



# Recent measurements from Felsenkeller shallow - underground laboratory

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18th Russbach School on Nuclear Astrophysics  
Mar 12 – 18, 2023



**HZDR**

**HELMHOLTZ**  
ZENTRUM DRESDEN  
ROSSENDORF

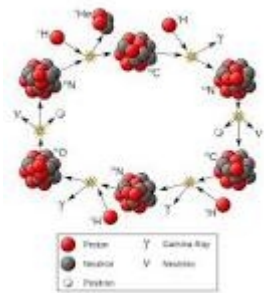
Institute of Radiation Physics – Division of Nuclear Physics- · e.masha@hzdr.de



## Felsenkeller laboratory



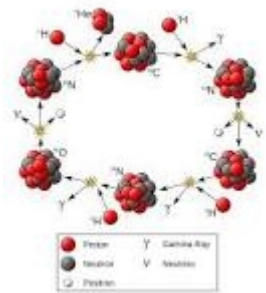
## Felsenkeller laboratory



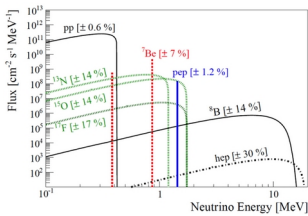
$^{12}\text{C}(p,\gamma)^{13}\text{N}$  reaction at energies above 400 keV



## Felsenkeller laboratory



## $^{12}\text{C}(p,\gamma)^{13}\text{N}$ reaction at energies above 400 keV

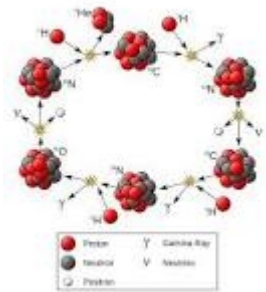


## Solar neutrinos and $^3\text{He}(^4\text{He},\gamma)^7\text{Be}$ reaction

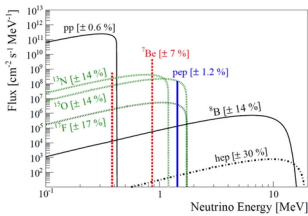




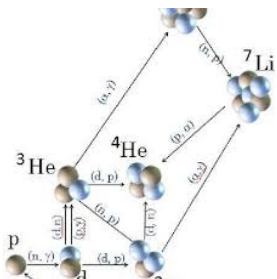
## Felsenkeller laboratory



## $^{12}\text{C}(p,\gamma)^{13}\text{N}$ reaction at energies above 400 keV

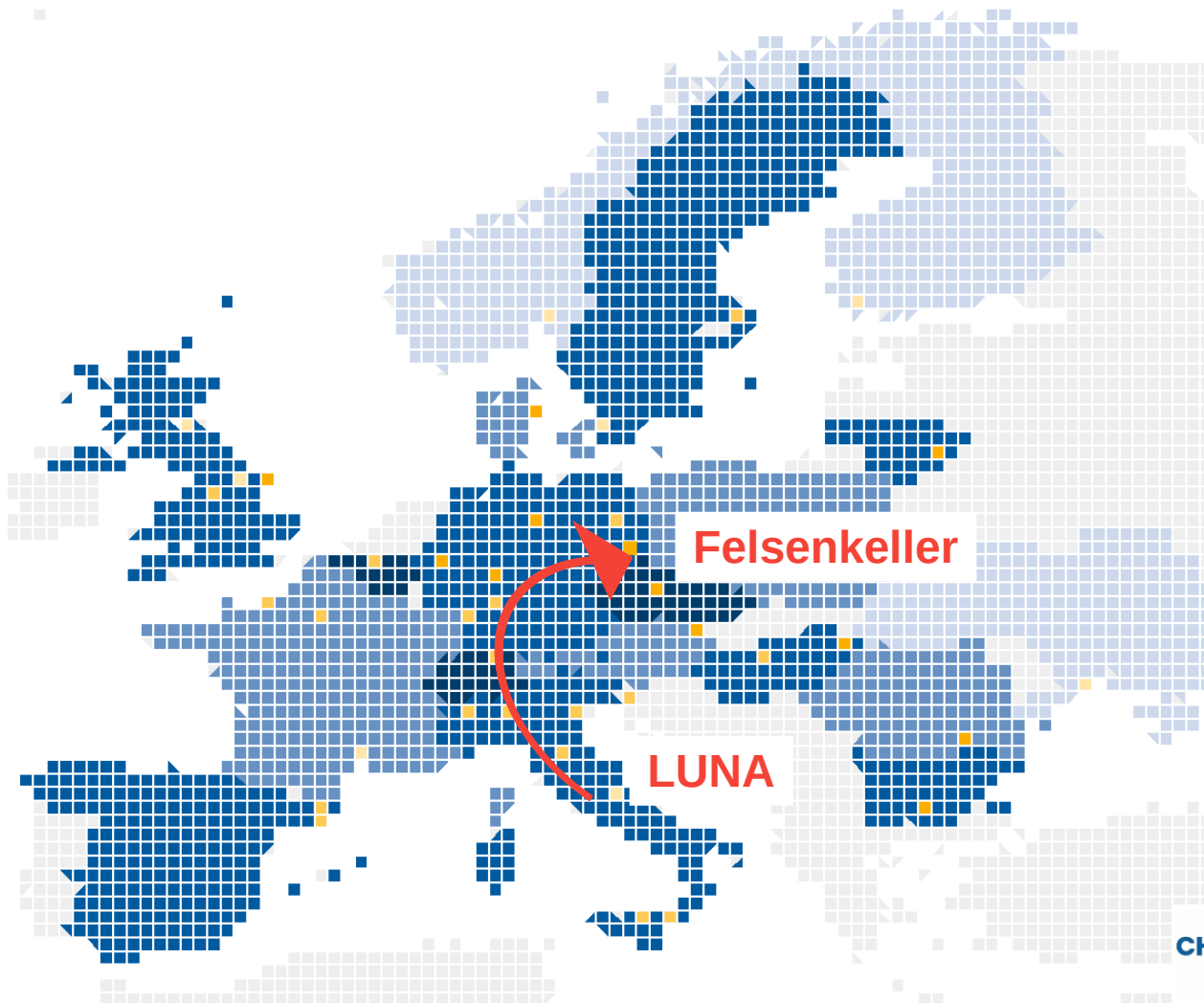


## Solar neutrinos and $^3\text{He}(^4\text{He},\gamma)^7\text{Be}$ reaction



## Big Bang Nucleosynthesis (BBN) and $^2\text{H}(p,\gamma)^3\text{He}$ reaction

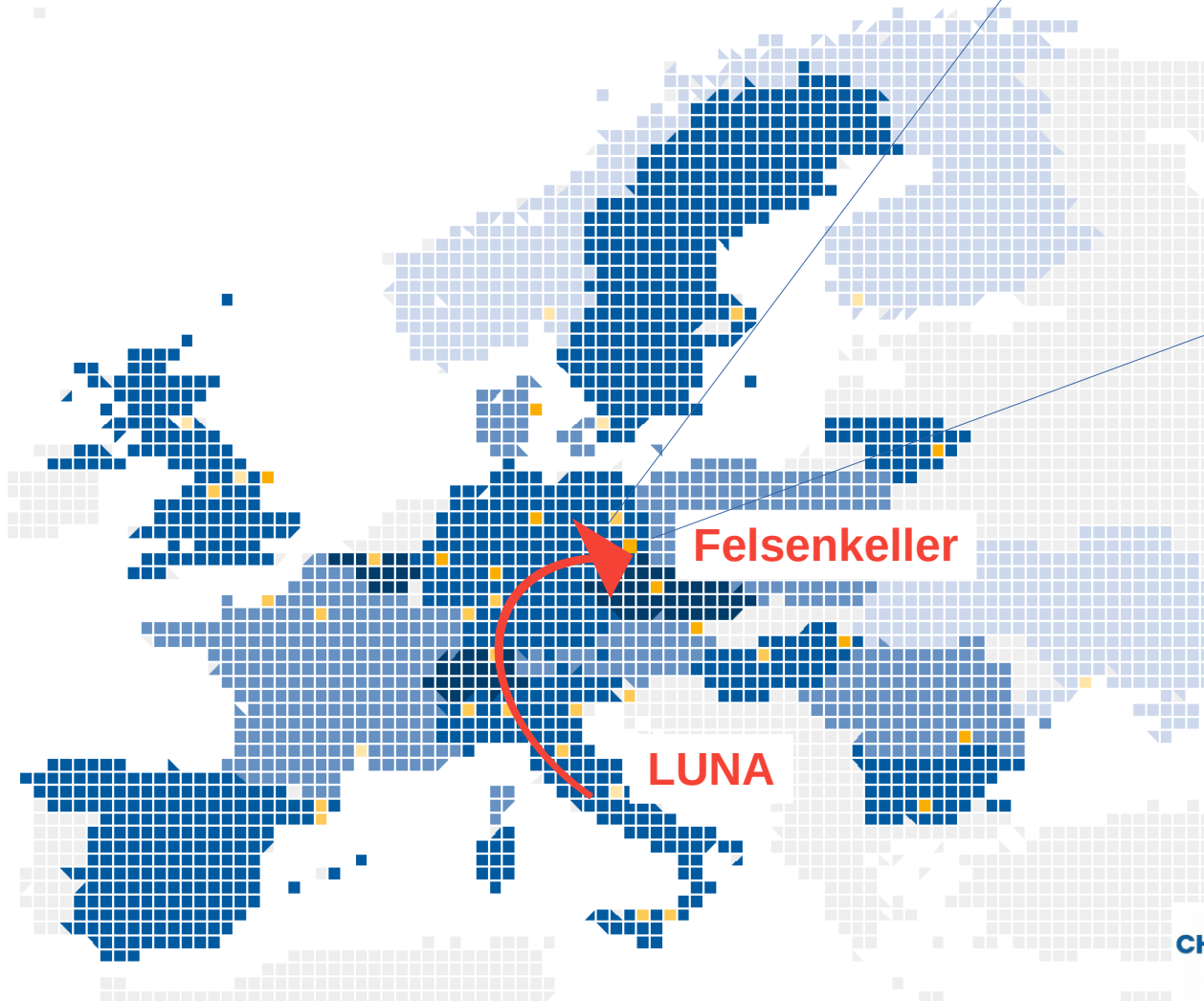
# Felsenkeller shallow-underground laboratory



# Felsenkeller shallow-underground laboratory



© Fotolia/S.Klein - Dresden



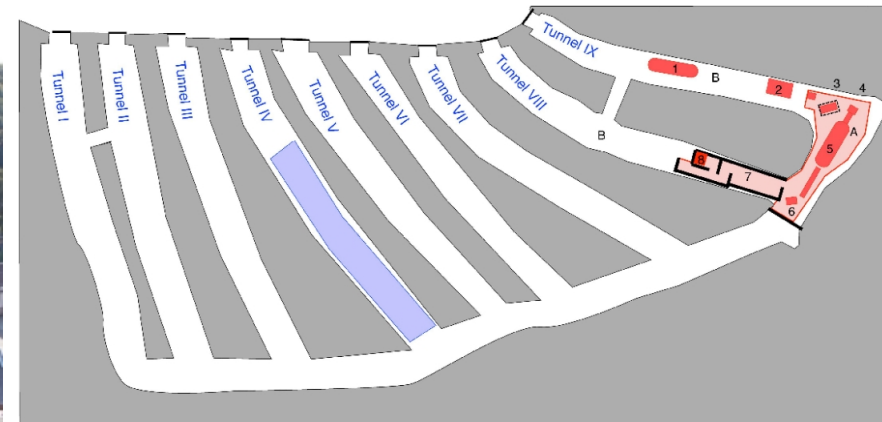
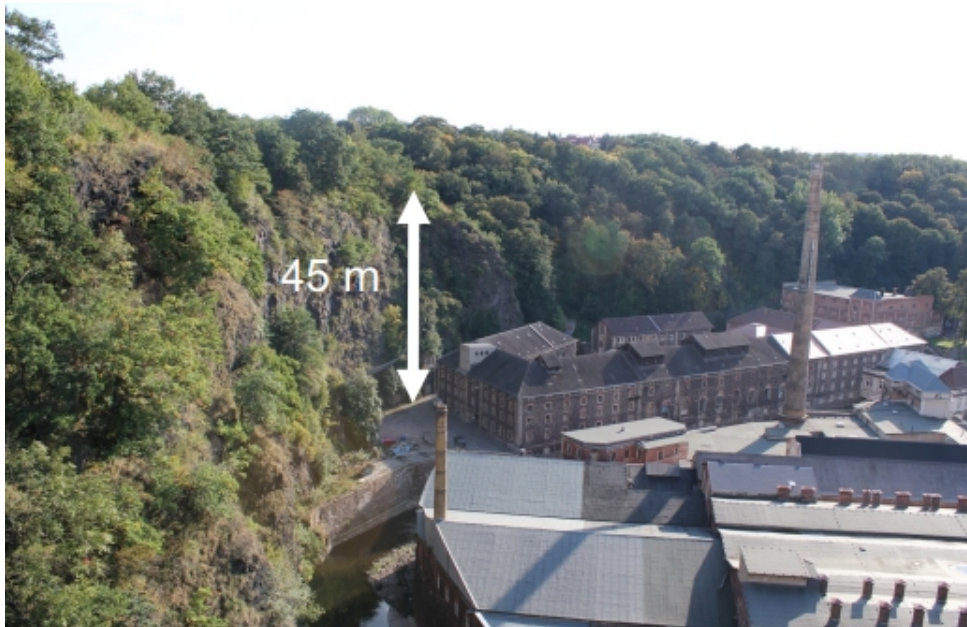
DRESDEN  
concept



**HZDR**

# Felsenkeller shallow-underground laboratory

- ❖ Located in Dresden, Germany. Joint project:
  - TU Dresden (Prof. K. Zuber)
  - HZDR (Prof. D. Bemmerer)
- ❖ System of nine tunnels built for Felsenkeller brewery in 1859
- ❖ 24h beam operation permitted
- ❖ Surface offices / operator room
- ❖ Laboratory accessible with beam on target



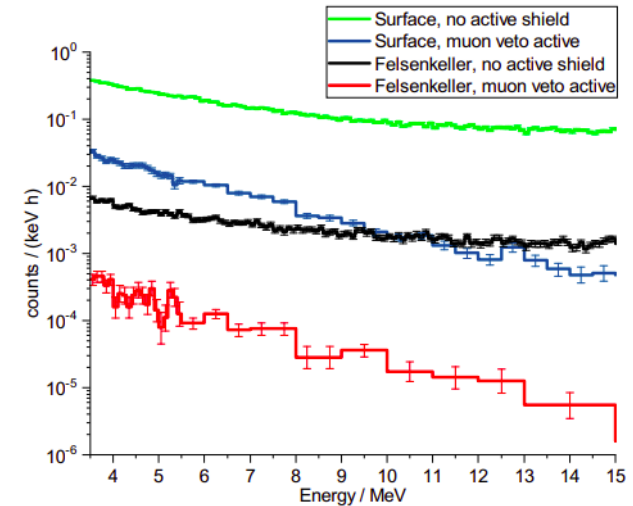
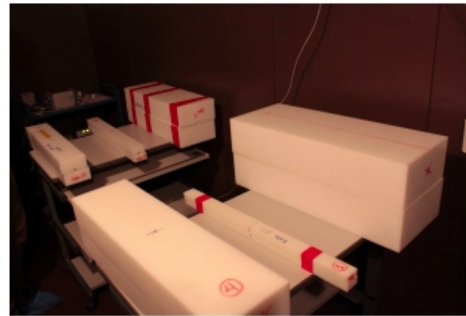
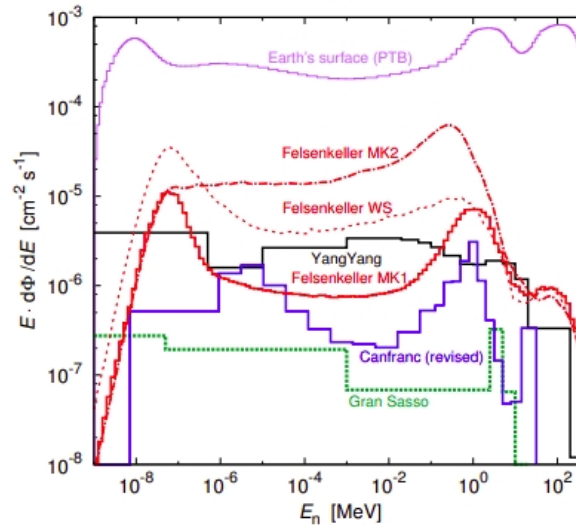
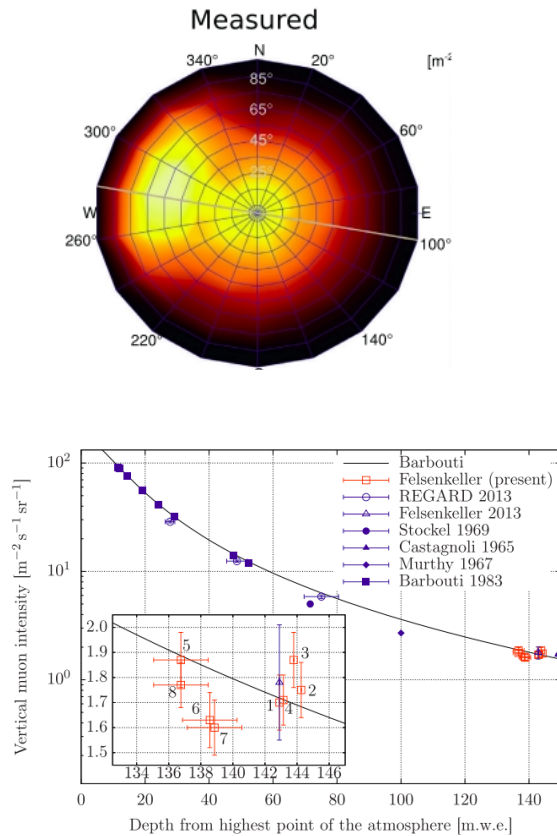
# Felsenkeller shallow-underground laboratory

## Background fully characterized

*Muon flux: 40x reduced*

*Neutron flux: 180x reduced*

*$\gamma$ -ray background: 2500x reduced with muon veto*



Eur. Phys. J. A 55, 174 (2019)

*Astropart. Phys. 112, 24 (2019)*

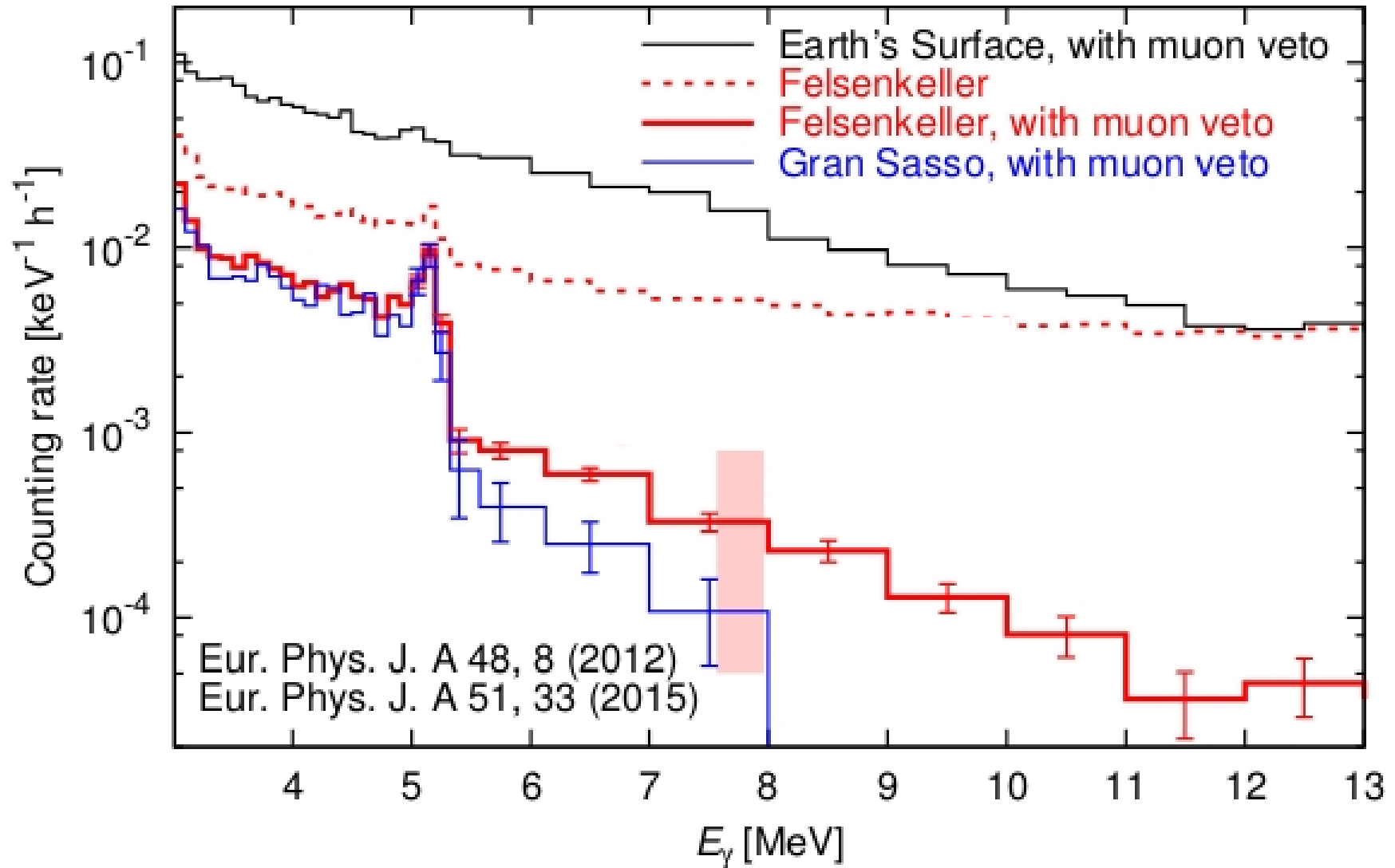
*Phys. Rev. D 101, 123027 (2020)*





# Felsenkeller shallow-underground laboratory

## Background reduction compared with LUNA and surface lab



# Felsenkeller shallow-underground laboratory

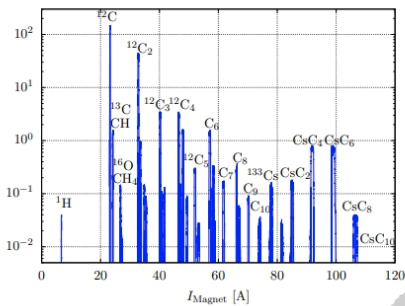
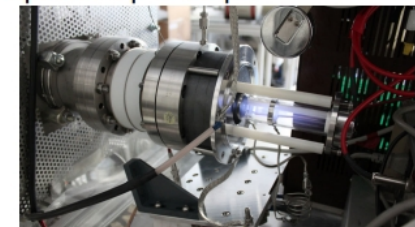
## External ion-source

- ❖ Intensive  $^{12}\text{C}^-$  beam
- ❖ Intensity of 10  $\mu\text{A}$
- ❖ Several other negatively charged ions available.



## Internal radio frequency ion-source

- ❖ Intensive  $^2\text{H}$  and  $^4\text{He}$  beams
- ❖ Beam current up to 30  $\mu\text{A}$



Storage  $\text{SF}_6$

Tunnel IX

Tunnel VIII

Bunker for in-beam experiments

Bunker for activation experiments



DRESDEN  
concept



HZDR

Mitglied der Helmholtz-Gemeinschaft

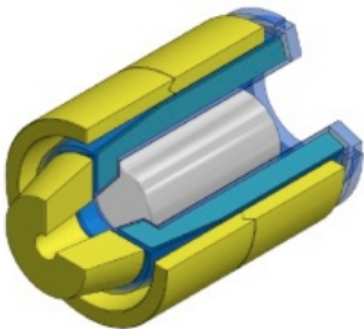
# Felsenkeller as a User Facility

Beam time at the Felsenkeller is available for user proposals

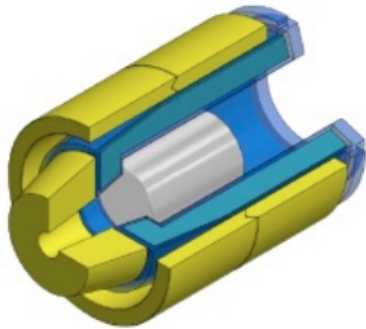
ChETEC-INFRA Transnational Access facility: Recent project

Available multiple High Purity Germanium detectors (with active and passive shielding and collimators)

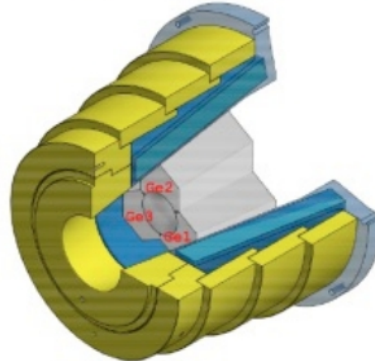
1 x 90% HPGe



1 x 60% HPGe



4 x Euroball/Miniball  
(2 x 7-cluster, 2 x 3-cluster)



*T. Szücs et al., Eur. Phys. J. A 55, 174, 2019*

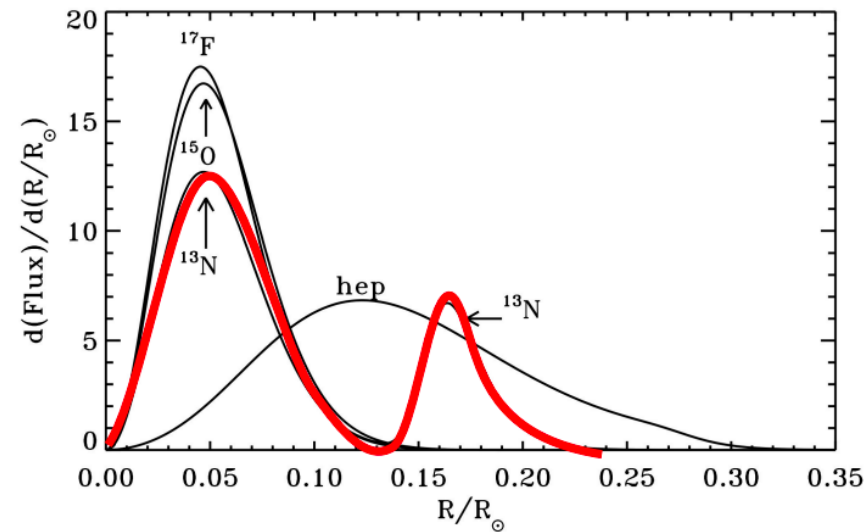
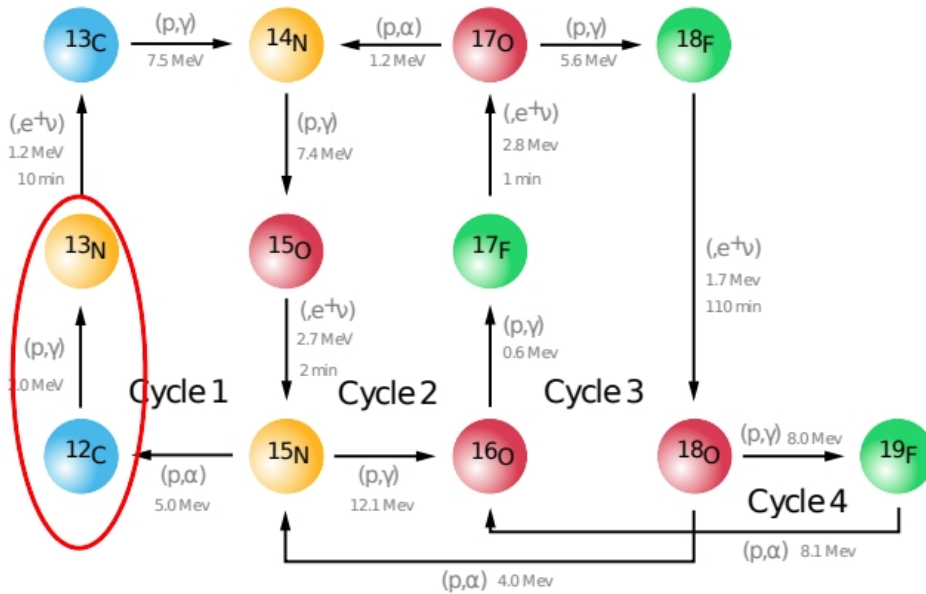


Felsenkeller Scientific Advisory Board



## $^{12}\text{C}(p,\gamma)^{13}\text{N}$ reaction: Astrophysical motivation

The  $^{12}\text{C}(p,\gamma)^{13}\text{N}$  reaction is one of the main sources of the solar CNO neutrino flux (Borexino data), through the beta-decay of  $^{13}\text{N}$



Bahcall *et al.* (2006)

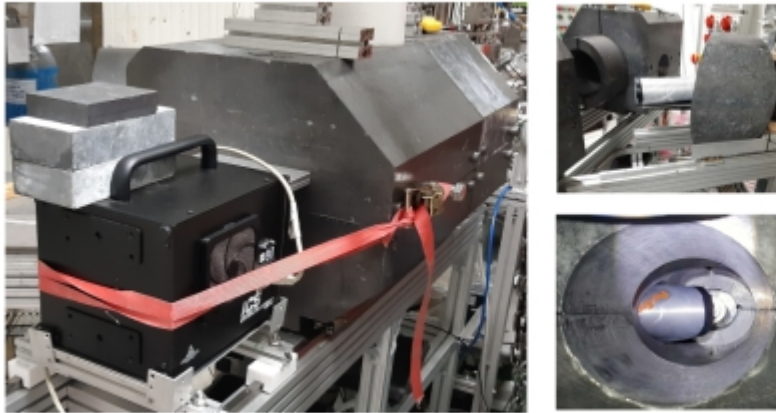
The  $^{12}\text{C}/^{13}\text{C}$  ratio is a significant indicator of nucleosynthesis and mixing processes during hydrogen burning in stars

Deviations within and between models, simulations and experimental data

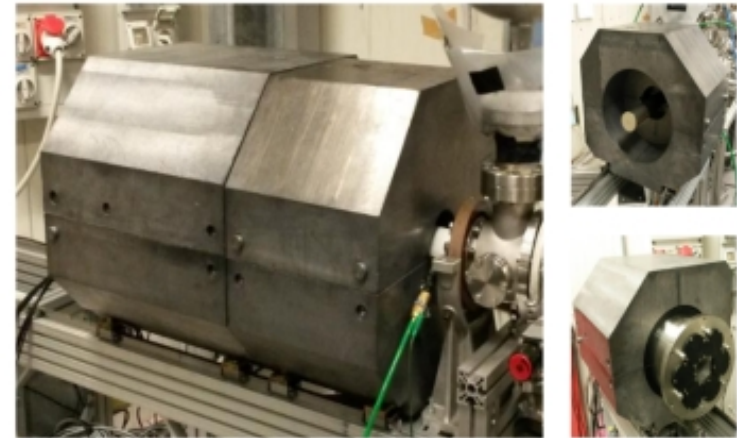


# $^{12}\text{C}(p,\gamma)^{13}\text{N}$ reaction: low energy data

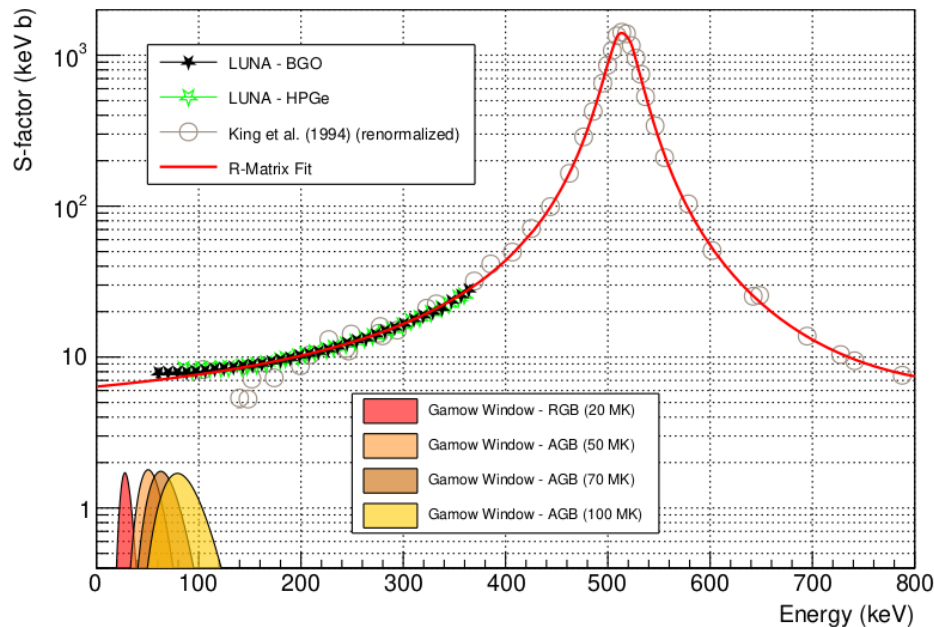
HPGe phase



BGO phase



More info: R. Depalo talk



**LUNA data 25% lower than literature!**

Skowronski *et al.* (2023) submitted



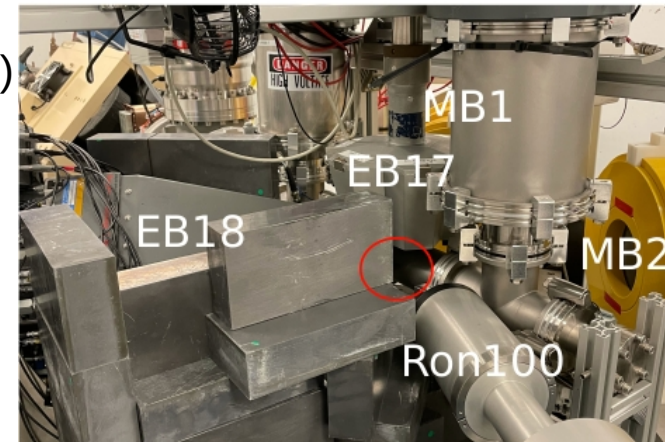
**High energy data needed!**



# $^{12}\text{C}(p,\gamma)^{13}\text{N}$ reaction: Experimental setup

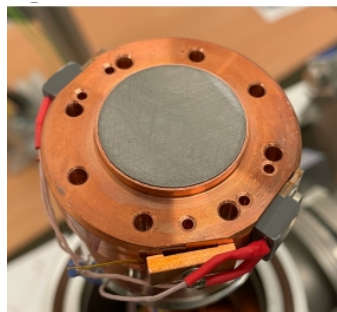
- ❖ Molecular proton beam ( $I = 16 \mu\text{A}$ )
- ❖ 21 HPGe detectors (four HPGe cluster + one single crystal)
- ❖  $\text{LN}_2$  target cooling.

Detector	Crystals; rel. efficiency	Angle
EB17	$7 \times 60\%$	$90^\circ$
EB18	$7 \times 60\%$	$114^\circ$
MB1	$3 \times 60\%$	$122^\circ$
MB2	$3 \times 60\%$	$55^\circ$
Ron100	$1 \times 100\%$	$25^\circ$

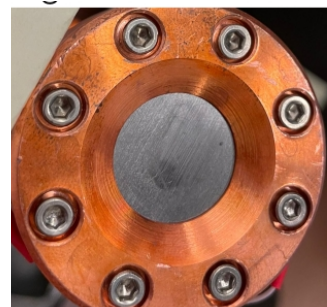


## Targets

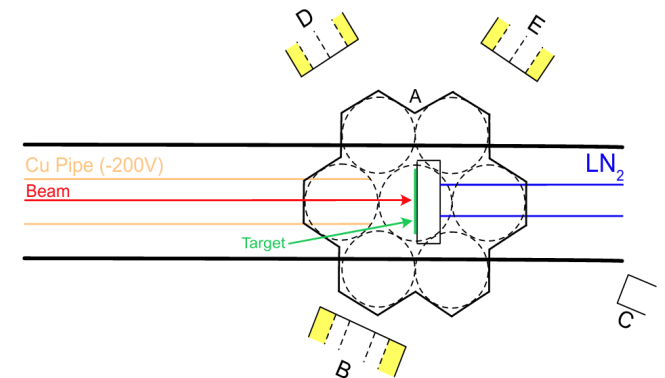
- ❖ carbon powder evaporated on Ta backing (Hungary)
- ❖ graphite targets (infinite thickness)



Before irradiation



After irradiation



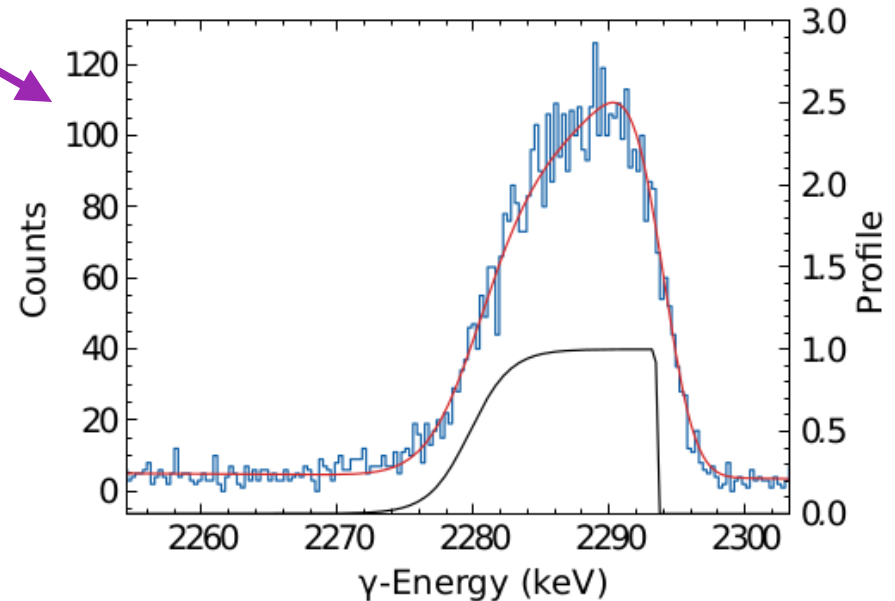
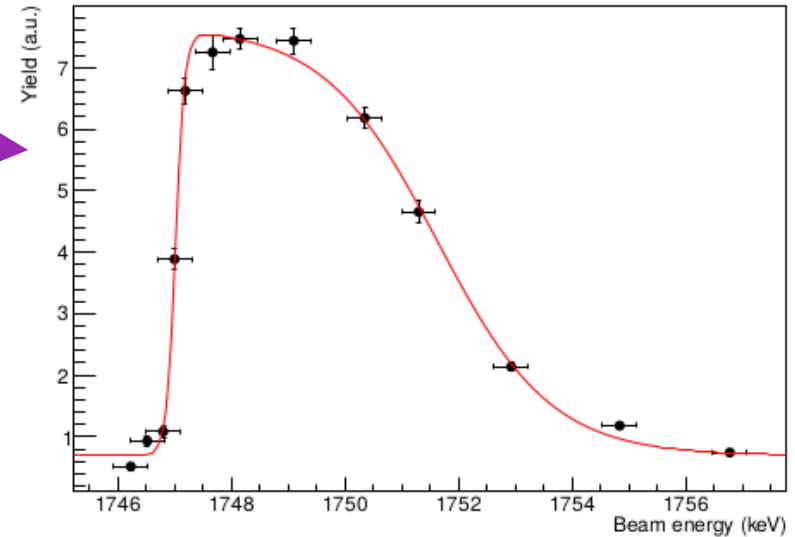
# $^{12}\text{C}(p,\gamma)^{13}\text{N}$ reaction: Target characterization

## ❖ Resonance scan technique

$^{13}\text{C}(p,\gamma)^{14}\text{N}$  resonance,  
 $E_r = 1747.6 \text{ keV}$   $\omega\gamma = 7.3 \pm 0.5 \text{ eV}$

## ❖ Peak shape analysis

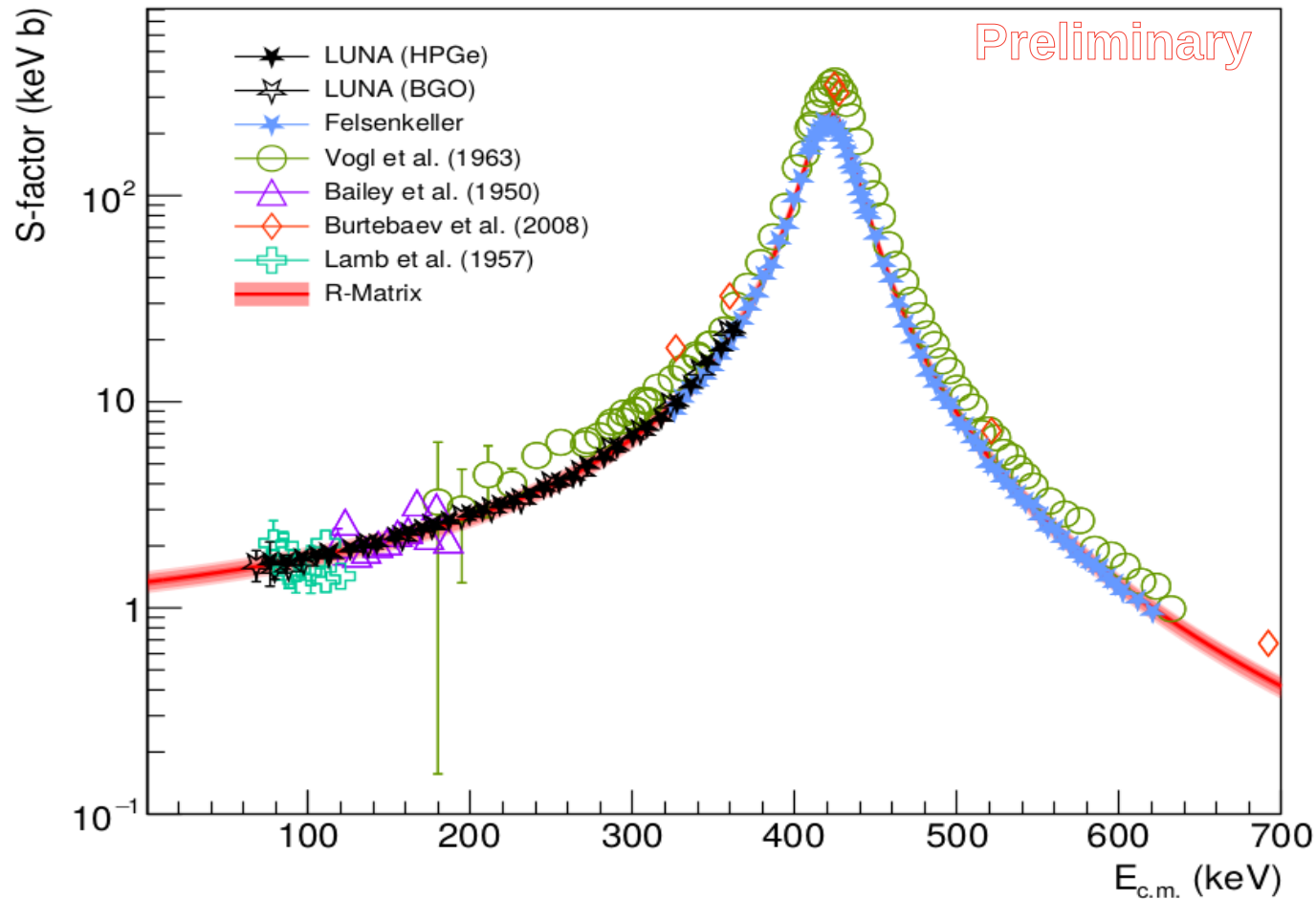
## ❖ Reference run at 380 keV



Target	Scan [keV]	PSA [keV]
12C_L1	$13.3 \pm 0.3$	$13.8 \pm 0.4$
12C_L4	$15.8 \pm 0.3$	$15.9 \pm 0.2$

$\Delta E$  for the different target and techniques

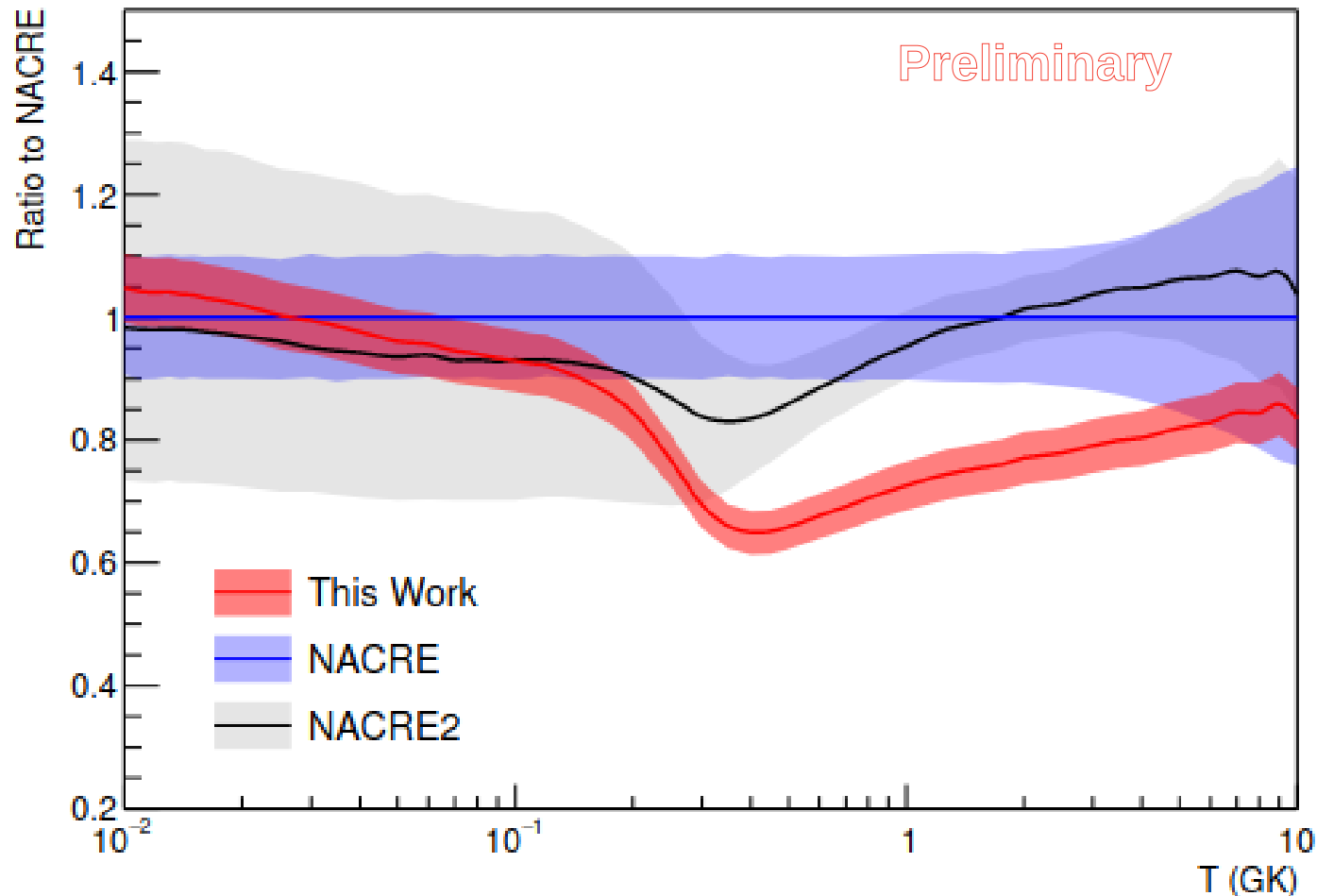
## $^{12}\text{C}(p,\gamma)^{13}\text{N}$ reaction: Results



Felsenkeller S-factor show **25% discrepancy** with respect to the literature

**Excellent agreement with low-energy LUNA data**

## $^{12}\text{C}(p,\gamma)^{13}\text{N}$ reaction: Results

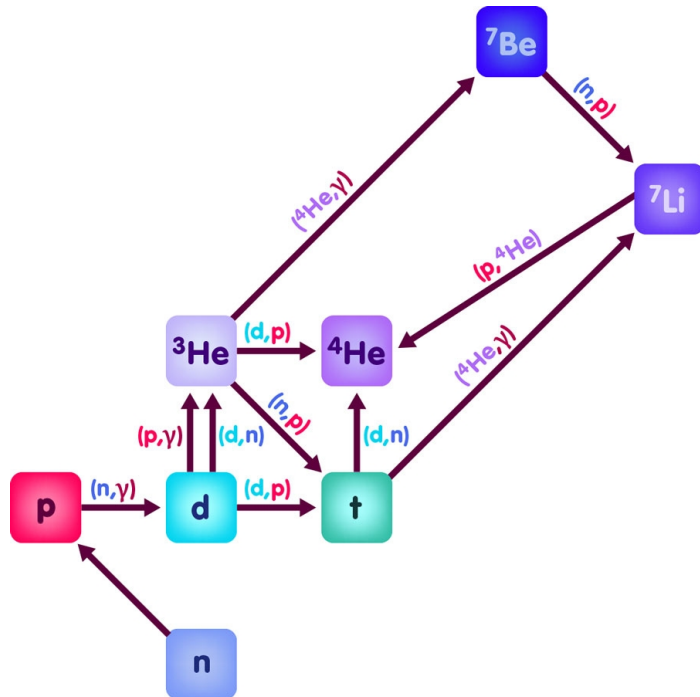


Reaction rate is consistently lower (20%-40%) at  $T > 0.3$  GK suggesting a revision of the stellar model calculations for explosive H-burning.

# $^3\text{He}(\alpha,\gamma)^7\text{Be}$ reaction

## Big Bang Nucleosynthesis

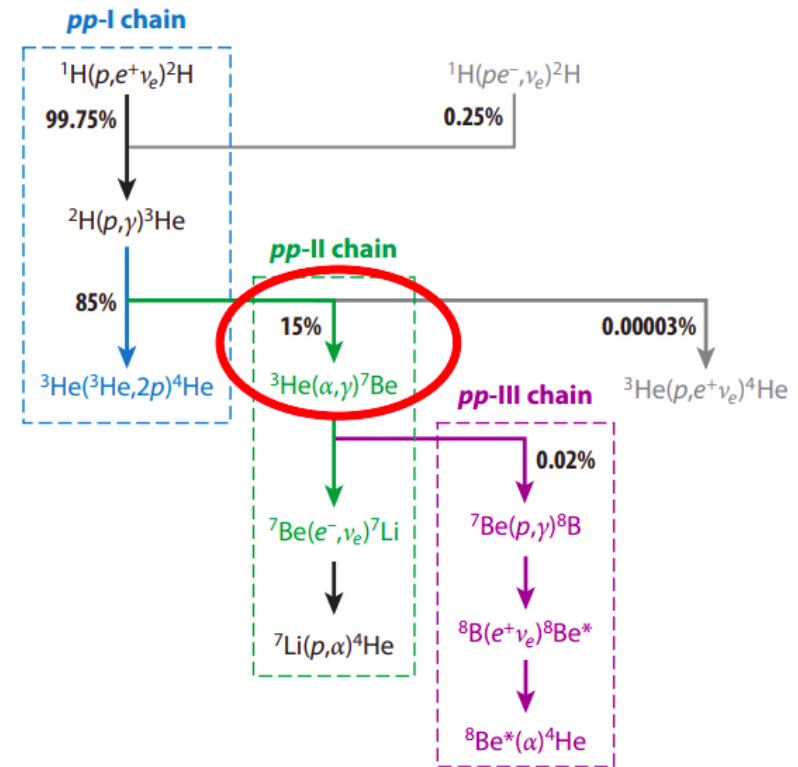
### ➤ $^7\text{Li}$ production



$$E_{\text{BBN}} \approx 160 - 380 \text{ keV}$$

## Hydrogen burning in the Sun

### ➤ Solar neutrino flux



$$E_{\text{Sun}} \approx 19 - 30 \text{ keV}$$



# $^3\text{He}(\alpha,\gamma)^7\text{Be}$ reaction

## Dominant Theoretical Error Sources for Neutrino Fluxes and the Main Characteristics of the SSM

Quant.	Dominant Theoretical Error Sources in %							
$\Phi(\text{pp})$	$L_{\odot}$ :	0.3	$S_{34}$ :	0.3	$\kappa$ :	0.2	Diff:	0.2
$\Phi(\text{pep})$	$\kappa$ :	0.5	$L_{\odot}$ :	0.4	$S_{34}$ :	0.4	$S_{11}$ :	0.2
$\Phi(\text{hep})$	$S_{\text{hep}}$ :	30.2	$S_{33}$ :	2.4	$\kappa$ :	1.1	Diff:	0.5
$\Phi(^7\text{Be})$	$S_{34}$ :	4.1	$\kappa$ :	3.8	$S_{33}$ :	2.3	Diff:	1.9
$\Phi(^8\text{B})$	$\kappa$ :	7.3	$S_{17}$ :	4.8	Diff:	4.0	$S_{34}$ :	3.9
$\Phi(^{13}\text{N})$	C:	10.0	$S_{114}$ :	5.4	Diff:	4.8	$\kappa$ :	3.9
$\Phi(^{15}\text{O})$	C:	9.4	$S_{114}$ :	7.9	Diff:	5.6	$\kappa$ :	5.5
$\Phi(^{17}\text{F})$	O:	12.6	$S_{116}$ :	8.8	$\kappa$ :	6.0	Diff:	6.0

Vinyoles *et al.*,  
Astrophys. J. (2017)

$S_{34}$ :  
 $^3\text{He}(\alpha,\gamma)^7\text{Be}$

$S_{114}$ :  $^{14}\text{N}(\text{p},\gamma)^{15}\text{O}$

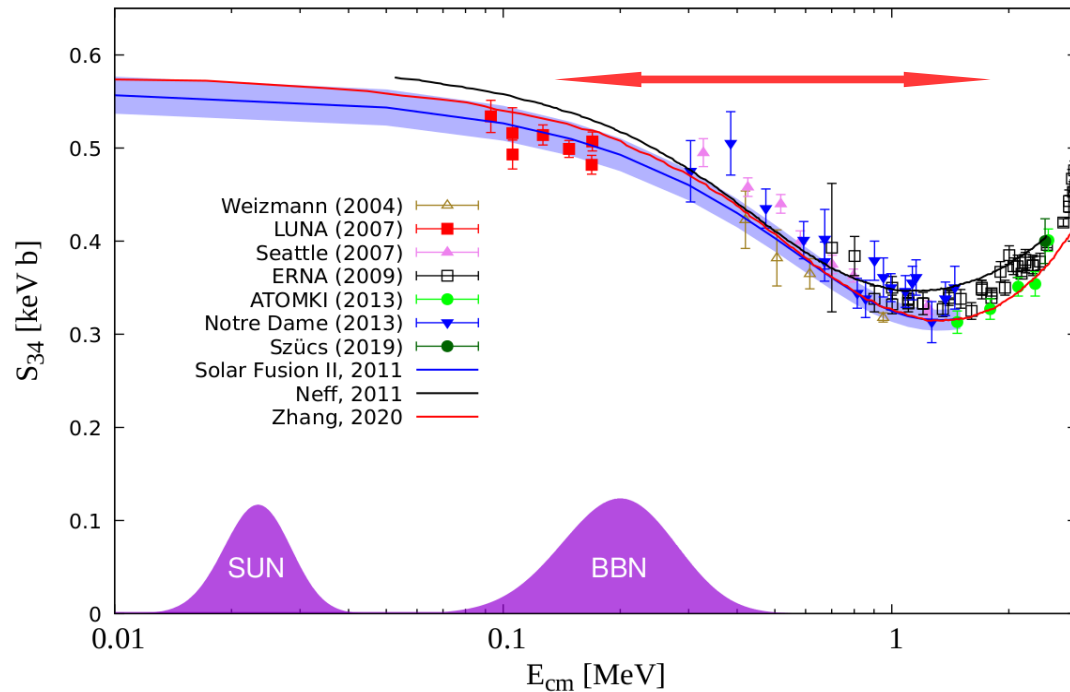
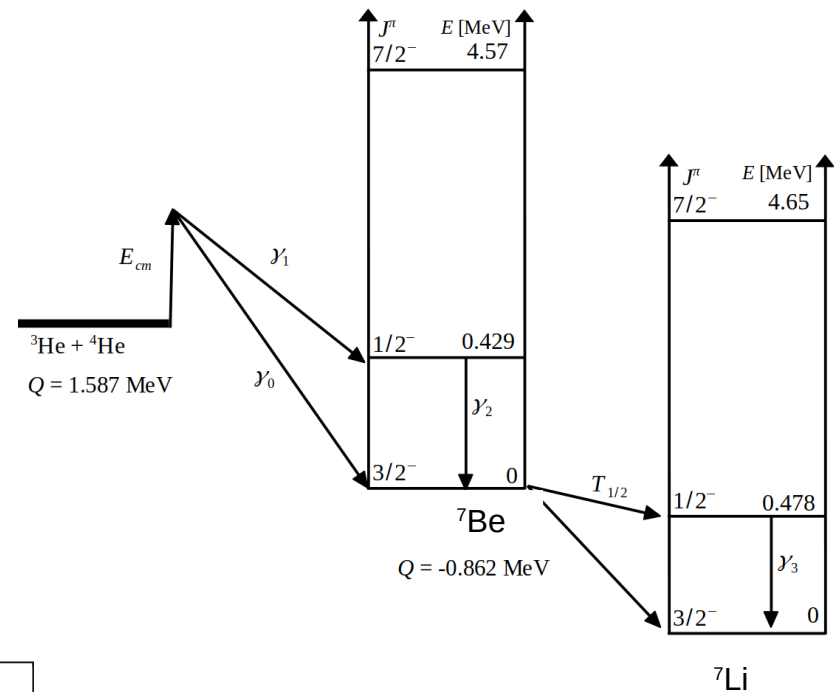
$S_{17}$ :  
 $^7\text{Be}(\text{p},\gamma)^8\text{B}$

Neutrino flux data are more precise than the solar models!

# $^3\text{He}(\alpha,\gamma)^7\text{Be}$ reaction

## Current state of the art

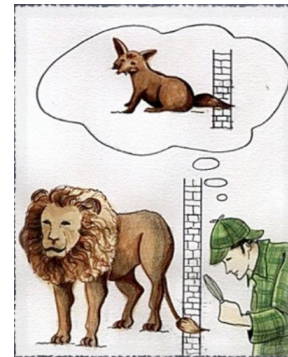
- ❖ Measuring directly the prompt  $\gamma$ -rays from the de-excitation into the ground state of  $^7\text{Be}$
- ❖ Activation analysis of the radioactive  $^7\text{Be}$  at low-background counting facility
- ❖ Indirect approaches (See A. Tumino talk)



No data at  $E_{Sun}$



*S-factor extrapolations*

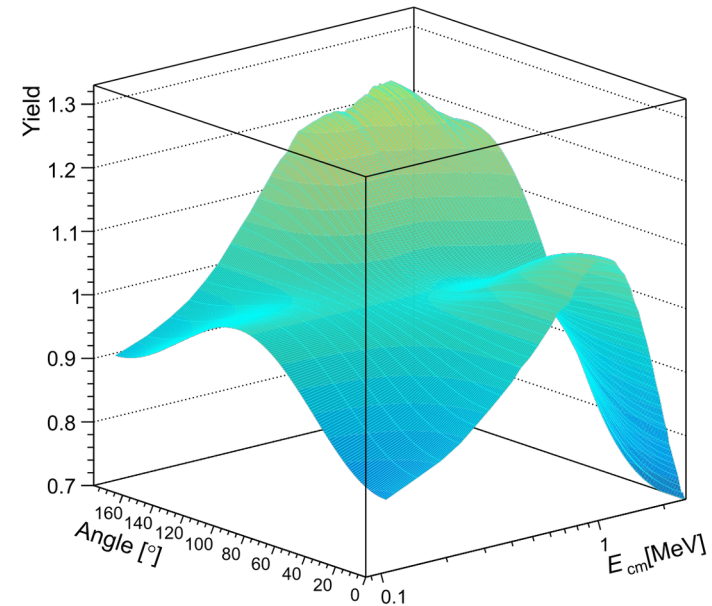
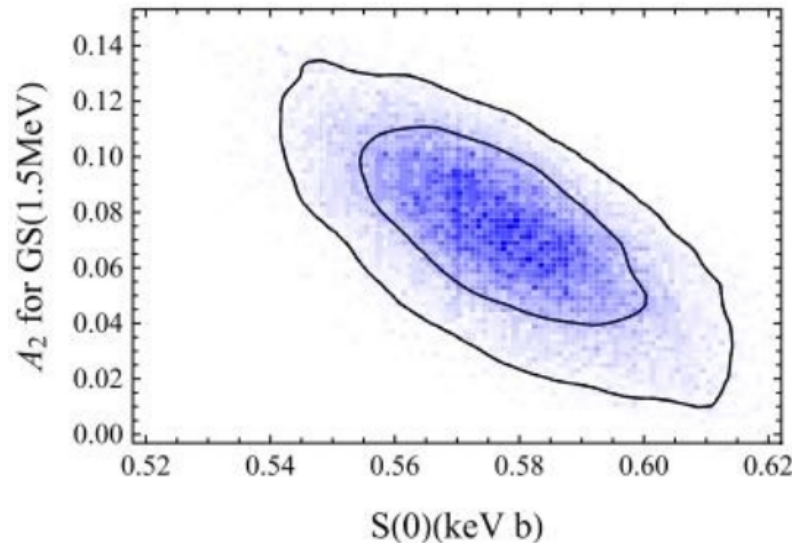


## $^3\text{He}(\alpha,\gamma)^7\text{Be}$ reaction

Current state of the art: Theoretical studies shows correlation of the angular distribution coefficients with the extrapolated  $S(0)$

*Tombrello et al.,  
Phys. Rev. 131, 2582 (1963)*

$$\sigma^i(E,\theta) = \sigma^i(E) [1 + a_2^i(E) P_2(\cos \theta)]$$



**GOAL**

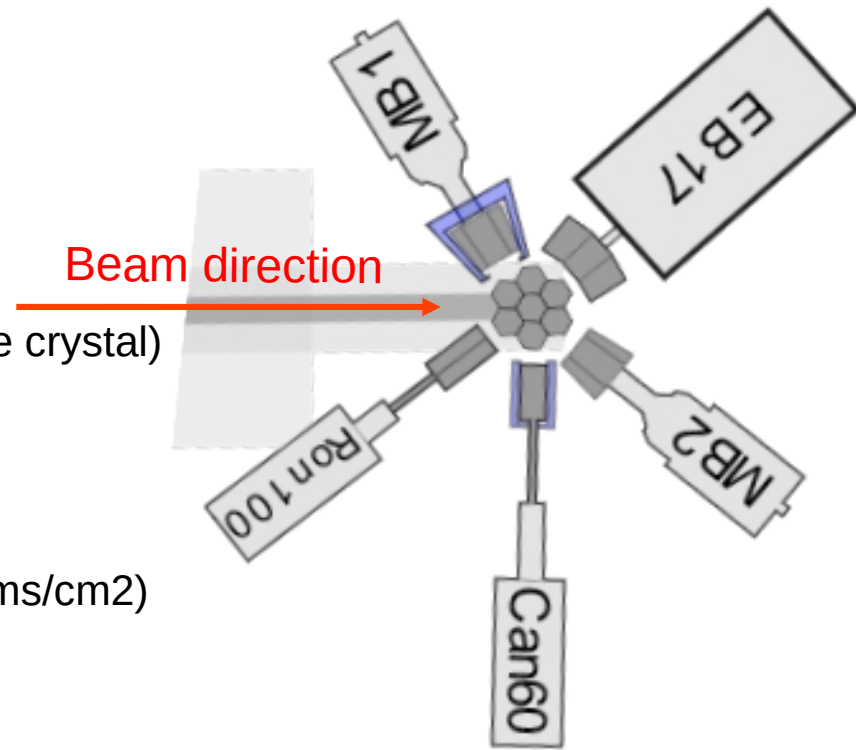
**Direct angular distribution data  
needed!**

*Xilin Zhang et al 2020  
J. Phys. G: Nucl. Part. Phys. 47 054002*

# $^3\text{He}(\alpha, \gamma)^7\text{Be}$ reaction

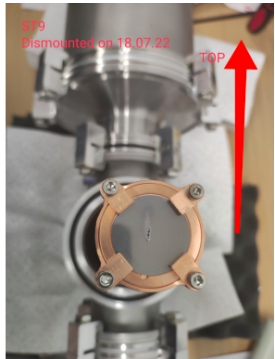
## Experiment: Solid target setup

- ❖  $^4\text{He}$  beam ( $I = 13\text{--}15\ \mu\text{A}$ )
- ❖ 22 HPGe detectors (four HPGe cluster + 2 single crystal)
- ❖  $\text{LN}_2$  target cooling.
- ❖ Implanted  $^3\text{He}$  target on Ta backing ( $2.7\text{E}17\ \text{atoms/cm}^2$ )
- ❖ Lead shielding for lab background reduction



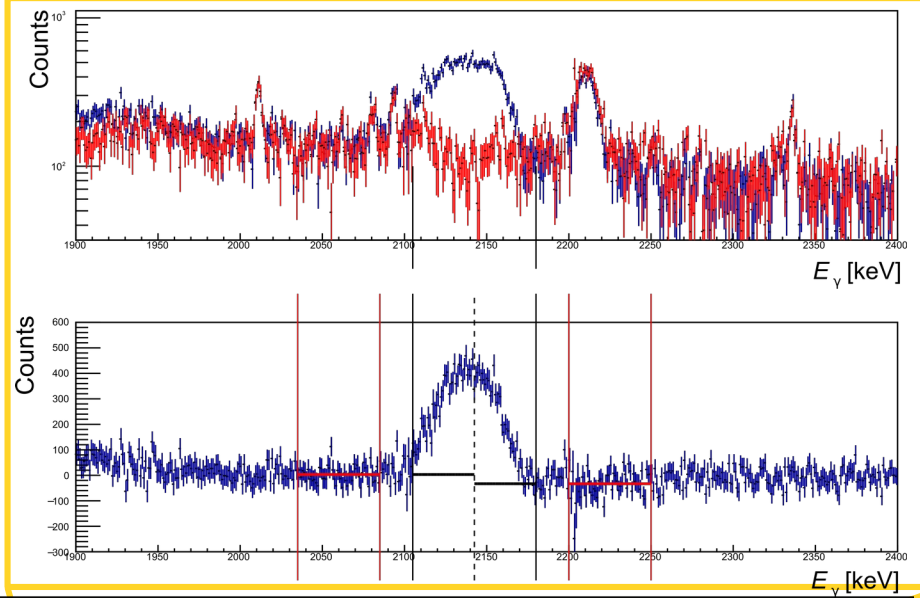
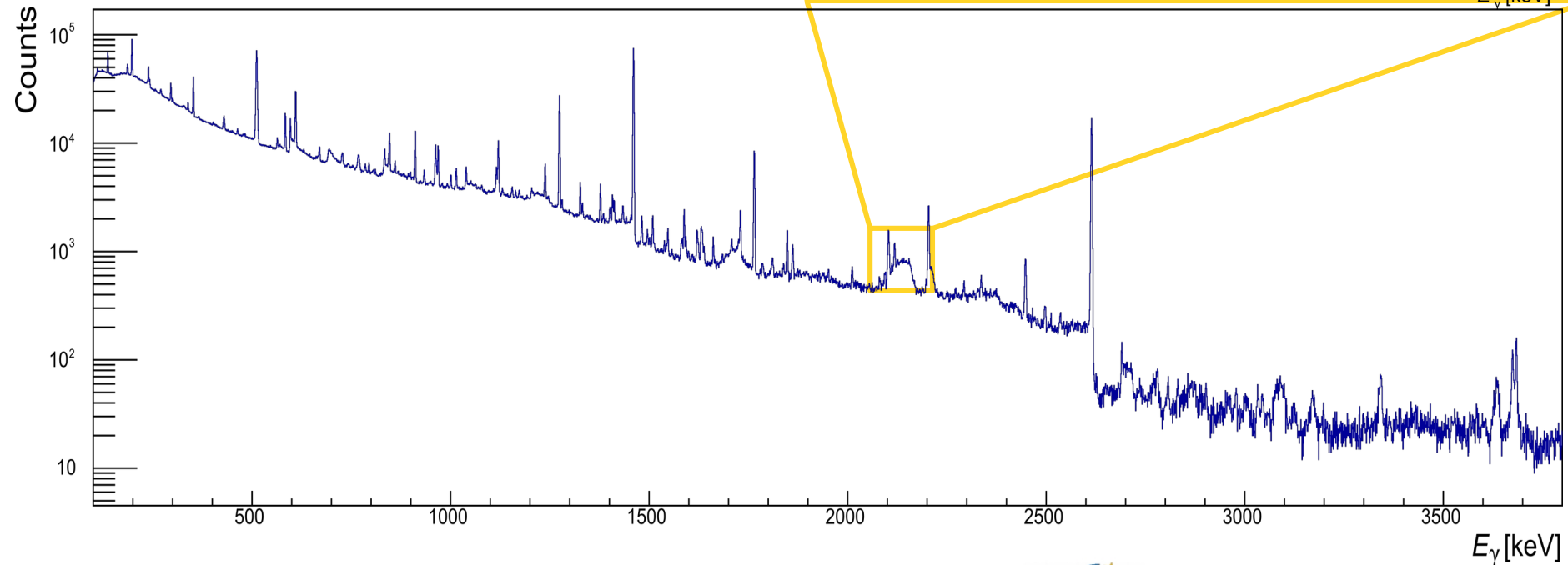
$$E_\alpha = 0.470\ \text{MeV}, 0.580\ \text{MeV}, 0.92\ \text{MeV}$$

$$\theta = 36, 57, 90, 120\ \text{and}\ 145\ \text{degree}$$



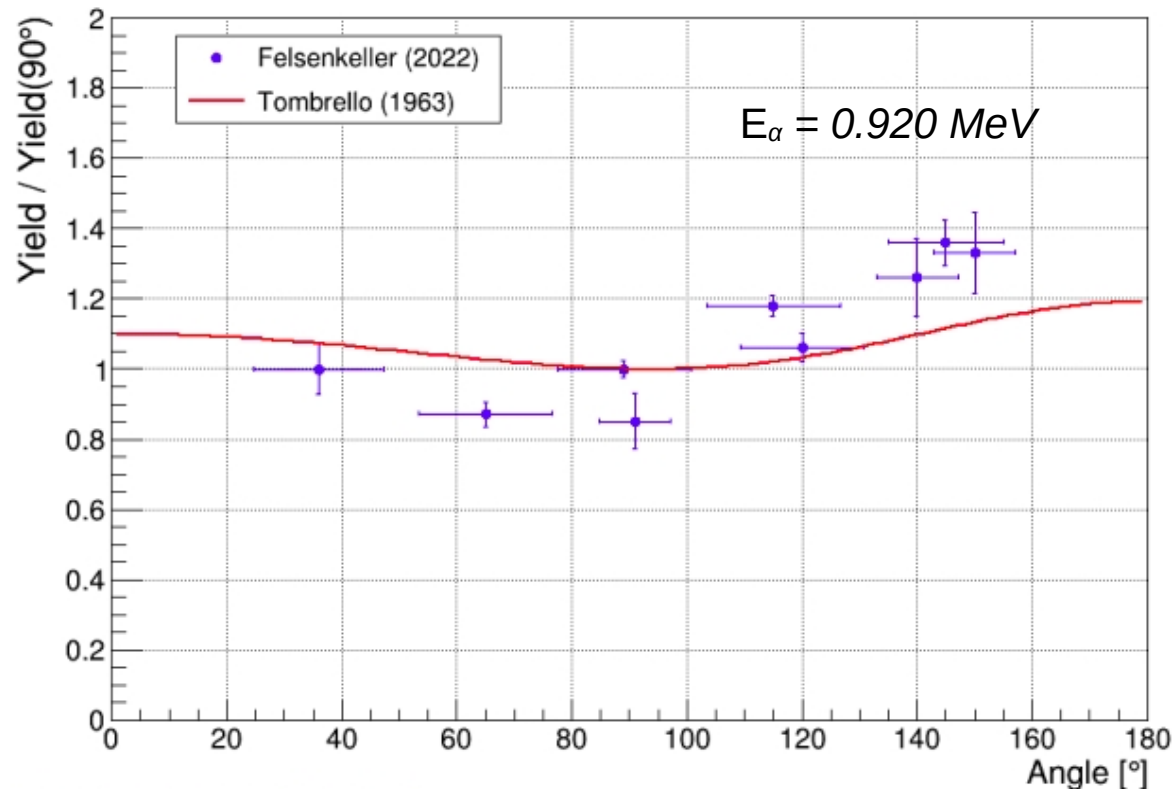
# ${}^3\text{He}(\alpha,\gamma){}^7\text{Be}$ reaction

$\gamma$ -ray spectrum at  $E_\alpha = 0.580$  MeV





Preliminary



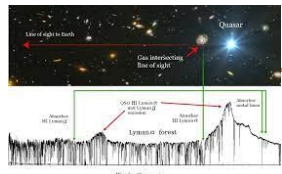
Analysis and last measurement still ongoing!!

There seems a clear discrepancy with theory!

Forward and especially backward emission way more preferred!!

# Big Bang Nucleosynthesis: Why is important?

## Primordial observations



$X_i$

$\Omega_b h^2$

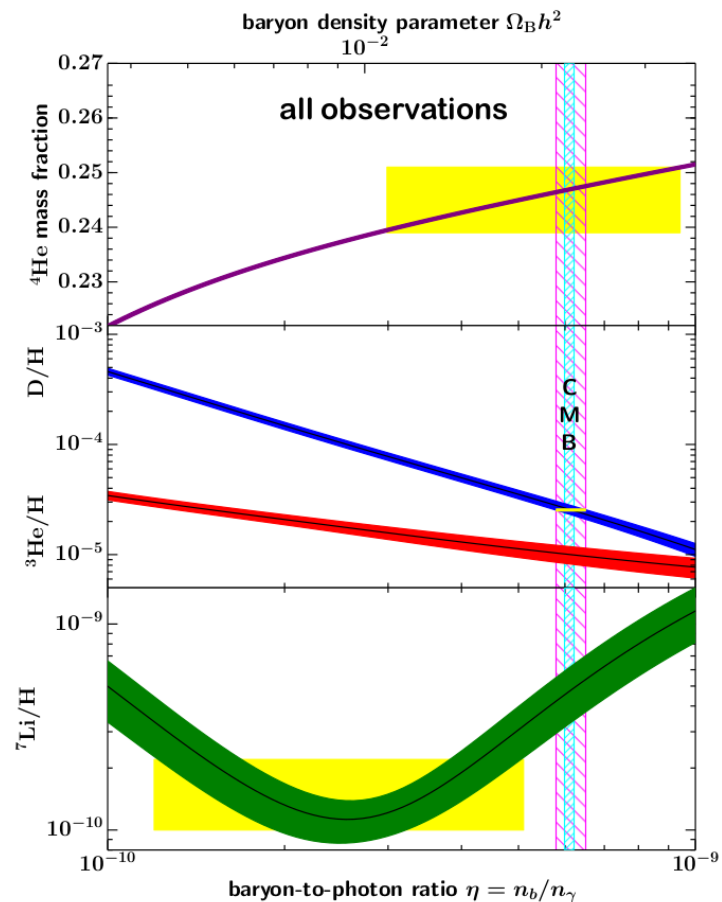
CMB

Termonuclear  
rates

BBN

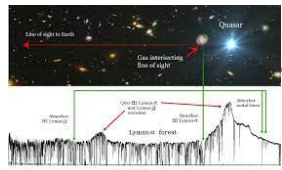
Astroparticle

Nuclear astrophysics



# Big Bang Nucleosynthesis: Why is important?

## Primordial observations



$X_i$

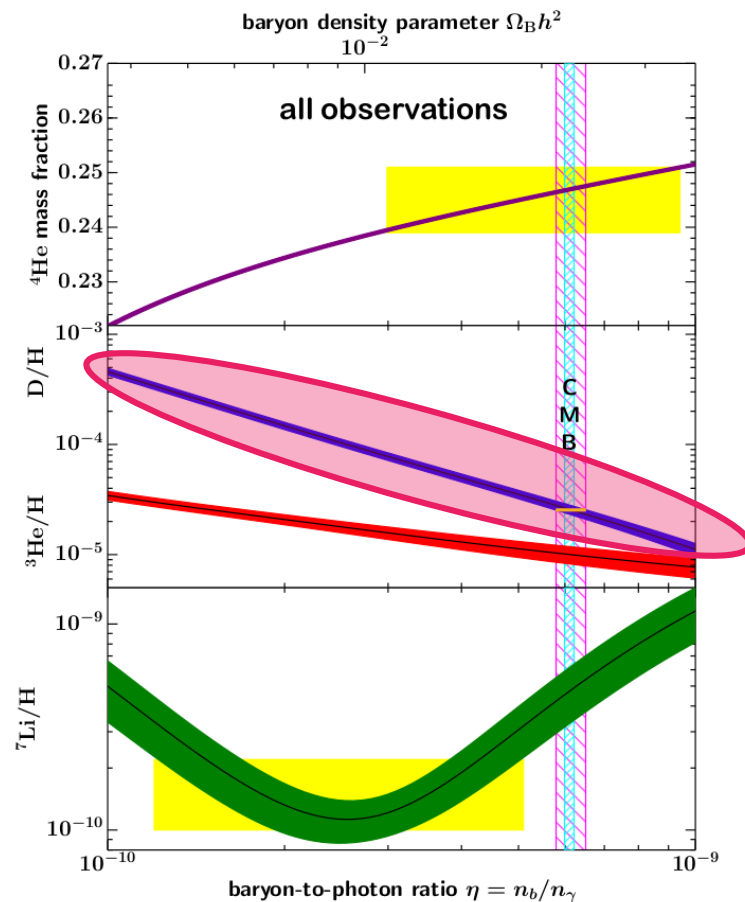
$\Omega_b h^2$

**BBN**

Termonuclear  
rates

Astroparticle

Nuclear astrophysics



**Strong Deuterium sensitivity to the cosmic baryon density!!!**

# Big Bang Nucleosynthesis: ${}^2\text{H}(p,\gamma){}^3\text{He}$ reaction

The primordial deuterium abundance  $[D/H]$  can be obtained by:

- ❖ Direct astronomical observation:  $[D/H] = (2.527 \pm 0.030) \times 10^{-5}$

*Cooke et al, APJ 855 (2018) 102*

- ❖ From BBN theory knowing the cosmological parameters and nuclear cross sections:  
 $[D/H]_1 = (2.439 \pm 0.052) \times 10^{-5}$ ,  $[D/H]_2 = (2.587 \pm 0.055) \times 10^{-5}$

*Planck 2018, A&A 641 (2020) A6*

Reaction	$\Delta {}^2\text{H}/\text{H} \cdot 10^5$
$p(n, \gamma){}^2\text{H}$	$\pm 0.002$
${}^2\text{H}(p, \gamma){}^3\text{He}$	$\pm 0.062$
${}^2\text{H}({}^2\text{H}, n){}^3\text{He}$	$\pm 0.020$
${}^2\text{H}({}^2\text{H}, p){}^3\text{H}$	$\pm 0.013$

Valentino et al.,  
PhyRevD 2014

**For several years d+p needed!**

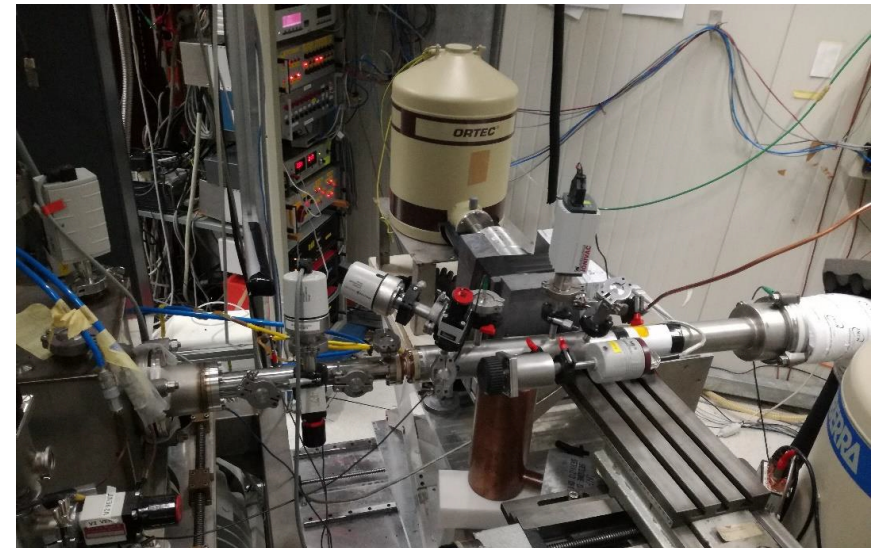
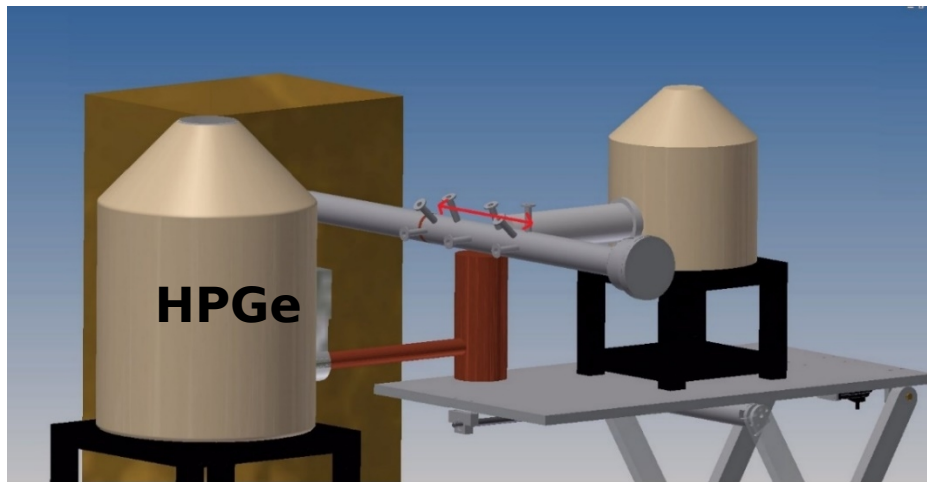
**Comparing  $[D/H]_{\text{obs}}$  with  $[D/H]_{\text{BBN}}$  is possible to derive the barion density  $\Omega_b h^2$  and/or number of neutrino species  $N_{\text{eff}}$**

# The $^2\text{H}(p,\gamma)^3\text{He}$ reaction

Direct measurement at BBN energies at LUNA laboratory (LNGS, Italy)

Measurement goal:

- Cross section measurement with  $\sim 3\%$  accuracy
- $E_{\text{cm}} = 30\text{--}300\text{ keV}$



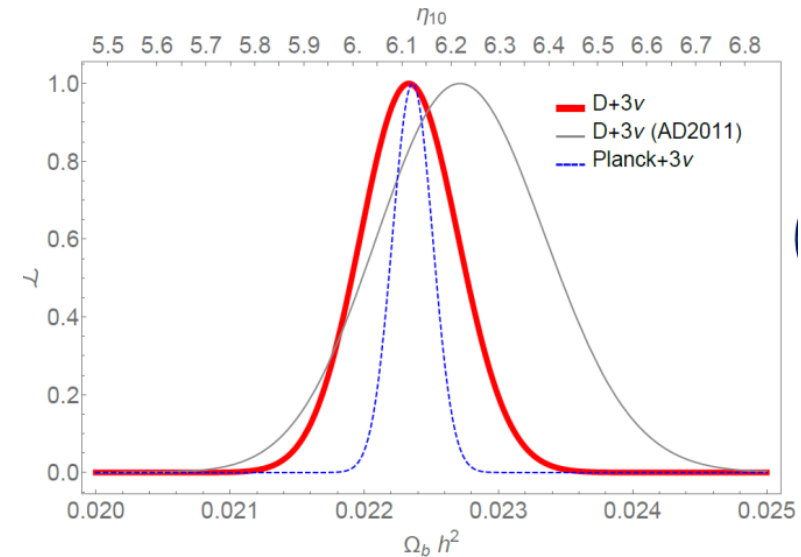
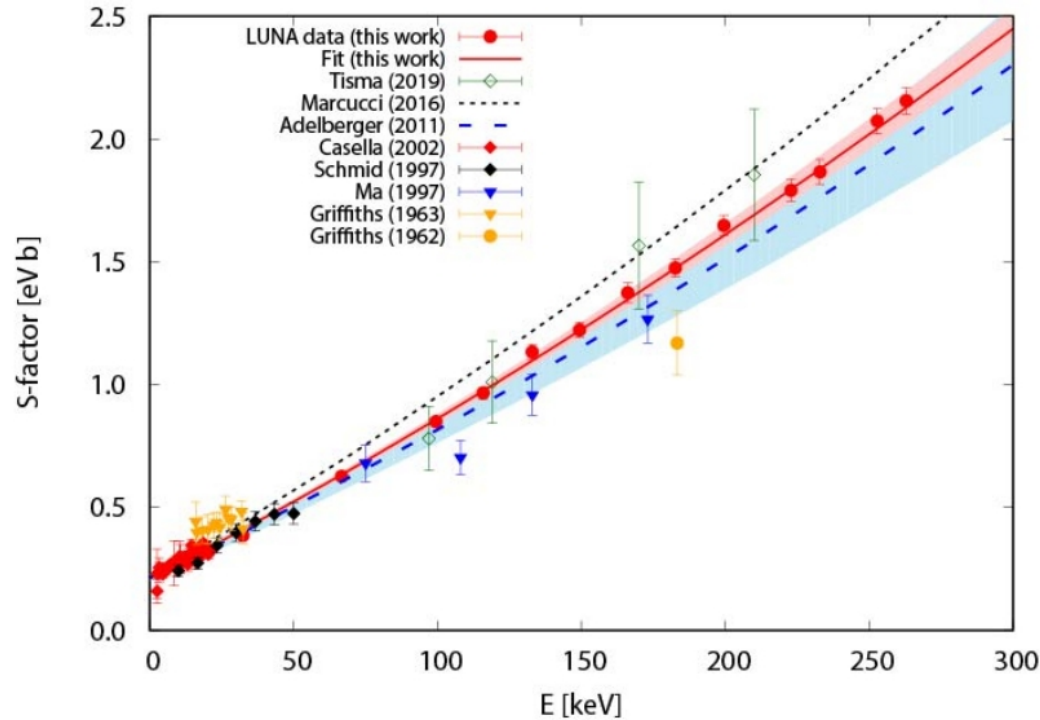
Extended windowless gas target setup



# The $^2\text{H}(p,\gamma)^3\text{He}$ reaction

## LUNA S-factor

Mossa *et al.* Nature volume 587, pages210–213 (2020)

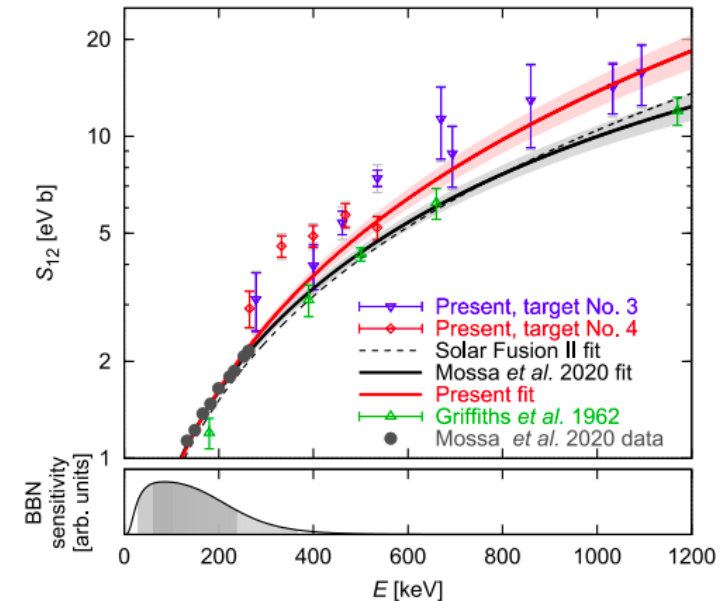
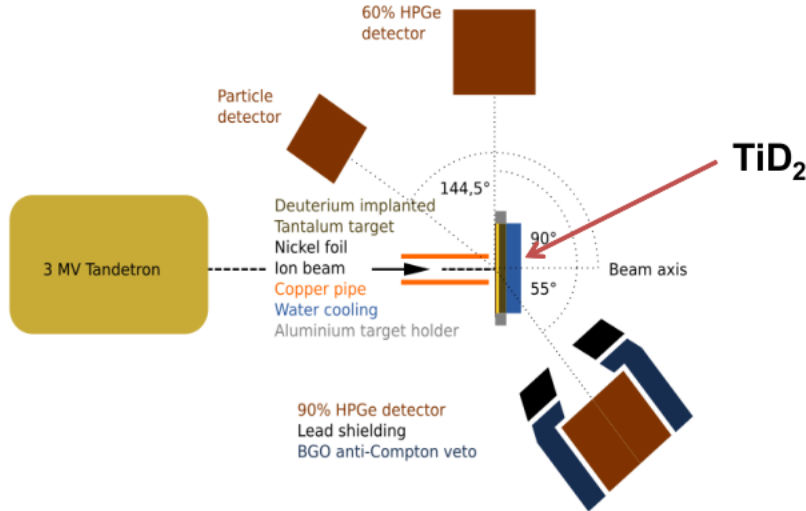


- ❖ BBN energy range fully covered,  $\sim 3\%$  uncertainty
- ❖ Barion density from BBN in perfect agreement with Planck data
- ❖ Ab initio theory needs revision??

# The $^2\text{H}(p,\gamma)^3\text{He}$ reaction

Turkat *et al. Phys. Rev. C* 103, 045805 (2021)

## Direct measurement above 400 keV at HZDR



## Main issues:

- Target composition and stability ( $\text{TiD}_2$ )
- Laboratory and beam induced background
- HZDR fit agrees within  $<1.2\%$  with LUNA fit in the BBN range
- For  $E_p > 400$  keV (HZDR data) discrepancies of  $10\%$  between LUNA and HZDR

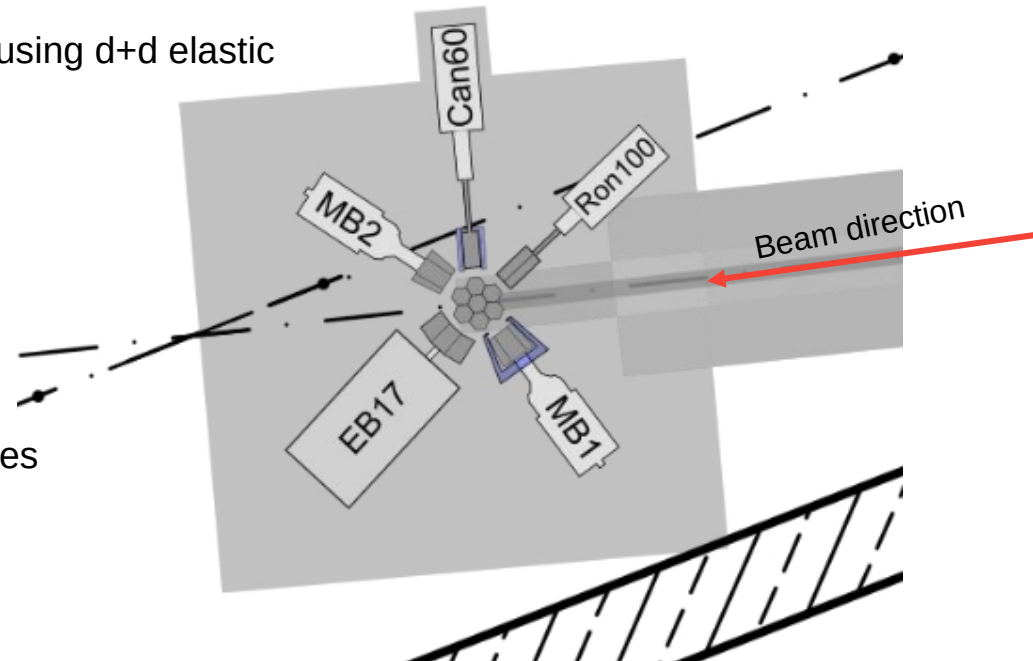
**LUNA - HZDR tension precision (!) data above 400 keV are needed !**

## Felsenkeller Goal:

Overlap with the LUNA and new data in the energy range  $E_p = (400 - 1200)$  keV,  
angular distribution measurements

## Solid target setup:

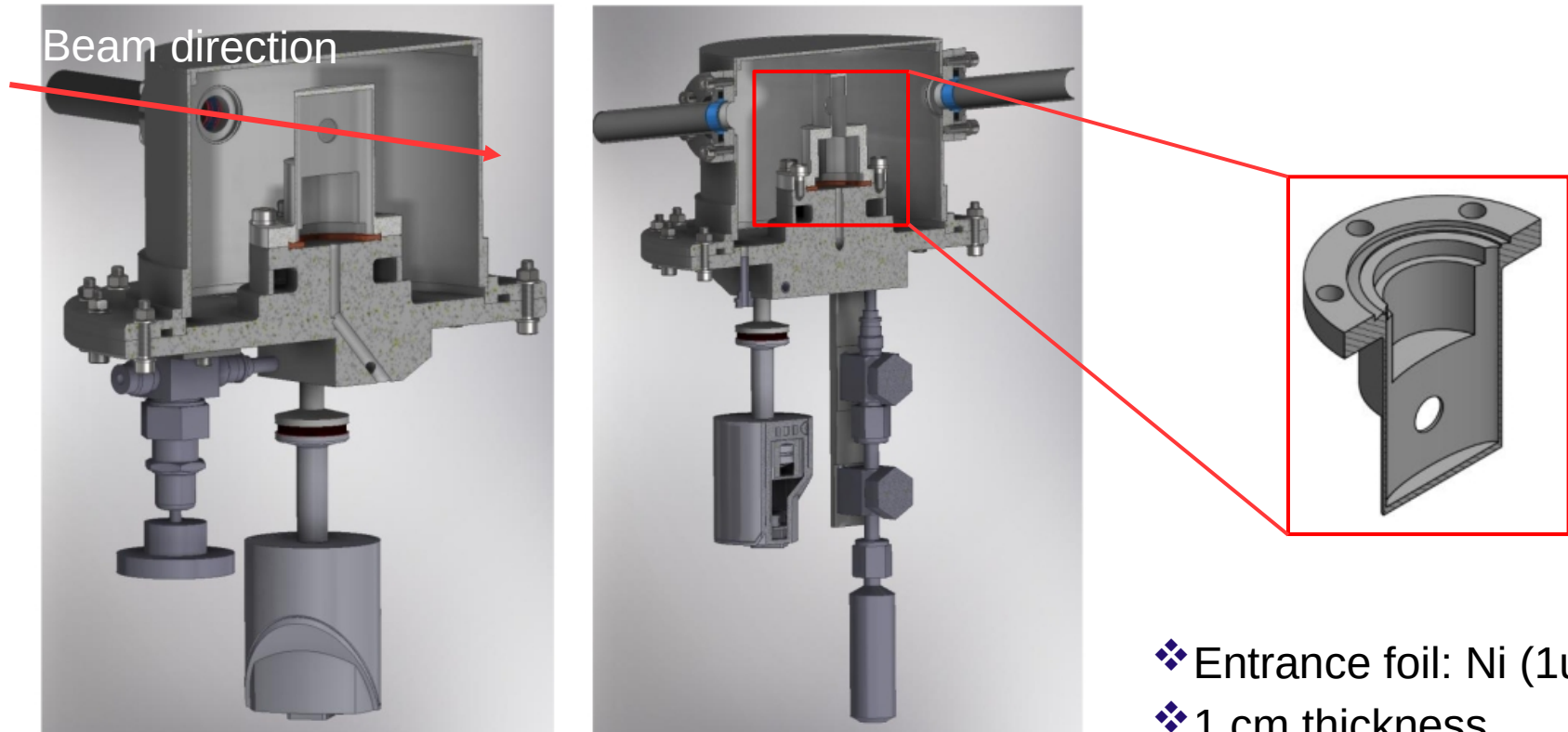
- ✓  $\text{ZrD}_2$  targets produced and characterized using d+d elastic scattering and  $^3\text{He}+\text{d}$  at LNL
- ✓  $\text{TiD}_2$  target produced in Rossendorf
- ✓ ERDA analysis for targets
- ✓ Possible in beam analysis
- ✓ 21 HPGe detectors to cover different angles



**Data taking: Next April 2023!**

# Development gas targets at Felsenkeller

## Gas-cell target

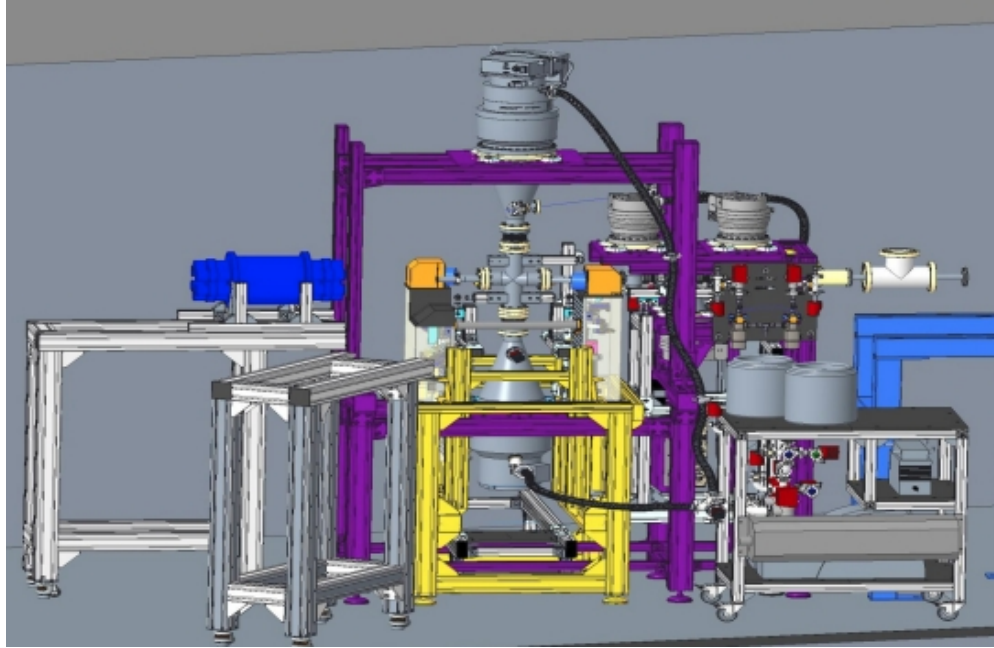


- ❖ One order of magnitude higher target thickness
- ❖ Target thickness can be monitored by pressure and temperature measurement
- ❖ Both angular and absolute cross section data!

- ❖ Entrance foil: Ni (1 $\mu$ m (!))
- ❖ 1 cm thickness
- ❖ Exchangeable cell

**Preliminary tests ongoing**

## Work in progress: Gas target (windowless and wall jet)



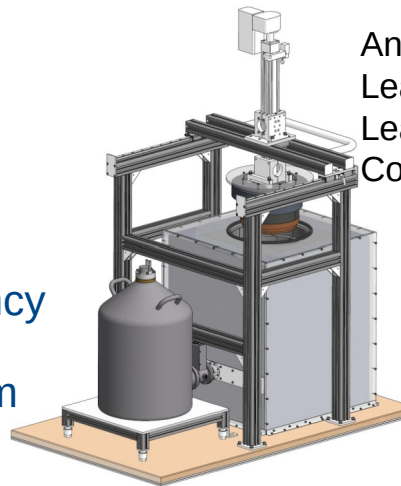
- ❖  $10^{18} \text{ cm}^{-2}$  wall jet thickness based on JENSA@ MSU
- ❖  $10 \times 10 \text{ mm}^2$  wall, 1 mm thick
- ❖ Target thickness measured by laser interferometry
- ❖ Windowless static gas target attached at the end (LUNA based)



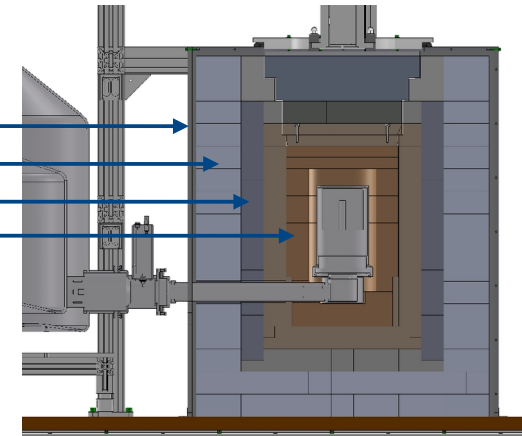
# Low-radiativity measurements at Felsenkeller

## TU1 detector

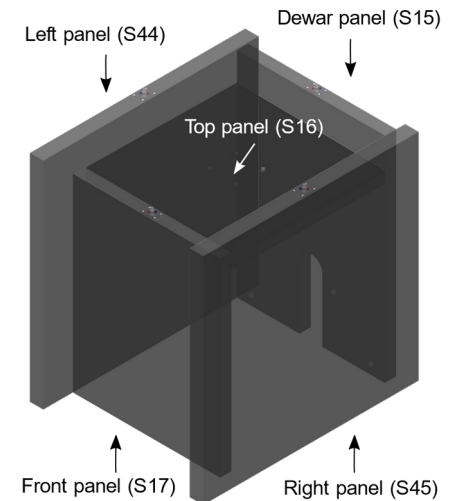
- ❖ Canberra GX 150-250-R (ULB)
- ❖ HPGe with 163% relative efficiency
- ❖ Diameter: 90 mm, Length: 90 mm



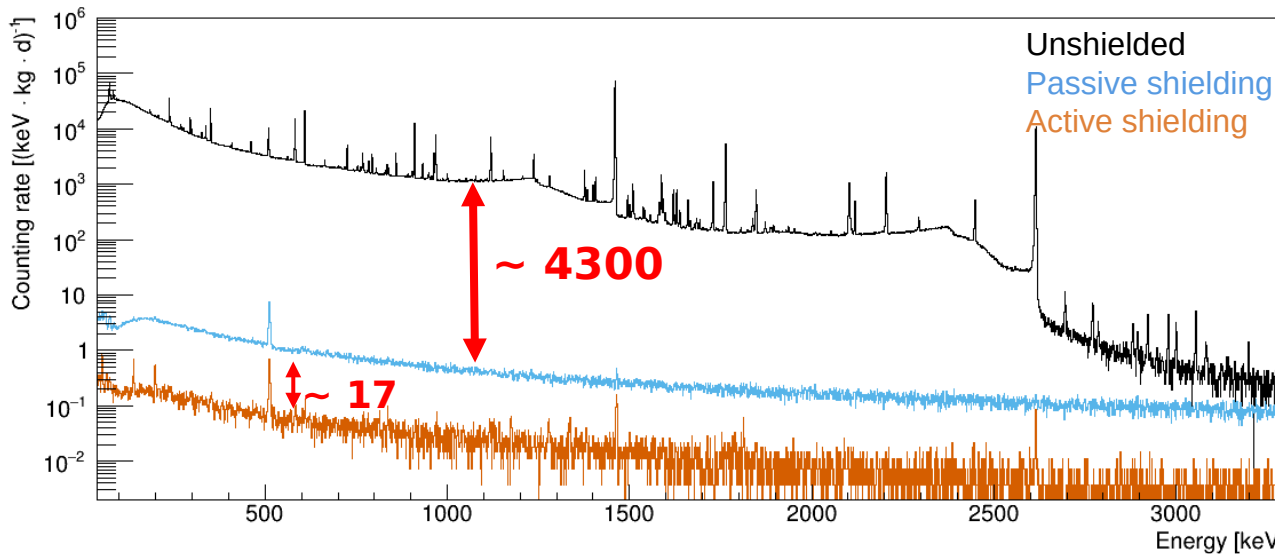
Anti-radon box  
Lead (21 Bq/kg)  
Lead (2.5 Bq/kg)  
Copper (OFRP)



Passive shielding



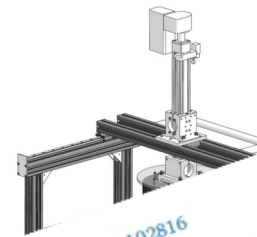
Active shielding  
Plastic muon veto detector



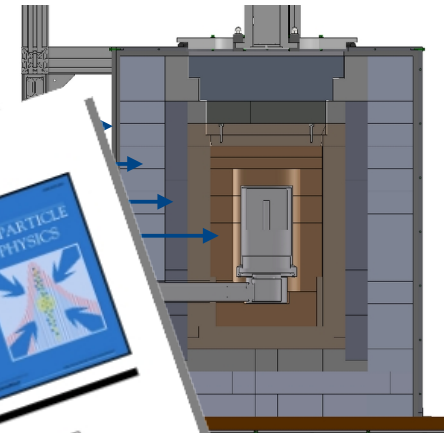
# Low-radiativity measurements at Felsenkeller

## TU1 detector

- ❖ Canberra GX 150-250-R (ULB)
- ❖ HPGe with 163% relative efficiency
- ❖ Diameter: 90 mm



Anti-radon box  
Lead (21 R<sub>0</sub>)  
Lead



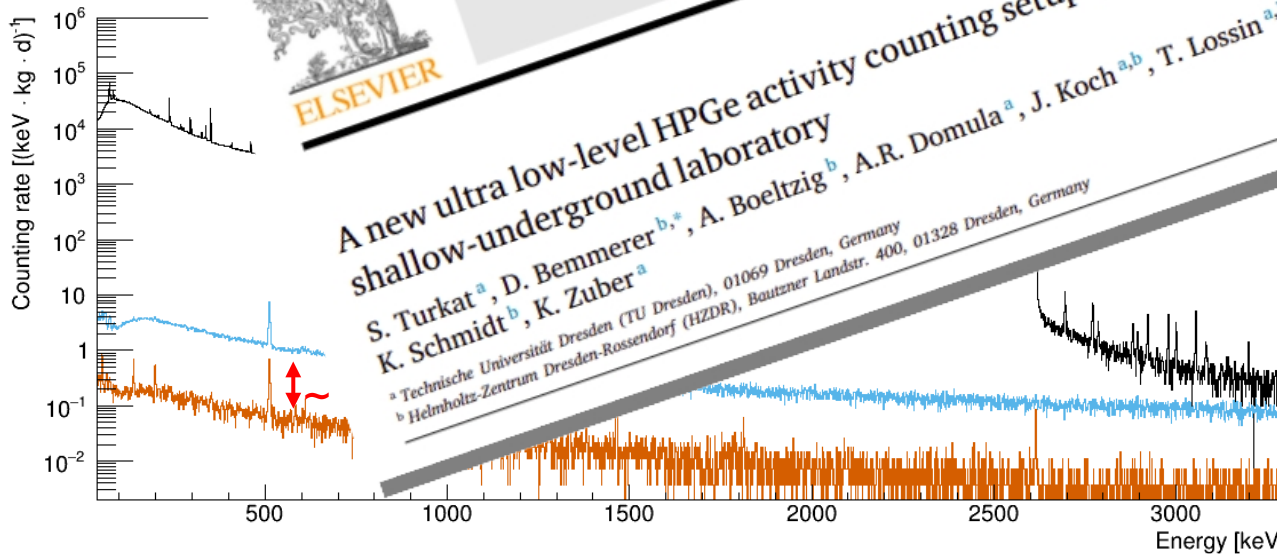
ne shielding

ar panel (S15)

Front panel (S17)

Right panel (S45)

Active shielding  
Plastic muon veto detector



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A new ultra low-level HPGe activity counting setup in the Felsenkeller  
shallow-underground laboratory  
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# Summary



- ❖ Felsenkeller in synergy with other facility/labs, beam time open for external proposals
- ❖ New data for the  $^{12}\text{C}(p,\gamma)^{13}\text{N}$  reaction above 370 keV
- ❖ First angular measurement data for the  $^3\text{He}(\alpha,\gamma)^7\text{Be}$  reaction
- ❖ Beam time at Felsenkeller open for external proposals (CheTEC INFRA proposal.
- ❖ New gas targets under study
- ❖ Unique HPGe detector for low background measurements at Felsenkeller