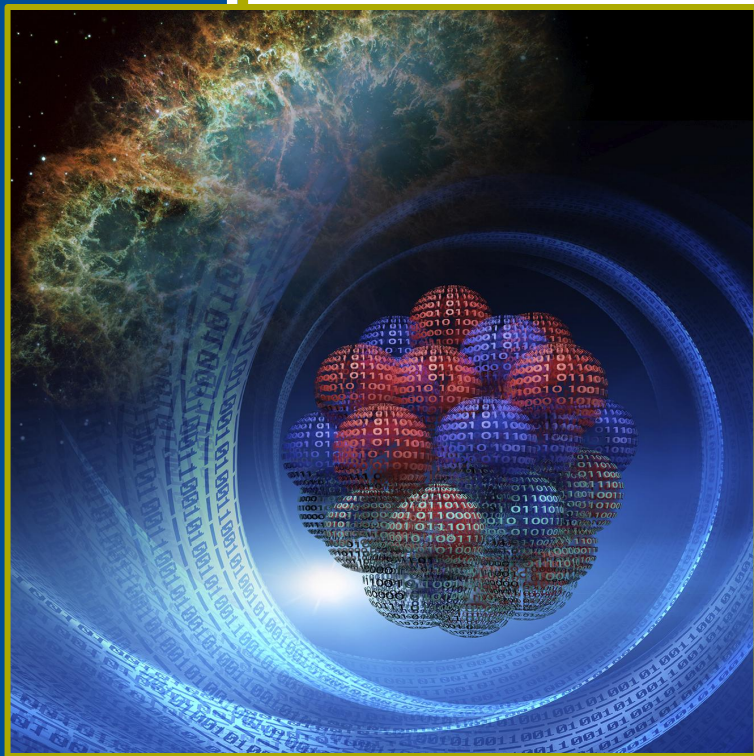




Andy Sproles, ORNL

Towards..

A global view of nuclear structure

W. Ryssens

19th of March 2025



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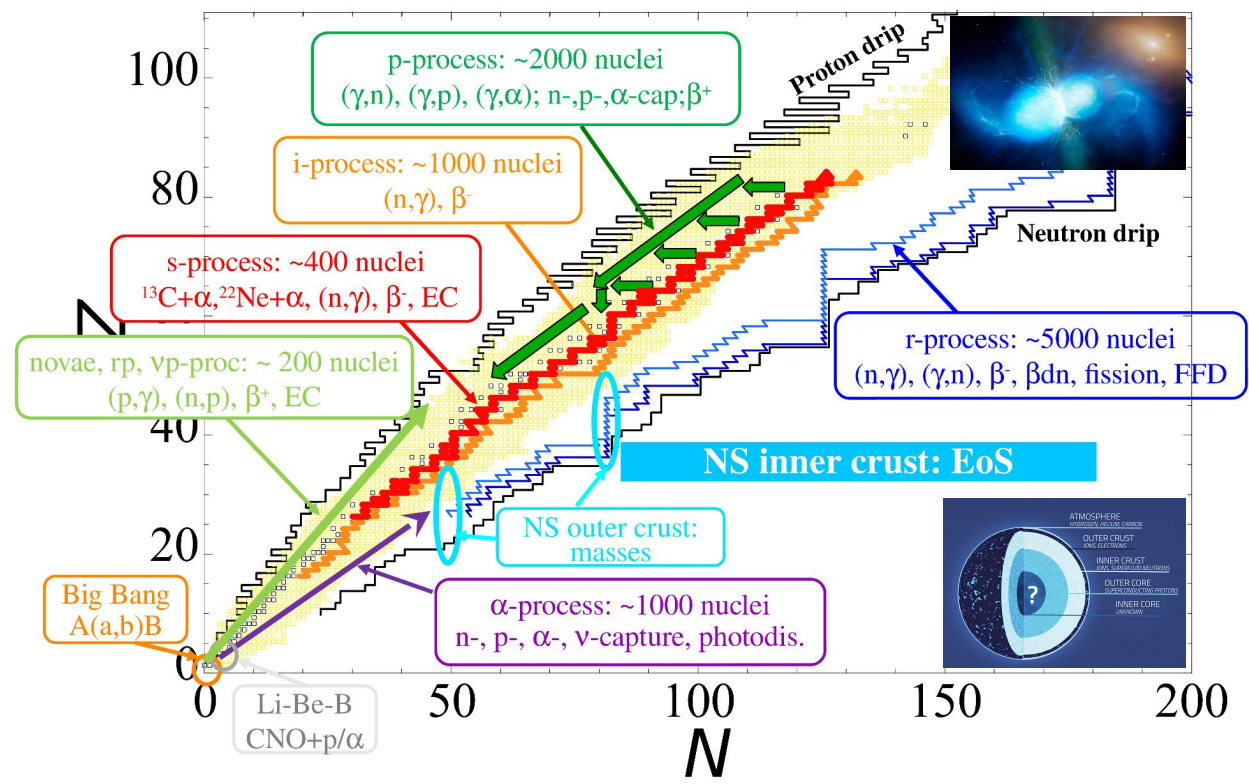
A small clarification...



A small clarification...



Introduction

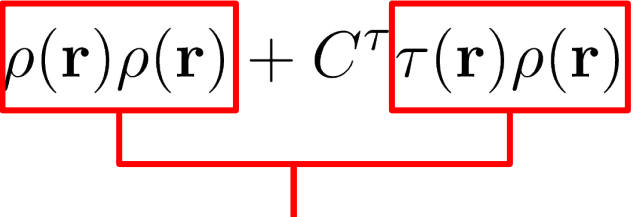


Skyrme **E**nergy **D**ensity **F**unctionals (**EDFs**)

$$E \sim \int d^3r \left[C^\rho \rho(\mathbf{r})\rho(\mathbf{r}) + C^\tau \tau(\mathbf{r})\rho(\mathbf{r}) + \dots \right]$$



Skyrme **E**nergy **D**ensity **F**unctionals (**EDFs**)

$$E \sim \int d^3r \left[C^\rho \boxed{\rho(\mathbf{r})\rho(\mathbf{r})} + C^\tau \boxed{\tau(\mathbf{r})\rho(\mathbf{r})} + \dots \right]$$


Local densities and currents of a wavefunction



Skyrme **E**nergy **D**ensity **F**unctionals (**EDFs**)

Coupling constants (~ **25** parameters) fitted to data

The diagram shows the Skyrme Energy Density Functional equation:
$$E \sim \int d^3r \left[C^\rho \rho(\mathbf{r})\rho(\mathbf{r}) + C^\tau \tau(\mathbf{r})\rho(\mathbf{r}) + \dots \right]$$
 Annotations include: a blue line connecting the coupling constants C^ρ and C^τ to the text 'Coupling constants (~ 25 parameters) fitted to data'; and a red bracket under the density and current terms $\rho(\mathbf{r})\rho(\mathbf{r})$ and $\tau(\mathbf{r})\rho(\mathbf{r})$ pointing to the text 'Local densities and currents of a wavefunction'.

Local densities and currents of a wavefunction



Skyrme **E**nergy **D**ensity **F**unctionals (**EDFs**)

Energy

Coupling constants (~ 25 parameters) fitted to data

$$E \sim \int d^3r \left[C^\rho \rho(\mathbf{r})\rho(\mathbf{r}) + C^\tau \tau(\mathbf{r})\rho(\mathbf{r}) + \dots \right]$$

Local densities and currents of a wavefunction

The diagram illustrates the Skyrme Energy Density Functional (EDF) equation. The energy E is represented by a magenta box on the left, with a magenta line connecting it to the word 'Energy' above. The equation itself is $E \sim \int d^3r [C^\rho \rho(\mathbf{r})\rho(\mathbf{r}) + C^\tau \tau(\mathbf{r})\rho(\mathbf{r}) + \dots]$. The coupling constants C^ρ and C^τ are enclosed in blue boxes, with a blue line connecting them to the text 'Coupling constants (~ 25 parameters) fitted to data' above. The terms $\rho(\mathbf{r})\rho(\mathbf{r})$ and $\tau(\mathbf{r})\rho(\mathbf{r})$ are enclosed in red boxes, with a red line connecting them to the text 'Local densities and currents of a wavefunction' below. A large solid blue rectangle is positioned at the bottom of the slide.

Skyrme **E**nergy **D**ensity **F**unctionals (**EDFs**)

Energy

Coupling constants (~ **25** parameters) fitted to data

$$E \sim \int d^3r \left[C^\rho \rho(\mathbf{r})\rho(\mathbf{r}) + C^\tau \tau(\mathbf{r})\rho(\mathbf{r}) + \dots \right]$$

Local densities and currents of a wavefunction

Progress?

1. more physics in the wavefunction

Skyrme **E**nergy **D**ensity **F**unctionals (**EDFs**)

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Local densities and currents of a wavefunction

Progress?

1. more physics in the wavefunction
2. more (pseudo-) observables simultaneously
“more” = both scale and diversity!

Skyrme **E**nergy **D**ensity **F**unctionals (**EDFs**)

Energy

Coupling constants (~ **25** parameters) fitted to data

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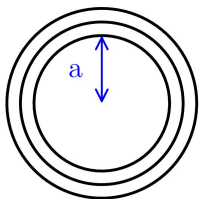
Local densities and currents of a wavefunction

Progress?

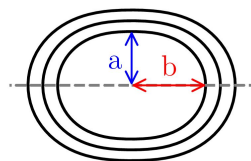
1. more physics in the wavefunction
2. more (pseudo-) observables simultaneously
“more” = both scale and diversity!
3. search for a “better” EDF form

Large-scale models in 1-2 dimensions

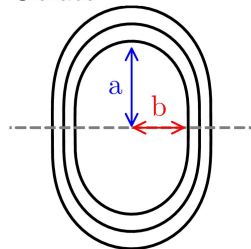
Spherical



Prolate



Oblate



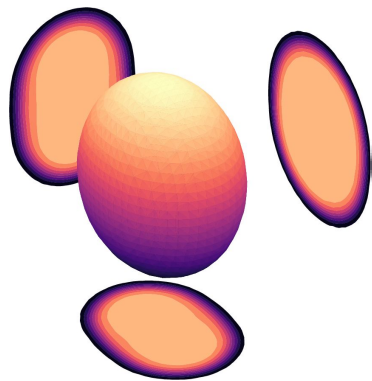
One DOF: β_{20}

Nuclear deformation

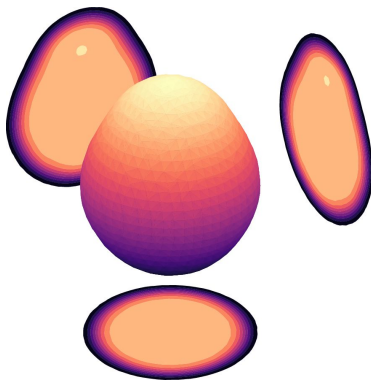
- larger variational space
- shape DOF characterized by multipole moments
- capture correlations at modest CPU cost
- intuitive interpretation

Large-scale models in 1-2-**3** dimensions

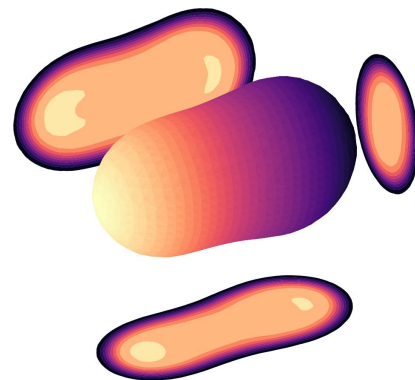
β_{20}, β_{22} or β_2, γ



β_{20}, β_{30}



β_{20}, β_{22} **and** β_{30}



Nuclear deformation

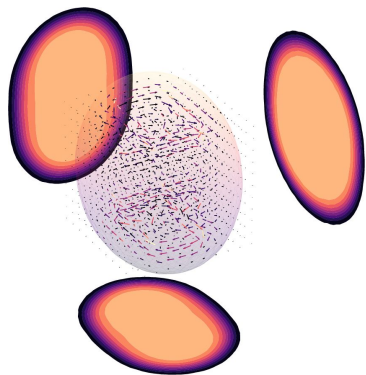
- larger variational space
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More general configurations

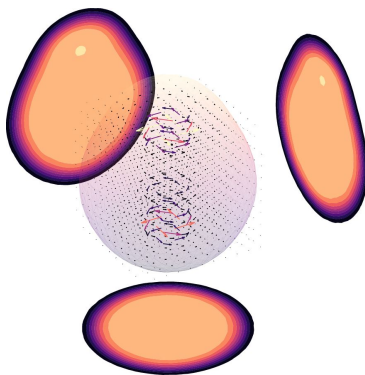
- triaxial shapes
- reflection asymmetry
- elongated shapes

Large-scale models in 1-2-**3** dimensions

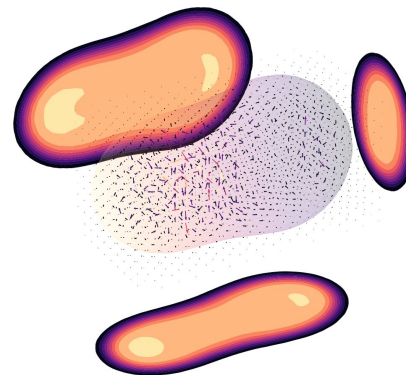
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Nuclear deformation

- larger variational space
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More general configurations

- triaxial shapes
- reflection asymmetry
- elongated shapes
- spin densities and currents

Brussels-Skyrme-on-a-Grid: BSkG

BSkG1

- fitted to 2457 masses
- fitted to 884 charge radii
- includes triaxial deformation

BSkG1: G. Scamps et al., EPJA **57**, 333 (2021).
BSkG2: W. Ryssens et al., EPJA **58**, 246 (2022).
W. Ryssens et al., EPJA **59**, 96 (2023).
BSkG3: G. Grams et al., EPJA **59**, 270 (2023).
BSkG4: G. Grams et al., arXiv:2411.08007 (2024).

Rms σ	BSkG1	BSkG2	BSkG3	BSkG4
Masses [MeV]	0.741			
S_n [MeV]	0.466			
Radii [fm]	0.024			
Prim. barriers [MeV]				
Sec. barriers [MeV]				
Fission isomers [MeV]				
Max. NS mass [$M_\odot$]				

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Rms σ	BSkG1	BSkG2	BSkG3	BSkG4
Masses [MeV]	0.741	0.678		
S_n [MeV]	0.466	0.500		
Radii [fm]	0.024	0.027		
Prim. barriers [MeV]	0.88	0.44		
Sec. barriers [MeV]	0.87	0.47		
Fission isomers [MeV]	1.0	0.49		
Max. NS mass [$M_\odot$]				

BSkG2

- complete time-reversal breaking
- fit to 45 reference fission barriers + 28 fission isomers

Brussels-Skyme-on-a-Grid: BSkG

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Rms σ	BSkG1	BSkG2	BSkG3	BSkG4
Masses [MeV]	0.741	0.678	0.631	
S_n [MeV]	0.466	0.500	0.442	
Radii [fm]	0.024	0.027	0.024	
Prim. barriers [MeV]	0.88	0.44	0.33	
Sec. barriers [MeV]	0.87	0.47	0.51	
Fission isomers [MeV]	1.0	0.49	0.34	
Max. NS mass [$M_\odot$]	1.8	1.8	2.3	

BSkG2

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BSkG3

- extended Skyrme EDF form
- supports massive neutron stars

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Brussels-Skyme-on-a-Grid: BSkG

BSkG1: G. Scamps et al., EPJA **57**, 333 (2021).
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W. Ryssens et al., EPJA **59**, 96 (2023).
BSkG3: G. Grams et al., EPJA **59**, 270 (2023).
BSkG4: G. Grams et al., EPJA **61**, 35 (2024).

BSkG1

- fitted to 2457 masses
- fitted to 884 charge radii
- includes triaxial deformation

BSkG4

- pairing reproduces advanced INM calculations
- ideal for TD simulations in NS crust

Rms σ	BSkG1	BSkG2	BSkG3	BSkG4
Masses [MeV]	0.741	0.678	0.631	0.633
S_n [MeV]	0.466	0.500	0.442	0.402
Radii [fm]	0.024	0.027	0.024	0.025
Prim. barriers [MeV]	0.88	0.44	0.33	0.36
Sec. barriers [MeV]	0.87	0.47	0.51	0.53
Fission isomers [MeV]	1.0	0.49	0.34	0.33
Max. NS mass [$M_\odot$]	1.8	1.8	2.3	2.3

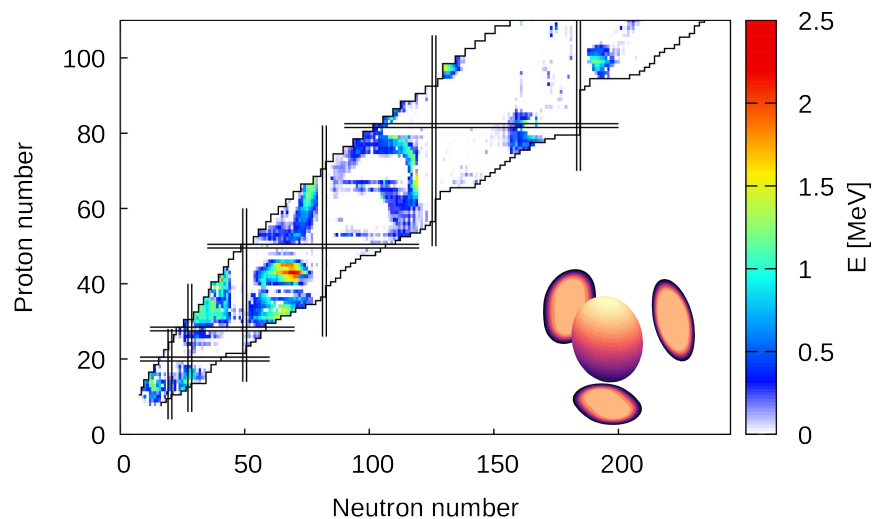
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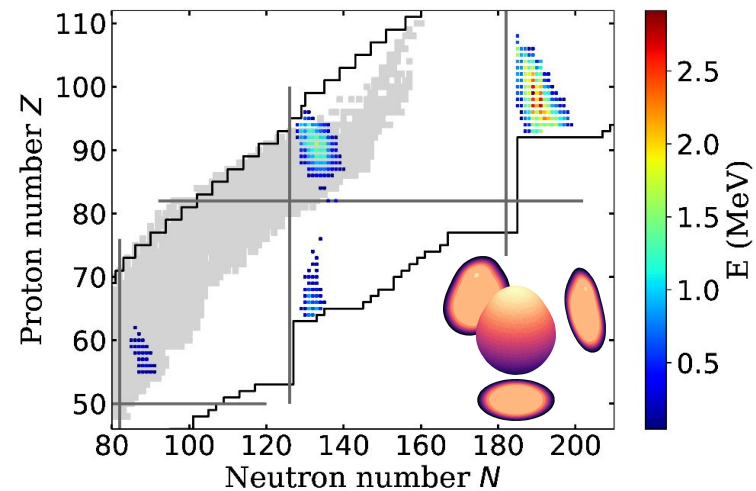
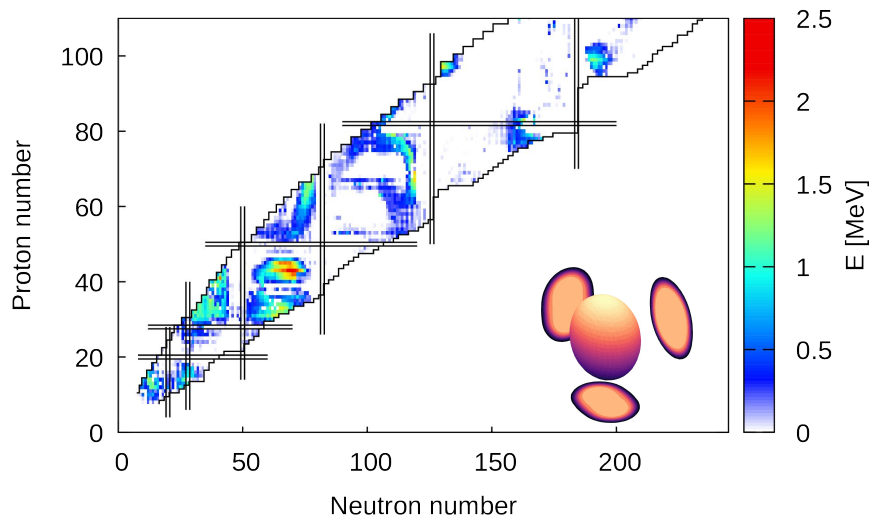
Masses



Triaxial deformation

- many nuclei are affected
- effects up to 2.5 MeV near $Z \sim 44$

Masses



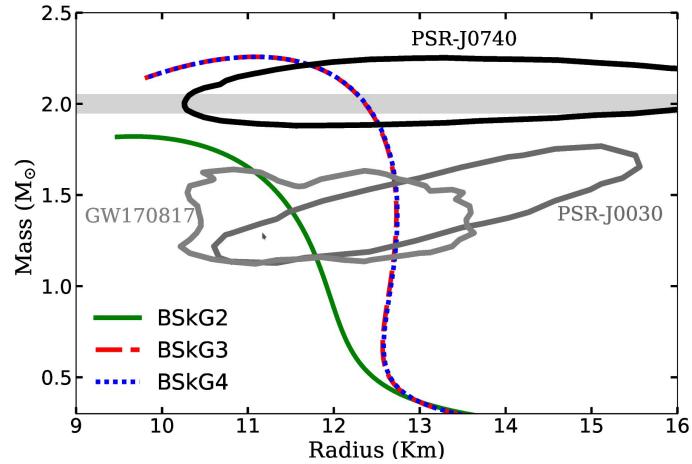
Triaxial deformation

- many nuclei are affected
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Reflection asymmetry

- small number of known nuclei affected
- Near $N=184$:
 - large effect up to 2.5 MeV
 - dripline modified
 - fission properties modified

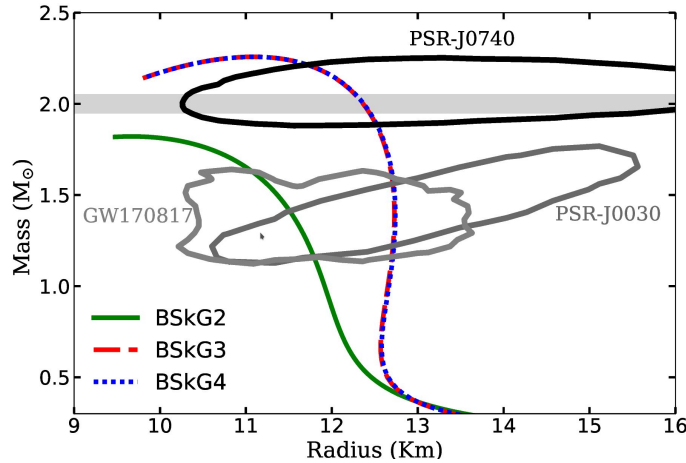
Neutron stars



Stiffer EoS

- results in higher maximum mass
- usually incompatible with masses

Neutron stars



$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{E}_{t,e}(\mathbf{r}) = & C_t^{\rho\rho}(\rho_0) \rho_t^2(\mathbf{r}) + C_t^{\rho\tau}(\rho_0) \rho_t(\mathbf{r}) \tau_t(\mathbf{r}) \\
 & + C_t^{\rho\nabla J} \rho_t(\mathbf{r}) \nabla \cdot \mathbf{J}_t(\mathbf{r}) \\
 & + C_t^{\rho\Delta\rho} \rho_t(\mathbf{r}) \Delta\rho_t(\mathbf{r}) \\
 & + C_t^{\nabla\rho\nabla\rho}(\rho_0) \nabla\rho_t(\mathbf{r}) \cdot \nabla\rho_t(\mathbf{r}) \\
 & + C_t^{\rho\nabla\rho\nabla\rho}(\rho_0) \rho_t(\mathbf{r}) \nabla\rho_0(\mathbf{r}) \cdot \nabla\rho_t(\mathbf{r})
 \end{aligned}$$

Stiffer EoS

- results in higher maximum mass
- usually incompatible with masses

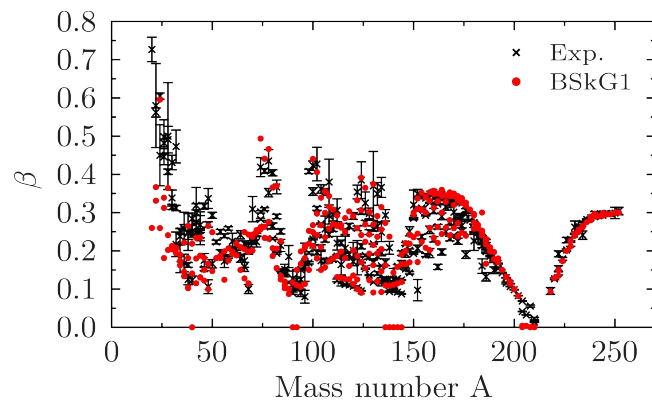
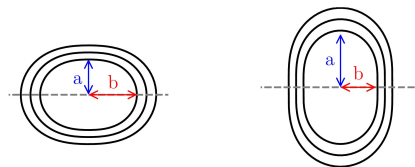
Extended density dependencies

- originally to cure instabilities
 - 6 additional parameters
- ... two are fractional powers!

Deformations

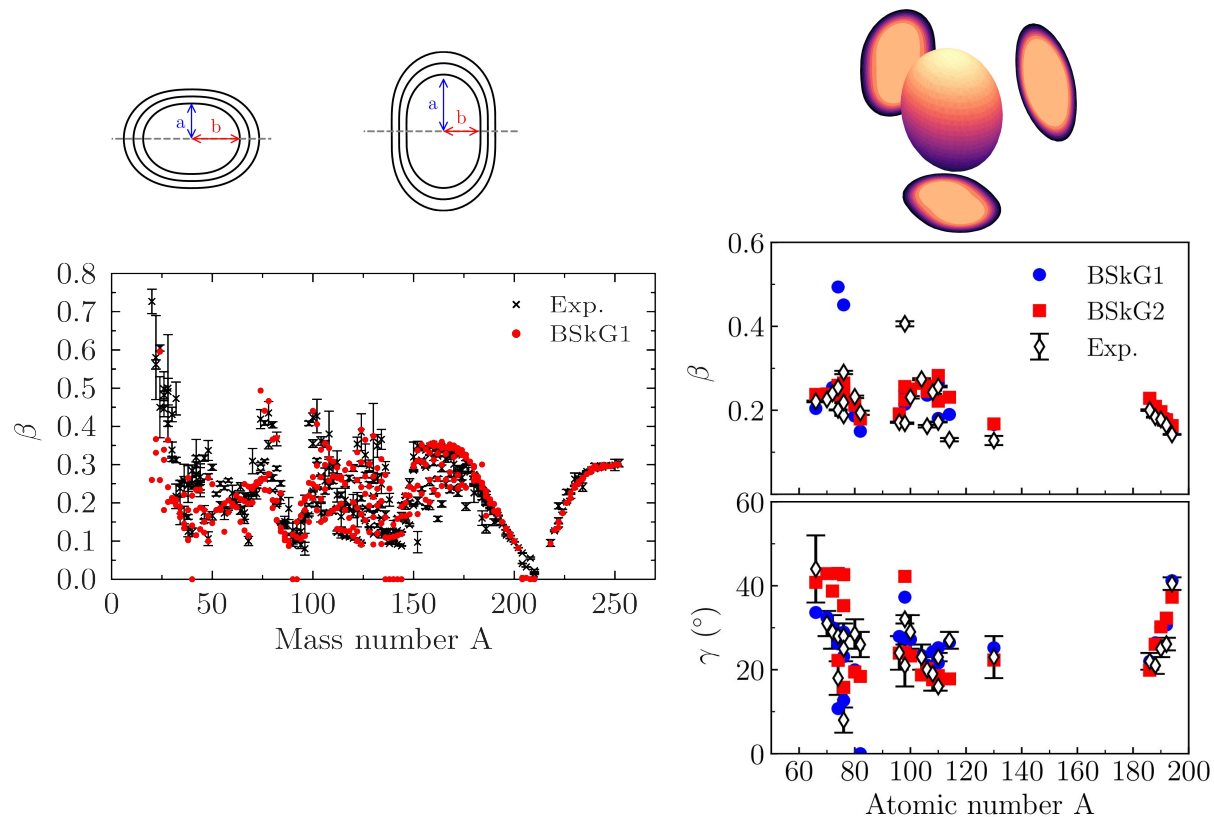
G. Scamps et al., EPJA **57**, 333 (2021).
G. Grams et al., arXiv:2411.08007 (2024).
W.R. et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. **130**, 212302 (2024).

“Ordinary” quadrupole deformation



Deformations

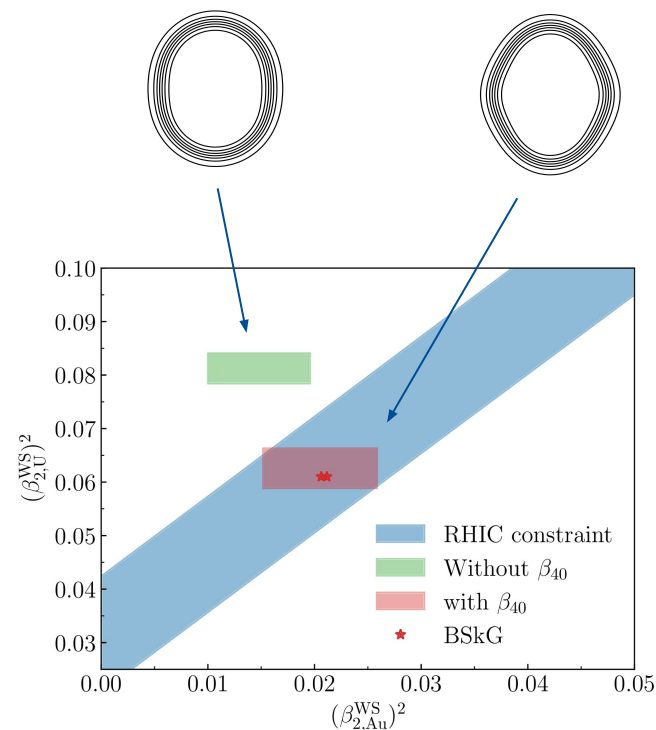
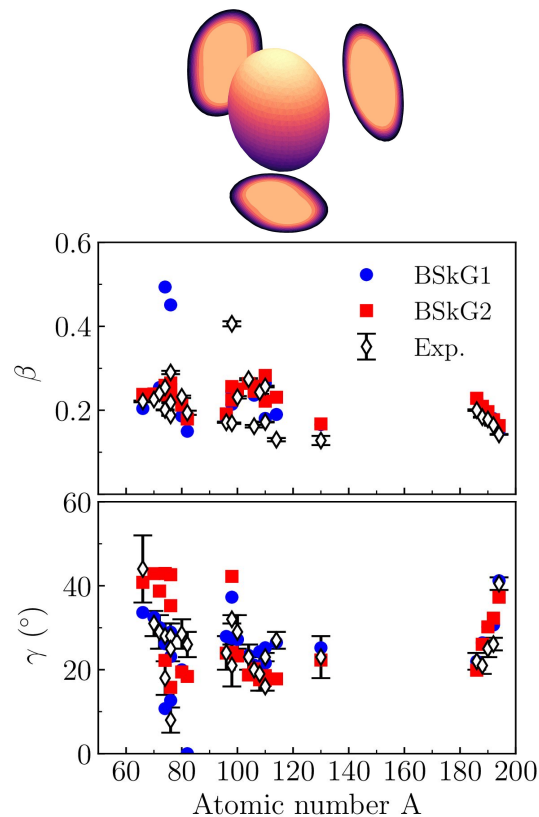
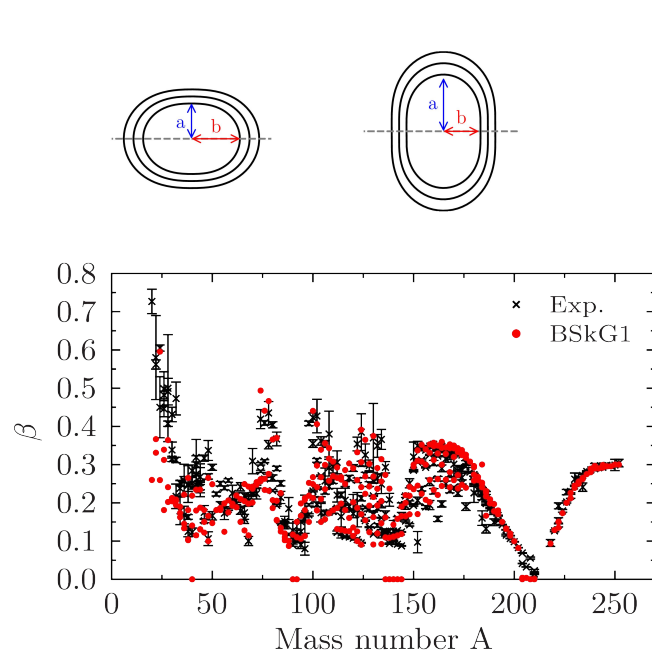
“Ordinary” quadrupole deformation ... and triaxial deformation ...



Deformations

“Ordinary” quadrupole deformation ... and triaxial deformation ...

... and even hexadecapole!

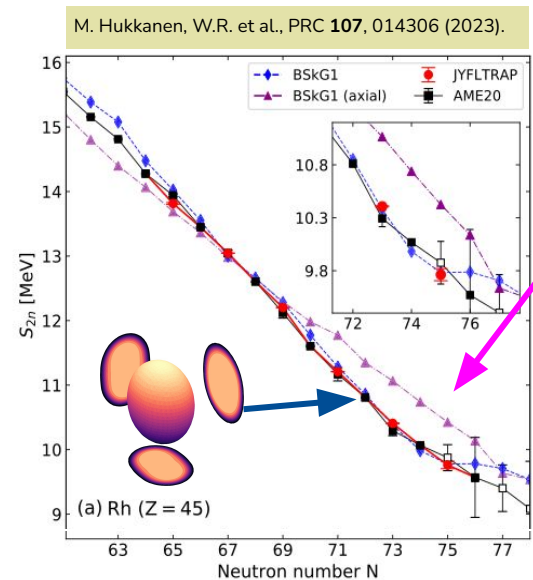


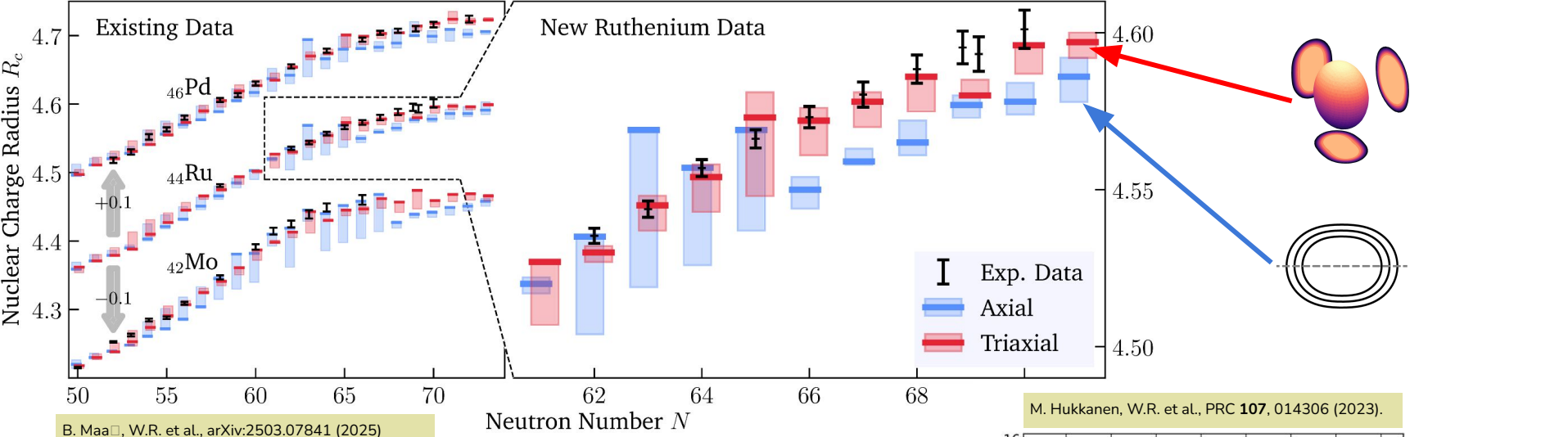
$Z \sim 44$

Known spectra indicate triaxial deformation

Triaxiality:

- impacts masses
- explains existence of isomers



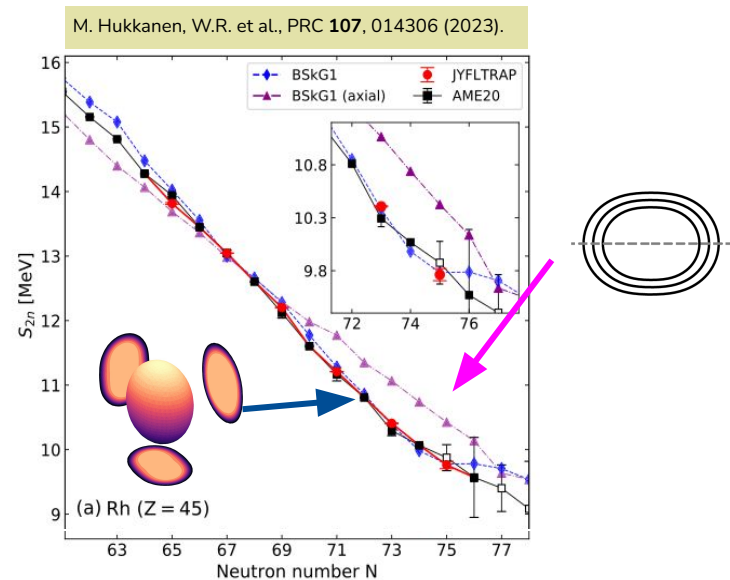


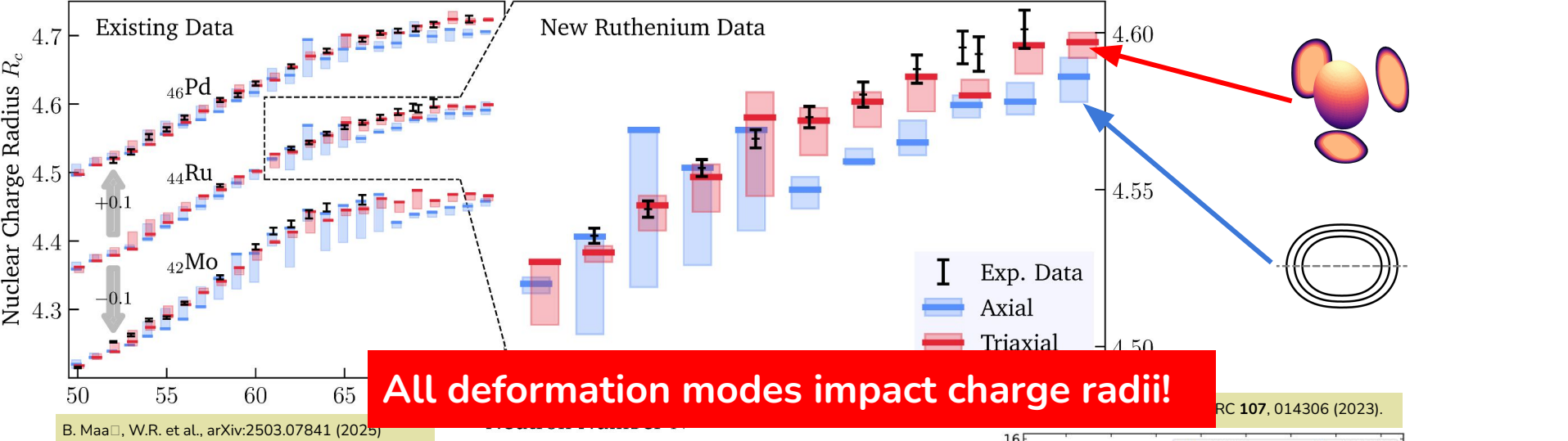
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Triaxiality:

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- impacts charge radii (!)



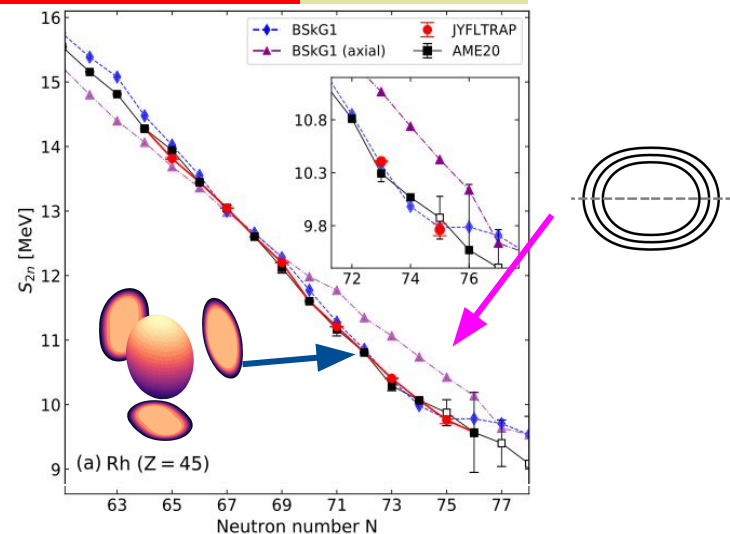


$Z \sim 44$

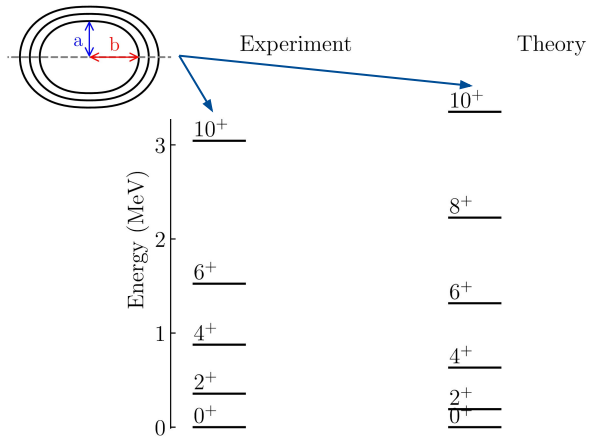
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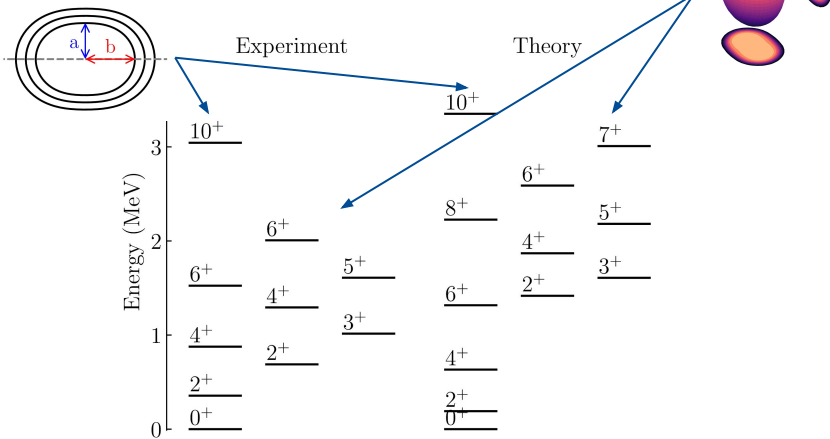
Nuclear level densities



Symmetries dictate NLDs

- larger collective enhancement

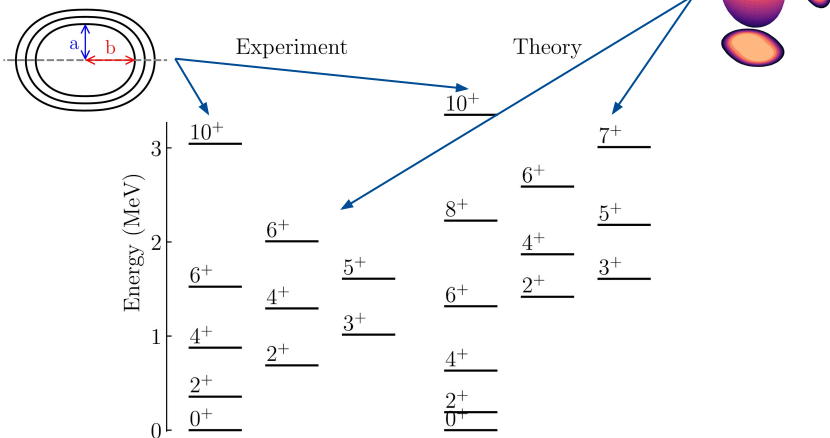
Nuclear level densities



Symmetries dictate NLDs

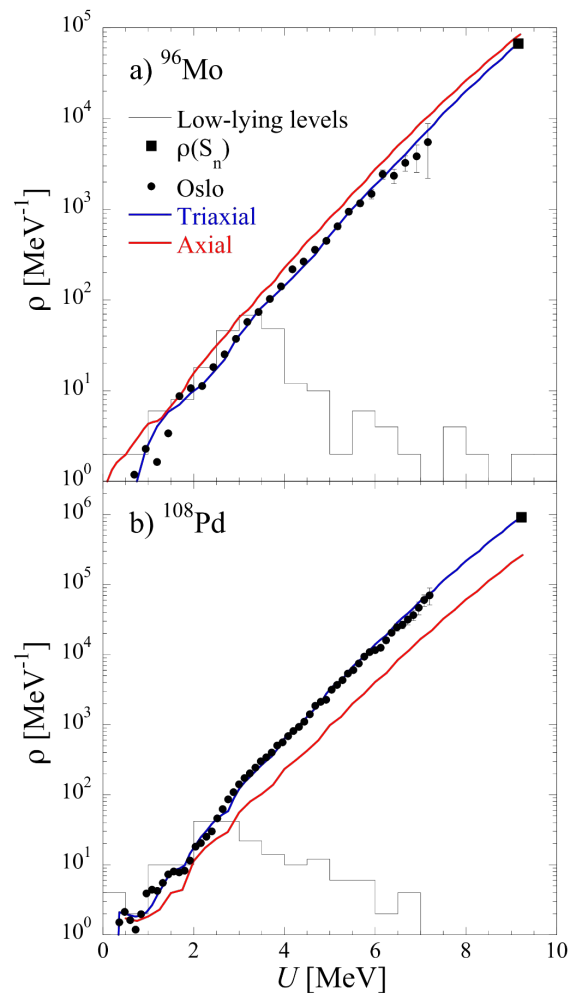
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Nuclear level densities

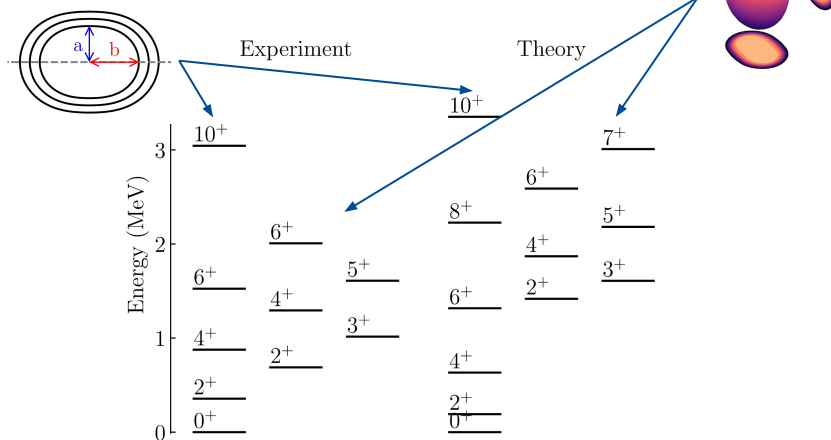


Symmetries dictate NLDs

- larger collective enhancement
- combinatorial calculation of NLDs
- ... but the story is not so simple!

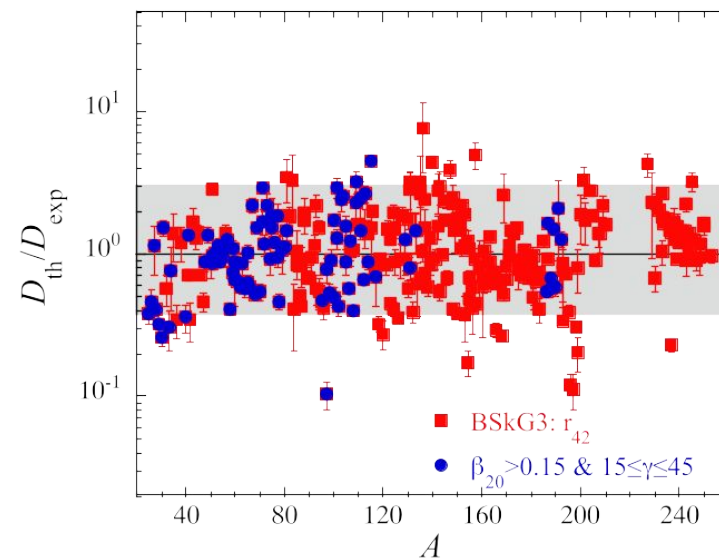


Nuclear level densities

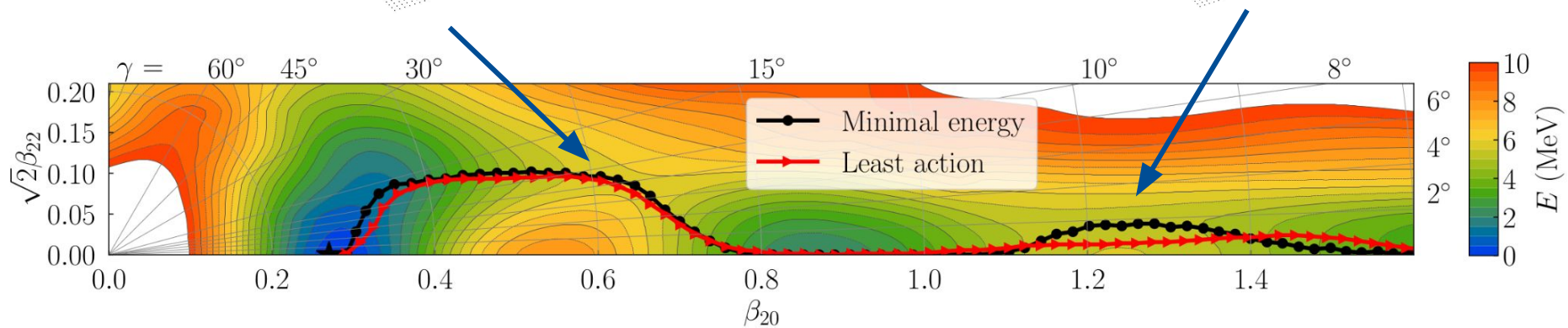
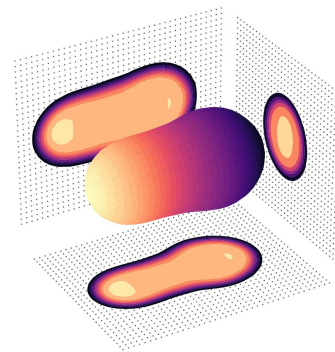
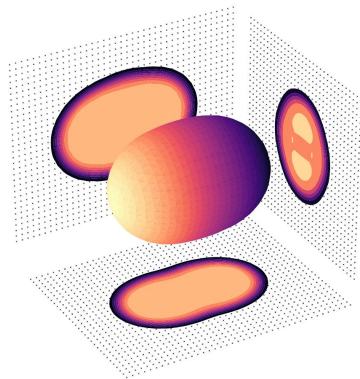


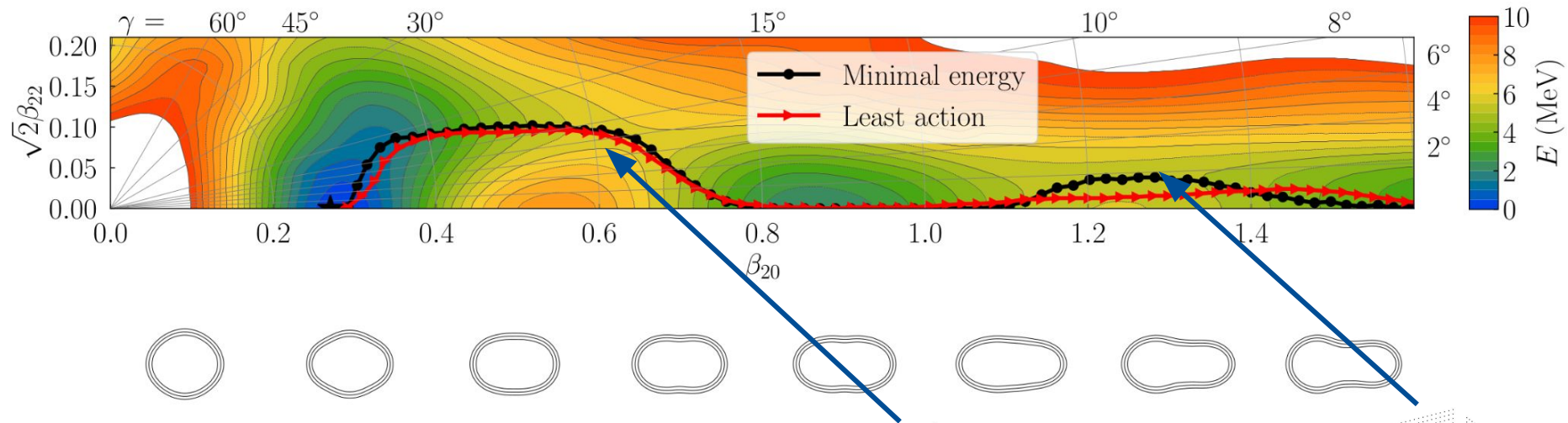
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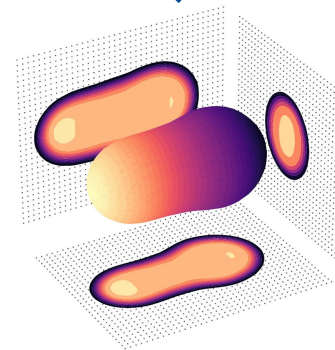
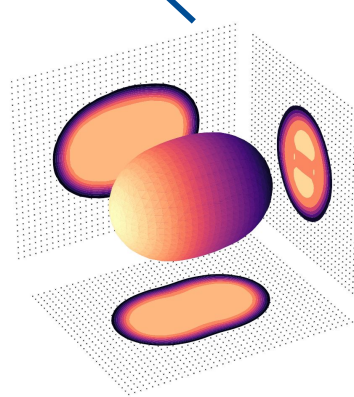
$$f_{\text{rms}} = \exp \left[\frac{1}{N_e} \sum_i^{N_e} (\ln r_i)^2 \right]^{1/2} = 1.96.$$





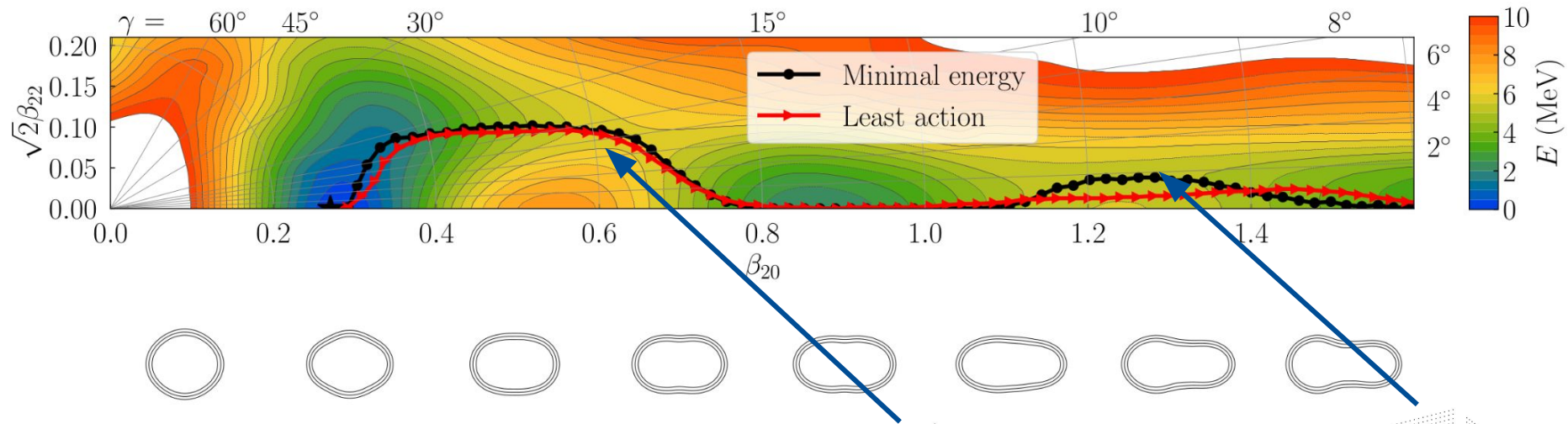
Fission barriers

- empirical barriers reproduced < 500 keV
- microscopic calculation of inertia



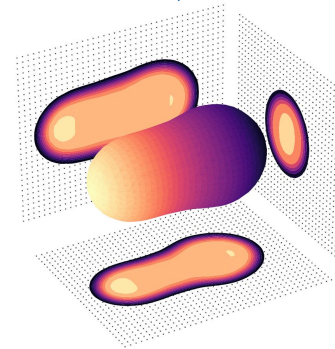
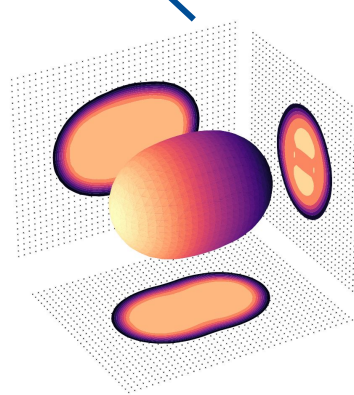
W. R. et al., EPJA **59**, 96 (2023).
 S. Bara et al. & A. Sánchez-Fernández et al., in preparation.





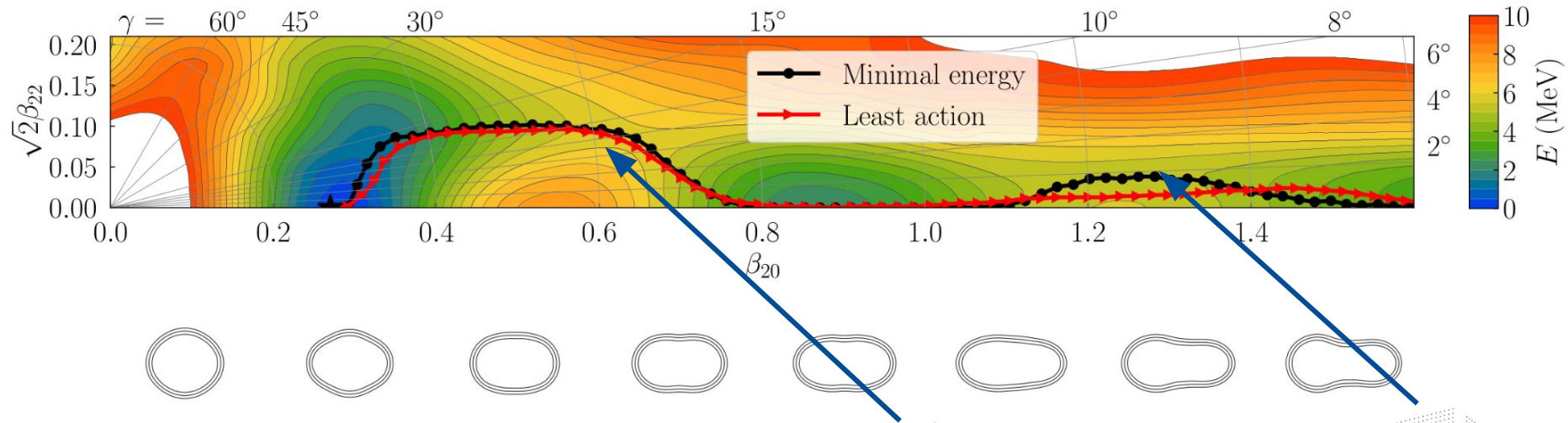
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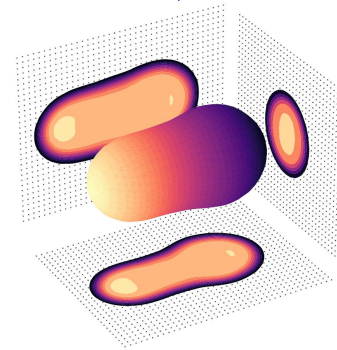
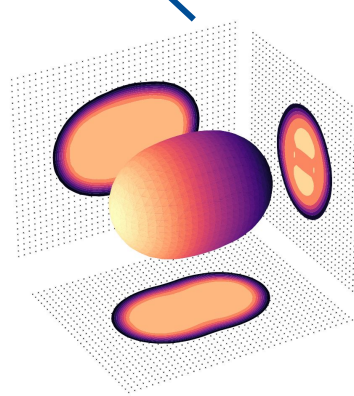
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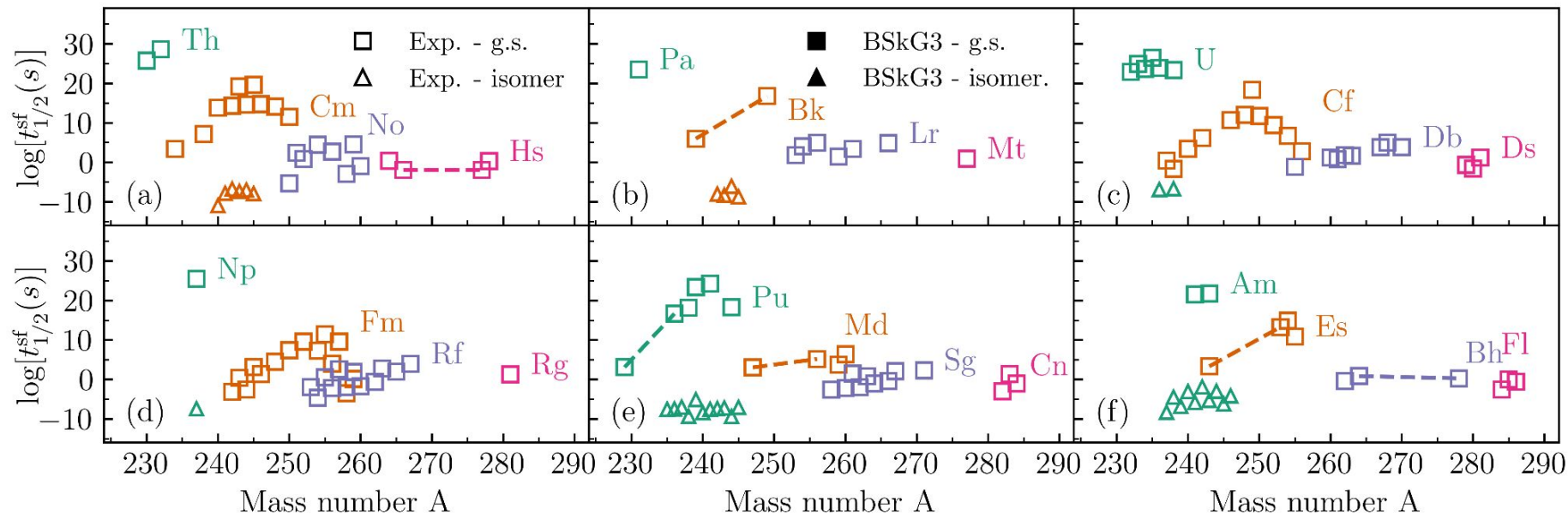
Fission barriers

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- β -delayed fission study underway
- ✓ 2700/3000 fission rates calculated



W. R. et al., EPJA **59**, 96 (2023).
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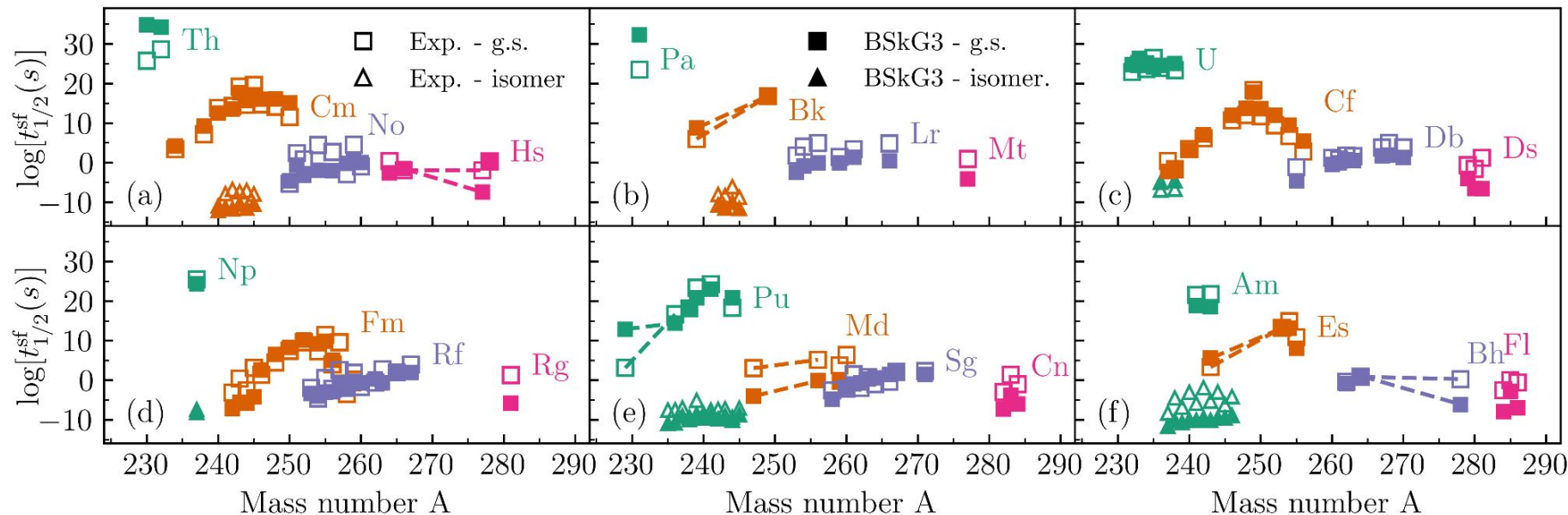


Spontaneous fission half-lives

Experimental data:

- 124 ground state half-lives
- 34 half-lives of isomeric states

... that span **> 40** orders of magnitude!



A. Sánchez-Fernández et al., submitted to PRL

Spontaneous fission half-lives

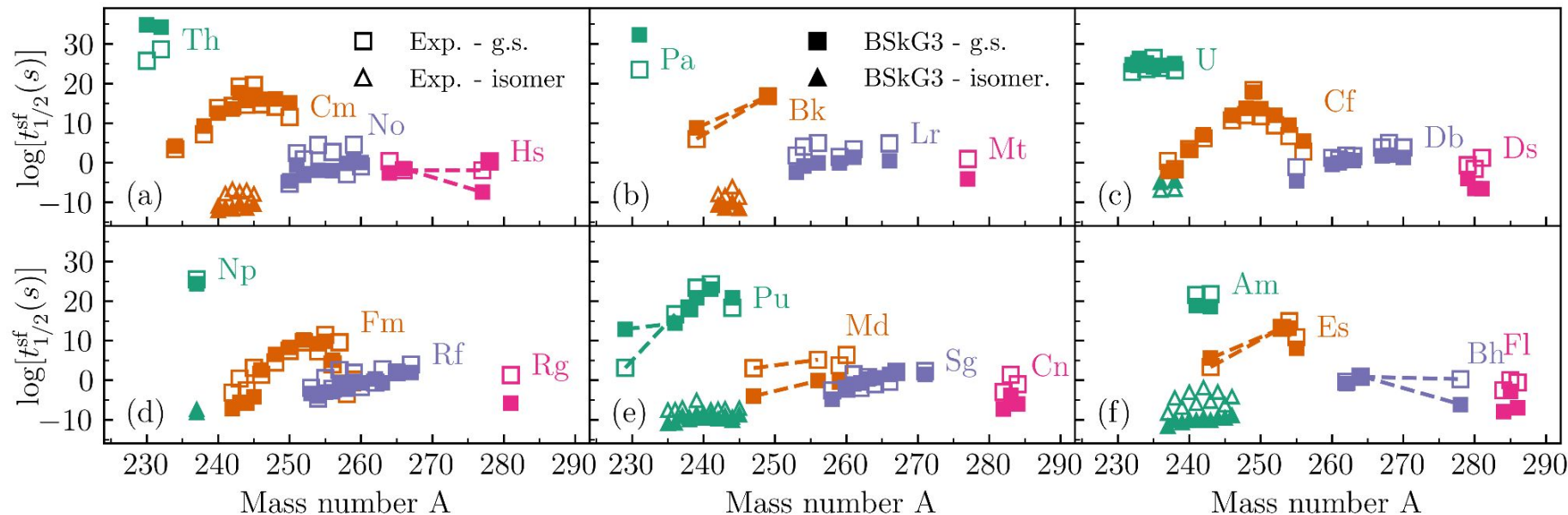
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- 34 half-lives of isomeric states

... that span **> 40** orders of magnitude!

... at scale from microscopic models!

- comparable best mic-mac models
- ... without adjustable parameters!



A. Sánchez-Fernández et al., submitted to PRL

Spontaneous fission half-lives

Experimental data:

- 124 ground state half-lives
- 34 half-lives of isomeric states

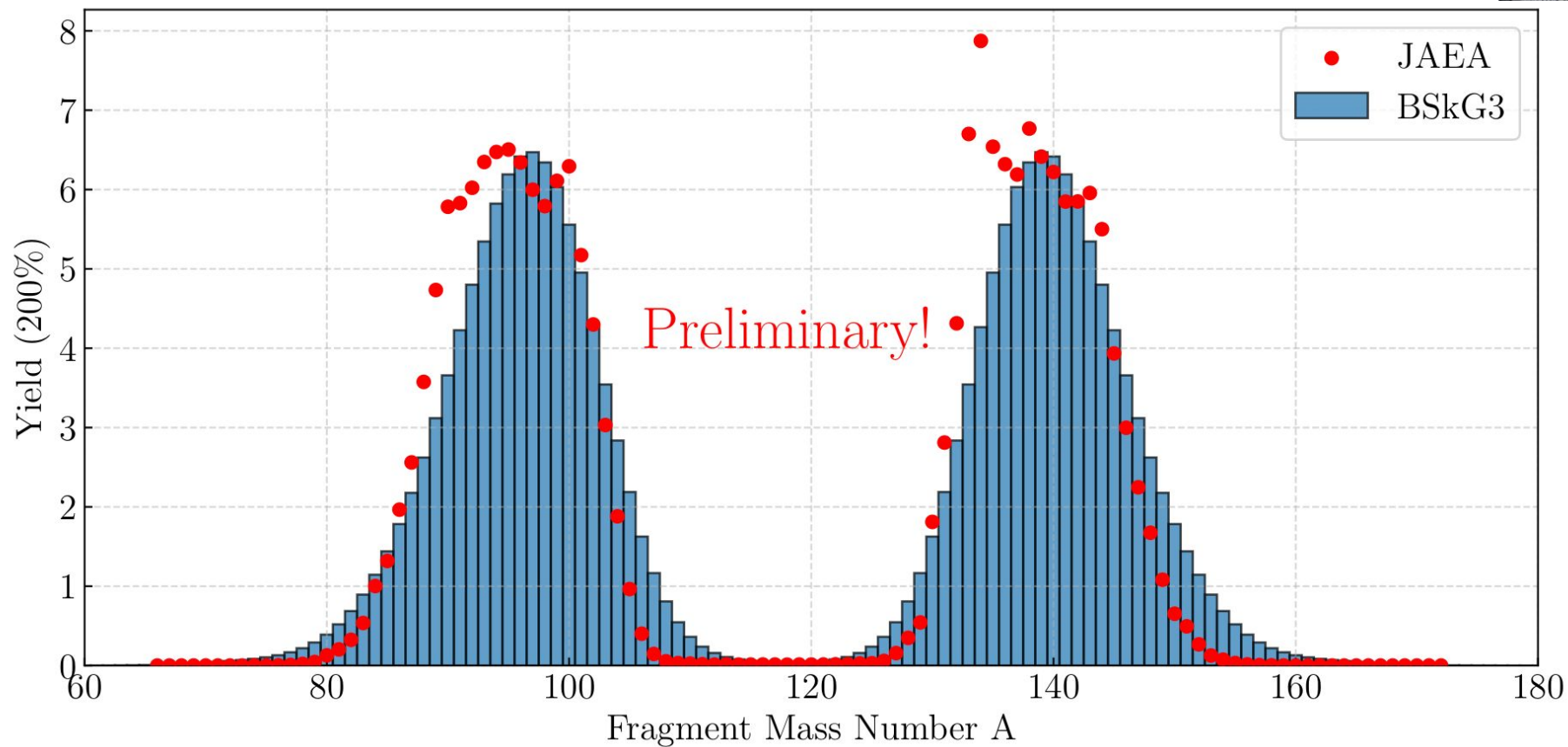
... that span **> 40** orders of magnitude!

... at scale from microscopic models!

- comparable best mic-mac models
- ... without adjustable parameters!
- also for BSkG2/4/5
- half-lives in the model adjustment



Fission fragments coming up!



Investment in computing

MOCCa

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Density functional theory with MOCCa

- algorithms for speed and robustness
- algorithms for EDF implementation
- open-source in 2026

Investment in computing

MOCCa

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Density functional theory with MOCCa

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- MOCCa school v0 done!

Investment in computing

MOCCa

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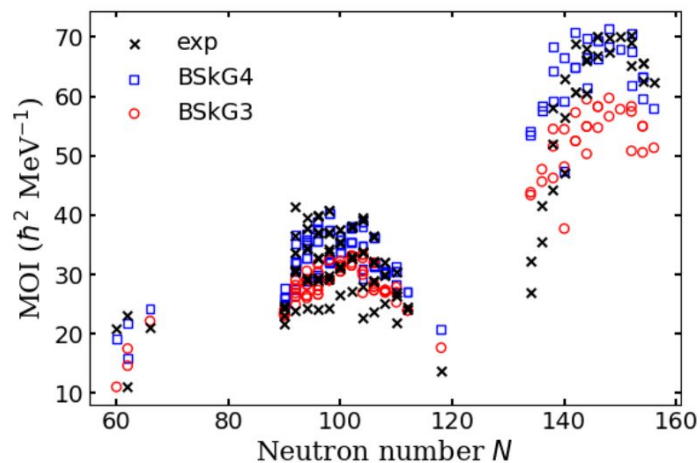


Raw computing power

- CÉCI & VSC: academic support in Belgium
- TIER-1 resources by Cenaero
 - Lucia - ranked 388th - our development workhorse
- TIER-0 resources by EuroHPC
 - MN 5 - ranked 11th - large scale fission
 - LUMI - ranked 8th - nuclear pasta

The future

Future stops: rotational properties

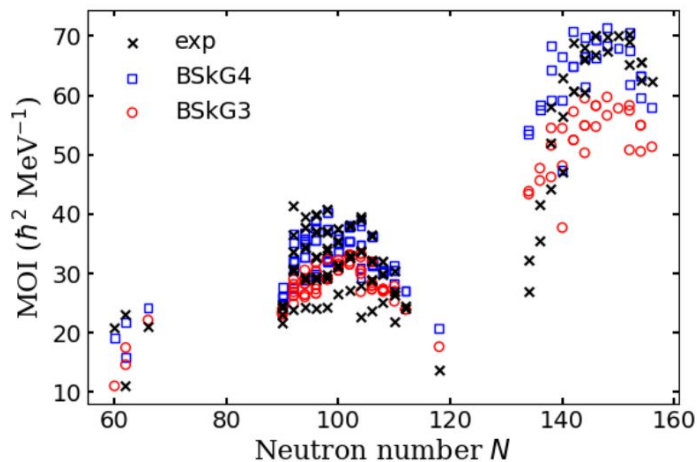


Moments of inertia

- calculated through explicit cranking (rotational bands also accessible!)

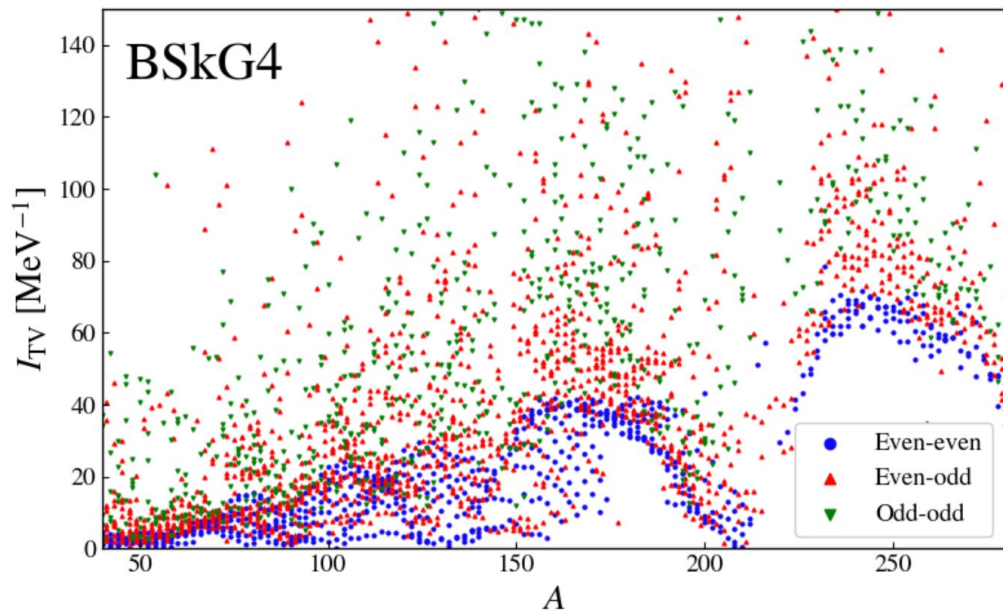


Future stops: rotational properties



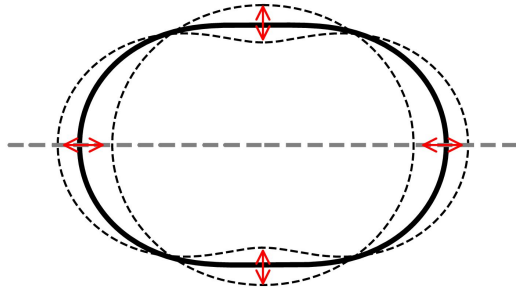
Moments of inertia

- calculated through explicit cranking (rotational bands also accessible!)
- also of odd-mass and odd-odd nuclei!
- sensitive to time-odd terms and pairing
- characterizes spurious collective motion
- ... and will impact masses!



Future stops: FAM-QRPA

P. Demol et al., in preparation

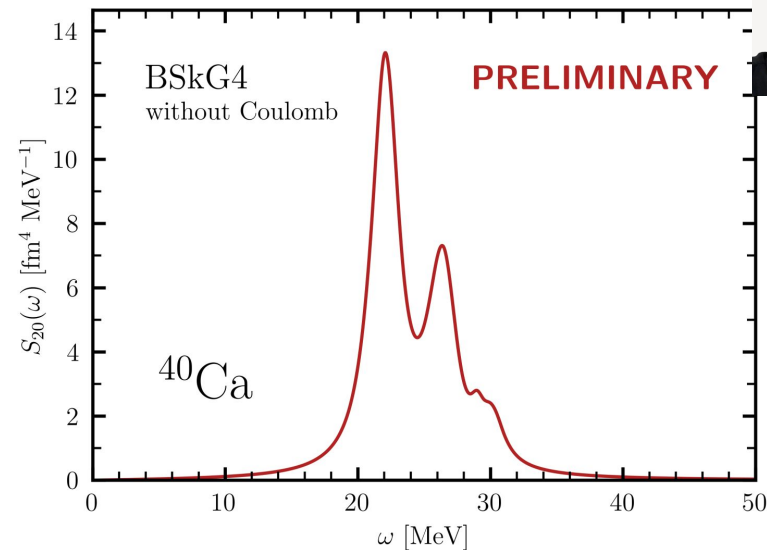
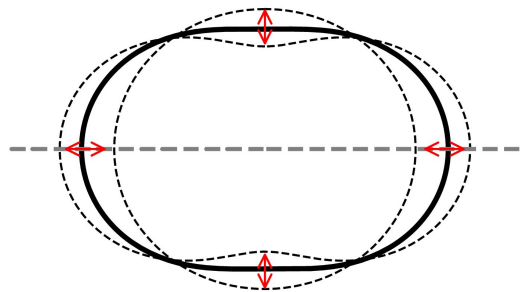


Linear response

- FAM algorithm for scaling
- symmetry-breaking
- extended EDFs

Future stops: FAM-QRPA

P. Demol et al., in preparation



Linear response

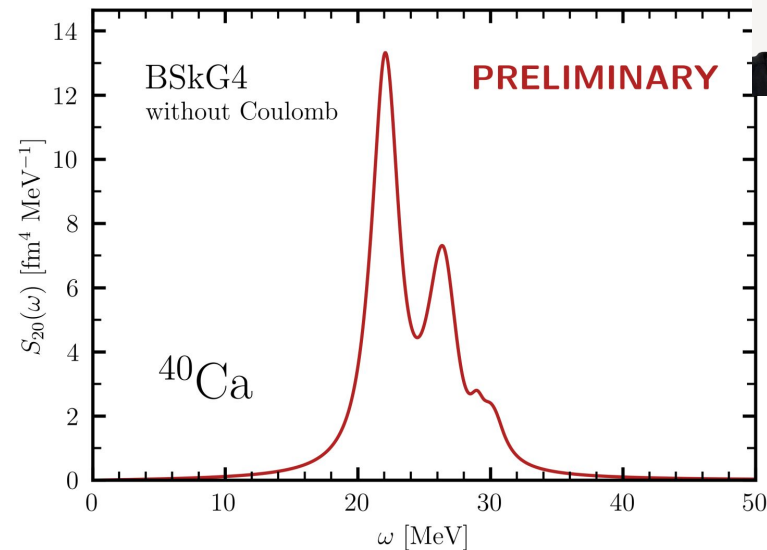
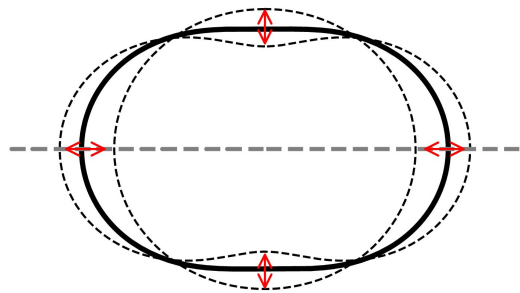
- FAM algorithm for scaling
- symmetry-breaking
- extended EDFs

Electroweak strength functions

- photon capture/dissociation rates
- radiative neutron capture rates
- β -decay rates



Future stops: FAM-QRPA



Linear response

- FAM algorithm for scaling
- symmetry-breaking
- extended EDFs

Electroweak strength functions

- photon capture/dissociation rates
- radiative neutron capture rates
- β -decay rates
- ! feedback into model adjustment



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N2LO EDF

- **systematic** expansion in gradients
- next-to-next-to-leading order
- original motivation: spectroscopy
- massively complicates things

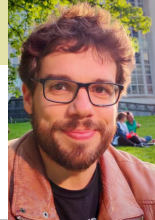


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BSkG5

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 \end{aligned}$$

Rms σ	BSkG4	BSkG5
Masses [MeV]	0.633	0.637
S_n [MeV]	0.402	0.407
Radii [fm]	0.025	0.028
Prim. barriers [MeV]	0.36	0.36
Sec. barriers [MeV]	0.53	0.53
Fission isomers [MeV]	0.33	0.42

N2LO EDF

- **systematic** expansion in gradients
- next-to-next-to-leading order
- original motivation: spectroscopy
- massively complicates things

... what if we improve INM first?

- same global quality as BSkG4
 - density dependence as standard Skyrme
 - k-dependent effective mass, cf. **Gogny**
- ... all with **LESS** parameters!

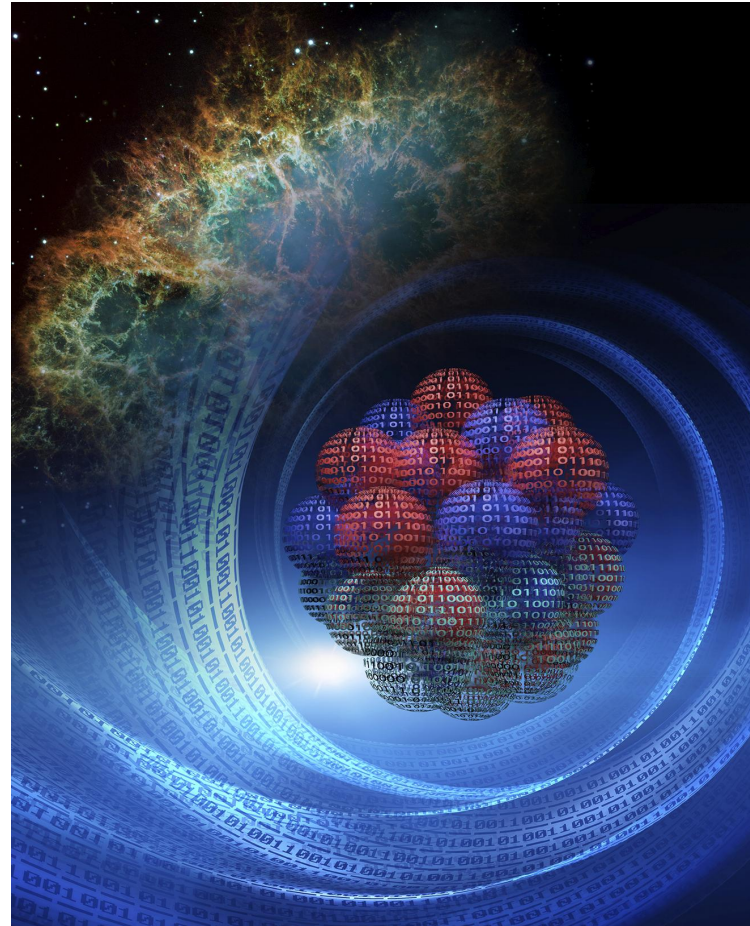
Conclusion

We build large-scale, microscopic models for (astro) applications.

Large-scale = thousands of nuclei and many observables.

Microscopic = simple wave functions yet complex **symmetry breaking**.

-



Conclusion

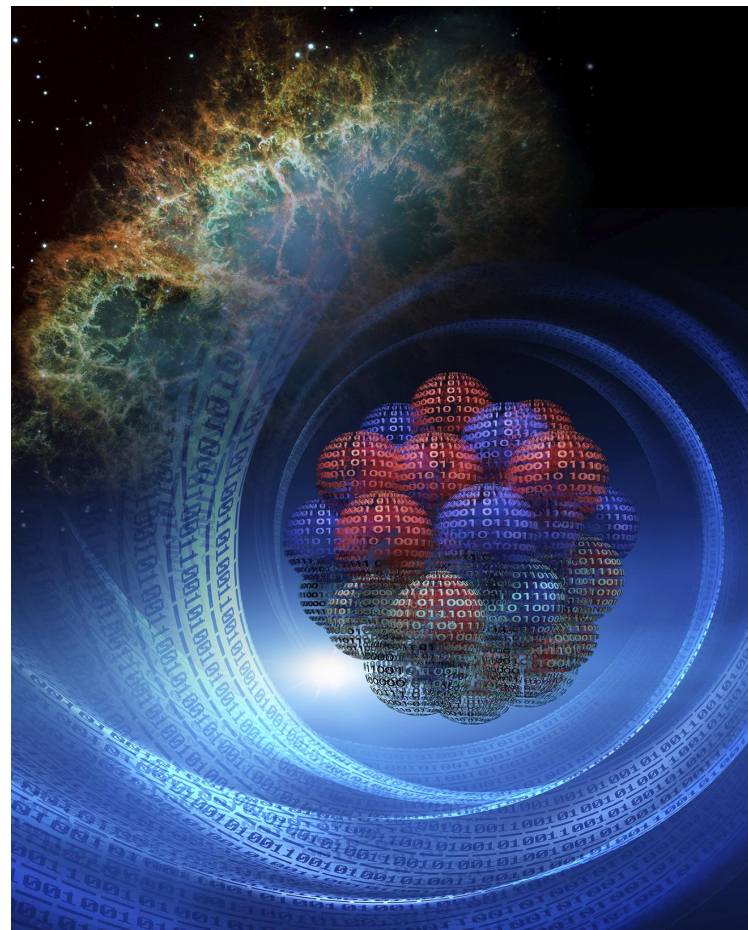
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The BSkG models

- triaxial, octupole and time-reversal deformation
- competitive for masses and charge radii
- unmatched for fission properties
- consistent with NS constraints
- constantly benchmarked on experiment



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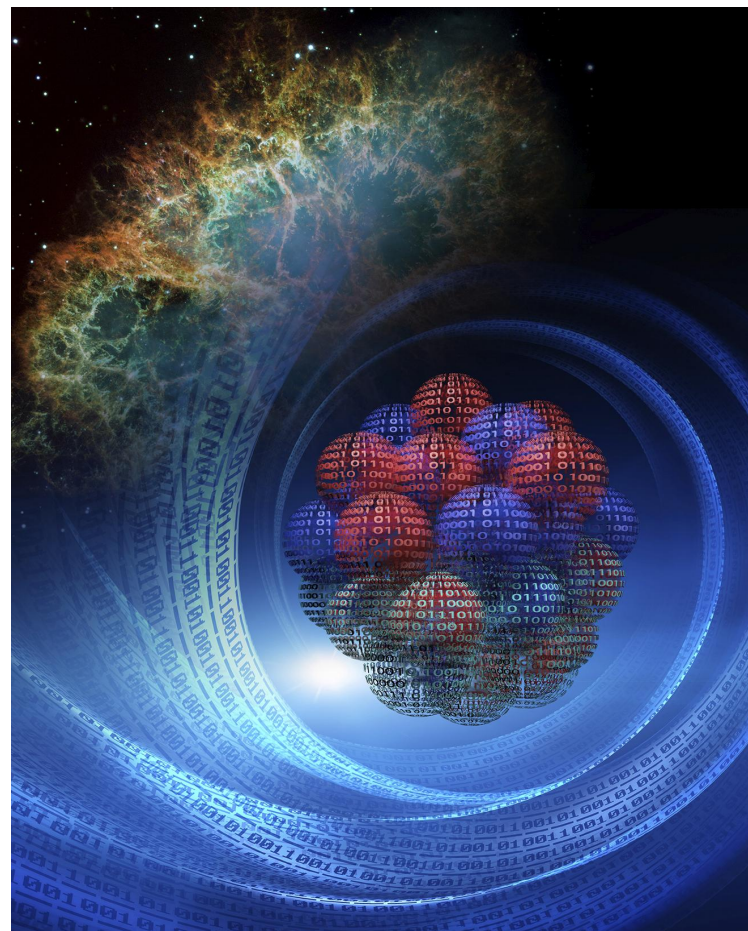
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Quite soon:

1. fission rates and yields of ~3000 nuclei
2. global calculation of electromagnetic transitions and β -decay rates
3. more with less: BSkG5



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The BSkG models

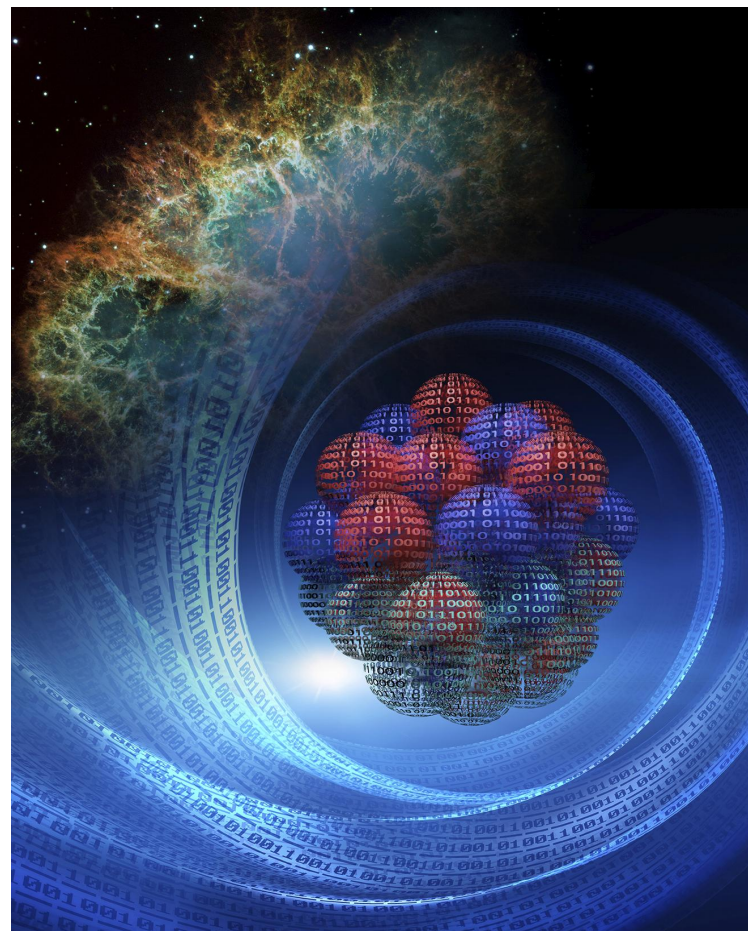
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3. more with less: BSkG5

Soon-ish:

1. We will deliver the **first complete set of nuclear structure data** for r-process simulations based on a single model.
2. and we will be able to repeat that feat!



Thank you for...

..... all the wonderful work!



N. Chamel
S. Goriely
N. Shchechilin

P. Demol
L. Gonzalez-Mirét
A. Sánchez-Fernández



S. Hilaire



G. Grams



M. Bender



G. Scamps



S. Bara

+ several experimental teams!

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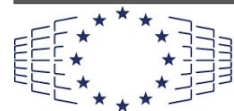
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..... the computing time!



EuroHPC
Joint Undertaking



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VLAAMS
SUPERCOMPUTER
CENTRUM



Vlaanderen
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..... your attention!