

# Isospin effects probed by the Electric Dipole Emission

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**INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF NUCLEAR PHYSICS  
45th Course**

*Nuclei in the Laboratory and in Stars*

Erice, Sicily, September 16-22, 2024

Directors of the school

[Michael Buballa and Christian Fischer](#)

# Gamma decay from dipole excitations in different conditions

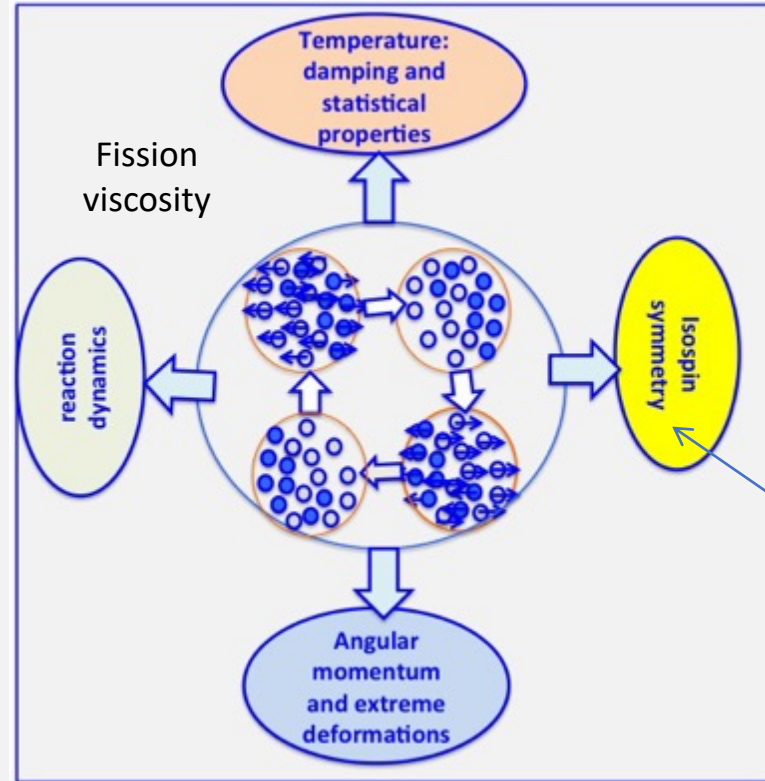


3 MeV

1.5 MeV

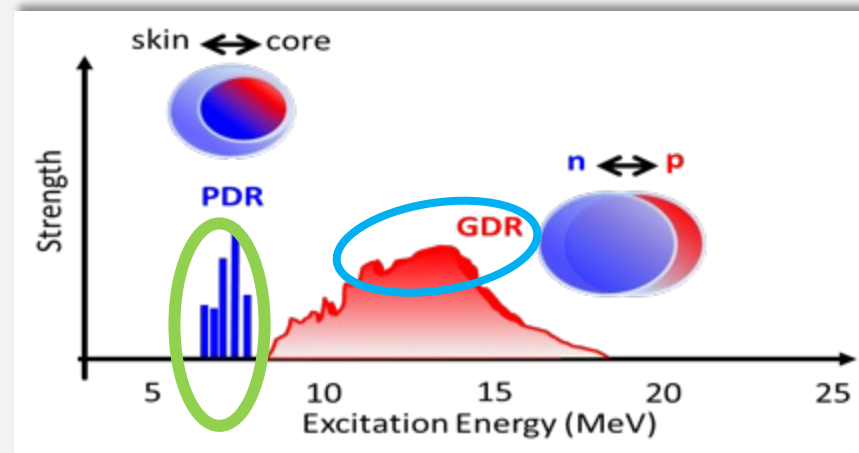
0.5 - 1 MeV

T=0



Study of various aspects of nuclear structure via dipole oscillations

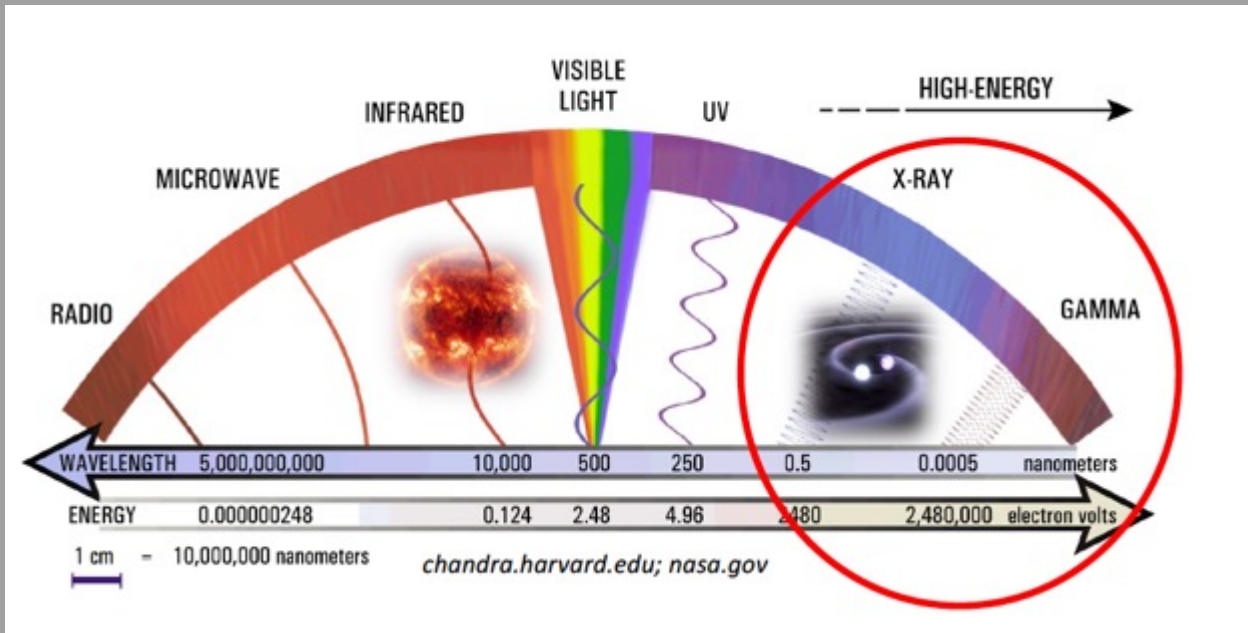
Isospin effects  
Isospin mixing



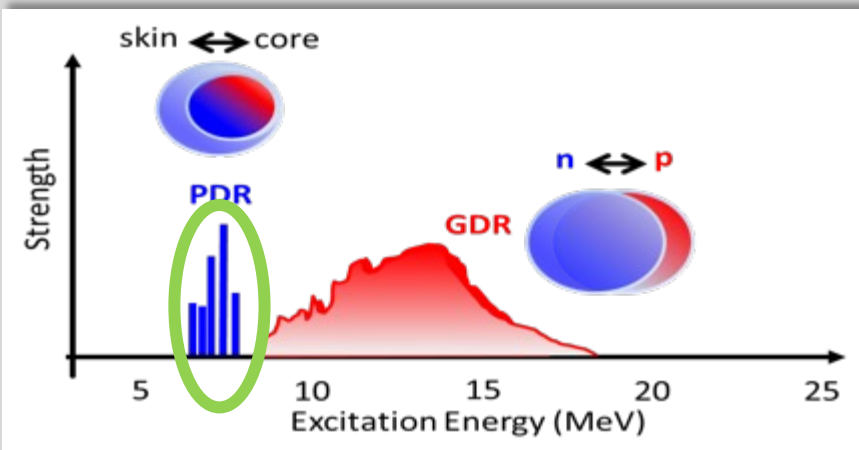
Isospin effects

- Nuclear equation of state
- Isospin effects

# Why do we investigate the E1 strength, including the pygmy part?



- MeV-photons are abundant in the universe (Planck photon bath)
- The photon-nucleus interaction is dominated by the dipole response of atomic nuclei
- dipole response in the pygmy region is important for r-process modeling



For neutron rich nuclei the pygmy is mainly due to neutron excitations of the neutron skin and the latter is related to the properties of neutron matter (implications with the modeling of Neutron Stars)

**This talk addresses two issues :**

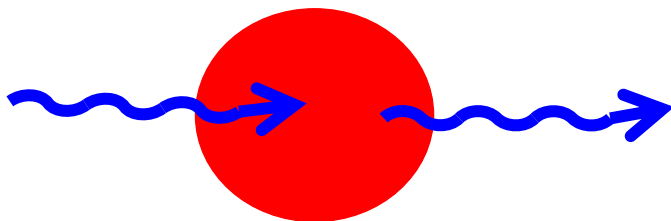
**1- Low lying dipole response (below binding Energy)**

**Its gamma decay to investigate isospin nature of the Pygmy strength**

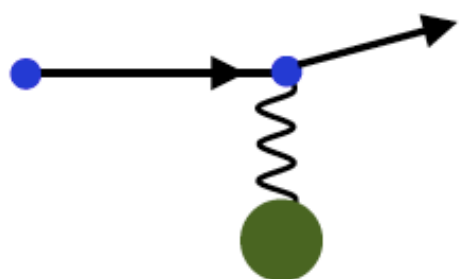
**2. Gamma-decay from the GDR in hot rotating nuclei to deduce isospin mixing and possible restoration of isospin symmetry**

**Note that different reaction types are used**

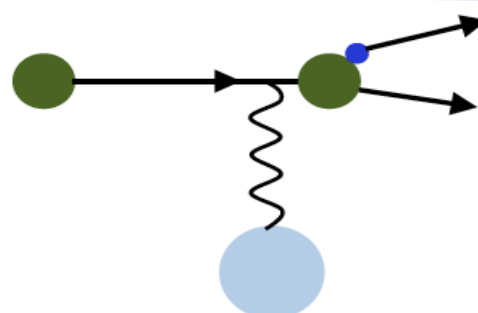
# There is a need for a variety of experimental tools



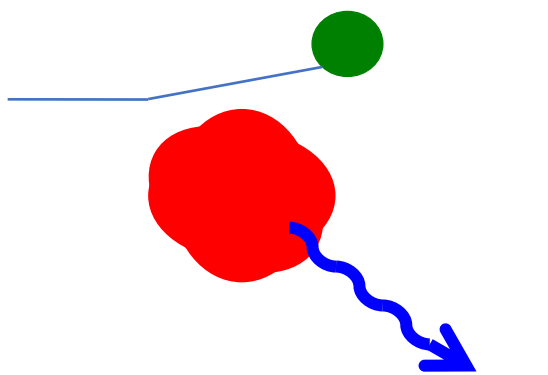
$(\gamma, \gamma')$  real photons  
on stable nuclei  
Probing the entire nuclear volume



$(p, p')$  virtual photons  
at  $E_{\text{beam}} > 200$  MeV  
on stable nuclei  
Probing the entire nuclear volume  
Work at Osaka RCNP

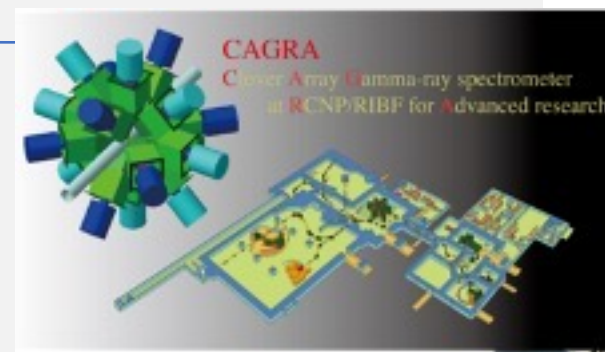
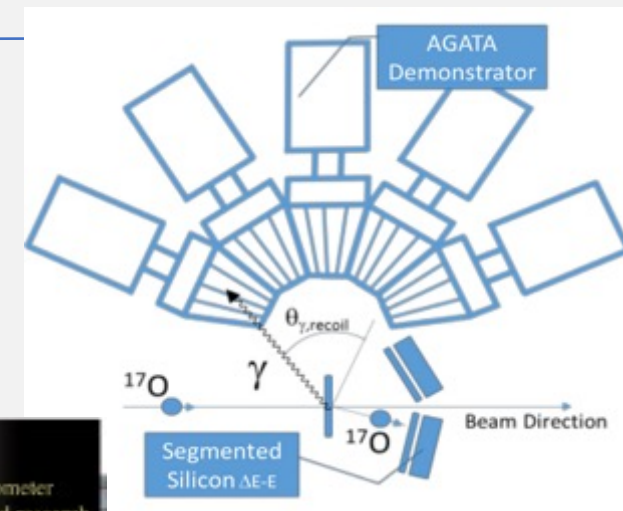


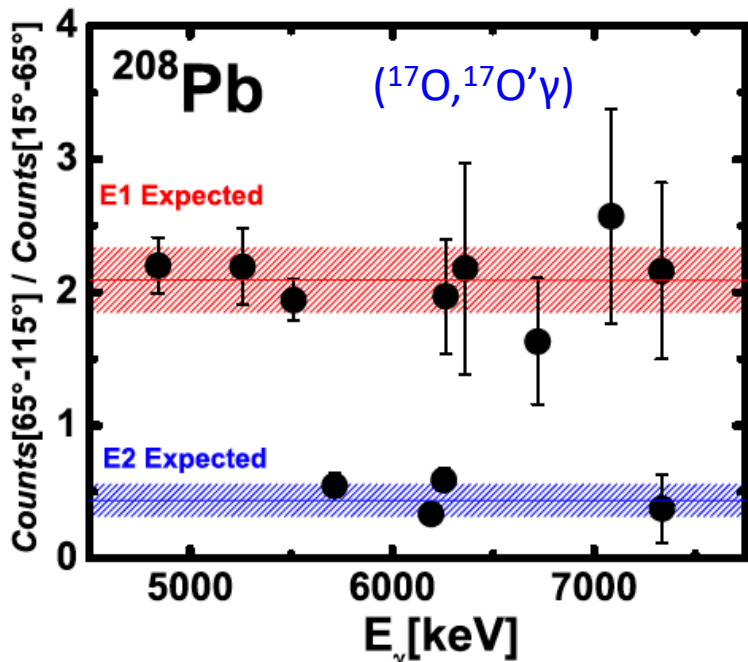
Coulomb excitation  
with radioactive beams  
virtual photons  
Exotic nuclei



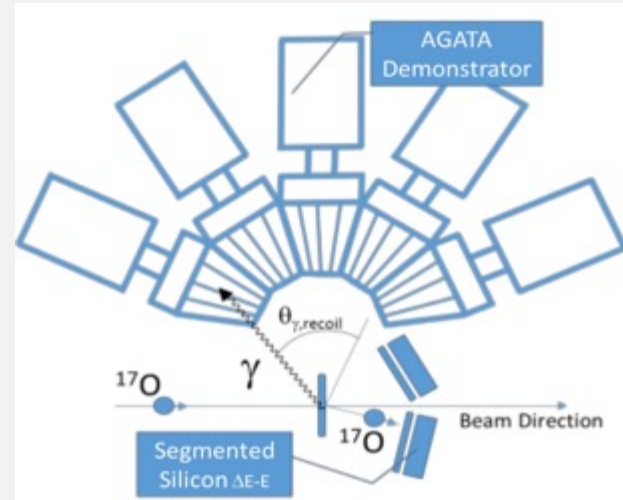
$(\alpha, \alpha' \gamma)$  or  $(^{17}\text{O}, ^{17}\text{O}' \gamma)$  and  $(p, p' \gamma)$

Probing the nuclear surface mainly  
– short range nuclear forces and low-energy of  
the collision

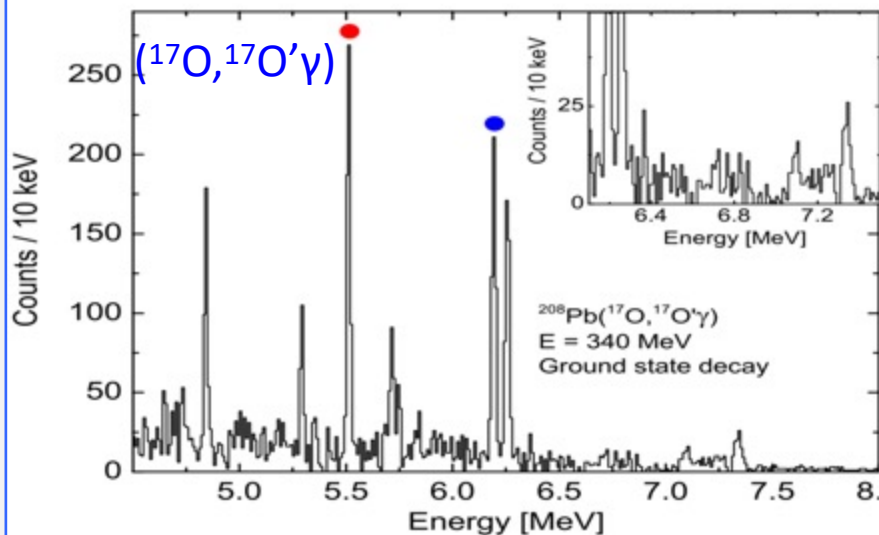




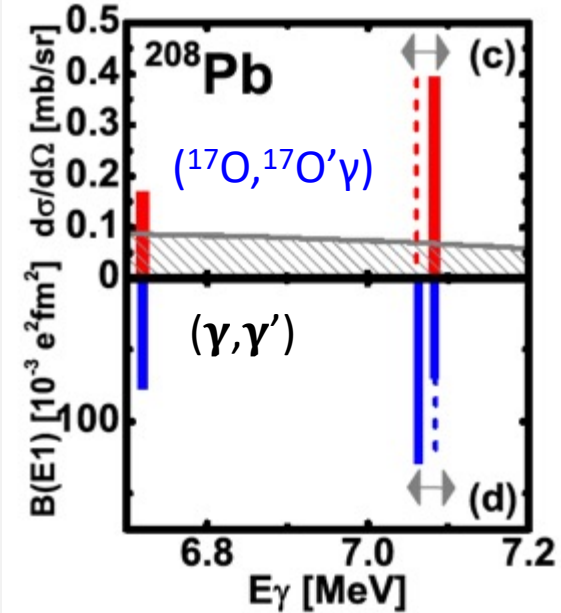
Angular distribution of the gamma rays-  
In general one finds mostly  $1^-$  states



F.C.L. Crespi, et al., PRL113 (2014) 012501



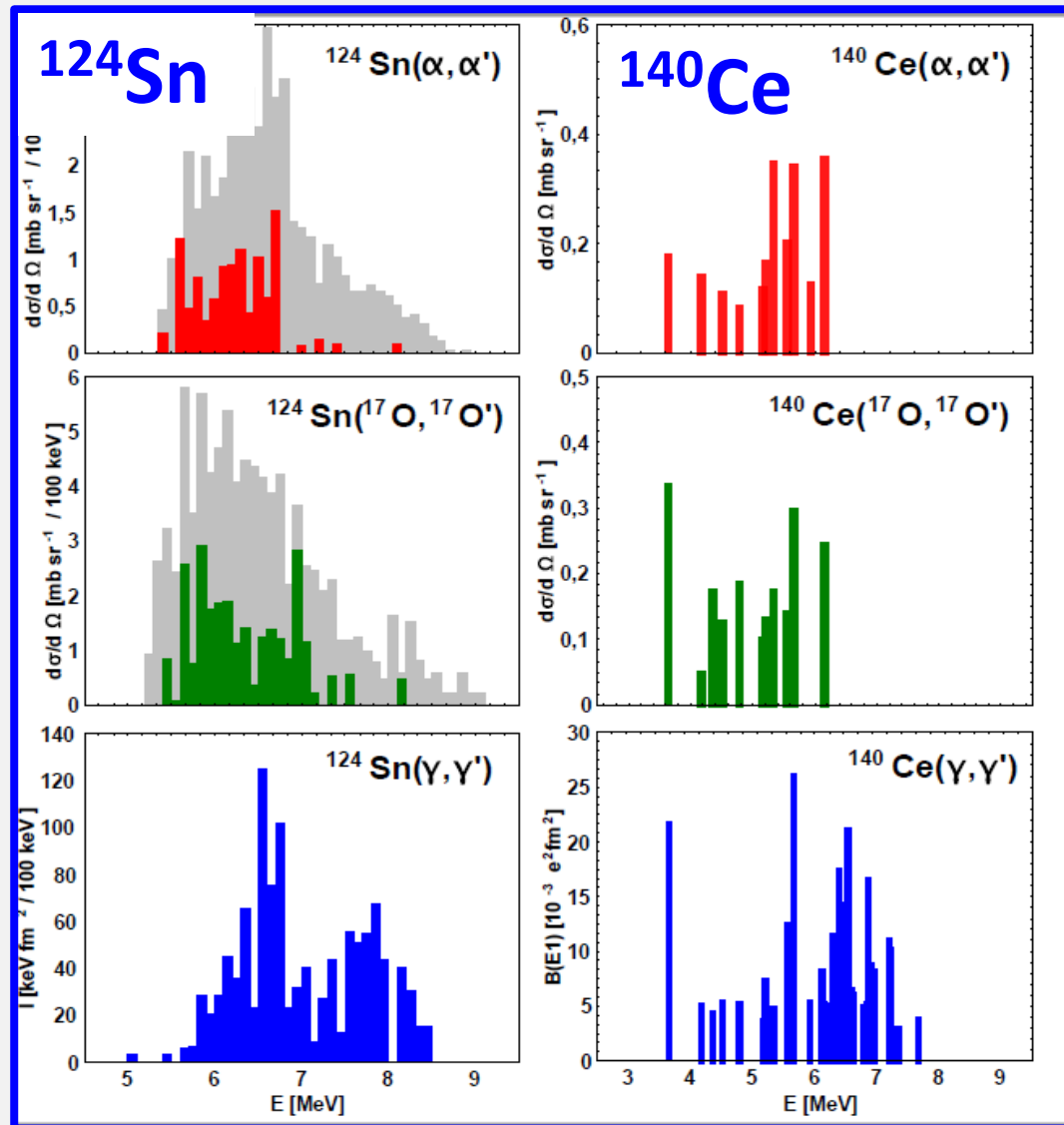
Effect of isospin breaking  
Isospin mixing allows E1 decay from isoscalar excitations



- Ground state decay select preferentially  $1^-$  states
- Measurement of the angular distributions of the gamma-rays

# Main features of some existing results

Gamma  
-ray  
spectra

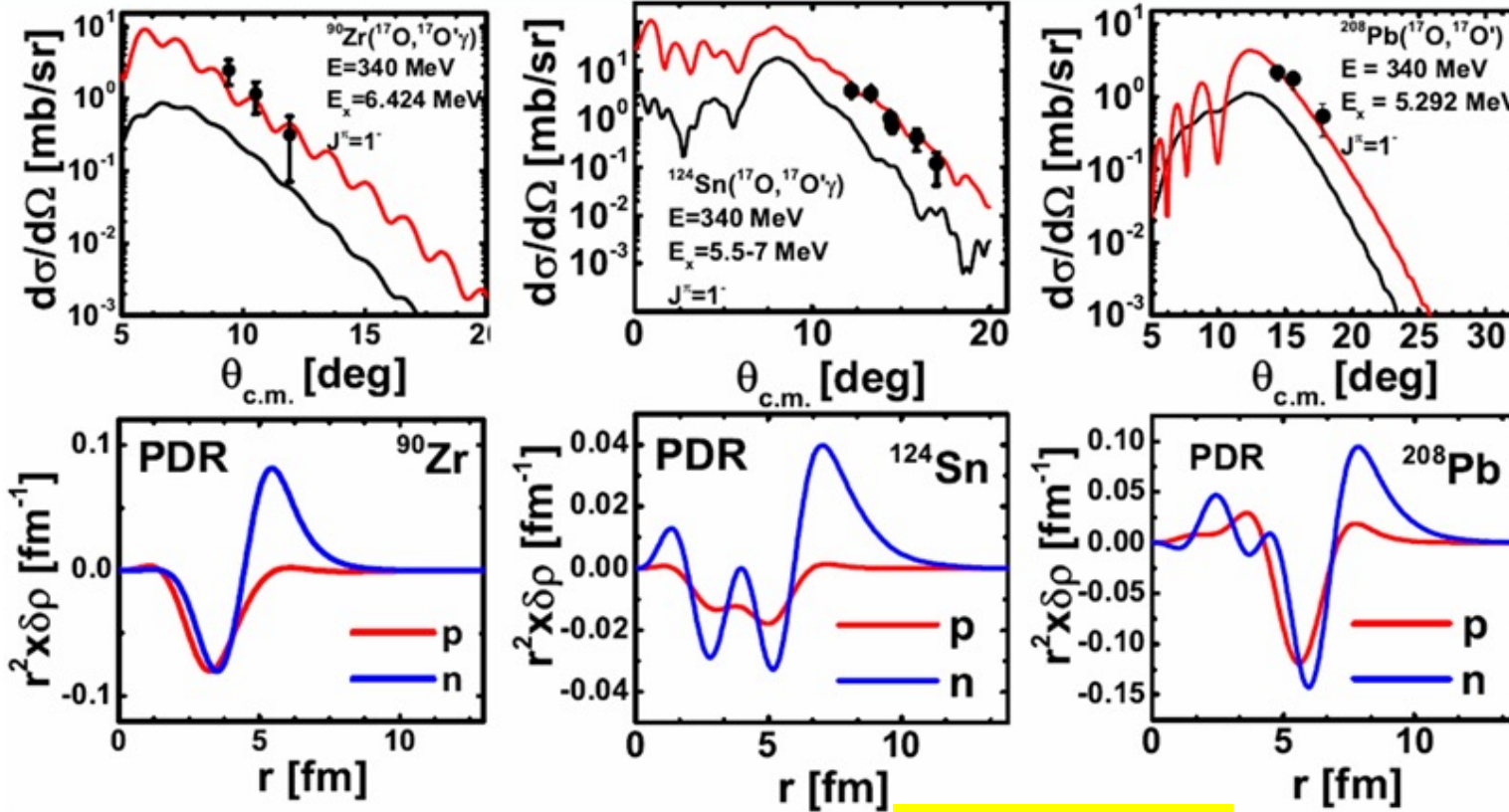


1 $^-$  excitation with :  
 $^{17}\text{O}$  20 MeV/u  
and alpha scattering  
at 130 MeV  
and their comparison

In all cases only the  
region < 6-7 MeV is  
populated by all  
reactions

# Heavy Ion Inelastic Scattering

DWBA calculation  
 (red solid lines)  
 with microscopic  
 form factors\* based on  
 the transition density  
 associated to the E1 PDR states  
 very different  
 than that of the GDR



## Isoscalar strength

Isotope	Selection	Energy range [MeV]	Isoscalar strength [ $10^4 e^2 \text{ fm}^6 / \text{MeV}$ ]	Isoscalar EWSR [%]	$B(E1) \uparrow$ [ $10^{-3} e^2 \text{ fm}^2$ ]
$^{90}\text{Zr}$	in peaks	6.3–6.9	4.6(0.7)	4.0(0.6)	87
$^{124}\text{Sn}$	in peaks	5.5–7.0	10.8(1.4)	1.5(0.2)	214
$^{124}\text{Sn}$	in peaks	5.5–9.0	11.9(1.6)	2.2(0.3)	228
$^{124}\text{Sn}$	unresolved	5.5–9.0	41.1(3.7)	7.8(0.7)	228
$^{208}\text{Pb}$	in peaks	4.8–7.3	8.9(1.5)	9.0(1.5)	1084

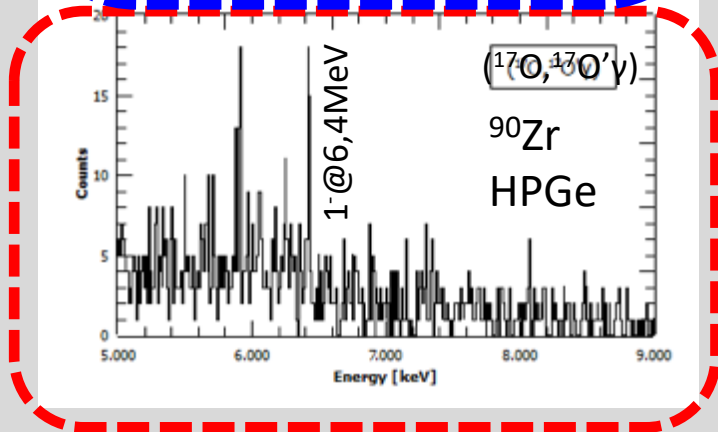
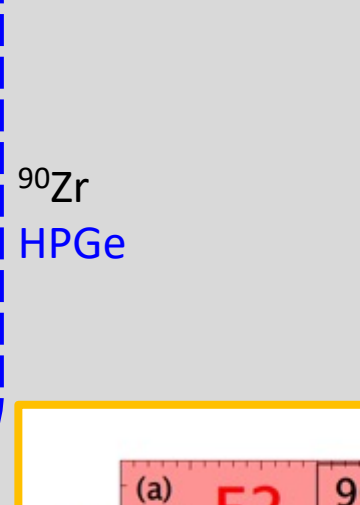
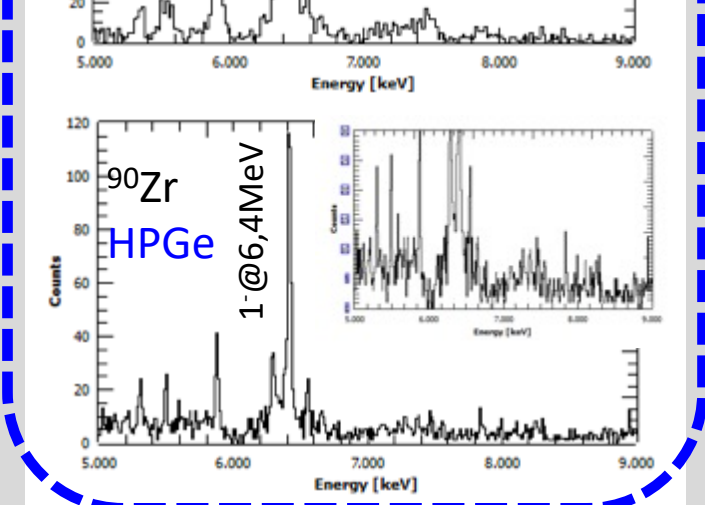
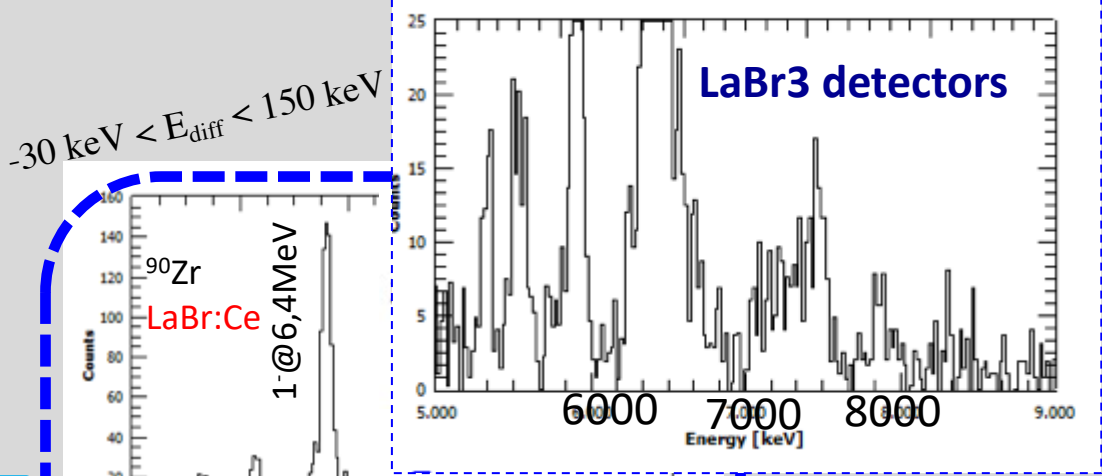
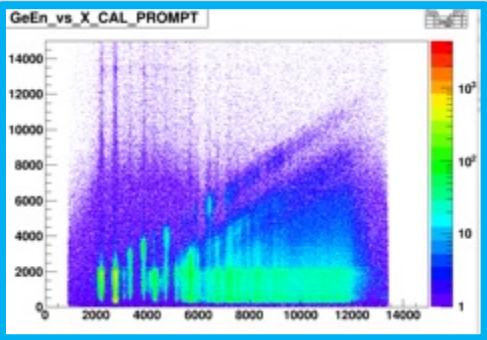
F.C.L. Crespi, et al.,  
 PRL113 (2014) 012501  
 L. Pellegrini, et al., PLB738  
 (2014)519  
 F.C.L. Crespi et al,  
 PRC 91 (2015) 024323  
 A. Bracco, F.C.L. Crespi and  
 B. E.G. Lanza, EPJA(2015)51:99

\*E. G. Lanza et al.,  
 Phys. Rev. C 84 (2011) 064602



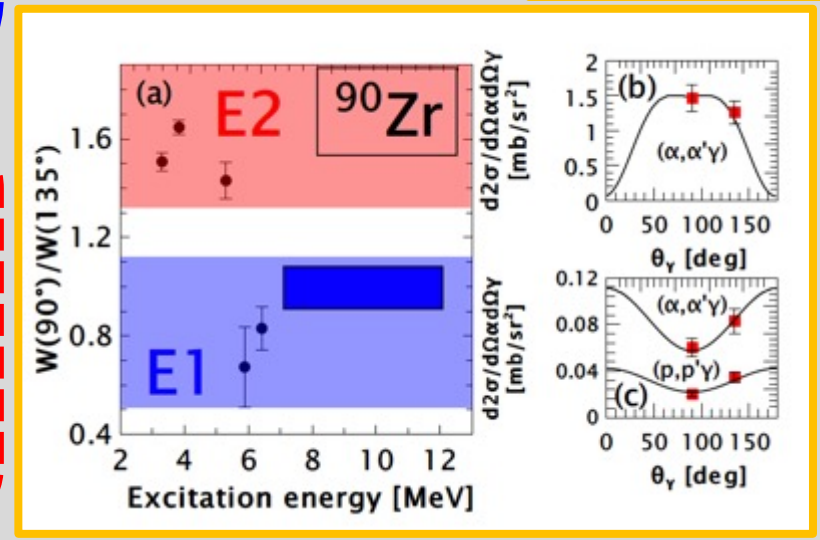
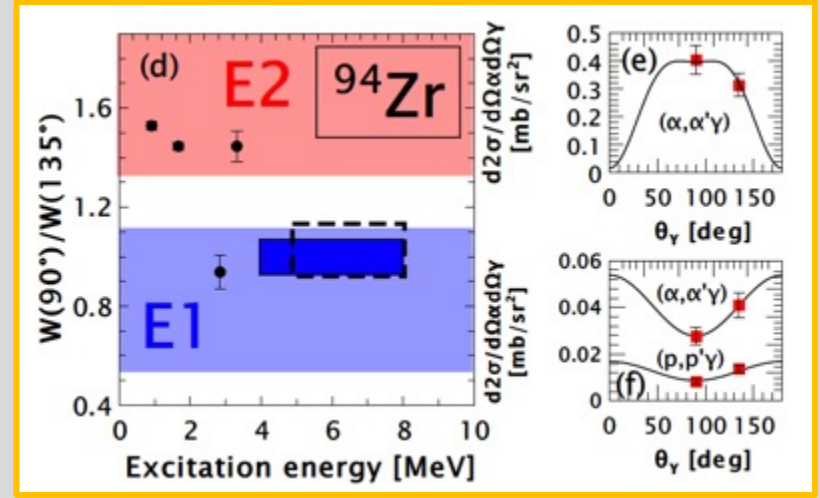
Alpha cross section larger than proton about a factor of 5

Alpha angle = 4.5  
Proton angle = 6

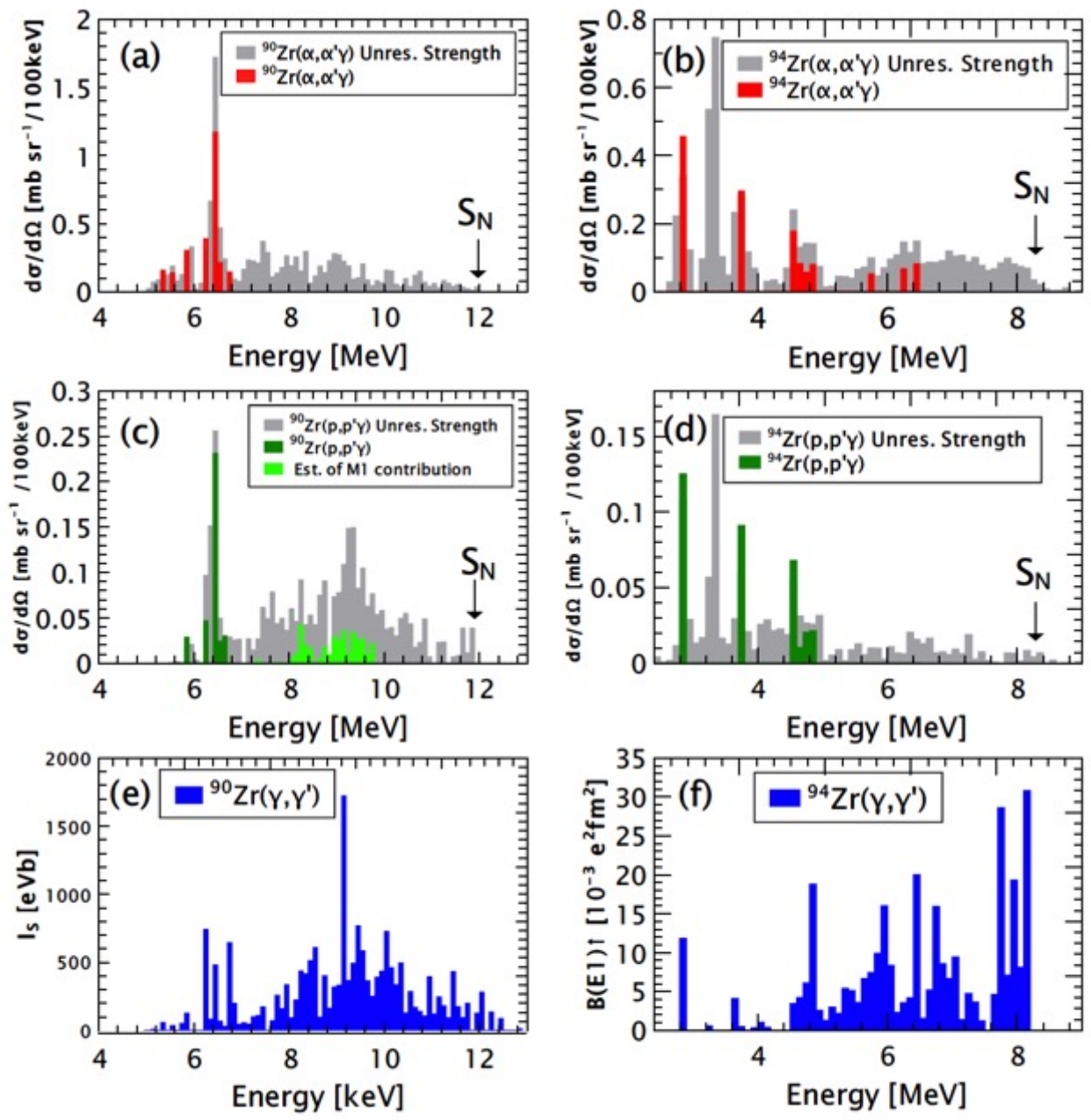


# Data for $^{90}\text{Zr} (\alpha, \alpha' \gamma)$

Several states at 7-9 MeV corresponding to ground state decay



# Comparison of cross section data for proton and alpha Inelastic Scattering on the $^{90,94}\text{Zr}$ target nuclei

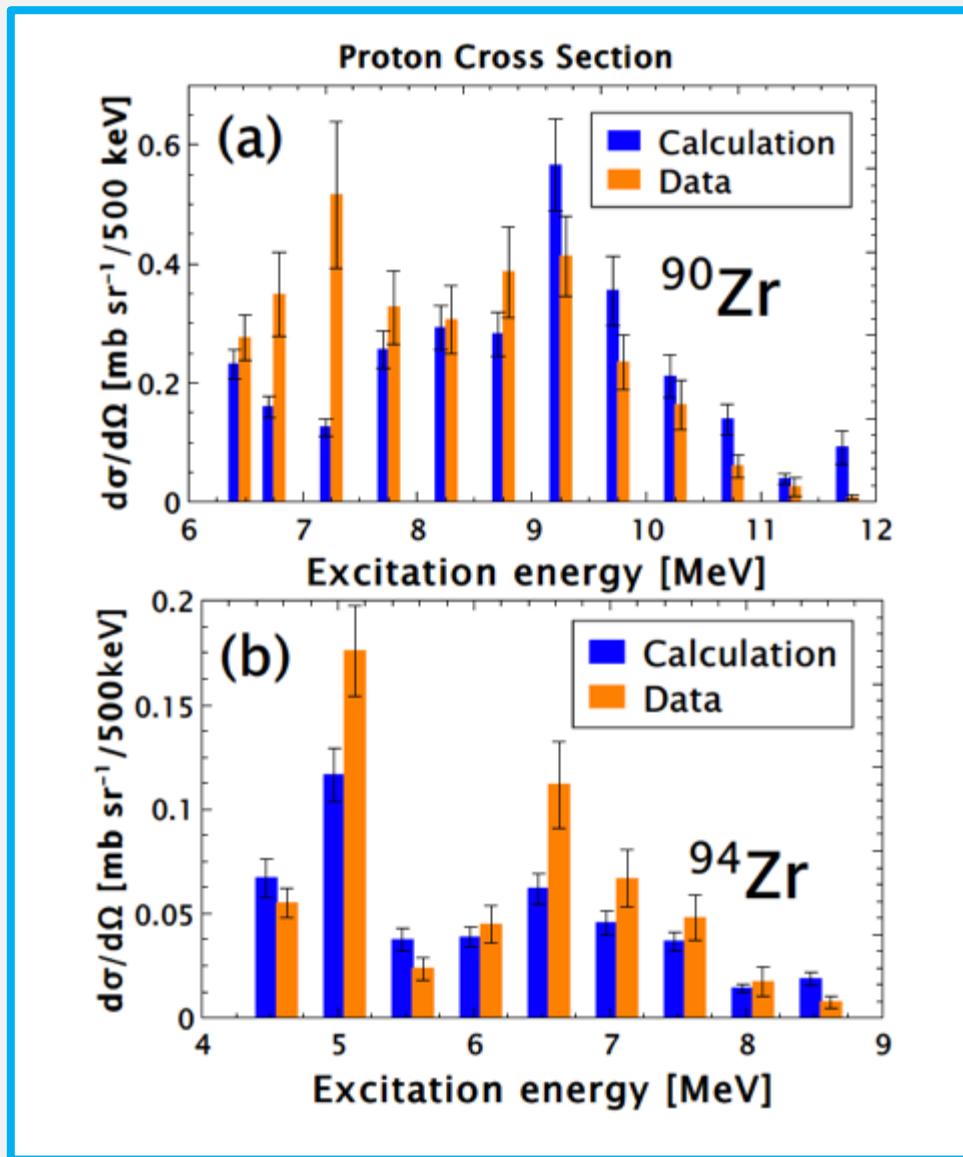


There is a region where only  $(\gamma,\gamma')$  populate states

Colored bars denote discrete transitions

However the  $(p,p')$  is less peaked on the surface as compared with alpha scattering

Proton cross section is 5 times smaller



Comparison of data with calculations for proton Inelastic Scattering on the  $^{90,94}\text{Zr}$  target nuclei

Cross section calculated with the DWBA approach with:

- The choice of form factor for which the normalization was about 0.9 for the discrete peaks
- Value of the ISEWSR deduced from fit to the alpha data

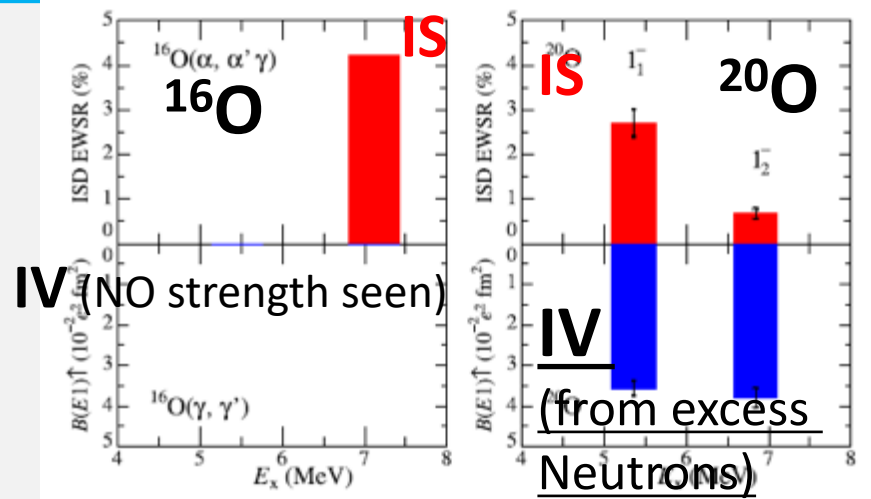
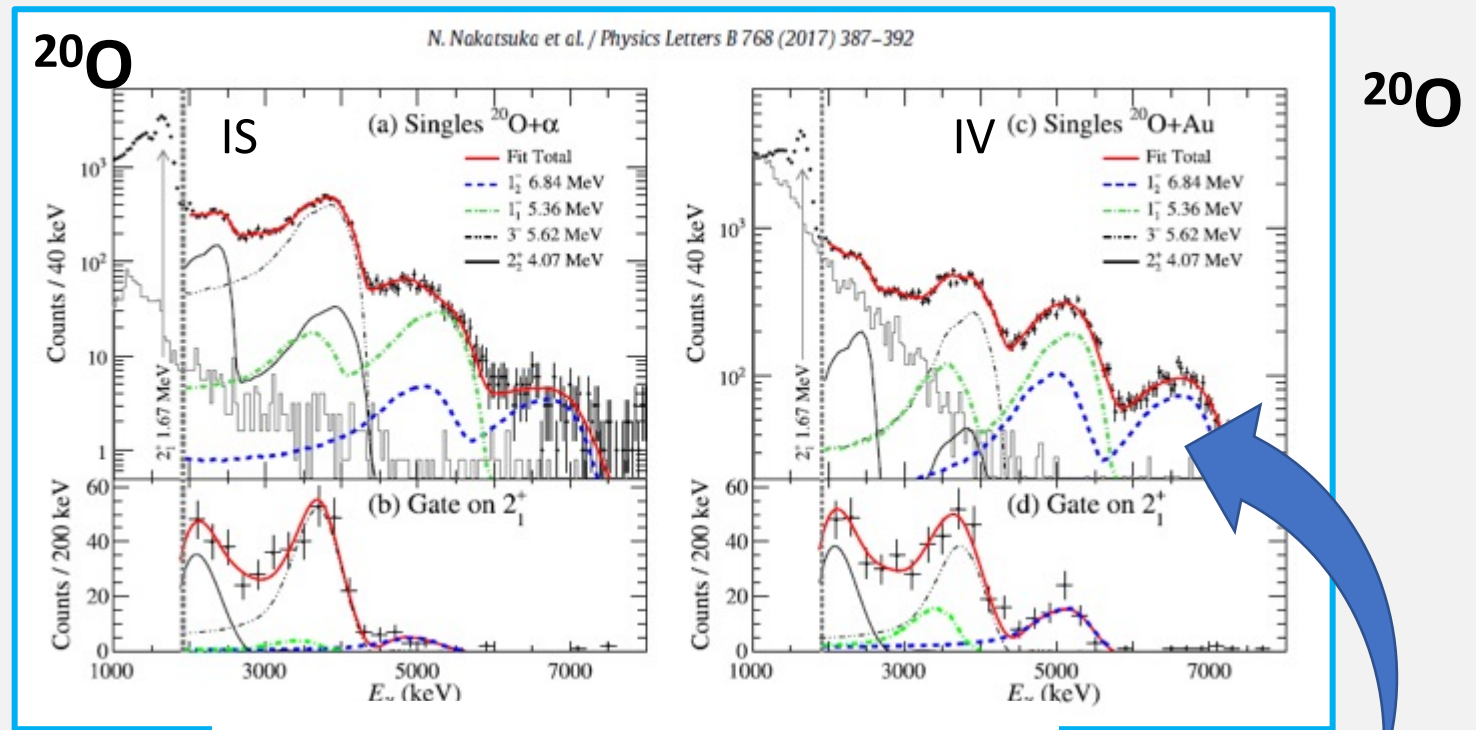
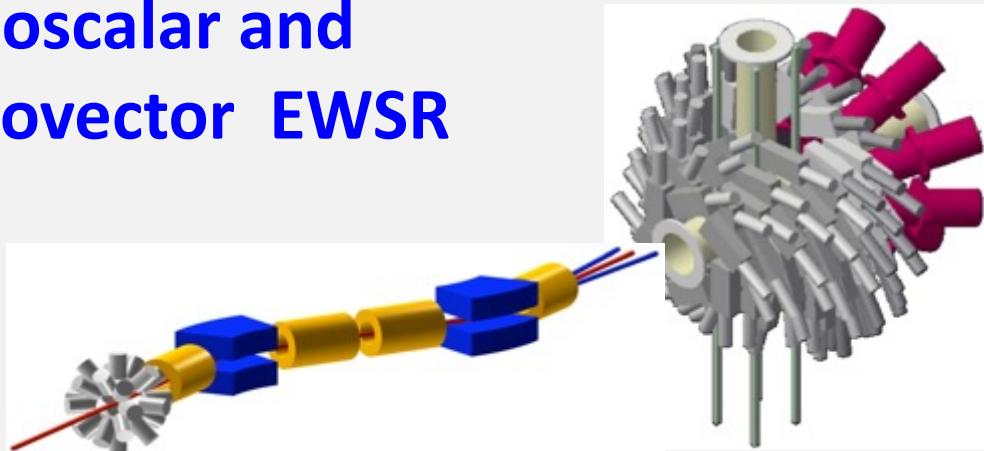
**Only in some cases discrepancies out of the error bars** (indicating that these states are not strongly surface peaking)

F. Crespi et al Physics Letters B 816 (2021) 136210  
 Calculations error bars because we used the isoscalar strength deduced from alpha scattering data with their errors

.....with radioactive beams

Comparison  
of data for Coulomb  
excitation  
and alpha  
Inelastic Scattering on  
the  $^{20}\text{O}$  beam nuclei

Spectral shape is very different  
Isoscalar and  
isovector EWSR



N. Nakatsuka et al., PLB 768 (2017) 387

Courtesy H.Baba, N. Nakatsuka

# $^{64,62}\text{Fe}$ nuclei

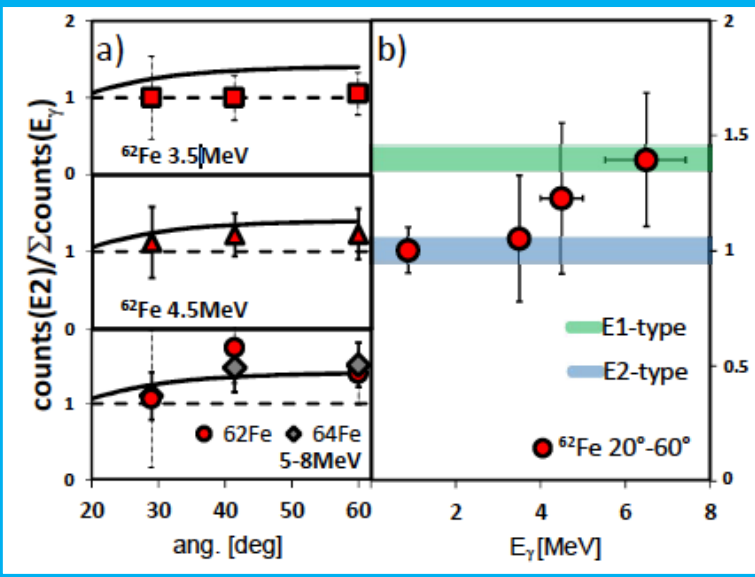
PYGMY measurement @ GSI Coulomb excitation - AGATA for the gamma rays



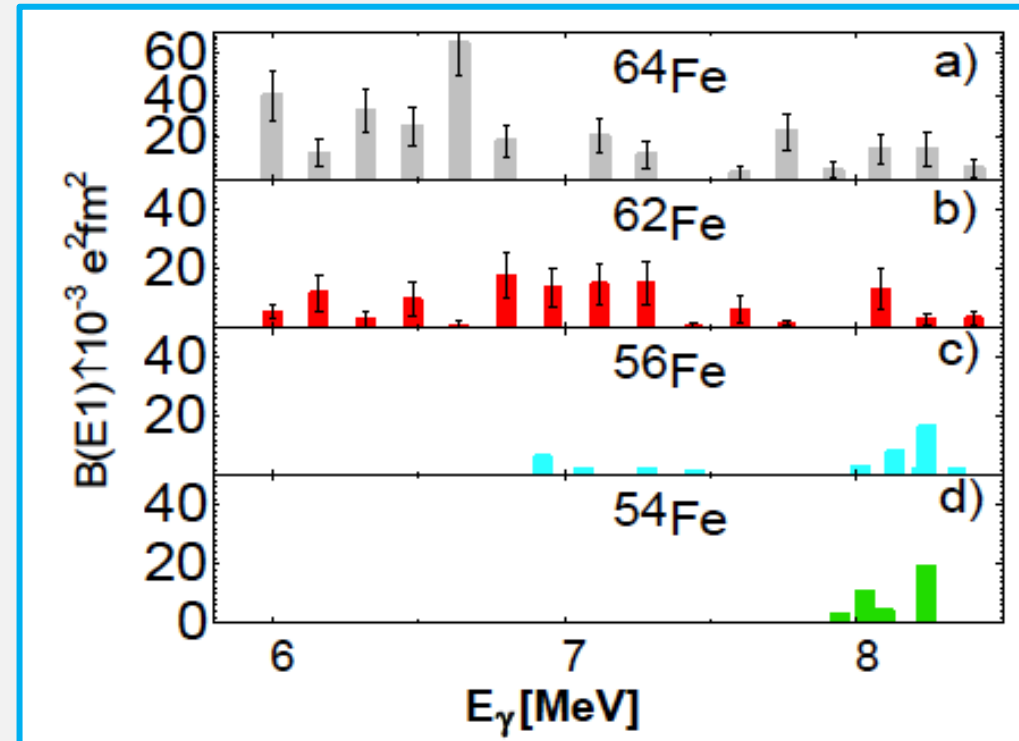
More E1 strength in the region  
5.5-7.5 MeV

There is an increase with  
neutron number and thus  
could be attributed to  
neutron excitations

In the future measurements  
with alpha and proton  
scattering would give insight  
into the nature of the states



Comparison of data of Coulomb Excitation  
in unstable nuclei  $^{64,62}\text{Fe}$   
and gamma scattering on stable targets

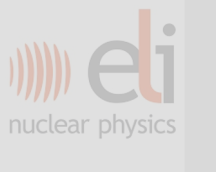


Measured spectra of continuum type  
R. Avigo et al., Phys. Lett. B 811, 135951 (2020).

# OPEN PROBLEM: SEARCH for PIGMY in neutron rich nuclei at finite T

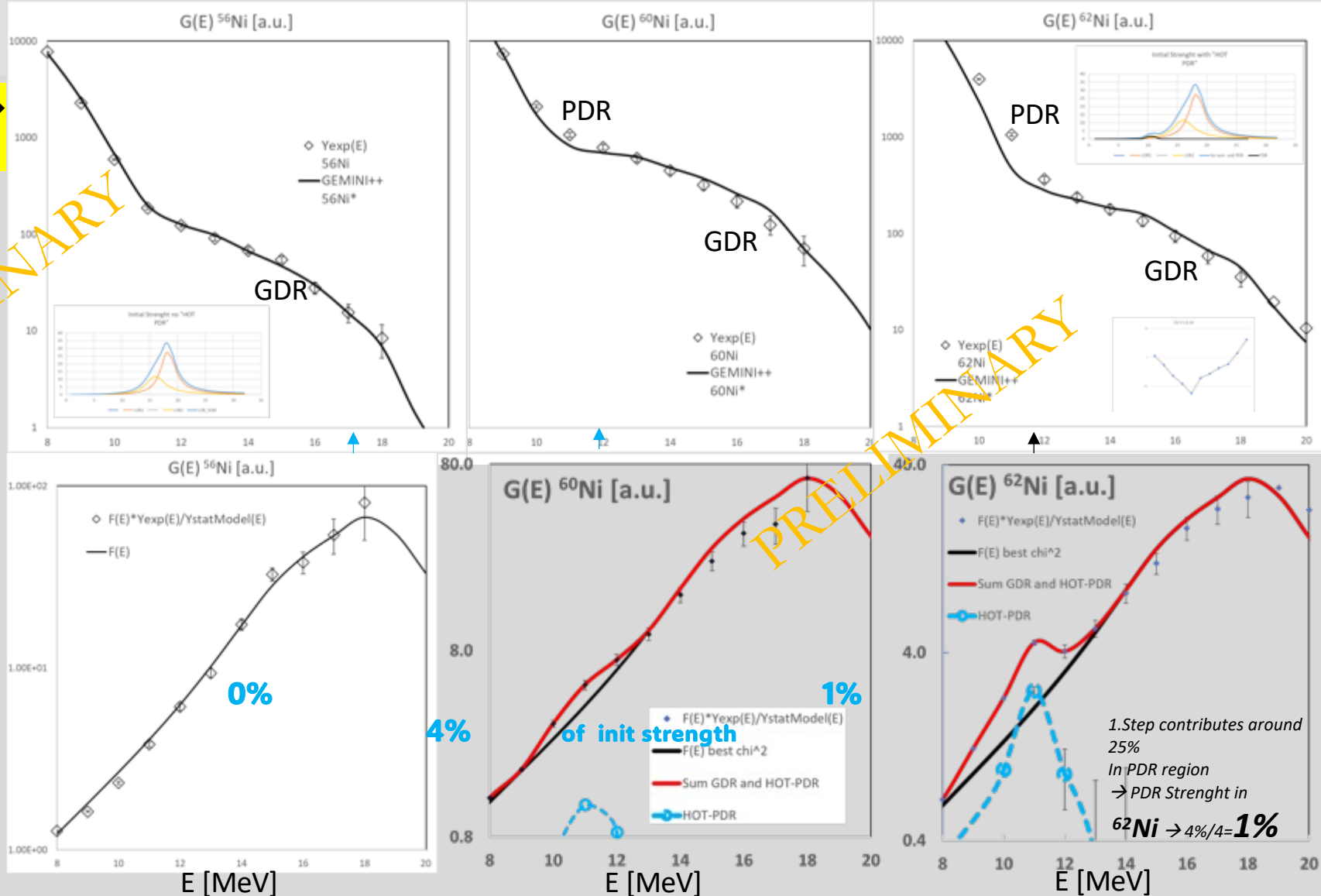
- Analysis 2022

Time gated  $\gamma$ -spectra  $\rightarrow$   
and stat. model



PRELIMINARY

PRELIMINARY



**REMARK:** To reproduce the lower extra yield effect by deformation (angular momentum) an unphysical one is needed and additionally the GDR part will not be reproduced anymore

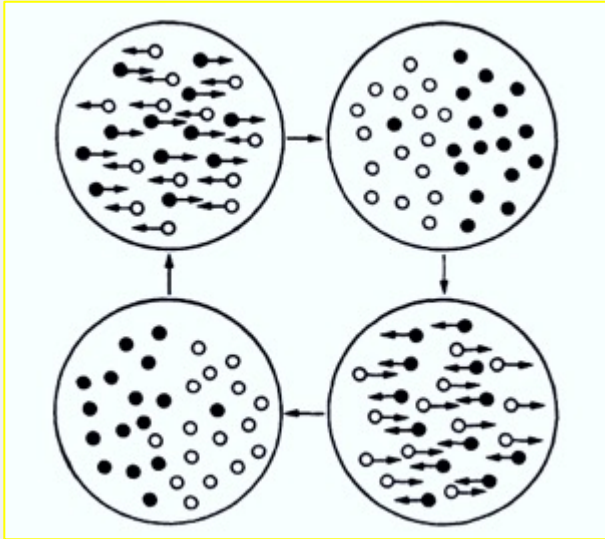
1- Low lying dipole response (below binding Energy)

Its gamma decay to investigate isospin nature of the Pygmy strength

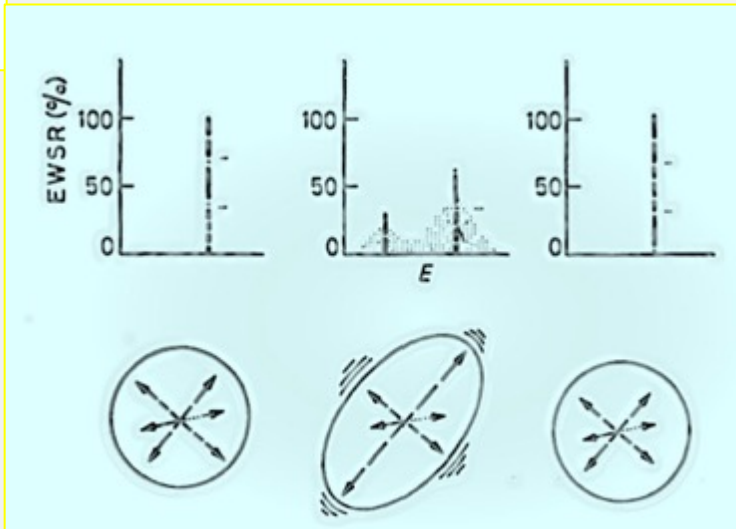
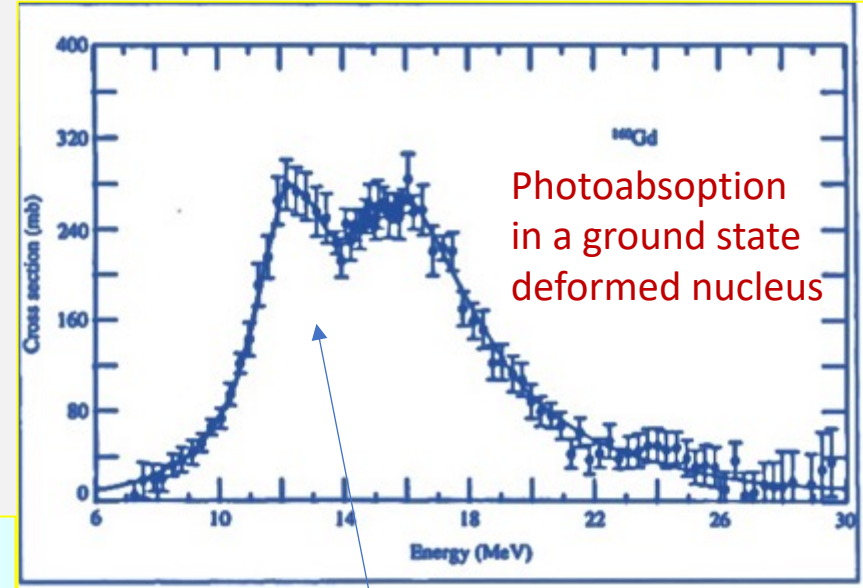
**2. Gamma-decay from the GDR in hot rotating nuclei to deduce isospin mixing and possible restoration of isospin symmetry**

**Note that different reaction types are used**

# The basic concepts for the GDR



GDR frequency of the vibration depends on the nuclear axis on which the vibration takes place



Centroid at around 15 MeV and width 4-5 MeV (due to mixing to other states)



# The basic concepts for the GDR at finite T

GDR is built on any excited nuclear state

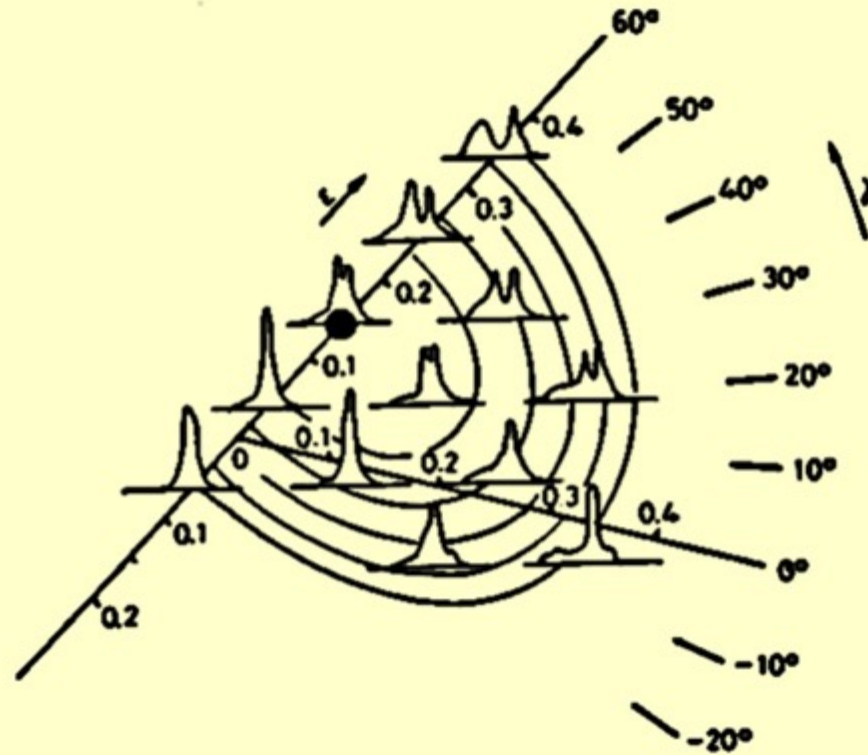
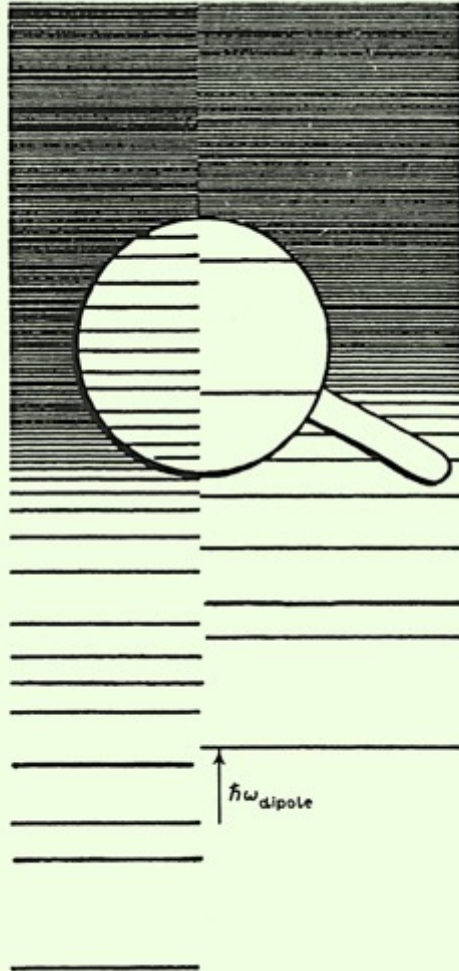
Brink-Axel (1955)

At Finite Temperature and angular momentum the nucleus samples an ensemble of shape

The GDR width is strongly affected by the distribution of shapes

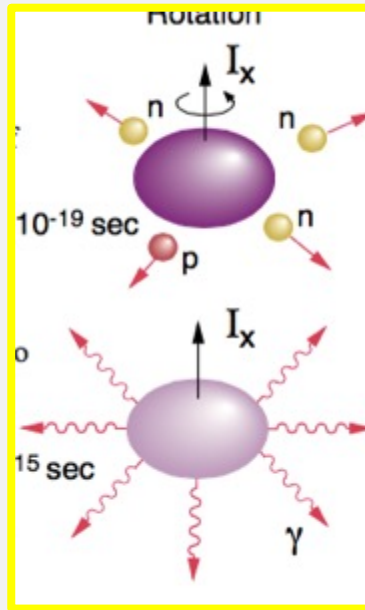
original Models developed by P.F. Bortignon, R.A Brogna, E. Ormand, Y. Alhassid

Angela Bracco

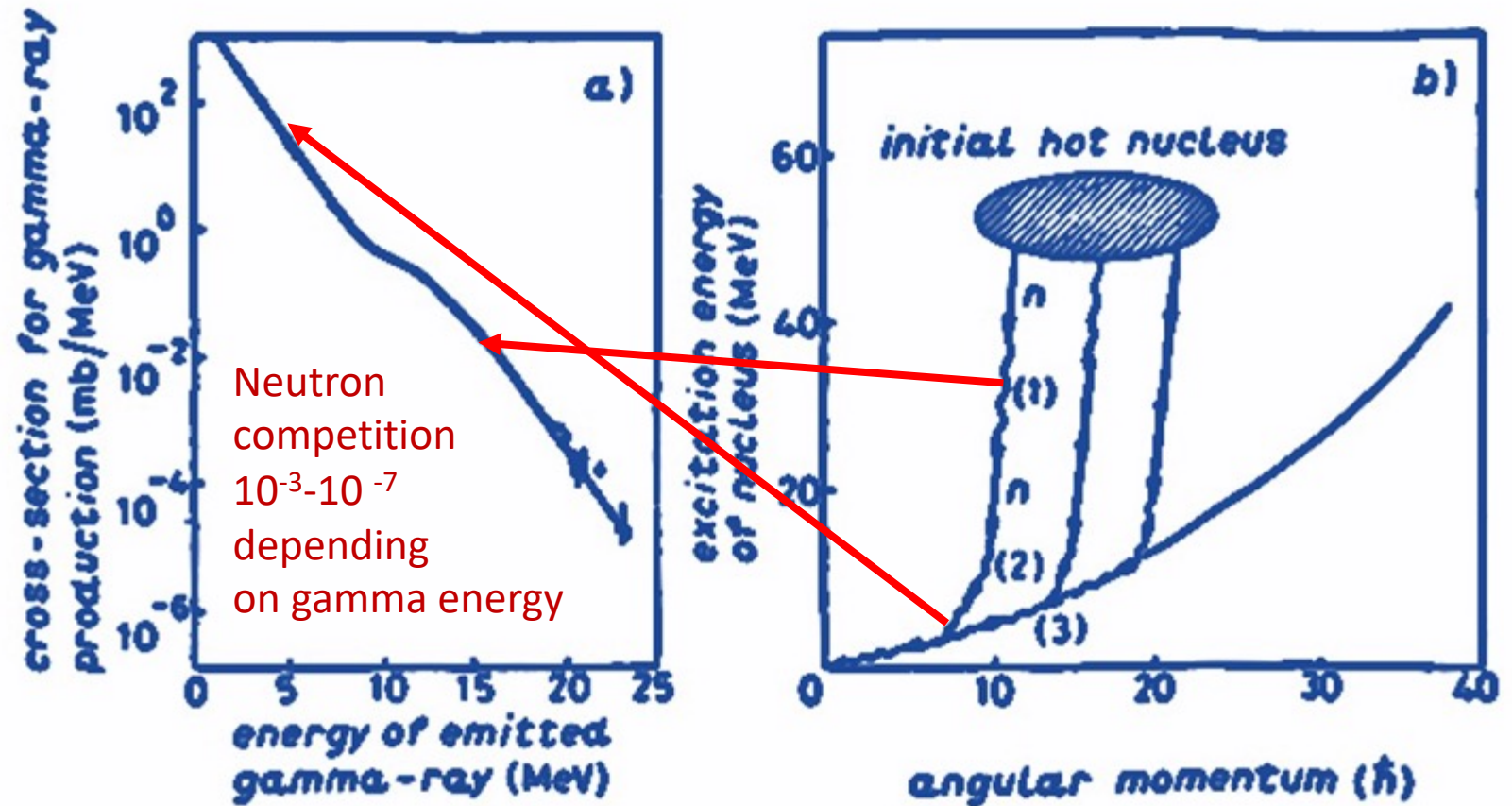


A simple ordered collective mode exists in the CN system characterized by a chaotic behavior

# The basic concepts for the experimental investigation



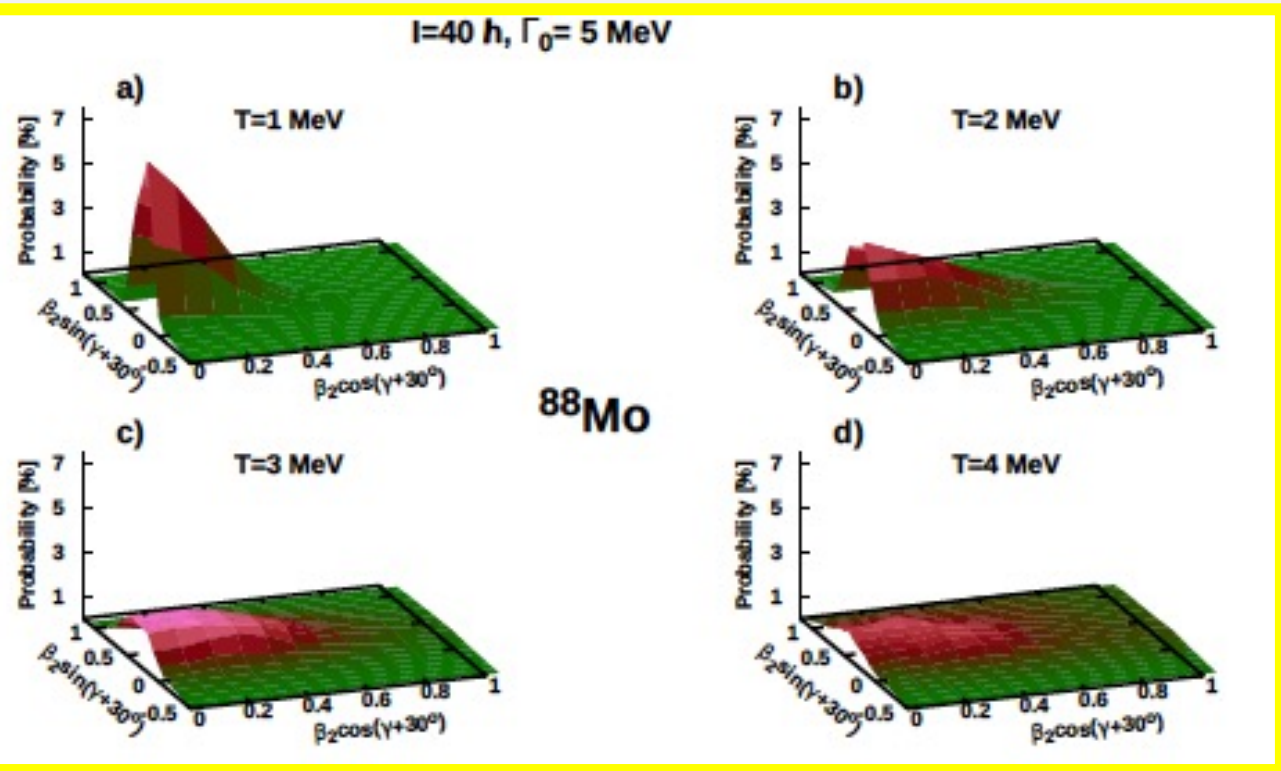
Reactions  
leading to CN



## Observation of Giant Dipole Resonances Built on States of High Energy and Spin

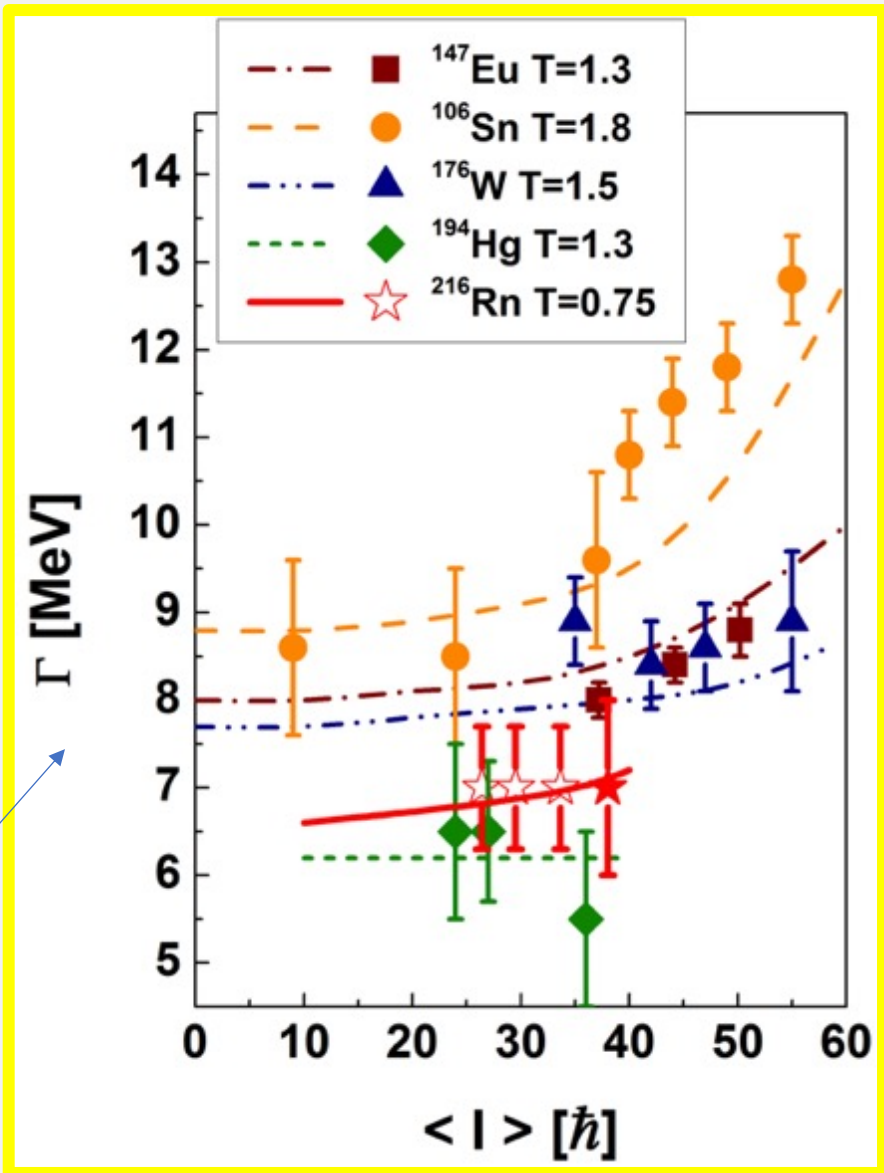
J. O. Newton, B. Herskind, R. M. Diamond, E. L. Dines, J. E. Draper, K. H. Lindenberg, C. Schück, S. Shih, and F. S. Stephens - Phys. Rev. Lett. **46**, 1383 (1981)

# Why does the GDR width increase?



The shape distribution becomes broader with increasing Temperature !  
 Calculations of A. Maj and Dudek

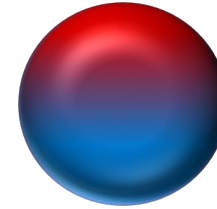
At **fixed temperature** the most probable deformation increases in size with angular momentum



# Isospin symmetry at finite temperature

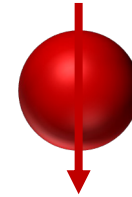
- Isospin symmetry in nuclei
- Measurements of isospin mixing via E1 decay
- Isospin mixing at finite temperature
- Use of the GDR decay in compound nuclei with  $N=Z$
- Experiments in the mass region 60-80
- Isospin mixing correction to extract the CKM matrix in beta decay

Nucleon



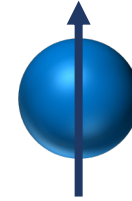
$$I = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$I_z = -\frac{1}{2}$$



Proton

$$I_z = \frac{1}{2}$$

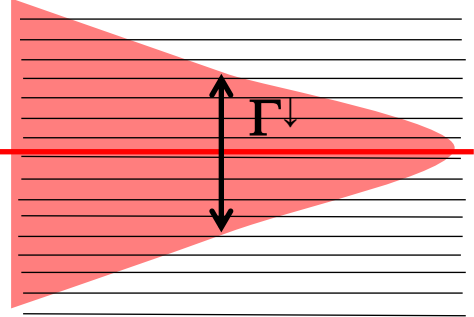


Neutron

# Isospin symmetry in nuclei

Definitions:  $i_z = -1/2$  for a proton;  $i_z = +1/2$  for a neutron;  $I_z = (N-Z)/2$  for a nucleus  
 (Heisenberg, 1932)

$$|\psi\rangle = |I, I_z\rangle = |0, 0\rangle$$



$I=1$

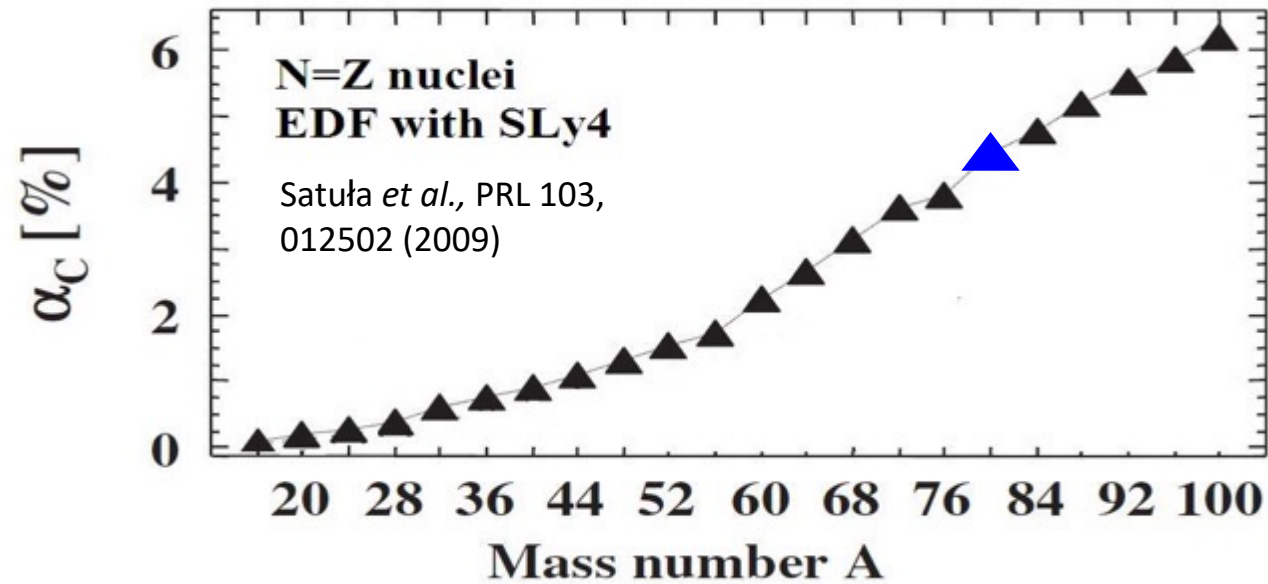
$I=0$

$$|\tilde{\psi}\rangle = (1 - \alpha^2) |I, I_z\rangle + \alpha^2 |I + 1, I_z\rangle = (1 - \alpha^2) |0, 0\rangle + \alpha^2 |1, 0\rangle$$

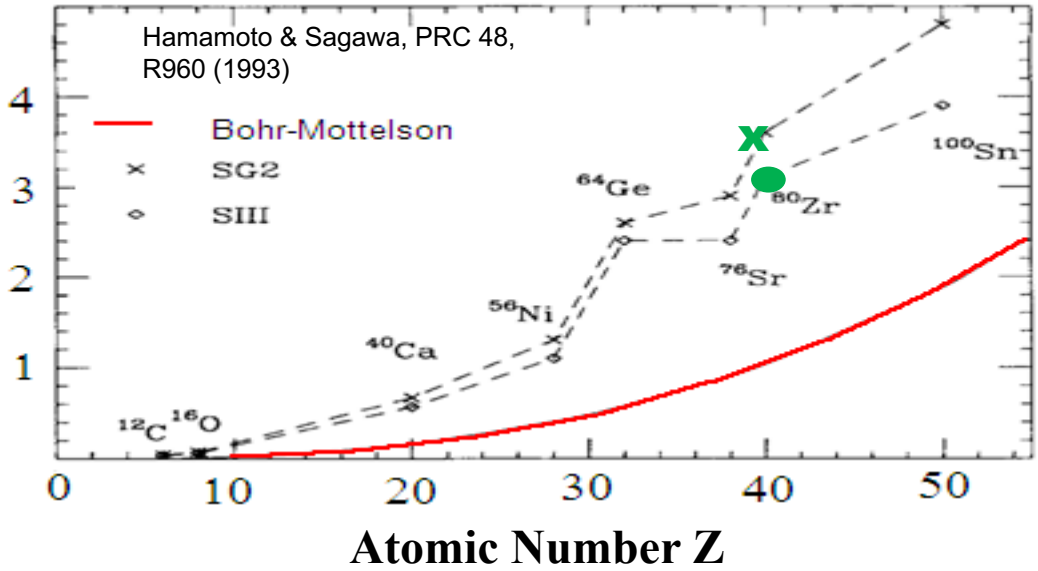
Coulomb spreading width

$$\Gamma^\downarrow = 2\pi \langle 1, 0 | H_c | 0, 0 \rangle \rho(1)$$

$$\alpha^2 \simeq \frac{\Gamma^\downarrow}{\Gamma_{CN}} \simeq \frac{\tau_{CN}}{\tau_{MIX}}$$



Mixing Probability [%]

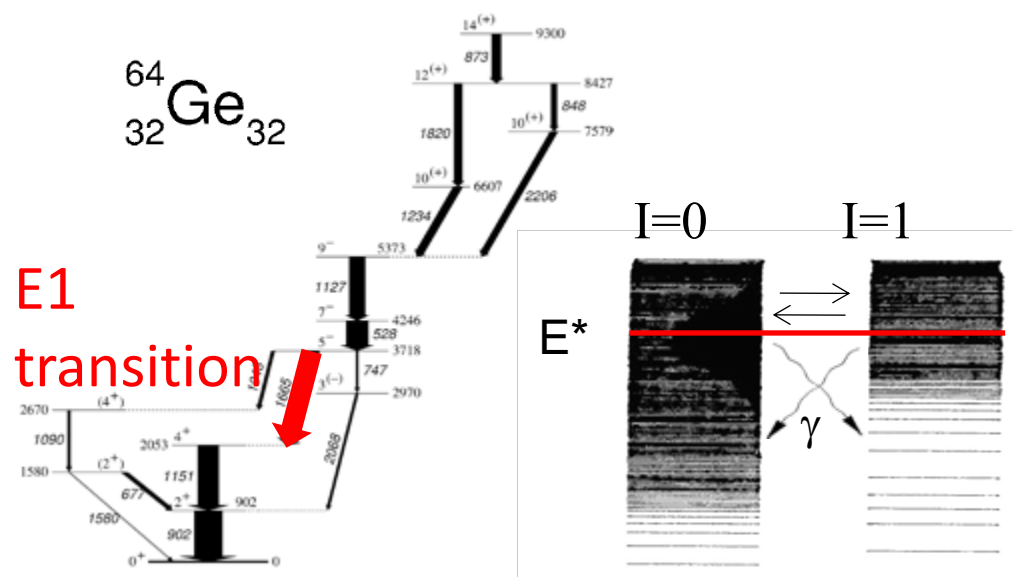


# Measurements of isospin mixing via E1 decay

**E1- $\gamma$  decay from I=0 nuclei forbidden by selection rules**

- $\Delta I = 0, \pm 1$
- $0 \rightarrow 0$  forbidden

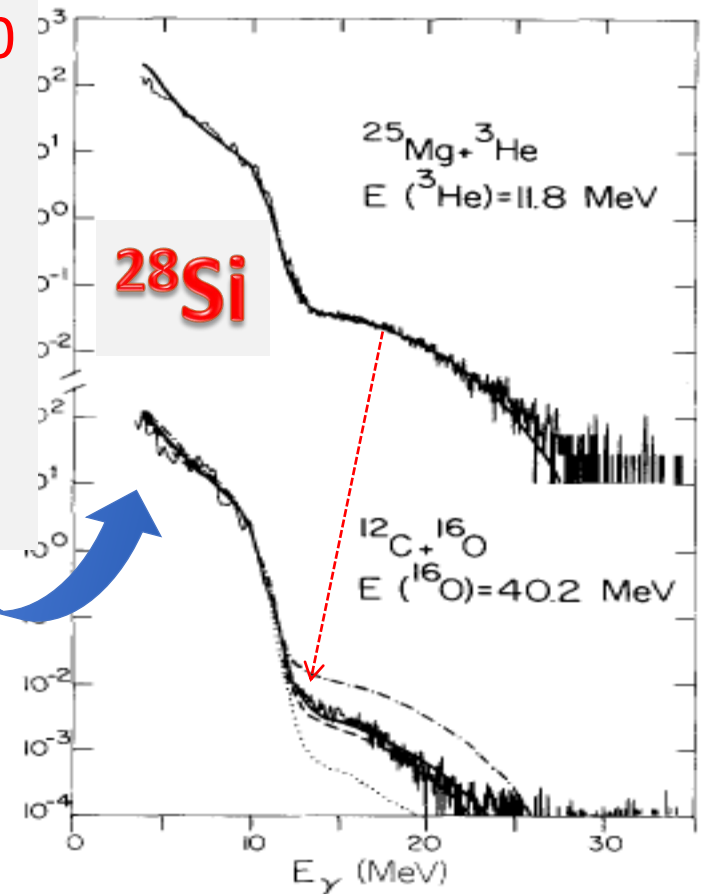
Small E1 Strength  $T=0$  temperature →  $T>0$  100% of E1 Strength



E.Farnea *et al.*,  
PLB 551 (2003), 56

➤  $^{12}\text{C} + ^{16}\text{O} \rightarrow ^{28}\text{Si}$  Isospin = 0  
 $0 \rightarrow 0$  forbidden  
 $0 \rightarrow 1$  allowed but  $\rho(1) \ll \rho(0)$   
 $1 \rightarrow 0$  via isospin mixing

➤  $^3\text{He} + ^{25}\text{Mg} \rightarrow ^{28}\text{Si}$  I = 1  
 allowed

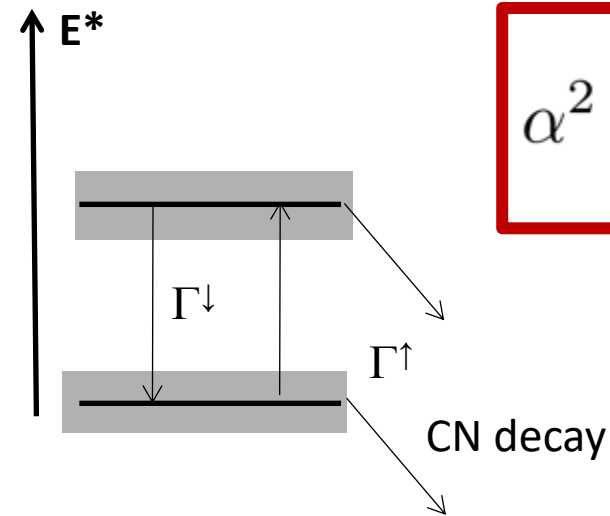
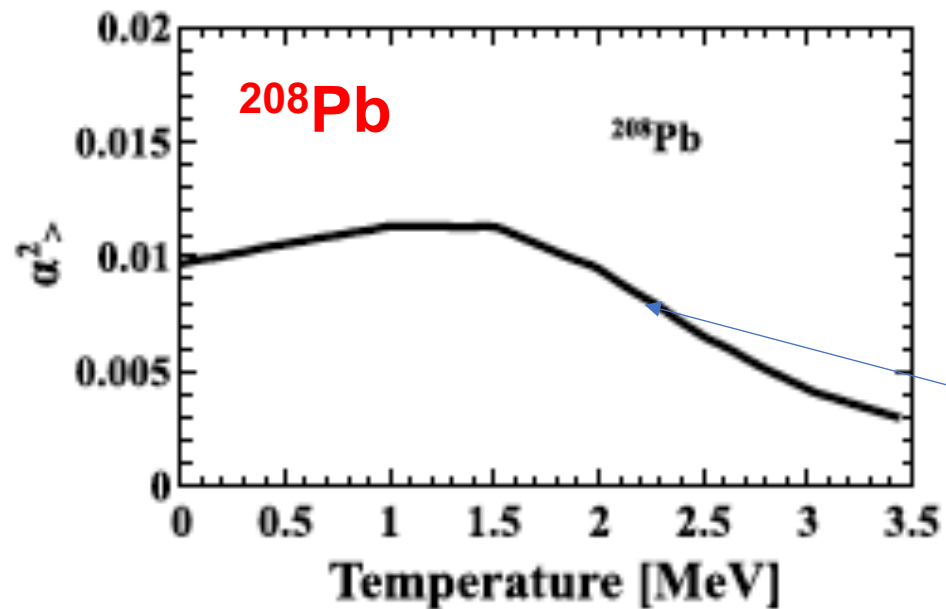


**Lower density of states**

# Isospin mixing at finite temperature

Finite lifetime of excited states (compound nucleus) does not allow to achieve full mixing: restoration of isospin symmetry (Wilkinson, 1956)

$$\alpha_{I_0+1}^2(T) \approx \frac{\Gamma_{IAS}^\downarrow}{\Gamma_{CN}^\uparrow(T) + \Gamma_{IVM}(E_{IAS})}$$



$$\alpha^2 \simeq \frac{\Gamma^\downarrow}{\Gamma_{CN}} \simeq \frac{\tau_{CN}}{\tau_{MIX}}$$

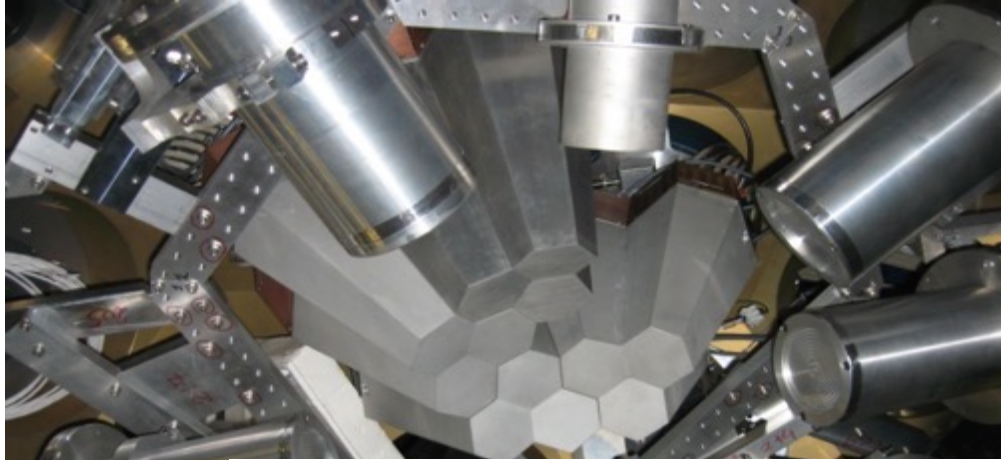
The mixing decreases with T because of the increase of the width of the CN (inverse of the lifetime)

Sagawa, Bortignon, Colò PLB 444 (1998), 1

Angela Bracco  
September 2024

# Experimental setups to measure Isospin Mixing at Finite T $A=60-80$

**AGATA – HECTOR<sup>+</sup> array @ LNL**



**4 AGATA Clusters (12 capsules)  
6 LaBr<sub>3</sub>:Ce (3.5'' x 8'')  
1 LaBr<sub>3</sub>:Ce (3'' x 3'')**

**At LNL  
with GALILEO**



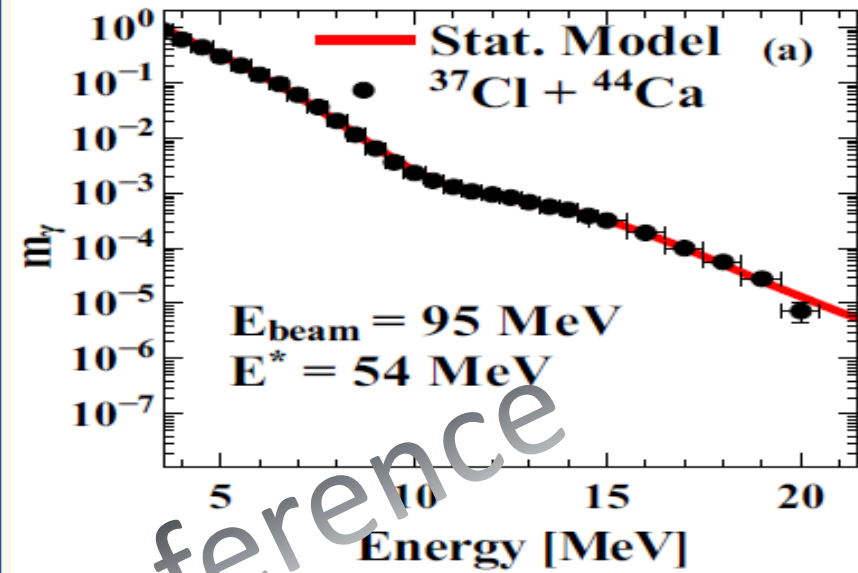
**at Bucharest  
ELIFANT-GG@IFIN**

**The lowest T  
Measurement  
with the smallest  
cross-section**



# Isospin mixing experiment in $^{80}\text{Zr}$

## $^{81}\text{Rb}$ -HECTOR<sup>+</sup>

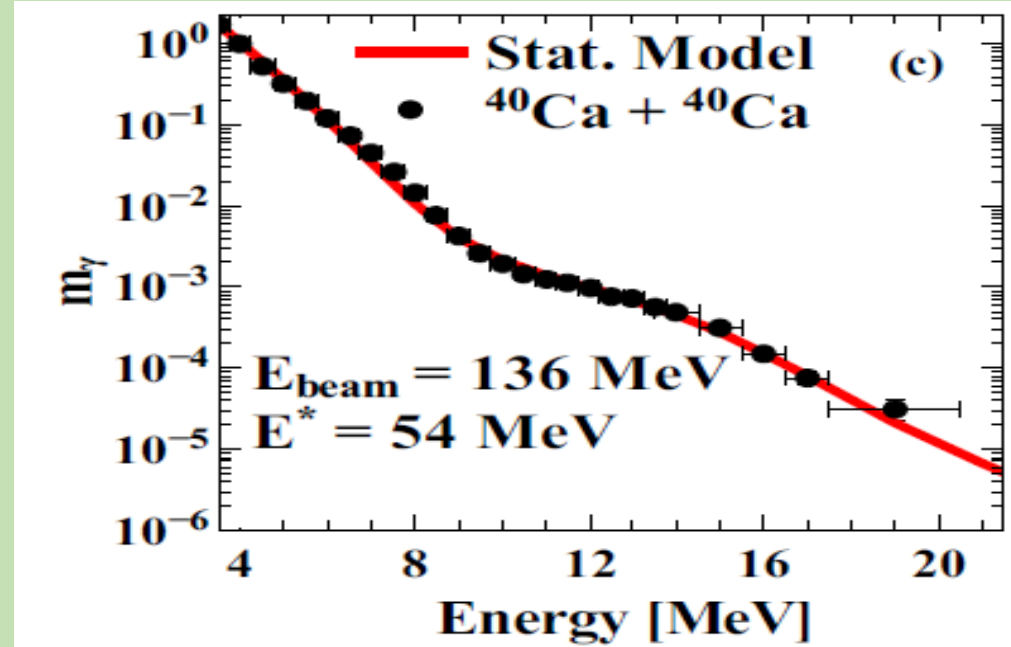


$E_{\text{GDR}} = 16.4 \pm 0.2 \text{ MeV}$   
 $\Gamma_{\text{GDR}} = 7.0 \pm 0.4 \text{ MeV}$   
 $S_{\text{GDR}} (\%) = 90 \pm 5$

GDR  
 parameters  
 consistent  
 with those  
 at  $E^* = 84 \text{ MeV}$

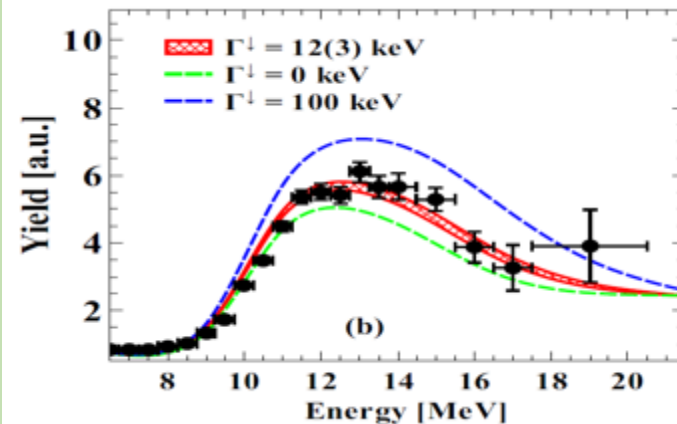
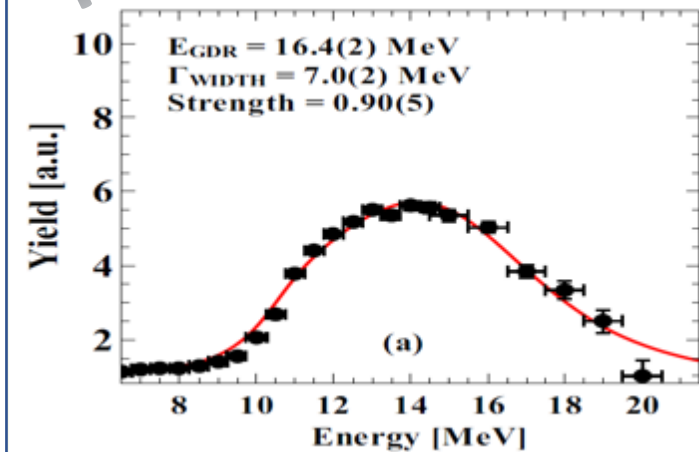
reference

## $^{80}\text{Zr}$ -HECTOR<sup>+</sup>

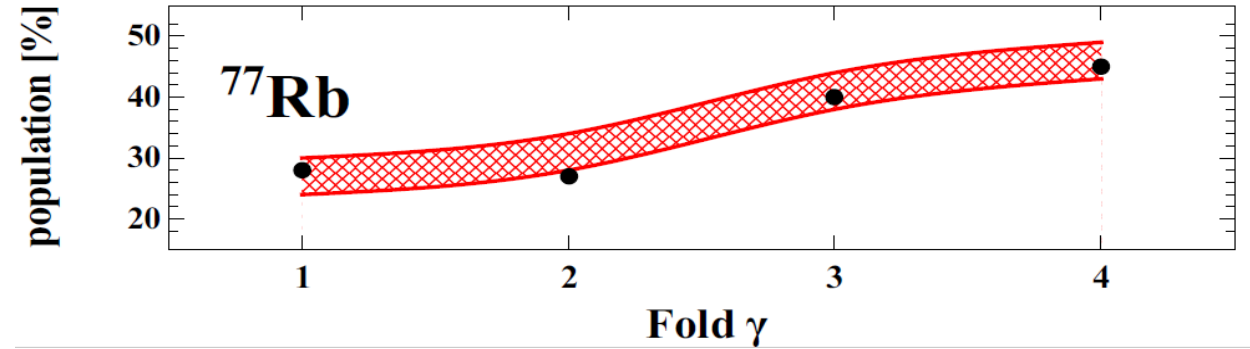
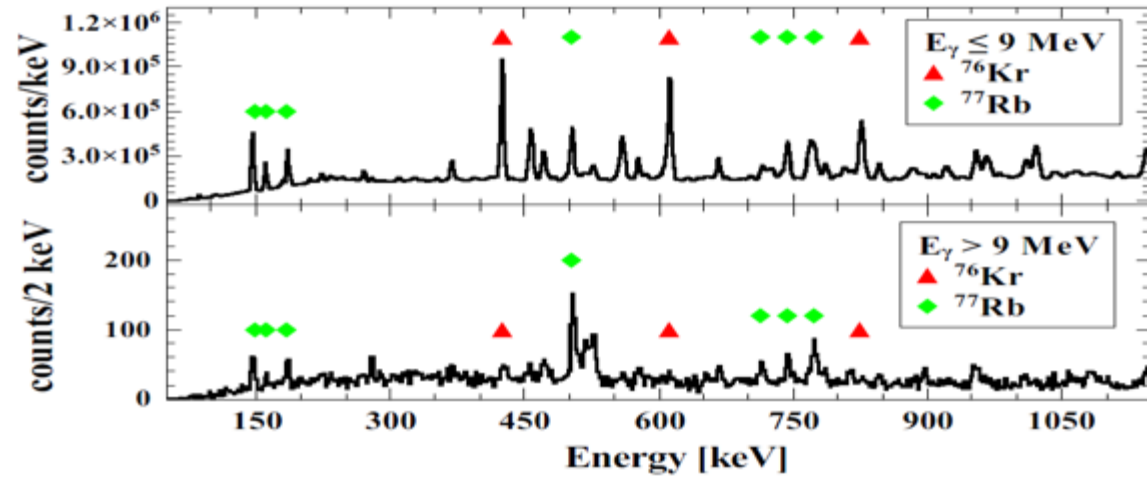


$\Gamma^\downarrow = 12 \pm 3 \text{ keV}, \alpha^2 = 0.046 \pm 0.007$

$\Gamma^\downarrow$  does not change with  $T$   
 $\alpha^2$  is larger at lower  $T$



# Measurements and Analysis- Isospin mixing (residues of CN)



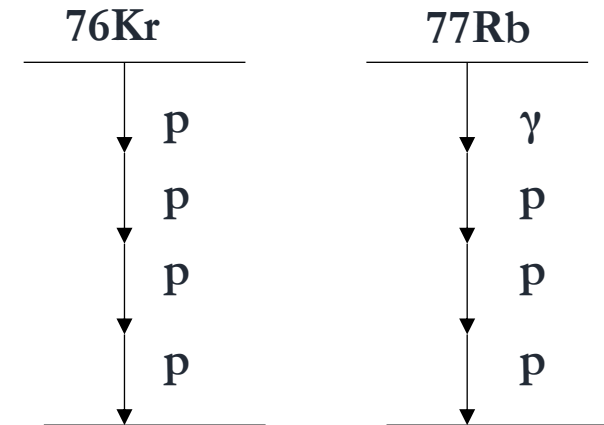
The statistical model reproduces well the reaction

Identification of the residual nuclei

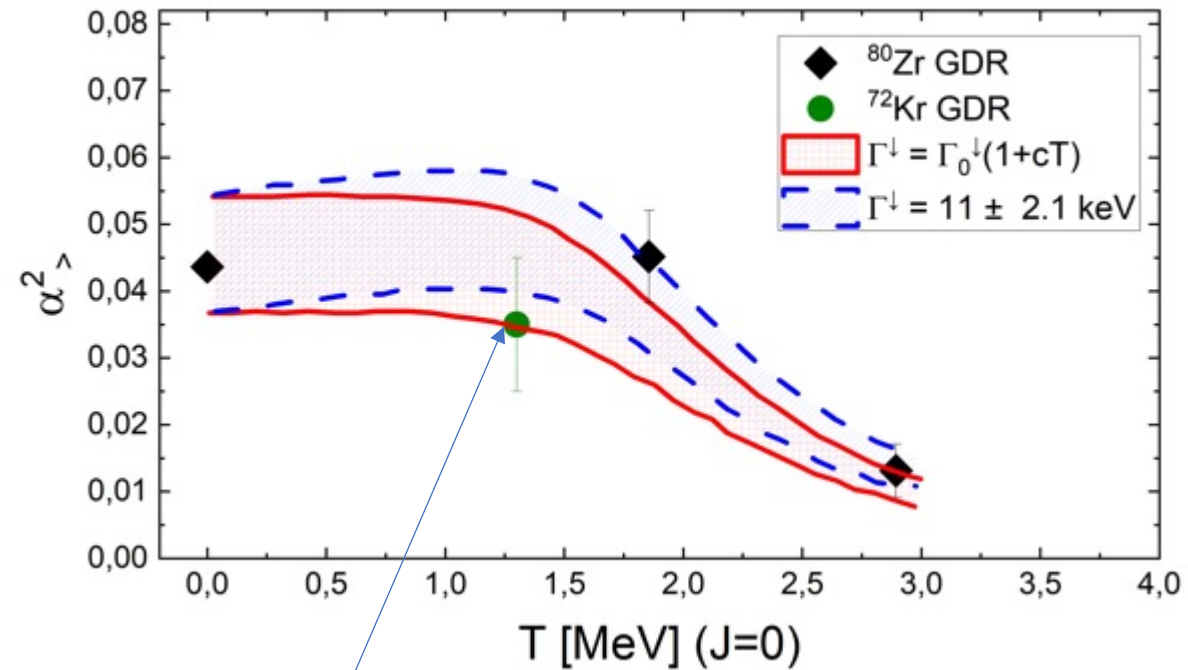
The gating condition changes the phase space available for particle emission

$$^{77}\text{Rb} = 3p$$

$$^{76}\text{Kr} = 4p$$



# Results - Isospin mixing experiment $^{60}\text{Zn}$ and $^{80}\text{Zr}$



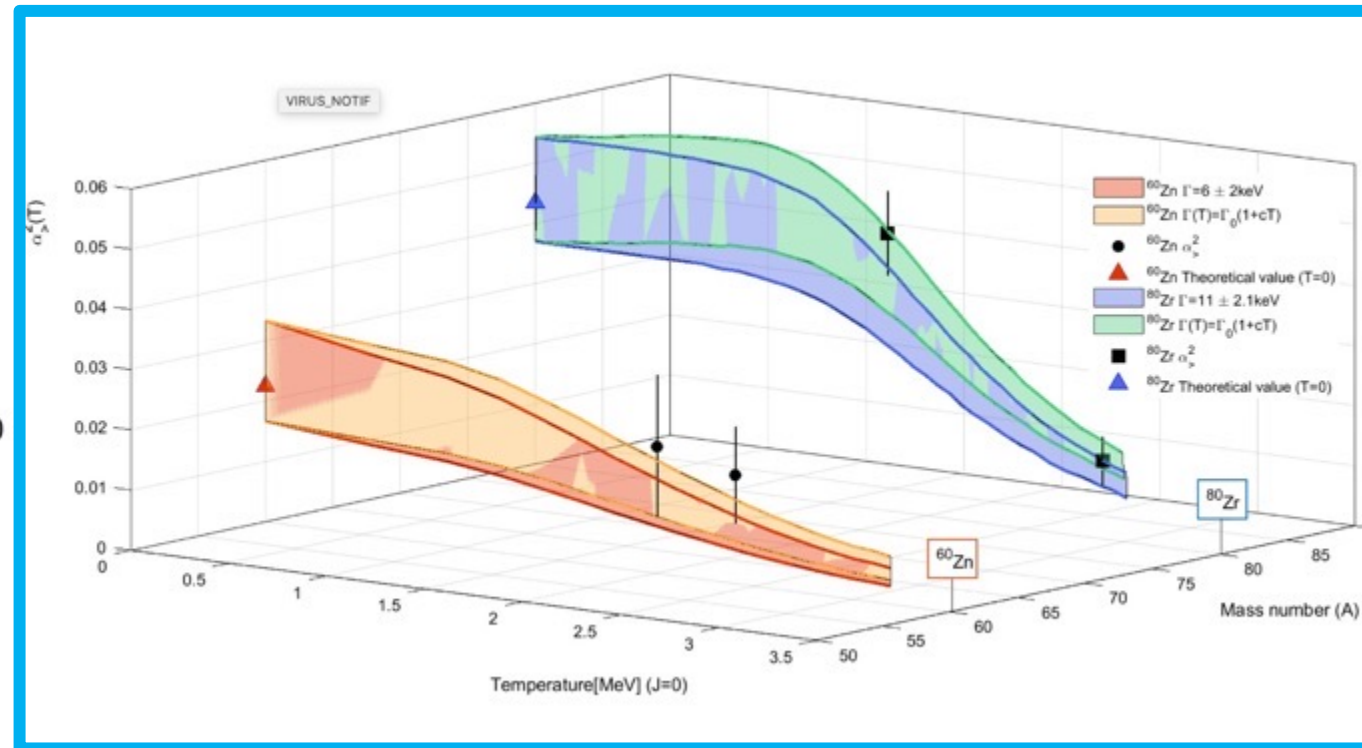
New datum in  $^{72}\text{Kr}$  to be published obtained at the Tandem Laboratory in Bucharest

Satula *et al.*, PRL 103, 012502 (2009)

*A. Corsi et al. PRC 84, 041304(R) (2011)*

S. Ceruti, et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 115, 222502 (2015).

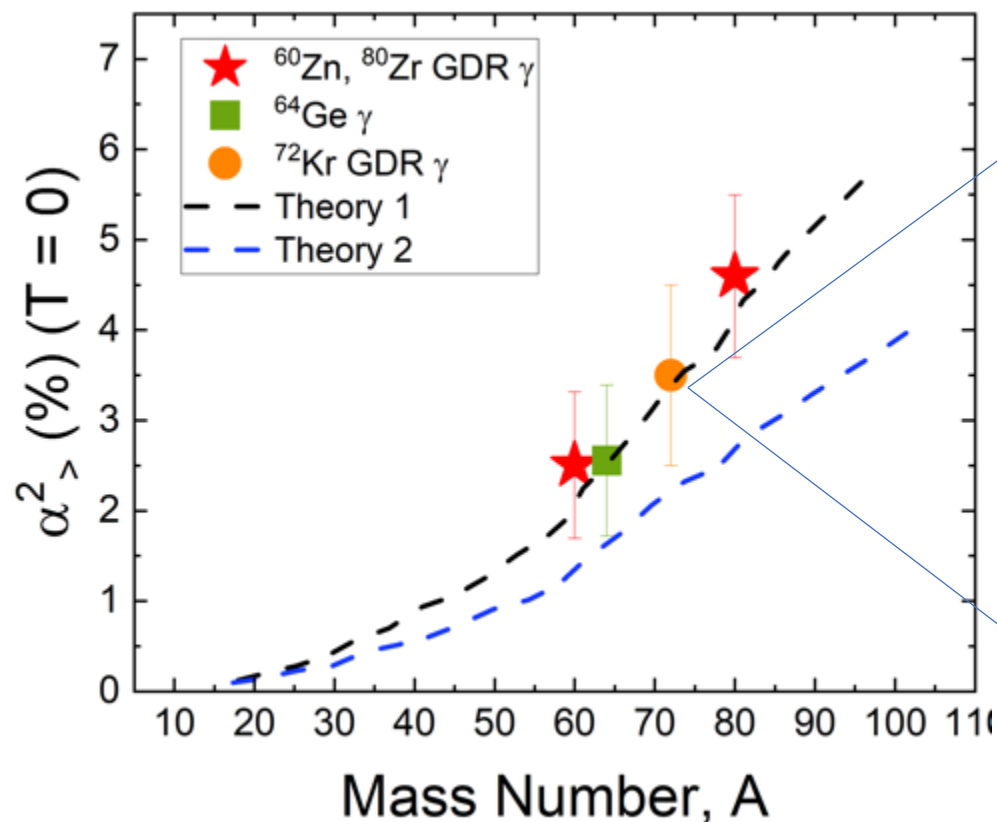
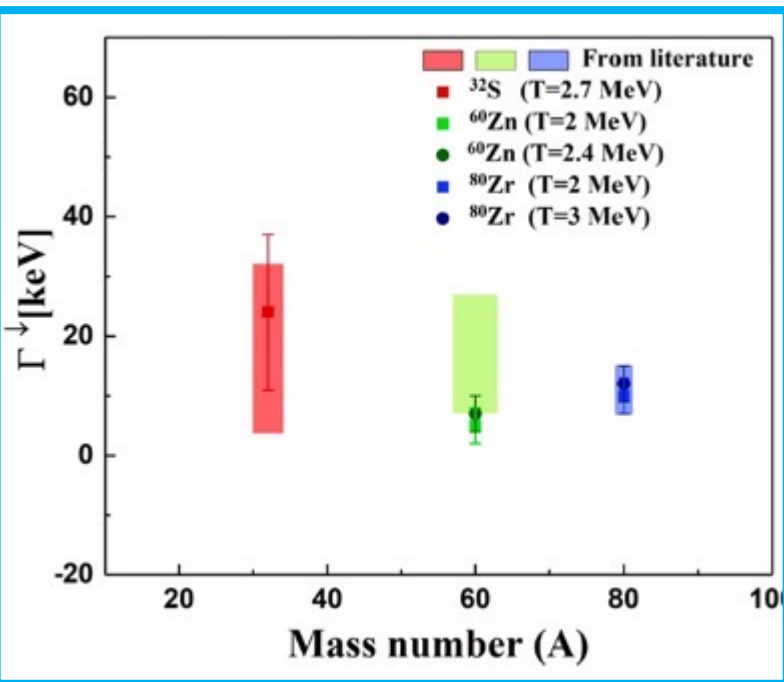
$^{60}\text{Zn}$  data: G. Gosta et al. Phys. Rev. C 103, L041302 (2021) -



# GDR used as a probe to study Isospin Mixing

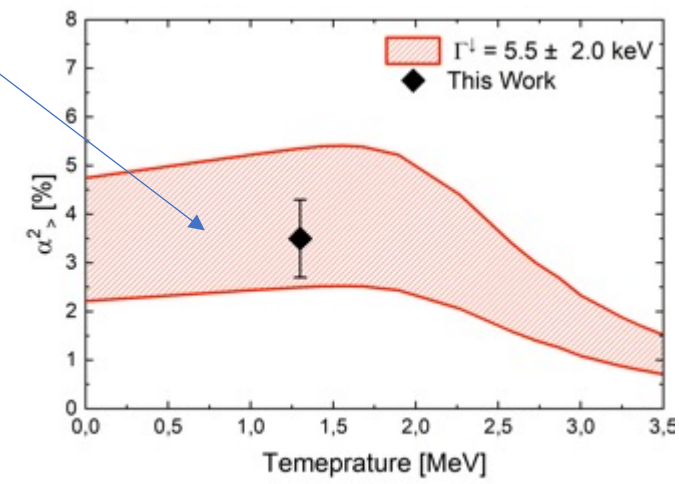
The Coulomb Spreading width – no T dependence

Isospin mixing from GDR in the medium mass region



Datum from The experiment In Bucharest It is at the lowest temperature

$$\alpha^2 \simeq \frac{\Gamma_{\downarrow}}{\Gamma_{CN}} \simeq \frac{\tau_{CN}}{\tau_{MIX}}$$

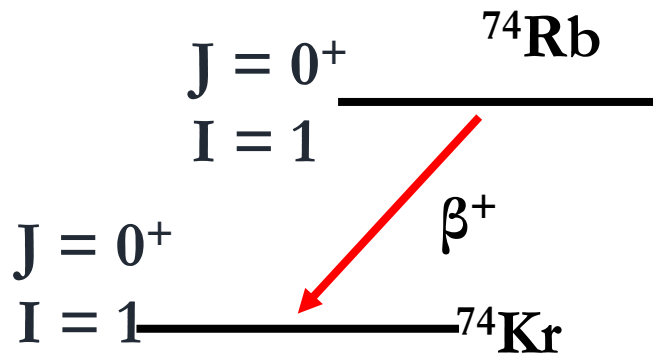
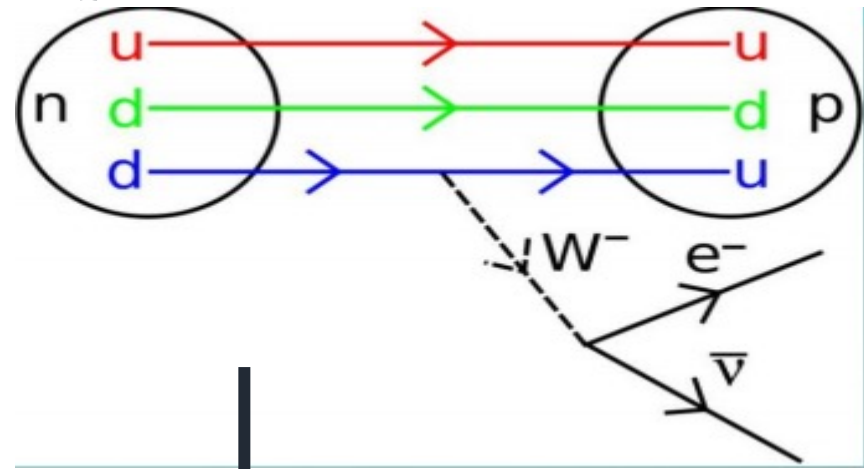


Theory: W. Satu la, J. Dobaczewski, W. Nazarewicz, and M. Rafalski, Phys. Rev. Lett. 106, 132502 (2011).

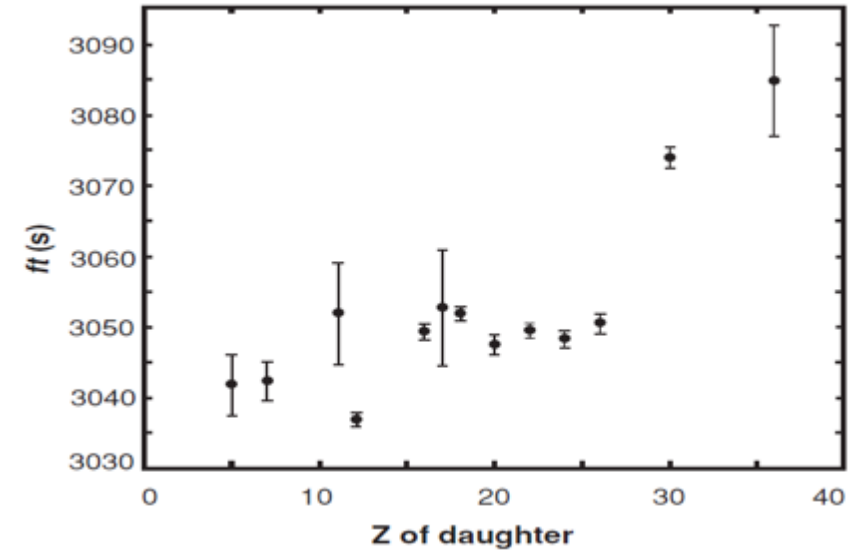
Theory1: after performing a rediagonalization on the isospin basis.

# Beyond nuclear structure: CKM matrix

Superallowed Fermi



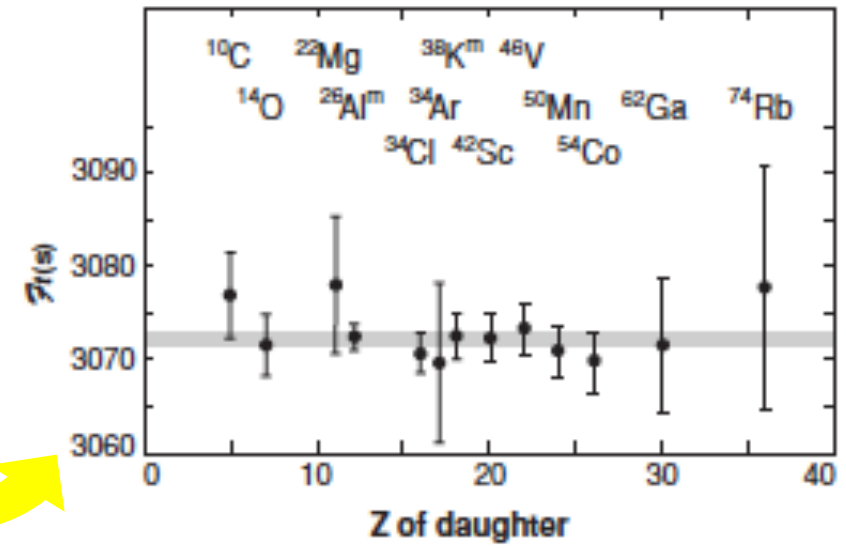
$0^+ \rightarrow 0^+, \Delta I = 0$



$$ft = \frac{K}{|M_F|^2 G_V^2} = \frac{K}{|M_F|^2 G_F^2 V_{ud}^2}$$

$$Ft \equiv ft(1 + \delta_R)(1 - \delta_C)$$

$ft$  depends only on universal quantity.  
It **should** be independent on the nuclear mass.



# Beyond nuclear structure: CKM matrix

$$Ft \equiv ft(1 + \delta_R)(1 - \delta_C)$$

Many parametrizations are present in literature to describe  $\delta_C$  behaviour.

Auerbach proposed:

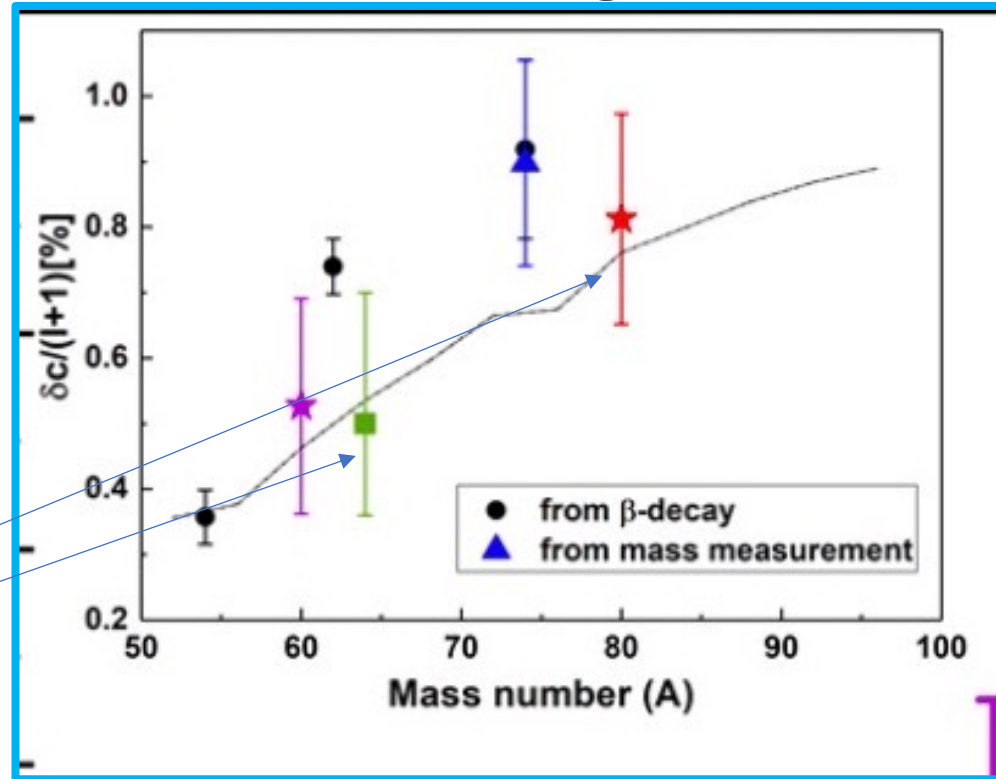
$$\delta_C = 4(I + 1) \frac{V_1}{41\xi A^{2/3}} \alpha^2$$

Isospin mixing

## Conclusion

- Isospin mixing in a region not measured with other techniques
- Verify data obtained with other techniques

From GDR decay



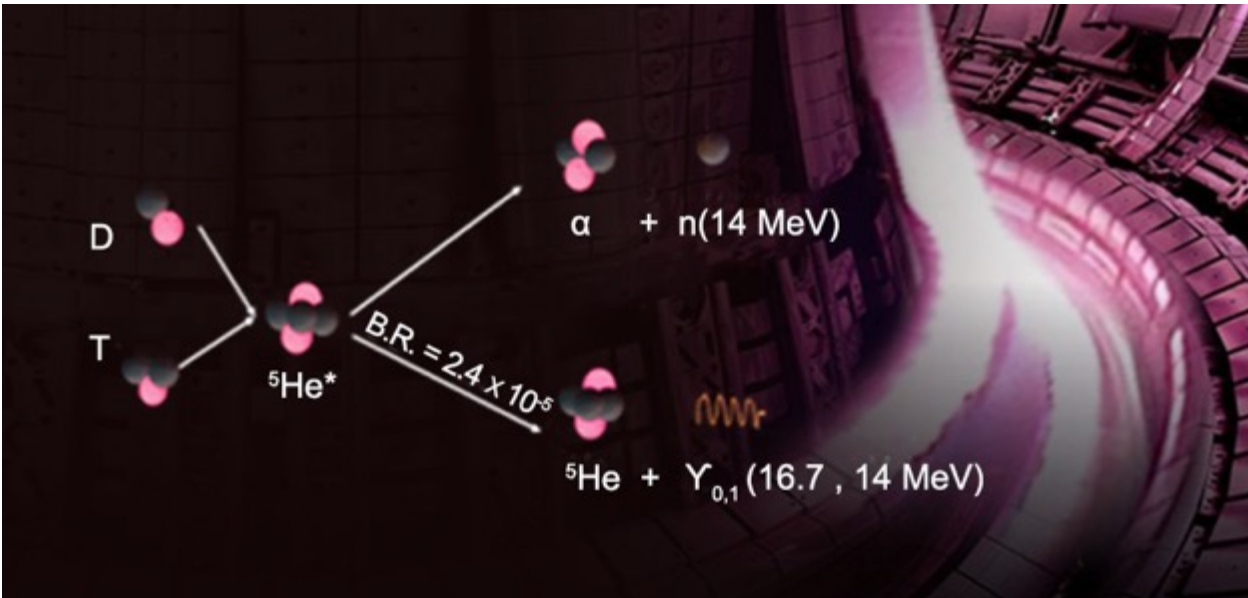
*I.S. Towner and J.C. Hardy PRC 82, 065501 (2010)*

**Are the techniques developed to address fundamental questions in nuclei useful for applications?**

To master techniques to measure Gamma-rays with energy 10-20 MeV emitted with small branching ratios has impact on applications!

SIF PRIMA PAGINA

SOCIETÀ ITALIANA DI FISICA



Cnr-Istp in collaboration with Milano-Bicocca and Milano Statale, ENEA Frascati, and other institutions in the project "GETART"

Measurement at JET Tokamak in UK

**nuclear fusion:** a new method to measure the reactor power with gamma-rays

A.Dal Molin et al., PRL133,055102 (2024),  
and M. Rebay Rev. C 110, 014625 (2024)

The accurate evaluation of the deuterium-tritium  $BR_{\alpha/n}$  branching ratio  $2.4 \pm 0.3 \cdot 10^{-5}$  important for the nuclear fusion field, an independent way to measure the fusion power in magnetic confinement devices.



# Summary

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## **PYGMY STATES and identification of the isoscalar nature of part of the strength**

- E1 strength of the PDR increases with N and Z asymmetry (also in nuclei far from stability)
- Efforts are presently made to obtain insight into the nature of the pygmy states : are they related to neutron skin excitations ? Which type?
- Search the survival of Pygmy states at finite T
- Electromagnetic response but also Hadronic probes are important to have additional information about isospin/single-particle structure (transfer reactions).

## **ISOSPIN MIXING**

- Isospin mixing in a region not measured with other techniques
- Verify data obtained with other techniques