

F. Cappuzzello  
Università di Catania and INFN LNS

## The nuclear matrix elements of $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay and the NUMEN project at INFN-LNS



**4<sup>th</sup> Workshop on New Aspects and Perspectives in Nuclear Physics  
(HINPW4) 5-6 May 2017**

"Karolos Papoulias" Conference Center, University of Ioannina

# A successful collaboration between INFN-LNS and University of Ioannina

- ✓ Starting in 2013
- ✓ Several experiments performed
- ✓ Impacting low energy nuclear physics

## A new MoU for the future activity

### 3 research lines

1. Double Charge Exchange within the NUMEN project
2. Elastic and inelastic scattering in inverse kinematics
3. Multinucleon transfer

#### Memorandum of Understanding

between

**Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare (INFN)**  
Via Enrico Fermi, 40 – 00044 Frascati (Rome), Italy

and

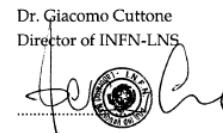
**University of Ioannina**  
Panepistimiou Avenue, GR-45110 Ioannina, Greece

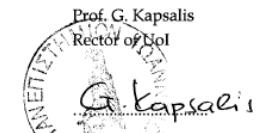
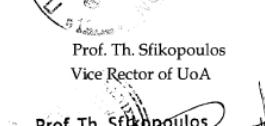
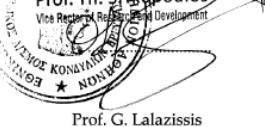
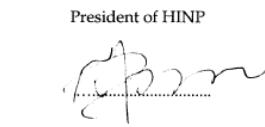
and

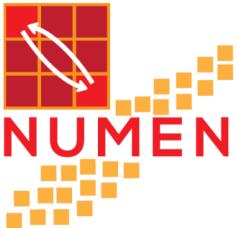
**University of Athens**  
Panepistimiou Avenue 30, GR10679 Athens, Greece

and

**Hellenic Institute of Nuclear Physics**  
Panepistimiou Avenue, GR-45110 Ioannina, Greece

Dr. Giacomo Cuttone  
Director of INFN-LNS  
  
26 APR. 2017

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Rector of UoI  
  
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Vice Rector of UoA  
  
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# The NUMEN project



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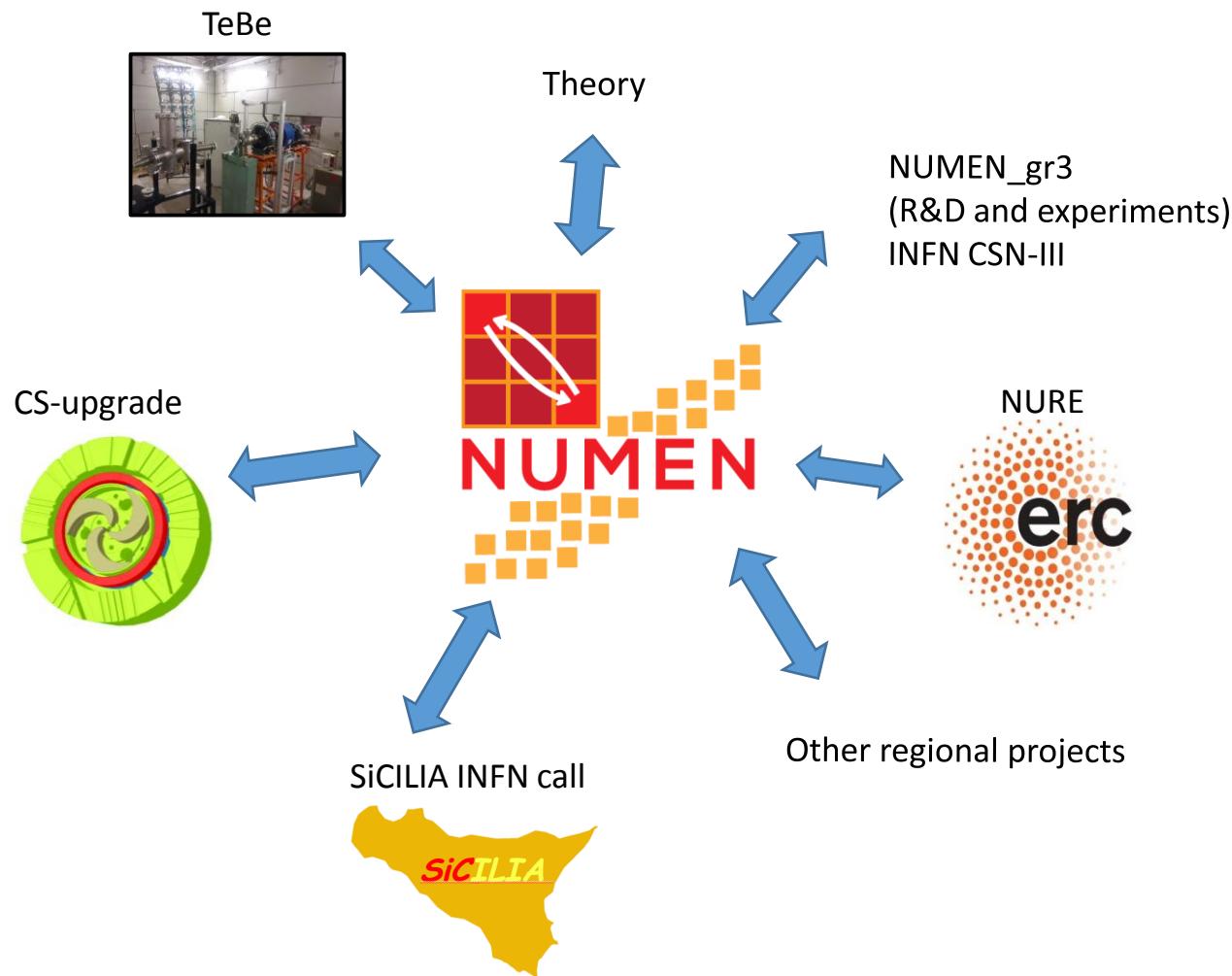
H. Petrascu,

*IFIN-HH, Bucharest, Romania*

$$1/T_{1/2}^{0\nu} (0^+ \rightarrow 0^+) = G_0 |M^{\beta\beta 0\nu}|^2 \left| \frac{\langle m_\nu \rangle}{m_e} \right|^2$$



# A broad view

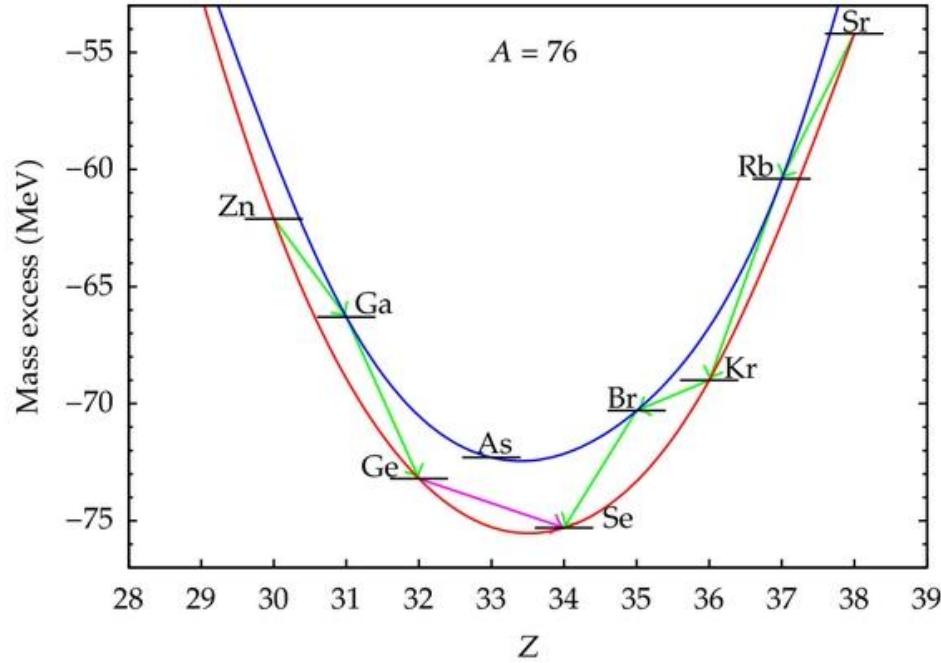


# Physics case tutorial

# Double β-decay

$${}_{Z}^{A}X_N \rightarrow {}_{Z-2}^{A}Y_{N+2} + 2e^- + (2\bar{\nu})$$

${}^{76}\text{Br}$	${}^{77}\text{Br}$	${}^{78}\text{Br}$	${}^{79}\text{Br}$	${}^{80}\text{Br}$
${}^{75}\text{Se}$	${}^{76}\text{Se}$	${}^{77}\text{Se}$	${}^{78}\text{Se}$	${}^{79}\text{Se}$
${}^{74}\text{As}$	${}^{75}\text{As}$	${}^{76}\text{As}$	${}^{77}\text{As}$	${}^{78}\text{As}$
${}^{73}\text{Ge}$	${}^{74}\text{Ge}$	${}^{75}\text{Ge}$	${}^{76}\text{Ge}$	${}^{77}\text{Ge}$
${}^{72}\text{Ga}$	${}^{73}\text{Ga}$	${}^{74}\text{Ga}$	${}^{75}\text{Ga}$	${}^{76}\text{Ga}$

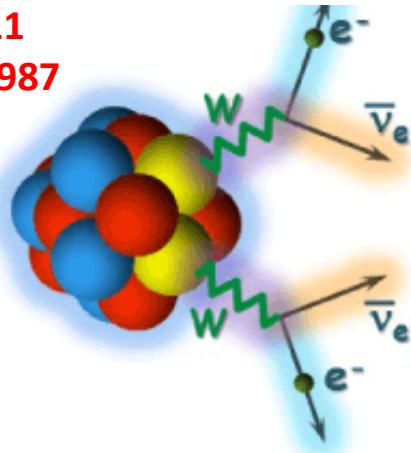


- ✓ Process mediated by the **weak interaction** observable in even-even nuclei where the **single β-decay is energetically forbidden**
- ✓ The role of the **pairing force**

# Double β-decay

## Two-neutrino double beta decay

Observed in 11  
nuclei since 1987



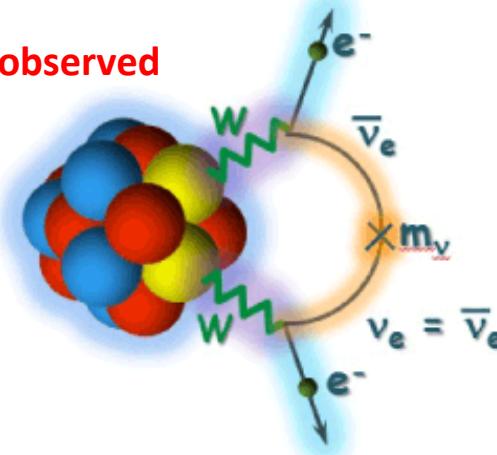
M. Goeppert-Mayer, Phys Rev. 48 (1935) 512

1. Within standard model
2.  $T_{1/2} \approx 10^{19}$  to  $2 \times 10^{21}$  yr

$$1/T_{1/2}^{2\nu} (0^+ \rightarrow 0^+) = G_{2\nu} |M^{\beta\beta 2\nu}|^2$$

## Neutrinoless double beta decay

Still not observed



E. Majorana, Il Nuovo Cimento 14 (1937) 171  
W. H. Furry, Phys Rev. 56 (1939) 1184



1. Beyond standard model
2. Access to effective neutrino mass
3. Violation of lepton number conservation
4. CP violation in lepton sector
5. A way to leptogenesis and GUT

$$1/T_{1/2}^{0\nu} (0^+ \rightarrow 0^+) = G_{0\nu} \left| M^{\beta\beta 0\nu} \right|^2 \frac{\langle m_\nu \rangle}{m_e^7}$$



# Search for $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay. A worldwide race

List not complete...

Experiment	Isotope	Lab
GERDA	$^{76}\text{Ge}$	LNGS [Italy]
CUORE	$^{130}\text{Te}$	LNGS [Italy]
Majorana	$^{76}\text{Ge}$	SURF [USA]
KamLAND-Zen	$^{136}\text{Xe}$	Kamioka [Japan]
EXO/nEXO	$^{136}\text{Xe}$	WIPP [USA]
CUPID - Lucifer	$^{82}\text{Se}$ , $^{100}\text{Mo}$	LNGS [Italy]
SNO+	$^{130}\text{Te}$	Sudbury [Canada]
SuperNEMO	$^{82}\text{Se}$ (or others)	LSM [France]
CANDLES	$^{48}\text{Ca}$	Kamioka [Japan]
COBRA	$^{116}\text{Cd}$	LNGS [Italy]
DCBA	many	[Japan]
AMoRe	$^{100}\text{Mo}$	[Korea]
MOON	$^{100}\text{Mo}$	[Japan]

# New physics for the next decades

but  
requires

## Nuclear Matrix Element (NME)!

$$|M_{\varepsilon}^{\beta\beta 0\nu}|^2 = \left| \langle \Psi_f | \hat{O}_{\varepsilon}^{\beta\beta 0\nu} | \Psi_i \rangle \right|^2$$

- ✓ Calculations (still sizeable uncertainties): QRPA, Large scale shell model, IBM, EDF .....

E. Caurier, et al., PRL 100 (2008) 052503

N. L. Vaquero, et al., PRL 111 (2013) 142501

J. Barea, PRC 87 (2013) 014315

T. R. Rodriguez, PLB 719 (2013) 174

F. Simkovic, PRC 77 (2008) 045503.

- ✓ Measurements (still not conclusive for  $0\nu\beta\beta$ ):

$(\pi^+, \pi^-)$

single charge exchange ( ${}^3\text{He}, t$ ), ( $d, {}^2\text{He}$ )

electron capture

transfer reactions

muon nucleus scattering ...

N. Auerbach, Ann. Of Phys. 192 (1989) 77

S.J. Freeman and J.P. Schiffer JPG 39 (2012) 124004

D. Frekers, Prog. Part. Nucl. Phys. 64 (2010) 281

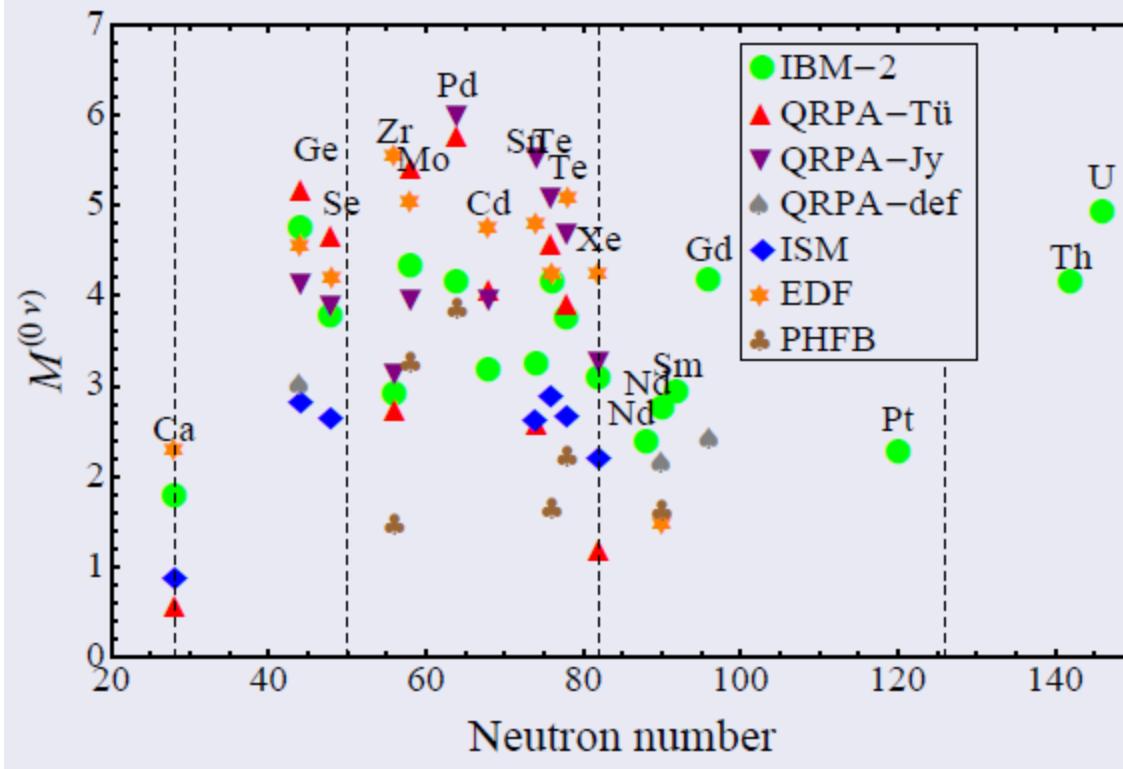
J.P. Schiffer, et al., PRL 100 (2008) 112501

- ✓ A new experimental tool: heavy-ion Double Charge-Exchange (DCE)

# State of the art NME calculations

Courtesy of Prof. F.lachello

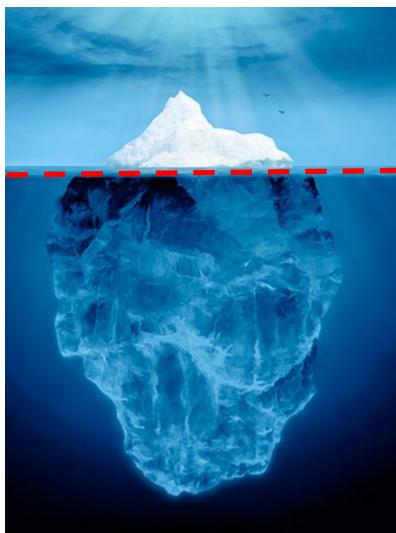
$$M^{(0\nu)} = M_{GT}^{(0\nu)} - \left( \frac{g_V}{g_A} \right)^2 M_F^{(0\nu)} + M_T^{(0\nu)}$$



Far from satisfactory!

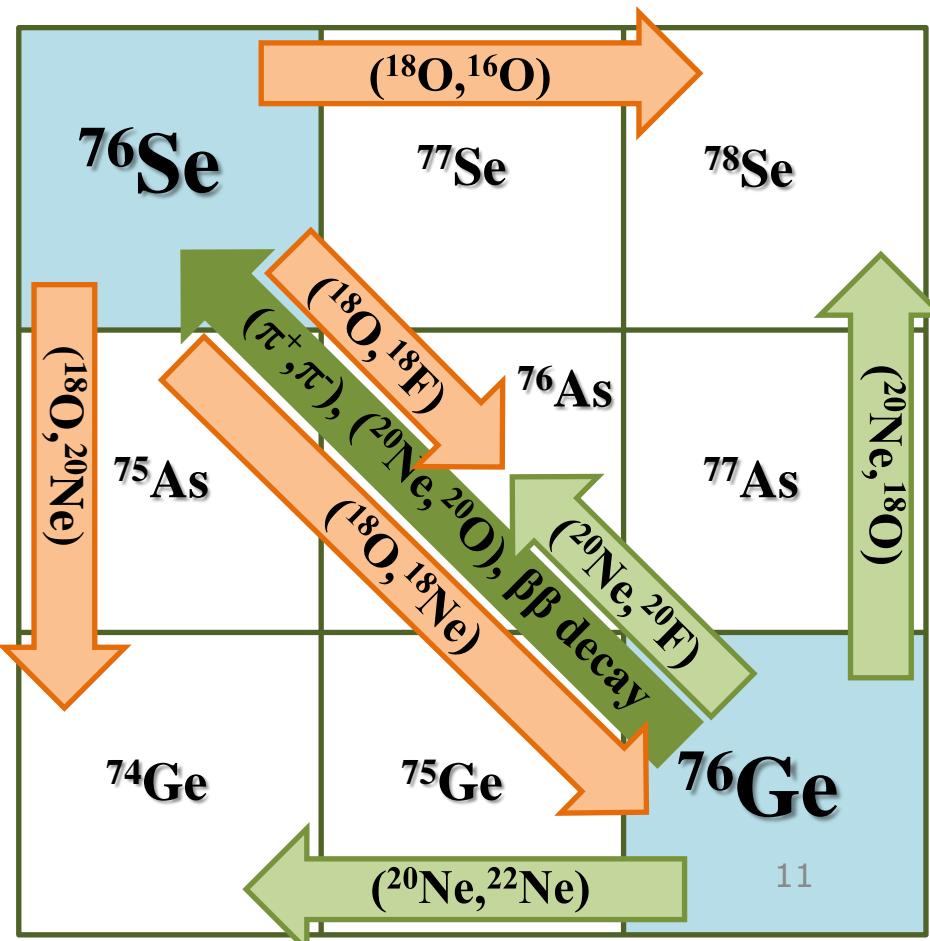
# Heavy-ion DCE

- ✓ Induced by strong interaction
- ✓ Sequential nucleon transfer mechanism 4<sup>th</sup> order:  
Brink's Kinematical matching conditions *D.M.Brink, et al., Phys. Lett. B 40 (1972) 37*
- ✓ Meson exchange mechanism 2<sup>nd</sup> order
- ✓ Possibility to go in both directions



Tiny amount of  
DGT strength in  
low lying states

Sum rule almost  
exhausted by  
DGT Giant Mode



# $0\nu\beta\beta$ vs HI-DCE



## Differences

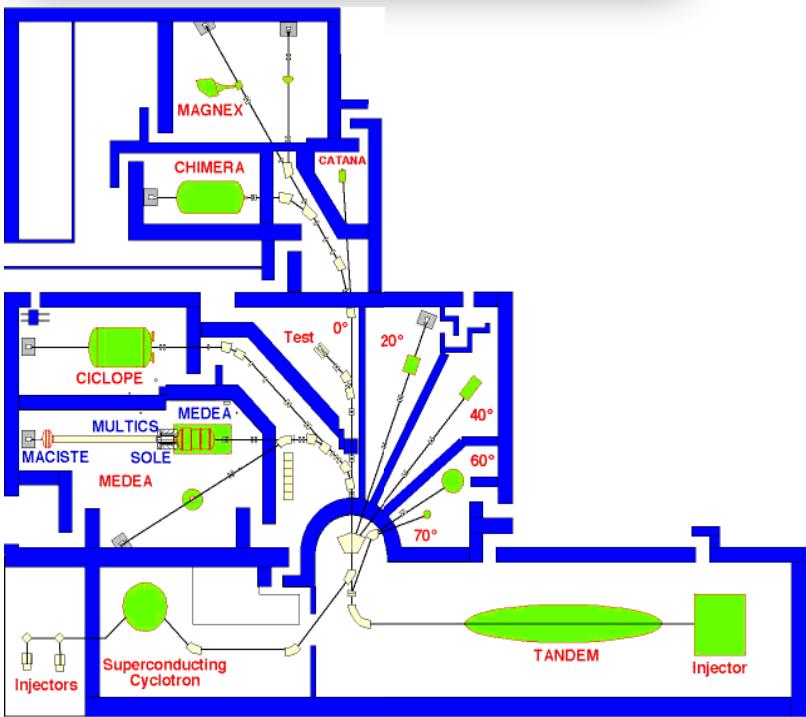
- DCE mediated by **strong interaction**,  $0\nu\beta\beta$  by **weak interaction**
- DCE includes **sequential transfer mechanism**

## Similarities

- **Same initial and final states:** Parent/daughter states of the  $0\nu\beta\beta$  decay are the same as those of the target/residual nuclei in the DCE
- **Similar operator:** Short-range Fermi, Gamow-Teller and rank-2 tensor components are present in both the transition operators, with tunable weight in DCE
- **Large linear momentum** ( $\sim 100$  MeV/c) available in the virtual intermediate channel
- **Non-local** processes: characterized by two vertices localized in a pair of valence nucleons
- **Same nuclear medium:** Constraint on the theoretical determination of quenching phenomena on  $0\nu\beta\beta$
- **Off-shell propagation** through virtual intermediate channels

DCE @ INFN-LNS

# The LNS laboratory in Catania



# Superconducting Cyclotron and MAGNEX spectrometer @ LNS

*crucial for the experimental challenges*

## K800 Superconducting Cyclotron

- In operation since 1996.
- Accelerates from H to U ions
- Maximum energy 80 MeV/u.



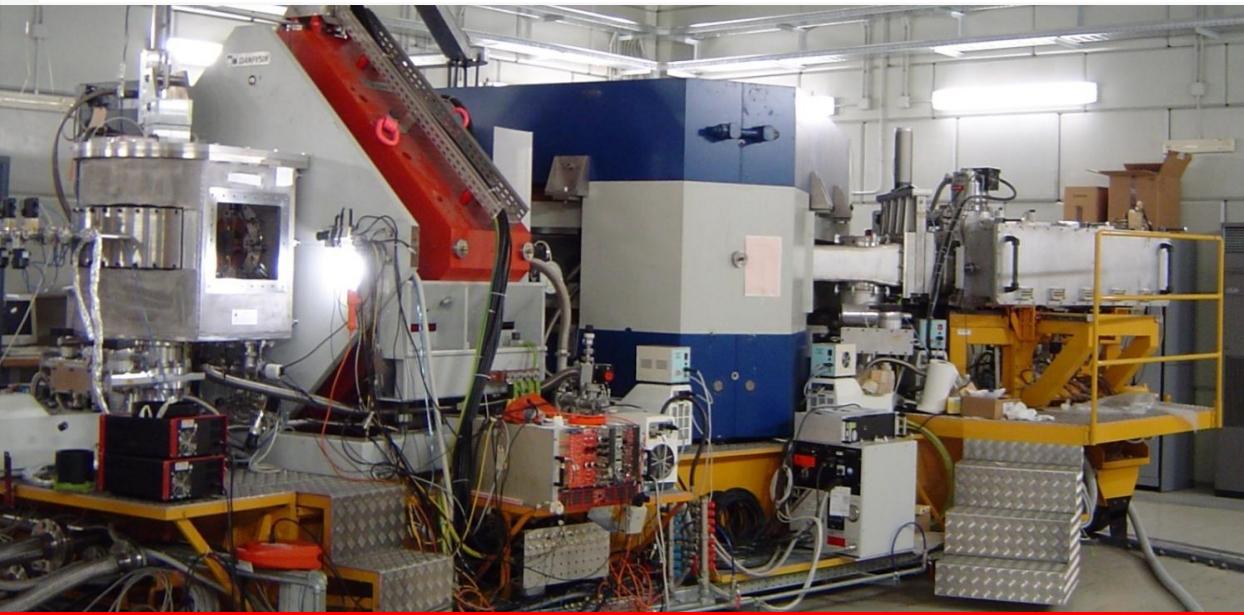
## MAGNEX spectrometer

F. Cappuzzello et al., Eur. Phys. J. A (2016) 52: 167

### Achieved resolution

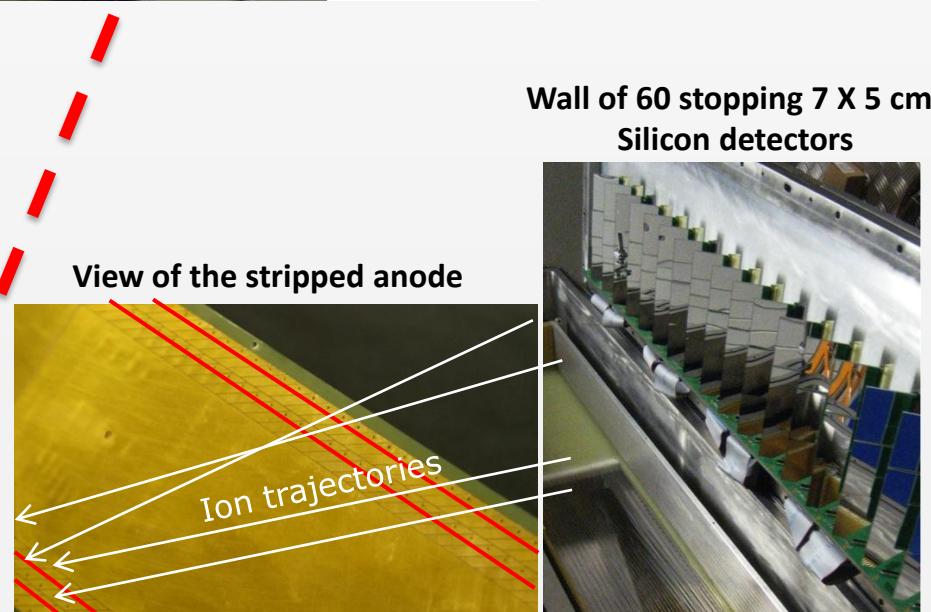
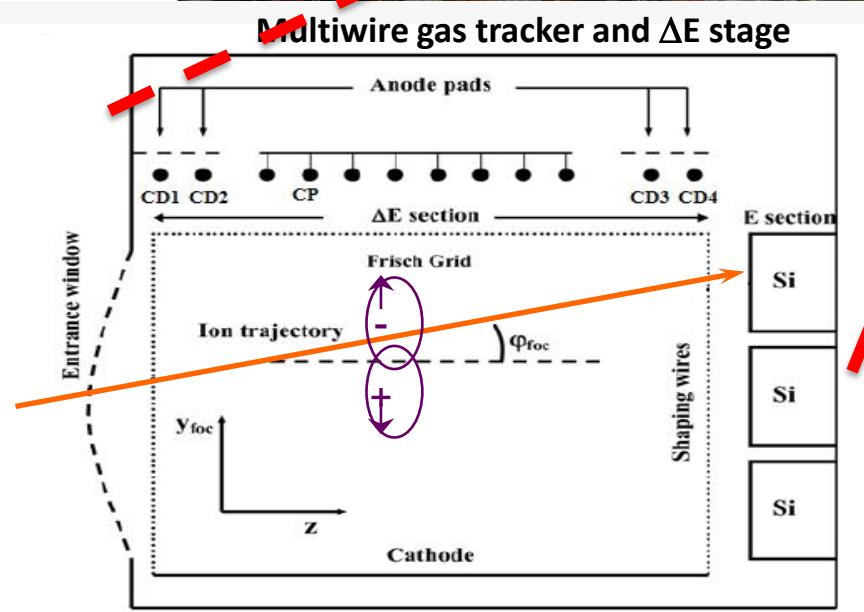
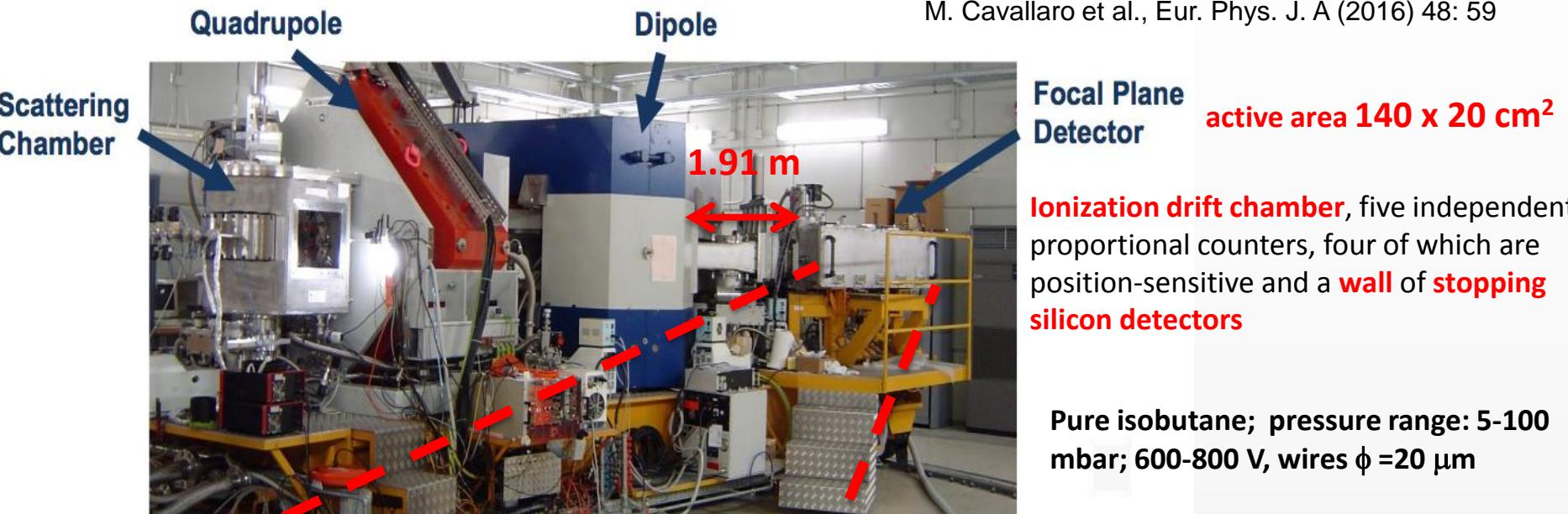
Energy  $\Delta E/E \sim 1/1000$   
Angle  $\Delta\theta \sim 0.2^\circ$   
Mass  $\Delta m/m \sim 1/160$

Optical characteristics	Measured values
Maximum magnetic rigidity	1.8 T m
<b>Solid angle</b>	<b>50 msr</b>
<b>Momentum acceptance</b>	<b>-14.3%, +10.3%</b>
Momentum dispersion for $k = -0.104$ (cm/%)	3.68



# The MAGNEX FPD

M. Cavallaro et al., Eur. Phys. J. A (2016) 48: 59

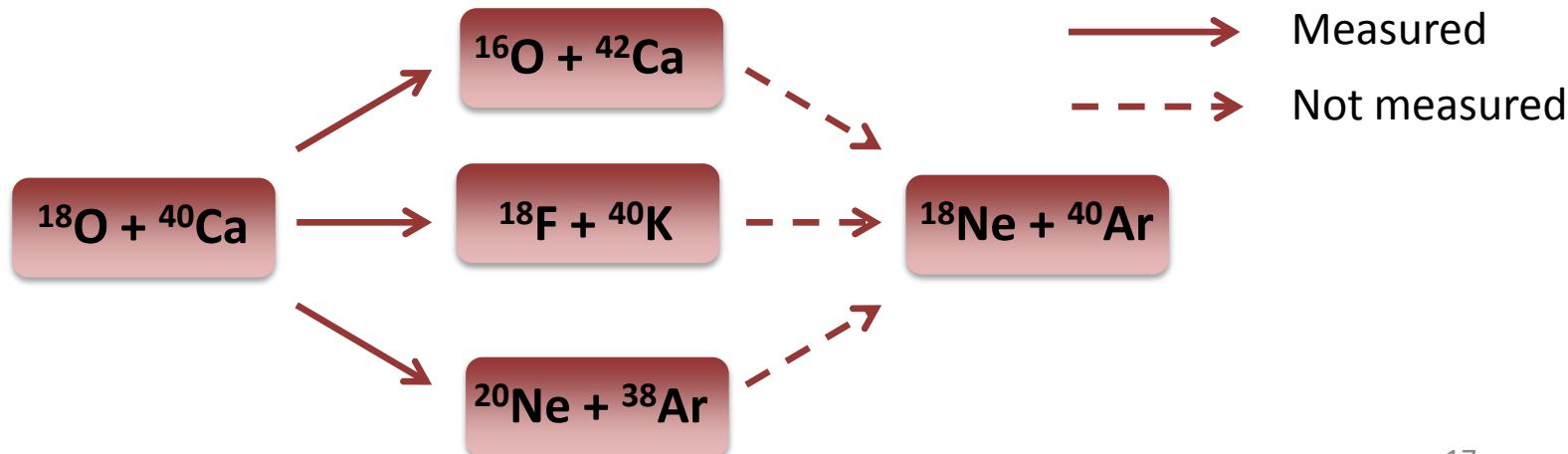


# **( $^{18}\text{O}$ , $^{18}\text{Ne}$ ) DCE reactions at LNS**

## $^{40}\text{Ca}(\text{O}, \text{Ne})^{40}\text{Ar}$ @ 270 MeV

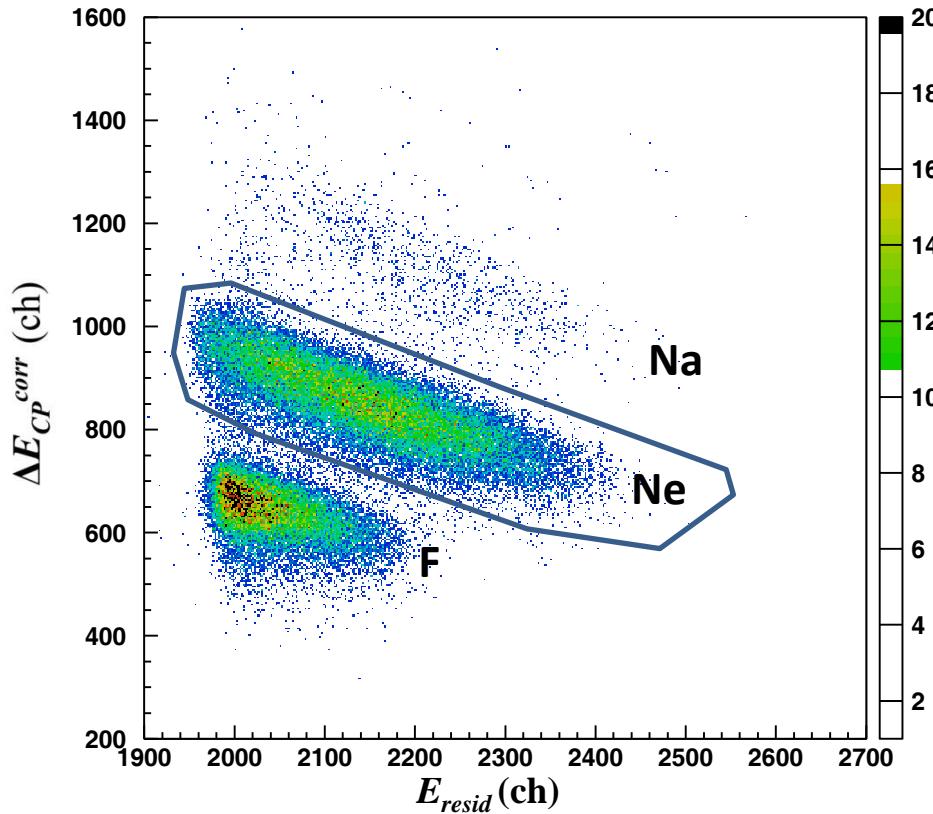
## First pilot experiment

- **$^{18}\text{O}^{7+}$  beam from Cyclotron at 270 MeV (10 pnA, 3300  $\mu\text{C}$  in 10 days)**
  - **$^{40}\text{Ca}$  solid target 300  $\mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$**
  - Ejectiles detected by the MAGNEX spectrometer ( $0^\circ < \vartheta_{lab} < 10^\circ$ )
  - Unique angular setting:  $-2^\circ < \theta_{lab} < 10^\circ$  corresponding to a momentum transfer range **from 0.17 fm $^{-1}$  to about 2.2 fm $^{-1}$**



# Particle Identification

## Z identification



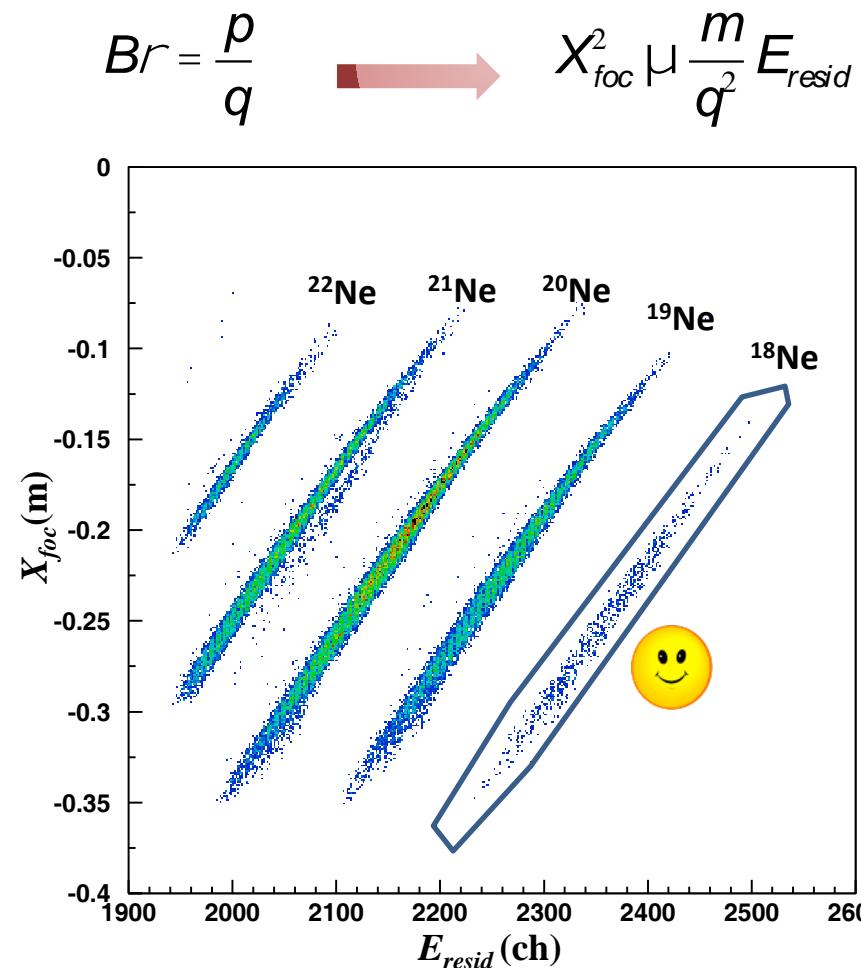
F. Cappuzzello et al., NIMA621 (2010) 419

F. Cappuzzello, et al. NIMA638 (2011) 74

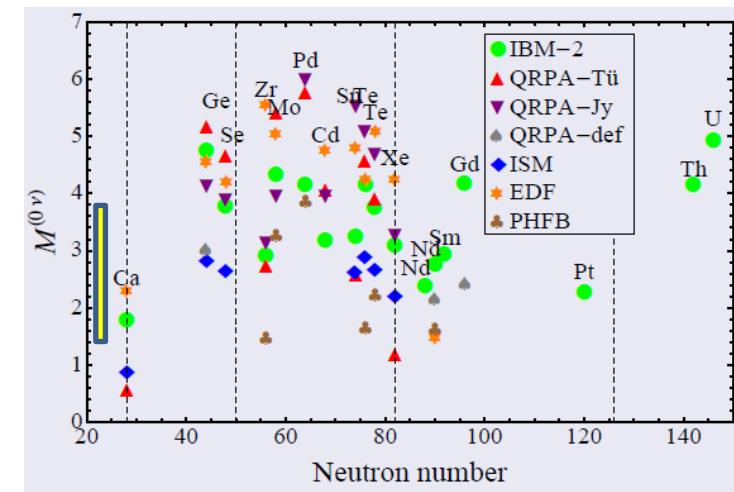
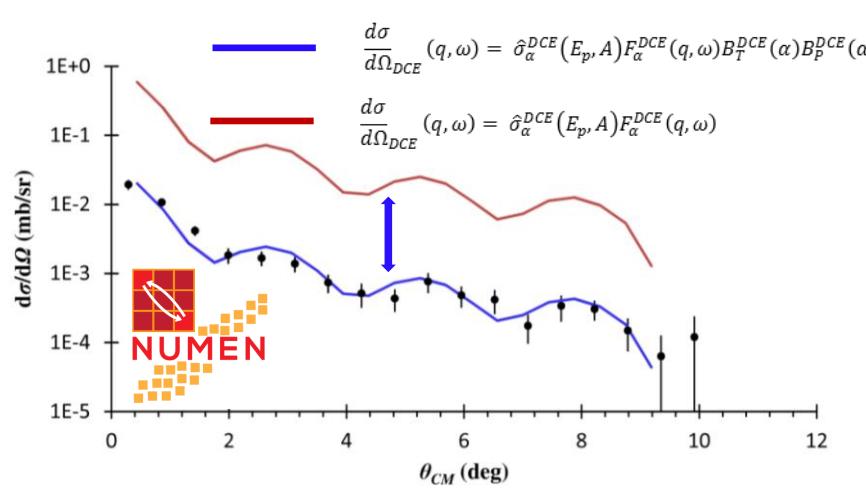
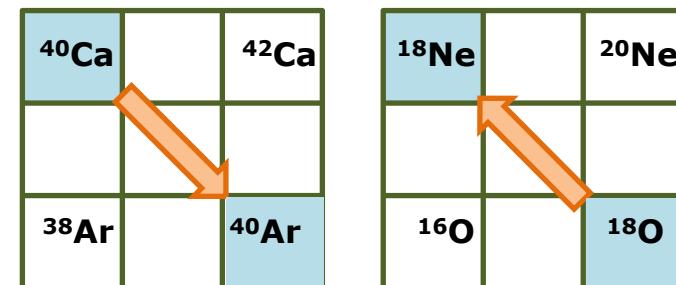
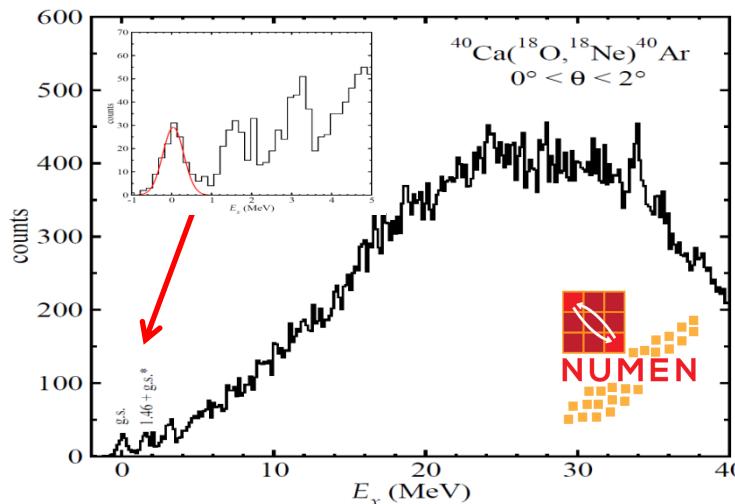
M.Cavallaro et al. EPJ A (2012) 48: 59

D.Carbone et al. EPJ A (2012) 48: 60

## A identification



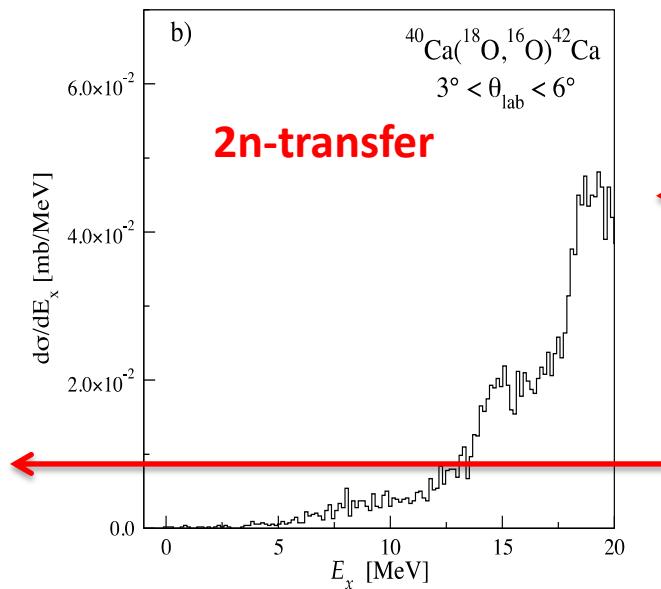
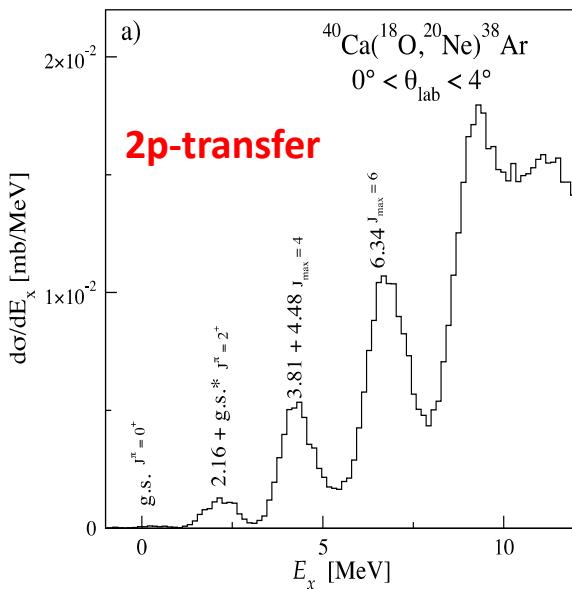
# $^{40}\text{Ca}(^{18}\text{O},^{18}\text{Ne})^{40}\text{Ar}$ @ 270 MeV



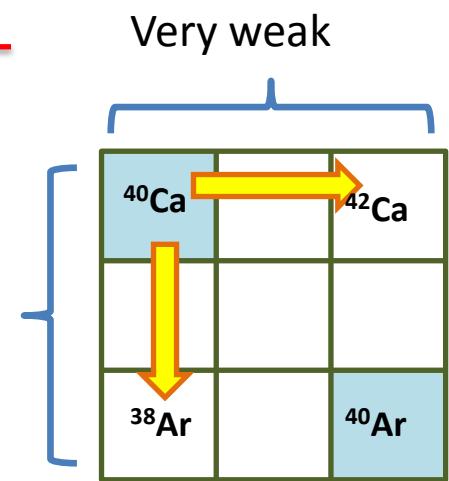
$$|M^{0\nu\beta\beta}(^{40}\text{Ca})|^2 = 0.37 \pm 0.18$$

Pauli blocking about 0.14 for F  
and GT

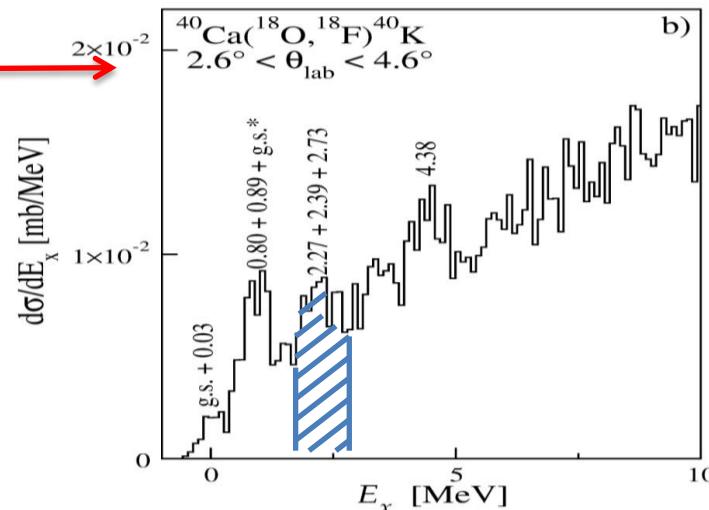
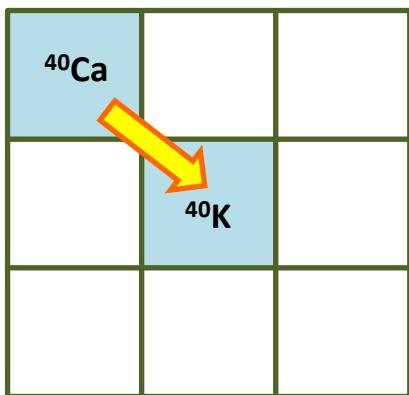
# The role of the transfer reaction and the competing processes



Less than 1% effect in the DCE cross section



single charge exchange



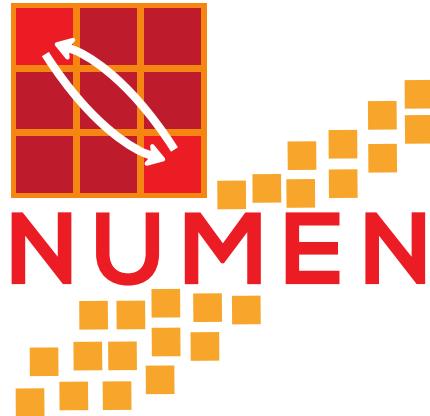
# Moving towards hot-cases:



## Caveat

- The  $(^{18}\text{O}, ^{18}\text{Ne})$  reaction is particularly **advantageous**, but it is of  $\beta^+\beta^+$  kind;
- None of the reactions of  $\beta^-\beta^-$  kind looks like as favourable as the  $(^{18}\text{O}, ^{18}\text{Ne})$ .  
 $(^{18}\text{Ne}, ^{18}\text{O})$  requires a radioactive beam  
 $(^{20}\text{Ne}, ^{20}\text{O})$  or  $(^{12}\text{C}, ^{12}\text{Be})$  have smaller  $B(\text{GT})$
- The reaction **Q-values** are normally **more negative** than in the  $^{40}\text{Ca}$  case
- In some cases **gas or implanted target** will be necessary, e.g.  $^{136}\text{Xe}$  or  $^{130}\text{Xe}$
- In some cases the **energy resolution** is not enough to separate the g.s. from the excited states in the final nucleus → Coincident **detection of  $\gamma$ -rays**

**Much higher beam current  
is needed**



**Present technology is not enough...**

**The challenge: to detect with **good** energy, mass and angular **resolutions** rare events at very high rates of heavy ions!**

- **Upgraded set-up** to match about 100 times more beam current than the present
- **Substantial change in the technologies** used in **CS** and in the **MAGNEX** detector



## Main goal (Holy Grail):

Extraction from measured cross-sections of “*data-driven*” information on NME for all the systems candidate for  $0\nu\beta\beta$

## Secondary goals:



- **Constraints** to the existing theories of NMEs
- Model-independent **comparative information** on the sensitivity of half-life experiments
- Complete study of the **reaction mechanism**

# Status and perspectives of NUMEN

# The Phases of NUMEN project

- **Phase1**: The experimental feasibility
  - **Phase2**: “hot” cases optimizing the experimental conditions and getting first results (approved)
  - **Phase3**: The facility Upgrade (Cyclotron, MAGNEX, beam lines, .....)
  - **Phase4** : The systematic experimental campaign

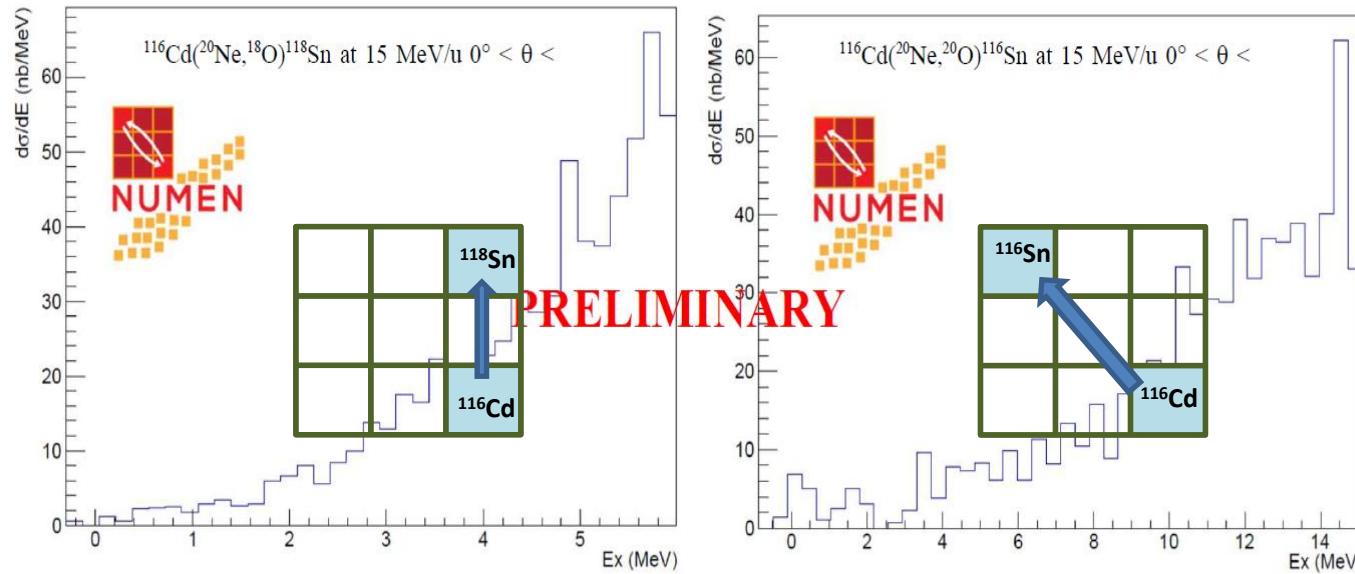
# Time table

# Recent NUMEN experiments

# Facing some hot cases in Phase 2

Reaction	Energy (MeV/u)	2016				2017				2018			
		I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
$^{116}\text{Sn} ({}^{18}\text{O}, {}^{18}\text{Ne}) {}^{116}\text{Cd}$	15-30	Exp											
$^{116}\text{Cd} ({}^{20}\text{Ne}, {}^{20}\text{O}) {}^{116}\text{Sn}$	15-25		Test		Exp		Exp						
$^{130}\text{Te} ({}^{20}\text{Ne}, {}^{20}\text{O}) {}^{130}\text{Xe}$	15-25								Exp				
$^{76}\text{Ge} ({}^{20}\text{Ne}, {}^{20}\text{O}) {}^{76}\text{Se}$	15-25									Exp			
$^{76}\text{Se} ({}^{18}\text{O}, {}^{18}\text{Ne}) {}^{76}\text{Ge}$	15-30									Exp			
$^{106}\text{Cd} ({}^{18}\text{O}, {}^{18}\text{Ne}) {}^{106}\text{Pd}$	15-30										Exp		

# Results from a test run on $^{116}\text{Cd}(^{20}\text{Ne}, ^{20}\text{O})^{116}\text{Sn}$

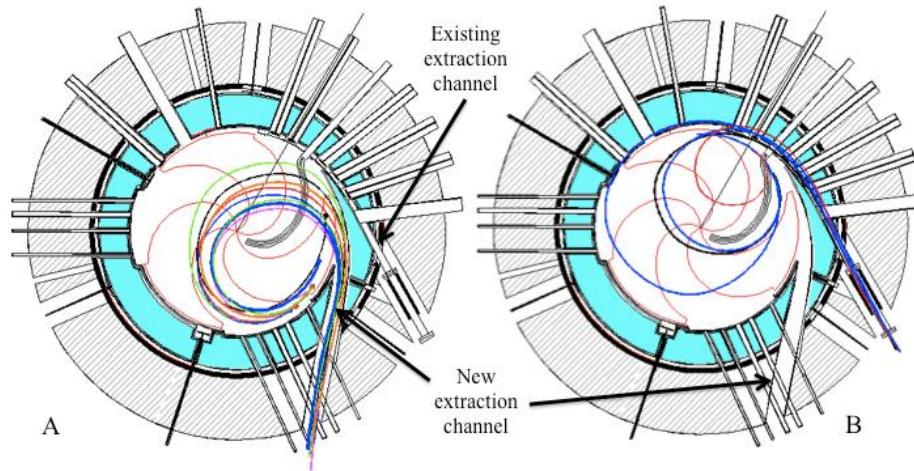
March 2016


$$\sigma(^{116}\text{Cd}_{gs} \rightarrow ^{118}\text{Sn}_{gs}) < 1/3 * \sigma(^{116}\text{Cd}_{gs} \rightarrow ^{116}\text{Sn}_{gs})$$

## Recent NUMEN R&D

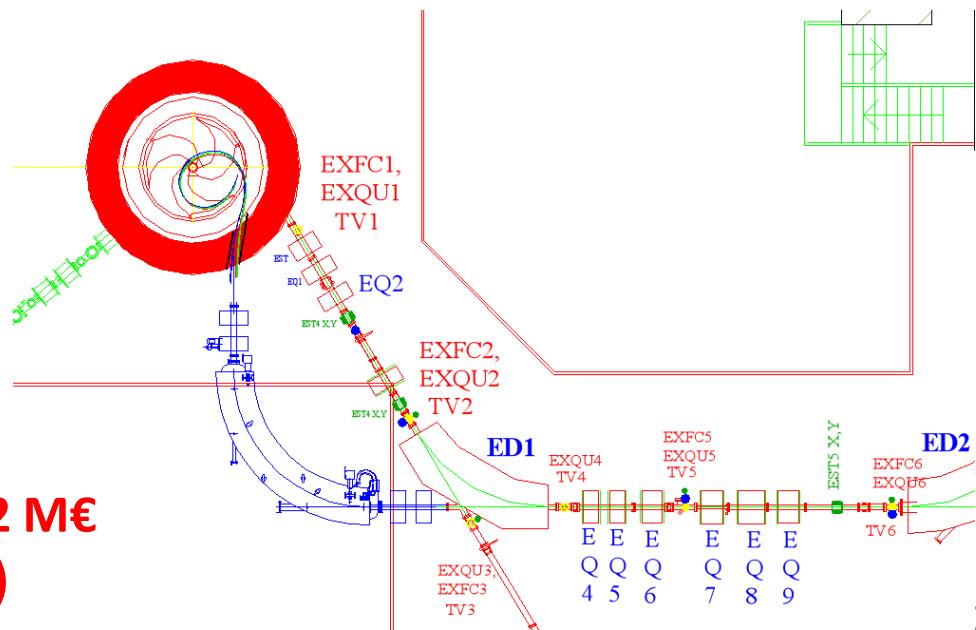
# Major upgrade of LNS facilities: The CS accelerator

- The **CS** accelerator current (from 100 W to 5-10 kW);



Extraction by stripping

- The **beam transport line** transmission efficiency to nearly 100%



TDR of the project approved 11.2 M€  
Cryostat tender started (~4.1M€)

# Studied cases – expected intensities

Ion	Energy	Isource	Iacc	Iextr	Iextr	Pextr
	MeV/u	eμA	eμA	eμA	pps	watt
<sup>12</sup> C q=5+	30	200	30 (4+)	45 (6+)	$4.7 \cdot 10^{13}$	2700
<sup>12</sup> C q=4+	45	400	60 (4+)	90 (6+)	$9.4 \cdot 10^{13}$	8100
<sup>12</sup> C q=4+	60	400	60 (4+)	90 (6+)	$9.4 \cdot 10^{13}$	10800
<sup>18</sup> O q=6+	20	400	60 (6+)	80 (8+)	$6.2 \cdot 10^{13}$	3600
<sup>18</sup> O q=6+	29	400	60 (6+)	80 (8+)	$6.2 \cdot 10^{13}$	5220
<sup>18</sup> O q=6+	45	400	60 (6+)	80 (8+)	$6.2 \cdot 10^{13}$	8100
<sup>18</sup> O q=6+	60	400	60 (6+)	80 (8+)	$6.2 \cdot 10^{13}$	10800
<sup>18</sup> O q=7+	70	200	30 (7+)	34.3 (8+)	$2.7 \cdot 10^{13}$	5400
<sup>20</sup> Ne q=7+	28	400	60 (7+)	85.7 (10+)	$5.3 \cdot 10^{13}$	4800
<sup>20</sup> Ne q=7+	70	400	60 (7+)	85.7 (10+)	$5.3 \cdot 10^{13}$	10280
<sup>40</sup> Ar q=14+	60	400	60 (14+)	77.1 (18+)	$2.7 \cdot 10^{13}$	10280

# Purchase of the SC Magnet

Cost and technical analysis

Dec. 2015 -> completed in Sett. 2016  
(RUP appointed in Sept. 2016)

Tender and contract:

Nov. 2016 -> Sept. 2017



Design and Construction:

Oct. 2017 -> June 2020

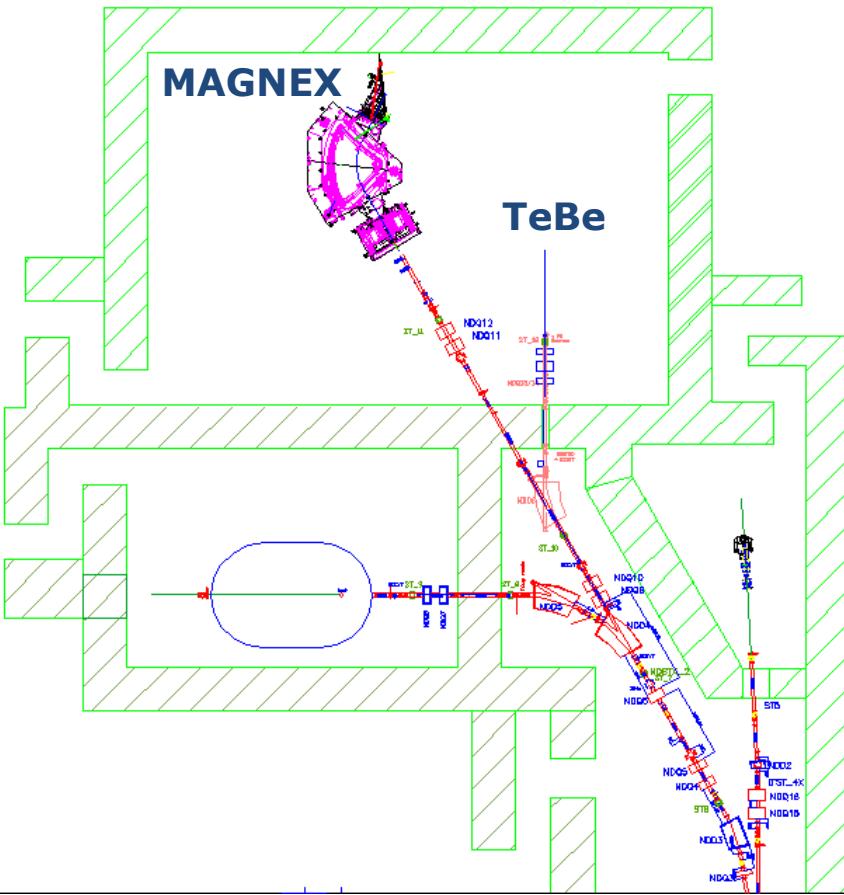


Installation - Test and Commissioning

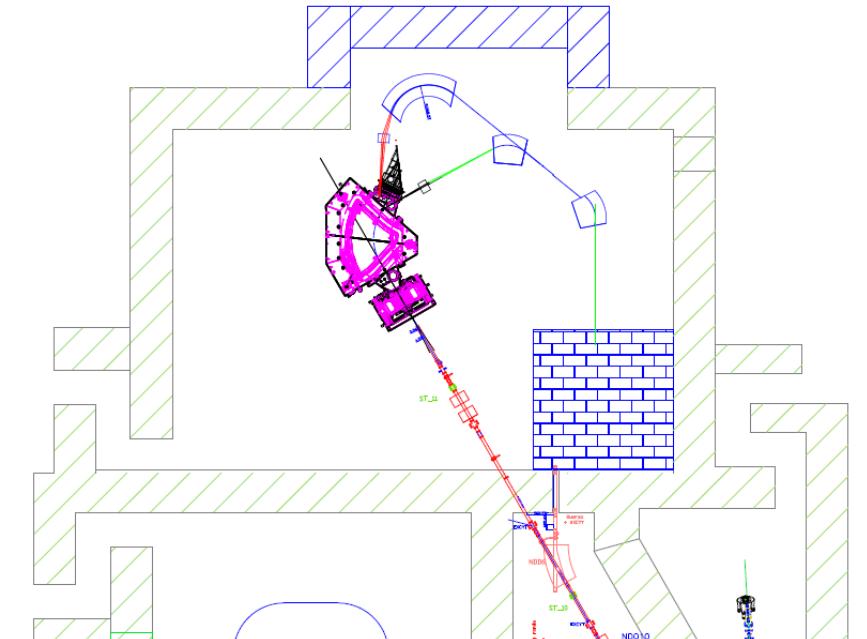
July 2020 -> Apr. 2021

# A challenging beam dump inside the MAGNEX hall

## Present MAGNEX hall

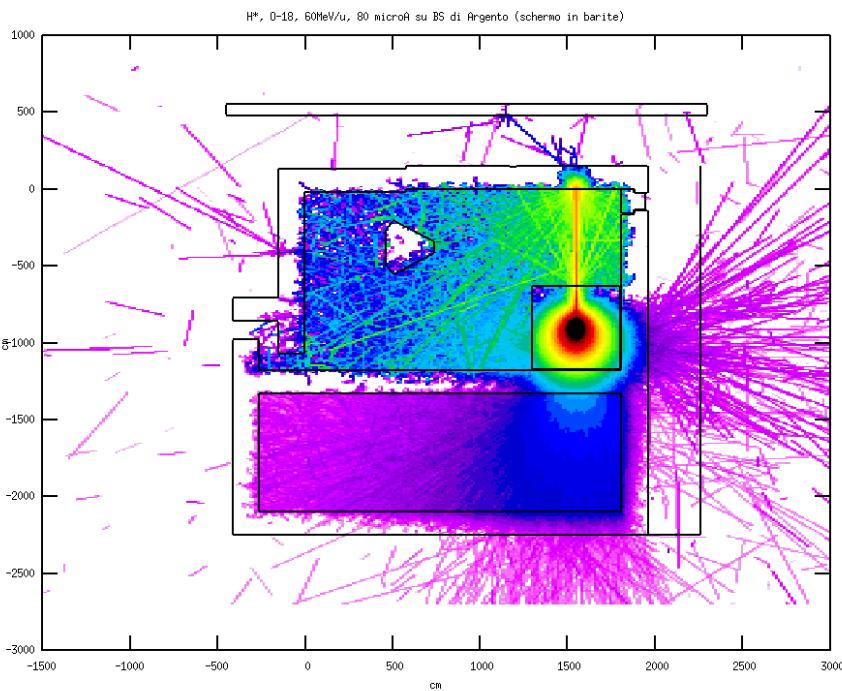


## Future MAGNEX hall

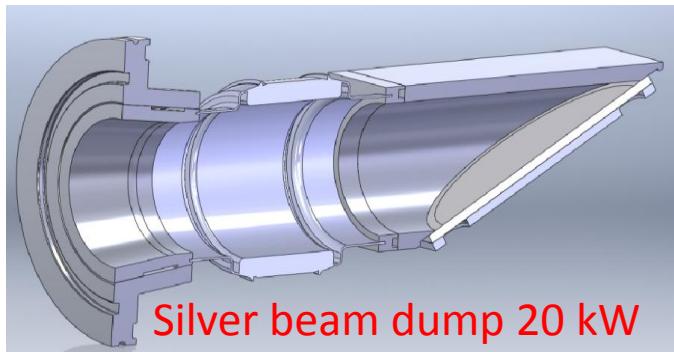
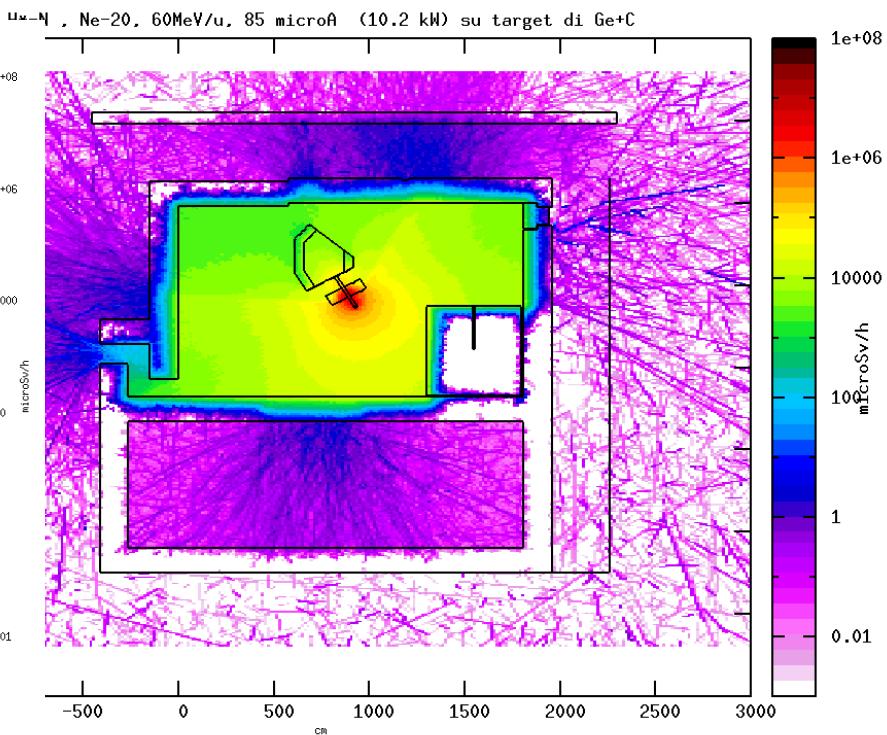


# A challenging beam dump inside the MAGNEX hall

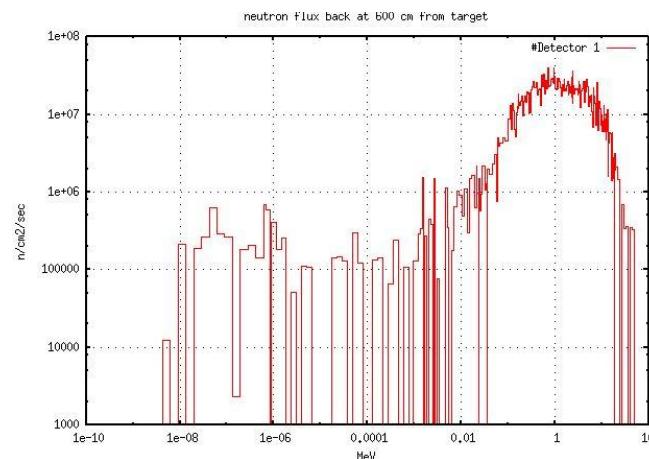
**85  $\mu\text{A}$  beam of  $^{18}\text{O}$  on Ag**



**85  $\mu\text{A}$  beam of  $^{20}\text{Ne}$  on  $^{76}\text{Ge+C}$**



From S.Russo (LNS radioprotection service)

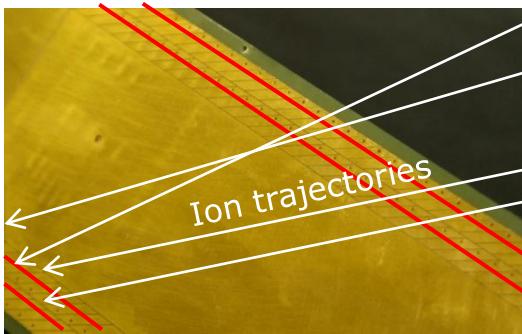


# The new focal plane detector

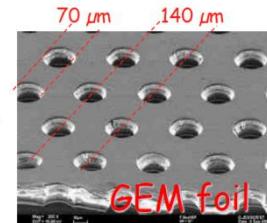
# Major upgrade of LNS facilities: MAGNEX

- The **MAGNEX focal plane** detector rate (from 2 kHz to several MHz)

From multi-wire tracker

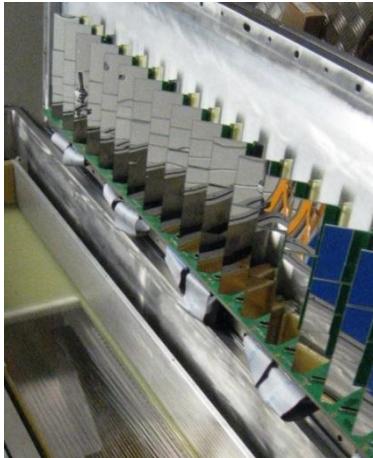


To micro-pattern tracker

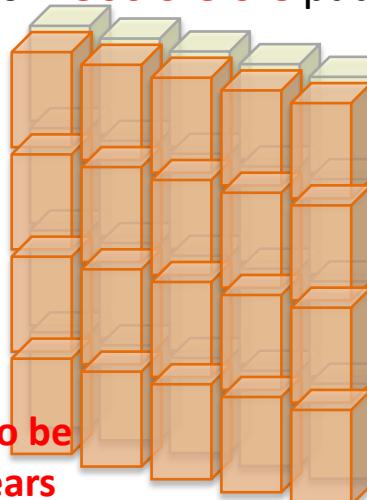


- R&D key issue : MPGD-based tracker at **low pressure and wide dynamic range**
- INFN-LNS, collaboration with INFN-CT, UNAM

From wall of **60 Si pad**



To wall of **2500 SiC-SiC pad telescopes**



**A big challenge!**

About  $10^{14}$  ions to be collected in 10 years

**0.9 M€ call approved by INFN CSN5 (SICILIA)**

**collaboration with CNR, STM, FBK**

# SiC detectors in INFN



**Silicon Carbide Detectors for Intense Luminosity Investigations  
and Applications**

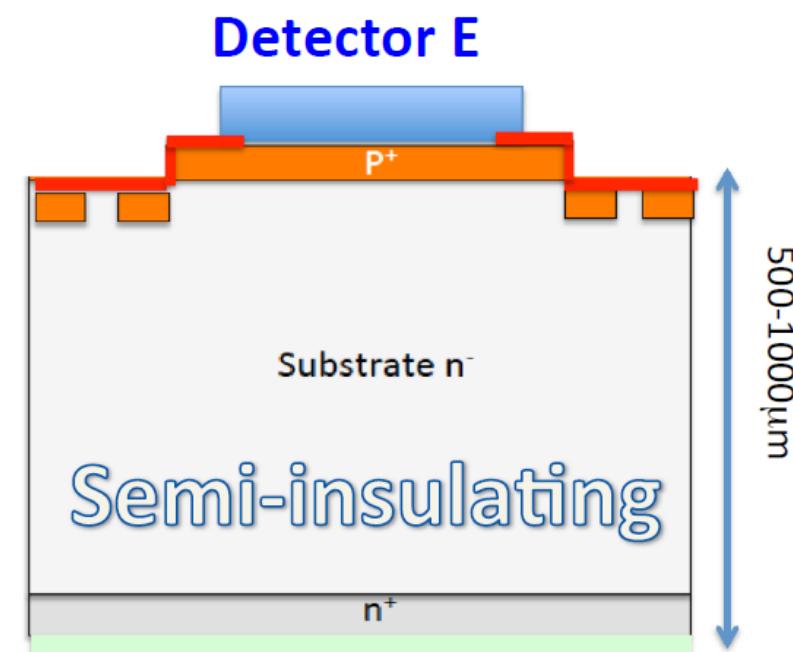
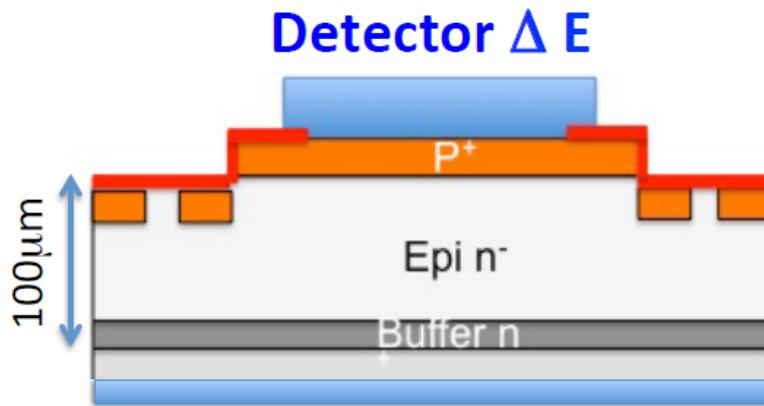
Call INFN 2016

# SiCilia strategy

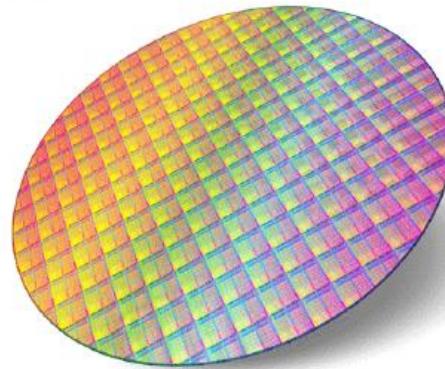
Schottky junctions =>



p-n junctions =>



# Silicon Carbide detectors

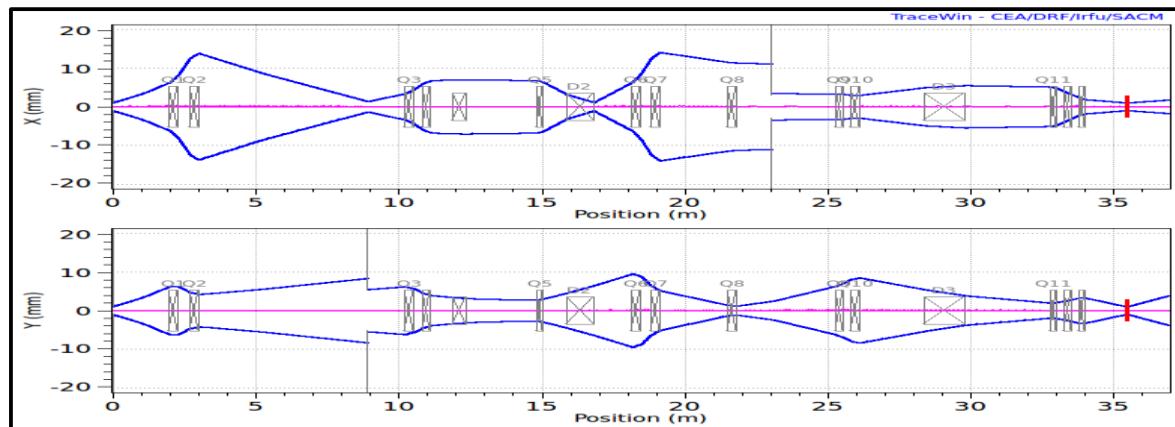
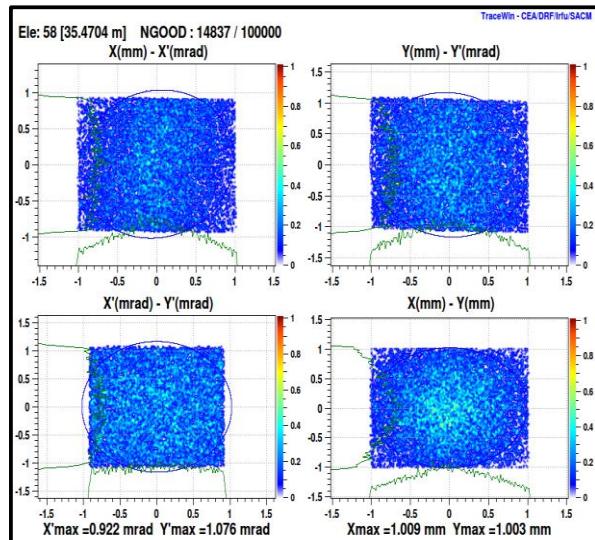


First new detector prototypes from STM already in house to be tested under beam

# The new Test Bench (TeBe)

# TeBe Experimental point in the MAGNEX H

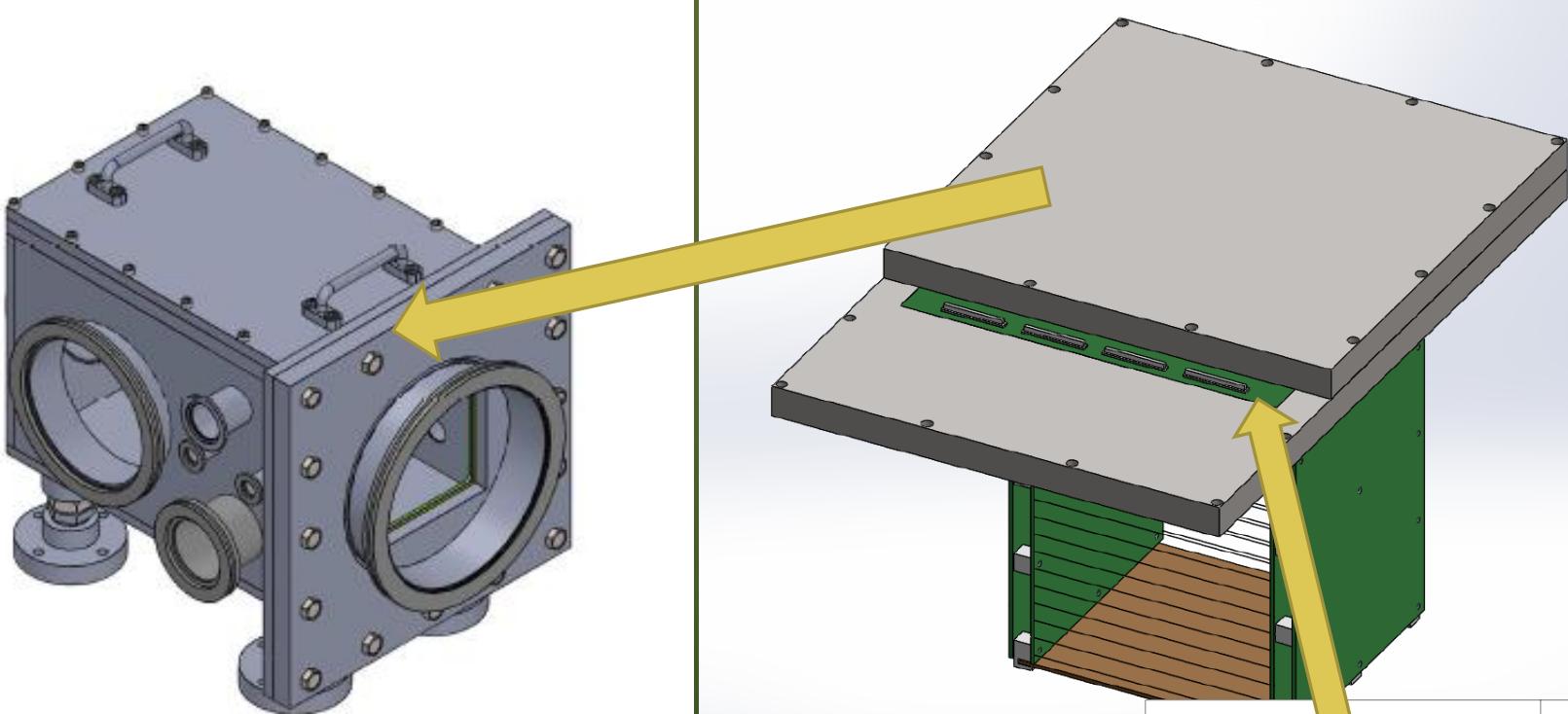
Low emittance beam line for test of tracking detectors



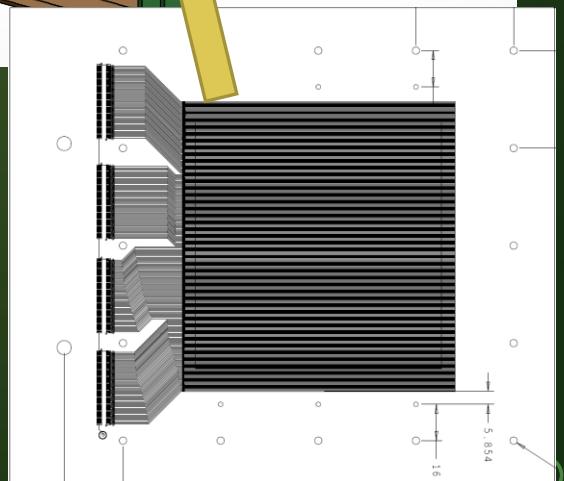
Final assembly and commissioning this week

# DETECTOR CHAMBER PROTOTYPE

## TEST PLATFORM FOR ALL BRAND NEW SOLUTIONS



- Scalable to final size;
- Minimization of FE-RO Electronics;
- No need for vacuum connector;
- Read-out Electronics in air;
- Optimization of the electric field;
- Easy of maintenance.



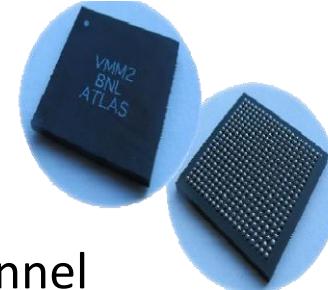
# The new electronics

# Front-end and read-out electronics

## ELECTRONICS PROTOTYPES

### 1) ASIC front-end chip:

for FPD chip **VMM2(3)** in collaboration with Brookhaven National Laboratory ( $8 \times 10^4$  transistor/channel for 64 channels)



### 2) Read – out: new generation of **FPGA** and System On Module (**SOM**)

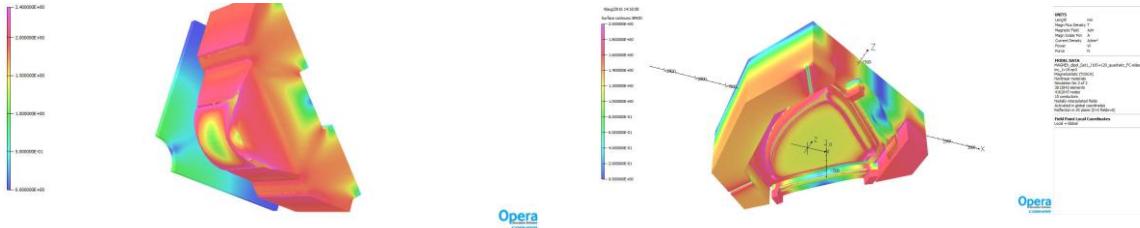


## Number of channels

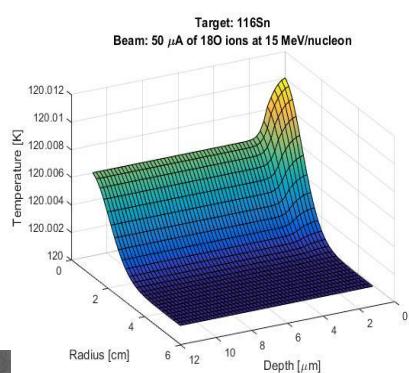
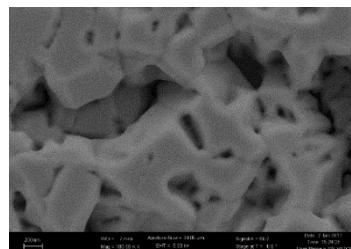
- Gas tracker ~ 2000 ch
  - SiC-SiC ~ 6000 ch
  - $\gamma$ -ray calorimeter ~ 2500 ch
- }      Tot ~ 10500 ch

# Other upgrades

- The **MAGNEX** maximum magnetic **rigidity** (from 1.8 Tm to 2.5 Tm)



- The **target** technology for intense heavy-ion beams



- An **array of scintillators for  $\gamma$ -rays** measurement in coincidence with MAGNEX



# Other upgrades



- **Nuclear reaction theory** (formal development and calculations)
- **Plan\_B for particle identification**
- **Simulations**
- **Data Acquisition**
- **Data Reduction**

# Conclusions and Outlooks

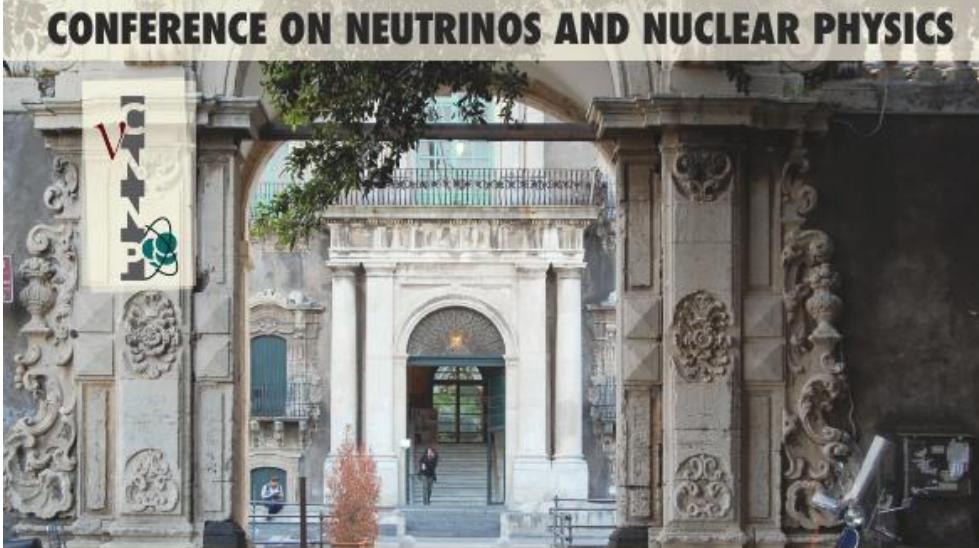
- **NUMEN represents a challenging perspective** for the future of LNS in nuclear science
- **The project** turns around the MAGNEX and the Cyclotron upgrade toward high intensity
- It is playing an important role for **attracting worldwide researchers at the LNS**
- It is playing an important role for nuclear physics in Italy. **INFN-LNS was recently included** in the restricted list of **italian strategical research projects**
- **Results** of relevance for  $0\nu\beta\beta$  physics already got in **the initial campaigns**
- **A big technological challenge**

# Conference on Neutrinos and Nuclear Physics (CNNP2017)

15-21 October 2017  
Catania (Italy)

<http://agenda.infn.it/event/CNNP2017>

Registration open



**15-21 OCTOBER 2017**

MONASTERO DEI BENEDETTINI  
CATANIA-ITALY

## Scientific topics:

- Nuclear double  $\beta$  decays
- Nuclear structure in connection with  $\nu$  physics
- Nuclear reactions as a probe for weak decays
- Neutrino-nucleus interactions at low and high energy
- Supernova models and detection of supernova  $\nu$
- Solar models and detection of solar  $\nu$
- Direct and indirect dark-matter searches
- Rare  $\beta$  decays for neutrino-mass measurements
- Neutrino oscillations and matter effects
- Anomalies in reactor  $\nu$
- New related detection technologies

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<http://agenda.infn.it/event/CNNP2017>