

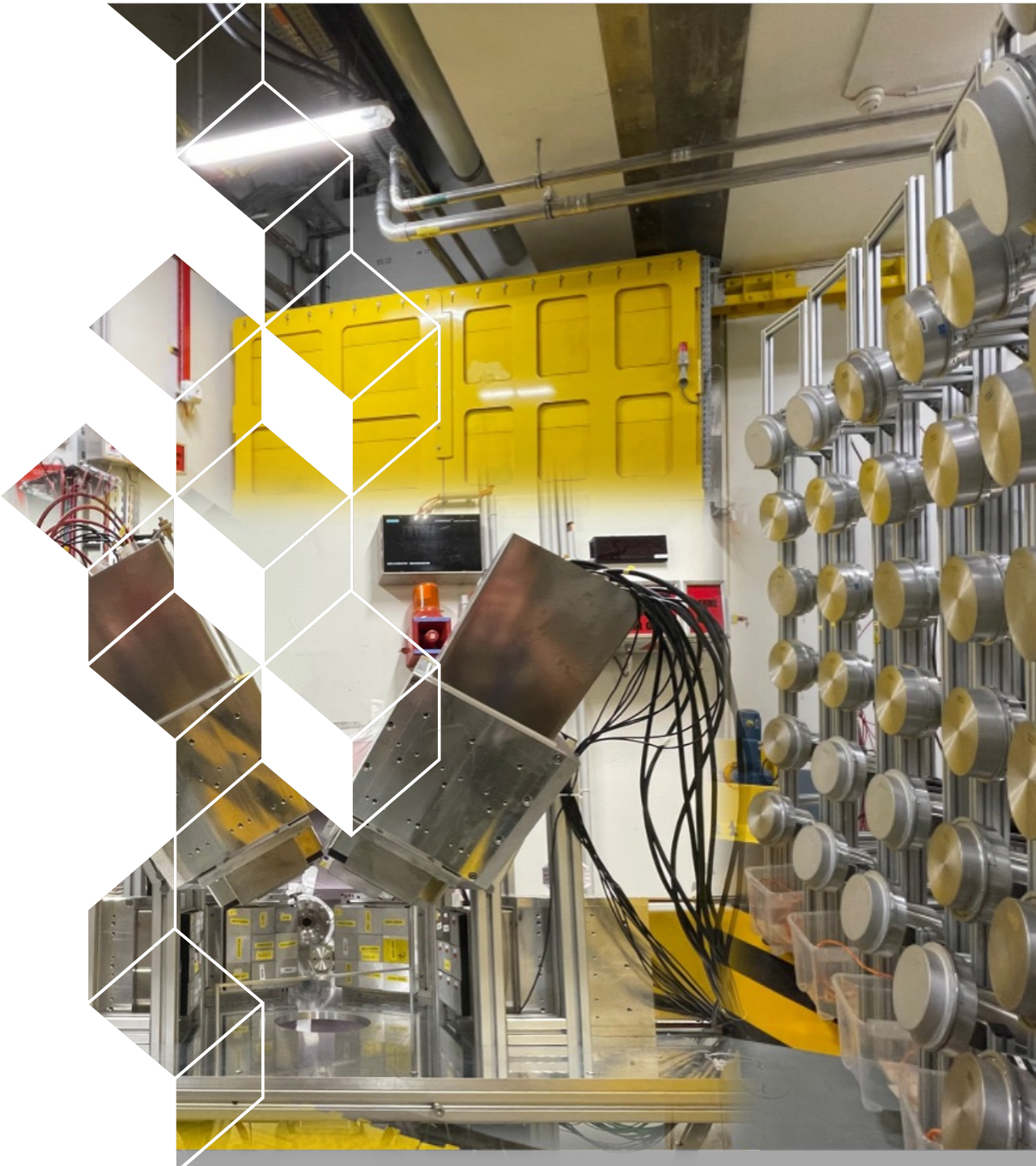


irfu

**Nuclear structure inputs to  
constrain the symmetry energy  
– The complex pattern of the  
pygmy resonance**

NUSYM 2024

Marine Vandebrouck





**Notice before starting:  
There is a overlap with Nunzia Martorana's talk**

## **Outline**

- **Nuclear structure inputs to constrain EoS, easy or not?**
- **Complex pattern of PDR, what are we probing with the different reactions?**
- **Illustration with (n,n') reaction**



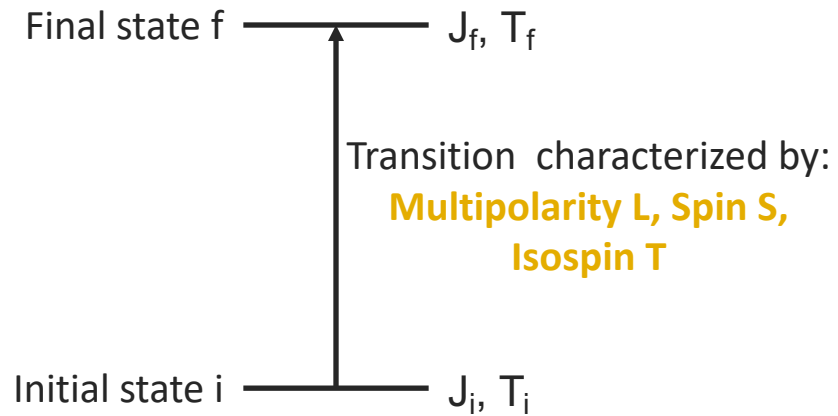
# **Nuclear structure inputs to constrain EoS, easy or not?**

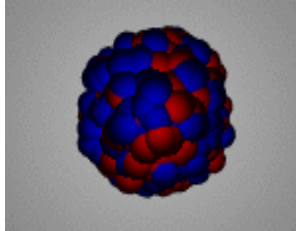
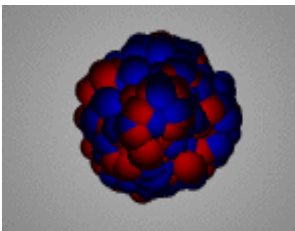
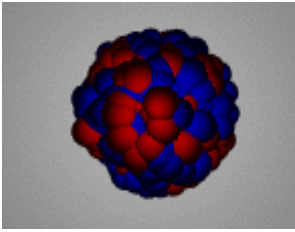
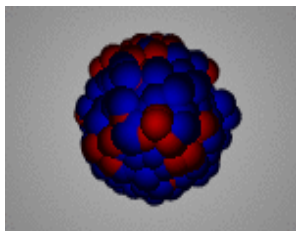
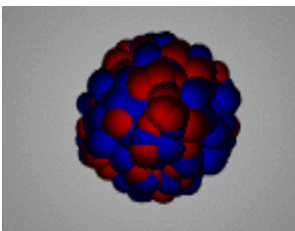
# On the nuclear structure side



## Giant resonances (GR)

- Giant resonances are **collective excitation modes** characterized by different **quantum numbers**



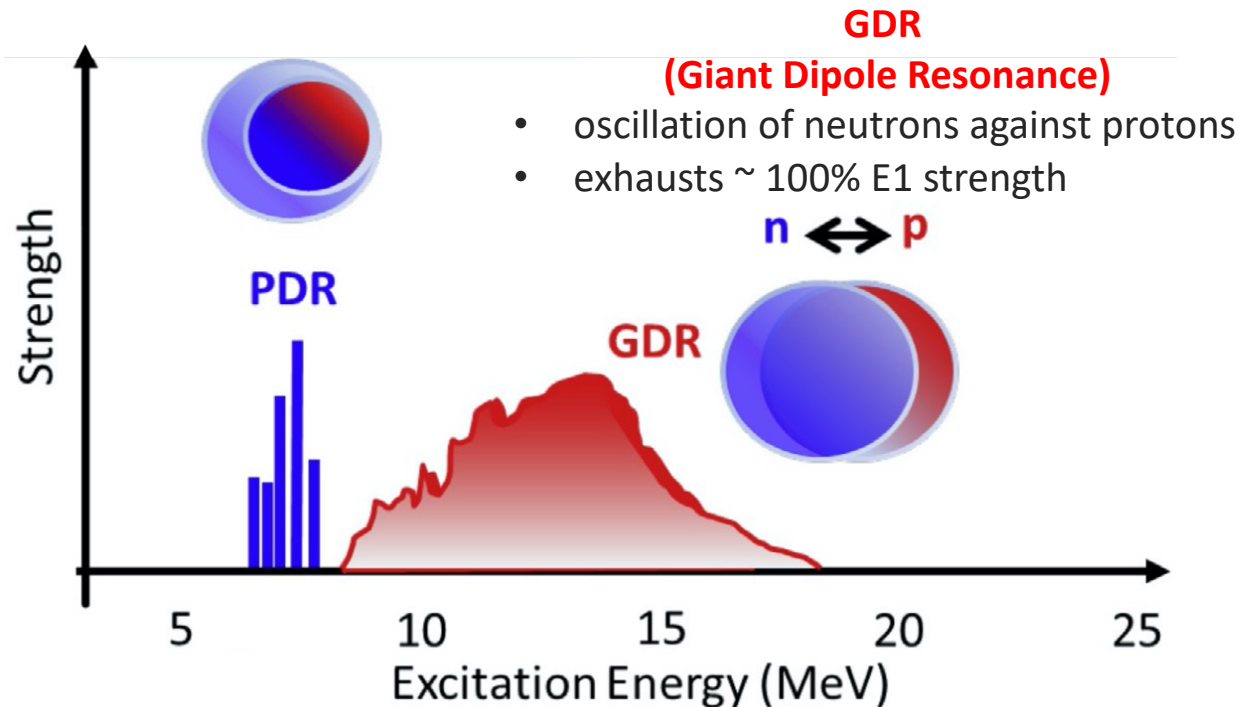
Electric ( $S = 0$ ) GR	$T = 0$ isoscalar	$T = 1$ isovectorial
$L = 0$ monopole (GMR)		
$L = 1$ dipole (GDR)		
$L = 2$ quadrupole (GQR)		

# On the nuclear structure side

## The pygmy dipole resonance (PDR)

### PDR (Pygmy Dipole Resonance)

- oscillation of a neutron skin against a symmetric proton/neutron core
- additional E1 strength at lower energy



- ### GDR (Giant Dipole Resonance)
- oscillation of neutrons against protons
  - exhausts  $\sim 100\%$  E1 strength

Figure extracted from A. Bracco *et al.* Prog. Part. Nucl. Phys. 106 (2019)

➤ Many experiments performed, in different nuclei, using different probes ... have revealed a complex structure of the PDR

- Today, still open questions related to:
- the collectivity
  - nature of the  $1^-$  states (isoscalar/isovector)  
⇒ “isospin splitting” phenomenon
  - different behavior in stable and unstable nuclei

... see N. Martorana’s talk

➤ ⚠ PDR definition



# On the equation of state (EoS) side

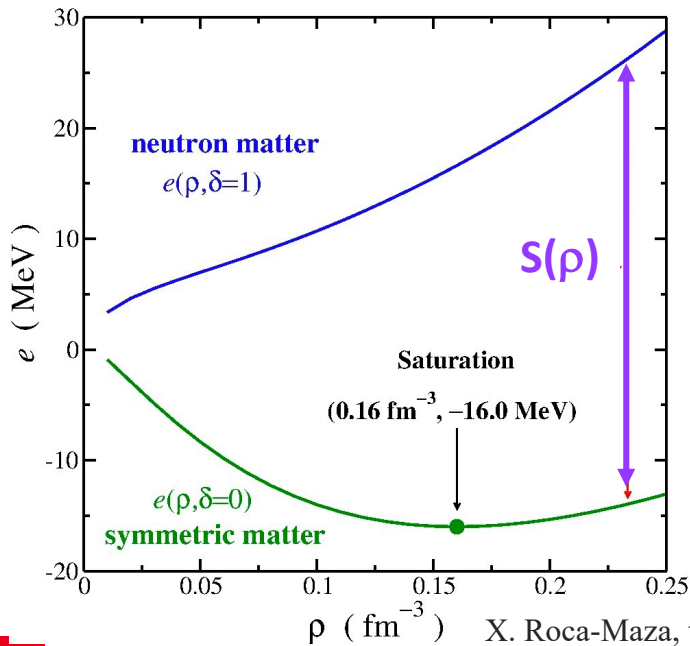
- EoS describes the energy per nucleon in nuclear matter (infinite nuclear system) as a function of the density ( $\rho$ ) and the asymmetry ( $\delta$ )

$$\frac{E}{A} = (E_0 + E_{sym}\delta^2) + L_{sym}x\delta^2 + \frac{1}{2}(K_0 + K_{sym}\delta^2)x^2 + \dots$$

$$x = \frac{\rho - \rho_0}{3\rho_0} \quad I = \delta = \frac{\rho_n - \rho_p}{\rho_n + \rho_p}$$

$E_{sym}$  = Symmetry energy,  $L_{sym}$  = Slope of the symmetry energy

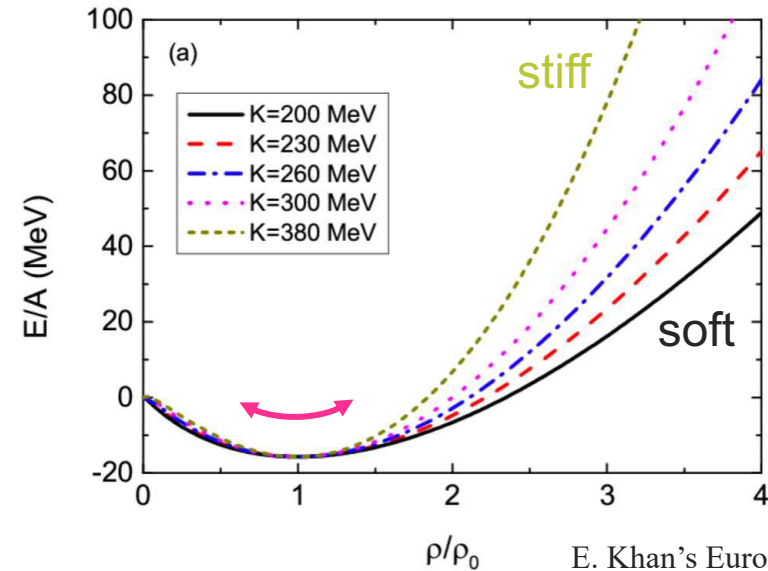
$K_0 = K$  = Incompressibility of symmetric nuclear matter



$$S(\rho) = E_{sym} + L_{sym}x + \frac{1}{2}K_{sym}x^2 + \dots$$

Sensitivity to the IVGDR/PDR strength and dipole polarizability

see N. Martorana's talk



Sensitivity to the ISGMR

E. Khan's Euroschool lecture 2023

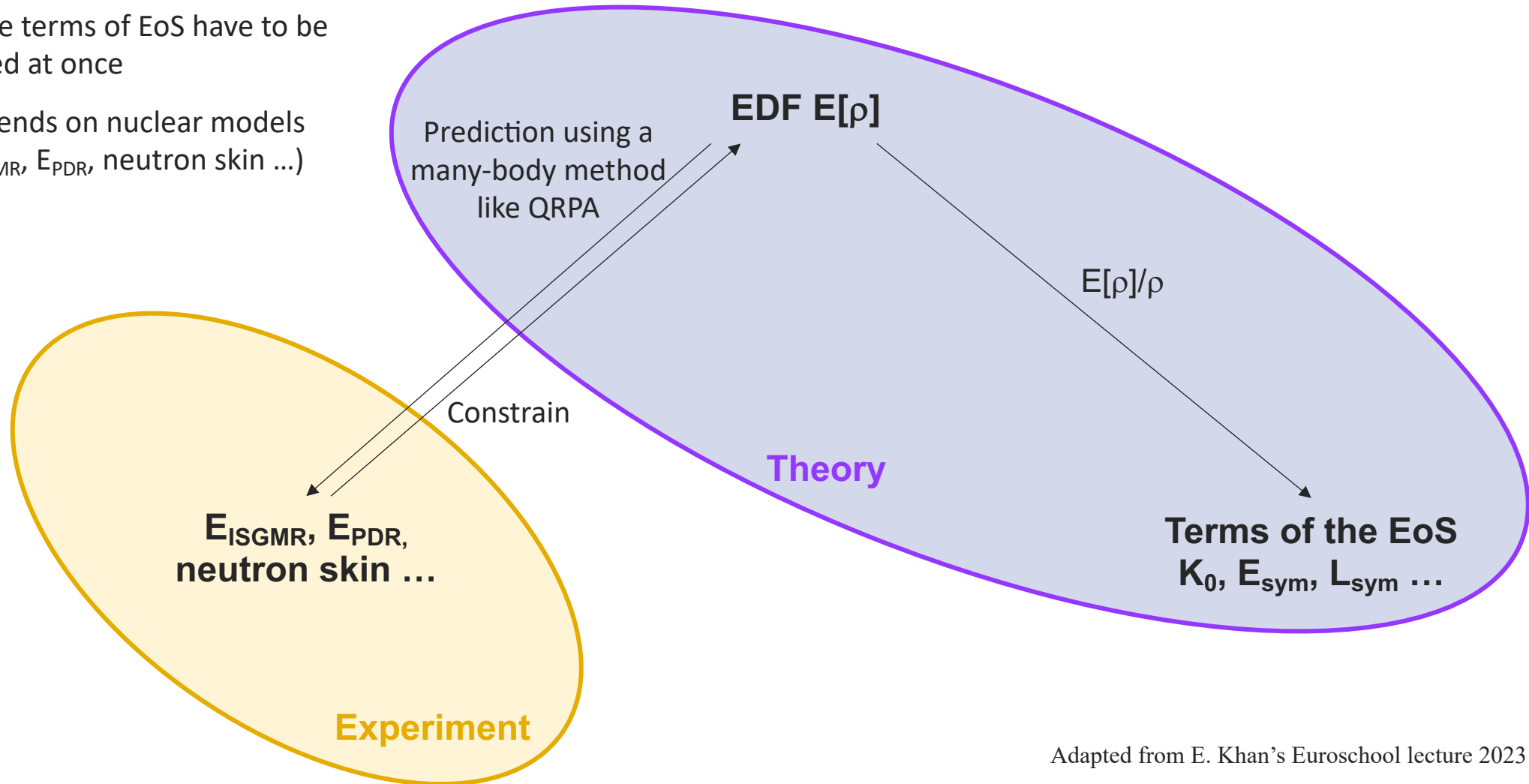
# How link GR and EoS?

- A microscopic method to constrain EoS using energy density functional approach (EDF)

⇒ Limitations: all the terms of EoS have to be correctly predicted at once

⇒ Method that depends on nuclear models (from EDF to  $E_{\text{ISGMR}}$ ,  $E_{\text{PDR}}$ , neutron skin ...)

**NOT EASY !**



Adapted from E. Khan's Euroschool lecture 2023



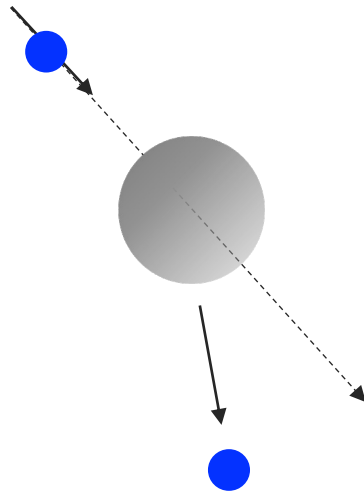
# **Complex pattern of PDR, what are we probing with the different reactions?**



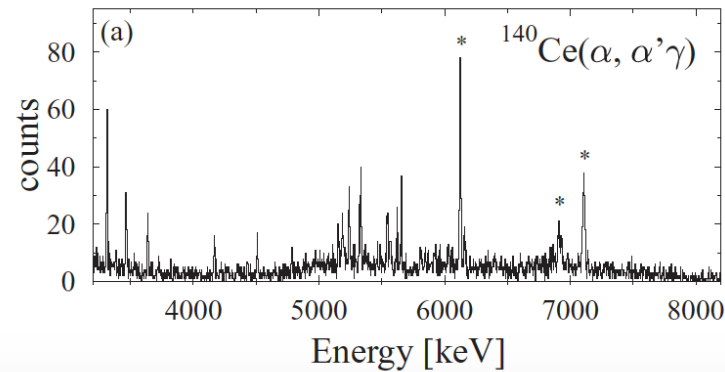
# What is the nature of a nuclear excitation ?

In other words :  
How protons and neutrons contribute to  
the excitation strength ?

**Tool**  
scattering reaction



**Observables**  
Excitation energy,  $E_\gamma$  and cross section



D. Savran *et al.* Phys. Lett. B 786 (2018)



**Interpretation**  
Comparison to microscopic calculations

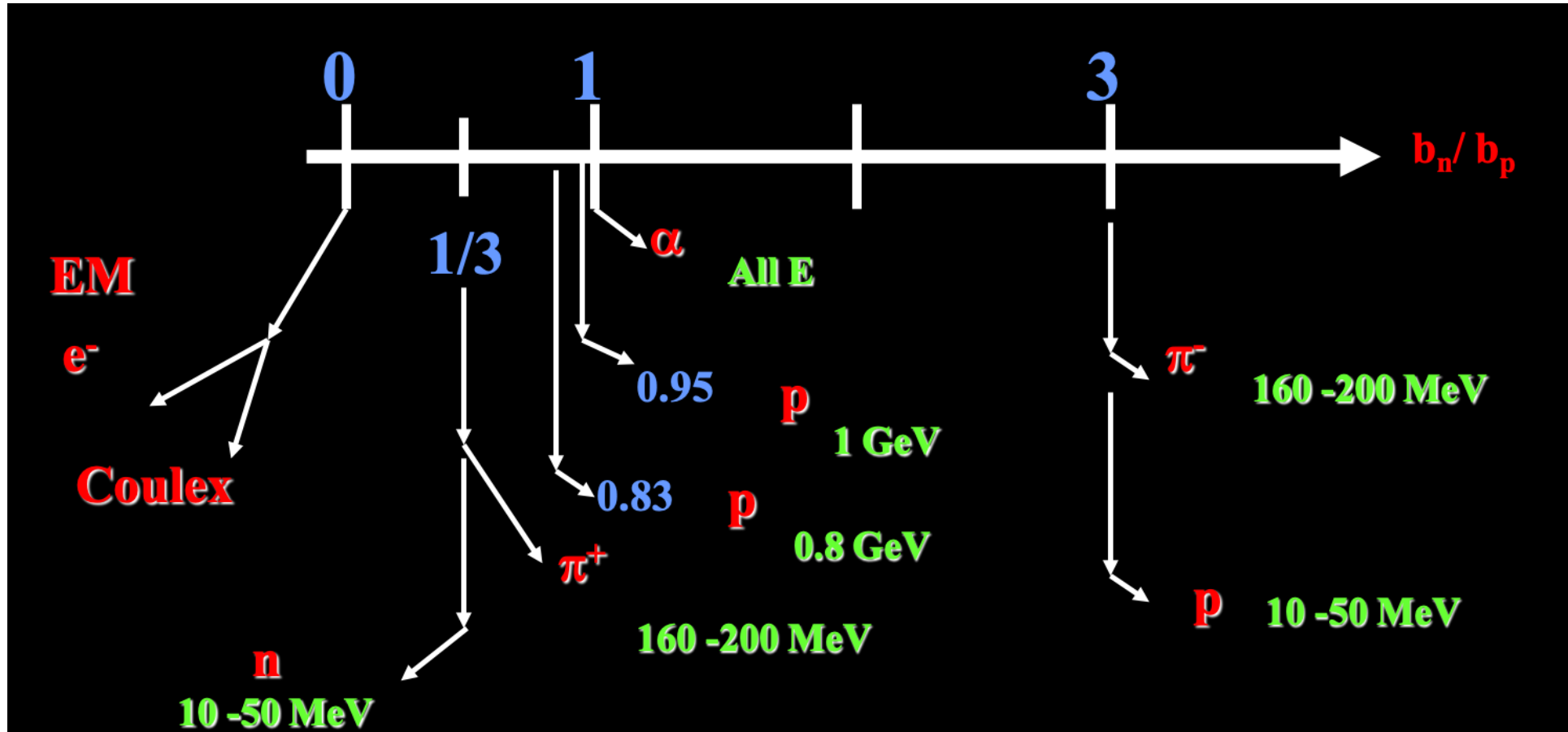
$$M_{p(n)} = \int \rho_{fi}^{p(n)}(r) r^{L+2} dr$$

$M$        $L$   
 Multipole moment      Multipolarity of the transition

$\rho$   
 Transition density

# Complementarity of the scattering experiments

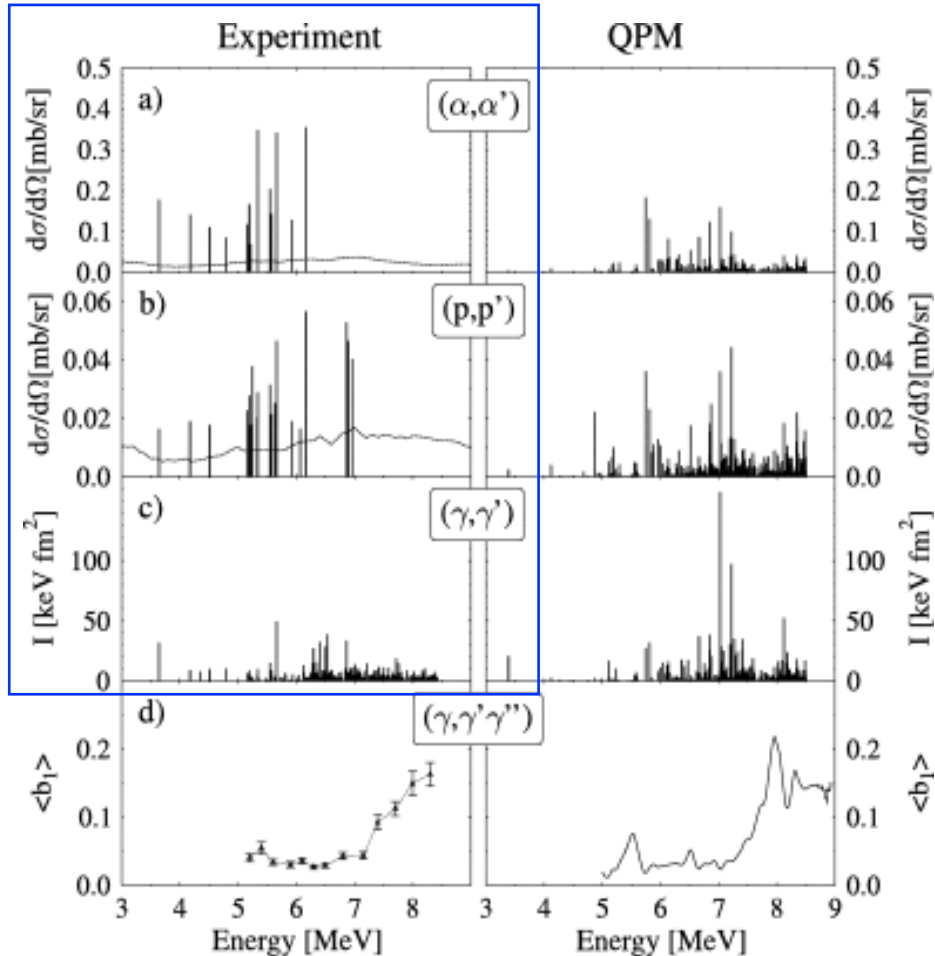
During a scattering experiment, a linear combination of  $M_n$  and  $M_p$  is probed :  $M = b_n M_n + b_p M_p$   
 $b_{n,p}$  are the interaction strengths between the external field and  $n,p$  of the nucleus



A. Bernstein *et al.* Phys. Lett. B 103, 255 (1981)  
 E. Khan, Phys. Rev. C 105, 014306 (2022)

# Illustration of the isospin splitting phenomenon

$^{140}\text{Ce}$



D. Savran *et al.* Phys. Lett. B 786 (2018)

Isoscalar probes → 4-6 MeV

Proton probe → selected states

Electromagnetic probe → 4-8 MeV

If several models are able to reproduce E1 strength at lower energy than the GDR, they do not agree on the fine structure

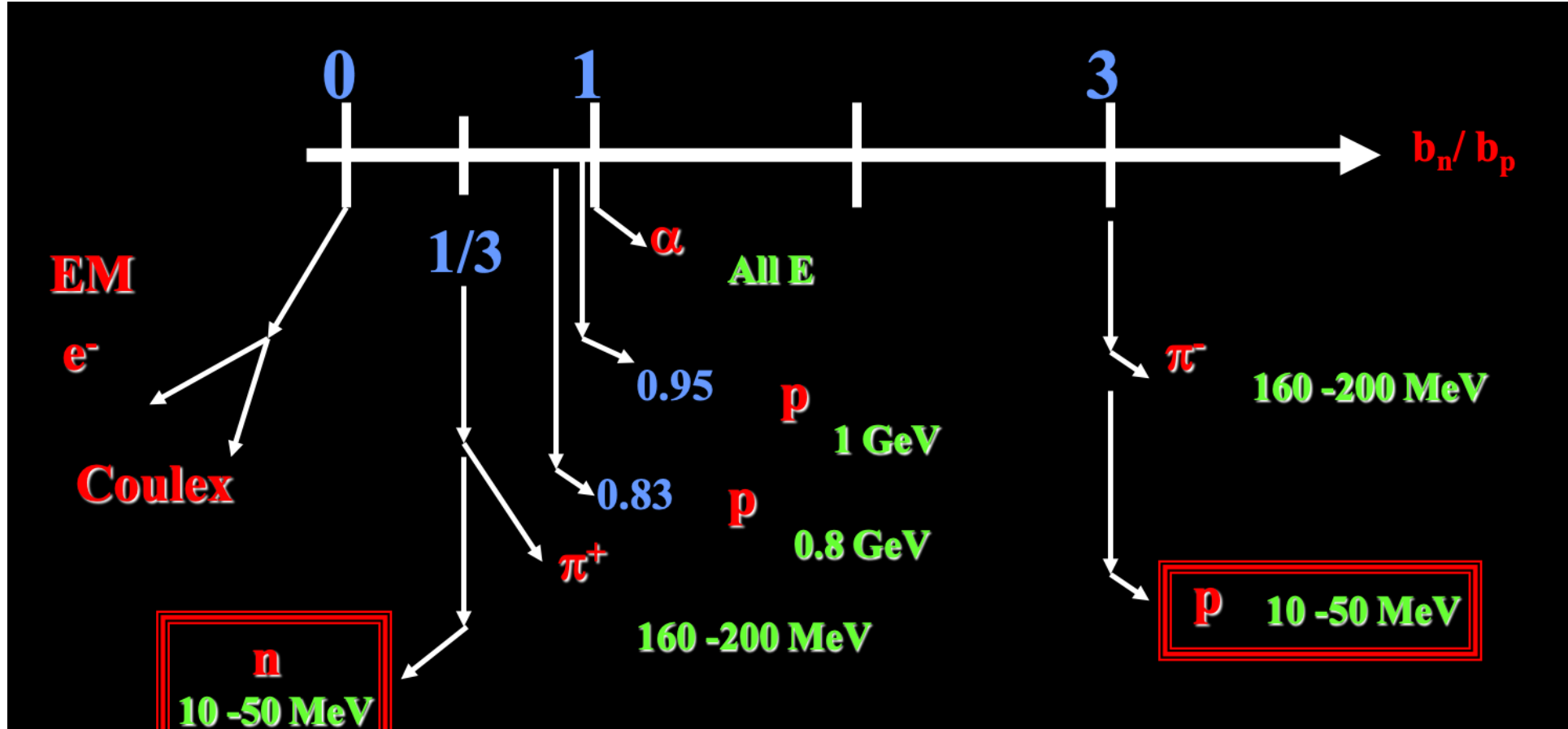
**New probes are necessary to resolve the complexity of the isospin character of the PDR**

→ study PDR using  $(n, n')$  for the first time  
Experiment performed in 2022 at SPIRAL2/NFS

# Goal of the PDR study using (n,n')

WHY is it interesting ? (n,n') is an elementary probe:

- which does not require Coulomb correction
- complementary to (p,p') and to other reactions

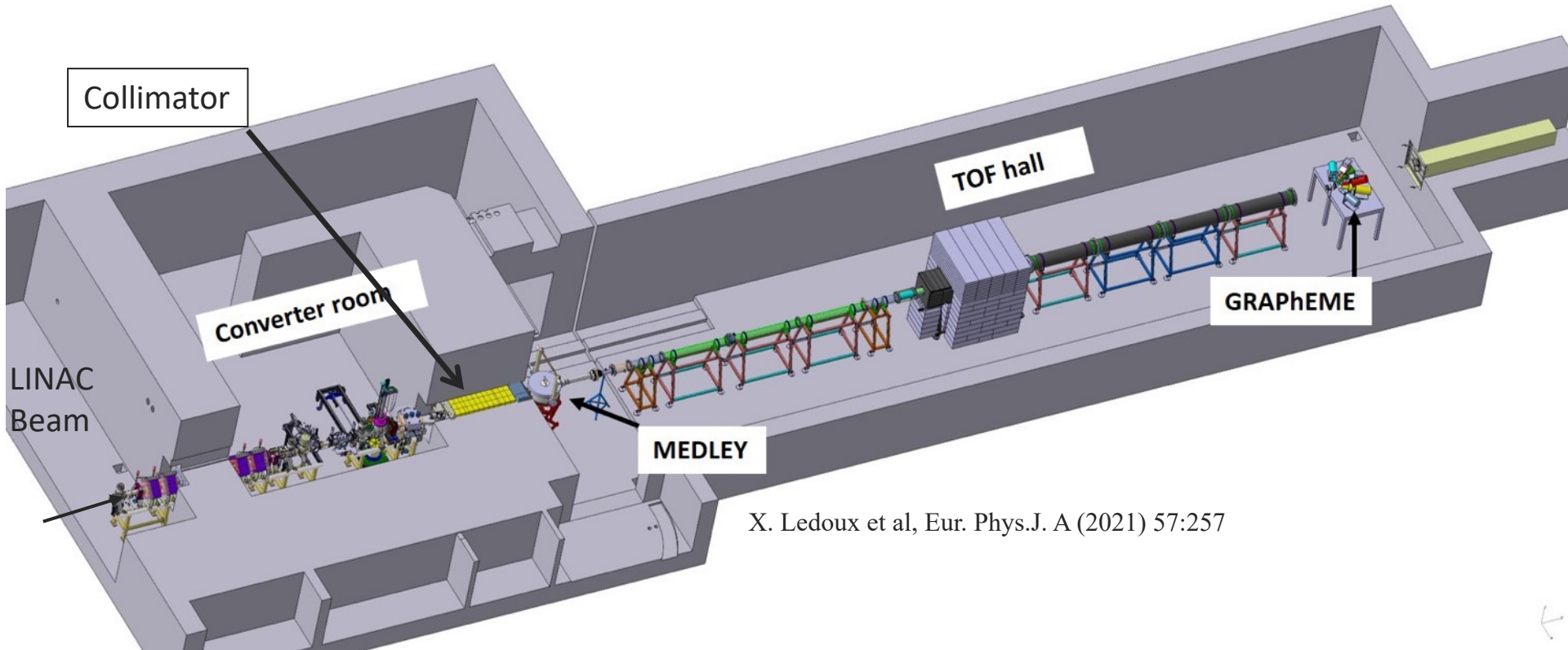


A. Bernstein *et al.* Phys. Lett. B 103, 255 (1981)  
E. Khan, Phys. Rev. C 105, 014306 (2022)



# Illustration with (n,n') reaction

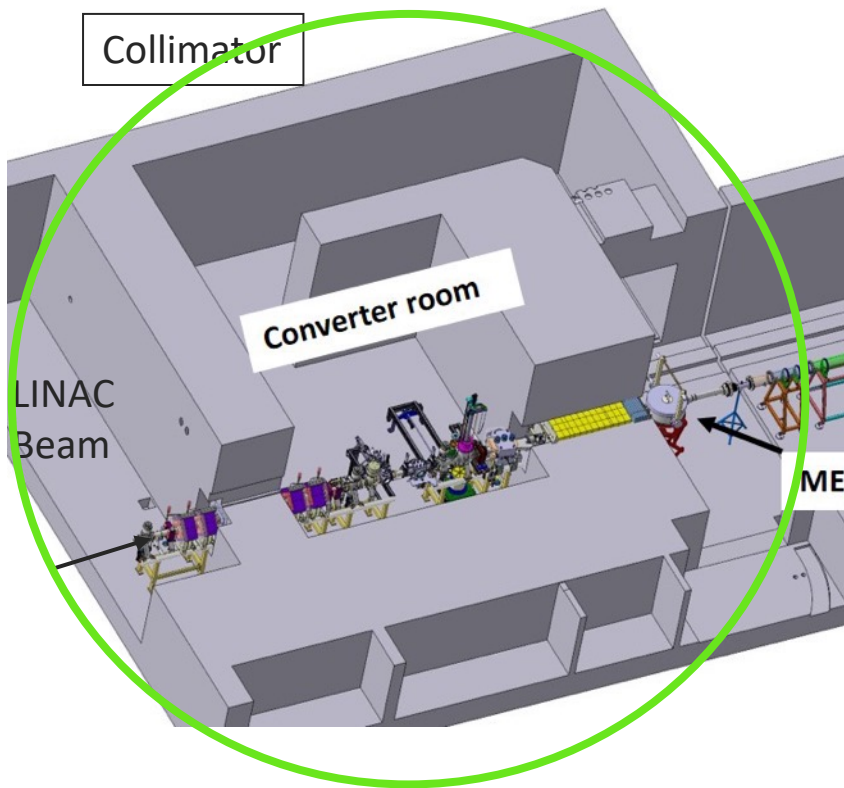
# The Neutrons For Science (NFS) facility



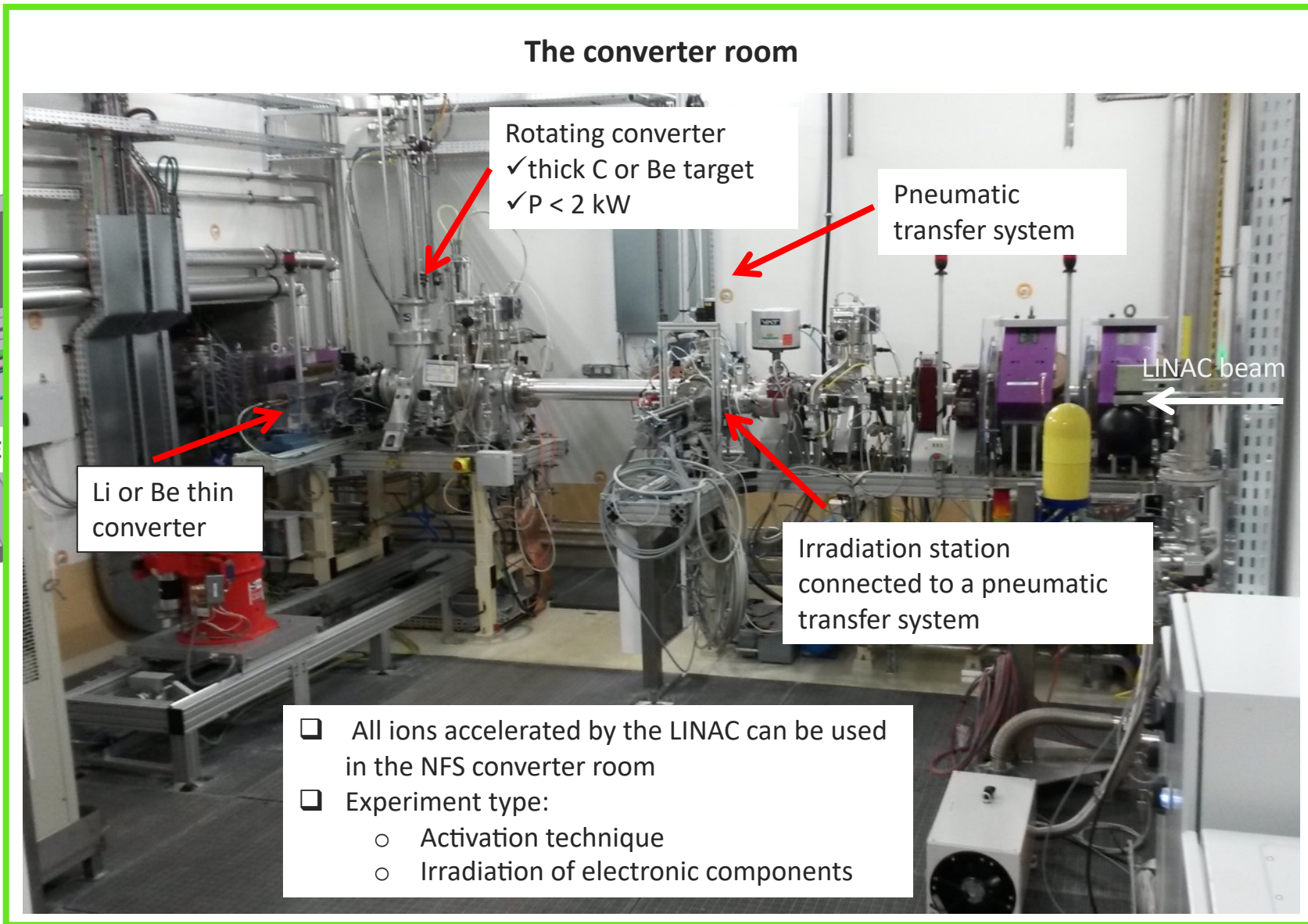
X. Ledoux et al, Eur. Phys.J. A (2021) 57:257

Courtesy X. Ledoux/P. Roussel-Chomaz

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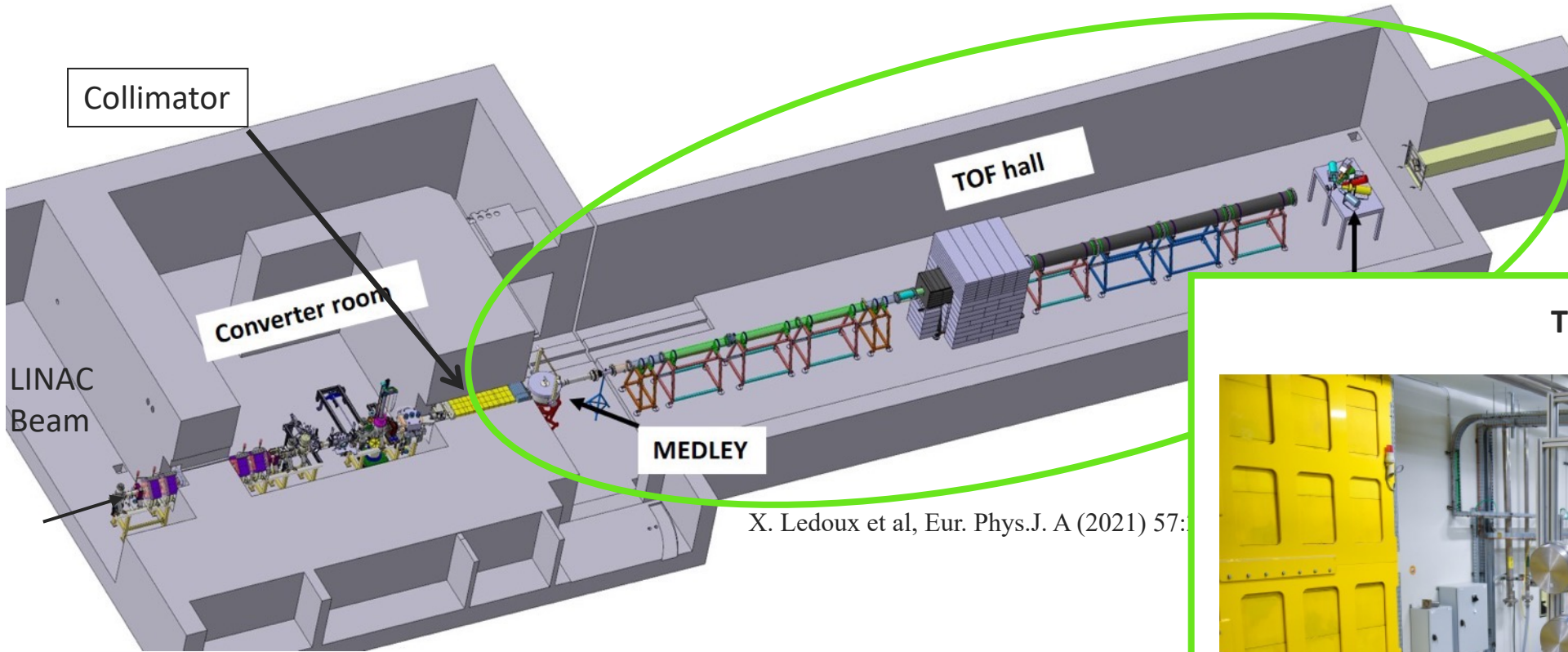


Courtesy X. Ledoux/P. Roussel-Chomaz

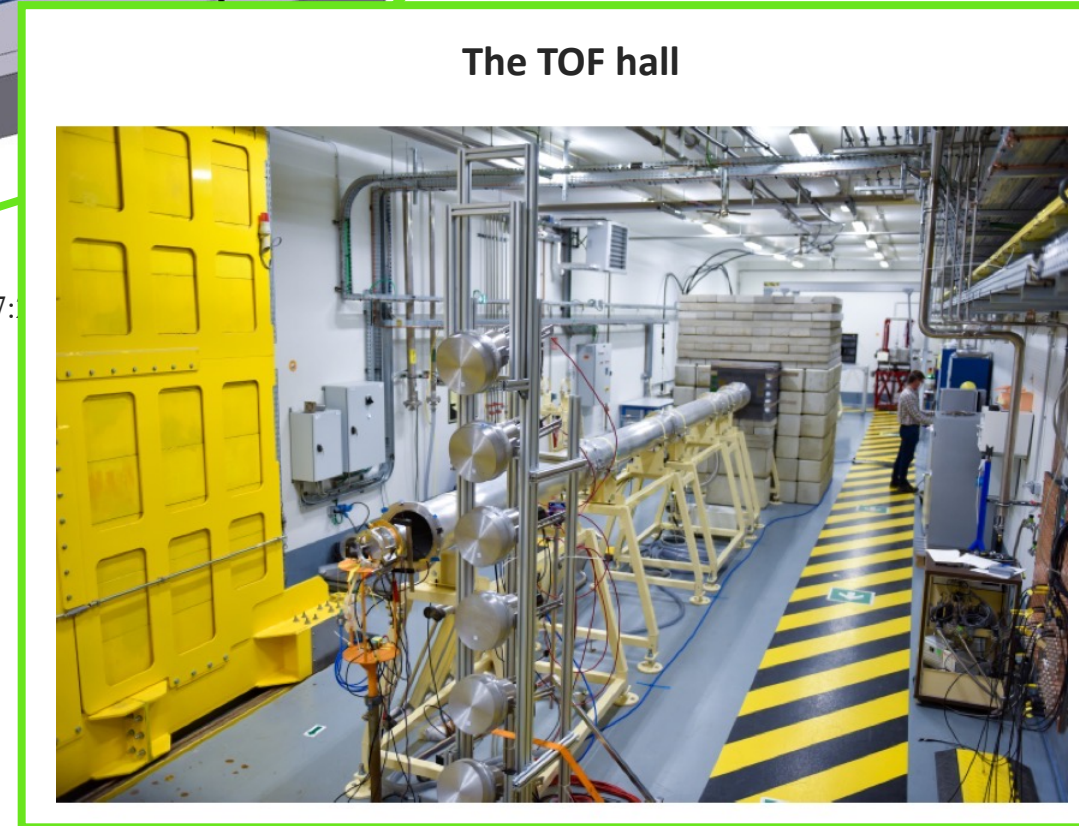


- ❑ All ions accelerated by the LINAC can be used in the NFS converter room
- ❑ Experiment type:
  - Activation technique
  - Irradiation of electronic components

# The Neutrons For Science (NFS) facility



X. Ledoux et al, Eur. Phys.J. A (2021) 57:



Courtesy X. Ledoux/P. Roussel-Chomaz

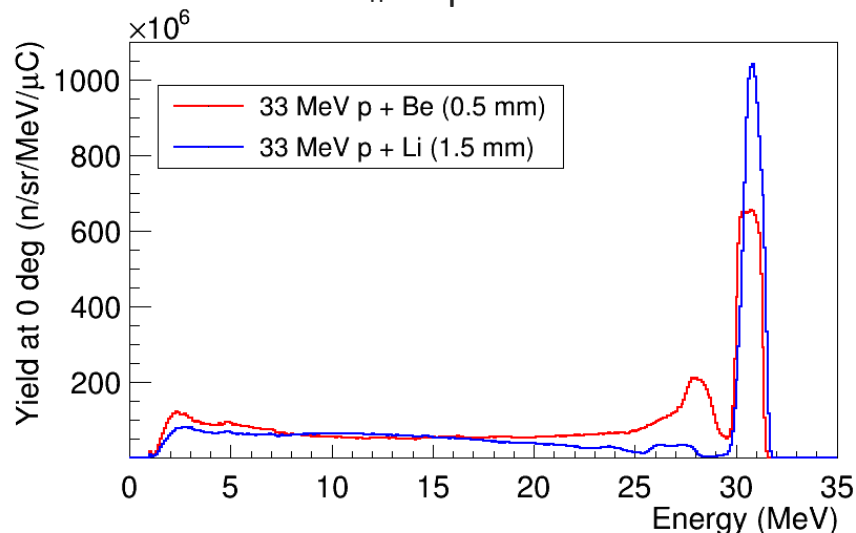


# The Neutrons For Science (NFS) facility

Quasi-mono-energetic / continuous neutron spectra

Courtesy X. Ledoux/P. Roussel-Chomaz

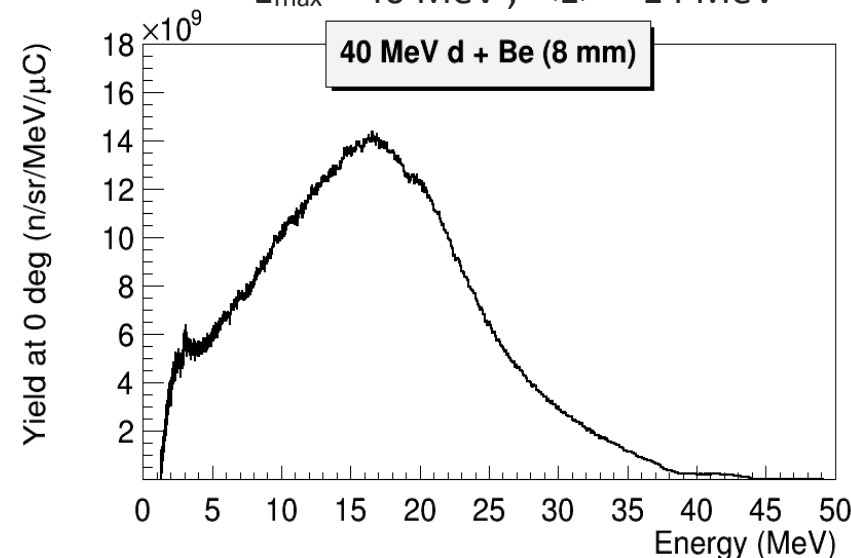
p + **thin target** ( ${}^7\text{Li}$  or  ${}^9\text{Be}$ )  
 $E_n = \text{up to } 31 \text{ MeV}$



E MeV	Flux at 5 m
5	$1,7 \cdot 10^4 \text{ n/cm}^2/\text{MeV/s}$
10	$5 \cdot 10^3 \text{ n/cm}^2/\text{MeV/s}$
20	$2,3 \cdot 10^4 \text{ n/cm}^2/\text{MeV/s}$
30	$1,2 \cdot 10^5 \text{ n/cm}^2/\text{MeV/s}$

**Example :**  
 p + Li at 20  $\mu\text{A}$   
 Neutron yield in the mono-energetic peak  $1,2 \cdot 10^9 \text{ n/sr}/\mu\text{C}$

deuteron + **thick converter** (1cm)  
 $E_{\text{max}} = 40 \text{ MeV}$  ,  $\langle E \rangle = 14 \text{ MeV}$



E MeV	Flux at 5 m
0-40	$6 \cdot 10^7 \text{ n/cm}^2/\text{s}$
5	$2 \cdot 10^6 \text{ n/cm}^2/\text{MeV/s}$
14	$5 \cdot 10^6 \text{ n/cm}^2/\text{MeV/s}$
30	$6 \cdot 10^5 \text{ n/cm}^2/\text{MeV/s}$

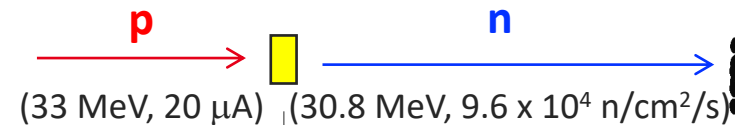
**Example :**  
 40 MeV d + Be at 50  $\mu\text{A}$   
 Neutron yield in  $4\pi$   $1,8 \cdot 10^{13} \text{ n/s}$

# Search for PDR in $^{140}\text{Ce}$ @NFS

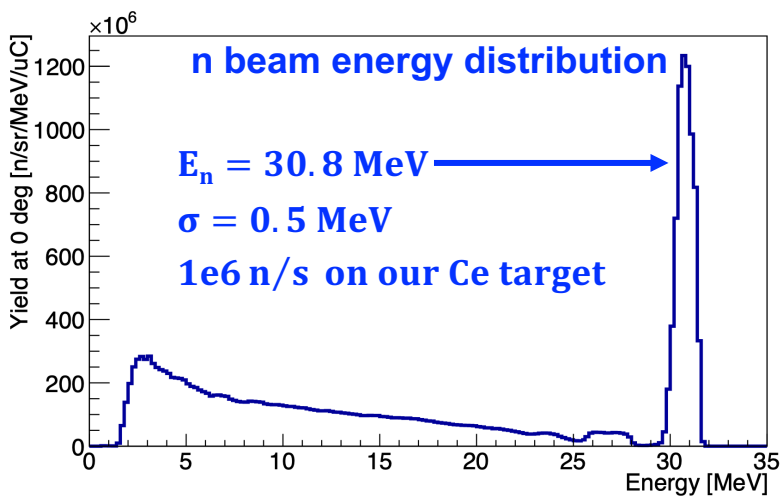


8 PARIS clusters  
at 23cm from the Ce target

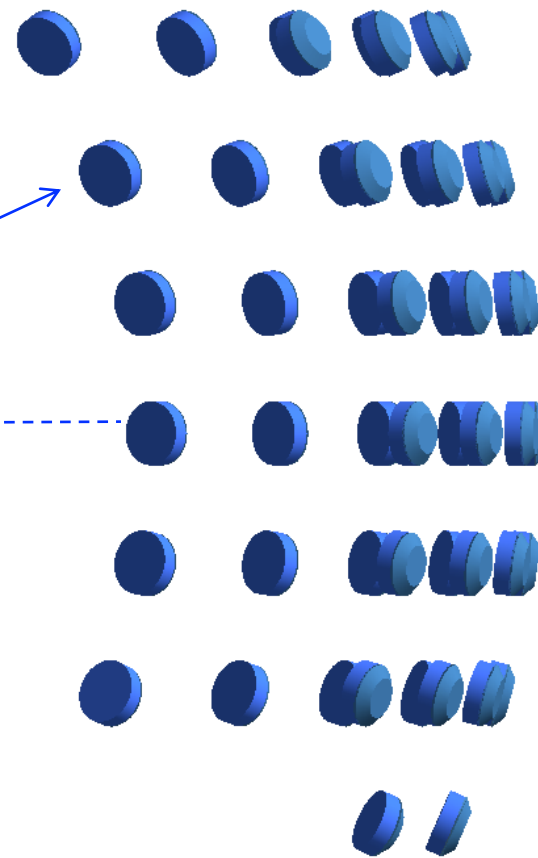
48 MONSTER modules  
at 3m from the Ce target



1.5 mm-thick Li converter  
 $^7\text{Li}(p,n)^7\text{Be}$



Natural Ce target  
( $^{140}\text{Ce} - 89\%$ )  
at 5 m from the converter

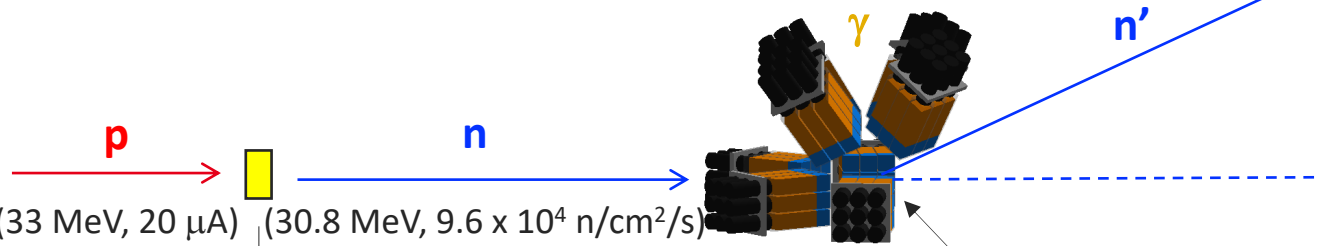
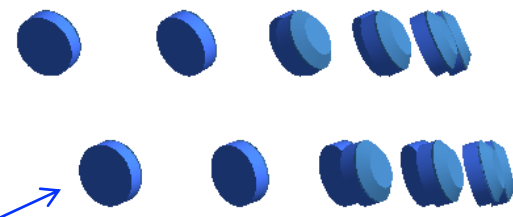


# Search for PDR in $^{140}\text{Ce}$ @NFS



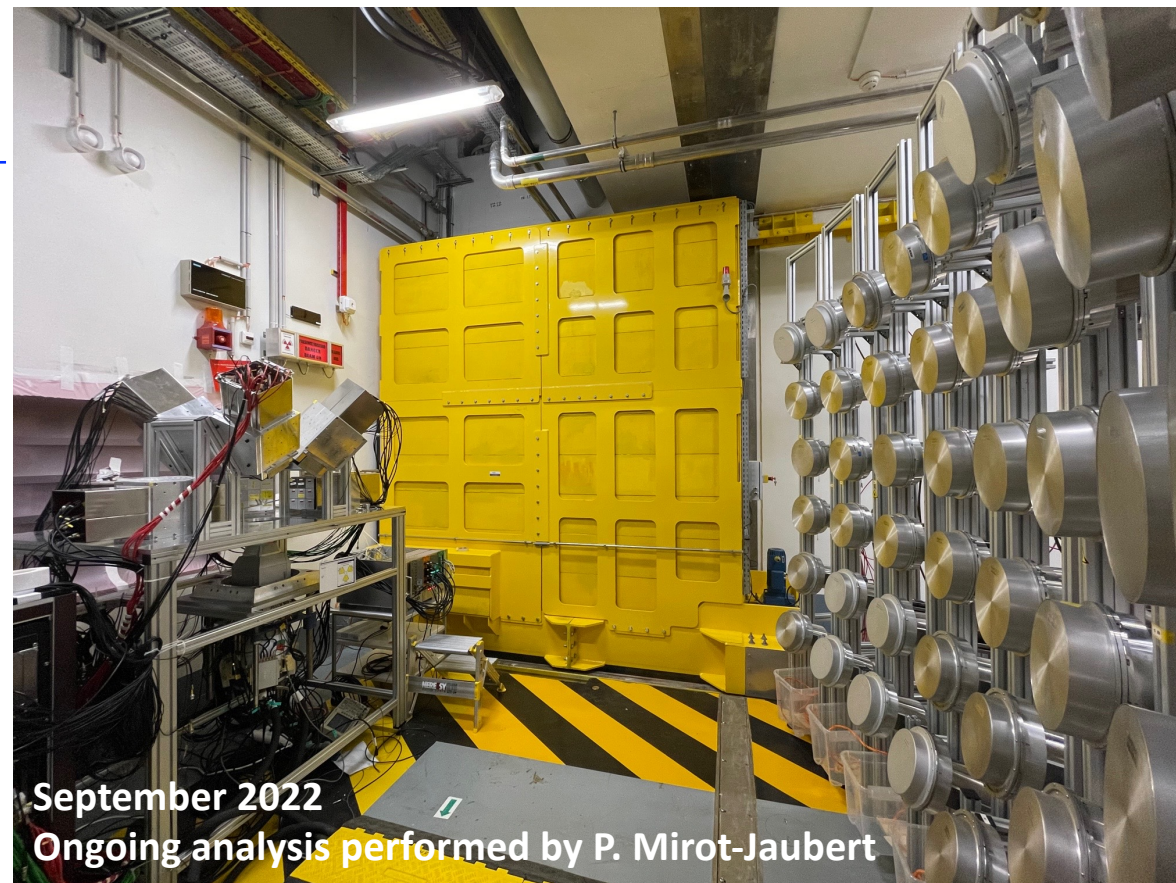
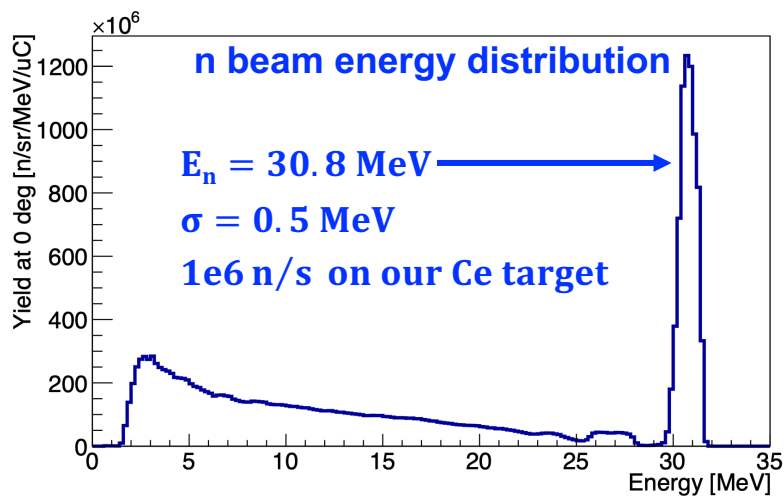
8 PARIS clusters  
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1.5 mm-thick Li converter  
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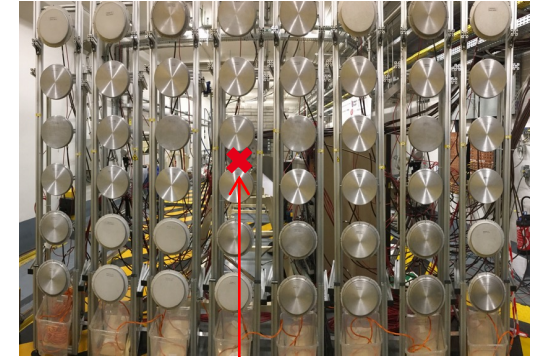
Natural Ce target  
( $^{140}\text{Ce}$  – 89%)  
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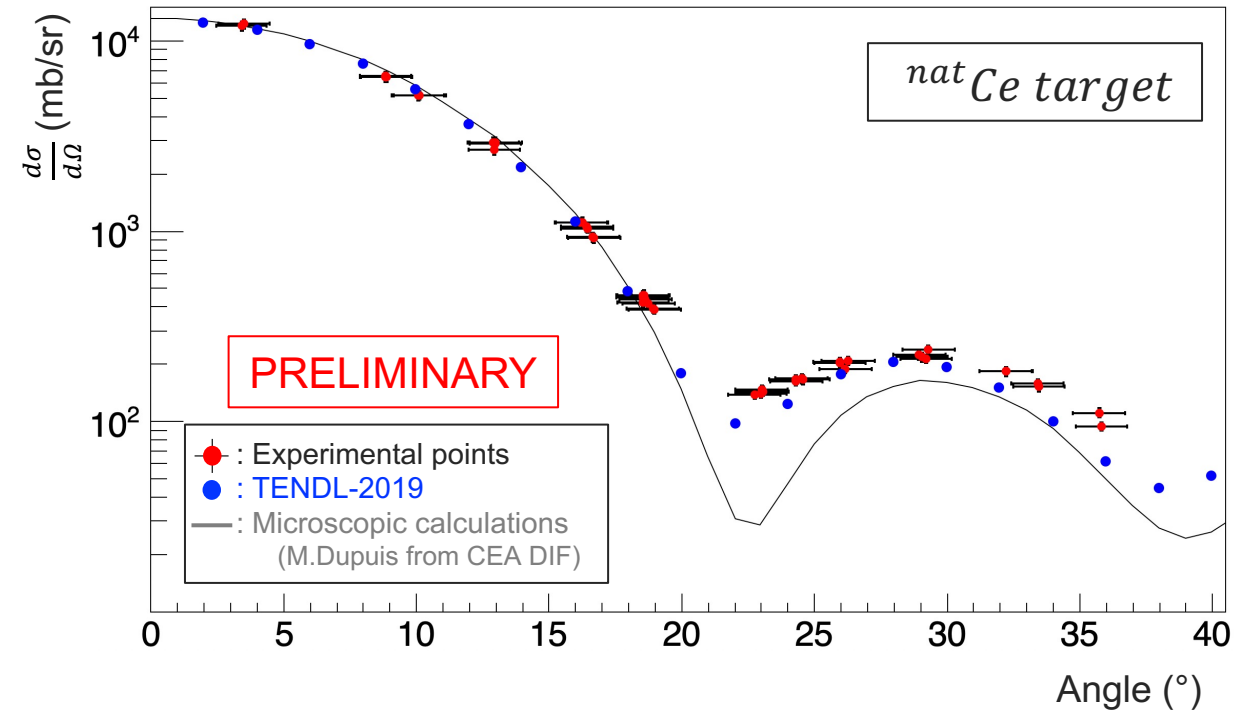
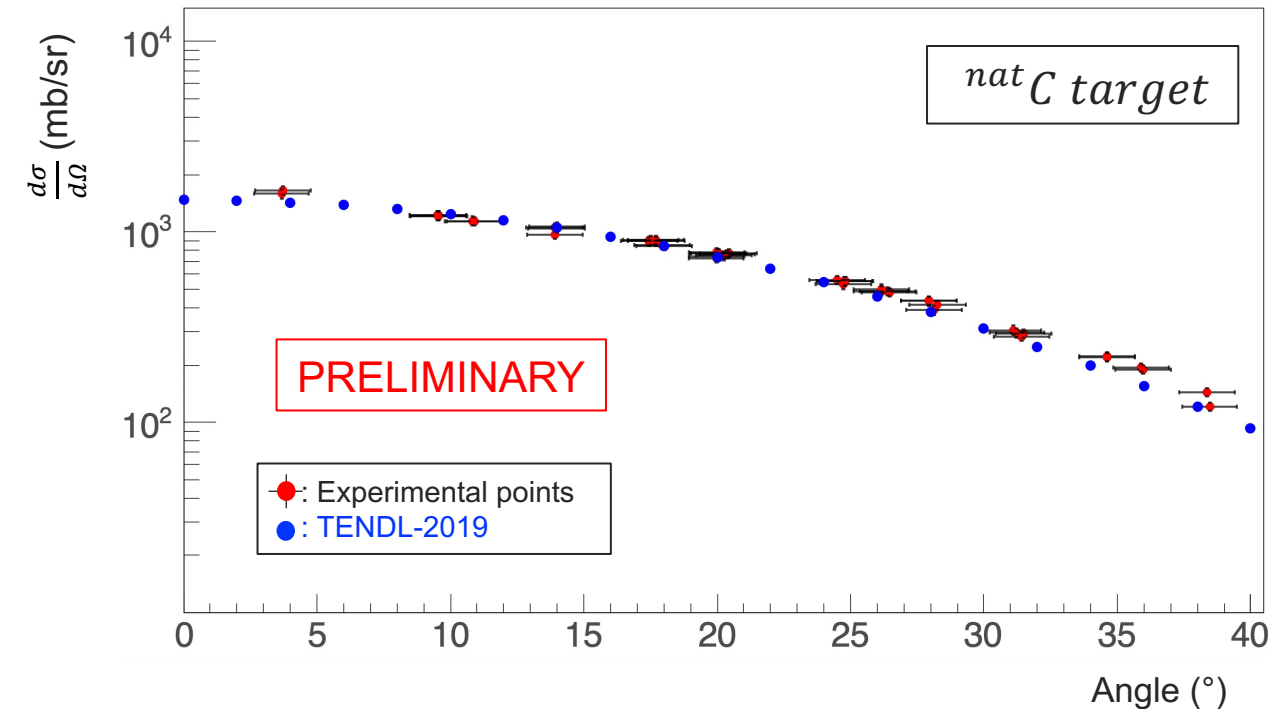
# First preliminary results

## Elastic scattering reaction channel

- Detection of the scattered neutrons **n** with MONSTER detectors  
⇒ Validation of the scattered neutron energy reconstruction method
- New results for  $^{nat}\text{Ce}(n,n)^{nat}\text{Ce}$  at this neutron energy (30.8 MeV)



Neutron beam axis

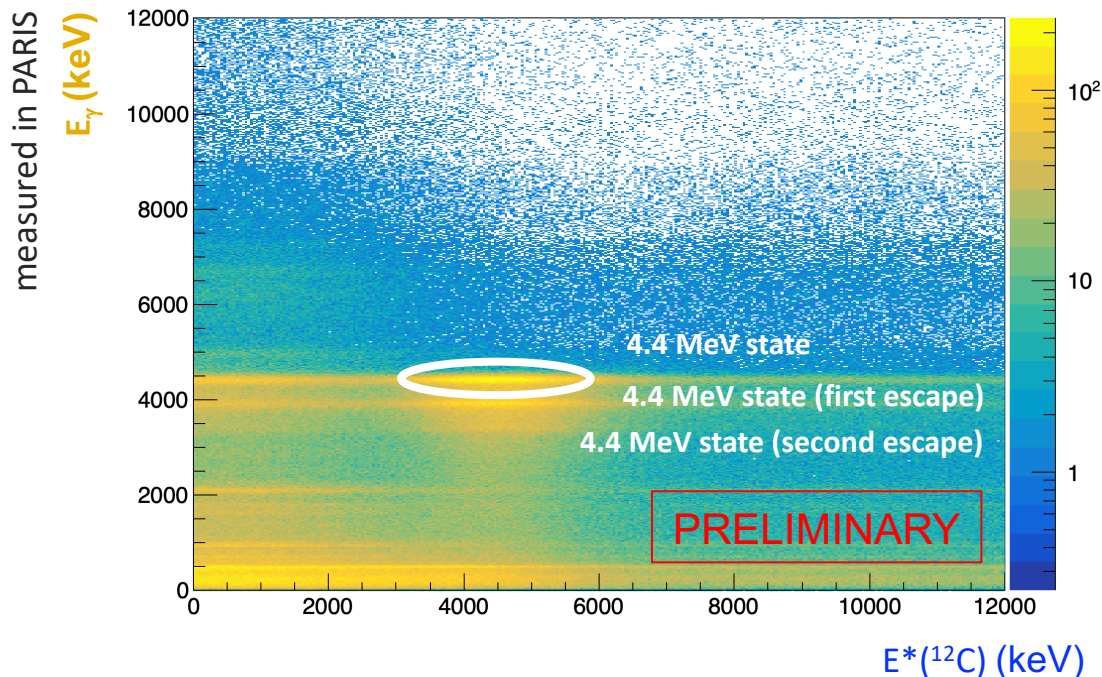


# First preliminary results

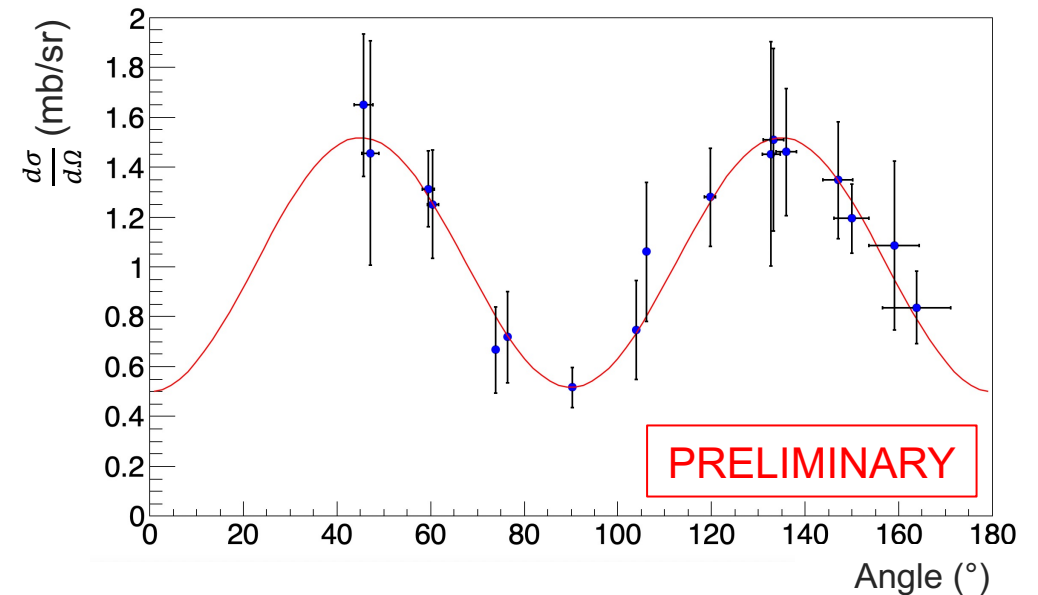
## Inelastic scattering reaction channel

$^{12}\text{C}(n, n')^{12}\text{C}^*(\gamma)^{12}\text{C}$  - study of the first  $2^+$  of  $^{12}\text{C}$  ( $E(2^+) = 4.439$  MeV)

- Test bench using  $^{12}\text{C}$
- Detection of the scattered neutrons ( $n'$ ) with MONSTER detectors in coincidence with  $\gamma$  in PARIS
  - ➔ Coincidence matrix allows identification of excited states that decay by  $\gamma$  directly to the  $^{12}\text{C}$  g.s. (events along the diagonal)
  - ➔ Validation of the method for characterizing excited states: cross-section and multipolarity thanks to the  $\gamma$  angular distribution

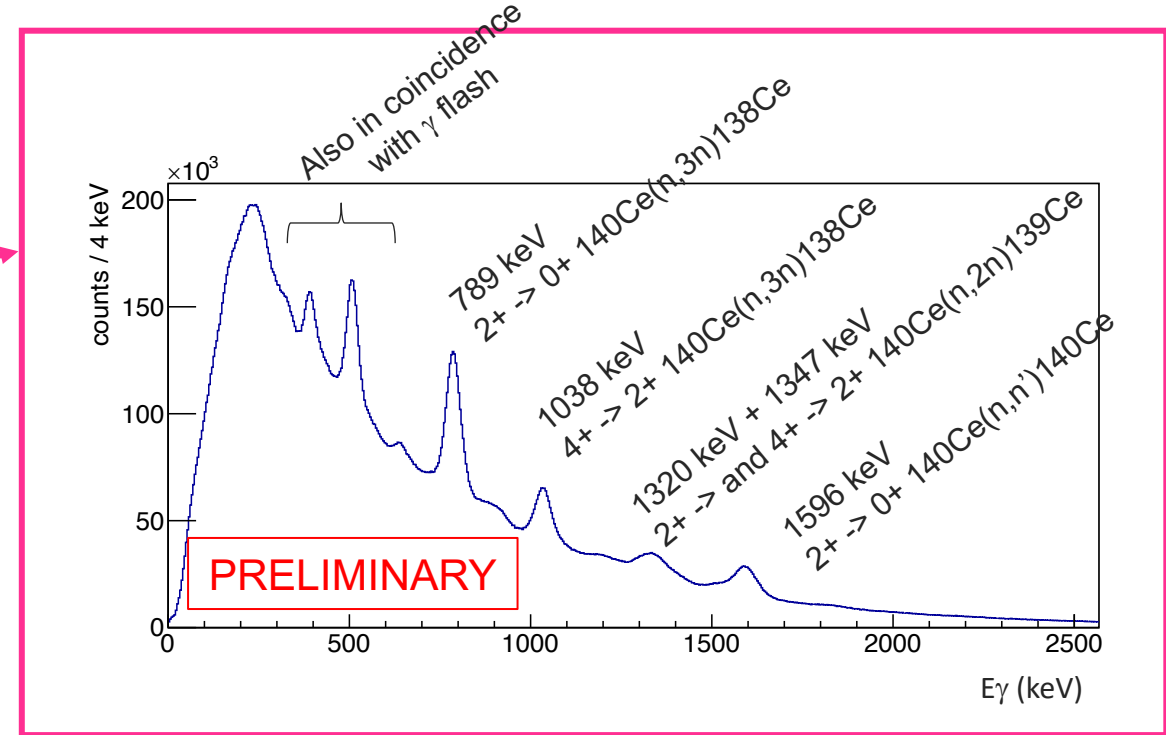
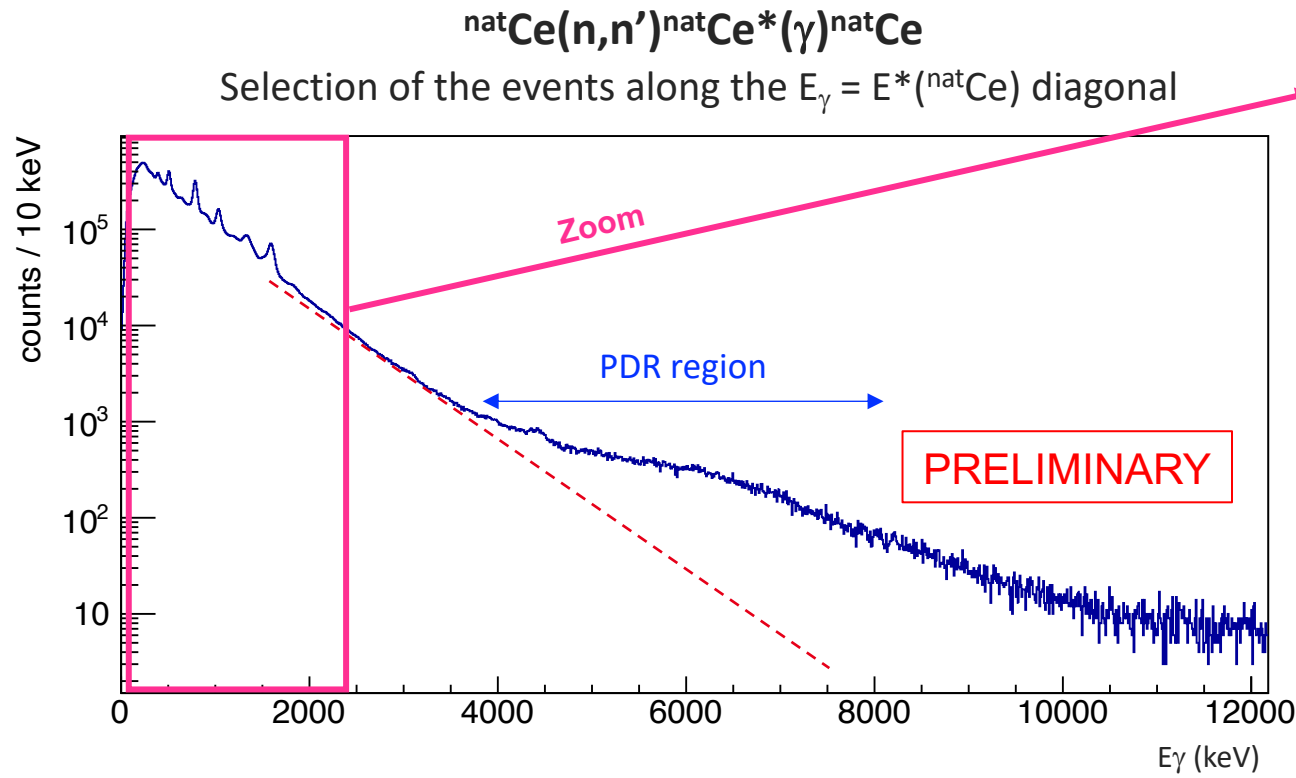
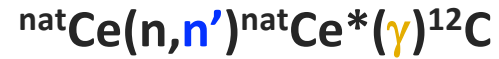


reconstructed using  $n'$  time of flight (MONSTER)



# First preliminary results

## Inelastic scattering reaction channel



- Events in the PDR energy region not observed in other reaction channels (n,xn)
- next step : study of the  $\gamma$  and n angular distributions

# Conclusion

- Possibility to constrain EoS thanks to GR properties **BUT**
  1. Nuclear model dependence
  2. Need to very well characterize GR experimentally
- Concerning characterization of PDR, many programs are under way :  $(n,n')$  @NFS presented in this talk, see N. Martorana's talk for others programs
- In order to constrain EoS, it is interesting to combine experimental approaches, like heavy ions collisions for example

Thank you for your attention !

# Collaboration

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4. GANIL (France)
5. LPC Caen (France)
6. CIEMAT (Spain)
7. Institut of Nuclear Physics PAN Krakow (Poland)
8. Université de Strasbourg, Institut Pluridisciplinaire Hubert Curien
9. KVI-CART (The Netherlands)
10. IP2I Lyon (France)
11. IFIN-HH, Bucharest (Romania)
12. Milano University and INFN (Italy)

