



Pair Spectroscopy of the Hoyle State

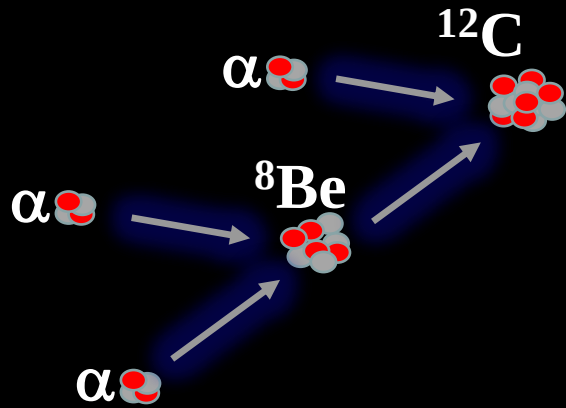
T. Kibédi

Department of Nuclear Physics
Australian National University
Canberra, Australia
Tibor.Kibedi@anu.edu.au

[Bungle Bungles Star Trails | Mike Salway](#)



The triple- α rate in stellar He burning



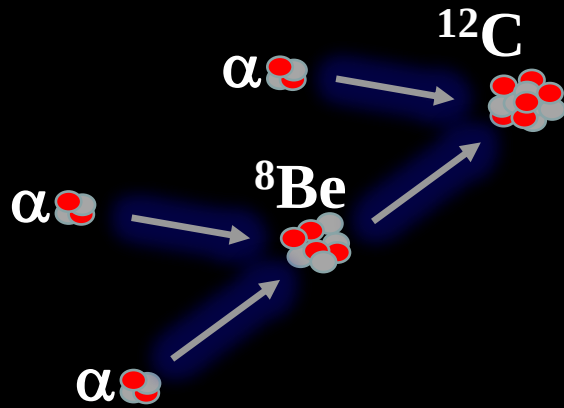
Hans A. Bethe (1906-2005)

1939: No stable $A=5$ to 8 elements

Triple- α process to bypass the gap; PR **55** (1939) 434



The triple- α rate in stellar He burning



Hans A. Bethe (1906-2005)



Edwin E. Salpeter (1924-2008)

1939: No stable $A=5$ to 8 elements

Triple- α process to bypass the gap; PR **55** (1939) 434

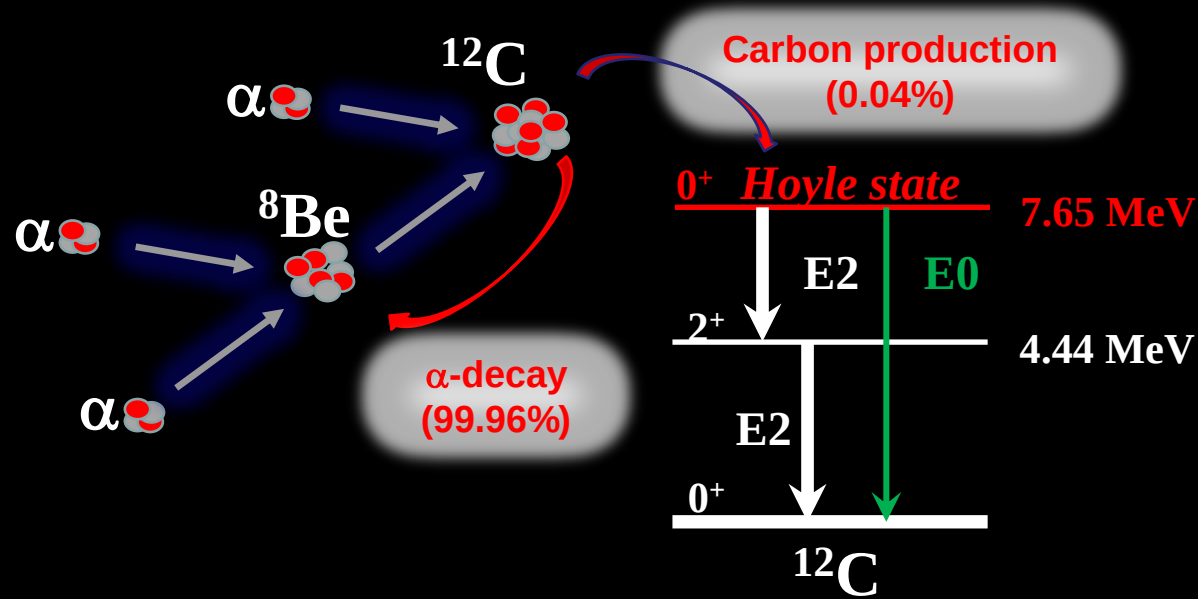
1952: Carbon production rate calculated; APJ **115** (1952) 326

$^4\text{He} + ^4\text{He} + 95 \text{ keV} \rightarrow ^8\text{Be} + \gamma$ (^8Be g.s. resonance)

$^4\text{He} + ^8\text{Be} \rightarrow ^{12}\text{C} + \gamma$



The triple- α rate in stellar He burning



Hans A. Bethe (1906-2005)



Edwin E. Salpeter (1924-2008)



Sir Fred Hoyle (1915-2001)

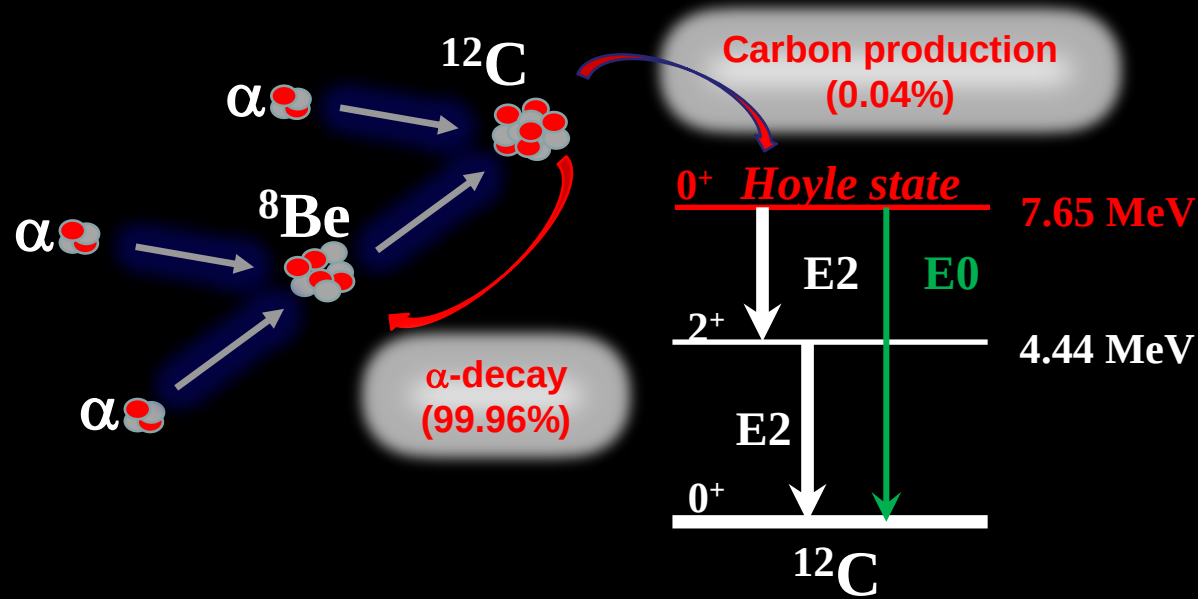
1939: No stable $A=5$ to 8 elements
Triple- α process to bypass the gap; PR **55** (1939) 434

1952: Carbon production rate calculated; APJ **115** (1952) 326
 $^4\text{He} + ^4\text{He} + 95 \text{ keV} \rightarrow ^8\text{Be} + \gamma$ (^8Be g.s. resonance)
 $^4\text{He} + ^8\text{Be} \rightarrow ^{12}\text{C} + \gamma$

1953: $^4\text{He} + ^8\text{Be} + 310 \text{ keV} \rightarrow ^{12}\text{C} + \gamma$ (resonance at 7.68 MeV)
PR **92** (1953) 1095



The triple- α rate in stellar He burning



Edwin E. Salpeter (1924-2008)



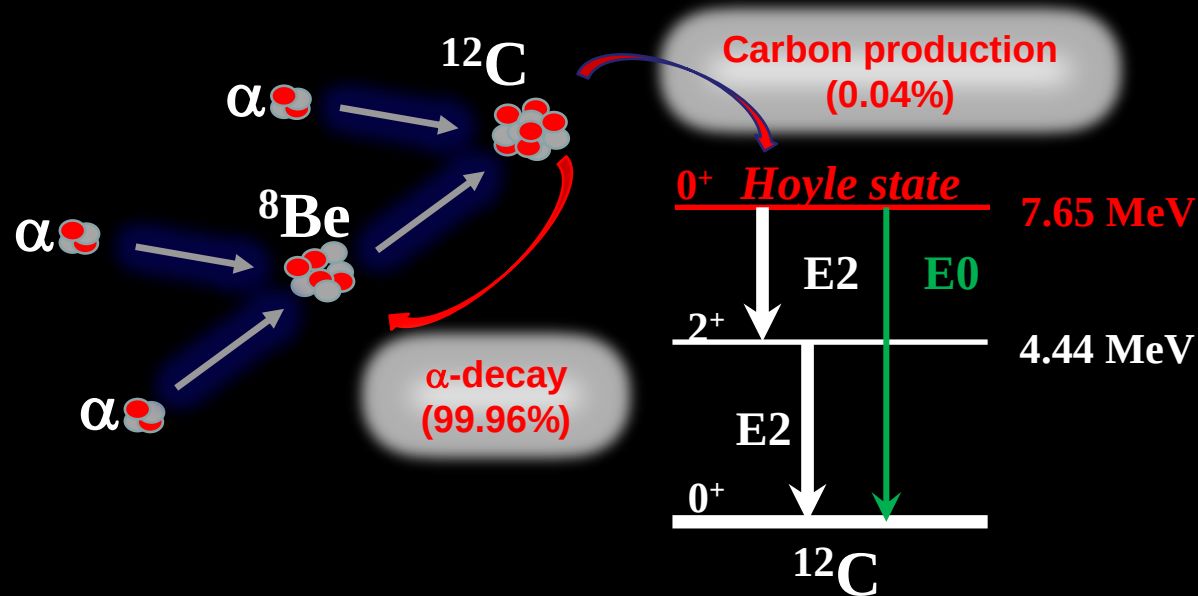
Sir Fred Hoyle (1915-2001)



The Crafoord Prize 1997 in Astronomy: "for their pioneering contributions to the study of nuclear processes in stars and stellar evolution"



The triple- α rate in stellar He burning



Hans A. Bethe (1906-2005)



Edwin E. Salpeter (1924-2008)



Sir Fred Hoyle (1915-2001)



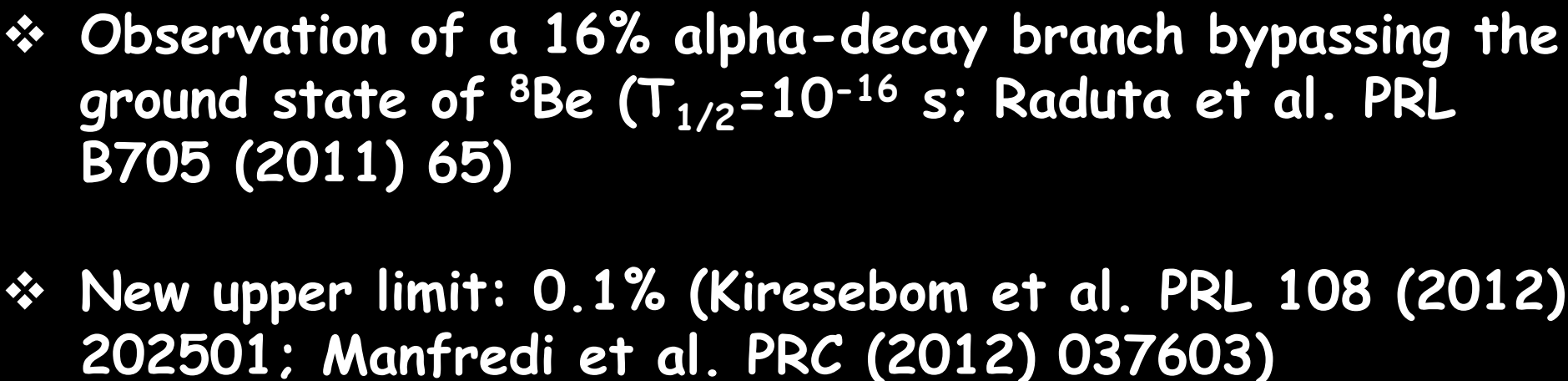
Noel Dunbar (1922-2011)

1939: No stable $A=5$ to 8 elements
Triple- α process to bypass the gap; PR **55** (1939) 434

1952: Carbon production rate calculated; APJ **115** (1952) 326
 $^4\text{He} + ^4\text{He} + 95 \text{ keV} \rightarrow ^8\text{Be} + \gamma$ (^8Be g.s. resonance)
 $^4\text{He} + ^8\text{Be} \rightarrow ^{12}\text{C} + \gamma$

1953: $^4\text{He} + ^8\text{Be} + 310 \text{ keV} \rightarrow ^{12}\text{C} + \gamma$ (resonance at 7.68 MeV)
PR **92** (1953) 1095

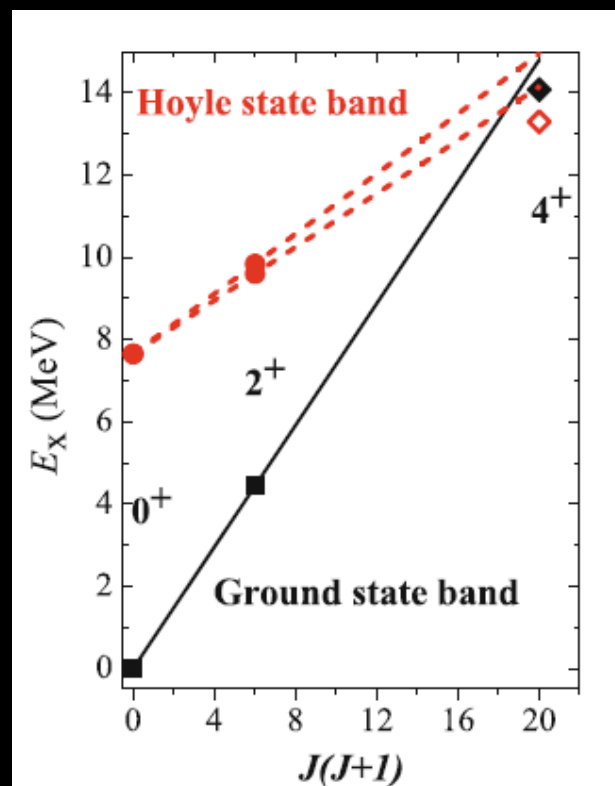
1953: The 7.68 MeV state identified from $^{14}\text{N}(d,\alpha)^{12}\text{C}$
PR **92** (1953) 649





New experimental results for the triple- α rate

- ❖ 2^+ excitation of the Hoyle state: $E=9.75(10)$ MeV, $\Gamma=750(150)$ keV (Freer et al. PRC86 (2012) 034320)
- ❖ $R(2^+)=3.07(13)$ fm, similar to the Hoyle state (Ogloblin et al. Eur. Phys. J. A49 (2013) 46)

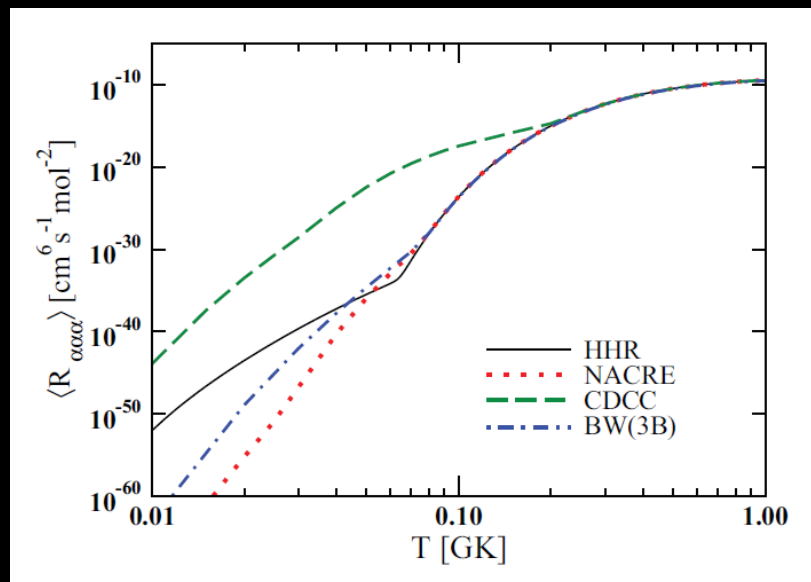




New theoretical results for the triple- α rate

Controversy over calculated reaction rates at low (10^7 K) temperatures

HHR - Hyperspherical Harmonic R -matrix method
NACRE - Nuclear Astrophysics Compilation of REaction rates
CDCC - Continuum Discretized Coupled Channel
BW(3B) - three-body Breit Wigner



- 20 order of magnitude difference to NACRE compilation (Ogata et al. Prog. Theor. Phys. 122 (2009) 1055)
- New calculated rates are only few order of magnitude larger (Garido et al. Eur. Phys. J. A47 (2011) 102; Nguyen et al. PRL 109 (2012) 141101, PRC 87 (2013) 054615)



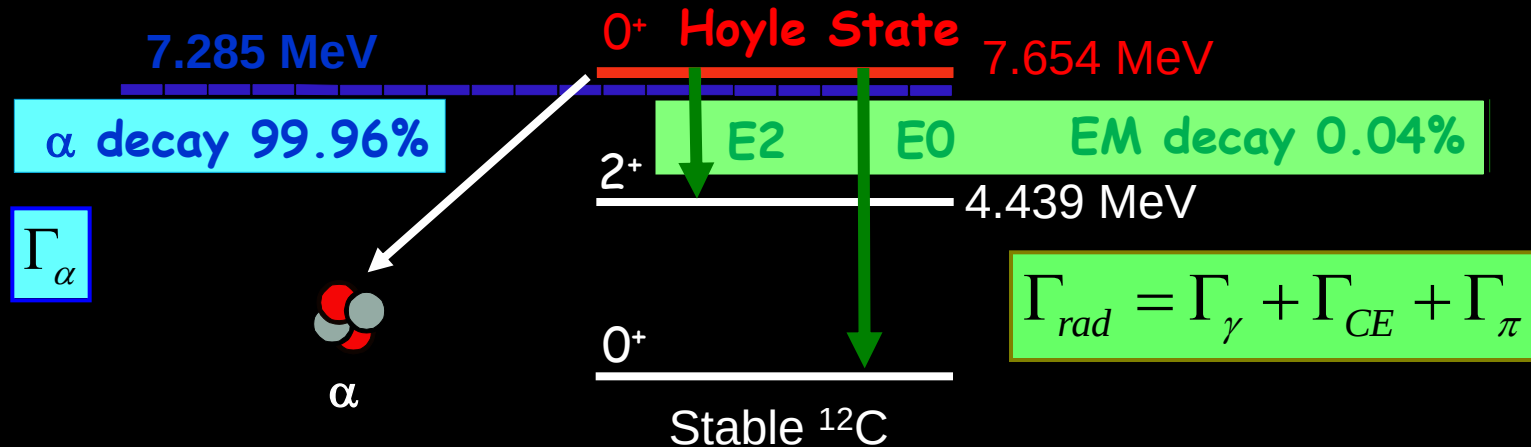
New theoretical results for the triple- α rate

- ❖ New ab initio calculations using lattice simulations effective field theory reproduce excitation energy (Epelbaum et al. PRL 106 (2011) 192501; PRL 109 (2012) 252501)
- ❖ 3-alpha microscopic cluster model (Vasilevsky et al., PRC 85 (2012) 034318)

		E, MeV		Γ , keV	
		Exp	Theor	Exp	Theor
0^+	Bound	-7.2746	-11.372		
	Resonance	0.3796	0.684	0.0085(10)	2.78
2^+	Bound	-2.8357	-8.931		
	Resonance	3.89	2.775	430(80)	9.95



Calculation of the triple- α



- The rate per unit volume for the triple- α reaction (Rolfs and Rodney, 1988):

$$r_{3\alpha} = \frac{N_\alpha^3}{2} 3^{3/2} \left(\frac{2\pi\hbar^2}{M_\alpha kT} \right)^3 \frac{\Gamma_\alpha \Gamma_{\text{rad}}}{\hbar\Gamma} \exp(-Q_{3\alpha}/kT)$$

where $Q_{3\alpha} = (M_{^{12}\text{C}} - 3 \times M_\alpha)c^2 + E_r$

- Since $\Gamma_{\text{rad}} \ll \Gamma_\alpha \approx \Gamma$, where $\Gamma = \Gamma_\alpha + \Gamma_{\text{rad}}$ and $T \approx 10^8$ K:

$$r_{3\alpha} \propto \Gamma_{\text{rad}} \exp(-Q_{3\alpha}/kT)$$



Triple- α rate - how well it is known now

$$r_{3\alpha} \propto [\Gamma_{rad}] \exp(-[Q_{3\alpha}]/kT)$$
$$\Gamma_{rad} = \left[\frac{\Gamma_{rad}}{\Gamma} \right] \times \left[\frac{\Gamma}{\Gamma_{\pi}(E0)} \right] \times [\Gamma_{\pi}(E0)]$$

"traditional approach"



Triple- α rate - how well it is known now

$$r_{3\alpha} \propto [\Gamma_{rad}] \exp(-[Q_{3\alpha}]/kT)$$

$$\Gamma_{rad} = \left[\frac{\Gamma_{rad}}{\Gamma} \right] \times \left[\frac{\Gamma}{\Gamma_{\pi}(E0)} \right] \times [\Gamma_{\pi}(E0)]$$

“traditional approach”

	Value	Unc. [%]	
$Q_{3\alpha}$	379.35(20) keV	0.05	
Γ_{rad}/Γ	$4.13(11) \times 10^{-4}$	2.7	8
$\Gamma_{\pi}(E0)$ / Γ	$6.75(60) \times 10^{-6}$	8.9	4
$\Gamma_{\pi}(E0)$	$57(5) \times 10^{-6}$ eV	8.8	8



Triple- α rate - how well it is known now

$$r_{3\alpha} \propto [\Gamma_{rad}] \exp(-[Q_{3\alpha}]/kT)$$

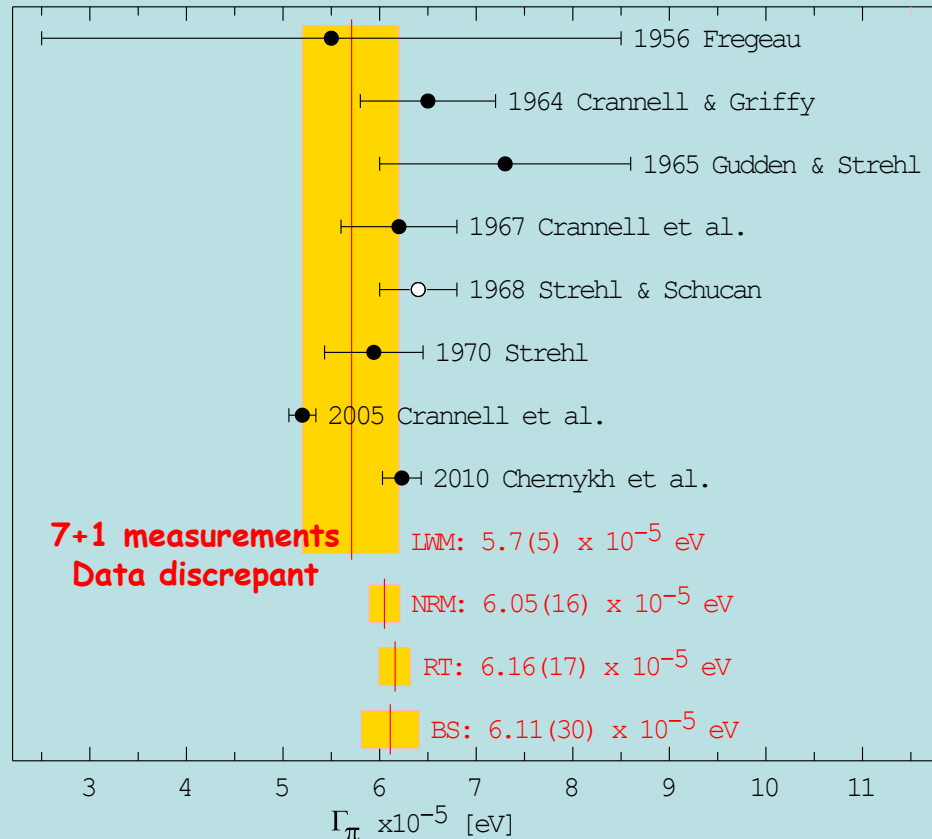
$$\Gamma_{rad} = \left[\frac{\Gamma_{rad}}{\Gamma} \right] \times \left[\frac{\Gamma}{\Gamma_{\pi}(E0)} \right] \times [\Gamma_{\pi}(E0)]$$

"traditional approach"

	Value	Unc. [%]	
$Q_{3\alpha}$	379.35(20) keV	0.05	
Γ_{rad}/Γ	$4.13(11) \times 10^{-4}$	2.7	8
$\Gamma_{\pi}(E0)/\Gamma$	$6.75(60) \times 10^{-6}$	8.9	4
$\Gamma_{\pi}(E0)$	$57(5) \times 10^{-6}$ eV	8.8	8

2005 Crannell et al: $\Gamma_{\pi}(E0)=52.0(14) \mu\text{eV}$;
 $q=0.27\text{-}3.04 \text{ fm}^{-1}$; Extensive data from
 Darmstadt, Bates-CUA, NIKHEF-K & HEPL

2010 Chernykh et al: $\Gamma_{\pi}(E0)=62.3(20) \mu\text{eV}$;
 $q=0.21\text{-}0.67 \text{ fm}^{-1}$; Darmstadt S-DALINAC





Triple- α rate - how well it is known now

$$r_{3\alpha} \propto [\Gamma_{rad}] \exp(-[Q_{3\alpha}]/kT)$$

$$\Gamma_{rad} = \left[\frac{\Gamma_{rad}}{\Gamma} \right] \times \left[\frac{\Gamma}{\Gamma_{\pi}(E0)} \right] \times [\Gamma_{\pi}(E0)]$$

"traditional approach"

	Value	Unc. [%]	
$Q_{3\alpha}$	379.35(20) keV	0.05	
Γ_{rad}/Γ	$4.13(11) \times 10^{-4}$	2.7	8
$\Gamma_{\pi}(E0)/\Gamma$	$6.75(60) \times 10^{-6}$	8.9	4
$\Gamma_{\pi}(E0)$	$57(5) \times 10^{-6}$ eV	8.8	8

Largest known E0 strength!

in "Wilkinson units"

$$S_{wi,u.} = |M_{exp}|^2 / |M_{s.p.}|^2 = 2.3(2) \text{ s.p.u.}$$



Triple- α rate - how well it is known now

$$r_{3\alpha} \propto [\Gamma_{rad}] \exp(-[Q_{3\alpha}]/kT)$$

$$\underline{\Gamma_{rad}} = \left[\frac{\Gamma_{rad}}{\Gamma} \right] \times \left[\frac{\Gamma}{\Gamma_{\pi}(E0)} \right] \times [\Gamma_{\pi}(E0)]$$

"traditional approach"

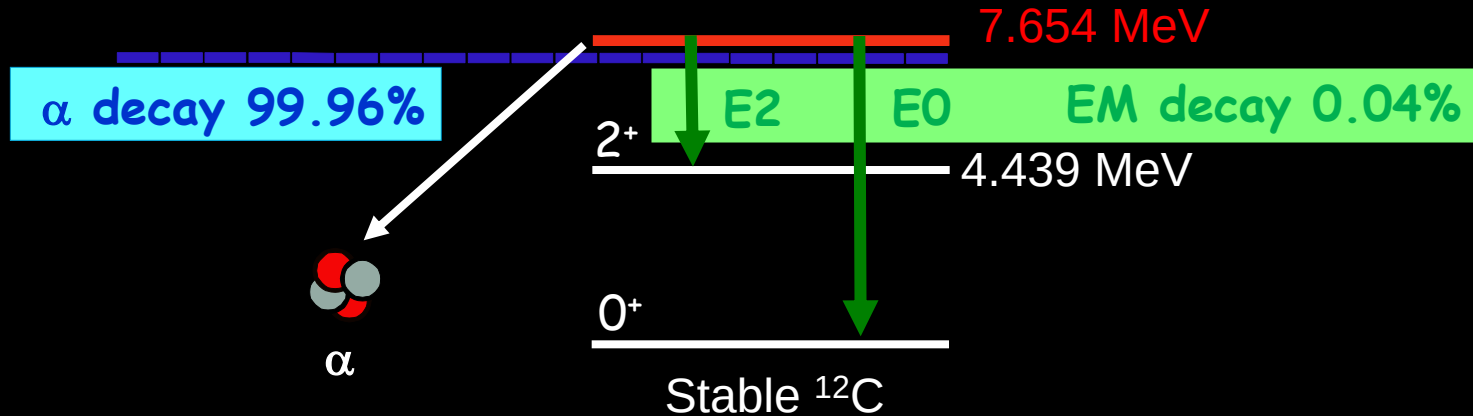
	Value	Unc. [%]	
$Q_{3\alpha}$	379.35(20) keV	0.05	
Γ_{rad}/Γ	$4.13(11) \times 10^{-4}$	2.7	8
$\Gamma_{\pi}(E0)/\Gamma$	$6.75(60) \times 10^{-6}$	8.9	4
$\Gamma_{\pi}(E0)$	$57(5) \times 10^{-6}$ eV	8.8	8

Γ_{rad} 3.49(45) $\times 10^{-3}$ eV 12.9

Need 5% accuracy



New approach to determine Γ_{rad}



Observe both EM transitions in the same experiment to determine relative intensities

$$\Gamma_{rad} = \underbrace{\Gamma_{\gamma}(E2)}_{\sim 98.5\%} + \underbrace{\Gamma_{\pi}(E0)}_{\sim 1.5\%} + \underbrace{\Gamma_{\pi}(E2)}_{\sim 0.088\%} + \underbrace{\Gamma_{CE}(E0)}_{\sim 9 \times 10^{-6}\%} + \underbrace{\Gamma_{CE}(E2)}_{\sim 3 \times 10^{-5}\%}$$

$$\Gamma_{rad} = \left(\left[\frac{\Gamma_{\pi}(E2)}{\Gamma_{\pi}(E0)} \right] \times \left(1 + \frac{1}{[\alpha_{\pi}(E2)]} \right) + 1 \right) \times [\Gamma_{\pi}(E0)]$$

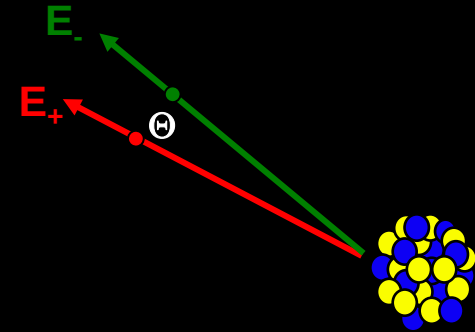


Measuring electron-positron pairs

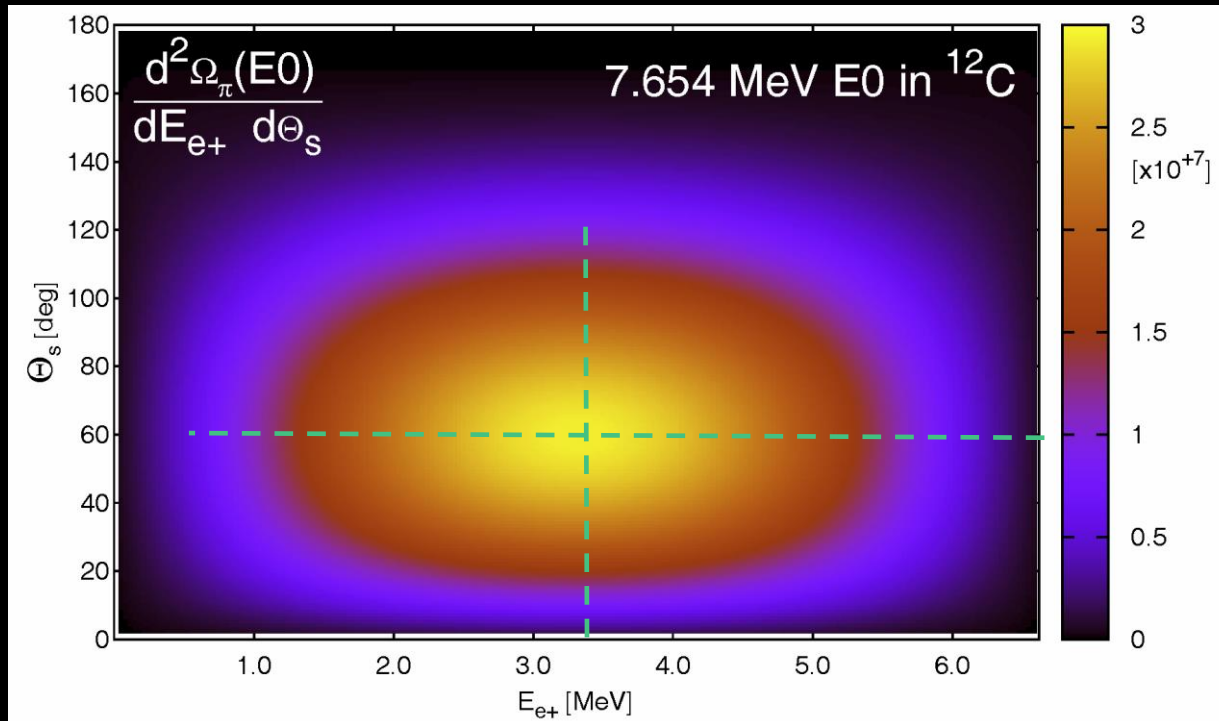
- $e^- - e^+$ particles share the available kinetic energy:

$$E_{\text{kin}} = E_+ + E_- = E_\gamma - 2 m_0 c^2$$

Need to observe both particles



- Pair emission rate: function of Z , E_γ , E_+ , Θ and multipolarity; Born approx.



$$\Gamma_\pi(E0) \sim \rho^2(E0) \times \Omega_\pi(E0)$$

$$E_+ \approx E_-$$

$$\theta_{\text{sep}} \approx 60^\circ$$

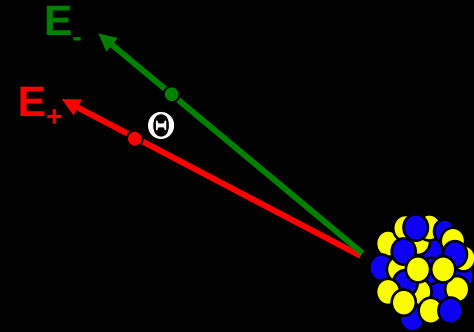


Measuring electron-positron pairs

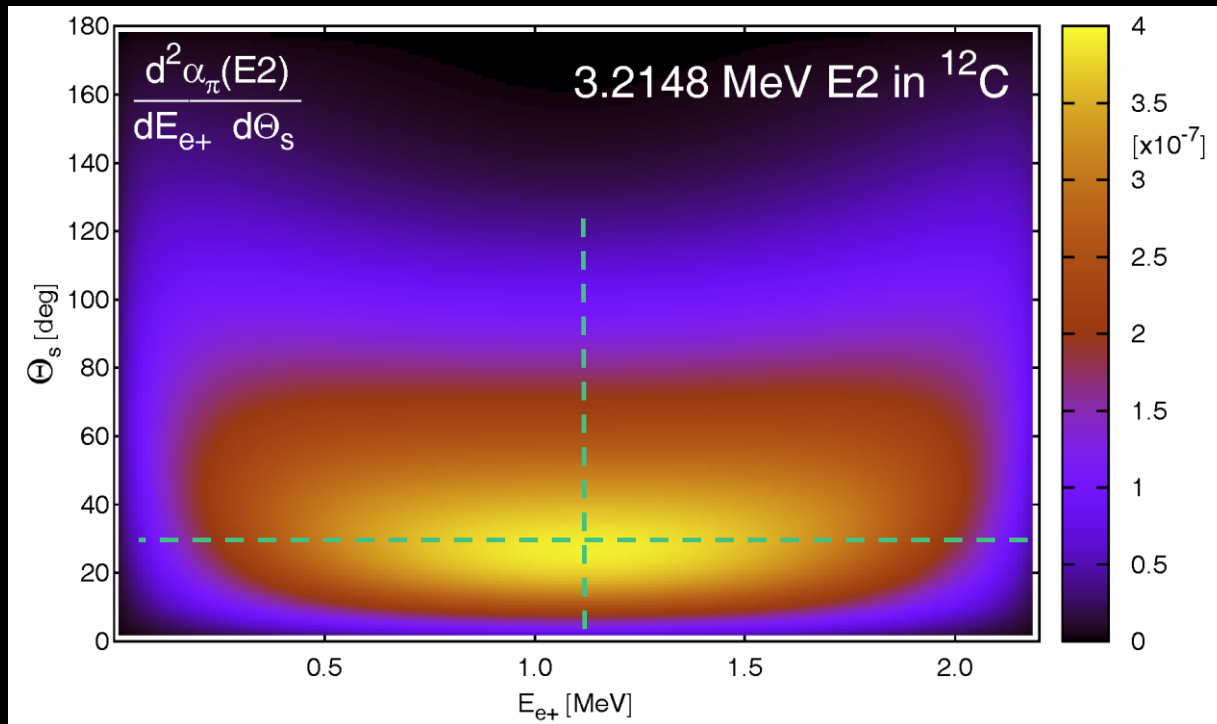
- $e^- - e^+$ particles share the available kinetic energy:

$$E_{\text{kin}} = E_+ + E_- = E_\gamma - 2 m_0 c^2$$

Need to observe both particles



- Pair emission rate: function of Z , E_γ , E_+ , Θ and multipolarity; Born approx.



$$\alpha_\pi(E2) = \Gamma_\pi(E2) / \Gamma_\gamma(E2)$$

$$E_+ \approx E_-$$

$$\theta_{\text{sep}} \approx 30^\circ$$

$$W_\pi(E0) \sim \rho^2(E0) \times \Omega_\pi(E0)$$

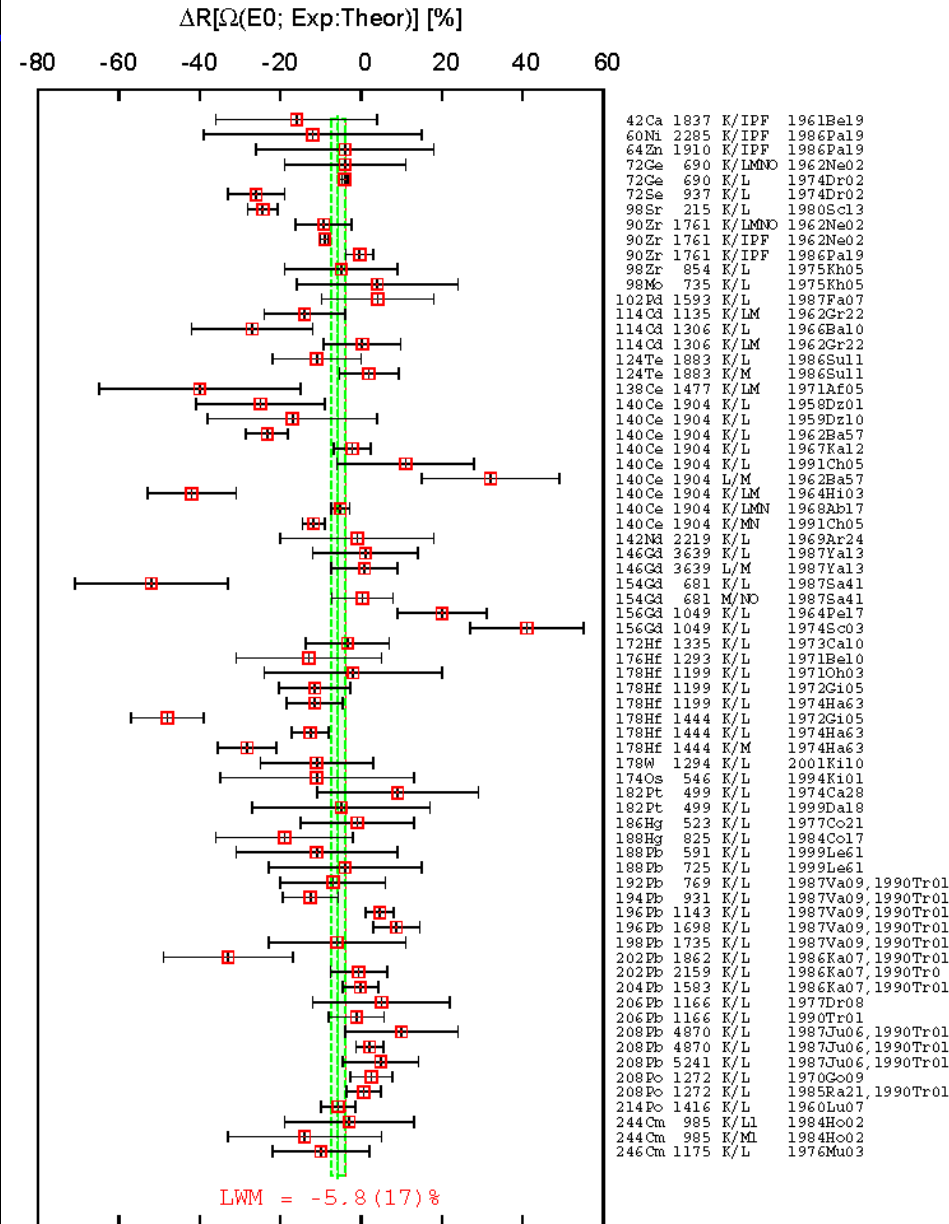
$$W_\pi(E2) = \Gamma_\gamma(E2) \times \alpha_\pi(E2)$$

ICC



$\Omega(E0)$ experiment vs. theory

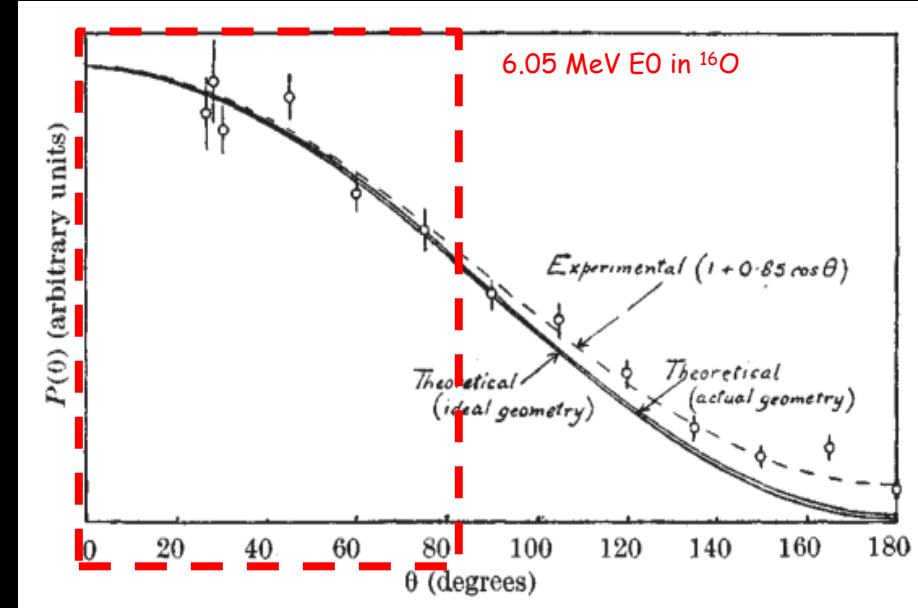
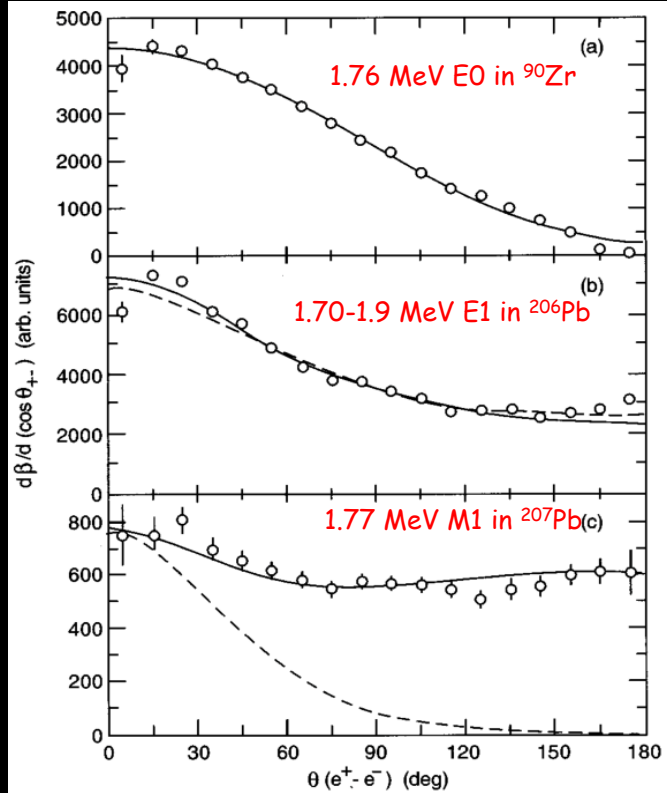
- $\Omega_{\pi}(E0)$ - not accessible from experiment
- $W_{\pi}(E0) \sim \rho^2(E0) \times \Omega_{\pi}(E0)$
- $\Omega_K(E0) / \Omega_{\pi}(E0)$ is known for 5 cases only





$\Omega(E0)$ experiment vs. theory

Angular correlation data for $\Omega_{\pi}(E0)$ is rare



S. Devons and G.R. Lindsey
Nature (London) **164** (1949) 539

A.H. Wuosmaa et al. (APEX ANL)
PRC **57** (1998) R2794

SOLID LINE: Ch. Hoffmann et al.
PRC **53** (1996) 2313

DASHED LINE: Born Approximation

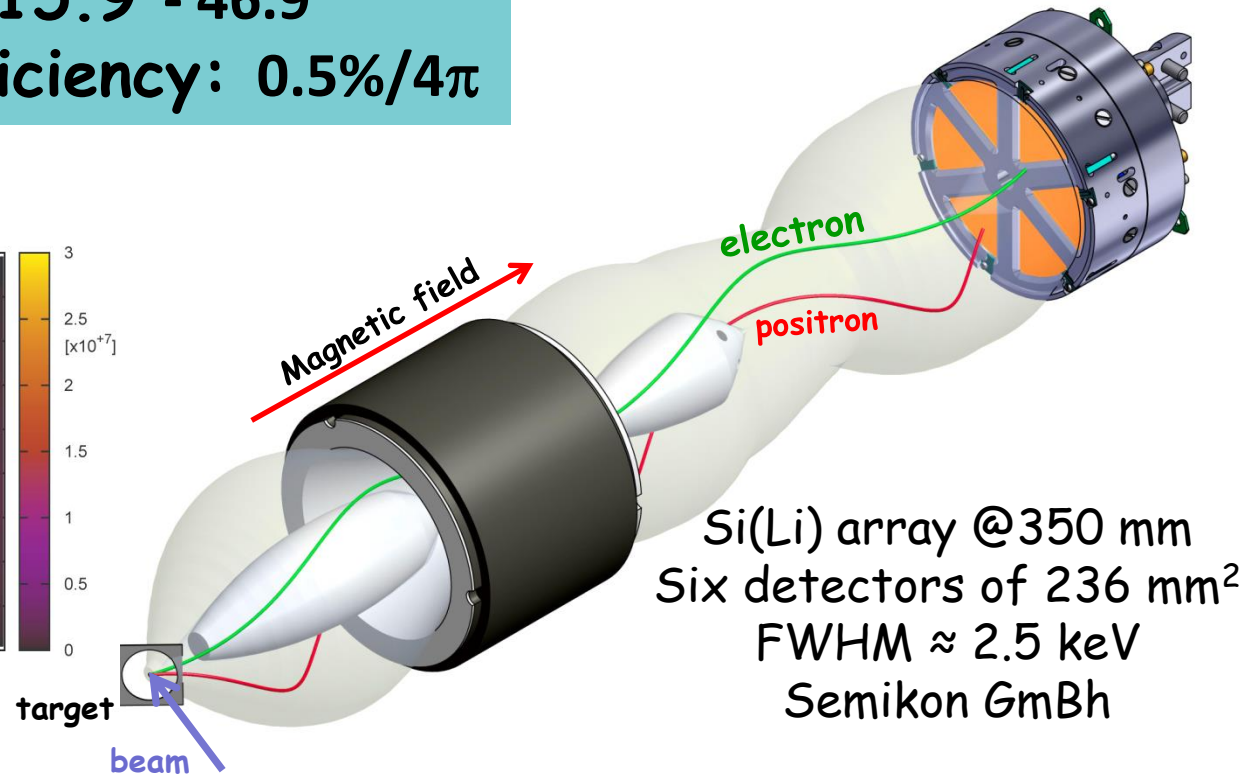
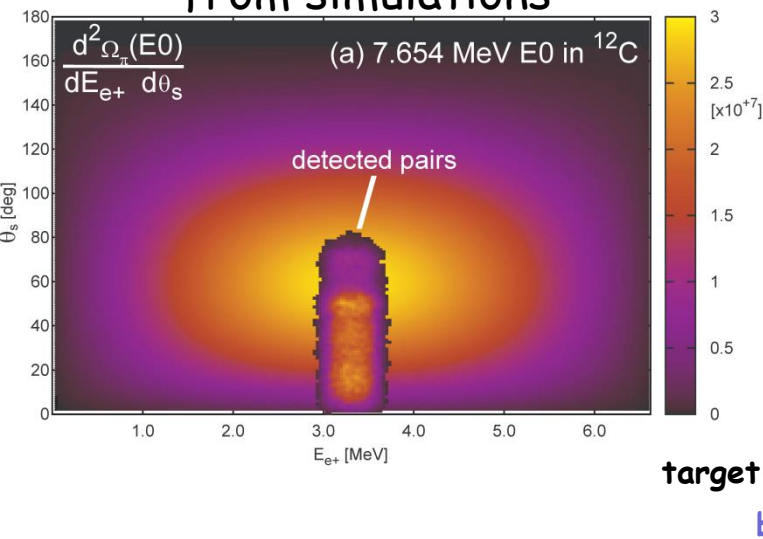
**Born approximation for low Z
and $\Theta_s < 80^\circ$ is sufficient**



New pair spectrometer Absorber system & detector

Acceptance angles: 15.9° - 46.9°
Absolute singles efficiency: $0.5\%/4\pi$

Spectrometer response
from simulations

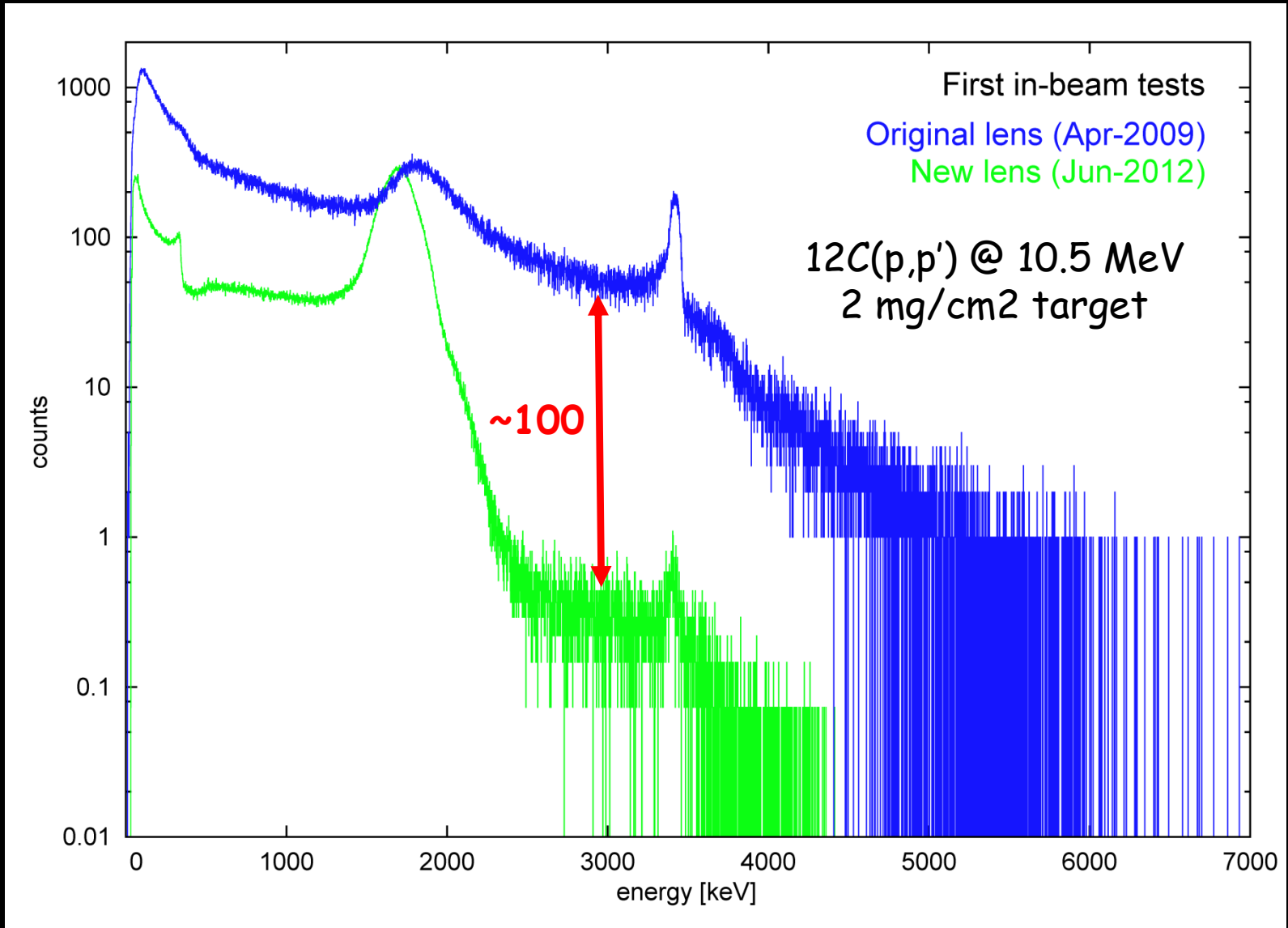


Absorbers made from HeavyMet
(density 18 gr/cm^3)
1 mm thick low Z skin (Torr Seal®)



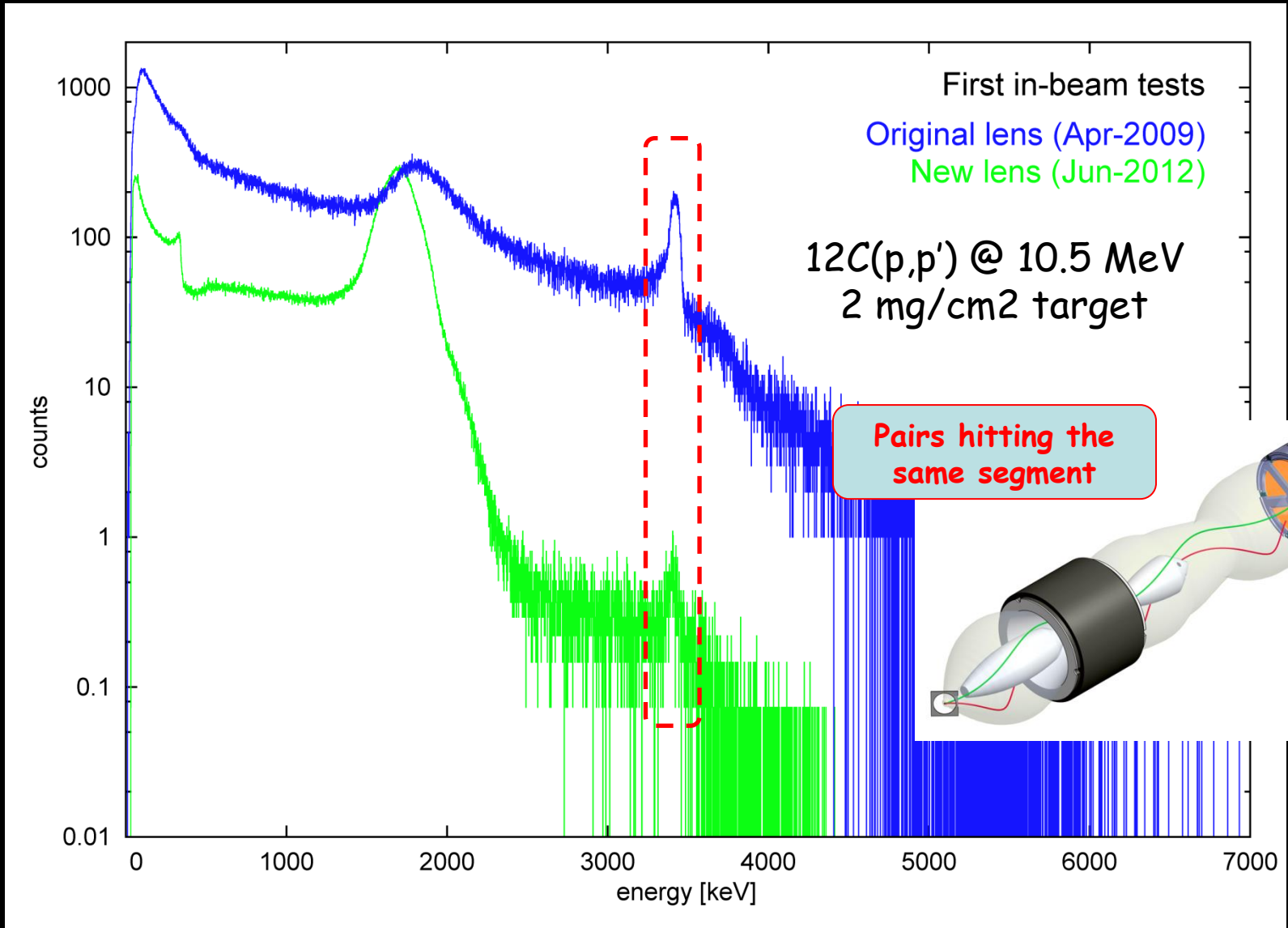
Old/New Absorber system

Singles data





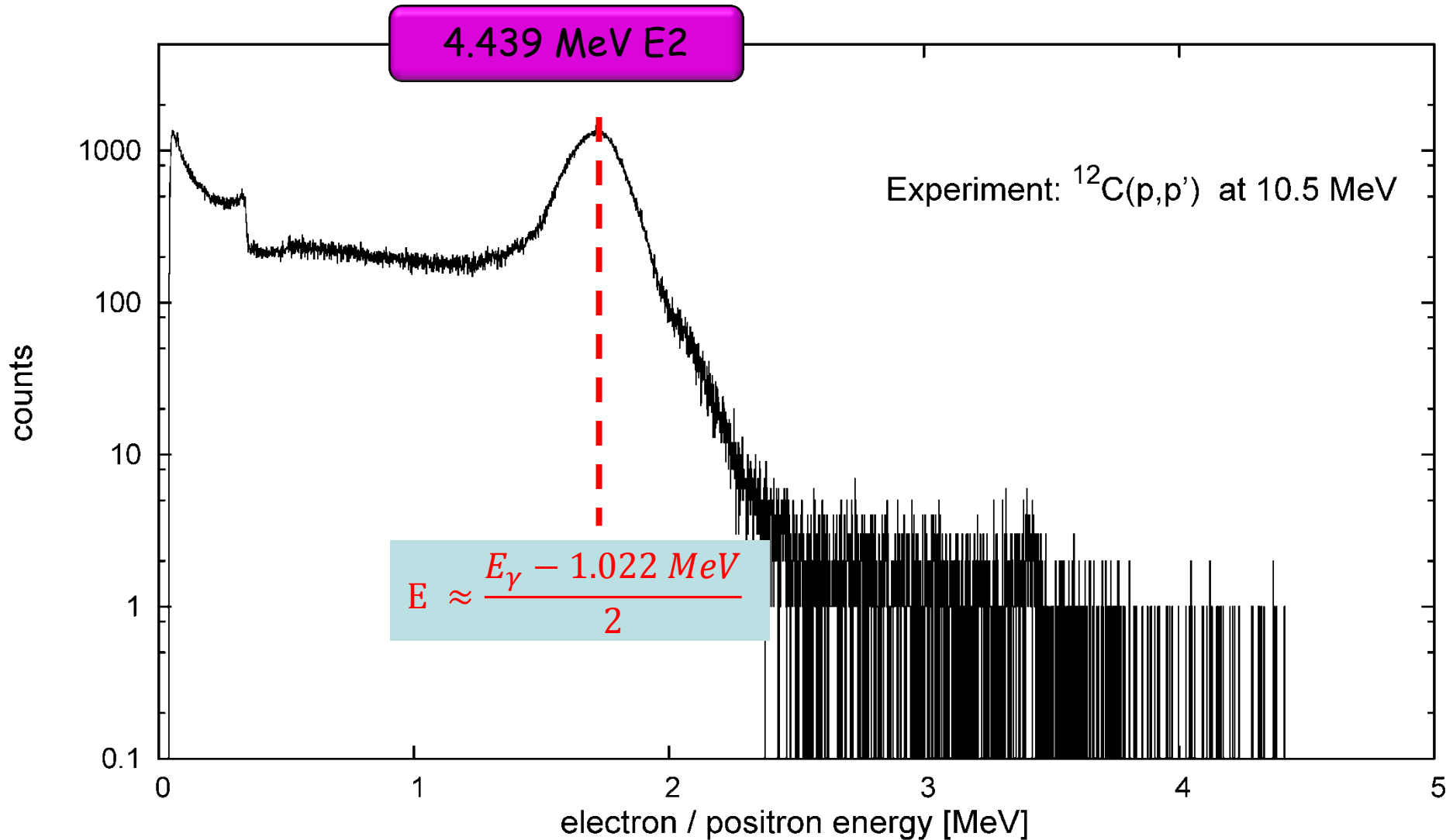
Old/New Absorber system Singles data





New Absorber system

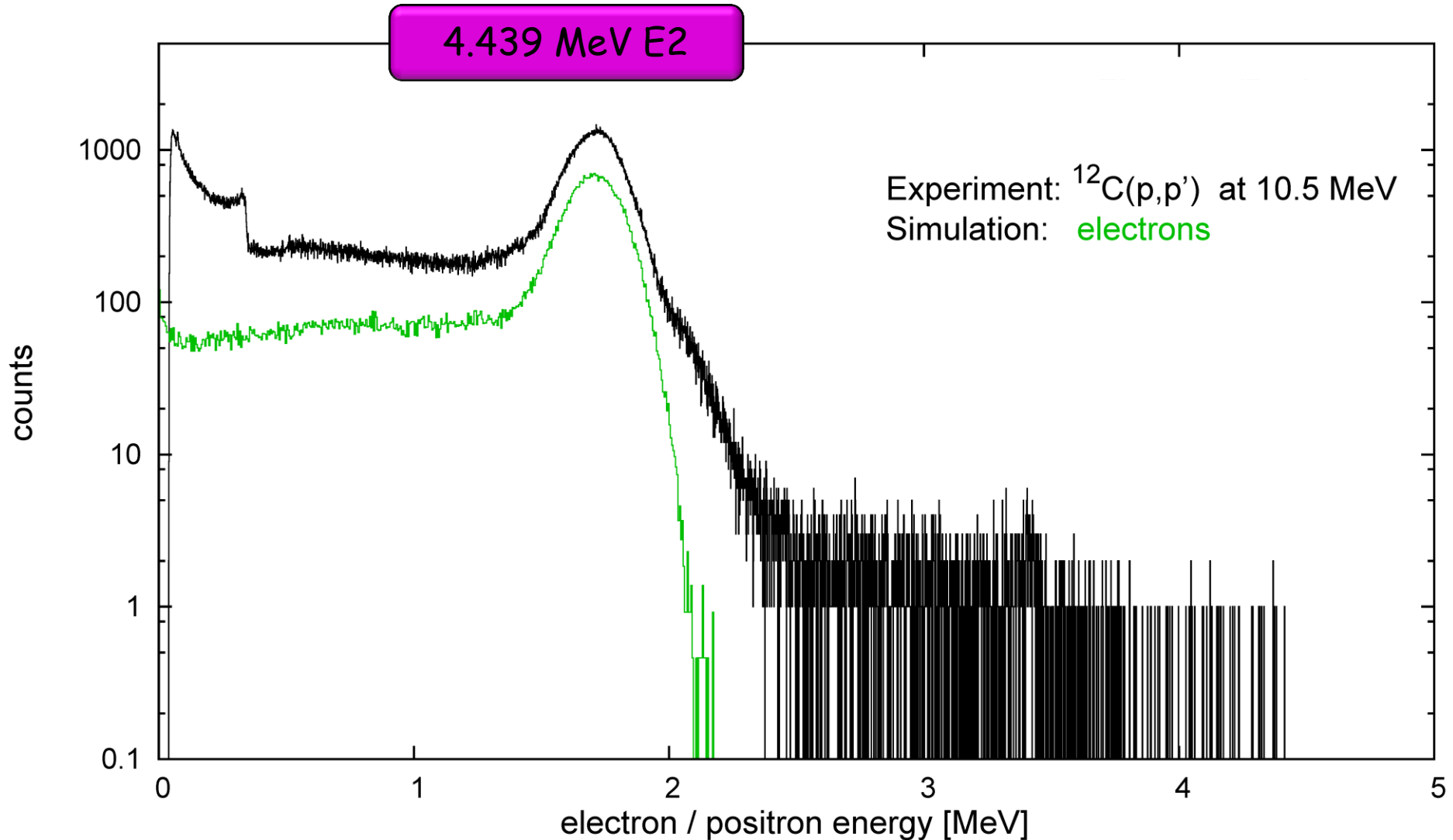
Electrons & Positrons in coincidence





New Absorber system

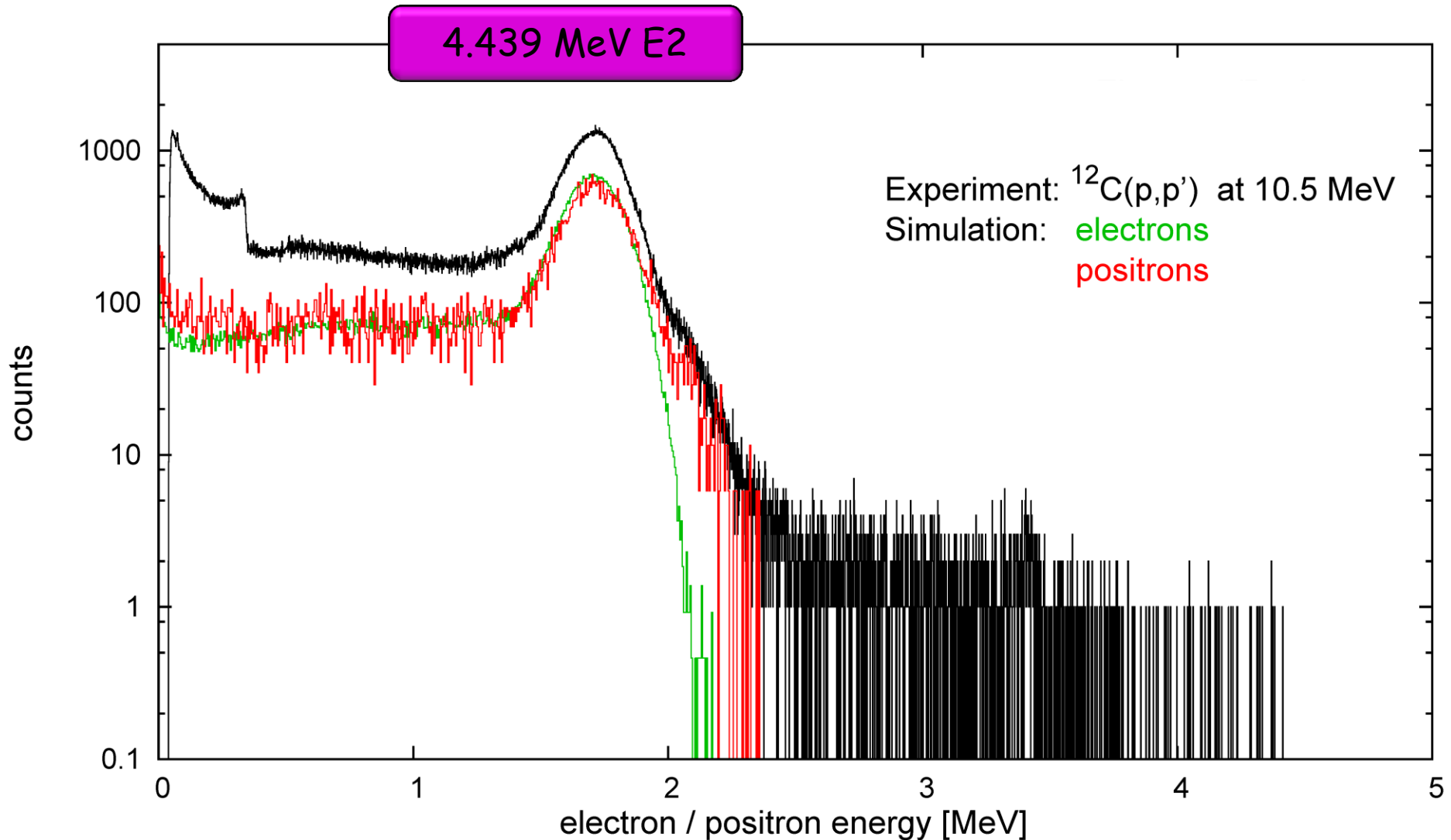
Electrons & Positrons in coincidence





New Absorber system

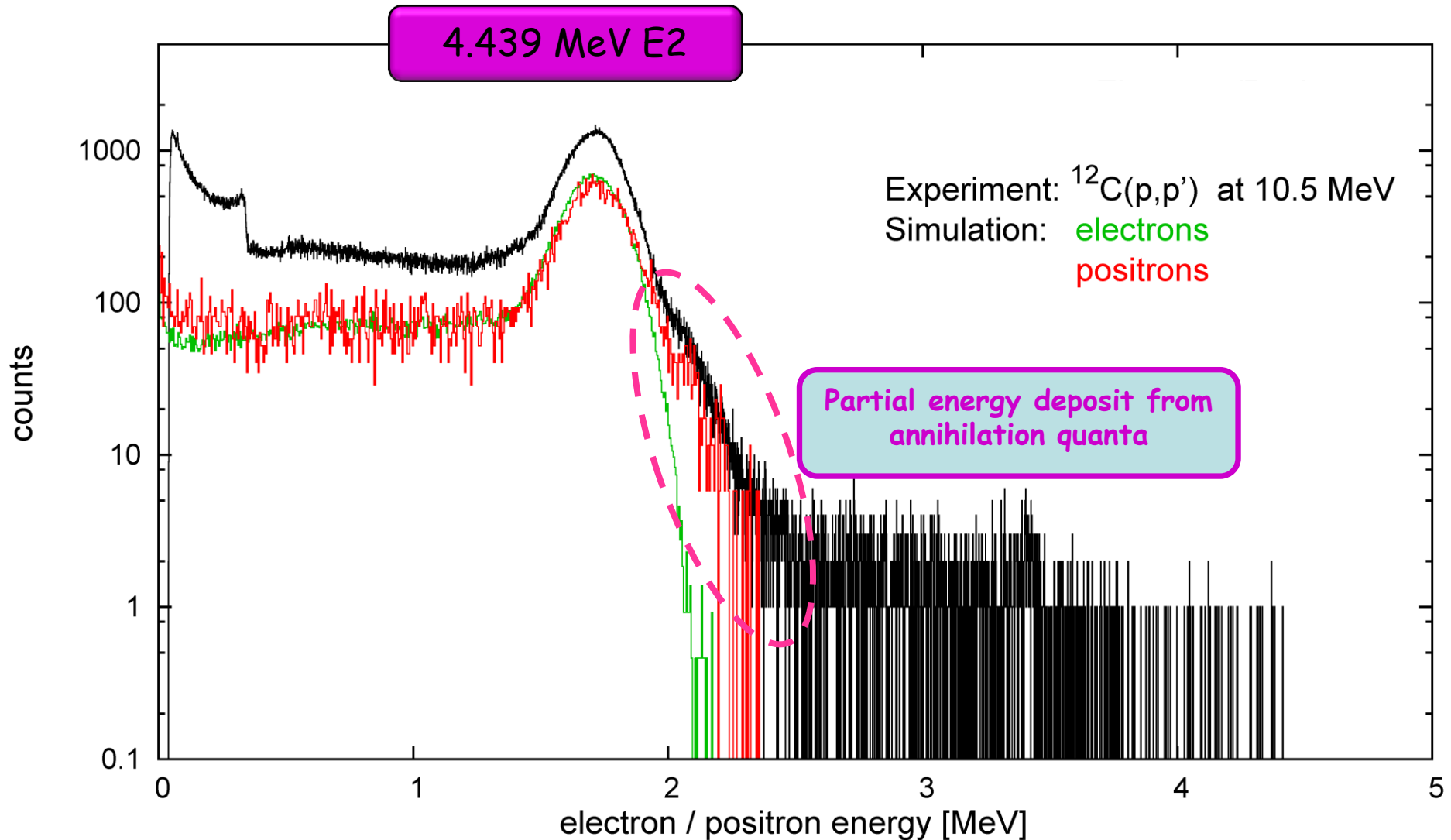
Electrons & Positrons in coincidence





New Absorber system

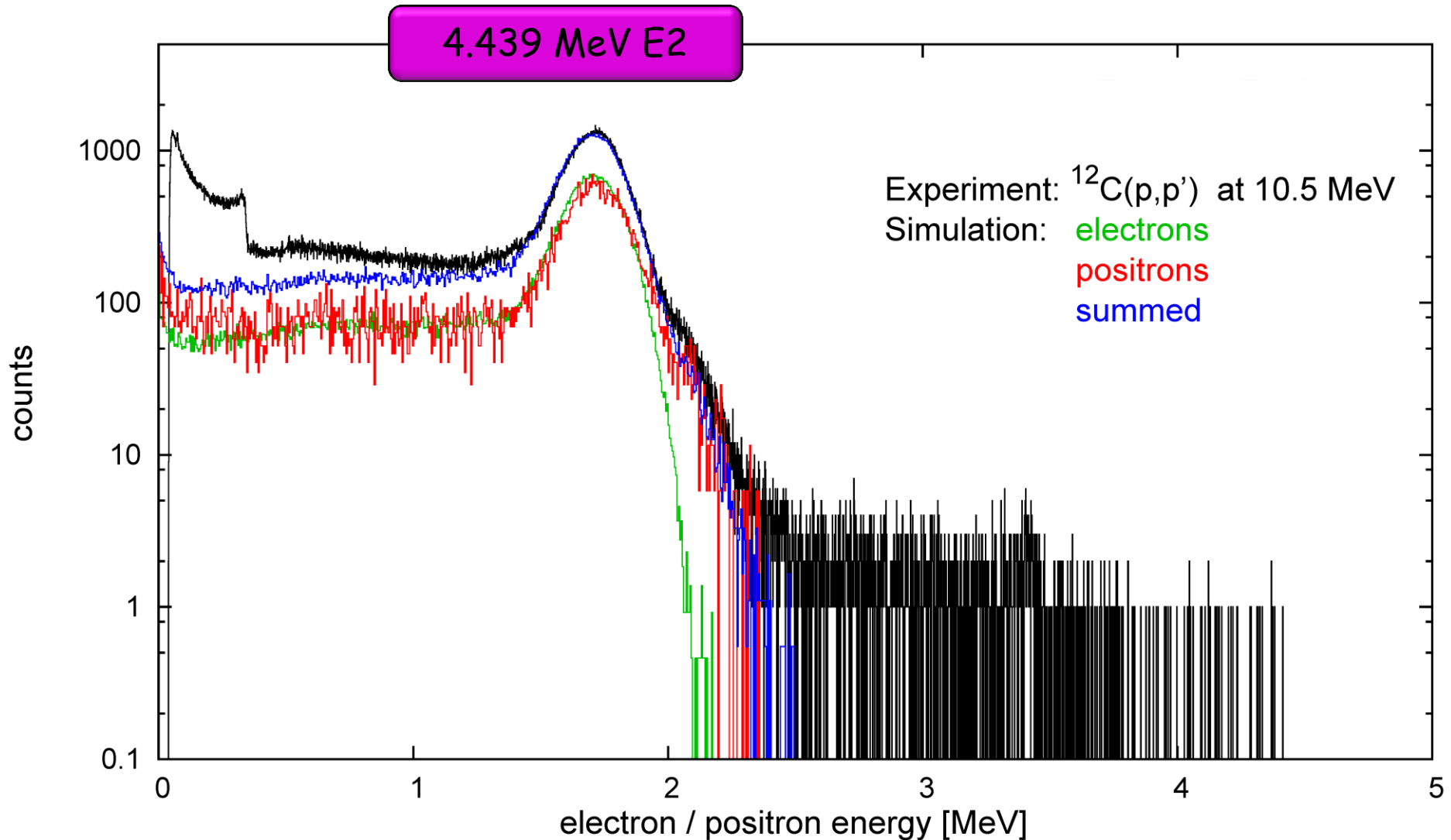
Electrons & Positrons in coincidence





New Absorber system

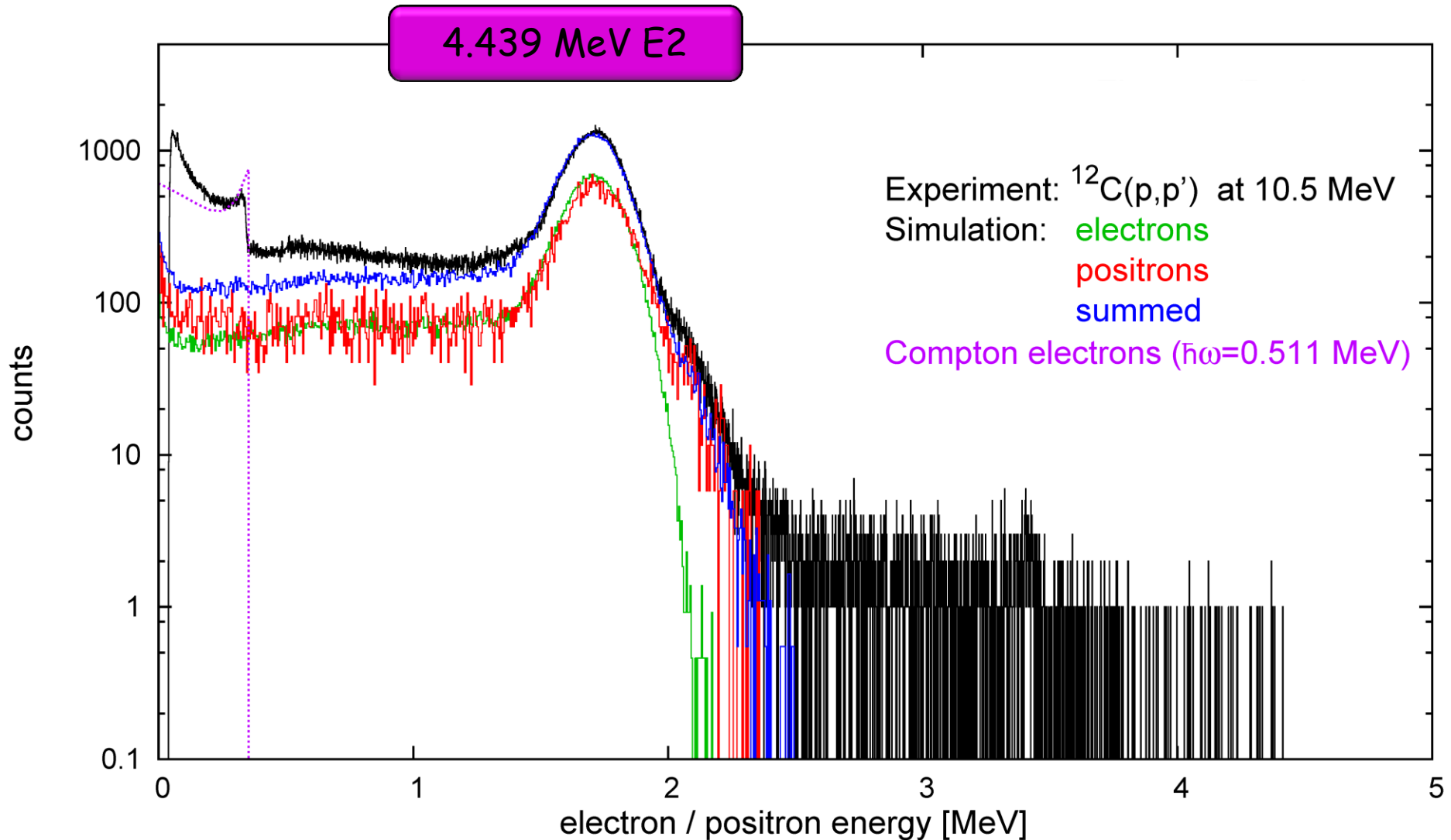
Electrons & Positrons in coincidence





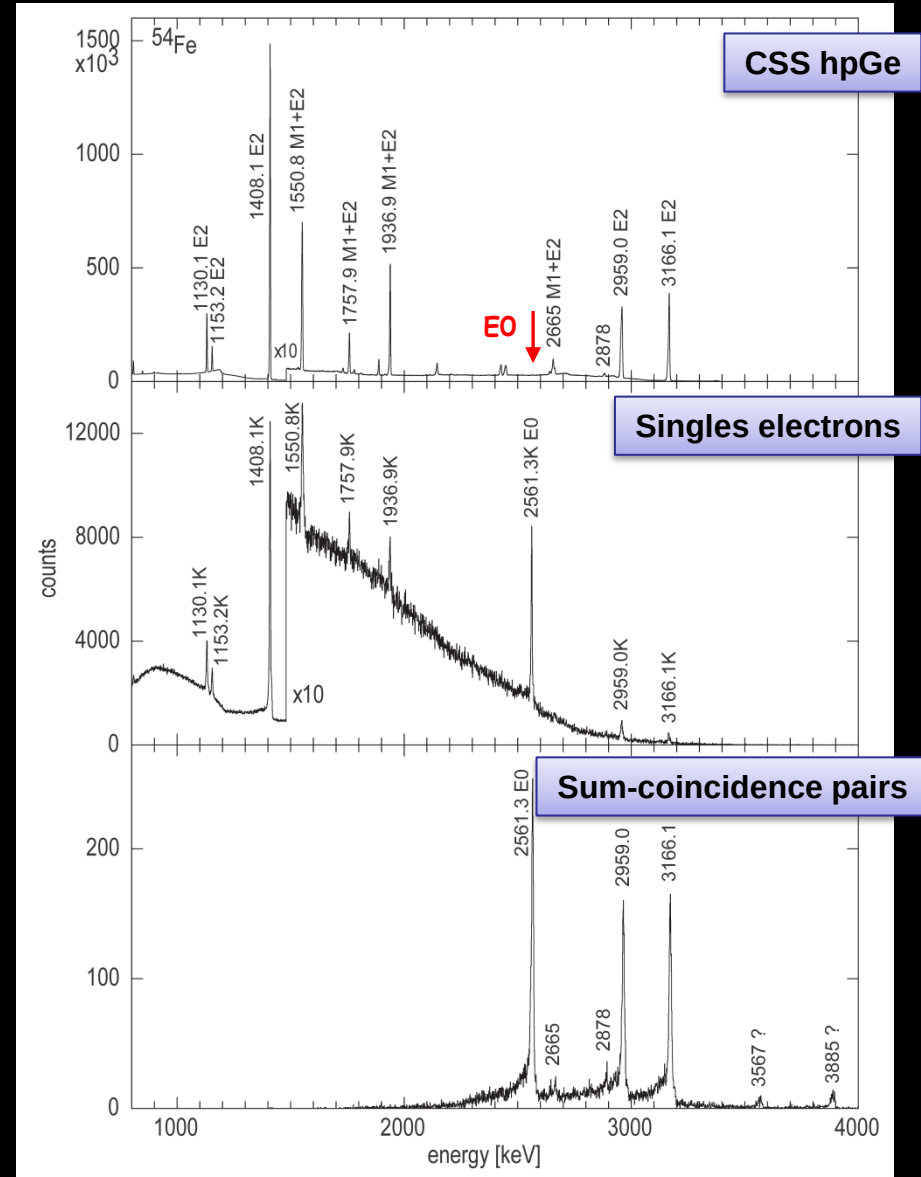
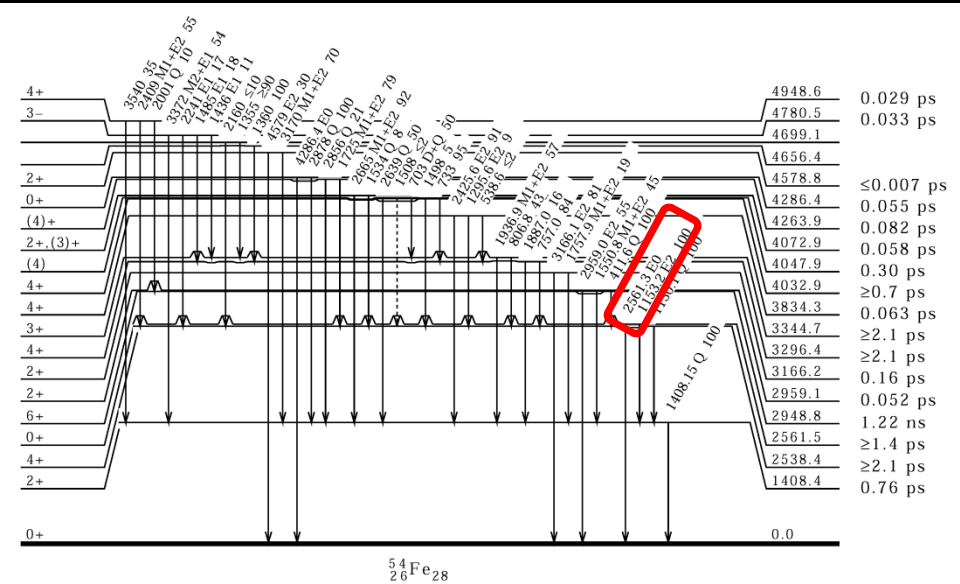
New Absorber system

Electrons & Positrons in coincidence



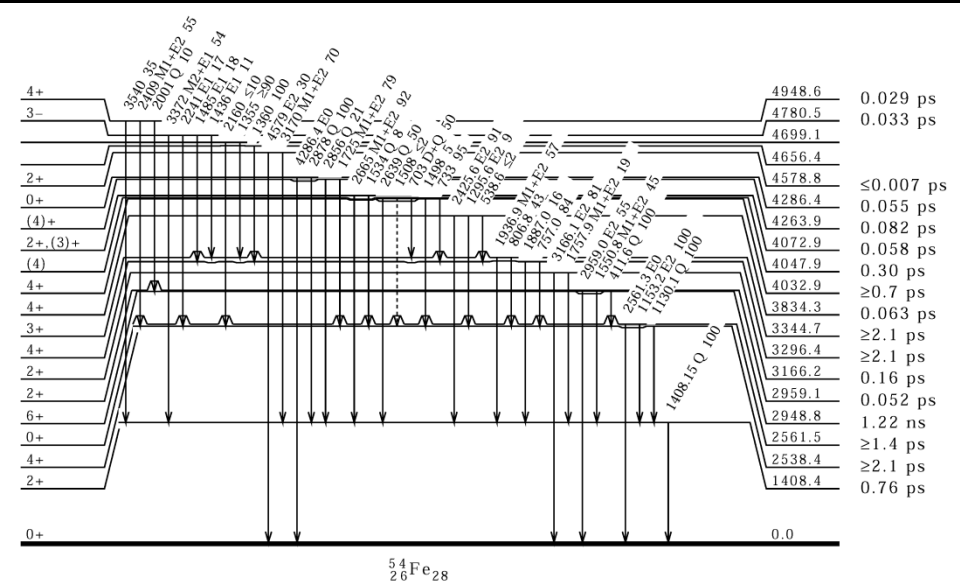


$^{54}\text{Fe}(p, p'g) @ 6.9 \text{ MeV}$

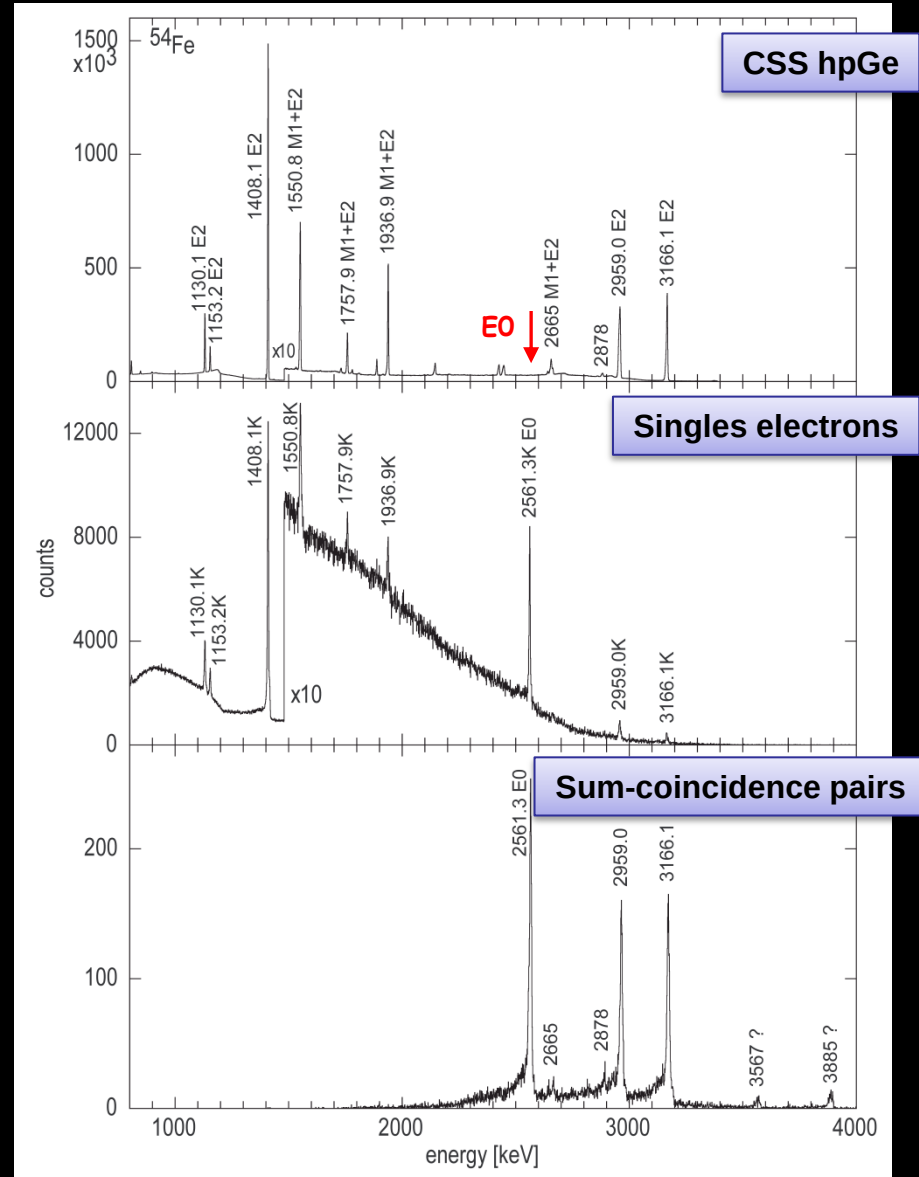
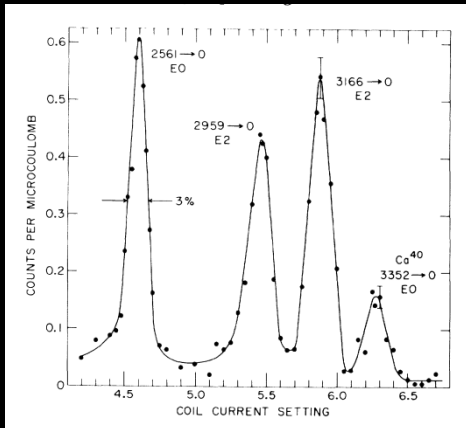




$^{54}\text{Fe}(p,p'g) @ 6.9 \text{ MeV}$

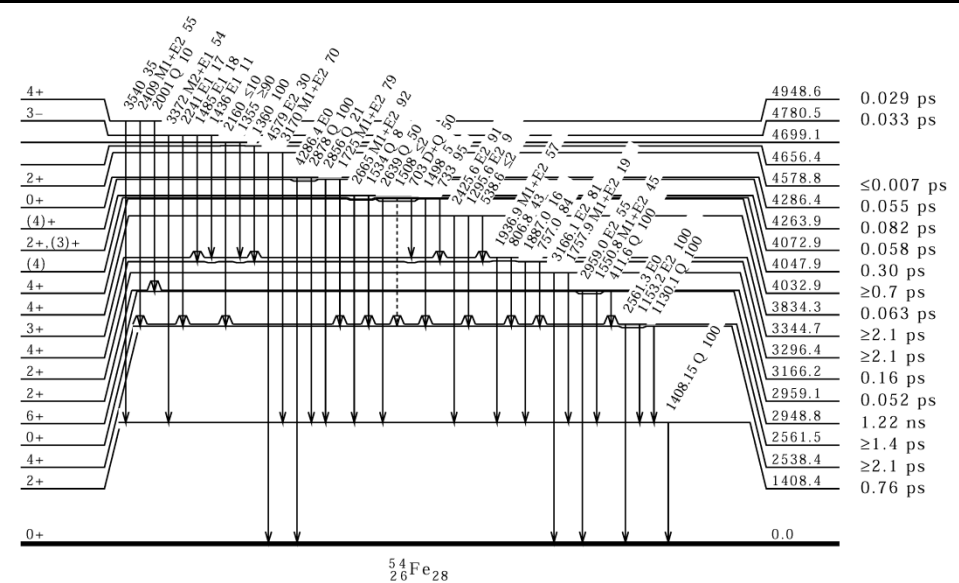


E.K. Warburton and
D.E. Alburger,
Phys. Rev. C 6 (1972) 1224



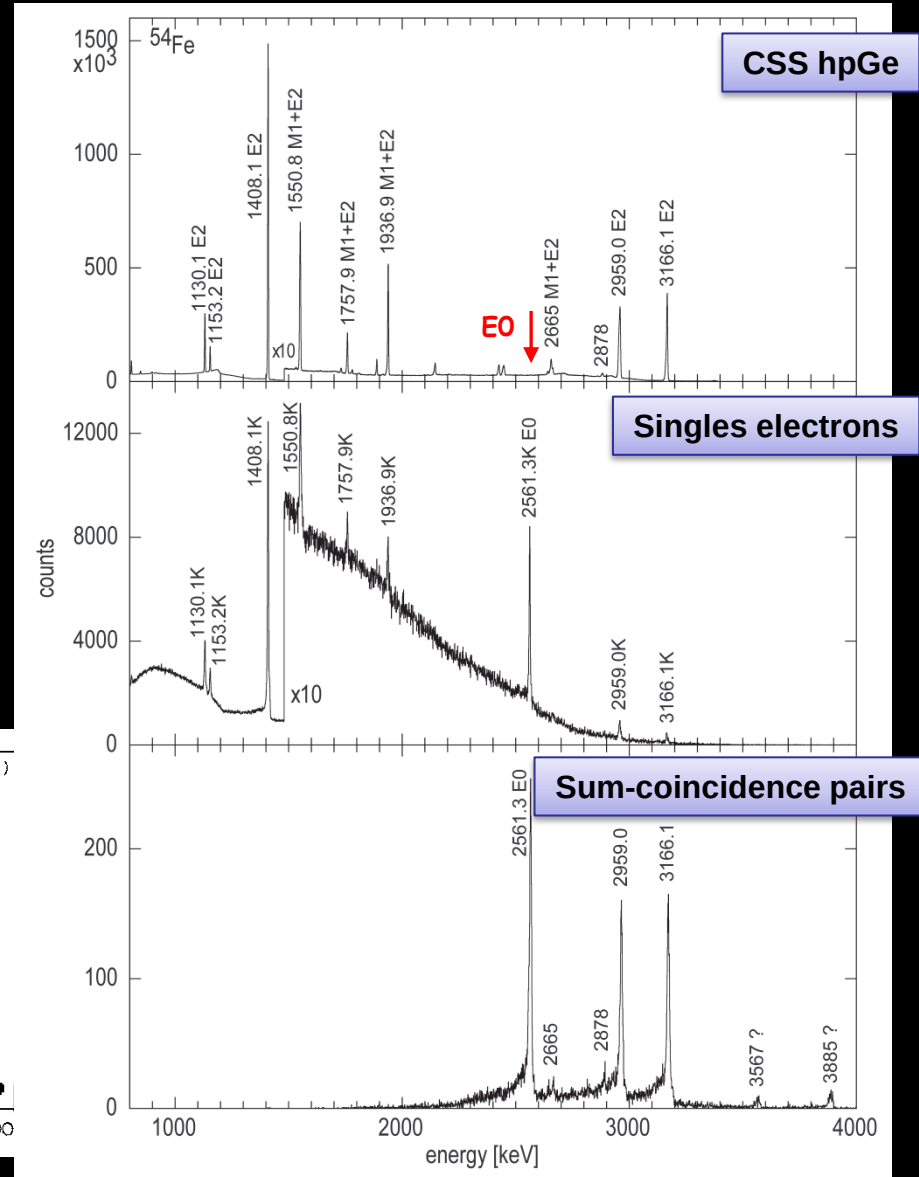
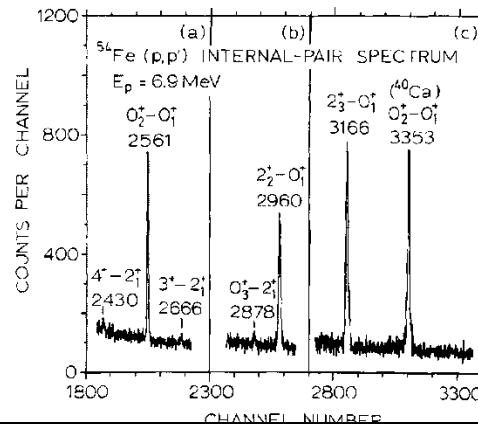
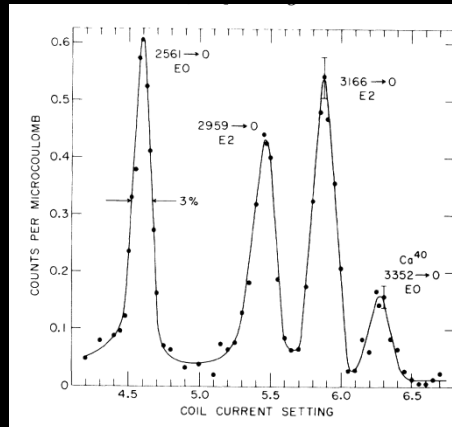


$^{54}\text{Fe}(p,p'g) @ 6.9 \text{ MeV}$



E.K. Warburton and
D.E. Alburger,
Phys. Rev. C 6 (1972) 1224

A. Passoja,
Z.Phys. A325 (1981) 299

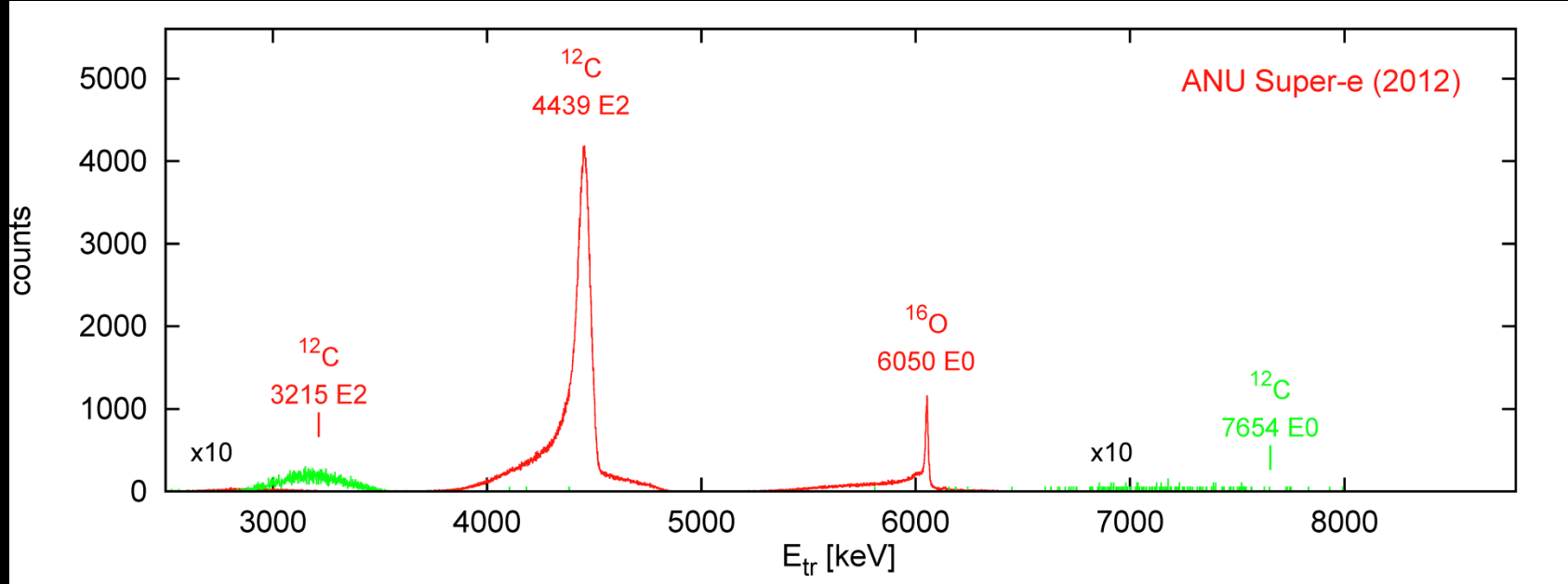




$^{12}\text{C}(p,p')^{12}\text{C}^*$ pair measurements

(Jun-2012)

- 55 h beam time with 100 nA on a 2 mg/cm² target
- “old” Honey detector (1997), 4.2 mm thick, reduced efficiency, continuous gain shifts
- TDC gate of +/- 6 ns wide!



4.803 A

6.807 A

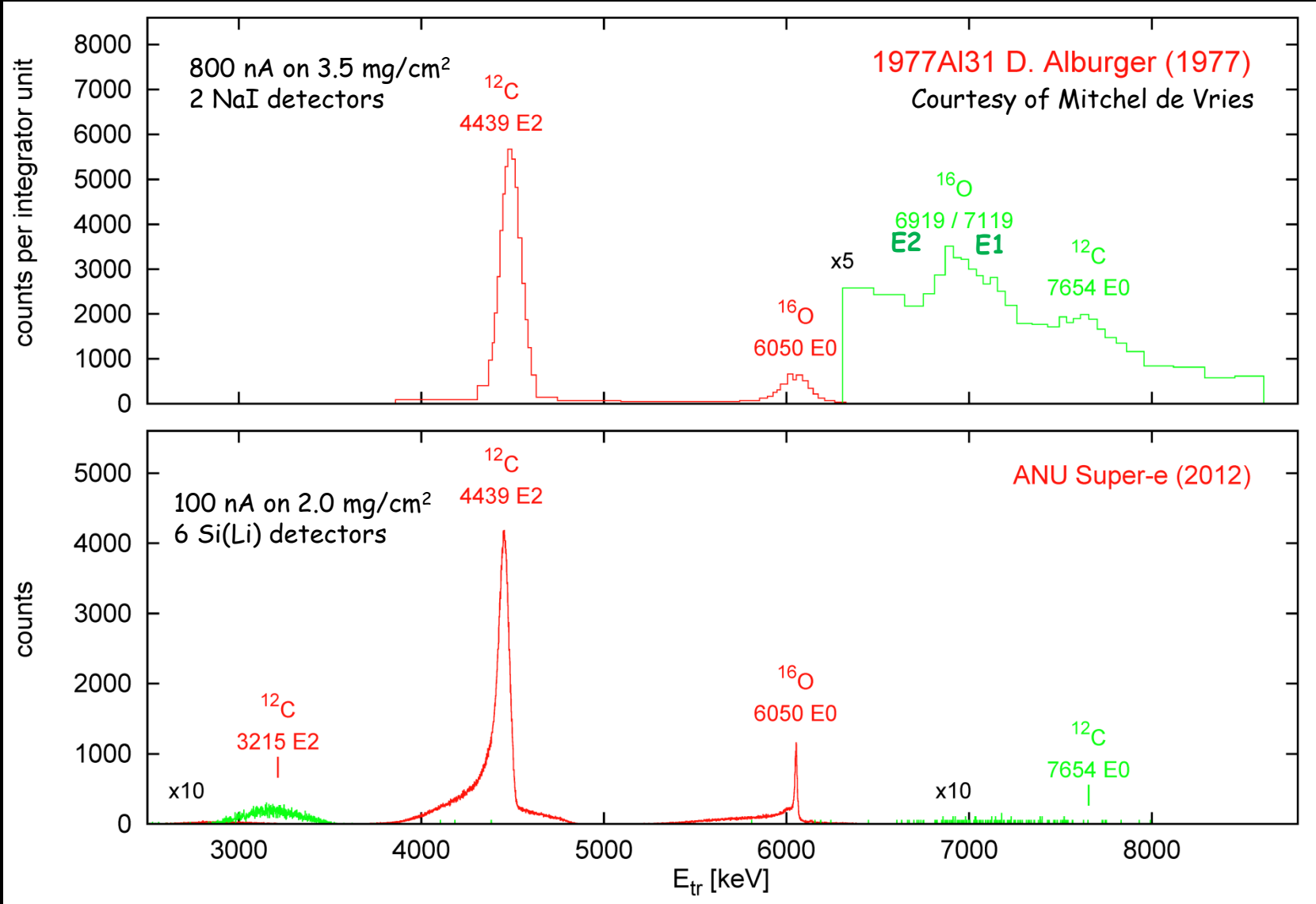
9.396 A

12.450 A



$^{12}\text{C}(p,p')^{12}\text{C}^*$ pair measurements

(Jun-2012)

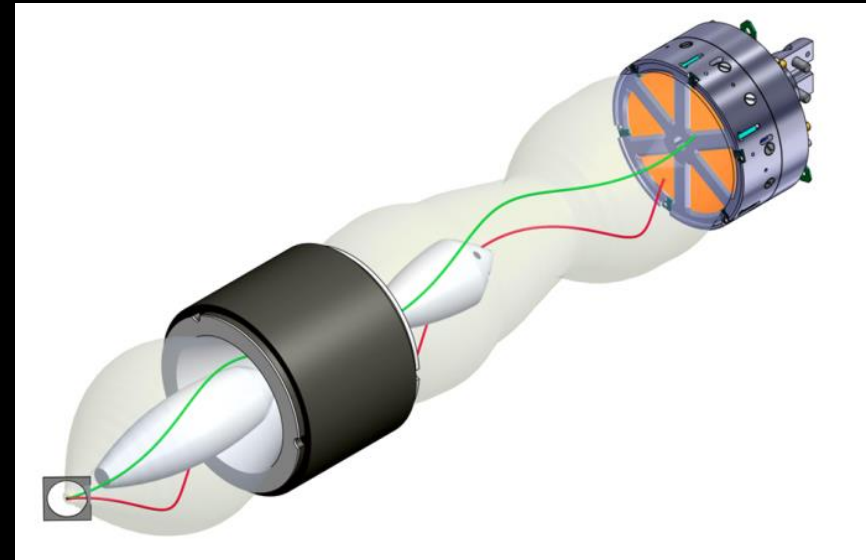




Conclusion and outlook

Current status

- New pair spectrometer based on six Si(Li) detectors combined with a magnetic lens transporter
- High energy photon background drastically reduced
- High coincidence efficiency, optimized for E0 and E2: 1:1 vs. 500:1 (Alburger 1977)
- Less sensitive for correlation and attenuation effects ($E_+ \sim E_-$)





Conclusion and outlook

Current status

- New pair spectrometer based on six Si(Li) detectors combined with a magnetic lens transporter
- High energy photon background drastically reduced
- High coincidence efficiency, optimized for E0 and E2: 1:1 vs. 500:1 (Alburger 1977)
- Less sensitive for correlation and attenuation effects ($E_+ \sim E_-$)

Improvements

- 9 mm thick Si(Li) array: factor 2 higher efficiency for 7.7 MeV pairs
- 500 nA proton beam intensity: factor 5 higher yield

Challenges

- Evaluation of pair conversion efficiency accurately for up to 8 MeV transition energy

MC simulations, radioactive source (^{207}Bi , Fermi-Kurie plot, known E0 transitions ($E_\gamma > 4$ MeV; ^{10}Be : 6.179 MeV; ^{14}C : 6.588 MeV; ^{16}O : 6.049 MeV; ^{20}Ne : 6.725 MeV, 7.191 MeV; ^{24}Mg : 6.433 MeV; ^{28}Si : 4.979 MeV; ^{48}Ca : 4.284 MeV; ^{54}Fe : 4.291 MeV)



Acknowledgement

Collaborators

A.E. Stuchbery

G.D. Dracoulis

ANU technical staff

A. Cooper

A. Graton

C. Gudu

A. Harding

J. Heighway

A. Muirhead

D. Tsifakis

T. Tunningley,

Students

B. Alshahrani

P. Copp (Univ. of Wisconsin-La Crosse)

A. Devlin

V. Margerin

M. Ng

J. Nute

R. Pitt

S. Rhen

K. Robertson

C. Robertson

A. Then

B. Thorman

C. B. Vickers

M. de Vries

A. Wakhle

ANU Major Equipment Grant