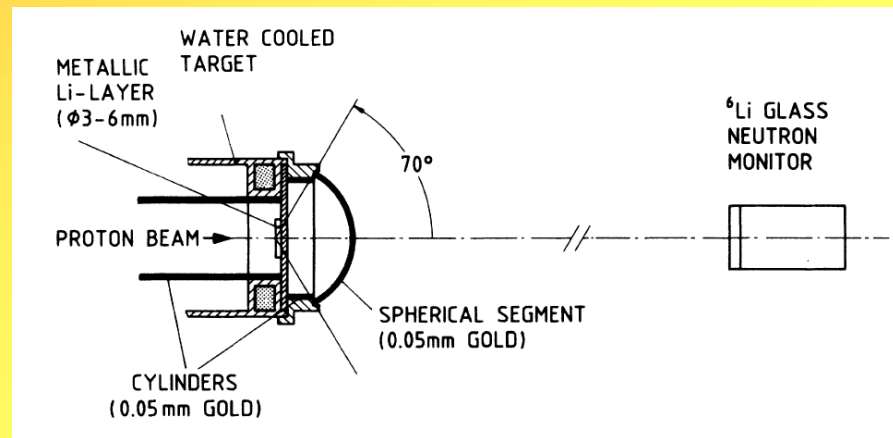
Direct measurement of Maxwellian-averaged cross-sections with $^7\text{Li}(p,n)$ source



Measurement of $^{197}\text{Au}(n,\gamma)$ at KIT*

Ratynski and Käppeler (Phys. Rev. C **37**, 1988)

- spherical Au sample covering whole beam
- absolute flux determination by ^7Be activity of Li target

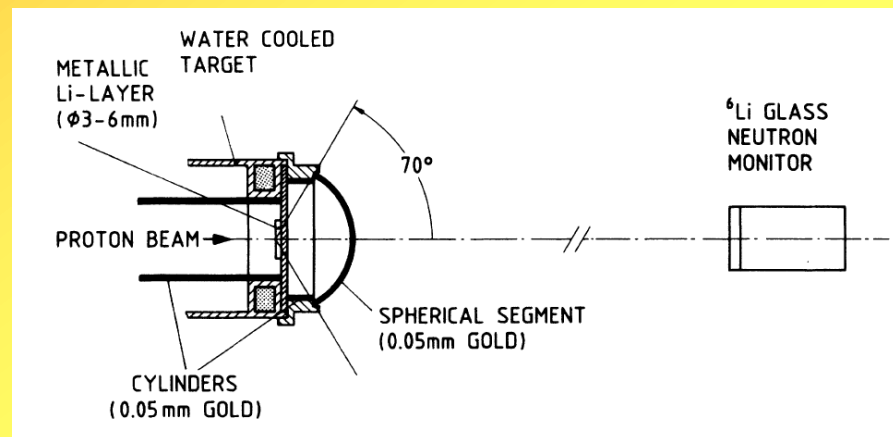


* former FZK

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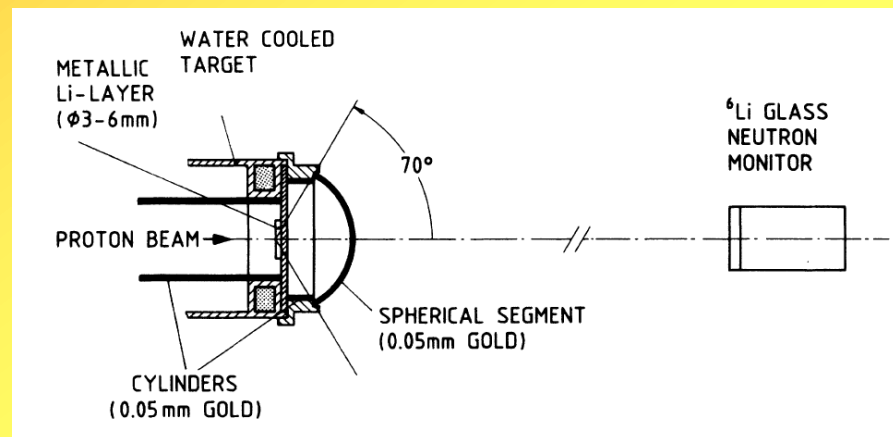
$$\sigma(25\text{keV})_{\text{EXP}} = 586 \text{ mb} \quad 1.4\%$$

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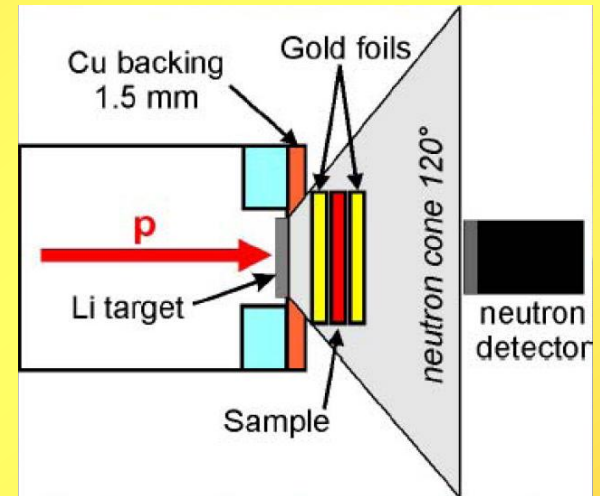
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for transformation to Maxwellian-averaged cross-section (MACS):

- energy dependence of cross-section
- neutron spectrum

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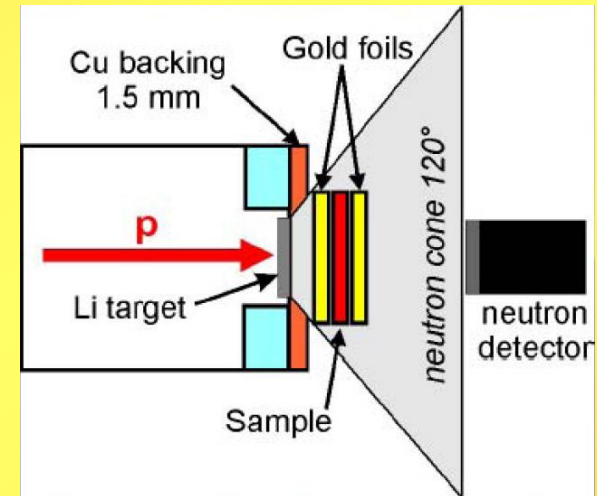
Other measurements of MACS at KIT



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Short-lived radioisotopes:

- Activation + decay counting
- ^{58}Fe , ^{59}Co , ^{87}Rb , ^{88}Sr , ^{89}Y , ^{139}La , etc. (Heil et al., Dillmann et al., Käppeler et al., O'Brien et al.....)



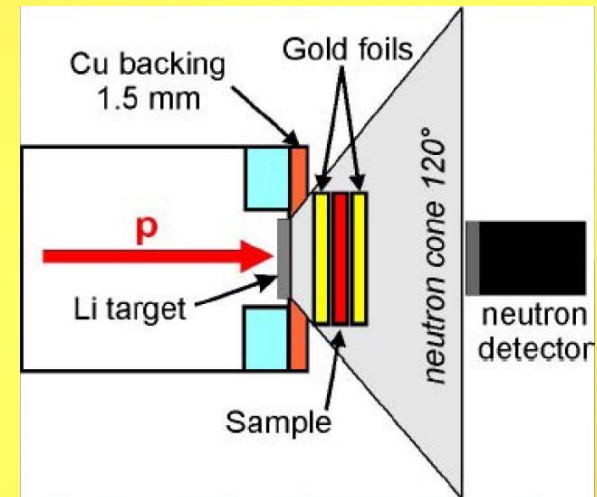
Long-lived radioisotopes:

- Activation + Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (AMS)
- AMS labs: ATLAS (Argonne), GAMS (Munich), VERA (Vienna)
- ^9Be , ^{13}C , ^{40}Ca , ^{54}Fe , $^{58,62}\text{Ni}$, ^{78}Se , ^{209}Bi , etc. (Coquard et al., Dillmann et al., Nassar et al., Rugel et al., Wallner et al.)

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All relative to $^{197}\text{Au}(n,\gamma)$ cross-section!

$^{197}\text{Au}(n,\gamma)$ as standard cross-section

- recommended standard for thermal and from 0.2-2.8 MeV
- 3-200 keV: 6-8 % discrepancy between Ratynski-Käppeler evaluation and standard evaluation

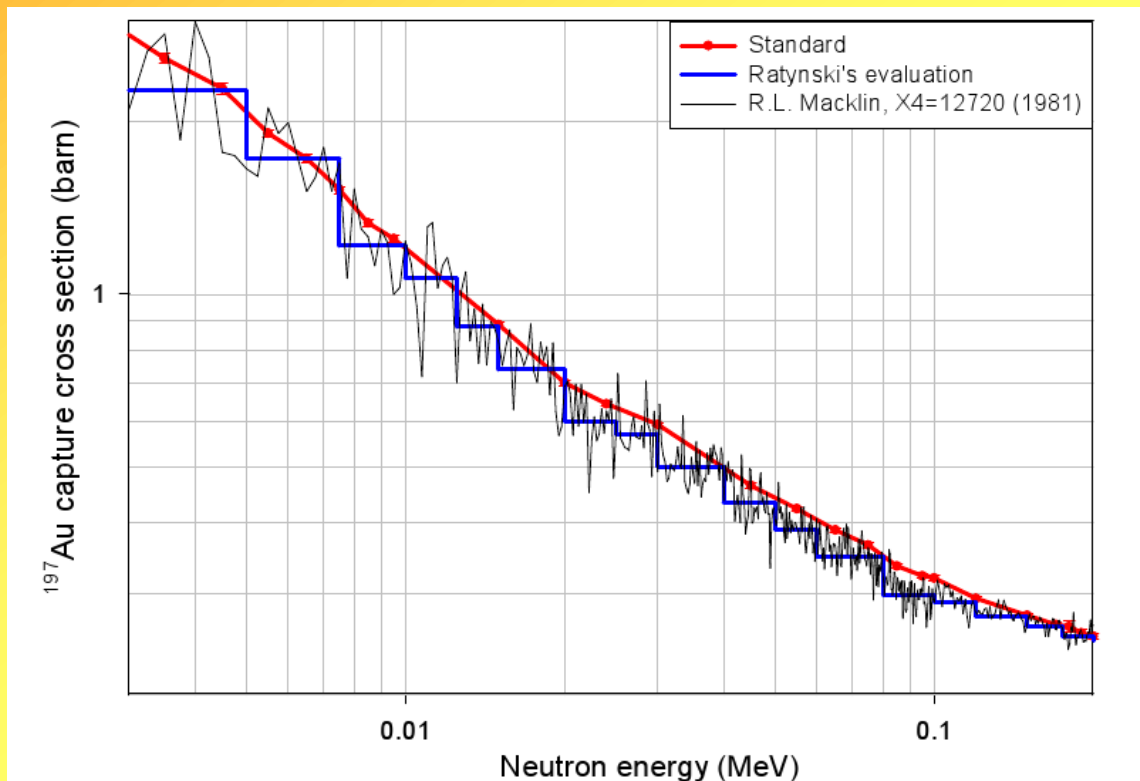
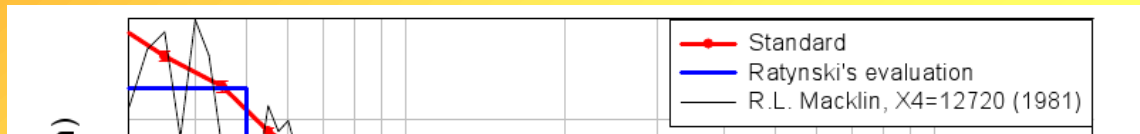


Figure by V.G. Pronyaev

$^{197}\text{Au}(n,\gamma)$ as standard cross-section

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• new measurement of $^{197}\text{Au}(n,\gamma)$ with TOF technique (n_TOF, GELINA)

• **EFNUDAT project: new, detailed measurement of $^7\text{Li}(p,n)$ spectrum at PTB**

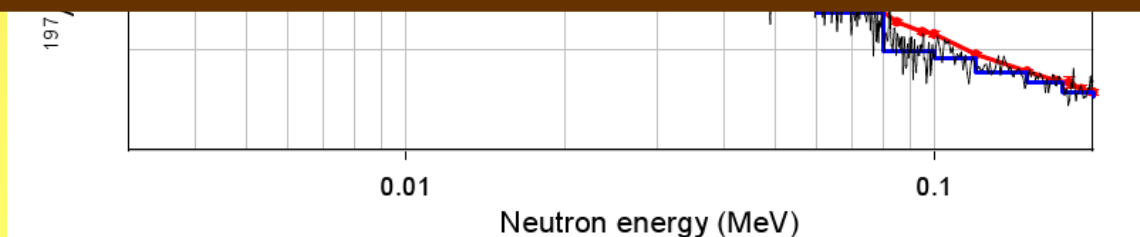
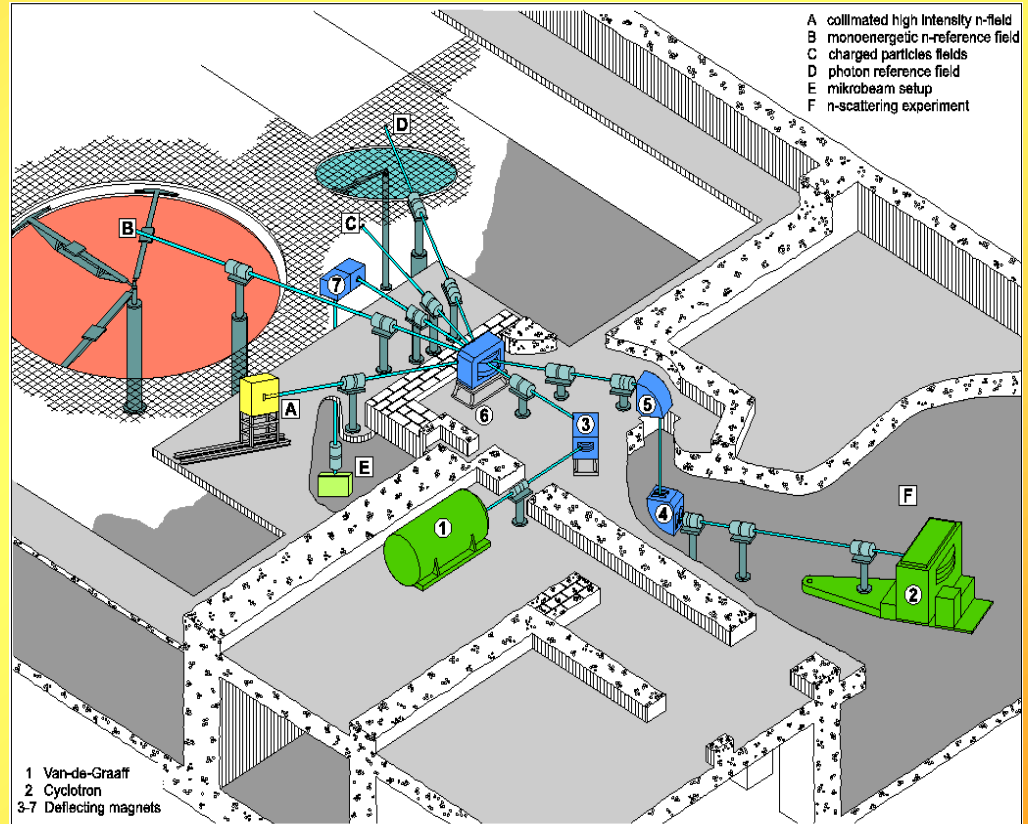


Figure by V.G. Pronyaev

Experimental setup at PTB

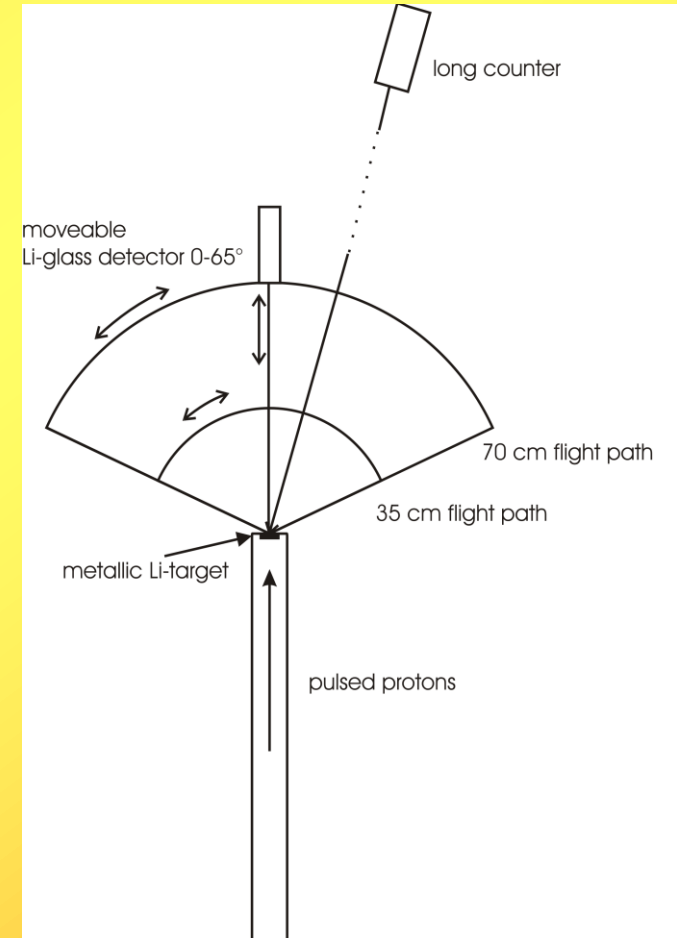
- calibrated setup for angular distribution measurements
- Proton source: 3.75 MV Van de Graaff
- $E_p = 1912.1 \text{ keV}$
- Repetition Rate: 0.625 MHz
- Pulse width (FWHM): 3 ns
- Average proton current: 0.5-0.8 μA



Experimental setup at PTB

Target:

- Metallic Li evaporated on Ta
- 10 μm thickness (565 $\mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$) \rightarrow protons slowed down below reaction threshold ($E_{\text{thres}}=1881 \text{ keV}$)



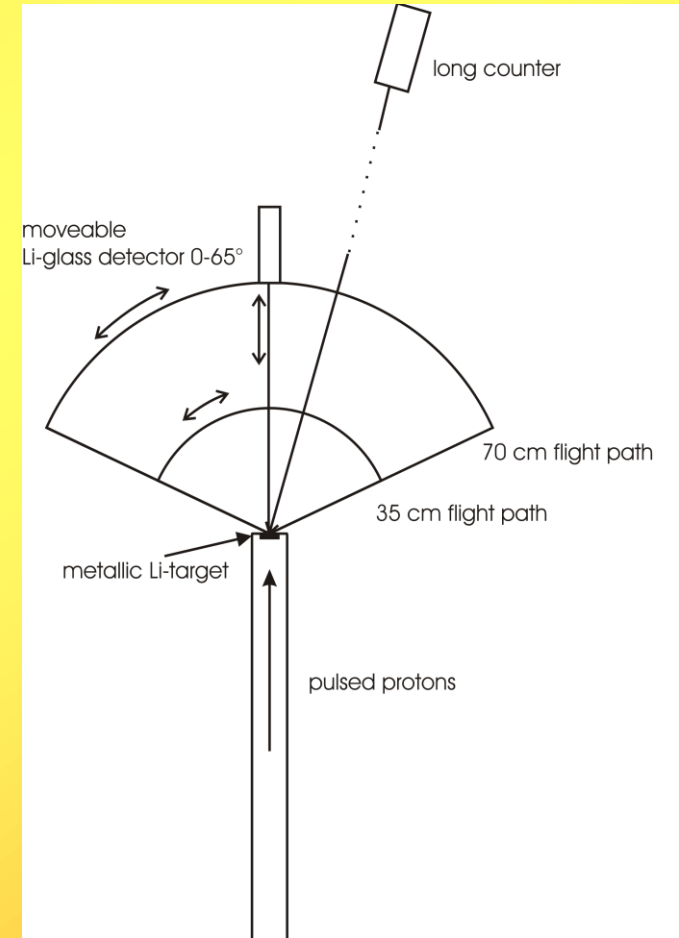
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Positions:

- two flight paths: 35 cm and 70 cm
- angles: 0-65 deg, steps of 5 deg



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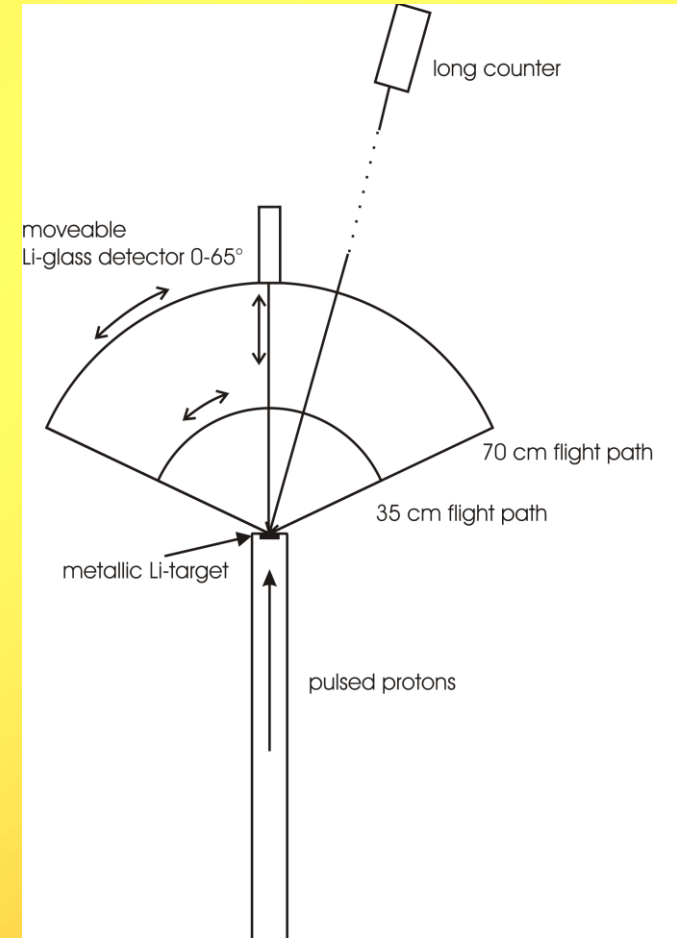
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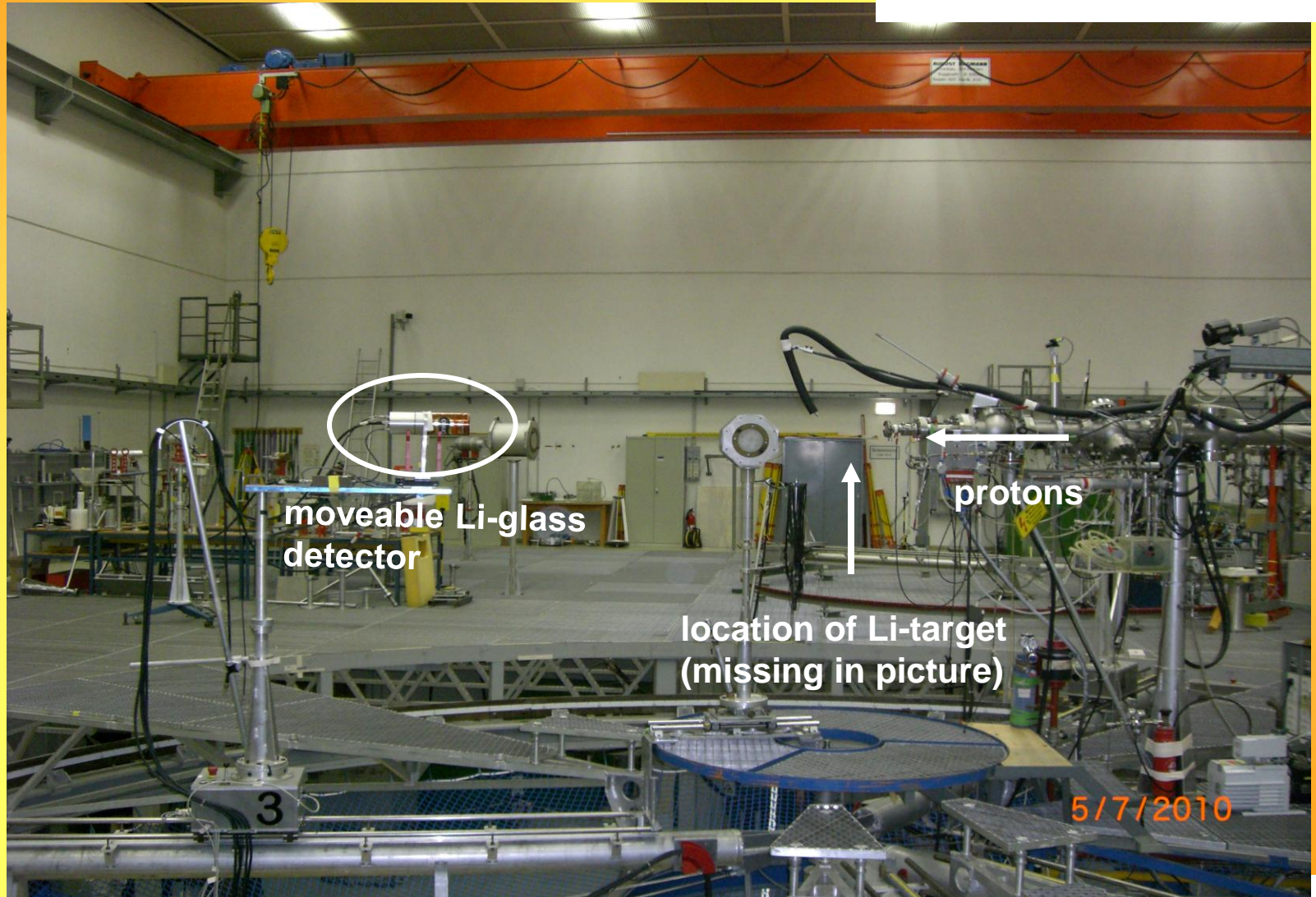
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Detectors:

- moveable Li-glass
- Long counter (fluence determination)



Experimental setup at PTB



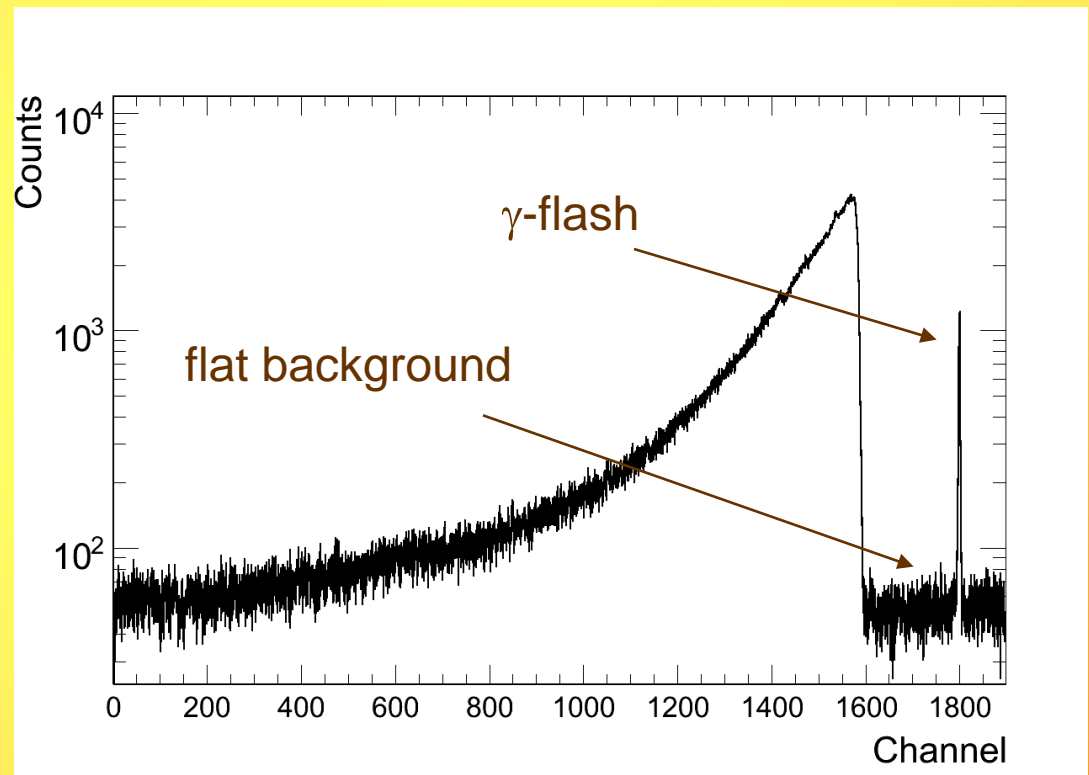
Experimental setup at PTB

- 70 cm flight path: high energy resolution (<1 keV)
- 35 cm flight path: low energy end of spectrum and background studies
- reference runs twice a day at defined position (0 deg, 70 cm)
- runs with different targets (LiF on Ta and LiF on Ag)



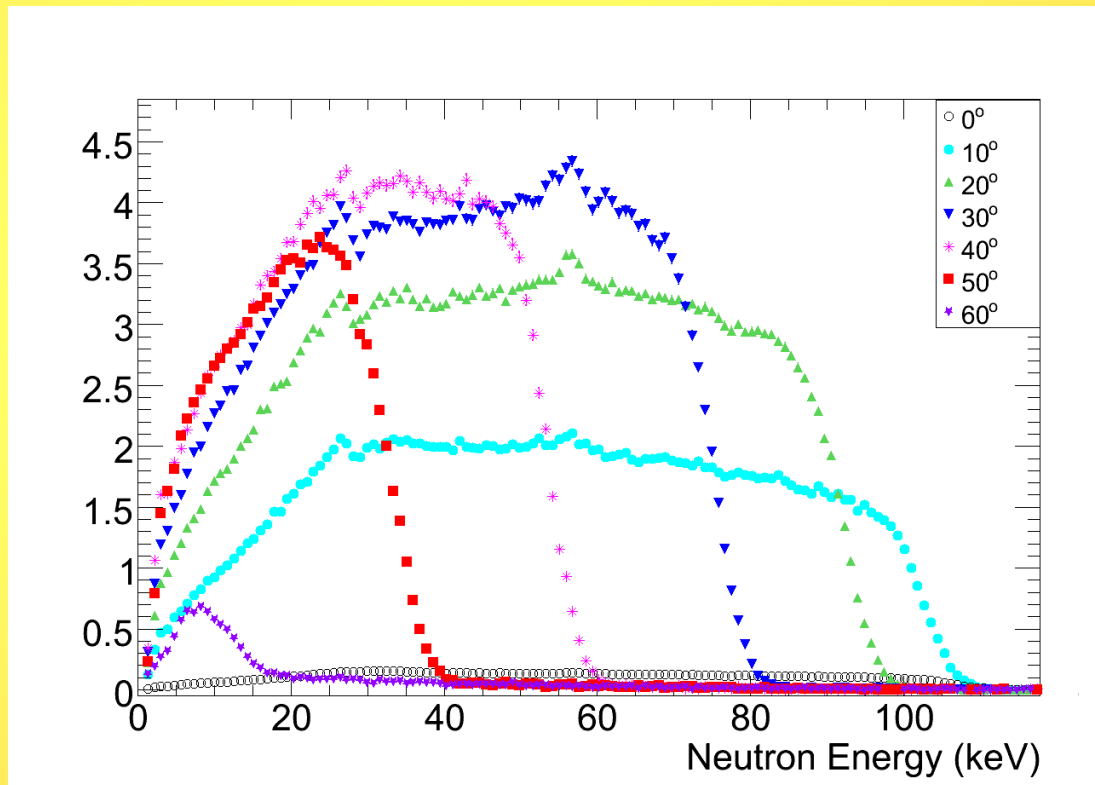
Data reduction

- dead-time correction and background subtraction
- time-of-flight to neutron energy conversion
- detection efficiency: ${}^6\text{Li}(n,t){}^4\text{He}$ cross-section (standard!)
- neutron fluence: long-counter
- solid angle correction



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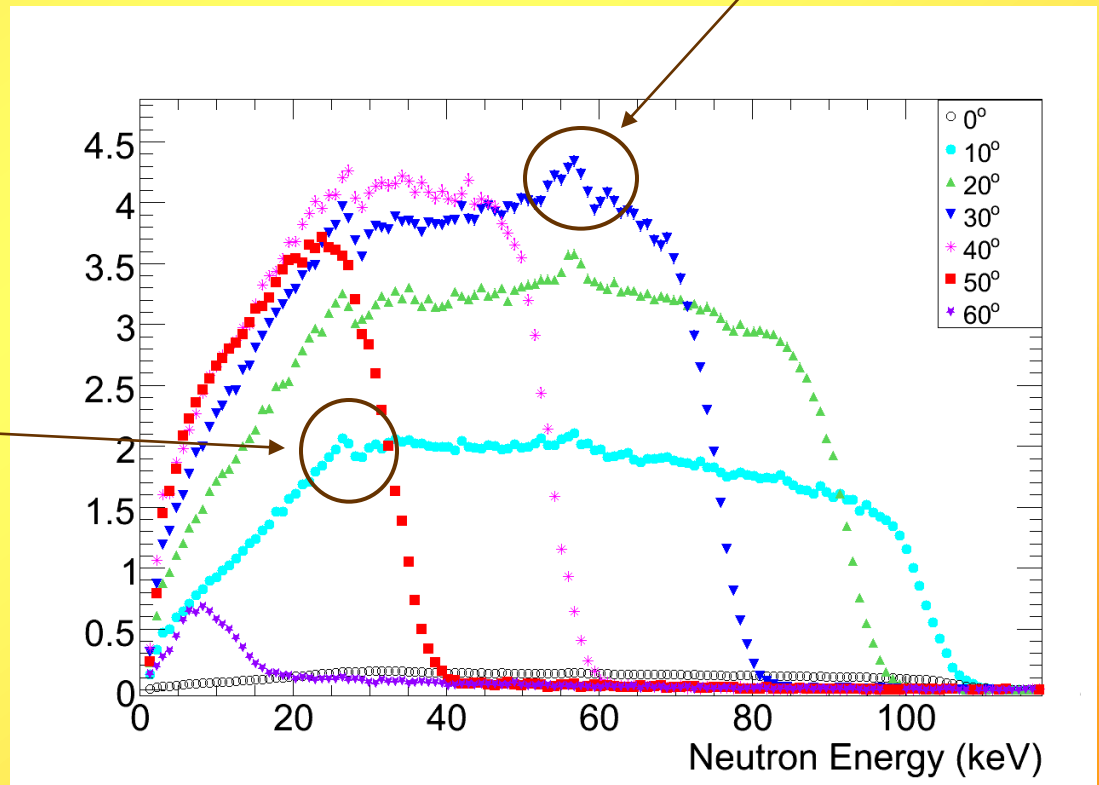
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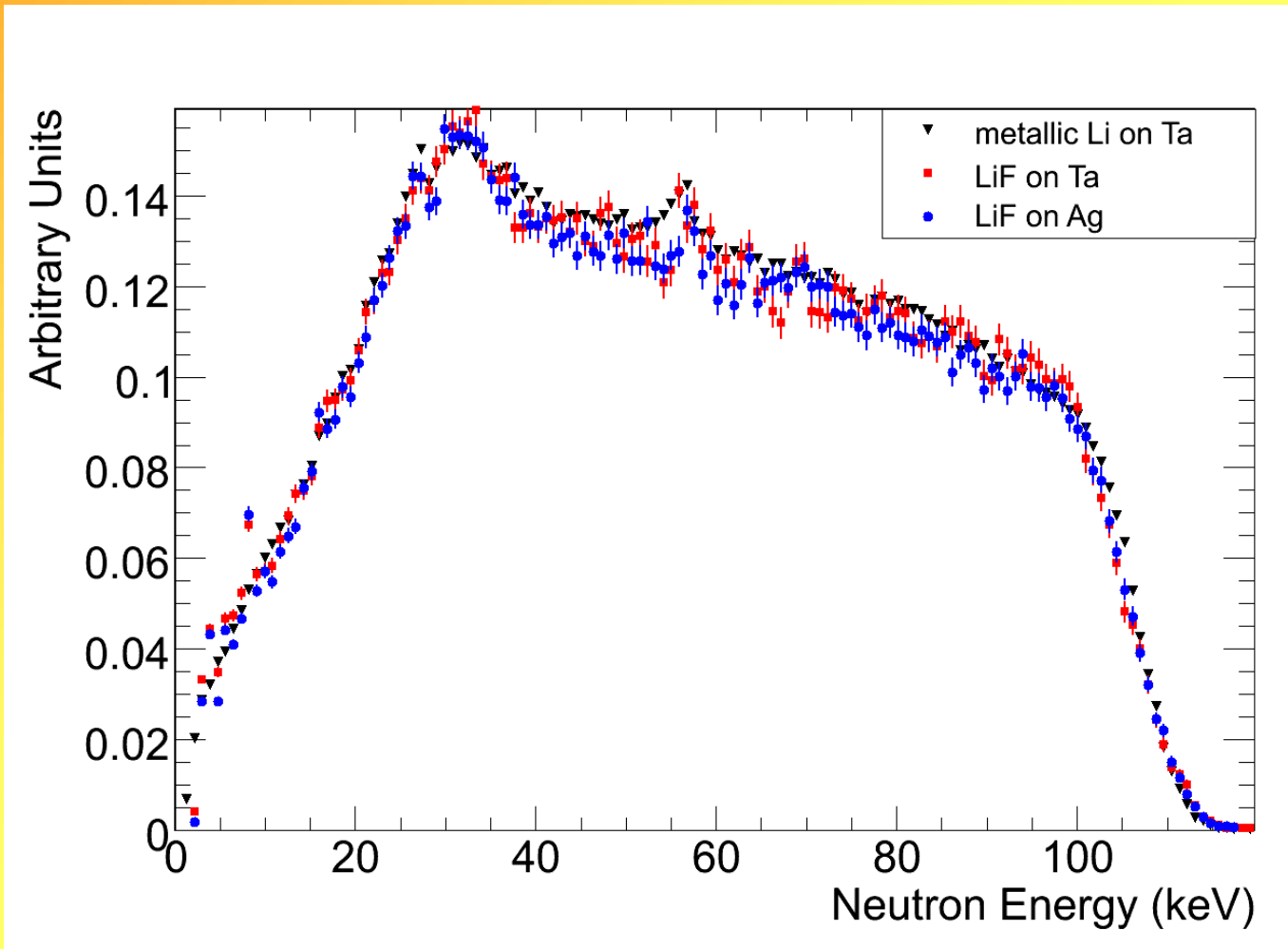
${}^{56}\text{Fe}$ -resonance
("coffee-resonance")

70 cm flight path

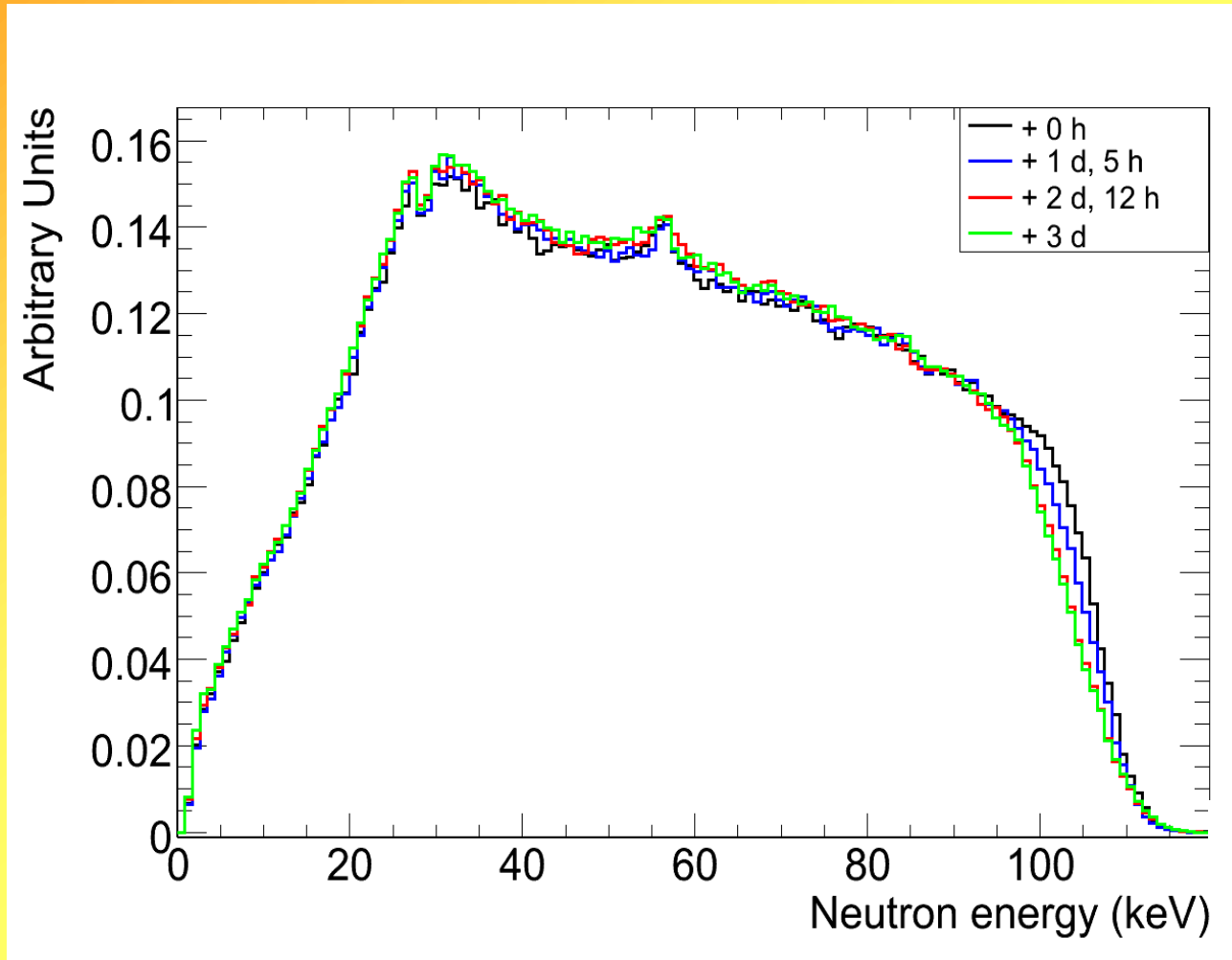
${}^{28}\text{Si}$ -resonance
(Li-glass)



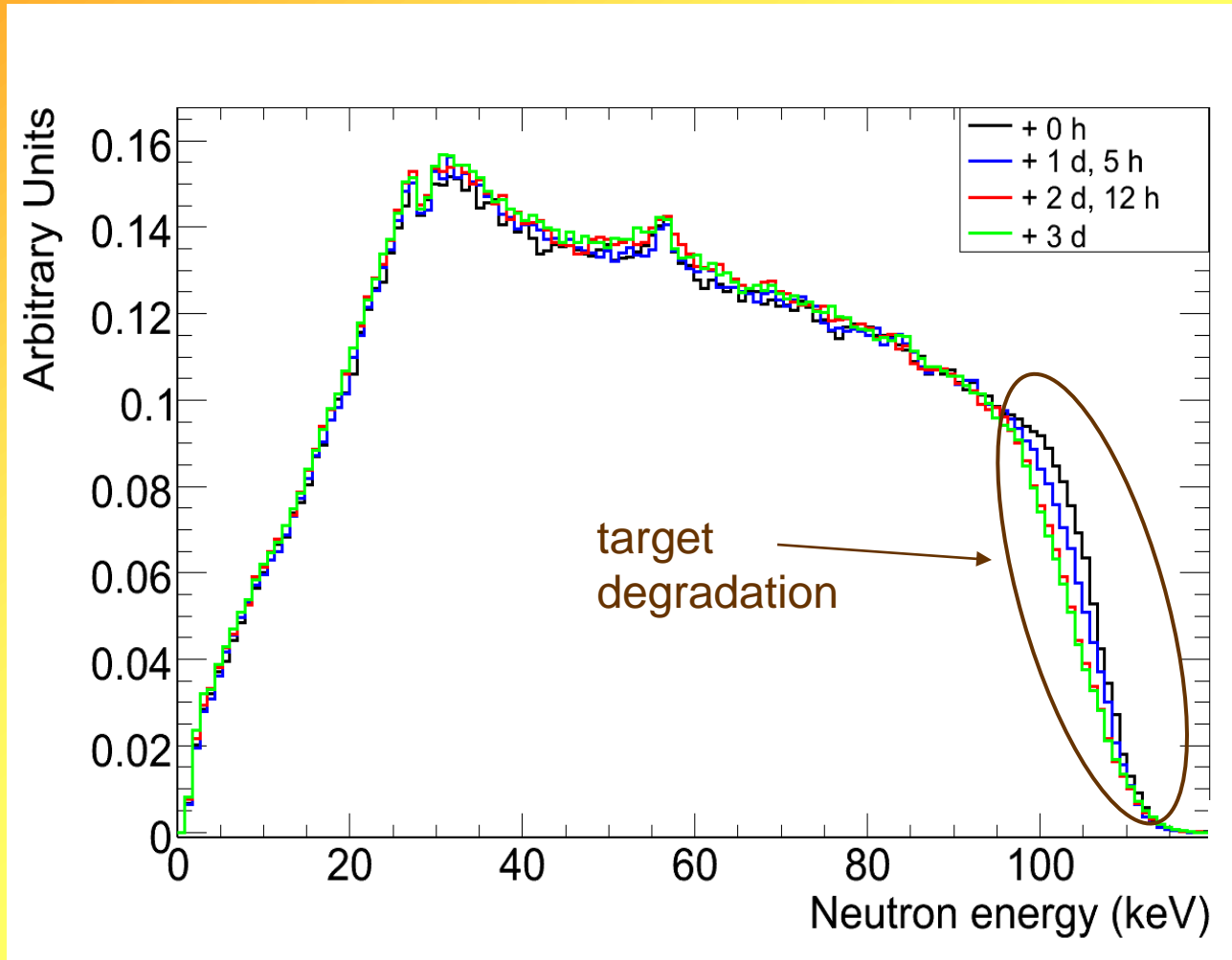
Reference Runs: different targets



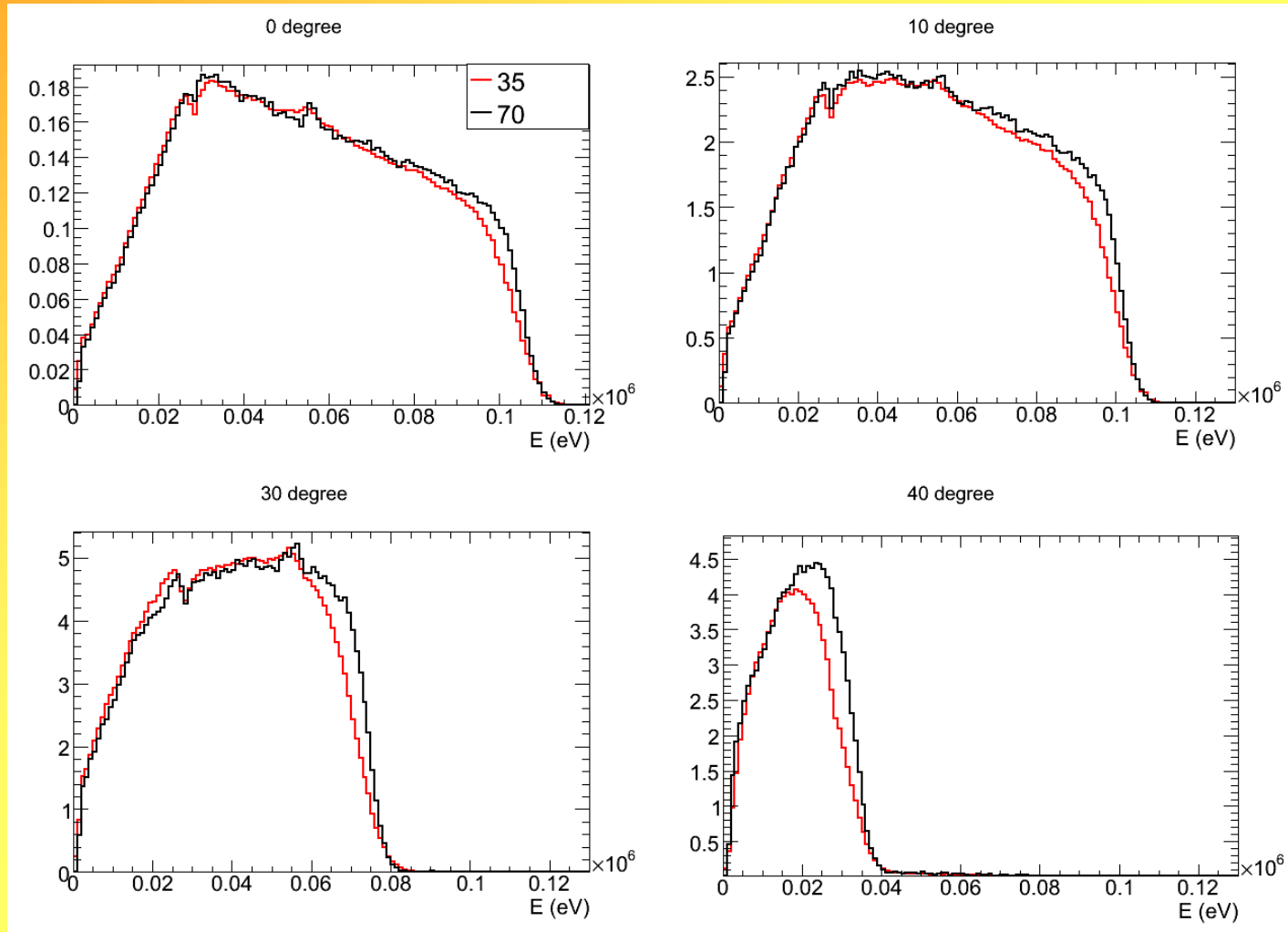
Reference Runs: target stability



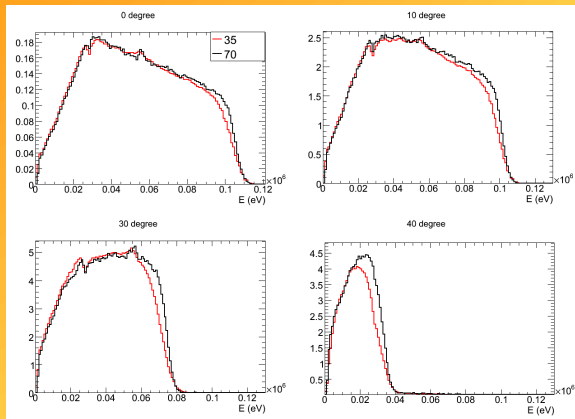
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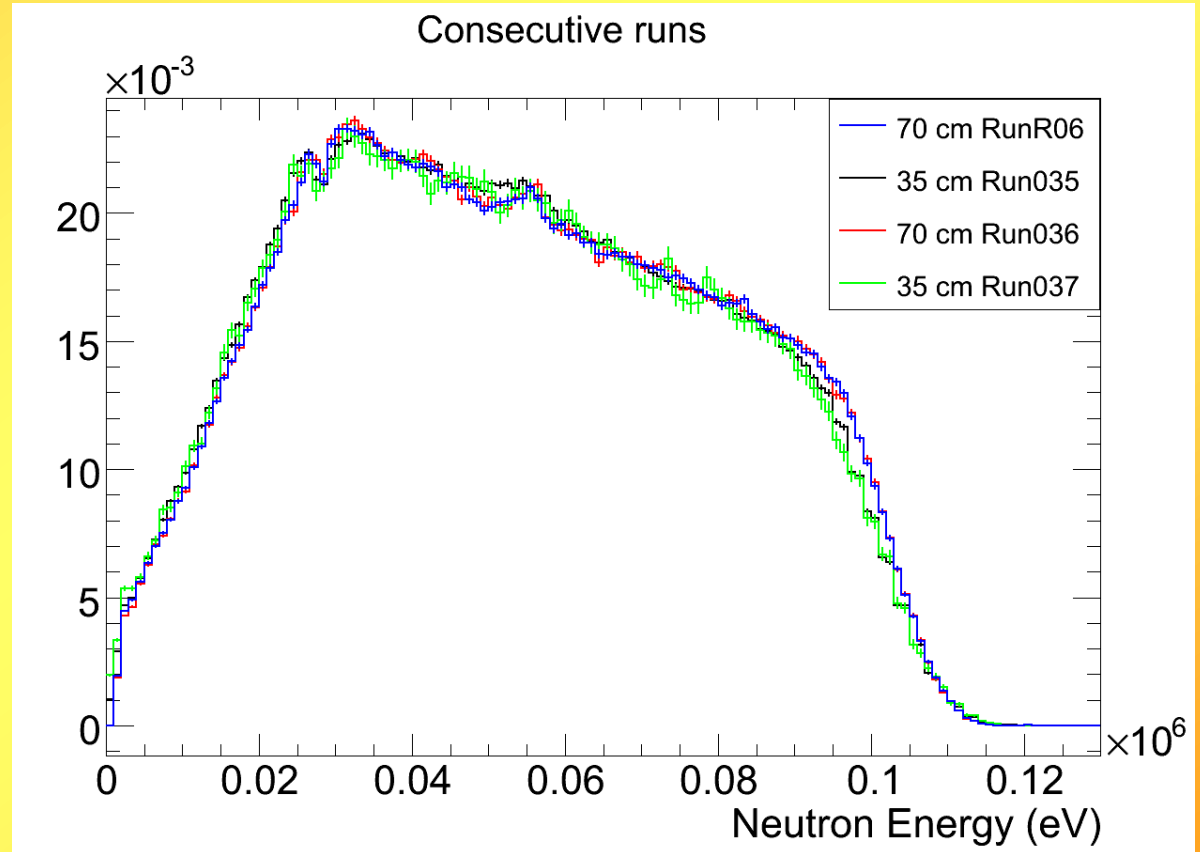
Different angles: 35 cm vs. 70 cm



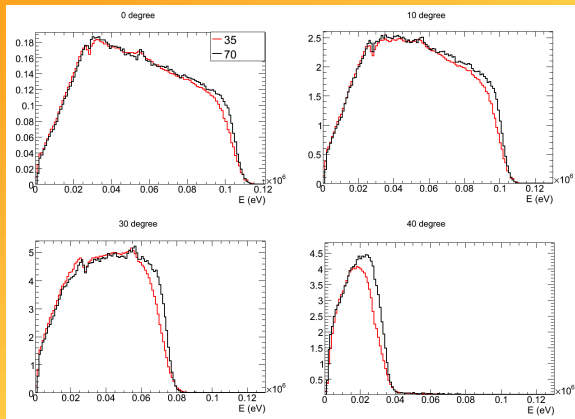
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no target aging effect because:

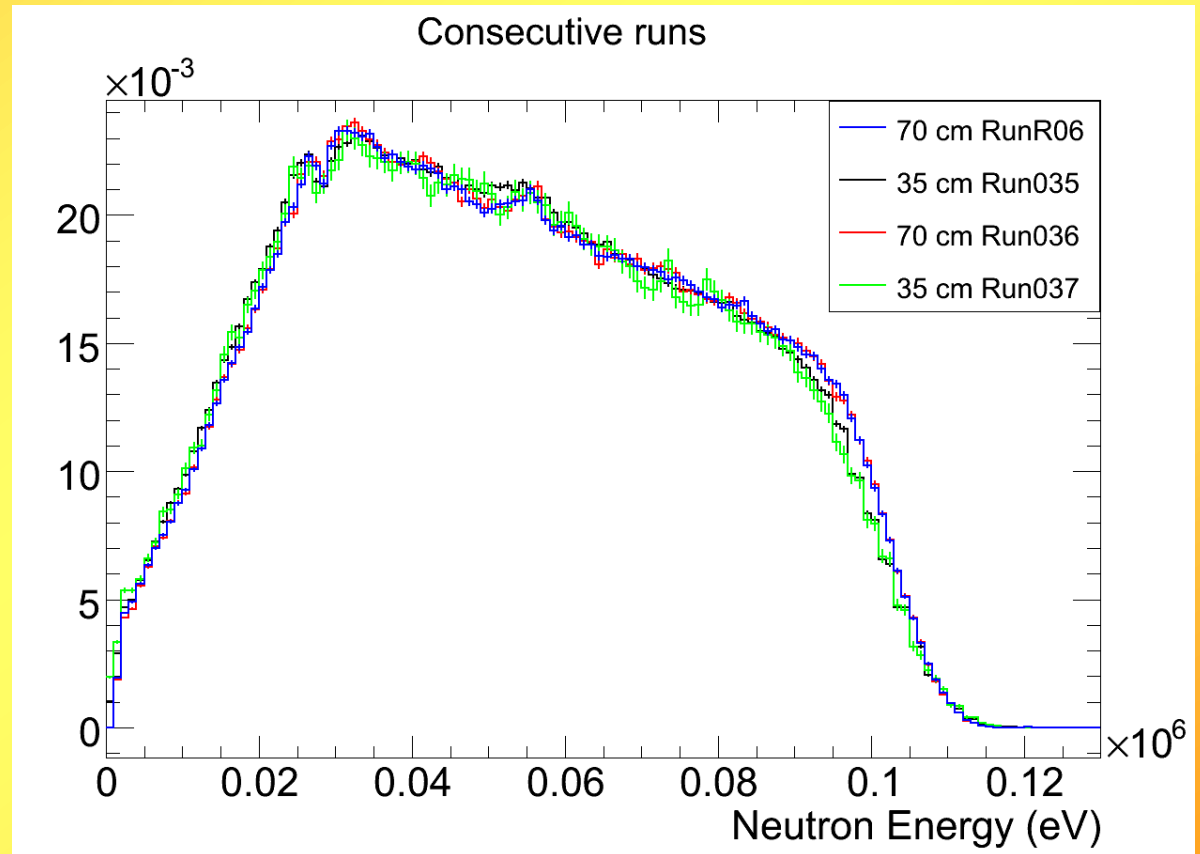


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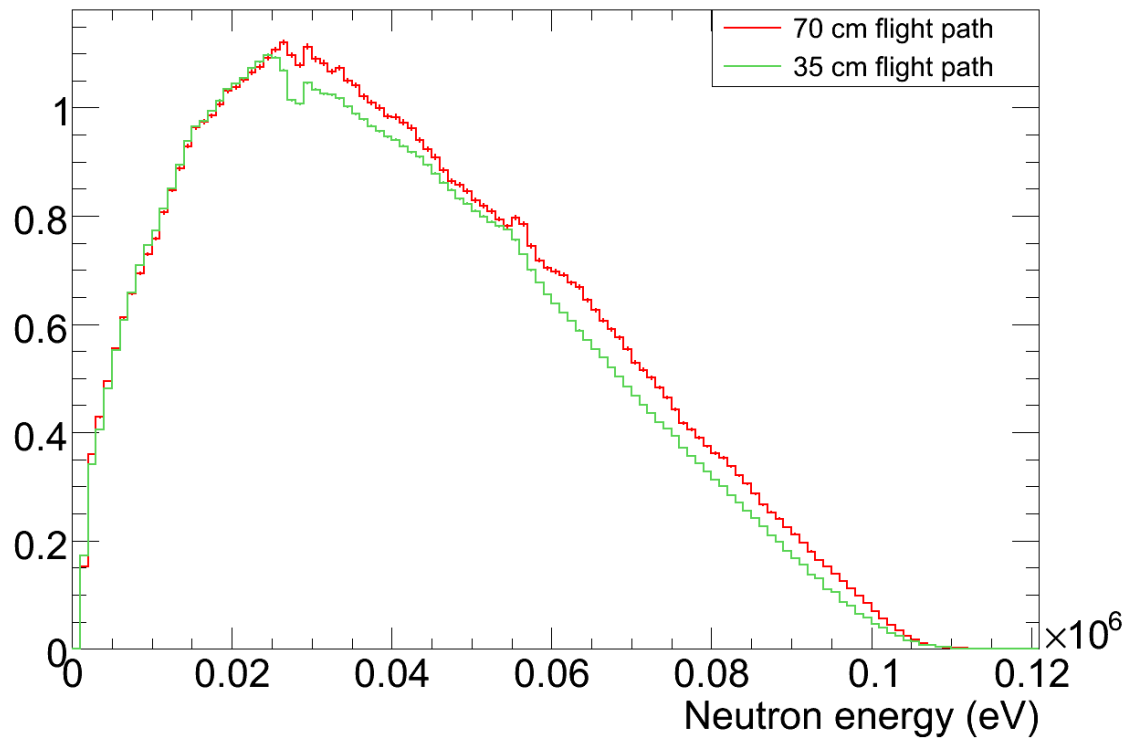


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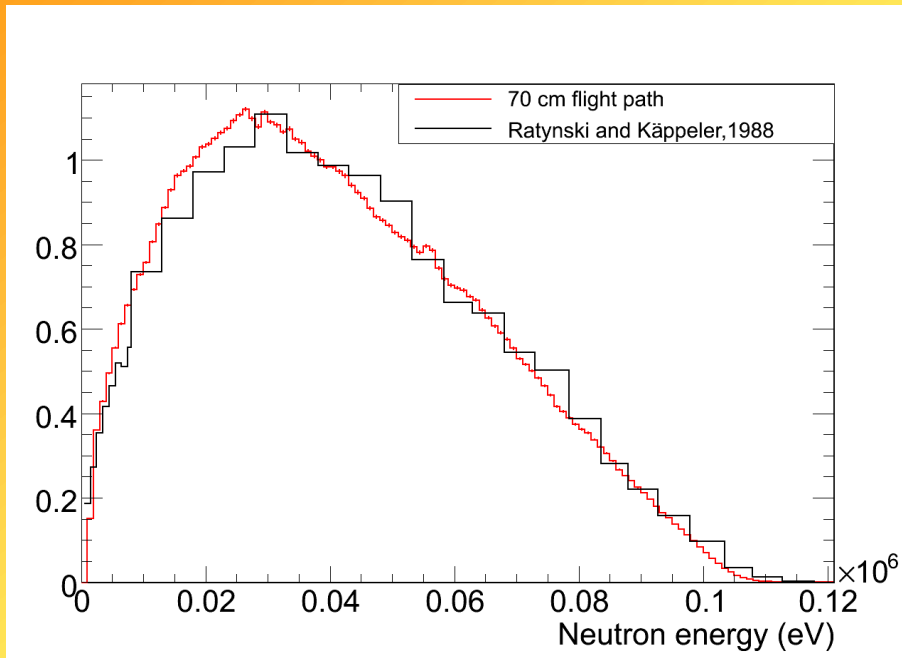
- closer look to kinematics → different angle covered at different flight paths



Summed spectra

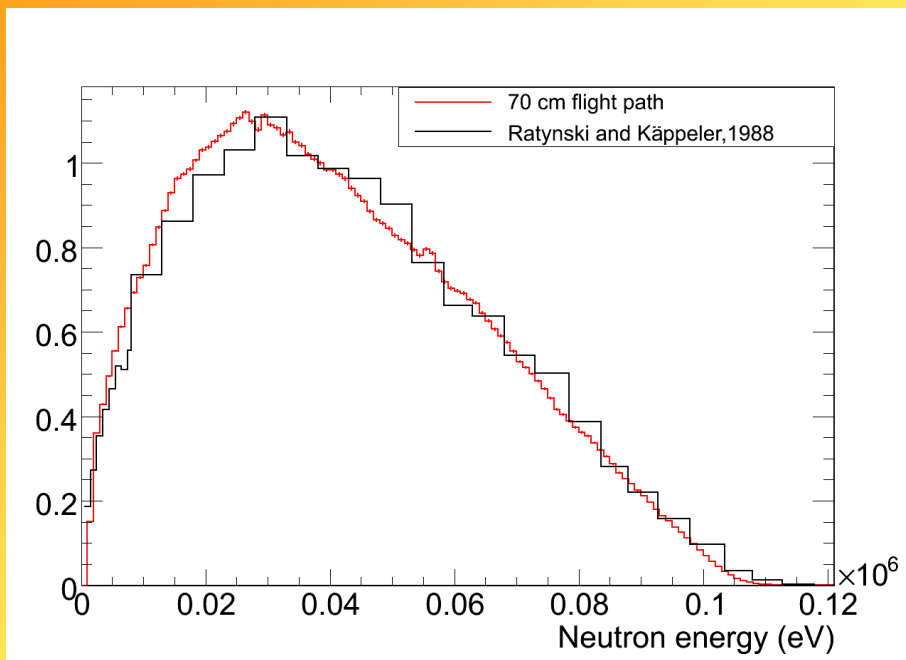


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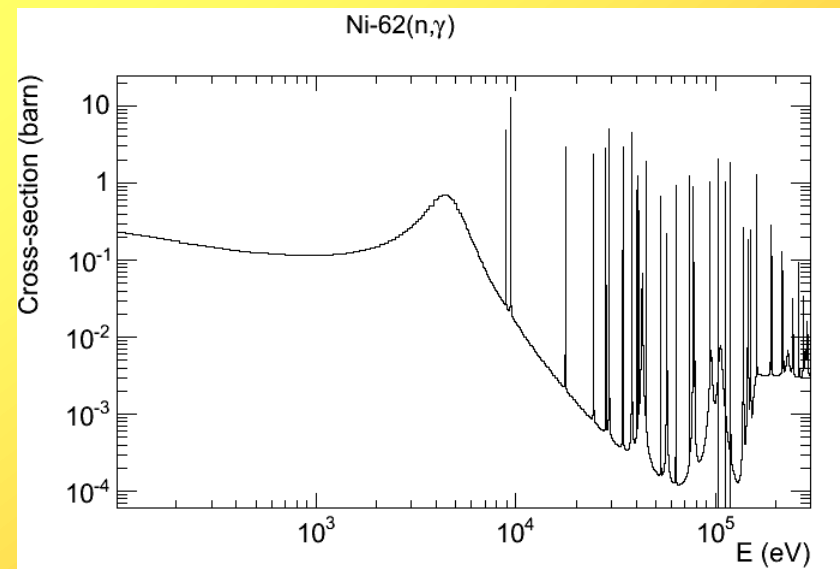
- W. Ratynski and F. Käppeler, Phys. Rev. C **37**, 595 (1988)

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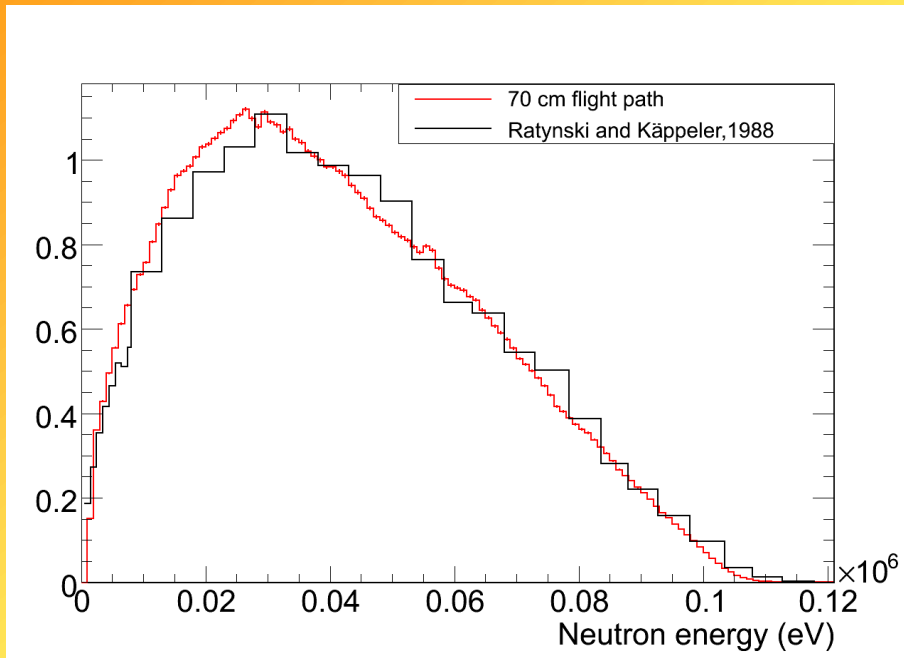


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effect on averaged cross-section:
example: $^{62}\text{Ni}(n,\gamma)$ (JENDL library)



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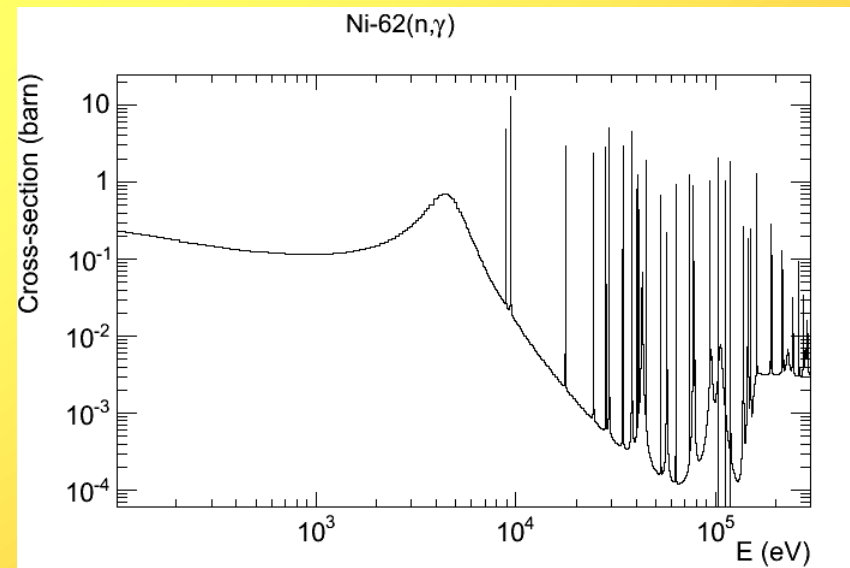


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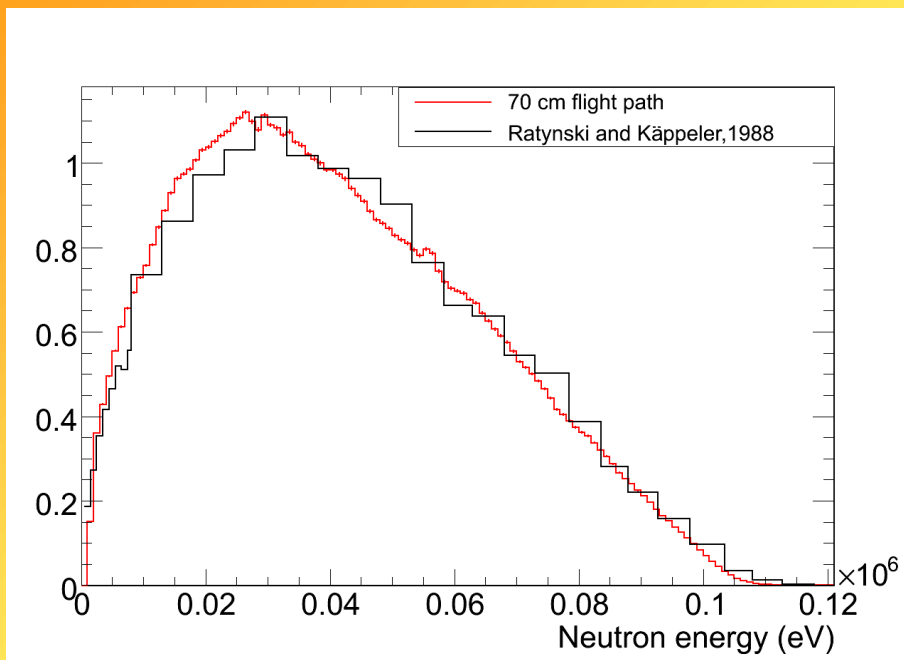
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- 22.7 mb for Ratynski and Käppeler spectrum
 - 23.7 mb for PTB spectrum
- 4% effect



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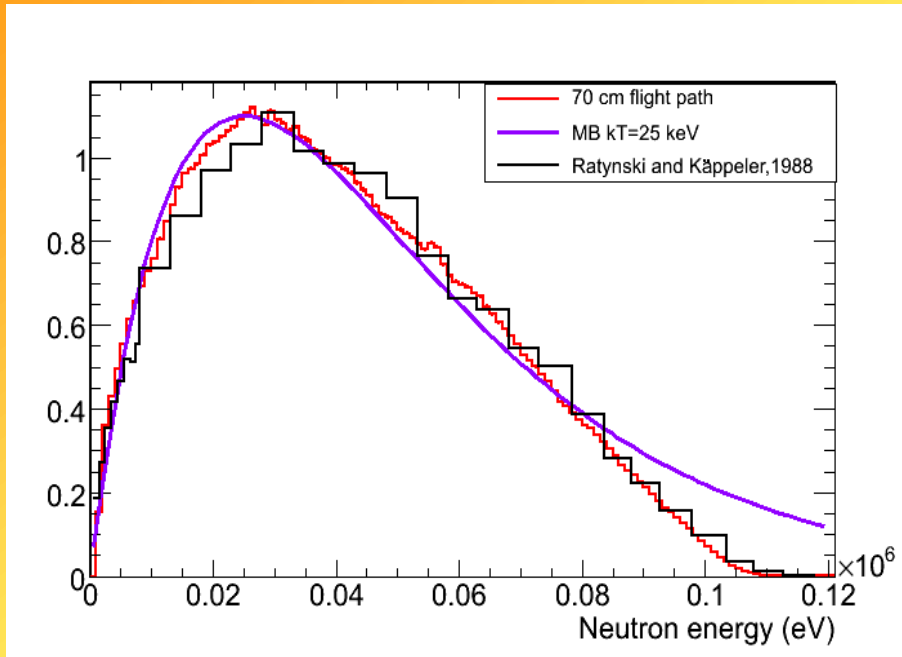


$^{197}\text{Au}(n,\gamma)$ (ENDF-B7 library)

- 633 mb for Ratynski and Käppeler spectrum
 - 630 mb for PTB spectrum
- only 0.5 % difference !

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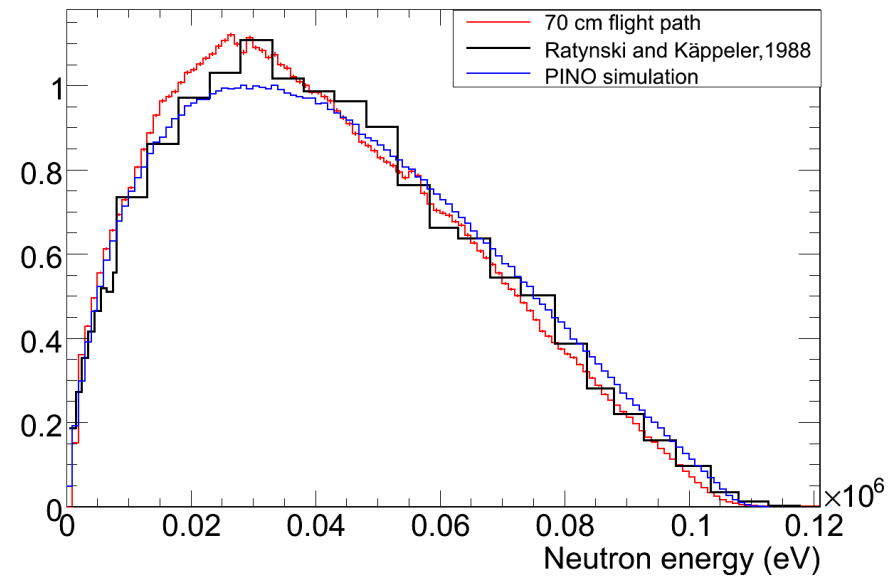
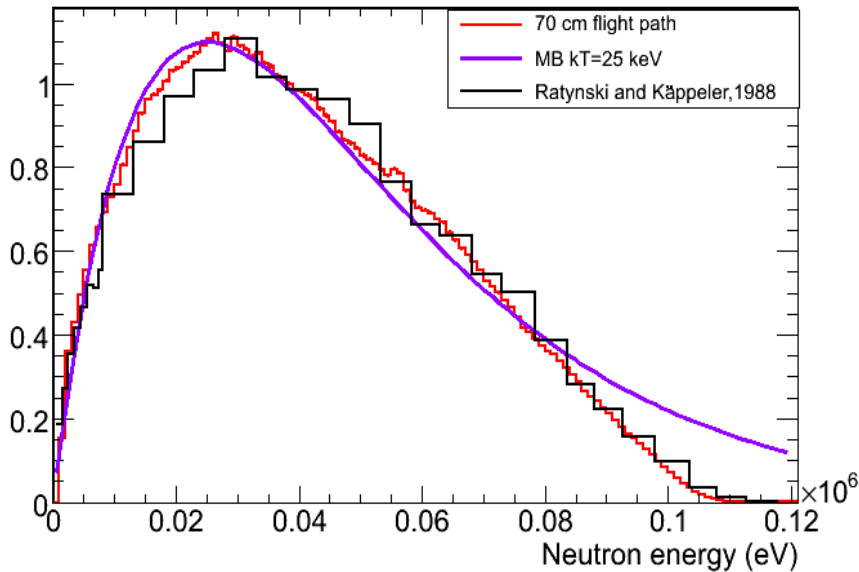
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with $kT = 25$ keV

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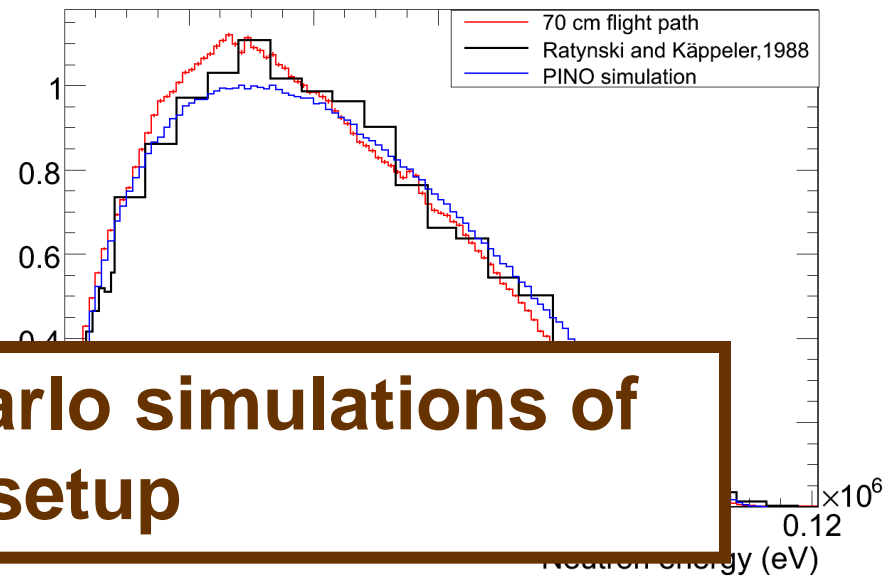
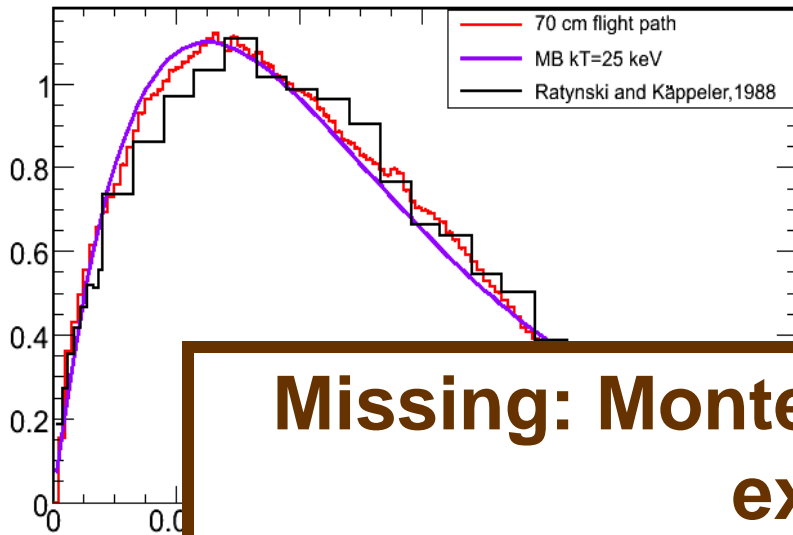


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- PINO- a tool for simulating neutron spectra resulting from the ${}^7\text{Li}(p,n)$ reaction, R. Reifarth et al. , Nucl. Instr. Meth. A **608**, 139 (2009)

Summed spectra



Missing: Monte-Carlo simulations of exp. setup

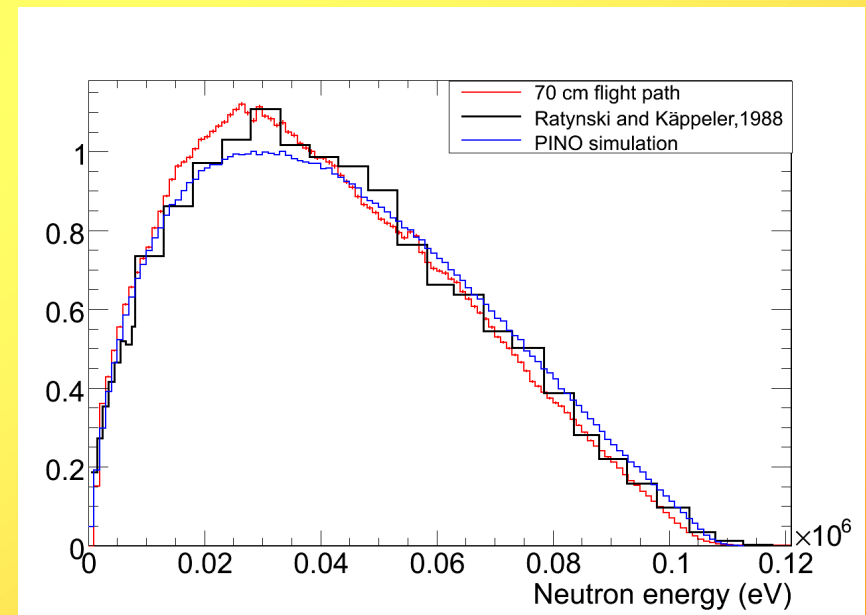
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Conclusions

- “aging-effect” of target causing shift to lower energies but cannot explain differences in different flight paths
- neutron spectrum not sensitive to different targets
- low and high energy-end of spectrum comparable to Ratynski and Käppeler measurement
- differences to Ratynski and Käppeler between 10-60 keV
- good agreement to PINO simulation up to 15 keV
- MC-simulations of various experimental effects underway



Thank you for your attention!

