

Coulomb Breakup and Soft E1 Excitation of Halo Nuclei : Present and Future

Takashi Nakamura

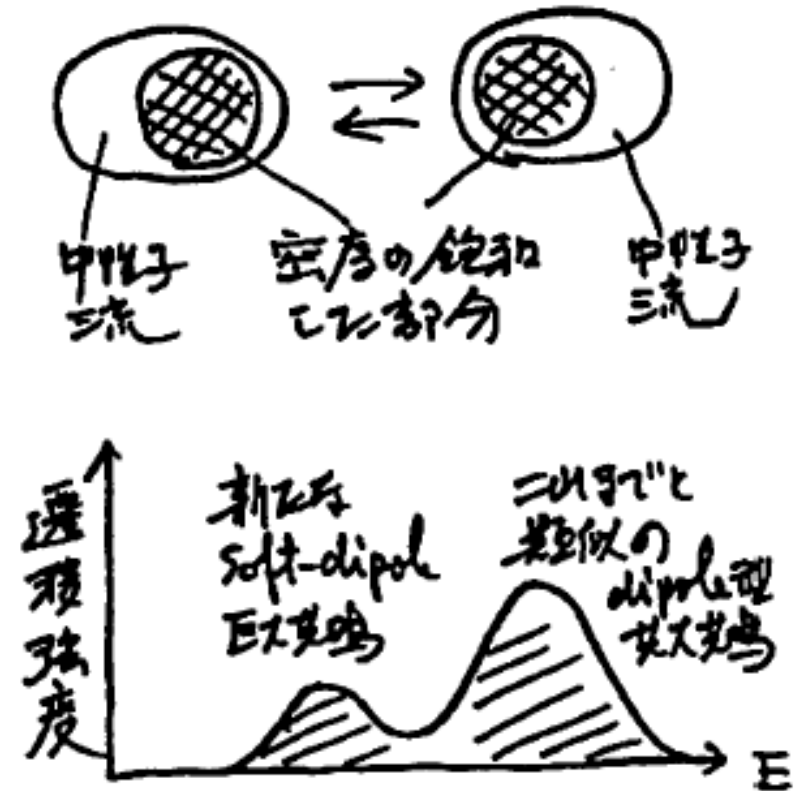
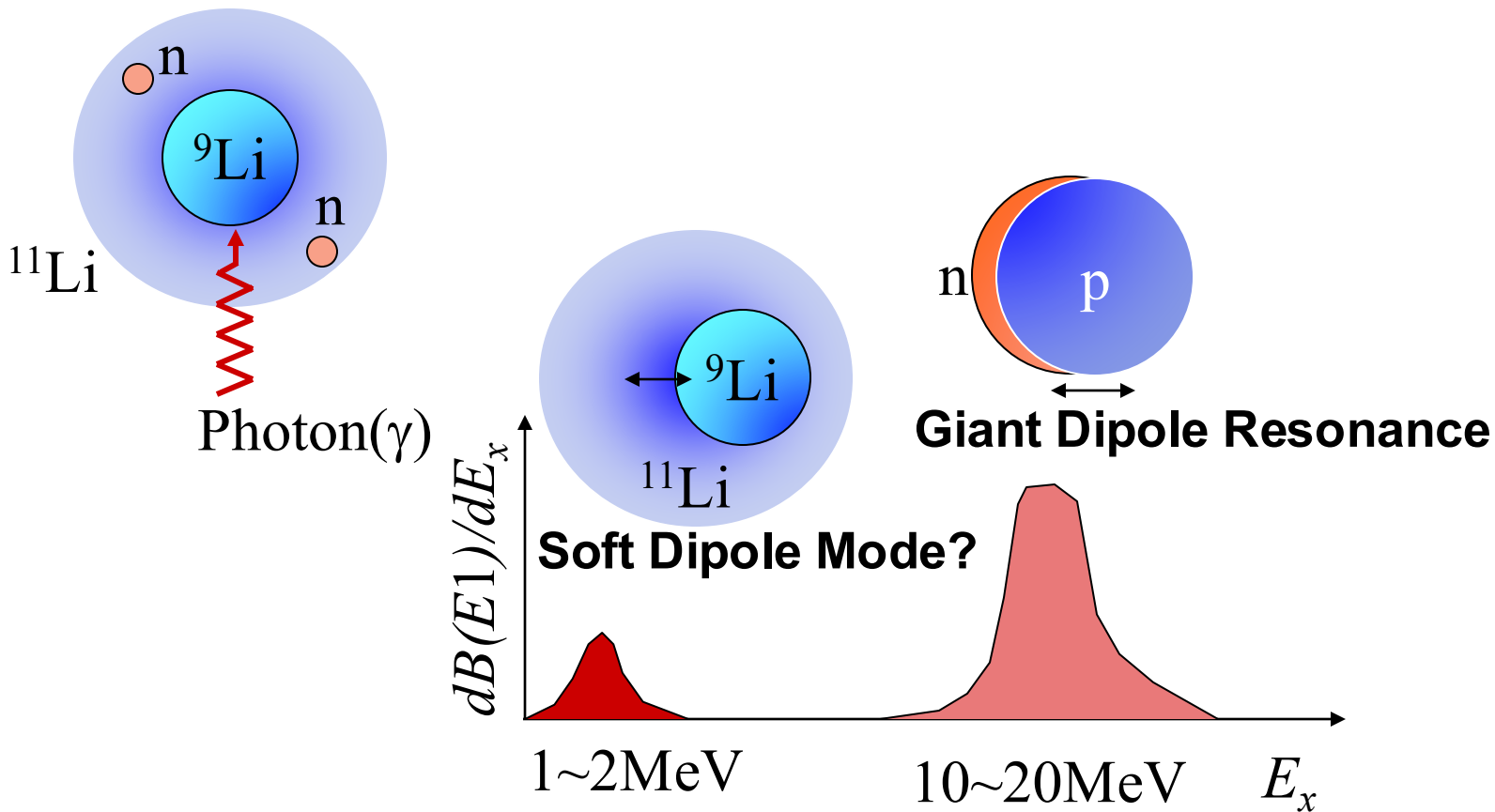
Department of Physics, Institute of Science Tokyo



Int. Symp. on
Commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the Halo Nuclei,
Oct 12-18, 2025, Beijing, China

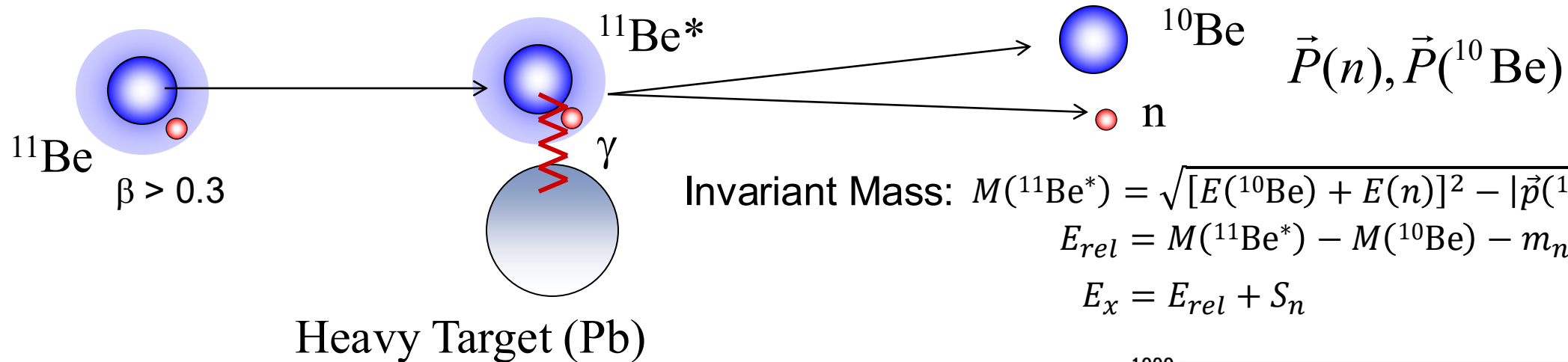
- Introduction
 - Soft-E1 Excitation of Halo nuclei: How it started:
 - Characteristic features of Coulomb Breakup and Soft E1 Excitation
 - 1n halo case
 - 2n halo case
- Coulomb Breakup of ^{31}Ne (1n halo, Deformed/ Island of Inversion)
- Coulomb Breakup of ^{22}C (2n halo)
- Summary
- Perspectives (Questions for the Future)

How a halo nucleus responds when it absorbs a photon (E1 Response) ?



Kiyomi Ikeda,
INS report JHP-7 (1988) [in Japanese]

Coulomb Breakup → E1 Response



Invariant Mass: $M(^{11}\text{Be}^*) = \sqrt{[E(^{10}\text{Be}) + E(n)]^2 - |\vec{p}(^{10}\text{Be}) + \vec{p}(n)|^2}$
 $E_{\text{rel}} = M(^{11}\text{Be}^*) - M(^{10}\text{Be}) - m_n$
 $E_x = E_{\text{rel}} + S_n$

Equivalent Photon Method

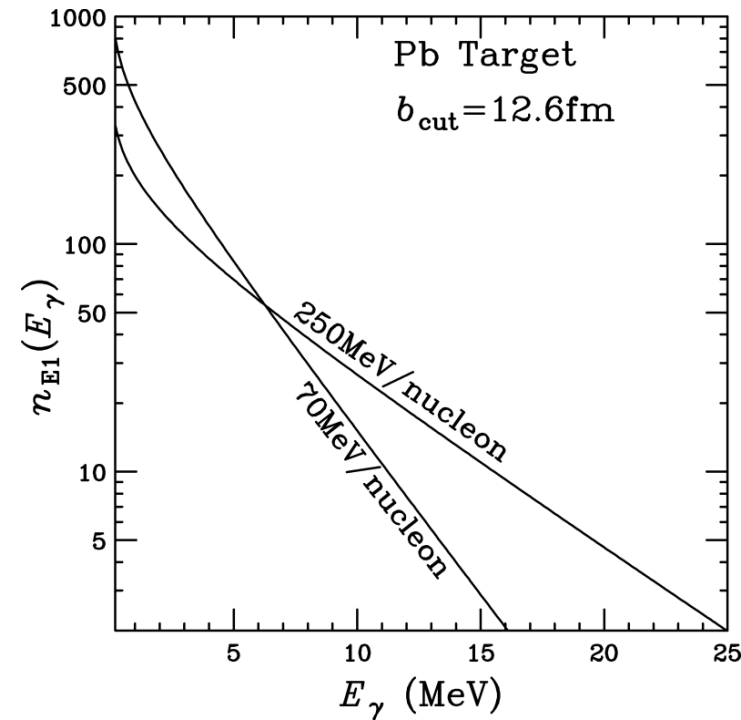
$$\frac{d\sigma_{CB}}{dE_x} = \frac{16\pi^3}{9\hbar c} n_{E1}(E_x) \frac{dB(E1)}{dE_x}$$

Cross section = (Photon Number) × (Transition Probability)

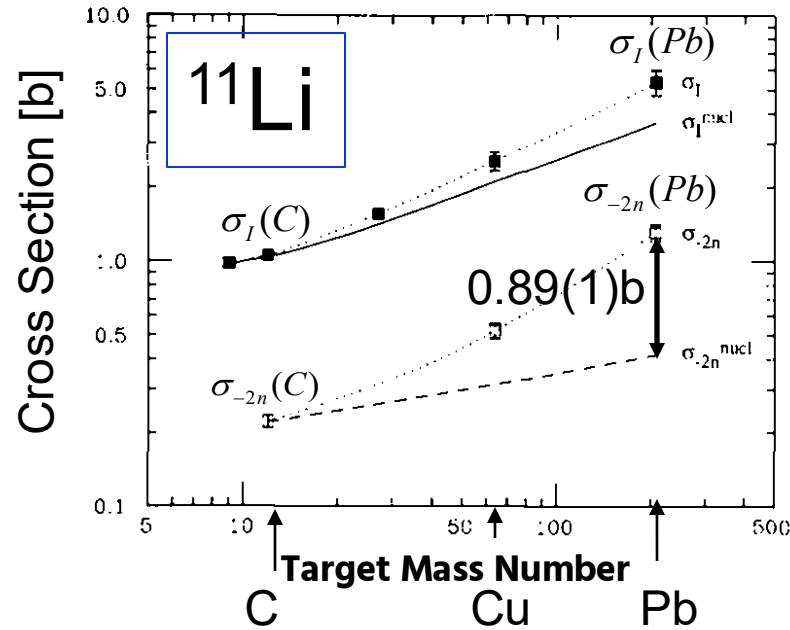
C.A. Bertulani, G. Baur, Phys. Rep. **163**, 299(1988).

T. Aumann, T. Nakamura, Phys. Scr. T**152**, 014142(2013).

T. Nakamura, Handbook of Nuclear Physics, pp1-37 (2023).



First Indication of Soft E1 Excitation



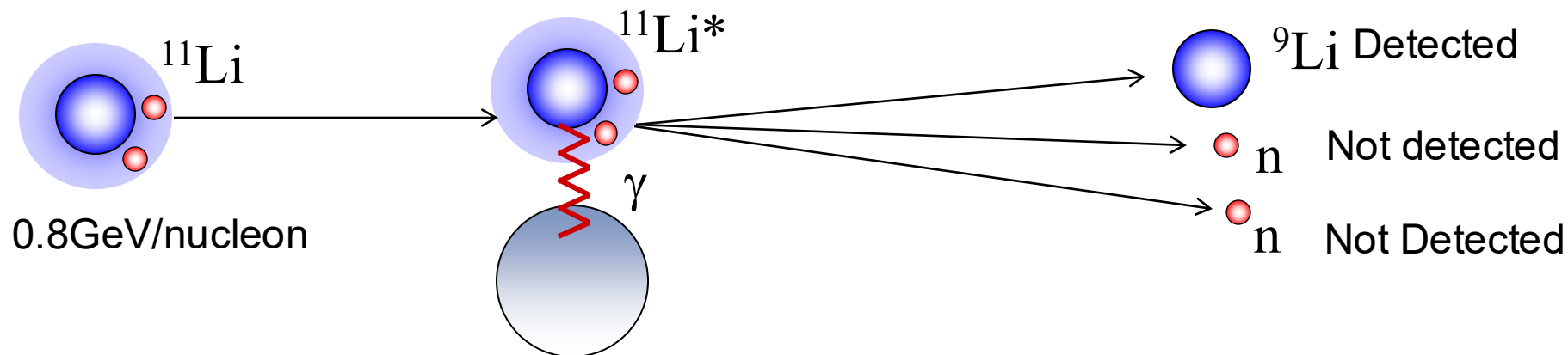
T.Kobayashi et al., Phys.Lett. B**232**, 51 (1989).

Inclusive Coulomb Breakup of ^{11}Li
@ LBL

$$\sigma(E1) = \int_{E_{th}}^{\infty} \frac{16\pi^3}{9\hbar c} N_{E1}(E_x) \frac{dB(E1)}{dE_x} dE_x$$

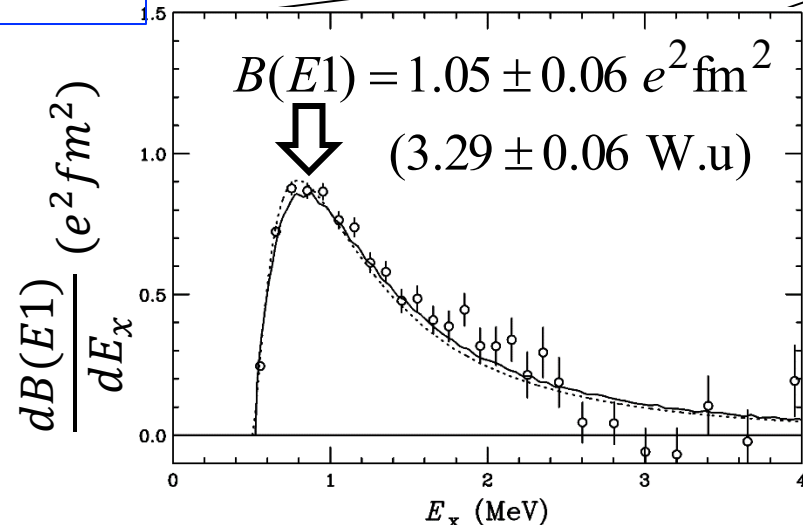
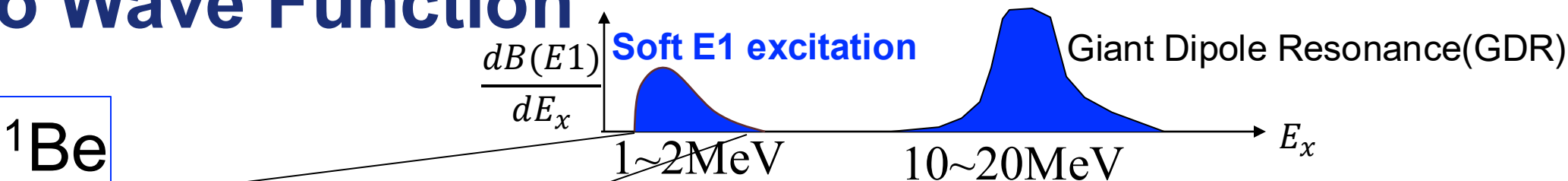
$$\sigma(E1) = \sigma_{-2n}(Pb) - \Gamma \sigma_{-2n}(C)$$

Toshio Kobayashi
- Jul 31 2025



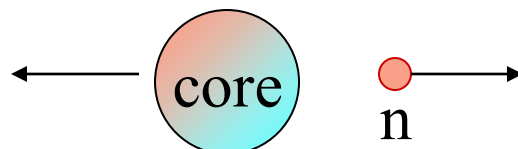
Soft E1 Excitation of $1n$ halo nuclei → Halo Wave Function

^{11}Be



N.Fukuda, TN et al., PRC70, 054606 (2004)
TN et al., PLB 331, 296 (1994)
Palit et al., PRC68, 034318 (2003)

Direct Breakup Mechanism (Not Resonance!)



E1 Strength

$$\frac{dB(E1)}{dE_x} \propto \left| \langle \exp(iqr) | \frac{Z}{A} r Y^1_m | \Phi_{gs} \rangle \right|^2$$

$$\propto C^2S \left| \langle \exp(iqr) | \frac{Z}{A} r Y^1_m | s_{1/2} \rangle \right|^2$$

Fourier
Transform

$$\rho \sim C^2S |\exp(-r/\lambda)/r|^2$$

$$C^2S(0_1^+; 1/2^+) = 0.72 \pm 0.04$$

(^{11}Be Fukuda 2004)

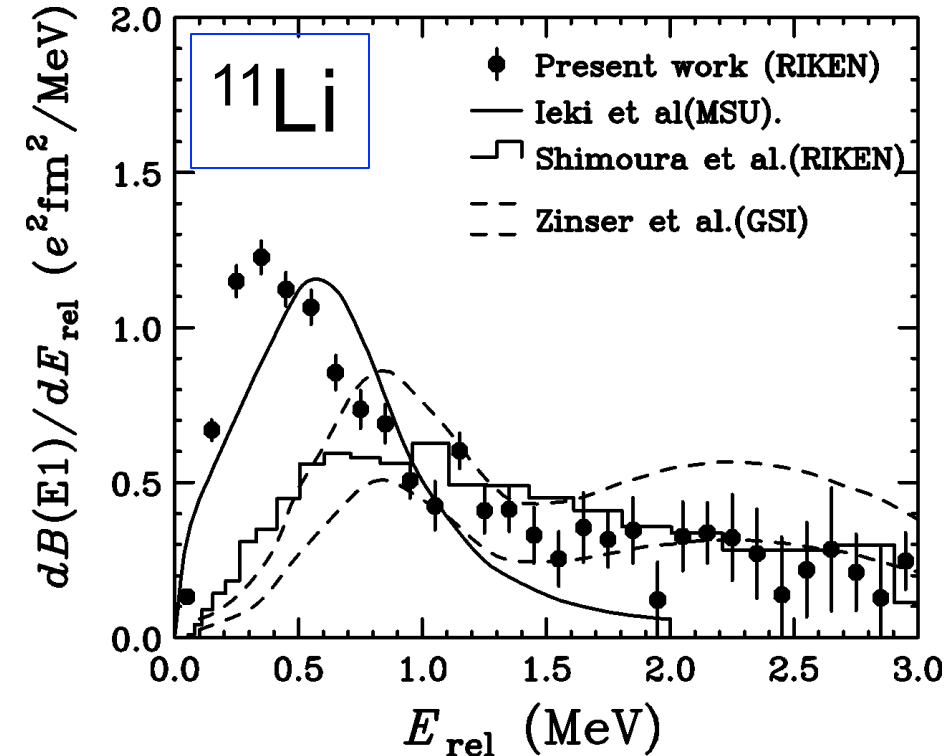
Soft E1 Excitation of $1n$ halo—Sensitive to S_n, l, C^2S

e.g. Peak Energy

s-wave halo: $E_{rel}^{(peak)} \cong \frac{3}{5} S_n$

p-wave halo ($p \rightarrow s$): $E_{rel}^{(peak)} \cong 0.18 S_n$

Soft E1 Excitation of $2n$ Halo Nuclei → Probe of Dineutron Correlation



T. Nakamura et al. PRL96,252502(2006).

E1 Non-energy weighted cluster sum rule

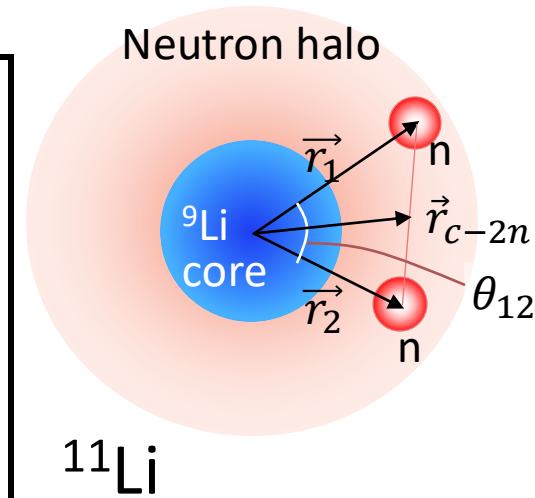
$$\begin{aligned} B(E1) &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dB(E1)}{dE_x} dE_x \\ &= \frac{3}{4\pi} \left(Ze \frac{2}{A} \right)^2 \langle r_{c-2n}^2 \rangle \\ &= \frac{3}{4\pi} \left(\frac{Ze}{A} \right)^2 \langle r_1^2 + r_2^2 + 2(\vec{r}_1 \cdot \vec{r}_2) \rangle \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} B(E1) &= 1.42(18) e^2 \text{fm}^2 \quad (E_{\text{rel}} \leq 3 \text{ MeV}) \\ &\rightarrow 1.78(22) e^2 \text{fm}^2 \rightarrow \langle \theta_{12} \rangle = 48^{+14}_{-18} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{c.f. } \langle \theta_{12} \rangle = 66^{+22}_{-18} \quad \langle \theta_{12} \rangle = 56.2^{+17.8}_{-21.3}$$

C.A. Bertulani, M.S. Hussein,
PRC76, 051602(R)(2007).

K. Hagino, H. Sagawa
PRC76, 047302 (2007).



Spatial Correlation in the **Ground State** of ^{11}Li

Soft E1 Excitation of $2n$ -halo → dineutron correlation

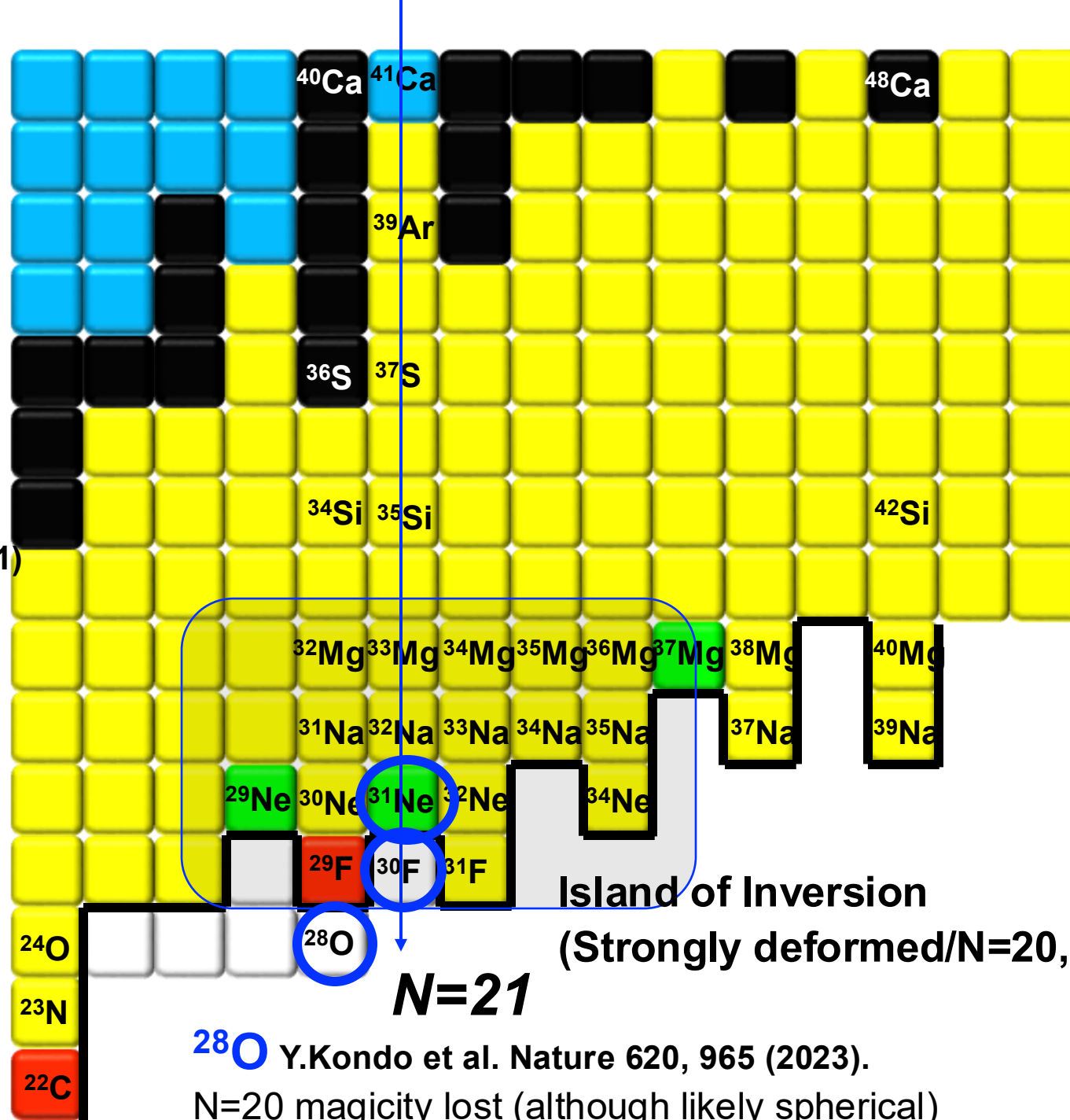
^{31}Ne

Coulomb Breakup of ^{31}Ne

-- 1n halo nucleus in the island of inversion

Institute of
SCIENCE TOKYO

PRL 133, 082501 (2024).



²⁸O Y.Kondo et al. Nature 620, 965 (2023).

N=20 magicity lost (although likely spherical)

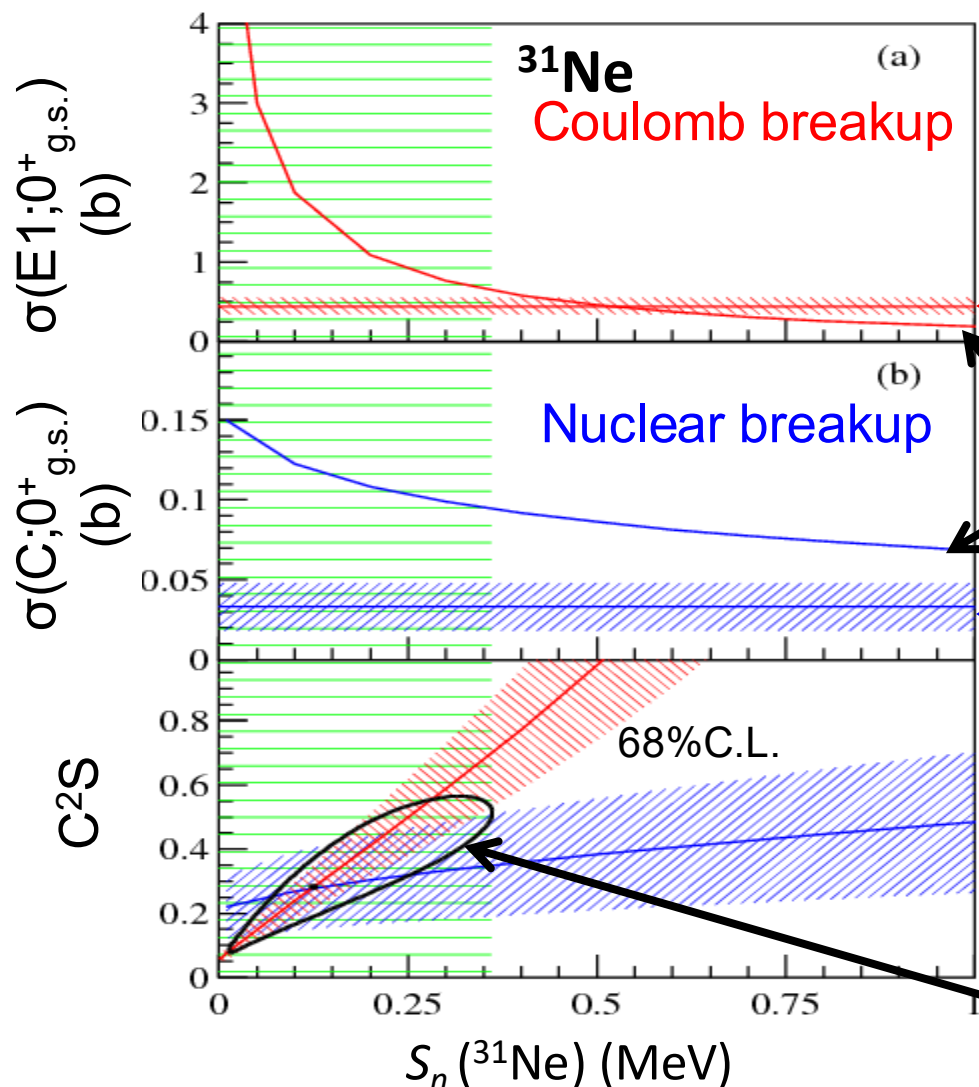
Previous Work: “Inclusive” Coulomb/nuclear breakup

→ Nobu Kobayashi's Talk

TN, N. Kobayashi et al., PRL **103**, 262501 (2009).

TN, N. Kobayashi et al., PRL **112**, 142501 (2014).

$|^{31}\text{Ne}_{\text{g.s.}}\rangle : 3/2^- \quad |^{30}\text{Ne}(0^+_{\text{g.s.}}) \otimes p_{3/2}\rangle$ component



← Exp. $\sigma_{-1n}(E1; 0^+_{\text{g.s.}}) = 448(108)$ mb

Theoretical calc. for
 $|^{31}\text{Ne}_{\text{g.s.}}\rangle = |^{30}\text{Ne}(0^+_{\text{g.s.}}) \otimes p_{3/2}\rangle \quad (C^2S = 1)$

← Exp. $\sigma_{-1n}(C; 0^+_{\text{g.s.}}) = 33(15)$ mb

^{31}Ne : **$3/2^-$** **p-wave halo** $|^{30}\text{Ne}(0^+_{\text{g.s.}}) \otimes p_{3/2}\rangle$
Deformed in spite of **N=21**

$$C^2S = 0.32^{+0.21}_{-0.17}$$

$$S_n = 0.15^{+0.16}_{-0.10} \text{ MeV}$$

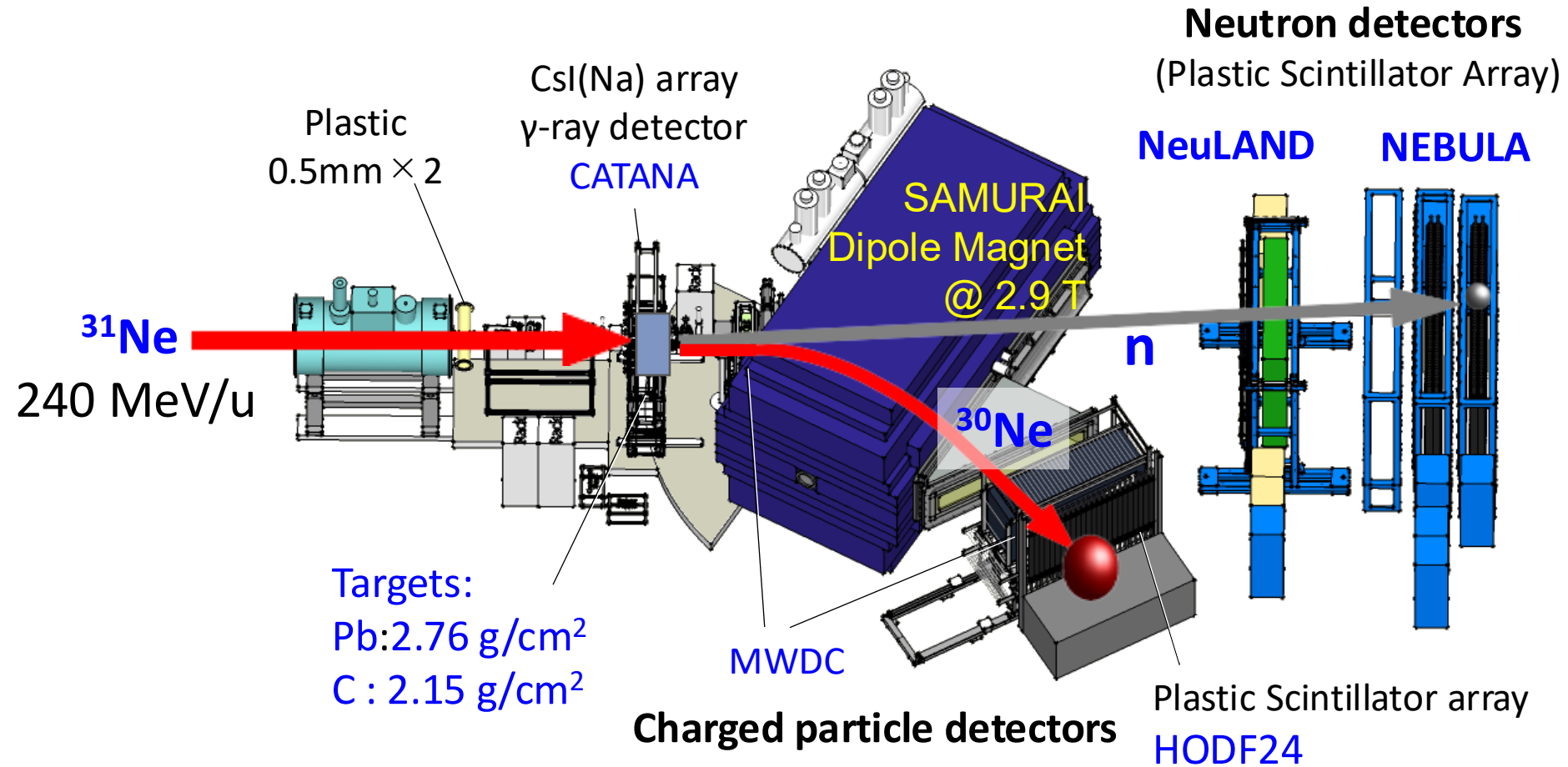
*Limited
to gs-core config.*

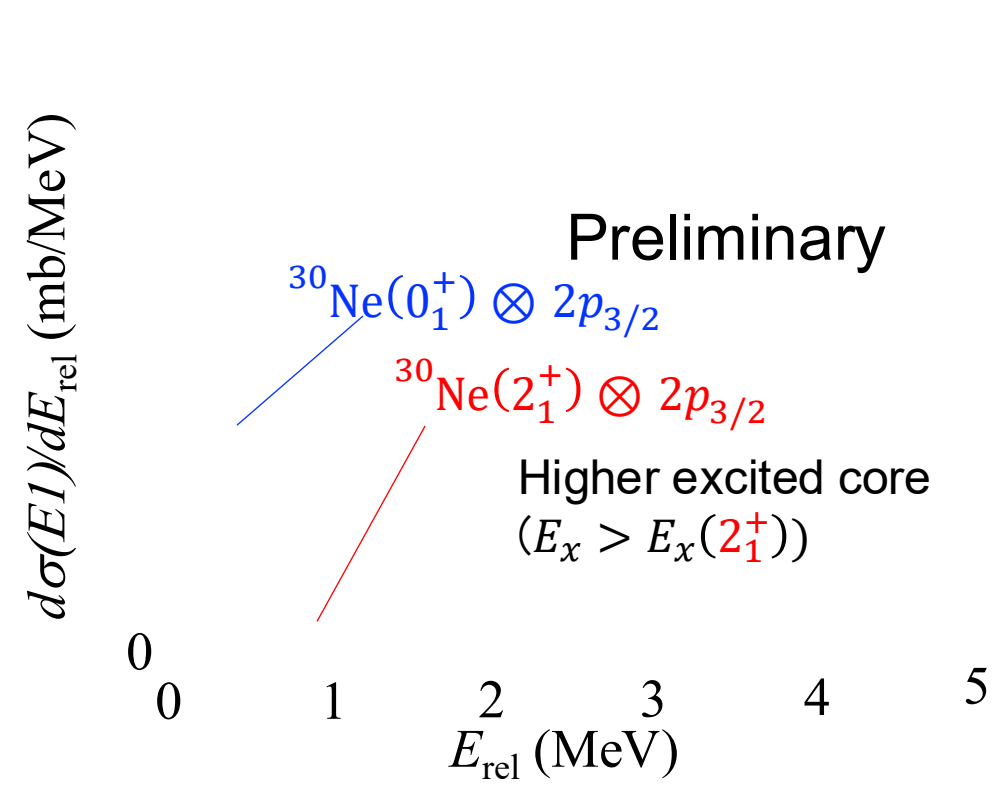
$S_n(^{31}\text{Ne}) = -0.06(0.42)$ MeV L. Gaudefroy et al., PRL(2012)

^{37}Mg : N. Kobayashi, TN et al., PRL **112**, 242501 (2014). $3/2^-/1/2^-$ $S_n = 220(12)$ keV

^{29}Ne : N. Kobayashi, TN et al., PRC **93**, 014613 (2016). $3/2^-$ $S_n = 960(140)$ keV

Experimental Setup: Coulomb breakup of ^{31}Ne at SAMURAI at RIBF, RIKEN





$$|^{31}\text{Ne}(3/2^-) > = \alpha |^{30}\text{Ne}(0_1^+) \otimes 2p_{3/2} > + \beta |^{30}\text{Ne}(2_1^+) \otimes 2p_{3/2} > + \dots$$
$$\alpha^2 = C^2 S(0_1^+; 3/2^-) \qquad \beta^2 = C^2 S(2_1^+; 3/2^-)$$

	$^{30}\text{Ne}(0_1^+) \otimes 2p_{3/2}$	$^{30}\text{Ne}(2_1^+) \otimes 2p_{3/2}$
S_n (MeV)	$C^2S(0_1^+; 3/2^-)$	$C^2S(2_1^+; 3/2^-)$
This work		
Prev. work*	$0.15^{+0.16}_{-0.10}$	$0.32^{+0.21}_{-0.17}$
SM(SDPF-M)	0.212	0.265

*TN, N. Kobayashi et al., PRL**112**, 142501 (2014).

Double-component Halo: Unique to p-wave halo

$$|^{31}\text{Ne}(3/2^-) > = \alpha |^{30}\text{Ne}(0_1^+) \otimes 2p_{3/2} > + \beta |^{30}\text{Ne}(2_1^+) \otimes 2p_{3/2} >$$

p-wave halo

$$S_n^{(\text{eff})} = S_n + E_x(2_1^+) \sim 1.0 \text{ MeV}$$

p-wave halo

$$\begin{array}{l} ^{30}\text{Ne}(0_1^+) \otimes 2p_{3/2} \\ ^{30}\text{Ne}(2_1^+) \otimes 2p_{3/2} \\ \text{Total} \end{array}$$

$\rho(r) \text{ (fm}^{-3}\text{)}$

Double-Component Halo:

✓ Unique feature of **p-wave halo**

r.m.s radius

for the sum of the two p-wave components

$r \text{ (fm)}$

c.f. **Single-component for s-wave halo**

$$|^{11}\text{Be}(1/2^+) > = \alpha |^{10}\text{Be}(0_1^+) \otimes 2s_{1/2} > + \beta |^{10}\text{Be}(2_1^+) \otimes 1d_{5/2} >$$

s-wave halo non-halo

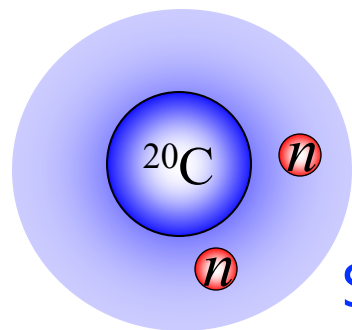
Coulomb Breakup of ^{22}C

22C

Coulomb Breakup of ²²C

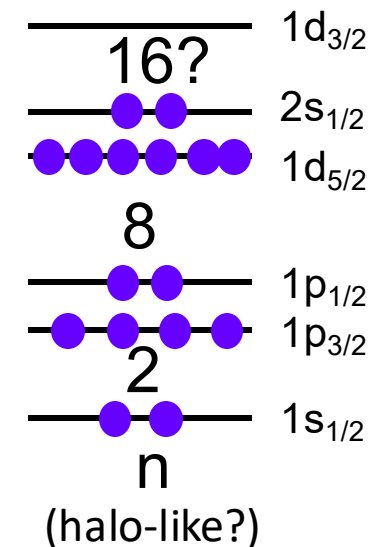
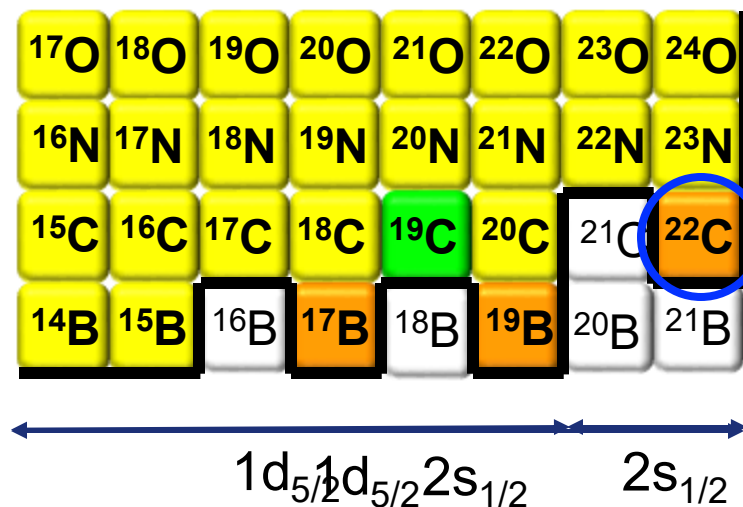
Heaviest s-wave two-neutron halo accessible

Nakatsuka, TN, in preparation



S_{2n} : Small but Controversial!

$$^{22}\text{C} = ^{20}\text{C} + 2n \text{ (halo)?}$$



$$S_{2n} = 0.034(20) \text{ MeV} \text{ AME2020: Chinese Phys. C45 030003 (2021). } \text{N.Kobayashi, PRC86, 054604 (2012).}$$

$$S_{2n} = -0.14(46) \text{ MeV}$$

Direct Mass Measurement: L.Gaudefroy et al. PRL109, 202503(2012).

$$S_{2n} \sim 0.01 \text{ MeV} \text{ K. Tanaka et al., PRL104, 062701 (2010).}$$

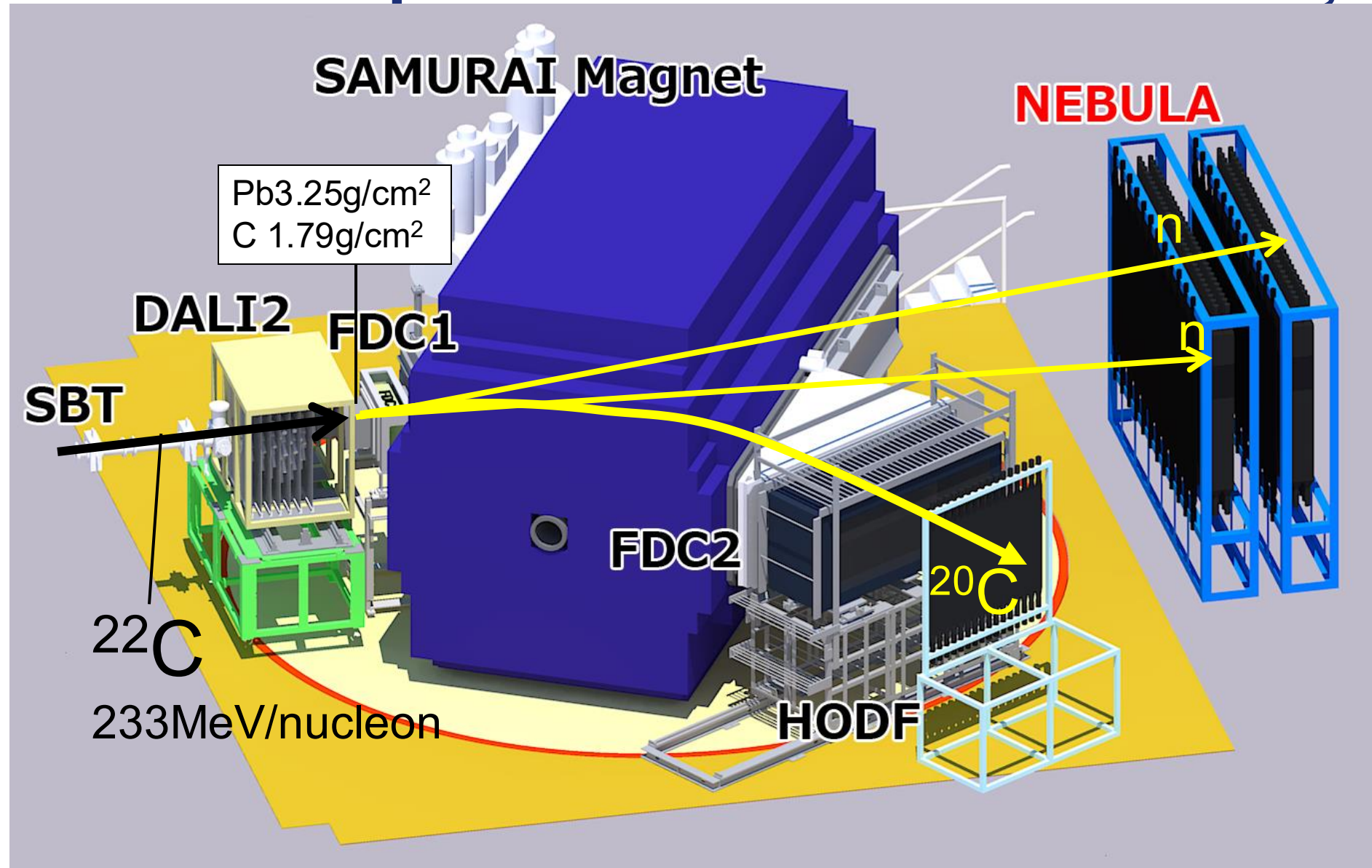
$$\text{Reaction Cross Section Measurement } (^{22}\text{C} + p \text{ @ } 40 \text{ A MeV}) \quad r_{rms}(^{22}\text{C}) = 5.4(9) \text{ fm}$$

$$S_{2n} = 0.56^{+0.27}_{-0.20} \text{ MeV} \text{ Y. Togano et al., PLB761, 412 (2016).}$$

$$\text{Reaction Cross Section Measurement } (^{22}\text{C} + \text{C} \text{ @ } 235 \text{ A MeV}) \quad r_{rms}(^{22}\text{C}) = 3.44(8) \text{ fm}$$

$\updownarrow \sim 2\sigma$ deviation

Experimental Setup: Coulomb breakup of ^{22}C at SAMURAI at RIBF, RIKEN



Coulomb Breakup of ^{22}C : *Preliminary Results*

Nakatsuka, Y.Osawa, TN et al.,

Large Coulomb Breakup Cross Section
→ Soft E1 Excitation

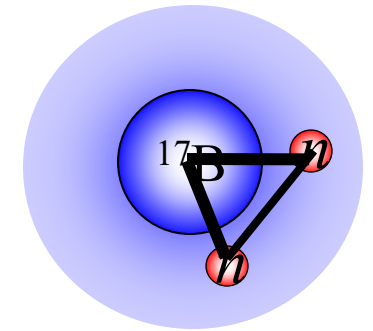
$^{22}\text{C}+\text{Pb}$

$^{22}\text{C}+\text{C}(\times 3.3)$

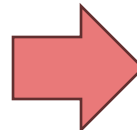
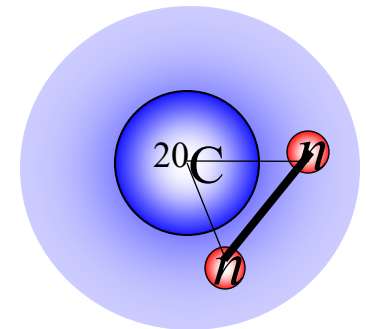
$\text{dB(E1)}/\text{dE}$ in ^{22}C :

Peak: **Much broader** and **less pronounced** than ^{19}B

K.J. Cook et al. ^{19}B
PRL**124**, 212503 (2020).



3-body model (Hagino) ^{22}C



Summary:

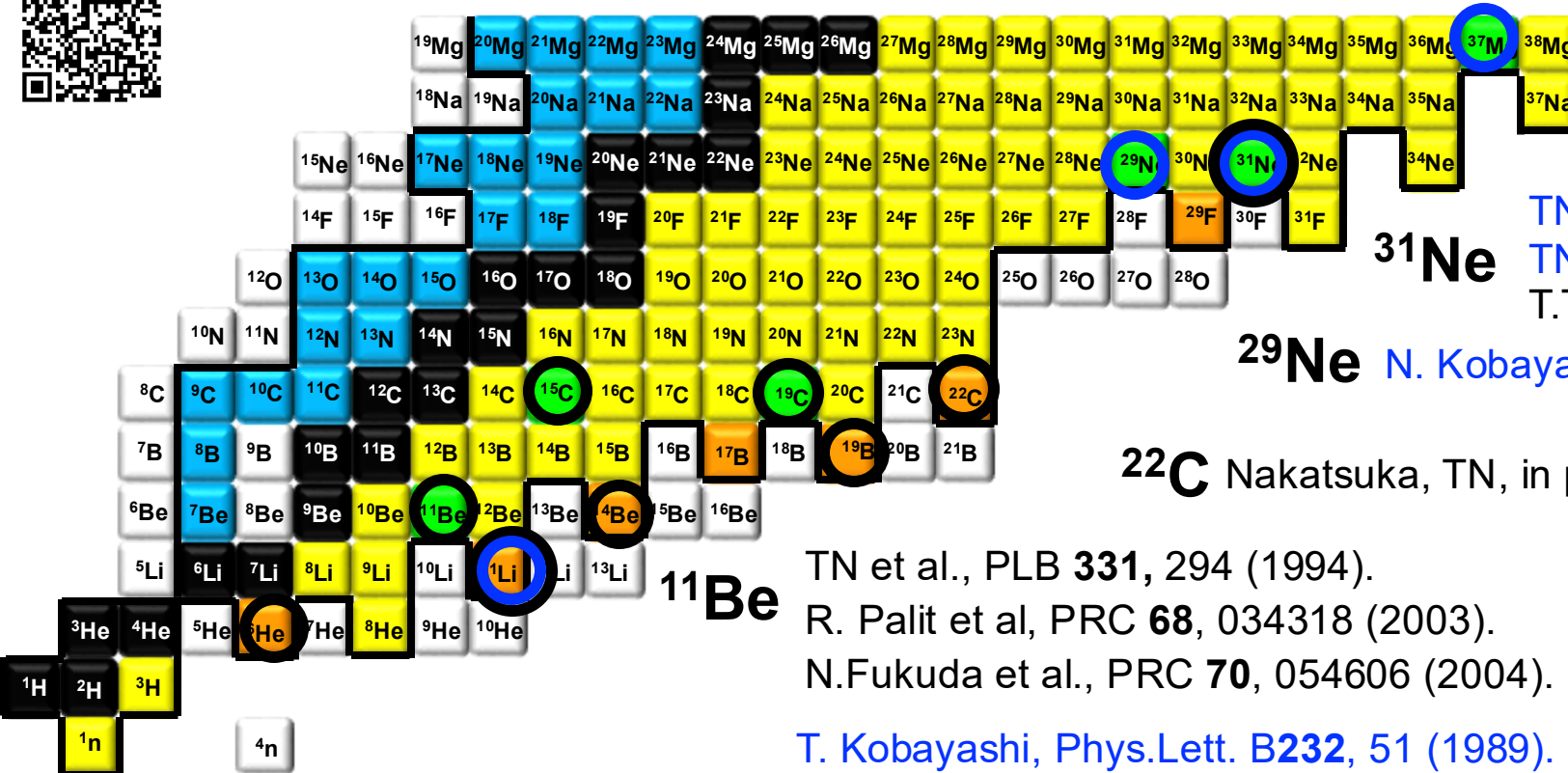
Coulomb Breakup of neutron halo nuclei in 36 years

T. Aumann, T. Nakamura, Phys. Scr. T**152**, 014142(2013).
T. Nakamura, Handbook of Nuclear Physics, pp1-37 (2023).



 Inclusive Coulomb Breakup Done
 Exclusive Coulomb Breakup Done

 1n-halo nuclei
 2n-halo nuclei



³⁷Mg

N.Kobayashi et al., PRL **112**, 242501 (2014).

TN, N. Kobayashi et al., PRL **103**, 262501 (2009).

TN, N.Kobayashi et al., PRL **112**, 142501 (2014).

T.Tomai, TN, in preparation

³¹Ne

²⁹Ne

N. Kobayashi et al., PRC **93**, 014613 (2016).

²²C Nakatsuka, TN, in preparation

TN et al., PLB **331**, 294 (1994).

R. Palit et al, PRC **68**, 034318 (2003).

N.Fukuda et al., PRC **70**, 054606 (2004).

T. Kobayashi, Phys.Lett. B**232**, 51 (1989).

K.leki et al., PRL **70**, 730 (1993).

D. Sackett et al., PRC **48**, 118 (1993).

S. Shimoura, TN et al., PLB **348**, 29 (1995).

Zinger et al., NPA **619**, 151(1997).

TN et al., PRL **96**, 252502 (2006).

¹⁵C

A. Horvath et al., APJ**570**, 926 (2002).

D. Pramanik et al. PLB **551**, 63 (2002).

TN et al., PRC**79**, 035805 (2009).

¹⁹C

TN et al., PRL **83**, 1112 (1999).

¹⁹B

K.J. Cook et al. PRL**124**, 212503 (2020).

¹⁴Be

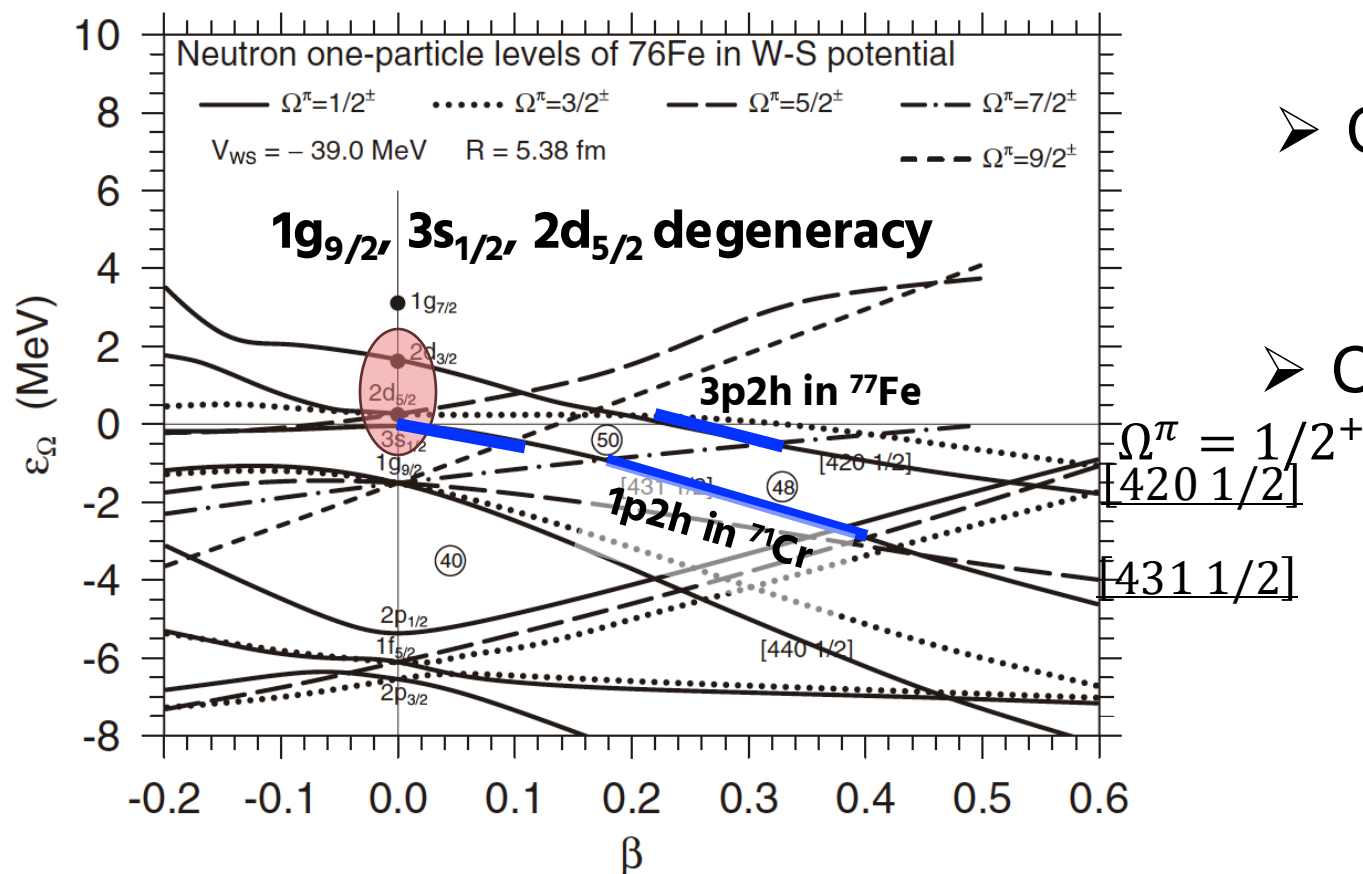
M. Labiche et al., PRL**86**, 600 (2001).

□ 3-body Borromean halo:

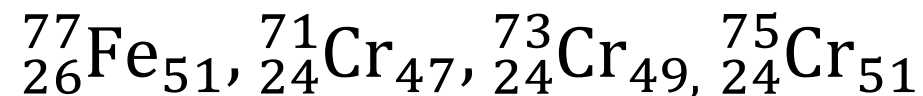
→ 5-body model & 4n decay experiments provide further insights?

□ Halo is universal along the neutron drip line ?

→ Shell Evolution/Deformation → s-wave, p-wave component always appear at neutron dripline?



➤ Candidate Deformed s-wave halo



➤ Candidate Deformed s or p-wave halo



I. Hamamoto, PRC95, 044325 (2017).



□ Please measure the mass of halo nuclei directly!

Exclusive Coulomb/nuclear breakup of ^{31}Ne

- Collaborators

- [T. Tomai](#),^A N. Kobayashi,^B T. Nakamura,^A Y. Togano,^Q Y. Kondo,^A S. Takeuchi,^A A. T. Saito,^A T. Ozaki,^A A. Hirayama,^A M. Yasuda,^A H. Yamada,^A T. Kobayashi,^D S. Koyama,^E S. J. Kim,^F J. W. Hwang,^F H. Otsu,^C Y. Shimizu,^C N. A. Orr,^G J. D. Gibelin,^G T. Aumann,^H H. Sato,^C P. C. Doornenbal,^C H. Baba,^C T. Isobe,^C N. L. Achouri,^G M. Marques,^G F. L. Delaunay,^G Q. Deshayes,^G A. Revel,^I O. Sorlin,^I V. Panin,^C I. Gašparić,^J H. T. Toernqvist,^H S. Y. Park,^K I. K. Hahn,^K Y. Kubota,^C M. Sasano,^C L. Stuhl,^E D. H. Kim,^K M. Matsumoto,^A M. Parlog,^G D. M. Rossi,^H L. Atar,^H S. Lindberg,^L J. Kahlbow,^H S. Paschalis,^M S. Sakaguchi,^N R. Reifarth,^O L. Mullah,^C F. Browne,^P M. L. Cortes Sua,^C S. D. Chen,^C J. Steinhauser^A
Theories: J.A. Tostevin^R, A. Poves^S, Y. Utsuno^T, K.Hagino^U

- Institution

- TokyoTech^A, Osaka U. RCNP^B, RIKEN Nishina center^C, Tohoku U.^D, U. Tokyo CNS^E, Seoul N. U.^F, LPC-ENSICAEN^G, GSI^H, GANIL^I, IRB^J, Ewha W. U.^K, Chalmers U. T.^L, U. York^M, Kyushu U.^N, U. Frankfurt^O, U. Brighton^P, U. Rikkyo^Q, U. Surrey^R, U. Autonoma-Madrid^S, JAEA^T, Kyoto U^U



[T. Tomai,](#)
[PhD thesis](#)
[Paper in](#)
[Preparation](#)

Coulomb Breakup of ^{22}C

N.Nakatsuka, T.Nakamura, Y.Osawa, Y.Kondo, K.Hagino et al., in Preparation

N. Nakatsuka,¹ T. Nakamura,¹ Y. Osawa,¹ Y. Kondo,¹ K. Hagino,² A. Navin,³ K. Ogata,^{4,5} S. Ogawa,⁴ Jagjit Singh,⁶ Y. Satou,¹ T. Inakura,⁷ N.L. Achouri,⁸ T. Aumann,^{9,10} H. Baba,¹¹ F. Delaunay,⁸ Q. Deshayes,⁸ P. Doornenbal,¹¹ N. Fukuda,¹¹ J. Gibelin,⁸ J.W. Hwang,¹² N. Inabe,¹¹ T. Isobe,¹¹ D. Kameda,¹¹ S. Kim,¹² N. Kobayashi,¹ T. Kobayashi,¹³ T. Kubo,¹¹ S. Leblond,⁸ J. Lee,¹⁴ M. Ishihara,¹¹ F. M. Marqués,⁸ R. Minakata,¹ T. Motobayashi,¹¹ T. Murakami,² S. Ogoshi,¹ T. Ohnishi,¹¹ N.A. Orr,⁸ H. Otsu,¹¹ H. Sato,¹¹ Y. Shimizu,¹⁵ H. Suzuki,¹¹ H. Takeda,¹¹ S. Takeuchi,¹¹ R. Tanaka,¹ Y. Togano,¹¹ M. Vandebrouck,¹⁶ and K. Yoneda¹¹

¹*Department of Physics, Institute of Science Tokyo,
2-12-1 O-Okayama, Meguro, Tokyo, 152-8550, Japan*

²*Department of Physics, Kyoto University, Kyoto 606-8502, Japan*

³*GANIL, CEA/DRF-CNRS/IN2P3, Bd Henri Becquerel, BP 55027, F-14076 Caen Cedex 5, France*

⁴*Department of Physics, Kyushu University, Fukuoka 819-0395, Japan*

⁵*Research Center for Nuclear Physics (RCNP), Osaka University, Ibaraki, Osaka 567-0047, Japan*

⁶*Department of Physics and Astronomy, The University of Manchester, Manchester M13 9PL, United Kingdom*

⁷*Laboratory for Zero-Carbon Energy, Institute of Innovative Research,
, Institute of Science Tokyo, 2-12-1 O-Okayama, Meguro, Tokyo, 152-8550, Japan*

⁸*LPC-ENSICAEN, IN2P3-CNRS et Université de Caen, F-14050, Caen Cedex, France*

⁹*Institut für Kernphysik, Technische Universität Darmstadt, D-64289 Darmstadt, Germany*

¹⁰*ExtreMe Matter Institute EMMI and Research Division,
GSI Helmholtzzentrum für Schwerionenforschung GmbH, D-64291 Darmstadt, Germany*

¹¹*RIKEN Nishina Center, Hirosawa 2-1, Wako, Saitama 351-0198, Japan*

¹²*Department of Physics and Astronomy, Seoul National University, 599 Gwanak, Seoul 151-742, Republic of Korea*

¹³*Department of Physics, Tohoku University, Aramaki Aoba 6-3, Aoba, Sendai, Miyagi 980-8578, Japan*

¹⁴*Department of Physics, University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong*

¹⁵*Department of physics, Tokyo University of Science, Chiba 278-8510, Japan*

¹⁶*IJC Laboratory, Université Paris Sud, IN2P3-CNRS, 91406 Orsay Cedex, France*