

**Horia Hulubei National Institute for R&D in Physics and Nuclear Engineering** 

# EUROPEAN ORGANIZATION FOR NUCLEAR RESEARCH<br>Proposal to the ISOLDE and Neutron Time-of-Flight Committee

110 βρίσκι το την 120 <u>μπο</u> του (0*νββ)* την συμμετική

Neutron capture cross section of <sup>124</sup>Sn and its impact on  $(0\nu\beta\beta)$ <br>process and stellar astrophysics

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# Motivation-Why do we need <sup>124</sup>Sn(n,*γ*) cross section data? Background assessment of 0νββ decay experiments stratifier or process nucleosynthesis modeling Background: Neutrons MACS estimation for r-only nuclei  $s$ -process path  $Te$   $\frac{p}{120}$ Sb Cosmogenically-<u>Rocks [natTh, natU]</u> Sn produced neutrons  $(\alpha, n)$ -produced neutrons Aharmim, B., et al. Physical Review D 100.11 (2019): 112005.

M. Arnould, K. O. H. J. I. Takahashi,Reports on Progress in Physics 62.3 (1999): 395



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# Motivation-



#### Background assessment of 0*νββ* decay experiments

- ❑ <sup>124</sup>Sn is one of the neutrinoless double beta decay (0*νββ*) candidates
	- ❑ To measure this decay process is to measure the 0*νββ* decay peak which is at an energy equal to the Q-value of the process, i.e., 2292.7 (4) keV
- ❑ 0*νββ* is a second order weak interaction process and the event rates are very low since  $T_{1/2}$  > 10<sup>21</sup> y -> the neutron-induced background is a big limiting factor\*\*
- ❑ Such measurements are extremely sensitive to **background signals which can mimic the signal of interes**t: the neutroninduced background can produce  $\gamma$ -ray events in and around the region of interest (ROI) i.e., the Q-value region

*\*Gupta, G., et al., Applied Radiation and Isotopes 158 (2020): 108923* \*Dawson, J., et al., Physical Review C 78.3 (2008): 035503



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Energy (keV)

# Motivation-

## Background assessment of 0*νββ* decay experiments

- ❑ Gammas following neutron capture on <sup>124</sup>Sn can mimic the 0*νββ* decay signal
- ❑ Literature\* shows that, after bombarding a <sup>124</sup>Sn sample with a neutron thermal flux and measuring the offline/delayed *γ-*rays following neutron capture and subsequent beta decays with a HPGe detector, a strong summing peak of 2288.2 keV has been observed\* *\*Gupta, Radiation 158 (2020): 108923*<sup>52</sup>

→ Q<sub>2*β*-</sub>= <u>2292.7 (4)</u> keV

*\*Gupta, G., et al., Applied Radiation and Isotopes 158 (2020): 108923*





# Motivation-



#### *M. Arnould, K. O. H. J. I. Takahashi,Reports on Progress in Physics 62.3 (1999): 395*

#### s-r process nucleosynthesis modeling

- Several neutron-rich stable isotopes in the A=124 mass region, including <sup>124</sup>Sn, are not reached by the s-process because of their short-lived neighbours. <sup>124</sup>Sn is synthesized by the r-only neutron capture process
- $\Box$  To better quantify the solar system s-processgenerated abundance of 'Te' stable isotopes, which also have r-process contributions, using stellar models requires, among other things, reliable and low uncertainty Maxwellian Averaged Cross Sections (MACS) for <sup>124</sup>Sn



# Present status of <sup>124</sup>Sn(n,y) MACS data - where are we?



*Domingo-Pardo, C., Babiano-Suarez, V., Balibrea-Correa, J. et al., Eur. Phys. J. A 59.8 (2023)*

#### MACS status in kadonis1.0 (2013) database:

Recommended value (Total MACS): 15.7  $\pm$  3.9 mb (24%) Partial cross section to isomer:  $9.79 \pm 0.11$  (1.12%)

#### Experimentally-extracted MACS:

V. Timokhov et al., (1989): @30 keV: 16.0 ± 2.4 mb (15%)

W. Stadler, Diploma Thesis TUV, (1998):  $@25$  keV: 11.25  $\pm$  0.13 (1.15%)-Partial cross section to  $125$ mSn:  $($  $@52$  keV: 9.33  $\pm$  0.16 (1.71%)-Partial cross section to  $^{125m}$ Sn:

#### Extrapolated values to: 5 keV & 100 keV:



MACS:

Reference: endfb71.jendl40

Procedure: 'e+t' (The MACS from kT=5 keV to 100 keV are derived from calculated cross sections, which are then normalized to experimental data, e.g. to the values at kT=25 keV obtained in activation measurements. In these cases the uncertainty is should be linearly increased below 25 and above 30 keV to reach about 30% at the extreme kT values.) Year: 2013

https://exp-astro.de/kadonis1.0/selementquery.php?isotope=124Sn



- $\Box$  Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn<sup>\*</sup> compound is a component of the super-conducting wires used in the electromagnets surrounding the hot plasma during the ITER fusion experiment, or in the beam guiding system of the LHC & FCC @CERN\*\*
- ❑ These super-conducting magnets are exposed to a very intense neutron field coming from hot plasma or LHC interaction point
- ❑ The initial neutron flux has energies in the MeV region (see figure) but after thermalization these neutrons can be captured
- $\Box$  Due to large radiation sensitivity of Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn superconducting state, it is essential to examine how its superconducting properties are affected by radiation damage, in particular, by the neutron capture channel on <sup>124</sup>Sn

*\*\*Baumgartner, Thomas, et al. Superconductor Science and Technology 27.1 (2013): 015005. \*Nishimura, A., et al., Superconductor Science and Technology 32.2 (2019): 024004 Krasilnikov, Vitaly, MunSeong Cheon, and Luciano Bertalot. Advanced* 

# Additional Motivation-



Figure 1.1.: Calculated neutron spectrum at the inner winding of quadrupole O2 [24]. Baumgartner, Thomas. *Effects of fast neutron irradiation on critical currents and intrinsic properties of state-of-the-art Nb3Sn wires*. na, 2013.





Krasilnikov, Vitaly MunSeona Cheon, and Luciano Bertalot, Advanced. *Technologies and Applications of Neutron Activation Analysis (2019): 71-87.*



# Present status of <sup>124</sup>Sn(n,y) cross section data - where are we?



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Cross Section (barns)

**9**

# Present status of <sup>124</sup>Sn(n,y) cross section data - where are we?





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Where  $\&$  How the <sup>124</sup>Sn(n,  $\gamma$ ) cross section will be measured ?

## EAR1 or EAR2 ?

❑ Depends on neutron energy resolution of EAR1 versus EAR2

## ❑ Depends on the mass & enrichment of sample



## EAR1 or EAR2 – Neutron Energy resolution?

**Table**: Average distance in-between resonances and energy resolution at EAR1 versus EAR2:



\*Guerrero, C., et al. The European Physical Journal A 49 (2013): 1-15.

\*Lerendegui-Marco, J., et al. The European Physical Journal A 52 (2016): 1-10.





## Enriched <sup>124</sup>Sn



**Neonest AB** www.Buylsotope.com  $1(1)$ CERTIFICATE of Analysis № 230608-eeee Date of Issue: 8 June 2023 Description of product: Tin-124; Sn-124; 124Sn. Chemical form: Sn-124 metal foils (124Sn). Supplier: Neonest AB | www.Buylsotope.com Consignee: CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ISOTOPE-ENRICHED PRODUCT: 1. Weight of enriched isotopic mixture: Amount: 1000 mg (element weight). **10K euro** 

natSn or Enriched 124Sn - Why enriched sample?

#### 2. Isotopic content:





## EAR1 or EAR2 – sample mass?

- $\triangleright$  In EAR2 : <mark>1.0 g</mark> sample
- RRR up to 10 keV only
- No MACS at high energy



- ➢ In EAR1 : 3.0 g sample
	- RRR up to, probably, 100 keV
	- MACS @ 100 keV



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# Experimental Details [EAR1]-

How will  $^{124}Sn(n,\gamma)$  be measured in EAR1?

- ❑ We hope to measure the thermal-to-500 keV range
- ❑ We will use 3.0 g of enriched material (~99.4% of <sup>124</sup>Sn) to lower as much as possible the contamination from other isotopes
- $\Box$  Setup of four  $C_6D_6$  detectors (At what distance?)
- □ We will also measure a natSn, <sup>197</sup>Au, natC, natPb and a Dummy/Empty





# Proton Requests [EAR1]-

## Counts estimation using Transport Code (TC):

Input parameters:

- ❑ <sup>124</sup>Sn(n,*γ*) cross section : ENDF/B-VIII.0 evaluation
- ❑ Atoms/barn: 0.00464 (3 g weight and a disk: 2 cm diameter)
- ❑ Hbins: 13750 in Energy(eV) range from  $10^{\circ}$  to 5e $10^{\circ}$ bpd: 2500

❑ efficiency: 8% ~2.0% for each  $C_6D_6$  at ~9cm





# Proton Requests [EAR1]-

For  $^{124}$ Sn and  $^{nat}$ Sn:  $\frac{2.2 \times 10^{18}}{2}$  protons and  $\frac{10.5 \times 10^{18}}{2}$  protons, respectively

For normalisation and background (dummy) estimation:  $^{\circ}$ 0.2x10<sup>18</sup> protons and  $^{\circ}$ 0.8x10<sup>18</sup> protons, respectively

In total: ~3.7x10<sup>18</sup> protons with the rate estimation 1.0x10<sup>17</sup> proton per day (~37 days beam time)



How will  $^{124}Sn(n,\gamma)$  be measured in EAR2?

- ❑ We hope to measure the thermal-to-10 keV range
- $\Box$  We will use 1.0g of enriched material (~99.4% of <sup>124</sup>Sn) to lower as much as possible the contamination from other isotopes
- $\Box$  Setup of array of nine sTED and two  $C_6D_6$  detectors
- □ We will also measure a natSn, 197Au, natC, natPb and a Dummy/Empty

# Experimental Details [EAR2]-



Array of sTED and  $\mathsf{C}_6\mathsf{D}_6$  setup at EAR2 used in <sup>160</sup>Gd(n,γ) experiment



# Proton Requests [EAR2]-

## Counts estimation using Transport Code (TC):

Input parameters:

- $124$ Sn(n,y) cross section : ENDF/B-VIII.0 evaluation
- ❑ Atoms/barn: 0.001547 (1.0 g weight and disk: 2 cm diameter)
- ❑ Hbins: 12500 in Energy (eV) range from  $10^0$  to  $10^5$ bpd: 2500
- ❑ efficiency: 4.5%  $^{\circ}$ 0.5% for each sTED [9 detector] at  $^{\circ}$ 5 cm





# Proton Requests [EAR2]-

For <sup>124</sup>Sn and <sup>nat</sup>Sn: ~2.2x10<sup>18</sup> protons and 0.5x10<sup>18</sup> protons, respectively

For normalisation and background (dummy) estimation:  $^{\circ}$ 0.2x10<sup>18</sup> protons and 0.8x10<sup>18</sup> protons, respectively

**In total**: ~3.7x10<sup>18</sup> protons with the rate estimation 1.0x10<sup>17</sup> proton per day (~37 days beam time)



## EAR1 vs EAR2 - 2.2x10<sup>18</sup> proton flux (22 days) on <sup>124</sup>Sn

#### ➢ In EAR2 : 1.0 g sample

#### ➢ In EAR1 : 3.0 g sample





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## ❑ Motivation:

• 0*νββ*, Nuclear Astrophysics, and Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn semiconductor

## ❑ Status of data:

- No high resolution ToF neutron capture data exist to map out CN resonances (only very short flight path ~2 m data were reported)
- There is only a single transmission measurement reported in EXFOR which extracted resonance parameters (10 keV to 320 keV)

## ❑ Experiment goals:

- $\checkmark$  To provide reliable, low uncertainty and high resolution neutron capture ToF data from thermal to 500 keV
- To provide lowered-uncertainty (ideally 5-10%) neutron capture data for the MACS from kT=5 keV to (ideally) 100 keV relevant for modelling the s & r-process in the A=124 mass region
- ✓ To better understand the neutron-induced background for neutrinoless double beta decay (0*νββ*) experiments
- ✓ Very optimistically, to at least partially clarify the differences between the different evaluations



# ❑ Proposal [proton requests]:



10 times more statistics than EAR1



Summary-

# Thanks

# **Do you have any questions?**

aman.gandhi@nipne.ro https://www.nipne.ro/proiecte/pn3/ntof/ https://www.nipne.ro/

Contact Us Address: Str. Reactorului no.30, P.O.BOX MG-6, Bucharest - Magurele, ROMANIA Phone: +(4021) 404.23.00 Fax: +(4021) 457.44.40





Available to use for n\_TOF measurement from Czech group Nuclear Physics Institute, Czech Academy of Sciences (Tomandl/ marek]







Available to use for n\_TOF measurement from IFIN-HH Target lab

#### Summary of presentation:

1. **0vBB** (cosmic ray-rocks-neutron-thermal-capture-124Sn-gammas-mimic-Q-value-ROI-delayed-prompt-probality-yield of such gammas rays-capture cross section)

2. **Astrophysics**-r-only- proton shell closure-small cross section-contribution of r-only abundance in 125-126Te stable isotope-precise MACS-only experiment MACS @30 kT [tof], 25kT, 52kT [activation]-r-only-means high temp-means higher neutron energies-100 kT-extrapolated 5 kT to 100 kT-motive to provide experiment capture cross section precise-which help in get precise experiment extracted MACS.

3 **Additional motivation**-Nb3Sn-super semiconductor-facilities like ITER-radiation damage-fast neutrons-thermalised-capture channel can help

4. **Status of data**: thermal energy (activation)-above 10 keV (activation and TOF both)-TOF with short flight path-latest JPARC-at 62 eV through gamma spectroscopy-transmission data reported above 10 keV up to 320 keV-less than 10 keV unpublished 1962-Mughlabad 1973-so new precise TOF resolved resonance region data helps in map out the CN resonance-also which help further in estimating the precise MACS-

5. **ENDF status**: comparison between different evaluation-two problem-first in between the resonance-100% difference-same in peak height difference in the RRR <10 keV

6. **EAR1 versus EAR2**-depend on energy resolution available in both Areas- Natural versus Enriched (or mass)-EAR1(up to 100 keV)-EAR2 (up to 10 keV)-3g for EAR1-1g for EAR2 enriched by 98%

7. **How to measure**-C6D6 in EAR1- as elastic to capture ratio is of the order 3 difference--sTED & C6D6-for both to reduce signal to background and elastic channel background-

8. **Proton request**: EAR1 (35 days beam time)- EAR2-(35 days beam time)-for 124Sn and normalization and background

9. **Counts comparison** between EAR1 (3g) and EAR2(1g)

10. **Summary**-Precise neutron capture data from thermal to 500 keV (included RRR data)-Precise **MACS** extraction from 5 kT to 100 kT- improve or solve the difference between evaluations-help the **0vBB** community-background assessment



# Neutron capture cross section measurements of  $120$ Sn, at the J-PARC/MLF/ANNRI  $122$ Sn and  $124$ Sn with the array of Ge spectrometer

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> **Abstract.** Preliminary neutron capture cross section of  $^{120}$ Sn,  $^{122}$ Sn and  $^{124}$ Sn were obtained in the energy range from 20 meV to 4 keV with the array of germanium detectors in ANNRI at MLF, J-PARC. The results of  $^{120}$ Sn,  $^{122}$ Sn and  $^{124}$ Sn were obtained by normalizing the relative cross sections to the data in JENDL-4.0 at the largest 426.7-, 107.0- and 62.05-eV resonances, respectively. The 67.32- and 150-eV resonances for  $^{120}Sn$ and the 579- and 950-eV resonances for <sup>124</sup>Sn which are listed in JENDL-4.0 and/or ENDF/B VII.1 were not observed.



Table 3

#### A list of possible pathways for coincident summing of two gamma rays in the decay of <sup>125</sup>Sn for a few energies of interest. The corresponding branching ratio/partial branching ratio in percent is indicated in parentheses for each gamma ray.







#### VII. MAXWELLIAN AVERAGED **CROSS SECTIONS**

The Maxwellian averaged cross section in a stellar plasma of thermal energy  $kT$  is defined as:<sup>43</sup>

$$
\langle \sigma \rangle = \frac{\langle \sigma v \rangle}{v_T} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \frac{\int_0^\infty \sigma_{n\gamma} E \exp(-E/kT) dE}{\int_0^\infty E \exp(-E/kT) dE}
$$

$$
= \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \frac{1}{(kT)^2} \int_0^\infty \sigma_{n\gamma} E \exp(-E/kT) dE \quad (3)
$$

Since cross sections have only been measured over a limited energy range in the present work, it is convenient to subdivide the integral into four separate parts according to the different data from which they are calculated as schematically indicated in Fig. 10:

*https://journals.aps.org/prc/pdf/10.1103/PhysRevC.42.1731* K. Wisshak, F. Voss, F. Käppeler, and G. Reffo Phys. Rev. C **42**, 1731 – Published 1 October 1990



FIG. 10. Subdivision of the neutron energy range for the determination of Maxwellian averaged cross sections.

$$
\langle \sigma \rangle = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \frac{1}{(kT)^2} \left[ \int_0^{E_1} \cdots dE + \int_{E_1}^{E_2} \cdots dE + \int_{E_3}^{E_4} \cdots dE \right]
$$
  
=  $I_1 + I_2 + I_3 + I_4$ . (4)



TABLE 14.1.  $2\beta$ <sup>-</sup>-decays of natural isotopes, with their *Q*-value and experimental measurements of the half-life of the  $2\nu$  and  $0\nu$  decay modes. The values are taken from Ref. [1024]. The percentage in parentheses is the confidence level. Results obtained in geochemical and radiochemical experiments are indicated, respectively, with  $(G)$  and  $(R)$ .

### Backup-slide

*Giunti, Carlo, and Chung W. Kim. Oxford university press Book,* 

*//doi.org/10.1093/acprof:oso/97801*

*(2007). https:*

*98508717.001.0001*



<sup>a</sup>  $\beta$ <sup>-</sup>-decay energetically allowed but enormously suppressed.





histfluka





Time (ns)



SIMON C6D6



Neutron beam Sample

Question to be discuss:

- At what distance? What efficiency?)
- Anisotropy
- Amount of sample
- Experimental area
- Offline without beam measurement for isomers
- Negligible contribution from contamination of other isotopes impurities

#### KOEHLER, HARVEY, WINTERS, GUBER, AND SPENCER

PHYSICAL REVIEW C 64 065802



FIG. 1. Path (solid arrows) of the s process in the region near Sn. Stable and radioactive isotopes are shown as solid and dashed boxes, respectively. The reaction path is complicated by branchings at isomers and radioactive isotopes. Contributions from the  $r$  process (via  $\beta$ decay) are depicted as dashed arrows. s-only ( $^{110}$ Cd,  $^{116}$ Sn, and  $^{122,123,124}$ Te), r-only ( $^{124}$ Sn), and p-only ( $^{112}$ Sn and  $^{120}$ Te) isotopes are shown as heavy boxes.

# Signal & Background

## Tagging  $0\nu\beta\beta$  decay events:

- two-electron summed energy = Q-value  $\bullet$
- two-electron event topology  $\bullet$
- (gamma-rays from de-excitation)  $\bullet$
- (daughter isotope)  $\bullet$

## Backgrounds:

- cosmic-ray induced  $\bullet$
- U/Th decay chains  $\bullet$
- neutrons  $\bullet$
- solar neutrinos  $\bullet$
- 2vbb decay (only irreducible background)  $\bullet$

Credit: Matteo Agostini STFC Ernest Rutherford Fellow at UCL

## Multivariate background discrimination:

- non uniform event rate in time or space  $\bullet$
- spatially extended event topology  $\bullet$
- particle identification  $\bullet$
- energy (only way to mitigate 2vbb)  $\bullet$







Figure 1.1.: Calculated neutron spectrum at the inner winding of quadrupole Q2

\*Baumgartner, Thomas. *Effects of fast neutron irradiation on critical currents and intrinsic properties of state-of-the-art Nb3Sn wires*. na, 2013.

Figure 14. Neutron spectra at tally 15 and tally 25.

*\*Krasilnikov, Vitaly, MunSeong Cheon, and Luciano Bertalot. "Neutron activation system for ITER tokamak." Advanced Technologies and Applications of Neutron Activation Analysis (2019): 71-87.*

