

# Search for $\eta'$ mesic nuclei by missing-mass spectroscopy of $^{12}\text{C}(p,d)$ reaction

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for  $\eta$ -PRiME collaboration

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# $\eta'$ meson bound states in nuclei

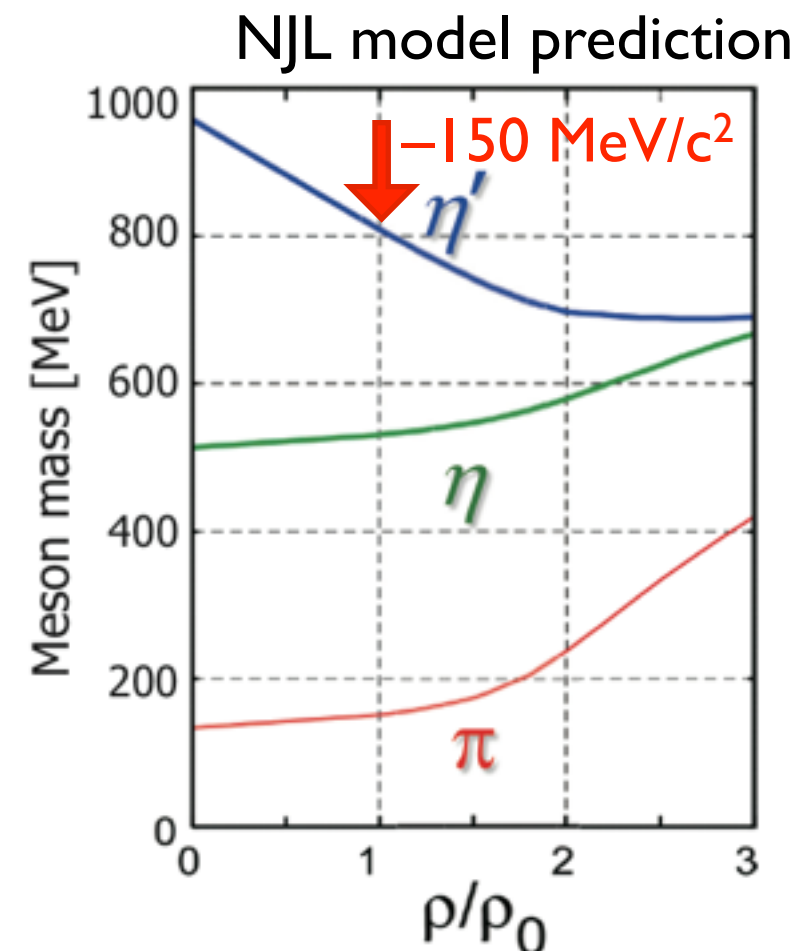
## $\eta'$ meson in vacuum

- Mass = **958 MeV/c<sup>2</sup>** (especially large), Width : 0.2 MeV,  $J^P = 0^-$
- $U_A(1)$  anomaly and spontaneous breaking of chiral symmetry

## $\eta'$ meson at finite density

- Partial restoration of chiral symmetry
- Mass reduction is expected
  - attraction between  $\eta'$  and nucleus
  - possible existence of  $\eta'$ -nucleus bound states ( $\eta'$  mesic nuclei)

Unique opportunity to directly study in-medium  $\eta'$  properties



H. Nagahiro *et al.*,  
PRC 74, 045203(2006).

# In-medium mass and width

$\eta'$  nucleus optical potential :

$$V_{\eta'} = (V_0 + iW_0) \frac{\rho(r)}{\rho_0}$$

$$V_0 = \Delta m(\rho_0), \quad W_0 = -\Gamma(\rho_0) / 2$$

## Theoretical predictions

$\Delta m(\rho_0) \sim -150 \text{ MeV}$  (NJL model)

H. Nagahiro *et al.*, PRC 74, 045203(2006).

$\sim -80 \text{ MeV}$  (linear  $\sigma$  model)

S. Sakai, D. Jido, PRC 88, 064906 (2013)

$\sim -37 \text{ MeV}$  (QMC model) for  $\theta_{\eta\eta'} = -20^\circ$

S.D. Bass, A.W. Thomas, PLB 634, 368 (2006)

## Experimental indications by CBELSA/TAPS

○  $V_0 = -37 \pm 10(\text{stat}) \pm 10(\text{syst}) \text{ MeV}$

M. Nanova *et al.*, Phys. Lett. B 727 (2013) 417

○  $\Gamma(\rho_0) = 15-25 \text{ MeV} \rightarrow W_0 \sim -10 \text{ MeV}$

M. Nanova *et al.*, PLB710, 600(2012)

for  $P_{\eta', \text{average}} = 1.05 \text{ GeV}/c$

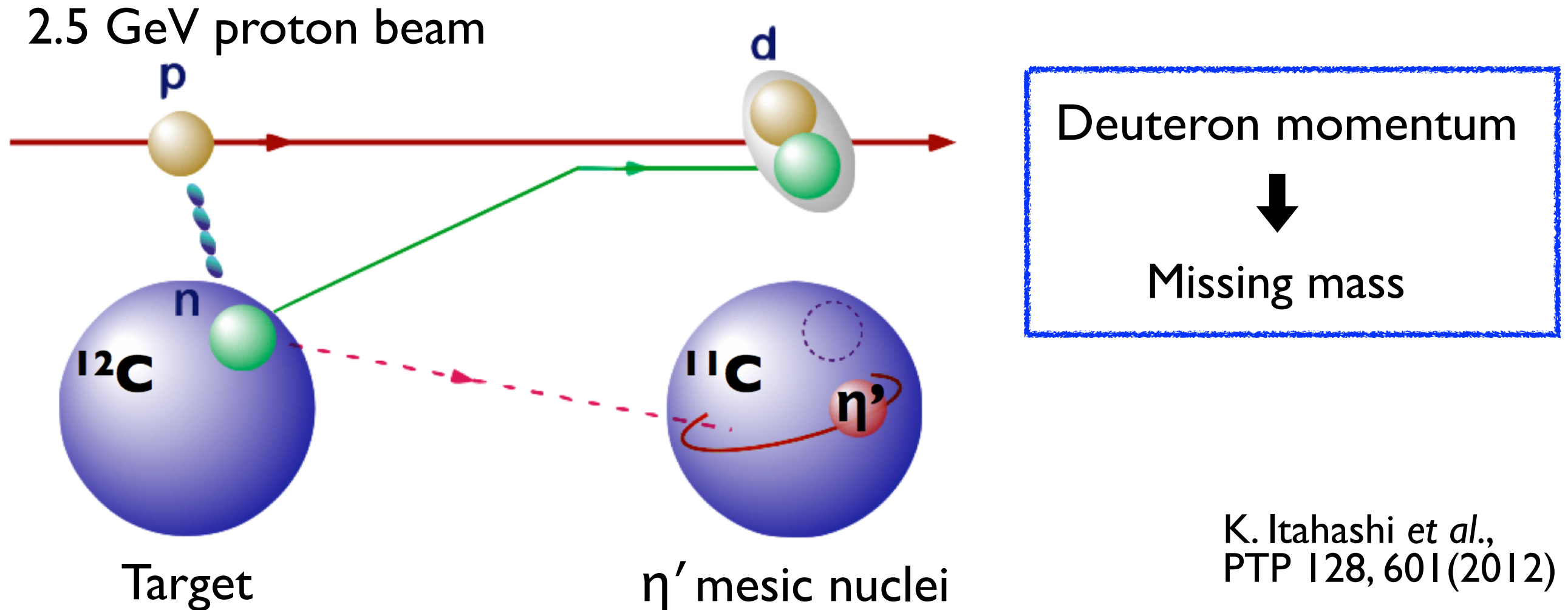
E. Czerwiński *et al.*, PRL 113, 062004 (2014)

Small  $\eta'$ - $p$  scattering length by COSY-11:  $\text{Re}\{a_{\eta'p}\} = 0 \pm 0.43 \text{ fm}$

$$|W_0| < |V_0|$$

→ possibility for experimental observation of bound states

# Missing-mass spectroscopy of $^{12}\text{C}(p,d)$ reaction



## Inclusive measurement of $^{12}\text{C}(p,d)$ reaction

- analysis of overall structure w/o assuming decay process
- small S/N ratio  $\sim O(1/100)$  due to BG processes (e.g.,  $p+N \rightarrow d+\pi$ 's)

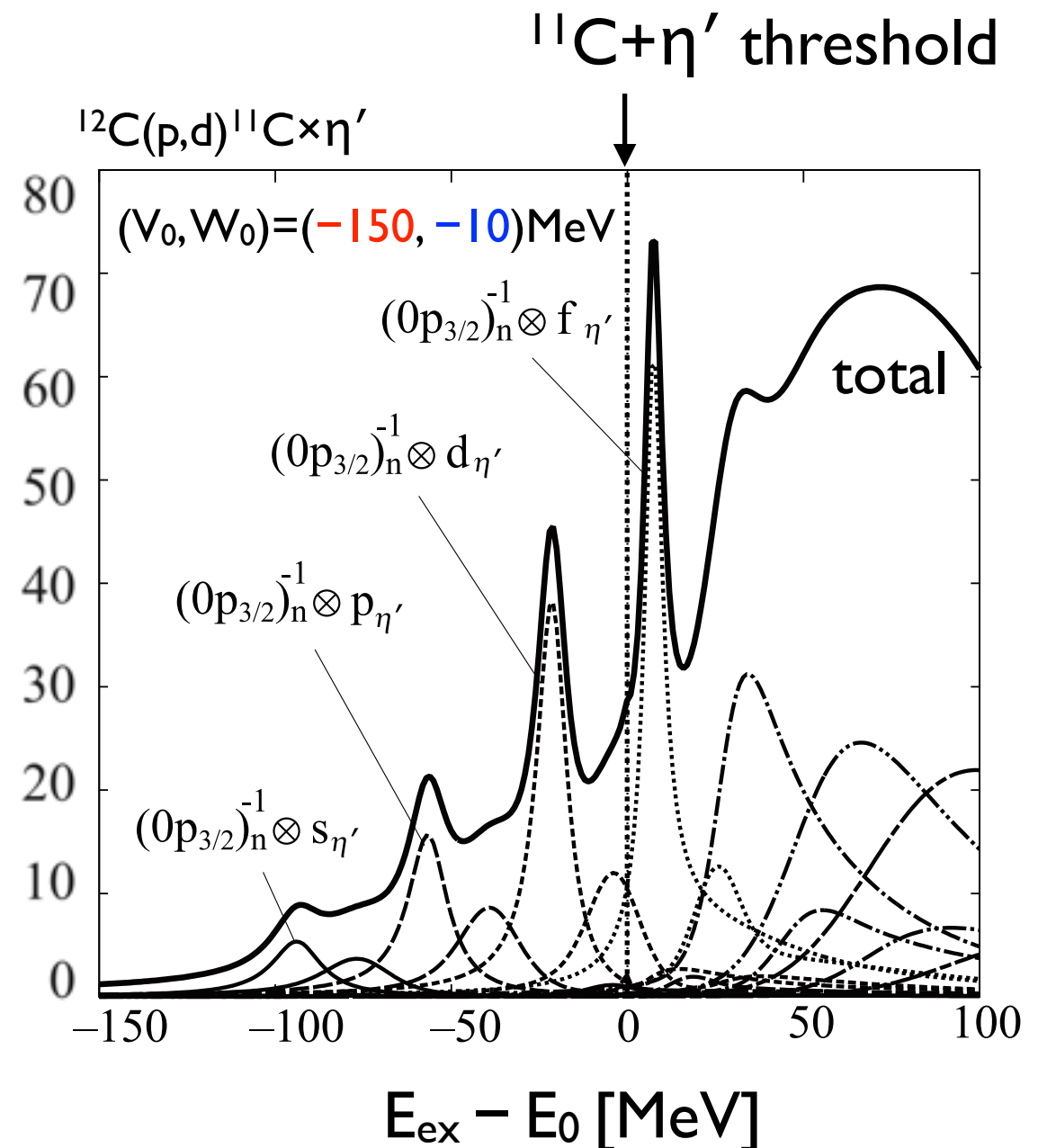
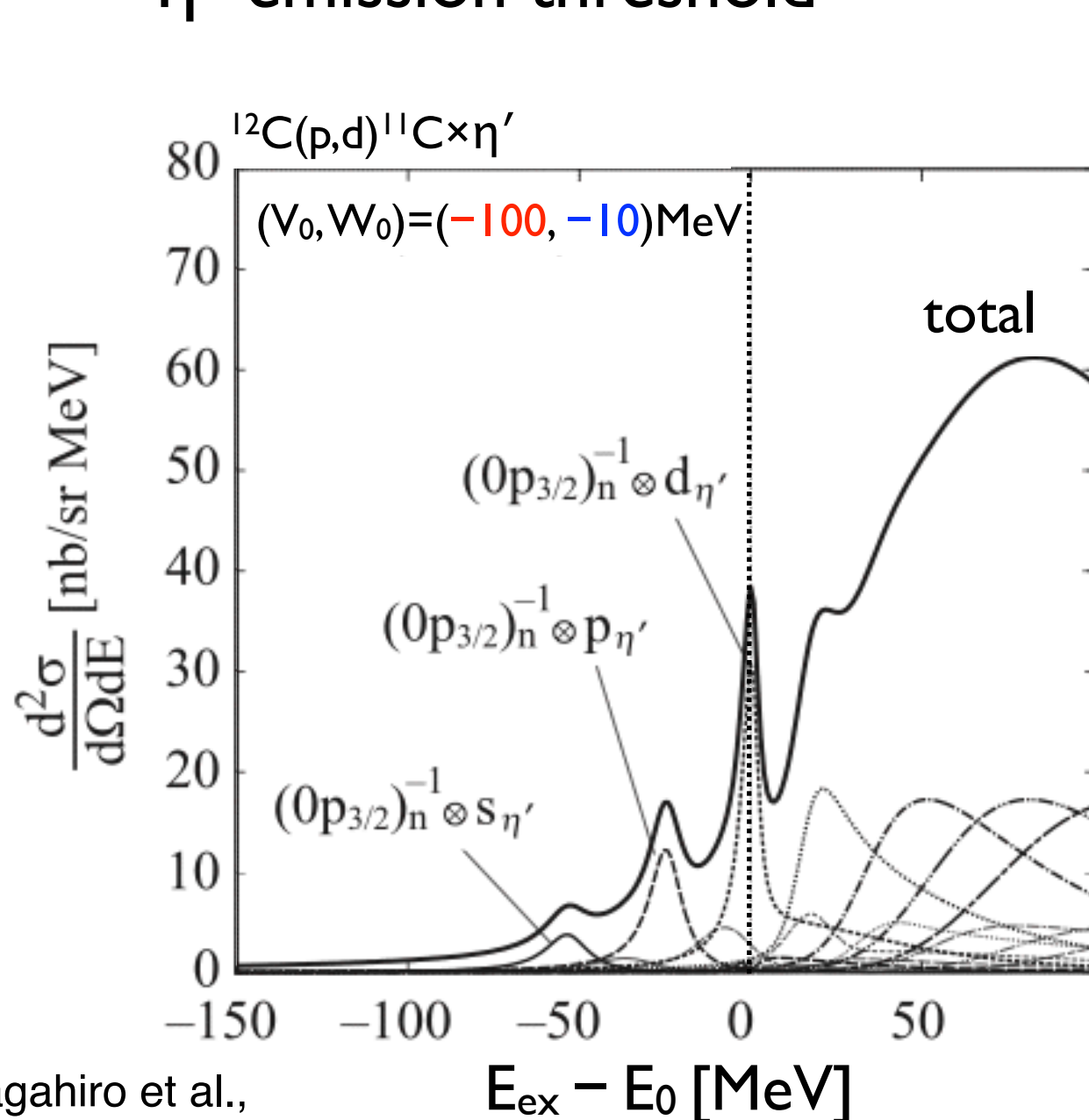
Measurement w/ good statistics ( $< 1\%$  error) is essential using high-intensity primary beam + thick target

# Theoretically calculated formation spectra

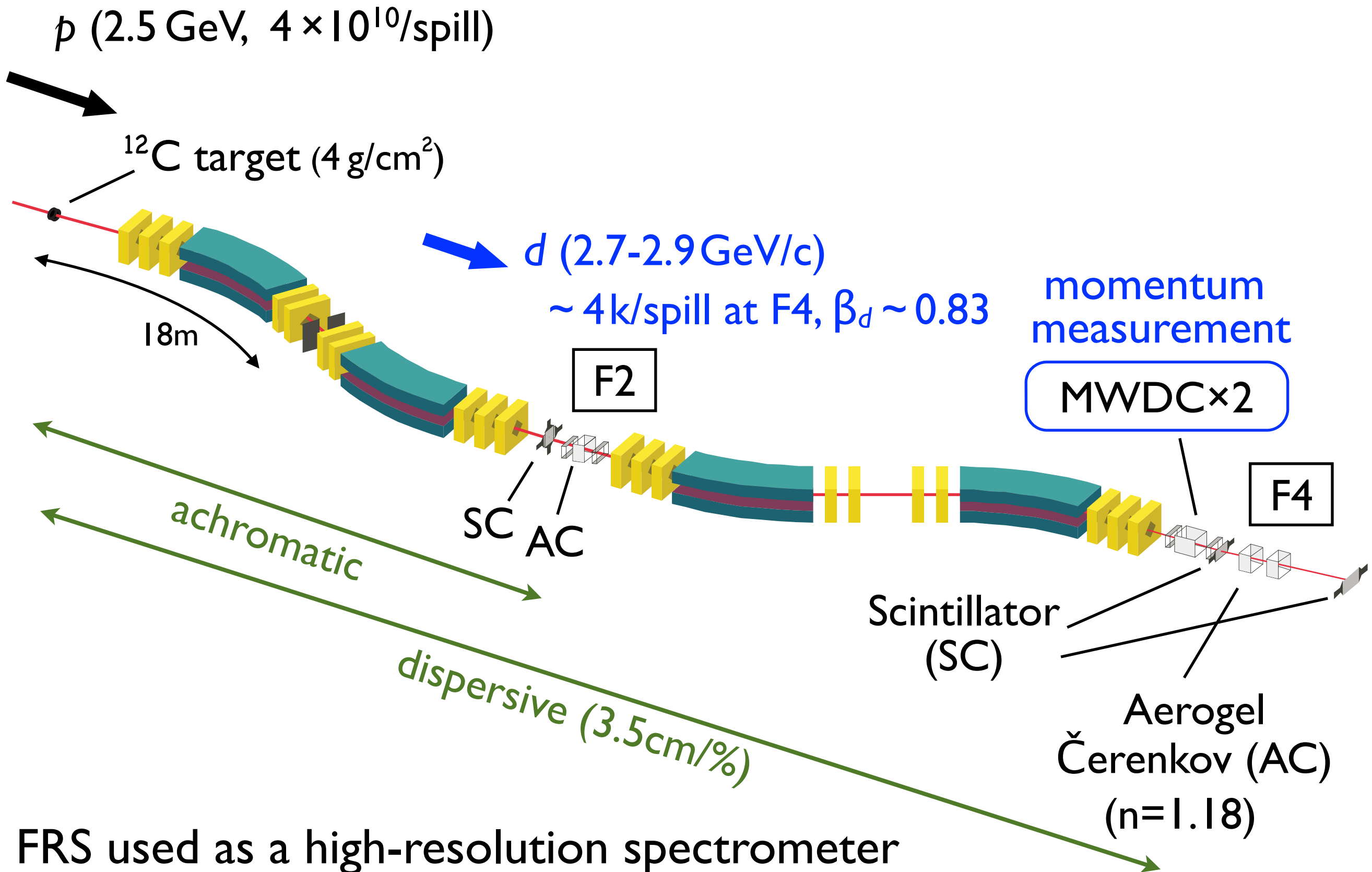
- momentum transfer  $\sim 400 \text{ MeV}/c$   
at  $T_p = 2.5 \text{ GeV}$
- enhanced excited states near  $\eta'$  emission threshold

$\eta'$  nucleus optical potential :

$$V_{\eta'} = (\underbrace{V_0}_{\text{red}} + i \underbrace{W_0}_{\text{blue}}) \frac{\rho(r)}{\rho_0}$$

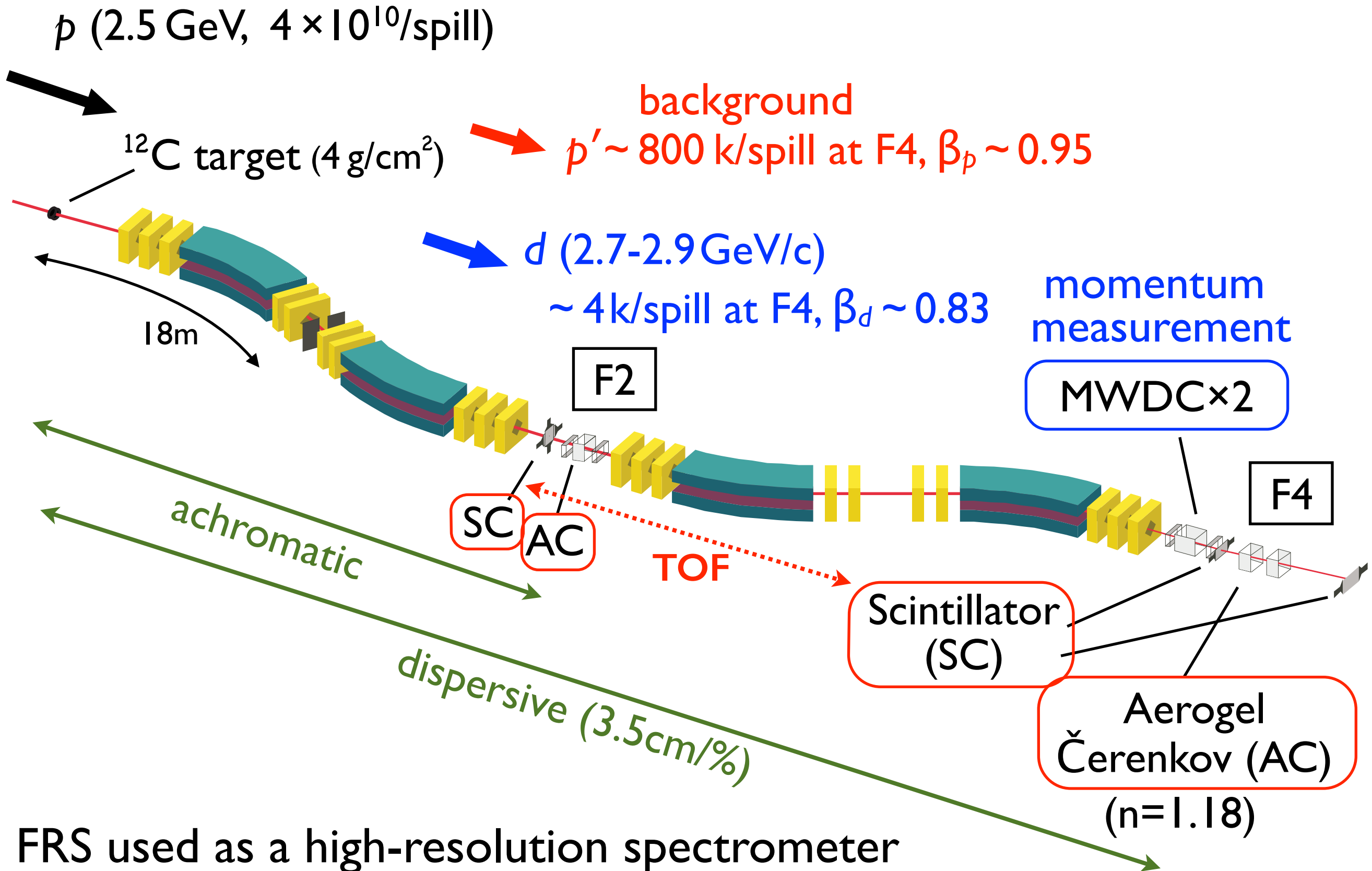


# Experimental setup at FRS





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# Outline of data analysis

## Deuteron identification

- TOF (F2-F4)
- accidental multi-hit rejection by waveform analysis



- proton contamination  $\sim O(10^{-4})$  level
- deuteron efficiency  $\sim 96-97\%$

## Momentum analysis

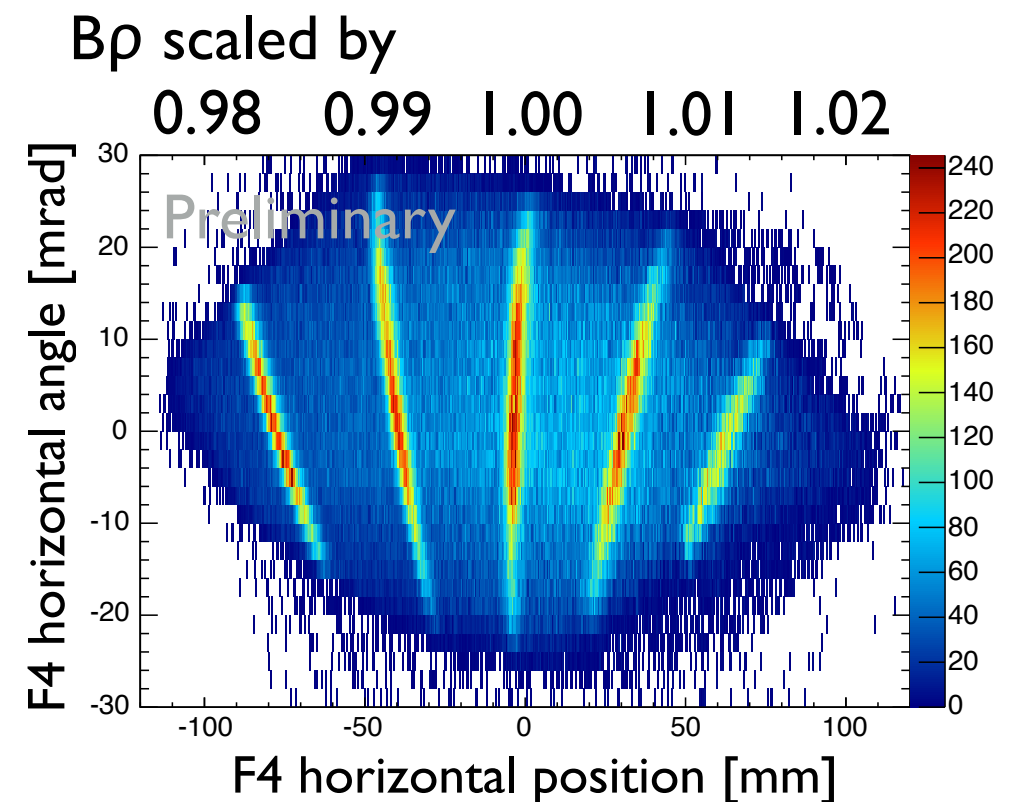
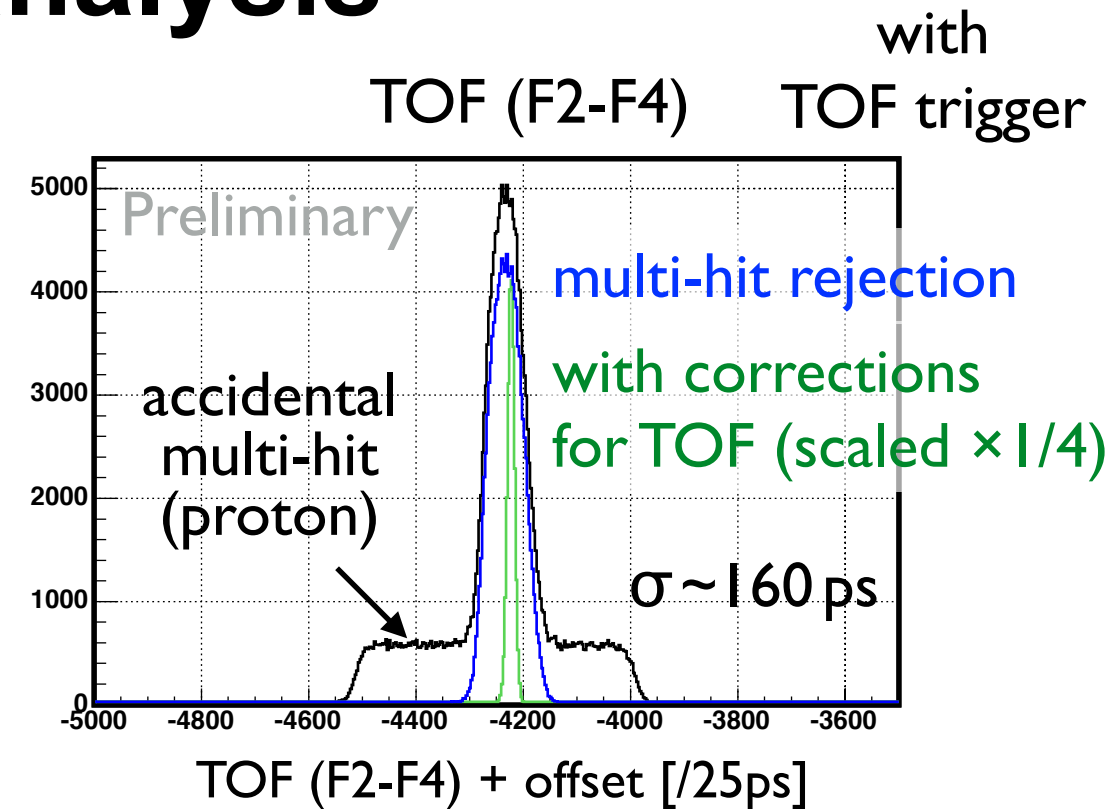
- Track reconstruction at F4 focal plane
- Spectrometer calibration by measuring  $D(p,d)p$  elastic scattering at 1.6 GeV



Missing mass of the  $^{12}\text{C}(p,d)$  reaction

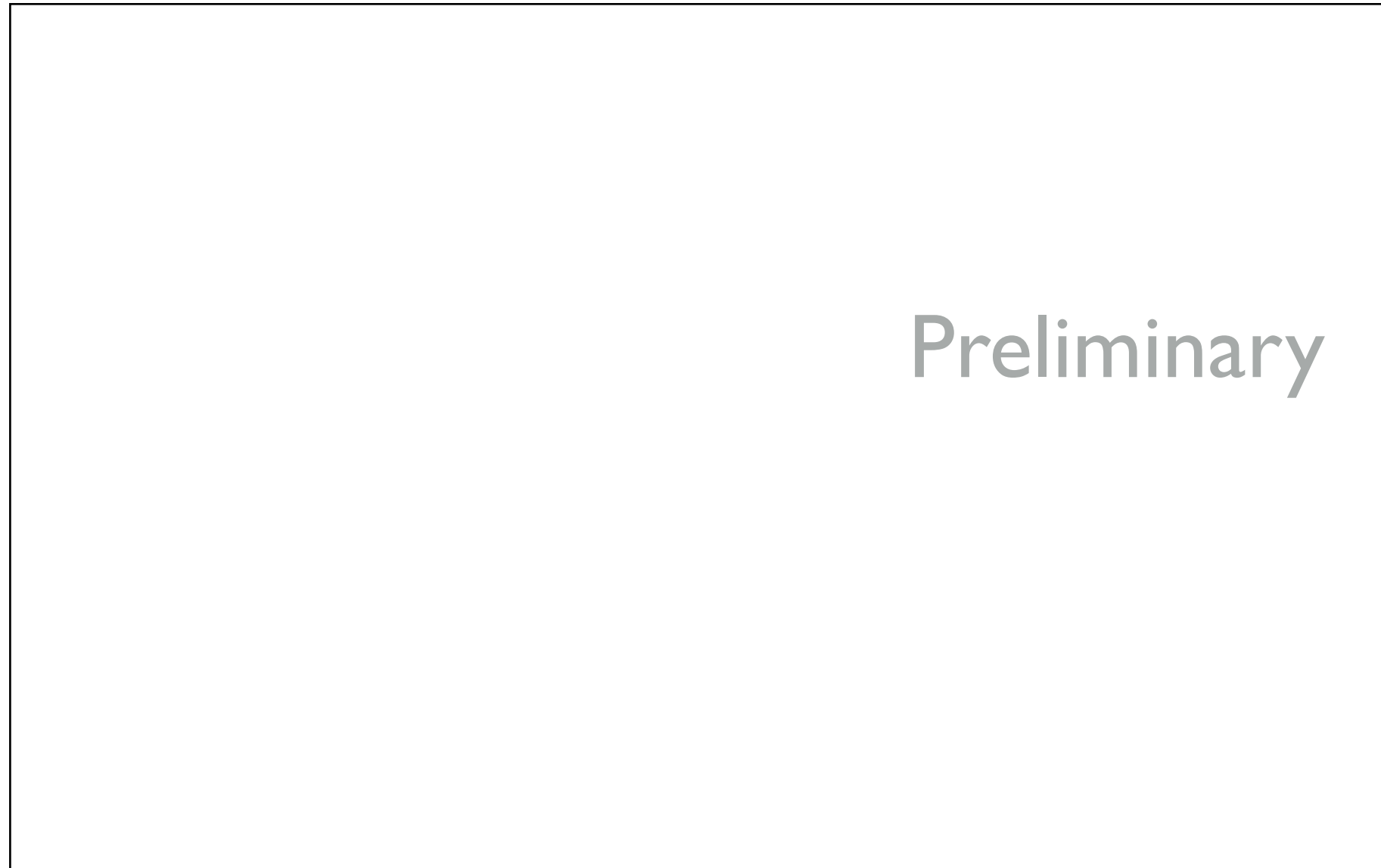
Excitation energy of  $^{11}\text{C}$  from  $\eta'$  threshold

$$E_{\text{ex}} - E_0 = (\text{Missing mass} - M_{^{11}\text{C}} - M_{\eta'}) \times c^2$$





# Excitation energy spectrum



- high statistical sensitivity  $\lesssim 1\%$  is achieved
- overall  $(p,d)$  cross section consistent with quasi-free multi- $\pi$  production
- sufficient resolution  $2.5 \text{ MeV}(\sigma)$  achieved
- no significant peak structure is observed
  - upper limits for formation cross section of  $\eta'$  mesic states

# Upper limit of formation cross section

## Upper limit of Lorentzian-peak cross section

- Fit function:  $A \times \text{Voigt}(E; E_{\text{test}}, \Gamma_{\text{test}}, \sigma_{\text{exp}}) + \text{Pol3}(E; p_0, p_1, p_2, p_3)$

- Signal component

- Voigt function = Lorentzian folded by Gaussian ( $\sigma_{\text{exp}} = 2.5 \text{ MeV}$ )

- Background component

- can be described by 3rd-order polynomial

- Upper limit of  $A$  is determined for each assumed  $(E_{\text{test}}, \Gamma_{\text{test}})$ .

- Gaussian p.d.f.( $A$ ) in physical region

- assumed  $(E_{\text{test}}, \Gamma_{\text{test}})$ :

$$E_{\text{test}} = -60, -59, \dots, +20 \text{ MeV}$$

$$\Gamma_{\text{test}} = 5, 10, 15 \text{ MeV}$$

Preliminary

# Upper limit of formation cross section

Obtained 95% C.L. upper limits  
of Lorentzian peak height

Preliminary

Obtained 95% C.L. upper limits  
of differential cross section

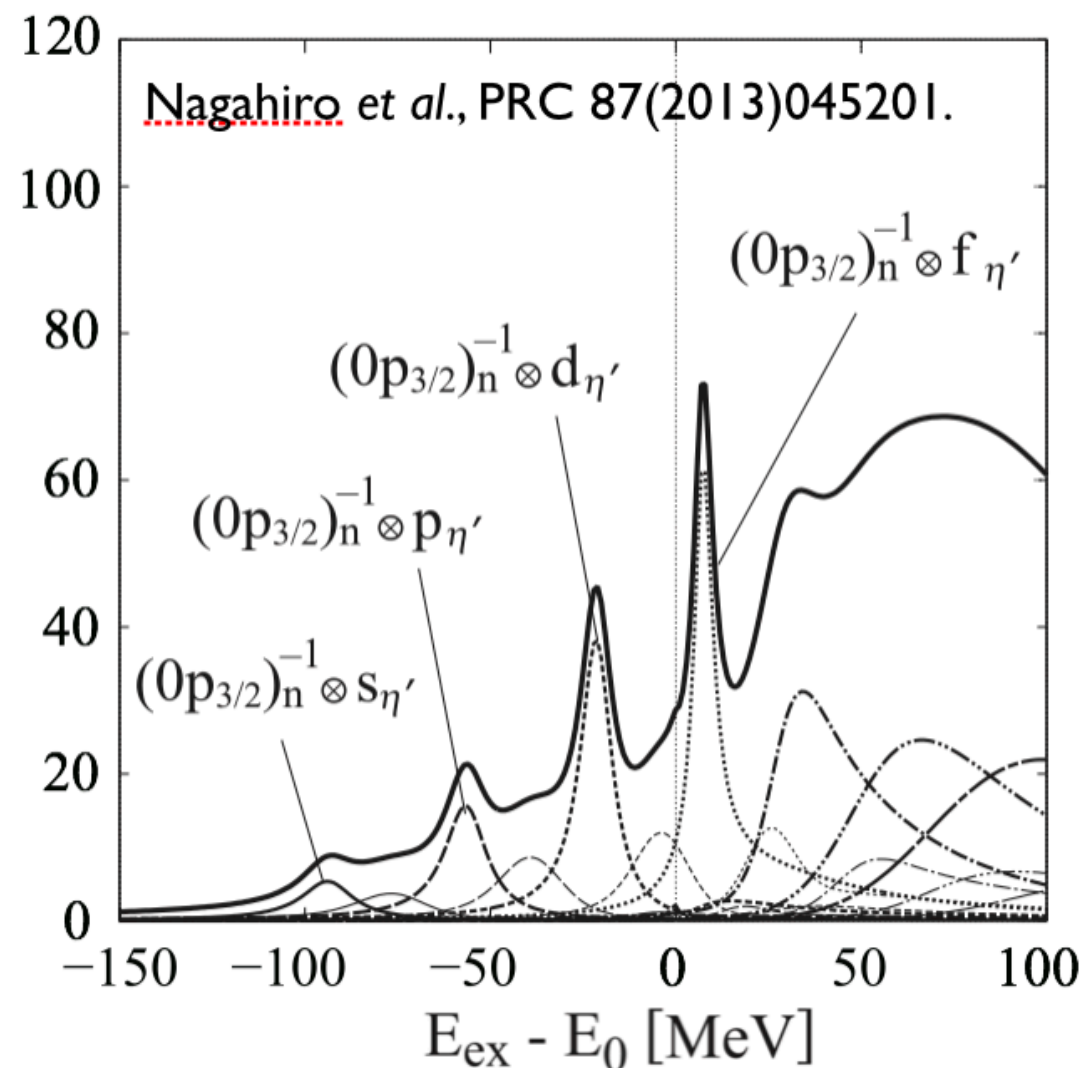
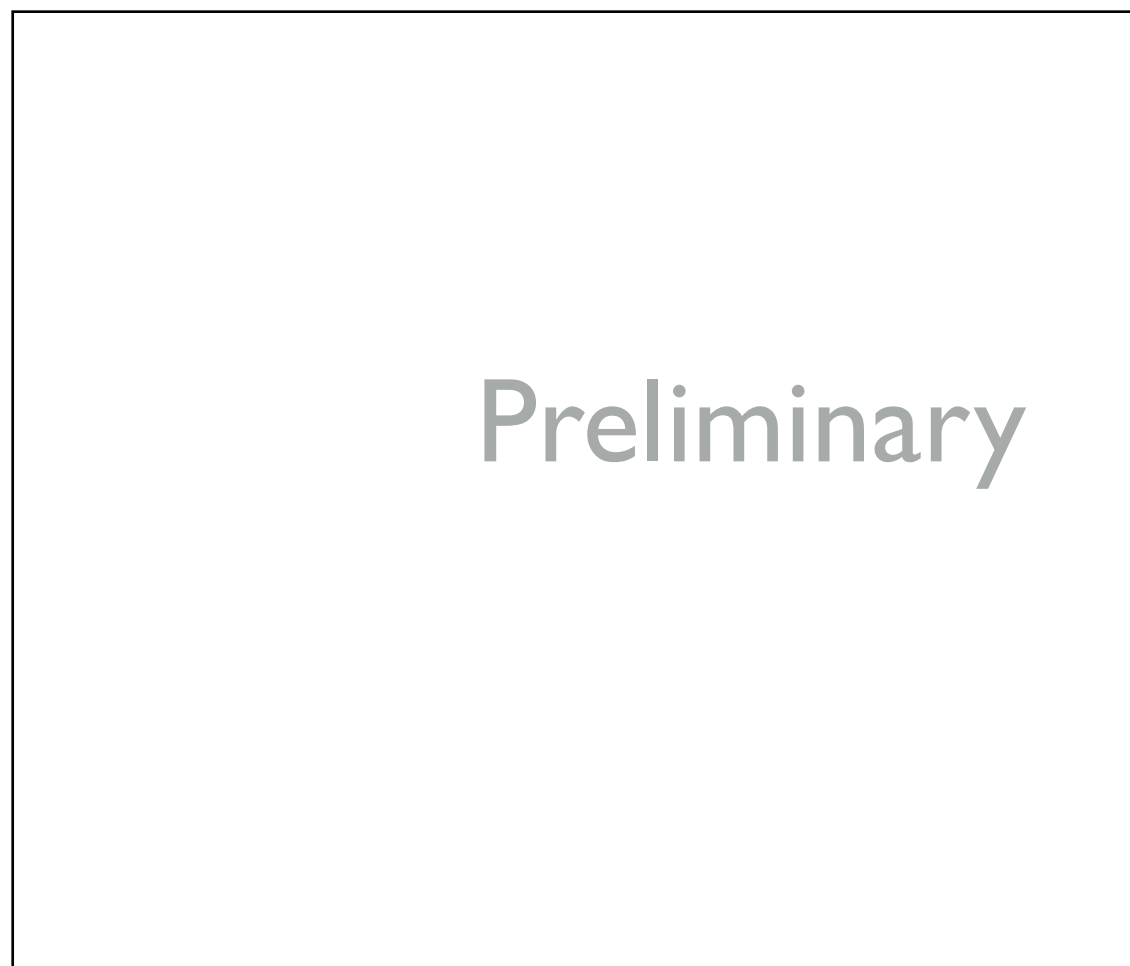
Preliminary

- high statistical sensitivity better than 1% is achieved as intended

# Upper limit of formation cross section

Obtained 95% C.L. upper limits  
of Lorentzian peak height

Theoretically expected spectrum  
for  $(V_0, W_0) = (-150, -10)$  MeV



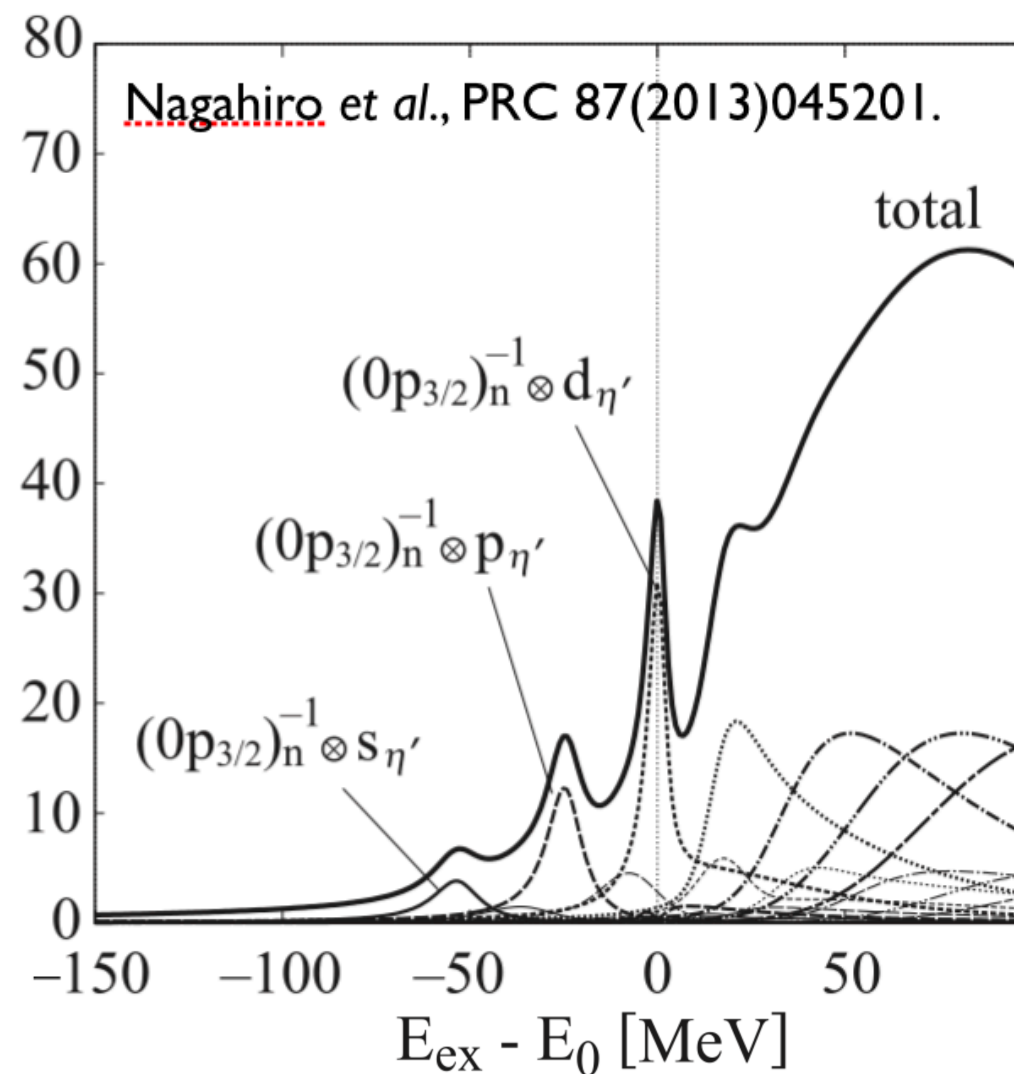
- high statistical sensitivity better than 1% is achieved as intended

# Upper limit of formation cross section

Obtained 95% C.L. upper limits  
of Lorentzian peak height

Preliminary

Theoretically expected spectrum  
for  $(V_0, W_0) = (-100, -10)$  MeV



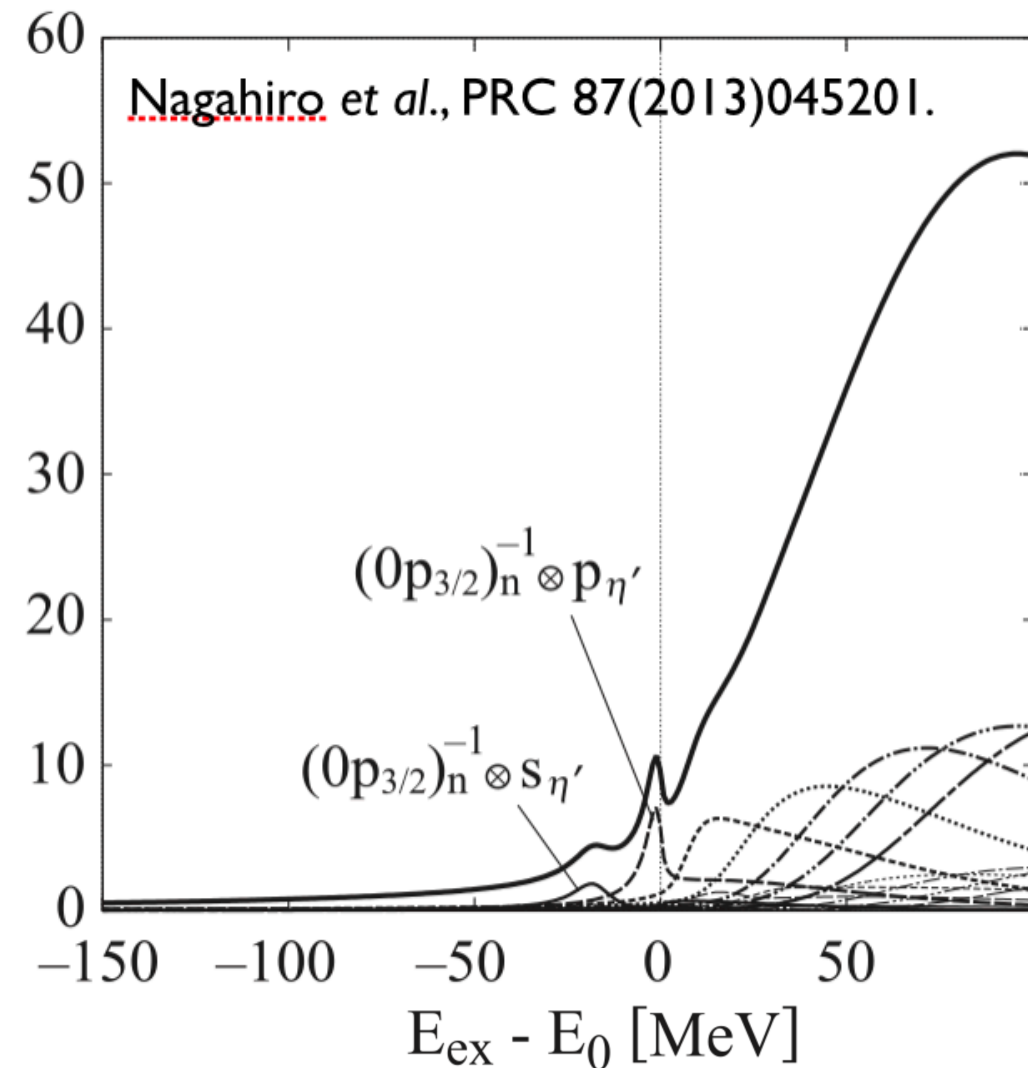
- high statistical sensitivity better than 1% is achieved as intended

# Upper limit of formation cross section

Obtained 95% C.L. upper limits  
of Lorentzian peak height

Preliminary

Theoretically expected spectrum  
for  $(V_0, W_0) = (-50, -10)$  MeV



- high statistical sensitivity better than 1% is achieved as intended



# Comparison with theoretical spectra

## Analysis on possible scale $\mu$ for theoretical formation spectra

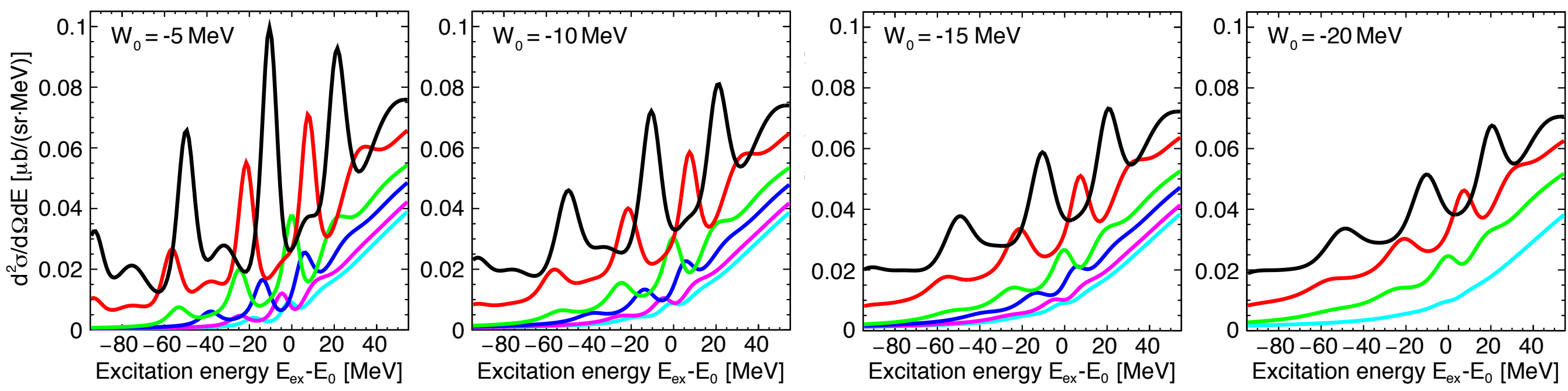
- Fit function:  $\mu \times (d^2\sigma/d\Omega dE)^{\text{theory} \times \text{resolution}} + \text{Pol3}(E; p_0, p_1, p_2, p_3)$

- We analyzed upper limit of scale  $\mu$  at 95% C.L. for each  $(V_0, iW_0)$

$$V_{\eta'} = (V_0 + iW_0) \frac{\rho(r)}{\rho_0}$$

- $V_0 = -200 \text{ MeV}$      $V_0 = -80 \text{ MeV}$
- $V_0 = -150 \text{ MeV}$      $V_0 = -60 \text{ MeV}$
- $V_0 = -100 \text{ MeV}$      $V_0 = -50 \text{ MeV}$

$(d^2\sigma/d\Omega dE)^{\text{theory} \times \text{resolution}}$



# Comparison with theoretical spectra

## Analysis on possible scale $\mu$ for theoretical formation spectra

- Fit function:  $\mu \times (d^2\sigma/d\Omega dE)^{\text{theory} \times \text{resolution}} + \text{Pol3}(E; p_0, p_1, p_2, p_3)$
- We analyzed upper limit of scale  $\mu$  at 95% C.L. for each  $(V_0, iW_0)$

limit of  $\mu$  (contour plot)

$$V_{\eta'} = (V_0 + iW_0) \frac{\rho(r)}{\rho_0}$$

- $(V_0, W_0)$  with  $\mu_{\text{limit}} < 1$  is excluded under this comparison.
- depending on theor. calculation, assumed  $n(p, d)\eta'$  cross section

Preliminary

# Future plan at FAIR

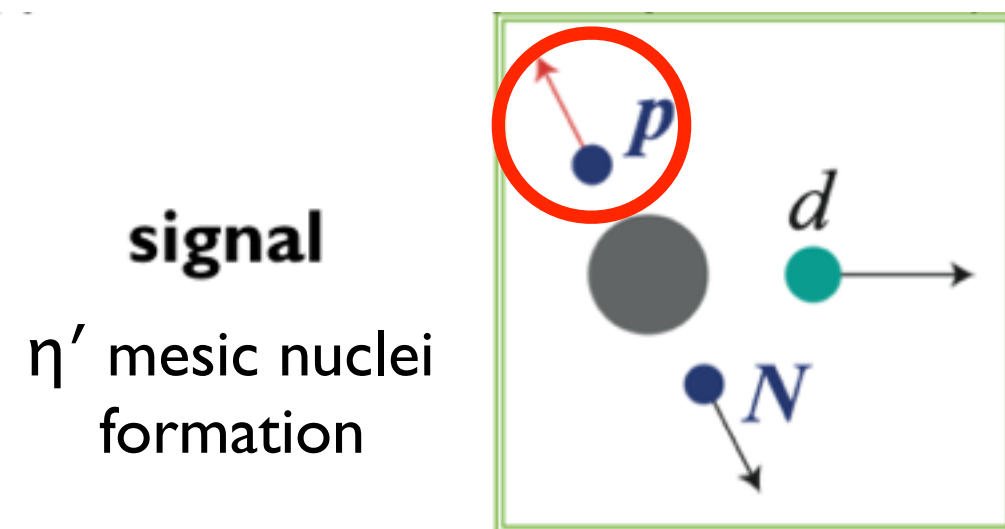
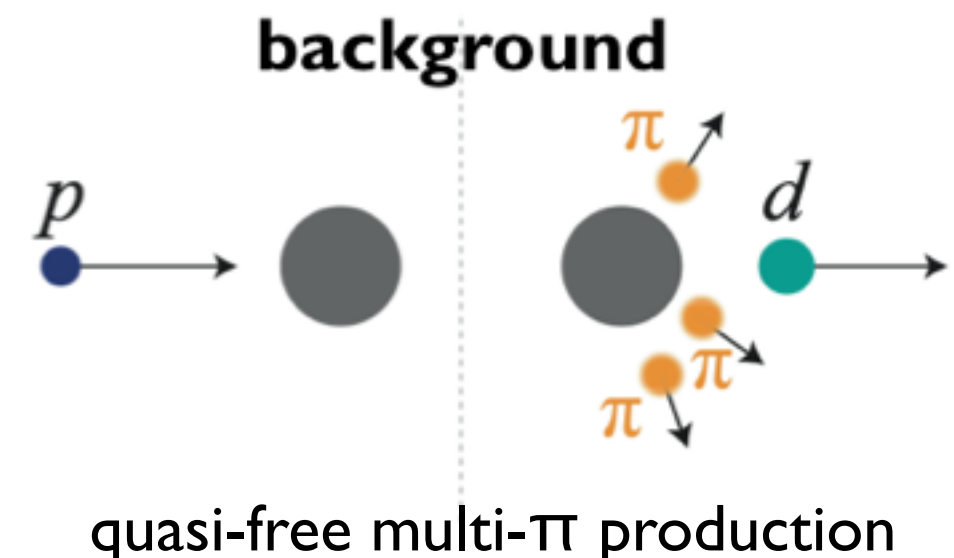
- Inclusive measurement of  $(p,d)$  reaction w/ higher statistical sensitivity
- Semi-exclusive measurement by tagging decay particles

- tagging decay protons ( $\eta'pN \rightarrow pN$ )  
+ missing-mass spectroscopy  
with Super-FRS

- S/N ratio can be improved by  
a factor  $\sim 100$  (JAM simulation)

Y. Higashi *et al.*,

- We started consideration of  
 $\sim 4\pi$ -detector system for tagging  
decay protons



( $\eta'pN \rightarrow pN$ )

# Summary

- We have performed a pilot experiment to search for  $\eta'$  mesic nuclei by missing-mass spectroscopy of the  $^{12}\text{C}(p,d)$  reaction.
- Excitation-energy spectrum of  $^{11}\text{C}$  around the  $\eta'$  emission threshold was successfully obtained with a high statistical sensitivity and sufficiently small resolution.
- Since no clear peak structure is observed, we have determined upper limits of the formation cross sections as a function of assumed energy and width. Obtained limits around the  $\eta'$  emission threshold are  
$$(d^2\sigma/d\Omega dE)_{95\% \text{C.L. limit}} \sim \text{XXXX for } \Gamma = 5\text{--}15 \text{ MeV.}$$
- Obtained spectrum is compared with theoretically calculated spectra to discuss constraints on  $\eta'$ -nucleus potential parameters ( $V_0, W_0$ ).
- In order to extend experimental sensitivity, semi-exclusive measurements by tagging decay of  $\eta'$  mesic nuclei is planned at FAIR as well as inclusive measurement with higher statistical sensitivity.