Status and new results of the νGeN experiment

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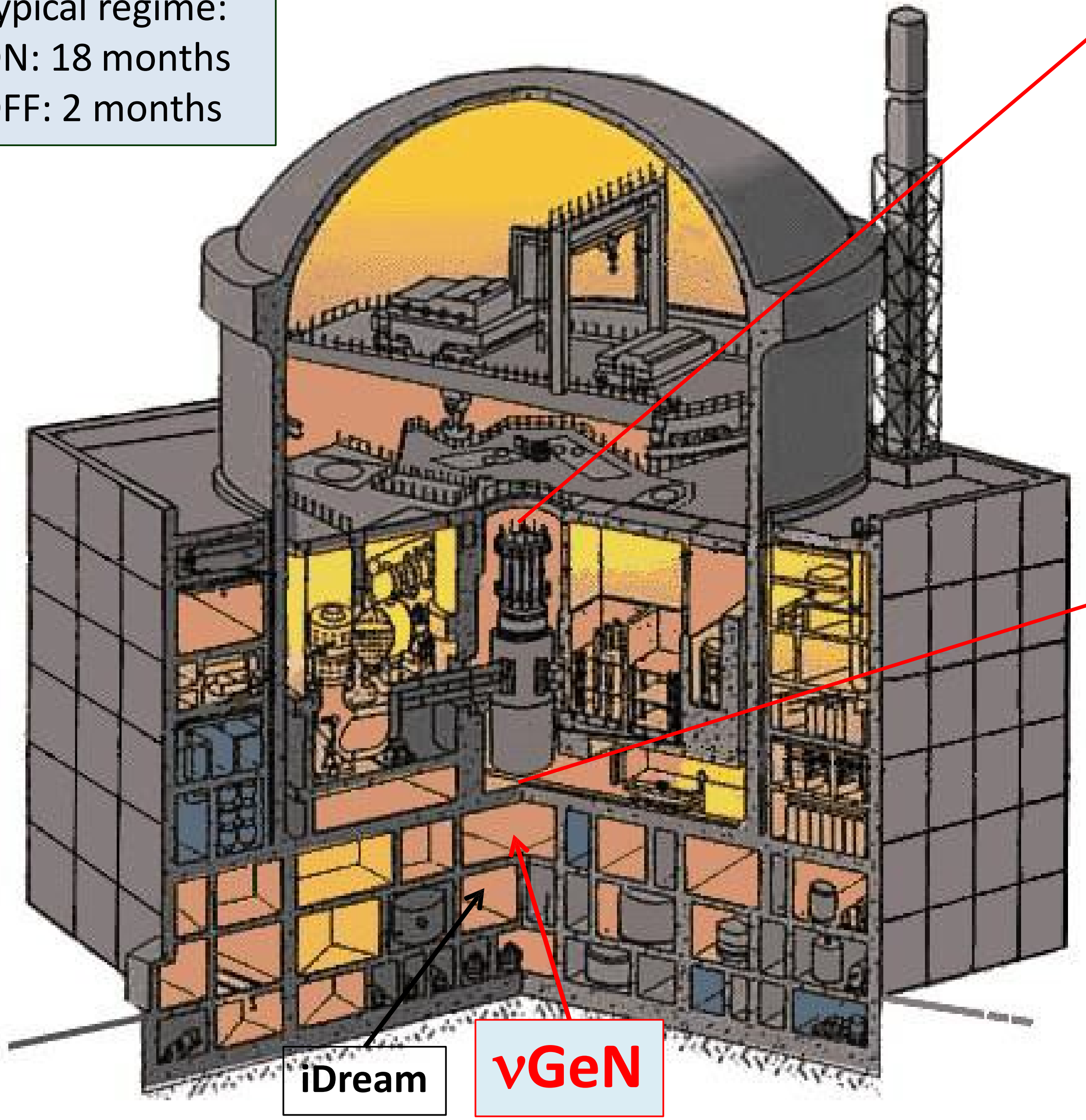
νGeN experiment is aimed to study neutrino scattering using antineutrinos from the reactor core of Kalinin Nuclear Power Plant (KNPP) at Udomlya, Russia. Main searches:

- Coherent elastic neutrino-nucleus scattering (CEvNS).
- Non-standard neutrino interactions.
- Magnetic moment of neutrino.
- Sterile neutrino.
- Other rare and exotics processes.
- Applied usage: reactor monitoring.

Reactor unit #3 @ KNPP

Typical regime:
ON: 18 months
OFF: 2 months



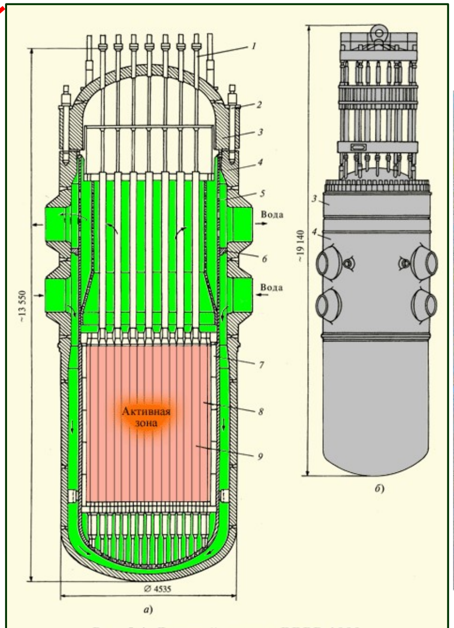


Рис. 5.4. Ядерный реактор ВВЭР-1000

KNPP #3

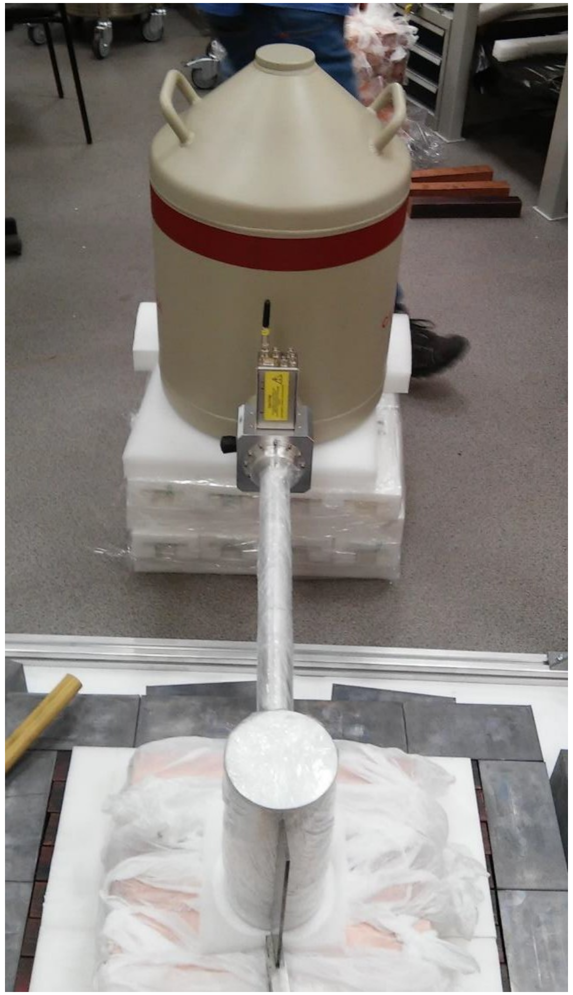
- Spectrometer **νGeN** is located under the reactor unit #3 (3.1 GW_{th} – thermal power)
- Distance to the center of the reactor core is about 11 m, this gives **> 4·10^{13} ν/(sec·cm^2)**
- Overburden ~ **50 m w.e.** – good shielding against cosmic radiation due to reactor's surrounding
- Good support from KNPP administration

Comparison of the reactor sites

Experiment	Location	Neutrino flux $\nu/(cm^2\ s)$	Overburden [m w. e.]
νGeN	KNPP, Russia	$\sim(3.6\text{-}4.4)\times10^{13}$	~50
CONUS	Brokdorf, Germany	2.4×10^{13}	10-45
TEXONO	Kuo-Sheng NPP, Taiwan	6.4×10^{12}	~30
RED-100	KNPP, Russia	1.7×10^{13}	>50
CONNIE	Angra 2, Brazil	7.8×10^{12}	0
RICOCHET	ILL, France	2×10^{12}	~15
MINER	Texas A&M, USA	2×10^{12}	~5
NUCLEUS	Chooz, France	2×10^{12}	~3
NCC-1701	Dresden-II, USA	4.8×10^{13}	-
NEON	Hanbit 6, Korea	7.1×10^{12}	~8
SBS	Laguna Verde, Mexico	3×10^{12}?	?

HPGe detector for νGeN

To detect signals from neutrino scattering we use a specially produced by CANBERRA (Mirion, Lingosheim) low-threshold, low-background HPGe detectors. The detectors are chilled by electric and nitrogen types of cooling. At the moment, only one detector with a mass of 1.4 kg and e-cooling is used for the detection at KNPP.



Current scheme of νGeN shielding

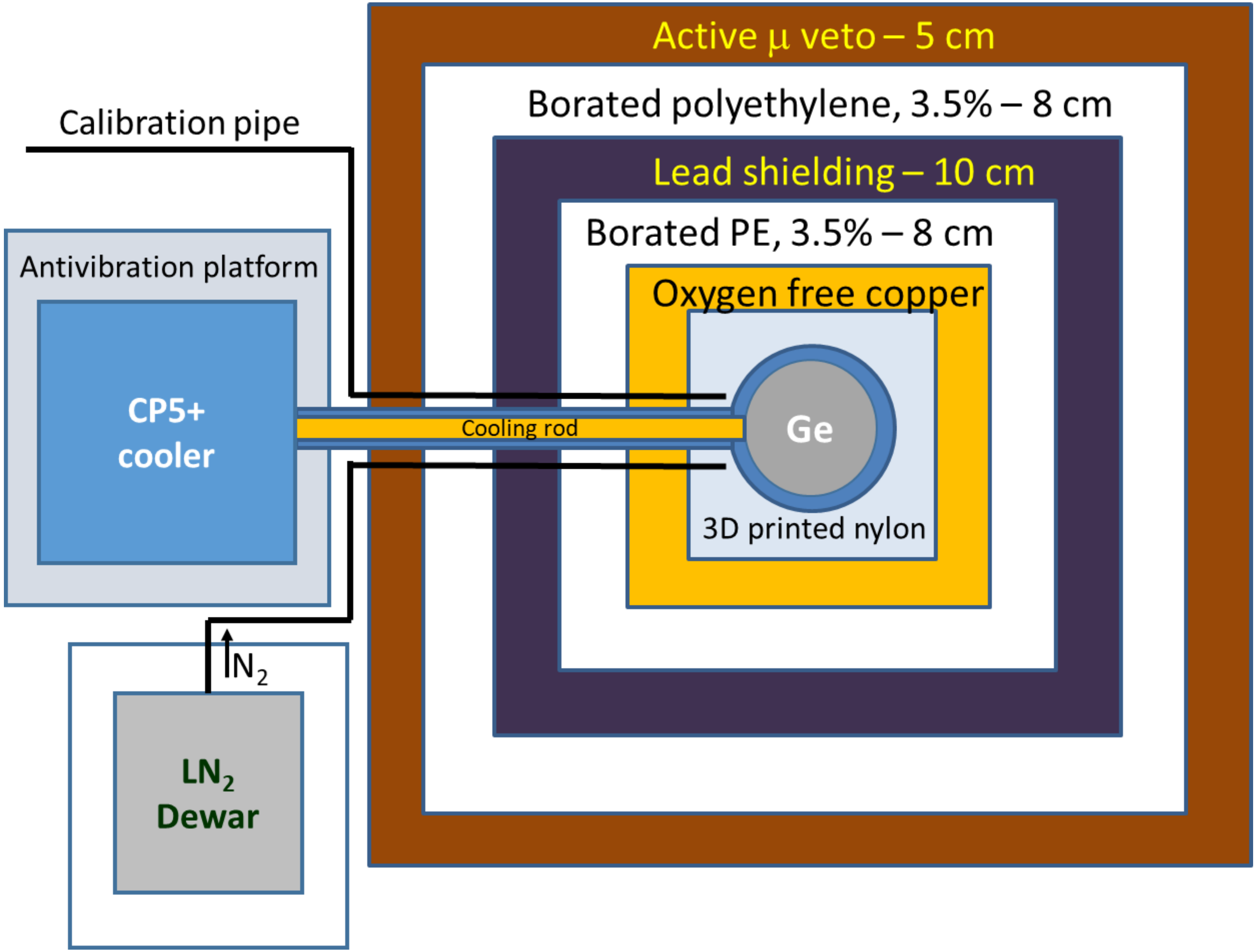
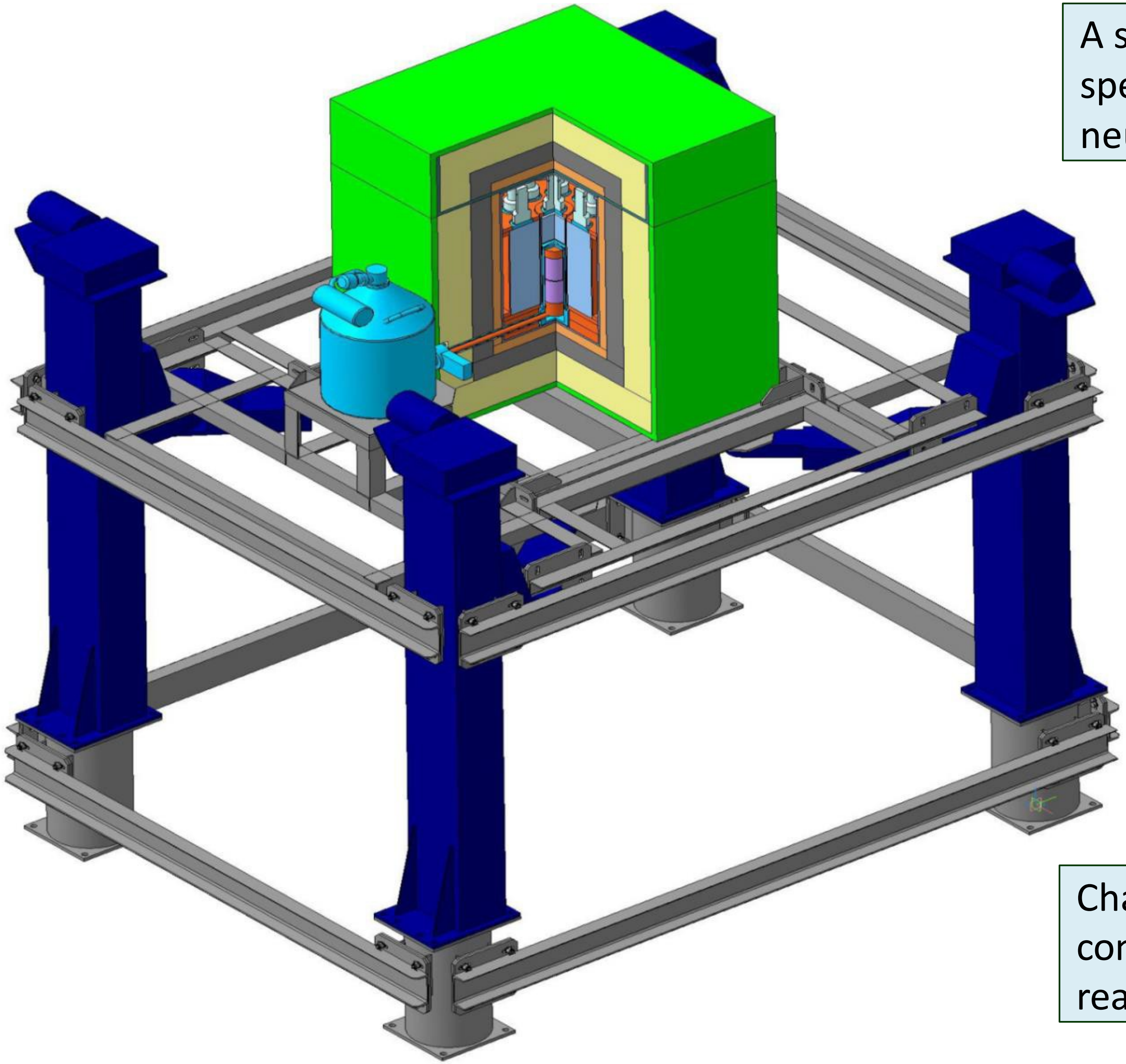


Photo from installation at KNPP in 11.2019

νGeN @ KNPP – lifting mechanism



A special lifting mechanism has been installed to move the spectrometer towards the reactor core to change the neutrino flux through the detector.

11.09 m – top position (current)

12.14 m – first position

~12.5 m – lower position

Distances to the center of reactor core:

Changes of the ν flux help to suppress systematic errors connected with changes of the background while the reactor ON/OFF

Control of experimental conditions

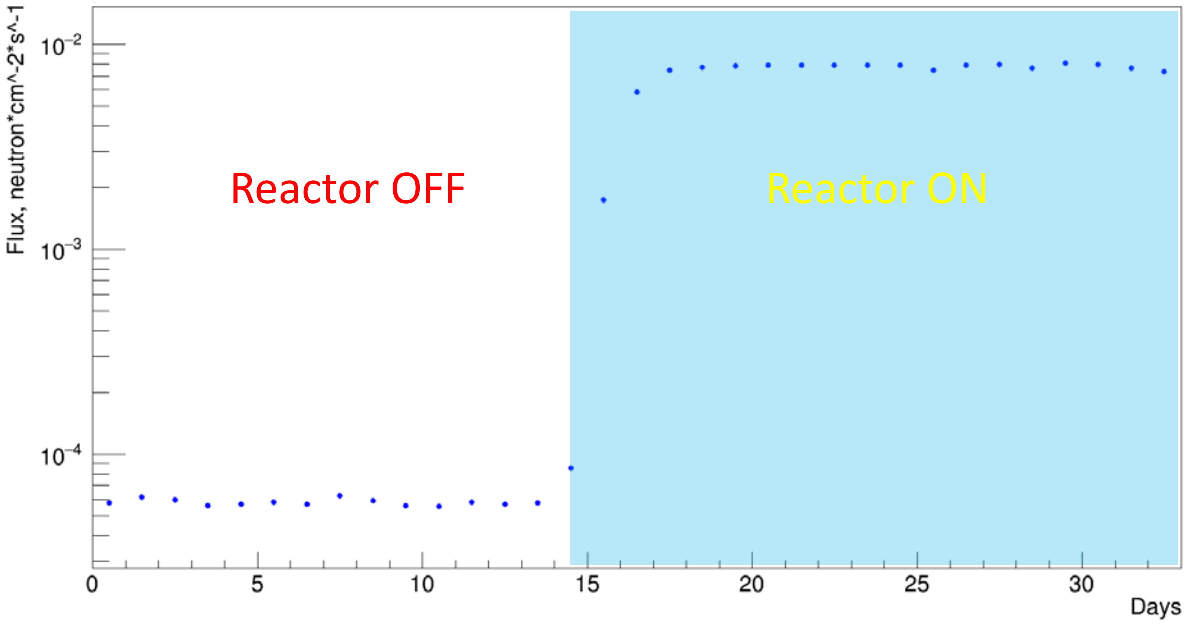
- The stable measurement conditions are very important, because instabilities can change amplification and noise level.
- Cosmogenic activation products slowly decay in time and have to be taken into account during analysis.

✓ Air temperature condition in the experimental hall is stabilized by three air-conditioners.

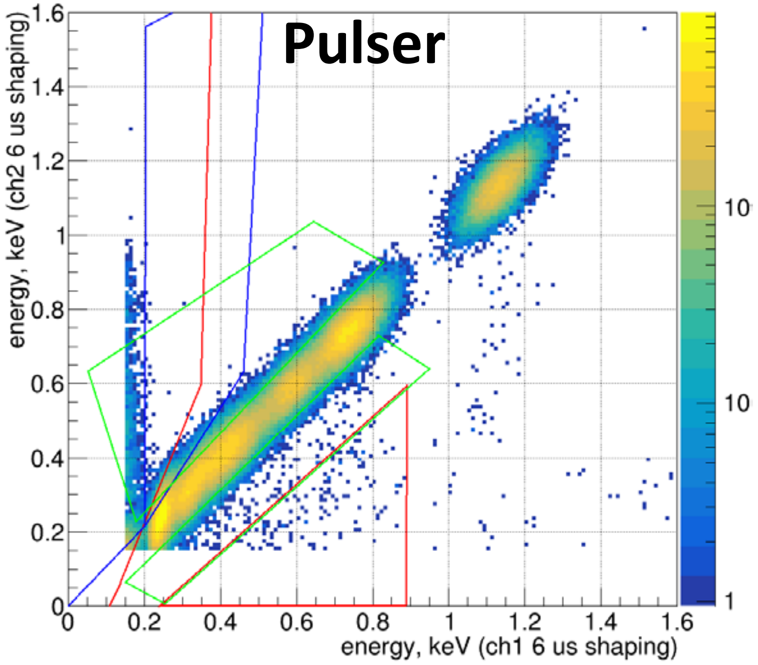
✓ Temperature and humidity are constantly monitored by two sensors.

✓ Neutron background outside shielding (fast and thermal) is measured by special low background He3 counter and NaI detector.

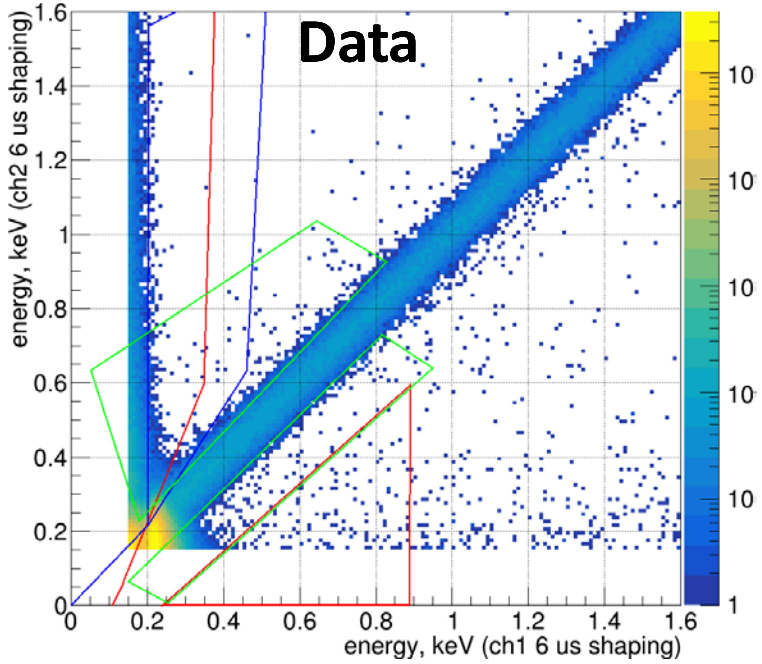
Thermal neutron flux outside of the shield



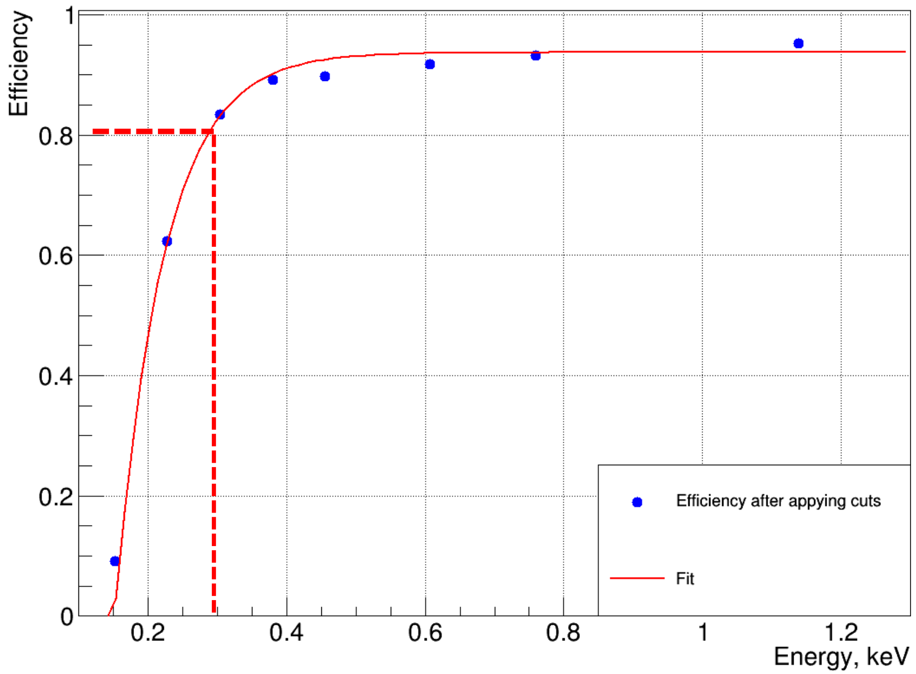
Noise cuts

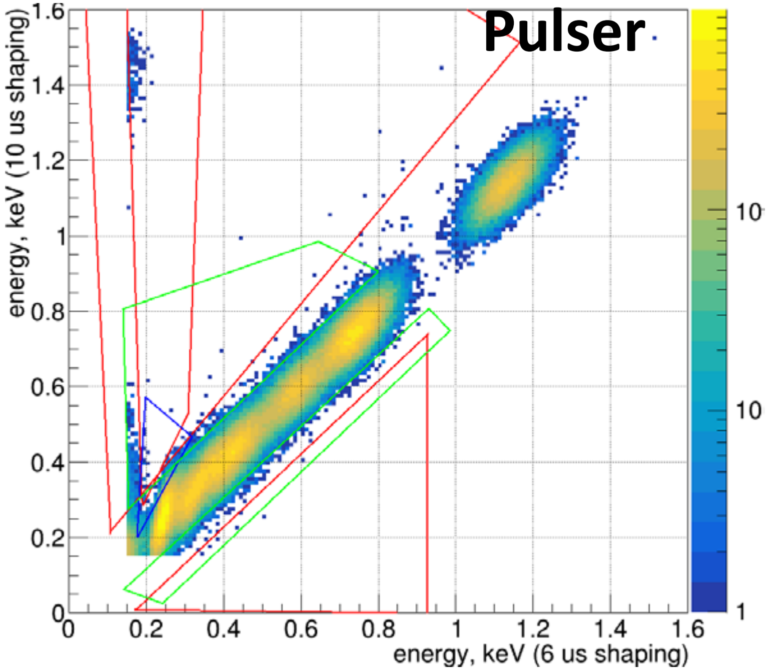


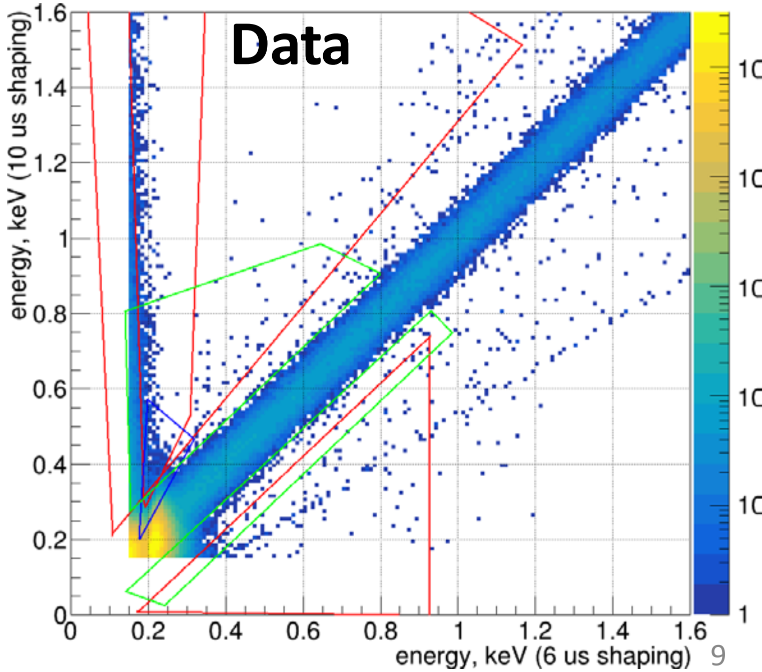
- Different shaping times of preamplifiers are used to suppress the noise with the help of graphical cuts.
- Time cuts allow to suppress signals generated by reset of the preamplifier and other artificial signals.
- Even at 200 eV efficiency is > 40% after applying cuts



Efficiency measured with pulse generator

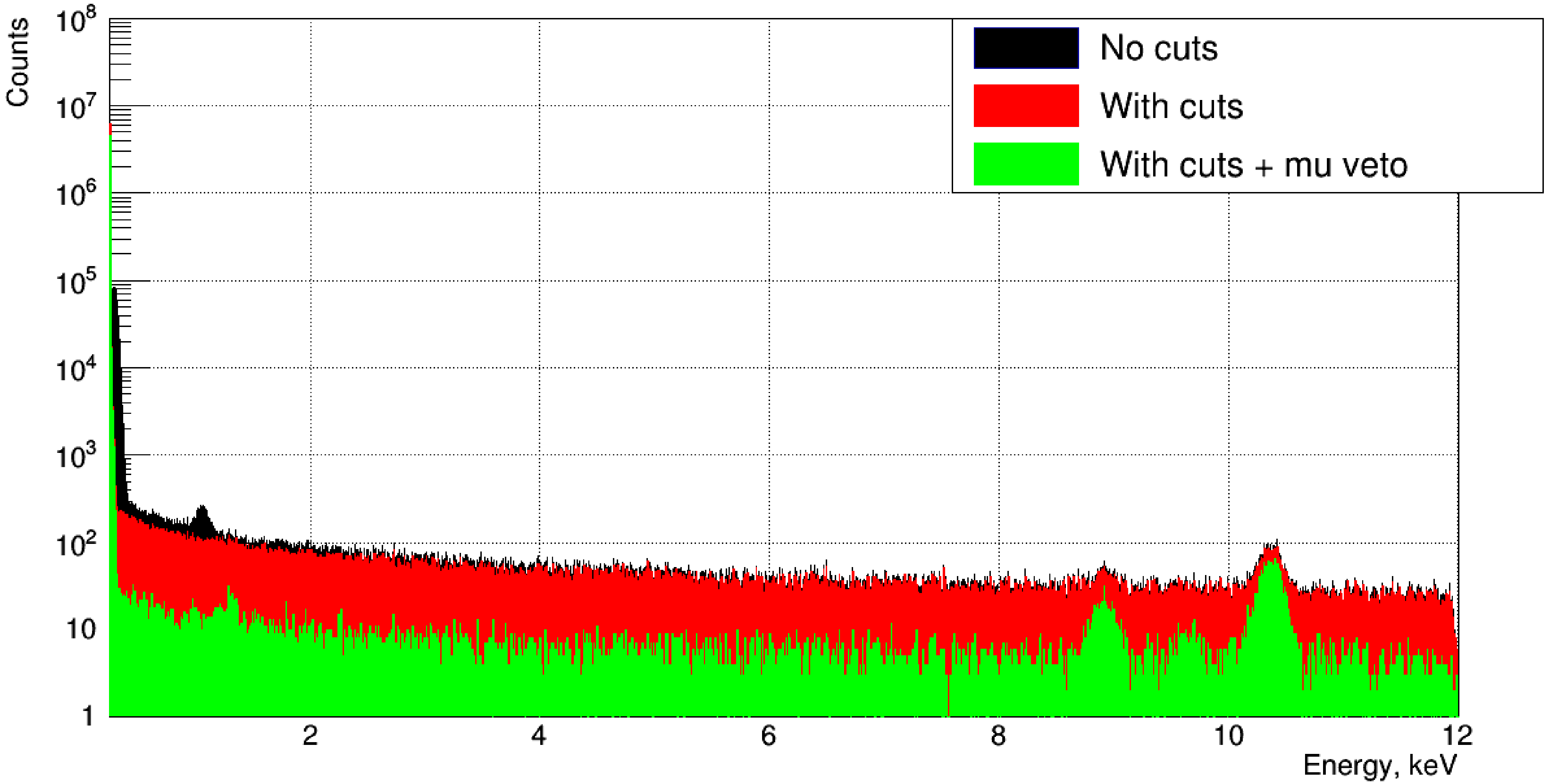




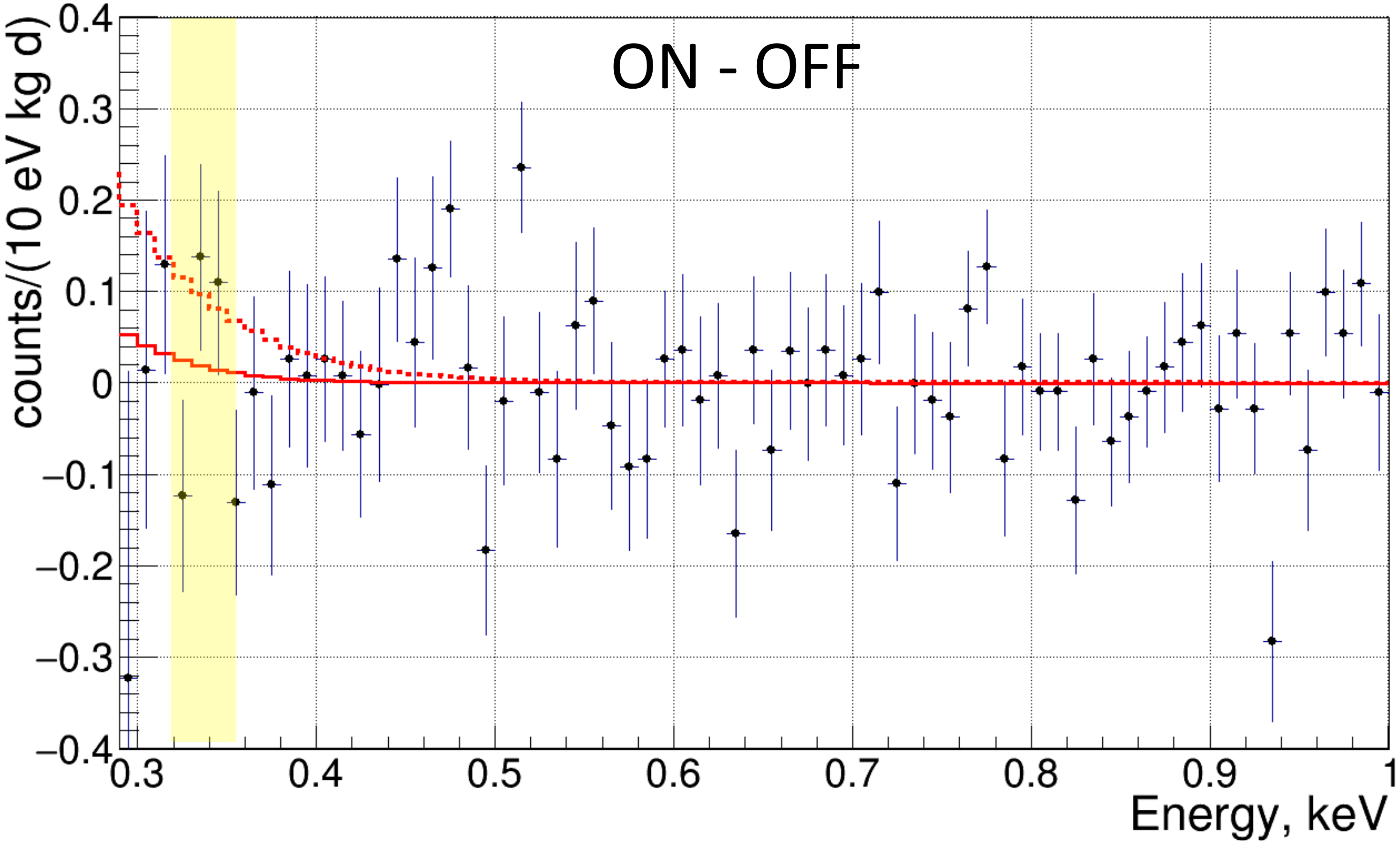


Muon veto & time cuts

- Coincidences with muon veto allow to suppress background connected with muons
- Efficiency of all cuts together with muon veto determined by 10.37 keV line is **85.3(19)%**



2022 ANALYSIS



Analysis of the first data showed no significant difference in background level during reactor ON (94 days) and OFF (47 days) regimes. Distance to the center of the reactor is 11.84m. No excess at low energy connected with the CEνNS has been observed. The upper limit on the quenching parameter k < 0.26 with 90% CL has been obtained (dashed line).
Red solid line for k = 0.179.

Published article

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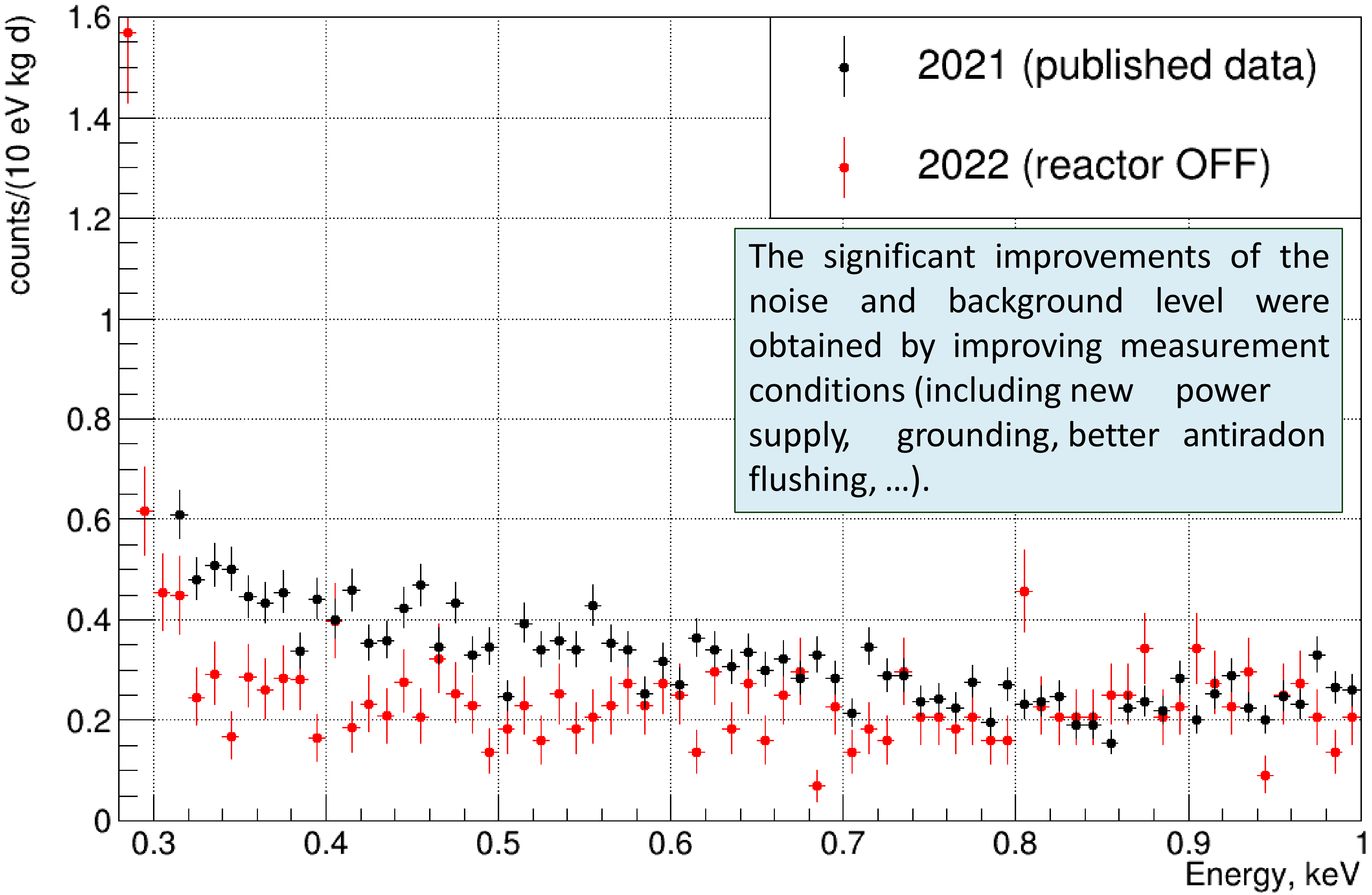
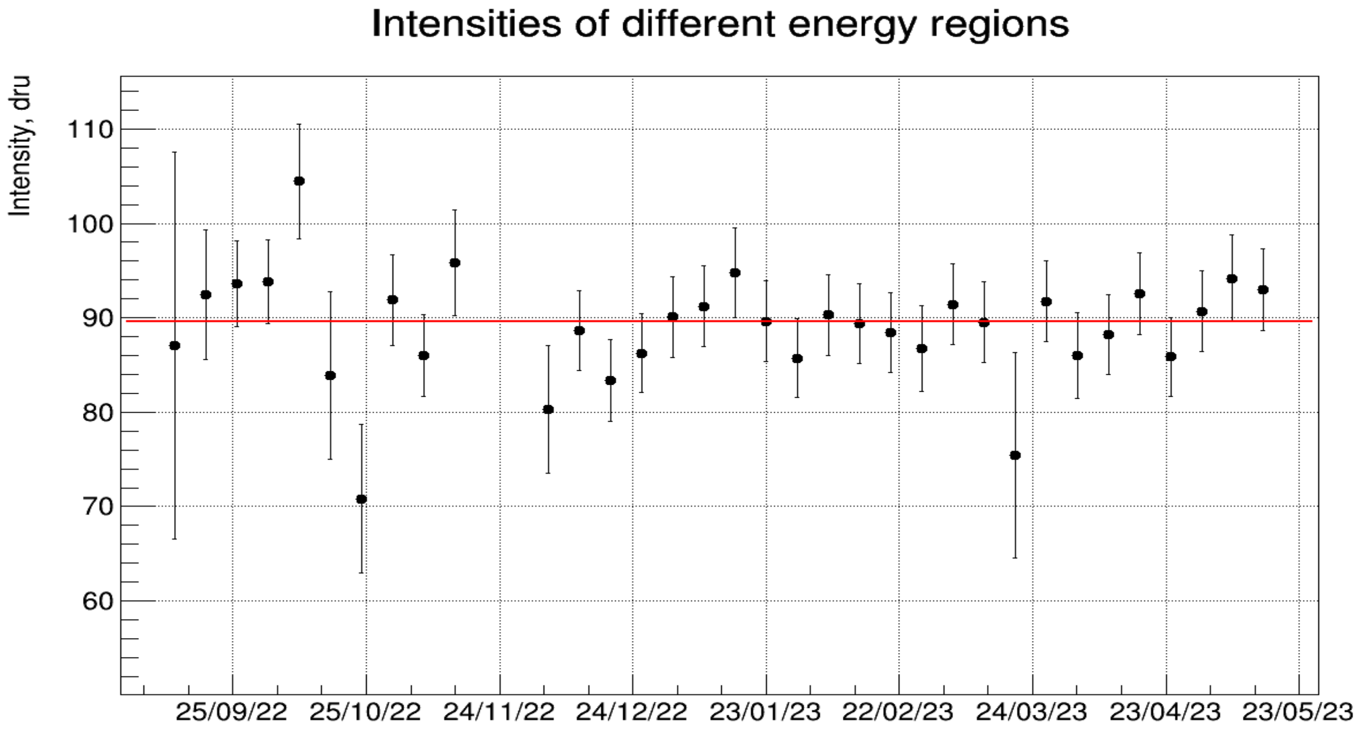
https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevD.106.L051101

	Counts in region [320..360] eV	Measurement time, days	Counts per kgd (stat. error only)
Reactor ON	**251**	**94.5**	**2.32 ± 0.15**
Reactor OFF	**126**	**47.1**	**2.34 ± 0.21**
ON-OFF			**-0.017 ± 0.255**
CEνNS, k = 0.26	**55**		**0.46**

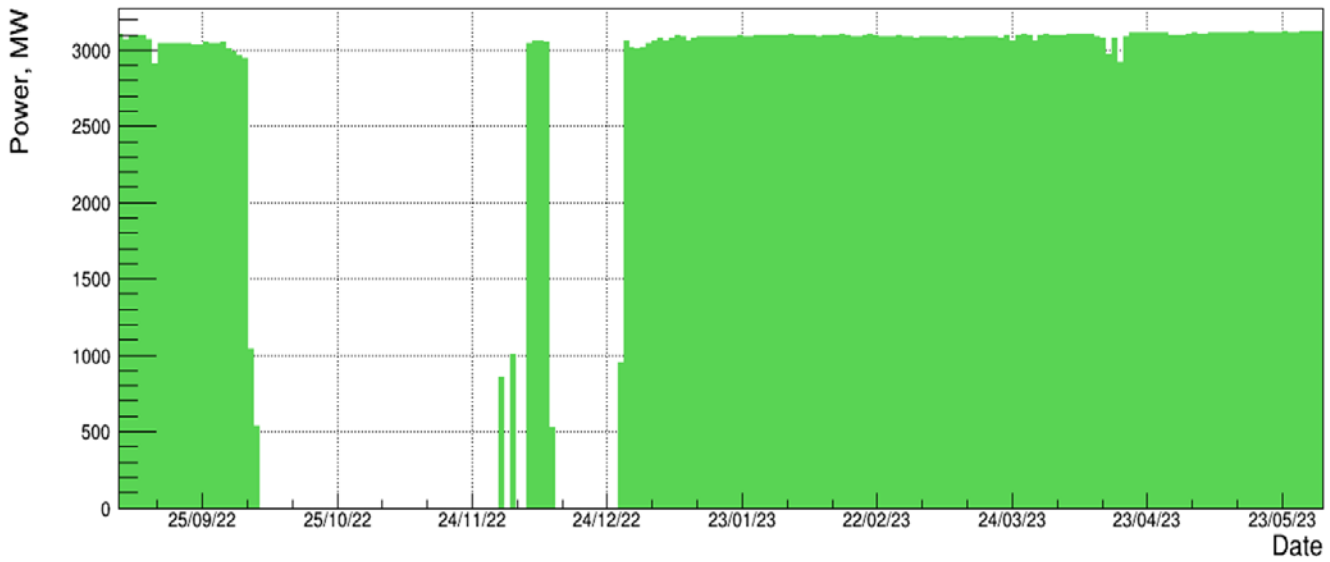


The significant improvements of the noise and background level were obtained by improving measurement conditions (including new power supply, grounding, better antiradon flushing, …).

Stability (after all cuts)



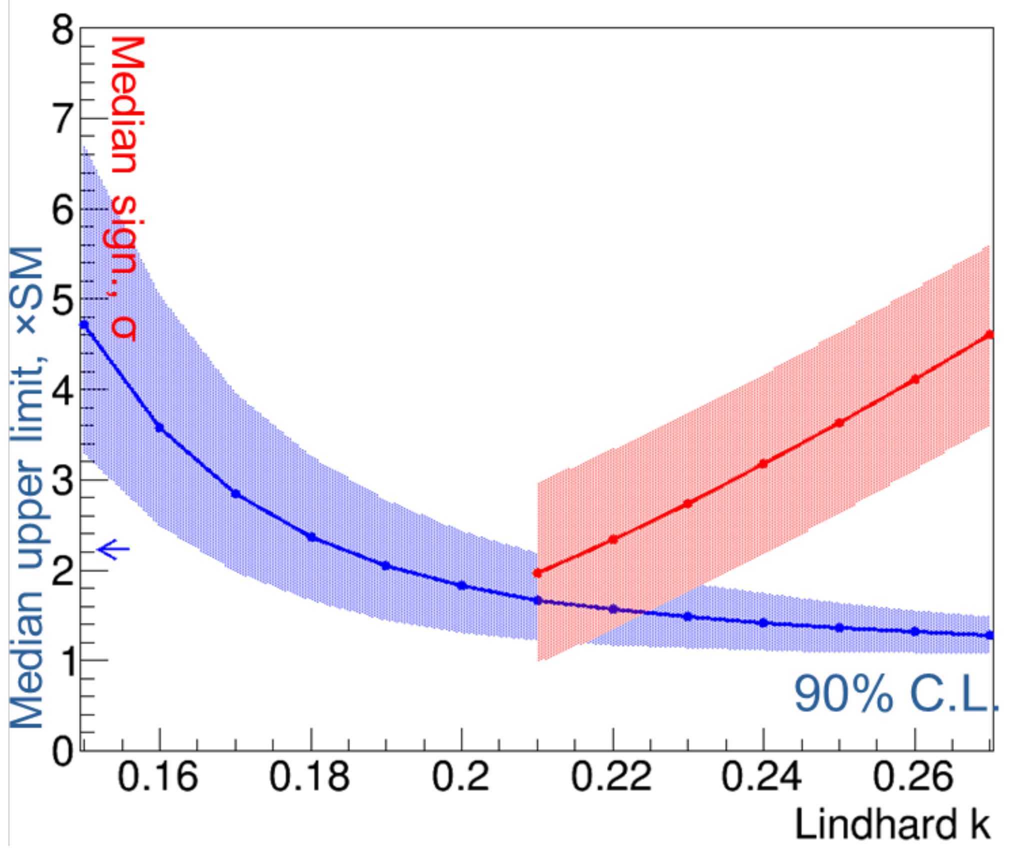
Chi2/NDf = 29.3/33

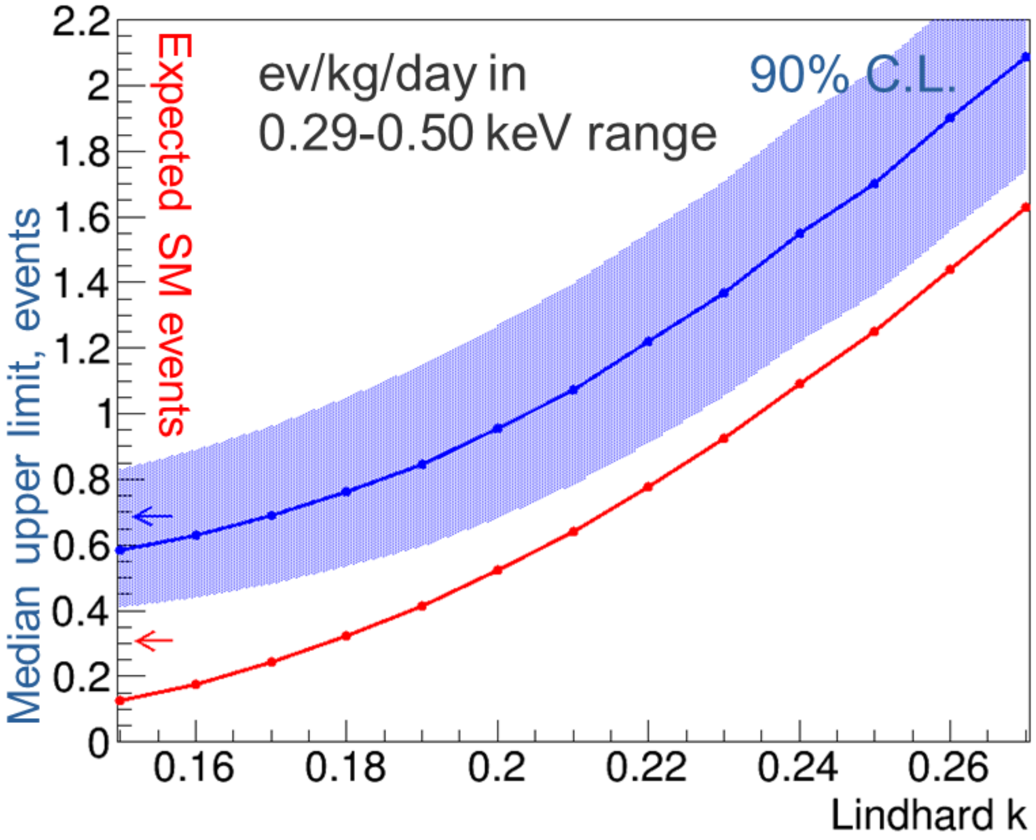


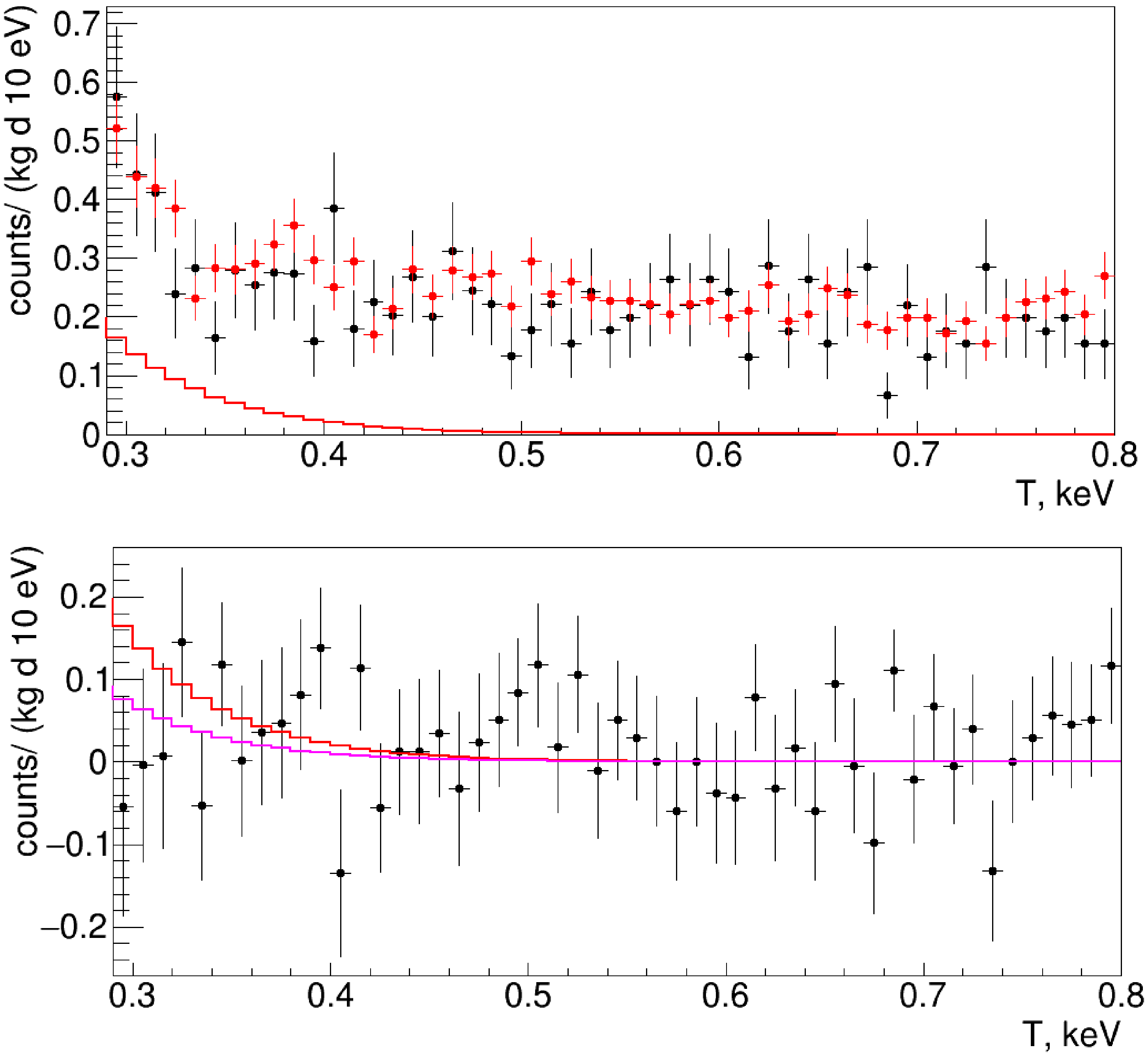
At the moment in the upper position we accumulated ON: 217 kgd and OFF: 55 kgd (after all cuts).

Sensitivity studies (preliminary)

Taking into account OFF spectrum (55 kgd) and Azimov data sets (generated spectra contains CEνNS signals + OFF, taken statistic equivalent to current real one – 217 kgd), we created a predictions for sensitivity for CEνNS.





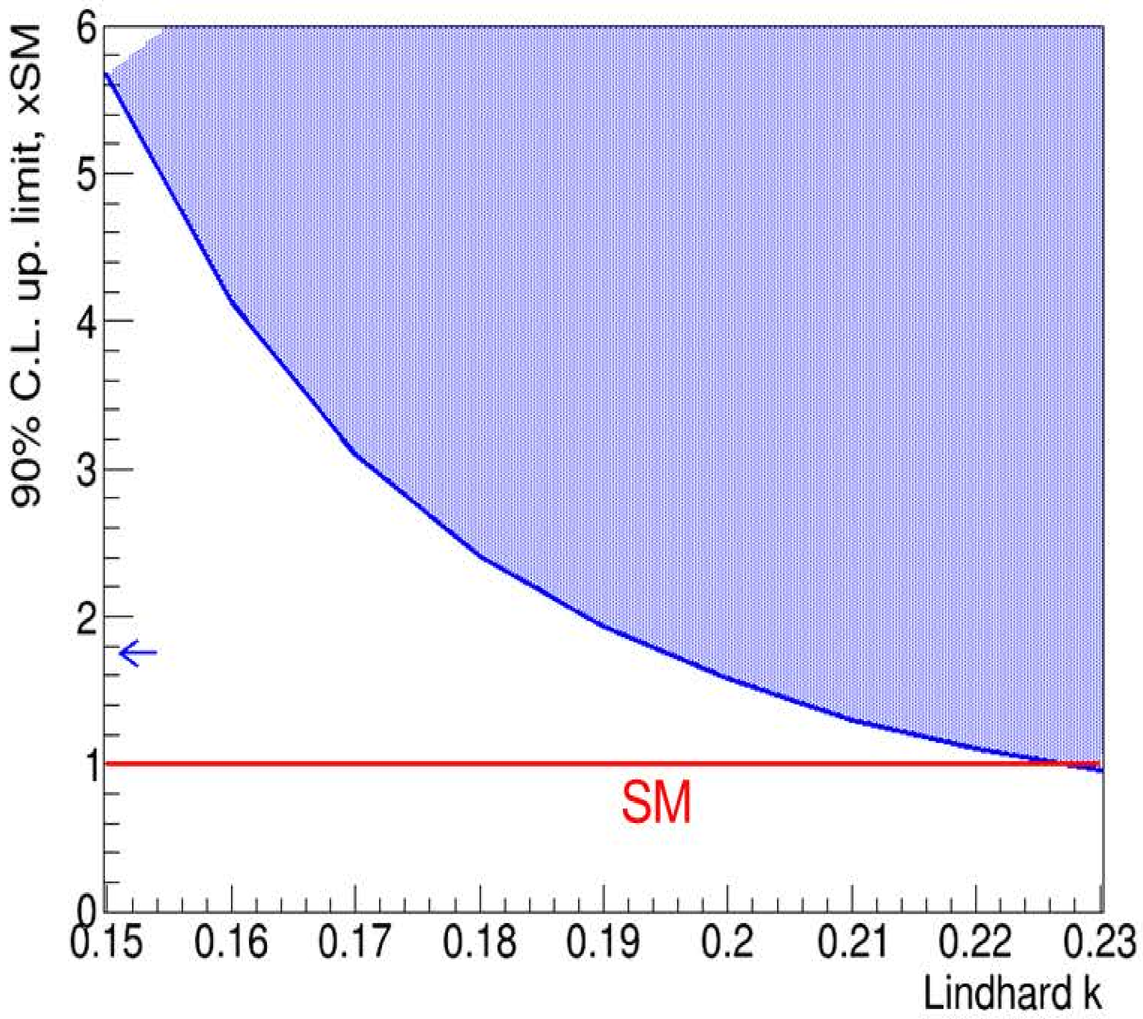


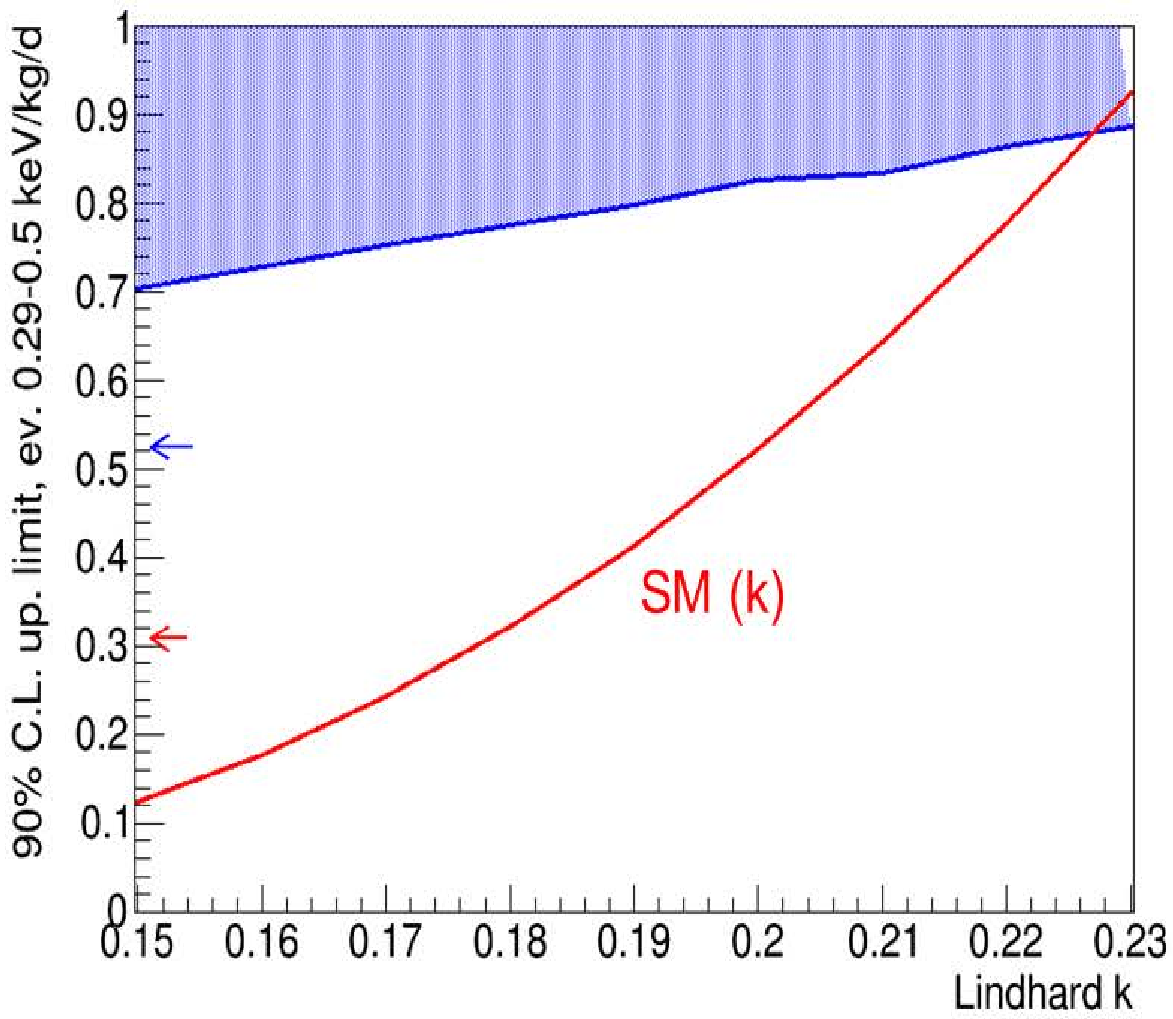
2023 ANALYSIS (preliminary)

There are no significant difference in low energy spectra during reactor ON (154 days) and OFF (39 days).

Red solid line – expected CEvNS spectra.
Purple line – best fit

Limits (preliminary)





The upper limit on the quenching parameter k < 0.23 with 90% CL has been obtained.

Plans

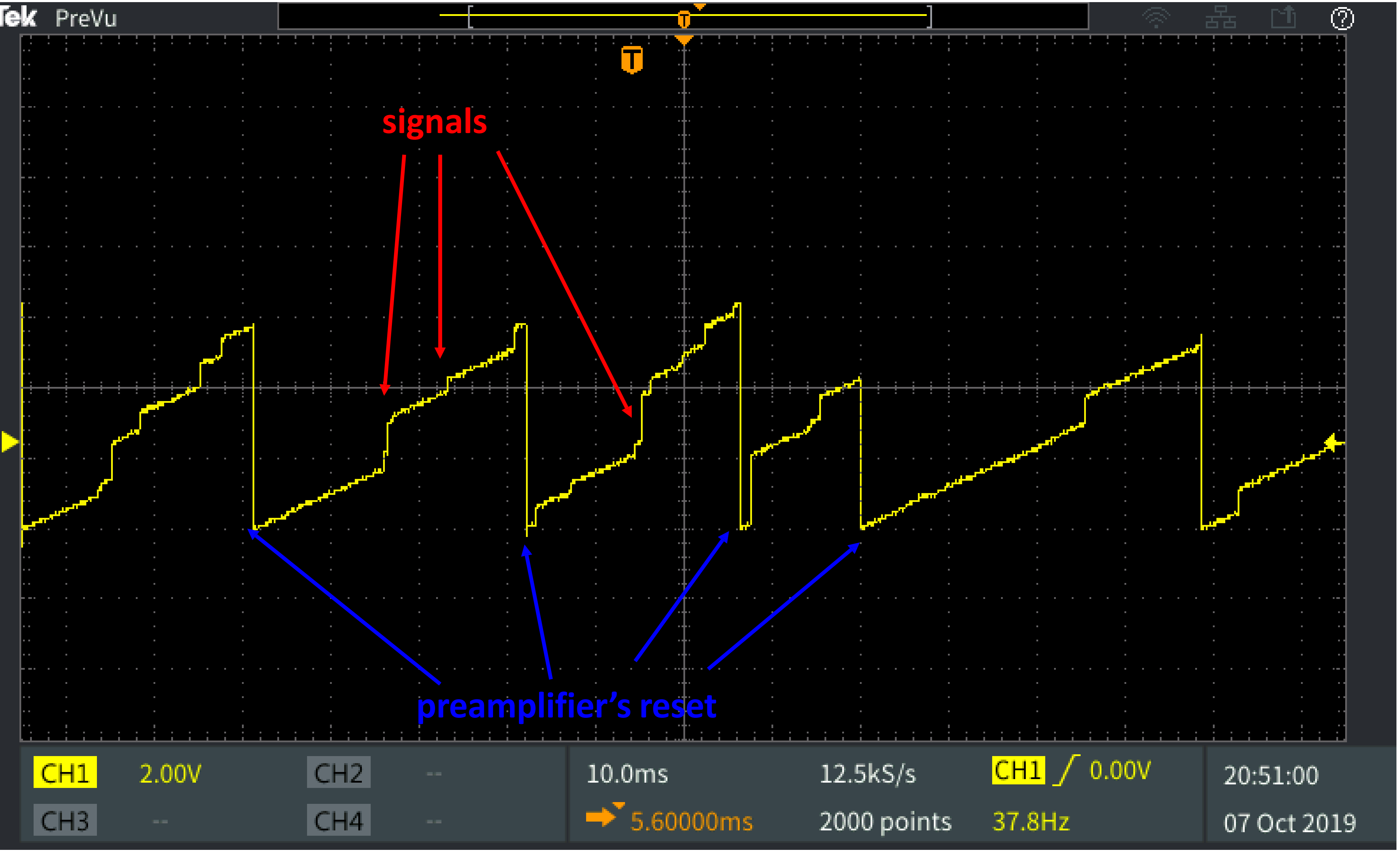
- Continue measurements with the νGeN spectrometer at Kalinin Nuclear Power Plant
- Combination of the datasets in middle and upper position.
- Accounting for systematic errors in the analysis.
- New digitizer-based DAQ.
- Noise reduction.
- Inner veto-system.
- …..

Conclusion

- Good performance and stability were observed during measurements. No significant difference between regimes with reactor ON and OFF due to CEvNS has been observed so far.
- More than 1200 kgd of data has been accumulated so far.
- The optimization of data taking is performed as well. New results in the upper position with more statistics are expected soon.
- The limit on the $k<0.23$ factor is obtained.

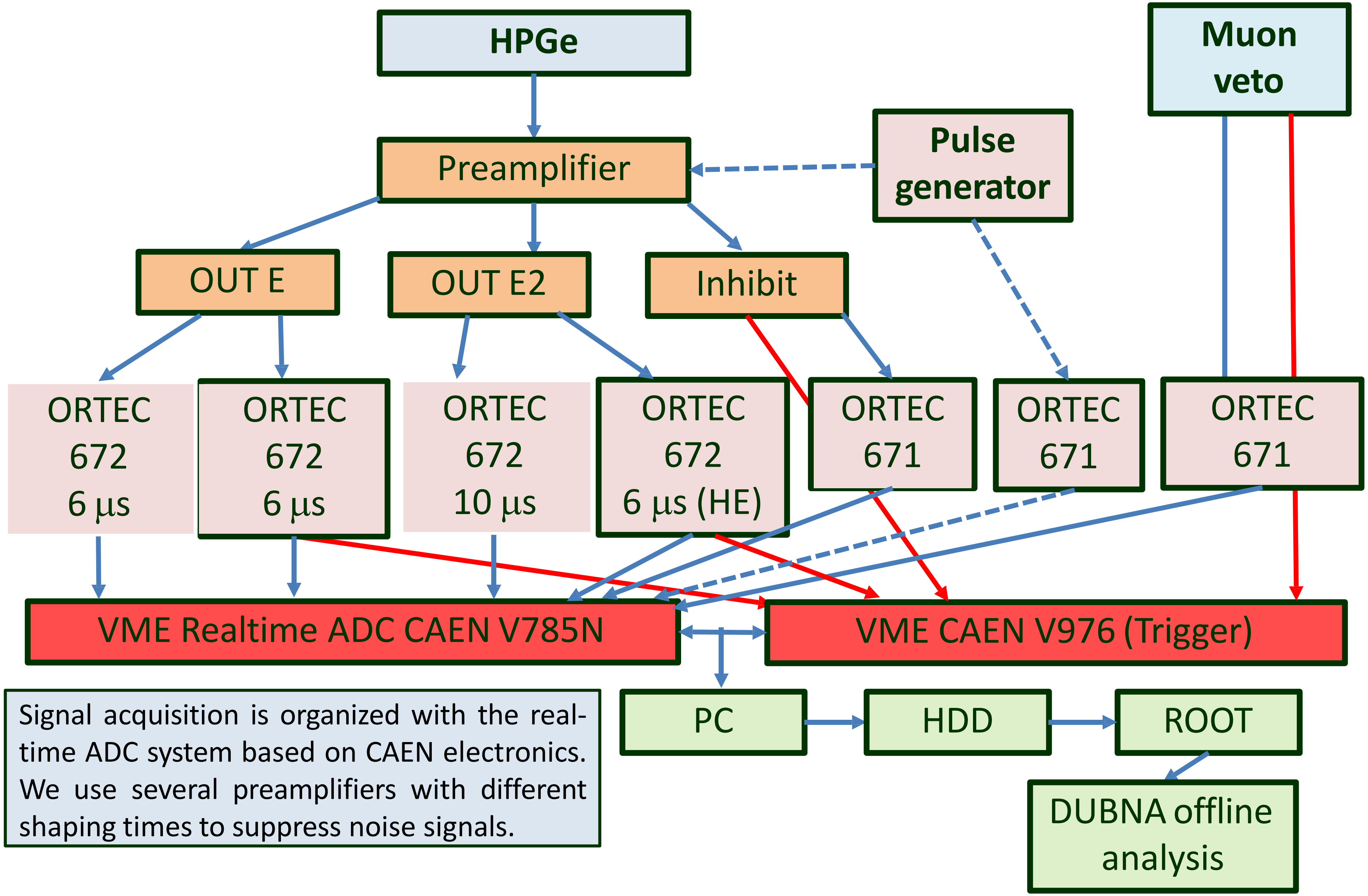
Backup slides

Signals from detector

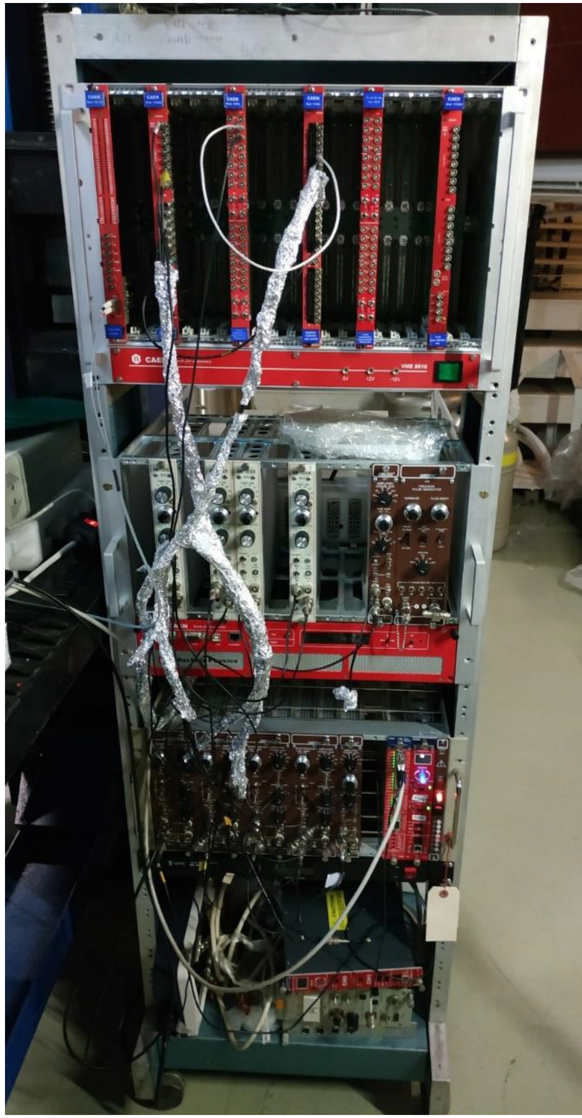


- Detectors are equipped with reset preamplifier.
- There is a special inhibit signal that indicates the time when the reset happens.
- The signals are shaped with amplifiers and processed with a real-time ADC.

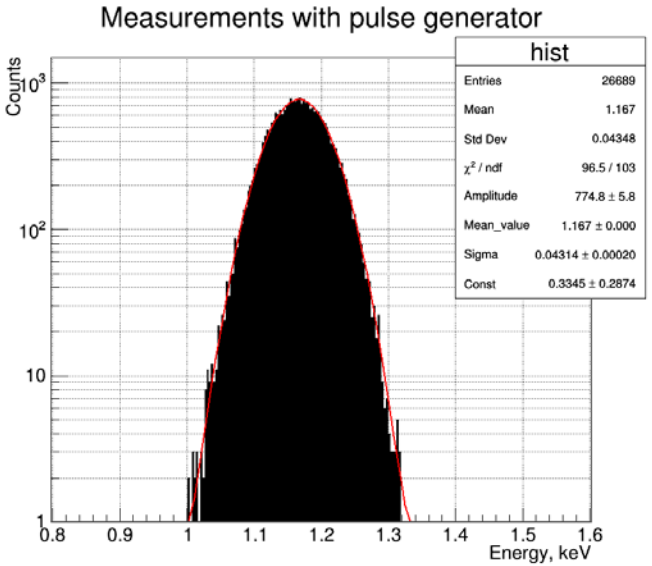
Simplified scheme of measurements



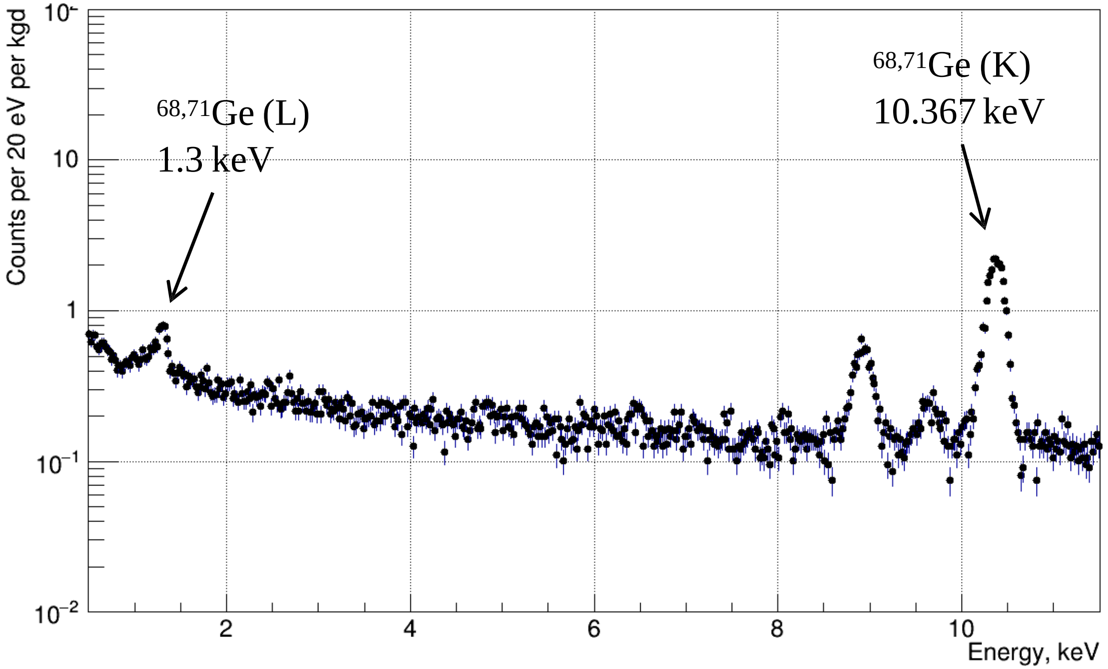
Signal acquisition is organized with the real-time ADC system based on CAEN electronics. We use several preamplifiers with different shaping times to suppress noise signals.

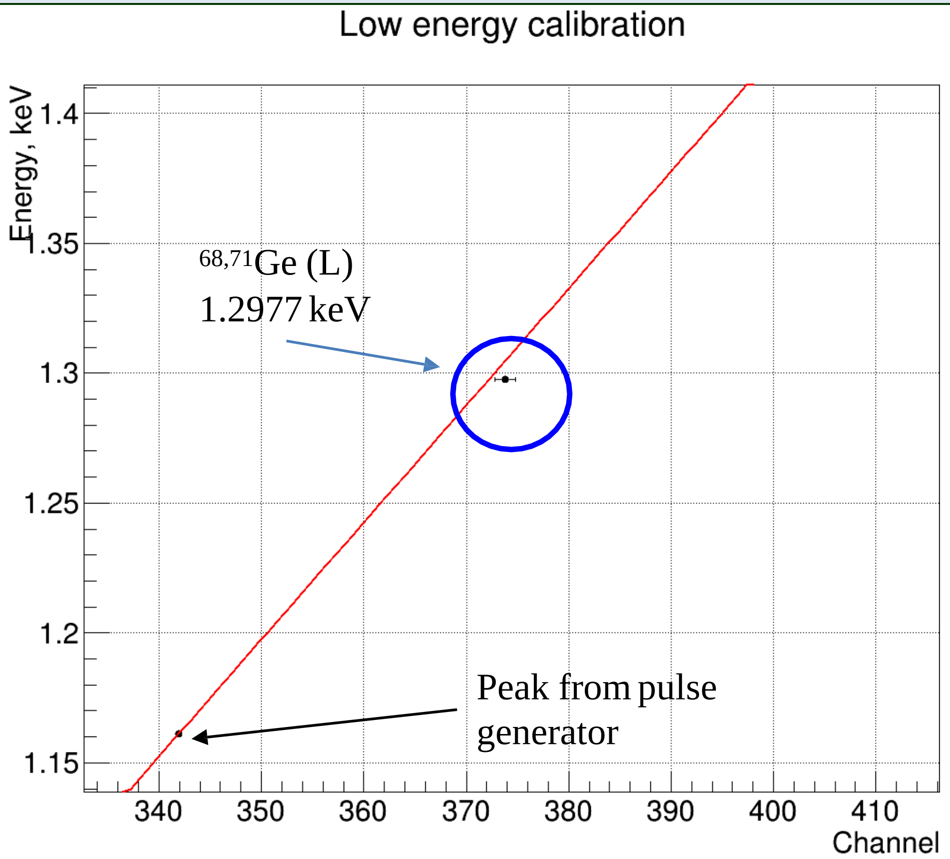


Calibration at low energies

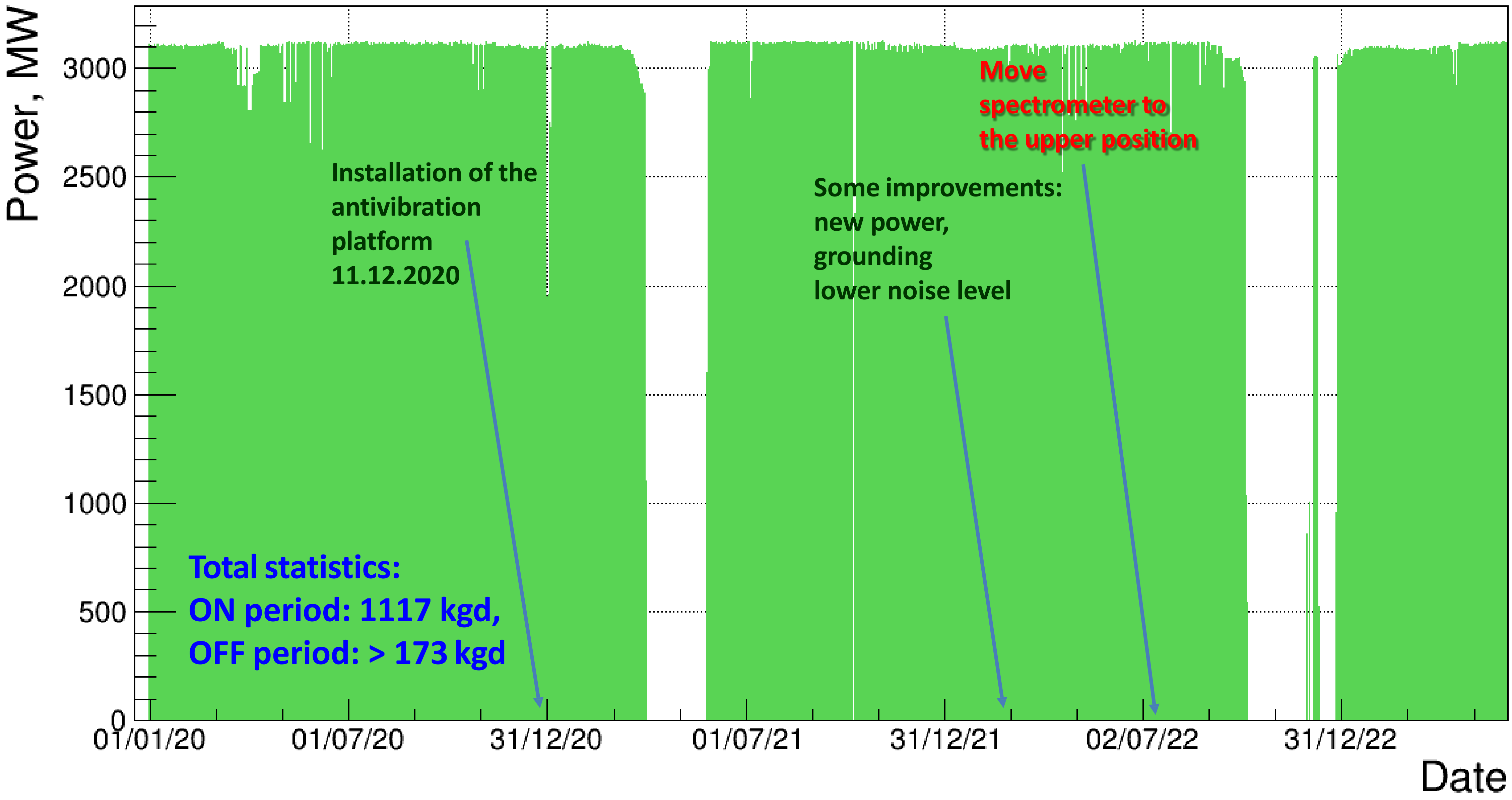


- Energy calibration at low energy is performed by means of 10.37 keV cosmogenic line and pulse generator.
- Calibration check with 1.3 keV line
- Data taking shows very good stability of peak position during all measurement time.
- Energy resolution of 1.4 kg detector at KNPP is 101.6(5) eV (FWHM).



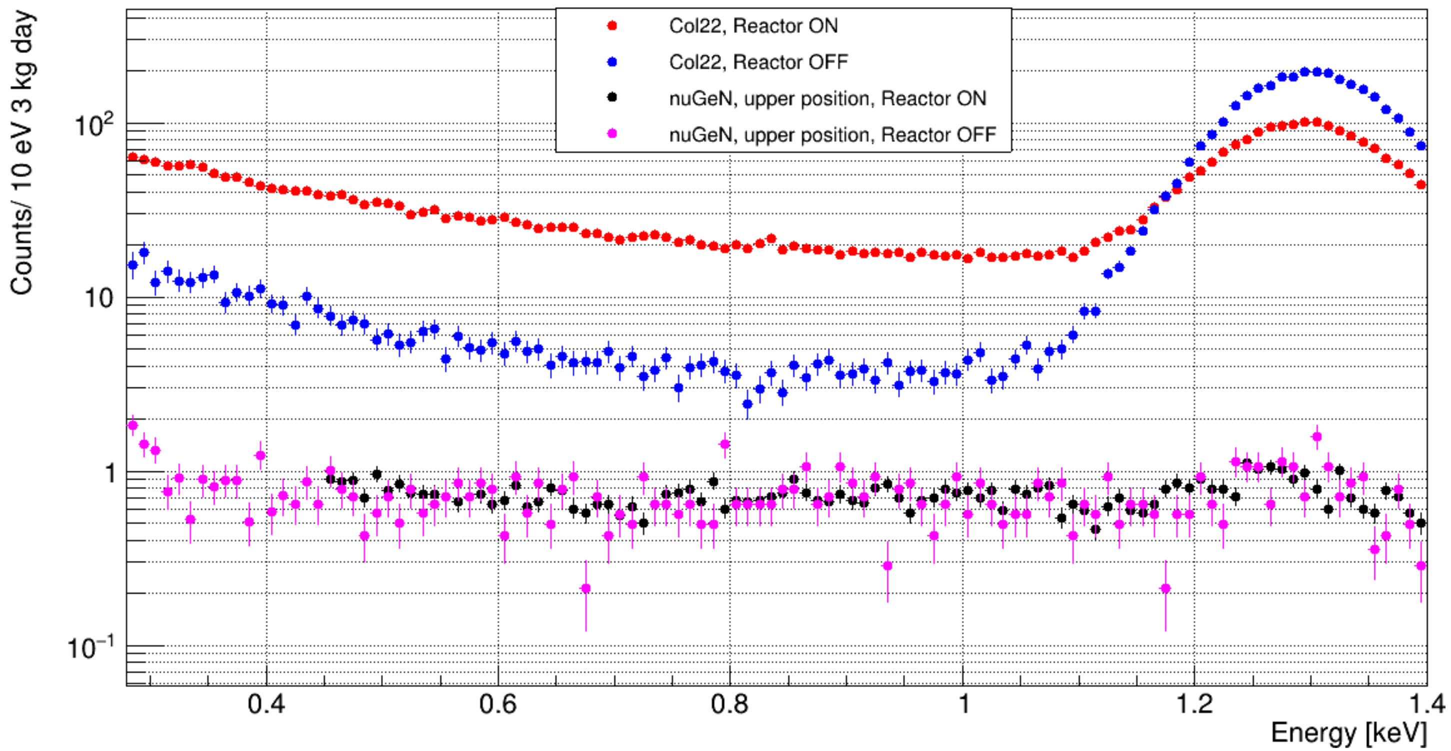


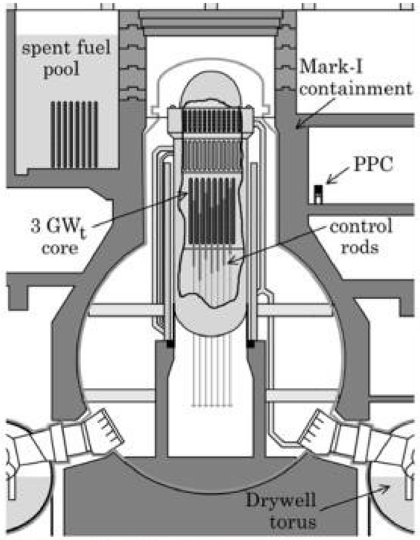
Thermal power of reactor unit #3

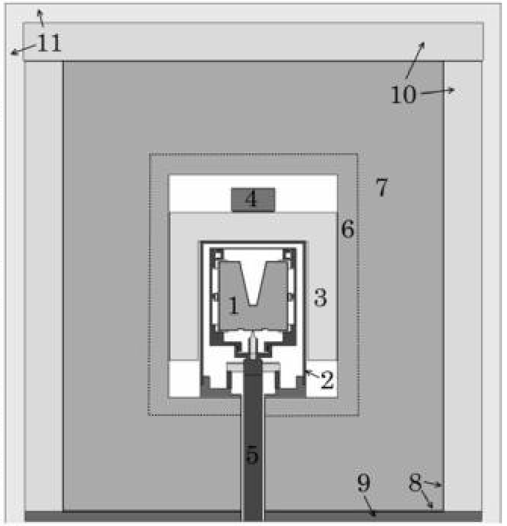


J. Colaresi, J. I. Collar,* T. W. Hossbach , C. M. Lewis , and K. M. Yocum, «Measurement of Coherent Elastic Neutrino-Nucleus Scattering from Reactor Antineutrinos», PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS 129, 211802 (2022)

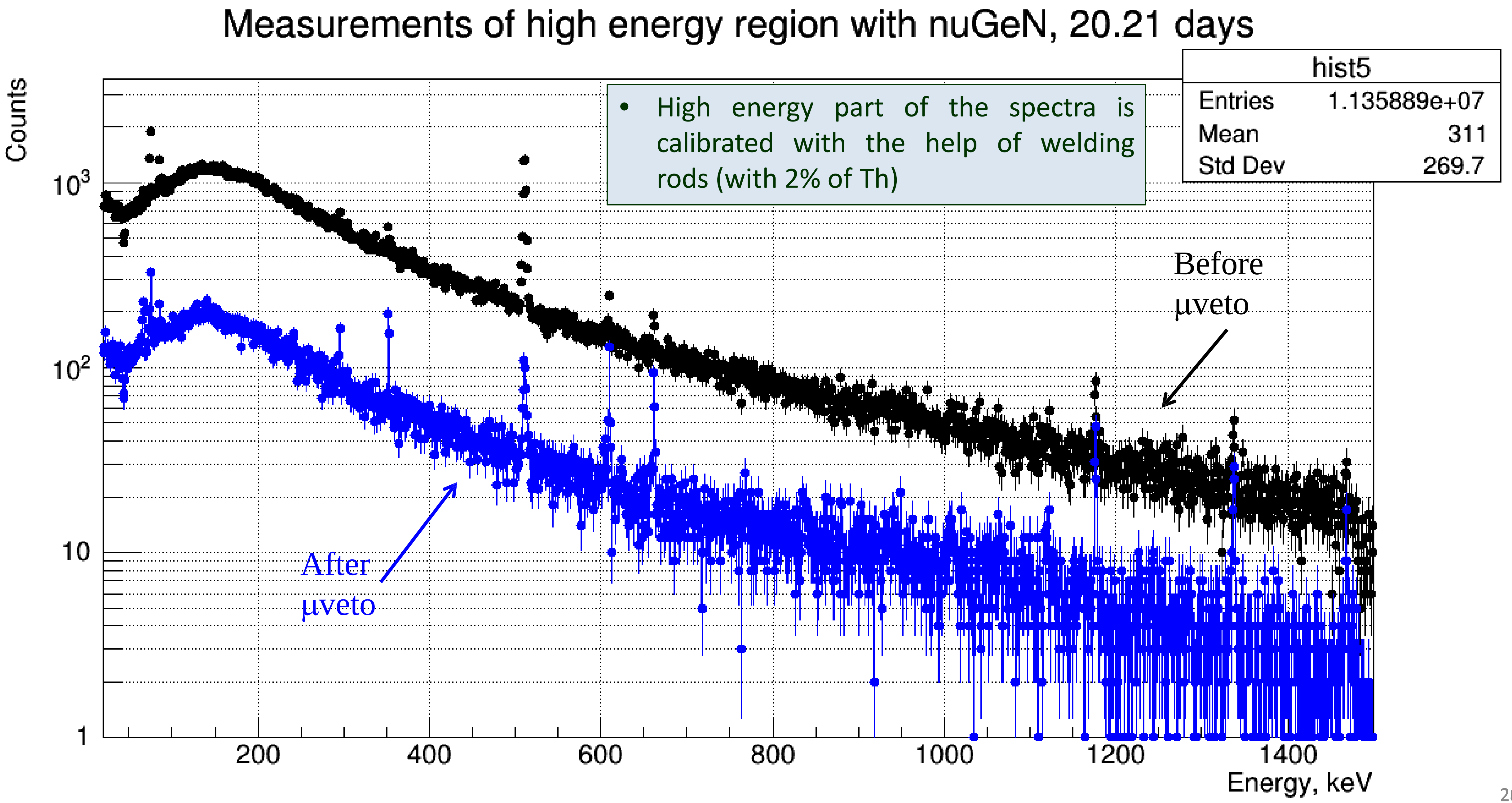
- Claimed about strong preference ($p<1.2\cdot10^{-3}$) for the presence of CEvNS.
- Similar to nuGeN antineutrino flux from reactor (4.8 10^{13} ν/cm2/sec)
- Sideway location gives almost no overburden (cosmogenic background).
- Almost no shielding against fast neutrons.
- Different shielding during reactor ON and OFF
- Big difference in background levels during reactor ON and OFF
- Moderate energy resolution > 160 eV (FWHM) (in nuGeN – 101.6(5) eV)





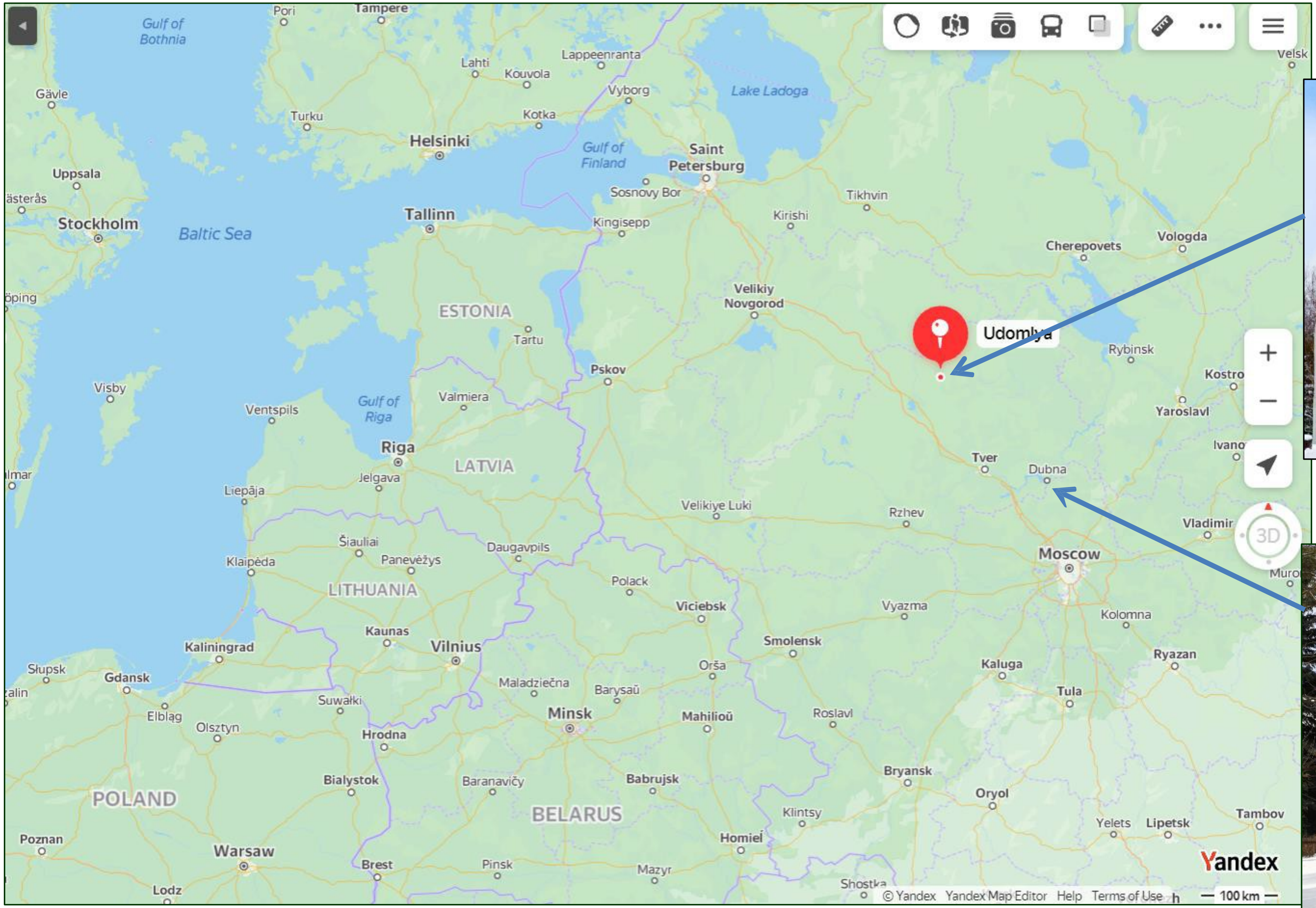


High energy part of the spectrum



- High energy part of the spectra is calibrated with the help of welding rods (with 2% of Th)

νGeN reactor site at Udomlya, Russia



Kalinin Nuclear Power Plant (KNPP) 4xWWER – 3.1 GW_{th}

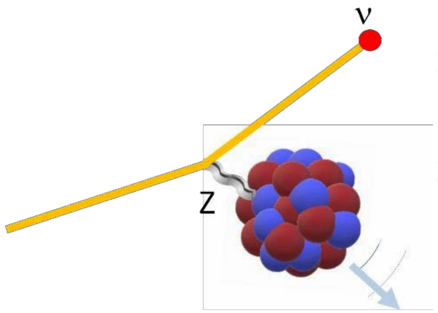
JINR, Dubna, 285 km from KNPP

Detection of CEνNS

Energy of nuclear recoil from CEνNS is very low:

$$E_A = \frac{2E^2(1-cos\theta)}{2MA}$$

A.Drukier and L.Stodolsky, Phys.Rev.D 30, 2295 (1984)



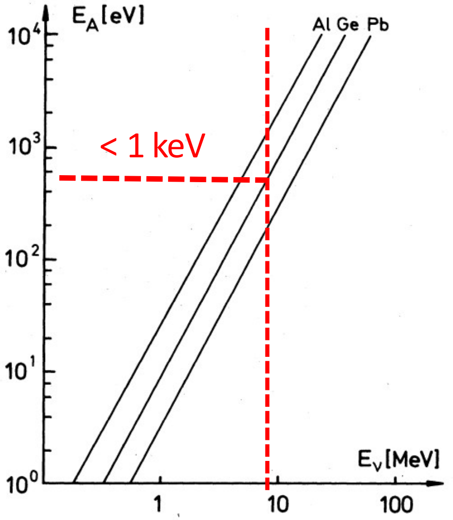


FIG. 2. Average recoil energy for various nuclei as a function of neutrino energy.

The detection of this process is very challenging, also taking into account that often only part of the energy can be detected due to quenching.

- Powerful neutrino source in full coherency regime < 30 MeV.
- Low threshold and low background detector.
- Effective separation of signals from background.
- Big target mass and good efficiency.
- Stable performance and knowledge of systematical errors.

νGeN collaboration

- Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, Dubna, Russia
- Lebedev Physical Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia
- Institute of Experimental and Applied Physics, Czech Technical University in Prague