



Renewal of efficiency calibrations in STUK



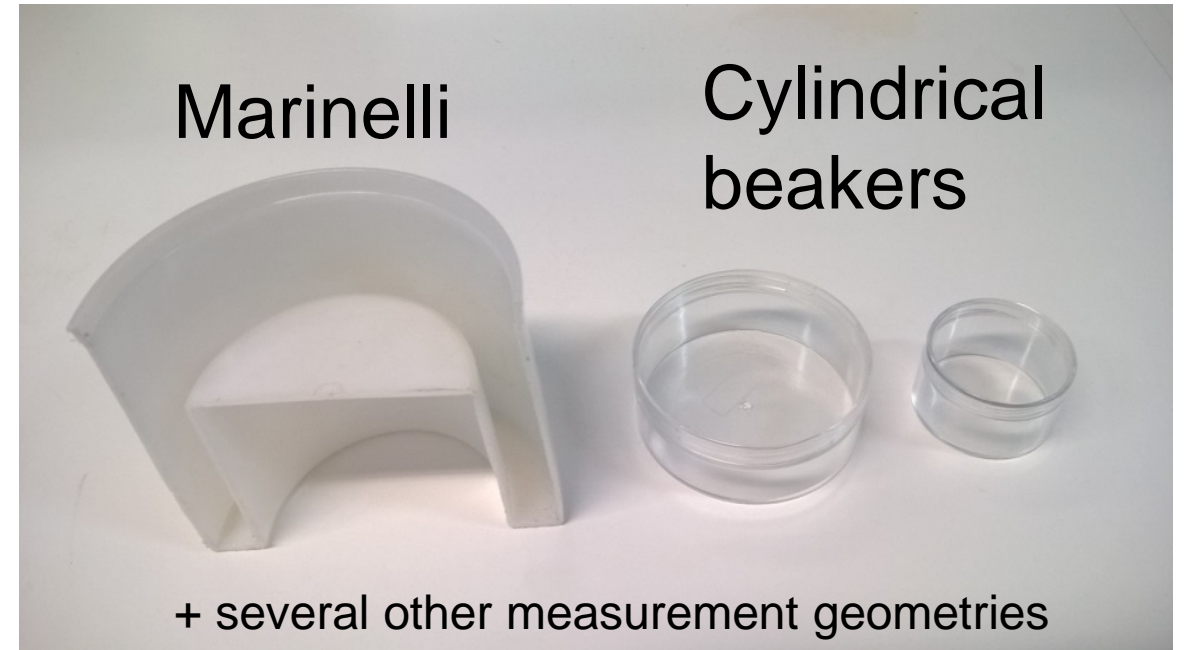
NKS – GammaRay X Webinar, 20-21.10.2021

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Environmental Radiation Surveillance

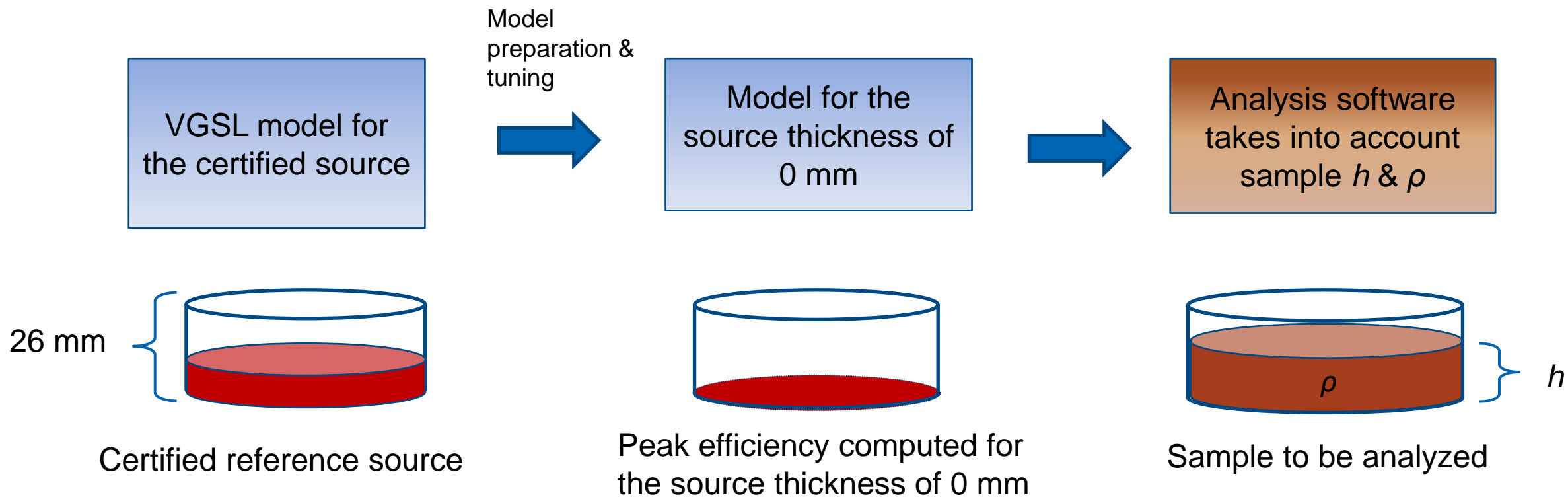
1. Status now

16 HPGe spectrometers in the lab



STUK normally analyses different environmental samples

How current efficiency calibrations have been done



$$A = \frac{N}{t \cdot I \cdot \epsilon} \cdot C$$

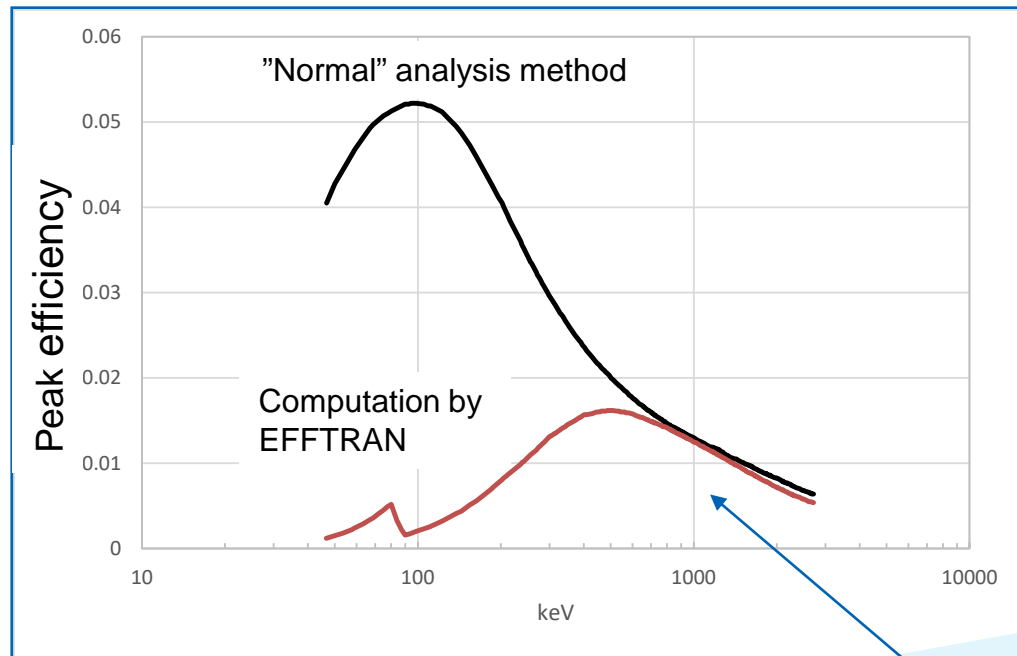
An arrow points from the Greek letter ϵ in the denominator to the text "Peak efficiency computed for the source thickness of 0 mm" located above the diagram.

Why renewal is necessary?

- A. Present calibrations were done by using too complex way.
- B. Present calibrations (especially their uncertainties) are not traceable enough.
- C. Uncertainties associated with the samples to be measured are incorporated in the uncertainties of the efficiency calibration. This is wrong in principle!
- D. At present, the number of calibrations is far too high (~ 100) in order to upkeep them adequately.
- E. Elemental composition is not accounted for. Important at low energies (< 100 keV).
- F. High active samples cannot be measured by using close geometries \rightarrow a new calibration is needed if distant geometry is used e.g. during a nuclear incident.
- G. Present calibrations are fixed to existing measurement geometries.

An extreme example of the effect of elemental composition (item E in the previous slide) and density

Last year we received a gold sand sample ($\rho = 7.4$; 95% Au, 5 % Ag).

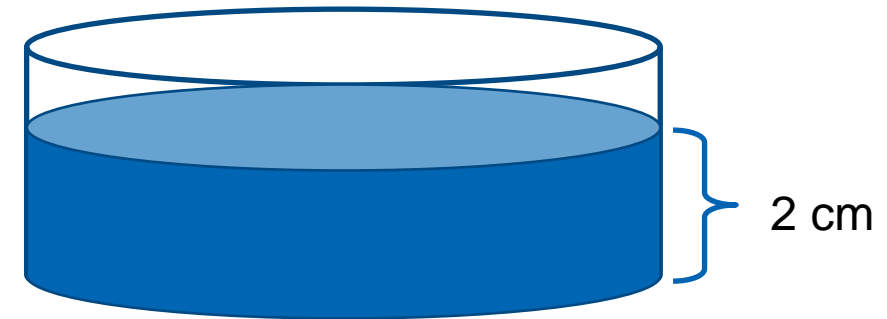


Results equals when $E > 700$ keV



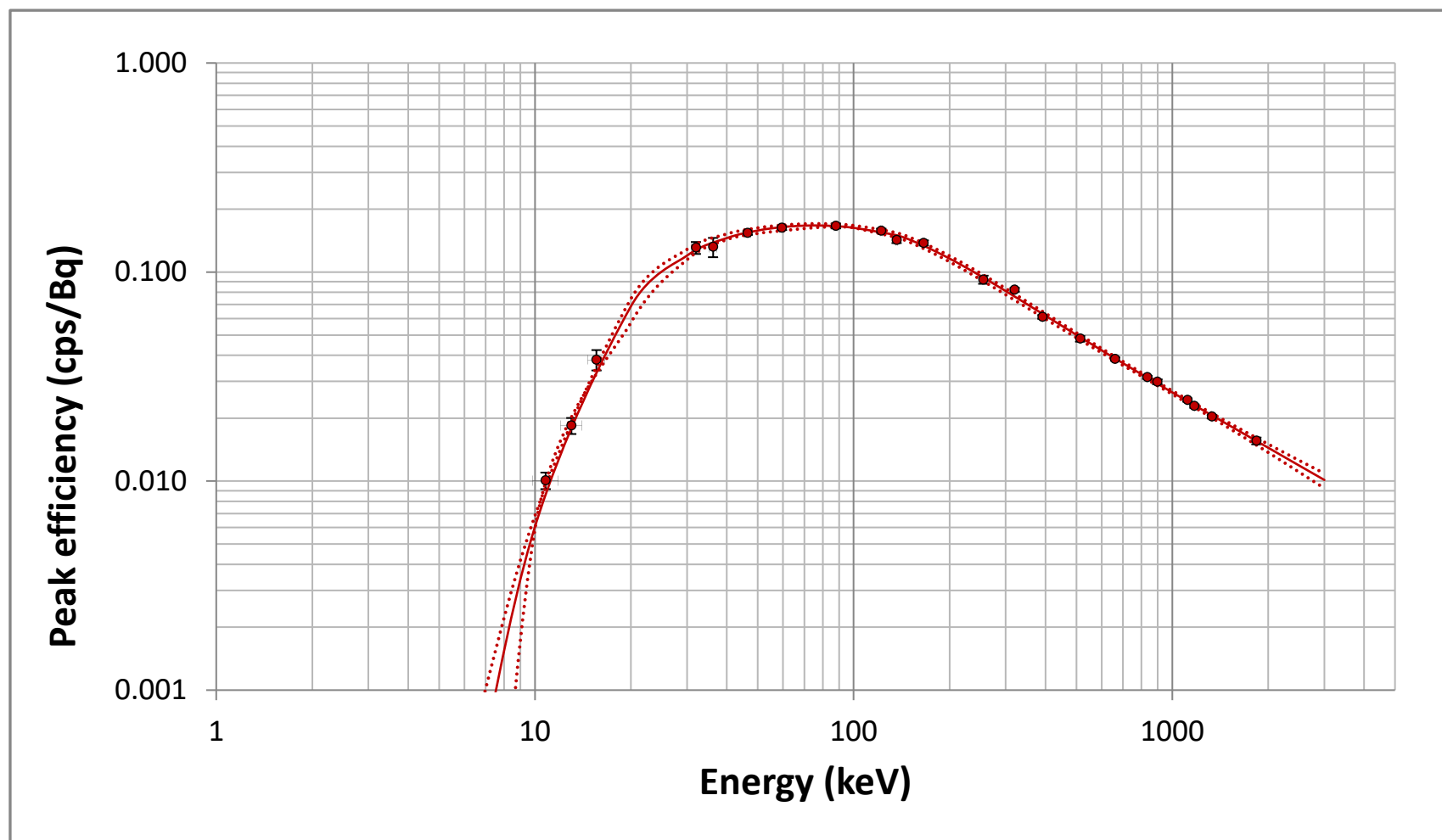
2. Novel procedure to determine and apply peak efficiency

1. Certified liquid containing a set of radionuclides was purchased from NPL.
2. A 2 cm thick calibration sample was prepared (in addition to samples used for the verification of the calibration).
3. Peak efficiencies were determined for all gamma-ray detectors by using the calibration source.
4. The efficiencies were verified using a set of other sources.
5. In the case of other certified reference sources and real samples the efficiencies were computed by EFFTRAN.



MEFFTRAN was used in the case of Marinelli beakers

Peak efficiency with respective uncertainties from one of STUK's BeGe detectors



- 2 MSc theses were done to verify the method and its applications.
- Several different measurement geometries were used for the verification.

In this case EFFTRAN was applied for transferring the peak efficiencies from the 2 cm thick calibration source to a filter with certified activity values.

ε-KALIBR. TESTING USING THE REF.SOURCE W0-2016							
	Energy (keV)	Ref.value (Bq)	Ref.uncert. (unc, Bq)	Meas.value (Bq)	Meas.Unc. (unc, Bq)	Difference (%)	u-test must be <1.64
Pb-210	46.5	183.8	3.8	182.6372	6.92	-0.63 %	0.147
Am-241	59.5	250.8	4	241.697	8.97	-3.63 %	0.927
Cd-109	88.0	1393	53	1385.934	64.45	-0.51 %	0.085
Co-57	122.1	52.63	0.91	53.479	1.68	1.61 %	0.445
Co-57	136.4	52.63	0.91	47.668	2.50	-9.43 %	1.867
Ce-139	165.9	65.5	1.5	69.050	4.47	5.42 %	0.752
Sn-113EC	255.2	166	2.9	184.133	12.78	10.92 %	1.384
Cr-51	320.1	1057	18	1072.345	39.89	1.45 %	0.351
Sn-113IT	391.7	166	2.9	169.344	5.93	2.01 %	0.507
Sr-85	514.0	204.4	3.5	211.613	17.37	3.53 %	0.407
Cs-137	661.7	279.8	4.8	281.821	7.78	0.72 %	0.221
Mn-54	834.8	257.8	3.2	267.727	7.34	3.85 %	1.240
Y-88	898.0	247.5	3.1	263.795	18.41	6.58 %	0.873
Zn-65	1115.5	536.7	9.2	536.185	32.81	-0.10 %	0.015
Co-60	1173.2	299.2	5.2	312.750	13.04	4.53 %	0.965
Co-60	1332.5	299.2	5.2	310.374	13.32	3.73 %	0.782
Y-88	1836.1	247.5	3.1	268.939	22.75	8.66 %	0.934

3. Summary and forthcoming tasks

- EFFTRAN-based method was introduced to develop and maintain quality of the measurements.
- The method is fully traceable and flexible, and gives results that are comparable to those of the current method (when energies > 46.5 keV)
- Uncertainties are taken into account in the calibration. Full uncertainty budget accounts for the samples to be measured.
- The method will be accounted for in the accreditation (2022).