



CERN-INTC-2024-006 / INTC-P-689

10/01/2024

(proposal INFN + ENEA in APRENDE)

Study of n + $^{63,65}\text{Cu}$ reactions and their relevance for nuclear technologies and Astrophysics

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A. Musumarra^{9,3}, M. P. Pellegriti³, M. Pignatari¹⁰, E. Pirovano¹¹, N. Terranova^{2,3},
R. N. Sahoo³, D. Vescovi^{4,3}, and the n_TOF Collaboration

¹CERN

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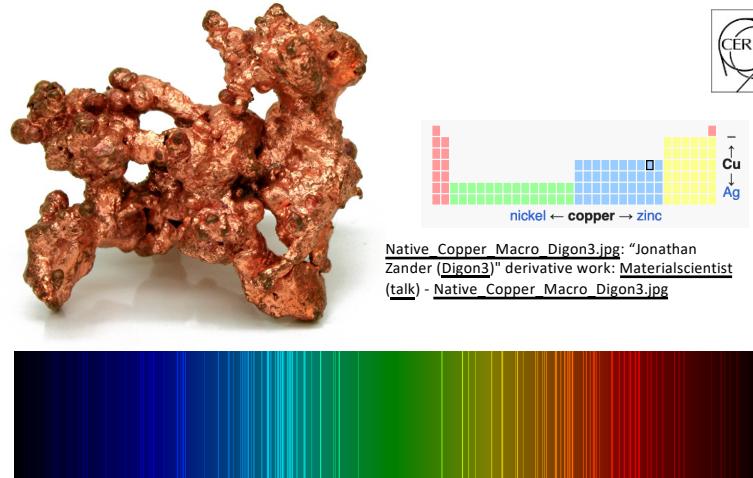
¹¹PTB – National Metrology Institute, Germany



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
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Technical coordinator: Olivier Aberle (oliver.aberle@cern.ch)

n + 63,65Cu

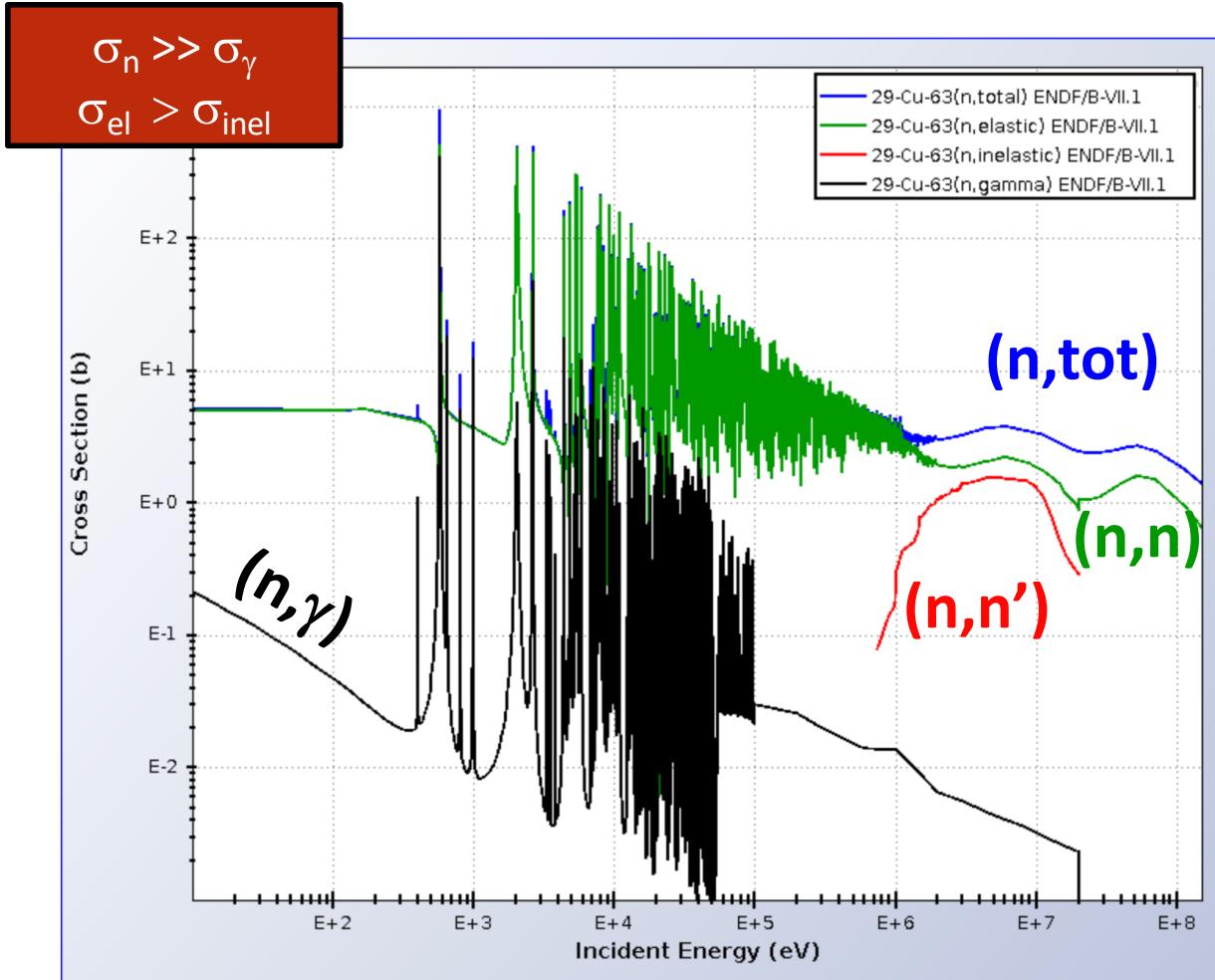


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- Introduction to scientific motivations
- Data in the literature
- Proposed measurements
- Conclusions

Why $^{63,65}\text{Cu}$?



Natural abundance:
 ^{63}Cu 69.2 %
 ^{65}Cu 30.8 %

Prodotti della reazione	Q -valore (keV)
$^{63}\text{Cu} + n$	0
$^{64}\text{Cu} + \gamma$	7915.9 ± 0.6
$^{60}\text{Co} + \alpha$	1717.0 ± 0.6
$^{63}\text{Ni} + p$	715.4 ± 0.6

Prodotti della reazione	Q -valore (keV)
$^{65}\text{Cu} + n$	0
$^{66}\text{Cu} + \gamma$	7065.9 ± 0.9
$^{62}\text{Co} + \alpha$	-193 ± 18
$^{65}\text{Ni} + p$	-1355.5 ± 0.8

Why $^{63,65}\text{Cu}$?



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➤ Nuclear Technology

Nucl. Techn.

➤ Nuclear Astrophysics

Nucl. Astro.

^{63}Cu and ^{65}Cu very similar

- ^{63}Cu presented here
- ^{65}Cu in backup slides

Why $^{63,65}\text{Cu}$?

Nucl. Techn.

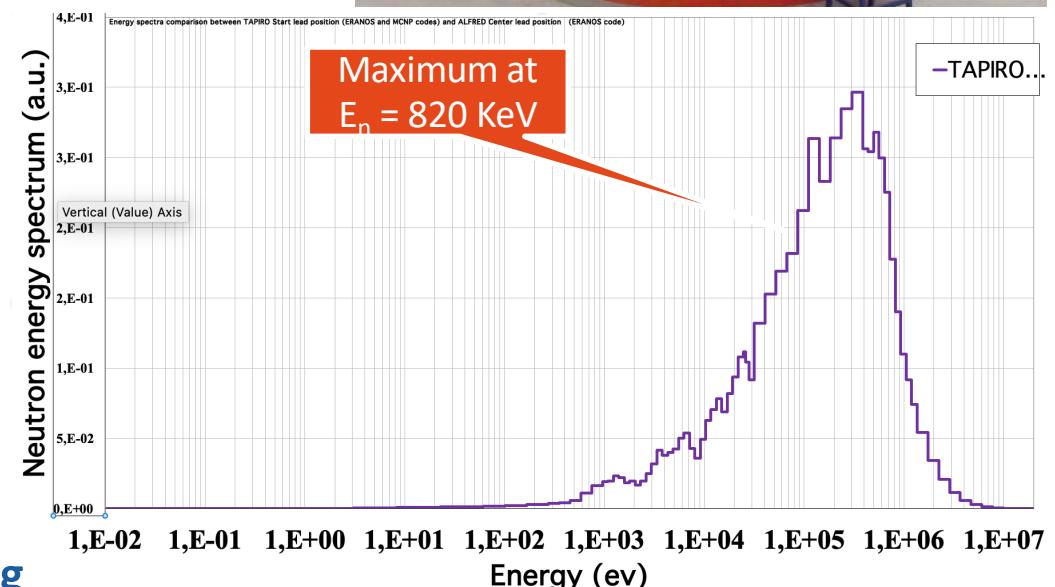
TAratura Pila Rapida Potenza Zero (TAPIRO) research reactor:

- 5 kW power
- U-Mo fuel
- Core = 12 cm cylinder
- ^{235}U enrichment = 93.5%
- $4 \times 10^{12} \text{ n/s}$

➤ FAST SPECTRUM

Evaluation benchmark Material test

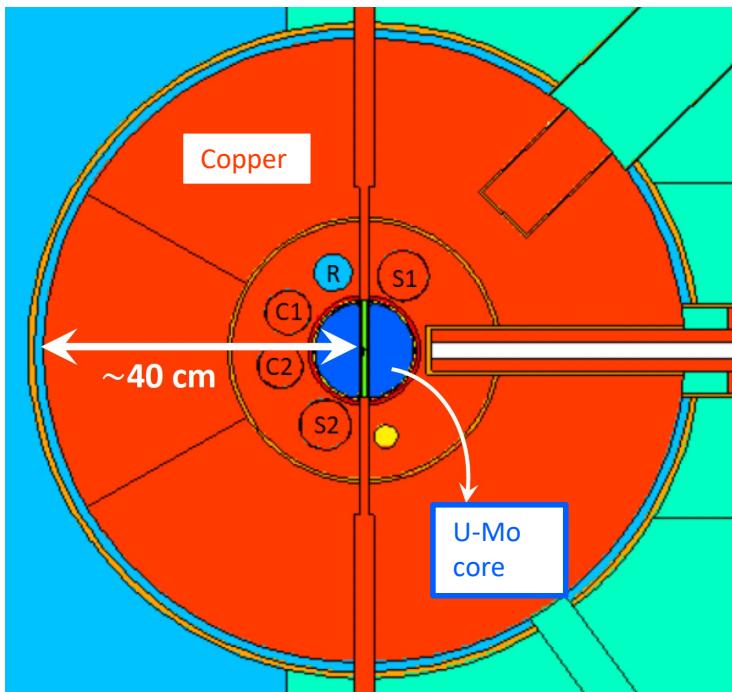
**TAPIRO can play a pivotal role in supporting
the development of fast reactor projects**



Why $^{63,65}\text{Cu}$?

Nucl. Techn.

TAPIRO: k_{eff} study by MCNP



ENDF/B-VIII.0 → $k_{\text{eff}} = 1.00000$

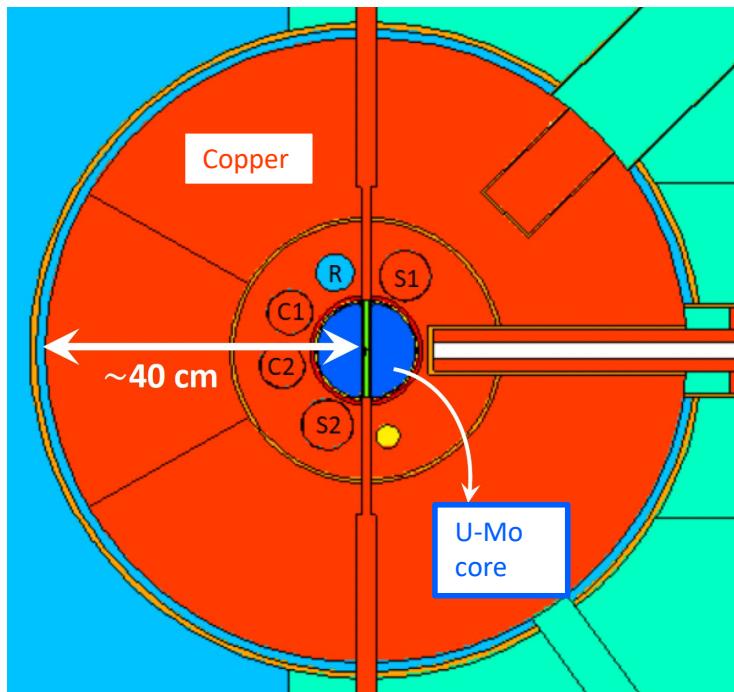
^{63}Cu	Evaluation	k_{eff}
JEFF3.3		1.00637 ± 0.00001
JENDL-5		1.00147 ± 0.00001
TENDL-2021		1.00102 ± 0.00001

^{65}Cu	Evaluation	k_{eff}
JEFF3.3		0.99980 ± 0.00001
JENDL-5		0.99782 ± 0.00001
TENDL-2021		1.00017 ± 0.00001

Why $^{63,65}\text{Cu}$?

Nucl. Techn.

TAPIRO: k_{eff} study by MCNP



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Library effect =
 1.5 x regulation rod

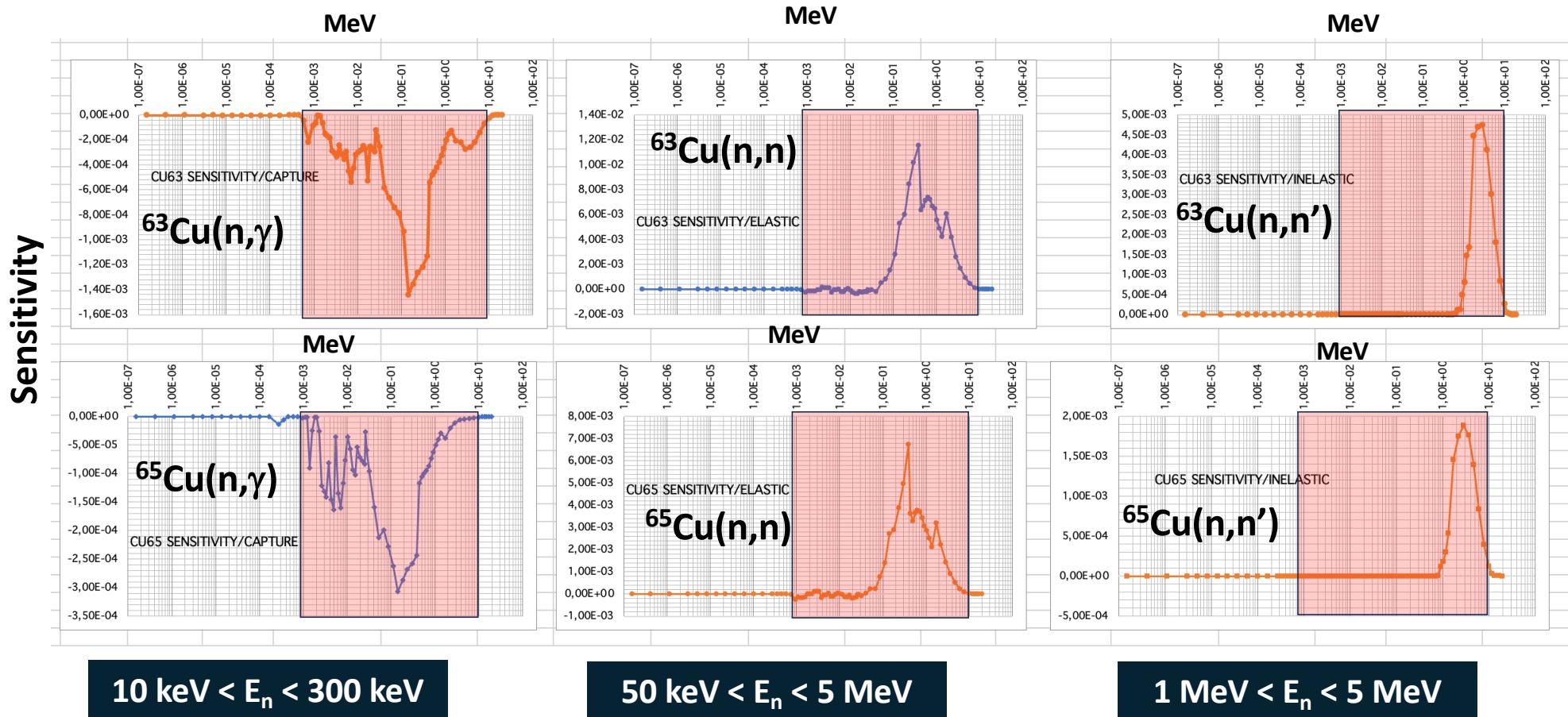
Why $^{63,65}\text{Cu}$?



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Nucl. Techn.

TAPIRO: spectral parameters sensitivity & uncertainty study by ERANOS 2.3



Why $^{63,65}\text{Cu}$?



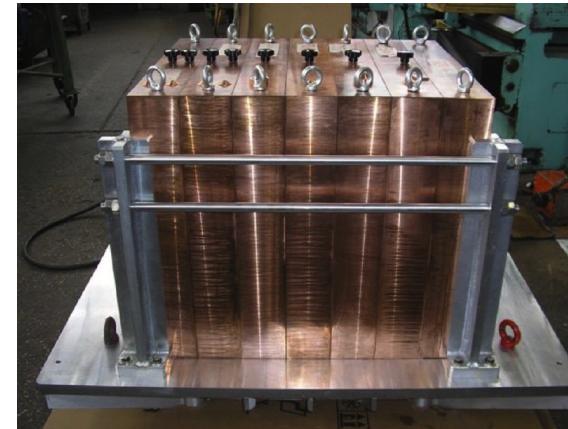
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Nucl. Techn.

Fusion – study at FNG

The screenshot shows a journal article from *Fusion Engineering and Design*, Volume 109–111 (2016) 843–847. The article title is "Copper benchmark experiment at the Frascati Neutron Generator for nuclear data validation". It is authored by M. Angelone*, D. Flammini, S. Loretto, F. Moro, M. Pillon, R. Villari, and was published by ENEA Dipartimento Fusione e Tecnologie per la Sicurezza Nucleare, C.R. Frascati, via E. Fermi 45, 00044 Frascati, Italy. The article includes sections for HIGHLIGHTS, ARTICLE INFO, and ABSTRACT. The ABSTRACT section discusses a benchmark experiment on a pure copper block using 14 MeV neutrons, activation foils, thermoluminescent dosimeters, and scintillators to measure reaction rates, nuclear heating, and neutron spectra. It compares calculated quantities with experimental data and highlights discrepancies between different cross-section libraries.

2016



Conclusions

...

The present results call for a deep revision/re-evaluation of the copper cross sections. The new release JEFF-3.2 for Cu provided the highest disagreement in the C/E analysis and must be revised. To this end the results of the companion sensitivity/uncertainty post-analysis will help in identifying the main causes of uncertainty in the Cu cross sections. It worth to note that the largest discrepancy among the C/E values was observed for the thermal (capture) reactions suggesting problems and uncertainties in the $^{63,65}\text{Cu}$ capture and elastic cross sections at lower energy rather than at high energy.

Why $^{63,65}\text{Cu}$?

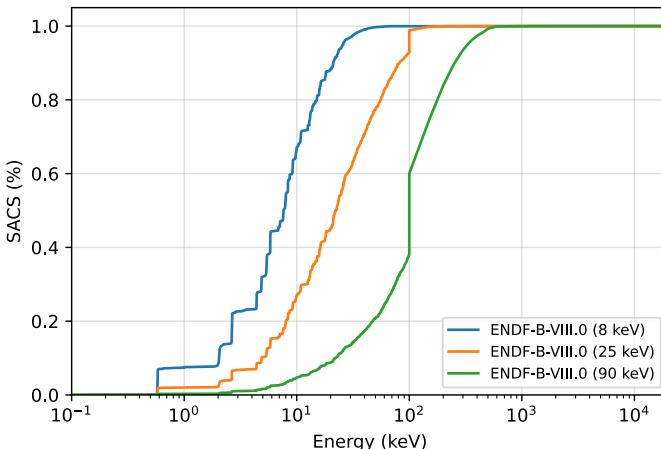
How copper was produced?

Not clear! Candidates:

- 1. Weak s process (Massive stars)**
- 2. Main s process (AGB)**
- 3. SNe Ia**
- 4. SNe II**

The s process requires

MACS @ $kT = 8, 25, 90 \text{ keV}$

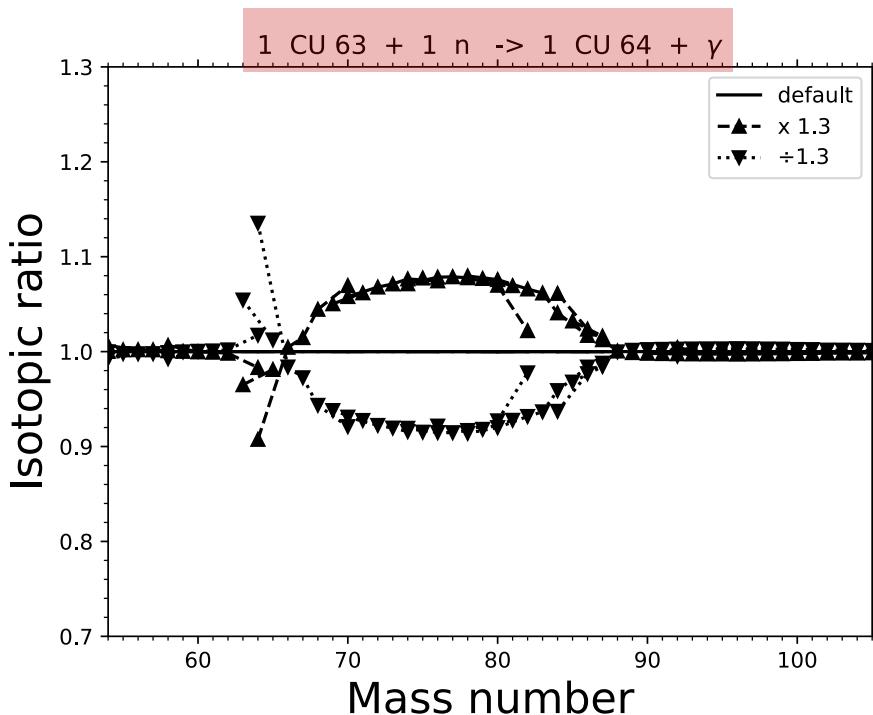


^{62}Ga 116.00 ms β^+	^{63}Ga 32.40 s β^+	^{64}Ga 2.63 m β^+	^{65}Ga 15.20 m β^+	^{66}Ga 9.49 h β^+	^{67}Ga 3.26 d β^+	^{68}Ga 1.13 h β^+
^{61}Zn 1.48 m β^+	^{62}Zn 9.19 h β^+	^{63}Zn 38.47 m β^+	^{64}Zn 48.63 59 mb	^{65}Zn 243.63 d 162 mb, β^+	^{66}Zn 27.9 35 mb	^{67}Zn 4.1 153 mb
^{60}Cu 23.70 m β^+	^{61}Cu 3.33 h β^+	^{62}Cu 9.67 m β^+	^{63}Cu 69.17 94 mb	^{64}Cu 12.70 h β^+	^{65}Cu 30.83 41 mb	^{66}Cu 5.12 m β^-
^{59}Ni 75.99 ka 87 mb, β^+	^{60}Ni 26.223 30 mb	^{61}Ni 1.14 82 mb	^{62}Ni 3.634 22.3 mb	^{63}Ni 100.11 a 31 mb, β^-	^{64}Ni 0.926 8.7 mb	^{65}Ni 2.52 h β^-
^{58}Co 70.86 d β^+	^{59}Co 100 38 mb	^{60}Co 5.27 a β^-	^{61}Co 1.65 h β^-	^{62}Co 1.50 m β^-	^{63}Co 27.40 s β^-	^{64}Co 300.00 ms β^-
^{57}Fe 2.119 40 mb	^{58}Fe 0.282 12.1 mb	^{59}Fe 44.50 d β^-	^{60}Fe 1.50 Ma β^-	^{61}Fe 5.98 m β^-	^{62}Fe 1.13 m β^-	^{63}Fe 6.01 s β^-

With accurate determination of Cu MACS, it is possible to clarify what is the s-process contribution to Cu. Once this is done, it will be possible to constrain the Cu production by other nucleosynthesis processes, where stellar and nuclear uncertainties are much larger.

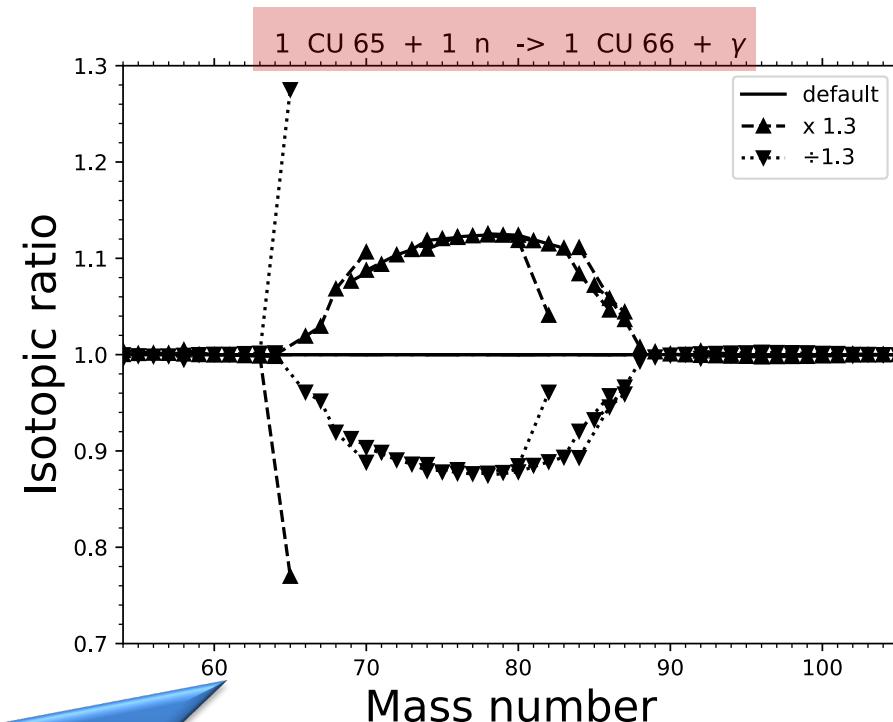
Why $^{63,65}\text{Cu}$?

Propagation effect in the weak s-process nucleosynthesis



^{62}Ga 116.00 ms β^+	^{63}Ga 32.40 s α	^{64}Ga 2.63 m β^+	^{65}Ga 15.20 m β^+	^{66}Ga 9.49 h β^+	^{67}Ga 3.26 d β^+	^{68}Ga 1.13 h β^+
^{61}Zn 1.48 m β^+						^{66}Zn 27.9 35 mb
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M. Pignatari, et al., *The s process in massive stars, a benchmark for neutron capture reaction rates*, European Physical Journal A **59** (2023) 12, 10.1140/epja/s10050-023-01206-1



Impact of $^{63,65}\text{Cu}(n,\gamma)$ cross sections on the efficiency for the production of elements heavier than Cu

Data in literature

View Maxwellian-Averaged (n,g) Cross Section
Isotope Show
(Examples: Ba138, Ta180m, Se.)

▼ Recommended MACS30 (Maxwellian Averaged Cross Section @ 30keV)

$^{63}\text{Cu} (n, \gamma)^{64}\text{Cu}$

Total MACS at 30keV: **60.1 ± 6.2 mb**

Cross sections do not include stellar enhancement factors!

▼ History

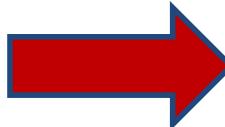
Version	Total MACS [mb]	Partial to gs [mb]	Partial to isomer [mb]
1.0	60.1 ± 6.2	-	-
0.3	55.6 ± 2.2	-	-
0.0	94 ± 10	-	-

(Version 0.0 corresponds to Bao et al.)

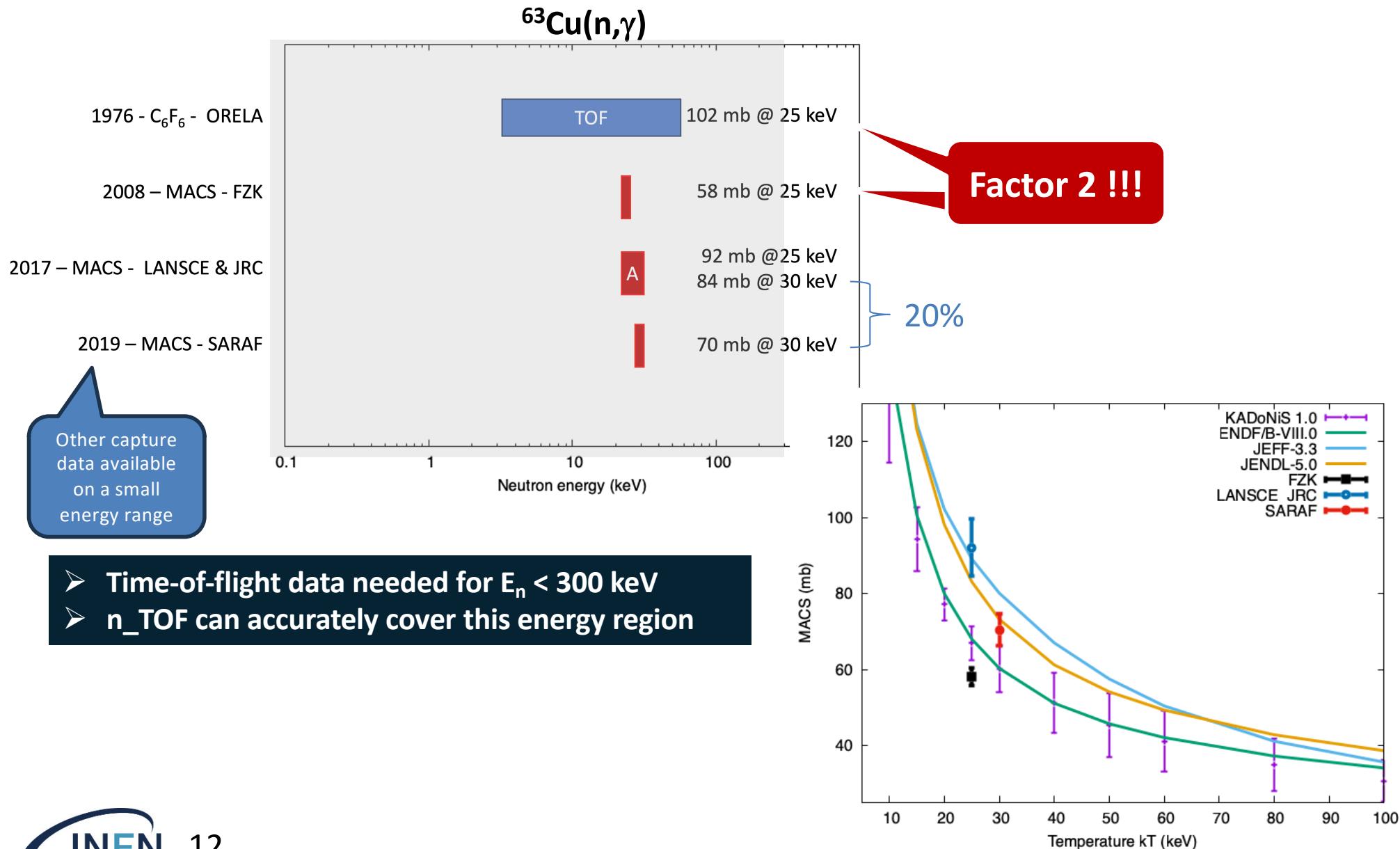
▼ Comment

New rec. value is from HKU08, renormalized by 632 mb/586 mb = 1.0785, and recalculated with normalized energy dependencies of tendl15, endfb71, jendl40. Uncertainty is the deviation between different evaluations plus 4% exp. uncertainty from HKU08. **Note the large deviation between the activation measurement and the TOF measurements. More investigation needed!**

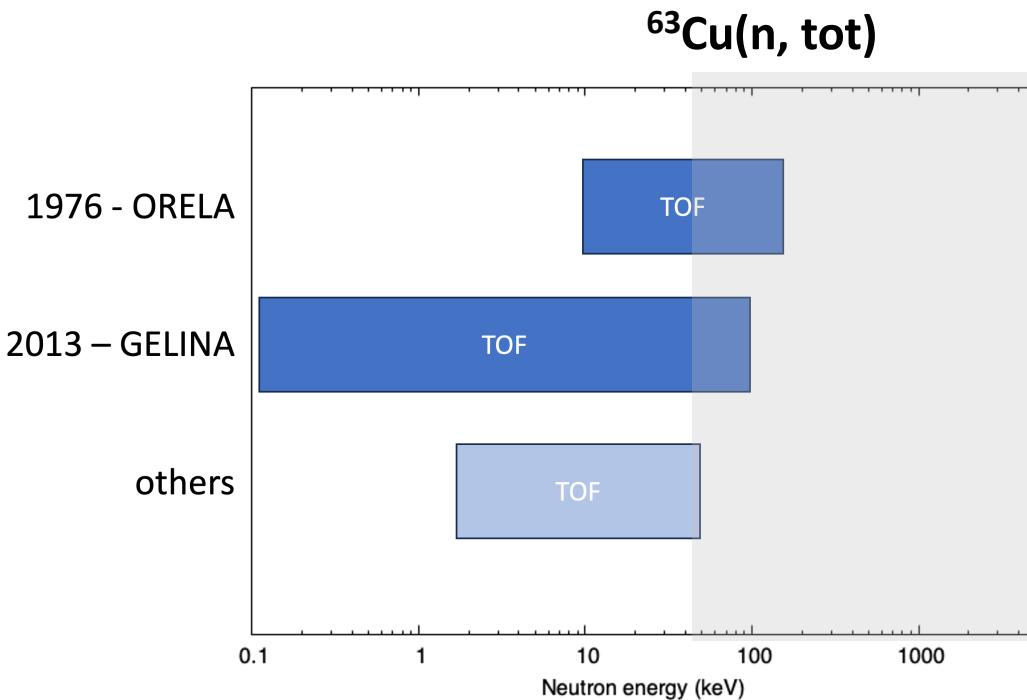
Last review: April 2017



Data in literature

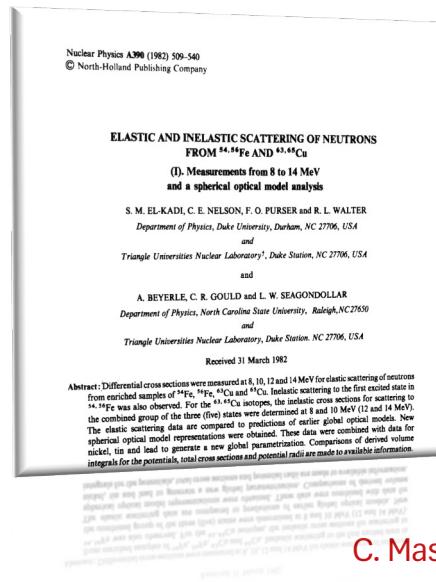


Data in literature



- Time-of-flight data needed for $50 \text{ KeV} < E_n < 5 \text{ MeV}$
 - n_TOF can accurately cover this energy region with a transmission experiment;
- $$\sigma_{\text{tot}} = \sigma_n + \sigma_\gamma + \sigma_{n'}$$
- $\sigma_{\text{tot}} \cong \sigma_n$ for $E_n < 2 \text{ MeV}$

[Link1](#)
[Link2](#)
[Link3](#)



$^{63}\text{Cu}(n, n)$

$^{63}\text{Cu}(n, n')$

Angular distribution

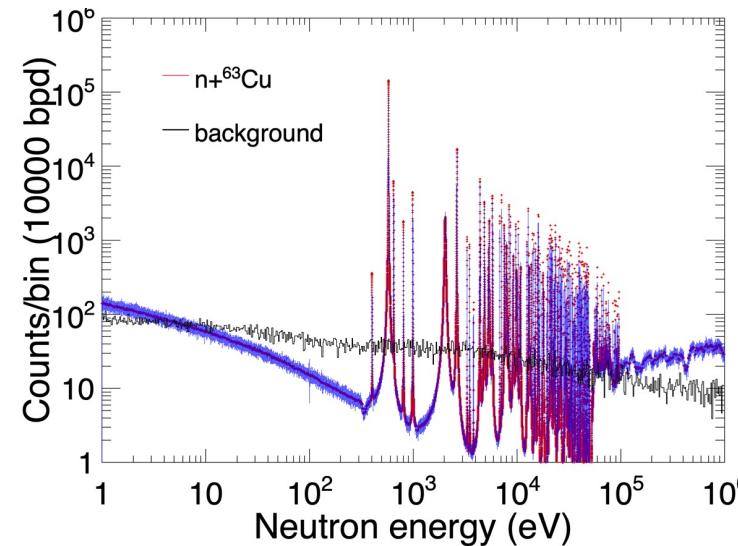
- Currently, detector R&D, to study these channels at n_TOF
- Possible synergy with JRC-Geel

Addendum in the future?

Proposed measurements

Consist of **capture** and **transmission** experiments at **EAR1** using highly enriched samples (**99.8%** in ^{63}Cu and **99.0%** in ^{65}Cu)

- Capture at EAR1 using $4 \text{ C}_6\text{D}_6$

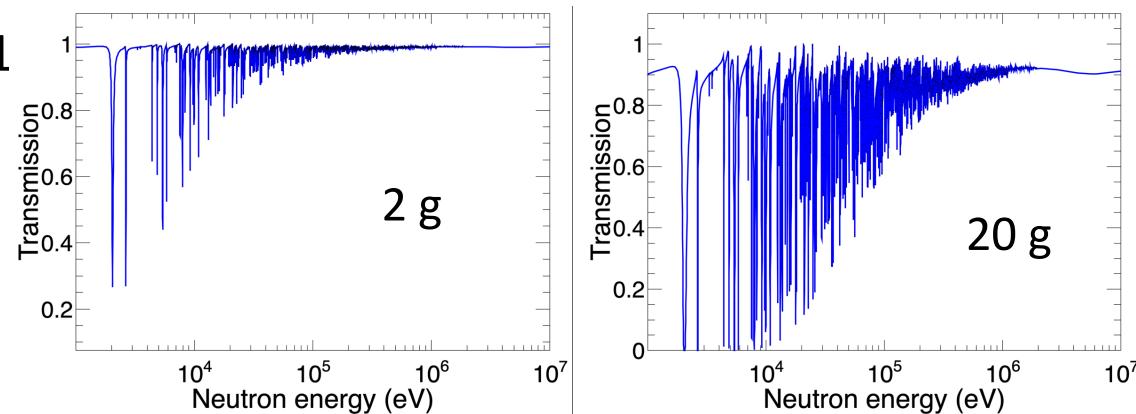


Example:

2 grams of ^{63}Cu and cylindrical sample of 1.5 cm radius (2.7×10^{-3} at/b)

2×10^{18} protons

- Transmission at EAR1 using ^{235}U fission chamber from PTB



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Proposed measurements

Consist of **capture** and **transmission** experiments at **EAR1** using highly enriched samples (**99.8%** in ^{63}Cu and **99.0%** in ^{65}Cu)

Experiment	Sample	Protons	Comments
Capture	^{63}Cu	2.0×10^{18}	EAR1 or EAR2 background study background study background study background study normalization
Capture	^{65}Cu	2.0×10^{18}	
Capture	^{nat}Cu	0.3×10^{18}	
Capture	Empty-sample	0.2×10^{18}	
Capture	Pb	0.2×10^{18}	
Capture	C	0.2×10^{18}	
Capture	^{197}Au	0.1×10^{18}	
Transmission	^{63}Cu	1.0×10^{18}	"Sample-in"
Transmission	^{65}Cu	1.0×10^{18}	
Transmission	Empty-sample	1.0×10^{18}	
		8.0×10^{18}	

Target:

- Observe resonances up to 50-200 keV
- σ_γ uncertainty below 3-5%

Target:

- σ_{tot} uncertainty below 5% for $E_n > 100$ keV with 100 bpd



Conclusion

- $n + {}^{63,65}\text{Cu}$ is an intriguing physics case! (new entry in HPRL?)
- Capture and transmission @ EAR1
 - 5×10^{18} Protons for ${}^{63}\text{Cu}(n,\gamma)$ and ${}^{65}\text{Cu}(n,\gamma)$
 - 3×10^{18} Protons for ${}^{63}\text{Cu}(n,\text{tot})$ and ${}^{65}\text{Cu}(n,\text{tot})$
- Proton request split into 2 runs over 2 years
 - e.g., (n,γ) in 2024 and (n,tot) in 2025
- Other reactions in future dedicated addendum (if feasible)

Total: 8×10^{18} protons on target

Acknowledgement:



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- ERANOS Sensitivity studies by **Donato Maurizio Castelluccio**
- MCNP calculations by **Patrizio Console Camprini**
- Massive stars sensitivity study by **Marco Pignatari**



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Cristian Massimi

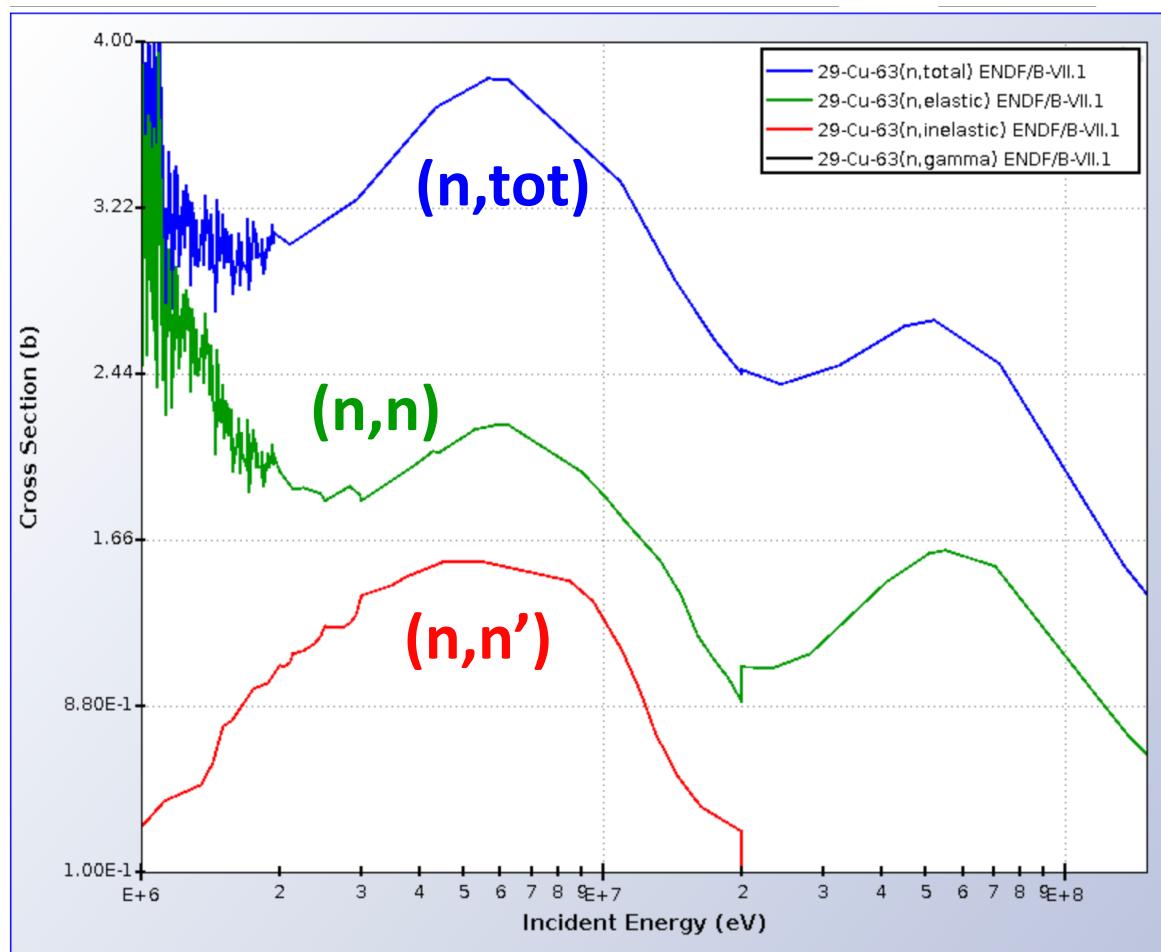
Department of Physics and Astronomy

cristian.massimi@unibo.it

www.unibo.it

Why $^{63,65}\text{Cu}$?

Natural abundance:
 ^{63}Cu 69.2 %



$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_n &>> \sigma_\gamma \\ \sigma_{\text{el}} &> \sigma_{\text{inel}}\end{aligned}$$

Prodotti della reazione	<i>Q</i> -valore (keV)
$^{63}\text{Cu} + n$	0
$^{64}\text{Cu} + \gamma$	7915.9 ± 0.6
$^{60}\text{Co} + \alpha$	1717.0 ± 0.6
$^{63}\text{Ni} + p$	715.4 ± 0.6

Why $^{63,65}\text{Cu}$?



Nucl. Techn.

TAPIRO: ERANOS → S/U analysis

Sensitivity and Uncertainty (S/U) analysis was performed using the deterministic code ERANOS 2.3, for:

1. k_{eff} parameter (n,n)
(n,n')
(n, γ)
2. ratio of fission reaction rates U238/U235 (n,n')
(n,n)
(n, γ)
3. ratio of fission r.r. Np237/U235 (n,n)
(n,n')
(n, γ)

Relevant energy region

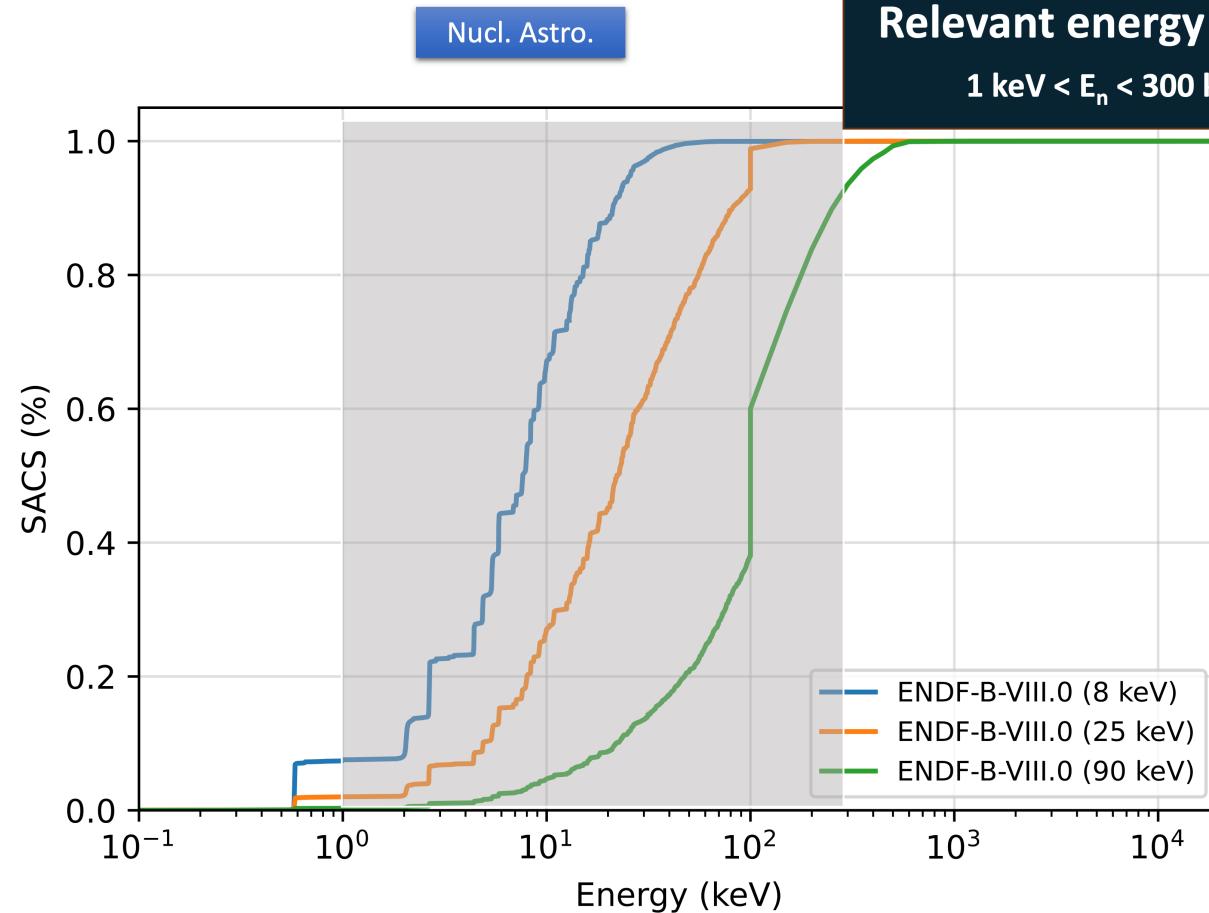
- Elastic: $50 \text{ keV} < E_n < 5 \text{ MeV}$
- Inelastic: $1 \text{ MeV} < E_n < 5 \text{ MeV}$
- Rad. capture: $10 \text{ keV} < E_n < 300 \text{ keV}$

Why $^{63,65}\text{Cu}$?

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^{61}Zn 1.48 m β^+	^{62}Zn 9.19 h β^+	^{63}Zn 38.47 m β^+	^{64}Zn 48.63 59 mb	^{65}Zn 243.63 d 162 mb, β^+	^{66}Zn 27.9 35 mb	^{67}Zn 4.1 153 mb
^{60}Cu 23.70 m β^+	^{61}Cu 3.33 h β^+	^{62}Cu 9.67 m β^+	^{63}Cu 69.17 94 mb	^{64}Cu 12.70 h β^+	^{65}Cu 30.83 41 mb	^{66}Cu 5.12 m β^-
					^{64}Ni 0.926 8.7 mb	^{65}Ni 2.52 h β^-
					^{63}Co 27.40 s β^-	^{64}Co 300.00 ms β^-
					^{62}Fe 1.13 m β^-	^{63}Fe 6.01 s β^-

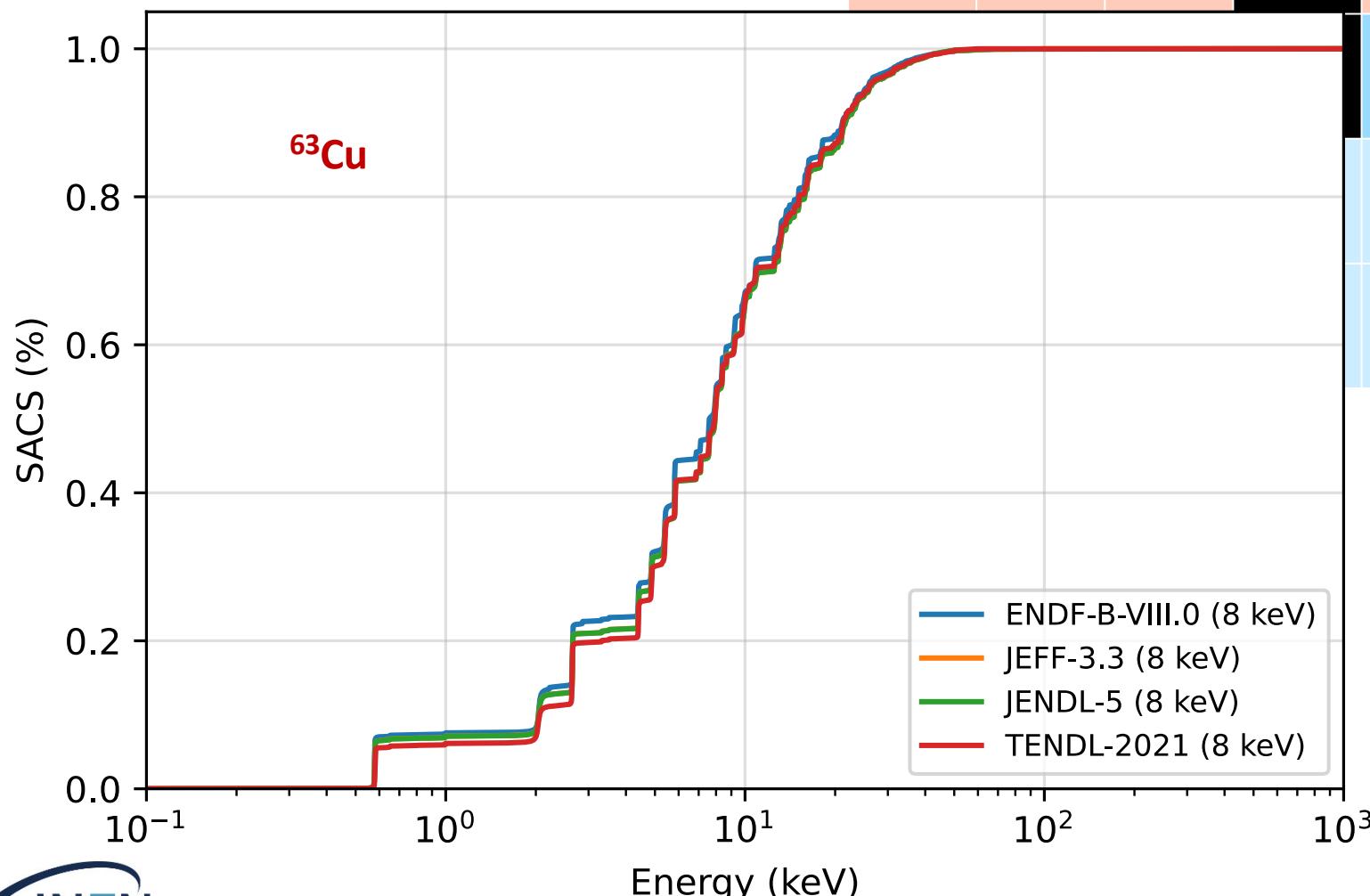
$^{63}\text{Cu}(n, \gamma)$

% MACS



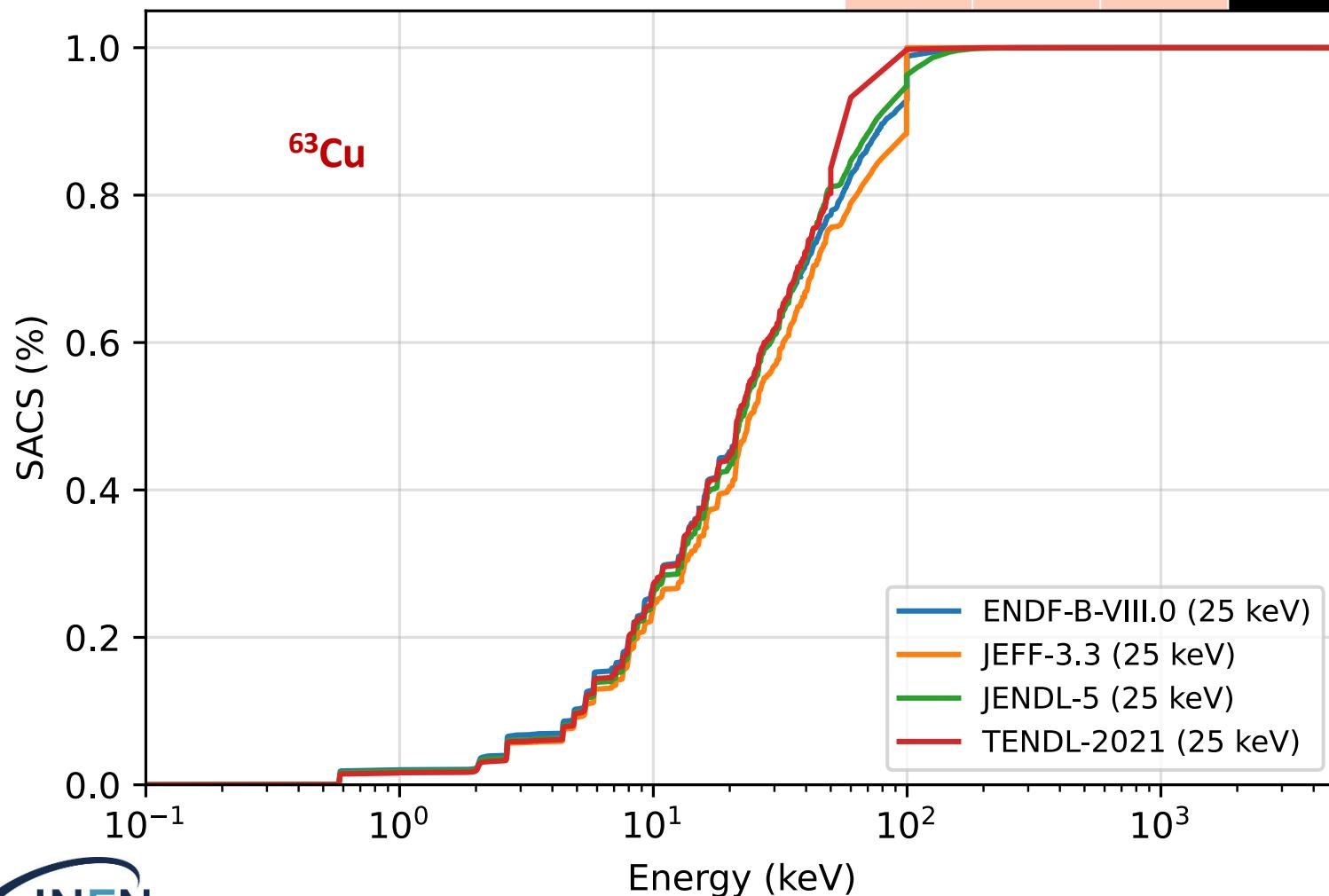
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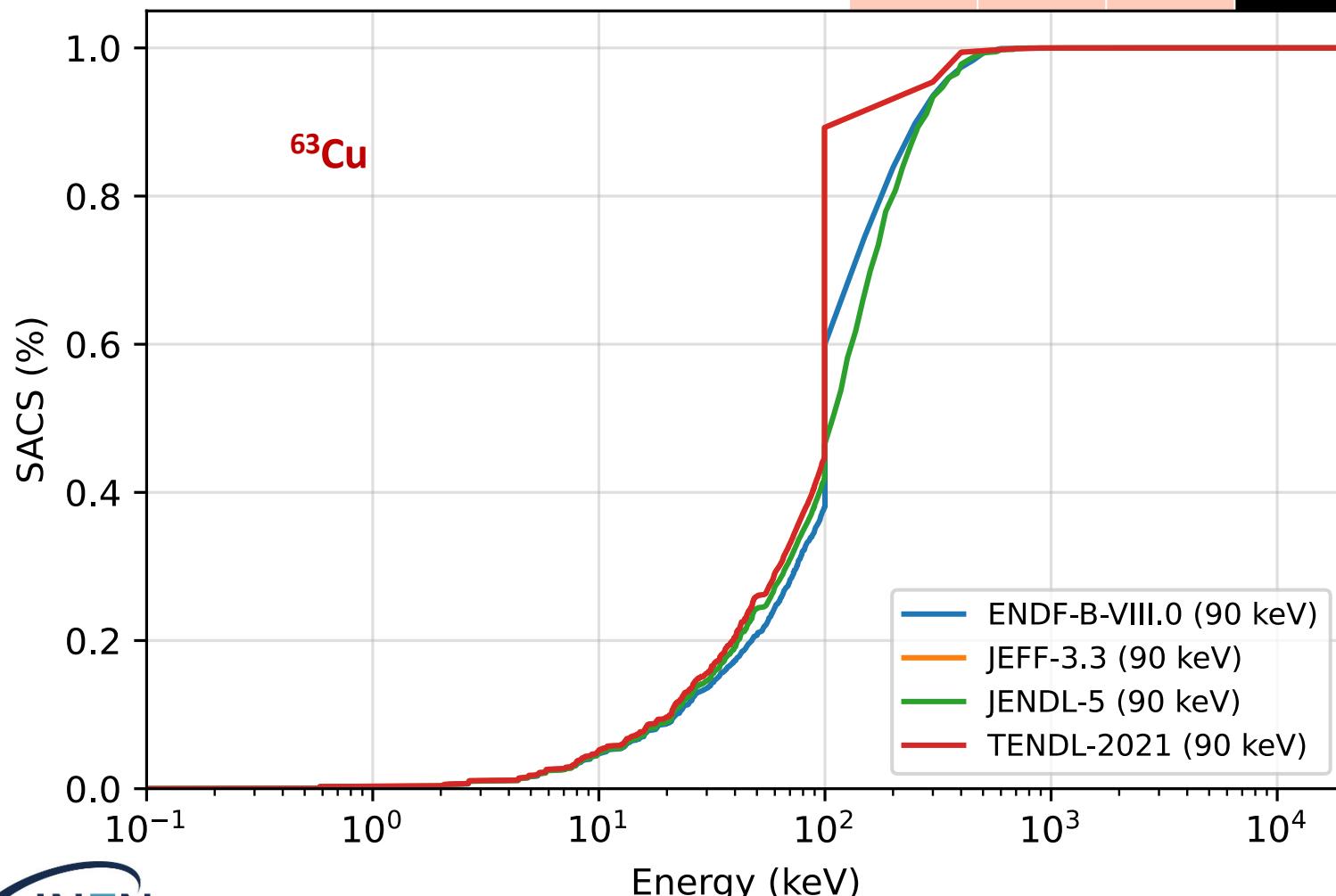
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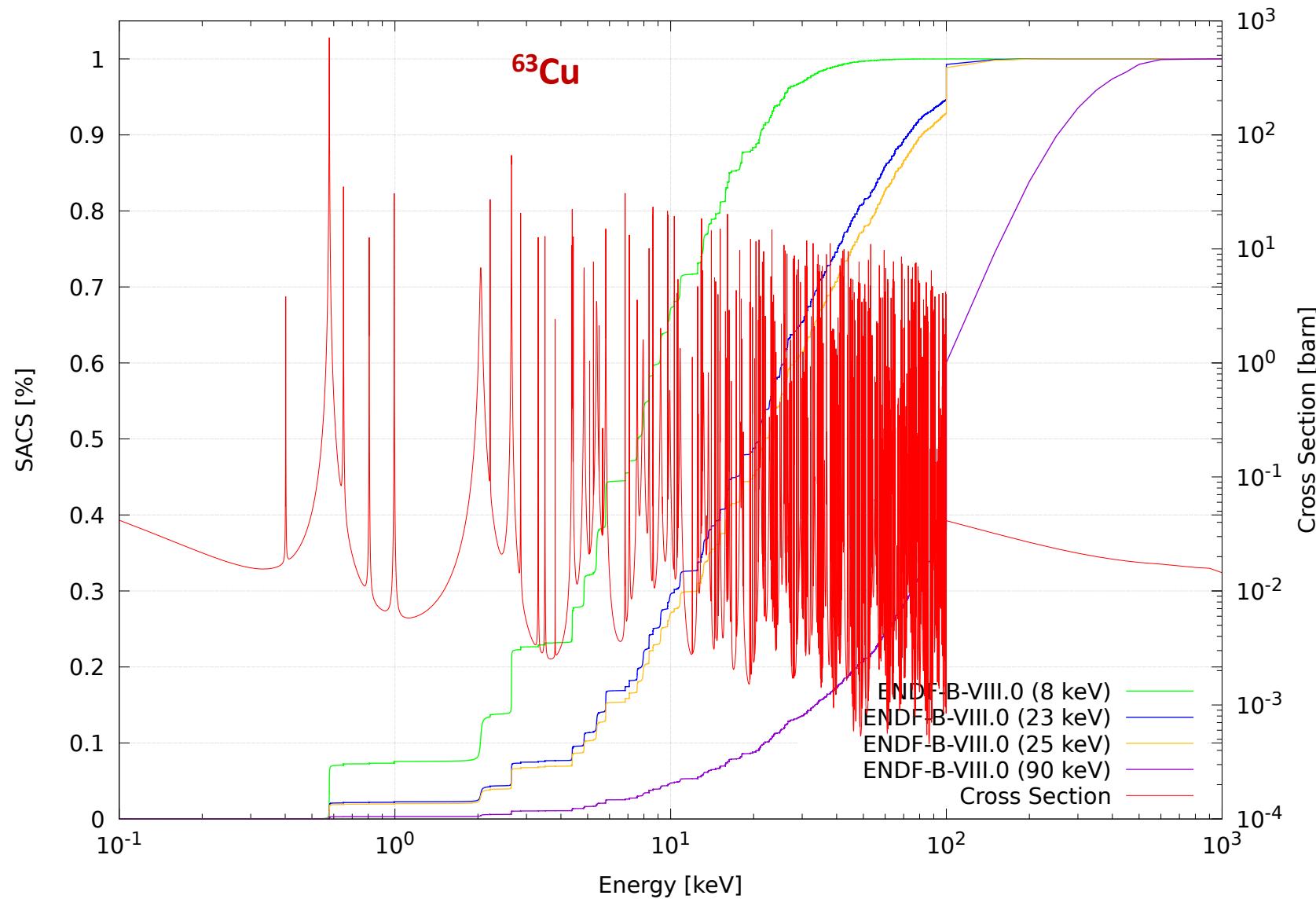


Why ^{63}Cu ?

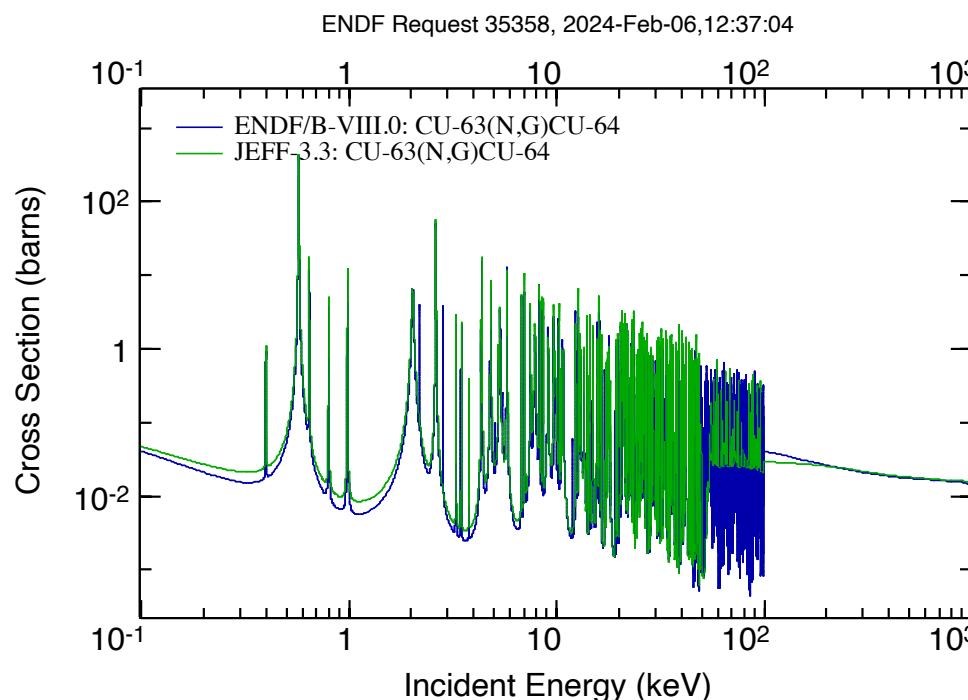
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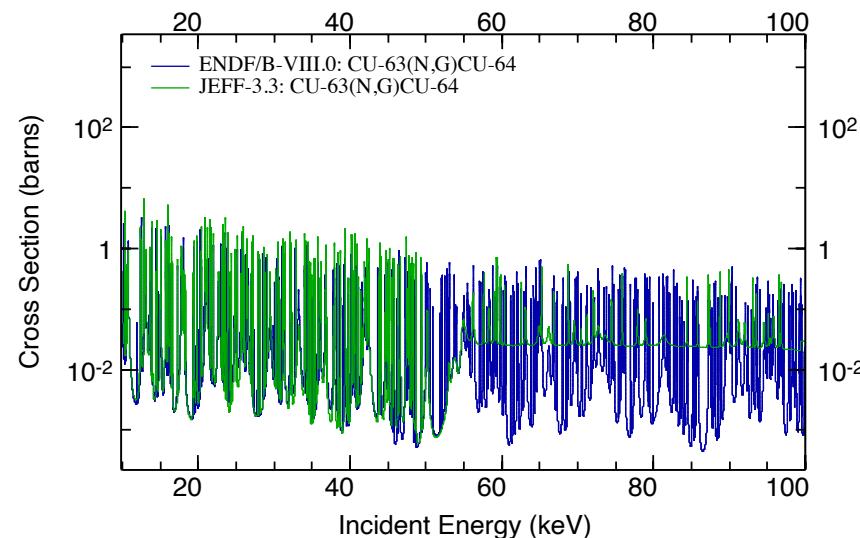


Why $^{63,65}\text{Cu}$?



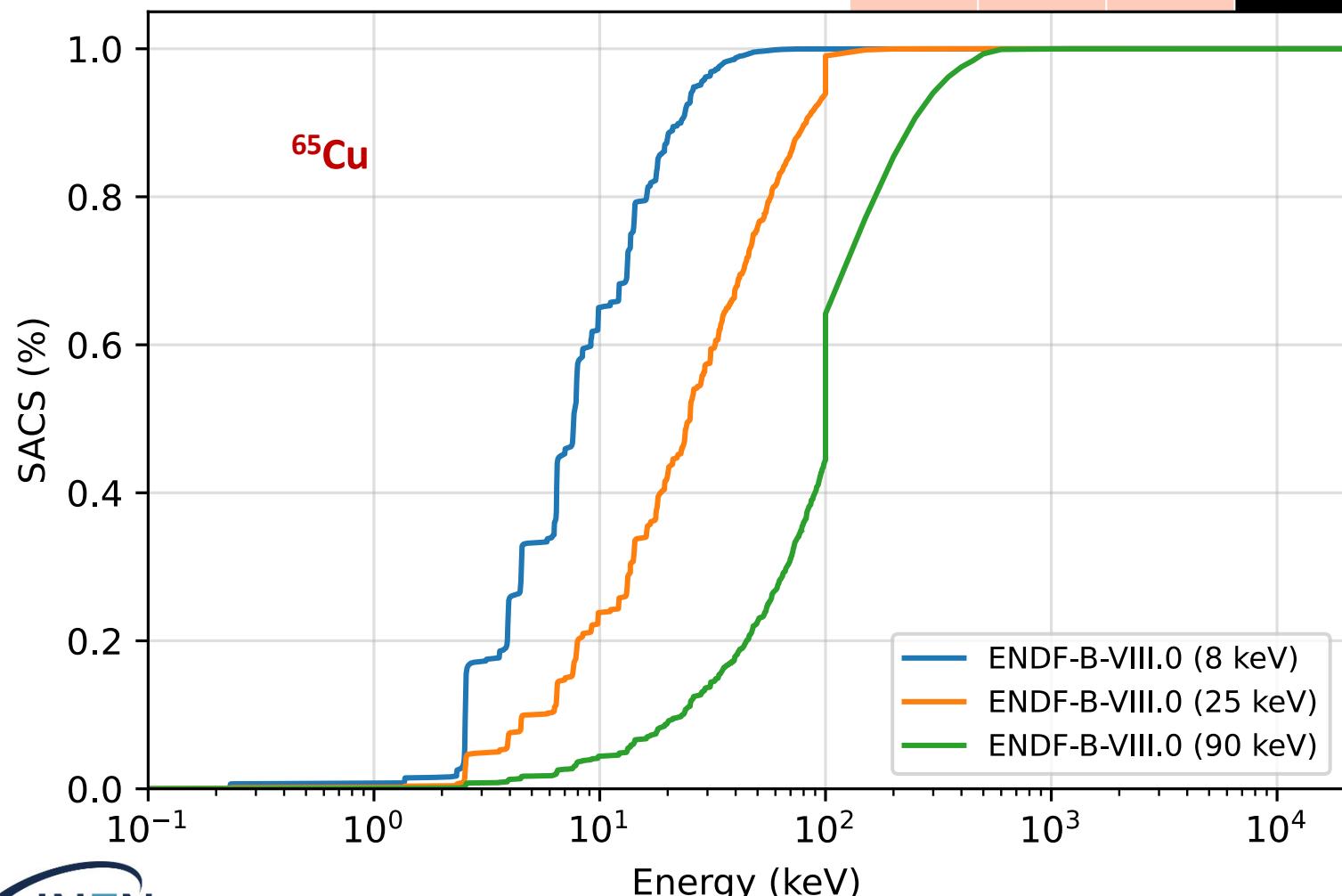
^{62}Ga 116.00 ms β^+	^{63}Ga 32.40 s β^+	^{64}Ga 2.63 m β^+	^{65}Ga 15.20 m β^+	^{66}Ga 9.49 h β^+	^{67}Ga 3.26 d β^+	^{68}Ga 1.13 h β^+
^{61}Zn 1.48 m β^+	^{62}Zn 9.19 h β^+	^{63}Zn 38.47 m β^+	^{64}Zn 48.63 59 mb	^{65}Zn 243.63 d 162 mb, β^+	^{66}Zn 27.9 35 mb	^{67}Zn 4.1 153 mb
^{60}Cu 23.70 m β^+	^{61}Cu 3.33 h β^+	^{62}Cu 9.67 m β^+	^{63}Cu 69.17 94 mb	^{64}Cu 12.70 h β^+	^{65}Cu 30.83 41 mb	^{66}Cu 5.12 m β^-
^{59}Ni 75.99 ka 87 mb, β^+	^{60}Ni 26.223 30 mb	^{61}Ni 1.14 82 mb	^{62}Ni 3.634 22.3 mb	^{63}Ni 100.11 a 31 mb, β^-	^{64}Ni 0.926 8.7 mb	^{65}Ni 2.52 h β^-
^{58}Co 70.86 d β^+	^{59}Co 100 38 mb	^{60}Co 5.27 a β^-	^{61}Co 1.65 h β^-	^{62}Co 1.50 m β^-	^{63}Co 27.40 s β^-	^{64}Co 300.00 ms β^-
^{57}Fe 2.119 40 mb	^{58}Fe 0.282 12.1 mb	^{59}Fe 44.50 d β^-	^{60}Fe 1.50 Ma β^-	^{61}Fe 5.98 m β^-	^{62}Fe 1.13 m β^-	^{63}Fe 6.01 s β^-

ENDF Request 35358, 2024-Feb-06, 12:31:43



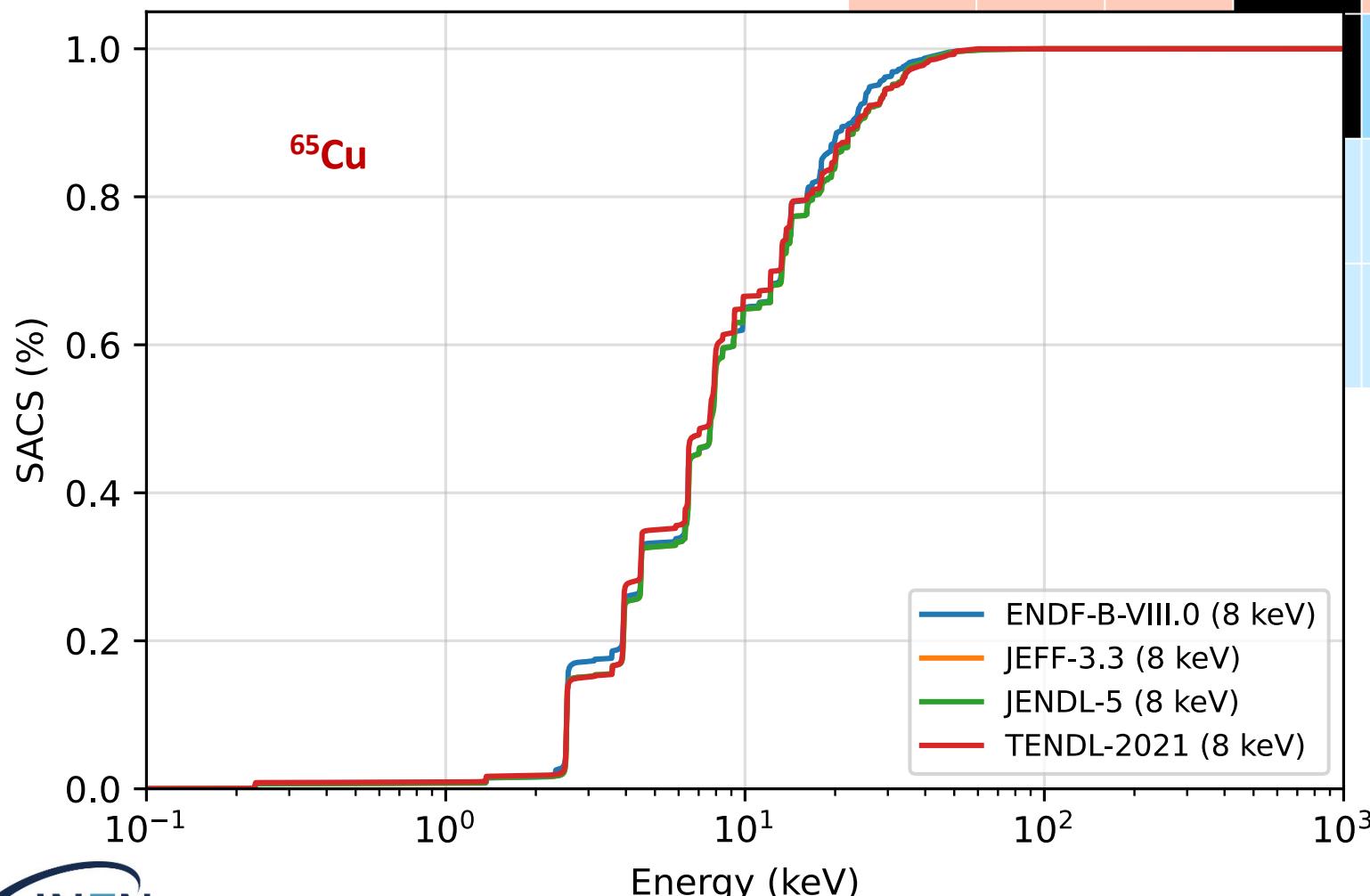
Why $^{63,65}\text{Cu}$?

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				^{62}Co 1.50 m β^-	^{63}Co 27.40 s β^-	^{64}Co 300.00 ms β^-
				^{61}Fe 5.98 m β^-	^{62}Fe 1.13 m β^-	^{63}Fe 6.01 s β^-



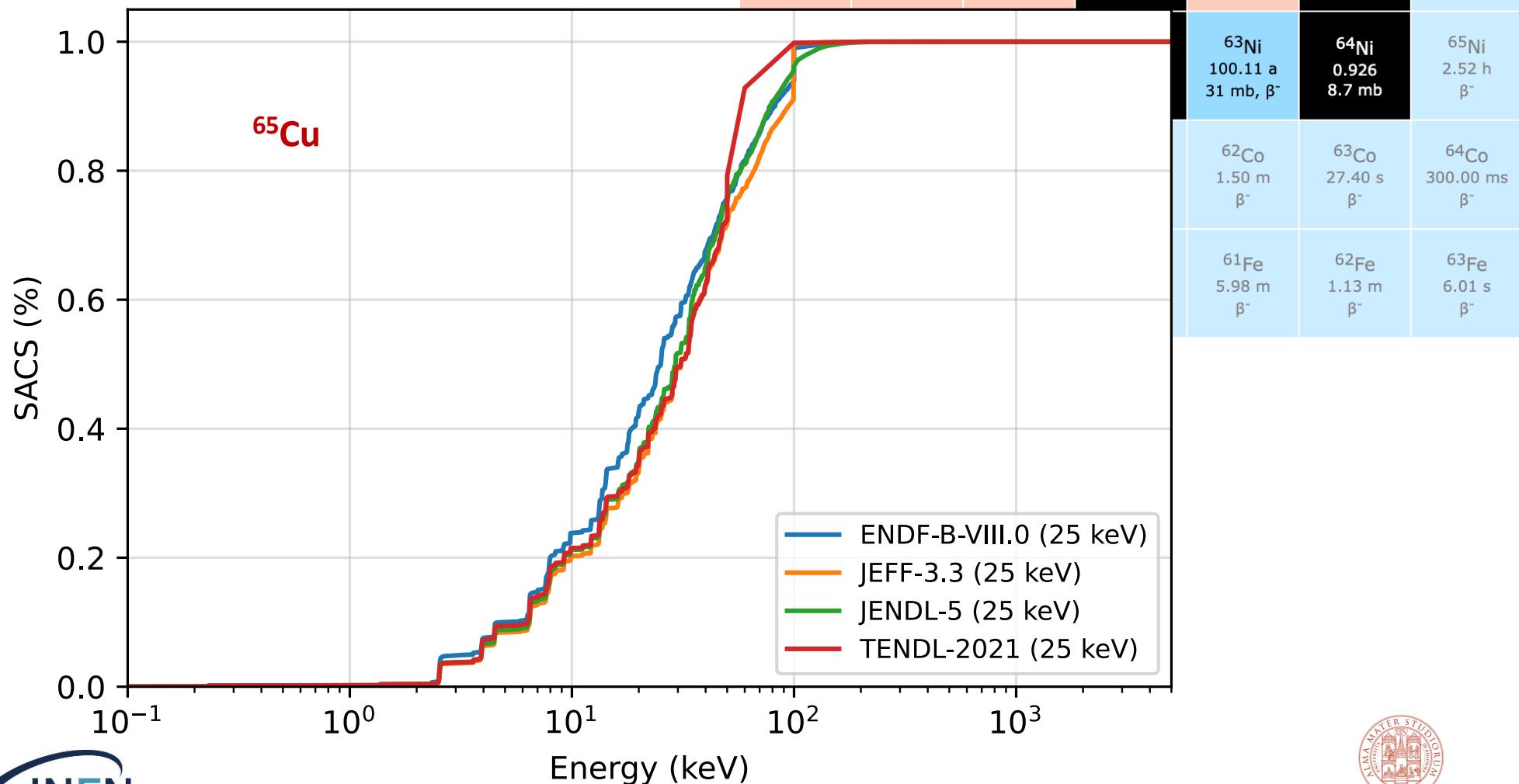
Why $^{63,65}\text{Cu}$?

^{62}Ga 116.00 ms β^+	^{63}Ga 32.40 s β^+	^{64}Ga 2.63 m β^+	^{65}Ga 15.20 m β^+	^{66}Ga 9.49 h β^+	^{67}Ga 3.26 d β^+	^{68}Ga 1.13 h β^+
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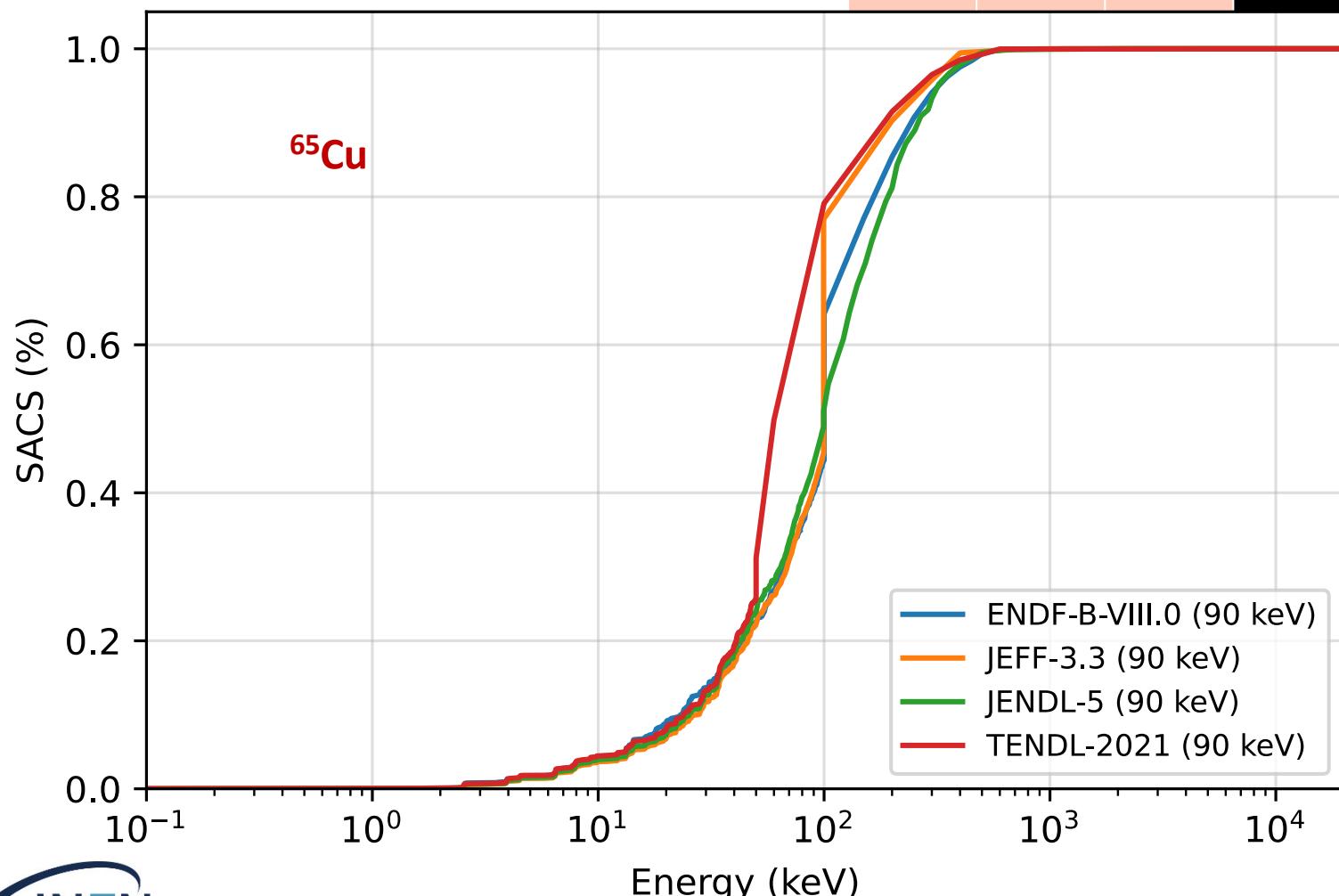
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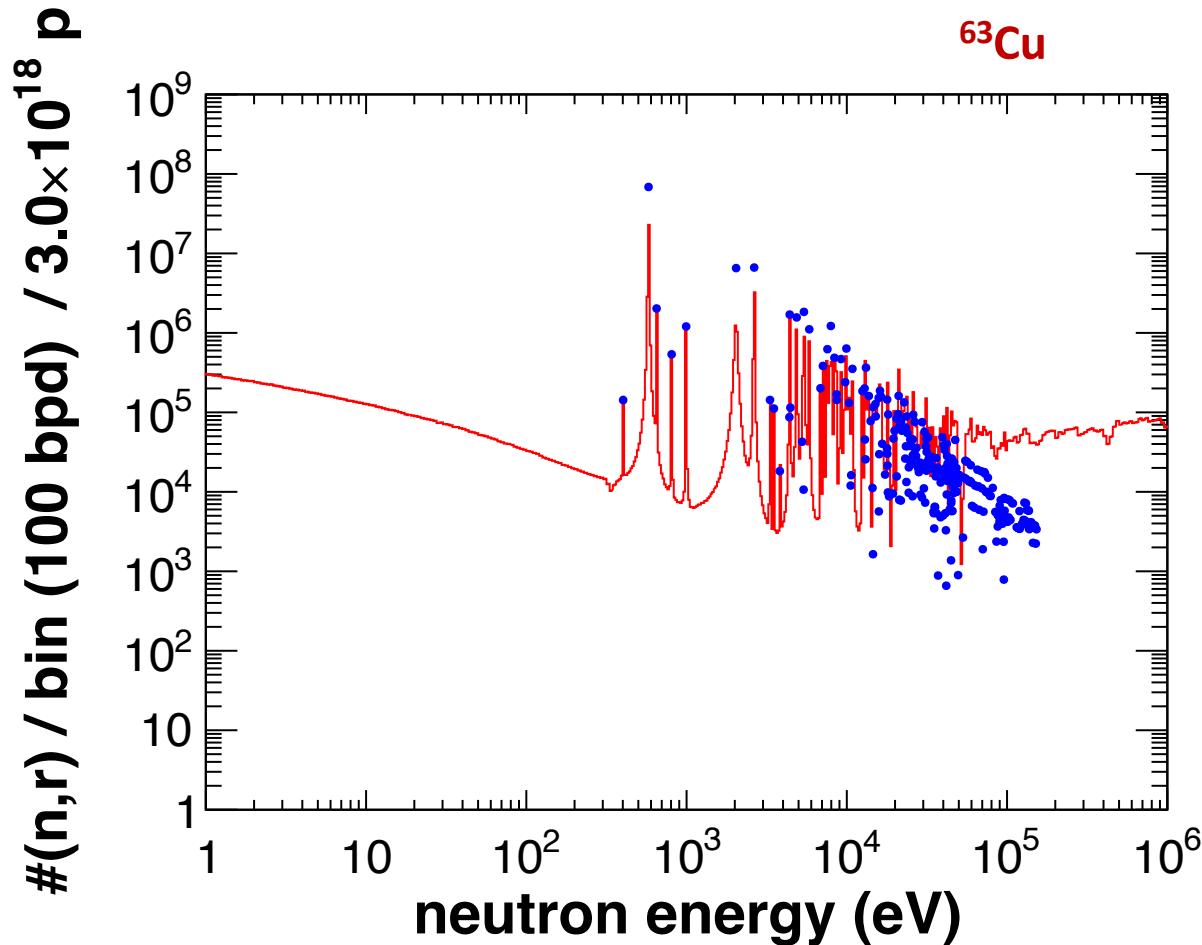
Uncertainties in a capture experiment

Mastromarco et al., Eur. Phys. J. A (2019) 55: 9

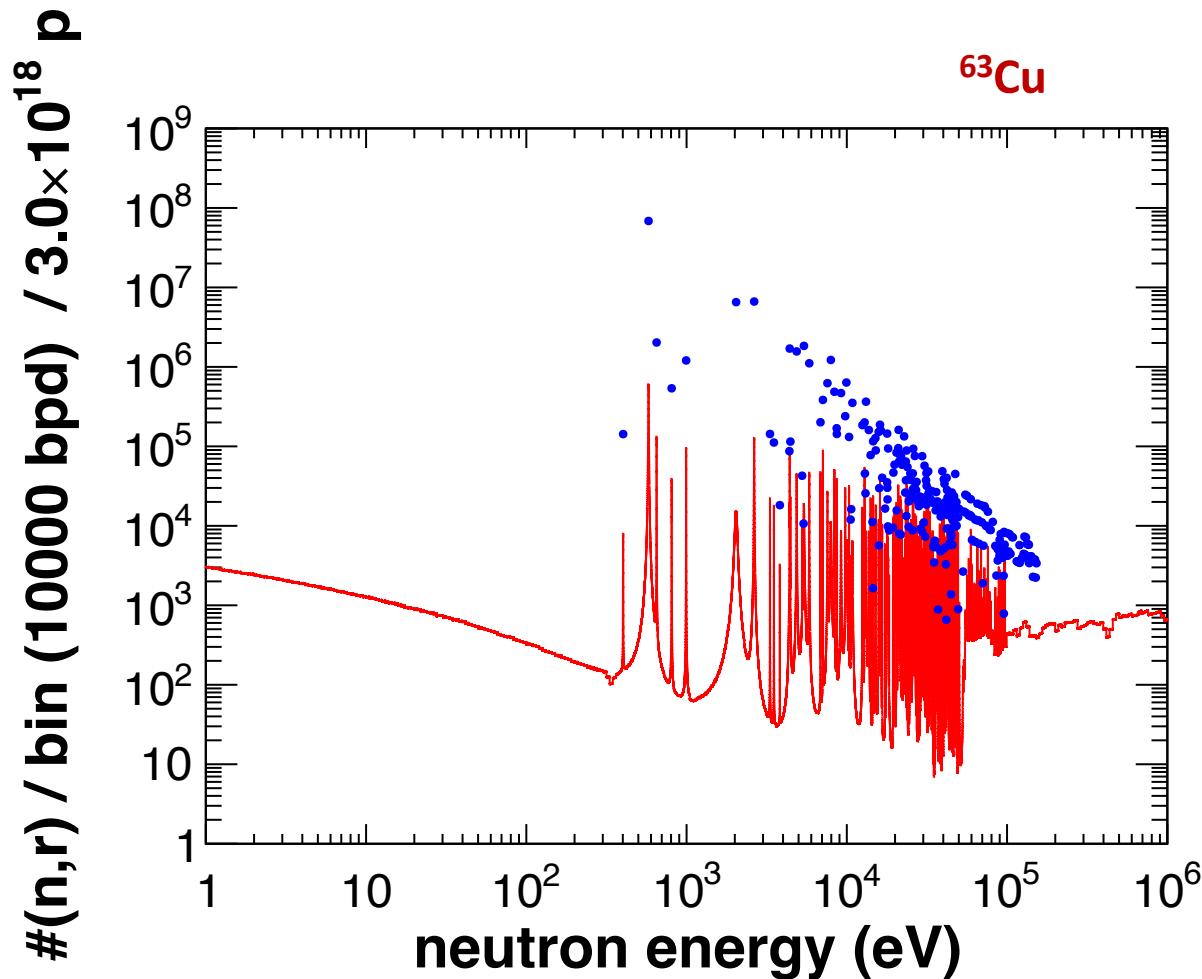
Table 3. Summary of the correlated uncertainties in the $^{155}\text{Gd}(\text{n}, \gamma)$ and $^{157}\text{Gd}(\text{n}, \gamma)$ cross section measurements.

Source of uncertainty	$^{155}\text{Gd}(\text{n}, \gamma)$		$^{157}\text{Gd}(\text{n}, \gamma)$	
	near thermal	resonance region	near thermal	resonance region
Normalization	1.2%	1.2%	1.2%	1.2%
PHWT	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%
Background	1.4%	$\approx 1\%$	1.0%	$\approx 1\%$
BIF	1.5%		1.5%	
Flux	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%
Sample mass	1.0%	< 0.2%	2.1%	< 0.2%
Temperature		1%		1%
Total	3.2%	2.6%	3.5%	2.6%

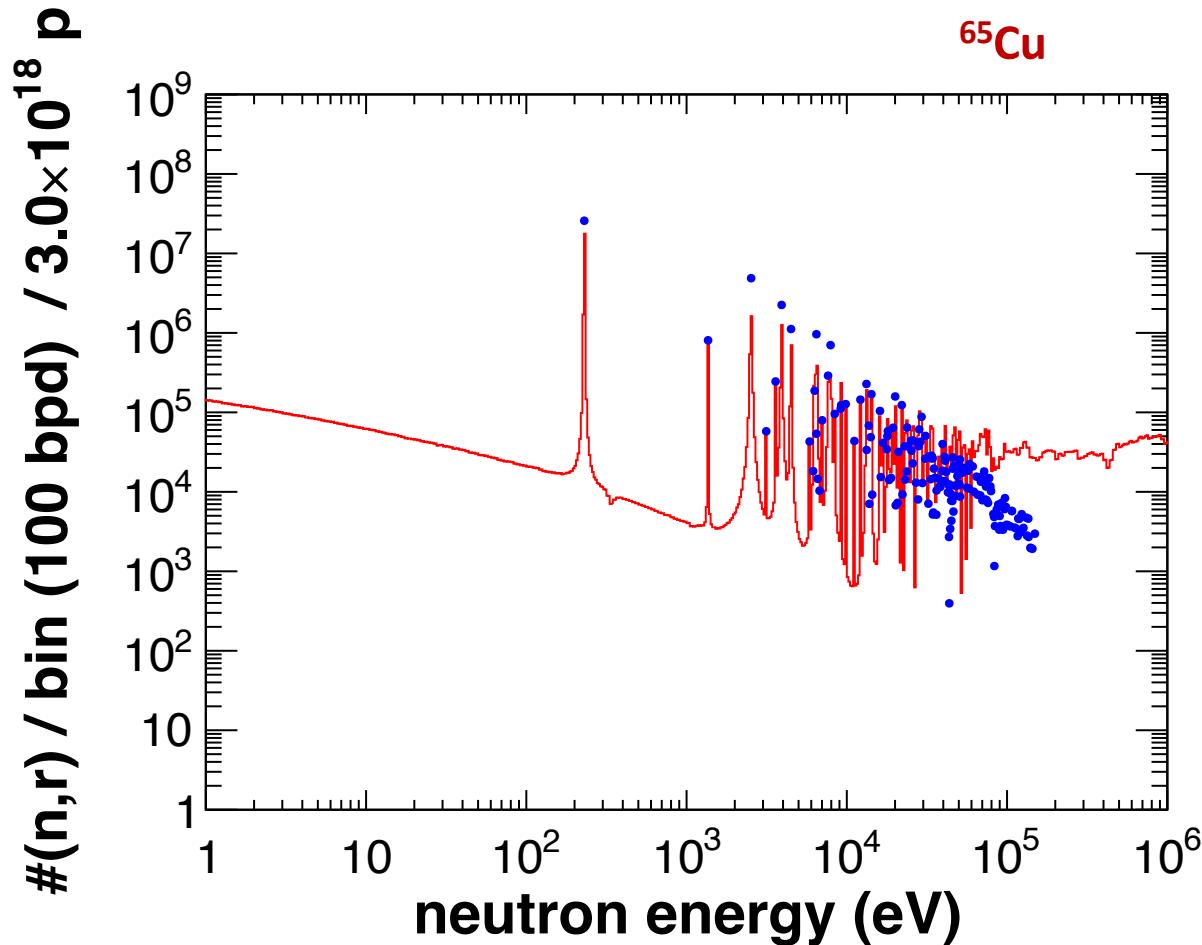
Count rate estimate



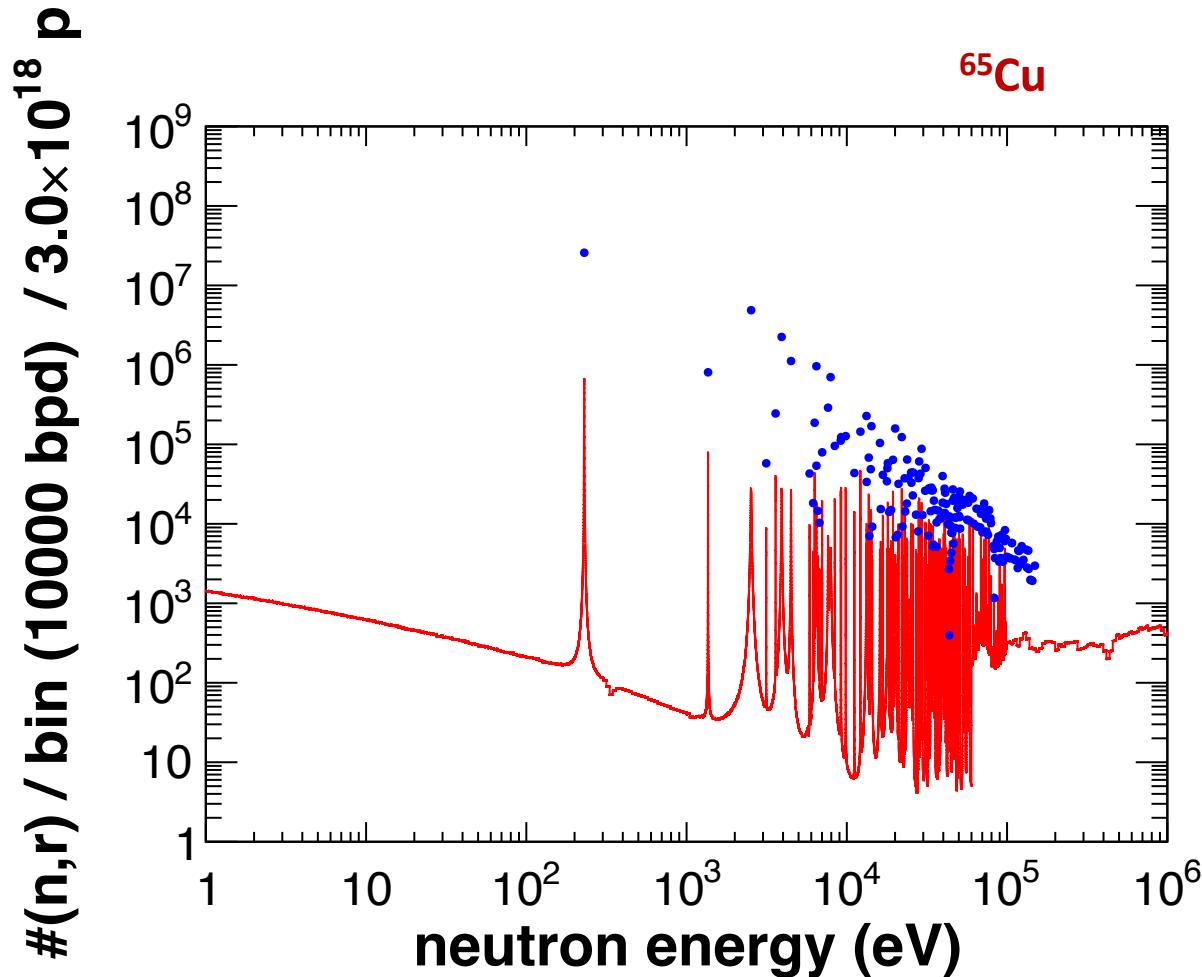
Countrate



Count rate estimate

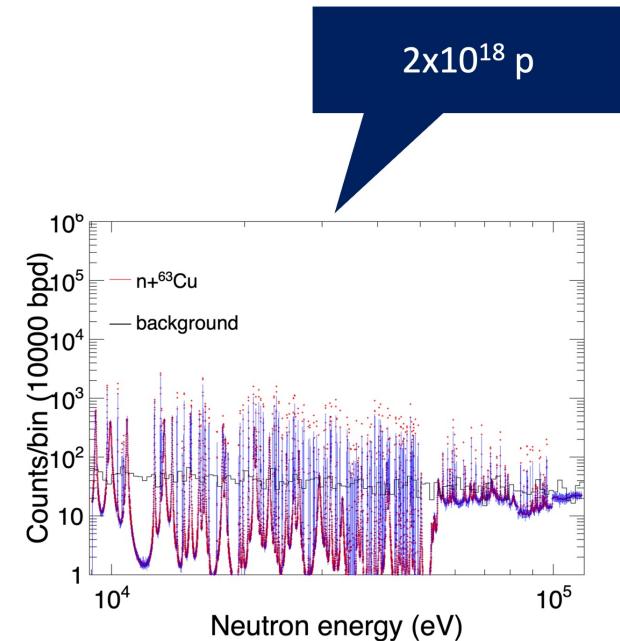
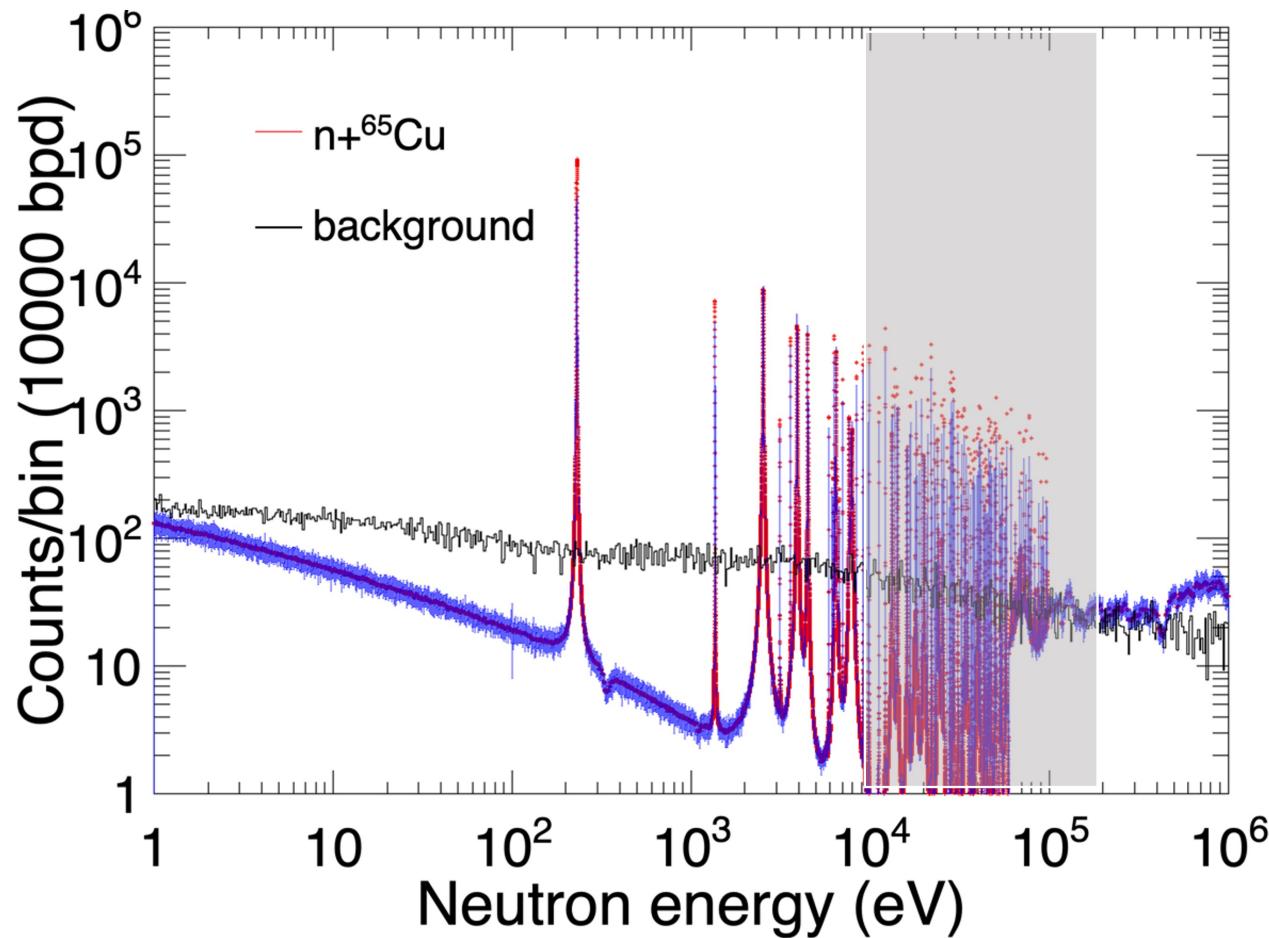


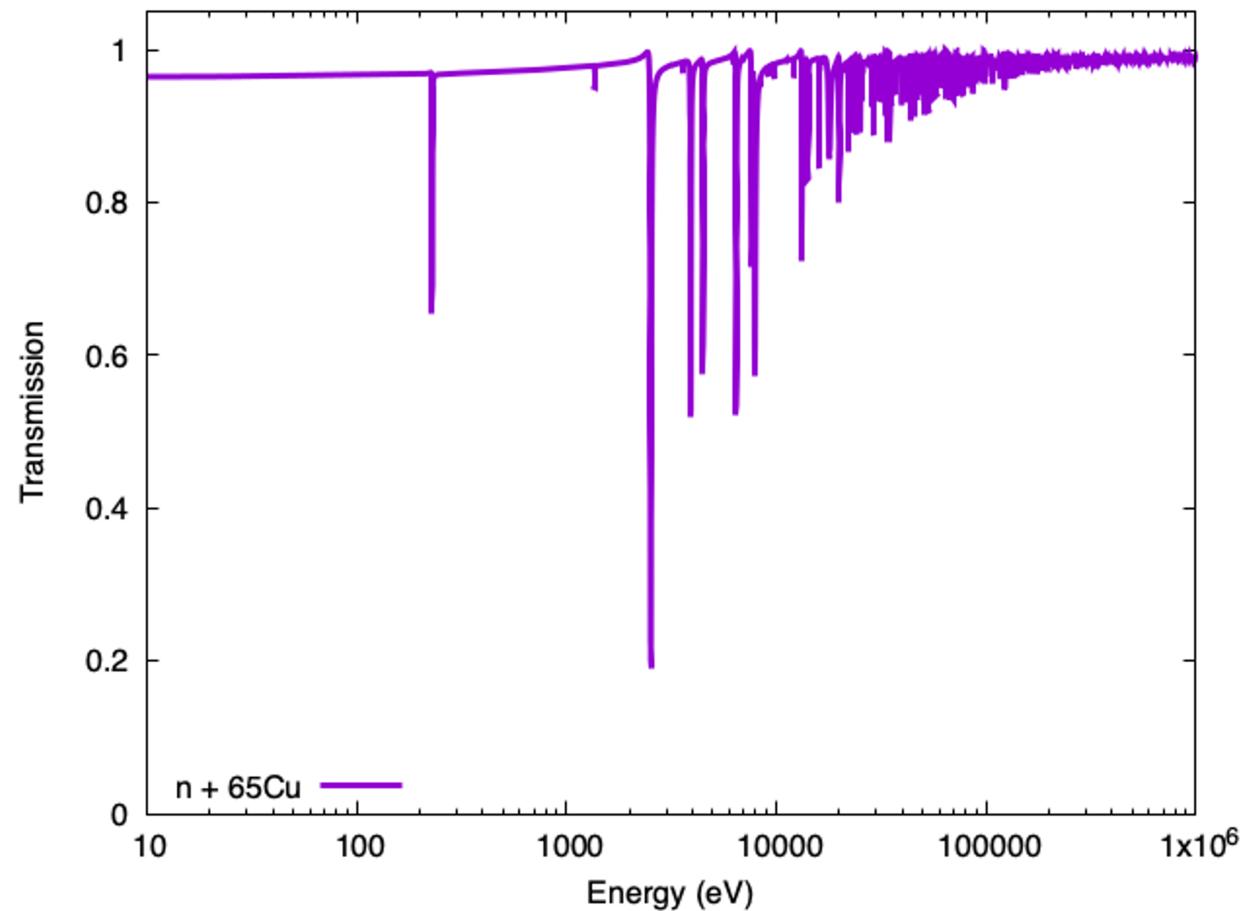
Count rate estimate



Count rate estimate

(n,γ) @ EAR 1, 4 C₆D₆, $\emptyset = 3$ cm, mass = 2 g





Transmission

	n	Display	Year	Author-1	Energy range,eV	Points	Reference	Subentry#P	NSR-Key	Info+		
1)	i	29-CU-63(N,TOT),,SIG	C4: MF=3 MT=1 Op=0	Quantity: [CS] Cross section								
1	<input type="checkbox"/>	[+]	i	X4 X4+ ± CSV+ T4 Cov	1977 M.S.Pandey+	5.00e1	1	+ J, PR/C, 15, 600, 197702	10725002 [6]	1977PA04		
2	<input type="checkbox"/>	[+]	i	X4 X4+ ± CSV+ T4 Cov		3.83e3	1.12e6	12165		1977PA04		
3	<input type="checkbox"/>	[+]	i	X4 X4+ ± CSV+ T4 Cov		3.16e1	1.85e5	6208		1977PA04		
4	<input type="checkbox"/>	[+]	i	X4 X4+ ± CSV+ T4 Cov	1972 A.I.Dyumin+	1.42e7	1	+ J, IZV, 36, 852, 1972	40149011 [6]	1972DY02 #2:1972dy02 #3:pdf		
5	<input type="checkbox"/>	[+]	i	X4 X4+ ± CSV+ T4 Cov	1968 G.Rohr+	3.98e4	1.43e5	880	+ P, EANDC(E)-89, 1, 6802	20151002 [5]		
g*	6	<input type="checkbox"/>	[+]	i	X4 X4+ ± CSV+ T4 Cov	1966 W.M.Good+	2.06e3	5.95e4	299	+ J, PR, 151, 912, 1966	11626024 [5]	1966GO38
	7	<input type="checkbox"/>	[+]	i	X4 X4+ ± CSV+ T4 Cov	1957 H.Marshak+	1.10e3	9.72e4	164	+ J, PR, 106, 110, 57	11640010 [4]	1957MA59
2)	i	29-CU-63(N,TOT),,SIG,,AV	C4: MF=3 MT=1 Op=0	Quantity: [CS] Cross section								
8	<input type="checkbox"/>	[+]	i	X4 X4+ ± CSV+ T4 Cov	1975 V.V.Filippov	5.00e4	9.50e5	11	[pdf]+ C, 75KIEV, 2, 53, 197505	41301002 [6]		
3)	i	29-CU-63(N,TOT),,SIG,,RES	C4: MF=3 MT=1 Op=0	Quantity: [CS] Cross section at resonance								
9	<input type="checkbox"/>	[+]	i	X4 X4+ ± CSV+ T4 Cov	1958 R.E.Cote+	5.77e2	5.39e3	3	+ J, PR, 111, 288, 58	116410182 [4]	1958CO69	
4)	i	29-CU-63(N,TOT),,TRN	C4: MF=3 MT=? Op=0	Quantity: [CS] Transmission								
10	<input type="checkbox"/>	[+]	i	X4 X4+ ± CSV+ T4 Cov	2013 K.Kauwenberghs+	1.50e2	9.00e4	21528	+ R, EUR-26479, 2013	23325002 [1]		
11	<input type="checkbox"/>	[+]	i	X4 X4+ ± CSV+ T4 Cov		1.50e2	9.00e4	21528		23325003 [1]		
12	<input type="checkbox"/>	[+]	i	X4 X4+ ± CSV+ T4 Cov		1.50e2	9.00e4	21528		23325004 [1]		
5)	i	29-CU-63(N,TOT),,WID	C4: MF=402 MT=6010Op=0	Quantity: [RP] Resonance width								
13)	<input type="checkbox"/>	[+]	i	X4 X4+ ± CSV+ T4 Cov	1965 D.B.Golds	5.77e2	5.20e3	2	+ J, PR, 111, 200, 59	116410182 [4]	1965GO69	

Neutron total cross sections and resonance parameters of $^{63}_{29}\text{Cu}$ and $^{65}_{29}\text{Cu}$. I*

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(Received 8 April 1976)

High resolution neutron total cross sections of the isotopes of copper have been measured from about 10 to 150 keV using 5 nsec electron pulses and a flight path of 78.2 m. From the area and shape analysis of the transmission and total cross section data, precise values of the resonance parameters, such as E_0 , Γ_n^0 , Γ_n^1 , J^π , etc., have been determined. For example, for ^{63}Cu many *s*-wave resonances have been observed from 10 to 150 keV giving values of $\langle D \rangle_{J=1} = (2.7 \pm 0.3)$ keV, $\langle D \rangle_{J=2} = (4.0 \pm 0.5)$ keV, $\langle D \rangle_{J=1+2} = (1.63 \pm 0.13)$ keV, $S_{0J=1} = (3.0 \pm 0.6) \times 10^{-4}$ eV $^{-1/2}$, $S_{0J=2} = (2.0 \pm 0.5) \times 10^{-4}$ eV $^{-1/2}$, $S_{0J=1,2} = (2.5 \pm 0.4) \times 10^{-4}$ eV $^{-1/2}$. For ^{65}Cu *s*-wave resonances were observed giving values of $\langle D \rangle_{J=1} = (3.6 \pm 0.4)$ keV, $\langle D \rangle_{J=2} = (5.0 \pm 0.7)$ keV, $\langle D \rangle_{J=1+2} = (2.12 \pm 0.19)$ keV, $S_{0J=1} = (2.9 \pm 0.6) \times 10^{-4}$ eV $^{-1/2}$, $S_{0J=2} = (1.8 \pm 0.5) \times 10^{-4}$ eV $^{-1/2}$, $S_{0J=1,2} = (2.3 \pm 0.4) \times 10^{-4}$ eV $^{-1/2}$.



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