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[Hope College Ion Beam Analysis Laboratory](#)

Ohio University

[John E. Edwards Accelerator Laboratory](#)

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[Cyclotron Institute](#)

TUNL

[Triangle Universities Nuclear Laboratory](#)

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[Radiation Laboratory](#)

University of Kentucky

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University of Notre Dame, [ISNAP, Institute for Structure and Nuclear](#)

[Astrophysics](#)

University of Washington [CENPA Center for Experimental Nuclear](#)

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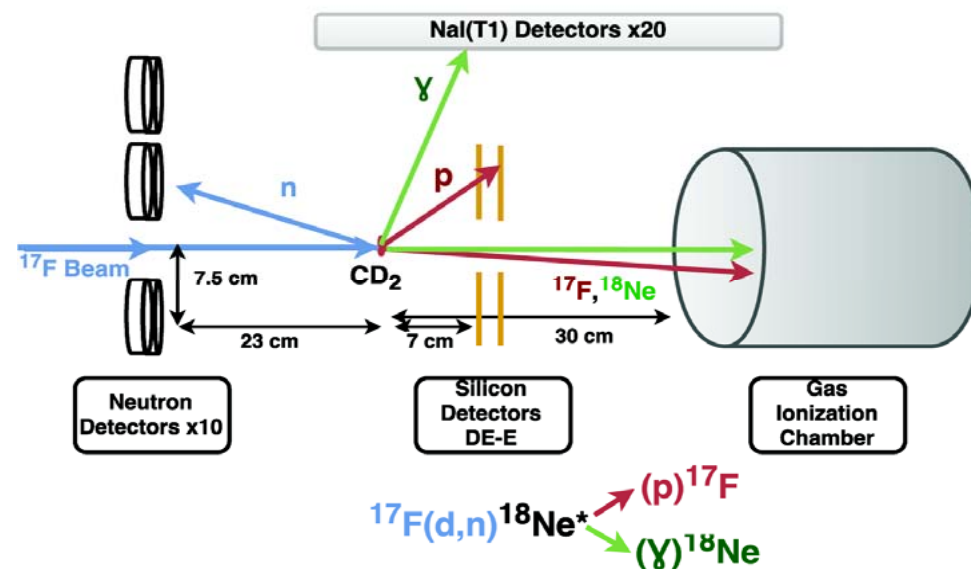
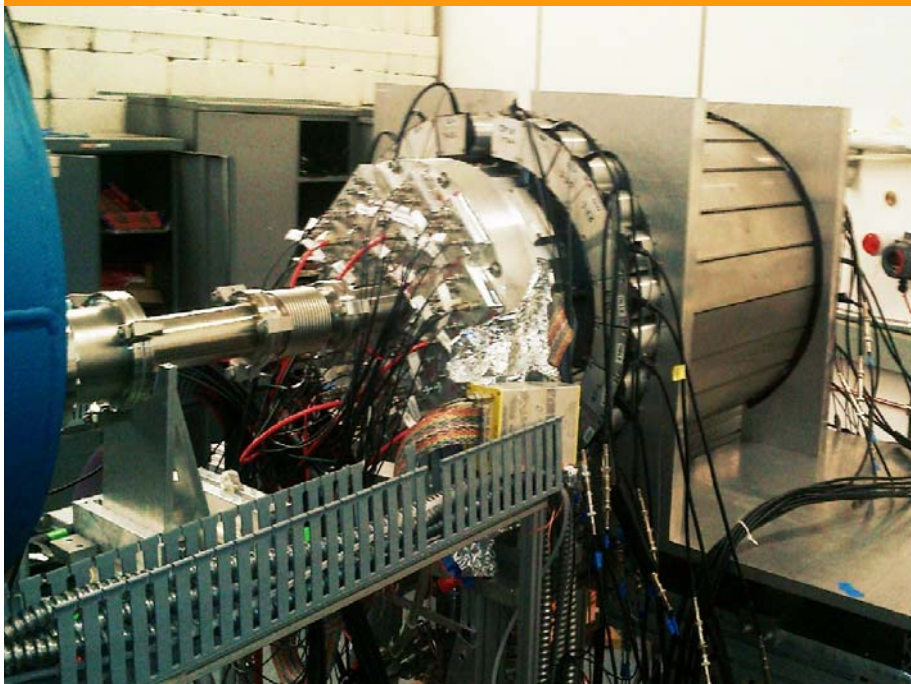
## Research directions

- Nuclear Astrophysics
- Nuclear Structure Physics
- Nuclear Reactions
- Fundamental Symmetries
- QCD
- Nuclear Physics Applications
- Surface Science



# Florida State University

## Resonance spectroscopy with RIB for Nuclear Astro



- RIB  $\sim 5$  MeV/u from RESOLUT facility  
e.g.  $^{17}\text{F}$ ,  $^{19}\text{F}$ ,  $^{25}\text{Al}$
- resonances decay by **p-emission**
- New: coincident **neutron** and  **$\gamma$ -detection**
- Narrow HI recoil cone, detected in IC in coinc.



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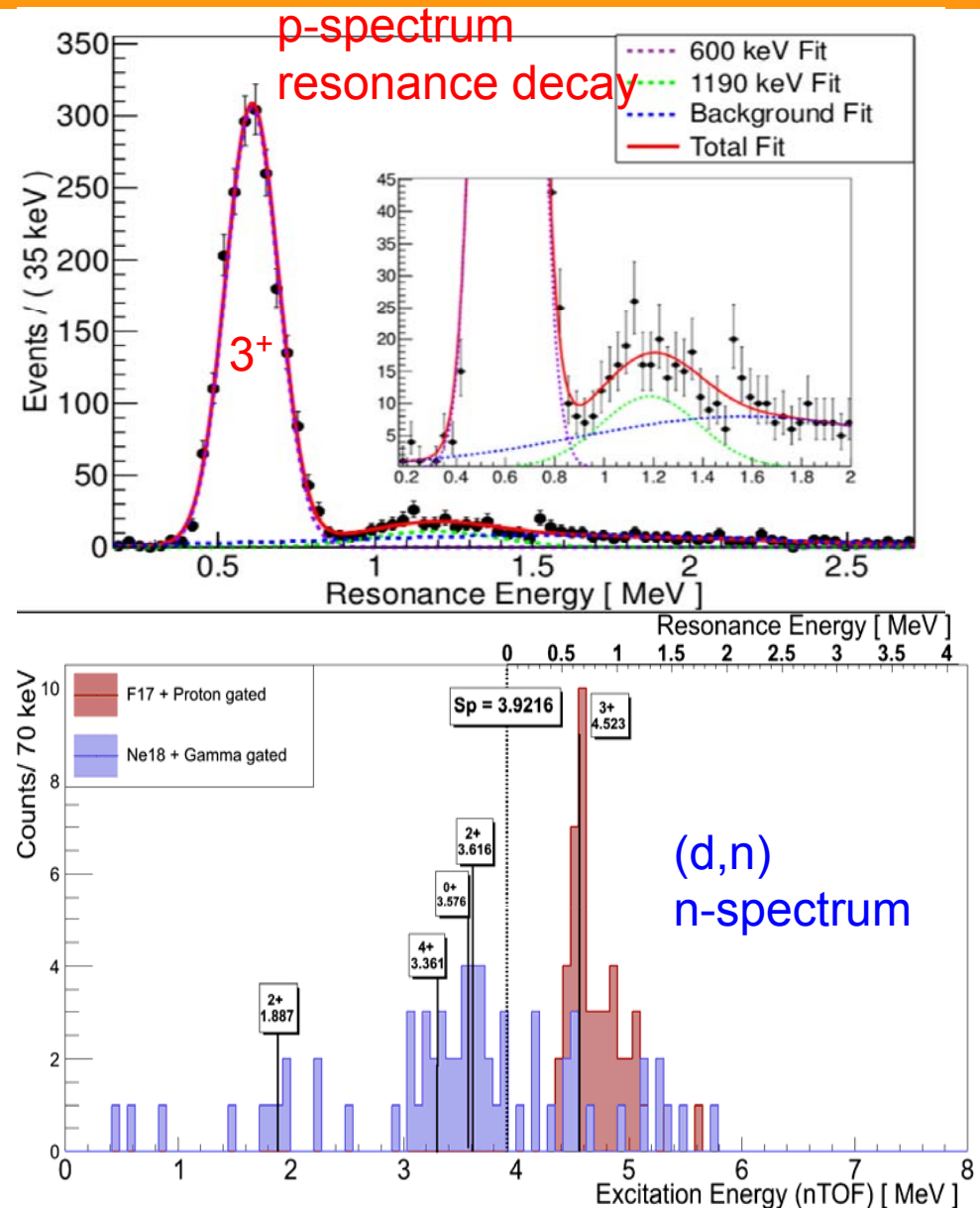
Radioactive  $^{17}\text{F}$  beam from  
RESOLUT at 5.6 MeV/u

Neutron time-of-flight spectrum  
from  $^{17}\text{F}(d,n)$   
in inverse kinematics

$^{18}\text{Ne}$   $3^+$  resonance parameters  
consistent with HRIBF  
 $^{17}\text{F}(p,\gamma)^{18}\text{Ne}$  (Chipps et al.)

Measure  $l=0$  transfer to  
highest  $^{18}\text{Ne}$   
bound states:  $0^+$ ,  $2^+$

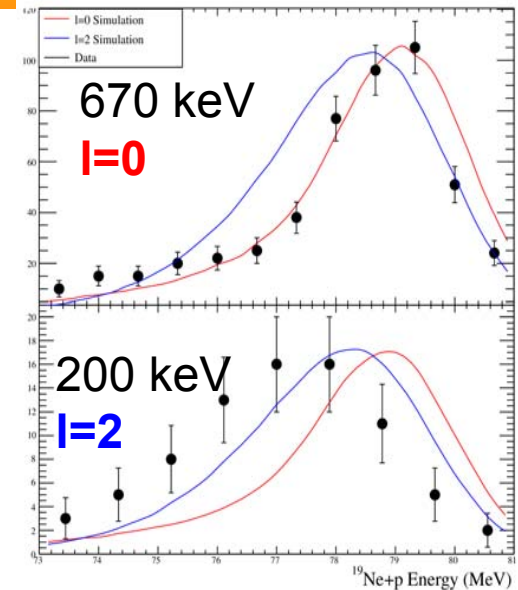
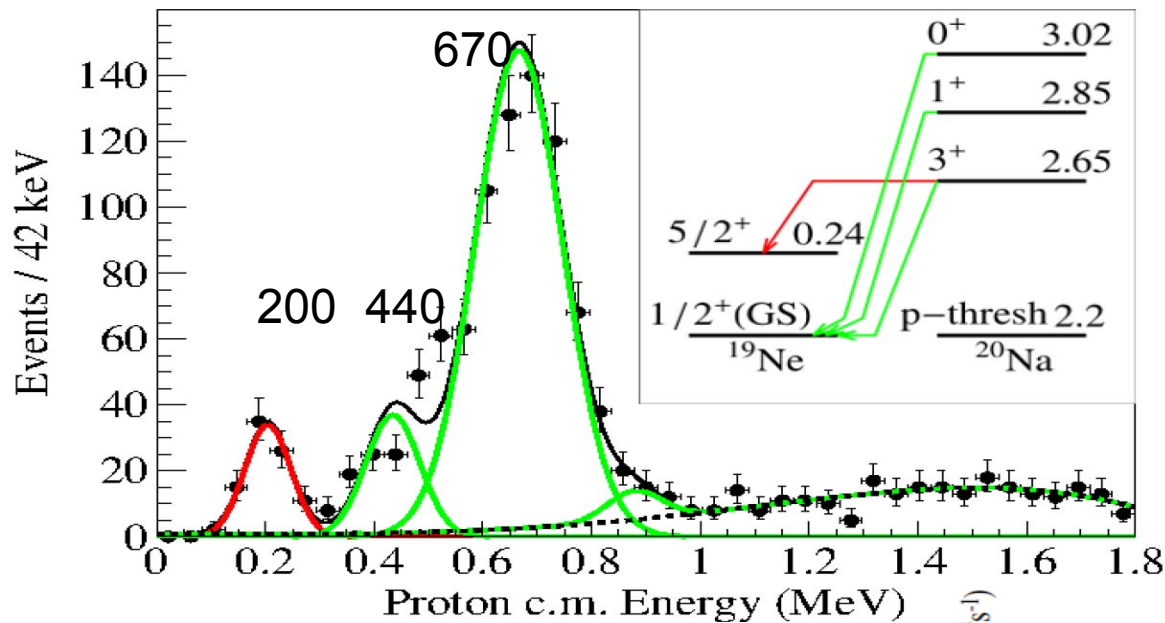
Determine “direct capture”  
rate  $^{17}\text{F}(p,\gamma)^{18}\text{Ne}$   
from asympt. norm. coeff.



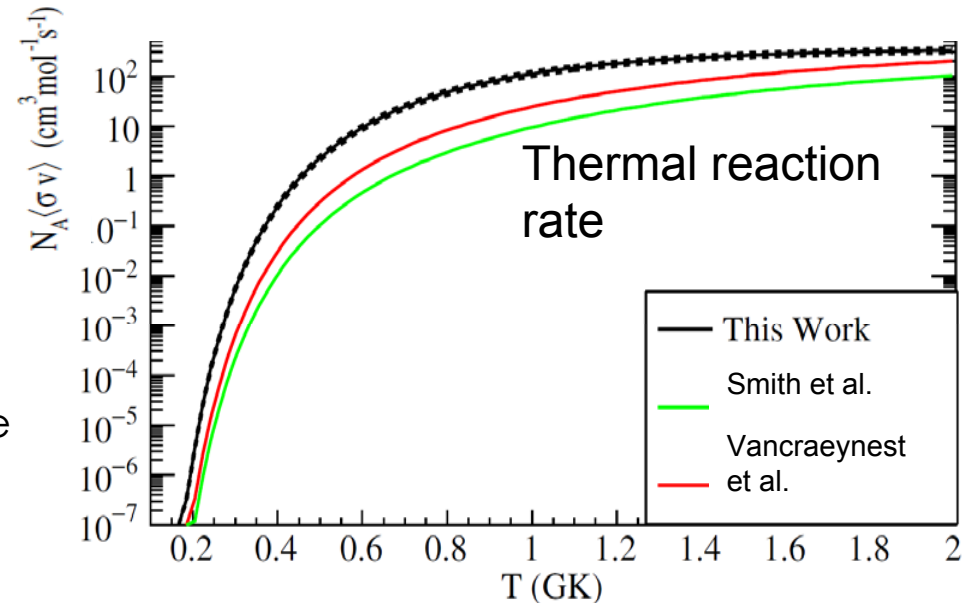


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J. Belarge *et al.*:  $^{19}\text{Ne}(d,n)^{20}\text{Na}$  (p)  $^{19}\text{Ne}$



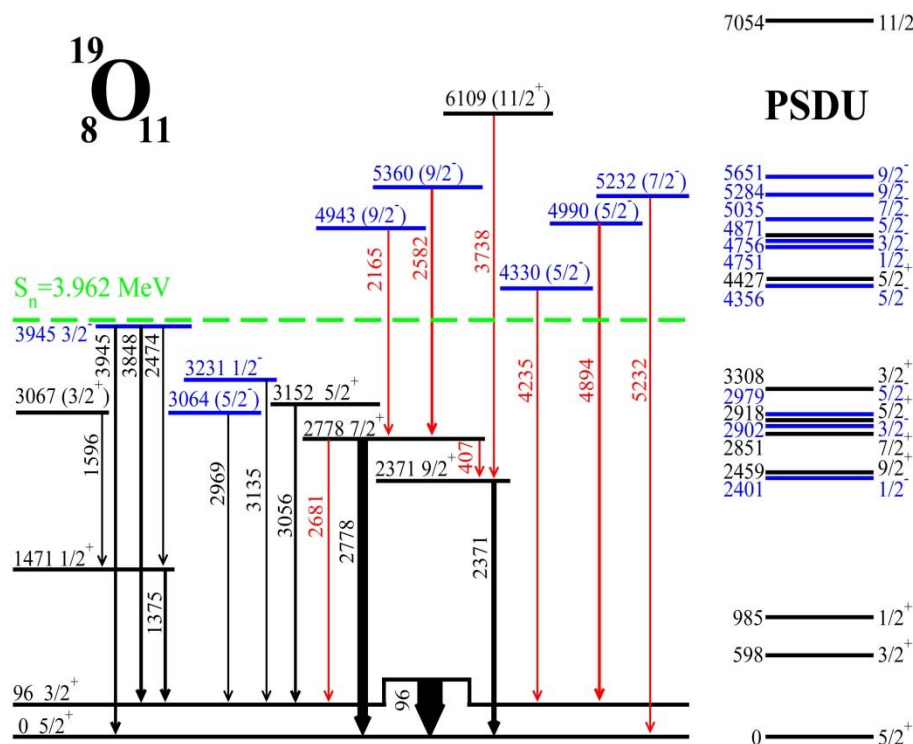
Radioactive  $^{19}\text{Ne}$  beam from RESOLUT  
Reconstruct **p-resonance spectrum**,  
(d,n) angular distribution  
440, 670 keV resonances known,  
**additional 200 keV** peak is  
“inelastic” **I=0** proton-emission  
from 440 keV resonance to excited state  
populated through **I=2**  
Effective capture in  $^{19}\text{Ne}(p,\gamma)^{20}\text{Na}$ ,  
**no bottleneck** in hot-CNO breakout



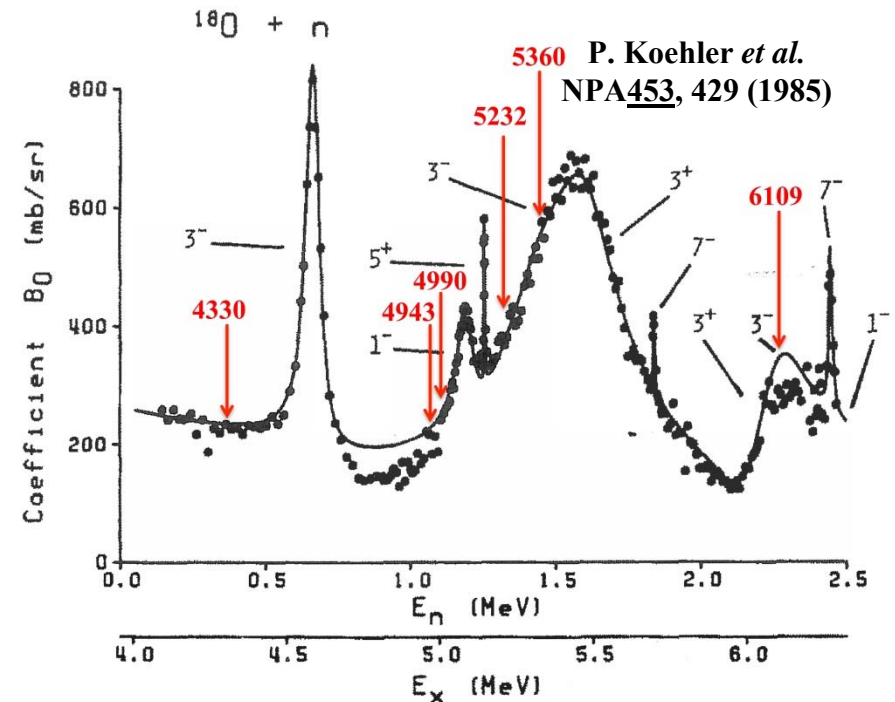




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These states are interspersed among  $n$  decaying states as shown by the red arrows in the  $n$  resonance curve shown below. Lower  $n$  penetrability from the somewhat higher spins of the  $\gamma$ -decaying states is not enough to explain how eV E-M widths can compete with normally keV  $n$ -decay widths. The former have more complex intruder configurations leading to very small overlap with  $^{18}\text{O} + n$ .



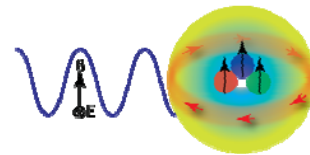
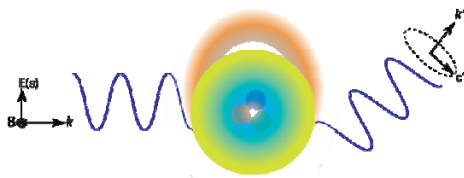
FSU grad student  
Rutger Dungan  
discovered 6  $\gamma$ -  
decaying states which  
are unbound to  
neutron decay  
in  $^{19}\text{O}$  from the  
 $^9\text{Be}(^{14}\text{C}, \alpha n)$  reaction.



# Triangle University National Laboratory

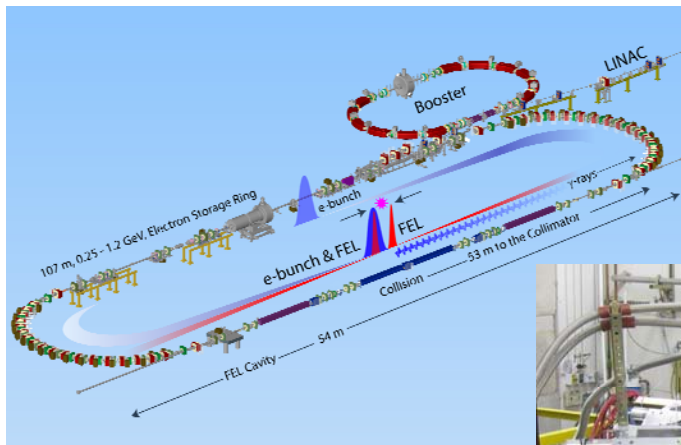
Compton Scattering: A Low-Energy QCD Program at the High Intensity Gamma-Ray Source (HIGS)

Measurement of polarizabilities via Compton Scattering provides stringent test of calculations that link the effective low-energy description of nucleons to QCD, and Lattice QCD predictions. At HIGS, we are measuring proton and neutron polarizabilities at unprecedented accuracies.



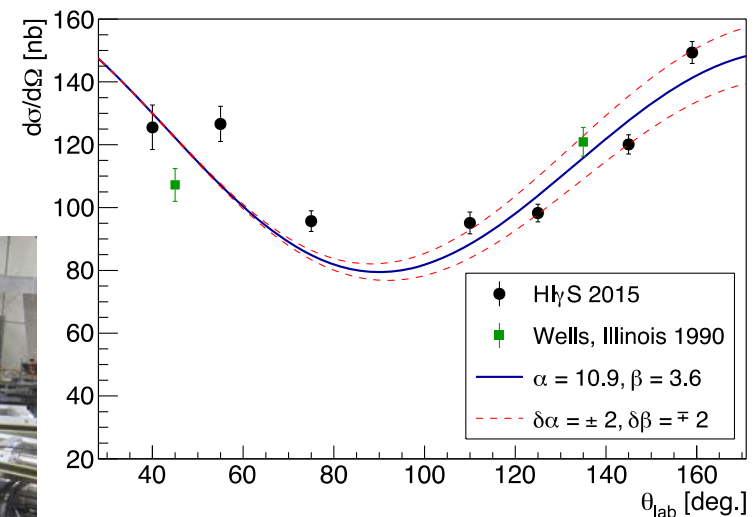
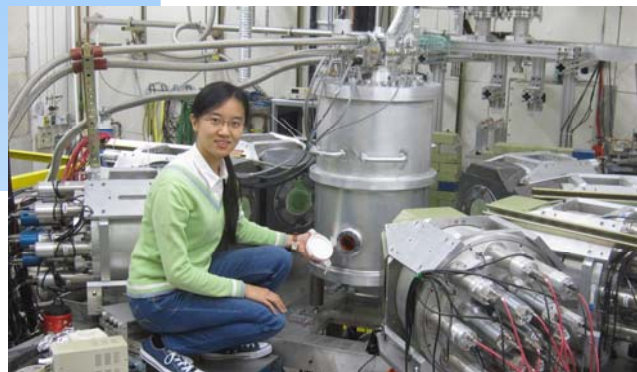
$$\vec{m} = 4\pi\beta_{M1}(\omega)\vec{B}(\omega)$$

The EM self-energy of the nucleon can be related to the measured elastic/inelastic cross sections; Largest source of uncertainty is from  $\beta_p - \beta_n$  (where uncertainty from neutron dominates)



HIGS schematic

TUNL grad student Xiaqing Li with the HIGS NaI array and cryogenic target



$^4\text{He}$  Compton scattering cross section at 65 MeV. Data have been collected on Deuterium as well

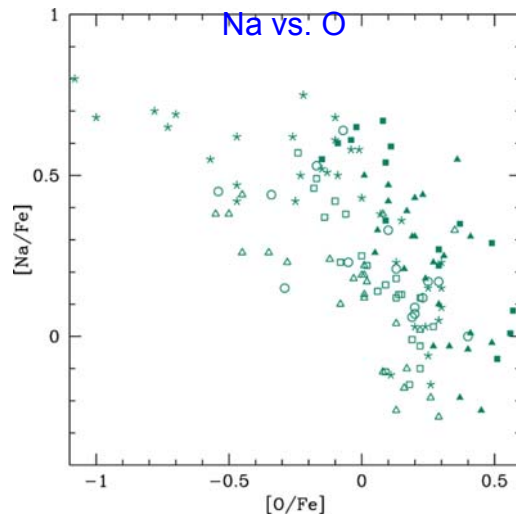


# Triangle University National Laboratory

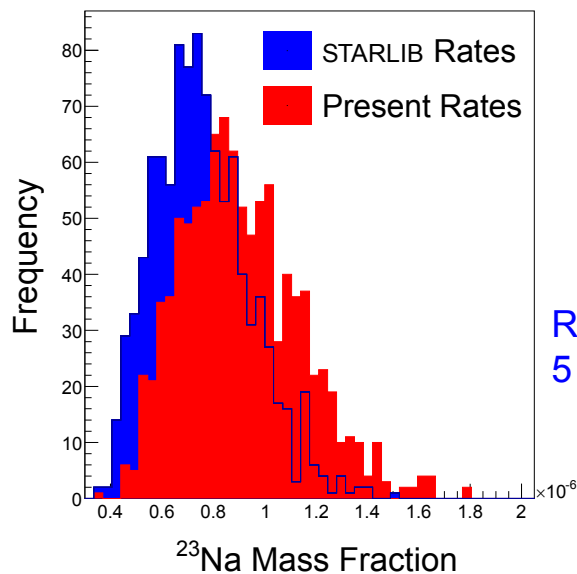
## $^{22}\text{Ne}(p,\gamma)^{23}\text{Na}$ and Abundance Anomalies in Globular Clusters



www.thesky scrapers.org

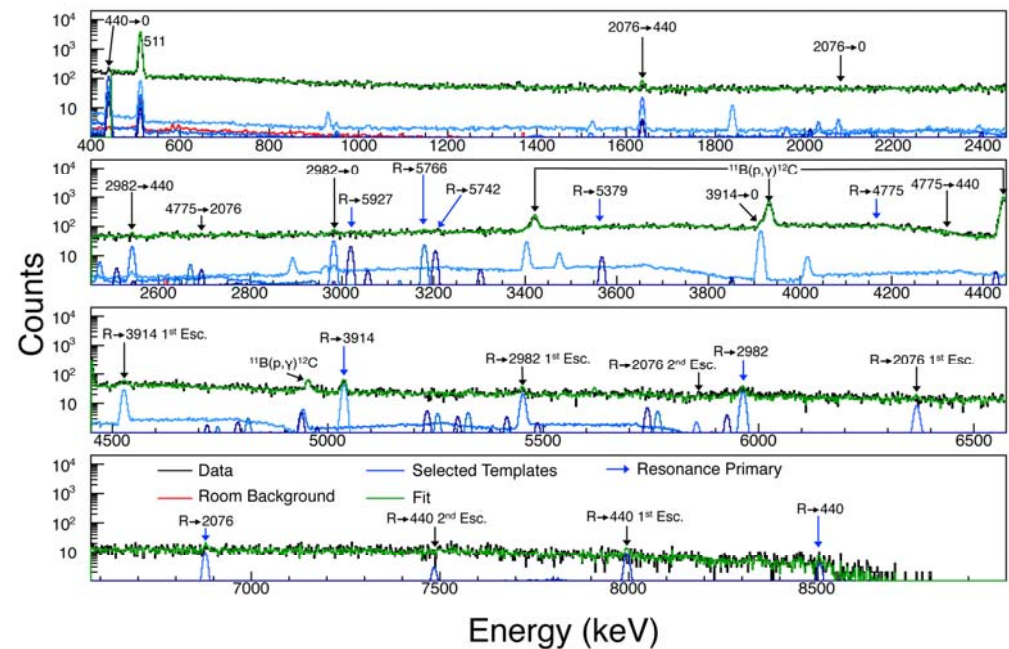


various clusters; see: P. Ventura and F. D'Antona, A&A 457, 995 (2006)



### LENA measurements:

$E_{\text{cm}} = 151 \text{ keV}$  resonance;  $\omega\gamma = 0.203(40) \mu\text{eV}$



Revised  $^{23}\text{Na}$  abundance for  
5  $M_{\text{sun}}$  AGB model

[K.J. Kelly, PhD thesis]





# University of Massachusetts-Lowell

1-MW RESEARCH REACTOR  
Open pool, LEU fuel

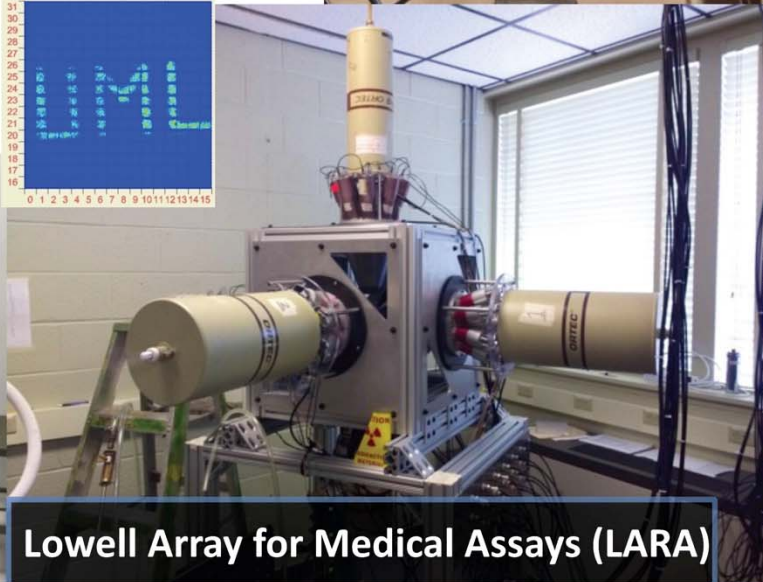
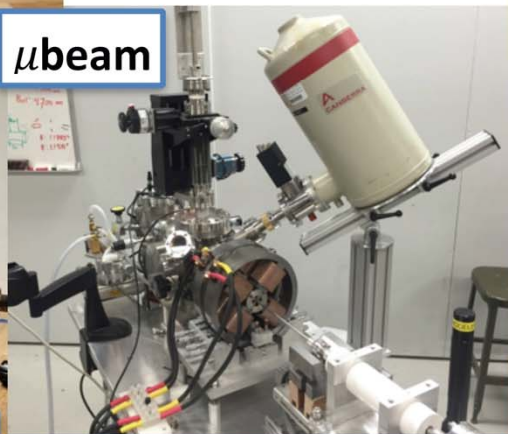
100-kCi  $^{60}\text{Co}$  source  
gamma irradiation



## Current local science highlights

- ✦ Development of enriched  $\text{C}^7\text{LYC}$  array for neutron spectroscopy with experiments at Lowell, ANL, LANSCE, and other facilities.
- ✦ Neutron damage tests, charge collection studies, and continued research for advanced designs of HPGe DSSDs.
- ✦ Characterization of large 3"x3"  $\text{C}^7\text{LYC}$ .
- ✦ Measurements using a newly constructed Compton-suppressed HPGe array for assays of BLIP/BNL **medical isotopes** and nuclear science. (LARA)
- ✦ Assays of fuel plate burn-up.
- ✦ Commissioning of  $\mu\text{beam}$  for interdisciplinary and applied science.
- ✦ Advanced XIA Pixie-4e DAQ.
- ✦ Improvements in accelerator operations.

5.5 MV CN single ended  
Van de Graaff



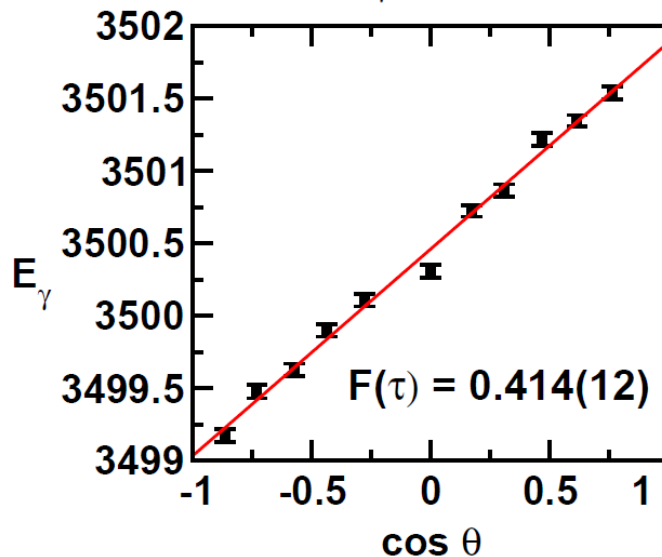
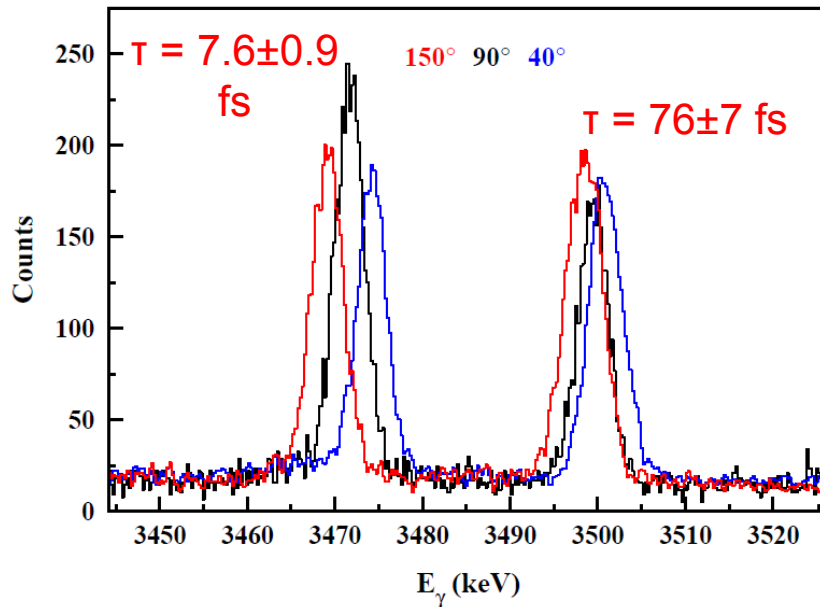
Lowell Array for Medical Assays (LARA)



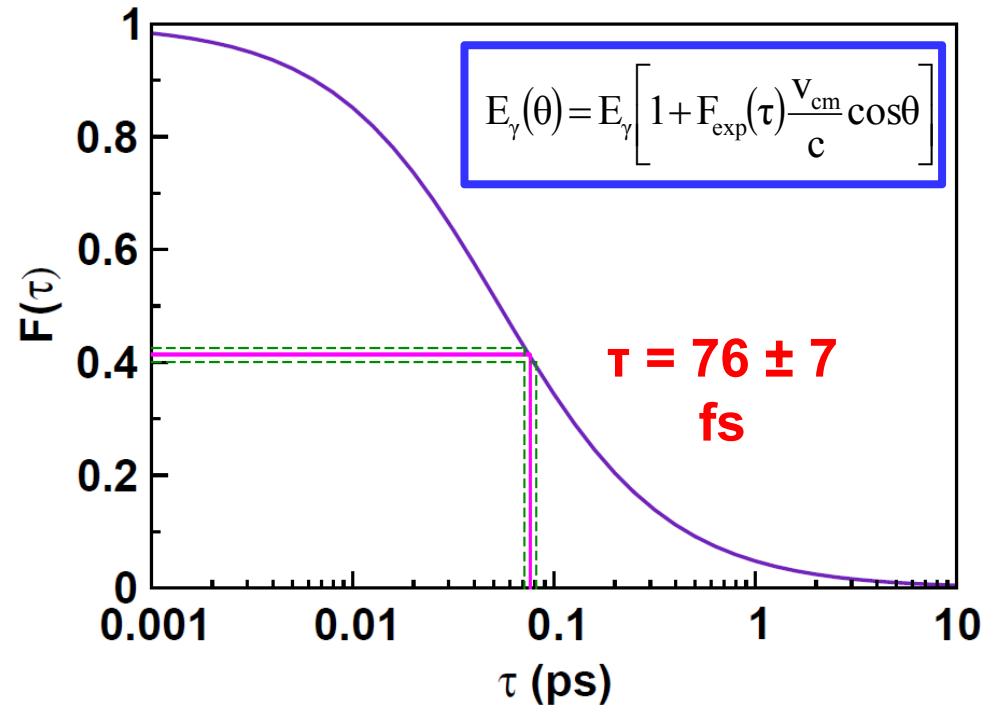


# University of Kentucky

## Nuclear Level Lifetimes by Doppler-Shift Attenuation following Inelastic Neutron Scattering



- Following neutron scattering, the nucleus recoils.
- The emitted  $\gamma$  rays experience a small Doppler shift.
- Level lifetimes in the femtosecond regime can be determined.

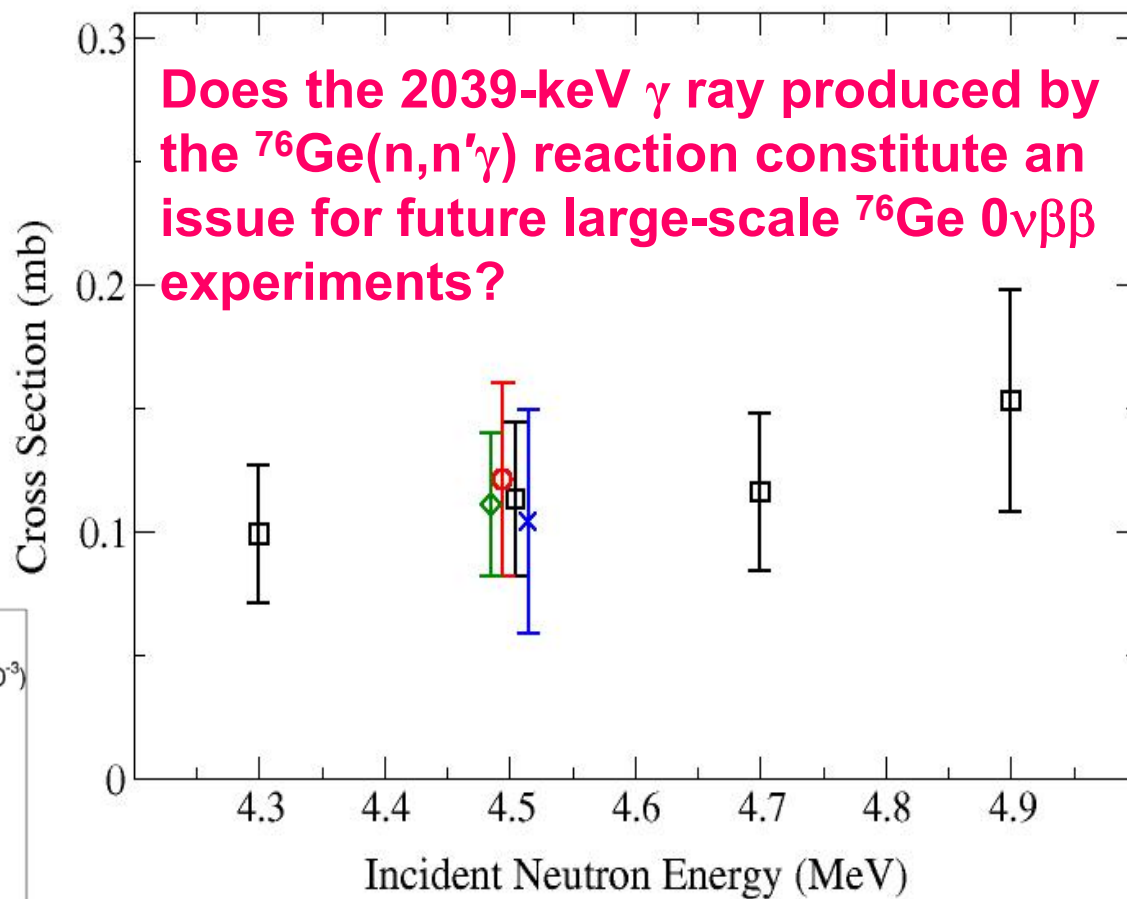
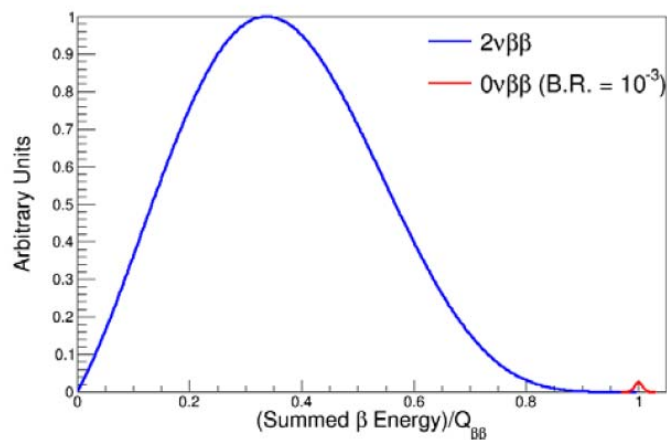
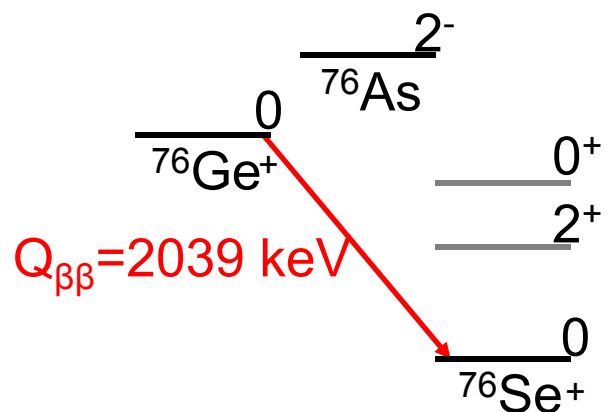




# University of Kentucky

Fast-neutron-induced Background Near the  $Q$  value for  $0\nu\beta\beta$

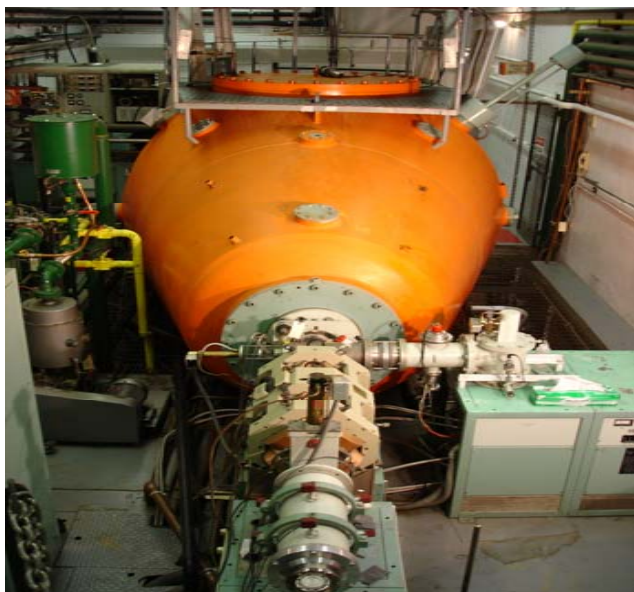
A detailed study of the nuclear structure of  $^{76}\text{Ge}$  via the  $^{76}\text{Ge}(n,n'\gamma)$  reaction



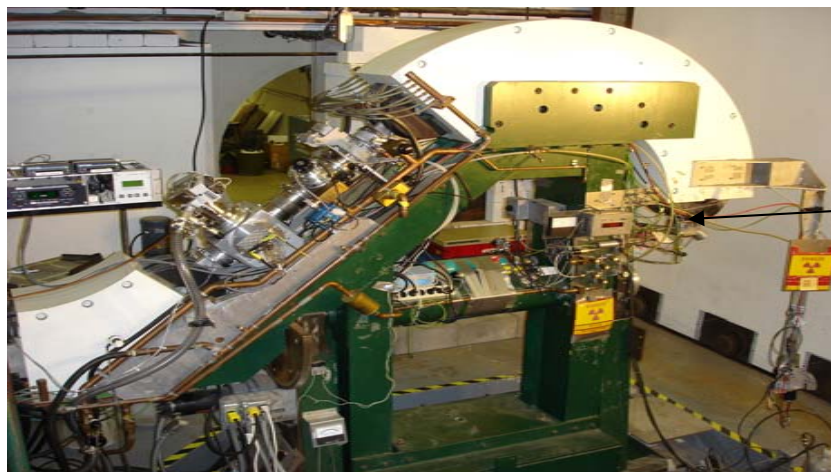
**B.P. Crider *et al.*, Phys. Rev. C 92, 034310 (2015).**



# Edwards Accelerator Laboratory at Ohio University



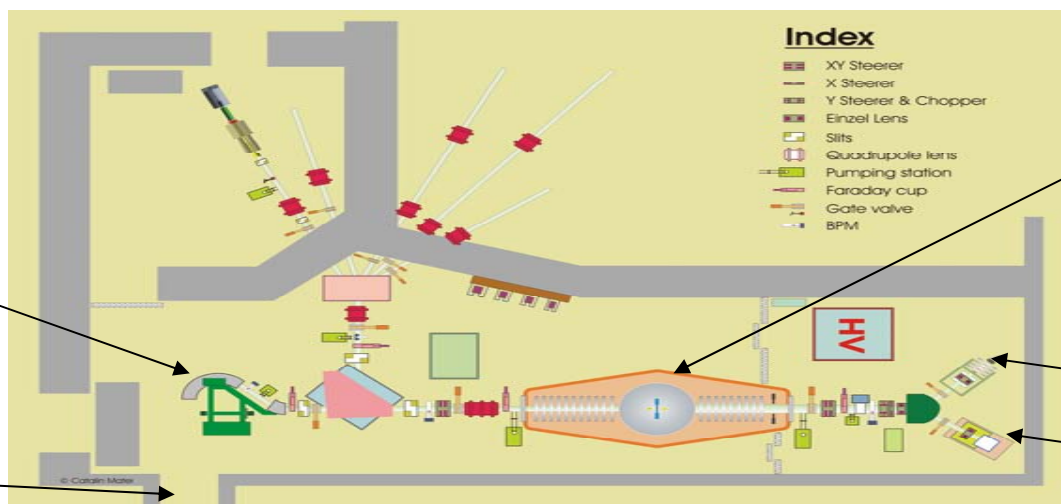
Beam Swinger Facility



Target chamber

Swinger Magnet  
( $-4^\circ \leq \theta_{lab} \leq 158^\circ$ )

30-meter TOF  
Tunnel



4.5-MV  
T-type tandem

Cs Sputter Source

Duoplasmatron He Source

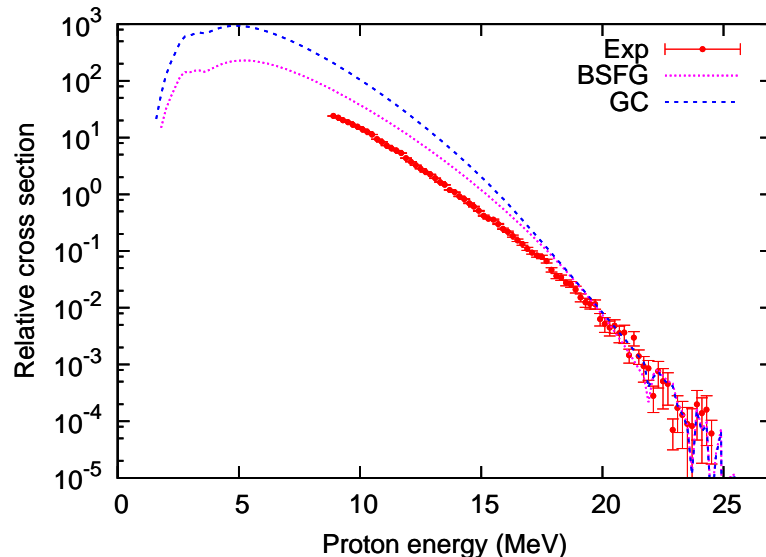




# Edwards Accelerator Laboratory at Ohio University

**Research Areas:** Nuclear Astrophysics, Nuclear Structure, Surface Science, Applied Nuclear Science

**Research Highlight:** Fusion evaporation from Li-induced reactions



Led by Alexander Voinov (Ohio) and Oslo.  
Collaboration also includes LLNL, Michigan State University, and Central Michigan University.  
Experiment performed in January 2016.

${}^7\text{Li} + {}^{70}\text{Zn} \rightarrow {}^{76}\text{Ge} + \text{p}$  results courtesy of T. Renstrom (Oslo student)

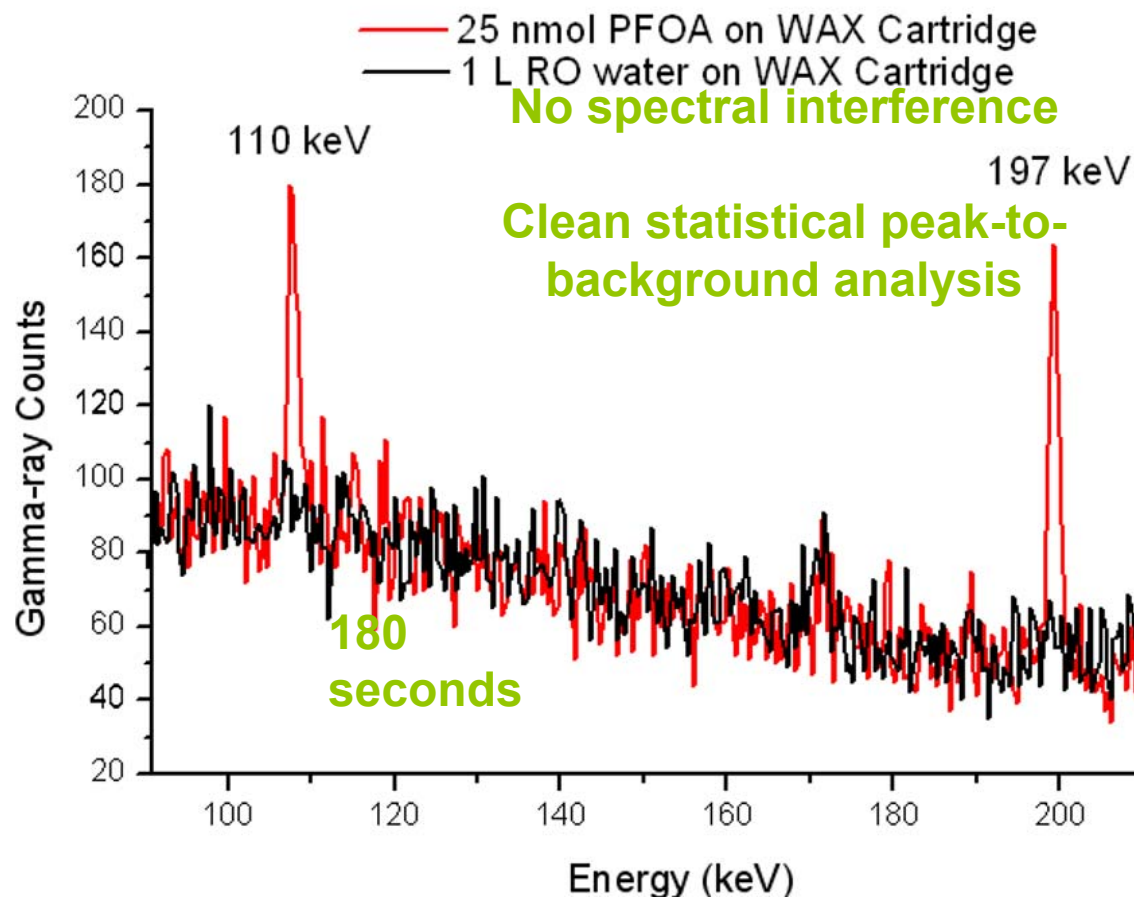
Proton spectrum does not agree with level density models!



# Hope College

## PIGE Spectroscopy for Total Fluorine in Groundwater

1.7 MV Pelletron tandem accelerator with a nuclear microprobe





# Hope College

Spinning off a company:



National Science Foundation  
WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN

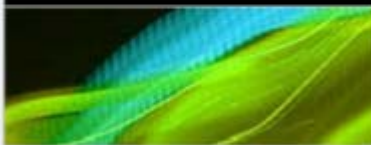


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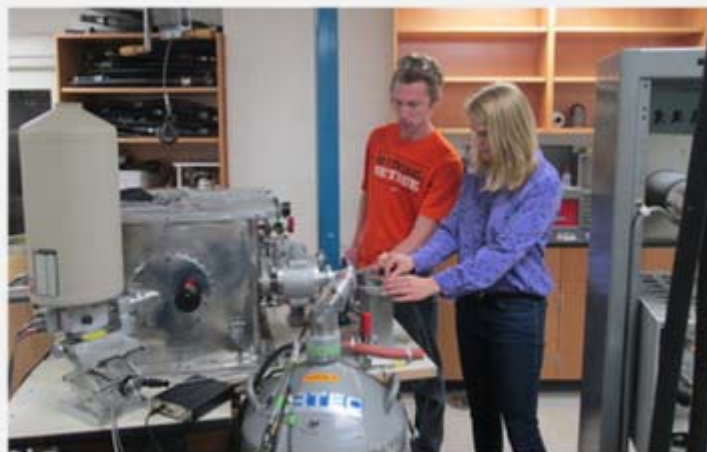
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### Discovery

## Nuclear physics technique helps companies detect dangerous compound

Scientist develops new approach to rapidly identify toxic compounds in everyday materials such as clothing



Students are using nuclear physics to detect dangerous chemicals in everyday products.



Peaslee's method helps manufacturers detect a type of dangerous chemical in their raw materials.

[Credit and Larger Version](#)

www.nsf.gov





# University of Washington

## ${}^6\text{He}$ $\beta$ - $\nu$ angular correlation

Y. Bagdasarova<sup>1</sup>, K. Bailey<sup>2</sup>, X. Fléchar<sup>3</sup>, A. Garcia<sup>1,\*</sup>, R. Hong<sup>1</sup>,  
A. Knecht<sup>4</sup>, A. Leredde<sup>2</sup>, E. Liennard<sup>3</sup>, P. Mueller<sup>2,\*</sup>, O. Naviliat-  
Cuncic<sup>5</sup>, T. O'Connor<sup>2</sup>, M. Sternberg<sup>1</sup>, H.E. Swanson<sup>1</sup>, F. Wauters<sup>1</sup>

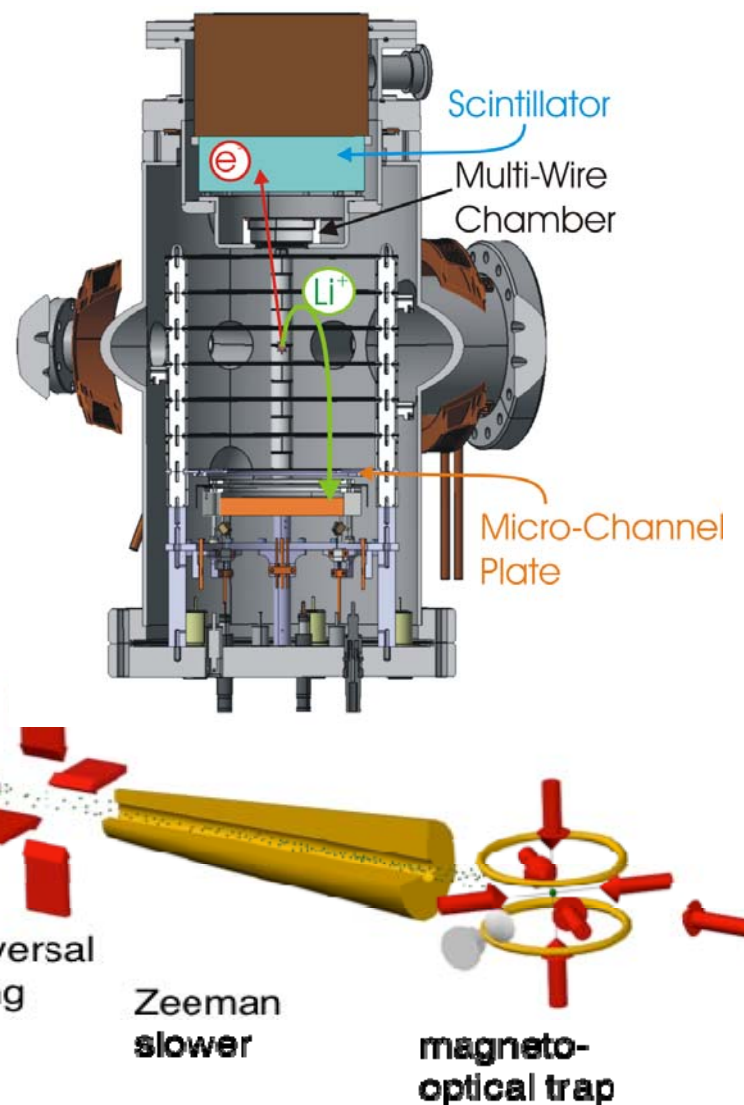
<sup>1</sup>University of Washington, <sup>2</sup>Argonne National Lab, <sup>3</sup>LPC, CAEN, France

<sup>4</sup>PSI, <sup>5</sup>NSCL, Michigan State University

\*Spokepersons

- Goal: measure “little  $a$ ” to 0.1% in  ${}^6\text{He}$ 
  - pure Gamow-Teller decay
  - sensitive to tensor couplings
  - simple nuclear and atomic structure
- Laser cooling and trapping to prepare  ${}^6\text{He}$  source
- Detect electron and  ${}^6\text{Li}$  in coincidence
- $\Delta E$ -E scintillator system for electron detection (energy, start of time-of-flight)
- Micro-channel plate detector for  ${}^6\text{Li}$  detection (position, time-of-flight)

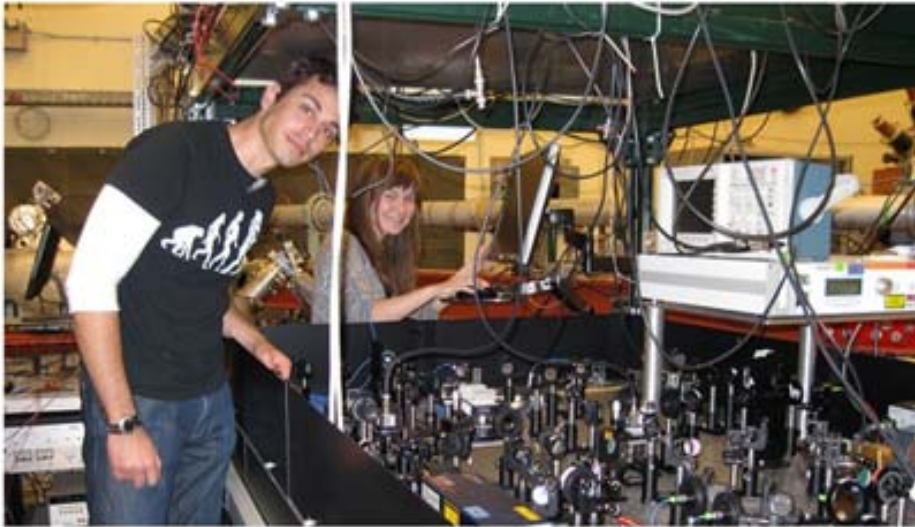
${}^6\text{He}$  Trap/Detector Chamber





# University of Washington

## ${}^6\text{He}$ $\beta$ - $\nu$ angular correlation at UW



### Laser trapping:

All systems working and efficiencies enough for a determination of little- $a$  at the 1% within 3 days (including calibrations)!

### Status:

Presently working on systematic uncertainties.  
Aiming for  $\Delta a/a < 1\%$  in near future.  
Ultimate goal: 0.1% uncertainty.

### ${}^6\text{He}$ Source:

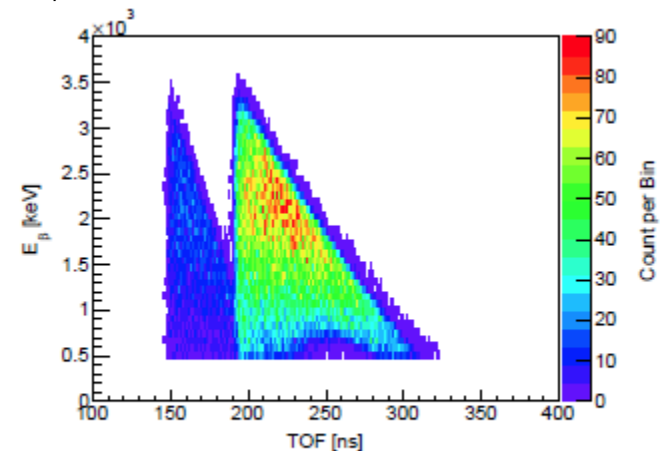
Reliable source of  $\sim 10^{10}$   ${}^6\text{He}$ 's/s in low-background environment

[A High-Intensity Source of  \${}^6\text{He}\$  Atoms for Fundamental Research](#)

A. Knecht et al. NIM A. **660**, 43 (2011)

Example of data taken recently:

$E_\beta$  versus TOF which yields  $\Delta a/a = 1\%$ .



(a) Experiment



# University of Washington

## $^6\text{He}$ little- $b$ measurement UW

M. Fertl<sup>1</sup>, A. Garcia<sup>1</sup>, M. Guigue<sup>4</sup>, P. Kammel<sup>1</sup>, A. Leredde<sup>2</sup>, P. Mueller<sup>2</sup>, R.G.H. Robertson<sup>1</sup>, G. Rybka<sup>1</sup>, G. Savard<sup>2</sup>, D. Stancil<sup>3</sup>, M. Sternberg<sup>1</sup>, H.E. Swanson<sup>1</sup>, B.A. Vandeevender<sup>4</sup>, A. Young<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Washington, <sup>2</sup>Argonne National Lab, <sup>3</sup>North Carolina State University, <sup>4</sup>Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

- Goal: measure “little  $b$ ” to  $10^{-3}$  or better in  $^6\text{He}$ 
  - Highest sensitivity to tensor couplings
- Determine shape of beta spectrum in search for tensor couplings.
- Use Cyclotron Emission Spectroscopy. Similar to Project 8 setup for tritium decay but need to extend the technique to higher energy betas and to a precision determination of a continuum spectrum. Non trivial: under development.
- In 1 day of running would determine  $b$  one order of magnitude better than any previous experiment.

Decay rate:  $C_T$  and  $C_T'$  represent the new physics.  $C_A$  is the usual axial coupling constant for Weak Int.

$$dw = dw_0 \left[ 1 + a \frac{\vec{p}_e \cdot \vec{p}_\nu}{E_e E_\nu} + b \frac{\Gamma m_e}{E_e} \right]$$
$$a \approx -\frac{1}{3} \frac{2|C_A|^2 - |C_T|^2 + |C_T'|^2}{2|C_A|^2 + |C_T|^2 + |C_T'|^2}$$
$$b \approx \frac{\text{Re}[2C_A(C_T + C_T')]}{2|C_A|^2 + |C_T|^2 + |C_T'|^2}$$

Little- $b$  is called “Fierz interference” and depends linearly on the new couplings. This makes it a more sensitive probe of the new physics.

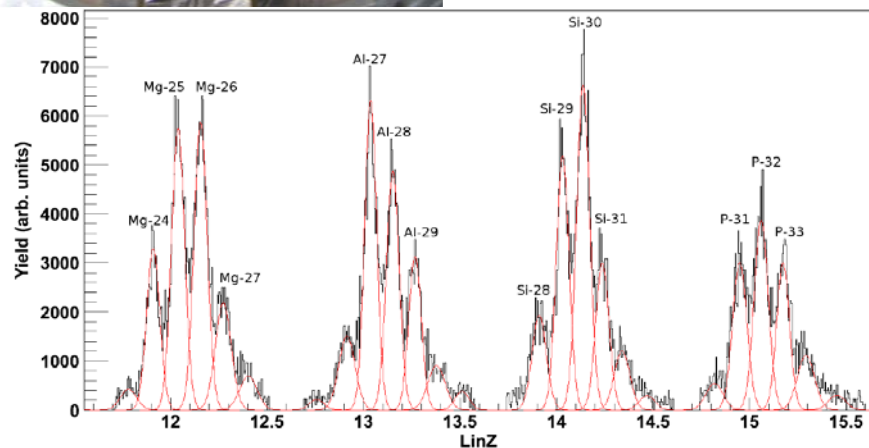
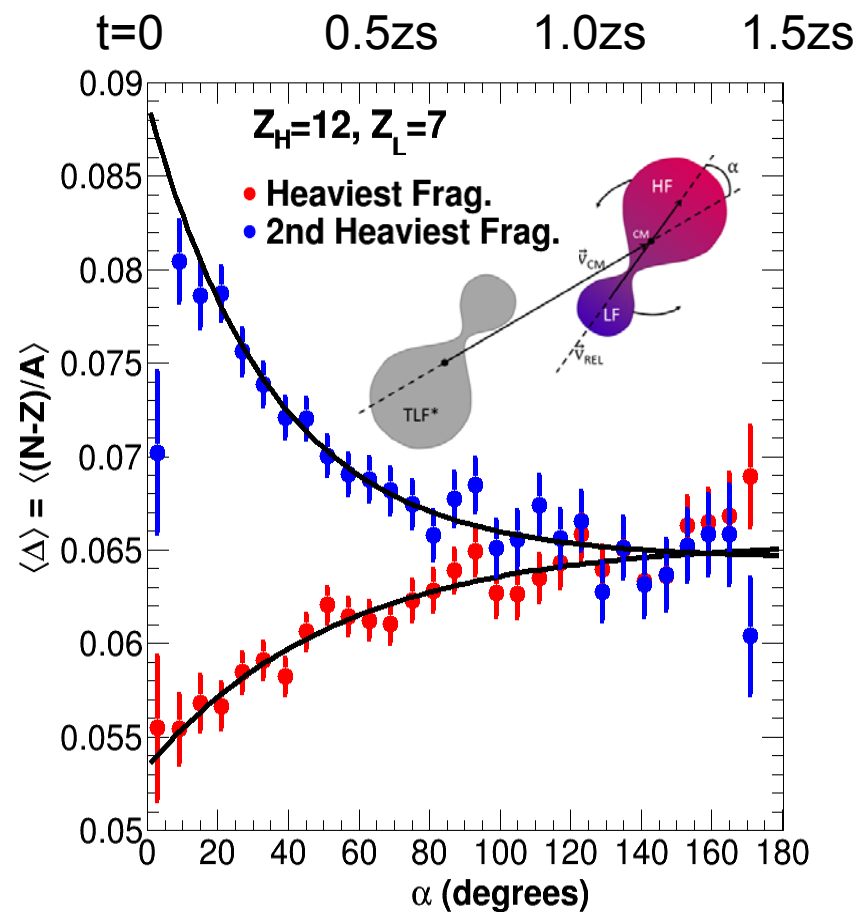
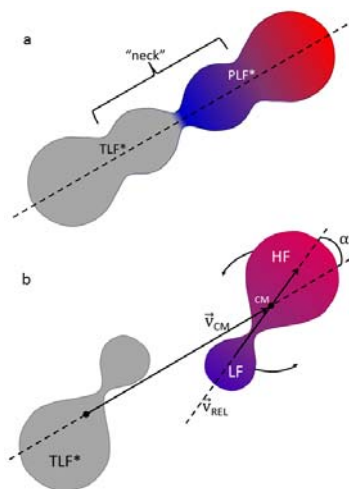




# Texas A&M University

## Equilibration Chronometry Offers a New View on the Nuclear Equation of State

NIMROD 4 $\pi$  Array  $^{70}\text{Zn} + ^{70}\text{Zn}$  @ 35A MeV



A. Jedgele, submitted PRL



# Texas A&M University

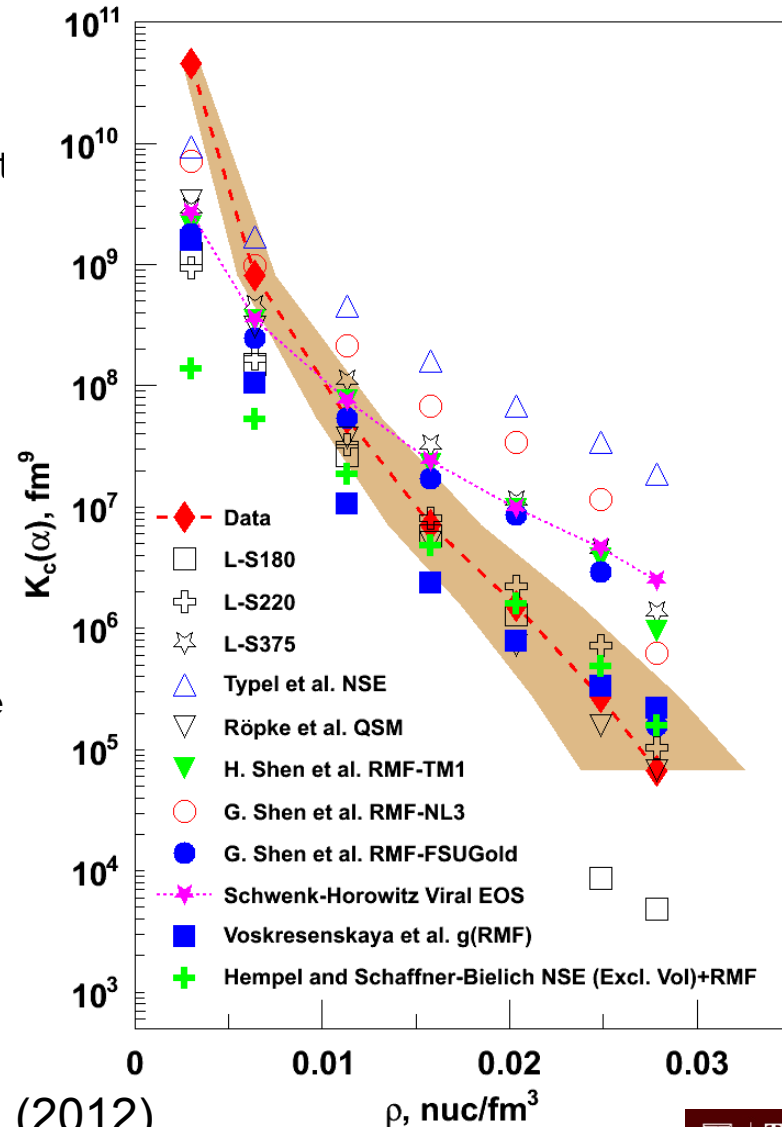
## Test of Astrophysical Equations of State Equilibrium Constant, $K_\alpha$

- Many tests of EOS are done using mass fractions. Various calculations include various different competing species., if all relevant species are not included, mass fractions are not accurate.
- Equilibrium constants, e.g.,

$$K_c = \frac{\rho(A, Z)}{\rho_p^Z \rho_n^{(A-Z)}}$$

should be independent of proton fraction and choice of competing species.

- Models converge at lowest densities, but many are significantly above data at higher density
- Lattimer & Swesty with  $K=180, 220$  show reasonable agreement with data
- QSM with in-medium binding energy shifts works well



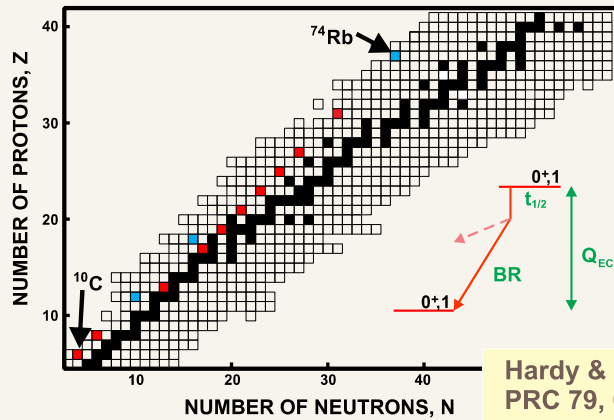
L. Qin et al. PRL **108** 172701 (2012).



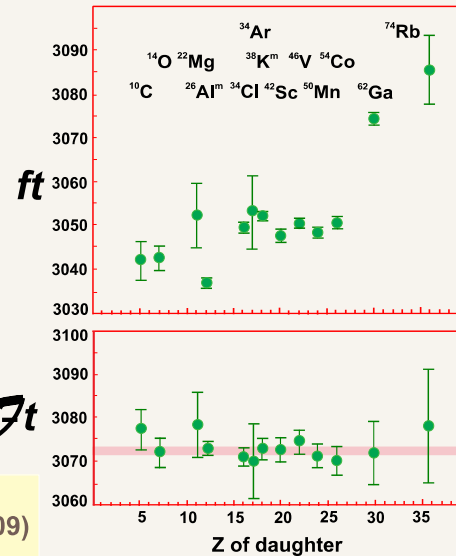
# Texas A&M University

## SUPERALLOWED $0^+ \rightarrow 0^+$ BETA DECAY

$$f t = f t (1 + \delta'_R) [1 - (\delta_C - \delta_{NS})] = \frac{K}{2G_V^2 (1 + \Delta_R)}$$



Hardy & Towner  
PRC 79, 055502 (2009)



• CVC verified

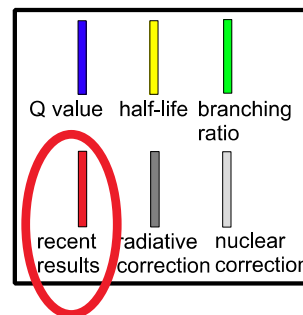
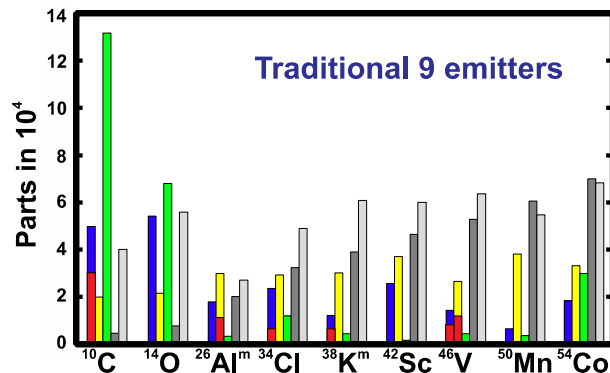
•  $V_{ud} = 0.97425(22)$

CKM unitarity  
test:

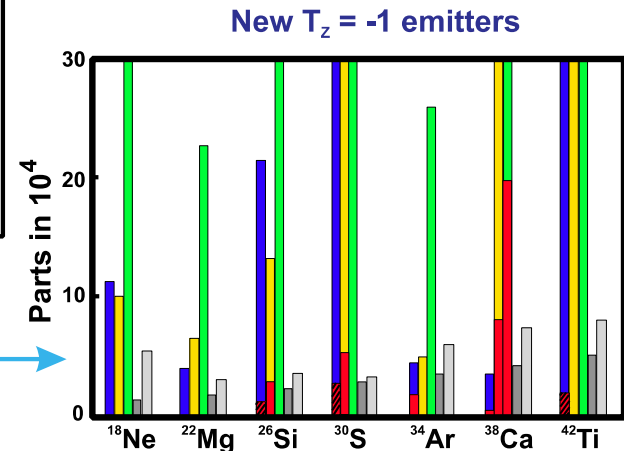
$$V_{ud}^2 + V_{us}^2 + V_{ub}^2 = 0.9999(6)$$

### Improvements since 2009

(Most done at, or in  
collaboration with TAMU)



Uncertainty  
budgets



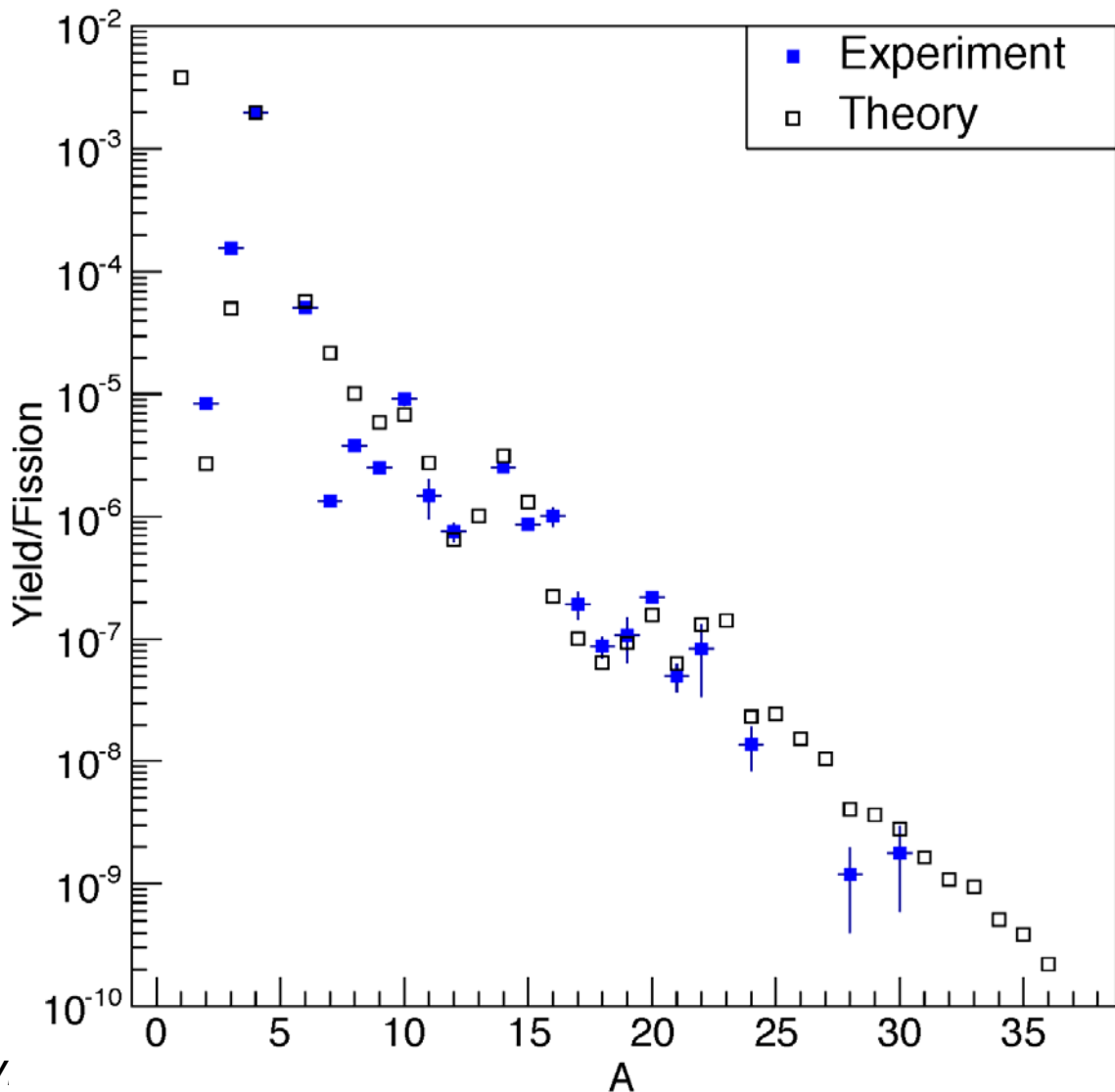




# Texas A&M University

Nucleation and cluster formation as a mechanism for ternary fission fragment production

Yield per fission event as a function of ternary fragment mass number ( $A$ ). Solid points represent  $^{241}\text{Pu}(n_{th},f)$  experimental yields. Open data points are the product of nucleation moderated nuclear statistical equilibrium (NSE) model

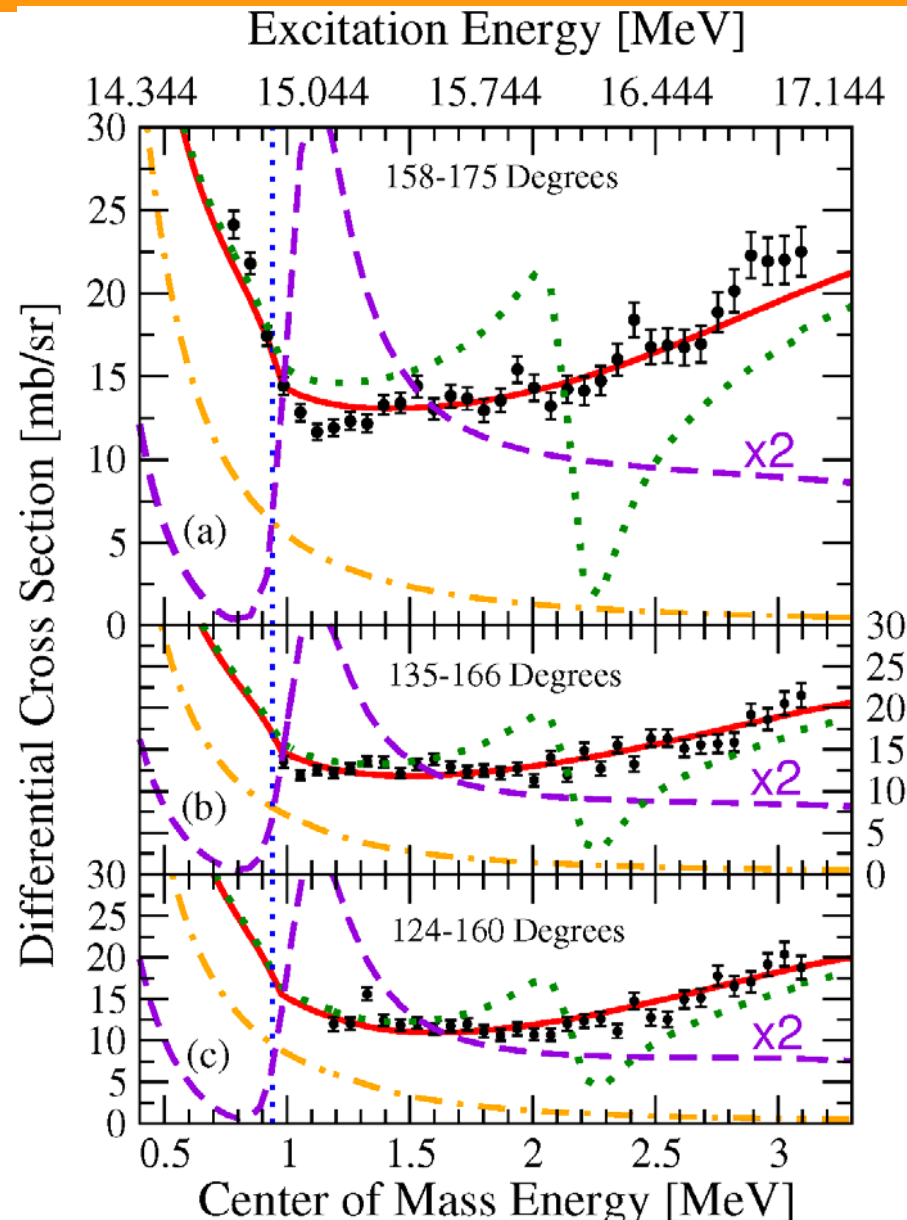


S. Wuenschel, et al, *Phys. Rev.* 011601R (2014).



# Texas A&M University

Structure of very exotic helium isotope -  $^9\text{He}$



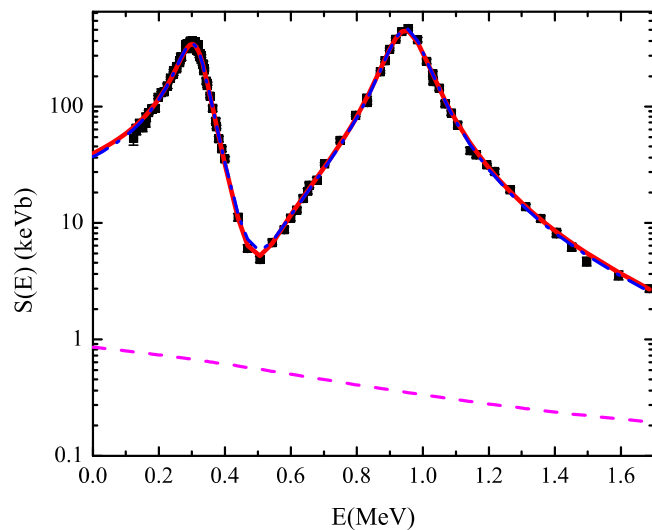
$^8\text{He}+p$  elastic scattering excitation function measured at three different lab. angles. No narrow structures are observed in the proton spectrum. The sensitivity of these data to the hypothetical narrow  $T=5/2$  isobaric analog resonances in  $^9\text{Li}$  is demonstrated by purple dashed and green dotted lines.

E. Uberseder et al,  
Physics Letters B **754** 323 (2016)

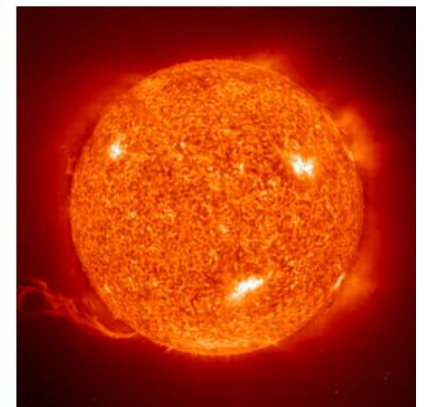
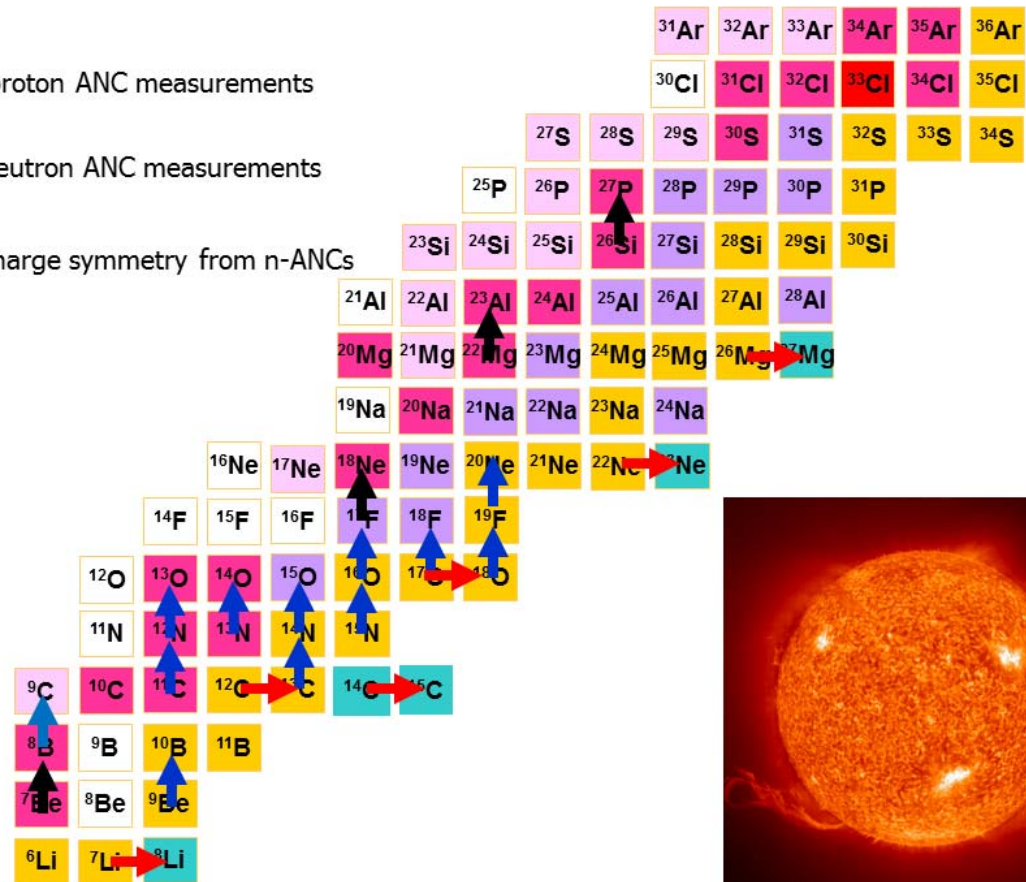


# Texas A&M University

## Looking in the Lab to Better Understand the Stars : Determining reaction rates at stellar energies



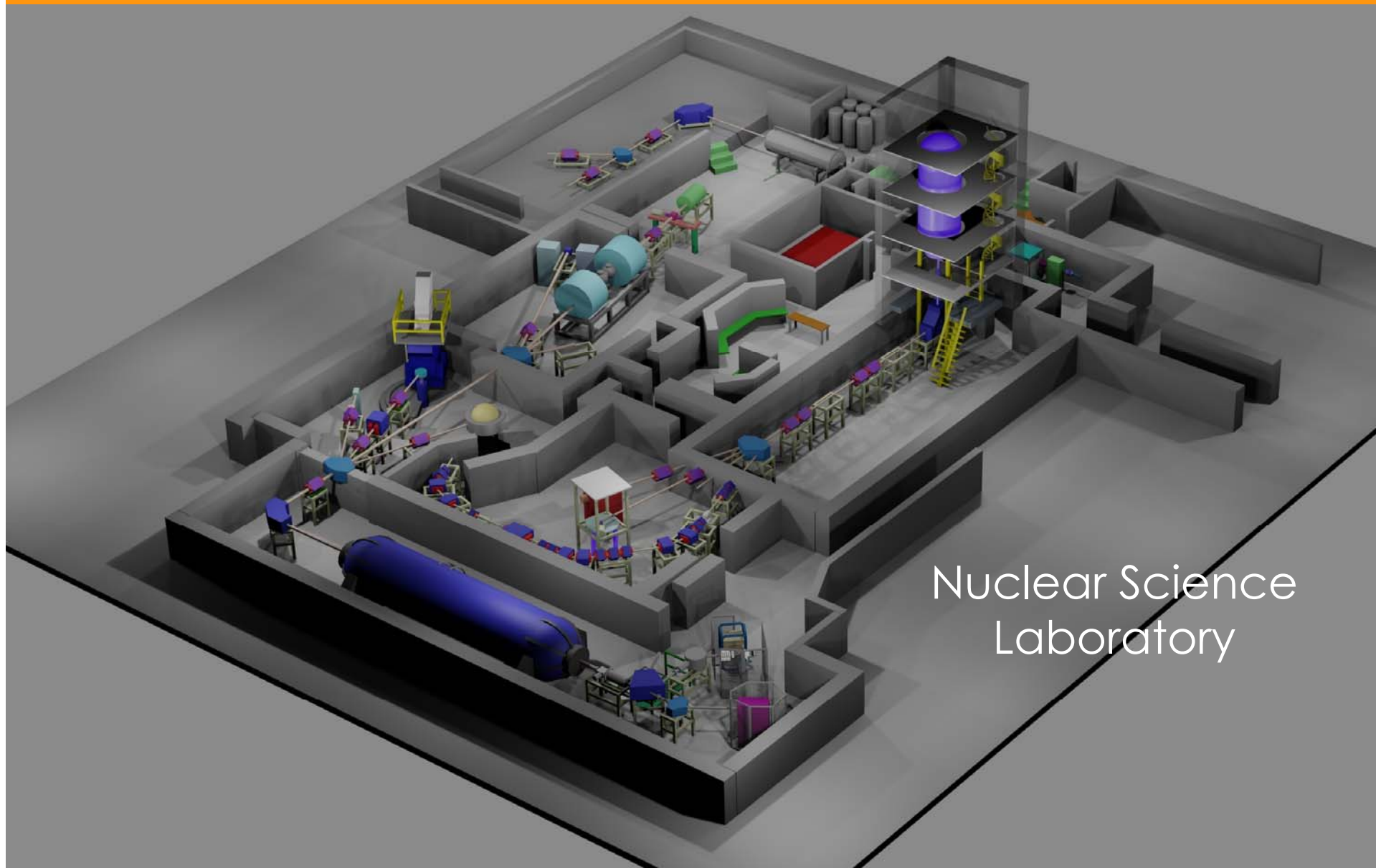
- ↑ = proton ANC measurements
- ↑ = neutron ANC measurements
- ↑ = charge symmetry from n-ANCs



R.E. Tribble et al, Rep. Prog. Phys. 77 106901 (2014)



# University of Notre Dame



Nuclear Science  
Laboratory





## University of Notre Dame

### Scientific Workforce at NSL

- 10 T&R Faculty members
- 7 R Faculty
- 6 Postdocs
- 38 grad. students

### Research directions at NSL

- Nuclear Astrophysics
- Nuclear Structure Physics
- Fundamental Symmetries
- Nuclear Physics Applications



# University of Notre Dame

## New technical developments

- 3MV tandem pelletron for applications
- TwinSOL upgrade with new target room for radioactive beam experiments
- St. George recoil separator for 5U single ended pelletron
- New gamma detection systems (GEORGINA array, HECTOR summing detector)
- New low energy injection magnet and beamline for FN Tandem (AMS system)
- CASPAR underground accelerator at SURF





# University of Notre Dame

## Future Directions

- Low energy nuclear astrophysics (NSL, CASPAR): fusion, capture reactions for stellar burning environments
- Nuclear astrophysics with radioactive beams (NSL, FRIB): reactions, nuclear masses and decay patterns in explosive stellar environments
- Nuclear Structure (NSL): Conversion electron spectroscopy, cluster structure, statistical physics
- Fundamental symmetries (NSL, CARIBU)
- Nuclear physics applications (NSL, NIF, ELI): PIXE, PIGE, XRF for material analysis, reactions for plasma characteristics, radiation damage studies