

Importance of tensor interactions in nuclear structure

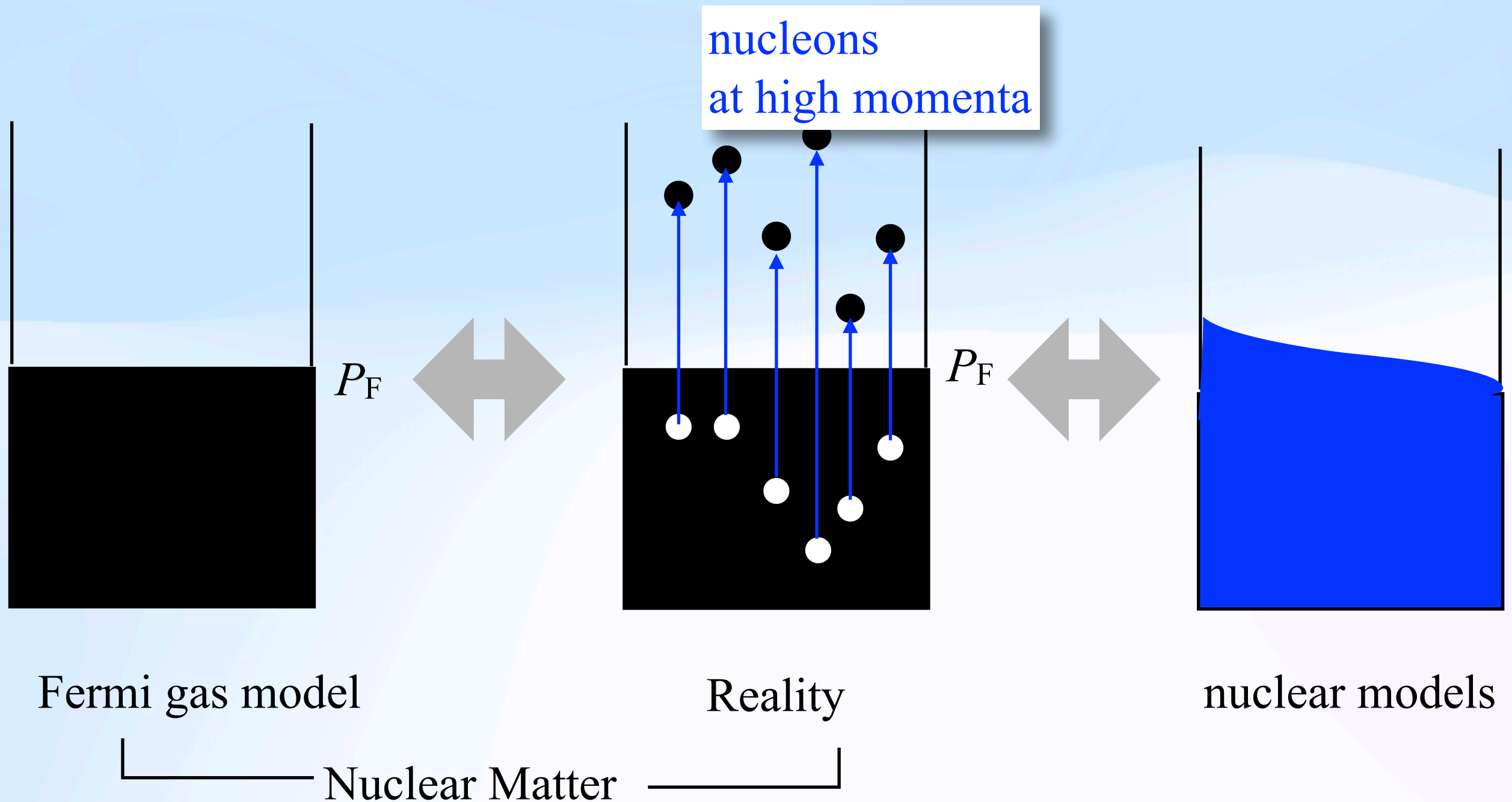
Understanding nuclear structure
with tensor interactions!

Isao Tanihata, RCNP, Osaka University

@EMMI Physics Day
July 22, 2025

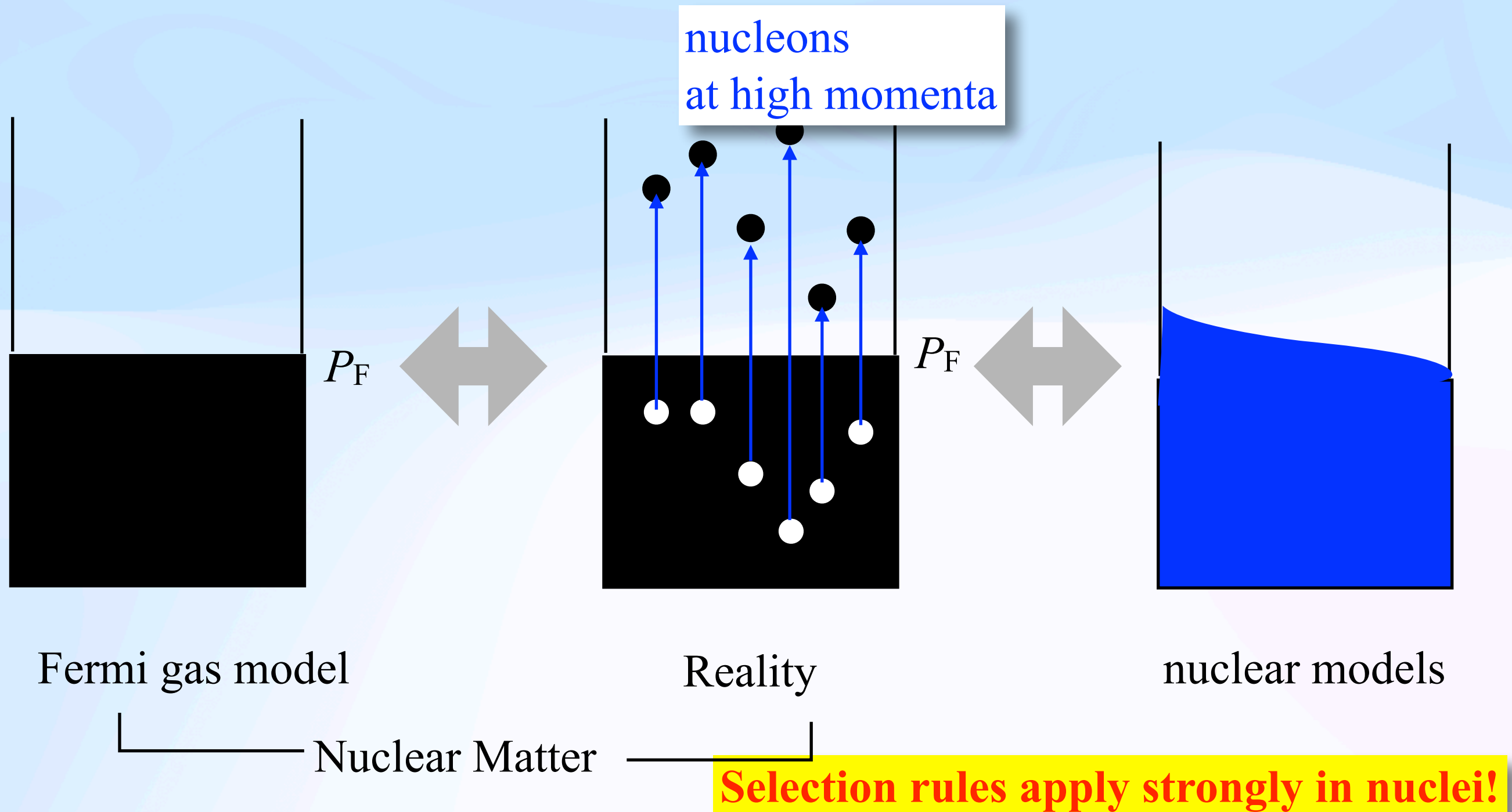
High momentum space in nuclei

- **Nuclear matter**
 - $E/A = 16 \text{ MeV}$, $\rho = 1.6 \text{ nucleons/fm}^3$, $P_F \sim 1.2 \text{ fm}^{-1}$.



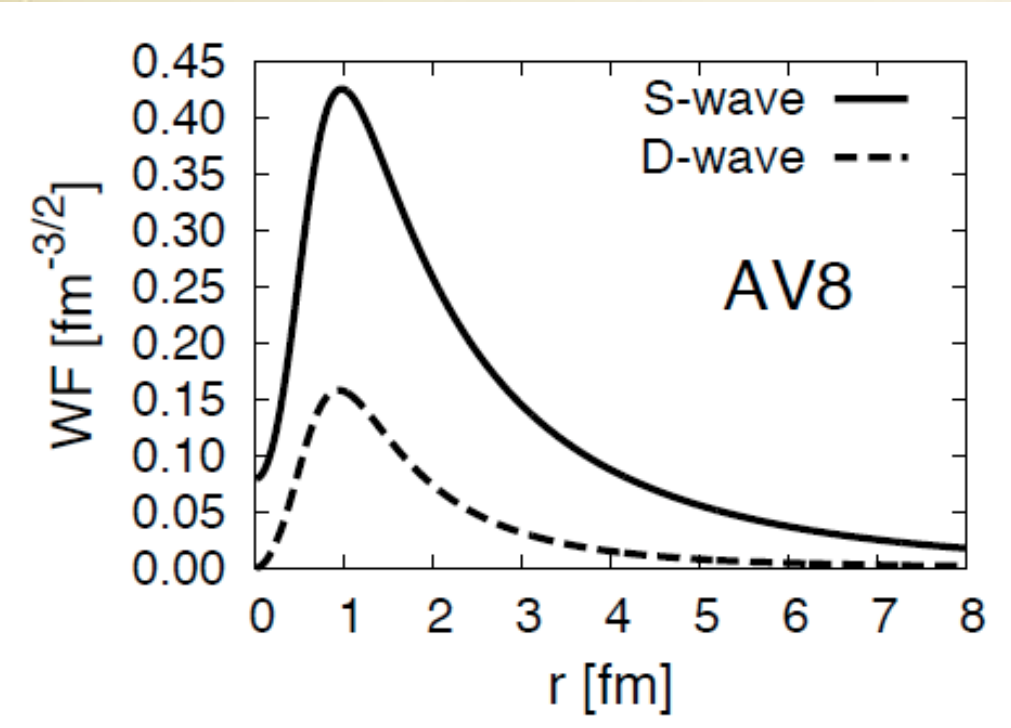
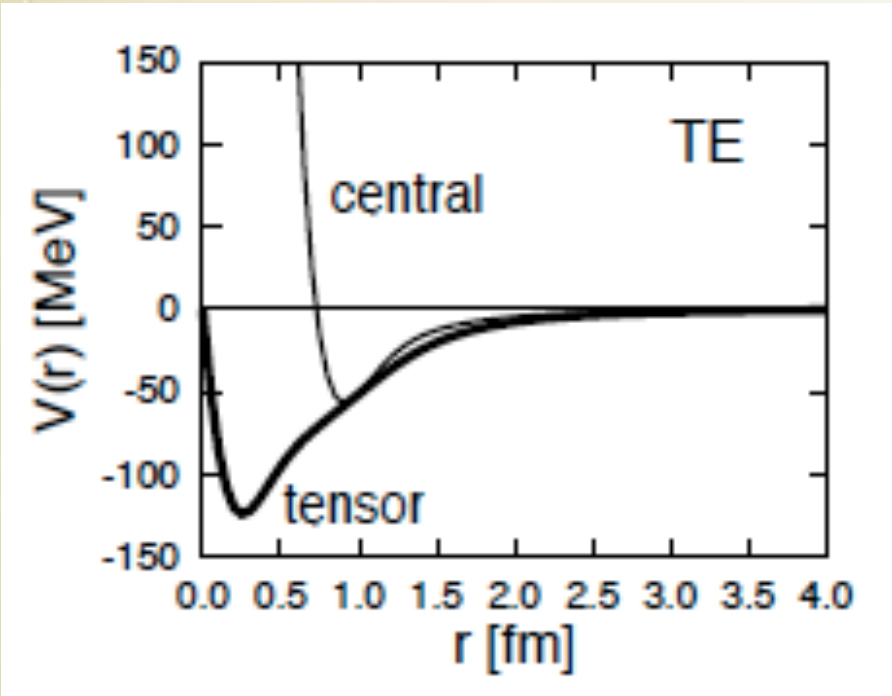
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In fact

Deuteron is bound by D-wave



$S=1$ and $L=0$ or 2

Binding of deuteron (1^+)

Energy	-2.24 [MeV]
--------	-------------

Kinetic	19.88
(SS)	11.31
(DD)	8.57

Central	-4.46
(SS)	-3.96
(DD)	-0.50

Tensor	-16.64
(SD)	-18.93
(DD)	2.29

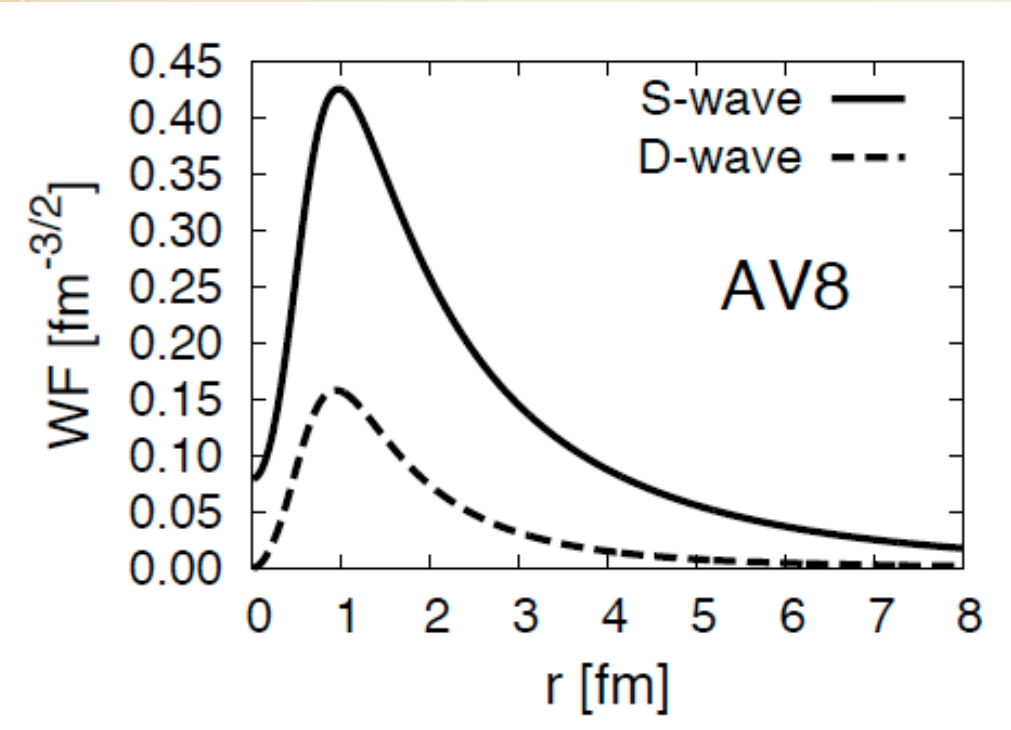
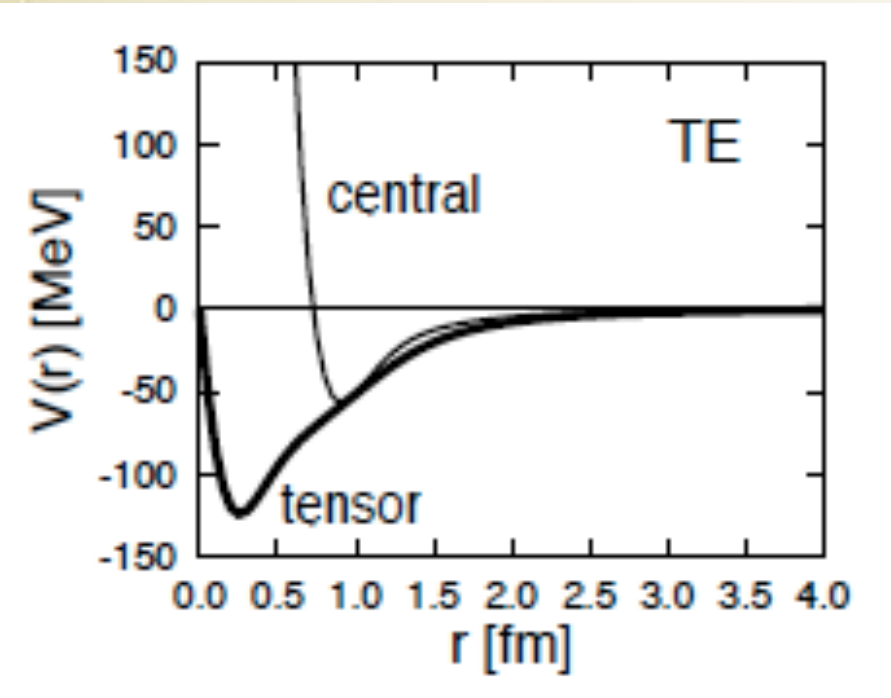
LS	-1.02
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$P(D)$	5.78 [%]
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Radius	1.96 [fm]
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In fact

Deuteron is bound by D-wave

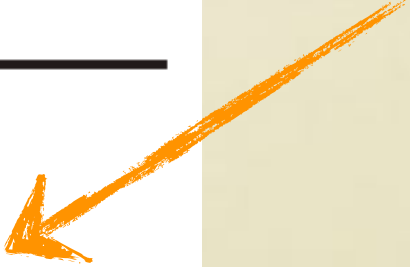


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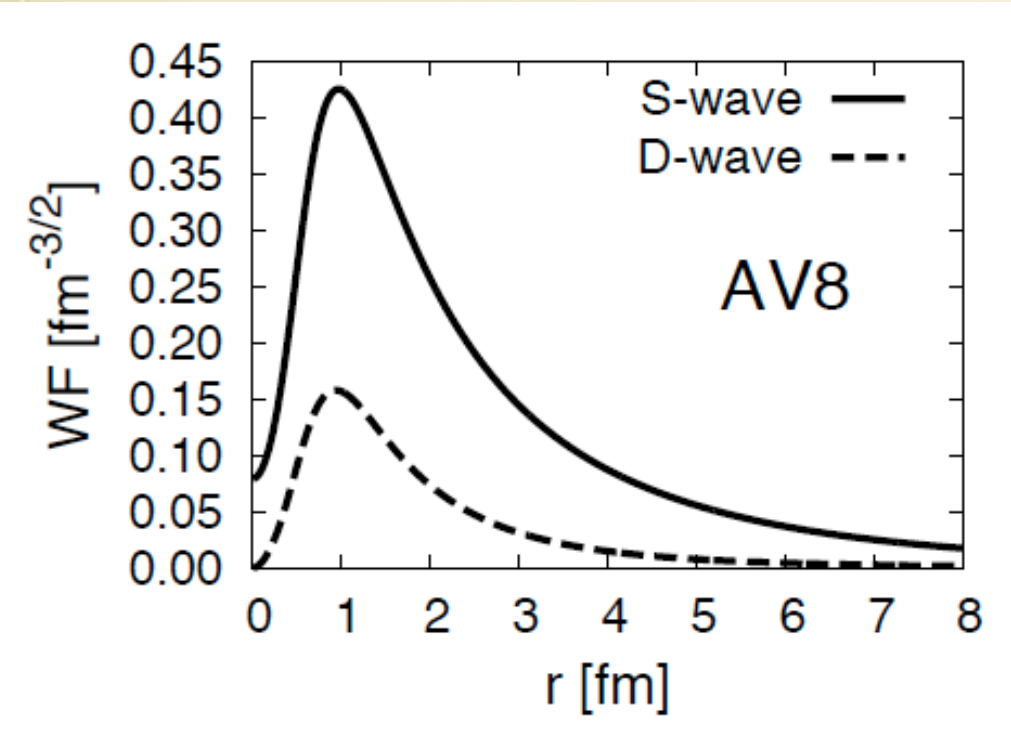
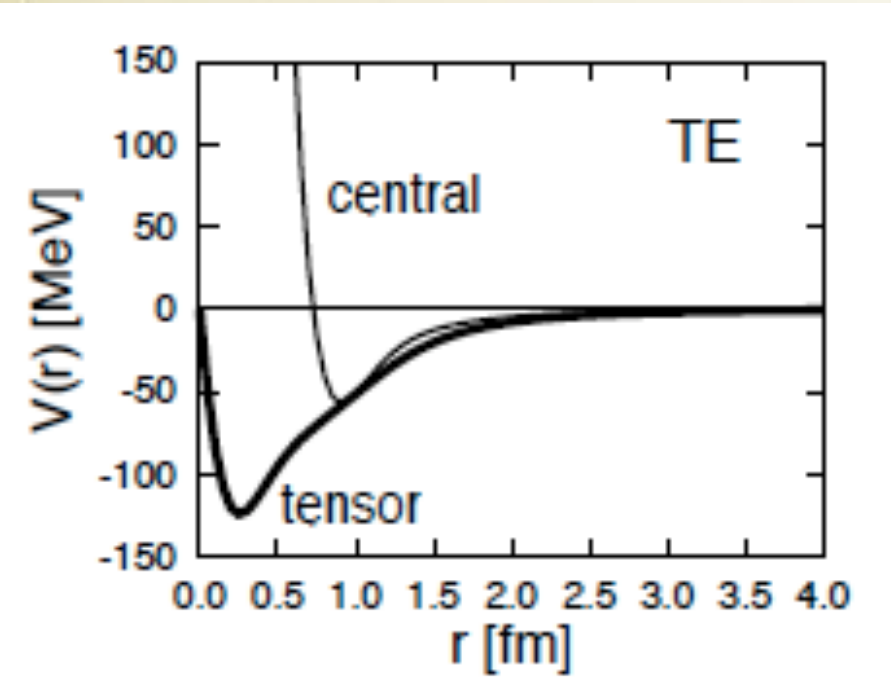
D wave has a large relative momentum



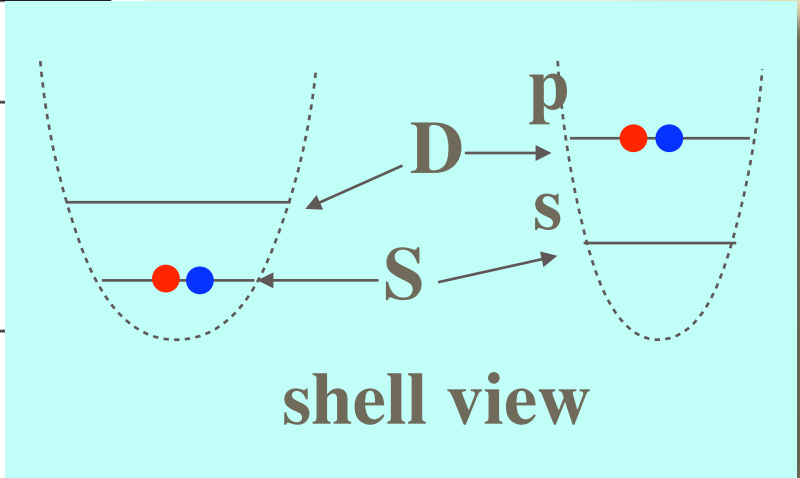
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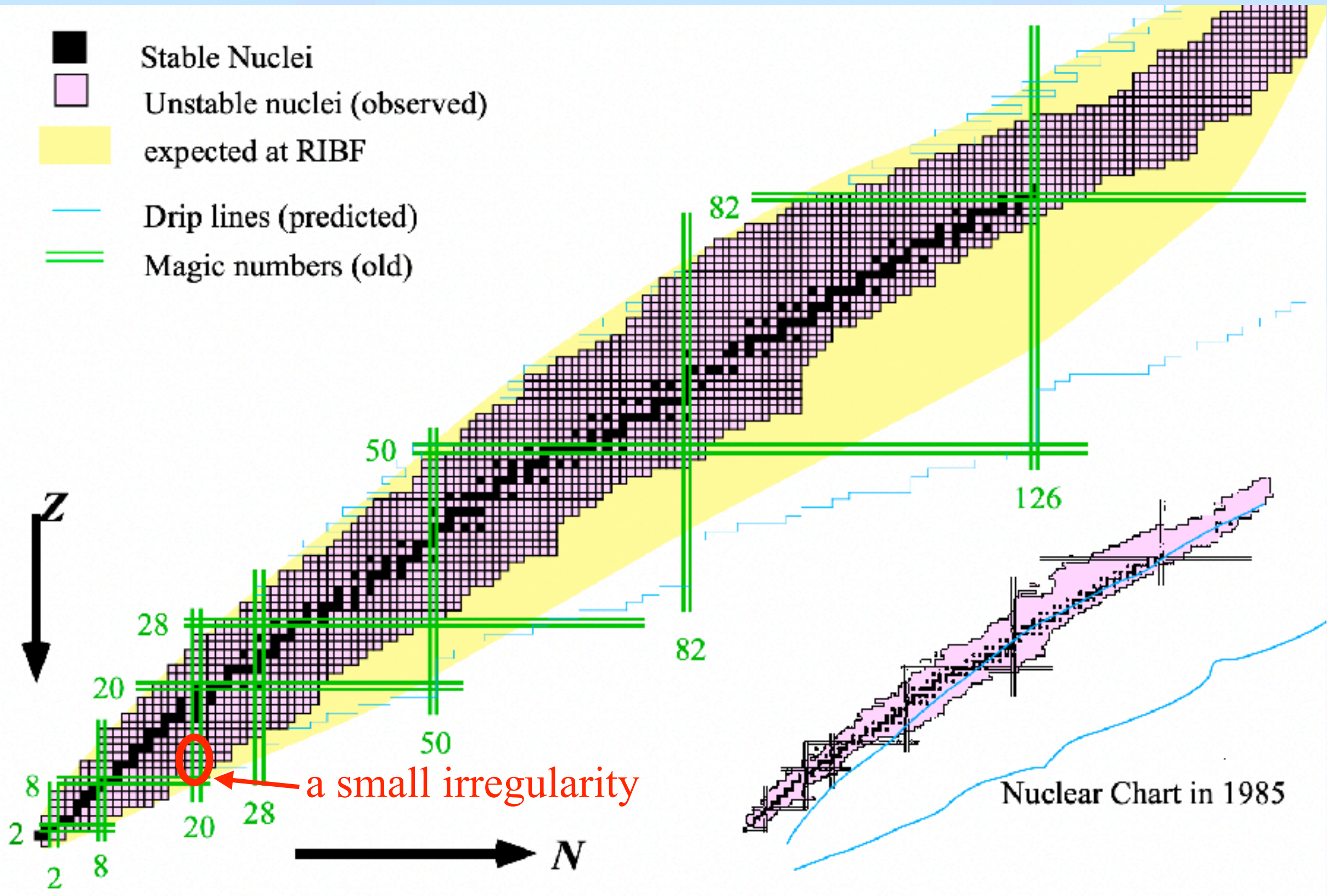


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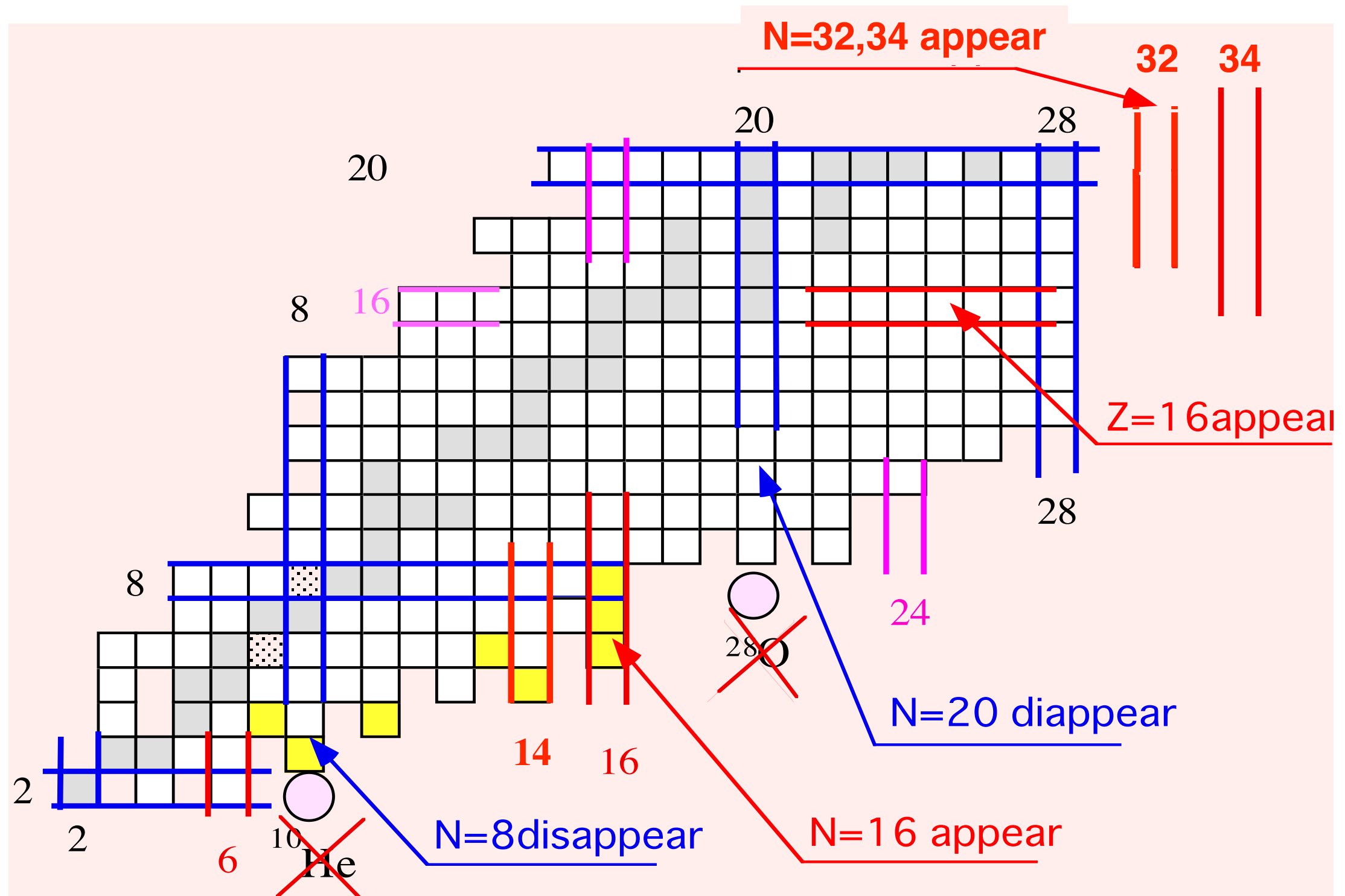


Beautiful magic numbers

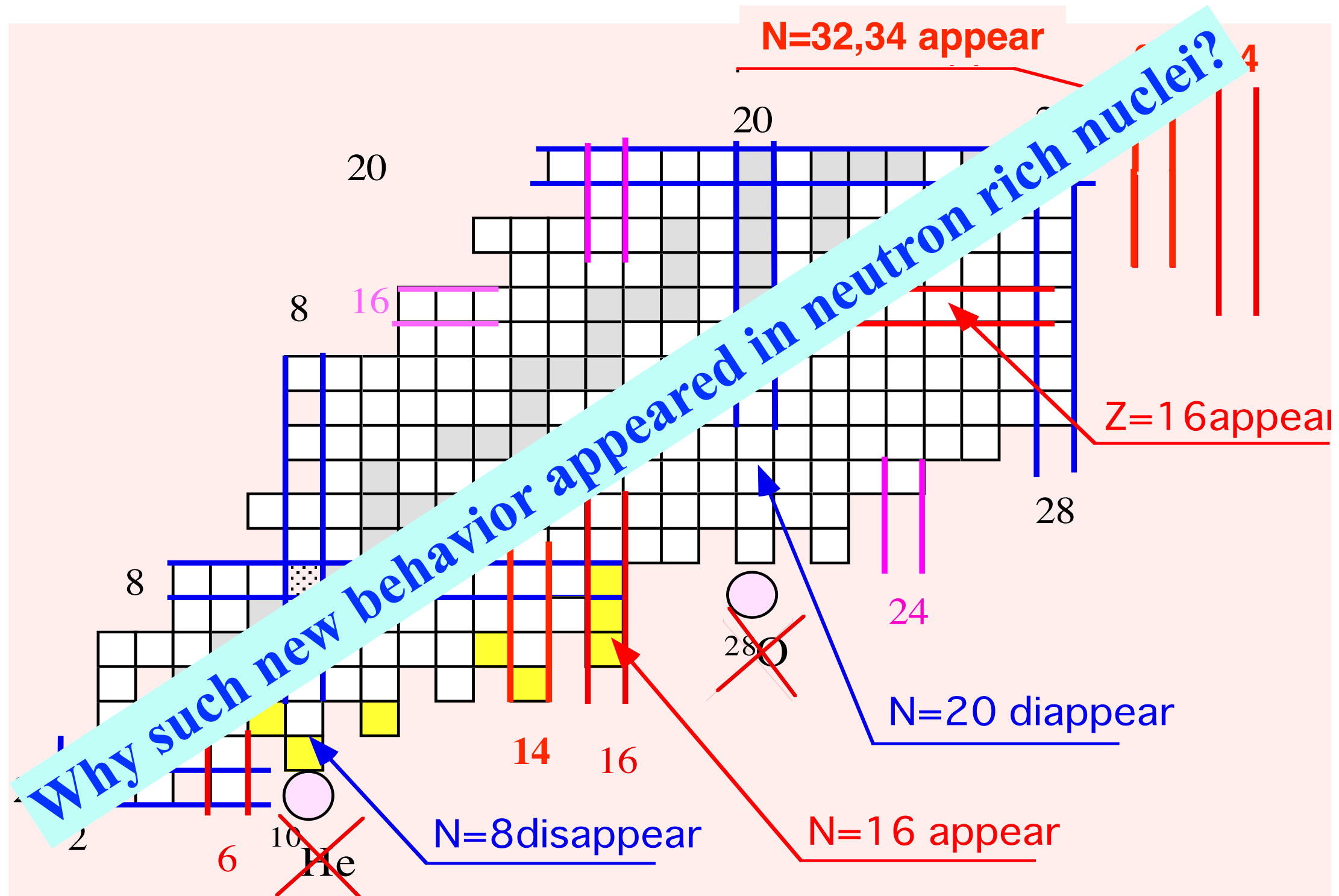
Until ~1990



Studies with Radioactive Beams changed the Map of Nuclei



Studies with Radioactive Beams changed the Map of Nuclei



Known importance of tensor force in nuclei

Tanihata, H. Toki, T. Kajino, Handbook of nuclear physics, Springer Nature 2023, Section IX.

- Deuteron is not bound without tensor forces. S+D waves.
- Essential role for binding light nuclei.
- Isosceles magnetic moments of mirror nuclei.
- Spin-orbit coupling
- **Inversion of $(1/2^+)$ state in ^{11}Be ground state and $s_{1/2}$ and $p_{1/2}$ mixing in a neutron halo nucleus ^{11}Li .**
- Disappearance of traditional magic numbers and appearance of new magic numbers in nuclei far from the stability line.
- **High-momentum components of nucleons in nuclei.**

Mystery of s-wave behavior in ^{11}Be and ^{11}Li orbitals

- ^{11}Be ground state is $1/2^+$ instead of $1/2^-$.

- I. Talmi and I. Unna, PRL 4 (1960) 469.*

They found that this change can be understood as shell model behavior due to single and two particle residual interactions. However no realistic calculations has been done.

- “Coral nucleon forces” by C. Foreseen, P. Navratilova, and W. E. Ormand, UCRL-JRNL-208555 (2004) .*

does not succeed to make $1/2^+$ ground state.

- “First principle calculations using chiral 2-,3-nucleon interactions with continuum effects” by A. Calci, P. Navrátil, PRL 117 (2016) 242501.*

- A tiny bit inversion of $1/2^+$.

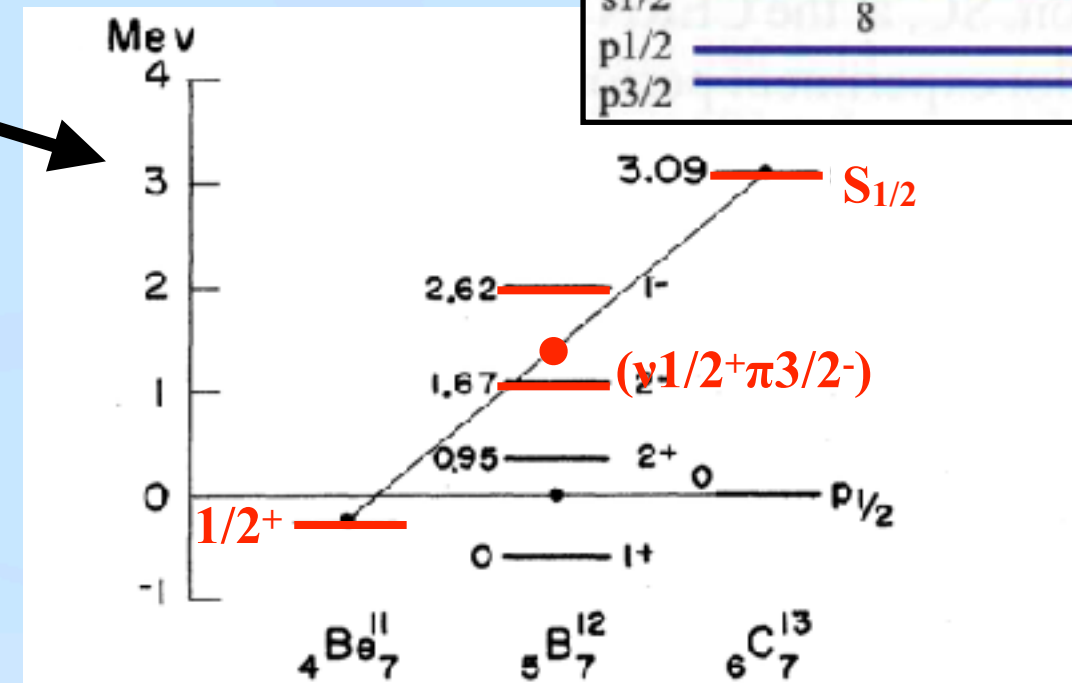
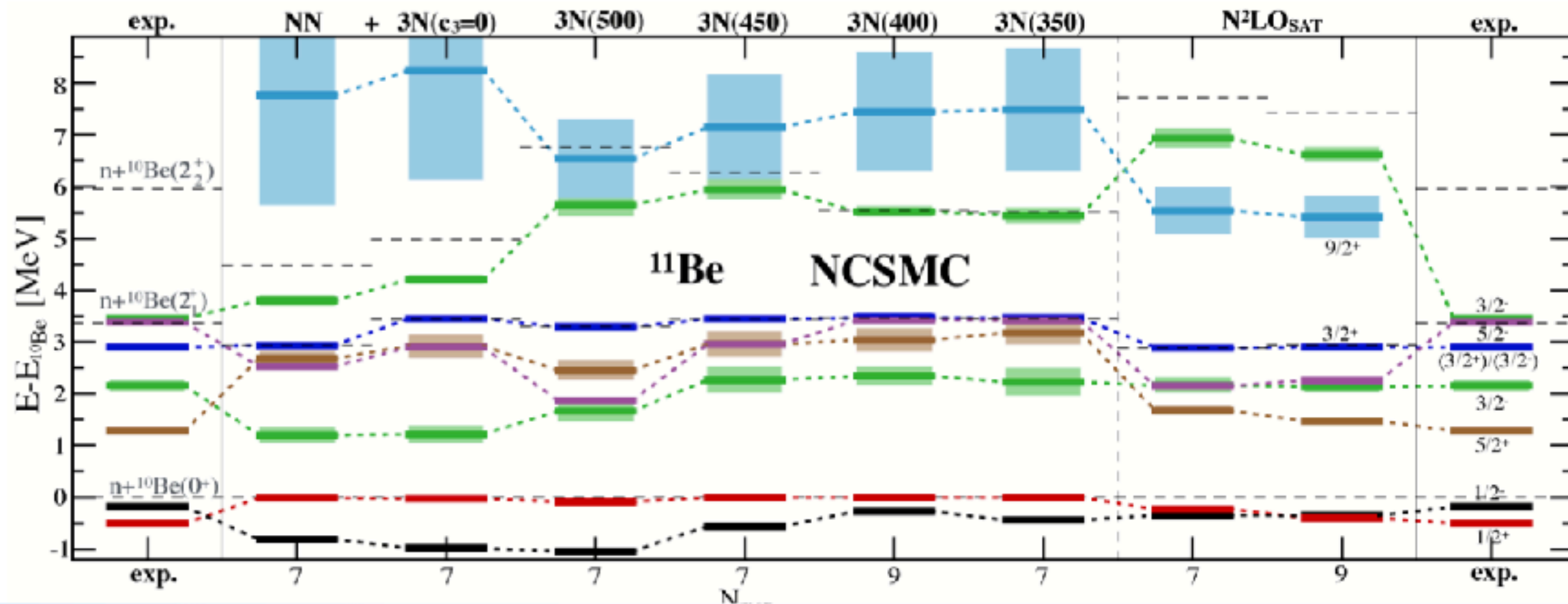


FIG. 1. Competition between $s_{1/2}$ and $p_{1/2}$ levels.



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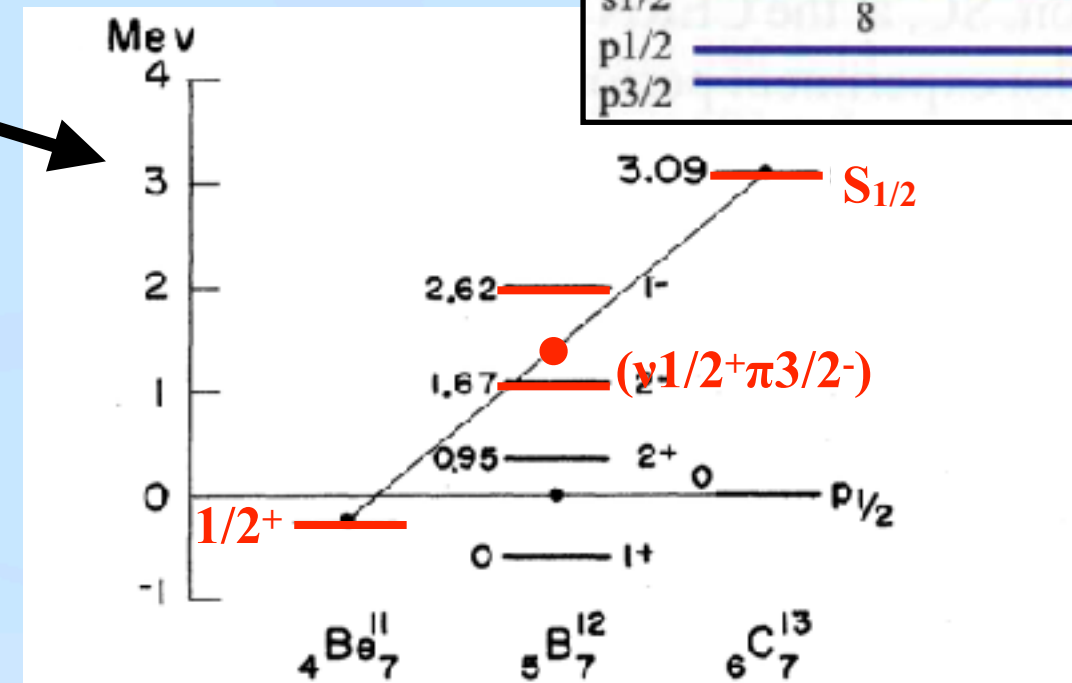
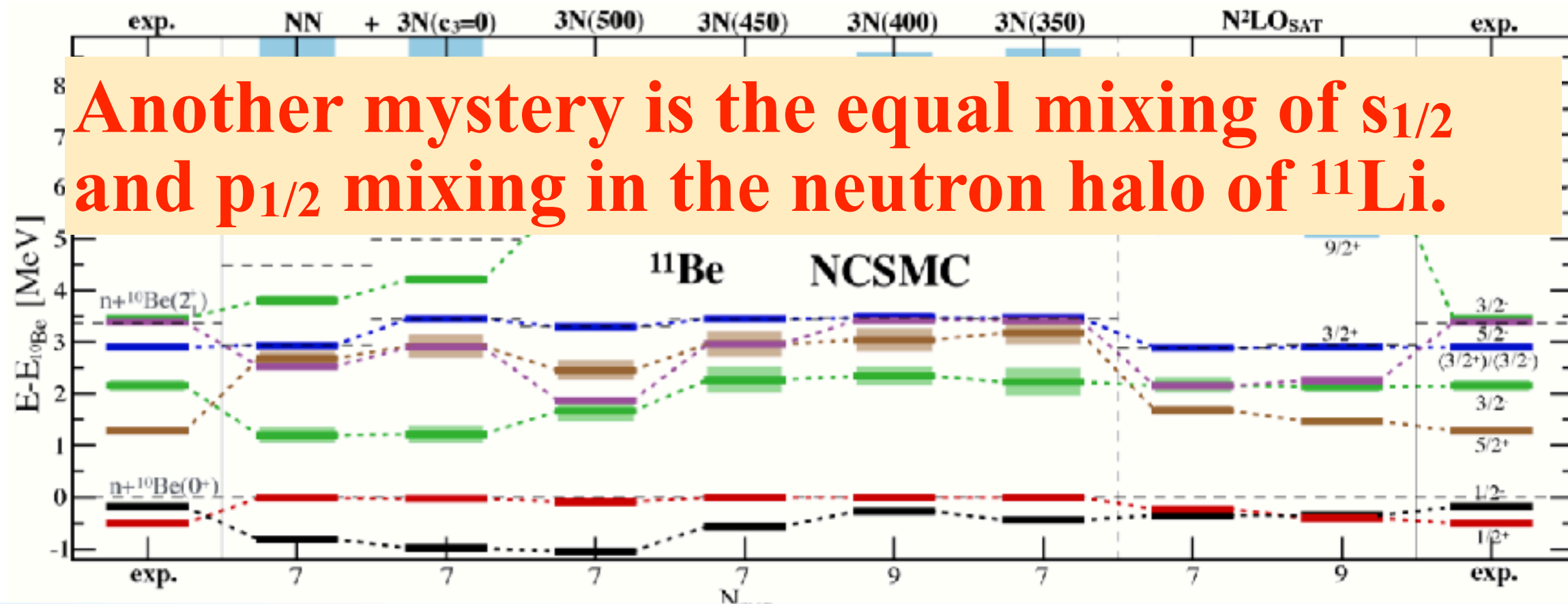


FIG. 1. Competition between $s_{1/2}$ and $p_{1/2}$ levels.



Another mystery is the equal mixing of $s_{1/2}$ and $p_{1/2}$ mixing in the neutron halo of ^{11}Li .

Tensor interactions

- 80% of binding energy of nuclei are from pion exchange interactions.
 - *C. Pieper and R. B. Wiringa, Ann. Rev. Nucl. Part. Sci. 51 (2001), VMC+GFMC.*
- Pion interaction includes strong tensor interaction.

$$\frac{\langle \Psi | V_{\pi} | \Psi \rangle}{\langle \Psi | V_{NN} | \Psi \rangle} \sim 80\%$$

Tensor interactions from a view of Shell Structure

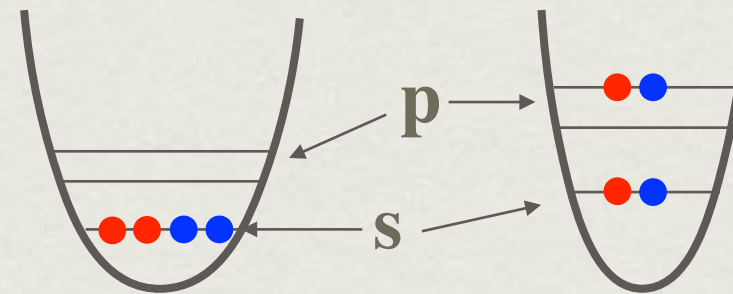
Tensor Optimized Shell Model (TOSM)

Myo, Toki, Ikeda, Kato, Sugimoto, PTP 117 (2006)

0p-0h + 2p-2h

$$\Phi(^4\text{He}) = \sum_i C_i \psi_i(\{b_\alpha\}) = C_1 (0s)^4 + C_2 (0s)^2(\overline{0p}_{1/2})^2 + \dots$$

size parameter: $b_{0s} \neq b_{\overline{0p}}$



Energy variation

$$H = \sum_{i=1}^A t_i - T_G + \sum_{i < j}^A v_{ij}, \quad v_{ij} = v_{ij}^C + v_{ij}^T + v_{ij}^{LS} + v_{ij}^{Cmb}$$

$$\delta \frac{\langle \Phi | H | \Phi \rangle}{\langle \Phi | \Phi \rangle} = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{\partial \langle H - E \rangle}{\partial b_\alpha} = 0, \quad \frac{\partial \langle H - E \rangle}{\partial C_i} = 0.$$

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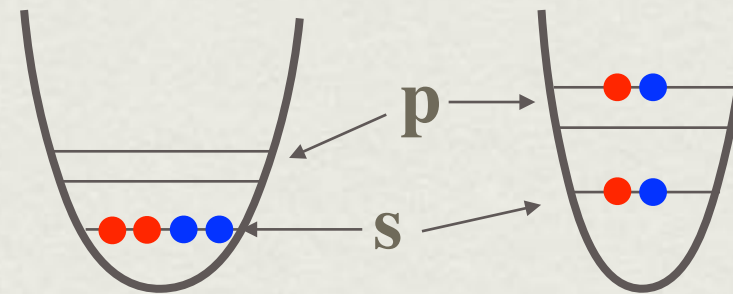
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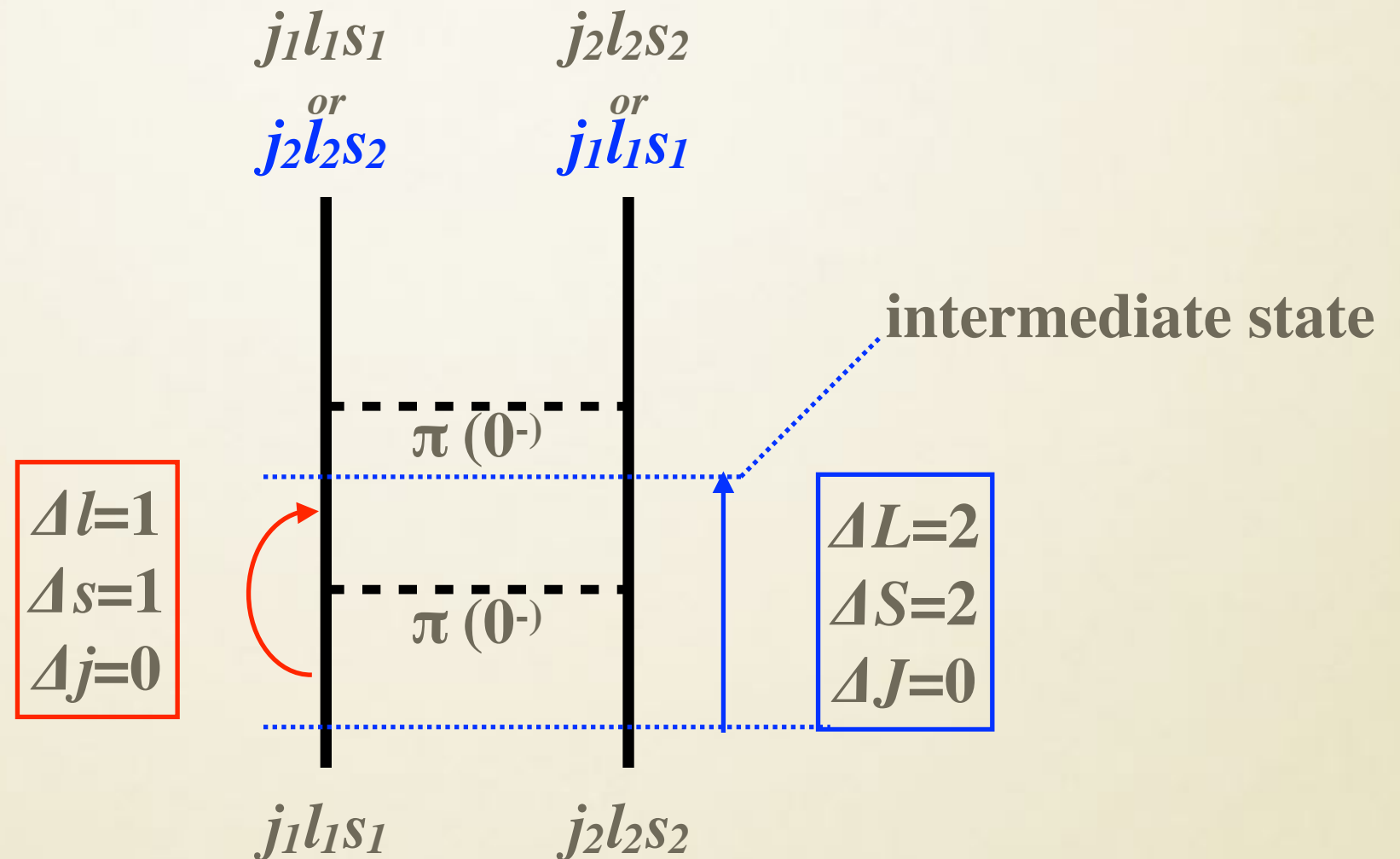
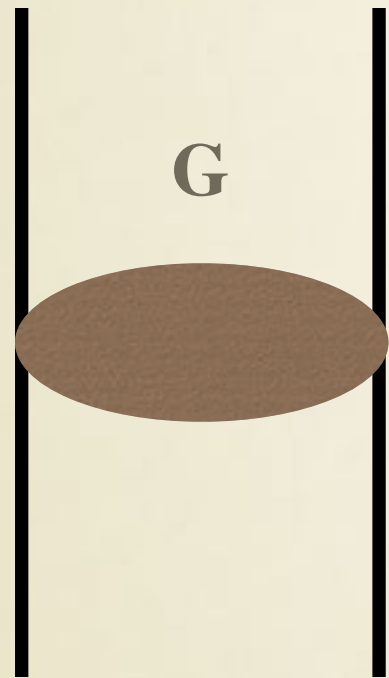
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It is not a perturbation model!

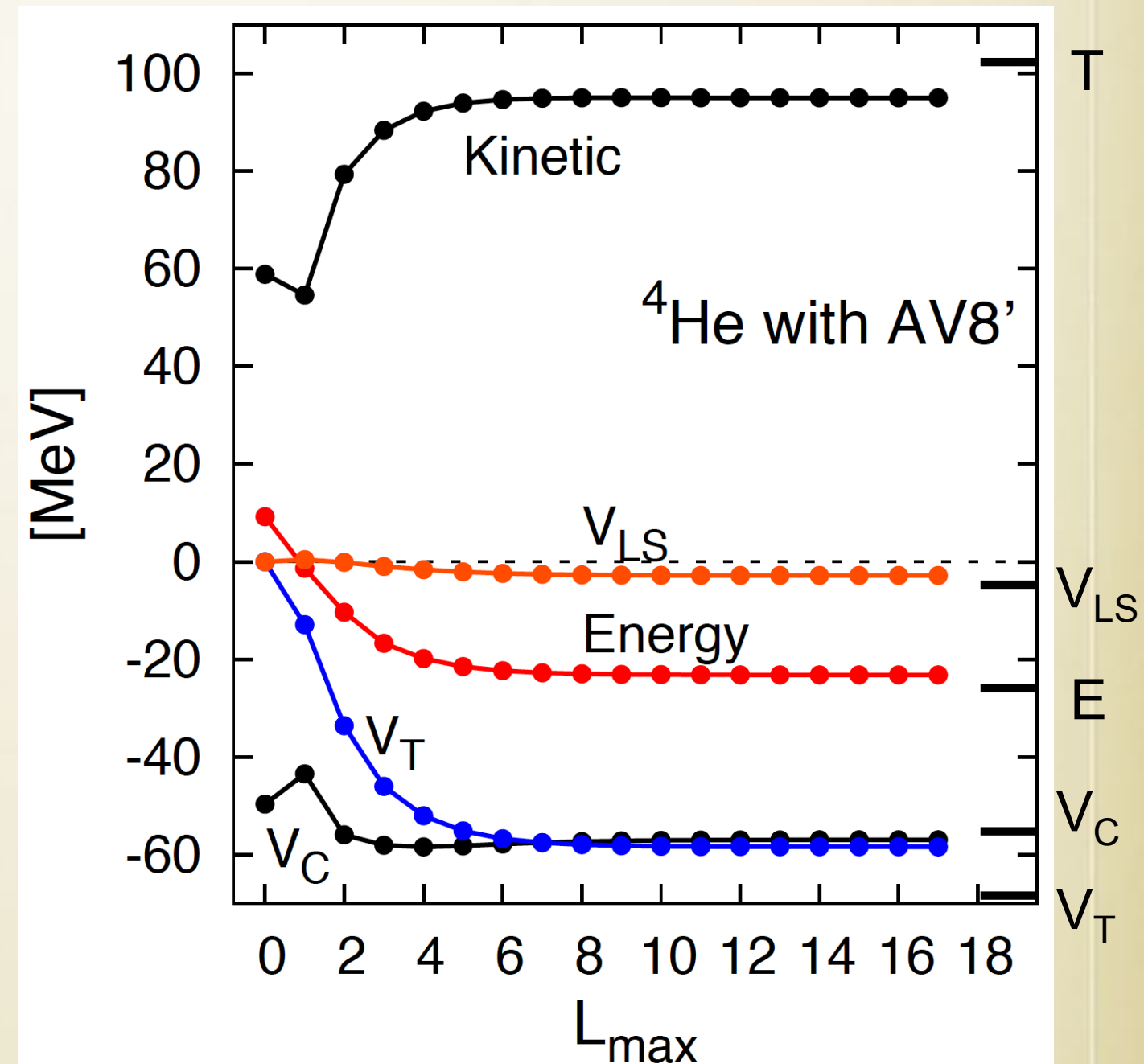
Selection rule of the tensor interaction



Tensor interaction in nucleus

${}^4\text{He}$

- V_T contribute from higher l orbitals and convergence is slow.
- 2p-2h excitations of p-n pair under $\Delta S=2, \Delta L=2$ provide tensor energies.
- Tensor interactions give ~ 60 MeV of potential energy.
- **Remember** $l=1$ excitation already gives ~ 14 MeV of potential energy.
- Higher l contribute more but...



Tensor Optimized Shell Model by T. Myo, H. Toki and K. Ikeda, Progr. Theor. Phys. **121** 511 (2009)

The most important 2p-2h configuration

Configurations up to $l=1$

T. Myo, K. Kato, and K. Ikeda, PTP 113, (2005) 763.

$$\Psi(^4\text{He}) = \sum_{i=1}^6 a_i \Phi_i ,$$

$$\Phi_1 = (0s_{1/2})_{00}^4 ,$$

$$\Phi_2 = [(0s_{1/2})_{01}^2, (0p_{1/2})_{01}^2]_{00} ,$$

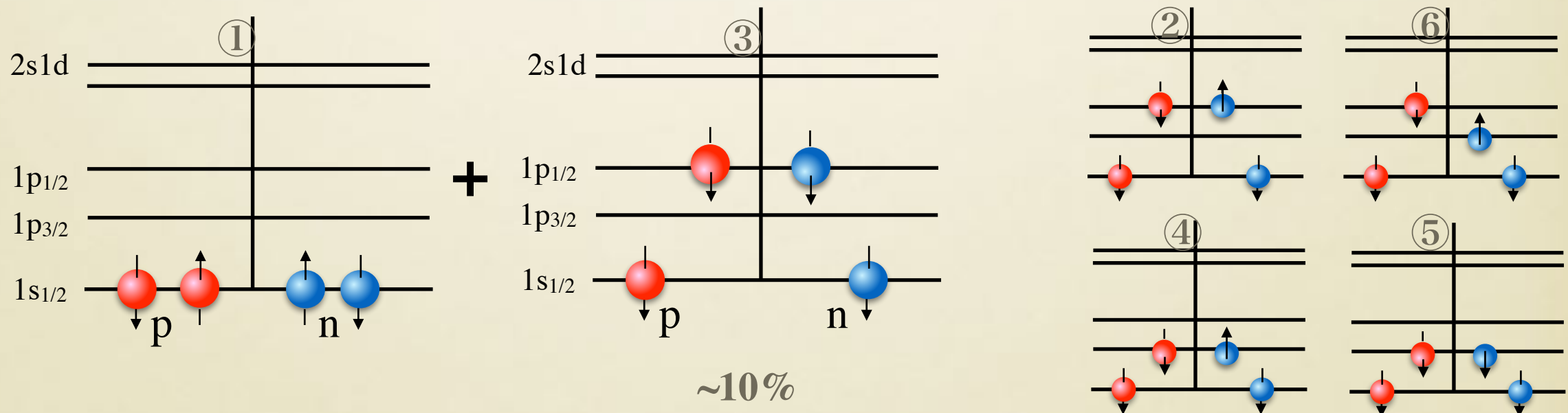
$$\Phi_3 = [(0s_{1/2})_{10}^2, (0p_{1/2})_{10}^2]_{00} ,$$

$$\Phi_4 = [(0s_{1/2})_{01}^2, (0p_{3/2})_{01}^2]_{00} ,$$

$$\Phi_5 = [(0s_{1/2})_{10}^2, (0p_{3/2})_{10}^2]_{00} ,$$

$$\Phi_6 = [(0s_{1/2})_{10}^2, [(0p_{1/2})(0p_{3/2})]_{10}]_{00}$$

^4He



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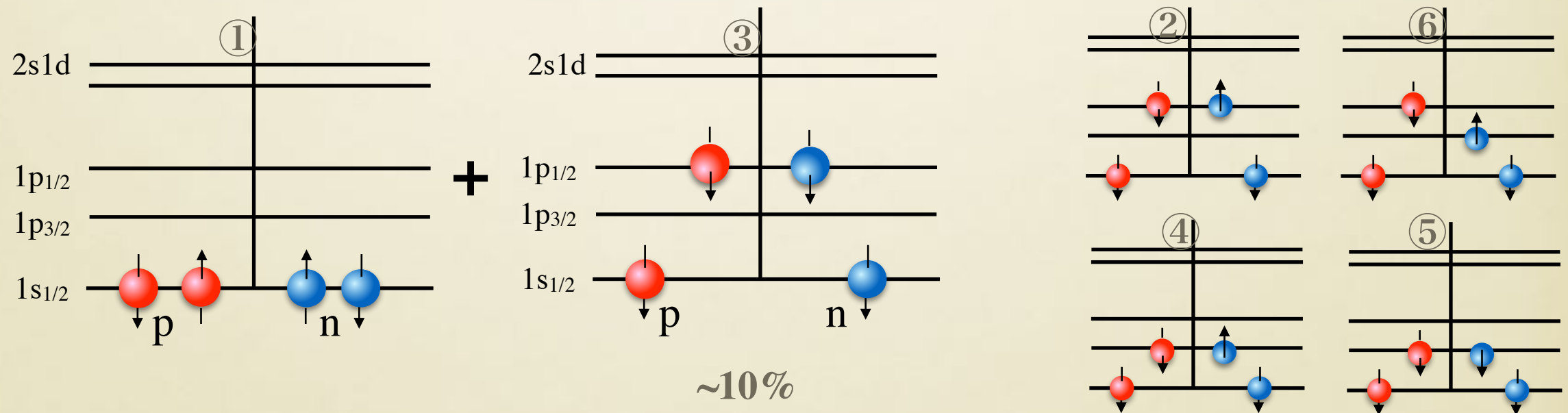
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		V_T [MeV]
Φ_1	$= (0s_{1/2})_{00}^4 ,$	
Φ_2	$= [(0s_{1/2})_{01}^2, (0p_{1/2})_{01}^2]_{00} ,$	$\longrightarrow 0.37$
Φ_3	$= [(0s_{1/2})_{10}^2, (0p_{1/2})_{10}^2]_{00} ,$	$\longrightarrow 14.49$
Φ_4	$= [(0s_{1/2})_{01}^2, (0p_{3/2})_{01}^2]_{00} ,$	$\longrightarrow 0.19$
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^4He

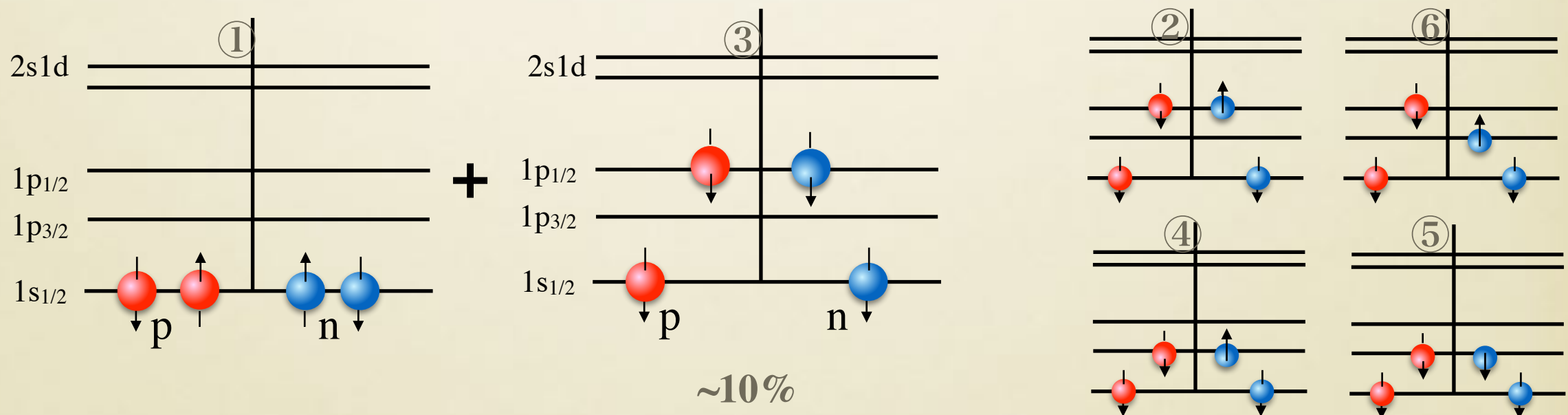


**Highest spin orbital ($j>$) in a major shell is not used for the tensor interaction.
An example is $1p_{3/2}$ orbital in ^4He and deuteron.**

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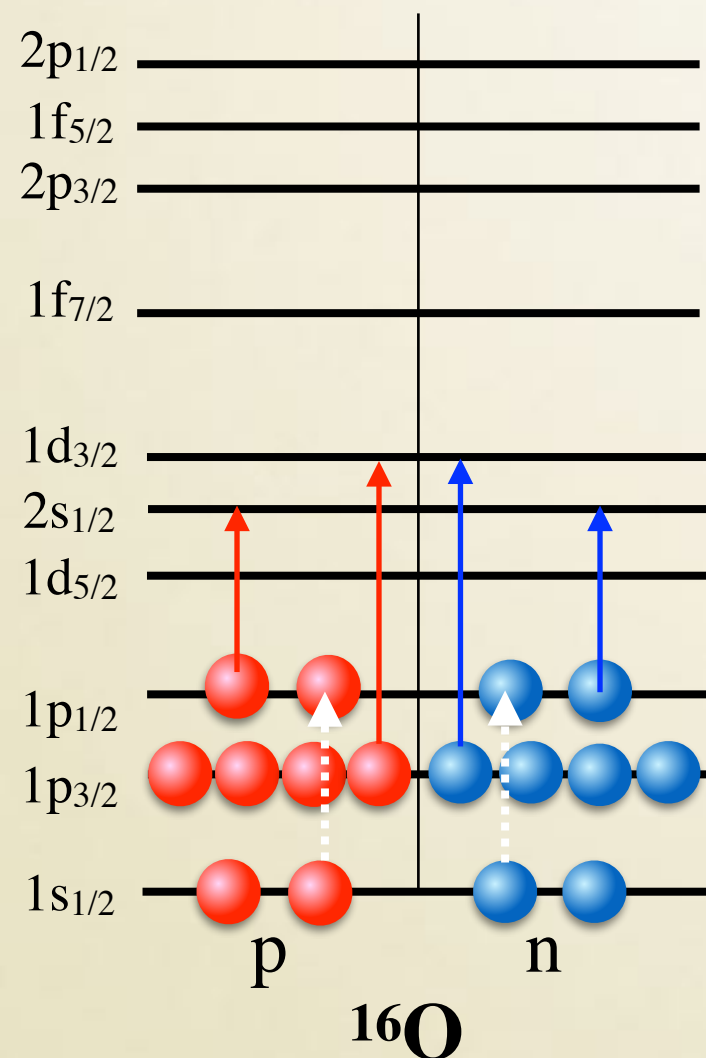
^4He



In more general p-n pairs from $(nlj)^2$ configuration to $(n+1, l+1, j)^2$ or $(n+1, l-1, j)^2$

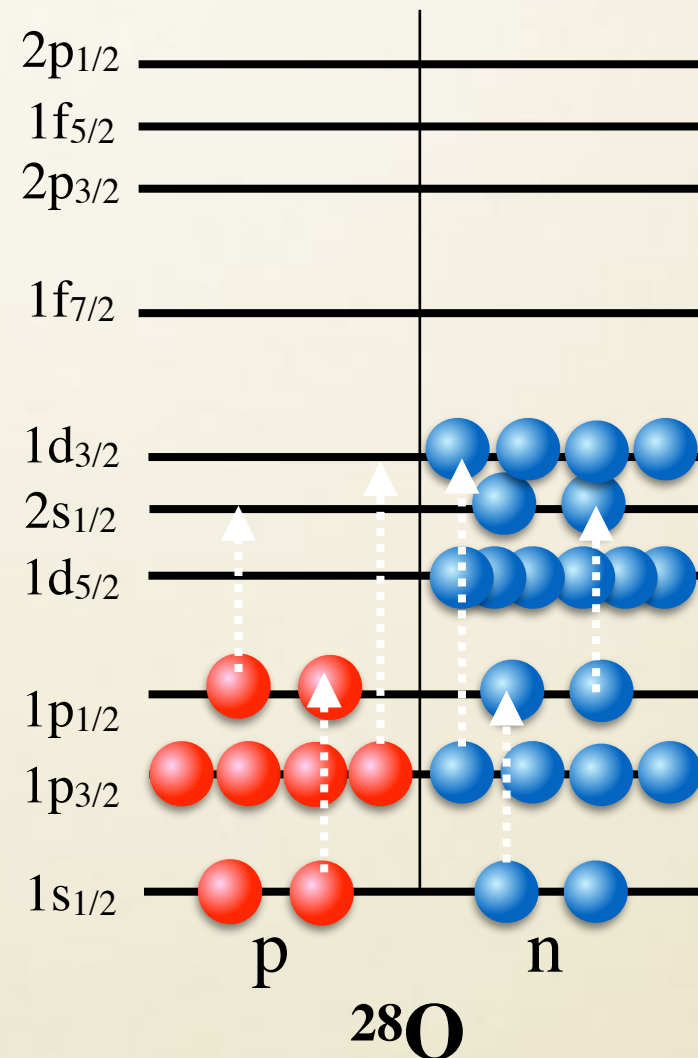
What is the difference between stable and neutron rich nuclei?

Symmetric nuclei



Blocking and Opening occur simultaneously.

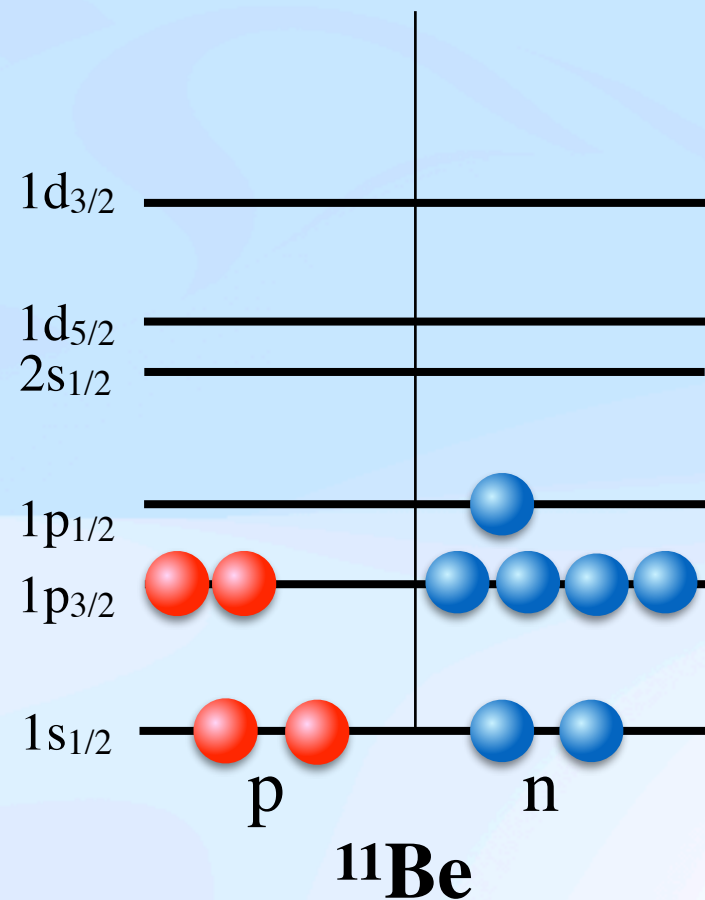
Neutron rich nuclei



Only tensor blocking occurs.

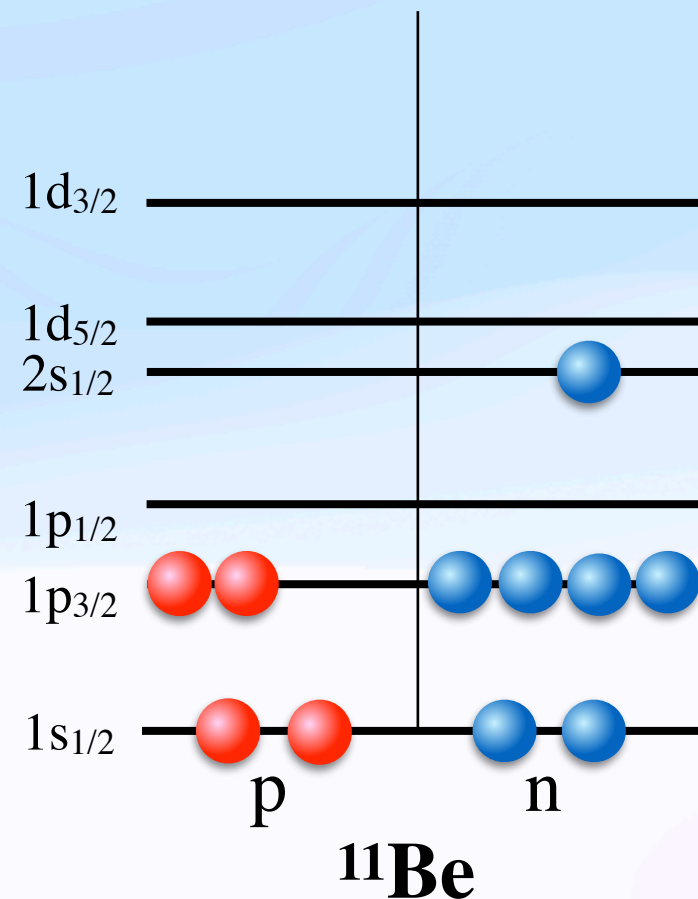
Explanation of $s_{1/2}$ anomaly

Conf. A



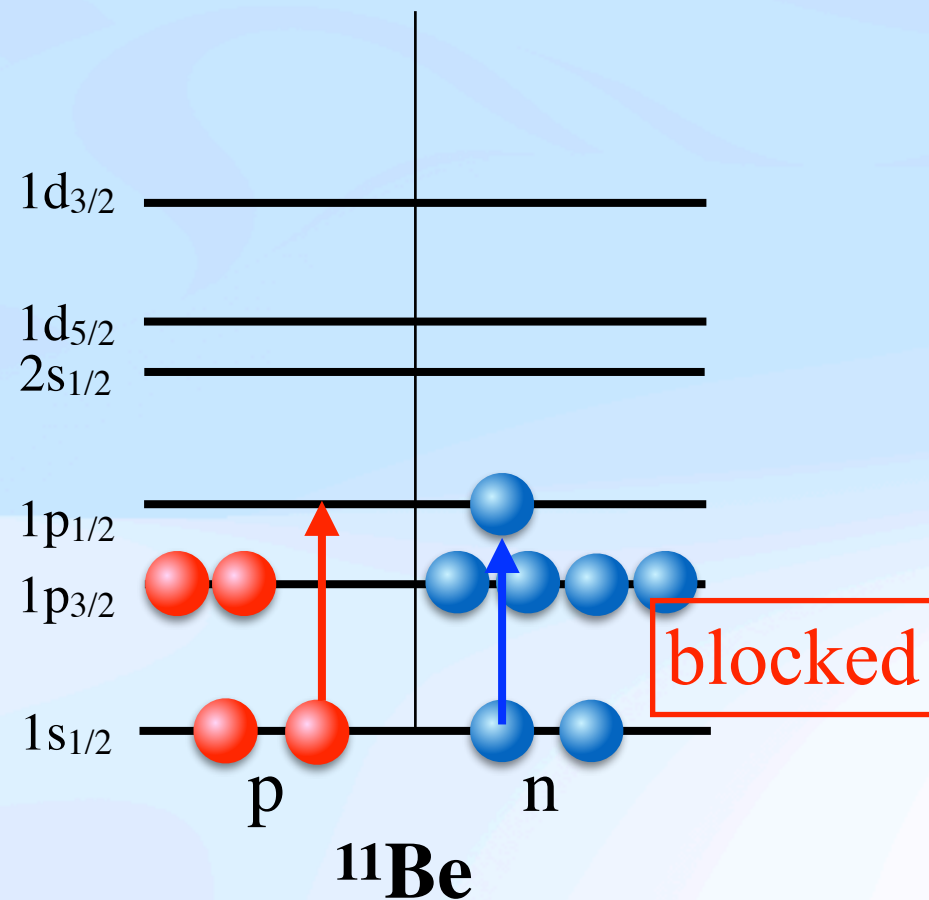
or

Conf. B



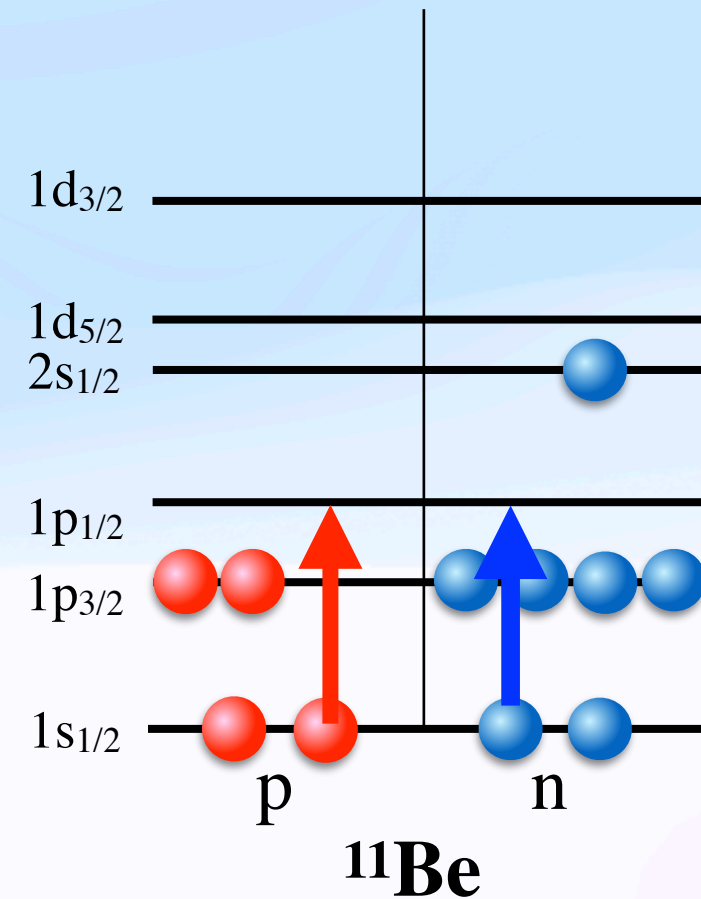
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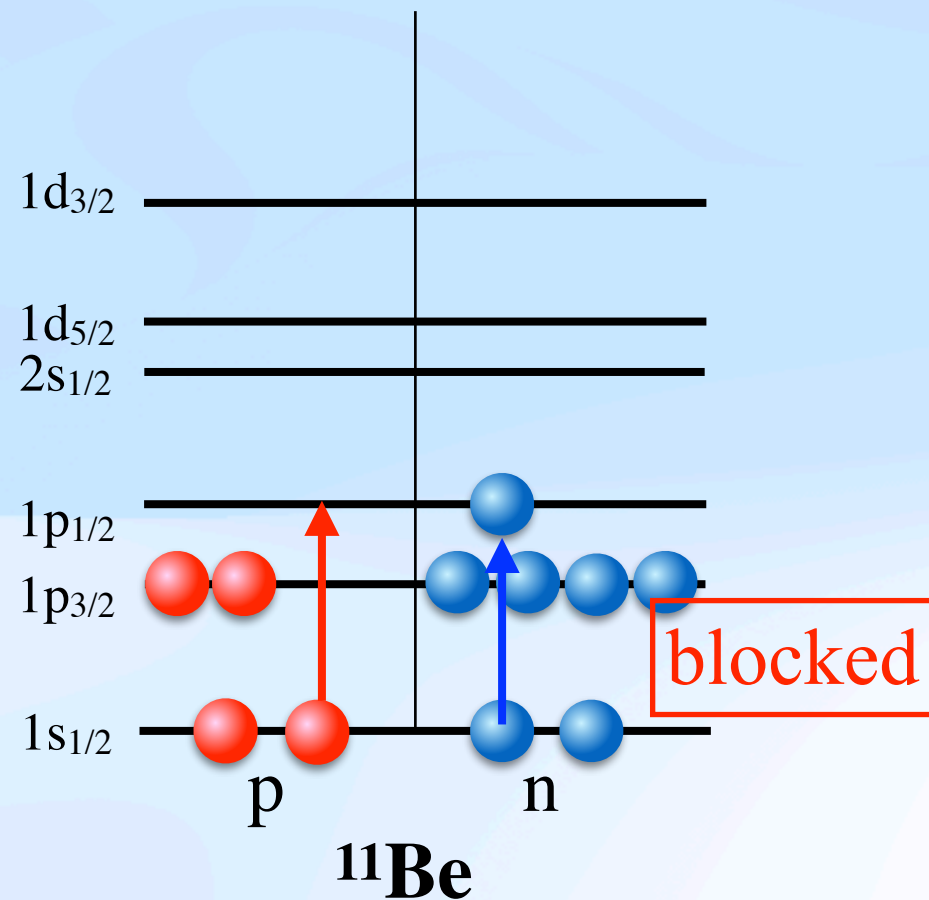
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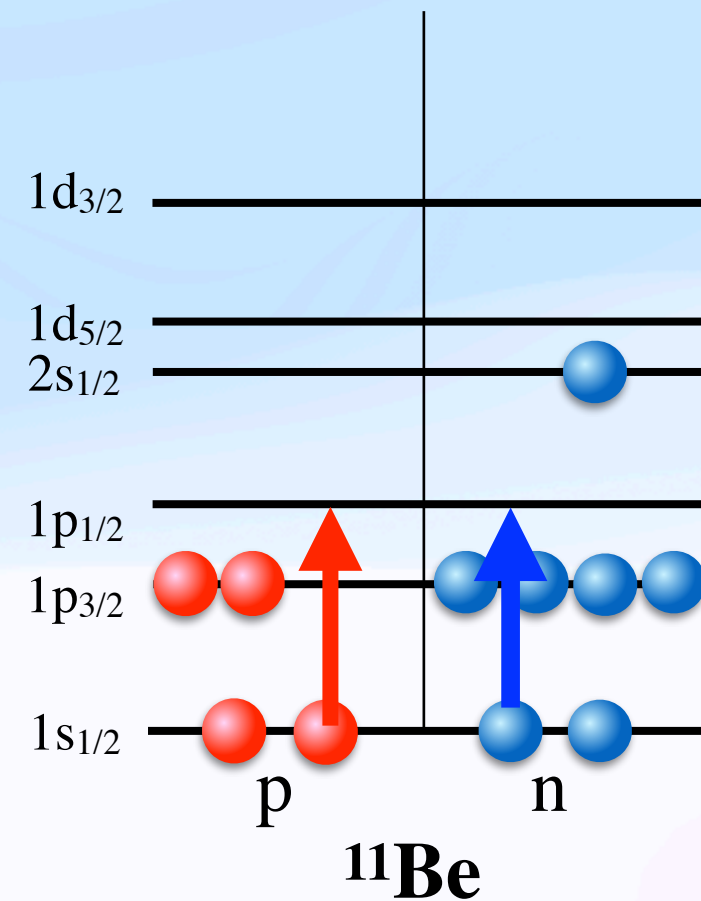
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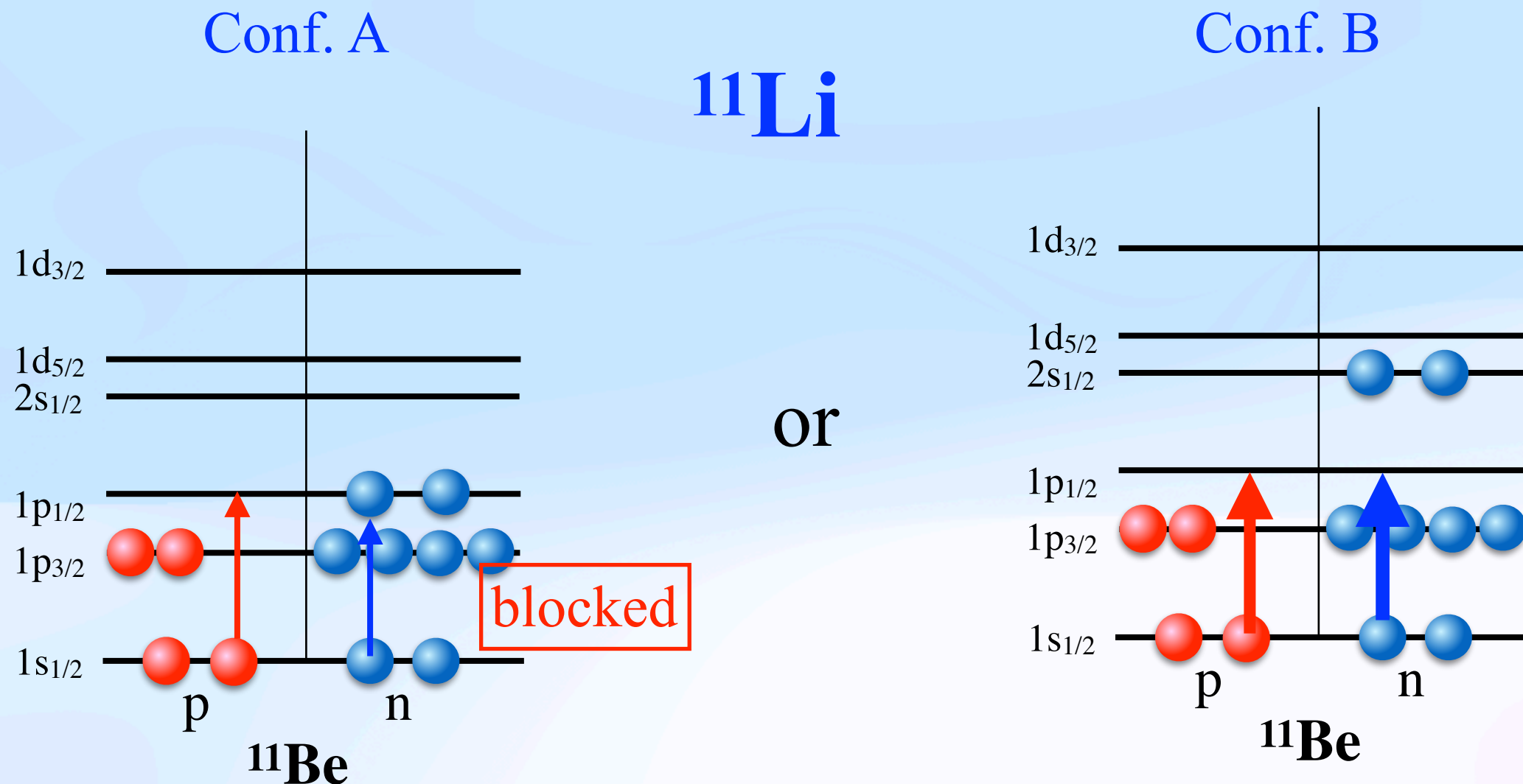
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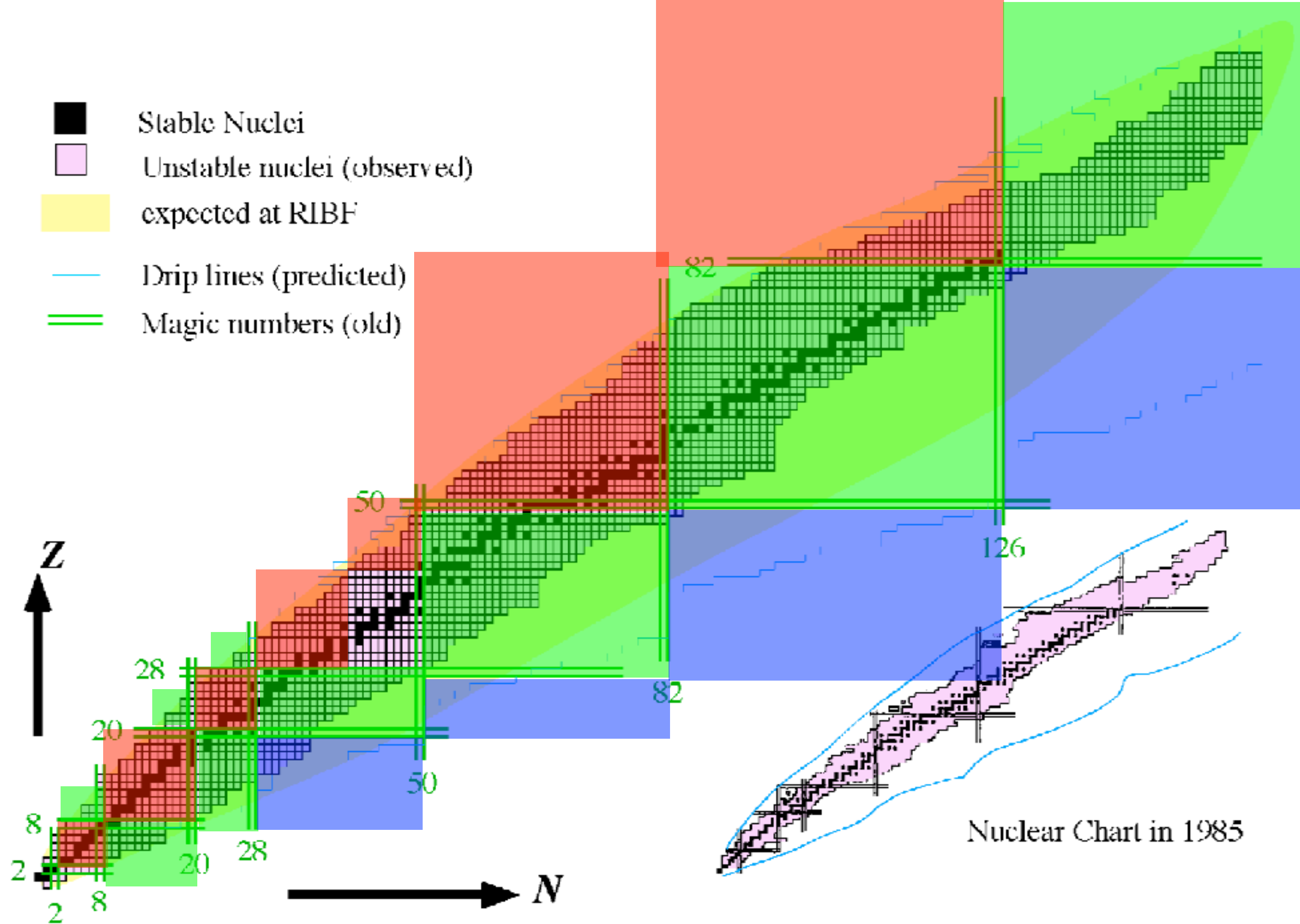


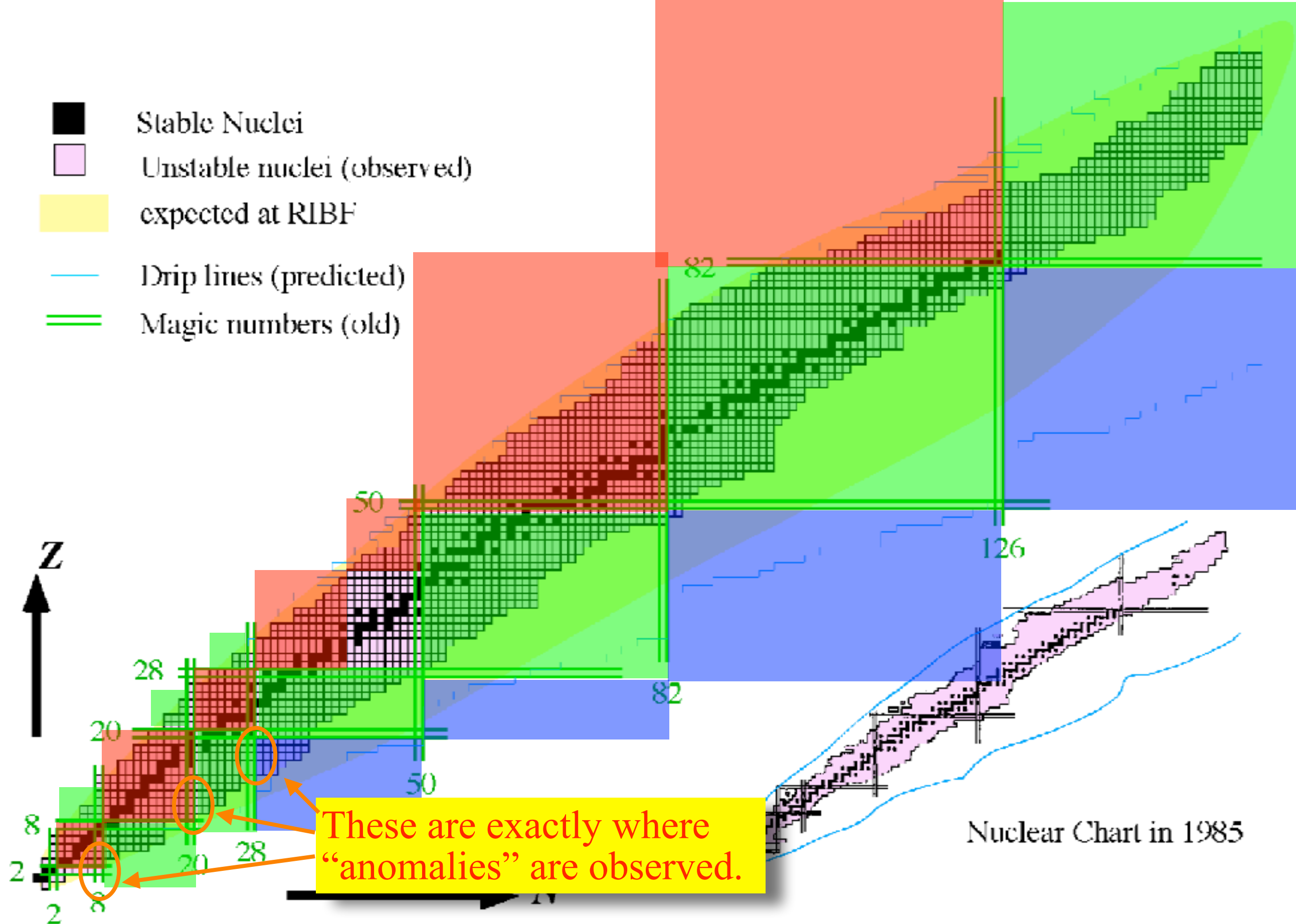
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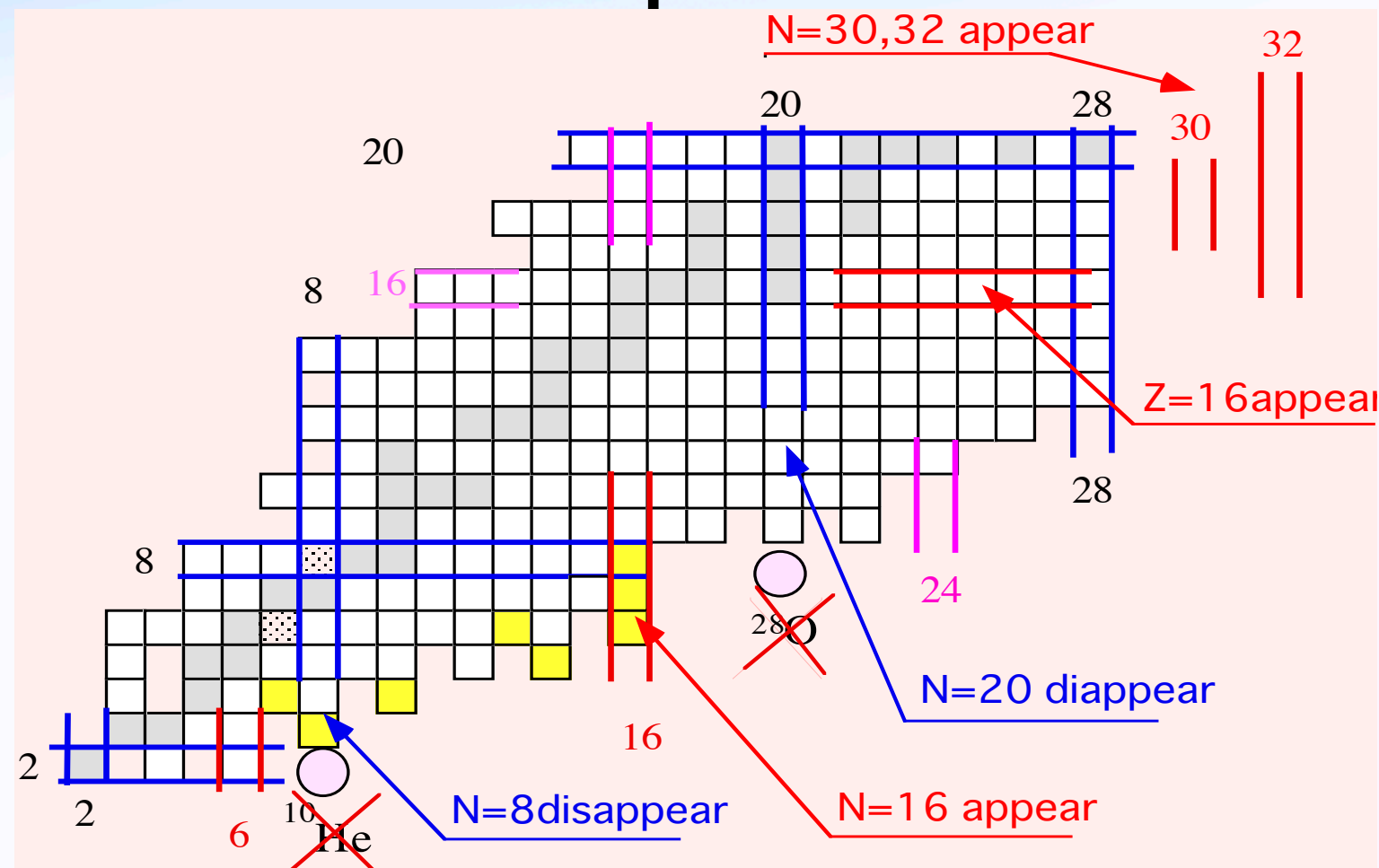
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Tensor blocking explains not only the behavior of $s_{1/2}$ orbital but also explains,

- Why doubly magic number nuclei ^{10}He , ^{28}O is unbound,
- Why neutron magic numbers 8, 20 disappears in neutron-rich nuclei,
- Appearance of new magic numbers 6, 14, 16, 32, 34,
- Why drip line suddenly extend a lot in F isotopes.



**High momentum component in ground states of nuclei
= Shell dependent contributions =**

- **The existence of high-momentum components in nucleons is observed in e-scattering and proton scattering.**
 - *J. Arrington, N. Somin, and A. Schmidt, Ann. Rev. Nucl. Part. Sci. 72 (2022) 307.*
- **High momentum pairs are there in ground states of nuclei.**
- **High-momentum pairs are important to provide a large amount of binding energy through tensor interactions.**

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In general this effect is considered just to cut the shell model space restricting only low momentum nucleons. Say Depletion of spectroscopic factors.

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**Ground state properties are strongly affected
by High-Momentum Nucleons.**

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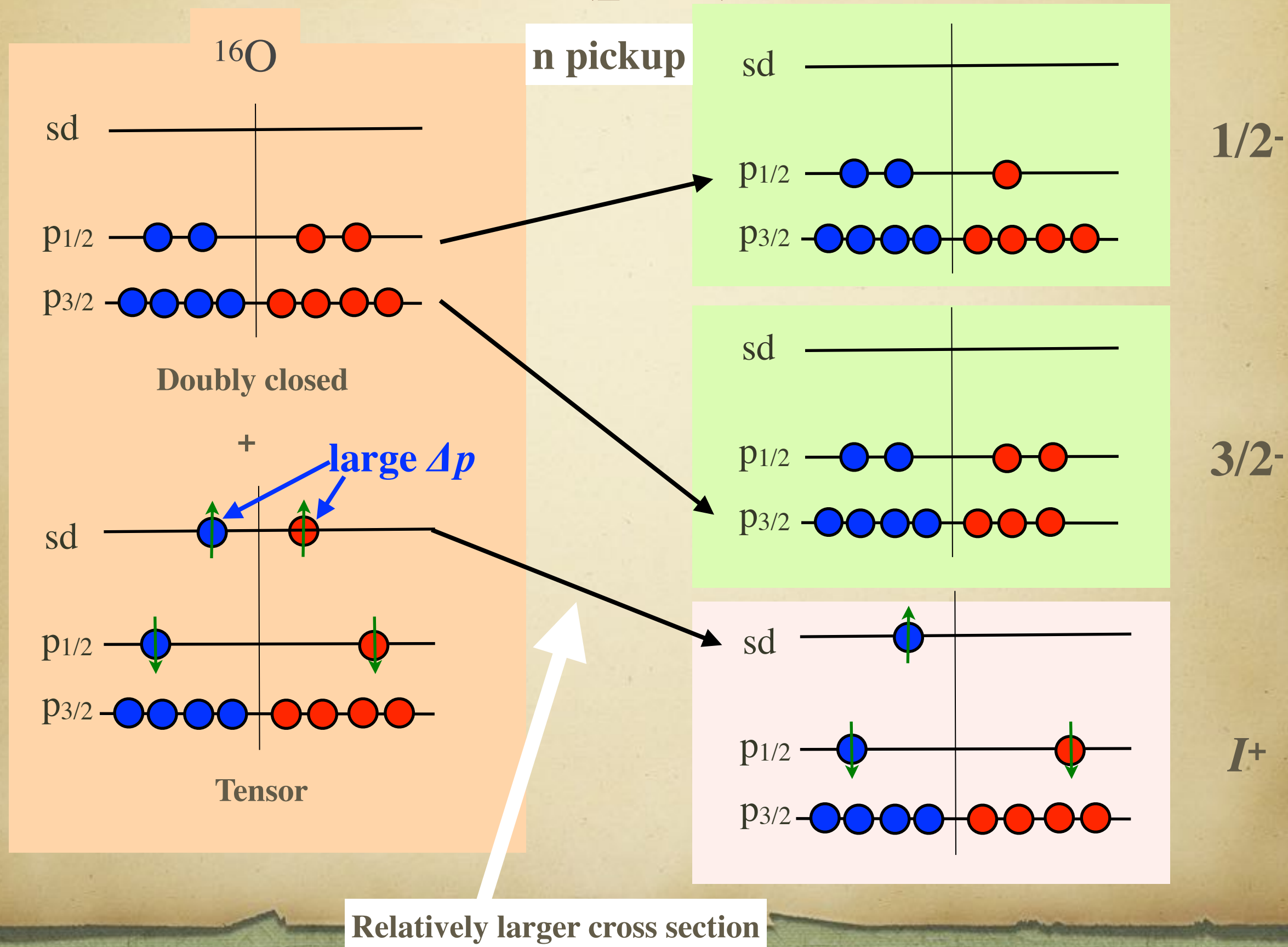
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 - *J. Arrington, N. Somin, and A. Schmidt, Ann. Rev. Nucl. Part. Sci. 72 (2022) 307.*
- High momentum pairs are there in ground states of nuclei
- High-momentum pairs are important to provide part of the binding energy through tensor interaction

Can we see enhancement of high-momentum nucleons in 2p-2h excitations?

• Properties are strongly affected by High-Momentum Nucleons.

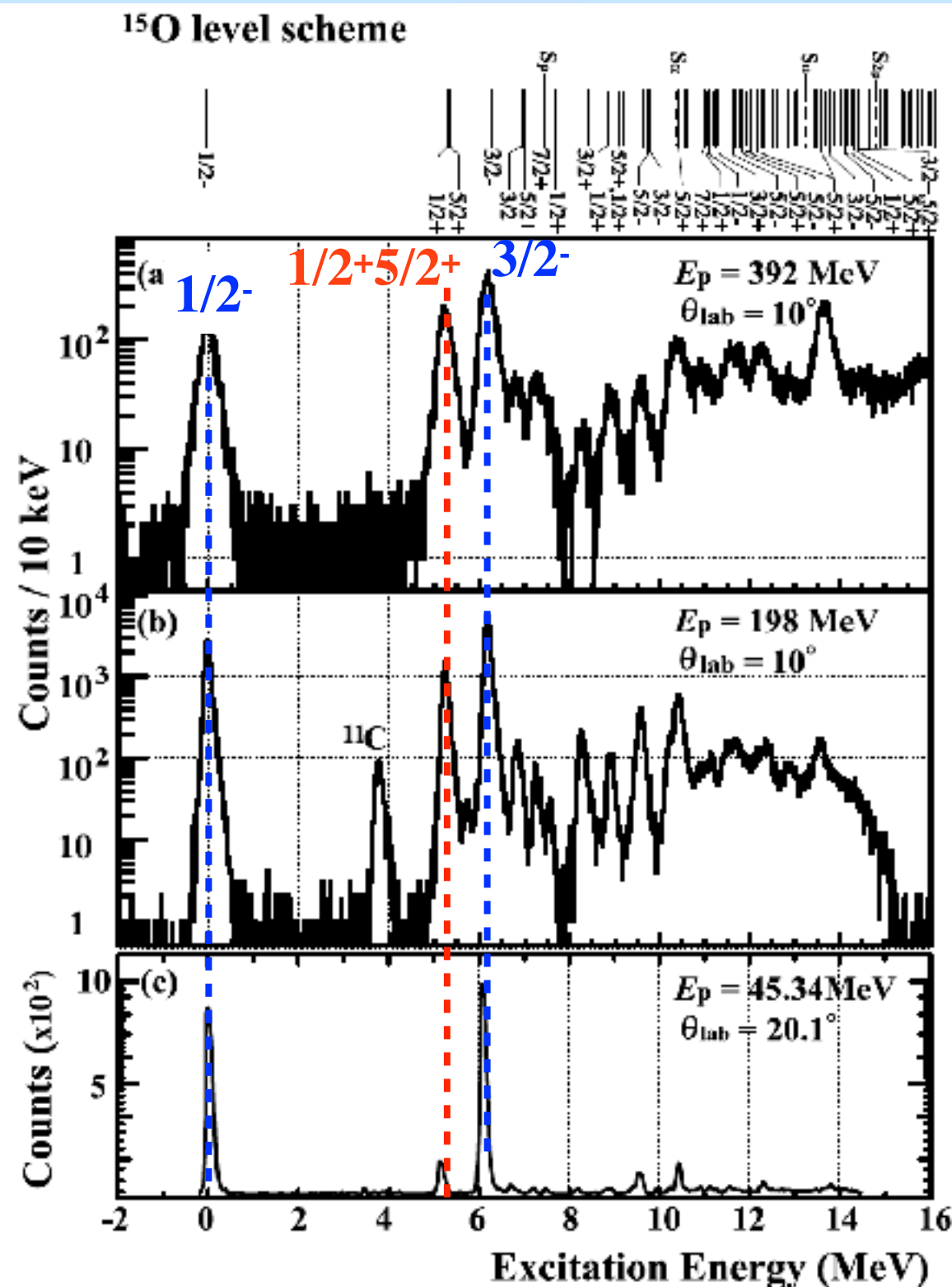
- **Because of the strong selection rules, tensor interactions affect orbitals differently based on their quantum numbers.**
- **State by state differences of the tensor contributions make exotic behaviors of nuclear structure.**
- **It can be observed as state by state difference of high-momentum components.**

^{16}O and (p,d) reaction



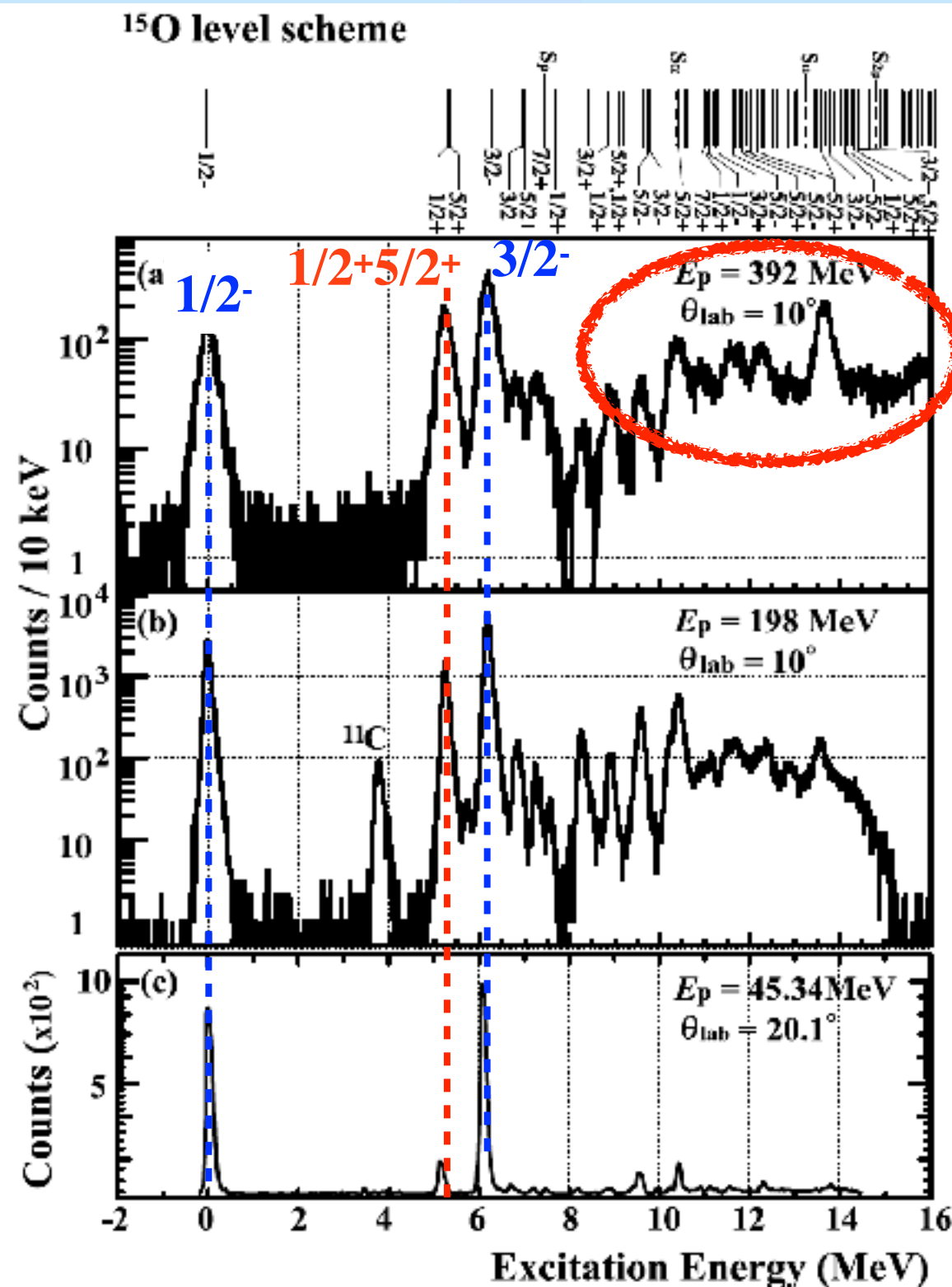
Energy dependence of the cross sections

Study the ratio of the positive parity/negative parity final states

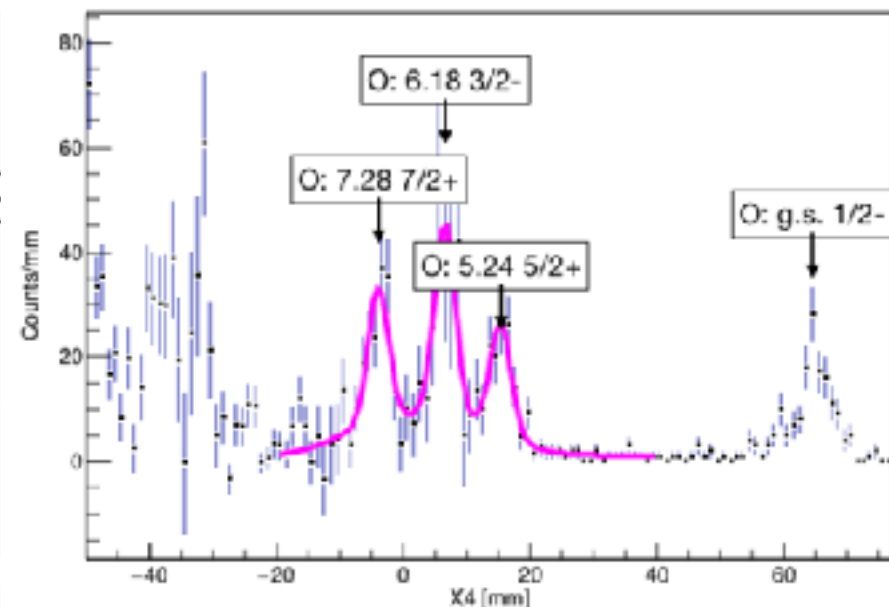
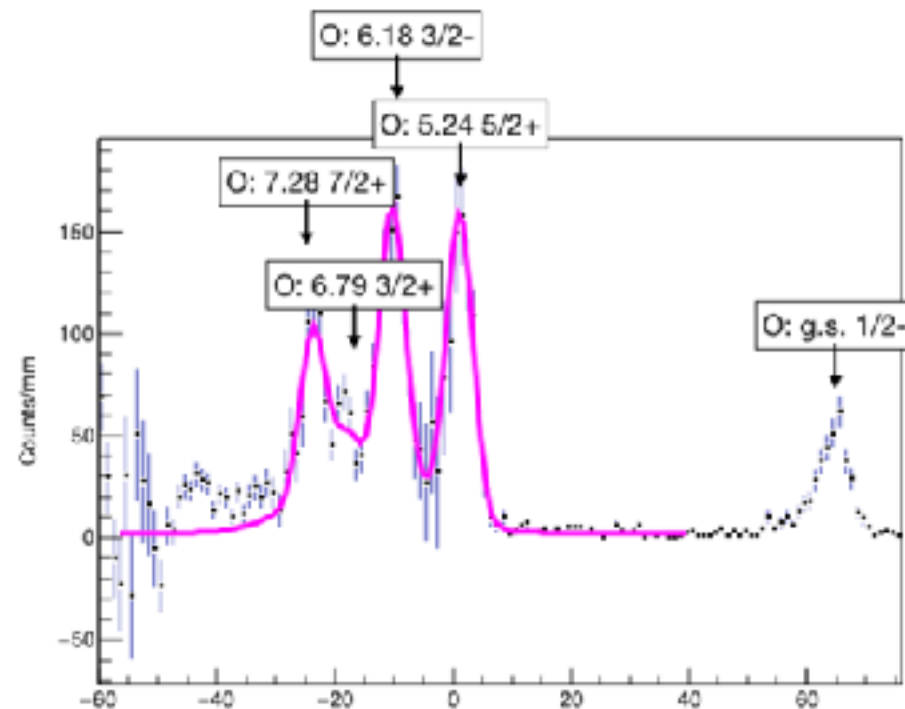
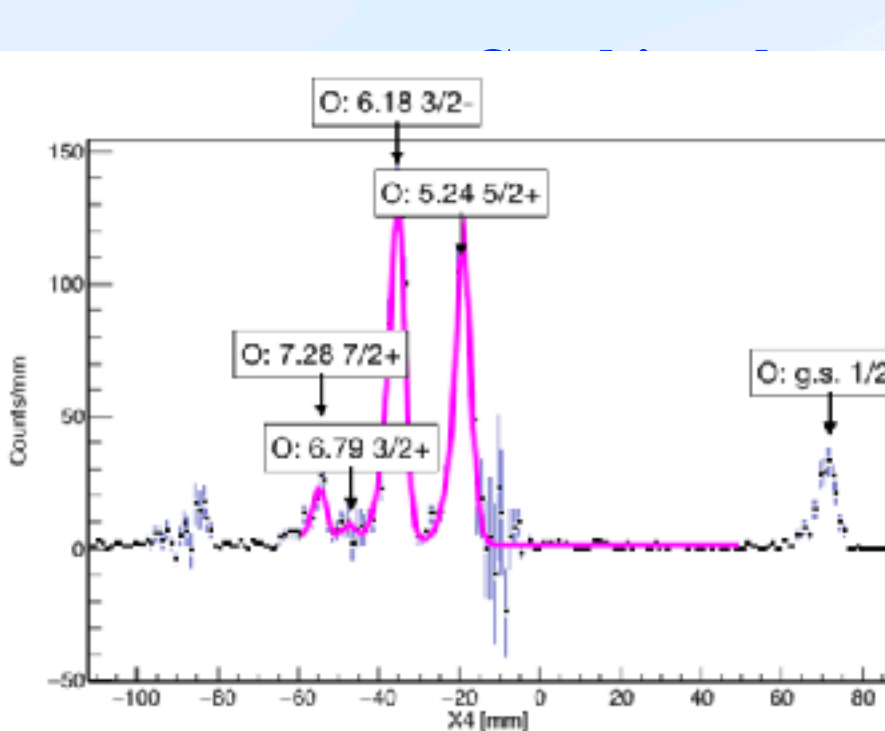
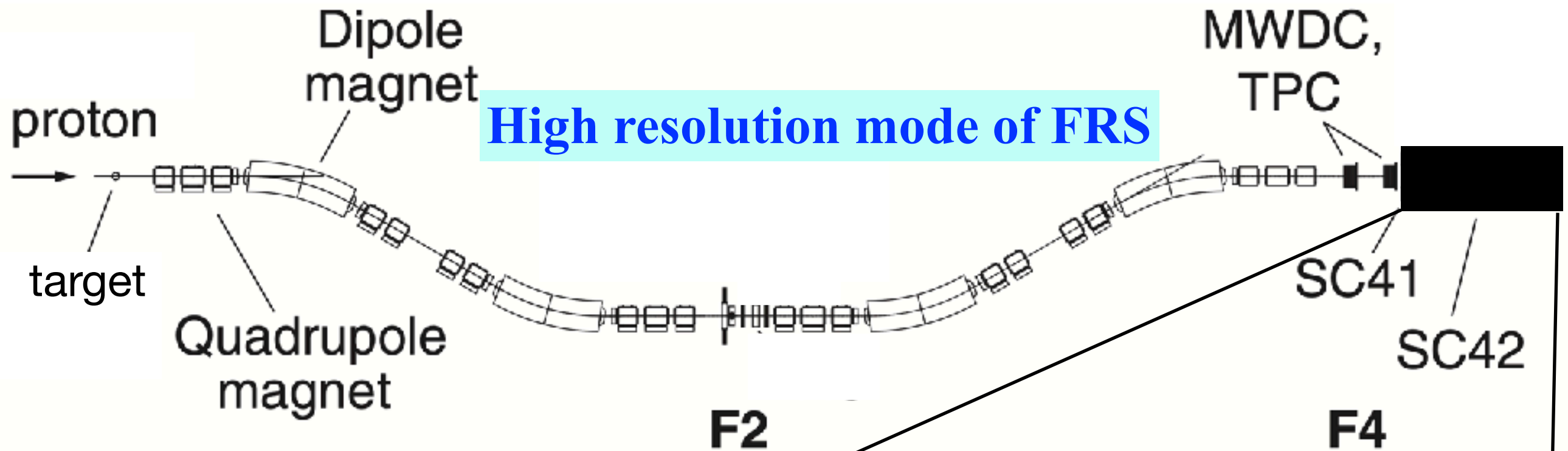


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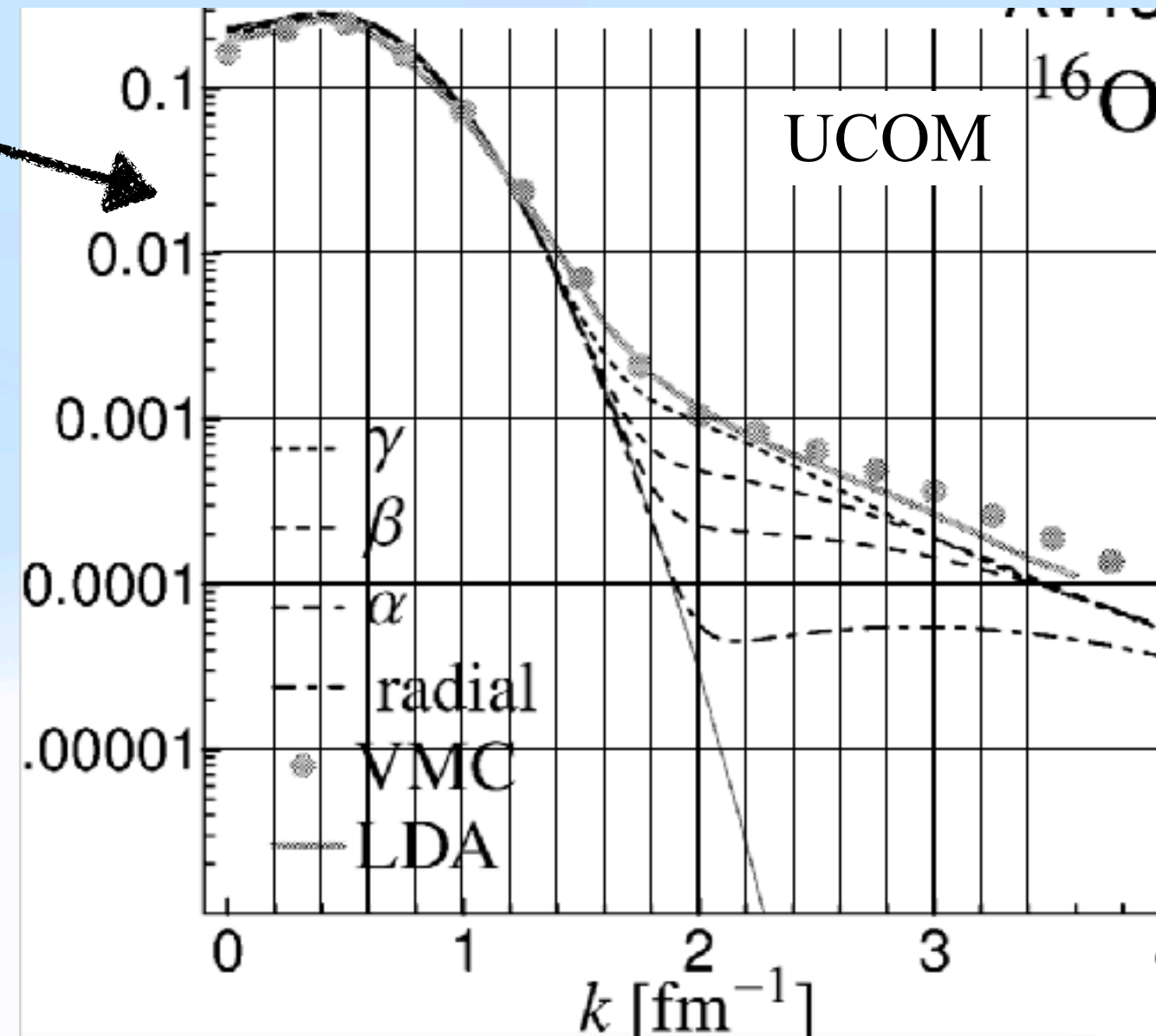


$^{16}\text{O}(p, d)^{15}\text{O}$ at $\theta_d=0^\circ$ at GSI/FRS



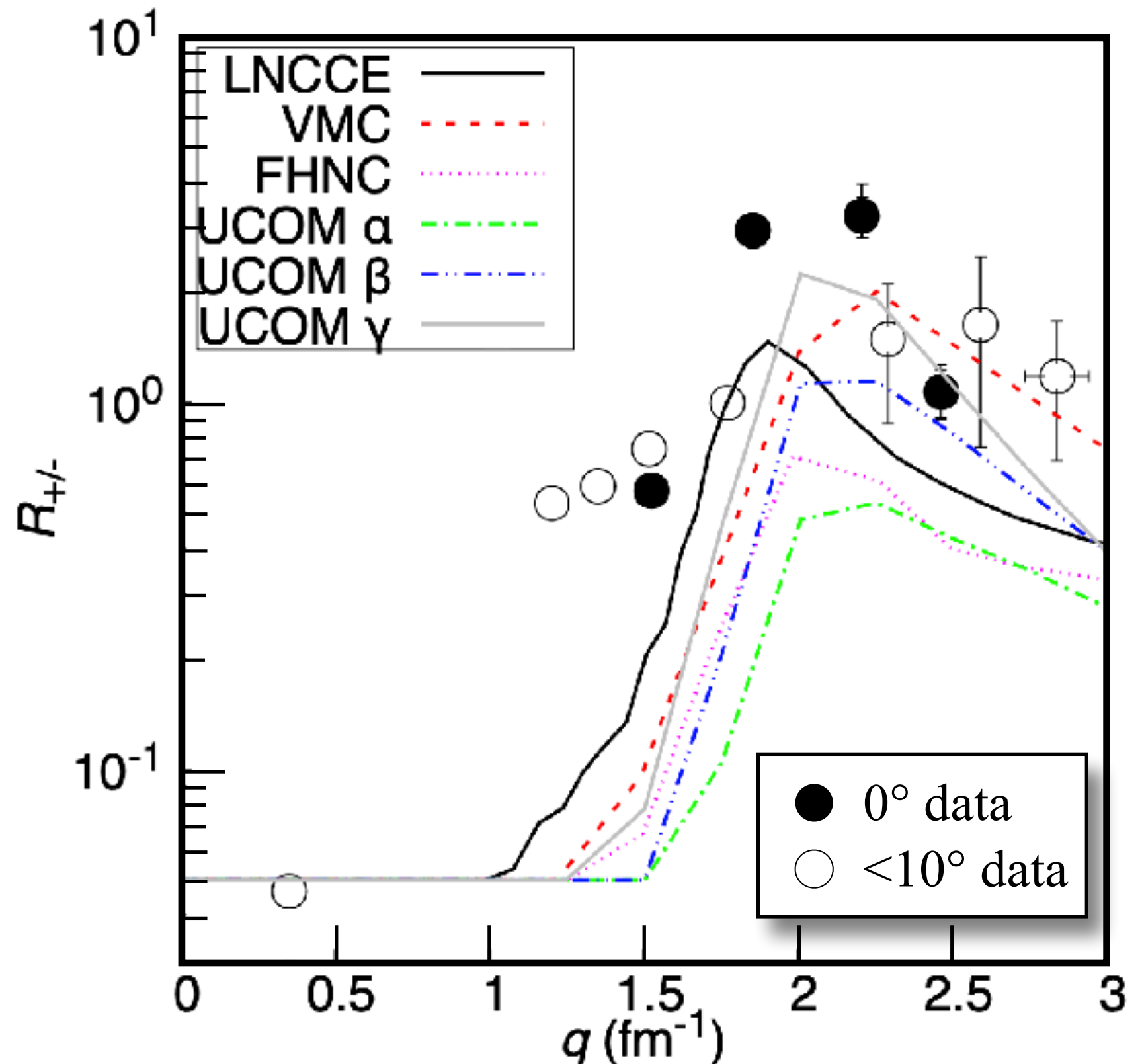
Theoretical model predictions

- UCOM calculation,
 - *T. Neff and H. Feldmeier, Nucl. Phys. A 713, 311 (2003).*
- Variational Monte Carlo calc.,
 - *S.C. Pieper, R. B. Wiringa, and V. R. Pandharipande, PRC 46 (1992) 1741.*
- Fermi hyper netted chain integral equation method,
 - *A. Fabrocini and G. Go PRC 63 (2001) 044319.*
- Linked and number conserving cluster expansion method,
 - *M. Alvioli, C.C.D. Atti, and H. Morita, PRL 100 (2008) 162503.*



Comparison with models

- All models predict peak near 2 fm^{-1} .
- Data also show a peak near 2 fm^{-1} .
- The height of the peak is strongly depends on the assumptions to obtain the ratio from model momentum amplitudes.



Summary

- Tensor interactions strongly affect the properties of nuclei at ground state and other low lying states.
- Blocking of the 2p-2h excitations (Tensor blocking) change the orbitals of g.s. and low-lying states of nuclei.
- It gives sudden change of orbitals at above $j_>$ orbitals and alter magic numbers.
- Those effects are due to high-momentum nucleons in nuclei which contribute strongly to the tensor interactions.
- High-momentum neutrons in a 2p-2h state has been observed.

We need,

- nuclear-structure theory that includes tensor interactions and high-momentum nucleons to understand nuclei near and far from the stability line simultaneously.
- reaction theory that can treat (p, d) reactions well at higher energies.

