



# Quantifying uncertainties in nuclear reactions

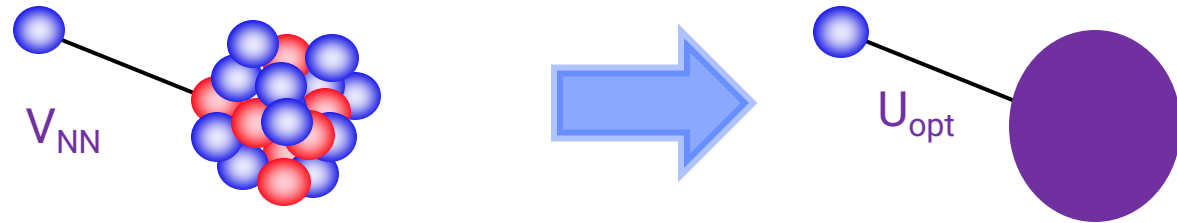
Filomena Nunes  
Michigan State University

*Michigan State University occupies the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary Lands of the Anishinaabeg–Three Fires Confederacy of Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi peoples. The University resides on Land ceded in the 1819 Treaty of Saginaw.*

# Outline

- ✧ The role of optical potentials in reactions
- ✧ Bayesian analyses of optical potentials
- ✧ Propagation to other observables
  - ✧ Transfer
  - ✧ Charge-exchange
  - ✧ Knockout
- ✧ Emulators
  - ✧ Application to model for breakup
- ✧ Opportunities for the future

# The Optical Potential is an essential ingredient in reaction theory



It's the projection of the many-body scattering problem on the ground state:  
$$P\Psi(\vec{r}, \vec{r}_1, \dots, \vec{r}_A) = \phi_0(\vec{r})\Phi_0(\vec{r}_1, \dots, \vec{r}_A)$$

End up with a single-channel scattering equation with potential:

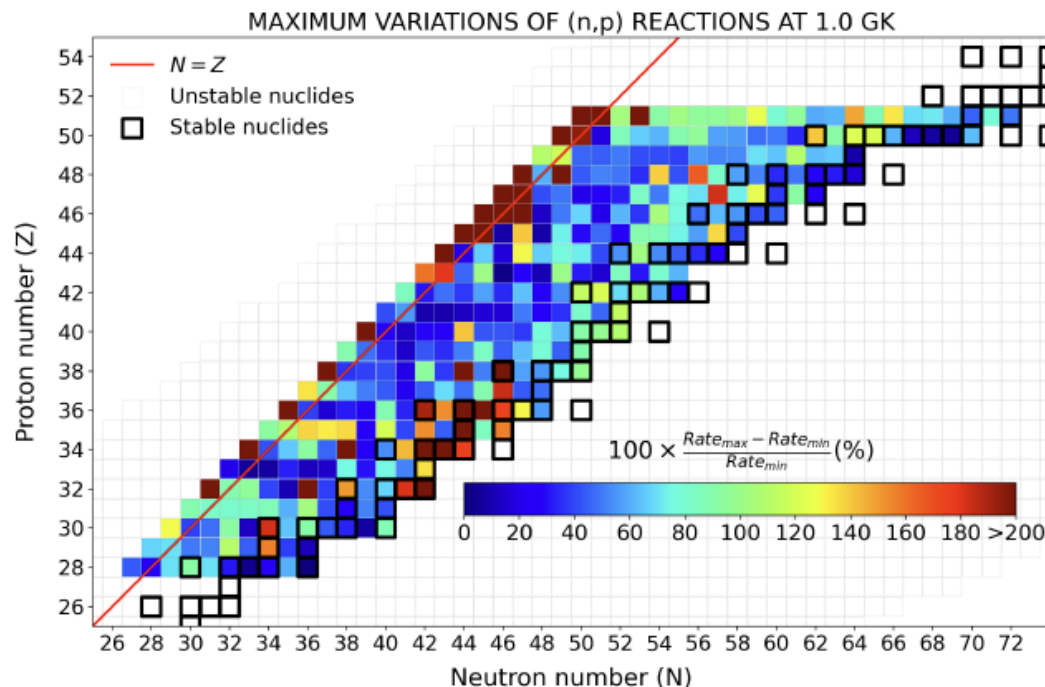
$$V_{opt} = \mathcal{V}_{00} + \sum_{j,k \neq 0} \mathcal{V}_{0j} \frac{1}{E - H_{jk} + i\eta} \mathcal{V}_{k0}$$

$U_{opt} = V(R) + iW(R)$  can be obtained phenomenologically!

# Optical potentials are pervasive in reaction models

Inputs necessary for (n,g); (p,g); (p,n); (n,p); (d,p); (d,n); ...

Inputs also for breakup, knockout and transfer on heavier probes



Reaction observables are very sensitive to details of the optical potential.

OP is the main source of uncertainty

Need uncertainty quantification!

# OP white paper shows current state of the art

	Mass	Energy	D.	Mic.	UQ
KD	$24 \leq A \leq 209$	$1 \text{ keV} \leq E \leq 200 \text{ MeV}$	✗	✗	✗
KDUQ	$24 \leq A \leq 209$	$1 \text{ keV} \leq E \leq 200 \text{ MeV}$	✗	✗	✓
DOM (STL)	C, O, Ca, Ni, Sn, Pb isotopes	$-\infty < E < 200 \text{ MeV}$	✓	✗	✓
MR	$12 < Z < 83$	$E < 200 \text{ MeV}$	✓	✗	✗
MBR	$12 < Z < 83$	$E < 200 \text{ MeV}$	✓	✗	✗
NSM	$^{40}\text{Ca}, ^{48}\text{Ca}, ^{208}\text{Pb}$	$E < 40 \text{ MeV}$	✓	✓	✗

phenomenological

microscopic

Semi-phenomenological

Mean field

Ab-initio

Nuclear Matter

Ab-initio optical potentials are limited:

- methods specific to restricted energy regimes
- methods specific to restricted mass regions

Very challenging for ab-initio:

- theory needs to get thresholds exactly right
- theory needs to get the size exactly right
- theory needs to include absorption to cluster channels
- OP need to be uncertainty quantified

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- ✧ Opportunities for the future

# Bayesian statistics

Thomas Bayes (1701–1761)

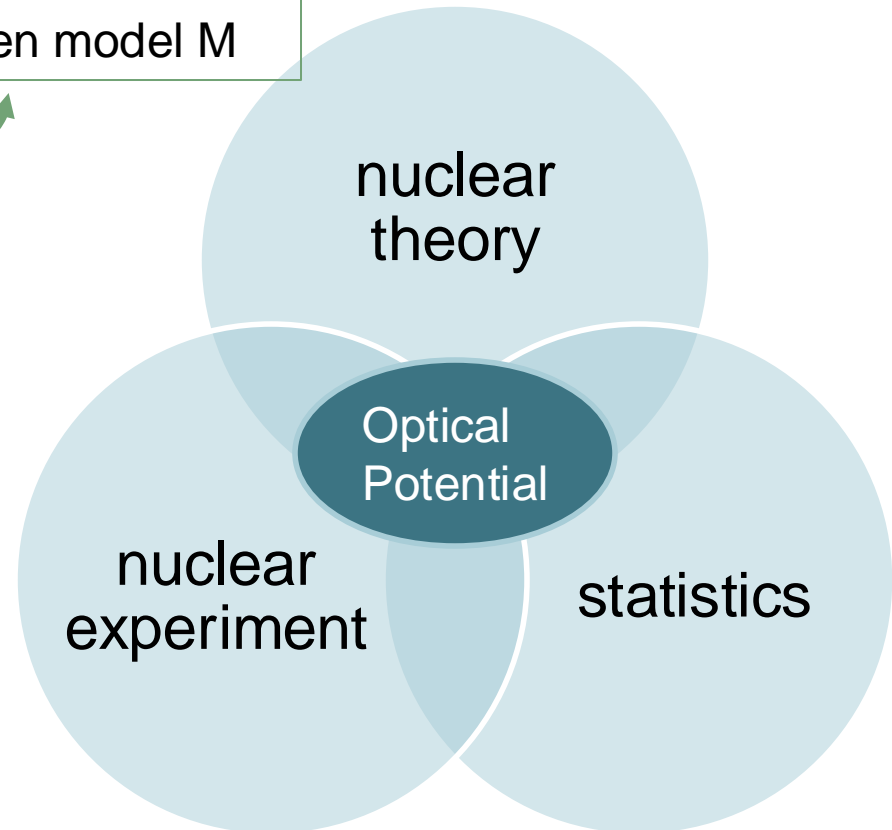
likelihood:  
assess the  
probability of  
observing D  
given model M

prior distribution  
of parameters H  
given model M

$$p(H|D, M) = \frac{p(D|H, M)p(H|M)}{p(D|M)}$$

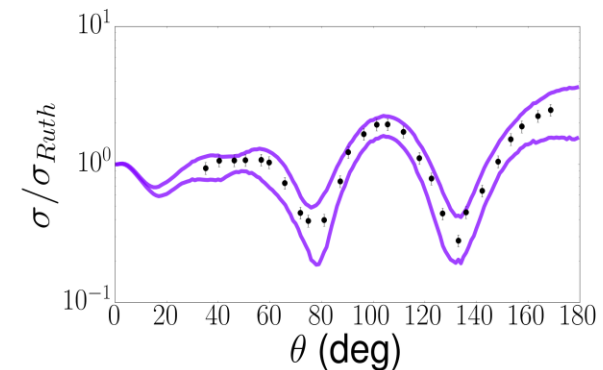
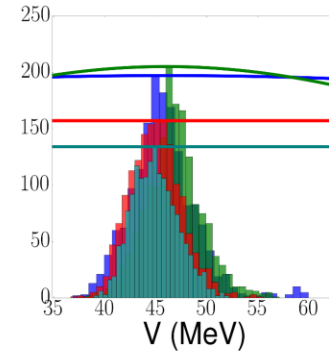
Bayesian evidence

posterior  
distributions:  
information  
updated after  
seeing data D



# Bayesian analysis

- Calibration of the model M  
(parameter posterior distributions)
- Estimation of uncertainty in predictions  
(credible intervals on observables)
- Model assessment  
(comparison between models and with data)
- Model mixing  
(admixture between models with different strengths)
- Experimental design  
(What is the optimum measurement that adds information?)







# Physical model: optical model



$$[T + U_{\text{opt}}(R) - E]\psi = 0$$

The model has a set of parameters

$$U_{\text{opt}}(R) = V f(R, r, a) + W f(R, r_w, a_w) + W_s f(R, r_s, a_s) + V_{\text{so}} + V_C$$

We use previous OP parameterizations to set the priors  
(typically wide priors to allow process to be data driven)

- use MCMC to sample parameter space



# Statistical model

Data: elastic scattering angular distributions/polarizations/total xs

- real exp data with evaluated errors
- mock data calculated using KD with 10% errors

Likelihood:

- No correlations and errors normally distributed

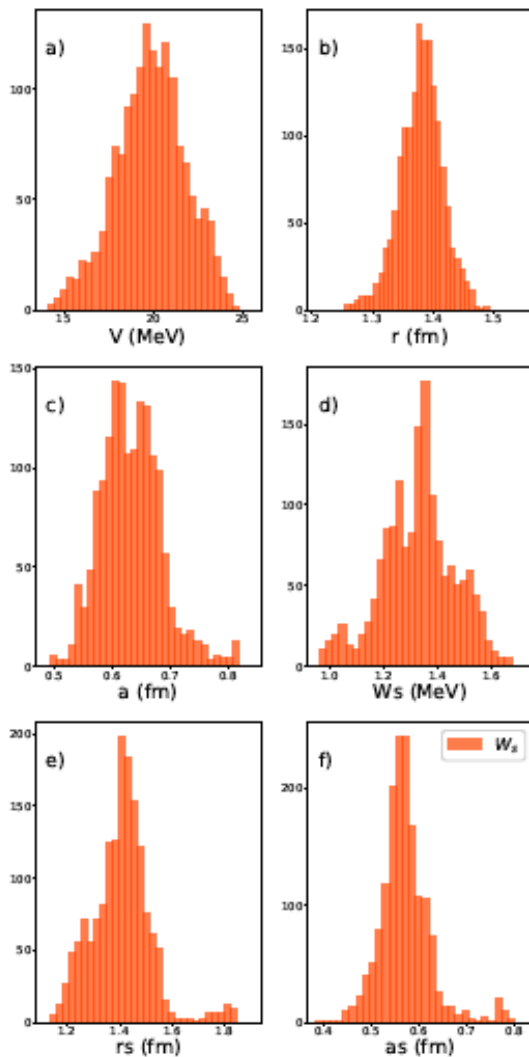
$$p(D|H, M) = \exp[-\chi^2/2]$$

- Include correlations effectively by dividing by the number of data points  $N$  (equivalent to inflating errors)

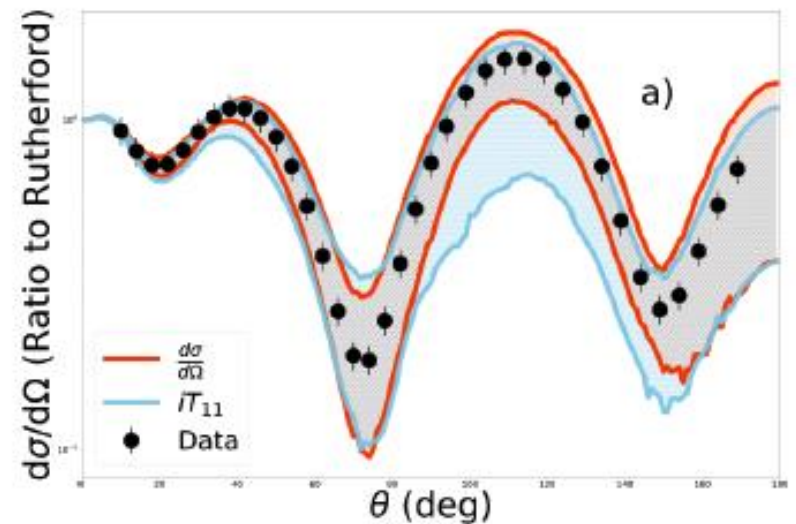
$$p(D|H, M) = \exp[-\chi^2/(2N)]$$

$$\chi^2 = \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{[\sigma_{\text{exp}}(\theta_i) - \sigma_{\text{th}}(\theta_i, x)]^2}{[\Delta\sigma_{\text{exp}}(\theta_i)]^2}$$

# Bayesian: parameter posterior distributions

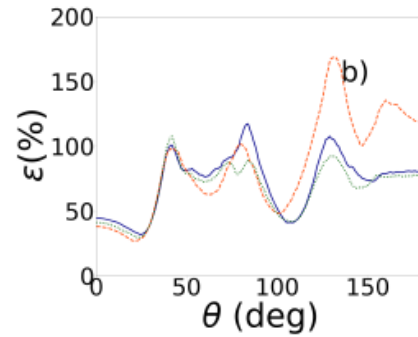
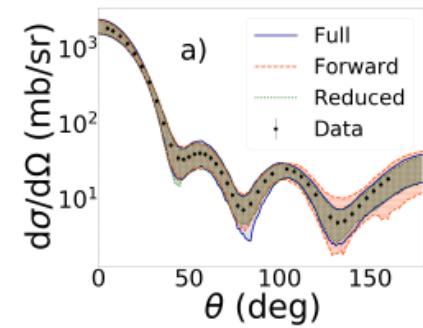


Create 95% confidence intervals for observable

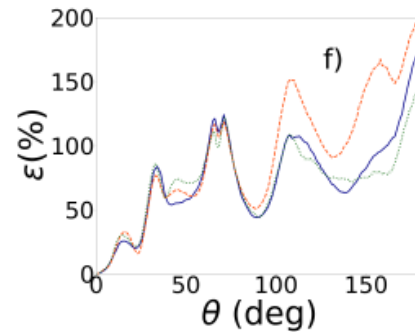
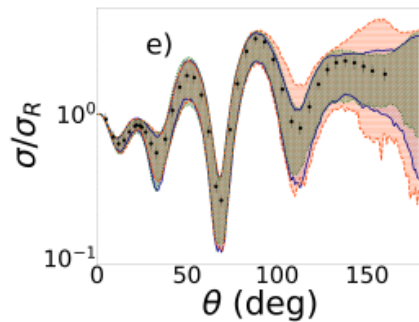




# What angular information needed?



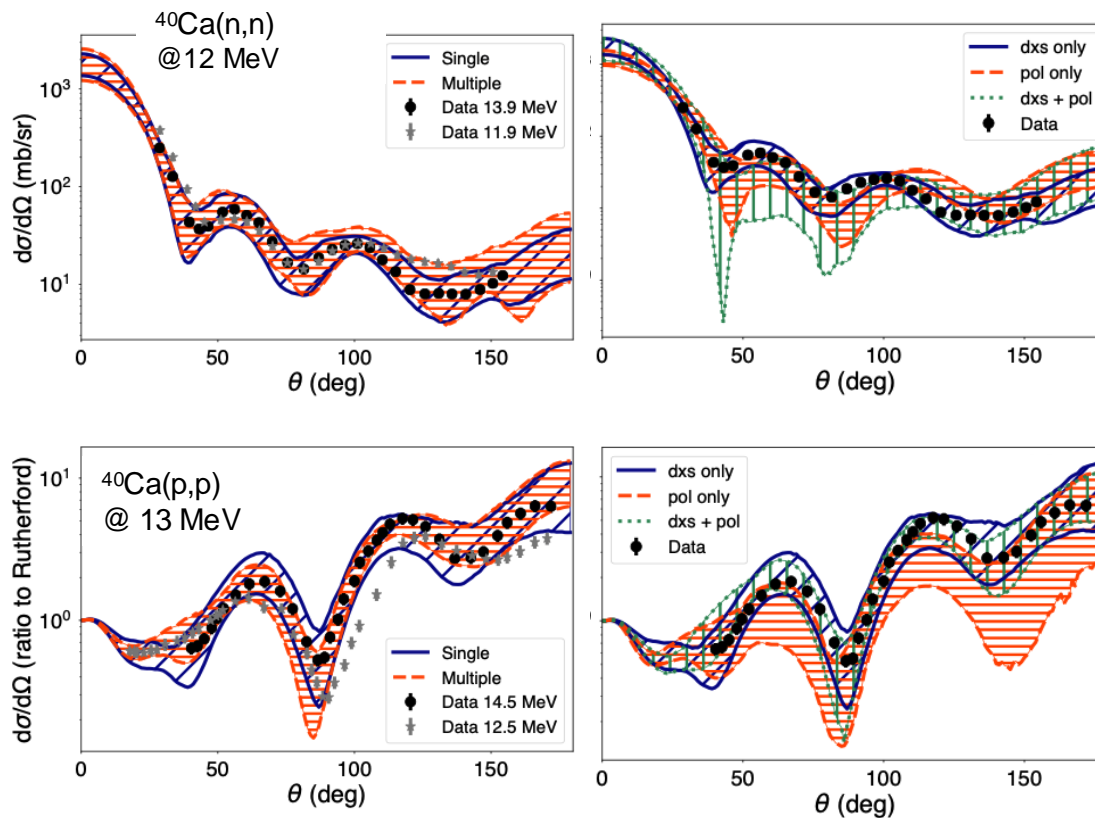
$^{48}\text{Ca}(n,n)^{48}\text{Ca}$  at 12 MeV



$^{48}\text{Ca}(p,p)^{48}\text{Ca}$  at 21 MeV

# Single energy versus multiple energy sets? Polarization versus differential cross sections?

95%  
credible  
intervals



King, Lovell, Neufcourt, Nunes PRL (2019)  
Catacora-Rios et al. PRC 100, 064615 (2019)  
Lovell, Nunes, Catacora-Rios, King, JPG (2020)  
Catacora-Rios et al. PRC 104, 064611 (2021)

# What prior to use?

Priors encapsulate our prior knowledge  
(e.g. a previous global parameterization)

Use gaussian distributions on parameters  
How wide should these be?

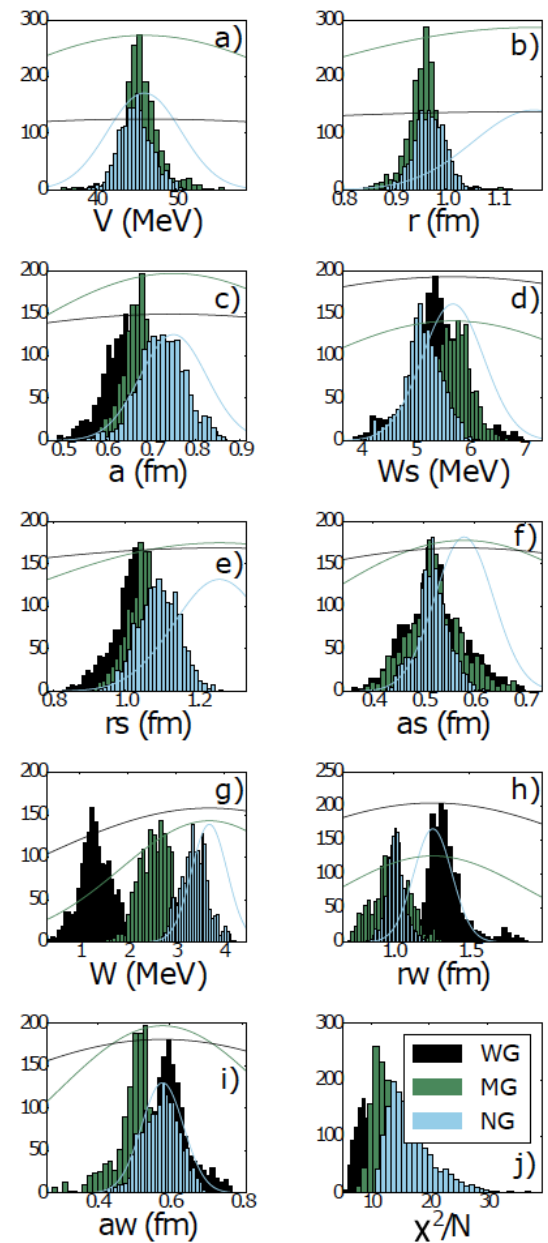
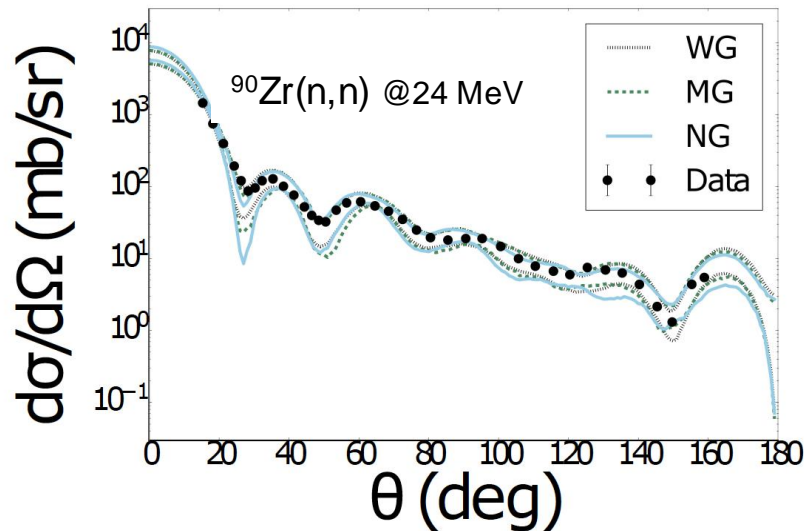


FIG. 2: (Color online) Comparison of the posterior distributions (histograms) resulting from various prior distributions (corresponding solid lines) for a wide Gaussian (WG), medium Gaussian (MG), and narrow Gaussian (NG) as defined in Table II for  $^{90}\text{Zr}(n,n)^{90}\text{Zr}$  at 24.0 MeV.

# Which likelihood to use?

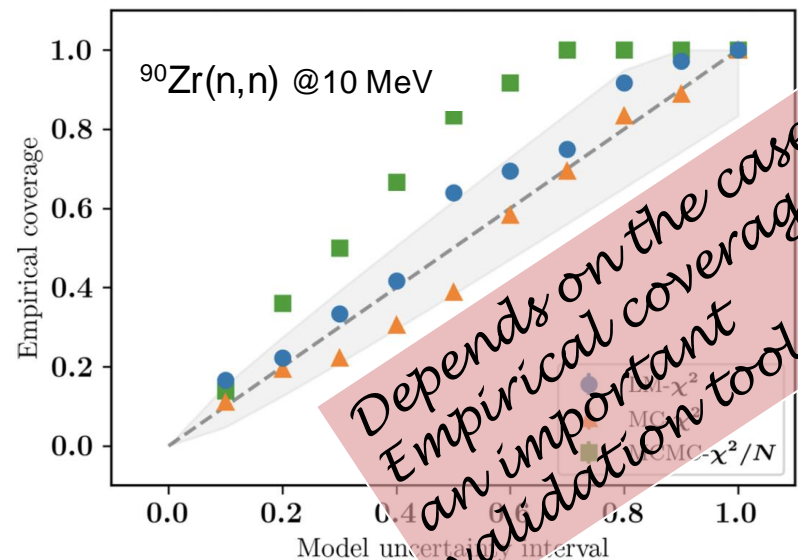
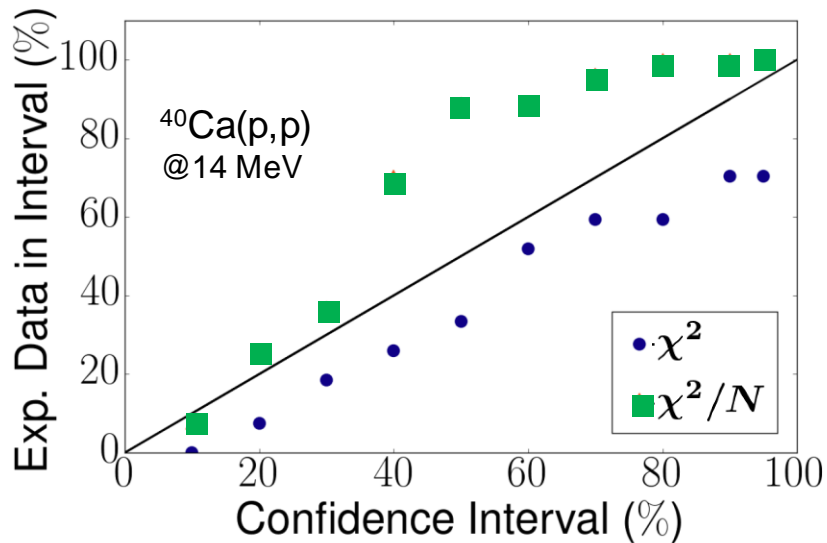
Complications:

- data correlations
- systematic errors on data underestimated
- model correlations
- model uncertainties

How to combine sets of angular distributions?

$$p(D|H, M) = \exp \left[ -\chi^2 / (2N) \right] ?$$

$$p(D|H, M) = \exp \left[ -\chi^2 / 2 \right] ?$$



*Depends on the case!!  
Empirical coverage is  
an important  
validation tool*

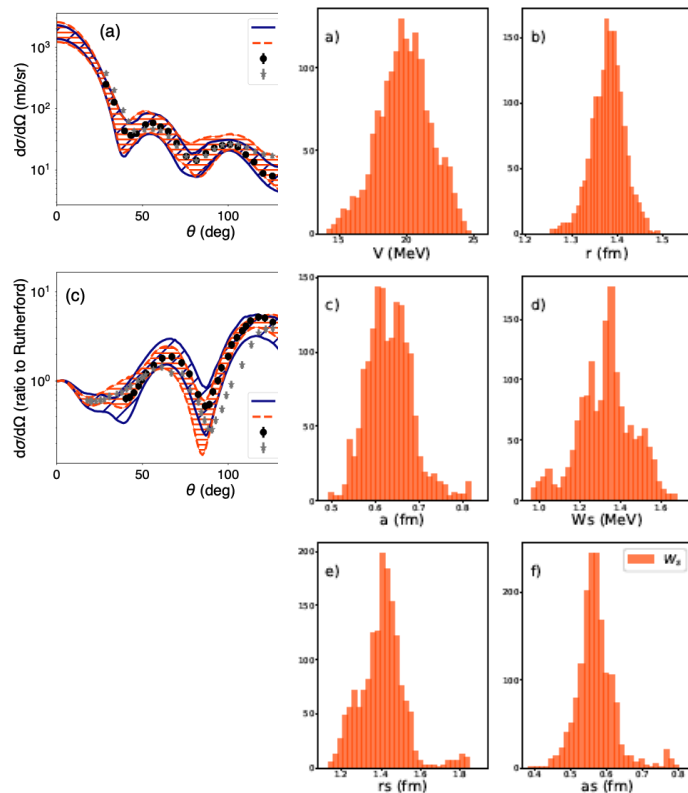
# Outline

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  - ✧ Charge-exchange
  - ✧ Knockout
- ✧ Emulators
  - ✧ Application to model for breakup
- ✧ Opportunities for the future

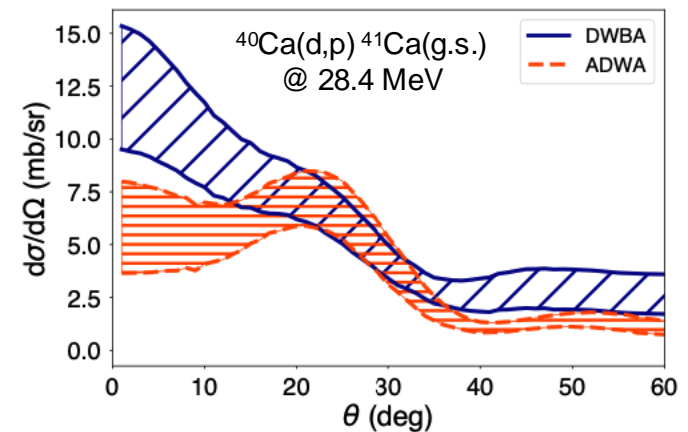


# Propagating uncertainties to transfer

OP constrained with elastic scattering to obtain posterior distributions for parameters



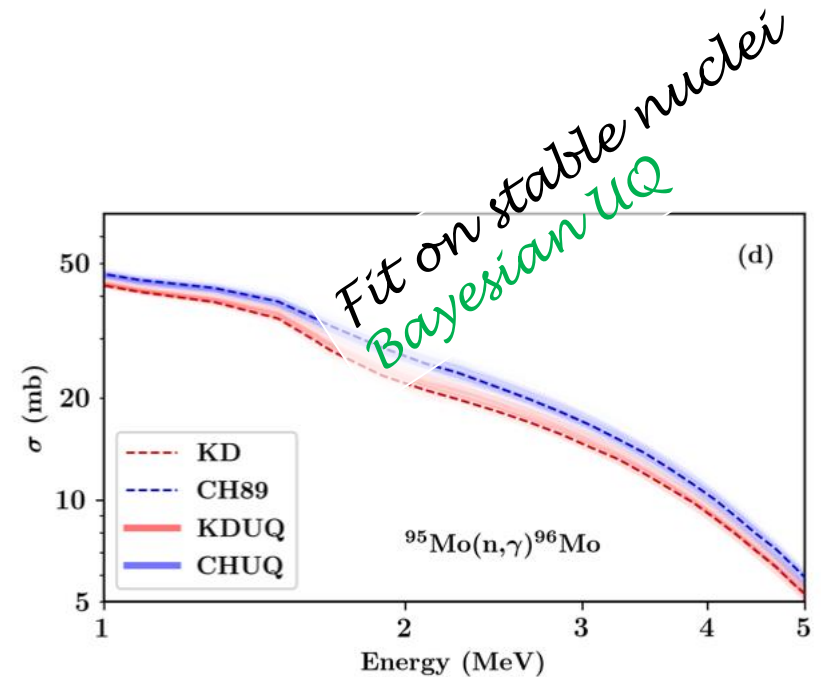
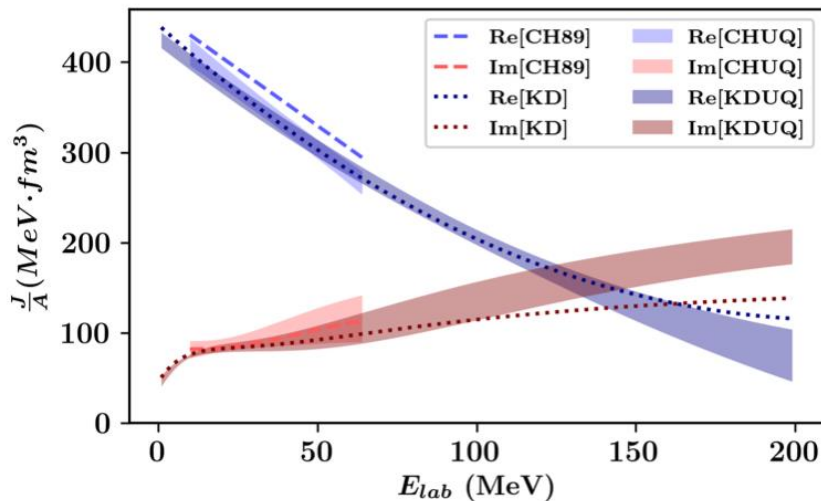
Propagate to other reaction observables



Ekstrom talk:  
UQ important for  
decision-making and  
model assessment

# Uncertainty quantified **global** optical potential (CHUQ and KDUQ)

Bayesian analysis using the same experimental protocol as in the original CH89 and KD2003 parameterizations

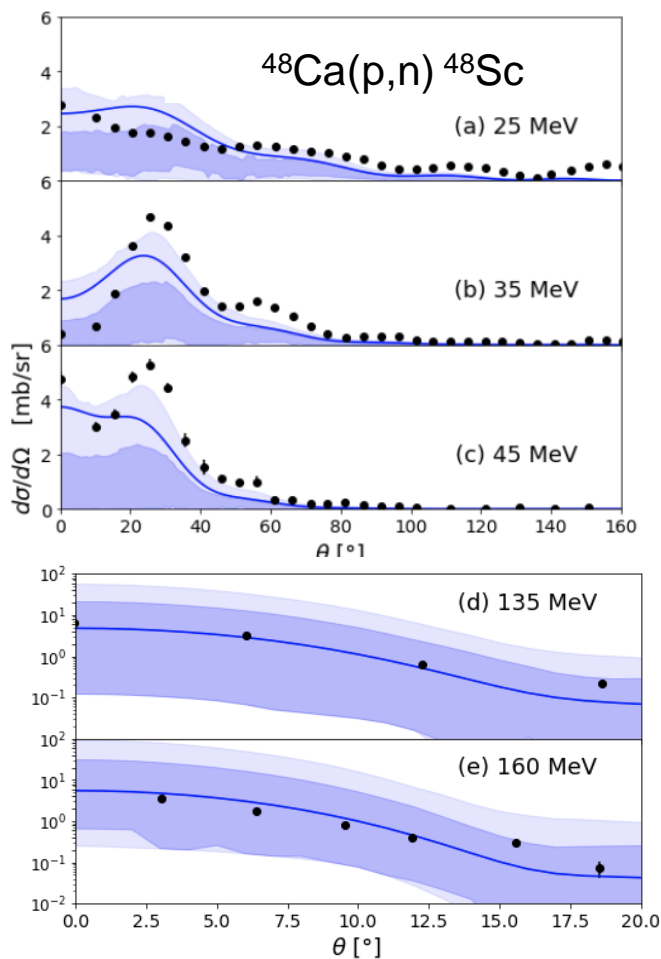




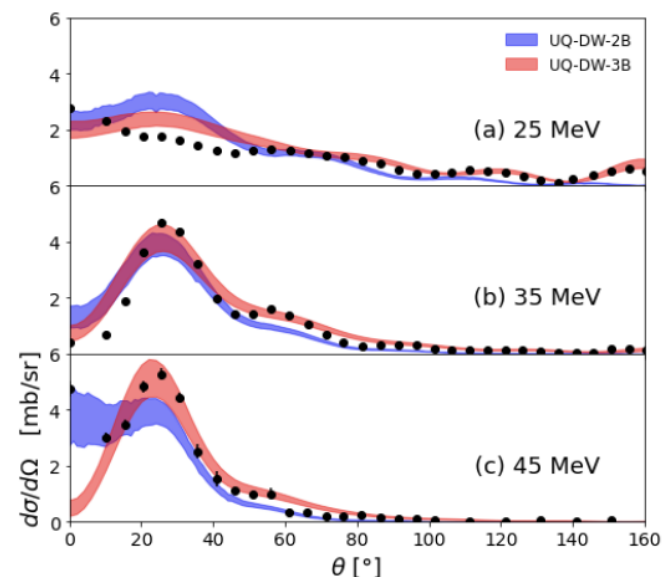
# OP uncertainties in charge exchange to IAS

- DWBA formalism
- Using parameter posterior from KDUQ

Dark shade (68% ci)  
Light shade (95% ci)



Comparing two-body and three-body models for charge exchange

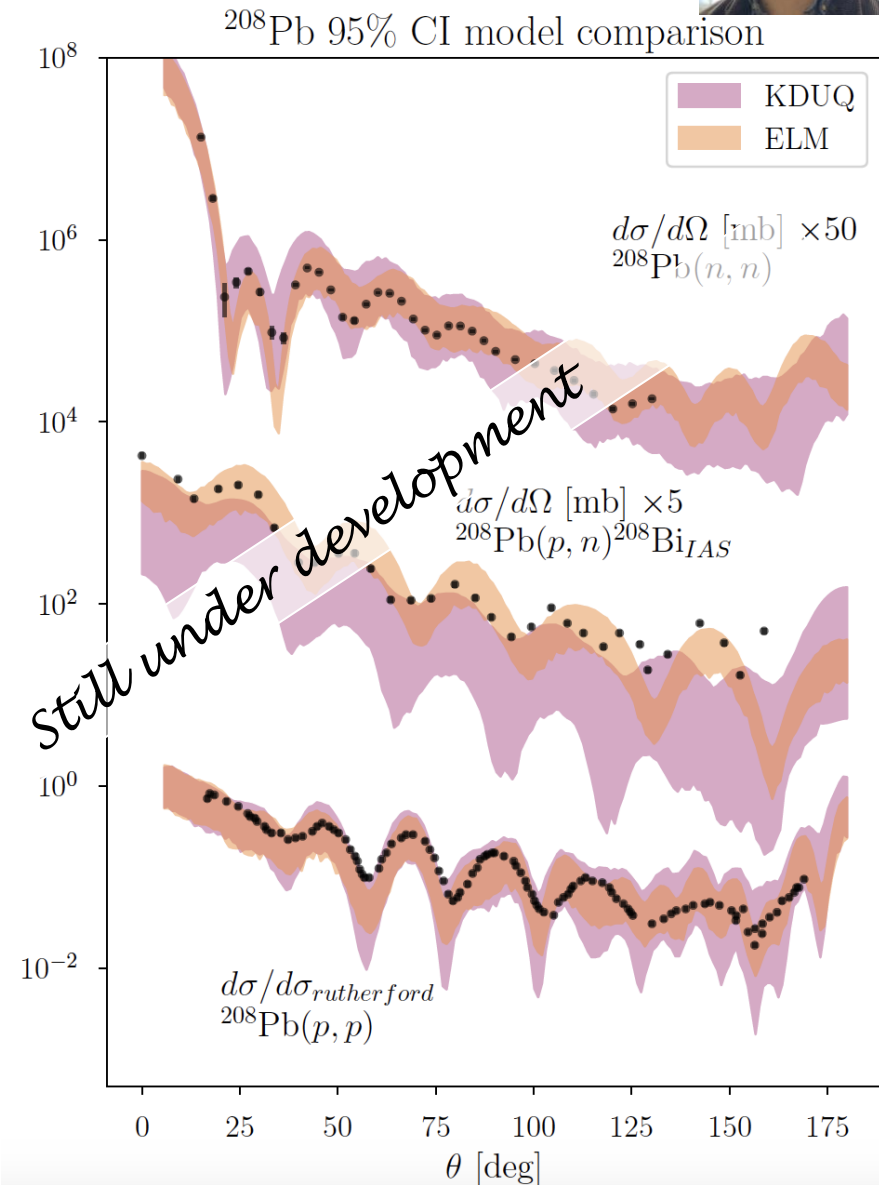




# Uncertainty quantified **global** optical potential (East Lansing Model)

ELM uses a much smaller set  
of data compared to KDUQ

Includes charge-exchange to  
IAS for key isotopes

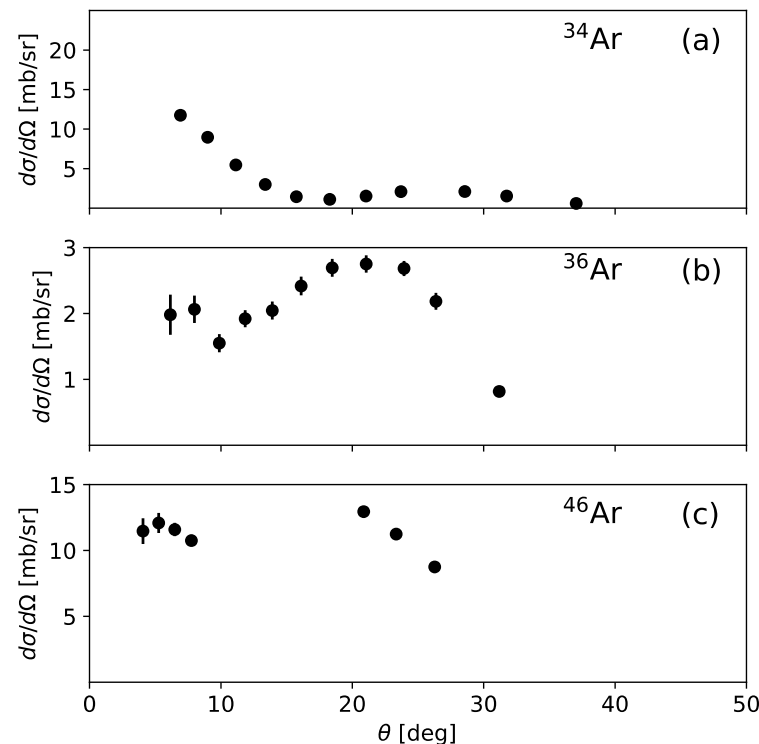
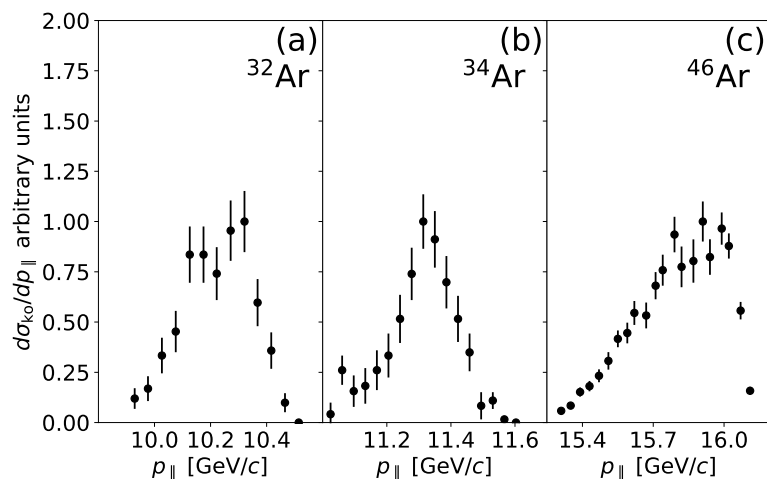


# Propagating uncertainties to knockout

- Eikonal model
- Using parameter posterior from KDUQ

compare with a consistent ADWA study of transfer  $^{34,26,46}\text{Ar}(p,d)$

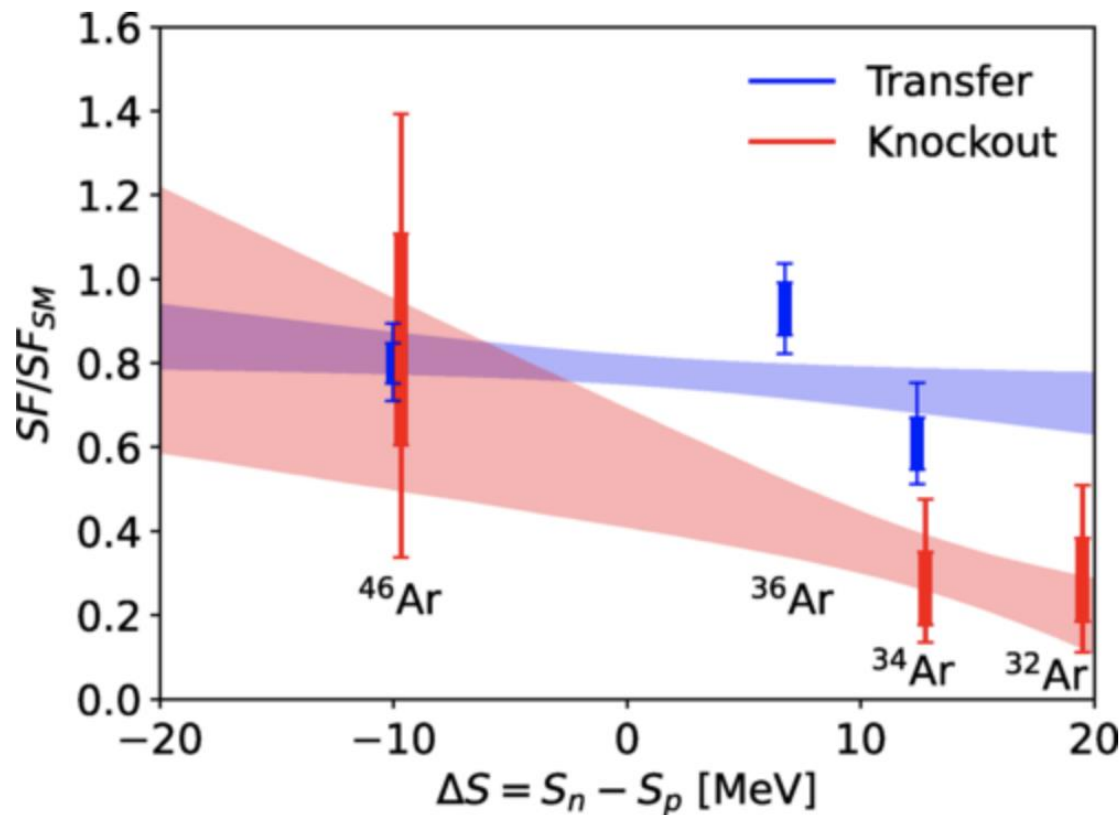
$^{32,34,46}\text{Ar}$  on  $^9\text{Be}$  @  $\sim 70$  MeV A



dark (light) shade:  
68% (95%) credible intervals

# Comparing knockout and transfer: linear fit

$$\mathcal{R}(\Delta S) = a\Delta S + b,$$



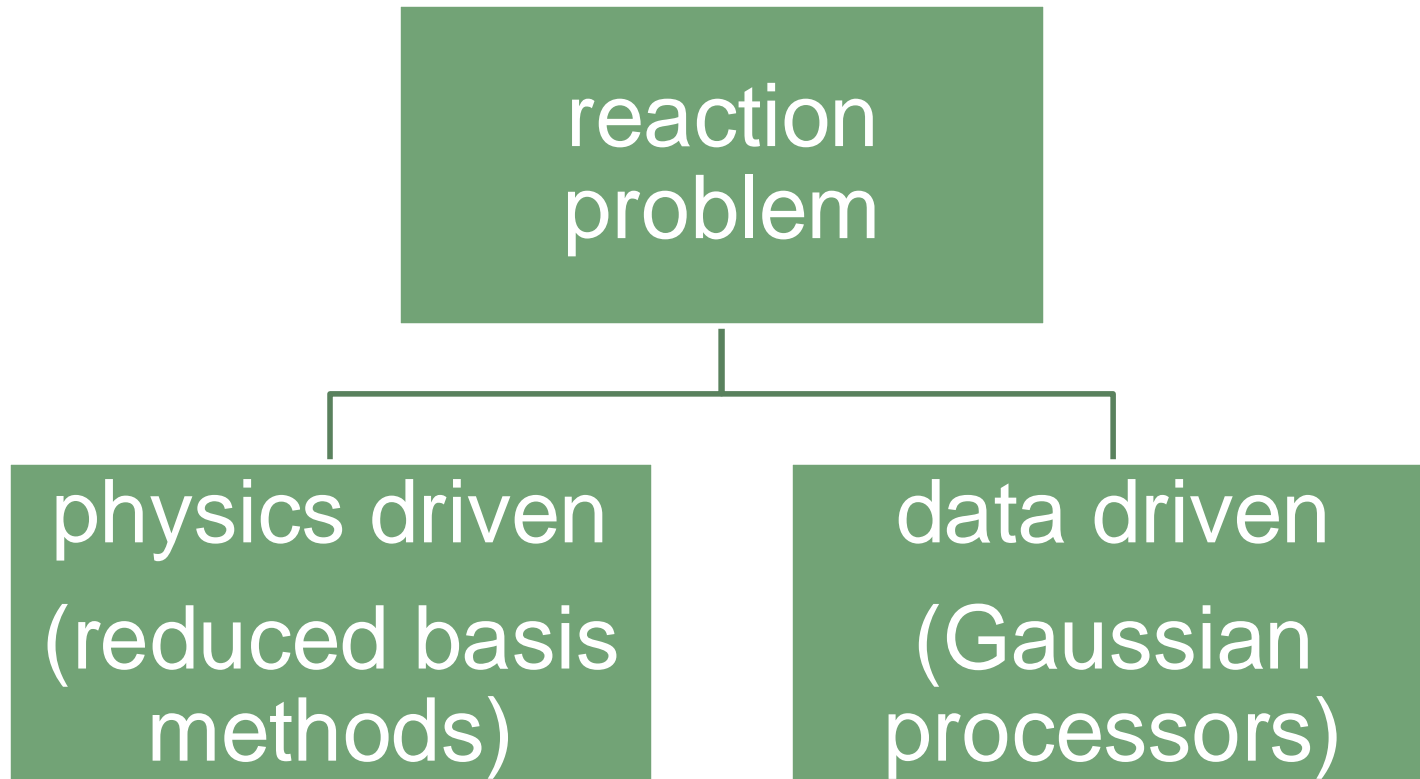
68% (95%)  
credible  
intervals

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- ✧ The important role of optical potentials
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  - ✧ Charge-exchange
  - ✧ Knockout
- ✧ **Emulators**
  - ✧ Application to model for breakup
- ✧ Opportunities for the future

# Emulators for nuclear reactions

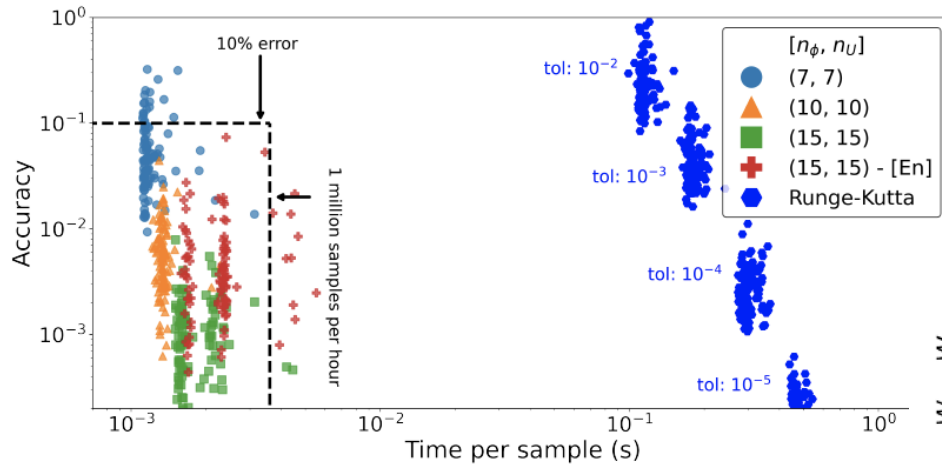
An emulator is a fast and efficient replacement for a complex physics model



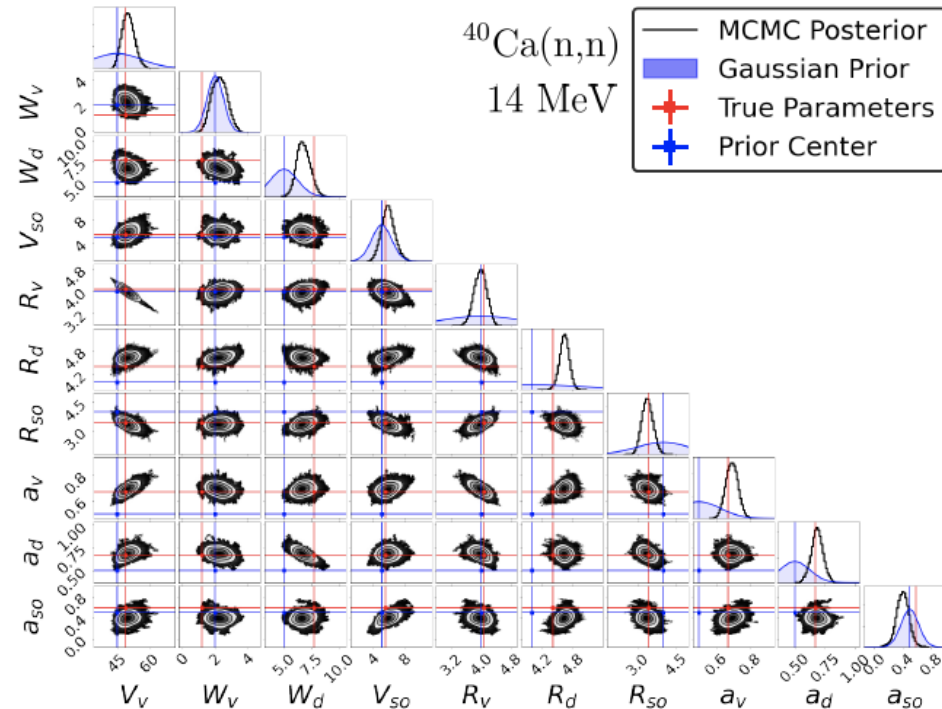


# Physics Driven Emulator

## ROSE: Reduced Order Scattering Emulator



New software ROSE is 3 orders of magnitude faster than standard finite differences integration methods



Extension to coupled channels in development!

# Data driven emulator

## Breakup cross sections needed for astrophysics

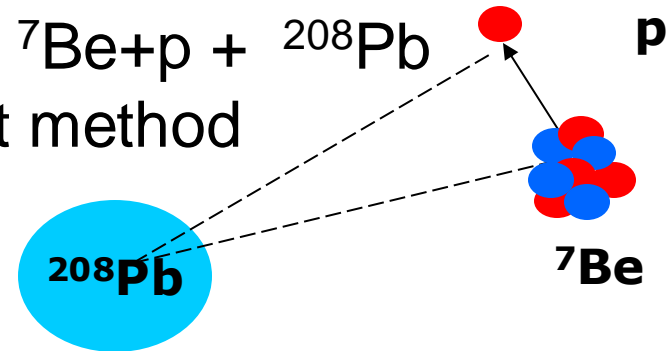
Example:

${}^7\text{Be}(p,\gamma){}^8\text{B}$  reaction

relevant for solar fusion



Indirect method



Working horse for modeling these reactions:

Continuum Discretized Coupled Channel (CDCC)

Large scale (large memory requirements)

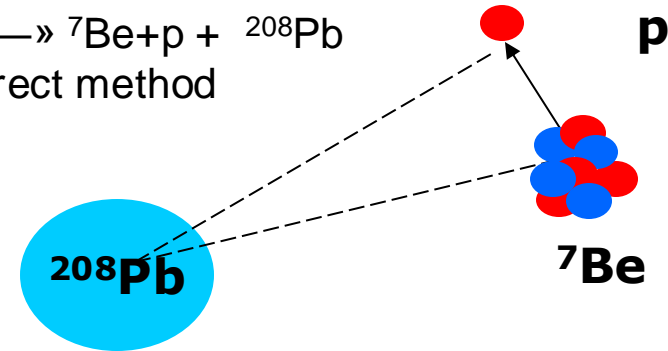
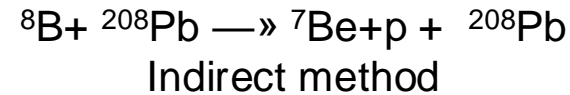
Long runs (many hours to days)

Impossible to do Bayesian analysis directly with CDCC!

Predictions: Angular distributions and energy distributions of fragments

# Emulators for breakup cross sections

${}^7\text{Be}(p,\gamma){}^8\text{B}$   
 reaction relevant for  
 solar fusion



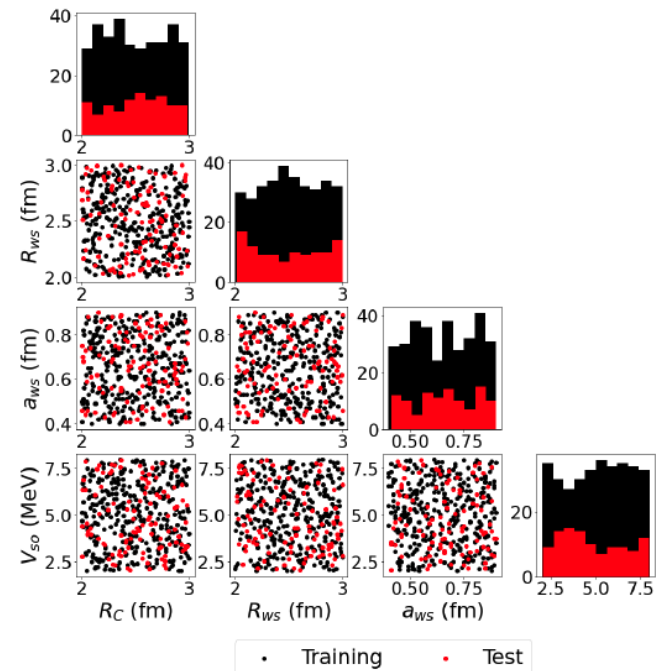
Continuum Discretized Coupled Channel  
 Gaussian-processors emulator for breakup:  
 Angular distribution and energy distribution

uncertainty from  ${}^7\text{Be}+p$  interaction

mock data generated for set of interactions from  
 G. Goldstein et al., Phys. Rev. C 76, 024608 (2007)

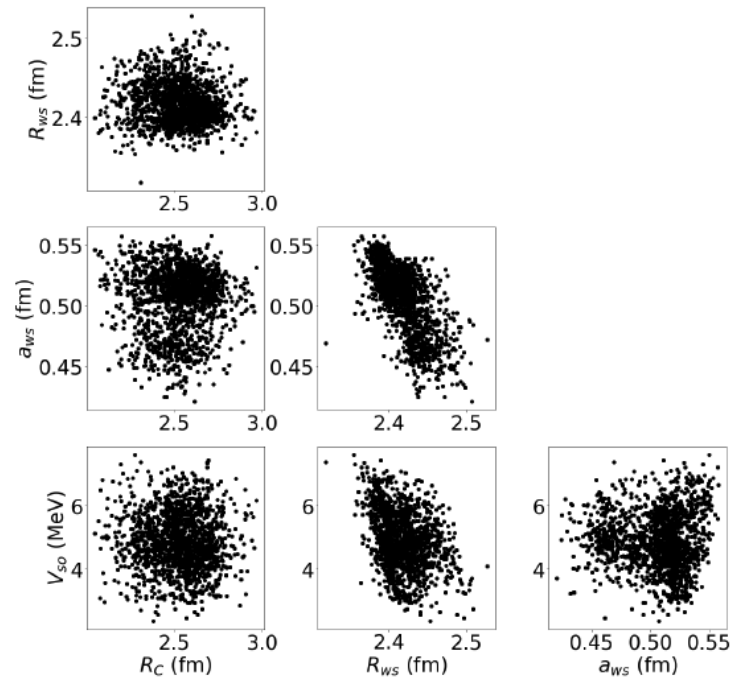
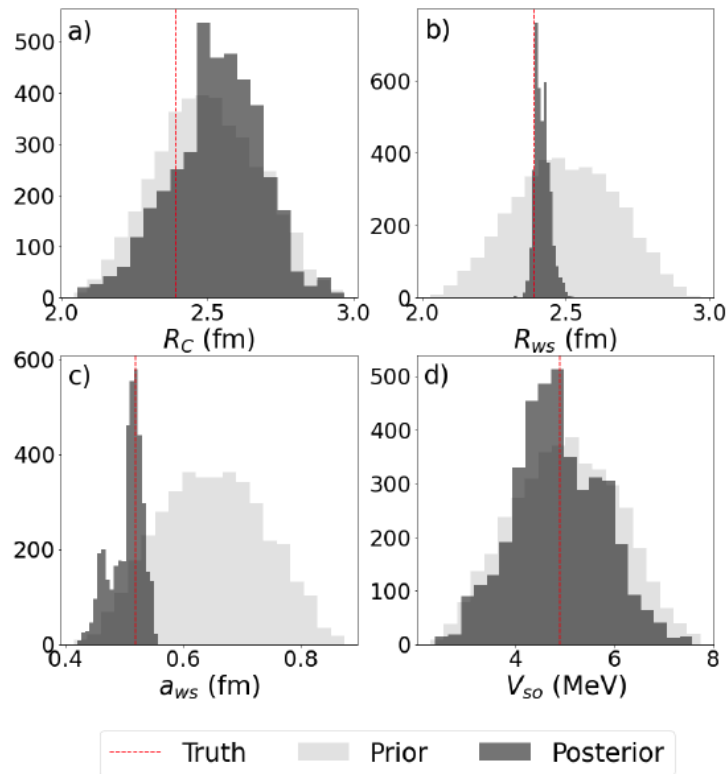
TABLE I: Model parameters and their ranges.

Parameter	Label	Range $[\underline{\rho}_i, \overline{\rho}_i]$
$R_C$	$\rho_1$	[2, 3] (fm)
$R_{ws}$	$\rho_2$	[2, 3] (fm)
$a_{ws}$	$\rho_3$	[0.4, 0.9] (fm)
$V_{so}$	$\rho_4$	[2, 8] (MeV)



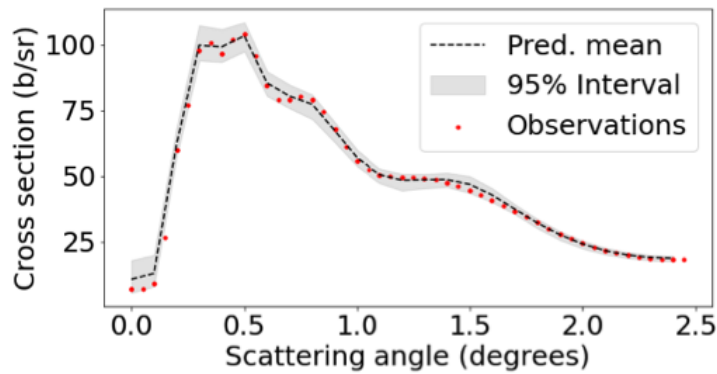
# Emulators for breakup cross sections

## Posterior distributions and correlation plots

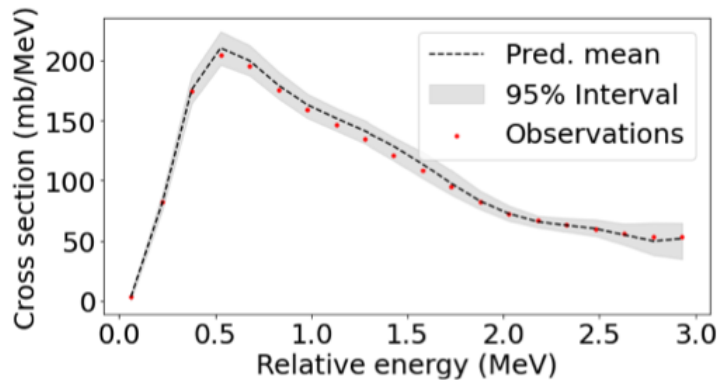


# Emulators for breakup cross sections

${}^8\text{B} + {}^{208}\text{Pb} \mapsto {}^7\text{Be} + \text{p} + {}^{208}\text{Pb}$  80 MeV.A



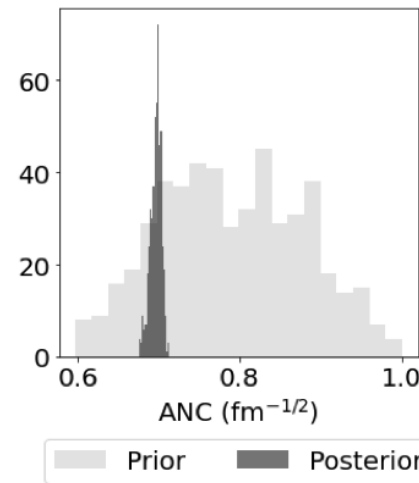
(a) Angular distribution.



(b) Energy distribution.

Continuum Discretized Coupled Channel  
Gaussian-processors emulator for breakup:  
Angular distribution and energy distribution

uncertainty from  ${}^7\text{Be} + \text{p}$  interaction

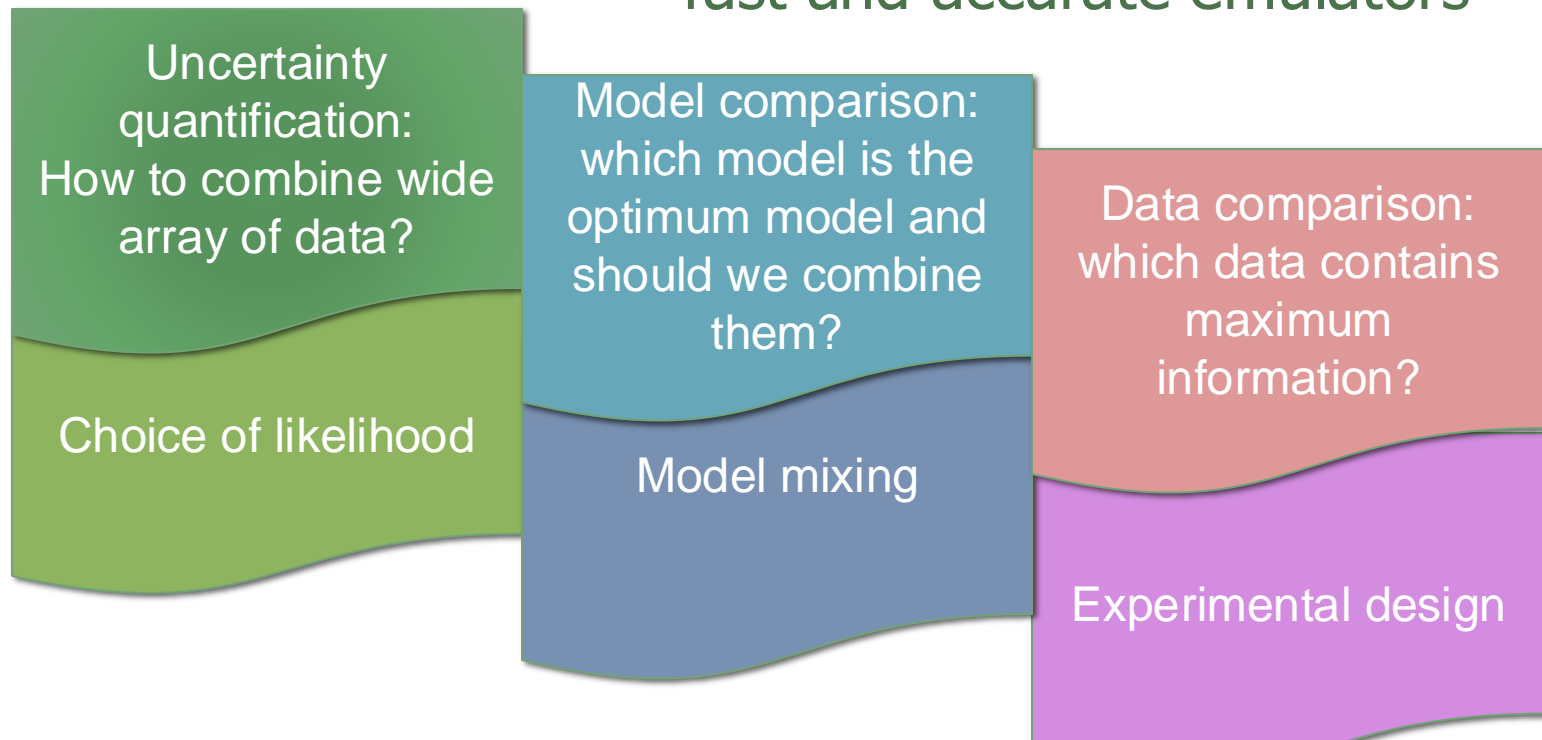


Excellent  
constraint  
on  $S_{17}$

# Opportunities for the future

- Optical potential validated for rare isotopes:
  - nucleon global optical potential with UQ informed by (p,n); ab-initio priors; extension to heavy-ions...
- Bayesian analysis for complex reactions models:

fast and accurate emulators



# Opportunities for the future

most important of all are the people!



Filomena Nunes



Chloë Hebborn



Kyle Beyer



Patrick McGlynn



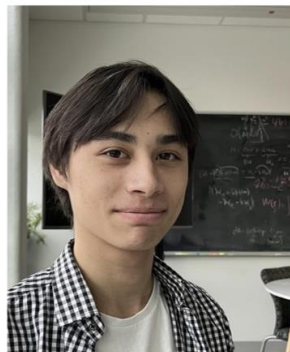
Cate Beckman



Manuel Catacora Rios



Andy Smith



Daniel Shiu



Pablo Giuliani



Grigor Sargsyan

few-body reaction group@MSU, summer 2024

# Collaborators:

## Bayesian Analysis:

Amy Lovell (LANL)  
Chloe Hebborn (MSU)  
Garrett King (WashU)  
Manuel Catacora-Rios (MSU)  
Cole Pruitt (LLNL)

## Charge Exchange:

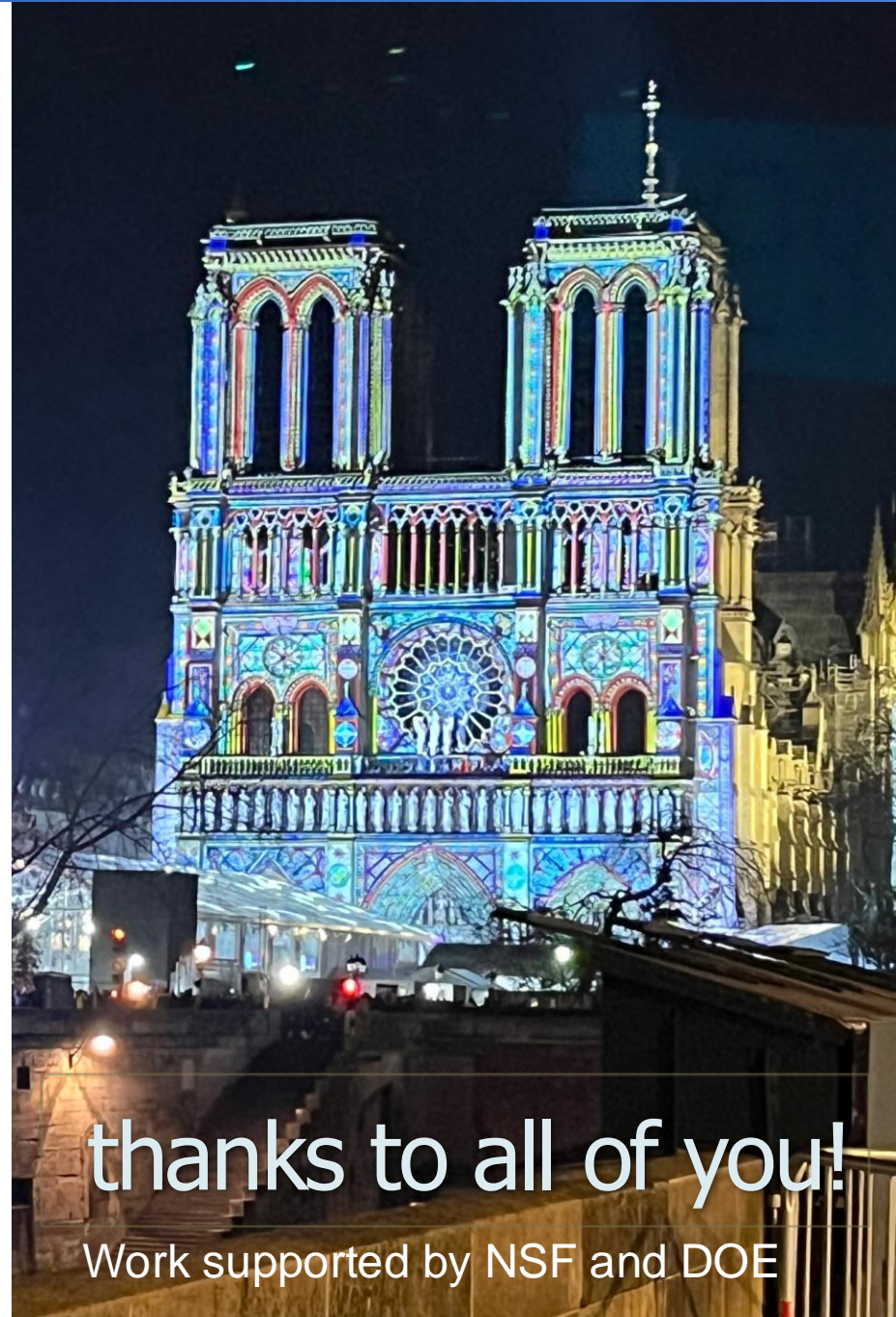
Terri Poxon-Pearson (NNSA)  
Gregory Potel (LLNL)  
Andy Smith (MSU)  
Chloe Hebborn  
Remco Zegers

## Knockout:

Chloe Hebborn  
Amy Lovell

## Emulators:

BAND collaboration



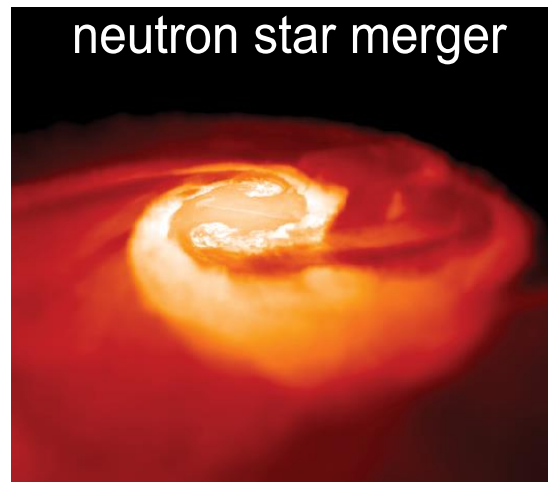
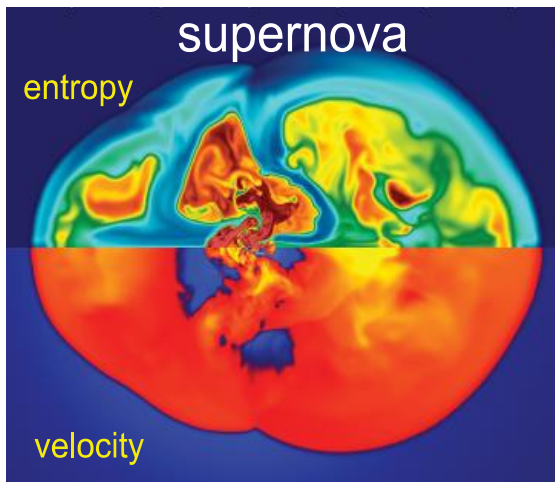
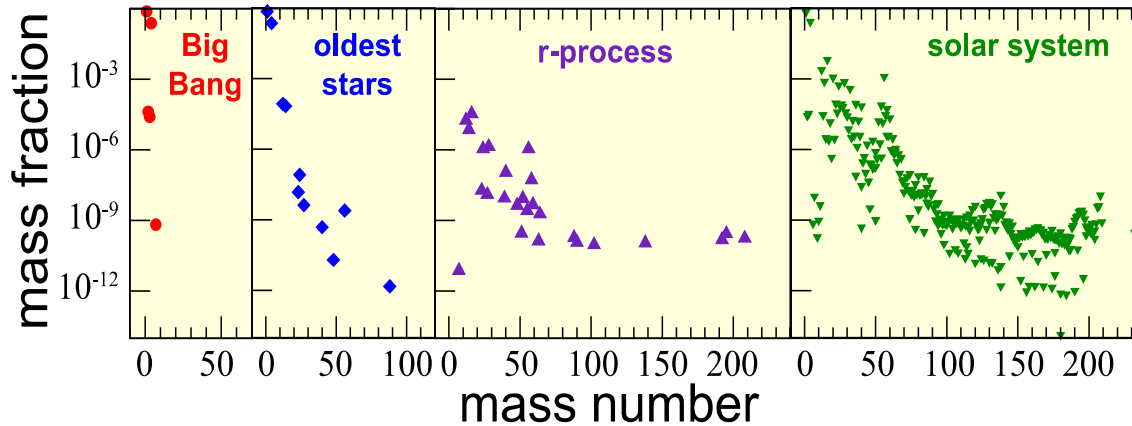
thanks to all of you!

Work supported by NSF and DOE



BACKUP

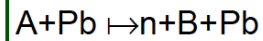
# Bird's eye view of nuclear reactions



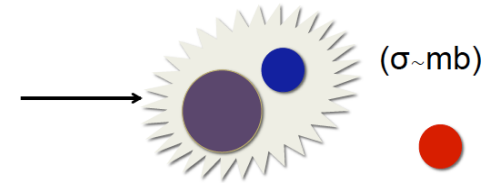
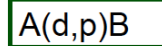
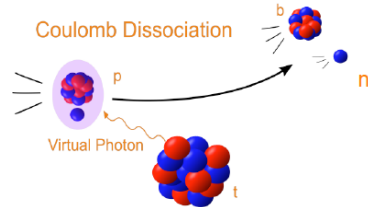
Nuclear reactions got us from the lightest elements all the way to the wide range of elements found in our solar system!

# Bird's eye view of nuclear reactions

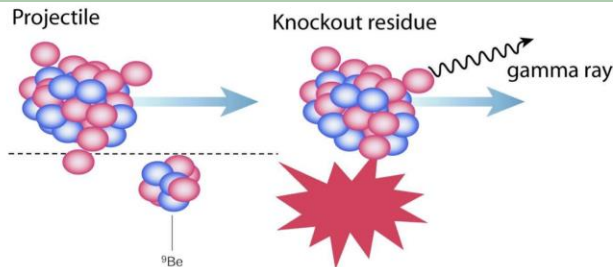
## Probe of neutron capture: breakup and transfer



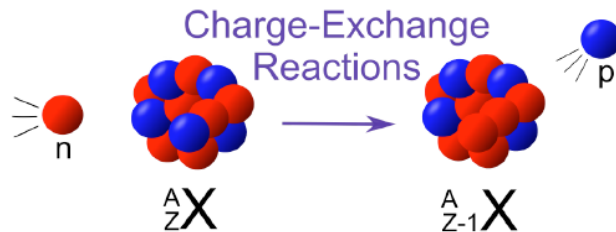
( $\sigma \sim \text{mb}$ )



## Probe of single-particle structure: knockout



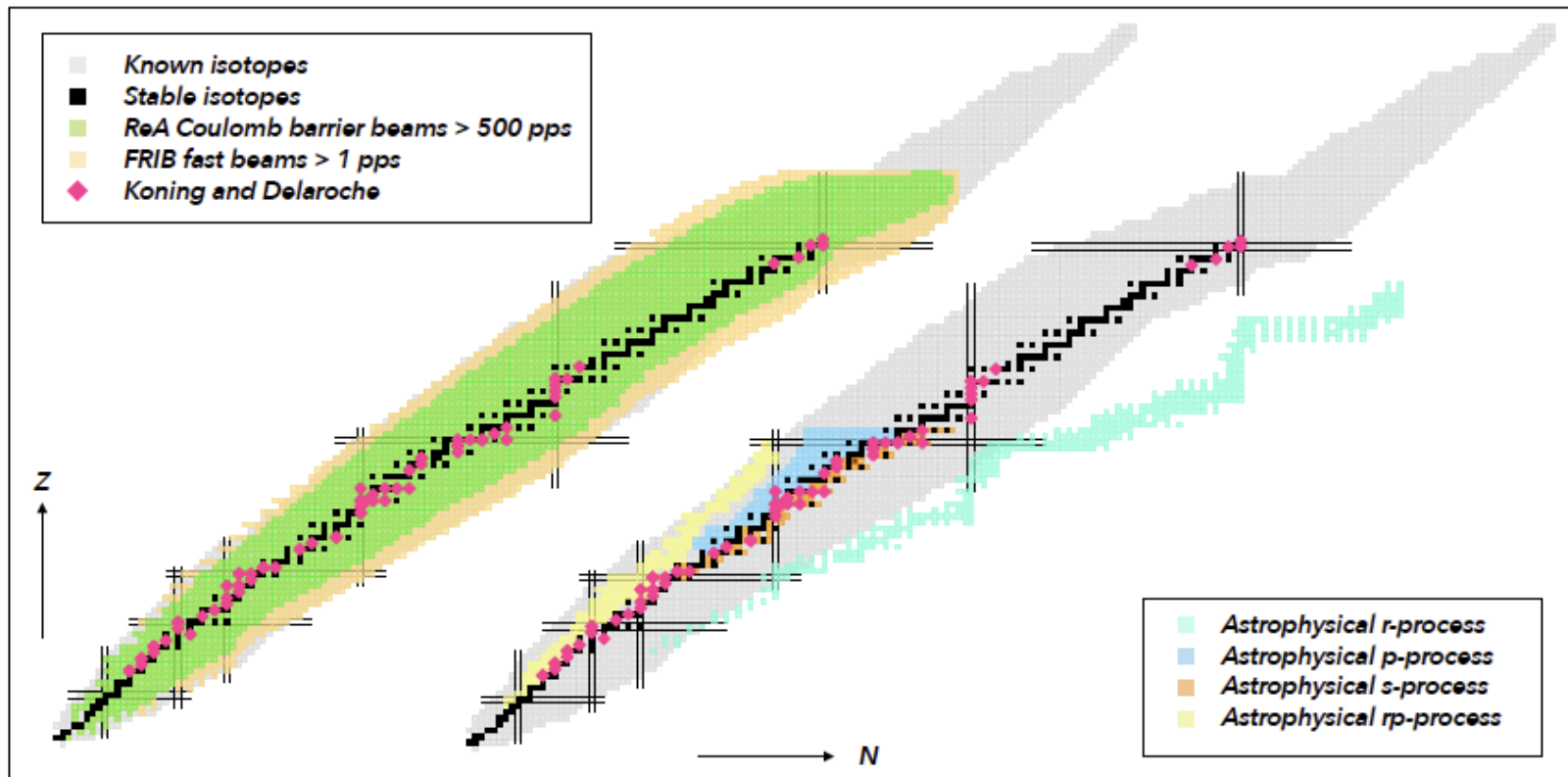
## Probe of electron capture: charge-exchange



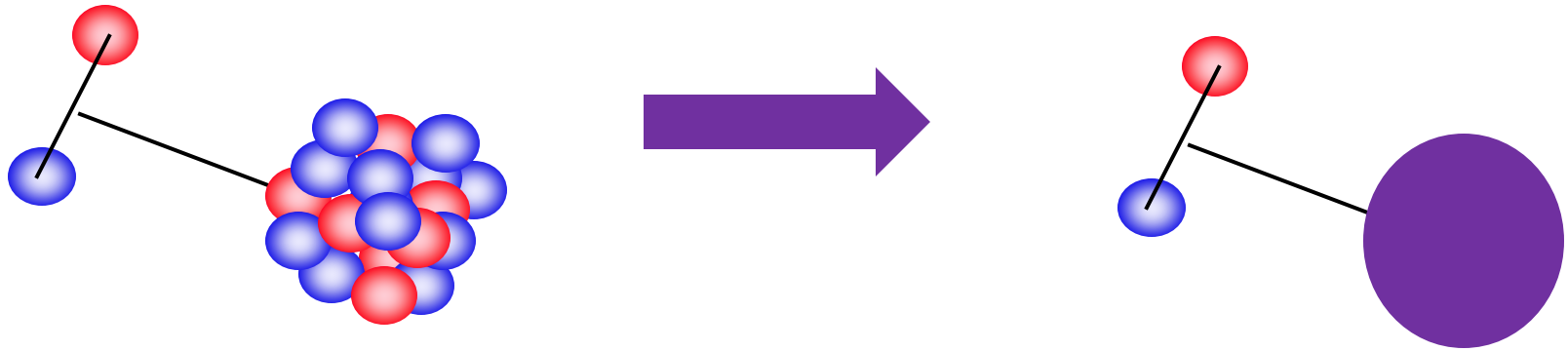
Reactions are the most diverse probes to extract astrophysics and structure information, especially for unstable isotopes...

But reaction theory is key for translation!

# Phenomenological potentials fitted to stable nuclei



# Reaction theory maps the many-body into a few-body problem

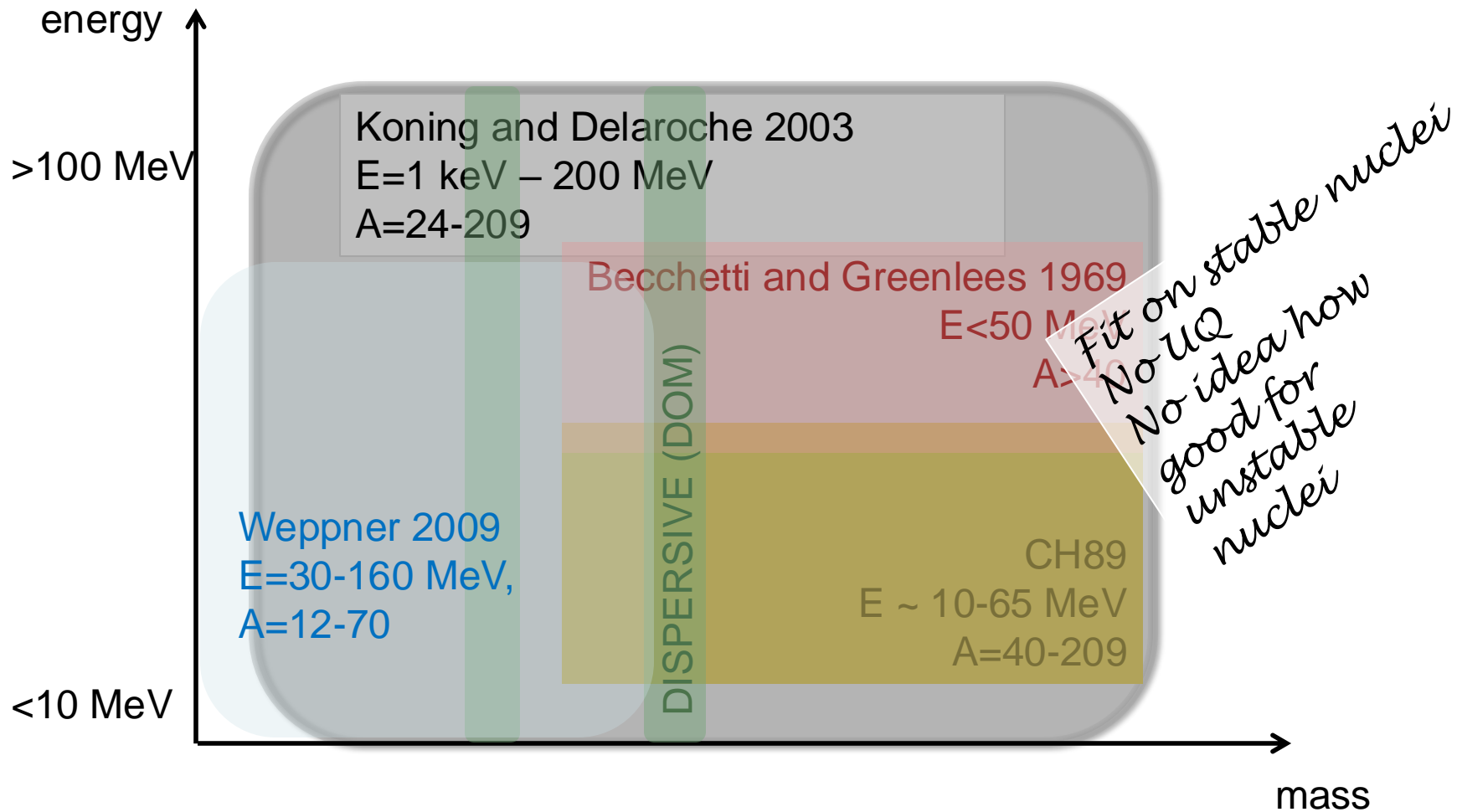


- isolating the important degrees of freedom in a reaction
- effective nucleon-nucleus interactions (or nucleus-nucleus) usually referred to as **optical potentials**

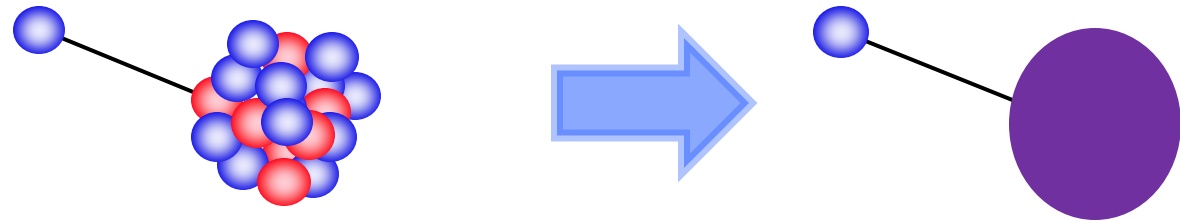


main cause of  
uncertainty

# Landscape of global optical potentials



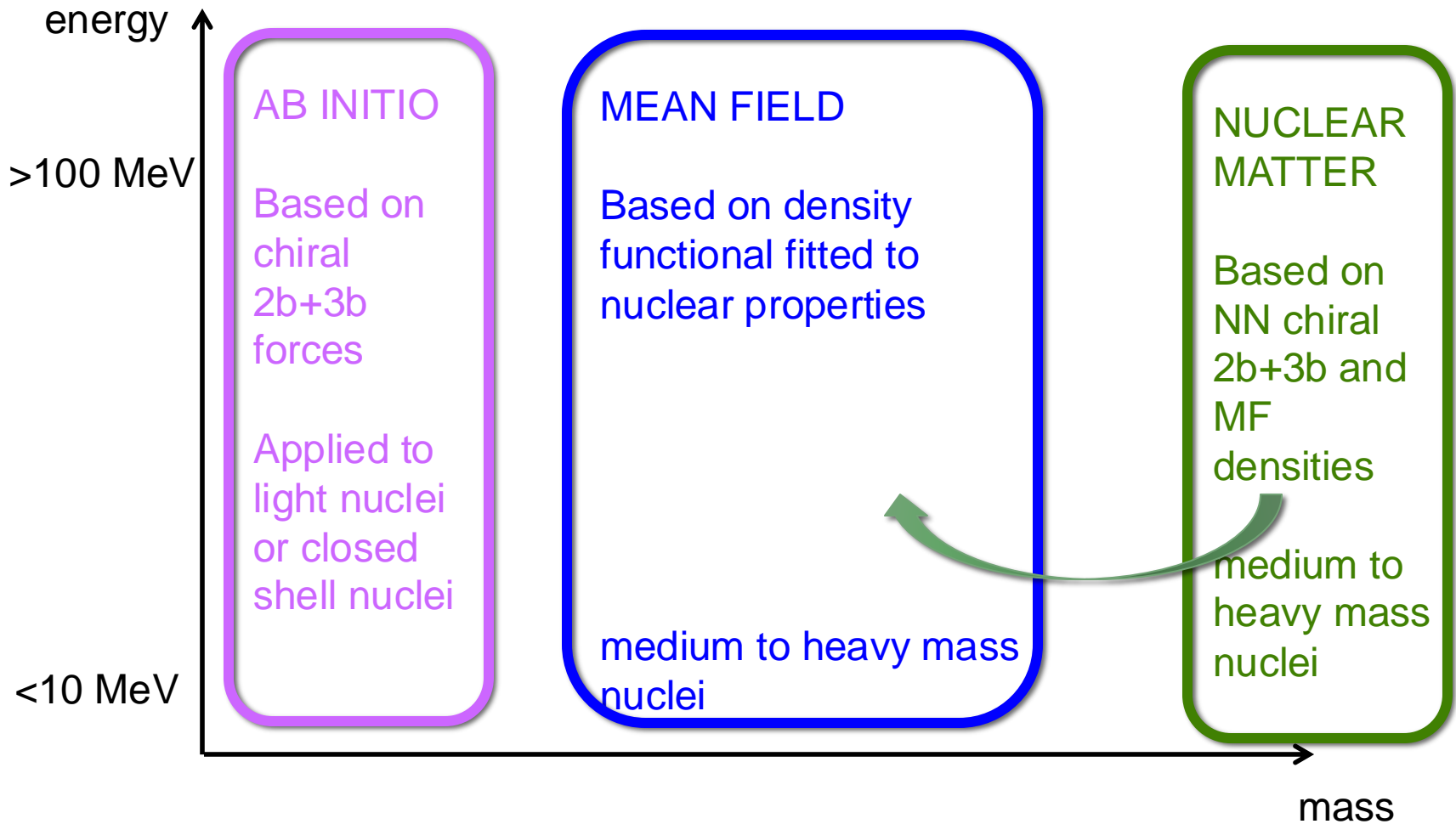
# Optical potentials from theory



## Microscopic optical potential:

- Non-local, typically not global, no simple general form
- depends on the EFT: cutoffs, regularizations, etc.
- agreement with data is variable...

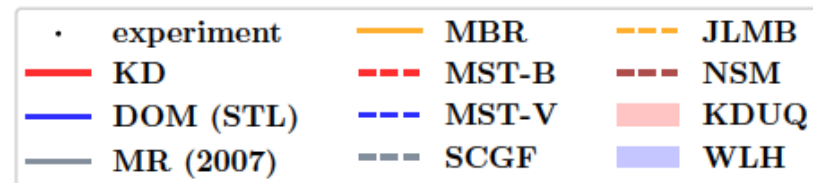
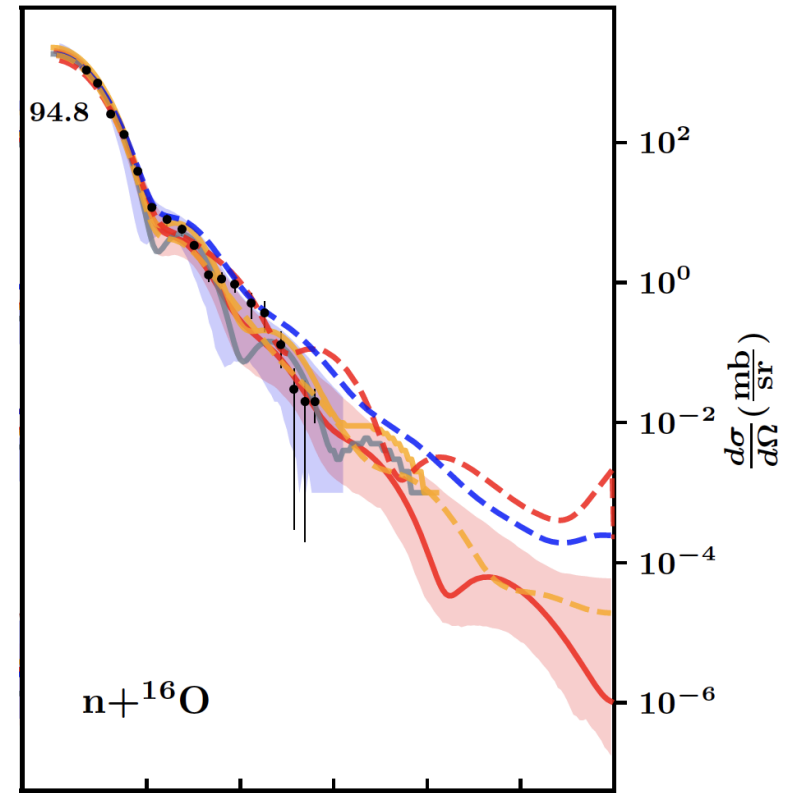
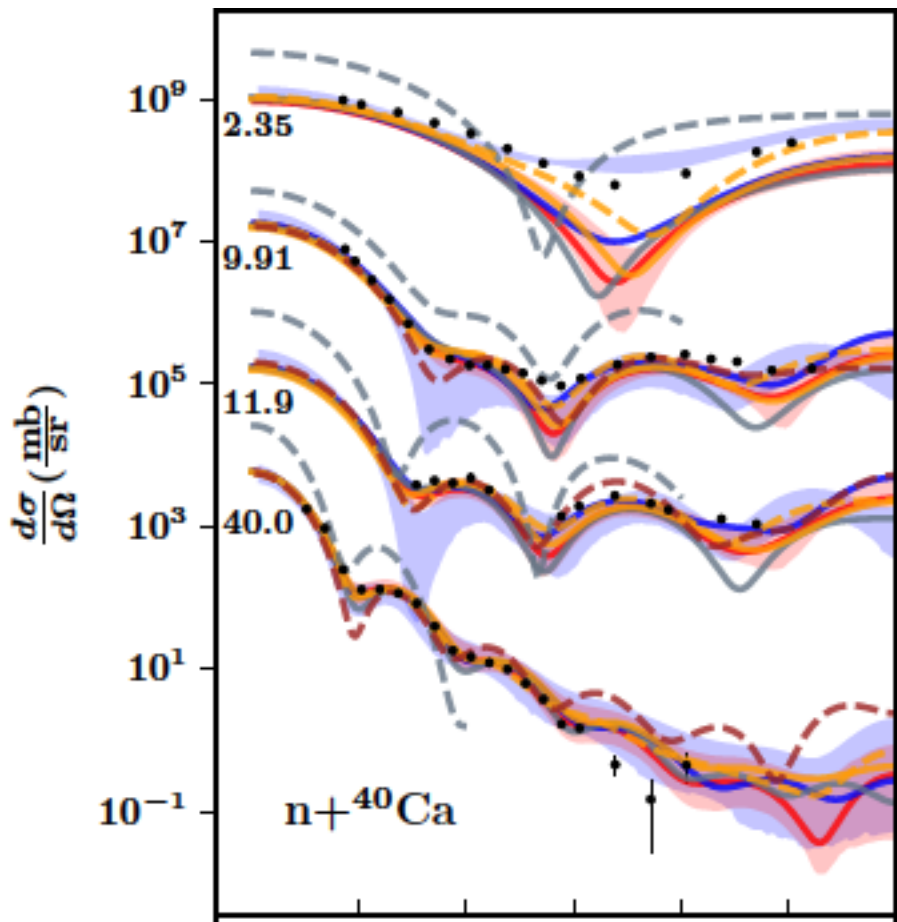
# Landscape of microscopic optical potentials





# How do optical models compare?

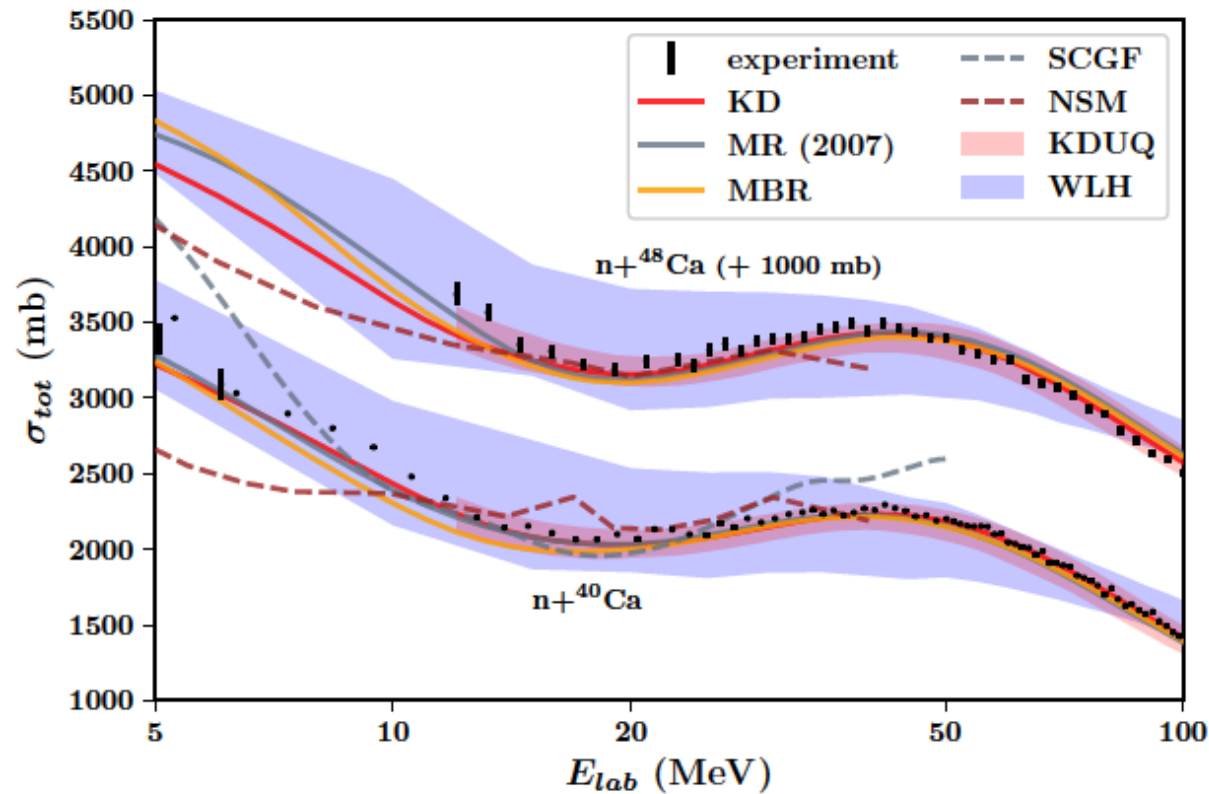
Cross section: Angular distributions  
(shaded - 95% credible intervals)



# How do optical models compare?

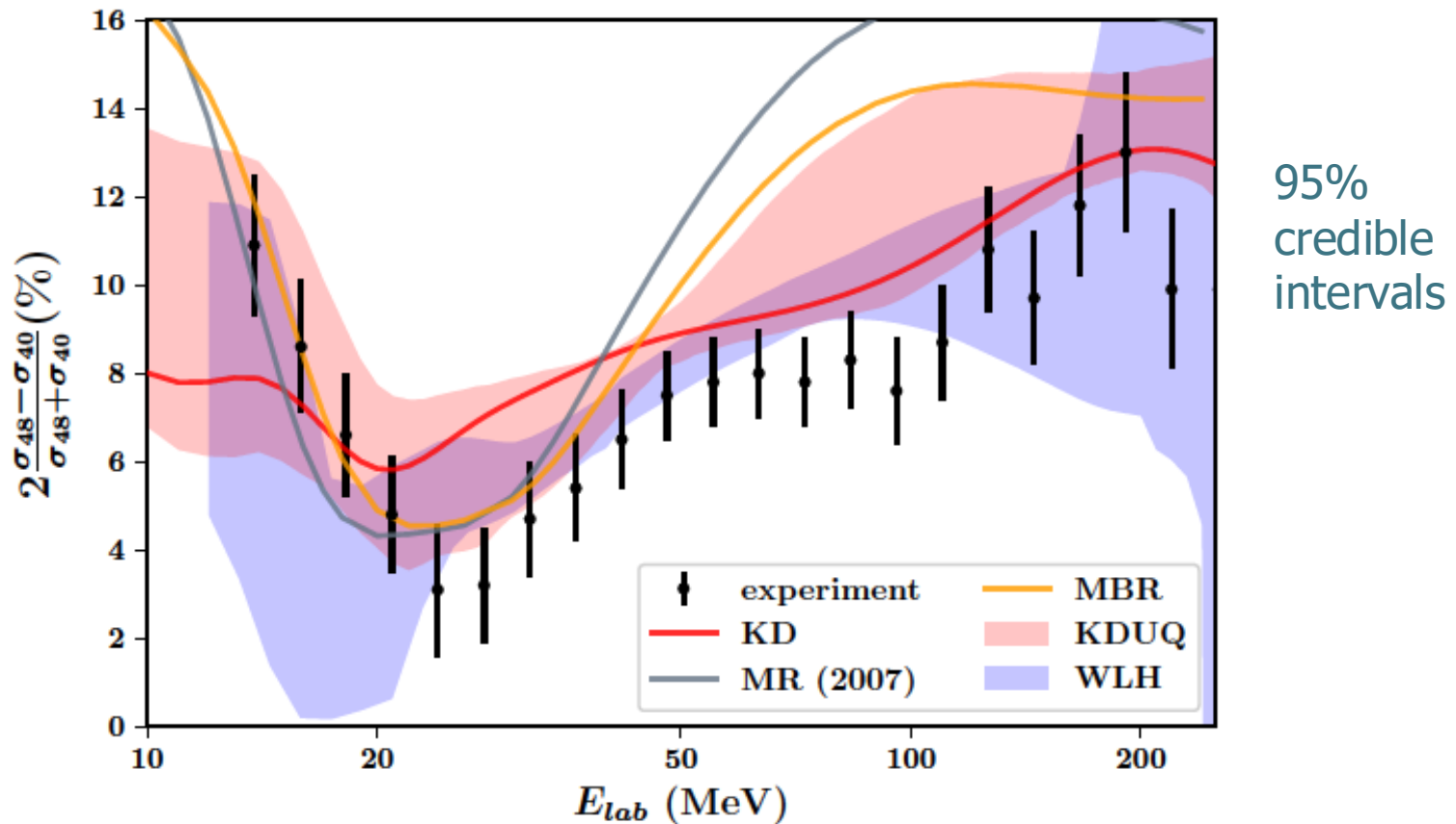
95%  
credible  
intervals

Total cross section as a function of energy



# How do optical models compare?

## Asymmetry of total cross section



# What model encapsulates more information?

Bayesian evidence: provides information contained in a data set.  
Integral of the likelihood times the prior over full parameters space

$$p(d|\mathcal{M}) = \int_{\Omega_{\mathcal{M}}} p(d|\alpha, \mathcal{M})p(\alpha|\mathcal{M})d\alpha_{\mathcal{M}}$$

Bayesian factor:  $\frac{\bar{p}(d|\mathcal{M})_{(d\sigma/d\Omega)}}{\bar{p}(d|\mathcal{M})_{(iT_{11})}} < 3$

R	Strength of evidence
1 to 3.2	Not worth more than a bare mention
3.2 to 10	Substantial
10 to 100	Strong
> 100	Decisive

Kass and Raftery,  
J. Amer. Stat. Assoc 9 (430) 791

TABLE I. Bayesian evidence (multiplied by  $10^{-3}$ ) for the surface model (second row) and the volume model (third row) for both beam energies considered (first row). The ratio between the Bayesian evidence of the volume model over that with the surface model is in the fourth row (the Bayes' factor).

Energy	9 MeV	65 MeV
Evidence (surface)	1.06	0.02
Evidence (volume)	0.65	0.13
Bayes' factor	0.6	6.9