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# Nuclear-structure studies via direct reactions

Detailed studies of the Pygmy Dipole Resonance,  $\alpha$  clustering, and octupole as well as hexadecapole collectivity in atomic nuclei

Mark-Christoph Spieker

NSF Site Visit, John D. Fox Laboratory, Florida State University



## Bryan Kelly

Graduate Student

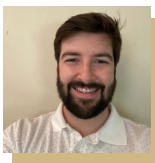
Supported on NSF grant



## Alex L. Conley

Graduate Student

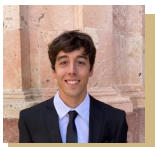
Supported on NNSA grant



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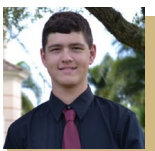
Supported on NSF grant



## Ramiro Renom

Undergraduate Student

2021-2022 (Applied Mathematics)



## Scott Baker

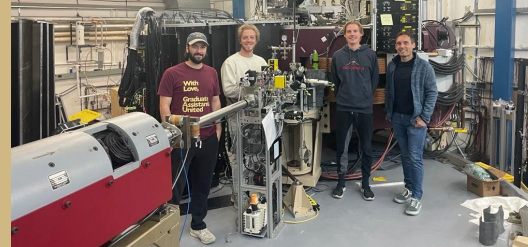
Undergraduate Student

Working on Honors Thesis

Applied for Graduate School

# My Research Group

(3 grads, 1 (2) undergrads)





- **Study of octupole and hexadecapole collectivity in the Ge-Kr mass region at FRIB**  
→  $(p,p')$ ,  $(p,2p)$ , and  $(p,pn)$  experiments in inverse kinematics using GRETINA and the S800 at FRIB



- **The microscopic structure of the Pygmy Dipole Resonance (PDR)**  
→ Particle-transfer,  $(d,p)$  and  $(t,p)$ , as well as particle- $\gamma$  coincidence experiments,  $(d,p\gamma)$ , with the CeBrA demonstrator and Super-Enge Split-Pole Spectrograph at Florida State University



- **$\alpha$  clustering and its possible implications for p-process nucleosynthesis**  
→  $({}^6\text{Li},d)$   $\alpha$ -transfer and particle- $\gamma$  coincidence experiments,  $({}^6\text{Li},d\gamma)$ , with the CeBrA demonstrator (CeBrA) and the Super-Enge Split-Pole Spectrograph at Florida State University





- **Study of inorganic crystals for a new heavy-ion calorimeter for the S800 and HRS**
  - Energy resolution of better than 0.4% needed for charge state identification and experiments with heavy isotopes.



- **A sub-millimeter resolution focal-plane detector for the SE-SPS**
  - Use new multi-layer thick gaseous electron multiplier (M-THGEM) technology + Micromegas pioneered at FRIB and successfully tested at S800.

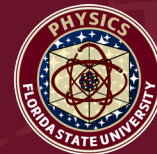
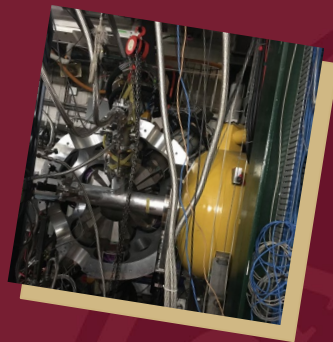


- **Construction of the full CeBrA+SE-SPS setup for particle- $\gamma$  coincidence experiments**
  - 14 CeBr<sub>3</sub> detector array. Major upgrade with addition of  $3 \times 4$  inches and  $3 \times 6$  inches detectors. MRI in collaboration with Ursinus College and Ohio University has been submitted.





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Propose experiments with GRETINA+S800 and  
liquid hydrogen target at FRIB

PHYSICAL REVIEW C **106**, 054305 (2022)

### Investigation of octupole collectivity near the $A = 72$ shape-transitional point

M. Spieker<sup>1,\*</sup>, L. A. Riley<sup>2</sup>, P. D. Cottle<sup>1</sup>, K. W. Kemper<sup>1</sup>, D. Bazin<sup>3,4</sup>, S. Biswas<sup>3</sup>, P. J. Farris<sup>3,4</sup>, A. Gade<sup>3,4</sup>, T. Ginter<sup>3</sup>, S. Giraud<sup>3</sup>, J. Li<sup>3</sup>, S. Noji<sup>3</sup>, J. Pereira<sup>3</sup>, M. Smith<sup>3</sup>, D. Weisshaar<sup>3</sup> and R. G. T. Zegers<sup>3,4</sup>

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journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/physletb](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/physletb)



### Hexadecapole strength in the rare isotopes $^{74,76}\text{Kr}$

M. Spieker<sup>a,\*</sup>, S.E. Agbemava<sup>b</sup>, D. Bazin<sup>b,c</sup>, S. Biswas<sup>b</sup>, P.D. Cottle<sup>a</sup>, P.J. Farris<sup>b,c</sup>, A. Gade<sup>b,c</sup>, T. Ginter<sup>b</sup>, S. Giraud<sup>b</sup>, K.W. Kemper<sup>a</sup>, J. Li<sup>b</sup>, W. Nazarewicz<sup>b,c</sup>, S. Noji<sup>b</sup>, J. Pereira<sup>b</sup>, L.A. Riley<sup>d</sup>, M. Smith<sup>b</sup>, D. Weisshaar<sup>b</sup>, R.G.T. Zegers<sup>b,c</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Physics, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306, USA

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PHYSICAL REVIEW C **109**, 014307 (2024)

### Proton removal from $^{73,75}\text{Br}$ to $^{72,74}\text{Se}$ at intermediate energies

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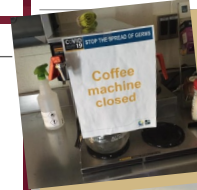
<sup>1</sup>Department of Physics, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida 32306, USA

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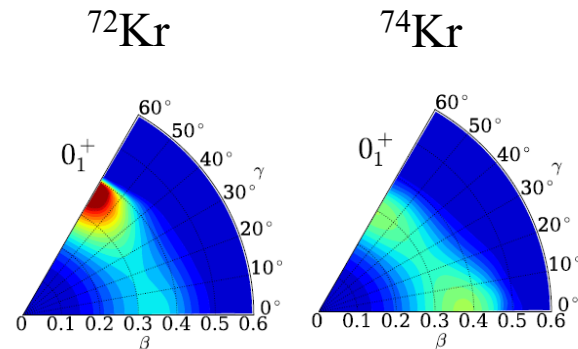
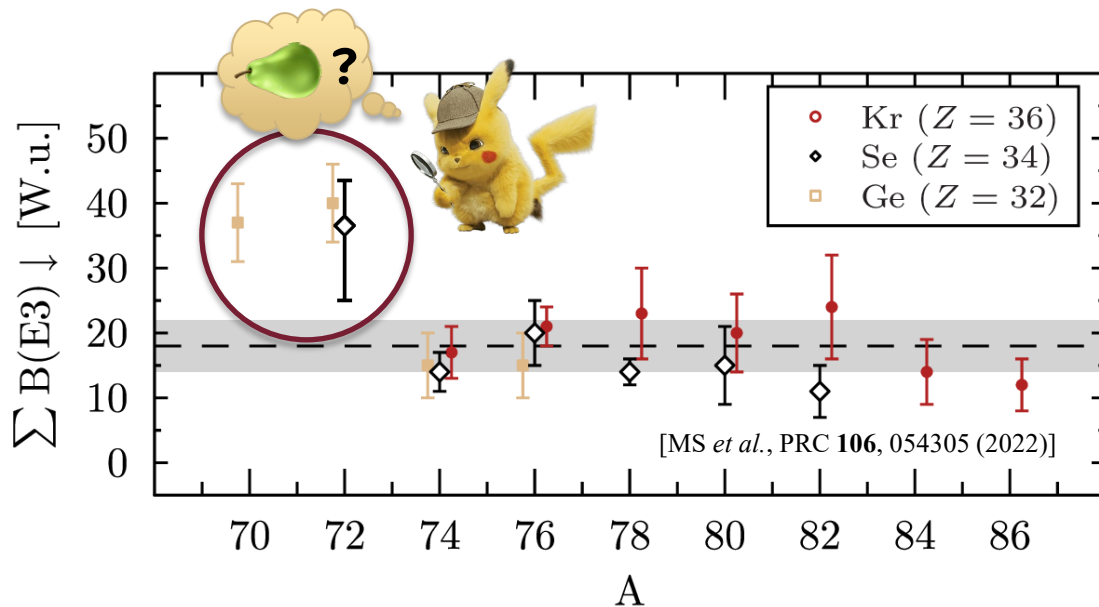
(Received 12 August 2023; accepted 13 December 2023; published 3 January 2024)



# Project #1

Study of octupole and hexadecapole  
collectivity in the Ge-Kr mass  
region at FRIB

# Increase in octupole collectivity might be linked to shape change



Sudden shape change from rather  $\gamma$ -soft to oblate deformation.

[K. Sato and N. Hinohara, Nuclear Physics A **849**, 53 (2011)]

**Still an open question what causes this sudden strength increase.**

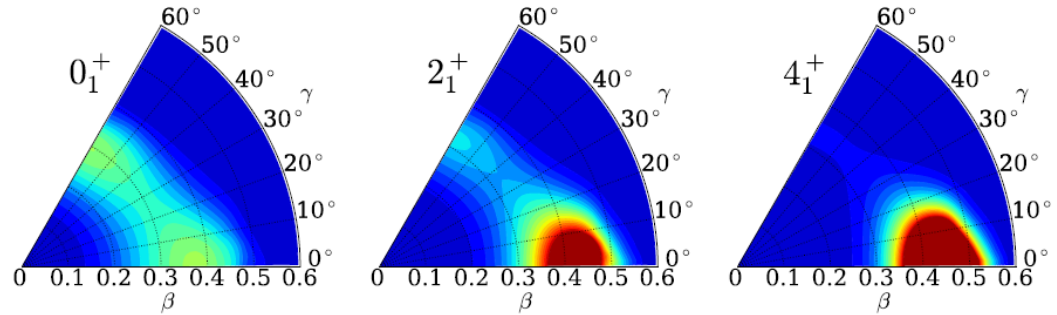
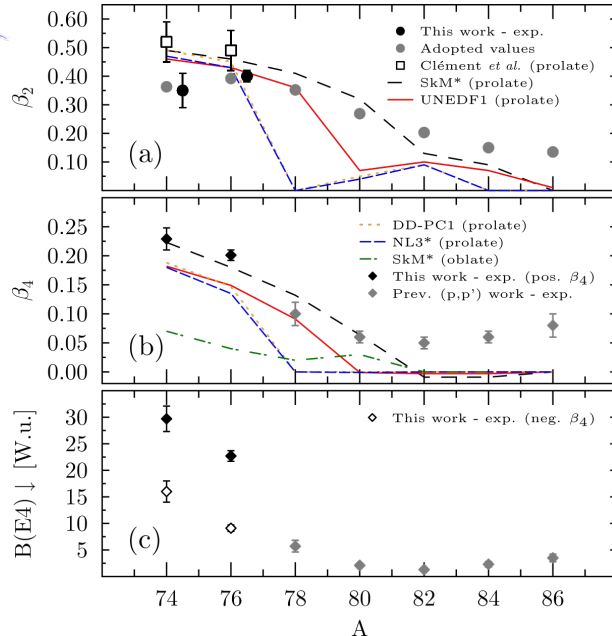
- For reference,  $^{224}\text{Ra}$ , which we believe to be statically octupole deformed, has  $B(E3; 3_1^- \rightarrow 0_1^+) = 42(3)$  Weisskopf Units (W.u.).
- Mass  $A = 70 - 80$  nuclei are not believed to be octupole deformed.



# Prolate-oblate shape transition in Kr isotopes & hexadecapole collectivity

[In collaboration with S. Agbemava and W. Nazarewicz (FRIB/MSU)]

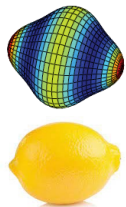
$^{74}\text{Kr}$  (CHFB+LQRPA)



Squared vibrational wave functions in  $\beta\gamma$  plane

[K. Sato and N. Hinohara, Nuclear Physics A **849**, 53 (2011)]

- We were able to determine  $\beta_2$ ,  $\beta_3$ , and  $\beta_4$  from our inverse kinematics (p,p') experiments on  $^{74,76}\text{Kr}$ .
  - Mixing between oblate and prolate configuration influences  $B(E2; 2_1^+ \rightarrow 0_1^+)$  but appears to have only minor influence on  $B(E4; 4_1^+ \rightarrow 0_1^+)$  strength. The latter is linked to prolate configuration.
- In agreement with CHFB+LQRPA predictions?

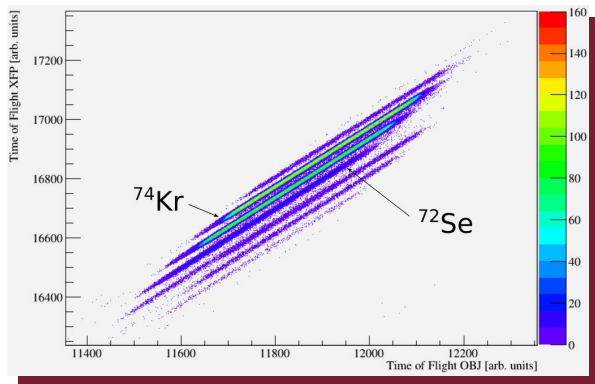


= axially symmetric  
hexadecapole  
deformation

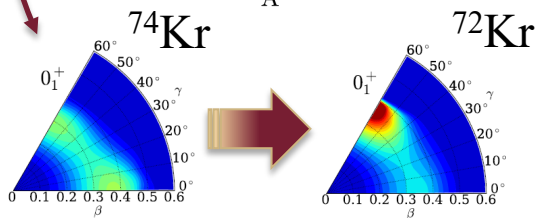
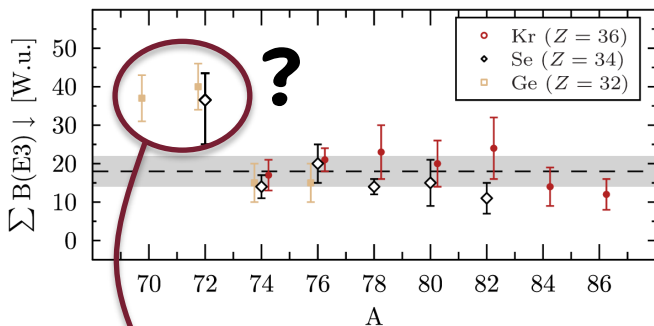
[Data from MS *et al.*, PLB **841**, 137932 (2023) and E. Clement *et al.*, Phys. Rev. C **75**, 054313 (2007)]



## Continue program at FRIB [proposal ready; not PAC approved]



- We will continue mining the existing data set.  
→ Currently analyzing  $^{74}\text{Kr}(p,pn)$  and  $^{72}\text{Se}(p,pn)$ . The latter is analyzed by undergraduate student Alyssa Himmelreich at Ursinus College working with Professor Riley. I am a co-advisor for her project.  
[ $^{73,75}\text{Br}(p,2p)$ : MS *et al.*, PRC **109**, 014307 (2024)]



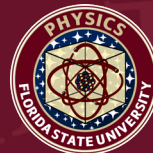
- Propose  $(p,p')$  experiments with  $^{70,72}\text{Kr}$  and  $^{70}\text{Se}$  with GRETTINA+S800+LH<sub>2</sub> target  
→ Proposal was submitted to PAC-2, rated highly, but not recommended for beamtime.
- Possibly extend program to neutron-rich side, i.e.,  $^{90}\text{Se}$  ( $Z=34$ ,  $N=56$ ) which is supposedly a doubly octupole magic nucleus.







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Continue program with experiments at FSU

# Project #2

The microscopic structure of the  
Pygmy Dipole Resonance (PDR)

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS **125**, 102503 (2020)

## Accessing the Single-Particle Structure of the Pygmy Dipole Resonance in $^{208}\text{Pb}$

M. Spieker<sup>1,\*</sup>, A. Heusler<sup>2</sup>, B. A. Brown<sup>3,4</sup>, T. Faestermann<sup>5</sup>, R. Hertenberger<sup>6</sup>, G. Potel<sup>7</sup>, M. Scheck<sup>8,9</sup>,  
N. Tsoneva<sup>10</sup>, M. Weinert<sup>11</sup>, H.-F. Wirth<sup>6</sup> and A. Zilges<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>8</sup>School of Computing, Engineering, and Physical Sciences, University of the West of Scotland,  
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<sup>9</sup>SUPA, Scottish Universities Physics Alliance, United Kingdom

<sup>10</sup>Extreme Light Infrastructure (ELI-NP), Horia Hulubei National Institute of Physics and Nuclear Engineering (IFIN-HH),  
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(Received 9 June 2020; accepted 28 July 2020; published 2 September 2020)

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS **127**, 242501 (2021)

## Microscopic Structure of the Low-Energy Electric Dipole Response of $^{120}\text{Sn}$

M. Weinert<sup>1,\*</sup>, M. Spieker<sup>2</sup>, G. Potel<sup>3</sup>, N. Tsoneva<sup>4</sup>, M. Mùscher<sup>1</sup>, J. Wilhelmy<sup>1</sup> and A. Zilges<sup>1</sup>

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PHYSICAL REVIEW C **108**, 014311 (2023)

## Experimental study of excited states of $^{62}\text{Ni}$ via one-neutron ( $d, p$ ) transfer up to the neutron-separation threshold and characteristics of the pygmy dipole resonance states

M. Spieker<sup>1,\*</sup>, L. T. Baby<sup>1</sup>, A. L. Conley<sup>1</sup>, B. Kelly<sup>1</sup>, M. Mùscher<sup>2</sup>, R. Renom<sup>1</sup>, T. Schüttler<sup>2</sup> and A. Zilges<sup>2</sup>

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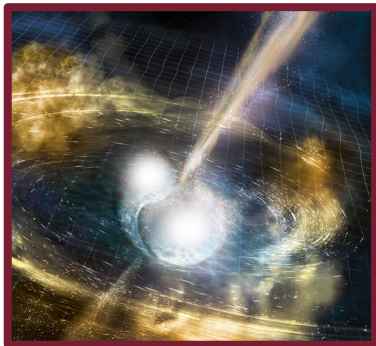
(Received 5 May 2023; accepted 28 June 2023; published 10 July 2023)

... and how we can possibly perform similar experiments at FRIB.

# The r process and neutron capture (n,γ) rates

How and where are the elements heavier than iron synthesized?

[A New Era of Discovery: The 2023 Long Range Plan for Nuclear Science]

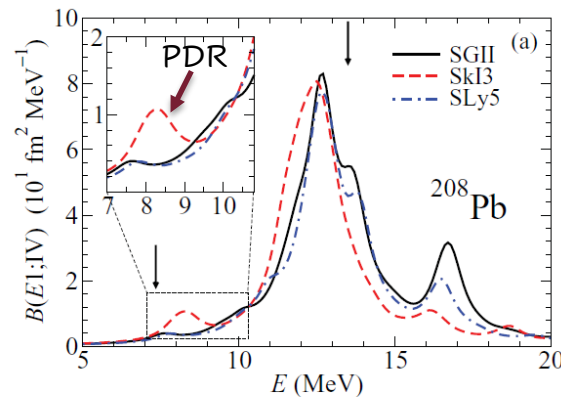
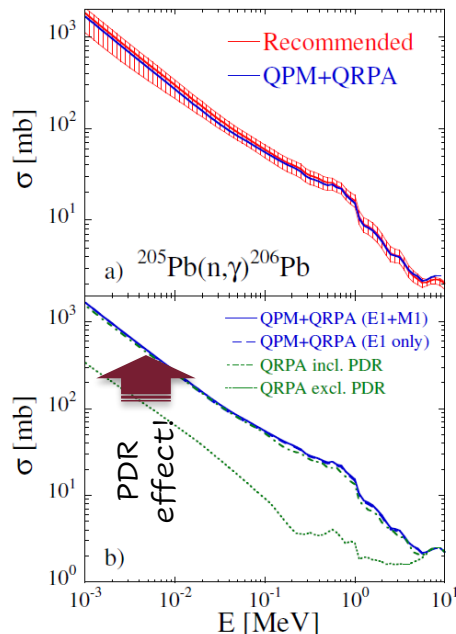
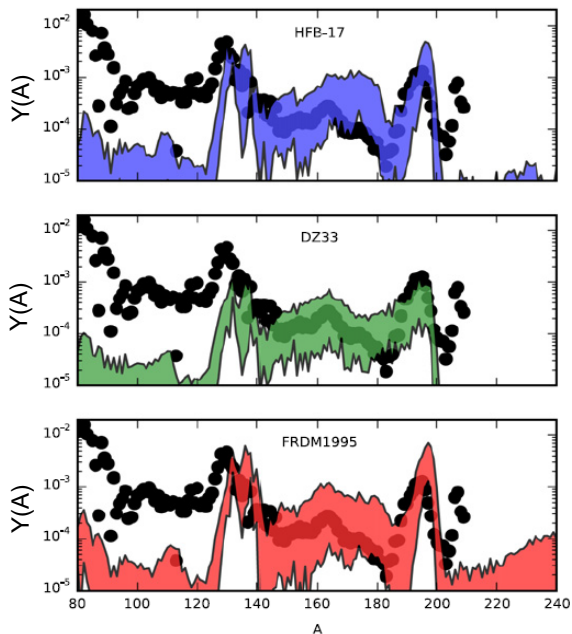


[Figure 1: <https://www.ligo.org/science/Publication-GW170817MMA/>]

[Figure 2: M. Mumpower *et al.*, PPNP **86**, 86 (2016)]

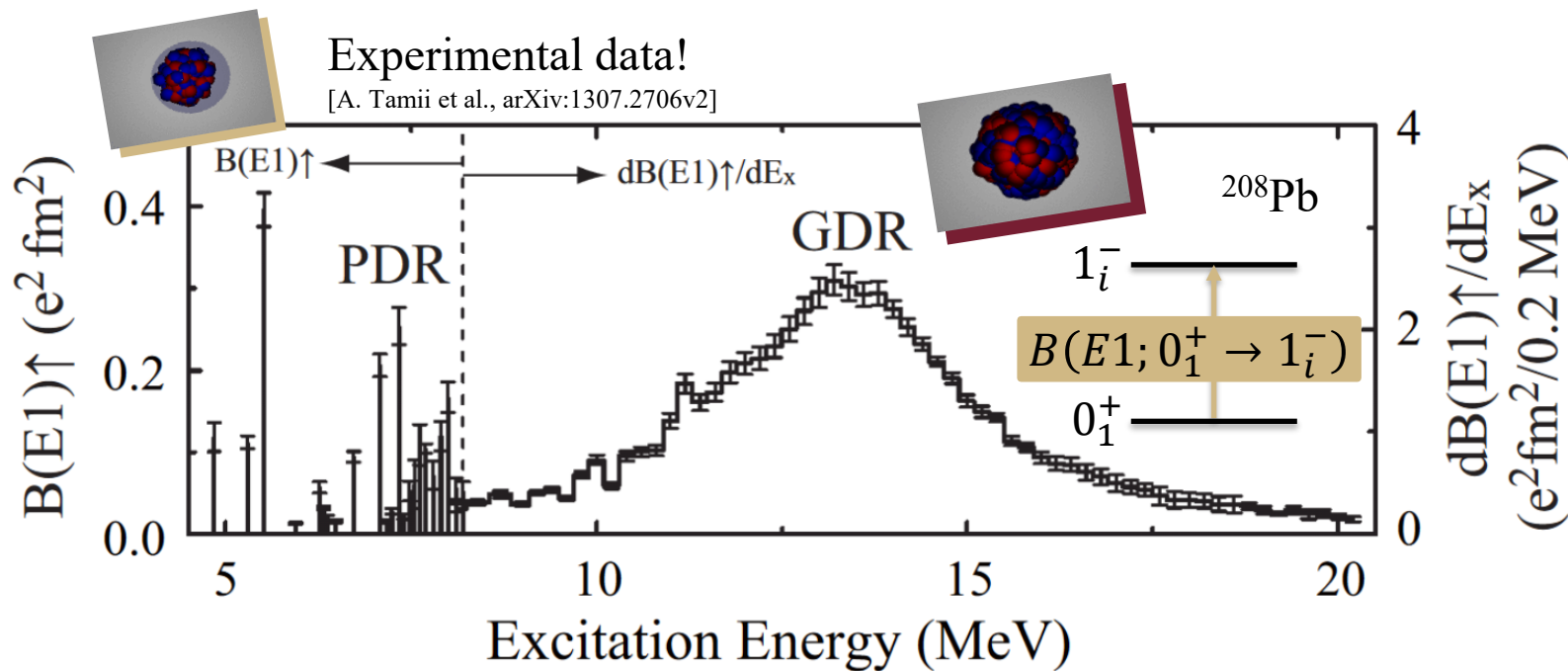
[Figure 3: H. Lenske and N. Tsoneva, EPJA **55**, 238 (2019)]

[Figure 4: X. Roca-Maza *et al.*, PRC **85**, 024601 (2012)]



Appearance of PDR is also strongly model-dependent!

# The electric dipole response of atomic nuclei [Example of $^{208}\text{Pb}$ and isovector response]



Pygmy Dipole Resonance (PDR)

The **valence** neutrons (light blue) oscillate against the  $N = Z$  core  
= **smaller** (pygmy) dynamic dipole moment

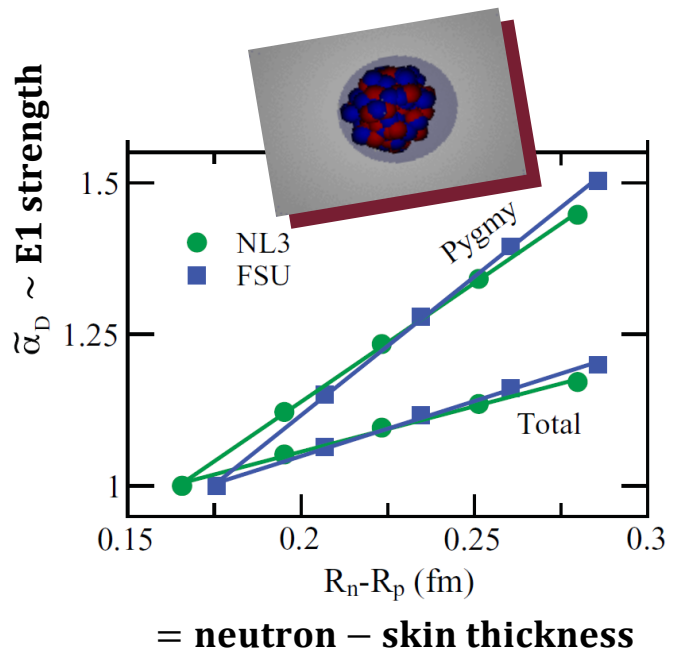
Isovector Giant Dipole Resonance (IVGDR)

**All** protons (red) oscillate against **all** neutrons (blue)  
= **large** (giant) dynamic dipole moment



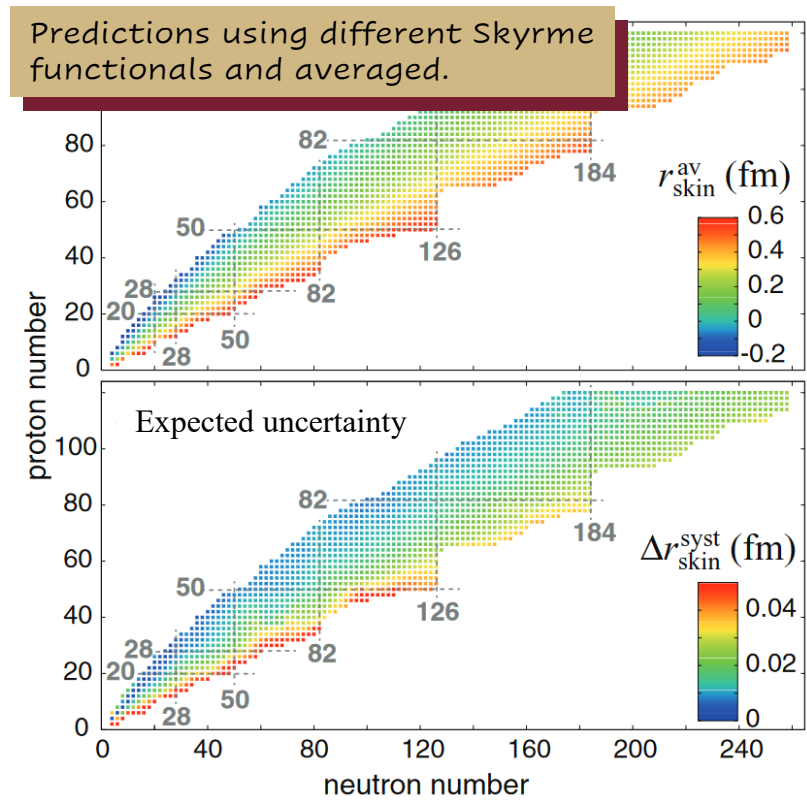
# From the PDR to the neutron skin to neutron-star radii

What can we expect at FRIB?



[Figure 1: J. Piekarzewicz, PRC **83**, 034319 (2011)]

Massive neutron skins expected in neutron-rich isotopes ( $\sim 0.4 - 0.6$  fm). Reminder PREX result indicates  $\sim 0.28$  fm for  $^{208}\text{Pb}$ .

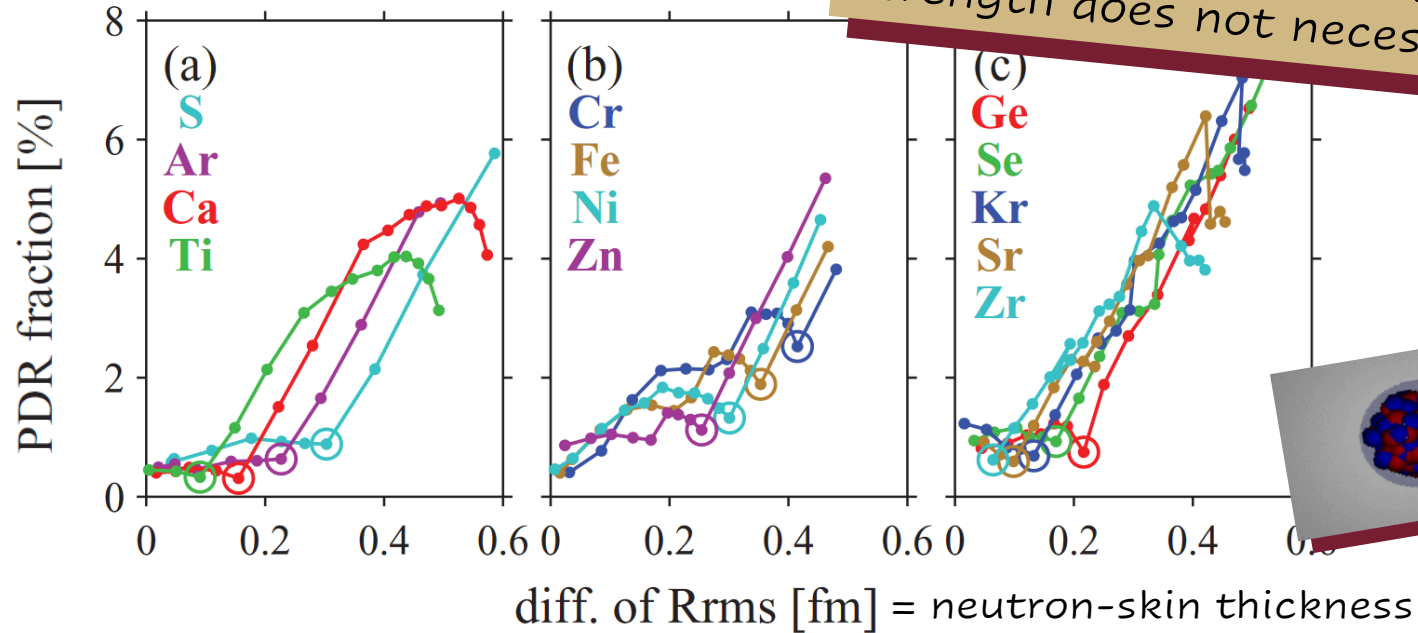


[M. Kortelainen *et al.*, PRC **88**, 031305(R) (2013)]



# Are the PDR strength and neutron-skin thickness correlated?

## Theory



Strength “not” correlated with neutron skin?

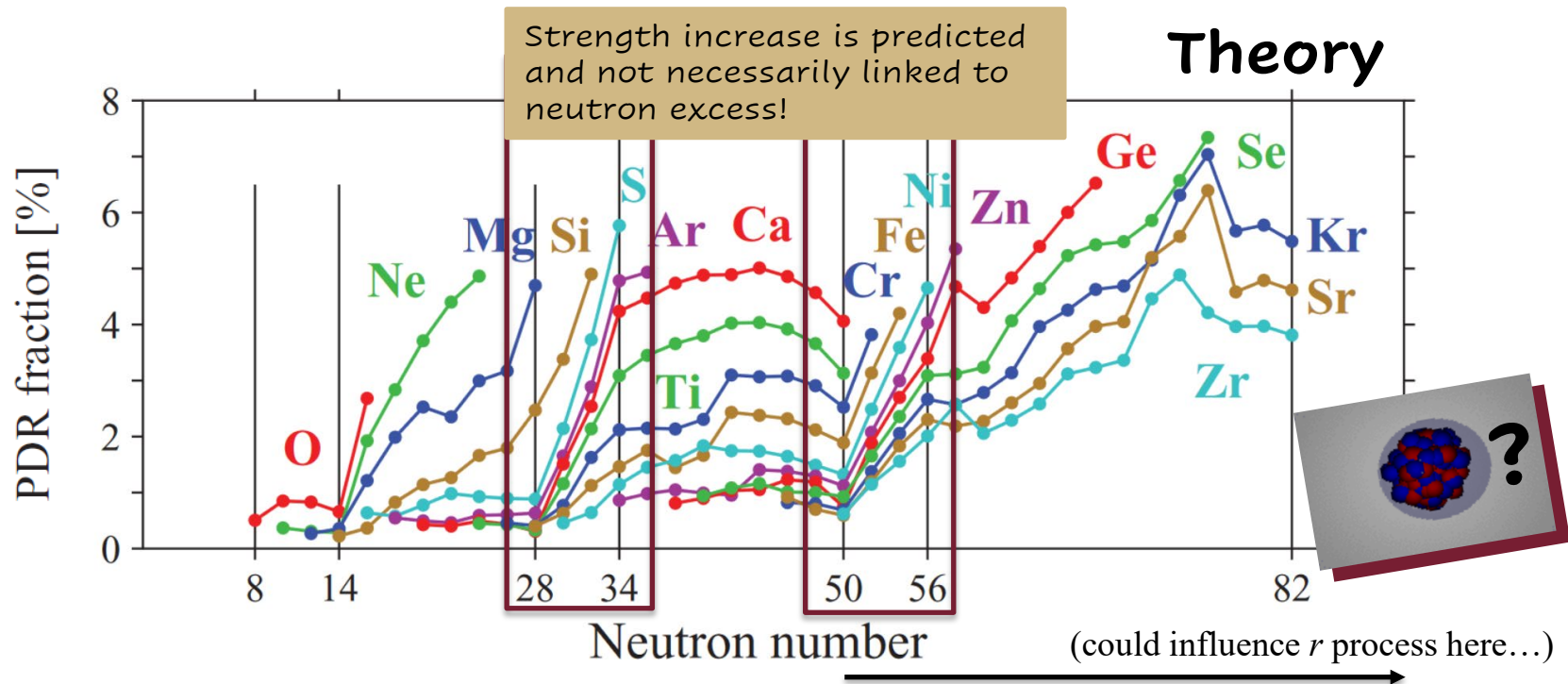






# The microscopic structure of the PDR and its influence on the B(E1) distribution

The  $E1$  strength of the PDR strongly depends on the position of the Fermi level and shows a clear correlation with the occupation of the orbits with the orbital angular momenta less than  $3\hbar$  ( $l \leq 2$ ). We also found a strong correlation between the isotopic dependence of the neutron skin thickness and the pygmy dipole strength. [T. Inakura *et al.*, PRC **84**, 021302(R) (2011)]

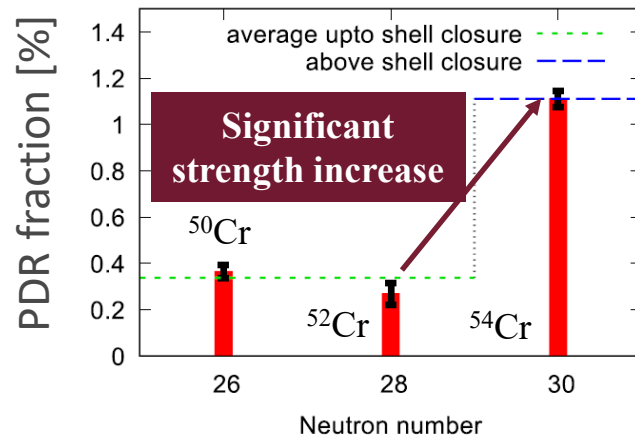




# Significant strength increase observed above N=28 for Cr isotopes

## Experiment

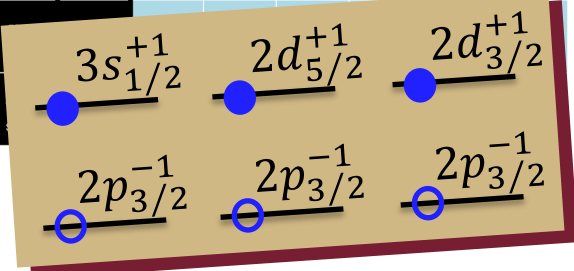
[P. Ries *et al.*, PRC **100**, 021301(R) (2019)]



$^{52}\text{Ni}$ $\beta^+$	$^{53}\text{Ni}$	$^{54}\text{Ni}$	$^{55}\text{Ni}$	$^{56}\text{Ni}$	$^{57}\text{Ni}$	$^{58}\text{Ni}$	$^{59}\text{Ni}$	$^{60}\text{Ni}$	$^{61}\text{Ni}$	$^{62}\text{Ni}$
$^{51}\text{C}$ $\beta^+$										
$^{50}\text{F}$ $\beta^+$										
$^{49}\text{Mn}$ $\beta^+$	$^{49}\text{Mn}$ $\beta^+$	$^{50}\text{Mn}$ $\beta^+$	$^{51}\text{Mn}$ $\beta^+$	$^{52}\text{Mn}$ $e^-$ capture	$^{53}\text{Mn}$ $e^-$ capture	$^{54}\text{Mn}$ Stable	$^{55}\text{Mn}$ $\beta^-$	$^{56}\text{Mn}$ $\beta^-$	$^{57}\text{Mn}$ $\beta^-$	$^{58}\text{Mn}$ $\beta^-$
$^{48}\text{Cr}$ $\beta^+$	$^{49}\text{Cr}$ $\beta^+$	$^{50}\text{Cr}$ Stable	$^{51}\text{Cr}$ $e^-$ capture	$^{52}\text{Cr}$ Stable	$^{53}\text{Cr}$ Stable	$^{54}\text{Cr}$ Stable	$^{55}\text{Cr}$ $\beta^-$	$^{56}\text{Cr}$ $\beta^-$	$^{57}\text{Cr}$ $\beta^-$	$^{58}\text{Cr}$ $\beta^-$
$^{47}\text{V}$ $\beta^+$	$^{48}\text{V}$ $\beta^+$	$^{49}\text{V}$ $e^-$ capture								
$^{46}\text{Ti}$ Stable	$^{47}\text{Ti}$ Stable	$^{48}\text{Ti}$ Stable								

These are not *r*-process nuclei.

However, are Inakura's prediction and its microscopic interpretation correct?



**Possible cause:** Change of single-particle structure

$$\begin{aligned}
 ^{49}\text{Cr}: J_{gs}^{\pi} &= 5/2^{-} \rightarrow (1f_{5/2})^{-1}(2d_{5/2})^{+1}, (1f_{5/2})^{-1}(2d_{3/2})^{+1} \\
 ^{51}\text{Cr}: J_{gs}^{\pi} &= 7/2^{-} \rightarrow (1f_{7/2})^{-1}(2d_{5/2})^{+1}, (1f_{7/2})^{-1}(1g_{9/2})^{+1} \\
 ^{53}\text{Cr}: J_{gs}^{\pi} &= 3/2^{-} \rightarrow (2p_{3/2})^{-1}(2d_{5/2})^{+1}, (2p_{3/2})^{-1}(2d_{3/2})^{+1}, \\
 &\quad (2p_{3/2})^{-1}(3s_{1/2})^{+1}
 \end{aligned}$$

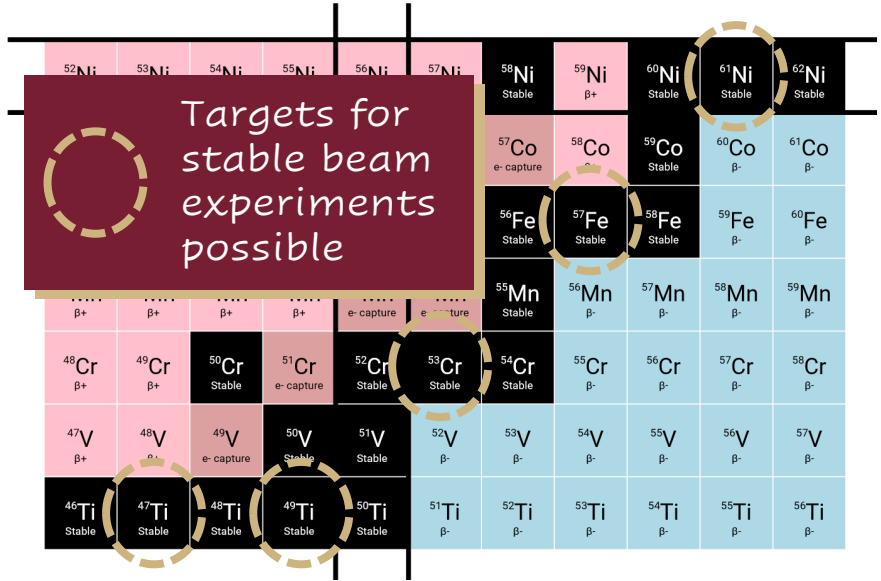
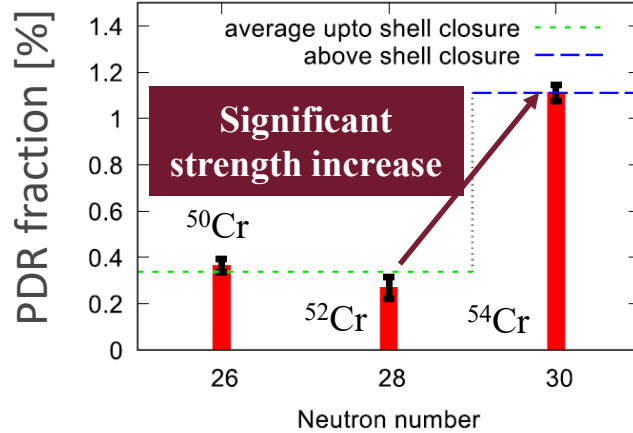
All these neutron one-particle one-hole (1p-1h) configurations can contribute to  $J^{\pi}=1^{-}$  states' (PDR) wave functions



# Map possible microscopic change with (d,p) reactions on highlighted nuclei

## Experiment

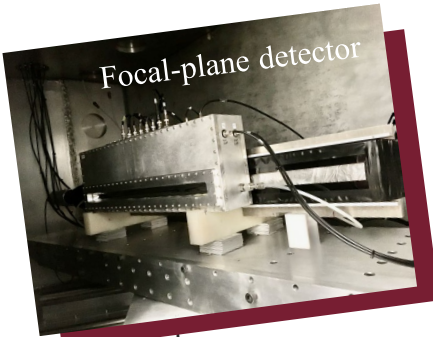
[P. Ries *et al.*, PRC **100**, 021301(R) (2019)]



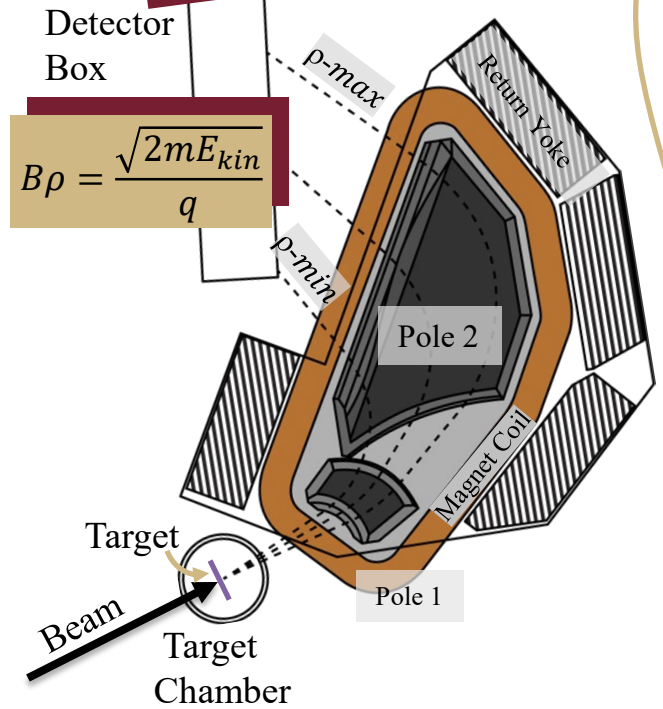
### Possible cause: Change of single-particle structure

$$\begin{aligned}
 ^{49}\text{Cr}: J_{gs}^{\pi} &= 5/2^{-} \rightarrow (1f_{5/2})^{-1}(2d_{5/2})^{+1}, (1f_{5/2})^{-1}(2d_{3/2})^{+1} \\
 ^{51}\text{Cr}: J_{gs}^{\pi} &= 7/2^{-} \rightarrow (1f_{7/2})^{-1}(2d_{5/2})^{+1}, (1f_{7/2})^{-1}(1g_{9/2})^{+1} \\
 ^{53}\text{Cr}: J_{gs}^{\pi} &= 3/2^{-} \rightarrow (2p_{3/2})^{-1}(2d_{5/2})^{+1}, (2p_{3/2})^{-1}(2d_{3/2})^{+1}, \\
 &\quad (2p_{3/2})^{-1}(3s_{1/2})^{+1}
 \end{aligned}$$

All these neutron one-particle one-hole (1p-1h) configurations can contribute to  $J^{\pi}=1^{-}$  states' (PDR) wave functions

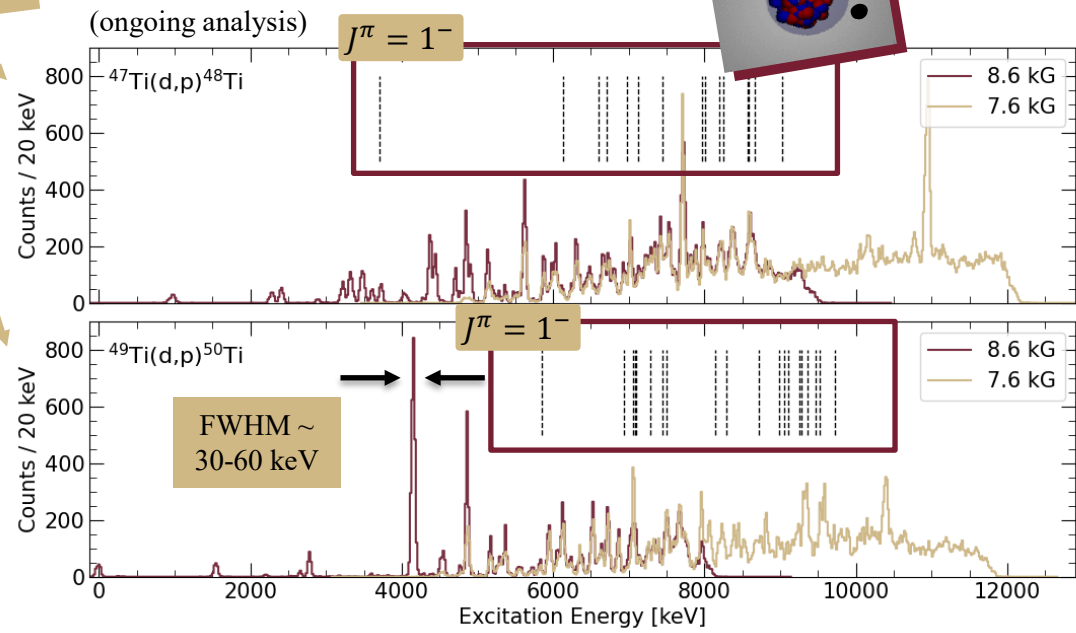


Focal-plane detector

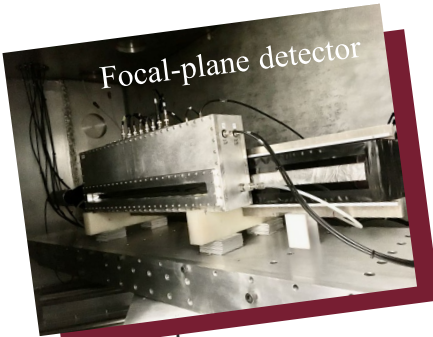


# Populate PDR states through (d,p) reaction

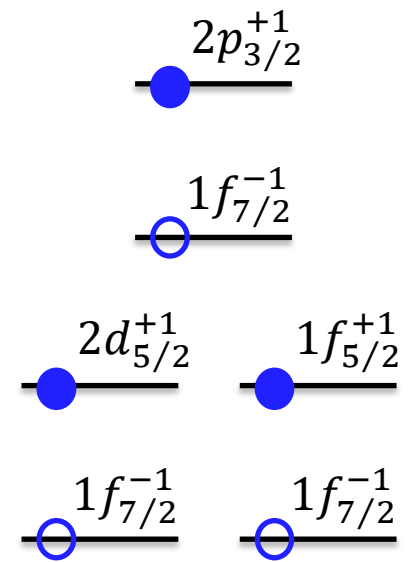
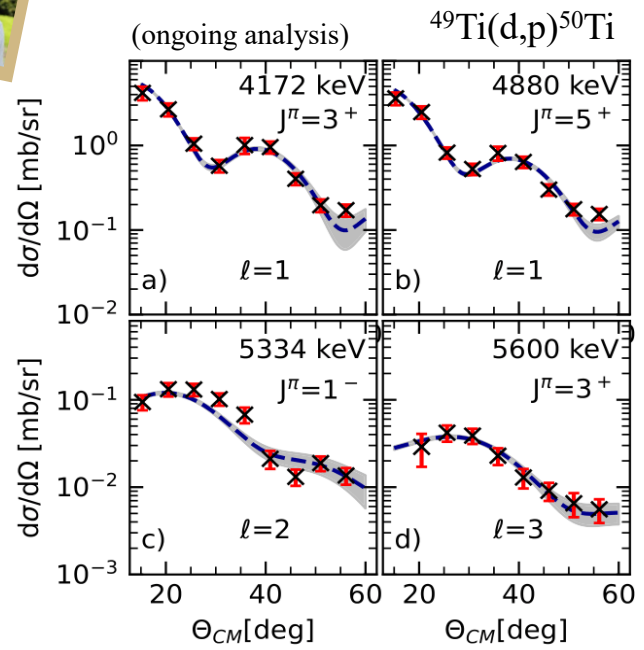
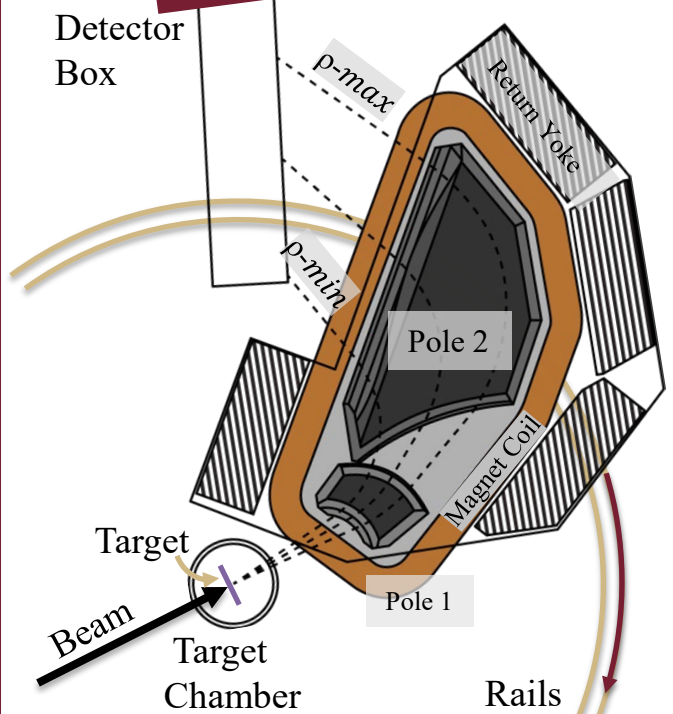
Identify PDR and other excited states with SE-SPS.



 =  $1^-$  states observed in real-photon scattering off  $^{48,50}\text{Ti}$  at HIGS@Duke University.



# Populate PDR states through (d,p) reaction



Measure reaction yields at different scattering angles (angular distributions) and identify neutron 1p-1h components of the state's wave function by comparison to theory.







## Undergraduate Research



Early hands-on research experience for both Ramiro Renom and Scott Baker. Ramiro is co-author on five peer-reviewed publications!

# Results for possible PDR states populated in $^{61}\text{Ni}(d,p)^{62}\text{Ni}$

PHYSICAL REVIEW C 108, 014311 (2023)

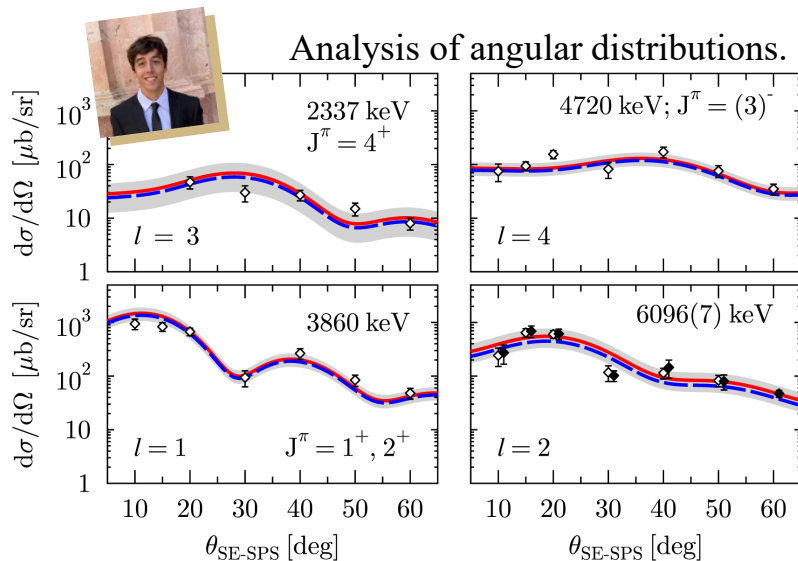
Experimental study of excited states of  $^{62}\text{Ni}$  via one-neutron ( $d, p$ ) transfer up to the neutron-separation threshold and characteristics of the pygmy dipole resonance states

M. Spieker<sup>1,\*</sup>, L. T. Baby<sup>1</sup>, A. L. Conley<sup>1</sup>, B. Kelly<sup>1</sup>, M. Müsscher<sup>1</sup>, **R. Renom<sup>1</sup>**, T. Schüttler<sup>2</sup> and A. Zilges<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Physics, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida 32306, USA

<sup>2</sup>Institute for Nuclear Physics, University of Cologne, 50937 Köln, Germany

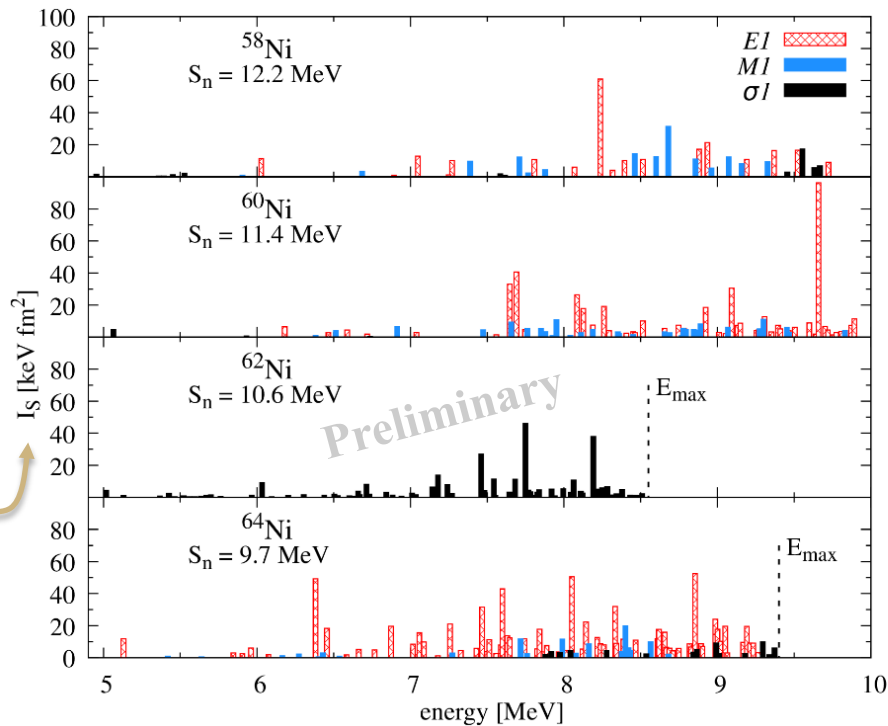
(Received 5 May 2023; accepted 28 June 2023; published 10 July 2023)





# “PDR” E1 strength increases with increasing neutron excess in Ni isotopes

$\sim B(E1; 0_1^+ \rightarrow 1_1^-)$  strength



F. Bauwens *et al.*, Phys. Rev. C **62** (2000) 024302

M. Scheck *et al.*, Phys. Rev. C **87** (2013) 051304R  
M. Scheck *et al.*, Phys. Rev. C **88** (2013) 044304

T. Schüttler, Bachelor's thesis, Cologne (2023)

NRF experiments on  $^{62}\text{Ni}$  up to  $S_n$   
already performed at  $\gamma\text{ELBE}$  and  $\text{HI}\gamma\text{S}$

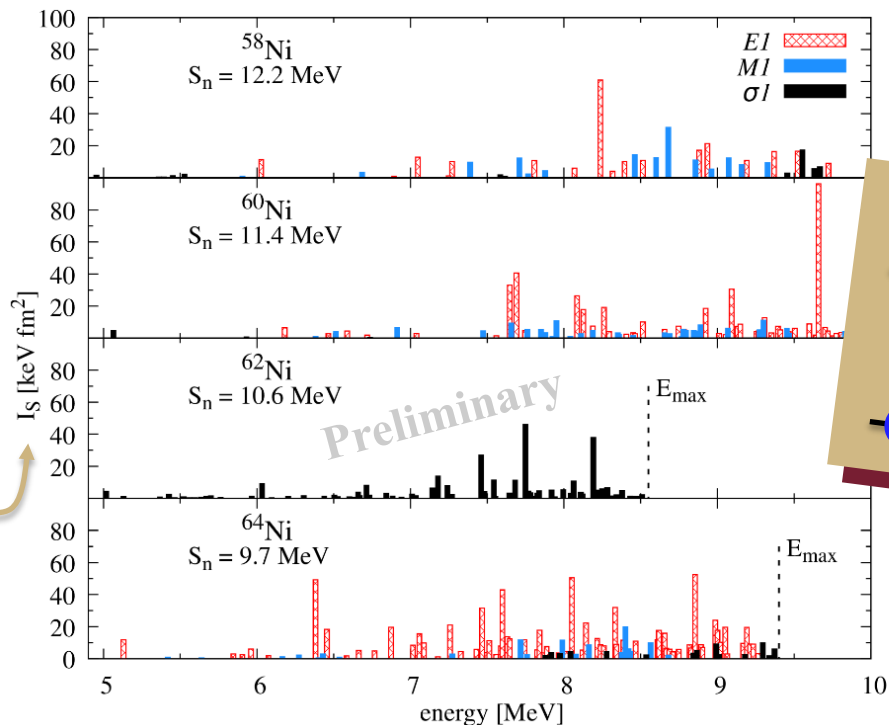
M. Müscher, to be published

Is this E1 strength increase linked to the low- $l$  single-particle strength shifting down in energy?

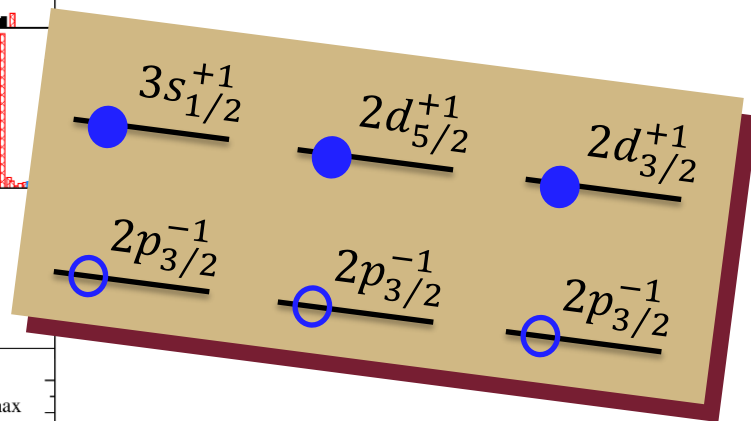


# “PDR” E1 strength increases with increasing neutron excess in Ni isotopes

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F. Bauwens *et al.*, Phys. Rev. C **62** (2000) 024302



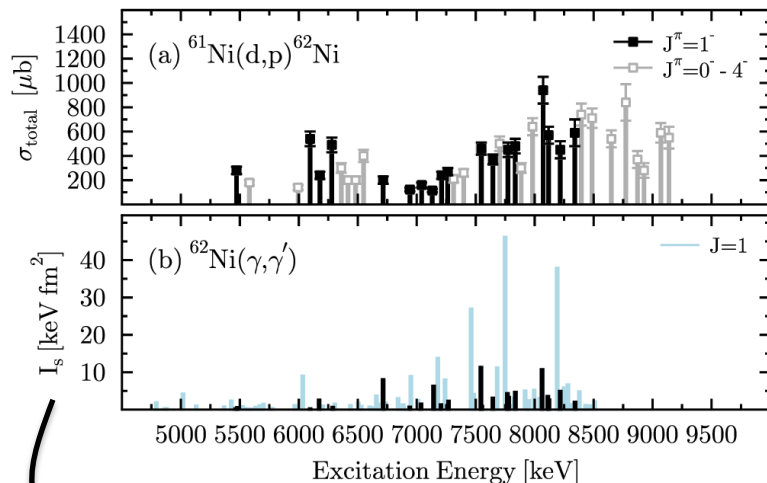
M. Müscher, to be published

Is this E1 strength increase linked to the low- $l$  single-particle strength shifting down in energy?



# Results for possible PDR states populated in $^{61}\text{Ni}(\text{d,p})^{62}\text{Ni}$

[MS *et al.*, Phys. Rev. C **108**, 014311 (2023)]



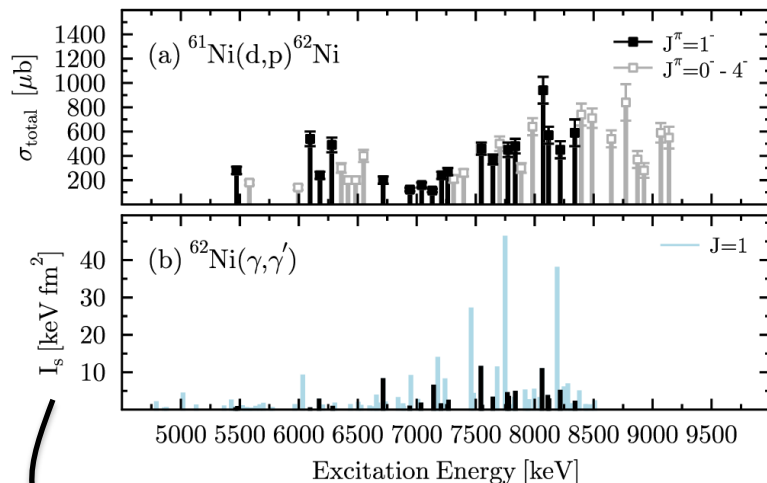
$\sim B(E1; 0_1^+ \rightarrow 1_i^-)$  strength

- Intensity ratios from  $^{62}\text{Ni}(\gamma,\gamma')$  were used to identify  $J = 1$  states up to 8.5 MeV. [T. Schüttler, M. Müscher, A. Zilges, *et al.*]
- 17  $J^\pi = 1^-$  candidates populated in  $^{61}\text{Ni}(\text{d,p})^{62}\text{Ni}$  through  $l = 2$  angular momentum transfers.
- No  $l = 0$  transfers were observed below  $S_n$ !
- Consequently, neutron  $(2p_{3/2})^{-1}(2d_{5/2})^{+1}$  and  $(2p_{3/2})^{-1}(2d_{3/2})^{+1}$  1p-1h configurations need to be responsible for E1 strength increase in  $^{62}\text{Ni}$  (N=34) if Inakura's predictions are correct.
- $^{62}\text{Ni}(\gamma,\gamma')$  up to threshold will show whether strength increases further and whether more  $1^-$  states, populated in (d,p) and  $(\gamma,\gamma')$ , can be identified. (HI $\gamma$ S experiment up to  $S_n$  performed)
- Detailed theoretical calculations will then be needed (LSSM, SSRPA, RQTBA+PVC, QPM, ...).



# Results for possible PDR states populated in $^{61}\text{Ni}(\text{d,p})^{62}\text{Ni}$

[MS *et al.*, Phys. Rev. C **108**, 014311 (2023)]



$\sim B(E1; 0_1^+ \rightarrow 1_i^-)$  strength

Ongoing project in collaboration with UoC, UNC, and ELI-NP.

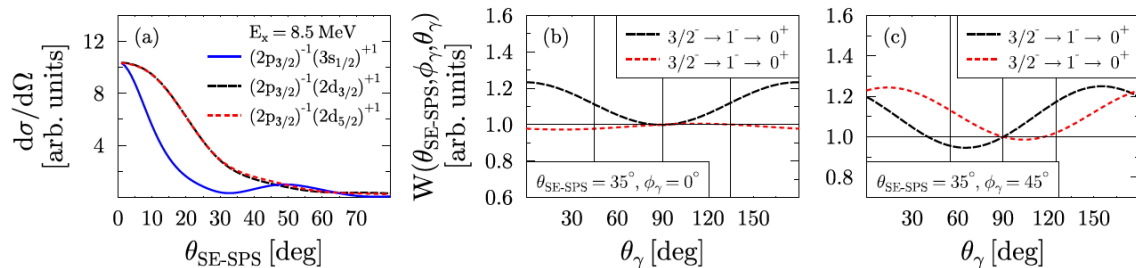
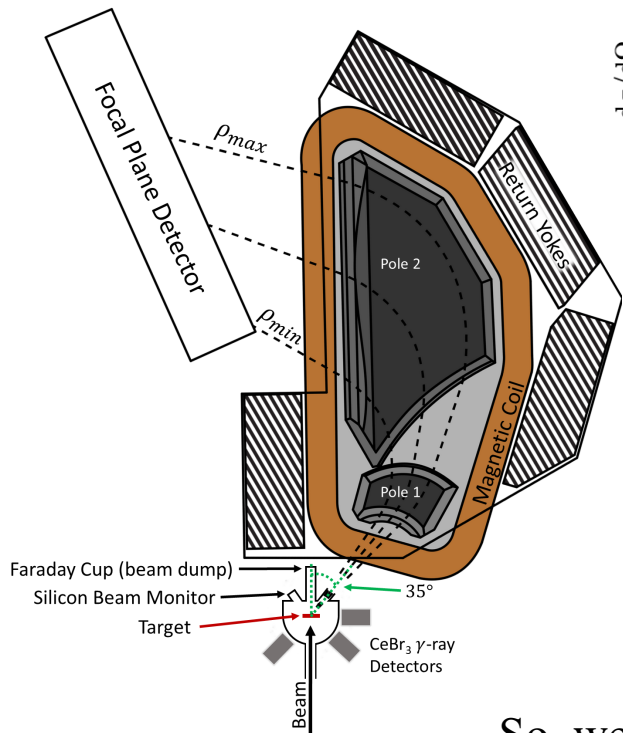
- Intensity ratios from  $^{62}\text{Ni}(\gamma, \gamma')$  were used to identify  $J = 1$  states up to 8.5 MeV.  
[T. Schüttler, M. Müscher, A. Zilges, *et al.*]
  - 17  $J^\pi = 1^-$  candidates populated in  $^{61}\text{Ni}(\text{d,p})^{62}\text{Ni}$  through  $l = 2$  angular momentum transfers.
- No  $l = 0$  transfers were observed below  $S_n$ !
- Consequently, neutron  $(2p_{3/2})^{-1}(2d_{5/2})^{+1}$  and  $(2p_{3/2})^{-1}(2d_{3/2})^{+1}$  1p-1h configurations need to be responsible for E1 strength increase in  $^{62}\text{Ni}$  ( $N=34$ ) if Inakura's predictions are correct.
- $^{62}\text{Ni}(\gamma, \gamma')$  up to threshold will show whether strength increases even further and whether more  $1^-$  states, populated in (d,p) and  $(\gamma, \gamma')$ , can be identified. (HI $\gamma$ S experiment up to  $S_n$  performed)
  - Detailed theoretical calculations will then be needed (LSSM, SSRPA, RQTBA+PVC, QPM, ...).





# Coincident $\gamma$ -ray detection with the CeBrA demonstrator at SE-SPS

Combining reaction and decay selectivity to study the structure of excited states.



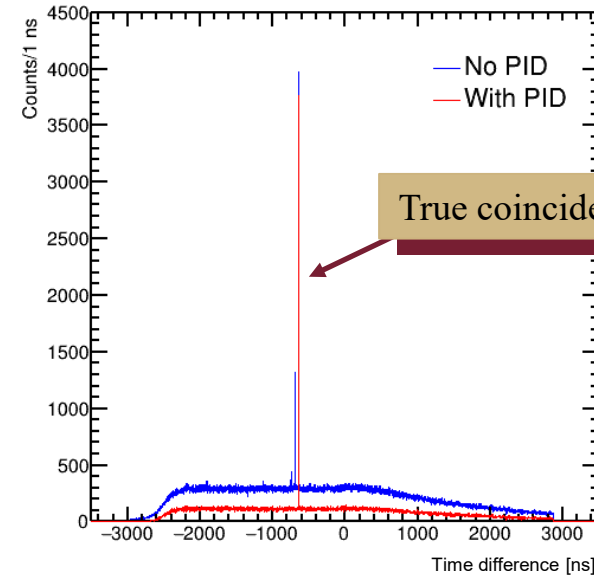
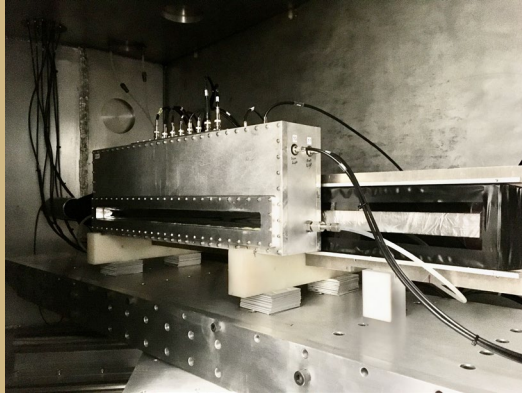
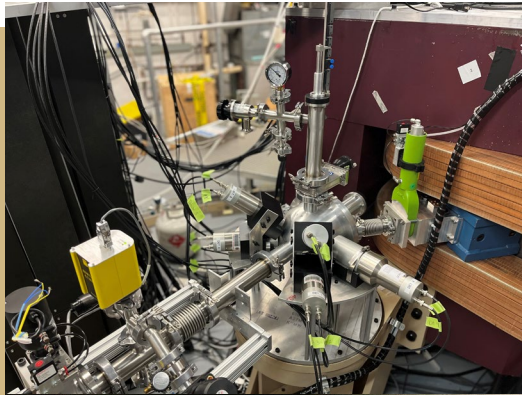
... and we can use particle- $\gamma$  angular correlations to distinguish 1p-1h configurations, which were populated through the same angular momentum transfer!

So, we decided to build the CeBr<sub>3</sub> Array (CeBrA) demonstrator.



# Coincident $\gamma$ -ray detection with the CeBrA demonstrator at SE-SPS

Coincidence timing between  $\text{CeBr}_3$   $\gamma$ -ray detectors and focal-plane scintillator.

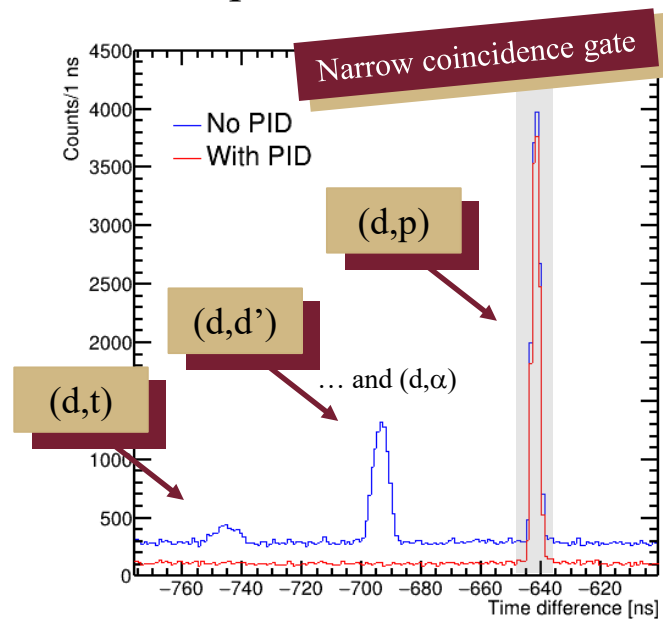
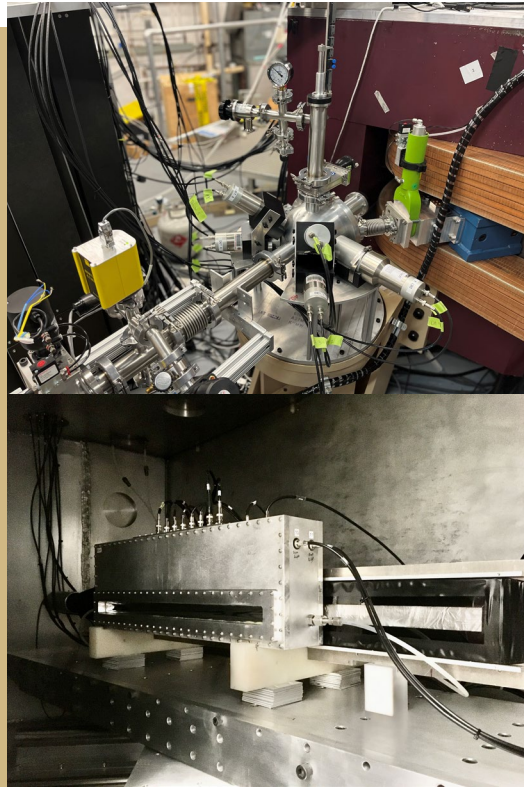


PID eliminates prompt events resulting from other reactions. To eliminate random background, further timing gates are needed.



# Coincident $\gamma$ -ray detection with the CeBrA demonstrator at SE-SPS

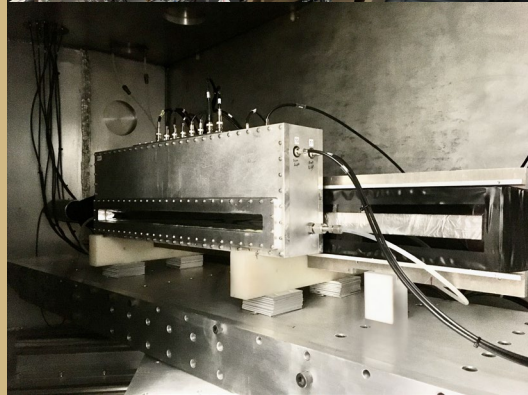
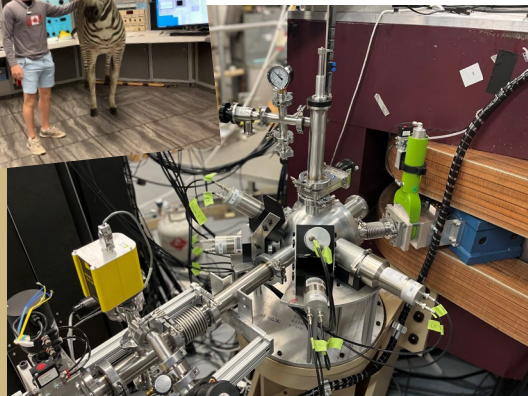
Coincidence timing between  $\text{CeBr}_3$   $\gamma$ -ray detectors and focal-plane scintillator.



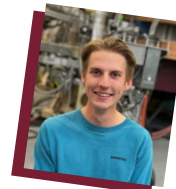
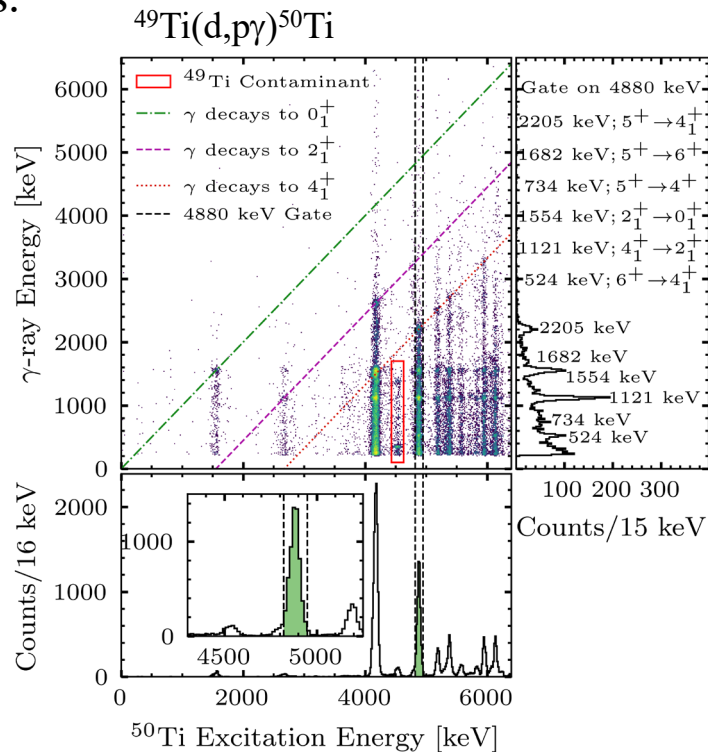
PID eliminates prompt events resulting from other reactions. To eliminate random background, further timing gates are needed.



# Coincident $\gamma$ -ray detection with the CeBrA demonstrator at SE-SPS



Particle- $\gamma$  coincidence matrix for selecting the excitation and decay of specific excited states.

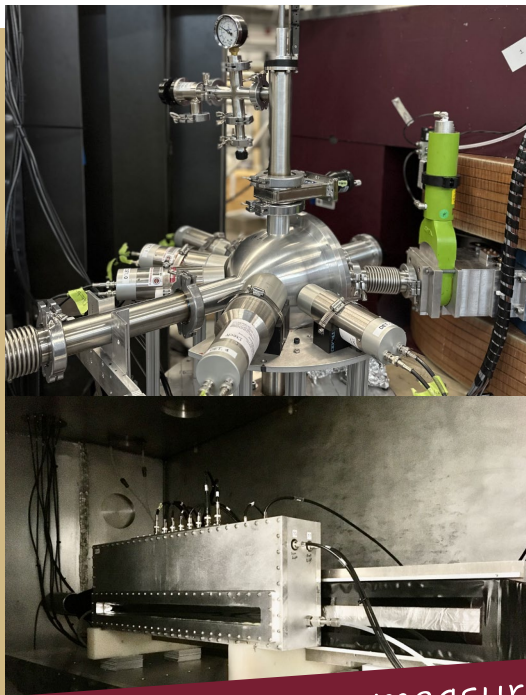






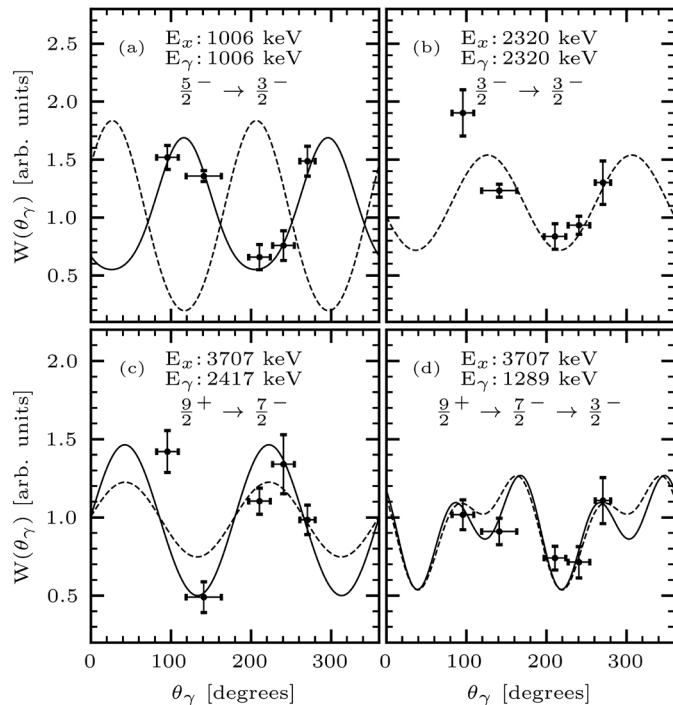
# Coincident $\gamma$ -ray detection with the CeBrA demonstrator at SE-SPS

Particle- $\gamma$  angular correlations for spin-parity assignments and determination of multipole mixing ratios.



**Bottom line:** We can measure particle- $\gamma$  angular correlations in (d,p $\gamma$ ) with SE-SPS+CeBrA!

$^{52}\text{Cr}(d,p\gamma)^{53}\text{Cr}$







We have big plans!



# Coincident $\gamma$ -ray detection with the CeBrA demonstrator at SE-SPS

## Particle- $\gamma$ angular correlations for spin-parity assignment of multipole

Nuclear Instruments and Methods in Physics Research A 1058 (2024) 168827

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Nuclear Inst. and Methods in Physics Research, A

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/nima](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/nima)

Full Length Article

The CeBrA demonstrator for particle- $\gamma$  coincidence experiments at the FSU Super-Enge Split-Pole Spectrograph

A.L. Conley<sup>a</sup>, B. Kelly<sup>a</sup>, M. Spieker<sup>a,\*</sup>, R. Aggarwal<sup>a</sup>, S. Ajayi<sup>a</sup>, L.T. Baby<sup>a</sup>, S. Baker<sup>a</sup>, C. Benetti<sup>a,1</sup>, I. Conroy<sup>c</sup>, P.D. Cottle<sup>a</sup>, I.B. D'Amato<sup>b</sup>, P. DeRosa<sup>a</sup>, J. Esparza<sup>a</sup>, S. Genty<sup>a</sup>, K. Hanselman<sup>a,2</sup>, I. Hay<sup>a</sup>, M. Heinze<sup>c</sup>, D. Houlihan<sup>a</sup>, M.I. Khawaja<sup>a</sup>, P.S. Kielb<sup>b</sup>, A.N. Kuchera<sup>b</sup>, G.W. McCann<sup>a,1</sup>, A.B. Morelock<sup>a</sup>, E. Lopez-Saavedra<sup>a</sup>, R. Renom<sup>a</sup>, L.A. Riley<sup>c</sup>, G. Ryan<sup>b</sup>, A. Sandrik<sup>a</sup>, V. Sitaraman<sup>a</sup>, E. Temanson<sup>a</sup>, M. Wheeler<sup>a</sup>, C. Wibisono<sup>a</sup>, I. Wiedenhöver<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Physics, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306, USA  
<sup>b</sup> Department of Physics, Davidson College, Davidson, NC 28035, USA  
<sup>c</sup> Department of Physics and Astronomy, Ursinus College, Collegeville, PA 19426, USA

$^{52}\text{Cr}(d,p\gamma)^{53}\text{Cr}$

$E_{\alpha} : 2320 \text{ keV}$   
 $E_{\gamma} : 2320 \text{ keV}$   
 $\frac{3}{2}^{-} \rightarrow \frac{3}{2}^{-}$

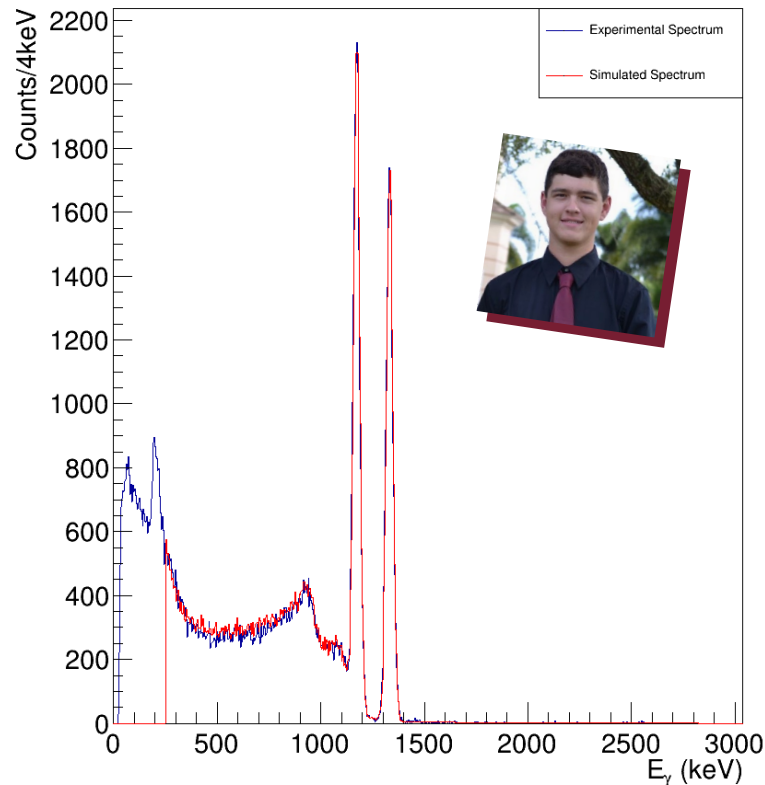
$3707 \text{ keV}$   
 $1289 \text{ keV}$   
 $\frac{7}{2}^{-} \rightarrow \frac{3}{2}^{-}$

Submitted MRI to NSF in collaboration with Ursinus College and Ohio University to build and use full CeBrA detector array at FSU (Oct. 2023) [~\$750k]



## Undergraduate Research

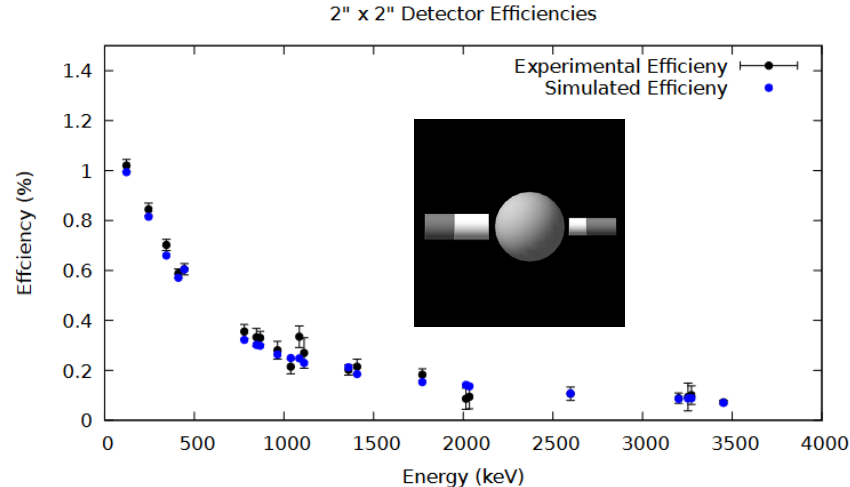
2"x 2" Detector (60Co)

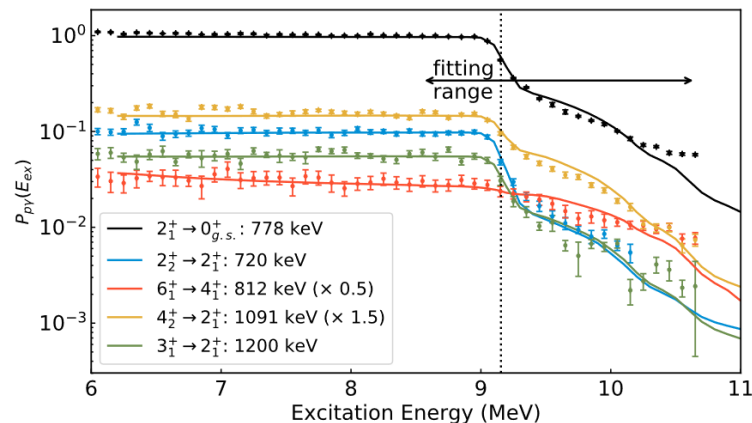
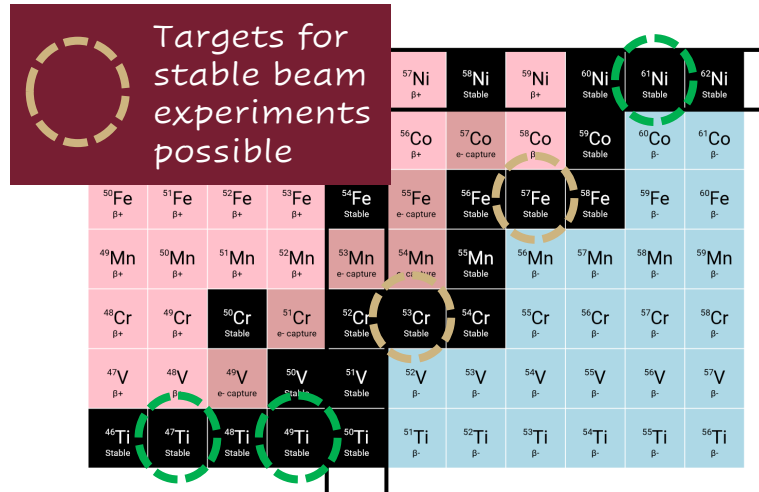


## GEANT4 simulation of CeBr<sub>3</sub> detectors

- FSU undergraduate student Scott Baker working on simulation of our CeBr<sub>3</sub> detectors using GEANT4 as part of his honors thesis.

→ Benchmark of simulation against data measured with standard calibration sources.



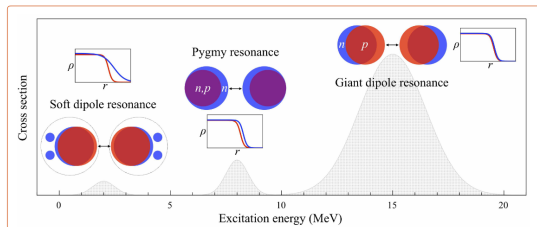


[Figure 2: A. Ratkiewicz *et al.*, PRL **122**, 052502 (2019)]

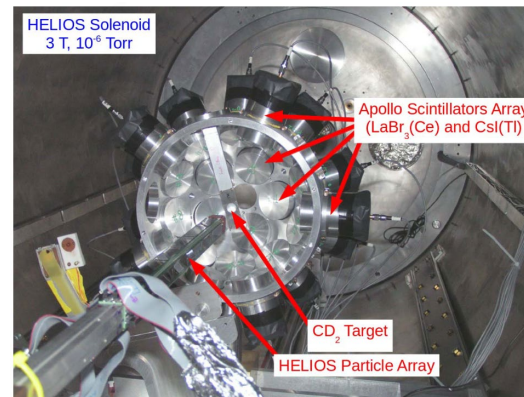
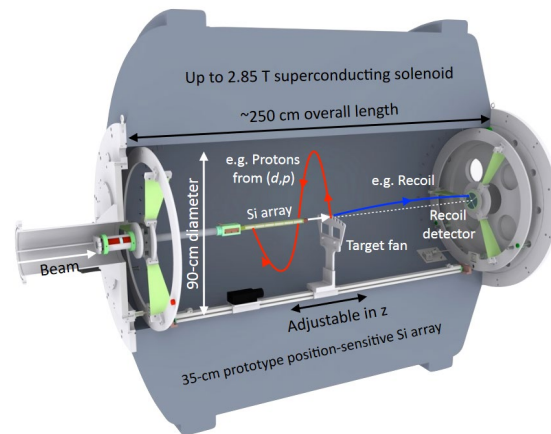
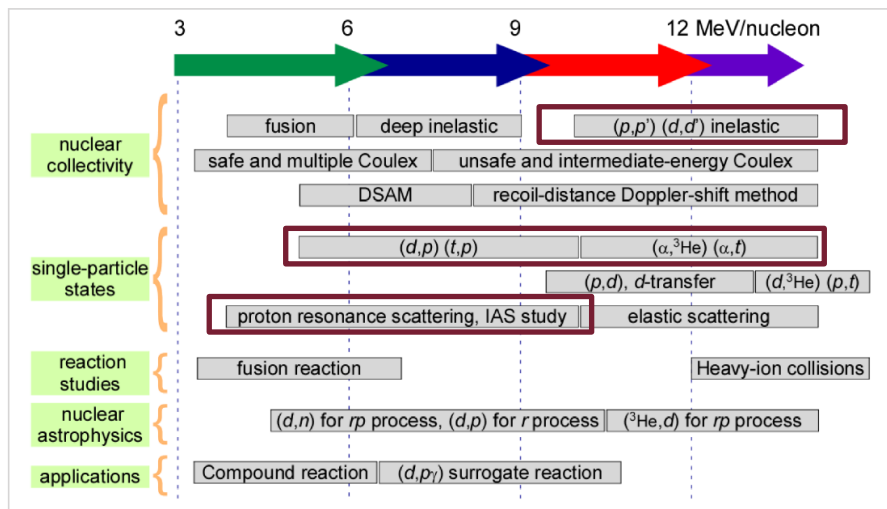
## Future plans for PDR studies at FSU

- Measure  $\gamma$ -ray strength function in  $^{62}\text{Ni}$  via  $^{61}\text{Ni}(d,p\gamma)^{62}\text{Ni}$  using surrogate method and CeBrA demonstrator.  
[Thesis experiment for B. Kelly]
- Continue (d,p) program to study PDR in fp-sd shell.  
[new grad student after B. Kelly graduation]
- Study neutron 2p-2h structure of PDR in  $^{62}\text{Ni}$  via  $^{60}\text{Ni}(t,p)^{62}\text{Ni}$ .  
[new grad student after B. Kelly graduation]
- Study  $\gamma$  decay of PDR states directly if CeBrA MRI gets funded.  
(higher FEP of array needed!)

# Single-particle structure studies of PDR with SOLARIS at FRIB [ $^{49}\text{Ca}(d,p\gamma)^{50}\text{Ca}$ ]



## ReA stages @ FRIB [SOLARIS White Paper (2018)]



of interest for PDR studies

In collaboration with T.L. Tang (FSU), A. Couture (LANL), B. Kay (ANL).



FLORIDA STATE  
UNIVERSITY

# Project #3

$\alpha$  clustering and its possible implications  
for p-process nucleosynthesis



[Thesis experiments for D. Houlihan]

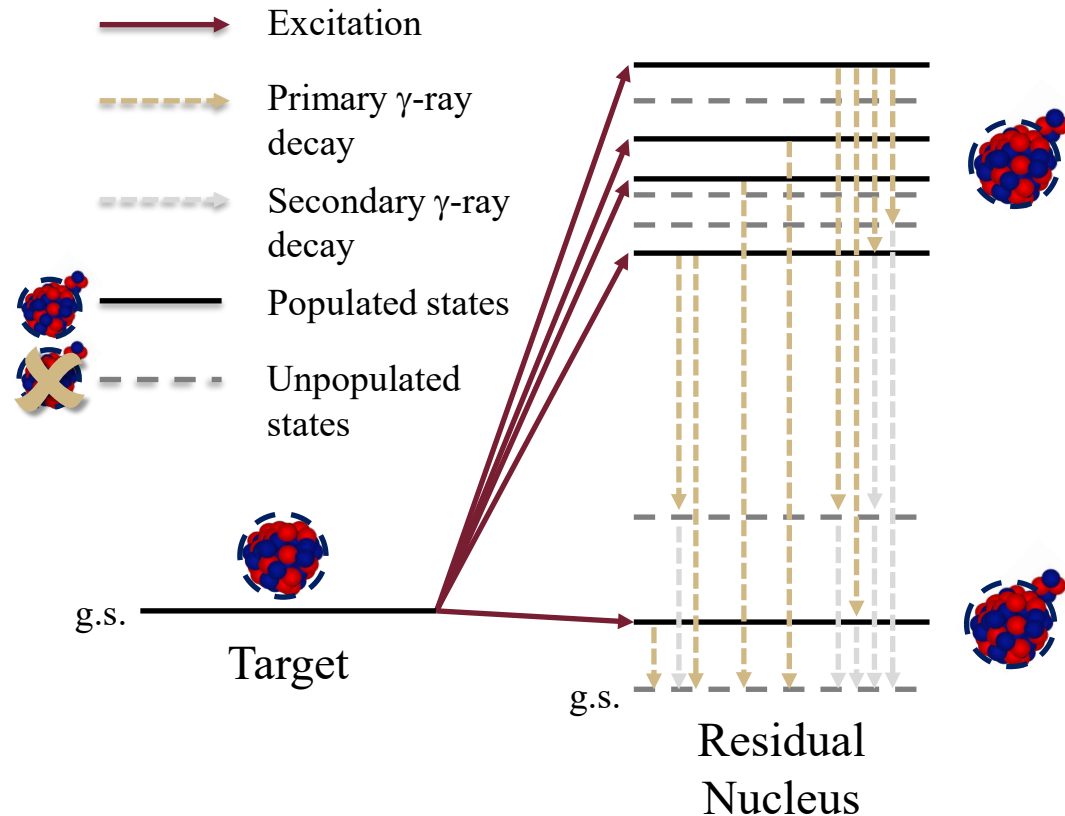
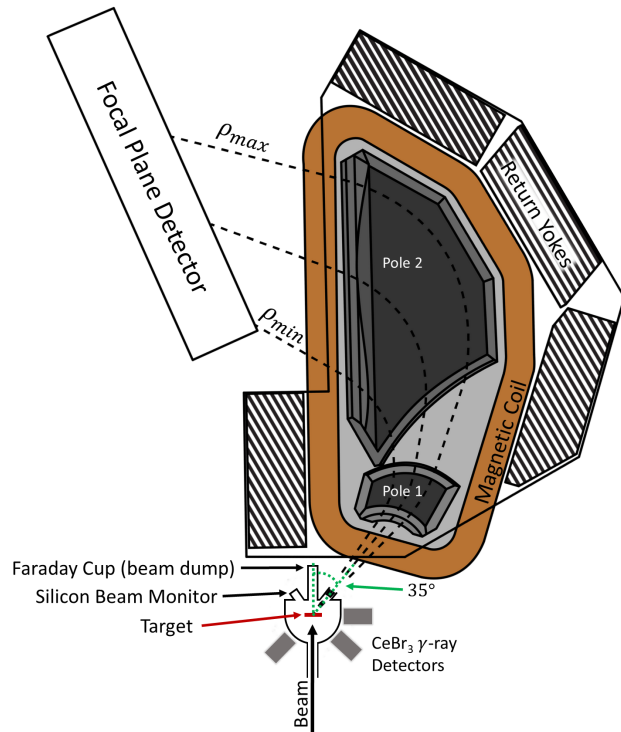






# Coincident γ-ray detection with the CeBrA demonstrator at SE-SPS

Combining reaction and decay selectivity to study the structure of excited states.





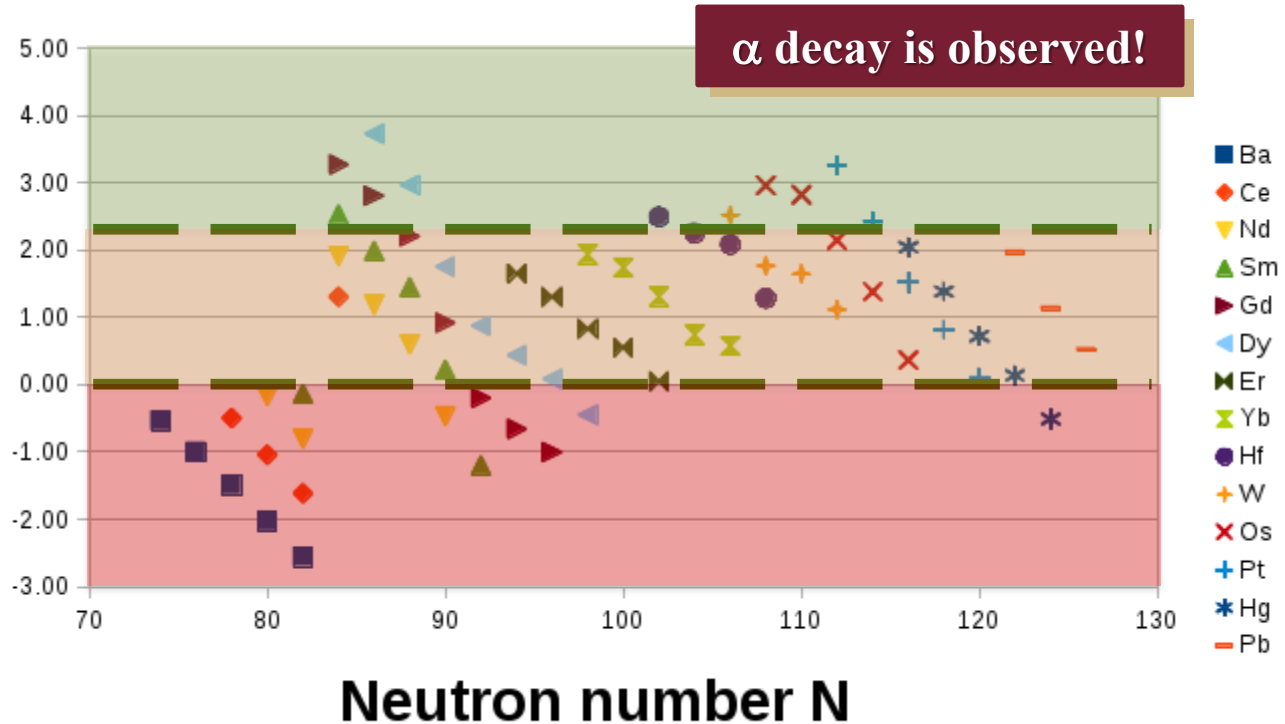


$Q_\alpha$  values from Ba to Pb

$Q_\alpha > 0!$



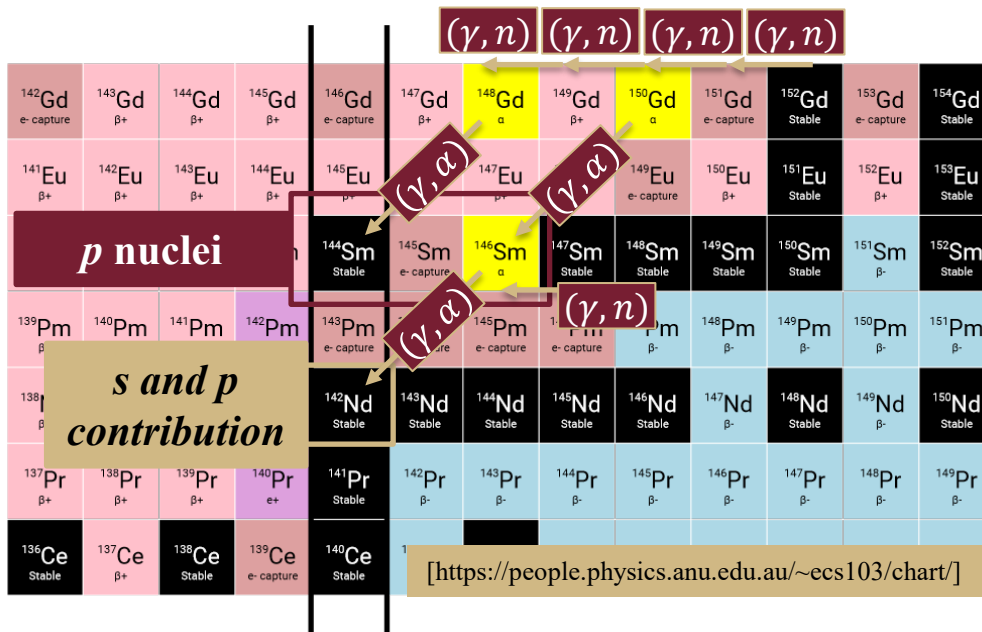
$Q$  [MeV]



Cluster strength expected at comparably low excitation energy!



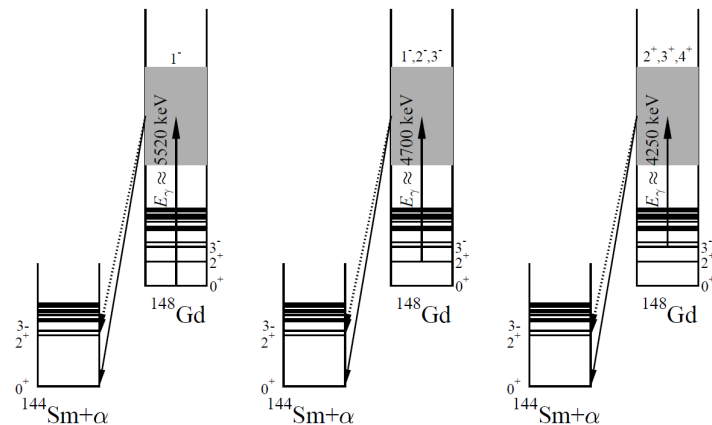
# The $p$ process and the neutron-deficient Sm and Gd nuclei – $(\gamma, \alpha)$ reactions



Gamow Window

for  $(\gamma, \alpha)$  (calculated at  $T = 2.5$  GK)

[but  $p$  process range 1.5-3 GK]



[P. Mohr, arXiv:nucl-ex/0405035v1 (2004)]

$\gamma$ -induced reactions predominantly excite states via dipole transitions (E1 and M1).

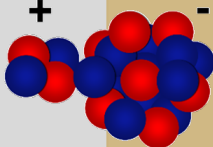
If pre-clustered states have enhanced  $B(E1)$  strength, a  $(\gamma, \alpha)$  enhancement might result.

# The $p$ process and the neutron-deficient Sm and Gd nuclei – $(\gamma, \alpha)$ reactions

Dynamic electric dipole moment  
due to mass asymmetry

$({}^6\text{Li}, d\gamma)$   
 $(\alpha, \gamma)$

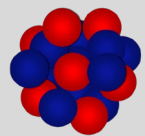
$\alpha$  transfer  
( $\sigma_\alpha$  and information on  $\Gamma_\alpha$ )  
 $\alpha$  transfer



From  $(\gamma, \gamma')$

$(\gamma, \alpha)$

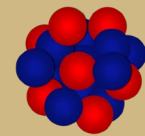
In stellar plasma,  
contributions from  
excited states can be  
important/dominant.  
→ Not accessible in  
laboratory. Need to  
measure  $\gamma$  decay to  
get  $\Gamma_\gamma$ .



$0_1^+$

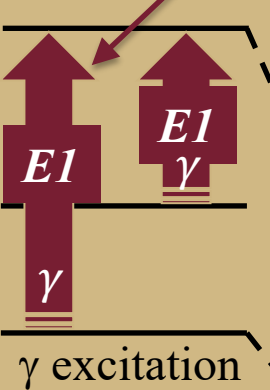
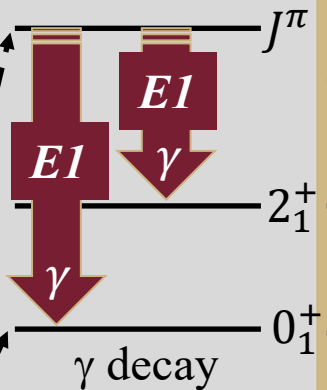
A

A + 4



A

$0_1^+$



$\alpha$  decay enhanced?



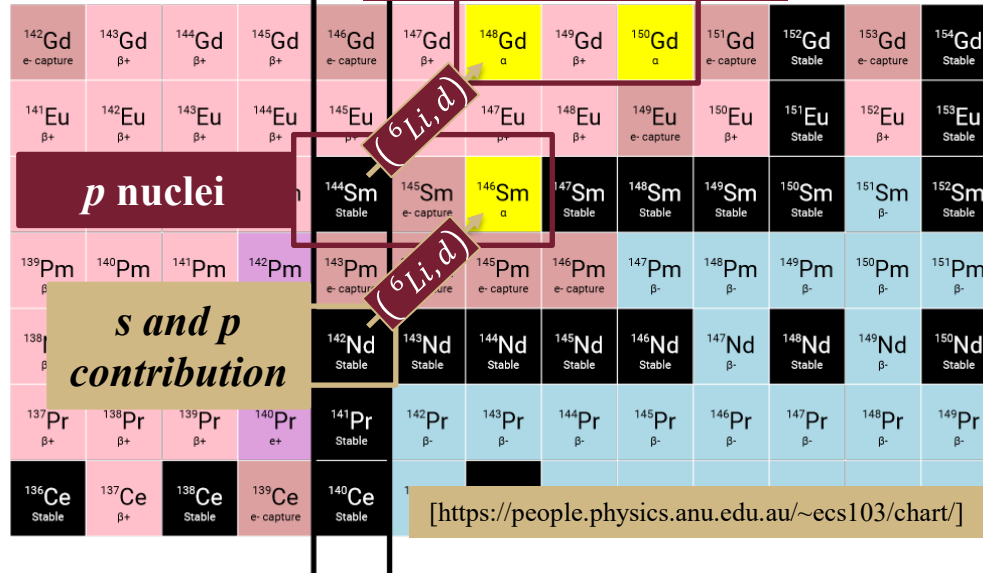
Call it Trojan horse or surrogate...





# The $p$ process and the neutron-deficient Sm and Gd nuclei – $(\gamma, \alpha)$ reactions

$\alpha$ -cluster states and enhanced B(E1)s?

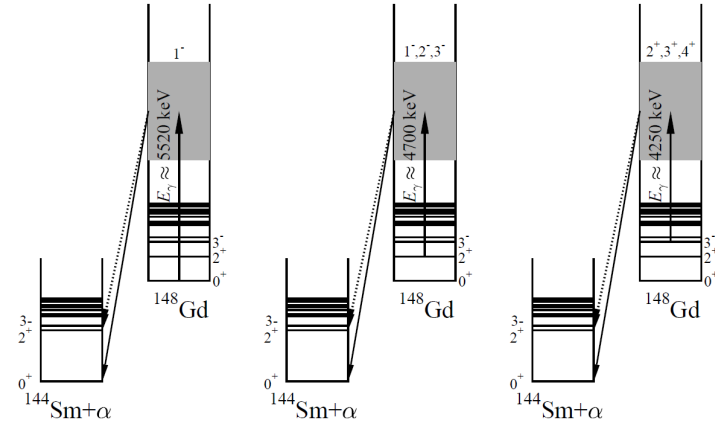


[<https://people.physics.anu.edu.au/~ecs103/chart/>]

Gamow Window

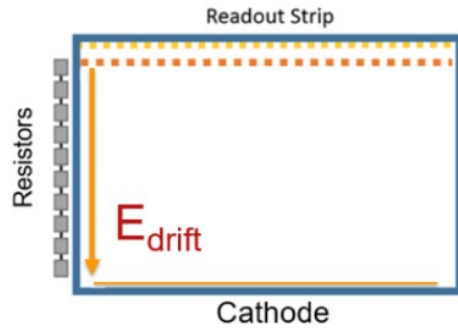
for  $(\gamma, \alpha)$  (calculated at  $T = 2.5 \text{ GK}$ )

[but  $p$  process range 1.5-3 GK]

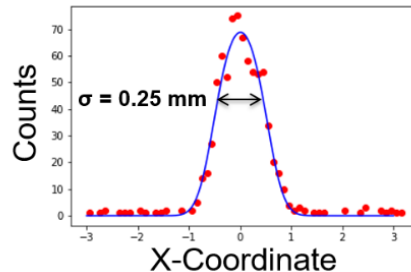
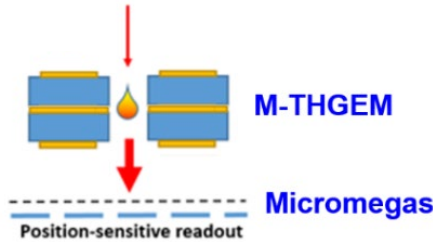


[P. Mohr, arXiv:nucl-ex/0405035v1 (2004)]

Perform  $(^6\text{Li}, d)$   $\alpha$ -transfer experiments with SE-SPS and detect  $\gamma$ -ray transitions from excited states in coincidence with CeBrA.



primary electrons



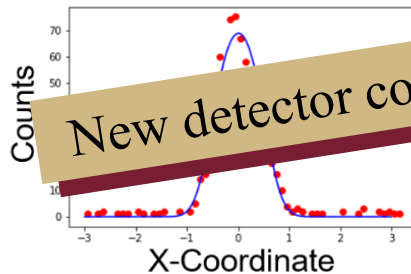
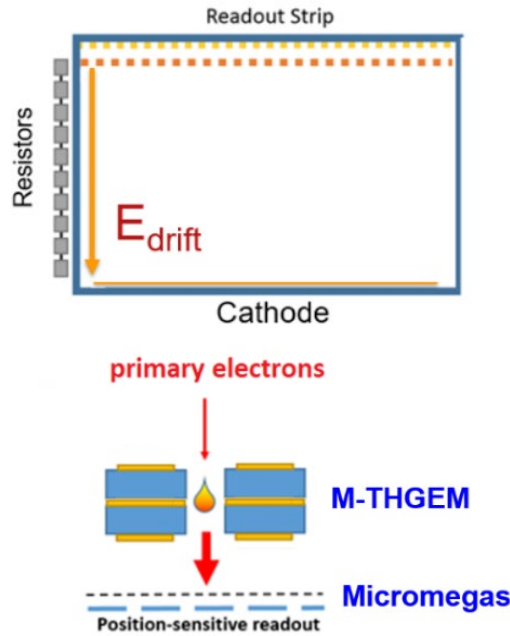
# A new focal plane detector for the SE-SPS

## Needs

- Energy resolution of 15 keV or better (improve position resolution of  $\sim 2$  mm by factor of  $\sim 4$ ).
- Higher rate capabilities (currently limited to  $\sim 2$  kHz).

## Solution: Piggyback on recent developments at S800 spectrograph for drift chambers

- New S800 Micro-Pattern Gaseous Detector (MPGD)-based readout of drift chamber improved position resolution from 0.5 mm to 0.25 mm.  
→ Factor 4 improvement achievable!
- New S800 drift chamber design allowed for rates as high as 20 kHz  
→ Factor 10 increase in rates achievable!



# A new focal plane detector for the SE-SPS

## Needs

- Energy resolution of 15 keV or better (improve position resolution of  $\sim 2$  mm by factor of  $\sim 4$ ).
- Higher rate capabilities (currently limited to  $\sim 2$  kHz).

## Solution: Piggyback on recent developments at S800 spectrograph for drift chambers

- New S800 Micro-Pattern Gaseous Detector (MPGD)-based readout of drift chambers improved position resolution to  $\sim 0.25$  mm.
- Improvement achievable!
- New S800 drift chamber design allowed for rates as high as 20 kHz
- Factor 10 increase in rates achievable!

New detector could be used as both light- and heavy-ion detector!





- **Study of octupole and hexadecapole collectivity in the Ge-Kr mass region at FRIB**  
→  $(p,p')$ ,  $(p,2p)$ , and  $(p,pn)$  experiments in inverse kinematics using GRETINA and the S800 at FRIB



- **The microscopic structure of the Pygmy Dipole Resonance (PDR)**  
→ Particle-transfer,  $(d,p)$  and  $(t,p)$ , as well as particle- $\gamma$  coincidence experiments,  $(d,p\gamma)$ , with the CeBrA demonstrator and Super-Enge Split-Pole Spectrograph at Florida State University



- **$\alpha$  clustering and its possible implications for p-process nucleosynthesis**  
→  $({}^6\text{Li},d)$   $\alpha$ -transfer and particle- $\gamma$  coincidence experiments,  $({}^6\text{Li},d\gamma)$ , with the CeBrA demonstrator (CeBrA) and the Super-Enge Split-Pole Spectrograph at Florida State University





# Project Timeline

## Year 1

$^{72}\text{Se}(p,pn)^{71}\text{Se}$   
GRETINA+S800  
A. Himmelreich  
(Ursinus w. Riley)

$^{61}\text{Ni}(d,p\gamma)^{62}\text{Ni}$   
CeBrA+SE-SPS  
B. Kelly

$^{142}\text{Nd}(^6\text{Li},d\gamma)^{146}\text{Sm}$   
CeBrA+SE-SPS  
D. Houlihan

Planning of  
new FP detector (Spieker)

## Year 2

$^{74}\text{Kr}(p,pn)^{73}\text{Kr}$   
GRETINA+S800

$^{53}\text{Cr}(d,p)^{54}\text{Cr}$   
SE-SPS  
New student #1

$^{144}\text{Sm}(^6\text{Li},d\gamma)^{148}\text{Gd}$   
CeBrA+SE-SPS  
D. Houlihan

Construction of  
new FP detector (New student #1)

## Year 3

$^{70,72}\text{Kr}(p,pX)$   
GRETINA+S800@FRIB

$^{57}\text{Fe}(d,p)^{58}\text{Fe}$   
SE-SPS  
Undergraduate #1

$^{49}\text{Ca}(d,p\gamma)^{50}\text{Ca}$   
SOLARIS+APOLLO@FRIB

Construction of

## Year 4

$^{60}\text{Ni}(t,p)^{62}\text{Ni}$   
SE-SPS  
New student #1

$^{92}\text{Mo}(^6\text{Li},d\gamma)^{96}\text{Ru}$   
CeBrA+SE-SPS  
New student #2

Commissioning of  
new FP detector