

Structural Evolution of Neutron-rich Calcium Isotopes

Jenny Lee

The University of Hong Kong



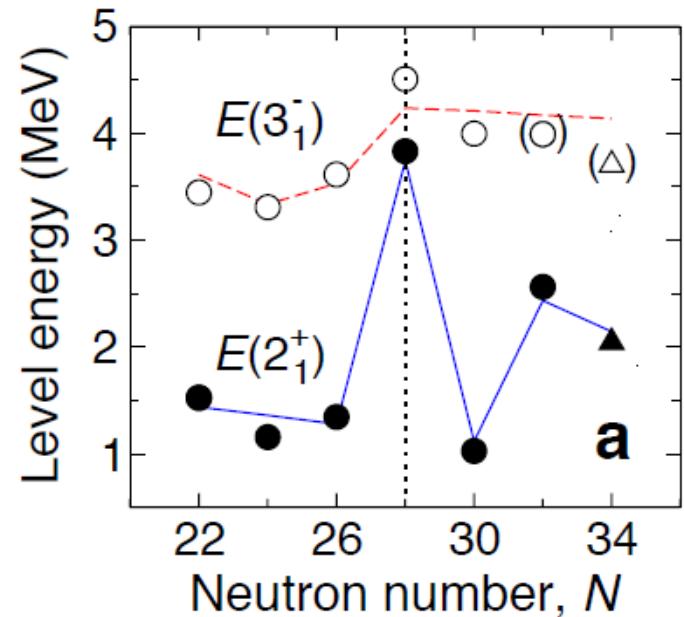
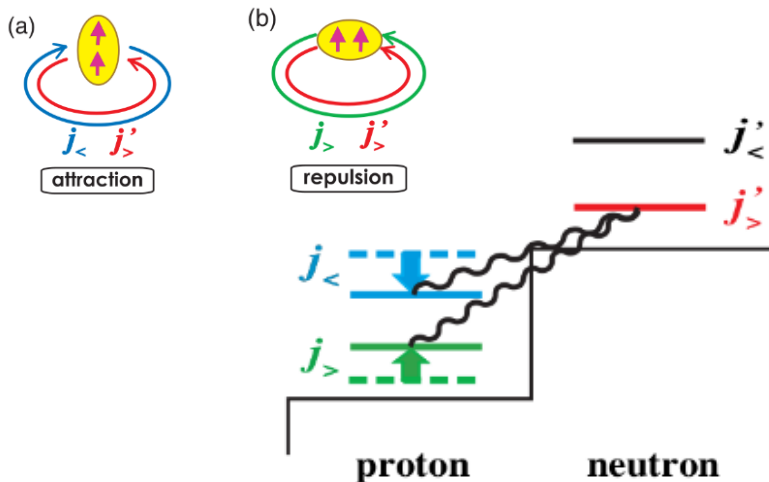
The 29th International Nuclear Physics Conference (INPC 2025)
May 25-30, 2025

Shell Evolution in Ca Isotopes

Calcium ($Z=20$), closed proton shell

- ✓ Structure evolution dominated by valence neutrons
- ✓ Ideal system to test NN - & $3N$ -interactions

Absence of strong $\pi f_{7/2} - \nu f_{5/2}$ attraction make $N = 32, 34$ new magic number in calcium



Significant Shell Closure

^{52}Ca : $N=32$

A. Gade et al., Phys. Rev. C 74, 021302 (R) (2006)

^{54}Ca : $N=34$

D. Steppenback et al., Nature 502, 207 (2013)

What is next ?

How strong is $N = 34$ shell closure ?

Neutron knockout reaction from ^{54}Ca : $^{54}\text{Ca}(p,pn)^{53}\text{Ca}$

Towards ^{60}Ca ?

First spectroscopy of $^{56,58}\text{Ca}$: $^{57,59}\text{Sc}(p,2p)^{56,58}\text{Ca}$

Evolution of $\nu\text{-}f_{7/2}$ orbital along Ca ?

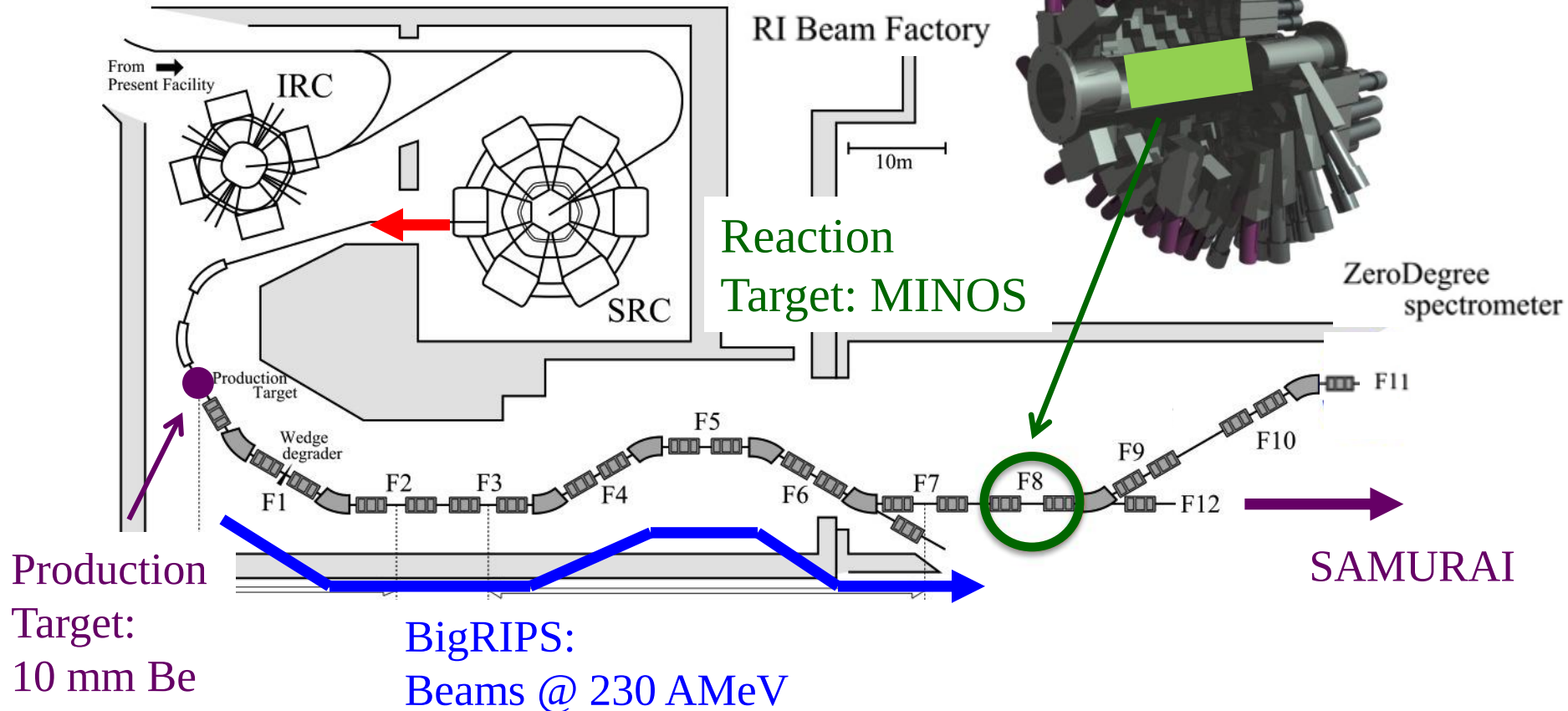
Unbound states of $^{53,55}\text{Ca}$: $^{54,56}\text{Ca}(p,pn)^{53,55}\text{Sc}^*$

Data from **SEASTAR** campaign experiment

“Shell Evolution And Search for Two-plus energies At RIBF”

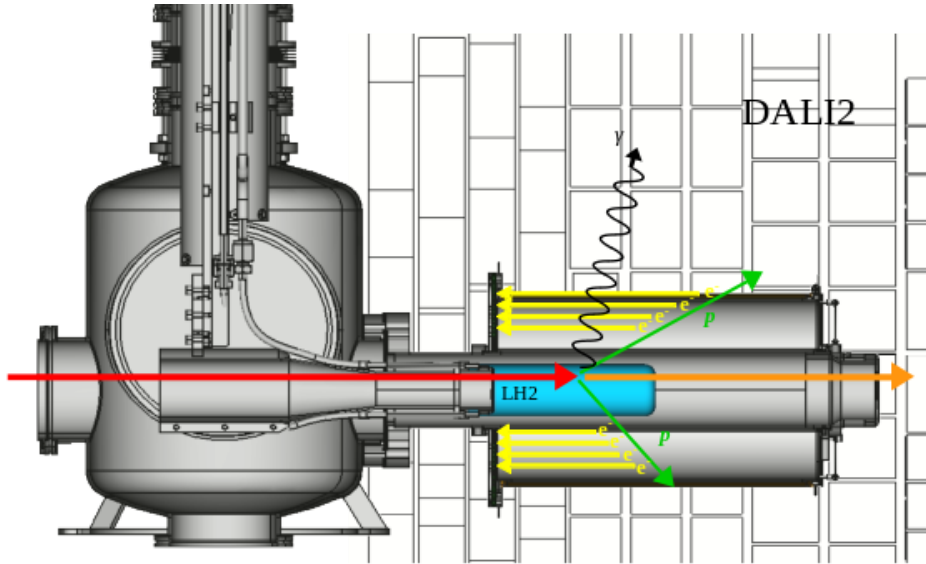
SEASTAR-3 @ RIBF RIKEN

Primary Beam: ^{70}Zn @ 345 A MeV, 75 pnA



DALI2⁺ & MINOS

MINOS target system:

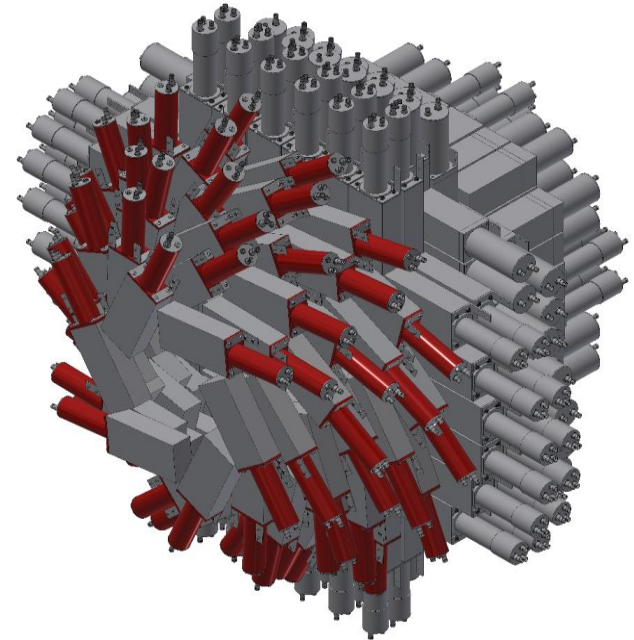


A. Obertelli et al., EPJA **50**, 8 (2014)

C. Santamaria et al, NIMA **905**, 13 (2018)

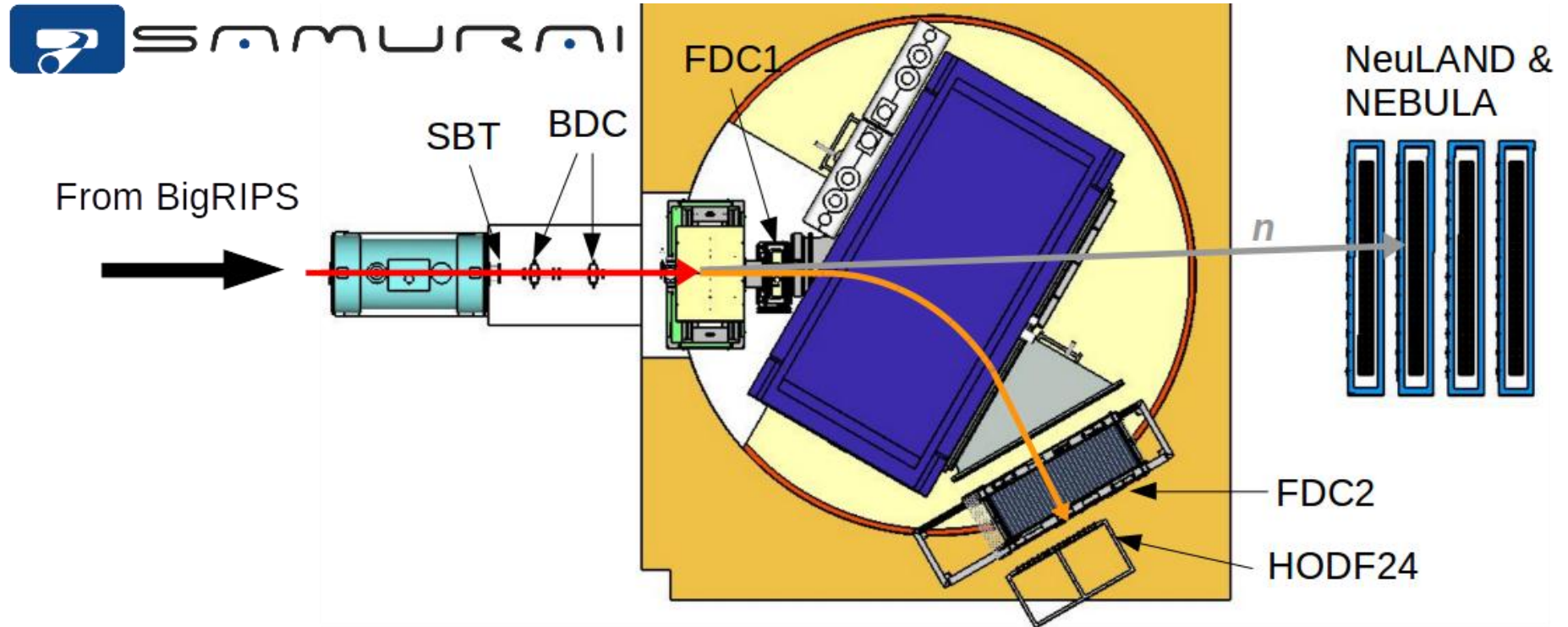
- 150 mm liquid hydrogen
- 300 mm Time Projection Chamber
- 5 mm (FWHM) res. z_{vertex}
- $\epsilon_{2p} \sim 91\%$, $\epsilon_{pn} \sim 70\%$
- center-of-target energy $\sim 220\text{MeV/u}$

DALI2⁺ array:



- 226 NaI(Tl) crystals
- 7% (FWHM) res. at 1MeV
- 34% eff. at 1MeV

SAMURAI Spectrometer



Charge particles:

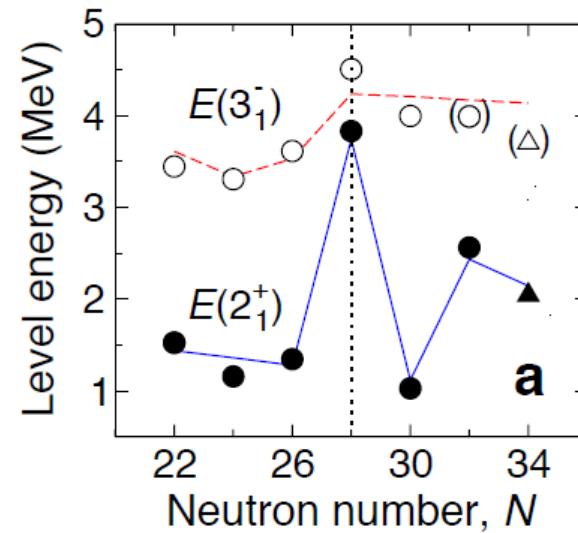
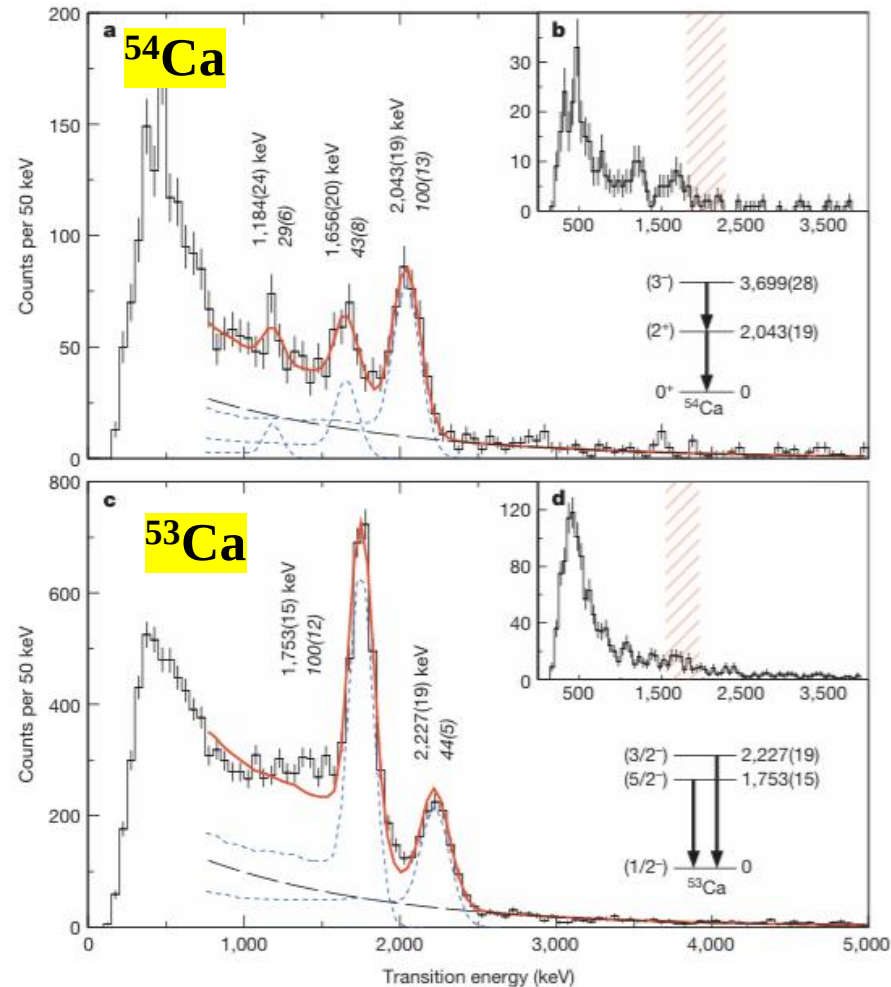
- $B\rho$: FDC1, FDC2 tracking
- Time-of-Flight: SBT-Hodoscope
- ΔE : Hodoscope

Neutrons:

- NeuLAND + NEBULA
- Acceptance:
 - $X: \pm 10^\circ$
 - $Y: \pm 5^\circ$

I. How strong is $N = 34$ shell closure ?

D. Steppenback et al., Nature 502,207 (2013)

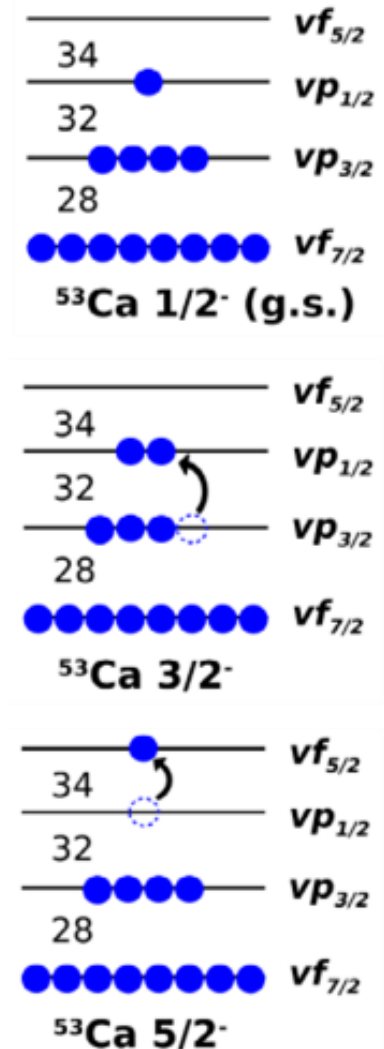
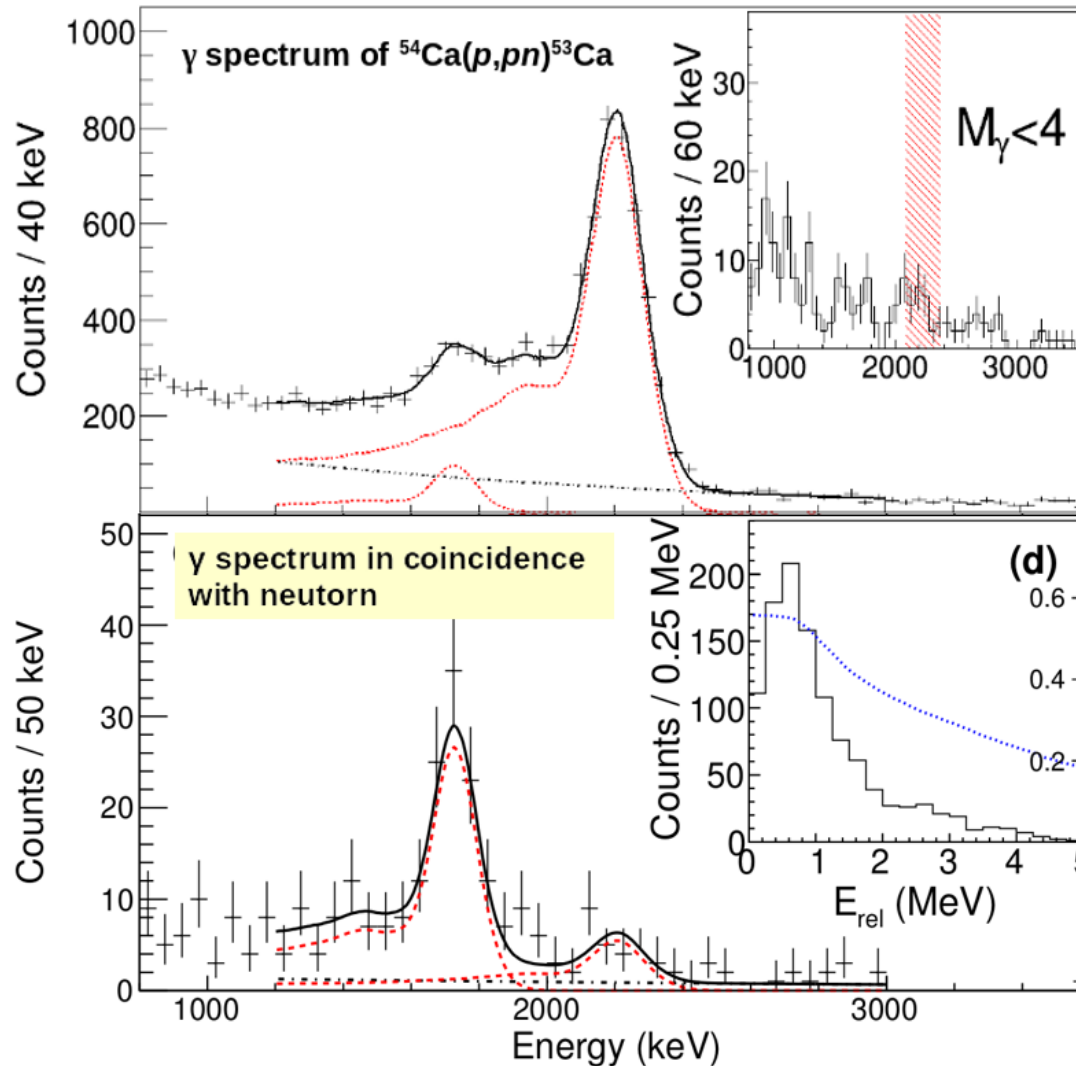


^{53}Ca populated via $^{55}\text{Sc} \rightarrow ^{53}\text{Ca}$
(Not direct reaction)

- No structure information from cross sections
- No spin-parity assignment

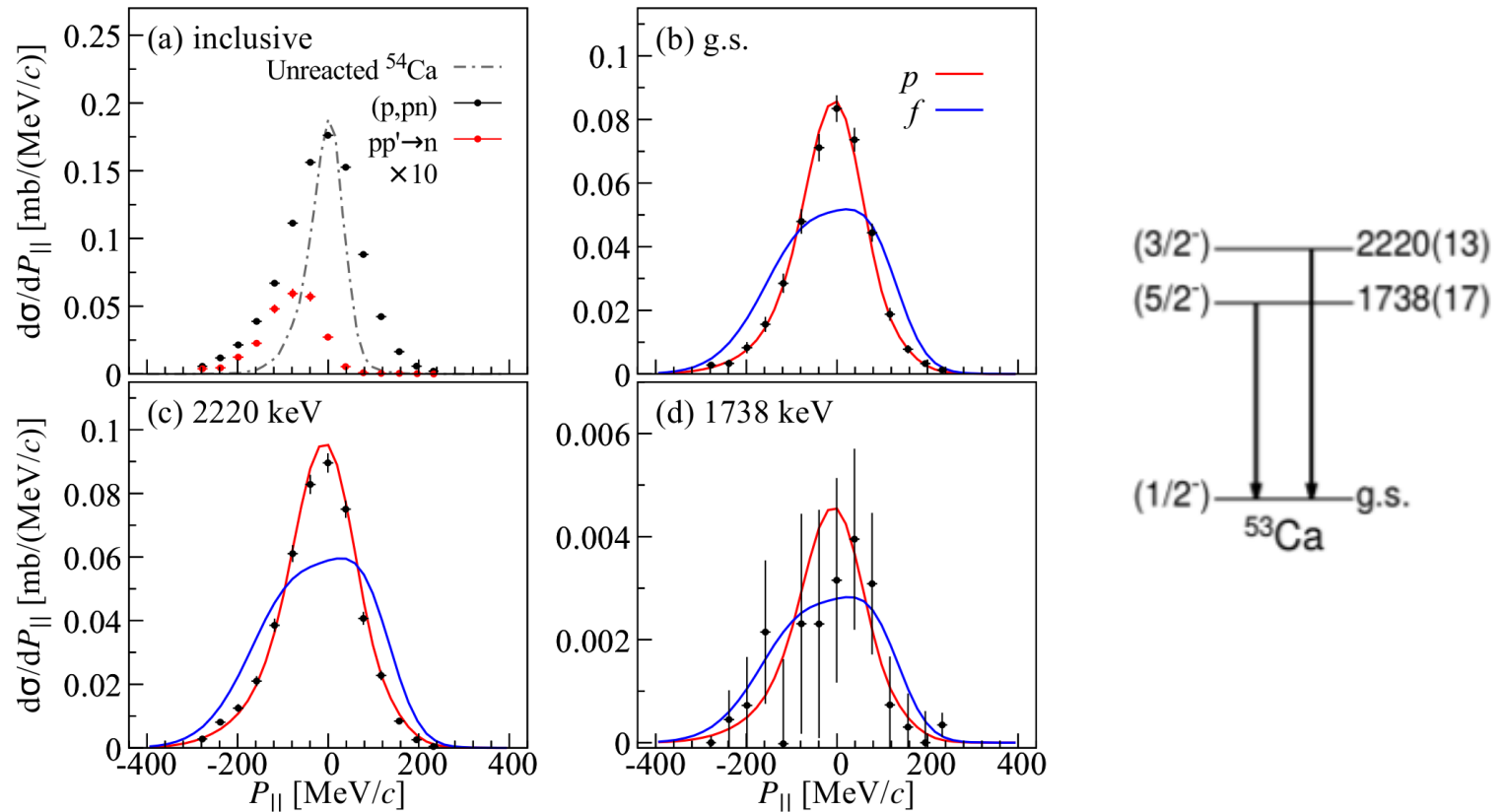
I. How strong is $N = 34$ shell closure ?

Direct probe of the g.s. wave-function of ^{54}Ca



Neutron knockout from ^{54}Ca

Momentum distributions of $^{54}\text{Ca}(p,pn)^{53}\text{Ca}$ channel



$P_{||}$ from Distorted wave impulse approximation (DWIA) calculations (K. Ogata)

Cross sections of $^{54}\text{Ca}(p,pn)^{53}\text{Ca}$

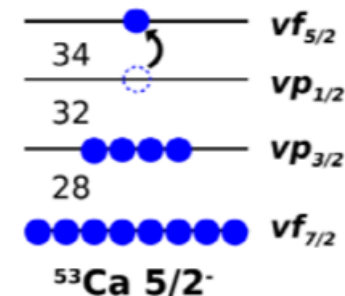
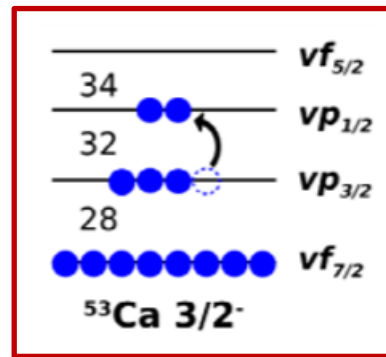
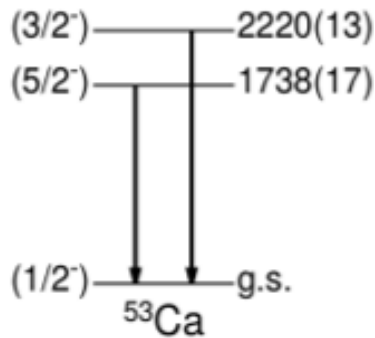
Data

K. Ogata

T. Otsuka

V. Somà

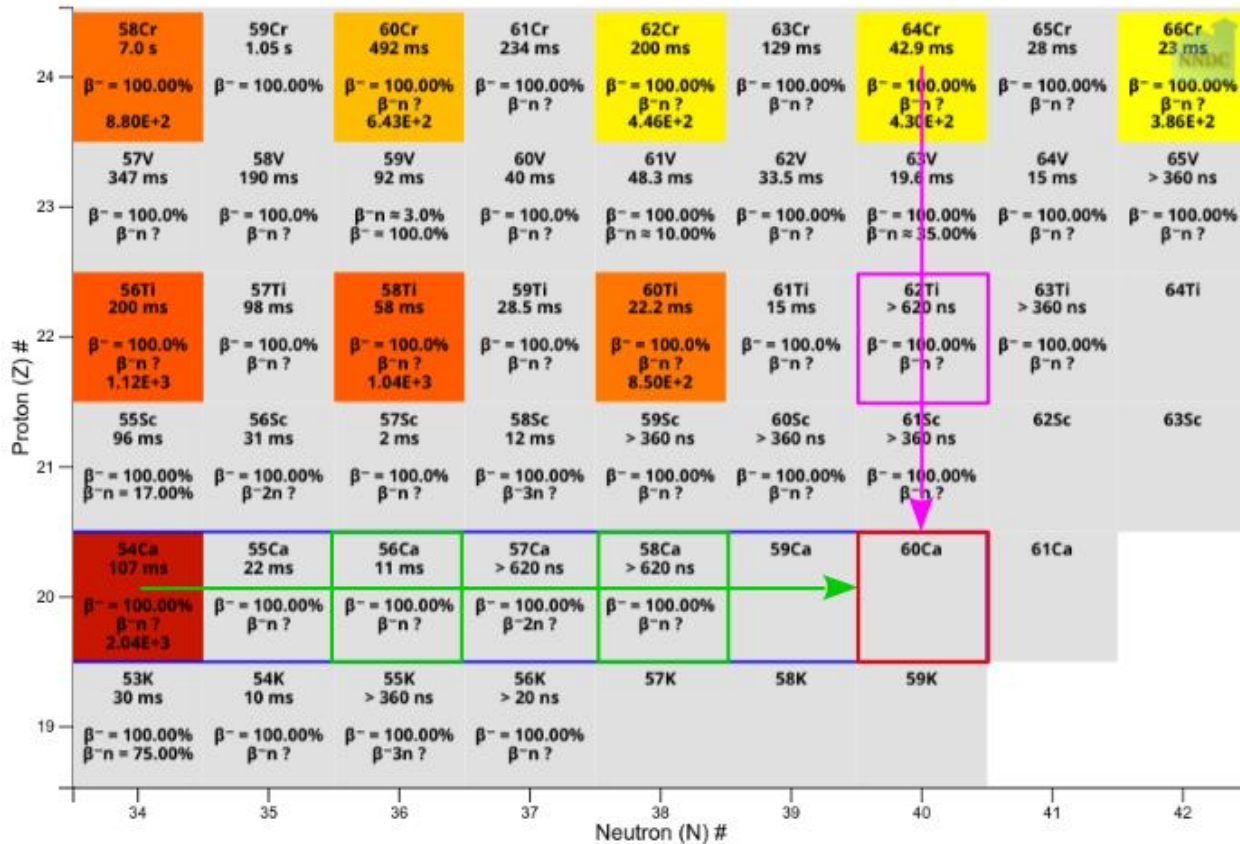
	J^π	$-1n$	σ_{-1n}	DWIA	GXPF1Bs			NNLO _{sat}			NN + 3N (lnl)		
				σ_{sp}	E_x (keV)	C^2S	σ_{-1n}^{th}	E_x (keV)	C^2S	σ_{-1n}^{th}	E_x (keV)	C^2S	σ_{-1n}^{th}
g.s.	$1/2^-$	$p_{1/2}$	15.9(17)	7.27	0	1.82	13.2	0	1.56	11.3	0	1.58	11.6
2220(13)	$3/2^-$	$p_{3/2}$	19.1(12)	6.24	2061	3.55	22.2	2635	3.12	18.5	2611	3.17	17.0
1738(17)	$5/2^-$	$f_{5/2}$	1.0(3)	4.19	1934	0.19	0.8	1950	0.01	0.1	2590	0.02	0.1
Inclusive			36.0(12)				36.2			29.9			28.7



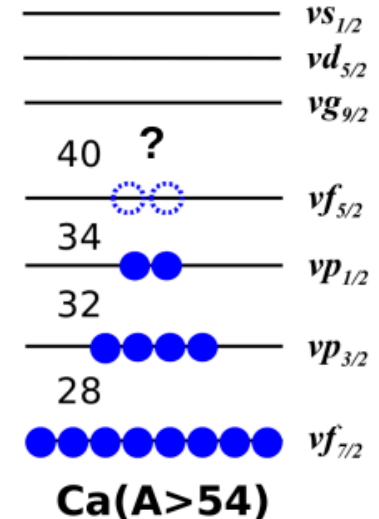
Little f wave component in ^{54}Ca g.s. $\Rightarrow$ strong $N = 34$ shell closure in ^{54}Ca
 Consistent with shell-model and ab initio calculations

S. Chen, J. Lee *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Lett. **123**,142501 (2019)

II. Approaching ^{60}Ca ?



Effective neutron
single-particle energies



$N = 40$ shell gap
preserved in ^{60}Ca ?

- Following $N = 40$ isotonic chain: First spectroscopy of ^{62}Ti
 - Small decrease of quadrupole collectivity in ^{62}Ti
 - Favors ^{60}Ca **NOT** being doubly magic
- Following $Z = 20$ isotopic chain: First spectroscopy of $^{56,58}\text{Ca}$

M. L. Cortés, *et al.*, Phys. Lett. B 800, 135071 (2020)

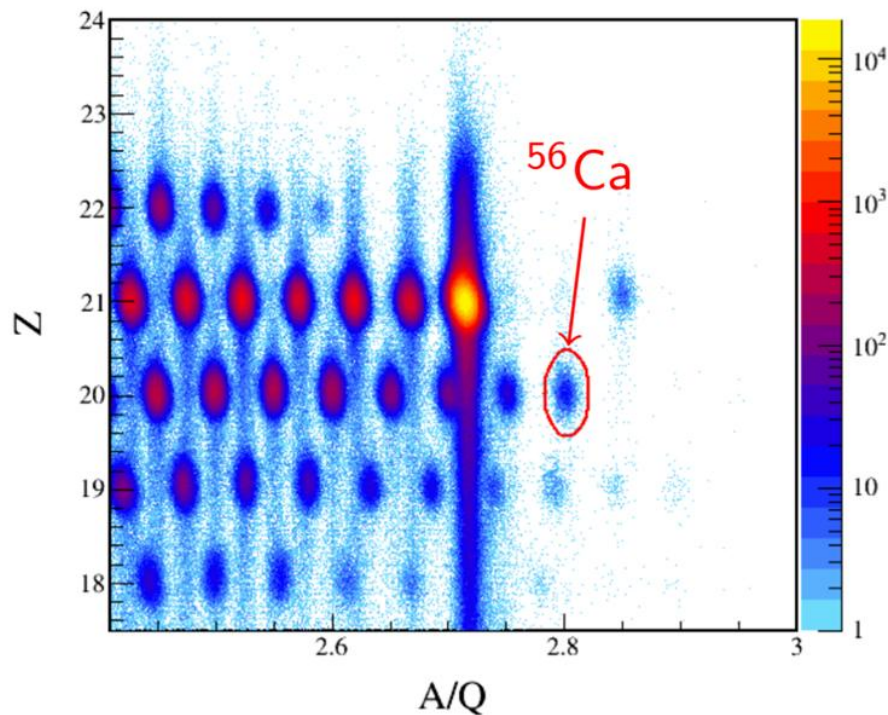
First spectroscopy of $^{56,58}\text{Ca}$

RI beam intensity

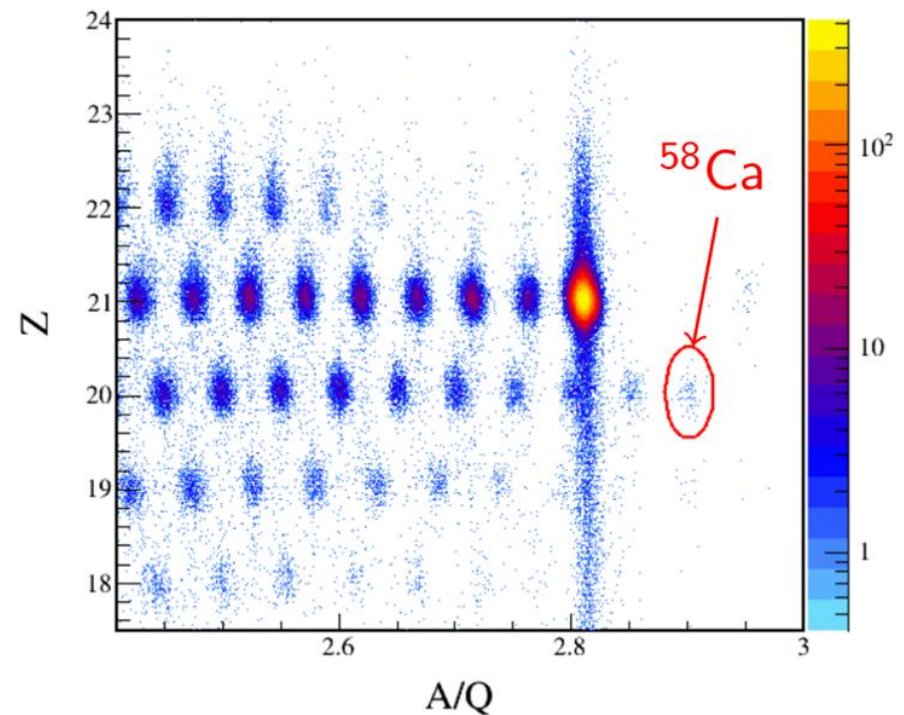
- ^{57}Sc intensity 13.6 particles/sec
- ^{57}Sc Energy@F7 252 MeV/u

- ^{59}Sc intensity 0.3 particles/sec
- ^{59}Sc Energy@F7 242 MeV/u

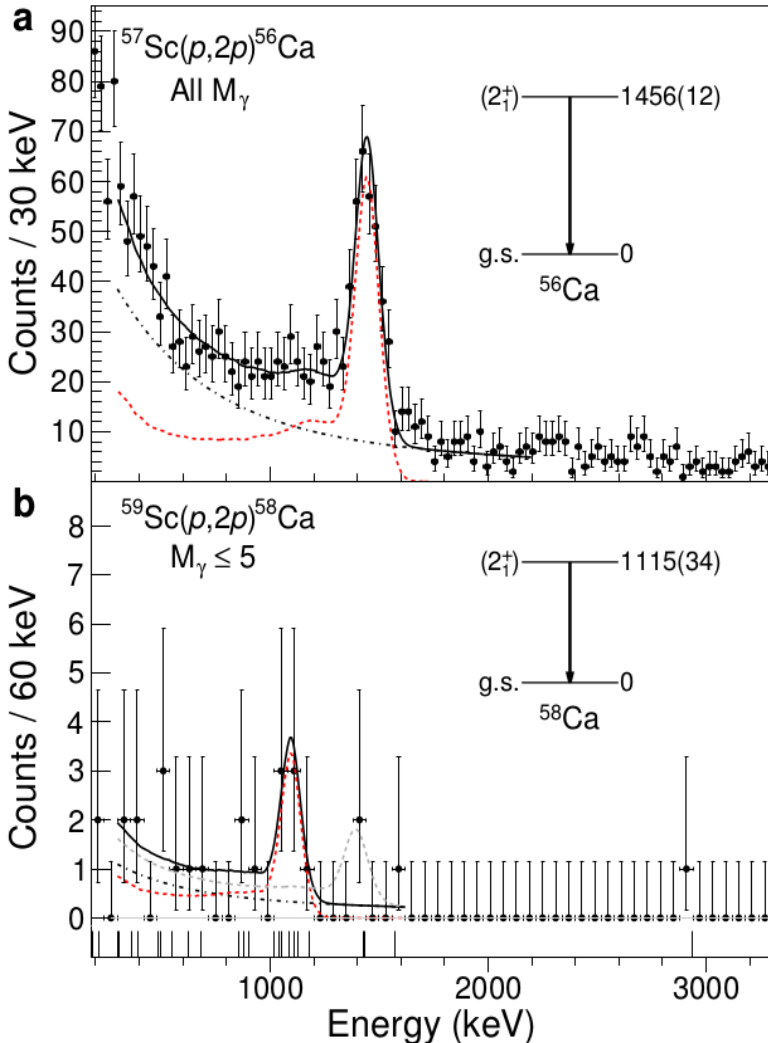
Fragments of ^{57}Sc beam



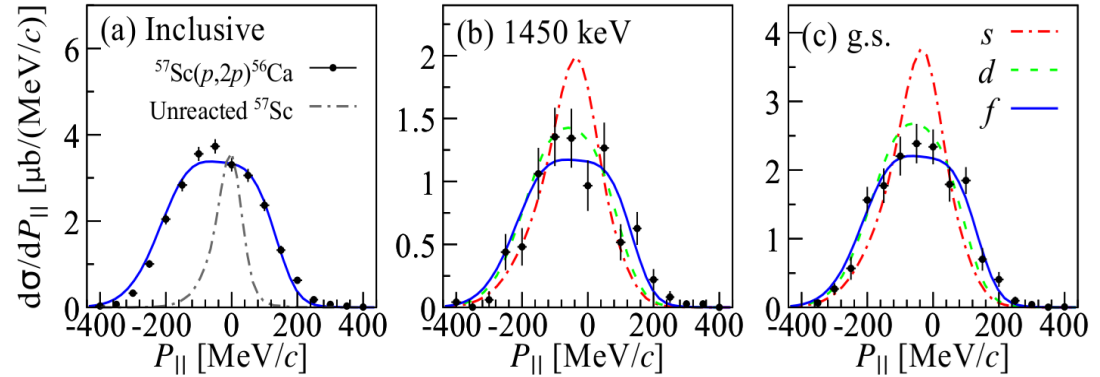
Fragments of ^{59}Sc beam



First spectroscopy of $^{56,58}\text{Ca}$



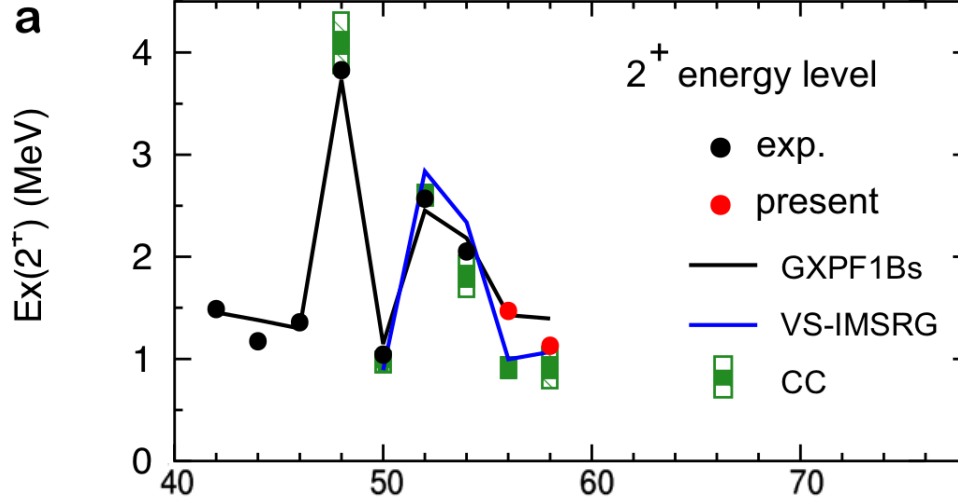
Parallel Momentum Distribution for $^{57}\text{Sc}(p,2p)$



	Experiment		J^π	nl_j	DWIA σ_{sp}	VS-IMSRG			GXPF1Bs			A3DA-t		
	E_{exp}	σ_{exp}				E_x	C^2S_{th}	σ_{th}	E_x	C^2S_{th}	σ_{th}	E_x	C^2S_{th}	σ_{th}
^{56}Ca	0	0.80(6)	$0_{\text{g.s.}}^+$	$0f_{7/2}$	1.80	0	0.61	1.10	0	0.69	1.24	0	0.62	1.11
	1456(12)	0.43(4)	2_1^+	$0f_{7/2}$	1.74	1002	0.29	0.50	1416	0.25	0.44	1519	0.27	0.47
			4_1^+	$0f_{7/2}$	1.73	1307	0.05	0.09	1776	0.02	0.04	2339	0.01	0.02
	Inclusive	1.23(5)						1.69			1.72			1.60
^{58}Ca	0	0.66(24)	$0_{\text{g.s.}}^+$	$0f_{7/2}$	1.58	0	0.80	1.26	0	0.83	1.31	0	0.46	0.73
	1115(34)	0.47(19)	2_1^+	$0f_{7/2}$	1.54	1075	0.16	0.25	1382	0.15	0.23	1040	0.42	0.65
			4_1^+	$0f_{7/2}$	1.52	1423	0.001	0.002	1772	0.001	0.002	2084	0.05	0.08
	Inclusive	1.14(15)						1.51			1.54			1.46

- Maximum likelihood fit to unbinned data gives 2.8σ
- Comparable inclusive and exclusive cross section between $^{57}\text{Sc}(p,2p)^{56}\text{Ca}$ and $^{59}\text{Sc}(p,2p)^{58}\text{Ca}$
- σ_{exp} reasonably reproduced by $\sigma_{\text{th}} = C^2S_{\text{th}} \cdot \sigma_{\text{sp}}$

First spectroscopy of $^{56,58}\text{Ca}$



GXPF1Bs (T. Otsuka), *neutron pf shell*

VS-IMSRG (J.D. Holt)

1.8/2.0 (EM) interaction

neutron pf shell

CC coupled-cluster theory (G. Hagen)

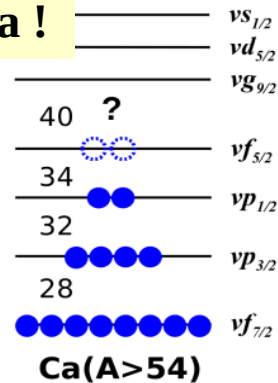
(2PR/2PA-EOM), 1.8/2.0 (EM) interaction

$E_x(2^+)$ drops from ^{56}Ca to ^{58}Ca !

Particle-hole symmetry breaks

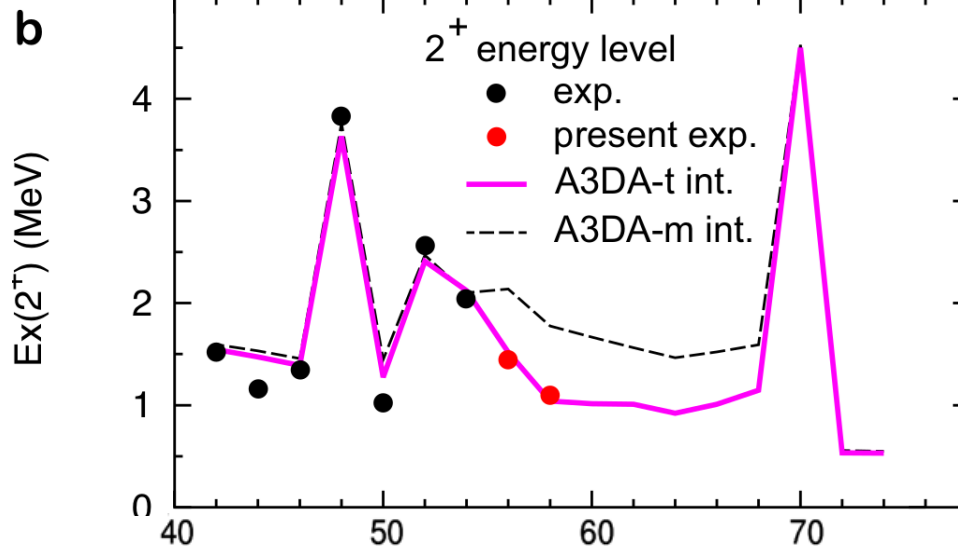
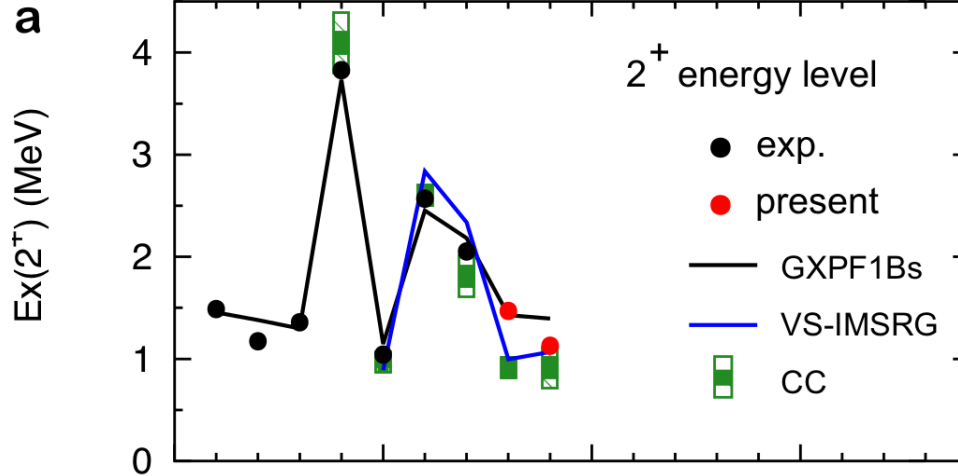
→ **non-isolated $f_{5/2}$ orbital**

→ **No $N=40$ shell closure**



S. Chen, F. Browne, P. Doornenbal, J. Lee *et al.*,
Phys. Lett. B **843**, 138025 (2023)

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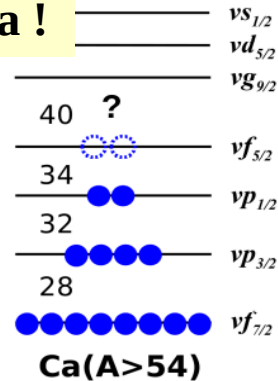
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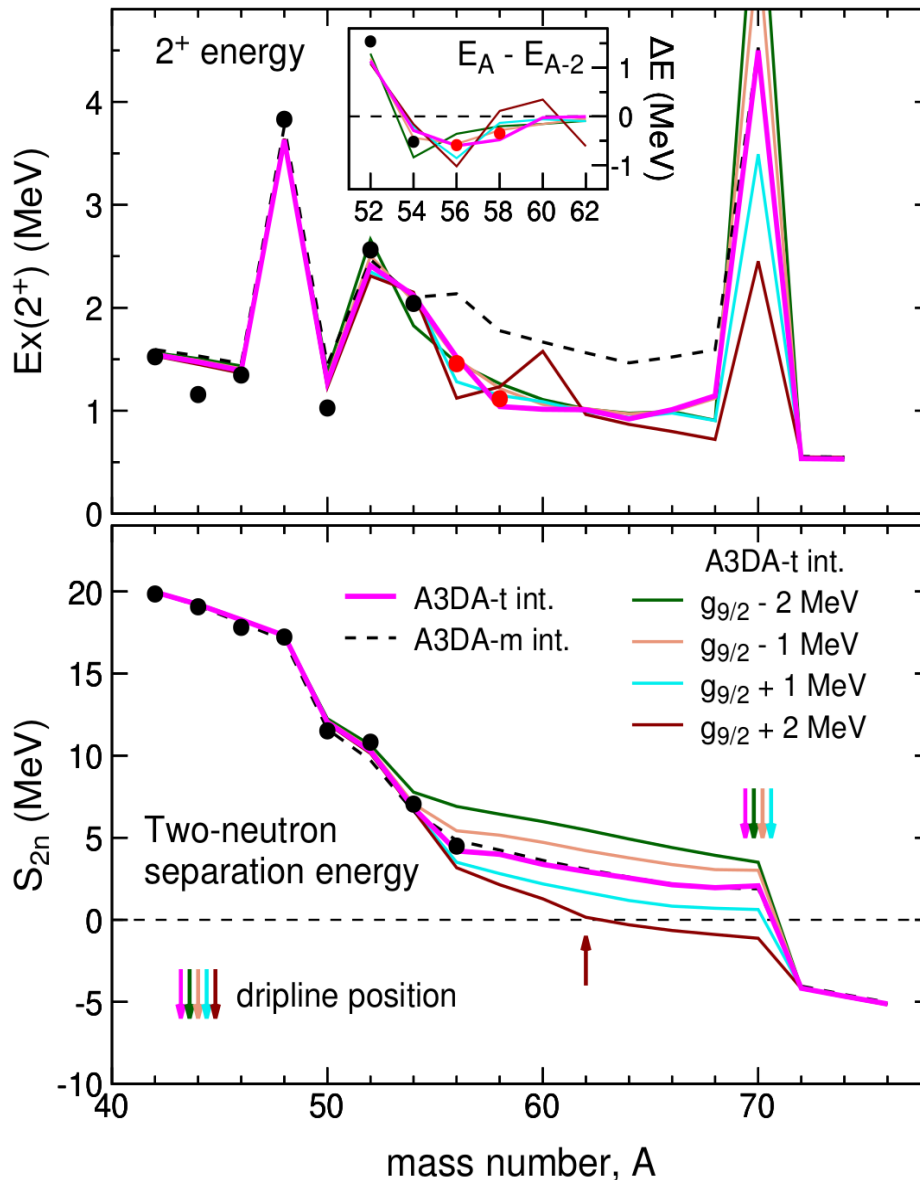


A3DA-t:

revision of A3DA-m interaction, fitting to
existing $E(2^+_1)$ and S_{2n} data (Y. Tsunoda and
T. Otsuka), *neutron pf- $g_{9/2}$ - $d_{5/2}$ orbitals*

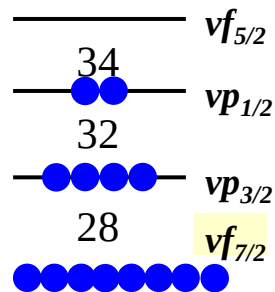
$N=50$ shell closure

First spectroscopy of $^{56,58}\text{Ca}$



- Sensitivity of the neutron $0g_{9/2}$ single-particle-energy (SPE) characterized by varying up to ± 2 MeV
 - Positive shifts $0g_{9/2}$ SPE lead to too low $E(2^+_1)$ and S_{2n} of ^{56}Ca
 - Negative shifts $0g_{9/2}$ SPE lead to high neutron $0g_{9/2}$ occupation in ^{54}Ca , quenching of $N = 34$ shell gap
- Indicate the vanish of $N = 40$ shell in ^{60}Ca , and drives the dripline of Ca isotopes to at least ^{70}Ca

III. Evolution of ν - $f_{7/2}$ orbital along $Z = 20$



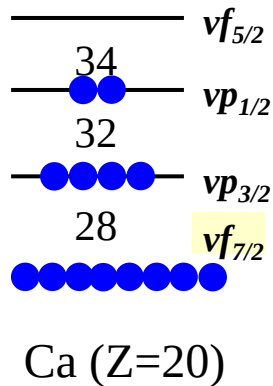
Ca ($Z=20$)

IMP & Shell Model (GXPF1X)

→ full ν - $f_{7/2}$ strength concentrated in $7/2^-$ state at and immediately beyond $N=28$

Single-particle nature of $7/2^-$ state

III. Evolution of ν - $f_{7/2}$ orbital along $Z = 20$

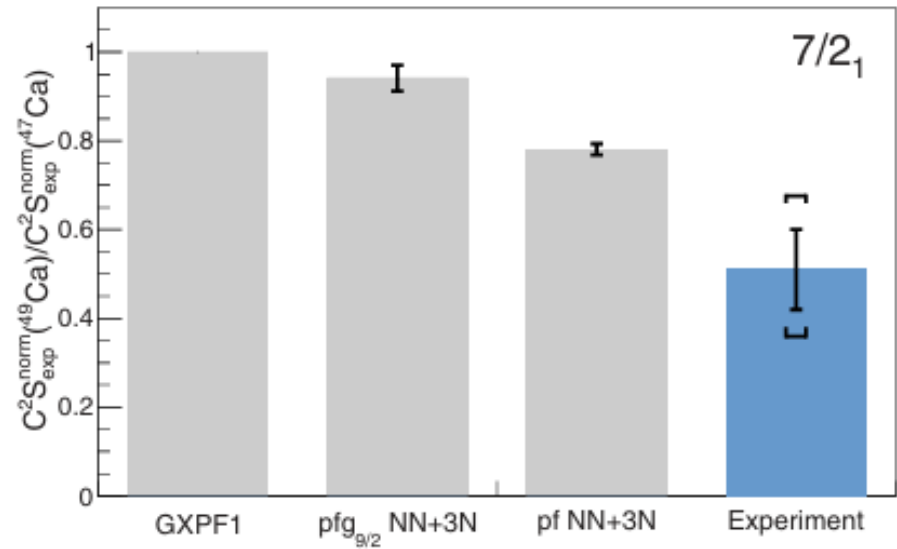


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Single-particle nature of $7/2^-$ state

H.L. Crawford *et al.*, Phys. Rev. C **95**, 064317 (2017)

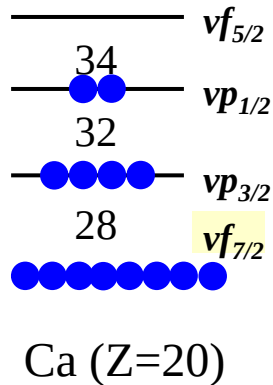


n-knockout: $^{48}\text{Ca} \rightarrow ^{47}\text{Ca}$, $^{50}\text{Ca} \rightarrow ^{49}\text{Ca}$

C^2S for $\nu 0f_{7/2}$: 6.4 (^{47}Ca), 3.4 (^{49}Ca)

Reduction of ν - $f_{7/2}$ strength in ^{49}Ca than ^{47}Ca

III. Evolution of ν - $f_{7/2}$ orbital along $Z = 20$

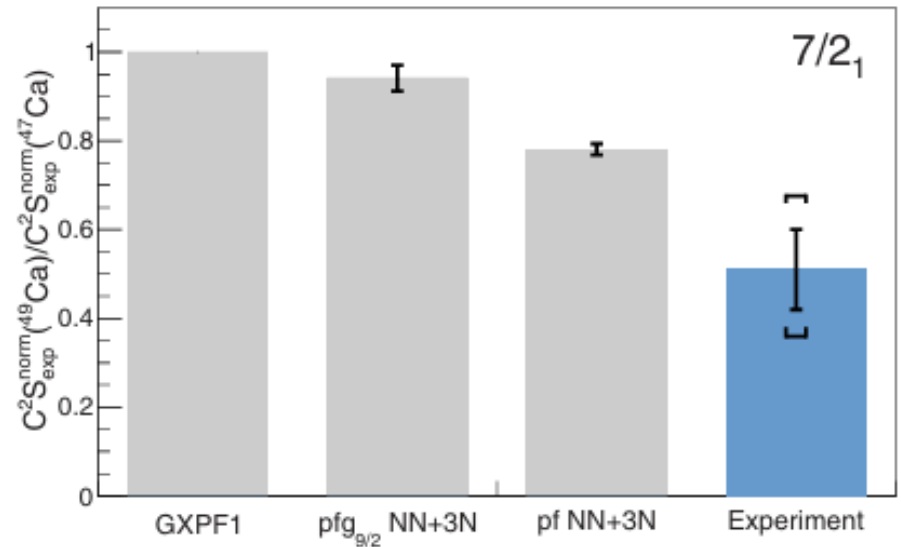


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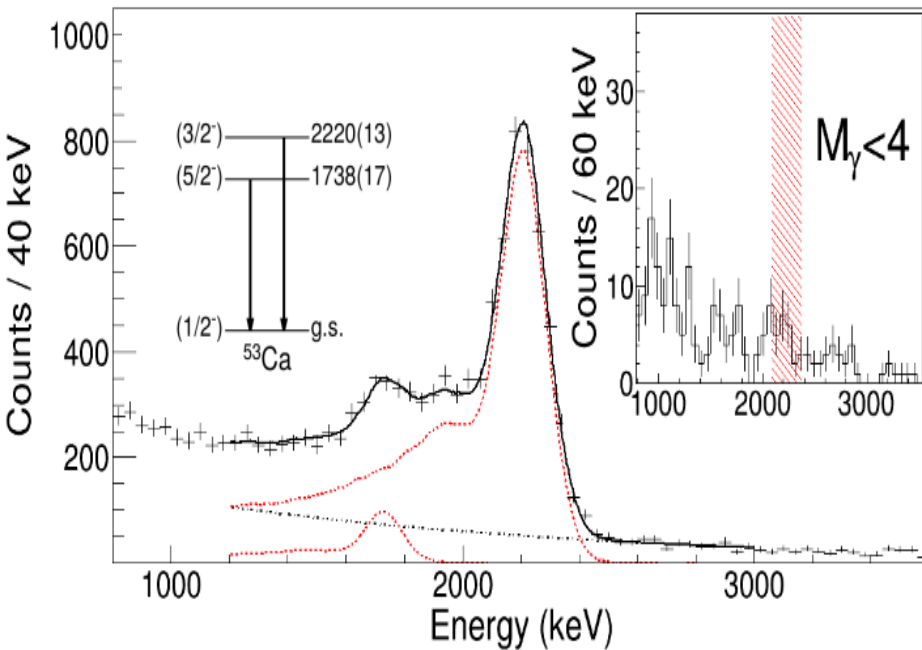
❖ $^{52}\text{Ca}(p,pn)^{51}\text{Ca} \rightarrow C^2S$ for $\nu 0f_{7/2}$ hole state: 6.6 (10) – consistent with ^{47}Ca

M. Enciu, H.N. Liu *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Lett. **129**, 262501 (2022)

What is $\nu 0f_{7/2}$ strength in more n-rich Ca isotope ?

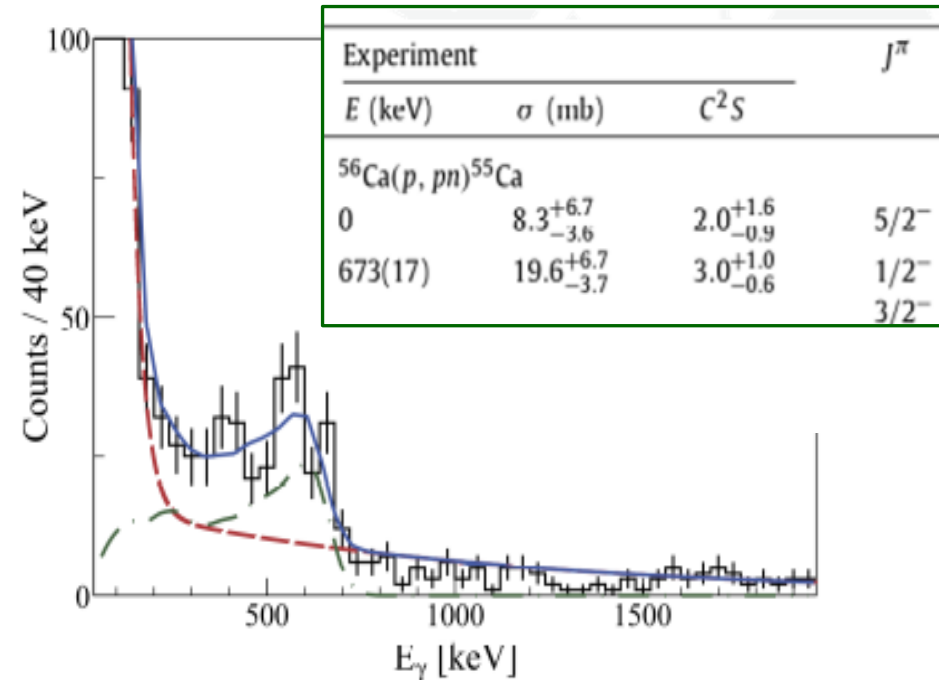
Evolution of ν - $f_{7/2}$ orbital along $Z = 20$

γ spectrum of $^{54}\text{Ca}(p,pn)^{53}\text{Ca}$



S. Chen, J. Lee *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Lett. **123**,142501 (2019)

γ spectrum of $^{56}\text{Ca}(p,pn)^{55}\text{Ca}$



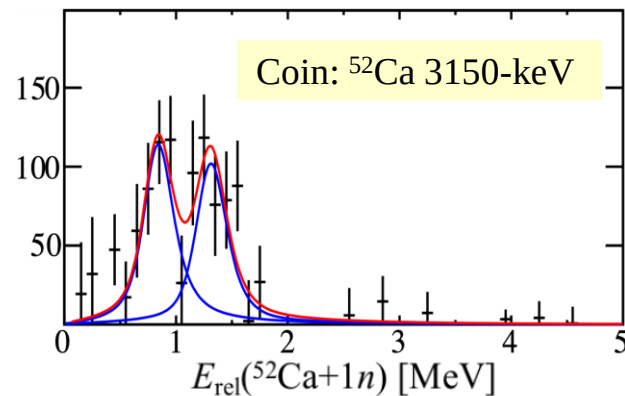
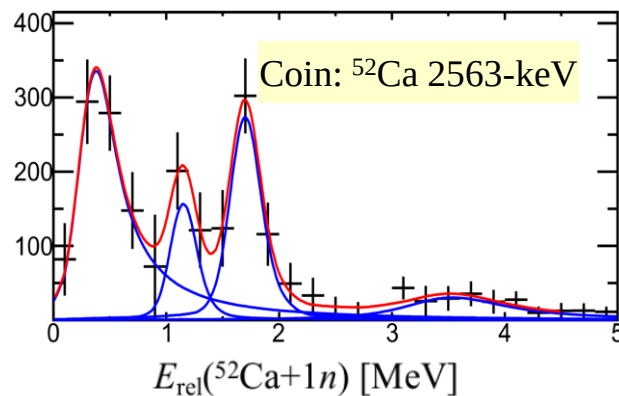
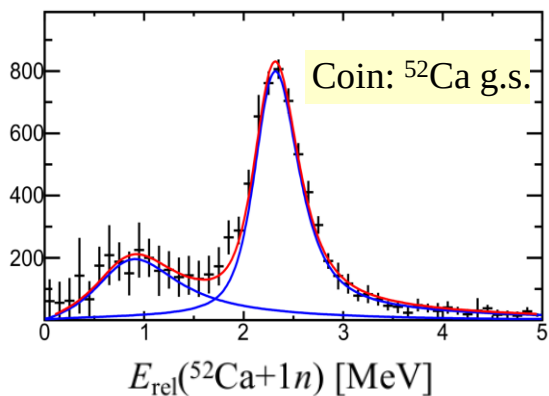
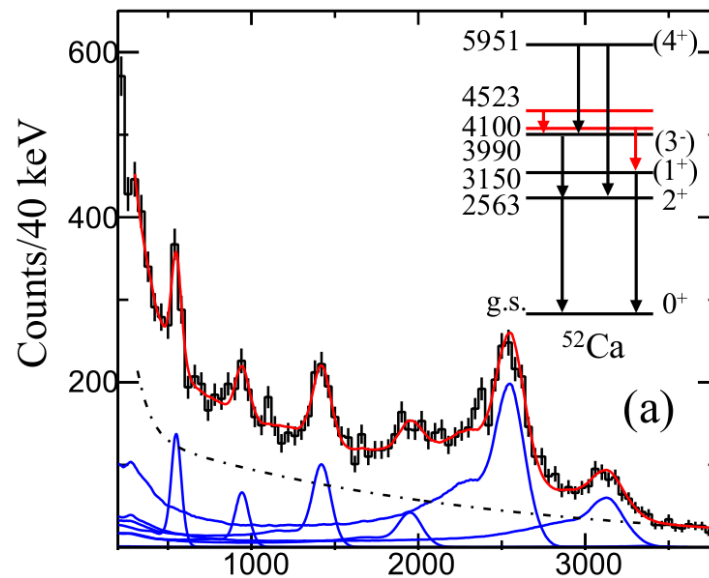
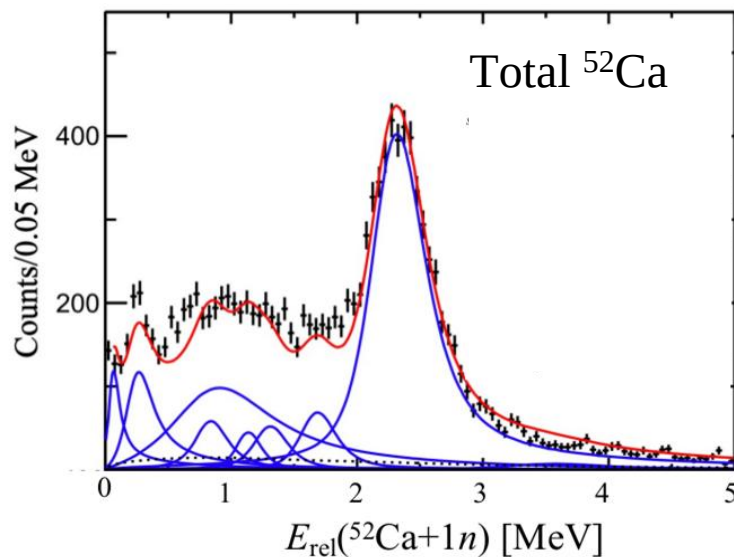
T. Koiwai, *et al.*, Phys. Lett. B **827**, 136953 (2022)

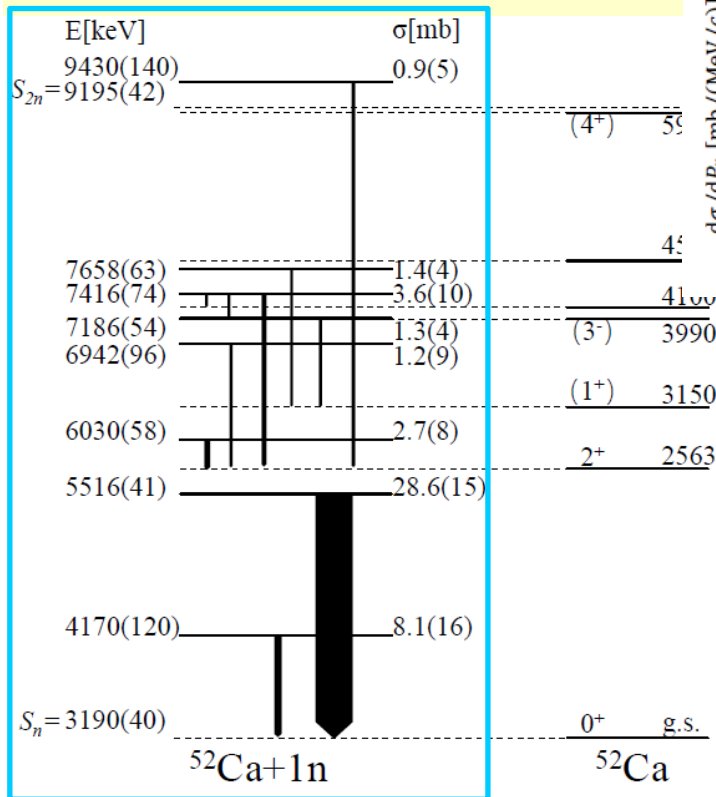
No $\nu 0f_{7/2}$ strength observed below neutron separation energy S_n in $^{53,55}\text{Ca} \rightarrow$ unbound states

First invariant-mass measurement in ^{53}Ca



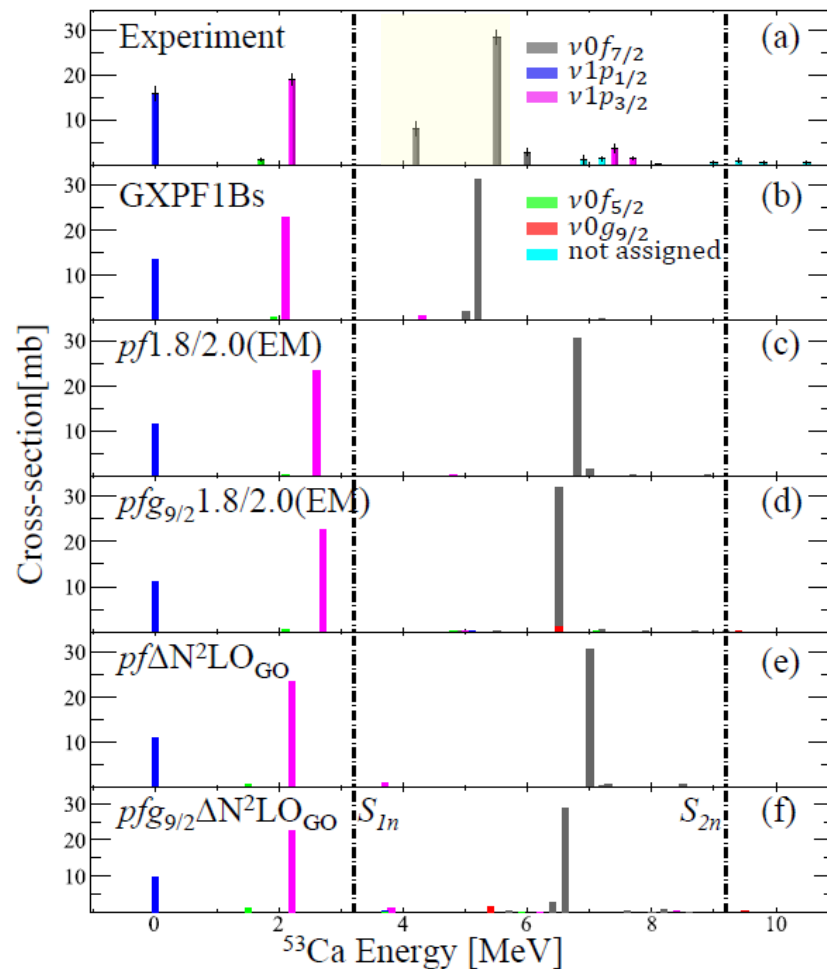
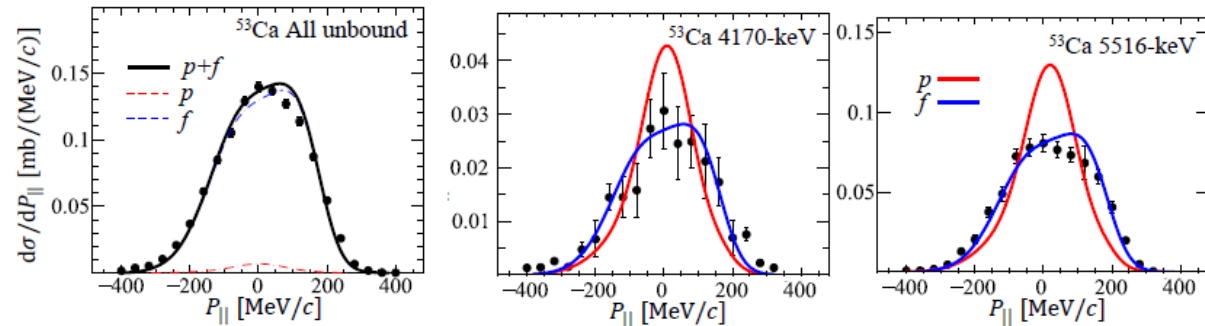
$$E_{ex} = E_{rel} + S_n + (E_\gamma)$$





5516-keV state: $\nu 0f_{7/2}$, $C^2S=6.5(3)$
 $\rightarrow$ nearly pure neutron-hole state
 (IPM: $C^2S=2J+1$)

PMD and $\sigma_{s.p.}$ from DWIA (K. Yoshida, K. Ogata)



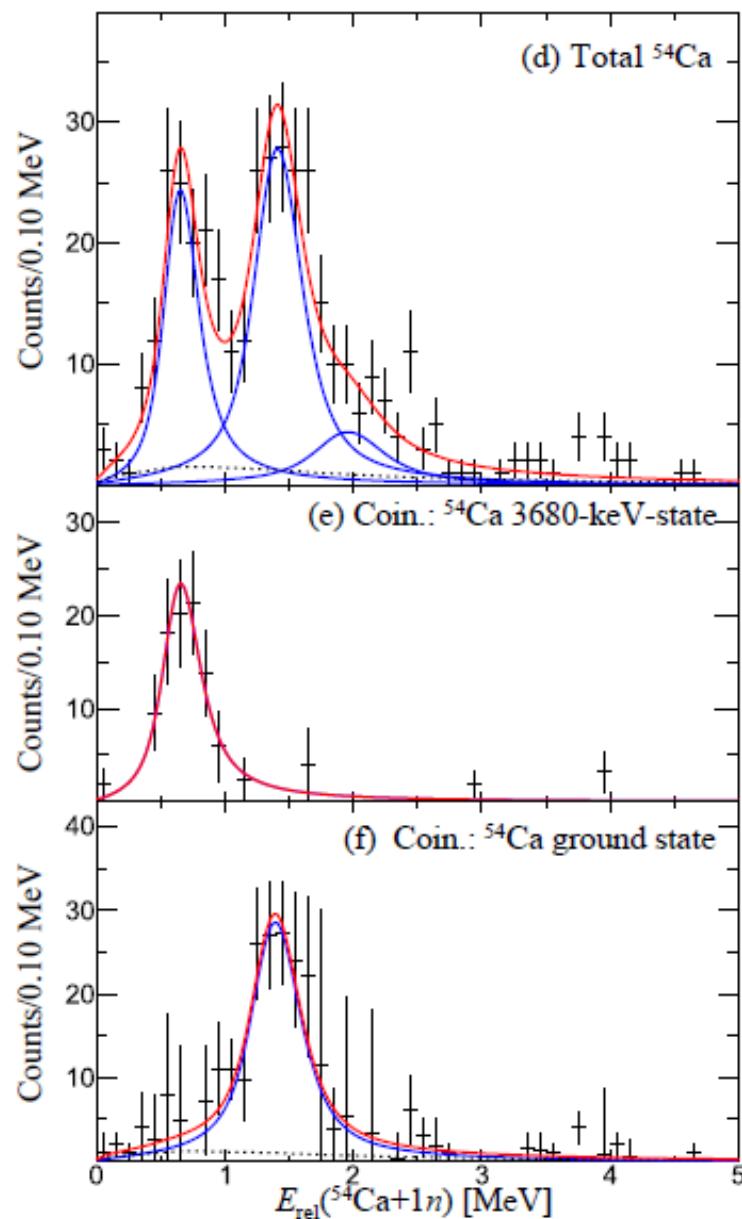
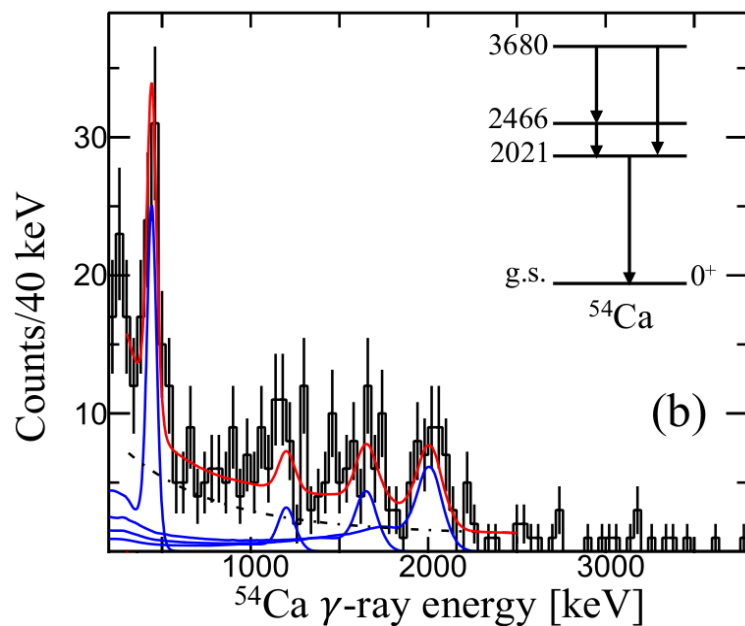
Shell model +
GXPF1Bs
(Y. Utsuno)

VS-IMSRG +
chiral NN+3N
(B. S. Hu, J. Holt)

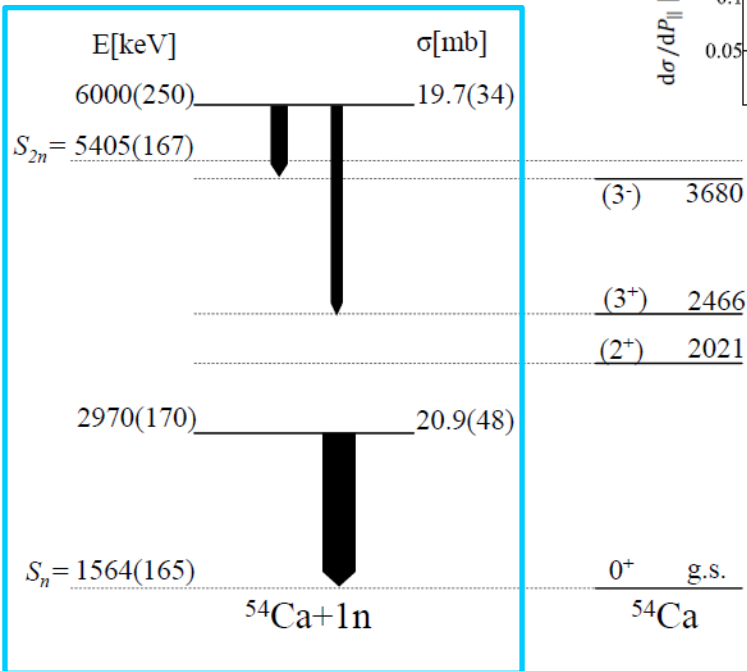
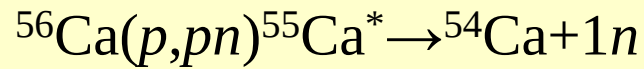
First invariant-mass measurement in ^{55}Ca



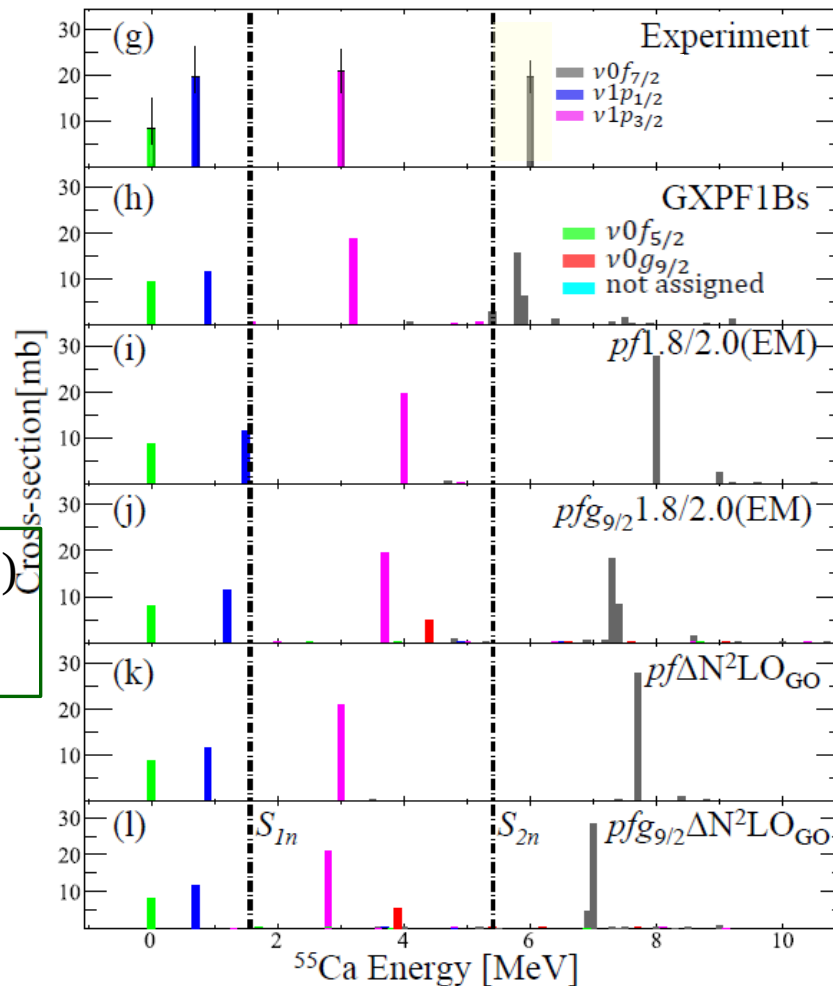
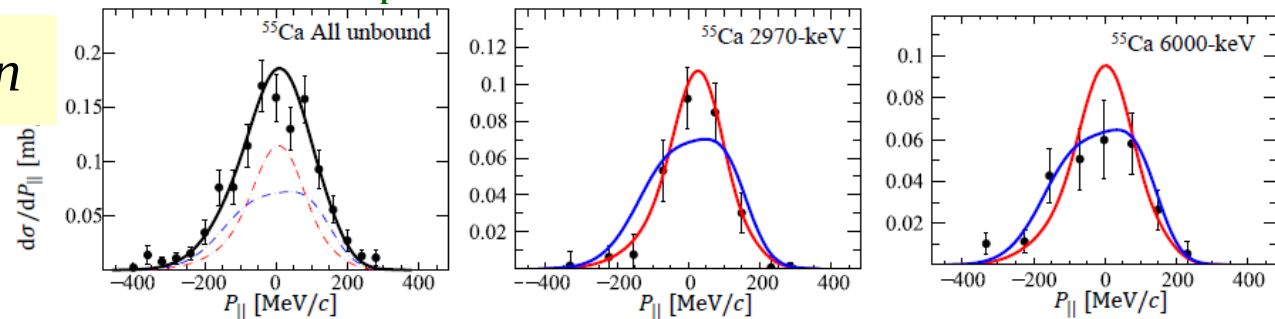
$$E_{\text{ex}} = E_{\text{rel}} + S_n + (E_\gamma)$$



PMD and $\sigma_{s.p.}$ from DWIA (K. Yoshida, K. Ogata)



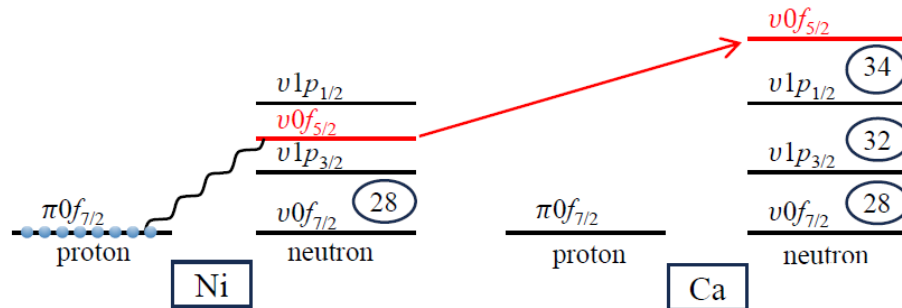
6000-keV state: $\nu 0f_{7/2}$, $C^2S=4.8-5.9(9)$
 → Mainly neutron-hole state



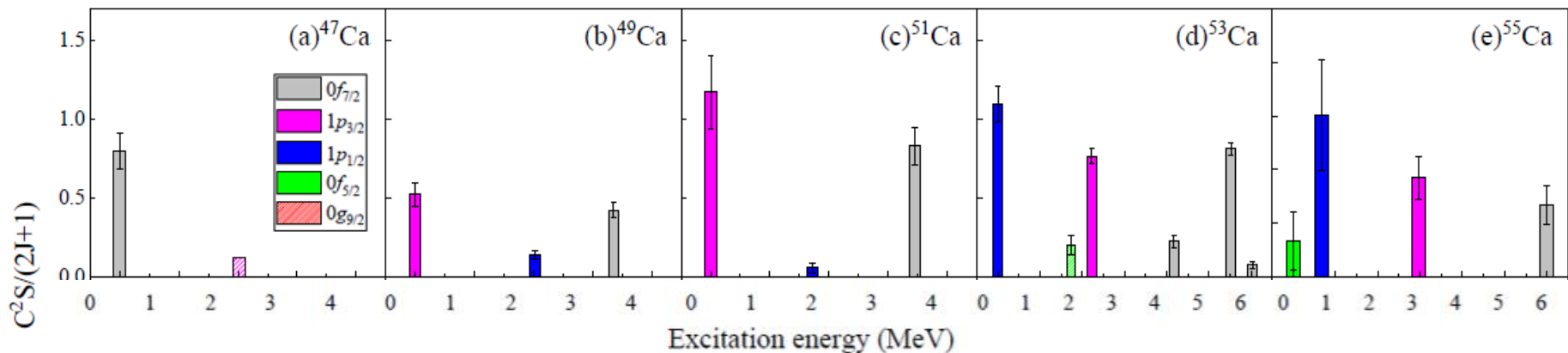
Shell model +
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(Y. Utsuno)

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(B. S. Hu, J. Holt)

Shell evolution in Ca to Ni for pf orbitals



π - $f_{7/2}$ not occupied $\rightarrow$
vanishing $j_>j_<$ proton-neutron
coupling shifts ν - $f_{5/2}$ above



Shell gap $f_{7/2}$ - $p_{3/2}$ orbitals = ~ 3 MeV

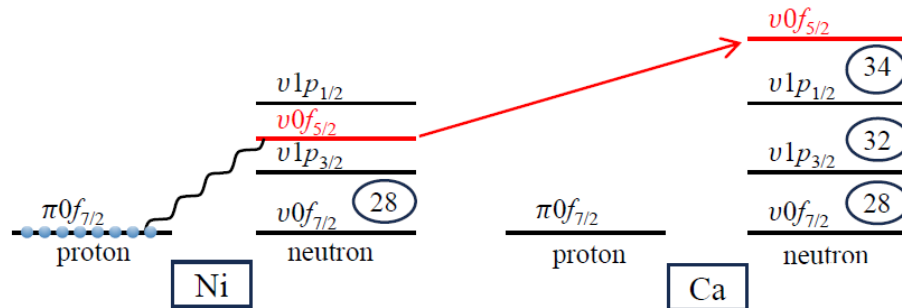
$\rightarrow$ robustness of $N=28$ shell closure with deeply bound ν - $f_{7/2}$ orbit

Persistence of $0f_{7/2}$ single-particle strength up to ^{54}Ca

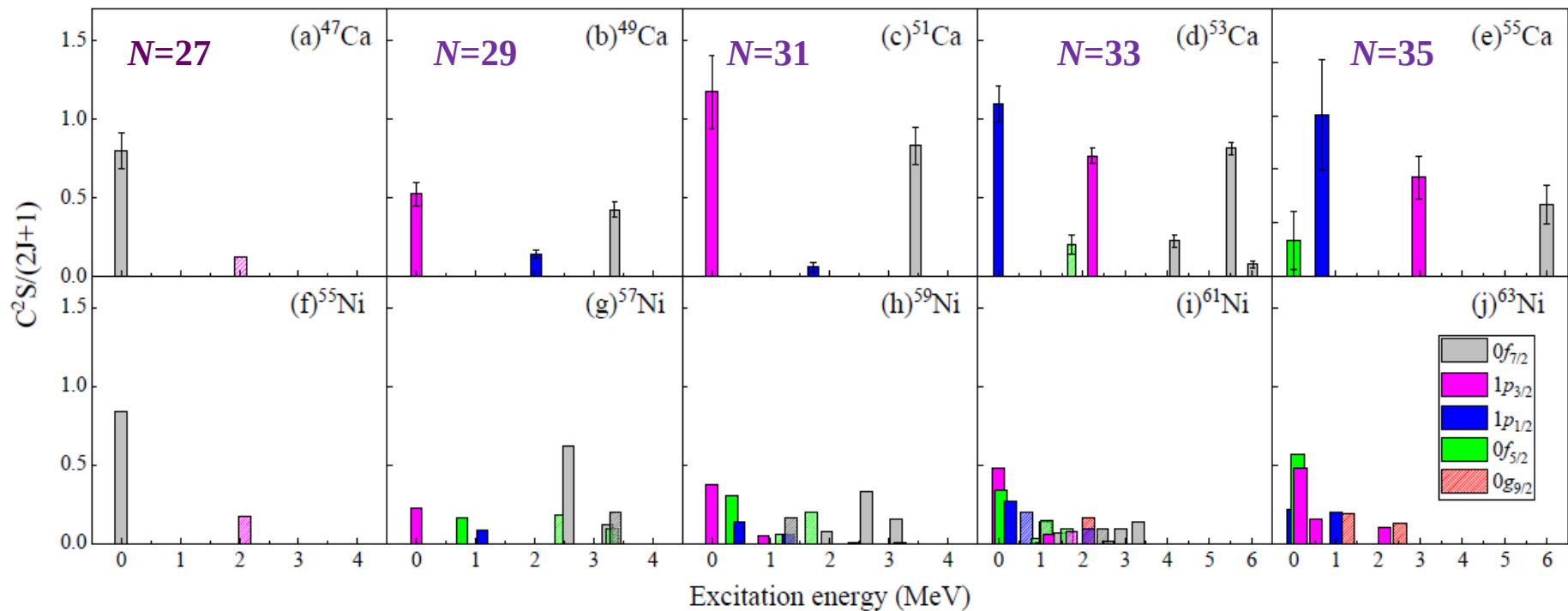
$\rightarrow$ absence of $0f_{5/2}$, $0g_{9/2}$ component – evidence for $N=32, 34$ magicity

Contraction with ^{49}Ca result – considerable reduction of $0f_{7/2}$ strength

Shell evolution in Ca to Ni for pf orbitals



$\pi f_{7/2}$ not occupied $\rightarrow$
vanishing $j_>j_<$ proton-neutron
coupling shifts $\nu f_{5/2}$ above



- The presence or absence of the $\pi f_{7/2}$ orbital has significant consequences on the strength distribution of single-particle orbitals (especially for $N_{\text{residue}} > 31$).

Conclusions

How strong is $N = 34$ shell closure ?

- Neutron knockout reaction from ^{54}Ca confirms strong $N = 34$ shell closure

Towards ^{60}Ca ?

- First spectroscopy of $^{56,58}\text{Ca}$ indicates the vanish of $N = 40$ shell in ^{60}Ca , and drives the dripline of Ca isotopes to at least ^{70}Ca

Evolution of $\nu\text{-}f_{7/2}$ orbital along Ca ?

- Probing unbound states in $^{53,55}\text{Ca}$ by neutron removal from deeply bound orbitals shows persistence of $0f_{7/2}$ single-particle strength up to ^{54}Ca
- Robustness of $N=28$ shell closure
- Another evidence for $N= 32, 34$ magicity

Ca results -- SEASTAR collaboration

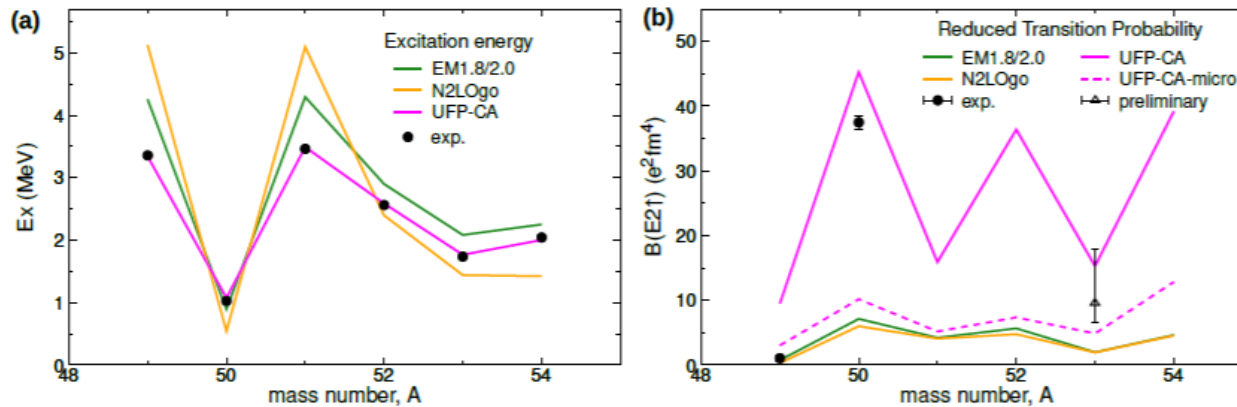
N. Alamanos, T. Aumann, G. de Angelis, N. Aoi, H. Baba, C. Barbieri, C. Bertulani, C. Bernardis, A. Blazhev, S. Boissinot, F. Browne, A. Bruce, B. Cakirli, B. Cederwall, S. Chen, N. Cooper, A. Corsi, M. L. Cortés, L.X. Chung, F. Delaunay, B. Ding, Z. Dombradi, P. Doornenbal, T. Duguet, Z. Elekes, M. Enciu, F. Flavigny, S. Franchoo, R. Gerst, J. Gibelin, A. Gillibert, S. Go, M. Gorska, A. Gottardo, S. Grevy, J.D. Holt, E. Ideguchi, T. Isobe, M. Juhasz, A. Jungclaus, N. Kobayashi, T. Kobayashi, T. Koiwai, Y. Kondo, W. Korten, T. Kroell, Y. Kubota, I. Kuti, V. Lapoux, S. LeBlond, S. Lenzi, M. Lettmann, J. Lee, S. Lenzi, P. Li, B.D. Lin, H. Liu, X. Liu, Z. Liu, G. Lorusso, C. Louchart, R. Lozeva, F.M. Marques, I. Matea, K. Matsui, Y. Matsuda, M. Matsushita, J. Menendez, D. Mengoni, S. Michimasa, T. Miyazaki, S. Momiyama, P. Morfouace, K. Moschner, T. Motobayashi, T. Nakamura, D. Napoli, F. Naqvi, M. Niikura, M. Nishimura, S. Nishimura, C. Nita, F. Nowacki, A. Obertelli, L. Olivier, N. Orr, S. Ota, H. Otsu, T. Otsuka, N. Paul, N. Pietralla, Zs. Podolyak, E.C. Pollacco, G. Potel, G. Randisi, F. Recchia, T.R. Rodriguez, E. Sahin, H. Sakurai, C. Santamaria, M. Sasano, H. Sato, A. Schwenk, C. Shand, Y. Shiga, Y. Shimizu, S. Shimoura, J. Simonis, P.A. Soederstroem, D. Sohler, Y. Sun, V. Soma, I. Stefan, D. Steppenbeck, T. Sumikama, Y. Sun, D. Suzuki, H. Suzuki, S. Takeuchi, J. Tanaka, M. Tanaka, R. Taniuchi, Y. Togano, Y. Tsunoda, K.N. Tuan, T. Uesaka, Y. Utsuno, J. Valiente Dobon, Zs. Vajta, D. Verney, H. Wang, V. Werner, K. Wimmer, Zh. Xu, R. Yokoyama, K. Yoneda, K. Yoshida, R. Zidarova

Upcoming Experiment

Coulomb excitation of $^{50-54}\text{Ca}$: E2 strength beyond $N=28$

Spokesperson: Sidong Chen (University of York)

June 2025,
RIKEN

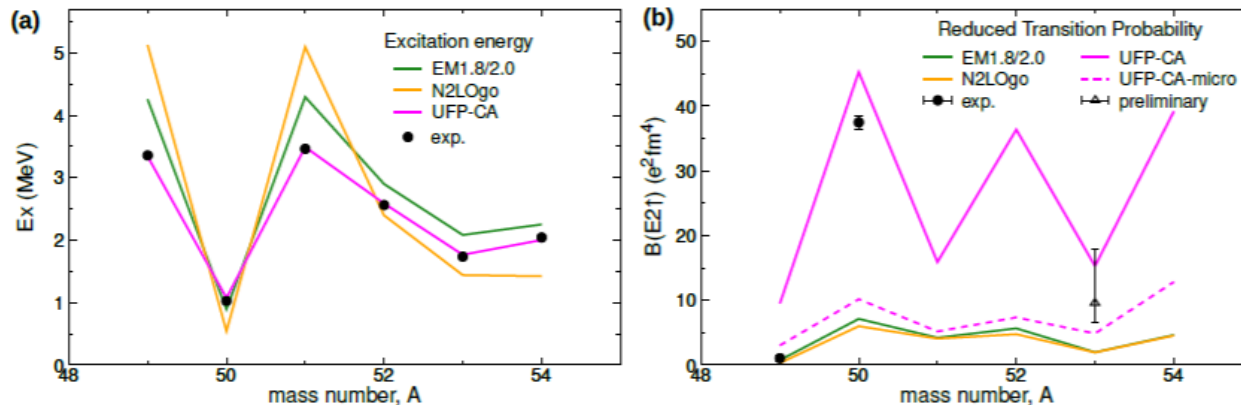


Upcoming Experiment

Coulomb excitation of $^{50-54}\text{Ca}$: E2 strength beyond $N=28$

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New High Resolution Scintillation Array

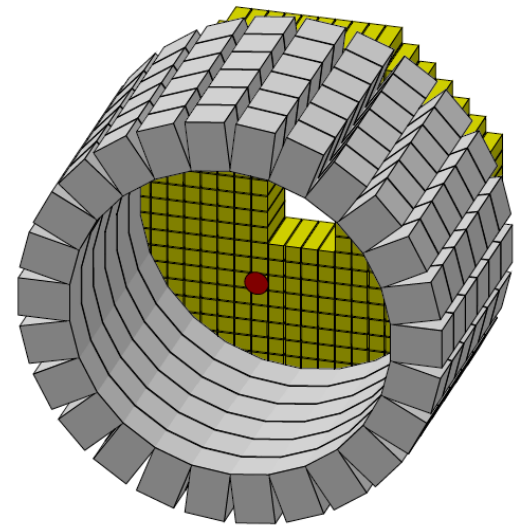
HYPATIA : **HY**brid **P**hoton detector **A**rray
To Investigate **A**tomc nuclei

Talk by Pieter Doornenbal

Towards next-generation in-beam gamma-ray spectroscopy at the RIBF with HYPATIA

May 27 (Tue), 12:10 PM

Room 1: 2F Grand Ballroom #201-202





Thank you for your attention



The University of Hong Kong