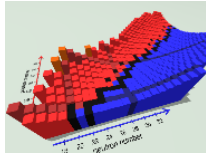


A 3D visualization of particle tracks in a detector. The detector is shown as a series of stacked layers, with a central green layer. A blue track enters from the left and interacts with a red track in the green layer. Below the green layer, a series of orange and brown curved lines represent the tracks of secondary particles. The background is a gradient of grey and blue.

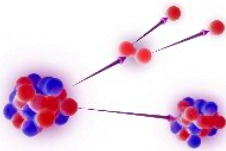
***On the Tracks of  
Two-Proton Radioactivity***

# On the Tracks of Two-Proton Radioactivity

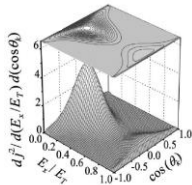


radioactivity on the neutron-deficient side  
of the table of isotopes

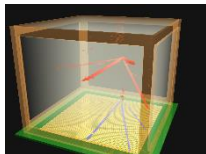
proton-rich



what is two-proton radioactivity?

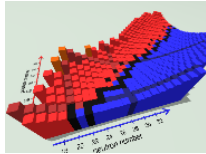


loops between theory and experiment



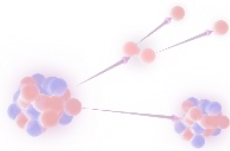
a new tracking device

# On the Tracks of Two-Proton Radioactivity

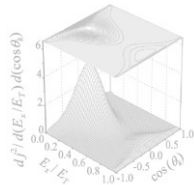


radioactivity on the neutron-deficient side  
of the table of isotopes

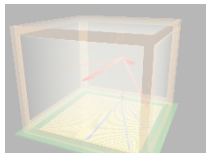
proton-rich



what is two-proton radioactivity?



loops between theory and experiment



a new tracking device

# about radioactivity

## an story started 120 years ago

- ▷ 1895 discovery of X rays
- ▷ 1896 radiation from Uranium
- ▷ 1898  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  emissions
- ▷ ... development of the atomic nucleus description  
theory of  $\beta$  radioactivity
- ▷ 1932 discovery of the neutron
- ▷ 1934 artificial radioactivity ( $\beta^+$ )
- ▷ 1938 spontaneous fission
- ▷ ...

W. Röntgen  
H. Becquerel  
M. Curie, E. Rutherford

W. Pauli, N. Bohr, ...

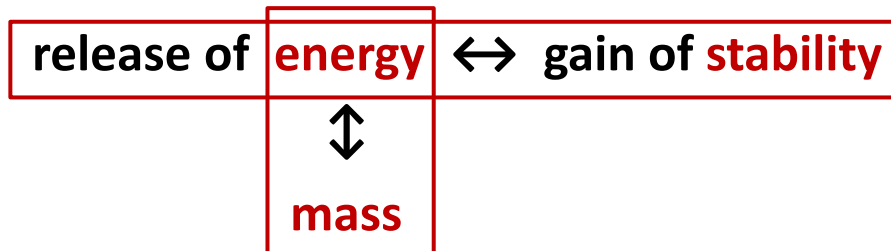
J. Chadwick  
I. Curie, F. Joliot  
L. Meitner, O. Hahn, R. Frisch, F. Strassman

webinar from  
A. Lopez-Martens  
(30/11/2020)

## what is radioactivity?

spontaneous **transformation** of the **atomic nucleus** into a more **stable** system

→ like any system in physics



# the valley of beta stability

binding energy

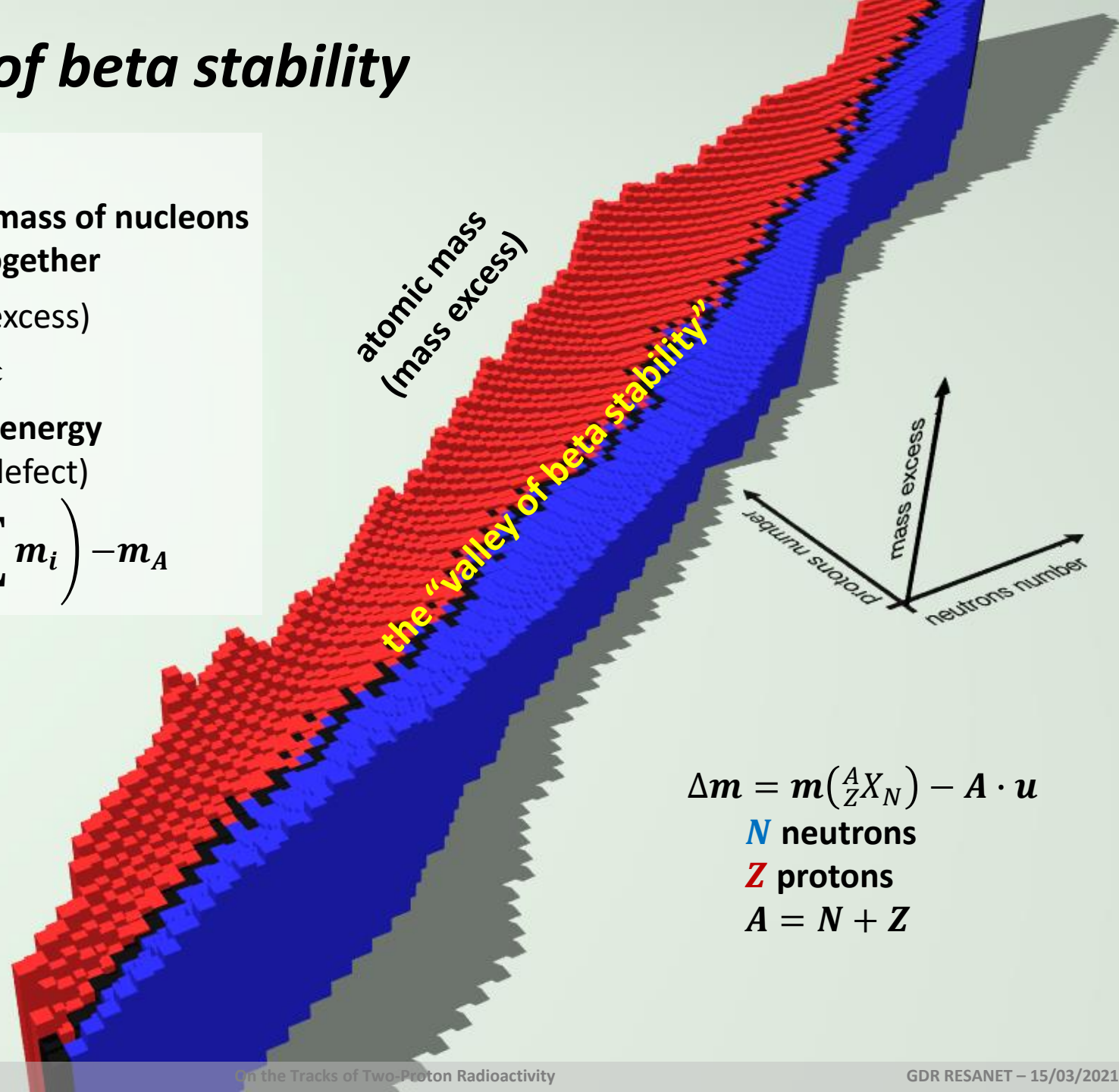
fraction of the mass of nucleons  
to bind them together

mass (excess)



binding energy  
(mass defect)

$$B(A) = \left( \sum_A m_i \right) - m_A$$



$$\Delta m = m\left({}_Z^A X_N\right) - A \cdot u$$

**N** neutrons

**Z** protons

$$A = N + Z$$

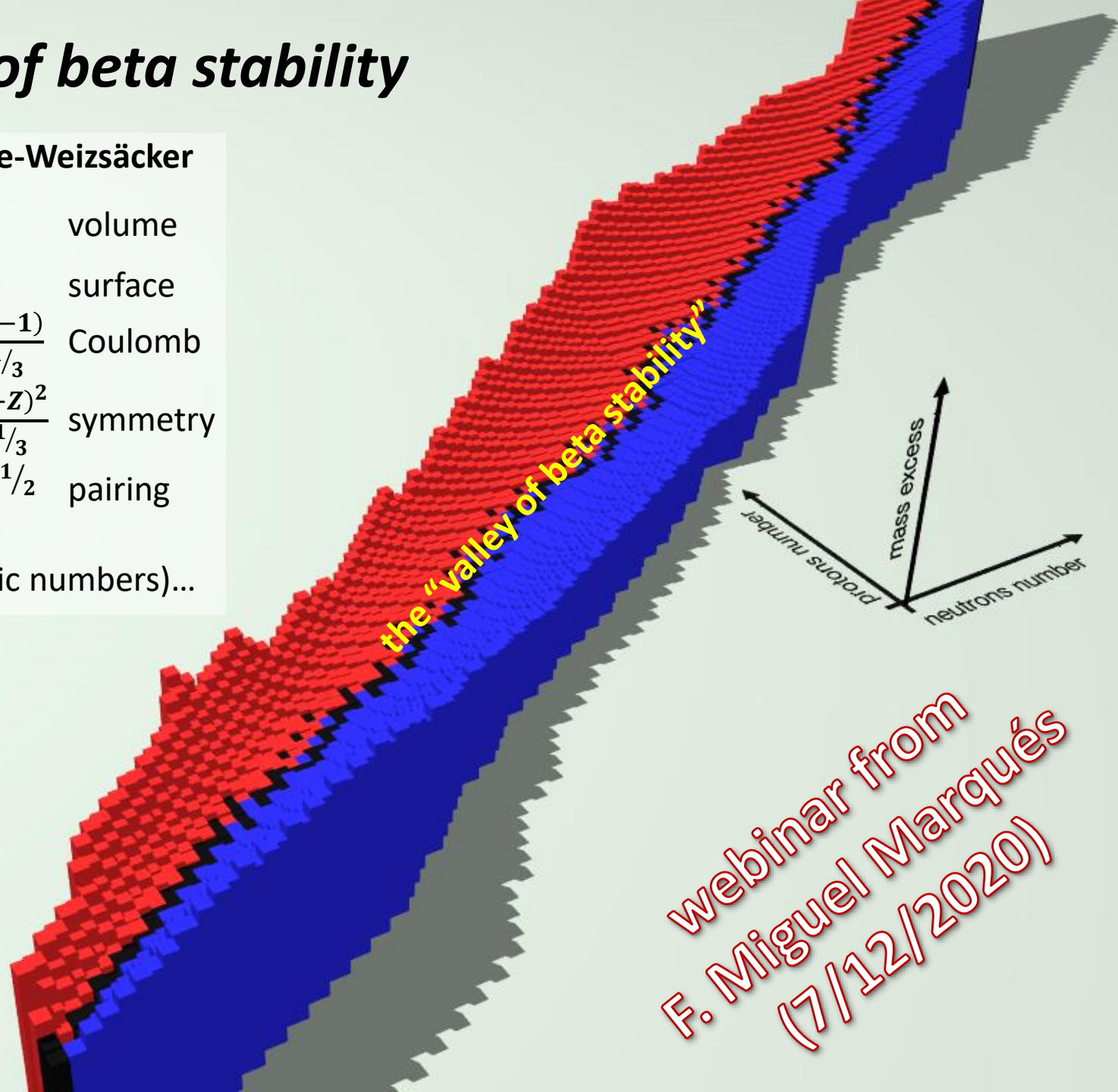


# *the valley of beta stability*

binding energy: Bethe-Weizsäcker

$$\begin{aligned} B(A, Z) &= a_v \cdot A && \text{volume} \\ &- a_s \cdot A^{\frac{2}{3}} && \text{surface} \\ &- a_c \cdot \frac{Z(Z-1)}{A^{\frac{1}{3}}} && \text{Coulomb} \\ &- a_a \cdot \frac{(N-Z)^2}{A^{\frac{1}{3}}} && \text{symmetry} \\ &\pm a_p \cdot A^{-\frac{1}{2}} && \text{pairing} \end{aligned}$$

+ shell effects (magic numbers)...



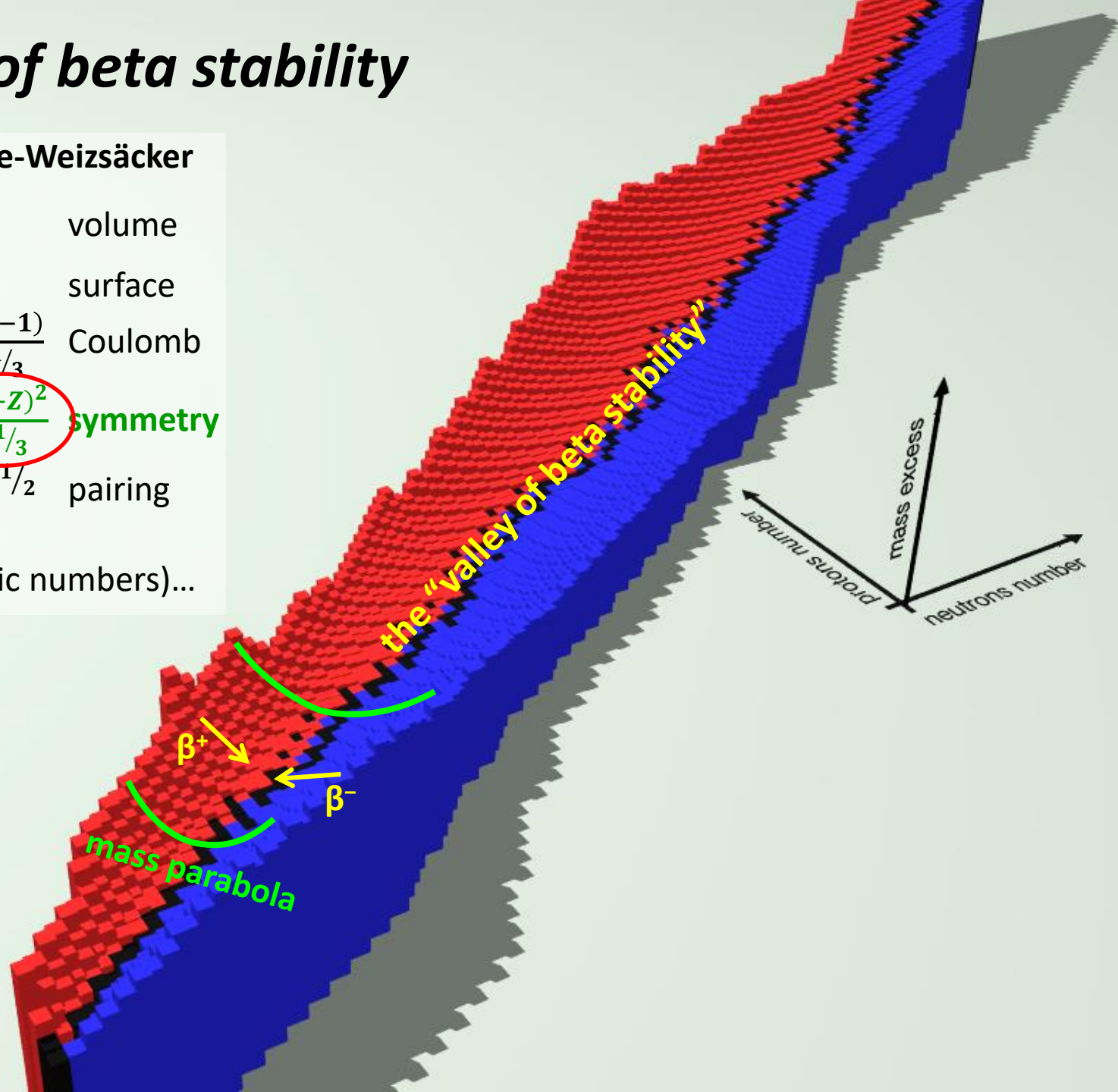
webinar from  
F. Miguel Marqués  
(7/12/2020)

# the valley of beta stability

binding energy: Bethe-Weizsäcker

$$\begin{aligned} B(A, Z) &= a_v \cdot A && \text{volume} \\ &- a_s \cdot A^{\frac{2}{3}} && \text{surface} \\ &- a_c \cdot \frac{Z(Z-1)}{A^{\frac{1}{3}}} && \text{Coulomb} \\ &- a_a \cdot \frac{(N-Z)^2}{A^{\frac{1}{3}}} && \text{symmetry} \\ &\pm a_p \cdot A^{-\frac{1}{2}} && \text{pairing} \end{aligned}$$

+ shell effects (magic numbers)...



# drip-lines: the frontiers of the table of isotopes

binding energy: Bethe-Weizsäcker

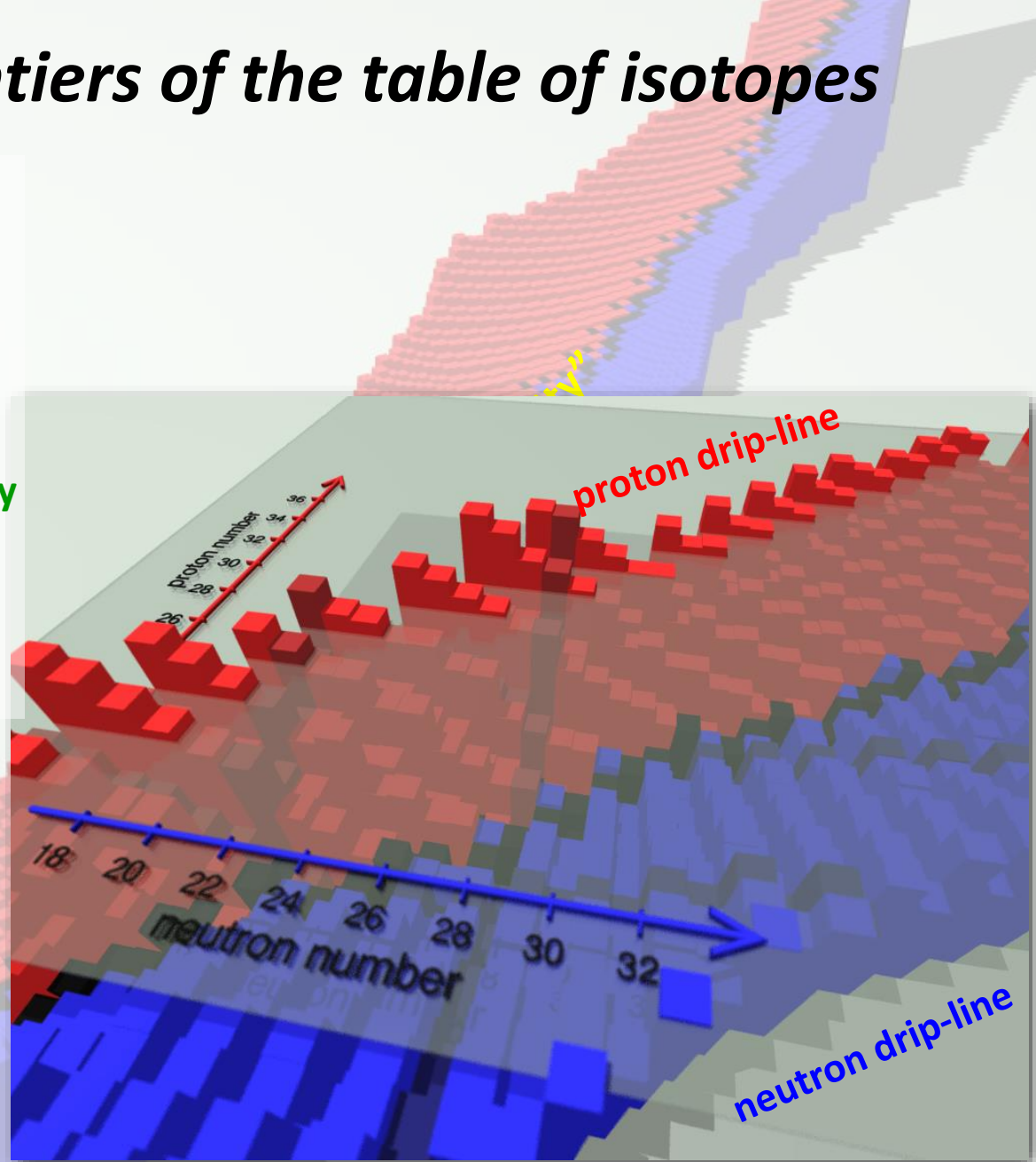
$$B(A, Z) = a_v \cdot A \quad \text{volume}$$
$$- a_s \cdot A^{2/3} \quad \text{surface}$$
$$- a_c \cdot \frac{Z(Z-1)}{A^{1/3}} \quad \text{Coulomb}$$
$$\textcircled{-} a_a \cdot \frac{(N-Z)^2}{A^{1/3}} \quad \text{symmetry}$$
$$\pm a_p \cdot A^{-1/2} \quad \text{pairing}$$

+ shell effects (magic numbers)...

## drip-lines

$$B(A, Z) < 0$$

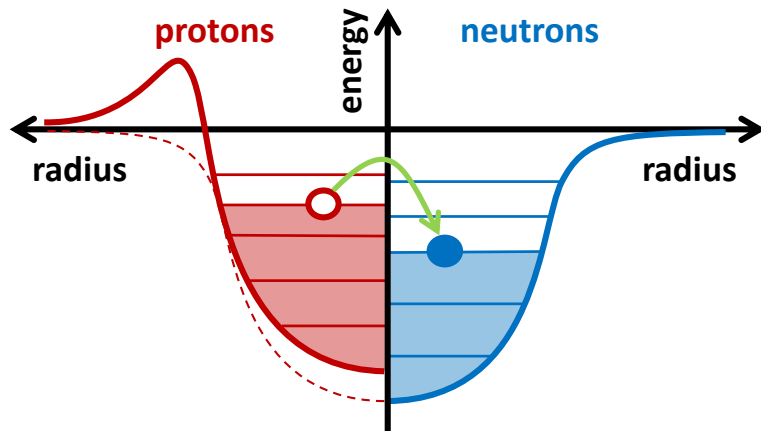
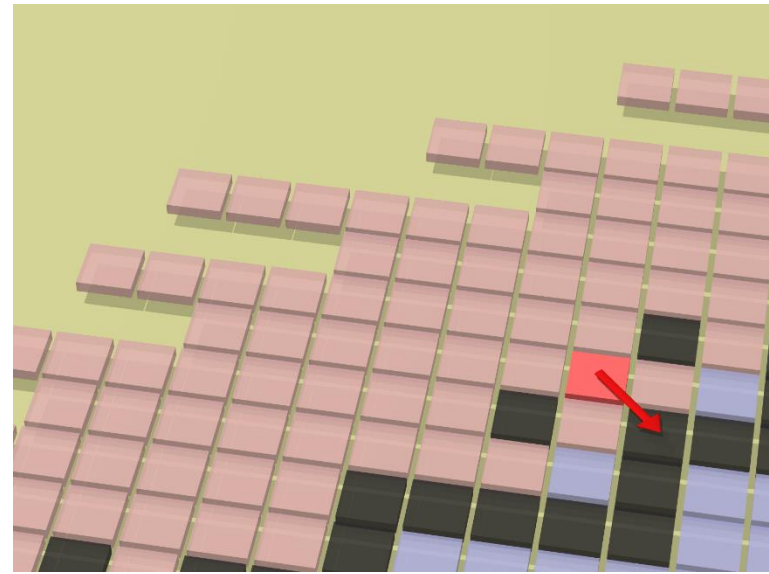
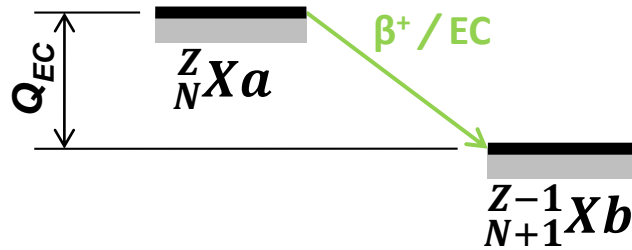
unbound / nuclear force





# towards the proton drip-line

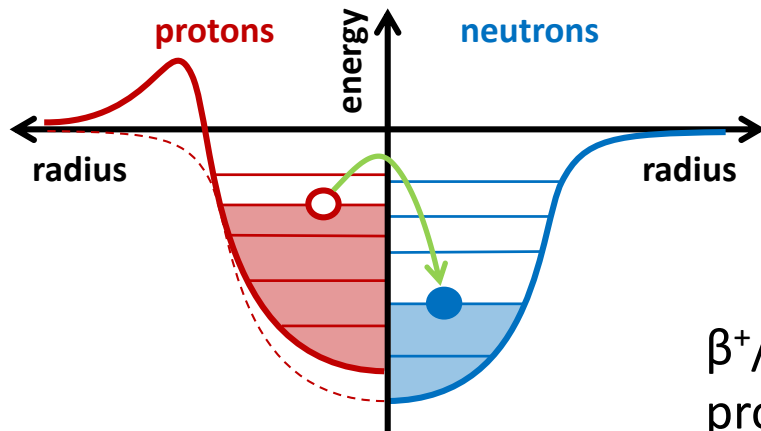
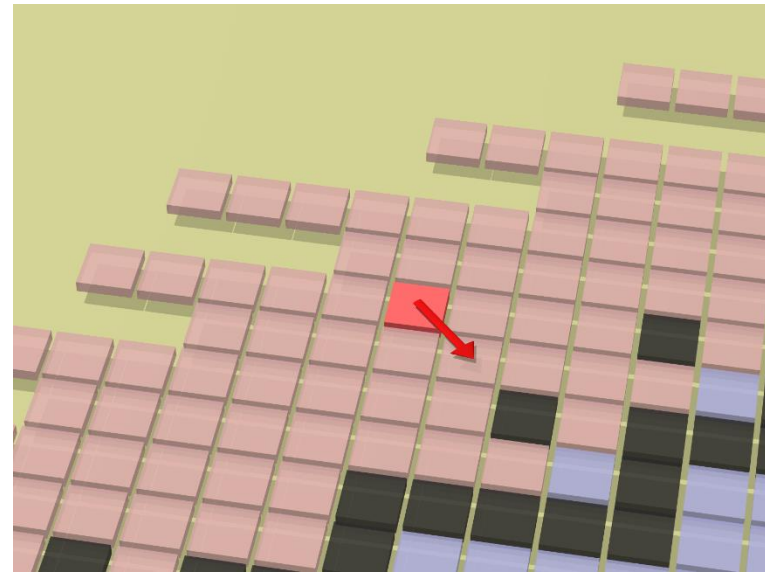
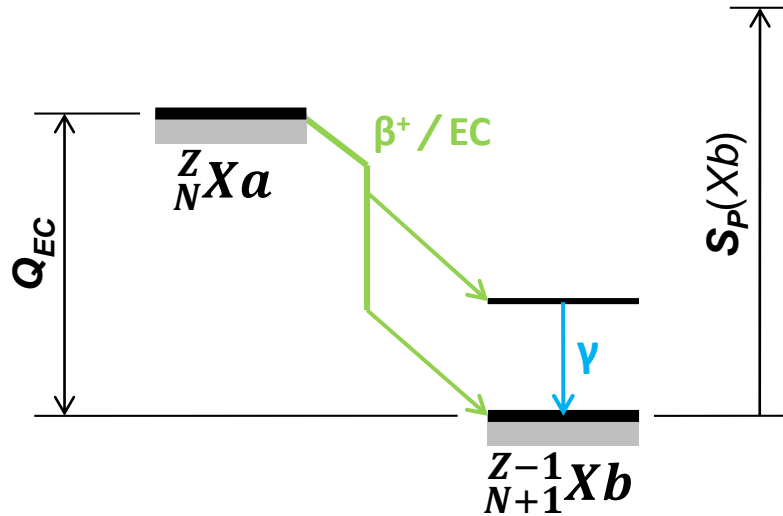
$\beta$  decay ( $\beta^+$ /EC):



- spectroscopy and nuclear structure

# towards the proton drip-line

$\beta$  and  $\beta$ - $\gamma$  decays

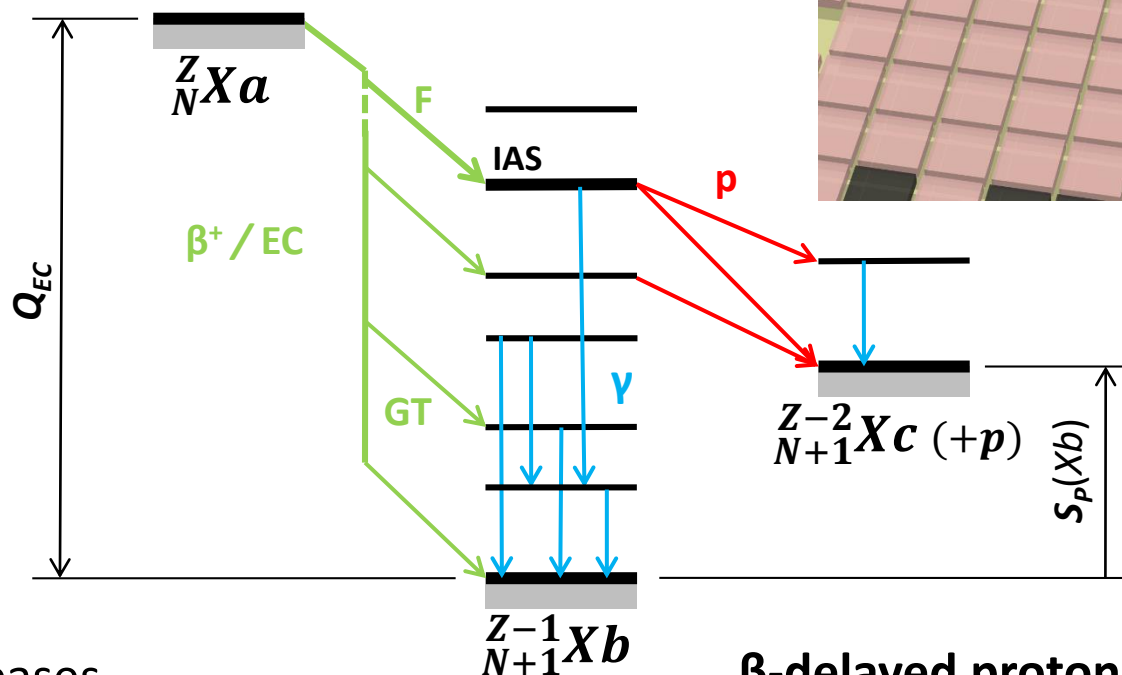


- spectroscopy and nuclear structure
- precision tests of weak interaction

$\beta^+ / EC$  decay energy:  $Q_{EC} \sim \text{few MeV}$   
 proton separation:  $S_P(X, b) > Q_{EC}$  ( $B/A \sim 8 \text{ MeV}$ )

# towards the proton drip-line

## $\beta$ -delayed proton emission



$Q_{EC}$  increases  
 $S_p(Xb)$  decreases

### $\beta$ -delayed proton emission:

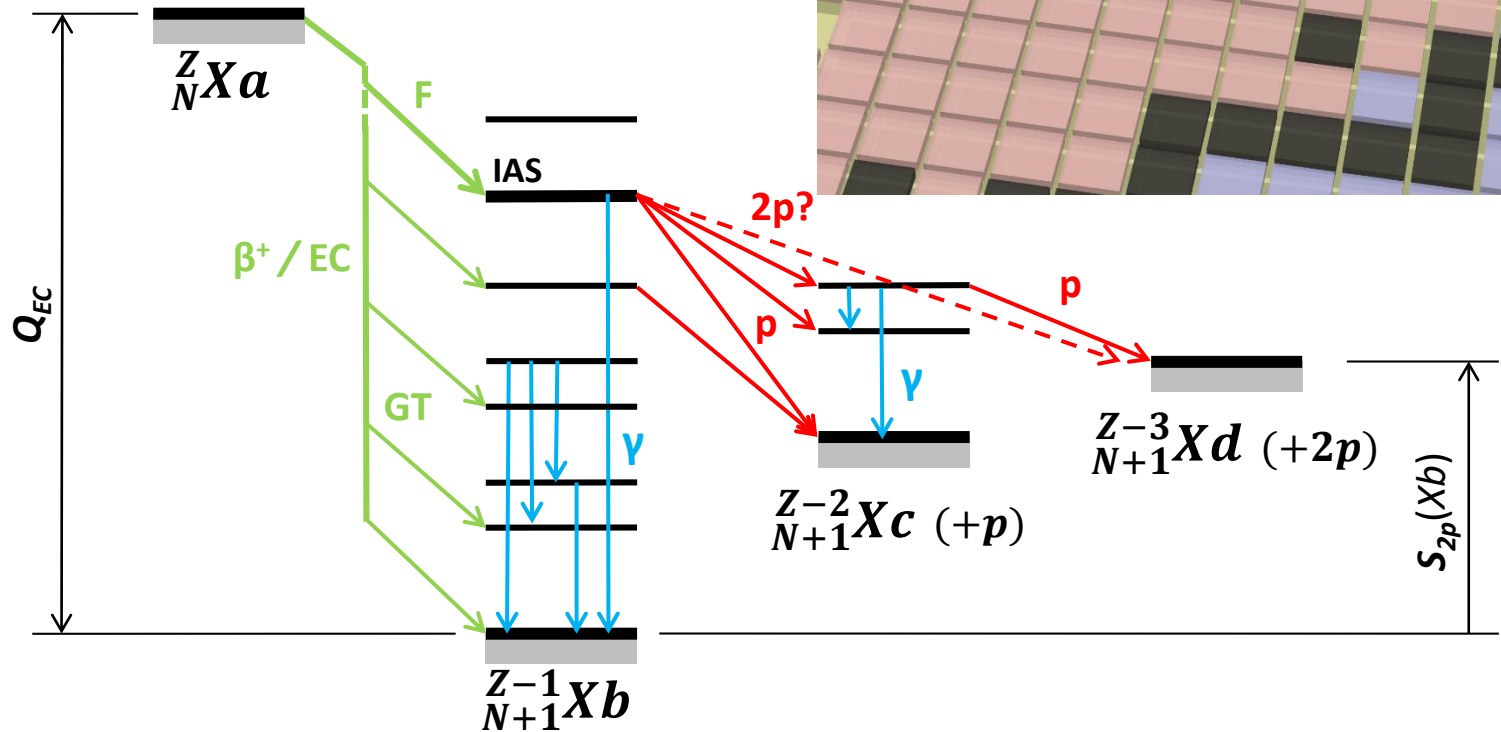
- nuclear astrophysics
- gamma / proton competition

**proton transitions:** precise probe

# towards the proton drip-line

## $\beta$ -delayed multi- proton emission:

- *rp*-process waiting points
- search for direct 2P emission



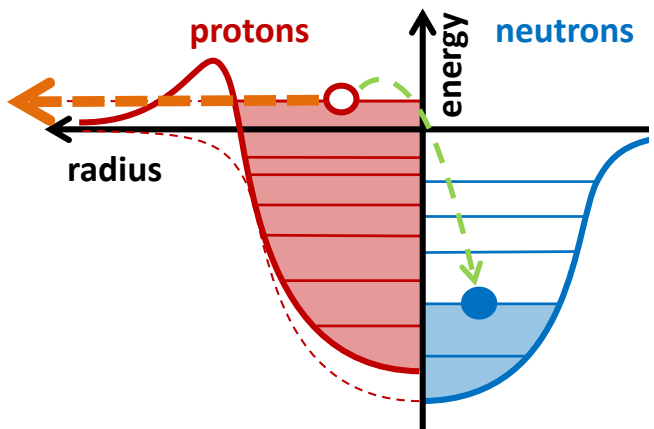
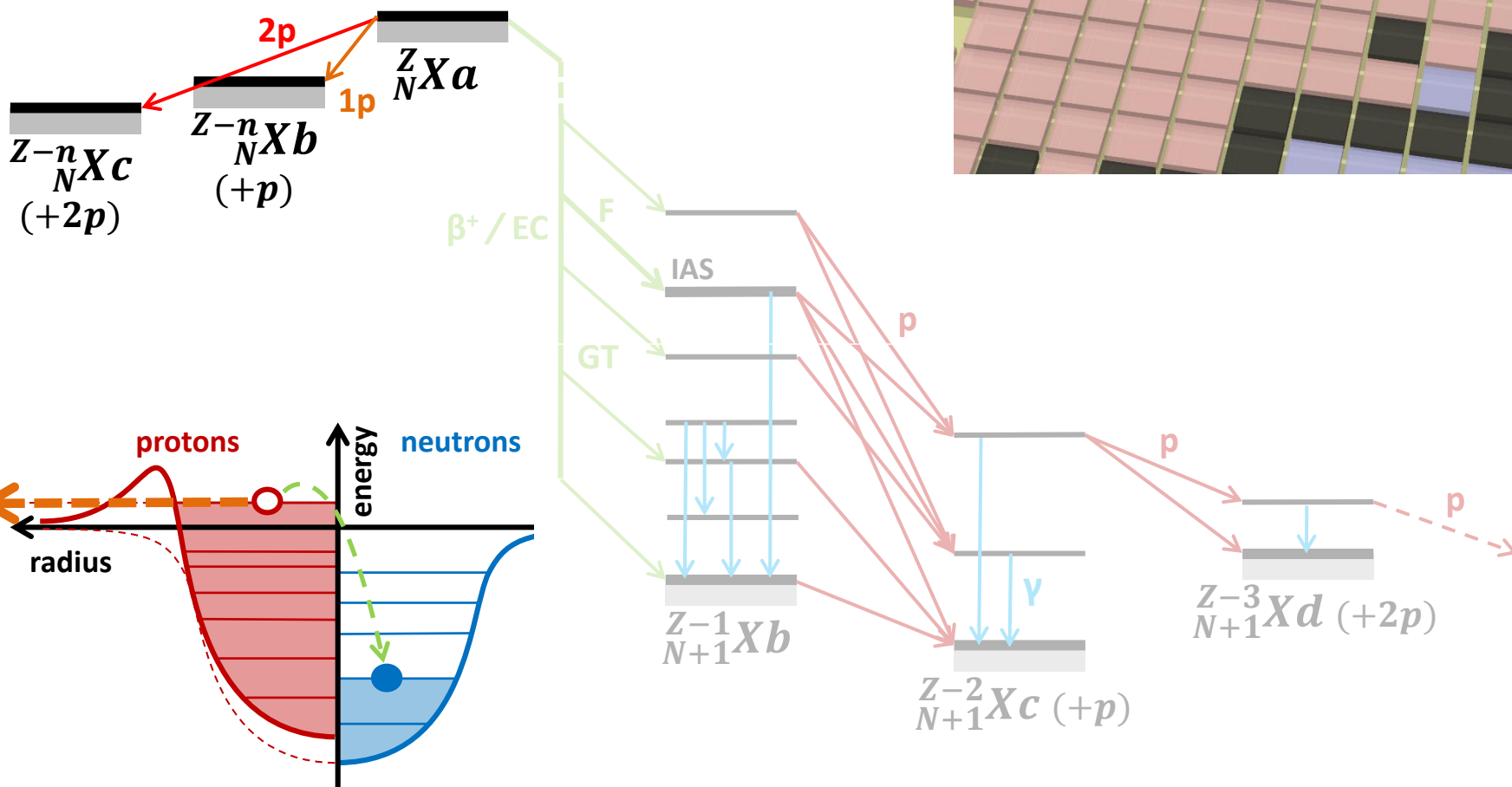
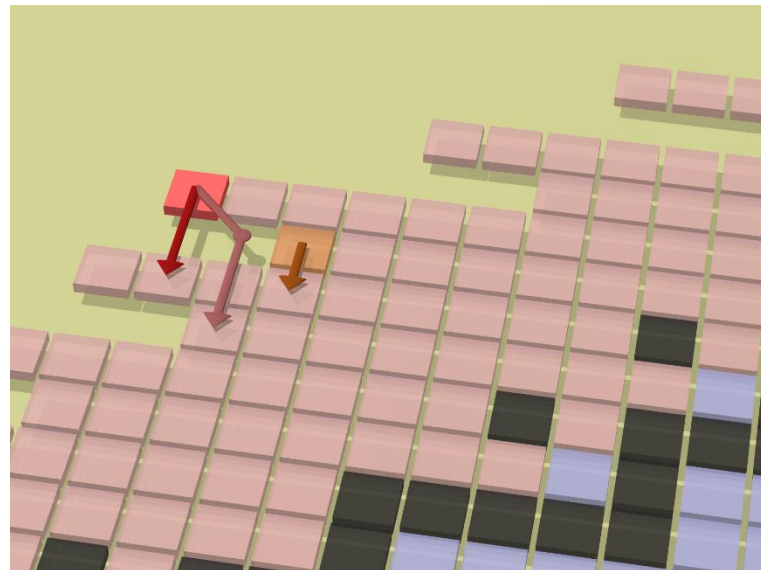
- often the only access to very exotic isotopes
- complex proton emission patterns: level densities & statistical aspects



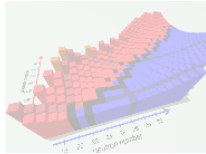
# towards the proton drip-line

unbound with respect to proton(s) emission

$$S_p(Xa) < 0 \quad \text{and/or} \quad S_{2p}(Xa) < 0$$

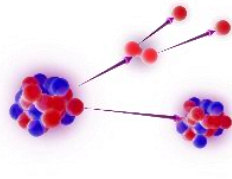


# On the Tracks of Two-Proton Radioactivity

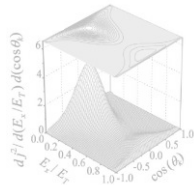


radioactivity on the proton-deficient side  
of the table of isotopes

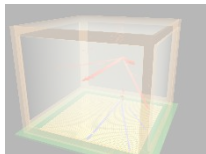
proton-rich



what is two-proton radioactivity?



loops between theory and experiment



a new tracking device

# first theoretical predictions

1960

## ON NEUTRON-DEFICIENT ISOTOPES OF LIGHT NUCLEI AND THE PHENOMENA OF PROTON AND TWO-PROTON RADIOACTIVITY

V I GOLDANSKY

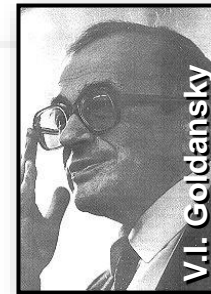
*P N Lebedev Physical Institute, USSR Academy of Sciences, Moscow*

Received 14 March 1960

**Abstract:** Application of isobaric invariance principles to light nuclei leads to a very simple relation between the  $Z$ -th proton binding energy  $E_p$  in nucleus 1 ( ${}_Z M_N^A$ ) and the  $Z$ -th neutron binding energy  $E_n$  in the mirror nucleus 2 ( ${}_N M_Z^A$ ). With an accuracy of the order of a few per cent their difference  $E_{n2} - E_{p1} = \Delta E_{np}$  is independent of  $N$  for a given  $Z$  and is given by

$$\Delta E_{np} \approx E_n({}_Z M_Z^A) - E_p({}_Z M_Z^A) \approx 12 \frac{Z-1}{(2Z-1)^{\frac{1}{2}}},$$

which is more correct than the usual expression  $12(Z-1)/(Z+N-1)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ . By exploiting this fact one can predict the existence and properties of almost ninety new neutron-deficient isotopes of light nuclei (up to  $Z = 34$ ) and establish the limits of stability of the isotopes with respect to decay with proton emission. Among the specific properties of neutron-deficient isotopes, proton and two-proton radioactivity effects which may occur are of special interest. Some nuclei are indicated in which these effects may be observed. The main features of a very curious phenomenon of two-proton radioactivity are discussed



## TWO-PROTON RADIOACTIVITY THEORY

V. M. GALITSKY and V. F. CHELTSOV

*Physical Engineering Institute, Moscow*

Received 20 October 1963

**Abstract:** A method of studying two-proton radioactivity is offered. The method is based on the similarity of the problem with nucleon pairing in spherically symmetrical nuclei. The method is applied to the case when the quasi-stationary one-proton level has no orbital angular momentum. The total probability of the decay per unit time and the distribution of the emitted protons in directions and relative energies are obtained.

# first observations

1970

## ON NEUTRON-DEFICIENT ISOTOPES OF LIGHT NUCLEI AND THE PHENOMENA OF PROTON AND TWO-PROTON RADIOACTIVITY

V I GOLDANSKY

*P N Lebedev Physical Institute, USSR Academy of Sciences*

Received 14

26 October 1970

Abstract: Application of isobaric  
relation between the  $Z$   
binding energy  
per cent

PHYSICS LETTERS

Volume 33B, number 4

### CONFIRMED PROTON RADIOACTIVITY OF $^{53}\text{Co}^m$

J. CERNY, J. E. ESTERL, R. A. GOUGH\* and R. G. SEXTRO  
*Department of Chemistry and Lawrence Radiation Laboratory  
University of California, Berkeley, California 94720, USA*

Received 23 September 1970

Proton-induced reactions on  $^{54}\text{Fe}$  produce a proton activity [ $1.57 \pm 0.03$  MeV;  $242 \pm 15$  ms] with a threshold of  $26.3 \pm 0.4$  MeV which can only arise from  $^{53}\text{Co}^m$ . Failure to detect positron-proton coincidences in the decay of this isomer establishes its direct proton radioactivity.

## TWO-PROTON RADIOACTIVITY THEORY

V. M. GALITSKY and V. F. CHELTSOV  
*Physical Engineering Institute, Moscow*

Received 20 October 1963

Abstract: A method of studying two-proton radioactivity is offered. The method is based on the similarity of the problem with nucleon pairing in spherically symmetrical nuclei. The method is applied to the case when the quasi-stationary one-proton level has no orbital angular momentum. The total probability of the decay per unit time and the distribution of the emitted protons in directions and relative energies are obtained.

proton radioactivity  
(from an isomeric state)



# first observations

1982

ON NEUTRON-DEFICIENT  
AND THE PHENOMENA OF

Zeitschrift für Physik A  
**Atoms and Nuclei**  
© Springer-Verlag 1982

Z. Phys. A - Atoms and Nuclei 305, 111-123 (1982)

## Proton Radioactivity of $^{151}\text{Lu}$

S. Hofmann, W. Reisdorf, G. Münzenberg, F.P. Heßberger, J.R.H. Schneider,  
and P. Armbruster  
Gesellschaft für Schwerionenforschung  
Federal Republic of Germany  
Received December 2, 1981

A  $(1231 \pm 3)$  keV proton  
 $+ ^{96}\text{Ru} \rightarrow ^{154}\text{Hf}^*$ . The  
with a value of about  
rays could be observed  
isotope  $^{151}\text{Lu}$ . The mea-

Proton-induced reactions  
threshold of  $26.3 \pm 0.4$  MeV with  
differences in the decay of this is-

## Direct and Beta-Delayed Proton Decay of Very Neutron-Deficient Rare-Earth Isotopes Produced in the Reaction $^{58}\text{Ni} + ^{92}\text{Mo}$

O. Klepper, T. Batsch\*, S. Hofmann, R. Kirchner,  
W. Kurcewicz\*, W. Reisdorf, and E. Roeckl  
GSI Darmstadt, Federal Republic of Germany  
D. Schardt\*\* and G. Nyman  
CERN-ISOLDE, Geneva, Switzerland  
Received January 8, 1982

Using on-line mass separation of evaporation residues from the reaction  $^{58}\text{Ni} + ^{92}\text{Mo} \rightarrow ^{150}\text{Yb}^*$ , a proton line of  $1.055 \pm 6$  keV energy and  $0.42 \pm 0.10$  s half-life was observed at mass number 147. The origin of this activity is very likely the direct proton decay of  $^{147}\text{Tm}$ . Beta-delayed protons registered at the same mass position show a pronounced peak structure in their energy distribution. A lower limit of their half-life was set to 1 s.

ground state  
proton radioactivity

# first observations

2002

ground-state  
2-proton radioactivity

ON NEUTRON-DEFICIENT ISOTOPES  
AND THE PHENOMENA OF PROTON EMISSION

2 SEPTEMBER 2002

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

## Two-Proton Radioactivity of $^{45}\text{Fe}$

J. Giovinazzo, B. Blank, M. Chartier,\* S. Czajkowski, A. Fleury, M.J. Lopez Jimenez,† M.S. Pravikoff, and J.-C. Thomas  
CEN Bordeaux-Gradignan, Le Haut-Vigneau, F-33175 Gradignan Cedex, France

F. de Oliveira Santos, M. Lewitowicz, V. Maslov,‡ and M. Stanoiu  
Grand Accélérateur National d'Ions Lourds, B.P. 5027, F-14076 Caen Cedex, France

R. Grzywacz§ and M. Pfützner  
Institute of Experimental Physics, University of Warsaw, PL-00-681 Warsaw, Poland

C. Borcea  
IAP, Bucharest-Magurele, P.O. Box MG6, Romania

B. A. Brown  
Eur. Phys. J. A 14, 279–285 (2002)  
DOI 10.1140/epja/i2002-10033-9

Department of Physics and Astronomy  
Michigan State University  
(Received 2002-07-15)

In an experiment at the SIS18  
has been studied. Fragment-implant  
 $16 \times 16$  pixel silicon-strip detector. T  
( $1.14 \pm 0.04$ ) MeV with a half-life  
coincidence with  $\beta$  particles. For a  
daughter  $^{43}\text{Cr}$  can be observed after  
several theoretical predictions for two  
DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevLett.89.102501

### Short Note

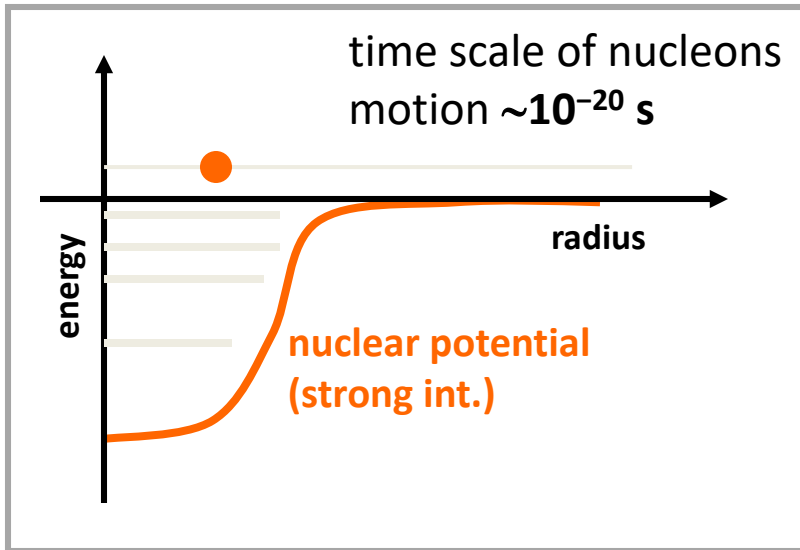
## First evidence for the two-proton decay of $^{45}\text{Fe}$

M. Pfützner<sup>1,a</sup>, E. Badura<sup>2</sup>, C. Bingham<sup>3</sup>, B. Blank<sup>4</sup>, M. Chartier<sup>5</sup>, H. Geissel<sup>2</sup>, J. Giovinazzo<sup>4</sup>, L.V. Grigorenko<sup>2</sup>,  
R. Grzywacz<sup>1</sup>, M. Hellström<sup>2</sup>, Z. Janas<sup>1</sup>, J. Kurcewicz<sup>1</sup>, A.S. Lalleman<sup>4</sup>, C. Mazzocchi<sup>2</sup>, I. Mukha<sup>2</sup>, G. Münzenberg<sup>2</sup>,  
C. Plettner<sup>2</sup>, E. Roeckl<sup>2</sup>, K.P. Rykaczewski<sup>6,1</sup>, K. Schmidt<sup>7</sup>, R.S. Simon<sup>2</sup>, M. Stanoiu<sup>8</sup>, and J.-C. Thomas<sup>4</sup>

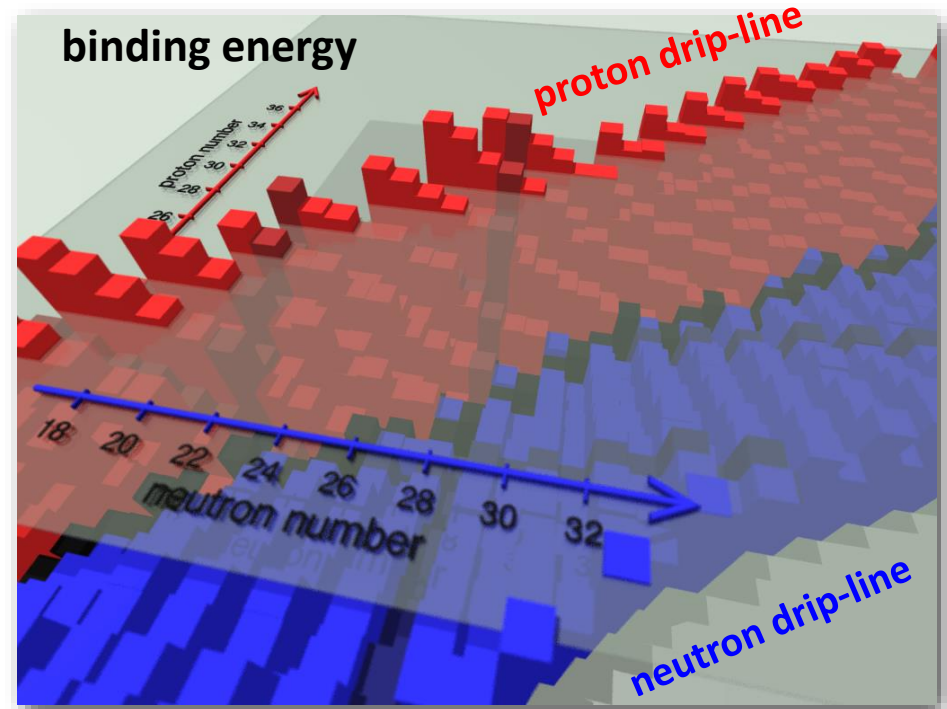
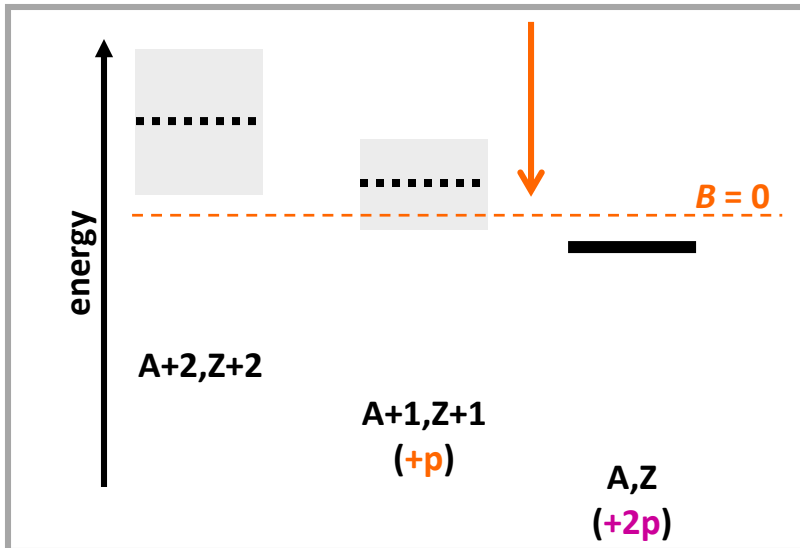
<sup>1</sup> Institute of Experimental Physics, Warsaw University, PL-00-681 Warszawa, Poland  
<sup>2</sup> GSI, Planckstrasse 1, D-64291 Darmstadt, Germany  
<sup>3</sup> Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Tennessee, Knoxville 37996 TN, USA  
<sup>4</sup> CEN Bordeaux-Gradignan, F-33175 Gradignan Cedex, France  
<sup>5</sup> Oliver Lodge Laboratory, Department of Physics, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, L69 3BX, UK  
<sup>6</sup> Physics Division, ORNL, Oak Ridge, TN 37831-6371, USA  
<sup>7</sup> Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh EH9 3JZ, UK  
<sup>8</sup> GANIL, BP 5027, F-14021 Caen Cedex, France

Abstract: Two-proton radioactivity is observed. The method is based on the simultaneous detection of two protons in a silicon strip detector. The method is applicable to the quasi-stationary one-proton level has no orbital angular momentum. The direct measurement of the decay per unit time and the distribution of the emitted protons in direct and relative energies are obtained.

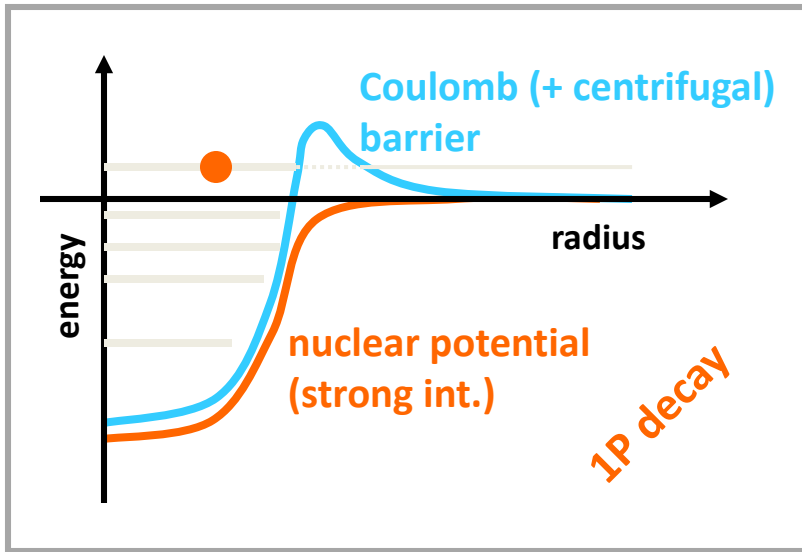
# quasi-(un)bound nuclei at the proton drip-line



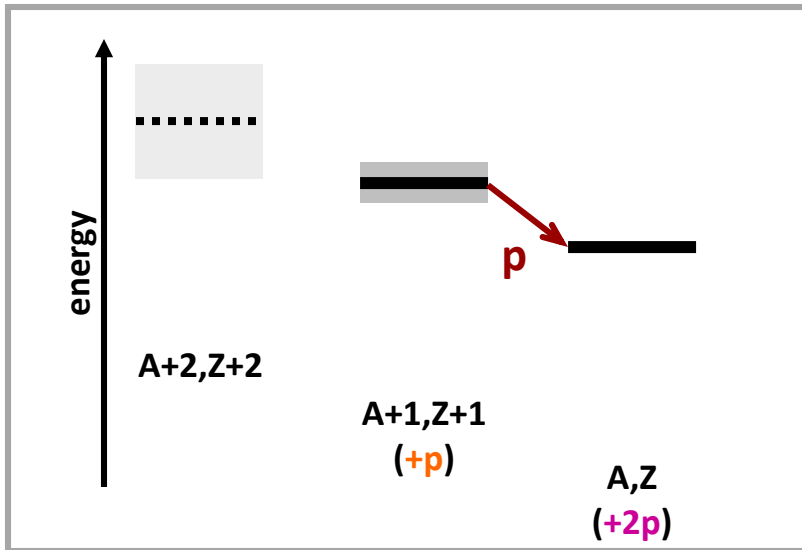
proton drip line  
(w/r nuclear interaction)



# quasi-(un)bound nuclei at the proton drip-line



odd-Z isotope



if Coulomb barrier is larger than  
proton separation energy  
→ metastable state

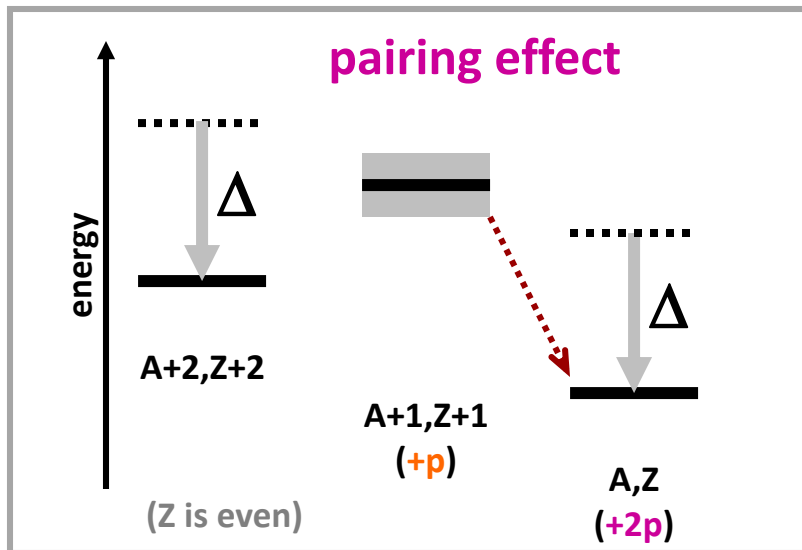
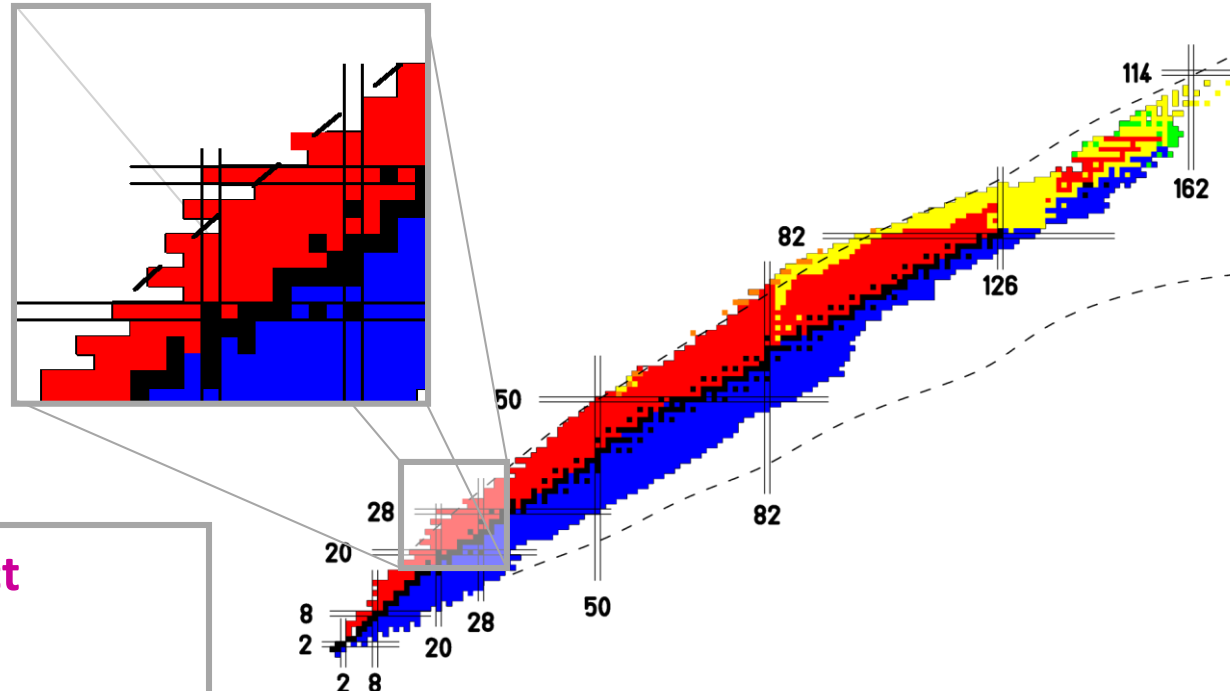
then tunnel effect  
→ **1-proton radioactivity**



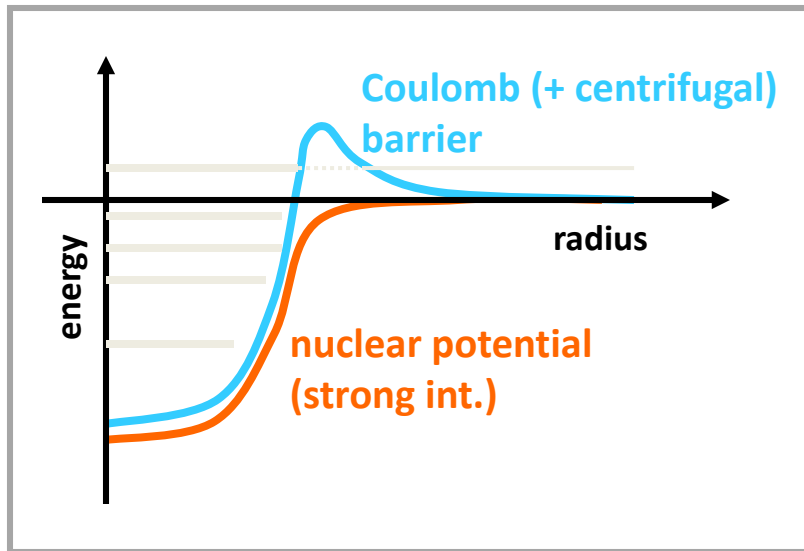
# quasi-(un)bound nuclei at the proton drip-line

illustration of odd – even effect:

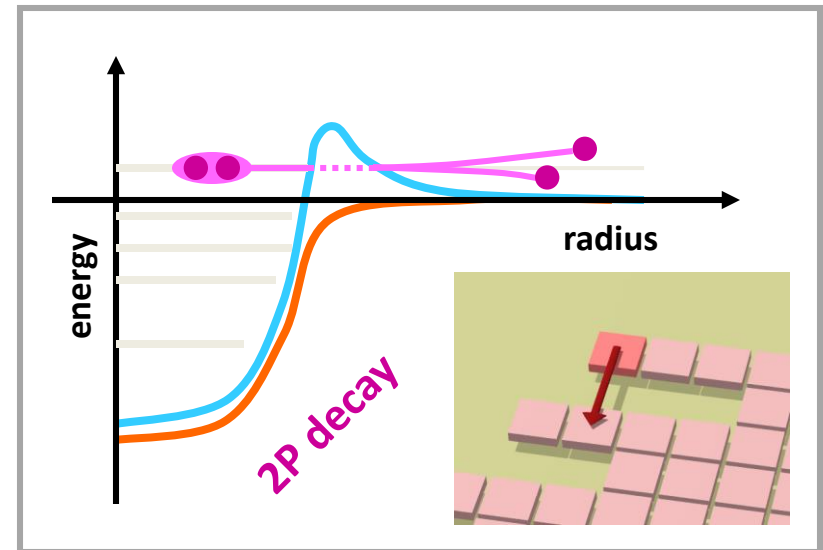
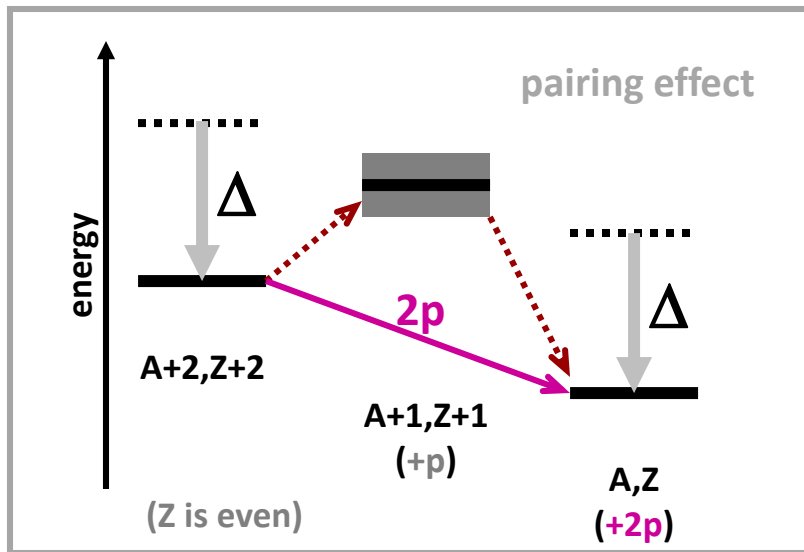
- stable isotopes
- drip-lines



# quasi-(un)bound nuclei at the proton drip-line



+



even-Z isotope

1 proton emission forbidden  
(so called "true" 2P radioactivity)

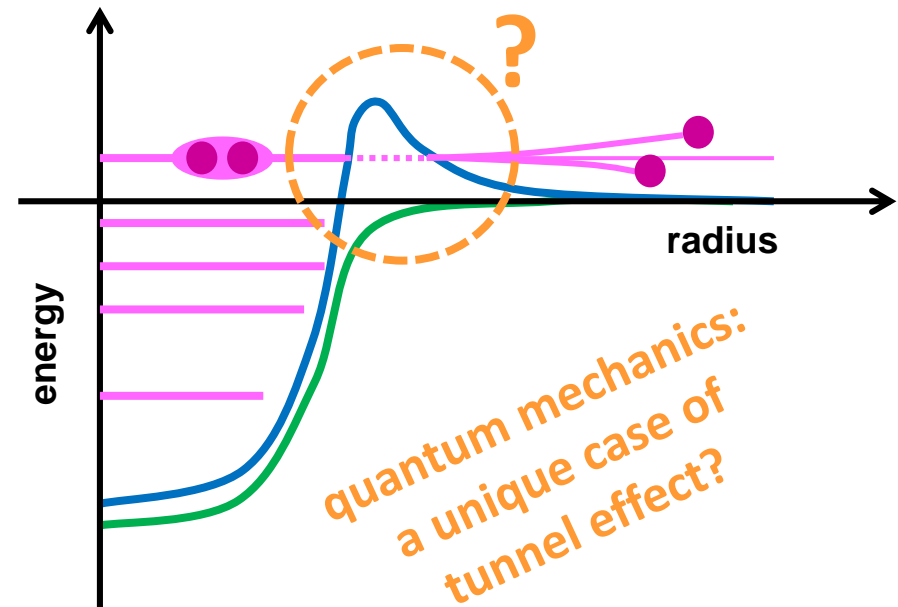
# why studying this process?

## ground-state 2-proton radioactivity

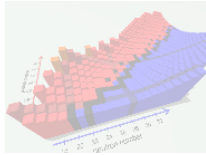
- **drip-line and masses** (beyond the « drip-line »)  
transition Q-values
- **nuclear structure**  
energies, half-life, levels configuration
- **pairing**  
correlations in energy and angle of emitted protons
- **tunnel effect**  
theoretical descriptions

## the emitted protons carry information on what's going on inside the nucleus

the 2-proton radioactivity mixes  
the **structure** (wave functions)  
and the (decay) **dynamics**

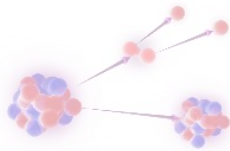


# On the Tracks of Two-Proton Radioactivity

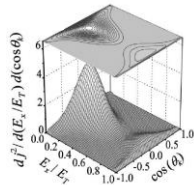


radioactivity on the proton-deficient side  
of the table of isotopes

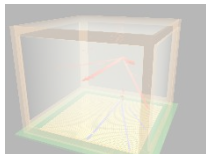
proton-rich



what is two-proton radioactivity?



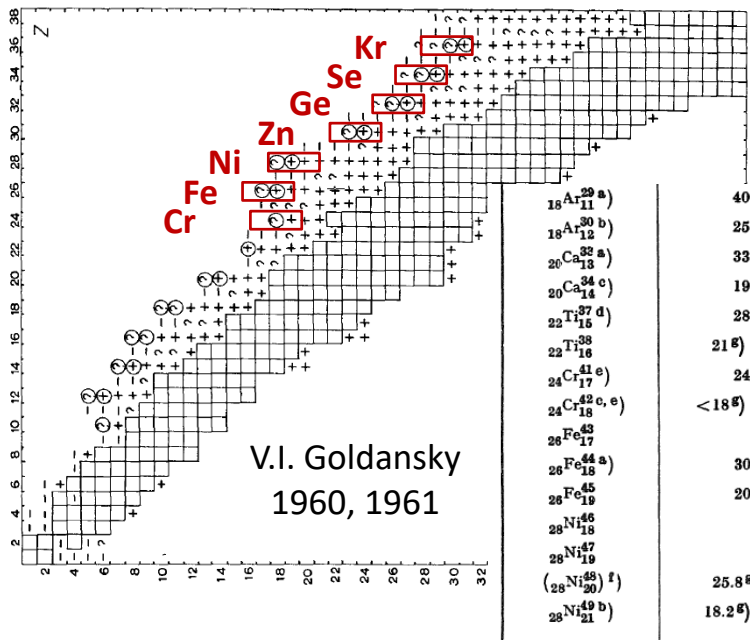
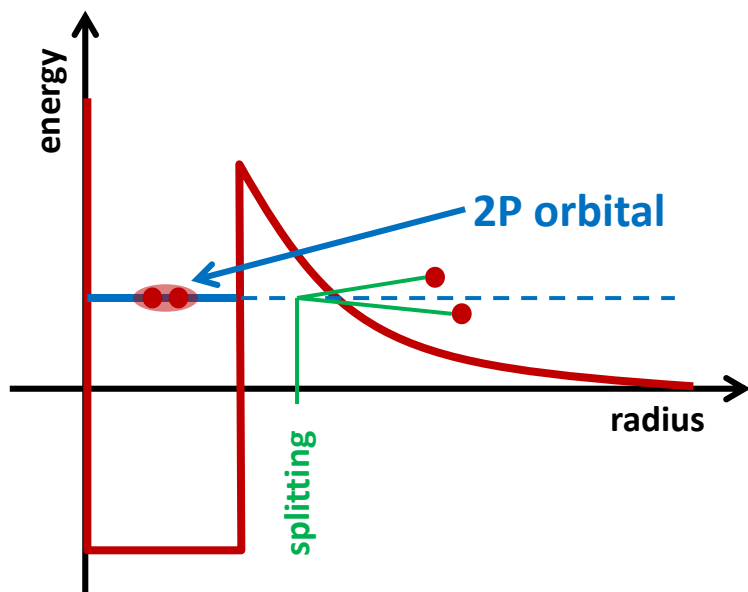
loops between theory and experiment



a new tracking device



# initial predictions



$^{29}_{11}\text{Ar}$	40.6	(4.1)	1.8
$^{30}_{12}\text{Ar}$	25.1	1.4	1.8
$^{32}_{13}\text{Ca}$	33.8	(2.4)	2.3
$^{34}_{14}\text{Ca}$	19.0	(-0.1)	2.3
$^{37}_{16}\text{Ti}$	28.2	2.7	2.7
$^{38}_{16}\text{Ti}$	21 <sup>⊖</sup> 15.5	0.1 <sup>⊖</sup> 0.4	1.3 <sup>⊖</sup>
$^{41}_{17}\text{Cr}$	24.6	1.8	2.3
$^{42}_{18}\text{Cr}$	<18 <sup>⊖</sup> 12.3	0.6 <sup>⊖</sup> (-0.3)	0.6-0.8 <sup>⊖</sup> 2.3
$^{43}_{17}\text{Fe}$			
$^{44}_{18}\text{Fe}$	30.4	(2.9)	2.0
$^{45}_{19}\text{Fe}$	20.9	1.0	2.0
$^{46}_{18}\text{Ni}$			
$^{47}_{19}\text{Ni}$			
$^{48}_{20}\text{Ni}$	25.8 <sup>⊖</sup> 27.3	(-0.3) <sup>⊖</sup> (2.9)	2.5 <sup>⊖</sup> 1.7
$^{49}_{21}\text{Ni}$	18.2 <sup>⊖</sup> 18.9	(-1.3) <sup>⊖</sup> 1.1	1.7 <sup>⊖</sup> 1.7

## First calculation by V.I. Goldanskii (1960s)

- simple potential model
- based on masses differences (mass predictions)
- tunnel effect  
barrier penetration of a  $^2\text{He}$  particle vs. simultaneous emission of 2 protons

energy sharing  
→ equal sharing between protons

discussion of the splitting of  $^2\text{He}$  into 2 protons along  $r$  axis

**mass region  $A \approx 50$   
already foreseen as  
the most promising**

# *search for candidates*

$$Q_{2p} > 0 \text{ and } Q_p \leq 0$$

(mass differences)

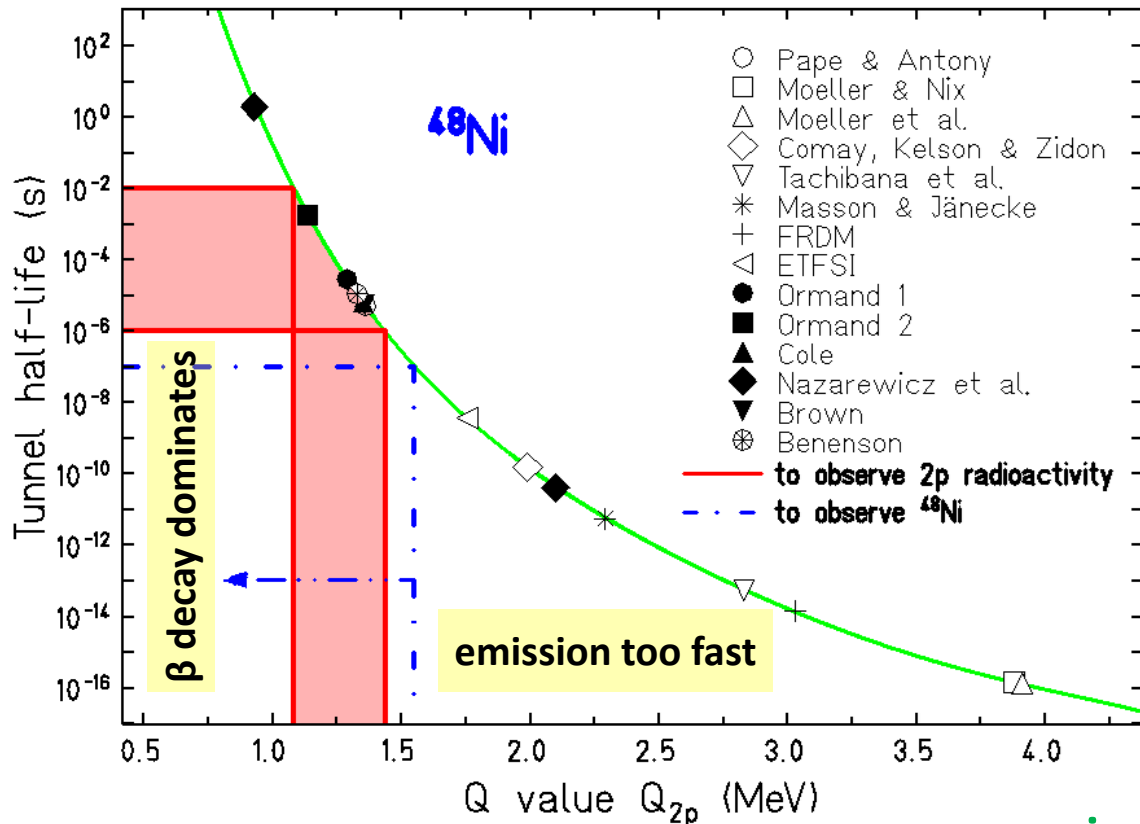
most exotic nuclei  
nothing is known !



**only mass predictions**

# search for candidates

## simple ${}^2\text{He}$ tunneling model



courtesy of B. Blank

⇒  $T_{1/2} = f(Q_{2p})$

if  $Q_{2p}$  too high

⇒ too short  $T_{1/2}$

if  $Q_{2p}$  too small

⇒ tunneling too slow:  
 $\beta^+$  dominates the decay

mass region  $A \sim 50$

(already foreseen by Goldanskii)

- ▶ Coulomb barrier high enough ( $Z \approx 20$  to  $30$ )
- ▶ half-life  $1 \mu\text{s} \sim 10 \text{ms}$

# a difficult experimental access to the drip-line

- very exotic nuclei
- very short half-lives ( $\sim ms$ )

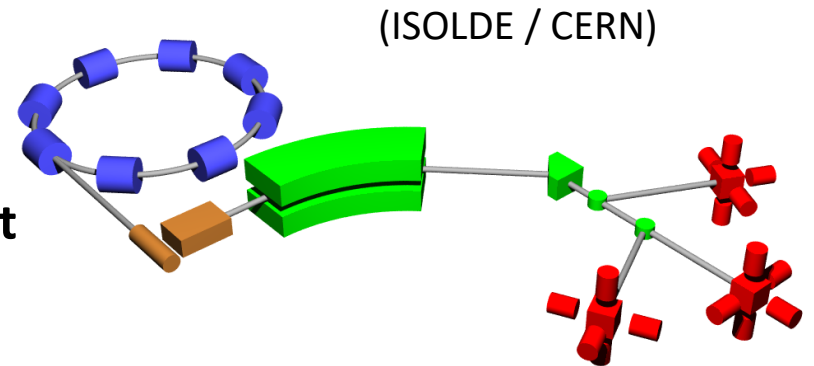
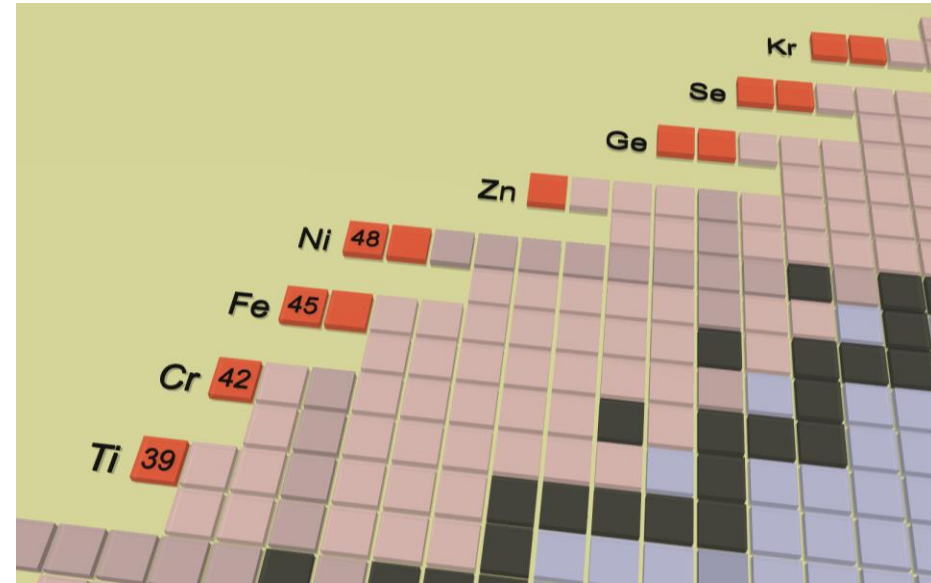
how to produce nuclei  
far from stability?

~~transfer, charge exchange  
fusion-evaporation  
induced fission~~

out of reach

target spallation + ISOL separation  
high energy projectile (proton)  
thick target → extraction from target  
separation & purification  
collection & detection

too slow



# a difficult experimental access to the drip-line

- very exotic nuclei
- very short half-lives ( $\sim ms$ )

how to produce nuclei  
far from stability?

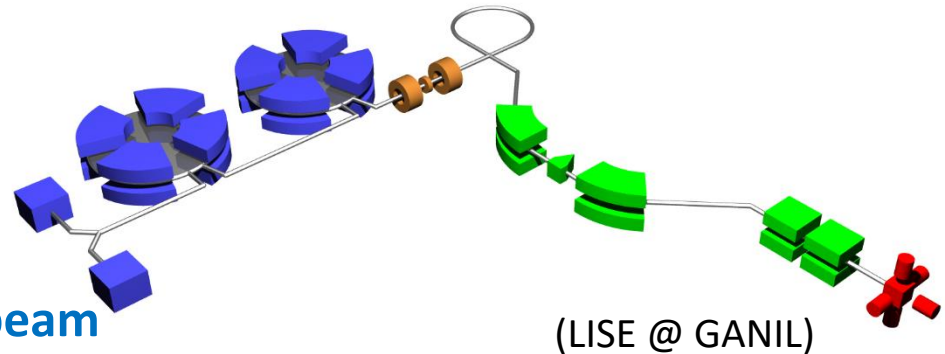
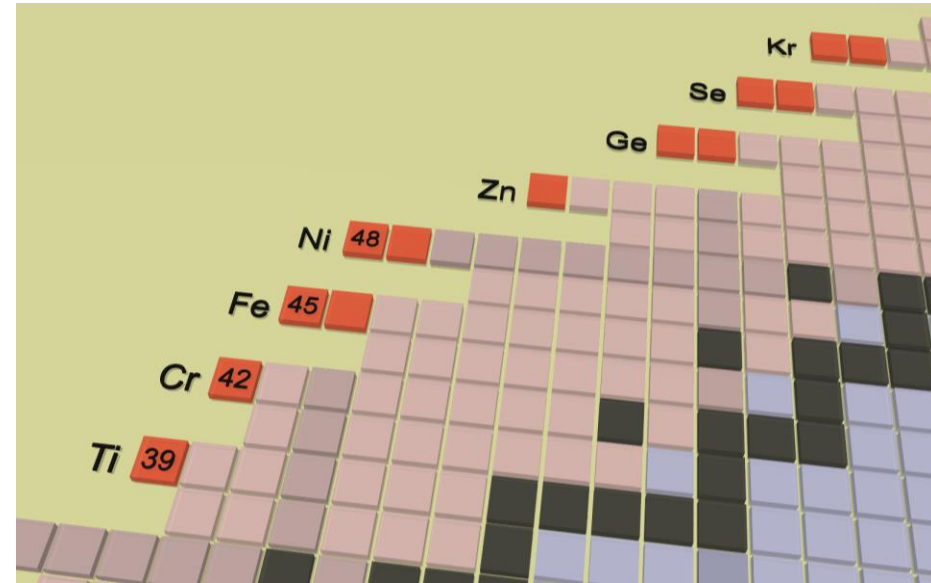
~~transfer, charge exchange  
fusion-evaporation  
induced fission~~

~~target spallation + ISOL separation~~

projectile fragmentation

OK!

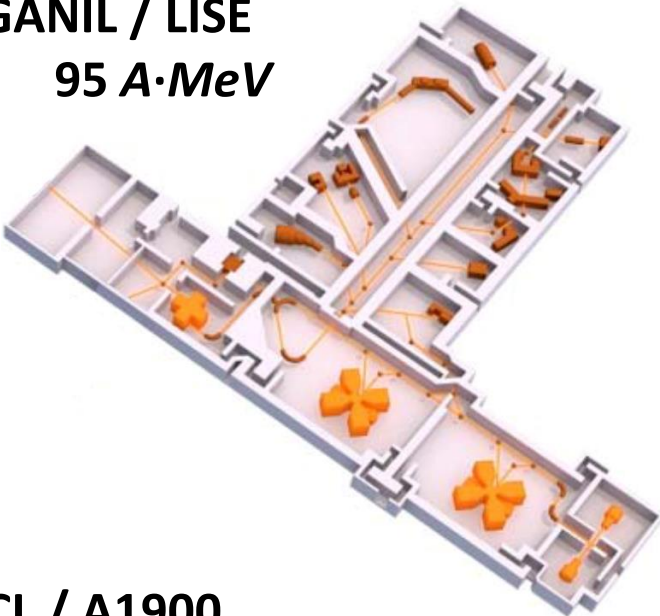
high energy and intensity ion beam  
projectile fragmentation in a thin target  
fragment separator (charge and mass)  
implantation identification & decay



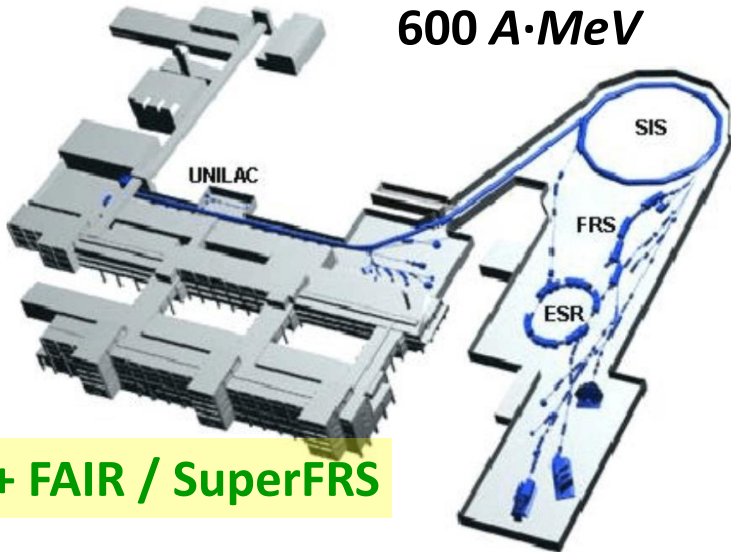


# projectile fragmentation facilities in the 1990's & 2000's

**GANIL / LISE**  
**95 A·MeV**

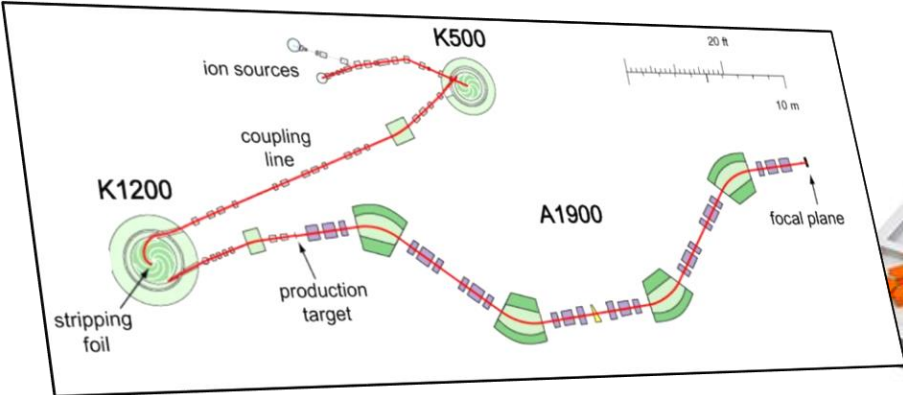


**GSI / FRS**  
**600 A·MeV**



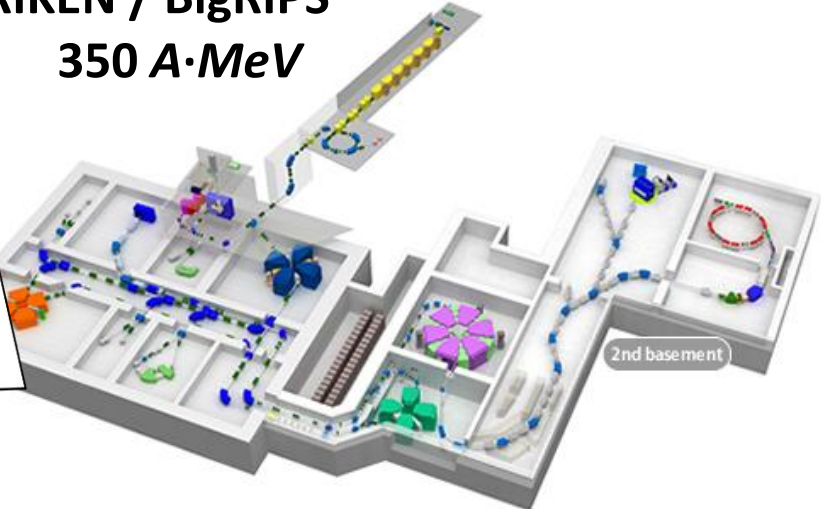
**+ FAIR / SuperFRS**

**NSCL / A1900**  
**160 A·MeV**

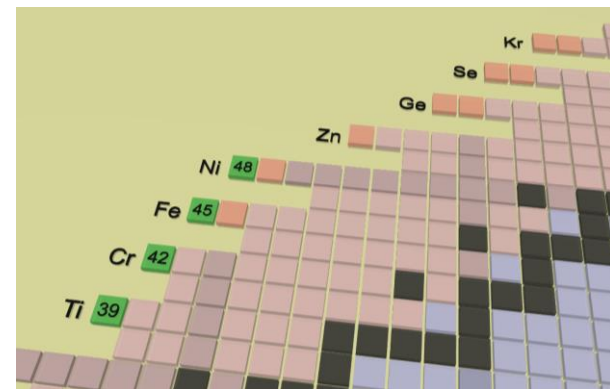
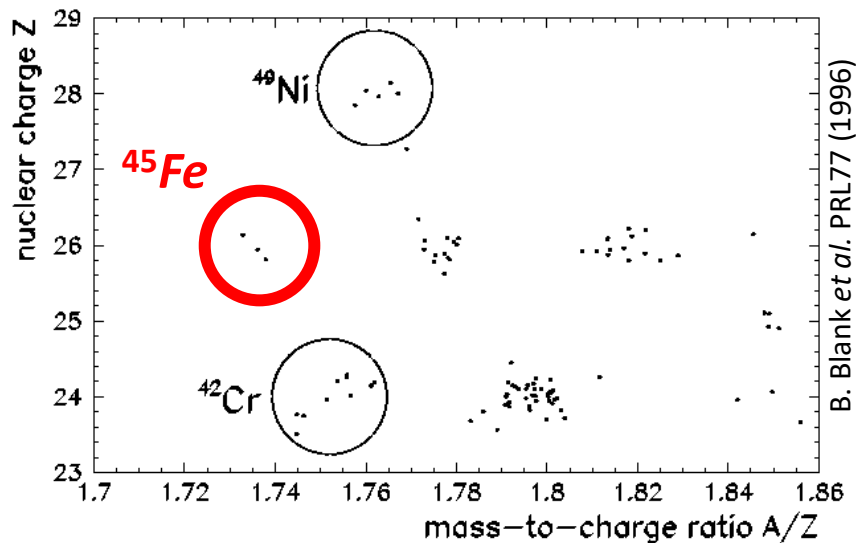


**+ FRIB**

**RIKEN / BigRIPS**  
**350 A·MeV**

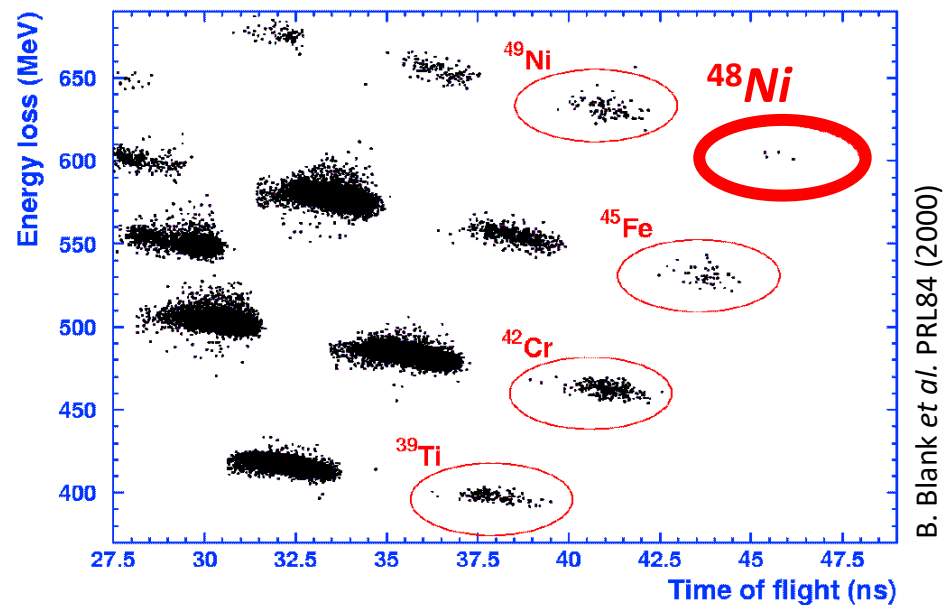


# experimental exploration...



first observation of  $^{45}\text{Fe}$   
GSI / FRS (1996): 3 events

no measurement  
of the decay modes...



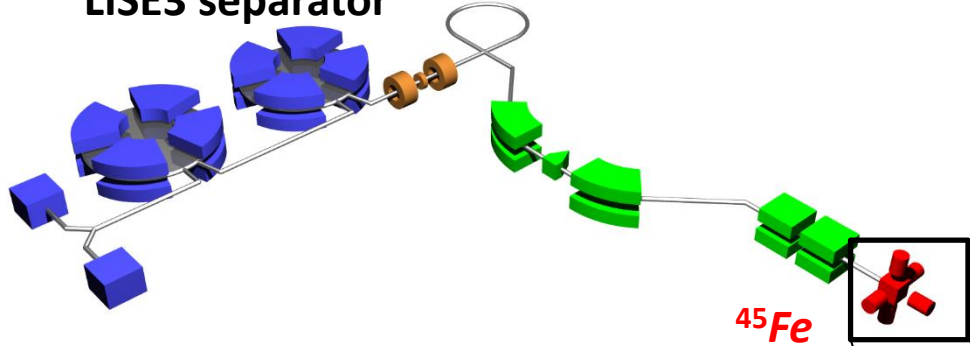
first observation of  $^{48}\text{Ni}$   
GANIL / LISE (1999): 4 events

# first observation: the case of $^{45}\text{Fe}$

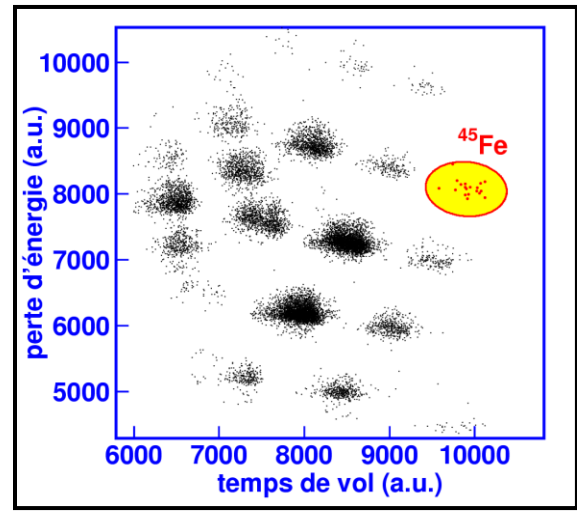
at GANIL

high intensity primary  $^{58}\text{Ni}$  beam:  $5\ \mu\text{A}$

LISE3 separator



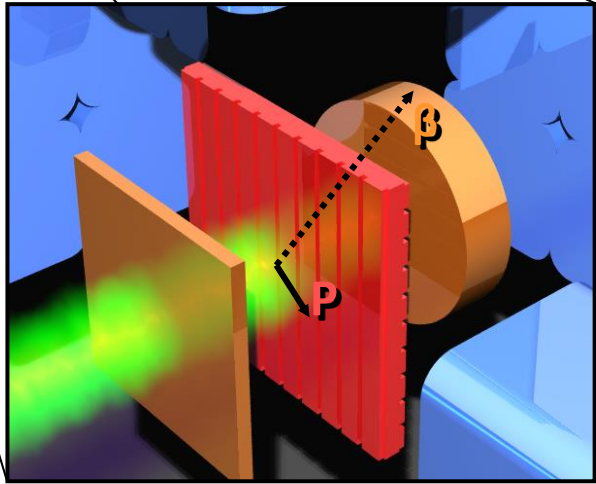
$^{45}\text{Fe}$   
few/day



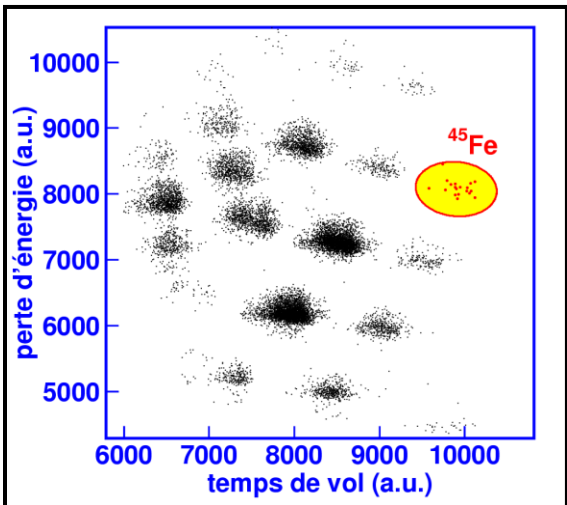
implantation in a **thick** silicon detector

decay after few milliseconds

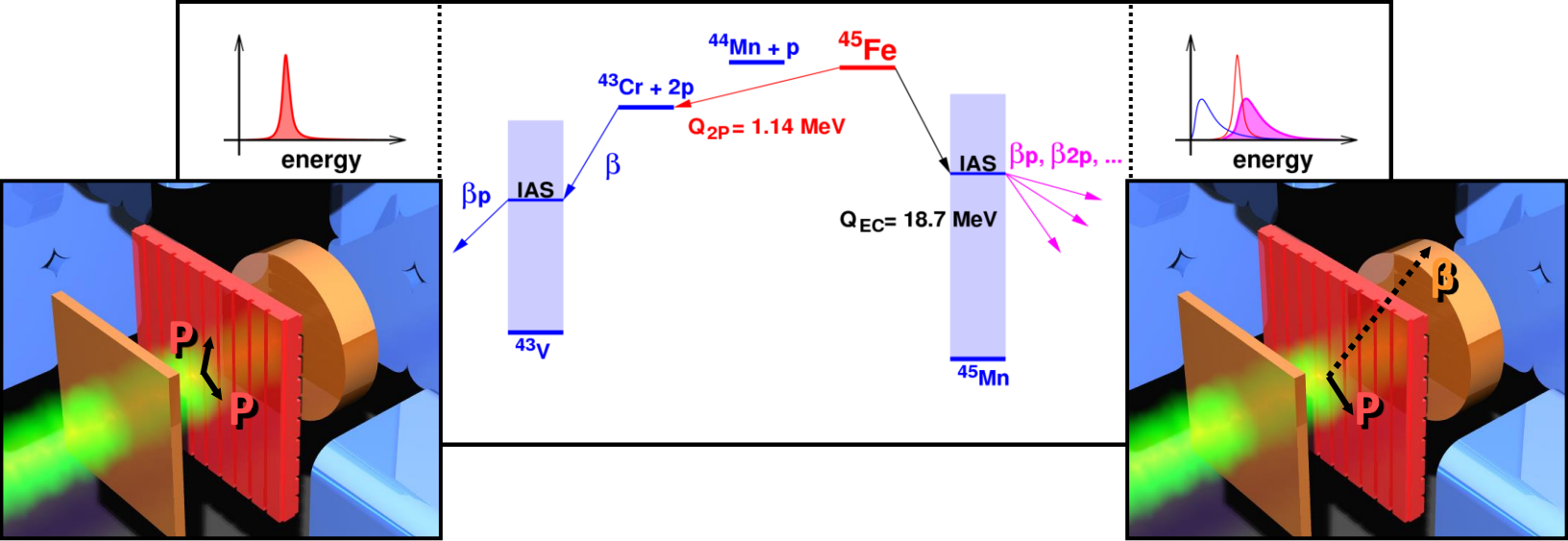
- proton(s) stopped in impl. detector  
→ full energy deposit
- beta particles escape  
→ partial energy loss  
→ possible signal in other Si detectors



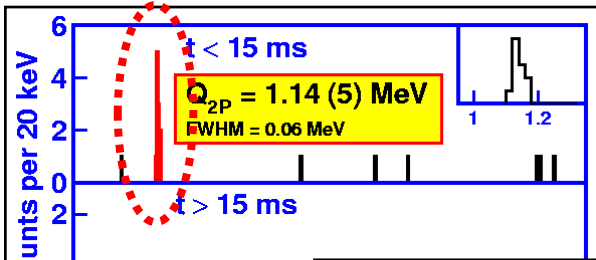
# first observation: the case of $^{45}\text{Fe}$



competition of decay modes  
 2 proton emission  $\leftrightarrow$   $\beta$ -proton(s) emission



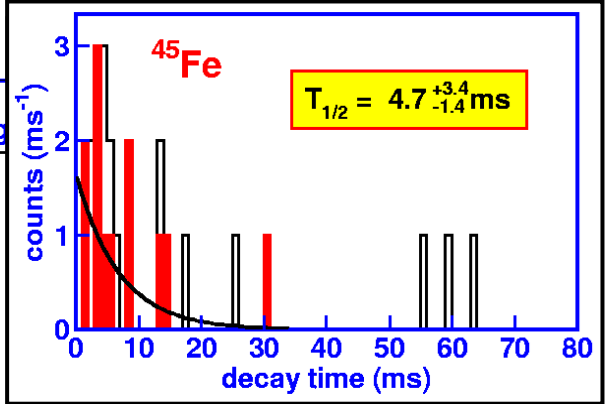
# first observation: an indirect signature



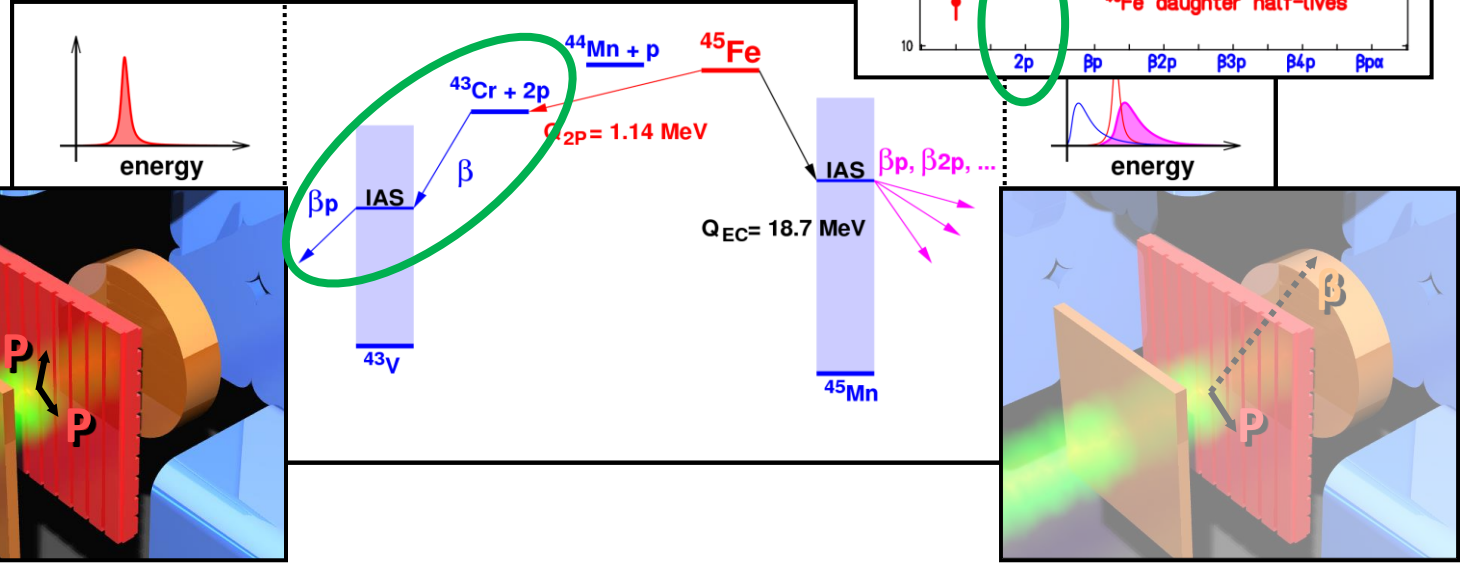
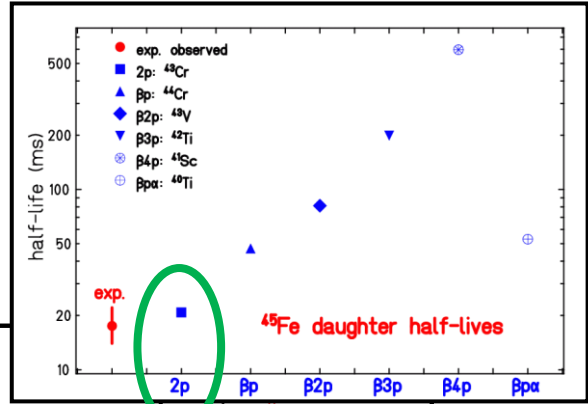
## 2-proton transition

- experimental information:  $Q_{2p}$ ,  $T_{1/2}$
- no  $\beta$  coincidence (>99% C.L.)
- no  $\Delta E_\beta$  pile-up (peak 30% narrower than  $\beta p$ )

J.G. et al. (PRL 2002)



→ daughter decay half-life:  $^{43}\text{Cr}$



# *experimental confirmation of the 2-proton radioactivity*

indirect signature: **no observation of individual protons**  
only scenario explaining the measurement

2002 2P decay of  $^{45}\text{Fe}$ : at GANIL / LISE and GSI / FRS

**2-proton radioactivity  
is found...**

**not enough for  
understanding  
the process**



# experimental confirmation of the 2-proton radioactivity

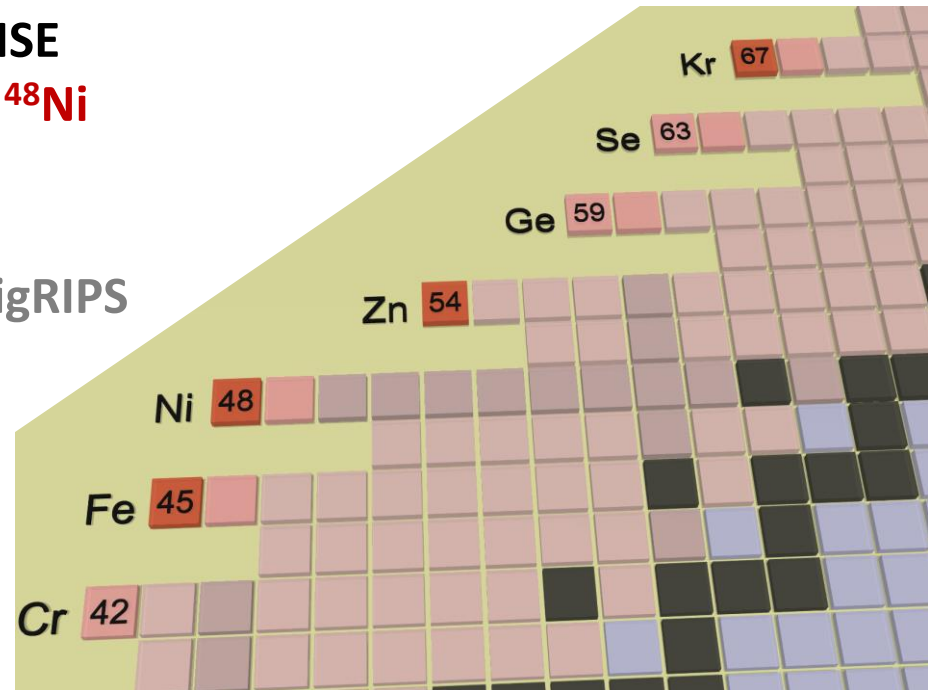
indirect signature: **no observation of individual protons**  
only scenario explaining the measurement

2002 2P decay of  $^{45}\text{Fe}$ : at GANIL / LISE and GSI / FRS

based on the same experimental technique  
(indirect observation)

2005 2P decay of  $^{54}\text{Zn}$  at GANIL / LISE  
indication of the 2P decay of  $^{48}\text{Ni}$   
(confirmed later...)

2016 2P decay of  $^{67}\text{Kr}$  at RIKEN / BigRIPS



# *a very limited information for theory...*

experiment: half-life ( $T_{1/2}$ ) and transition energy ( $Q_{2p}$ )

## models based on nuclear structure

### R-matrix formalism

- Barker & Brown approach
- include  $p$ - $p$  resonance
- shell model wave functions

### shell model embedded in the continuum (SMEC)

- tentative approach from Ploszajczak & Rotureau

difficult task...

→ unbound system  
role of states in  
the continuum

→ 3 body system  
(core + p + p)

# a very limited information for theory...

experiment: half-life ( $T_{1/2}$ ) and transition energy ( $Q_{2p}$ )

## models based on nuclear structure

### R-matrix formalism

- Barker & Brown approach
- include  $p$ - $p$  resonance
- shell model wave functions

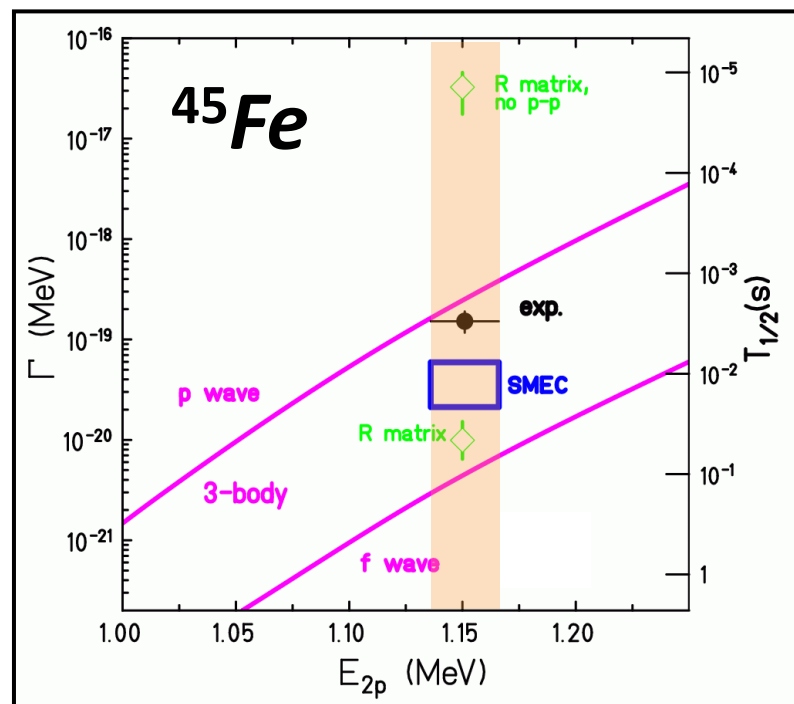
### shell model embedded in the continuum (SMEC)

- tentative approach from Ploszajczak & Rotureau

⇒ **no dynamics**  
**limited comparison:  $T_{1/2}(Q_{2p})$**   
(with  $Q_{2p}$  taken from experiments !)

### 3-body model

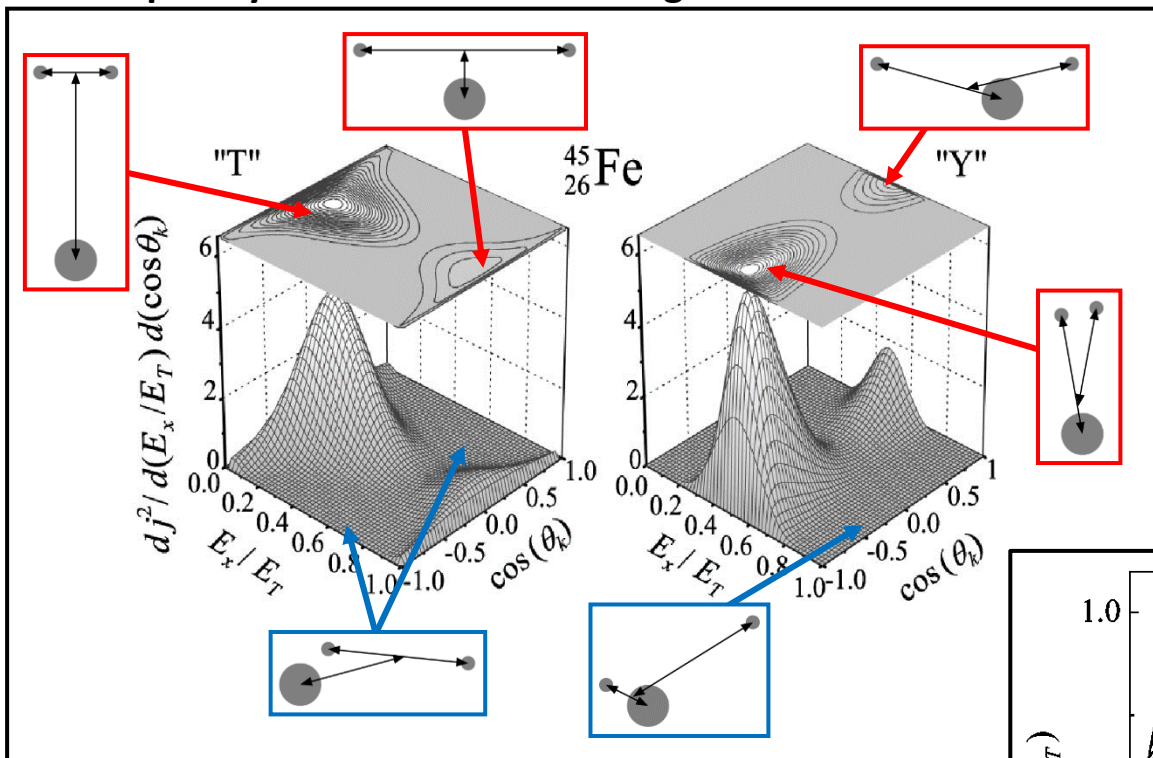
- core+ $p$ + $p$  system (hyperspherical harmonics)
- good dynamical description
- no intrinsic structure prediction



$$T_{1/2} = f(Q_{2p})$$

# 3-body model: correlations predictions

developed by M.V. Zhukov & L.V. Grigorenko



3-body Schrödinger equation

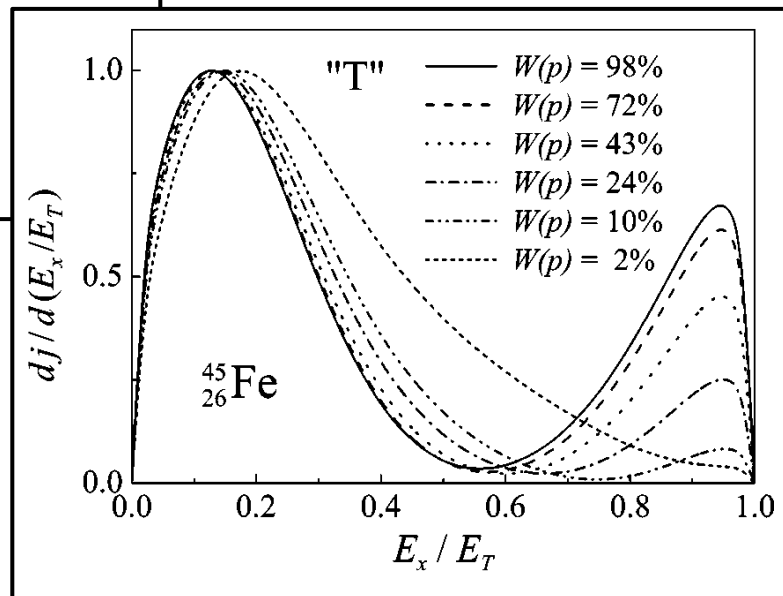
solved in *hyper-spherical harmonics* basis

L.V. Grigorenko

prediction of distributions for

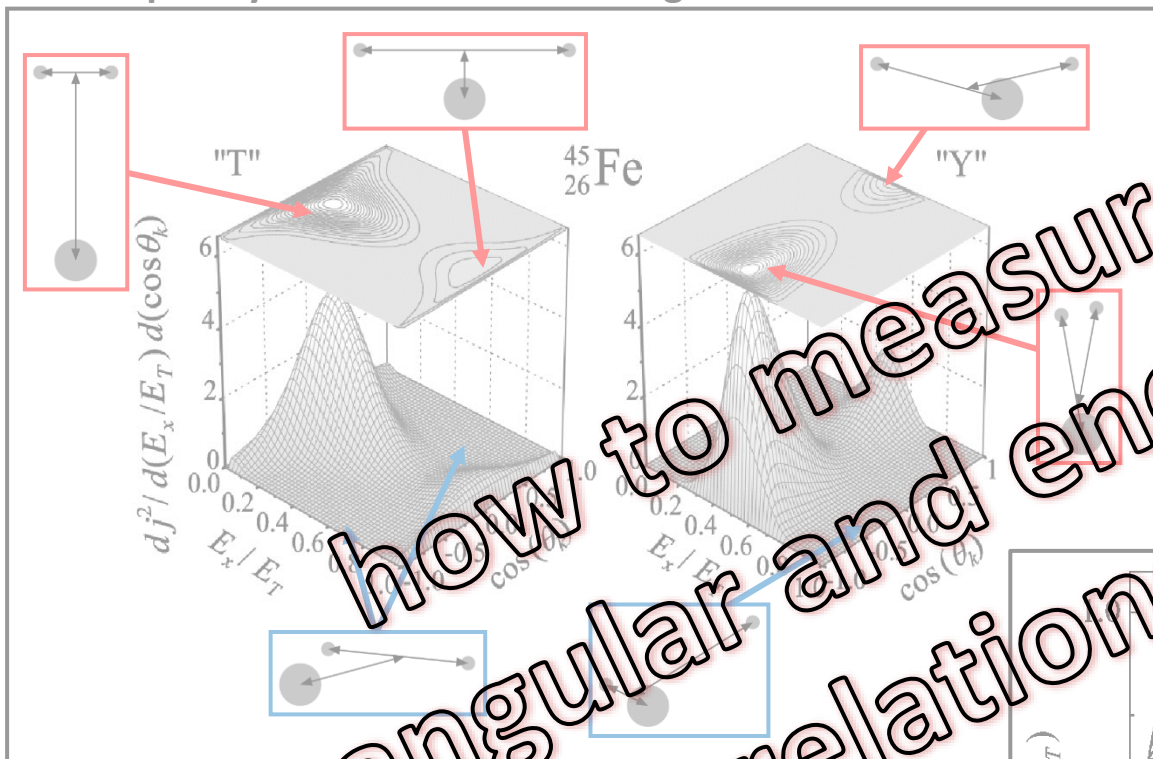
- energy sharing between protons
- proton-proton angular correlations

sensitive to involved orbitals



# 3-body model: correlations predictions

developed by M.V. Zhukov & L.V. Grigorenko



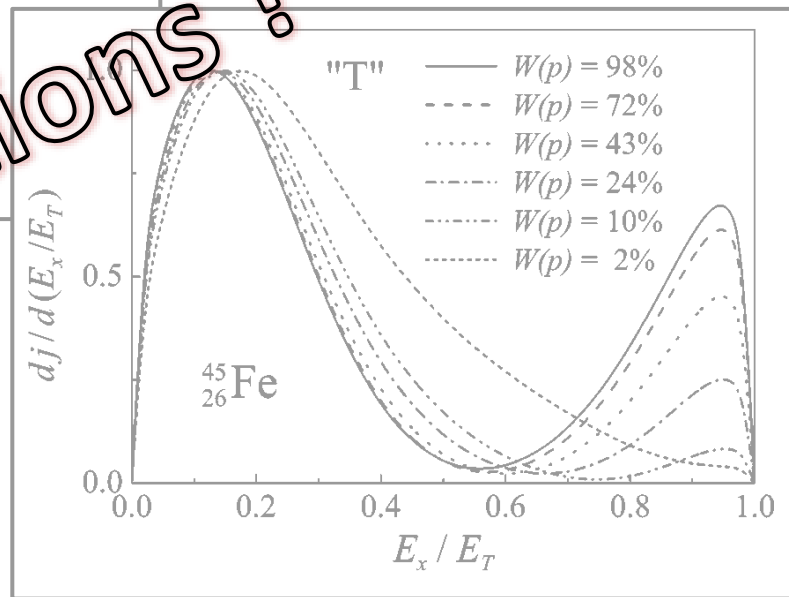
3-body Schrödinger equation

solved in *hyper-spherical harmonics* basis

L.V. Grigorenko

- prediction of distributions for
- energy sharing between protons
  - proton-proton angular correlations

sensitive to involved orbitals



# *a new experimental step: tracking experiments*

## standard (silicon) experiments

- ▶ **limited experimental information:  $T_{1/2}$ ,  $Q_{2p}$  &  $BR_{2p}$**
- ▶ **limited comparison with theoretical interpretations**

## purpose of tracking experiments

- ▶ **measure proton-proton correlations**  
angular distribution and energy sharing
- ▶ **compare with 3-body model** (kinematics)
- ▶ **extract structure information**



# *a new experimental step: tracking experiments*

development of gas detectors

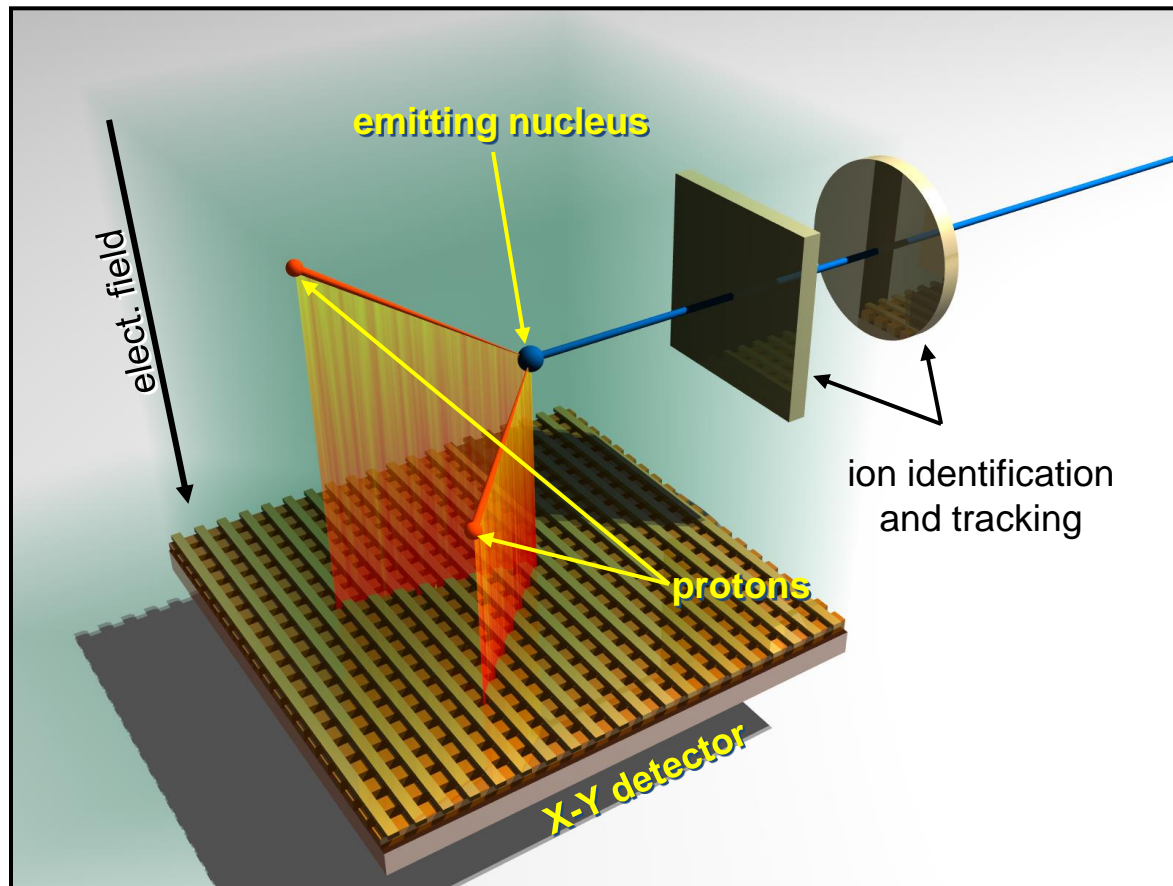
**T**ime **P**rojection **C**hambers for tracking of particles

charged particles slow down in a **gas volume**

**ionisation electrons** drift to a 2D detector

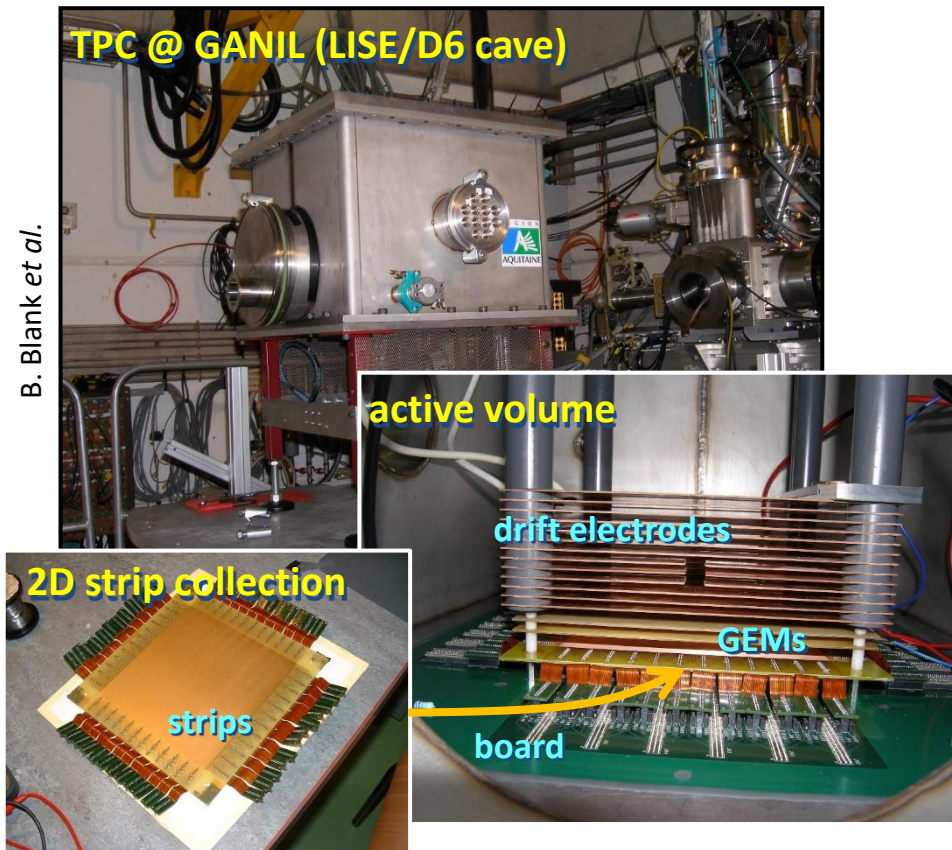
the **2D detector** registers the **tracks projection**

the **drift time** measures the **3<sup>rd</sup> dimension**

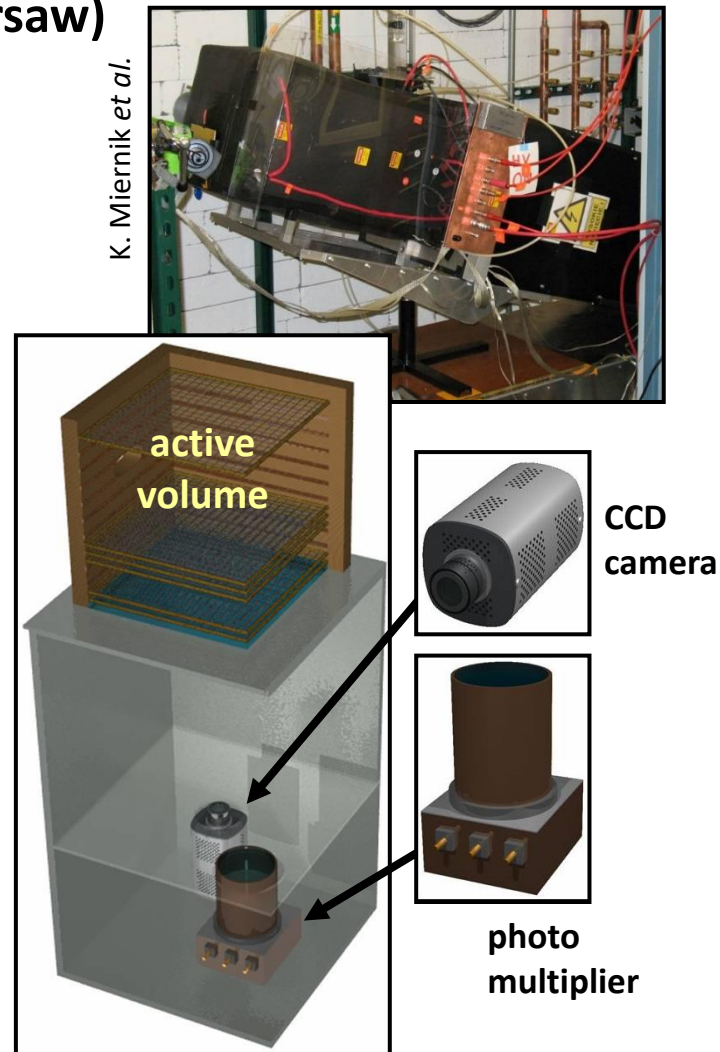


# a new experimental step: tracking experiments

## X-Y strips projection readout TPC (CENBG)



## optical TPC (Warsaw)

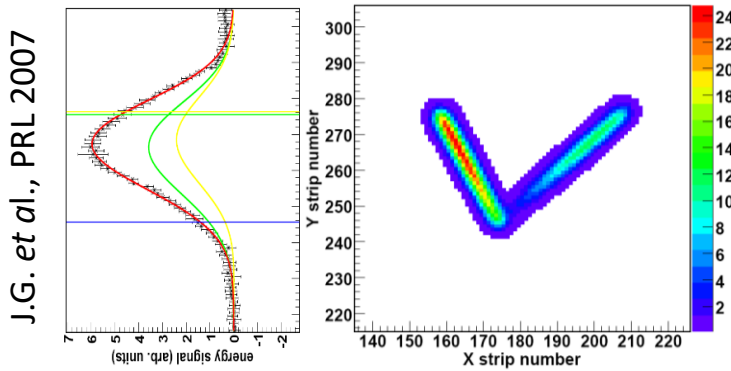
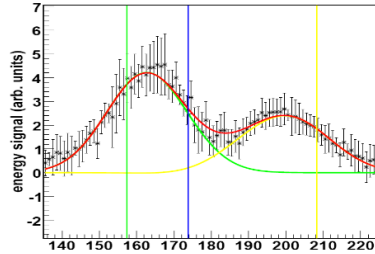


M. Pfützner, K. Miernik, et al., 2007

# direct observation

$^{45}\text{Fe}$

first 2P tracks  
(GANIL)



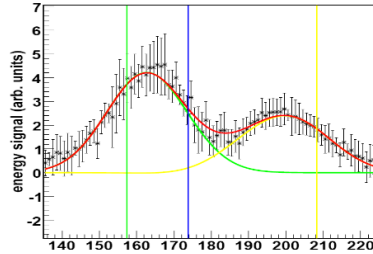
J.G. et al., PRL 2007

first direct observation

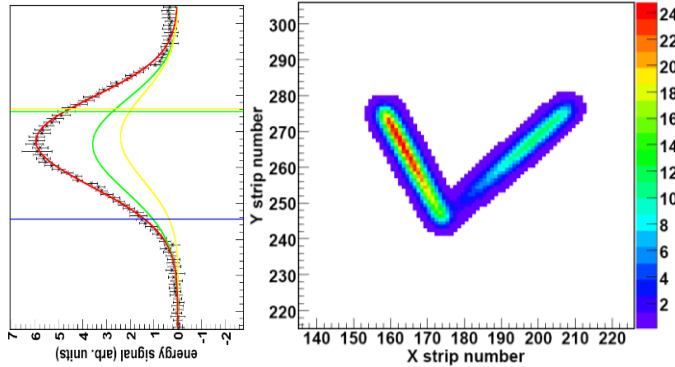
# direct observation

$^{45}\text{Fe}$

first 2P tracks  
(GANIL)



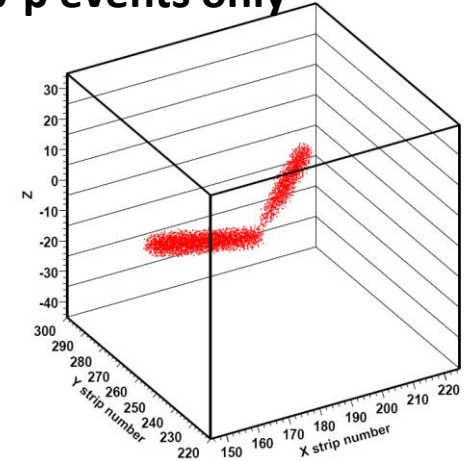
J.G. et al., PRL 2007



$^{54}\text{Zn}$

(GANIL)

7 p-p events only

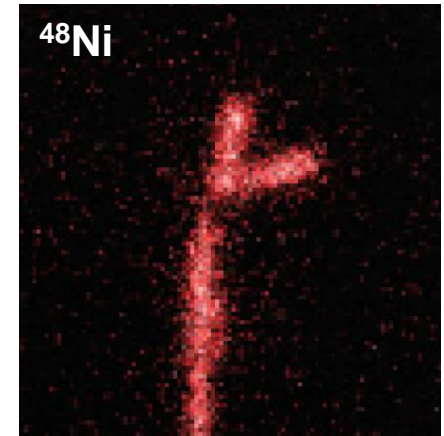


P. Ascher et al., PRL 2011

$^{48}\text{Ni}$

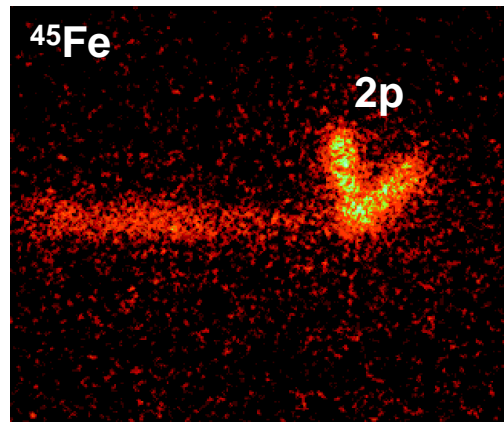
confirmed as 2P emitter

4 p-p events



M. Pomorski et al., PRL 2011

experiment @ NSCL  
→ 75 counts of p-p correlations



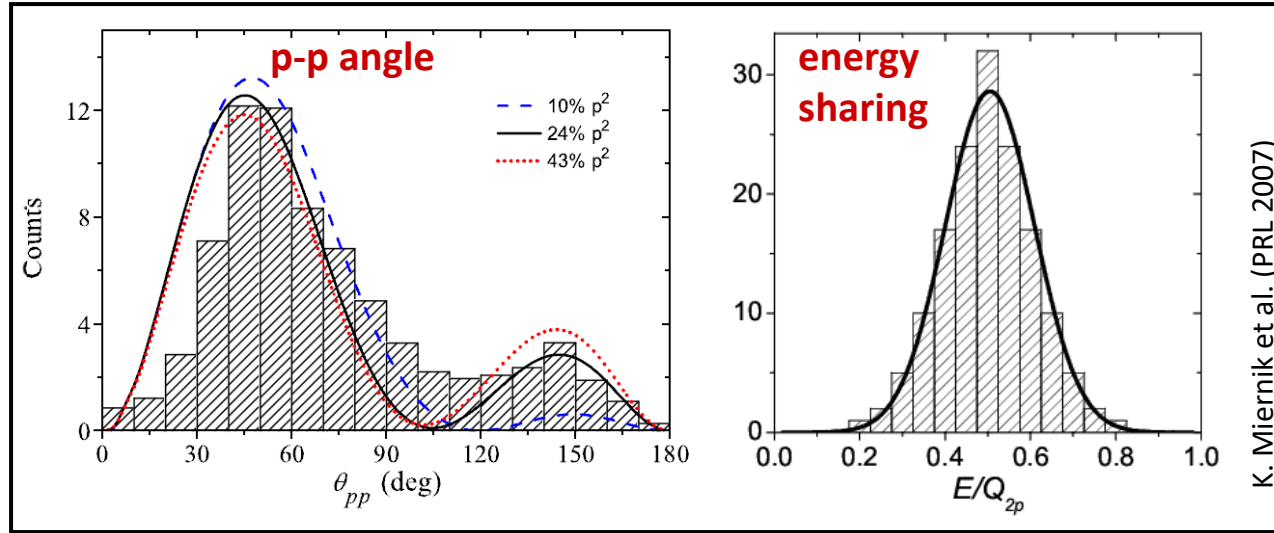
K. Miernik et al., PRL 2007



# tracking experiments results

first angular distribution: good agreement with **predictions** from the 3-body model

$^{45}\text{Fe}$  (MSU)

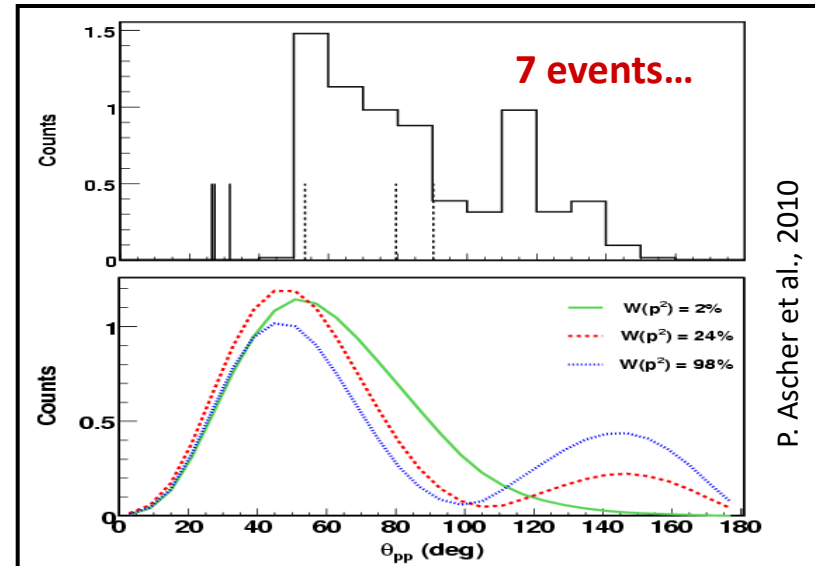


pioneering experiments

- **opening structure studies** at the drip-line
- angular distribution probes the **wave function** content (single particle states)

requires more statistics

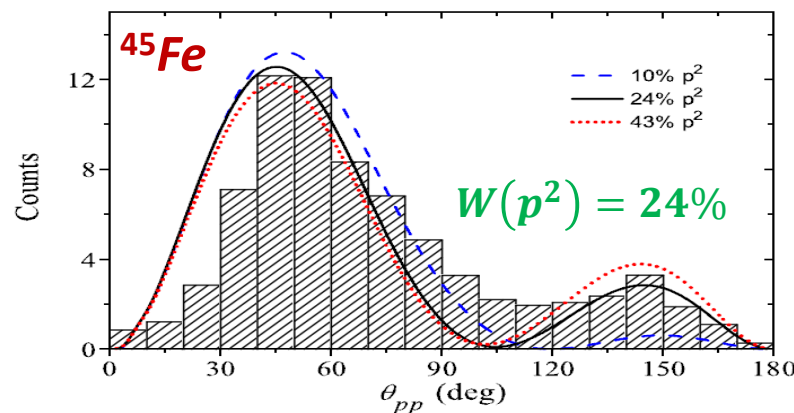
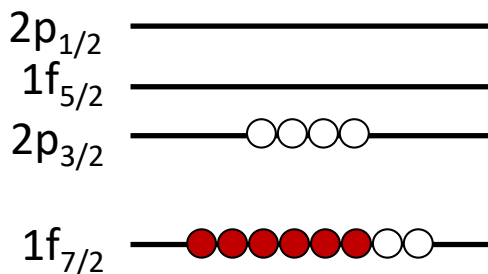
other cases to test the models descriptions



$^{54}\text{Zn}$  (GANIL)

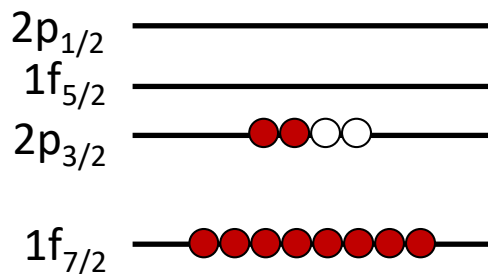
# probing structure beyond the drip-line

$^{45}\text{Fe}$  : 26 protons

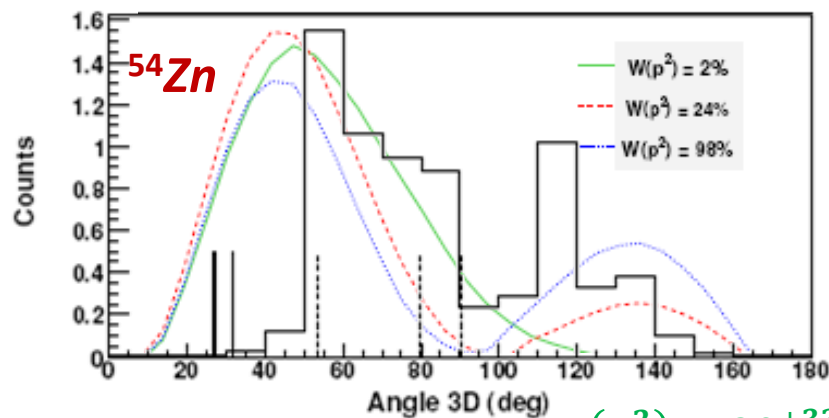


K. Miernik et al., EPJA (2009)

$^{54}\text{Zn}$  : 30 protons

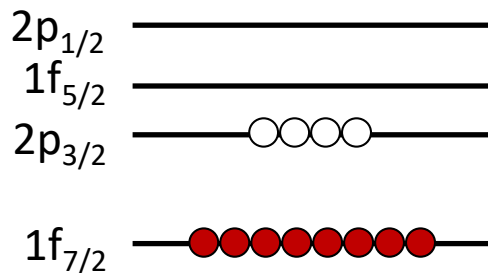


proton-proton angular distribution  $\rightarrow$  orbitals configuration



P. Ascher et al., PRL (2011)

$^{48}\text{Ni}$  : 28 protons



$^{48}\text{Ni} ??$

doubly magic  $\rightarrow$  pure configuration ?



# ***mixing structure and dynamics***

**L.V. Grigorenko: good dynamics**  
 half-lives:  
 $T_{1/2}$  for pure ( $s^2$ ,)  $p^2$  and  $f^2$  config.

**B.A. Brown: good structure**  
 2-proton amplitudes:  
 for pure ( $s^2$ ,)  $p^2$  and  $f^2$  config

“hybrid” model

“Shell model corrected half-lives”  
 $A = A(f^2) + A(p^2) \implies T_{1/2}(2P)$

B.A. Brown et al.,  
 PRC 2019

	calculation	experiment(s)	
$^{45}\text{Fe}$	1.8 - 5.9 ms	$3.6 \pm 0.4$ ms	OK
$^{48}\text{Ni}$	0.4 - 1.3 ms	$4.1 \pm 0.4$ ms	~OK
$^{54}\text{Zn}$	0.6 - 1.7 ms	$1.98_{-0.41}^{+0.73}$ ms	~OK

**happy end ?...**

# *mixing structure and dynamics*

**L.V. Grigorenko: good dynamics**  
 half-lives:  
 $T_{1/2}$  for pure ( $s^2$ ,)  $p^2$  and  $f^2$  config.

**B.A. Brown: good structure**  
 2-proton amplitudes:  
 for pure ( $s^2$ ,)  $p^2$  and  $f^2$  config

“hybrid” model

“Shell model corrected half-lives”  
 $A = A(f^2) + A(p^2) \implies T_{1/2}(2P)$

B.A. Brown et al.,  
 PRC 2019

	calculation	experiment(s)	
$^{45}\text{Fe}$	1.8 - 5.9 ms	$3, 6 \pm 0, 4$ ms	OK
$^{48}\text{Ni}$	0.4 - 1.3 ms	$4. 1 \pm 0, 4$ ms	~OK
$^{54}\text{Zn}$	0.6 - 1.7 ms	$1. 98^{+0.73}_{-0.41}$ ms	~OK

2016

**$^{67}\text{Kr}$**       **300 - 900 ms**       **$21 \pm 12$  ms**      **!?**  
 (Goigoux et al., PRL 2016)

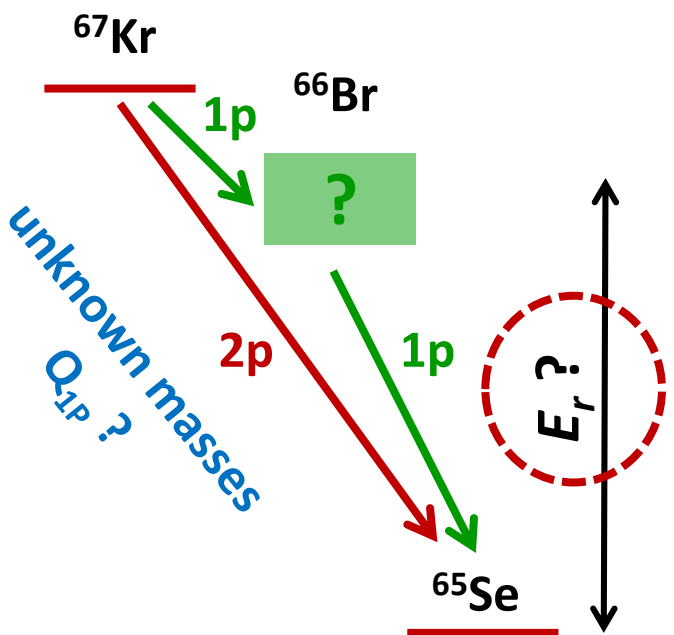
factor  
 20 to 40 off !!!

“puzzling two-proton decay of  $^{67}\text{Kr}$ ” ?

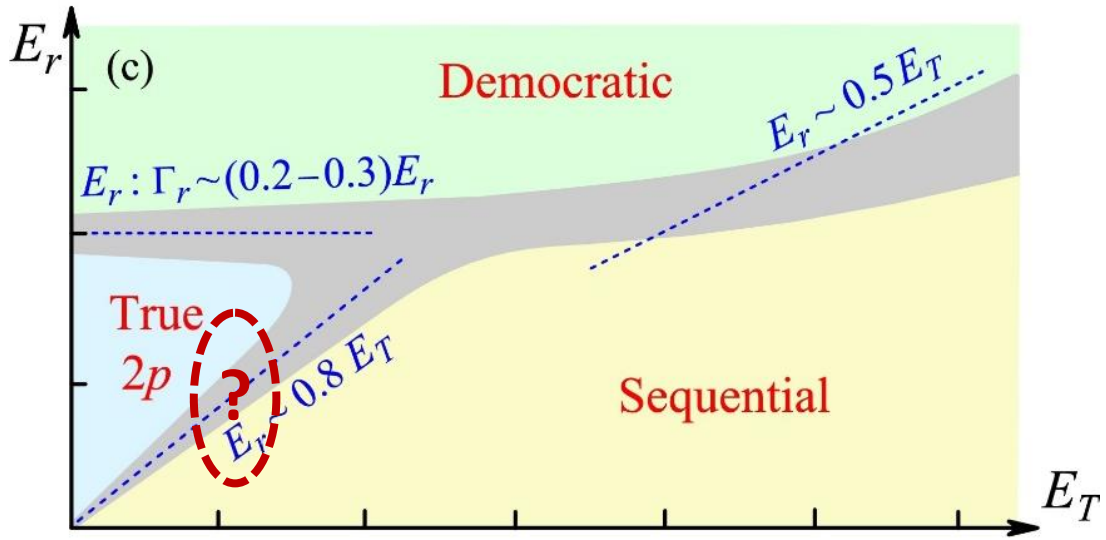
(title from Wang & Nazarewics, PRL 2019)

# first hypothesis: transition from 2P to sequential decay ?

- possible transition region depending on intermediate state position



L. Grigorenko et al.  
PRC 95 (2017) 021601(R)



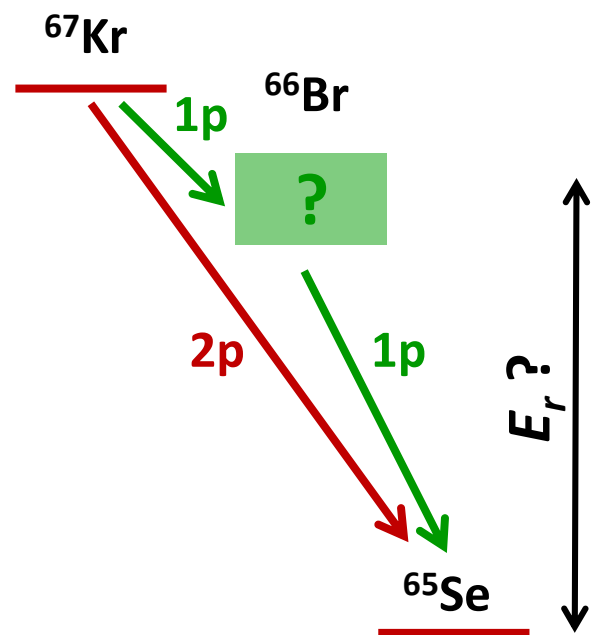
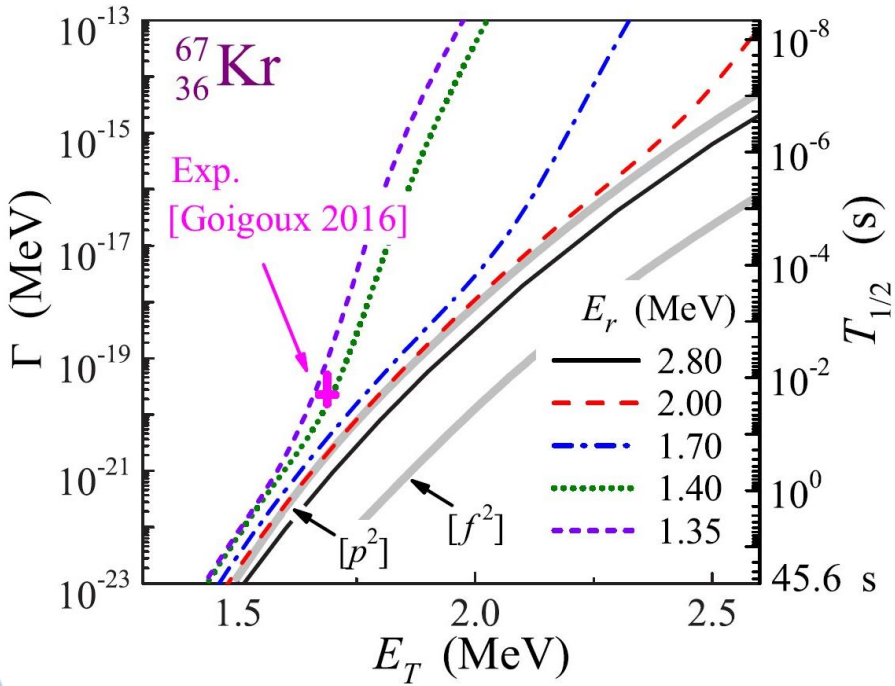
# first hypothesis: transition from 2P to sequential decay ?

(semi-analytical R-matrix calculation)

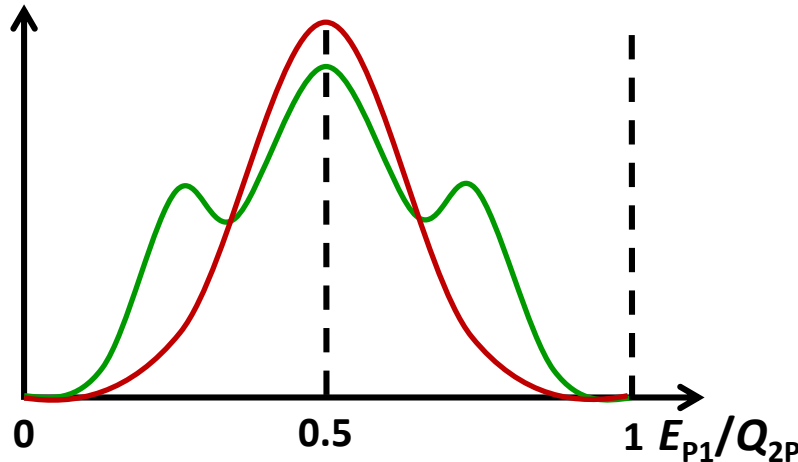
- indication of a 1p channel opening ?
  - possible transition from 2P to seq. emission
- transition region:  $S_p = [-340 ; -270] \text{ keV}$

L. Grigorenko et al.  
PRC 95 (2017) 021601(R)

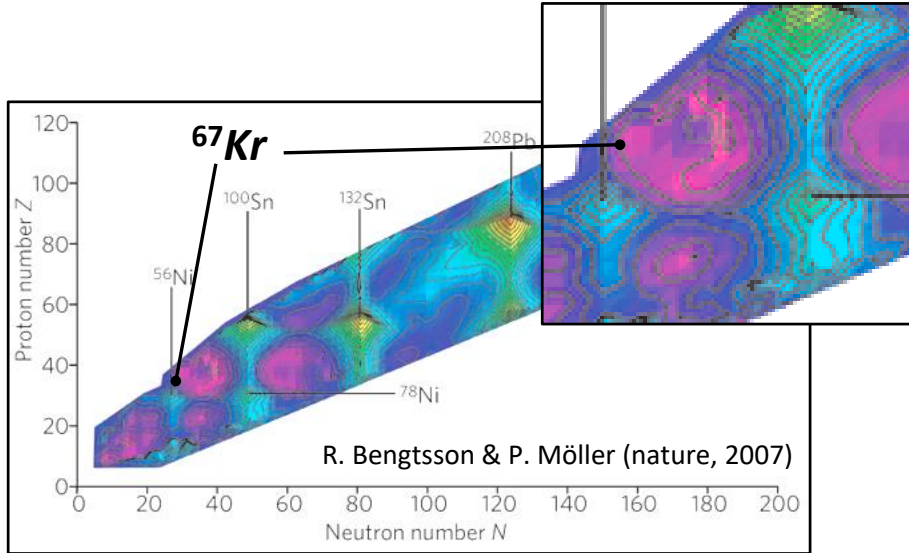
2017



energy sharing pattern (correlations)



# second hypothesis: influence of deformation ?

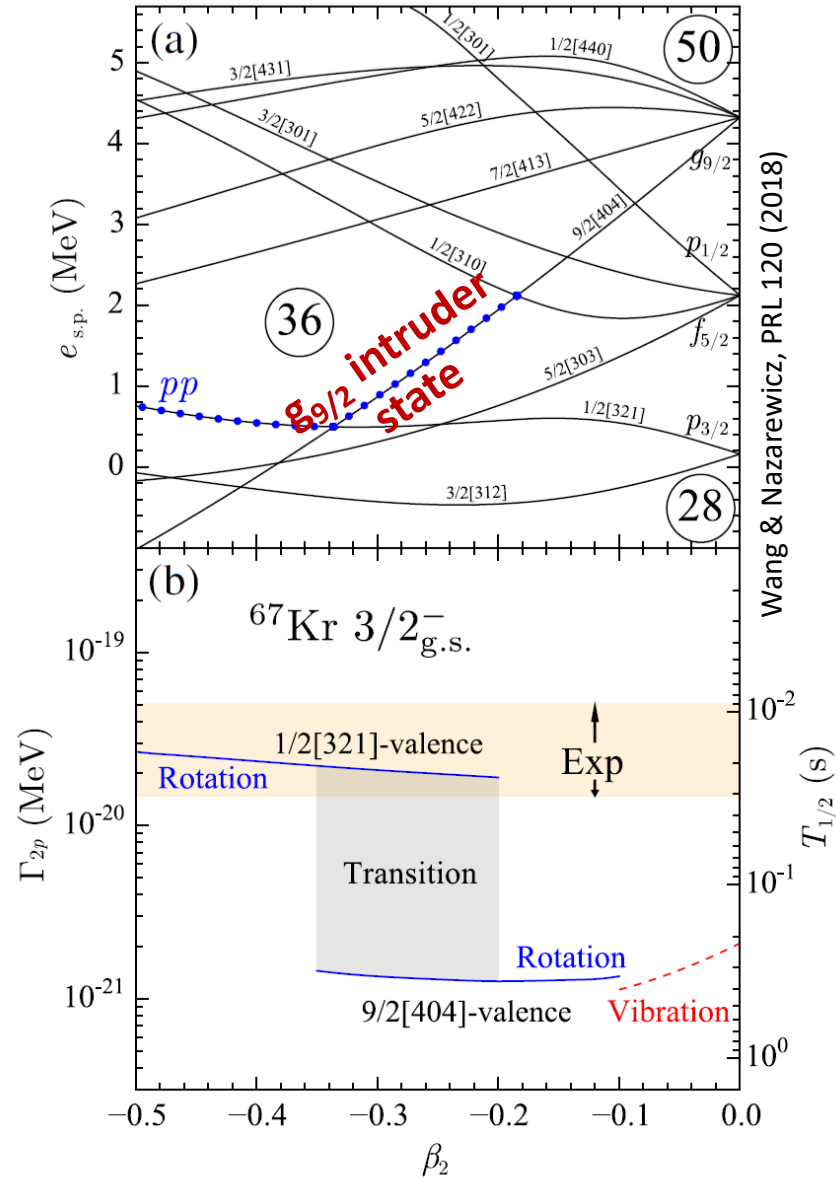


recent work by Wang & Nazarewicz, PRL 120 (2018)  
(Gamow Coupled Channels + coupling to core exc.)

with  $|\beta_2| < 0.1 \rightarrow T_{1/2}^{2P} > 220 \text{ ms}$

with  $\beta_2 = -0.3 \rightarrow T_{1/2}^{2P} = 24_{-7}^{+10} \text{ ms}$   
agreement with exp. !

2018



Wang & Nazarewicz, PRL 120 (2018)

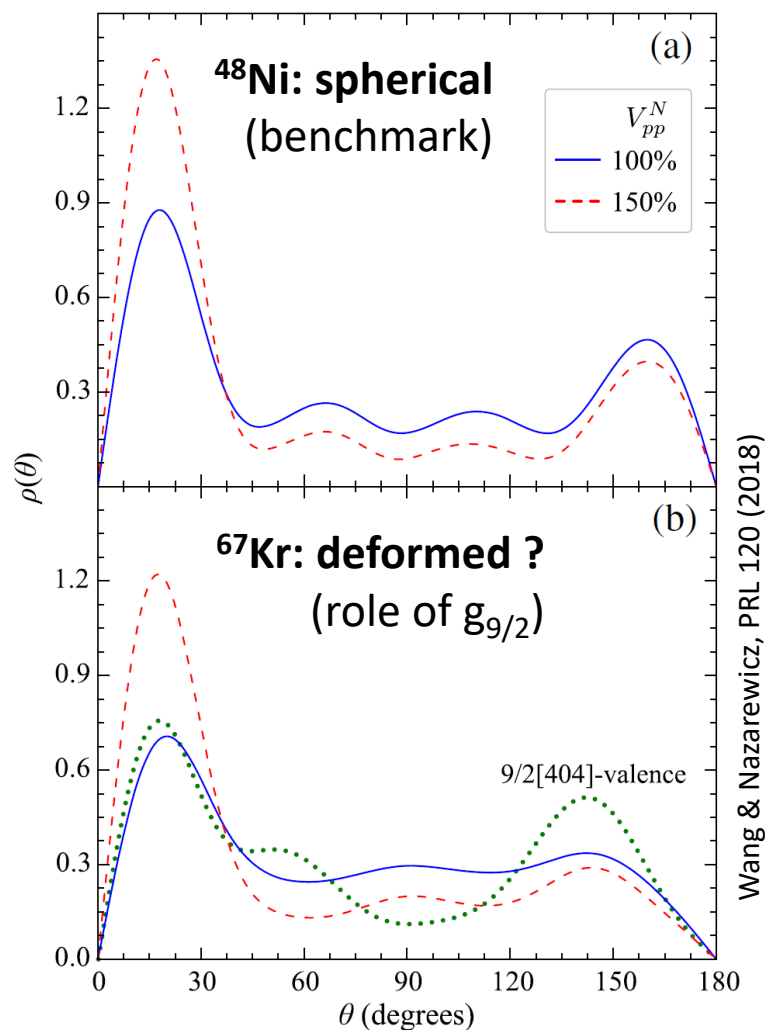
# second hypothesis: influence of deformation ?

## angular correlation prediction

recent work by Wang & Nazarewicz, PRL 120 (2018)  
(Gamow Coupled Channels + coupling to core exc.)

with  $|\beta_2| < 0.1 \rightarrow T_{1/2}^{2P} > 220 \text{ ms}$

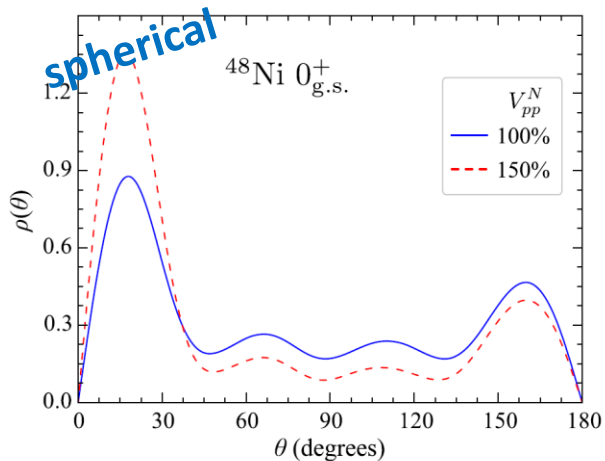
with  $\beta_2 = -0.3 \rightarrow T_{1/2}^{2P} = 24_{-7}^{+10} \text{ ms}$   
agreement with exp. !



# time for new measurements

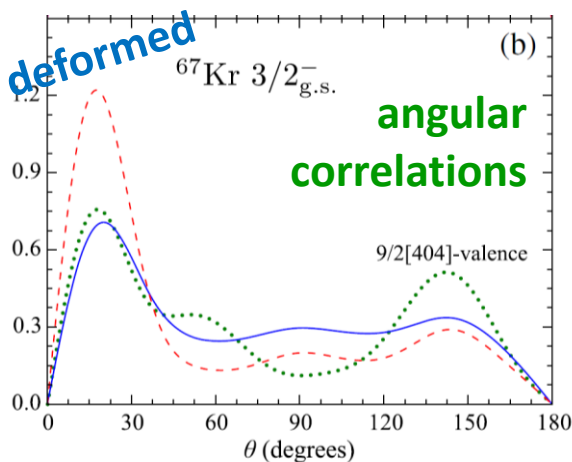
**$^{48}\text{Ni}$**

**GCC...**



**consistent structure and dynamics description**

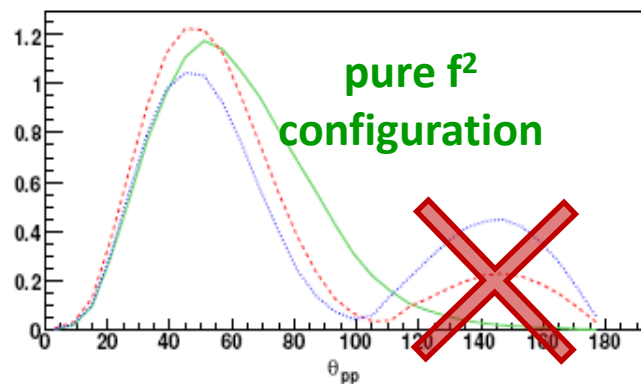
**$^{67}\text{Kr}$**



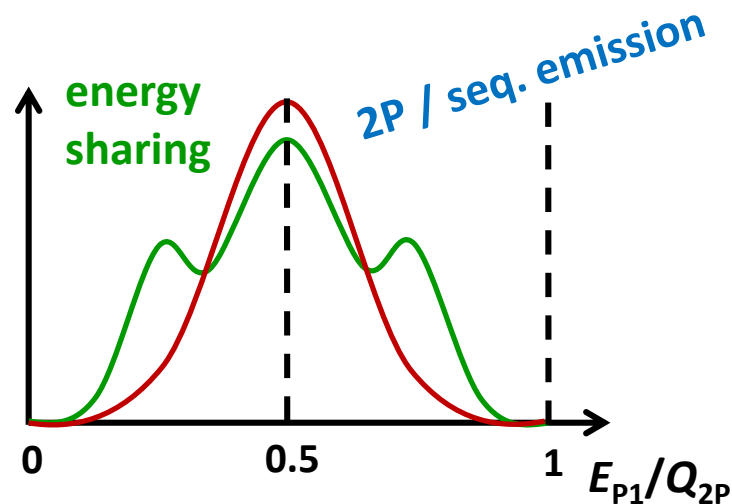
**3-body model**

not available for  $^{48}\text{Ni}$

extrapolation from  $^{45}\text{Fe}$  &  $^{54}\text{Zn}$



**good agreement in the case of  $^{45}\text{Fe}$ ...**

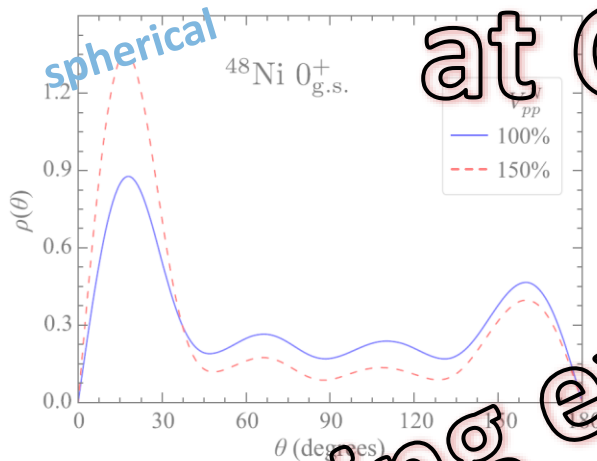




# time for new measurements

$^{48}\text{Ni}$

GCC...

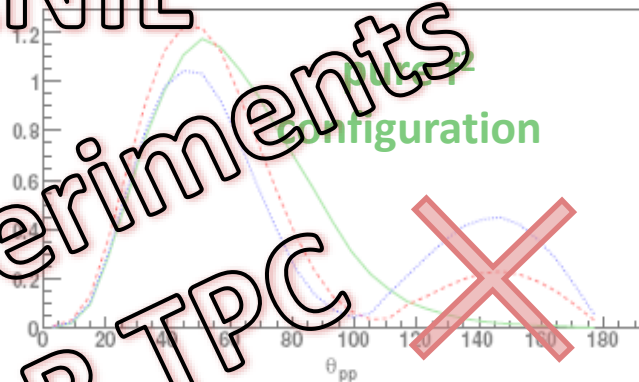


at GANIL

3-body model

not available for  $^{48}\text{Ni}$

extrapolation from  $^{45}\text{Fe}$  &  $^{54}\text{Zn}$

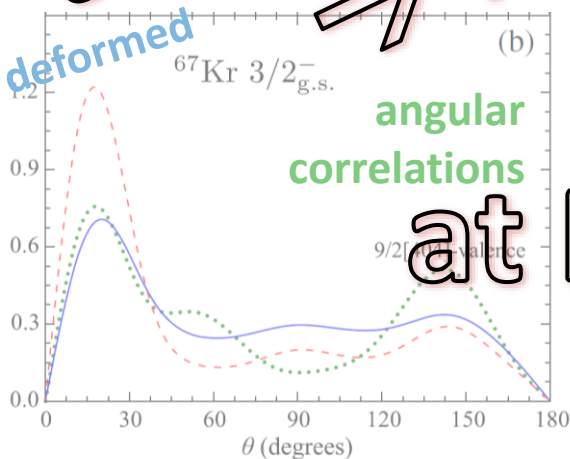


consistent structure and dynamics description

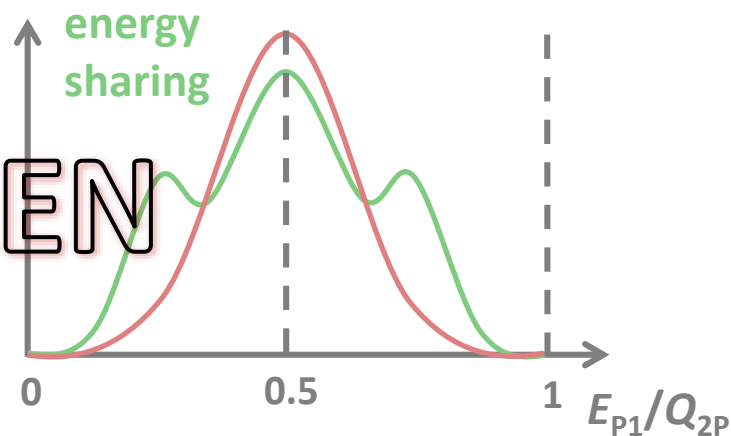
good agreement in the case of  $^{45}\text{Fe}$ ...

tracking experiments  $\rightarrow$  ACTAR TPC

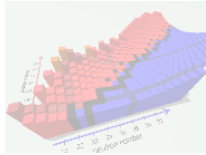
$^{67}\text{Kr}$



at RIKEN

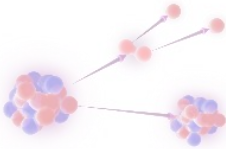


# On the Tracks of Two-Proton Radioactivity

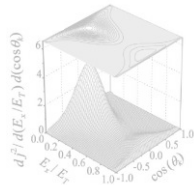


radioactivity on the proton-deficient side  
of the table of isotopes

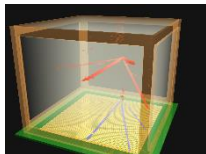
proton-rich



what is two-proton radioactivity?



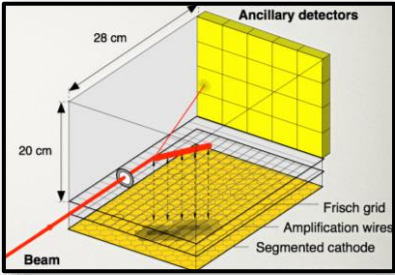
loops between theory and experiment



a new tracking device

# ACTAR TPC collaboration

## Active TARGET & Time Projection Chamber

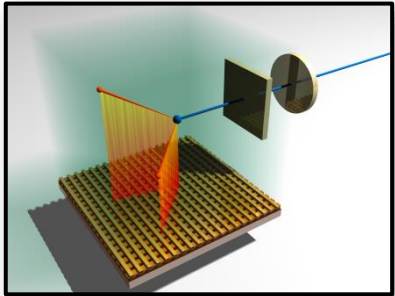


**MAYA**

(GANIL and coll.)

nuclear reactions

pads (hex): 2D proj.  
wires: drift time

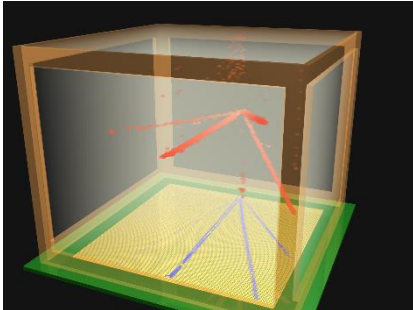


**CENBG TPC**

ions stopping and decay

X-Y strips  
energy & time:  
2x 1D proj.

development of a new TPC for a large (nuclear) physics case



GANIL, CENBG,  
Leuven, Santiago de C.,  
IPNO, Legnaro

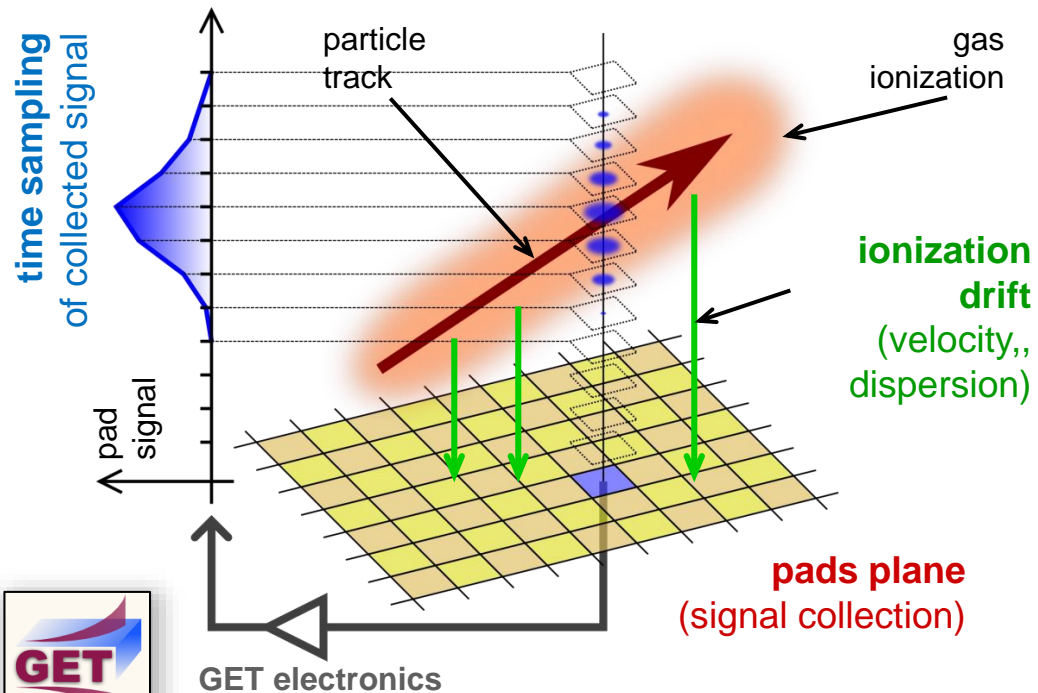
# a 4D detector: tracking and energy

**pads plane**  
(signal collection)  
2D digitization

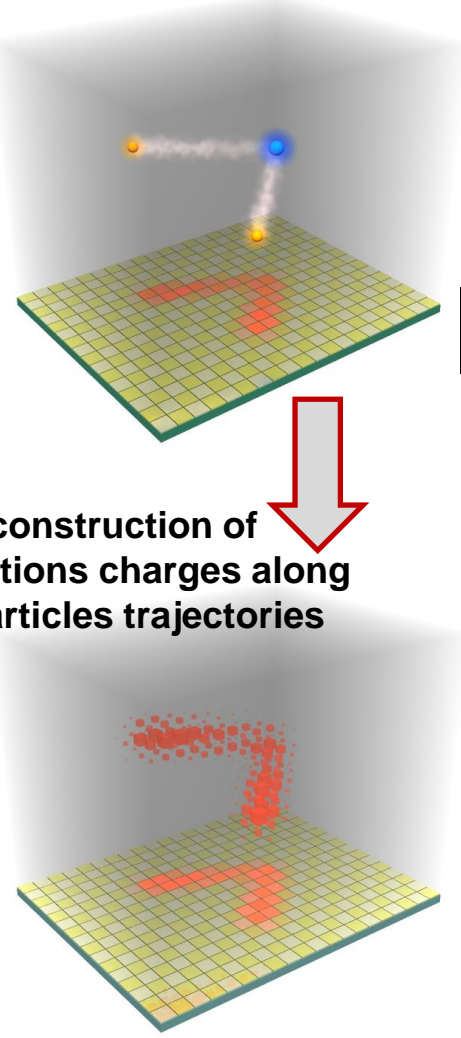
**TPC principle**  
 $z \leftrightarrow t$

**time sampling of signal**  
3D digitization

$$\Delta E(x,y,z) \iff \Delta E[x_i,y_j](z) \iff \Delta E[x_i,y_j](t) \iff \Delta E[x_i,y_j,t_k]$$



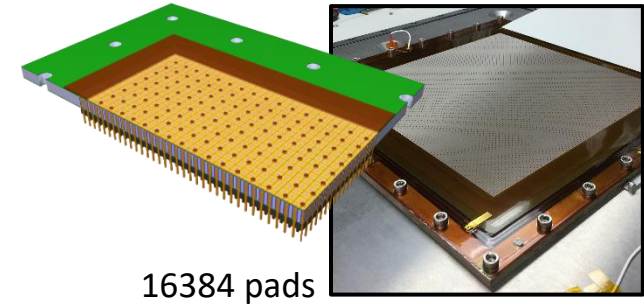
**3D reconstruction of ionizations charges along the particles trajectories**



J. Giovinozzo (2013)

# ACTAR TPC: main elements

metal-core PCB

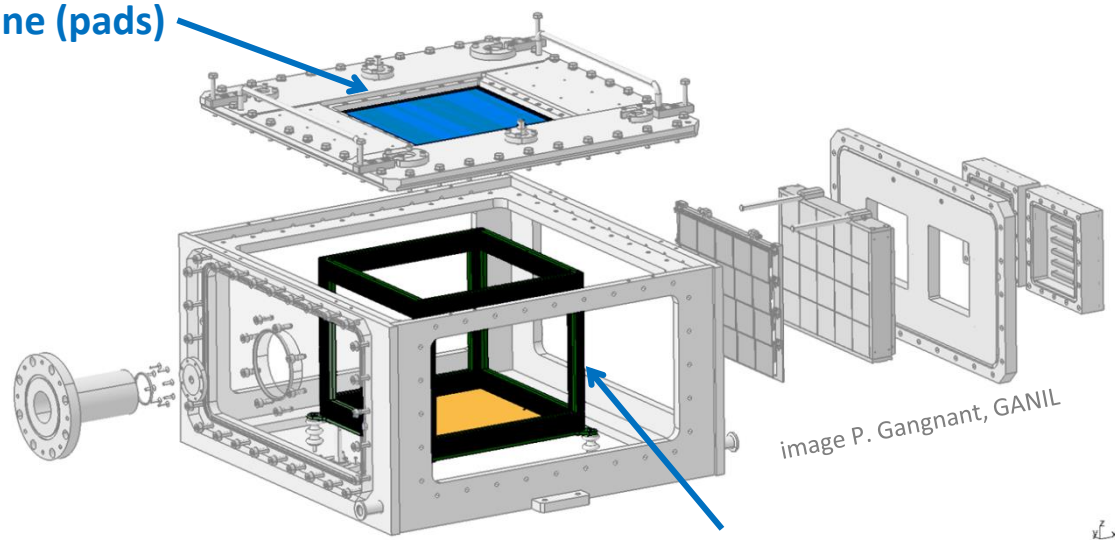


16384 pads  
(128x128; 2x2 mm<sup>2</sup>)

multi-layer PCB



collection plane (pads)



drift cage (active volume)

image P. Gangnant, GANIL

+ flexible PCB  
connection  
to read. elec.

GANIL 2019

readout electronics

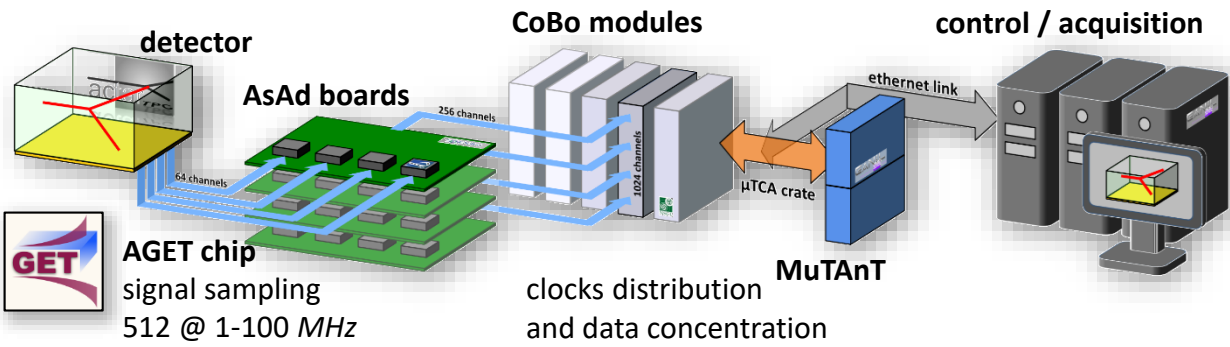


image JG / CENBG (2015)

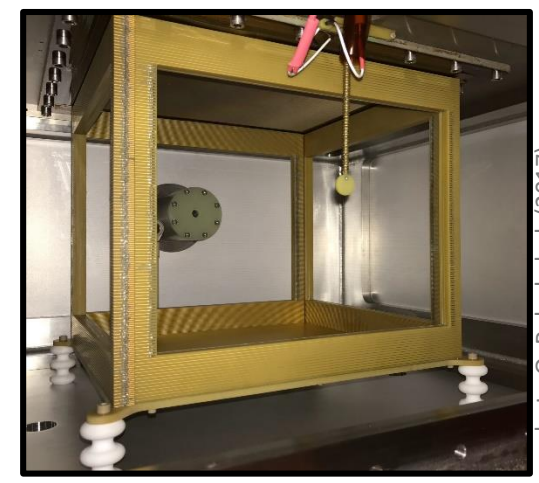


photo O. Poleshchuk (2017)



# beginning of the scientific program

## 2017 commissioning experiment

active target mode

resonant reaction  ${}^1\text{H}({}^{18}\text{O}, {}^{15}\text{N}){}^4\text{He}$

(T. Roger, B. Mauss)

## 2019 first physics campaign

- active target mode

giant resonance  ${}^{68}\text{Ni}(\alpha, \alpha')$

(R. Raabe, M. Vandebrouck)

- implantation-decay mode

proton radioactivity of

${}^{54\text{m}}\text{Ni}$  ( $10^+$ , 150 ns)

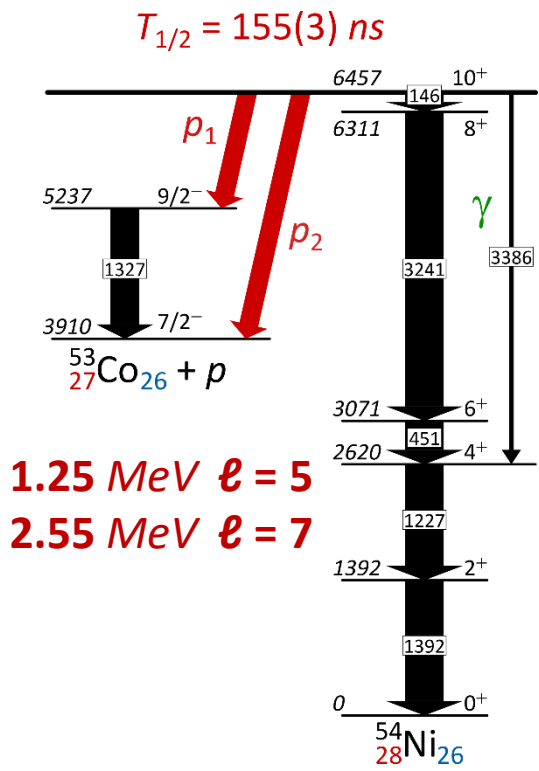
${}^{53\text{m}}\text{Co}$  ( $19/2^-$ , 220 ms)

(D. Rudolph, B. Blank)



first ACTAR TPC  
campaign  
(GANIL 2019)

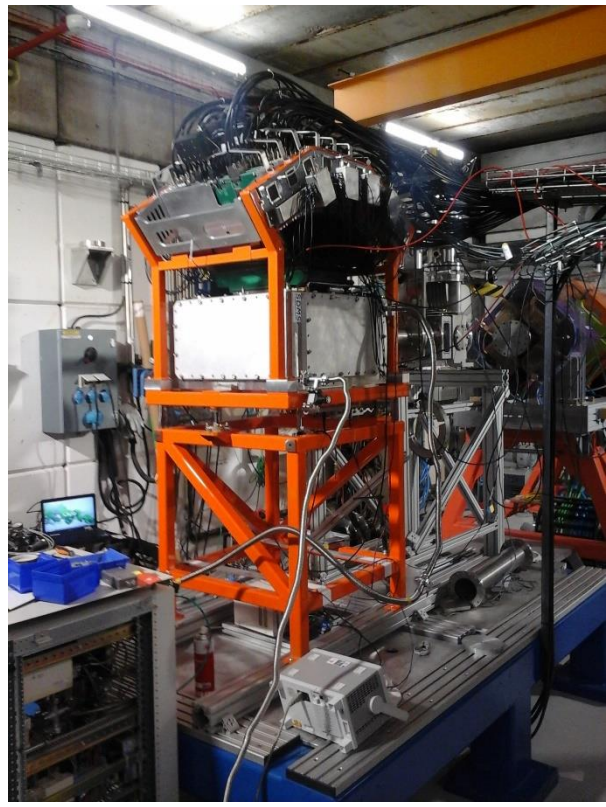
# proton radioactivity of $^{54m}\text{Ni}$



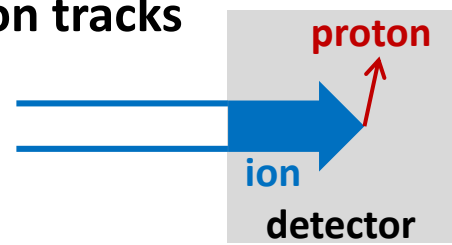
- isospin symmetry
- structure around  $N = 28$
- $fp$  shell model coupled to continuum

(very) short half-life:

- detection impossible in solid stopping detector  
ion signal hides proton signal  
(1:1000 energy deposit)
- TPC: separated ion and proton tracks

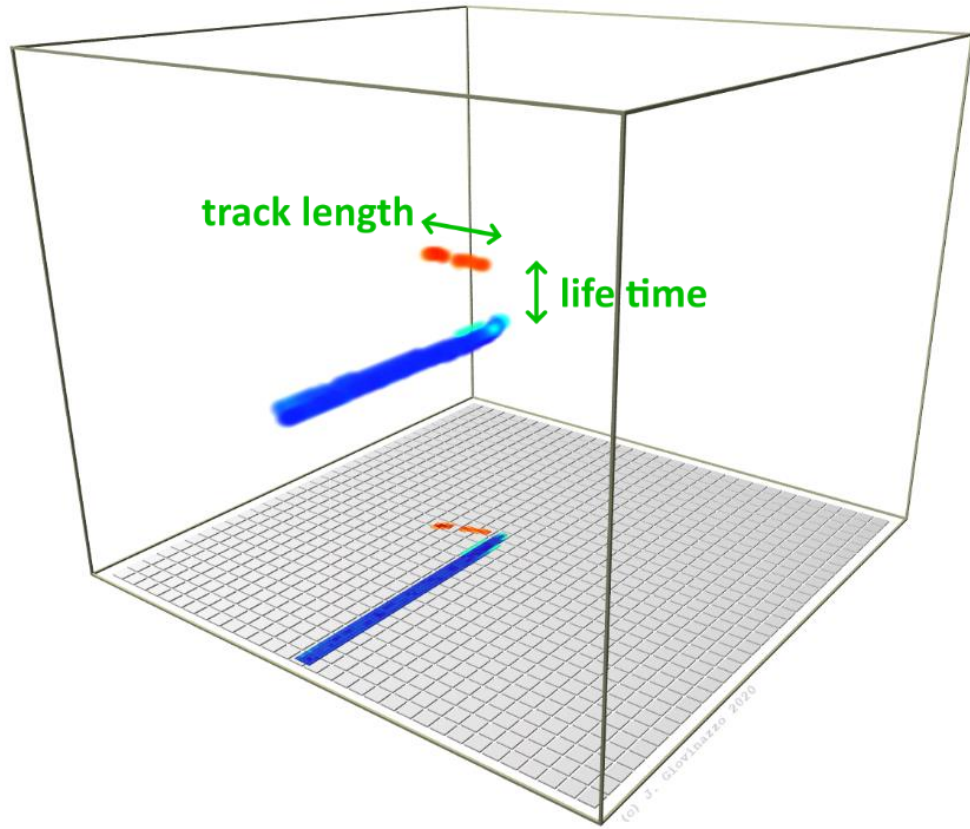
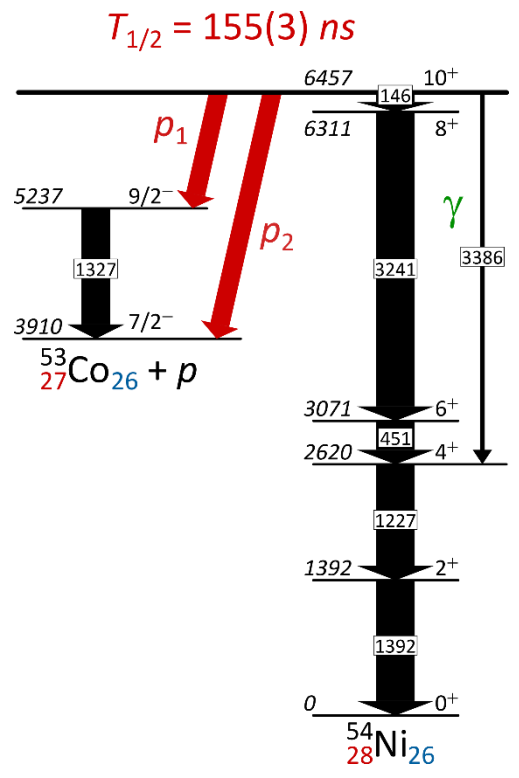


+ proton radioactivity of  $^{53m}\text{Co}$  (220 ms)  
 $\ell = 7$  and  $\ell = 9$





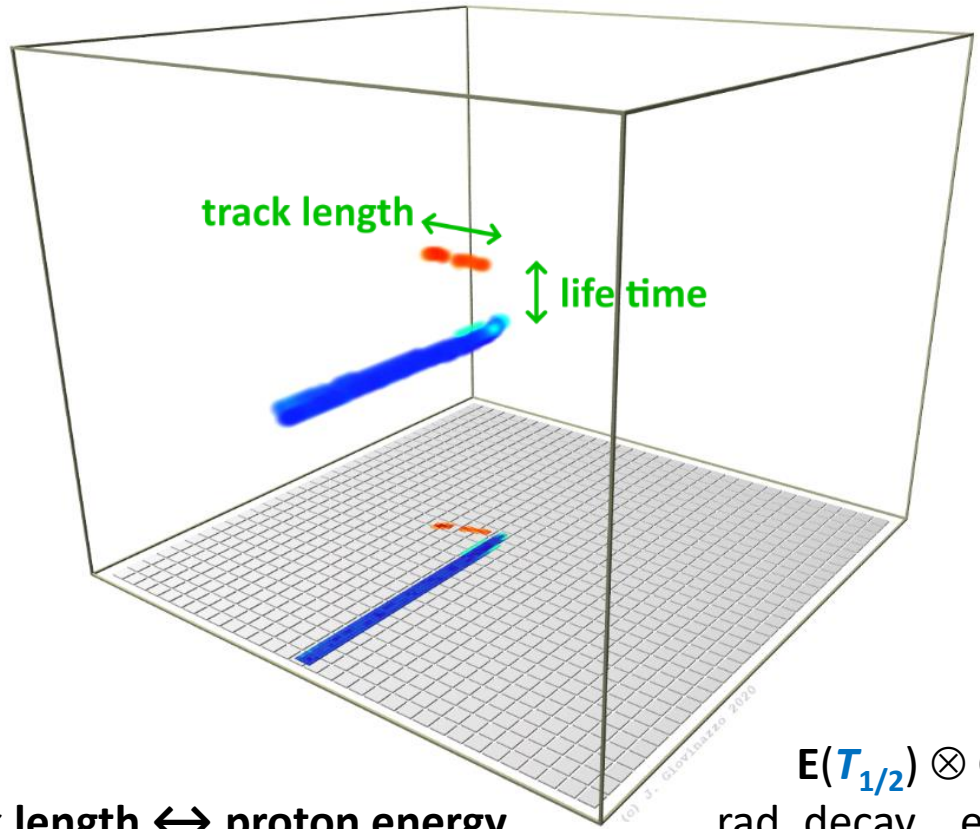
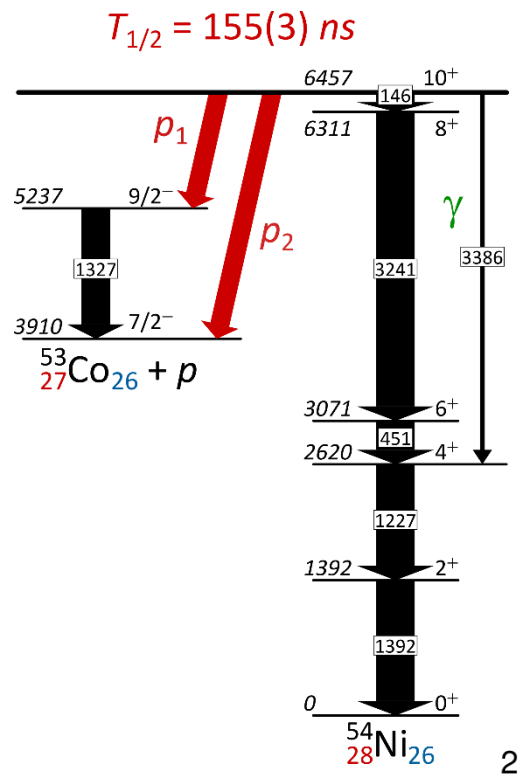
# proton radioactivity of $^{54m}\text{Ni}$



## 4D imaging of proton decay

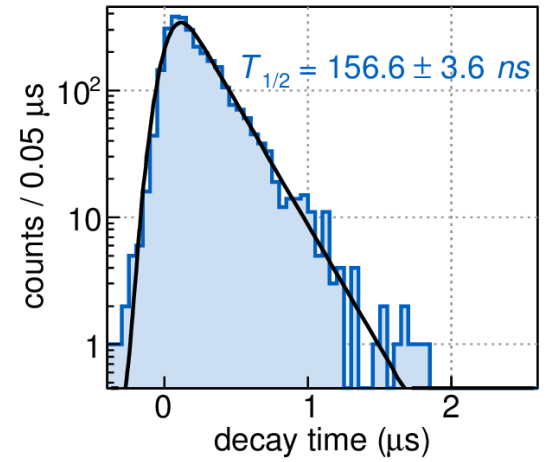
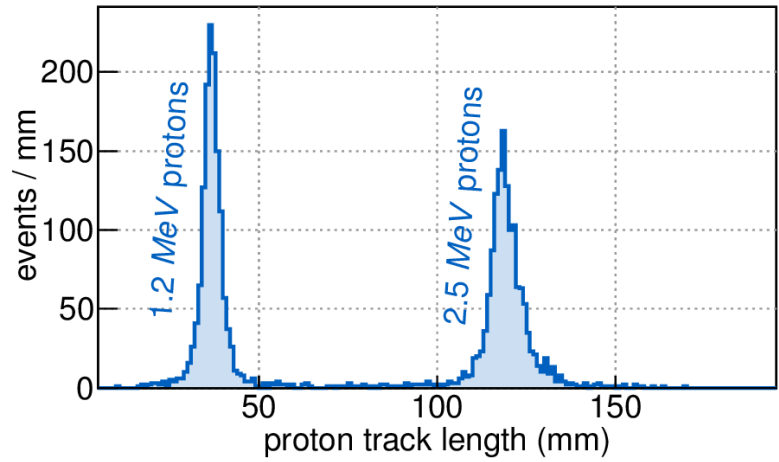
principle of the measurement:  
3D tracking  
+ decay time

# proton radioactivity of $^{54m}\text{Ni}$

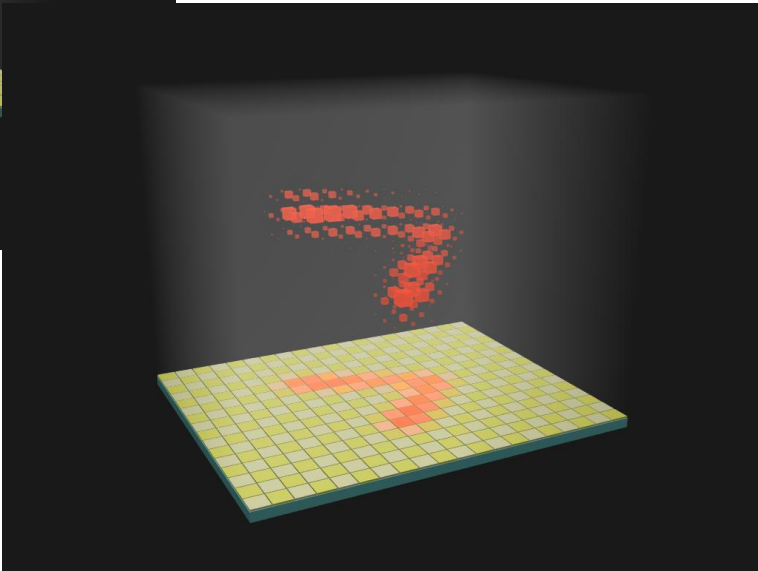
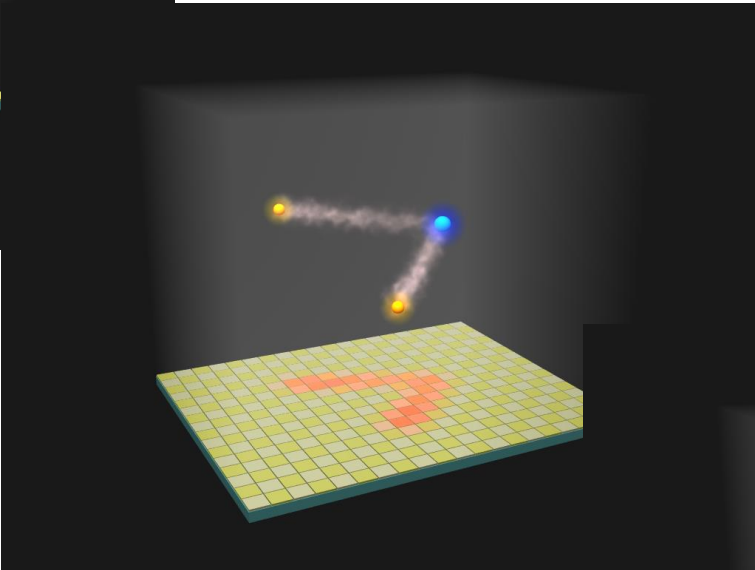
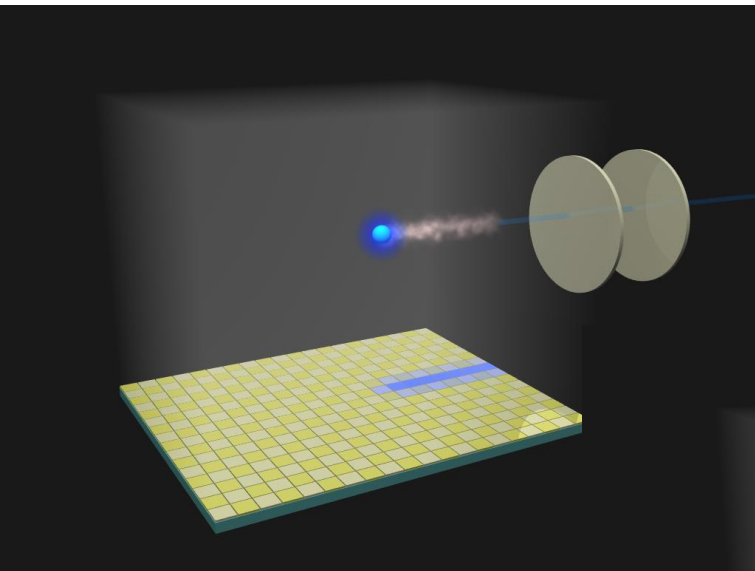


track length  $\leftrightarrow$  proton energy

$E(T_{1/2}) \otimes G(\sigma_T)$   
rad. decay exp. resol.

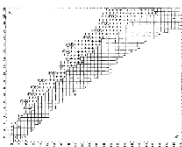


# correlation measurements for $^{48}\text{Ni}$ and $^{67}\text{Kr}$ with ACTAR TPC

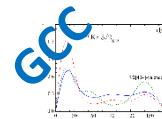
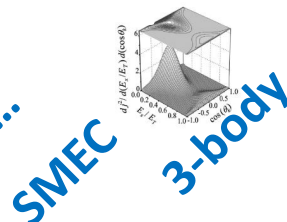


# timeline of the 2-proton radioactivity

first predictions

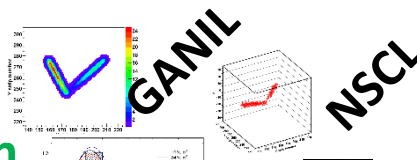
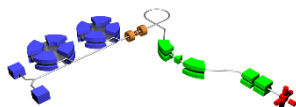


mass models  
R-matrix...



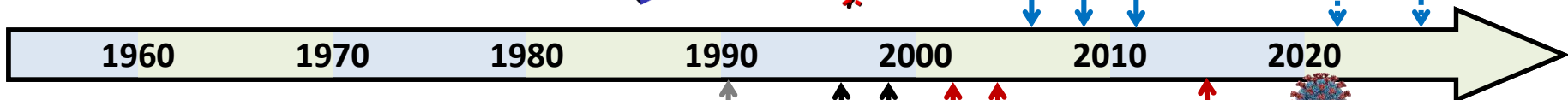
tracking experiments

fragmentation facilities



$^{54}\text{Zn}$   
 $^{45}\text{Fe}$   $^{48}\text{Ni}$

GANIL  
RIKEN  
 $^{67}\text{Kr}$   
 $^{48}\text{Ni}$



$^{39}\text{Ti}$

$^{45}\text{Fe}$   
 $^{42}\text{Cr}$   
 $^{48}\text{Ni}$

GSI

$^{54}\text{Zn}$   
 $^{45}\text{Fe}$   
 $(^{48}\text{Ni})$   
GANIL

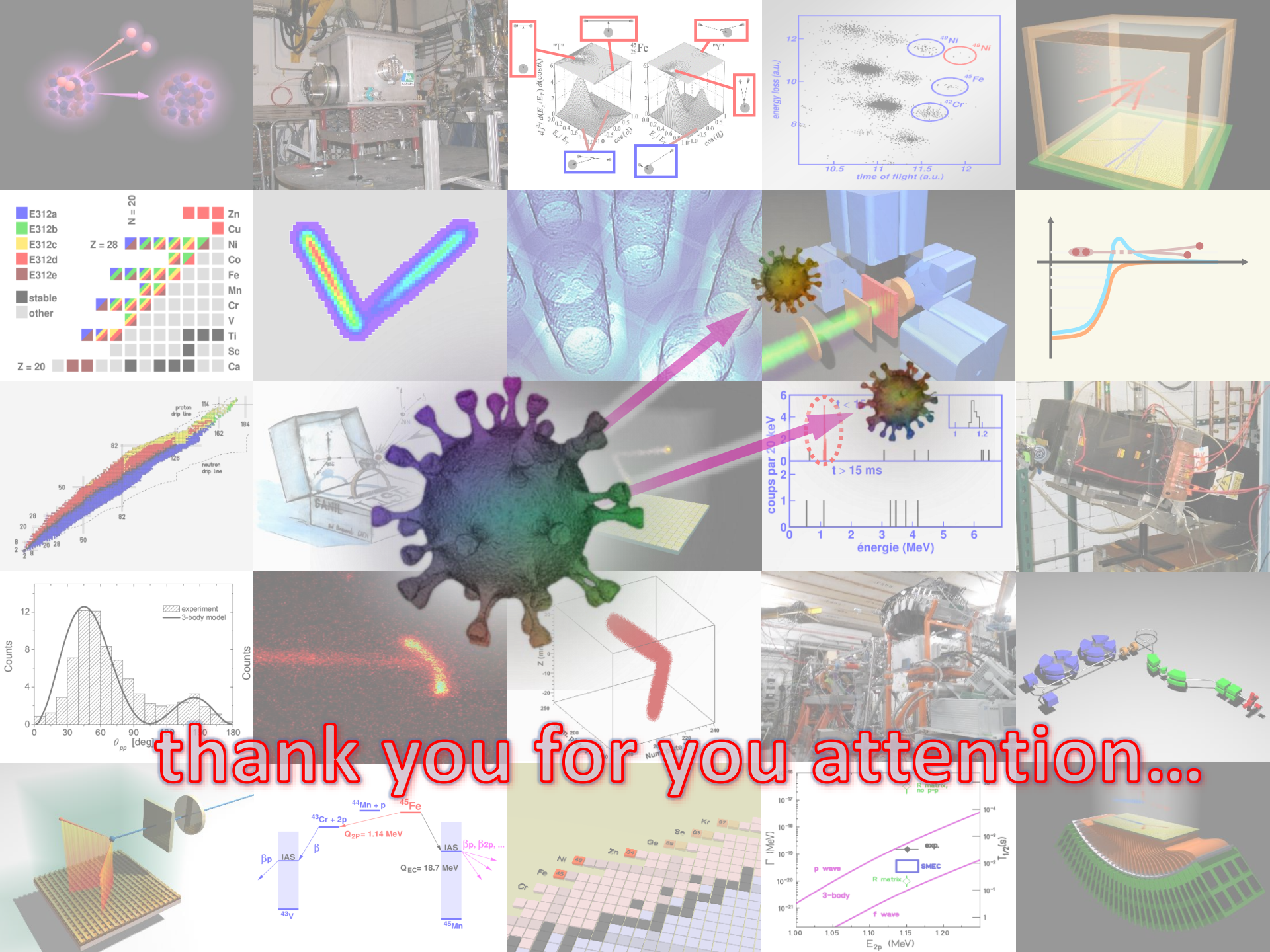
$^{67}\text{Kr}$   
 $^{59}\text{Ge}, ^{63}\text{Se}$

RIKEN

indirect observation

FAIR ?



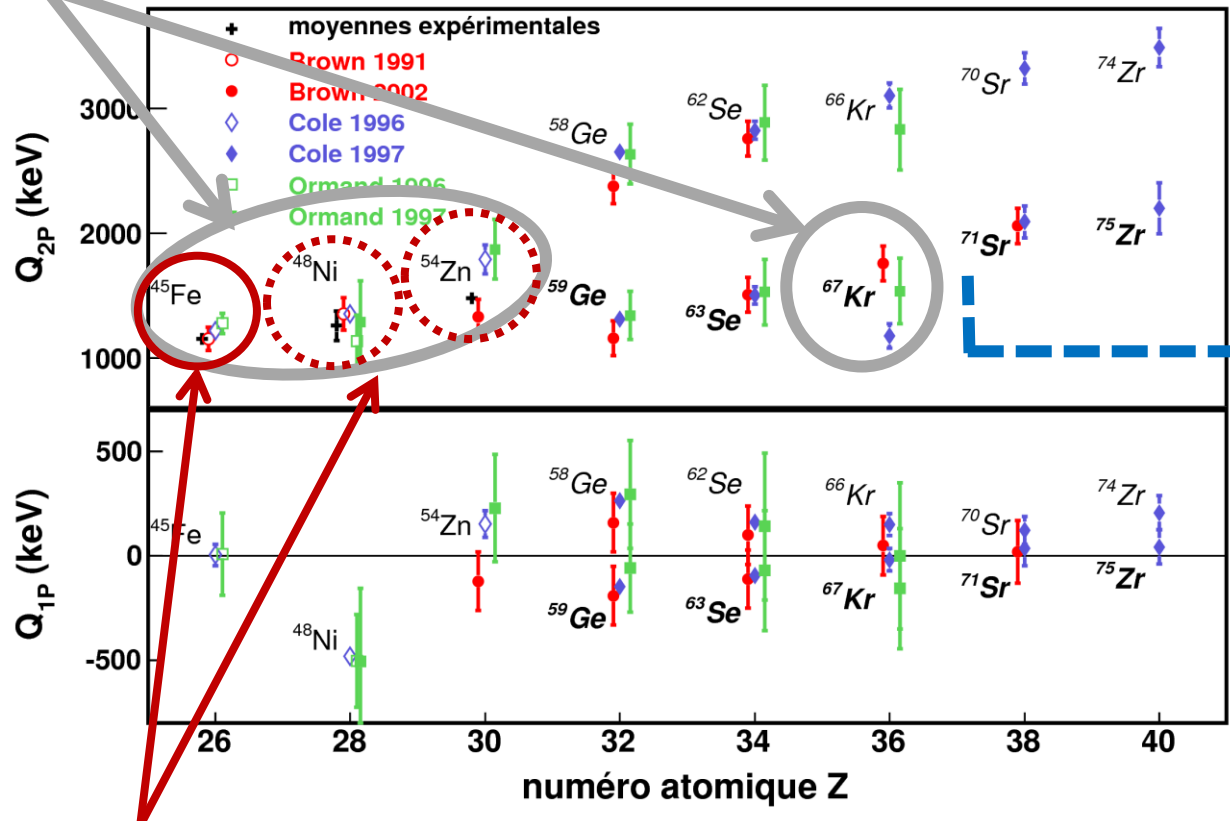


thank you for you attention...



# further studies

known cases



search for new emitters ?

direct observations

→ future (short term) tracking / correlation experiments:  $^{48}\text{Ni}$ ,  $^{54}\text{Zn}$ ,  $^{67}\text{Kr}$



# further studies, new candidates ?

larger set of nuclei with different structure configurations  
*between closed shells  $Z = 28$  and  $Z = 50$*

## ► opportunities **FRS / Super-FRS @ GSI / FAIR**

**rate estimates** (courtesy of B. Blank)  
 ( $5 \times 10^{11}$  pps of primary beam, 600 MeV/A,  
 4 sec per pulse, 4 g/cm<sup>2</sup> of Be)

beam	frag.	rate (1/day)
<sup>58</sup> Ni	<sup>48</sup> Ni	70
<sup>78</sup> Kr	<sup>67</sup> Kr	200
<sup>92</sup> Mo	<sup>71</sup> Sr	100
	<sup>70</sup> Sr	5
	<sup>75</sup> Zr	60
	<sup>79</sup> Mo	10
<sup>124</sup> Xe	<sup>98</sup> Sn	10

*~50 × more / GANIL*  
*~20 × more / RIKEN*

