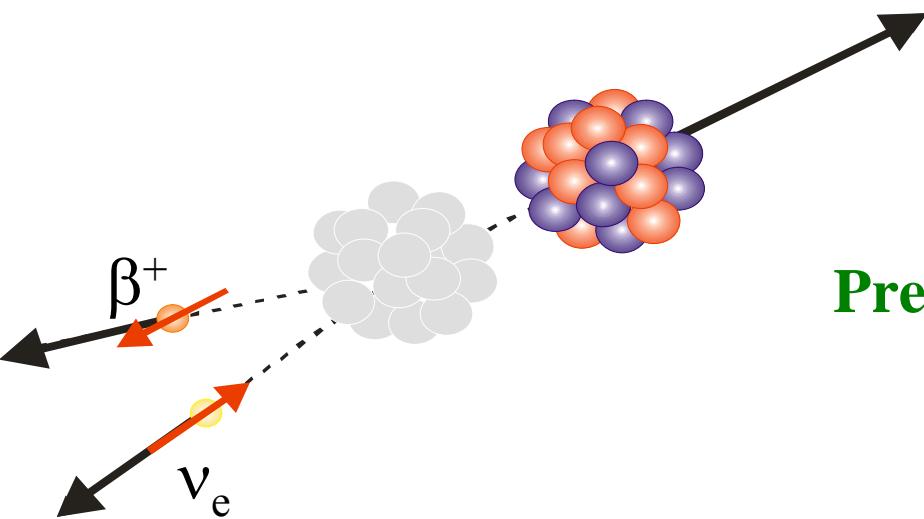


# Probing exotic weak currents in nuclear $\beta$ -decay



Workshop on  
**Precision Measurements at Low Energies**  
PSI, January 18-19, 2007

Nathal Severijns

Kath. University Leuven, Belgium

## 1. $Ft^{0^+ \rightarrow 0^+}$ (D. Dubbers)

## 2. $\beta\nu$ -correlation coefficient $a$

- neutron : aSPECT
- nuclei :
  - TRINAT / TRIUMF
  - Berkeley MOT (K. Jungmann)
  - KVI (K. Jungmann)
  - LPC-TRAP / GANIL
  - WITCH / ISOLDE

## $\beta$ -asymmetry parameter $A$

- neutron : (D. Dubbers - S. Paul)
- nuclei : Leuven – ISOLDE

## 3. symmetry tests

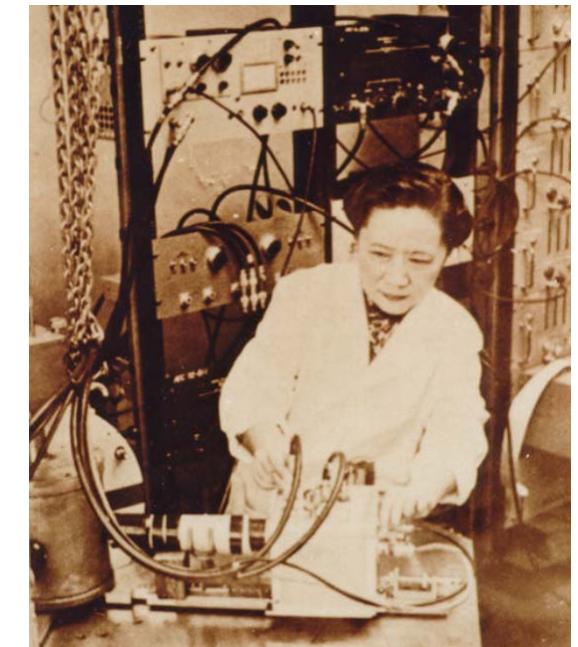
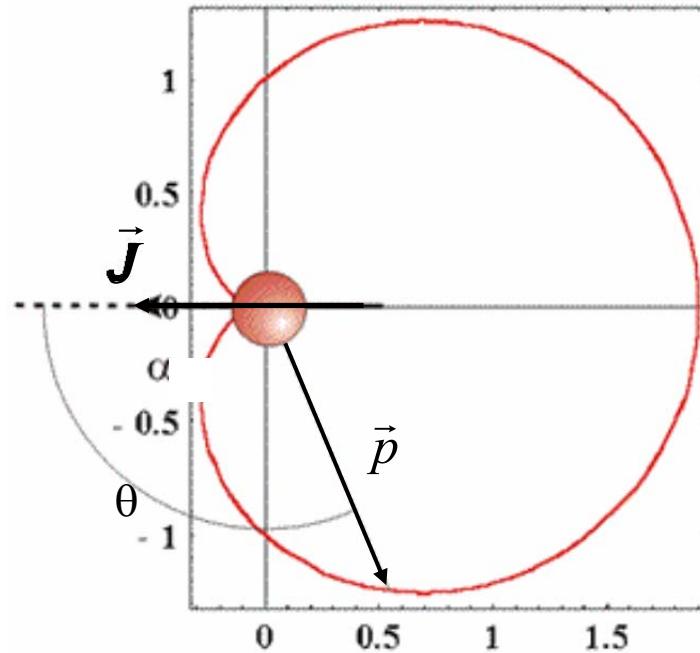
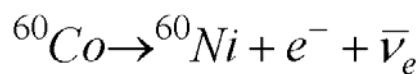
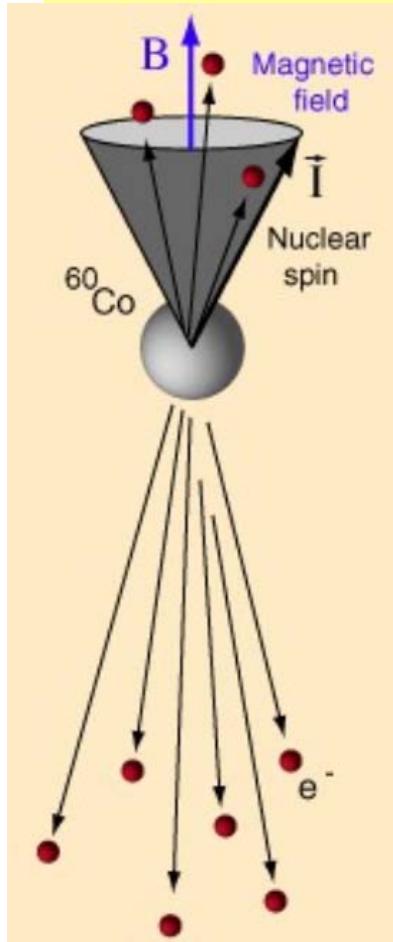
- parity
- TRV :
  - EDM (K. Jungmann)
  - D ( $J.p_e \exp_{\nu}$  ; V,A)
  - $R$  ( $\sigma.Jxp_e$  ; S,T) ; neutron R-TRV / PSI

## How it started:

**$\theta - \tau$  puzzle:** one particle!? / P-violating decay !?

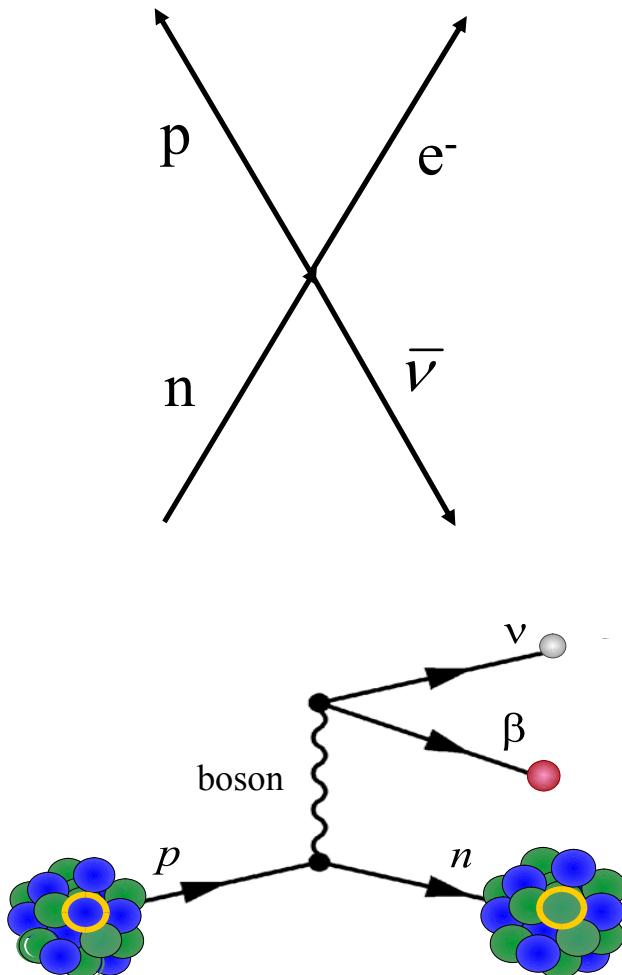
Oct.1956 **Lee & Yang:** P-violation in weak interaction not yet tested !  
[ PR 104 (1956) 254 ]

Jan.1957 **Wu et al.:**  $^{60}\text{Co}$   $\beta$ -decay P- violating !!  
[ PR 105 (1957) 1413 ]



# STRUCTURE OF THE WEAK INTERACTION IN NUCLEAR BETA DECAY

$\beta$ -decay Hamiltonian (Lee & Yang) :



$$\begin{aligned}
 H_\beta/g \propto & (\bar{p} \ 1 \ n) [\bar{e} \ 1 \ (C_S + C'_S \gamma_5) \nu] \\
 & + (\bar{p} \ \gamma_\mu \ n) [\bar{e} \ \gamma_\mu \ (C_V + C'_V \gamma_5) \nu] \\
 & + \frac{1}{2} (\bar{p} \ \sigma_{\mu\nu} \ n) [\bar{e} \ \sigma_{\mu\nu} \ (C_T + C'_T \gamma_5) \nu] \\
 & - (\bar{p} \ \gamma_\mu \gamma_5 \ n) [\bar{e} \ \gamma_\mu \gamma_5 (C_A + C'_A \gamma_5) \nu] \\
 & + \cancel{(\bar{p} \ \gamma_5 \ n)} [\bar{e} \ \gamma_5 \ (C_P + C'_P \gamma_5) \nu] \approx 0
 \end{aligned}$$

with  $\gamma_i$  ( $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$ ) Dirac matrices ( $\gamma_5 = \gamma_1 \gamma_2 \gamma_3 \gamma_4$ )

and  $\sigma_{\mu\nu} = -\frac{i}{2}(\gamma_\mu \gamma_\lambda - \gamma_\lambda \gamma_\mu)$

P-violation if  $C_i \neq 0$  and  $C'_i \neq 0$

T-violation if  $\text{Im}(C_i^0 / C_j) \neq 0$

## the Standard Model and beyond:

- \*  $C_V = 1$  (CVC)
- \*  $C_A = -1.27$  ( $g_A/g_V = -1.2699(7)$  from n-decay )
- \*  $C_V' = C_V$  &  $C_A' = C_A$  (maximal P-violation)

- \*  $C_S = C_S' = C_T = C_T' = C_P = C_P' \equiv 0$  (only V- and A-currents)

**experimental upper limits:**

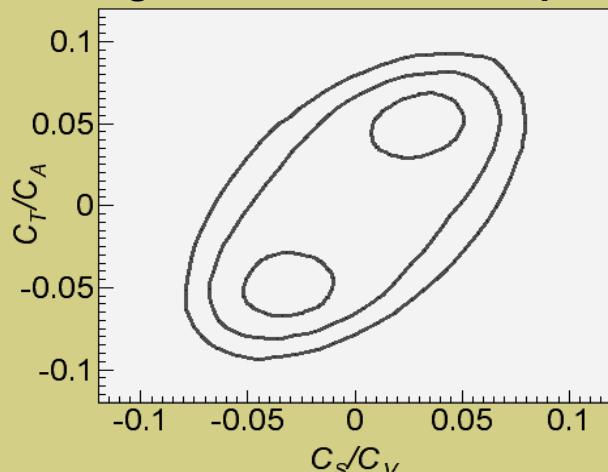
(neutron and nuclear  $\beta$ -decay)

$$|C_T^{(\prime)}/C_A| < 0.09$$

$$|C_S^{(\prime)}/C_V| < 0.07 \quad (95\% \text{CL})$$

from: N. Severijns, M. Beck, O. Naviliat-Cuncic,  
Rev. Mod. Phys. 78 (2006) 991

for right-handed exotic couplings



- \* **no time reversal violation**  
(except for the CP-violation described by the phase in the CKM matrix)

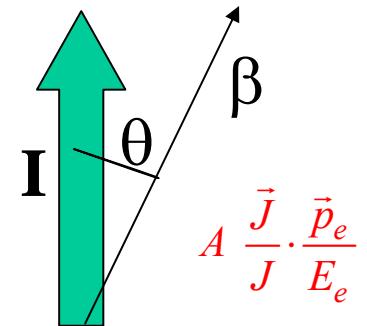
## distribution in

- electron and neutrino directions and in
- electron energy

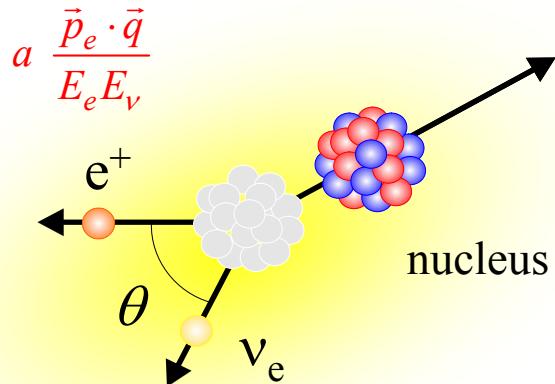
from polarized nuclei :

$$\omega (\langle \vec{J} \rangle | E_e, \Omega_e, \Omega_\nu) dE_e d\Omega_e d\Omega_\nu$$

$$\propto \frac{F(\pm Z, E_e)}{\text{Fermi function}} \frac{p_e E_e (E_0 - E_e)^2}{\text{phase space}} dE_e d\Omega_e d\Omega_\nu$$



$$x \xi \left\{ 1 + a \frac{\vec{p}_e \cdot \vec{q}}{E_e E_\nu} + b \frac{\gamma m_e}{E_e} + A \frac{\vec{J} \cdot \vec{p}_e}{J E_e} + R \bar{\sigma} \cdot \frac{\vec{J}}{J} x \frac{\vec{p}_e}{E_e} + \dots \right\}$$



**β-ν correlation**

Fierz  
interference term  
(  $b = 0$  in  
standard model )

**β-asymmetry**

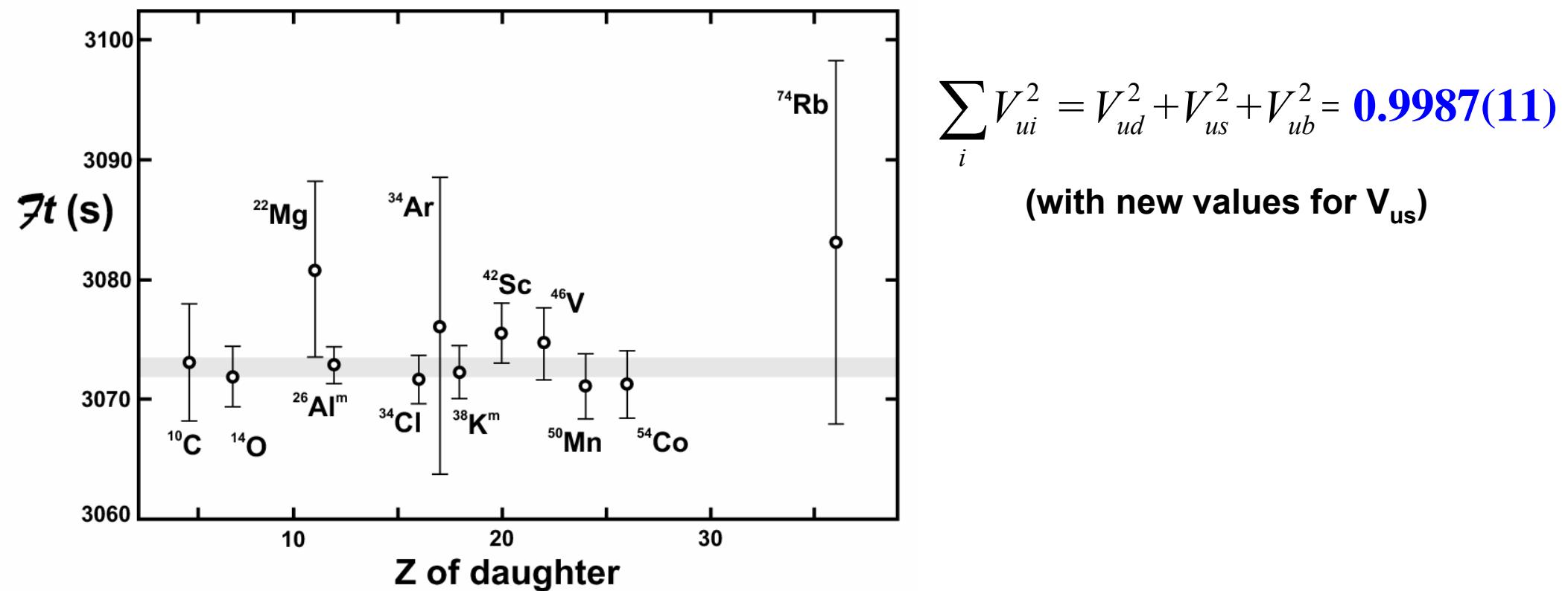
**R-correlation**

J.D. Jackson, S.B. Treiman, H.W. Wyld, Nucl. Phys. 4 (1957) 206

$$\tilde{X} = \frac{X}{1 + b \frac{\gamma m_e}{E_e}}$$

## 1. $\Im t$ -values of $0^+ \rightarrow 0^+$ superallowed Fermi transitions

$$\mathcal{F}t = ft(1 + \delta_R)(1 - \delta_C) = \frac{K}{2 G_F^2 V_{ud}^2 (1 + \Delta_R^V)} = 3074.4(12) \text{ s} \quad (1,2)$$



- (<sup>1</sup>) Towner and Hardy ( $0^+ \rightarrow 0^+$ ), PRL 94 (2003) 092501, PR C71 (2005) 055501  
 (<sup>2</sup>) Savard et al., PRL 95 (2005) 102501

## physics information from the $0^+ \rightarrow 0^+$ Fermi transitions

### 1. right-handed currents:

$$-0.0005 < \zeta < 0.0015 \quad (90\% \text{ C.L.})$$

### Ad 1: Left Right Symm.-models

$$W_1 = W_L \cos \zeta - W_R \sin \zeta$$

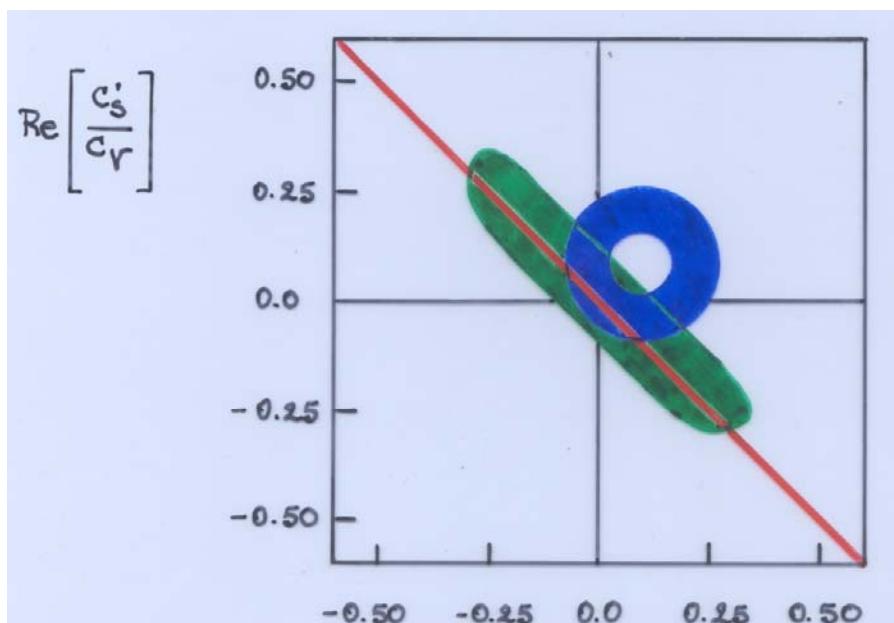
$$W_2 = W_L \sin \zeta + W_R \cos \zeta$$

$$\delta = m_1^2 / m_2^2$$

### 2. scalar currents:

$$-0.005 < \operatorname{Re} \left( \frac{C_S + C'_S}{C_V} \right) < 0.011$$

(90% CL)



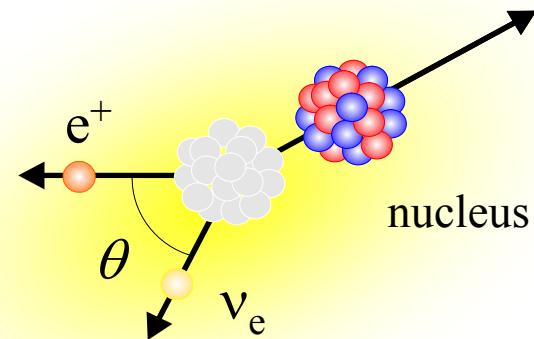
### Ad 2: scalar currents

$$\operatorname{Re} \left[ \frac{C_S}{C_V} \right]$$

## 2a. $\beta\nu$ -correlation

$$a \frac{\vec{p}_e \cdot \vec{q}}{E_e E_\nu}$$

or  $\tilde{a} = \frac{a}{1 + b \frac{\gamma m_e}{E_e}}$  with  $\gamma = \sqrt{1 - (\alpha Z)^2}$



$$a_F \approx 1 - \frac{|C_S|^2 + |C'_S|^2}{|C_V|^2}$$

$$a_{GT} \approx -\frac{1}{3} \left[ 1 - \frac{|C_T|^2 + |C'_T|^2}{|C_A|^2} \right]$$

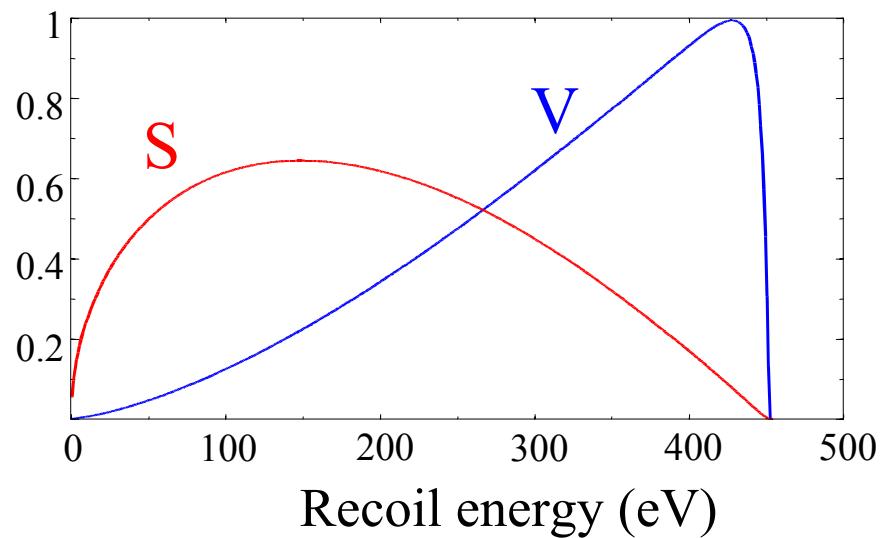
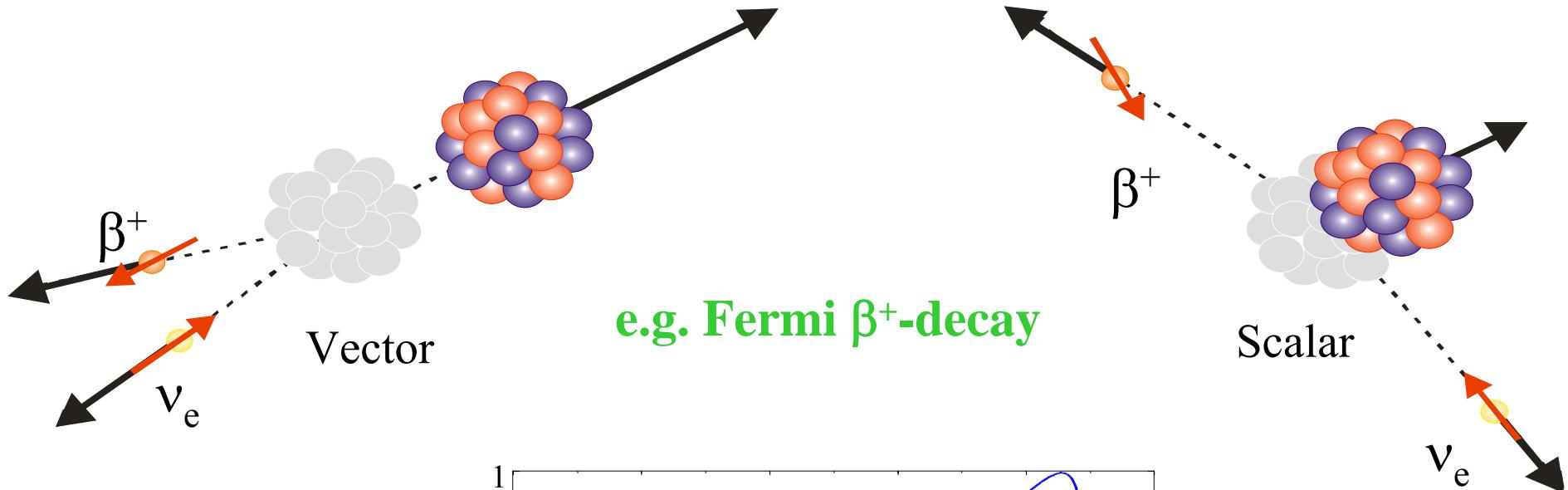
$$b_F \approx R e \frac{C_S + C'_S}{C_V}$$

$$b_{GT} \approx R e \frac{C_T + C'_T}{C_A}$$

(assuming maximal P-violation and T-invariance for V and A interactions)

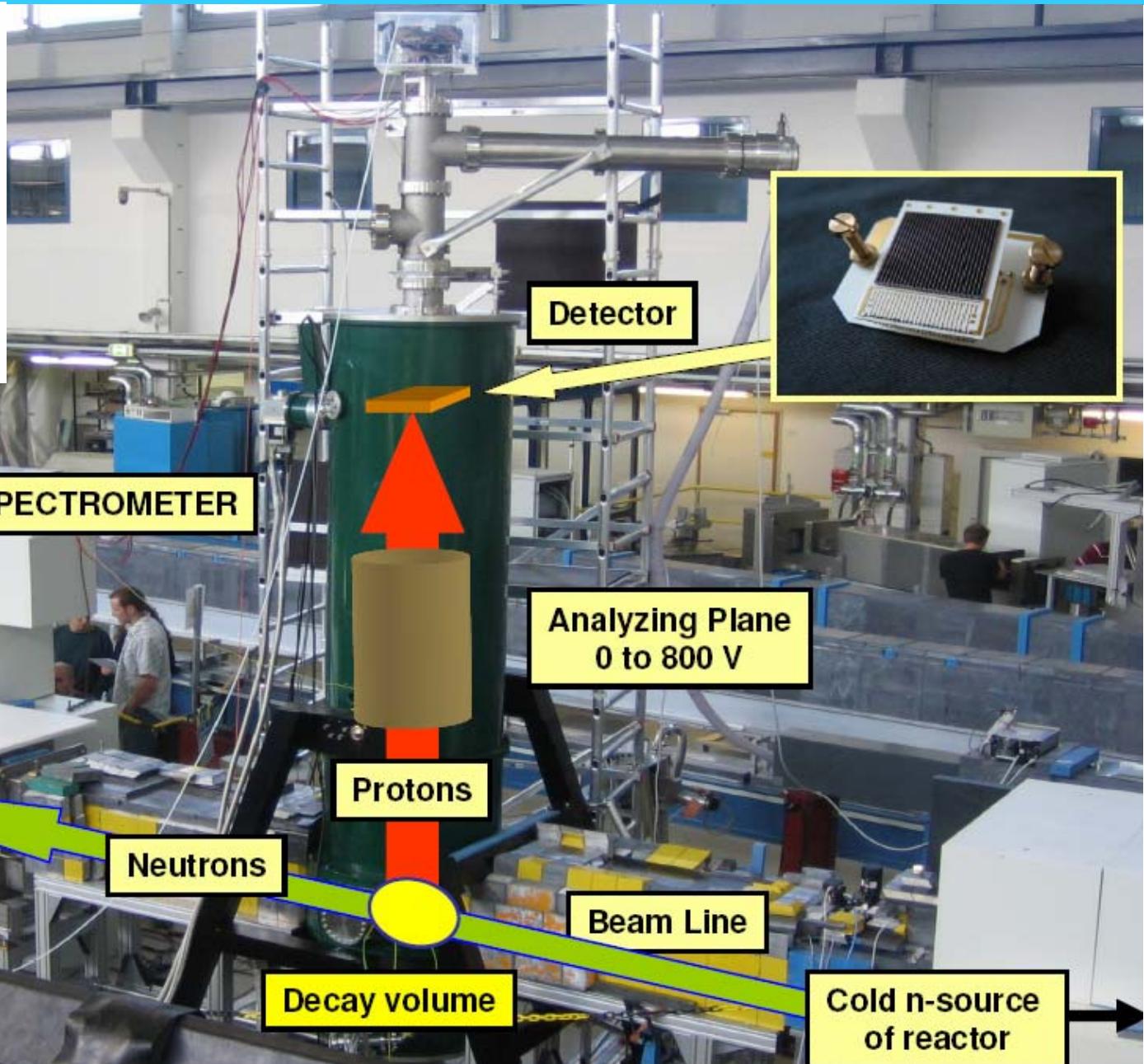
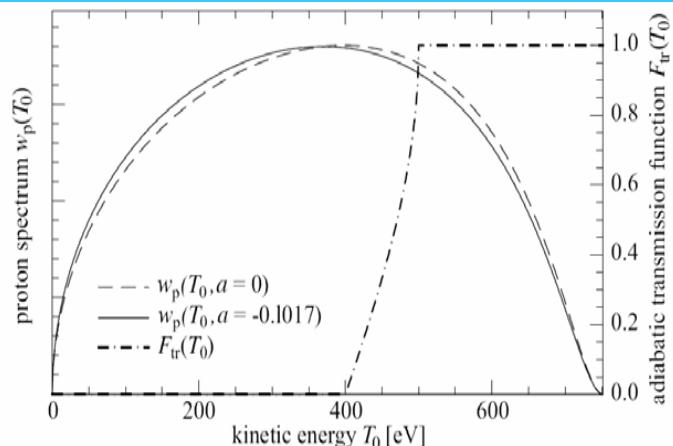
recoil corr. (induced form factors)  $\approx 10^{-3}$ ; radiative corrections  $\approx 10^{-4}$

## recoil ion energy spectrum :

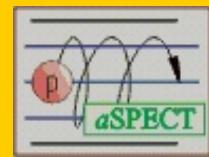


# aSPECT experiment (FRM-II München)

(Mainz, Budapest, Karlsruhe, München, Sussex)

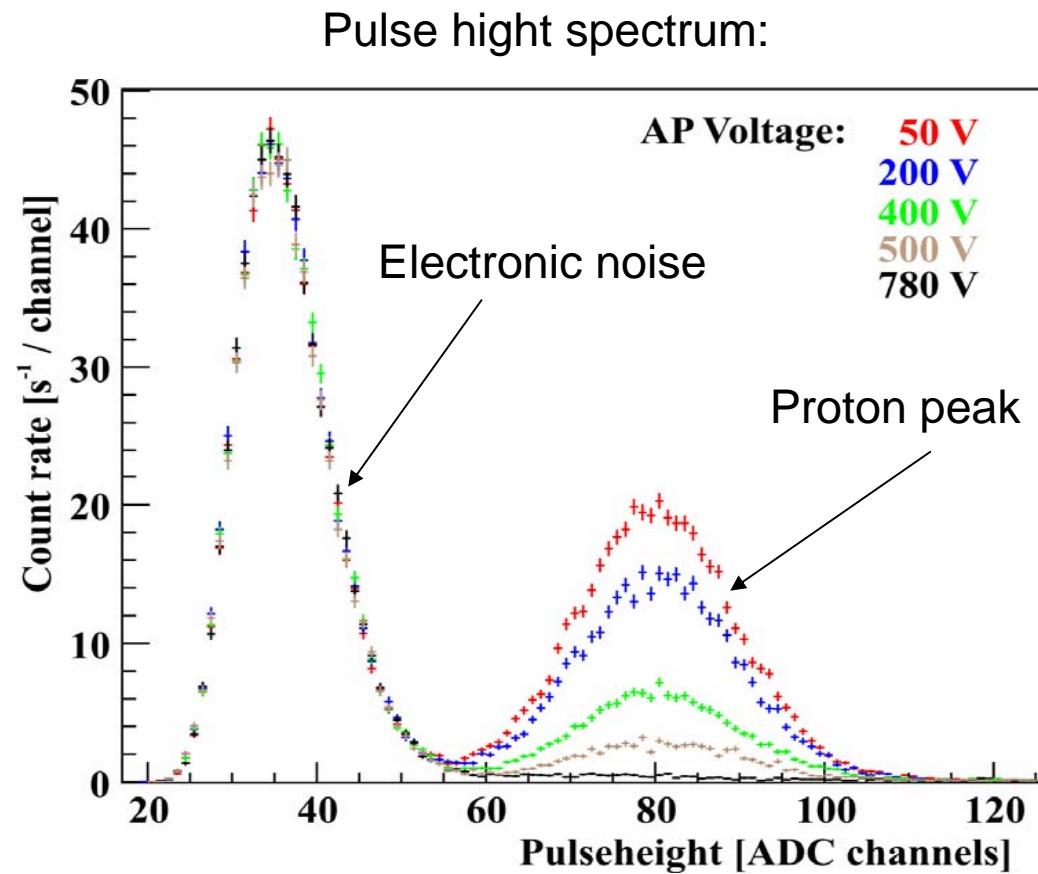
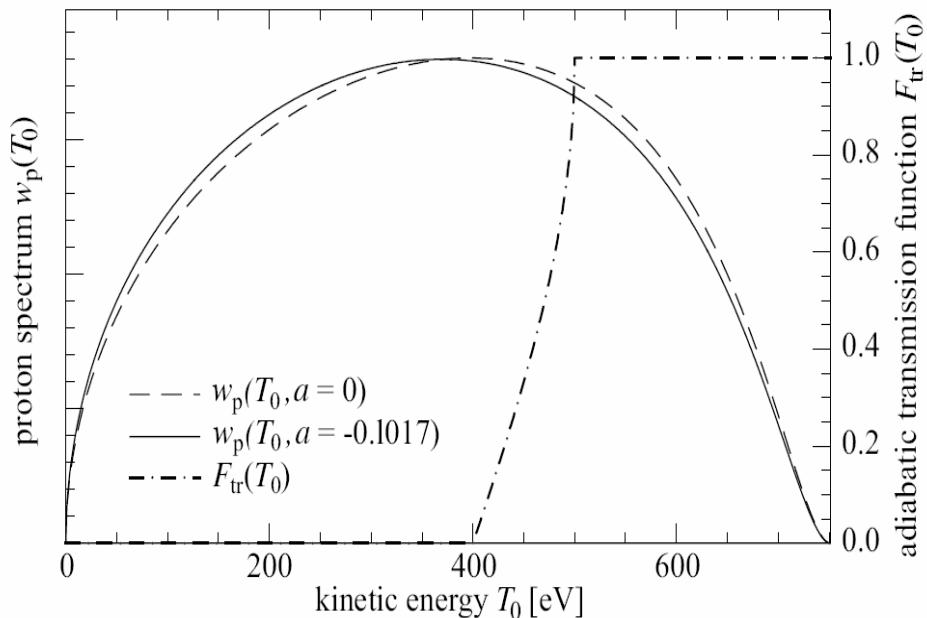


# aSPECT - proton spectra



$a_{n\text{-wavg}} = -0.103(4)$  (PDG)

- about factor 10 improvement necessary to have same sensitivity to  $g_A/g_V$  as  $A_n$ -parameter
- sensitive to  $C_S$  and  $C_T$

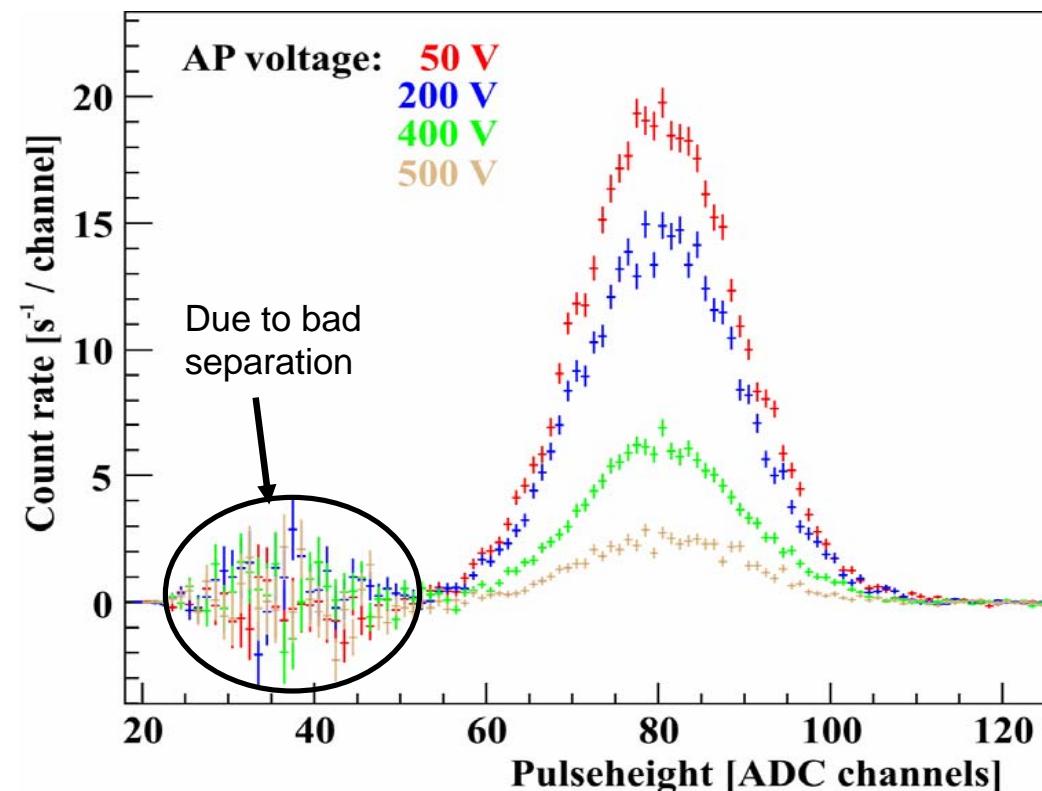


- Proton spectrum looks ok, Countrate  $\sim 500$  Hz
- Signal to background ratio  $> 10:1$
- Proton Signal not well separated from electronic noise

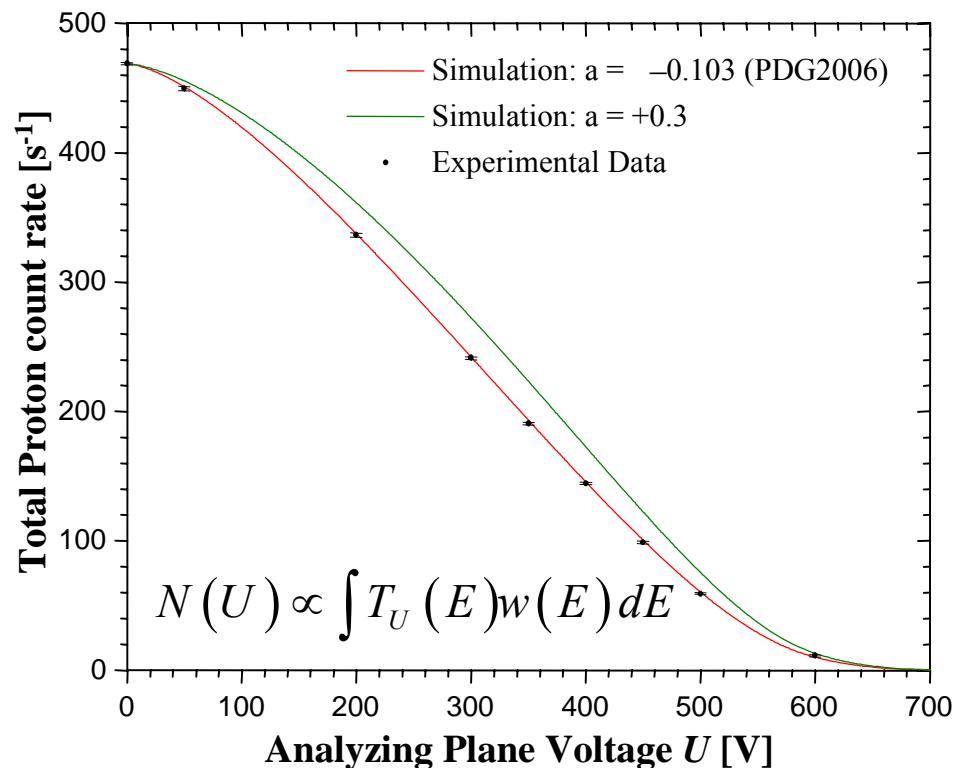
# Extraction of a



after background subtraction



integral proton spectrum



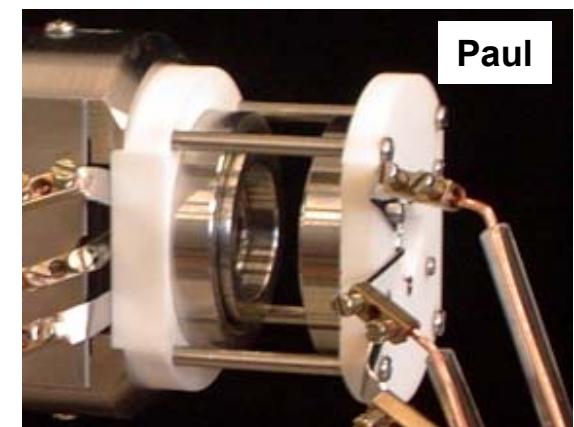
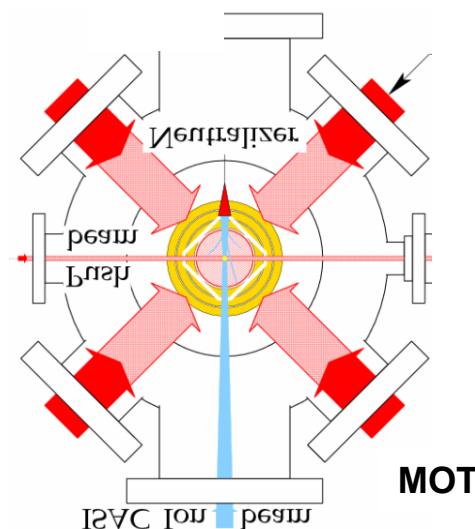
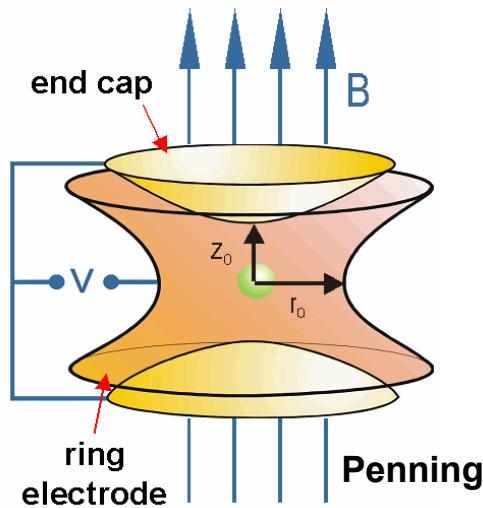
- Fulfils requirements for statistical accuracy
- Instabilities (Electronic Noise?)

# traps for correlations in nuclear beta decay

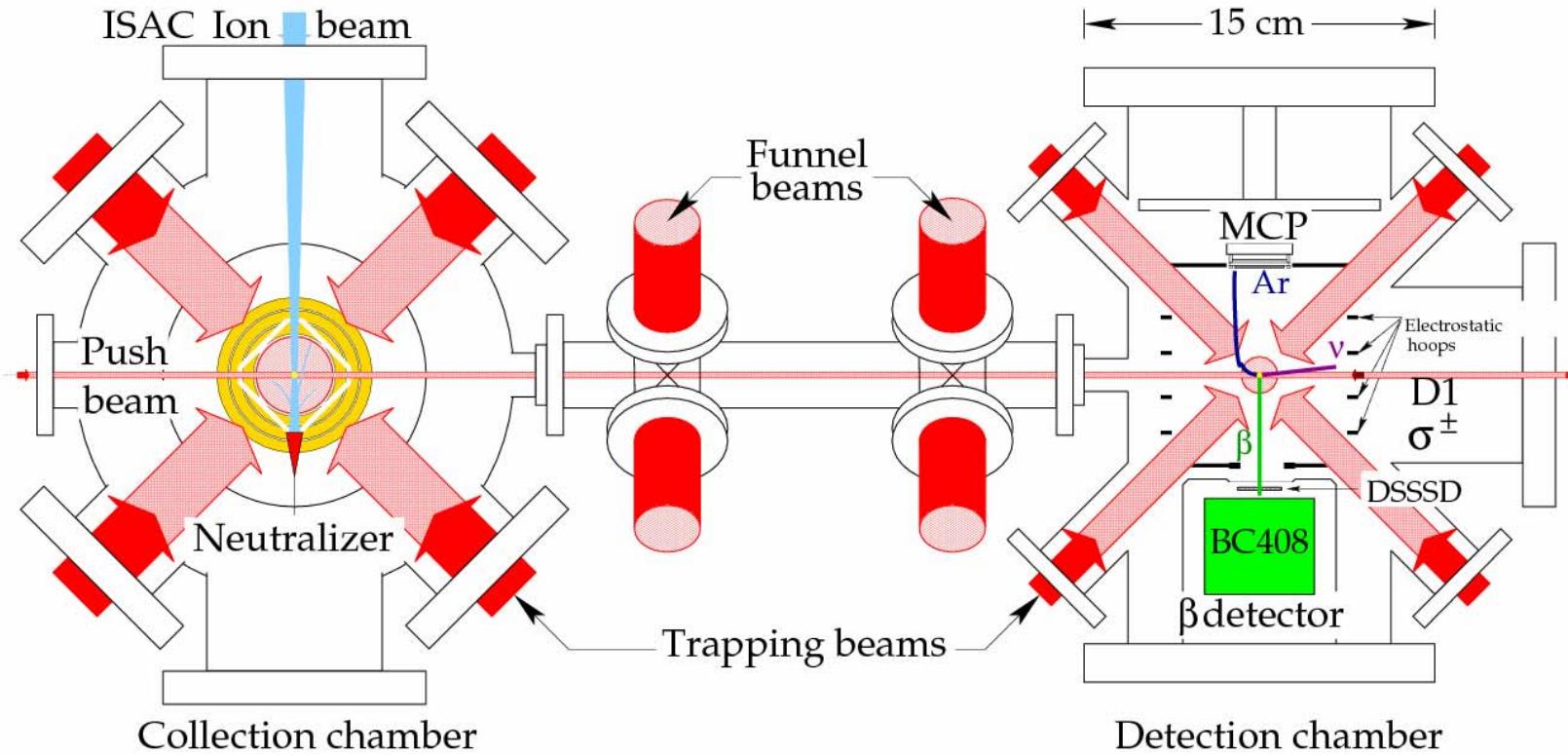
isotope	trap	meas.	lab
$^{21}\text{Na}$	MOT	$a_F$ <sup>(1)</sup>	LBNL
$^{38m}\text{K}$	MOT	$a_F$ <sup>(2)</sup>	TRIUMF
$^6\text{He}$	Paul	$a_{GT}$	LPC/GANIL
$^{35}\text{Ar}$	Penning	$a_F$	KUL/ISOLDE
$^{21}\text{Na}, ^{19}\text{Ne}, ^{23}\text{Mg}$	MOT	$a, D$	KVI
$^{82}\text{Rb}$	MOT	$A_{GT}$	LANL

(1) = 0.5243(91) Scielzo et al. PRL 93(2004) 102501

(2) = 0.9978(30)(37) Gorelov et al. PRL 94 (2005) 142501



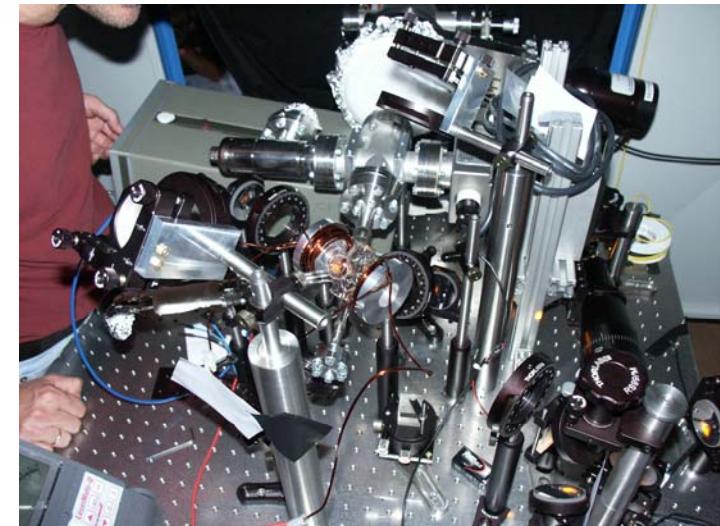
# TRINAT MOT trap at TRIUMF-ISAC (Vancouver)



search for exotic scalar couplings with  $^{38m}\text{K}$  ( J. Behr et al. )

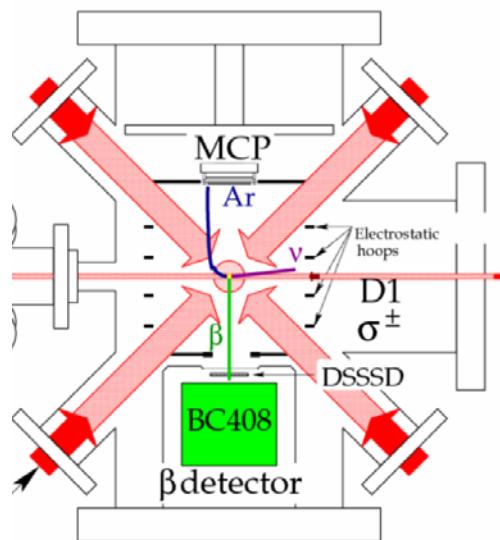


superallowed  $0^+ \rightarrow 0^+$  pure Fermi transition ( $t_{1/2} = 0.95$  s)

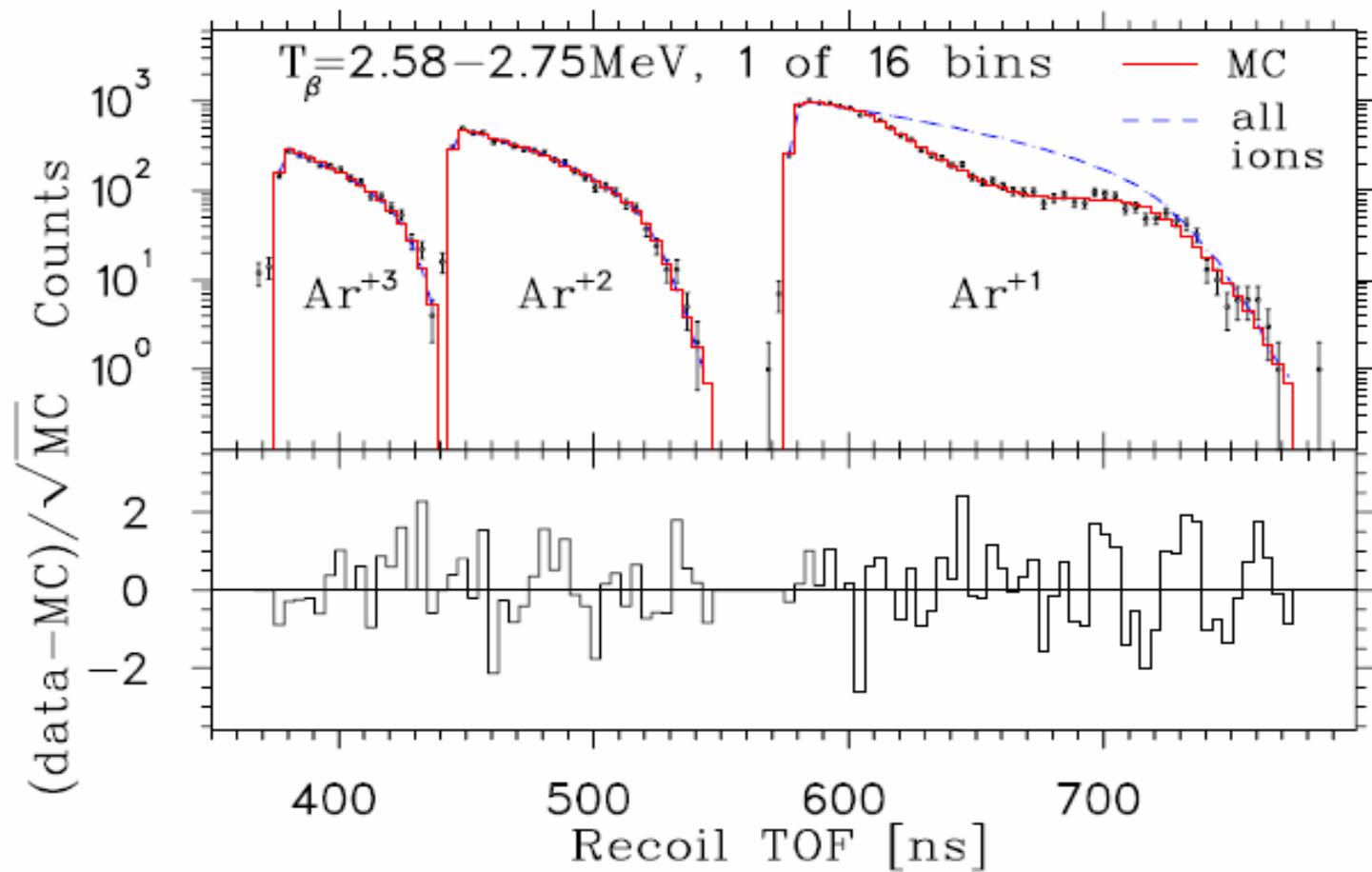


$$\tilde{a} = \frac{a}{1 + \gamma \frac{m_e}{E_e} b} = 0.9981 \pm 0.0030 \pm 0.0035 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{|C_s|^2 + |C'_s|^2}{|C_V|^2} \leq 0.097$$

$(\tilde{a}_{SM} = 1) \quad (90\% \text{ C.L.} \cong 1.65\sigma)$



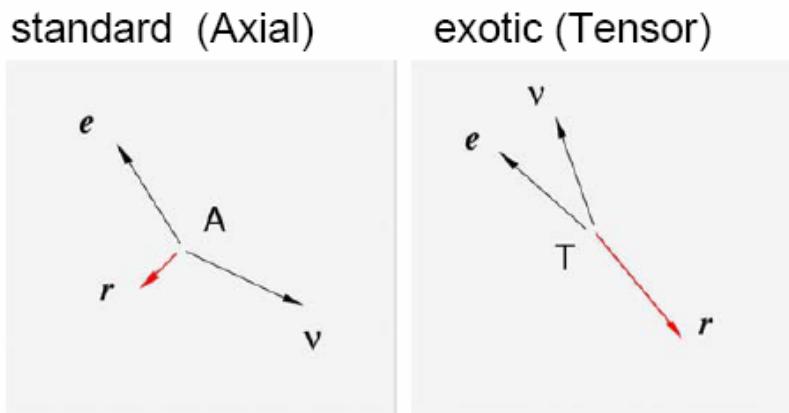
A. Gorelov, J. Behr et al.,  
Phys. Rev. Lett. 94 (2005) 142501



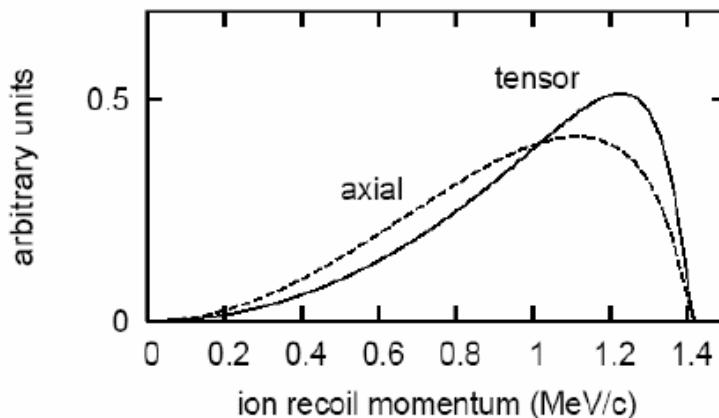
# LPC-Caen Paul trap at GANIL (O. Naviliat, G. Ban et al.)

- search for exotic tensor couplings

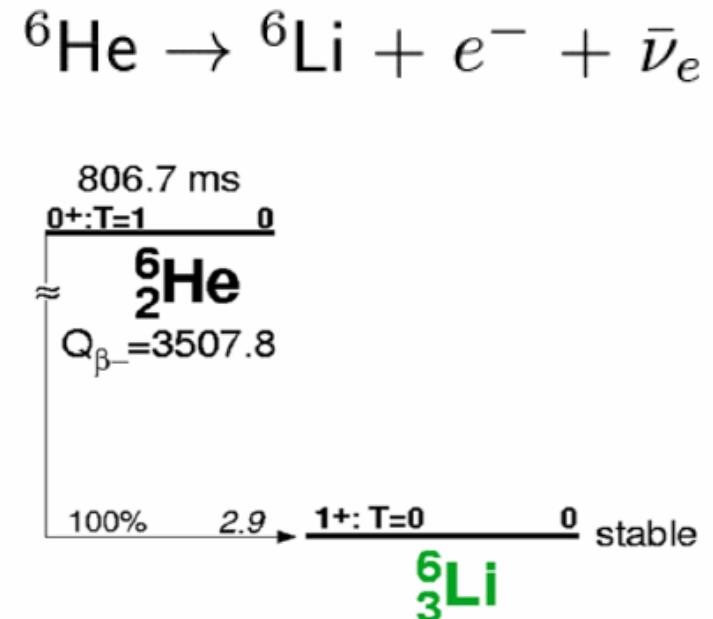
$$a \left( \frac{\mathbf{p}_e \cdot \mathbf{p}_\nu}{E_e E_\nu} \right) \quad \text{in a Gamow-Teller transition}$$



the signature is in the ion recoil spectrum

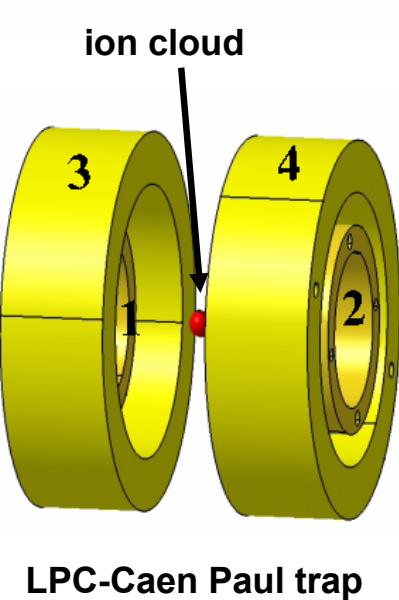
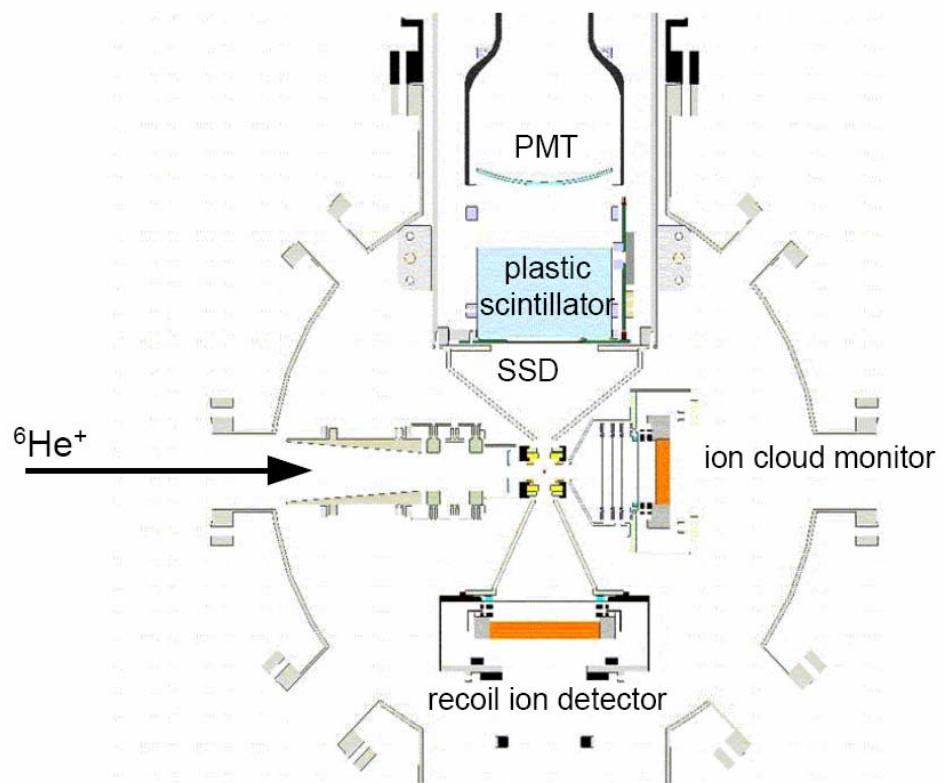
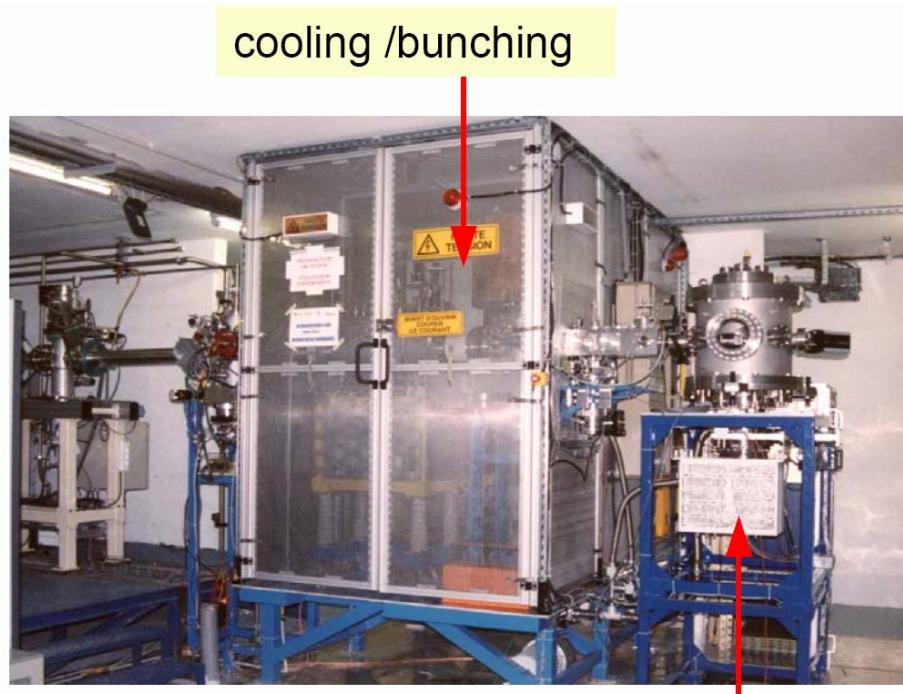


- candidate



- general principle

- produce  $^6\text{He}$  nuclei
- trap the ions (requires beam cooling)
- measure recoil  $^6\text{Li}$  TOF ( $E_R < 1.4 \text{ keV}$ )

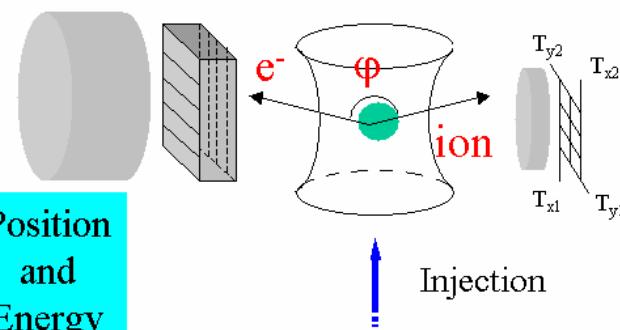


$\beta$  - recoil coincidences

Plastic  
+  
PSD Si

Position  
and  
Energy

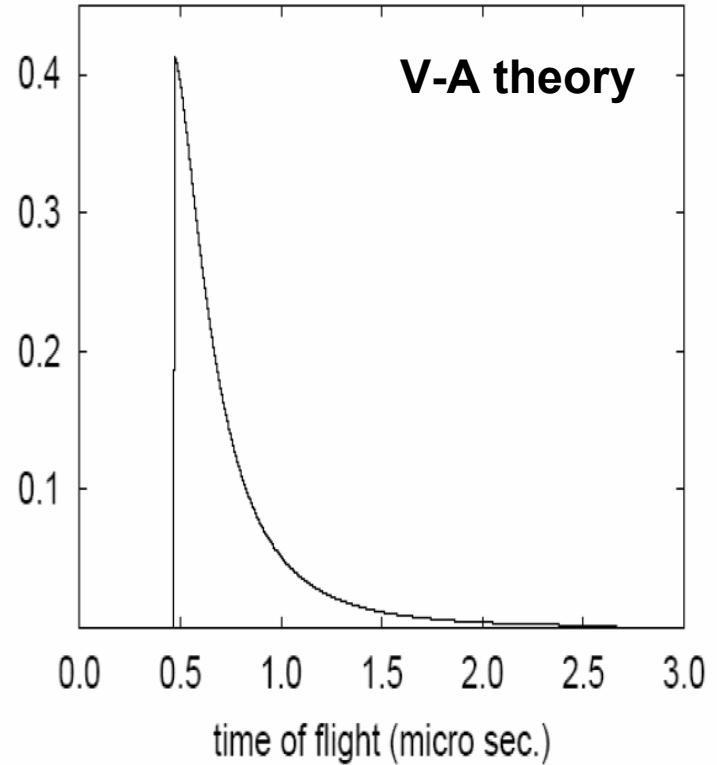
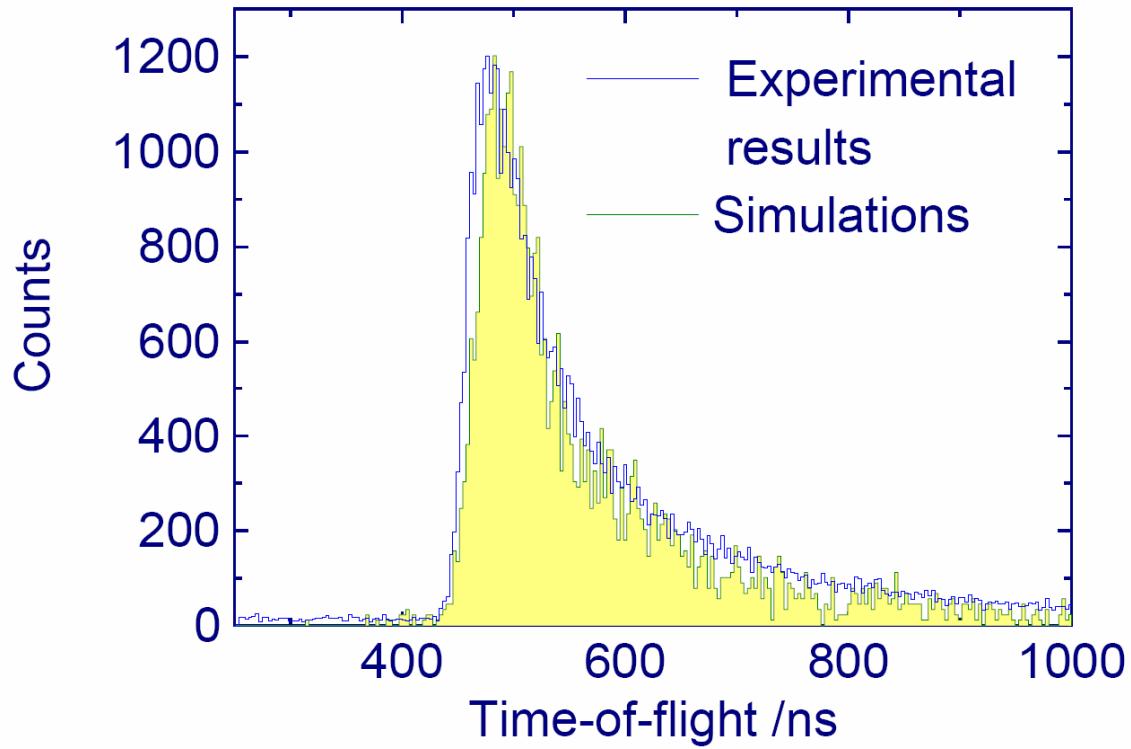
back-to-back geometry



$\mu\text{CP}$   
+  
Delay line anode

Position  
and  
Time of flight

## first results from LPC-Caen trap at GANIL :



- 2005: proof of principle
- 2006: first data
- difference between experiment and simulation due to main systematic effect, i.e. rf-field

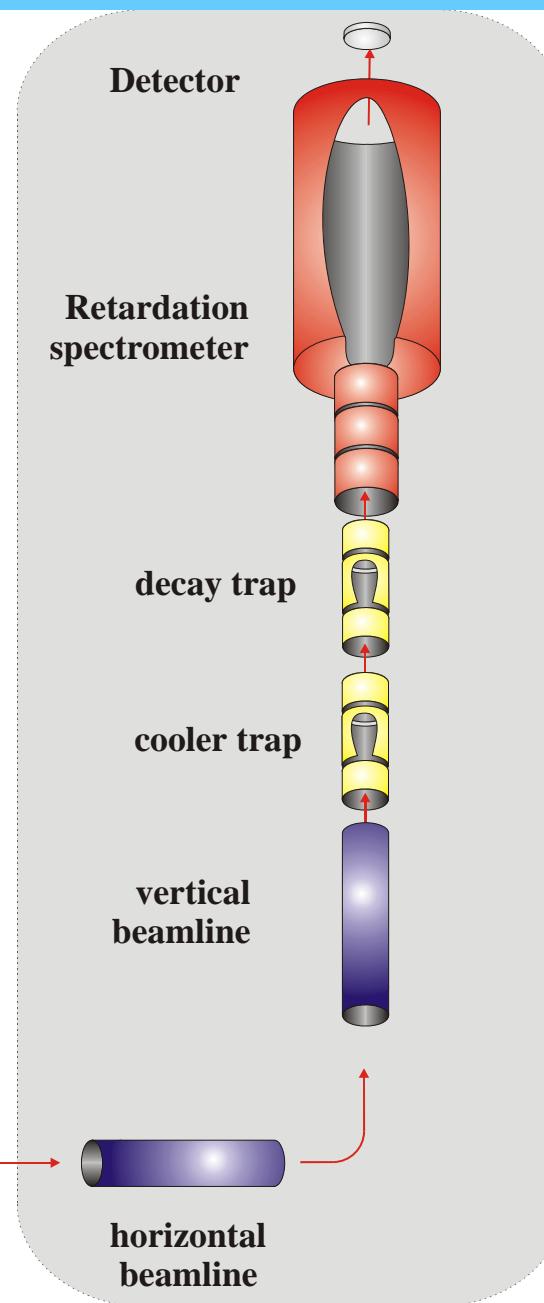
# WITCH double-Penning trap system at ISOLDE-CERN

K.U.Leuven, ISOLDE-CERN, Uni Münster, GSI, NPI-Řež (Prague)

## Weak Interaction Trap for CHarged particles

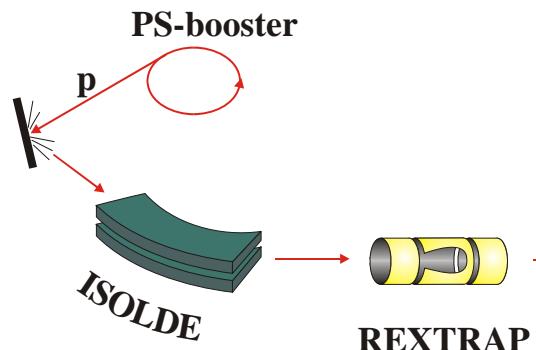
cooler & decay Penning traps  
+ retardation spectrometer

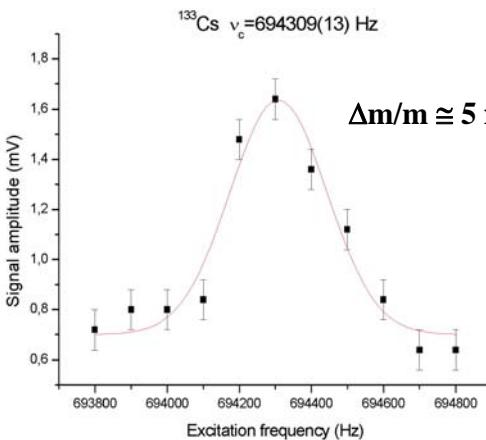
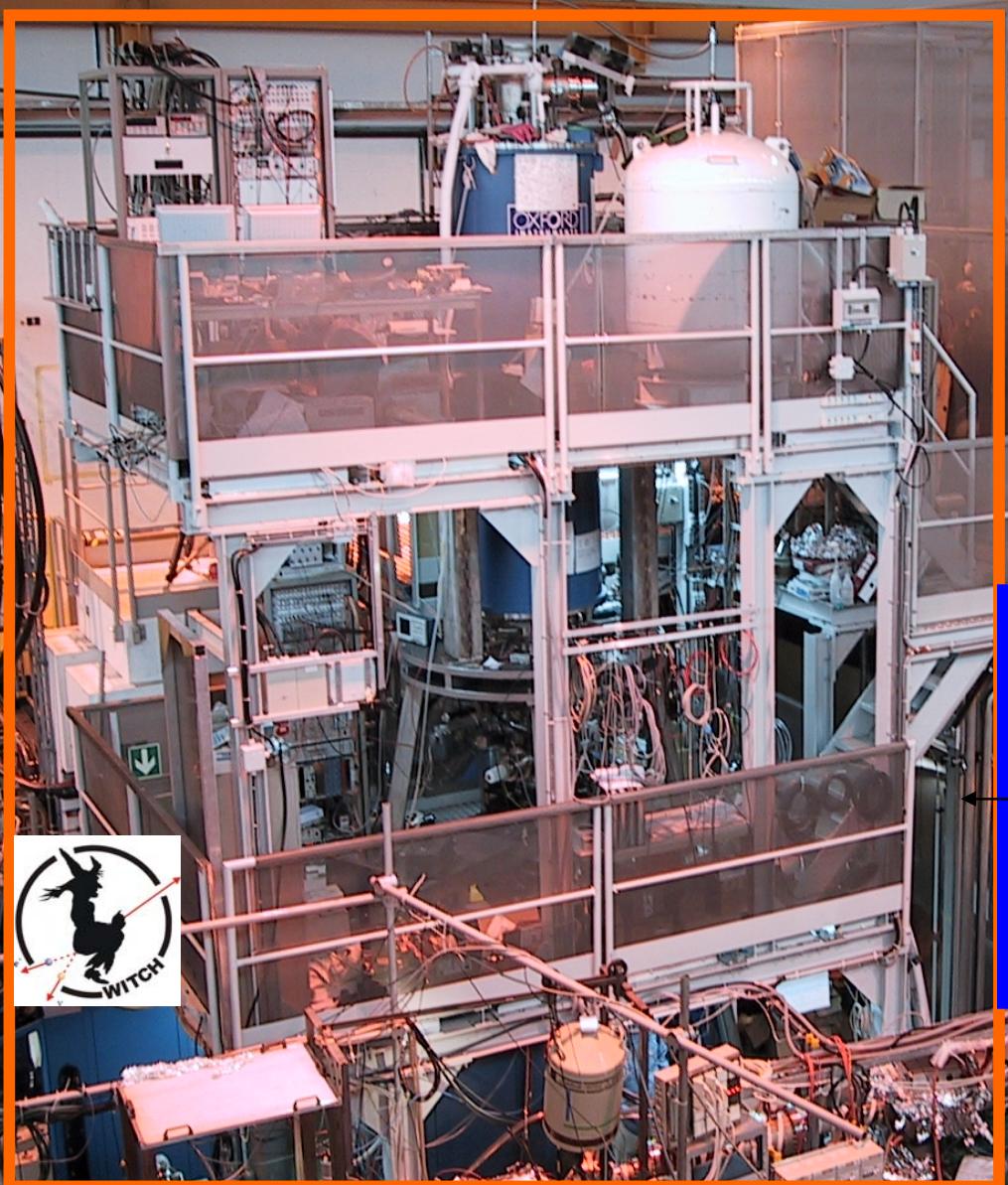
search for exotic scalar/tensor couplings  
in the beta-neutrino correlation by  
recoil ion energy spectrum shape



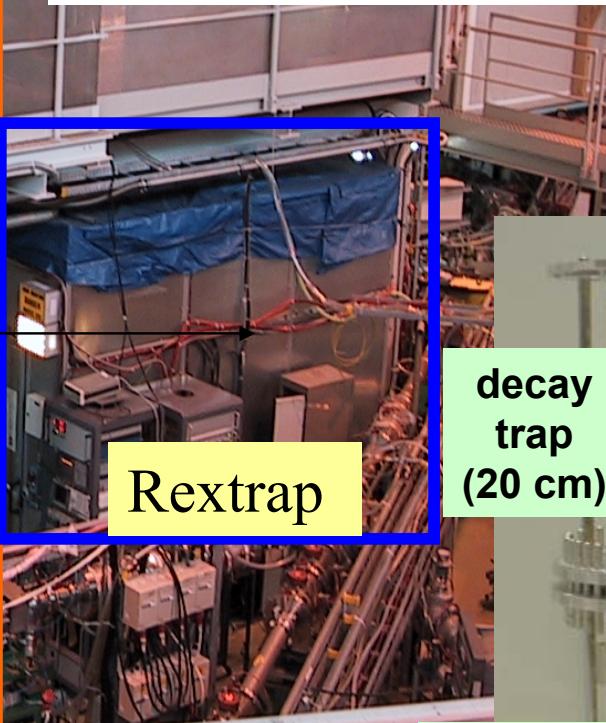
### WITCH-Collaboration:

S. Coeck, V. Kozlov, M. Herbane, M. Tandecki, N. Severijns (K.U.Leuven);  
M. Beck, P. Friedag, C. Weinheimer (Univ. Münster);  
F. Wenander, P. Delahaye, A. Herlert (ISOLDE-CERN);  
D. Beck (GSI-Darmstadt);  
D. Zakoucky (NPI-Rez, Prague).





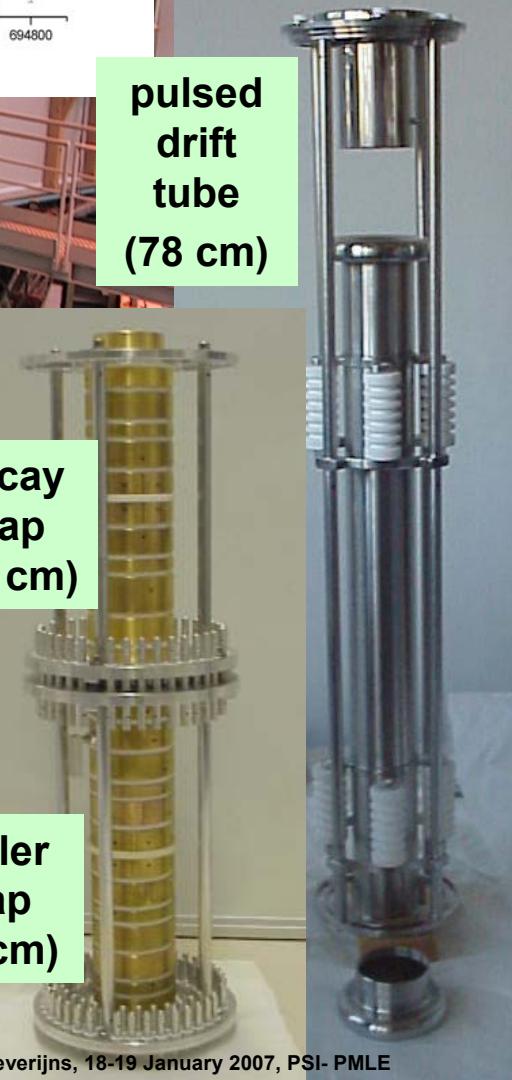
pulsed drift tube  
(78 cm)

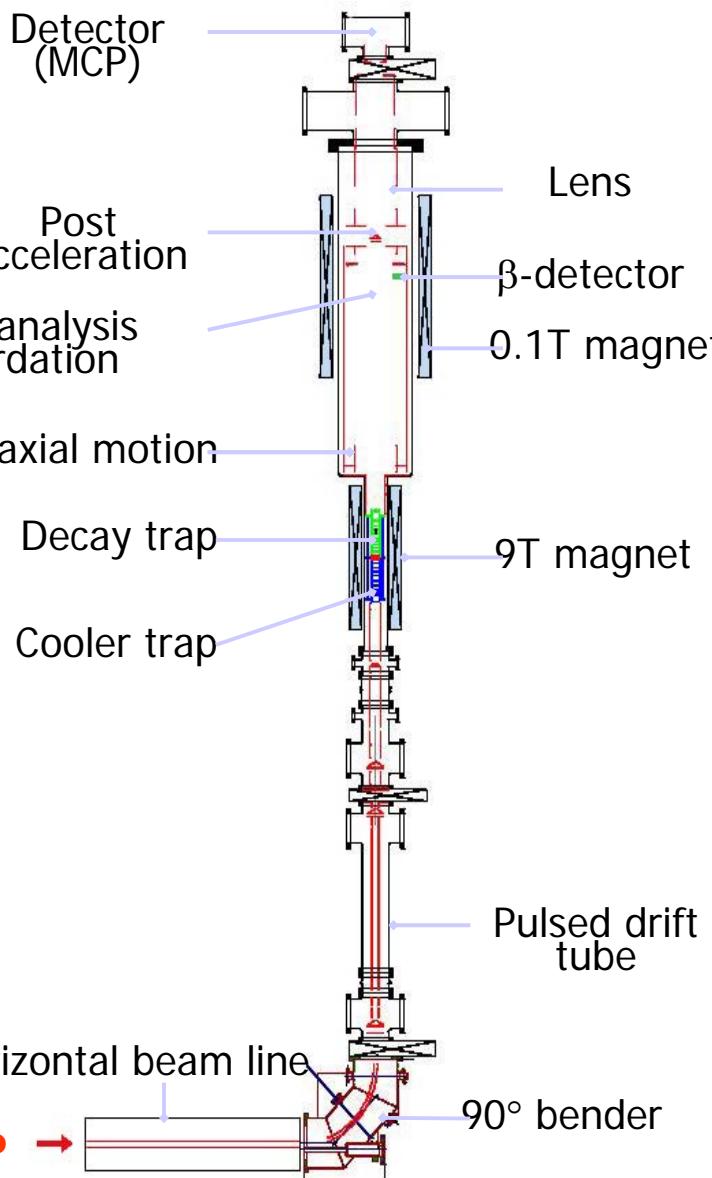


Rextrap

decay trap  
(20 cm)

cooler Trap  
(20 cm)



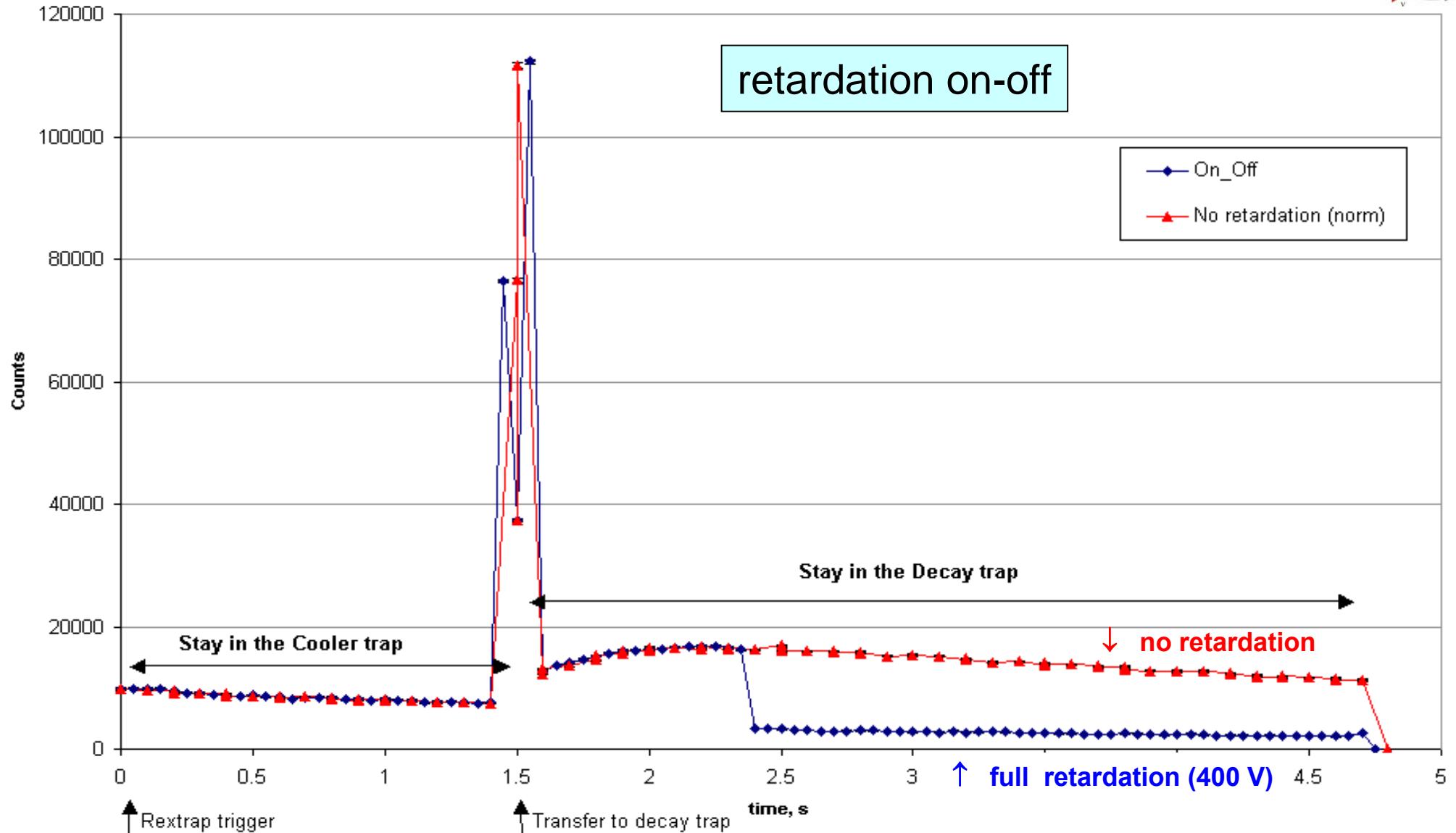


## Commissioning results (status November 2006)

Section	Efficiency
Transport through horizontal beam line and pulse down ( $30 \text{ keV} \rightarrow \sim 0.2 \text{ keV}$ )	$\sim 80 \%$
Injection of $0.2 \text{ kV}$ beam in $9 \text{ T}$ magnetic field	$\sim 20 \%$
Trapping of ions in cooler Penning trap	$\sim 60 \%$
Transfer to and storage in decay trap	$\sim 80 \%$
Shake-off + fraction leaving the trap	$\sim 30 \%$
Transmission of retardation spectrometer MCP efficiency	$\sim 50 \%$ $\sim 50 \%$
Total efficiency (REXTRAP to recoil ion MCP detector)	$\sim 0.6 \%$ (ideal: $\approx 12 \%$ )

# WITCH-experiment 03 nov 2006

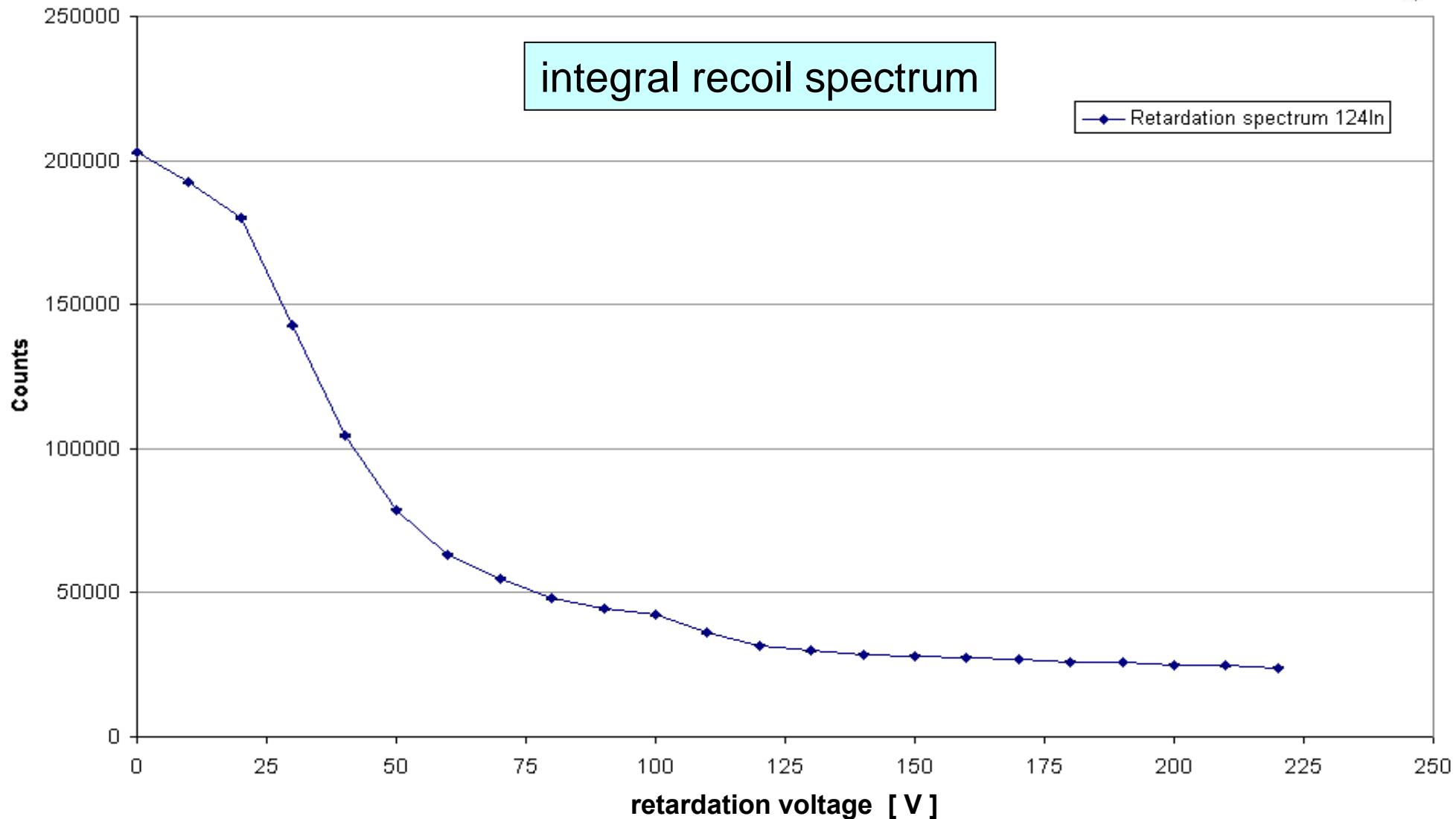
V. Kozlov, S. Coeck, M. Tandecki, S. Van Gorp,  
 M. Beck, P. Friedag, C. Weinheimer, F. Wenander,  
 P. Delahaye, D. Beck, N. Severijns



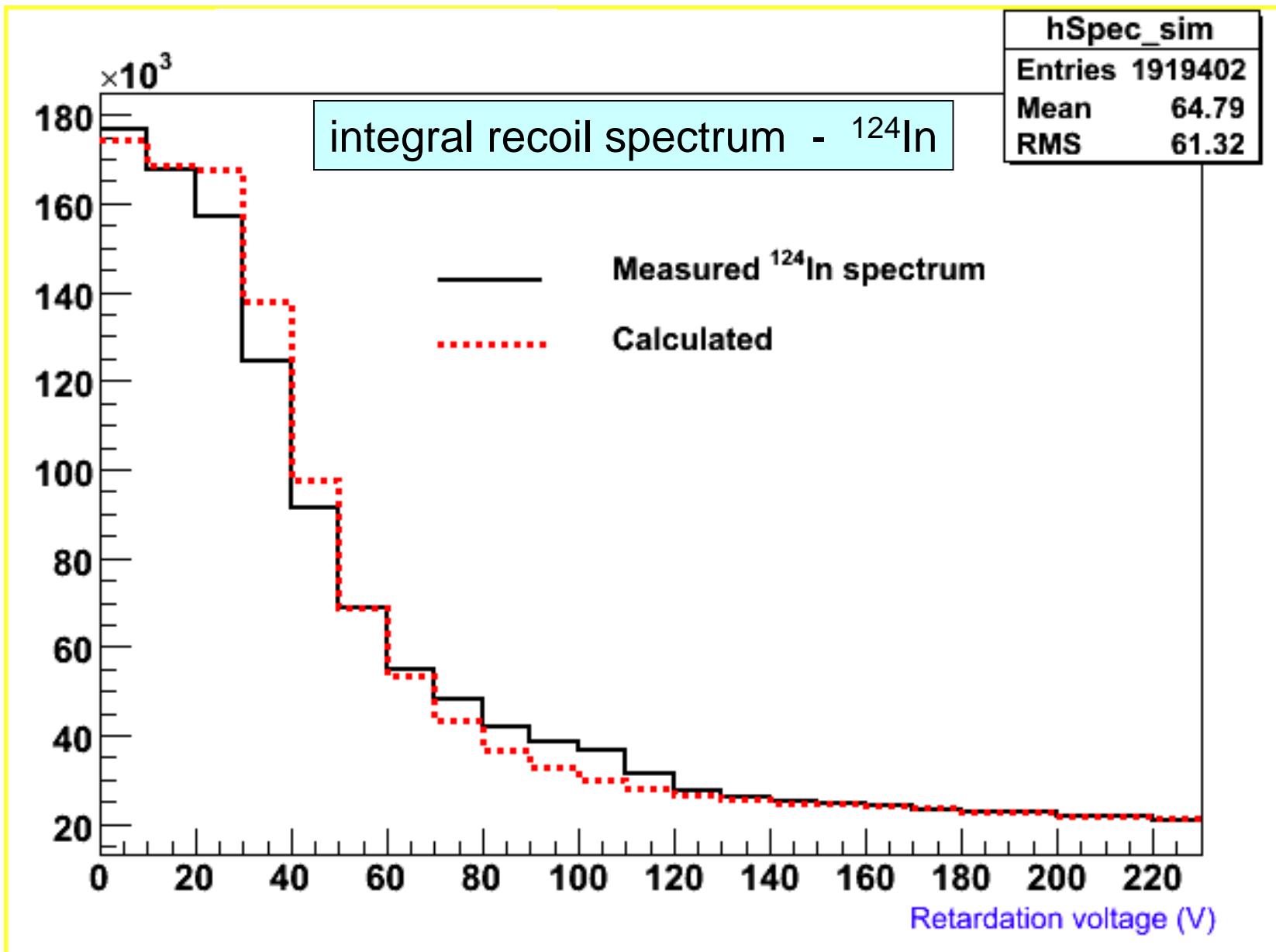
# WITCH-experiment nov 2006



integral recoil spectrum

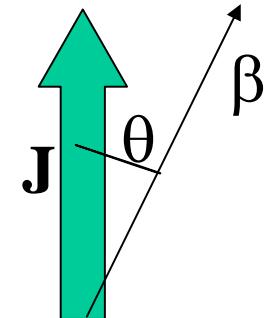


# WITCH-experiment nov 2006



## 2b. $\beta$ asymmetry

$$W(\theta) = 1 + \bar{J} \cdot \frac{\bar{p}}{E_e} \tilde{A}$$



for a pure Gamow-Teller transition :

$$\tilde{A}_{GT}^{\beta^\mp} \cong \lambda_{J'J} \left[ \mp 1 + \frac{\alpha Z m}{p} \text{Im} \left( \frac{C_T + C'_T}{C_A} \right) + \frac{\gamma m}{E_e} \text{Re} \left( \frac{C_T + C'_T}{C_A} \right) \right]$$

$\left[ \gamma = \sqrt{1 - (\alpha Z)^2} \right]$

$-0.008 < \text{Im} (C_T + C'_T)/C_A < 0.014$  (90% CL) from  ${}^8\text{Li}$  @ PSI, R. Huber et al., PRL 90 (2003) 202301

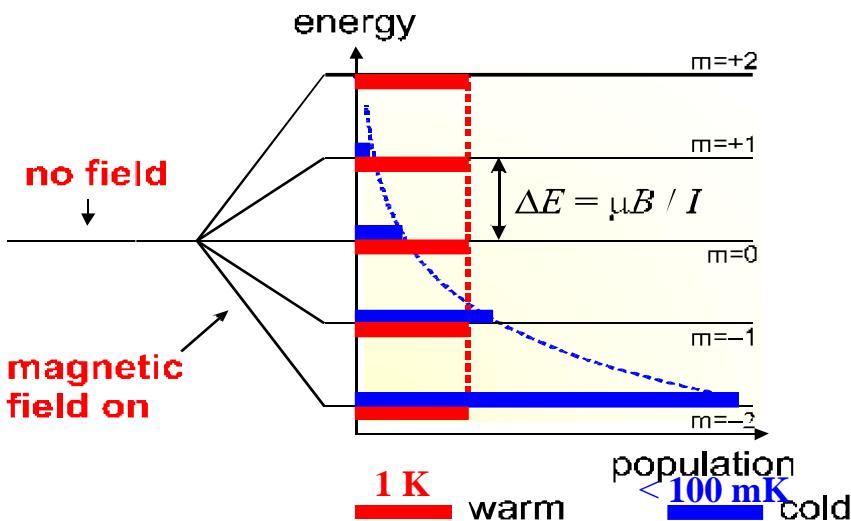
$\Delta A = 0.01 \rightarrow$  (for  $\gamma m/E_e \cong 0.5$ )  $\text{Re} [(C_T + C'_T) / C_A] < 0.033$  (90% CL)

(assuming maximal P-violation and T-invariance for V and A interactions)

recoil corr. (induced form factors)  $\approx 10^{-3}$ ; radiative corrections  $\approx 10^{-4}$  /  $A_{GT}$  independent of nuclear matrix elements

# Low Temperature Nuclear Orientation + Geant 4

(NICOLE-ISOLDE, K.U.Leuven, NPI Rez-Prague, Uni Bonn)



I. Kraev, F. Wauters, D. Zakoucky, N. Severijns et al.

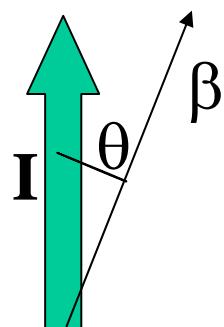
$$W(\theta) = \frac{N(\theta)_{\text{pol}}}{N(\theta)_{\text{unpol}}} = 1 + A_{\text{GT}}^{\beta^\mp} P \left( \frac{V}{c} Q \cos\theta \right)$$

(P from anisotropy of  $\gamma$ -rays )

**Geant 4**

Leuven:  $^{60}\text{CoCu}$ ,  $B_{\text{ext}} = 13 \text{ T}$

ISOLDE:  $^{63}\text{CuFe}$ ,  $B_{\text{hf}} = 22 \text{ T}$



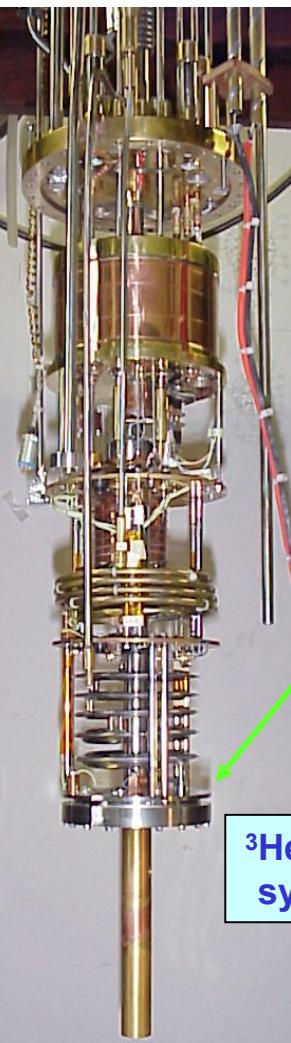
## Analysis:

$$\frac{[W(\theta) - 1]_{\text{exp}}}{[W(\theta) - 1]_{\text{sim}}} = \frac{\left[ A_{\text{GT}}^{\beta^m} P \left( \frac{V}{c} Q \cos\theta \right) \right]_{\text{exp}}}{\left[ A_{\text{GT,SM}}^{\beta^\mp} P \left( \frac{V}{c} Q \cos\theta \right) \right]_{\text{sim}}} = \frac{A_{\text{GT}}^{\beta^\mp}}{A_{\text{GT,SM}}^{\beta^\mp}}$$

**IS431-experiment**

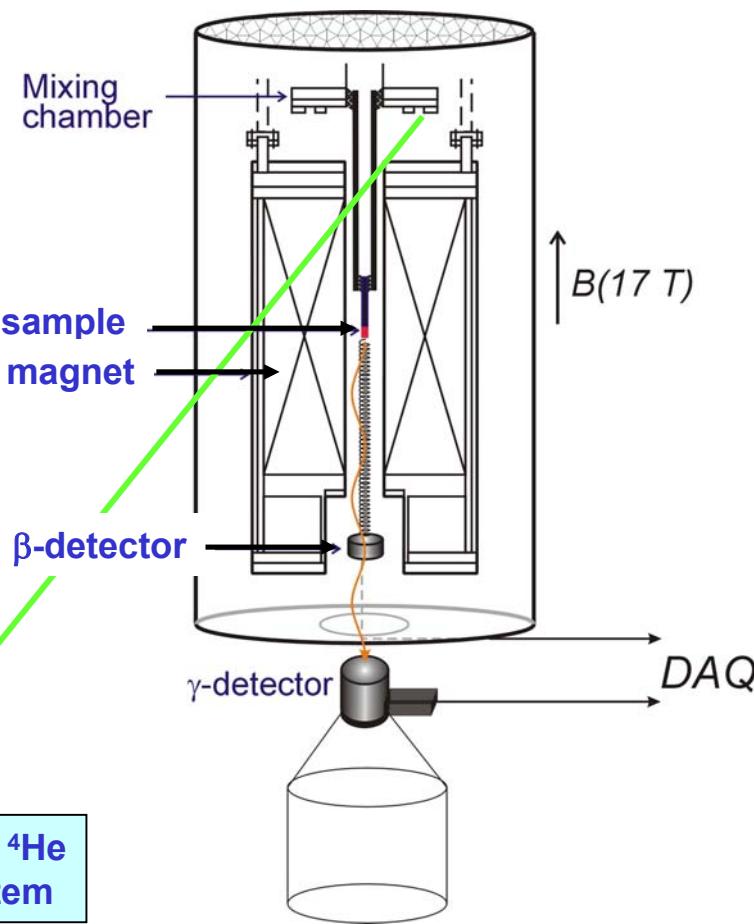


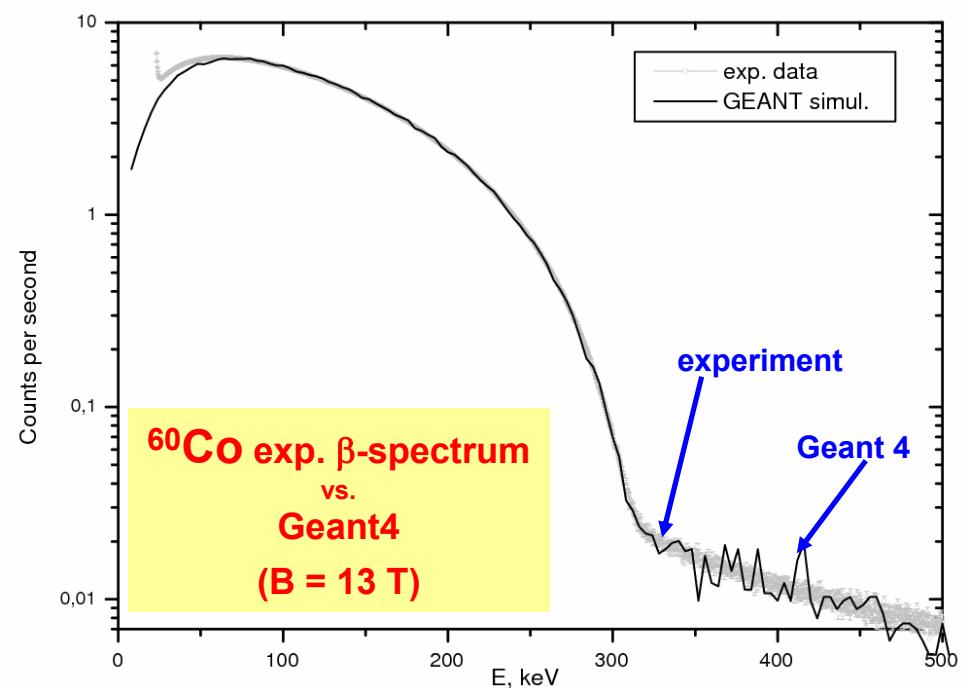
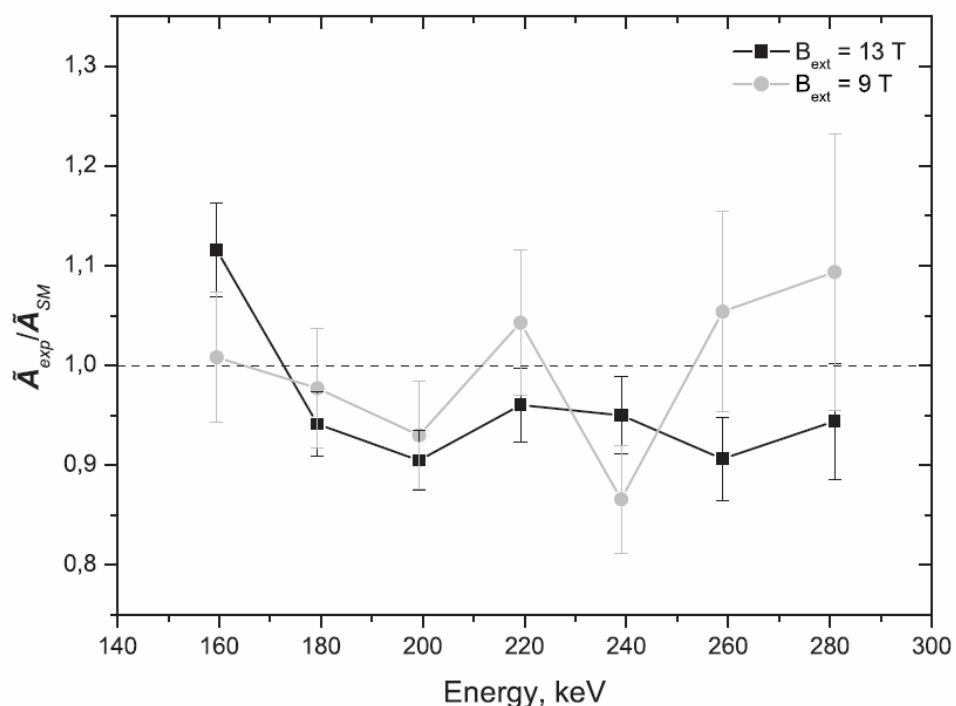
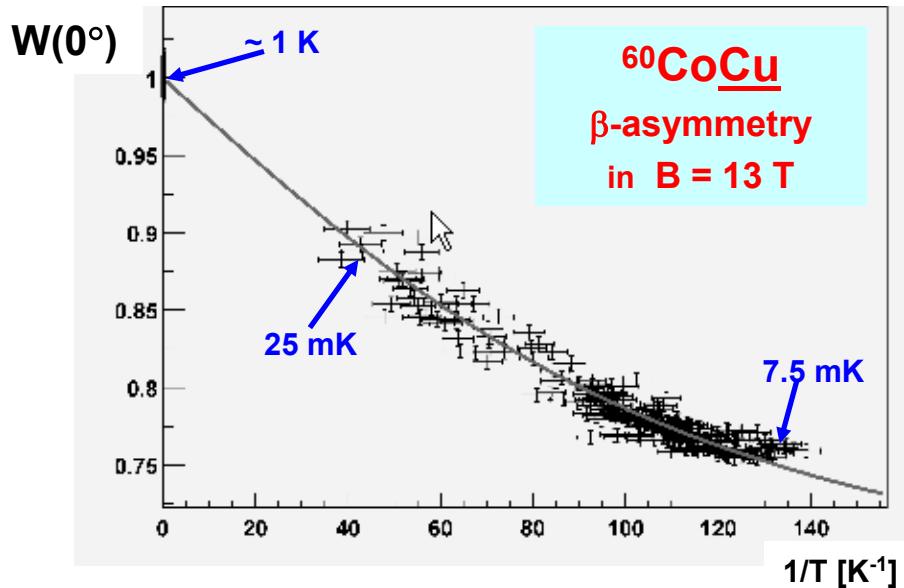
## ³He - ⁴He dilution refrigerator set-up



### β-detector:

Si p-I-n diode ( $\varnothing = 9$  mm),  
at  $T \sim 10$  K





From ratio  $\frac{[W(\theta)-1]_{\text{exp}}}{[W(\theta)-1]_{\text{Geant}}}$  get :

$$\tilde{A}_{\text{exp}} / \tilde{A}_{\text{SM}} = -0.953(22)$$

(preliminary; limited by statistics of GEANT simulation)

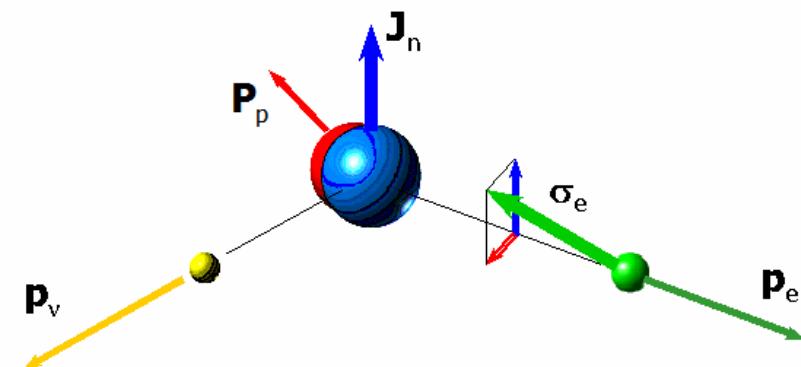
$A = -1.010(20)$  [ Chirovsky, Wu et al., NIM 219 (1984) 103 ]  
 $A = -0.972(34)$  [ Hung et al., PR C14 (1976) 1162 ]

### 3. Testing time reversal violation in free neutron decay

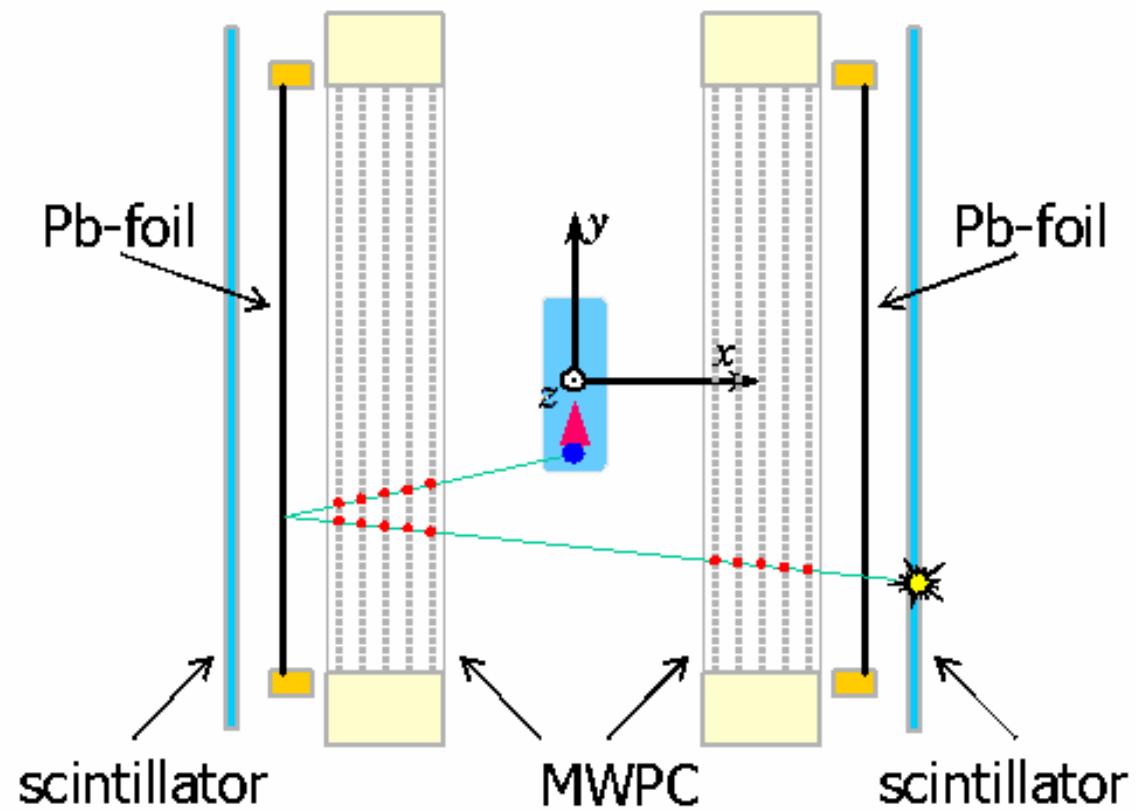
(Univ. Krakow, PSI, LPC-Caen, K.U.Leuven, ...)

(SINQ-FUNSPIN)

$$R \frac{\vec{J} \cdot (\vec{p} \times \vec{\sigma})}{E}$$

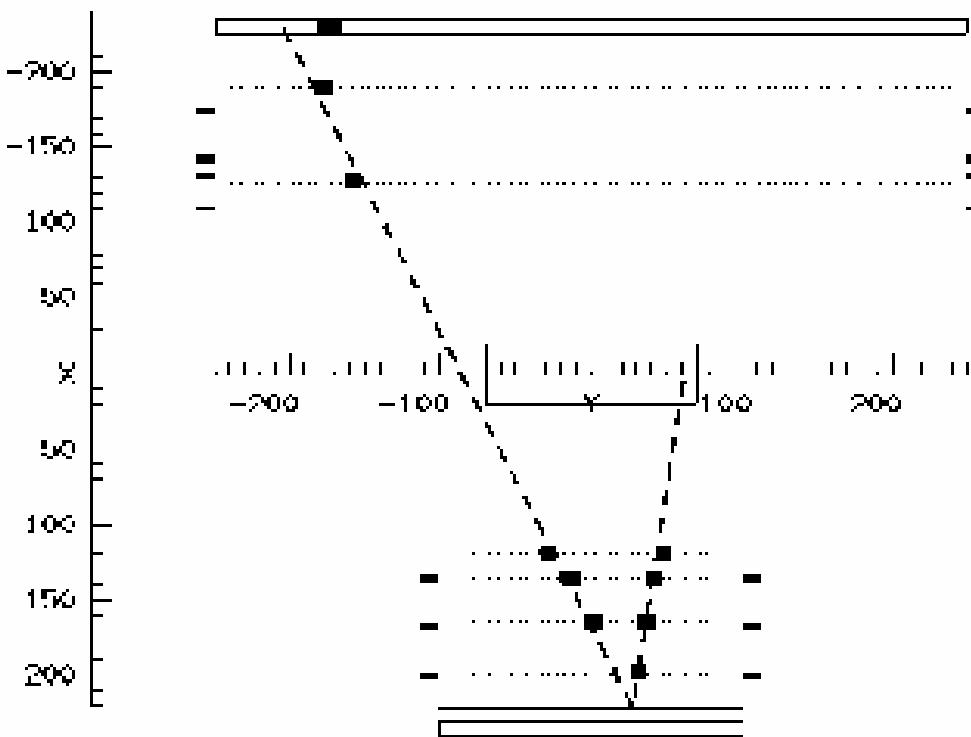


$$R = 0.28 \operatorname{Im}\left(\frac{C_S + C'_S}{C_A}\right) + 0.33 \operatorname{Im}\left(\frac{C_T + C'_T}{C_A}\right)$$

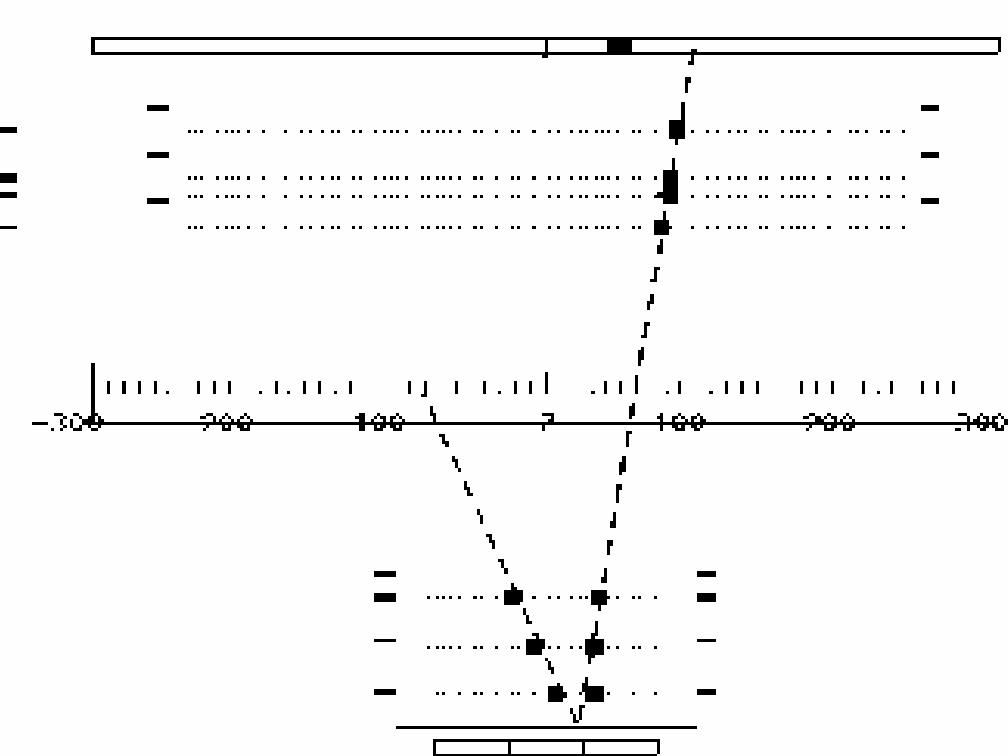


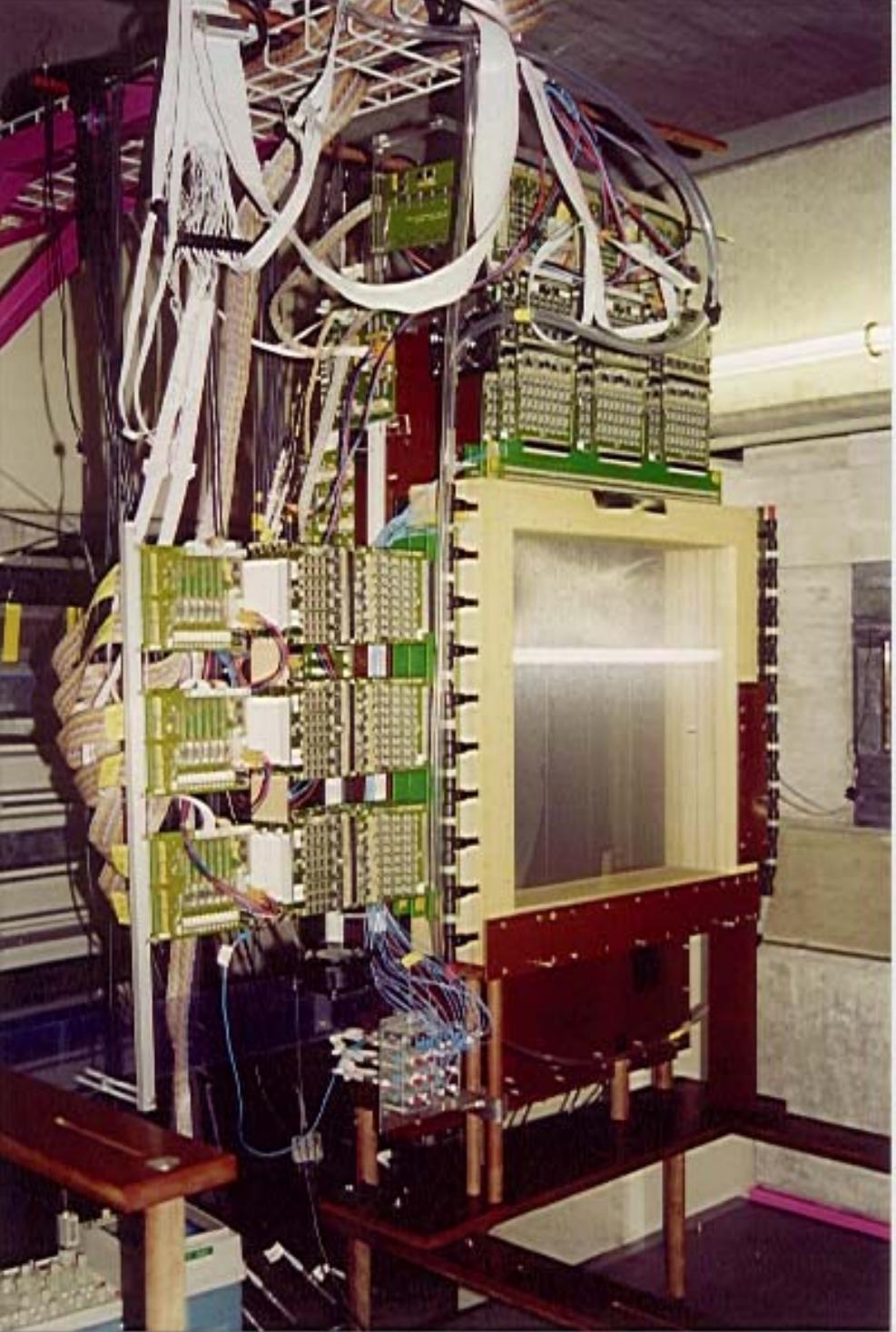
EVENT NO. 1 39385 FTIF: DN ITNF

Y X PROJECTION



Z X PROJECTION

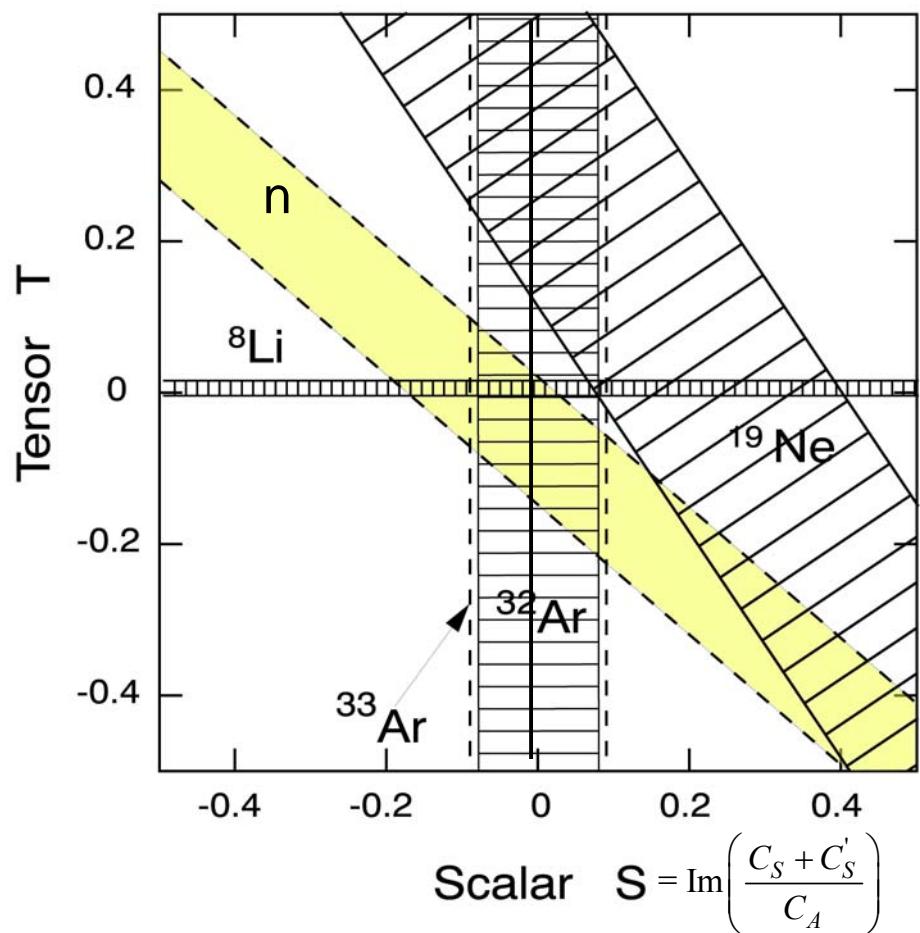




$R = -0.021(28)$  (preliminary)

(1/4 of statistics from test run 2006)

$N = 0.085(39)$  ( $N J.\sigma$ ;  $N_{SM} = 0.078$ )



$^8\text{Li}$  : Sromicki et al., PSI – ETH Zurich

$^{19}\text{Ne}$  : F. Calaprice et al., Princeton

$^{32,33}\text{Ar}$  : E.G. Adelerger et al., ISOLDE

## 1. $Ft^{0^+ \rightarrow 0^+}$

## 2. $\beta\nu$ -correlation coefficient $a$

- neutron : aSPECT

- nuclei :
  - TRINAT / TRIUMF
  - LPC-TRAP / GANIL
  - WITCH / ISOLDE

## $\beta$ -asymmetry parameter $A$

nuclei : Leuven – ISOLDE

## 3. symmetry tests

TRV :  $R$  ( $\sigma Jx p_e ; S, T$ ) ; neutron R-TRV / PSI