

# Assay and Acquisition of Radiopure Materials

**Priscilla Cushman**  
University of Minnesota

**D. Lee Petersen**  
CNA Engineering

August 16, 2011  
NSF Review

## **PRESENTATION OUTLINE**

Overview

FAARM Engineering & Project  
Simulation & Backgrounds

Neutron Benchmarking

Early Screening

---

# Assay and Acquisition of Radiopure Materials

---

## Principle Investigators

Priscilla Cushman (University of Minnesota)

Dongming Mei (University of South Dakota)

Kara Keeter (Black Hills State University)

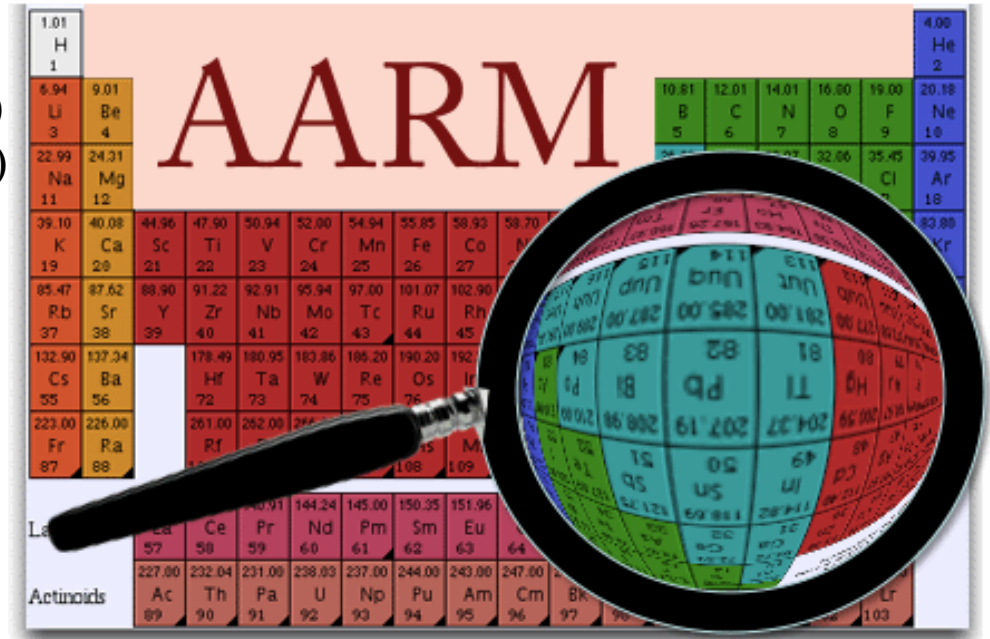
Richard Schnee (Syracuse University)

## Engineering Consortium

CNA Consulting Engineers (Lee Petersen)

Dunham Associates

Miller Dunwiddie Architecture, Inc

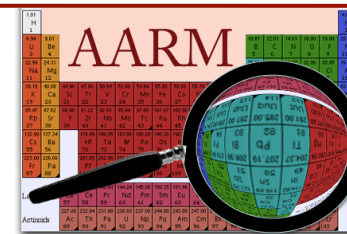


- Characterize radon, neutron, gamma, and alpha/beta backgrounds at Homestake
- Develop a conceptual design for a common, dedicated facility for low background counting and other assay techniques: **FAARM**
- Assist where appropriate in the creation of common infrastructure required to perform low background experiments.
- Perform targeted R&D for ultra-sensitive screening and water shielding

---

# Integration & Infrastructure Concerns require a Broader Collaboration

---



## Scientific Collaboration

Craig Aalseth  
Henning Back  
Tim Classen  
Jodi Cooley  
Darrin Grant

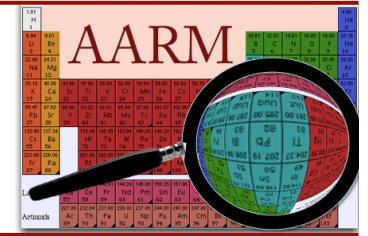
Yuri Efremenko  
Brian Fujikawa  
Reyco Henning  
Jeff Martoff  
Robert McTaggart

Eric Hoppe  
Andreas Piepke  
Andrew Sonnenshein  
John Wilkerson  
Tullis Onstott

## International Scientific Advisory Panel

Laura Baudis (Zurich University)  
Richard Ford (Queen's University, SNOLab)  
Gilles Gerbier (CEA Saclay)  
Gerd Heusser (Max Planck Institute, Heidelberg)  
Andrea Giuliani (University of Insubria (Como), Coordinator of ILIAS Continuation)  
Mikael Hult (European Commission: JRC Inst. for Reference materials and Measurements)  
Vitaly Kudryavtsev (University of Sheffield)  
Pia Loaiza (Laboratoire Souterrain de Modane)  
Matthias Laubenstein (INFN, Gran Sasso Laboratory)  
Neil Spooner (University of Sheffield)

# Tasks and Schedule: the Past



Year 1: Driven by early timetable for the PDR → concentrated on engineering

*Met all our “integration deliverables” to DUSEL*

*Design Low Bkgd Facility for AARM = FAARM*

*Resource-loaded schedule & bottoms-up cost*

*S4 → early screening → MREFC funding*

*→ construction , installation and commissioning*

Year 2: Design work continued until NSB decision Dec 2010

*Detailed Engineering, e.g. finite element analysis, construction*

*Redirect to Backgrounds & Simulation in 2011*

*Coordinate all S4 Assay requirements & Radon requirements*

**AARM Collaboration Meeting (Nov 2010)**

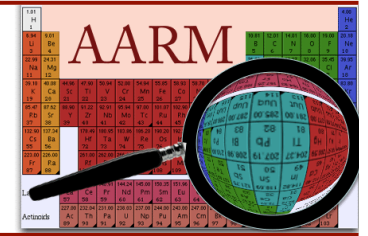
<http://zzz.physics.umn.edu/lowrad/meeting2/talks>

*Create standardized Homestake Geant4 for all experiments*

**AARM Collaboration Meeting (Feb 2011)**

<http://zzz.physics.umn.edu/lowrad/meeting3/talks>

# Tasks and Schedule: the Future



## Year 3: Convert design for staged, dedicated excavation

*Most elements remain the same, but Civil construction cheaper*

*Water shield: SS tank → cavity + liner, top-access only*

*Dedicated MC and engineering for the Immersion Tank*

## Continue with Simulation & Bkgds Integration

*Modular, flexible framework for all Homestake experiments*

*muon propagation code + site-specific overburden & rock*

*cavern characterization for each level*

*improve physics, add cross sections/processes, compare to FLUKA*

*Benchmark with a series of neutron measurements*

*universal materials screening database*

## Beyond S4: Final Design and Construction of a US Gen3 Low Bkgd Facility

### Extend Modular Geant MC to all underground sites

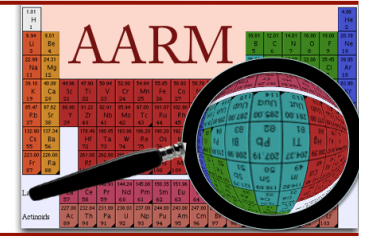
*International underground Sim group (tied to GEANT4 collab)*

*Each lab will contribute site data, coded into the standard framework*

*Users can request the Background Module for their lab*

*Enter your experiment's geometry & Press go*

# Funding Profile for AARM



	FY2010 (k\$)	FY2011 (k\$)	FY2012 (k\$)
TOTAL Budgeted	386.8	389.0	324.2
Actual Total	166.9	~ 350.	~ 400.
CNA Budgeted	67.5	97.5	87.9
CNA Actual	66.1	~ 120	~100.

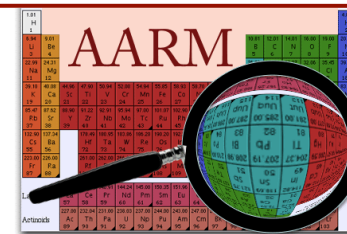
Significant Delay in BHSU Postdoc ➔ Moved to end of FY2011, FY2012  
better match with Immersion Tank Studies

Syracuse Postdoc for FY2011, just hired 2 months ago

Kiesel subcontract (ILIAS bkgd measurements) redirected to Neutron  
Benchmarking (student travel, simulation support)

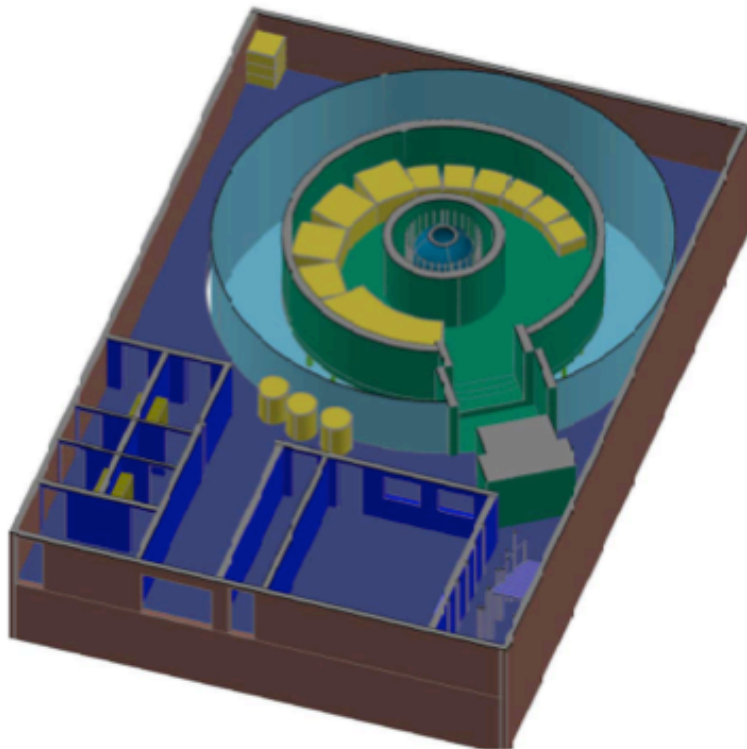
Workshops very successful  
(2 per year, no registration fee, up to \$600 travel reimbursement)

# Elements of FAARM (Design Goals)



- Entire facility is class 10,000 clean room,  $< 20 \text{ Bq/m}^3$ 
  - Class 1000 clean rooms
  - Ateko (NEMO facility provided  $0.01 \text{ Bq/m}^3$  breathable air at  $150 \text{ m}^3/\text{h}$ )
  - Radon-mitigated zones ( $< 1 \text{ Bq/m}^3$ ) and assembly areas ( $< 0.1 \text{ Bq/m}^3$ )
  - Radon-free storage and unified LN system
  - Wet benches, clean machining, hoods, etc
- Instrumented Water Shield with toroidal interior acrylic room
  - Houses ultra-sensitive screeners (GeMPI style, BetaCages)
  - Reduce cost of individual lead shielding (\$2M savings)
  - Active Muon veto, Neutron & Gamma shielding
  - Outer shield of Immersion Tank, Space for Experiments & R&D
- Top-loading Immersion Tank
  - Modeled on the Borexino CTF
  - Whole body counting with  $0.1 \text{ counts/day}$ ,  $E > 250 \text{ keV}$
  - U/Th at  $.01/.04 \text{ ppt}$ , surface  $\alpha, \beta$  at  $< 1 \text{ count/m}^2/\text{day}$  (unsealed)
  - and  $6 \times 10^{-6} \text{ cts/kg/keV/day}$  from Compton continuum
  - OPTION: Could be replaced by highly segmented germanium

# Original FAARM Design 3-D rendering



## Inner Tunnel Lab

$\gamma$ -flux  $7.974 \times 10^{-5} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$

$n$ -flux  $4.817 \times 10^{-10} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$

4 < ppt (GeMPI, arrays)

6 < ppb (well, clover, coax)

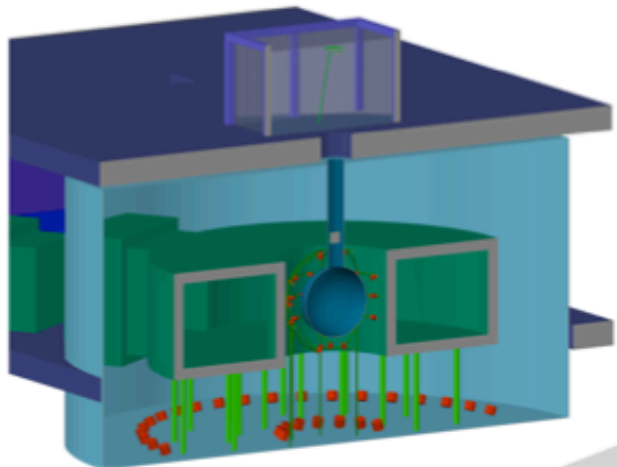
2 Beta Cages

Prototyping Space

(DM or  $0\nu\beta\beta$  or novel assay)

Radon Mitigation

Common cryogen plumbing and  
LN boil-off for screeners



## Central Pool

0.1 counts/day,  $E > 250 \text{ keV}$

sensitivity of  $10^{-14} \text{ g/g U/Th}$   $10^{-12} \text{ g/g K}$

modeled on Borexino CTF

2m diam nylon vessel filled with LS

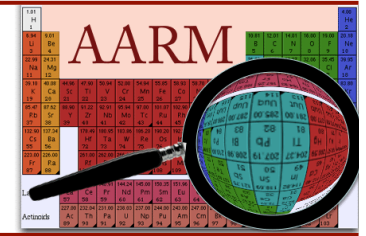
Observed by low rad QUPIDs

Top-loading from dedicated Clean Room

---

# FAARM Engineering Resource Loaded Schedule

---

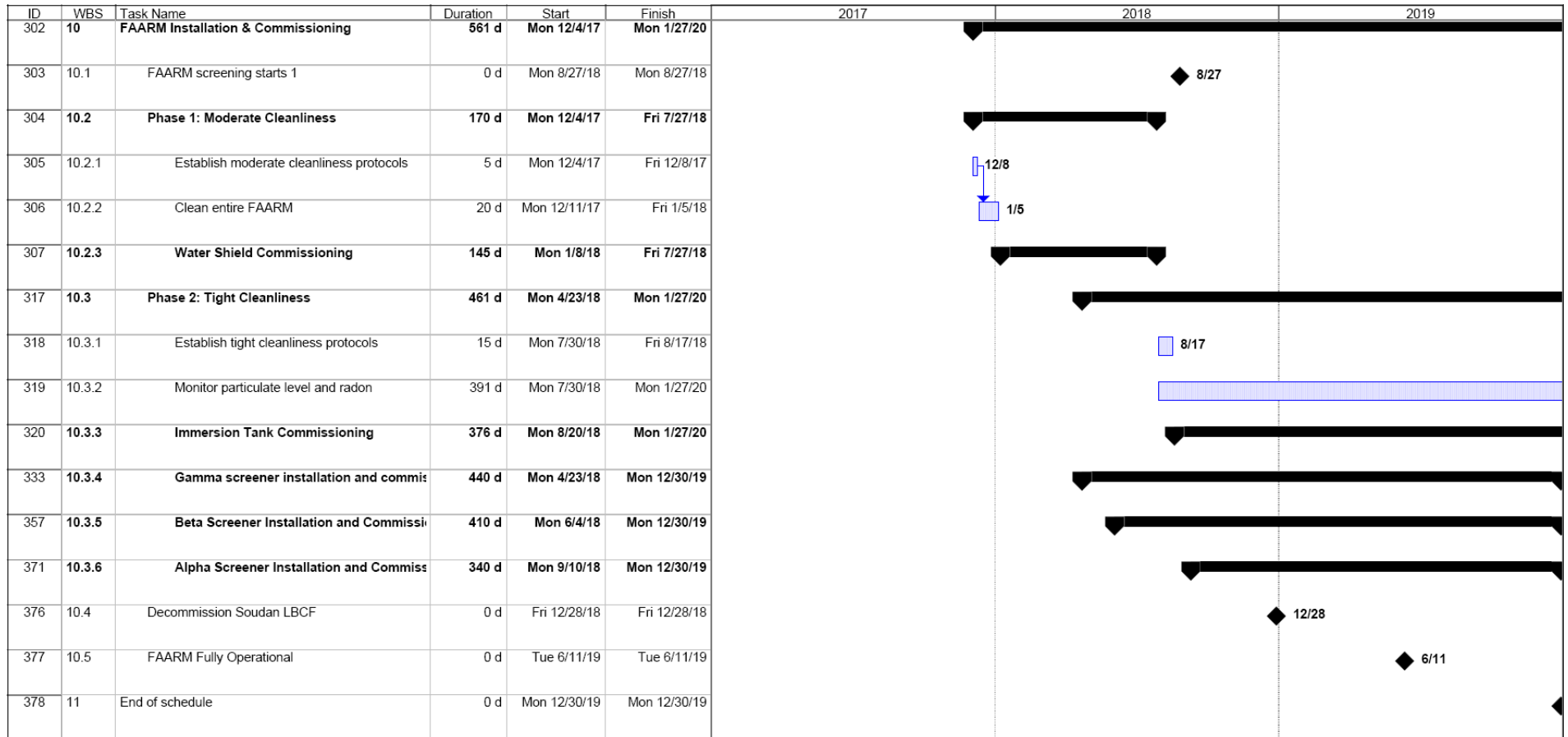
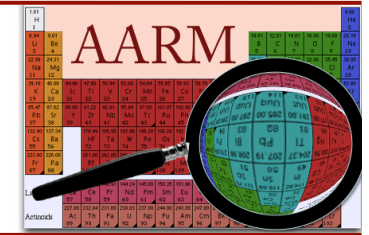


- We used MS Project, 356 tasks, 150 resources
- WBS task identification
- Capital costs are MS Project “materials”
- Labor costs are MS Project “work”
- Conventional construction tasks/costs are “materials”
- Costs distinguish ten “color of money” categories
  - S4
  - Post S4
  - Other
  - CDMS
  - DULBCF
  - DUSEL
  - DUSEL R&D
  - FAARM
  - FAARM Ops
  - BGE

[illegible]

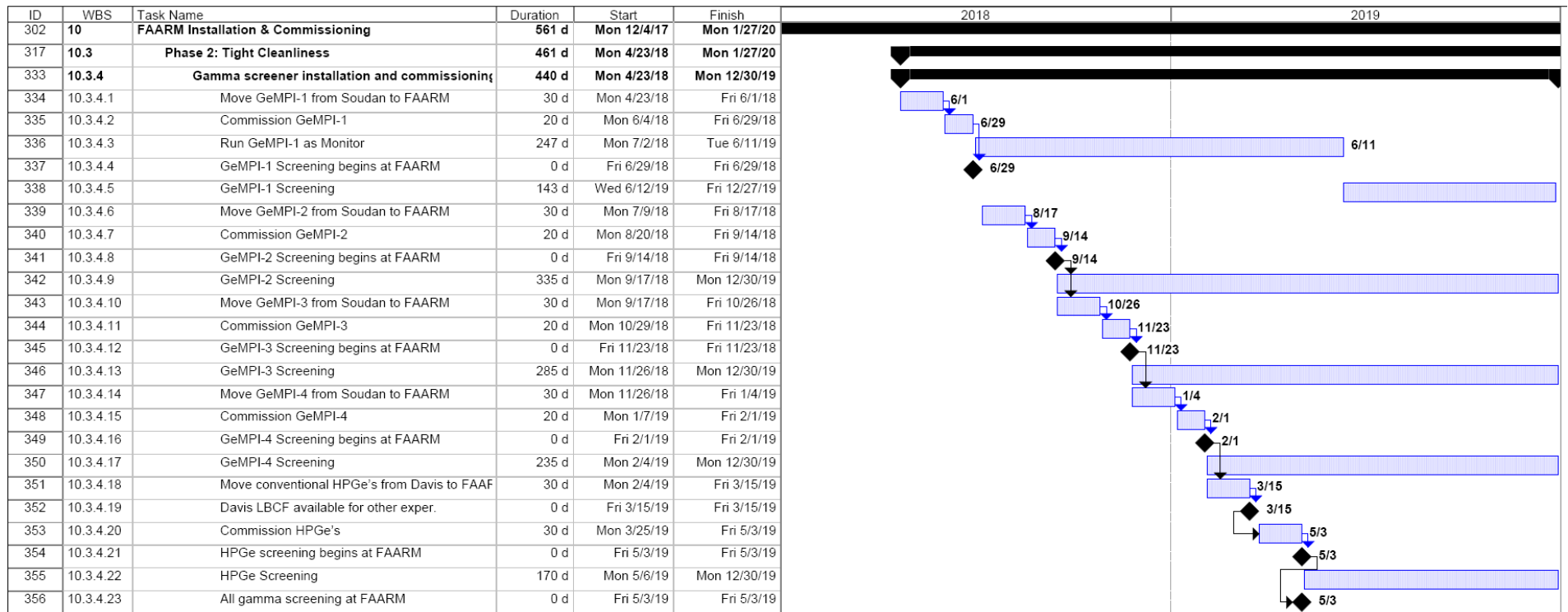
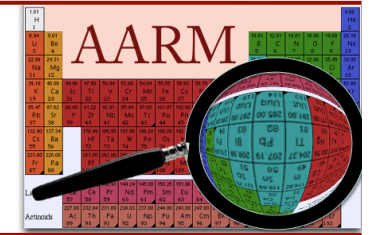
# FAARM Engineering

## FAARM Installation & Commissioning

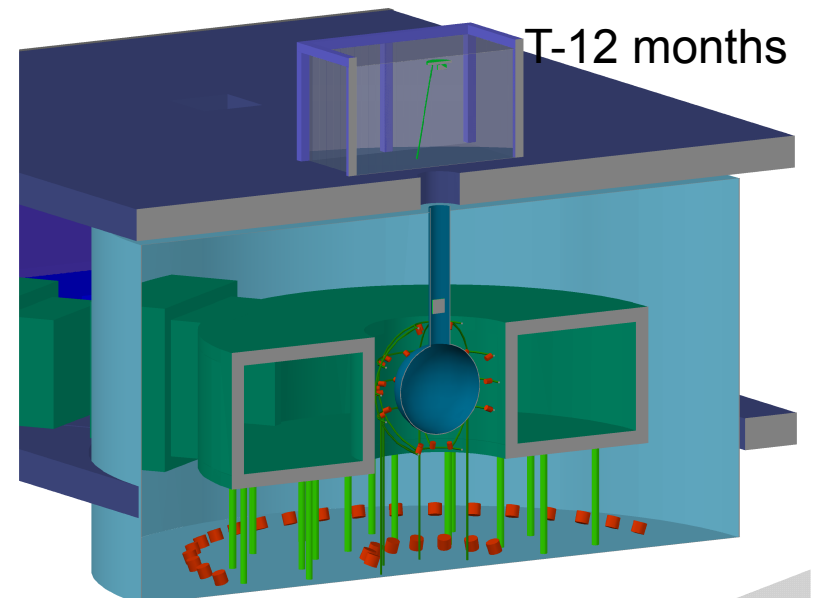
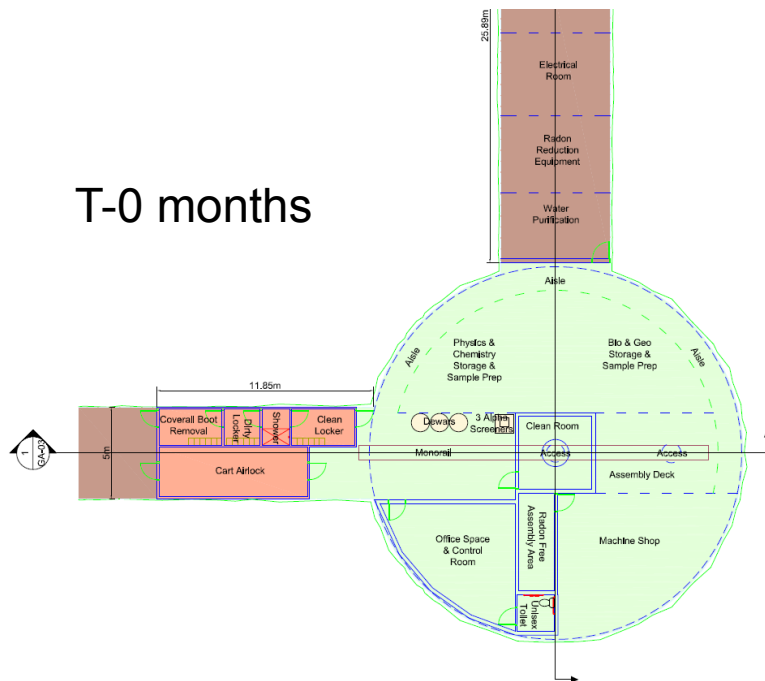
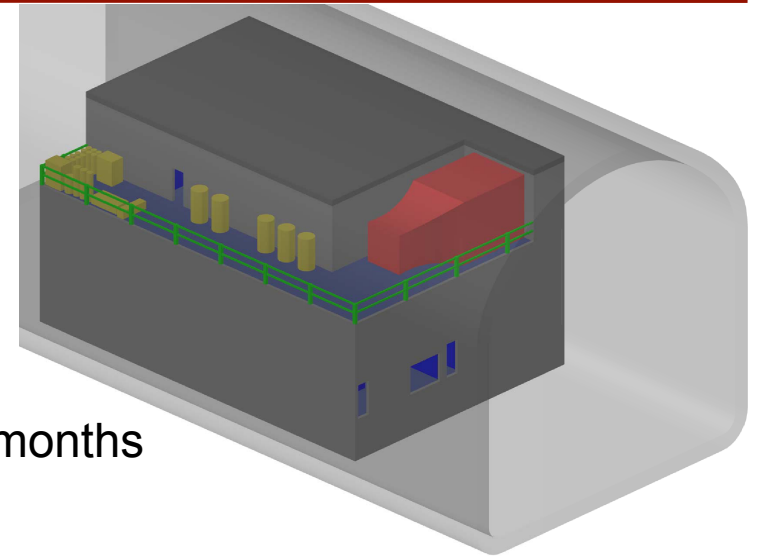
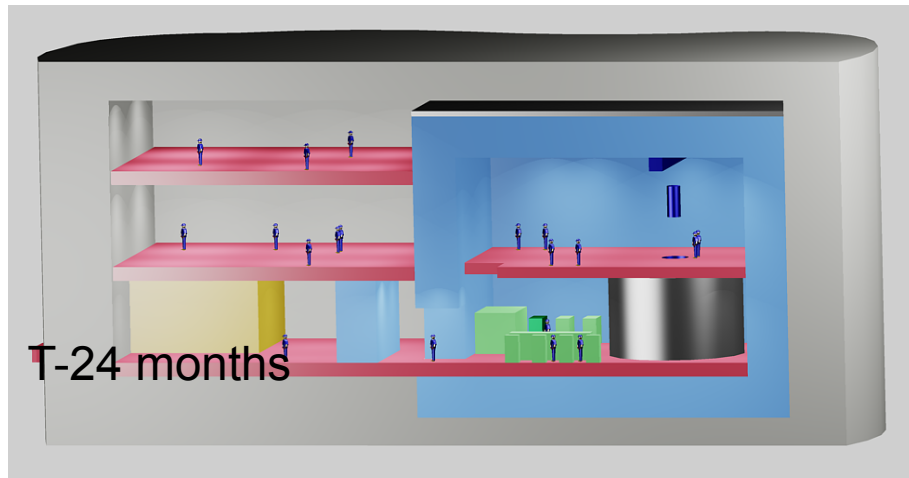
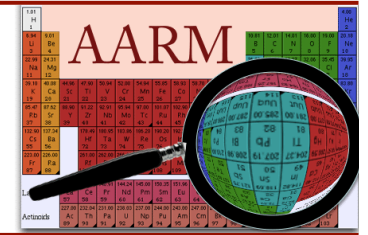


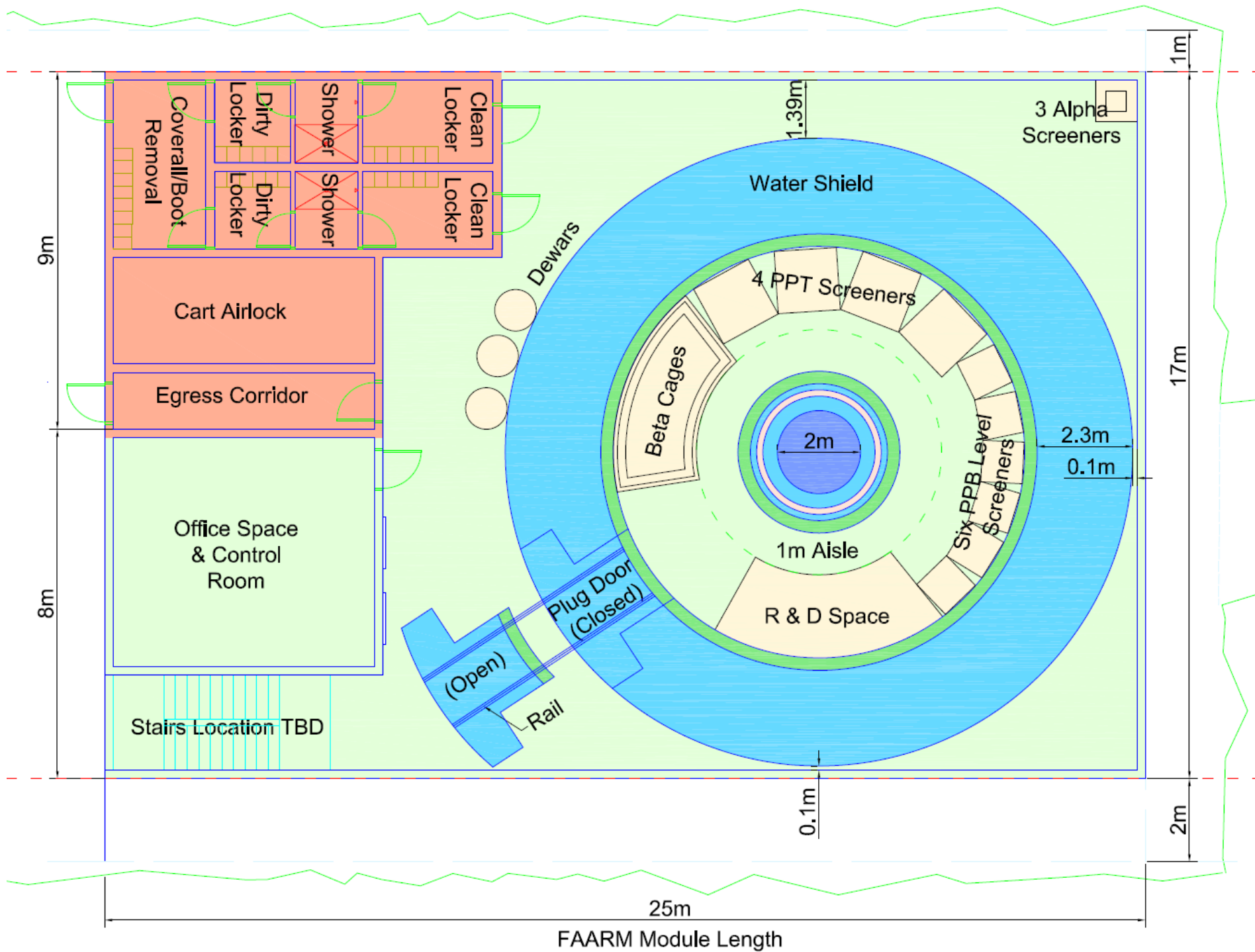
# FAARM Engineering

## FAARM Installation & Commissioning (detail)

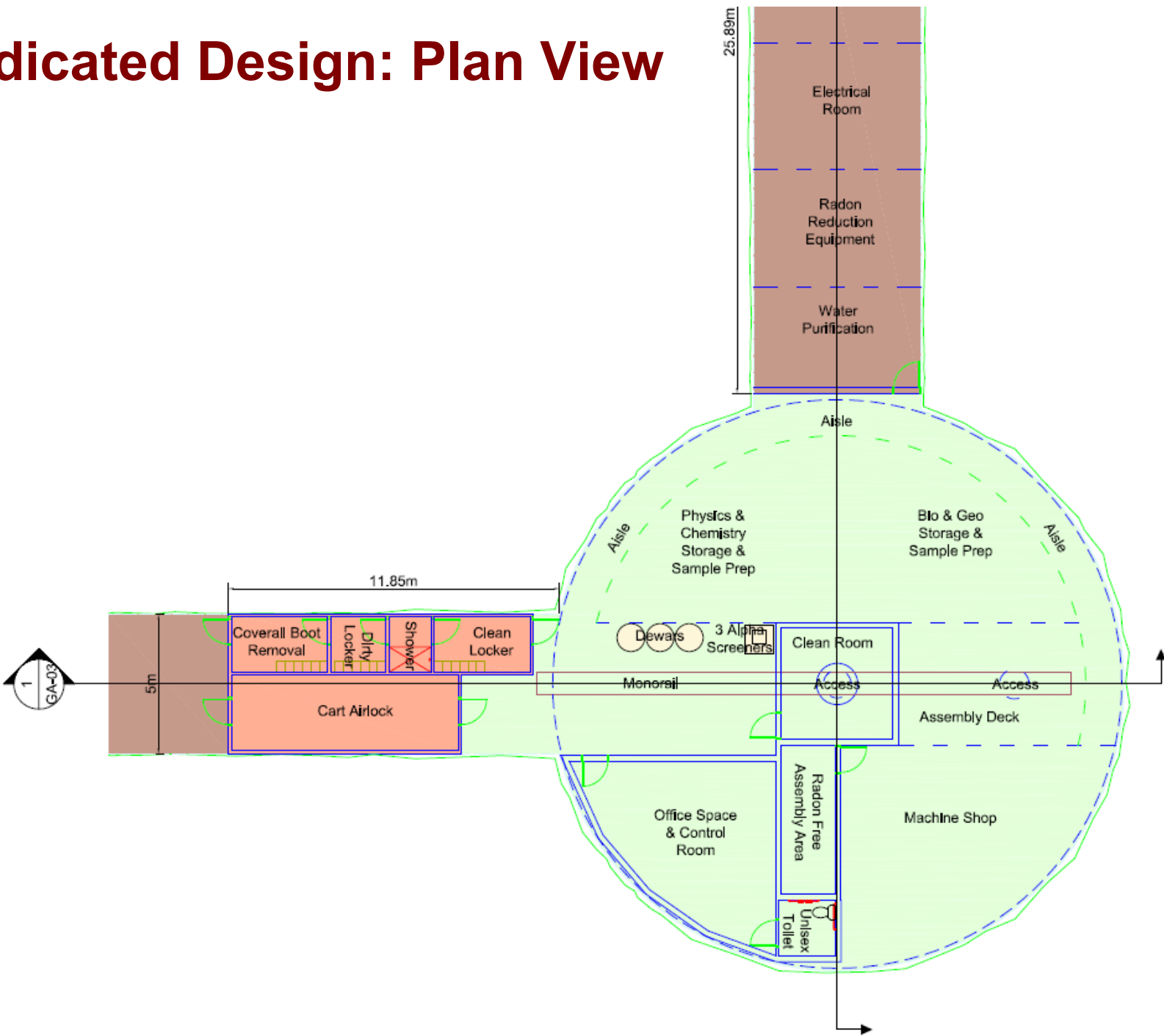


# Concept History



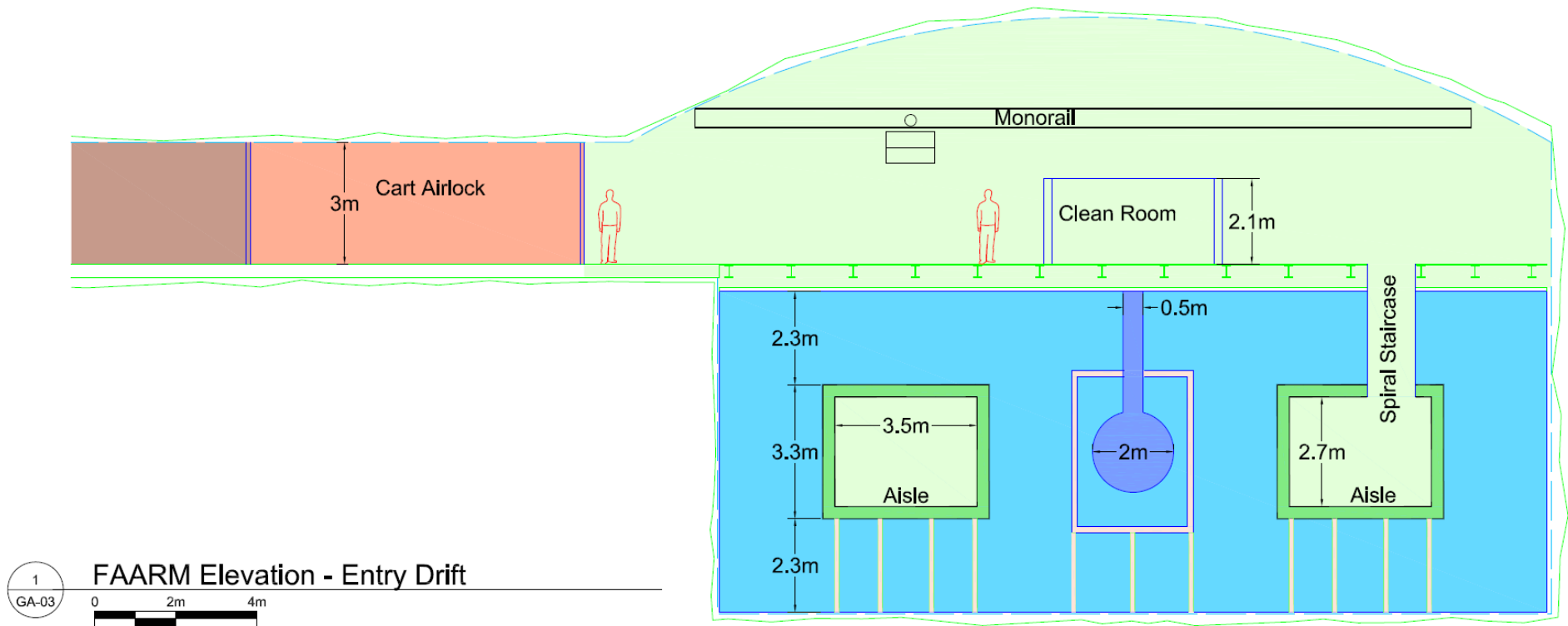


# Dedicated Design: Plan View



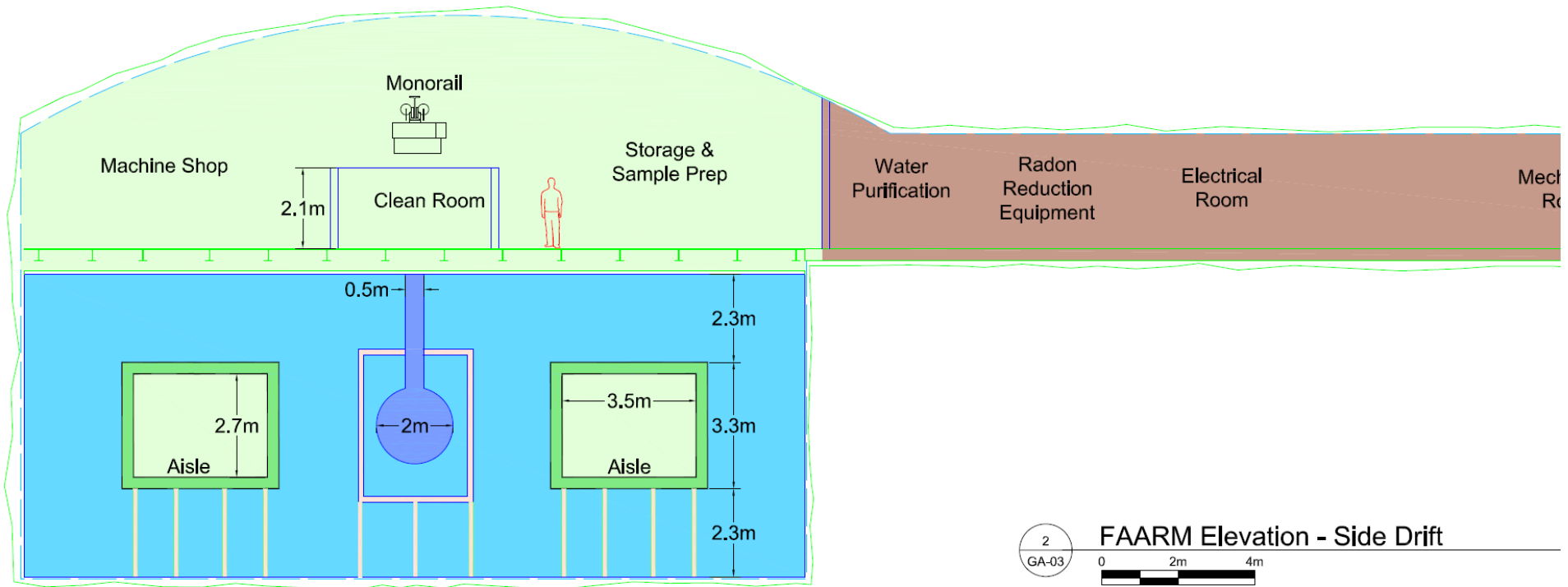
# Dedicated Design: Elevation

## FAARM Entrance



# Dedicated Design: Elevation

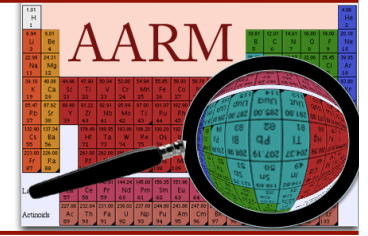
## Mechanical Entrance



---

# Bottoms-up Cost Estimate for all phases

---



**S4:** 1 M received to make a Preliminary Design of FAARM and associated R&D

**PostS4:** 200 k for design completion

**DULBCF:** 8M, includes 9 years of staff & students at 5M and most of the screeners

**FAARM:** 7.2 M in equipment, M&S, contracted structures  
1.6 M in labor: *0.7M scientific staff*  
*0.9M engineering*

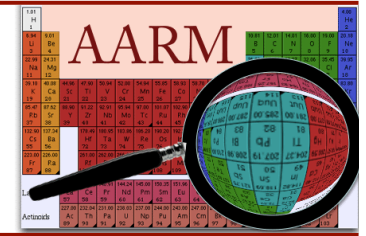
**FAARM Operations** at ~ 500k/year labor

*Also included tasks/cost from **DUSEL R&D, BGE, CDMS**, etc*

---

# Cost Implications in new design

---



## **FAARM in a DUSEL module**

Allowance is 25 meters (not incl. access needs)

Cost was not charged against FAARM

Rough cost for 25 meters is \$2.n million

## **FAARM in a custom configuration**

Cost is charged against FAARM

Rough cost is \$2.1 to \$2.5 million

Save most of the building cost of \$0.3 million

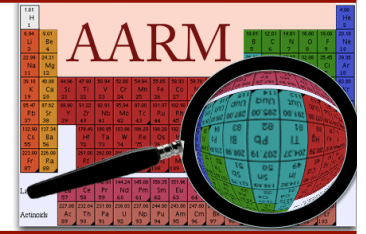
Save most of the water tank cost of \$0.6 million

**The result is an actual saving approaching \$1 million**

---

# Finite Element Model—Part 1

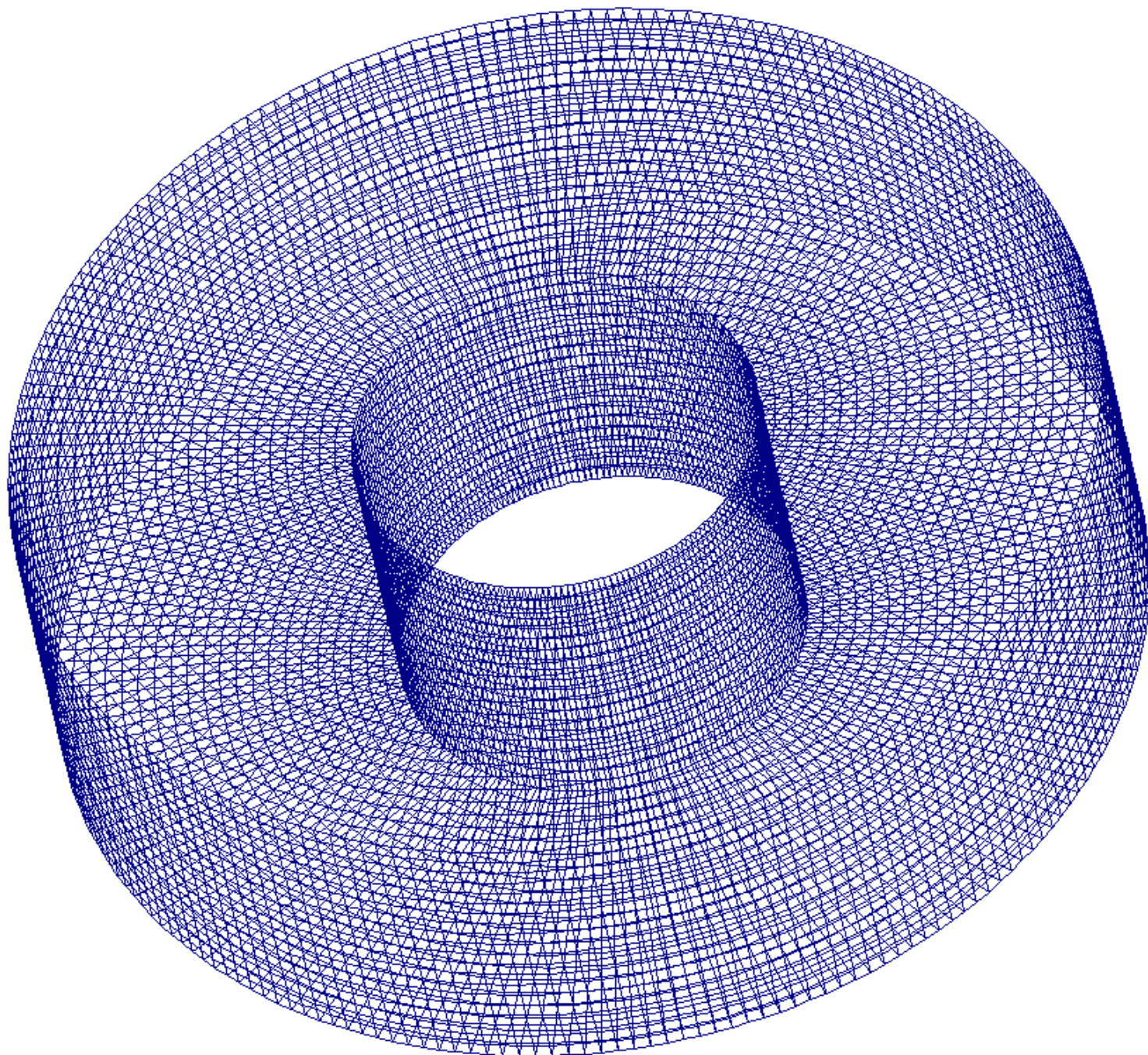
---

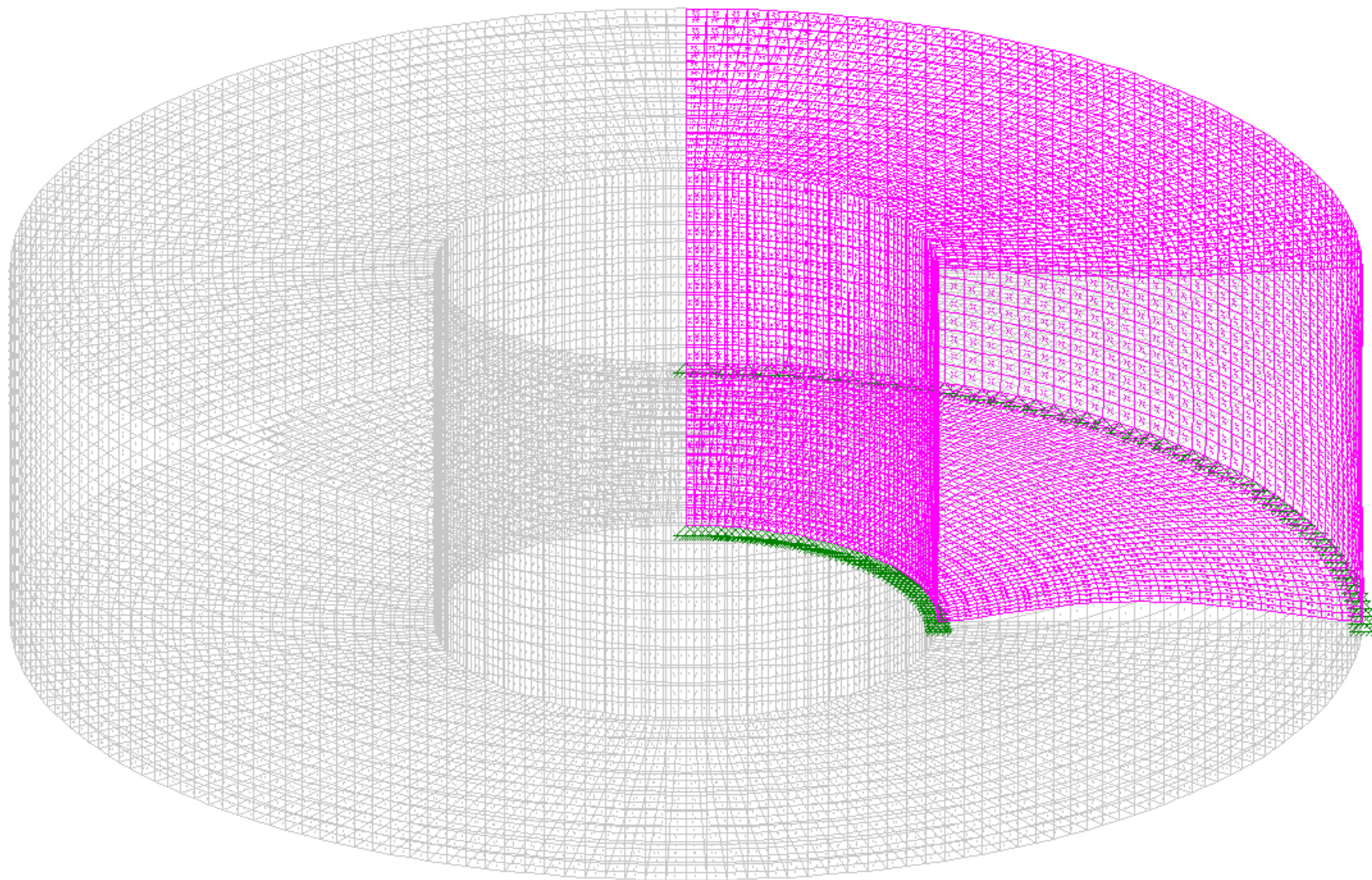


Finite Element Model (RISA3D, RISA Technologies)

17056 Finite Elements (shells)

Simple, symmetrical load cases used initially to  
detect modeling errors and other abnormalities



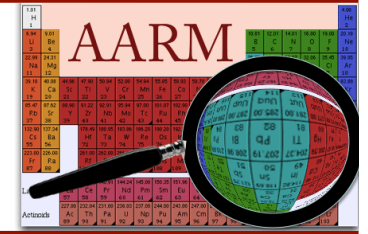


---

# Finite Element Model—Part 3

## Effect of Supports

---

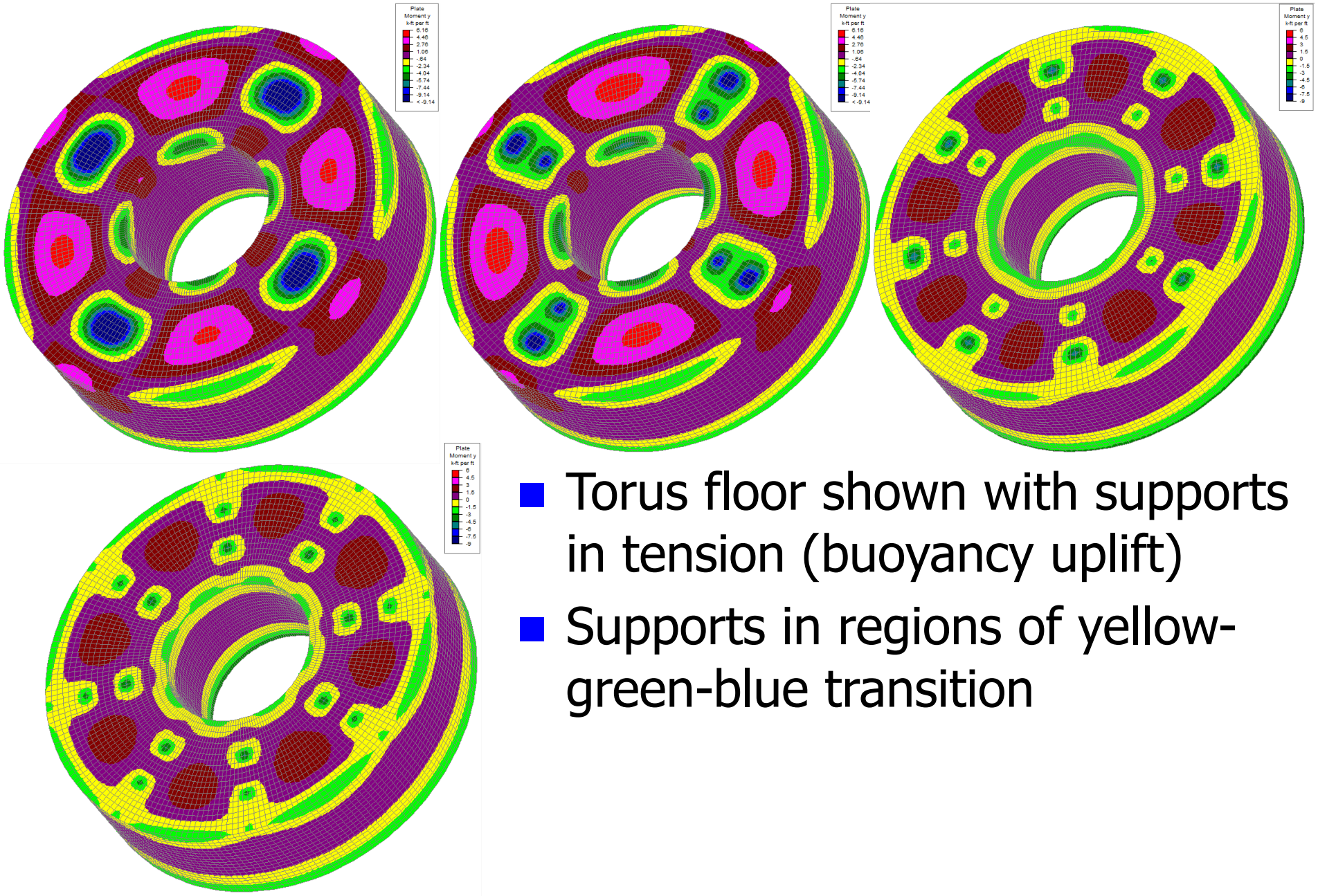


Number of supports:

- 4 supports at mid-span of floor spaced at  $90^\circ$
- 8 supports at third-points of floor spaced  $90^\circ$
- 16 supports at third-points of floor spaced  $45^\circ$
- 32 supports at third-points and near walls of floor spaced  $45^\circ$

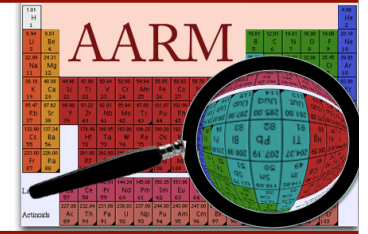
**Part 2 explored arched roof**  
**No obvious advantage**

# Moments



# Simulation

Identified the following task as a priority



*Validate and improve the Physics in current Simulations*

*Create a Common Simulation Framework for underground experiments.*

## **Begin work by comparing simulations**

- across collaborations

- across simulation packages (GEANT4 vs FLUKA)

- across caverns (rock composition, overburden)

- across muon distributions (site-specific MUSIC vs Groom parameterization)

## **Detailed plans (working groups) were formulated in the areas of**

- Cosmogenics

- Radiogenics (alpha-n, fission, material screening)

  - and Universal Materials database

- Modular Geant4 Framework for Underground Science

**Much of the recent planning was done in**

**AARM Collaboration Meeting (Feb 2011)**

<http://zzz.physics.umn.edu/lowrad/meeting3/talks>

**Berkeley Comos Workshop (April 2011)**

<https://docs.sanfordlab.org/docushare/dsweb/View/Wiki-141>

*SLAC GEANT4 Collaboration (esp. Dennis Wright)*

### New Physics List called “*Shielding*” in Geant 4.9.4

designed for use in shielding applications, and also in high energy

similar to QGSP\_BERT\_HP, except

*uses a different string fragmentation model (FTF instead of QGS)*

*better handling of ions (Binary cascade for light, QMD for heavy)*

*improved neutron cross sections from JENDL database*

### use G4 builder classes to extend physics list

- add radioactivity model to all recoil ions with option to de-activate
- could also add optical photons

### improved light-ion-induced reactions

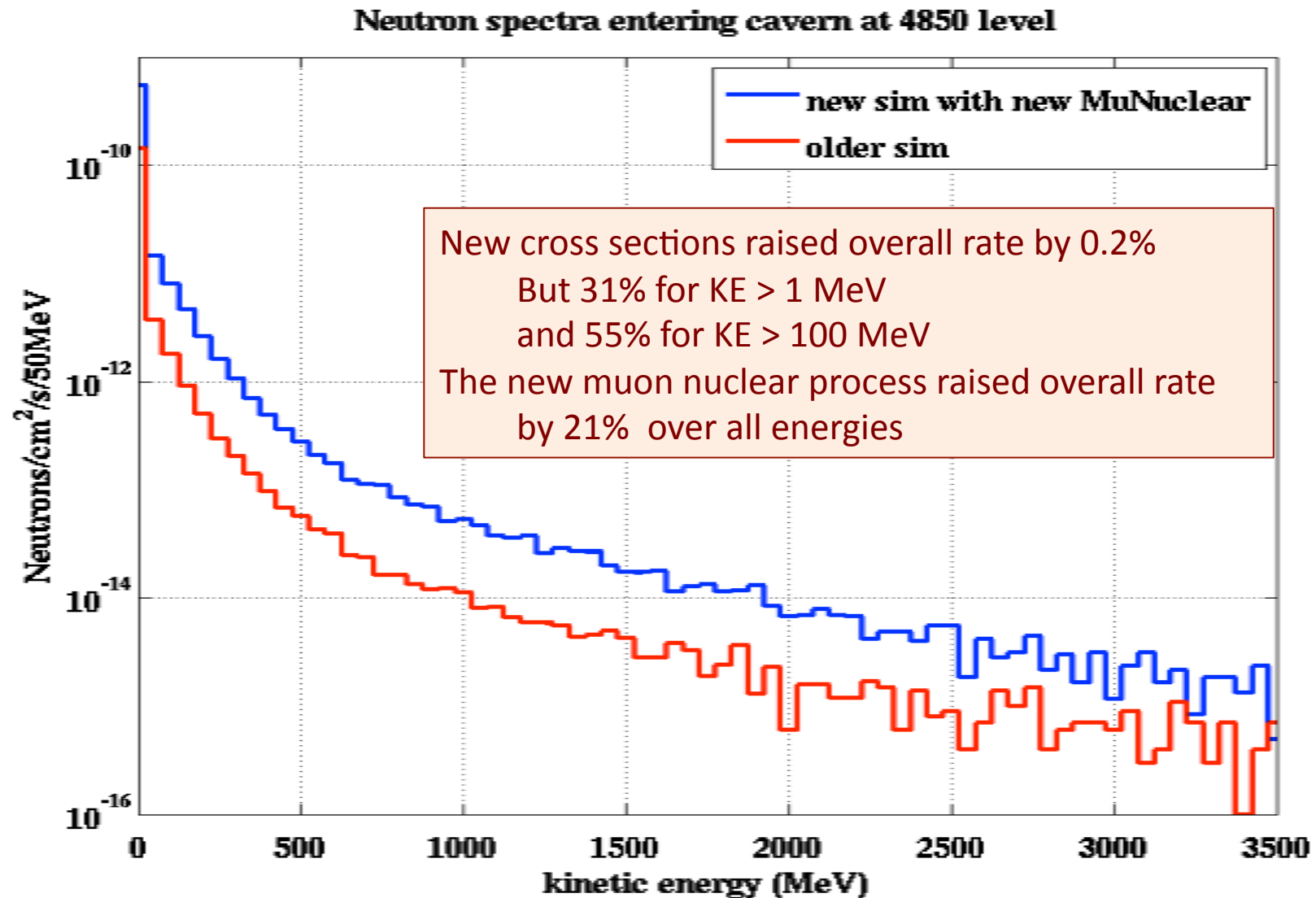
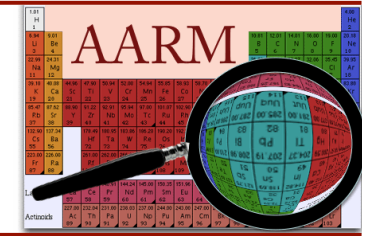
- Shielding already replaces old GHEISHA-style models with G4BinaryLightIon and QMD models

### new muon-nuclear process, model and cross section developed

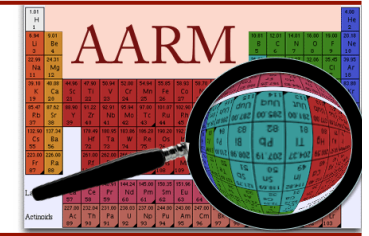
- Muon exchanges virtual photon with nucleus
- Virtual photon treated as “0” to initiate cascade
- Bertini cascade (0–10 GeV), FTFP (> 10 GeV)

# GEODM/AARM Simulation (new Geant4 Physics)

study by A. Reisetter for AARM



# GEODM/AARM Simulation (new Geant4 Physics)

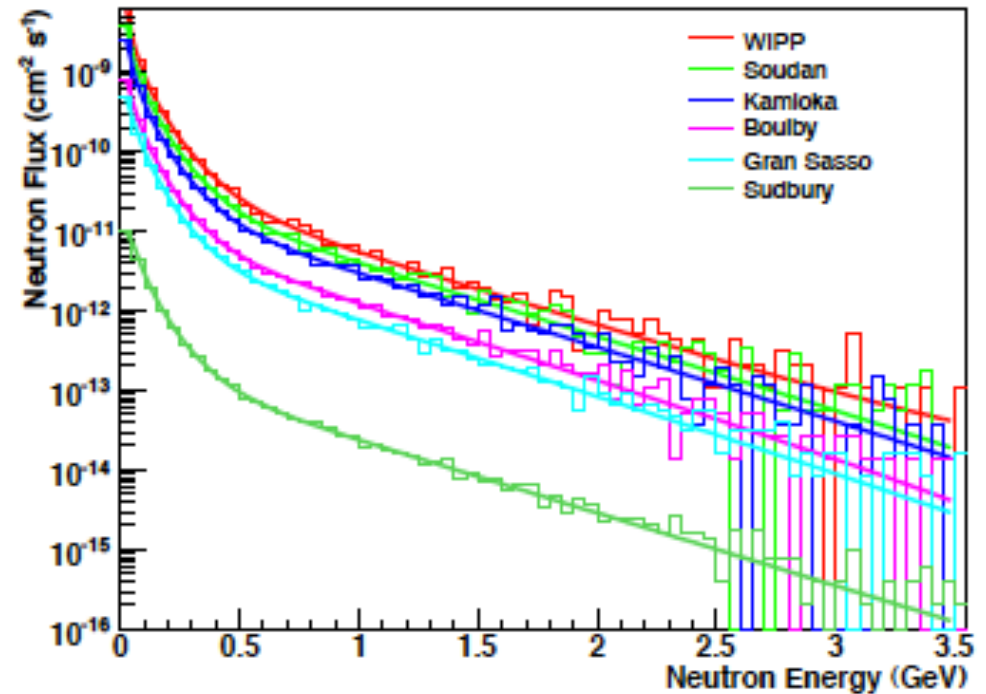
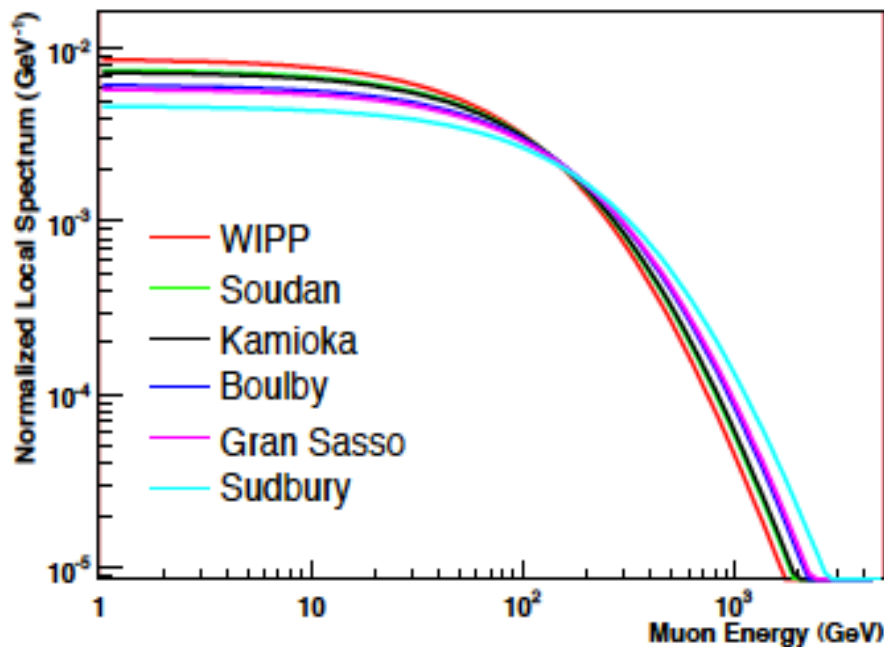


Mei & Hime (arXiv:astro-ph/0512125)

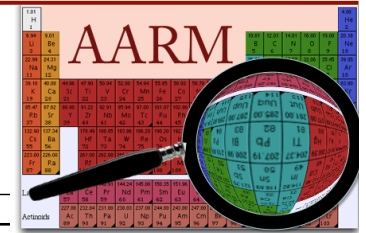
An early attempt to parameterize cosmogenic neutrons wrt depth

Input well-known muon spectra  
and flux wrt depth

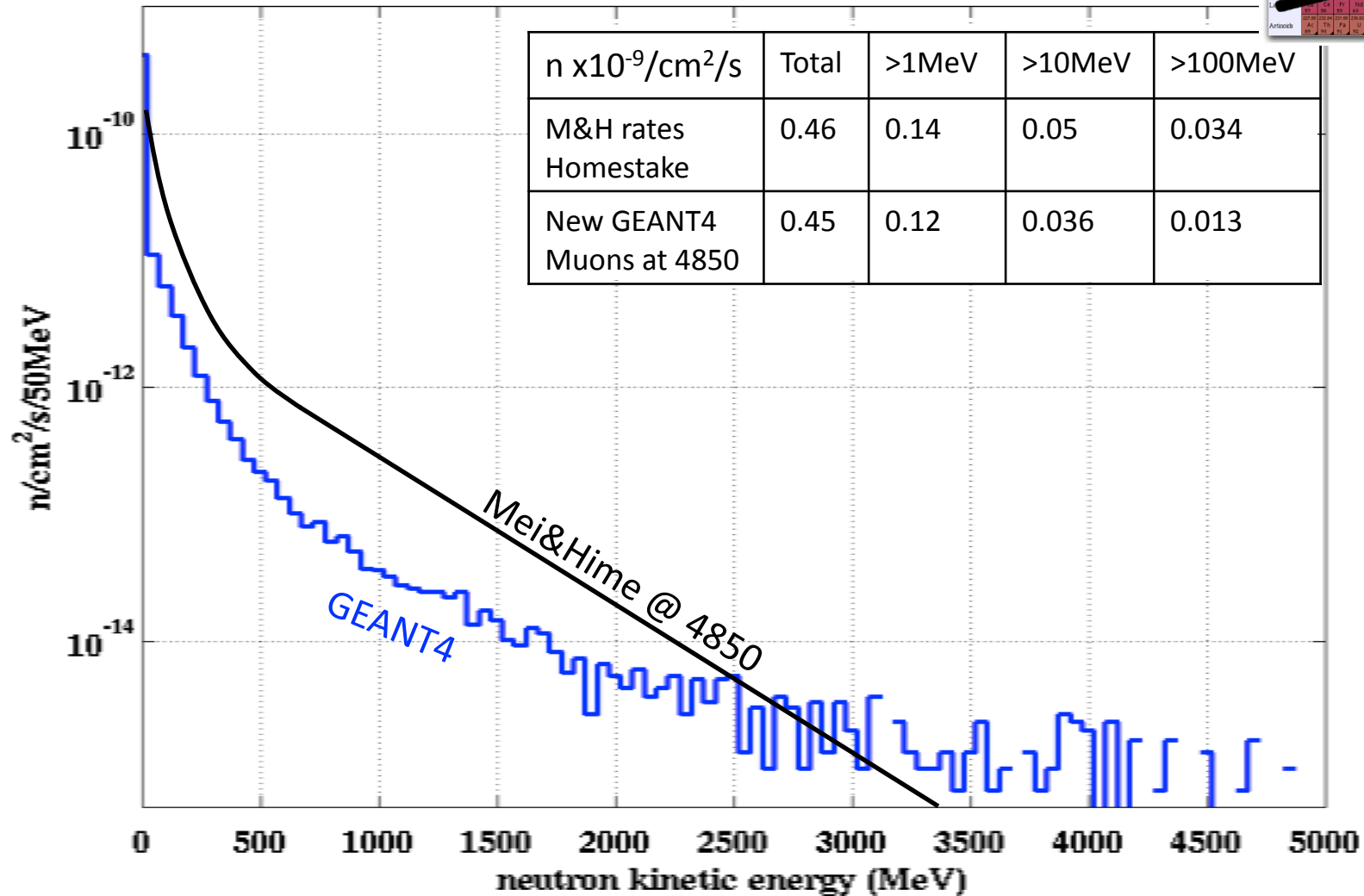
Resulting neutron spectra:  
Parameterization of a FLUKA simulation,  
adjusted upward to match data



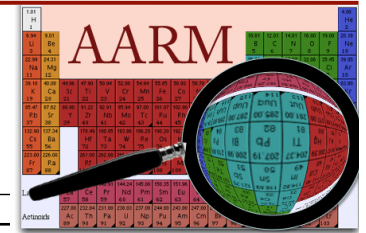
# GEODM/AARM Simulation (new Geant4 Physics)



Neutron Rate Spectrum entering cavern at 4850m



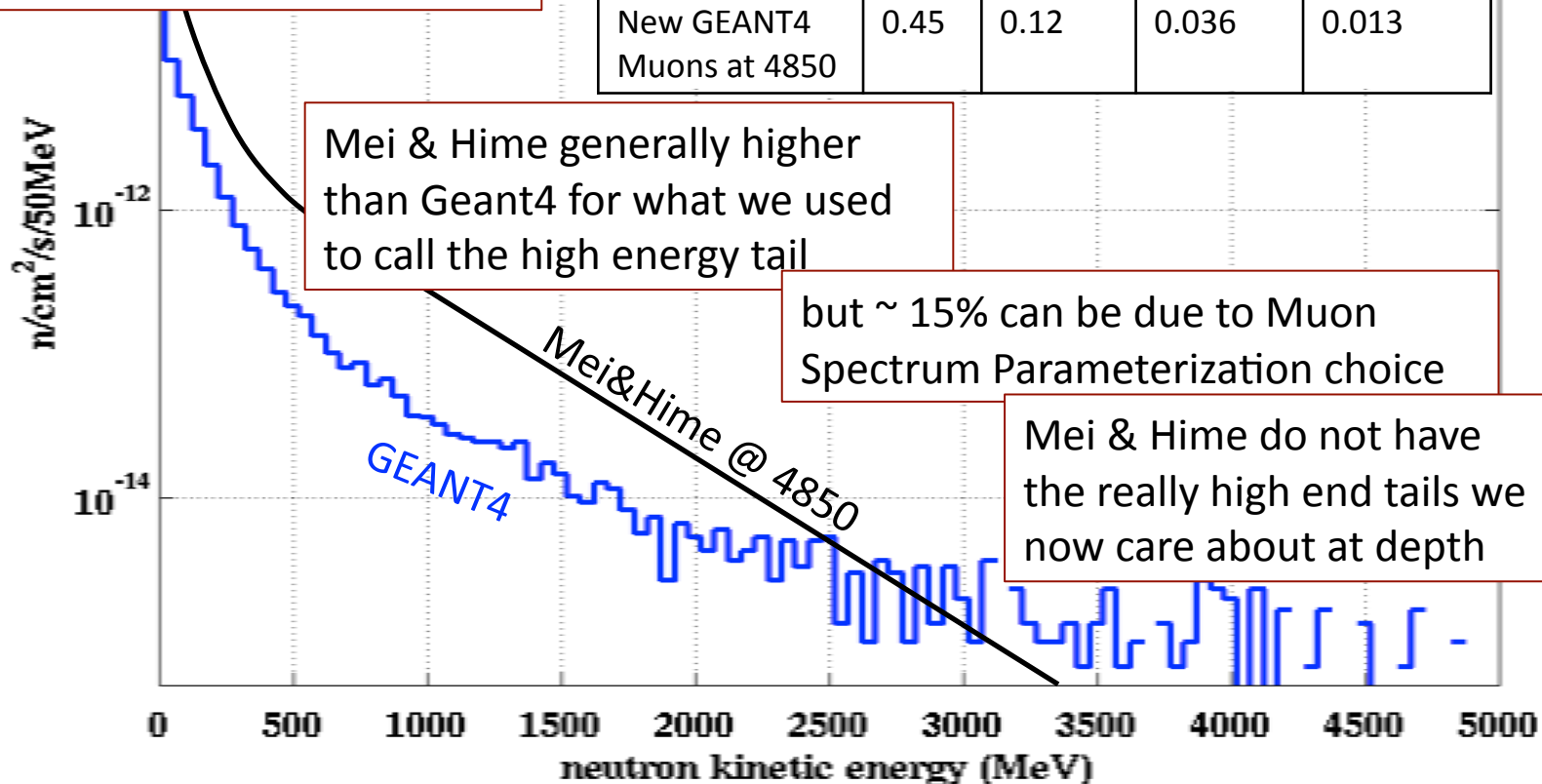
# GEODM/AARM Simulation (new Geant4 Physics)



Neutron Rate Spectrum entering cavern at 4850m

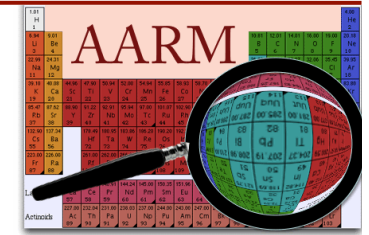
Lower energy depends on the details of the rock composition and slant path

$n \times 10^{-9}/\text{cm}^2/\text{s}$	Total	>1MeV	>10MeV	>100MeV
M&H rates Homestake	0.46	0.14	0.05	0.034
New GEANT4 Muons at 4850	0.45	0.12	0.036	0.013



FLUKA also predicts a high energy neutron tail (blue),  
compared to Mei & Hime spectrum (green)

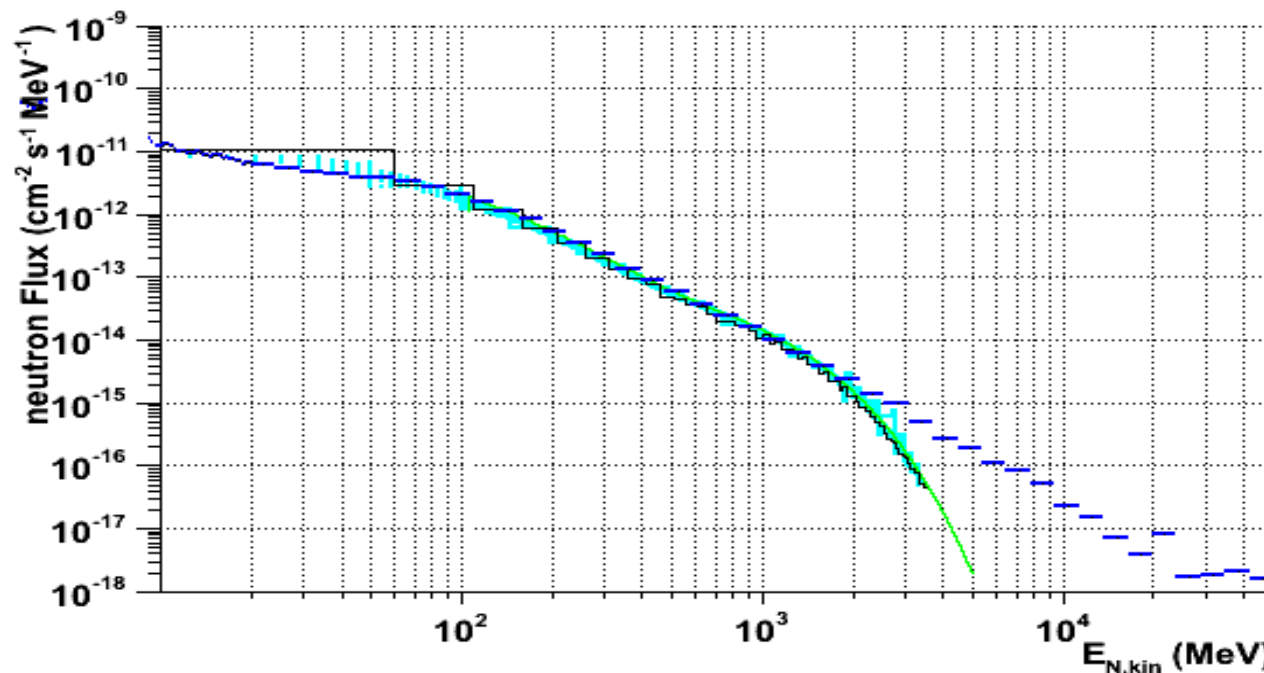
*at the rock cavern boundary (geometry:  $6\text{m}^3$  centered in  $20\text{m}^3$ )*



H. Wulandari et al arXiv:hep-ex/0401032v1 21 Jan 2004 - FLUKA

A. Dementyev et al Gran Sasso note: INFN/AE-97/50, 22 Sep 1997 - Bezrukov and Bugaev + SHIELD

A. Hime and D.-M. Mei, parameterization arXiv:astro-ph/0512125 v2 6 Dec 2005 - FLUKA  
(coincident direct muons?, A?)



Note: the FLUKA versions used here differ - in particular FLUKA now features 260 low energy neutron groups rather than the 72 previously.



## COSMOGENICS      Standardizing Muon and Neutron Distributions

*An Object Lesson in the importance of Mutually Acceptable Input Parameters.*

Question from DUSEL planning      “Can GEODM (7400 level) be redesigned to work at 4850?”

The results of the GEODM 4850 Sim	were in	direct contradiction to LZ20 Sim
3 m water shield reduced # evts		3-4 orders of magnitude reduction
with $n$ ( $KE > 200\text{keV}$ ) by only .16		0.3 nDRU <sub><math>\mu</math></sub> $\mu$ -induced bkgd evts
		<i>before analysis cuts</i>

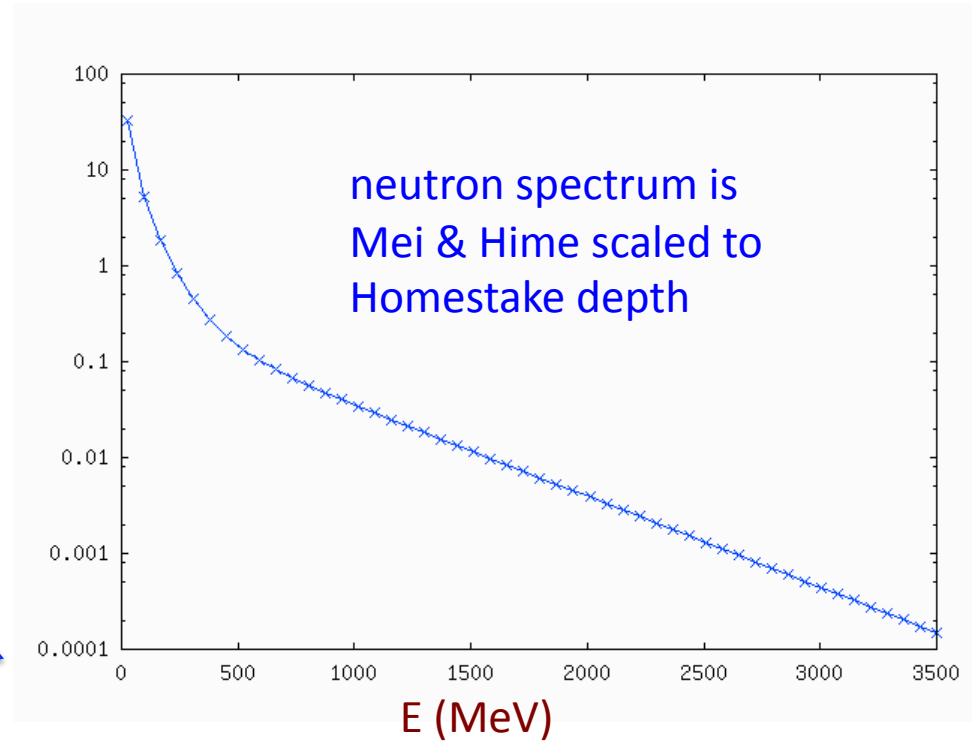
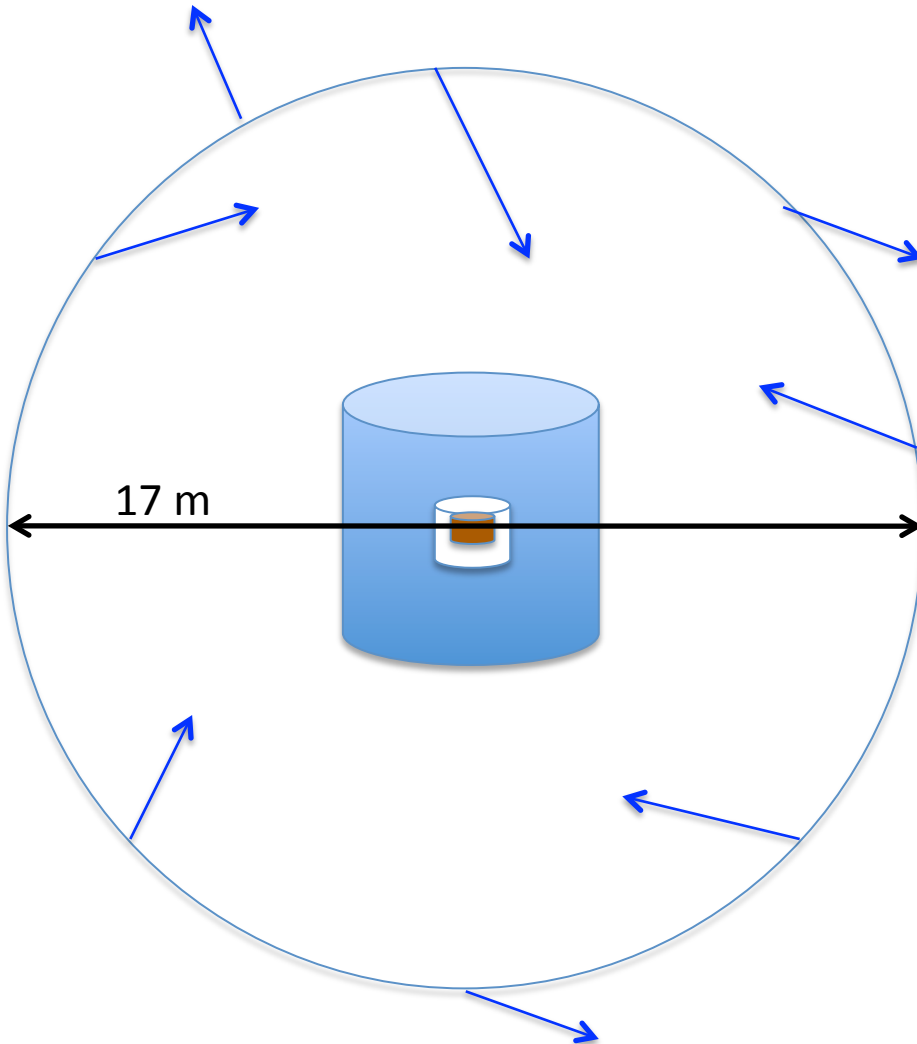
Turned out to hinge on details of the INPUT neutrons and accompanying shower particles  
(next few slides show why)

### **Solution:**

Everybody MUST AGREE on the same set of backgrounds for the same cavern.  
Need to produce and validate and make available a background environment for each lab.

## Methodology of the LZ20 Simulation:

Single neutrons from a parameterized spectrum. Thrown isotropically from a sphere surrounding detector.  
Whole thing is in a vacuum without walls

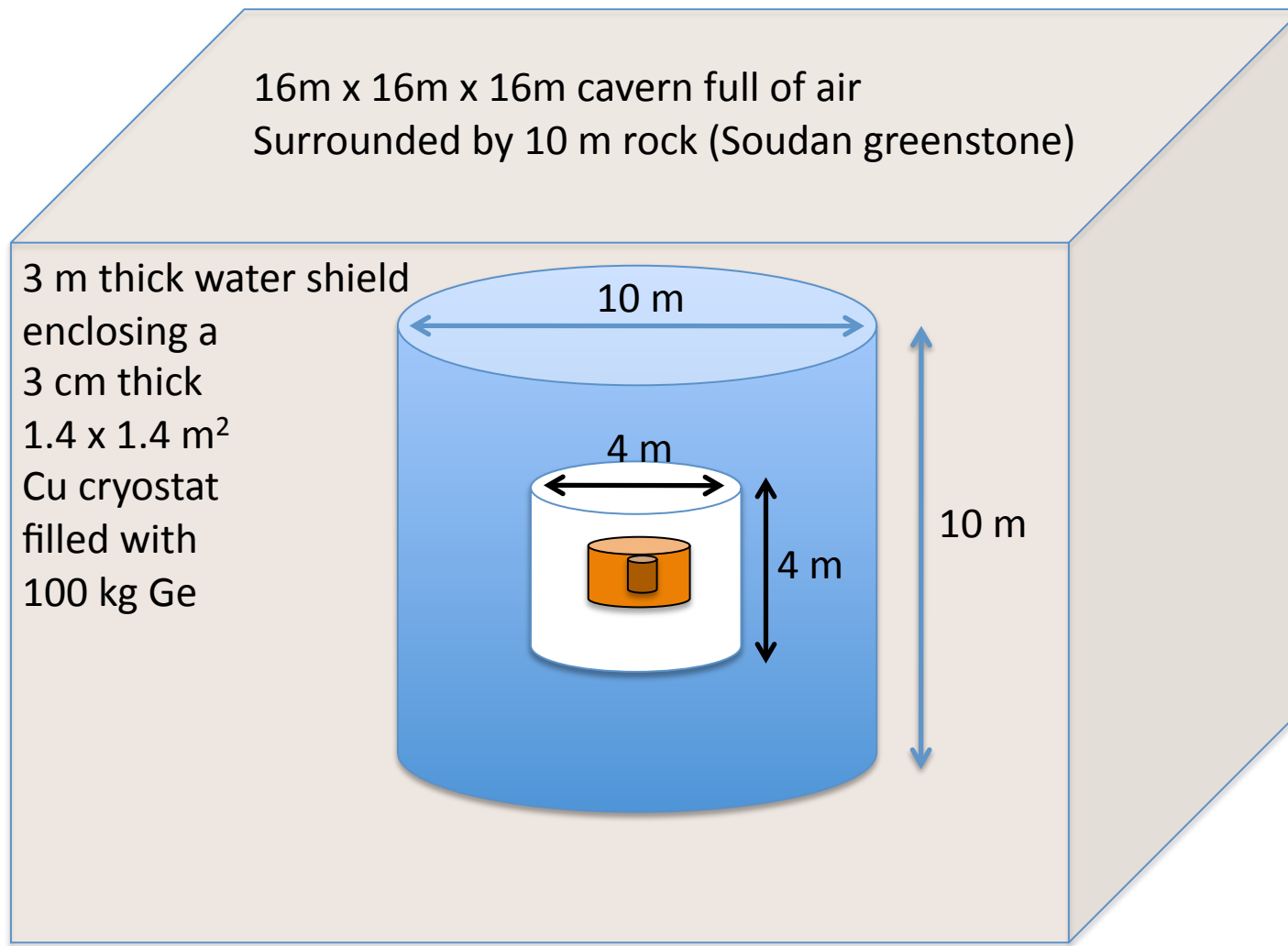


**Advantage:** Easy to get lots of stats

### **Disadvantages:**

- No shower particles or 2<sup>nd</sup>ry n's
- No parent muons
- No correlations
- No multiplicity
- Flaws in spectrum itself

GEODM 4850 full G4 MC has extremely simple model of Detector,  
but a sophisticated generation of neutrons



## Muon Parameterization ( > 1000 mwe)

Phys.Rev.D7 p2022 (Cassiday et al.)

$g(E)$  is energy loss rate

$x(E)$  is muon stopping distance

$\theta$  is zenith angle (uniform  $\phi$ )

$$\frac{dN}{dE} = \frac{A}{g(E)} \left[ e^{-Bx(E)} + C e^{-Dx(E)} \right]$$

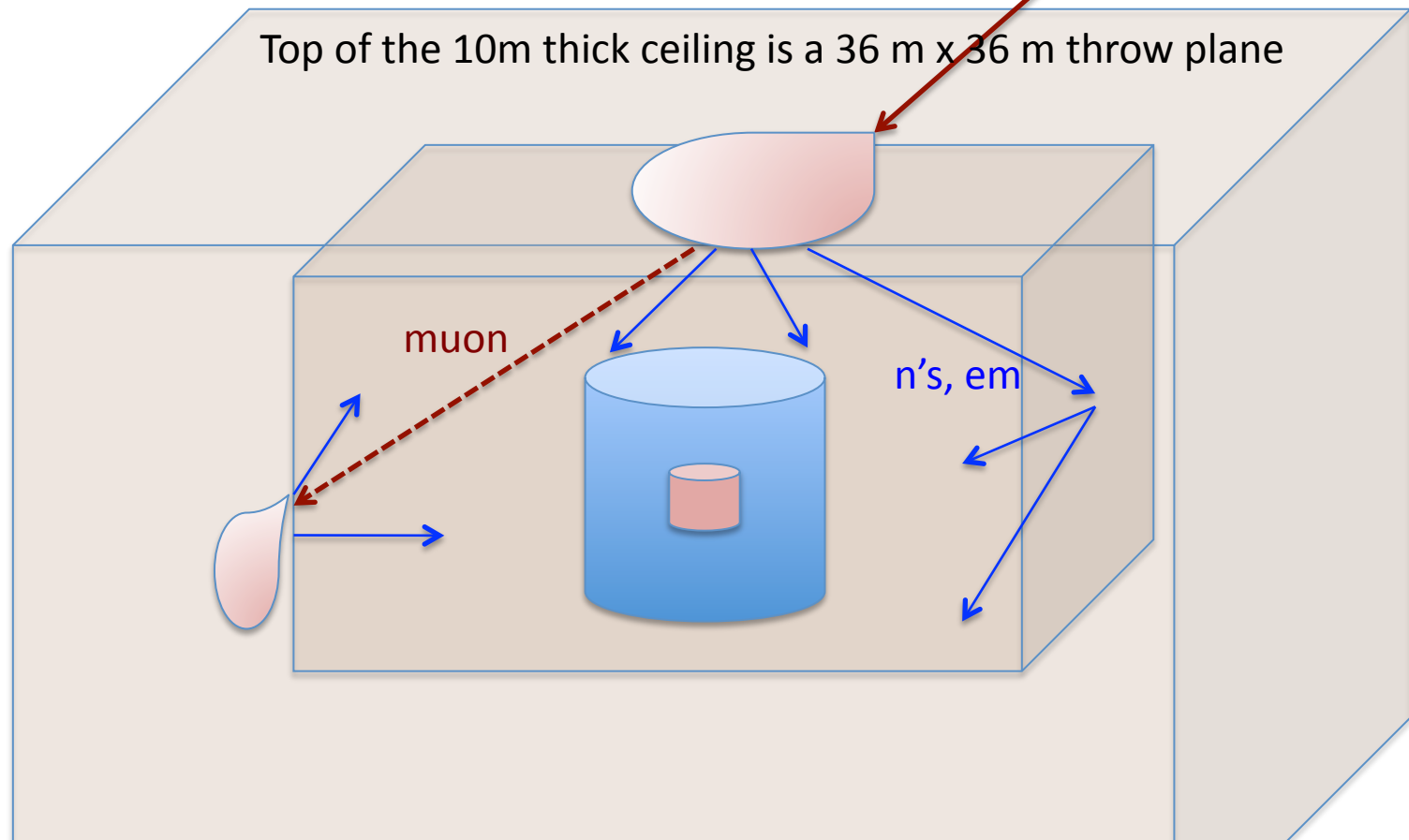
$$\frac{dN}{d\theta} = A \tan(\theta) \left[ e^{\frac{-B}{\cos(\theta)}} + C e^{\frac{-D}{\cos(\theta)}} \right]$$

Let Geant4 propagate the muons through 10 m rock from the top plane

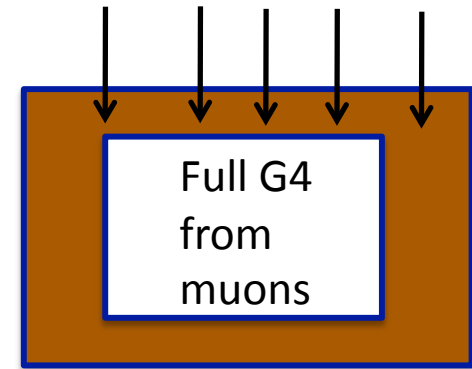
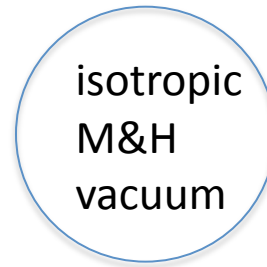
New cross sections, new Mu-Nucl etc

Eventual improvements will be site-specific slant paths

(MUSUN – V. Kudryavtsev)



Try different  
generators in the  
GEODM geometry



GEODM geometry with Different n Generators	Isotropic Sphere (8.75 ton-y) scaled to 1	Multiplicity	Full Rock Sim (1.25 ton-y) scaled to 1	Multiplicity
neutrons in Ge	<u>76</u> n 11 evts	6.7	<u>2,754</u> n 224 evts	12.3
nuclear recoils in Ge (10 – 100 keV) (Veto not yet applied)	<u>14.5</u> NR 4.46 evts <b>(1.5 singles)</b>	3.3	<u>787</u> NR 145.6 evts <b>(8 singles)</b>	5.4

By neglecting secondary neutrons, hadronic and EM showers, and muons in cavern,  
One predicts far fewer recoils and a lower multiplicity than you will really get.

AARM creates the integrative structure:

GEODM-style neutron files sent to LZ20 to directly compare in their geometry.

# COSMOGENICS

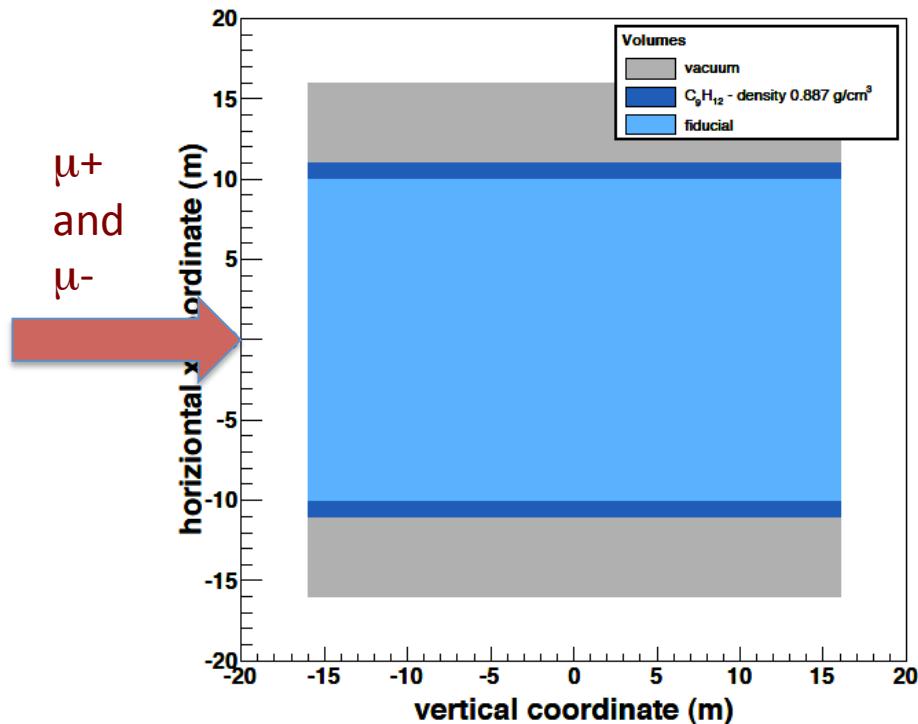
# Comparing GEANT4 vs FLUKA

Neutron Yield is a key uncertainty. Mount a careful Study

Muon energies: 10, 30, 100, 280, 1000 GeV.  
Materials: C, CH<sub>2</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>O, CaCO<sub>3</sub>, NaCl, Fe, Pb.

Tony Empl (FLUKA)  
Anthony Villano (GEANT4)  
Vitaly Kudryavtsev (Advisor)

## Simple Fiducialized Geometry



## Neutron production rate per muon per g/cm<sup>2</sup>

All neutrons produced inside the material are counted, but only those produced in the middle are included in the final neutron yield.

All vertices fully reconstructed  
All physics processes recorded  
Care taken to avoid double counting

First try with Liquid scintillator  
chosen in order to be able to  
compare with Borexino and Kamland.  
(and LVD)  
C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>12</sub> at density  $\rho = 0.887 \text{ g/cm}^3$ .

# COSMOGENICS

## Comparing GEANT4 vs FLUKA

Time from 1<sup>st</sup> interaction to n-capture.

Borexino takes data only after around 200  $\mu\text{s}$

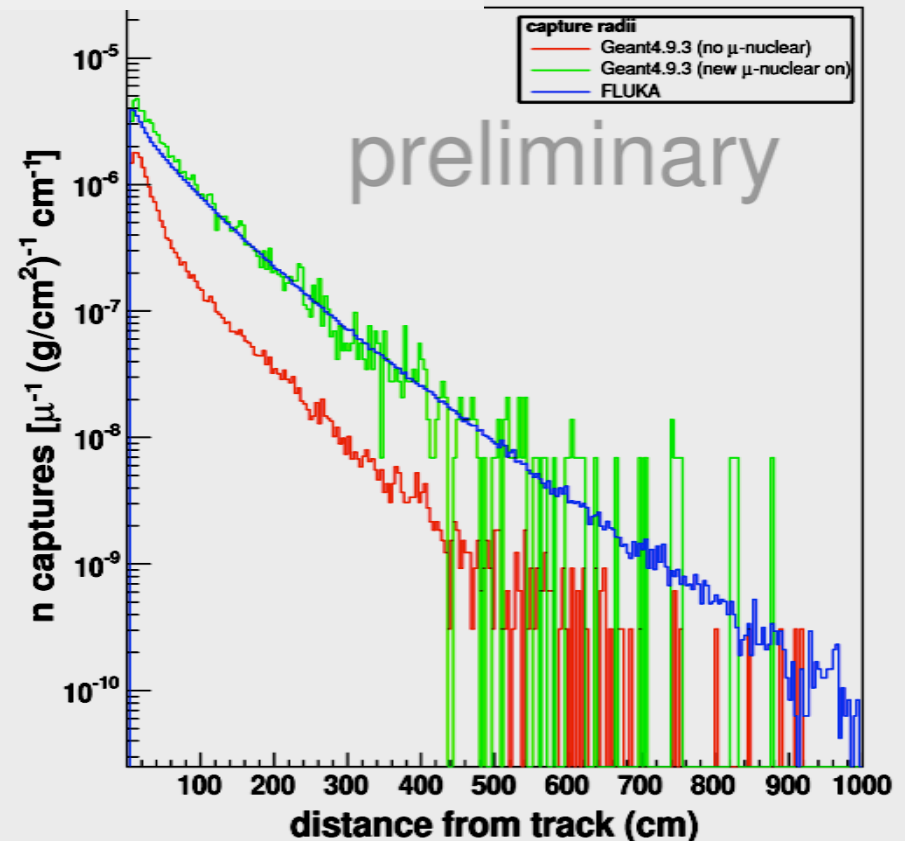
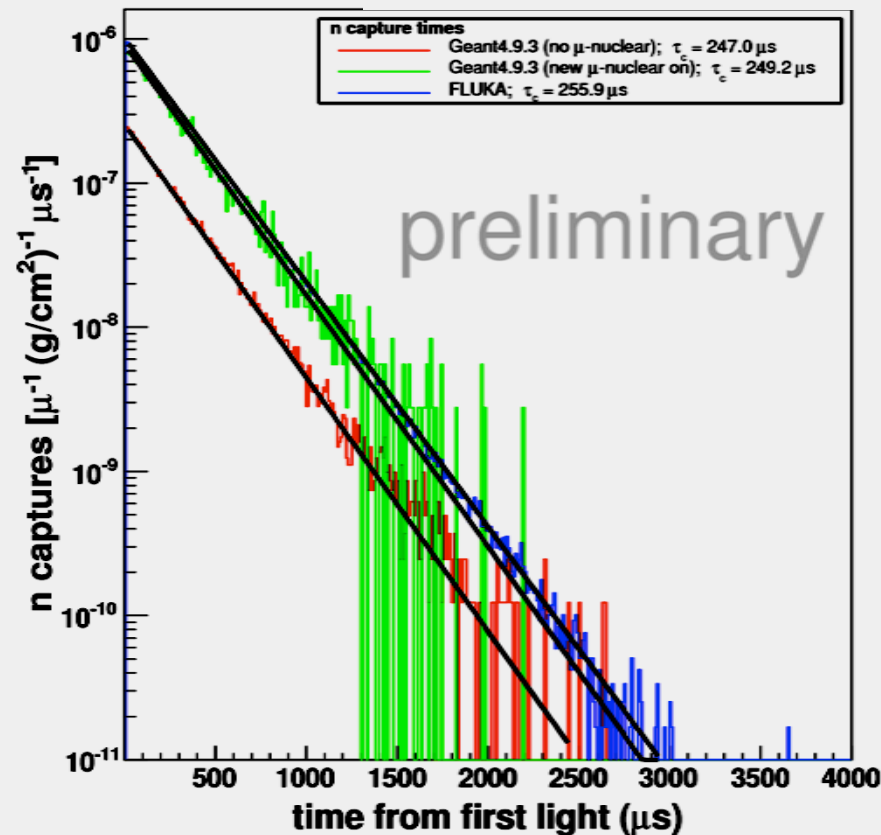
Kamland after about 1300  $\mu\text{s}$ .

Position from primary track to n-capture.

Possible observable for delayed captures

### n capture times

- Geant4.9.3 (no  $\mu$ -nuclear);  $\tau_c = 247.0 \mu\text{s}$
- Geant4.9.3 (new  $\mu$ -nuclear on);  $\tau_c = 249.2 \mu\text{s}$
- FLUKA;  $\tau_c = 255.9 \mu\text{s}$



## Standardized Monte Carlo FRAMEWORK: Start with Homestake

Each experiment has its own strengths and physics modules

*Glean useful information from them, e.g.*

MaGe has a waveform library

DEAP/CLEAN incorporated RAT (Reactor Analysis Tool – Braidwood)

SuperCDMS phonon physics add-on

Many experiments pushing on cross sections relevant to their experiment

Each experiment has evolved specific classes and macros for running jobs

*Choose one of the good ones*

Workshop defined what we mean by “good”

e.g. LUXSim (Kazkaz), SuperCDMS (Kelsey): Choose LUXSim

The basic structures of the package are finished and initialized to SVN repository

The package is divided into 6 sub-systems: management & physics, input/output, SVN administration, geometry & materials, event generator, tracking & visualization.

### Additional Jobs

- extend G4 materials to have associated properties in a common way
- develop an even more general “object library” of things like PMT structures, etc.
- develop a general-purpose TPC track reconstruction library (possible LLNL/NNSA funds)

## RADIOGENICS & SCREENING

### Materials Database (James Loach – Majorana)

- begin with a database “Couchdb” and a search engine “Lucene”
- structure has a main database – this database copied and sync to institutions
- “users” and “developers” write code to access information for their purpose

### Decision taken (Feb 2011) to adopt it and add

- new counted materials (by experiment)
- legacy materials (e.g. ILIAS database)
  - need volunteers/resources
- Organizing entities: AARM, LRT Workshop, SNOlab
- functionality,
  - e.g. contaminated materials automatically incorporated into Geant4

### Software with a “sanctioned” database made available Loach → Villano

- begin software distribution, starting with a “test” database from Majorana

## Some Details about the Materials Database



Open source non-relational database

A flat collection of JSON **documents** of named fields

```
"sample": {  
  "name":      "Fused silica",  
  "description": "Corning 7940, lot 56667",  
  "source":    "Mark Optics Ltd.",  
  "owner":     "LBNL LBF",  
}
```

Data aggregated and displayed using **views**

Schema-free so structure can be varied and extended

Distributed (can self-replicate between machines)

Speaks HTML

Widely-used (CERN, BBC etc.)

<http://couchdb.apache.org>

Future-safe data format (JSON text)

<http://guide.couchdb.org/>

Commercial online hosting services available

<http://www.couchbase.com>

<http://www.cloudant.com>

MAJORANA  
Material Assay  
Database



- ⊞ Tin, LANL
- ⊞ Tin, LANL
- ⊞ Tin, Canberra

# MAJORANA Material Assay Database



## ☐ Tin, LANL

sample	description		Tin, 99.9998% purity	
measurement	technique	Gamma		
	results	U chain	< 1.7	mBq/kg
		Th chain	< 3.1	mBq/kg
		K-40	25 (14)	mBq/kg
		Co-60	< 1.5	mBq/kg

## ☐ Tin, LANL

## ☐ Tin, Canberra

# MAJORANA Material Assay Database



## ☐ Tin, LANL

sample	description	Tin, 99.9998% purity		
	source	Adam Montoya, LANL		
	owner	LANL		
	set	Majorana		
	mass	710 g		
	geometry	Block of metal		
measurement	technique	Gamma		
	institution	LANL / WIPP		
	date	5 / 2010		
	practitioner	Steve Elliot, LANL (elliotts@lanl.gov)		
	description	The tin was placed inside two nested plastic bags and put inside the WIPP-n cavity. Background spectrum 66.78 days.		
	count length	99.2 d		
	detector	WIPP-n		
	results	U chain	< 1.7	mBq/kg
		Th chain	< 3.1	mBq/kg
		K-40	25 (14)	mBq/kg
		Co-60	< 1.5	mBq/kg
data	reference	Majorana report M-TECHDOCDDET-2010-110		
	entry by	James Loach (jcloach@lbl.gov)		

## ⊕ Tin, LANL

## ⊕ Tin, Canberra

# MAJORANA Material Assay Database

tin



Tin, LANL

sample

descripti

source

owner

set

mass

geometr

measurement

techniqu

institutio

date

practition

descripti

count ler

detector

results

data

referenc

entry by

Export

Copy and paste into Excel or similar.

```
"Tin, LANL", "U chain", "<", "1.7", "mBq/kg", "Th chain", "  
<", "3.1", "mBq/kg", "K-40", "25", "14", "mBq/kg", "Co-60", "  
<", "1.5", "mBq/kg"  
"Tin, LANL", "Li", "<", "0.007", "ug/g", "Be", "  
<", "0.004", "ug/g", "Na", "<", "9", "ug/g", "Mg", "<", "1", "ug/g", "Al", "  
<", "1", "ug/g", "K", "<", "10", "ug/g", "Ca", "<", "6", "ug/g", "Sc", "  
<", "0.1", "ug/g", "Ti", "<", "1", "ug/g", "V", "<", "2", "ug/g", "Cr", "  
<", "5", "ug/g", "Mn", "0.15", "ug/g", "Fe", "60.6", "ug/g", "Co", "  
<", "1", "ug/g", "Ni", "  
<", "5", "ug/g", "Cu", "24.4", "ug/g", "Zn", "2.5", "ug/g", "Ga", "  
<", "0.3", "ug/g", "As", "<", "0.2", "ug/g", "Se", "<", "0.3", "ug/g", "Rb", "  
<", "0.1", "ug/g", "Sr", "<", "0.09", "ug/g", "Y", "  
<", "0.002", "ug/g", "Zr", "<", "0.007", "ug/g", "Nb", "  
<", "0.006", "ug/g", "Mo", "<", "0.3", "ug/g", "Rh", "  
<", "0.006", "ug/g", "Pd", "  
<", "0.03", "ug/g", "Ag", "231", "ug/g", "Cd", "<", "0.04", "ug/g", "Sb", "  
<", "37", "ug/g", "Te", "<", "0.03", "ug/g", "Cs", "<", "4", "ug/g", "La", "  
<", "0.6", "ug/g", "Ce", "<", "0.5", "ug/g", "Pr", "<", "0.6", "ug/g", "Nd", "  
<", "0.01", "ug/g", "Sm", "<", "0.03", "ug/g", "Eu", "  
<" 0.05 "ug/g" "Gd" "<" 0.02 "ug/g" "Th"
```

James Loach (jcloach@lbl.gov)

Tin, LANL

Tin, Canberra

# Benchmarking the Monte Carlo: Neutron Measurements

New experiments at Soudan to characterize hadronic showers underground

**Muons** tracked by  
proportional tubes  
lining walls & ceiling

gps time-stamps to  
correlate with

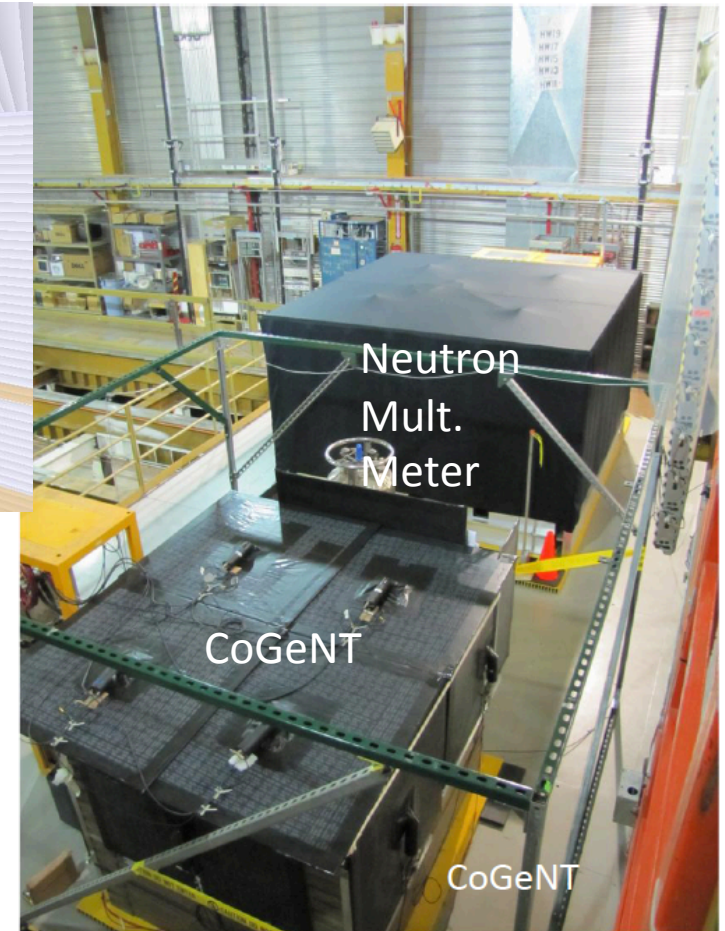
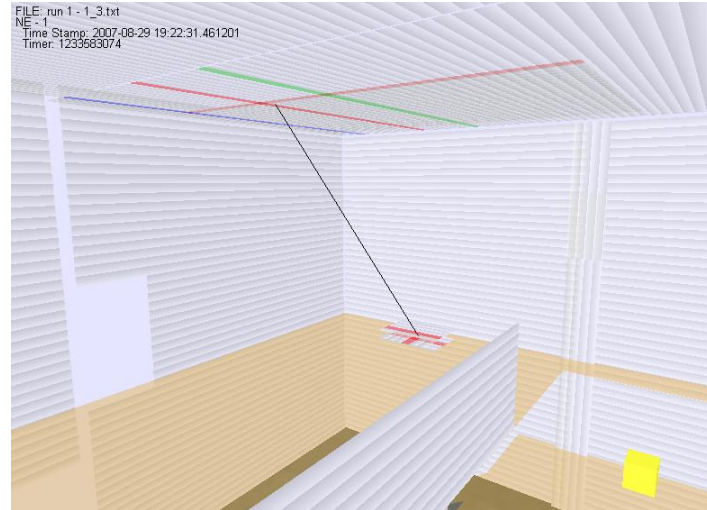
## **Neutrons**

as detected by

- \* Liquid Scintillator neutron detectors (USD)
- \* Neutron Multiplicity Meter (UCSB, Case, Davis)

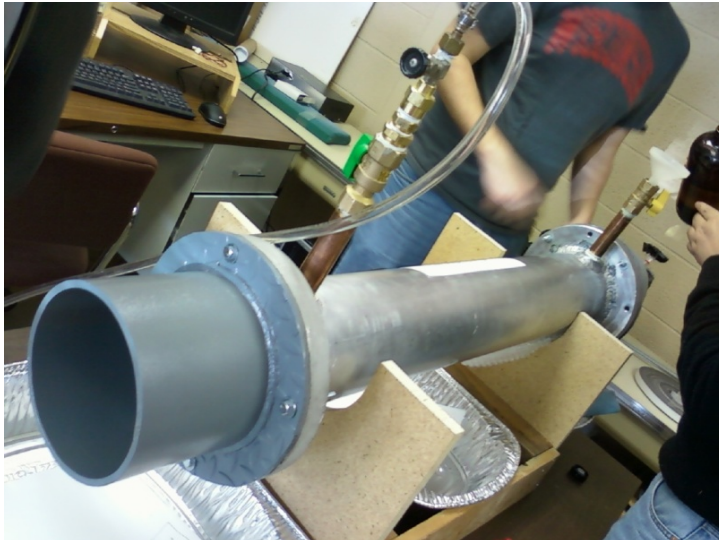
AARM S4 provides integration and travel money  
Extensive simulation for comparison

**Observables:** Distance between parent muon & n, multiplicity, shower configuration



# Large Liquid Scintillation Neutron Detector

1m long LS neutron detector filled with 12 liters LS EJ301.



Internally covered with diffusive paint EJ520.

Two Hamamatsu 5" PMTs (R4144) viewing thru pyrex windows

Require coincidence within 30 ns

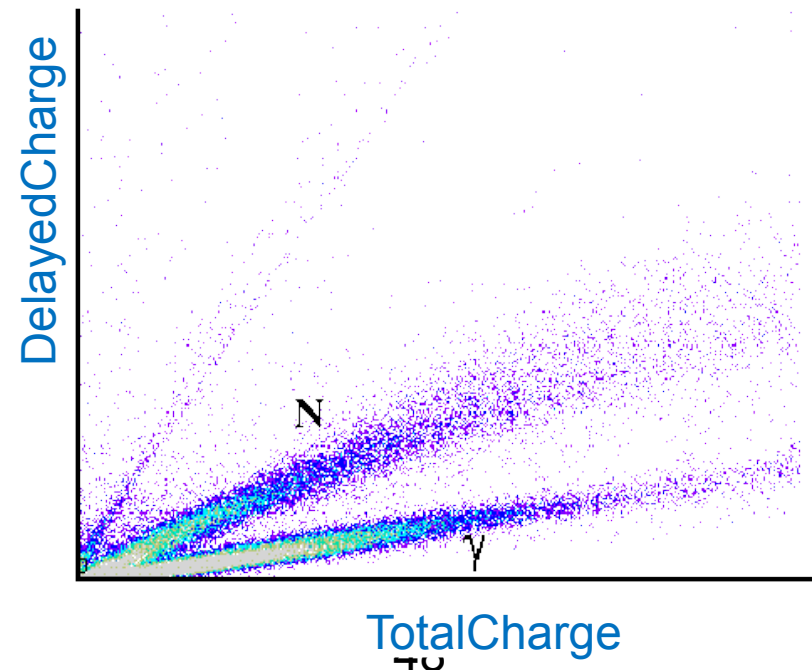
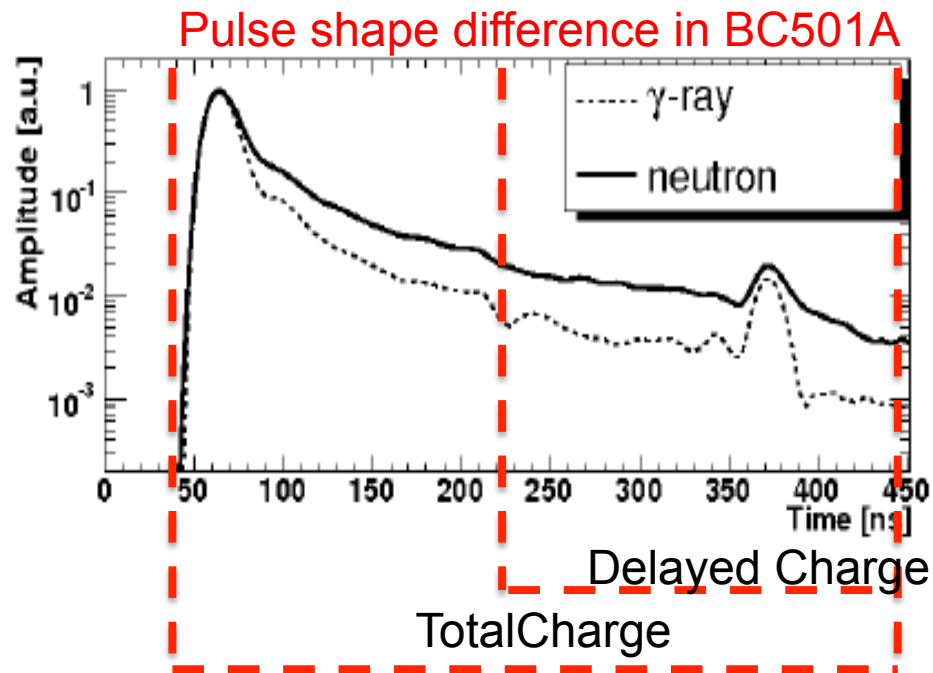


# PSD Technique

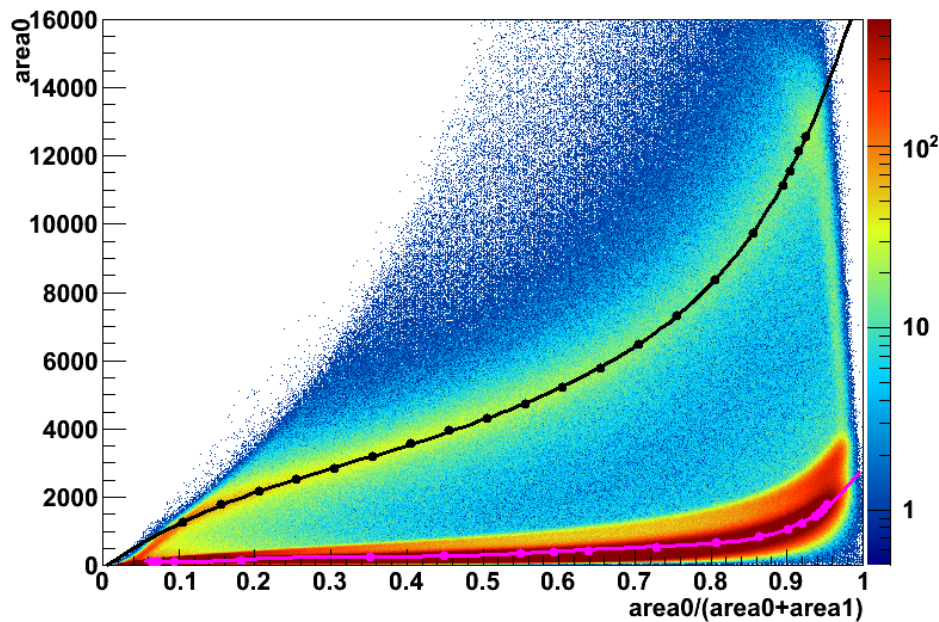
Number of scintillation photons as superposition of two decays

$$N = A \exp\left(-\frac{t}{\tau_f}\right) + B \exp\left(-\frac{t}{\tau_s}\right)$$

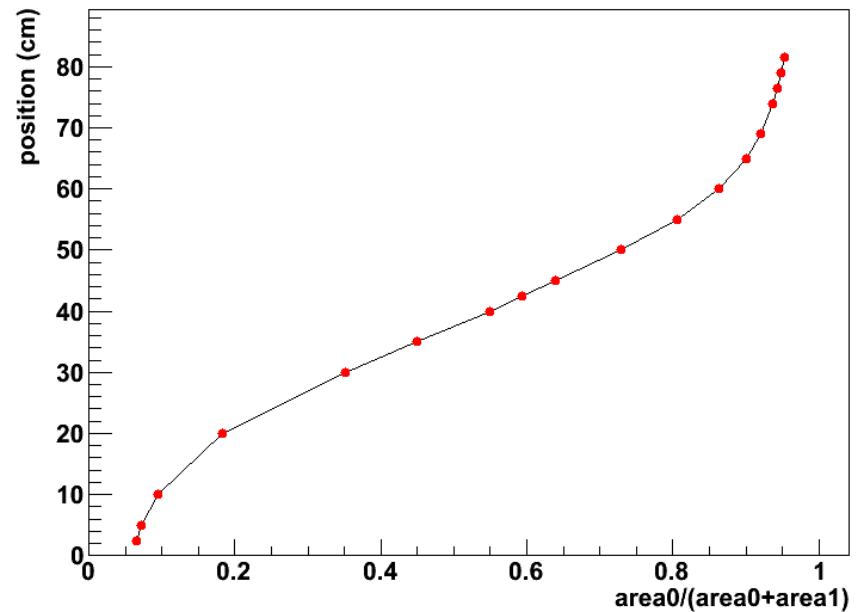
Both “amplitudes” A and B are functions of dE/dx  
different dE/dx → different signal shape



# Detector Response Plots



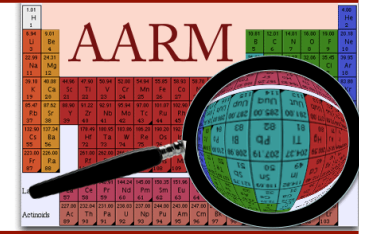
Energy can be calibrated. Shown is the room (surface) background signal.  
Muon minimum ionization peak (lower curve)  
<sup>22</sup>Na Source (top curve)



Position can be determined from charge ratio. Plot shows moving the <sup>22</sup>Na source along the tube position vs charge ratio response

---

# Benchmarking: Neutron Detector Summary



Detector is working stable at 2000 V with good  $n/\gamma$  PSD. Two weeks surface room background data is accumulated

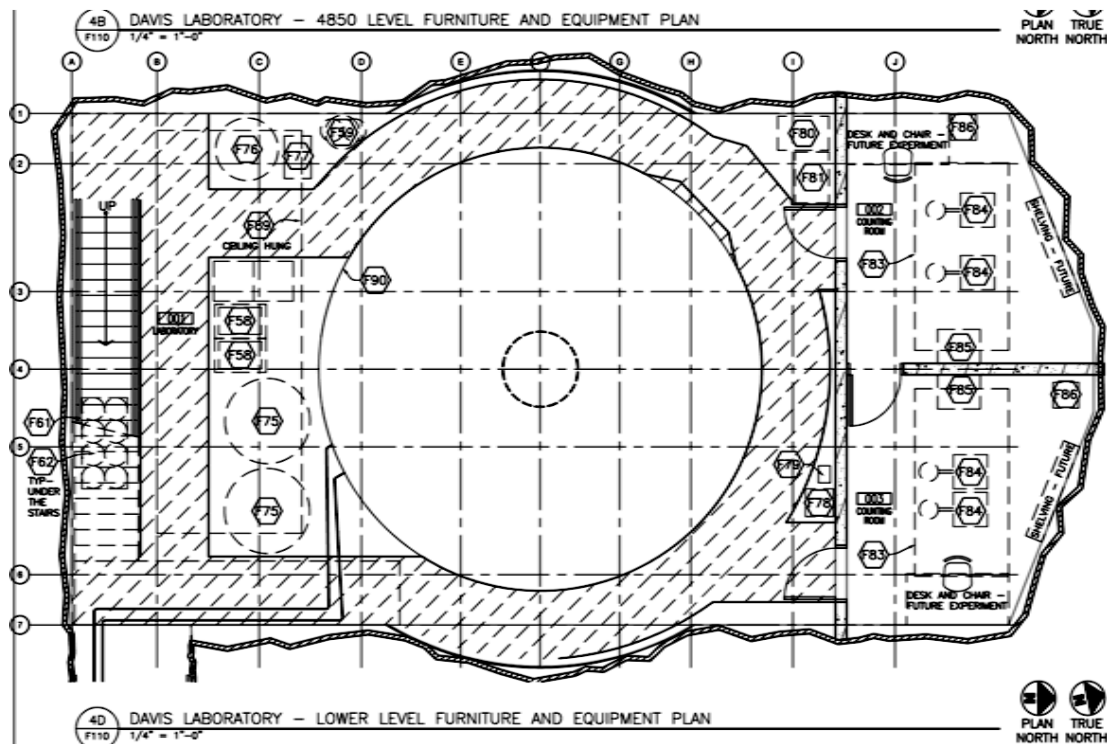
Muon minimum ionization peak is present with 23dB signal attenuation applied to both PMTs. Together with  $^{22}\text{Na}$  source, position and energy relations are well understood.

By using AmBe source, the detection efficiency for neutrons with energy below 10MeV is under study.

The detection efficiency for neutrons with energy above 10 MeV will be calibrated with high energy neutron beam.

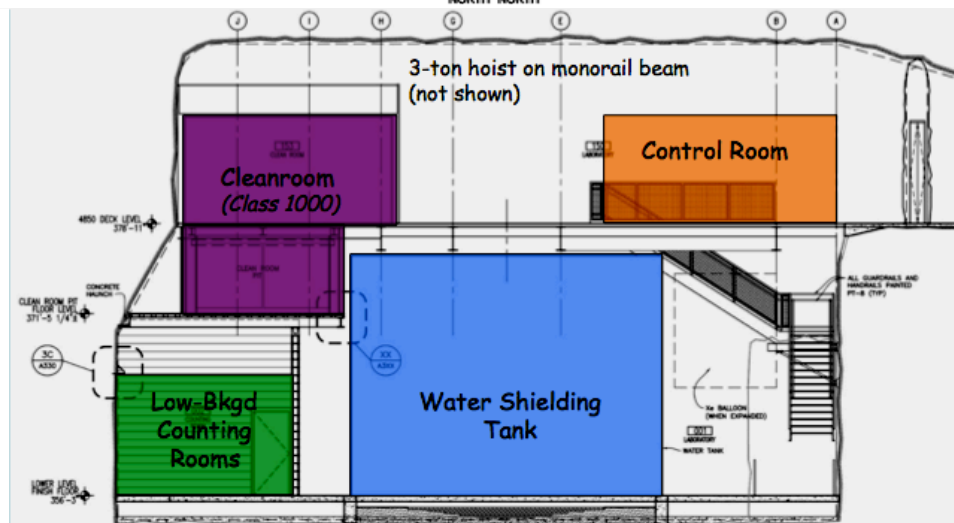
The detector will be deployed to Soudan mine by Aug 21<sup>st</sup> to measure neutron background underground. Eventually moved to Homestake.

# Low Background Counting at Sanford Lab

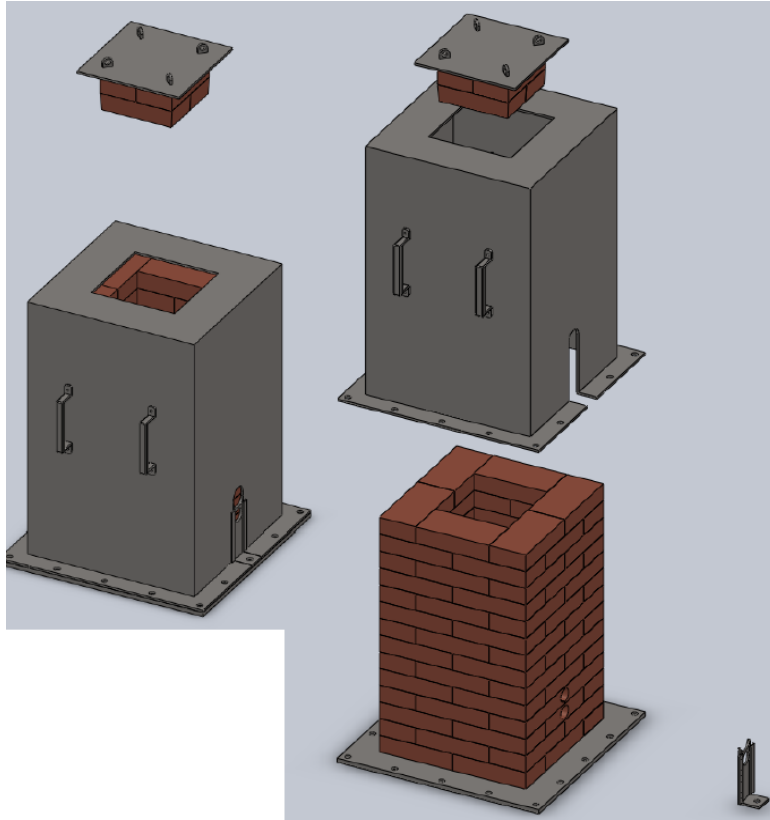


Space reserved for low-background counting with HPGE detectors in the LUX refurbishment of the Davis Cavern on the 4850L.

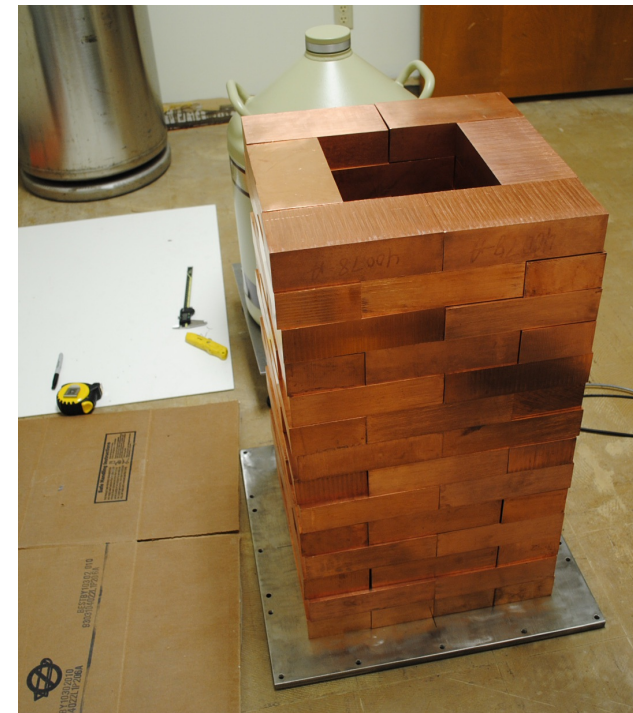
The Davis Cavern is currently under construction.



# Low Background Counting at Sanford Lab



Prototype Rn-exclusion shield is built at USD for use with already purchased HPGE detector. Shield will incorporate an inner layer of OHFC copper, stainless steel radon-exclusion box, and outer layer of lead.



# Low Background Counting at Sanford Lab

## Count rates on the surface

Without shielding 286.44 CPS

without lid shielding 19.92 CPS

Full shielding 4.88 CPS

