

# **nuclear astrophysics – lecture 3**

**Alan Chen**

**McMaster University, Canada**

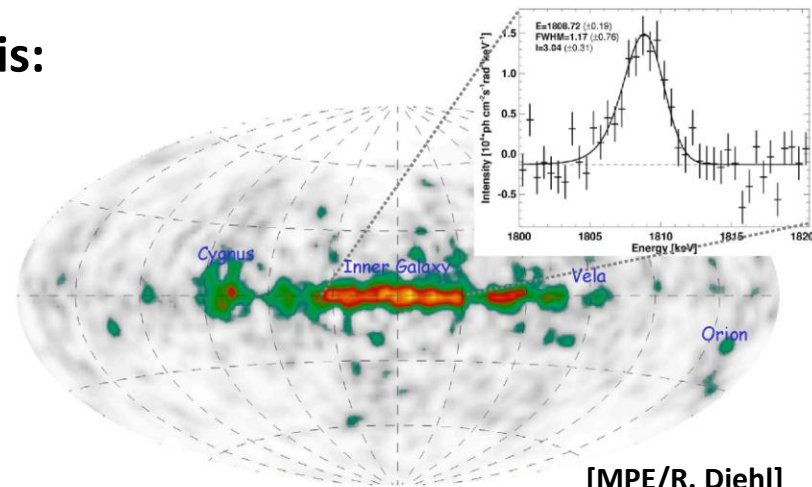
# rare isotopes in stars: gamma-ray astronomy

( $^{26}\text{Al}$ ,  $^{44}\text{Ti}$ )

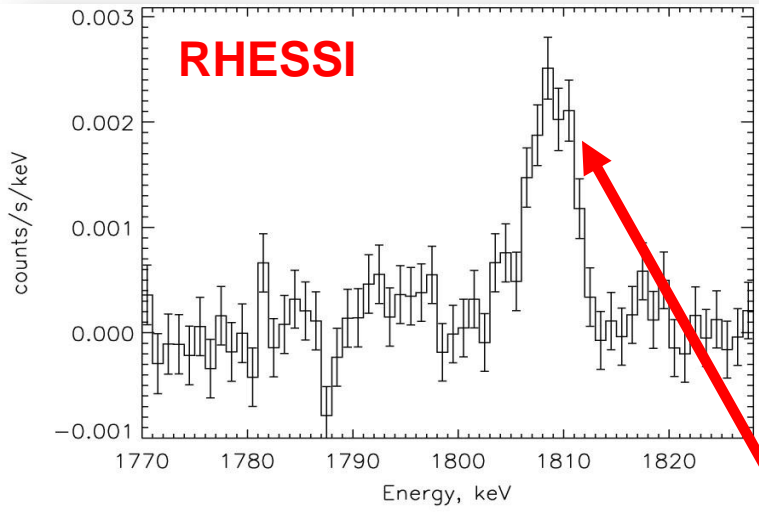
- observations:  $\gamma$ -ray emission from  $^{26}\text{Al}$  decay
  - diagnostic of ongoing nucleosynthesis
  - constraint on galactic chemical evolution
- models: need  $^{26}\text{Al}$  yield predictions for different stars (e.g., supernovae, classical novae, AGB stars)
- important reactions affecting  $^{26}\text{Al}$  synthesis:



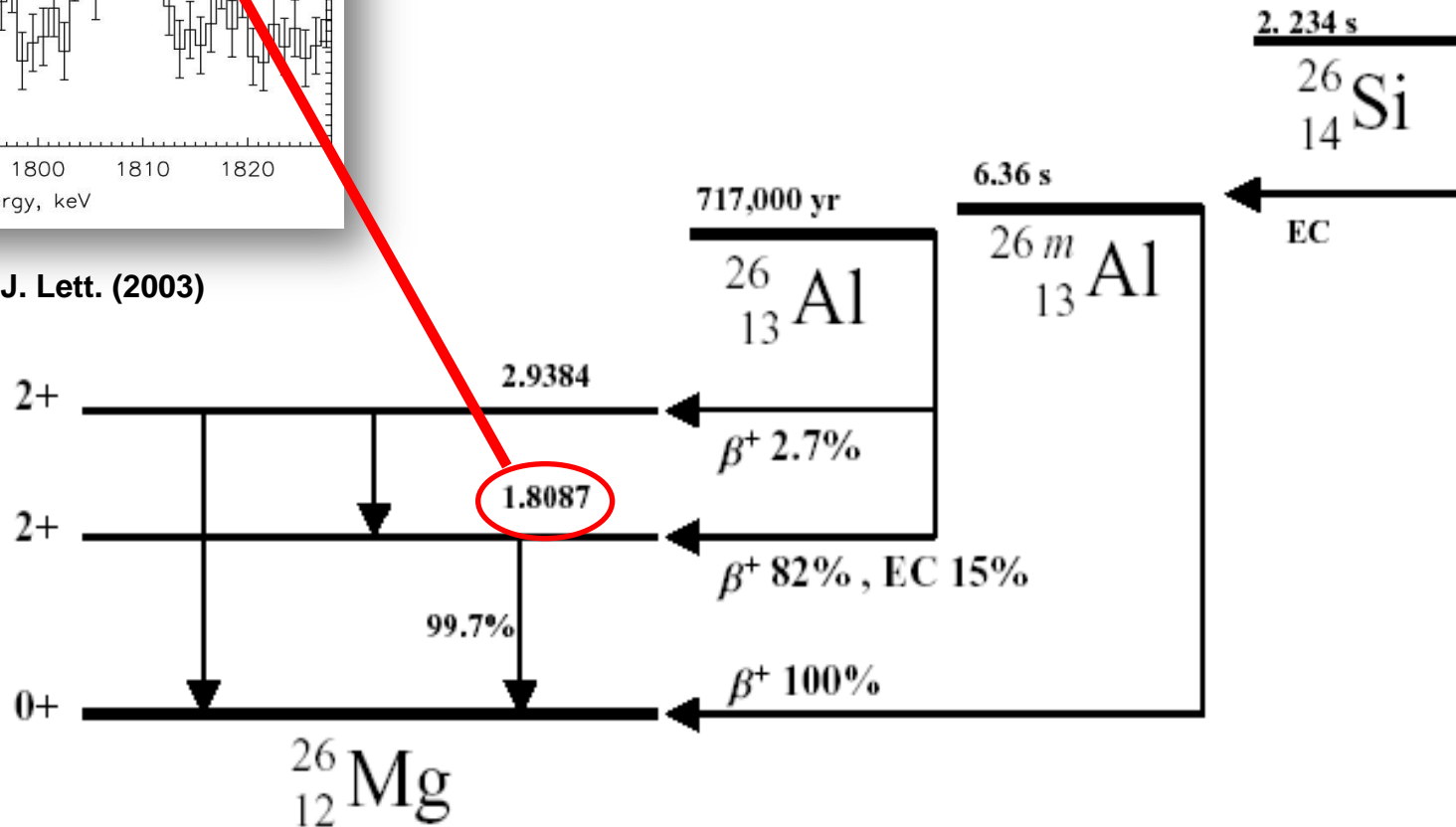
[Cassiopeia A]



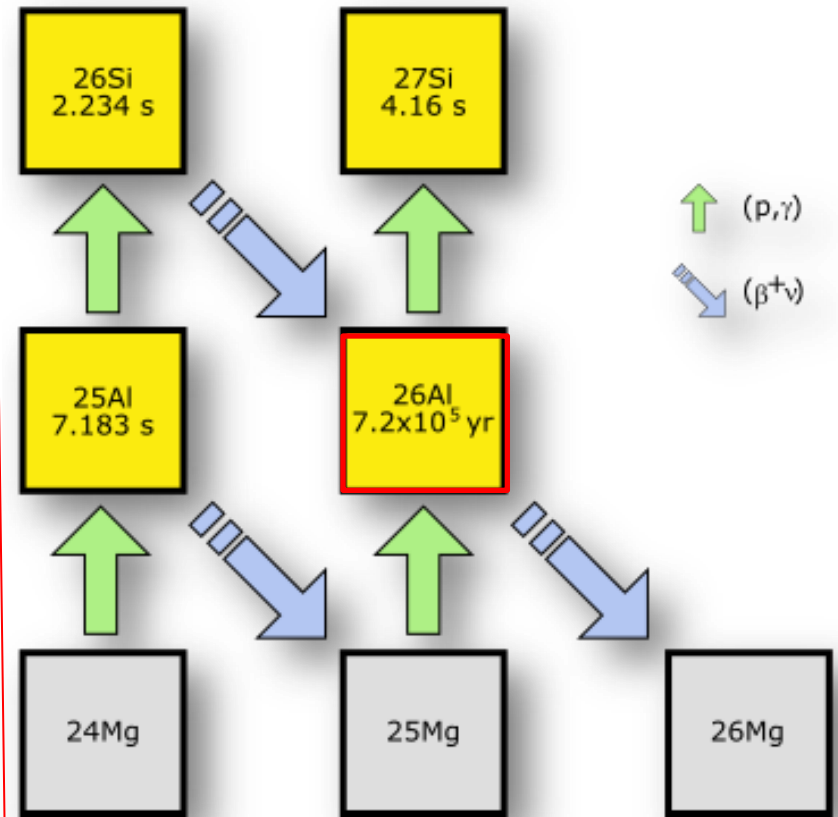
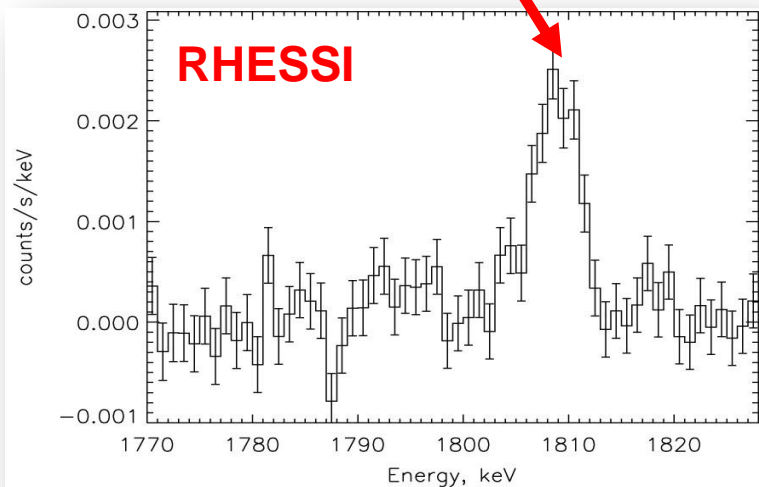
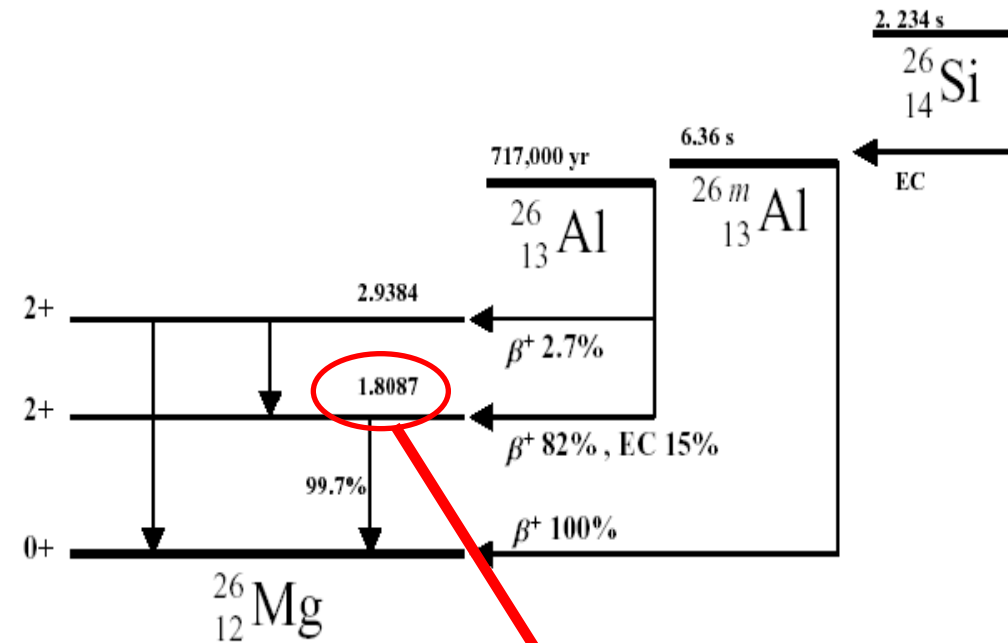
# the nuclear origin of galactic $^{26}\text{Al}$



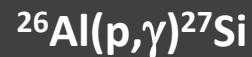
D.M. Smith, Ap. J. Lett. (2003)



# the nuclear origin of galactic $^{26}\text{Al}$



important reactions:



[Iliadis et al. Ap. J. (2002)]



TRIUMF



POWERED BY Google



Image © 2009 TerraNet Inc. Map data © 2009 Google, Tele Atlas - Terms of Use



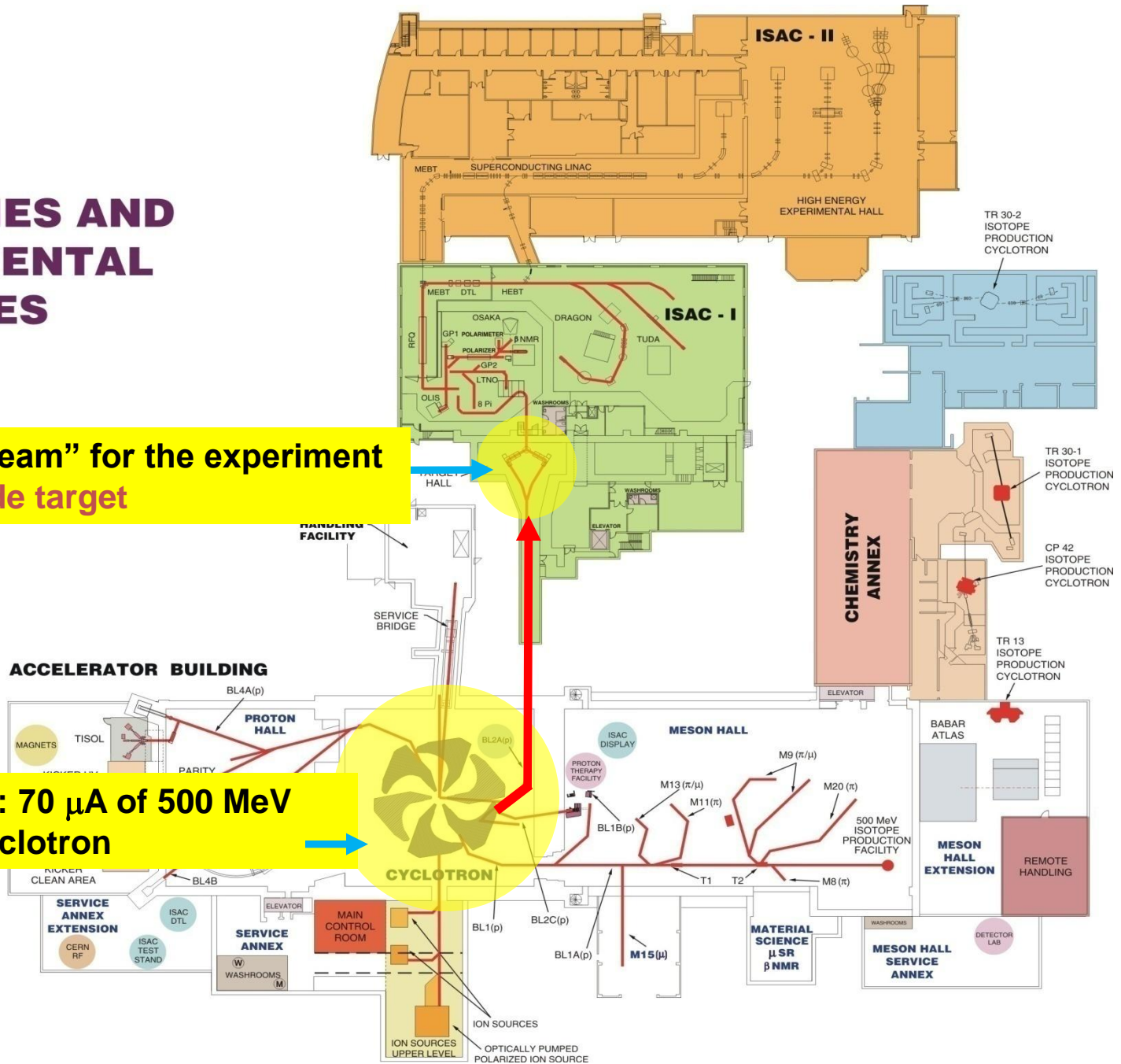
# Measurement of $^{26}\text{Al}(p,\gamma)^{27}\text{Si}$ at TRIUMF-ISAC

- **Goal: determine the  $(p,\gamma)$ -strength of the  $E_{\text{cm}} = 188$  keV resonance**
  - $E_{\text{beam}}(^{26}\text{Al}) \sim 200$  keV/u
  - **Need ISAC beam intensity  $> 10^9$  ions per second**

# TRIUMF BEAMLINES AND EXPERIMENTAL FACILITIES

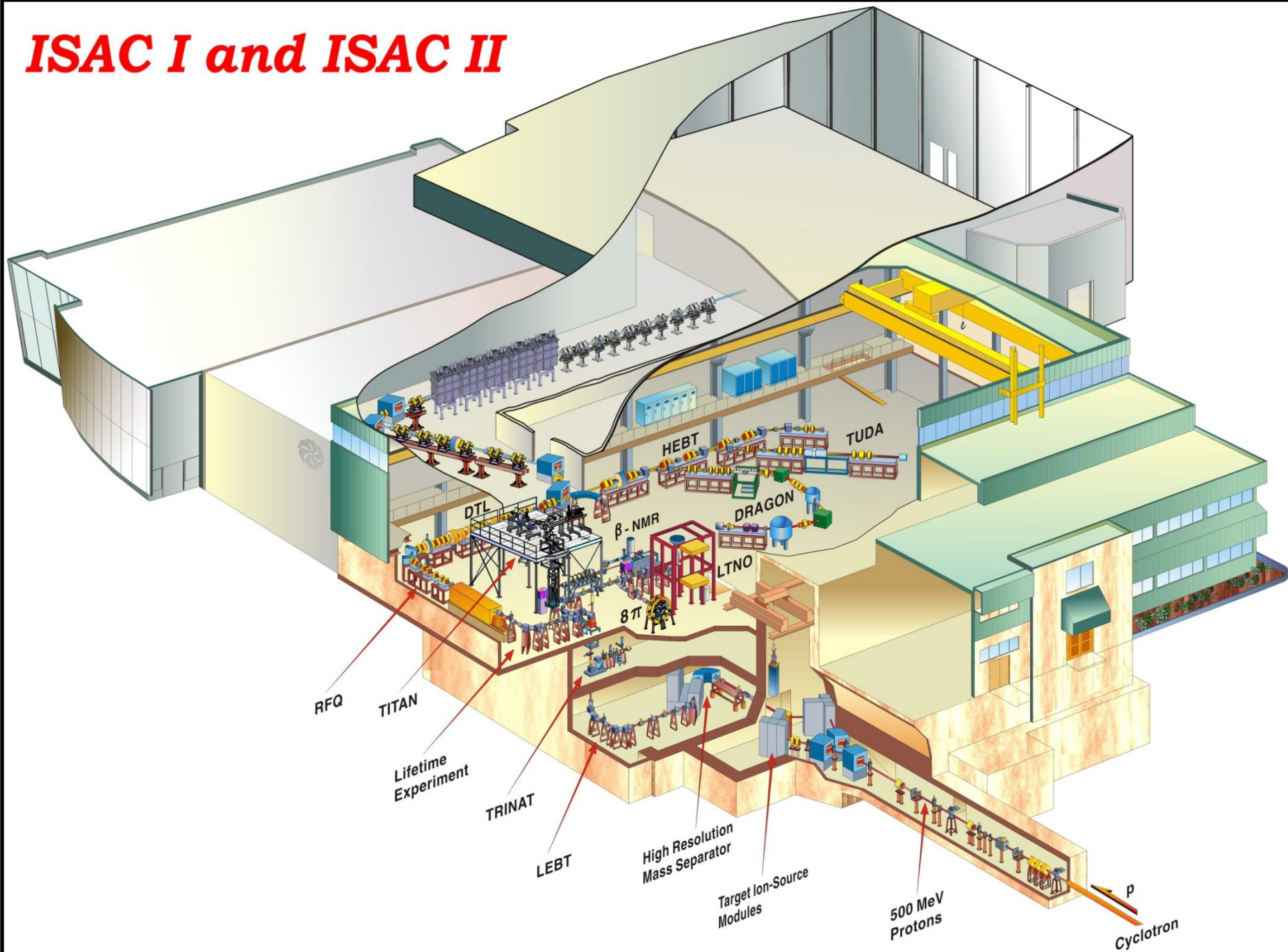
$^{26}\text{Al}$  “secondary beam” for the experiment  
Silicon Carbide target

“primary beam”: 70  $\mu\text{A}$  of 500 MeV  
protons from cyclotron



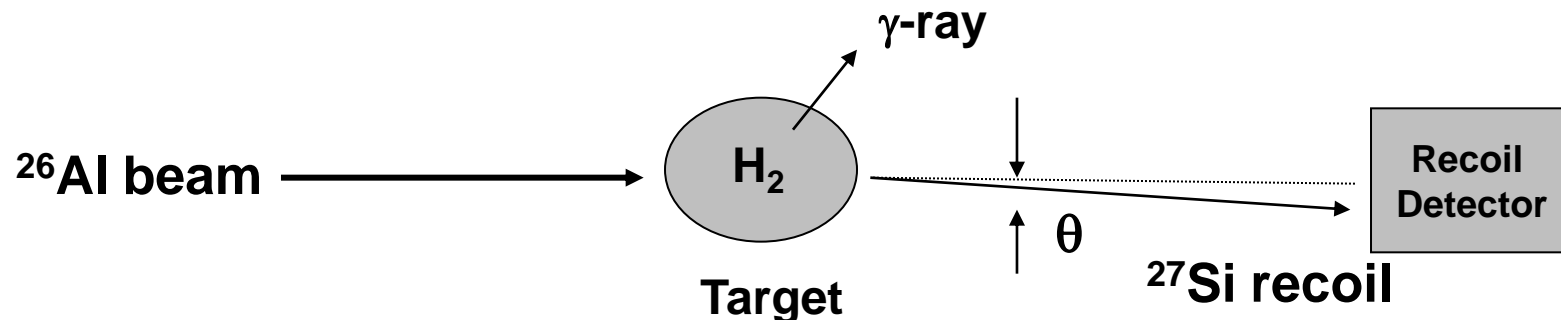


# ISAC I and ISAC II

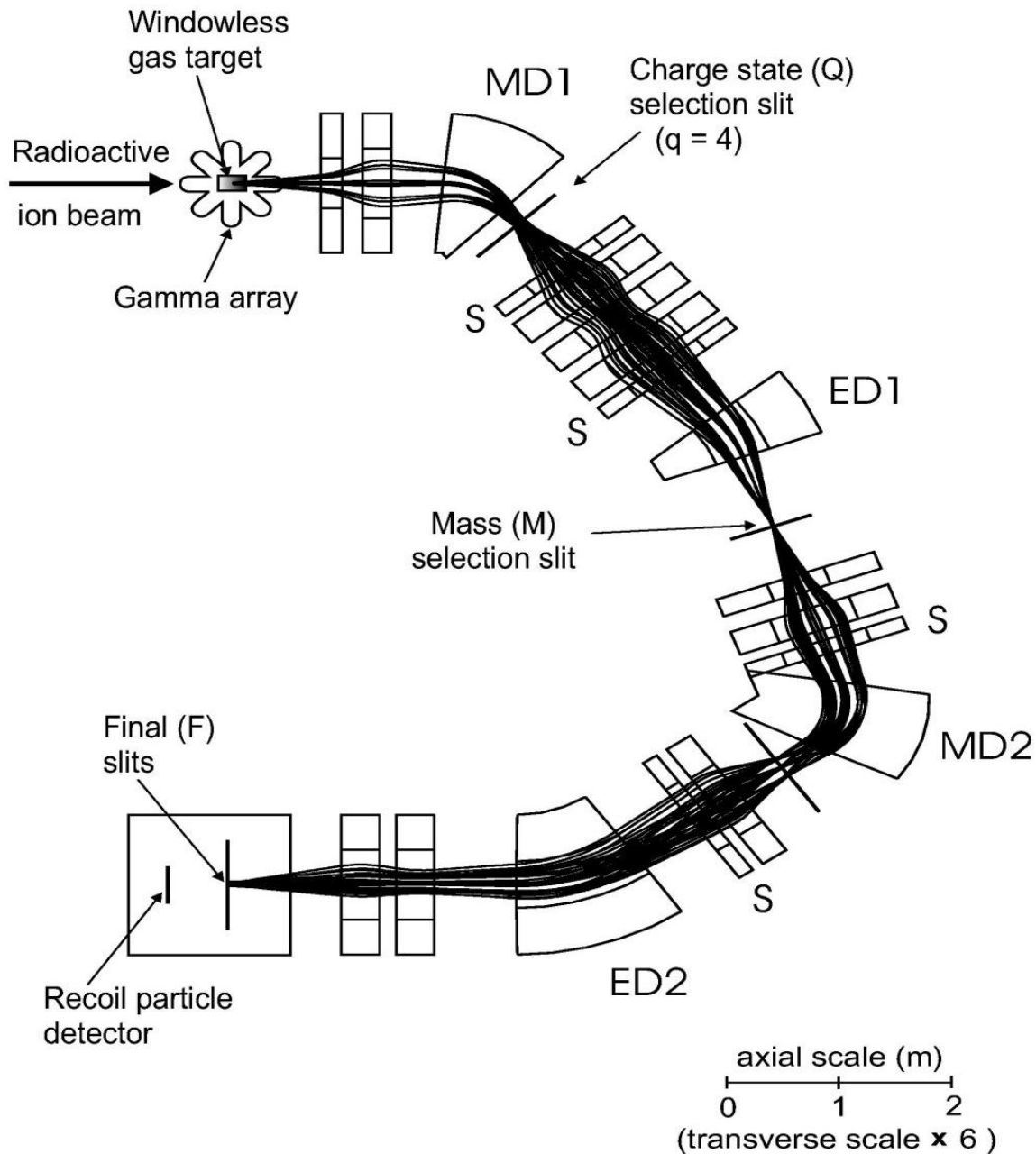


# Measurement of $^{26}\text{Al}(p,\gamma)^{27}\text{Si}$ at TRIUMF-ISAC

- **Goal:** determine the  $(p,\gamma)$ -strength of the  $E_{\text{cm}} = 188$  keV resonance
  - $E_{\text{beam}}(^{26}\text{Al}) \sim 200$  keV/u
  - Need ISAC beam intensity  $> 10^9$  ions per second
  - Measure the yield of  $^{27}\text{Si}$  recoils with DRAGON recoil separator (coincidence with prompt gamma rays)



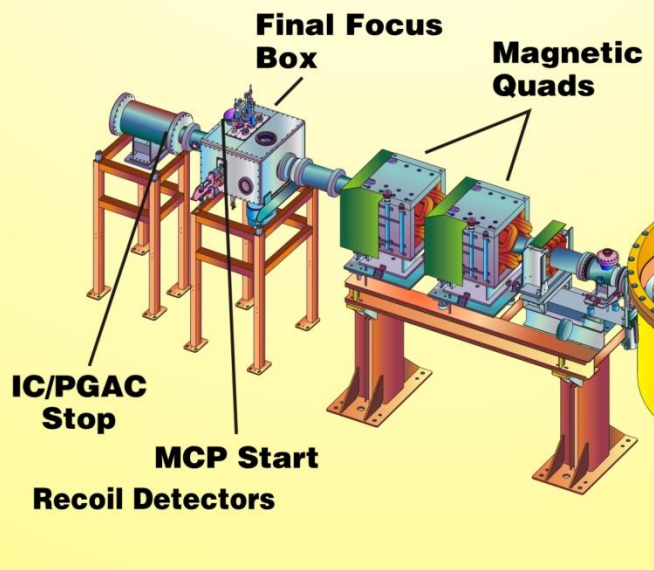
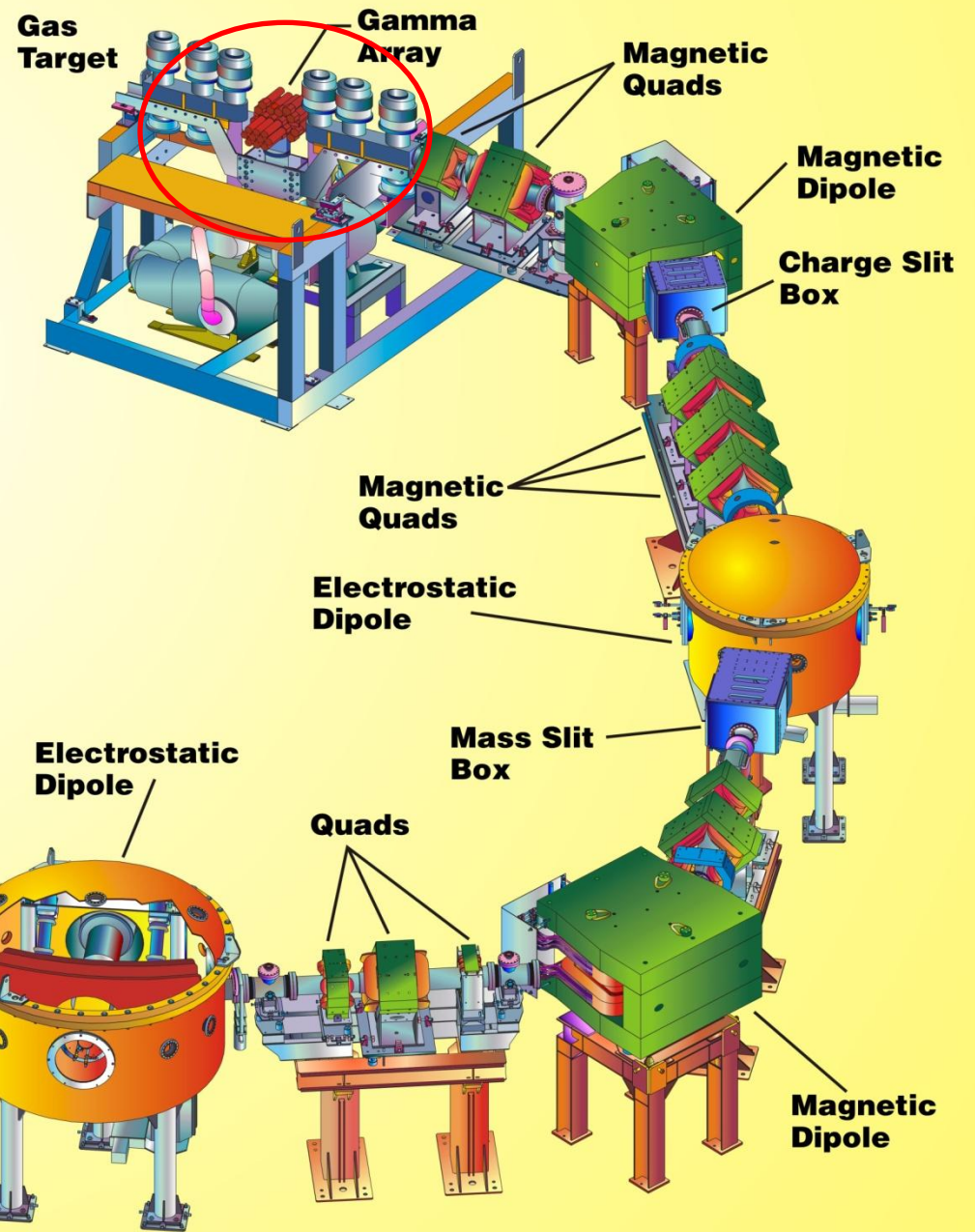
# The DRAGON facility



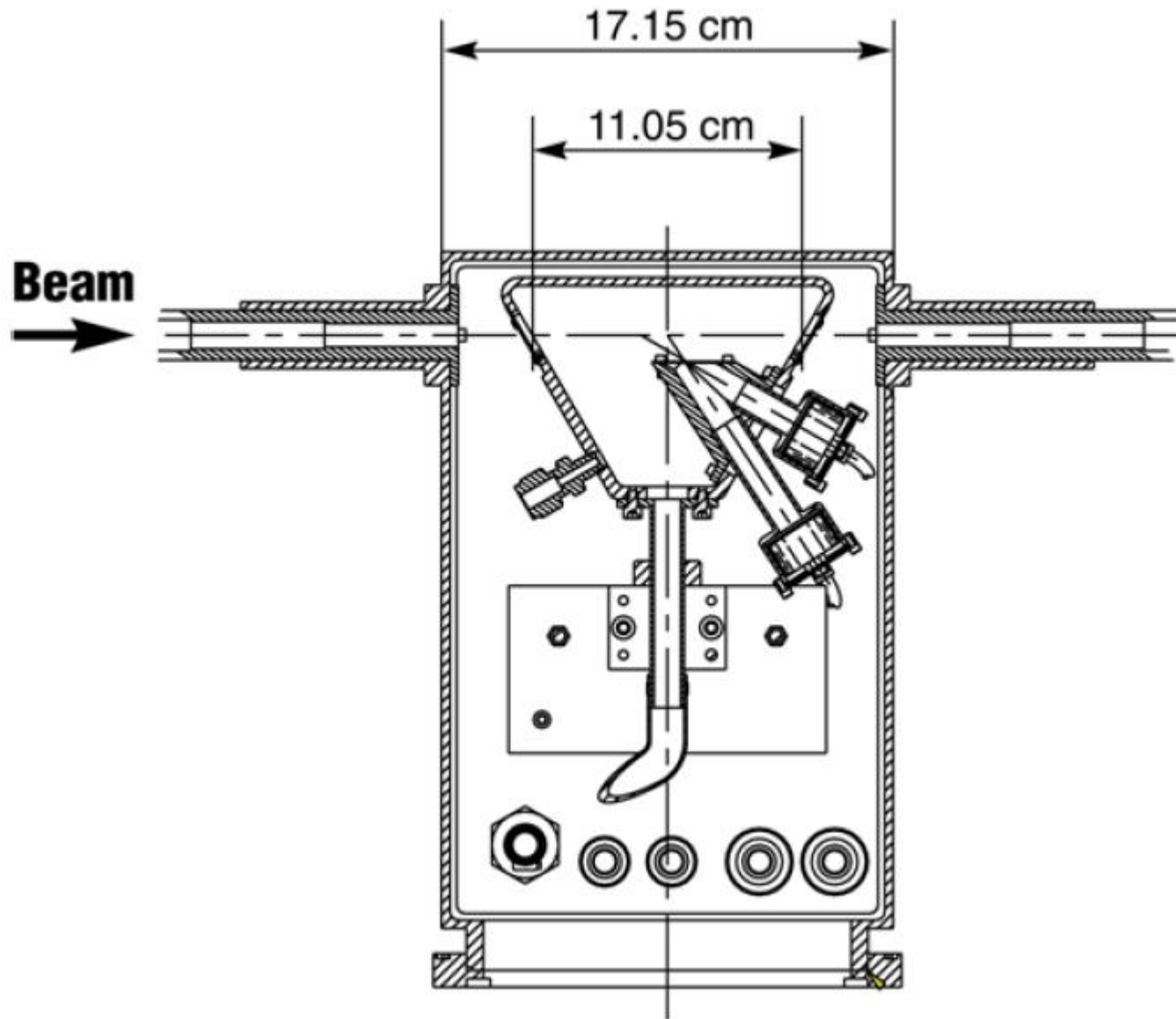


# DRAGON

Detector of Recoils And Gammas Of Nuclear reactions



# DRAGON: gas target



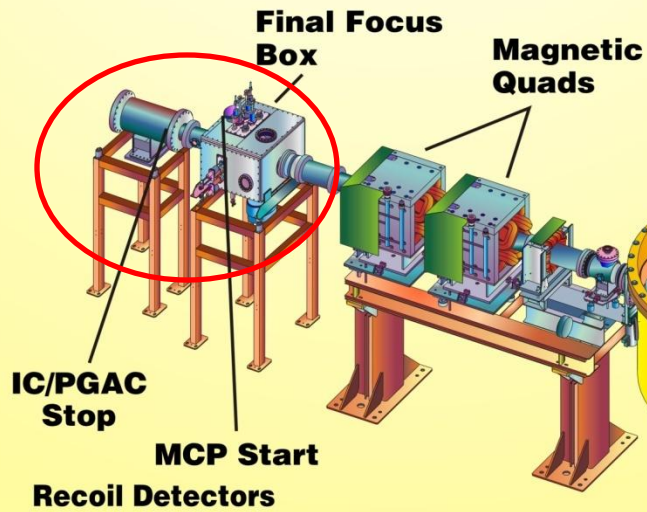
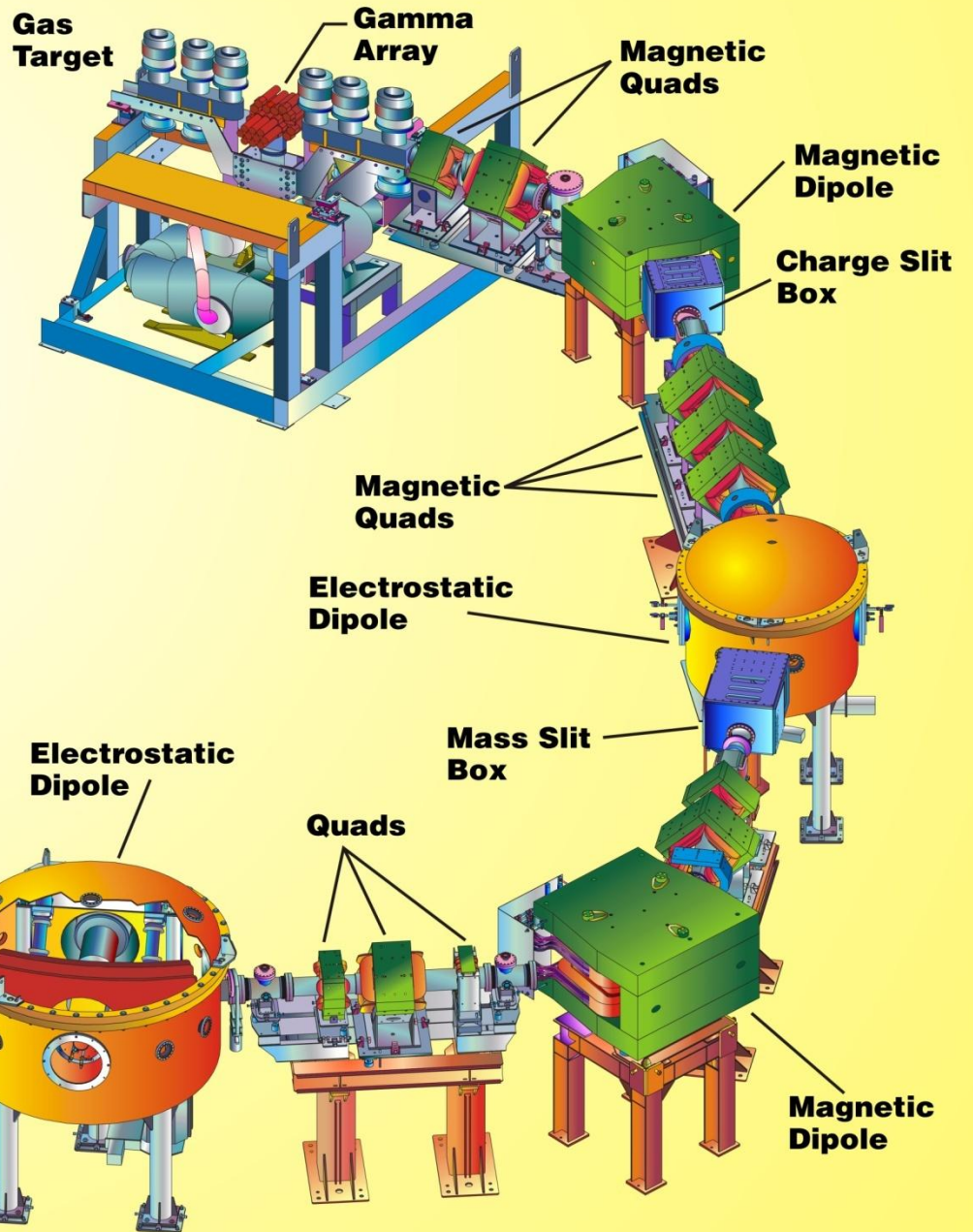
# DRAGON: BGO array



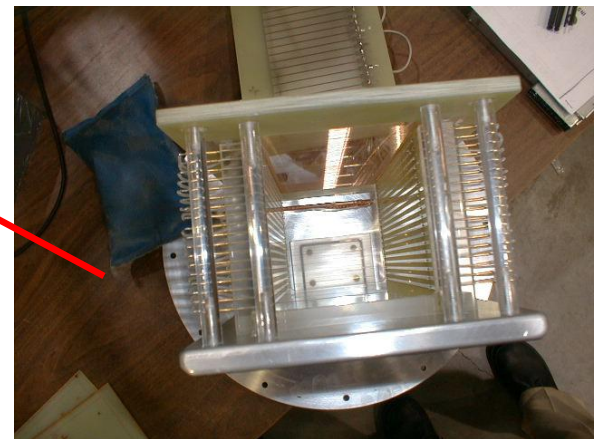
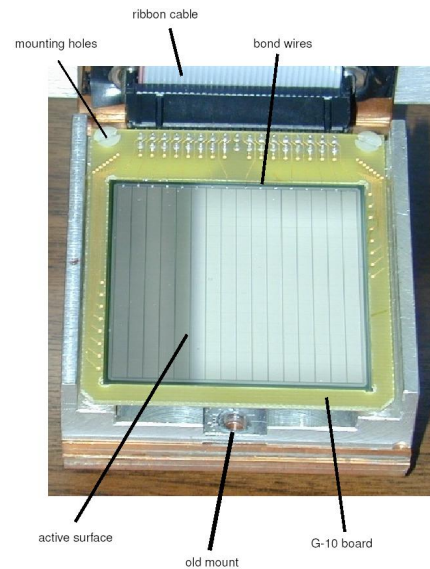
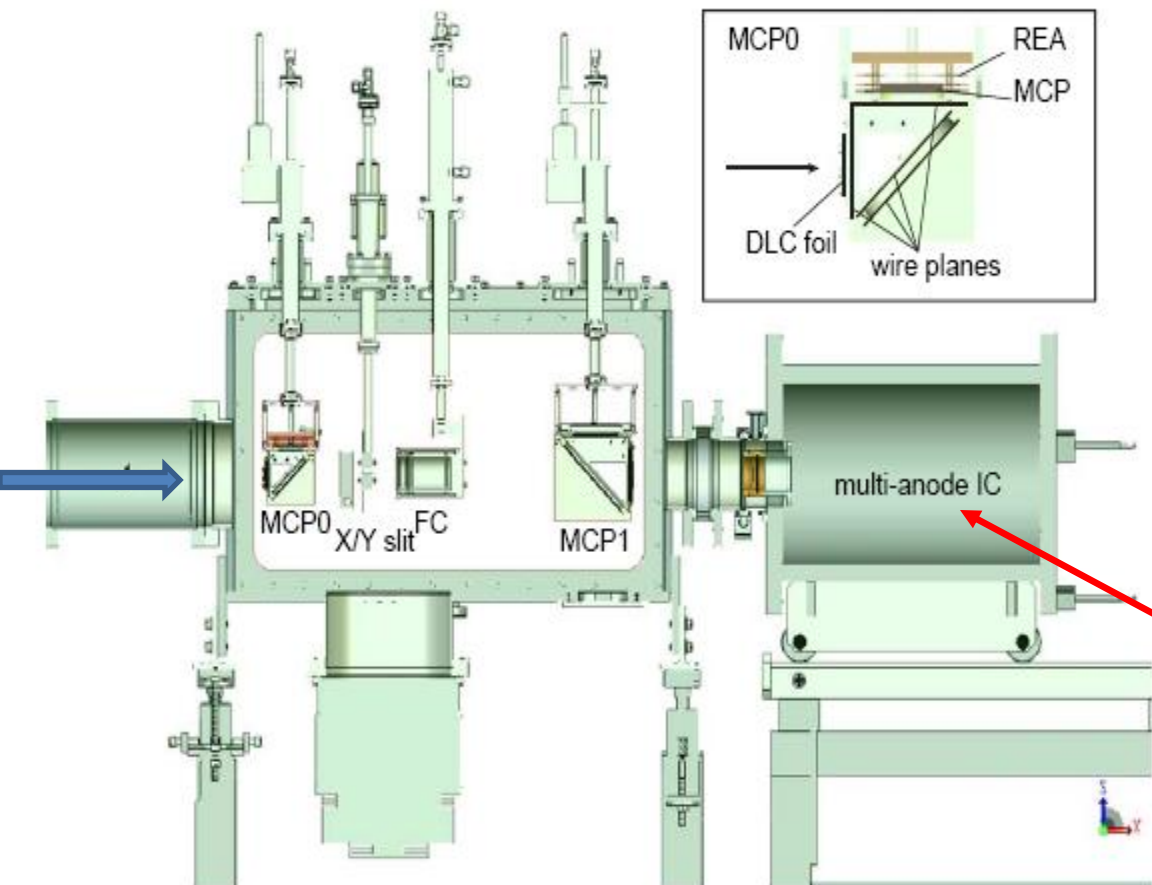


# DRAGON

Detector of Recoils And  
Gammas Of Nuclear reactions



# DRAGON end-detectors: local time-of-flight

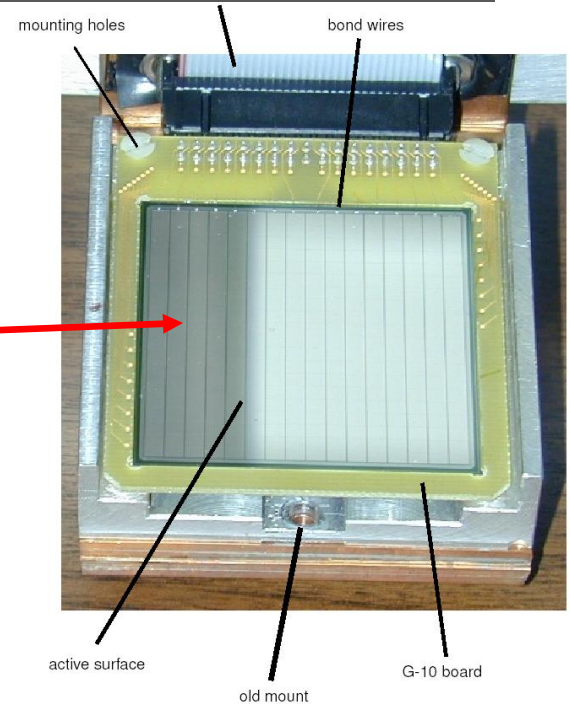




# DRAGON end-detectors

## silicon strip detector (“DSSD”) →

- time, position, energy
- $^{26}\text{Al}(p,\gamma)^{27}\text{Si}$

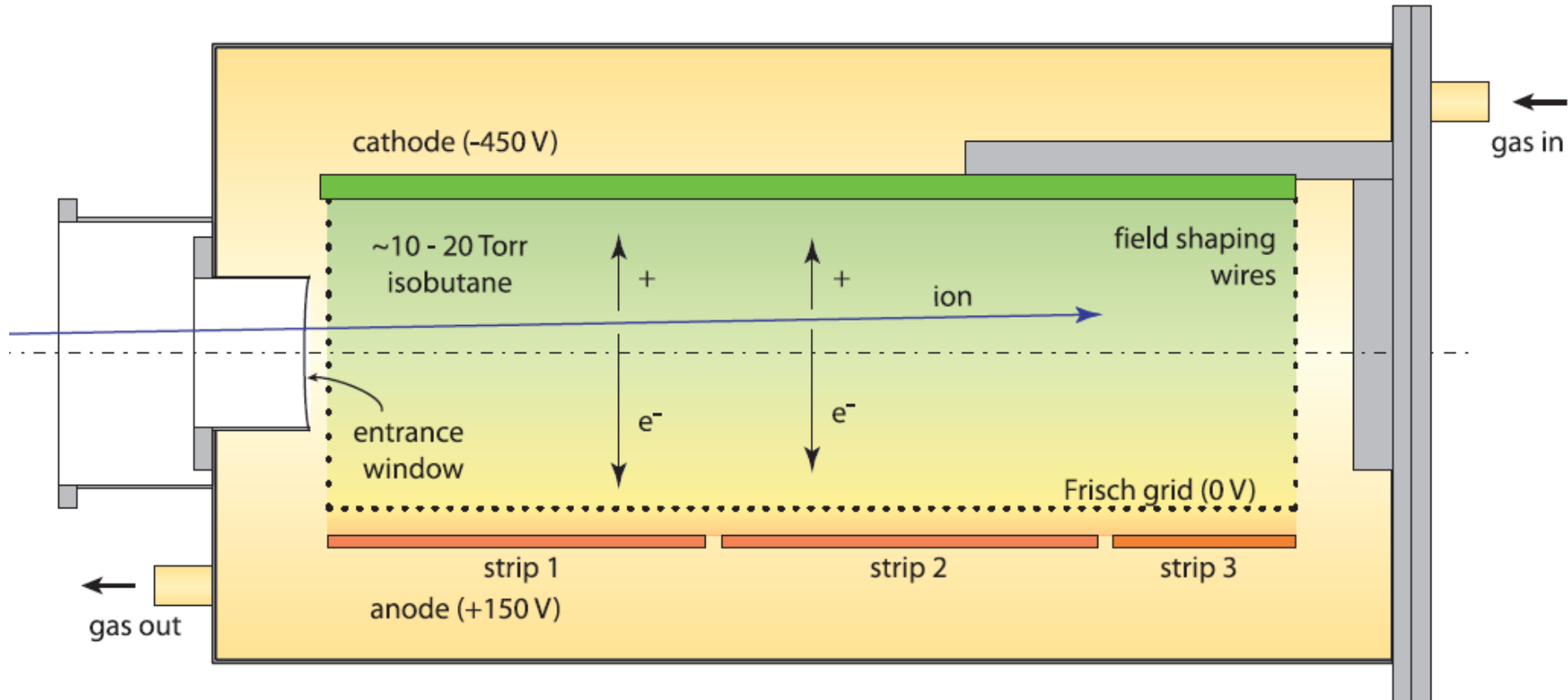


## ionization chamber →

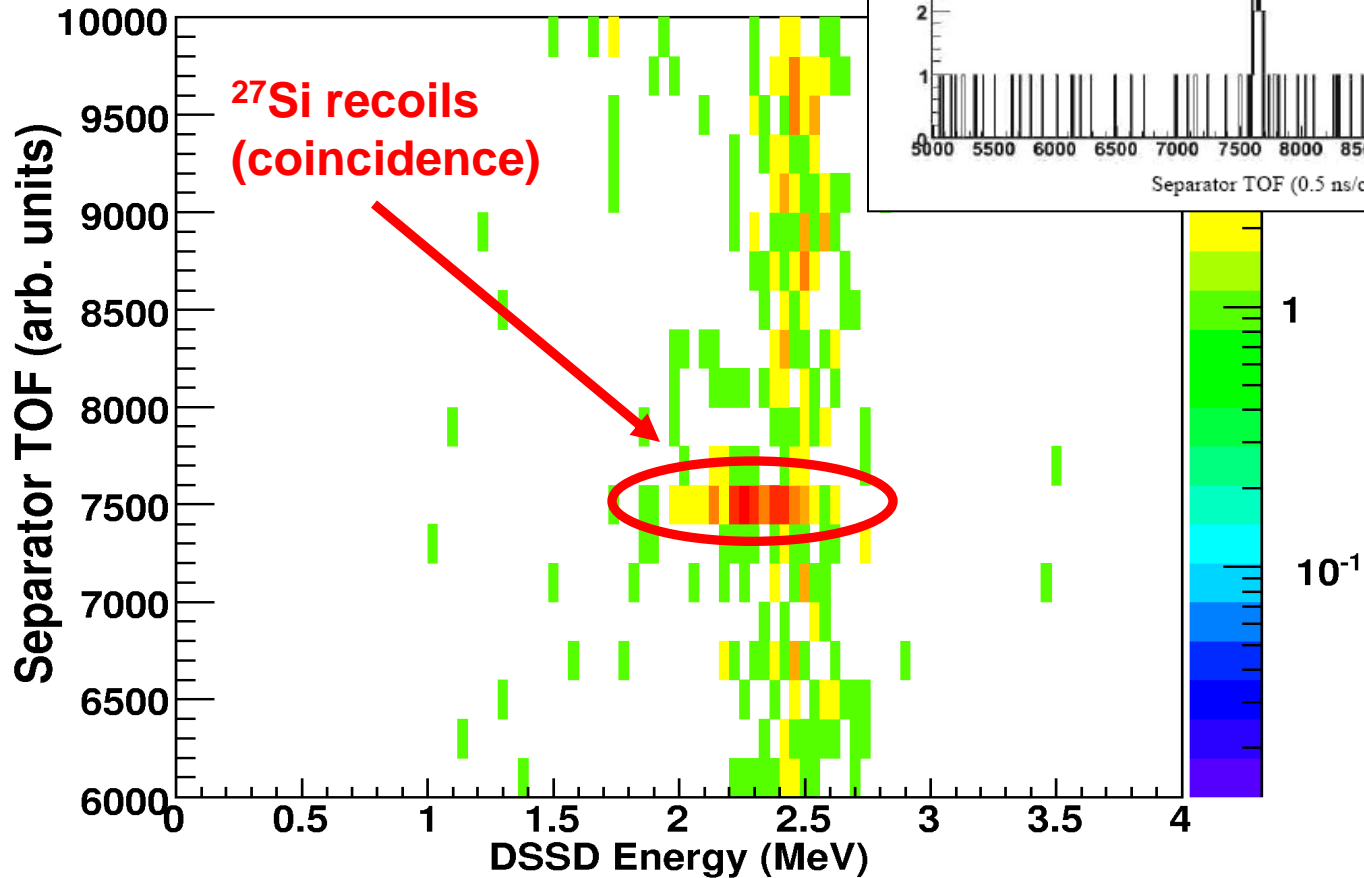
- energy for E- $\Delta$ E particle identification
- $^{40}\text{Ca}(\alpha,\gamma)^{44}\text{Ti}$



# DRAGON: ionization chamber



# $^{26}\text{Al}(p,\gamma)^{27}\text{Si}$ with DRAGON: $^{27}\text{Si}$ yield



$^{27}\text{Si}$  time-of-flight through DRAGON vs.  $^{27}\text{Si}$  energy

# Recently: $^{23}\text{Mg}(p,\gamma)^{24}\text{Al}$ with DRAGON

(L. Erikson et al., PRC 2010)

**Focused on important resonance of energy  $E_R \sim 473$  keV:**

- **$^{23}\text{Mg}$  beam from ISAC:**  $5 \times 10^7$  pps  
(strong contamination of  $^{23}\text{Na}$ , 20:1 -1000:1)
- **resonance energy:**  $486 \pm 2$  keV  
(higher than previous value by 13 keV)
- **resonance strength:**  $\omega\gamma = 38 \pm 20$  meV

## Measurement of Radiative Proton Capture on $^{18}\text{F}$ and Implications for Oxygen-Neon Novae

C. Akers,<sup>1,2</sup> A. M. Laird,<sup>2</sup> B. R. Fulton,<sup>2</sup> C. Ruiz,<sup>1</sup> D. W. Bardayan,<sup>3</sup> L. Buchmann,<sup>1</sup> G. Christian,<sup>1</sup>  
B. Davids,<sup>1</sup> L. Erikson,<sup>4</sup> J. Fallis,<sup>1</sup> U. Hager,<sup>5</sup> D. Hutcheon,<sup>1</sup> L. Martin,<sup>1</sup> A. St. J. Murphy,<sup>6</sup>  
K. Nelson,<sup>7</sup> A. Spyrou,<sup>8,9</sup> C. Stanford,<sup>10</sup> D. Ottewell,<sup>1</sup> and A. Rojas<sup>1</sup>

The rate of the  $^{18}\text{F}(p, \gamma)^{19}\text{Ne}$  reaction affects the final abundance of the  $\gamma$ -ray observable radioisotope  $^{18}\text{F}$ , produced in novae. However, no successful measurement of this reaction exists and the rate used is calculated from incomplete information on the contributing resonances. Of the two resonances thought to play a significant role, one has a radiative width estimated from the assumed analogue state in the mirror nucleus,  $^{19}\text{F}$ . The second does not have an analogue state assignment at all, resulting in an arbitrary radiative width being assumed. Here, we report the first successful direct measurement of the  $^{18}\text{F}(p, \gamma)^{19}\text{Ne}$  reaction. The strength of the 665 keV resonance ( $E_x = 7.076$  MeV) is found to be over an order of magnitude weaker than currently assumed in nova models. Reaction rate calculations show that this resonance therefore plays no significant role in the destruction of  $^{18}\text{F}$  at any astrophysical energy.

## First Direct Measurement of the $^{17}\text{F}(p, \gamma)^{18}\text{Ne}$ Cross Section

K. A. Chipps,<sup>1,\*</sup> D. W. Bardayan,<sup>2</sup> J. C. Blackmon,<sup>3</sup> K. Y. Chae,<sup>4</sup> U. Greife,<sup>1</sup> R. Hatarik,<sup>5</sup> R. L. Kozub,<sup>6</sup> C. Matei,<sup>7</sup>  
B. H. Moazen,<sup>4</sup> C. D. Nesaraja,<sup>2,4</sup> S. D. Pain,<sup>2,4</sup> W. A. Peters,<sup>5</sup> S. T. Pittman,<sup>4</sup> J. F. Shriner, Jr.,<sup>6</sup> and M. S. Smith<sup>2</sup>

The rate of the  $^{17}\text{F}(p, \gamma)^{18}\text{Ne}$  reaction is important in various astrophysical events. A previous  $^{17}\text{F}(p, p)^{17}\text{F}$  measurement identified a  $3^+$  state providing the strongest resonance contribution, but the resonance strength was unknown. We have directly measured the  $^{17}\text{F}(p, \gamma)^{18}\text{Ne}$  reaction using a mixed beam of  $^{17}\text{F}$  and  $^{17}\text{O}$  at ORNL. The resonance strength for the  $3^+$  resonance in  $^{18}\text{Ne}$  was found to be  $\omega\gamma = 33 \pm 14(\text{stat}) \pm 17(\text{syst})$  meV, corresponding to a  $\gamma$  width of  $\Gamma_\gamma = 56 \pm 24(\text{stat}) \pm 30(\text{syst})$  meV. An upper limit on the direct capture of  $S(E) \leq 65$  keV b was determined at an energy of 800 keV.

# future plans with DRAGON

Reaction	Importance	Experiment
$^{17}\text{F}(p,\gamma)^{18}\text{Ne}$ (Chen et al.)	production of gamma-emitter $^{18}\text{F}$ in novae; break out from the Hot-CNO cycle in x-ray bursts	Need $10^{7-8}$ ions per sec.
$^{25}\text{Al}(p,\gamma)^{26}\text{Si}$ (Chen et al.)	production of gamma-emitter $^{26}\text{Al}$ in explosive hydrogen burning	Need $10^{8-9}$ ions per sec.

# future plans with DRAGON

Reaction	Importance	Experiment
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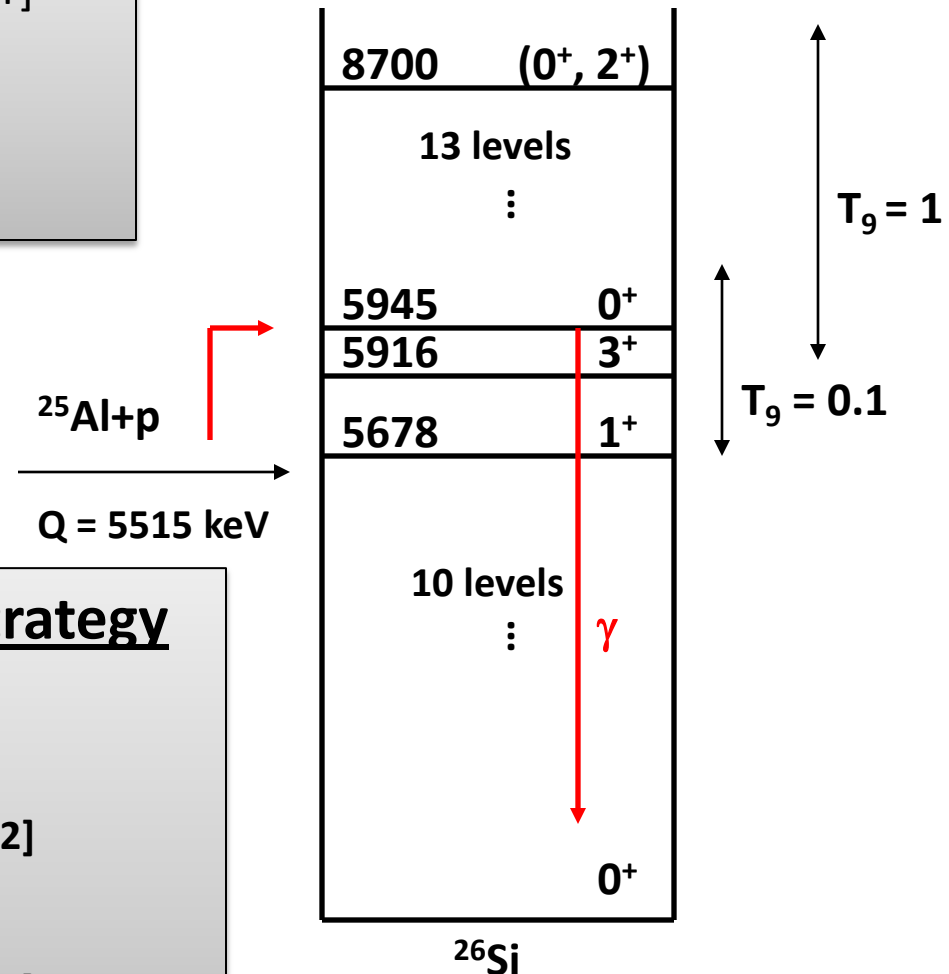
Good candidate for “indirect” approaches...

# $^{25}\text{Al}(p,\gamma)^{26}\text{Si}$ , indirectly

**Stellar reaction rate:**

$$N_A \langle \sigma v \rangle = 1.54 \times 10^{11} (\mu T)^{-3/2} \omega \gamma \exp[-11.605 E_R / T]$$

where  $E_R$  = resonance energy  
 $\omega \gamma$  depends on  $J^\pi$  and  $\Gamma_p \Gamma_\gamma / \Gamma_{\text{total}}$



$^{25}\text{Al}(p,\gamma)^{26}\text{Si}$ , indirectly: two-part strategy

**in-beam  $\gamma$ -ray spectroscopy (NSCL)**

[J. Chen *et al.*, PRC 045809 2012]

**elastic proton scattering (RIKEN)**

[J. Chen *et al.*, PRC 015805 2012]



# the $^{25}\text{Al}(p,\gamma)^{26}\text{Si}$ reaction: indirect approaches

## – *Direct measurement:*

- need beam with more than  $10^8$  ions per second: ISAC? REX-ISOLDE?

## – *Indirect studies:*

- ( $^3\text{He},^6\text{He}$ ) Caggiano et al. 2002
- ( $^3\text{He},n$ ) Parpottas et al. 2004
- $^{26}\text{P}$  decay Thomas et al. 2004, Wrede et al. 2013
- $^{26}\text{Si}$  mass Parikh et al. 2005 + Eronen et al. 2009 + Kwiatkowski et al. 2010
- ( $^4\text{He},^6\text{He}$ ) Kwon et al. 2006
- (p,t) Bardayan et al. 2006
- ( $^{16}\text{O},2n$ ) Seweryniak et al. 2007
- (d,n) Peplowski et al. 2009
- ( $^3\text{He},n\gamma$ ) Komatsubara et al. 2010 + de Séréville et al. 2010

**McMaster: (p,d) with rare isotope beams at the NSCL**

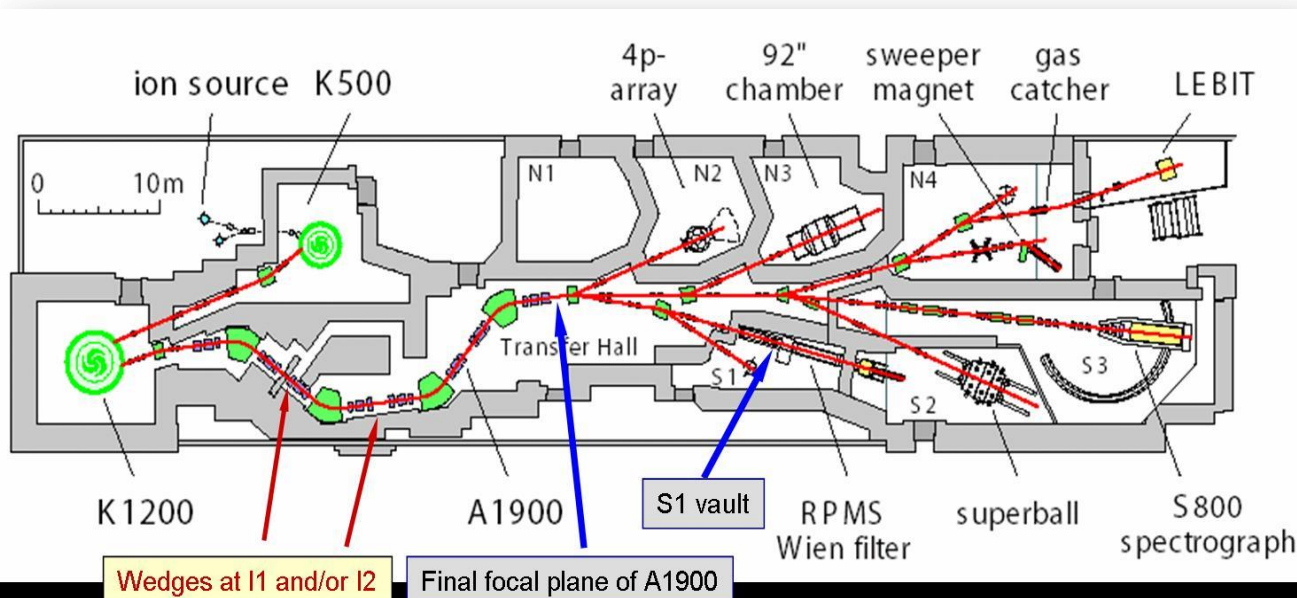


500 mi  
500 km

# studying $^{26}\text{Si}$ at the NSCL with $^{27}\text{Si}(p,d)^{26}\text{Si}$



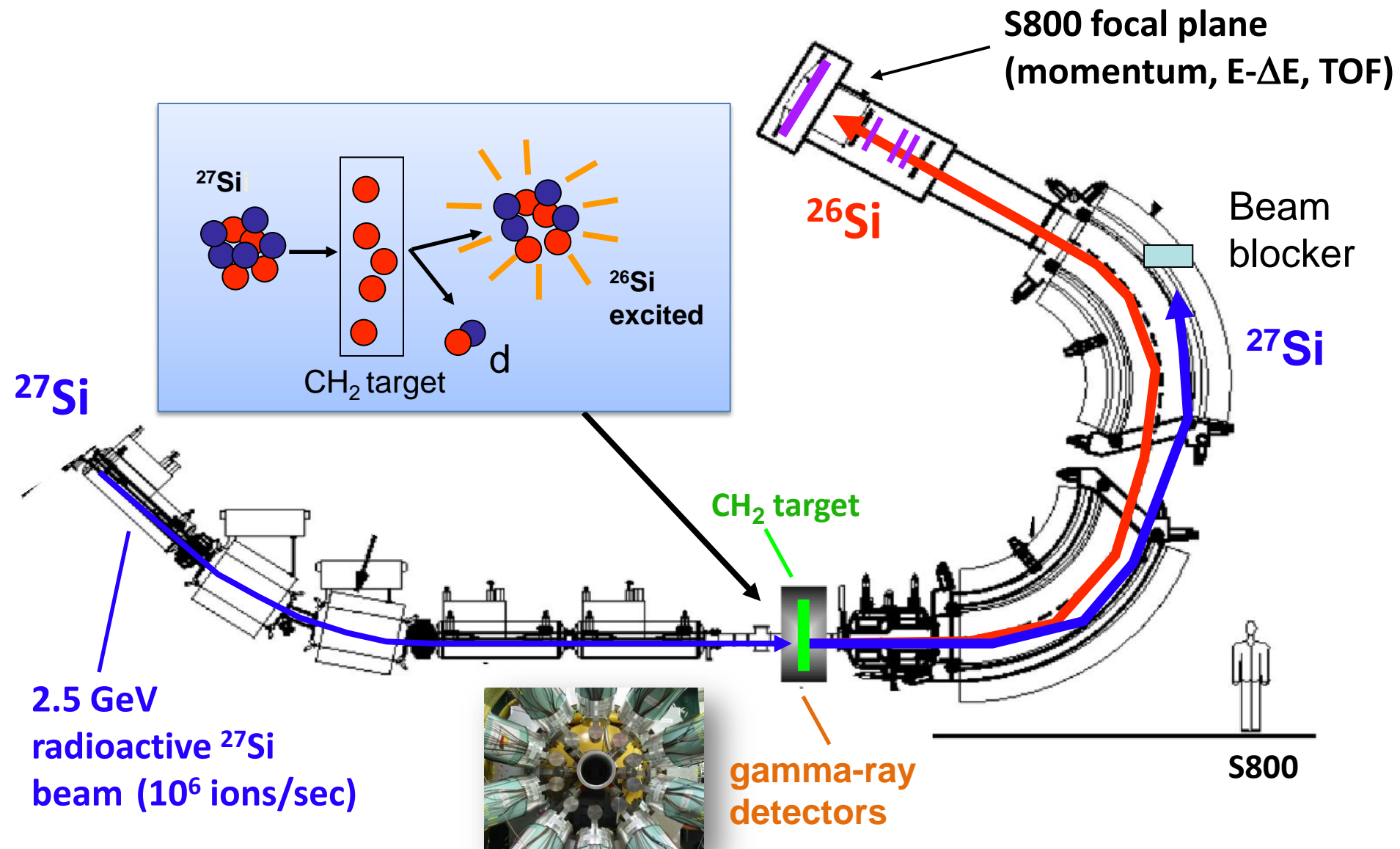
**Jun Chen**  
Ph.D. Thesis



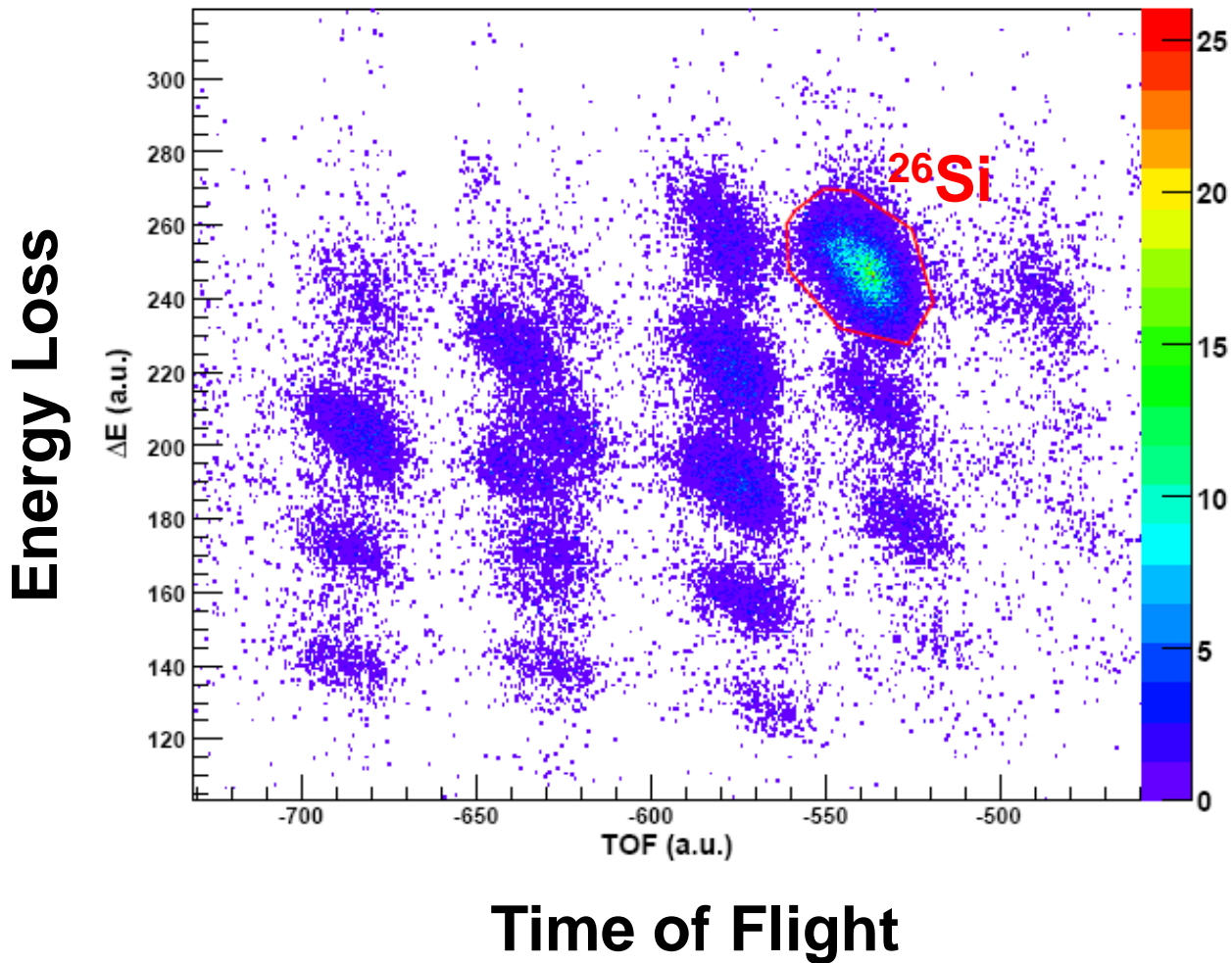
# p( $^{27}\text{Si}, ^{26}\text{Si}$ )d at NSCL: experiment details

- **single neutron removal:** easy beam intensity, large cross-section
- **$^{27}\text{Si}$  beam** ( $T_{1/2} = 4.2$  sec)
  - $^{34}\text{Ar}$  beam (150 MeV/u) + Be target  $\rightarrow$  fragmentation
  - selection of  $^{27}\text{Si}$  ions with the S1900 spectrometer
    - $\rightarrow 10^6$  ions/sec, 50% purity, 92 MeV/u
- **proton target:**  $\text{CH}_2$  foil,  $\sim 2$  mm thick, at the entrance to the S800 spectrometer
- **goals:**
  - populate excited states of  $^{26}\text{Si}$
  - measure decay gamma rays
  - search for the  $3^+$  and  $0^+$  proton-unbound states

# $^{27}\text{Si}(p,d)^{26}\text{Si}$ : experiment setup



# silicon-26 in the S800



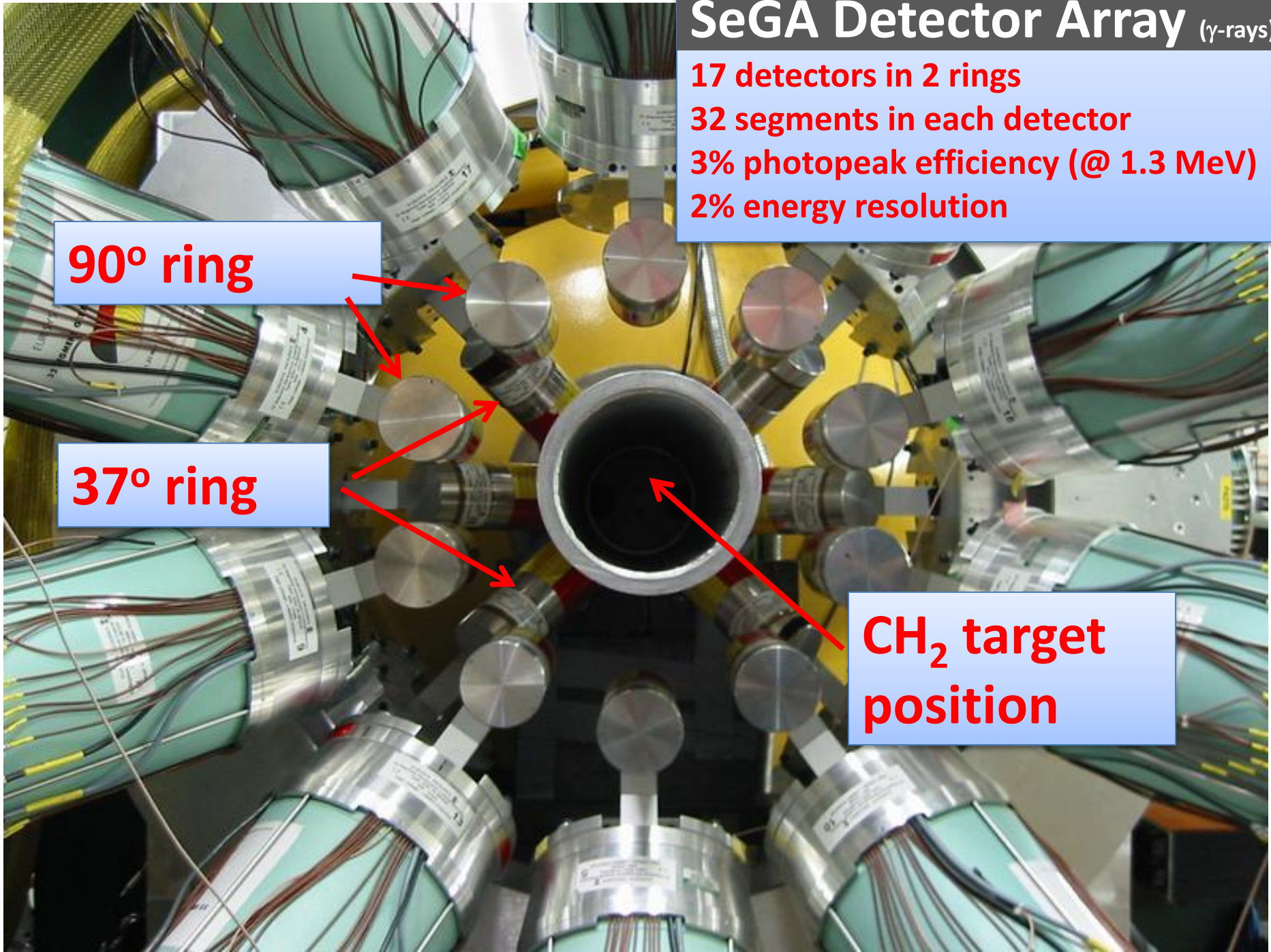
# SeGA Detector Array ( $\gamma$ -rays)

17 detectors in 2 rings  
32 segments in each detector  
3% photopeak efficiency (@ 1.3 MeV)  
2% energy resolution

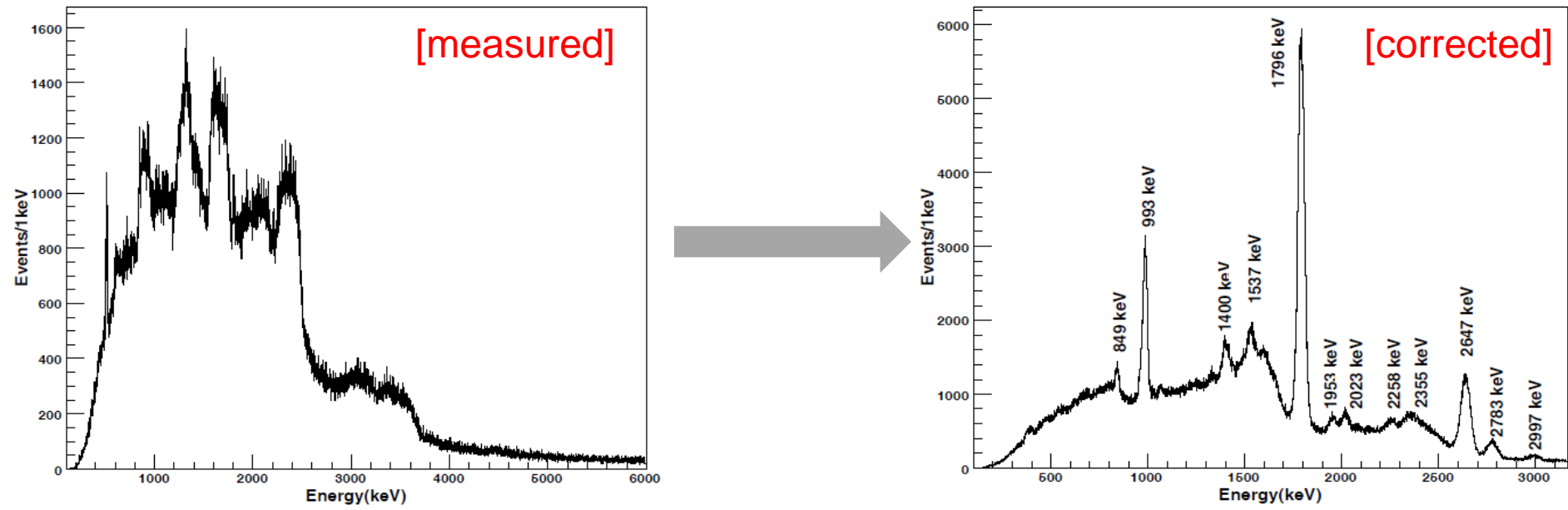
90° ring

37° ring

CH<sub>2</sub> target  
position



# $\gamma$ -rays in SeGA: doppler broadening correction

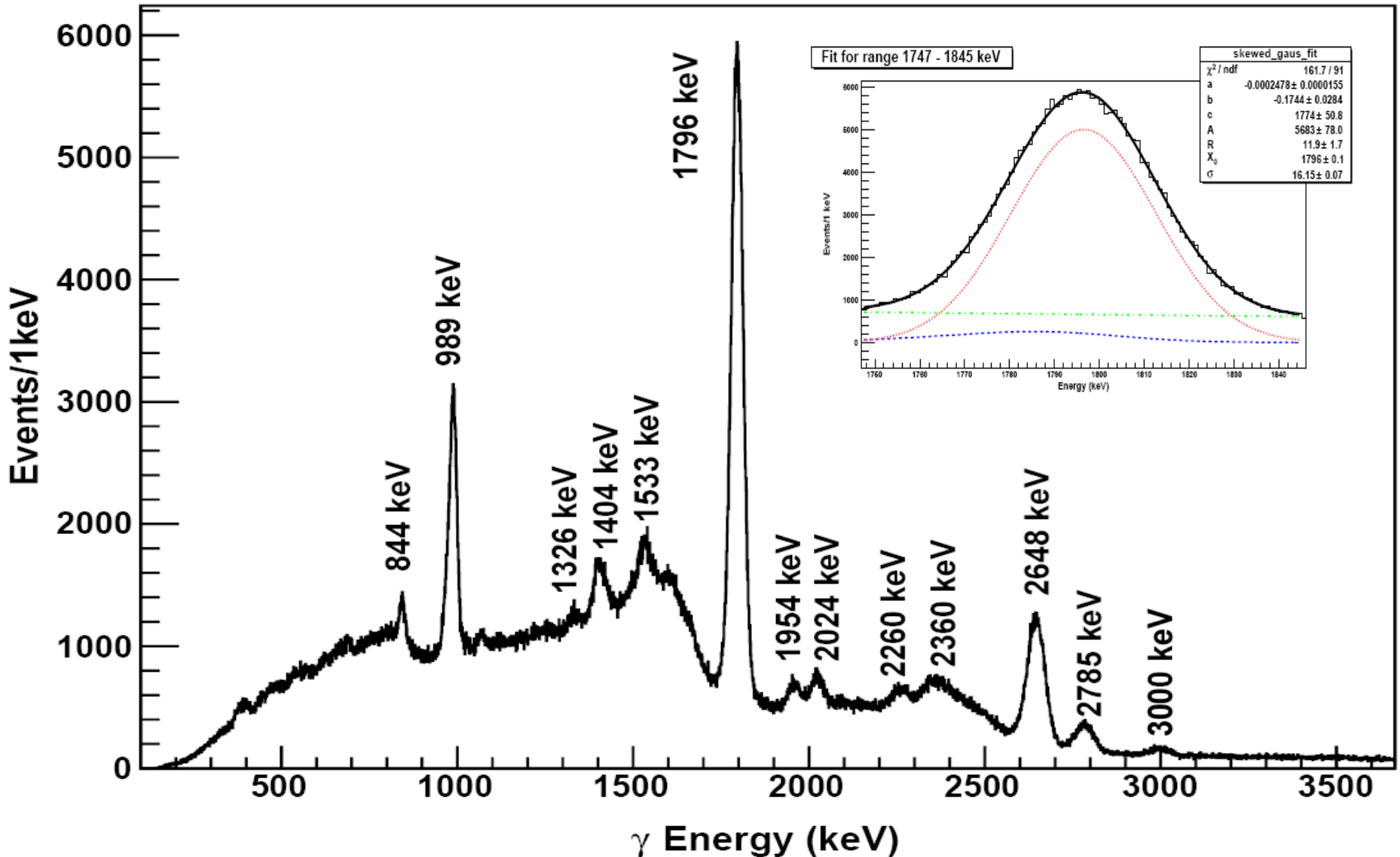


$$E_{corrected} = \frac{1 - \beta \cos \theta}{\sqrt{1 - \beta^2}} E_{measured}$$

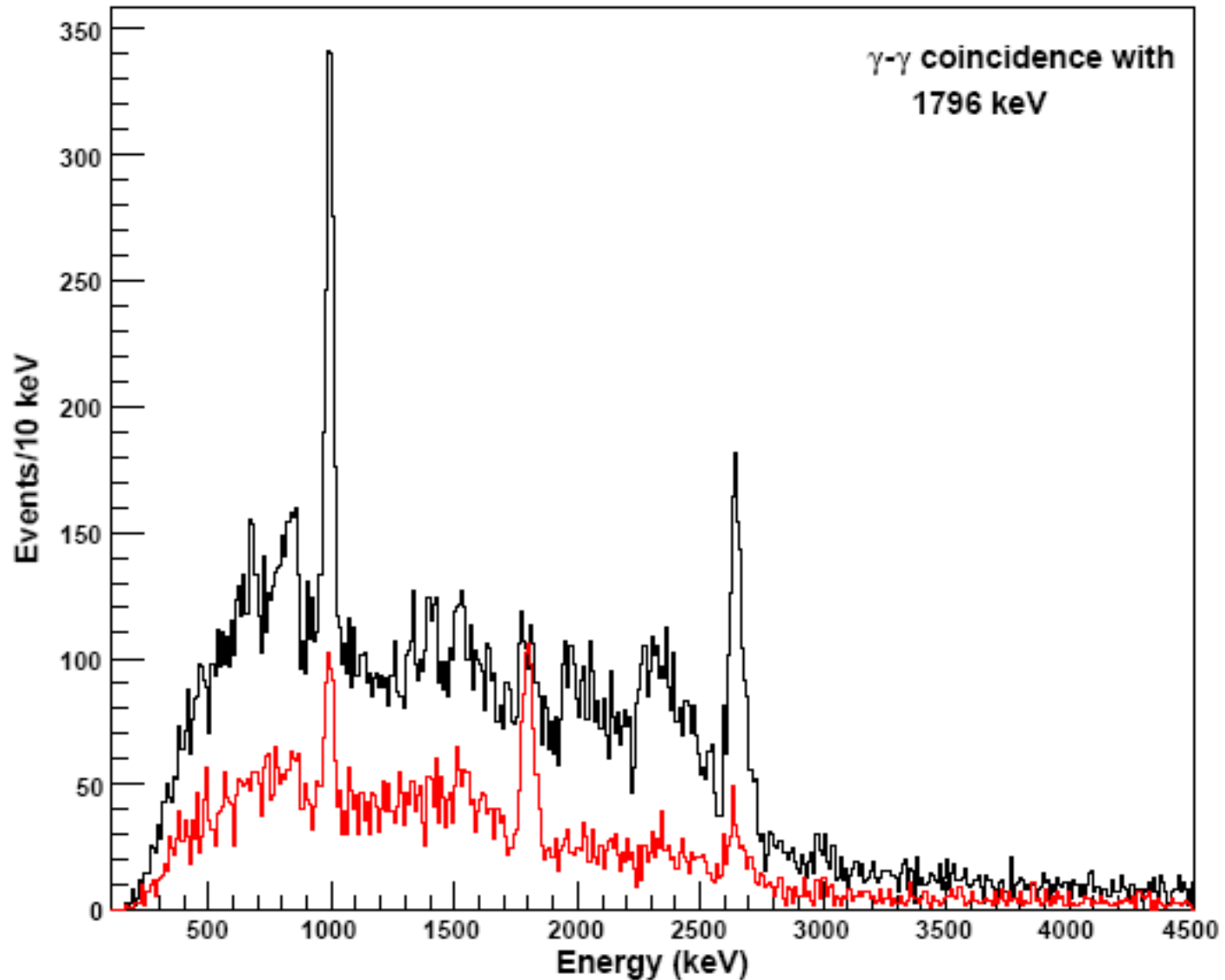
where  $\beta = \frac{v}{c}$  and  $v =$  velocity of  $^{26}\text{Si}$  ( $\sim 0.4c$ )



# $\gamma$ -rays from $^{26}\text{Si}$ excited nuclear states



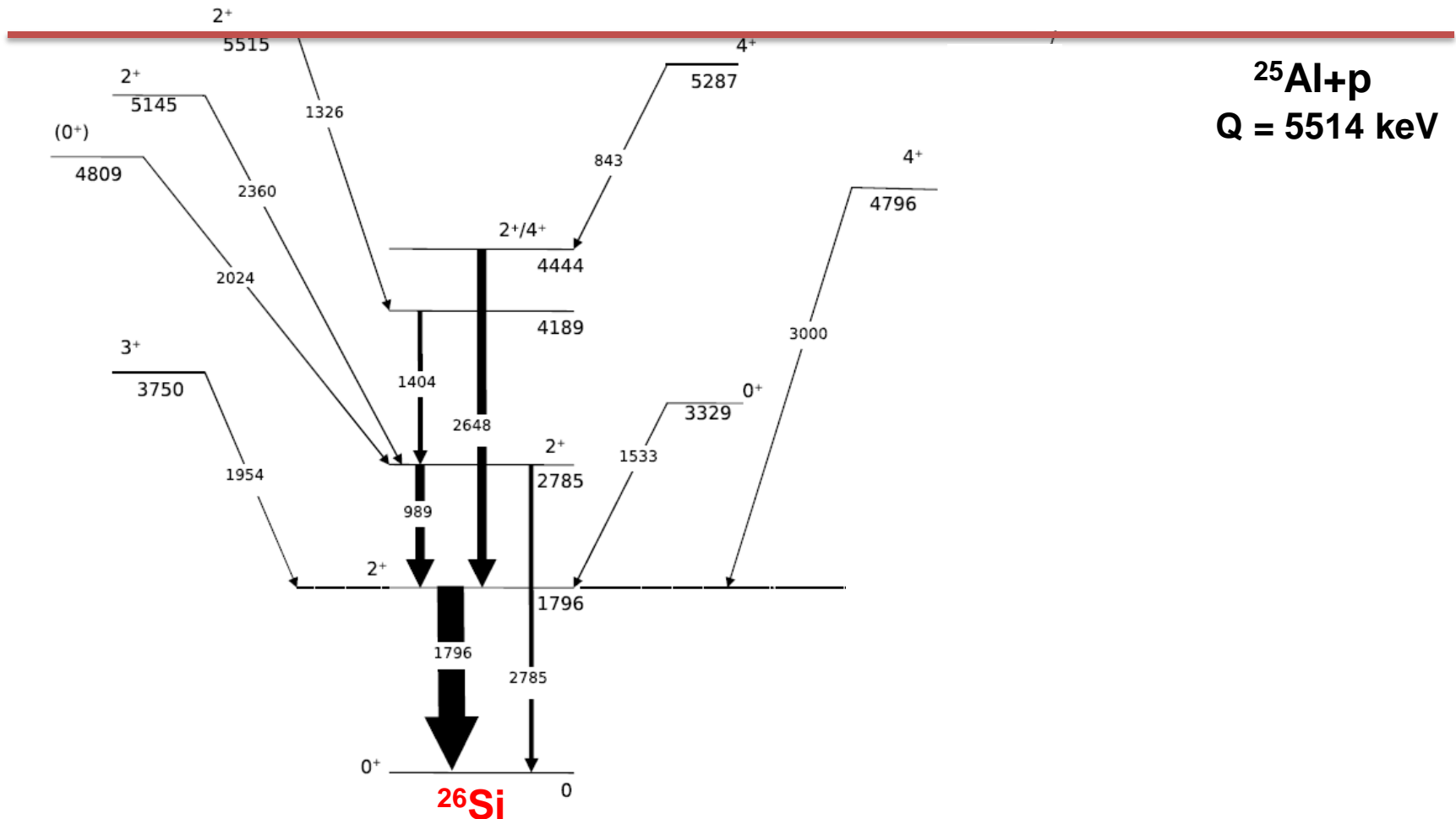
# $\gamma$ - $\gamma$ coincidence analysis



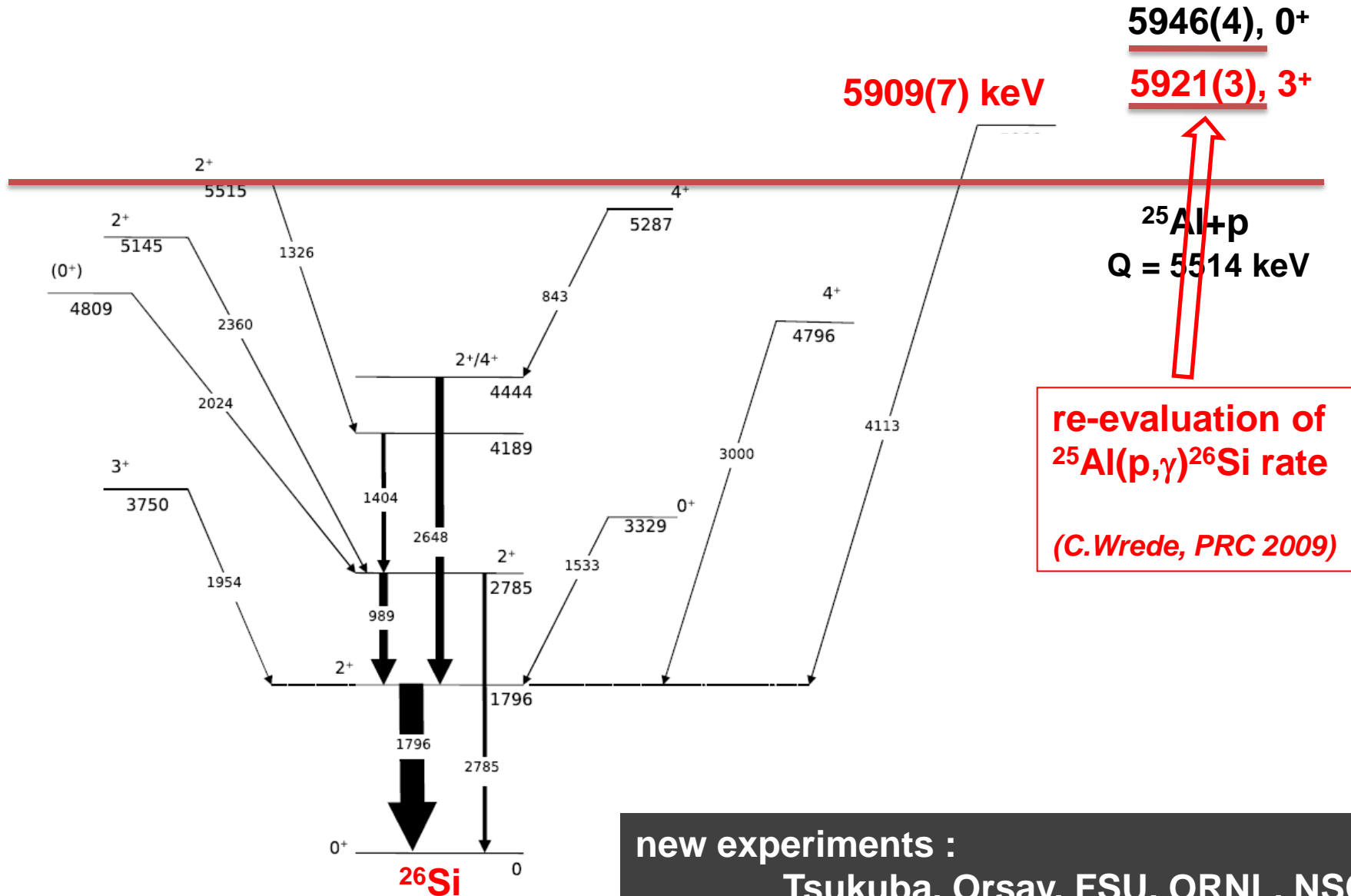
# $^{26}\text{Si}$ level scheme

5946(4), 0<sup>+</sup>

5914(3), 3<sup>+</sup>



# $^{26}\text{Si}$ level scheme

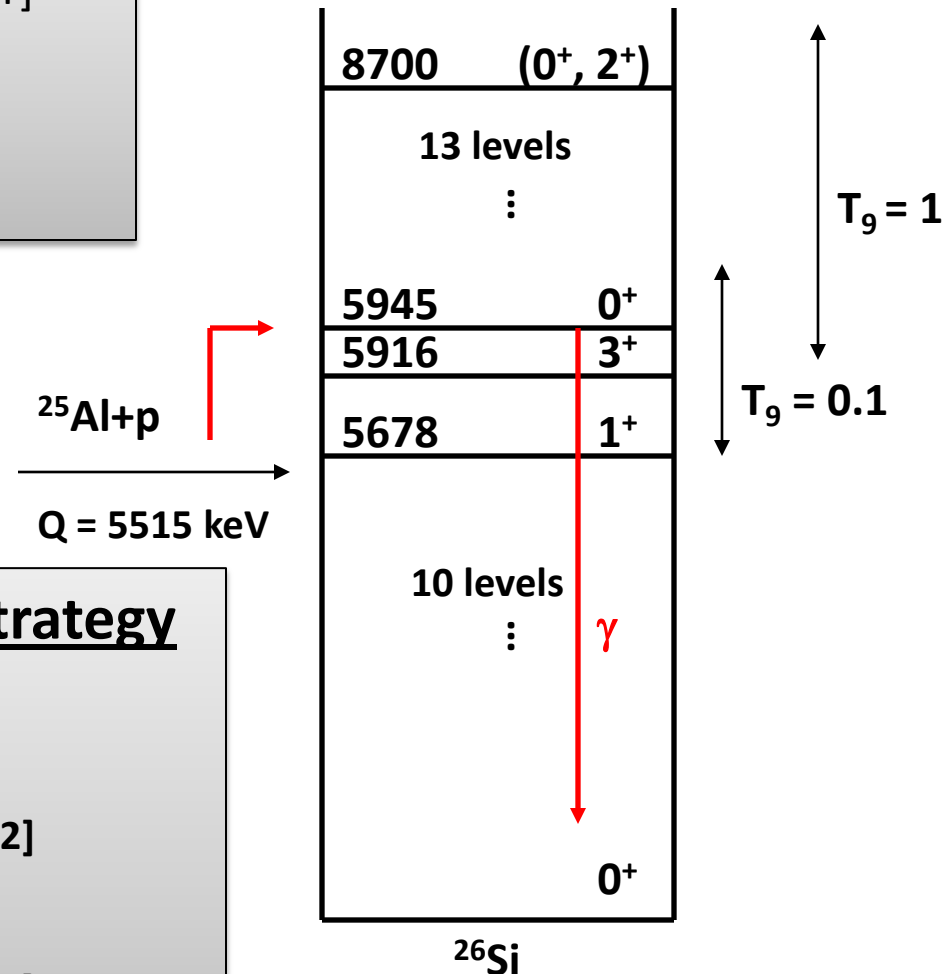


# $^{25}\text{Al}(p,\gamma)^{26}\text{Si}$ with $^{25}\text{Al}+p$ elastic scattering

**Stellar reaction rate:**

$$N_A \langle \sigma v \rangle = 1.54 \times 10^{11} (\mu T)^{-3/2} \omega \gamma \exp[-11.605 E_R / T]$$

where  $E_R$  = resonance energy  
 $\omega \gamma$  depends on  $J^\pi$  and  $\Gamma_p \Gamma_\gamma / \Gamma_{\text{total}}$



$^{25}\text{Al}(p,\gamma)^{26}\text{Si}$ , indirectly: Two-part strategy

**in-beam  $\gamma$ -ray spectroscopy (NSCL)**

[J. Chen *et al.*, PRC 045809 2012]

**elastic proton scattering (RIKEN)**

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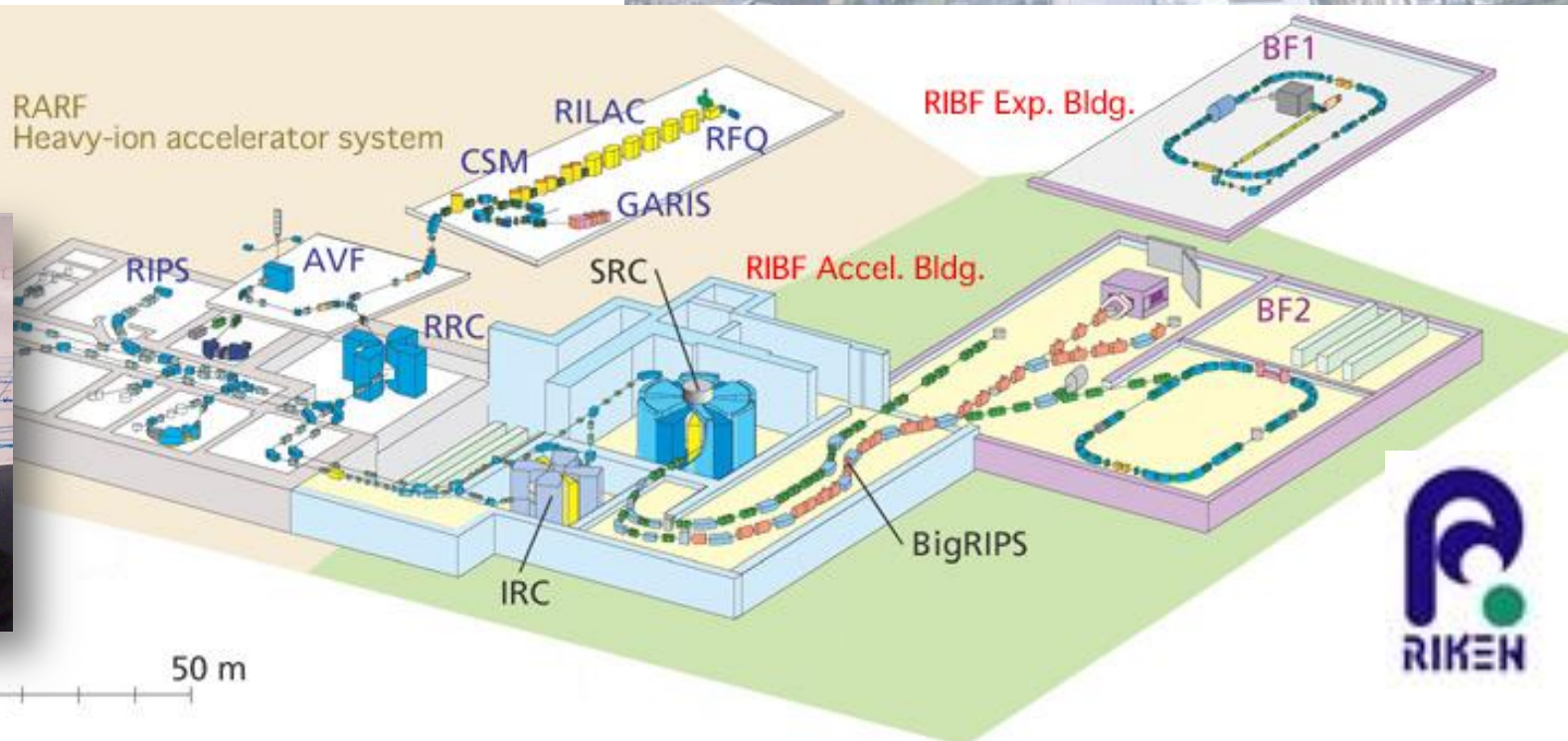


# $p(^{25}\text{Al}, p)^{25}\text{Al}$ with CRIB at CNS (RIKEN)

Local collaborators: S. Kubono and team, Center for Nuclear Study, University of Tokyo

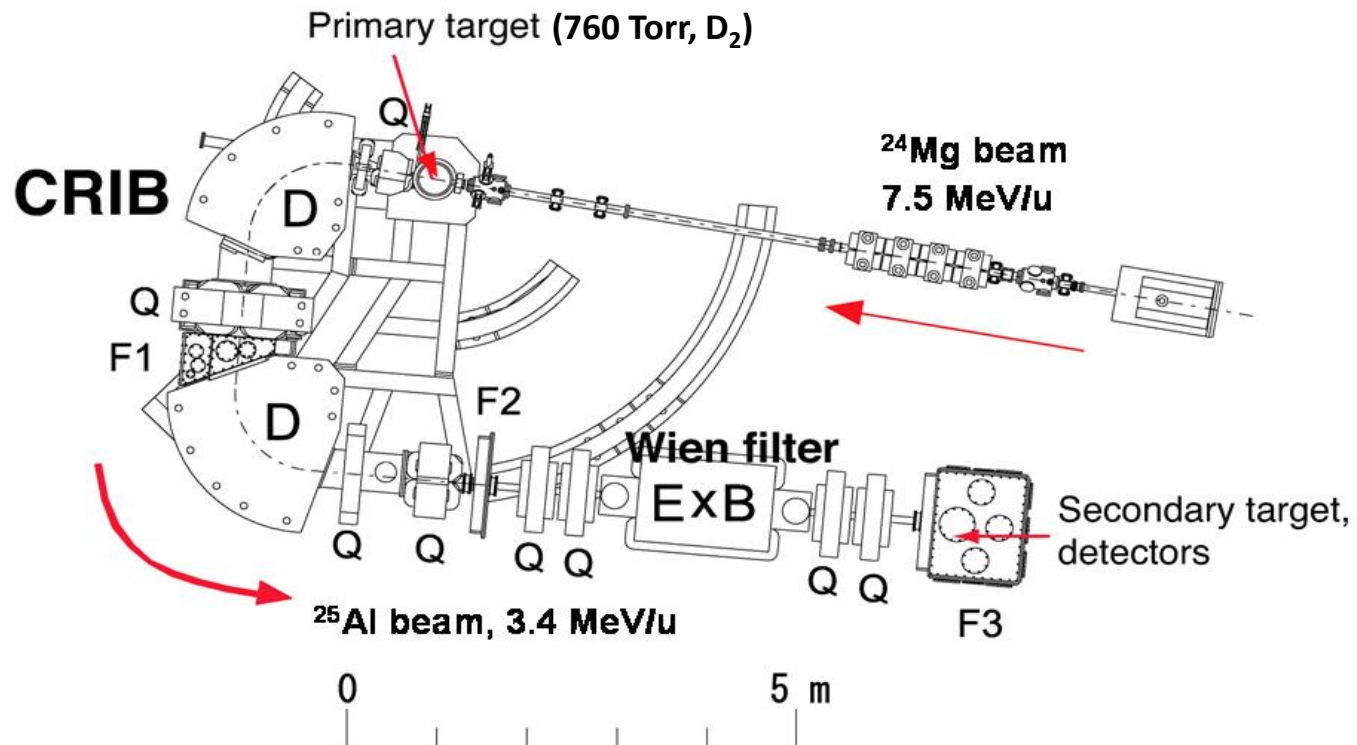


Jun Chen  
Ph.D. thesis  
Part I



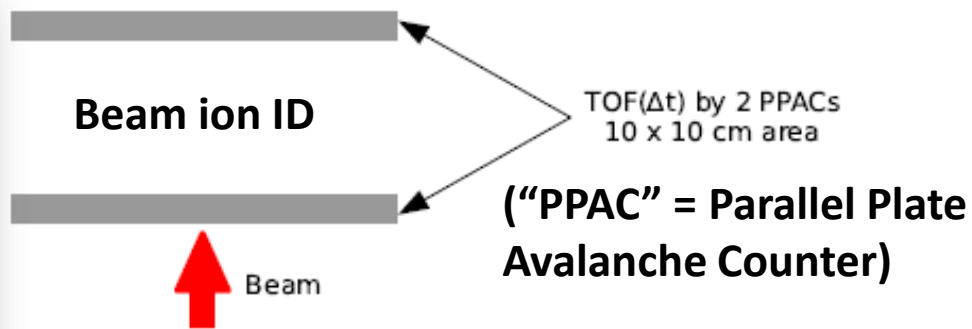
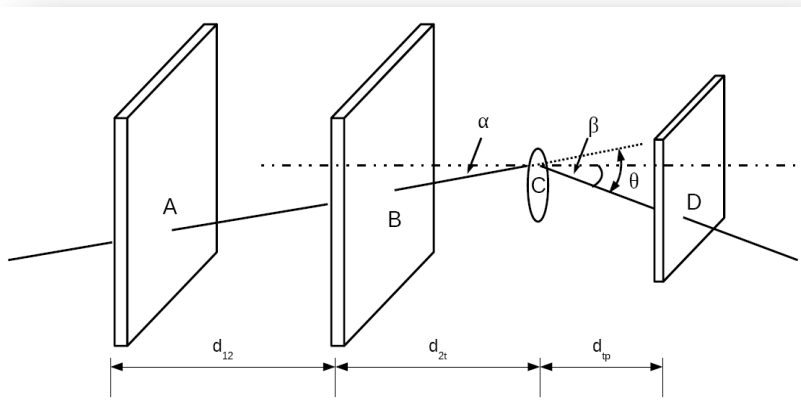
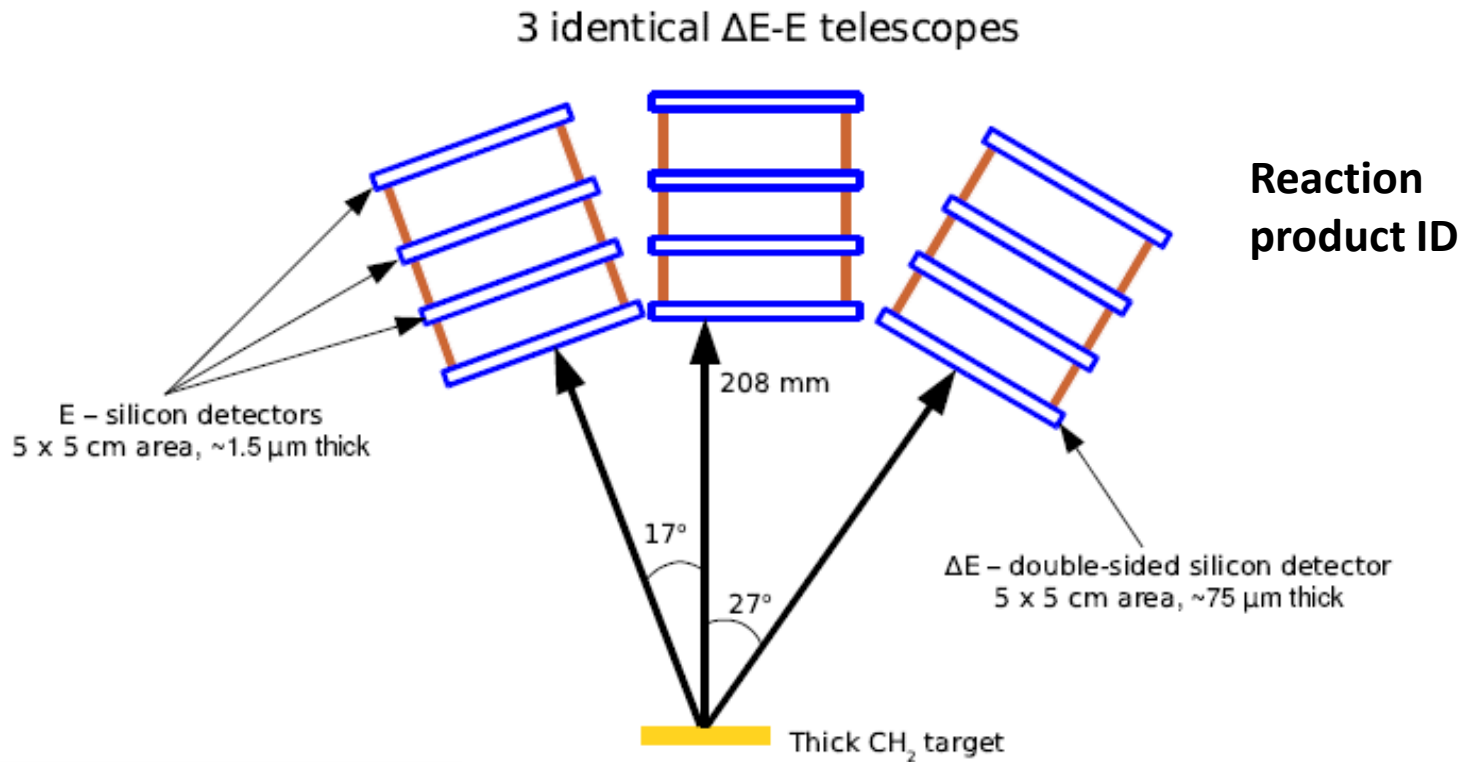
# $p(^{25}\text{Al}, p)^{25}\text{Al}$ at CNS – beam production

- $^{24}\text{Mg}$  primary beam from cyclotron, ~ 25 nA
- $^{25}\text{Al}$  secondary beam produced using  $^2\text{H}(^{24}\text{Mg}, n)^{25}\text{Al}$  reaction, ~  $10^6$  ions per second



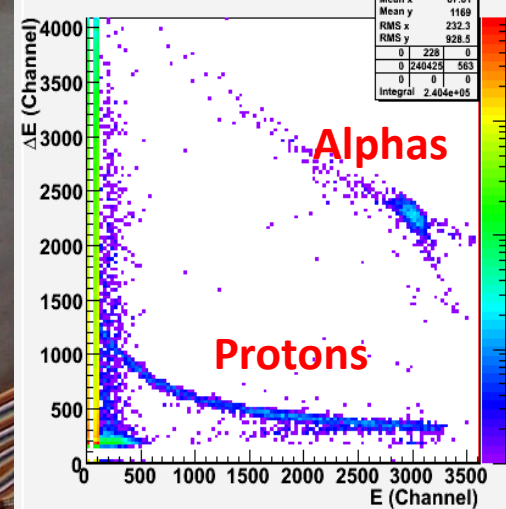


# detection system setup (top view)



Si Detectors

$p(^{25}\text{Al}, p)^{25}\text{Al}$

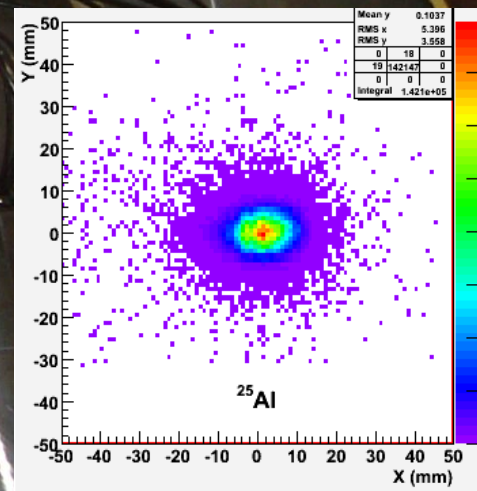


protons

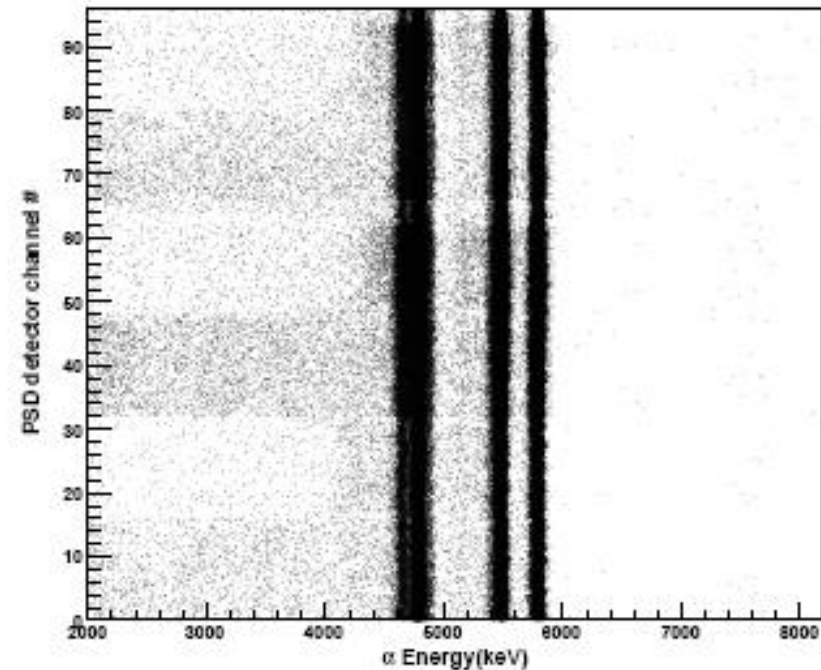
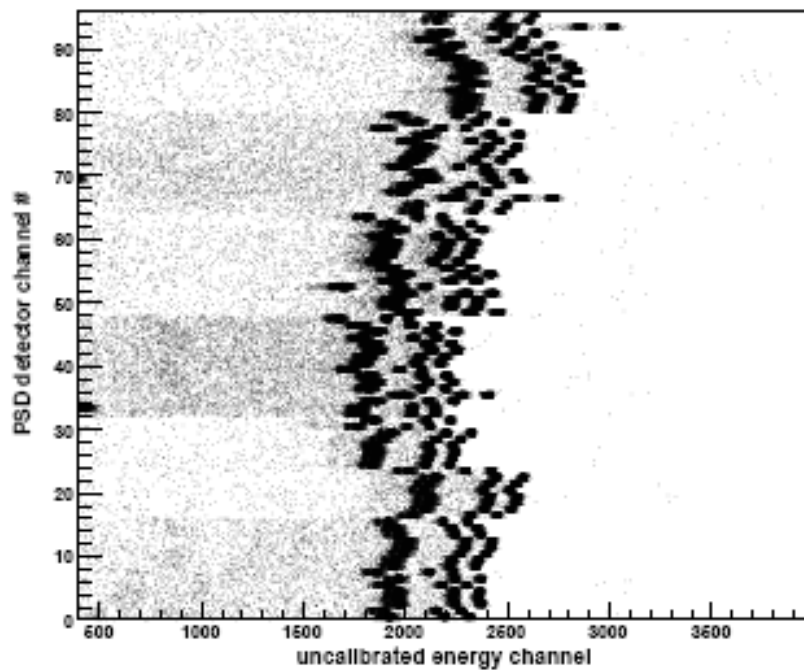
$\text{CH}_2$  Target

PPACs

$^{25}\text{Al}$

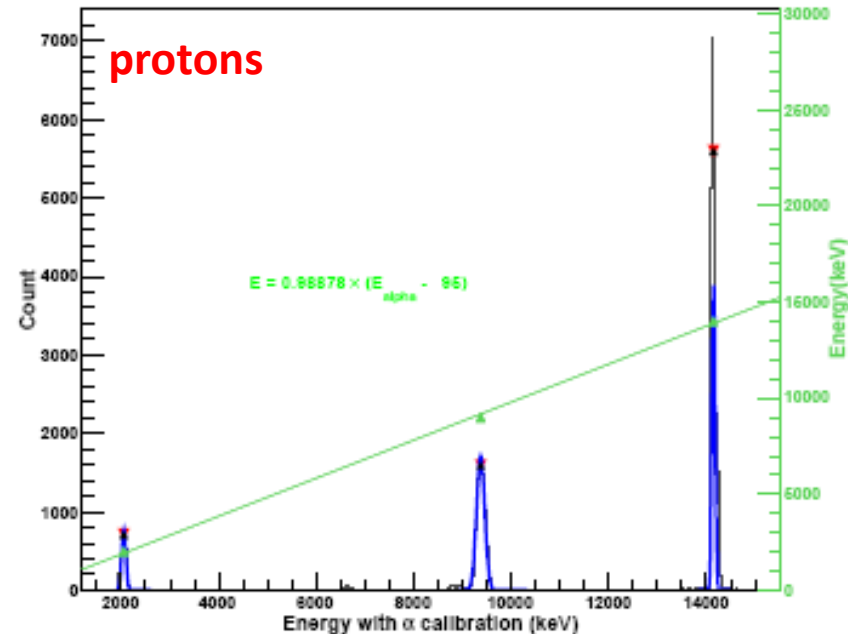
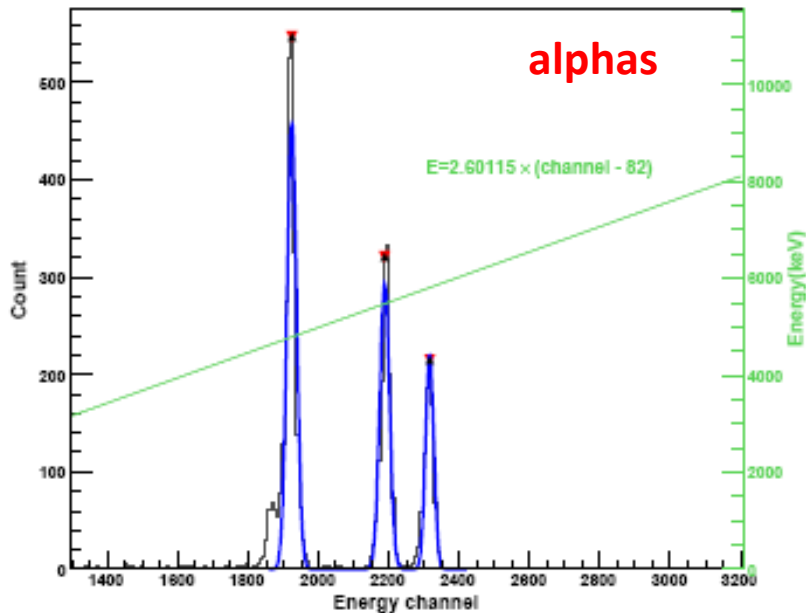


# $\Delta E$ -E telescope: “gain-matching”

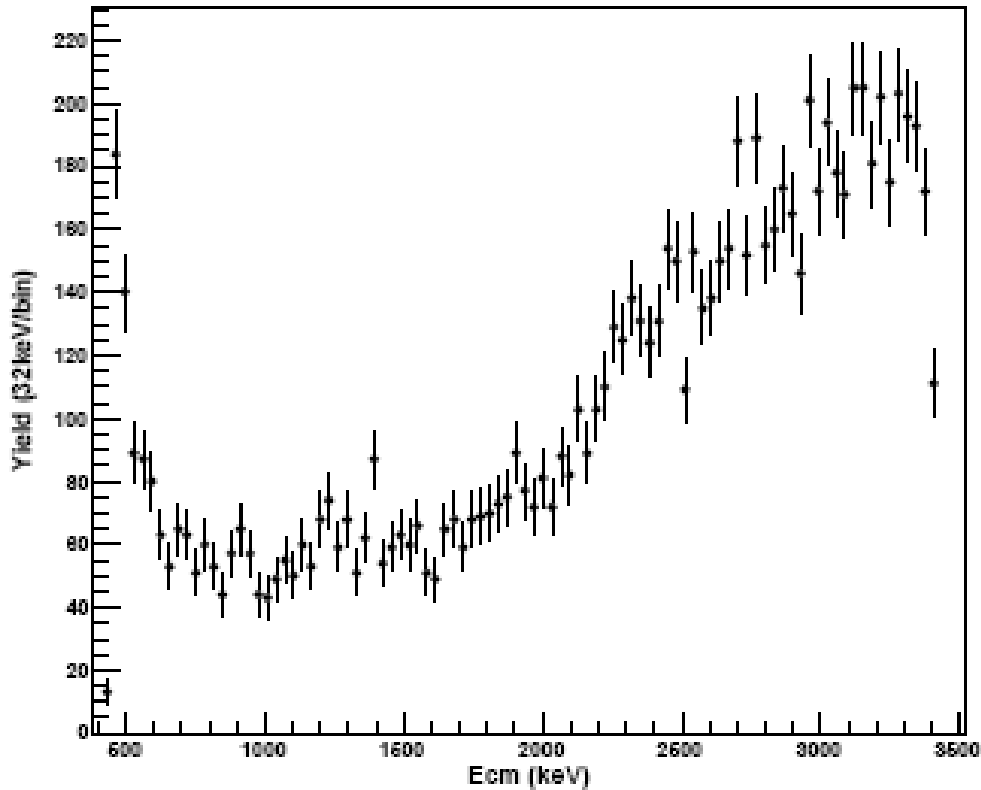


# $\Delta E-E$ telescope: energy calibration

- with  $\alpha$ -sources:  
 $^{244}\text{Cm}$ ,  $^{241}\text{Am}$ ,  $^{237}\text{Np}$  (4.8 – 5.8 MeV)
- with proton beams:  
Energies : 5, 9 and 14 MeV



# background determination and subtraction



Some of the detected protons are not from  $^{25}\text{Al}+p$  elastic scattering

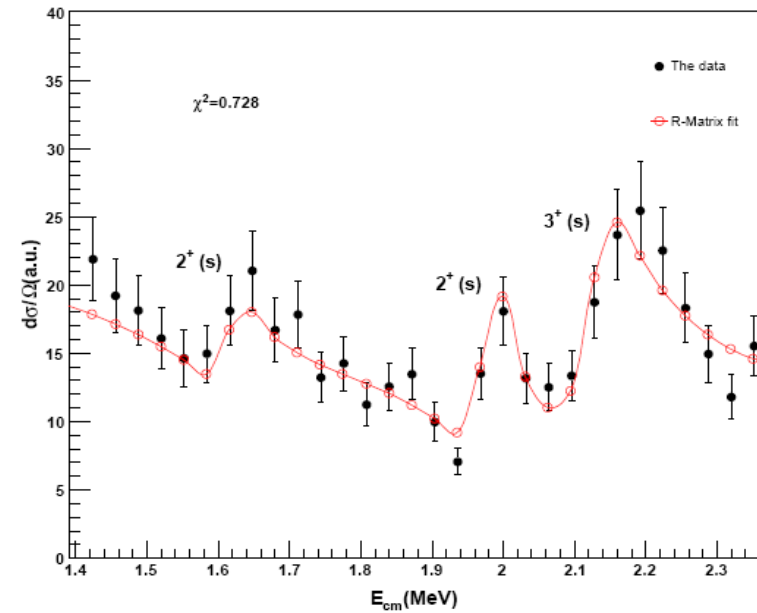
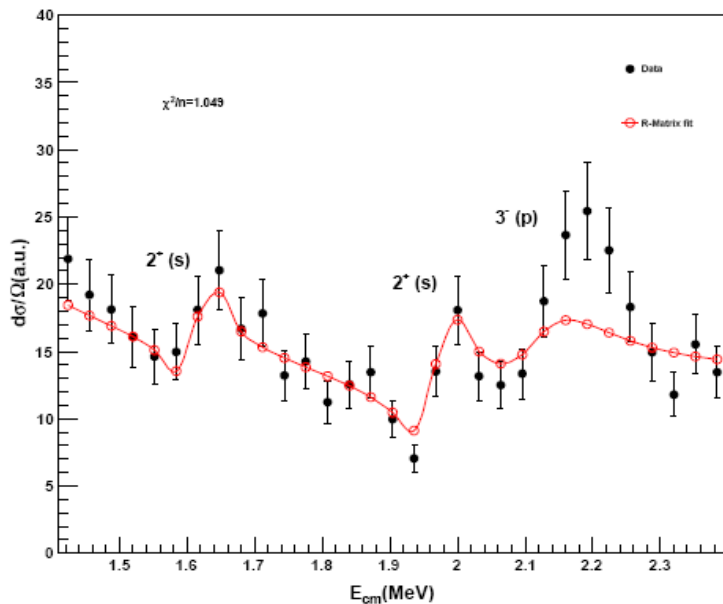
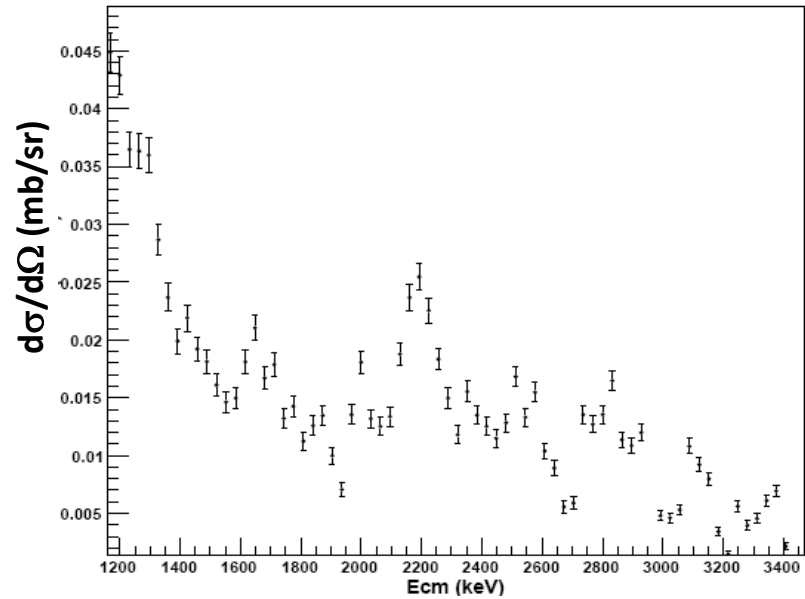
$\therefore$  replace  $\text{CH}_2$  target with  $^{12}\text{C}$  foil to detect protons from  $^{12}\text{C}$

# $p(^{25}\text{Al},p)^{25}\text{Al}$ excitation function

After calibration,  
background subtraction,  
energy loss corrections

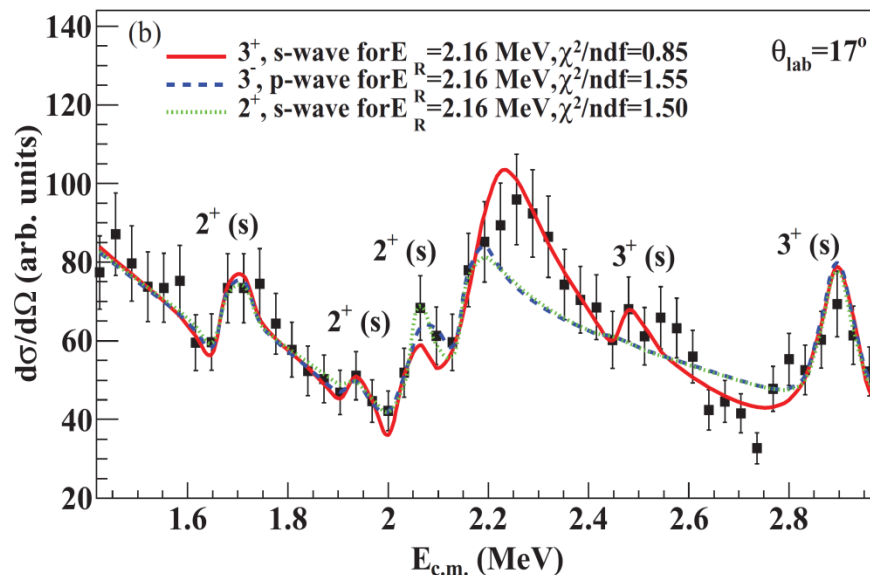
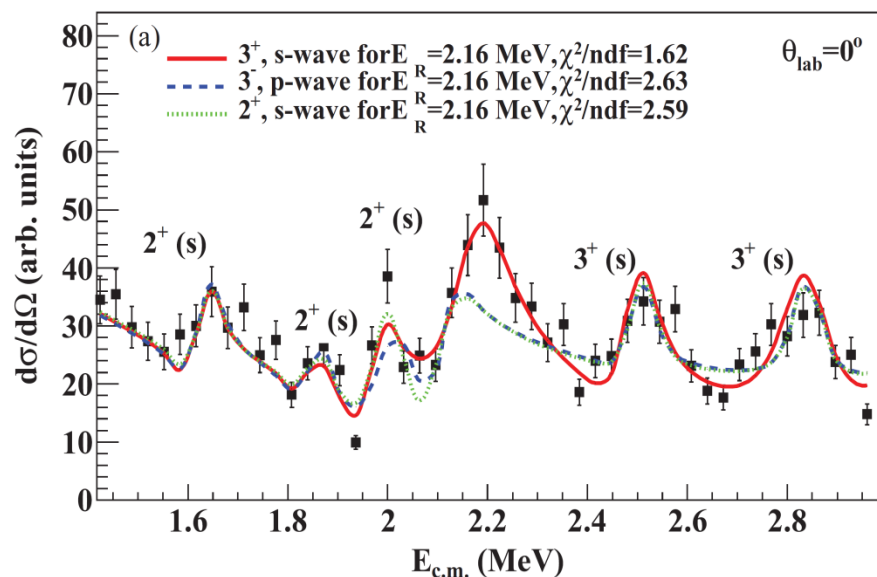


s-wave resonances in  $^{26}\text{Si}$   
from R-Matrix theory



# $^{26}\text{Si}$ resonance parameters

s-wave resonances in  $^{26}\text{Si}$  from R-Matrix theory [J. Chen *et al.*, PRC 2012]



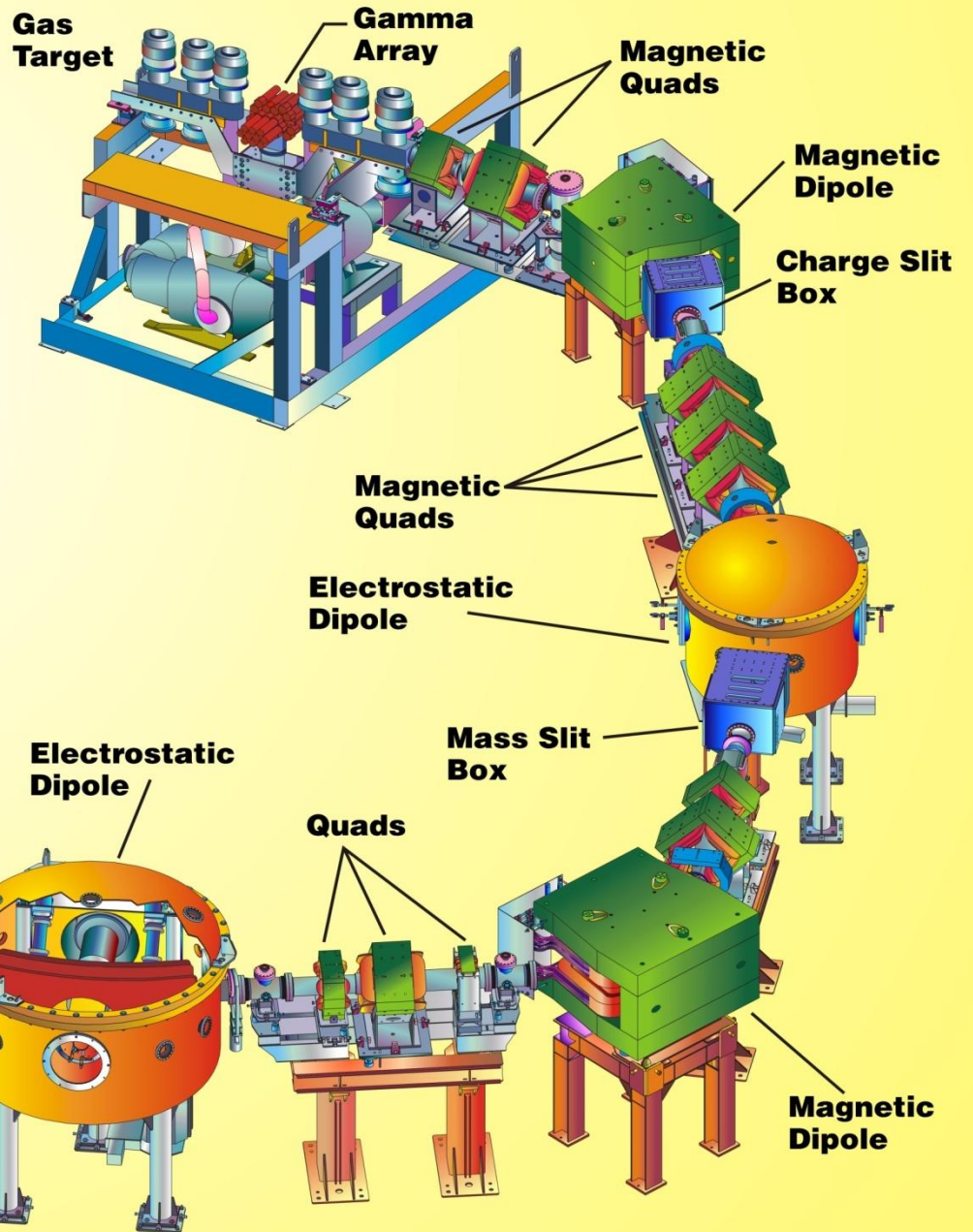
This work	$(p, t)$ [20] <sup>a</sup>	$(p, t)$ [6]	$(p, t)$ [13] <sup>a</sup>	$\beta^+$ decay [16] <sup>d</sup>	$(^3\text{He}, n)$ [15] <sup>b</sup>	$(^4\text{He}, ^6\text{He})$ [19]	$(^3\text{He}, n)$ [21] <sup>a</sup>	$(p, t)$ [22] <sup>a</sup>
7.162(14), $2^+$	7.157(4), $2^+$	7.151(5)	7.160(5)		7.152(4), $2^+$	7.161(6)	7.150(30), $2^+$	7.150(15)
7.402(40), $2^+$	7.439(6), ( $2^+$ )	7.4152(23), ( $4^+$ ) <sup>a</sup>	7.425(7), ( $2^+$ )		7.425(4), $0^+$	7.429(7)	7.390(30), ( $0^+$ )	
7.484(13), $2^+$	7.512(8), ( $2^+$ )	7.479(12)	7.498(4)	7.501(5), $2^+$ 7.606(6)	7.493(4), $2^+$	7.480(20)	7.480(30), $2^+$	7.476(20)
		7.522(12), ( $5^-$ ) <sup>c</sup>						
7.704(13), $3^+$	7.672(2), $3^-$	7.661(12), ( $2^+$ ) <sup>c</sup> 7.701(12)	7.687(22), $3^-$		7.694(4), $3^-$	7.676(4)		7.695(31)
	7.875(2), $1^-$	7.874(4)	7.900(22), $1^-$	7.962(5)	7.899(4), $1^-$	7.885(4)	7.900(30)	7.902(21)
8.015(14), $3^+$				8.156(21), $2^+$			8.120(30), ( $2^+$ )	
		8.222(5), ( $1^-$ ) <sup>c</sup> 8.269(4), ( $2^+$ ) <sup>c</sup>		8.254(5)				
8.356(12), $3^+$								

next: direct  $^{25}\text{Al}(p, \gamma)^{26}\text{Si}$  measurement?



# DRAGON

Detector of Recoils And  
Gammas Of Nuclear reactions





# Conclusions

**Small sample of experiments aimed at improving our understanding of stellar explosions  
– benefiting from interactions with astronomers and theorists/modellers**

**Future: FAIR, FRIB, RIKEN, TRIUMF – radioactive beams**

**Experiments at smaller accelerator labs:**

**these complement – and guide – those  
at bigger places**

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  - Shigeru Kubono's group (CNS – U. of Tokyo, RIKEN)
- **Technical staff at these labs**
- **and :**

