BELEN

A 4π BEta deLayEd Neutron counter

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Nuclear Astrophysics at the Canfranc Underground Laboratory 2nd CUNA Workshop Canfranc, Huesca, Spain, 29 February – 1 March, 2016











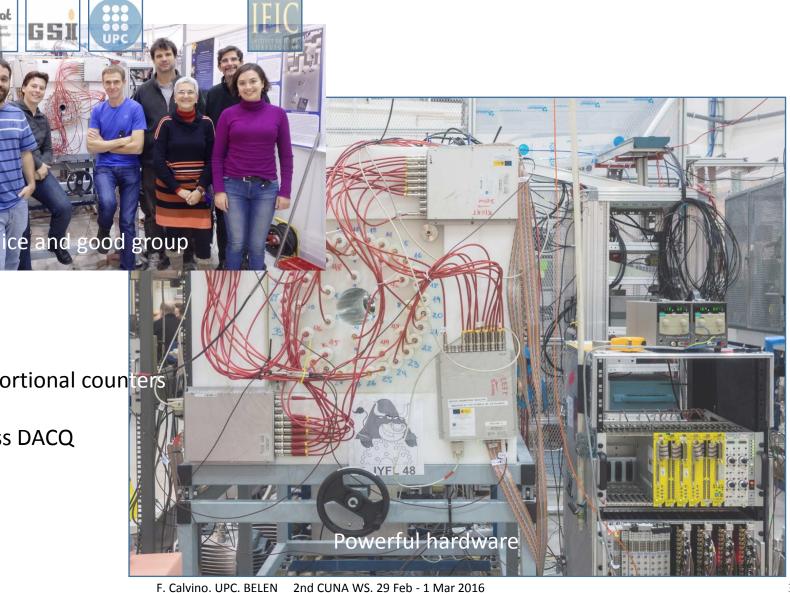
- Introduction
 - BELEN
 - BELEN evolution
 - Delayed neutrons
 - He-3 proportional counters
- Latest results with BELEN prototypes
 - BELEN-30: S410 experiment at GSI
 - BELEN-48: IGISOL-Jyväskylä in 2014
- BELEN at RIKEN (BRIKEN collaboration)
- Concluding remarks.

What's BELEN?

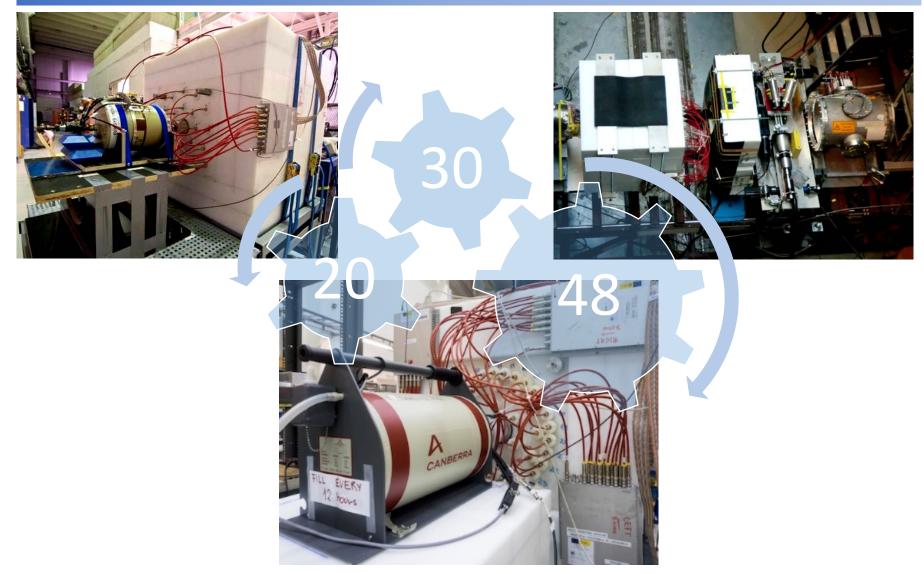
- He-3 proportional counters
- HPPE
- Trigger-less DACQ

Ciemat

6-51



BELEN evolution



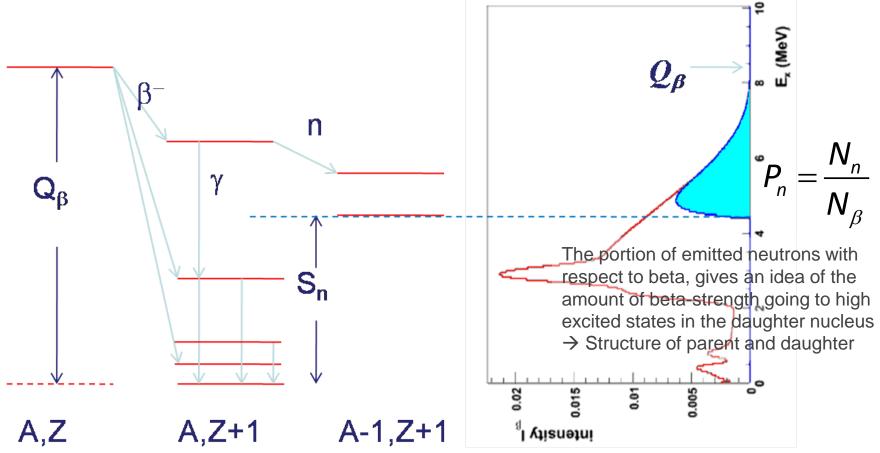
Developed within the DESPEC-NUSTAR collaboration for FAIR

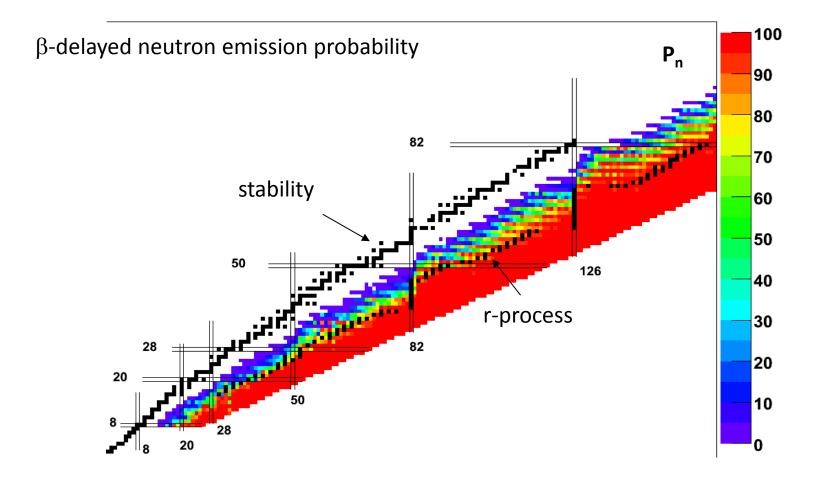
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If $S_n < Q_\beta$

and the β -decay proceeds to states above S_n, neutron emission competes and can dominate over γ -ray emission.

The process will dominate far from stability on the n-rich side.





Nuclear power safety:

NPP reactors are designed to be prompt-neutron subcritical. Criticality is controlled by delayed neutrons. Some FP are delayed neutron emitters.

Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) highlights the importance of experimental measurements and data evaluation of delayed neutron emission in its working group 6 "Delayed neutron data" [WPEC-SG6].

Rapid neutron-capture process of stellar nucleosynthesis:

Stellar abundances: delayed neutron emission probability (P_n) of r-process isobaric nuclei define the decay path towards stability during freeze-out, and provide a source of late time neutrons.

Nuclear Structure:

Additionally the measured half-lives $(T_{1/2})$ and β -delayed neutron-emission probabilities (P_n) can be used as first probes of the structure of the β -decay parent and daughter nuclei in this mass region.

Why He-3?



Detection reaction:

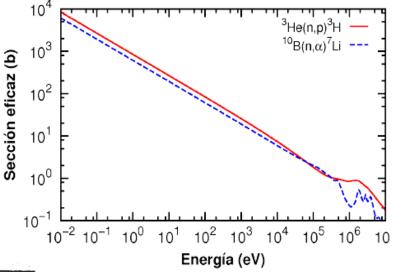
³ $He + n \rightarrow$ ³ $H + p \quad Q=0.764 MeV$

High Thermal cross section: **5330 barns!!!**

Table 13-1. Neutron and gamma-ray interaction probabilities in typical gas proportional counters and scintillators

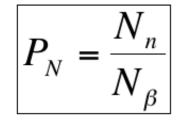
	Interaction Probability					
Thermal Detectors	Thermal Neutron	1-MeV Gamma Ray				
³ He (2.5 cm diam, 4 atm)	0.77	0.0001				
Ar (2.5 cm diam, 2 atm)	0.0	0.0005				
BF ₃ (5.0 cm diam, 0.66 atm)	0.29	0.0006				
Al tube wall (0.8 mm)	0.0	0.014				
	Interaction Probability					
Fast Detectors	1-MeV Neutron	1-MeV Gamma Ray				
⁴ He (5.0 cm diam, 18 atm)	0.01	0.001				
Al tube wall (0.8 mm)	0.0	0.014				
Scintillator (5.0 cm thick)	0.78	0.26				

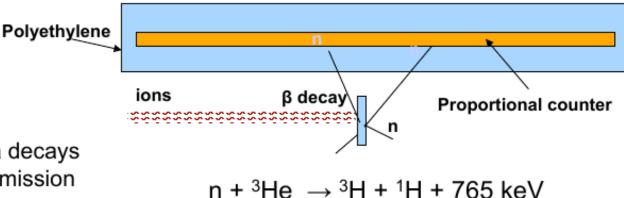
*Extracted from Neutron Detectors, T. W. Crane and M. P. Baker



- These neutron counters are gaseous ionization detectors that use 3He as converting gas.
- Due to the high thermal capture cross section, 3He filled counters have a high neutron sensitivity.
- For non-thermal neutrons, the high efficiency can be exploited by using moderators.
- All these characteristics make 3Hefilled counters very attractive for applications requiring high neutron efficiency and good neutron/gamma discrimination (thermal/fast neutron counting, spectroscopy, etc.).

Determination of P_n values





 N_n is the number of beta decays going through neutron emission N_β is the number of decays

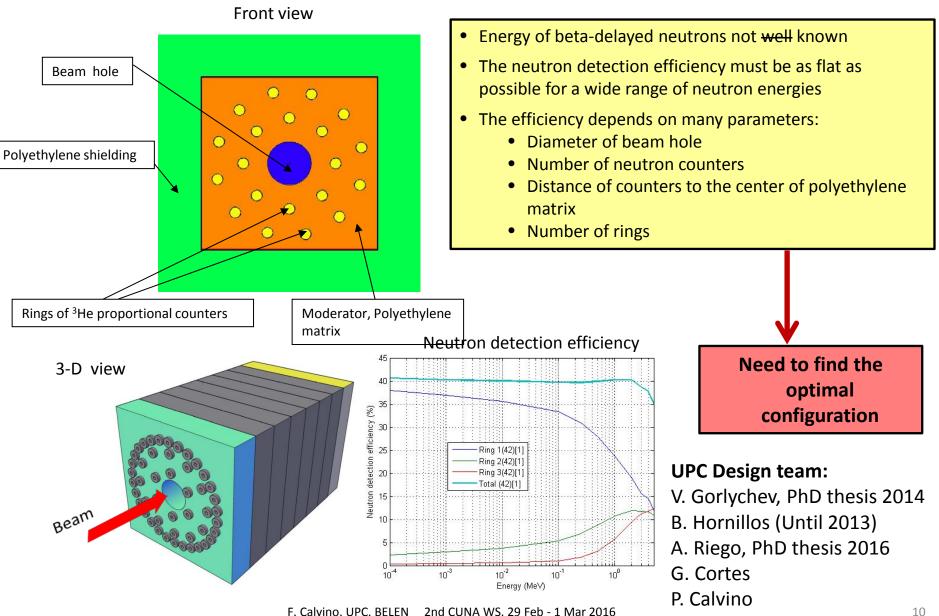
n + $^{10}\text{B} \rightarrow ^{7}\text{Li}$ + ^{4}He + 0.48 γ + 2.3 MeV

Some key issues concerning the technique:

- Moderation of the neutrons is required
- Purity of the sources \rightarrow background issues
- High efficiency of the whole detector
- Flatness. The efficiency curve of the detector should be as flat as possible (no dependence on the E of the neutrons up to the highest possible energy).
- Much better if DACQ is trigger-less —

Examples: "Krat's long counter", NERO, BELÉN, 3Hen, LOENIE, TETRA, ...

Detector design assisted by intensive MC simulations



Prototypes up to now:BELEN-20, BELEN-30 and BELEN-48

	Detector Name	³ He counters	Pressure (atm)	Experiment	Ratio @ 2 MeV	Ratio @ 5 MeV	Mean efficiency	Beam hole radii (cm)
[1]	BELEN-20	20	20	IGISOL: Jyväskylä - 2009 DONE	1.17	[1.60]	27%	5.5
[2]	BELEN-20	20	20	IGISOL: Jyväskylä - 2010 DONE	1.17	[1.60]	35%	5.5
[3]	BELEN-30	20+10	20 & 10	GSI: Germany – 2011 DONE	1.17	[1.70]	40%	11.5 (SIMBA)
[4]	BELEN-48	40+8	8 & 10	PTB: Germany-06/2013 (Detector calibration) DONE	1.02	1.16	45%	5.5
[5]	BELEN-48	40+8	8 & 10	IGISOL: Jyväskylä – DONE	1.02	1.16	45%	5.5
[5]	BELEN-48	40+8	8 & 10	IGISOL: Jyväskylä DONE	1.02	1.12	61%	3
[6]	BELEN-48	40+8	8 & 10	FAIR / DESPEC	1.07	1.18	45%	8.0 (AIDA)

[1] Paper: J. Agramunt et al, "New Beta-delayed Neutron Measurements in the Light-mass Fission Group", Nuclear Data Sheets, Volume 120, June-2014, pages 74-77

^[2] Not yet finished data analysis. Distribution of neutron counters optimized to increase the mean efficiency.

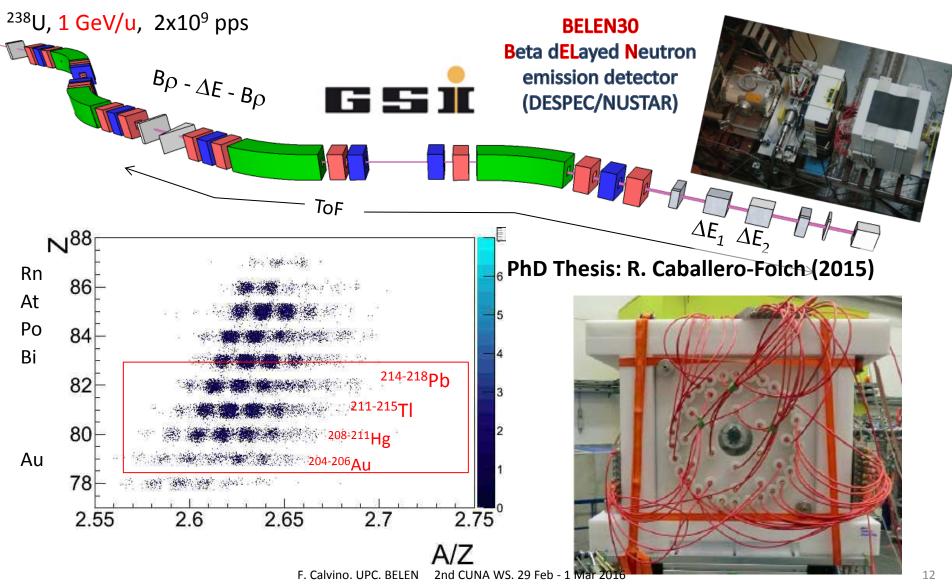
[3] GSI: S410/S323. "Measurement of beta-delayed neutrons around 3rd r-process peak". (Phd.Thesis Roger Caballero) Paper: R. Caballero-Folch, et al. "6-decay and 6-delayed Neutron Emission Measurements at GSI-FRS Beyond N=126, for r-process Nucleosynthesis", Nuclear Data Sheets, Volume 120, June2014, pages 81-83

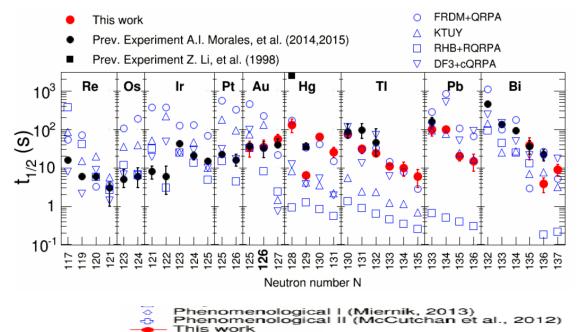
[4] Measurements done on 24-28 June 2013. Preliminary experimental results agree with MC simulations

- [5] Two experiments: I162 "Delayed neutron measurements for advanced reactor technologies and astrophysics", and I181 "Measurement of the beta-delayed 2-neutron emitter ¹³⁶Sb" were done on November-2014. Two matrix wereused: One with a beam hole of 3 cm radii, and other with a beam hole radii of 5.5 cm to insert a HPGe detector for gamma coincidence measurements.
- [6] Design for DESPEC / FAIR. Polyethylene matrix 80x80x90 cm³. Beta particle detector: AIDA F. Calvino. UPC. BELEN 2nd CUNA WS. 29 Feb - 1 Mar 2016

Latest results with BELEN prototypes

S410: First measurement of several β n-emitters beyond N = 126





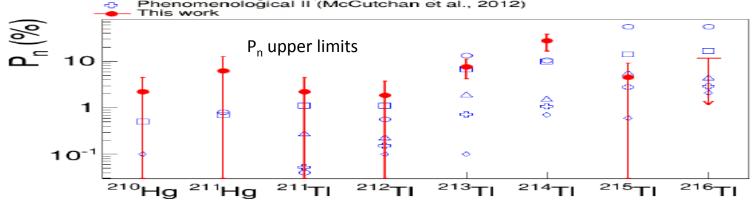
→ GSI-FRS Experiment (S410) using SIMBA + BELEN: precursor of AIDA+BRIKEN & AIDA + BELEN@NUSTAR

 → Demonstrates uneven performance of state-of-the-art global models on both sides of N=126 → Large uncertainties in r-process model calculations
 → Need of more experimental data

around N=126 (Source:

arXiv:1511.01296, submitted to Phys. Rev. Lett.)

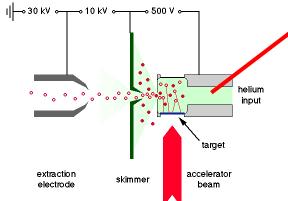
PhD Thesis: R. Caballero-Folch (UPC) C. Domingo-Pardo (IFIC)



JYFL Accelerator Laboratory

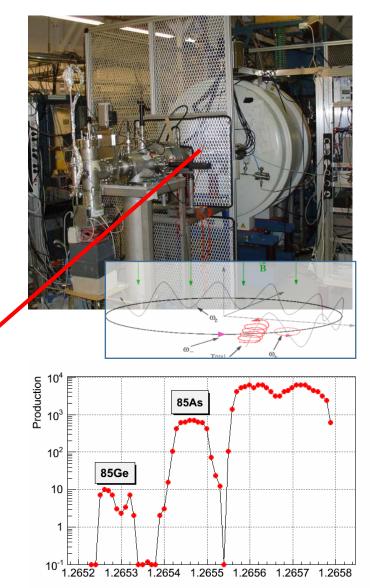
IGISOL separator + ion guide source: refractory elements





lsotope	Rate (s ⁻¹)	Isotope	Rate (s⁻¹)
⁸⁸ Br	1450	⁸⁵ Ge	6
⁹⁴ Rb	1030	⁸⁵ As	175
⁹⁵ Rb	760	⁸⁶ As	30
137	100	⁹¹ Br _F	. Calvino. UPC. BEI





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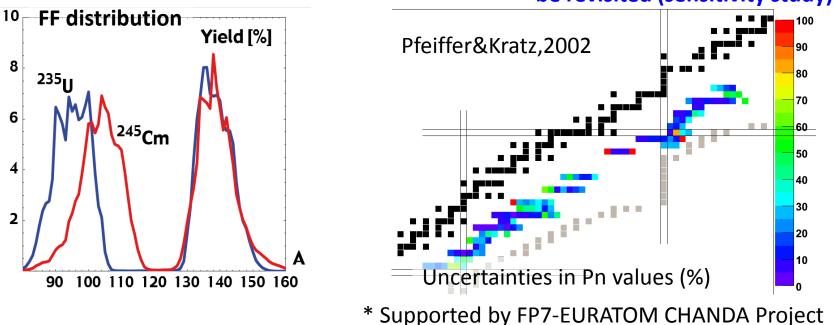
I162: Delayed neutron measurements for advanced reactor technologies and astrophysics* (J.L.Tain-IFIC, B.Gomez-UPC, et al.)

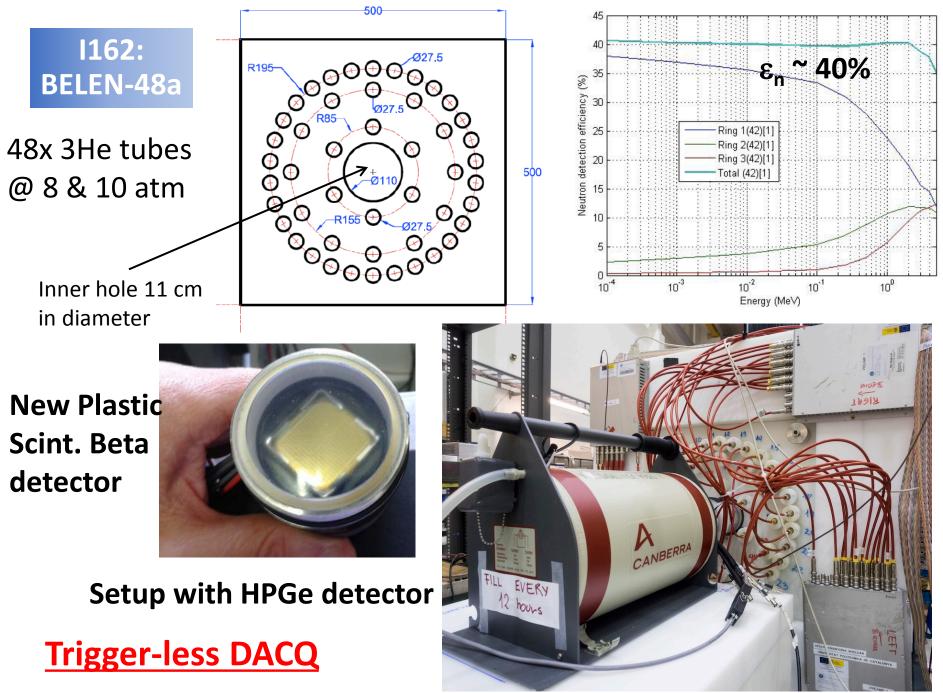
- The delayed neutron fraction β_{eff} is a key parameter in the control of reactor power
- Microscopic summation calculations lack still the accuracy of Keepin six-group formula
- Reason: inaccuracies in fission yields Y and delayed neutron emission probabilities P_n

Number of delayed neutrons per fission

$$\overline{V}_d = \sum_i Y_i \cdot P_n^i$$

Used to identify *P_n* values that should be revisited (sensitivity study)



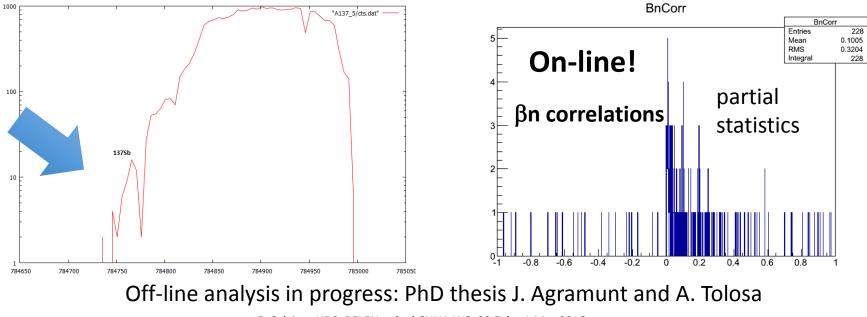


Data acquired for: ^{98,98m,99}Y, ^{135,137}Sb,¹³⁸Te, ^{138,139,140}I

962r 2.35E+19 Υ 2.807b 2β-	972r 16.749 H β-: 100.00%	982r 30.7 S β-: 100.00%	992r 2.1 S β-: 100.00%	100Zr 7.1 S β-: 100.00%	1012r 2.3 δ β-: 100.00%
95Υ 10.3 M β-: 100.00%	96Υ 5.34 S β-: 100.00%	97Υ 3.75 S β-: 100.00% β-π: 0.06%	98Υ 0.548 S β-: 100.00% β-π: 0.33%	99Υ 1.484 S β-: 100.00% β-π: 1.70%	100Υ 735 MS β-: 100.00% β-π: 0.92%
945r 75.3 S β-: 100.00%	95Sr 23.90 S β-: 100.00%	965r 1.07 5 β-: 100.00%	975r 429 MS β-: 100.00% β-π≤ 0.05%	985r 0.653 δ β-: 100.00% β-π: 0.25%	995r 0.2695 β-: 100.00% β-π: 0.10%

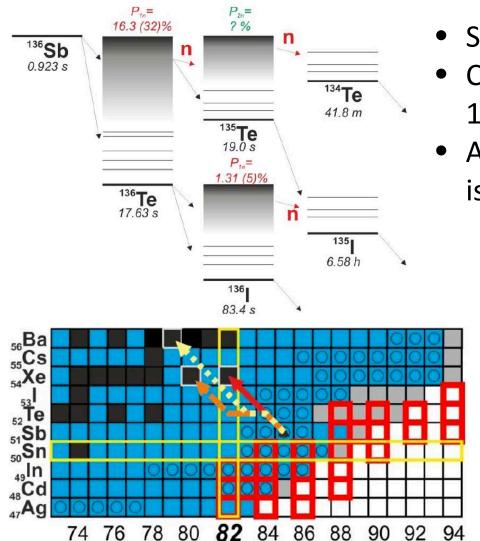
136 Xe >2.4E+21 Υ 8.8573 % 2β-	137 Xe 3.818 M β-: 100.00%	138 Xe 14.08 M β-: 100.00%	139 Χε 39.68 S β-: 100.00%	140 Xe 13.60 S β-: 100.00%	141Xe 1.73 S β-: 100.00% β-n: 0.04%	142 Xe 1.23 S β-: 100.00% β-n: 0.21%
1351 6.58 H β-: 100.00%	1361 83.4 S β-: 100.00%	1371 24.5 S β-: 100.00% β-n: 7.14%	1381 6.23 S β-: 100.00% β-n: 5.56%	1 391 2.280 S β-: 100.00% β-π: 10.00%	1401 0.86 S β-: 100.00% β-π: 9.30%	1411 0.43 S β-: 100.00% β-π: 21.20%
134Te 41.8 M β-: 100.00%	135Te 19.0 S β-: 100.00%	136Te 17.63 S β-: 100.00% β-n: 1.31%	137Te 2.49 S β-: 100.00% β-π: 2.99%	138Te 1.4 S β-: 100.00% β-π: 6.30%	139Te >150 NS β-π β-	140Te >300 NS β-л β-
133Sb 2.34 M β-: 100.00%b	13485 0.78 S β-: 100.00%	1358b 1.679 S β-: 100.00% β-π: 22.00%	1368b 0.923 8 β-: 100.00% β-n: 16.30%	1378b 492 MS β-: 100.00% β-n: 49.00%	1388b 350 MS β-: 100.00% β-n: 72.00%	1395b 93 MS β-: 100.00% β-π: 90.00%

Most challenging Sb-137: implantation rate: 0.5cps

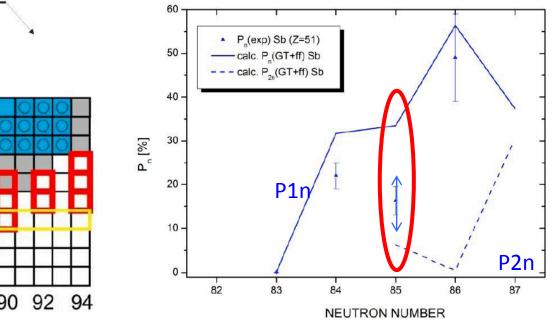


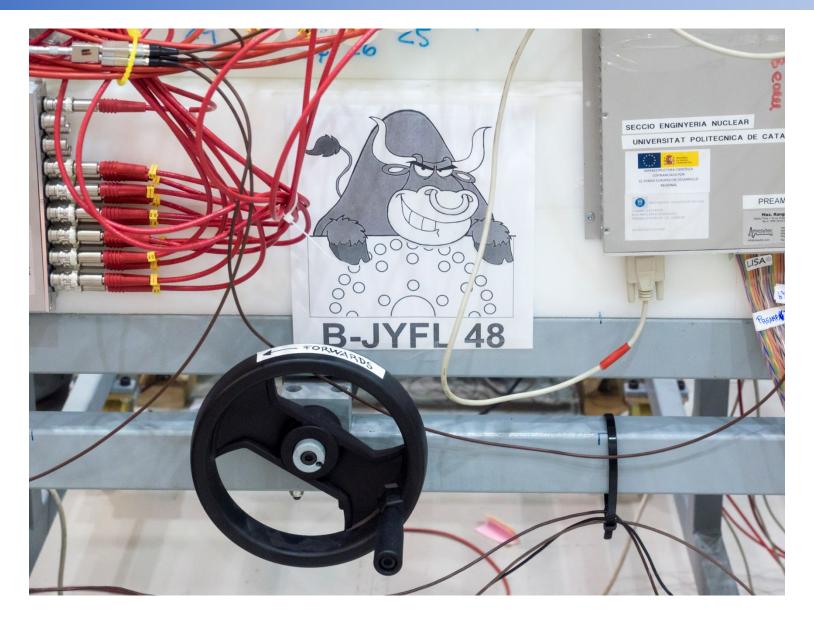
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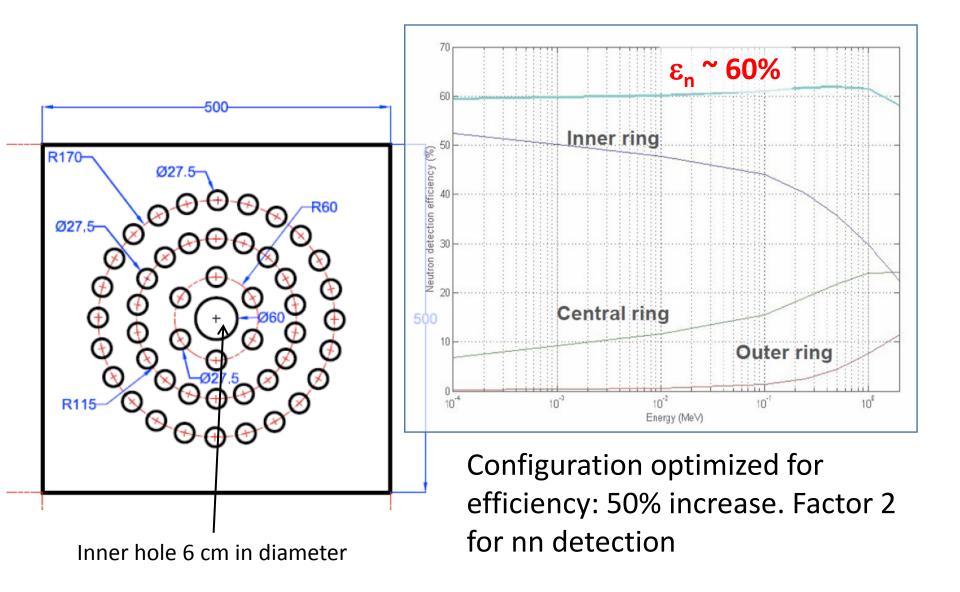
I181: Measurement of the beta-delayed two-neutron emitter Sb-136 with the BELEN detector (I.Dillmann-TRIUMF, et al.)

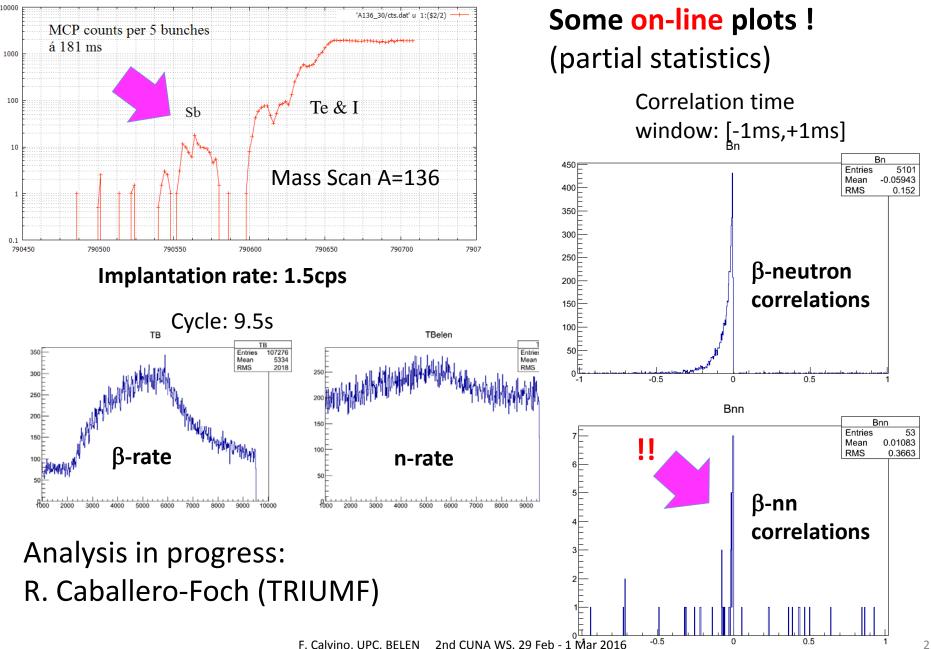


- Sizeable P_{2n} emission predicted
- Close to r-process path and 132Sn
- Accessible at JYFL as pure isotopic beam

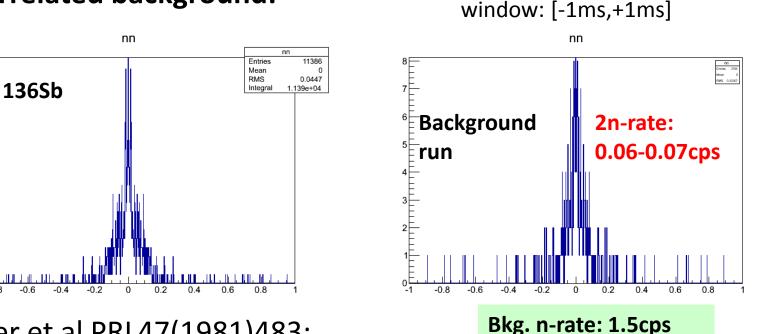








2n correlated background:



- Reeder et al PRL47(1981)483:
- Similar detector: 42x 8atm tubes, 3 rings, ε_n=59%, but PE: 50cmx50cmx50cm
- nn background rate: 0.012cps (5x lower!)
- Assume cosmic-ray origin: muon capture and spallation
- \rightarrow Limits measurements based on nn correlation (need of β nn corr.)

The BRIKEN Collaboration



20 institutions, >50 participants

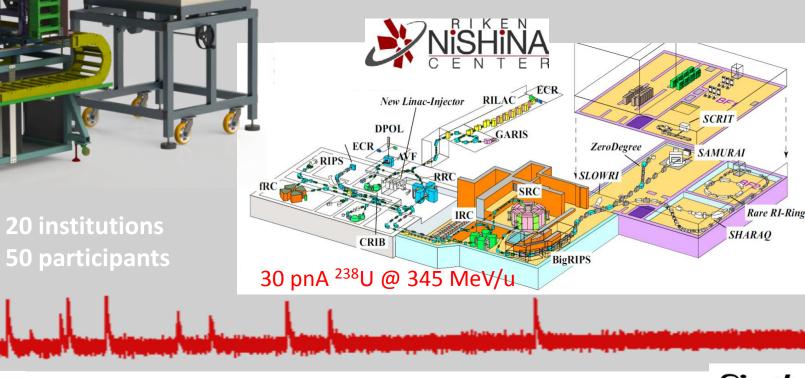


BELEN at RIKEN (BRIKEN)

Beta-delayed neutron measurements of the most exotic nuclei

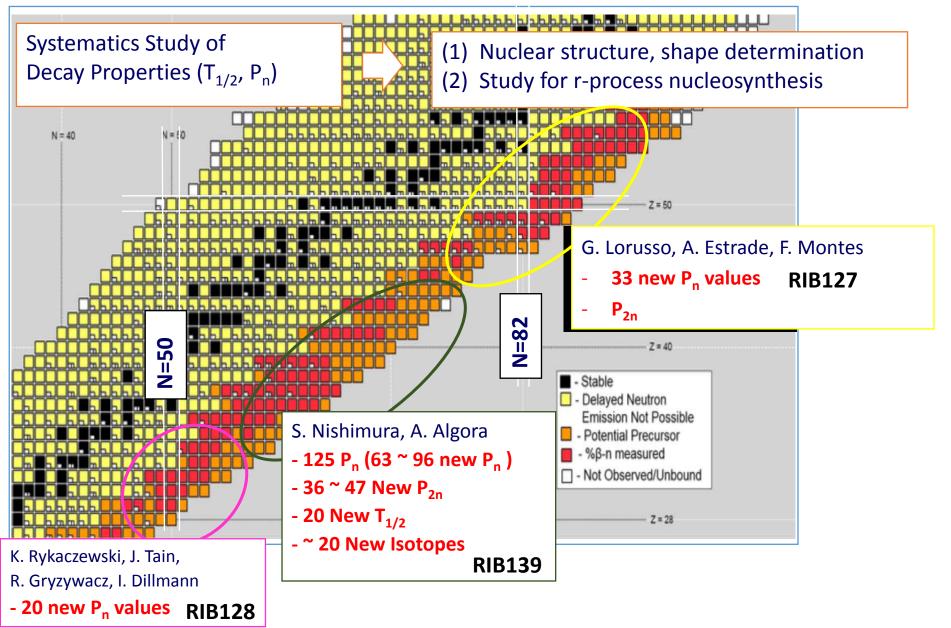


- The AIDA implantation detector
- BigRIPS spectrometer @ RIKEN





Physics at BRIKEN: Accepted proposals for measurements

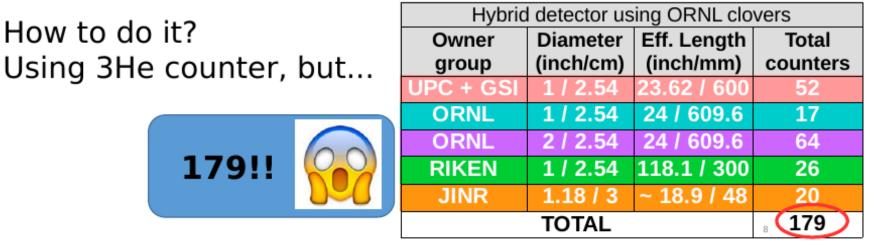


Design of a flexible neutron counter for BRIKEN

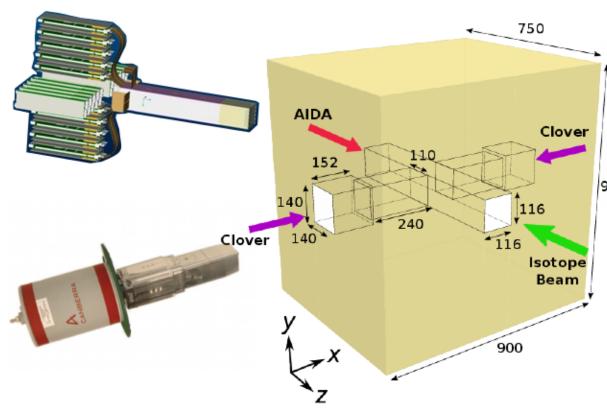
A. Tarifeño-Saldivia(IFIC & UPC), J.L. Tain(IFIC) and C. Domingo-Pardo(IFIC)

The BRIKEN detector is conceived to address measurements of very neutronrich nuclei with astrophysical implications. The research will be focused on improvements of Pn uncertainties of known nuclei, measurements of multiple neutron emitters (2n, 3n, . . .) and study of the properties of very exotic unknown nuclei. To meet these research goals, regarding current production rates at RIKEN, the main requirements for the BRIKEN neutron counter are:

- 1. Neutron efficiency higher than 60% up to 1MeV.
- 2. Flat response up to 1MeV and small variations of the efficiency up to 5MeV.
- 3. Gamma-ray detection capabilities compatible with high neutron efficiency and flatness (hybrid mode).



We have developed a parametrized Monte Carlo optimization algorithm for Geant4



Hybrid mode

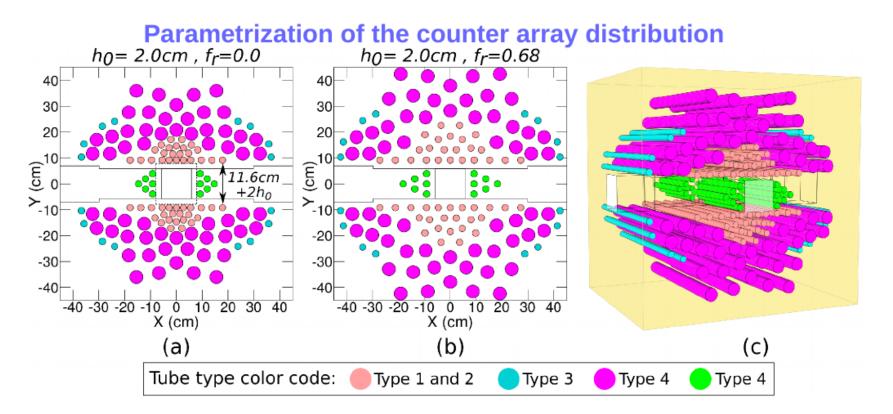


900

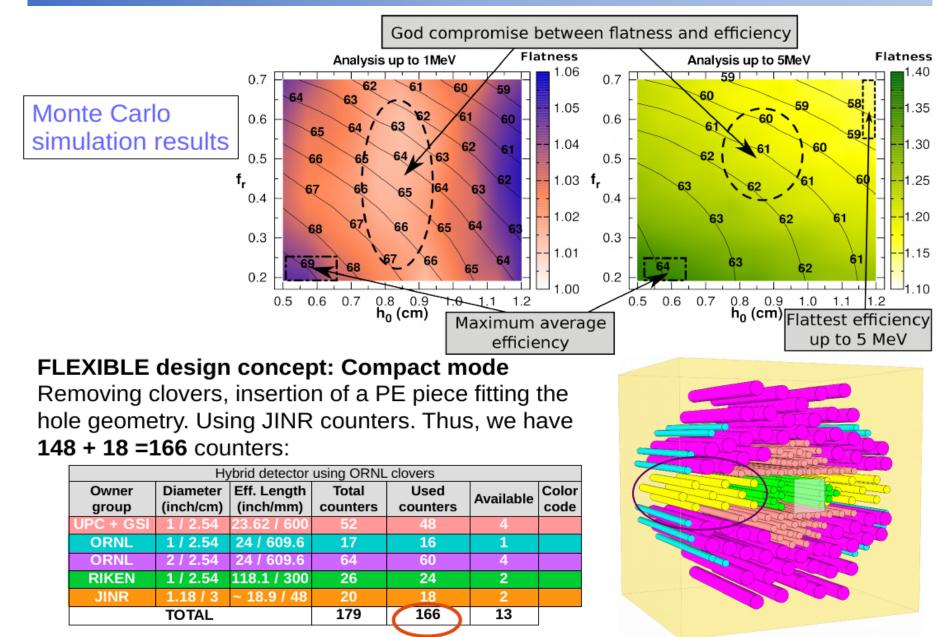


(GEometry ANd Tracking) Geant4 is a toolkit for the simulation of the passage of particles through matter.

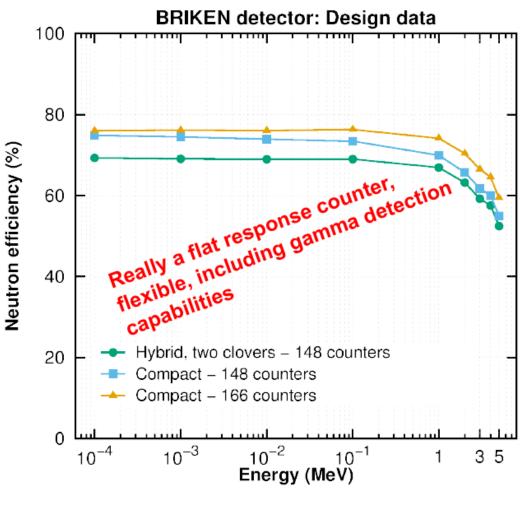
Problem: How to place 179 counters to obtain the efficiency as high and flat as possible?



Parametrization hybrid mode:	Hybrid detector using ORNL clovers						
r urumetrization nybria mode.	Owner group	Diameter (inch/cm)	Eff. Length (inch/mm)	Total counters	Used counters	Available	Color code
$P = P(i, h_o, f_r)$	UPC + GSI	1/2.54	23.62 / 600	52	48	4	
i: Group index	ORNL	1/2.54	24 / 609.6	17	16	1	
•	ORNL	2 / 2.54	24 / 609.6	64	60	4	
<i>h</i> ₀ : Separation from inner border	RIKEN	1/2.54	118.1 / 300	26	24	2	
<i>f_r:</i> Separation between counters	JINR	1.18 / 3	~ 18.9 / 48	20	0	20	
f_r . Separation between beamers	TOTAL			179	148	31	
						•	



The BRIKEN neutron counter



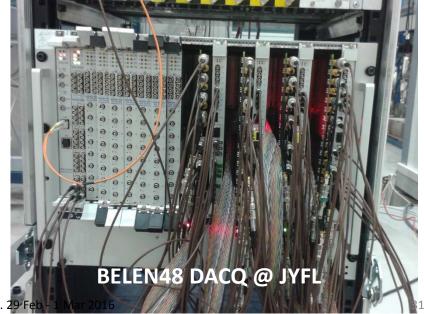
PE moderator already constructed. It has just arrived at RIKEN! ©



Development of the DACQ for the BRIKEN neutron detector

J. Agramunt and A. Tolosa (IFIC)

- Enhancement of our BELEN trigger-less DACQ
- New digitizers Struck SIS3316 (250MHz,16ch, 7modules) added to original SIS3302 (100MHz, 8ch, 8modules) dig.
- Multi-crate (VME)
- New differential-unipolar converter cards
- New DACQ control and on-line software
- 48 channel system tested at JYFL (Nov. 2014)
- First synchronization test with AIDA-DACQ and BIGRIBS-DACQ at RIKEN (Feb. 2015)
- Ongoing tests at IFIC with BELEN-48





•BRIKEN!!!

- Spectrometric capabilities (Bonner spheres principle)
- New semiconductor n-detectors (?)
- New collaborations are welcome

Summary and Conclusions

- He-3 excellent for thermal n detection (50+ available)
- Different configurations tested
- Configuration is experiment dependent
- Expertise on optimization
- Trigger-less DACQ very important
- … can be used for background measurements (Felsenkeller, LSC, …
 → Tain)

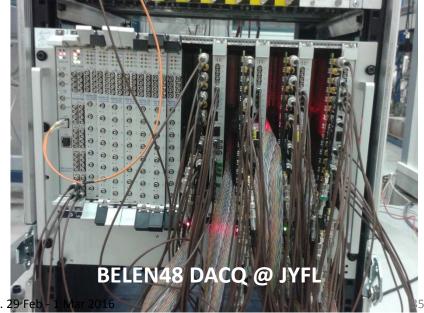
Backup slides

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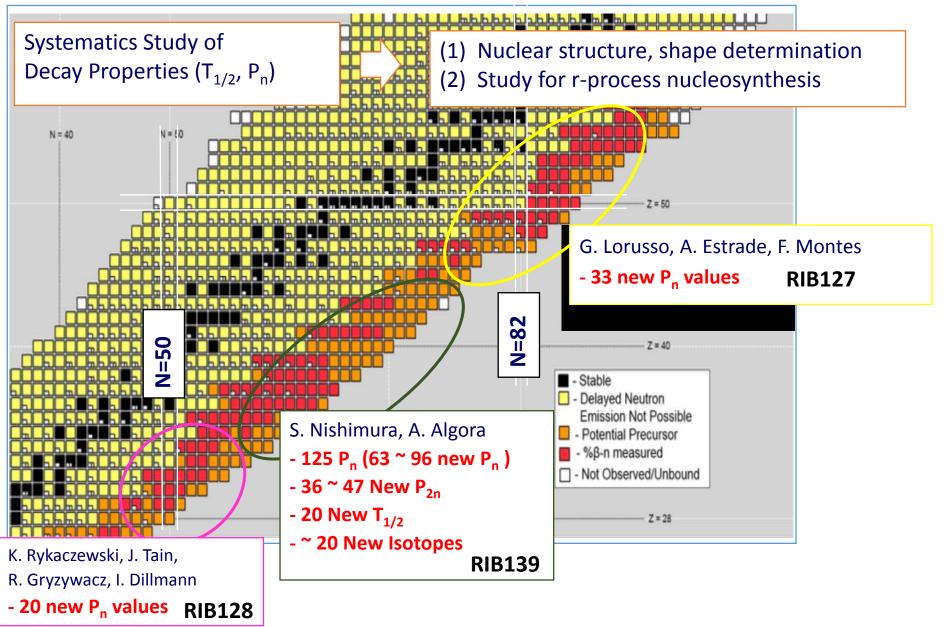
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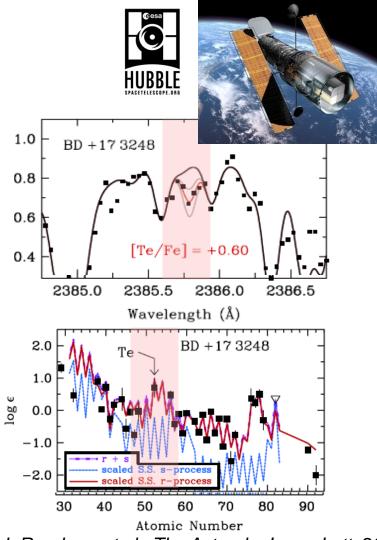
Physics at BRIKEN: Accepted proposals for measurements



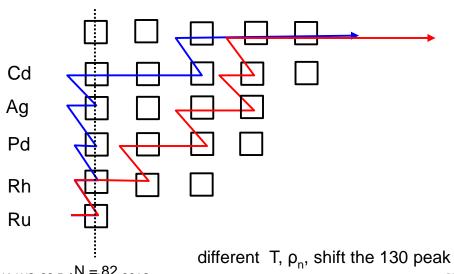
RIBF127: β n-relevant for the A = 130 r-process peak

Spokespersons: G. Lorusso(NPL), A. Estrade(Edinburgh), F. Montes(NSCL)

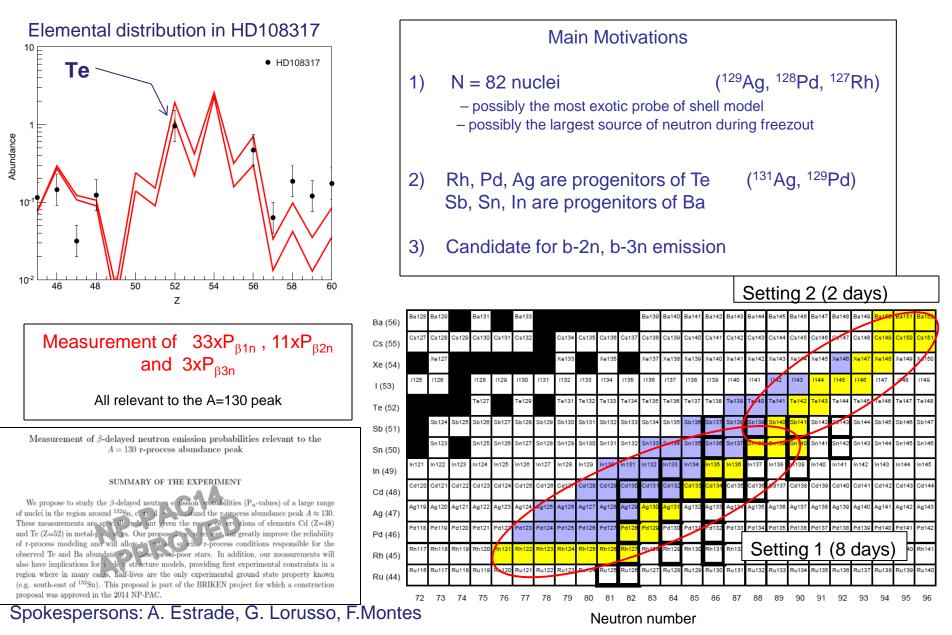
First observation of Te in metal poor stars (!!)



- New Te observation (A ≤ 130) and Ba (A ≥ 140) highlight r-process conditions in single r-process events (!)
- Te-abundance in UMP-Stars offers and independent test on the predicted r-process abundance of Te in the S.S.
- Relevant to constrain the conditions of the r-process operating early in the Galaxy
- (not averaged like in the solar)
- Te/Ba ratio is sensitive to
 - + r-process conditions
 - + contribution of the weak r-process
- Pn is one of the important unknown affecting the ratio Te/Ba



RIBF127: β n-relevant for the A = 130 r-process peak

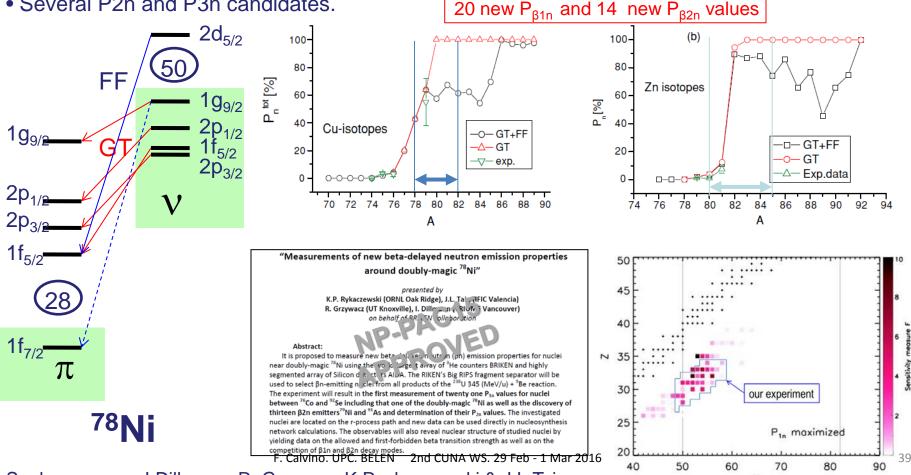


RIBF128: New β n-emission properties around doubly-magic ⁷⁸Ni

Spokespersons: K.Ryckazewscki (ORNL), J.L.Tain (IFIC), R. Grywacz(Tennessee) & I.Dillmann (TRIUMF)

 Competition between GT- and FF-transitions reflects the underlying nuclear structure beyond Z=28. N=50.

- Decay properties of these nuclei are a direct imput for r-process abundance calculations.
- Several P2n and P3n candidates.



RIBF139: Decay properties of r-process nuclei in deformed region around mass A = 100 -125

Spokespersons: S. Nishimura (RIKEN) and A. Algora(IFIC)

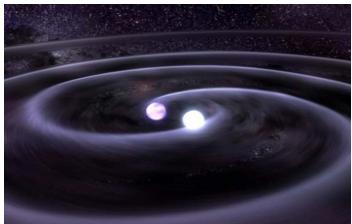
Primary Motivation: P_n and $T_{1/2}$ measurements of nuclei relevant for the r-process in the A~100 region

Measurement of the decay properties (T1/2 and Pn values) of very neutron rich isotopes from Se to Tc that are progenitors of the Rb to Cd elements

This data is an important input for modeling the weak r-process, in particular to interpret the recent observation of Mo, Ag, Pd, and Cd in metal poor stars

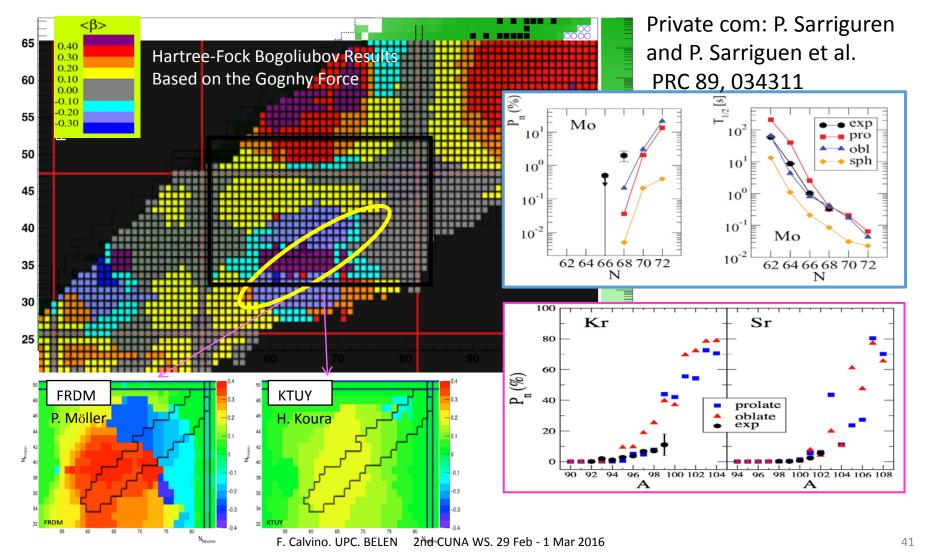
These elements are key indicators of the weak r-process and very sensitive to the r-process conditions



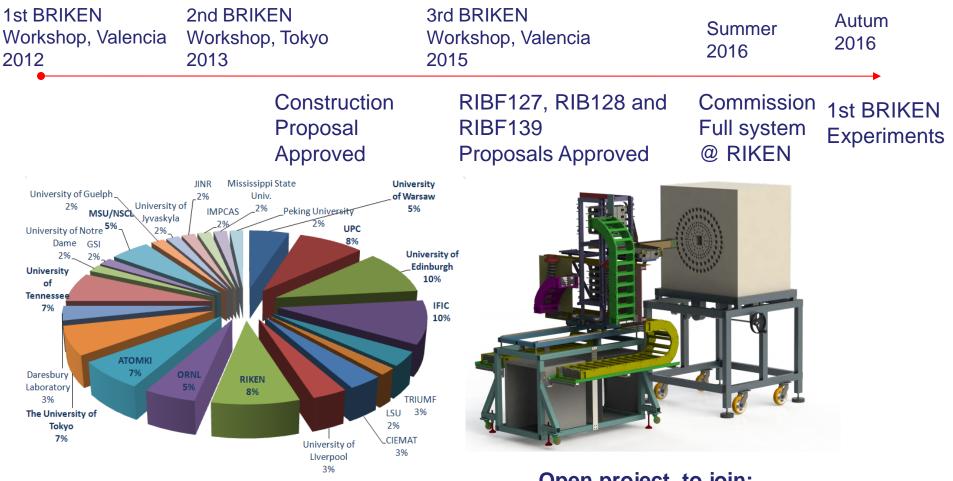


RIBF139: Decay properties of r-process nuclei in deformed region around mass A = 100 -125

Additional Motivations: nuclear structure aspects, shape determination, test of nucl. models



Evolution of the BRIKEN project and plans



briken.project@gmail.com

Open project, to join:

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