

Search for RTR from a periodic multilayer target with degraded periodicity at the Mainz Microtron MAMI

Experiment and simulation of target degradation

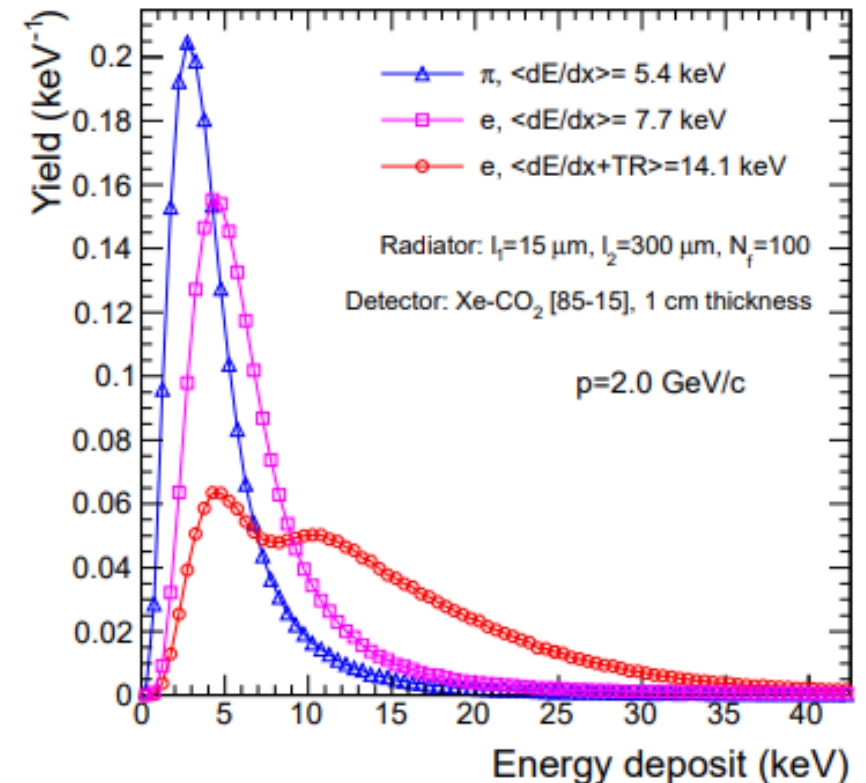
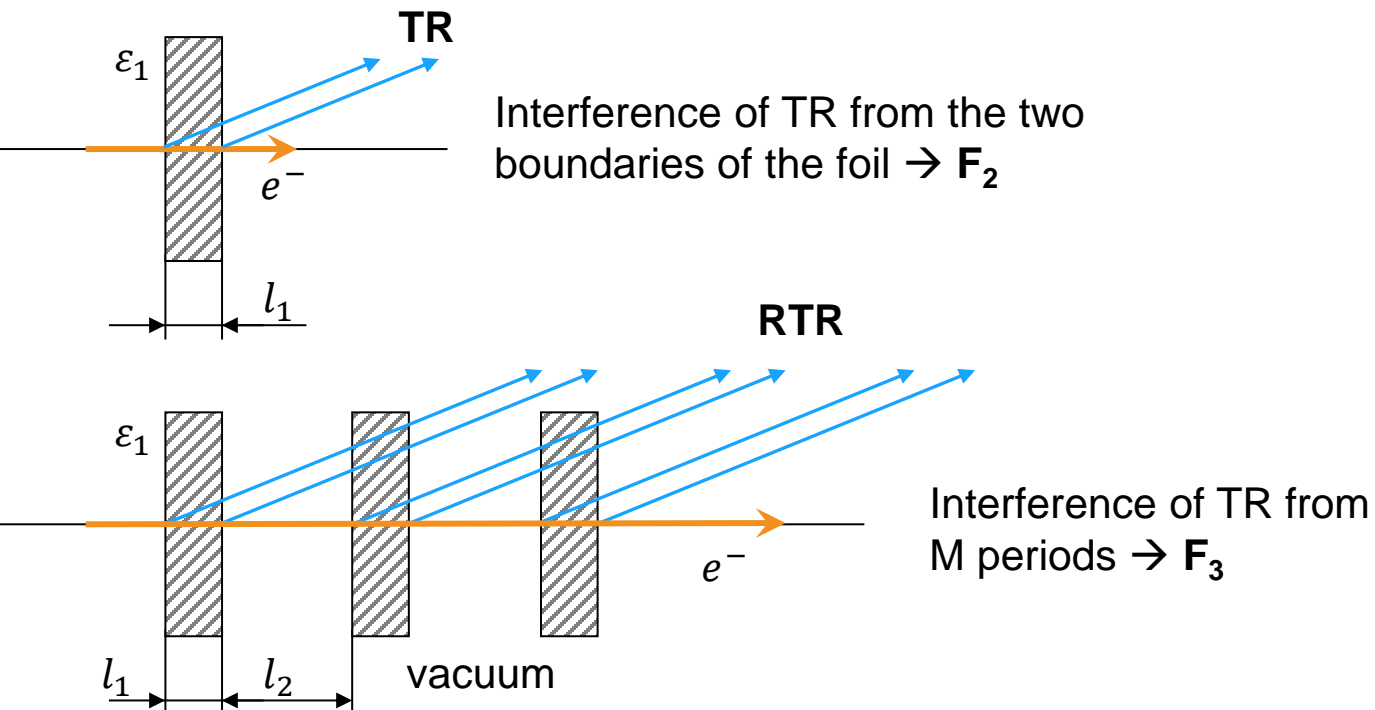
Sergey Stokov, Alexander Potylitsyn, G. Kube, A. Novokshonov
Hamburg, 08/12/2025

Motivation

1. The main goal of this experiment is a **direct test of the Ter-Mikaelian model** of transition radiation (TR) from a periodic multilayer target
2. In this model, the interference condition for a fixed observation angle θ leads to **two branches of resonant solutions** (a “+” and “-”) for the resonant transition radiation (RTR) photon energy.
3. When the observation angle θ is increased:
 - the resonant peaks corresponding to the “-” solution are shifted to the **hard (high-energy) part of the spectrum**,
 - while the peaks of the “+” solutions move to the **soft (low-energy) part of the spectrum**.
4. For our Kapton multilayer radiator at MAMI, the model predicts pronounced resonant peaks at ~ 8 and ~ 27 keV at angles close to $\theta \approx 1/\gamma$.

Why resonant transition radiation from multilayer targets?

1. TR from a single interface is relatively weak and has a broad photon spectrum.
2. A periodic multilayer radiator with M periods can produce resonant of X-ray at specific photon energies.
3. In the ideal case of a perfectly periodic radiator (neglecting photon attenuation), the intensity at resonance scales as $Y \sim M^2$, leading to narrow, intense peaks in the spectrum.



RTR spectral-angular distribution

for a multilayer radiator

The full **spectral–angular distribution of RTR** from a periodic multilayer target can be written in the form:

$$\frac{d^2W}{d\omega d\Omega} = \left(\frac{d^2W}{d\omega d\Omega} \right)_1 F_2(\omega, \theta, l_1) F_3(\omega, \theta, l_1, l_2, M)$$

where

- $\left(\frac{d^2W}{d\omega d\Omega} \right)_1 = \frac{\alpha \theta^2 (\omega_p/\omega)^4}{\pi^2 \omega (1/\gamma^2 + \theta^2)^2 (1/\gamma^2 + \theta^2 + (\omega_p/\omega)^2)}$ is the TR from a **single interface**,
- $F_2 = 4 \sin^2(l_1/Z_1)$ is the interference of TR from the **two boundaries** of a foil,
- $F_3 = \sin^2(MX)/\sin^2(X)$ describes interference of TR from **M periods** of the multilayer structure,
- $Z_i = \frac{4 \beta c}{\omega (1/\gamma^2 + \theta^2 + (\omega_i/\omega)^2)}$, ($i = 1, 2$) are the **formation lengths** in the two media,
- $X = l_1/Z_1 + l_2/Z_2$ is the **phase** per period
- The resonance (spectral peak) condition $\rightarrow X = k \pi$, k - integer

Interference of TR in a periodic multilayer

with and without attenuation

- For a radiator with **M periods**, each period contributes an amplitude with a phase $X(E_\gamma, \theta)$
- The interference factor for an **ideal periodic structure (no attenuation)** is

$$F_3 = \left| 1 + e^{iX} + e^{2iX} + \dots e^{(M-1)iX} \right|^2 = \frac{\sin^2(M X)}{\sin^2(X)}$$

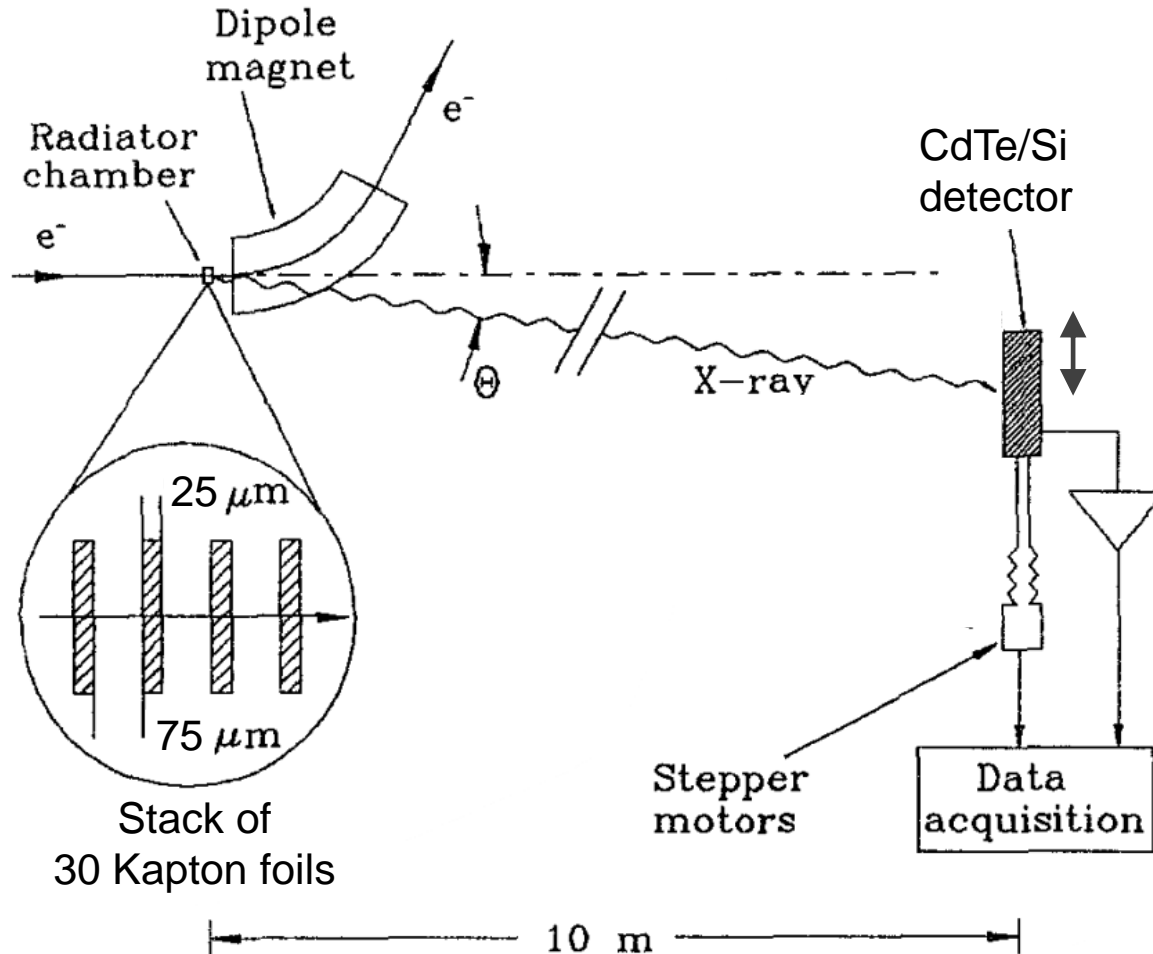
- At the **resonance condition** $X \approx k\pi$, the numerator scales as $\sim M^2$
- For our radiator with **$M = 30$** , **$E_\gamma \approx 27$ keV**, and observation angle $\theta \approx 1/\gamma$, the ideal interference factor at resonance is approximately **$F_3^{ideal} \approx M^2 \approx 900$**
- **Taking attenuation into account**, each period is suppressed by a factor $\exp(-\sigma)$

$$F_3 = \left| 1 + e^{-\sigma+iX} + e^{2(-\sigma+iX)} + \dots e^{(M-1)(-\sigma+iX)} \right|^2 = \frac{1 + e^{-\mu\sigma} - 2e^{(-\mu\sigma/2)} + \cos(M X)}{1 - e^{-\sigma} - 2e^{(-\sigma/2)} + \cos(X)}$$

where $\sigma = \mu l_1$ if gap is vacuum

Experimental setup at the Mainz Microtron MAMI

Kapton multilayer radiator and experimental support kindly provided by Werner Lauth (MAMI)



$$E_e = 855 \text{ MeV} \Rightarrow \gamma^{-1} \approx 1/1673 \approx 6 \cdot 10^{-4}$$

Radiator: periodic **Kapton** target

- Manufactured in 1994 (>30 years old)
- Kapton foil thickness (l_1): 25 μm
- Spacing between foils (l_2): 75 μm
- Number of periods **M**: 30

Detectors: **CdTe** and **Si**, window **D=3 mm** (?)

$$\text{Angular resolution: } \Delta\theta \approx \frac{3 \text{ mm}}{10 \text{ m}} \approx 3 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ rad} < \gamma^{-1}$$

$$\text{Observation angles: } \theta = (0.5 - 3) \gamma^{-1}$$

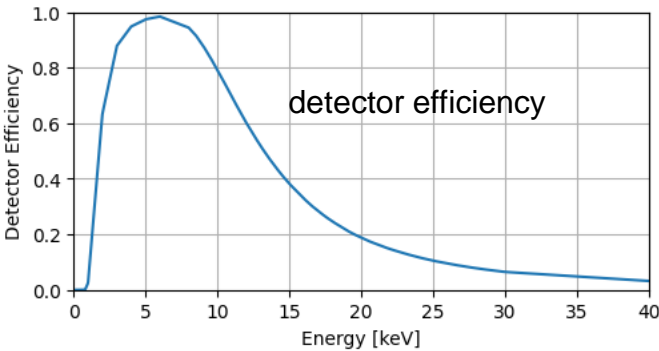
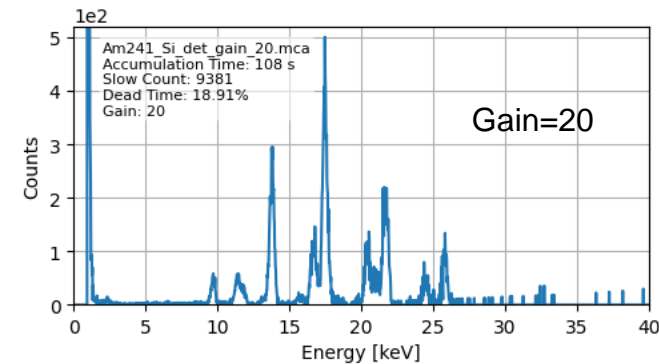
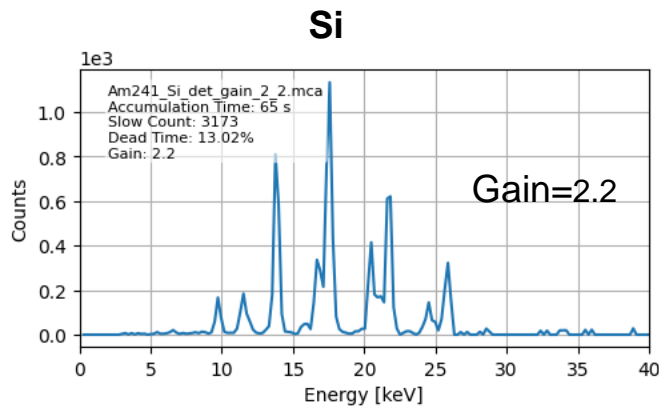
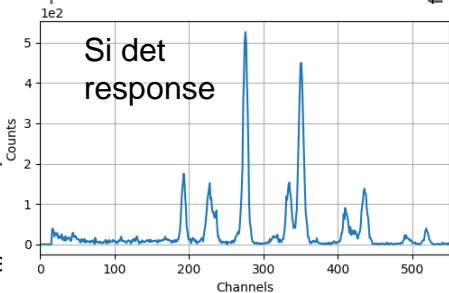
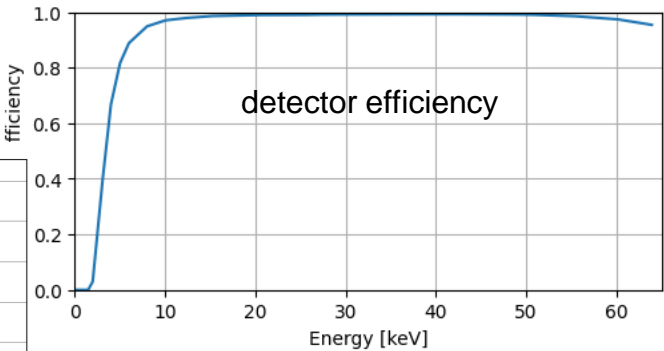
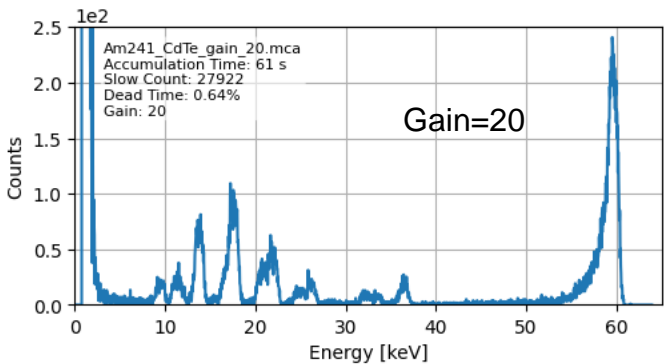
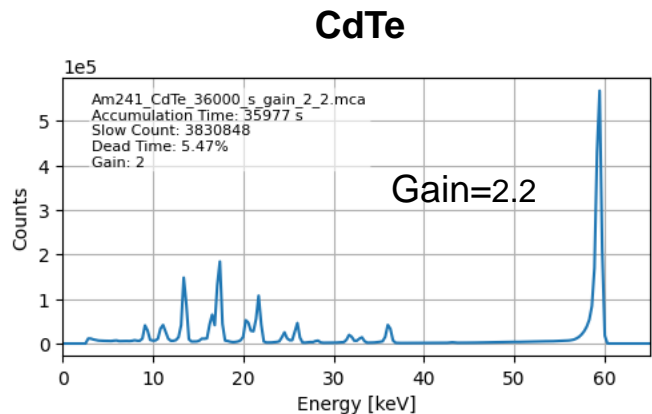
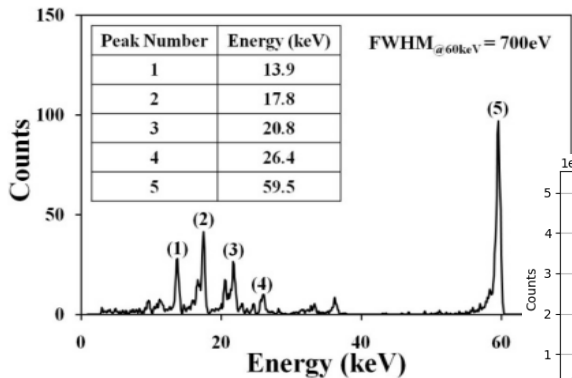
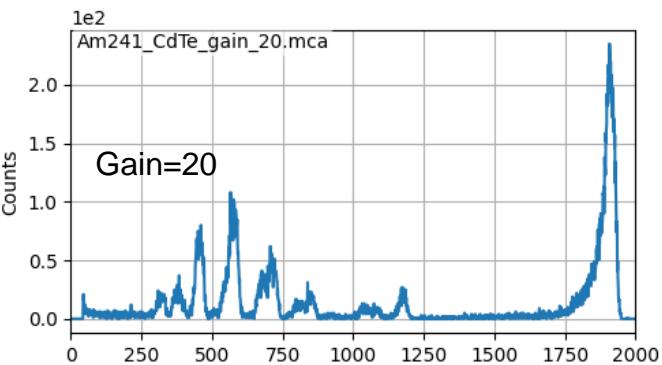
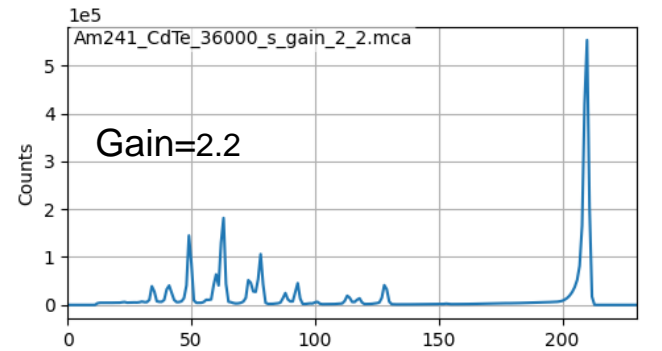
Experimental setup at MAMI. Layout adapted and slightly modified from

H. Backe, S. Gampert, A. Grendel, H.J. Hartmann, W. Lauth et al, *Resonant transition radiation in the X-Ray region from a low emittance 855-MeV electron beam*, Z. Phys **A349**, 87-92 (1994)

Detector calibrations

CdTe and Si detectors with different gains

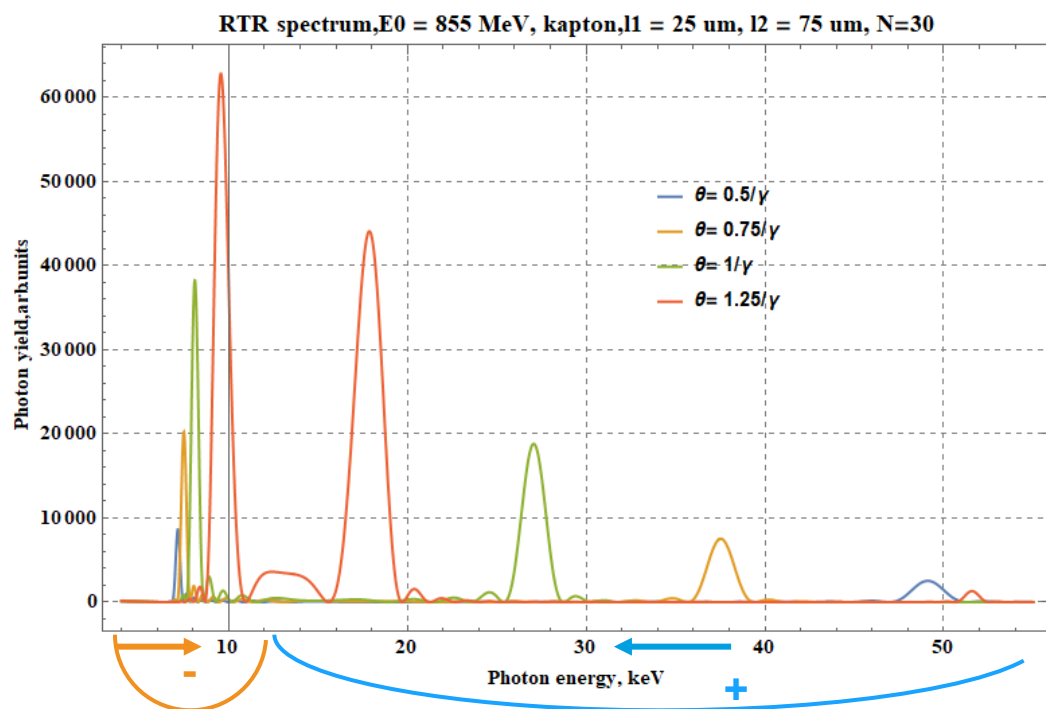
Calibrated



Calculated RTR spectra for this experiment

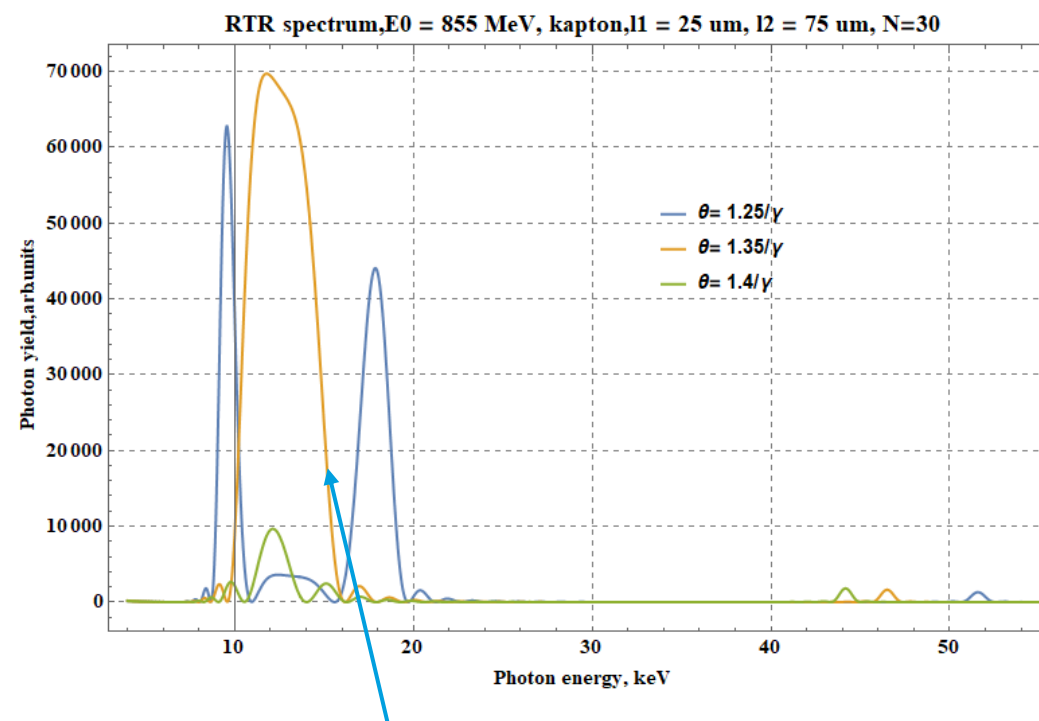
Ter-Mikaelian model, ideal periodic radiator

RTR spectra calculated for a Kapton radiator with
 $M=30$, $l_1=25\text{ }\mu\text{m}$, $l_2=75\text{ }\mu\text{m}$, $E_e=855\text{ MeV}$



RTR peaks with photon energies
<12 keV belong to the “-” T-M
solution

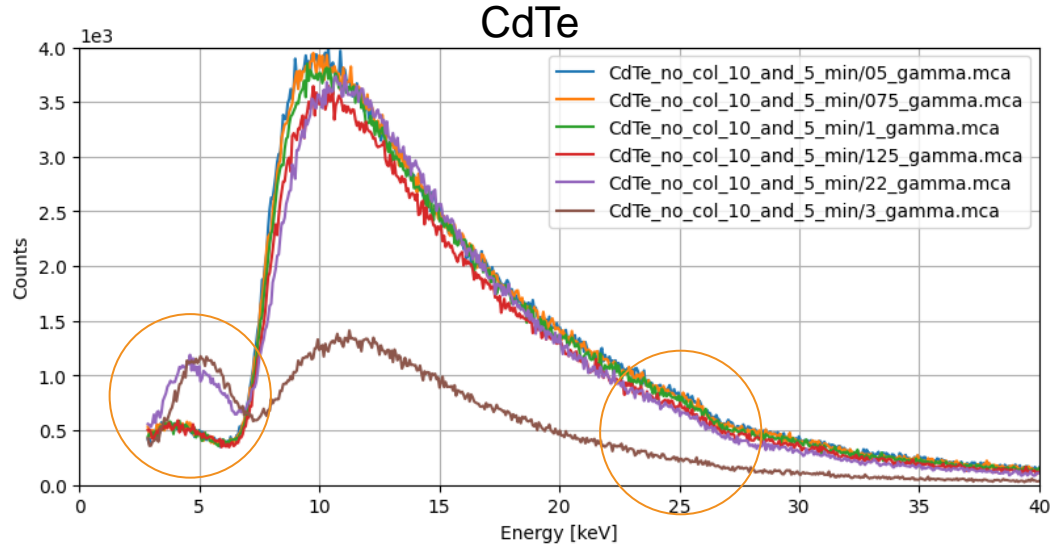
RTR peaks with photon energies
>12 keV belong to the “+” solution



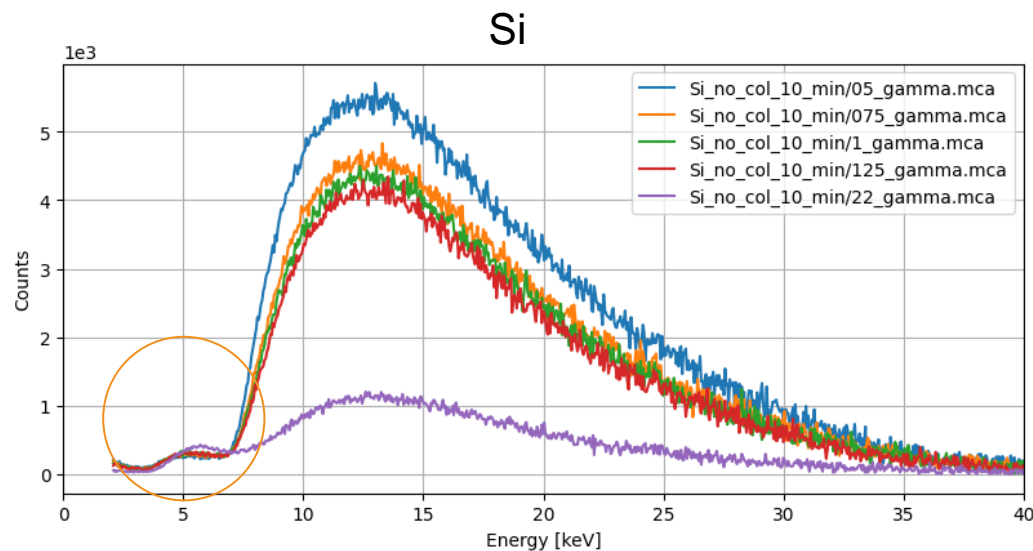
For observation angle $\theta \approx 1.35/\gamma$ the “+” and “-”
solutions **merge**, so they give a **single resonant peak**

Measured spectra by CdTe and Si detectors

detector efficiencies taken into account



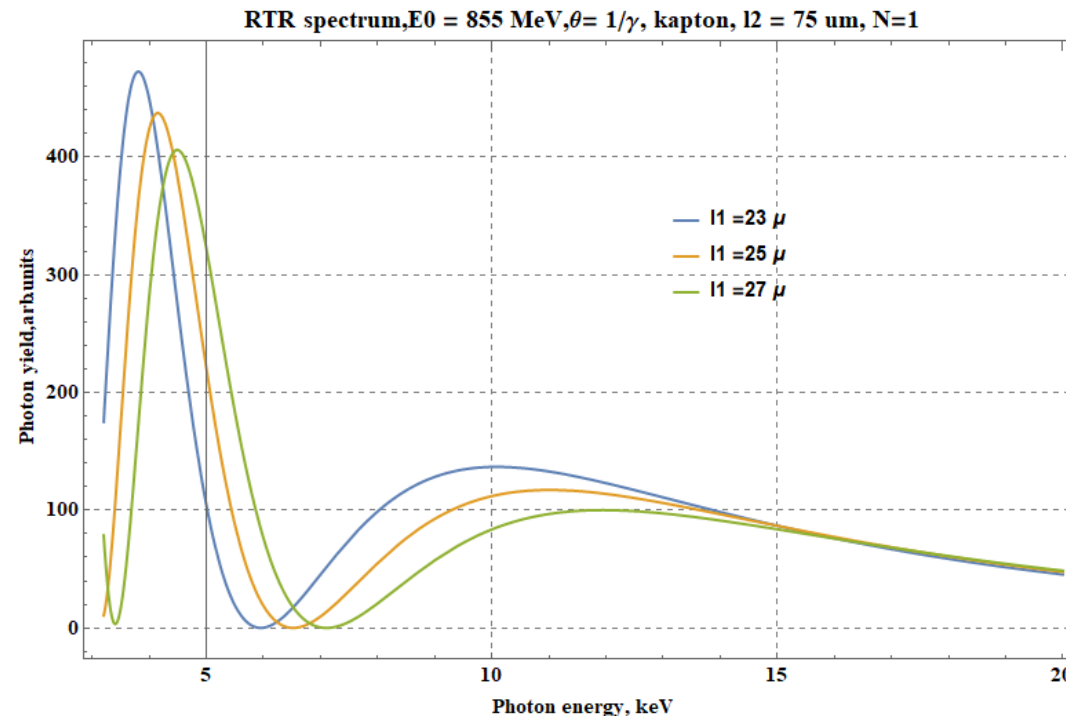
1. **Energy spectra measured** by CdTe and Si detectors for several observation angles between $0.5 \gamma^{-1}$ and $3.0 \gamma^{-1}$
2. **No sharp resonant peaks** are observed where the model predicts them
3. **Pronounced features** around **5** and **25 keV**
4. Broad high-energy tail similar to **bremsstrahlung**
5. All spectra are corrected for the energy-dependent detector efficiencies of CdTe and Si.



TR spectrum from a single Kapton foil

Calculation

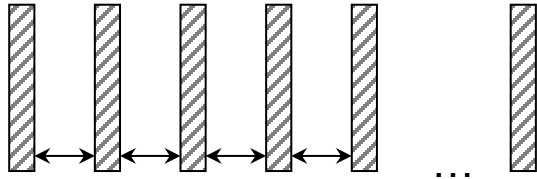
- Three foil thicknesses are compared: $l_1=23\text{ }\mu\text{m}$, $25\text{ }\mu\text{m}$, and $27\text{ }\mu\text{m}$.
- No narrow resonant peaks appear for a single foil.
- Strong, narrow RTR peaks must come from interference in a multilayer.
- **Hypothesis:** if the periodicity is degraded, the spectrum may become closer to this single-foil shape.



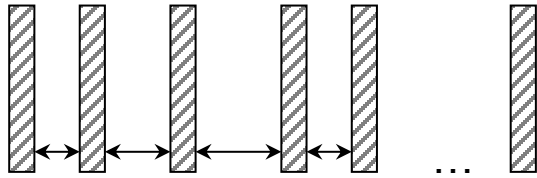
Why are the expected peaks missing?

Hypothesis of degraded periodicity

Ideal periodicity



Degraded periodicity



The 30 year old radiator had been used before and may have suffered:

- mechanical deformations,
- thermal cycling,
- partial damage or bending.



As a result, the radiator **may no longer be perfectly periodic.**



Instead of a **single phase** $X(E_\gamma, \theta)$ per period, we have **period-dependent phases**:

$$X_k = X_0(E_\gamma, \theta)(1 + v_k),$$

where v_k are random fluctuations in interval $-d \leq v_k \leq +d$.

$$F_3 = \left| 1 + e^{-\sigma + iX} + e^{2(-\sigma + iX)} + \dots + e^{(M-1)(-\sigma + iX)} \right|^2$$

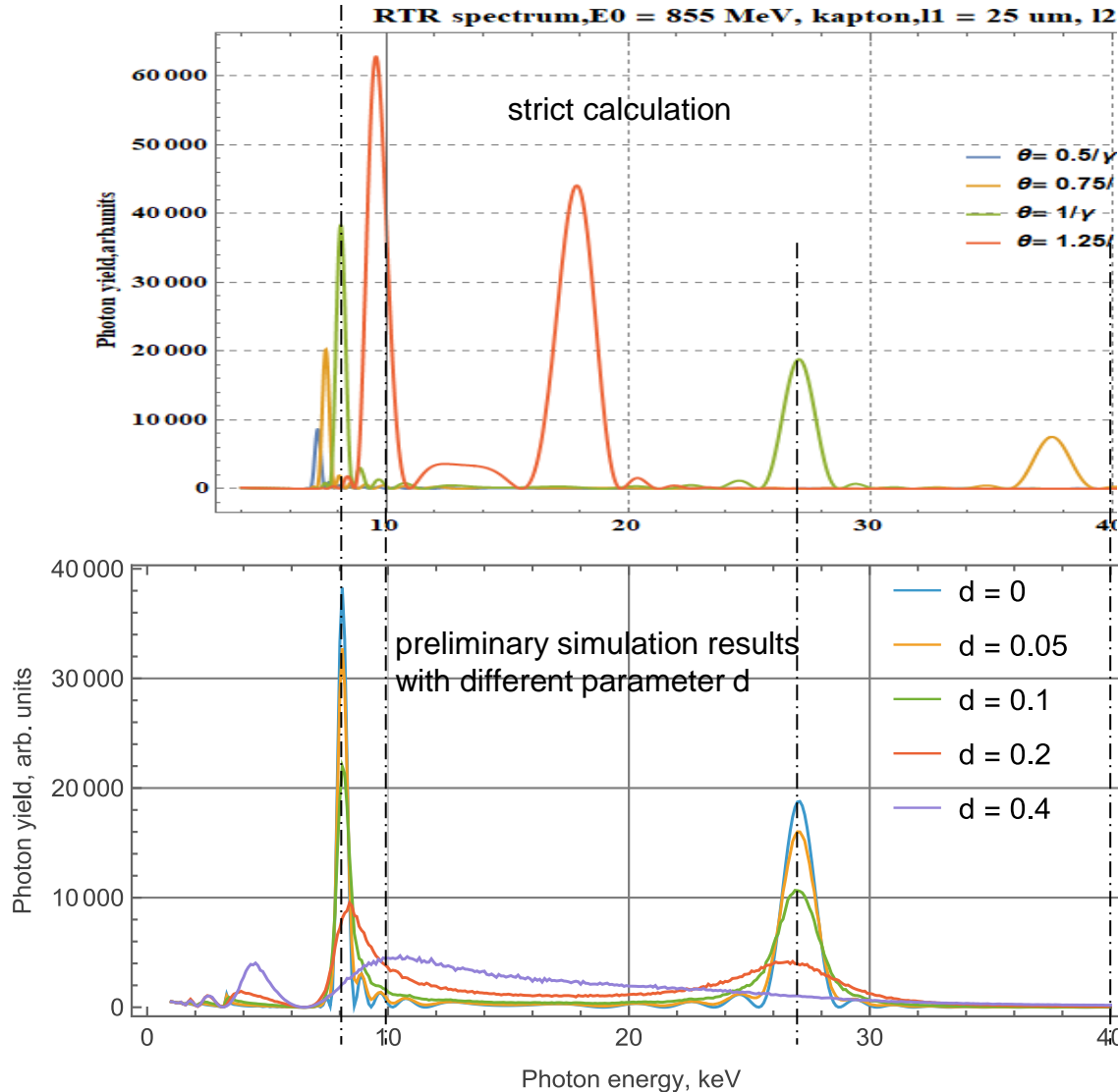


$$F_{rand}(d) = \left| 1 + e^{-\sigma + iX_1} + e^{2(-\sigma + iX_2)} + \dots + e^{(M-1)(-\sigma + iX_k)} \right|^2$$

Even relatively small fluctuations of the phases X_k **can destroy the coherent M^2 enhancement** and turn a sharp peaks into a **broad spectrum**.

Random-phase interference factor (preliminary sim results)

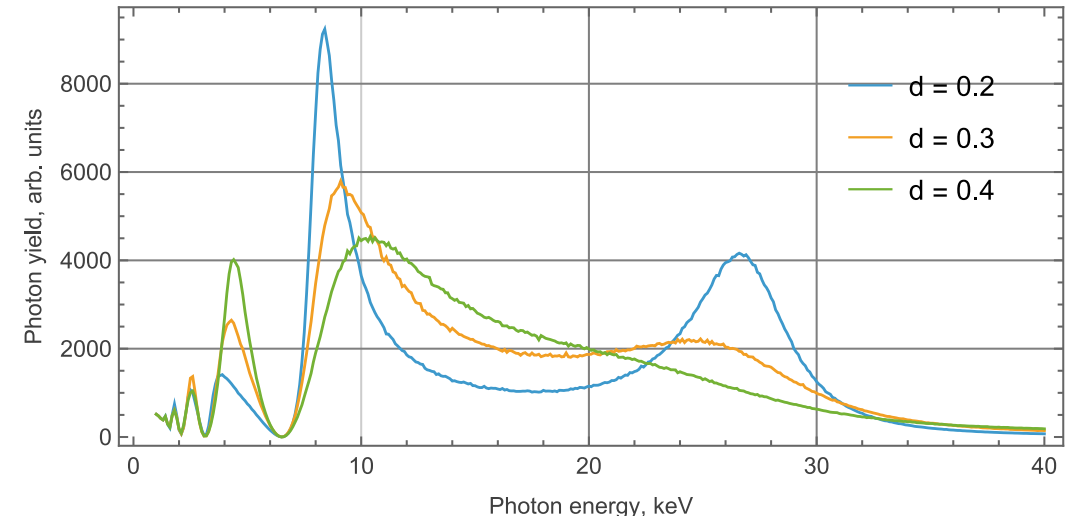
Simulation results for $M=30$, $\theta = 1/\gamma$, and different degradation parameters d vs calculation



- **Random-phase factor** $F_{rand}(E_\gamma, d)$ was simulated for $M=30$ and $\theta = 1/\gamma$
- In the RTR spectrum, the strict periodic factor $F_3(E_\gamma)$ was **replaced** by the random-phase factor $F_{rand}(E_\gamma, d)$.
- For each degradation parameter d , the photon spectrum was calculated as

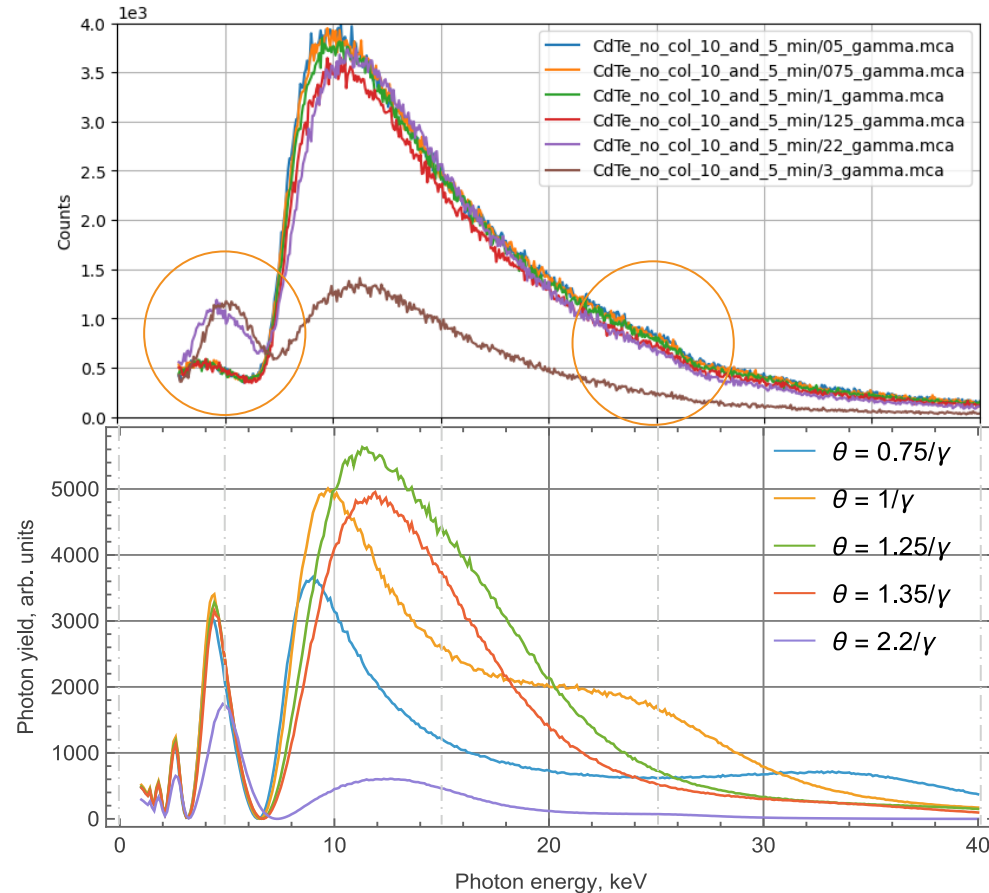
$$\frac{dN_{rand}}{dE_\gamma}(E_\gamma, d) = N_{TR}^{(1)}(E_\gamma, \theta) F_2(E_\gamma) F_{rand}(E_\gamma, d).$$

- For $d=0.05$, the resonant peaks are only slightly reduced compared to the ideal $F_{3N}(E_\gamma) = F_{rand}(E_\gamma, d = 0)$
- For $d=0.4$, the resonant structures are disappeared, the spectrum becomes broad and smooth very similar to the measured spectra



Simulated spectra with degraded target vs experiment

degradation parameter $d=0.35$

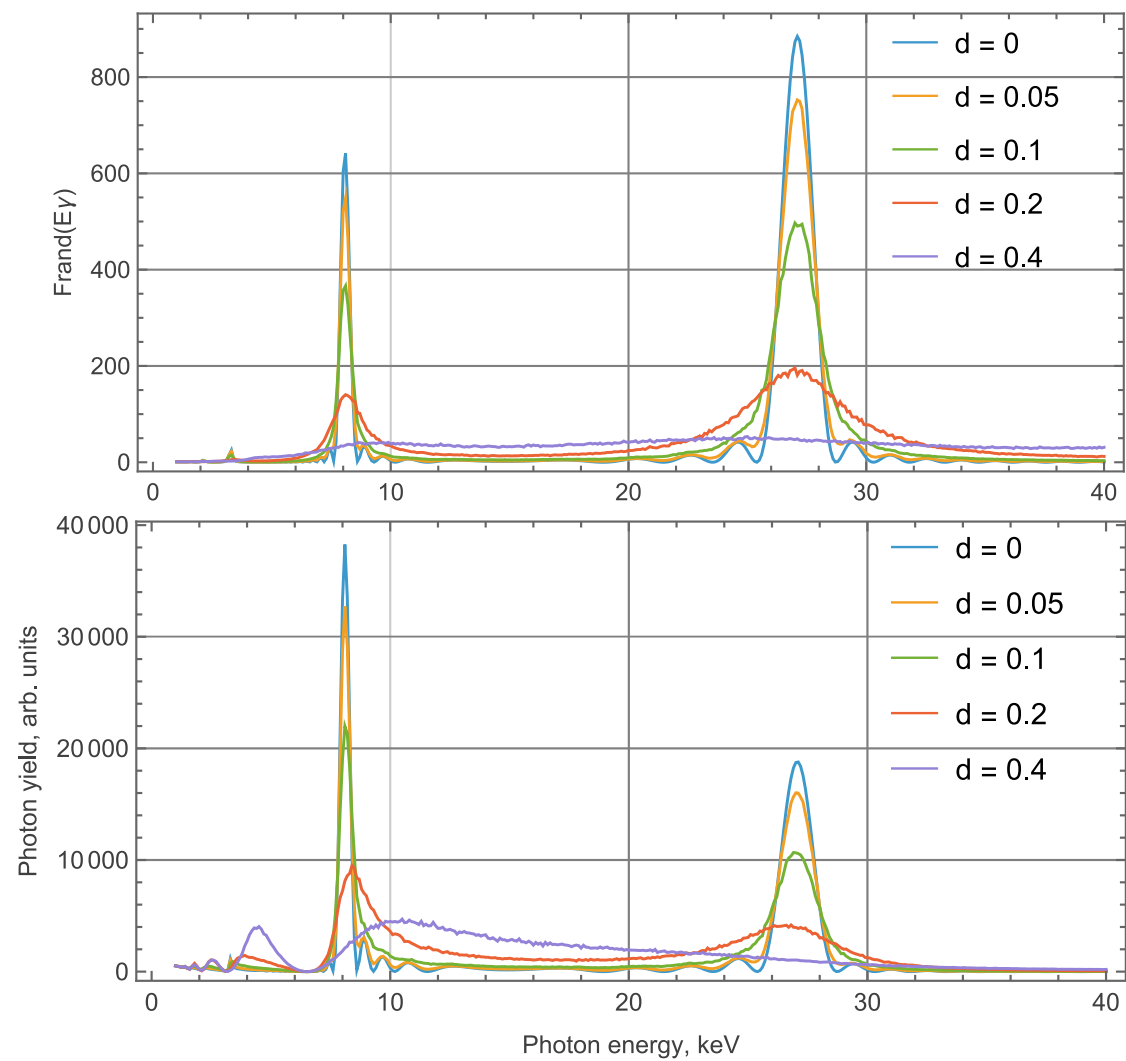


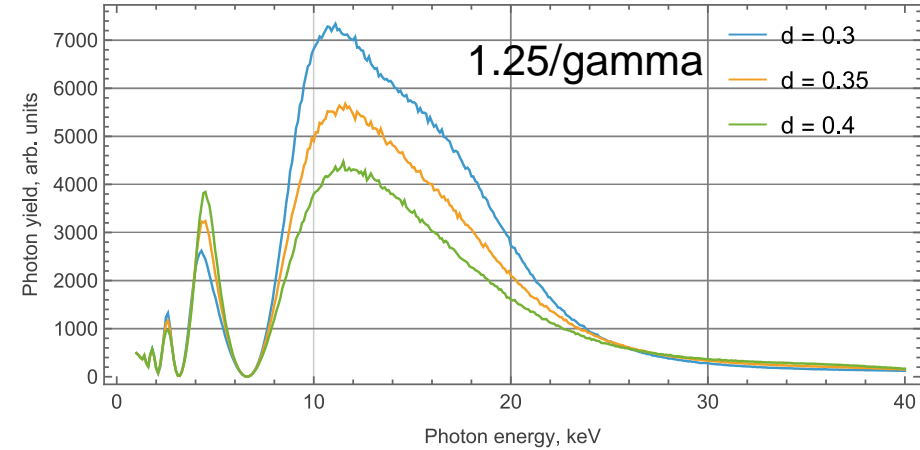
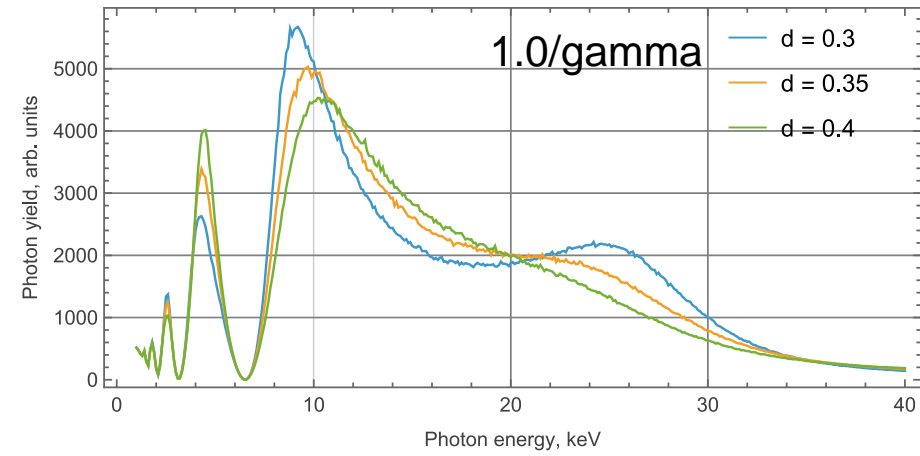
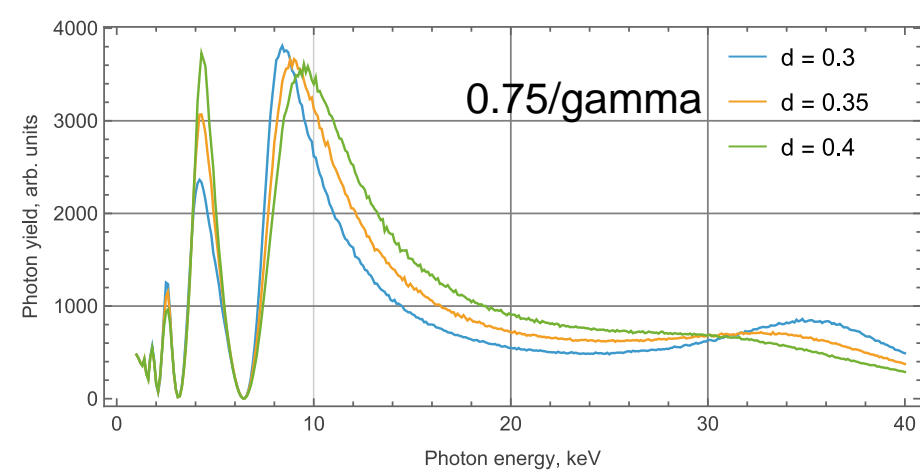
- **Preliminary, the simulation results with target degradation ($d=0.35$) qualitatively agrees** with our measured spectra: no sharp peaks, similar features at 5 and 25 keV.
- This may suggest that the actual Kapton radiator was degraded and far from an ideal periodic structure.

Conclusion

1. We performed a **search for RTR** from a periodic Kapton radiator with $M=30$ periods at MAMI (855 MeV).
2. The experimental photon spectra show **no sharp resonant peaks** in the expected energy range but they clearly exhibit the **TR peak from a single foil**.
3. Using a **random-phase interference simulation** we found that:
 - phase fluctuations between periods with degradation parameter **d** **destroy the M^2 resonance**,
 - for degradation parameter $d \approx 0.35$, the **simulated spectra qualitatively agree with the measured spectra**,
 - this may imply a **significant degradation of the radiator periodicity**.
4. Our model provides the RTR spectrum simulation with taking into account an empirical degradation parameter **d** and can be used to describe future measurements with multilayer radiators.

Thank you





Measured spectra from CdTe and Si detectors

detector efficiencies taken into account

