

**electron scattering  
off  
short-lived exotic nuclei**

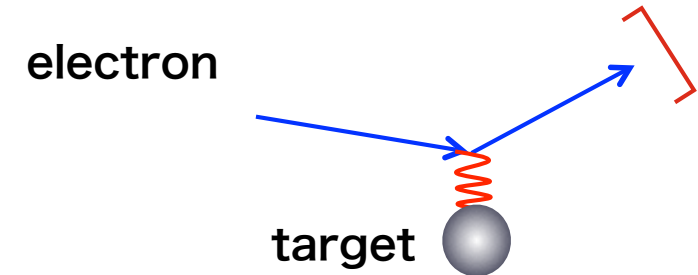
**Toshimi Suda (RARIS, Tohoku Univ.)  
[suda@ins.tohoku.ac.jp](mailto:suda@ins.tohoku.ac.jp)**

**for SCRIT collaboration**

# Electron scattering for Nuclear Physics

one detects only scattered electrons

→ very “simple” measurements



**Electron scattering** has consistently played an essential role to reveal detailed structures of nucleon and (stable) nuclei

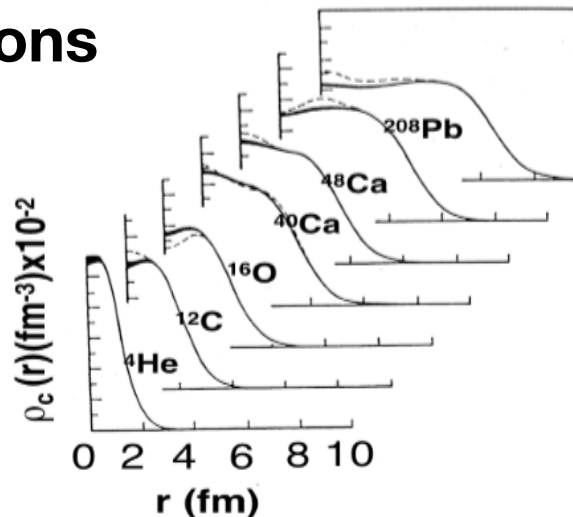
1. elementary particle - structure-less -
2. electro-weak interaction - best understood -
3. “relatively” weak - probing the whole volume of target nucleus -

## charge density distributions

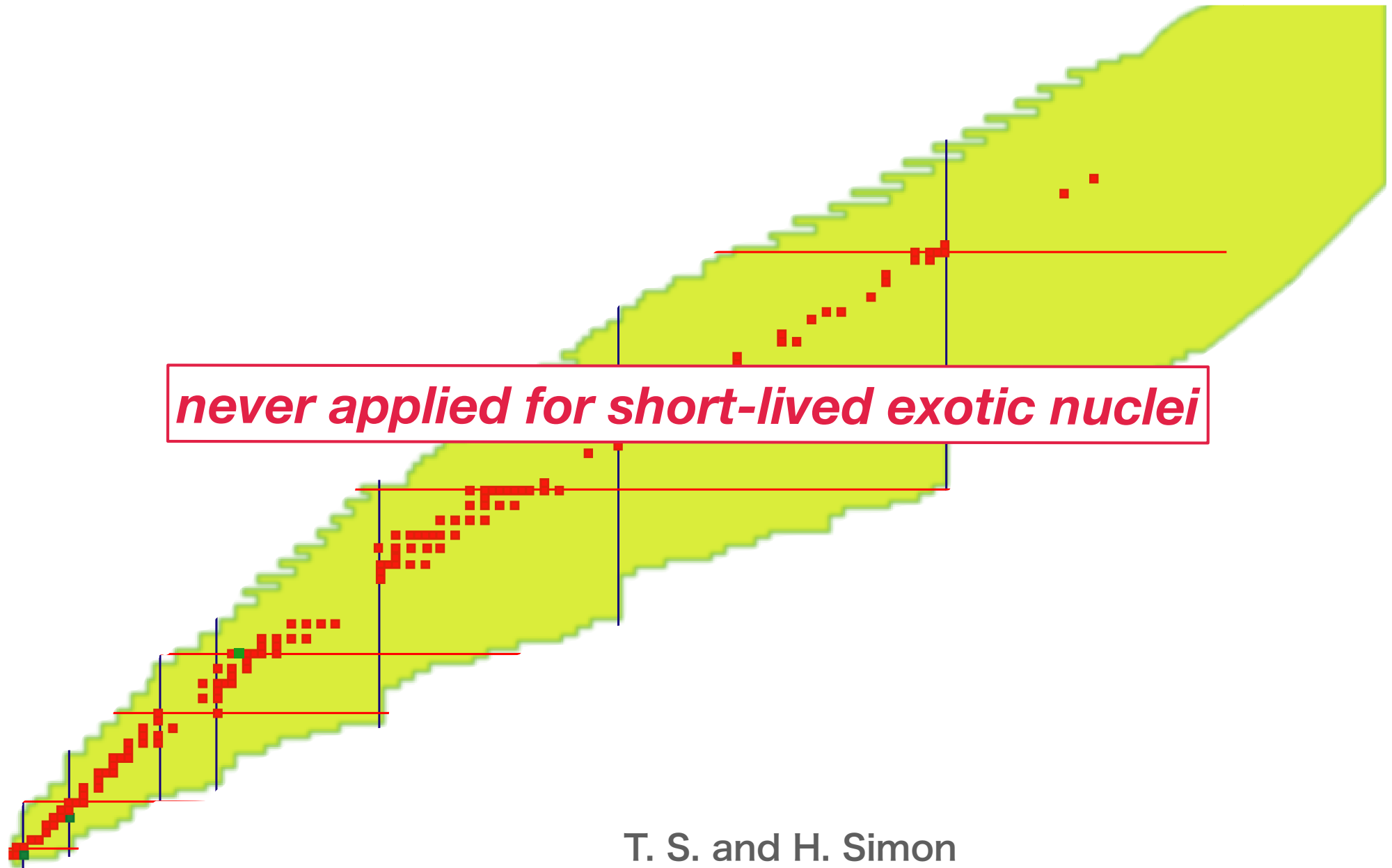
by elastic scattering

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \frac{d\sigma_{Mott}}{d\Omega} |F_c(q)|^2$$

$$F_c(q) = \int \rho_c(r) e^{iqr} d^3r$$



- deformation
- transition densities
- valence n orbital
- S-factor
- ...



T. S. and H. Simon  
Prog. Part. Nucl. Phys. 96 (2017) 1.

## Electron scattering provides a long-awaited view of unstable nuclei

Nuclear reactions produce a plethora of short-lived artificial isotopes. Figuring out what they look like has been a challenge.

The cartoon picture of an atomic nucleus looks kind of like the inside of a gumball machine that dispenses only two flavors: protons and neutrons, evenly mixed in a compact, spherical cluster.

That's not generally what real nuclei look like. Neutron-rich lead-208, for example, has a thick skin of neutrons encasing its proton-endowed core (see *PHYSICS TODAY*, July 2021, page 12). Some nuclei are flattened, and some are elongated. Some are even pear shaped.

The more unstable a nucleus, the

stranger the structures it can adopt. Short-lived nuclei might form bubble structures with depleted central density, or they might have a valence nucleon or two that form a halo around a compact central core. (See the article by Filomena Nunes, *PHYSICS TODAY*, May 2021, page 34.) Frustratingly, though, these exotic structures are hard to experimentally confirm, because the gold standard for probing nuclear structure—electron scattering—has been off limits to short-lived nuclei.

That could change soon. Kyo Tsukada

and colleagues, working at RIKEN's Radioactive Isotope Beam Factory (RIBF) in Wako, Japan, have performed the first electron-scattering experiment on unstable nuclei produced on the fly in a nuclear reaction.<sup>1</sup> Their isotope of choice, cesium-137, has a half-life of 30 years. It's not so exotic that the researchers expected—or found—anything unusual about its structure. But the technique they used is applicable to shorter-lived nuclei, so more experiments are on the way.

### Backscatter

Probing nuclei through particle scattering dates back to the discovery of the nucleus itself, in 1911, when Ernest

electron scattering - *the gold standard*  
*for probing nuclear structure* - has been off  
limits to short-lived nuclei

*Physics Today* 76 (11), 14–16 (2023)

Key parameter :  $L$   $\frac{dN}{dt} = L \times \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}$

typical  $L$  for e-scattering used for **stable** nuclei



R. Hofstadter  
(Nobel prize : 1961)

	<b>E<sub>e</sub></b>	<b>N<sub>beam</sub></b>	<b>target</b>	<b>L</b>
Hofstadter's era (1950s)	150 MeV	~ 1nA (~10 <sup>9</sup> /s)	~10 <sup>19</sup> /cm <sup>2</sup>	~10 <sup>28</sup> /cm <sup>2</sup> /s
JLab	12 GeV	~100μA (~10 <sup>14</sup> /s)	~10 <sup>22</sup> /cm <sup>2</sup>	~10 <sup>36</sup> /cm <sup>2</sup> /s

minimum required  $L$  for exotic nuclei



$$L \gtrsim 10^{27} / \text{cm}^2 / \text{s}$$

## 🌐 challenges

- $L \gtrsim 10^{27} / \text{cm}^2 / \text{s}$  with small # of exotic nuclei
- exotic nuclei : production-hard & short-lived

## 🌐 a novel way to form “thick-enough” target for e-scattering with only $\sim 10^7 / \text{s}$

Available online at [www.sciencedirect.com](http://www.sciencedirect.com)

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Nuclear Instruments and Methods in Physics Research A 532 (2004) 216–223

**NUCLEAR INSTRUMENTS & METHODS IN PHYSICS RESEARCH**  
Section A  
[www.elsevier.com/locate/nima](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/nima)

**A new method for electron-scattering experiments using a self-confining radioactive ion target in an electron storage ring**

M. Wakasugi<sup>a,\*</sup>, T. Suda<sup>b</sup>, Y. Yano<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> *Cyclotron center, RIKEN, Wako-shi, Saitama 351-0198, Japan*  
<sup>b</sup> *RI Beam Science Laboratory, RIKEN, Wako-shi, Saitama 351-0198, Japan*

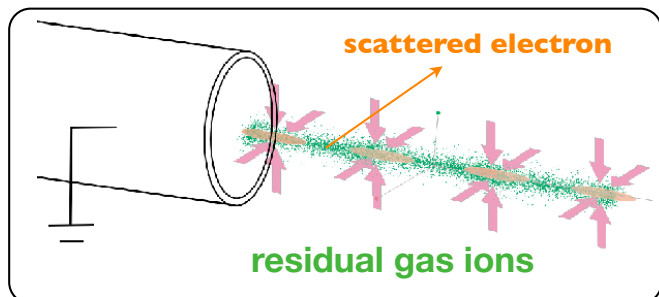
Available online 3 August 2004

**SCRIT : Self-Confining Radioactive Ion Target**

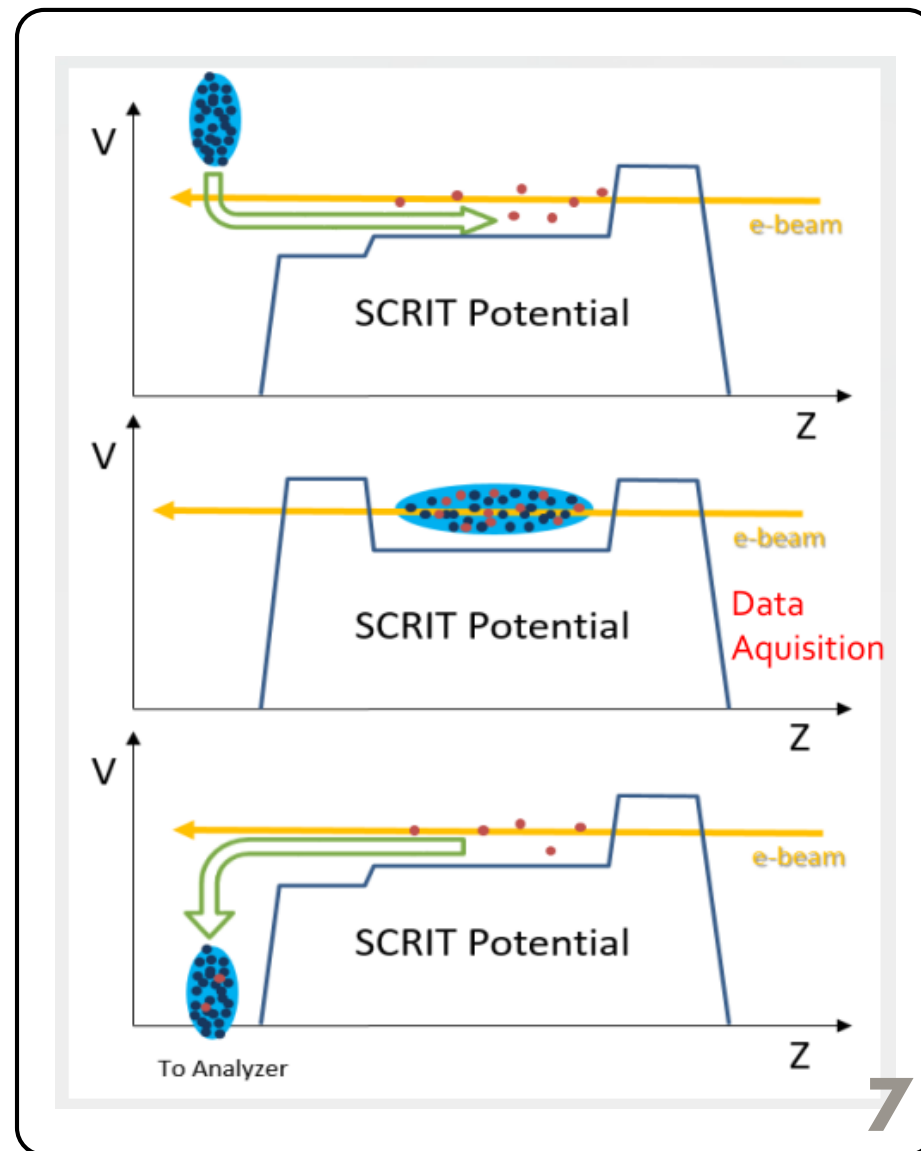
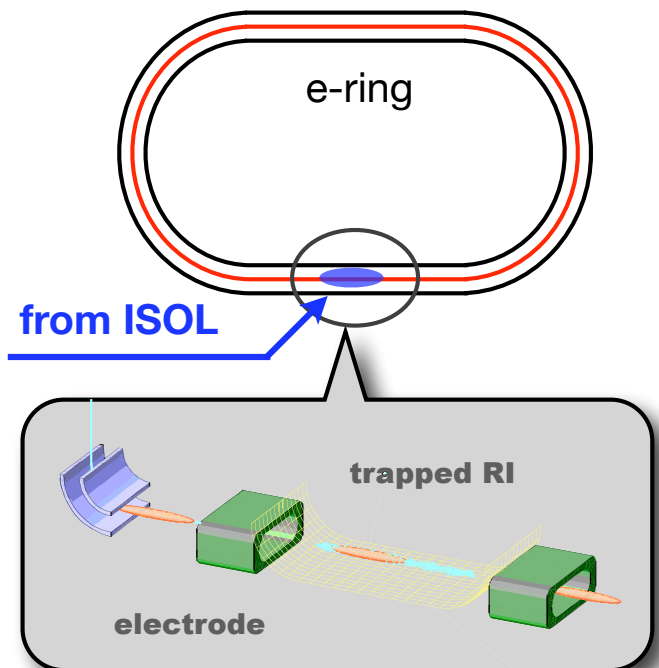
# SCRIT (Self-Confining RI Ion Target)

Idea : **“ion trapping”** at SR facilities.

ionized residual gases are trapped by the circulating electron beam

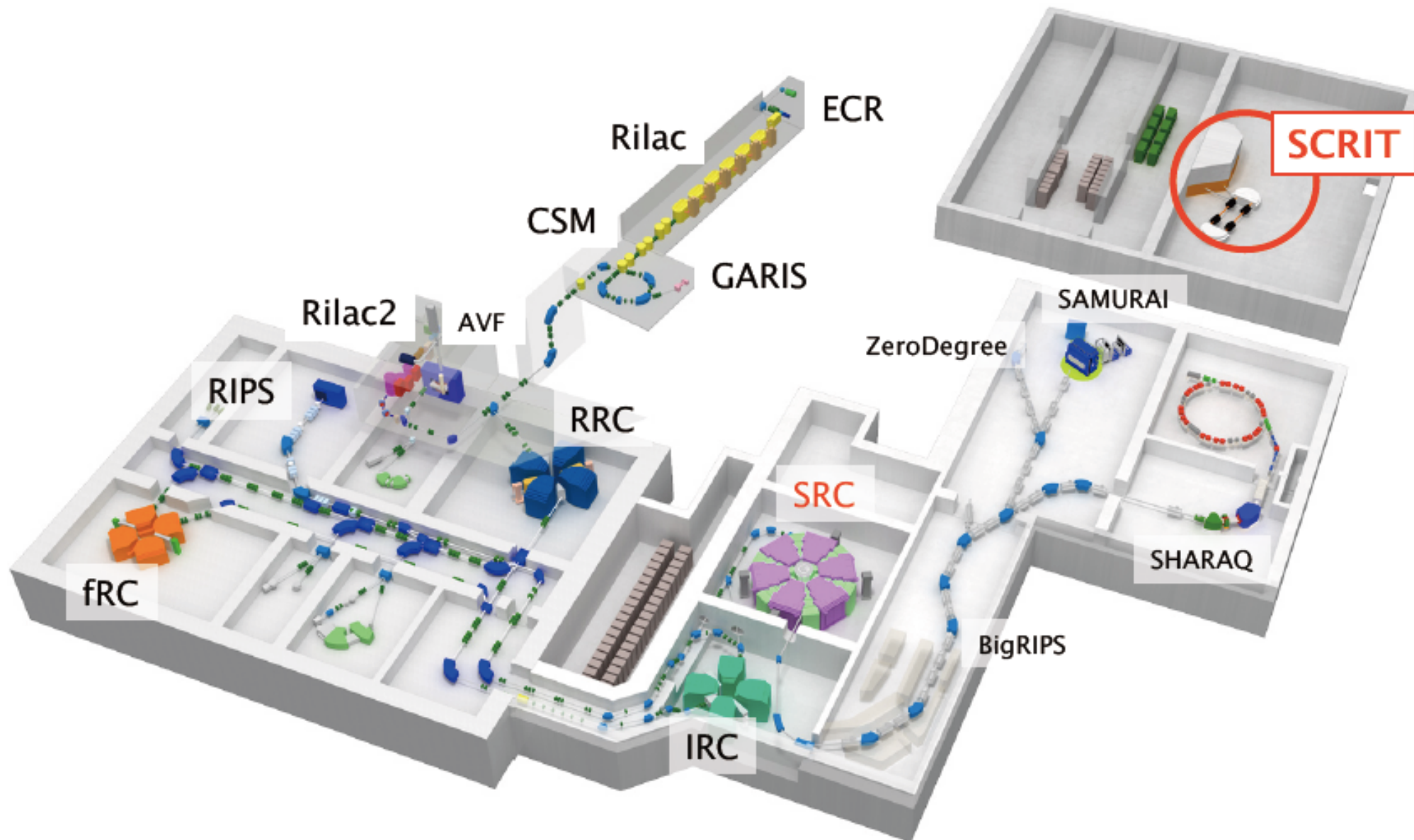


*ill problem of e-storage rings*



Nucl. Instrum. Methods A532 (2004) 216.  
Phys. Rev. Lett. 100 (2008) 164801.  
Pays. Rev. Lett. 102 (2009) 102501.

World's first electron facility dedicated for exotic nuclei





## WiSES spectrometer

$$\Delta\Omega \sim 90 \text{ mSr}$$

$$\theta = 30 - 60^\circ$$

$$\Delta p/p \sim 10^{-3}$$

long target accept.

## e-RI collisions

## FRAC

cooler-buncher  
dc-to-pulse conv.

## ERIS (ISOL)

photofission of  $^{238}\text{U}$

## SR2 storage ring

$$E_e = 150\text{-}700 \text{ MeV}$$

$$I_e = 300 \text{ mA}$$

$$\tau \sim 2 \text{ hours}$$

neutron-rich nuclei  
by  $\gamma+^{238}\text{U}$

## Injector + ISOL driver

150 MeV Microtron

## SCRIT

Nucl. Instrum. Methods A532 (2004) 216.

Phys. Rev. Lett. 100 (2008) 164801.

Pays. Rev. Lett. 102 (2009) 102501.

**SCRIT Facility** : Nucl. Instrum. Method B317 (2013) 668.

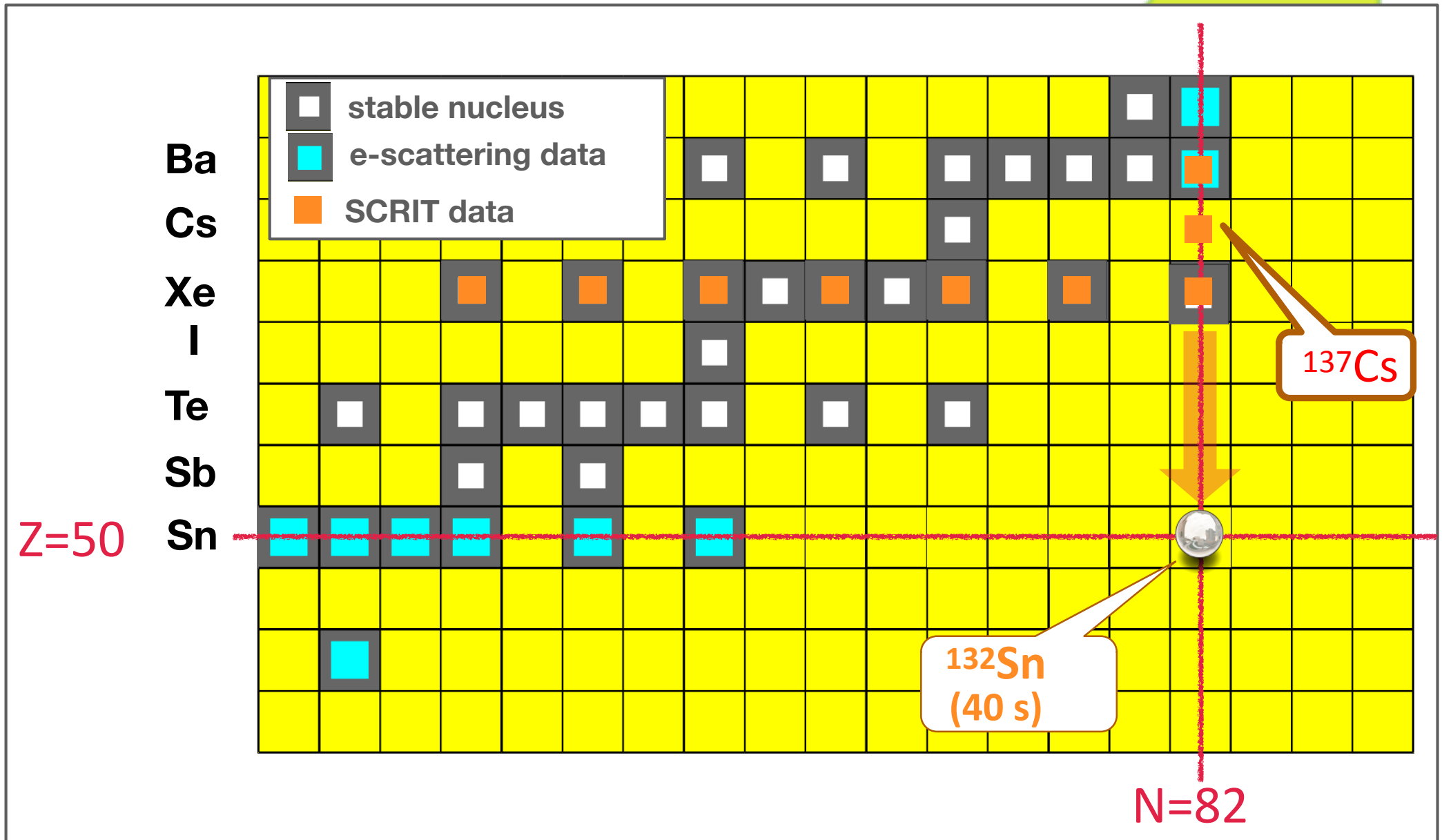
**ERIS** : Nucl. Instrum. Method B317 (2013) 357.

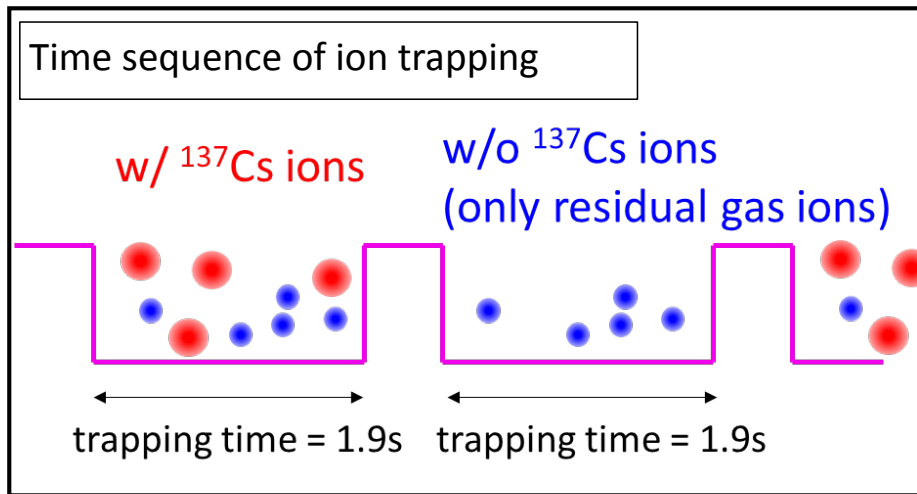
**FRAC** : Rev. Sci. Instrum. 89 (2018) 095107.

# RIKEN SCRIT e-scattering facility

Electron Ring  
(SCRIT equipped)

WiSES  
(Window-frame Spectrometer  
for Electron Scattering)





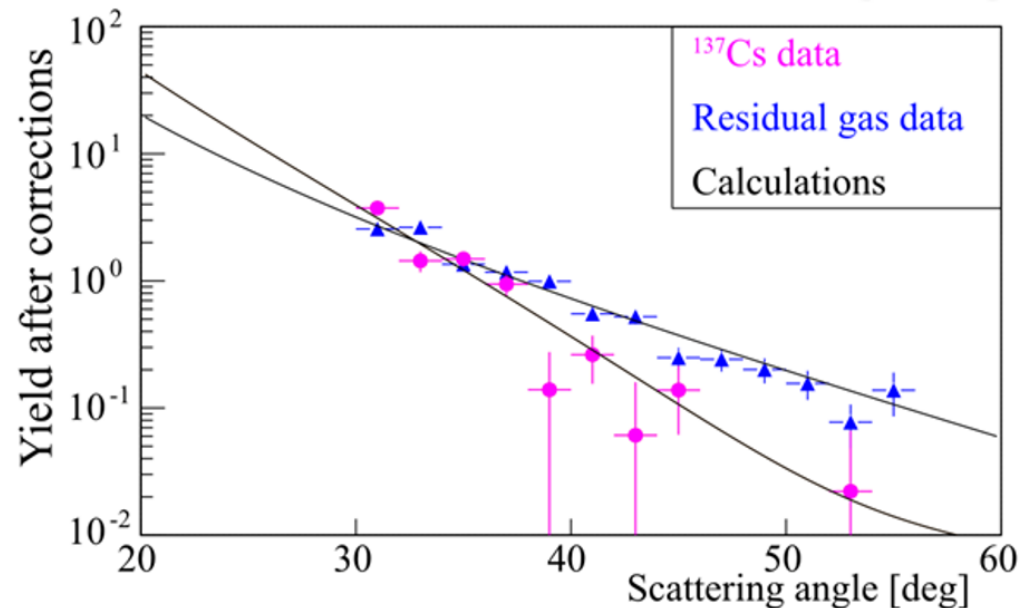
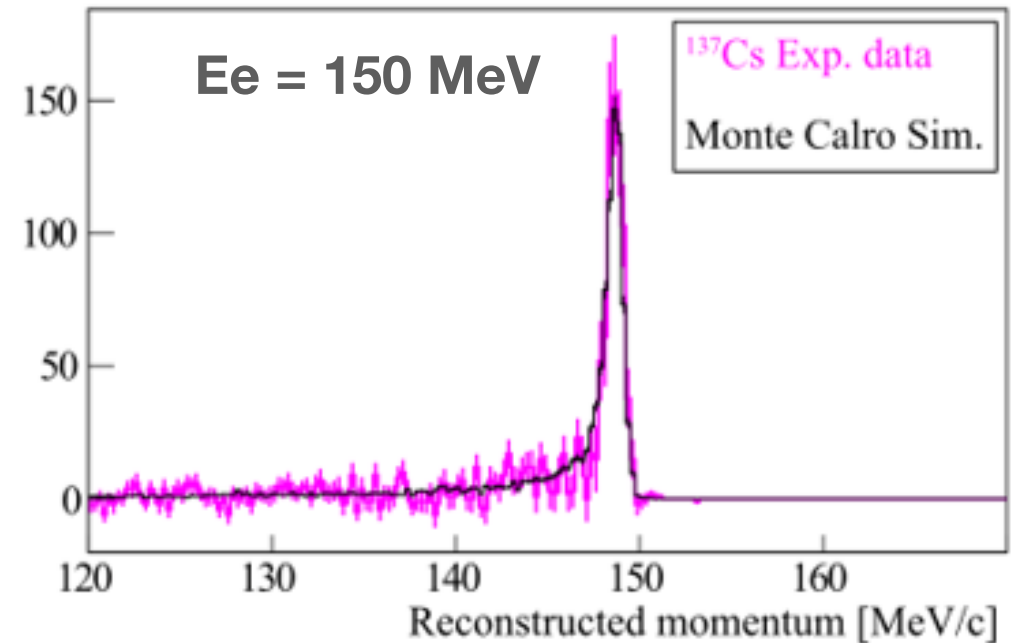
**1.9 s trapping**

**=> mimicking “short-lived” nuclei**

**$N_{\text{trapped}} \sim 2 \times 10^7$**

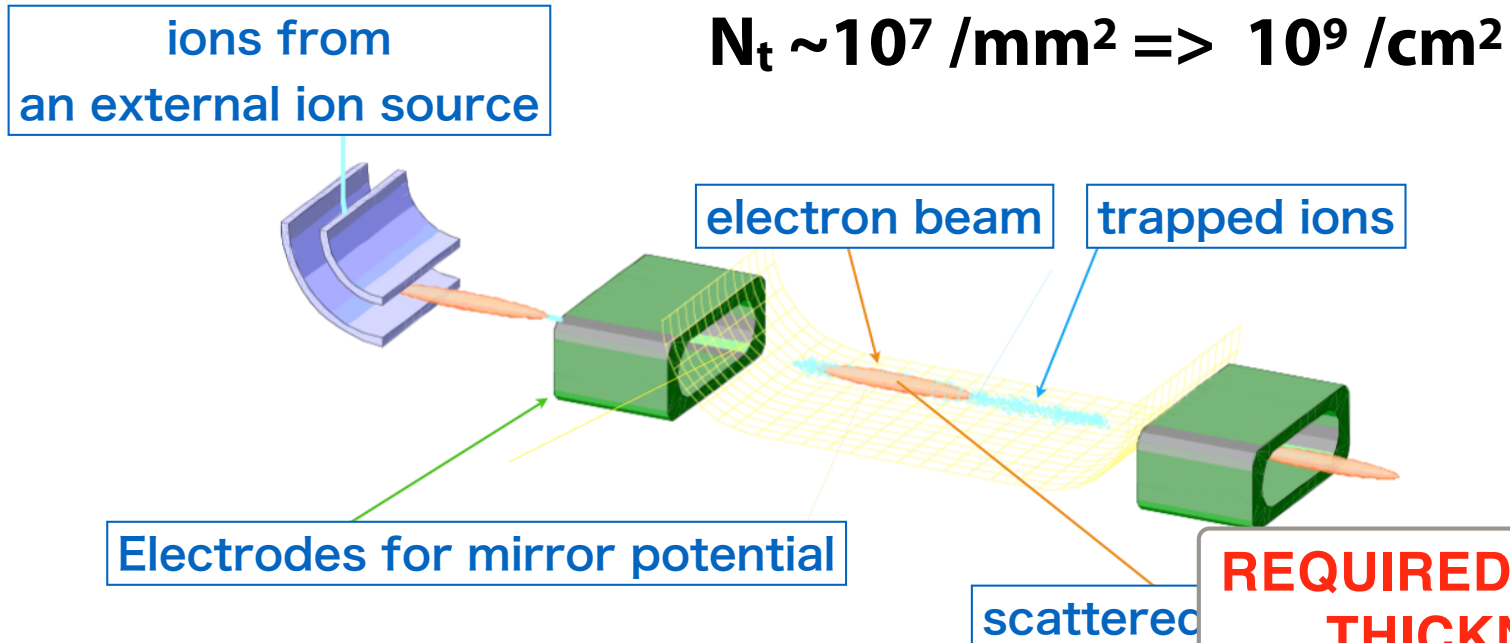
**=>  $L \sim 0.9 \times 10^{26} / \text{cm}^2/\text{s}$**

**successful demonstration for  
online-produced unstable nuclei**



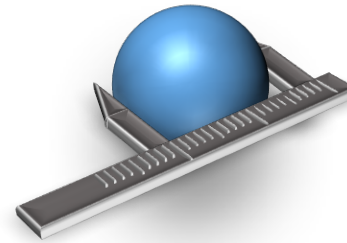
# Luminosities

$\sim 10^7$  ions are trapped on e-beam ( $\sim 1 \text{ mm}^2$ )



	$E_e$	$N_{\text{beam}}$	$\rho \cdot t$	$L$
Hofstadter's era (1950s)	150 MeV	$\sim 1 \text{ nA}$ ( $\sim 10^9 / \text{s}$ )	$\sim 10^{19} / \text{cm}^2$	$\sim 10^{28} / \text{cm}^2 / \text{s}$
JLAB	12 GeV	$\sim 100 \mu\text{A}$ ( $\sim 10^{14} / \text{s}$ )	$\sim 10^{22} / \text{cm}^2$	$\sim 10^{36} / \text{cm}^2 / \text{s}$
<b>SCRIT</b>	<b>150 - 300 MeV</b>	<b><math>\sim 200 \text{ mA}</math></b> ( <b><math>\sim 10^{18} / \text{s}</math></b> )	<b><math>\sim 10^9 / \text{cm}^2</math></b>	<b><math>\sim 10^{27} / \text{cm}^2 / \text{s}</math></b>

# our e-scattering activities



$$\langle r_c^2 \rangle \equiv -6 \frac{dG_E(Q^2)}{dQ^2} \Big|_{Q^2 \rightarrow 0}$$

## Proton (charge) size

$$E_e = 10 - 60 \text{ MeV}$$

$$\theta_e = 30 - 150 \text{ deg.}$$

$$\Rightarrow Q^2 = 3 \times 10^{-5} - 0.013 \text{ (GeV/c)}^2$$

**world's lowest-ever  $Q^2$  !!**

**ULQ<sub>2</sub> (Ultra-Low  $Q^2$ )**

**SCRIT@RIKEN/RIBF**

## e-scattering of online-produced exotic nuclei ( $\sim 10^8$ /sec)

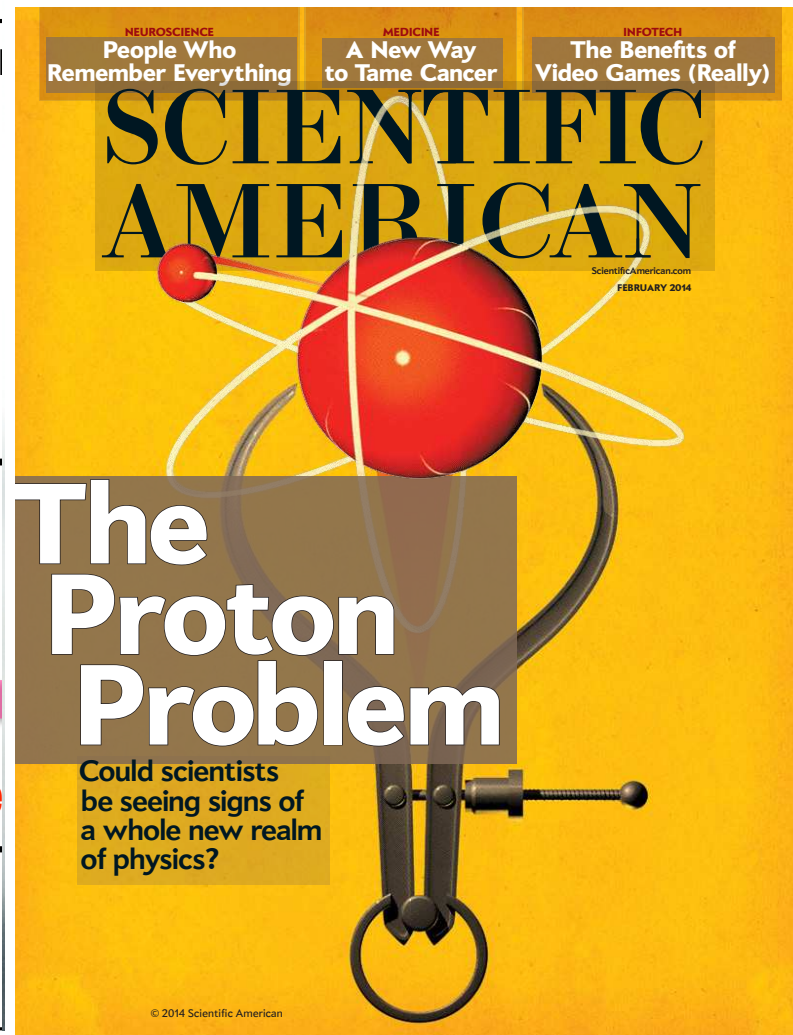
$$E_e = 150 - 300 \text{ MeV}$$

$$\theta_e = 30 - 60 \text{ deg.}$$

$$\Rightarrow q = 80 - 300 \text{ MeV/c}$$

$$Q^2 = 0.006 - 0.09 \text{ (GeV/c)}^2$$

**world's first !!**

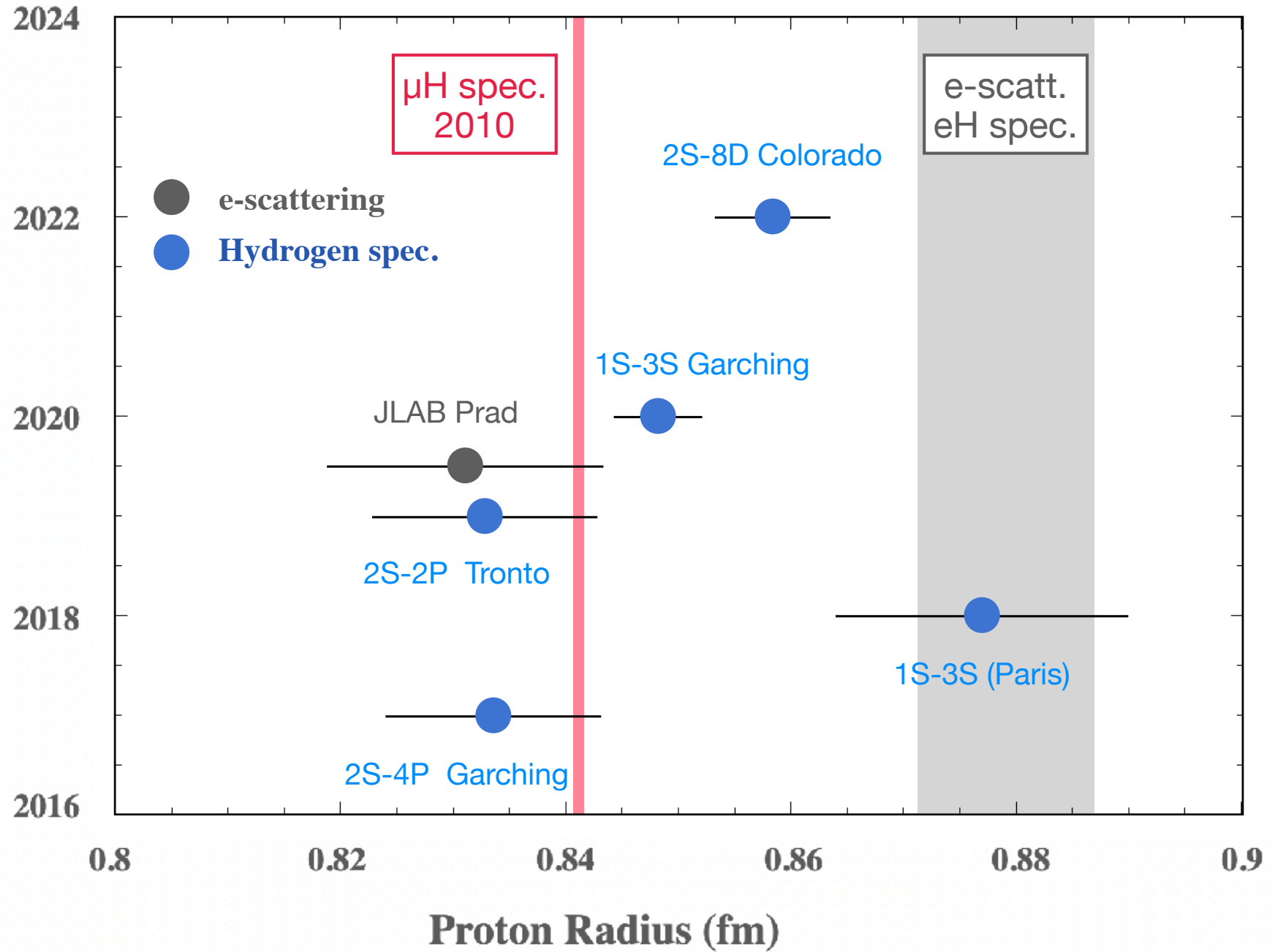


5) 59.

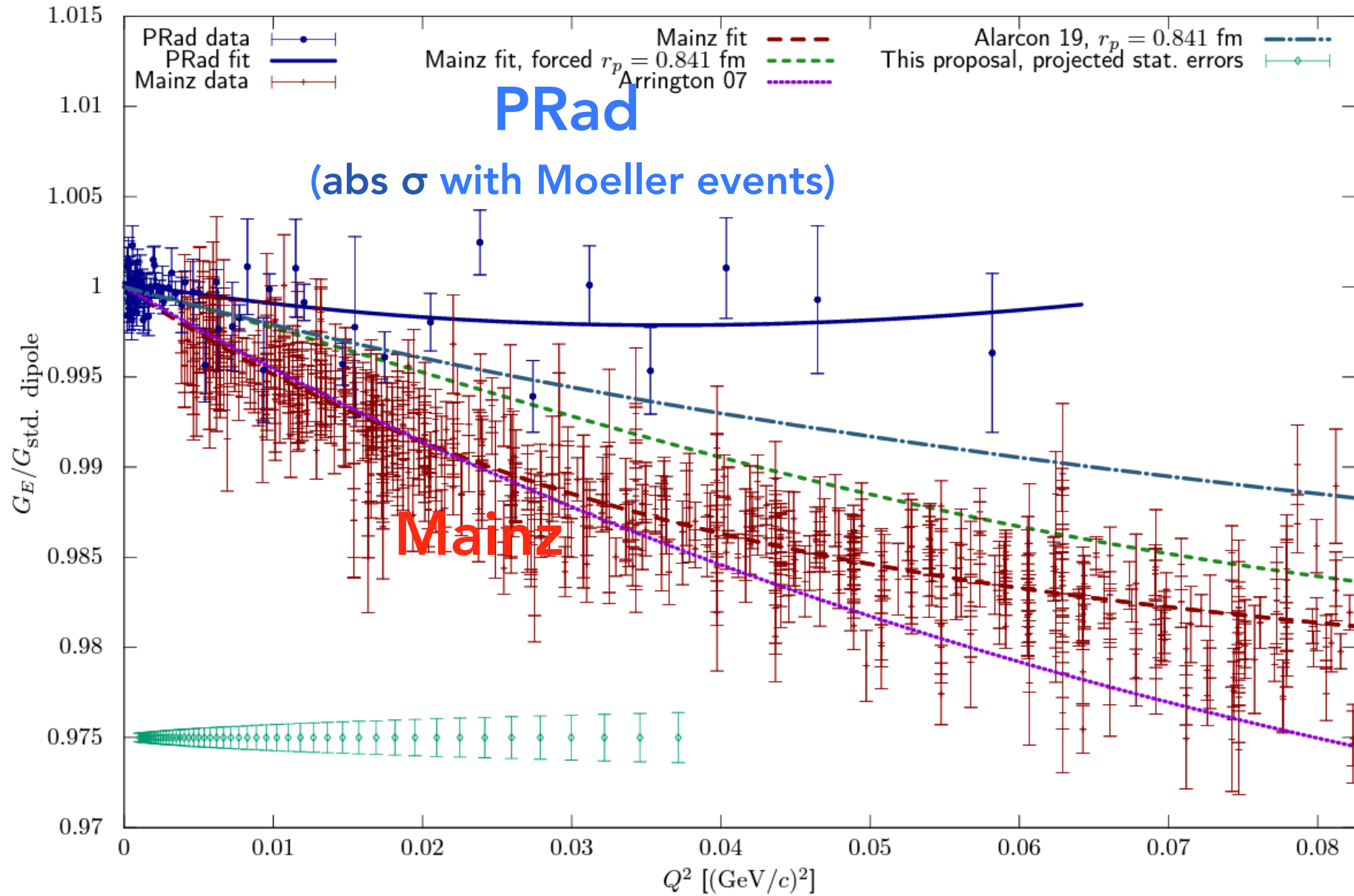
### PROTON CHARGE RADIUS (fm)

- 1) one of the most important basic properties of nucleon
- 2) Rydberg constant :  $\Delta E = R_{Rydberg} \left( \frac{1}{n^2} - \frac{1}{m^2} \right) + \alpha \delta_{l0} \langle r_p^2 \rangle$

# proton charge radius as of today









**Tohoku Univ.  
Sendai**

## ULQ2 : Ultra-Low Q2



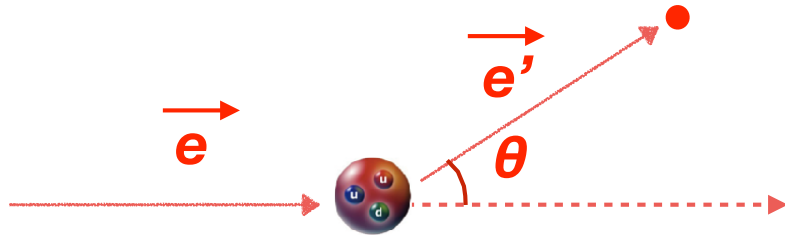
since 1967

60 MeV e-linac



1.3 GeV synchrotron

## electron scattering off proton



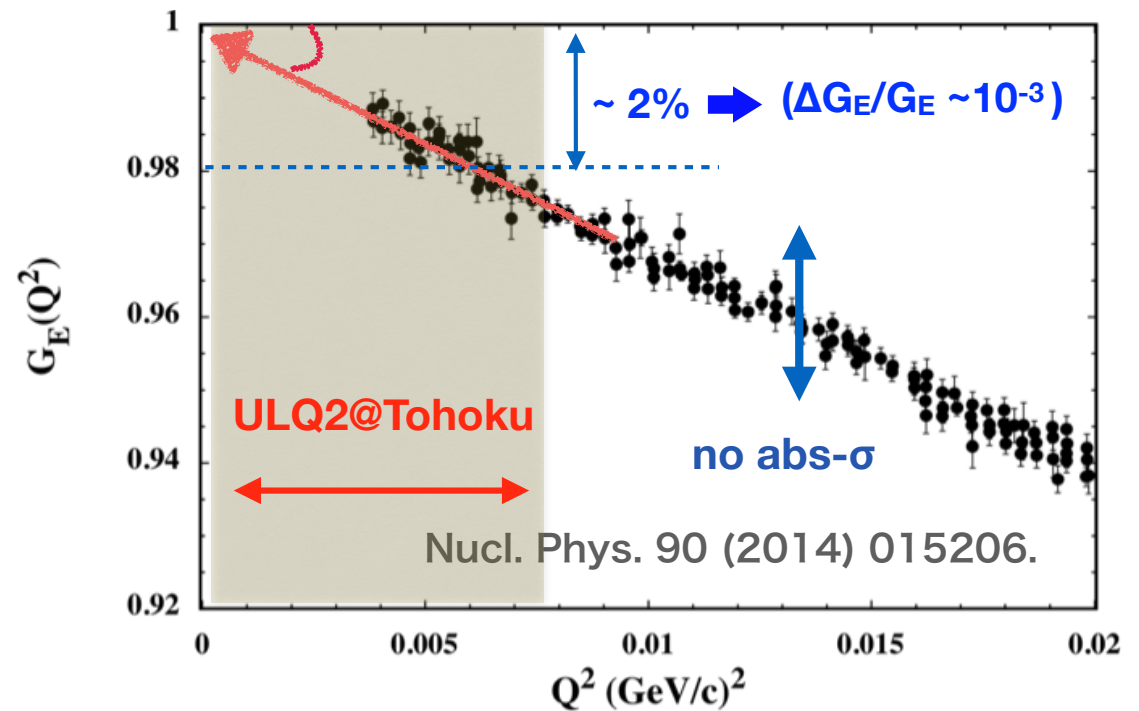
$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \left(\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}\right)_{Mott} \frac{\text{electric } G_E^2(Q^2) + \frac{\tau}{\epsilon} \text{magnetic } G_M^2(Q^2)}{1 + \tau}$$

$$\vec{q} = \vec{e} - \vec{e}' \quad Q^2 = \vec{q}^2 - \omega^2$$

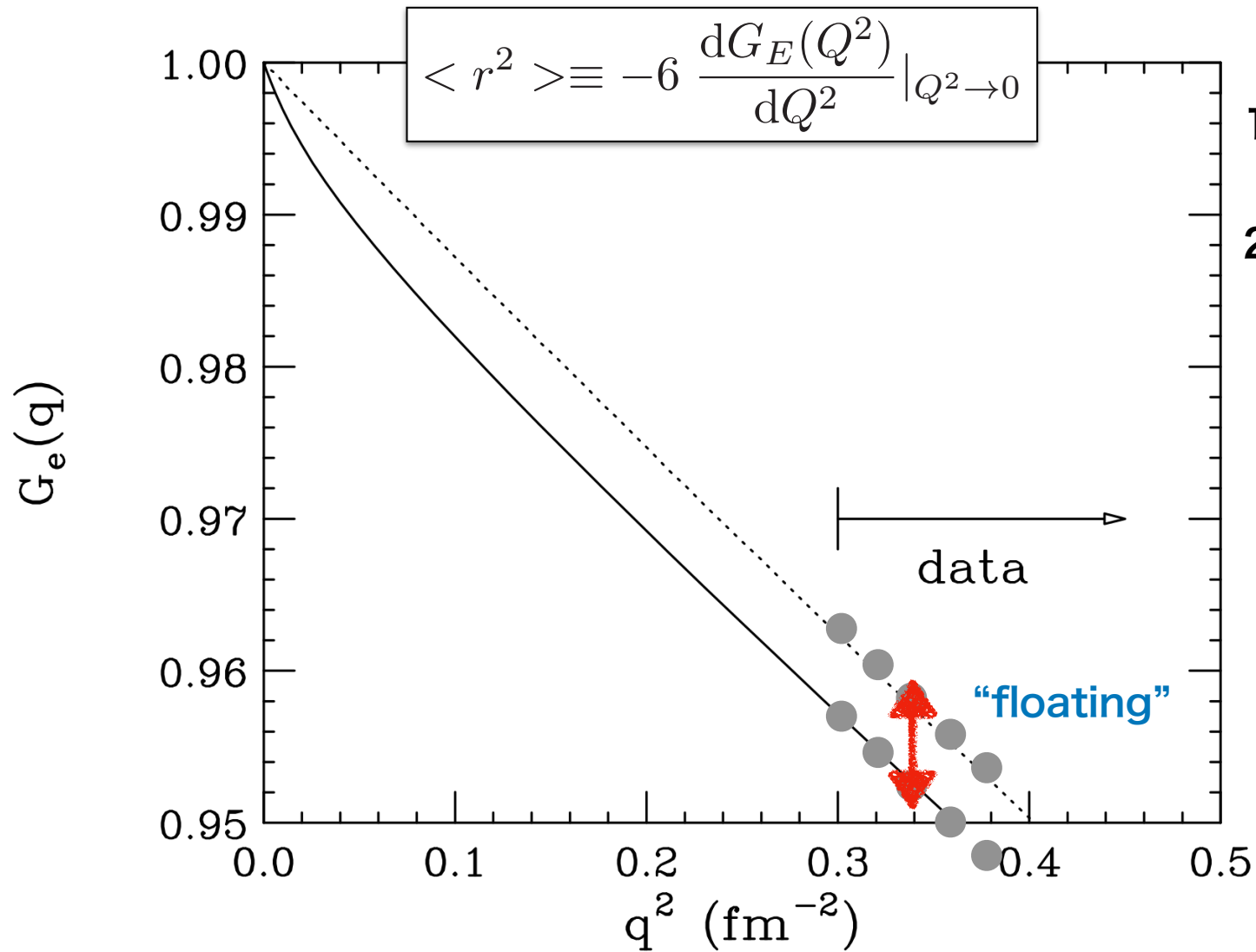
$$\omega = e - e' \quad = 4 e e' \sin^2(\theta/2)$$

## proton charge radius

$$\langle r_c^2 \rangle \equiv -6 \frac{dG_E(Q^2)}{dQ^2} \Big|_{Q^2 \rightarrow 0}$$



# Absolute $G_E(Q^2)$ at lower $Q^2$ region



- 1) no absolute  $G_E(Q^2)$  ("floating")
- 2)  $\chi^2$  is similar for both

**ABSOLUTE  $G_E(Q^2)$   
at lower  $Q^2$  region**

## “least model-dependent” proton charge radius

- 1) **lowest-ever  $Q^2$**  by lowest-ever energy e-scattering (**10-60 MeV**)
- 2) **absolute  $\sigma$**  measurements with  **$10^{-3}$  accuracy**
- 3) **Rosenbluth-separated  $G_E(Q^2)$  and  $G_M(Q^2)$**

possible only at Tohoku accel.

### 60 MeV electron linac (since 1967)

$E_e = 10 - 60 \text{ MeV}$

$\Delta E/E = 0.6 \times 10^{-4}$

beam size  $\sim 0.6 \text{ mm}$  on target

duty factor =  $10^{-3}$

### ULQ2 twin-spectrometer setup

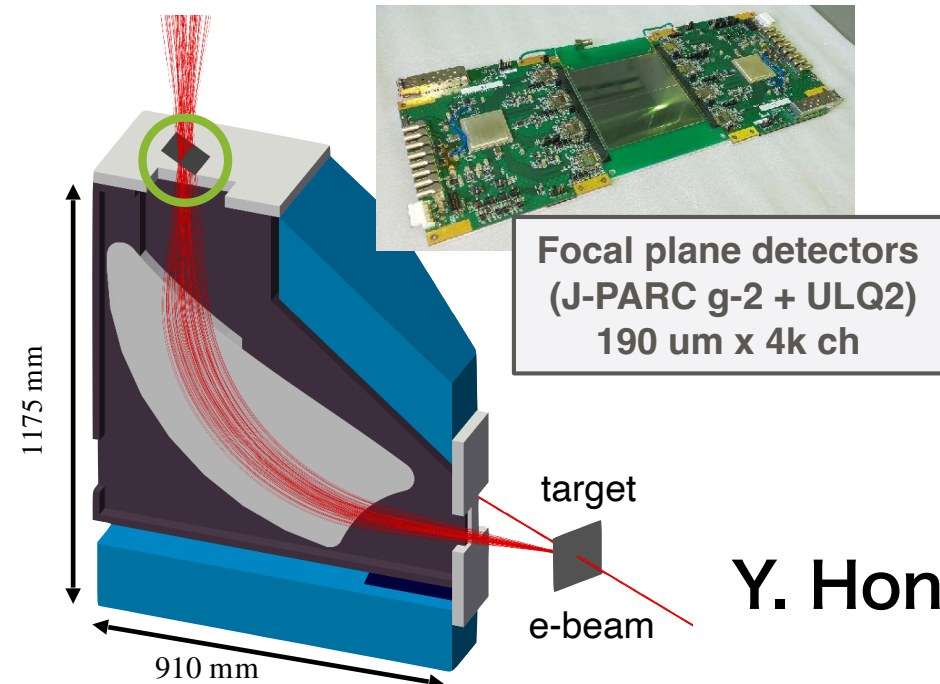
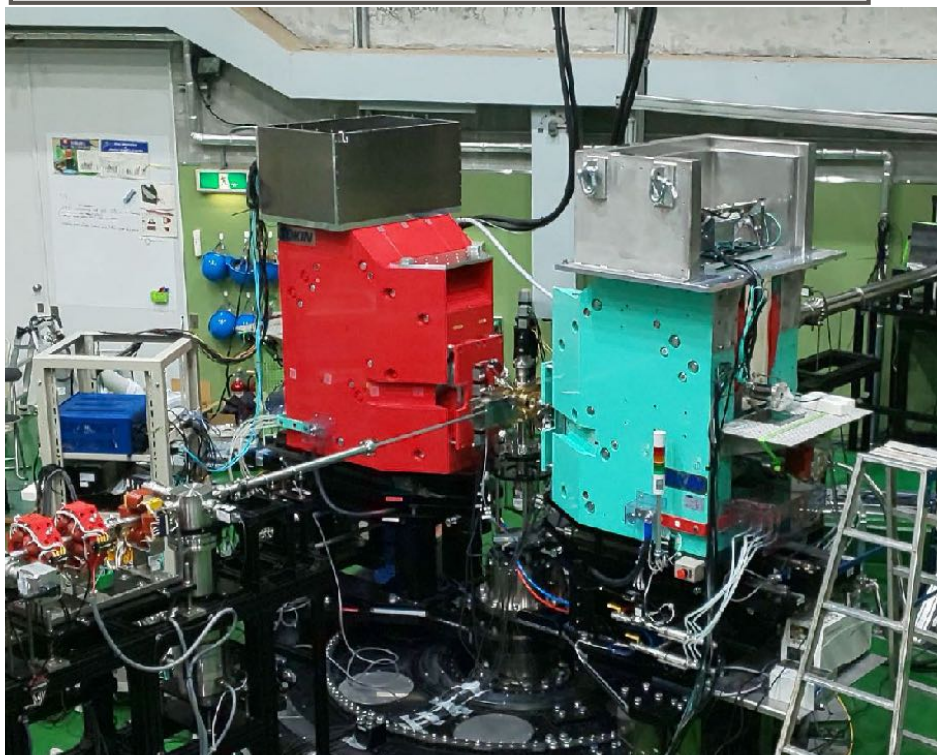
Luminosity monitoring

$\Delta p/p = 5.6 \times 10^{-3}$

$\Delta\Omega = 6 \text{ mSr}$

$\theta = 30 - 150 \text{ deg.}$

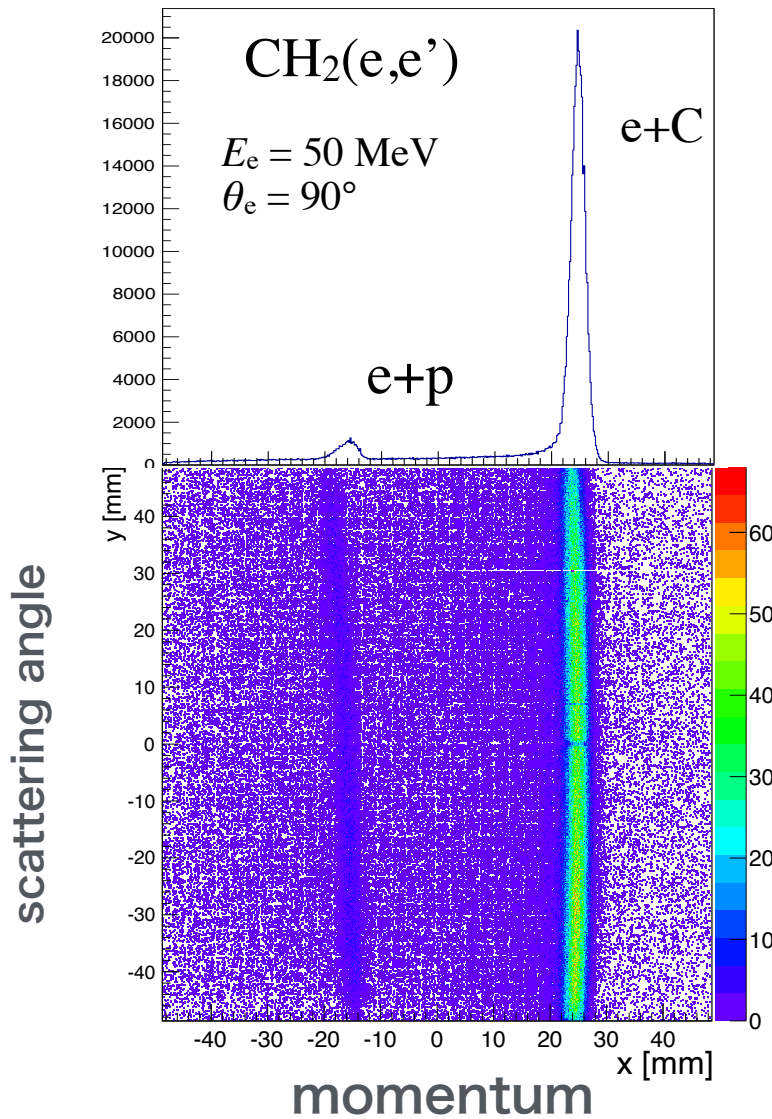
$Q^2 = 3 \times 10^{-5} - 0.013 \text{ (GeV/c)}^2$



Y. Honda

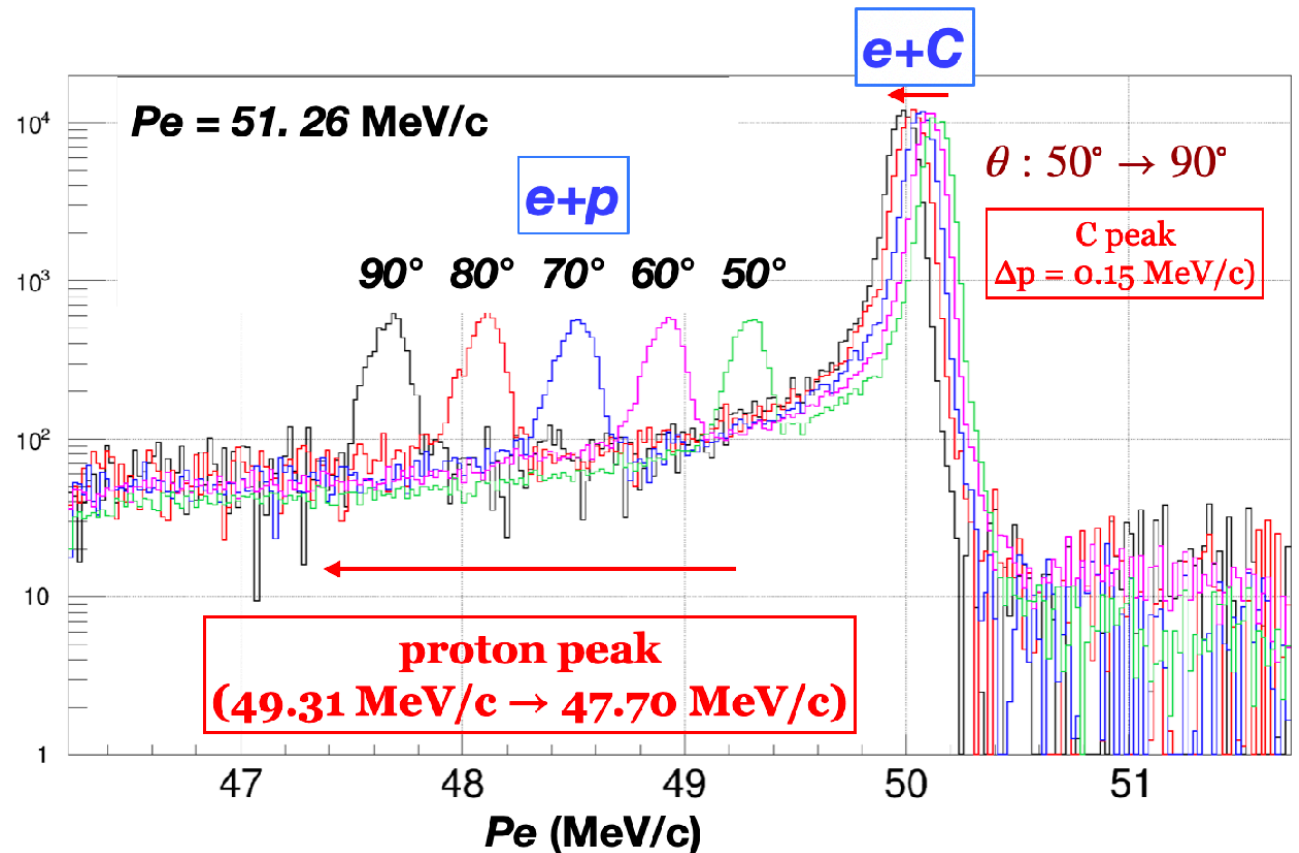
2D hit pattern  
@ focal plane

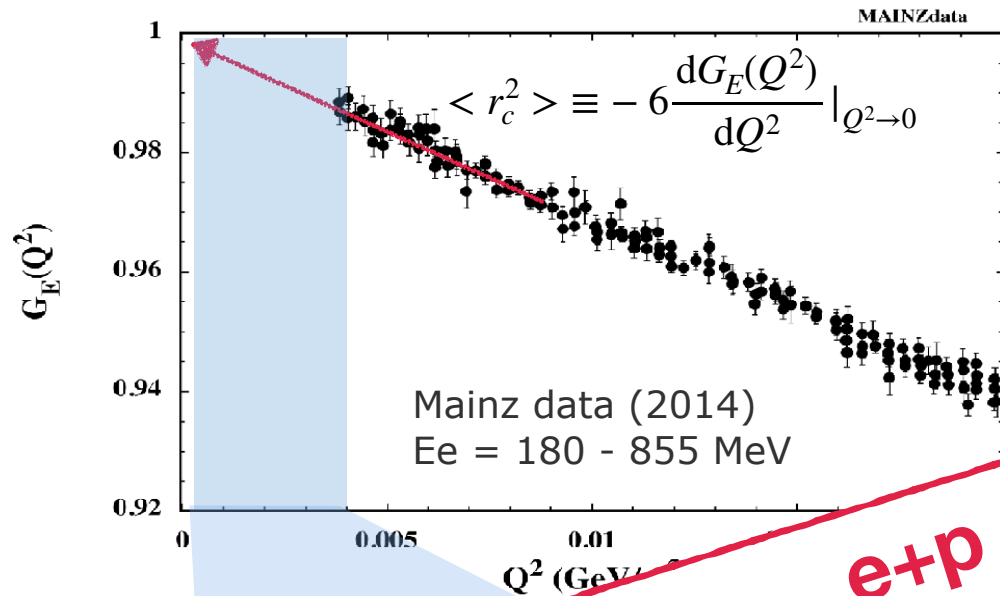
Momentum spectra  
of scattered electrons



$$\left(\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}\right)_{ep} = \frac{Y(ep)/Y(e^{12}\text{C})}{N_p/N_{12}\text{C}} \left(\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}\right)_{e^{12}\text{C}}$$

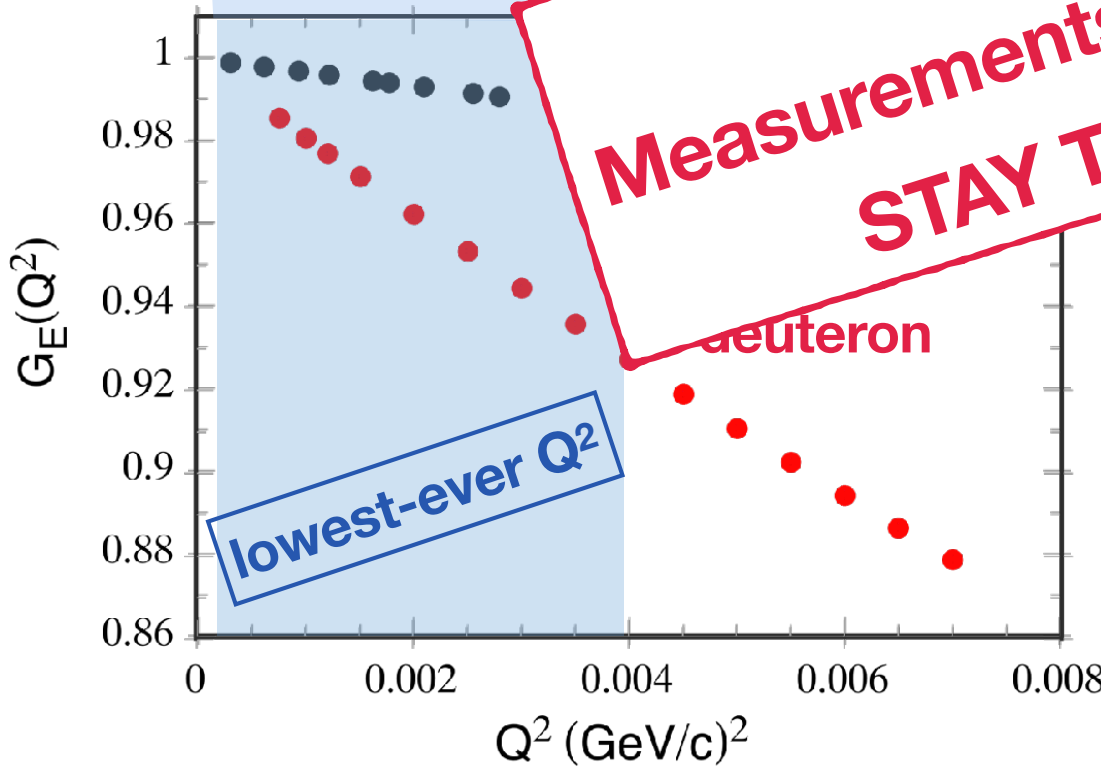
well-known better th





three-year data-collection completed  
(2024, May)

Yuki Honda  
Ph.D. student (C. Legris, T. Goke)



**e+p (e+d)**  
**Measurements completed**  
**STAY TUNED!**

1)  $\langle r_p^2 \rangle$  radius  
 $\langle r_n^2 \rangle$  radius (next step)

deuteron charge radius  
=> neutron charge radius

$$\langle r_d^2 \rangle = \langle r_{str}^2 \rangle + \langle r_p^2 \rangle + \langle r_n^2 \rangle + RC$$

ULQ2 theory ● ●

$$\langle r_d^4 \rangle = \langle r_{str}^4 \rangle + \frac{10}{3} \langle r_{pstr}^2 \rangle ( \langle r_p^2 \rangle + \langle r_n^2 \rangle )$$

ULQ2 theory ● ●  
+O(4) + RC

## Low-Energy Electron Scattering for Nucleon and Exotic Nuclei (LEES2024)

Date : Oct. 28 - Nov. 1, 2024

Place : Sendai, JAPAN

<https://indico.lns.tohoku.ac.jp/e/LEES2024>



Sendai

Sendai workshop on "Low-Energy Electron Scattering for Nucleon and Exotic Nuclei"

# LEES2024

Oct. 28 - Nov. 1, 2024

Tohoku University, Sendai, Japan

### LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

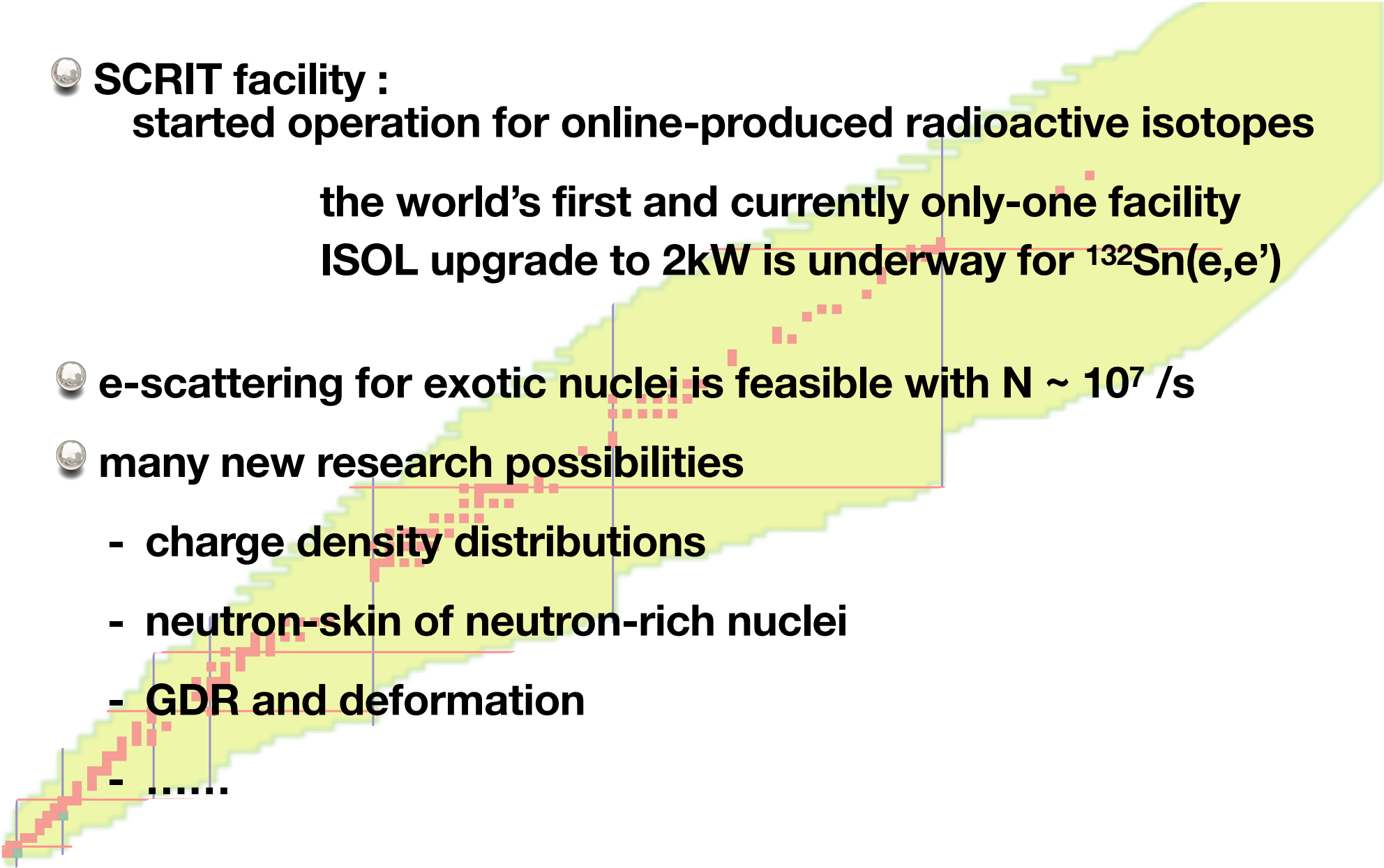
Teshimi SUDA (Chair)	Tohoku
YUKI HONDA	Tohoku
Tetsuya OHNISHI	RIKEN
Kyo TSUKADA	Kyoto
Shun IIMURA	Rikkyo

### MEETING WEBSITE

<https://indico.lns.tohoku.ac.jp/e/LEES2024>





- 
- **SCRIT facility :**
    - started operation for online-produced radioactive isotopes**
    - the world's first and currently only-one facility**
    - ISOL upgrade to 2kW is underway for  $^{132}\text{Sn}(e,e')$**
  - **e-scattering for exotic nuclei is feasible with  $N \sim 10^7$  /s**
  - **many new research possibilities**
    - **charge density distributions**
    - **neutron-skin of neutron-rich nuclei**
    - **GDR and deformation**

