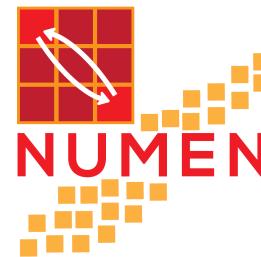


Nuclear response to weak interaction investigated by nuclear reactions



Diana Carbone
for the **NUMEN collaboration**

- The problem of $0\nu\beta\beta$ -decay nuclear matrix elements
- The study of double charge exchange @ INFN-LNS
- The multichannel approach
- DCE experimental results
- Conclusions and perspectives

0νββ decay

Open problem in modern physics:

Neutrino absolute mass scale

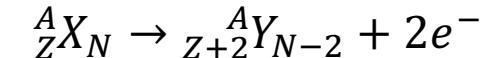
Neutrino nature

0νββ is considered the **most promising approach**

⁷⁶ Br	⁷⁷ Br	⁷⁸ Br	⁷⁹ Br	⁸⁰ Br
⁷⁵ Se	⁷⁶ Se	⁷⁷ Se	⁷⁸ Se	⁷⁹ Se
⁷⁴ As	⁷⁵ As	⁷⁶ As	⁷⁷ As	⁷⁸ As
⁷³ Ge	⁷⁴ Ge	⁷⁵ Ge	⁷⁶ Ge	⁷⁷ Ge
⁷² Ga	⁷³ Ga	⁷⁴ Ga	⁷⁵ Ga	⁷⁶ Ga

- ✓ Process mediated by the **weak interaction**
- ✓ Observable in even-even nuclei where the **single β-decay** is energetically **forbidden**

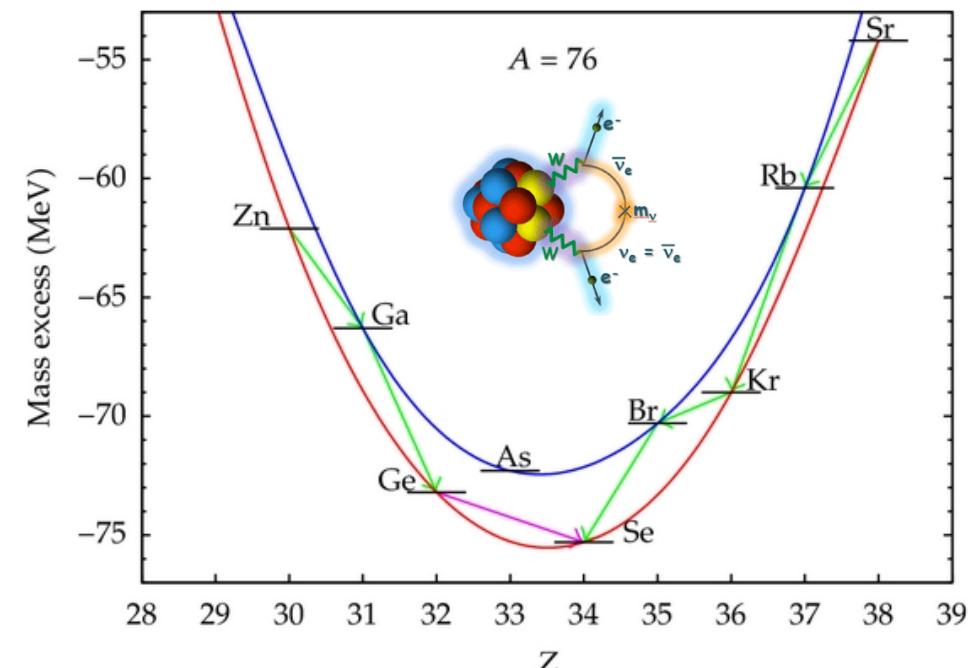
Still not observed



E. Majorana, Il Nuovo Cimento 14 (1937) 171
W. H. Furry, Phys Rev. 56 (1939) 1184

Beyond standard model:

- Violation of lepton number conservation
- CP violation in lepton sector



$0\nu\beta\beta$ decay

Intense activities in the searches for experimental evidence of this process



$0\nu\beta\beta$ decay half-life

$$\left(T_{1/2}^{0\nu\beta\beta} (0^+ \rightarrow 0^+)\right)^{-1} = G_{0\nu\beta\beta} |M^{0\nu\beta\beta}|^2 |f(m_i, U_{ei})|^2$$

Phase space factor

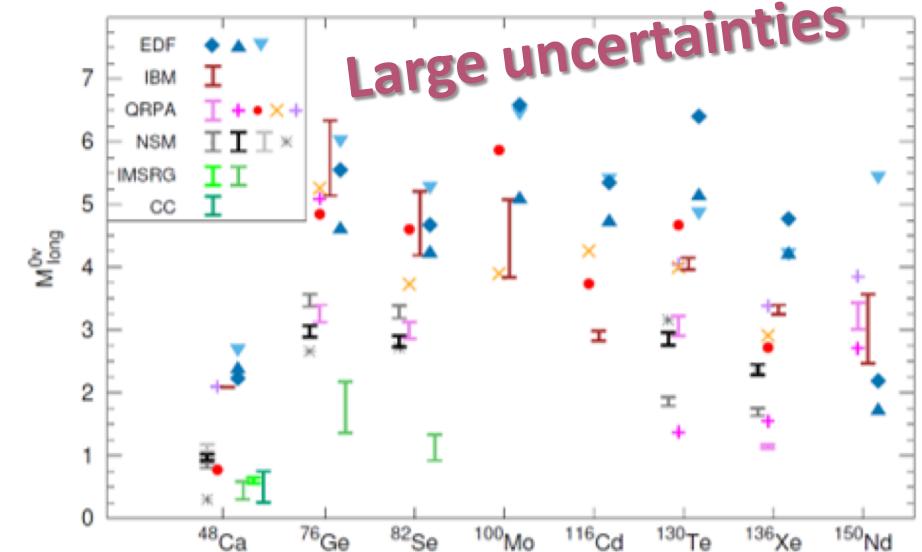
contains the effective neutrino mass

Nuclear Matrix Element (NME)

$$|M_\varepsilon^{0\nu\beta\beta}|^2 = \left| \langle \Psi_f | \hat{O}_\varepsilon^{0\nu\beta\beta} | \Psi_i \rangle \right|^2$$

Transition probability of a **nuclear** process

- ✓ NMEs are not physical observables
- ✓ The challenge is the description of the **nuclear many body states**
- ✓ **Calculations** (still sizeable uncertainties): QRPA, Large scale shell model, IBM, EDF, ab-initio



M. Agostini et al., Rev. Mod. Phys. 95, 025002 (2023)
H. Ejiri et al., Phys. Rep. 797 (2019) 1–102

Support from the experiments

Measurements (still not conclusive for $0\nu\beta\beta$ NME):

✓ β -decay and $2\nu\beta\beta$ decay



1st order isospin probes



2nd order isospin probes

✓ (π^+, π^-) , single charge exchange (${}^3\text{He}, t$), ($d, {}^2\text{He}$), HI-SCE, electron capture, transfer reactions, μ -capture, γ -ray spectroscopy, $\gamma\gamma$ -decay etc.

✓ A promising experimental tool: **Heavy-Ion Double Charge-Exchange (HI-DCE)**



(NUclear Matrix Elements for Neutrinoless double beta decay)

Extraction from measured cross-sections of “*data-driven*” information on NME for all the systems candidate for $0\nu\beta\beta$



Heavy-ion DCE reactions vs $0\nu\beta\beta$

To stimulate the same nuclear transition (g.s. to g.s.) occurring in $0\nu\beta\beta$

Differences

- DCE mediated by **strong interaction**, $0\nu\beta\beta$ by **weak interaction**
- Reaction dynamics vs. decay
- DCE includes **sequential** multinucleon transfer **mechanism**
- **Projectile and target** contributions in the NME



Similarities

- **Same initial and final states:** Parent/daughter states of the $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay are the same as those of the target/residual nuclei in the DCE
- **Similar operator:** Fermi, Gamow-Teller and rank-2 tensor components are present in both the transition operators, with tunable weight in DCE
- **Large linear momentum** (~ 100 MeV/c) available in the virtual intermediate channel
- **Non-local** processes: characterized by two vertices localized in a pair of nucleons
- **Same nuclear medium**
- **Off-shell propagation** through virtual intermediate channels

Theory for DCE reactions

See H. Lenske, E. Santopinto and
J. Bellone talks

Heavy ion DCE can proceed:

- 1) Sequential multi-nucleon transfer** (defined by mean-field dynamics, its contribution can be tuned by kinematics conditions)

J. Ferreira et al., PRC 105 (2022) 014630

- 2) Two-step DCE - Double single charge exchange (DSCE):** two consecutive single charge exchange processes

E. Santopinto et al., Phys. Rev. C 98 (2018) 061601

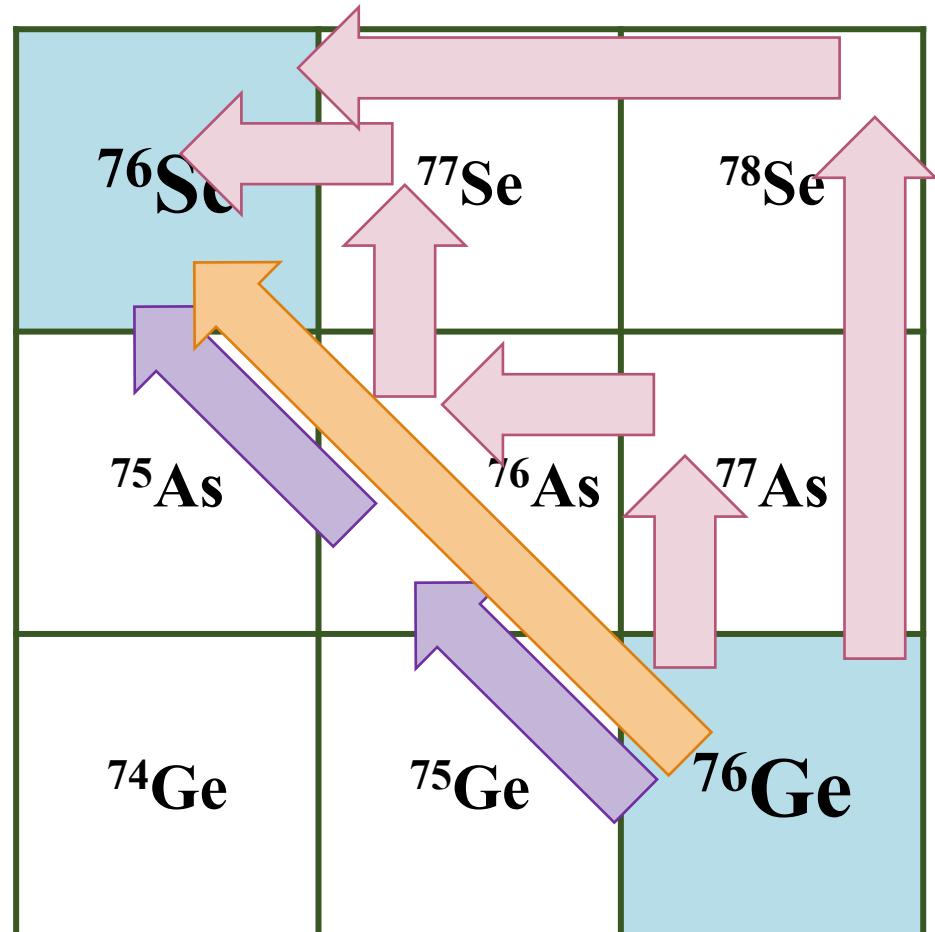
J.I.Bellone et al., PLB 807 (2020) 135528

H. Lenske et al., Universe 7 (2021) 98

- 3) One-step DCE - Two-nucleon mechanism (MDCE):** relying on short range NN correlations, leading to the correlated exchange of two charged mesons between projectile and target

H. Lenske et al. Progr. Part. and Nucl. Physics 109 (2019) 103716

H. Lenske, CERN Proceedings 2019-001 (2019)



Cross section is a combination of the three different
kinds of reaction dynamics

F. Cappuzzello et al., Progr. Part. and Nucl. Physics 128, 103999 (2023)

DCE @ INFN - LNS

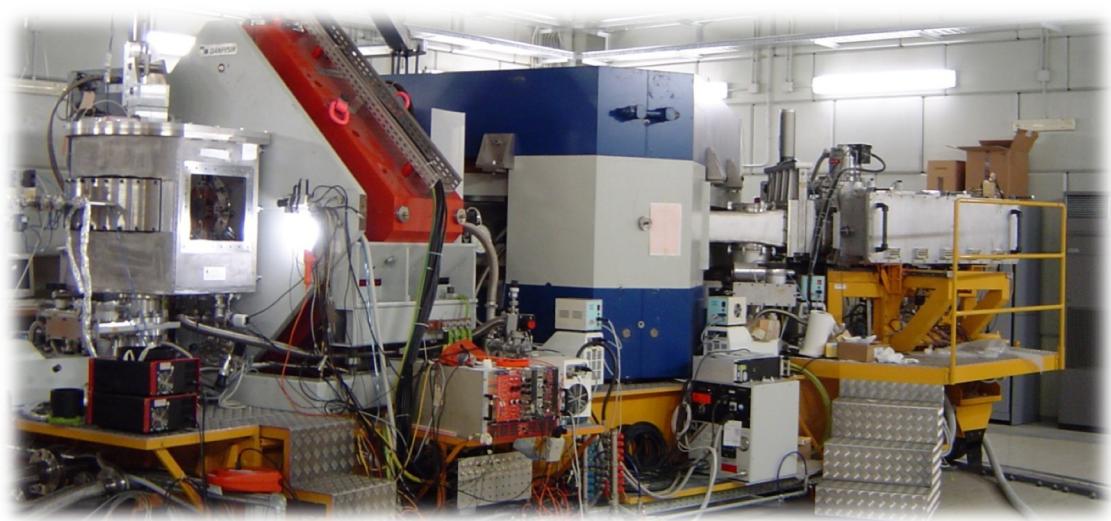
Crucial for the experimental challenges

K800 Superconducting Cyclotron



- In operation since 1996.
- Accelerates from H to U ions
- Maximum energy 80 MeV/u.

MAGNEX magnetic spectrometer



Optical characteristics	Current values
Maximum magnetic rigidity (Tm)	1.8
Solid angle (msr)	50
Momentum acceptance	-14%, +10%
Momentum dispersion (cm/%)	3.68

Measured resolutions:

- Energy $\Delta E/E \sim 1/1000$
- Angle $\Delta\theta \sim 0.2^\circ$
- Mass $\Delta m/m \sim 1/300$

F. Cappuzzello et al., Eur. Phys. J. A (2016) 52: 167
M. Cavallaro et al., NIM B 463 (2020) 334

The multichannel strategy

- Transitions of interest for $0\nu\beta\beta$ in two directions
 $\beta\beta^-$ via $(^{20}\text{Ne}, ^{20}\text{O})$ and $\beta\beta^+$ via $(^{18}\text{O}, ^{18}\text{Ne})$
- Two (or more) incident energies to study the reaction mechanism
- Complete net of reactions which provide important information

Elastic scattering  nucleus-nucleus optical potential

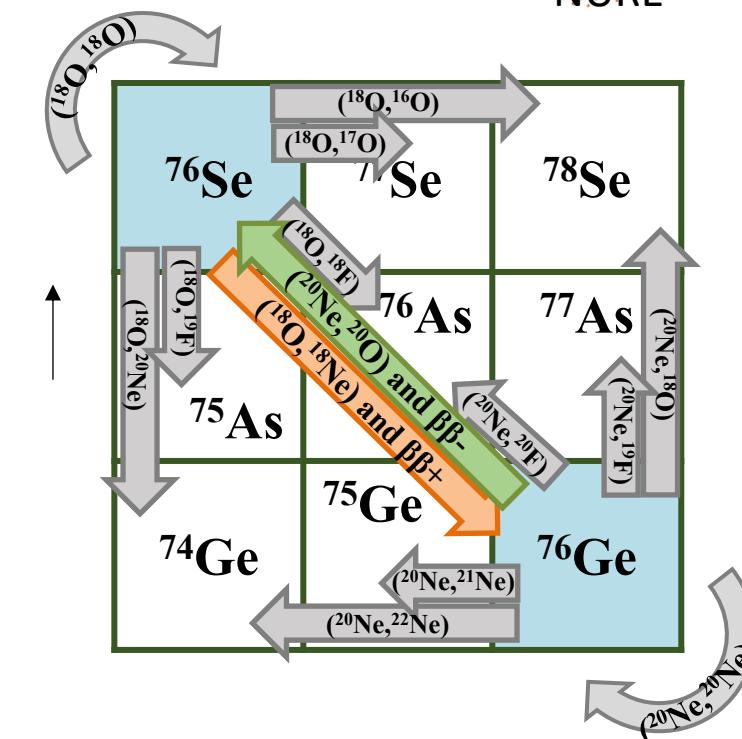
Inelastic scattering  coupling strength to low-lying states

One-nucleon transfer reactions  single-particle spectroscopic amplitudes

Two-nucleon transfer reactions  strength of pairing correlations

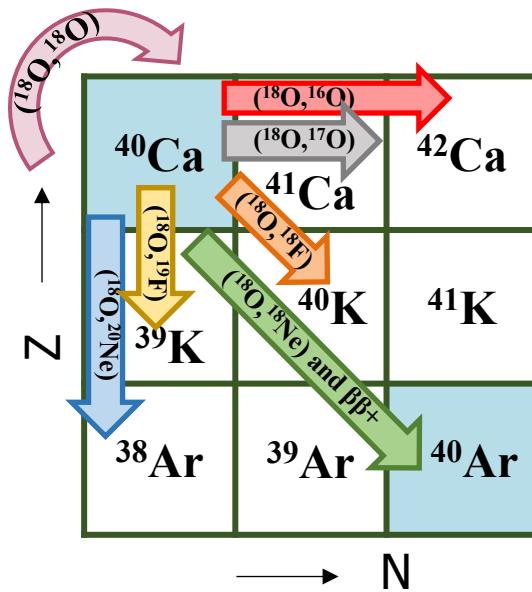
Single charge exchange (SCE)  nuclear response to 1st order isospin operators (One-Body Transition Densities)

Double charge exchange (DCE)  nuclear response to 2nd order isospin operators (Two-Body Transition Densities)



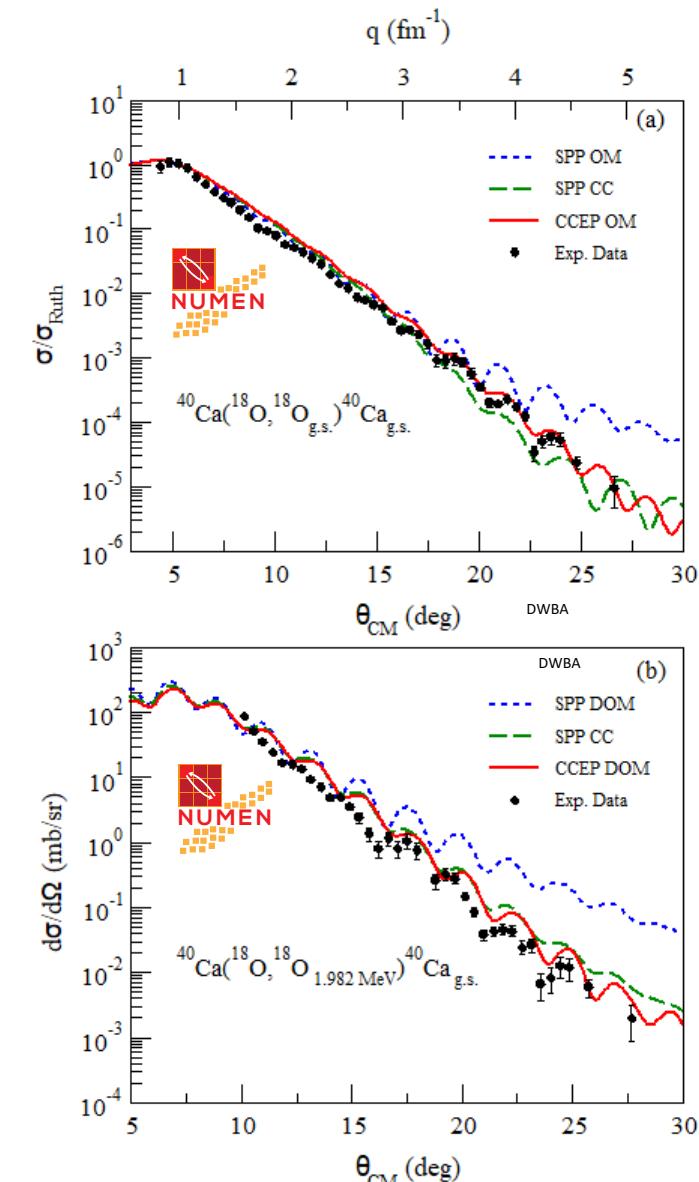
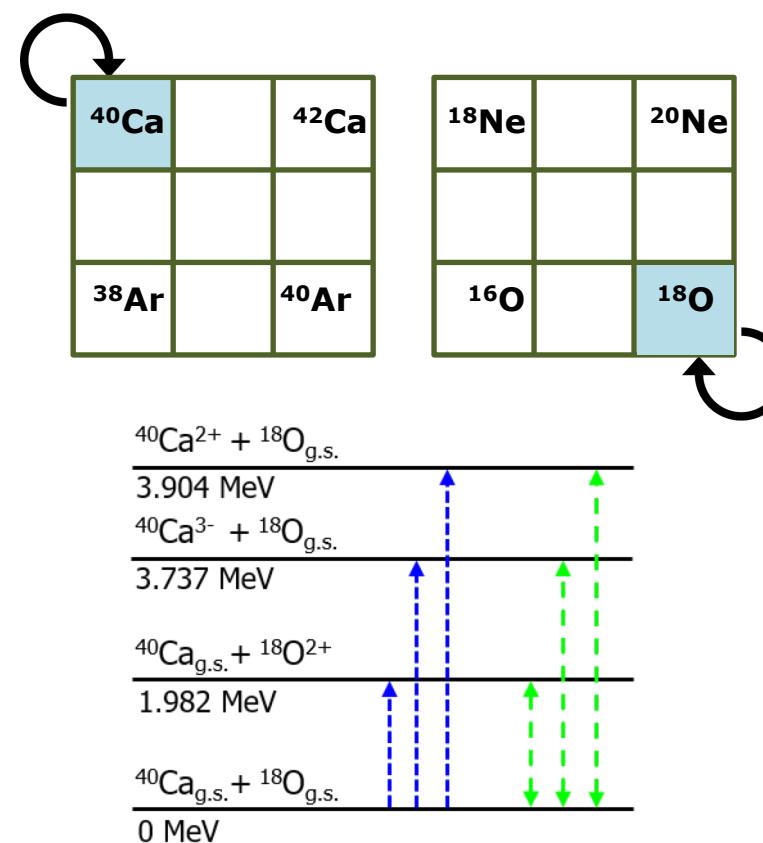
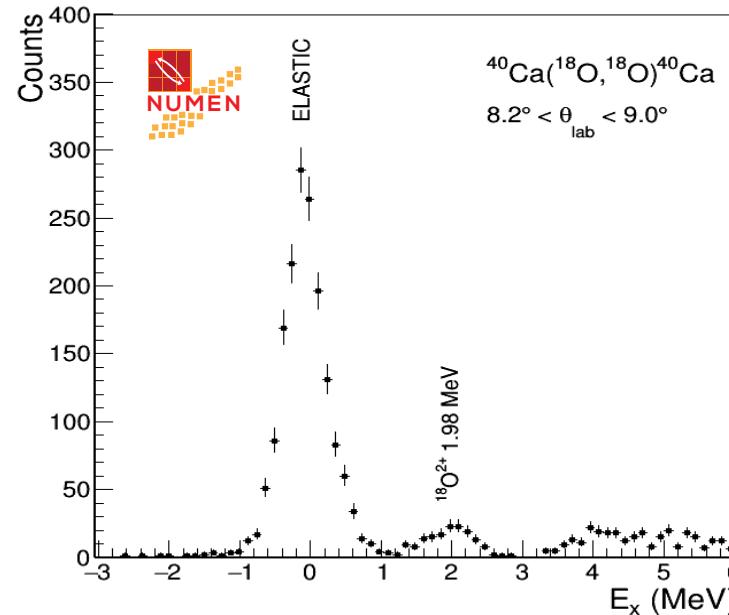
The multichannel strategy

The $^{18}\text{O} + ^{40}\text{Ca}$ @ 275 MeV case



Elastic and inelastic scattering

M. Cavallaro et al., Front. Astron. Space Sci. (2021) 8:659815

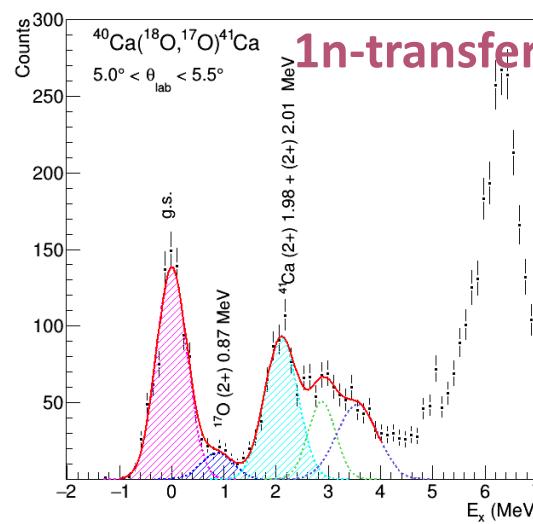
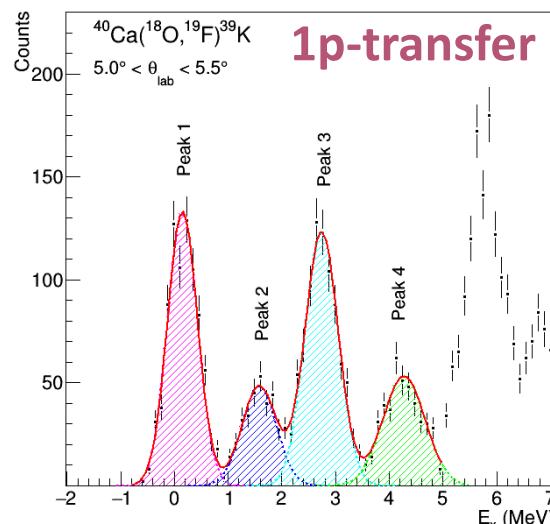


Key information from elastic and inelastic scattering data

- ✓ Double folding Sao Paulo Potential works well
- ✓ Coupling to low-lying 2^+ and 3^- states of ^{18}O and ^{40}Ca states is important
- ✓ Effects of coupling can be accounted for in average by CCEP approach

1p- and 1n-transfer reactions

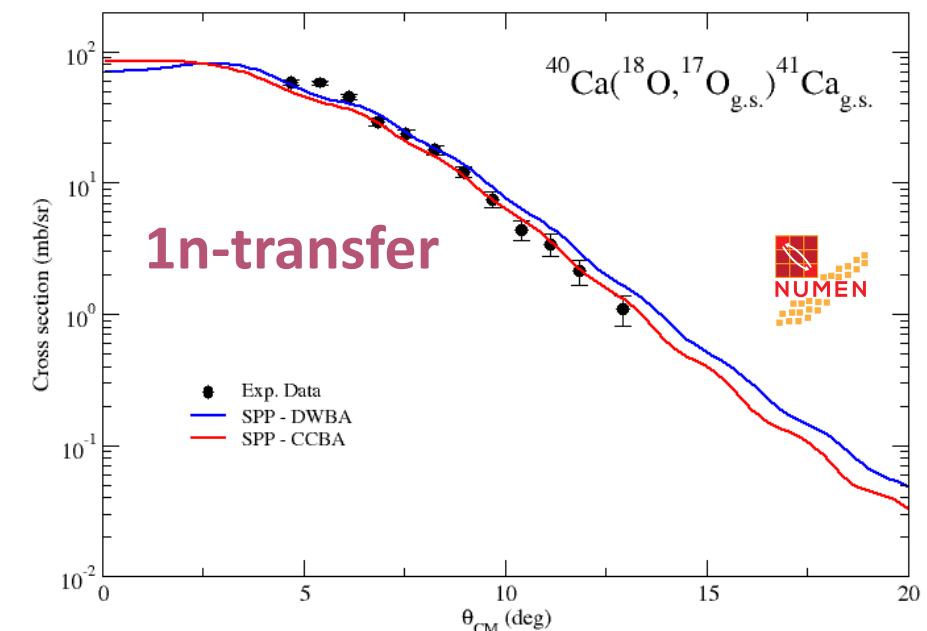
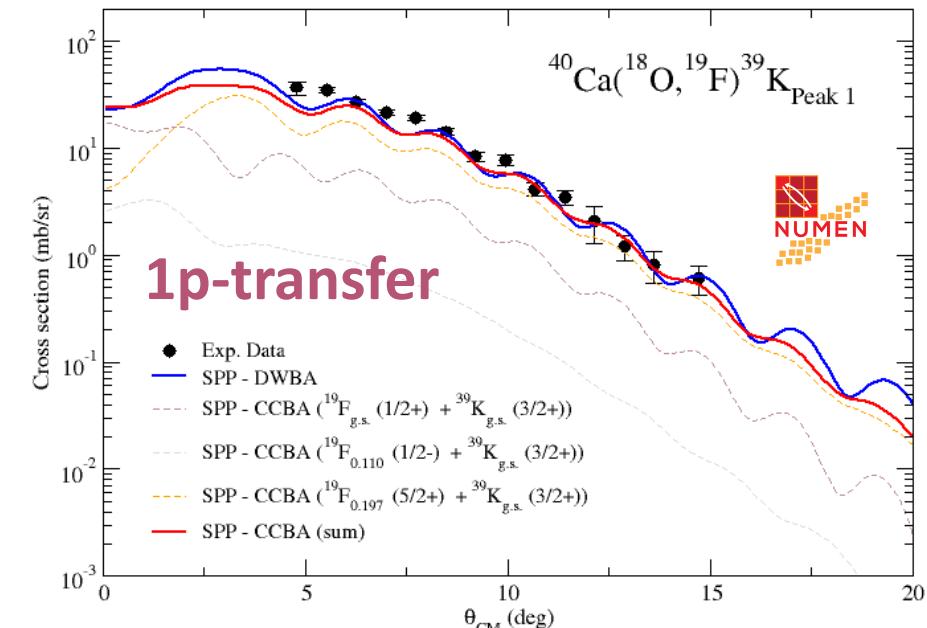
S. Calabrese et al., Phys. Rev. C 104, 064609 (2021)



- OP extracted from elastic and inelastic scattering data
- CCBA analysis
- Shell model spectroscopic amplitudes

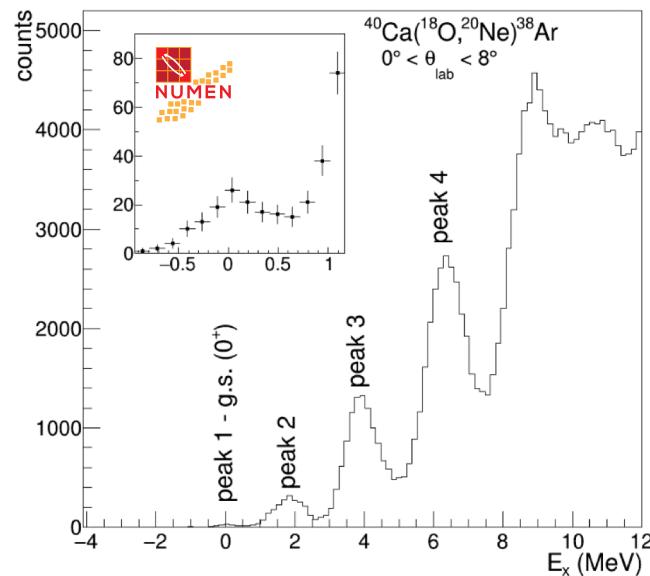
Key information from one-nucleon transfer data

- ✓ Very good description of the data
- ✓ Mixing of single particle and core polarization configurations



2p-transfer reaction

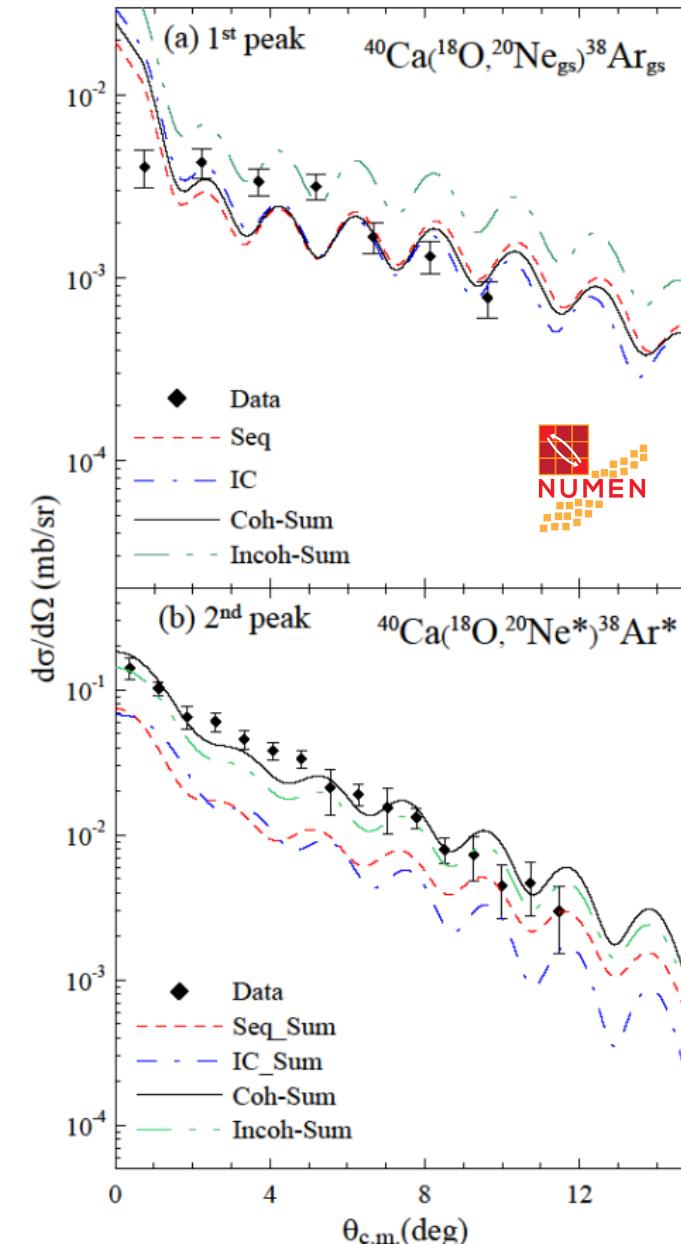
J.L. Ferreira et al., Phys. Rev. C 103 (2021) 054604



- OP extracted from elastic and inelastic scattering data
- CCBA analysis **direct** and **two-step transfer**
- **Shell model** spectroscopic amplitudes

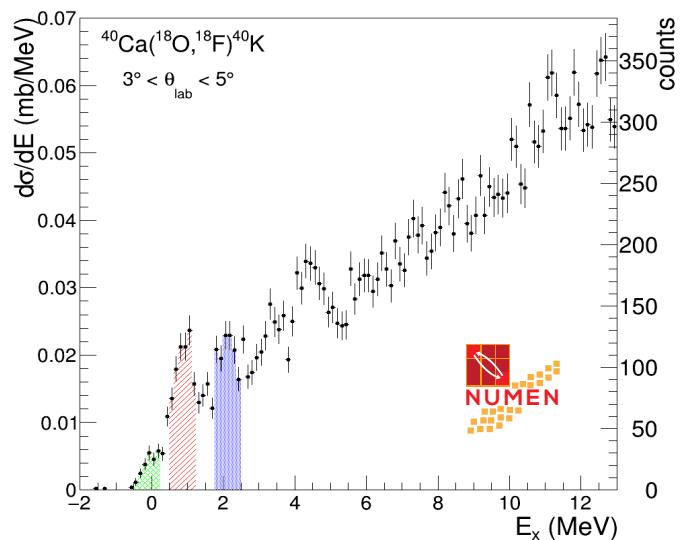
Key information from two-proton transfer data

- ✓ Very low cross section (comparable with DCE) for low-lying states
- ✓ Competition between one-step and two-step mechanisms
- ✓ Good description of the data

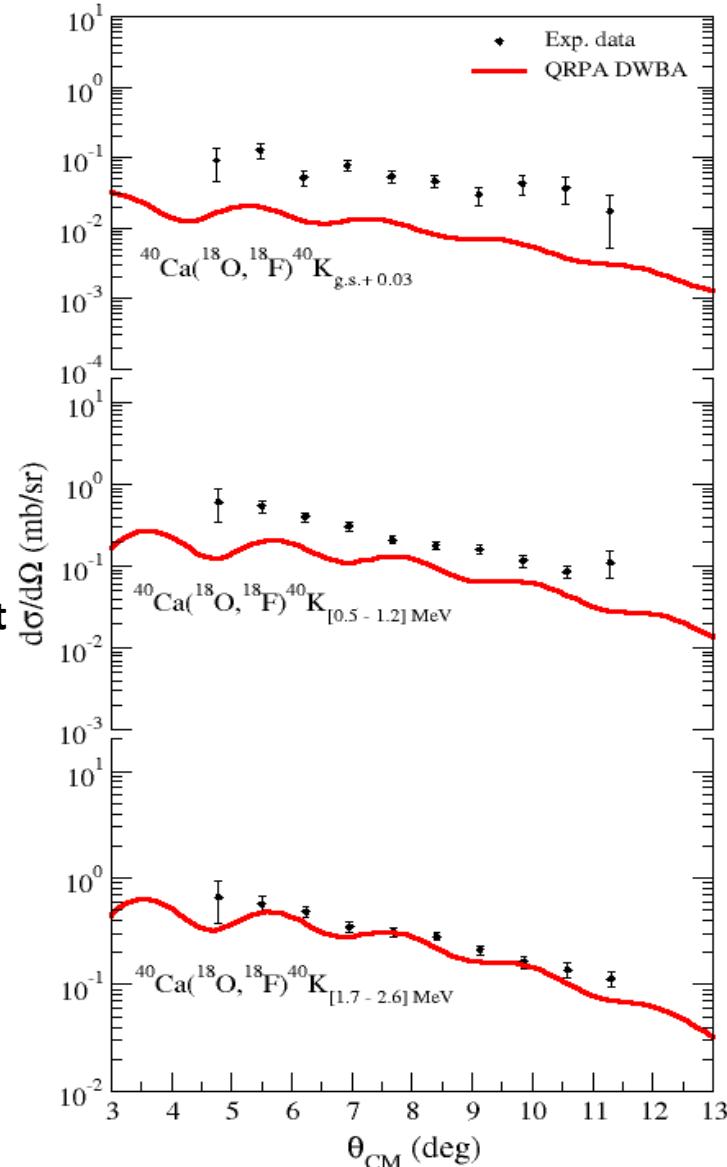


Single charge exchange reaction

M. Cavallaro et al., Front. Astron. Space Sci. (2021) 8:659815

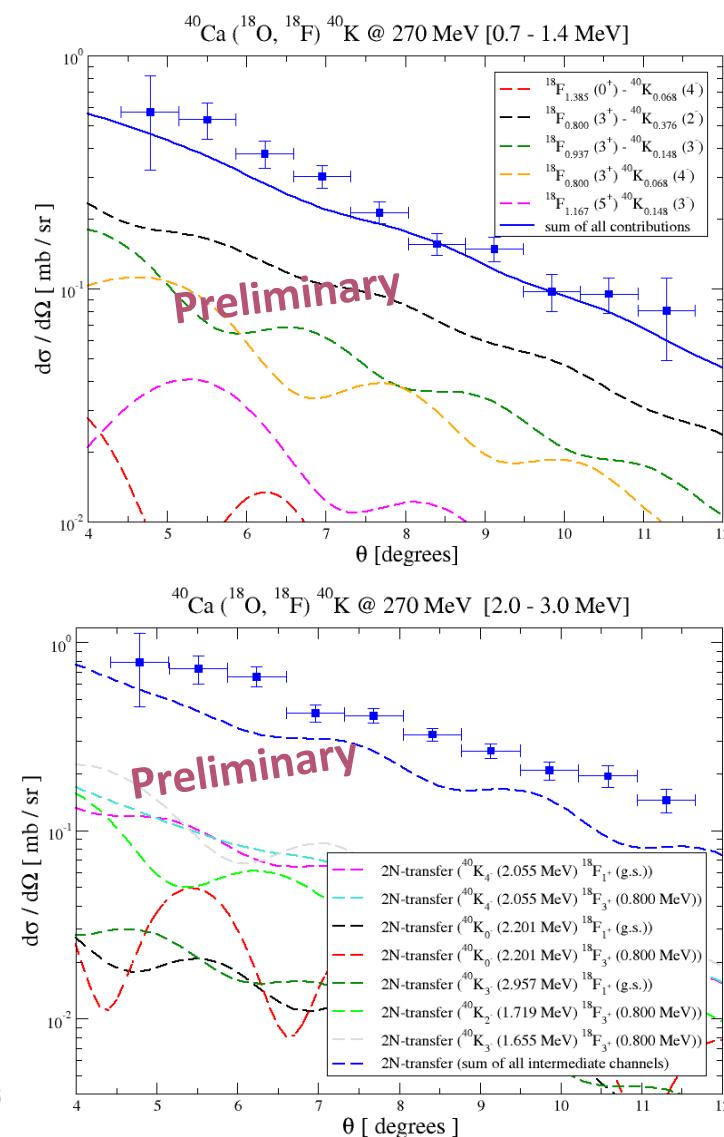


Direct



vs

Two-step transfer



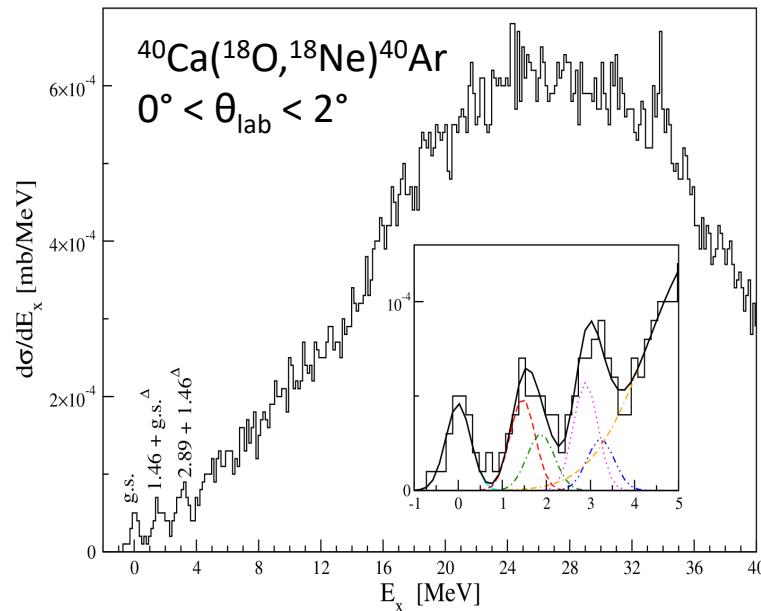
- OP extracted from elastic and inelastic scattering data
- DWBA analysis with double folding form factors for **direct**
- QRPA transition densities with NN isovector interaction
- CCBA approach for **two-step transfer**

Key information from SCE data

- ✓ Direct meson exchange mechanism important at low excitation energy
- ✓ Two-step nucleonic SCE plays a role, expected to contribute less at higher E_x

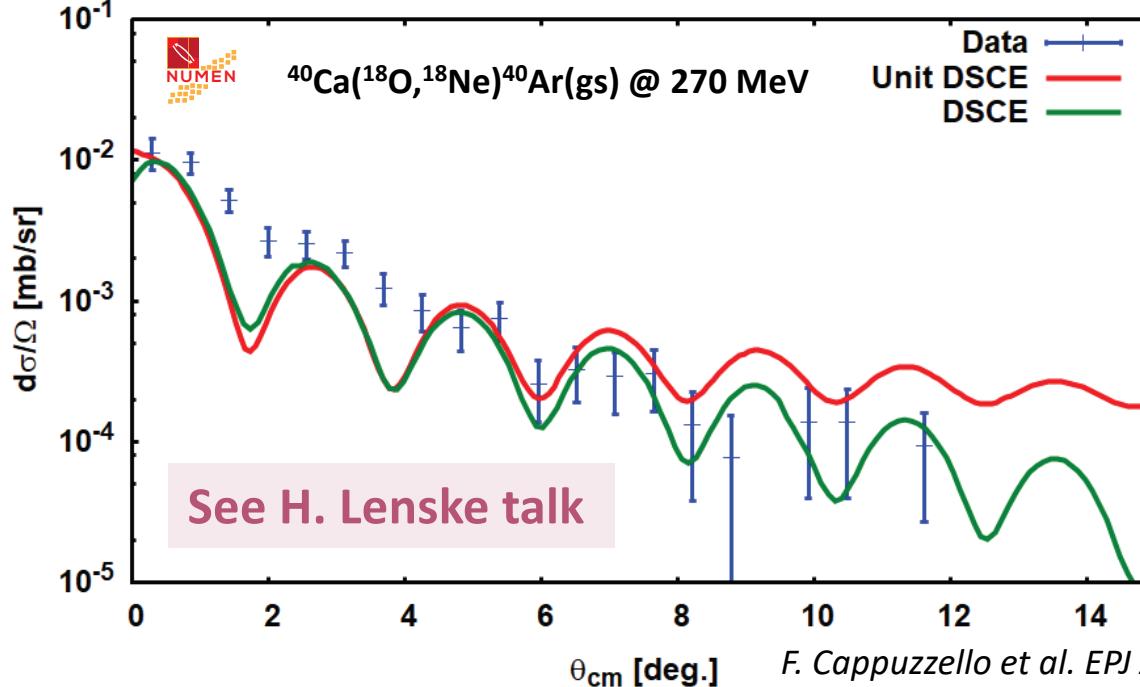
Double charge exchange reaction

- ISI and FSI ion-ion interaction from double folding
- QRPA transition densities for microscopic form factors up to $J^\pi = 5^\pm$
- Two-step DWBA for the **DSCE** amplitudes



Key information from DCE data

- ✓ G.s. to g.s. transition isolated
- ✓ Spectroscopic factor extracted
- ✓ Good description of the data



$F. Cappuzzello \text{ et al. EPJ A (2015) 51:145}$
 $J. Bellone \text{ et al., PLB 807 (2020) 135528}$
 $H. Lenske \text{ et al., Universe 7 (2021) 98}$
 $F. Cappuzzello \text{ et al., PPNP 128, 103999 (2023)}$

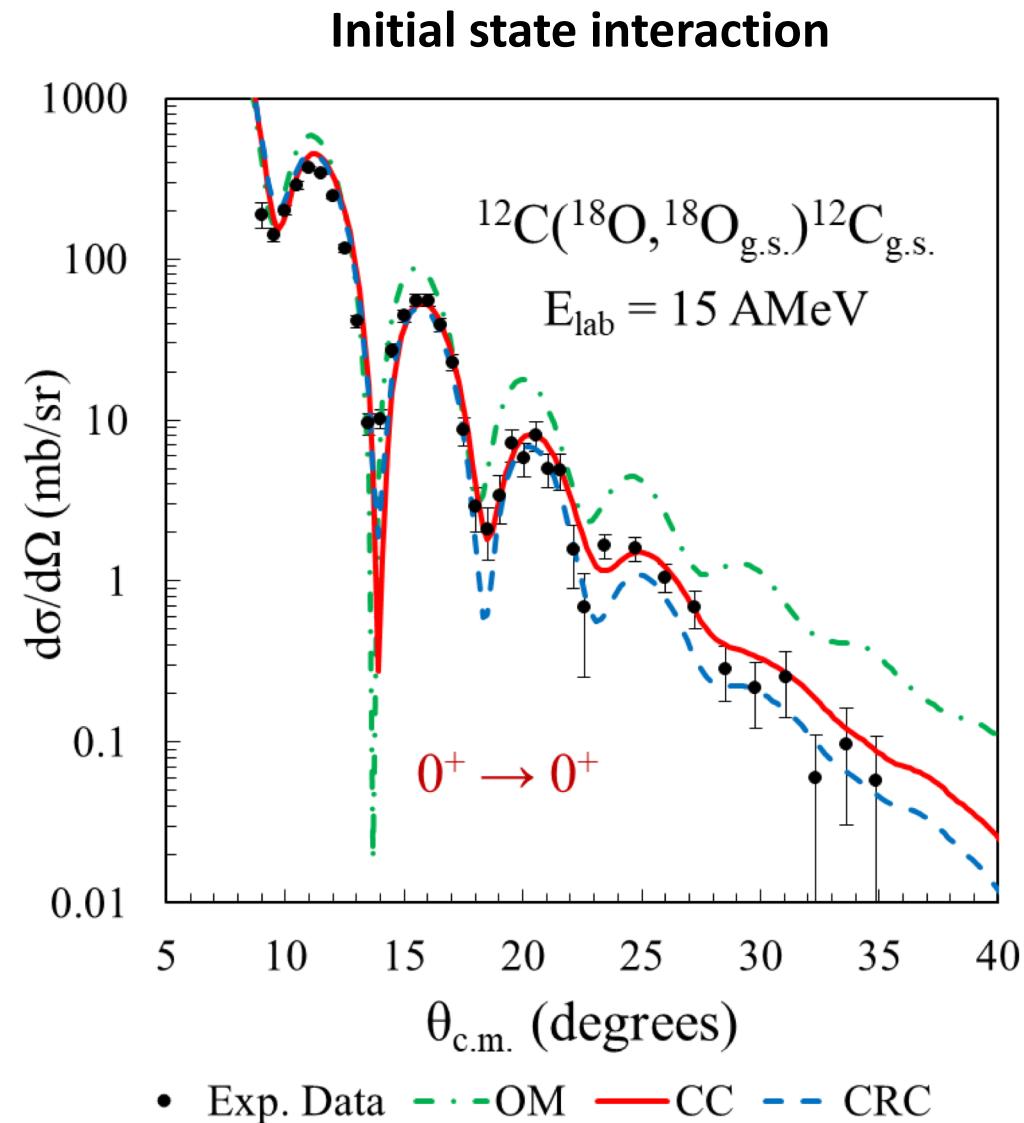
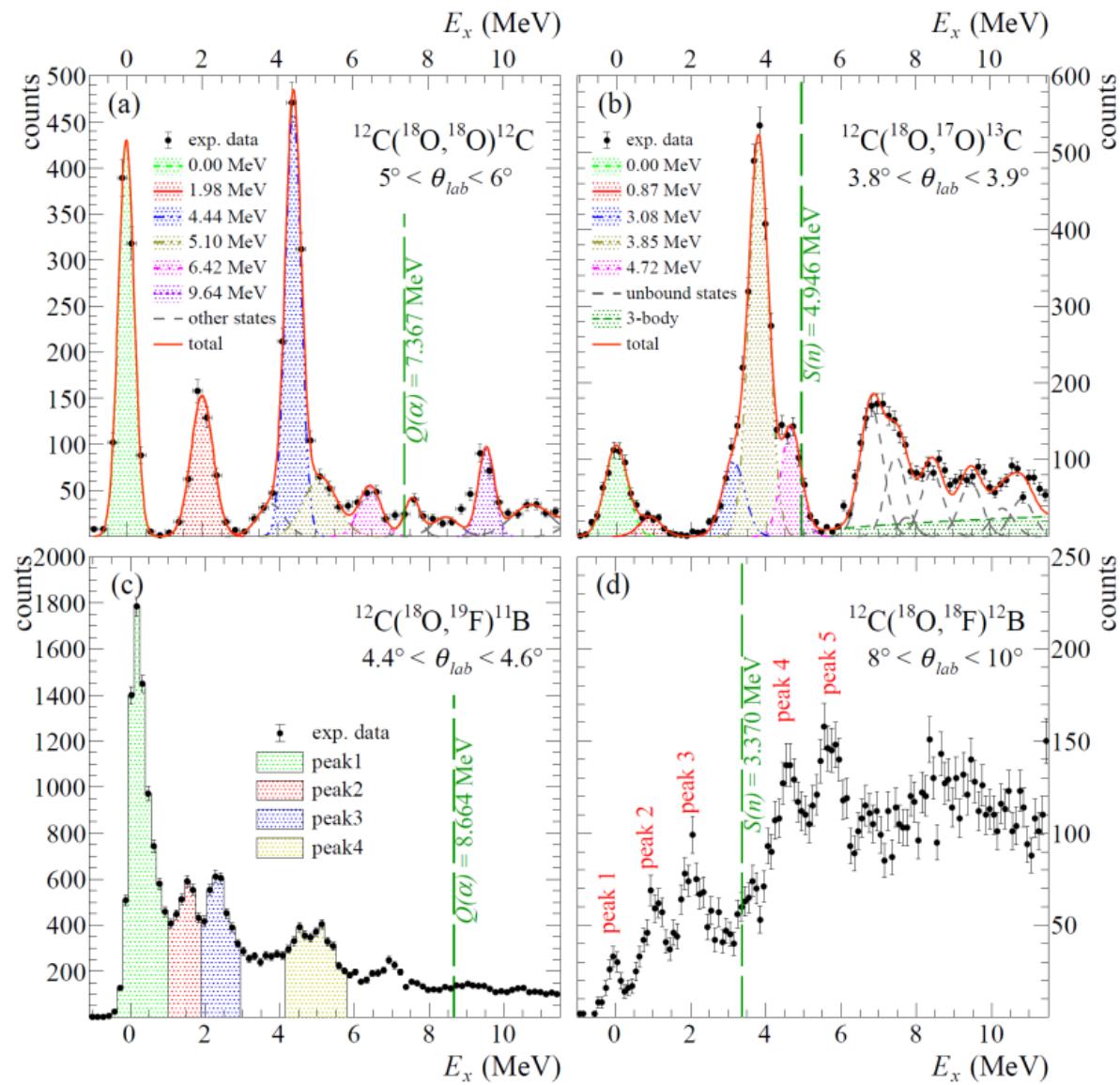
A spectroscopic factor of $\beta^2 = S_{JAJBJajb}^{IAlaS_1S_2} = 0.024$ is obtained, assuming closure approximation for $L_{13} = L_{24} = \lambda = 0$

$$M_{JajbjIa,\lambda\mu}^{JAJBIa}(\mathbf{k}_\alpha, \mathbf{k}_\beta) \sim \sum_{S_1, S_2} \sum_{l_1, l_3, l_2, l_4} \sum_{L_{13}, L_{24}} \left\langle \chi_\beta^{(-)} \left| \left[\bar{F}_{S_2 T}^{l_2, l_4, L_{24}} G_{opt}(\omega_\alpha - \bar{\omega}_\gamma) \otimes \bar{F}_{S_1 T}^{l_1, l_3, L_{13}} \right]_{\lambda\mu} \right| \chi_\alpha^{(+)} \right\rangle \times S_{JAJBJajb}^{IAlaS_1S_2}(l_1, l_3, l_2, l_4, L_{13}, L_{24}, \lambda)$$

The $^{18}\text{O} + ^{12}\text{C}$ @ 275 MeV case

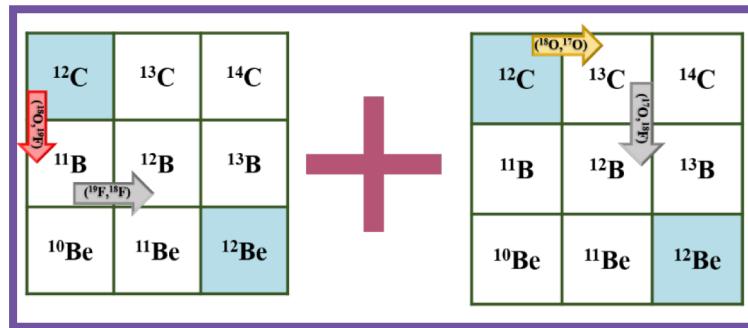
The multichannel approach

A. Spatafora et al. PRC 107, 024605 (2023)

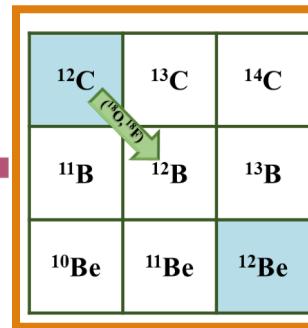


Single charge exchange reaction

Sequential



Direct



- OP extracted from elastic and inelastic scattering data
- DWBA analysis
- Large-scale shell-model p-sd-mod interaction SA + OBTD

N. Shimizu et al., Comp. Phys. comm. 244, 372 (2019)

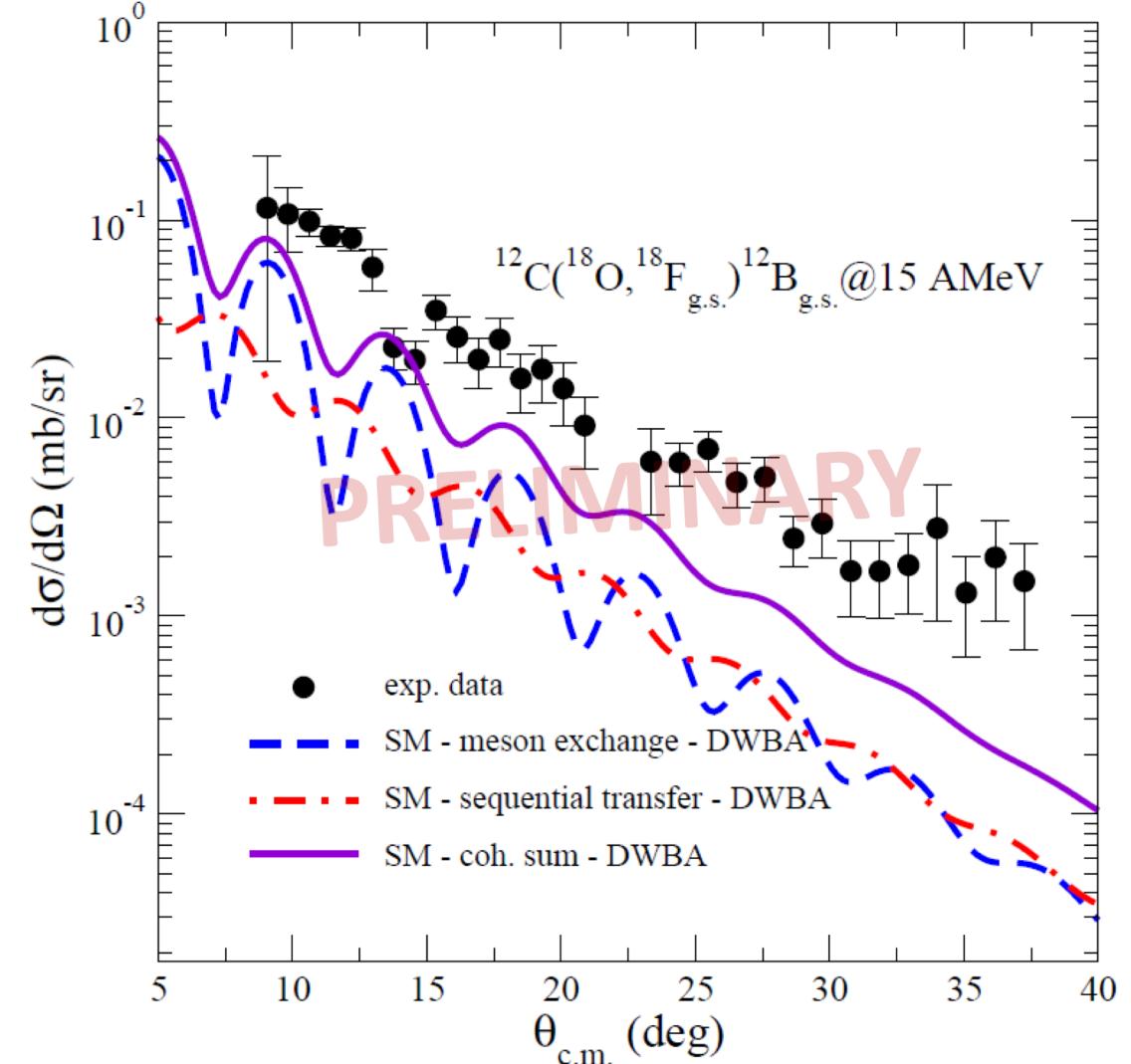
A. Etchegoyen et al. Nuclear Physics A 397, 343 (1983)

Key information from SCE data

- ✓ Interference among direct and sequential mechanism is **constructive**
- ✓ Coherent sum of direct and sequential cross-sections is still small compared to the data
- ✓ CCBA effects need to be investigated

First coherent calculation with direct and sequential SCE reaction mechanism

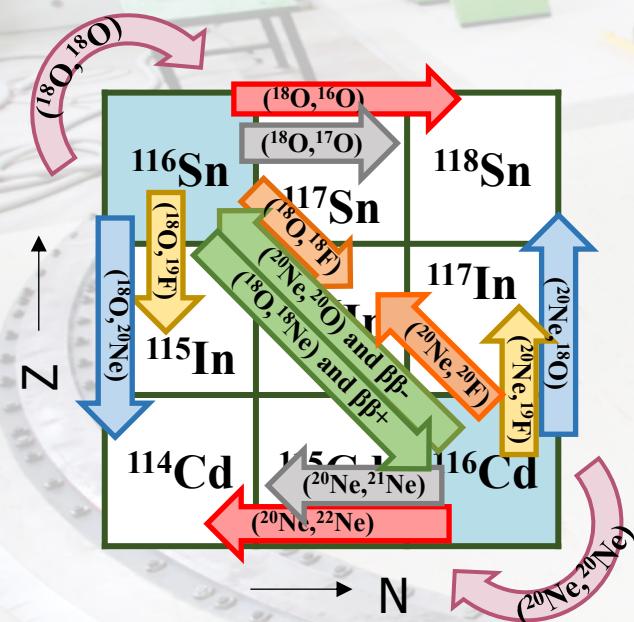
A. Spatafora et al., *in preparation*



NUMEN experimental runs

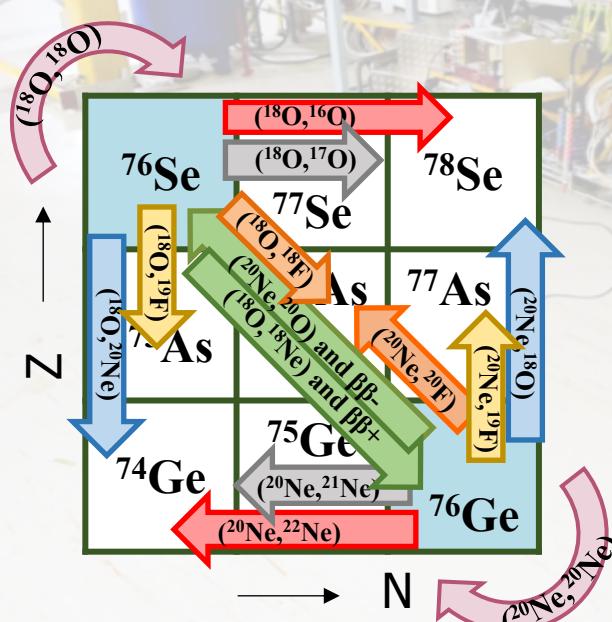
^{116}Cd - ^{116}Sn case

@ 15 AMeV
 ➤ $^{18}\text{O} + ^{116}\text{Sn}$
 ➤ $^{20}\text{Ne} + ^{116}\text{Cd}$



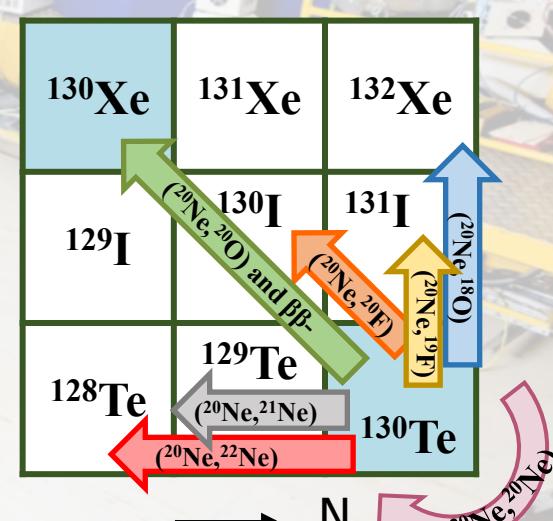
^{76}Ge - ^{76}Se case

@ 15 AMeV
 ➤ $^{20}\text{Ne} + ^{76}\text{Ge}$
 ➤ $^{18}\text{O} + ^{76}\text{Se}$



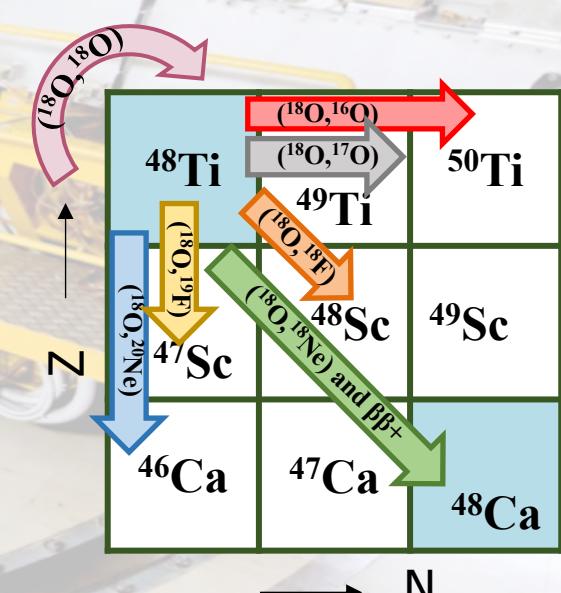
^{130}Te - ^{130}Xe case

@ 15 AMeV
 ➤ $^{20}\text{Ne} + ^{130}\text{Te}$



^{48}Ca - ^{48}Ti case

@ 15 AMeV
 ➤ $^{18}\text{O} + ^{48}\text{Ti}$



- D. Carbone et al., PRC 102, 044606 (2020)
- S. Calabrese et al., NIMA 980, 164500 (2020)
- D. Carbone et al., Universe 07, 58 (2021)
- S. Burrello et al. PRC 105, 024616 (2022)
- J. Ferreira et al., PRC 105, 014630 (2022)

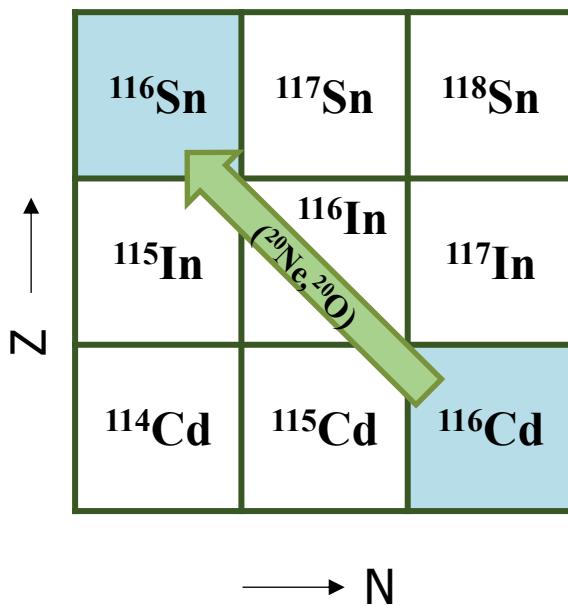
- A. Spatafora et al., PRC 100, 034620 (2019)
- L. La Fauci et al., PRC 104, 054610 (2021)
- I. Ciraldo et al., PRC 105 (2022) 044607

- M. Cavallaro et al., Res. Phys. 13, 102191 (2019)
- V. Soukeras et al., Res. Phys. 28, 104691 (2021)
- D. Carbone et al., Universe 07, 58 (2021)

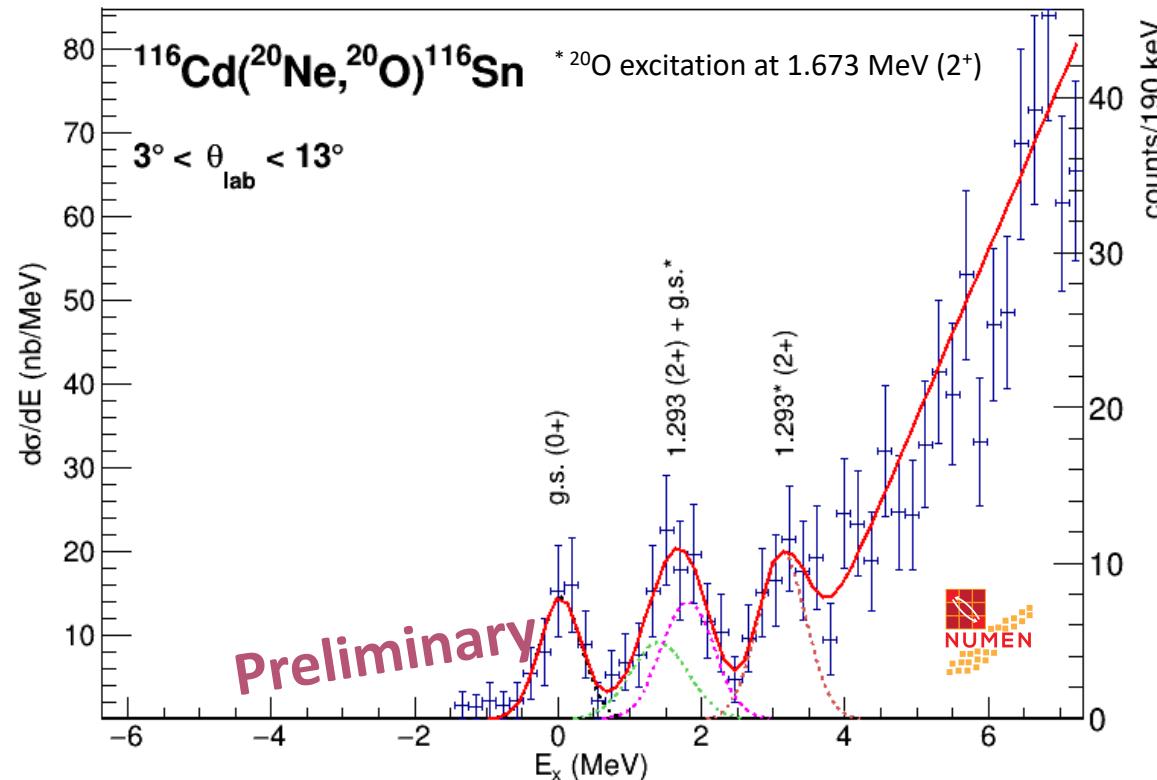
- O. Sgouros et al., PRC 104, 034617 (2021)

See O. Sgouros and
V. Soukeras talks

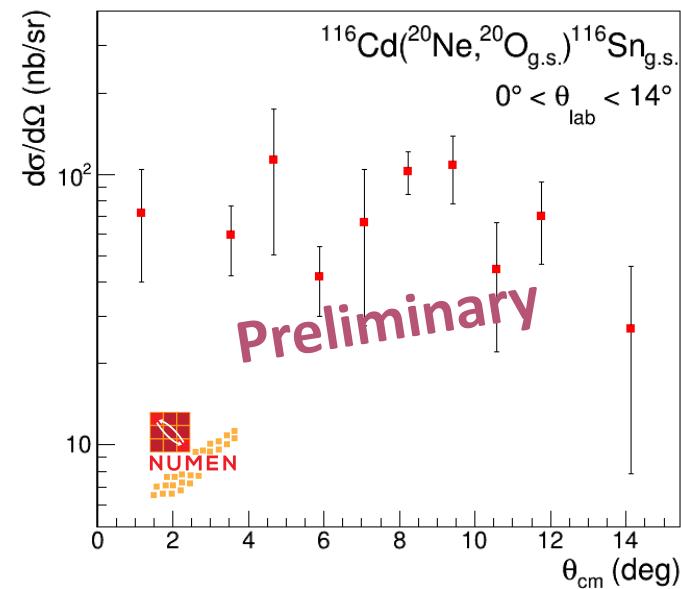
Experimental results



DCE reaction $^{116}\text{Cd}(^{20}\text{Ne}, ^{20}\text{O})^{116}\text{Sn}$



Preliminary

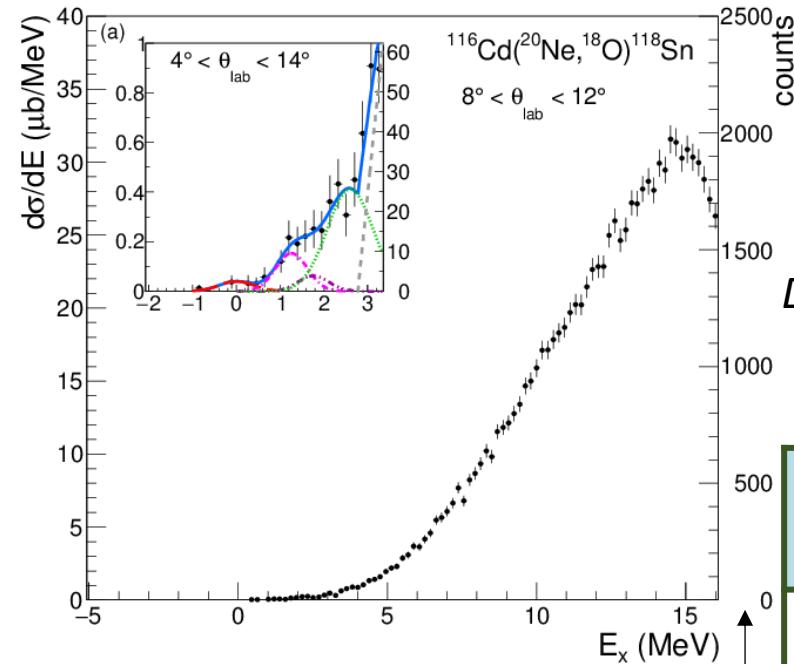


State (MeV)	Counts	Absolute cross section (nb)
$^{116}\text{Sn}_{\text{gs}} (0^+) + ^{20}\text{O}_{\text{gs}} (0^+)$	31	12 ± 2
$^{116}\text{Sn}_{1.293} (2^+) + ^{20}\text{O}_{\text{gs}} (0^+)$ $^{116}\text{Sn}_{\text{gs}} (0^+) + ^{20}\text{O}_{1.673} (2^+)$	67	24 ± 3

- g.s. \rightarrow g.s. transition isolated (resolution ~ 800 keV FWHM)
- Absolute cross section measured
- Angular distribution
- Zero-degree measurement

S. Calabrese et al., NIM A 980 (2020) 164500

Multi-nucleon transfer



g.s. → g.s.

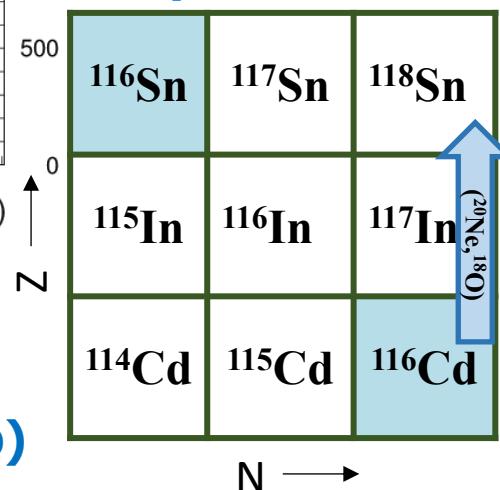
EXP. DATA

$40 \pm 15 \text{ nb}$

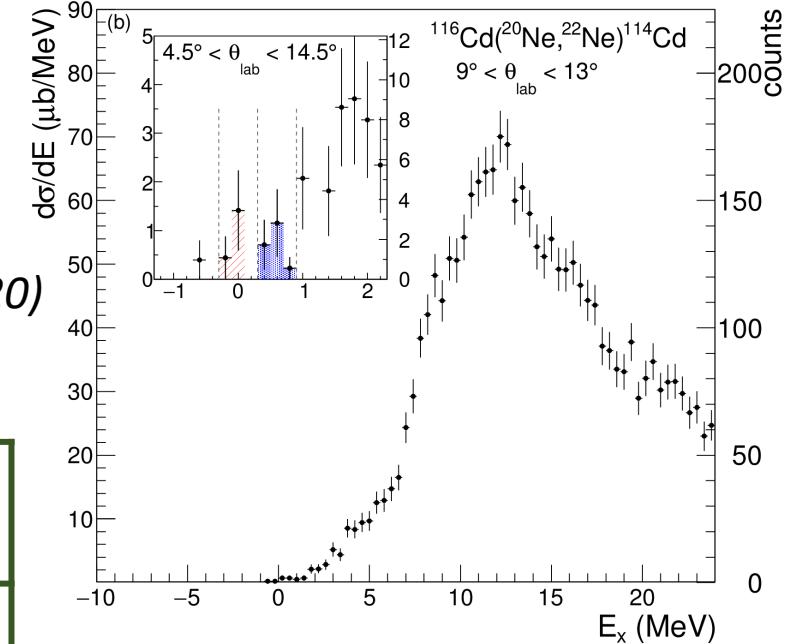
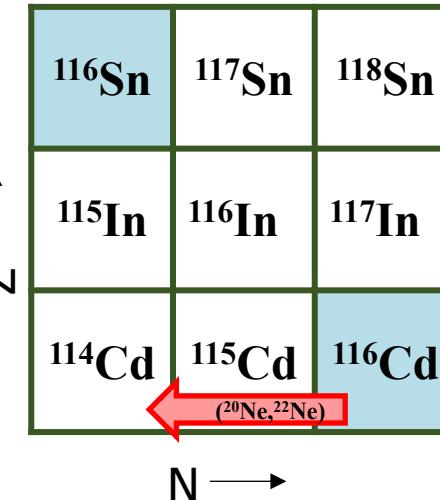
CALCULATIONS: **$\sim 40 \text{ nb (1 step)}$**

D. Carbone et al., Phys. Rev. C 102, 044606 (2020)

2p-transfer



2n-transfer



g.s. → g.s.

EXP. DATA

$370 \pm 190 \text{ nb}$

CALCULATIONS: **$\sim 210 \text{ nb (1 step)}$**

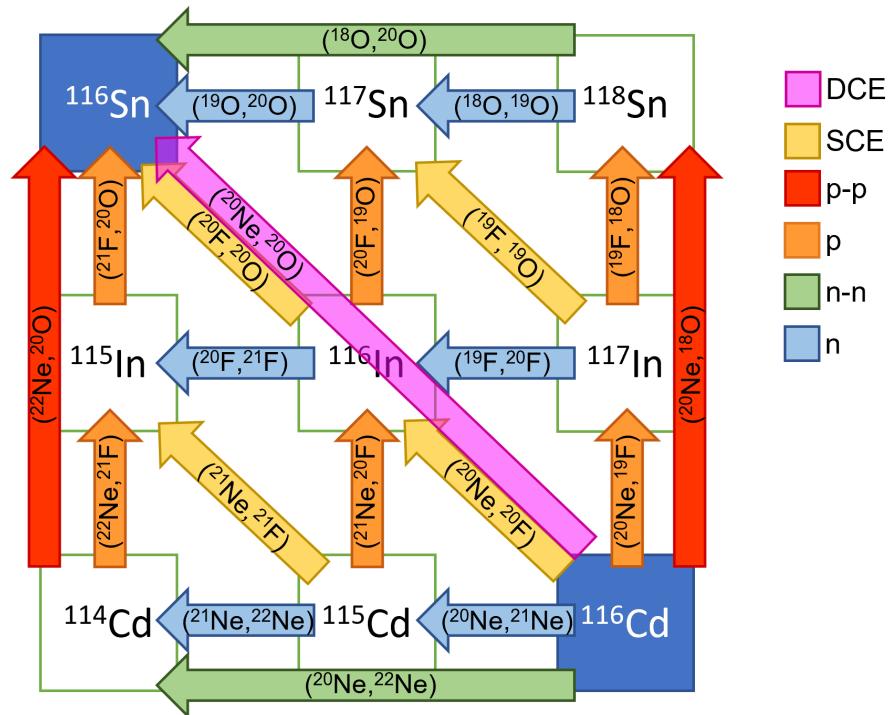
One-step and seq. cross section calculations
(DWBA, CRC, CCBA)

ISI and FSI from double folding
SA from IBM, shell model, QRPA

This framework is used to predict the multi-nucleon transfer cross section leading to the same DCE channels, for such steps where experimental information is missing

Multi-nucleon transfer routes

- DWBA and CRC calculations of all the multi-nucleon transfer routes competing with meson-exchange processes.
- Coherent (and constrained) approach



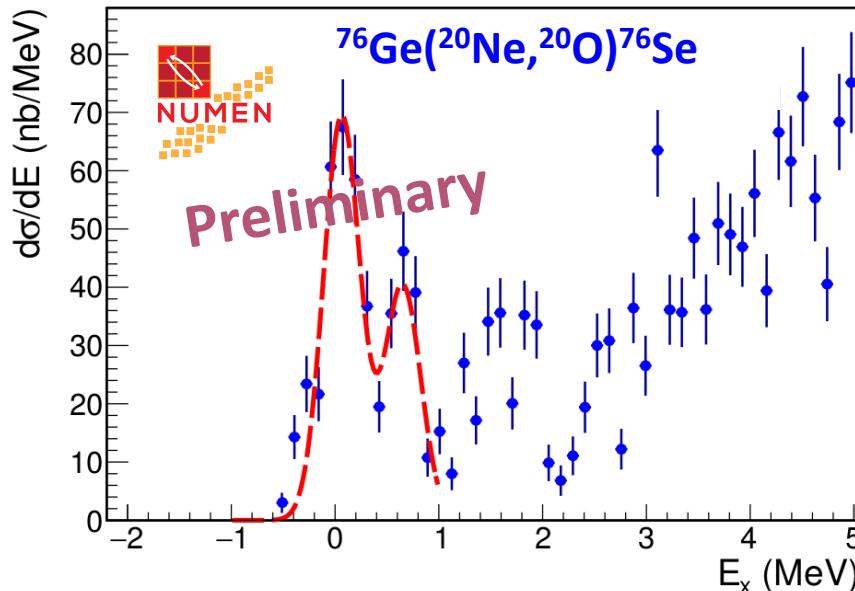
(Exp. cross section DCE $12 \pm 2 \text{ nb}$)

Mechanism	Int. cross section (nb)
$^{20}\text{O}_{\text{g.s.}}(0^+) + ^{116}\text{Sn}_{\text{g.s.}}(0^+)$	
$2p - 2n$	$1,28 \times 10^{-4}$
$2n - 2p$	$3,13 \times 10^{-4}$
$p - p - n - n$	$6,63 \times 10^{-5}$
$n - n - p - p$	$1,00 \times 10^{-5}$
$p - p - 2n$	$4,15 \times 10^{-5}$
$n - n - 2p$	$1,72 \times 10^{-6}$
$2p - n - n$	$9,26 \times 10^{-5}$
$2n - p - p$	$2,66 \times 10^{-4}$
$p - n - p - n$	$1,38 \times 10^{-7}$
$p - n - n - p$	$1,15 \times 10^{-6}$
$n - p - n - p$	$2,53 \times 10^{-7}$
$n - p - p - n$	$1,69 \times 10^{-7}$
$p - 2n - p$	$2,51 \times 10^{-7}$
$n - 2p - n$	$5,71 \times 10^{-6}$
Incoh. Sum	$9,60 \times 10^{-4}$

Negligible contribution of multi-nucleon transfer
on the diagonal DCE process

DCE experimental results

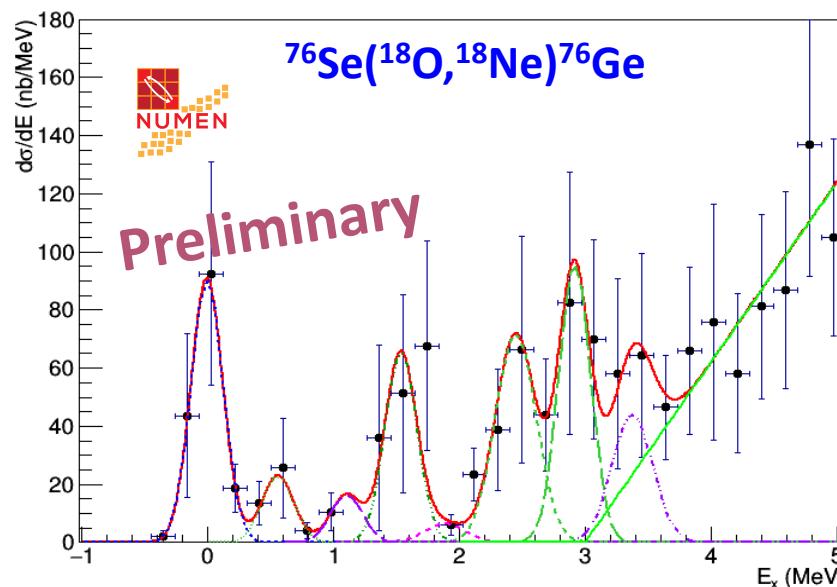
$^{76}\text{Ge} - ^{76}\text{Se}$ case



$0^\circ < \theta_{\text{lab}} < 8^\circ$

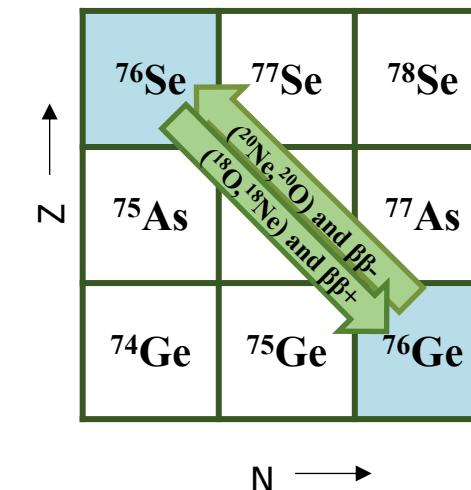
$$\sigma_{\text{g.s.} \rightarrow \text{g.s.}} = 30 \pm 4 \text{ nb}$$

R. Linares et al.



$$\sigma_{\text{g.s.} \rightarrow \text{g.s.}} = 29 \pm 6 \text{ nb}$$

A. Spatafora et al.



- Same cross sections for different directions
 - Similar distortion factors
- Same NME (encouraging test of time invariance!)

Warning:

- Only one case
- Reaction calculations in progress

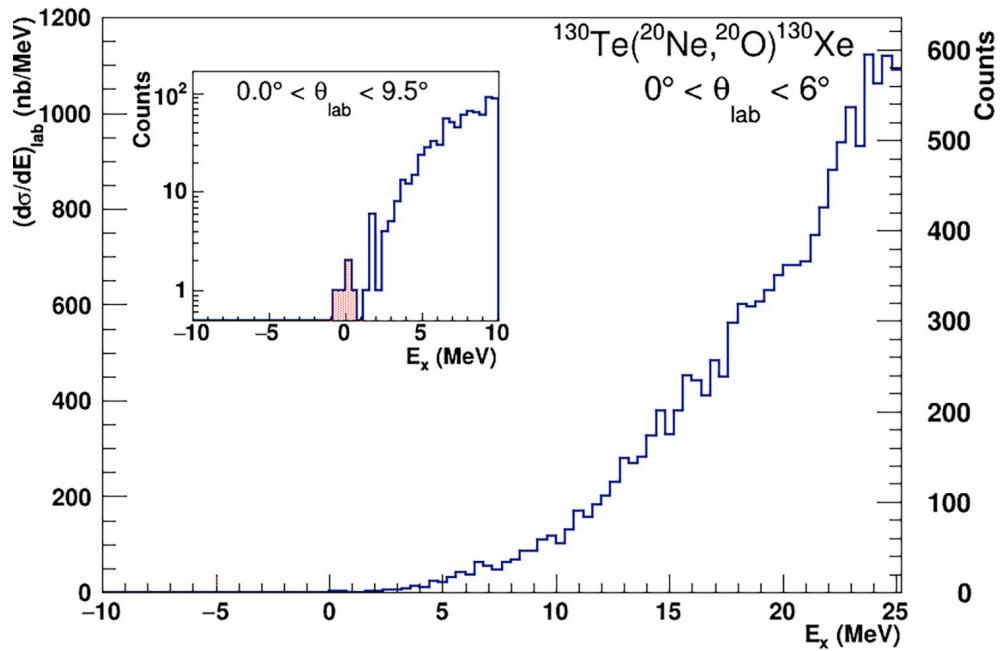
DCE experimental results

^{130}Xe	^{131}Xe	^{132}Xe
^{129}I		^{131}I
^{128}Te	^{129}Te	^{130}Te



- Resolution ~ 500 keV FWHM
- No spurious counts at $-10 < E_x < -2$ MeV

$$\sigma_{-1 \text{ MeV} \rightarrow 1 \text{ MeV}} = 13 \text{ nb } ([3, 18] \text{ nb at 95\% CL})$$

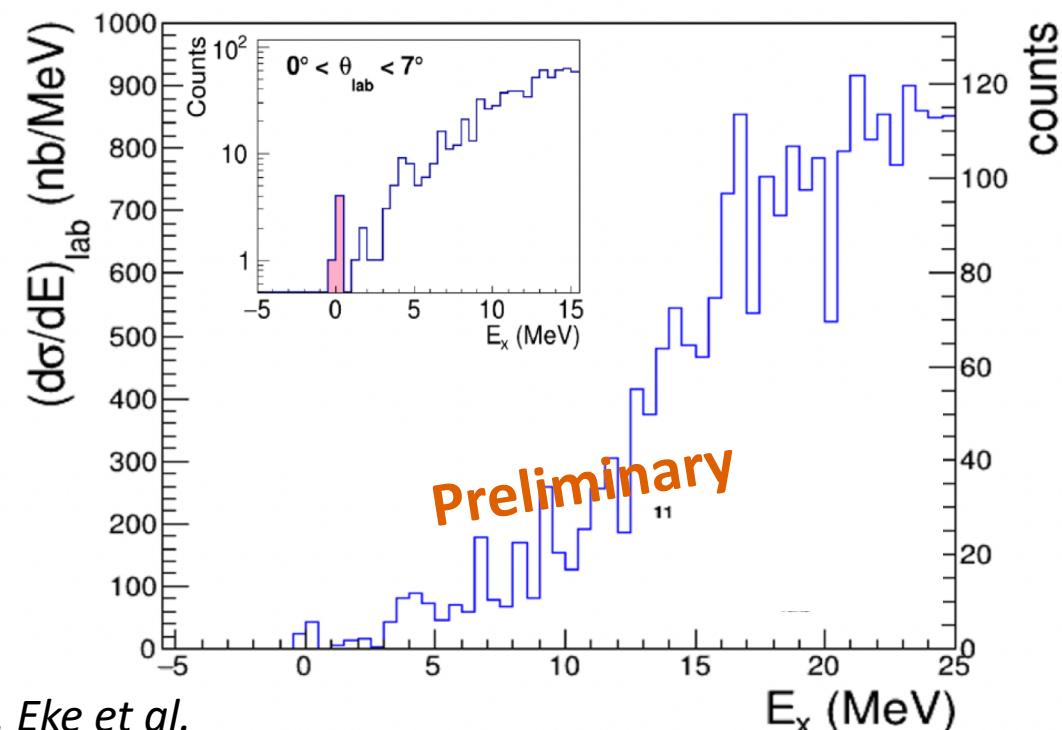


V. Soukeras et al., Results in Physics 28, 104691 (2021)

^{116}Sn	^{117}Sn	^{118}Sn
^{115}In		^{117}In
^{114}Cd	^{115}Cd	^{116}Cd



$$\sigma_{-1 \text{ MeV} \rightarrow 1 \text{ MeV}} = 36 \text{ nb } ([4, 46] \text{ nb at 95\% CL})$$



C. Eke et al.

DCE reactions are characterized by very **low cross-sections**



In the last years NUMEN studied only few systems

Much higher beam current is needed

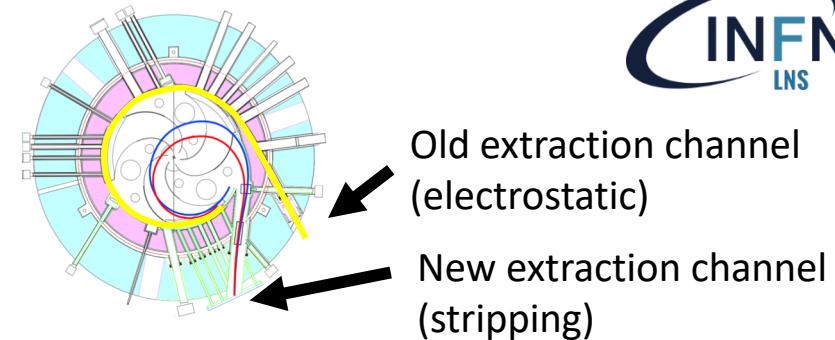
Project of upgrade of the LNS Cyclotron (from 100 W to 5-10 kW) and infrastructures (triggered by NUMEN physics case) funded by national grant (PON)



Upgrade of LNS facilities

➤ Upgrade of the LNS accelerator and beam lines

- CS accelerator **current** (from 100 W to 5-10 kW)
- Beam transport line **trasmission efficiency** to nearly **100 %**

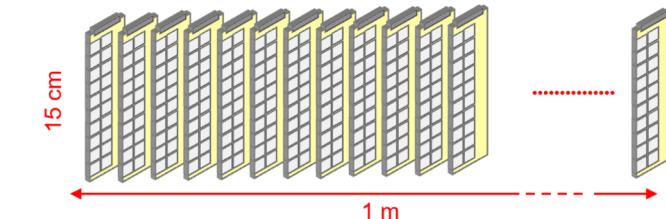


Old extraction channel
(electrostatic)

New extraction channel
(stripping)

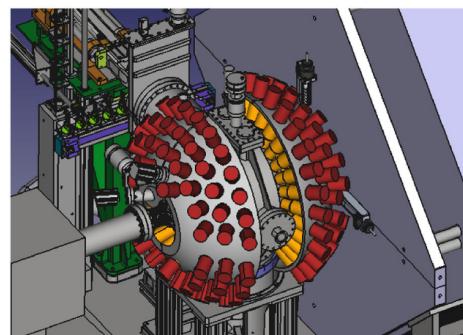
➤ The MAGNEX Focal Plane Detector (from 2 kHz to several MHz)

- Gas tracker based on **multiple THGEM**
- **SiC-CsI** telescopes for PID



➤ Array of scintillators for γ -rays (G-NUMEN)

- LaBr₃ scintillators
- Measurement in coincidence with MAGNEX



➤ Radiation tolerant targets

- Substrate of Highly Oriented Pyrolytic Graphite (HOPG)



➤ New electronics

- CAEN VX2740 Digitizer module

NUMEN TDR

F. Cappuzzello et al., Intern. Journ. of Mod. Phys. A 36 (2021) 2130018

See D. Torresi and
M. Giovannini talks

Conclusions and Outlooks

Use of HI-DCE reaction for $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay

- Promising results from the NUMEN experiments
- Multichannel approach for the data analysis
- **DCE reactions on ^{116}Cd , ^{76}Ge , ^{76}Se , ^{130}Te and ^{116}Sn** measured for the first time
 - ✓ Good energy resolution to isolate the g.s. → g.s. transition
 - ✓ Absolute cross section measured
- Role of **multi-nucleon transfer routes negligible** with respect to the diagonal DCE in the case of ^{116}Cd - ^{116}Sn system

Outlooks

- New measurements at iThemba labs on $^{18}\text{O} + ^{76}\text{Se}$ system
- CS and MAGNEX FPD **upgrade** ongoing for reaching high intensity
- Full experimental exploration of all the nuclei candidate for $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay with the **high intensity beams**

The NUMEN collaboration

(NUclear Matrix Elements for Neutrinoless double beta decay)

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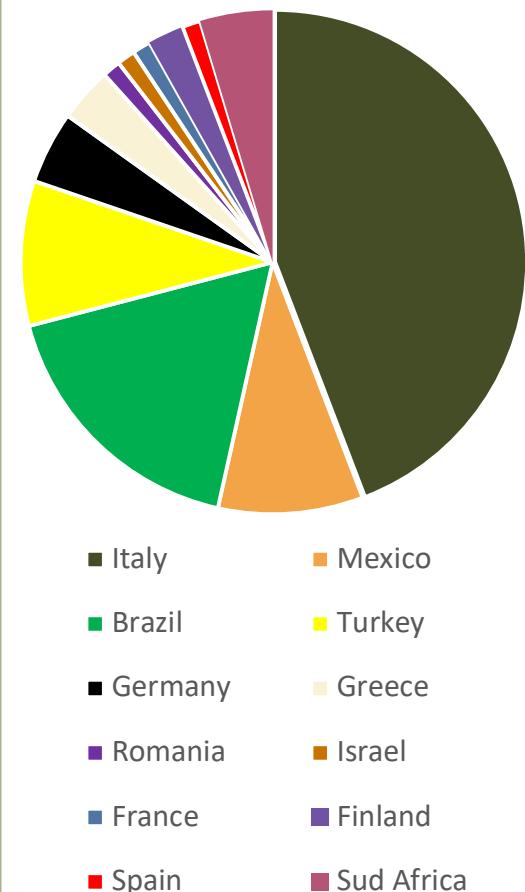
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86 Researchers
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12 Countries





Thank you