

NLEFT calculations of nuclei near the dripline

Shuang Zhang

Nuclear Lattice EFT Collaboration



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- Background
- NLEFT framework

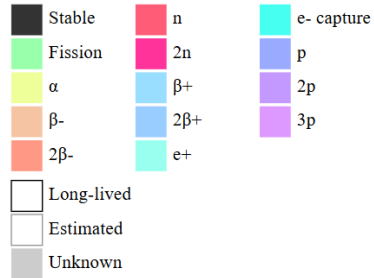
□ NLEFT calculations of nuclei near the dripline

- Proton-rich ^{22}Si
- *nn* correlations in light nuclei

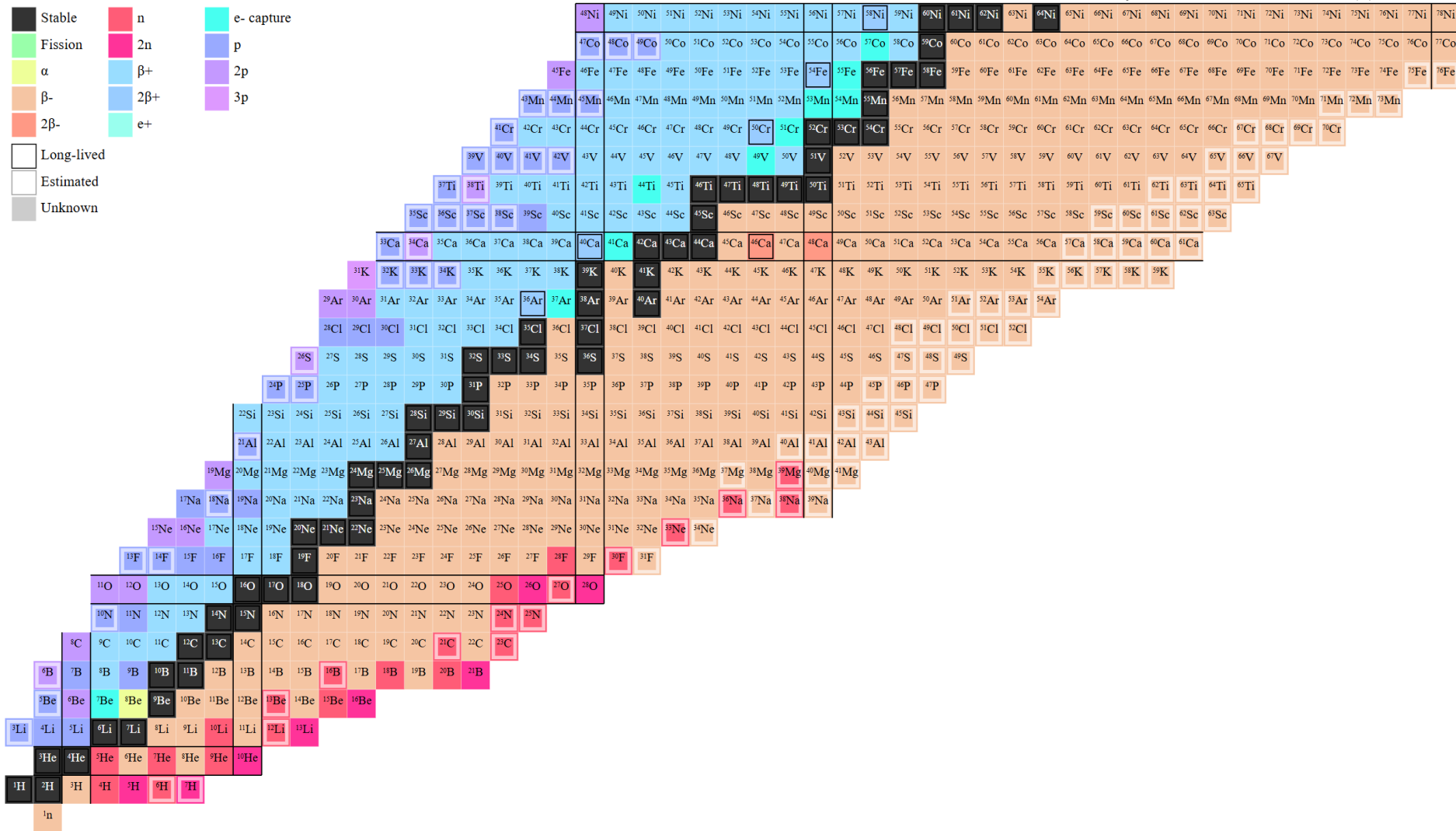
□ Summary & perspective

Background

Primary Decay Mode

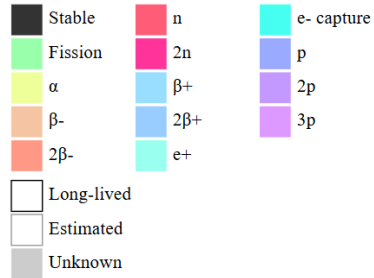


SIMPSON E.C. J Phys: Conf Ser, 2020, 1643(1): 012168

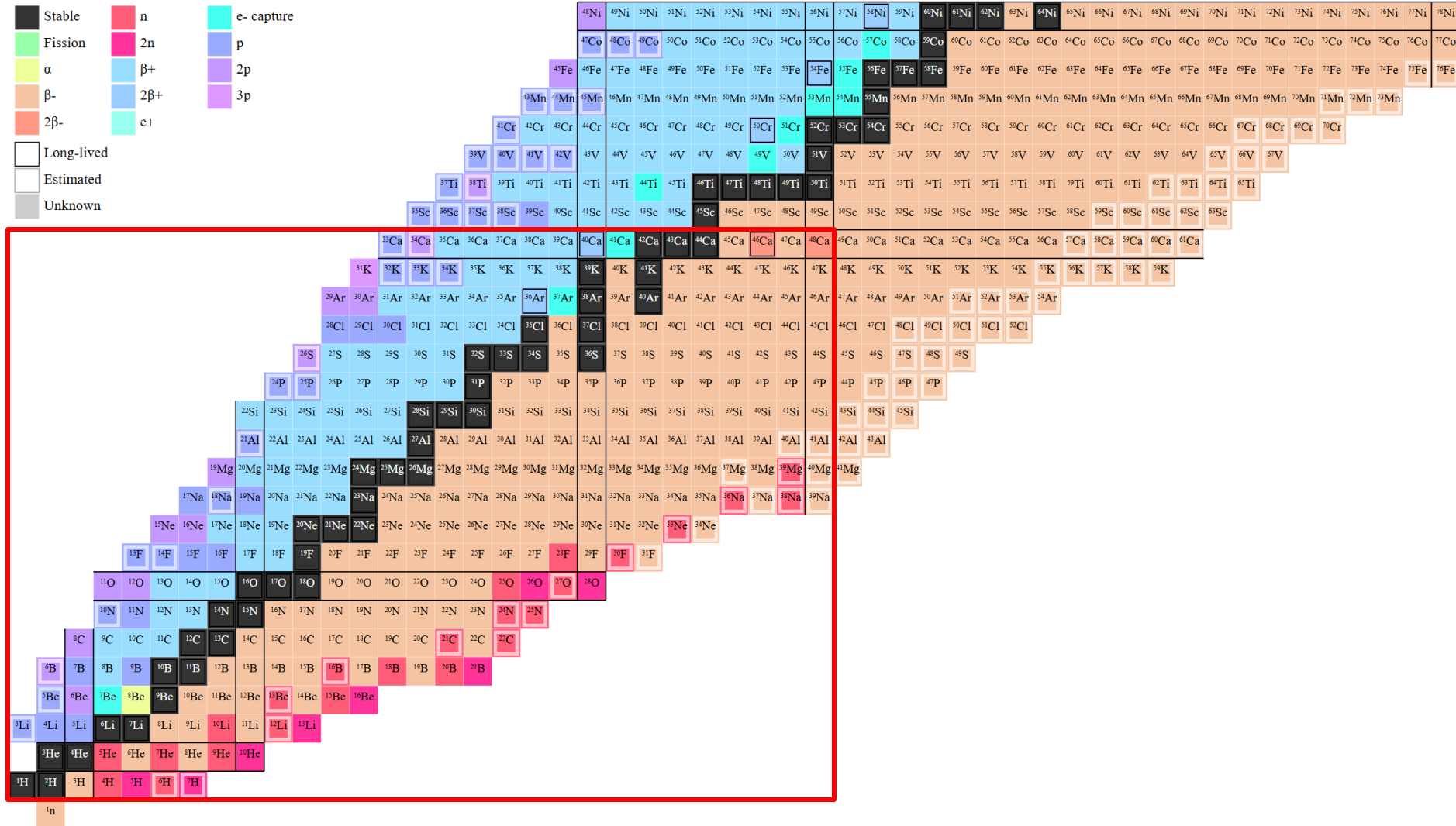


Background

Primary Decay Mode

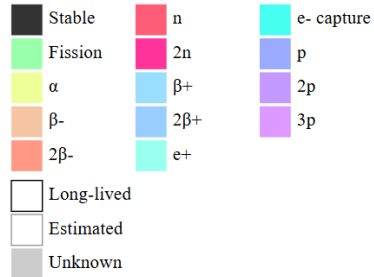


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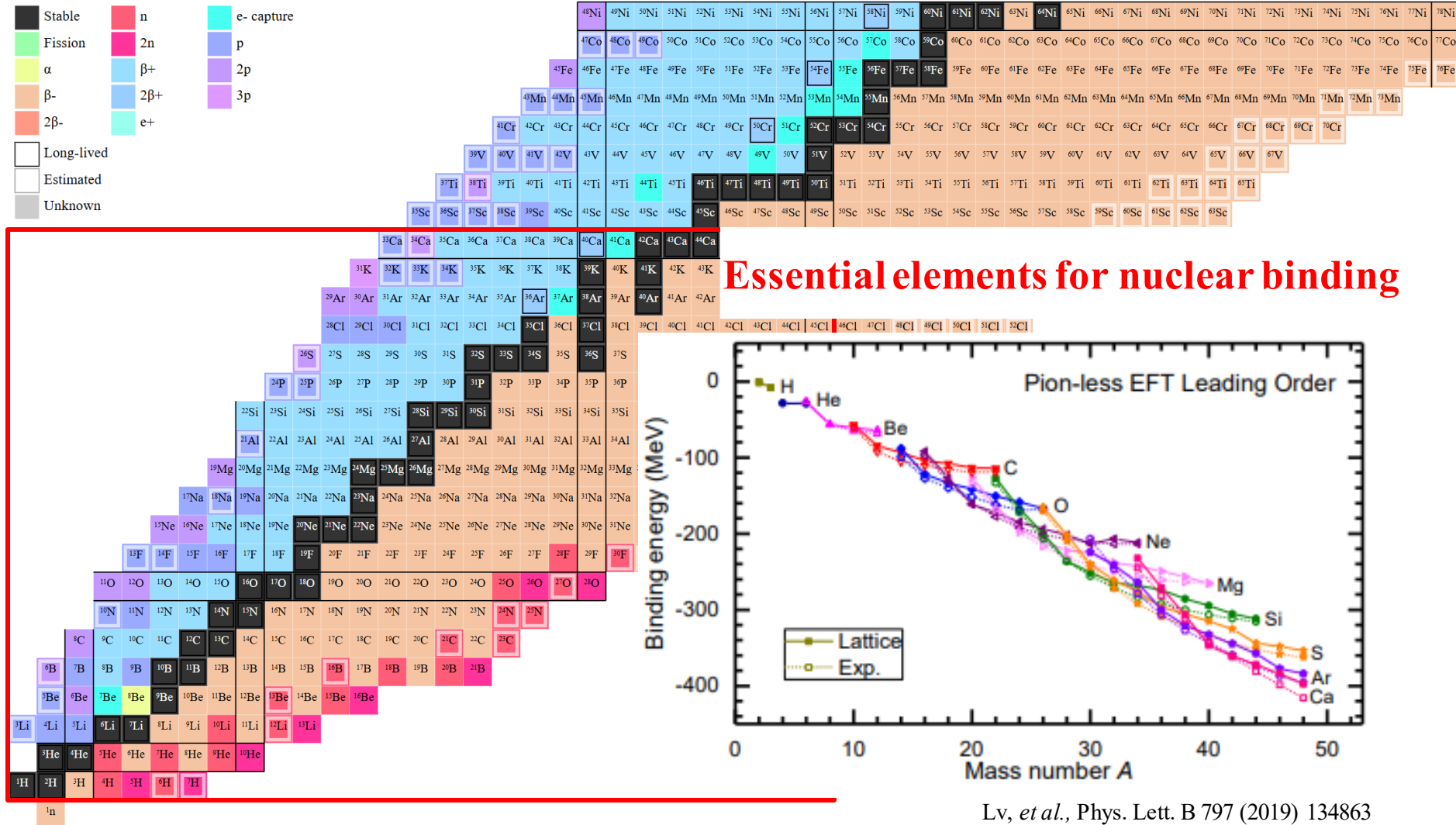


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Primary Decay Mode



SIMPSON E.C. J Phys: Conf Ser, 2020, 1643(1): 012168



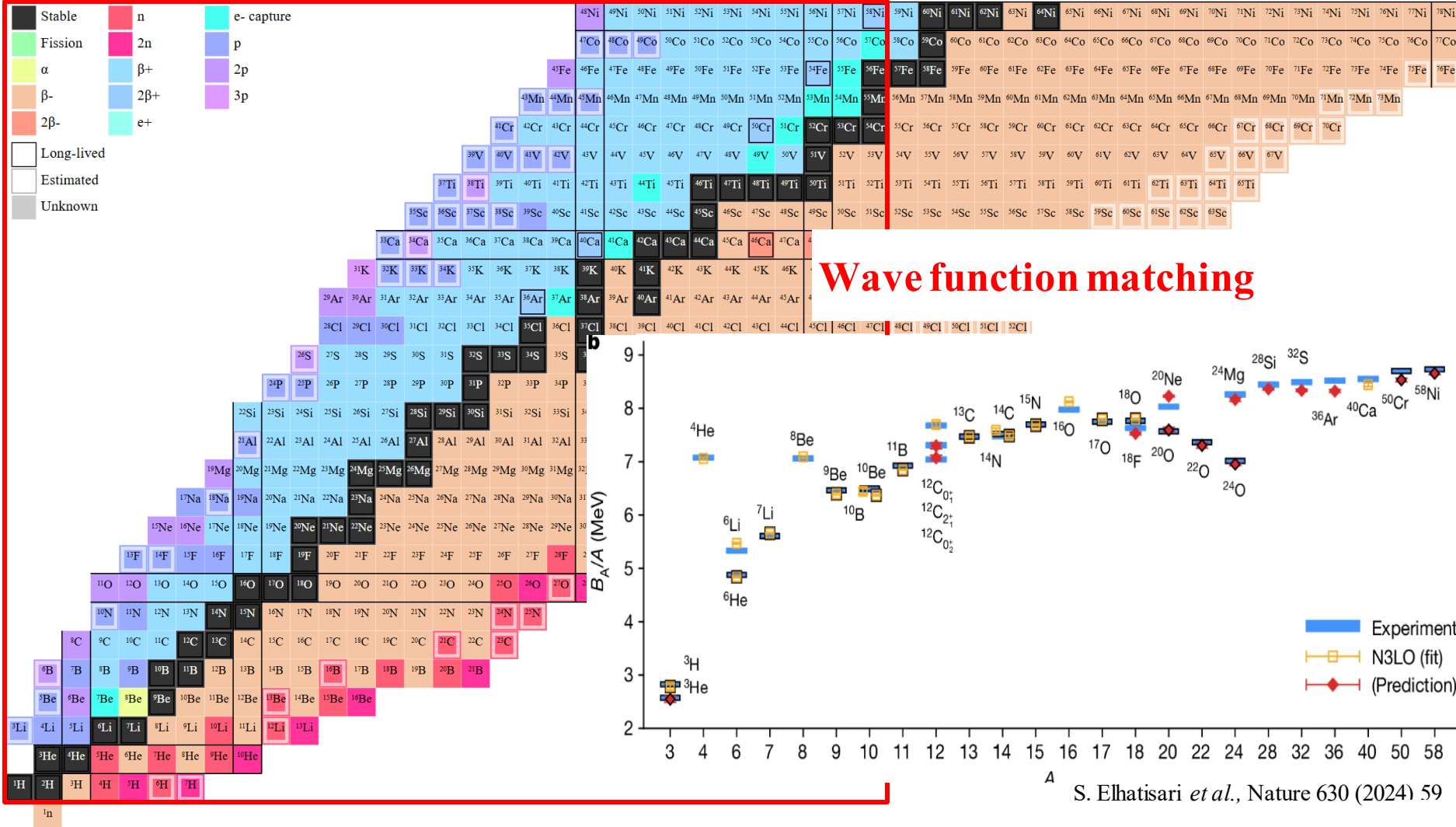
Essential elements for nuclear binding

Lv, et al., Phys. Lett. B 797 (2019) 134863

describes binding energies, radii, and the EoS of neutron matter

Background

Primary Decay Mode



SIMPSON E.C. J Phys: Conf Ser, 2020, 1643(1): 012168

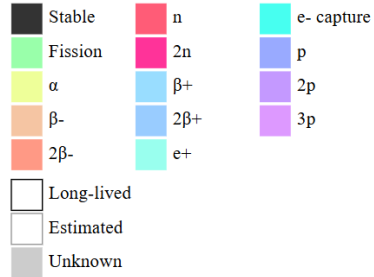
Wave function matching

S. Elhatisari *et al.*, Nature 630 (2024) 59

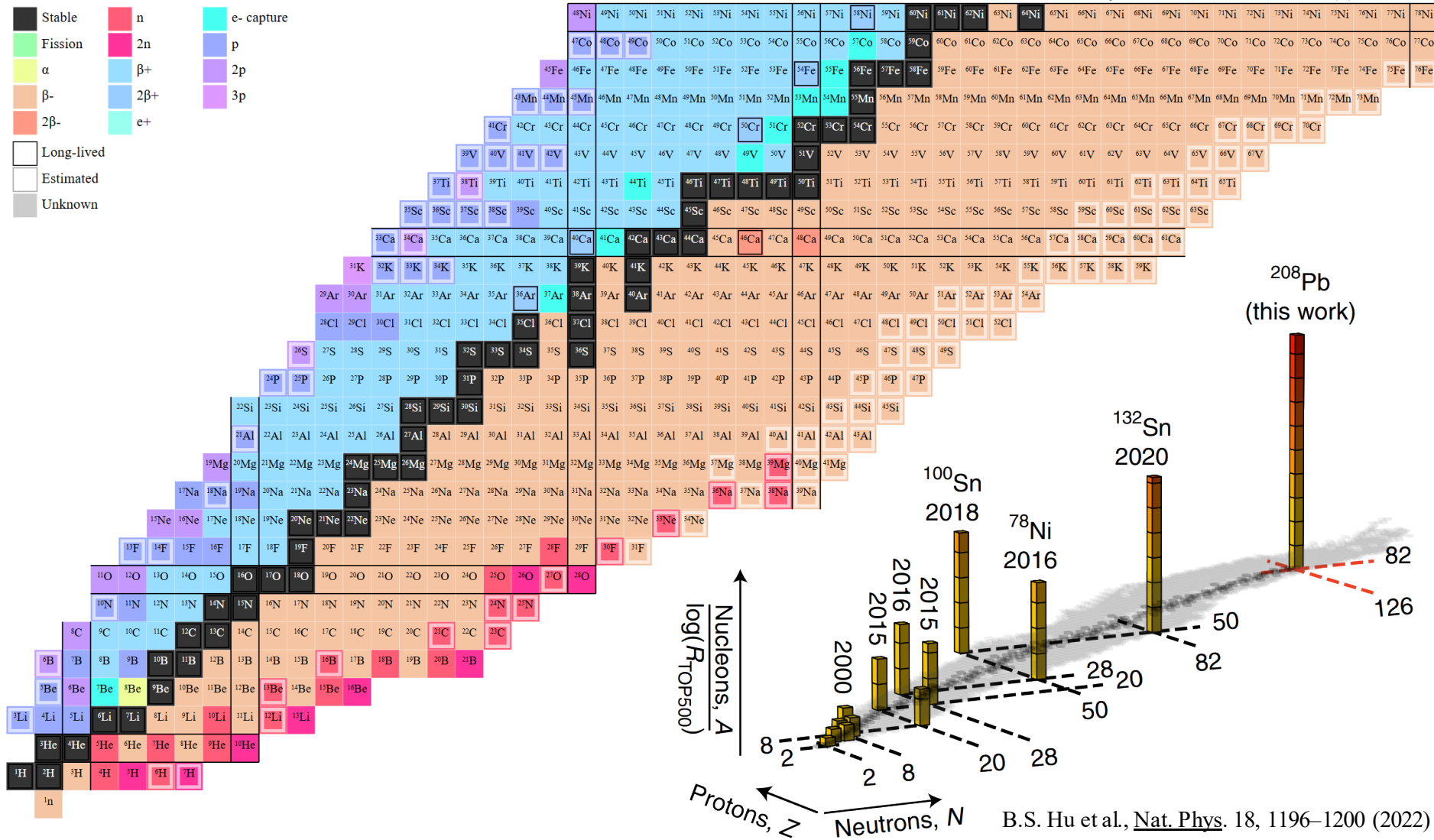
Precisely describes binding energies, radii, and nuclear-matter saturation at N³LO

Background

Primary Decay Mode



SIMPSON E.C. J Phys: Conf Ser, 2020, 1643(1): 012168



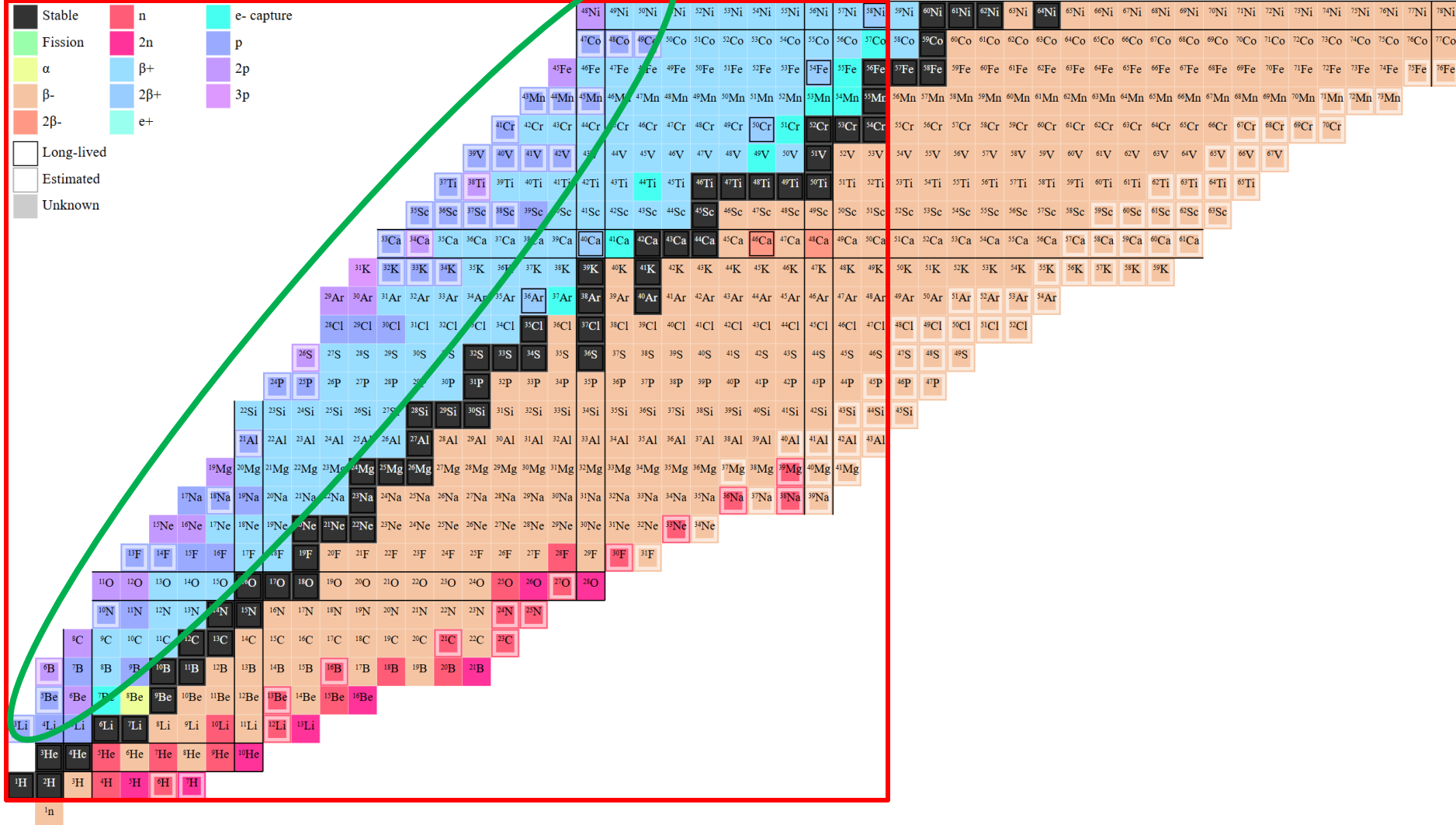
B.S. Hu et al., *Nat. Phys.* 18, 1196–1200 (2022)

Background

Primary Decay Mode

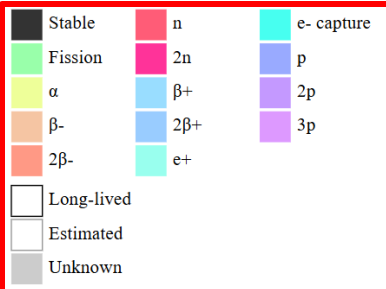
Stable	n	e- capture
Fission	2n	p
α	β^+	2p
β^-	$2\beta^+$	3p
$2\beta^-$	e+	
Long-lived		
Estimated		
Unknown		

SIMPSON E C. J Phys: Conf Ser, 2020, 1643(1): 012168

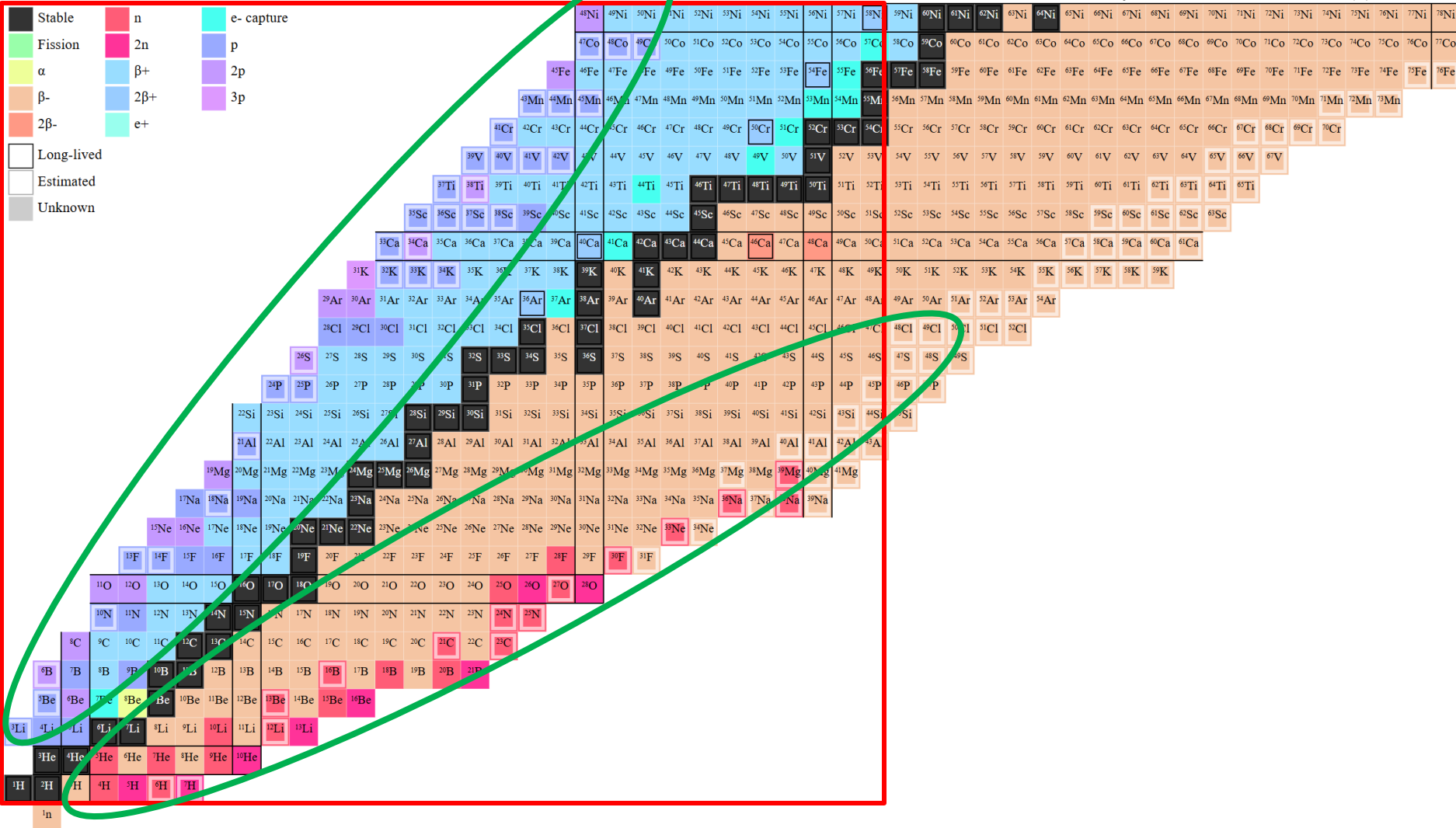


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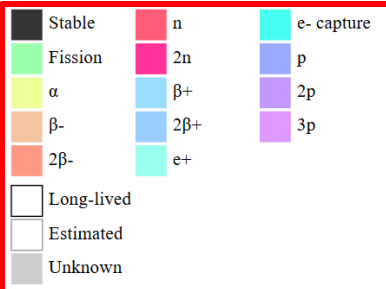


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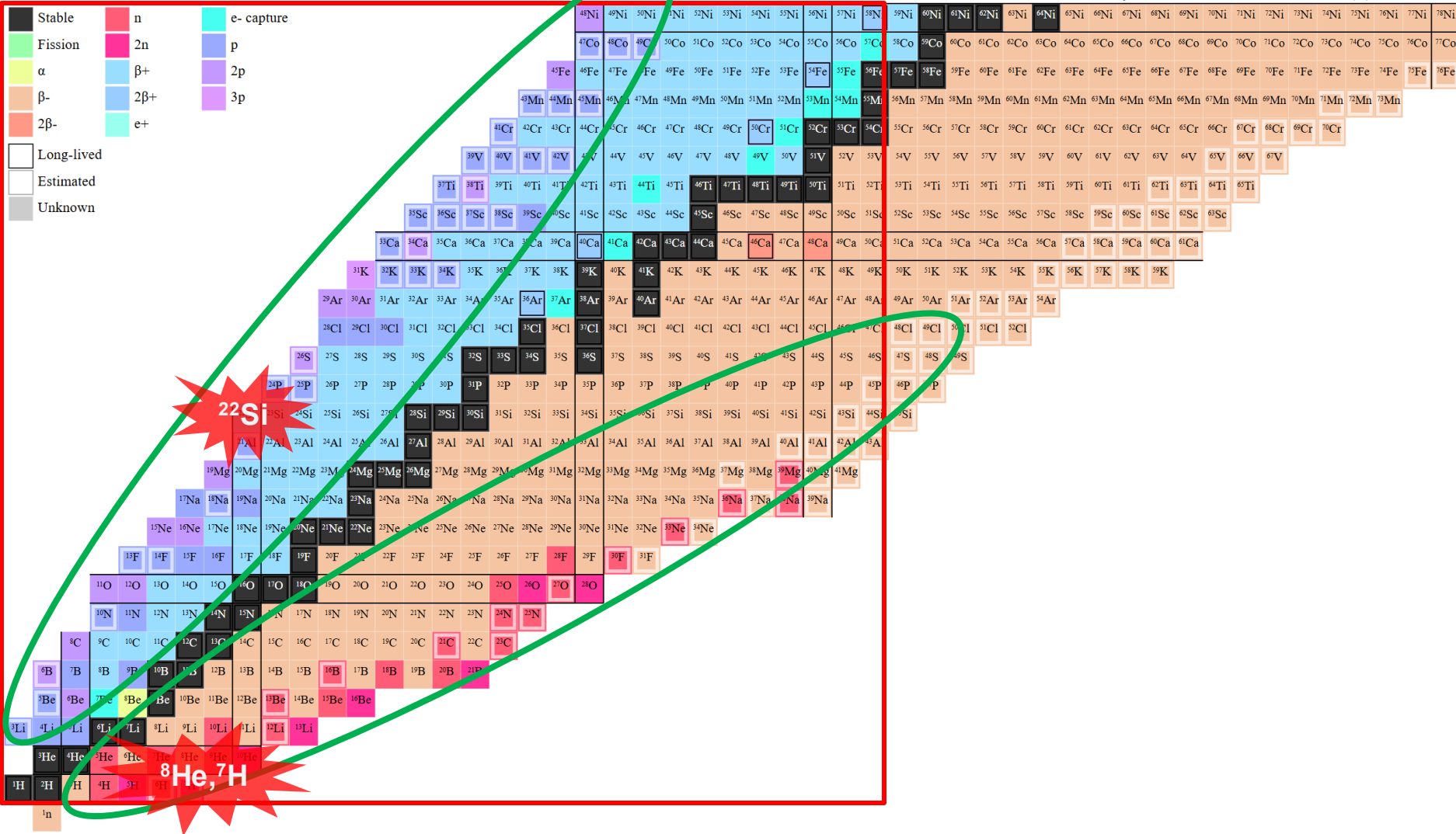


Background

Primary Decay Mode



SIMPSON E.C. J Phys: Conf Ser, 2020, 1643(1): 012168



Chiral force

Discretized in lattice space
 $a \sim 1.32$ fm
 np phase shifts to N^3 LO

Many-body method

Auxiliary field Quantum Monte Carlo

Full sets of many-body correlations
 Get states from imaginary time projection

$$|\Psi_{g.s.}\rangle \propto \lim_{\tau \rightarrow \infty} \exp(-\tau H) |\Psi_A\rangle$$

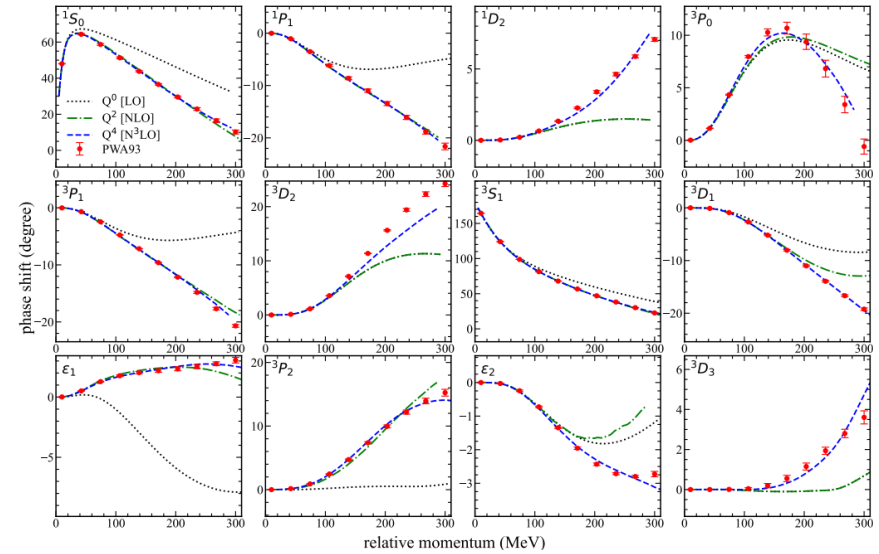
Wave function Matching

H_S (contact, regularized OPE)
 Mapping the unitarily transformed H'_x to H_S

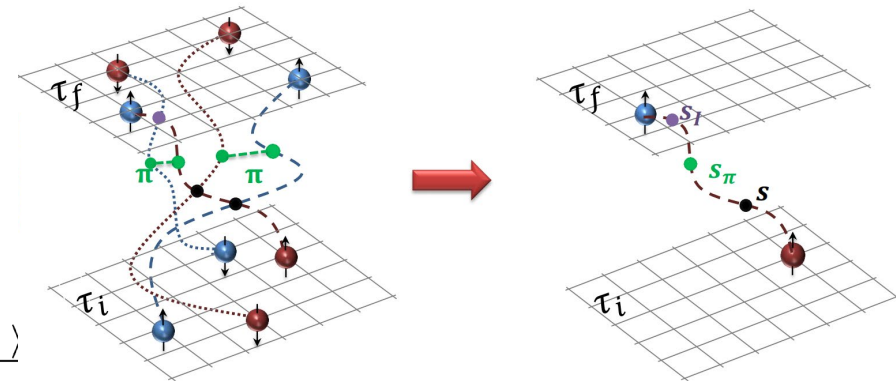
Perturbative method in QMC

$$\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle = \frac{\langle \Psi | \mathcal{O} | \Psi \rangle}{\langle \Psi | \Psi \rangle} = \frac{\langle \Psi^{(0)} + \Psi^{(1)} + \dots | \mathcal{O} | \Psi^{(0)} + \Psi^{(1)} + \dots \rangle}{\langle \Psi^{(0)} + \Psi^{(1)} + \dots | \Psi^{(0)} + \Psi^{(1)} + \dots \rangle}$$

Lv *et al.*, Phys. Lett. B 797 (2019) 134863; Phys. Rev. Lett. 128, 242501 (2022)

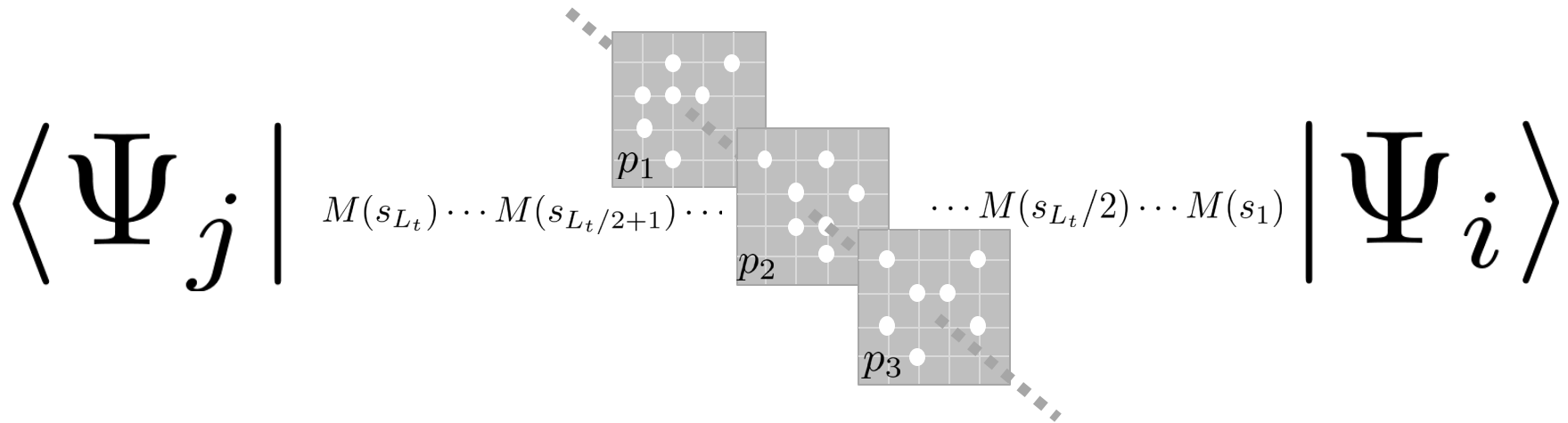


S. Elhatisari *et al.*, Nature 630 (2024) 59
 Li *et al.*, Phys. Rev. C 98 (2018) 044002; Phys. Rev. C 99 (2019) 064001



Pinhole method

$$p = \frac{|\langle \Psi_f | M(s_{L_t}) \cdots M(s_{L_t/2+1}) \rho_{i_A, j_A}(\mathbf{n}_A) M(s_{L_t/2}) \cdots M(s_1) | \Psi_i \rangle|}{\sum |\langle \Psi_f | M(s_{L_t}) \cdots M(s_{L_t/2+1}) \rho_{i_A, j_A}(\mathbf{n}_A) M(s_{L_t/2}) \cdots M(s_1) | \Psi_i \rangle|}$$



Coordinate space

Configuration space

Insert A-body density operator

sample $|r, i, j\rangle$

Translation $e^{iP R_n} |r\rangle$ orth. $|r\rangle$

No rotational invariance (irrep projection)

Insert A-body HO basis in m-scheme

sample $|nljm\rangle$ with constraints on P_{tot} and M_{tot}

Spherical basis

Breaks translational invariance

S. Elhatisari *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Lett. **119**, 222505, S. Zhang *et al.*, arXiv:2411.17462

Combining density correlations with any observable of physical interest, we are able to probe the underlying structure of the nuclei.

Why ^{22}Si ?

Doubly closed shell nucleus at the dripline

Shell closure in competition with proximity to the dripline

- Mass measurement of ^{22}Al suggested a halo structure
- Isospin asymmetry in the $^{22}\text{Si}/^{22}\text{O}$ Gamow-Teller transition
- ΔR_{ch} of $^{36-38}\text{Ca}$ impacted by nuclear superfluidity and weak binding

S. E. Campbell *et al.*, PRL 132, 152501 (2024), J. Lee *et al.*, PRL 125, 192503 (2020), A. J. Miller *et al.*, Nat. Phys. 15, 432–436 (2019)

Mass, excited states, radii yet to be determined

- High-precision mass measurement at IMP (ongoing)
- Invariant mass of excited states at FRIB (ongoing)
- Radii? $\Delta R_{\text{ch}} \propto |N - Z| \times L$ imposes constraint on the slope L of the symmetry energy

K. König *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Lett. 132, 162502 (2024)

Theoretical studies

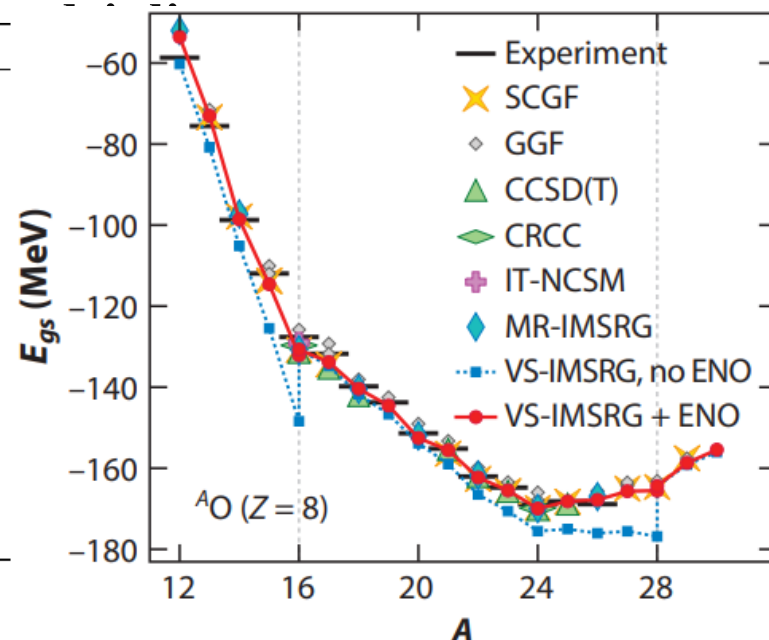
- Diverse S_{2p} predictions from various many-body methods

Why ^{22}Si ?

Doubly closed shell nucleus at the dripline

^{22}Si	method	S_{2p}	notes
	EXP ¹	645(100) keV	weakly bound, indirect experimental measurement M. Babo, Thesis, Université de Caen Normandie (2016)
	EXP ²	-108(125) keV	weakly unbound, indirect experimental measurement X.X. Xu, et al., PLB 766, 312 (2017)
	MBPT	-120 keV	2- <i>p</i> emission candidates, chiral NN+3N, $sdp_{3/2}f_{7/2}$ J.D. Holt, et al., PRL 110, 022502 (2013)
	IMSRG	-382 keV ~ -558 keV	weakly unbound, EM1.8/2.0, different valence spaces S.R. Stroberg, et al., PRL 126, 022501 (2017)
	GSM	674 keV	weakly bound, chiral NN+3N, $sdp_{3/2}f_{7/2}$ S. Zhang, et al., PLB 827, 136958 (2022)

Table 1: Current status of experimental and theoretical study on ^{22}Si



S. R. Stroberg, *et al.*, Annu. Rev. Nucl. Part. Sci. 69, 307 (2019), 1902.06154

Theoretical studies

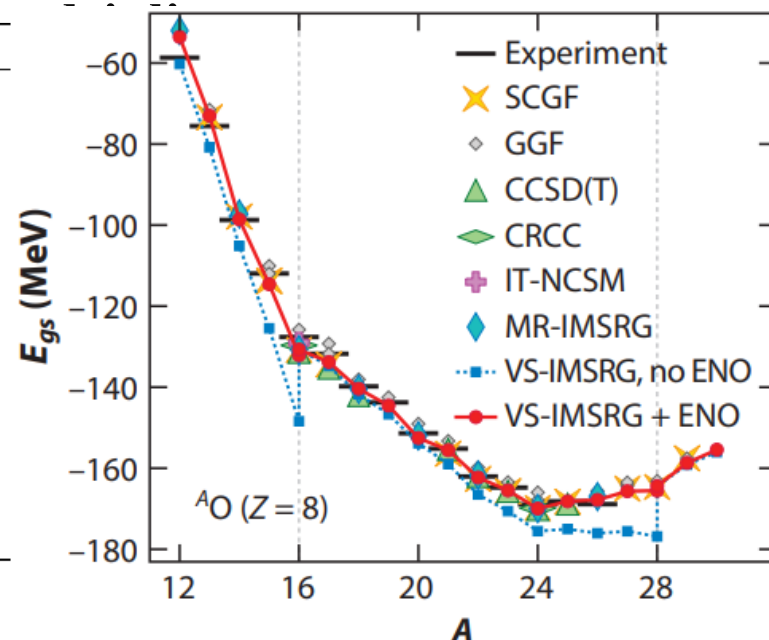
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Theoretical studies

- Diverse S_{2p} predictions from various many-body methods

- 2+ states evolution insufficient to determine the $N=8$ shell closure

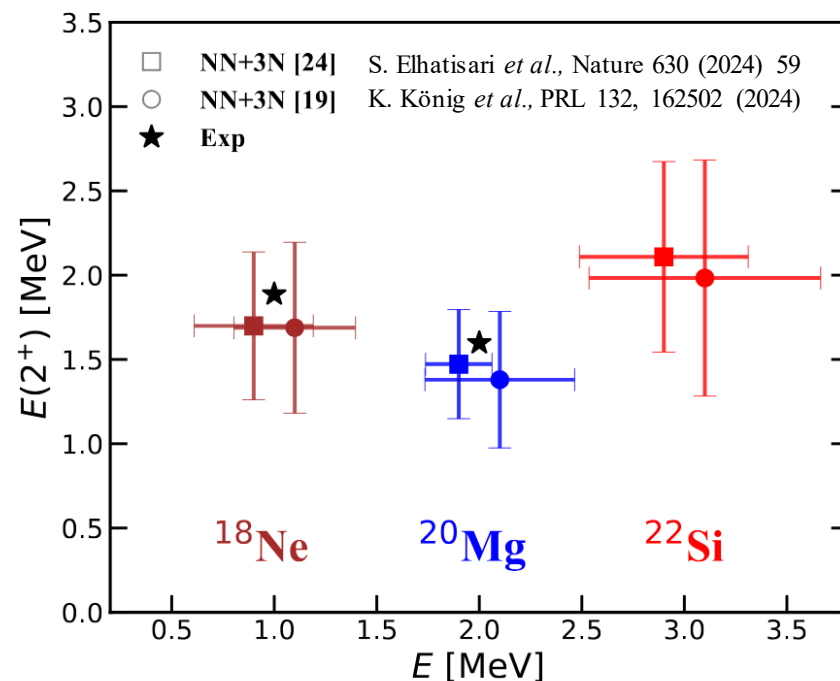
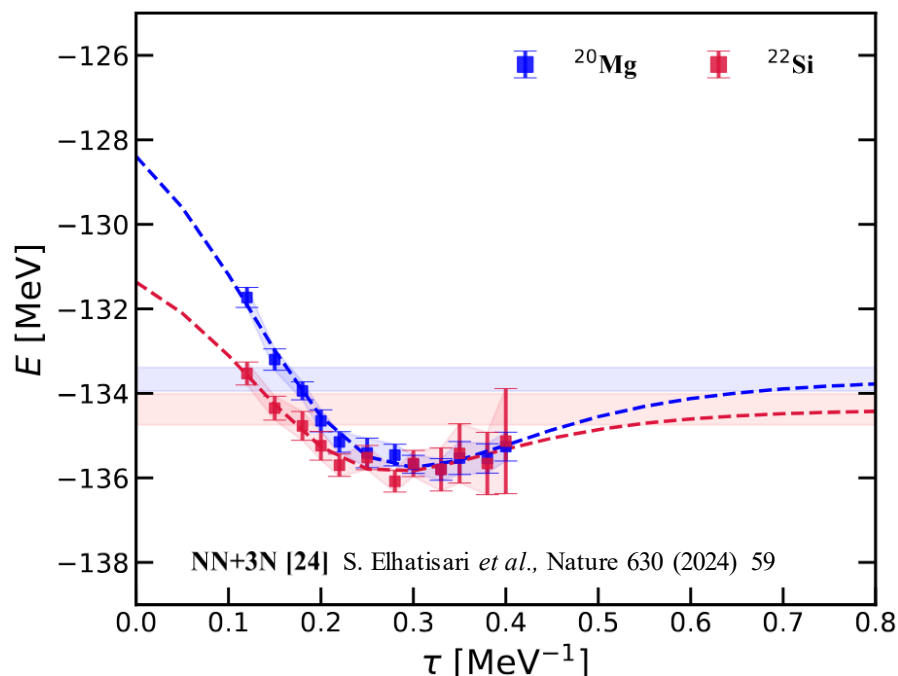
J. G. Li *et al.*, PLB 846, 138197 (2023)

- Charge radii questions magicity at $N=32$ of Ca and K isotopes

A. Koszorús, *et al.* Nat. Phys. 17, 439–443 (2021)

F. Wienholtz *et al.*, Nature 498, 346–349 (2013), R. F. Garcia Ruiz *et al.*, Nat. Phys. 12, 594–598 (2016)

Explore this question from the perspective of nucleon distributions in ^{22}Si



	$E_{g.s.}[^{22}\text{Si}]$	$E_{g.s.}[^{20}\text{Mg}]$	S_{2p}
H_χ [24]	-134.38 (39)	-133.66 (28)	0.72 (48)
H_χ [19]	-136.28 (41)	-134.94 (18)	1.34 (45)
EXP		-134.61	

	$E_{2^+}[^{22}\text{Si}]$	$E_{2^+}[^{20}\text{Mg}]$	$E_{2^+}[^{18}\text{Ne}]$
H_χ [24]	2.11 (57)	1.47 (32)	1.70 (44)
H_χ [19]	1.98 (70)	1.38 (40)	1.69 (51)
EXP		1.60	1.89

τ from 0.3 MeV $^{-1}$ to 0.4 MeV $^{-1}$

g.s. energies change by less than 0.36 MeV
 ^{22}Si consistently more bound than ^{20}Mg

Suggest a possible $Z = 14$ subshell closure

	R_{ch}	$\Delta R_{\text{ch}}(^{22}\text{Si}-^{20}\text{Mg})$	$\Delta R_{\text{ch}}(^{22}\text{Si}-^{22}\text{O})$
H_{χ} [24]	3.277 (19)	0.070 (31)	0.361 (32)
H_{χ} [19]	3.196 (17)	0.070 (28)	0.370 (29)

Experiment: $\Delta R_{\text{ch}}(^{28}\text{Si}-^{26}\text{Mg}) = 0.088$ fm

$\Delta R_{\text{ch}}(^{30}\text{Si}-^{28}\text{Mg}) = 0.064$ fm

$\Delta R_{\text{ch}}(^{32}\text{Si}-^{30}\text{Mg}) = 0.042$ fm

D. T. Yordanov *et al.*, PRL 108, 042504 (2012)

K. König *et al.*, PRL 132, 162502 (2024)

No significantly changes in shell structure from proton-rich to neutron-rich side.

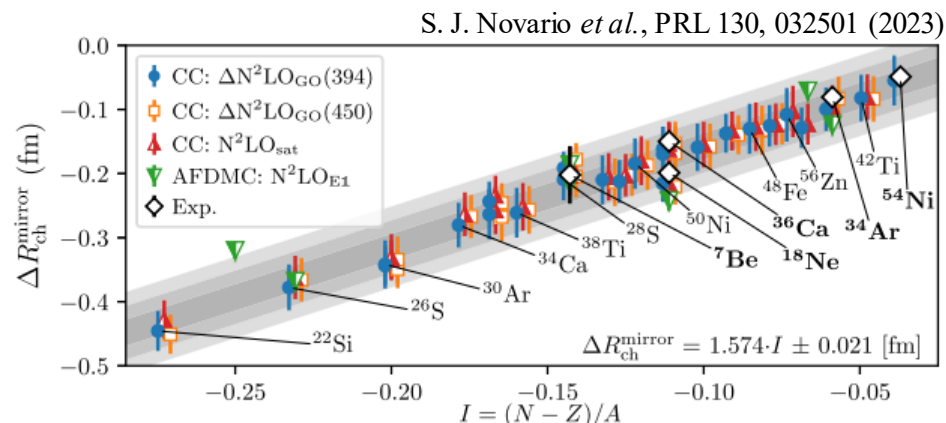
ΔR_{ch} of $^{22}\text{Si}-^{22}\text{O}$ show good agreement with two chiral NN+3N forces

Lattice simulations:

Consistent with CC prediction within 3σ confidence

$\Delta R_{\text{ch}}[\text{CC}] = 0.429$ (21)

Relatively small, a suppression of the slope L ?

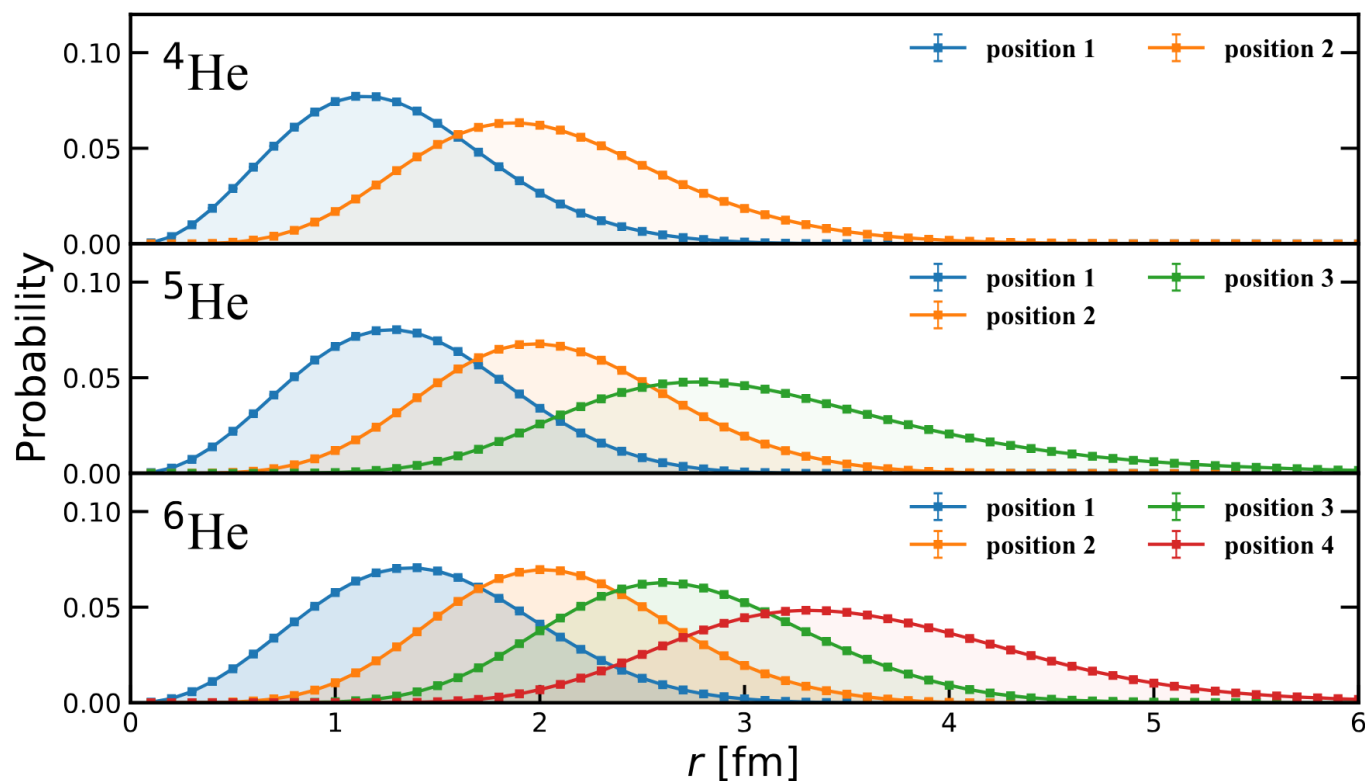


Nucleon distributions

Nucleon ordering operators:

S. Zhang *et al.*, arXiv:2411.17462

$$\hat{\Pi}_i(r) = \delta(r - r_{\hat{\pi}(i)}) \quad \hat{\pi}(i) = \arg \min_{k \notin \{\pi(1), \dots, \pi(i-1)\}} \{\hat{r}_k\}$$



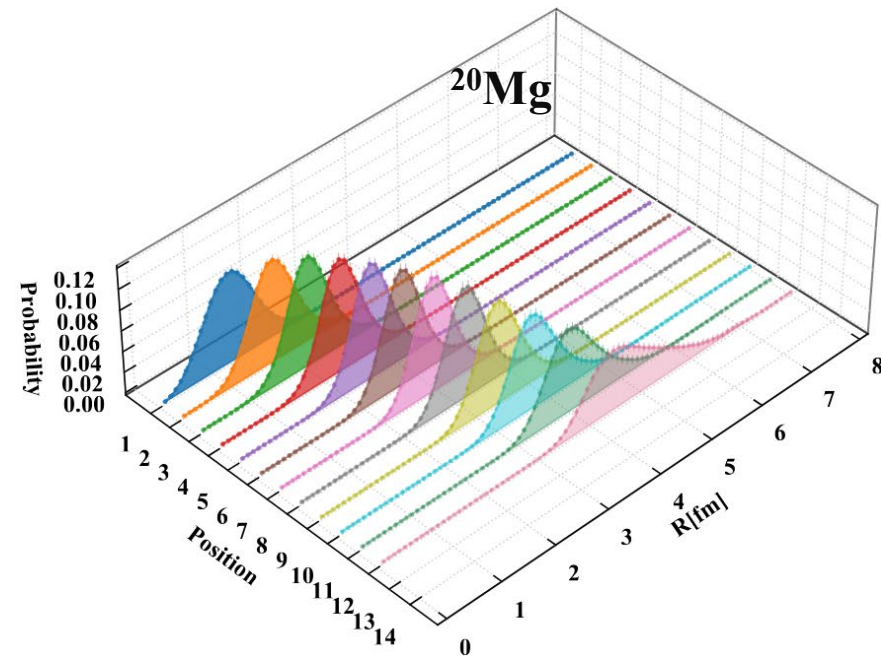
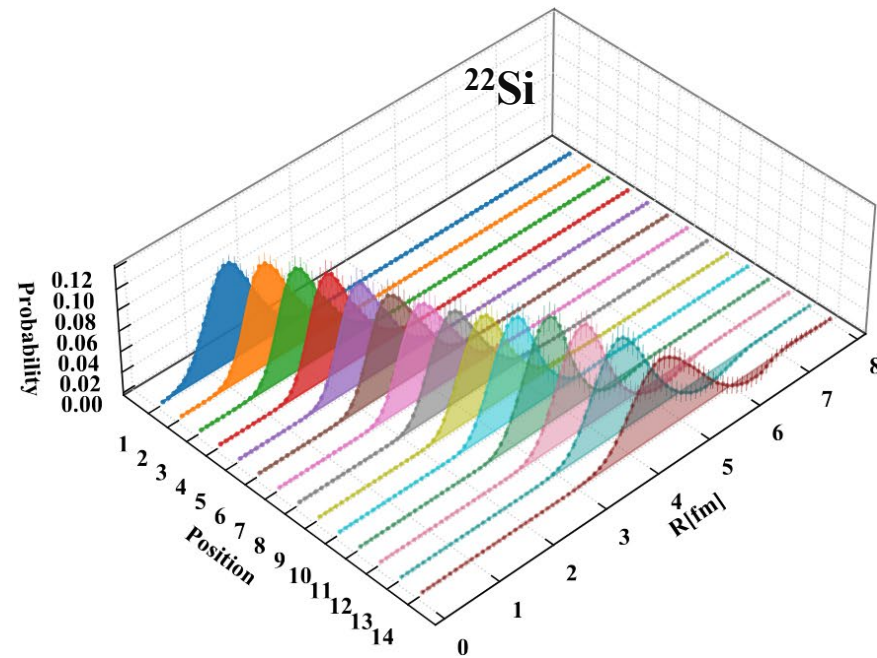
First and second layers of ${}^4\text{He}$ share identical Gaussian widths

${}^5\text{He}$ & ${}^6\text{He}$ outer layers exhibit significant spatial extension, unlike inner layers

Reveals arrangement and localization, linking to the shell closure to some extent

Nucleon distributions

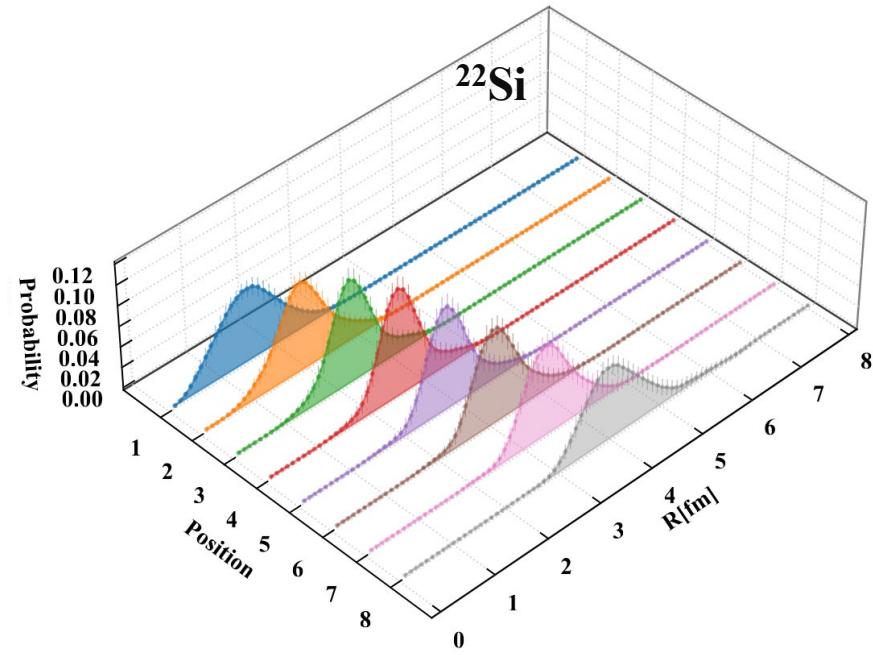
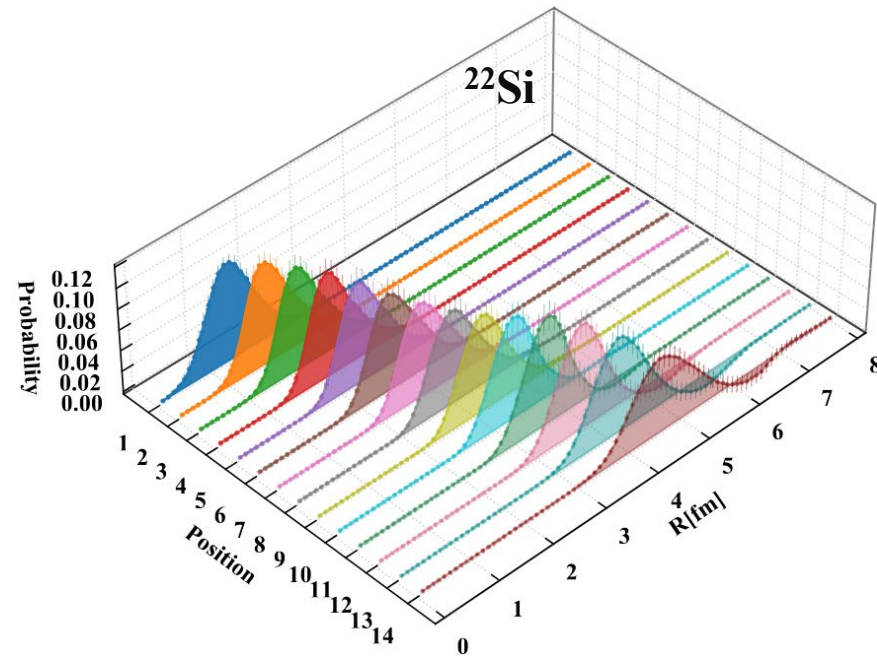
Spatial arrangement of protons in the $N = 8$ isotones



The extra $2p$ in ^{22}Si are likely positioned near the regions corresponding to the 9th and 11th layers

Outer layer in ^{22}Si shows a similar broadening pattern to the inner layers and exhibits spatial localization characteristics

Nucleon distributions



The extra $2p$ in ^{22}Si are likely positioned near the regions corresponding to the 9th and 11th layers

Outer layer in ^{22}Si shows a similar broadening pattern to the inner layers and exhibits spatial localization characteristics

Spatial localizations in Coordinate space linked to shell closure features in SM languages

Presence of shell closure at $Z = 14$ and $N = 8$ in ^{22}Si

Occupation numbers via Pinhole method with HO basis

States	n_π	n_ν
$0s_{1/2}[1/2]$	0.935 (132)	1.009 (123)
$0s_{1/2}[-1/2]$	0.970 (135)	0.981 (124)
$0p_{3/2}[3/2]$	0.670 (151)	0.931 (135)
$0p_{3/2}[1/2]$	0.965 (164)	0.805 (123)
$0p_{3/2}[-1/2]$	0.945 (155)	0.901 (139)
$0p_{3/2}[-3/2]$	0.751 (148)	0.911 (137)
$0p_{1/2}[1/2]$	0.901 (131)	0.877 (135)
$0p_{1/2}[-1/2]$	1.049 (161)	0.938 (147)
$0d_{5/2}[5/2]$	1.018 (205)	
$0d_{5/2}[3/2]$	1.056 (229)	
$0d_{5/2}[1/2]$	0.980 (217)	
$0d_{5/2}[-1/2]$	1.106 (223)	
$0d_{5/2}[-3/2]$	0.875 (209)	
$0d_{5/2}[-5/2]$	1.063 (204)	
$1s_{1/2}[1/2]$	0.141 (173)	
$1s_{1/2}[-1/2]$	0.160 (150)	
$0d_{3/2}[3/2]$	-0.127 (169)	
$0d_{3/2}[1/2]$	-0.003 (162)	
$0d_{3/2}[-1/2]$	0.202 (156)	
$0d_{3/2}[-3/2]$	0.145 (143)	

Occupation number $\ll 1 \rightarrow$ particle-hole excitations

$0p$ orbitals of proton:

$$0p_{3/2}[3/2] = 0.979 \text{ (6) with } H_s$$

$$0p_{3/2}[-3/2] = 0.982 \text{ (7) with } H_s$$

fully occupied w/o perturbation corrections

Outer $0d_{5/2}$ orbitals:

fully occupied \rightarrow suggests limited particle-hole excitation

Statistical Considerations:

Lower-than-expected occupation for $0p_{3/2}$

negative value for $0d_{3/2}[3/2]$

Sign problem with N³LO & Insufficient statistics due to full many-body correlations

Upper limits considering errors:

$$0p_{3/2}[3/2] \leq 0.821$$

$$0p_{3/2}[-3/2] \leq 0.899$$

$$0d_{3/2}[3/2] \sim 0$$

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negative value for $0d_{3/2}[3/2]$

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Upper limits considering errors:

$$0p_{3/2}[3/2] \leq 0.821$$

$$0p_{3/2}[-3/2] \leq 0.899$$

$$0d_{3/2}[3/2] \sim 0$$

Occu. numbers support the existence of shell closure (as indicated by the 2^+ and spatial localizations) rather than a genuine destruction of the shell closure

Providing pathways for future comparisons with configuration space many-body methods

nn correlations in light nuclei

Observation of 0_2^+ in ^8He with the condensatelike $\alpha+2n+2n$ cluster

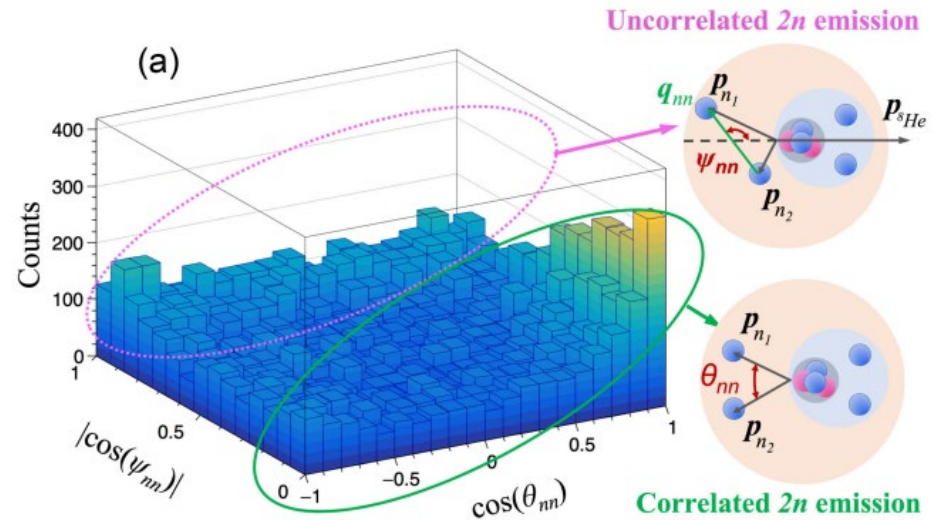
$$E = 6.66 (6) \text{ MeV}$$

$$M(\text{IS0}) = 11_{-2.3}^{+1.8} \text{ fm}^2$$

Green-solid ovals ($\psi_{nn} \sim 90^\circ$):

Enhancement at $\theta_{nn} \sim 0^\circ$

significant nn correlations



Z. H. Yang, *et. al.*, PhysRevLett.131.242501 (2023)

Compared to a pure four-neutron system, multi-neutron correlation may be enhanced when $4n$ are weakly bound or unbound around a core.

nn correlations in light nuclei

Uncertainty Analysis:

- Volume Effects: $L = 14$
- Chiral forces: nuclear force parameterizations via history matching

Intrinsic structure

- A -body density with full correlations
- Cluster identification $\alpha, 2n, t$

Multi-neutron correlations

nn correlation analysis

Three-body systems (Jacobi basis, via pinhole coordinate)

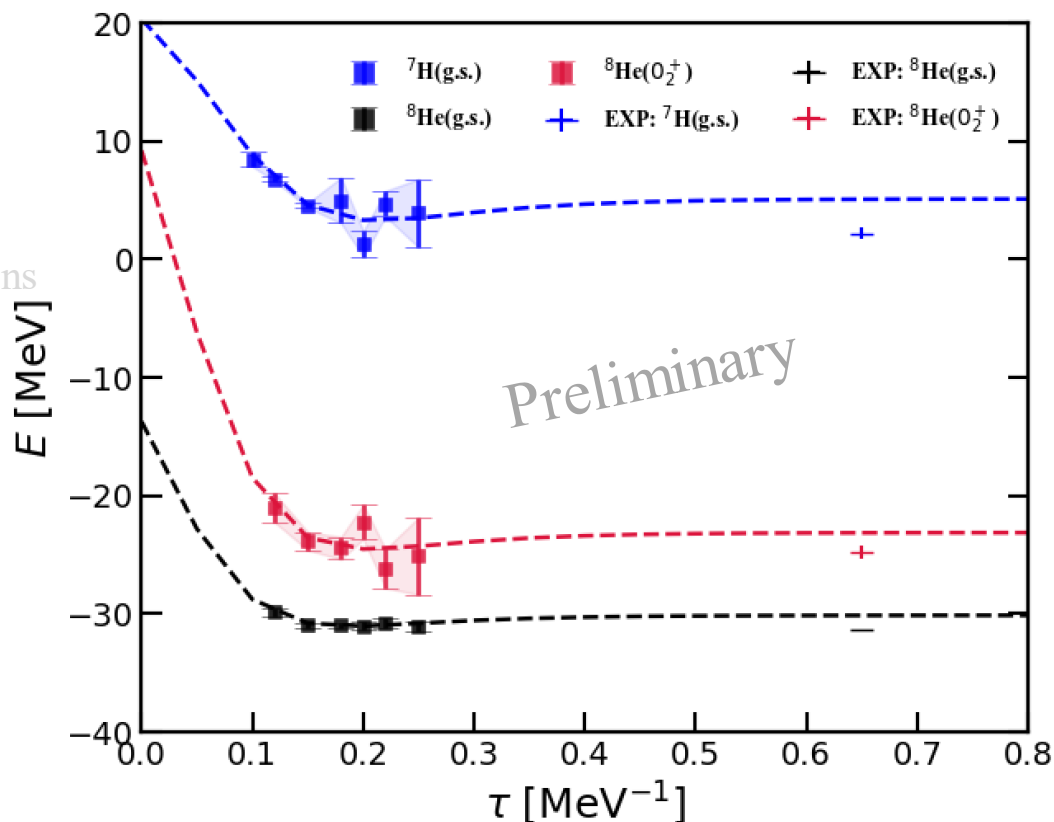
$$\alpha + 2n + 2n$$

$$t + 2n + 2n$$

$2n - 2n$ correlation

Three-body correlation functions:

$$\alpha + 2n + 2n / t + 2n + 2n$$



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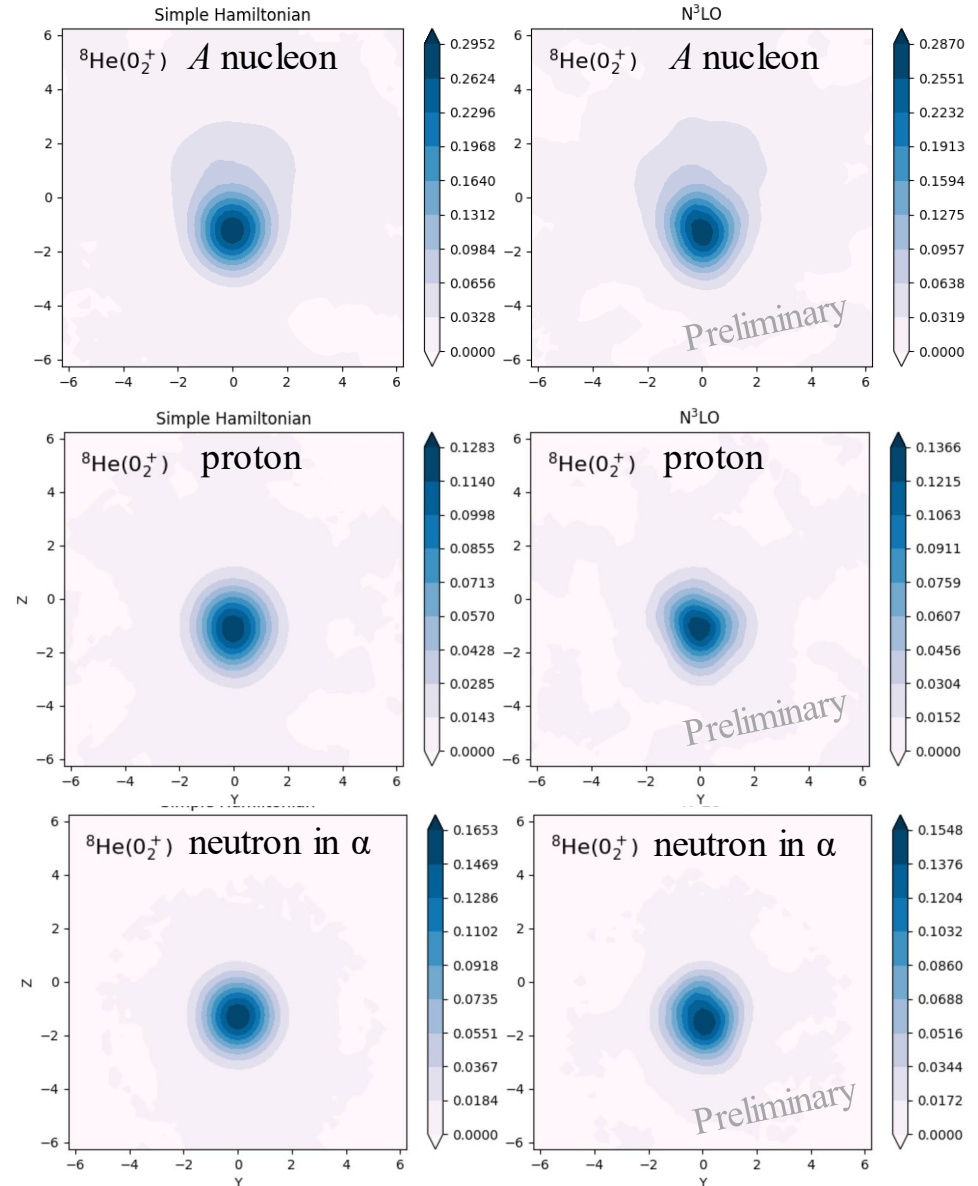
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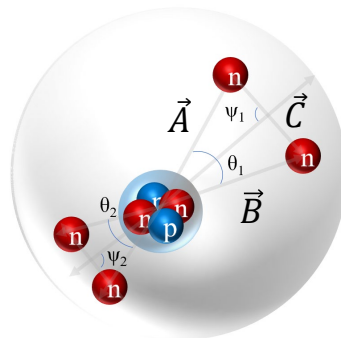
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$$t + 2n + 2n$$

$2n - 2n$ correlation

Three-body correlation functions:



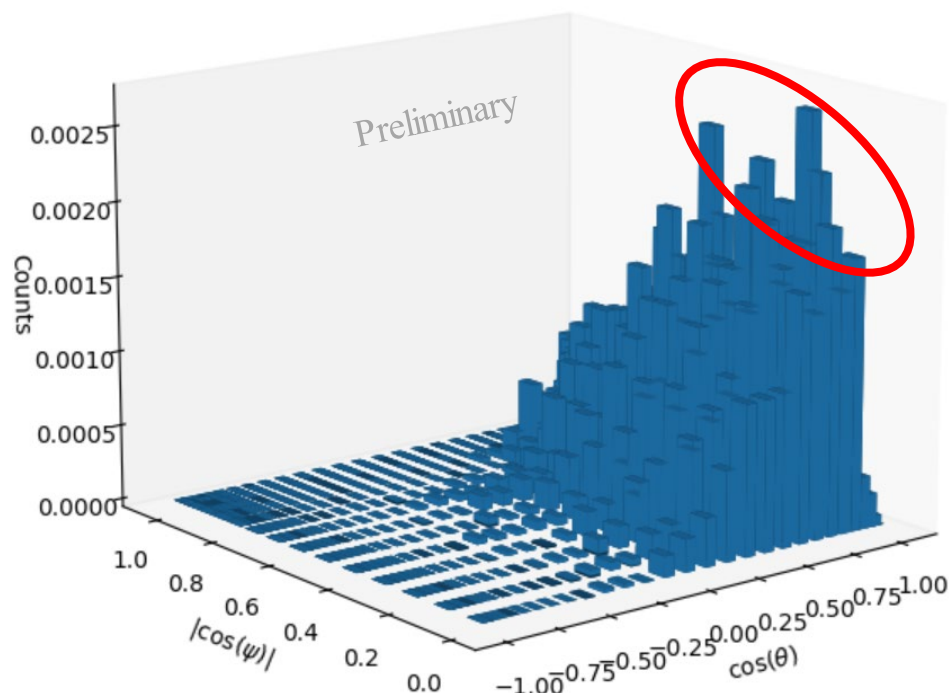
T-type

$$\vec{A} = n^1(x,y,z) - \text{CoM}(x,y,z)$$

$$\vec{B} = n^2(x,y,z) - \text{CoM}(x,y,z)$$

$$\vec{C} = n^1(x,y,z) - n^2(x,y,z)$$

$$\theta = \frac{\arccos(\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B})}{|\vec{A}| |\vec{B}|} \quad \psi = \pi - \theta/2 - \frac{\arccos(\vec{A} \cdot \vec{C})}{|\vec{A}| |\vec{C}|}$$



nn correlations in light nuclei

Uncertainty Analysis:

- Volume Effects: $L = 14$
- Chiral forces: nuclear force parameterizations via history matching

Intrinsic structure

- A -body density with full correlations
- Cluster identification $\alpha, 2n, t$

Multi-neutron correlations

nn correlation analysis

Three-body systems (Jacobi basis, via pinhole coordinate)

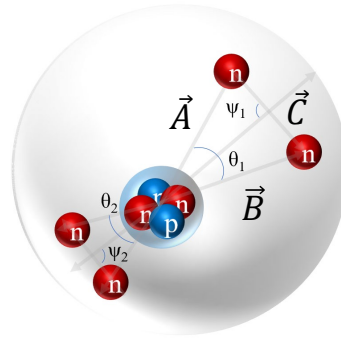
$$\alpha + 2n + 2n$$

$$t + 2n + 2n$$

2n - 2n correlation

Three-body correlation functions:

$$\rho_3(r_{12}, r_{13}, r_{23}) = \binom{A}{3} \left\langle \prod_{i < j=1}^3 \delta(|\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j| - r_{ij}) \right\rangle$$



T-type

$$\vec{A} = \mathbf{n}^1(x,y,z) - \text{CoM}(x,y,z)$$

$$\vec{B} = \mathbf{n}^2(x,y,z) - \text{CoM}(x,y,z)$$

$$\vec{C} = \mathbf{n}^1(x,y,z) - \mathbf{n}^2(x,y,z)$$

$$\theta = \frac{\arccos(\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B})}{|\vec{A}| |\vec{B}|} \quad \psi = \pi - \theta/2 - \frac{\arccos(\vec{A} \cdot \vec{C})}{|\vec{A}| |\vec{C}|}$$

If $\theta_1, \theta_2 \sim \mathbf{0}$; $\psi_1, \psi_2 \sim \pi/2$

$$d_1(x,y,z) = [\mathbf{n}^1(x,y,z) + \mathbf{n}^2(x,y,z)]/2$$

$$d_2(x,y,z) = [\mathbf{n}^3(x,y,z) + \mathbf{n}^4(x,y,z)]/2$$

$$\alpha(x,y,z)$$

Summary & perspective

□ Proton-rich ^{22}Si

Calculations agree with existing data and predict ^{22}Si as a proton-dripline nucleus, along with its 2^+ state, radius, and spatial properties

Using nucleon ordering operators, we reveal nucleon spatial arrangement and localization, linked to shell closure features

Introducing a novel pinhole method with HO basis, offering new perspectives into a more comprehensive understanding of nuclear structure

□ nn correlations in light nuclei

Energies, nucleon density of ^8He and ^7H

Cluster identification, such as α , $2n$

□ Further developments

Comparison our ^{22}Si results with upcoming experimental data

Uncertainty quantification in the energies of ^8He and ^7H , multi-neutron correlations

Extension to heavy nuclei with the benefits of GPU resource

Thank you!