# Research Opportunities with HELIOS

**Ben Kay, Argonne National Laboratory** Workshop on Nuclear Astrophysics Opportunities at ATLAS 2019



### Overview

### The HELIOS spectrometer as a tool for nuclear astrophysics

- Nucleosynthesis => Direct reactions with RI beams
- Why the solenoidal spectrometer solution?
- HELIOS at ATLAS, so far
- Challenges and opportunities

<u>www.anl.gov/phy/helical-orbit-spectrometer</u>





Nuclei involved in the rp-, p-, and s-process M. S. Smith and K. E. Rehm, Annu. Rev. Nucl. Part. Sci. 51, 91 (2001)





### **Reaction studies**

### ~10 MeV/u (3-20 MeV/u), >10<sup>4</sup> pps (stable and <u>radioactive</u>)

<u>Reactions used as a tool in</u> <u>nuclear astrophysics:</u>

- Populate states / determine
  E, j<sup>n</sup>
- Cross sections → rates
- Cross section → overlaps
- Exploit mirror systems





### Kinematics: normal vs. inverse



### In contrast to normal kinematics

- Particle identification, ΔE-E techniques at low energies
- **Energy dependence** with respect to laboratory angle
- **Kinematic compression** at forward c.m. angles
- Typically leading to poor resolution (100s of keV)
- ... and beams a few to 10<sup>6</sup> orders of magnitude weaker



## Kinematics: normal vs. inverse (resolution)









Forward endcap

30



Argonne



# If conditions are favorable ...



- Beam: 6 MeV/u, 1pnA (6.25×10<sup>9</sup> pps)
- Target: 50 µg/cm<sup>2</sup>
- Highly idealized setup, afforded by very intense <sup>26</sup>Al beam at TRIUMF
- Place detectors far way
- Annular Si detectors











Transport through a solenoid



6

- A simple *linear* relationship between energy and z, where the energy separation is (nearly) *identical* to the excitation energy in the residual nucleus.
- Removes kinematic compression.
- Factor of ~2-3 improvement in resolution
- ... and an MRI magnet seems ideal

$$E_{\rm cm} = E_{\rm lab} + \frac{m}{2}V_{\rm cm}^2 - \frac{mV_{\rm cm} z}{T_{\rm cyc}}$$



### HELIOS



Left photo: unknown, right photo: A. H. Wuosmaa





### New array and digital data acquisition



Daniel McNeel, Calem Hoffman, Ryan Tang, et al.



- •New DAQ implemented in FY17, used at CERN in FY18, running now [current run <sup>29</sup>Al(d,p)]
- •New sort routines for 'quasi' live feedback (appreciated by users)
- •New "complete system awareness" monitors





# <sup>18</sup>F, isomers, rotation, "high" spin

![](_page_14_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_14_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_14_Picture_4.jpeg)

![](_page_14_Picture_5.jpeg)

### Making an isomeric beam of <sup>18</sup>F

![](_page_15_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_15_Picture_3.jpeg)

### Single-particle picture of <sup>19</sup>F

![](_page_16_Figure_1.jpeg)

D. Santiago-Gonzalez et al. Phys. Rev. Lett. **120**, 122503 (**2018**)

12

![](_page_16_Figure_4.jpeg)

Excellent agreement with shell-model calculations (perhaps not surprisingly).

**Powerful technique**, many future possibilities ... with <u>AIRIS</u>

![](_page_16_Picture_7.jpeg)

![](_page_16_Picture_8.jpeg)

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![](_page_16_Picture_10.jpeg)

![](_page_16_Picture_11.jpeg)

![](_page_16_Picture_12.jpeg)

### Related equipment

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![](_page_17_Figure_3.jpeg)

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![](_page_18_Figure_0.jpeg)

https://www.anl.gov/atlas

![](_page_18_Picture_3.jpeg)

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Nuclei involved in the rp-, p-, and s-process M. S. Smith and K. E. Rehm, Annu. Rev. Nucl. Part. Sci. **51**, 91 (**2001**)

![](_page_25_Picture_4.jpeg)

![](_page_25_Picture_5.jpeg)

![](_page_26_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_26_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_26_Picture_3.jpeg)

# Challenges / opportunities

**<u>Reactions</u>**: often proton adding, He-induced, Li-induced reactions ... speaks to gas targets, low cross sections, etc.

**Isomer beams**:

<sup>26</sup>Al, <sup>18</sup>F, ... more to come? ... <sup>34</sup>Cl

**Recoil detection**: heavy beams, higher rates

**Forward angle detection**:

![](_page_27_Picture_6.jpeg)

![](_page_27_Figure_7.jpeg)

![](_page_27_Figure_9.jpeg)

![](_page_27_Picture_10.jpeg)

![](_page_27_Picture_11.jpeg)

![](_page_27_Picture_12.jpeg)

![](_page_27_Picture_13.jpeg)

![](_page_28_Picture_1.jpeg)

**Upgrades planned:** HELIOS was a first, built on a shoe string budget, hope to install new more flexible supports system for targets, auxiliary detectors ... aided by lessons learned/new solenoidal spectrometers

![](_page_28_Picture_4.jpeg)

## **Closing comments**

- HELIOS is an outstanding instrument for studying direct reactions in inverse kinematics
- ... has a high degree of flexibility
- ATLAS provides (and will provide ever more) beams that overlap exquisitely with astrophysical interests
- in nuclear astrophysics, both via specific/key measurements and by systematic studies
- We welcome users, and would prosper significantly from high-level engagement in HELIOS and a strong astrophysics program

• ATLAS + HELIOS have significant potential to address some key questions

![](_page_29_Picture_11.jpeg)

![](_page_29_Picture_12.jpeg)

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### Check the feasibility of a given experiment in seconds ... even astrophysics-y ones

Disclosure: Ryan Tang [<u>ttang@anl.gov</u>] has a slightly better version

![](_page_30_Figure_4.jpeg)

![](_page_30_Picture_6.jpeg)