



## Clustering effects in heavy-ion Fermi energy reactions

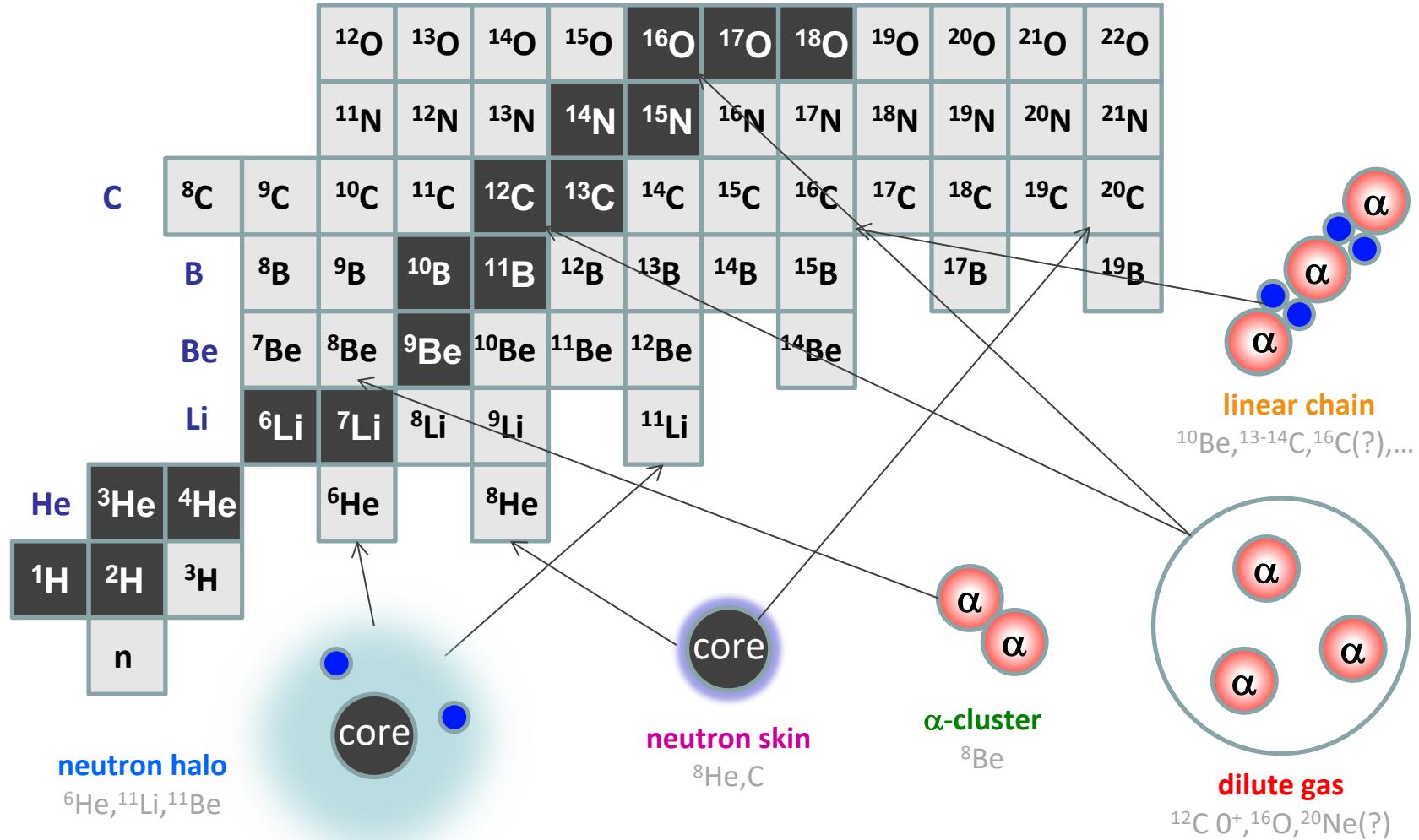
Ivano Lombardo

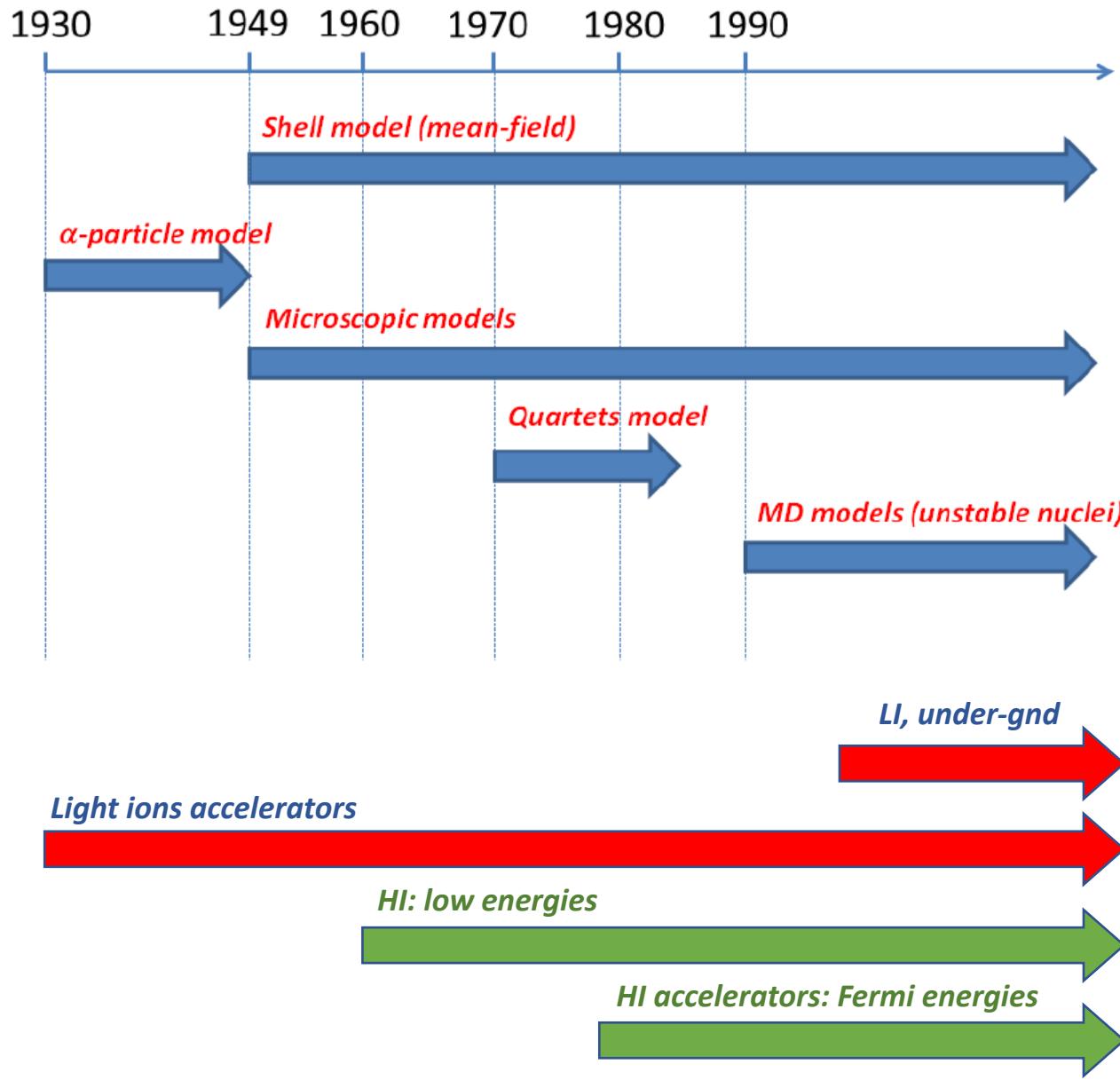
Dip. di Fisica e Astronomia - Università di Catania  
INFN - Sezione di Catania



[ivano.lombardo@ct.infn.it](mailto:ivano.lombardo@ct.infn.it)

Complexity of nuclear force → deviation from the *sphericity*: axial deformation (collective behaviours), spatial re-organization of nucleons in bounded sub-units (*cluster model*).





1961: Britt and Quinton discovered *incomplete fusion* → cluster structure of the projectile can play a role on the *reaction mechanism*!

PHYSICAL REVIEW

VOLUME 124, NUMBER 3

NOVEMBER 1, 1961

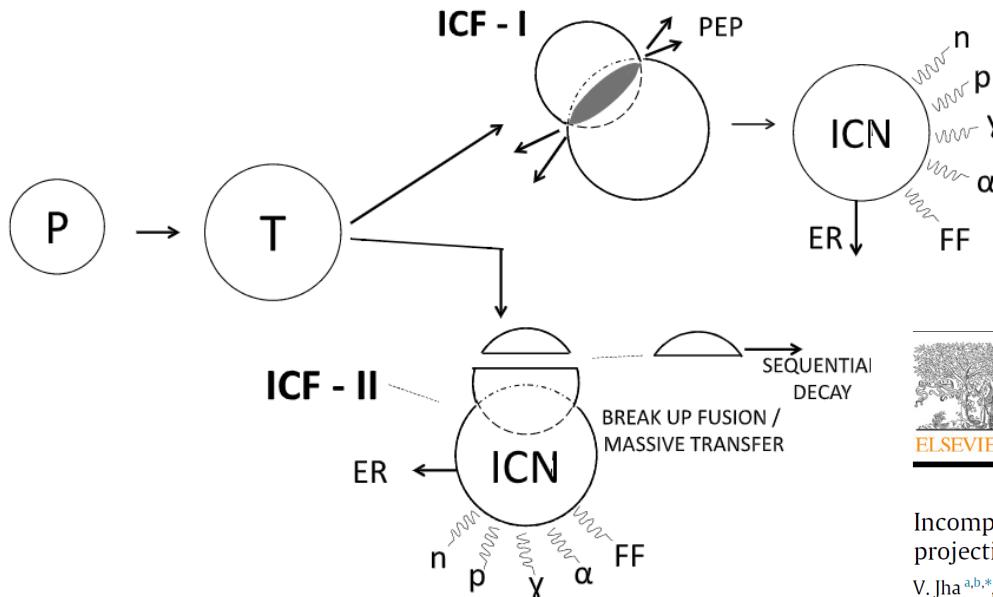
## Alpha Particles and Protons Emitted in the Bombardment of $\text{Au}^{197}$ and $\text{Bi}^{209}$ by $\text{C}^{12}$ , $\text{N}^{14}$ , and $\text{O}^{16}$ Projectiles\*†

HAROLD C. BRITT† AND ARTHUR R. QUINTON

*Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut*

(Received June 12, 1961)

A more *modern picture* of incomplete fusion (*type I* and *type II*) reactions



Physics Reports 845 (2020) 1–58



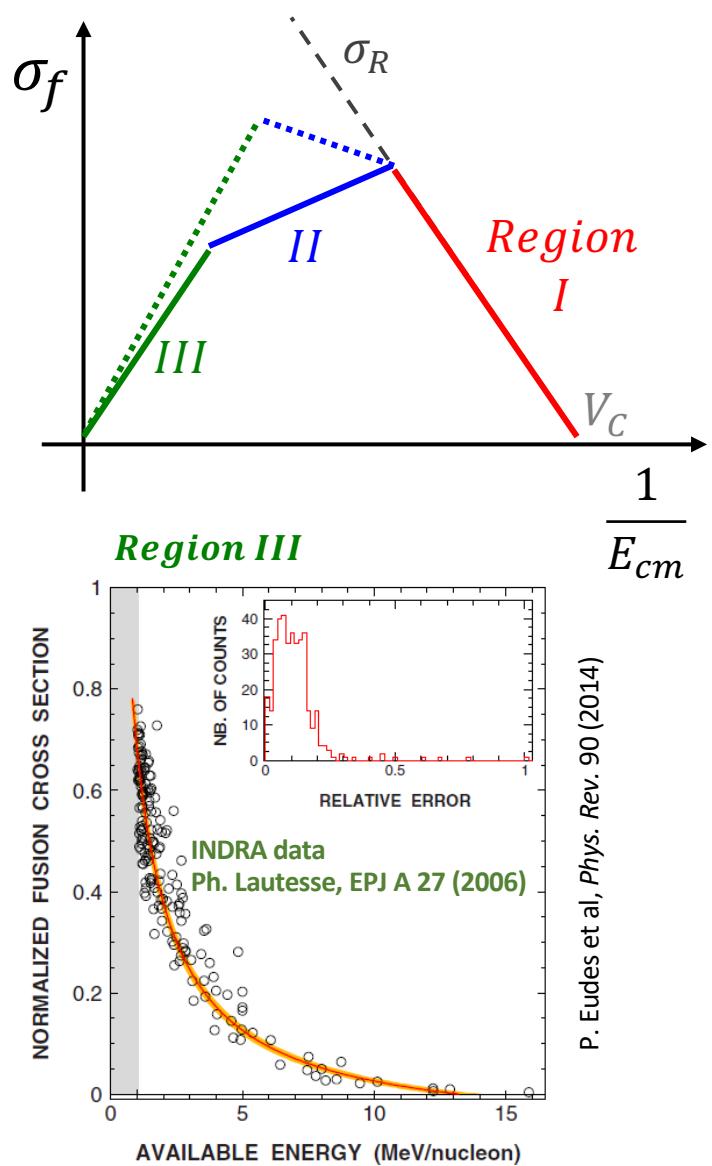
Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Physics Reports

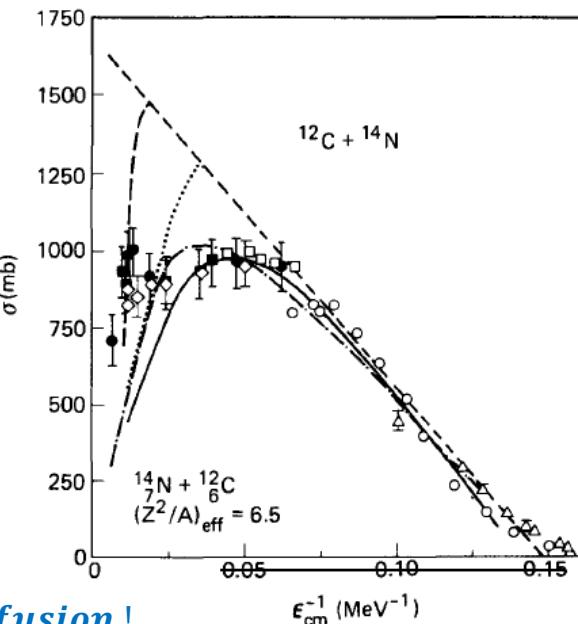
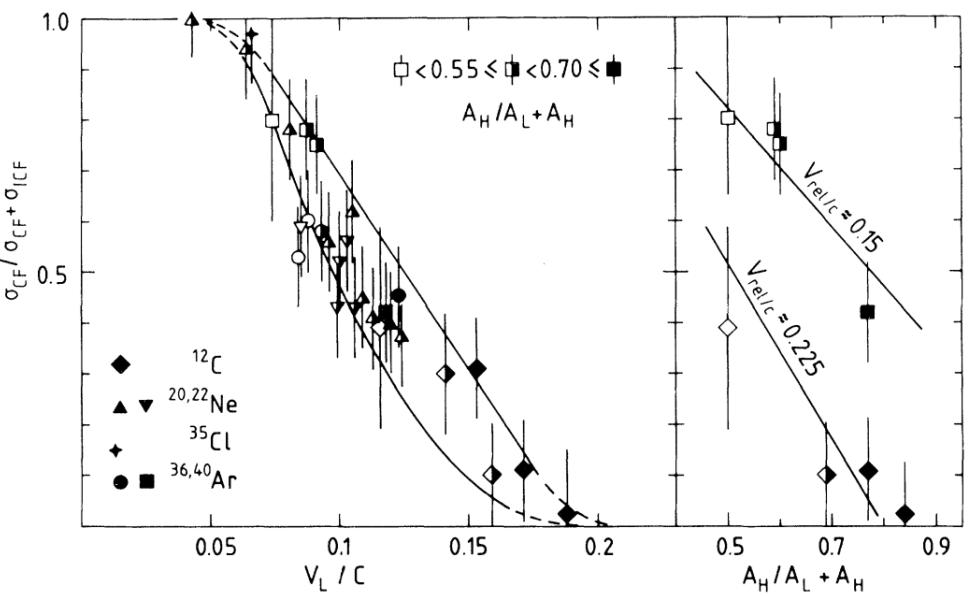
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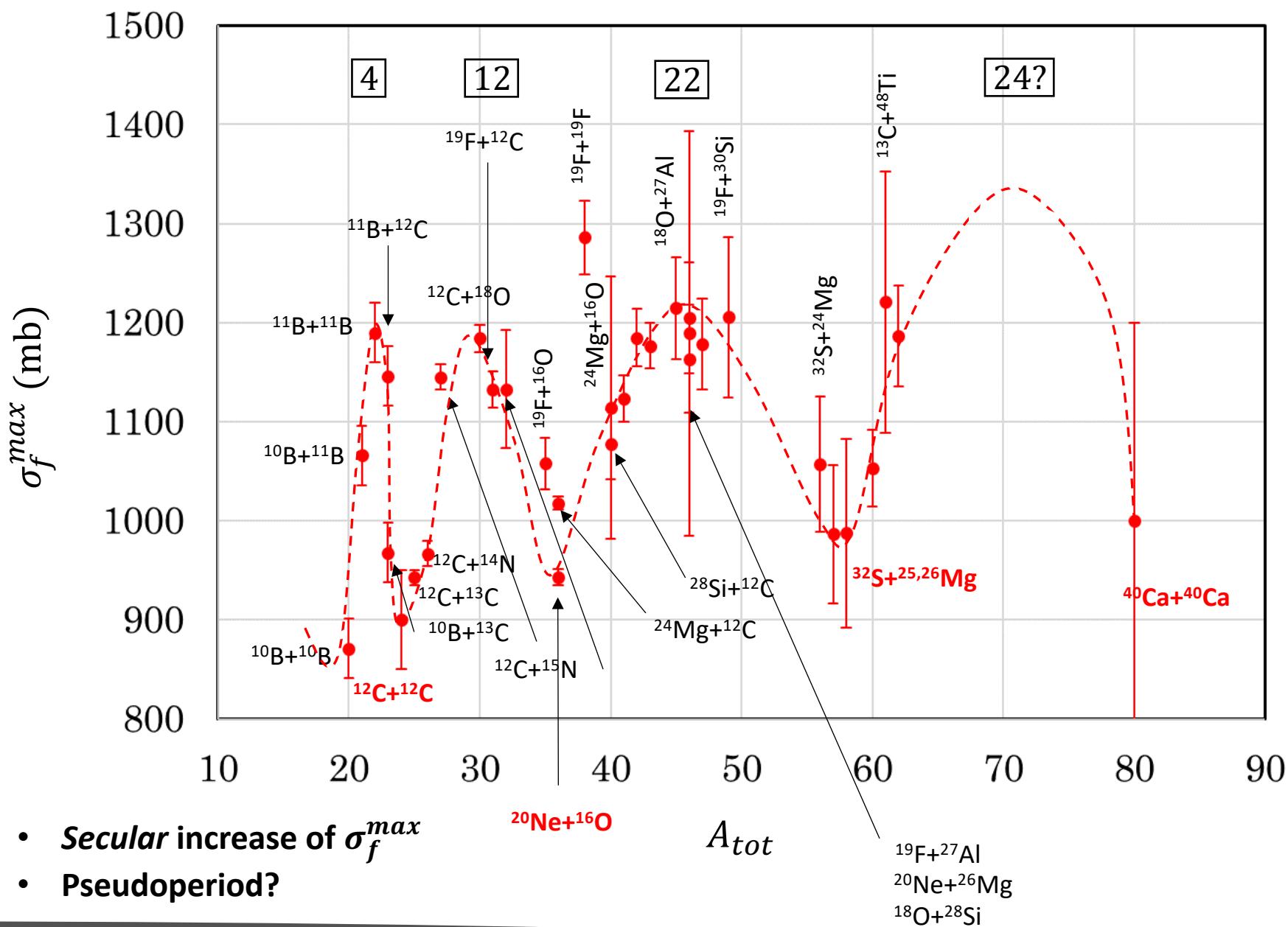
Incomplete fusion reactions using strongly and weakly bound projectiles

V. Jha<sup>a,b,\*</sup>, V.V. Parkar<sup>a</sup>, S. Kailas<sup>a,c,d</sup><sup>a</sup> Nuclear Physics Division, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai 400085, India<sup>b</sup> Homi Bhabha National Institute, Anushaktinagar, Mumbai 400094, India<sup>c</sup> Manipal Centre for Natural Sciences, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal 576104, India<sup>d</sup> UM-DAE Centre for Excellence in Basic Sciences, Mumbai 400098, India

Fusion **above** barrier: dynamics vs structure effects

Le Sech &amp; Ngo, Physique Nucléaire, Dunod

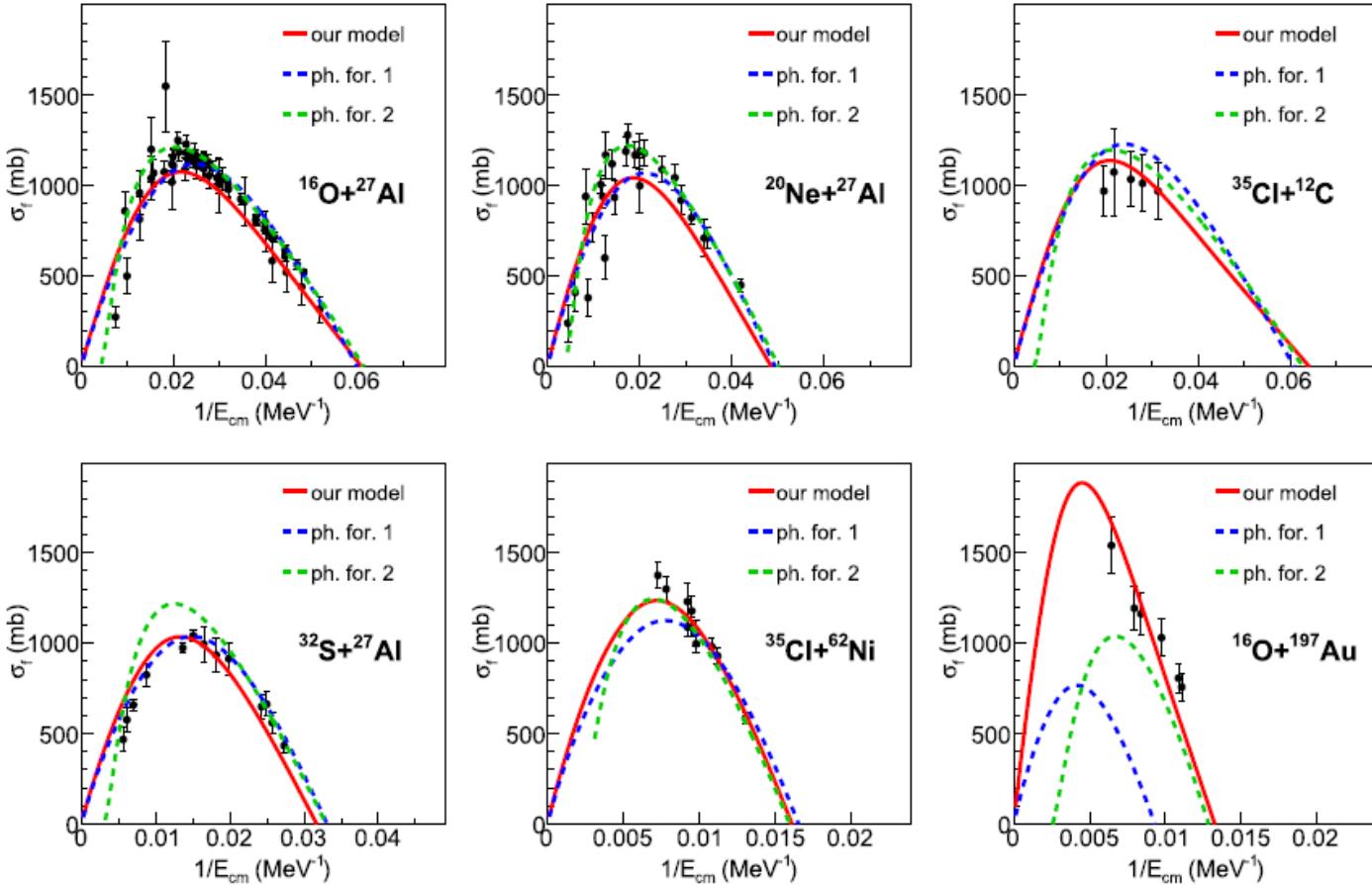
**Incomplete fusion !**



- Clustering effects in HI fusion → *tiny effects!*
- *Deviations* from *phenomenological model* predictions
- Modified **SOD method** to describe  $\sigma_f$  for a very broad dataset above  $U_C$

$$\sigma_f = \frac{C_1}{E}$$

**Mass asyr**



Kailas and Gupta, Z. Phys. A 302 (1981)

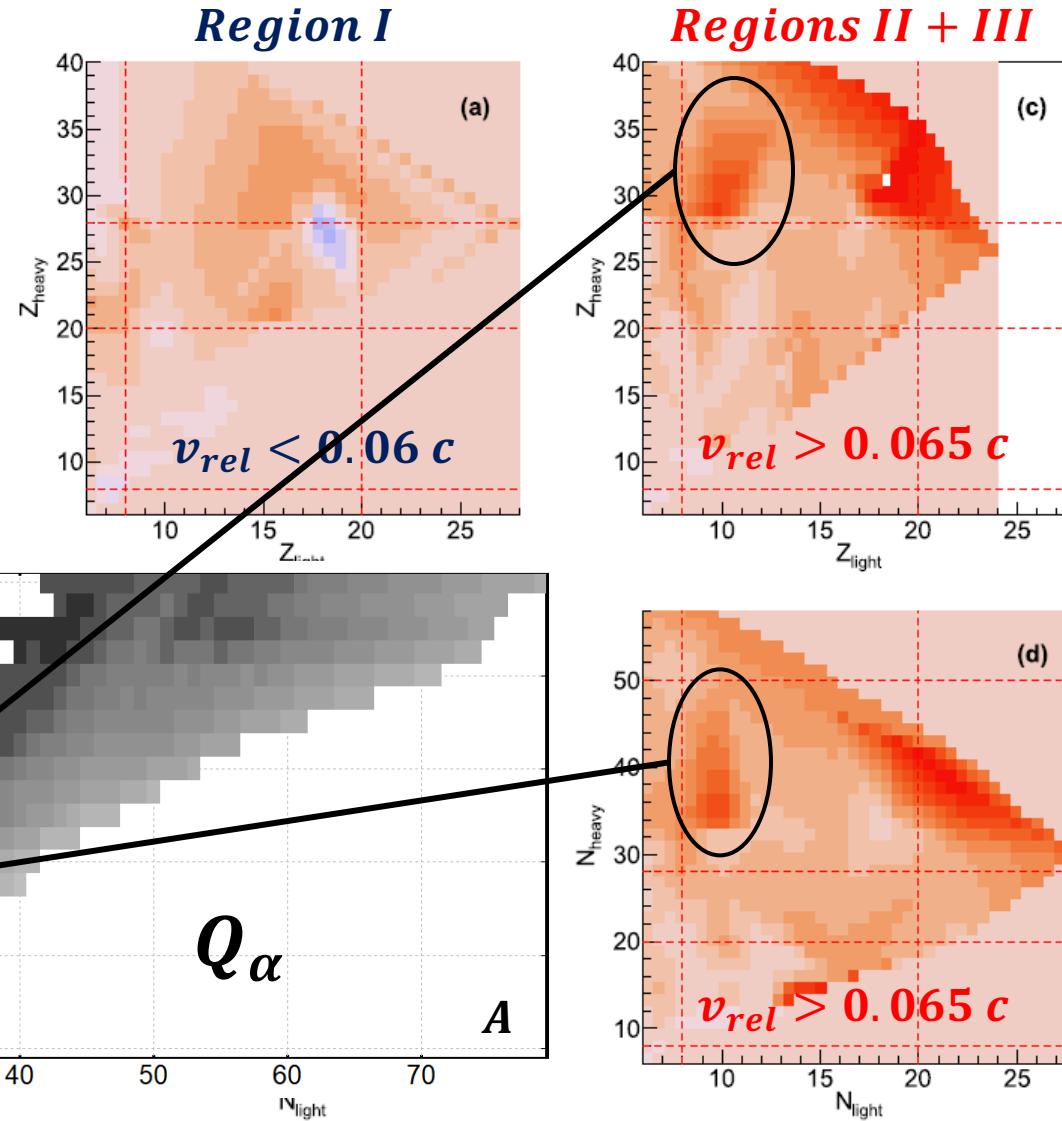
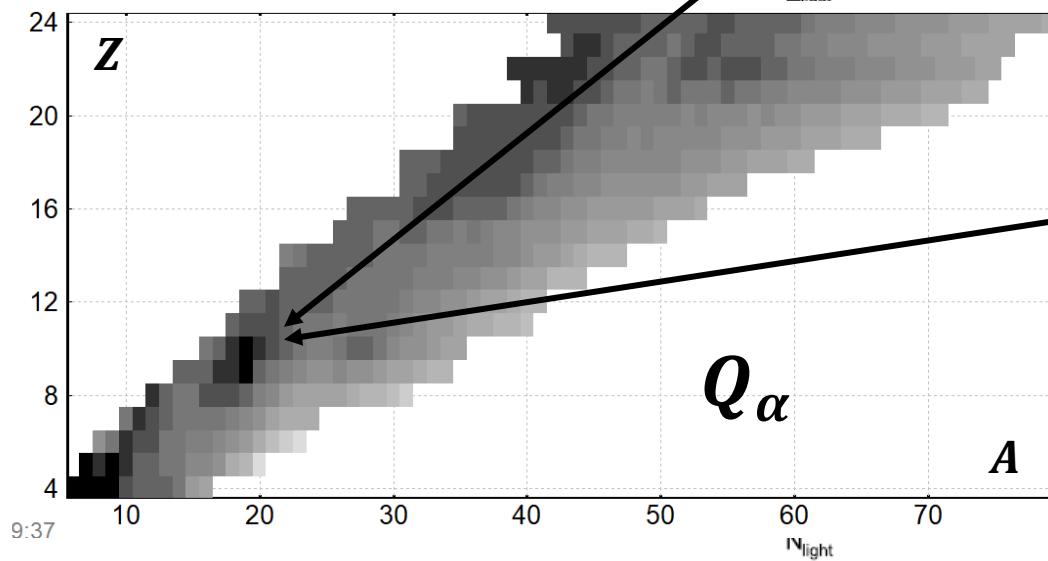
Porto and Sambataro, Nuovo Cim. A 83 (1984)

- *Deviation plots* → influence of *shell closures* at small  $v_{rel} = \sqrt{2(E_{cm} - V_c)/\mu}$
- Clustering effects at large  $v_{rel}$

Deviation plots for  $\sigma_{fus}$ :

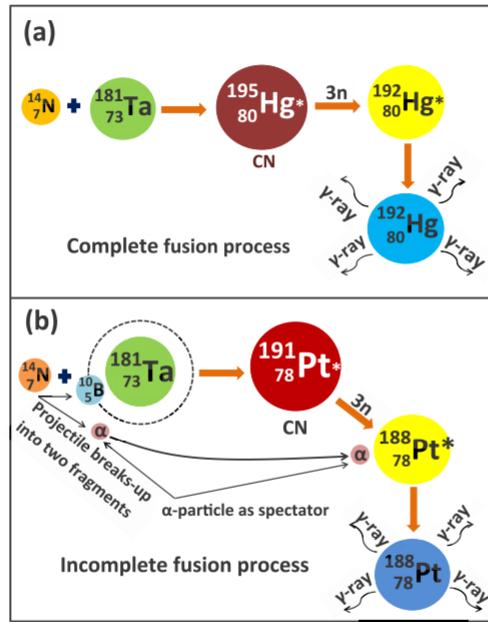
Data > model

Data < model

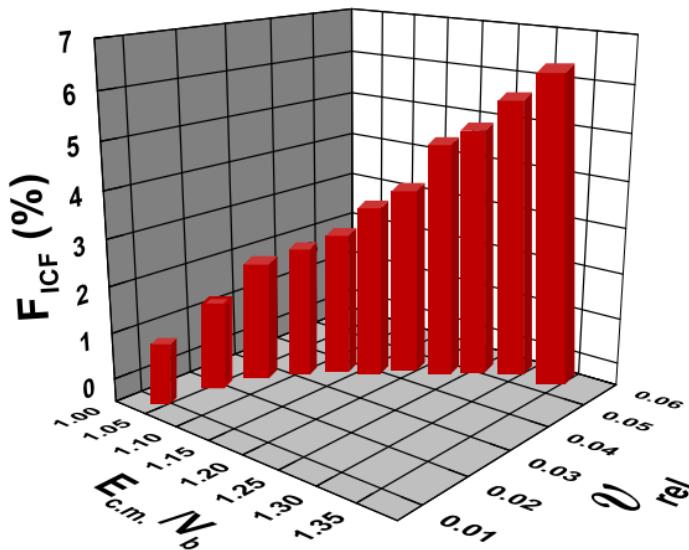
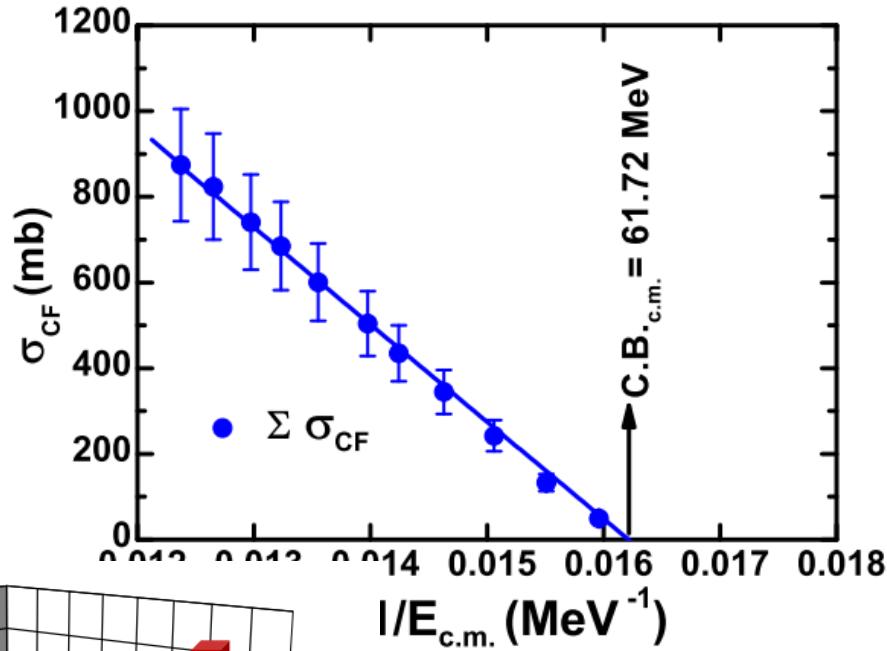


**Systematic studies** are fundamental in this type of physics

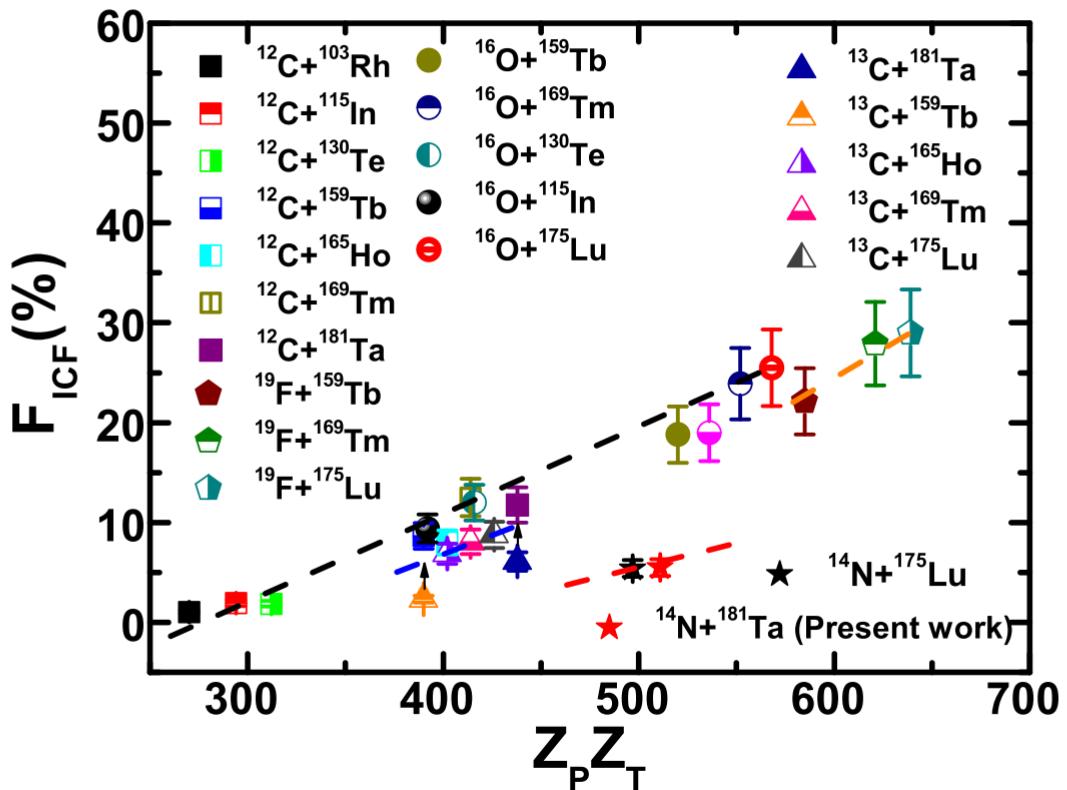
→ some of them *very recently* reported, mainly from Indian groups



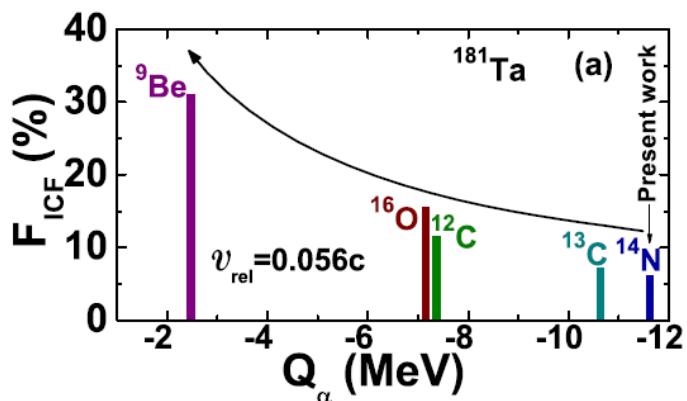
Stack method  
+offline gamma  
ER tagging to  
get excitation  
functions



**ICF** versus **CF** cross  
sections determined  
also by means of  
complete fusion  
model calculations  
(as PACE4)

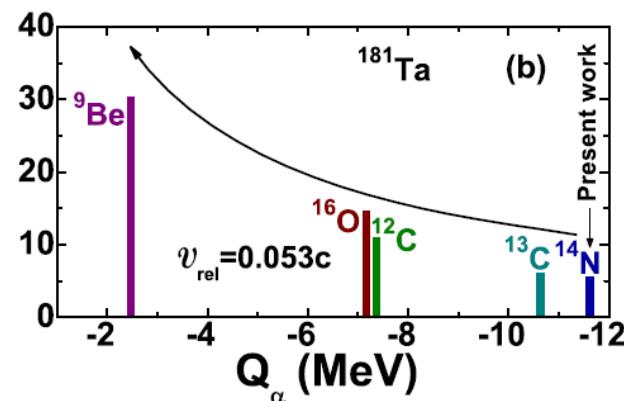


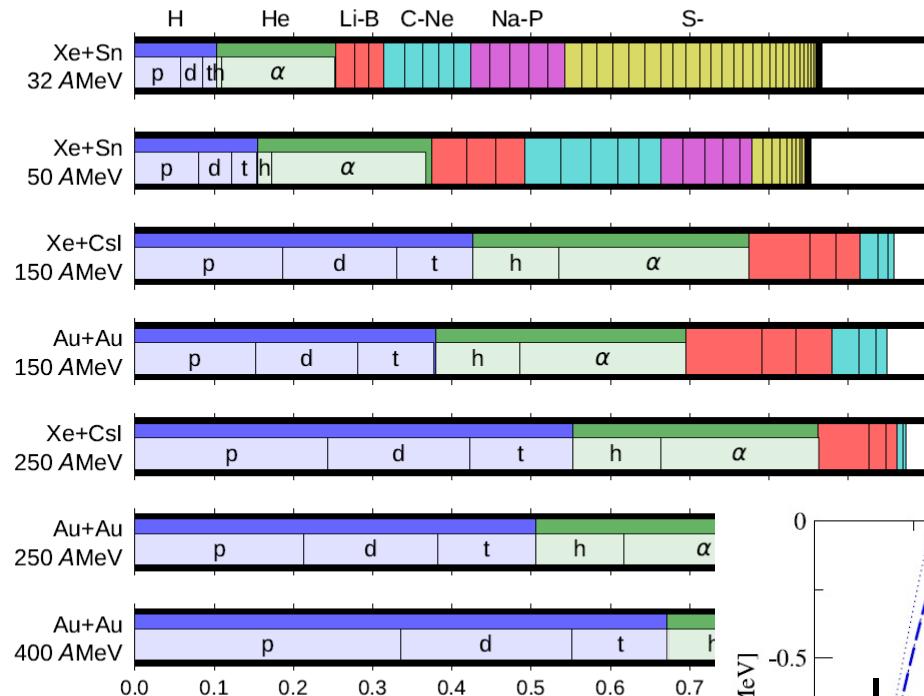
- Shell effect on <sup>16</sup>O are overcome by Q-value effects for large  $v_{rel}$
- Important to look to the  $S_\alpha$  factors!



ICF fraction determined for very mass asymmetric systems, with well bound projectile of the  $p$  shell (C,O) and <sup>19</sup>F

- Strong dependence on Z<sub>p</sub>Z<sub>t</sub> → Coulomb break-up of the projectile in the trajectory of approach
- Evident dependence on Q <sub>$\alpha$</sub> : more data are vital to unveil the full trend!



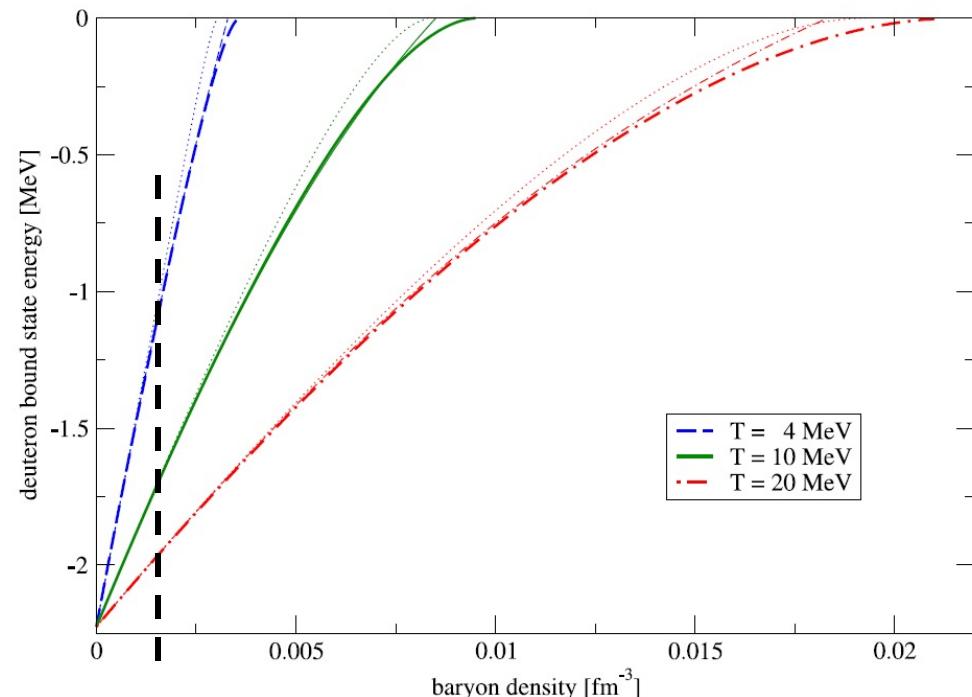
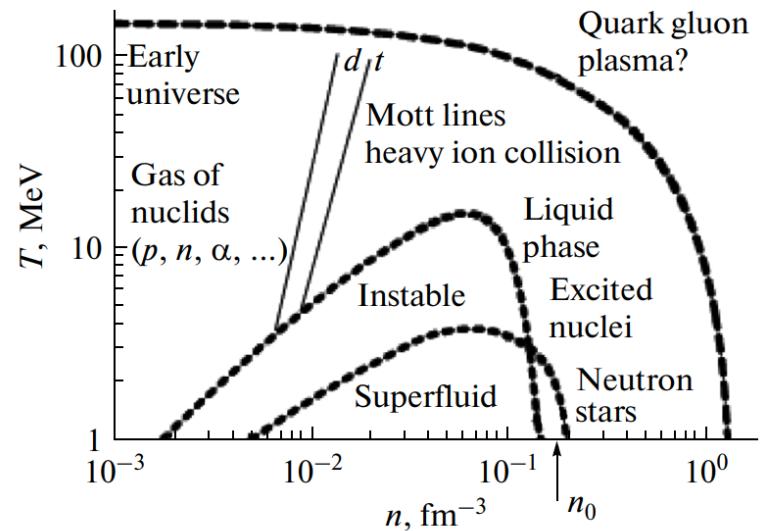
Fraction of protons in heavy-ion collisions ( $b \approx 0$ )

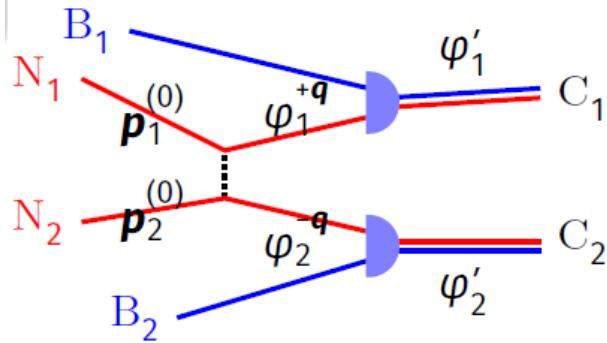
A. Ono, ICNT 2017

A. Ono, IWM-EC 2021

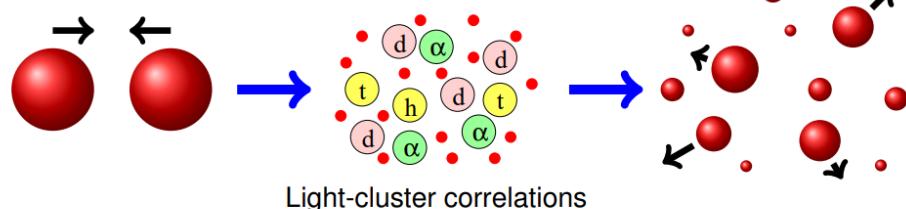
 $Z_i Y_i / Z_{\text{tot}}$   
 INDRA: Hudan et al., PI  
 FOPI: Reisdorf et al., I

**$\rho > \text{Mott density} \rightarrow \text{the cluster will dissolve in the medium}$**   
**Density too large  $\rightarrow$  the surrounding nucleons will modify the binding (or destroy) the cluster**

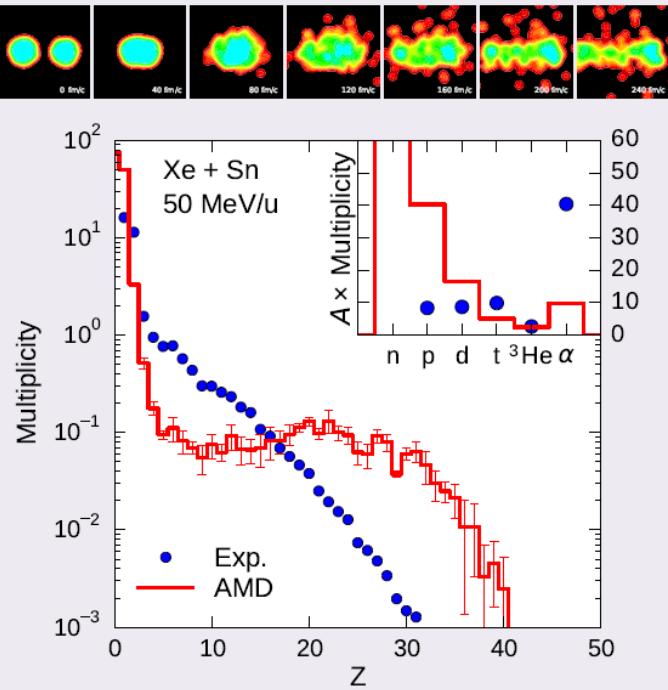




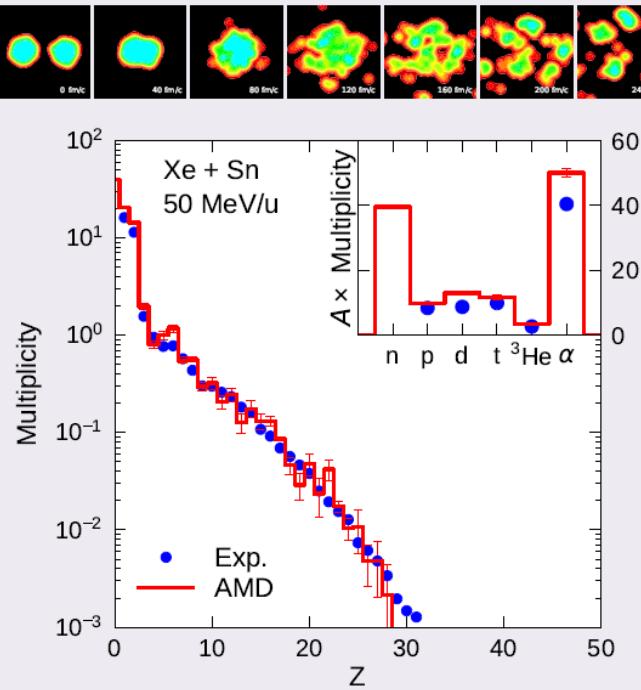
Collisions of two nuclei (e.g., Xe + Sn at 50 MeV/nucleon,  $b \approx 0$ )



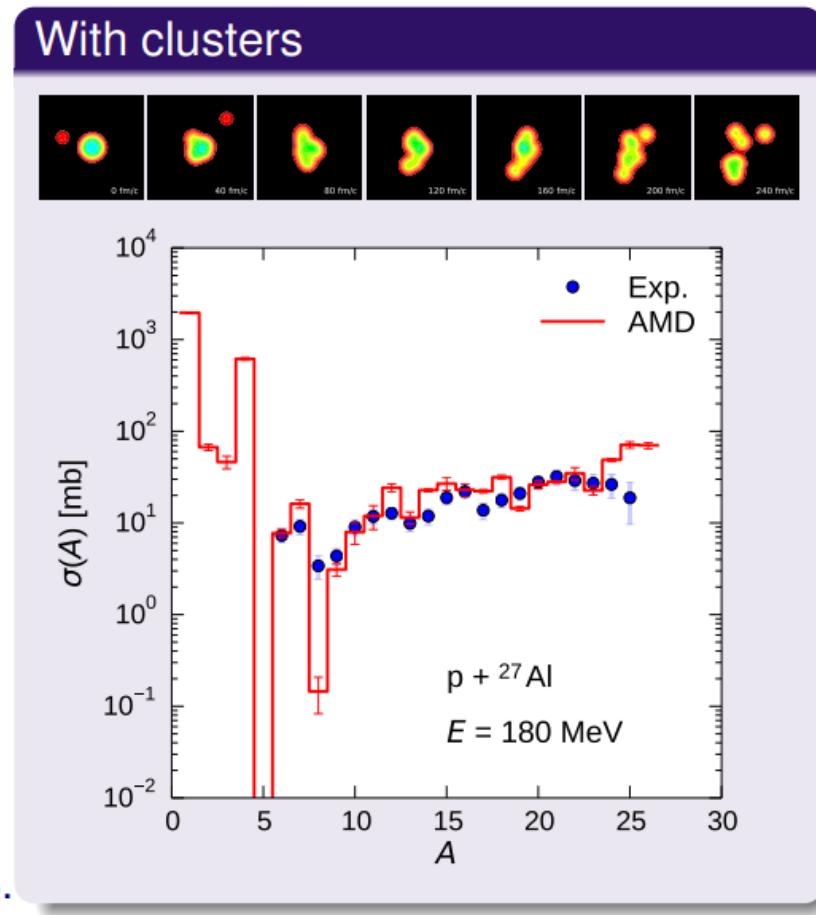
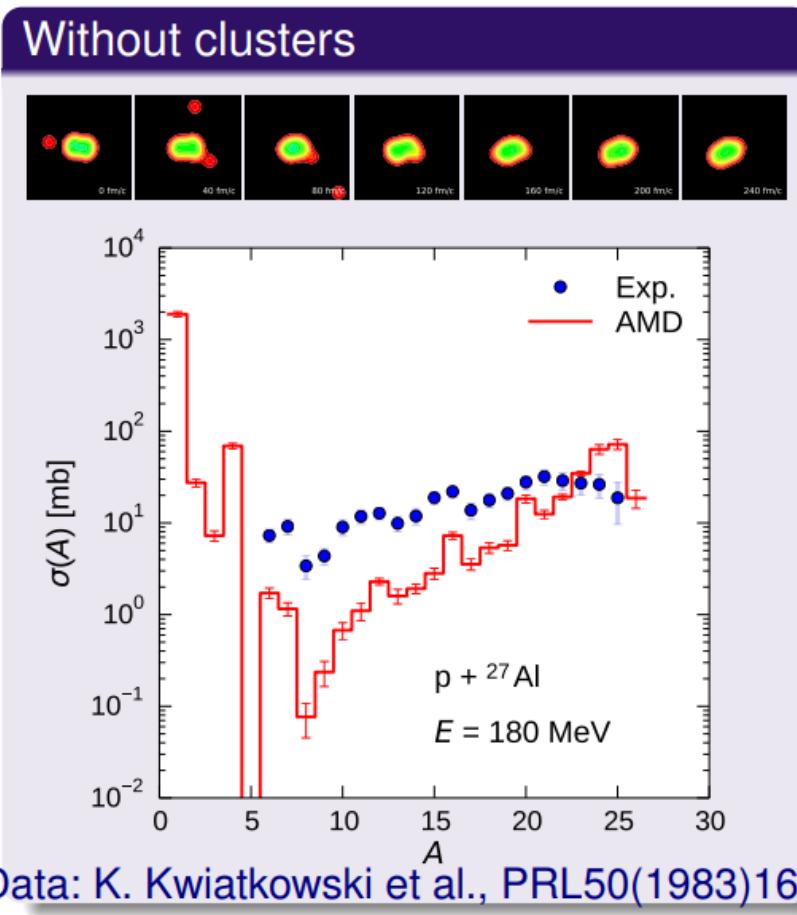
Without clusters



With clusters

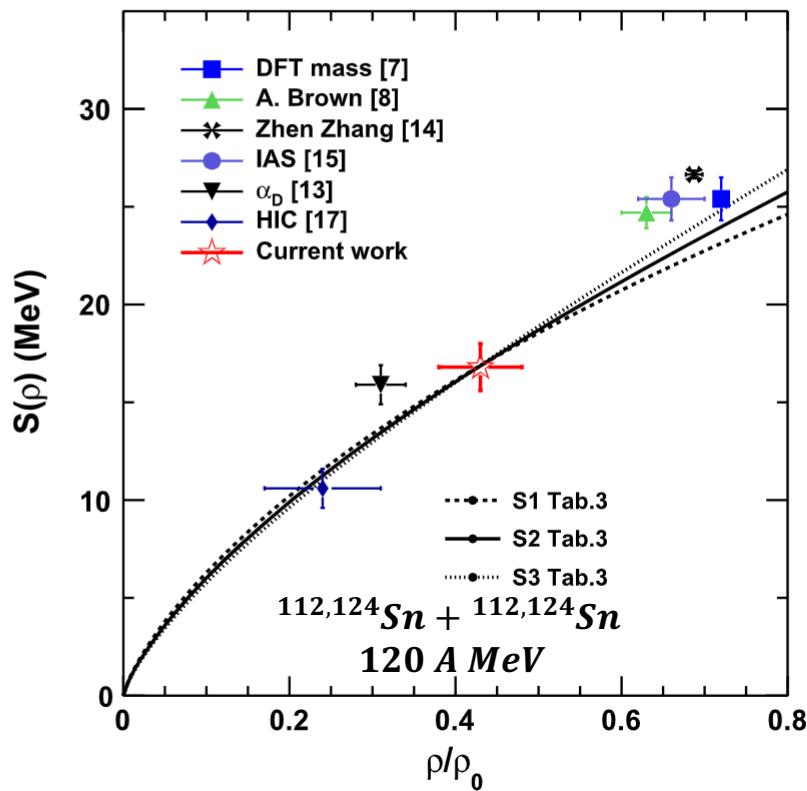


INDRA data: Hudan et al., PRC67 (2003) 064613.



Data: K. Kwiatkowski et al., PRL50(1983)1648.

- Sizeable impact in *applied physics* (space, hadrotherapy etc) → absolute x-sect
- Disentangle the *in-medium* two-nucleon cross sections



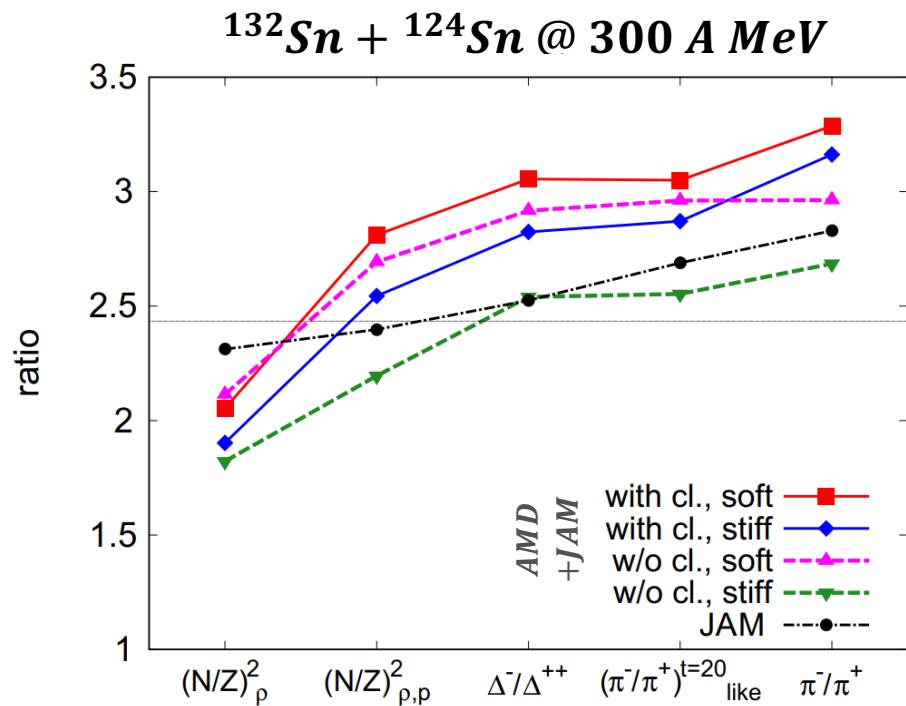
### At *high* baryonic densities:

- AMD calculations (nucleon dynamics) + JAM (hadronic cascade model for sub-nuclear d.o.f.)
- Effect of n-clusterization on ratios sensitive to the symmetry energy

At *low* baryonic densities:

- Transport models → difficulties in reproducing the yields of light isotopes
- the coalescence invariant (CI) neutron and proton spectra → free nucleons + bound nucleons in  $1 < A < 5$  isotopes

P. Morfouace et al, Phys. Lett. B 799 (2019)



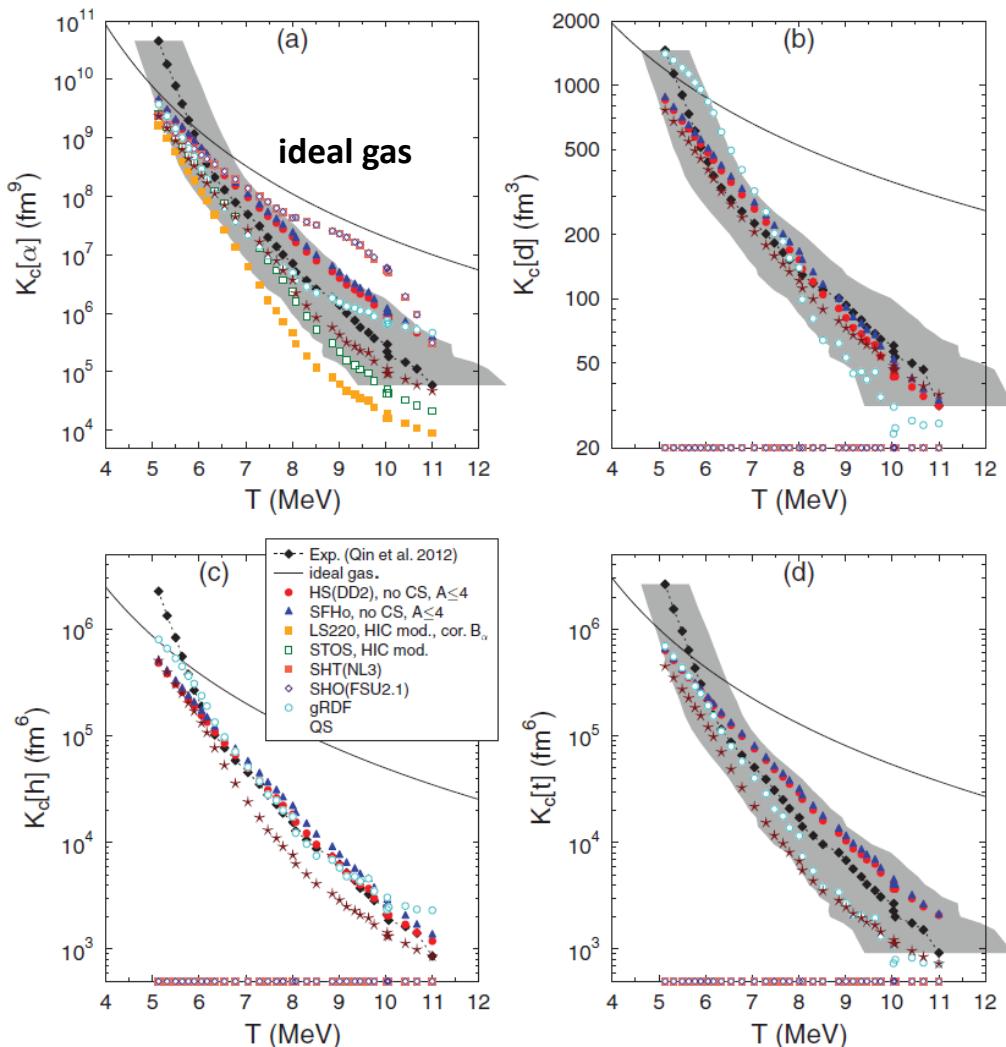
## A (recent) chemical viewpoint of clustering production in HIC

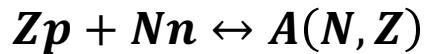


Equilibrium constant for a given cluster:

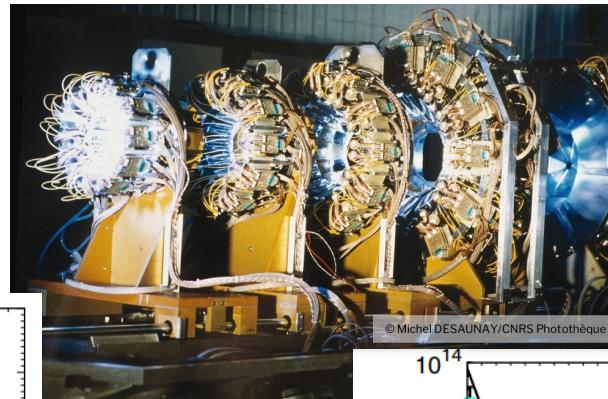
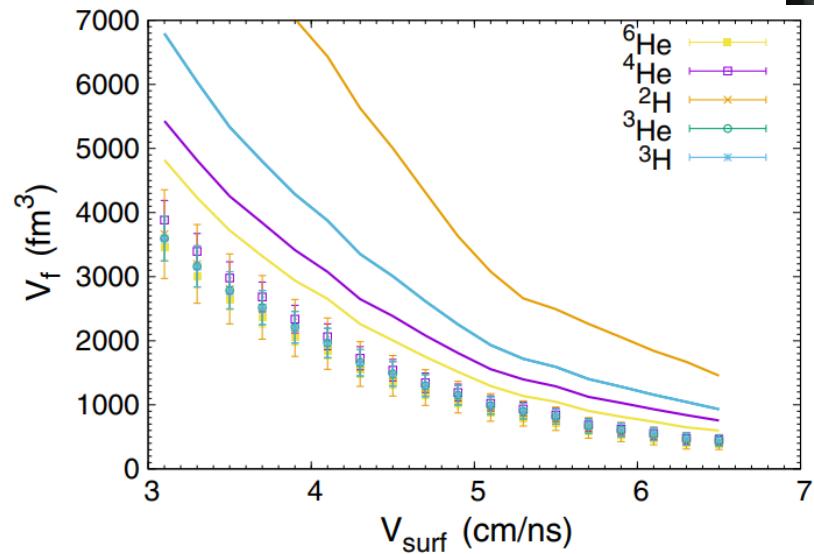
$$K_{eq} \equiv \frac{[A(N, Z)]}{[p]^Z[n]^N} = \frac{\rho(A, Z)}{\rho_p^Z \cdot \rho_n^N}$$

- Type II SN → warm and dilute nuclear matter
- Formation of clusters in the envelope of the proto-neutron star
- Cluster influence on neutrino wind → nucleosynthesis in the r-process
- HIC → terrestrial laboratory to probe EoS involved in SN-II



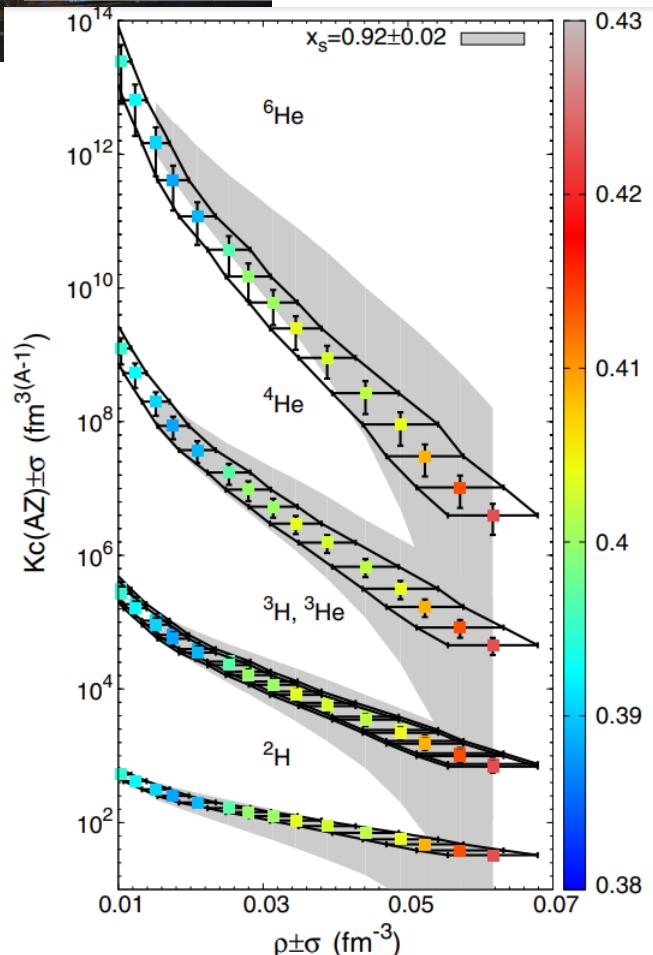


$$K_{eq} \equiv \frac{[A(N, Z)]}{[p]^Z [n]^N} = \frac{\rho(A, Z)}{\rho_p^Z \cdot \rho_n^N}$$

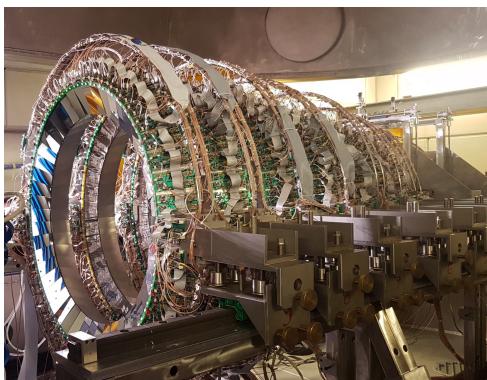


INDRA @ GANIL

Xe+Sn

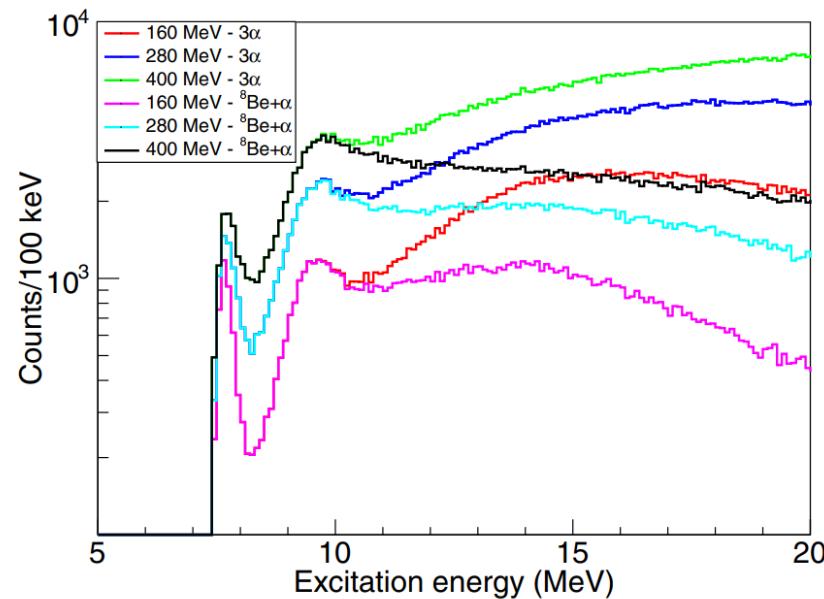
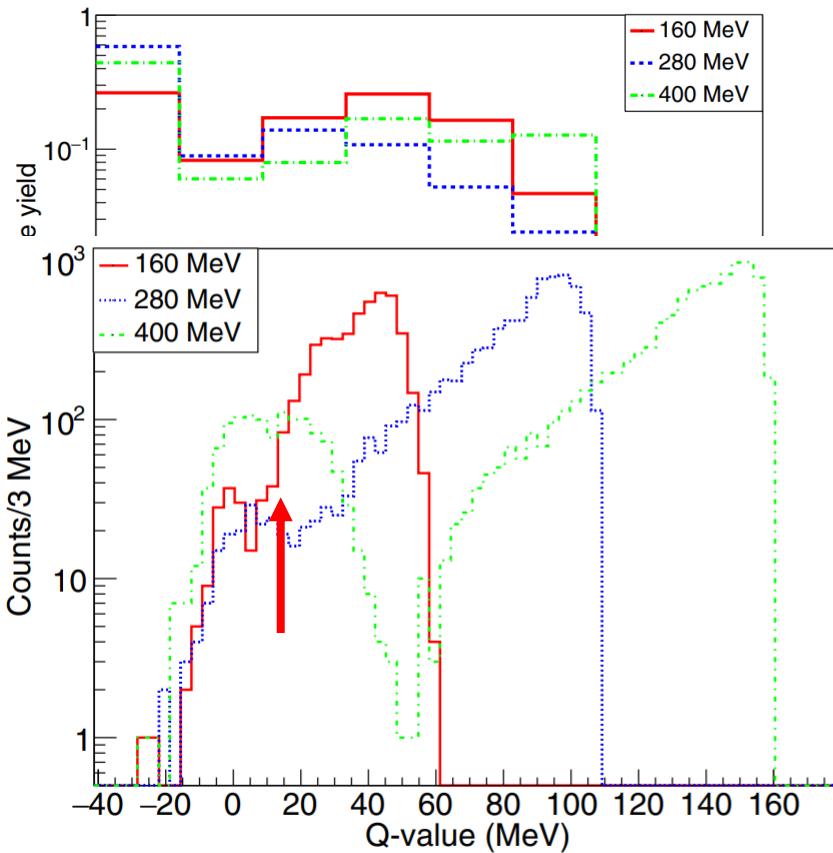


- Deviation from the *ideal gas* prescription in the estimate of the source volume → data driven corrections
- Smaller in-medium modifications
- See also the A. Rebillard-Soulié talk

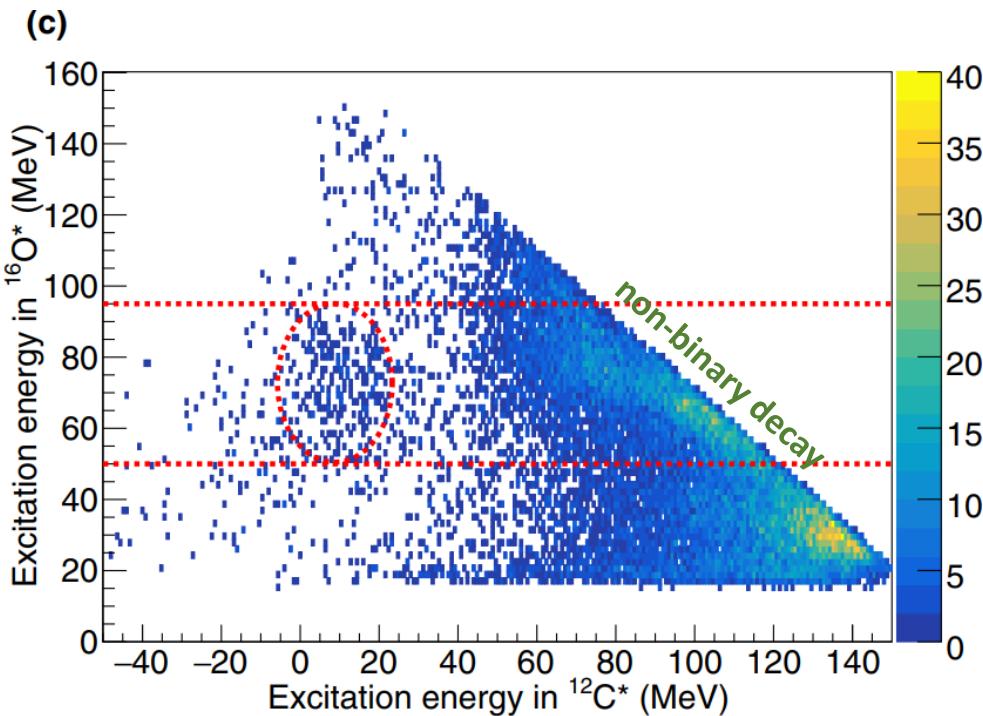


## CHIMERA experiment: $^{16}\text{O} + ^{12}\text{C}$ at 10 - 25 A MeV

- *many-alpha events* with a HI multi-detector
- Decay patterns of **excited states** in  $^{28}\text{Si}$
- **Clustering** decay (e.g.  $^{12}\text{C}_{\text{Hoyle}} + ^{16}\text{O}_{14.44\text{MeV}}$ ) vs **sequential** decay
- **Binary kinematics** reconstruction + **invariant mass** methods



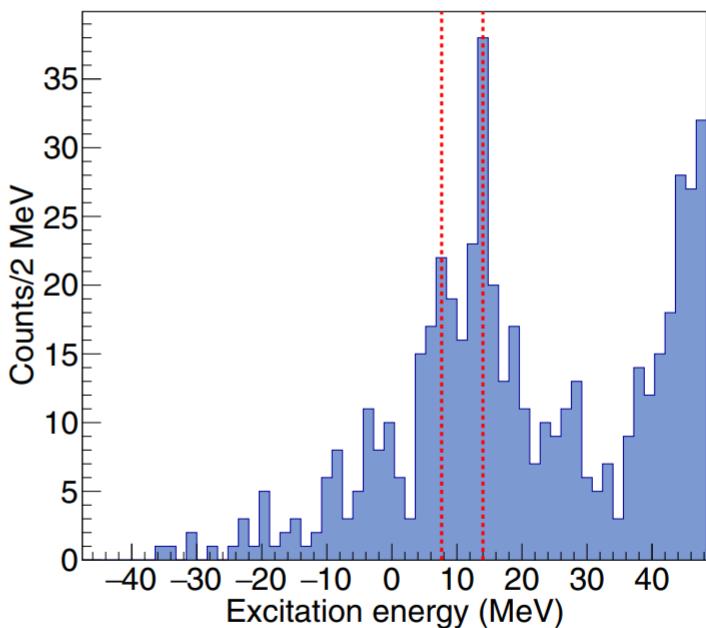
**Sequential** mechanism preferred →  
no (or vanishingly small)  $4\alpha$  yield  
coming from  $^{16}\text{O}^*(0^+_6)$  decay



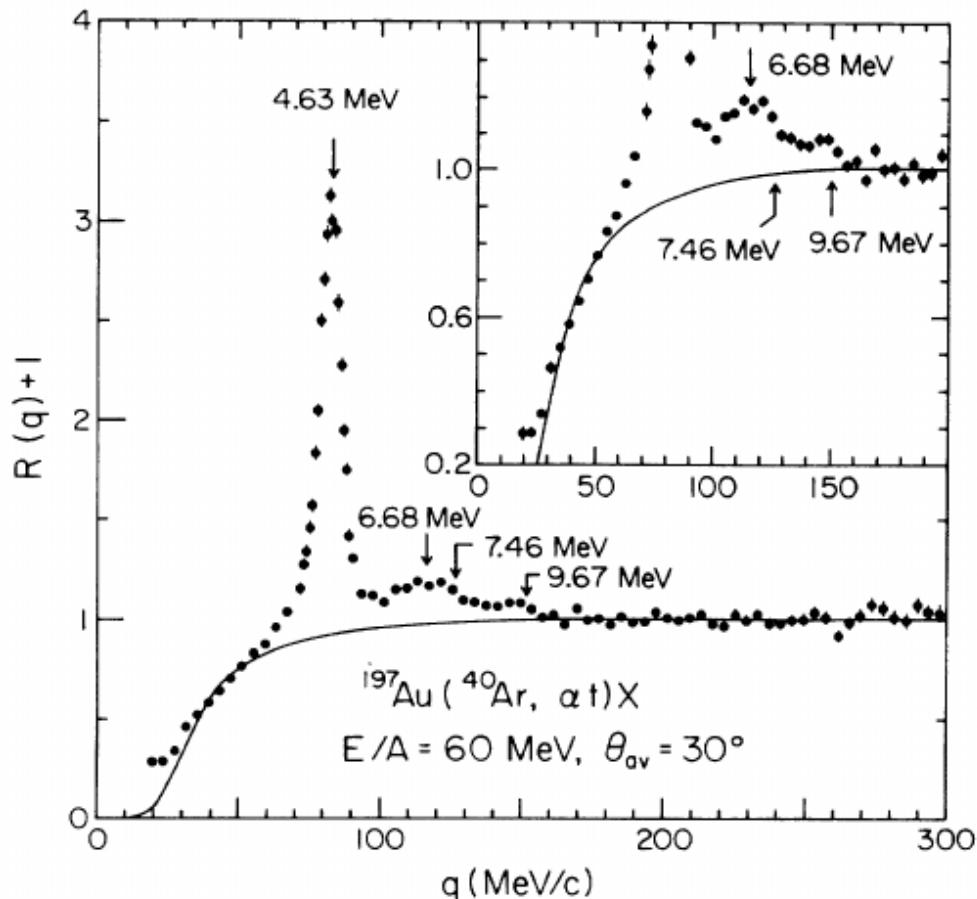
- Class of states (or a zone) in the  $^{16}\text{O}^*$  excitation energy spectrum that is *accompanied* by  $^{12}\text{C}$  in the GS, the Hoyle state or in the  $4^+$  state at 14 MeV
- To be investigated by using *higher angular* and *energy* resolution arrays!

Decay of  $^{28}\text{Si}$  into an Oxygen-16 and a Carbon-12

→ *excitation energy map* of such binary-like disassembly



- *heavy nuclear systems* → complex collision dynamics
- multi-particle correlations → *Correlation functions*  $R(q)$ : resonant states produced *in-medium*.

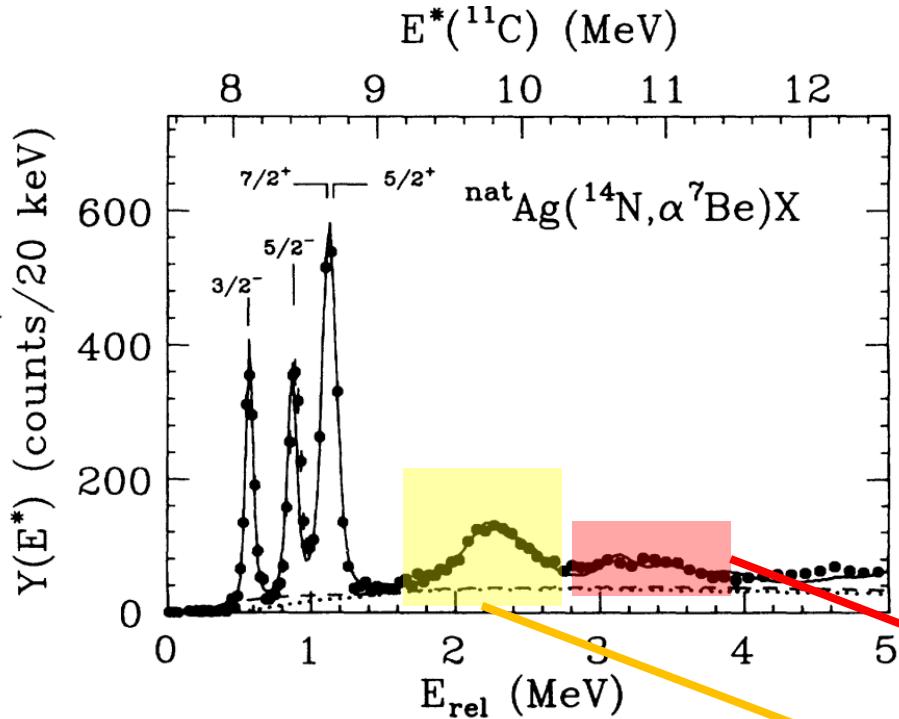


$$R(q) + 1 = \frac{\sum Y_{1,2}(\vec{p}_1, \vec{p}_2)}{\sum Y_1(\vec{p}_1)Y_2(\vec{p}_2)}$$

2-particle *correlation function*  $R(q)$  obtained in  $\text{Ar}^{40} + \text{Au}^{197}$  at 60 A MeV

- structure of  $^7\text{Li}$  ( $t-\alpha$  correlations)
- Spectroscopy of known excited states
- Analog works in H-E physics: properties of the medium from resonance analysis

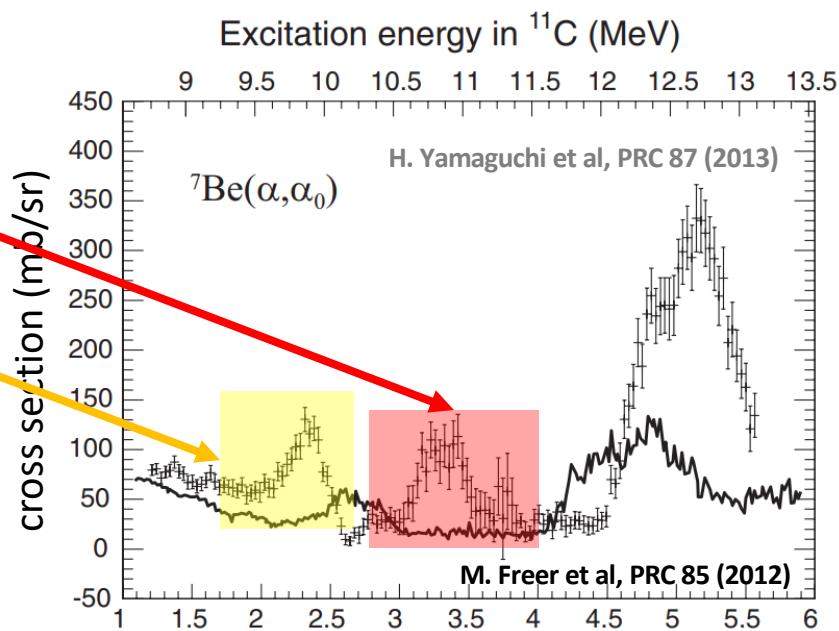
Study of the *coincidence yields* in binary decay channels involving  $\alpha$  particle emission → *clustering* studies



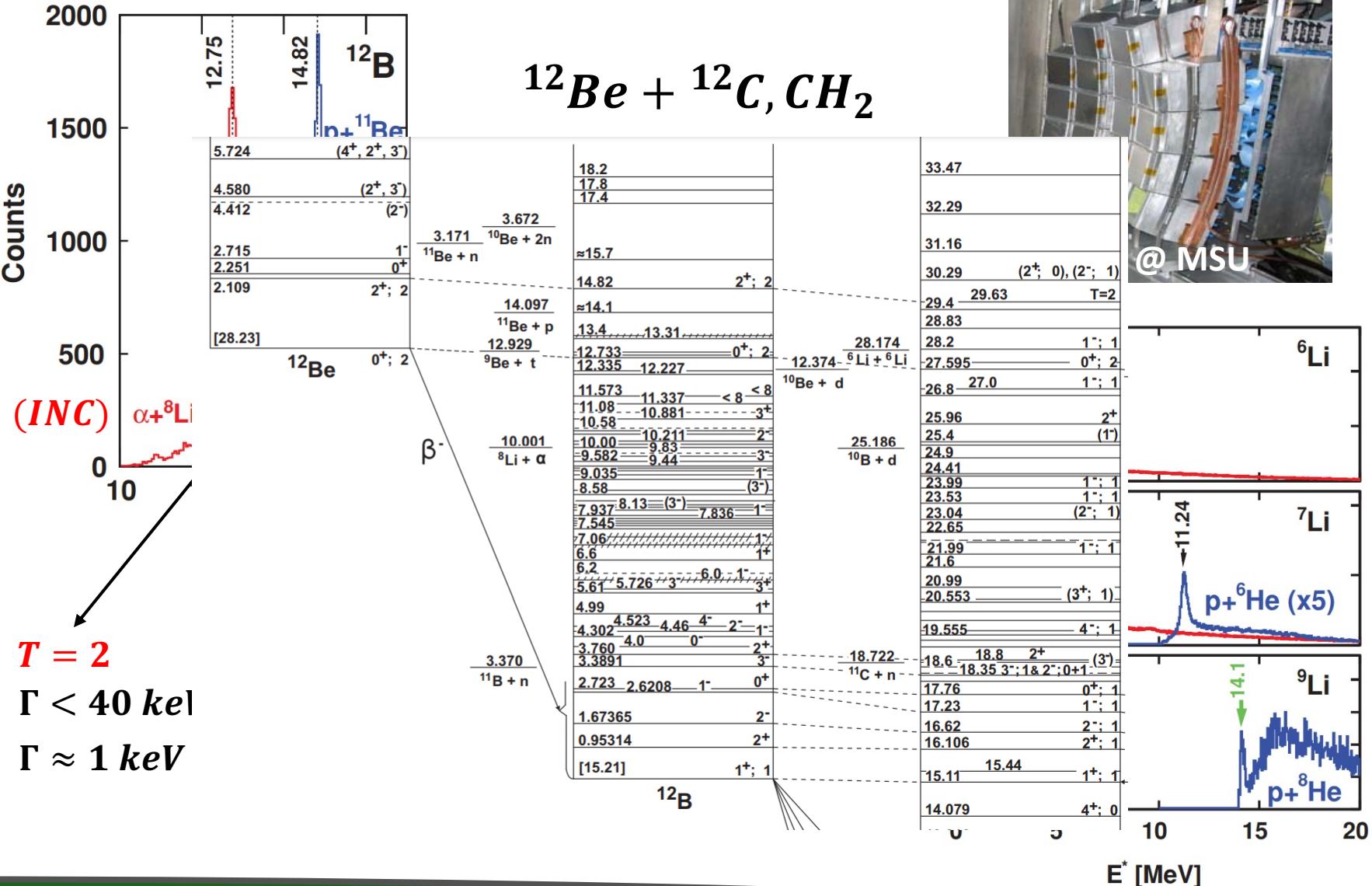
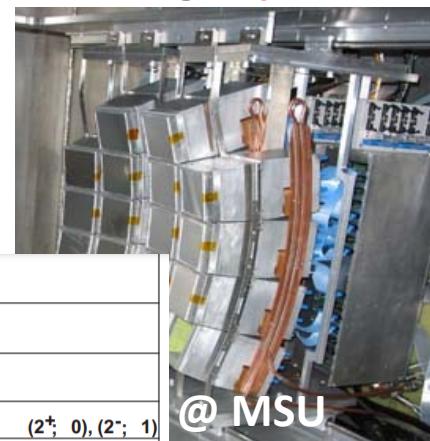
Help to *discriminate* between two TTIK RES experiments with very different excitation energy scales!

${}^7\text{Be} + \alpha$  decay of  ${}^{11}\text{C}$   
«ante litteram» :

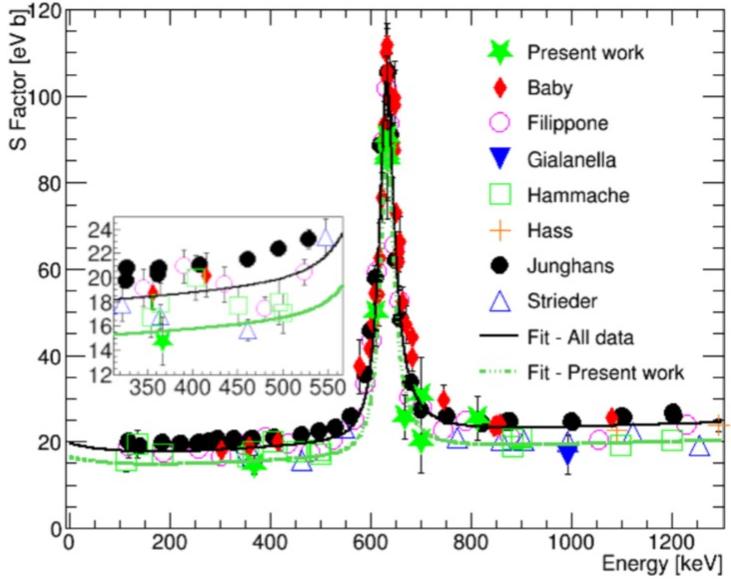
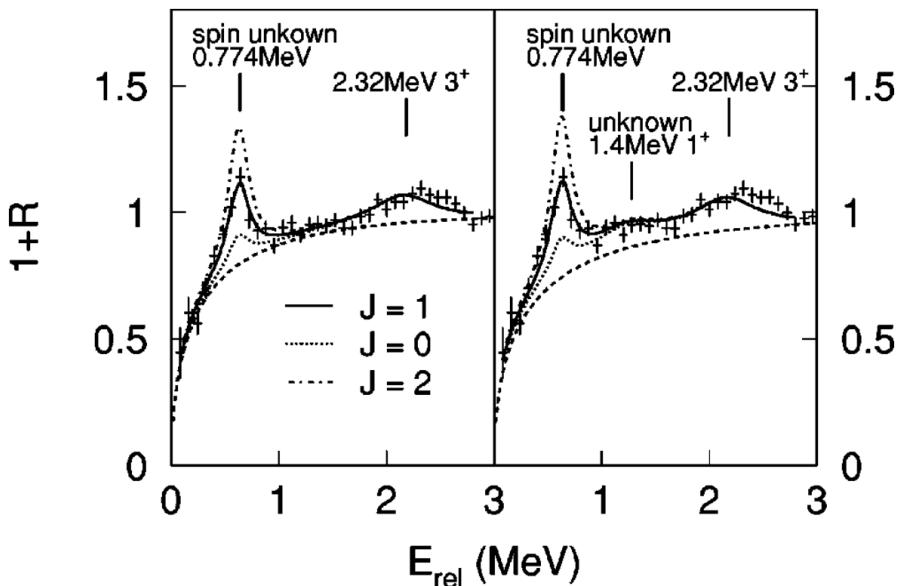
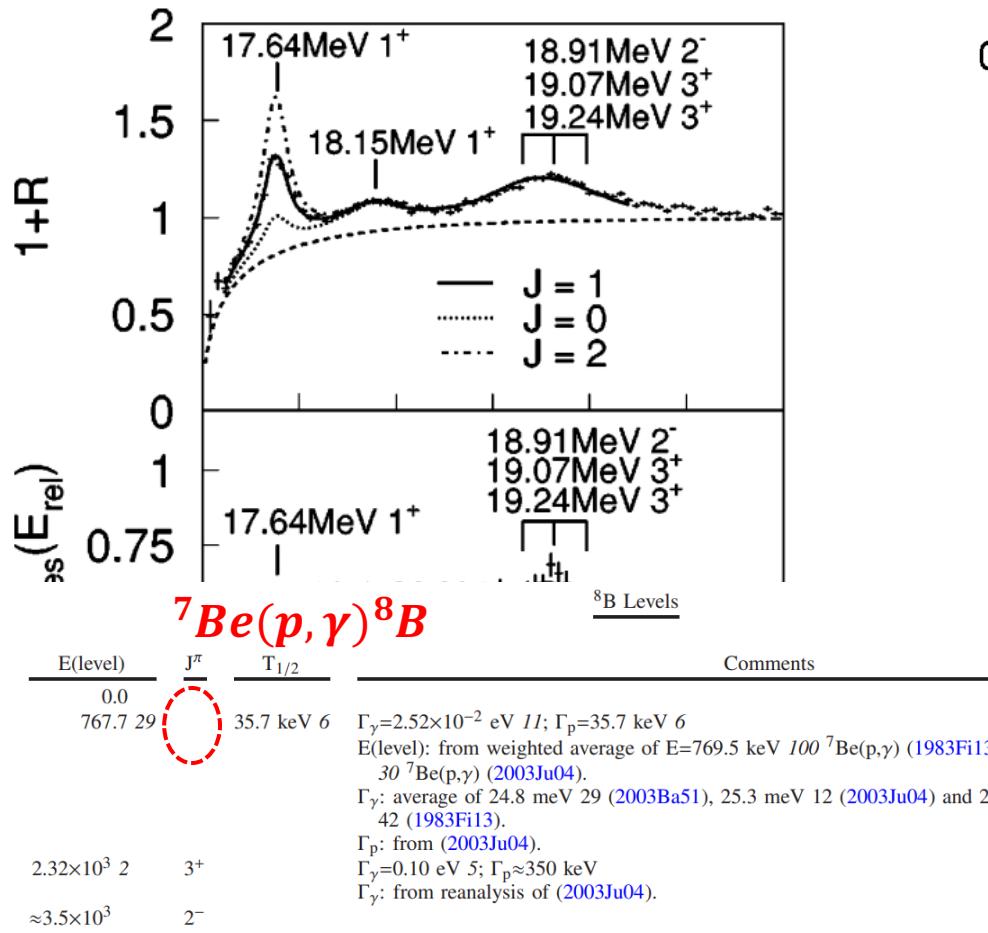
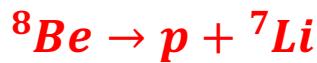
- unbound states in  ${}^{11}\text{C}$  well before the RIBs!



Study of the *coincidence yields* in binary decay channels involving  $\alpha$  particle emission → *clustering* studies

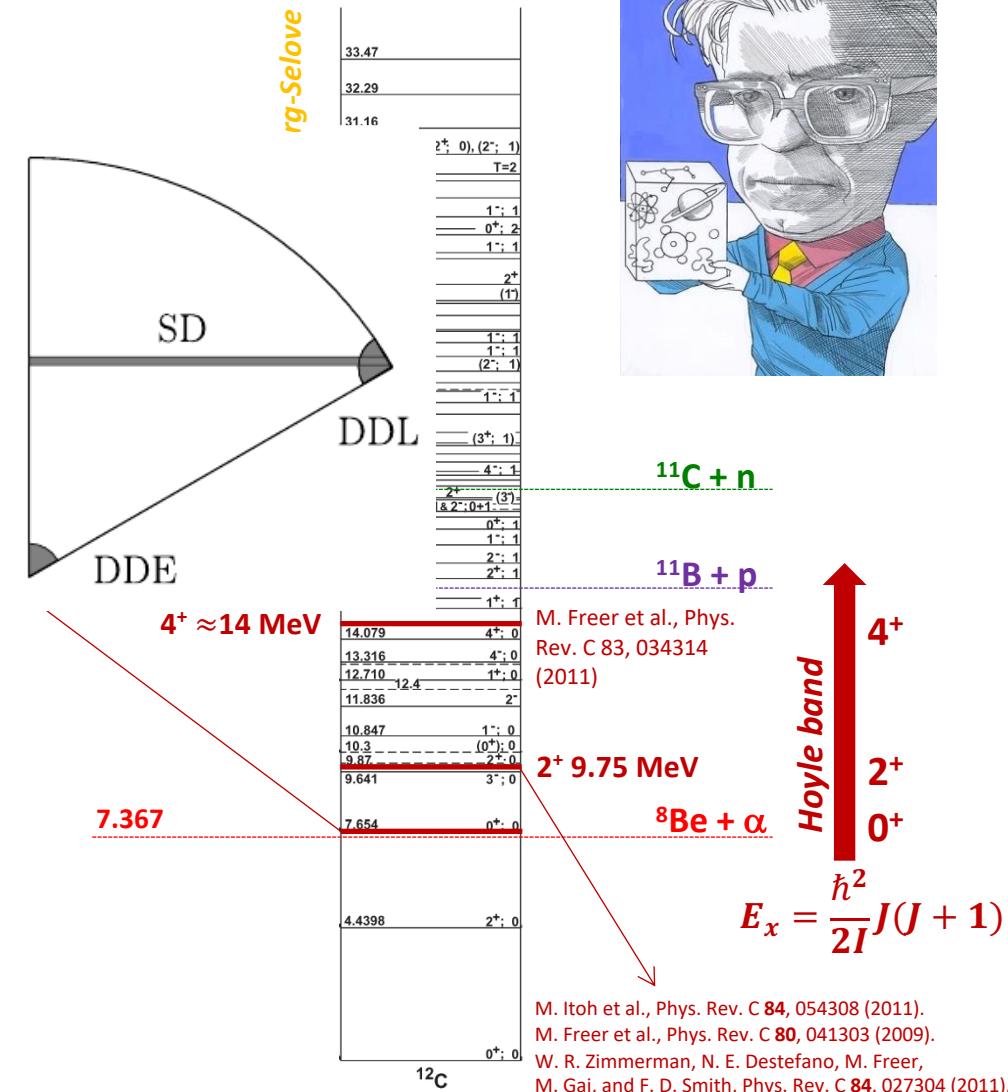
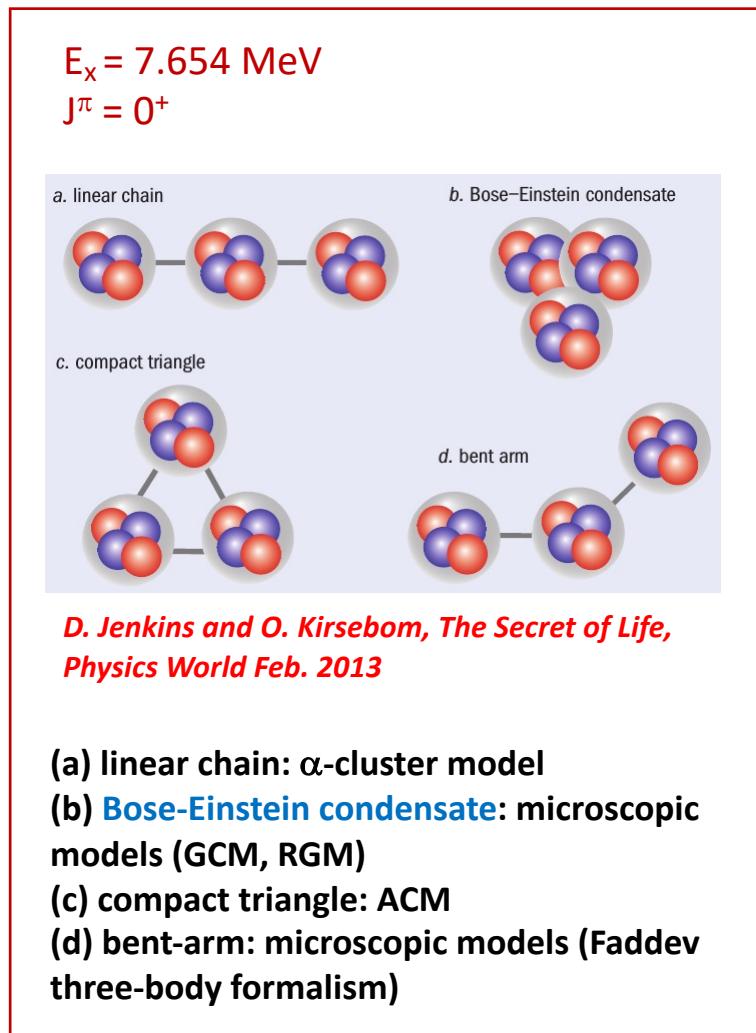


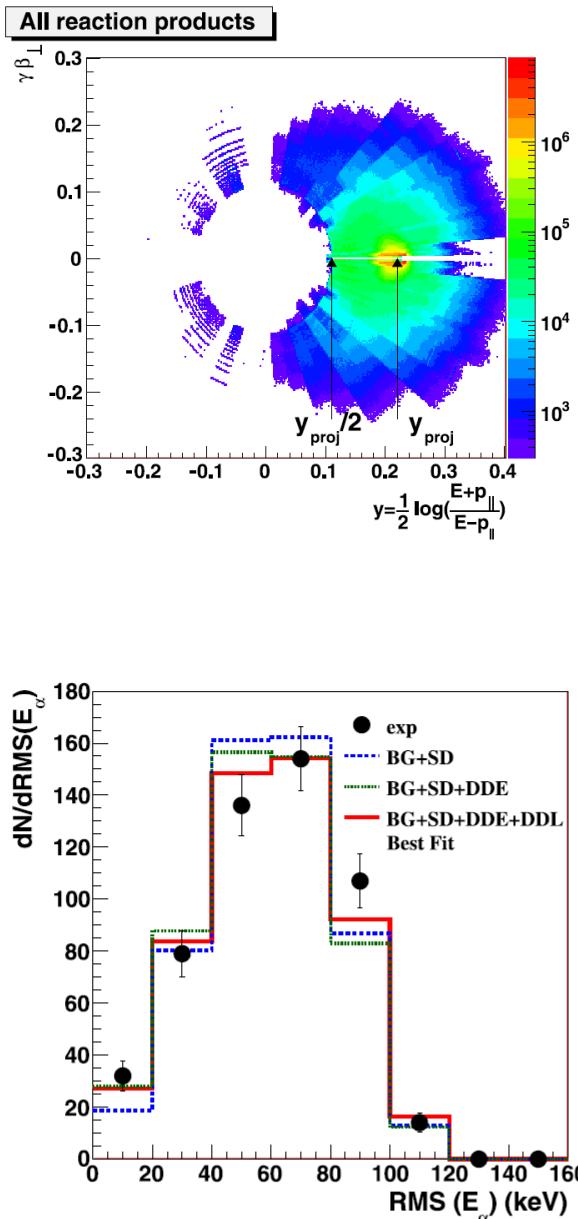
$$Y_{corr}(E_{rel}) = \frac{N}{\pi} e^{-E/T} \sum_i (2J_i + 1) \left[ \frac{\Gamma_i/2}{(E - E_i)^2 + \Gamma_i^2/4} \right];$$



R. Buompane et al, Phys. Lett. B 824 (2022)

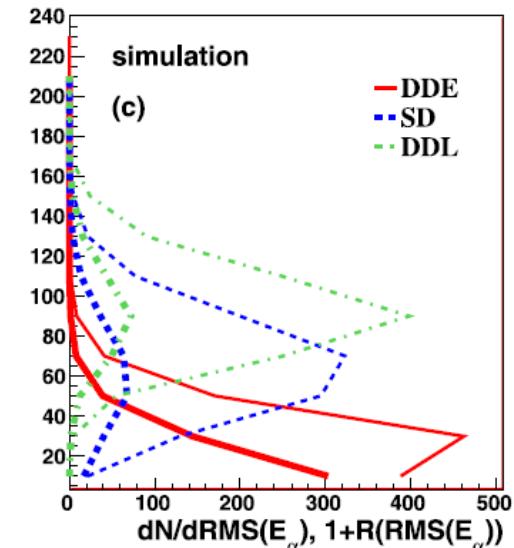
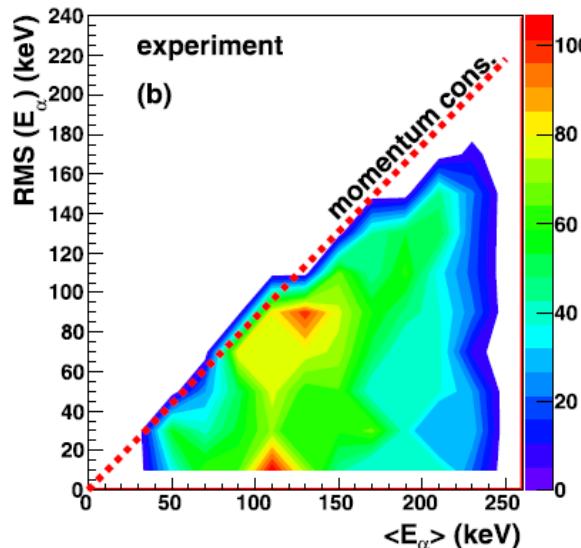
**Cluster state** of  $^{12}\text{C}$  located at 7.654 MeV ( $0^+$ ) → a pronounced cluster nature  
 → quite unusual and not well understood properties  
 → challenging open question in nuclear physics





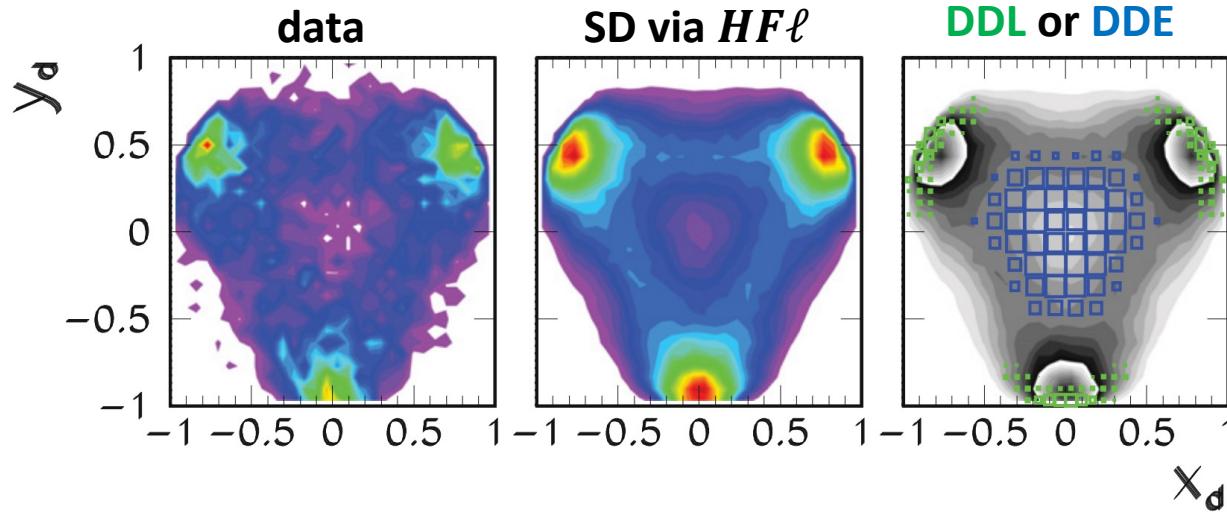
## CHIMERA experiment: $^{40}\text{Ca} + ^{12}\text{C}$ at 25 A MeV

- QP decay emission → peripheral collisions



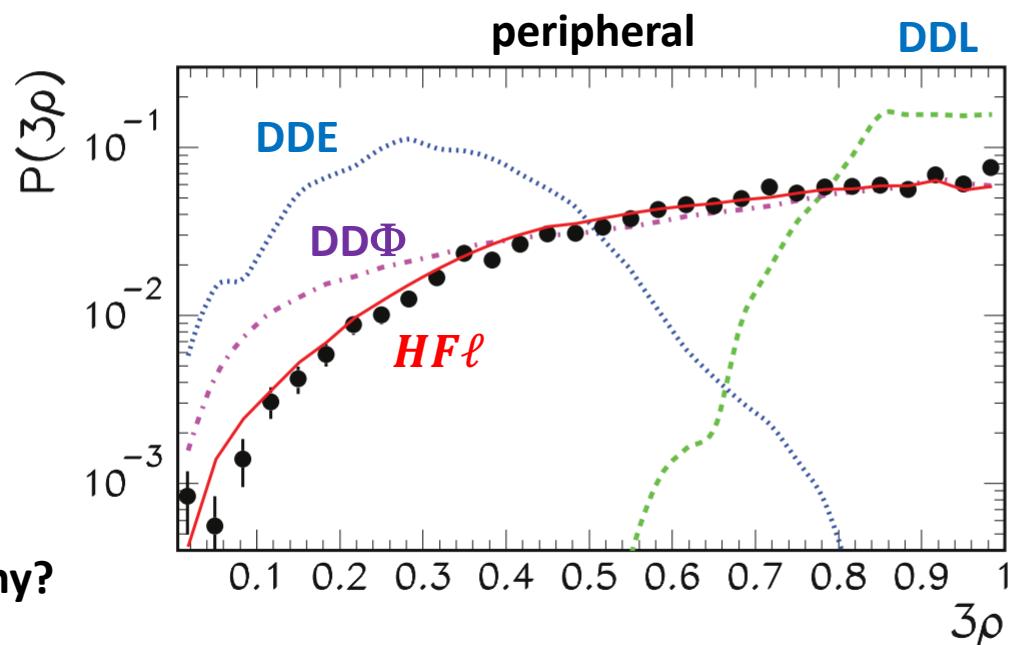
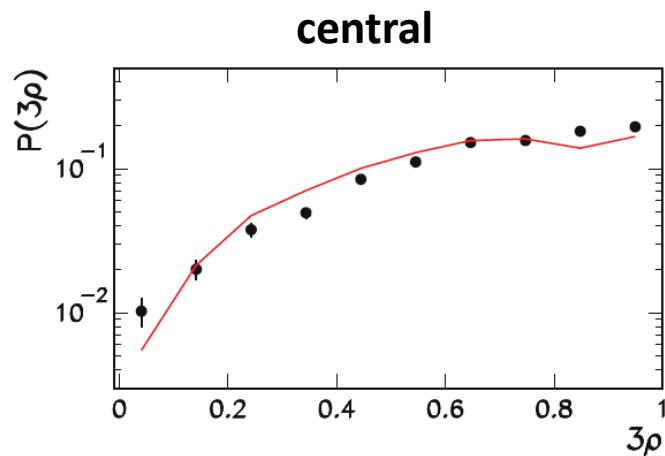
$7.5 \pm 4\% DDE !$

- «Hoyle» hypothesis (1953): 100 % SD
- Freer et al (1994): <4% DD
- Triggered an *intense campaign of measurements!*
- See the D. Dell'Aquila talk tomorrow

GARFIELD experiment:  $^{12}\text{C} + ^{12}\text{C}$  at  $\approx 8 \text{ A MeV}$ 

Sampling of multi alpha emission in the phase space:

- Peripheral
- Central (low statistics)

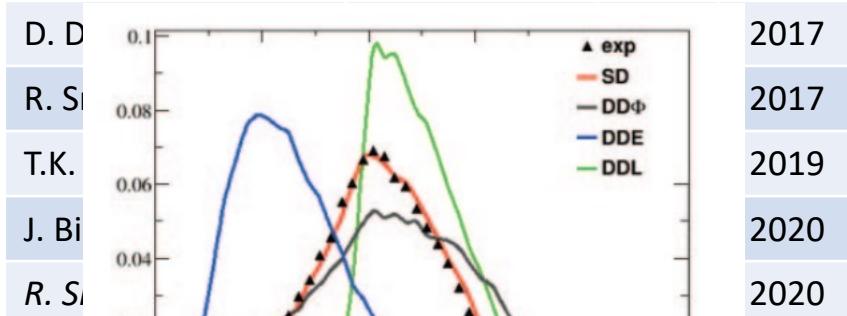


$$BR_{DD} = 1.1 \pm 0.8 \%$$

At smaller *dampings* → only U.L., why?

## A brief summary on the «rush»

Experiment	$\Gamma_{DD}/\Gamma (\%)$	type	year
M. Freer et al.	< 4	L.I.	1994
Ad.R. Raduta et al.	$17.0 \pm 5.0$	H.I.	2011
J. Manfredi et al.	< 3.9	H.I.	2012
O.S. Kirsebom et al.	< 0.5	L.I.	2012
T.K. Rana et al.	$0.91 \pm 0.14$	L.I.	2013
M. Itoh et al.	< 0.2	L.I.	2014
L. Morelli et al.	$1.1 \pm 0.8$	H.I.	2016

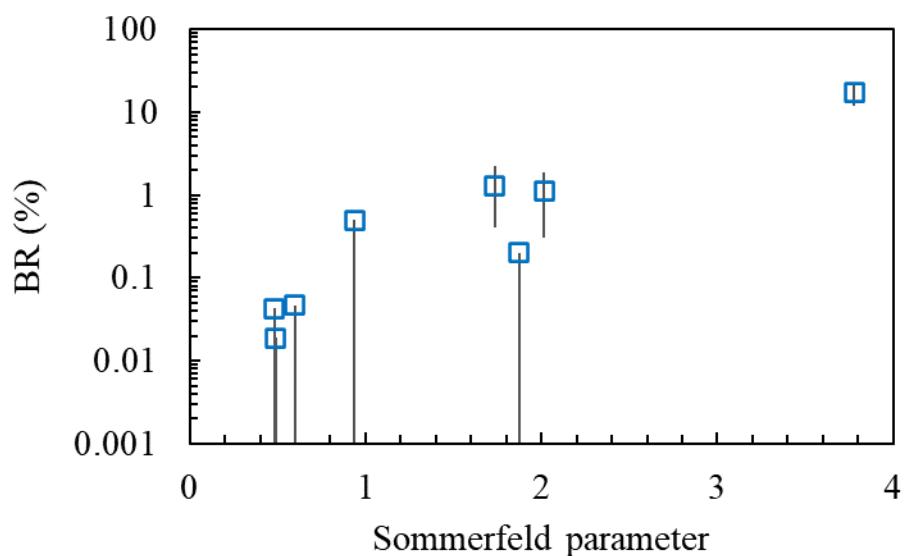
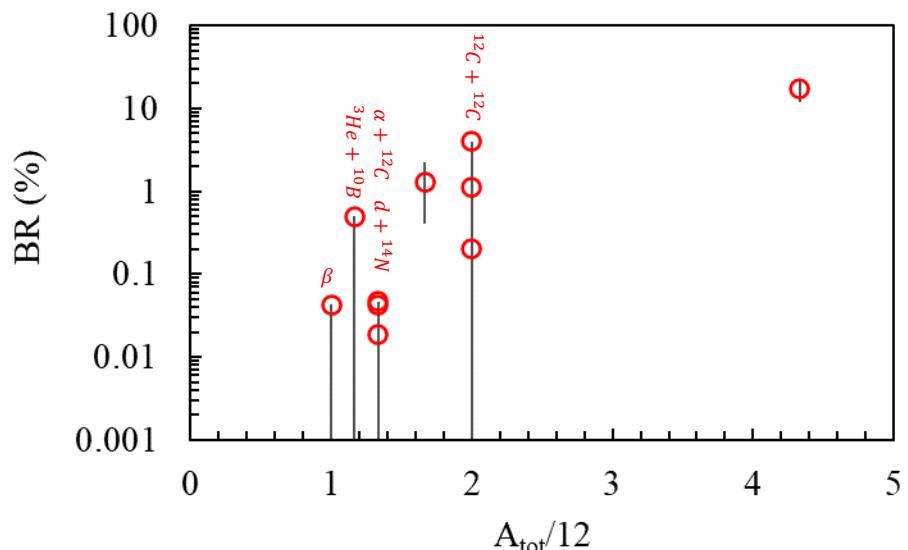


D. D  
R. S  
T.K.  
J. Bi  
R. S

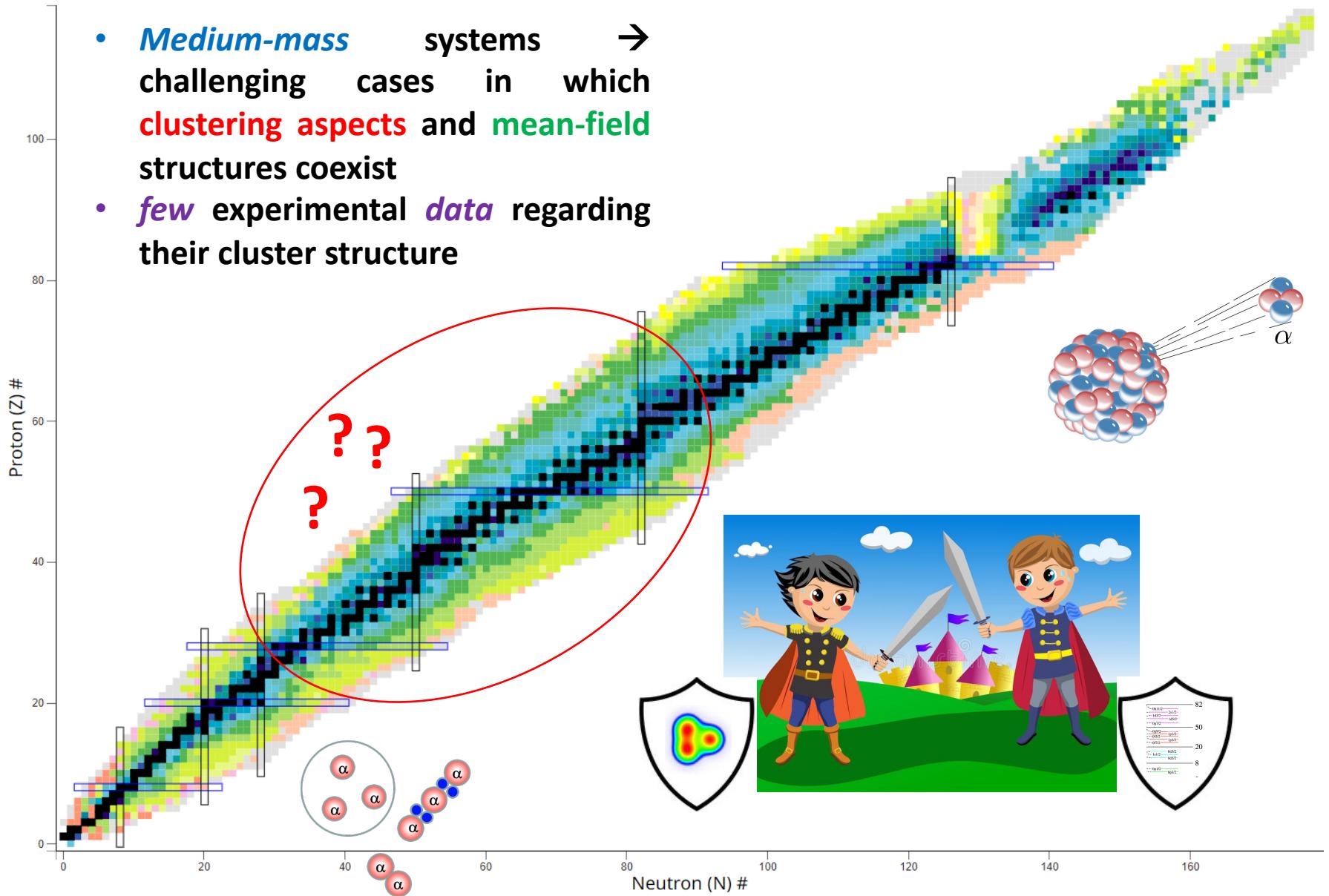
2017  
2017  
2019  
2020  
2020

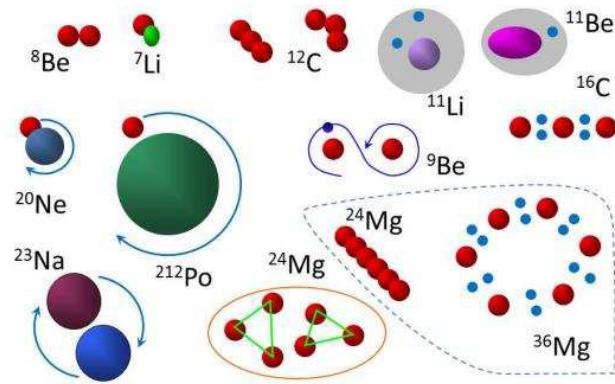
FAZIA data:  $^{20}\text{Ne} + ^{12}\text{C}$ , 25 A MeV

A. Rebillard et al, Nuovo Cim. C 45 (2022)

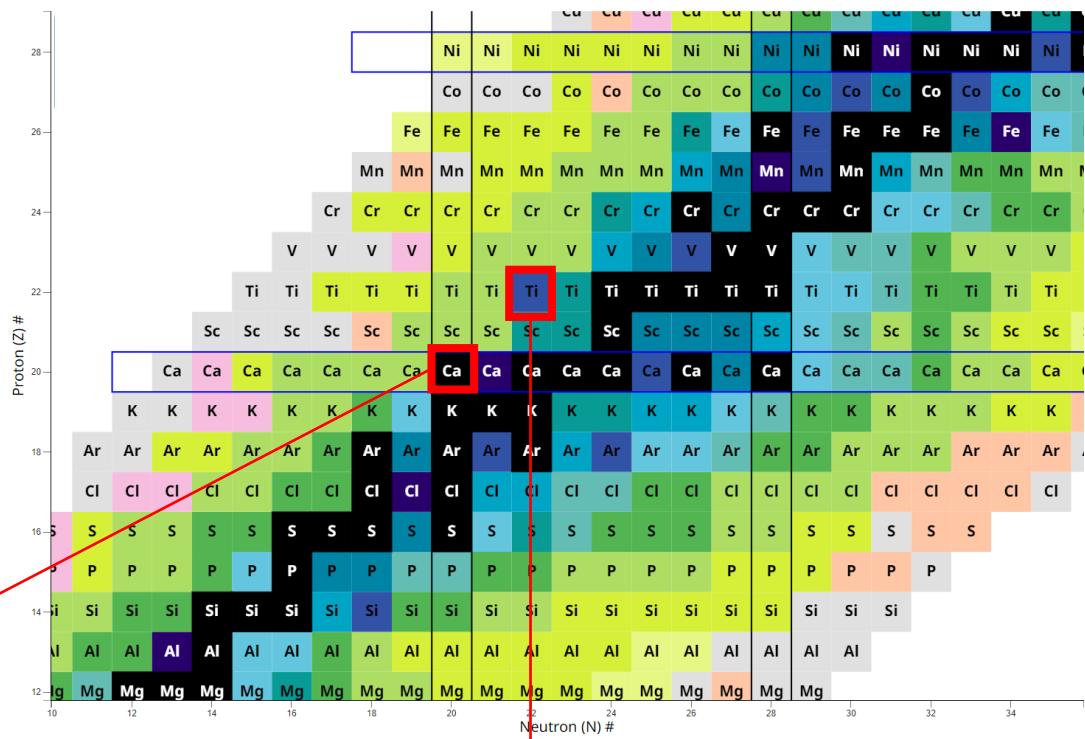


- **Medium-mass systems** → challenging cases in which **clustering aspects** and **mean-field structures** coexist
- **few experimental *data*** regarding their cluster structure

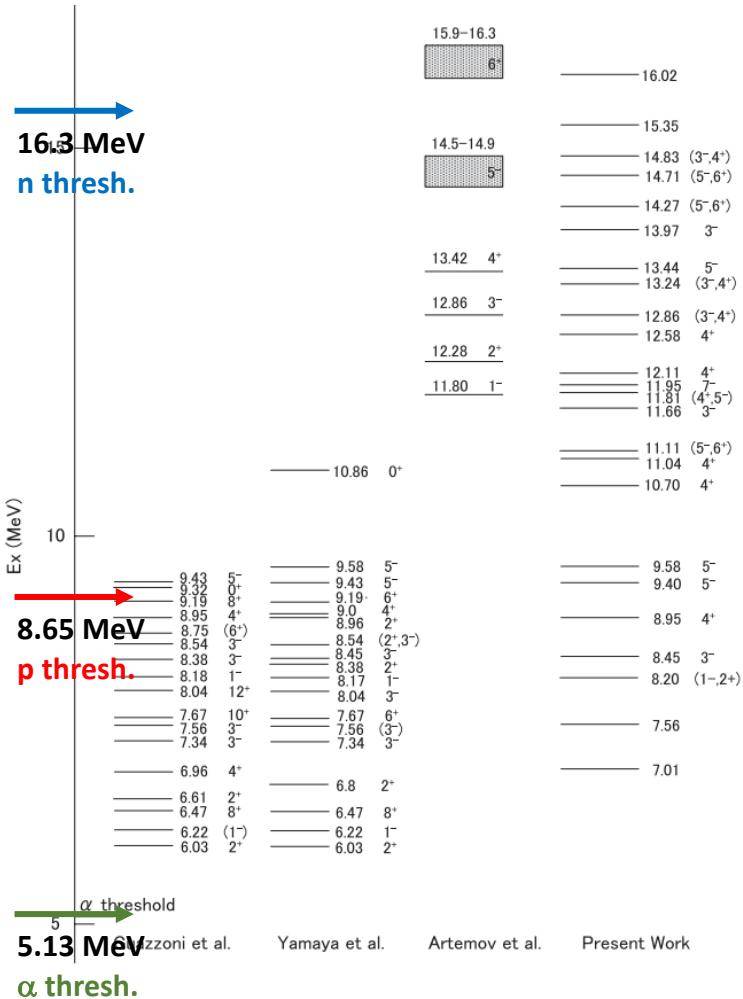




***<sup>40</sup>Ca, the last self-conjugate system to be stable***



- 1) To which degree ***clustering survives*** with increasing mass?
- 2) Could a strong ***Coulomb term*** modify or destroy clustering?
- 3) Could the presence of a ***doubly-magic core*** trigger the occurrence of clustering with an  $\alpha$  outside of the core?



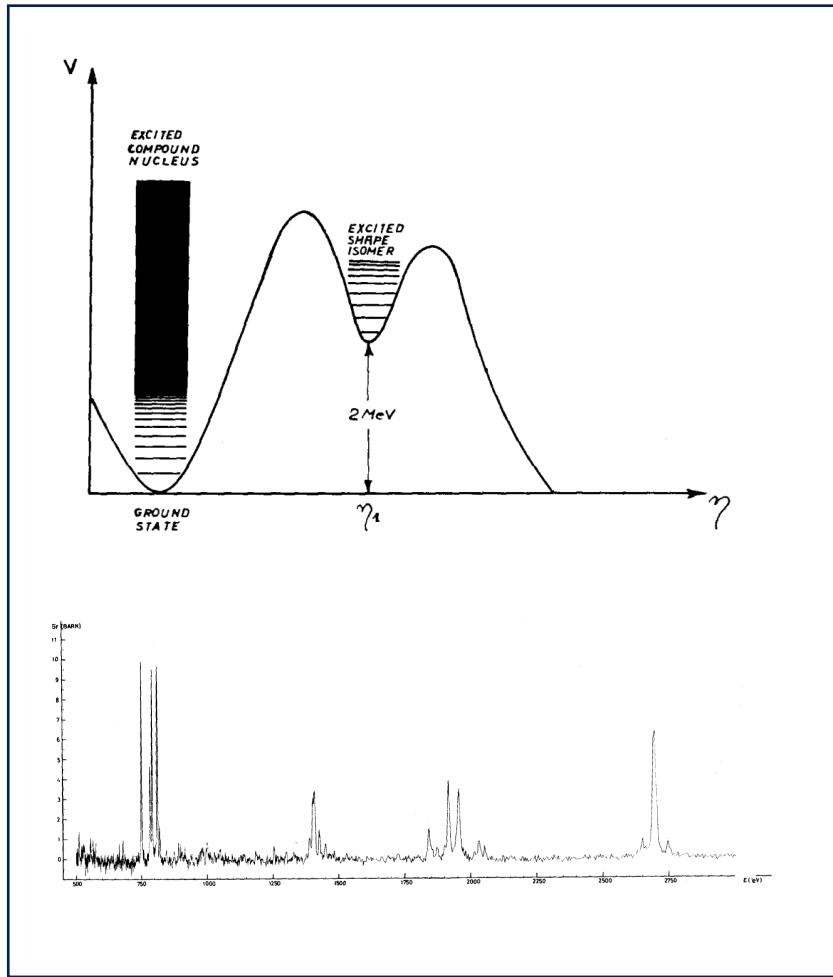
- T. Yamaya et al., *Phys. Rev. C* 42 (1990) 1953  
 M. Fukada et al., *Phys. Rev. C* 80 (2009) 064613  
 K.P. Artemov et al., *Phys. Atom. Nucl.* 58 (1995) 177  
 J. John et al., *Phys. Rev.* 177 (1969) 1755  
 D. Frekers et al., *Nucl. Phys. A* 394 (1983) 189

- new experiment at GANIL to probe  $^{44,48,52}\text{Ti}$  clustered states with Thick Target Inverse Kinematics (TTIK) RES
- $^{44,52}\text{Ti} \rightarrow$  doubly magic core +  $\alpha$ ?
- Too many resonances ( $E_x \simeq 10 - 17$  MeV) to perform an R-matrix calculation
- Novel methods needed to analyze data
- possible recurrent pattern on the excitation function? → modelling clustering in medium mass systems

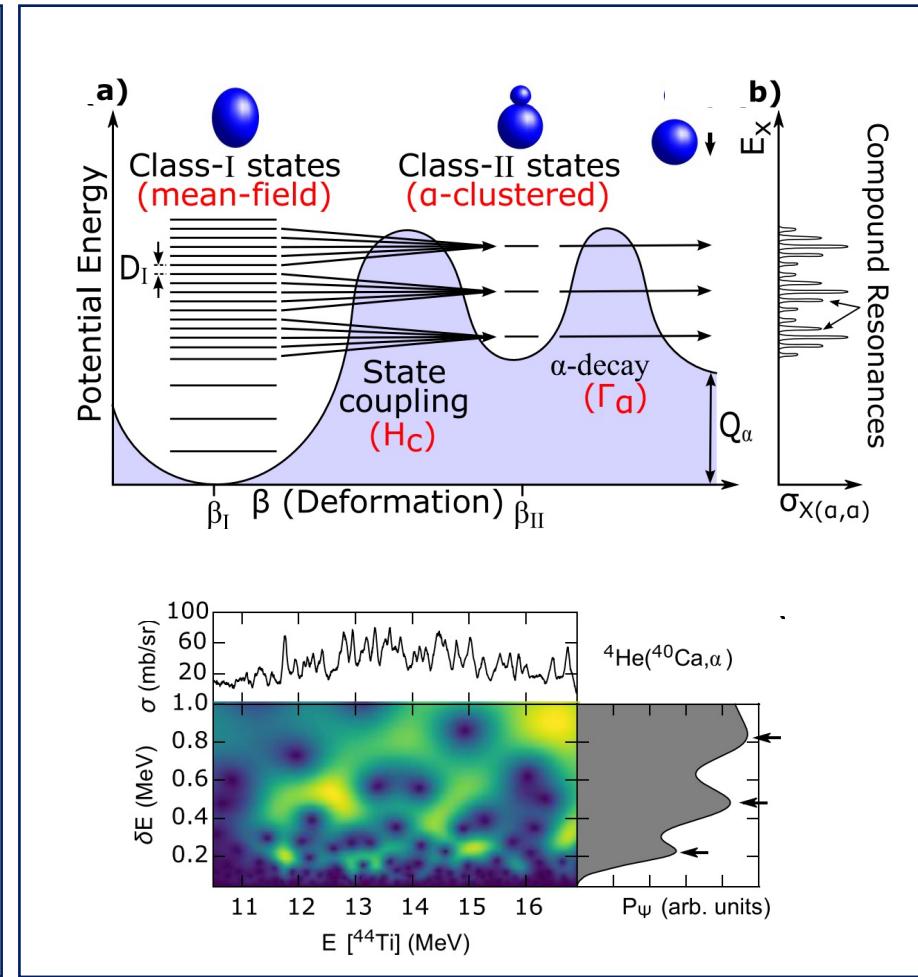
$^{44}\text{Ti}$

An interesting *analogy* comes from HI fission (V. Strutinsky, 1967)

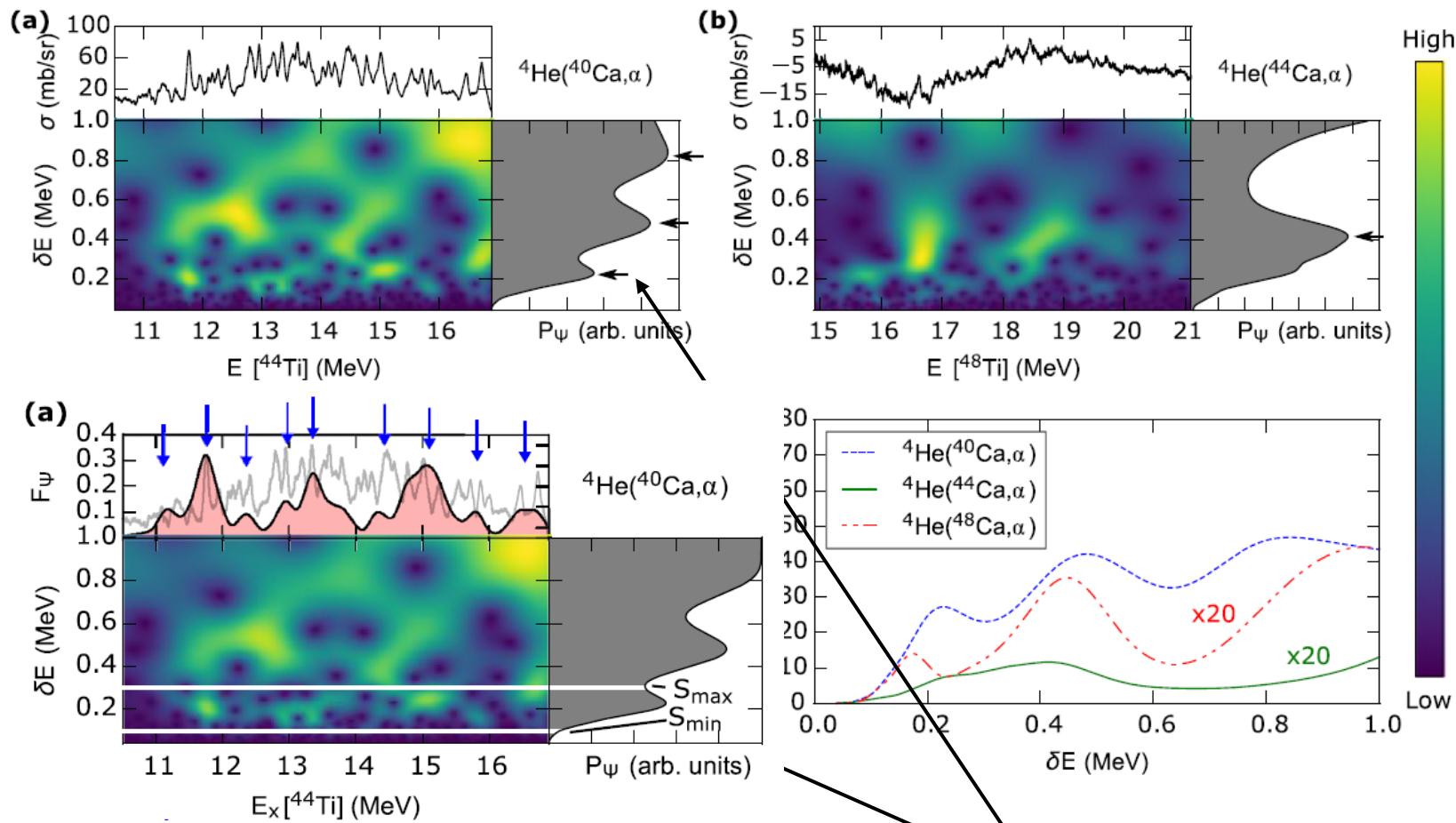
### *Sub-threshold fission of $^{240}\text{Pu}$*



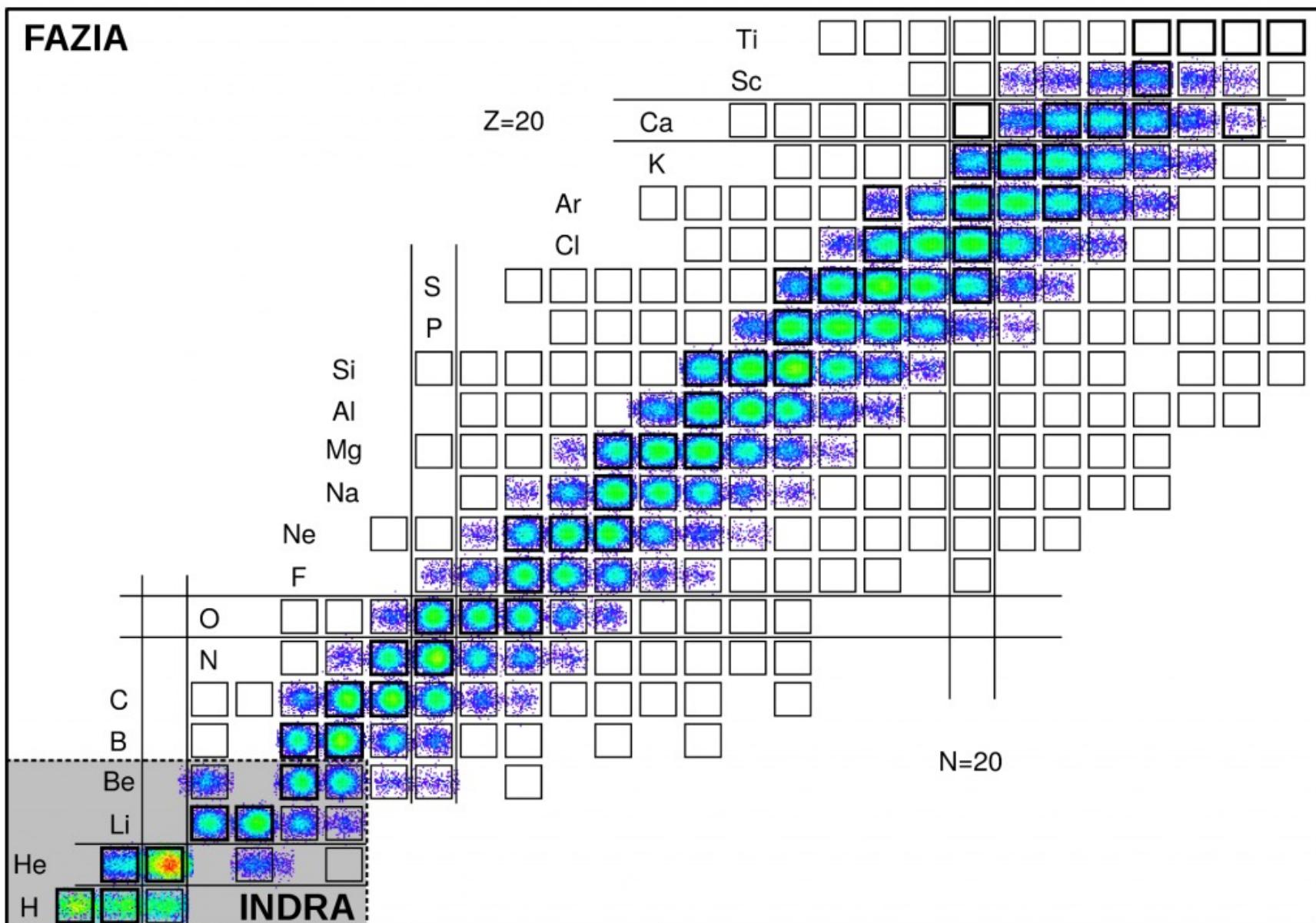
### *$^{44}\text{Ti}$ results from TTIK elastic scattering data*



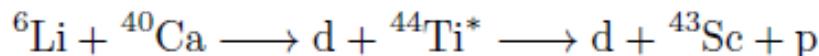
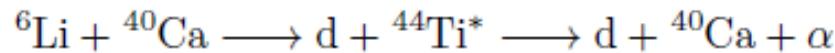
E. Migneco and J.P Theobald, NPA 112 (1968)

Energy *scale* analysis (CWT) of *spectrograms* associated to *RES cross sections*

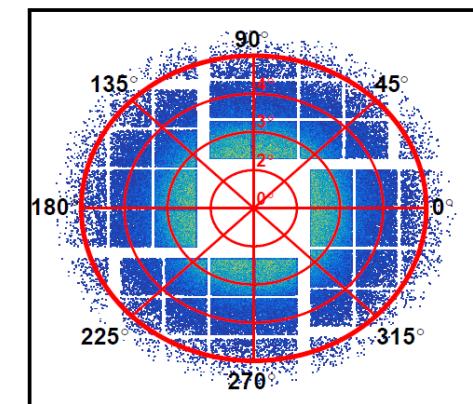
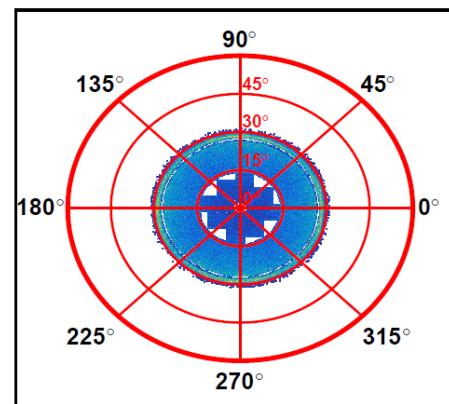
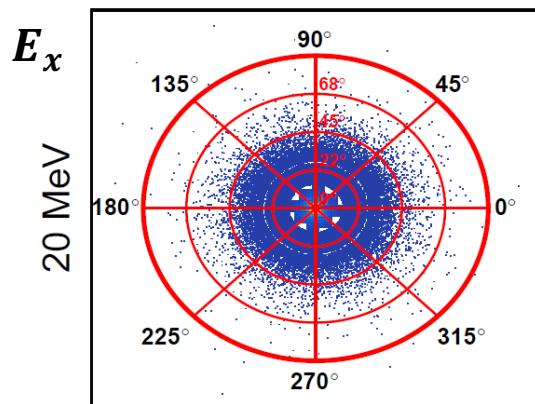
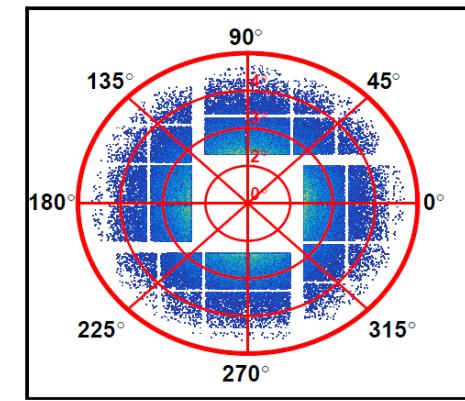
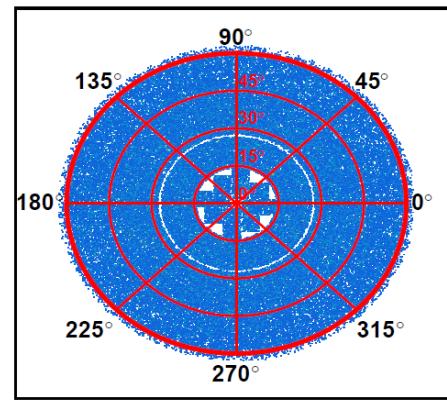
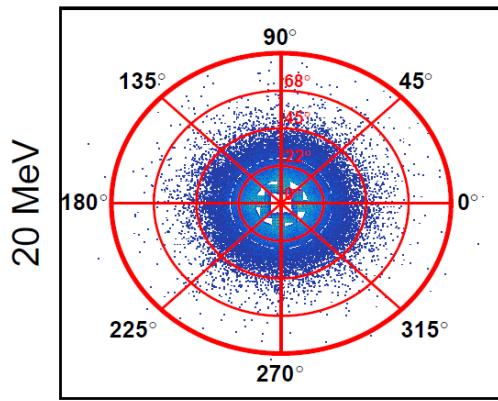
(broad)  $\alpha$  cluster states  $\rightarrow$  fragmented strengths  
Doubly magic core +  $\alpha$  cluster ?

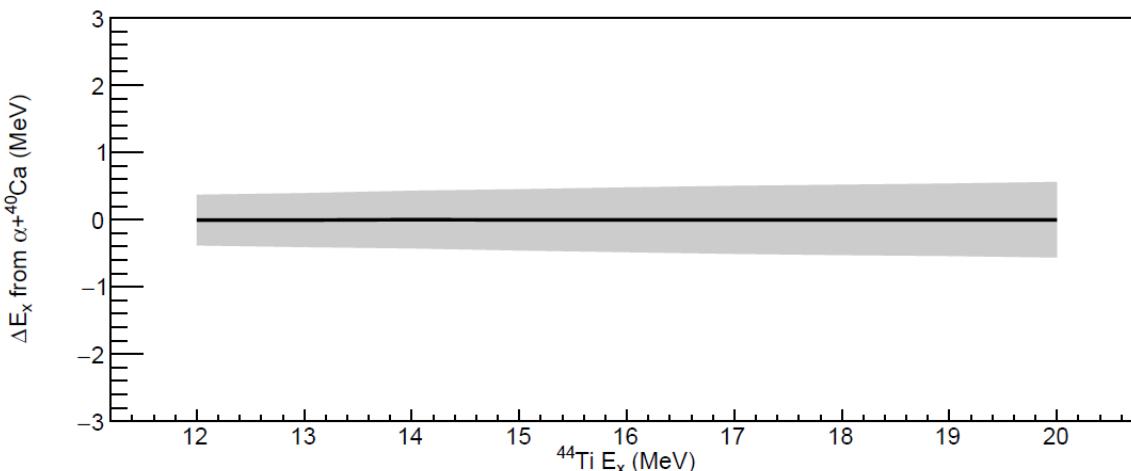


- $\alpha$ -transfer in inverse kinematics  $\rightarrow$   $^{40,42,44,48}\text{Ca}$  beams at Fermi energies on  $^6\text{Li}$  targets to populate  ${}^x\text{Ti}$  states
- particularly *selective* to possibly alpha-clustered states in  $^{44,48}\text{Ti}$
- investigate *all* energetically allowed *decay channels*, thanks to the identification capabilities of INDRA-FAZIA

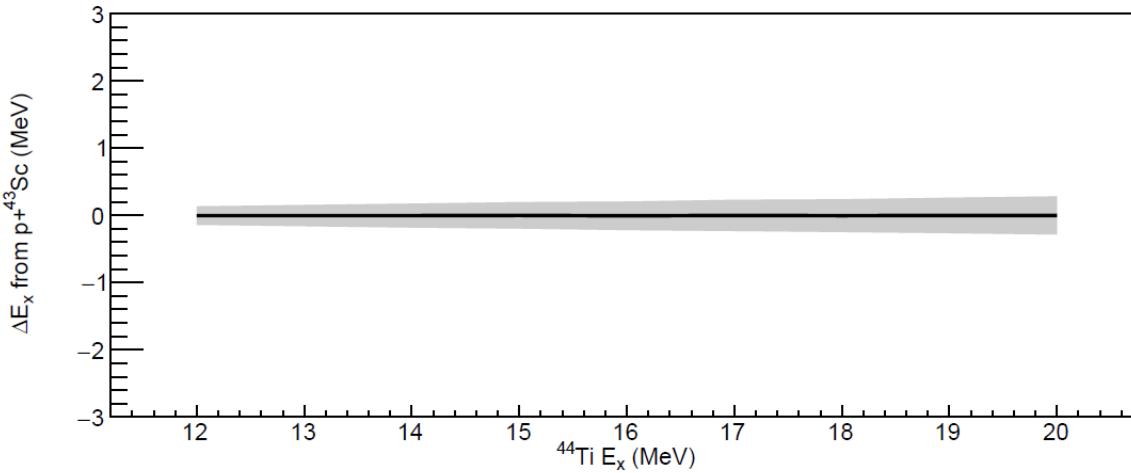
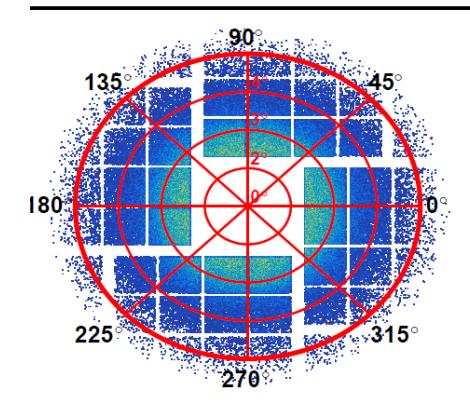


- The  $\Gamma_\alpha/\Gamma$  branching ratios can be used as a *direct* indication of the formation of  $\alpha+{}^{40}\text{Ca}$  clustered states  $\rightarrow$  novelty for mid-mass nuclei at large Ex!
- BR distribution in the ROI of Ex from 12 MeV to 20 MeV
- fully reconstructed events (*triple-coincidences*), to reduce the background from contaminant processes
- To probe the feasibility of the experiment  $\rightarrow$  a set of detailed Monte Carlo simulations that account for the geometry and performance of INDRA-FAZIA

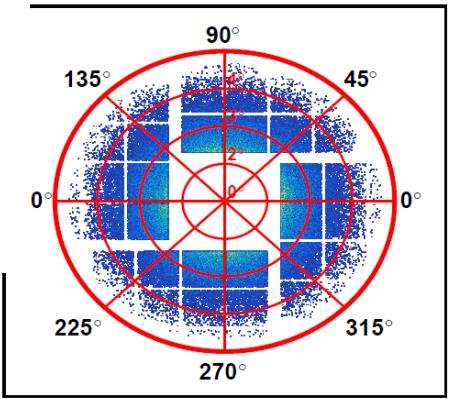
Polar coordinates plots for triple-coincidence events involving  $\alpha$ -decay of  $^{44}\text{Ti}$ Polar coord. plots for triple-coincidence events involving proton-decay of  $^{44}\text{Ti}$ 



Living  $\alpha$ -decay of  ${}^{44}\text{Ti}$



proton-decay of  ${}^{44}\text{Ti}$



## **Heavy ion physics** at intermediate energies ( $\approx 10 - 200$ A MeV) and clustering:

- Impact of clustering on *reaction mechanism competition* (CF, ICF ..)
- Cluster formation in very dilute environments → HIC, medium effect
- Impact of clustering in nuclear dynamics → Symmetry energy, xs-scales
- Chemical equilibrium and EOS for dilute matter
- Cluster decay of highly excited self-conjugate nuclei (many  $\alpha$  decay)
- HIC and particle-particle correlations → spectroscopy!
- HIC and Hoyle state → still open questions
- HIC multi-detectors as tool for  $\alpha$ -transfer reactions → medium mass nuclei
- ... and many other beautiful features!