



# Nucleon Correlation Studies in (p,pd) Knockout Reactions

**Matthew Whitehead**<sup>1</sup> for the R<sup>3</sup>B Collaboration

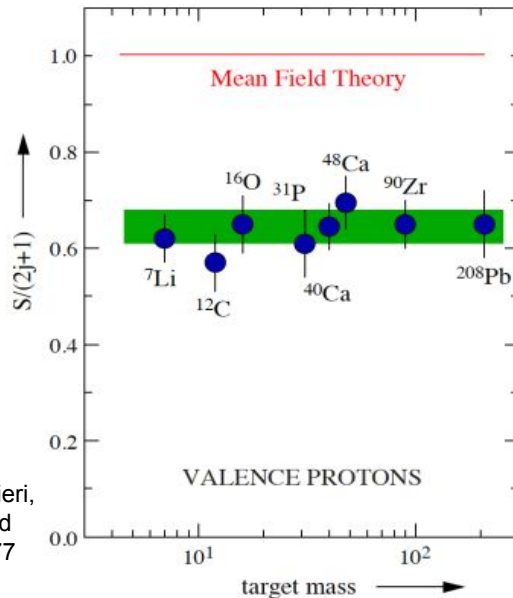
Spokespersons: **M. Petri**<sup>1</sup>, **S. Paschalis**<sup>1</sup>, **A.O. Macchiavelli**<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> School of Physics, Engineering and Technology, University of York, UK

<sup>2</sup> Physics Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, USA

# Nucleon-Nucleon Correlations

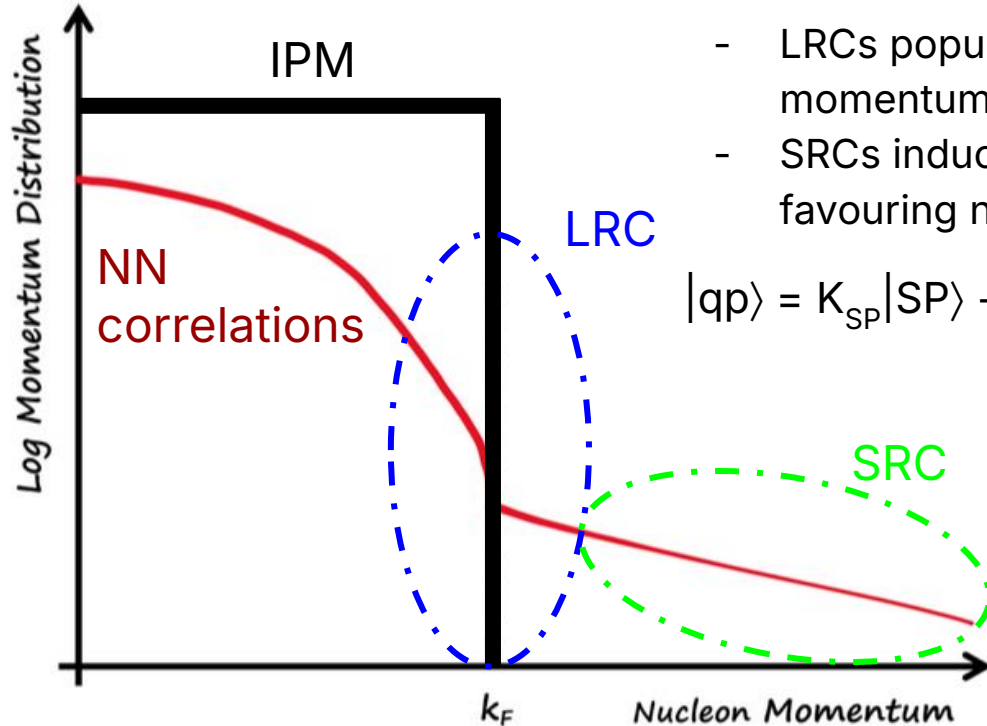
- The independent particle model describes many properties of the atomic nucleus very well.
- However the IPM does not account for all interactions between the nucleons.
- This has been observed experimentally through the reduction in spectroscopic factors.



Attributed to **Nucleon-Nucleon correlations**, denoted Short (SRC) and Long Range Correlations (LRC).

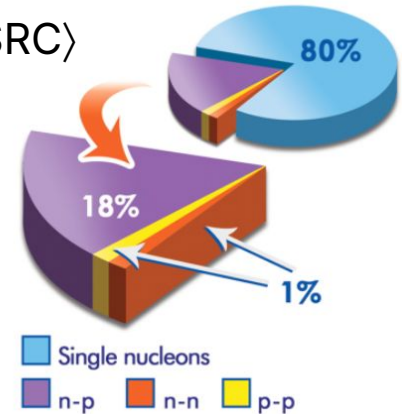
# Nucleon-Nucleon Correlations

NN Correlations deplete 30-40% of single particle states.



- LRCs populate states close to the Fermi momentum.
- SRCs induce a high momentum tail well above  $k_F$  favouring neutron-proton pairs.

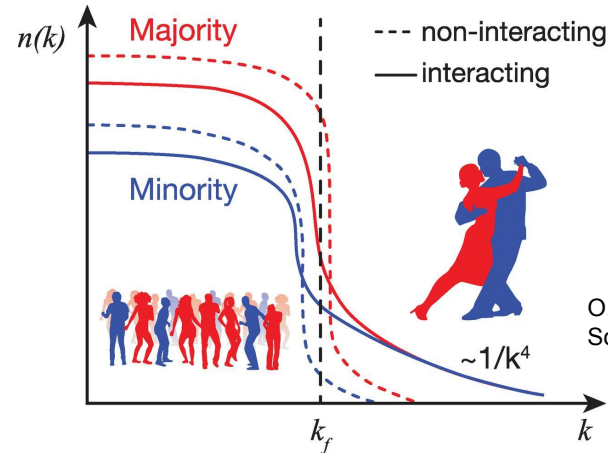
$$|qp\rangle = K_{SP}|SP\rangle + K_{LRC}|LRC\rangle + K_{SRC}|SRC\rangle$$



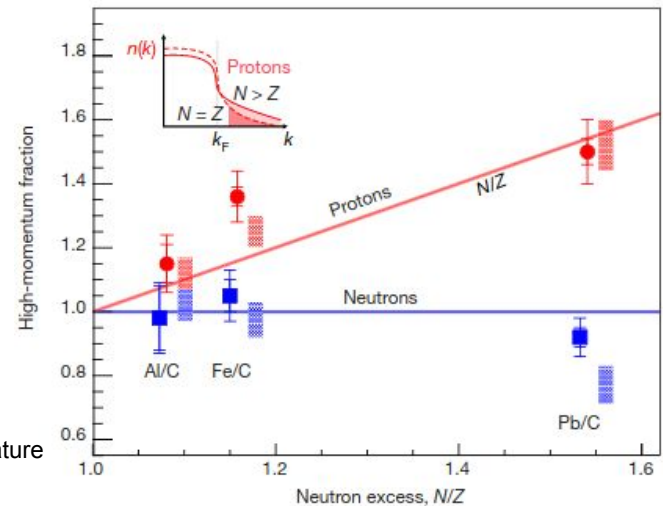
# SRCs in Experiments

- Experimental effort at JLab to directly break up and tag the SRC pair, via  $(e, e'p)$  and  $(e, e'n)$  reactions.
- Results suggest fraction of high momentum (SRC) protons increases with neutron richness.
- Indication of SRC dependency on isospin.

Are there other ways to probe the SRC pair and isospin dependence?



O. Hen et al.,  
Science **346**, 614 (2014).



M. Duer et al., Nature  
**560**, 617 (2018).

# Motivation



We follow the seminal discussions of Brueckner:

*"The evidence is that for relative distances less than roughly  $10^{-13}$  cm, nucleon pairs in nuclei are correlated in the same way as they are in the deuteron or in free scattering processes"*

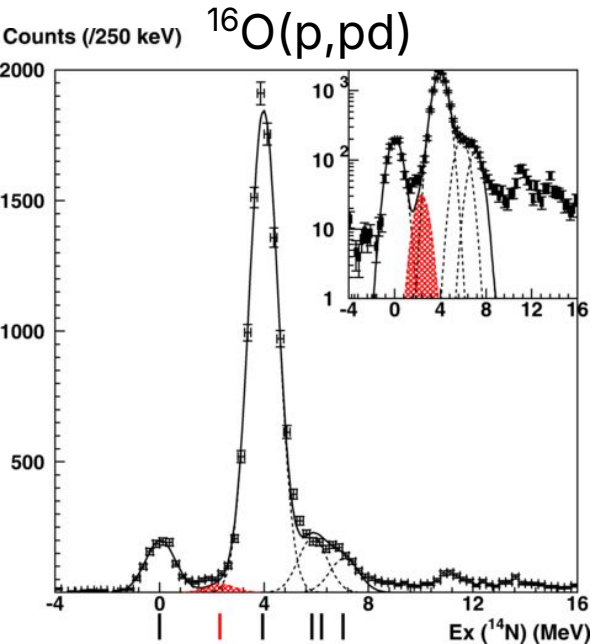
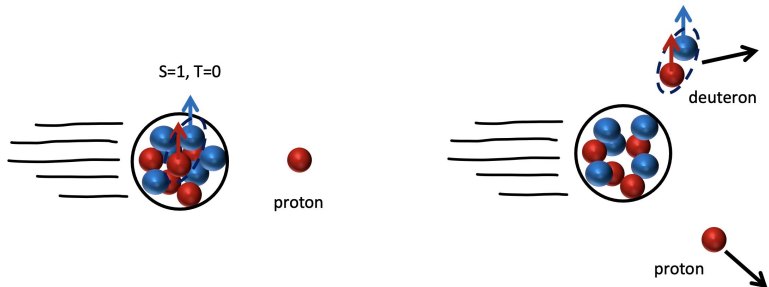
[from K.A. Brueckner, Proceedings of the Rutherford Jubilee Int. Conf. Manchester 1961, Ed. J.B.Birks, London, 1961]

SRCs are a manifestation of the tensor part of the NN interaction which favours the  $S=1, T=0$  (quasi-deuteron) channel.

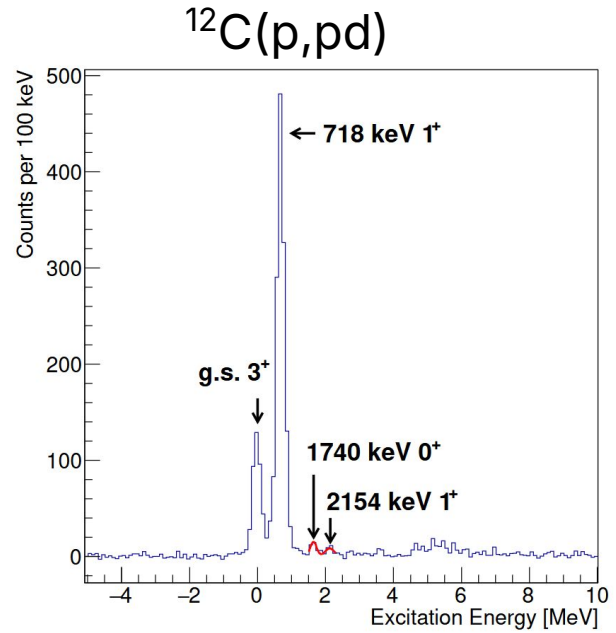
A "bare" nucleon in the presence of the SRC components of the NN interaction becomes "dressed" in a quasi-deuteron cloud, about 20% of the time with an **isospin dependence**.

$$|qp\rangle \sim 80\% |p\rangle + 20\% |h\rangle \otimes |qd\rangle$$

# (p,pd) in experiments



S. Terashima et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. **121**, 242501 (2018).

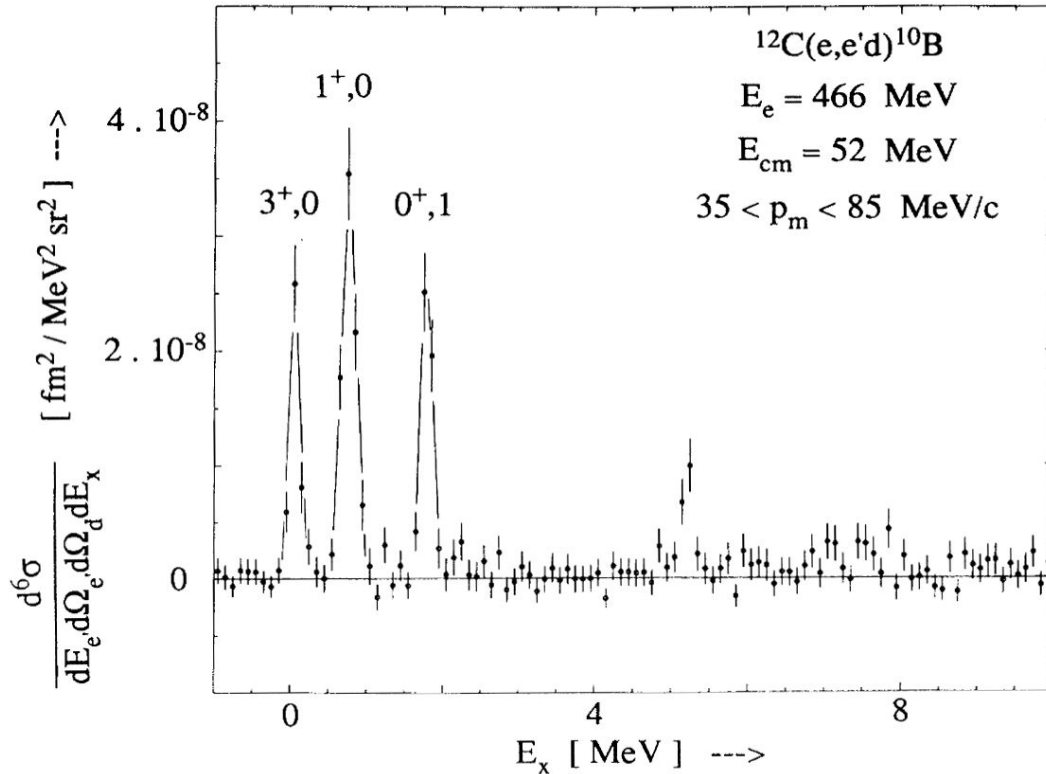


CheongSoo Lee et al., Prog. Theor. Exp. Phys., **2026**, 053D01 (2026)

(p,pd) QFS in normal kinematics successfully carried out at RCNP.

Dominance of 1+ final state  $\rightarrow$  Initial S=1, T=0 correlated n-p pair

# (e,e'd) in experiments



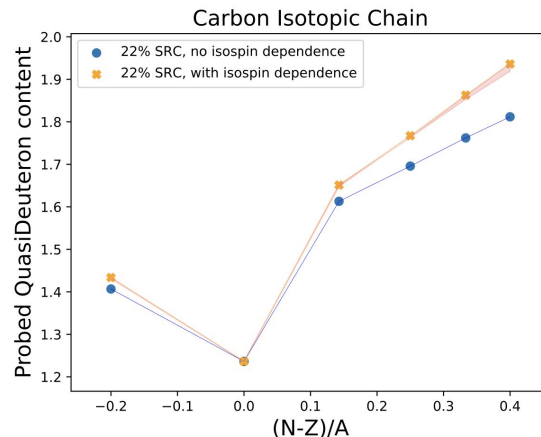
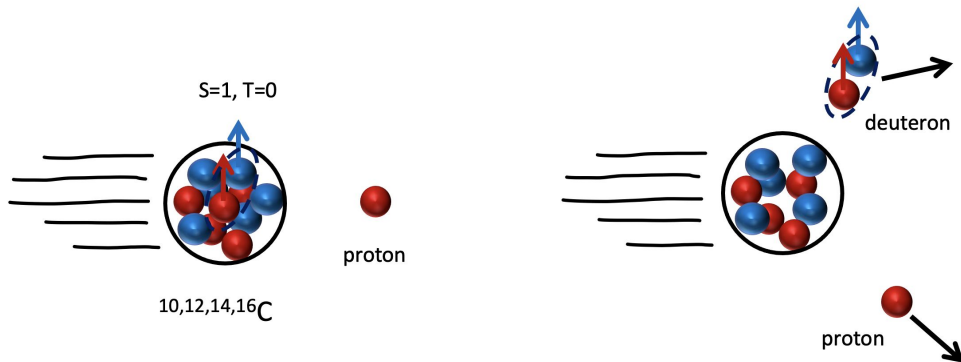
Stronger contribution of isospin forbidden  $0^+$  state in electron scattering  $\rightarrow$  'deuteron integration' of  $T=1$  p-n pair into  $T=0$  deuteron.

Suppressed in (p,pd)  $\rightarrow$  hadronic probes more suitable for deuteron knockout?

# Probing Short Range Correlations via (p,pd) Quasi-Free Scattering Reactions

## Aims:

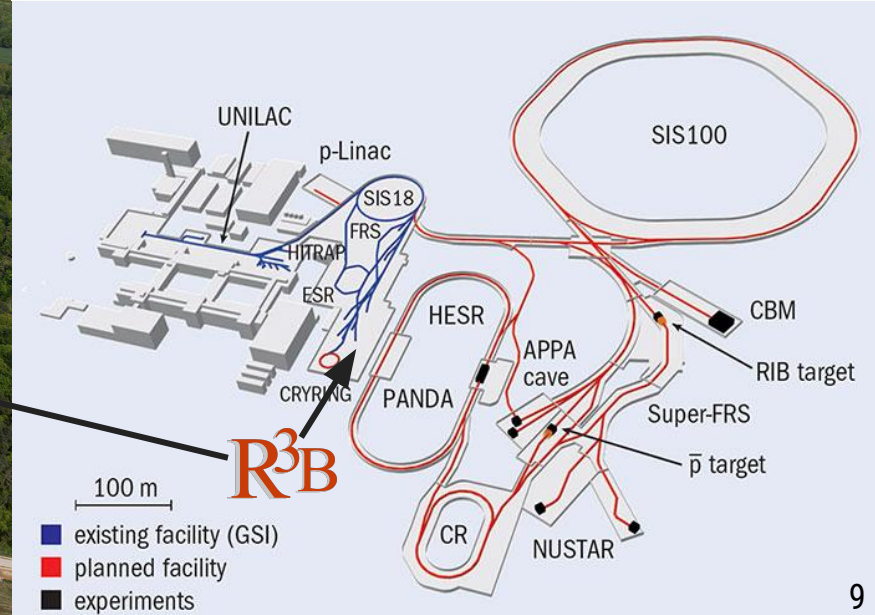
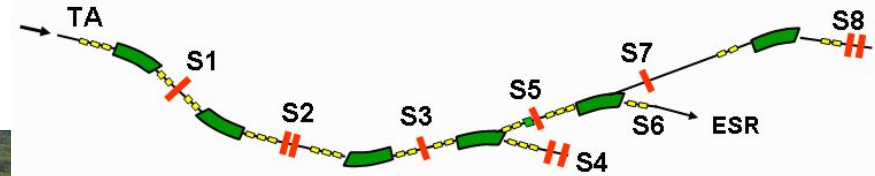
- Investigate the SRC dependence on isospin.
- Measure (p,pd) Quasi-Free Scattering cross sections of  $^{10,14,16}\text{C}$  relative to  $^{12}\text{C}$  at 400MeV/u.



# R3B @ GSI-FAIR

Complete kinematical reconstruction of reaction.  
Fragment Separator (FRS) provides exotic  
beams to R3B.

# R<sup>3</sup>B

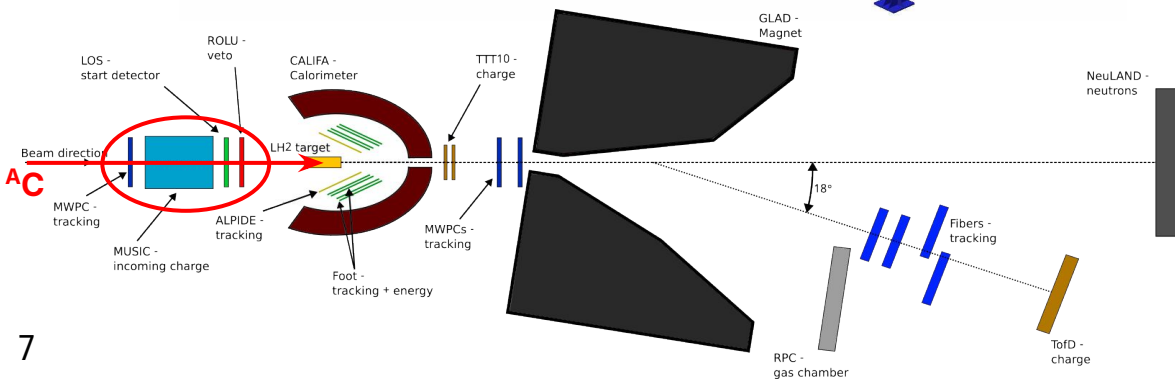
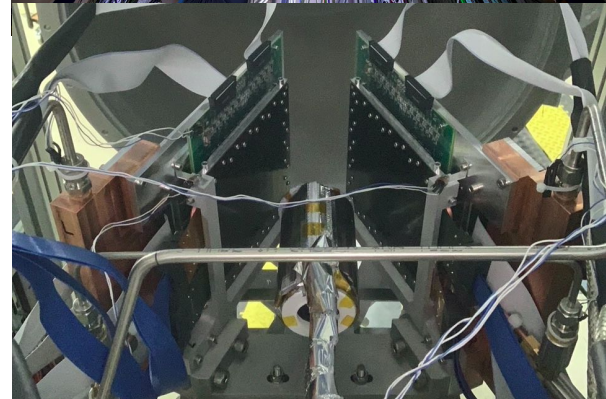
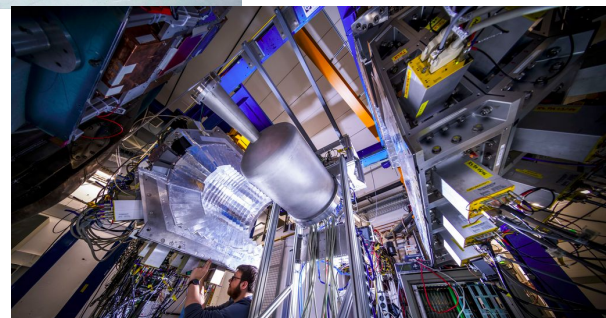
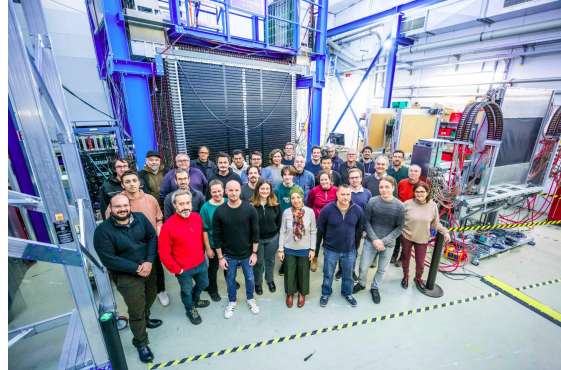
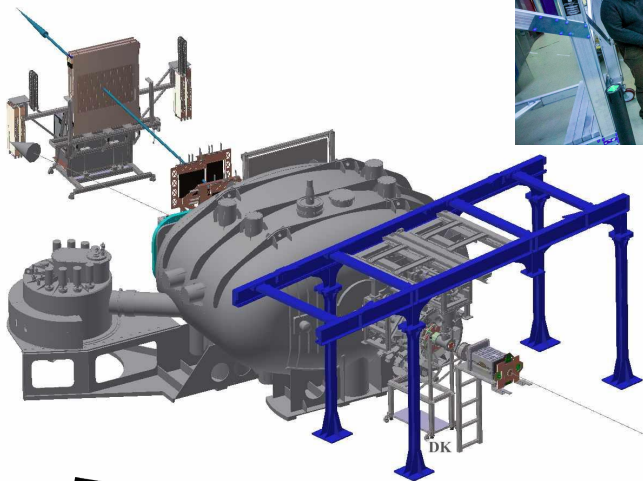


# Setup

# R<sup>3</sup>B



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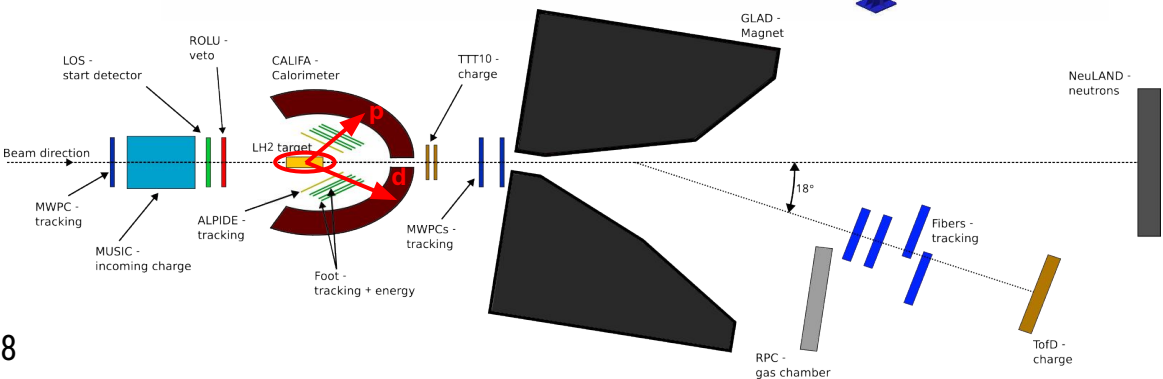
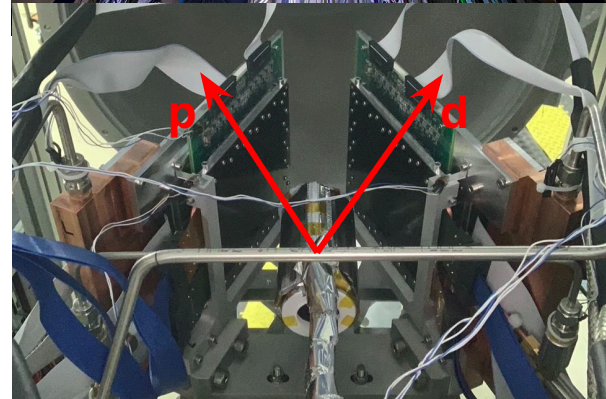
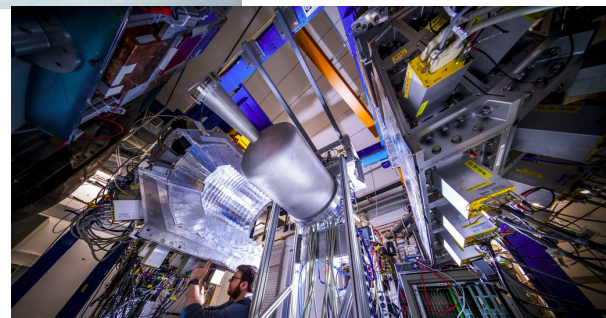
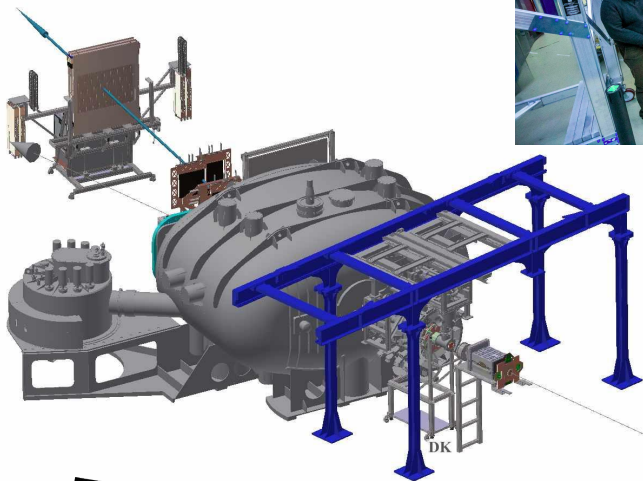
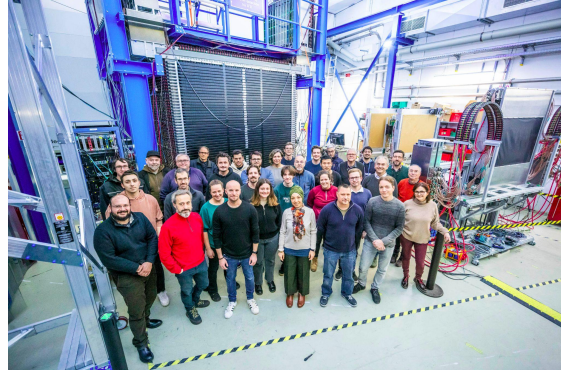
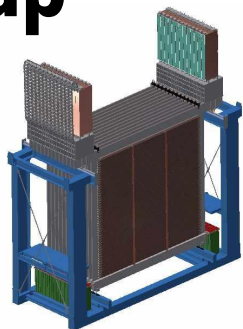


# Setup

# R<sup>3</sup>B



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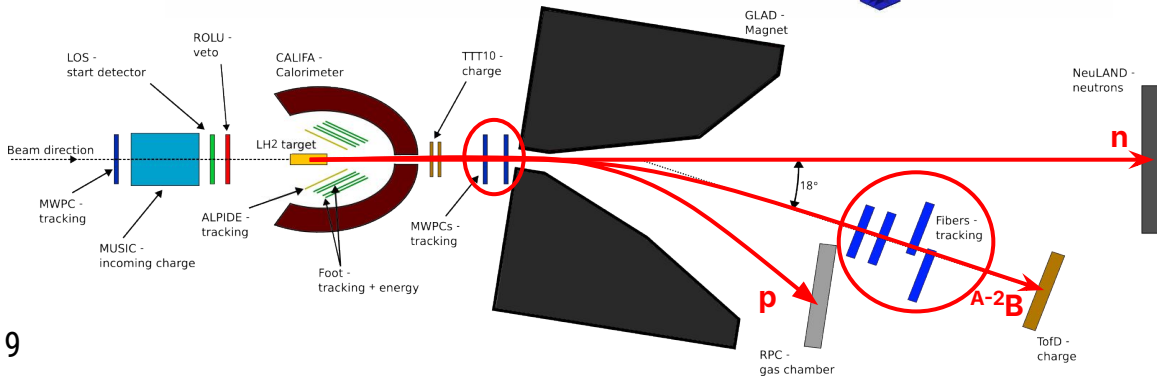
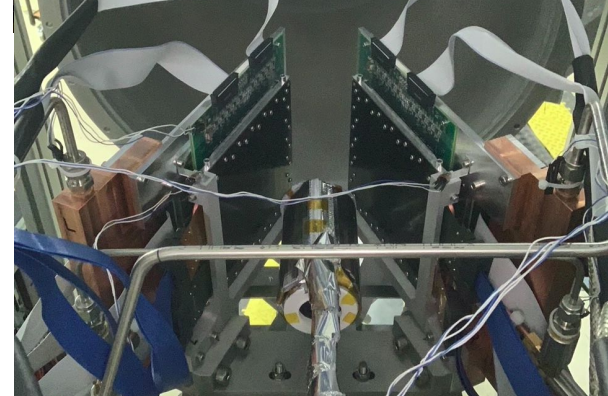
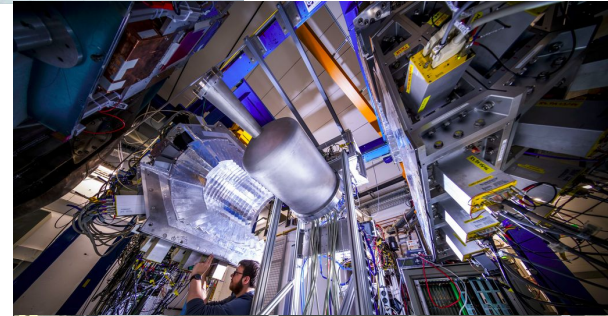
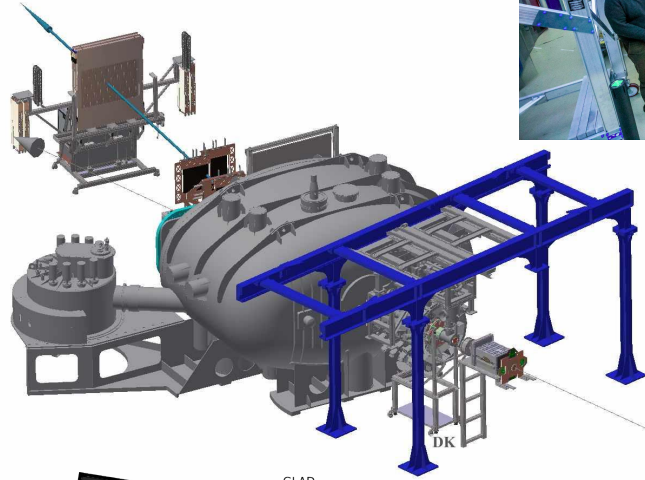
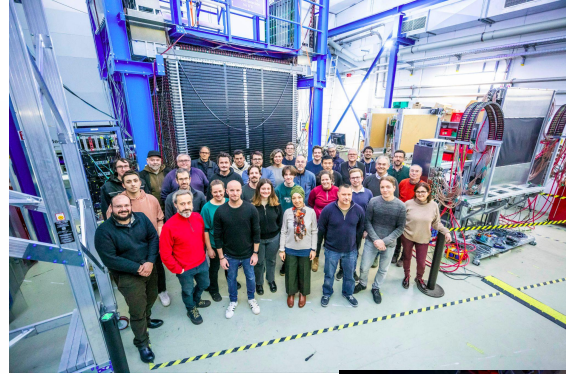
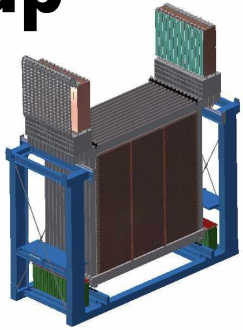


# Setup

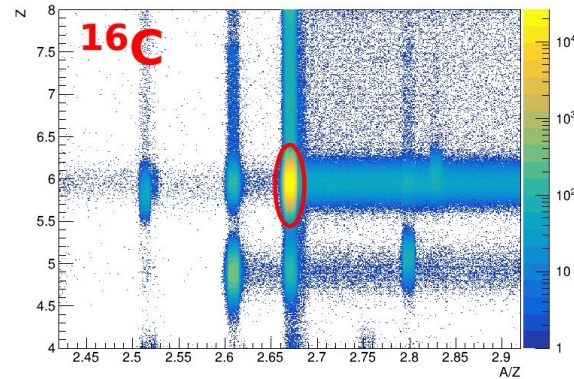
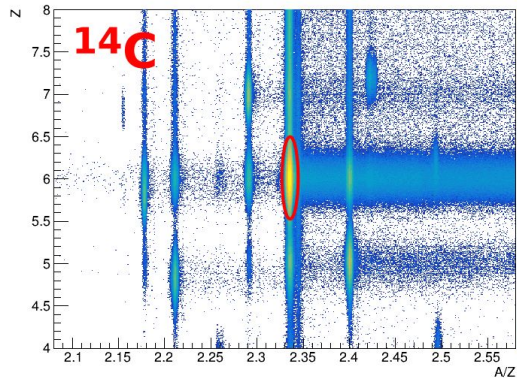
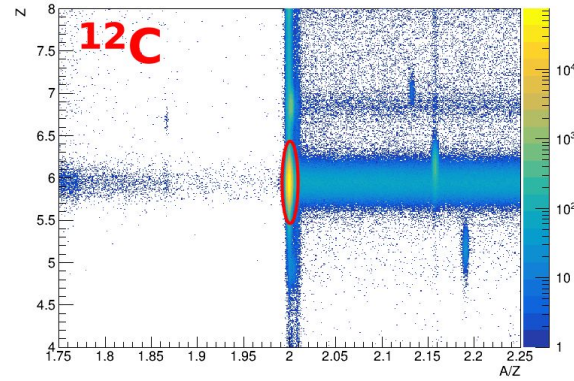
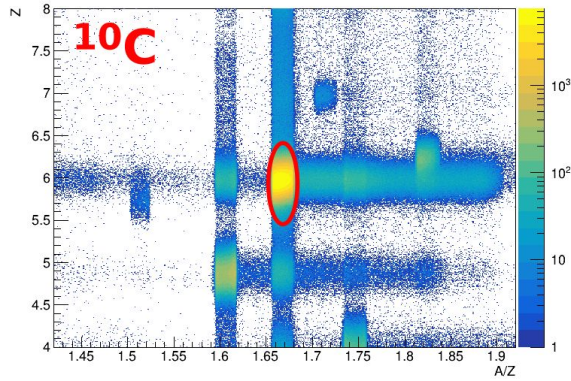
# R<sup>3</sup>B



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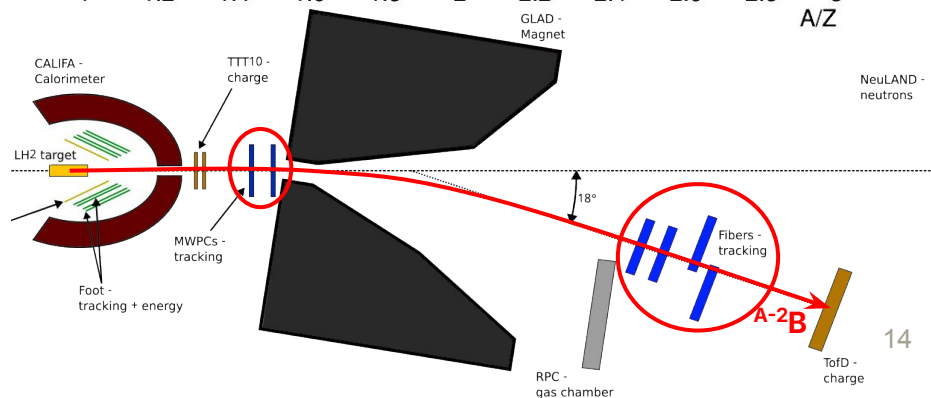
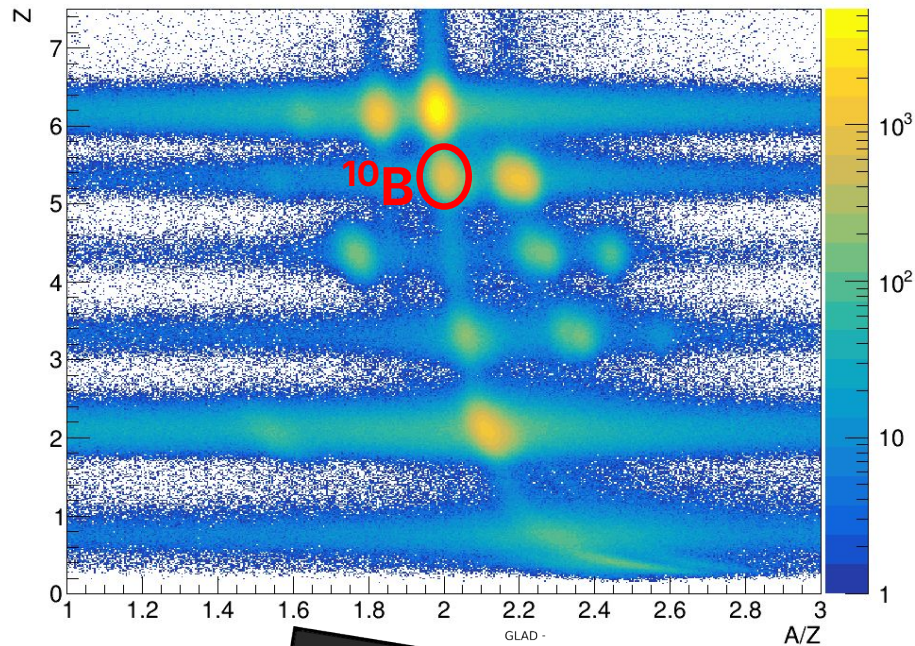
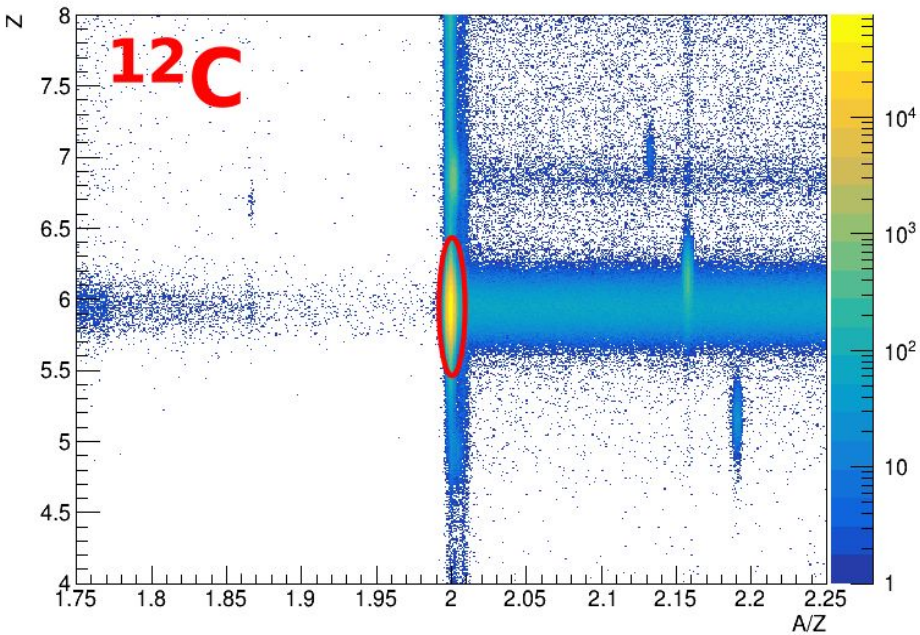


# Incoming PID

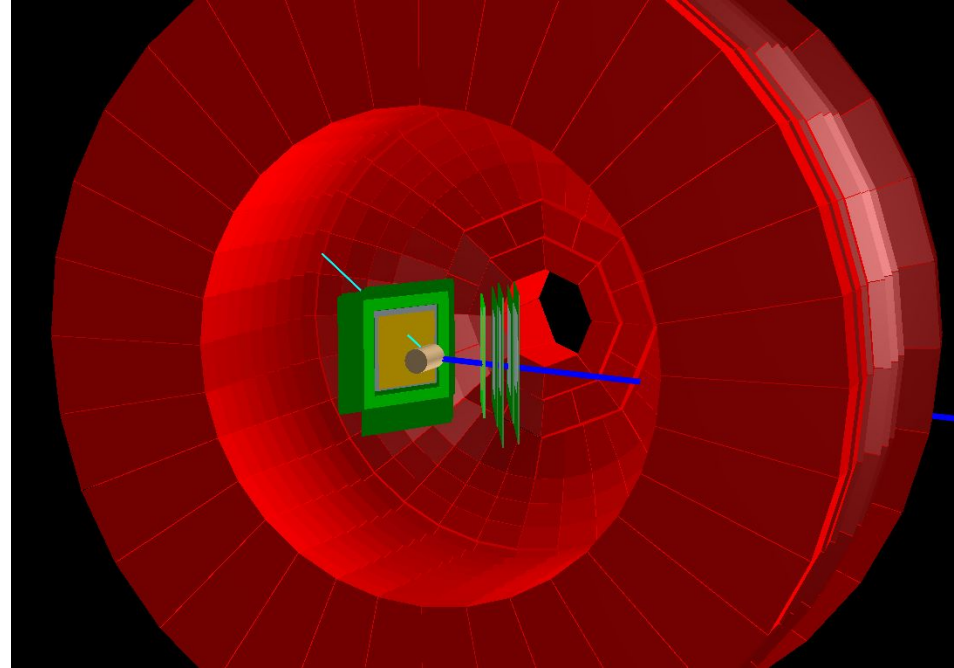
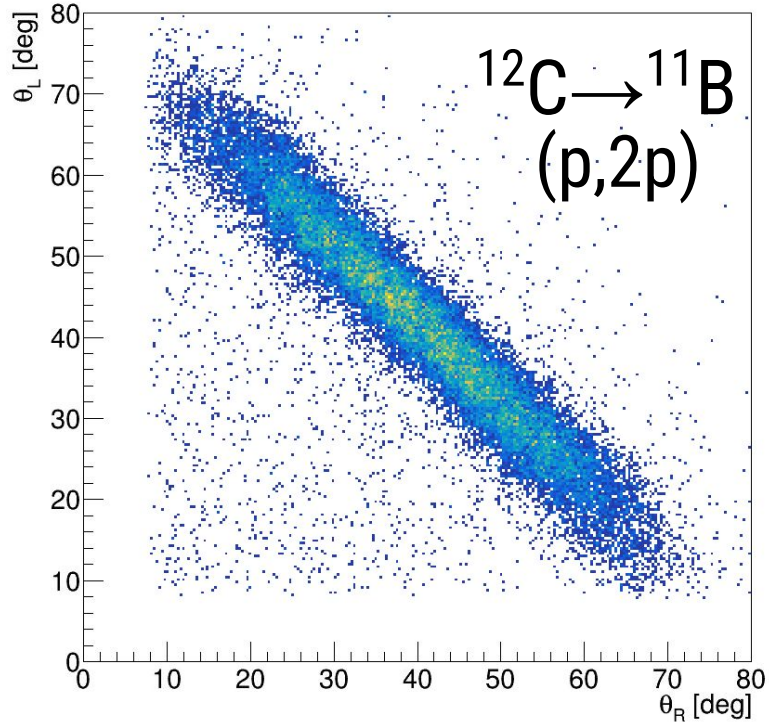


Achieved >95% purity  
for all beam settings.

# Incoming + Outgoing PID

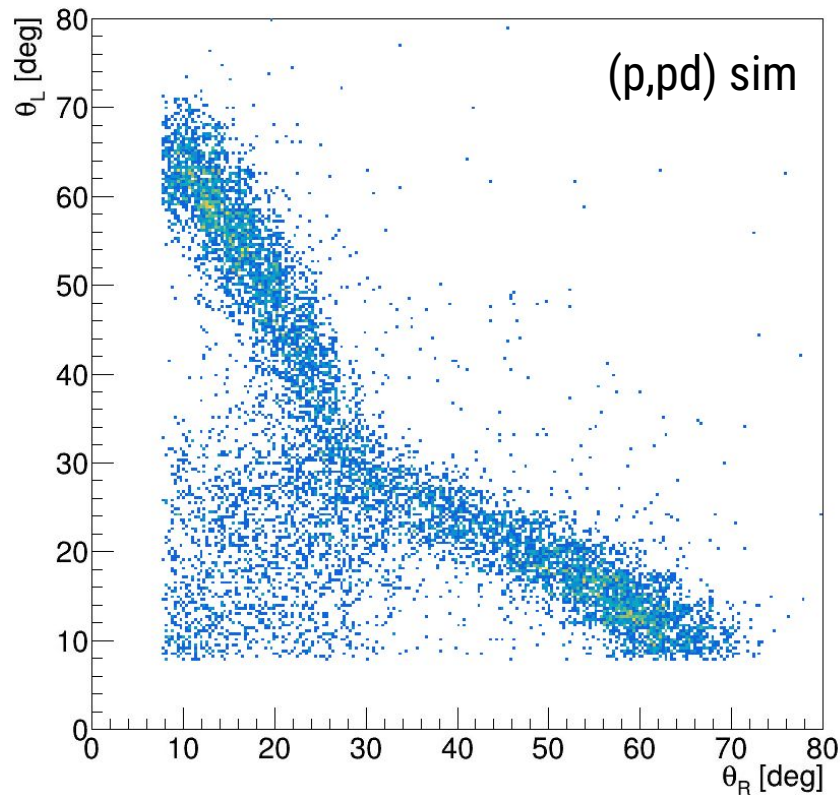
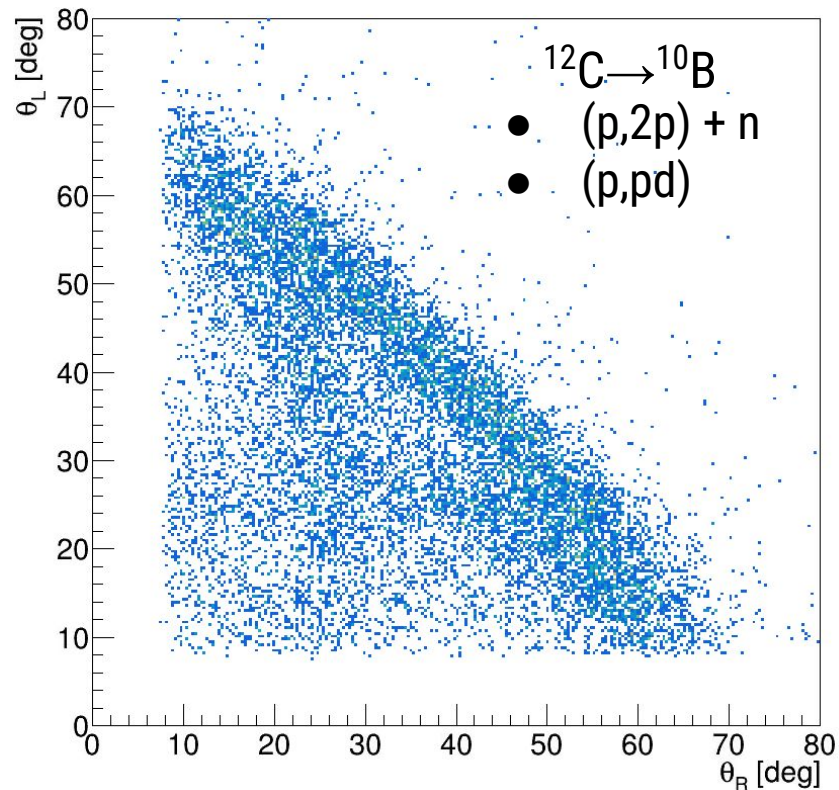


# CALIFA kinematics



Two particles detected, one in each side of CALIFA.  
Crystal Id  $\rightarrow$  angular information

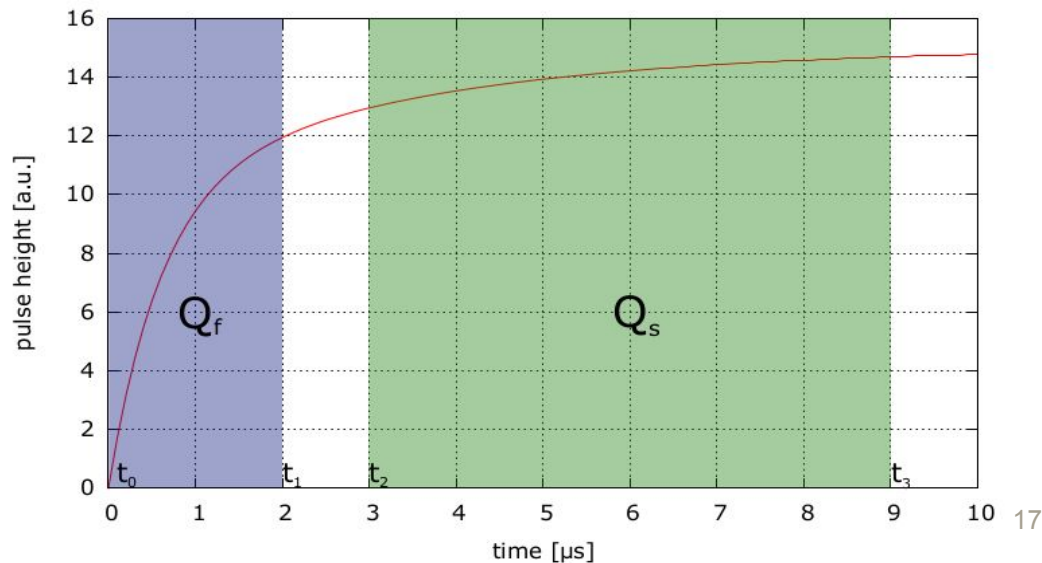
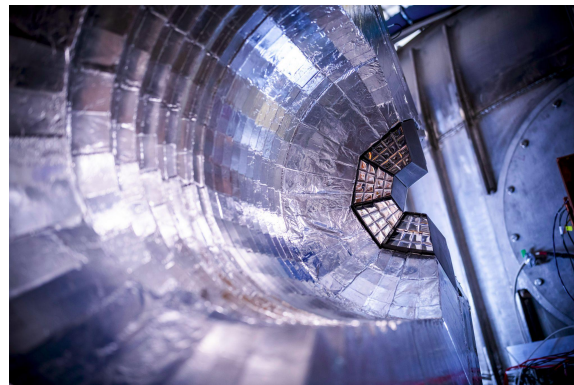
# CALIFA kinematics



# CALIFA QPID

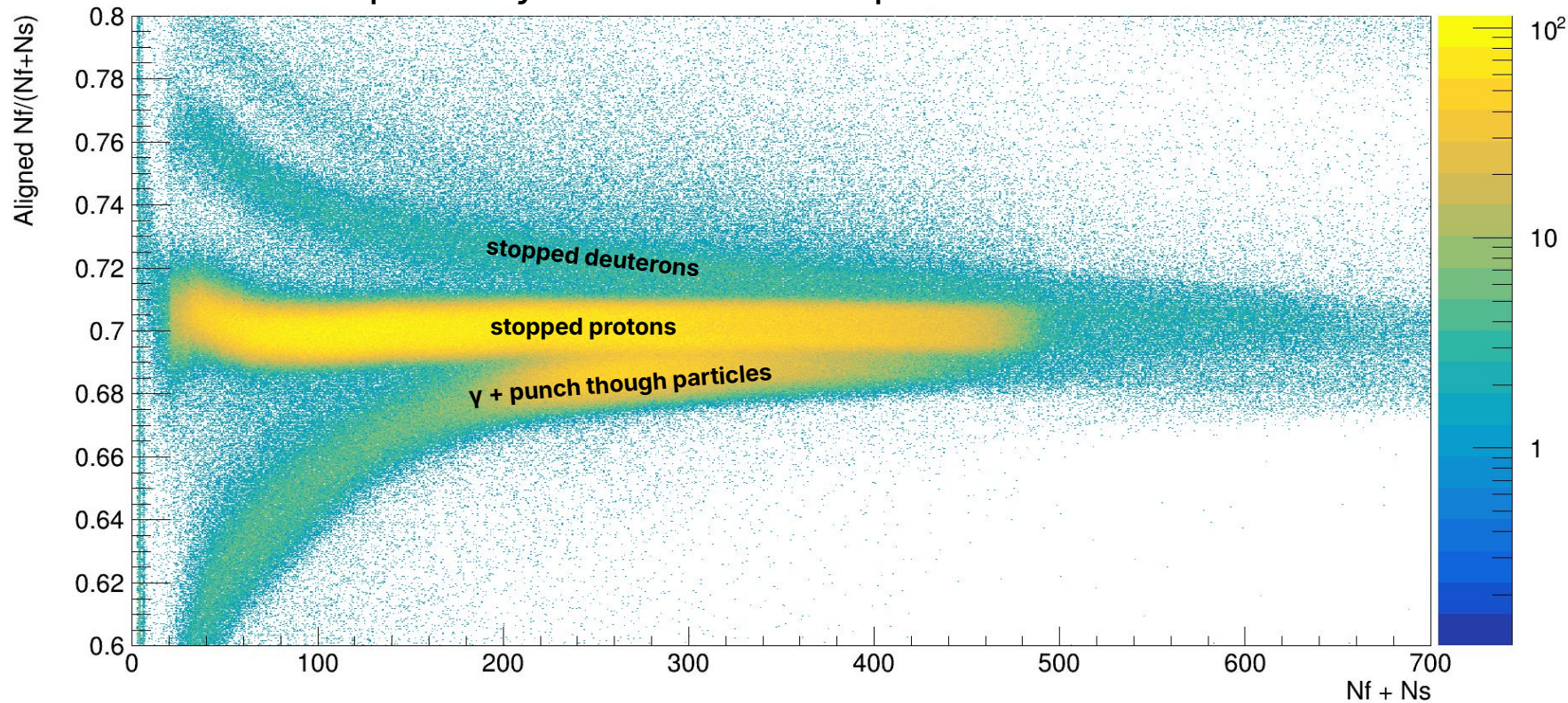
Pulse signal from incident particle integrated in two separate time windows - 'fast' and 'slow'.

Different particles have a different fast and slow response, allowing for particle identification.



# CALIFA QPID

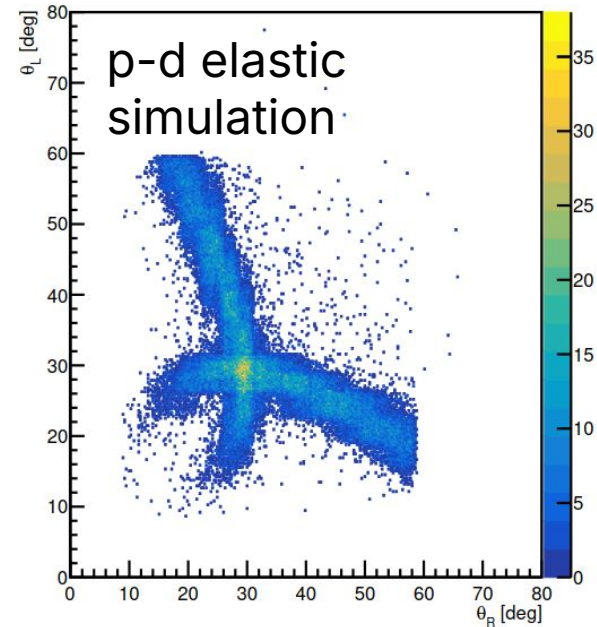
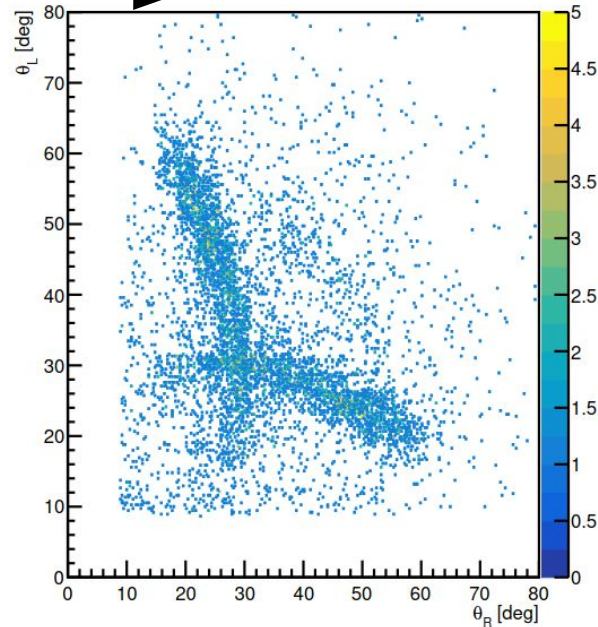
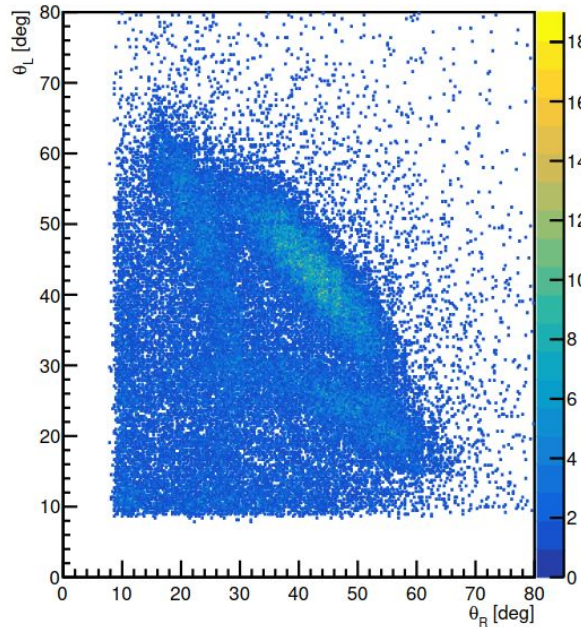
Pulse-shape analysis of CsI(Tl) for particle identification.



# Deuteron beam

Deuteron beam prior to experiment shows the ability of CALIFA QPID to identify reactions involving a deuteron

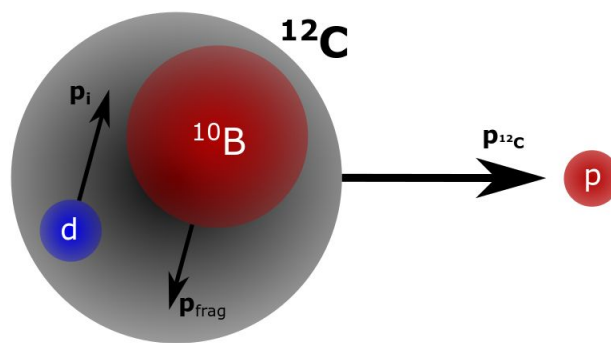
**Deuteron in QPID** →



# (p,pd) QFS kinematics

The information of a QFS reaction is carried entirely by the proton and deuteron.

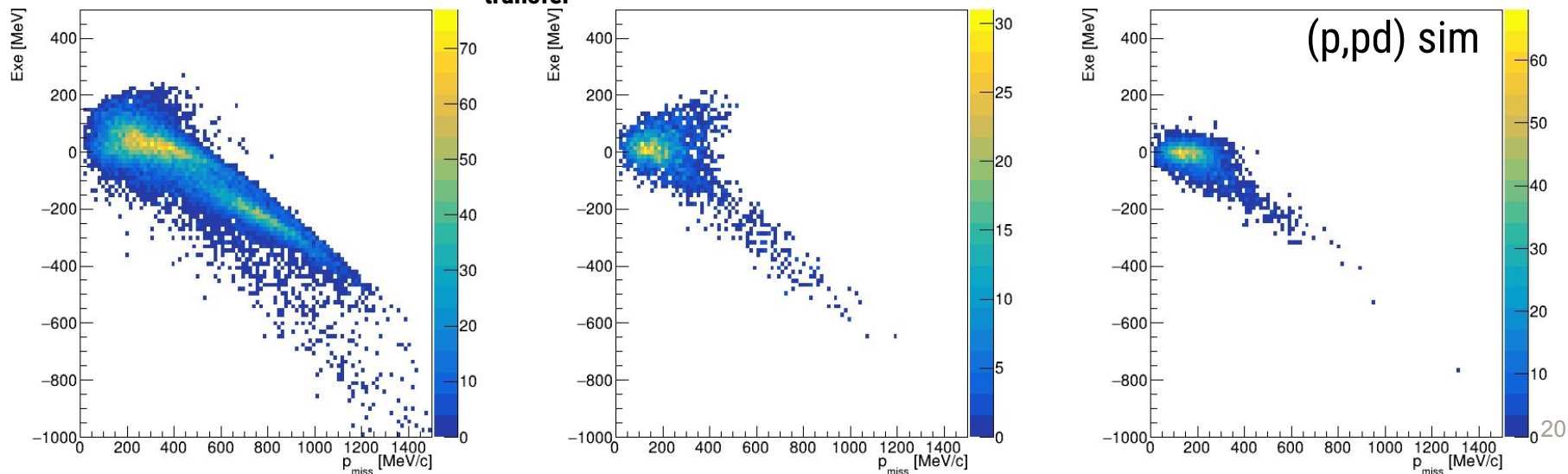
QFS  $\rightarrow$  fragment is a spectator



$$\mathbf{p}_{miss} = \mathbf{p}_i = \mathbf{p}_1 + \mathbf{p}_2 - \mathbf{p}_{tg}$$

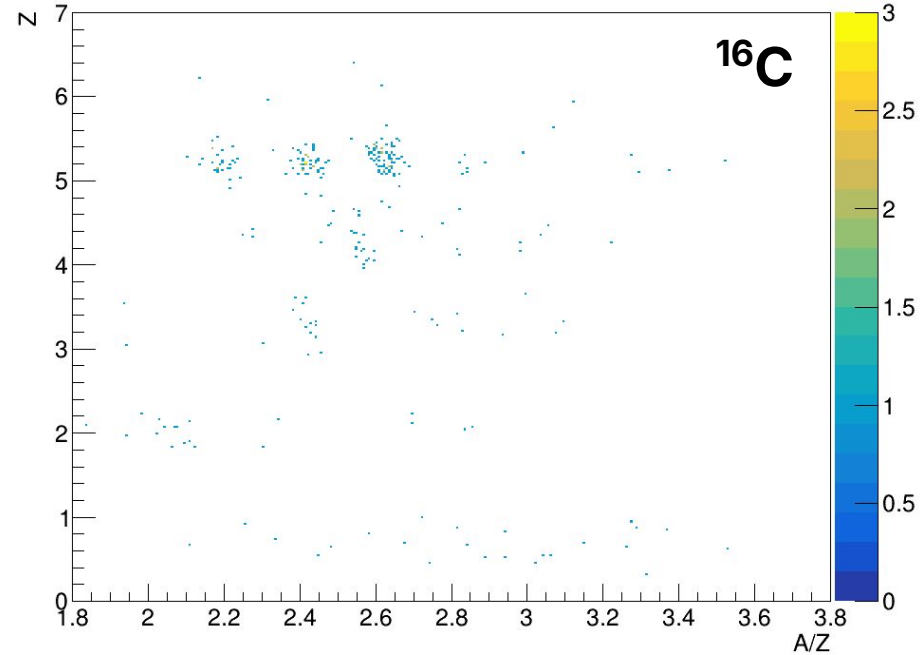
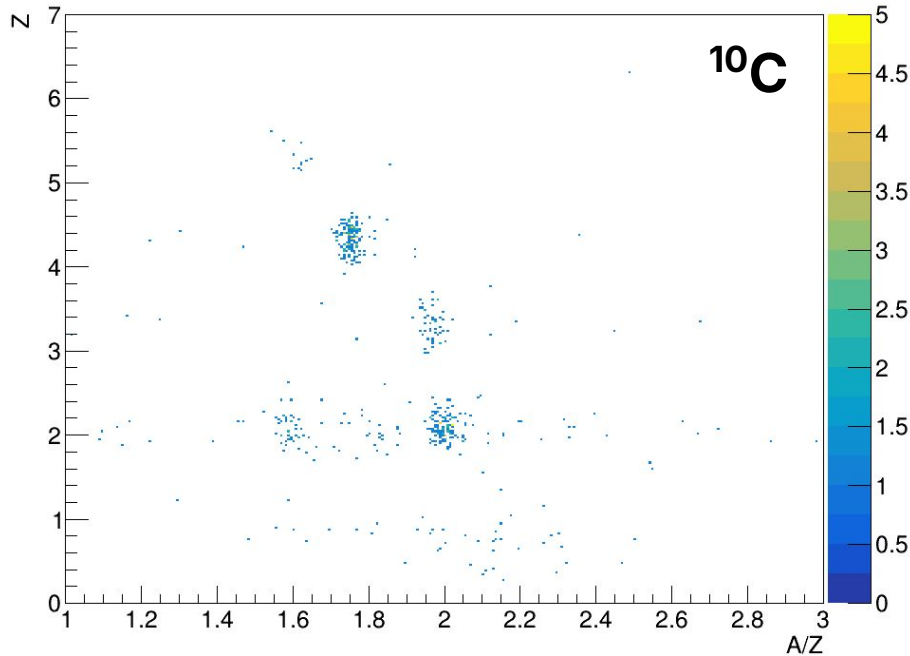
$$t = (p_1 - p_3)^2 c^2 = (p_4 - p_2)^2 c^2$$

High momentum transfer  $\rightarrow$



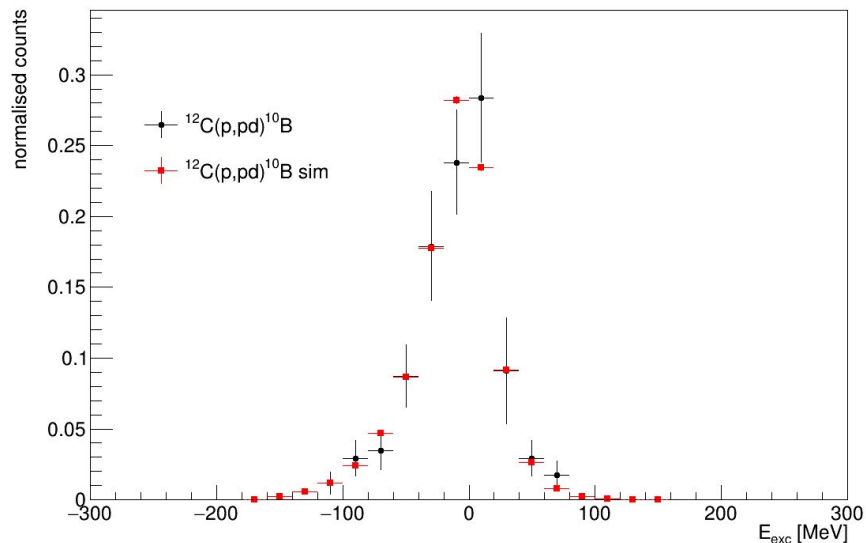
# (p,pd) Fragment PID

(p,pd) strength scattered across multiple channels  $\rightarrow$   
Fragment condition would bias result

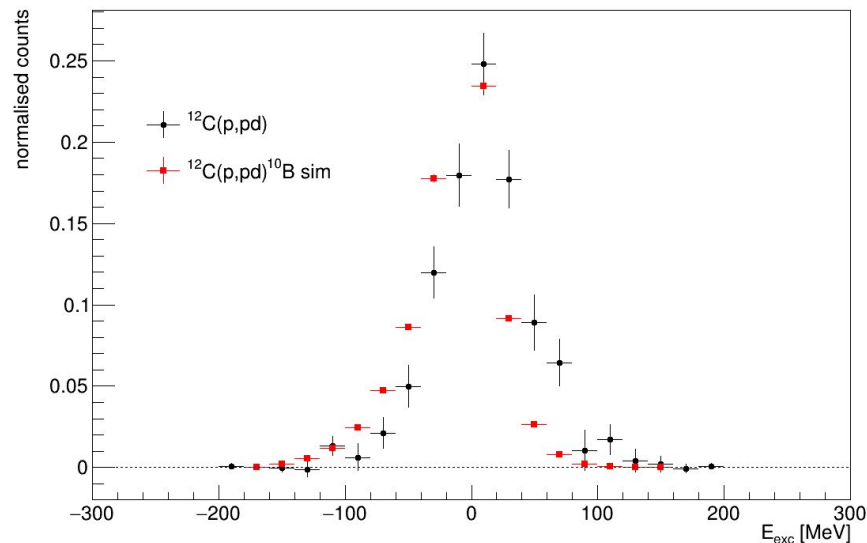


# (p,pd) QFS kinematics

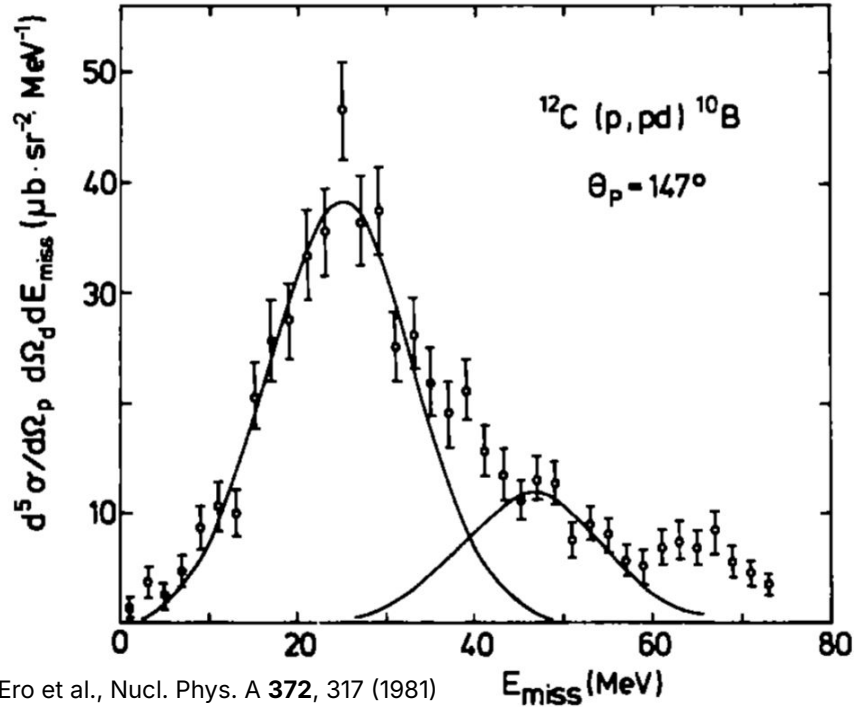
$^{12}\text{C}(p,pd)^{10}\text{B}$  excitation energy  
agrees well with simulation



No fragment selection  $\rightarrow$  higher  
excitations  $\rightarrow$  unbound states/FSI?

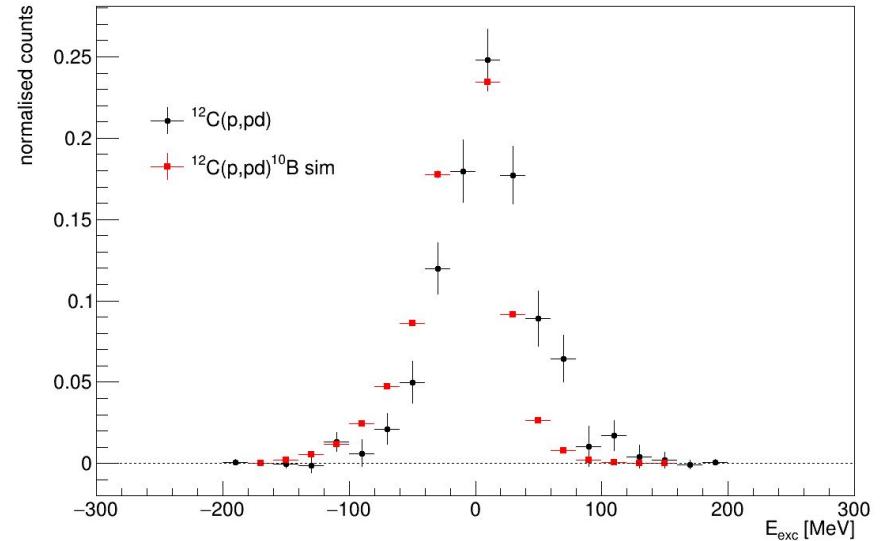


# (p,pd) QFS kinematics



J. Ero et al., Nucl. Phys. A 372, 317 (1981)

Previous  $^{12}\text{C}(p, pd)$  experiment also suggested higher excitations  $\rightarrow$  QFS of deuterons in the s shell?

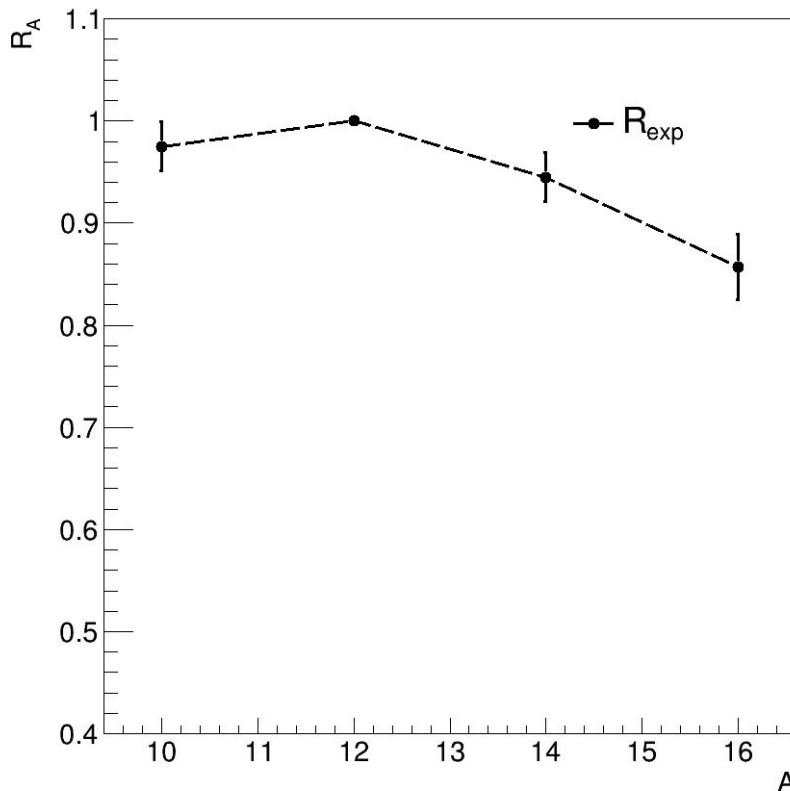


# Results

$^A\text{C}(p, pd)$  cross section relative to  $^{12}\text{C}$ :

$$R_A = \frac{N_{(p,pd),^A\text{C}}}{N_{(p,pd),^{12}\text{C}}}$$

- $(p, pd)$  cross section peaks at  $^{12}\text{C}$ .
- Cross section falls gradually away from  $N=Z$ .



# Results

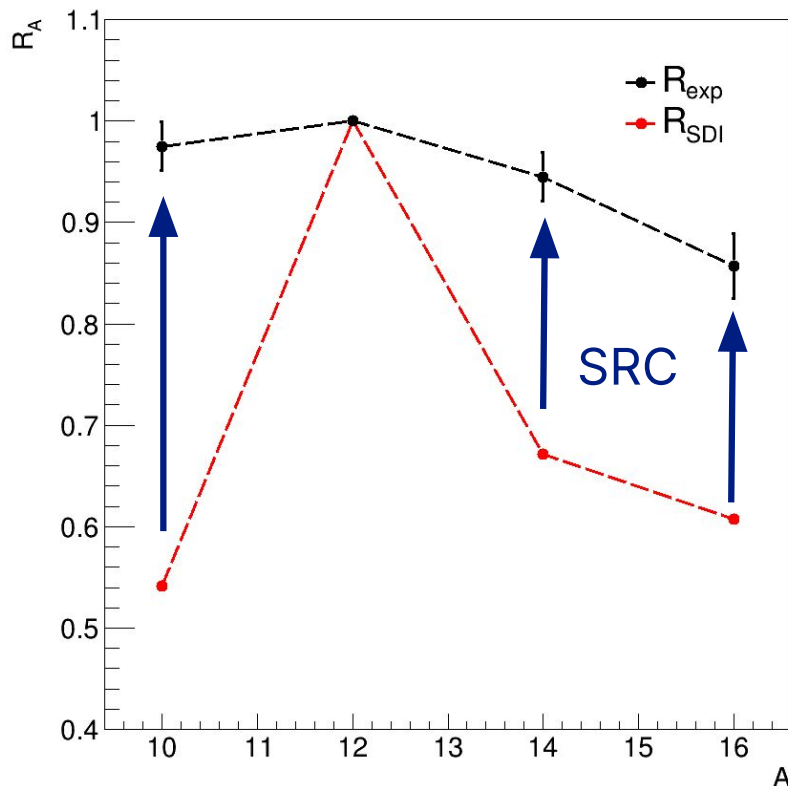
$^A\text{C}(p, pd)$  cross section relative to  $^{12}\text{C}$ :

$$R_A = \frac{N_{(p, pd), ^A\text{C}}}{N_{(p, pd), ^{12}\text{C}}}$$

Theoretical comparison: "Mean Field"  
quasi-deuteron content using a  
Hamiltonian with a surface delta  
interaction (SDI)

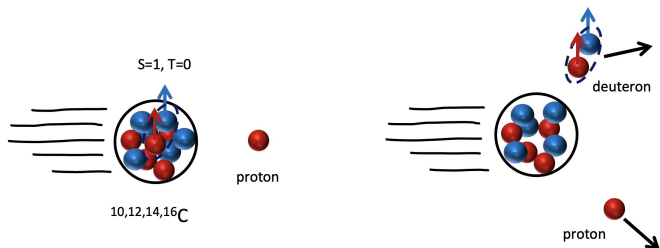
Projection onto  $^3\text{S}_1$  channel

Experimental ratio much higher than  
mean field prediction  $\rightarrow$  SRCs strongly  
amplify quasi deuteron content in  
asymmetric nuclei.

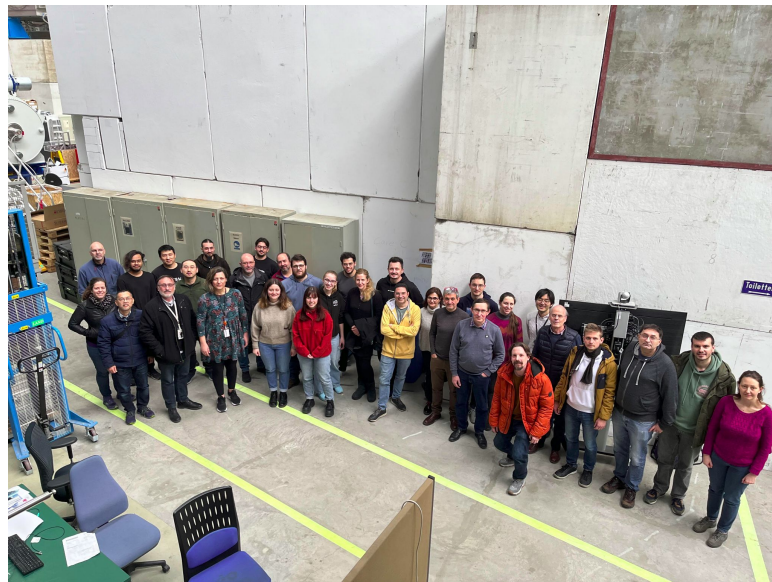


# Conclusion

- Identified inclusive (p,pd) events at high momentum transfer using CALIFA QPID capabilities for stopped deuterons.
  - Results indicate SRC signature through increased quasi-deuteron content.
- This opens the way for new experiments at R3B with high resolution using the future ALPIDE Target Recoil Tracker device.



R<sup>3</sup>B



Thank you to the R3B collaboration!

# Acknowledgements



The results presented here are based on the experiment G-22-00091, which was performed at the FRS-HTC at the GSI Helmholtzzentrum für Schwerionenforschung, Darmstadt (Germany) in the frame of FAIR Phase-0.

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