

Gamma-ray and particle spectroscopy activities at FRIB (GASPEC)

Andrea Gottardo (LNL-INFN), for the GAMMA collaboration



NUSDAF Collaboration Meeting, Catania, 21-24 October 2025

Outline

- GAMMA group: physics motivation
- GAMMA group: experience and know-how (AGATA campaigns)
- GASPEC: $N=Z$, direct reactions, Coulomb excitations



NUSDAF



Scope of the talk:

- **Provide an overview of the GAMMA group activities related to what can be proposed for FRIB**
- **Possible ideas for activities at FRIB**

GAMMA: Nuclear structure with γ -ray spectroscopy



GAMMA group

FTE: 52.63 + 6 from ext. fundings

People: 75+4 technicians

5 Sections: FI, LNL, MI, PD, PG

In 2024:

76 publications

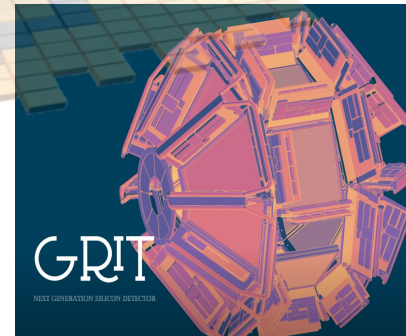
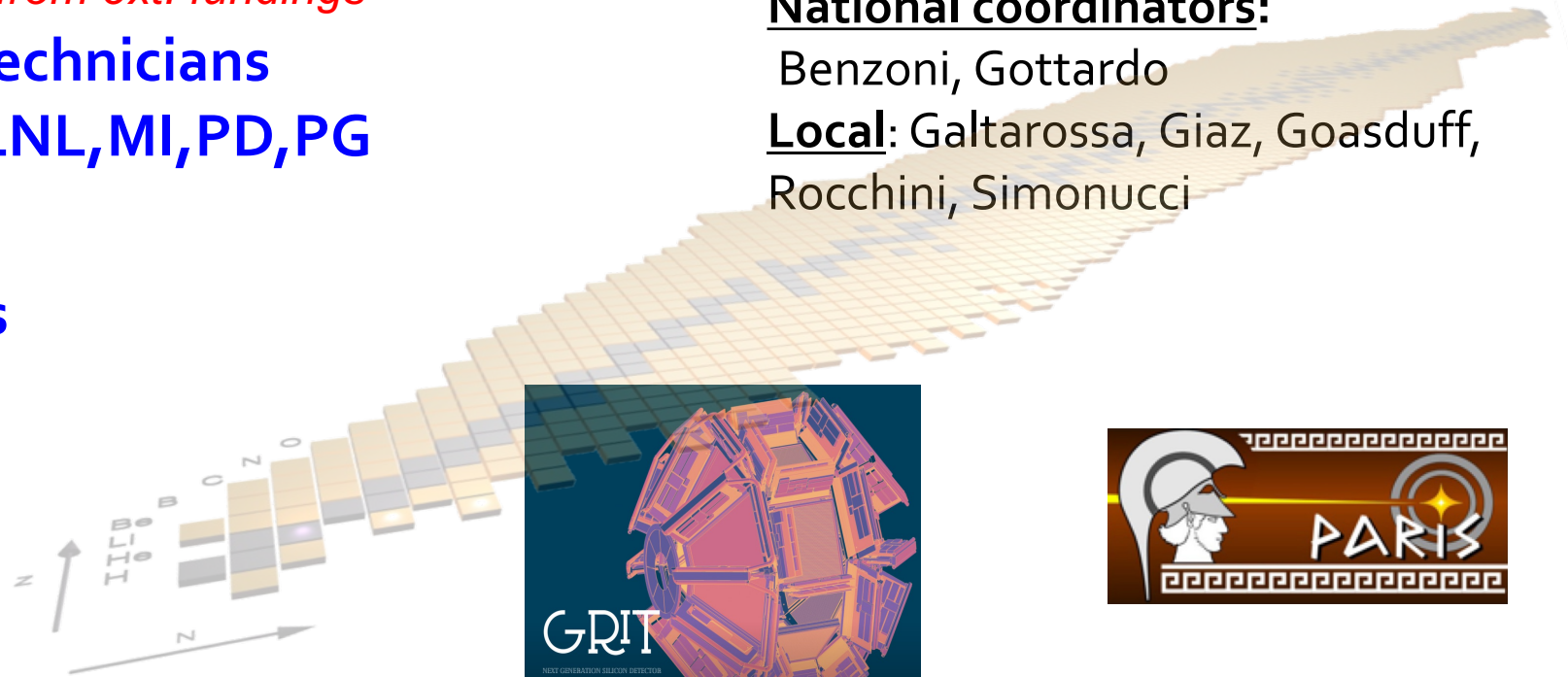
151 Talks

25 thesis

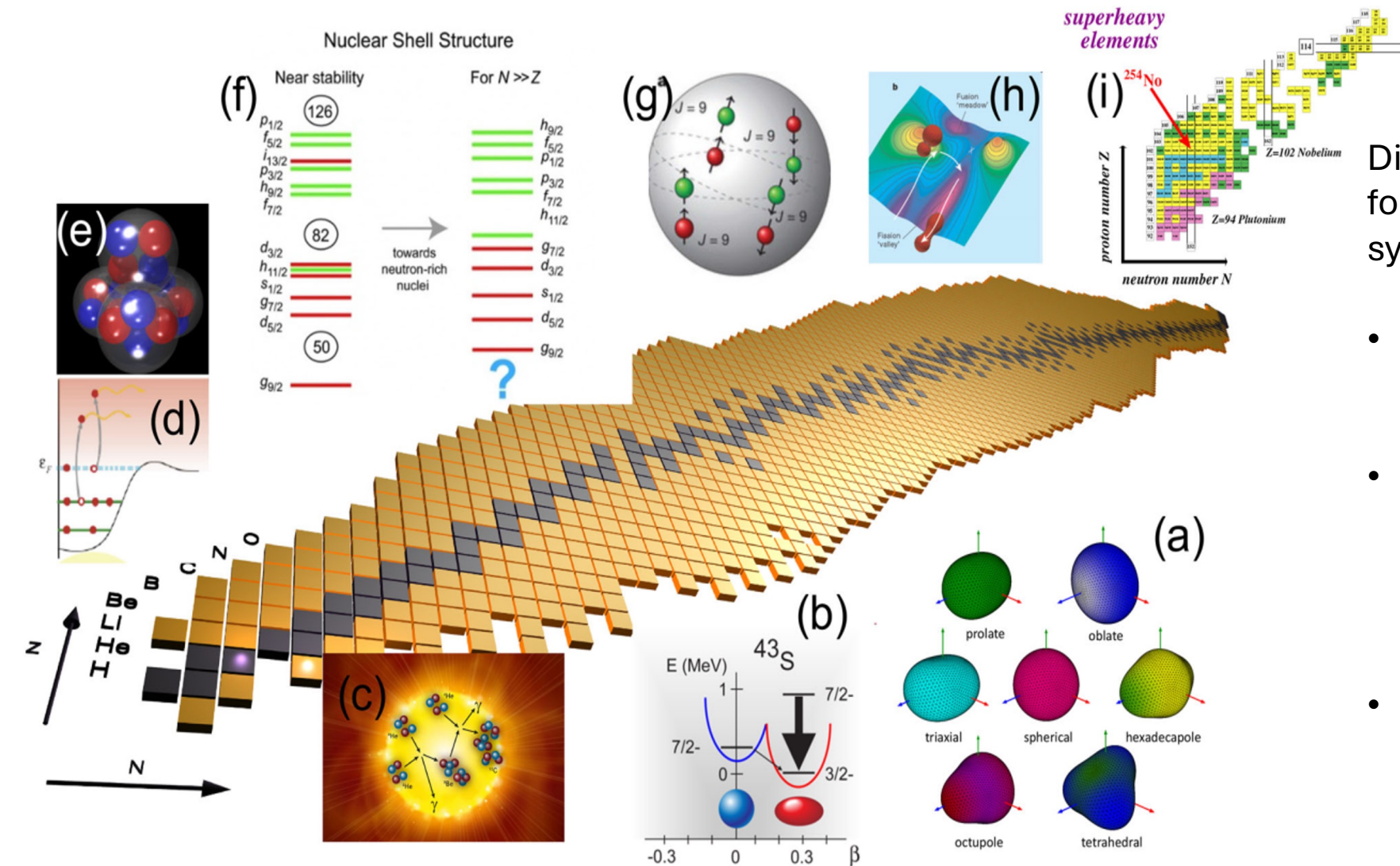
National coordinators:

Benzoni, Gottardo

Local: Galtarossa, Giaz, Goasduff,
Rocchini, Simonucci



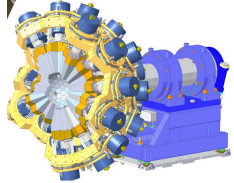
Our playground: the nucleus, a mischievous object



Different observables needed for a complete description of the system at low energy

- Electromagnetic probes: γ -ray emission, electron scattering
- Hadronic probes: peripheral («direct») nuclear reactions, deep inelastic reactions, compound nucleus reactions
- Impact on astrophysics (nucleosynthesis), on weak-sector physics (CKM unitarity, EDM)

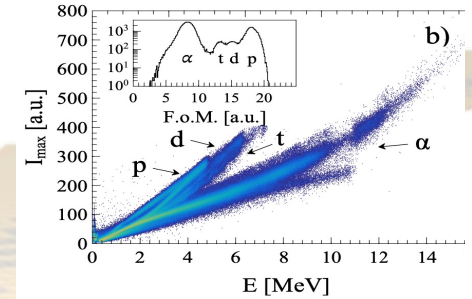
Main lines of the GAMMA collaboration



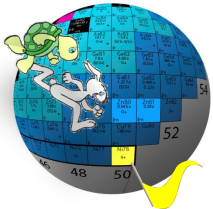
Development and
operativity of large arrays:
AGATA
PARIS
GRIT



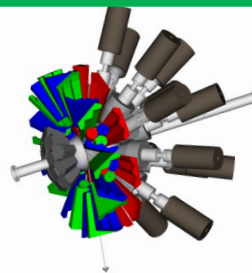
Next generation training



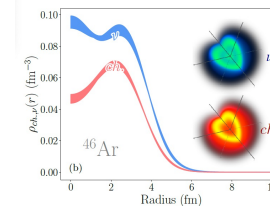
Technological development
for detectors
Electronics
DAQ



Measurements
campaigns in national
and international
laboratories



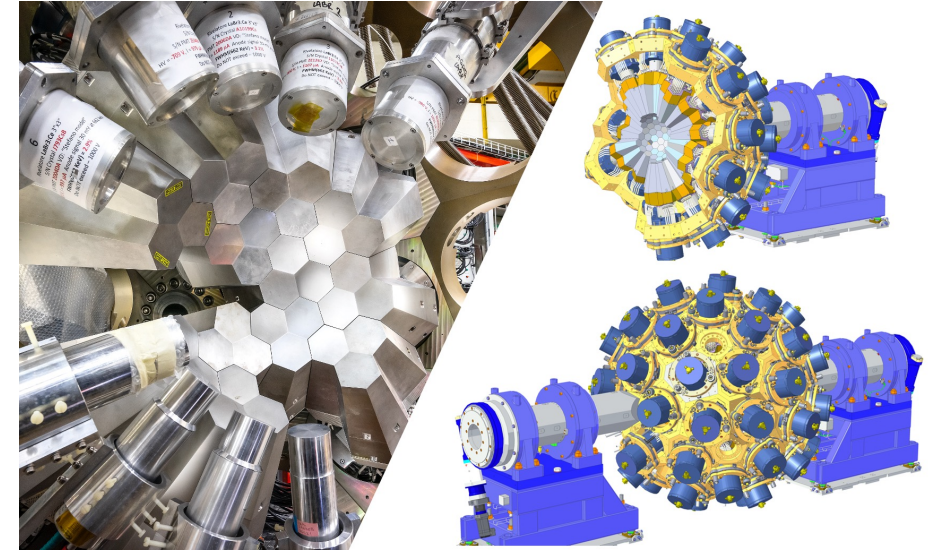
New resident arrays for
INFN national
laboratories



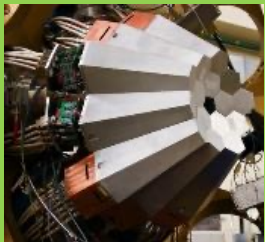
Synergies with other
research lines and
theoretical groups

AGATA development and campaigns

- Experience in operating γ -ray tracking arrays
- Collaboration AGATA-GRETA on tracking algorithms
- Development of physics cases adapted to γ -ray tracking arrays with both stable and radioactive beams



2010-2012
Legnaro, Italy
Intense stable beams
15 detectors



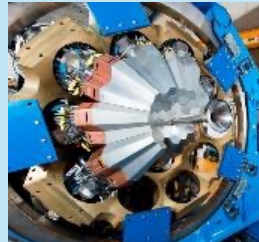
**AGATA Demonstrator +
PRISMA at LNL**

2012-2014
GSI, Germany
Fast fragmentation
beams
25 detectors



AGATA at GSI

2014- 2021
GANIL, France
ISOL and stable beams
approaching 1π (45)



AGATA at GANIL

2021-- 2028
LNL, Italy
Stable beams
SPES radioactive beams



**AGATA at LNL
2.0**

2028- 2030 (?)
GANIL, France
ISOL SPIRAL 1 Beams



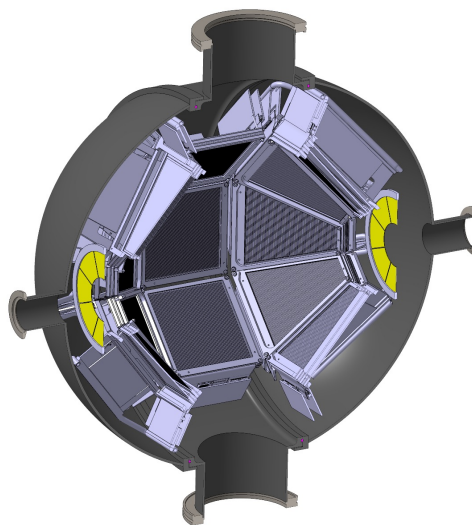
AGATA at GANIL

>2030
LNL, SPES, Italy
FAIR, Germany
ISOLDE, CERN
GANIL, France
JYFIL, Finland
RIB at low and high energies

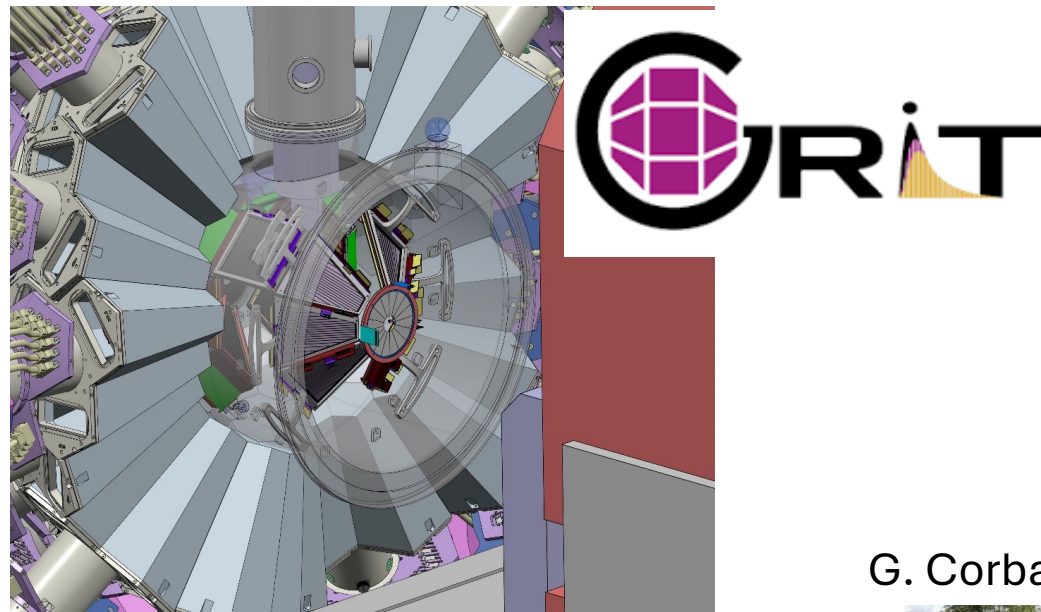


Development and operation of segmented Si arrays

- France-Italy-Spain-UK-Croatia-India, collaboration
- High-segmented Si array
- 4π angular coverage
- Particle discrimination with both E- ΔE and PSA techniques
- Fully compatible with AGATA
- Several experimental campaigns already performed with prototypes
- TRACE detector developed locally in Italy within GAMMA collab.



GRIT at the center of AGATA with the CTADIR target



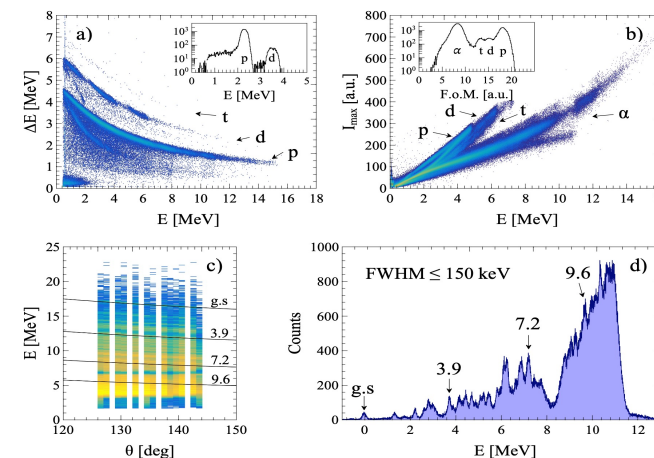
G. Corbari

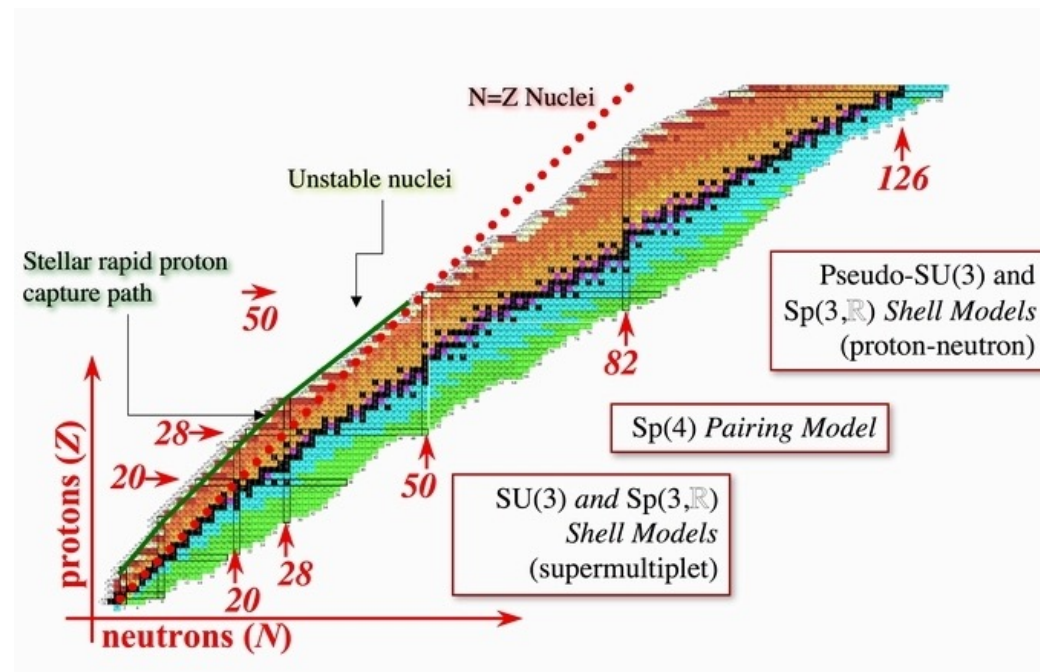


The Commissioning of TRACE

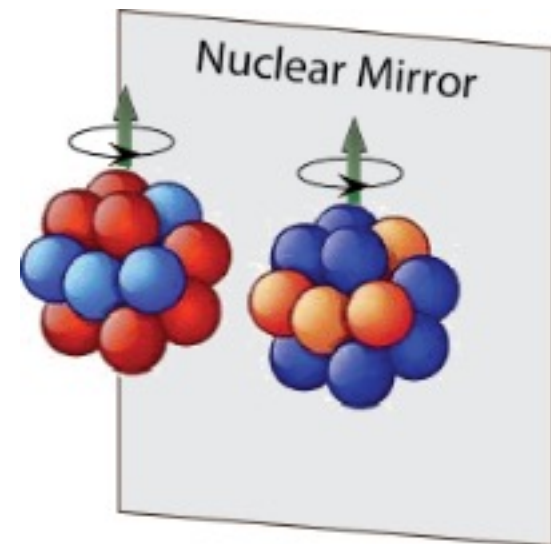
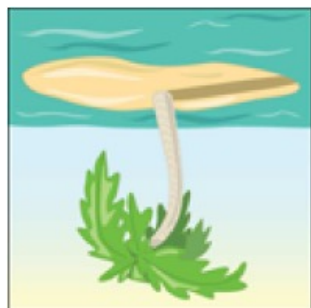
Outcome of the test:

1. **In-beam** test of the new components (Preamp., kapton cables, ...) ✓
2. **Particle ID** capabilities with E-DE and PSA ✓
3. **Grouping scheme** for the readout technique
 - A. DE layer ✗
 - B. E layer ✓

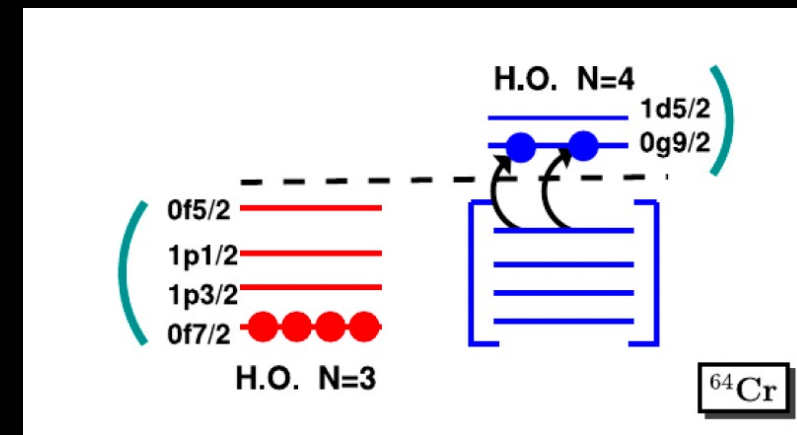
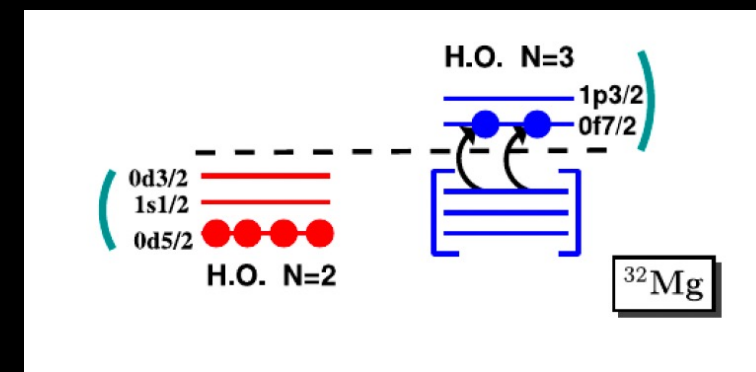
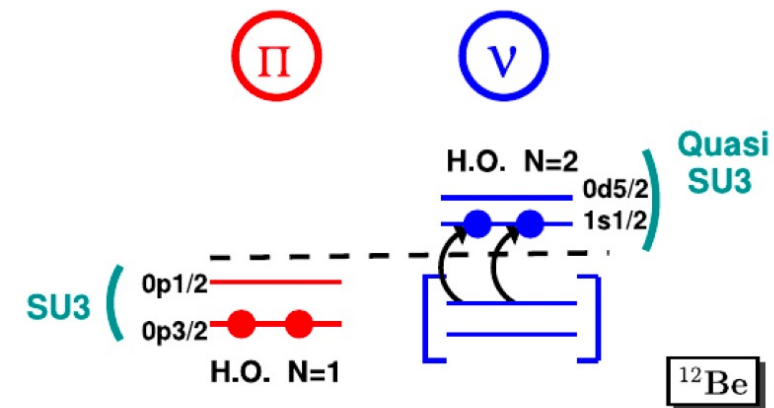
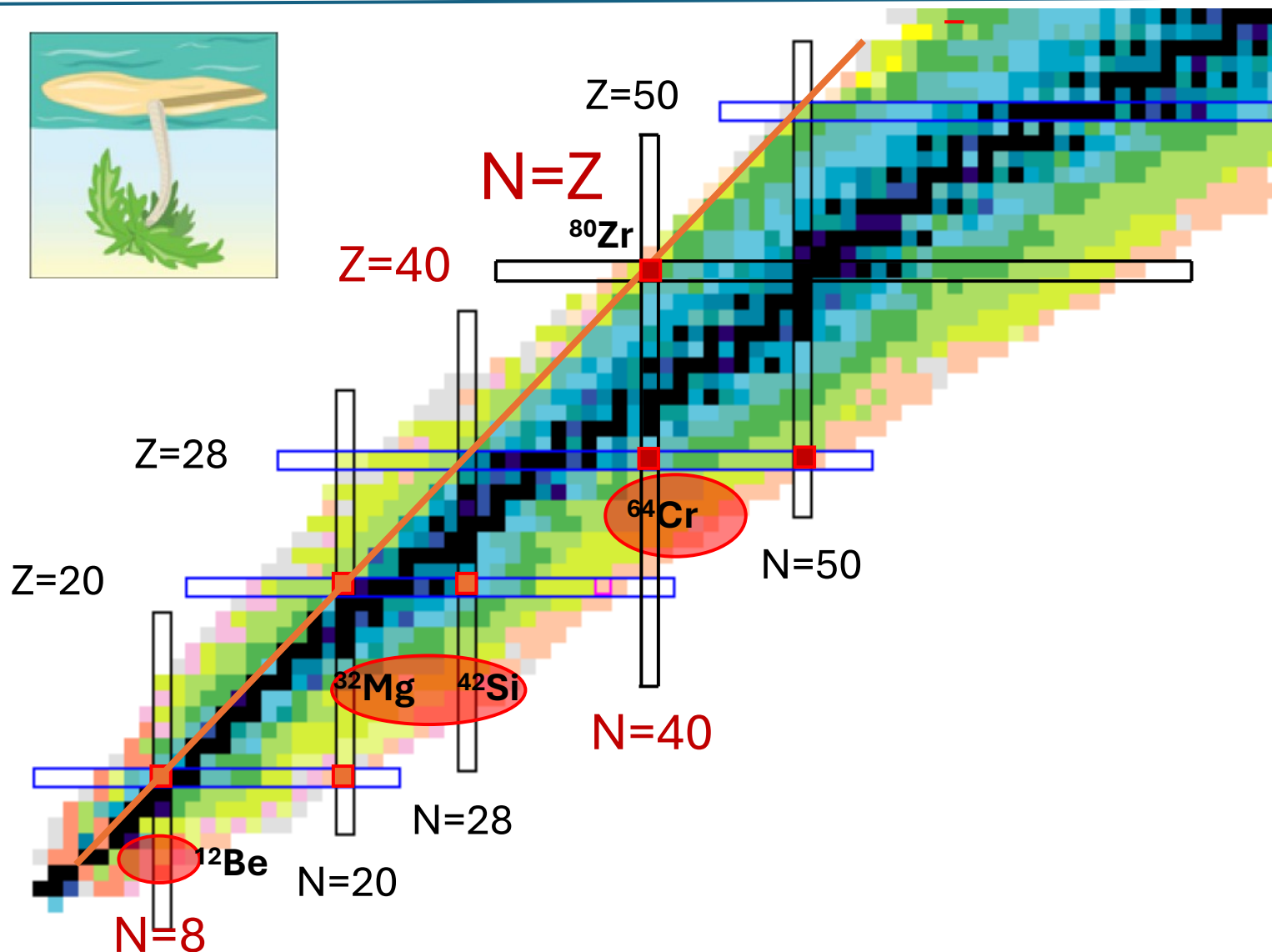




GASPEC: $N=Z$ nuclei



A recent example: islands of inversion at N=Z at NSCL

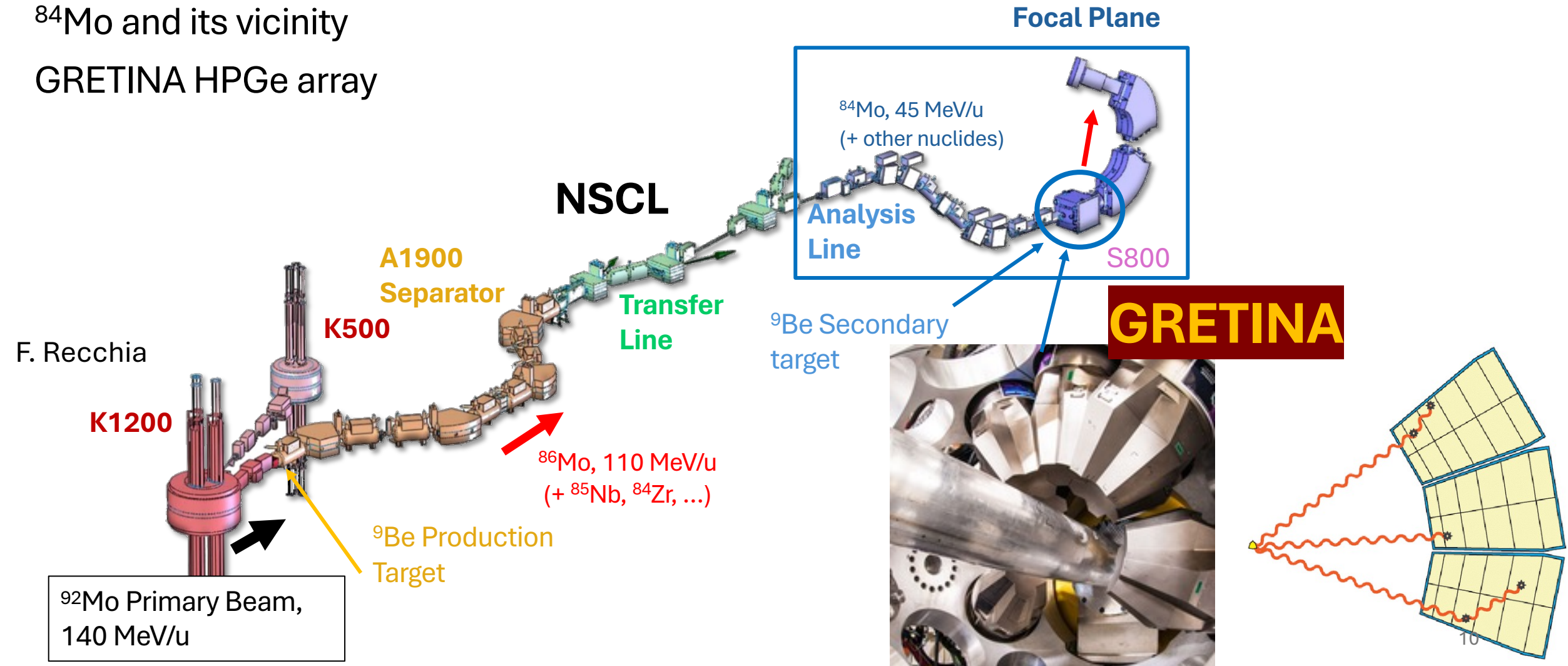


A recent example of collaboration: ^{84}Mo (Z=42) experiment at NSCL

Lifetime measurement for the low-lying states in

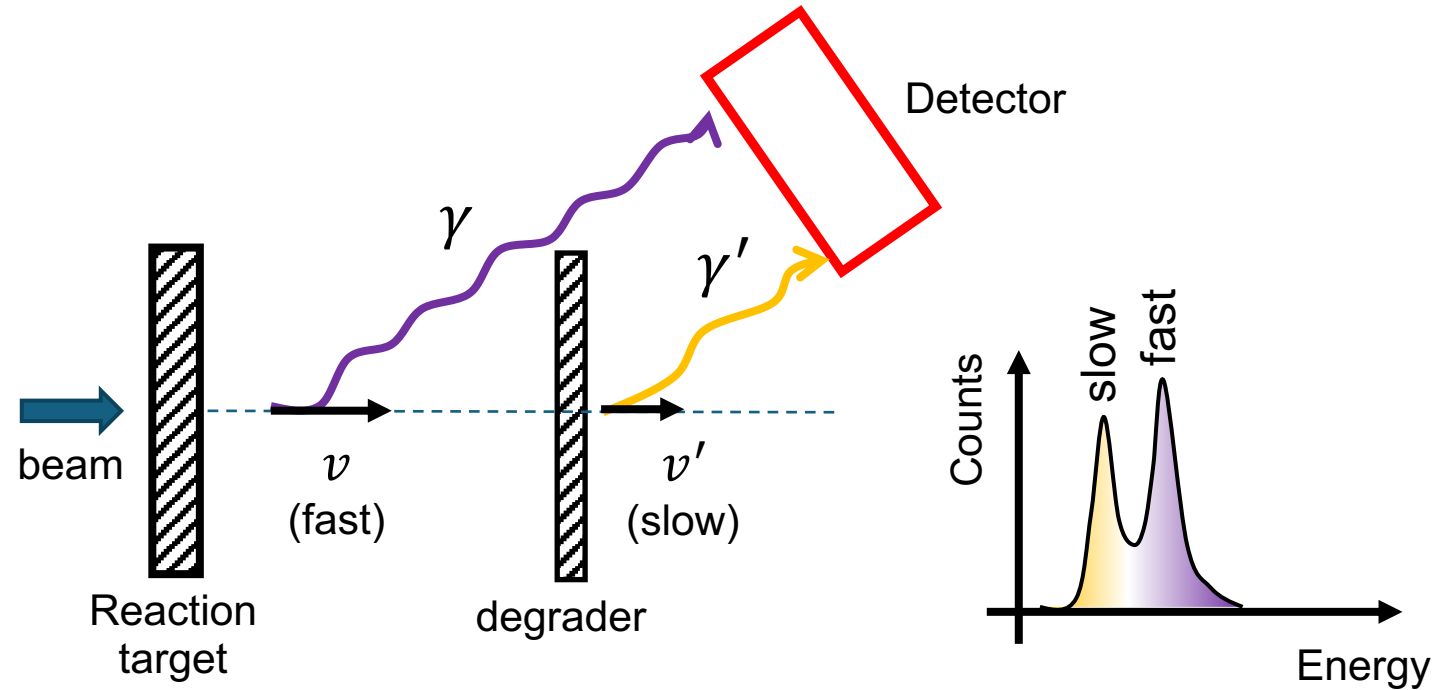
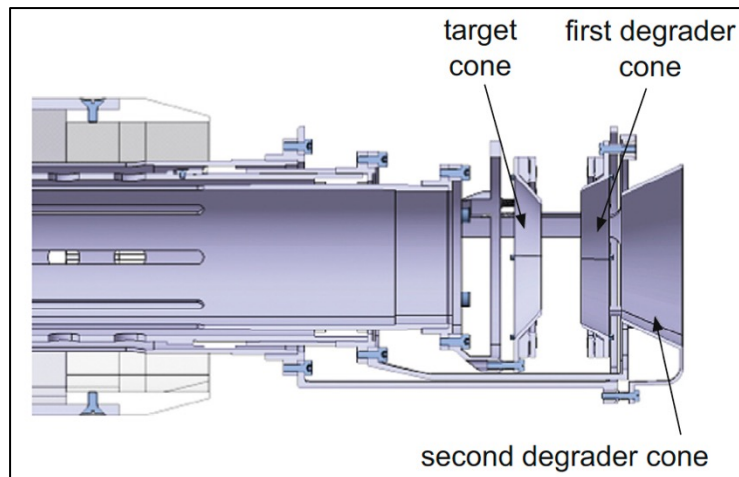
^{84}Mo and its vicinity

GRETINA HPGe array



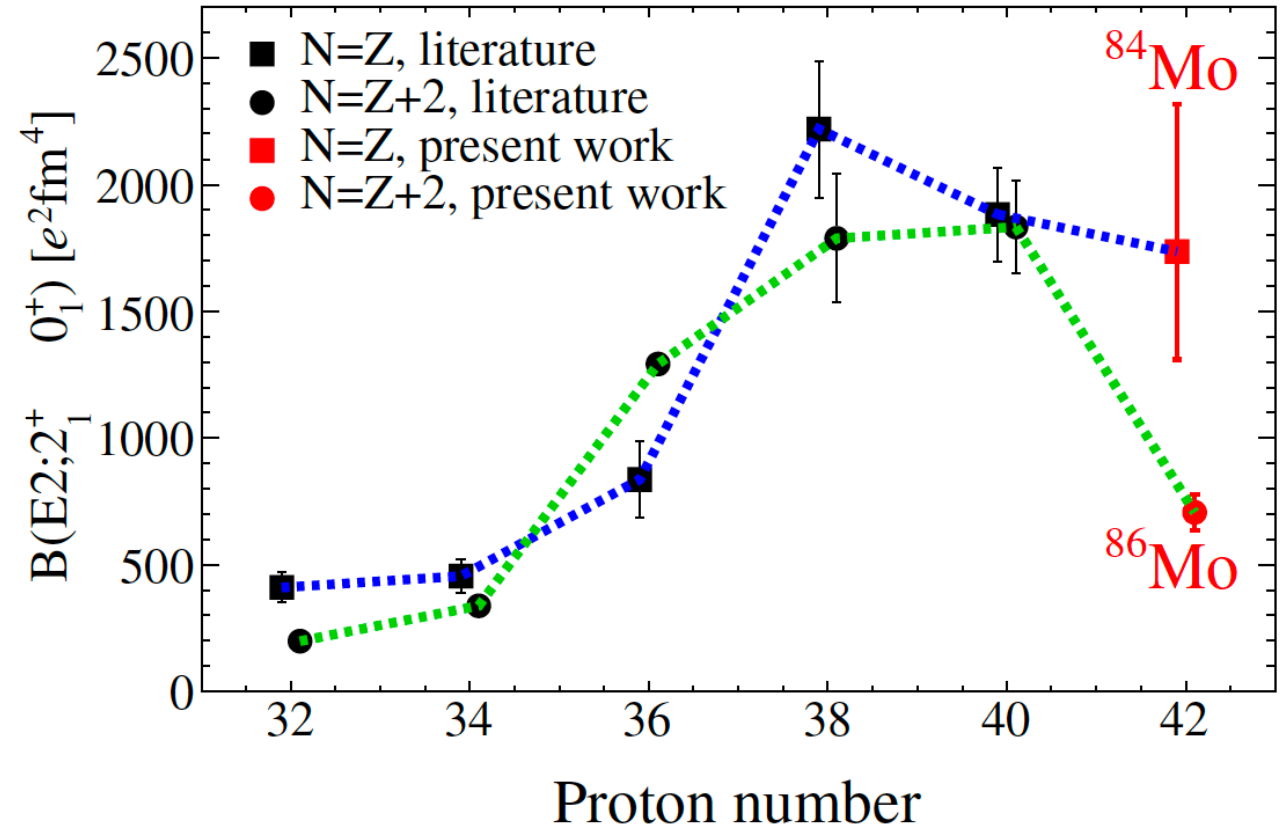
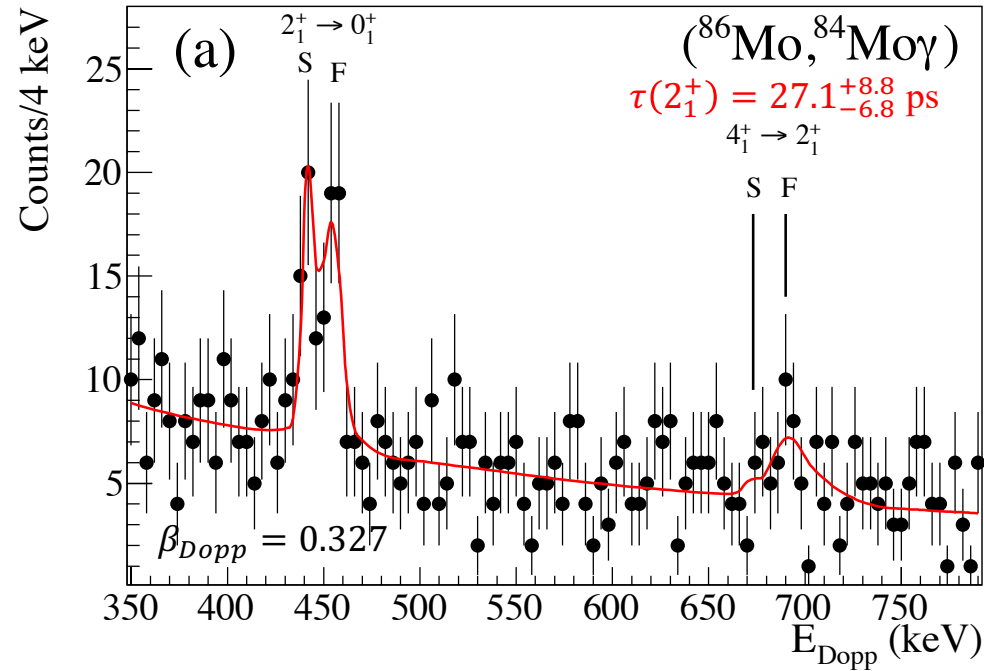
The experiment at NSCL

- **GRETINA** was coupled to the plunger TRIPLE PLunger for EXotic beams (TRIPLEX)
- With a secondary target, the **TRIPLEX plunger**



*H. Iwasaki et al., Nuclear Inst. and Methods in Physics Research A **806**, 123 (2016)*

B(E2; $2_1^+ \rightarrow 0_1^+$) along N=Z

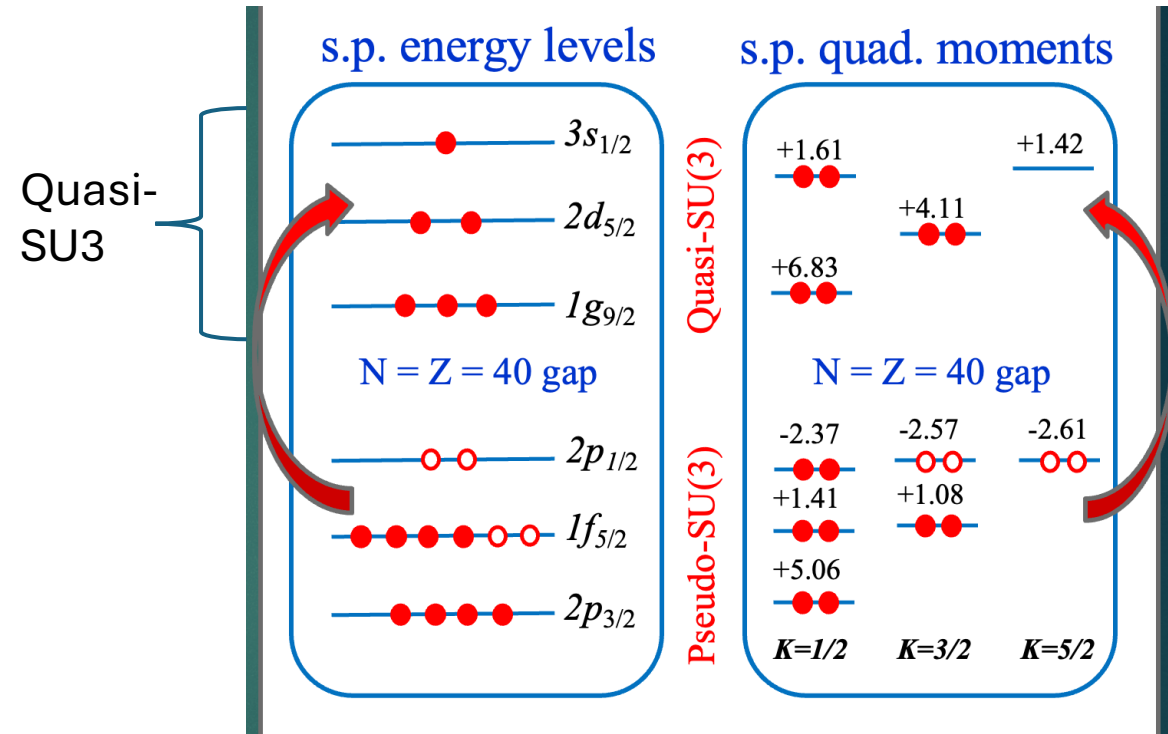
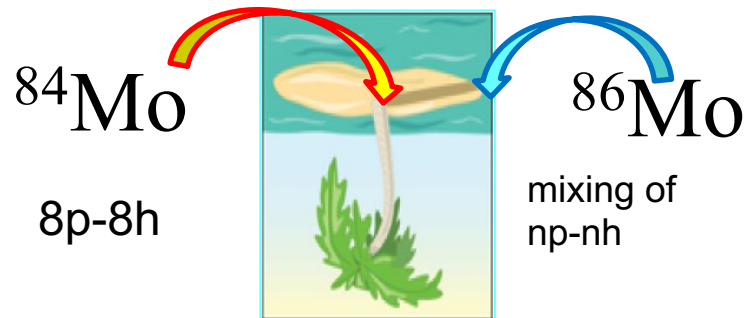


- First 2^+ state in ^{84}Mo understandable in terms of **prolate deformation**
- **Inclusion of $d_{5/2}$ (above N=Z=50) is needed** – lifetime shorter than expected - quadrupole correlations

J. Ha post-doc work

The isospin-symmetric island of Inversion

Along the $N=Z$ line, proton and neutron particle-hole excitations **contribute coherently**, thus **enhancing the quadrupole correlations** and giving rise to the Isospin-symmetric Island of Inversion at $N=Z=40$

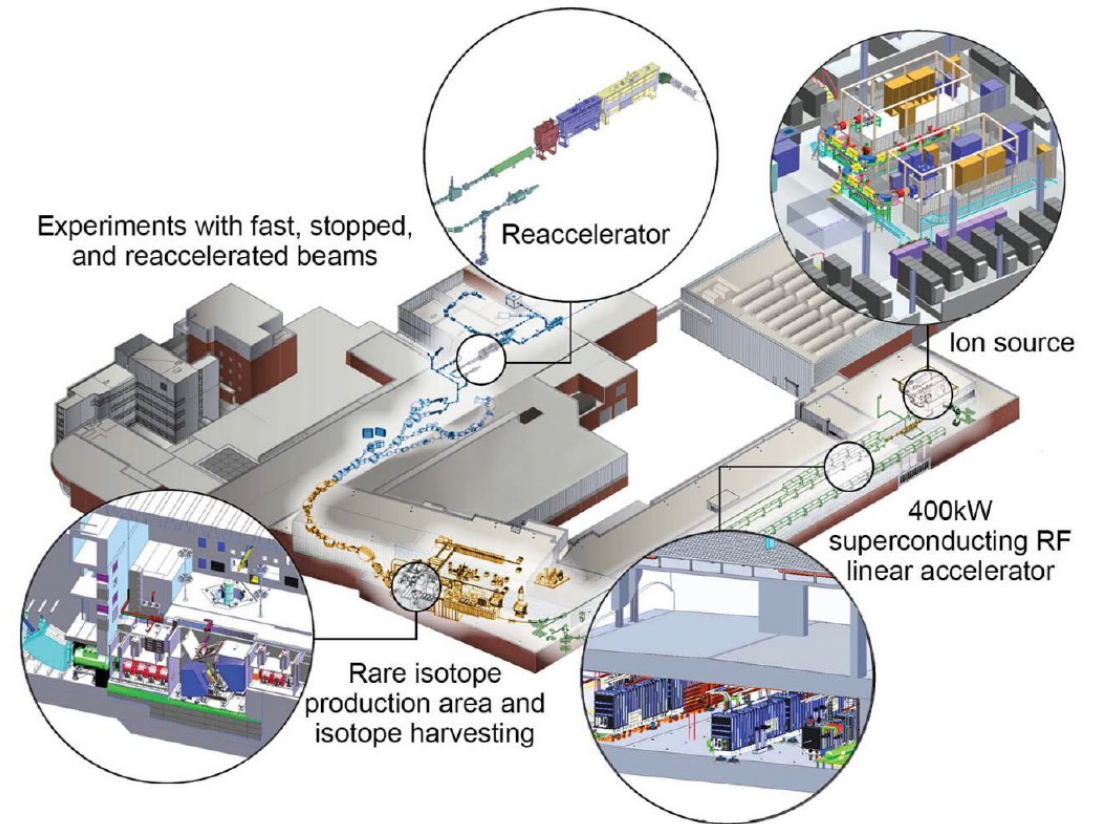


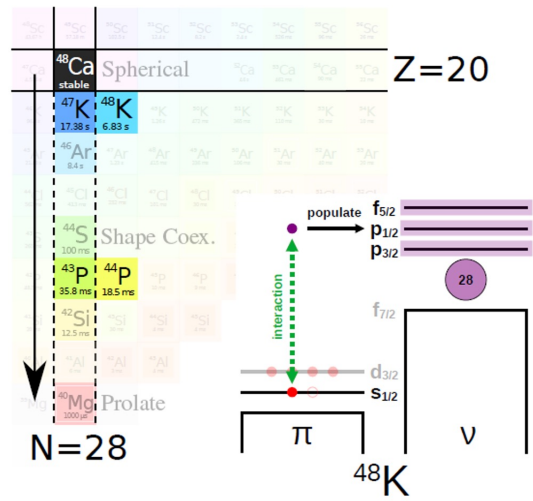
^{84}Mo : same configuration for protons and neutrons.

Quadrupole correlations favor np-nh excitations.

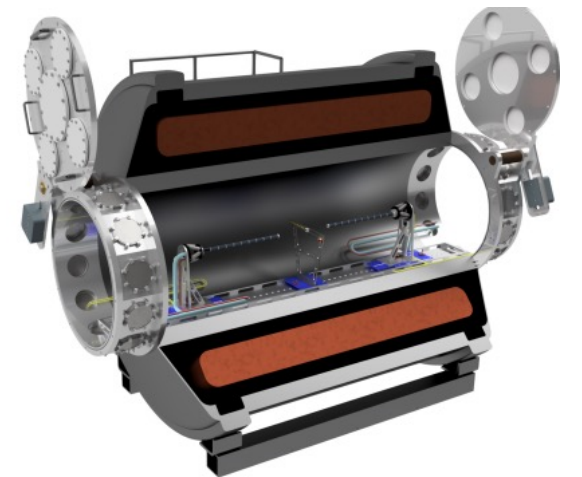
Opportunities for N=Z beams at FRIB

- N=Z region in the $g_{9/2}$ shell (^{80}Zr - ^{100}Sn):
 - fast beams 10^3 - 10^{-1} pps: (p,2p), n-knockout, rel. Coulex, decay spectroscopy
 - reaccelerated beams 10^2 - 10^{-3} pps: safe Coulex, (p,p')
- High-spin ISB behavior in mirror nuclei A=44, 46 (N=20)

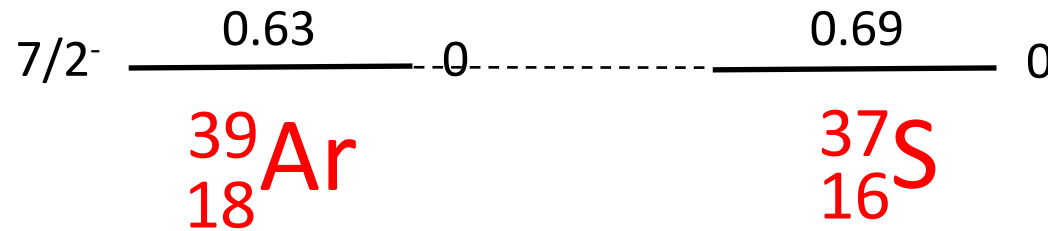
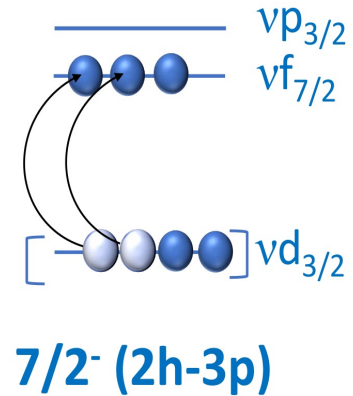
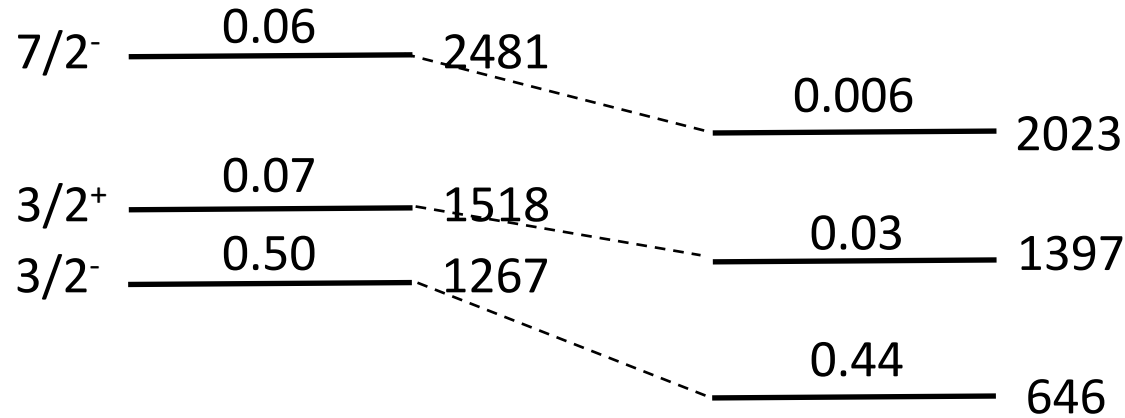
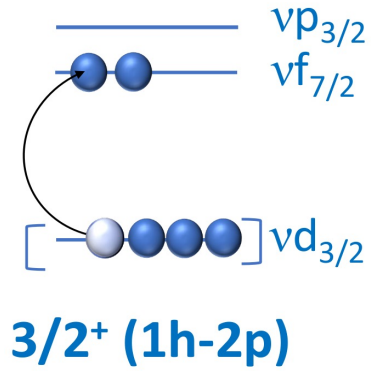




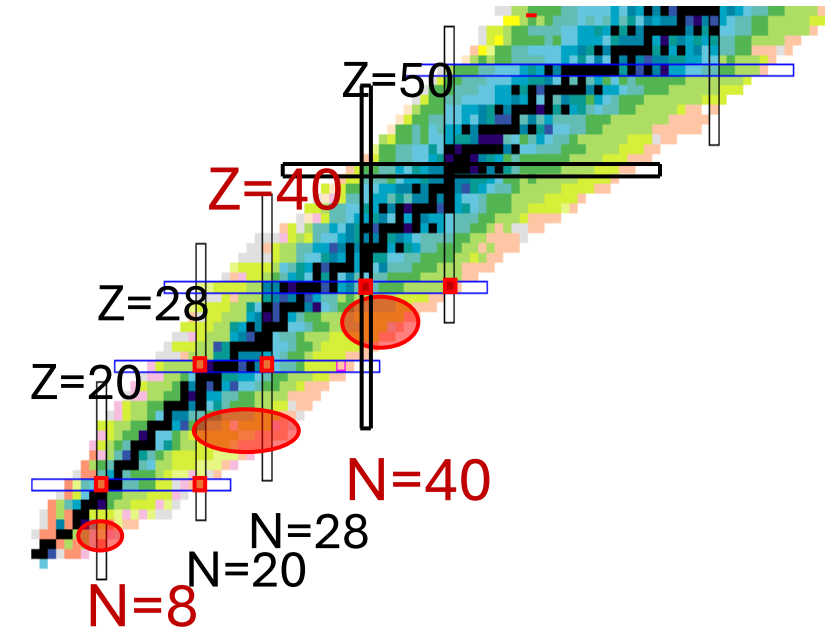
GASPEC : Direct reactions combined with γ -ray spectroscopy



Intruder states and collectivity in $N = 21$ ^{39}Ar and ^{37}S



- Onset of collectivity and intruder states is more and more important moving towards the island of inversion
- Although in ^{38}Ar transition probability are well known, the data for ^{37}S , closer to the IOI is absent



E. Caurier, F. Nowacki, and A. Poves, Phys. Rev. C **90** (2014) 014302
 E. K. Warburton, Phys. Rev. C **35** (1987) 2278; Phys. Rev. C **37** (1988) 754
 R. Chapman et al., Phys. Rev. C **93** (2016) 044318



L. Zago PhD thesis

36S beam
168 MeV

SPIDER

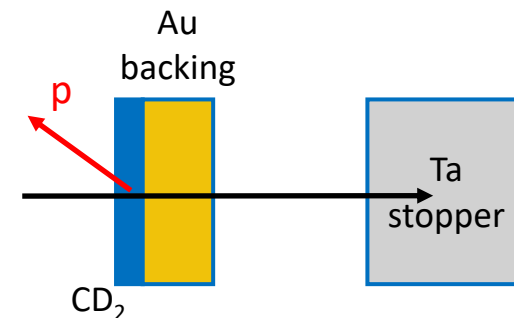
p

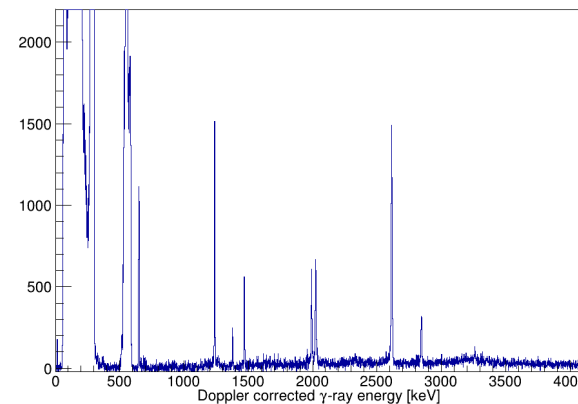
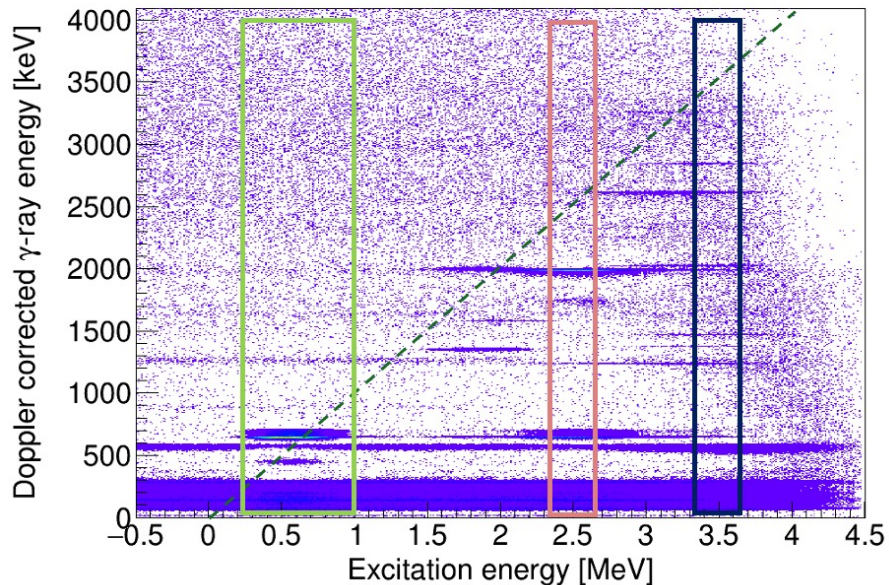
CD₂

AGATA

37S

- $3/2^+$ level expected to be in the range **10-100 ps** -> **RDDS**
- $7/2_2^-$ level expected to be in the range **50-500 fs** -> **DSAM**

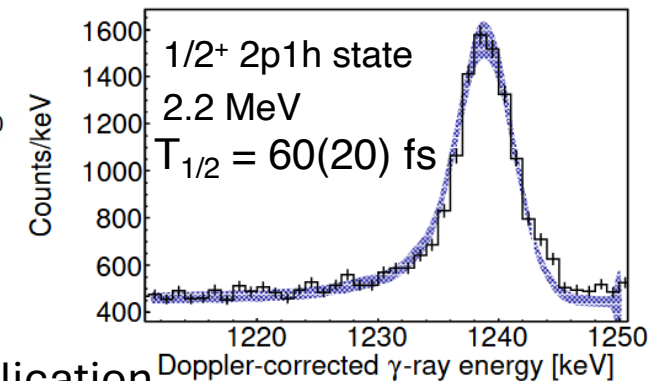
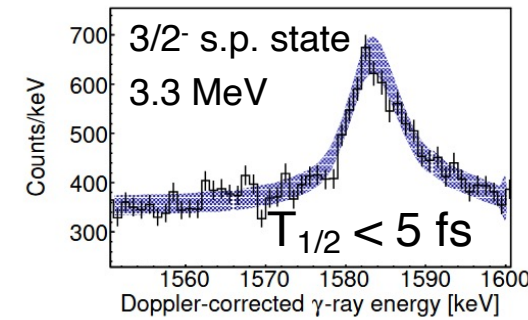
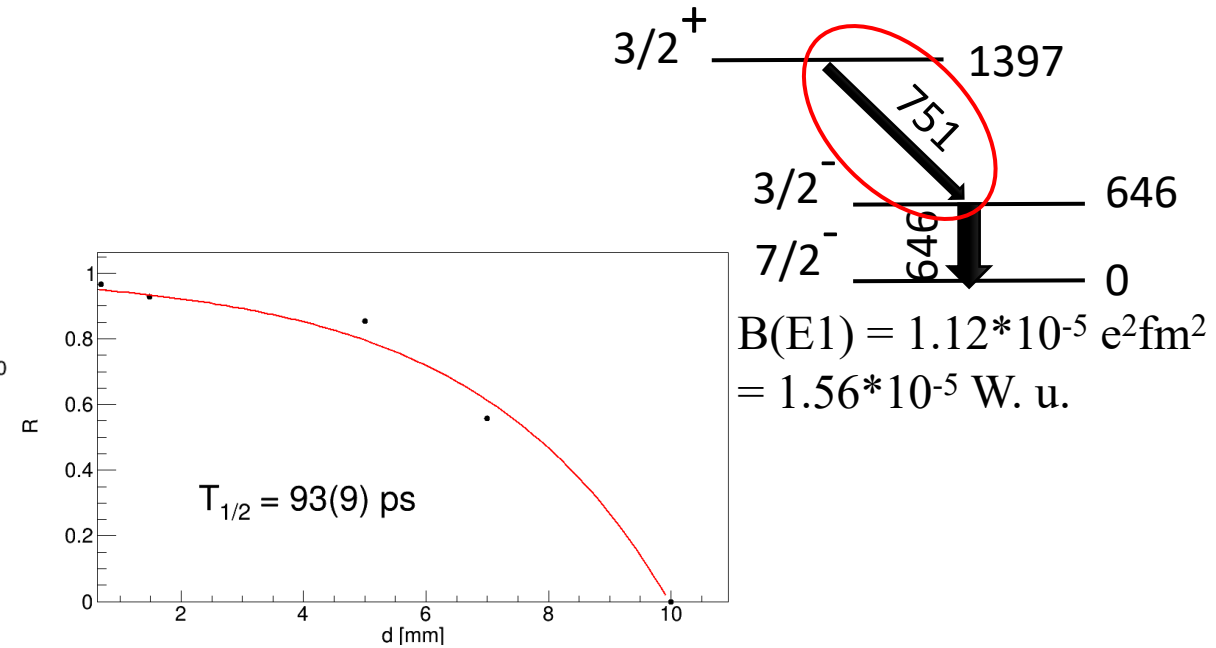
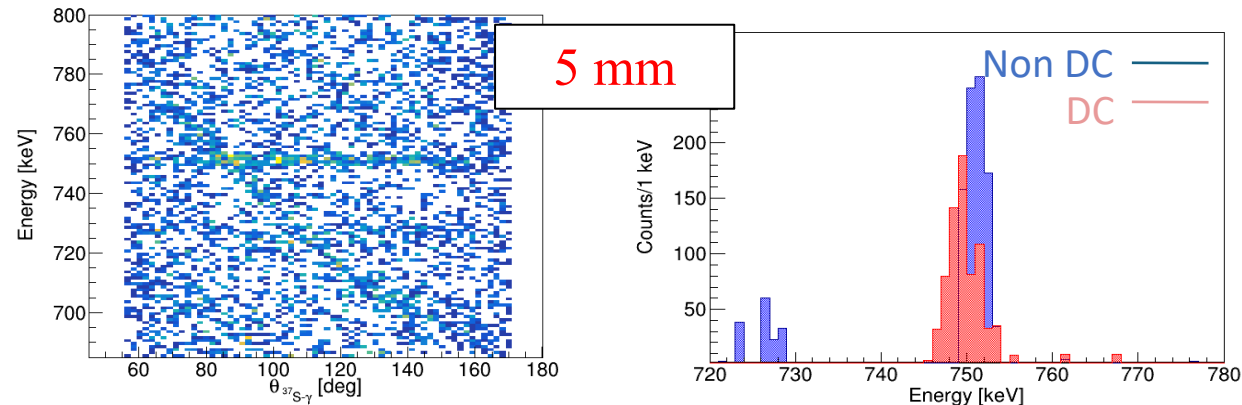
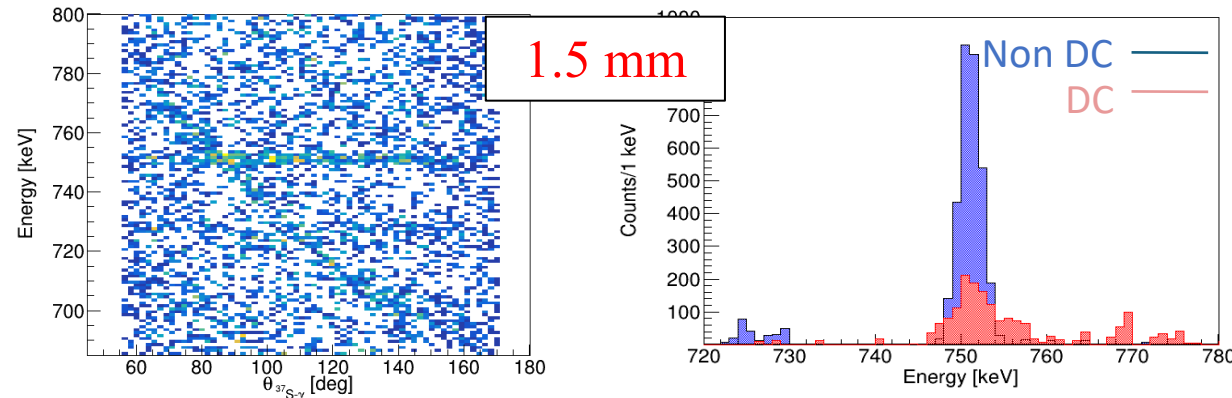
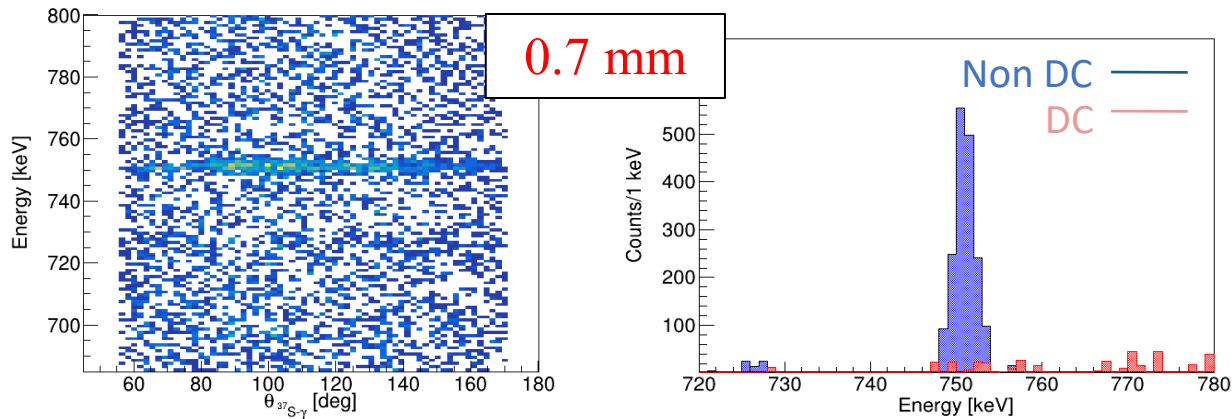




Adapted from Grocutt *et al.*, PRC **106**, 024314 (2022)

All spectroscopic results agree with previously published measurements

Lifetime results in ^{37}S



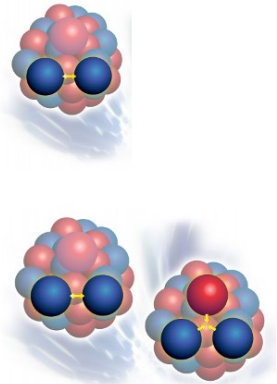
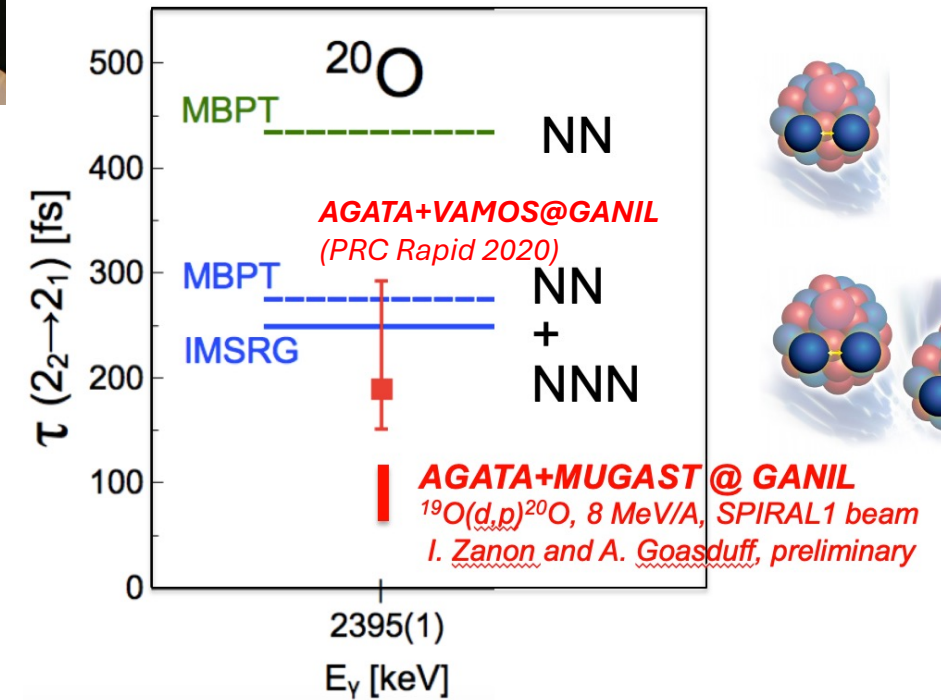
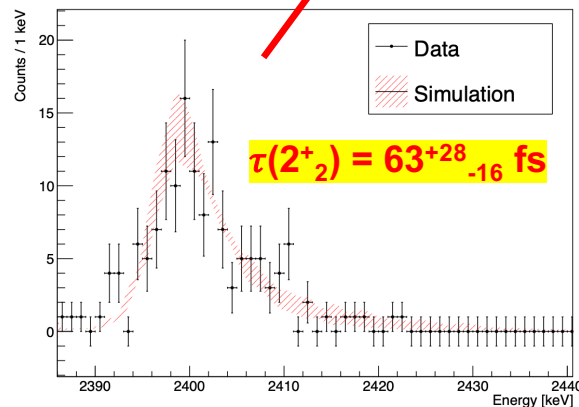
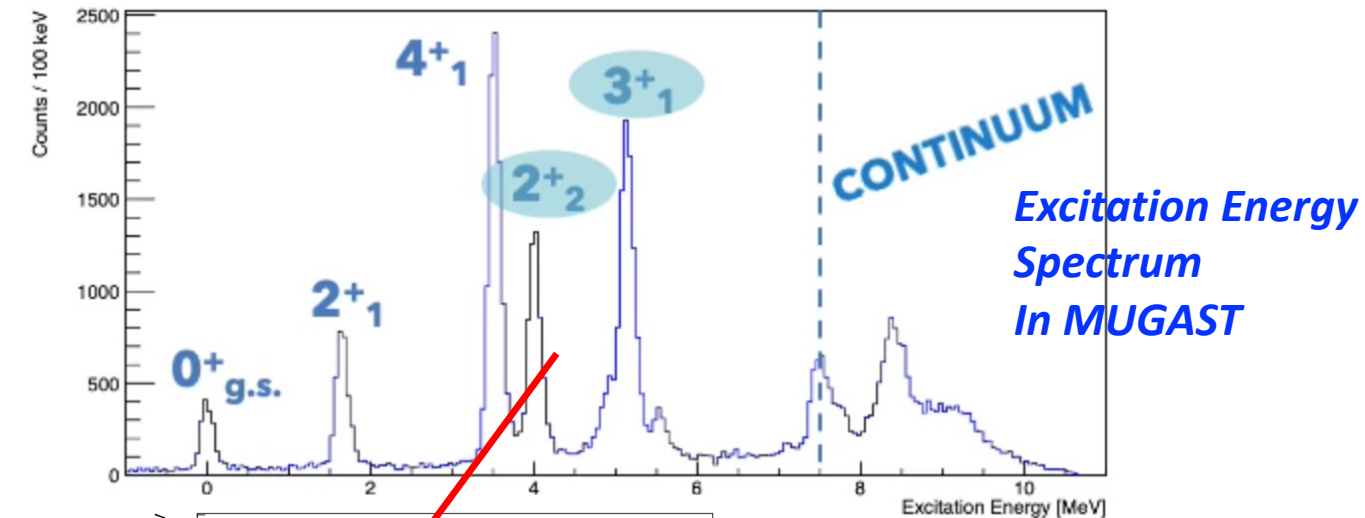
To be submitted for publication

Lifetime measurement in ^{20}O using $^{19}\text{O}(\text{d},\text{p}\gamma)$ and DSAM

Three-body forces

E. Clement (GANIL) and A. Goasduff (INFN-LNL)

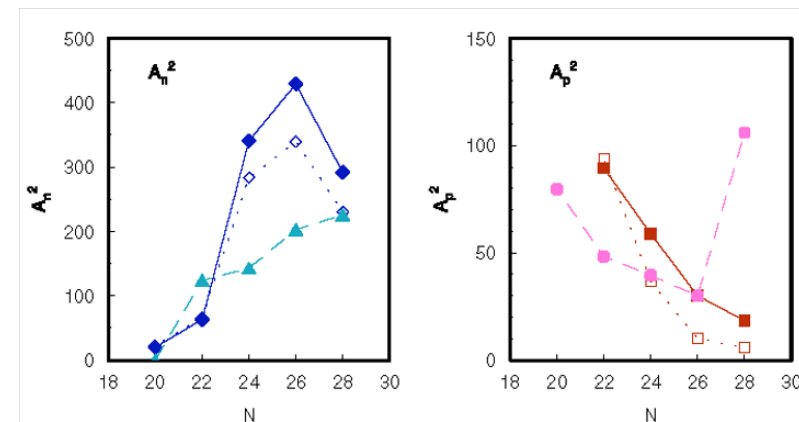
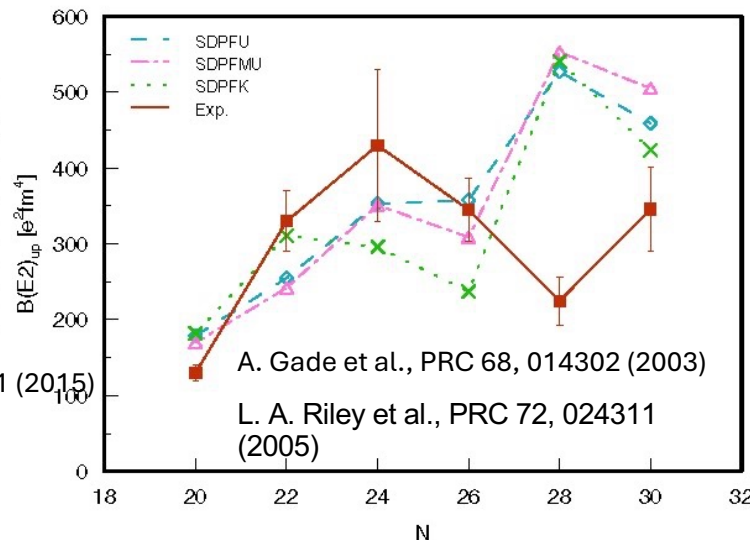
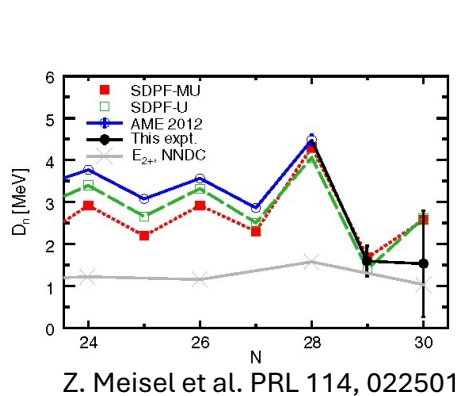
PhD Thesis I. Zanon (INFN-Ferrara, LNL)



The strange case of N=28

Excellent SM theory for neutron-space related quantities:

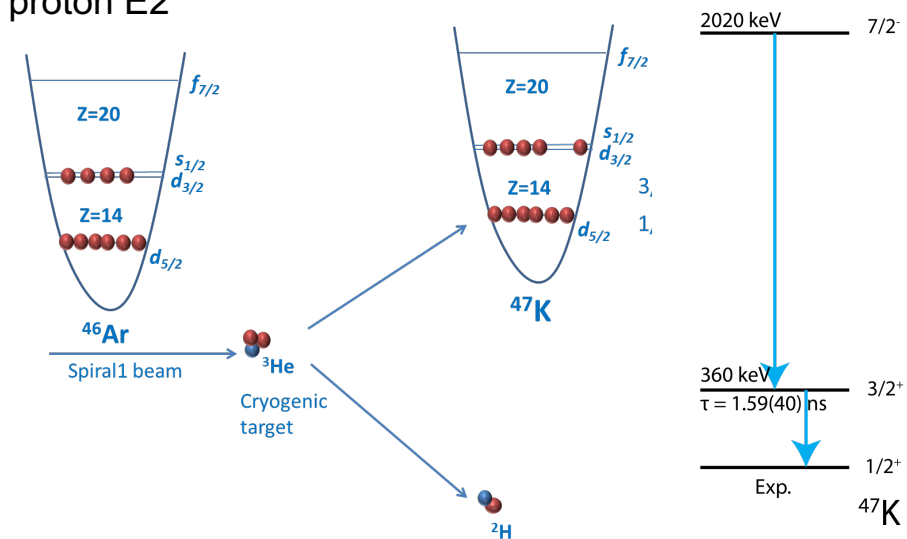
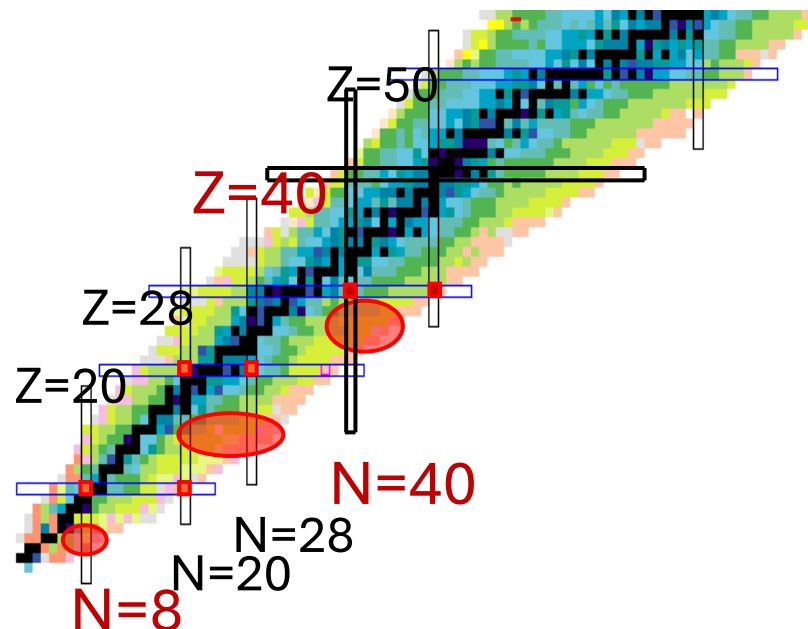
- confirming N=28 shell closure in ^{46}Ar
- SDPF interaction describes valence-core neutrons interaction very well



S. Calinescu et al., PRC 93, 044333 (2016)

Large discrepancy with the measured B(E2) value at N=28: problem with the proton E2 contribution ?

Direct proton-adding reaction to probe the ^{46}Ar ground state wave function

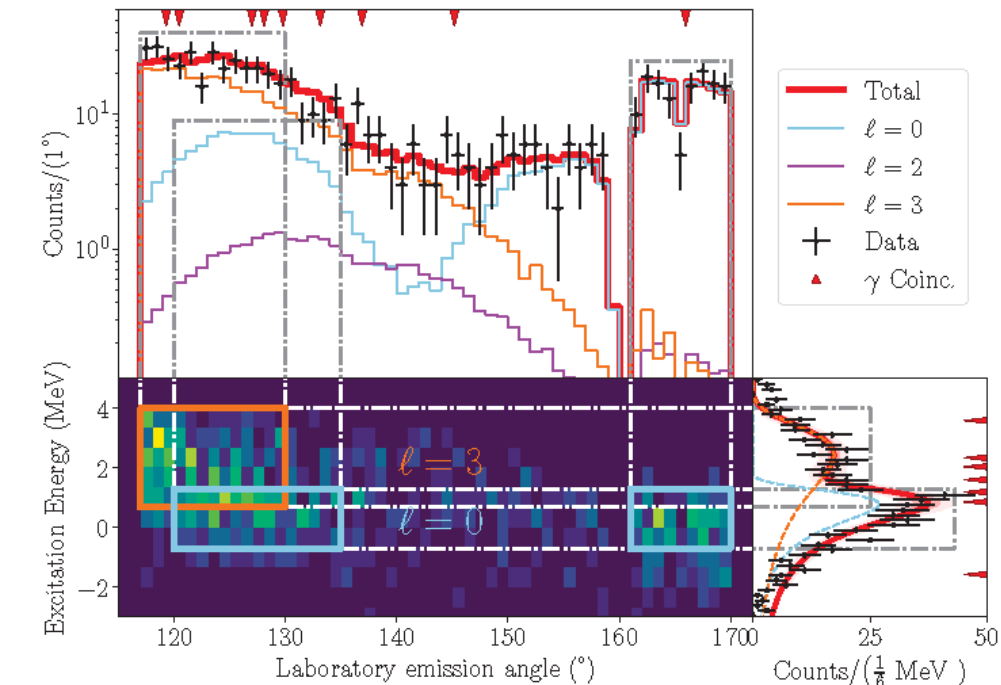


Proton bubble at N=28 ?

$^{46}\text{Ar}(^3\text{He}, d\gamma)^{47}\text{K}$

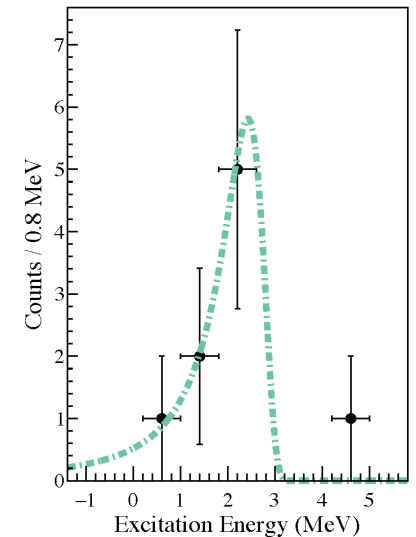
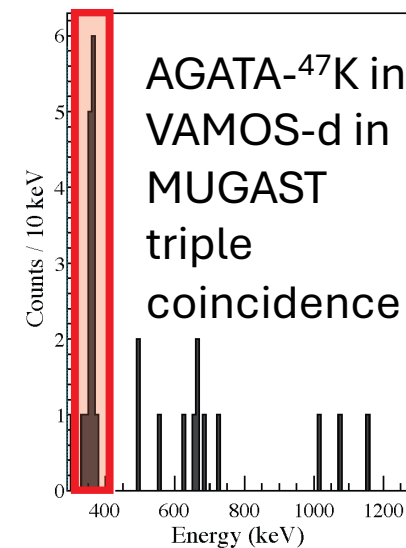
proton transfer
to probe π matrix element

deuteron angular distribution in MUGAST



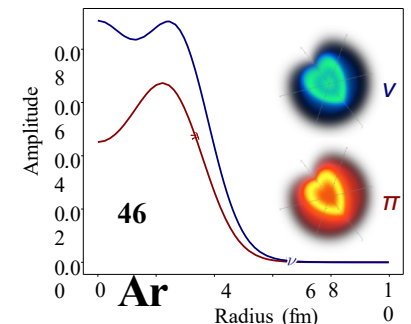
PhD Thesis D. Brugnara
(Padova) 2022
Premio VILLI 2022

Measurement of $\pi s_{1/2}$ depletion in ^{46}Ar
→ indication of possible change
in the $\pi s_{1/2}$ - $\pi d_{3/2}$ proton orbitals
Theory ab initio C. Barbieri (Milano)



$\text{C}^2\text{S}[L]/\text{C}^2\text{S}[L=0]$	3/2 ⁺ state	7/2 ⁻ state
SDPF-U	0.63	2.6
Experiment	$0.10^{+0.11}_{-0.10}$	$1.10^{+0.18}_{-0.15}$

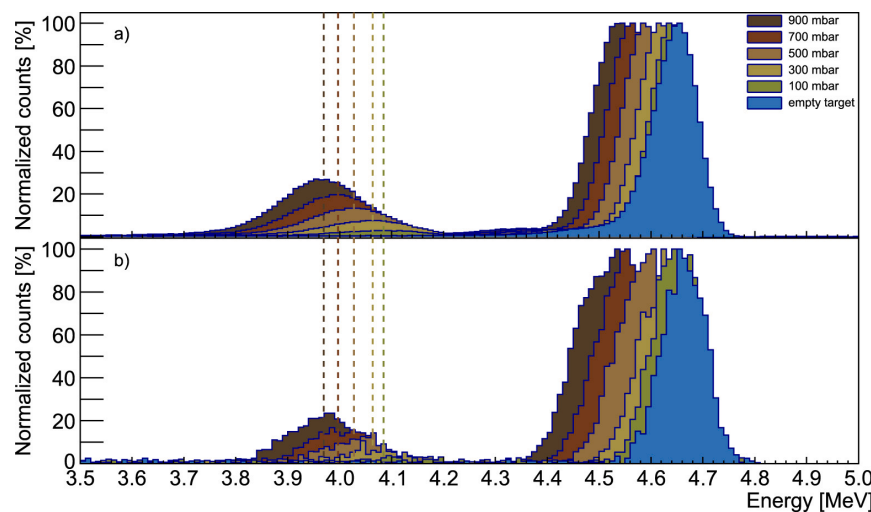
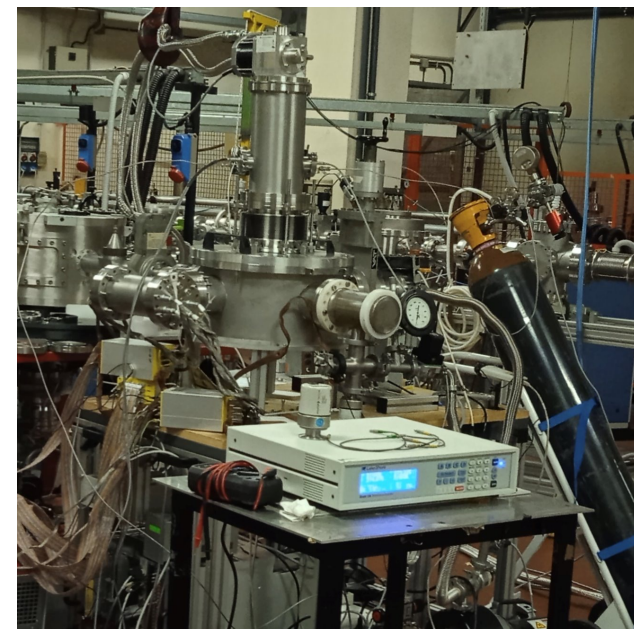
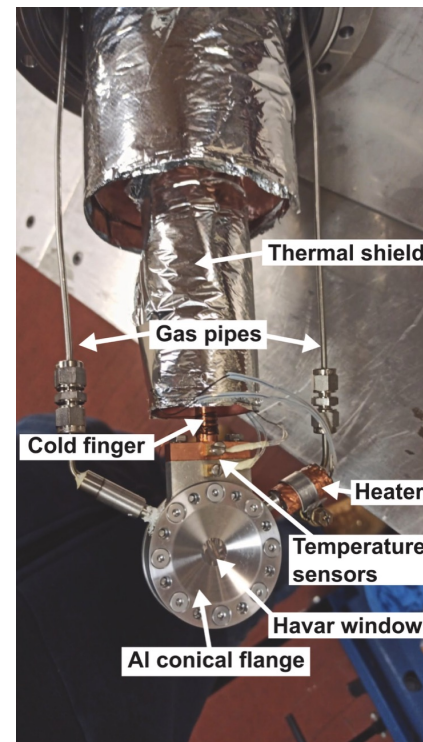
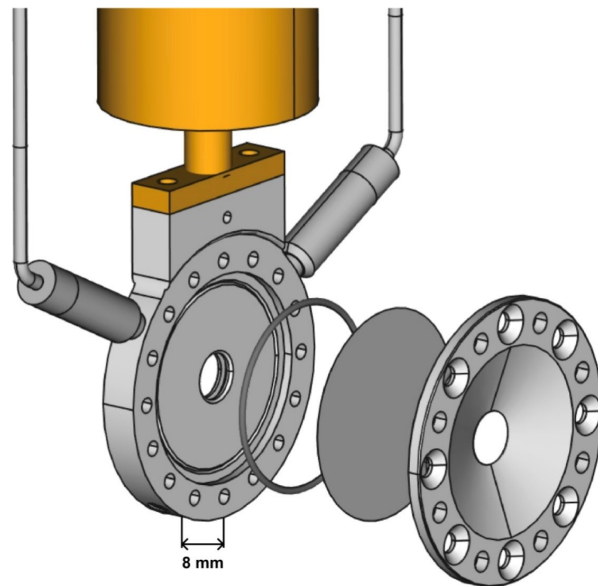
- $\pi s_{1/2}$ empty, $\pi d_{3/2}$ full !
- The proton WF of the g.s. of ^{46}Ar is not correctly described



Submitted for publication

CTADIR – cryogenic targets for direct reactions

- Cryogenic $^3,^4\text{He}$ target at 9-10 K
- Target density 10^{20-21} at/cm 2
- Cooled with cryocooler
- Fully compatible with AGATA-GRIT
- Al body to be transparent to γ rays
- Commissioning with proton beam

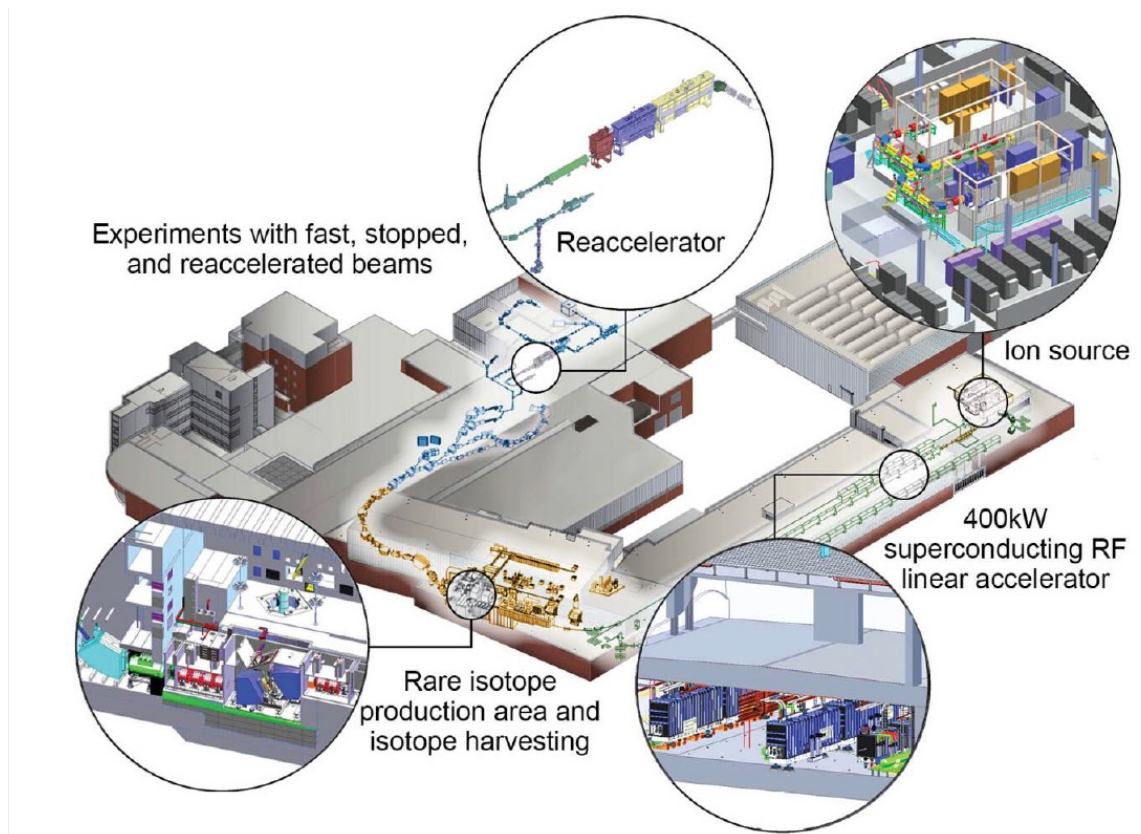


M. Sedlák, et al. Nucl. Instr. and Meth. A, 1080, 2025, 170626,

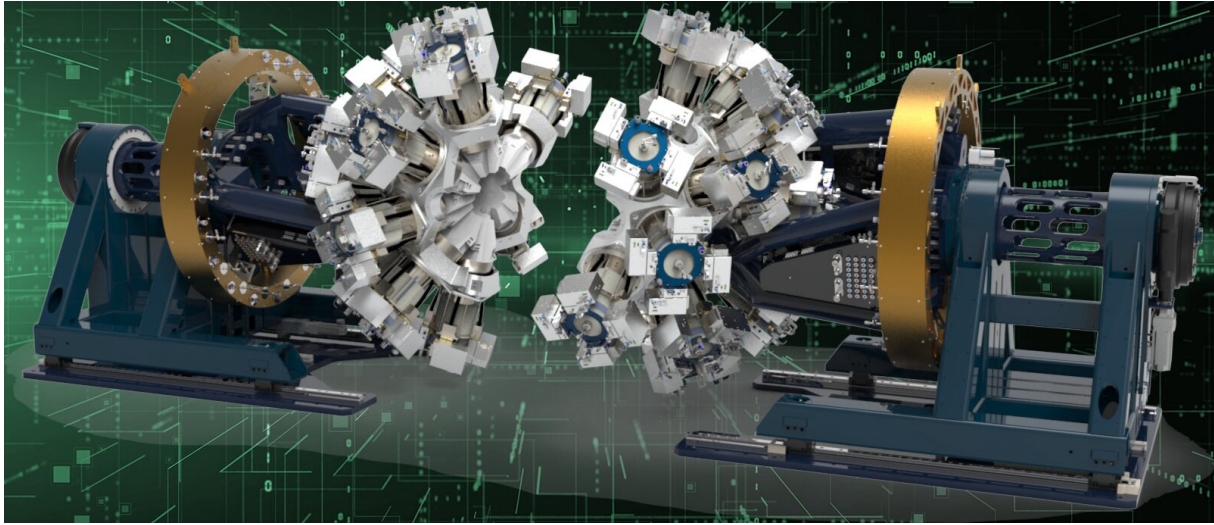


Perspectives with FRIB beams

- A rich and diversified instrumentation is already present at FRIB
- We can contribute with «specific» detectors/devices in selected cases
- We can propose physics cases in specific regions of the nuclide charts
 - lifetimes of excited states after fast/reacc. proton/neutron knockouts/transfers
 - use of cryogenics targets for particle and γ -ray spectroscopy (DSAM possibilities to be investigated)
 - nuclear structure in odd-odd or odd-even nuclei using γ -ray spectroscopy for cross section to individual levels

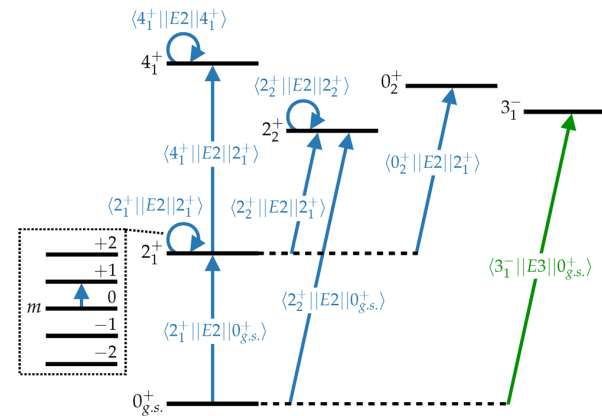


[See F. Galtarossa's talk for possible cases at FRIB](#)

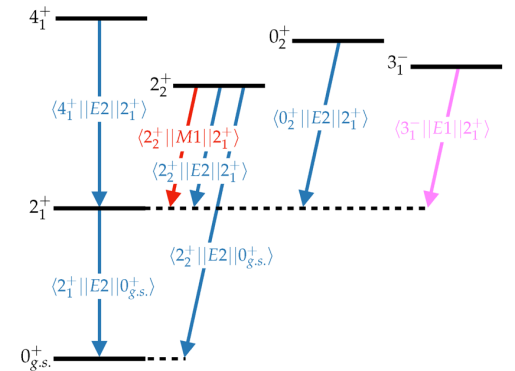


GASPEC : Coulomb excitations

Excitation



De-excitation

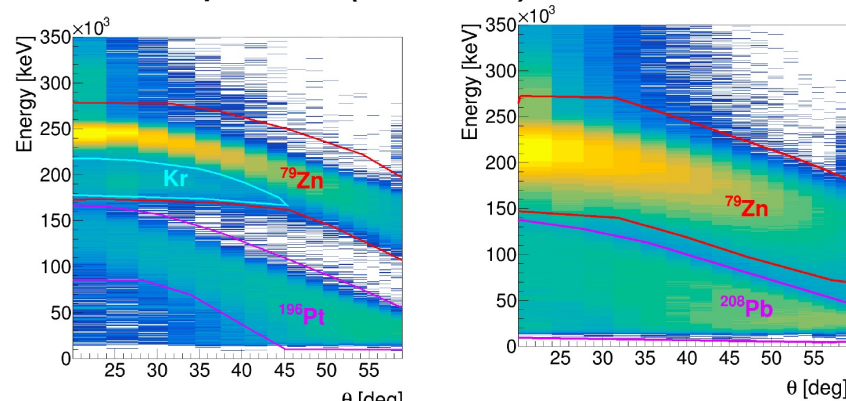


Coulomb excitation with segmented γ -ray arrays

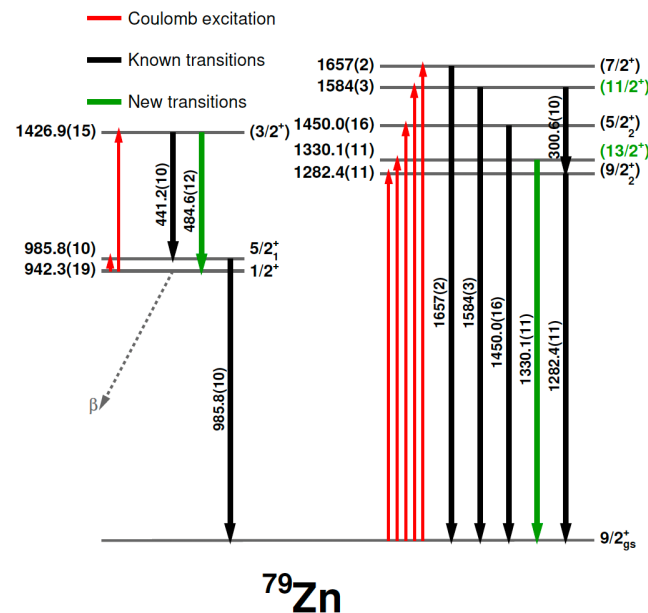
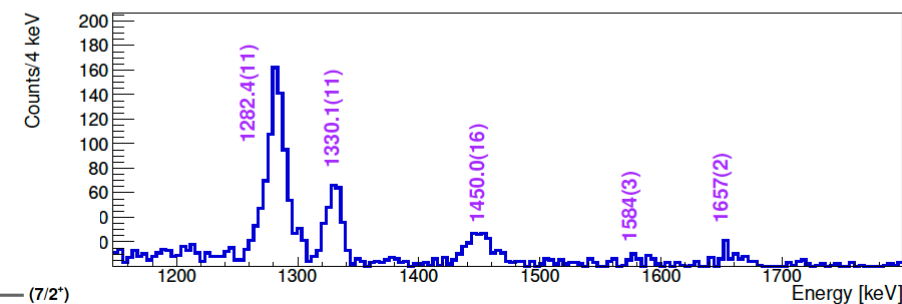
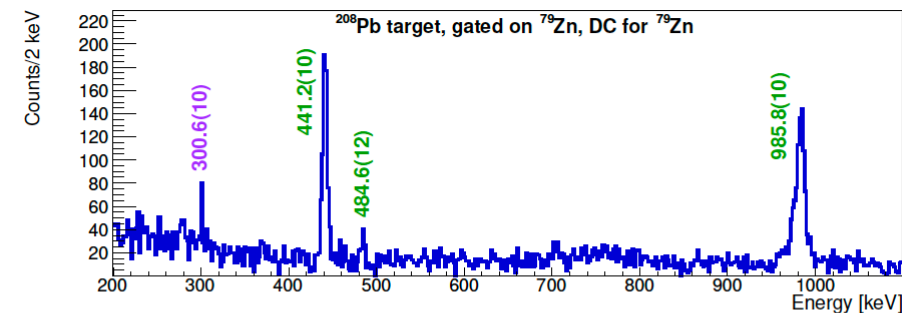
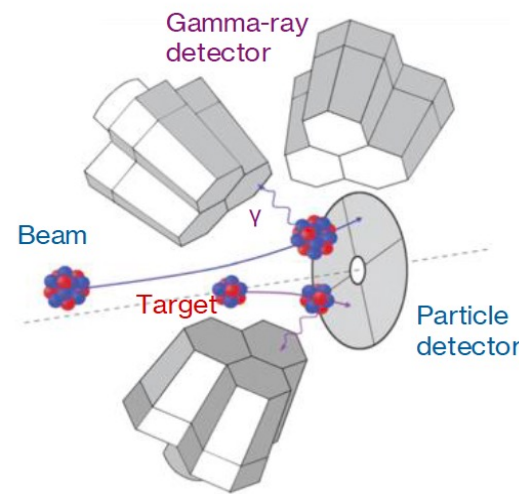
Example: ^{79}Zn at ISOLDE

- ^{79}Zn gs, intruder $1/2^+$ isomer, states both in the exotic beam
- Coulex at 4 MeV/u on ^{208}Pb , ^{196}Pt targets

Particle spectra (forward)



F. Angelini PhD thesis

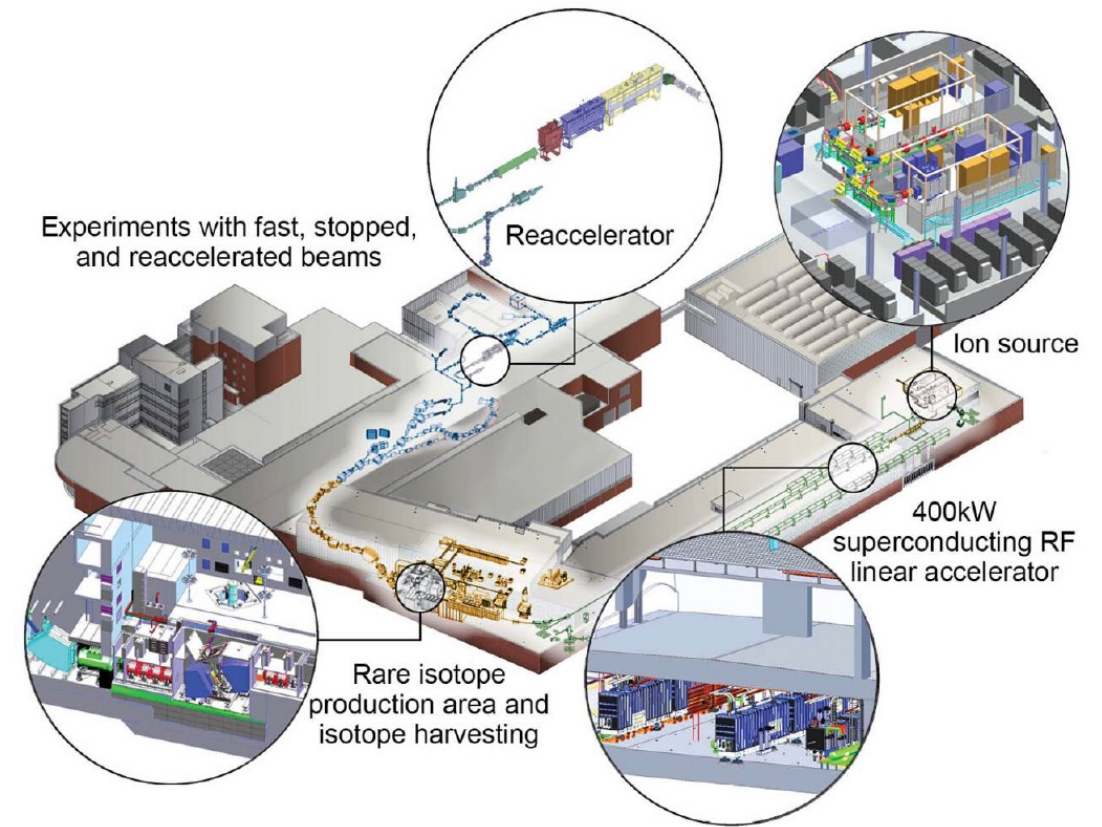


- Measurement of the $B(E2)$ on the gs and intruder $1/2^+$ isomer (GOSIA code analysis)
- Comparison with LSSM describing intruder structures in ^{78}Ni

Coulomb excitation at FRIB

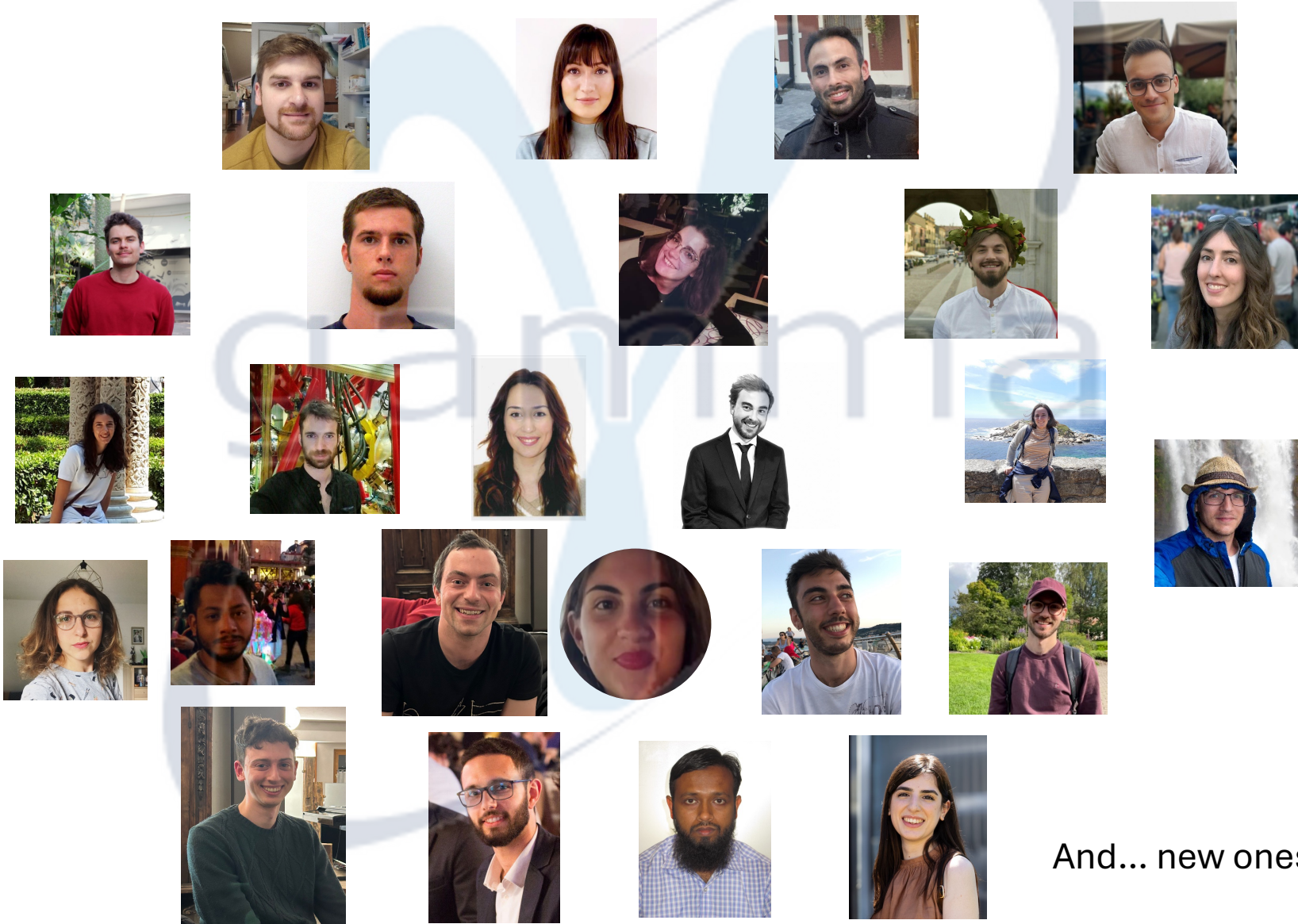
See M. Rocchini's talk for possible cases at FRIB

- Different RIBs production method $\Rightarrow$ Different species available
- Availability of reaccelerated beams: proper beam energy for Coulex
- What setup for Coulex ?
- Level of purity of the beams?
- Complementary data from β -delayed γ -ray and conversion electron spectroscopy



The young strength of GAMMA: PhD, Postdocs

9 nationalities !



And... new ones !

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION !