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Neutron production in (α, n) reactions

presenter: Dmitry Testov



St Petersburg
University



The Extreme Light Infrastructure



- ELI Beamlines, Dolní Břežany, Prague, Czech Republic, focus on multidisciplinary applications in molecular, biomedical and material sciences
- ELI Attosecond Light Pulse Source, Szeged, Hungary focus on ultrashort pulses with high repetition rate by taking snap-shots in the attosecond scale
- ELI Nuclear Physics, Măgurele, Romania, focus on laser and gamma-beam based nuclear physics

Photo-Nuclear Reactions

Bremsstrahlung

Mono-energetic source

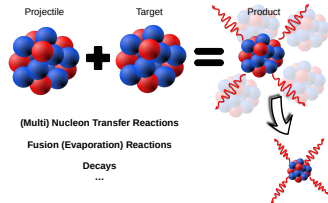
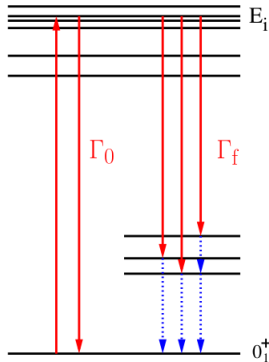
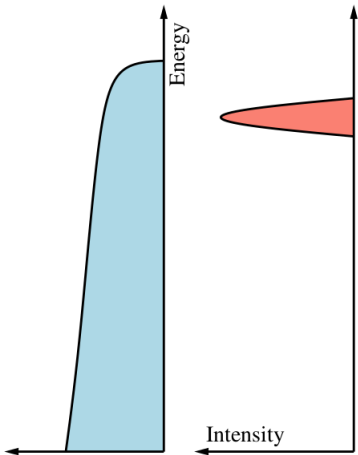


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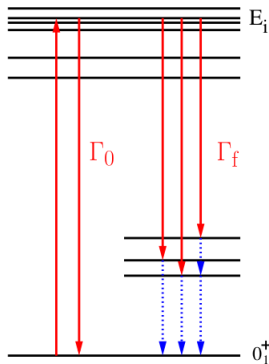
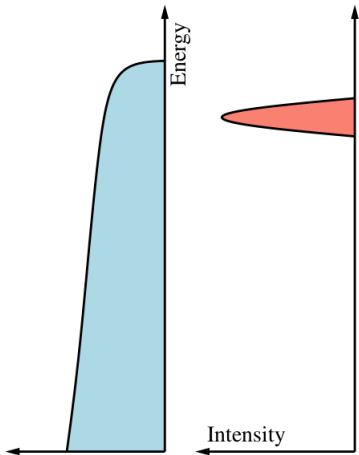
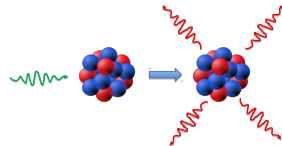
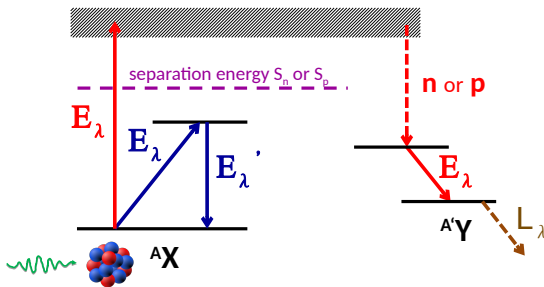
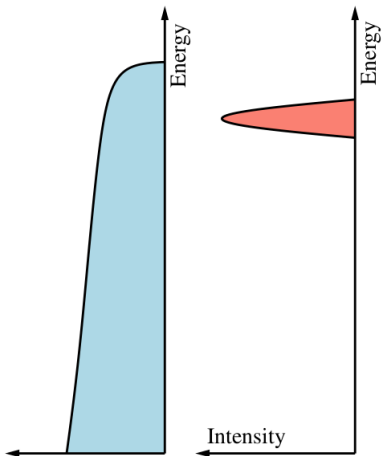
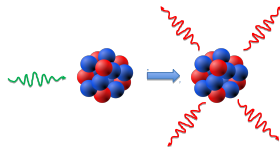


Photo-Nuclear Reactions

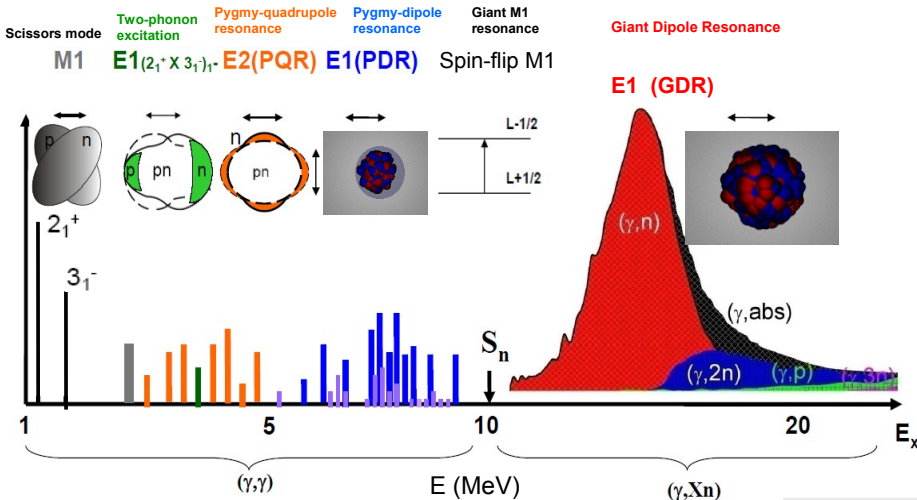
Bremsstrahlung

Mono-energetic source

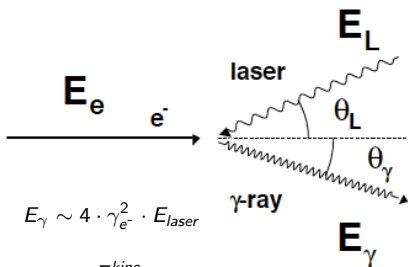


- **Photodisintegration, Photofission**
- **Nuclear Resonance Fluorescence - NRF**

Characteristic Response of Atomic Nucl. to EM Radiation



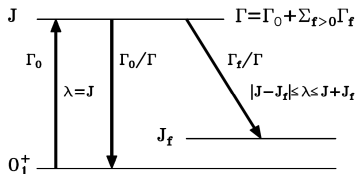
Photons from Laser Compton Backscattering (LCB)



$$E_\gamma \sim 4 \cdot \gamma_{e^-}^2 \cdot E_{laser}$$

$$\gamma_{e^-}^2 = \frac{E_{e^-}^{kin}}{m_{e^-} \cdot c^2}$$

- „monoenergetic” photon beam
- tunable energy
- Almost 100% linearly polarized beam



- Populate excited states by resonant scattering of γ rays
- Measure total (Γ) and partial (Γ_f) level widths following γ decay
- Narrow bandwidth: selective population
- Scan for new resonances
- Completely model independent measurements
- Very clean angular distributions for J^π measurements

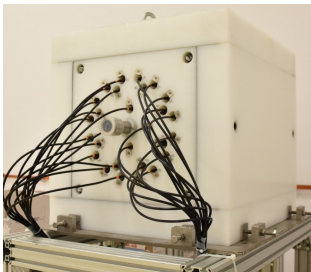
Physics with the gamma beam system

- Nuclear Resonance Fluorescence spectroscopy using (γ, γ') reactions and the **ELIADE** γ -ray spectrometer (8 x Clover 32-seg detectors)
- Pygmy- and giant resonances, level population following neutron emission, and neutron resonances, using (γ, n) reactions in **ELIGANT-GN** (15 x LaBr(Ce), 19 x CeBr, x 37 EJ301, 25 x Li-glass) and **ELIGANT-TN** (28 ^3He -filled tubes)
- Photo-induced fission cross-sections, fragment distributions, and fission isomers with the **ELI-BIC** and **ELITHGEM** instruments
- Properties of key astrophysics (γ, p) and (γ, α) reactions using **ELISSA** Si array and **ELI-eTPC** time-projection chamber
- High-intensity positron beamline for material research and characterization
- Applications of Nuclear Resonance Fluorescence for non-proliferation, waste-management and cultural heritage with ELIADE

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ELIGANT-TN: array of ^3He filled counters



High efficiency

Zero energy threshold

Zero cross-talk (multiplicity)

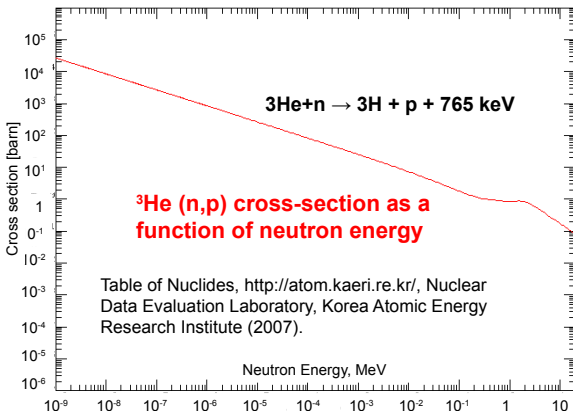
Low internal background

Perfect gamma separation

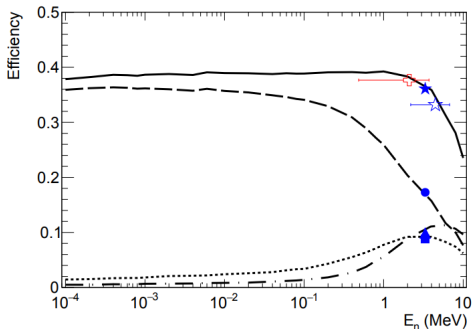
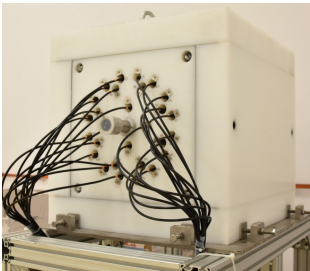
Easy in use/ geometry

Physics cases

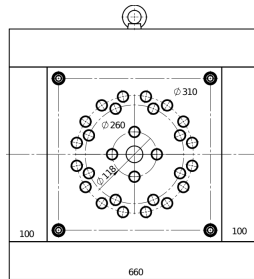
- Nucleosynthesis in the rare astrophysical proton-capture process (p-process)
- Compilation and verification of (γ, n) cross sections for next generation nuclear reactor applications



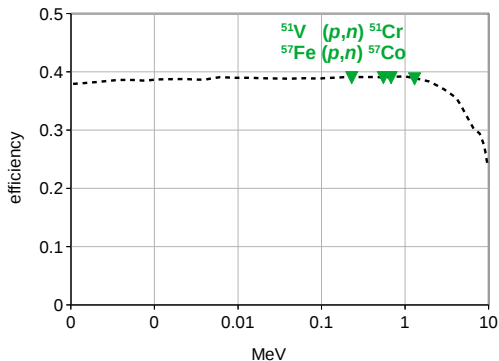
ELIGANT neutron detector



- Moderated ^3He counter, of 28 gas tubes
- Pressure in the tubes 12 bar
- Efficiency simulated in Geant4 and MCNP
- Simulations confirmed with a PuBe neutron source (blue)
- Average of neutron spectrum can be extracted from the ring-to-ring ratio



Verification of efficiency curve



▼ Non-resonant ----- efficiency

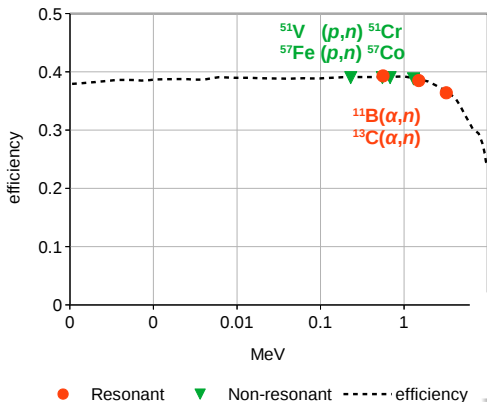
Non-Resonant Reactions



- $E_p < 3$ MeV (one reaction channels)
- $T_{1/2}(^{51}\text{Cr}) = 27.7$ days
- e-capture, $E_\gamma = 320$ keV
BR=9.91%

$$\epsilon = \frac{Nn \text{ online ELIGANT}}{N(E_\gamma) \text{ offline HPGe}}$$

Verification of efficiency curve



Resonant Reactions



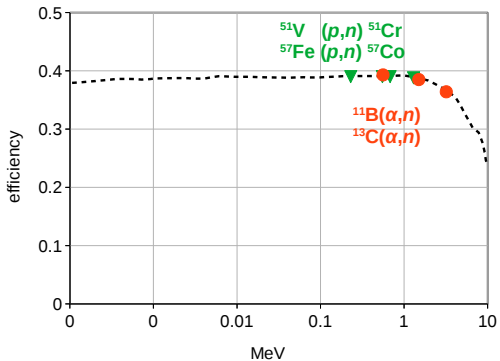
- Resonances are well-mapped
- $\Gamma_R, (\omega\gamma)_R, E_x$

$$\epsilon = \frac{Nn}{N(\Gamma_R, (\omega\gamma)_R, E_x)} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{ELIGANT} \\ \text{Resonance} \end{array}$$

$$N_0 = \frac{I_\alpha \cdot t \cdot \hbar^2 \cdot \pi^2 \cdot (\omega\gamma)_R \cdot N_A \cdot \rho}{\mu \cdot A \cdot E_R} \cdot \left(\frac{dE}{dZ}\right)^{-1}$$

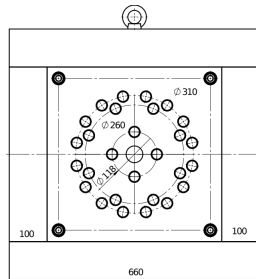
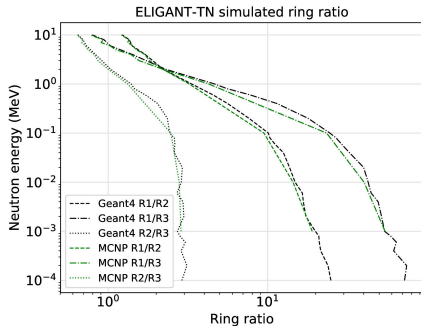
	E_α MeV	E_n MeV	Γ_R keV	$(\omega\gamma)_R$ eV	E_x keV
$^{11}\text{B}(\alpha, n)$	0.606	0.56	$2.5 \cdot 10^3$	0.175	11436
$^{13}\text{C}(\alpha, n)$	1.053	1.5	11.9	0.172	7165
$^{13}\text{C}(\alpha, n)$	1.585	3.2	<1	0.172	7165

Verification of efficiency curve

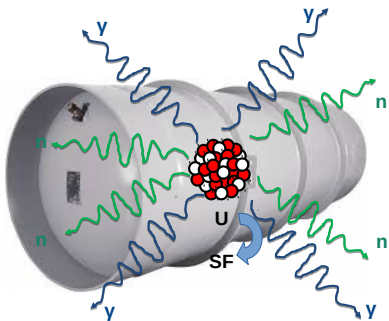


● Resonant ▼ Non-resonant - - - - efficiency

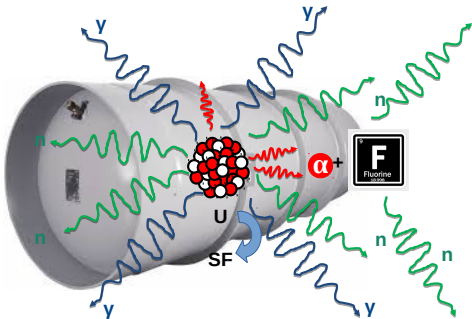
Ring-to-ring ratio method to estimate $\langle E_n \rangle$



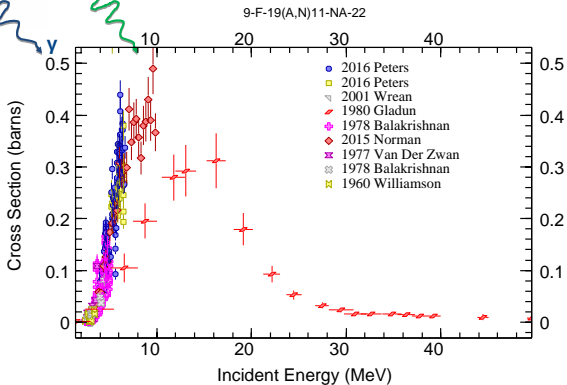
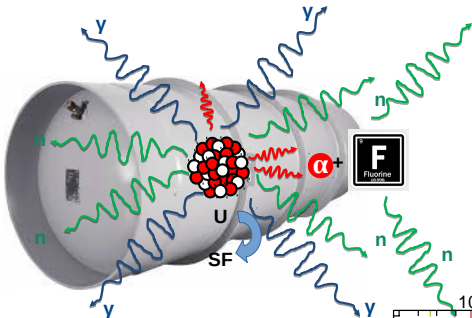
alpha-induced reactions



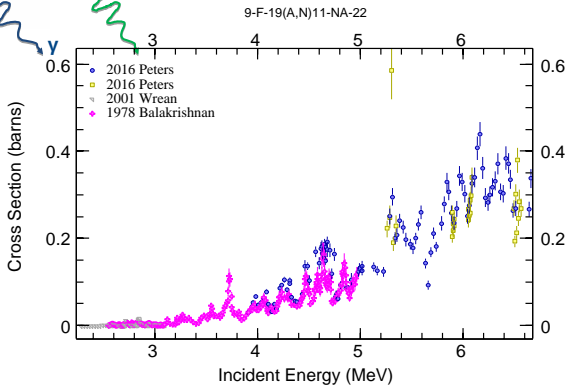
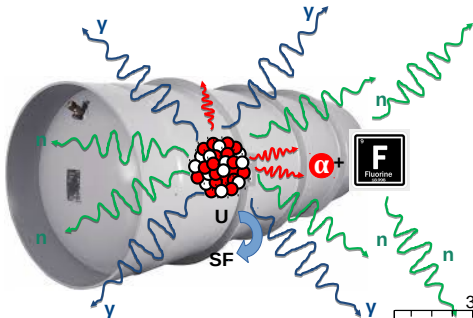
alpha-induced reactions



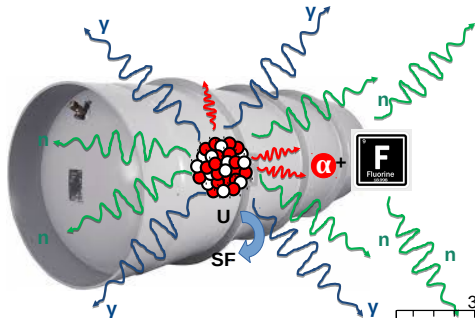
alpha-induced reactions



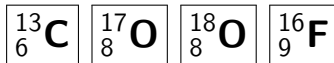
alpha-induced reactions



alpha-induced reactions

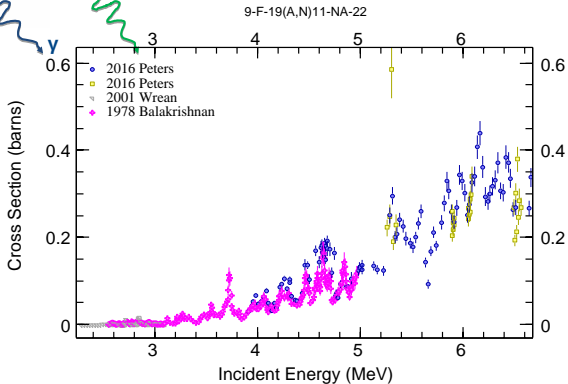


Nuclear fuel management

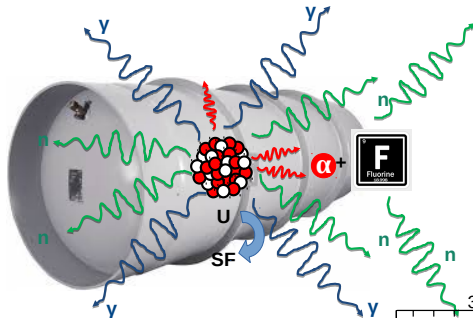


Parameters of the reaction

- Cross-sections
- $\langle E_n \rangle$
- Angular correlations



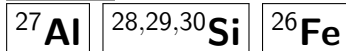
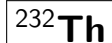
alpha-induced reactions



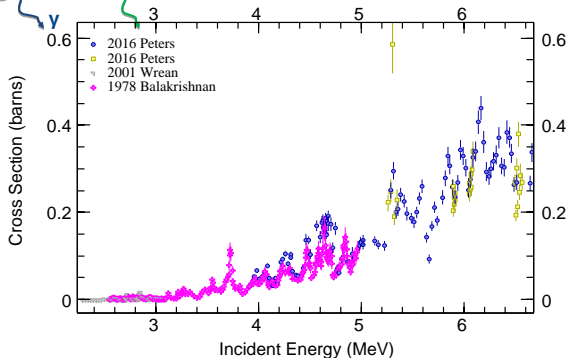
Nuclear fuel management



Low background measurements



9-F-19(A,N)11-NA-22



The 9 MV Tandem accelerator

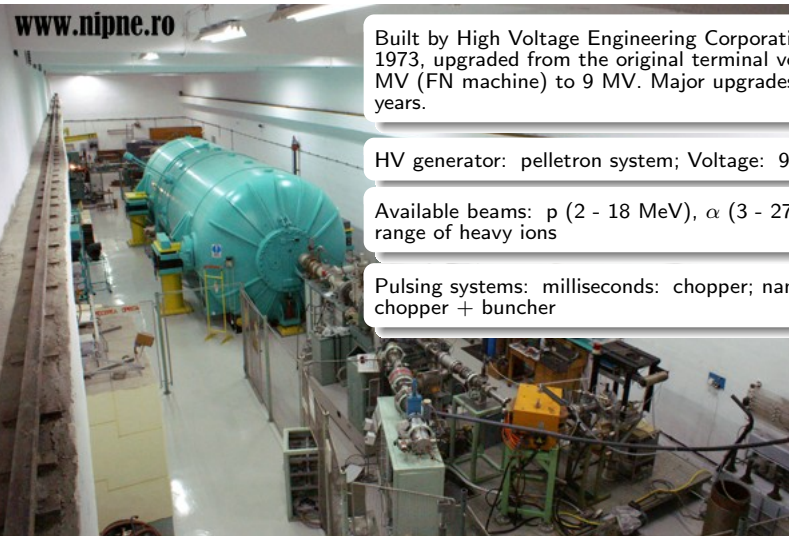
www.nipne.ro

Built by High Voltage Engineering Corporation (HVEC) in 1973, upgraded from the original terminal voltage of 7.5 MV (FN machine) to 9 MV. Major upgrades during the last years.

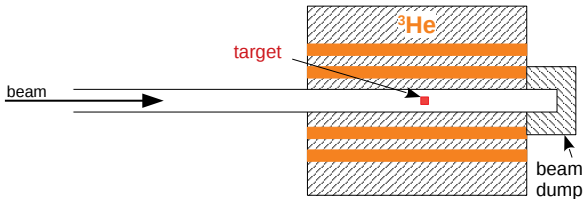
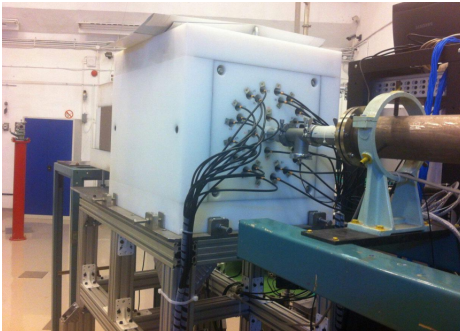
HV generator: pelletron system; Voltage: 9 MV

Available beams: p (2 - 18 MeV), α (3 - 27 MeV) a broad range of heavy ions

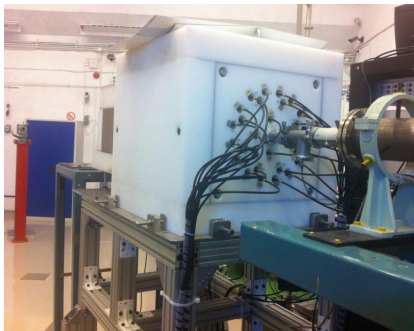
Pulsing systems: milliseconds: chopper; nanoseconds: chopper + buncher



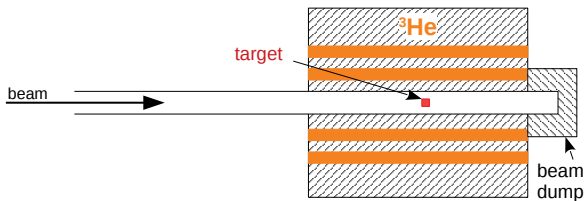
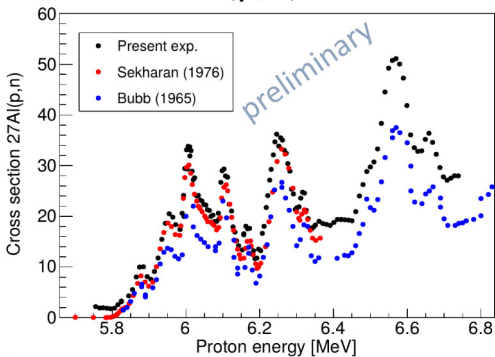
ELIGANT at IFIN



ELIGANT at IFIN



$^{nat}\text{Al}(p,n)$



To take home

Neutron production in (α, n) reactions

1. Response of ELIGANT-TN to monoenergetic neutron sources



2. alpha-induced reactions for nuclear safeguards and low-background measurements



3. (γ, n) reaction cross-sections using VEGA beams $(\text{CS}, \langle E_n \rangle, N(\theta))$

ELIGANT-TN:

28 counters ^3He (12 atm.); $\sim 37\%$ (flat $1 \text{ MeV} < E_n$);



To take home

Neutron production in (α, n) reactions

1. Response of ELIGANT-TN to monoenergetic neutron sources

$^{51}\text{V}(\text{p}, \text{n})^{51}\text{Cr}$; $^{11}\text{B}(\alpha, \text{n})$, $^{13}\text{C}(\alpha, \text{n})$

2. alpha-induced reactions for nuclear safeguards and low-background measurements

$^{19}\text{F}(\alpha, \text{n})^{27}\text{Al}$ $^{28,29,30}\text{Si}$ ^{26}Fe $^{60,62,64}\text{Ni}$ $^{46,48}\text{Ti}$

3. (γ, n) reactions cross sections using γ -beam (CS , $\langle E_n \rangle$, $N(\theta)$)

Looking for collaboration

Thank you for you attention!

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28 counters ^3He (12 atm.); $\sim 37\%$ (flat $1 \text{ MeV} < E_n$);



Thank you for you attention!

