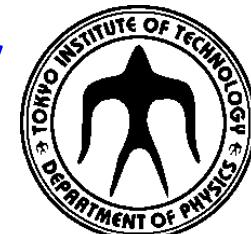


# **Exploring the most neutron-rich nuclei and beyond**

Takashi Nakamura  
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中村 隆司  
東京工業大学理学院物理学系



# Contents

- Introduction
  - Why we exist?
  - Why hierarchical structure exists in quantum world?
  - Clustering is key to this?
- Exotic Nuclei in a nutshell (不 安定 核 の 物 理)
- Dineutron cluster in neutron-rich nuclei
  - Coulomb breakup of  $2n$  halo nuclei
  - Spectroscopy of Super-heavy oxygen isotopes
- Summary and Outlook

# Introduction of Introduction

## Existence of human being

### depends on a subtle balance of Nature

人間の存在は自然の絶妙な  
バランスで決まっている

#### There are no particle-stable A=“5” and “8” nuclei in nature

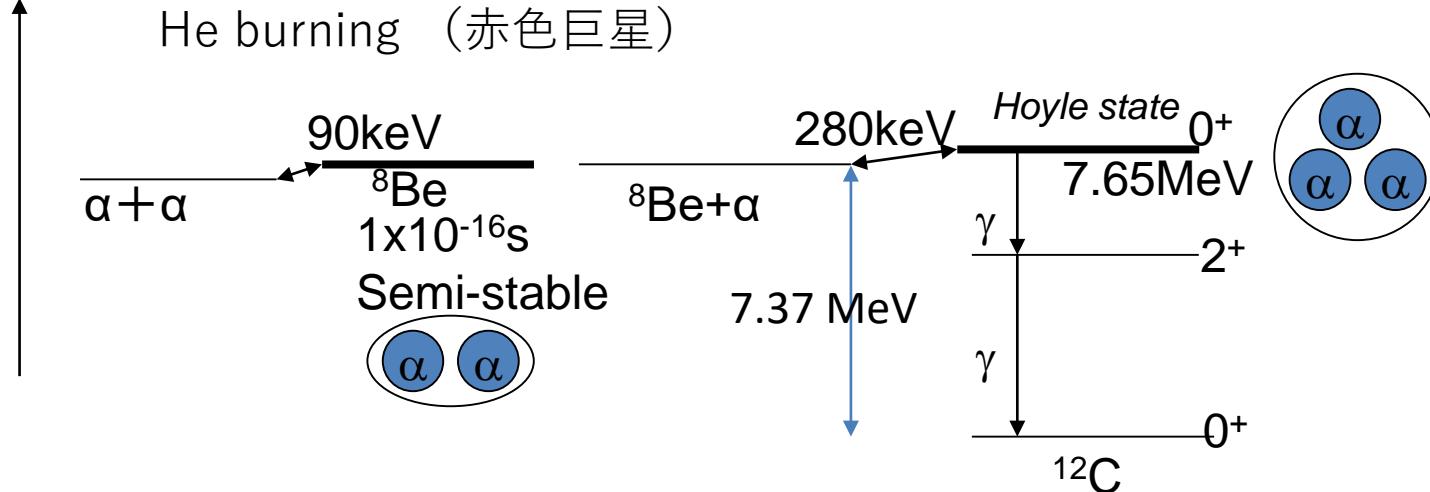
$^1\text{H}$ ,  $^2\text{D}$ ,  $^3\text{He}$ ,  $^4\text{He}$ , (5),  $^6\text{Li}$ ,  $^7\text{Li}$ , (8),  $^9\text{Be}$ ,  $^{10}\text{B}$ , ...,  $^{209}\text{Bi}$

Big Bang: Mostly H and  $^4\text{He}$  (Heavier than  $^7\text{Li}$  were not produced)  
→ How are heavier elements synthesized?

#### Triple alpha Reaction

Triple- $\alpha$ : Detour for the synthesis of elements  $^{12}\text{C} \rightarrow$  Heavier elements

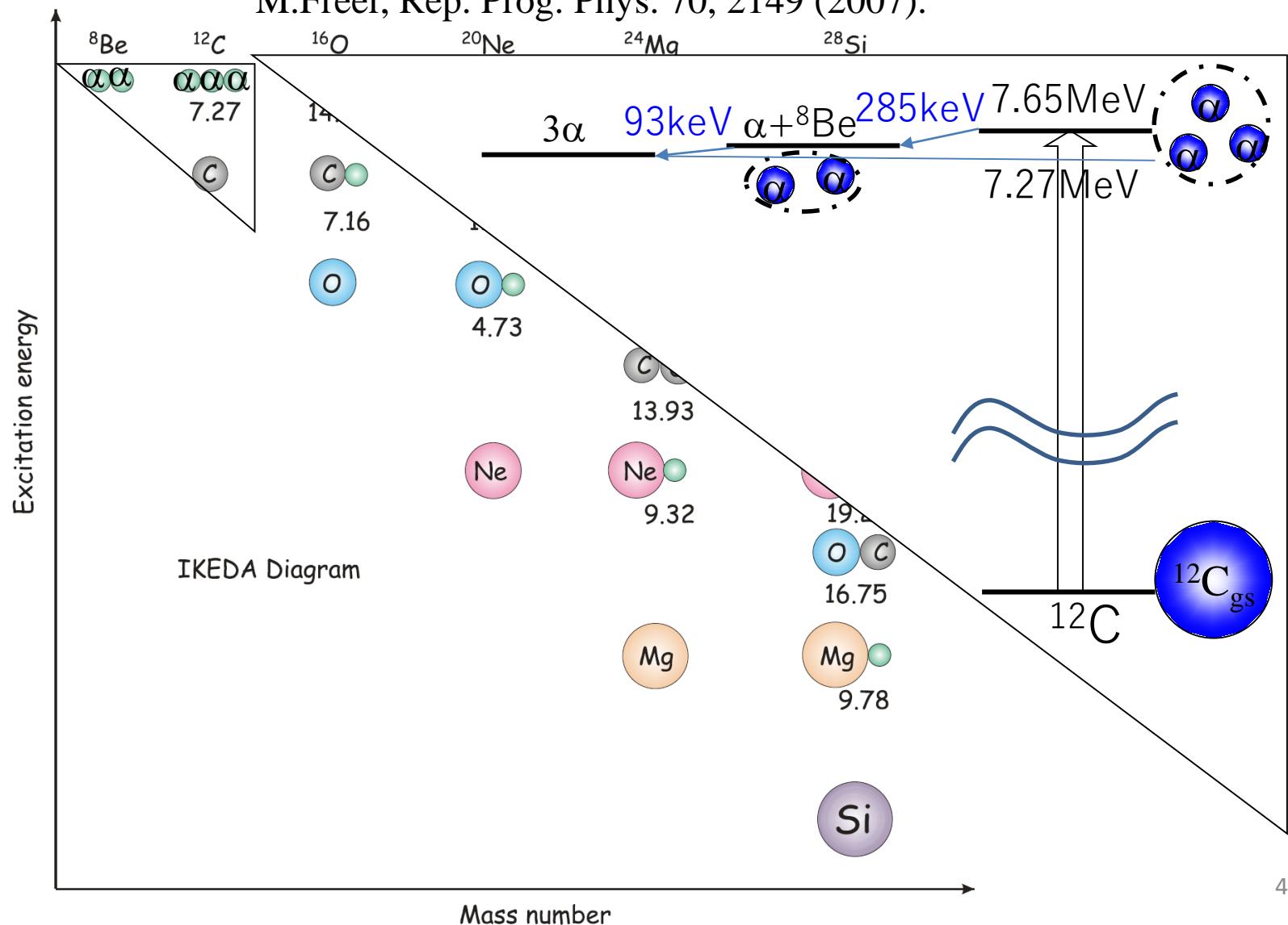
E(質量)  $10^8$ - $10^9$  K ( $\sim 10$ - $100$  keV)  
He burning (赤色巨星)



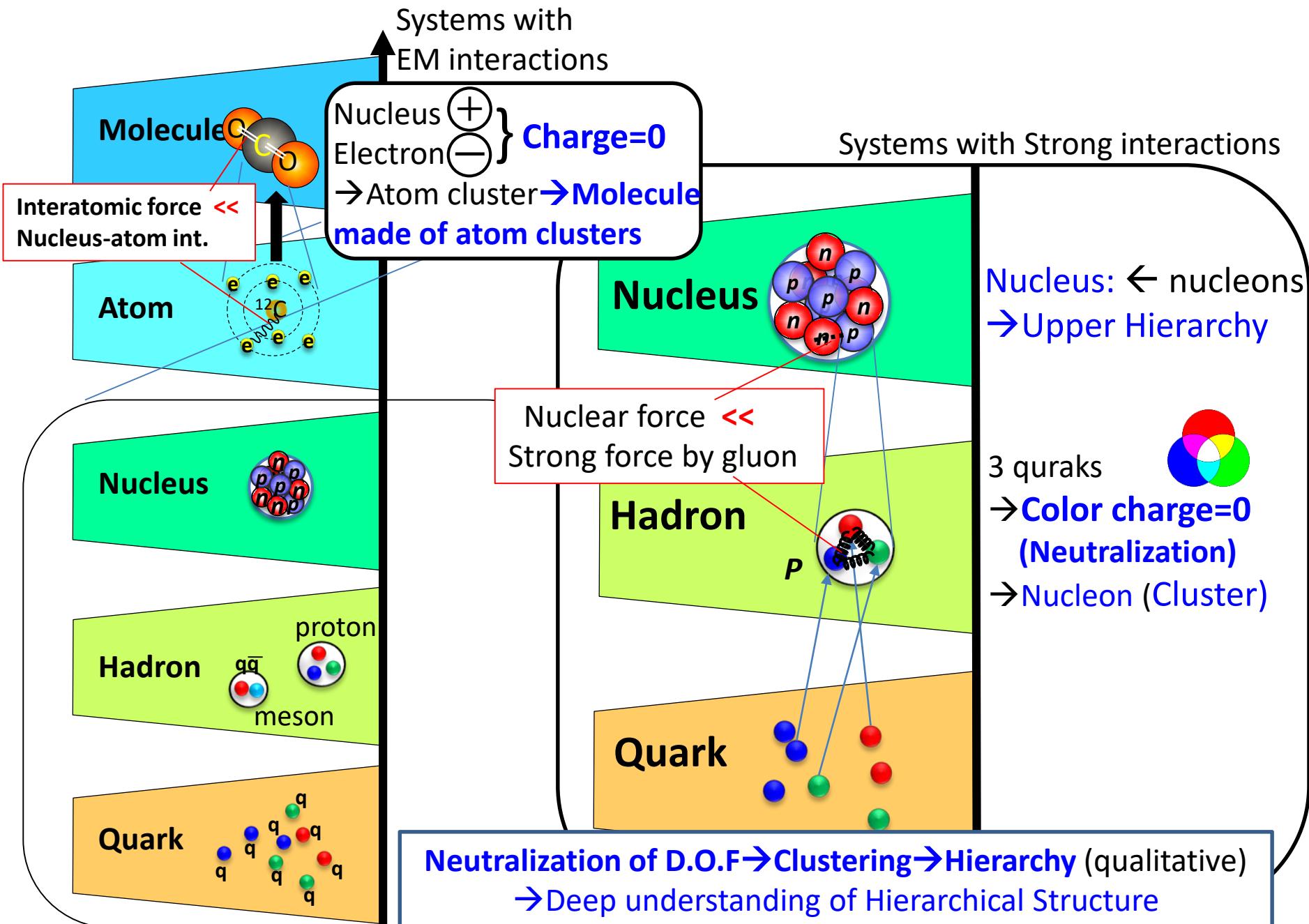
# $\alpha$ -Cluster

# IKEDA Diagram

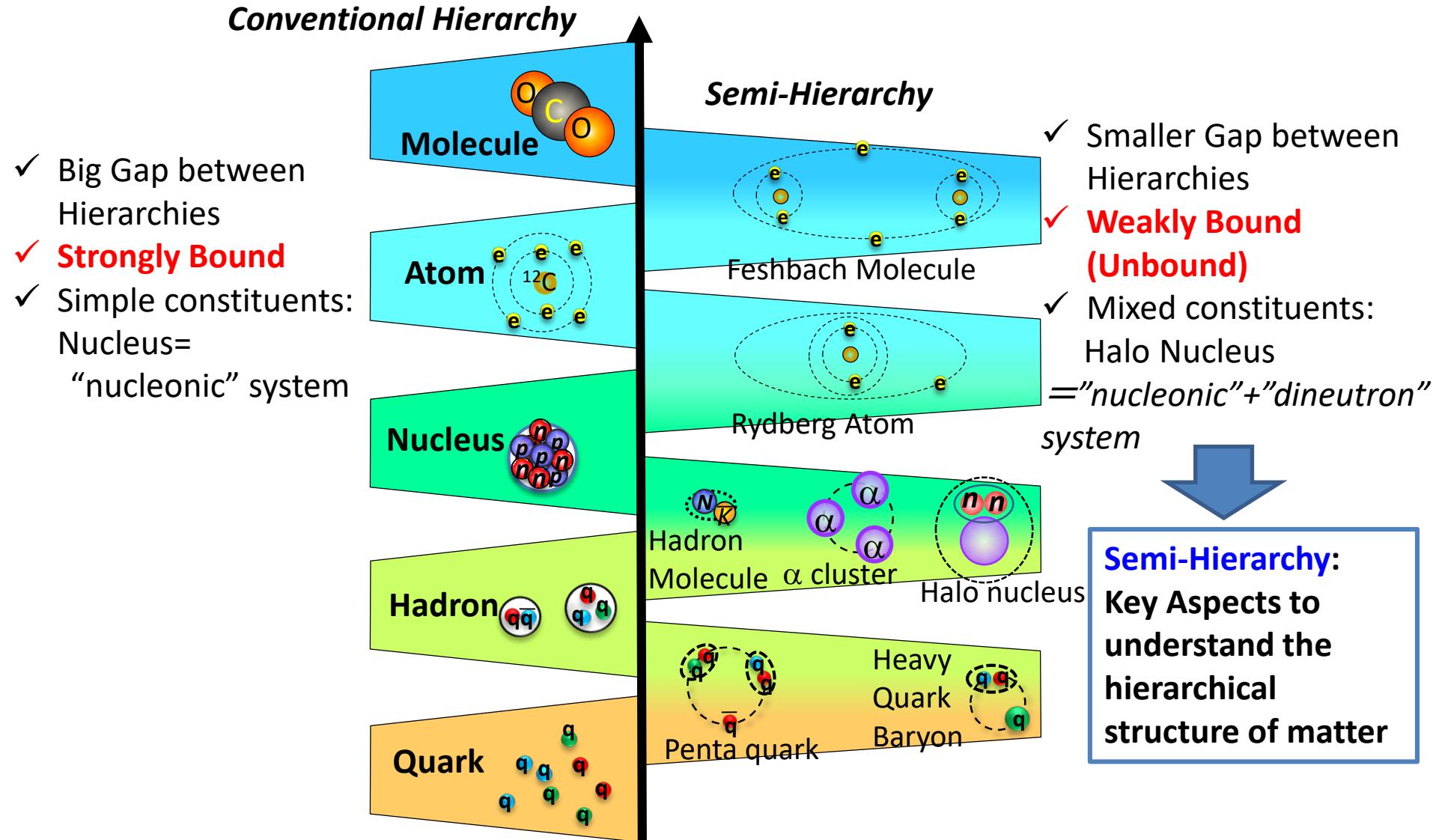
K.Ikeda, N.Takigawa, H.Horiuchi,Prog.Theo.Phys.Suppl.464.(1968).  
M.Freer, Rep. Prog. Phys. 70, 2149 (2007).



# Clustering: Key to understand **hierarchy** in quantum world?

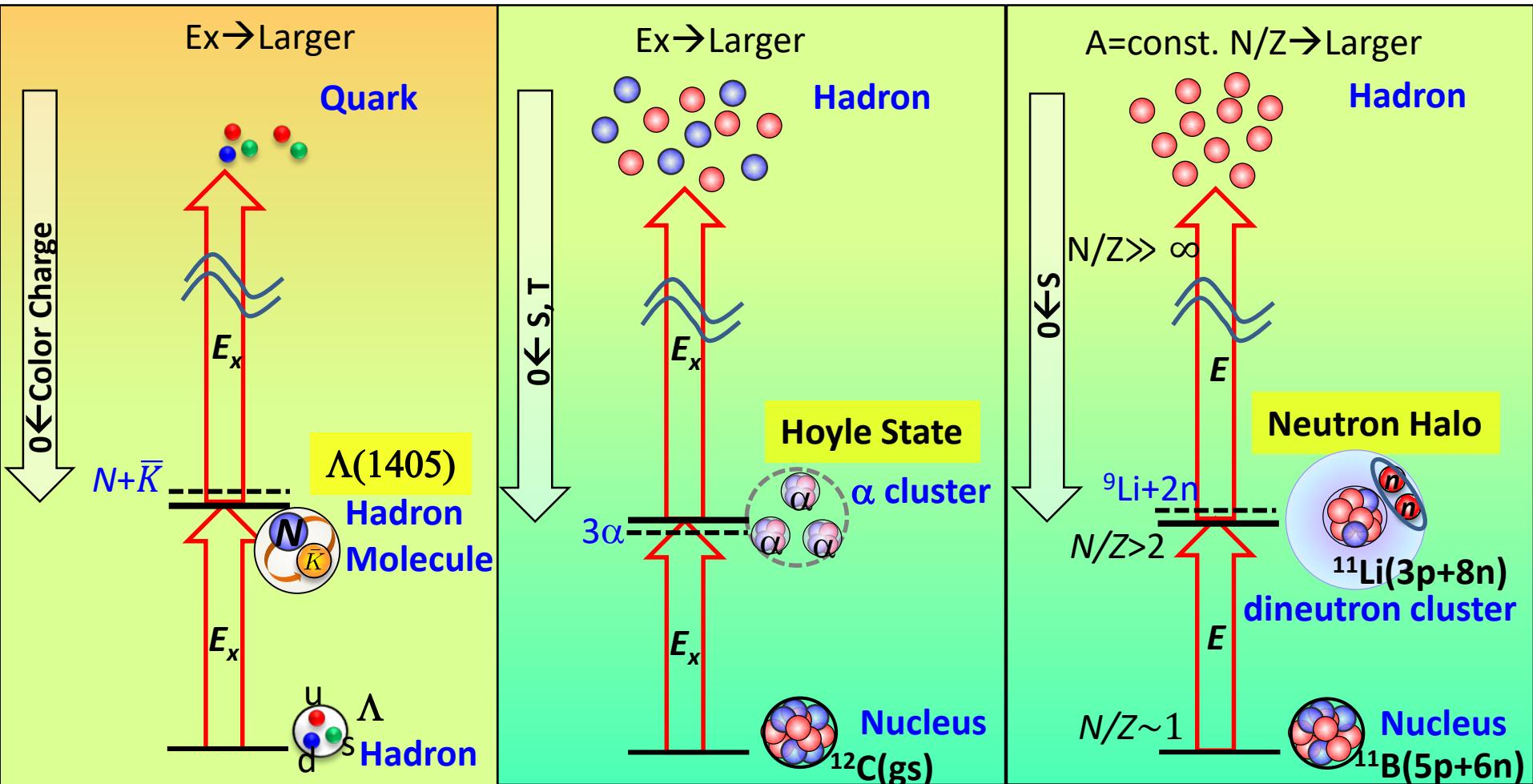


# Clusters and Semi-Hierarchy



# Key factors for clustering and hierarchy formation

- ✓ Degree of Freedom: Neutralization of Charge, Spin(S), Isospin(T)
- ✓ Threshold: Clustering near Threshold  $\rightarrow$  Semi-Hierarchy
- ✓ Degree of Separation: Compositeness, Spectroscopic factor



# Physics of Rare Isotopes (Exotic Nuclei) in a nutshell

不安定核の物理

# Towards the neutron-rich limit

■ Where is the boundary of **existence of nuclei**?

■ How the nuclear properties (**shell, collectivity**) change?

■ New Phenomena due to weak binding, change of surface

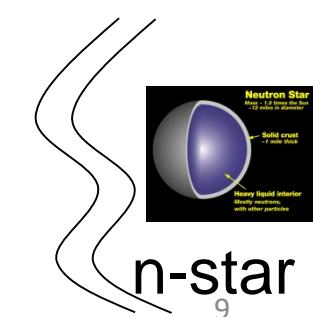
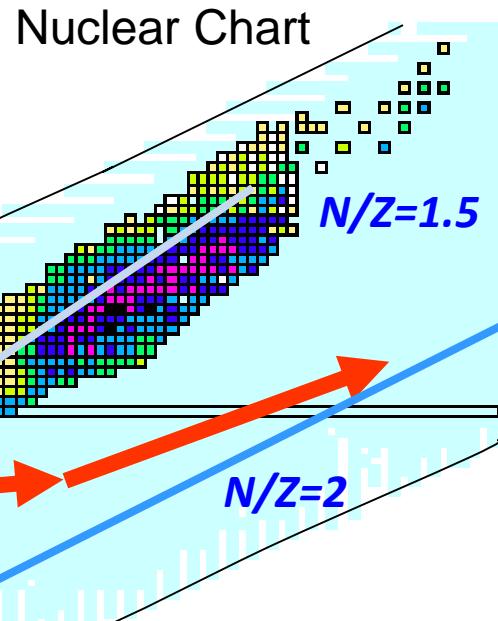
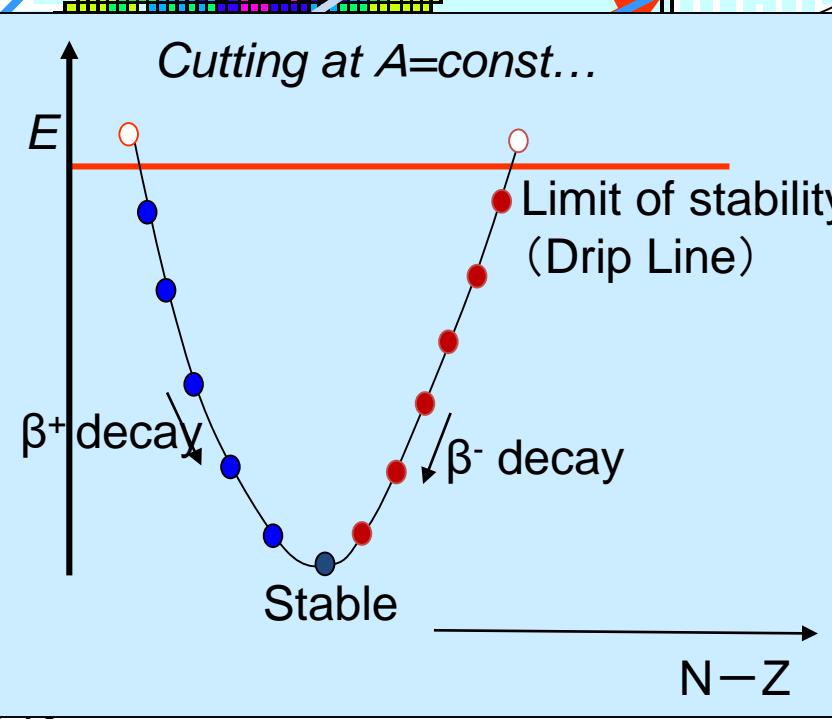
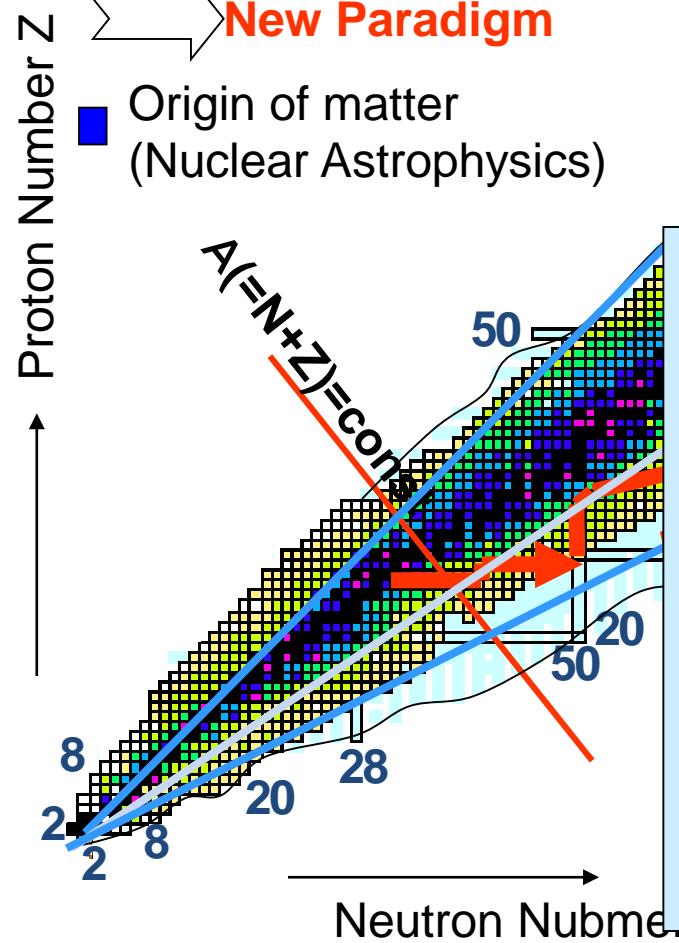
Neutron Halo/Skin

Dineutron, Neutron droplet

Neutron Matter

**New Paradigm**

■ Origin of matter  
(Nuclear Astrophysics)



Neutron Star  
Radius ~12 km or so  
Solid crust  
1 mm thick  
Magnetic interior  
mostly neutrons,  
with other particles

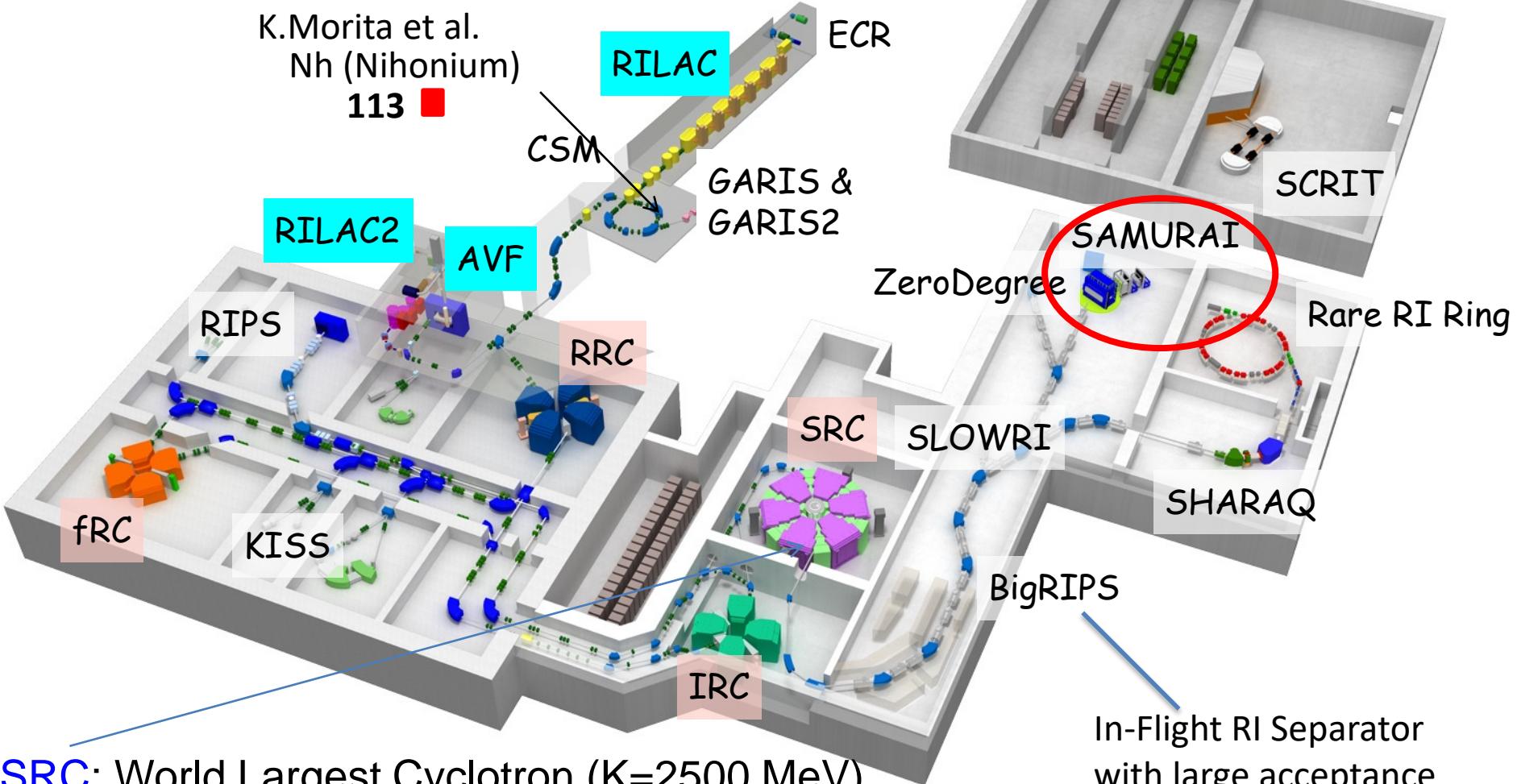
9



# RI Beam Factory (RIBF) at RIKEN

2007~

The New-generation RI-beam facility in the world



[SRC](#): World Largest Cyclotron (K=2500 MeV)

Heavy Ion Beams up to  $^{238}\text{U}$  at 345MeV/u

eg.  $^{48}\text{Ca}$ : ~700pnA ( $\sim 4 \times 10^{12}$  pps)     $\sim 10$  times compared to 2008

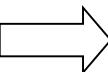
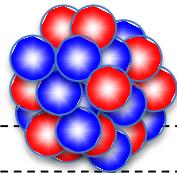
$^{238}\text{U}$ : ~70pnA ( $\sim 4 \times 10^{11}$  pps)     $\sim 10^3$  times compared to 2007

# How To Produce RI Beam (In-flight RI Production)

## Projectile Fragmentation

Projectile

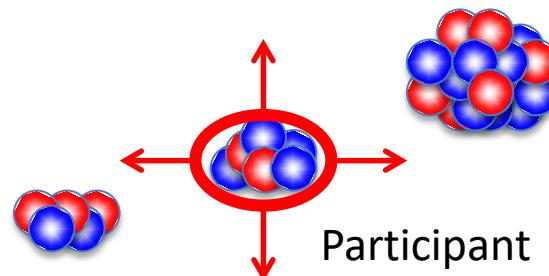
$^{48}\text{Ca}$



$\beta \sim 0.7c$   
350 MeV/nucleon  
(Typical Energy at RIBF)

Target

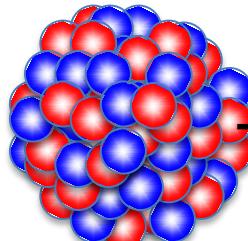
(Spectator)  
Projectile Fragment



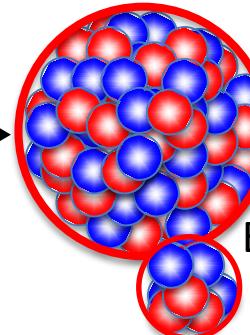
Target Fragment  
(Spectator)

## Inflight Fission

$^{238}\text{U}$

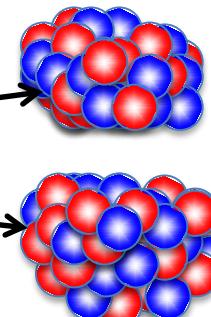


Projectile



Excitation

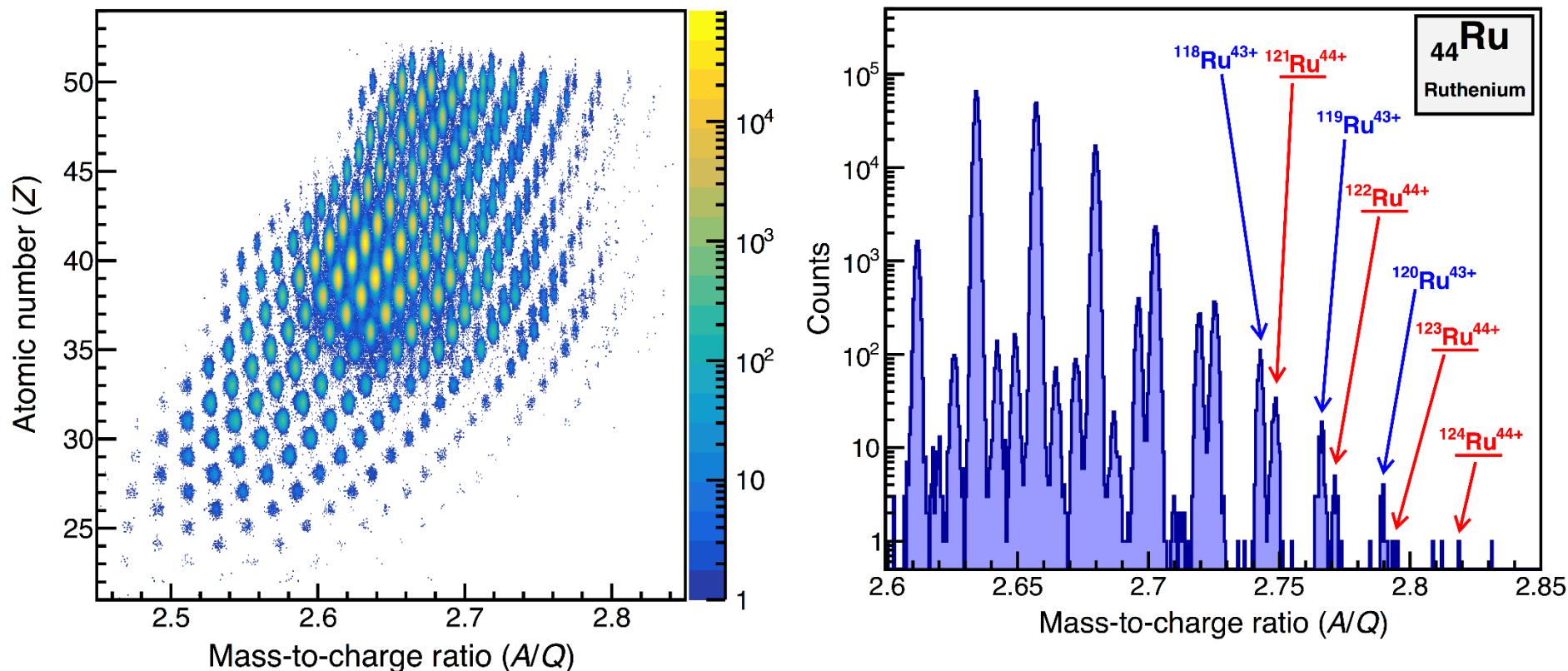
Target(Be)



Fission Fragments

# Particle Identification:

$^{238}\text{U}$  (345 MeV/u) + Be (2.9 mm),  $B\rho = 7.990 \text{ Tm}$

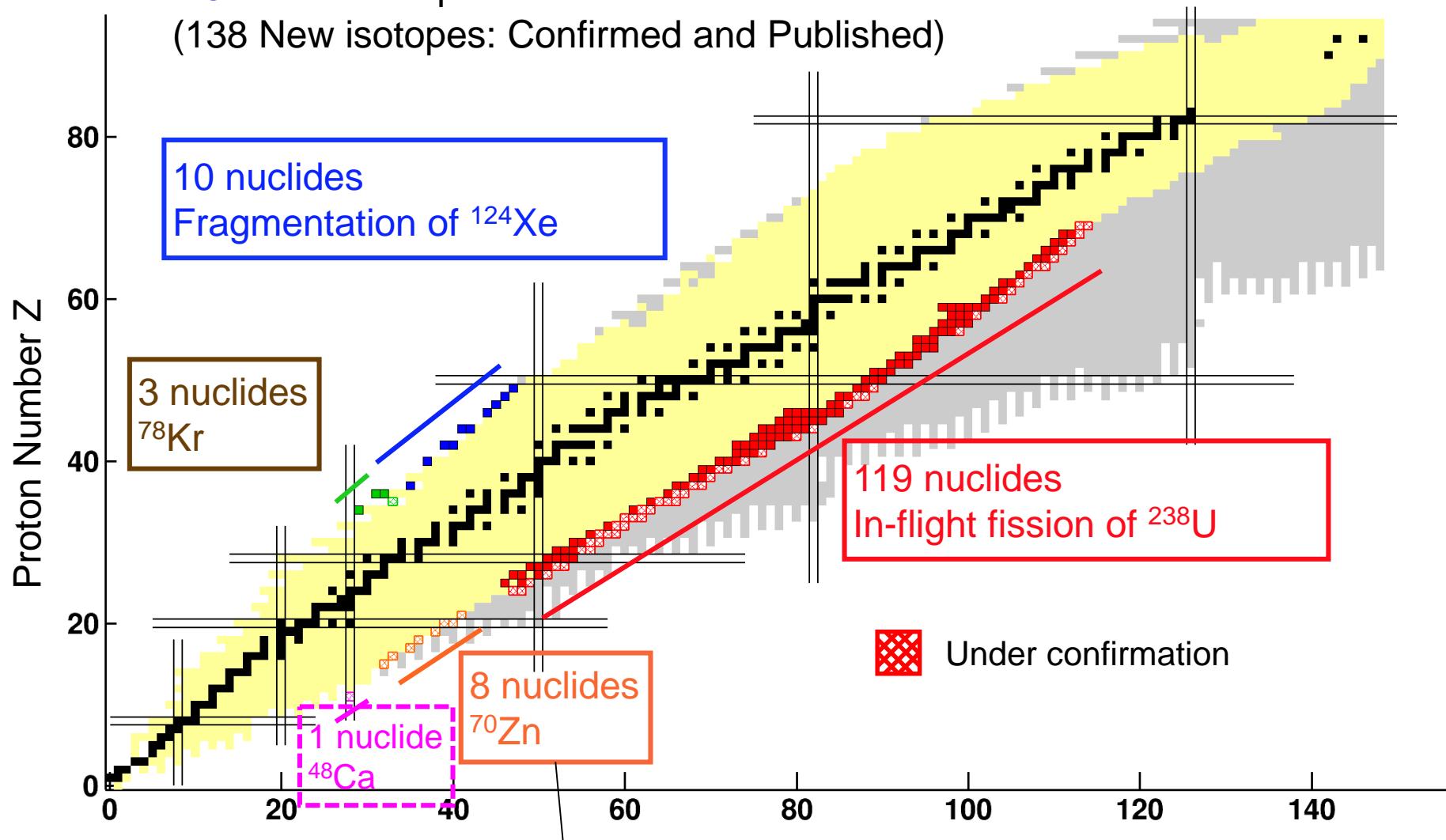


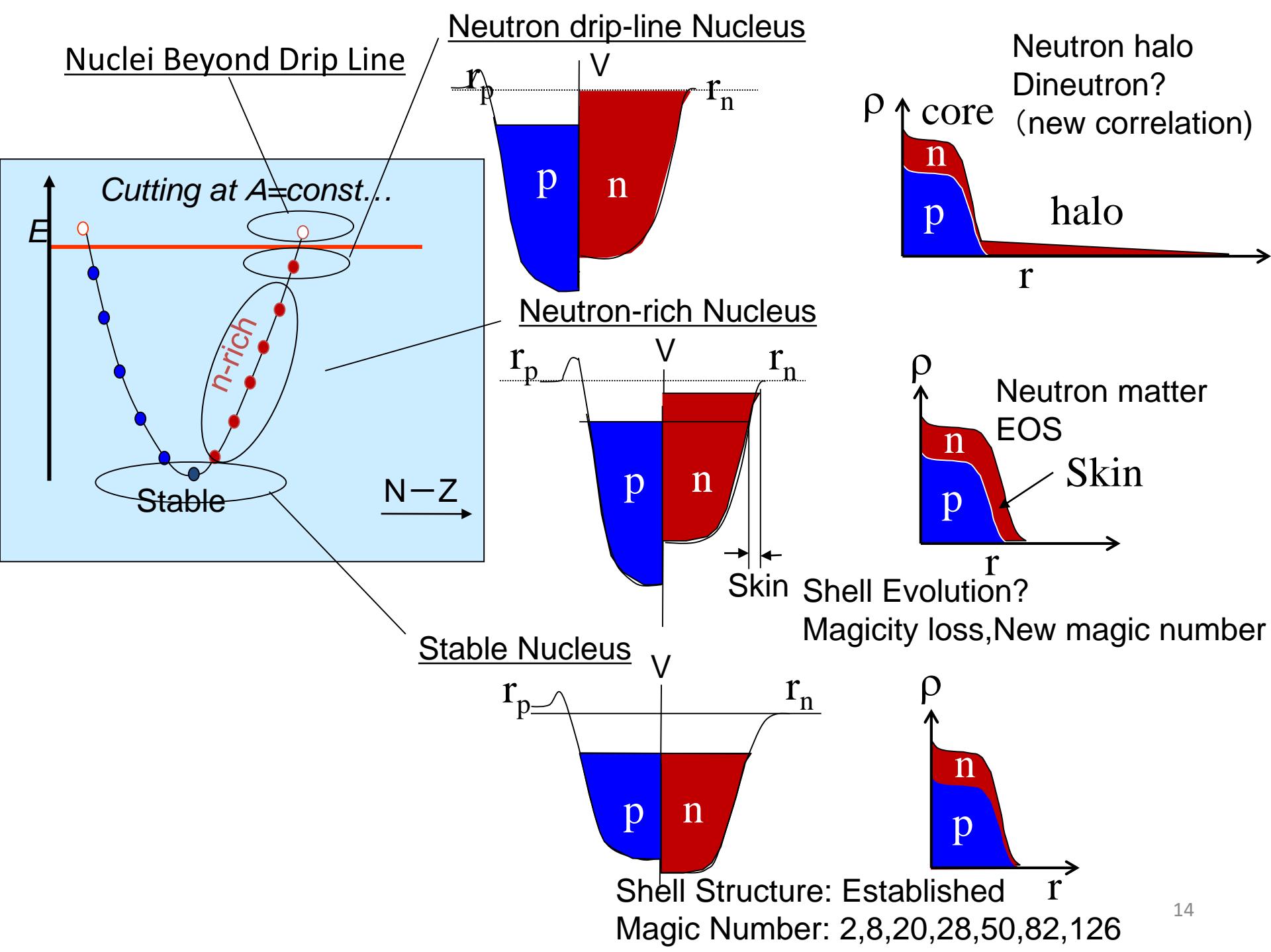
N.Fukuda et al., Nucl. Instr. Meth. B **317**, 323 (2013).

# New Isotopes observed at RIBF (2007-2018)

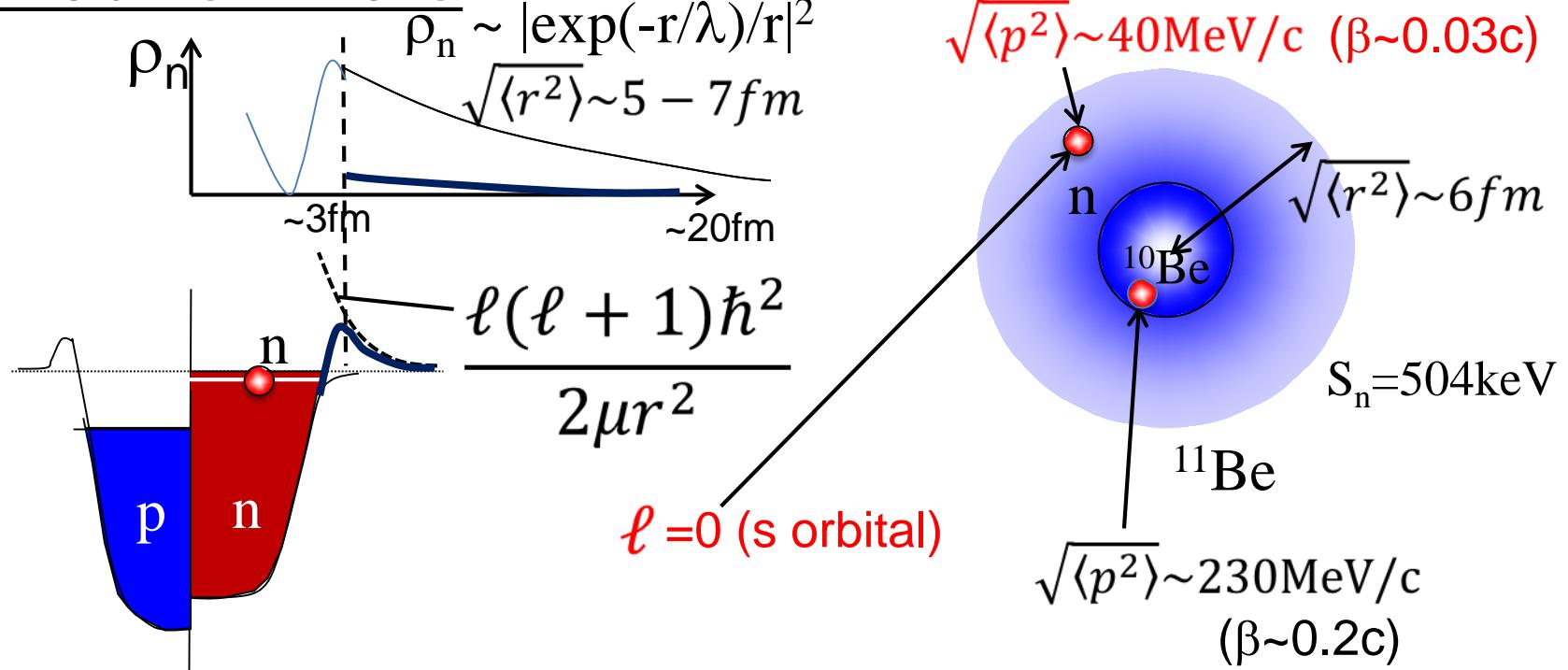
**194** New isotopes: Observed

(138 New isotopes: Confirmed and Published)

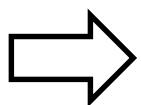




# Neutron Halo 中性子ハロー

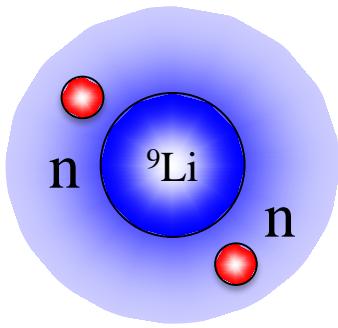


- Small  $S_n$      $S_n < 1 \text{ MeV} \ll 8 \text{ MeV}$
- Extended  $\rho_n$  Distribution beyond Range of Nuclear Force  
 $r \rightarrow \infty$  for  $S_n \rightarrow 0$      $\left( \sqrt{\langle r^2 \rangle} \sim 1/S_n \right)$      $\sim 0.1 \text{ nm}$  at  $S_n = 1 \text{ meV}$
- Small Fermi Momentum  $\rightarrow$  Small Kinetic Energy
- Orbital Angular Momentum  $\ell = 0, 1$  (Small Centrifugal Barrier)



Nuclear Stability At the Limit  $\leftrightarrow$  Shell Evolution/Deformation  
 $\leftrightarrow$  Halo Structure

# Two-neutron Halo



$^{11}\text{Li}$

リチウム11  
(Z=3, N=8)

$$S_{2n} = 0.37 \text{ MeV}$$



Borromean Ring

$^9\text{Li} + n$  Barely Unbound

$$a_s = - (13-23) \text{ fm} \quad \text{PLB642, 449(2006).}$$

$n + n$  Barely Unbound

$$a_s = - 18.9(4) \text{ fm}$$

$^9\text{Li} + n+n$  Bound

$$S_{2n} = 0.37 \text{ MeV} << 8 \text{ MeV}$$

**Few-body physics**

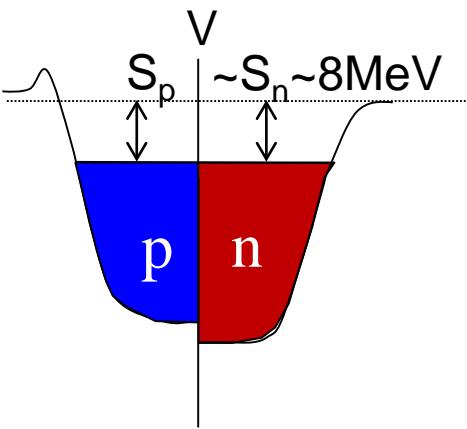
# “Dineutron cluster” in neutron-rich nuclei

*Dineutron exists in Nuclei?*  
*“dineutron”-states can be semi-hierarchy?*

# Multi-neutron correlation (neutron cluster) near drip line

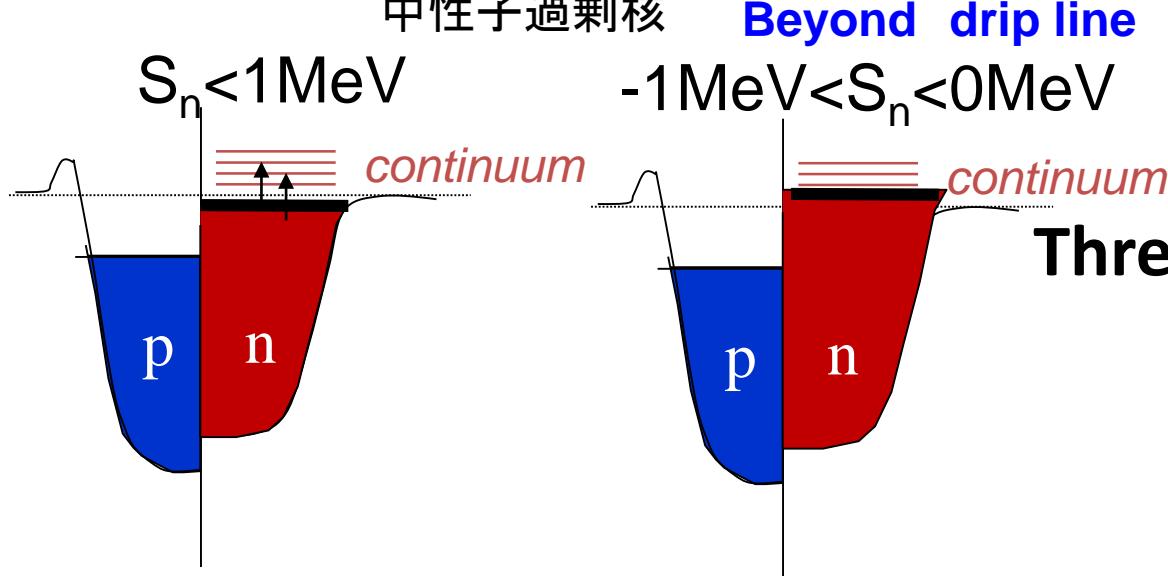
## Ordinary Nuclei

通常核



## Neutron-rich Nuclei

中性子過剰核



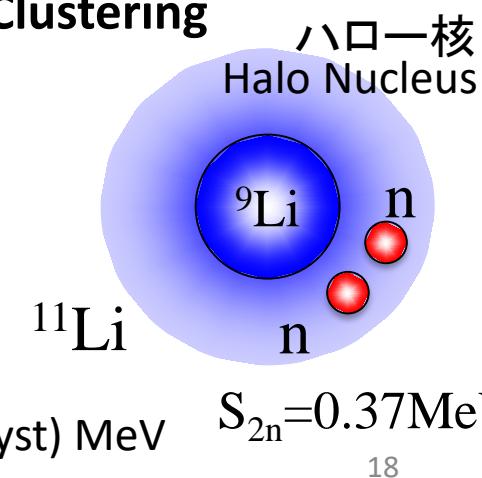
Weakly bound/unbound nuclei --- Threshold (*Unitary limit*)  $\rightarrow$  Clustering

Halo Nuclei

Weakly Unbound Nuclei

$^4n$ : “Tetra neutron”  $E_{4n} = 0.83 \pm 0.65(\text{stat}) \pm 1.25(\text{syst}) \text{ MeV}$

K.Kisamori et al., PRL116, 052501 (2016)

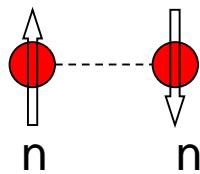


$^{26}\text{O}$ : “Weakly Unbound 2n”  $E_{2n} = 0.018 \pm 0.003(\text{stat}) \pm 0.004(\text{syst}) \text{ MeV}$

Y.Kondo et al., PRL116, 102503(2016).

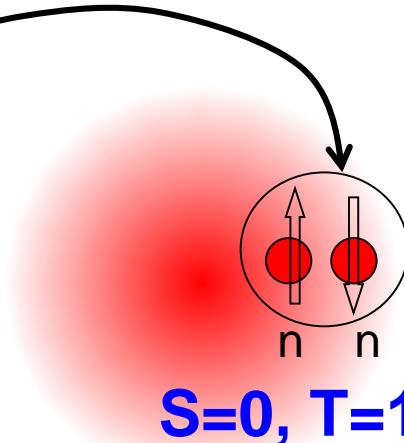
$$S_{2n} = 0.37 \text{ MeV}$$

# Dineutron?



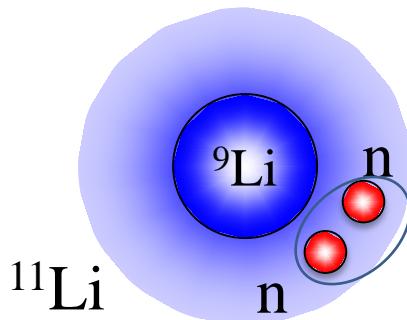
Unbound  
 $a = -18.7 \text{ fm}$

S波散乱長



## Possible dineutron site

2n Halo Nuclei?



$$S_{2n} = 0.37 \text{ MeV}$$

T.Nakamura PRL96, 252502 (2006).

A.B.Migdal

Strongly correlated “dineutron”  
on the **surface** of a nucleus  
Sov.J.Nucl.Phys.238(1973).

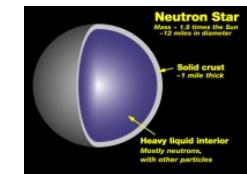
**Dineutron:**

@ **Low-dense** Neutron skin/halo?  
/Inner crust of Neutron star?

M.Matsuo

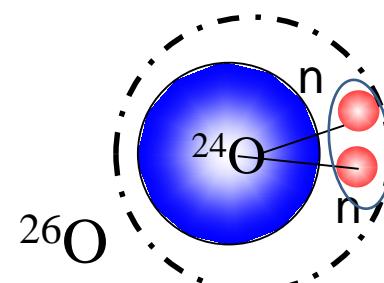
PRC73,044309(2006).

A.Gezerlis, J.Carlson,  
PRC81,025803(2010)



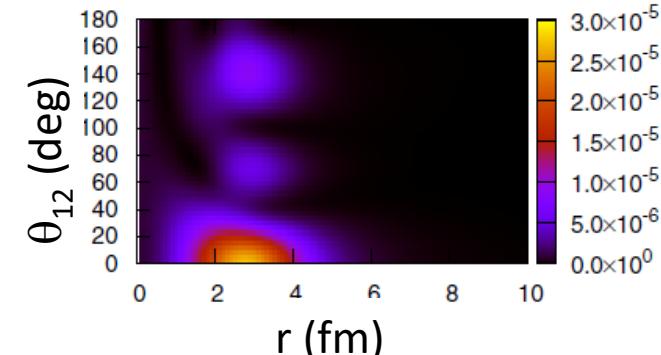
neutron-star

2n weakly-unbound nuclei?



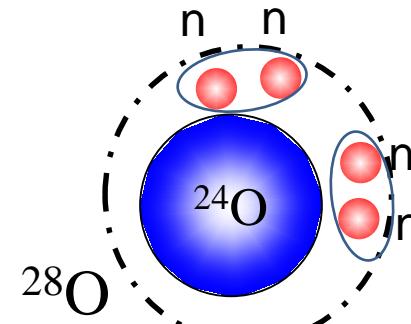
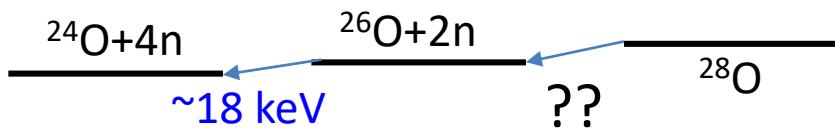
$$S_{2n} = -0.018(5) \text{ MeV}$$

Kondo, TN et al., PRL116,102503(2016).



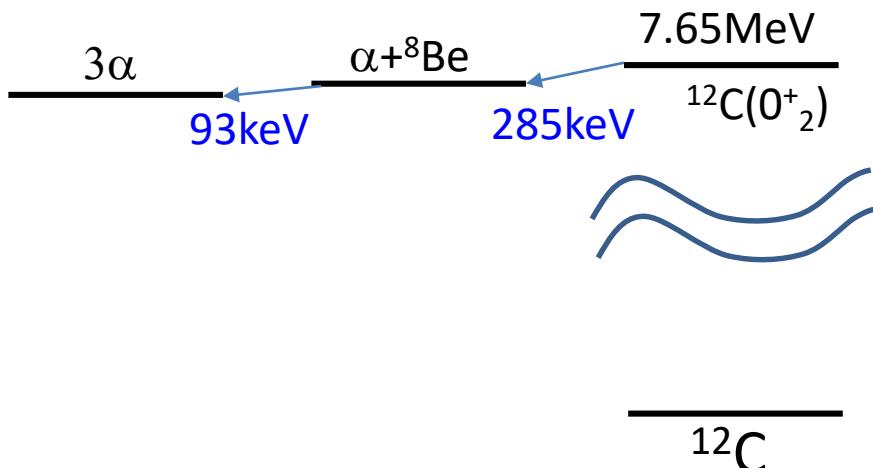
Hagino, Sagawa,  
PRC93,034330(2016)

# What happens if there are ‘multiple’ dineutrons?

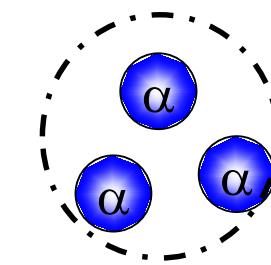


Dineutron-cluster?

Dineutron-condensation?  
ダイニュートロン凝縮



Hoyle state



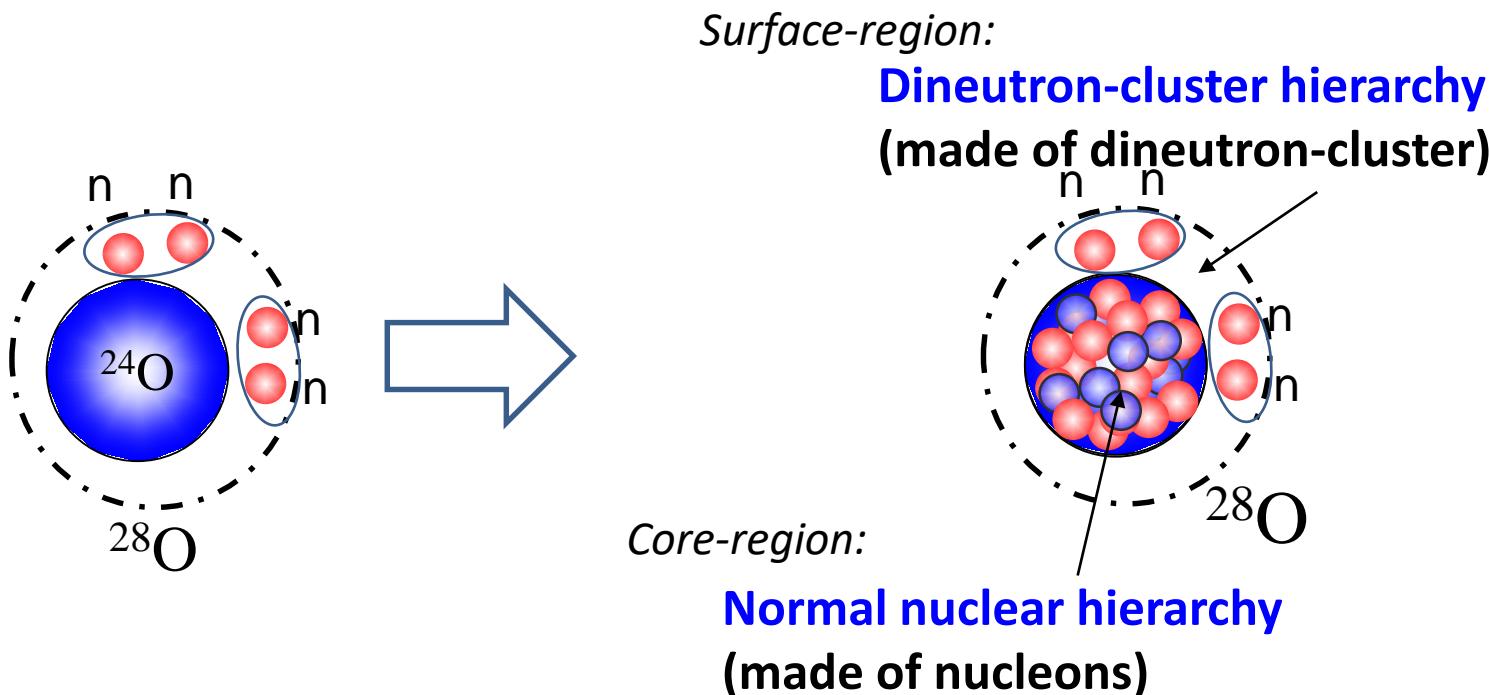
alpha-cluster

alpha-condensation?

アルファ凝縮(ボーズ凝縮)

# Dineutron Clustering & Hierarchy

*Naïve Picture*



**Boundary** between  
Normal nuclear hierarchy and  
Dineutron-cluster hierarchy → **Obscure**

Dineutron-cluster hierarchy: **Semi-hierarchy**

# Evolution Towards the Stability Limit

*Where is the neutron drip line?*

*What are characteristic features of drip-line nuclei?*

*How does nuclear structure evolve towards the drip line?*

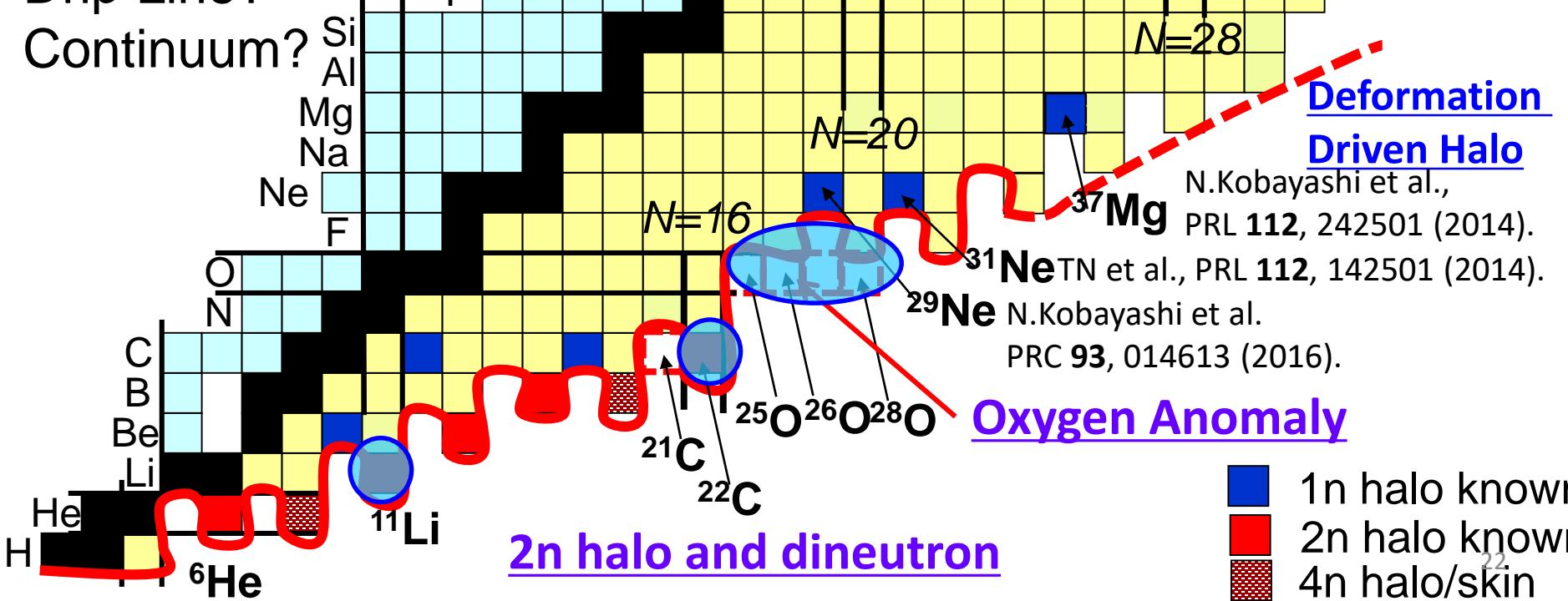
Shell?

Deformation?

Halo?

Drip Line?

Continuum?

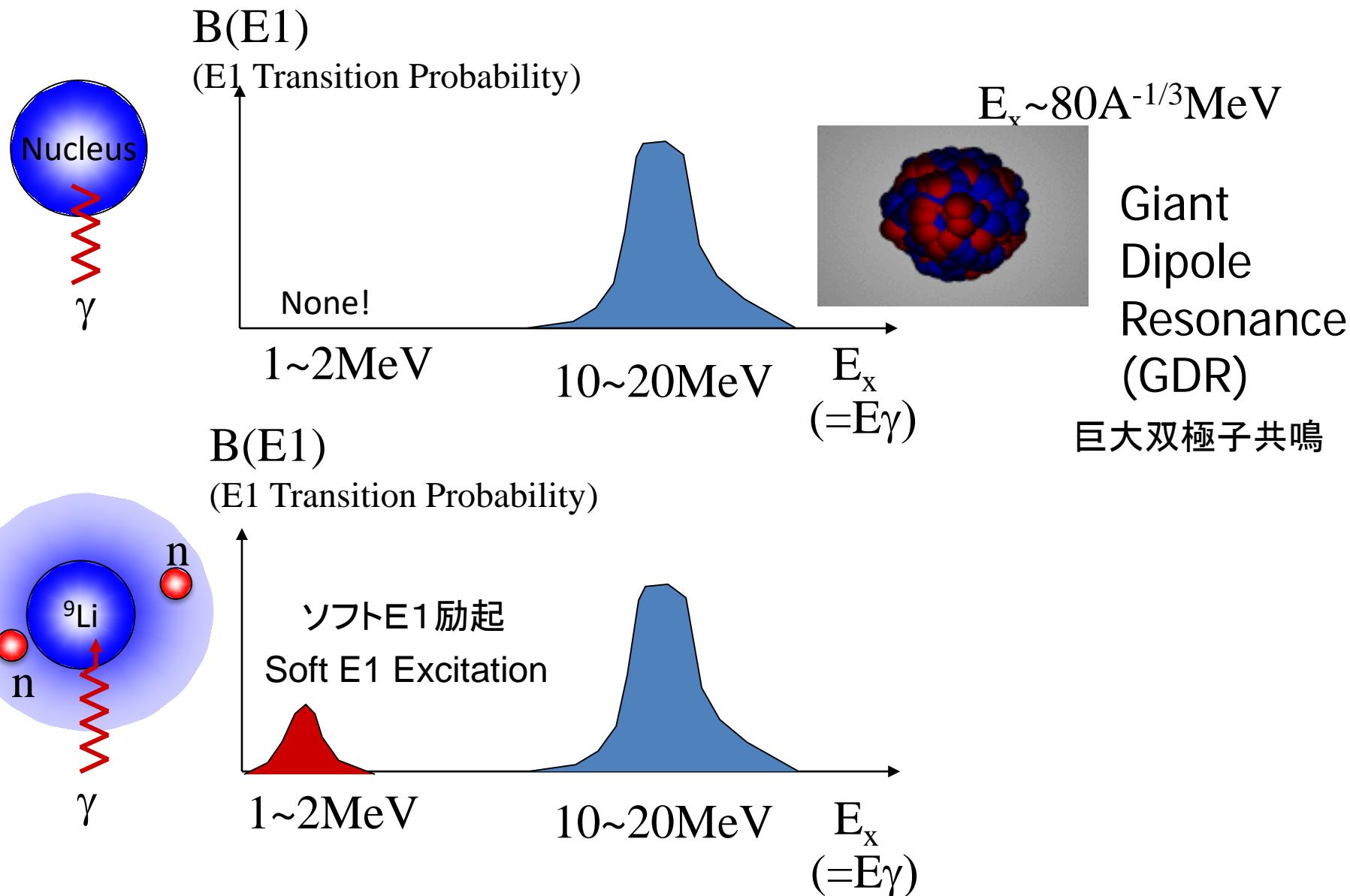




## Coulomb Breakup of 2n Halo Nuclei ( $^{11}\text{Li}$ , $^{22}\text{C}$ )

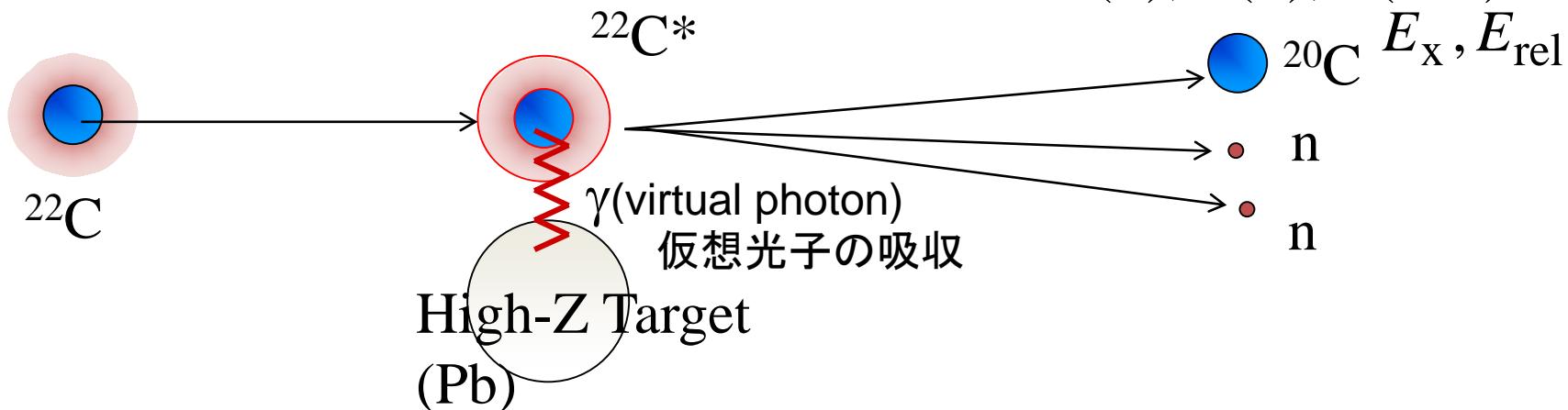
R. Minakata, TN, Y. Kondo, Y. Togano,  
S. Leblond, J.Gieblin, N.A.Orr et al.

# How a nucleus responds, when it absorbs a photon?



クーロン分解

## Coulomb breakup



Equivalent Photon Method 等価光子法

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

断面積 = (仮想光子数) × (双極子遷移確率)

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

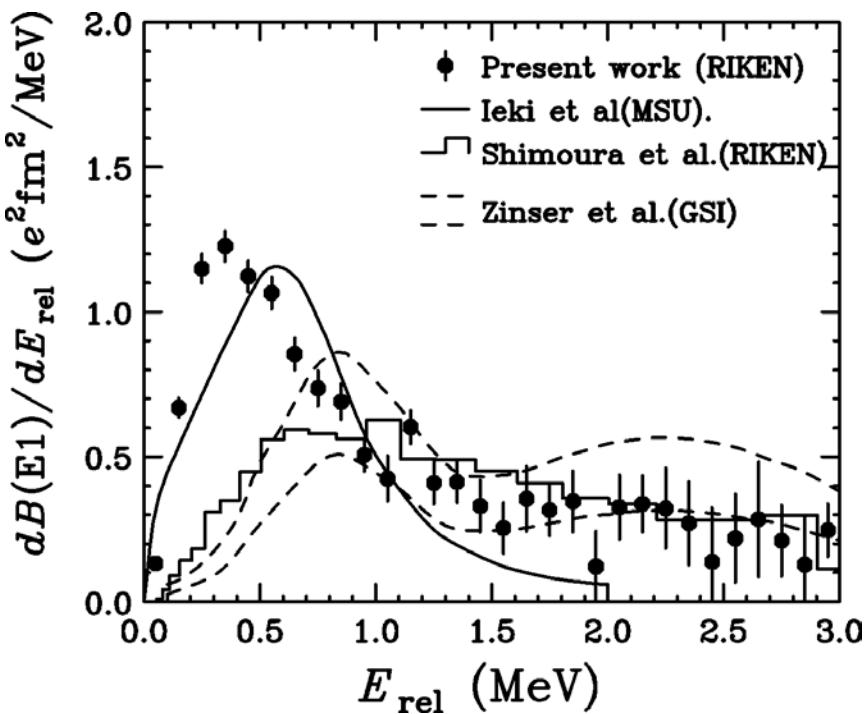
C.A. Bertulani, G. Baur, Phys. Rep. 163, 299(1988).

ソフト双極子励起  
**Halo → Soft E1 Excitation**  
**(E1 Concentration at  $E_x < 1\text{MeV}$ )**

# Coulomb Breakup of $2n$ Halo

## → Probe of Dineutron Correlation

$^{11}\text{Li}$  T.Nakamura et al. PRL96,252502(2006).

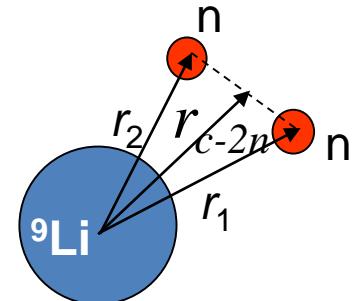


$$B(E1) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dB(E1)}{dE_x} dE_x$$

$$= \frac{3}{4\pi} \left( \frac{Ze}{A} \right)^2 \left\langle r_1^2 + r_2^2 + 2(\vec{r}_1 \cdot \vec{r}_2) \right\rangle$$

$$B(E1) = 1.42 \pm 0.18 \text{ } e^2 \text{ fm}^2 \quad (E_{\text{rel}} \leq 3 \text{ MeV})$$

$$\rightarrow 1.78(22) \text{ } e^2 \text{ fm}^2 \rightarrow \langle \theta_{12} \rangle = 48^{+14}_{-18} \text{ deg.}$$



Correlation in the **Ground State** of  $^{11}\text{Li}$

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

# $^{22}\text{C}$ ( $Z=6, N=16$ )

□ 2n-Halo 巨大ハローか？ Giant Halo?

✓ Large Reaction Cross Section

$$\langle r_m^2 \rangle^{1/2} = 3.44(8) \text{ fm} \quad \text{c.f. } \sim 3.5 \text{ fm}^{^{11}\text{Li}}$$

Y. Togano, TN, et al., PLB 761, 412 (2016).

K.Tanaka et al., PRL 104, 062701(2010).

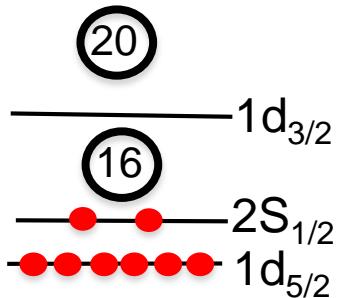
✓  $S_{2n} = -0.14(46)$  MeV

L.Gaudefroy et al. PRL109,202503(2012).

✓ Narrow Momentum Distribution  $\sim 73 \text{ MeV}/c$

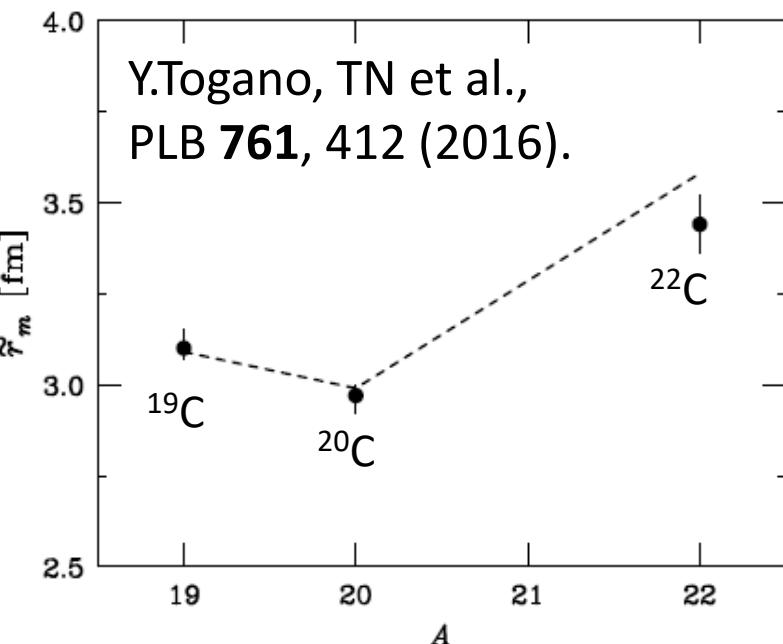
N.Kobayashi et al. PRC86,054604(2012).

□  $N=16$  Magicity? 新魔法数？



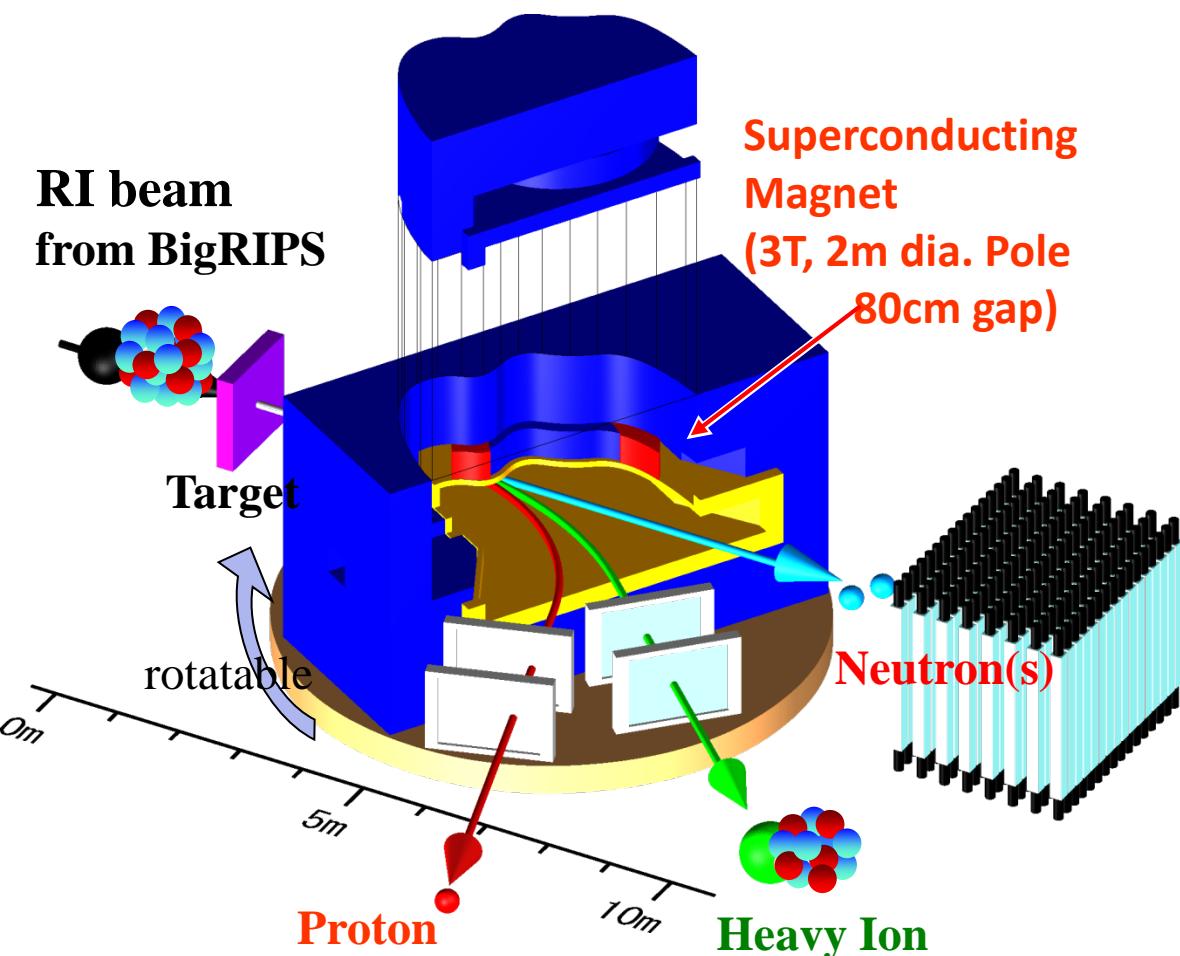
A.Ozawa et al., PRL 84, 5493 (2000).

M.Stanoiu et al., PRC78,034315 (2008).



## Superconducting Analyzer for MUlti-particle from Radio Isotope Beam

Kinematically Complete measurements by detecting multiple particles in coincidence



Large momentum acceptance

$$Bp_{\max} / Bp_{\min} \sim 2 - 3$$

Good Momentum Resolution

$$\Delta p/p \sim 1/1000$$

$$\rightarrow A/\Delta A > 100 \text{ (> } 5\sigma)$$

Large Bending Angle ( $\sim 60\text{deg}$ )  
+4 Tracking Detectors

T.Kobayashi NIMB **317**, 294 (2013)

Large angular acceptance for  $n$

$$+8.8 \text{ deg (H)} \times +4.4 \text{ deg (V)}$$

( $\sim 50\%$  coverage  $< E_{\text{rel}} \sim 5\text{MeV}$ )  
TN, Y.Kondo, NIMB **376**, 156 (2016).

Moderate Erel Resolution

$$\Delta E = 200 \text{ keV } (\sigma) \text{ at } E_{\text{rel}} = 1\text{MeV}$$

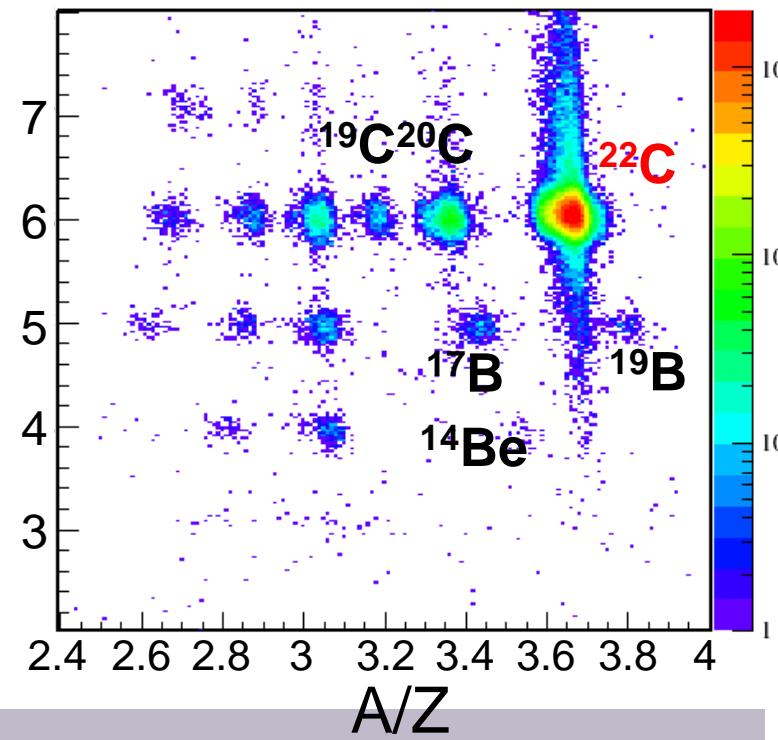
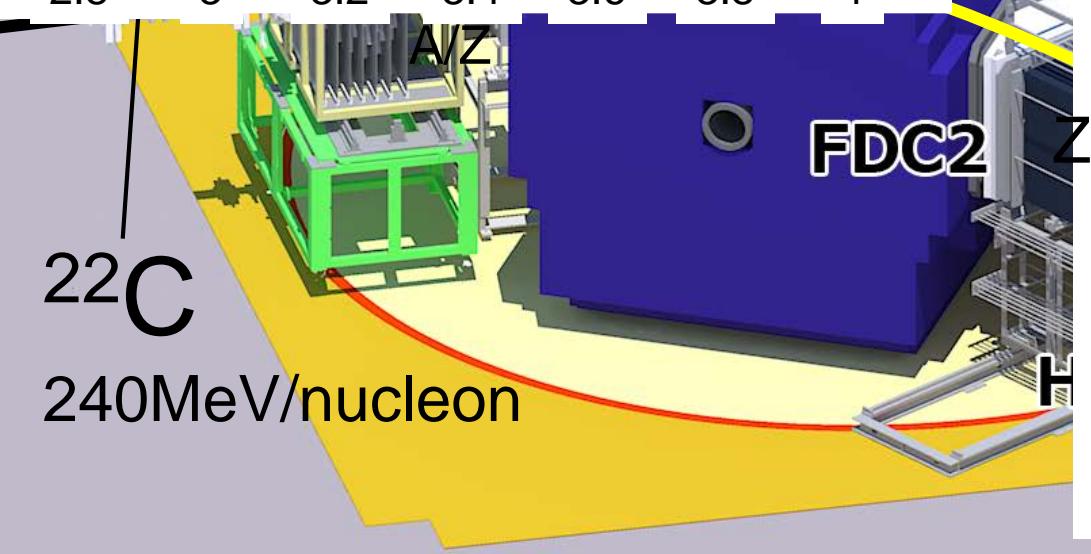
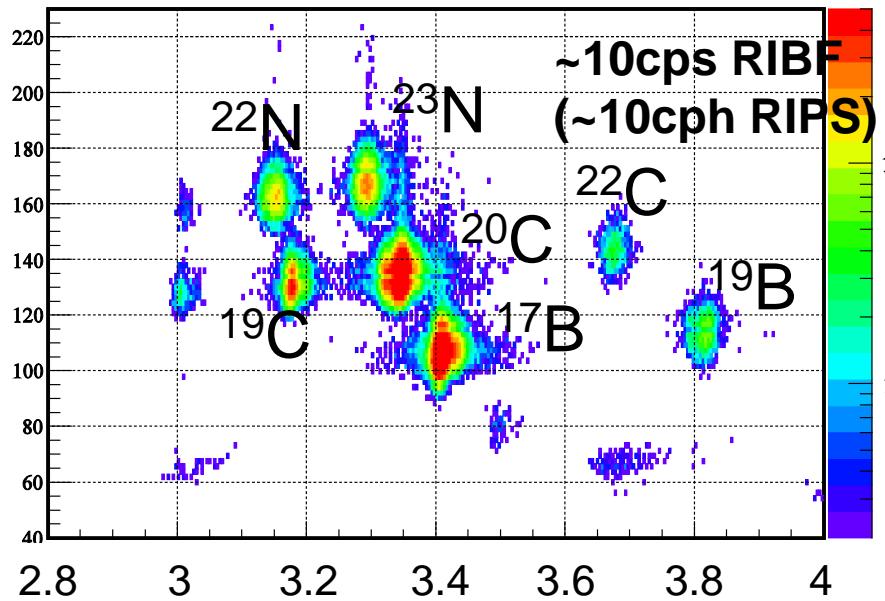
Stage: Rotatable (-5 -- 95 degrees)

$\rightarrow$ Variety of Physics Opportunities

# SAMURAI Experiment

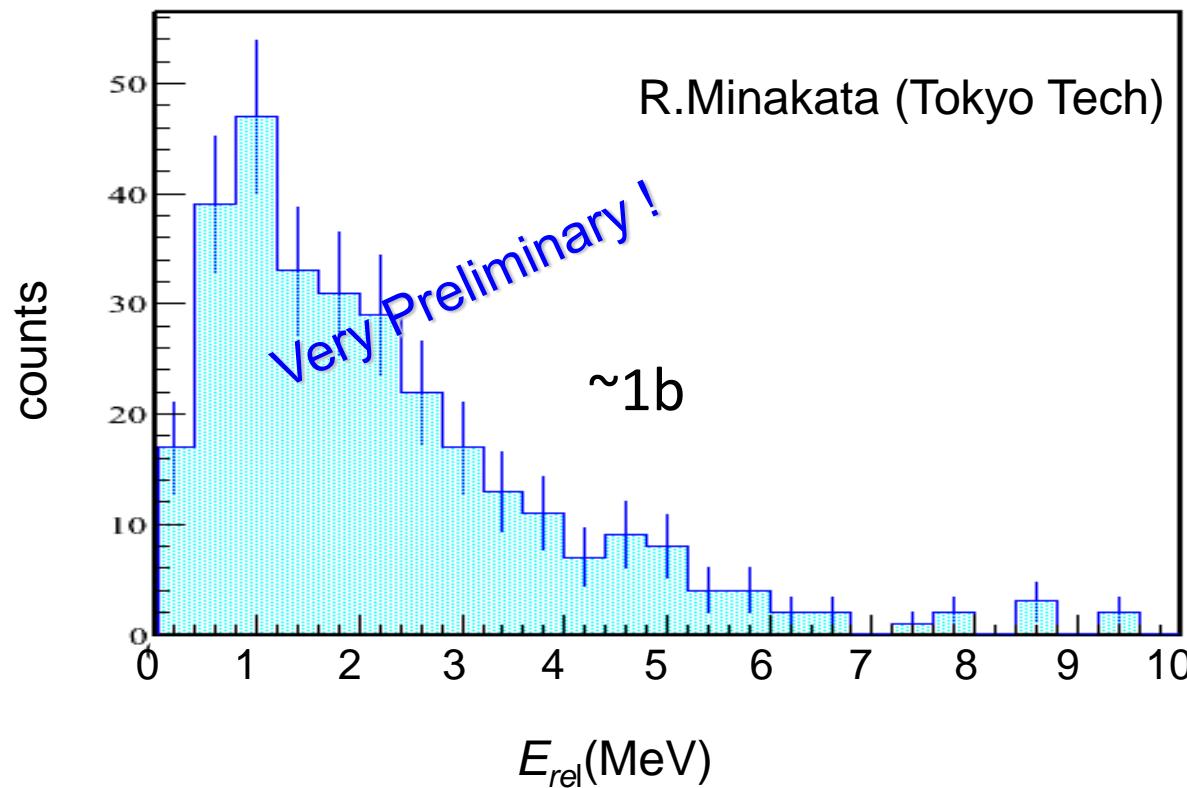
A/Z ICB-A

Breakup Measurement of  $^{22}\text{C}$  and  $^{19}\text{B}$



# Coulomb Breakup of $^{22}\text{C}$ ( $^{20}\text{C}+\text{n}+\text{n}$ Spectrum)

R. Minakata, T.Nakamura



Strong Soft E1 Excitation → **Evidence of Halo**

## Spectroscopy of Super-heavy oxygen isotopes --Barely Unbound 2n emitter $^{26}\text{O}$ & 4n emitter $^{28}\text{O}$



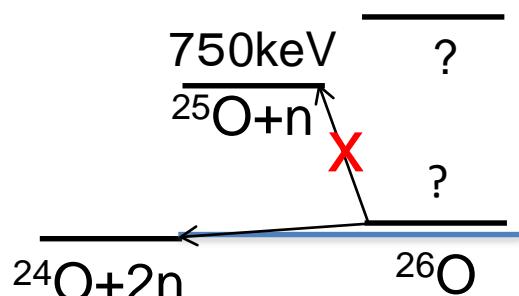
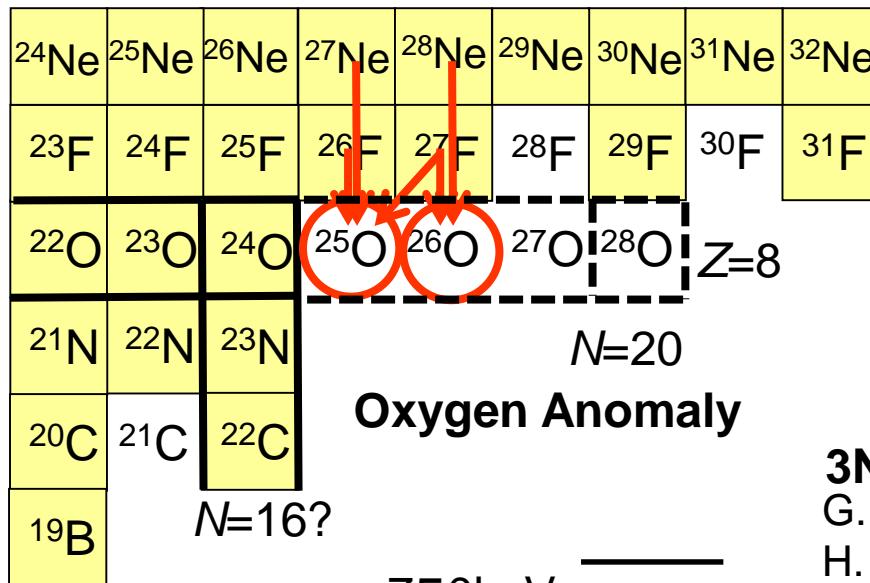
[Yosuke Kondo, TN  
et al.](#)



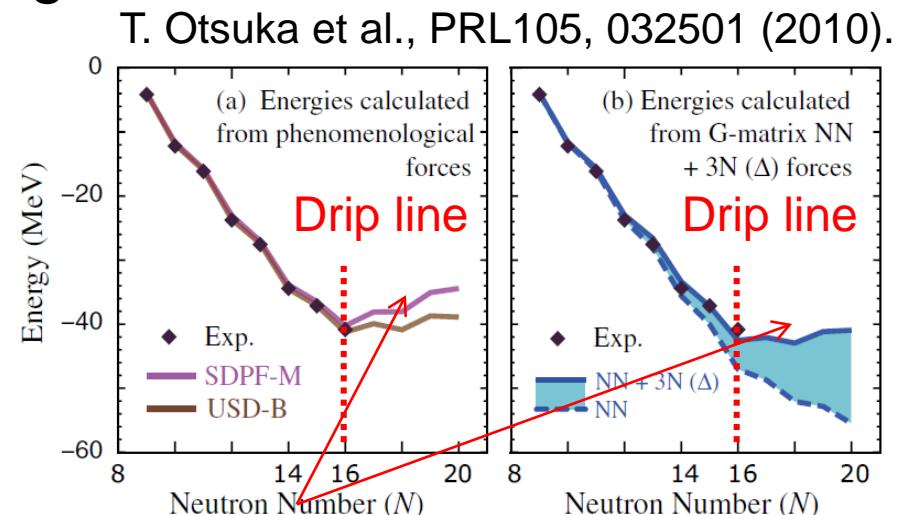
# Study of unbound nuclei $^{25}\text{O}$ and $^{26}\text{O}$ at SAMURAI

**Spokesperson Yosuke Kondo**

Experimental study of unbound oxygen isotopes  
towards the possible double magic nucleus  $^{28}\text{O}$



E. Lunderberg et al. PRL108, 142503 (2012)  
C. Caesar et al. PRC88, 034313 (2013).



**3N force:** significant at  $N > 16$

G. Hagen et al., PRL108, 242501(2012).

H. Hergert et al., PRL110, 242501(2013).

S.K.Bogner et al., PRL113, 142501(2014).

**Continuum Effect:**

A.Volya, V.Zelevinski, PRL94,052501(2005).

K. Tsukiyiyama, T. Otsuka, PTEP2015, 093D01 (2015).

**nn correlations:**

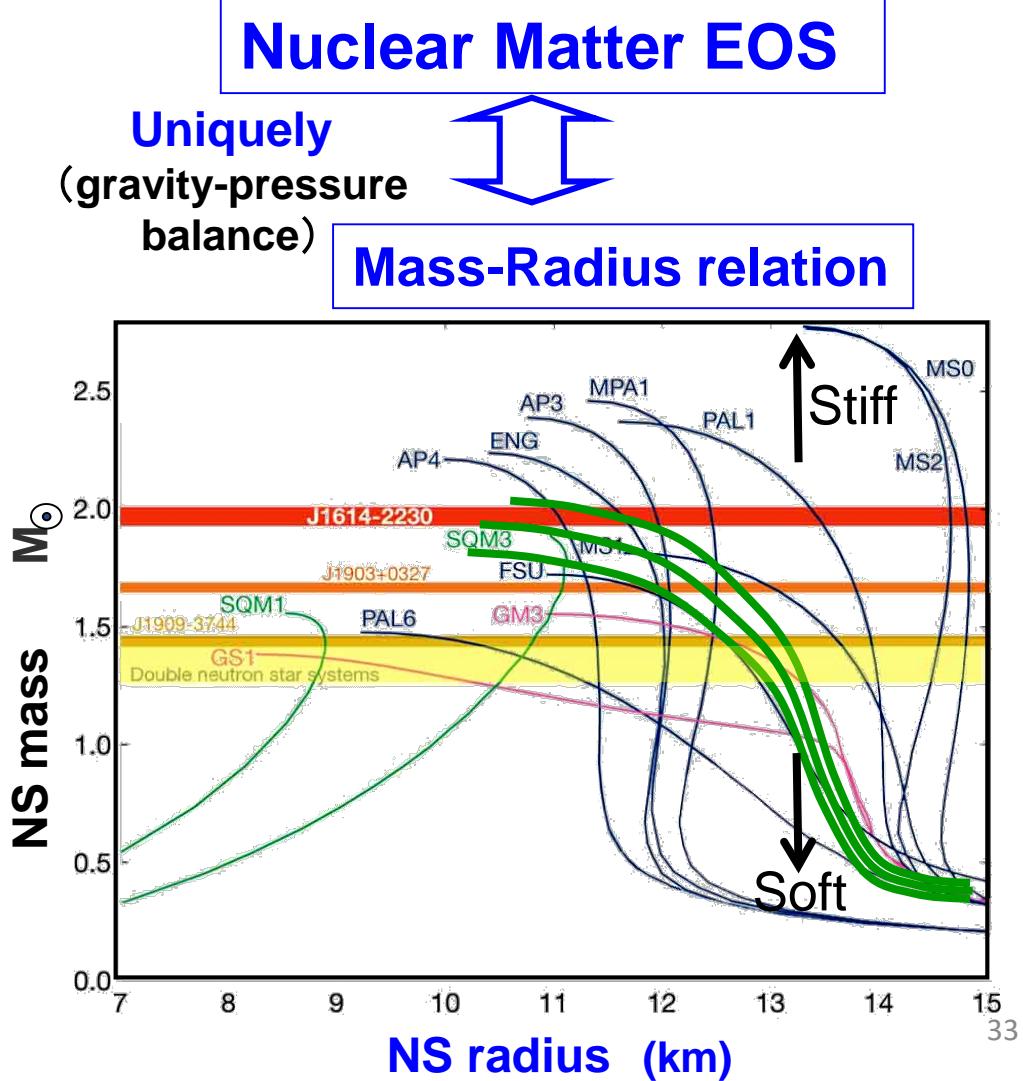
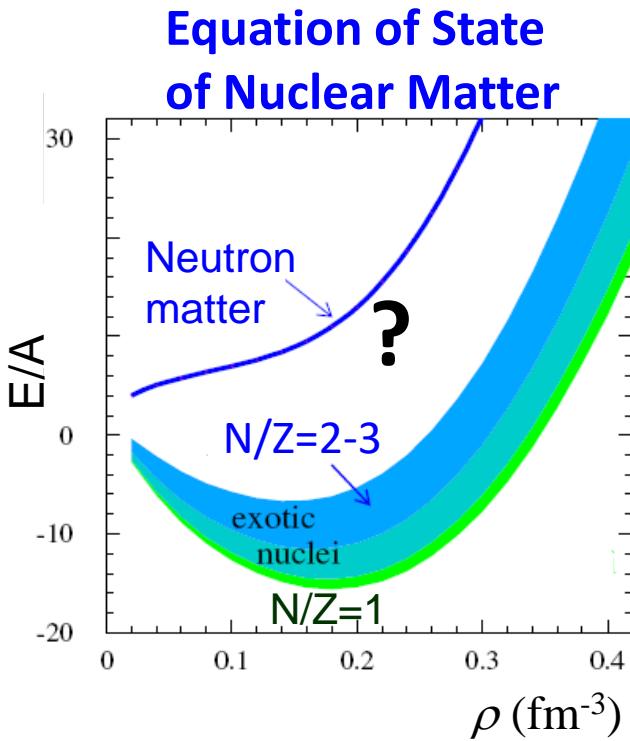
L.V. Grigorenko et al., PRL111,042501(2013). 32

K. Hagino, H. Sagawa PRC89,014331(2014).

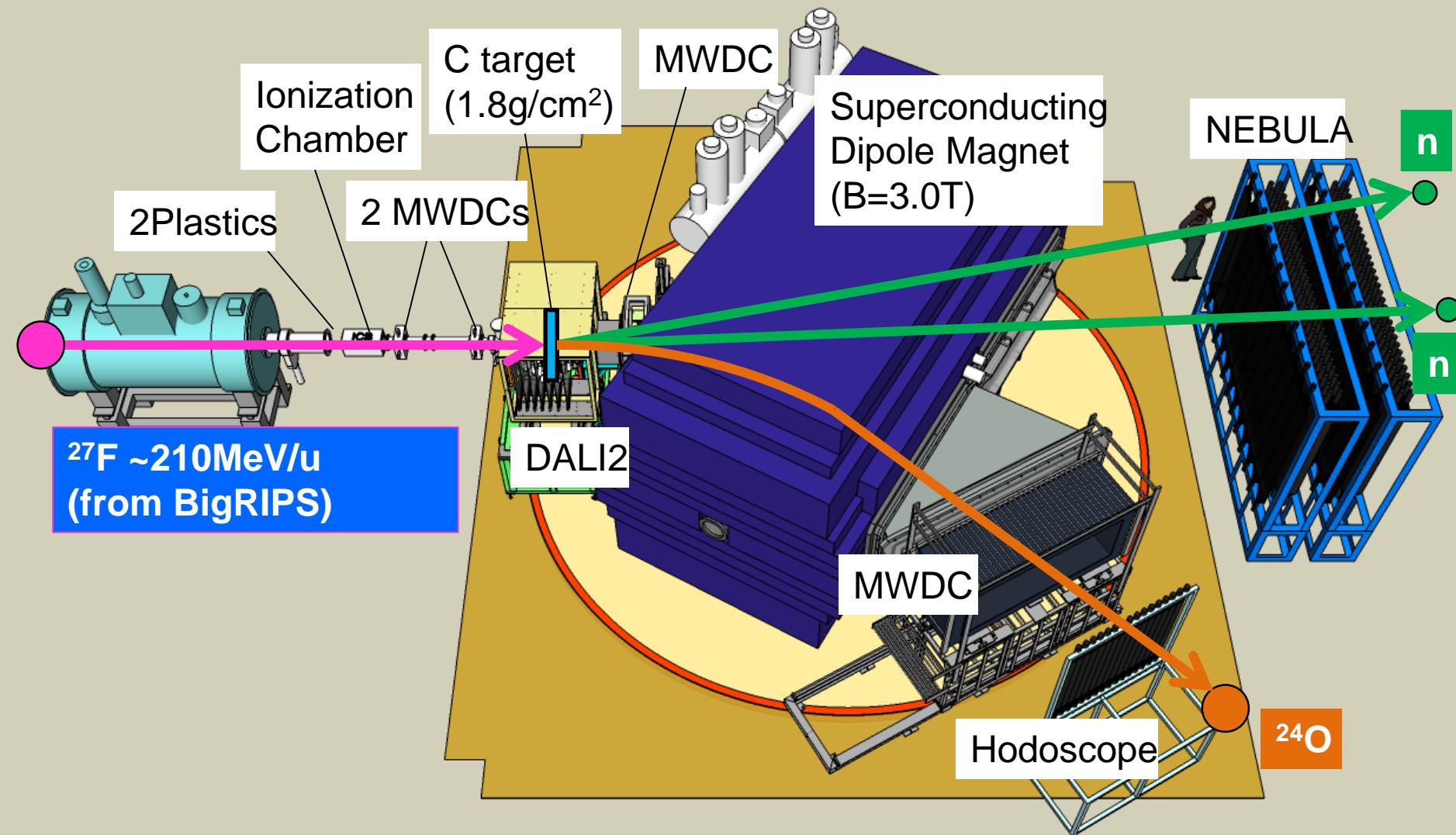
# “Nuclear Interactions” (“3N”) of very neutron-rich systems

→ Equation of State (EoS) of neutron-rich nuclear matter

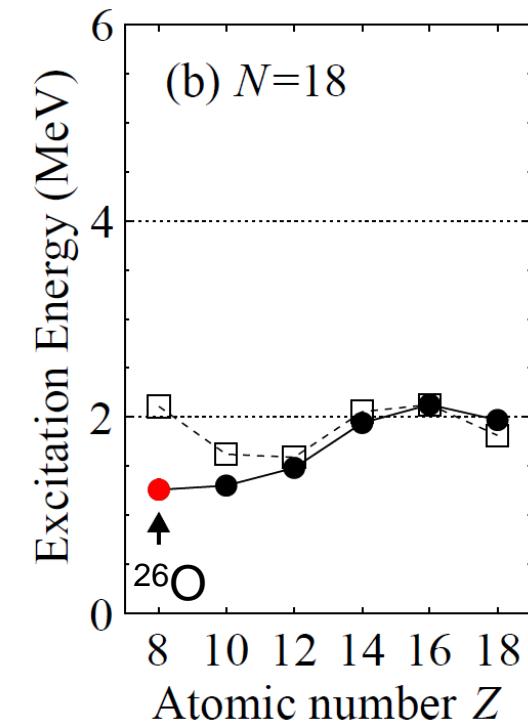
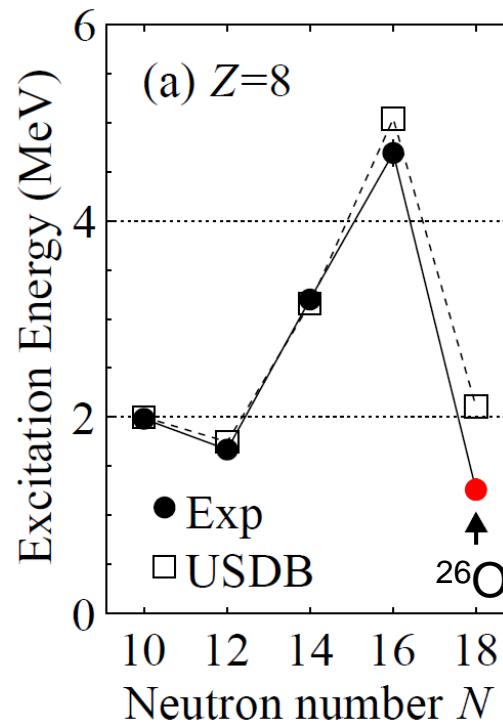
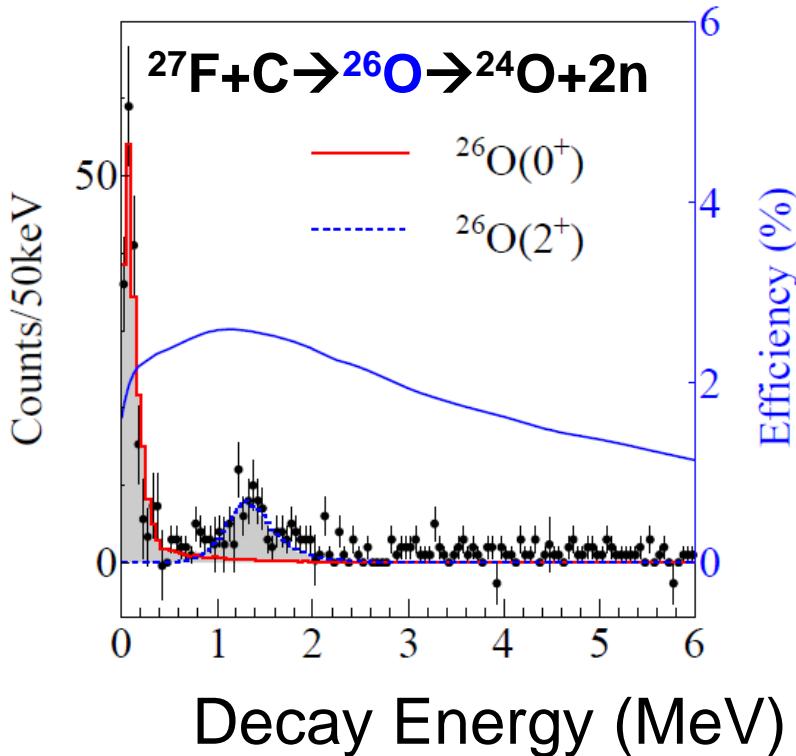
→ Neutron Star (Radius, Maximum mass, Composition)



# Experimental Setup at SAMURAI at RIBF



# Study of $^{26}\text{O}$ (SAMURAI02)



## Ground state ( $0^+$ )

5 times higher statistics than previous study

$18 \pm 3(\text{stat}) \pm 4(\text{syst})\text{keV}$

Finite value is determined for the first time

## 1<sup>st</sup> excited state ( $2^+$ )

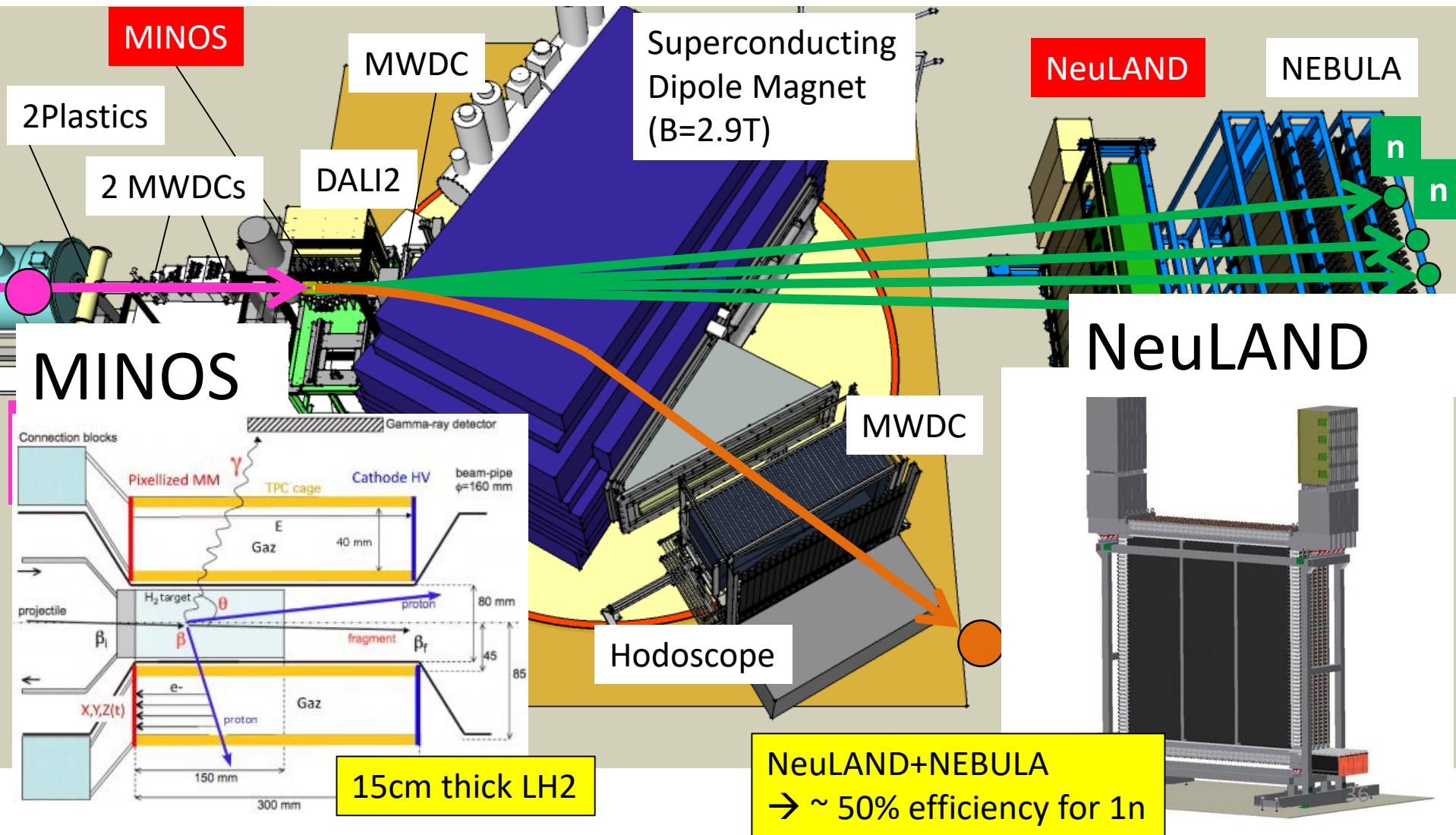
Observed for the first time

$1.28^{+0.11}_{-0.08}\text{MeV}$

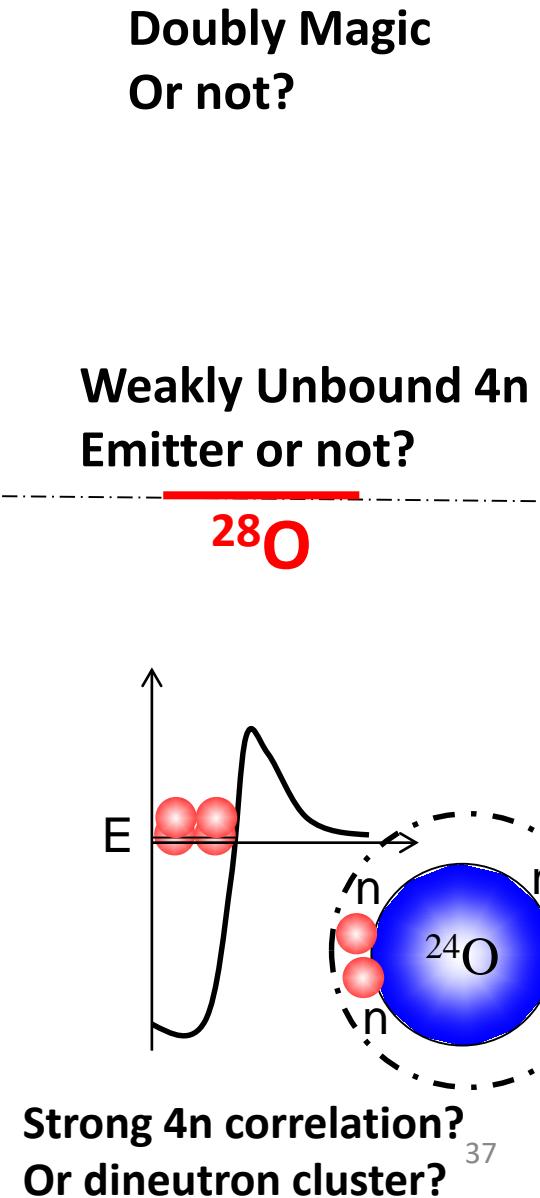
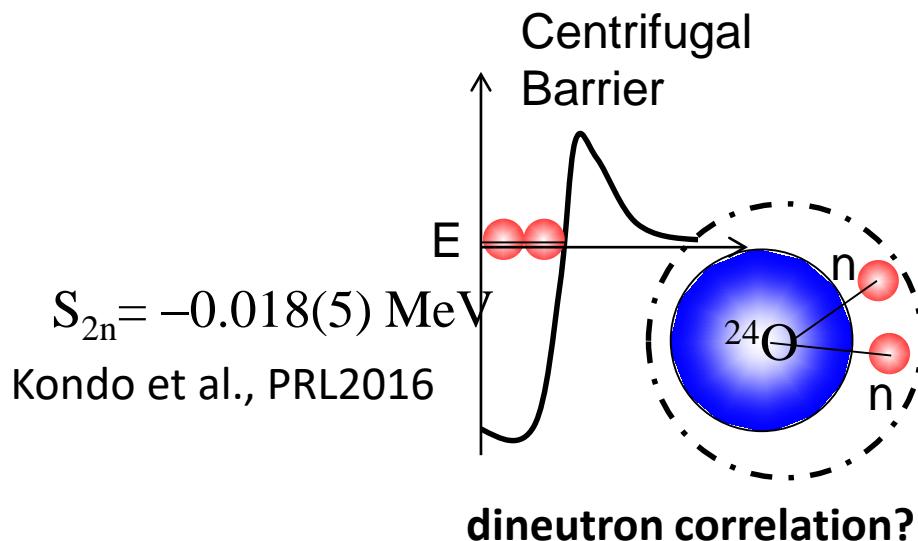
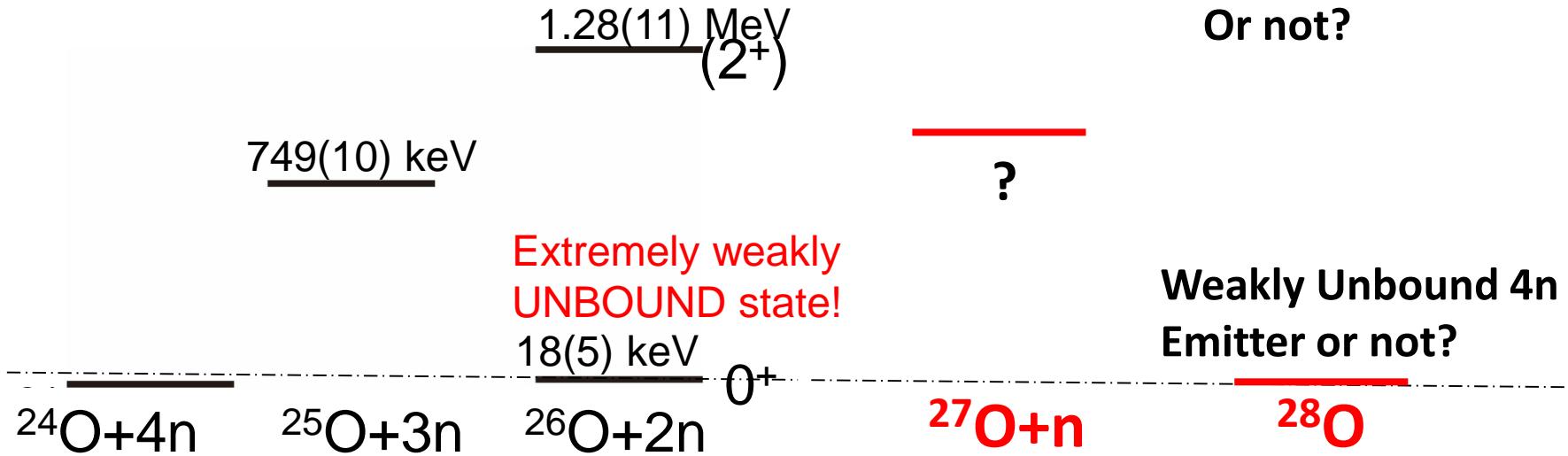
Y. Kondo et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 116, 102503, (2016)

**N=16 shell closure** is confirmed  
 USDB cannot describe  $2^+$  energy at  $^{26}\text{O}$   
 → effects of  
**pf shell?, continuum?**  
**2n Correlations?, 3N force?**

# $^{28}\text{O}$ measurement @ RIBF-SAMURAI



# Dineutron Cluster?



# ● Summary and Outlook

## ✓ Introduction

- Why hierarchical structure exists in quantum world?
- Clustering is key to this?
- How Hierarchy is Formed? --Naïve Pictures

## ✓ Dineutron Correlation in 2n Halo nuclei

$^{11}\text{Li}$ ,  $^{22}\text{C}$  SAMURAI: Powerful Facility for Drip Line Nuclei

## ✓ Spectroscopy of Super-heavy oxygen --Barely unbound 2n emitter $^{26}\text{O}$

*Y. Kondo et al., PRL 116, 102503, (2016)*

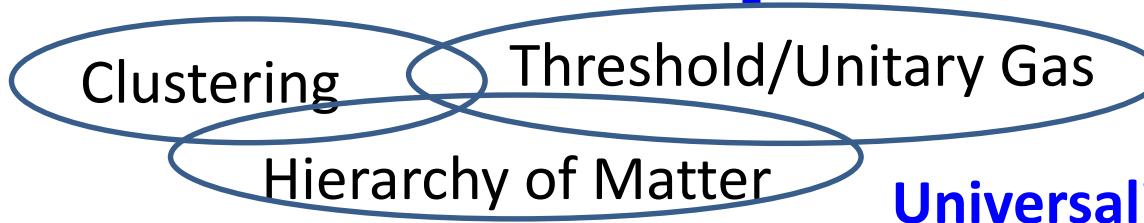
→  $^{26}\text{O}(0^+_{\text{gs}})$ : Very weakly unbound 2n states → **Correlation? Continuum?**

$^{26}\text{O}(2^+)$ : Found for the first time at  $E_{\text{rel}}=1.28(11)$  MeV → **Shell Evolution?**

→  $^{27,28}\text{O}$  : Experiment Successfully Done: Preliminary Results

## Near Future: Variety of spectroscopies along n-drip line

**4n, 6n... states? →  $n_2$  cluster?**



# Day-one Collaboration

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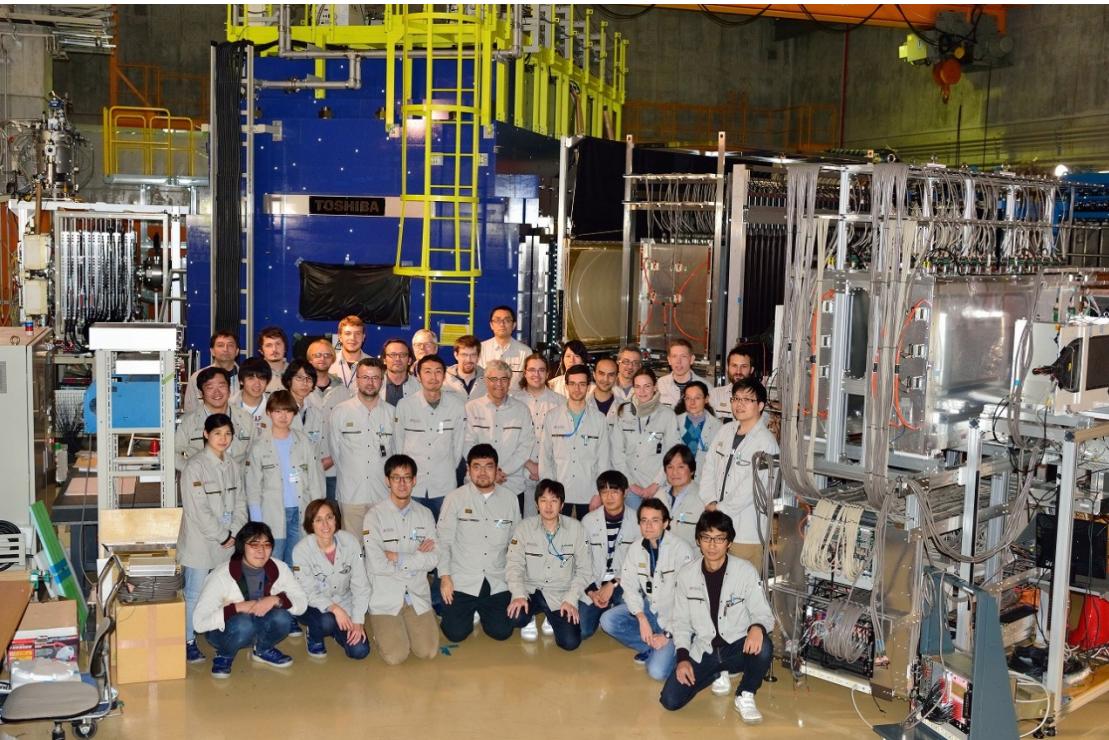
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# SAMURAI21 collaboration—<sup>27,28</sup>O



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88 Participants  
25 Institutes

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Clustering as a window on the hierarchical structure of  
quantum systems

領域代表 中村隆司 P.I. Takashi Nakamura H30-34

公募研究にぜひご応募下さい。

Your Applications and Contributions

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*All the sciences, and not just the sciences but all the efforts of intellectual kinds, are an endeavor to see the connections of the hierarchies.*

*Richard P. Feynman, The Character of Physical Law*

*For more details...*

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T.Nakamura, H.Sakurai, H.Watanabe,  
Progress in Particle and Nuclear Physics 97, 53 (2017).