

Symposium in Honor of Nikola Cindro
"Highlights in Heavy-Ion Physics"
Sep 22-24, 2011, Split, Croatia

Zagreb initiative on research in
nuclear astrophysics

or

Can small nuclear physics group from
small country survive the crisis ?

Neven Soić, Ruđer Bošković Institute, Zagreb, Croatia

FP7 REGPOT,
Start May 2008, End: July 2011

Clustering phenomena in nuclear physics: strengthening of the Zagreb–Catania–Birmingham partnership

<http://lnr.irb.hr/cluna>

Partners

- Ruđer Bošković Institute – coordinator
- University of Zagreb
- University of Birmingham, UK
- INFN – Laboratori Nazionali del Sud Catania, Italy

Funding: 370,000 €

Equipment ~ 35 % total
Upgrade of experimental
beam line at the RBI Tandem
New PhD student position
Travelling – exchange of knowledge
and experience, practical trainings

Equipment

Si detectors: SSSD thin 20 μm ,
DSSSD and PSD
Neutron detectors- EJ-309
Electronics, VME DAQ units

FP7 REGPOT,
Start August 2010

Upgraded Facility for Development of Silicon and Diamond Particle Detector Systems

<http://lnr.irb.hr/pd>

- 3 largest laboratories of the Division of Experimental Physics

- Laboratory for ion beam interactions
- Laboratory for nuclear physics
- Laboratory for high energy physics

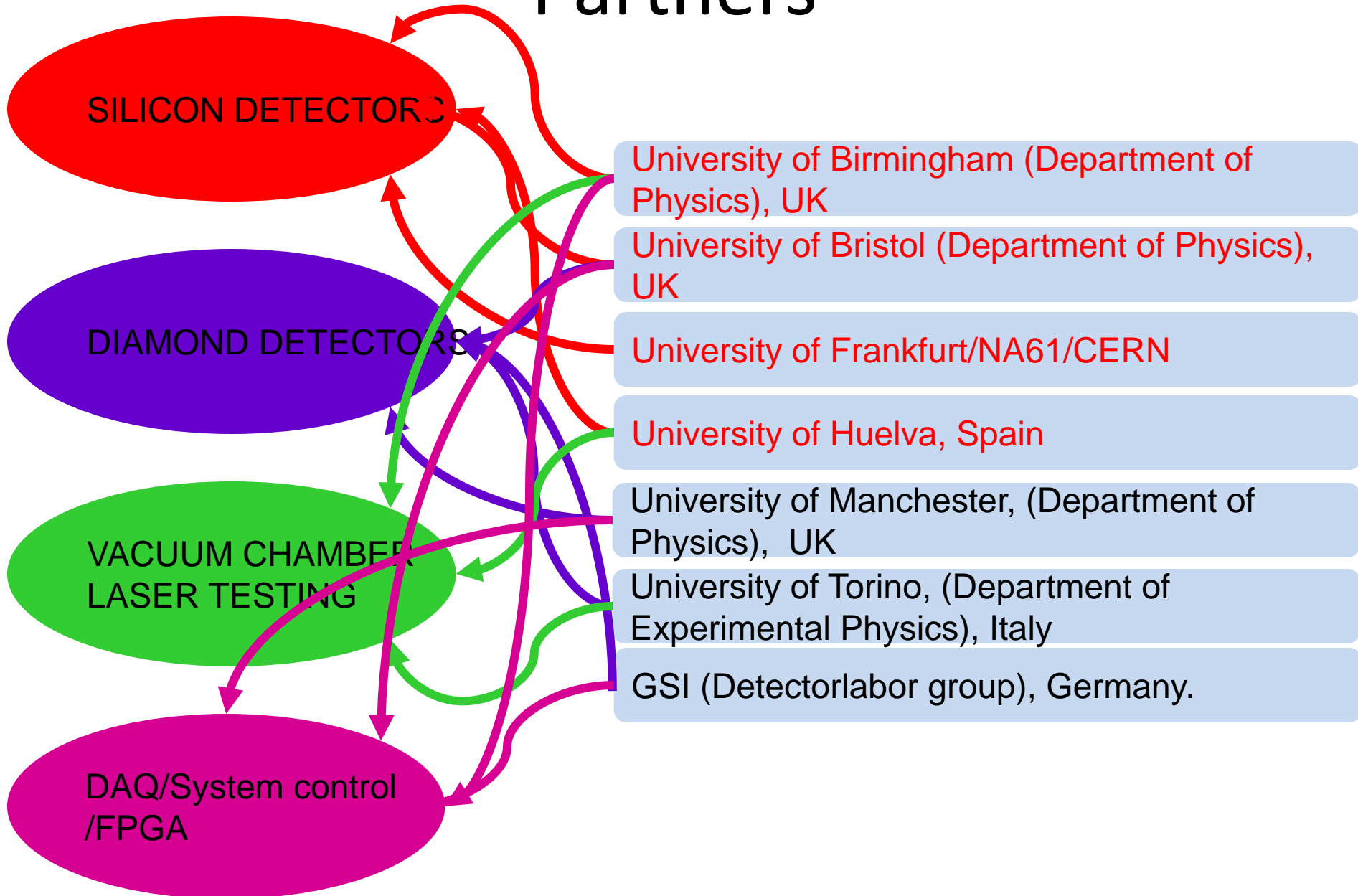
~33 employees,
15 directly included

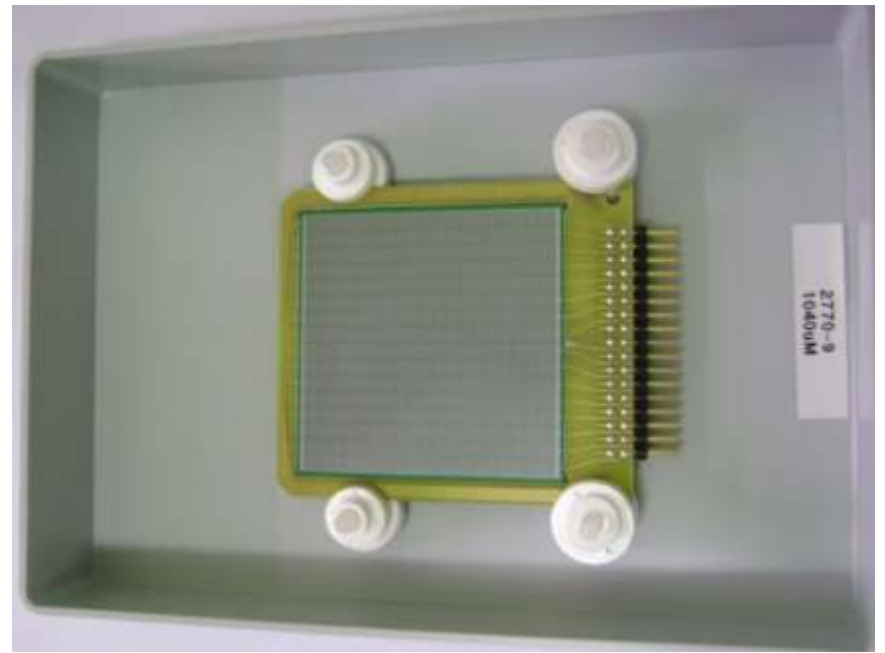
Funding: 1,319,538 €
silicon part: 405,156 €

Equipment ~ 35 % total
New postdoc position
Travelling – exchange of
knowledge and experience,
practical trainings

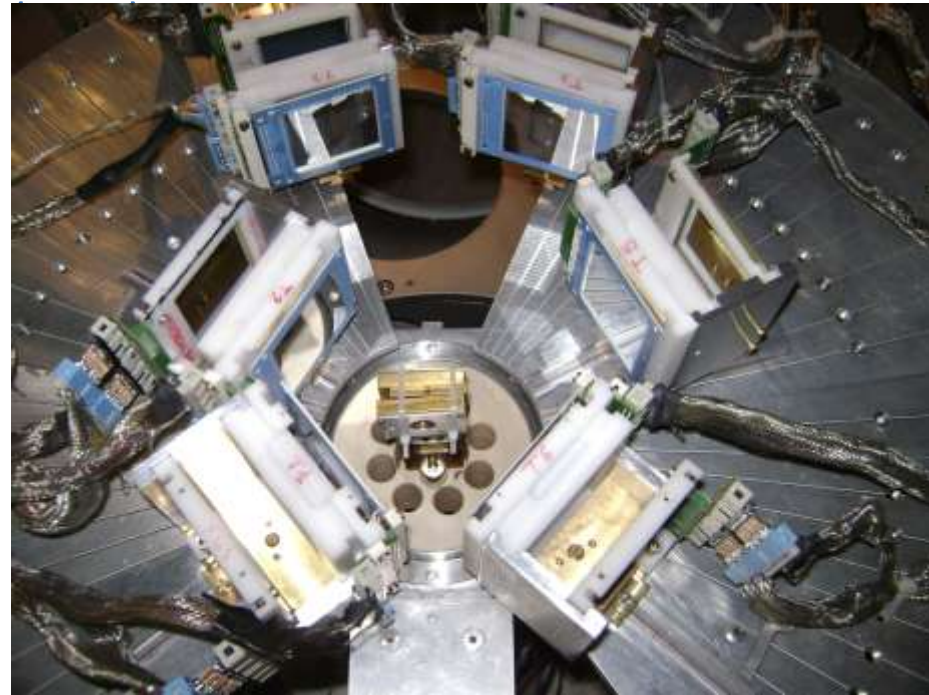
All three laboratories
participate in WP2
Development of novel
detector arrays
LIBI – strip, PSD
LNP- strip, PSD, pixel
LHEP – strip, pixel

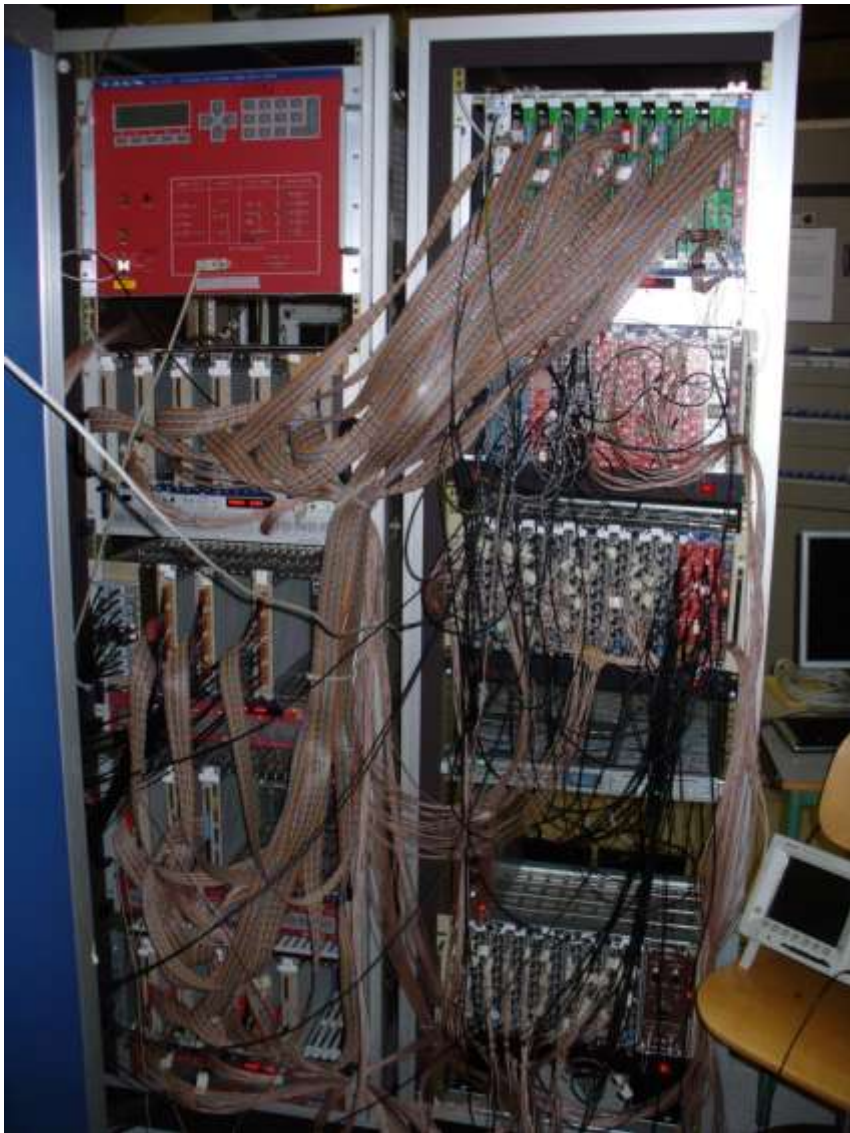
Partners





Detector telescopes: $50 \times 50 \text{ mm}^2$
 $20 \mu\text{m}$ SSSD + $1000/500 \mu\text{m}$ PSD and DSSSD
Particle identification from p to cca ^{12}C





EuroGENESIS project

- involved in "Physics of compact objects: explosive nucleosynthesis and evolution" collaboration led by J. Jose UPC Barcelona
- funding 150,000 € in 3 years, PhD student, equipment, experiments
- use of our expertise from structure and reaction studies to study nuclear reactions important for stellar explosive phenomena: novae, SniIa , ccSn, X-ray bursts and super-bursts
- not direct low energy measurements of the reactions, focus on reactions which in astrophysically relevant energy range are likely to proceed through **resonances** which dramatically increase cross section of the reaction
- our main goal and objective is to obtain new results on the properties of these resonances and their full characterization
- full characterization of the resonances => obtained data will be important ingredients for calculations of improved reaction rates
- these indirect measurements complement direct measurements and provide useful input for setup of future direct experiments

Carbon – carbon burning

- Objective: search for $^{12}\text{C}+^{12}\text{C}$ resonances at ^{24}Mg excitations 15 - 20 MeV and full characterization of the resonances (excitation energy, width, spin, parity, partial decay widths)
- Two-fold reason: nuclear structure & astrophysical motivation

Carbon – carbon burning

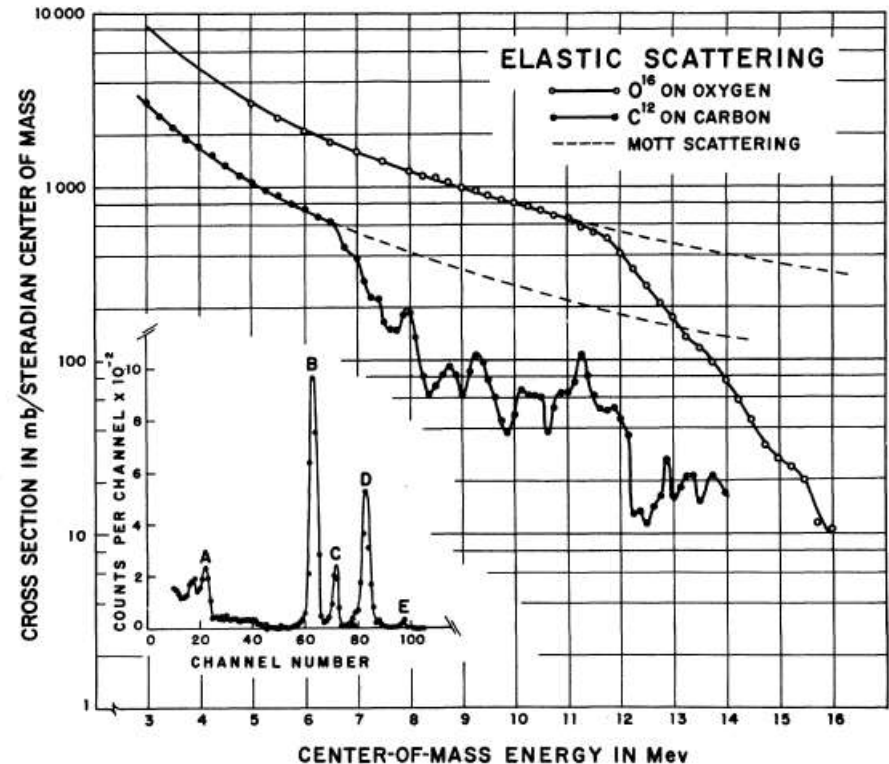
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- Two-fold reason: nuclear structure & astrophysical motivation

D. A. Bromley,
J. A. Kuehner,
E. Almquist, Phys.
Rev Lett 4 (1960) 385

Elastic scattering
data

Resonant phenomena
in heavy ion reaction

FIG. 1. Excitation curves for the elastic scattering of C^{12} by carbon and of O^{16} by oxygen. Self-supporting targets of carbon ($\sim 50\mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$) and of SiO ($\sim 70\mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$) and 5×5 mm Au-Si detectors, have been used in these measurements. The inset figure is a typical spectrum at $\theta_{\text{lab}}=45^\circ$ obtained for 21.0-Mev carbon ions on carbon. The peak legend is as follows: the double peak at *A* arises from alpha particles and protons from the reaction which completely traverse the junction and thus provide a measure of its thickness. *B* is from C^{12} elastically scattered by carbon; *C* is for C^{12} elastically scattered by oxygen; *D* is from C^{12} elastically scattered by a residual phosphorous contaminant from the stripping compound used in preparing the target, and *E* is from C^{12} elastically scattered from traces of heavier target contaminants.



E. Almquist, D. A. Bromley, J. A. Kuehner, Phys Rev Lett 4 (1960) 515

Reaction data

Formation of quasi-molecular states in ^{24}Mg

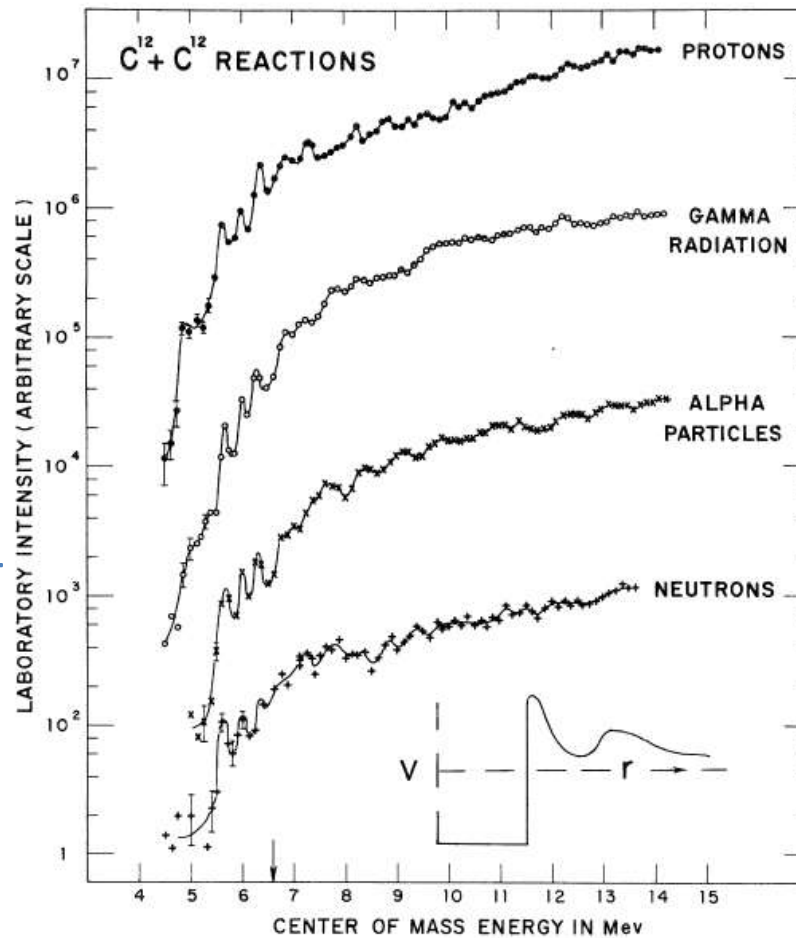


FIG. 1. Excitation curves for C^{12} on carbon reactions: protons at 27° , alpha particles at 42° , neutrons at 30° , and gamma radiation at 90° . The magnitudes of the corresponding differential cross sections (laboratory system) at 10 Mev (c.m. system) incident energy are: protons—15 mb/sr, alpha particles—34 mb/sr, and neutrons—3 mb/sr. These cross sections refer to protons >6 Mev laboratory energy, alpha particles >7.5 Mev, and all neutrons. Detectors were, respectively: Si p - n junctions (reference 2) covered by 0.007 inch of Al for protons, Au-Si surface barrier detectors (reference 2) covered by 0.001-inch Al for alpha particles, long counter of Hanson-McKibben type for neutrons, and NaI crystal detectors biased to detect gamma radiation >2.8 Mev energy. Target was a self-supporting ~ 40 - $\mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$ C foil. Statistical errors are indicated where they are significantly larger than the points. The classical Coulomb barrier is indicated at 6.6 Mev. The inset shows the quasi-molecular potential envisaged.

E. Almquist, D. A. Bromley, J. A. Kuehner, Phys Rev Lett 4 (1960) 515

Reaction data

Formation of quasi-molecular states in ^{24}Mg

50 years later:

- number of resonances decaying into various channels
- kind of unique nuclear system, very complex structure
- governed by cluster structure of ^{12}C – oblate deformation in gs
- **not fully understand yet**

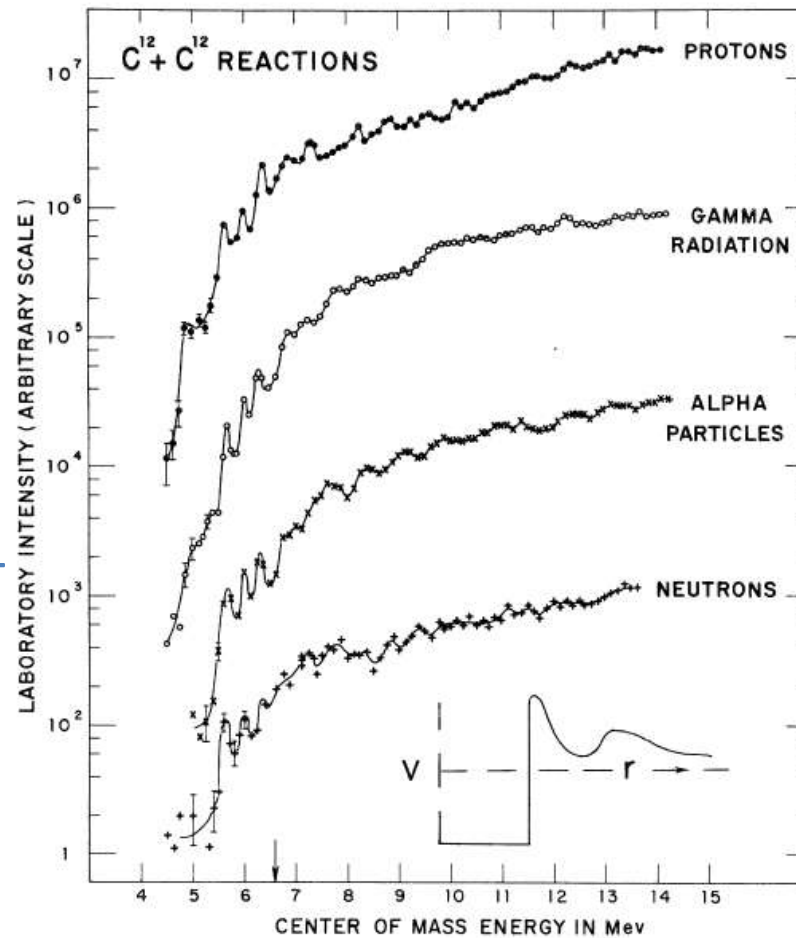


FIG. 1. Excitation curves for C^{12} on carbon reactions: protons at 27° , alpha particles at 42° , neutrons at 30° , and gamma radiation at 90° . The magnitudes of the corresponding differential cross sections (laboratory system) at 10 Mev (c.m. system) incident energy are: protons—15 mb/sr, alpha particles—34 mb/sr, and neutrons—3 mb/sr. These cross sections refer to protons > 6 Mev laboratory energy, alpha particles > 7.5 Mev, and all neutrons. Detectors were, respectively: Si p - n junctions (reference 2) covered by 0.007 inch of Al for protons, Au-Si surface barrier detectors (reference 2) covered by 0.001-inch Al for alpha particles, long counter of Hanson-McKibben type for neutrons, and NaI crystal detectors biased to detect gamma radiation > 2.8 Mev energy. Target was a self-supporting $\sim 40\text{-}\mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$ C foil. Statistical errors are indicated where they are significantly larger than the points. The classical Coulomb barrier is indicated at 6.6 Mev. The inset shows the quasi-molecular potential envisaged.

B. R. Fulton et al, Phys
Lett B 267 (1991) 325

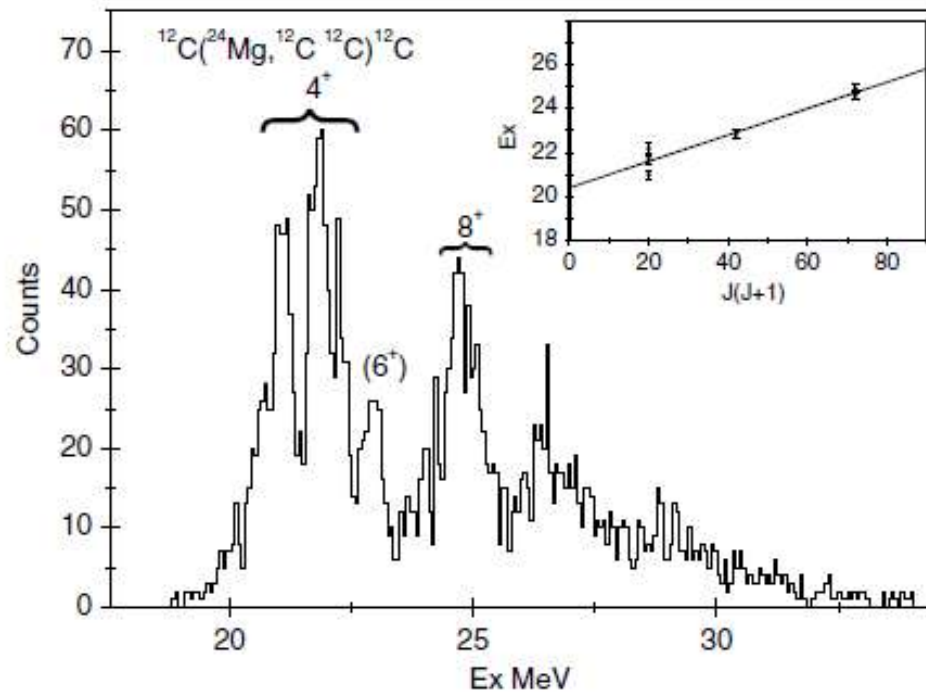


Figure 40. The excitation energy spectrum of ^{24}Mg corresponding to the breakup into two ^{12}C nuclei, from the $^{12}\text{C}(^{24}\text{Mg}, ^{12}\text{C}^{12}\text{C})^{12}\text{C}$ reaction. The energy-spin systematics of the break up states are shown in the inset, from [143].

B. R. Fulton et al, Phys
Lett B 267 (1991) 325

M. Freer et al, Phys Rev C
57 (1998) 1277

C. Metelko et al, Phys Rev C
68 (2003) 054321

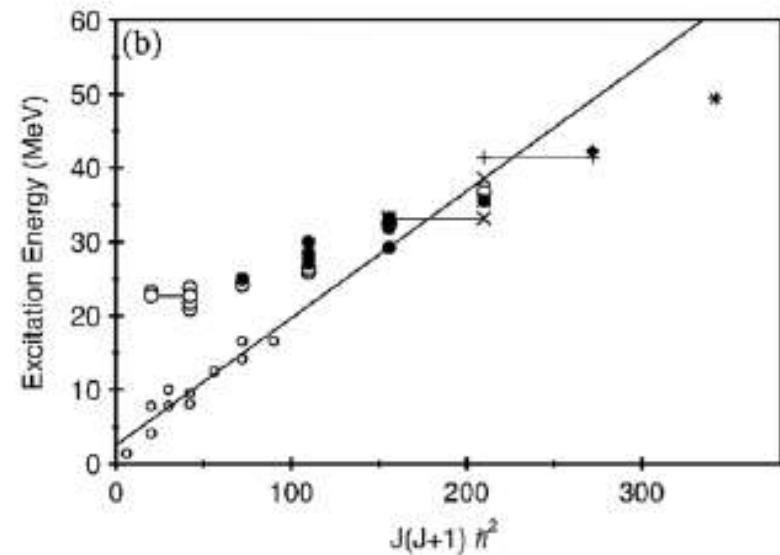
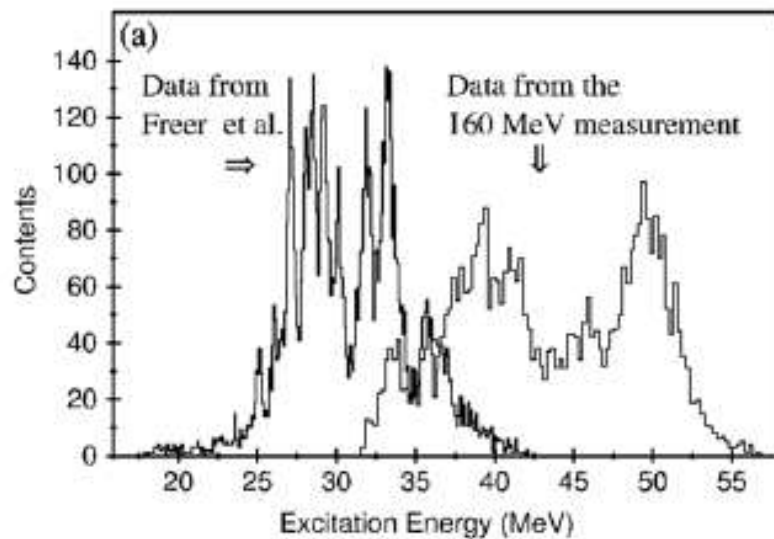
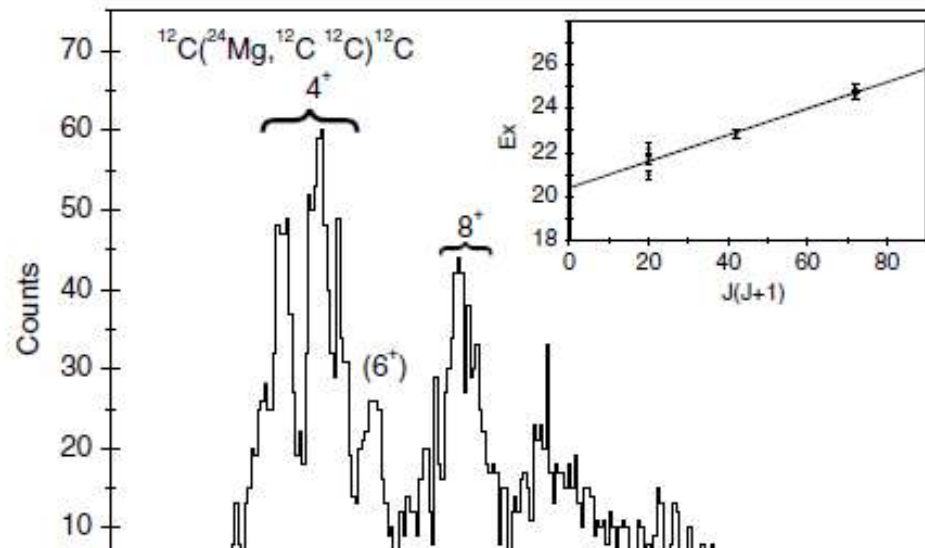


Figure 42. (a) Resonances observed in the $^{12}\text{C}(^{16}\text{O}, ^{24}\text{Mg}^+)$ breakup reaction [147, 148]. (b) The energy-spin systematics of the breakup resonances, from [148]. The smaller symbols and the solid line indicates the trend of the yrast states in ^{24}Mg .

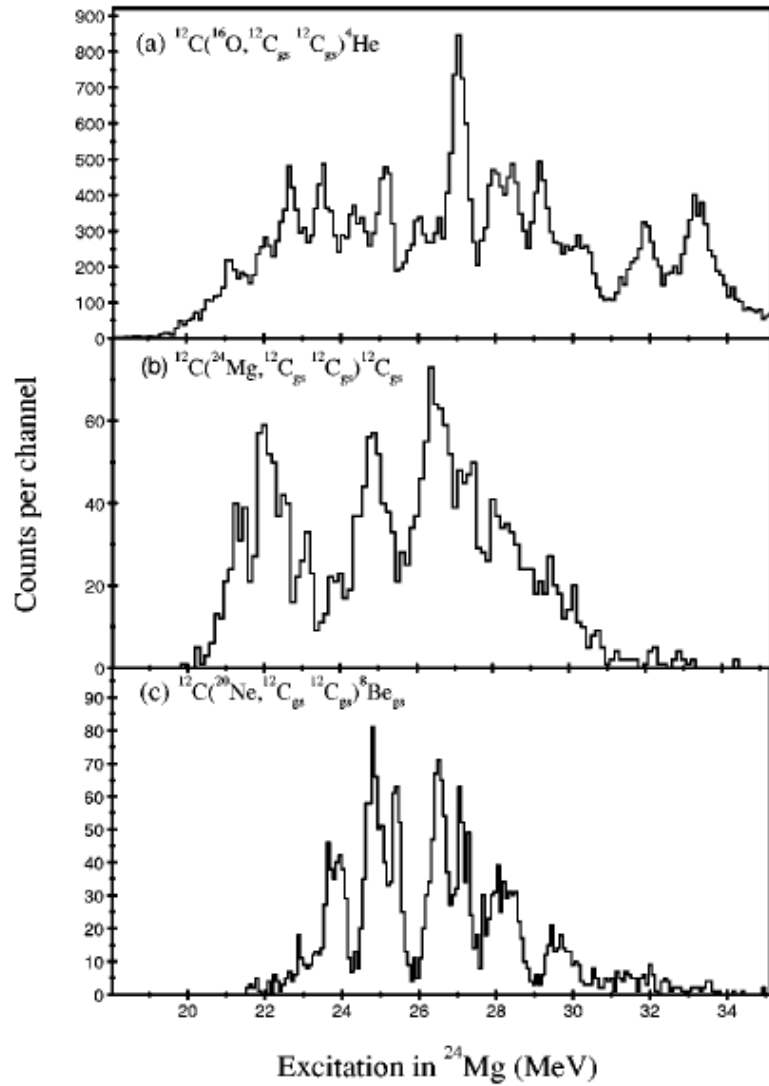
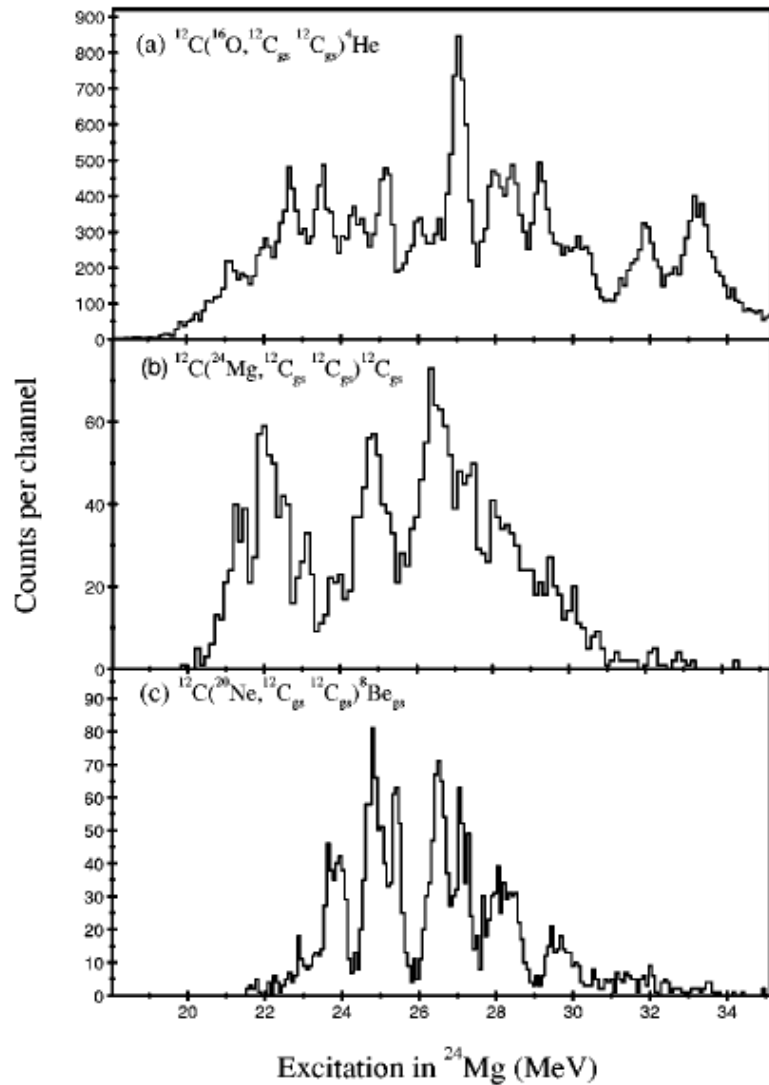


FIG. 10. A comparison of the ^{24}Mg excited states observed in the $^{12}\text{C}+^{12}\text{C}$ decay channel, populated in the reactions (a) $^{12}\text{C}(^{16}\text{O}, ^{24}\text{Mg}^*)$, (b) $^{12}\text{C}(^{24}\text{Mg}, ^{24}\text{Mg}^*)$ [8], and (c) $^{12}\text{C}(^{20}\text{Ne}, ^{24}\text{Mg}^*)$ [10,8].



But main focus of these studies
has been on higher excitations
in ^{24}Mg

No data below 20 MeV !

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- Low energy data for $^{12}\text{C}+^{12}\text{C}$ fusion reaction crucial for many astrophysical phenomena: quiescent burning of massive stars, super-AGB stars, super-bursts and supernovae type Ia
- The most relevant quantity: total reaction fusion rate

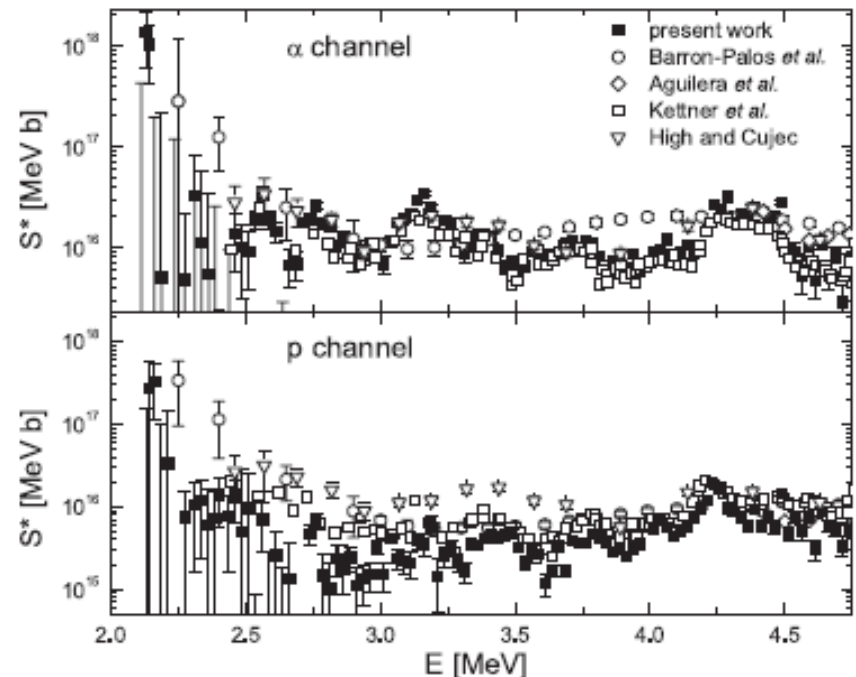
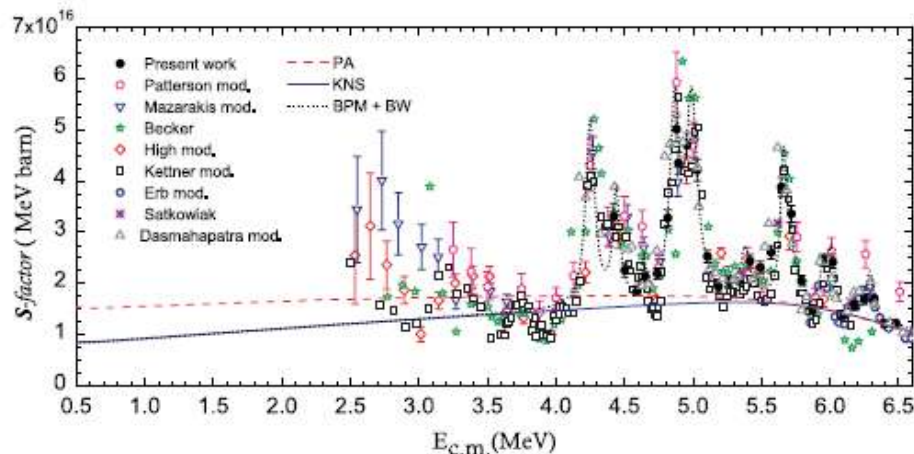


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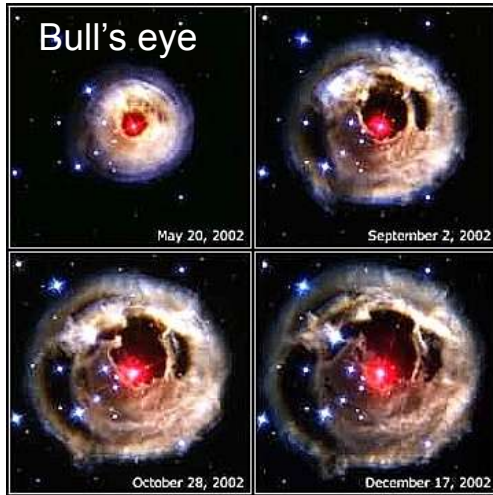


Existing data show large discrepancies
Low energy resonance ?

E. F. Aguilera et al, Phys. Rev. C 73 (2006) 064601
T. Spillane et al, Phys. Rev. Lett. 98 (2007) 122501



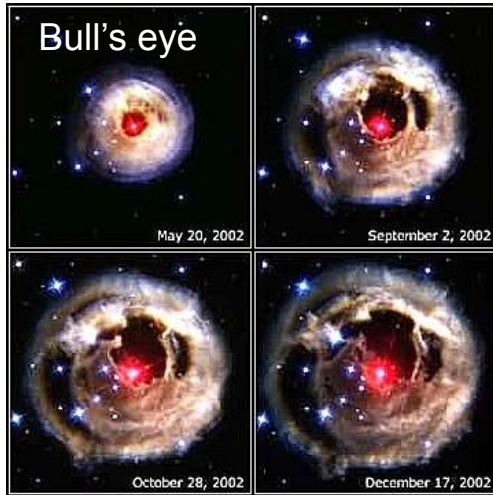
Stellar outbursts



$^{12}\text{C}+^{12}\text{C}$ fusion is differentiating between the evolutionary paths leading to either white dwarf or heavy elements burning stages



Stellar outbursts



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Explosive phenomena in binary systems

SNIa: initiates thermonuclear runaway on white dwarf

temperature range is

$0.5 - 1.2 \times 10^9 \text{ K}$

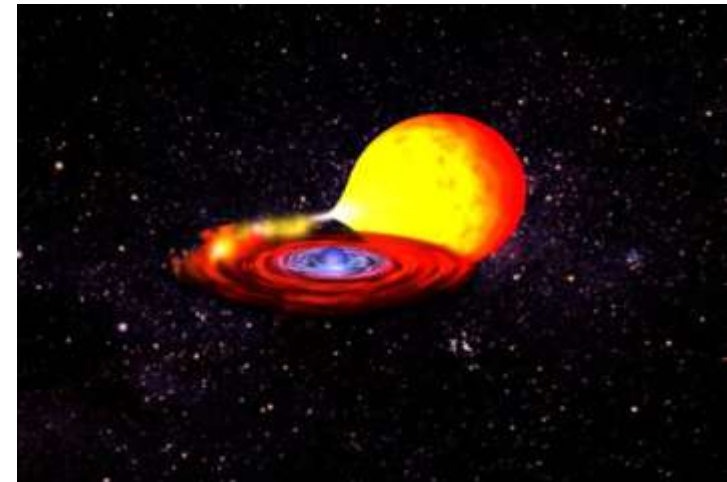
$E_{\text{cm}} = 1.5 - 3.3 \text{ MeV}$

Super-bursts: trigger of

^{12}C ignition

up to $2.5 \times 10^9 \text{ K} - 5.7 \text{ MeV}$

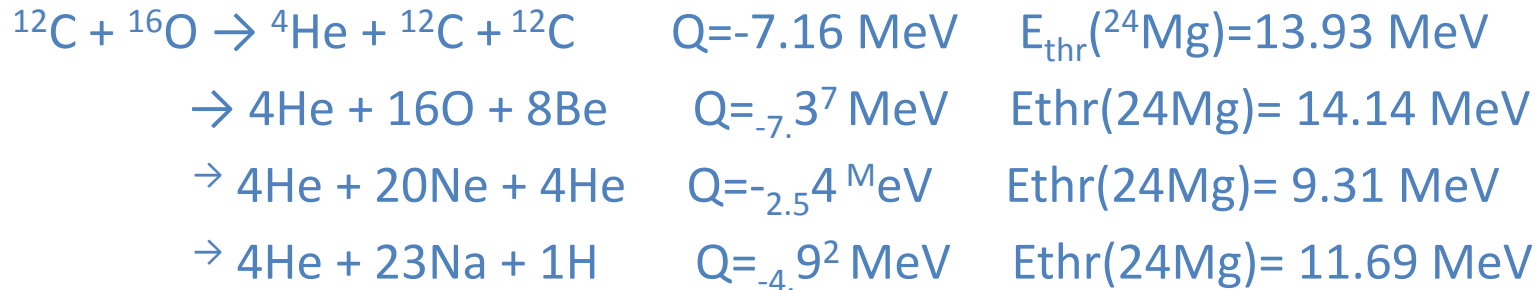
Gamma Ray Bursts



most powerful events since the Big Bang (energy released in few seconds larger than Sun's output over its entire lifetime)

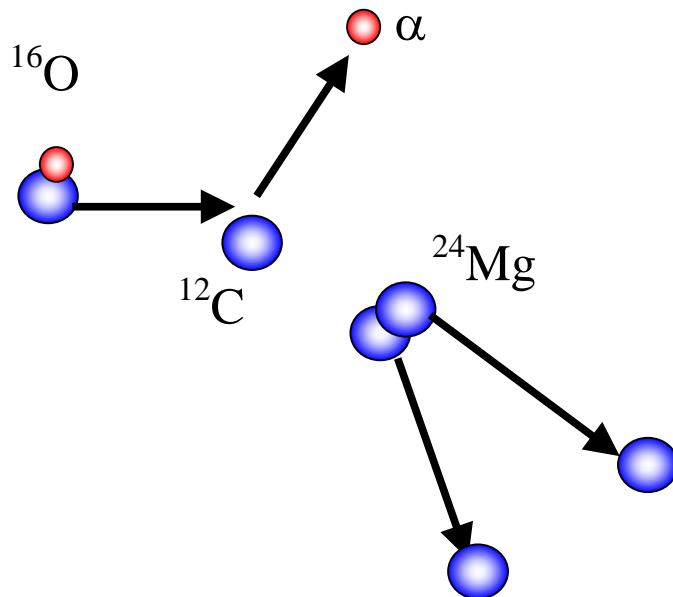
$^{12}\text{C}+^{16}\text{O}$ measurement at LNS Catania Apr 2010

Coincident detection of 2 reaction products



Excitation energy range: 1 – 6 MeV
above the $^{12}\text{C} + ^{12}\text{C}$ threshold, 15 – 20 MeV in
 ^{24}Mg excitation

Resonance parameters:
excitation energy, width,
spin, parity and partial decay widths
of the resonances

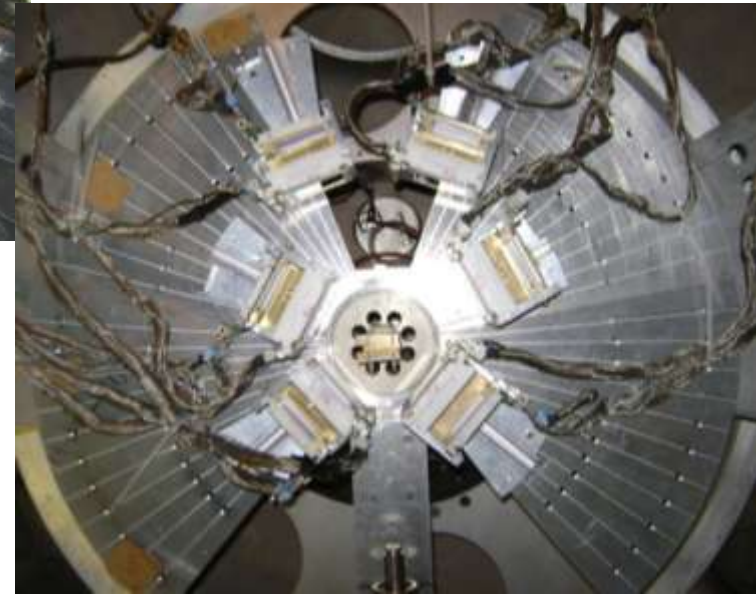


Main goal: identify low spin states with significant $^{12}\text{C}+^{12}\text{C}$ partial width

^{16}O beam energy: 90 MeV, target: $60\ \mu\text{m}/\text{cm}^2$ carbon target

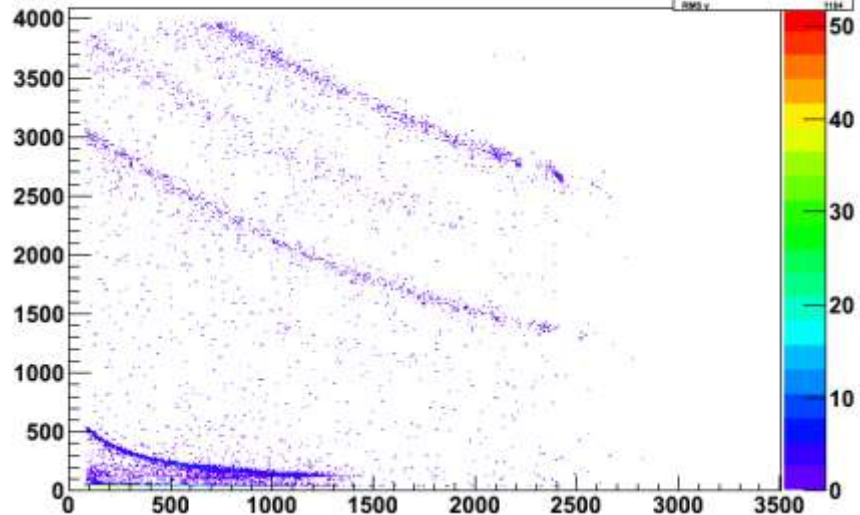


RBI, Uni of Zagreb
INFN-LNS Catania,
Uni of Birmingham,
Uni of Huelva



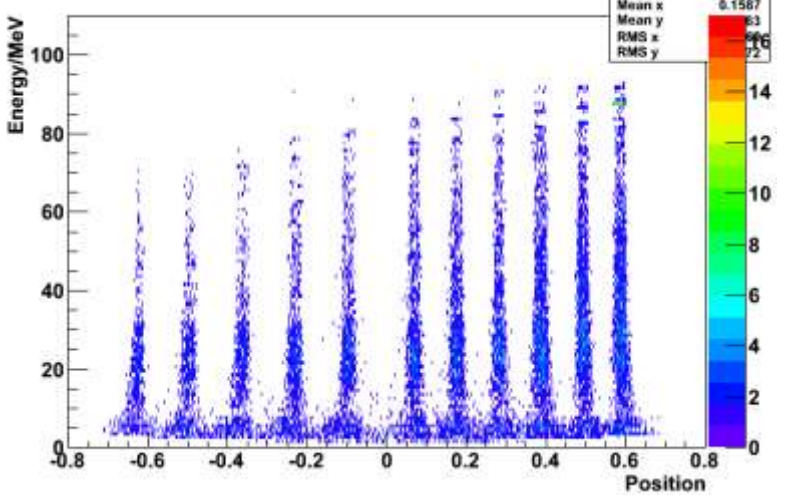
e3s03de3s158

h	
Entries	4758
Mean x	738.4
Mean y	802.9
RMS x	538
RMS y	1159



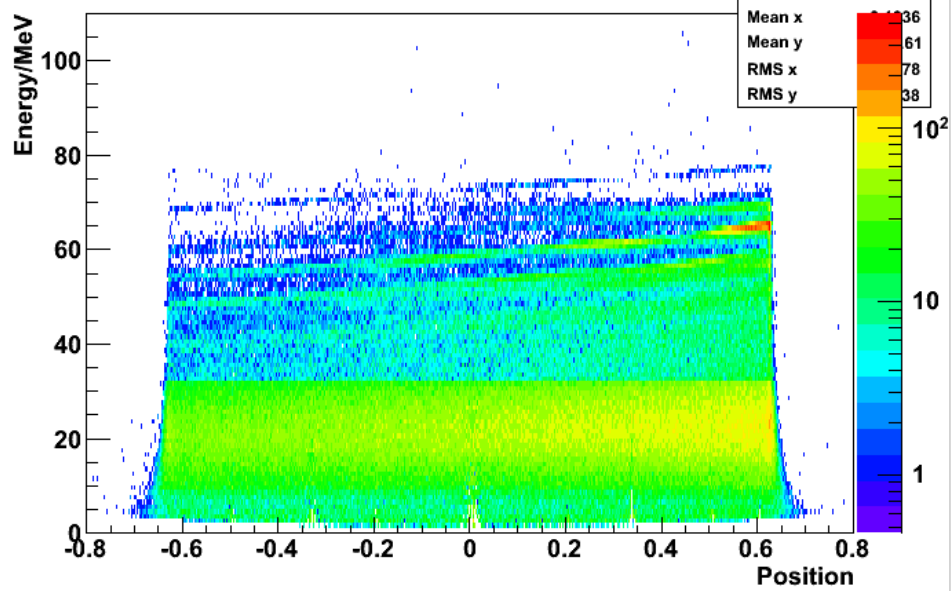
strip 9,detector 3

h	
Entries	4645846
Mean x	0.1587
Mean y	61
RMS x	0.66
RMS y	7.2



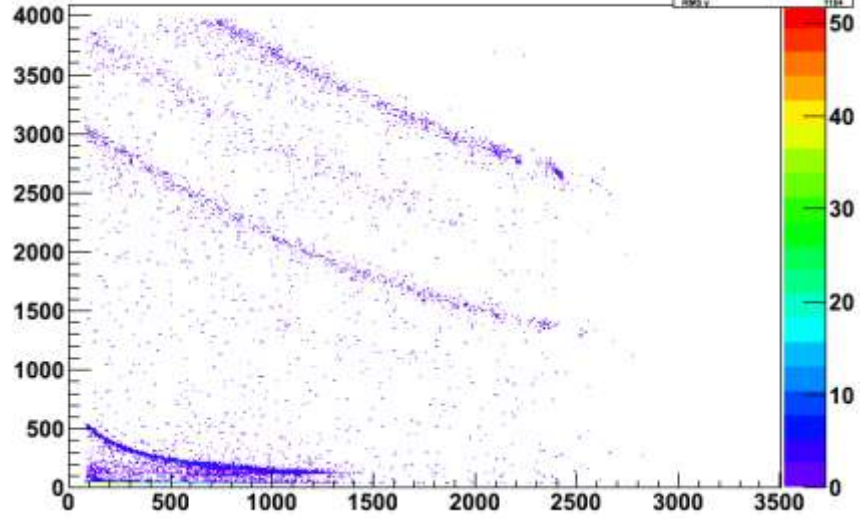
strip 9,detector 3

h	
Entries	3.014132e+07
Mean x	0.36
Mean y	61
RMS x	0.78
RMS y	38



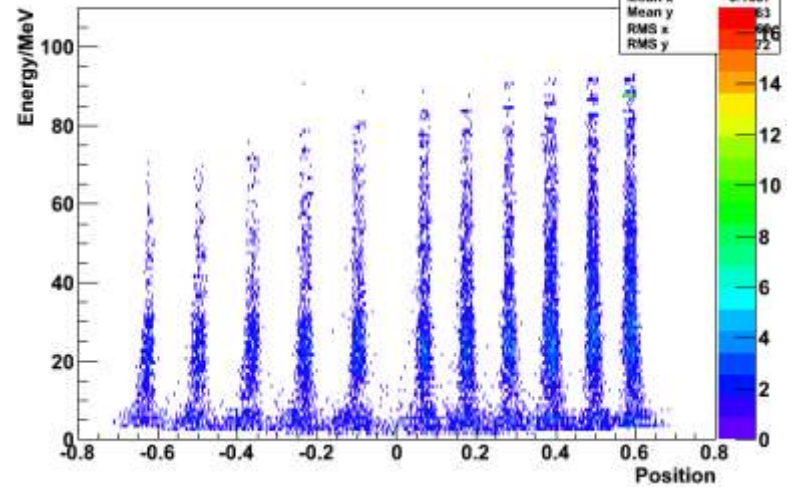
e3s03de3s158

h	
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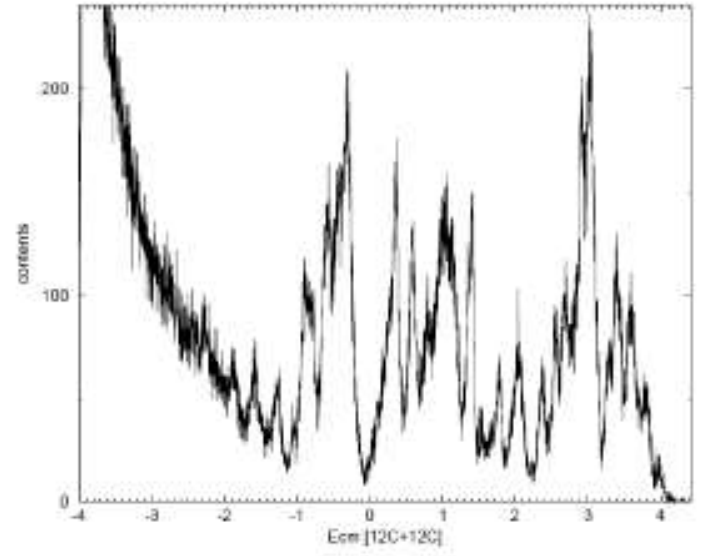
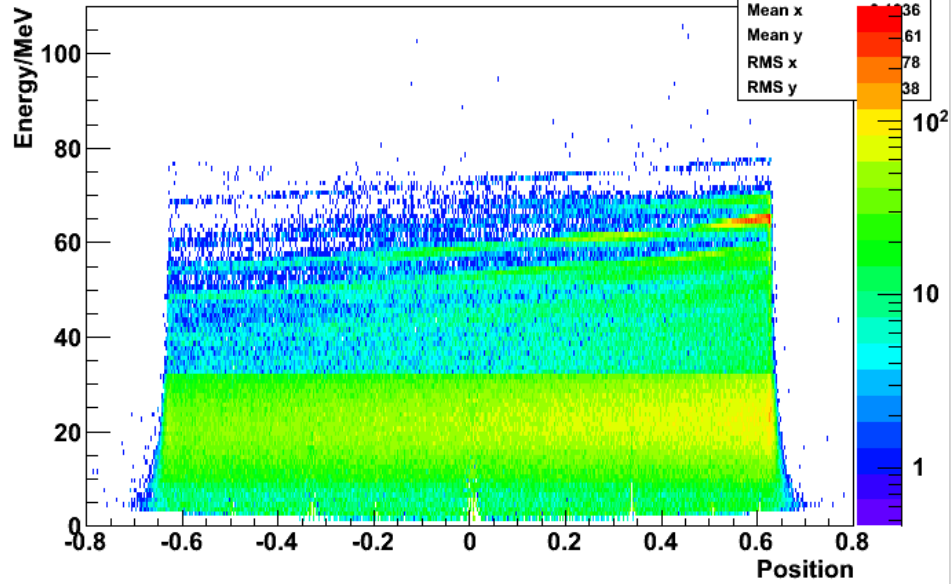
strip 9,detector 3

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Direct measurements of C–C burning and more

LNL PAC meeting July 11th 2011.



Cluster structures in ^{24}Mg and Carbon-Carbon burning nucleosynthesis

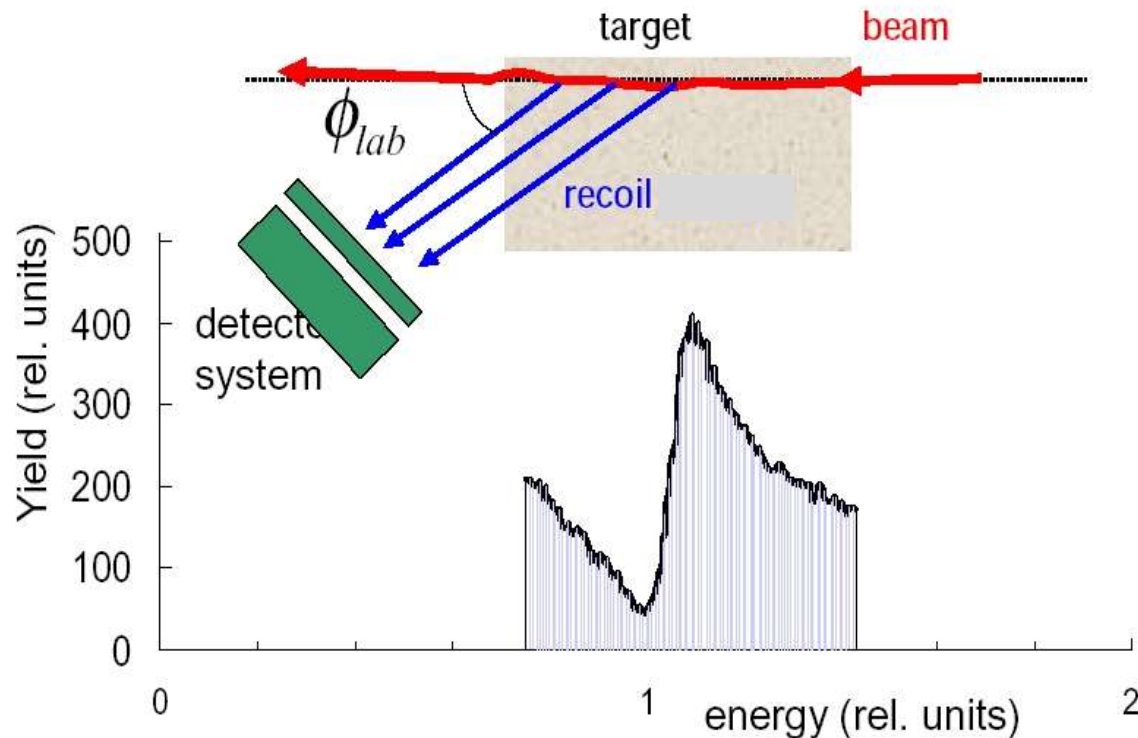
Suzana Szilner, Neven Soić, Ruđer Bošković Institute, Zagreb, Croatia
Martin Freer, University of Birmingham, United Kingdom

Experimental technique

- heavy ion beam: ^{20}Ne / ^{23}Na for ^{24}Mg studies, ^{22}Ne for ^{26}Mg
- light gas target: ^4He / ^1H – all chamber volume filled up at low pressure (astrophysical), ^4He high pressure (structure studies)

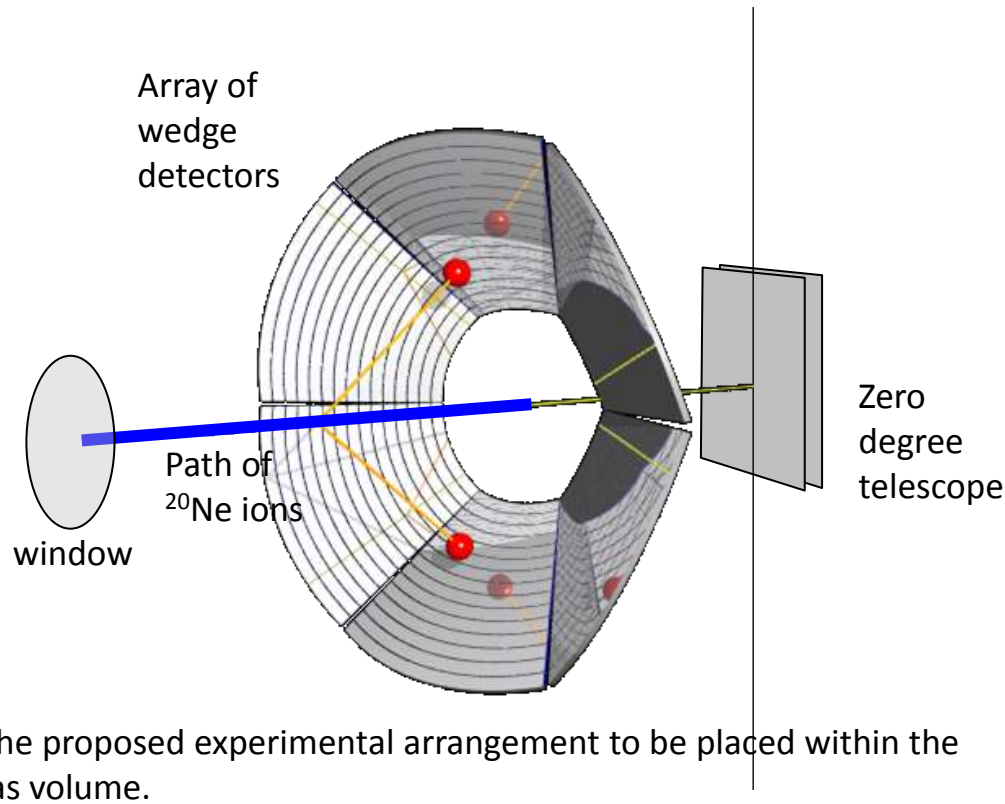
Experimental technique

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- light gas target: ^4He / ^1H – all chamber volume filled up at low pressure (astrophysical), ^4He high pressure (structure studies)
- resonant scattering and resonant reactions



beam slows down through gas, at resonance energy enhanced scattering and production of $^{12}\text{C}+^{12}\text{C}$

- coincidence detection of all reaction products
- kinematically complete measurements



- large silicon array assembled of DSSD (500, 1000 μm), SSSD (20 μm) and wedge YY1 type Micron Semiconductor

- particle identification: kinematics, but if required TOF & ΔE -E telescopes
- measurements of angular distributions

Full resonance characterization

Astrophysical measurements

Measurement of $^{20}\text{Ne}(\alpha,^{12}\text{C})^{12}\text{C}$ reaction

- ^4He gas target – scattering chamber filled up with gas at low pressure
- ^{20}Ne beam of 60 – 100 MeV – PIAVE + ALPI
- $Q = - 4.62$ MeV
- reaction products identical => particle identification using reaction kinematics

Measurement of $^{23}\text{Na}(p,^{12}\text{C})^{12}\text{C}$ reaction

- ^{23}Na beam energy 70 – 130 MeV – TANDEM + ALPI
- target: low pressure H_2 gas due to safety restrictions
- $Q = - 2.24$ MeV

Expected results

In summary, expected results of the measurements will provide new information about following issues :

- 1) How many resonances exist at ^{24}Mg excitations 15.5 – 20 MeV ?
- 2) Is there any $^{12}\text{C}+^{12}\text{C}$ resonance at low excitations 15.5 – 16.5 MeV and what are resonance parameters ?
- 3) Is there any low spin resonance which may influence carbon-carbon burning and how much it affects reaction rate ?
- 4) Are there structures at high excitations made of α -particles correlated into ^8Be or $^{12}\text{C}(7.65 \text{ MeV})$?
- 5) Do observed resonances help in explaining ^{24}Mg structure ?
- 6) How addition of 2 neutrons changes cluster structure in ^{26}Mg ?

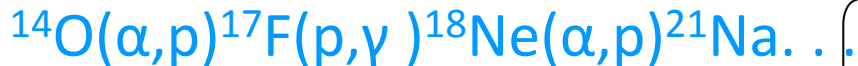
Resonances in ^{18}Ne

- important for reaction rates of the $^{14}\text{O}(\alpha,p)^{17}\text{F}$ and $^{17}\text{F}(p,\gamma)^{18}\text{Ne}$ reactions at relevant energies in stellar explosions
- the 1st reactions is important in hot CNO cycle, largely influences energy production in X-ray bursts thermonuclear runaway affecting later nucleosynthesis

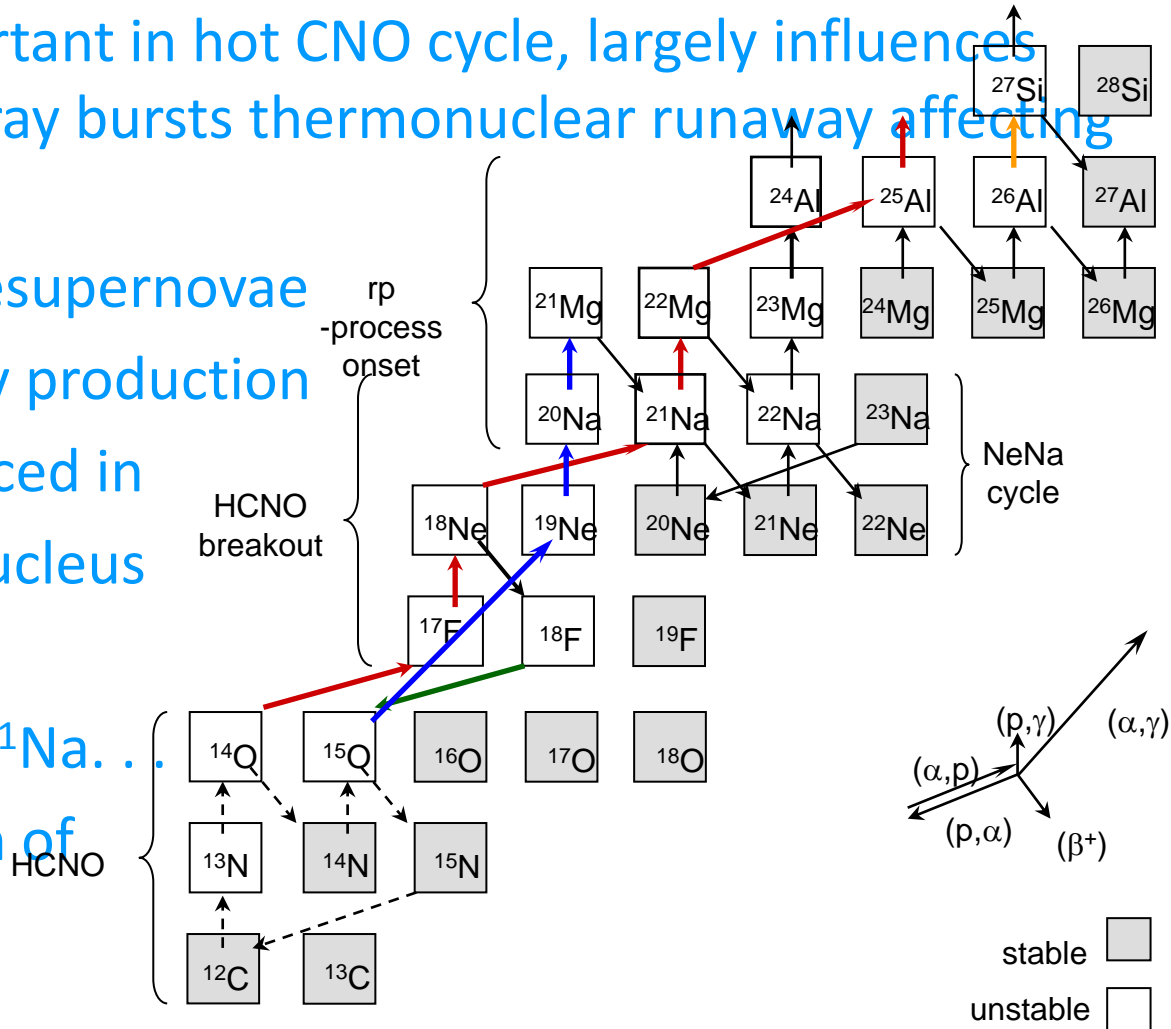
- very massive stars in presupernovae phase – increase energy production

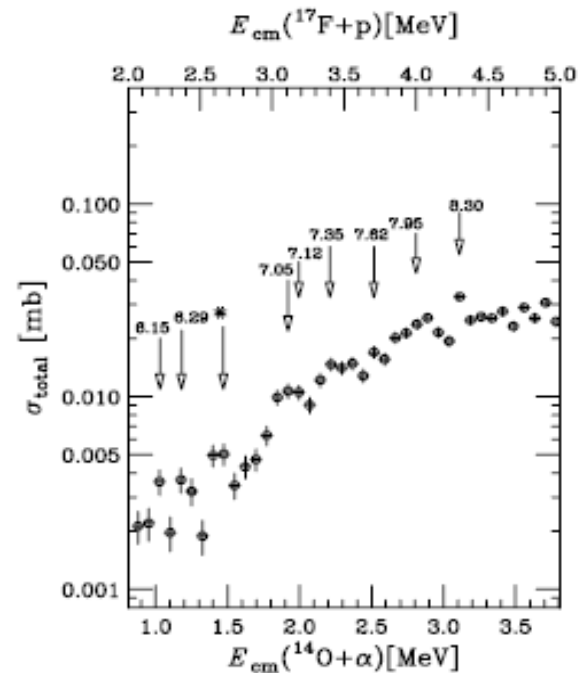
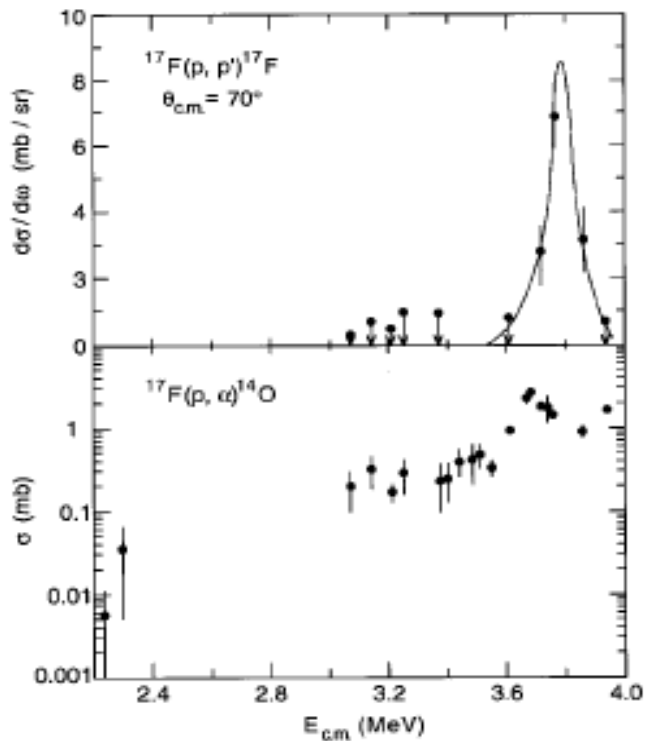
- ^{14}O ($T_{1/2}=70,61$ s) produced in hCNO is waiting point nucleus

- α p-process



- rp-process – production of nuclei up to Cadmium



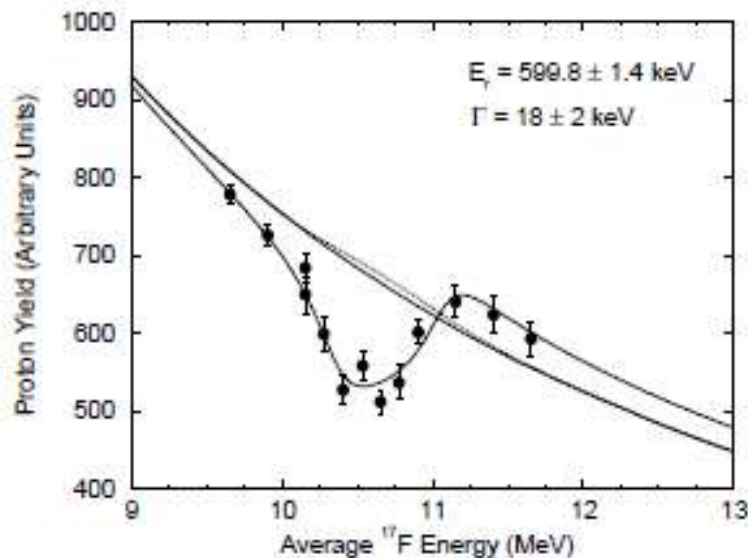


Direct measurements

M. Notani et al, Nucl. Phys. A
746 (2004) 113c

- the reaction rate is dominated by the single 1^- state of ^{18}Ne at 6.15 MeV
- states at excitations above 7 MeV $E_x(J^\pi)=7.05 (4^+)$, 7.37 (2^+), 7.60 (1^-), 7.71 MeV (2^-) also contribute but their effect on the reaction rate is quite uncertain

- the 2nd reaction is of importance for novae nucleosynthesis, escape from HCNO, preburst energy generation in x-ray bursts
- novae: production and destruction of ¹⁸F ($T_{1/2}=110$ min)
- x-bursts: the $^{16}\text{O}(p,\gamma)^{17}\text{F}(p,\gamma)^{18}\text{Ne}(e^+\nu_e)^{18}\text{F}(p,\alpha)^{15}\text{O}$ reaction sequence produces peak energy during the ignition phase

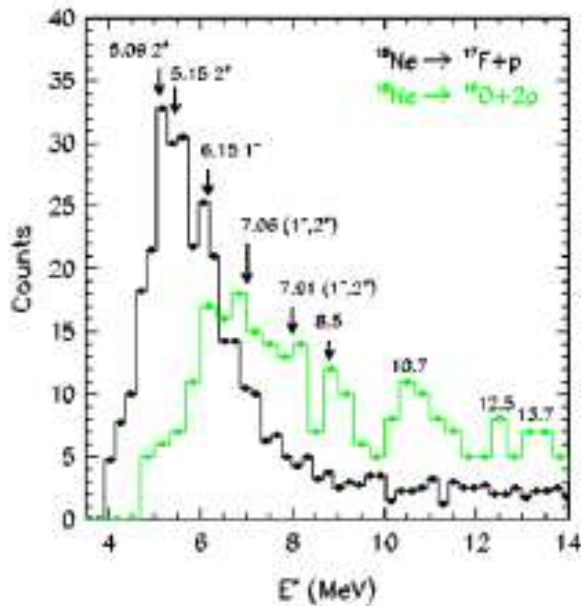


D. W. Bardayan et al, Phys. Rev. Lett.
83 (1999) 45

the 3⁺ state (l=0 resonance) at 4.524 MeV
dominates the resonant capture cross section

- study of ¹⁸Ne resonances in relevant excitation energy range (4.0-6.5 MeV) by studying decays of ¹⁸Ne* into ¹⁴O+ α , ¹⁷F+p and ¹⁷F*(495 keV)+p'

Nuclear structure of proton-rich nuclei



G. Raciti et al, Phys. Rev. Lett. 100 (2008) 192503
 ^{18}Ne diproton decay of the 6.15 MeV 1^- state
other 2p decaying states at higher excitations
democratic decay (uncorrelated emission of 2 p)
or 2 sequential emissions of proton
Changbo Fu et al, Phys. Rev. C 76 (2007) 021603

Changbo Fu et al, Phys. Rev. C 77 (2008) 064314

$^{14}\text{O} + \alpha$ resonant scattering - α -decaying states 8 – 17 MeV, cluster structure
Exotic cluster structures: ^6Be and ^8Be decaying states

- measurement of the breakup of radioactive ^{18}Ne beam on ^{12}C target into $^{14}\text{O} + \alpha$, $^{17}\text{F} + p$, $^{16}\text{O} + 2p$, $^{17}\text{F}^*(495 \text{ keV}) + p$, $^{12}\text{C} + ^6\text{Be}$, $^{10}\text{C} + ^8\text{Be}$
- search for resonances at excitation energies between 4.5 to 25 MeV

Proposal submitted to GANIL PAC – Nov 2011.

Structure of ^{18}Ne and its astrophysical implications

N. Soić, L. Grassi, D. Jelavić Malenica, T. Mijatović, Đ. Miljanić, L. Prepolec, S. Szilner, V. Tokić,
M. Uroić

Ruđer Bošković Institute, HR-10000 Zagreb, Croatia

M. Milin

Physics Department, Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb, HR-10000 Zagreb, Croatia

M. Freer, N. I. Ashwood, N. Curtis, Tz. Kokalova, C. Wheldon

School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, UK

N. L. Achouri, F. Delaunay, J. Gibelin, F. M. Marqués, N. A. Orr, M. Parlog

Laboratoire de Physique Corpusculaire, ISMRA and Université de Caen, IN2P3-CNRS, Caen, France

A. M. Sanchez Benitez, I. Martel Bravo, G. Marquinez

Universidad de Huelva, Avenida de las Fuerzas Armadas, 21071 Huelva, Spain

B. Fulton, A. Laird

Department of Physics, University of York, Heslington, York, YO10 5DD, UK

A. D. Becerril, M. J. G. Borge, E. Nacher, O. Tengblad

Instituto de Estructura de la Materia, CSIC, E-28006, Madrid, Spain

Other possible reactions for study of $^{18}\text{Ne}^*$ into $^{14}\text{O}+\alpha$ and $^{17}\text{F}+p$
Stable beam experiments, available some inclusive experimental data

Proposed coincident measurements:

- 1) $^{16}\text{O}(^3\text{He},n)^{18}\text{Ne}^*$
- 2) $^{14}\text{N}(^{10}\text{B},^6\text{He})^{18}\text{Ne}^*$
- 3) $^{20}\text{Ne}(p,t)^{18}\text{Ne}^*$

Neutron rich light nuclei - search for three-centre structures in ^{14}C and ^{16}C

^4He DECAY OF EXCITED STATES IN ^{14}C

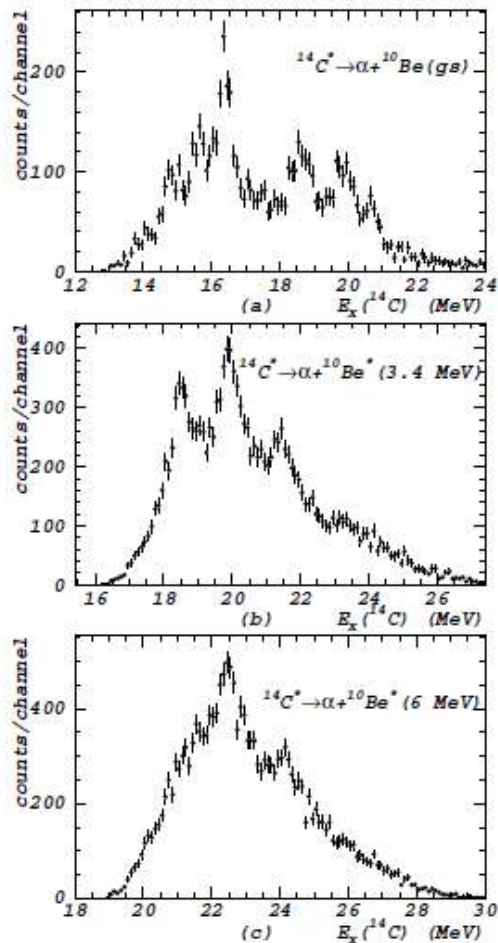


FIG. 2. ^{14}C excitation energy spectra for decays to (a) ^{10}Be ground state (b) ^{10}Be 3.4 MeV, 2^+ state, and (c) ^{10}Be excited states at ~ 6 MeV. Error bars represent statistical errors only.

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TABLE I. Excitation energies of ^{14}C states decaying into states in ^{10}Be . The uncertainties in these energies for decays to the ^{10}Be ground state and first excited state are 100 keV, and due to the ambiguity in the excitation energy of the 6 MeV peak, the uncertainty here is 300 keV. The previous measurements are from the tabulations of Ref [15].

$^{10}\text{Be}_{gs}$	$^{10}\text{Be}(2^+)$	$^{10}\text{Be}(6 \text{ MeV})$	Previous
14.7(0.1)			14.667 (4^+)
15.5(0.1)			15.44 (3^-)
16.4(0.1)			16.43
18.5(0.1)	18.5(0.1)		18.5
	[19.1(0.1)]		
19.8(0.1)	19.8(0.1)		
20.6(0.1)			
	21.4(0.1)		
	[23.2(0.1)]	22.4(0.3)	
		24.0(0.3)	

Future: Search for ^6He decay of ^{14}C states

GANIL experiment E580S:

Spectroscopy of neutron rich light nuclei: decays of ^{16}C and ^5H unbound states

RBI, Uni of Zagreb, Uni of Birmingham, INFN-LNS, Uni of Huelva, LPC Caen, GANIL, iThemba Labs

Measurement of the $^6\text{He}+^{18}\text{O}$ reaction: ^{16}C

objectives: characterization of the he-decaying excited states

identification of the members of the rotational bands.

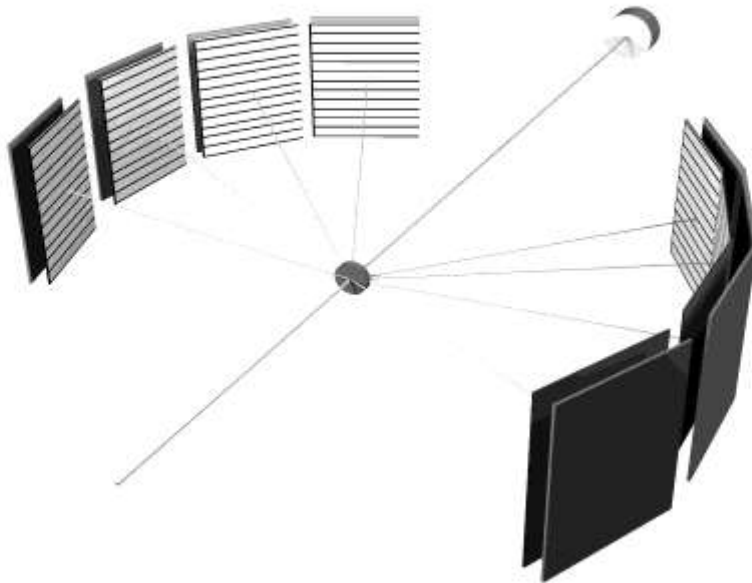
- rotational bands with triangular structure - oblate (band head 0^+ and 3^-) and linear chain structure – prolate (band head 0^+)
- the $^{18}\text{O}(^6\text{He}, ^8\text{Be})^{16}\text{C}^*$, $^{18}\text{O}(^6\text{He}, ^8\text{Be}^6\text{He})^{10}\text{Be}$ and $^{18}\text{O}(^6\text{He}, ^8\text{Be}^4\text{He})^{12}\text{Be}$ reactions
- 2 proton pick-up reaction ($^6\text{He}, ^8\text{Be}$)

Measurement of the $^6\text{He}+^7\text{Li}$ reaction: ^5H

objectives: search for di-neutron decay of the resonances, identification of the ground state resonance

- measurements of the $^7\text{Li}(^6\text{He}, ^8\text{Be})^5\text{H}$ and $^7\text{Li}(^6\text{He}, ^8\text{Be}^3\text{H})2\text{n}$ reactions
- proton stripping from ^6He beam and 2 proton pick-up from ^7Li target

- SPIRAL beam 66 MeV, intensity $1-2 \times 10^6$ pps
- target: $600 \mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$ ${}^7\text{Li}_2{}^{18}\text{O}$ on $50 \mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$ C backing, isotopically enriched in ${}^7\text{Li}$ to 99% and ${}^{18}\text{O}$ to 90%
- 8 detector telescopes for charged reaction products in the reaction plane
- 20 μm thick SSSD, 1000 μm thick DSSSD and 2.5 cm thick CsI detector



Expected results

- ${}^{16}\text{C}$: characterization of states with large partial decay width for the he-decays, rotational bands, deformed molecular Structure: triangular and/or linear chain shape \Rightarrow three-centre clustering structure in neutron rich carbon nuclei
- ${}^5\text{H}$: resonance decay into ${}^3\text{H}$ + di-neutron, existence of narrow $1/2^+$ ground state separated at lower excitation from $3/2^+$ and $5/2^+$ resonances

Summary and Conclusion

- Main focus on carbon – carbon burning
- Proposal for experiment on ^{18}Ne resonances submitted to GANIL – PAC in Nov 2011.
- Hoyle state and 3α structure
- Neutron-rich light nuclei program - carbon
- We might survive



Collaborators

- 1) S. Blagus, L. Grassi, T. Mijatović, Đ. Miljanić, D. Jelavić Malenica, L. Prepolec, S. Szilner, V. Tokić, M. Uroić,
Ruđer Bošković Institute, Zagreb, Croatia
- 2) M. Milin
Physics Department, Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia
- 3) N. I. Ashwood, N. Curtis, M. Freer, Tz. Kokalova, C. Wheldon, V. Ziman
School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Birmingham, United Kingdom
- 4) P. Figuera, M. Lattuada, A. Di Pietro, V. Scuderi, D. Torresi, M. Fisichella
INFN-Laboratori Nazionali del Sud and Università di Catania, Italy
- 5) N. L. Achouri, F. Delaunay, J. Gibelin, F. M. Marqués, N. A. Orr, M. Parlog
Laboratoire de Physique Corpusculaire, ISMRA and Université de Caen, France
- 6) I. Martel, A. Sanchez Benitez
Universidad de Huelva, Spain