

# b-STILED: Search for Tensor Interactions in nuclear $\beta$ Decay

PhyNuBe: Clustering and Symmetries in nuclear physics

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- Context and motivations
- b-STILED
- Data analysis
- Results
- Summary and outlook

## Beta decay Hamiltonian: Respect Lorentz invariance

$$\begin{aligned} H_\beta = & \frac{G_F V_{ud}}{\sqrt{2}} [ (\bar{\psi}_p \psi_n) (\bar{\psi}_e (C_S + C'_S \gamma_5) \psi_\nu) \\ & + (\bar{\psi}_p \gamma_\mu \psi_n) (\bar{\psi}_e \gamma^\mu (C_V + C'_V \gamma_5) \psi_\nu) \\ & + \frac{1}{2} (\bar{\psi}_p \sigma_{\lambda\mu} \psi_n) (\bar{\psi}_e \sigma^{\lambda\mu} (C_T + C'_T \gamma_5) \psi_\nu) \\ & - (\bar{\psi}_p \gamma_\mu \gamma_5 \psi_n) (\bar{\psi}_e \gamma^\mu \gamma_5 (C_A + C'_A \gamma_5) \psi_\nu) \\ & + (\bar{\psi}_p \gamma_5 \psi_n) (\bar{\psi}_e \gamma_5 (C_P + C'_P \gamma_5) \psi_\nu) ] \\ & + h.c. \end{aligned}$$

10 coupling constants!!

Standard Model:

- $C_V = C'_V = 1$
- $C_A = C'_A = -1.25$
- $C_S = C'_S = C_T = C'_T = 0$

Exotic currents!

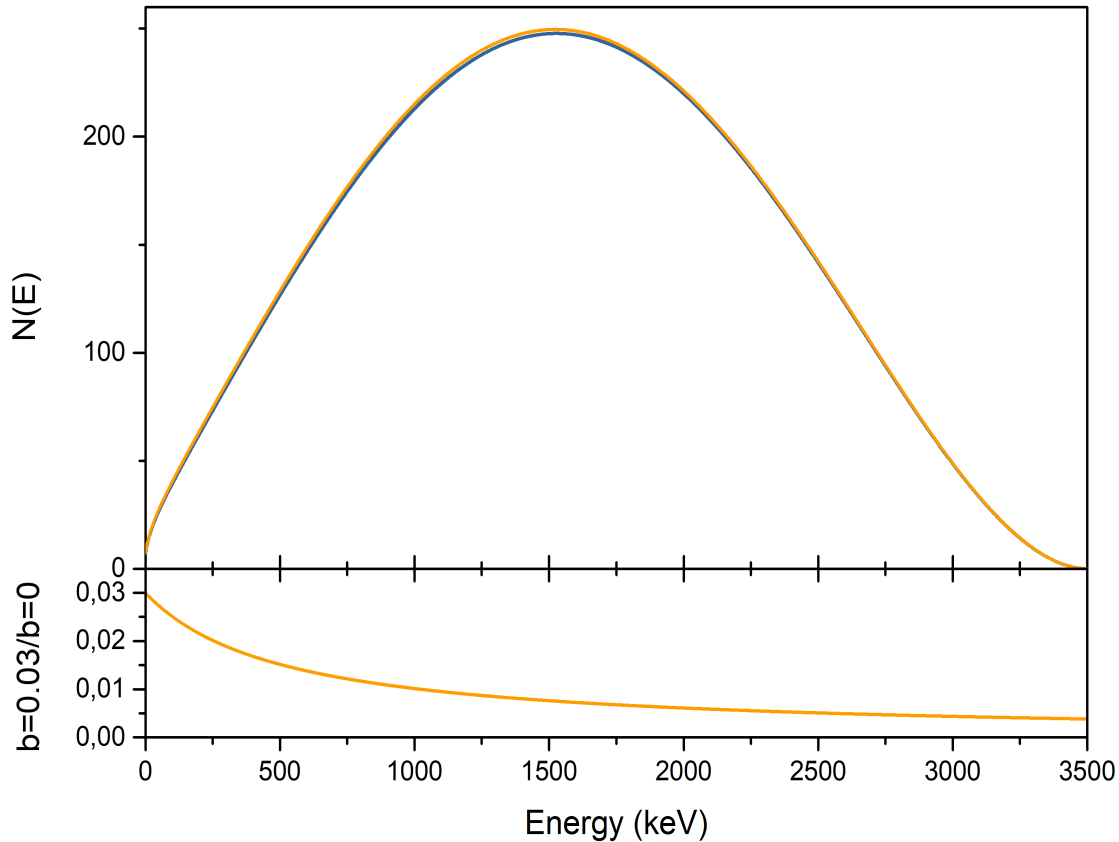
Severijns N. (2004). Weak Interaction Studies by Precision Experiments in Nuclear Beta Decay. In J. Al-Khalili & E. Roeckl (Eds), The Euroschool Lectures on Physics with Exotic Beams, Vol. I (p. 339-381).

Pure Gamow-teller transition

$$b_{GT} \propto \gamma \text{Re} \left( \frac{C_T + C'_T}{C_A} \right)$$

Pure Fermi transition

$$b_F \propto \gamma \text{Re} \left( \frac{C_S + C'_S}{C_V} \right)$$



Standard Model:  $b=0$

Direct effect on the beta spectrum shape!

$$N(E) \propto \underbrace{(1 + \eta)}_{\text{Corrections term}} \underbrace{pE(E - E_0)^2}_{\text{Phase space}} \left( 1 + \frac{m}{E} b \right)$$

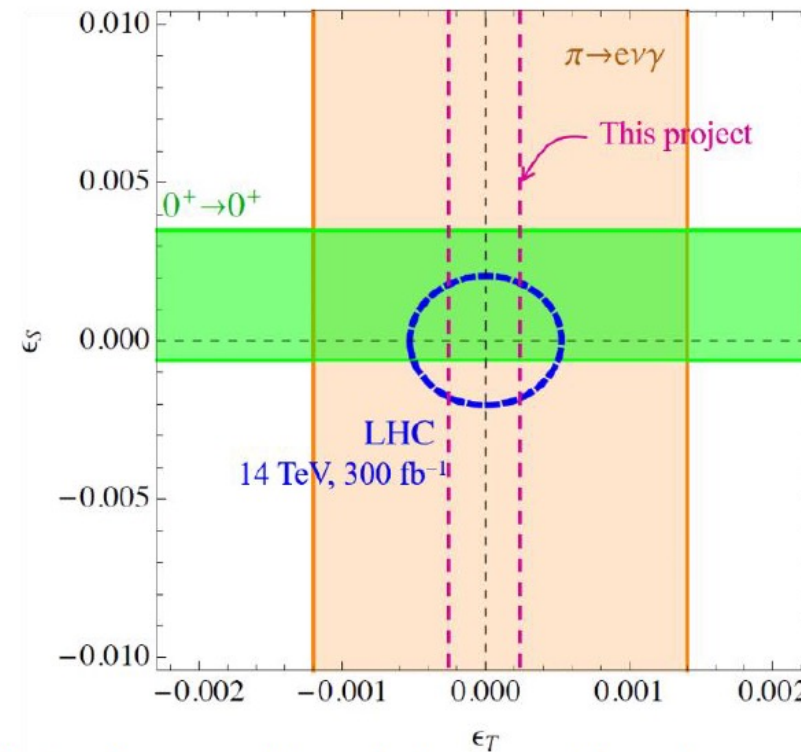
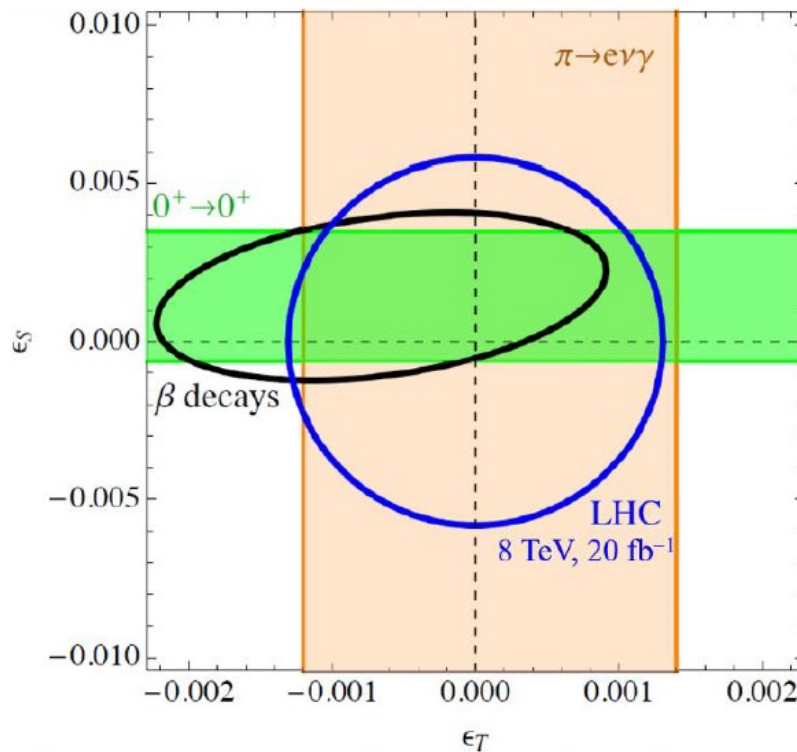
Corrections term

Phase space

## b-STILED : b-Search for Tensor Interactions in nuclear bEta Decay

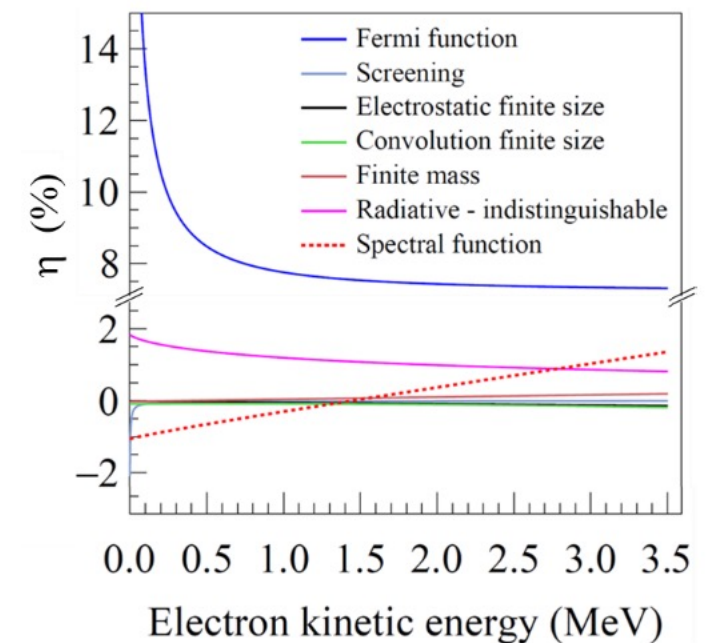
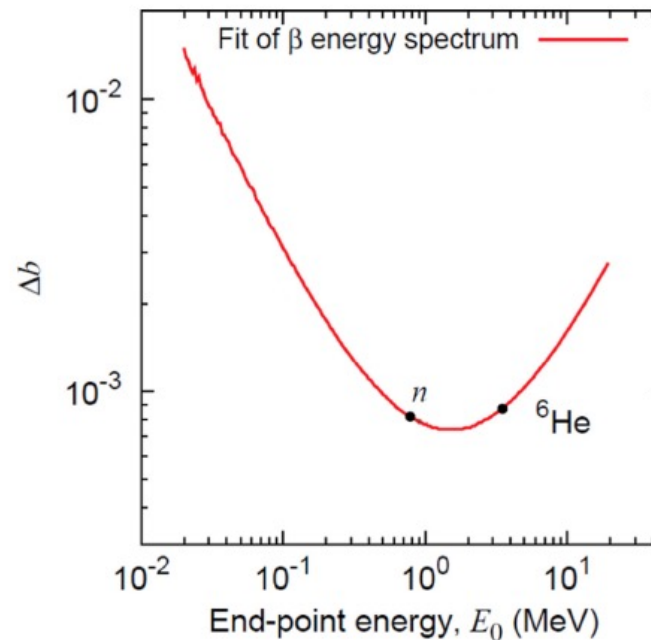
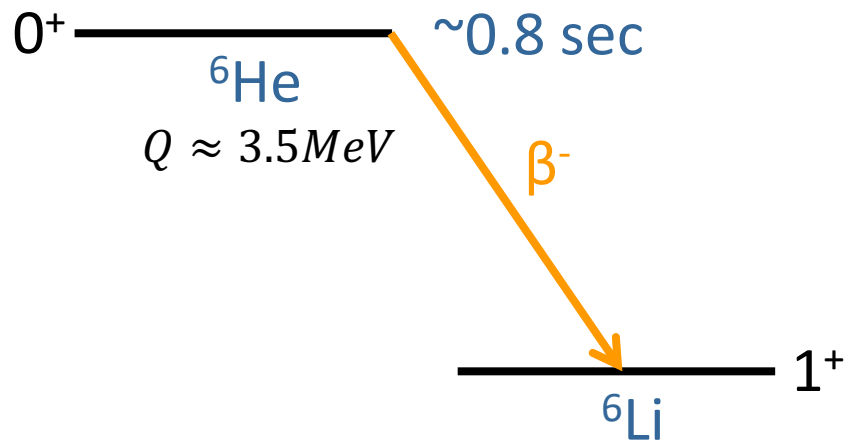
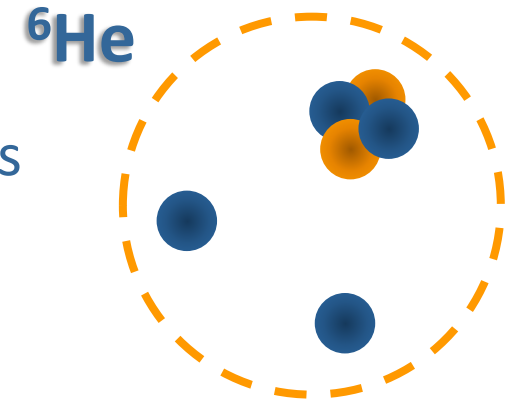
↳  $b_{GT}$  for  ${}^6\text{He}$  decay with  $\Delta b_{GT} = 10^{-3}$

Fit the energy spectrum of  ${}^6\text{He}$  decay to extract the Fierz term

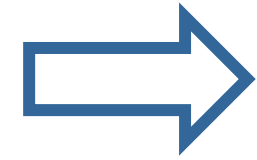
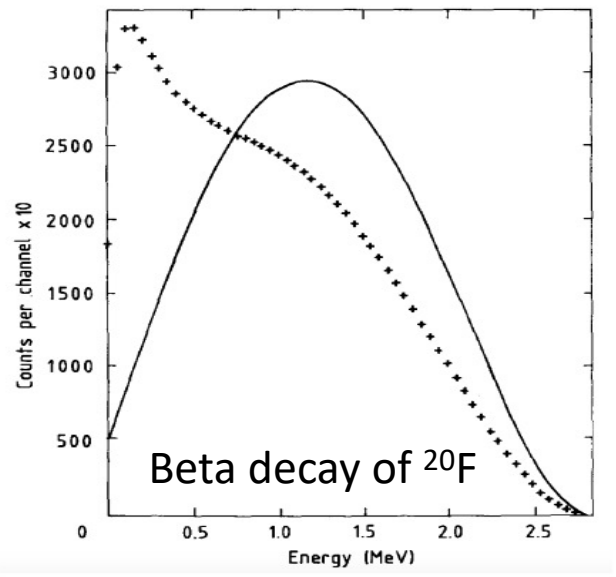
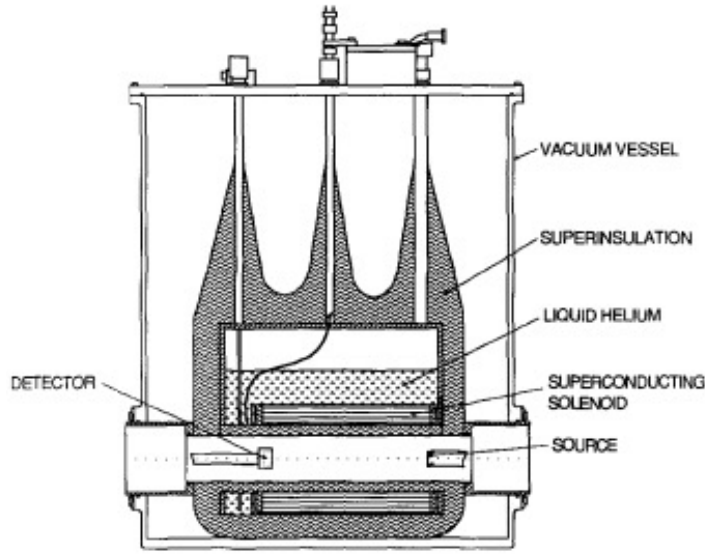


# b-STILED : The perfect candidate

- Convenient half-life for implantation-decay cycles
- Pure GT transition and thus exclusively sensitive to tensor currents
- Convenient endpoint  $\sim 3.5\text{MeV}$
- Can be produced with a high rate @GANIL
- Theoretical corrections are known with high precision



# b-STILED : The two experiments



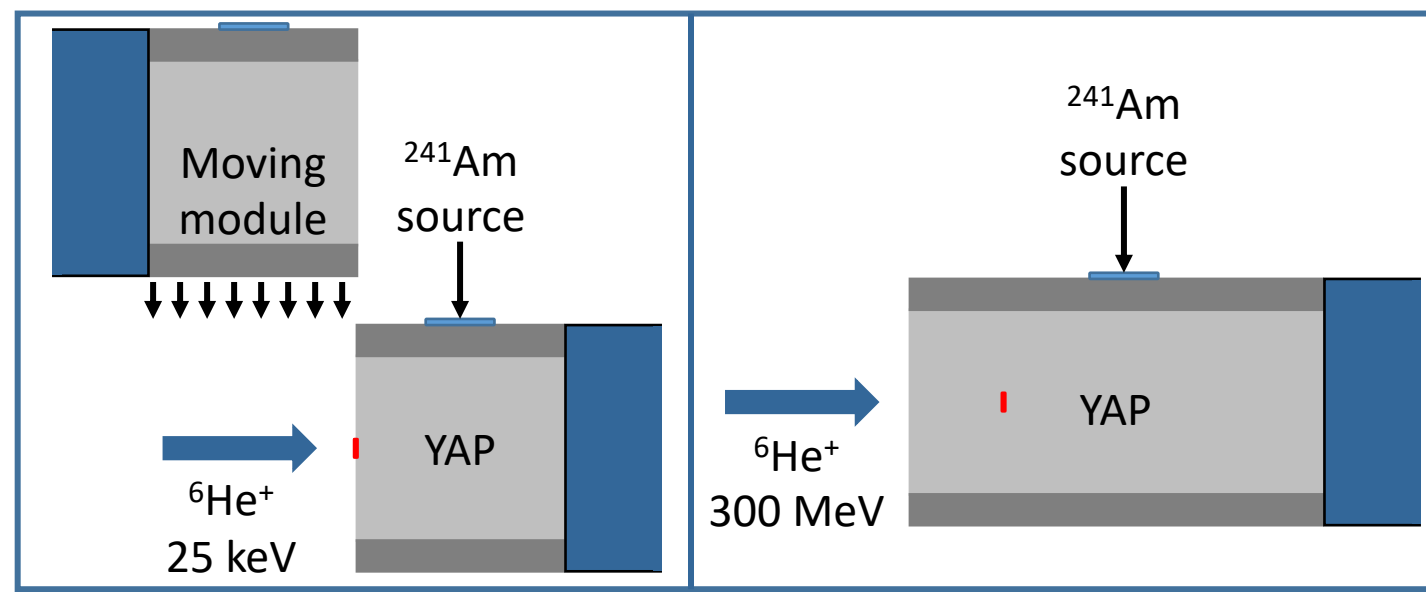
Huge distortion due to electrons backscattering

$4\pi$  detection geometry

D.W. Hetherington et al., The shape factor of the  $^{20}\text{F}$  beta spectrum. Nuclear Physics A, 494(1):1 - 35, 1989.

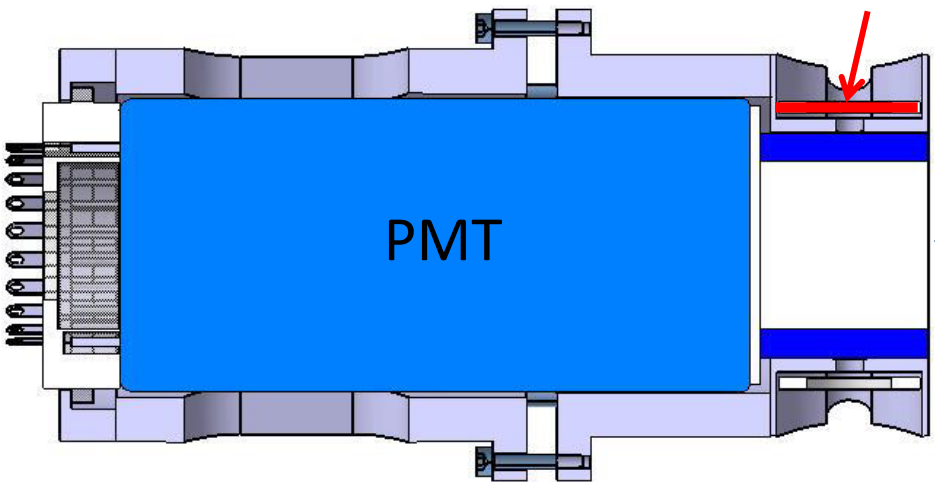
Phase I: 2 experiments with a goal of  $\Delta b_{GT} = 4 \times 10^{-3}$ :

- Low energy experiment
- High energy experiment



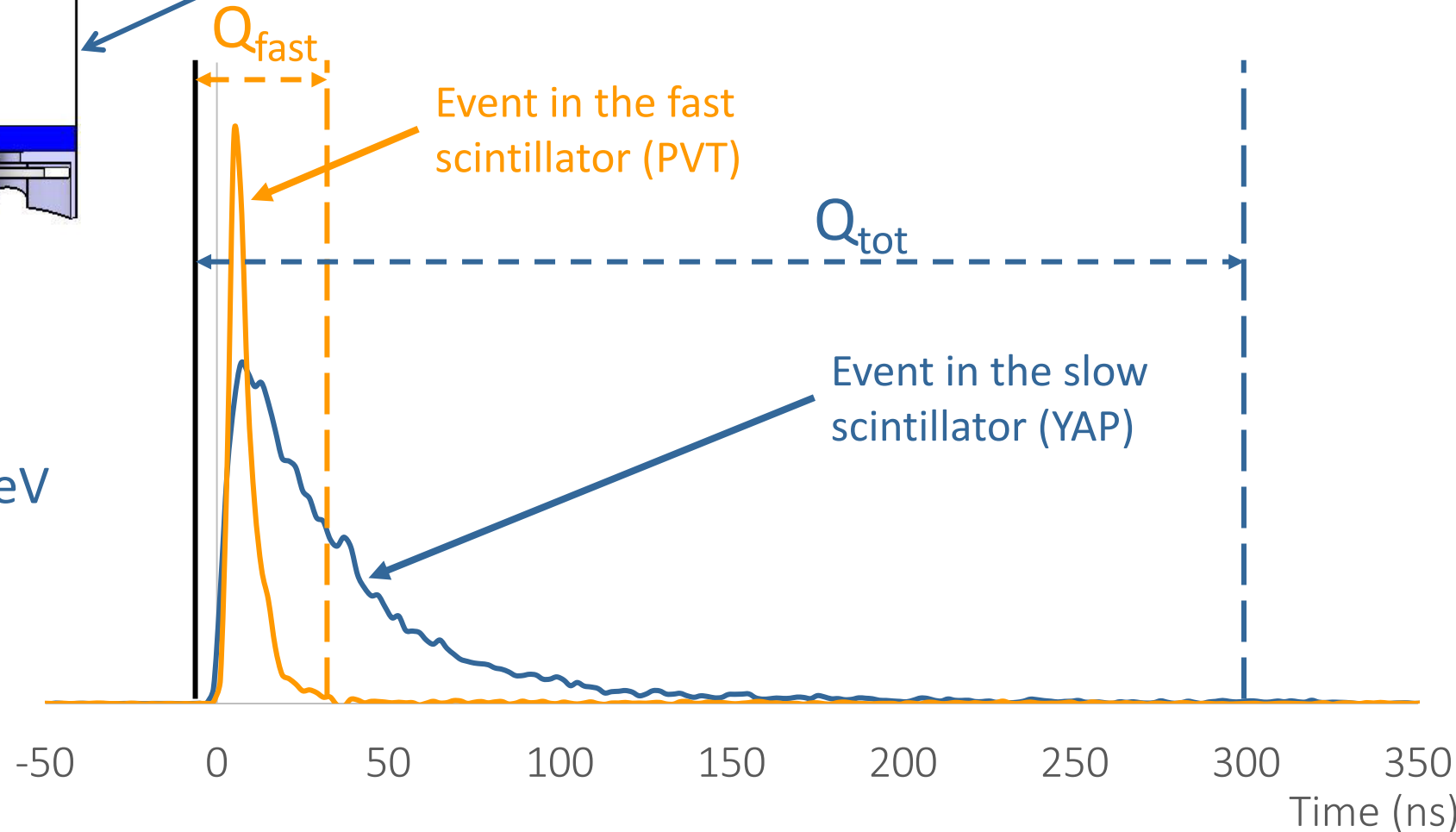
# b-STILED : The phoswich detector

$^{241}\text{Am}$  source



PVT: Plastic scintillator with  $\tau = 1.8$  ns

YAP: Crystal scintillator with  $\tau = 25$  ns

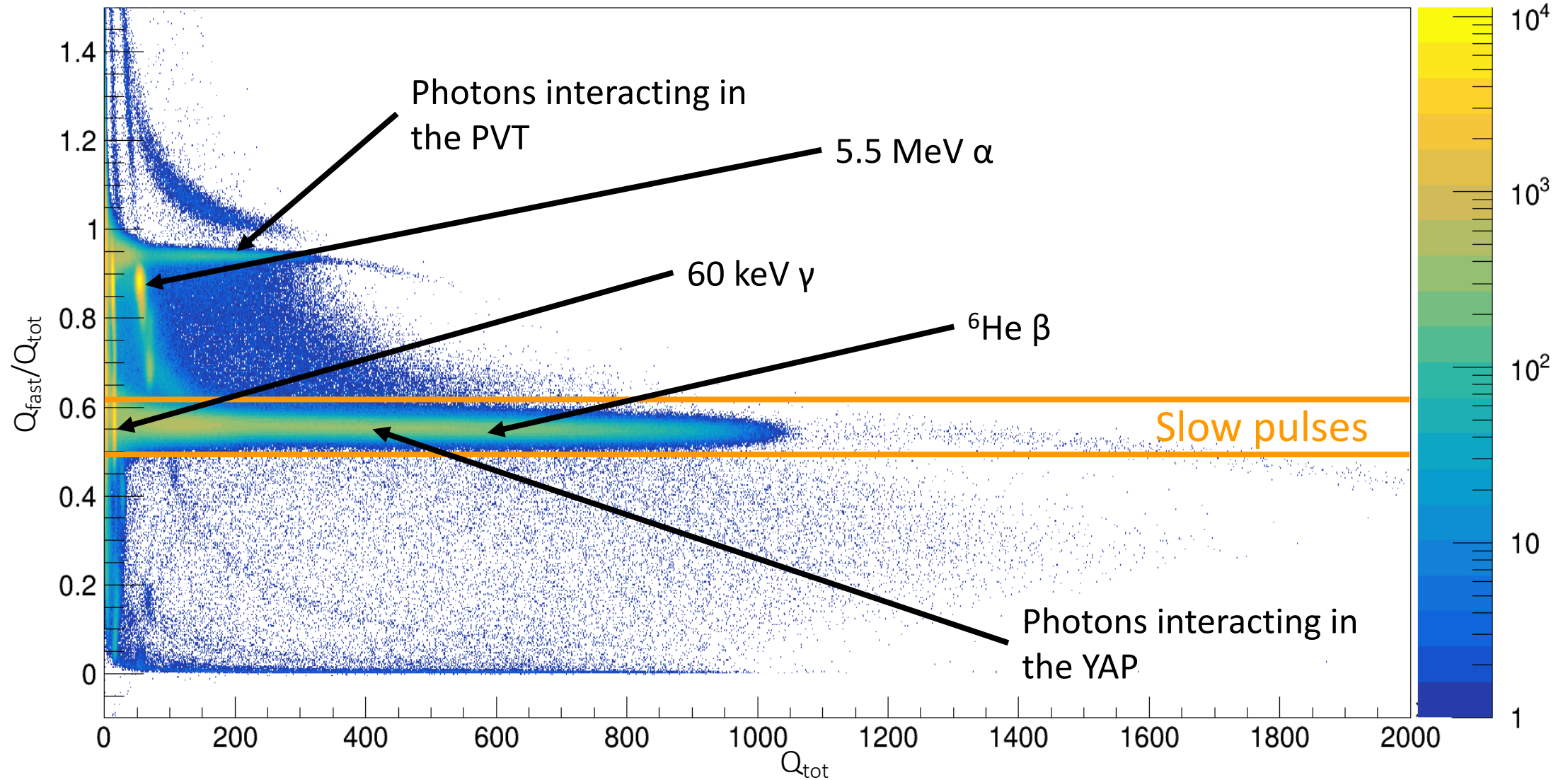


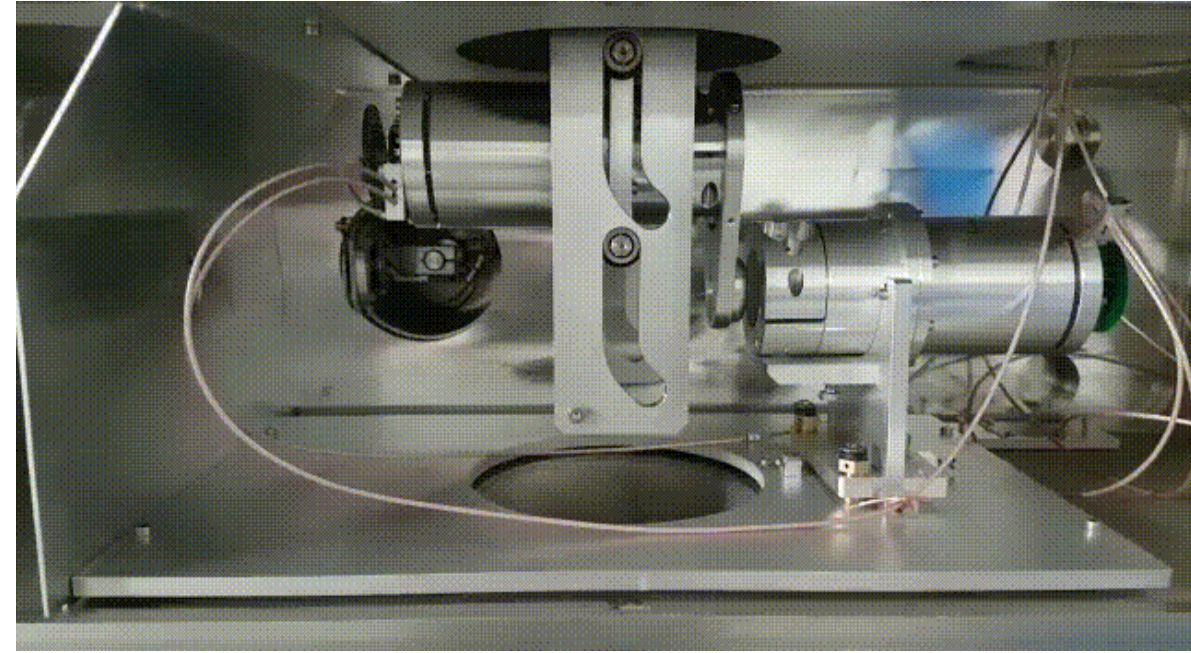
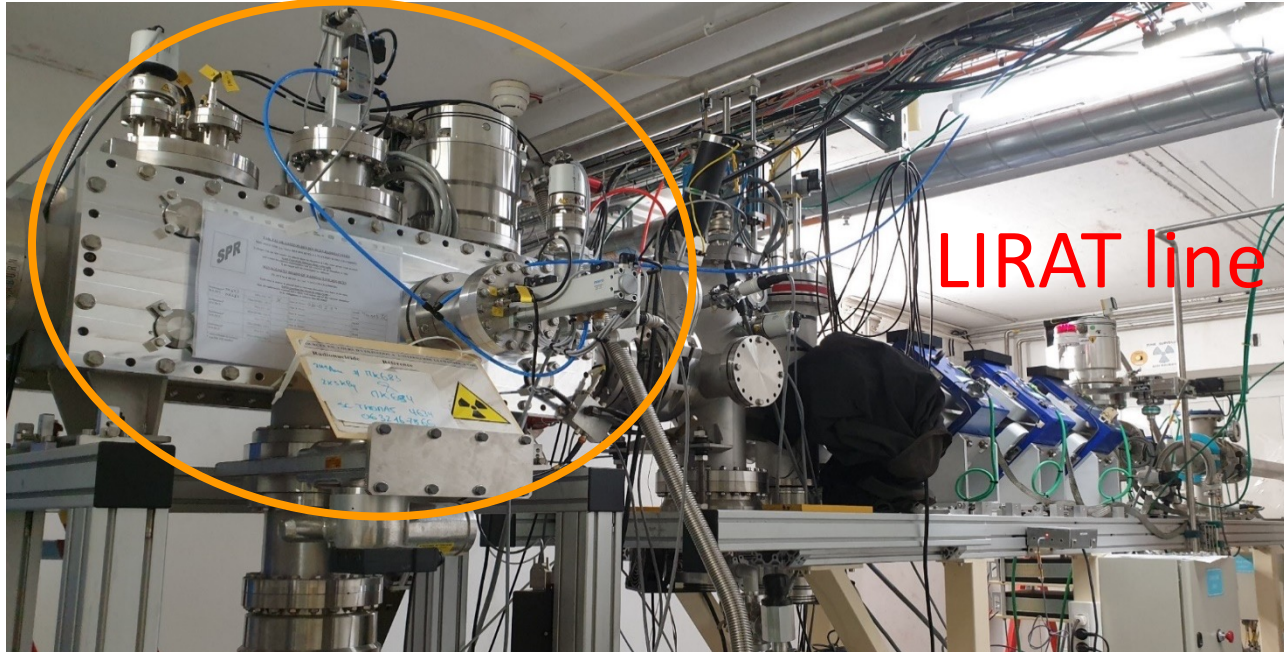
YAP properties:

- Linear energy response
- Good resolution  $\sim 5\%$  @ 1 MeV
- Low Bremsstrahlung energy escape



$Q_{\text{fast}}/Q_{\text{tot}}$  vs  $Q_{\text{tot}}$  for one run of the low energy experiment





## May 2021 @GANIL

### Typical cycle:

- 2.5 sec of implantation
- 12 sec of acquisition

### 4 sets of measurements:

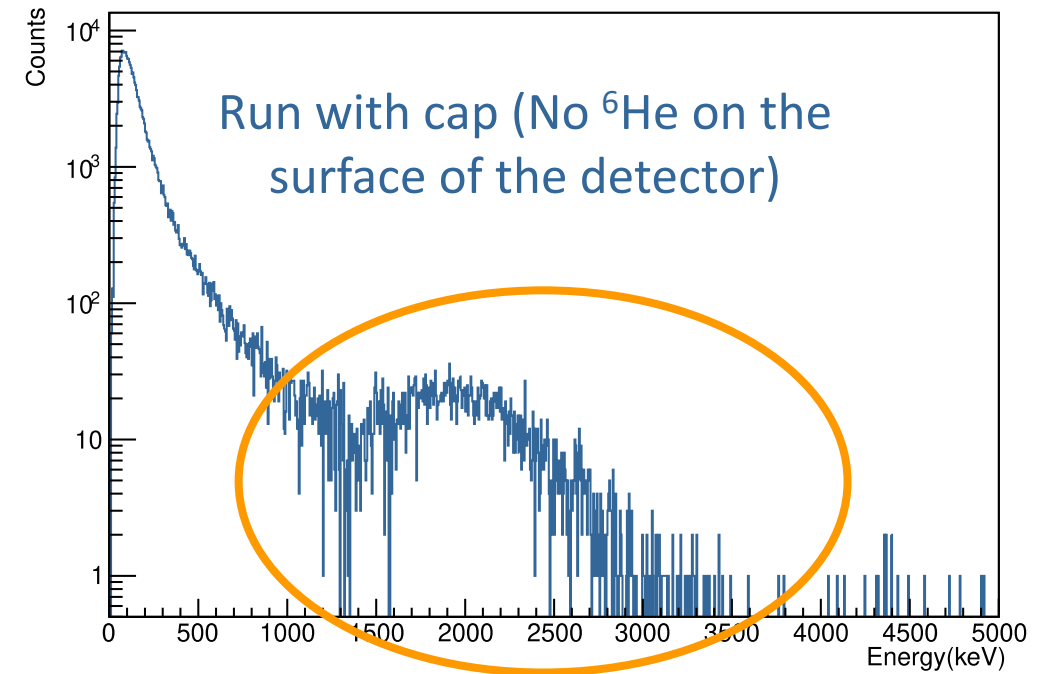
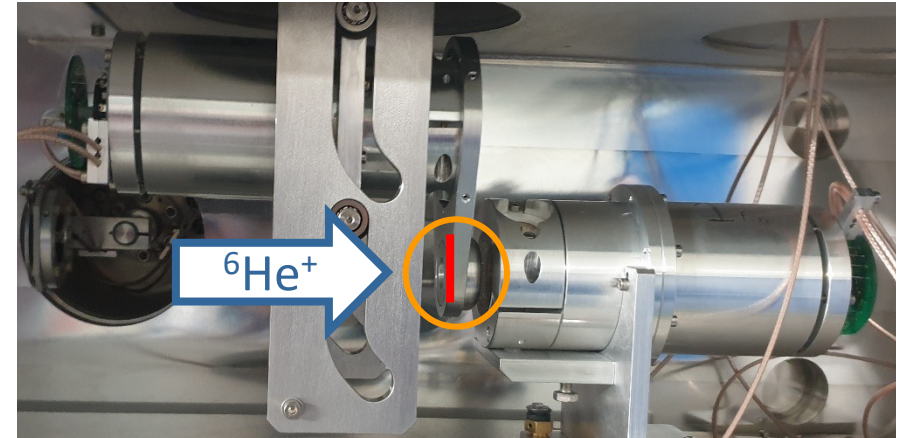
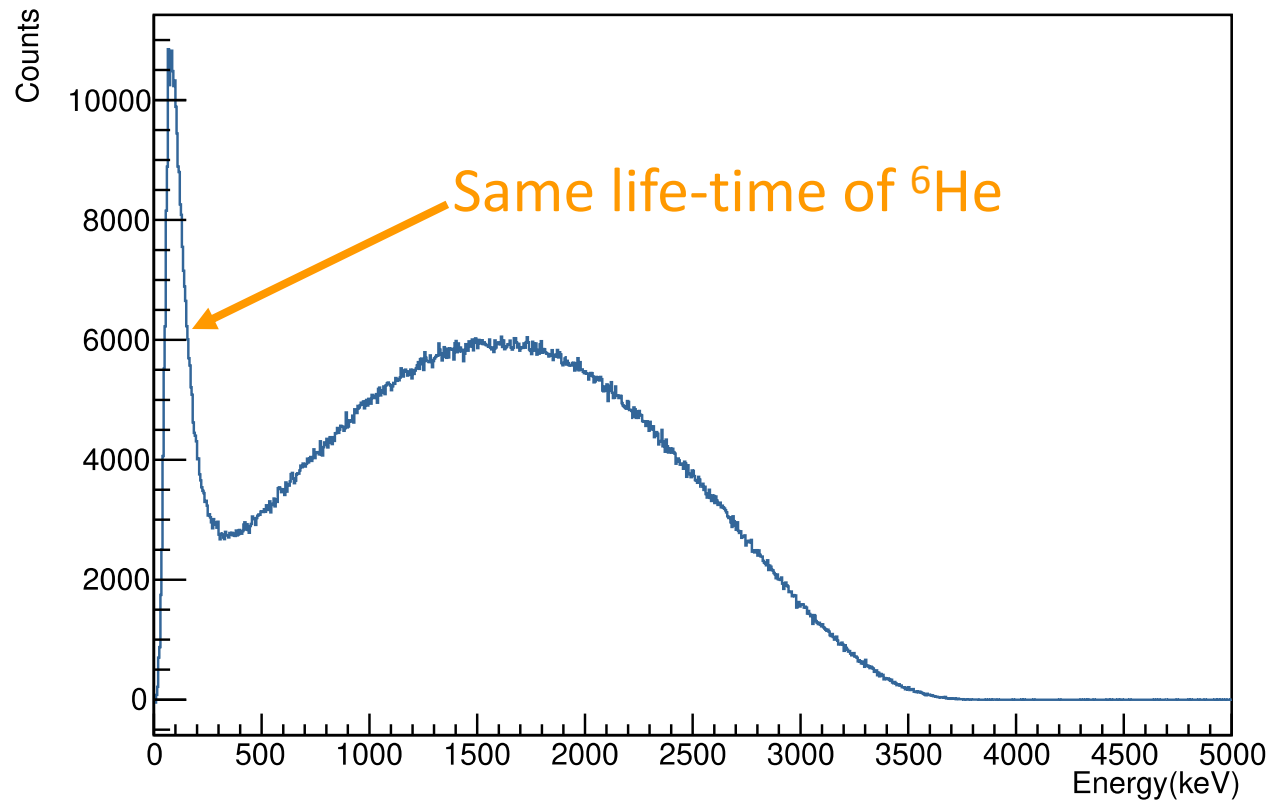
- 1) Different systematic conditions
- 2) BKG runs (runs with cap)

### DAQ:

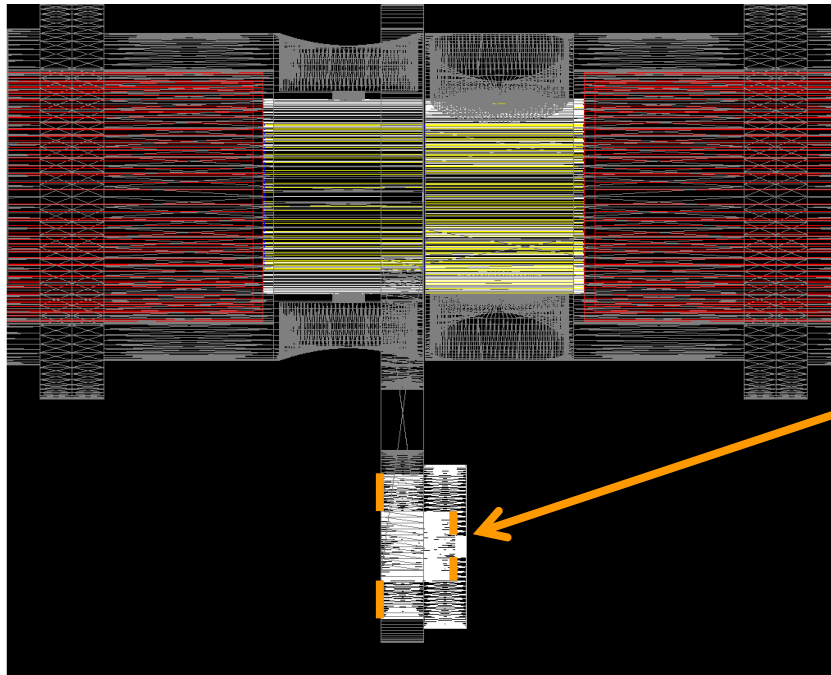
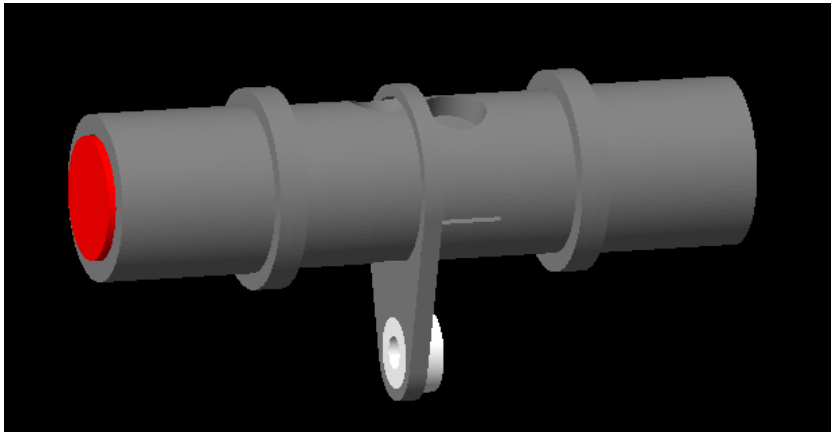
- Time stamp
- Deposited energy

## Following constant background subtraction

Experimental spectrum



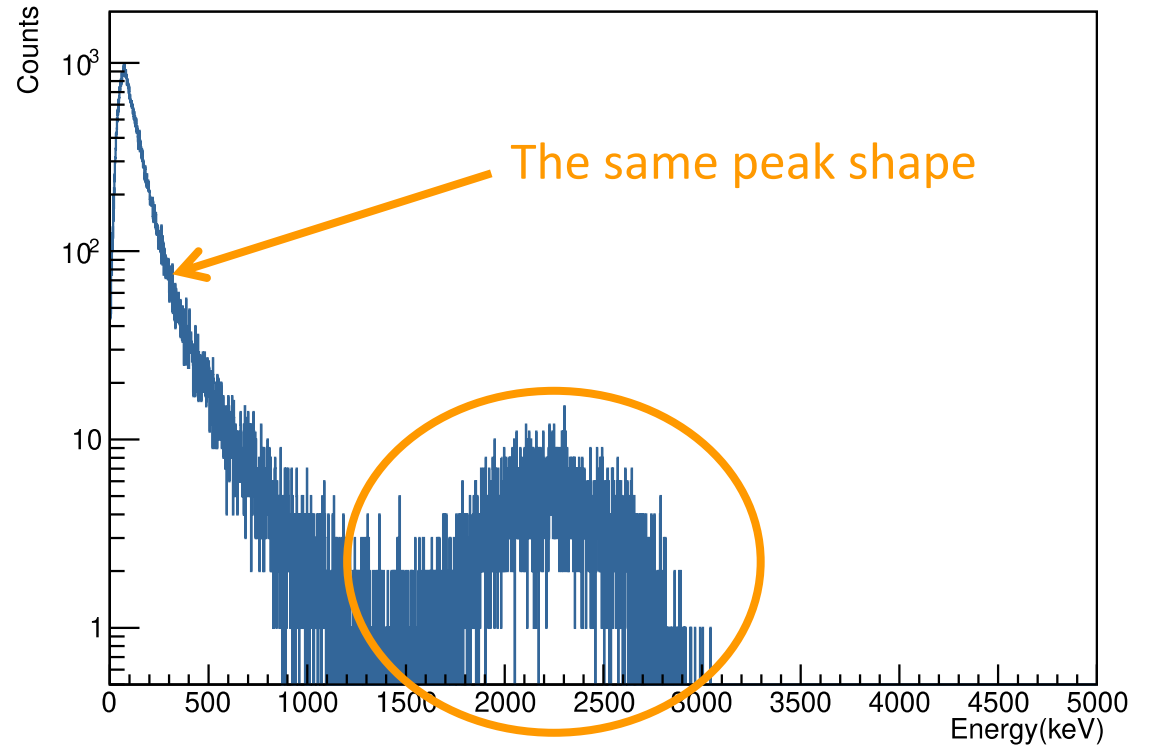
## Detection system construction in Geant4



${}^6\text{He}^+$  in the collimator

- ✓ Bremsstrahlung peak
- ✓ Electrons from  ${}^6\text{He}$  decay on the collimator

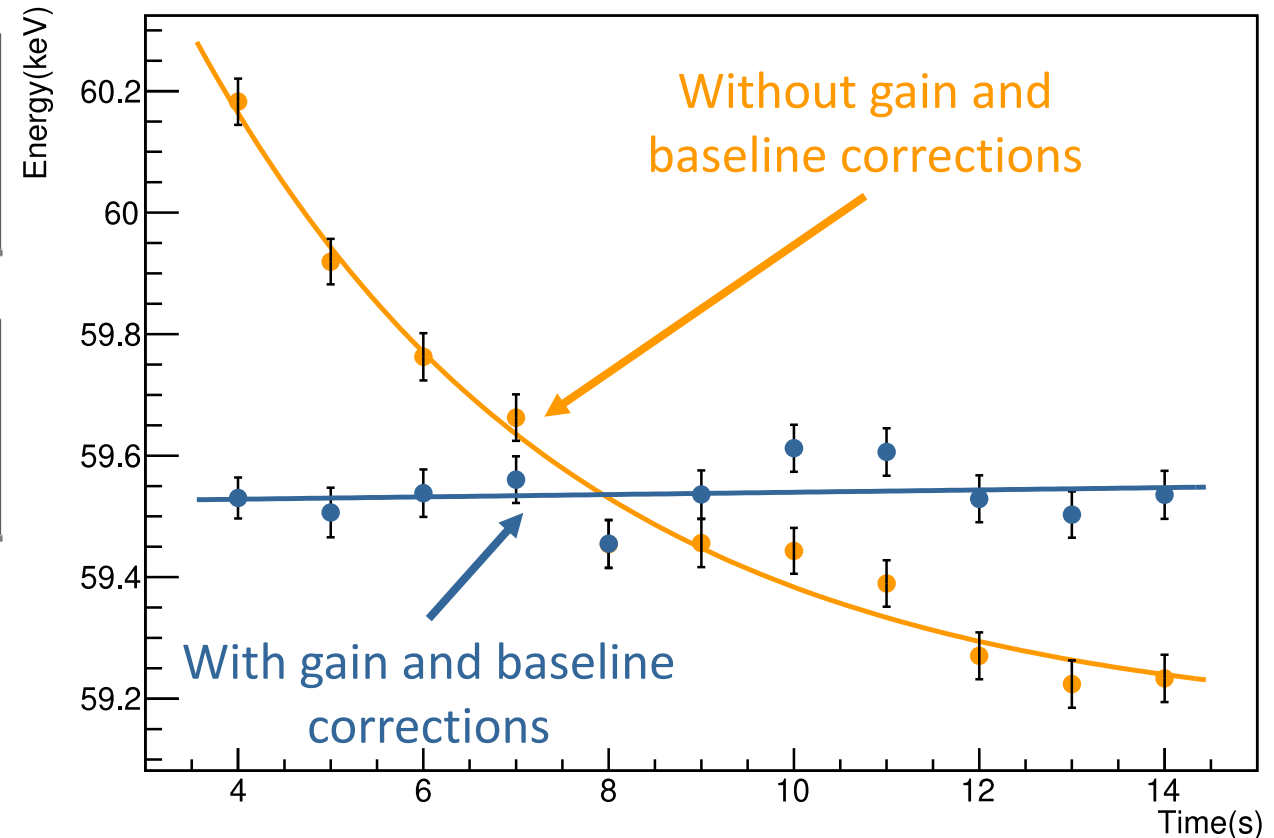
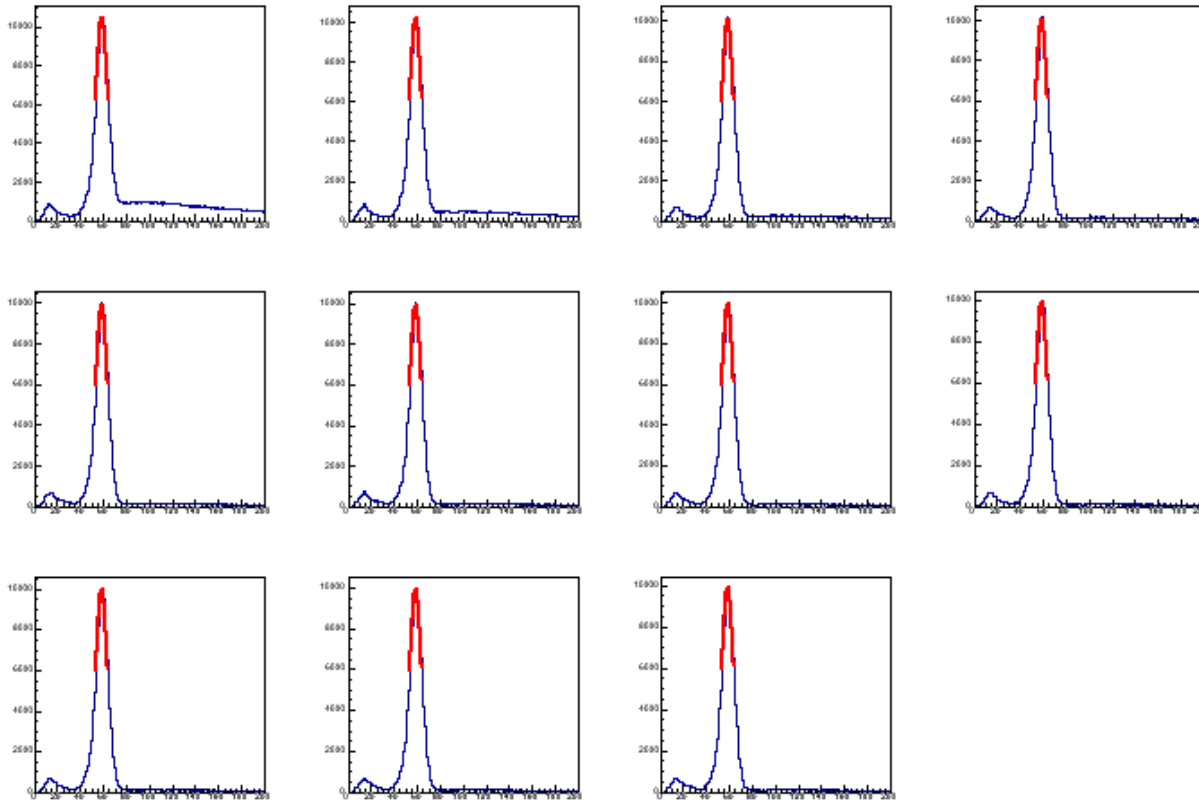
## Deposited energy into YAP



# Energy calibration (60 keV gammas)

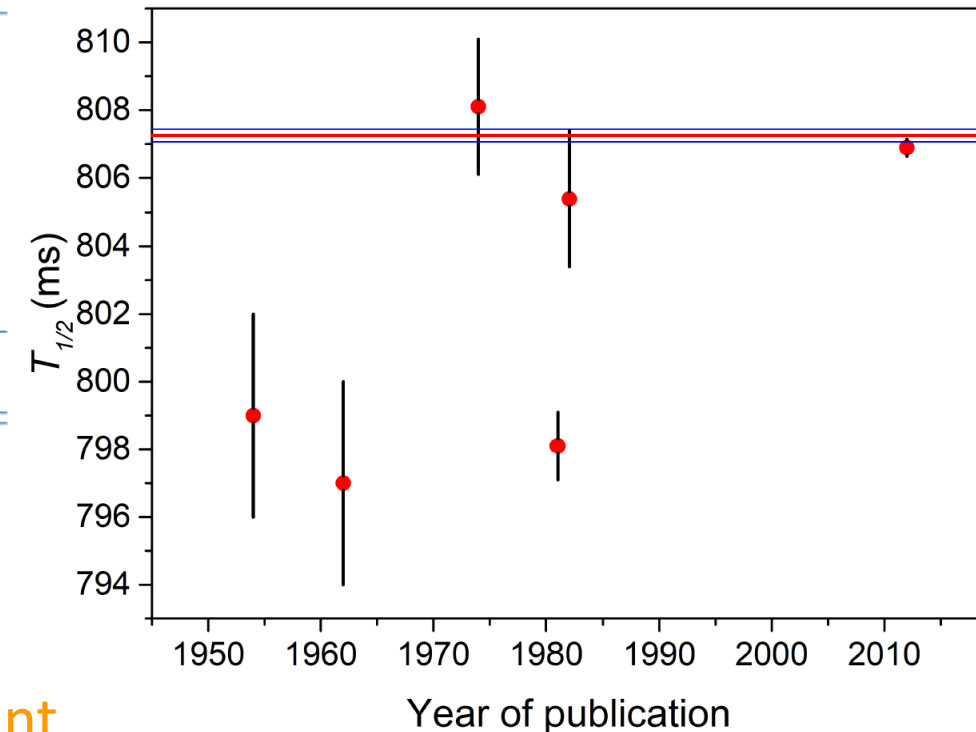
First energy calibration with the 60 keV peak

- Correct relative gain and baseline fluctuations during the cycles for each detector
- Match the 60 keV peak position in det1 and det2



	Set (1)	Set (2)	Set (3)
$T_{1/2}[\text{ms}]$	807.42(25)	807.16(26)	807.10(35)
Gain	0.75(7)	0.77(10)	0.78(6)
Baseline	0.09(3)	0.04(2)	0.05(9)
Pile-up	0.10(1)	0.25(1)	0.11(1)
Binning	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01
total correction	0.94(7)	1.06(11)	0.94(11)

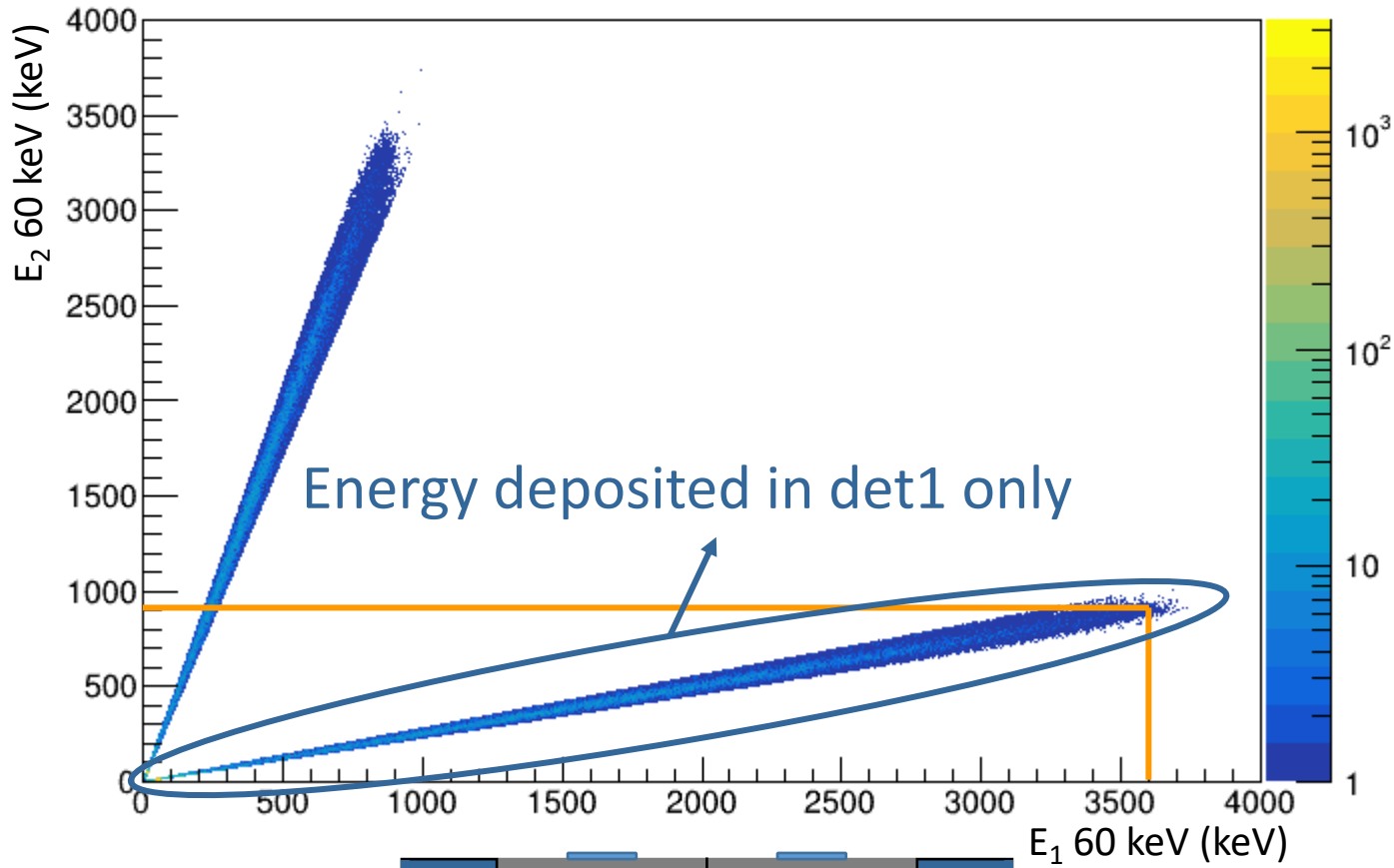
$$T_{1/2} = 807.25 \pm 0.16_{stat} \pm 0.11_{syst} \text{ ms}$$



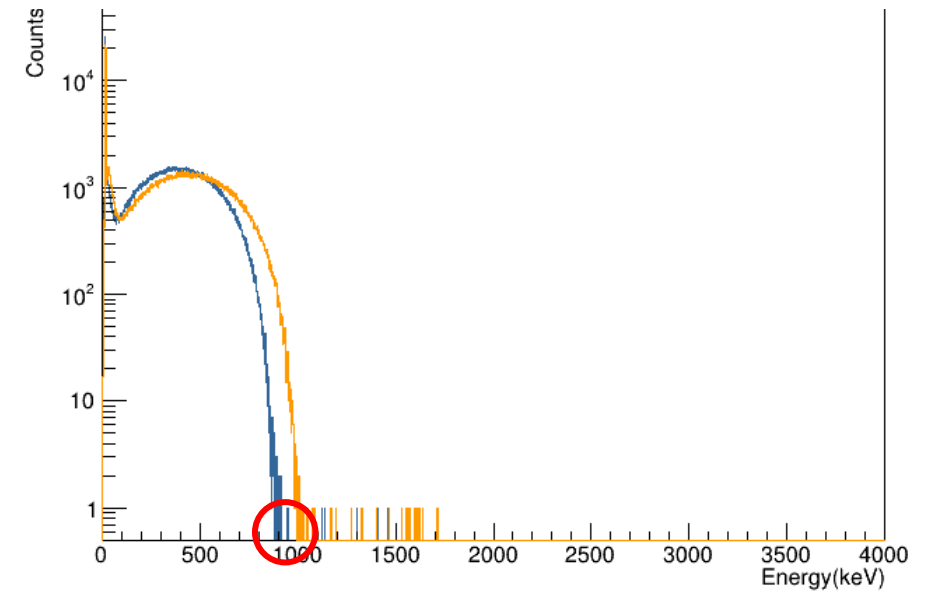
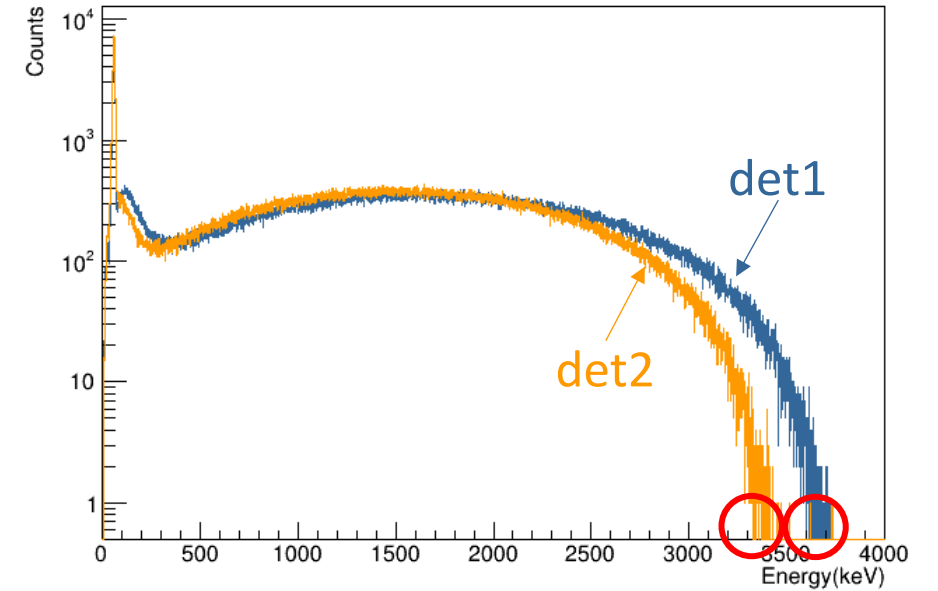
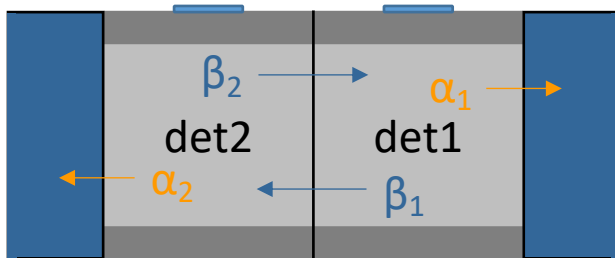
M. Kanafani et al., Phys. Rev. C 106, 045502 (2022).

Our result is the most precise value, and is in agreement with the last and previously most accurate value. It resolves the discrepancy between the two sets of values

After calibration with 60 keV peak



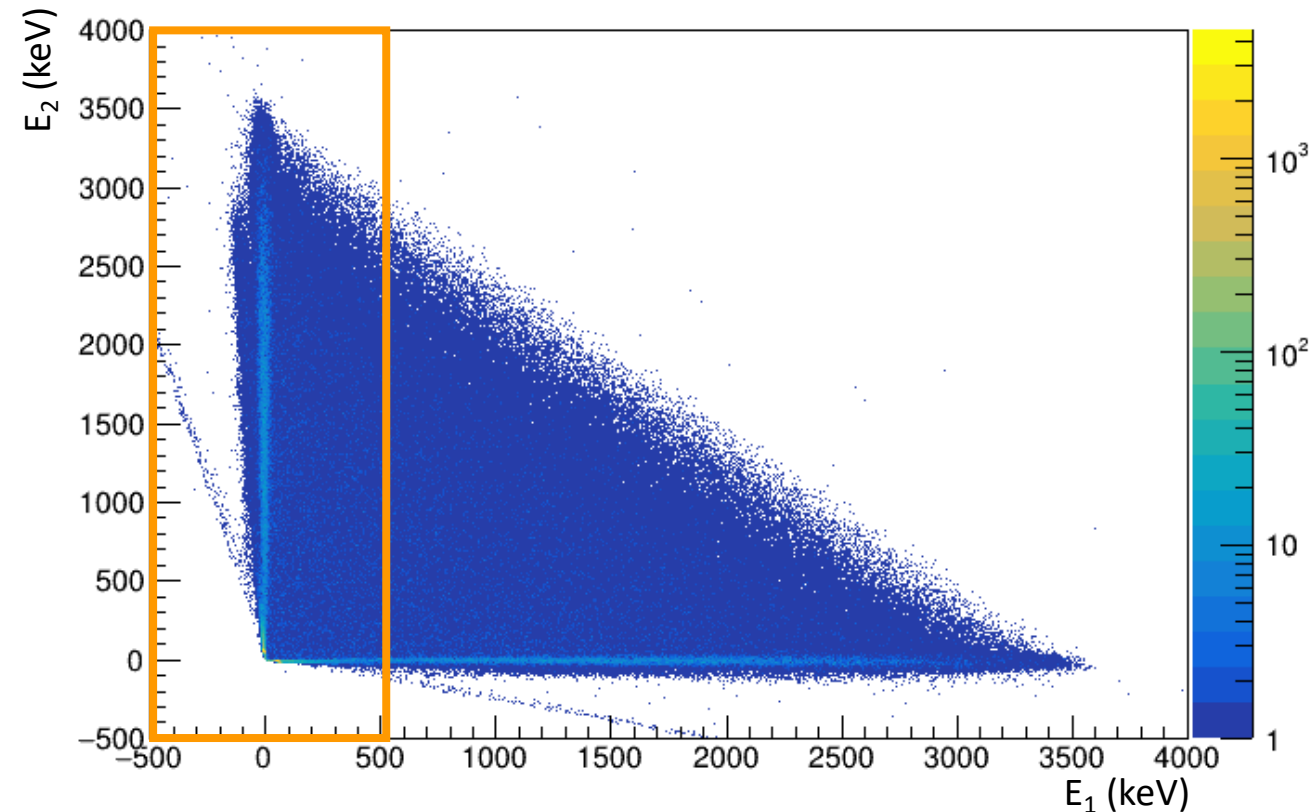
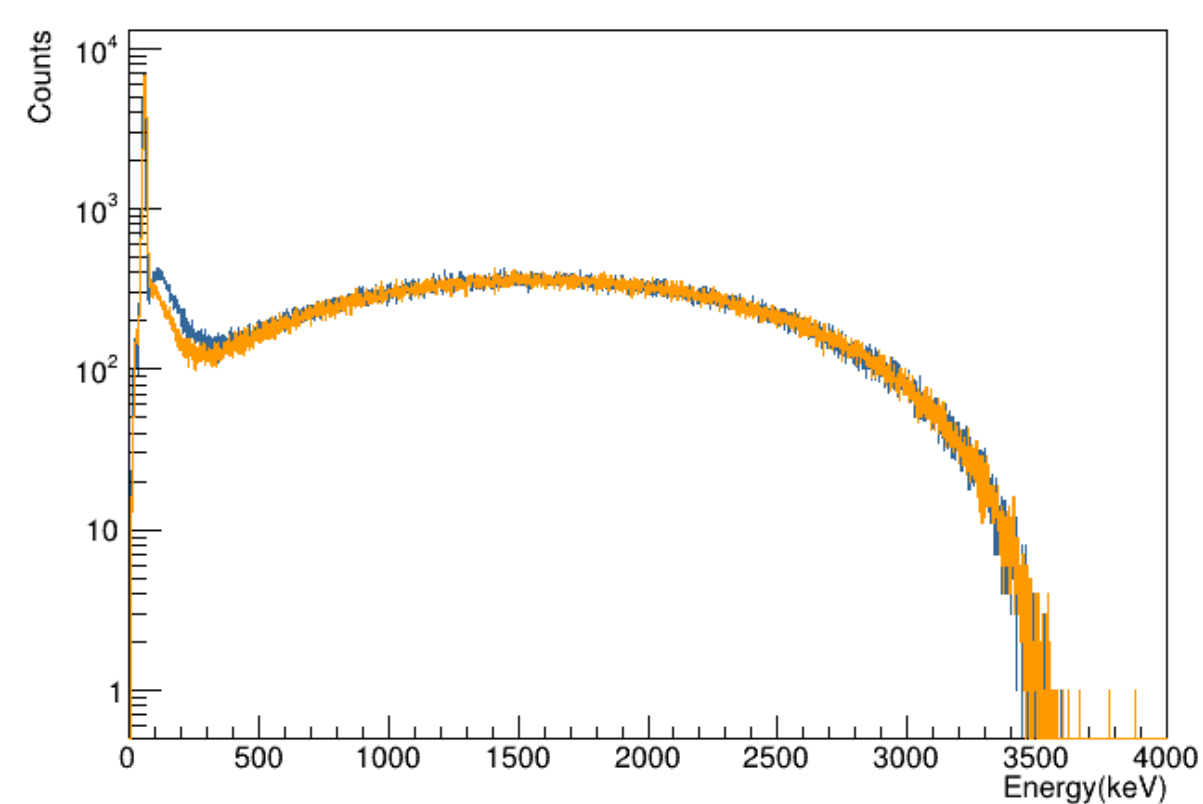
Energy deposited in det1 only



## Second calibration accounting for endpoint mismatch

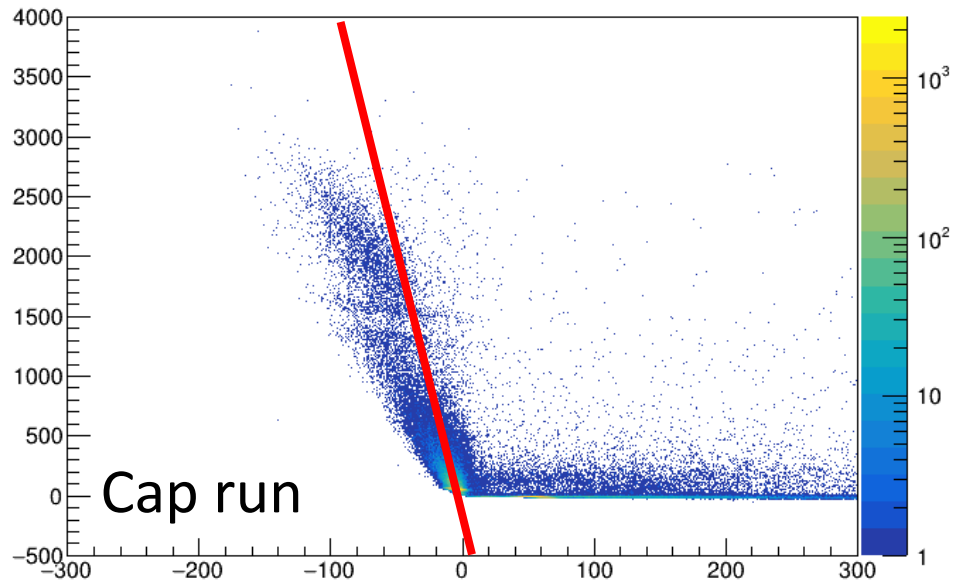
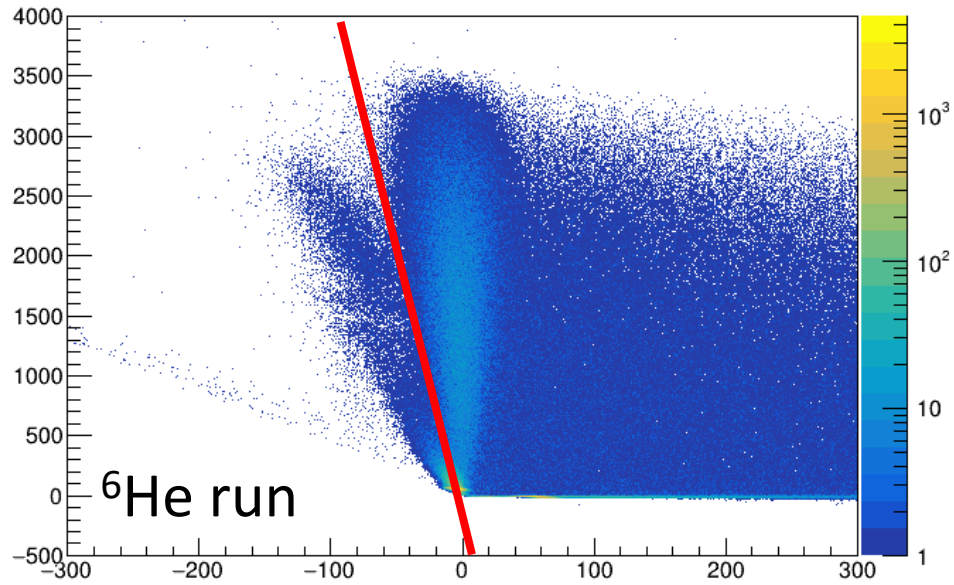
$$E_1 = \frac{\alpha_1 E_{1(60\text{keV})} - \beta_2 \alpha_2 E_{2(60\text{keV})}}{1 - \beta_1 \beta_2}$$

$$E_2 = \frac{\alpha_2 E_{2(60\text{keV})} - \beta_1 \alpha_1 E_{1(60\text{keV})}}{1 - \beta_1 \beta_2}$$

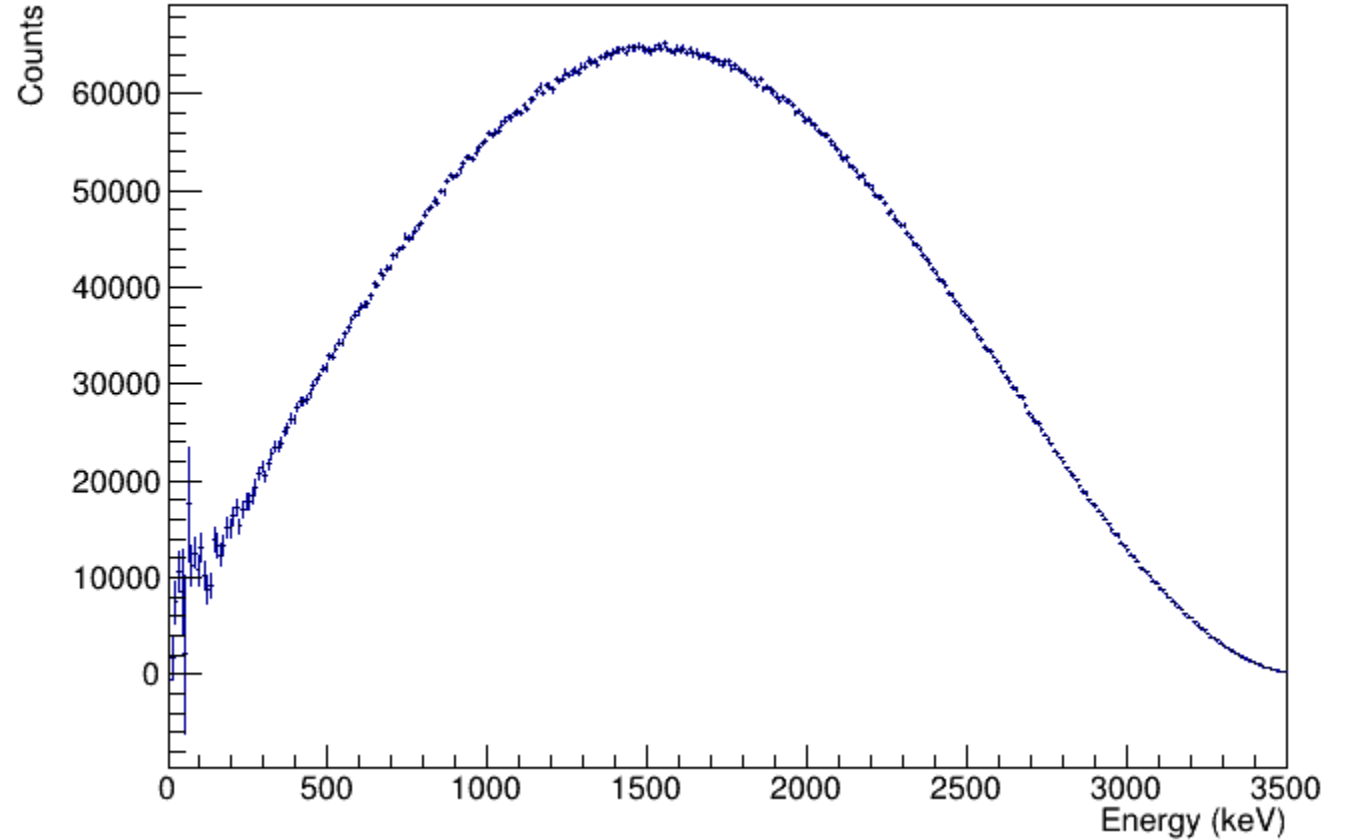




# Data selection and background subtraction

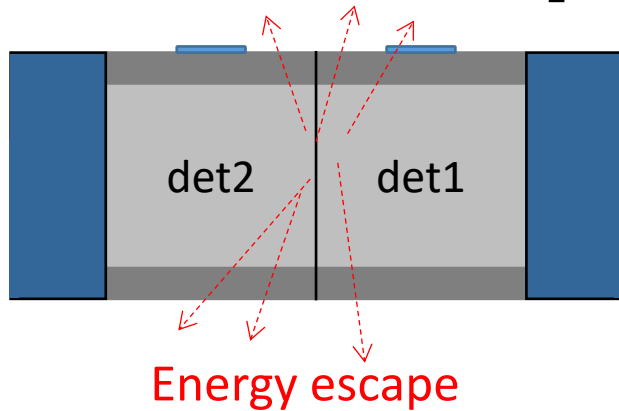


Experimental spectrum after Bremsstrahlung peak subtraction



# Bremsstrahlung escape

$$N(E) = PS(E) \cdot FF(E) \left[ \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 \cdot \frac{1}{E} + \alpha_2 \cdot E + \alpha_3 \cdot E^2 \right]$$



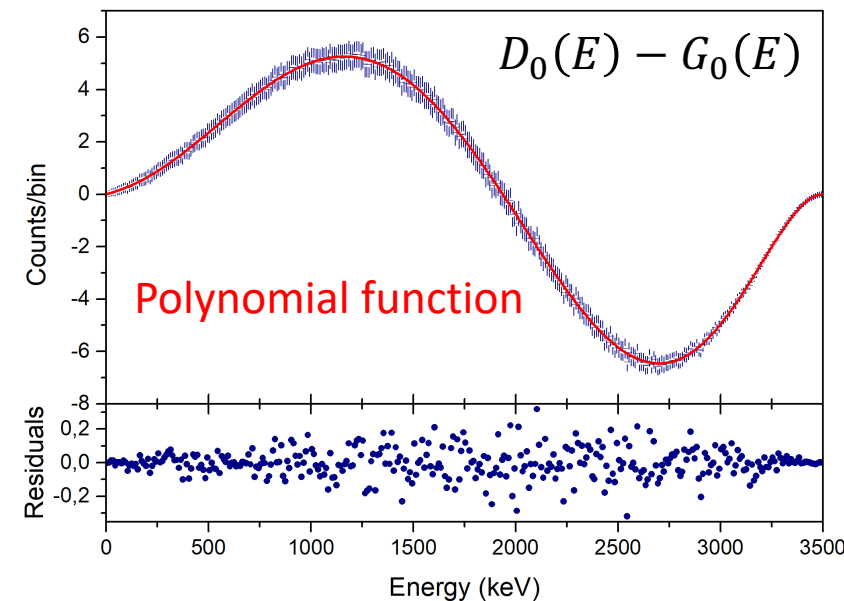
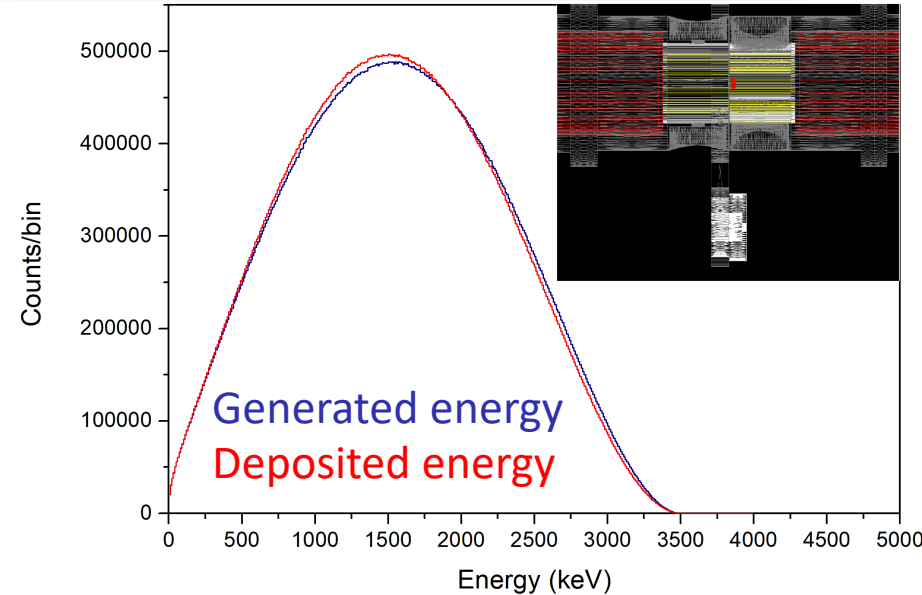
$$N(E_{dep}) = ?$$

$$G_i(E) = PS(E) \cdot FF(E) \cdot E^i \xrightarrow{\text{GEANT4}} D_i(E)$$

$$i = -1, 0, 1, 2$$

$$f_i(E) = norm \times (D_i(E) - G_i(E))$$

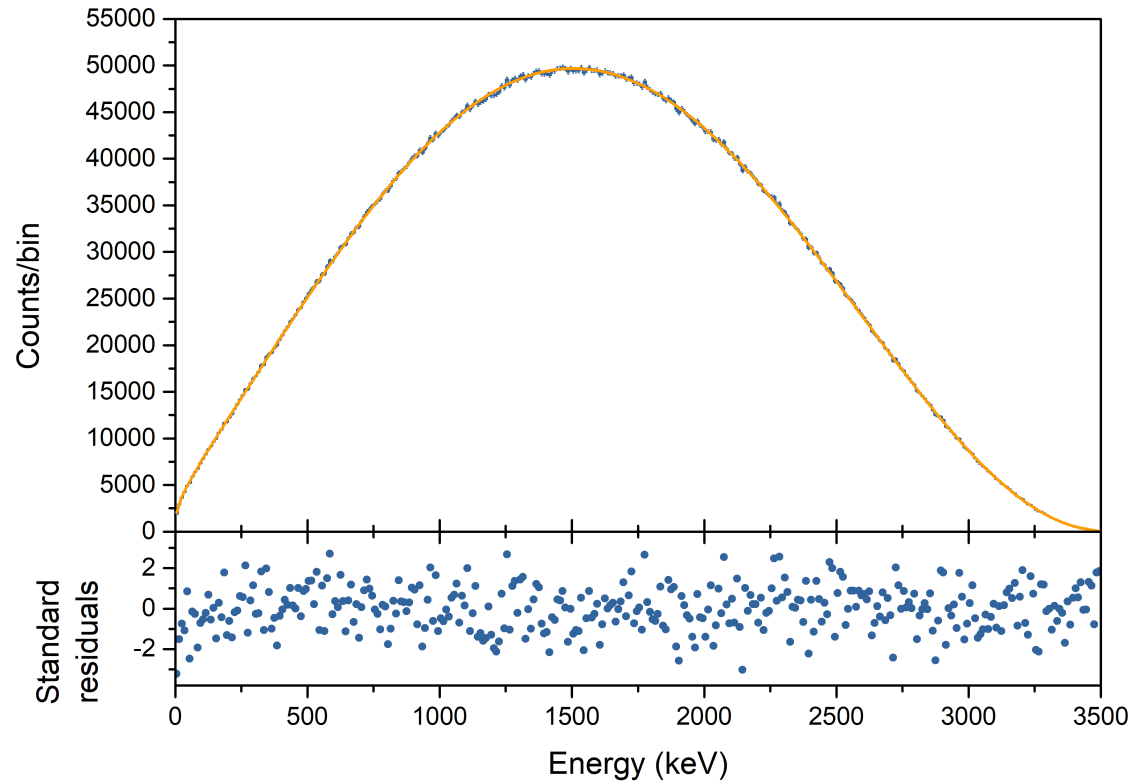
Analytical function that describes the bremsstrahlung escape



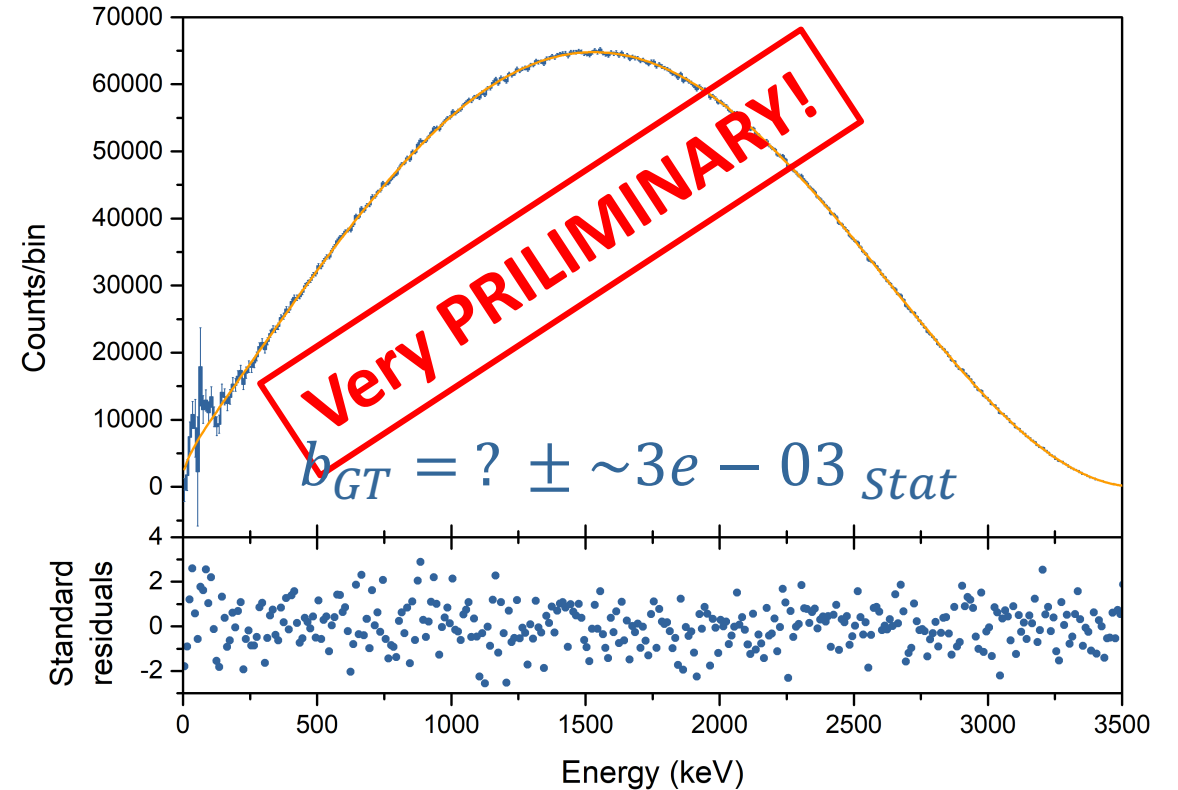
$$F(E) = norm \times \sum_{i=-1}^2 \alpha_i [PS(E) \cdot FF(E) \cdot E^i + f_i(E)]$$

$$fitFct(E) = F(E) * gaus(E)$$

Spectrum generated with G4



Experimental spectrum



## Summary:

- The energy calibration with the gain and baseline corrections, and the matching of the endpoints is done.
- The two sources of background are well identified and can be subtracted with the cap runs.
- The fit function for the energy spectrum was tested with simulated data and can be used to fit the experimental data.

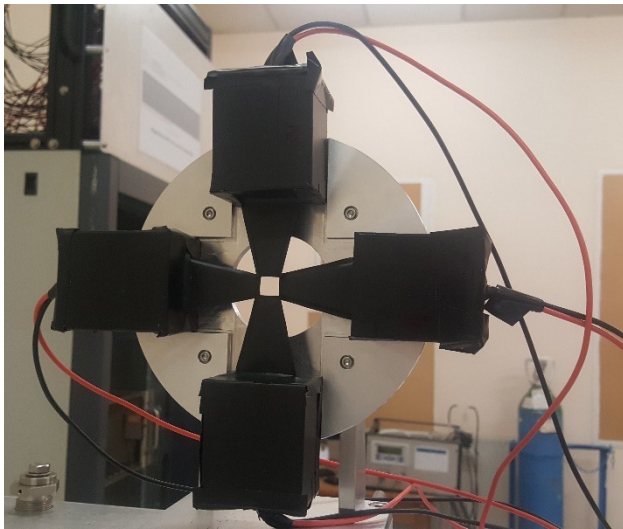
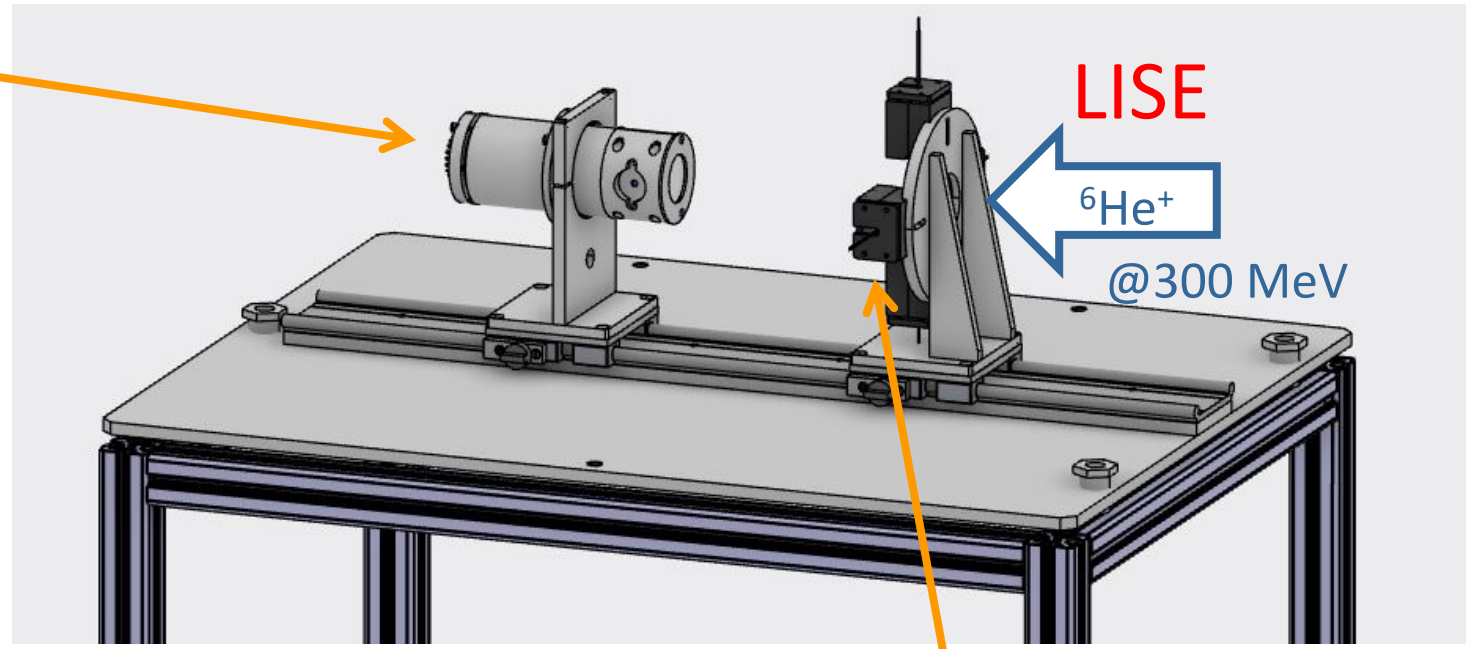
## Outlook:

Carry on the experimental data fitting to extract the Fierz term and to study systematic effects:

- Calibration of cap runs
- Data selections
- Detectors response function (resolution, linearity)

Main detector (YAP)

Scheduled @GANIL  
April 2023



Plastic scintillators

- ✓ Detectors are mounted
- ✓ testing the detectors



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**Thank you for your  
attention!**



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