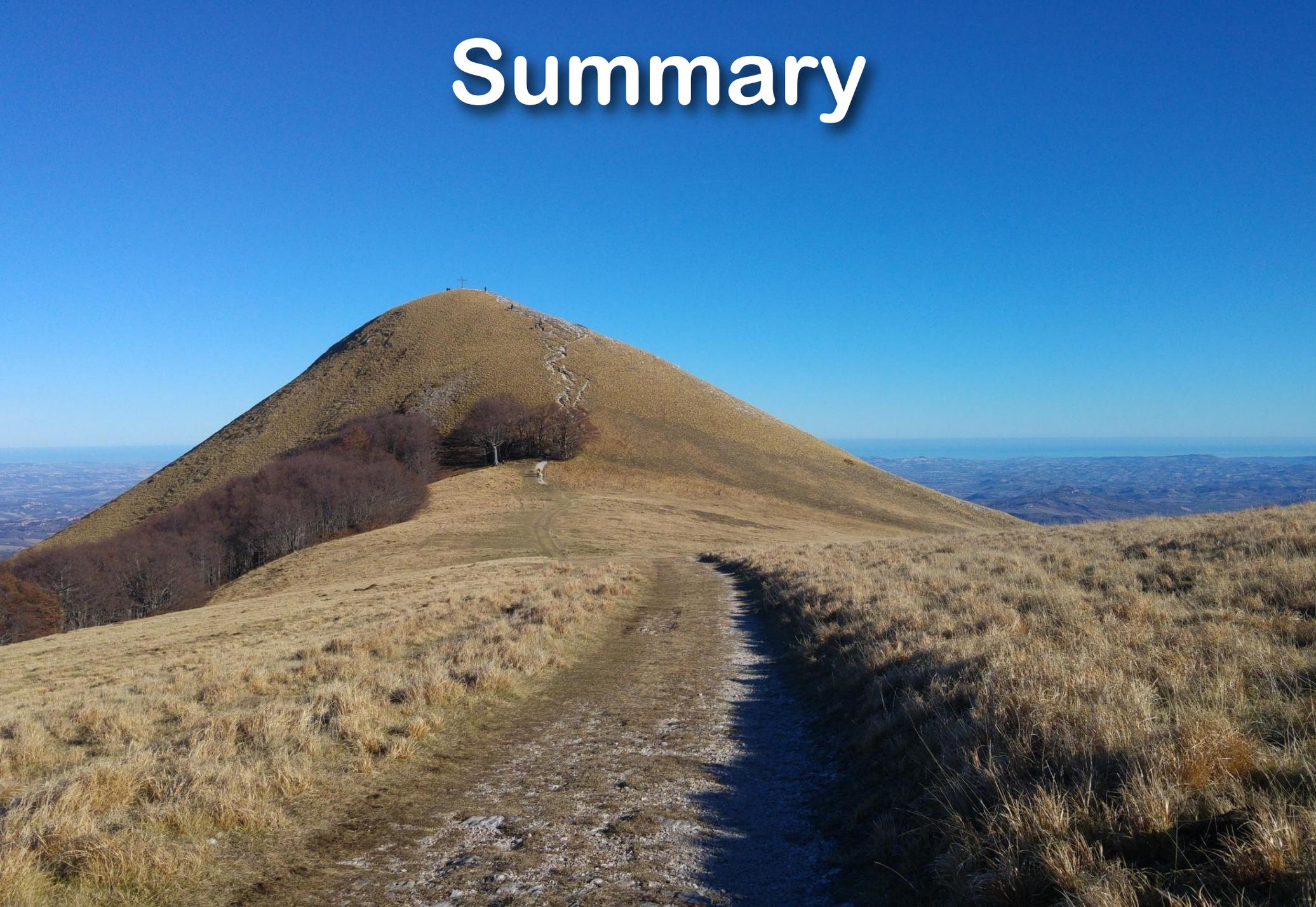


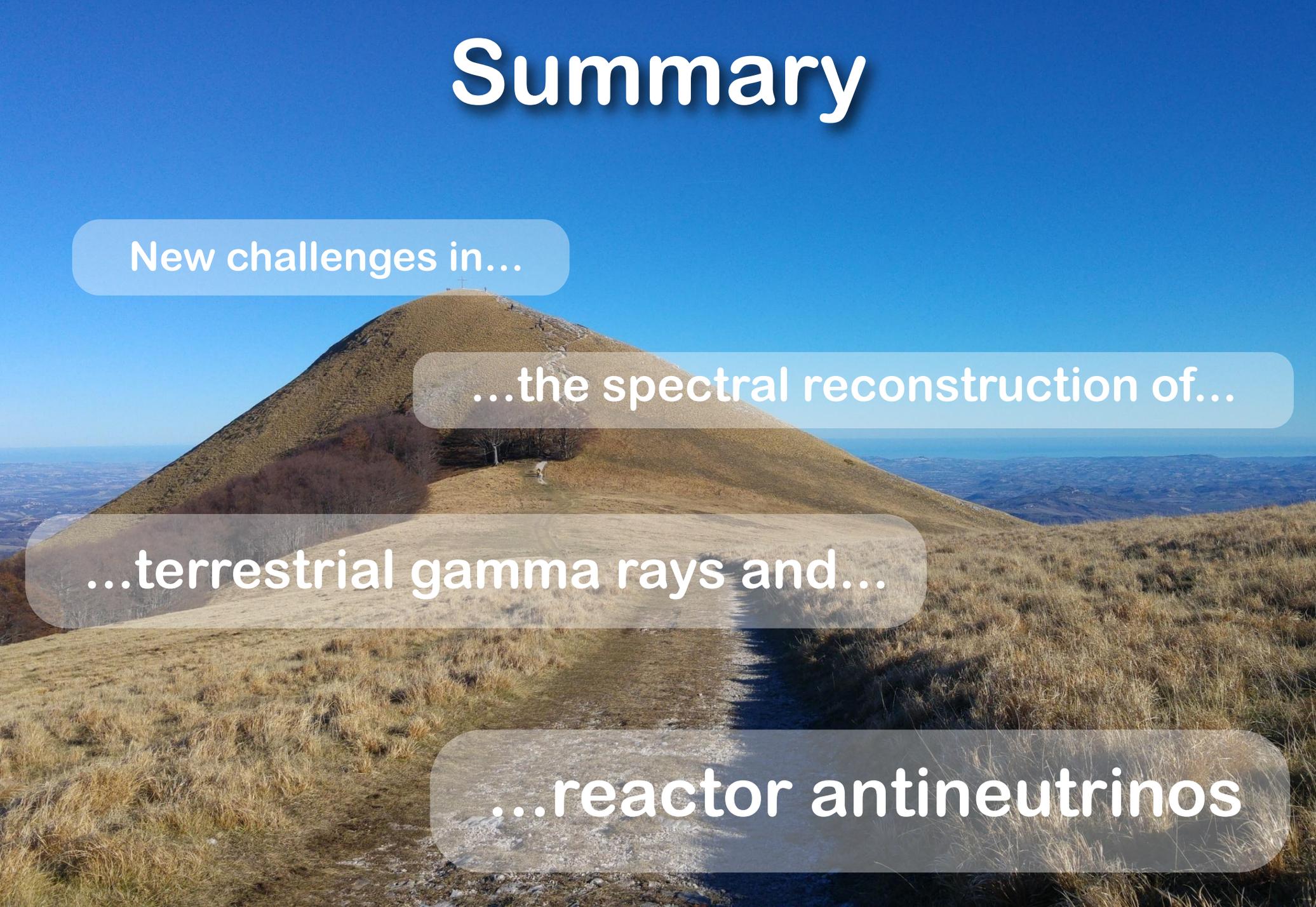
# New challenges in the spectral reconstruction of terrestrial gamma rays and reactor antineutrinos

Marica Baldoncini

# Summary



# Summary



New challenges in...

...the spectral reconstruction of...

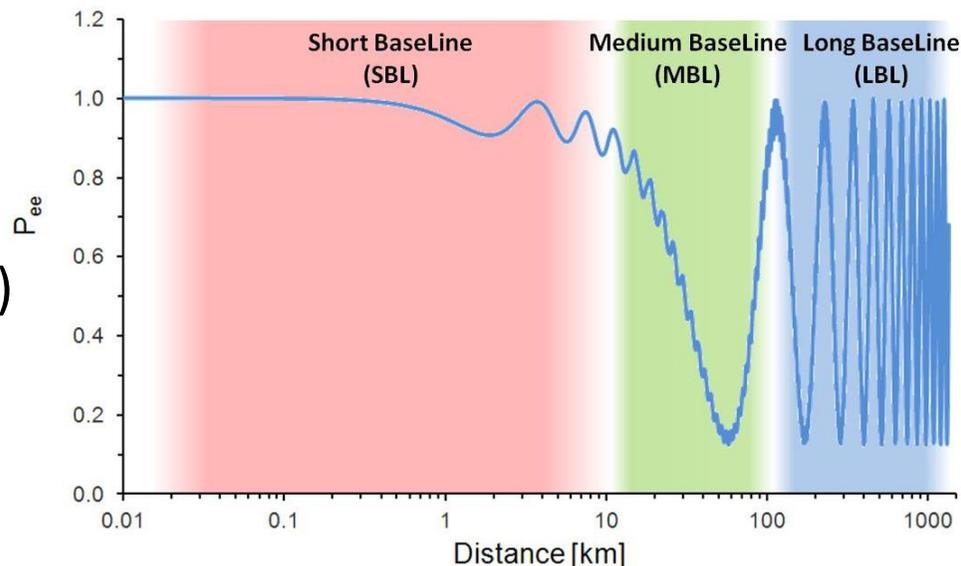
...terrestrial gamma rays and...

...reactor antineutrinos

# Antineutrinos from reactors: a global view

✓ Nuclear power plants are the strongest man made antineutrino sources  
( $L \sim 2 \times 10^{20} \bar{\nu}/\text{sec}$  for **1 GW** thermal power)

✓ Liquid scintillation detectors: moving from the **Short BaseLine (SBL)** ( $\sim 1\text{km}$ ) and **Long BaseLine (LBL)** era ( $\sim 200 \text{ km}$ ) towards the **Medium BaseLine (MBL)** era ( $\sim 50 \text{ km}$ )

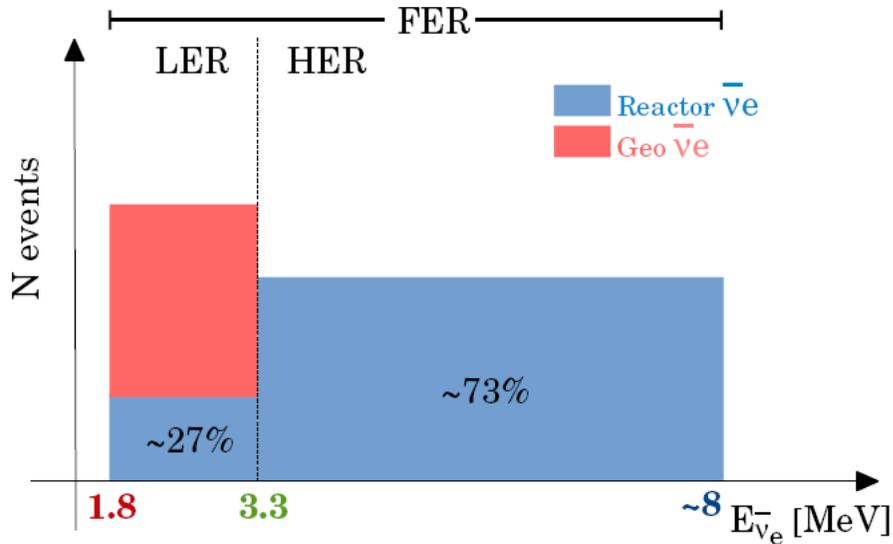
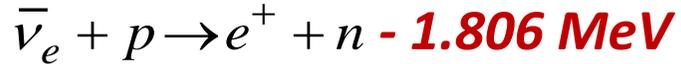


## Goal of the work:

- ✓ provide on the base of reactors official data a **worldwide reference model required** for estimating the reactor signal for **LBL experiments**
- ✓ estimating **signal uncertainty** starting from the uncertainties on individual input quantities

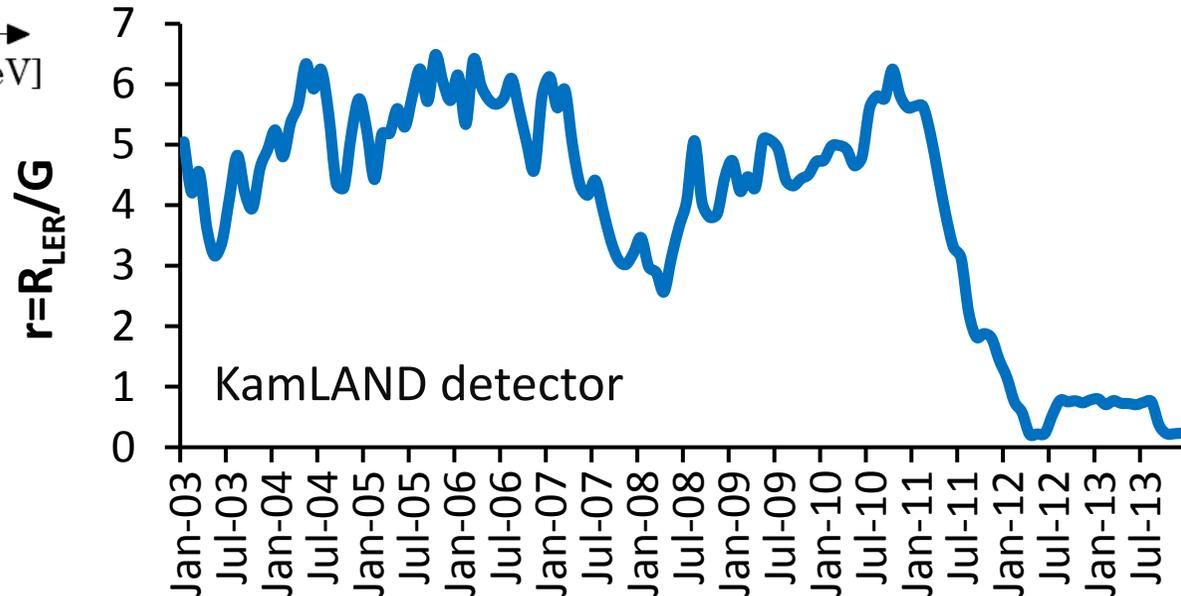
# Reactor antineutrinos: a fundamental background for geoneutrino measurements

Inverse Beta Decay (IBD) Reaction

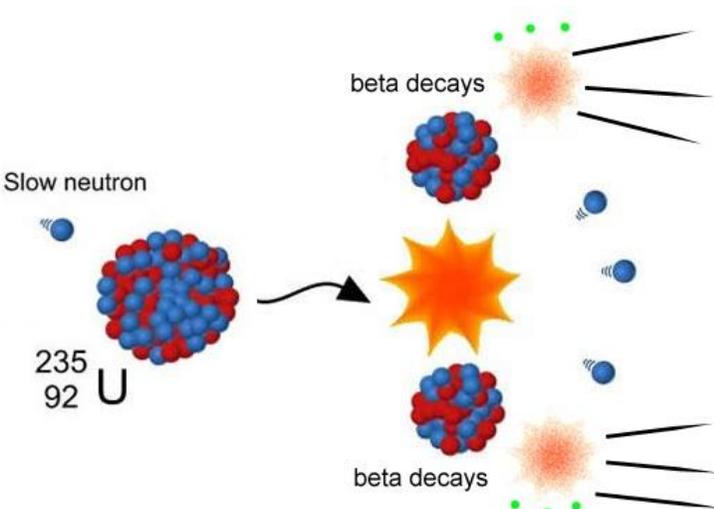


- ✓ **Low Energy Region (LER):** energy range starting at **1.806 MeV** (IBD threshold) and ending at **3.3 MeV** (end point of  $^{214}\text{Bi}$  spectrum)
- ✓ **High Energy Region (HER):** energy range starting at **3.3 MeV** and ending at **8 MeV** (end point of reactor spectrum)
- ✓ **Full Energy Region (FER) = LER + HER**

- ✓ The ratio **r** between the reactor signal in the LER ( $R_{\text{LER}}$ ) and the geoneutrino signal (**G**) **changes in time** according to the different reactor operational conditions



# Reactor thermal power and fission fractions



$^{235}\text{U}$ ,  $^{238}\text{U}$ ,  $^{239}\text{Pu}$ ,  $^{241}\text{Pu}$  give > 99% of the fissions

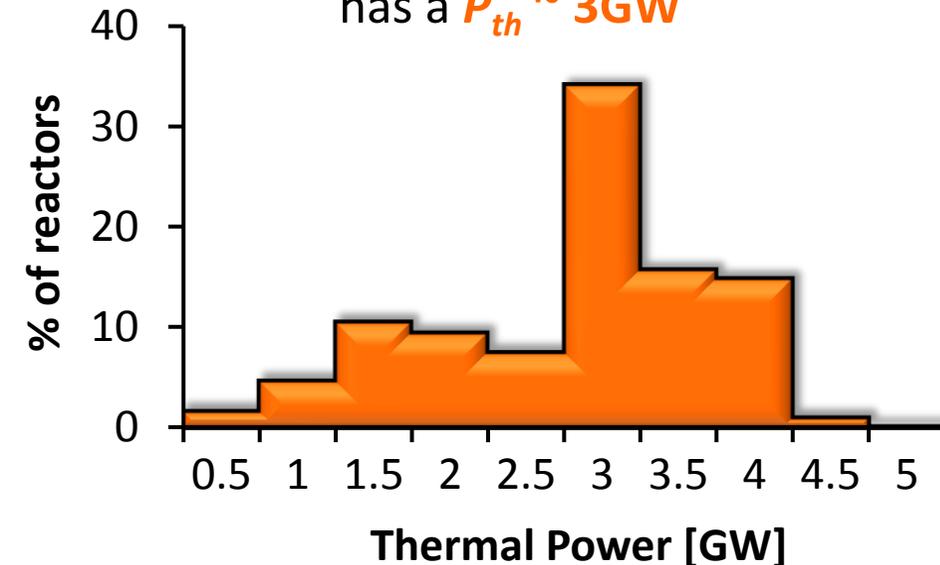
A single fission process involves :

- the emission of ~ **6 antineutrinos**
- ~ **2 antineutrinos** above IBD threshold
- the production of  $\langle Q \rangle \sim$  **200 MeV**

$$P_{th} = R \sum_{i=1}^4 f_i Q_i$$

$R$  = total fission rate [fissions/sec]  
 $f_i$  = relative fission yield, i.e the **fraction of fissions** produced by the  $i$ th isotope  
 $Q_i$  = **energy released in one fission** of the  $i$ th isotope [MeV/fission]

~**35%** of commercial reactors has a  $P_{th} \sim$  **3GW**



| Fissile isotope   | $Q_i$ [MeV/fission] |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| $^{235}\text{U}$  | $202.36 \pm 0.26$   |
| $^{238}\text{U}$  | $205.99 \pm 0.52$   |
| $^{239}\text{Pu}$ | $211.12 \pm 0.34$   |
| $^{241}\text{Pu}$ | $214.26 \pm 0.33$   |

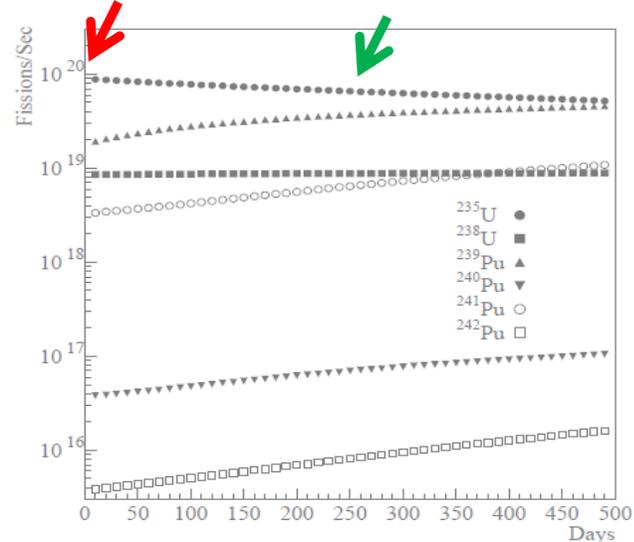
# Fission fractions and power fractions collection

$$p_i = \frac{f_i Q_i}{\sum_{i=1}^4 f_i Q_i}$$

$p_i$  is the fraction of  $P_{th}$  produced by the fission of the  $i$ th isotope

$$\frac{dN_i^{fiss}}{dt} = LF \cdot P_{th} \frac{p_i}{Q_i}$$

Extensive collection of different sets of fission/power fractions from literature



The values reported in the table depend on **enrichment** and **burn up stage** of the core

Enriched Uranium

Mixed Oxide Fuel

Natural Uranium

| Reactor Classes           | Fractions | <sup>235</sup> U | <sup>239</sup> Pu | <sup>241</sup> Pu | <sup>238</sup> U | Reference                |                              |
|---------------------------|-----------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| PWR<br>BWR<br>LWGR<br>GCR | $f_i$     | 0.538            | 0.328             | 0.056             | 0.078            | G. Mention et al. (2011) |                              |
|                           |           | 0.614            | 0.274             | 0.038             | 0.074            |                          |                              |
|                           |           | 0.620            | 0.274             | 0.042             | 0.074            |                          |                              |
|                           |           | 0.584            | 0.298             | 0.050             | 0.068            |                          |                              |
|                           |           | 0.543            | 0.329             | 0.058             | 0.070            |                          |                              |
|                           |           | 0.607            | 0.277             | 0.042             | 0.074            |                          |                              |
|                           |           | 0.603            | 0.276             | 0.045             | 0.076            |                          |                              |
|                           |           | 0.606            | 0.277             | 0.043             | 0.074            |                          |                              |
|                           |           | 0.557            | 0.313             | 0.054             | 0.076            |                          |                              |
|                           |           | 0.606            | 0.274             | 0.046             | 0.074            |                          |                              |
|                           |           | 0.488            | 0.359             | 0.067             | 0.087            |                          | Y. Abe et al. (2012)         |
|                           |           | 0.580            | 0.292             | 0.054             | 0.074            |                          | Z. Djurcic et al. (2009)     |
|                           |           | 0.544            | 0.318             | 0.063             | 0.075            |                          |                              |
|                           |           | 0.577            | 0.292             | 0.057             | 0.074            |                          |                              |
|                           |           | 0.590            | 0.290             | 0.050             | 0.070            |                          | V. I. Kopeikin et al. (2004) |
|                           |           | 0.570            | 0.295             | 0.057             | 0.078            |                          | S. Abe et al. (2008)         |
|                           |           | 0.568            | 0.297             | 0.057             | 0.078            |                          | K. Eguchi et al. (2003)      |
|                           |           | 0.563            | 0.301             | 0.057             | 0.079            |                          | T. Araki et al. (2005)       |
|                           |           | 0.650            | 0.240             | 0.040             | 0.070            |                          | V. I. Kopeikin (2012)        |
|                           | 0.560     | 0.310            | 0.060             | 0.070             |                  |                          |                              |
| 0.480                     | 0.370     | 0.080            | 0.070             |                   |                  |                          |                              |
|                           | $p_i$     | 0.560            | 0.300             | 0.080             | 0.060            | G. Bellini et al. (2010) |                              |
| MOX                       | $p_i$     | 0.000            | 0.708             | 0.212             | 0.081            | G. Bellini et al. (2010) |                              |
| PHWR                      | $p_i$     | 0.543            | 0.411             | 0.022             | 0.024            | G. Bellini et al. (2013) |                              |

# Reactor antineutrino signal calculation

The reactor antineutrino signal evaluation requires several ingredients for modeling the three antineutrino life stages:

- ✓ **production** at reactor cores
- ✓ **propagation** to the detector site
- ✓ **detection** in liquid scintillation detectors

## DETECTOR

- ◆  $\varepsilon = 100\%$  efficiency
- ◆  $\tau = 1$  year
- ◆  $N_p = 10^{32}$  free protons  
( $\sim 1$  kton liquid scintillator mass)

## $\bar{\nu}$ PHYSICS

- ◆  $P_{ee} = \nu_e$  oscillation survival probability
- ◆  $\sigma_{IBD}(E) =$  IBD cross section  
 $\bar{\nu}_e + p \rightarrow e^+ + n$  ( $E_{th} = 1.806$  MeV)

$$N_{TOT} = \varepsilon N_p \tau \sum_{k=1}^{N_{reactor}} \frac{P_{th}^k}{4\pi d_k^2} \langle LF_k \rangle \int dE_\nu \sum_{i=1}^4 \frac{p_i}{Q_i} \lambda_i(E_\nu) P_{ee}(E_\nu, d_k) \sigma_{IBD}(E_\nu)$$

[1 TNU = 1 event /  $10^{32}$  free protons / year]  $i = {}^{235}\text{U}, {}^{238}\text{U}, {}^{239}\text{Pu}, {}^{241}\text{Pu}$

## REACTOR

- ◆  $d_k =$  reactor distance
- ◆  $P_k =$  thermal power
- ◆  $LF =$  Load Factor
- ◆  $p_k =$  power fraction

## NUCLEAR

- ◆  $Q_i =$  energy released per fission
- ◆  $\lambda_i =$  reactor antineutrino spectrum

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# Reactor and geoneutrino signals at 6 experimental sites

| Experiment | G [TNU]                              | R <sub>LER</sub> [TNU]                  | r = R <sub>LER</sub> /G | Year |
|------------|--------------------------------------|---|-------------------------|------|
| KamLAND    | 31.5 <sup>+4.9</sup> <sub>-4.1</sub> | 168.5 <sup>+5.7</sup> <sub>-6.3</sub>   | 5.4                     | 2006 |
|            |                                      | 18.3 <sup>+0.6</sup> <sub>-1.0</sub>    | 0.6                     | 2013 |
|            |                                      | 7.4 <sup>+0.2</sup> <sub>-0.2</sub>     | 0.2                     | 2014 |
| JUNO       | 39.7 <sup>+6.5</sup> <sub>-5.1</sub> | 26.0 <sup>+2.2</sup> <sub>-2.3</sub>    | 0.7                     | 2013 |
|            |                                      | 53.9 <sup>+3.0</sup> <sub>-2.8</sub>    | 1.4                     | 2014 |
|            |                                      | 354.5 <sup>+44.5</sup> <sub>-40.6</sub> | 8.9                     | 2020 |
| Borexino   | 40.3 <sup>+7.3</sup> <sub>-3.8</sub> | 22.2 <sup>+0.6</sup> <sub>-0.6</sub>    | 0.6                     | 2013 |
| SNO+       | 45.4 <sup>+7.5</sup> <sub>-6.3</sub> | 47.8 <sup>+1.7</sup> <sub>-1.4</sub>    | 1.1                     | 2013 |
| RENO-50    | 42.1 <sup>+7.2</sup> <sub>-5.9</sub> | 178.4 <sup>+20.8</sup> <sub>-19.6</sub> | 4.2                     | 2013 |
| Hanohano   | 12.0 <sup>+0.7</sup> <sub>-0.6</sub> | 0.9 <sup>+0.02</sup> <sub>-0.02</sub>   | 0.1                     | 2013 |

Ohi 3 and Ohi 4  
powered off

Yangjiang and  
Taishan fully powered  
on in 2020

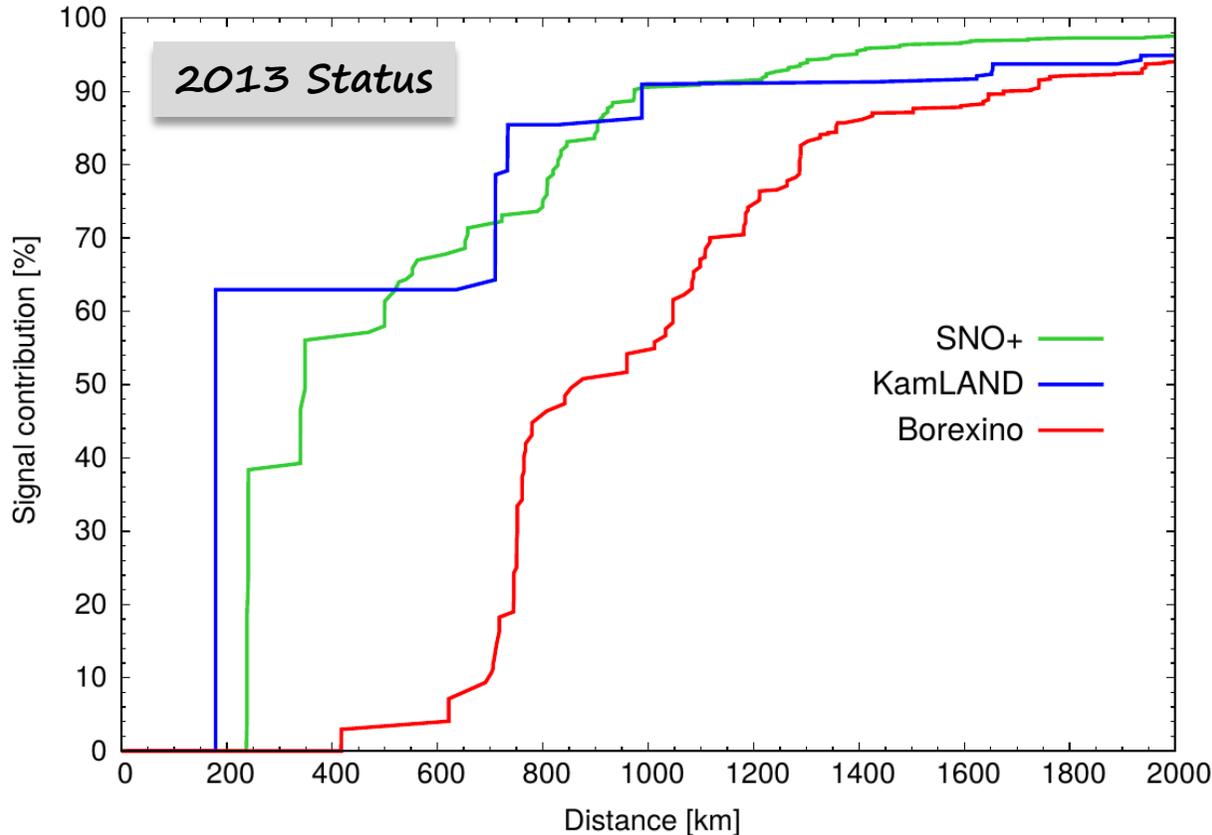
Long Baseline  
experiments:  
1σ ~ 4% in LER

# Signal uncertainty due to individual inputs

| Input quantity     |                                | $1\sigma$ on signal in FER [%] |           |           |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
|                    |                                | Borexino                       | KamLAND   | SNO+      |
| $\nu$ oscillation  | $\delta m^2$ (eV) <sup>2</sup> | <0.1                           | 0.9       | <0.1      |
|                    | $\sin^2 \theta_{12}$           | +2.4/-2.2                      | +2.1/-2.0 | +2.4/-2.2 |
|                    | $\sin^2 \theta_{13}$           | 0.4                            | 0.4       | 0.4       |
| Energy per fission | $Q_{235U}$                     | <0.1                           | <0.1      | <0.1      |
|                    | $Q_{238U}$                     |                                |           |           |
|                    | $Q_{239Pu}$                    |                                |           |           |
|                    | $Q_{241Pu}$                    |                                |           |           |
| Fission fraction   | $f_{235U}$                     | 0.1                            | 0.5       | <0.1      |
|                    | $f_{238U}$                     |                                |           |           |
|                    | $f_{239Pu}$                    |                                |           |           |
|                    | $f_{241Pu}$                    |                                |           |           |
| Thermal Power      | $P_{th}$                       | 0.2                            | 0.9       | 0.3       |
| IBD cross section  | $\sigma_{IBD}$                 | <0.1                           | <0.1      | <0.1      |

- ✓ Reactor signal uncertainty **dominated by  $\sin^2(\vartheta_{12})$**
- ✓ Results are **time dependent** (2013 status) and **site dependent**
- ✓ Signal uncertainty due to  $P_{th}$  reflects the **signal amount generated by single reactors** (for KamLAND 60% of the signal originated by 2 cores)
- ✓ **Negligible** (<0.1%) uncertainty from  $Q_i$  and  $\sigma_{IBD}$

# Borexino, KamLAND and SNO+ signal distance profile



**KL step-like** profile with **3 major discontinuities**

- ✓ **1<sup>st</sup>** is **~60%** at **180 km** (Japanese Ohi3 and Ohi4)
- ✓ **2<sup>nd</sup>** is **~85%** at **730 km** (Japanese plus East coast South Korean)
- ✓ **3<sup>rd</sup>** is **~90%** at **990 km** (Japanese plus all South Korean)

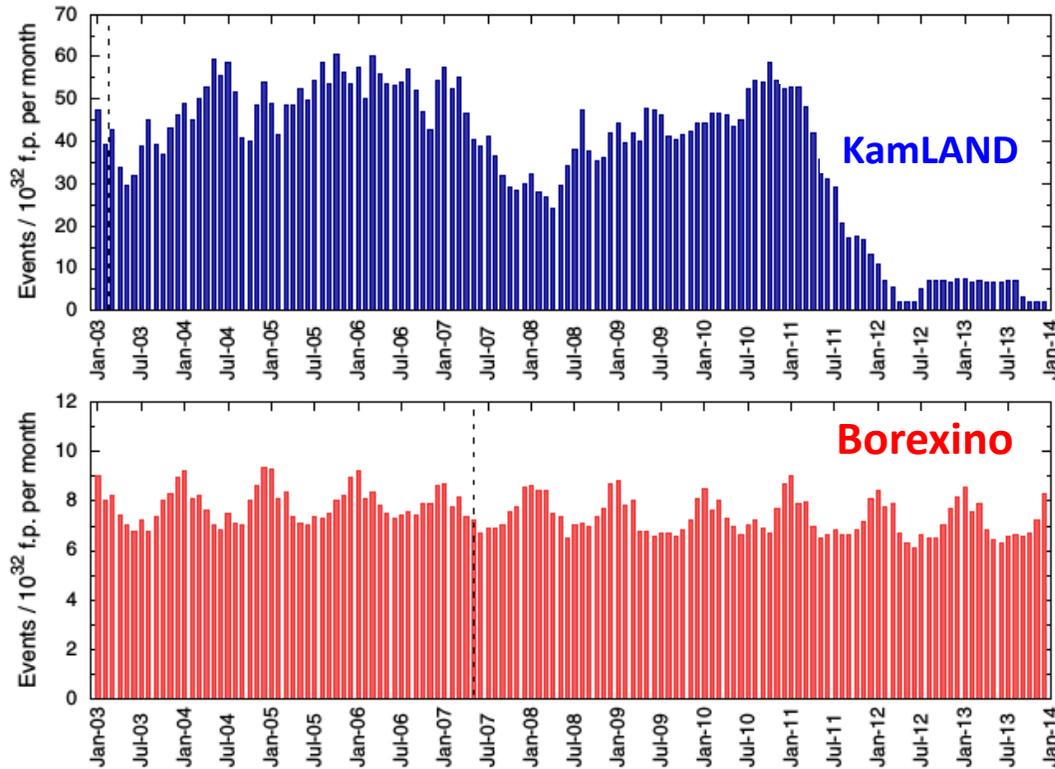
**SNO+** profile has **2 major discontinuities**

- ✓ **1<sup>st</sup>** is **~38%** at **~240 km** (Canadian Bruce)
- ✓ **2<sup>nd</sup>** is **~56%** at **~350 km** (Canadian Pickering and Darlington)
- ✓ For **d > 500km** the profile **levels out** (USA stations)

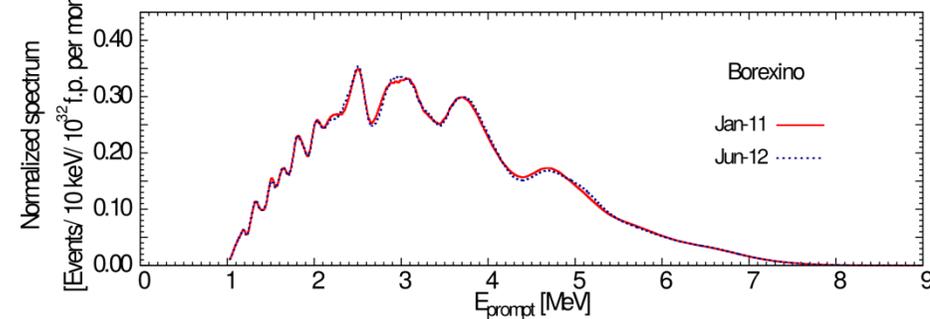
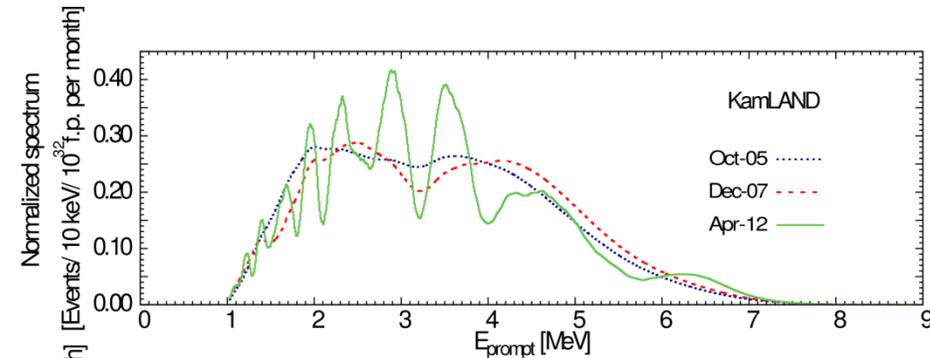
**BX** profile is **smooth**

- ✓ Signal **spread out** over the European countries
- ✓ Closest power station at **415 km** (Slovenia) gives the major fraction of the signal (**~3%**)

# Borexino and KamLAND signal time profile

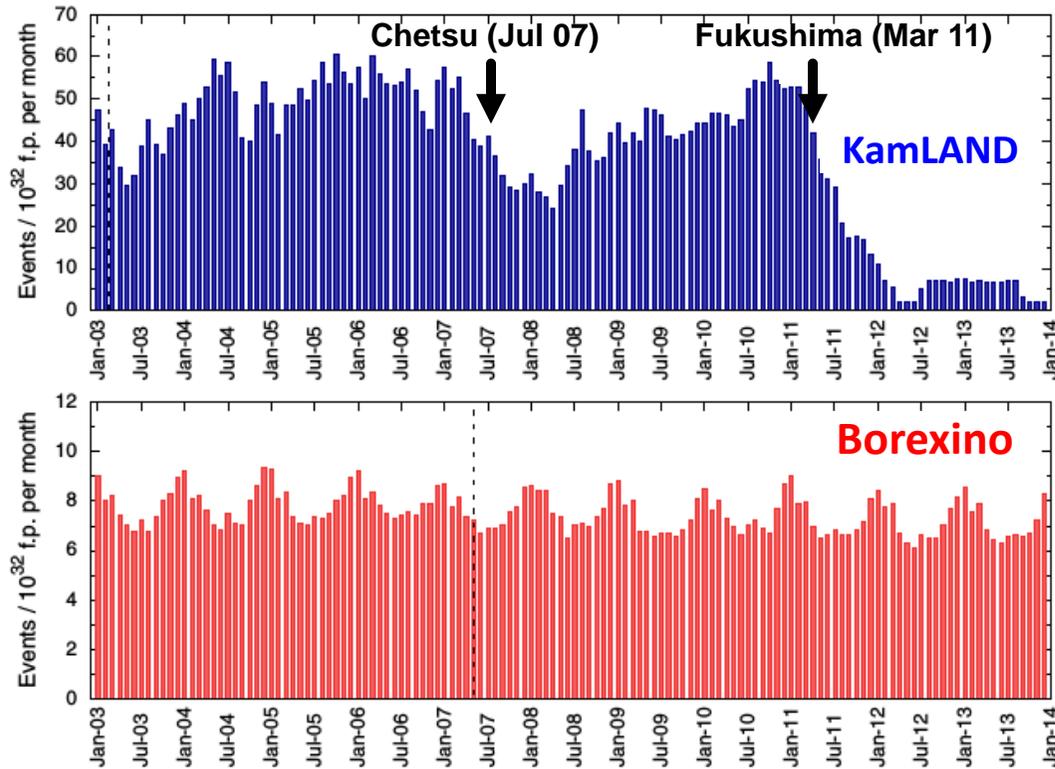


- ✓ Signal time profile governed by the **Japanese nuclear industry** operational status
- ✓ Shutdown of nuclear power plants concomitant to strong **earthquakes** manifestly visible
- ✓ **Sensitive to operational conditions of single reactors**

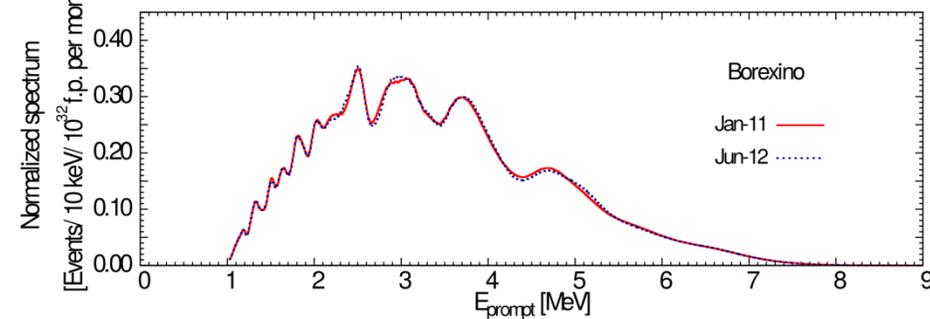
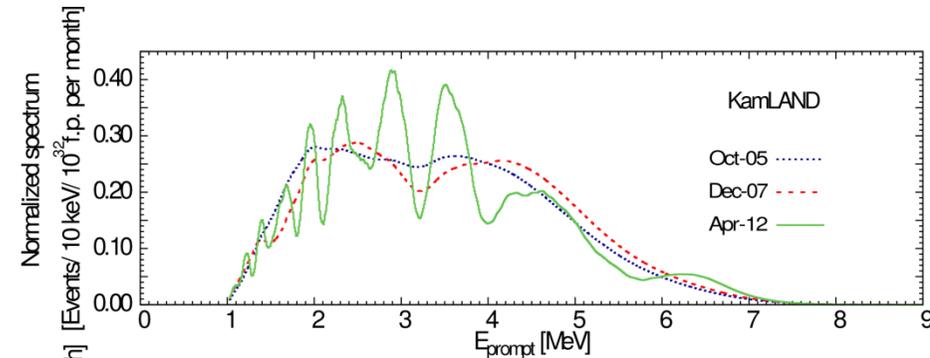


- ✓ **Seasonal signal variation** associated with the lower fall-spring electricity demand
- ✓ Relatively **insensitive to operational conditions of single reactors** since there are no close-by reactors dominating the antineutrino flux

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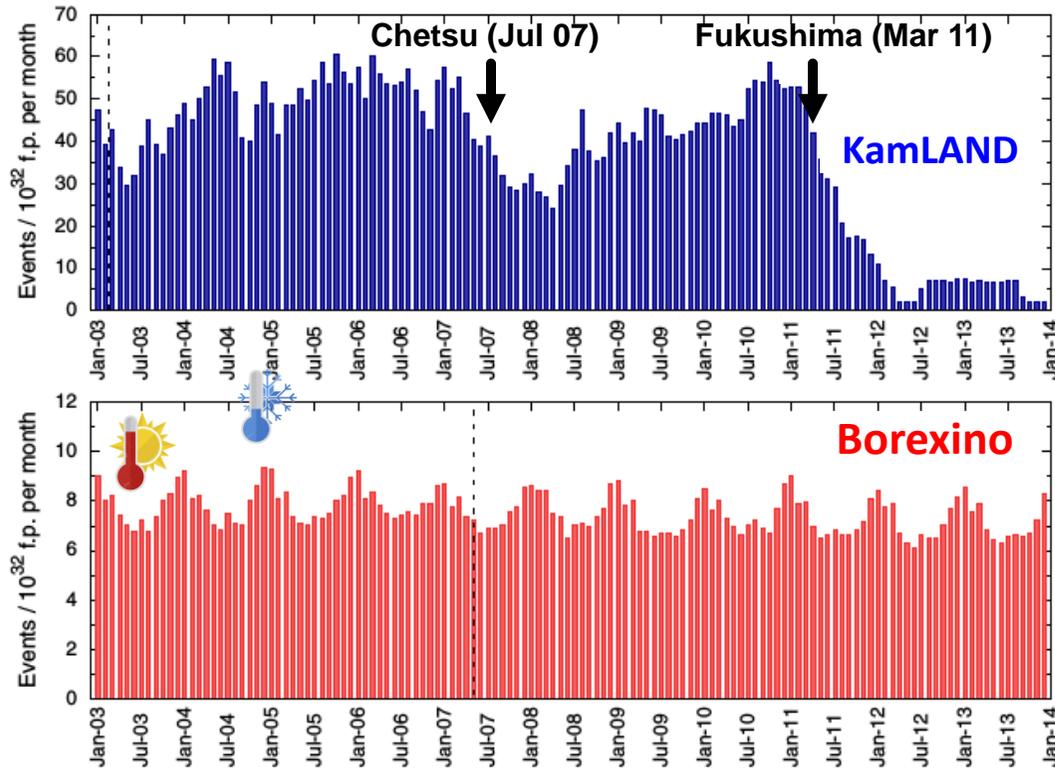


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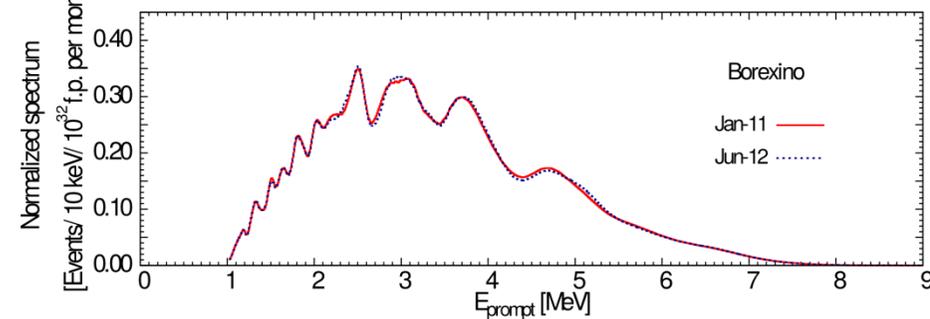
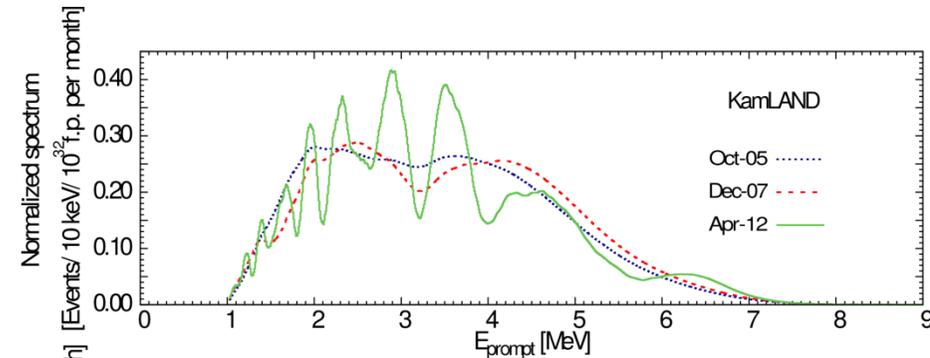


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# Outcomes of this work

The web page [www.fe.infn.it/antineutrino](http://www.fe.infn.it/antineutrino) provides an **updated collection** of data about worldwide nuclear reactors for calculation of antineutrino signal

**2003**

- [Input database](#)
- [Numerical map](#)
- [Map](#)

**2004**

- [Input database](#)
- [Numerical map](#)
- [Map](#)

**2005**

- [Input database](#)
- [Numerical map](#)
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**2006**

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**2014**

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**2015**

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| COUNTRY | REACTOR NAME | LAT [decimal°] | LONG [decimal°] | CORE TYPE | MOX | P <sub>th</sub> [MW] | Monthly Load Factors [%] |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|---------|--------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------|-----|----------------------|--------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|         |              |                |                 |           |     |                      | JAN                      | FEB   | MAR   | APR   | MAY   | JUNE  | JULY  | AUG   | SEP   | OCT   | NOV   | DEC   |
| AR      | ATUCHA-1     | -33,967        | -59,209         | PHWR      | 0   | 1179                 | 0,00                     | 0,00  | 6,41  | 99,55 | 73,92 | 98,79 | 99,82 | 99,57 | 98,35 | 99,66 | 99,33 | 52,86 |
| AR      | EMBALSE      | -32,232        | -64,442         | PHWR      | 0   | 2015                 | 99,04                    | 99,07 | 99,32 | 99,74 | 99,88 | 99,04 | 99,33 | 99,12 | 98,78 | 66,74 | 78,09 | 99,21 |
| AM      | ARMENIAN-2   | 40,181         | 44,147          | PWR       | 0   | 1375                 | 20,30                    | 93,77 | 92,70 | 9,50  | 0,00  | 0,00  | 85,28 | 90,72 | 90,89 | 82,66 | 66,91 | 95,71 |

2015

- Input database
- Numerical map
- Map



- ✓ **Global:** performance data of **all reactors in the world**
- ✓ **Monthly Load Factors (%)**
- ✓ **Public, official and free**
- ✓ **Latitude and longitude** of reactors
- ✓ **Multitemporal:** time lapse of **12 years** (2003 – 2015)
- ✓ **Direct implementation** thanks to standard file

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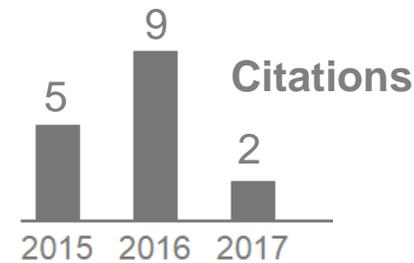
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2006

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- Map

2015

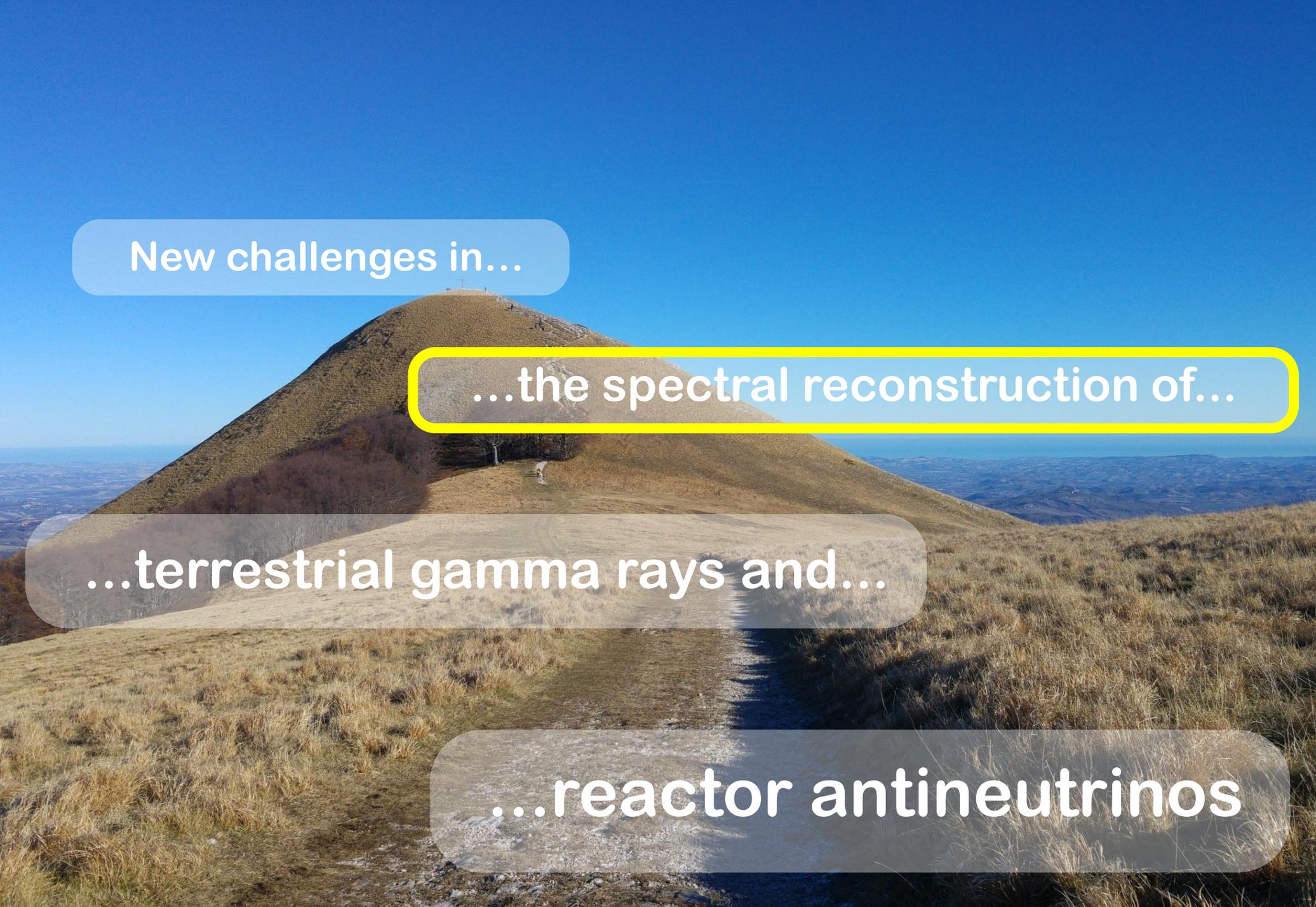
- Input database
- Numerical map
- Map



- ✓ **Global:** performance data of **all reactors in the world**
- ✓ **Monthly Load Factors (%)**
- ✓ **Public, official and free**
- ✓ **Latitude and longitude** of reactors
- ✓ **Multitemporal:** time lapse of **12 years** (2003 – 2015)
- ✓ **Direct implementation** thanks to standard file



**Baldoncini M., et al. - Reference worldwide model for antineutrinos from reactors. Phys. Rev. D 91, 065002, (2015).**



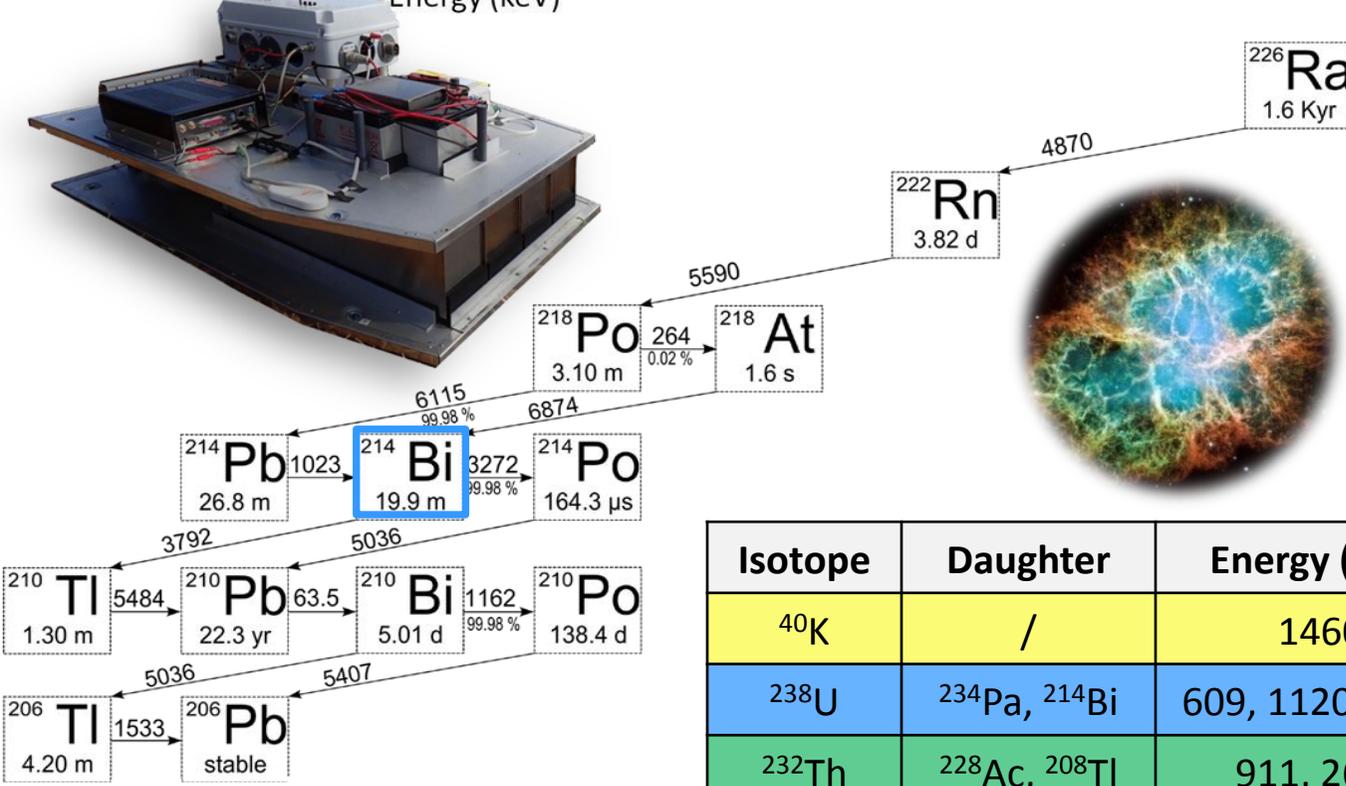
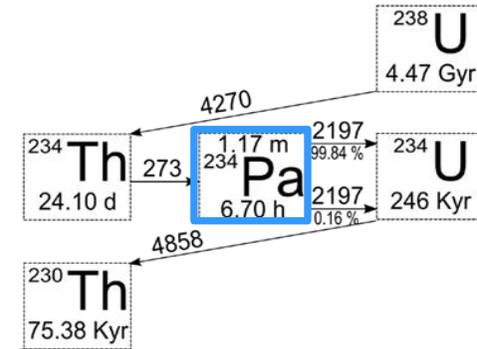
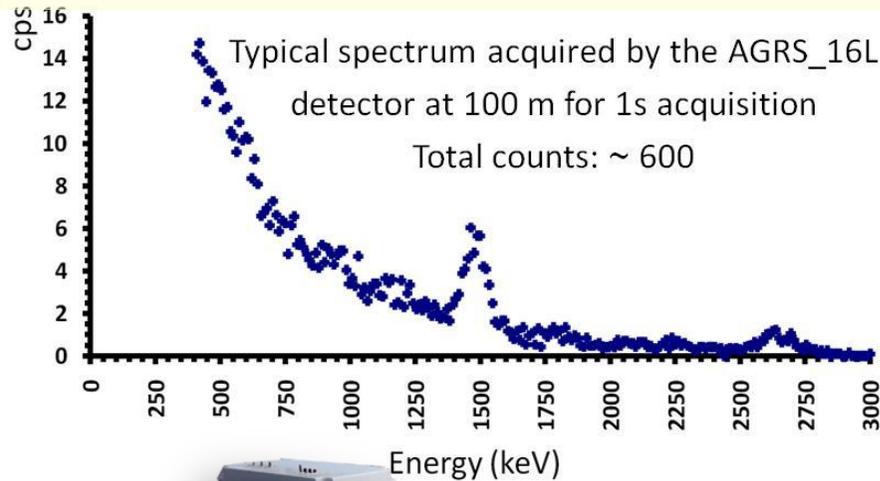
New challenges in...

...the spectral reconstruction of...

...terrestrial gamma rays and...

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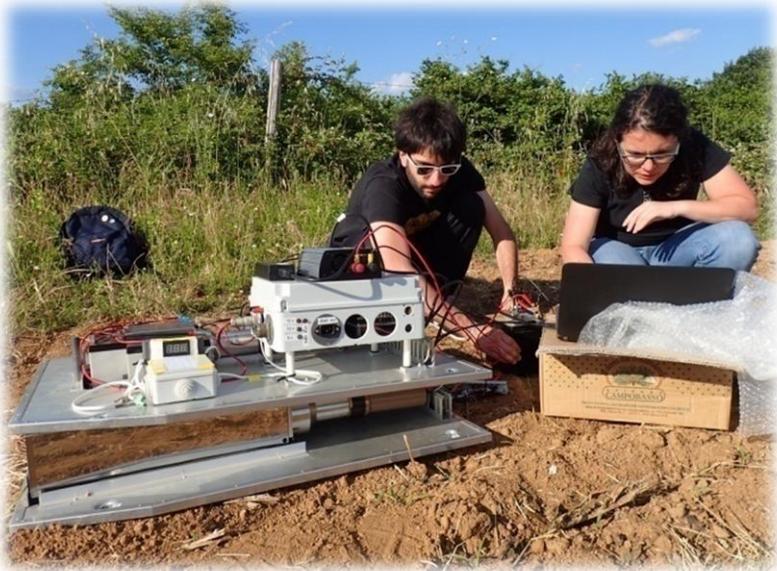
# Gamma-ray spectroscopy for studying the Earth



| Isotope           | Daughter                              | Energy (keV)    | Half life | Typical abund.     |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|--------------------|
| $^{40}\text{K}$   | /                                     | 1460            | 1.3 Gy    | 2%                 |
| $^{238}\text{U}$  | $^{234}\text{Pa}$ , $^{214}\text{Bi}$ | 609, 1120, 1765 | 4.5 Gy    | 3 $\mu\text{g/g}$  |
| $^{232}\text{Th}$ | $^{228}\text{Ac}$ , $^{208}\text{Tl}$ | 911, 2614       | 14.1 Gy   | 10 $\mu\text{g/g}$ |

# Calibrating an Airborne Gamma-Ray Spectrometer

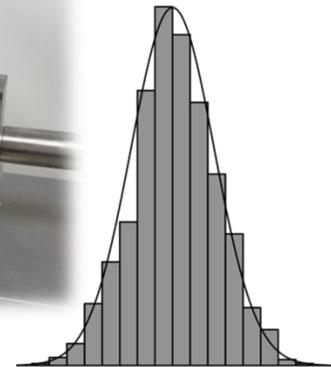
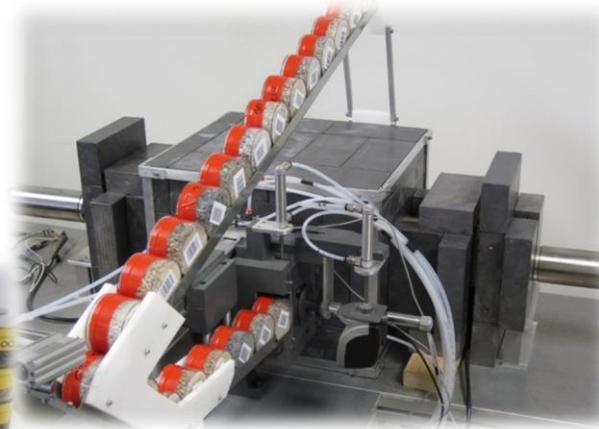
**GOAL:** understand the **detector response function** to a known radioactive source



$$N = C \cdot FS$$

Measurement of gamma spectra at natural calibration sites

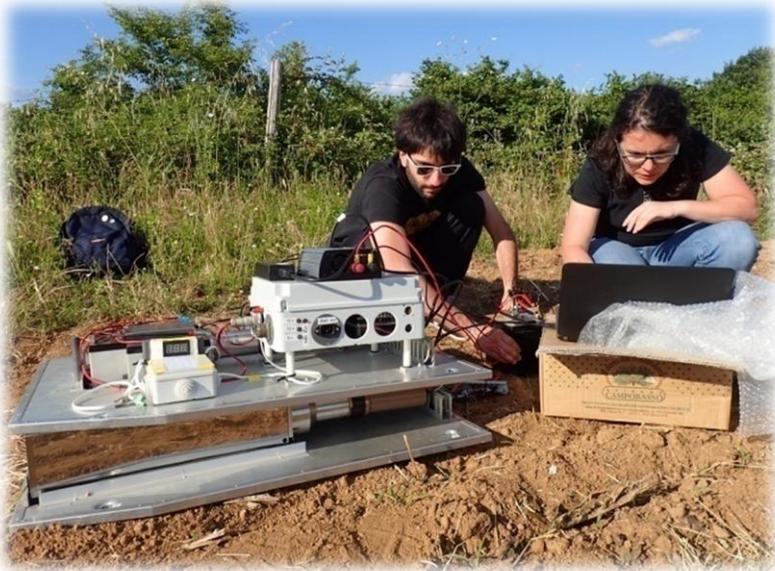
HPGe measurement of radioactive content on collected samples



Modeling the calibration sites

# Calibrating an Airborne Gamma-Ray Spectrometer

**GOAL:** understand the **detector response function** to a known radioactive source



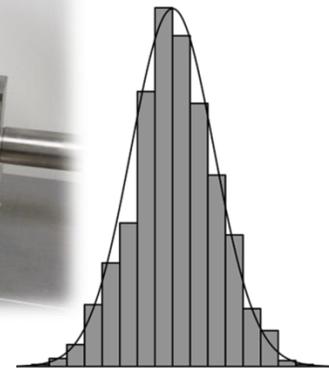
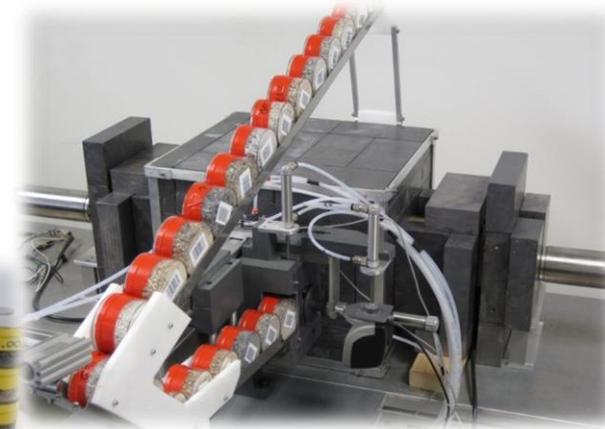
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Experimental Fundamental Spectra (EFS)

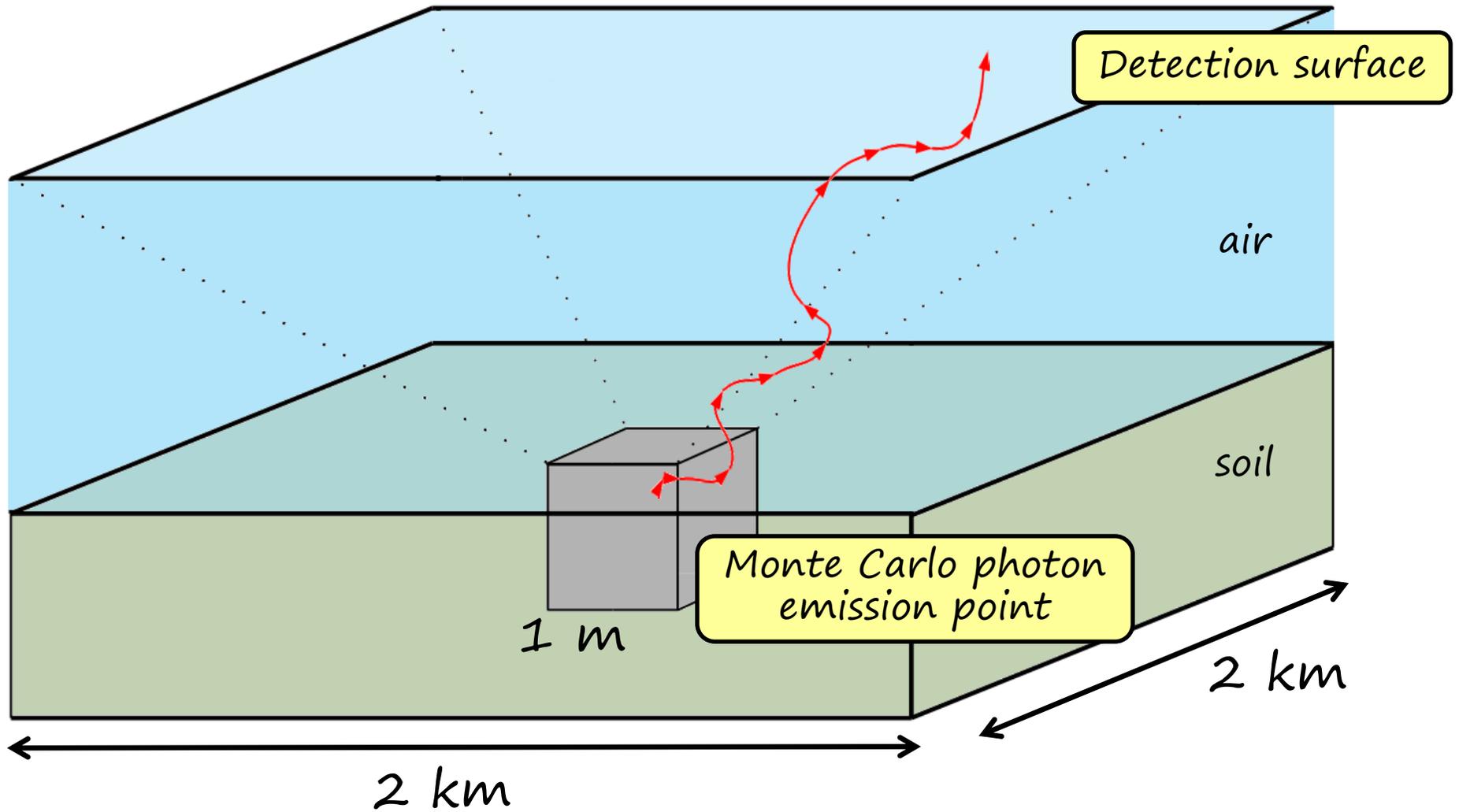
Monte Carlo Fundamental Spectra (MCFS)

HPGe measurement of radioactive content on collected samples

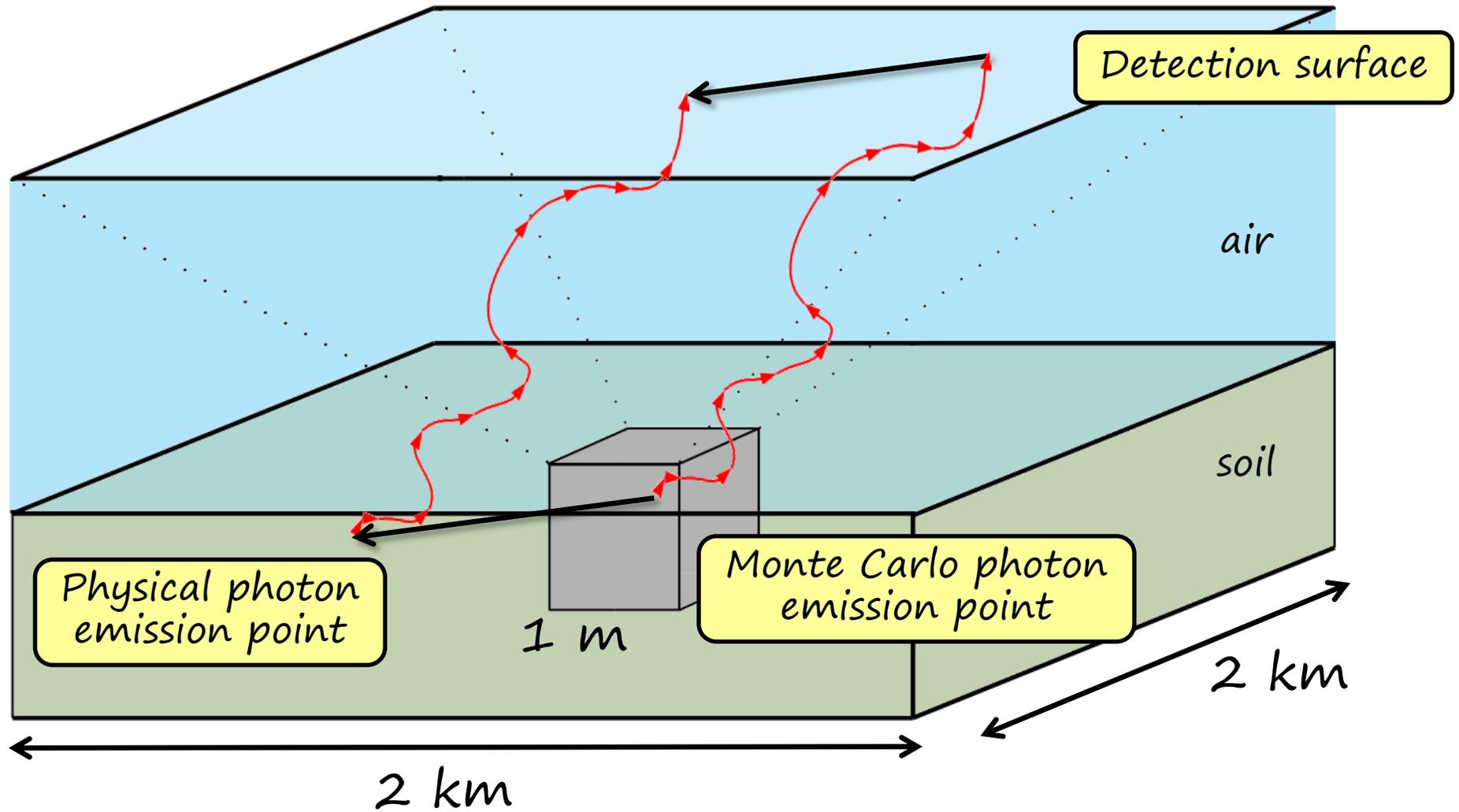


Modeling the calibration sites

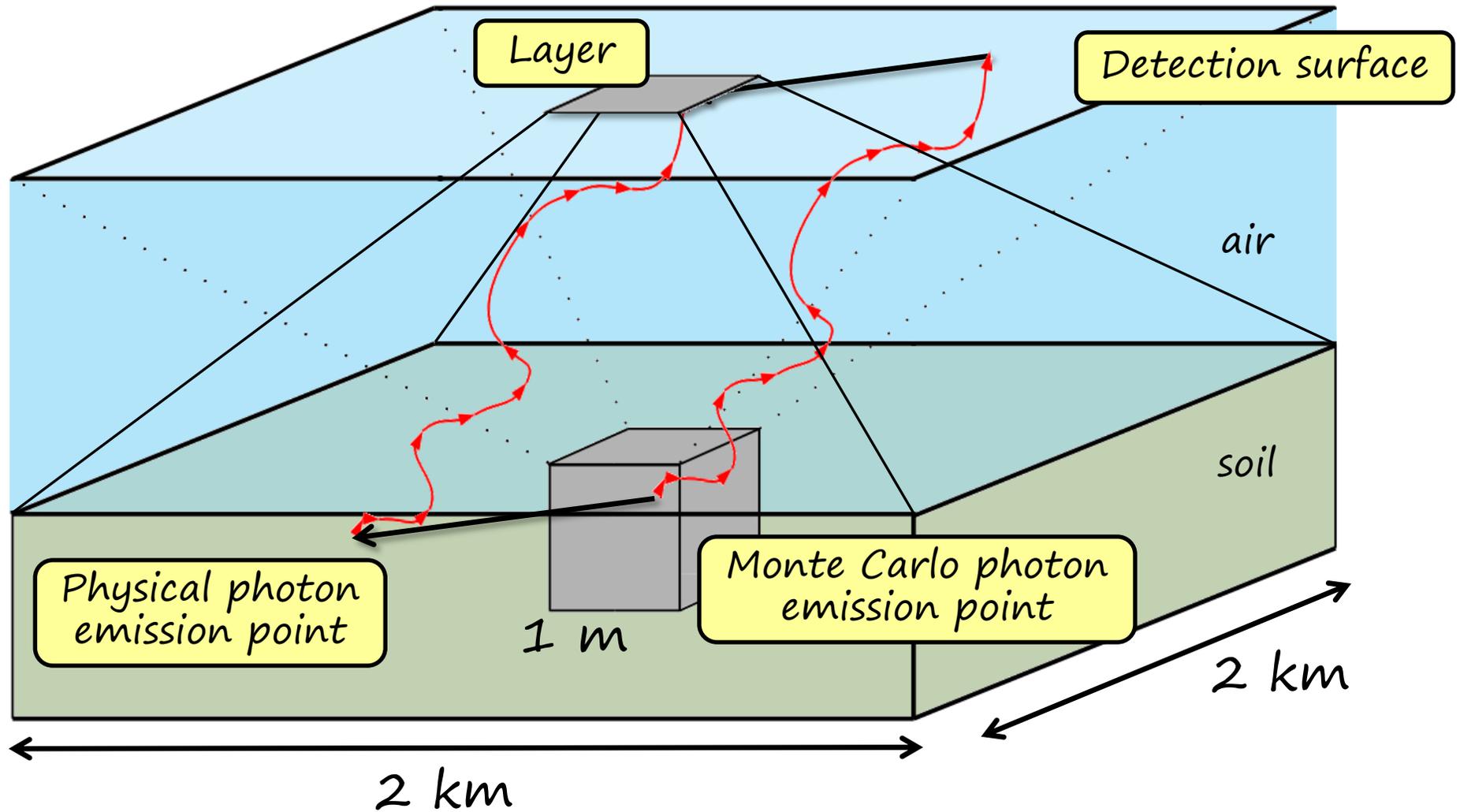
# Monte Carlo simulation strategy



# Monte Carlo simulation strategy



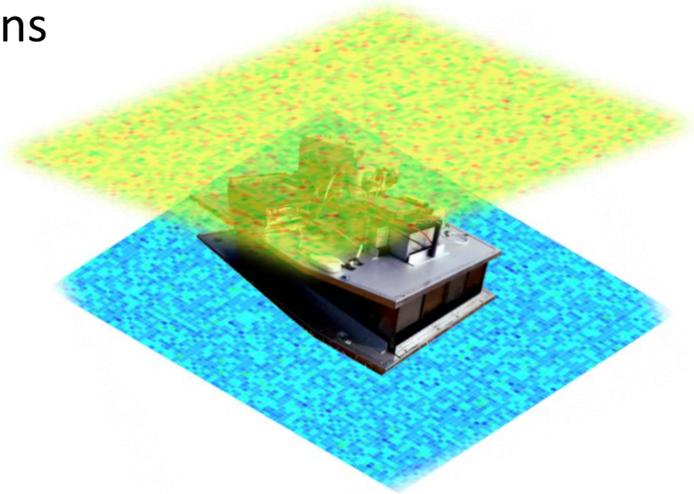
# Monte Carlo simulation strategy



A shift of the photon arrival position is equivalent to a shift of the photon emission point, without changing photon track.

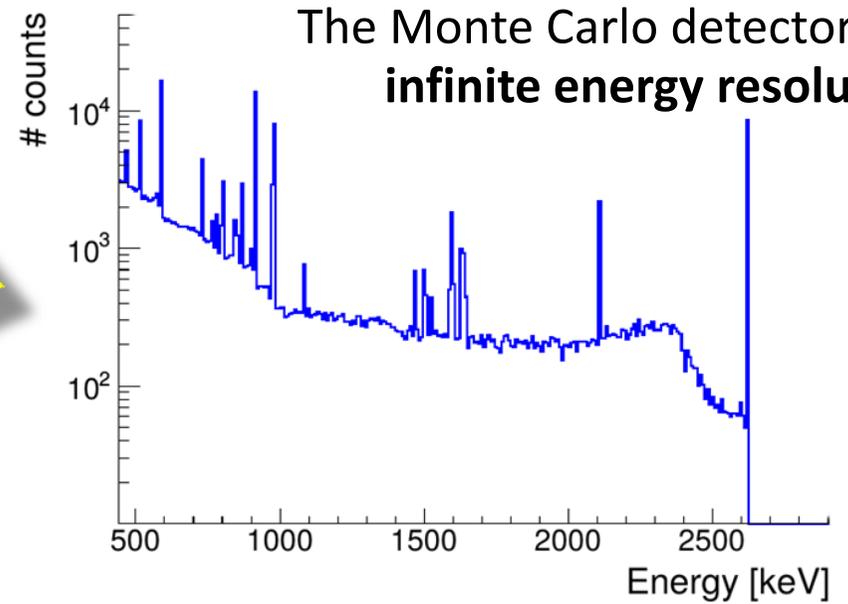
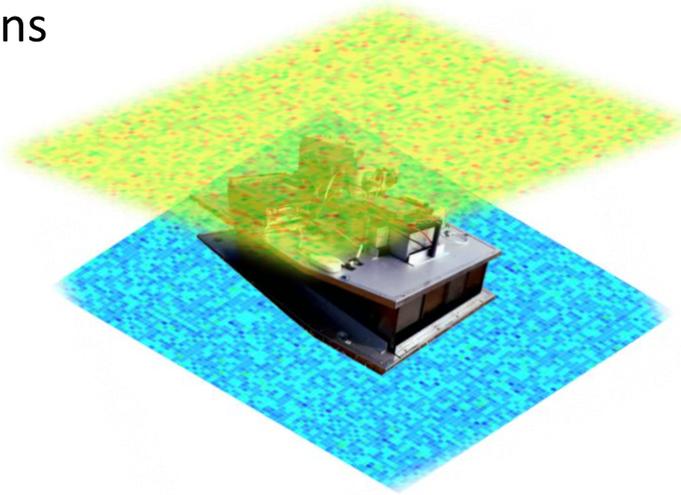
# Construction of Monte Carlo Fundamental Spectra

The detector is **sandwiched** between the layers of upward and downward moving photons



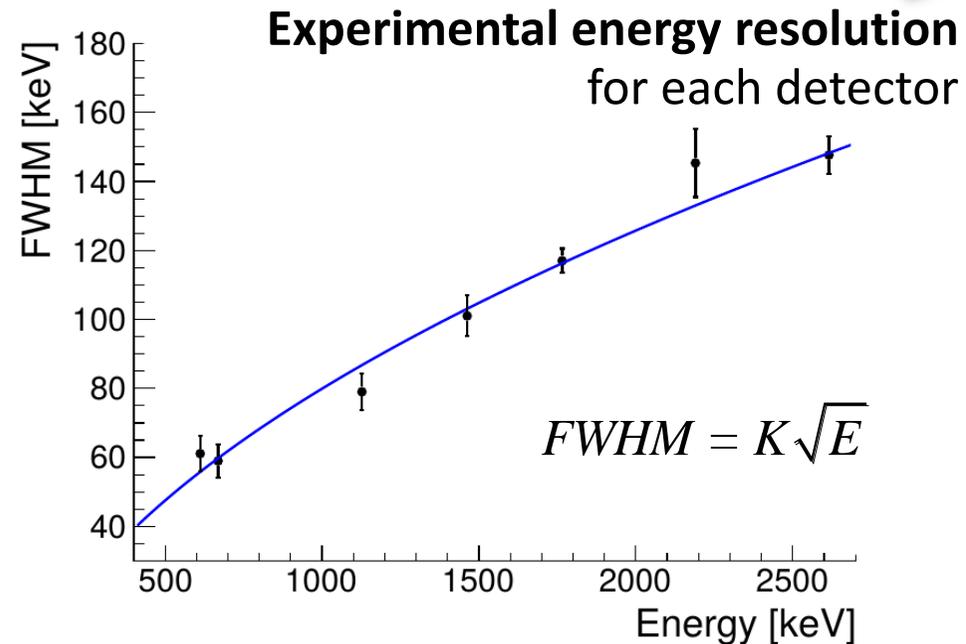
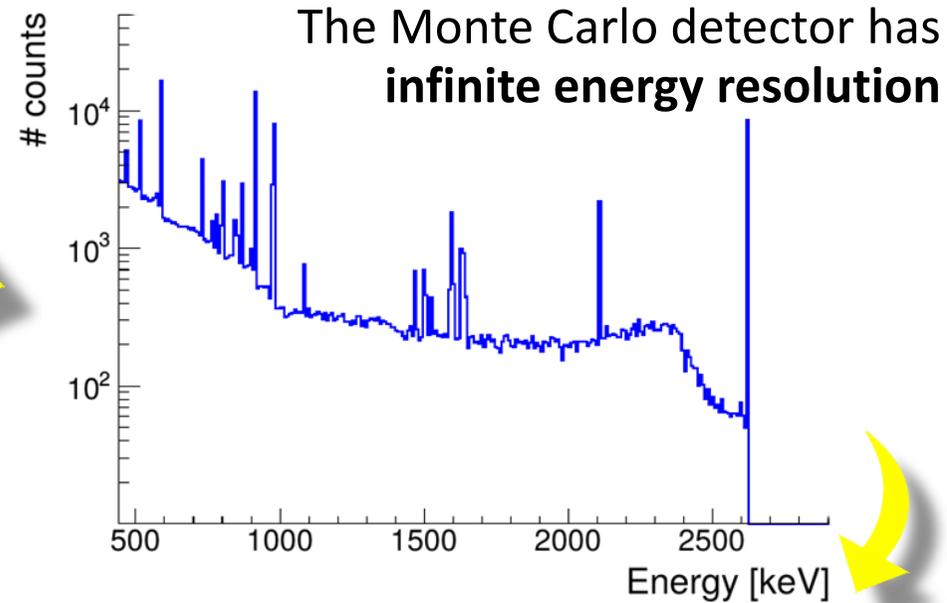
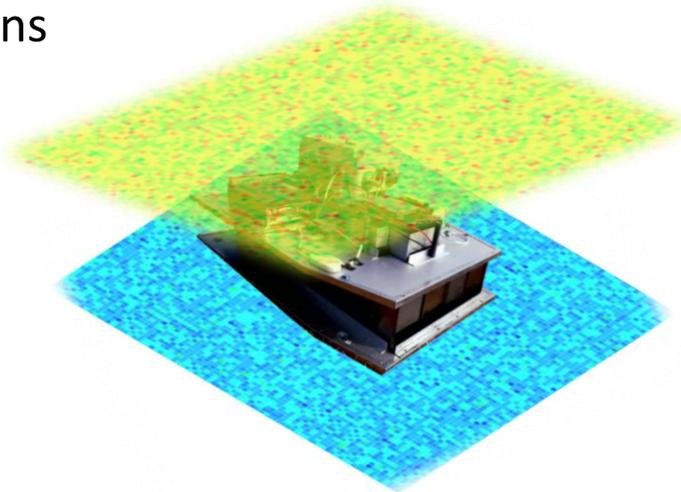
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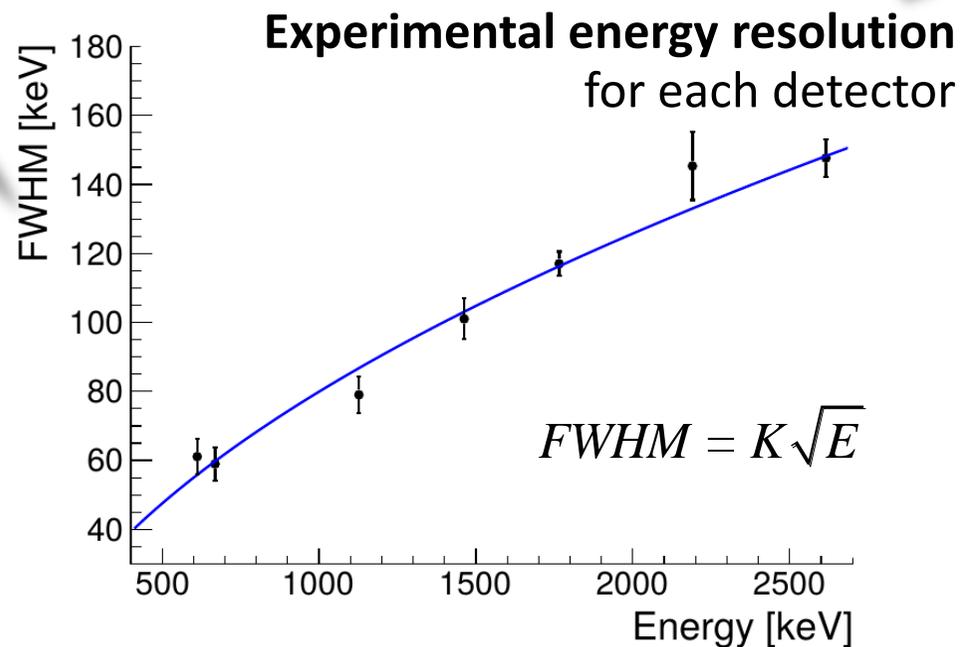
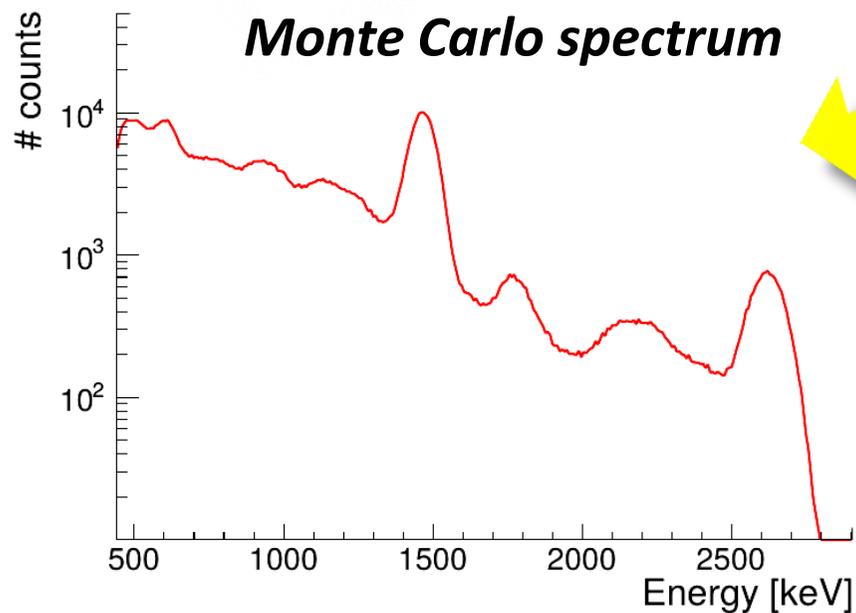
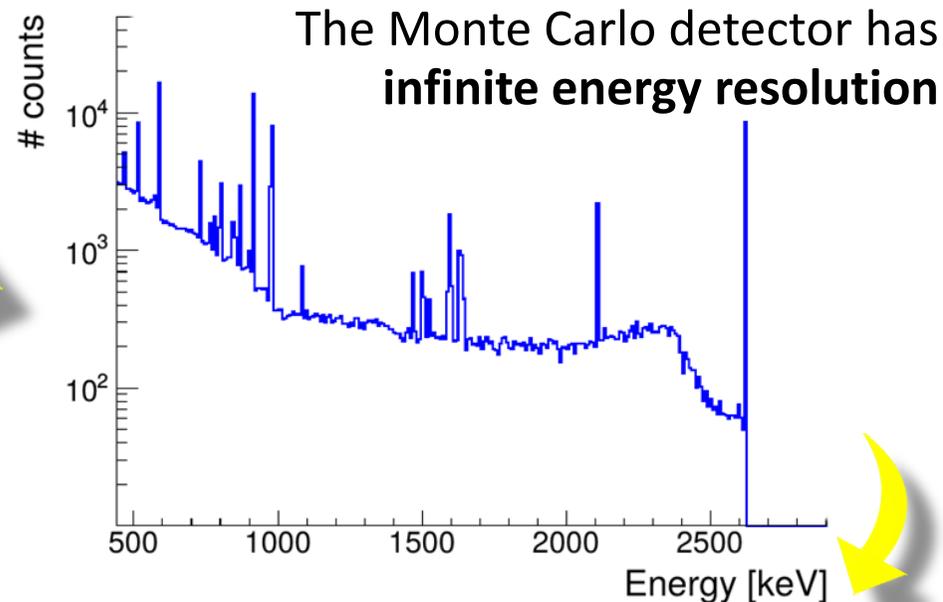
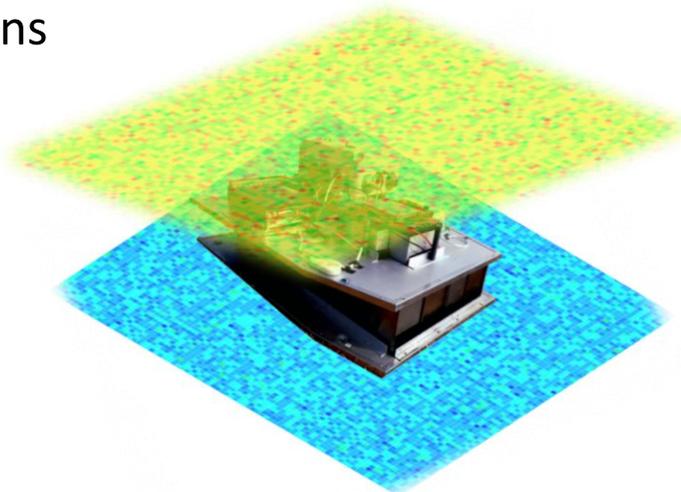
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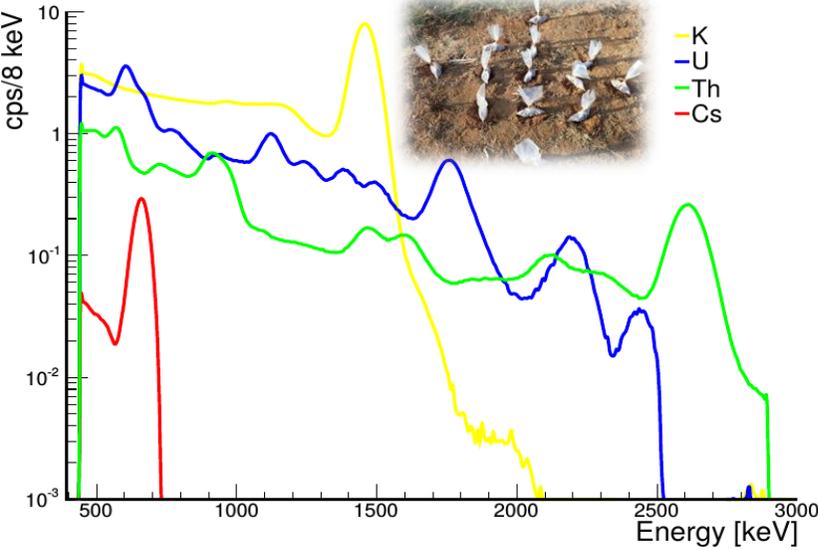
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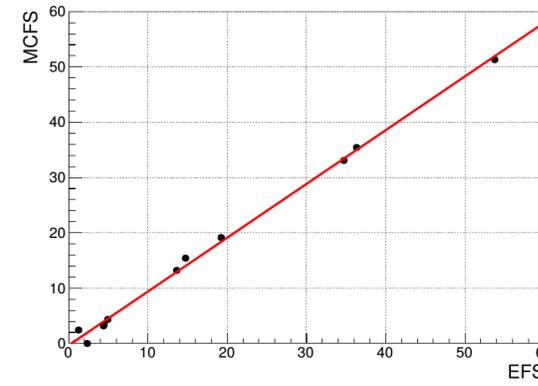
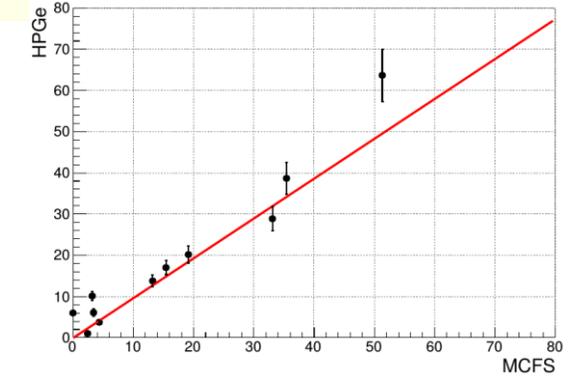
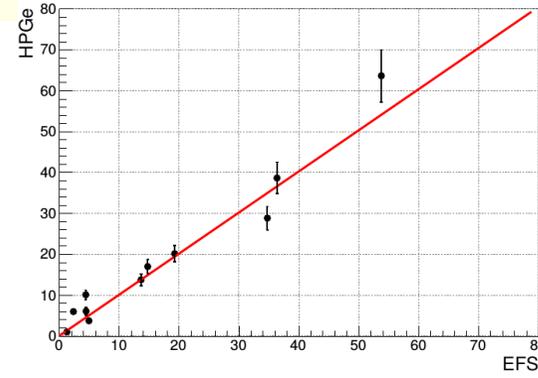
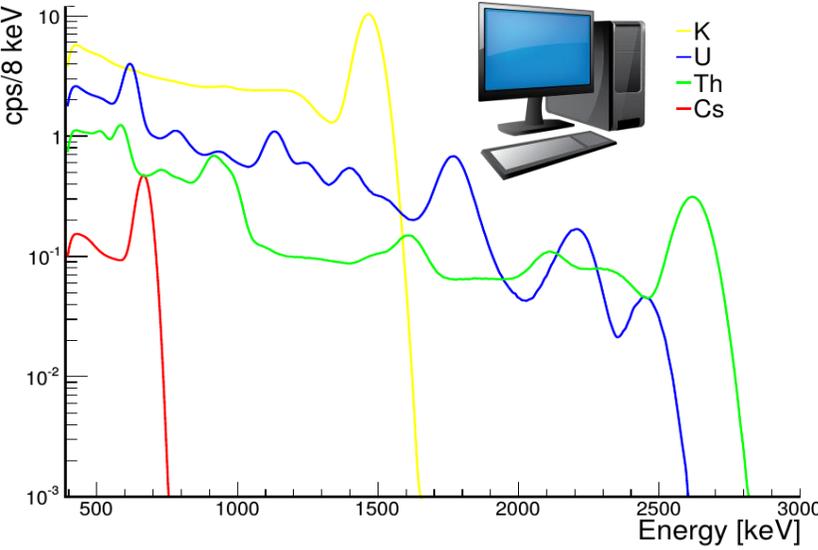


# Experimental and Monte Carlo Fundamental Spectra

## Experimental Fundamental Spectra



## Monte Carlo Fundamental Spectra



|              | $m \pm \delta m$ | $q \pm \delta q$ ( $\mu\text{g/g}$ ) | $r^2$ |
|--------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|-------|
| HPGe Vs EFS  | $1.01 \pm 0.04$  | $0.10 \pm 0.22$                      | 0.956 |
| HPGe Vs MCFS | $0.97 \pm 0.05$  | $-0.10 \pm 0.23$                     | 0.945 |
| MCFS Vs EFS  | $0.97 \pm 0.02$  | $-0.32 \pm 0.47$                     | 0.996 |

- ✓ EFS obtained by **modeling** the calibration sites
- ✓ **Redundancy** is the key and the tricky point of EFS extraction
- ✓ MCFS evaluated from an **ab-initio** approach
- ✓ Good **agreement** between **independent methods**
- ✓ EFS and MCFS highlight the **challenging** aspects in the efficiency calibration procedure (e.g. variability, field of view...)

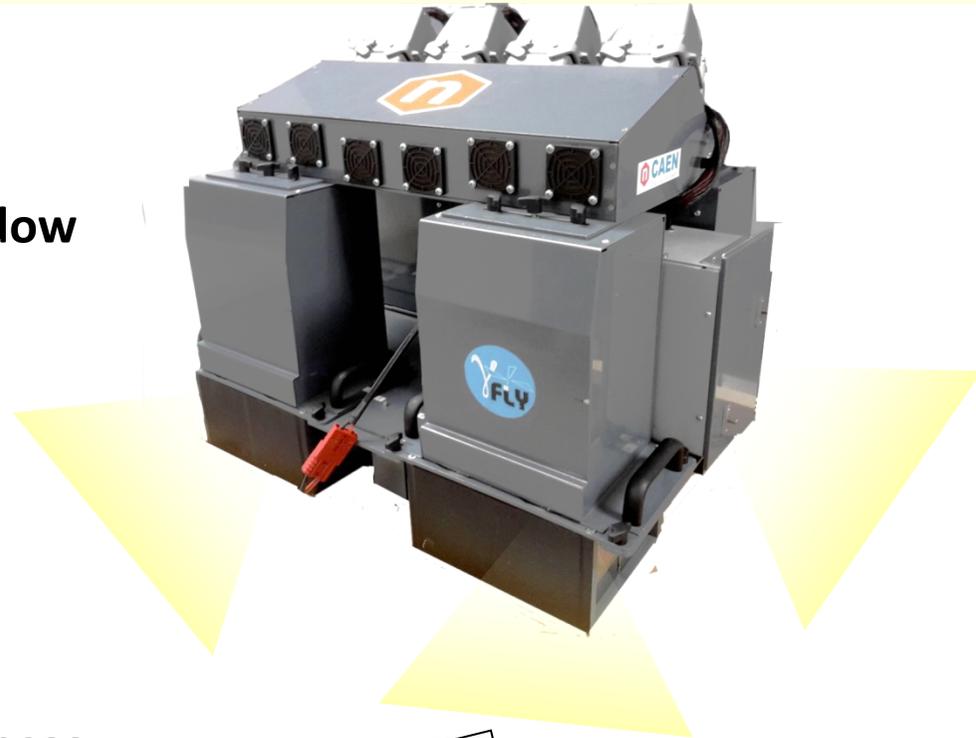
# Outcomes and perspectives of this study

- ✓ **Validation** of the **Monte Carlo** method for the AGRS\_16L efficiency calibration
- ✓ For the first time we have **3 cards** to play: **Window Analysis Method, FSA-EFS** and **FSA-MCFS**
- ✓ **Monte Carlo** simulation solves the problem of providing the **detector response function** to **anthropic radionuclides** (e.g.  $^{137}\text{Cs}$  fallout)
- ✓ **New detection systems** (e.g. UAV, mosaic detectors) characterized by different performances are entering the business of homeland security



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Caciolli, A., **Baldoncini, M.**, et al., A new FSA approach for in situ  $\gamma$  ray spectroscopy. Science of The Total Environment.

Invitation to international AGC (**Aero Gamma Spectrometry Campaign**) in June 2017 in Zurich





New challenges in...

...the spectral reconstruction of...

...terrestrial gamma rays and...

...reactor antineutrinos

# Offshore background calibration flights for AGRS

**GOAL:** understand **background** radiation

- ✓ **cosmic radiation** due to the interaction of secondaries with the air and equipment
- ✓ **aircraft radiation** due to K, U and Th in the equipment
- ✓ **atmospheric radon** exhaled from rocks and soils

Cosmic radiation

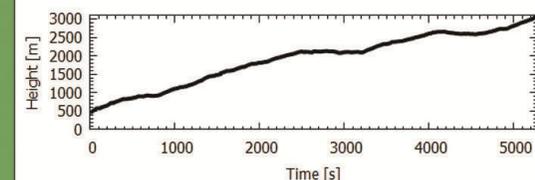
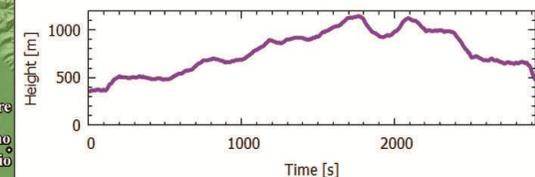
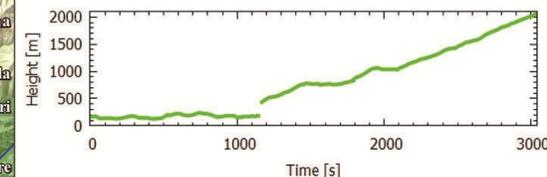
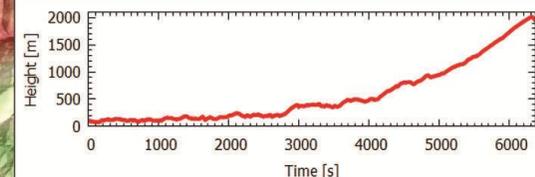
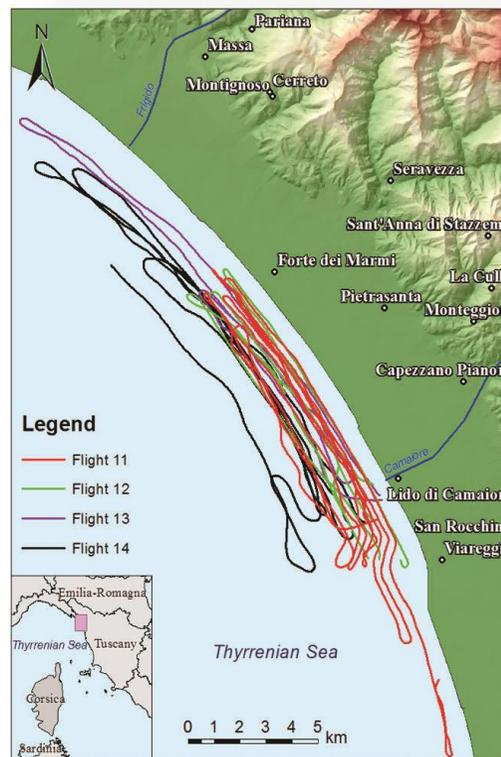


Aircraft radiation

Atmospheric Radon

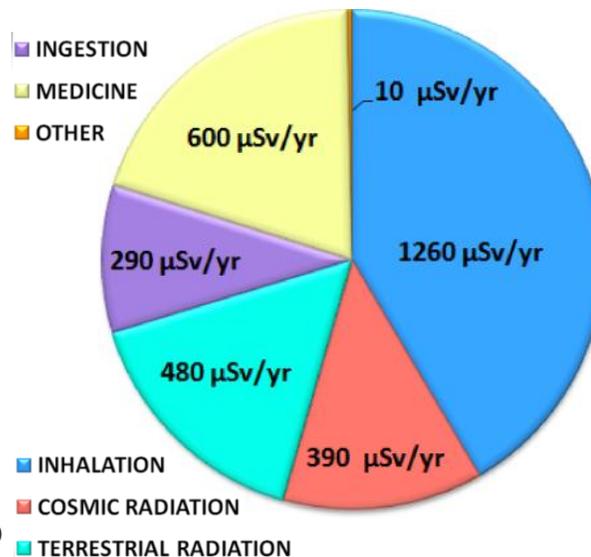
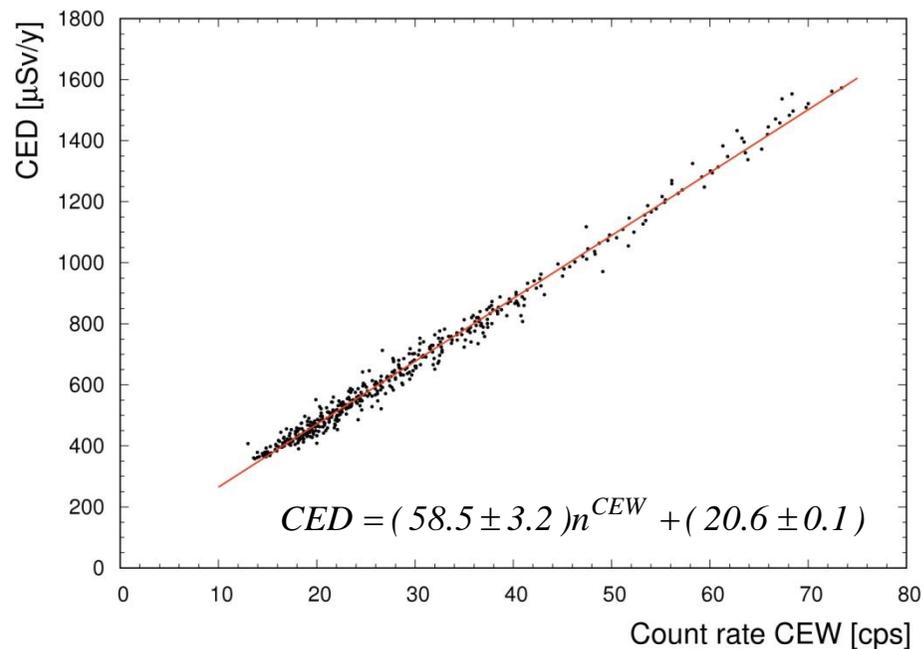
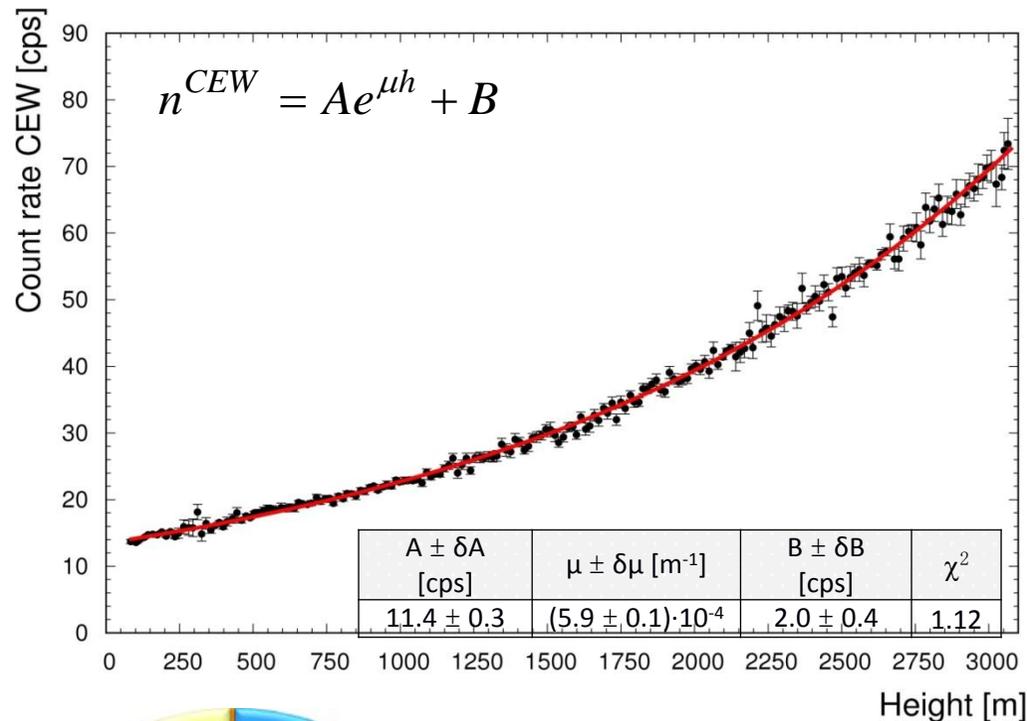
**HOW:** acquisition of gamma spectra **over water** at **different heights**

- ✓ 4 offshore airborne gamma-ray surveys have been performed for a **~5 hour** acquisition time
- ✓ the **(77 – 3066) m** altitude range has been explored
- ✓ **17612 gamma spectra** have been acquired



# Gamma cosmic radiation and dose

- ✓ At  $E > 3$  MeV all gamma radiation has **cosmic origin**
- ✓ The gamma component of the cosmic radiation has been measured by monitoring the **Cosmic Energy Window (CEW)** (3 – 7) MeV
- ✓ In the lower atmosphere the intensity of the cosmic gamma radiation **exponentially increases with increasing altitude**



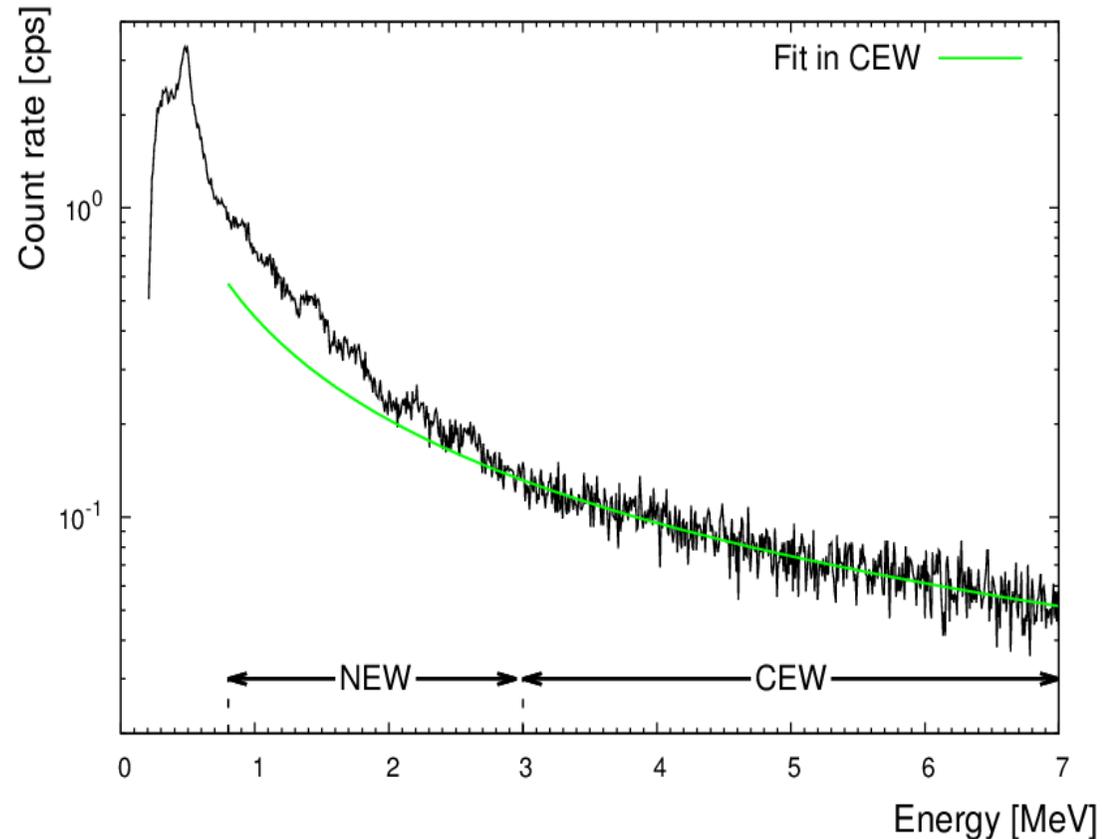
The AGRS detector has been **calibrated** for the **cosmic effective dose** by adopting cosmic dose values provided by the CARI-6 software (US Federal Aviation Administration)

# Cosmic spectral shape

✓ The cosmic component of a measured gamma spectrum can be reconstructed in the **Cosmic Energy Window (CEW) (3 – 7) MeV**  
**Natural Energy Window (NEW) (0.8 – 3) MeV**

- **CEW**: the counting statistics has pure cosmic nature but the sole reconstruction of the high energy tail is affected by large uncertainties

| Energy Window | $\gamma$ line (MeV)        | Energy range (MeV) | Count rate at 2100 m [cps] |
|---------------|----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Potassium     | 1.46 ( $^{40}\text{K}$ )   | 1.37 – 1.57        | 0.33                       |
| Bismuth       | 1.76 ( $^{214}\text{Bi}$ ) | 1.66 – 1.86        | 0.27                       |
| Thallium      | 2.61 ( $^{208}\text{Tl}$ ) | 2.41 – 2.81        | 0.15                       |
| Cosmic        | /                          | 3.00 – 7.00        | 41.9                       |



# Cosmic spectral shape

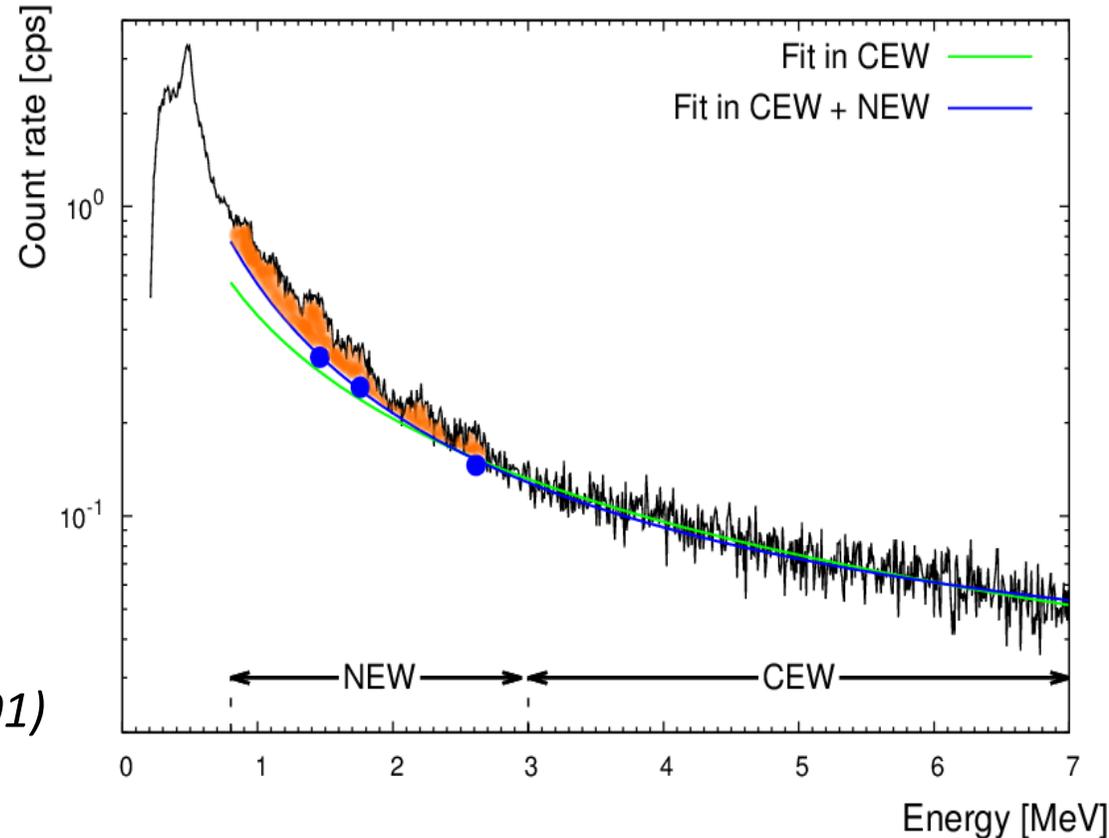
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✓ The cosmic spectral shape has been reconstructed at 2100 m as

$$\text{cps} = (0.54 \pm 0.04) E^{(-1.49 \pm 0.05)} + (0.02 \pm 0.01)$$

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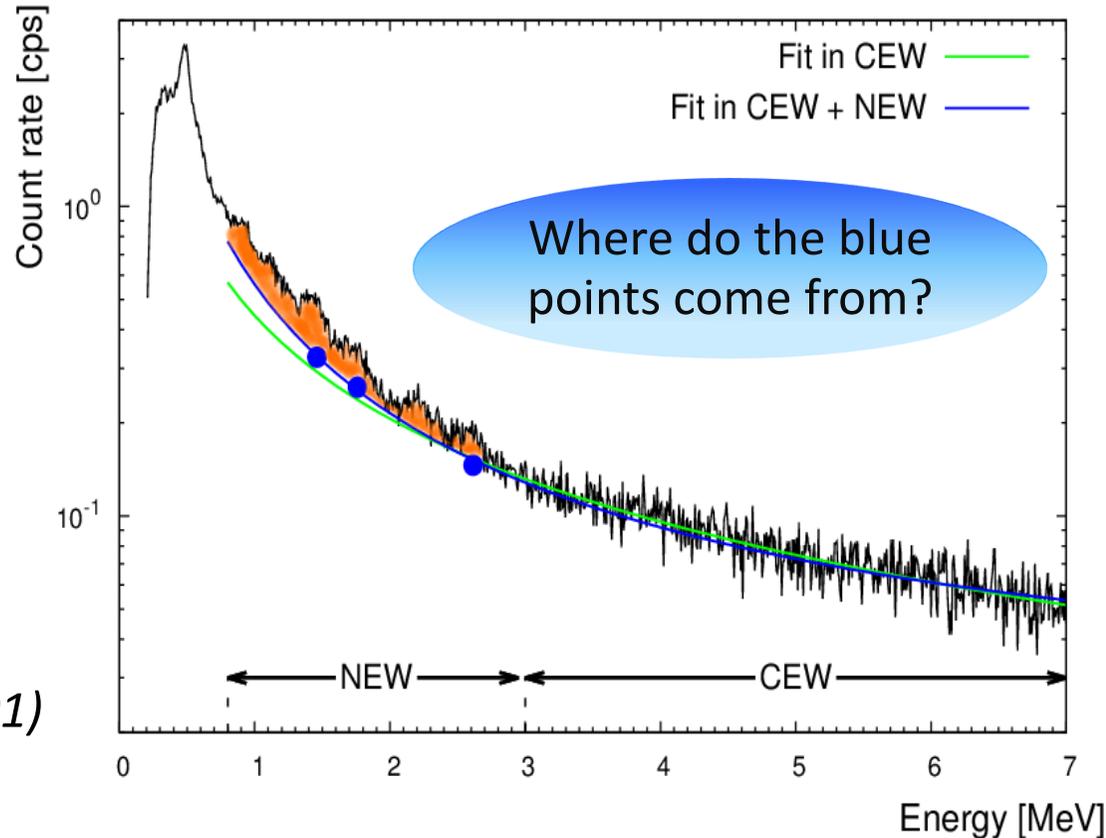
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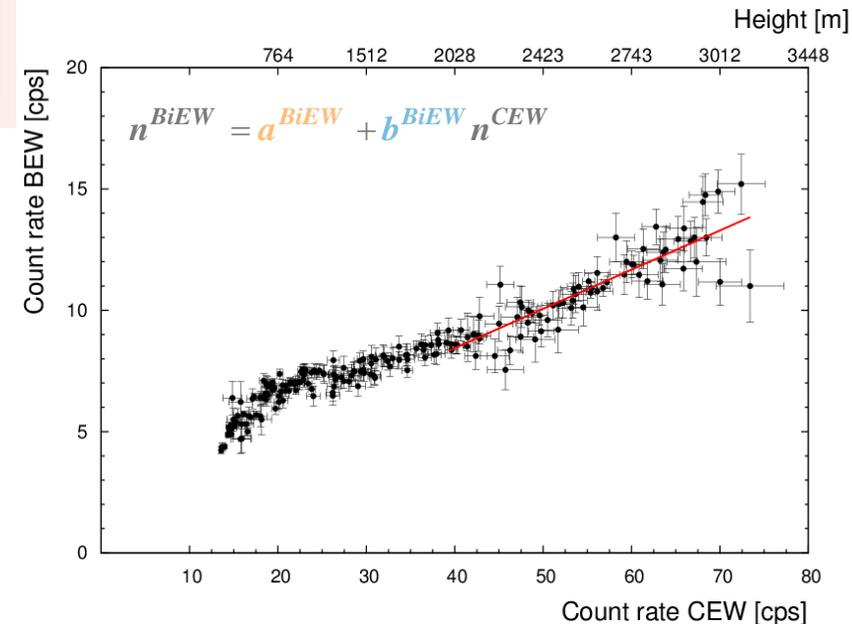
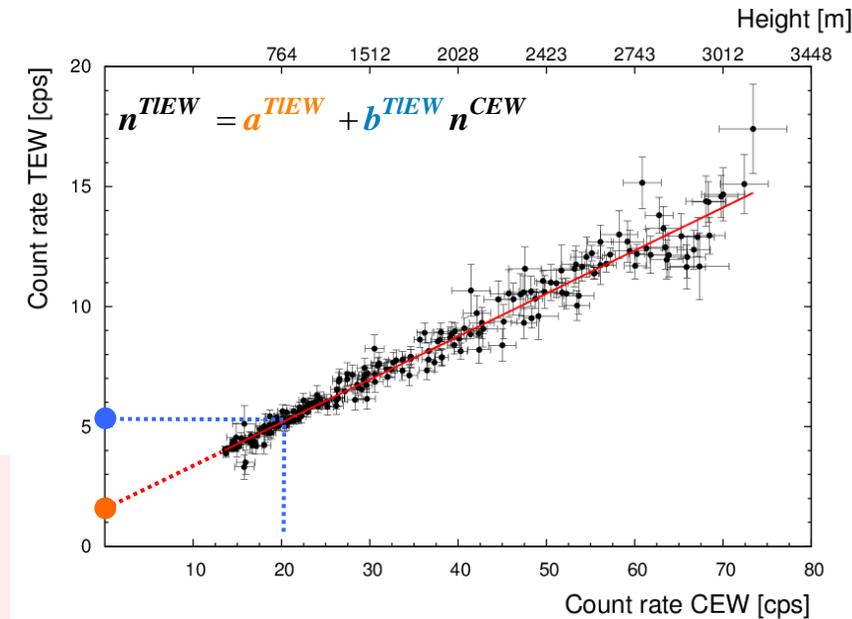
# Cosmic background and minimum equivalent abundances

Linear regressions between the count rates in one energy window ( $^{40}\text{K}$ ,  $^{214}\text{Bi}$  and  $^{208}\text{Tl}$ ) and the cosmic count rates provide:

- **b**: cosmic stripping ratio
- **a**: constant background count rate due to the aircraft radioactivity

For the first time the **minimum equivalent abundances (MEA)** of **K**, **U** and **Th** have been calculated

| Isotope | MEA                             | Aircraft cps    |
|---------|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| K       | $0.05 \cdot 10^{-2} \text{g/g}$ | $3.7 \pm 0.4$   |
| U       | $0.4 \mu\text{g/g}$             | $2.0 \pm 0.4$   |
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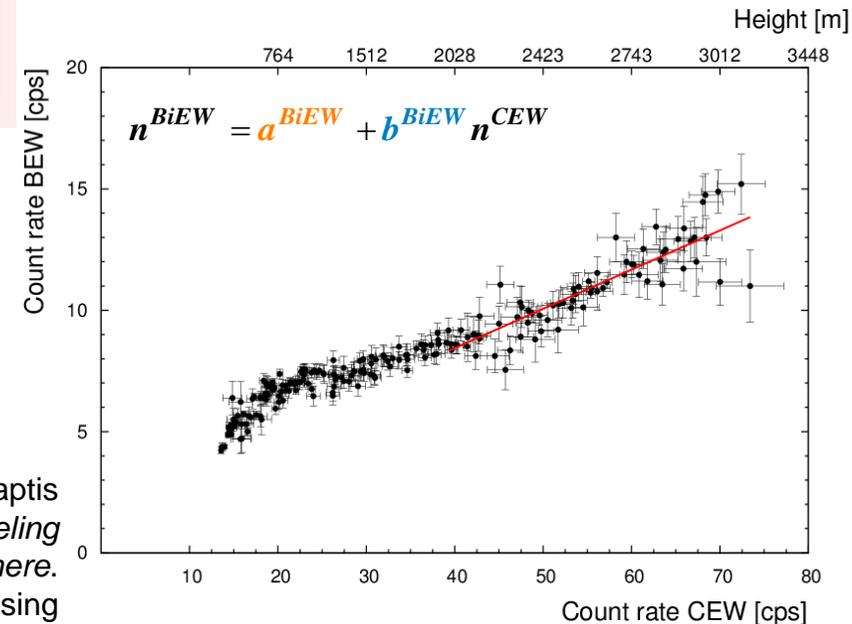
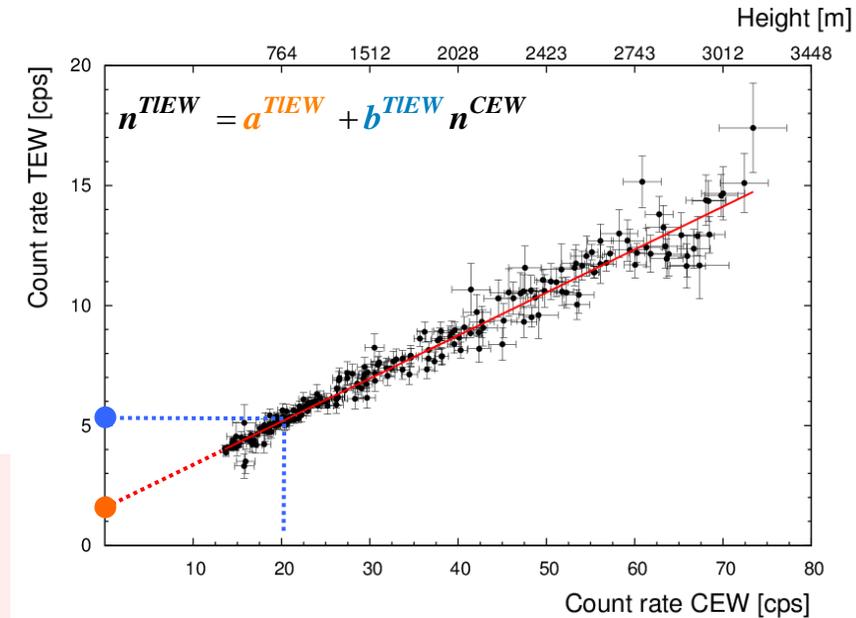
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**Workshop on AGRS**  
 Ferrara 8-15 Oct. 2016  
 Dr. Brian Minty received  
 Copernicus Visiting Scientist award

Baldoncini M., Albèri M., Bottardi C., Mantovani F., Minty B., Raptis K., Strati V. *Airborne gamma-ray spectroscopy for modeling cosmic radiation and effective dose in the lower atmosphere.*  
 Submitted to IEEE Transactions on Geoscience and Remote Sensing





New challenges in...

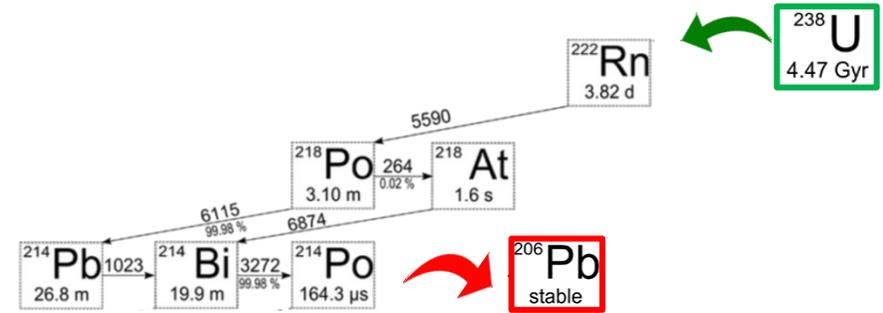
...the spectral reconstruction of...

...terrestrial gamma rays and...

...reactor antineutrinos

# $^{222}\text{Rn}$ : a phantom gamma background source in the lower atmosphere

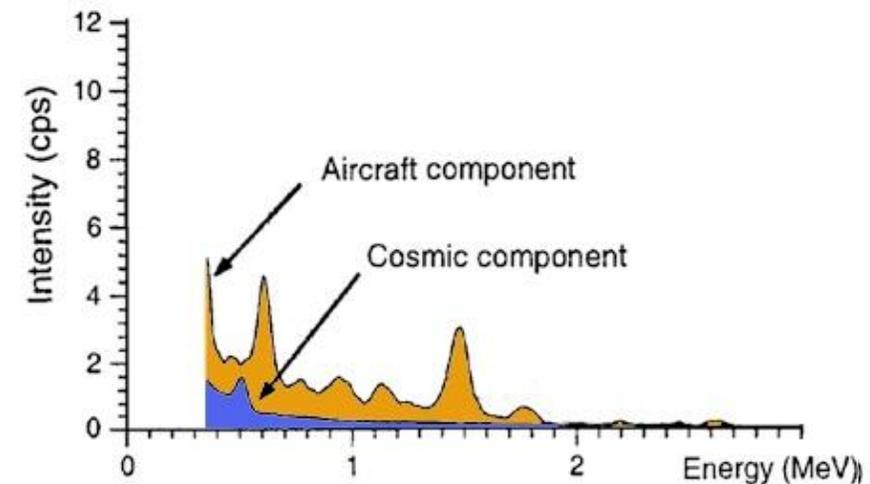
✓  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  is the **only gaseous product** of the  $^{238}\text{U}$  **decay chain**. The relatively long half-life ( $\tau_{1/2} = \mathbf{3.82 \text{ days}}$ ) allows  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  to exhale from soils and rocks and diffuse into the atmosphere



✓  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  is an interesting **natural tracer** for studying processes in the **atmospheric boundary layer** (e.g. vertical air mixing, atmospheric pollutants, climate and chemical transport models)

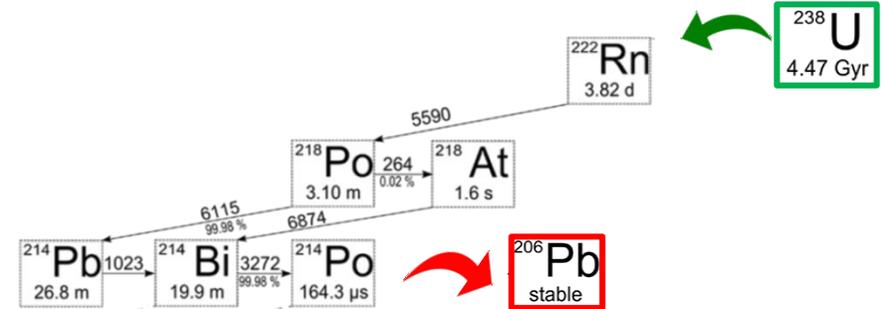


✓ The most prominent gamma-ray emitter ( $^{214}\text{Bi}$ ) occurs below  $^{222}\text{Rn}$ : the presence of  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  in the atmosphere mimics the signal due to  $^{238}\text{U}$  in the soil



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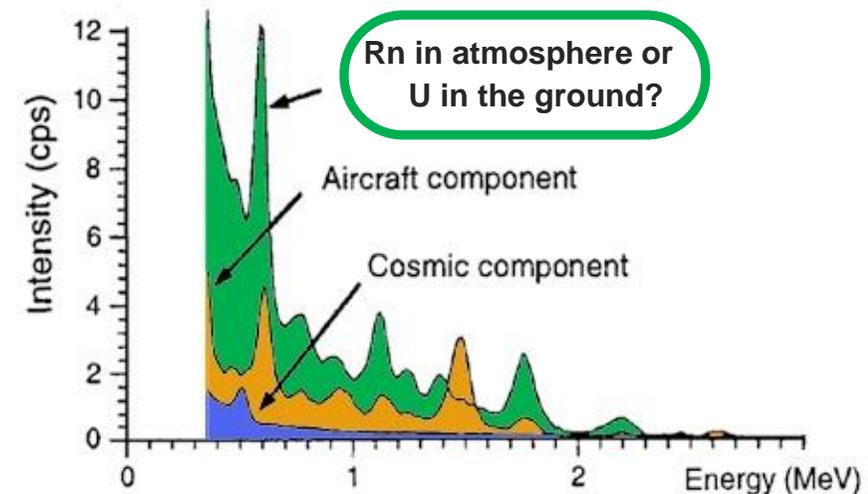
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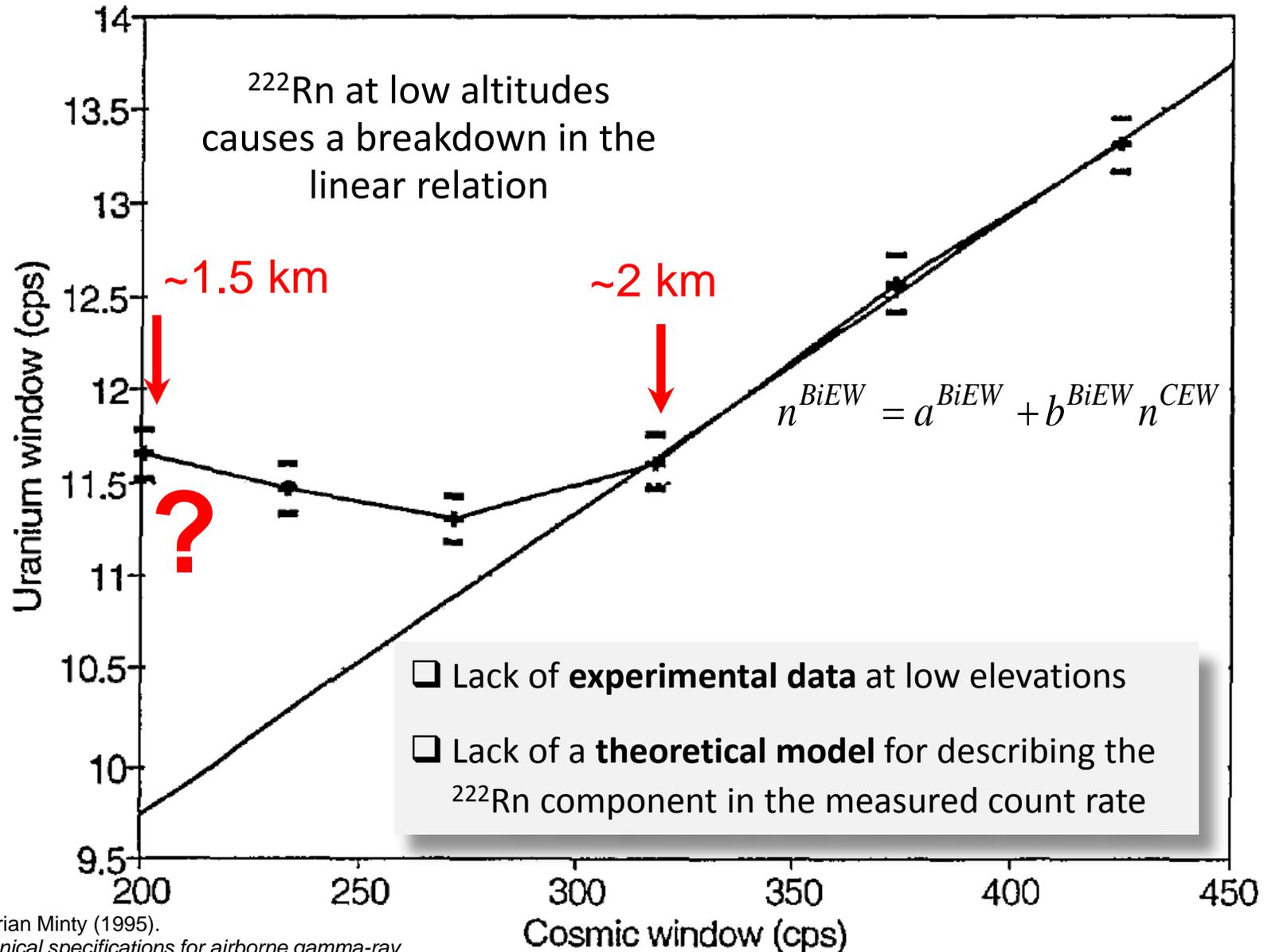
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# The state of art on $^{222}\text{Rn}$ with AGRS in the lower atmosphere

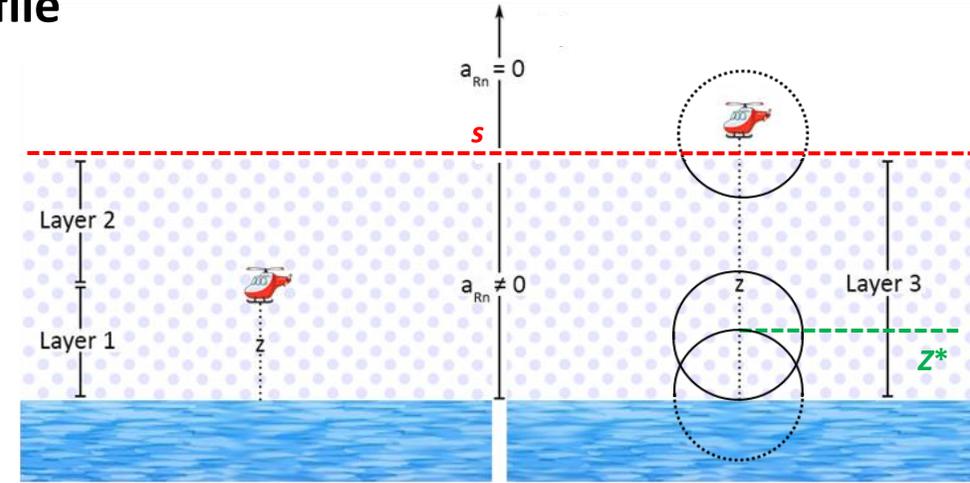


# Theoretical model for the $^{222}\text{Rn}$ count rate in the BiEW

The model adopts a **two strata**  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  vertical profile

$$a_{\text{Rn}} = \begin{cases} \text{Const} & (z < s) \\ 0 & (z > s) \end{cases}$$

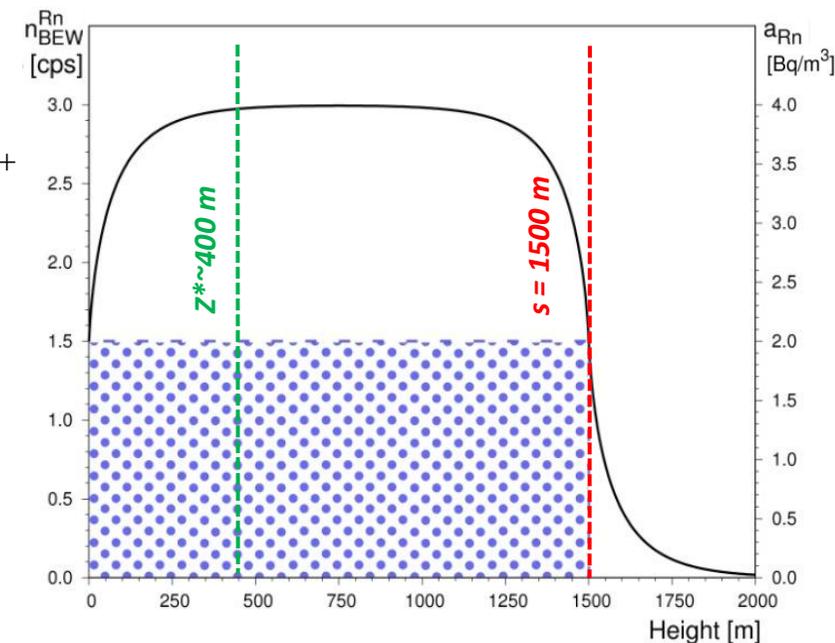
The expected count rate due to atmospheric  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  is modeled on the base of  $^{214}\text{Bi}$  **unscattered photons propagation**



$$n_{\text{Rn}}(a_{\text{Rn}}, z) = \Theta(s - z) [n_1(a_{\text{Rn}}, z) + n_2(a_{\text{Rn}}, z)] + \Theta(z - s) n_3(a_{\text{Rn}}, z)$$

$$n_{\text{Rn}}(z) = \Theta(s - z) \left[ a_{\text{Rn}} \int d \cos \theta \left( 1 - \exp \left( - \frac{\mu z}{\cos \theta} \right) \right) + a_{\text{Rn}} \int d \cos \theta \left( 1 - \exp \left( - \frac{\mu (s - z)}{\cos \theta} \right) \right) \right] + \Theta(z - s) \left[ a_{\text{Rn}} \int d \cos \theta \exp \left( - \frac{\mu (z - s)}{\cos \theta} \right) \left( 1 - \exp \left( - \frac{\mu s}{\cos \theta} \right) \right) \right]$$

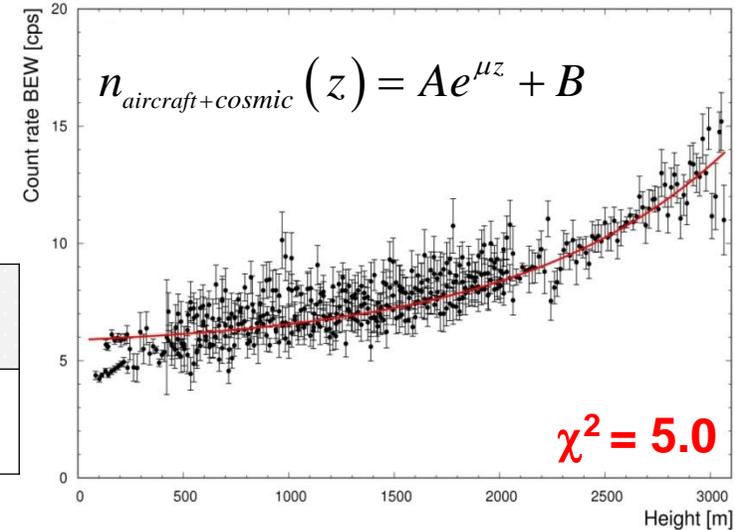
The count rate profile is governed by the  $^{214}\text{Bi}$  photon mean free path  $\mu^{-1}$ , by the  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  abundance  $a_{\text{Rn}}$  and by the mixing layer depth  $s$



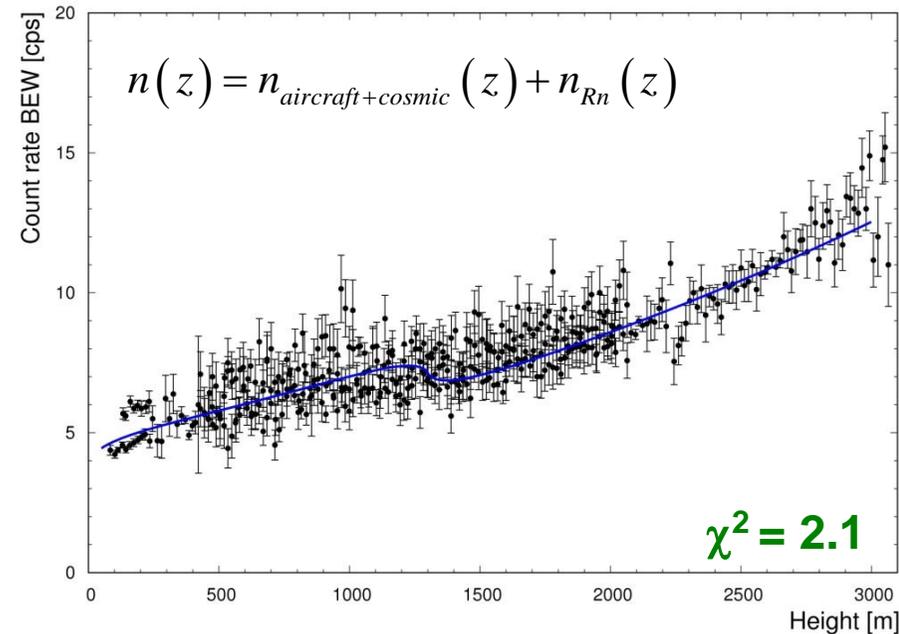
# $^{222}\text{Rn}$ measurement with AGRS

The theoretical model is applied for fitting the experimental count rate in the Bi Energy Window (BiEW), collected in **14688** gamma spectra acquired over the sea in the (**77 – 3066**) m altitude range

| $A \pm \delta A$ [cps] | $\mu \pm \delta\mu$ [ $\text{m}^{-1}$ ] | $B \pm \delta B$ [cps] | $a_{\text{Rn}} \pm \delta a_{\text{Rn}}$ [ $\text{Bq}/\text{m}^3$ ] | $s \pm \delta s$ [m] |
|------------------------|---|------------------------|---|----------------------|
| $8.2 \pm 0.2$          | $(2.54 \pm 0.06) \cdot 10^{-4}$         | $-4.9 \pm 0.2$         | $0.96 \pm 0.07$   | $1318 \pm 22$        |

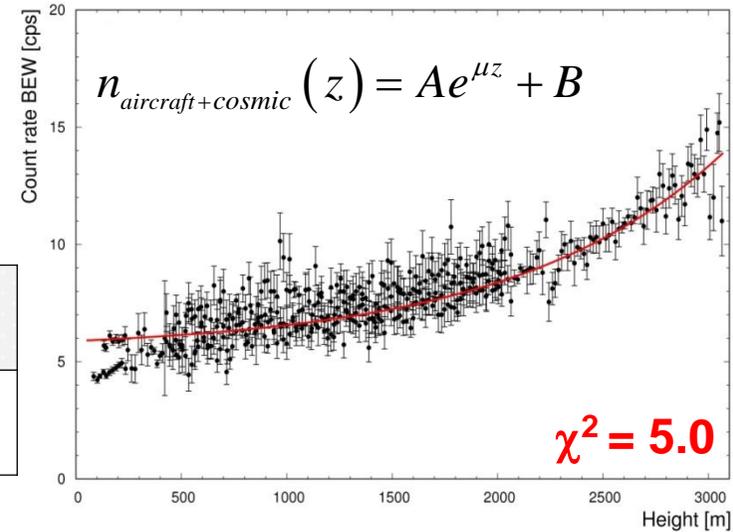


The **refined model** fits the data better than the **standard model** and the mean  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  concentration and mixing layer depth are in perfect agreement with the data published in literature ( $a_{\text{Rn}} \sim 1\text{Bq}/\text{m}^3$ ;  $s \sim 1500$  m)



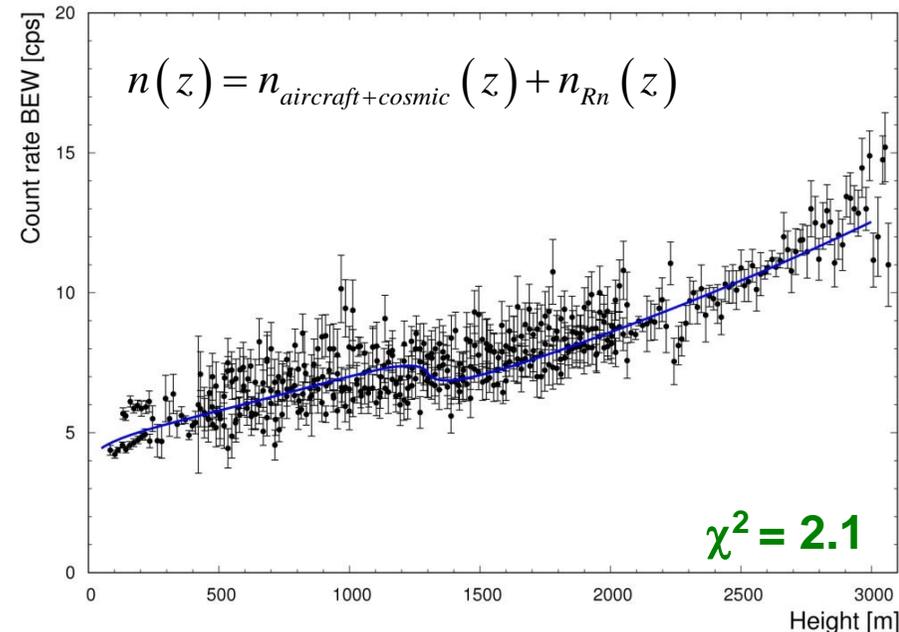
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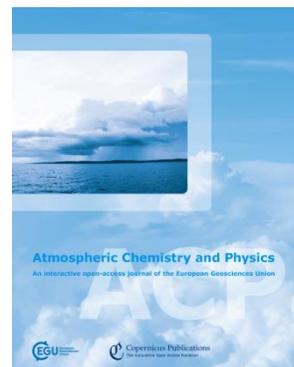
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**Baldoncini M.**, Albèri M., Bottardi C., Mantovani F., Minty B., Raptis K., Strati V.

*Exploring atmospheric radon with airborne gamma-ray spectroscopy.*

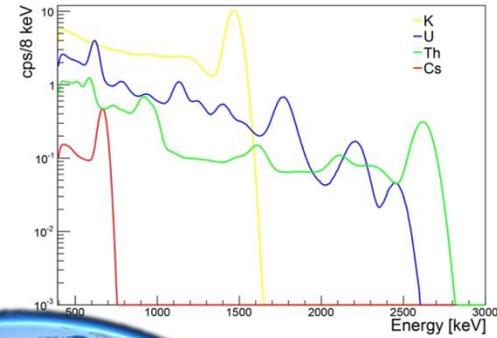
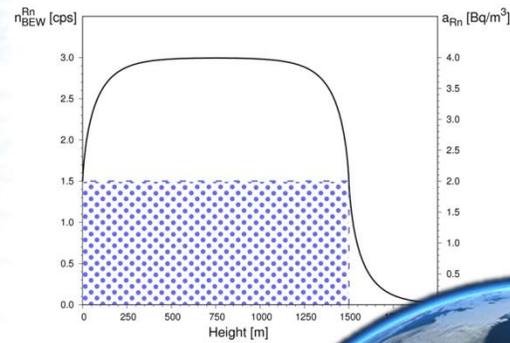
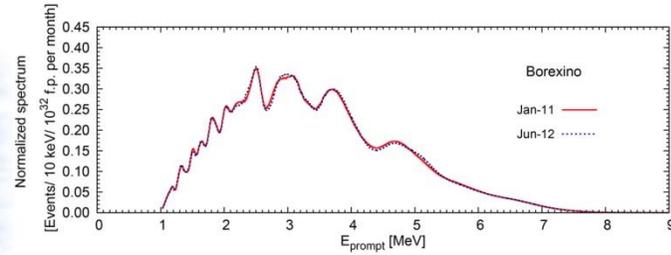
Submitted to Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics



# CONCLUSIONS



# CONCLUSIONS



# List of publications

**Baldoncini M.**, Albèri M., Bottardi C., Mantovani F., Minty B., Raptis K., Strati V. *Airborne gamma-ray spectroscopy for modeling cosmic radiation and effective dose in the lower atmosphere*. **Submitted to IEEE Transactions on Geoscience and Remote Sensing (IF: 3.514)**

**Baldoncini M.**, Albèri M., Bottardi C., Mantovani F., Minty B., Raptis K., Strati V. *Exploring atmospheric radon with airborne gamma-ray spectroscopy*. **Submitted to Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics (IF: 5.626)**

KaceliXhixha, M., Albèri, M., **Baldoncini, M.**, Bezzon, G.P., Buso, G.P., Callegari, I., Casini, L., Cuccuru, S., Fiorentini, G., Guastaldi, E., Mantovani, F., Mou, L., Oggiano, G., Puccini, A., Rossi Alvarez, C., Strati, V., Xhixha, G., Zanon, A.. *Map of the uranium distribution in the Variscan Basement of Northeastern Sardinia*. **Journal of Maps** (2015) **(IF: 1.435)**

Xhixha, G., Alberi, **M.**, **Baldoncini, M.**, Bode, K., Bylyku, E., Cfarku, F., Callegari, I., Hasani, F., Landsberger, S., Mantovani, F., Rodriguez, E., Shala, F., Strati, V., Kaçeli Xhixha, M. *Calibration of HPGe detectors using certified reference materials of natural origin*. **Journal of Radioanalytical and Nuclear Chemistry** (2015) **(IF: 0.983)**

Xhixha, G., **Baldoncini, M.**, Callegari, I., Colonna, T., Hasani, F., Mantovani, F., Shala, F., Strati, V., and Xhixha Kaceli, M. *A century of oil and gas exploration in Albania: Assessment of Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials (NORMs)*. **Chemosphere** 139, 30-39, (2015) **(IF:3698)**

**Baldoncini, M.**, Callegari, I., Fiorentini, G., Mantovani, F., Ricci, B., Strati, V. and Xhixha, G. *Reference worldwide model for antineutrinos from reactors*. **Physical Review D** 91, 065002 (2015) **(IF: 4.506)**

Strati, V., **Baldoncini, M.**, Bezzon, G. P., Broggin, C., Buso, G. P., Caciolli, A., Callegari, I., Carmignani, L., Colonna, T., Fiorentini, G., Guastaldi, E., Kaçeli Xhixha, M., Mantovani, F., Menegazzo, R., Mou, L., Rossi Alvarez, C., Xhixha, G., and Zanon, A. *Total natural radioactivity, Veneto (Italy)*. **Journal of Maps**, 1-7 (2014) **(IF: 1.435)**

Guastaldi, E., **Baldoncini, M.**, Bezzon, G., Broggin, C., Buso, G., Caciolli, A., Carmignani, L., Callegari, I., Colonna T., Dule, K., Fiorentini, G., Kaçeli Xhixha, M., Mantovani, F., Massa, G., Menegazzo, R., Mou, L., Rossi Alvarez, C., Strati, V., Xhixha, G., Zanon, A., *A multivariate spatial interpolation of airborne  $\gamma$ -ray data using the geological constraints*. **Remote Sensing of Environment**, 137 (2013) 1-11 **(IF: 5.881)**

Caciolli, A., **Baldoncini, M.**, Bezzon, G.P., Broggin, C., Buso, G.P., Callegari, I., Colonna, T., Fiorentini, G., Guastaldi, E., Mantovani, F., G. Massa, R. Menegazzo, L. Mou, C.R. Alvarez, M. Shyti, A. Zanon, G. Xhixha, *A new FSA approach for in situ  $\gamma$  ray spectroscopy*. **Science of The Total Environment**, 414 (2012) 639-645 **(IF: 3.976)**

