

Nuclear Shell Structure governs Short-range Correlation pairing

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8 -12th June, 2026

(key) Open questions

2N SRC

- Scale dependence (Q^2)
 - All observables
- Probe independence (e, p, γ)
 - Confirm factorization

- **Pairing mechanisms**

- Precision of interpretation
in terms of ground state
properties (theory)
- Neutron rich systems

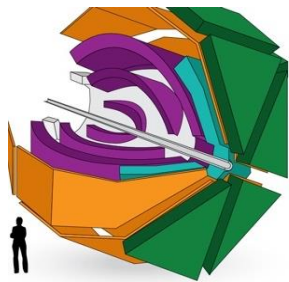
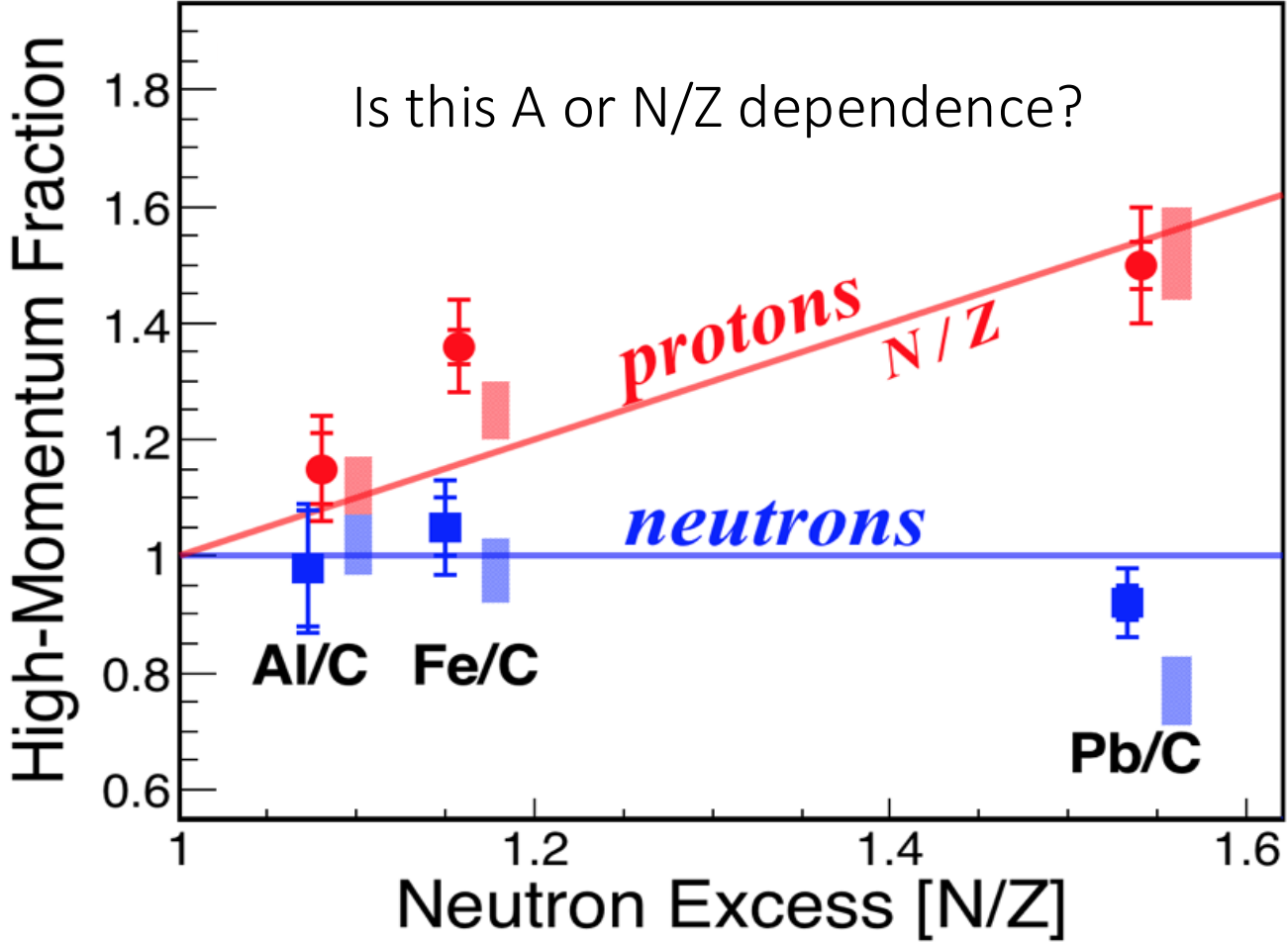
3N SRC

- (e, e') high Q^2 $x > 2$
- 3N KO ($e, e' ppN$)

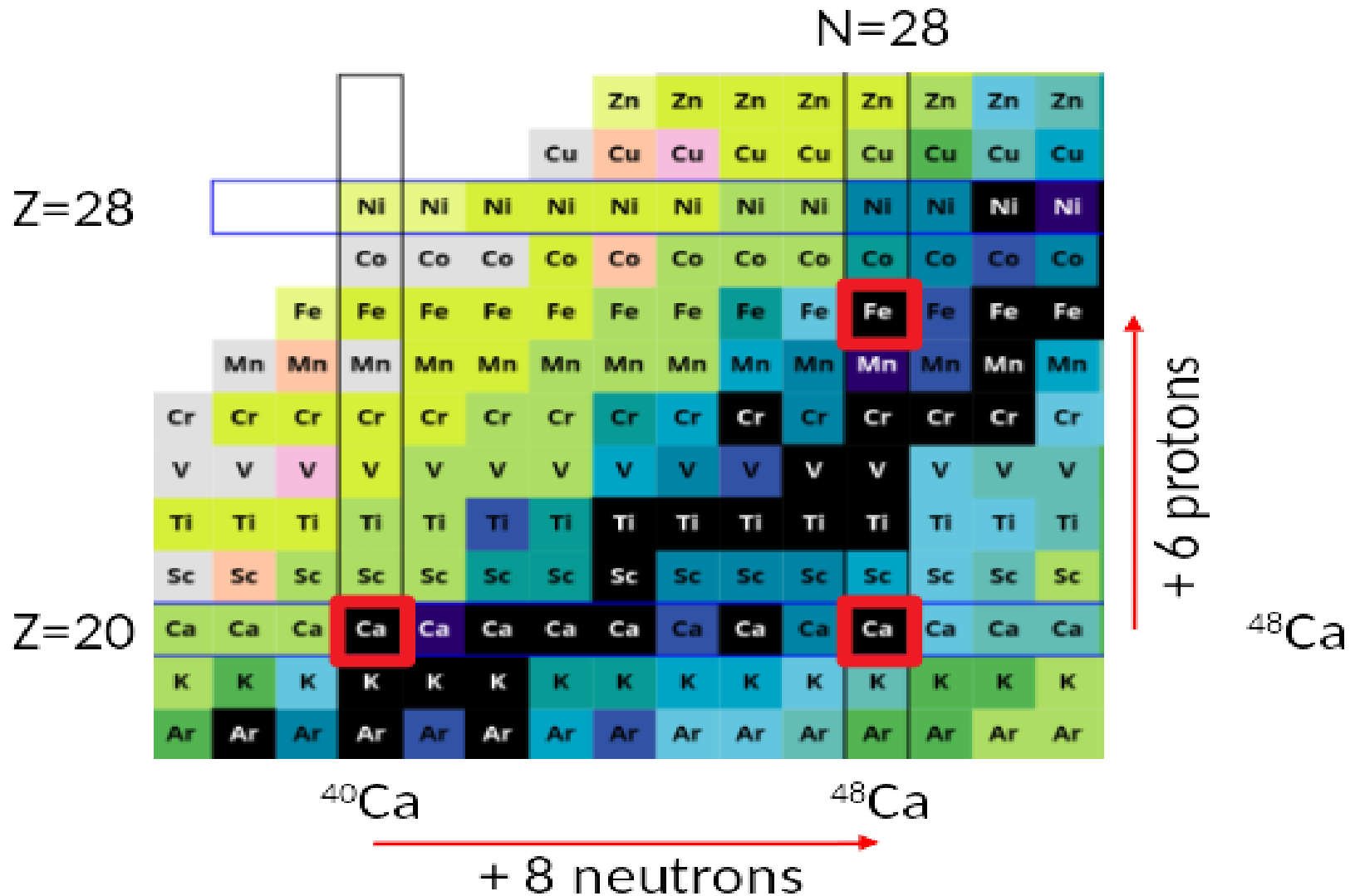
Theory guidance:

- Kinematics
- Ground state
- Factorization
- Phenomenology

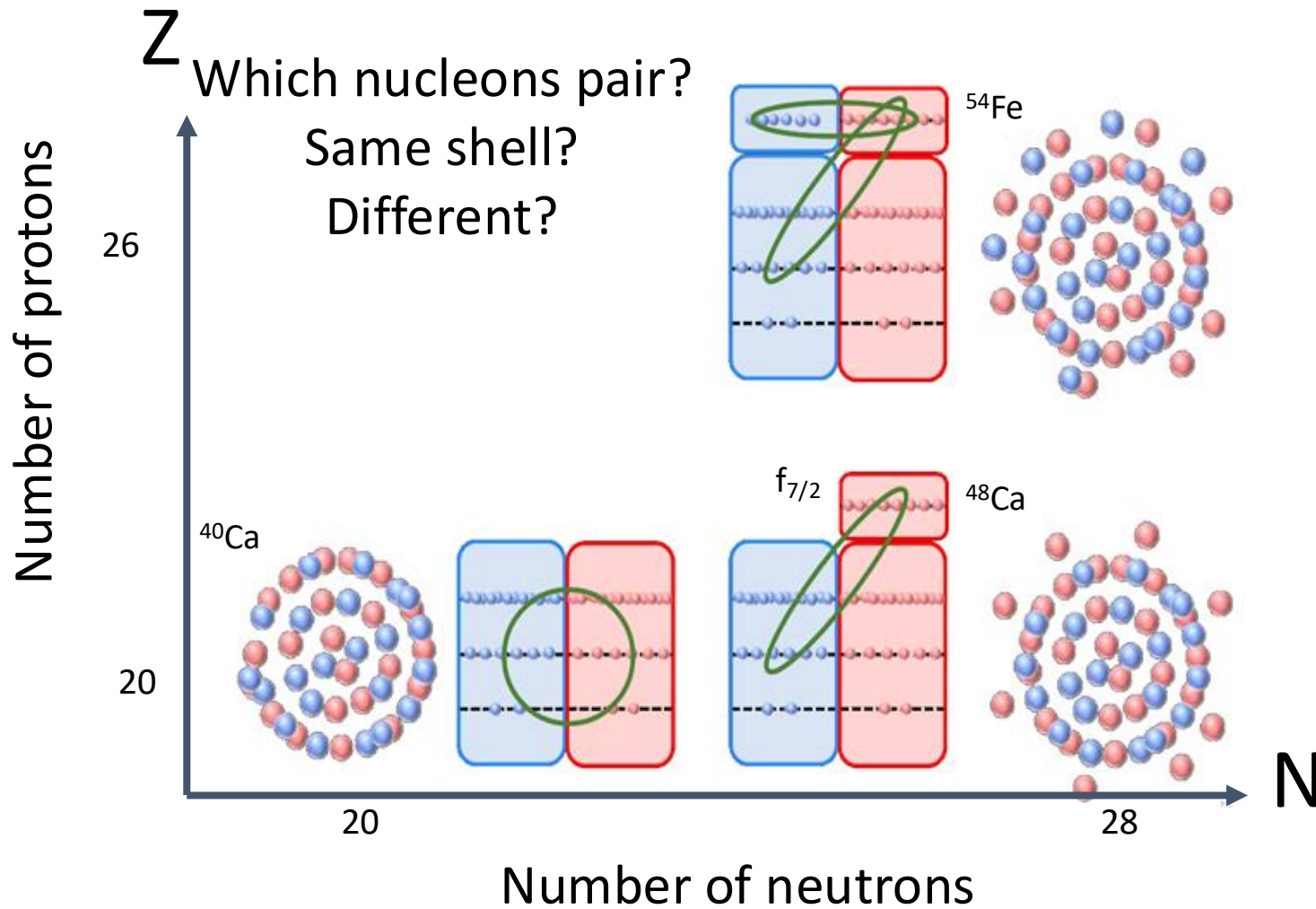
What nucleons pair?



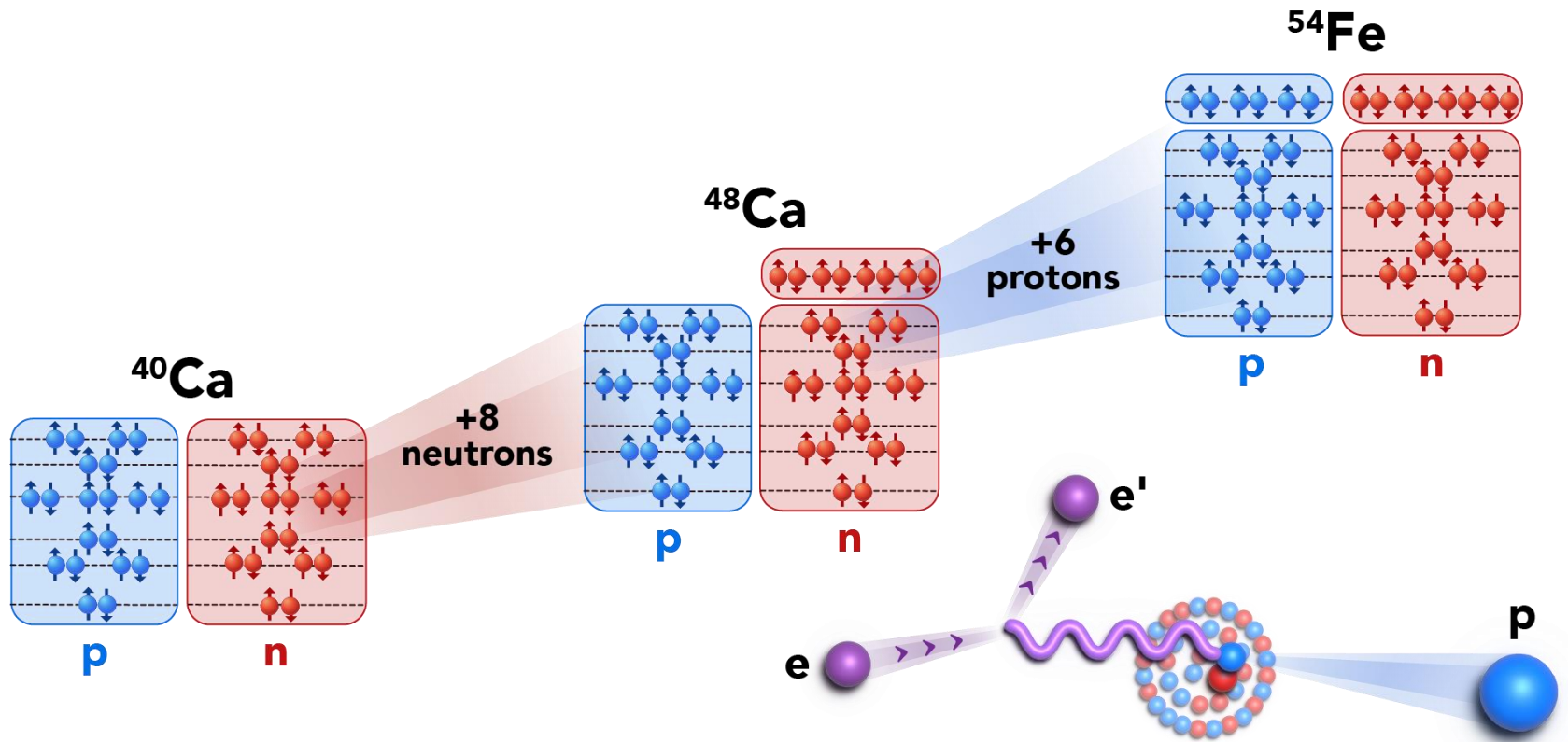
SRC pairing mechanism



The ^{40}Ca , ^{48}Ca , ^{54}Fe system can teach us about pairing mechanisms.

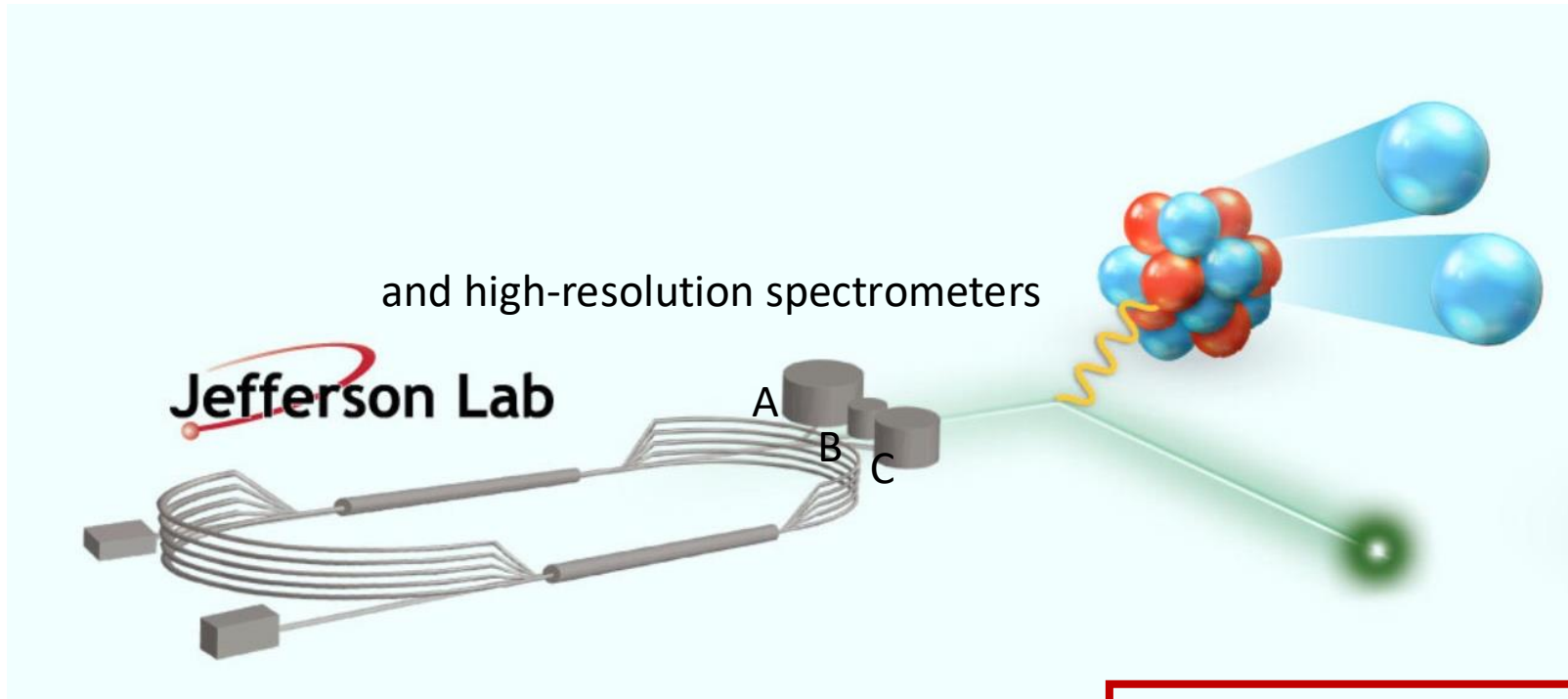


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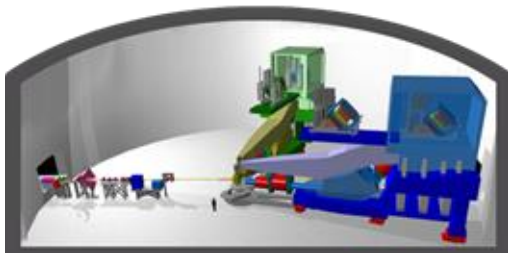


SRC studies with electron scattering at JLab

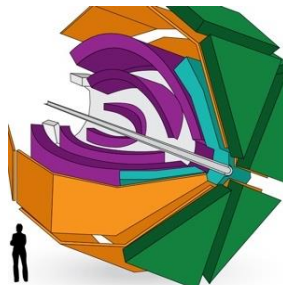
Electron beam to probe nuclear targets



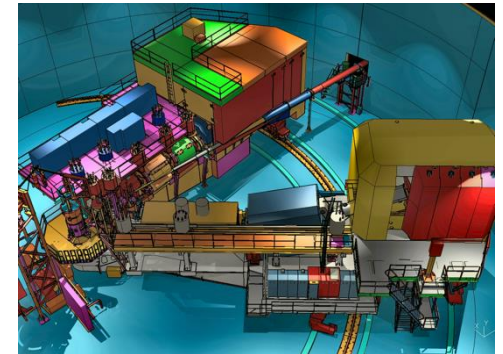
Hall A: HRS



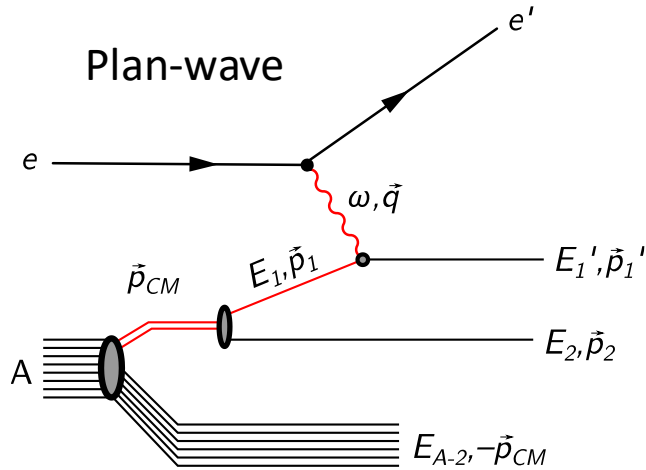
Hall B: CLAS, CLAS12



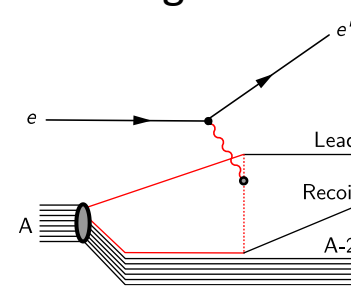
Hall C: HMS, SHMS



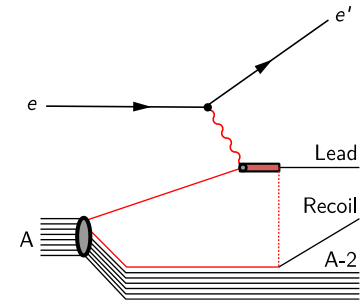
The detection of hadrons is complicated by final-state interactions.



Meson-Exchange Currents



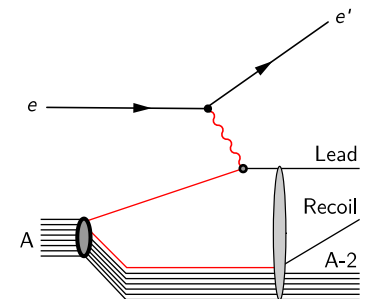
Isobar Configurations



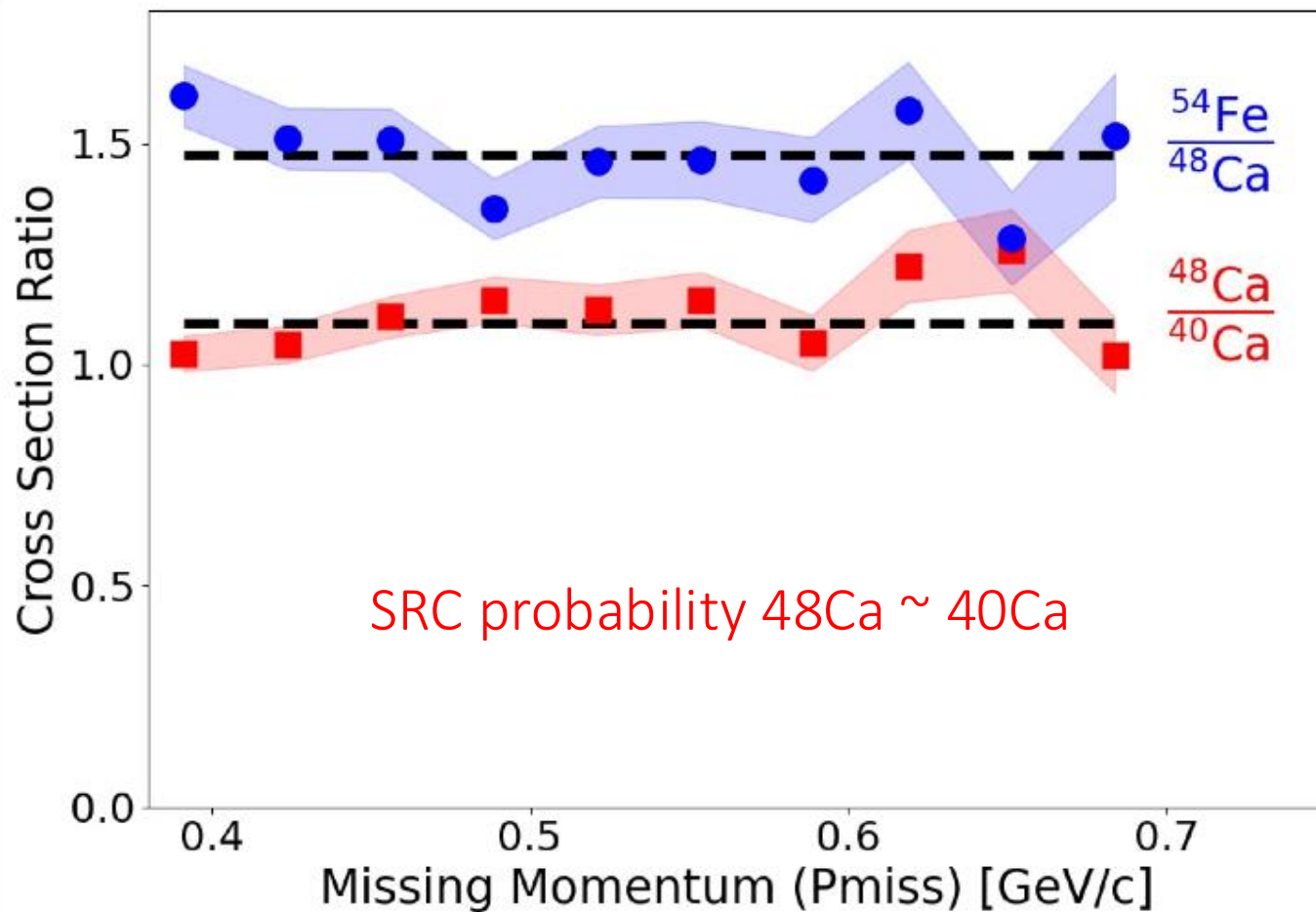
Very specific kinematics!
to suppress final state interactions

- $x_B > 1.2$
- Large $Q^2 > 1.8$
- $\theta_{rq} < 40^\circ$
- $700 > \vec{p}_{miss} > 375 \text{ MeV}/c$

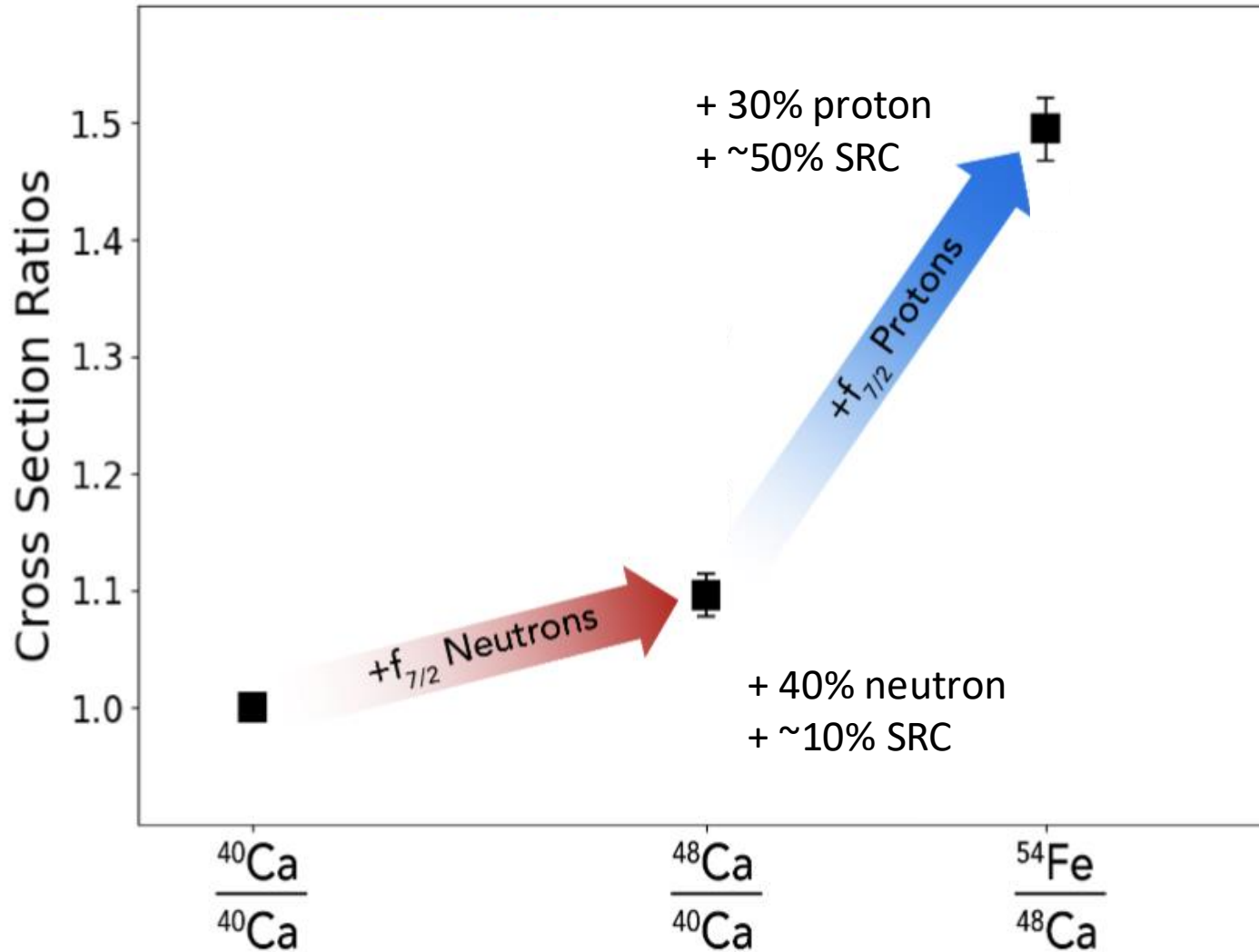
Final-State Rescattering



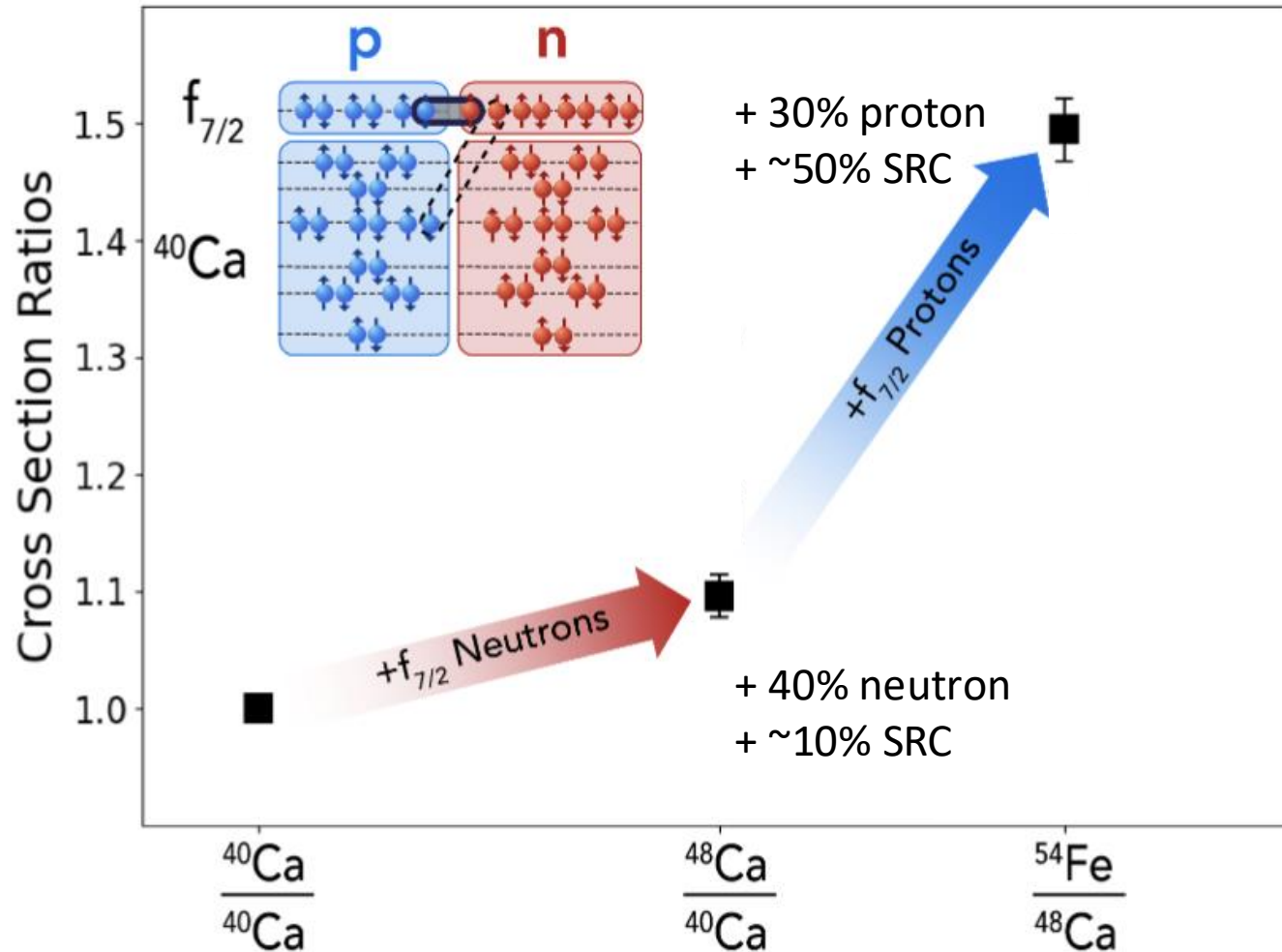
Isolate SRC signal.



Which nucleons pair?

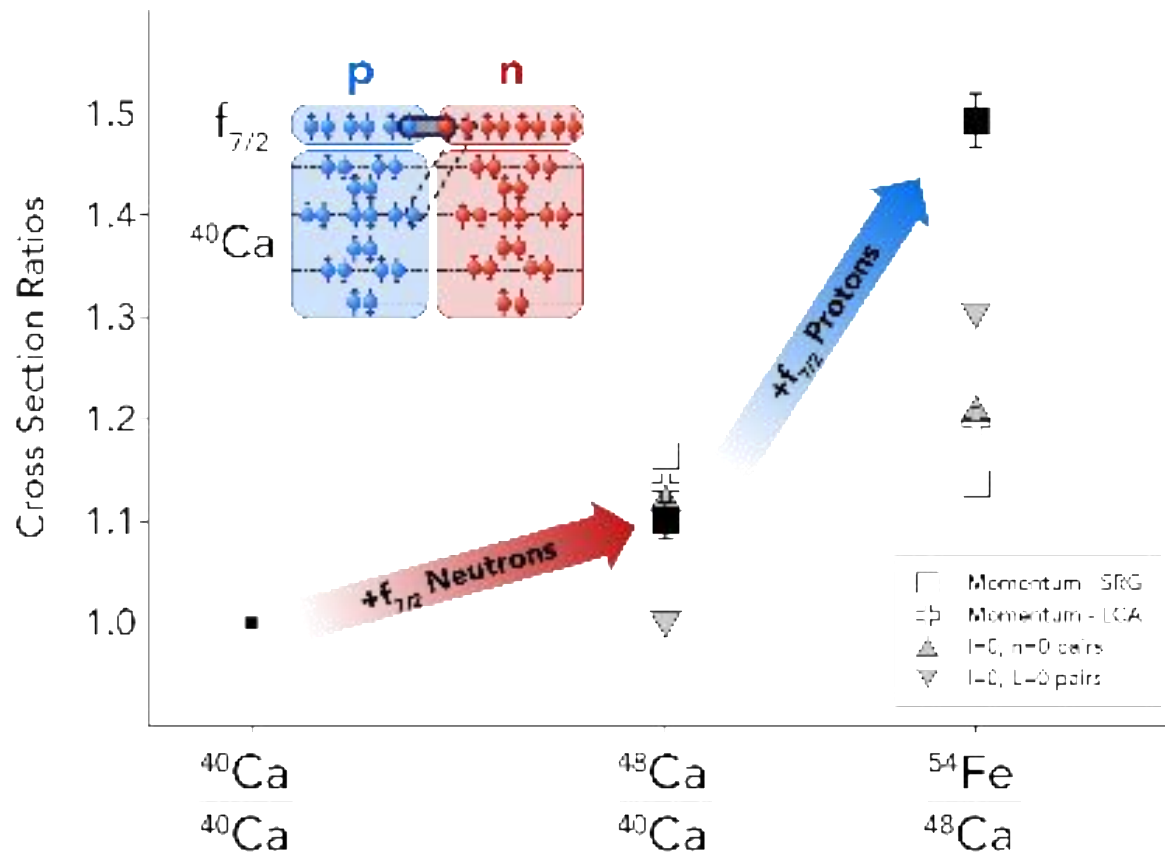


SRC pairing within the same shell



SRC pairing within the same shell

Weak cross shell pairing, Strong pairing within the same shell




Quantum number of protons, neutrons impact the SRC pairing mechanism

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Article | Published: 03 June 2026

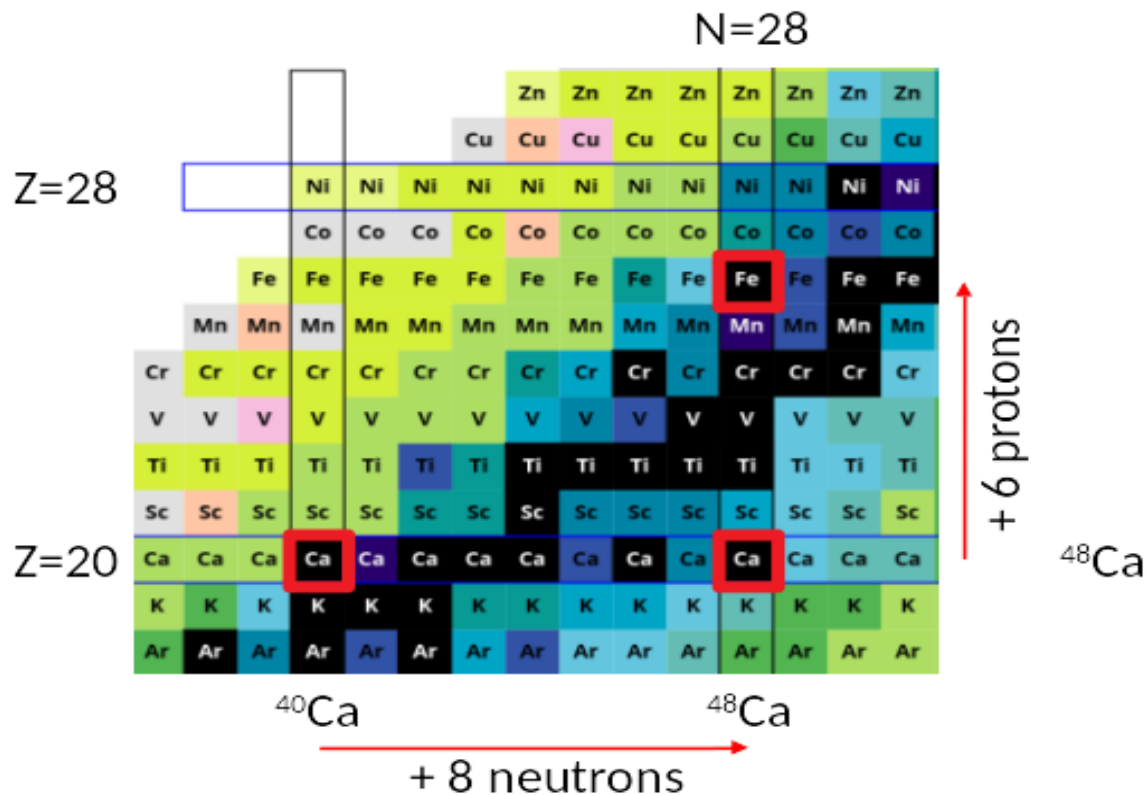
Nuclear shell structure governs short-range nucleon pairing

[D. Nguyen](#), [C. Yero](#), [H. Szumila-Vance](#), [F. Hauenstein](#), [N. Swan](#), [L. B. Weinstein](#) , [J. Kahlbow](#), [G. A. Miller](#), [A. Schmidt](#), [E. Piasezky](#), [O. Hen](#), [C. Ayerbe Gayoso](#), [E. Cohen](#), [P. Datta](#), [A. Denniston](#), [B. R. Devkota](#), [M. Diefenthaler](#), [C. Fogler](#), [B. R. Gamage](#), [D. Higinbotham](#), [I. Korover](#), [C. Morean](#), [M. Nycz](#), [M. Satnik](#), ... [E. W. Wertz](#) [+ Show authors](#)

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SRC Pairing Mechanism: cont..

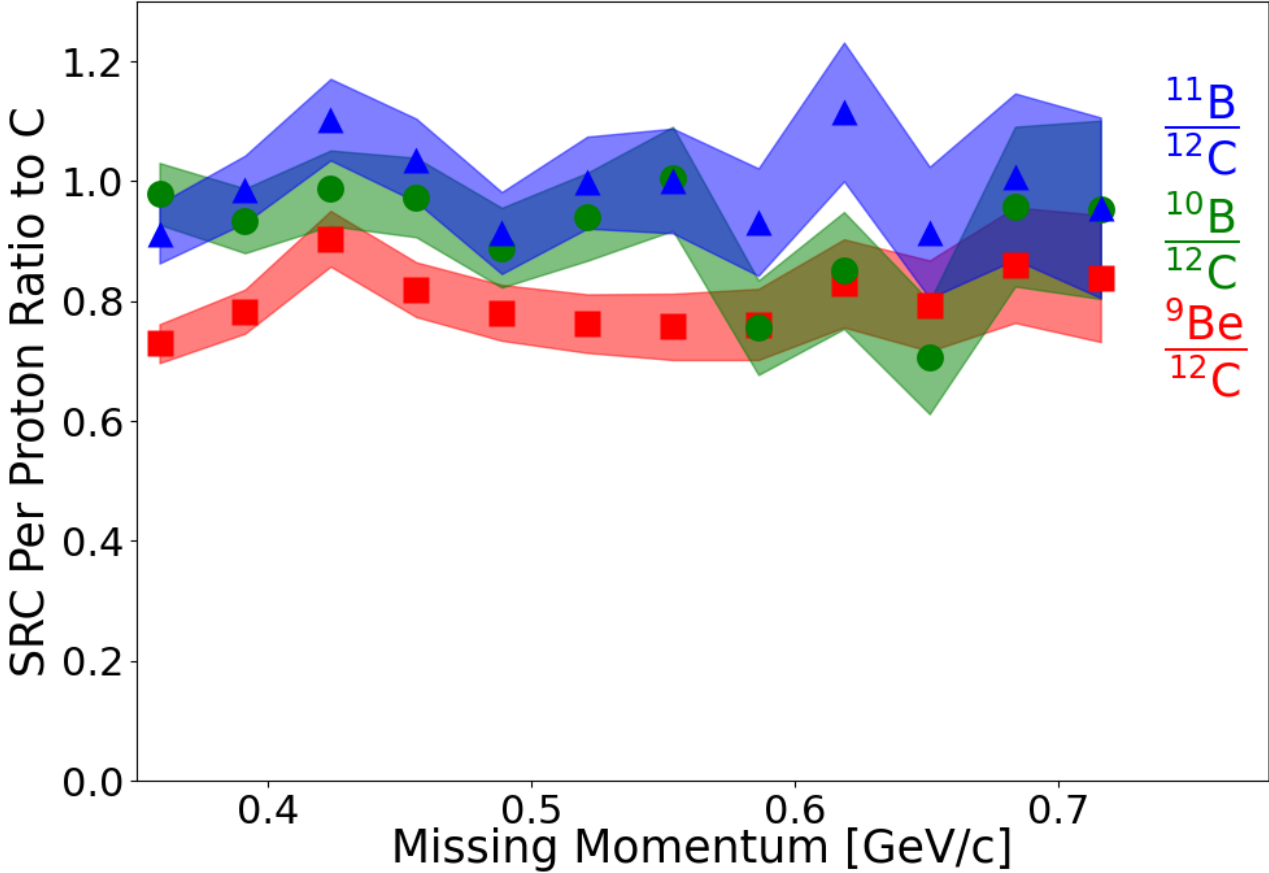


More data

- ^9Be
- ^{10}B
- ^{11}B
- ^{12}C
- ^{197}Au

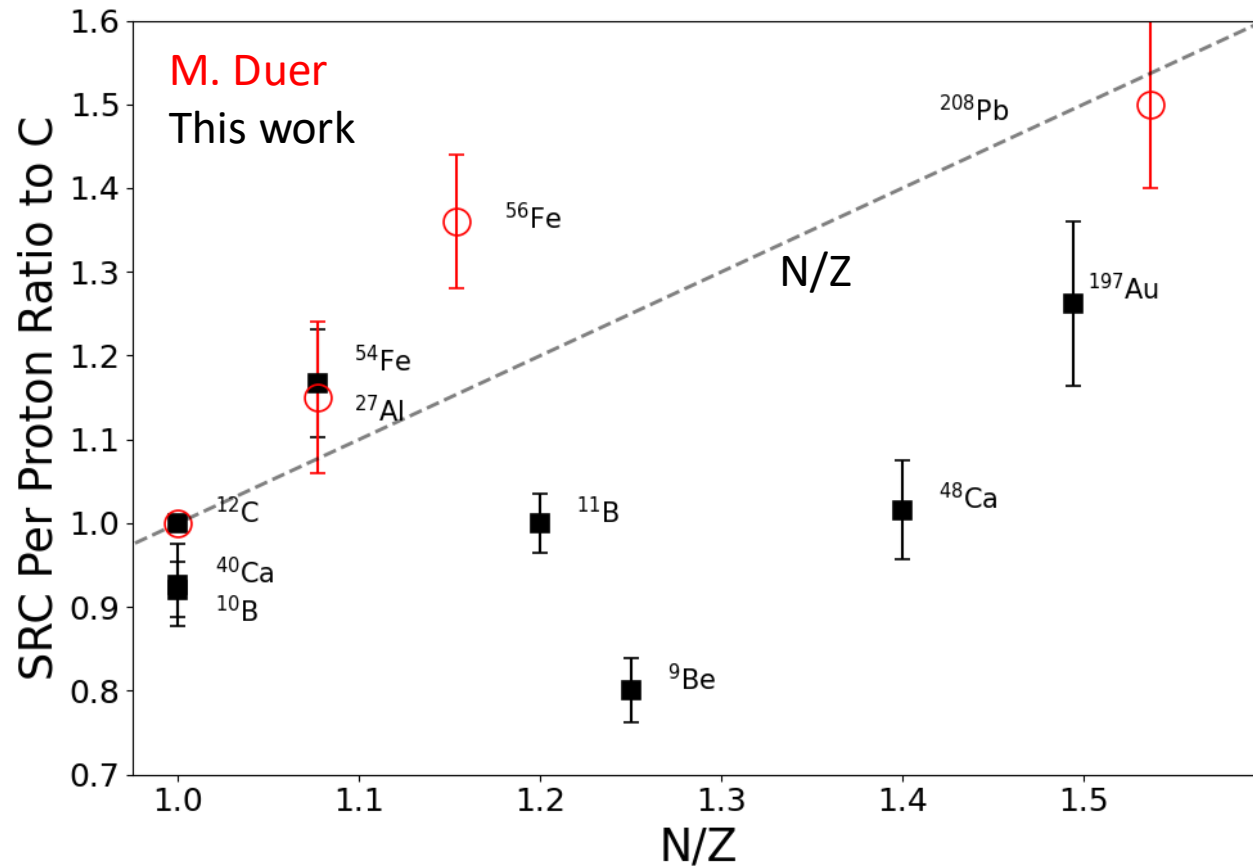
SRC ratio of light nuclei to C12

$$(\sigma_A/Z) / (\sigma_C/6)$$

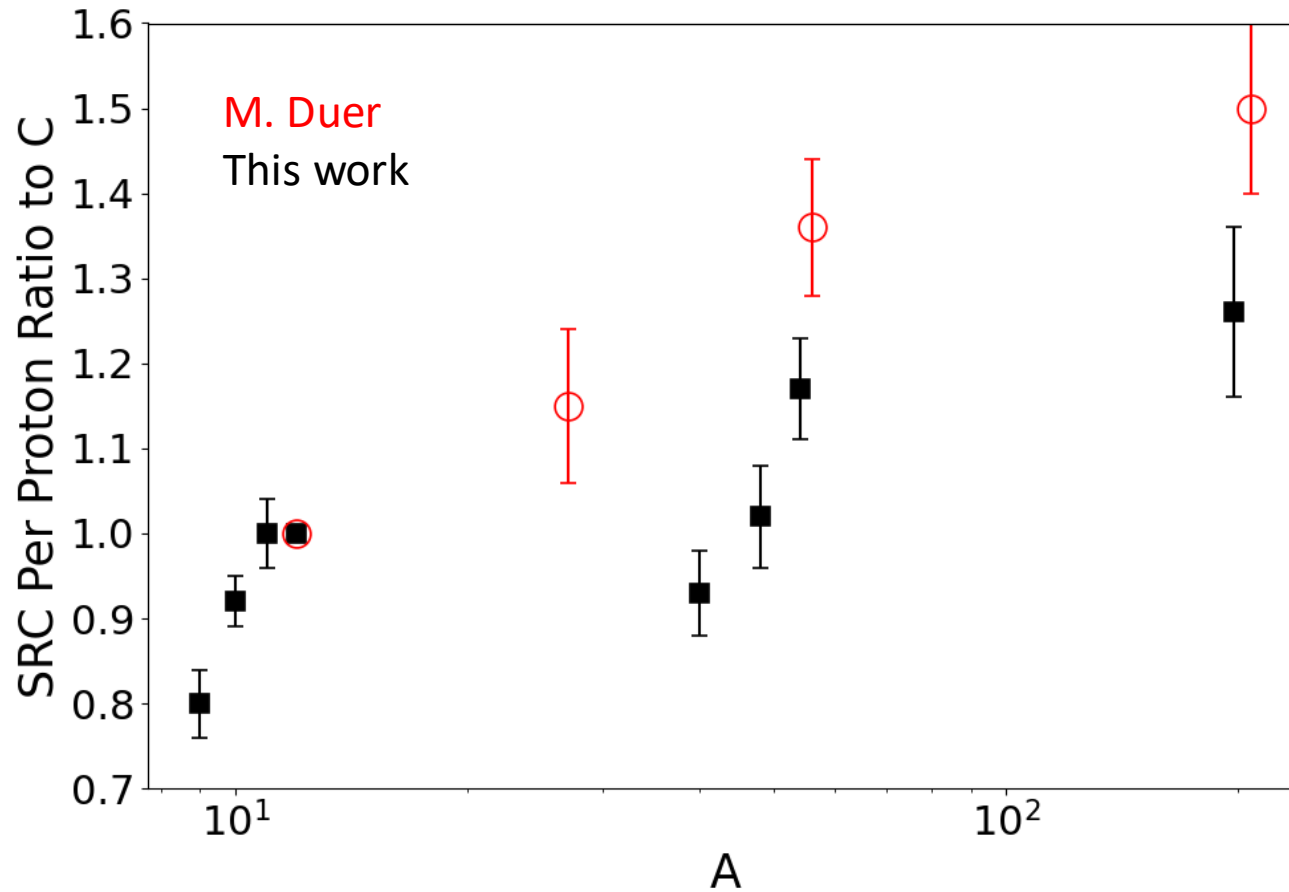


N/Z dependence?

$$(\sigma_A/Z) / (\sigma_C/6)$$

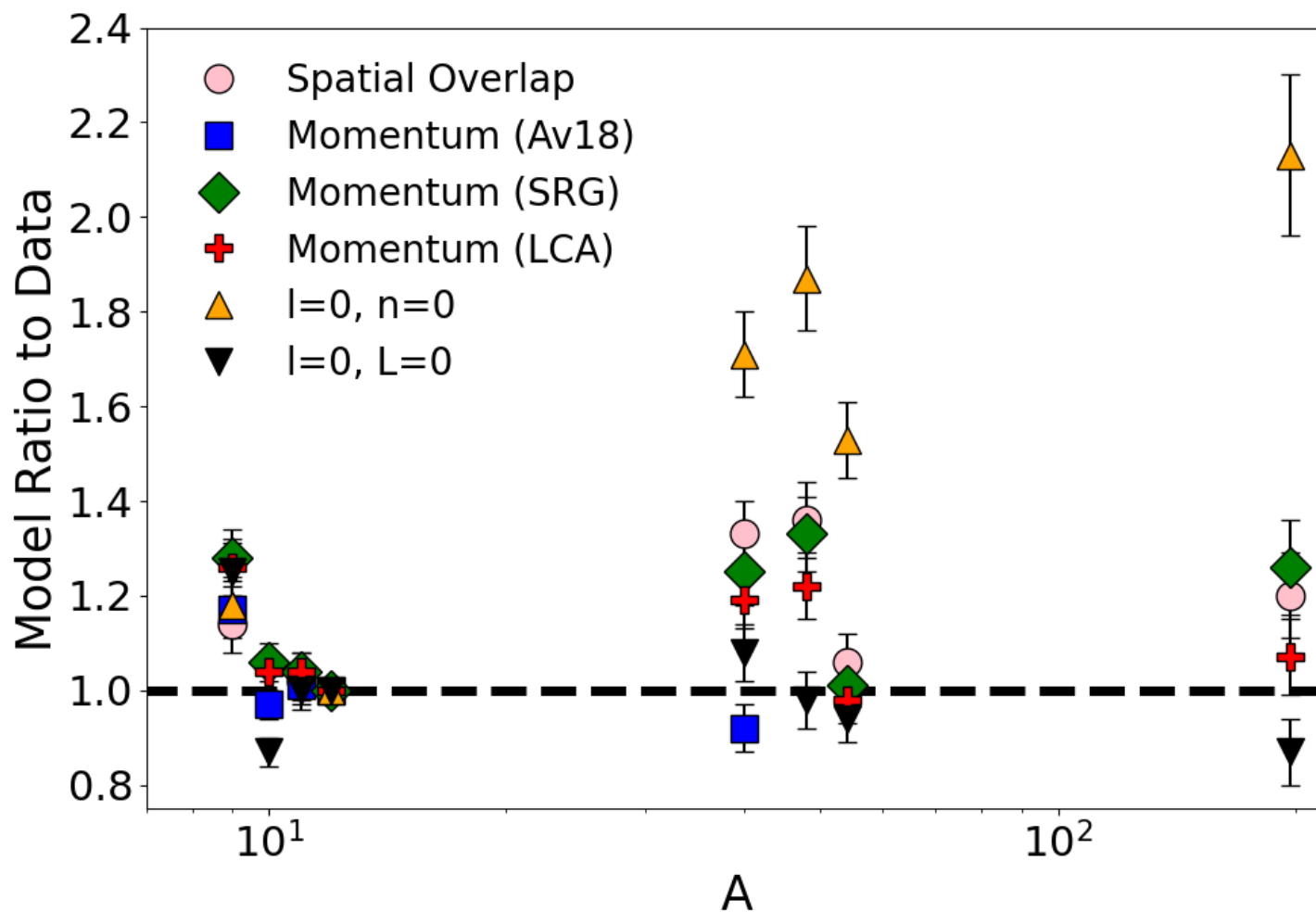


A dependence?



- Increasing gradually with A
- Long-range nuclear shell structure is more important

Comparison with available Theory models



Summary

☐ Ca40 -> Ca48 -> Fe54: show Weak cross shell pairing, Strong pairing within the same shell

Quantum number of proton and neutron impact the SRC pairing

☐ All targets: Show no N/Z dependence, some A dependence

Indicate the long-range nuclear structure has large impact than nuclear mass in SRC pairing

Thank you

- **CaFe Team:** Carlos Yero (CAU), Holly Szumila-Vance (ODU), Noah Swan (ODU), Julian Kahlbow (LBL)
- **CaFe spokesperson:** D. Higinbotham (Jlab), F. Hauenstein (Jlab), Or Hen (MIT), Larry Weinstein (ODU)
- Hall C collaboration, Thomas Jefferson lab
- All shift workers, staffs and everyone who supported the CaFe experiment