

# future measurements of neutron skins

**Michaela Thiel**

on behalf of the A1 and P2 collaborations

Institut für Kernphysik, Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz



Precision Tests with Neutral-Current  
Coherent Interactions with Nuclei  
MITP Topical Workshop  
May 23 – 27, 2022  
JGU Mainz



# future measurements of neutron skins...

**I think I have already heard  
this somewhere**



**from someone**

**Parity-Violating Electron Scattering off Nuclei  
(Krishna Kumar)**

**Nuclear Weak Charges and Neutron Skins in  
Current and Future PVES Experiments  
(Nicola Cargioli)**

**Neutron Skins across PVES, Neutron Stars  
and Gravitational waves  
(Chuck Horowitz)**

**Parity-Violating Program at MESA  
(Frank Maas)**

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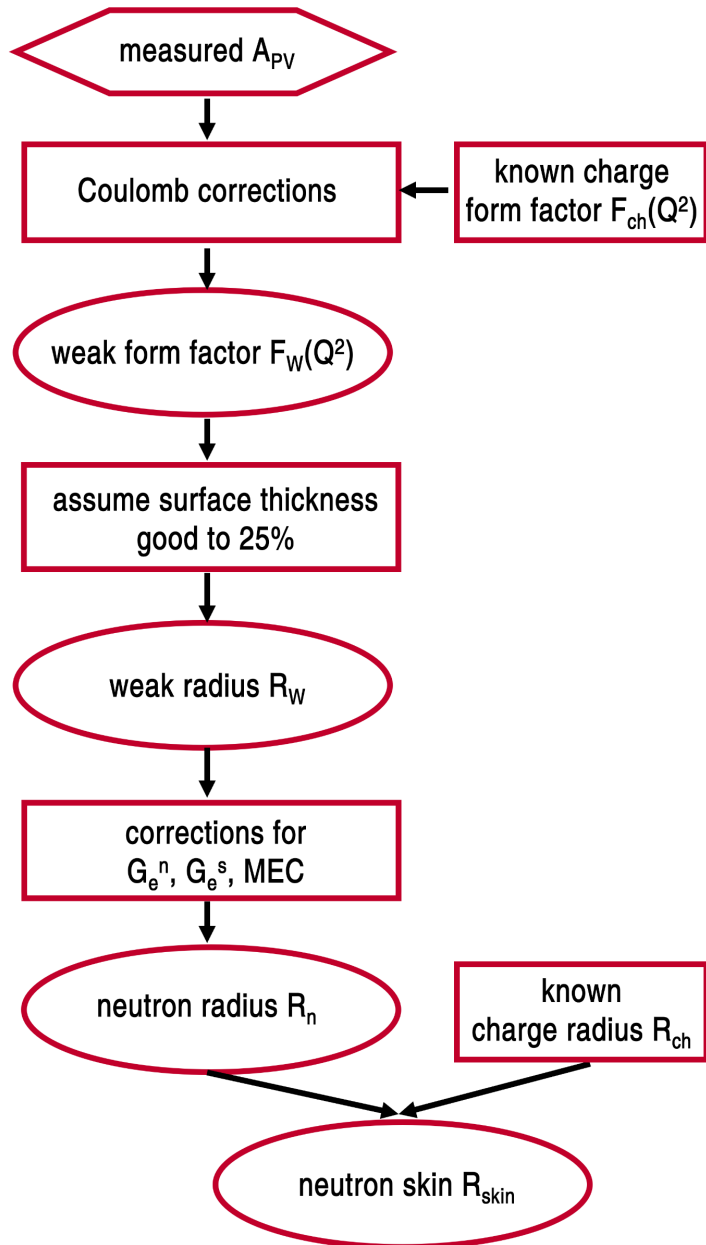
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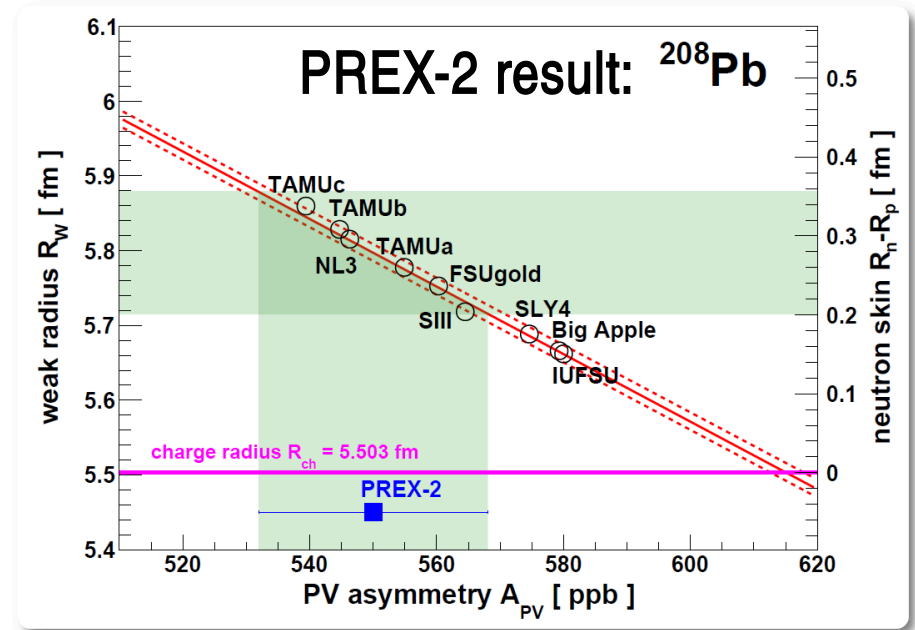
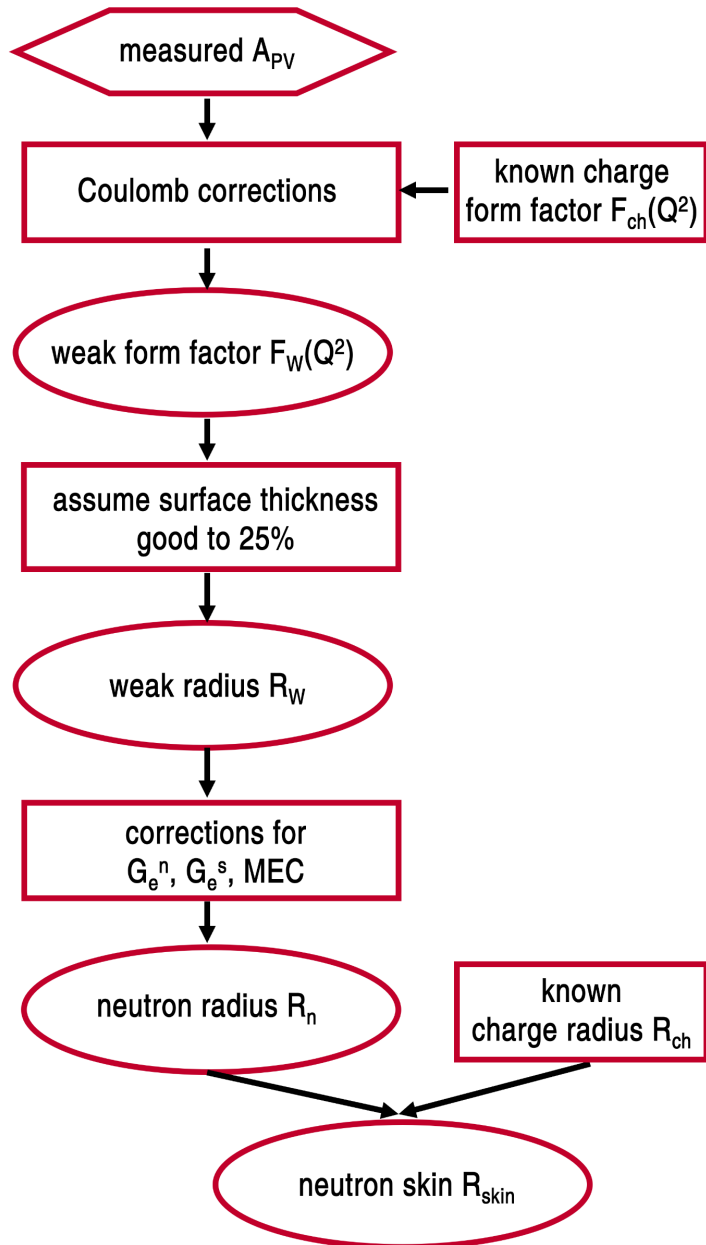
## ...what else to tell?

a story about challenges, problems, expectations, prospects,  
and more problems

# PVES: extraction of neutron skin



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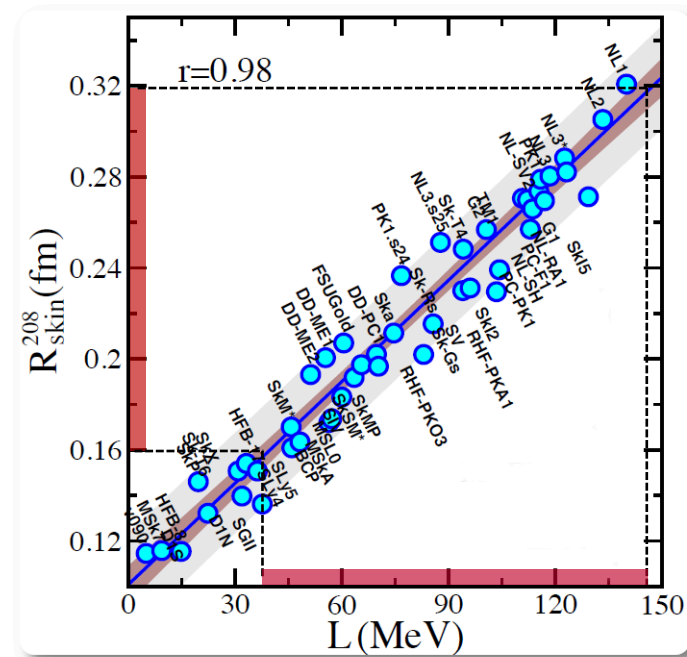
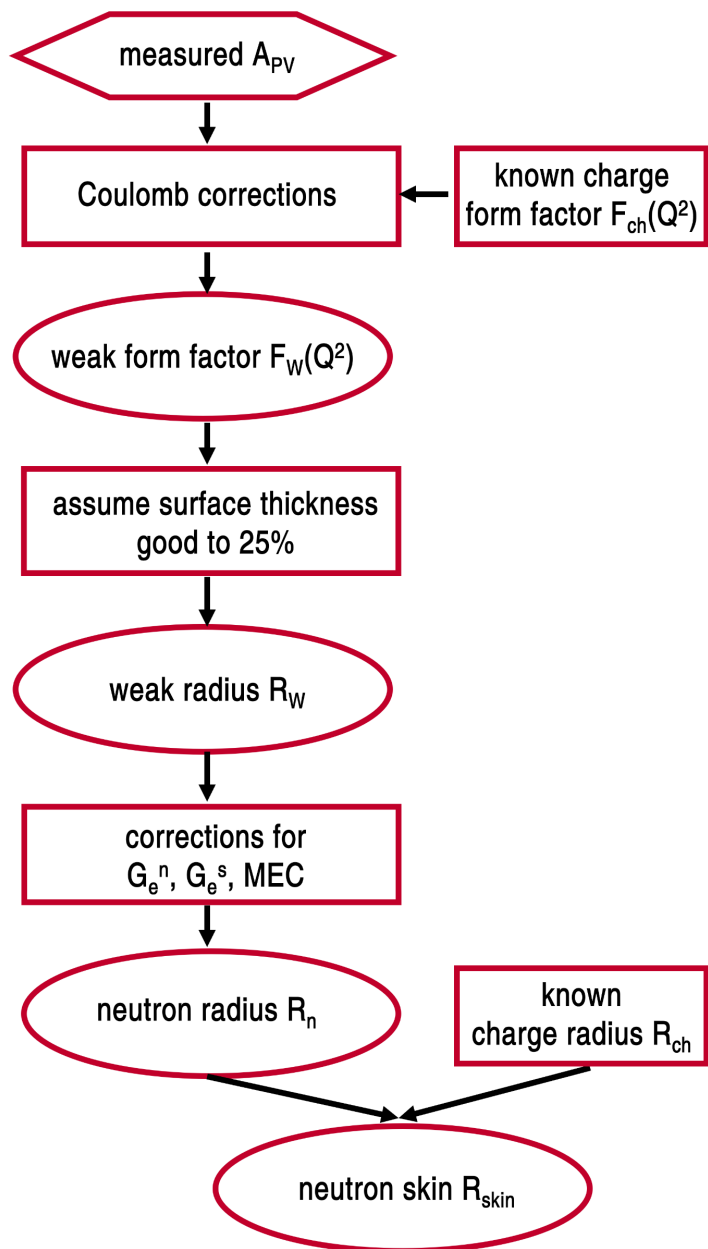


D. Adhikari et al., PRL 126 (2021) 172502

$$A_{PV} = 550 \pm 16 \text{ (stat)} \pm 8 \text{ (sys) ppb}$$

$$R_{skin} = 0.278 \pm 0.078 \text{ fm}$$

# PVES: extraction of neutron skin



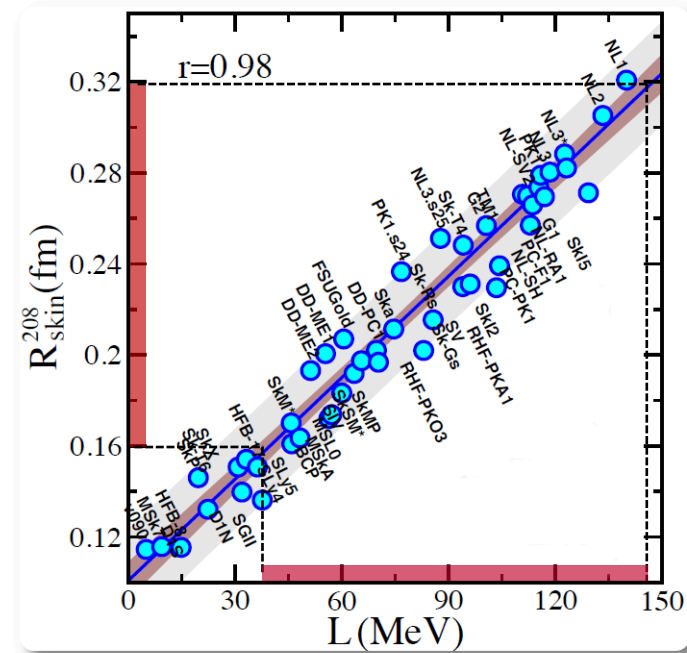
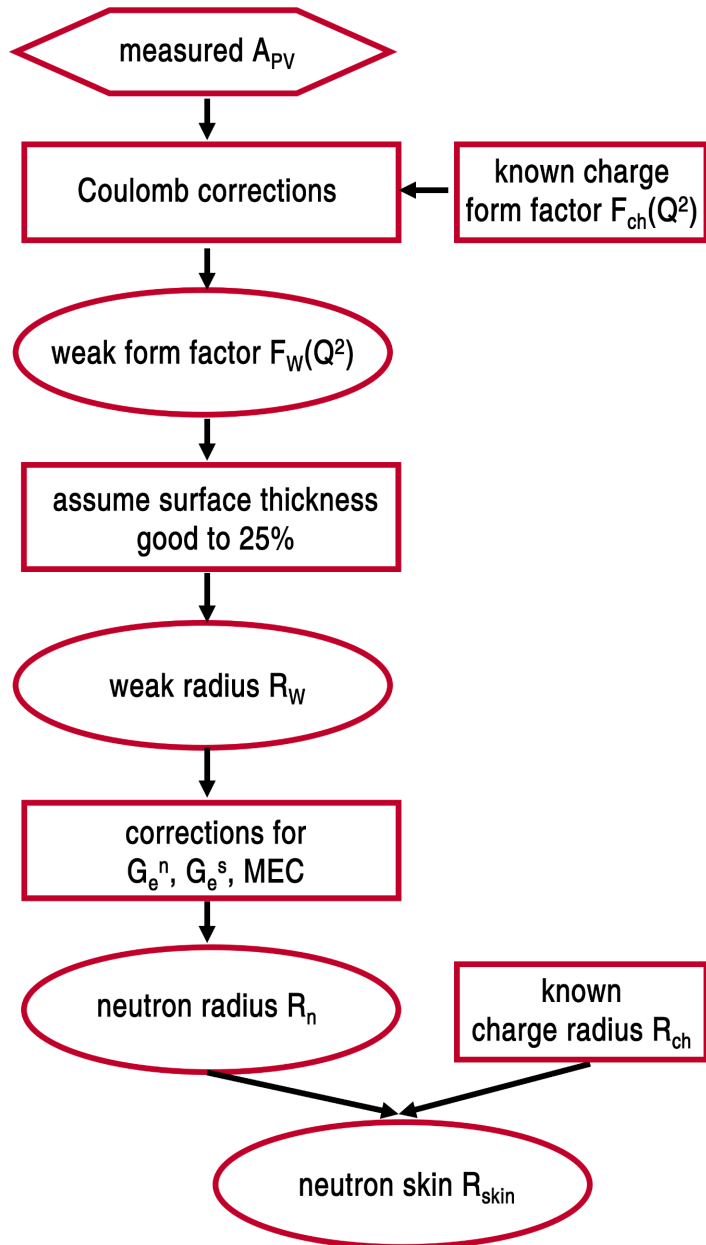
J. Piekarewicz, F.J. Fattoyev, Physics Today 72, 7, 30 (2019)

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$$\rightarrow L = \pm 50 \text{ MeV}$$

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$$R_{\text{skin}} = 0.278 \pm 0.078 \text{ fm}$$

$$\rightarrow L = \pm 50 \text{ MeV}$$



improvement  
by factor 2



# ultimate determination of the neutron-skin thickness of $^{208}\text{Pb}$

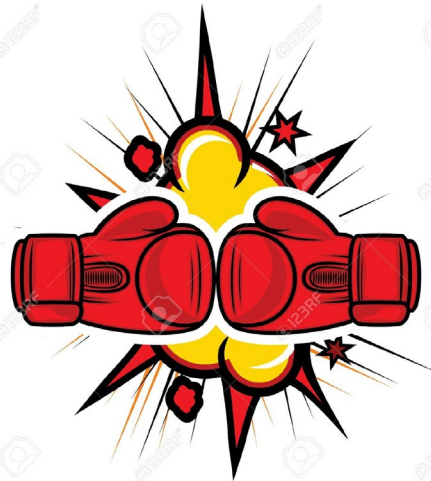


# MREX

@ MESA

(Mainz Radius Experiment)

PLANS



REALITY



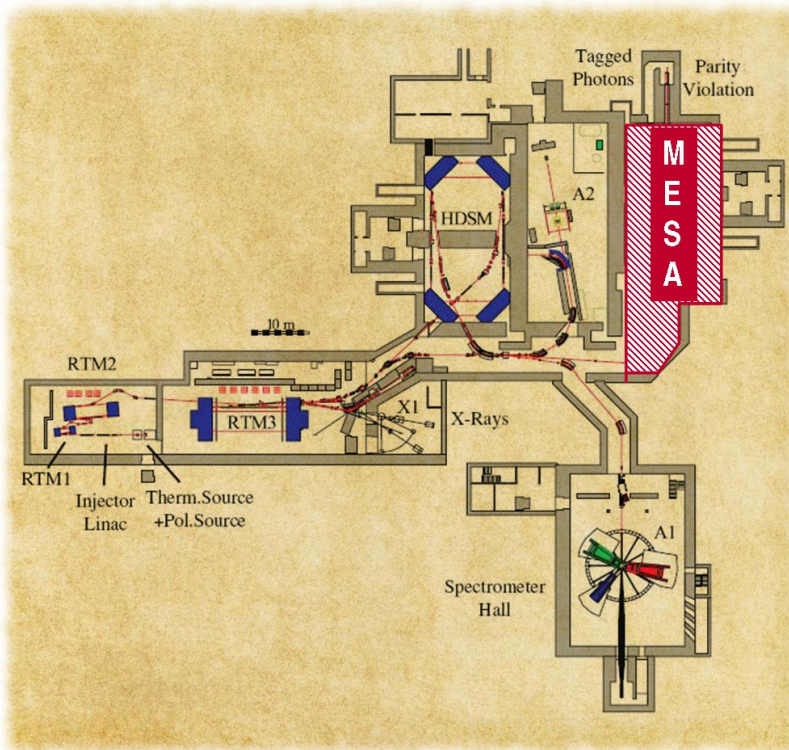
# ultimate determination of the neutron-skin thickness of $^{208}\text{Pb}$



# MREX

@ MESA

(Mainz Radius Experiment)



Mainz Energy recovering  
Superconducting Accelerator



PLANS:

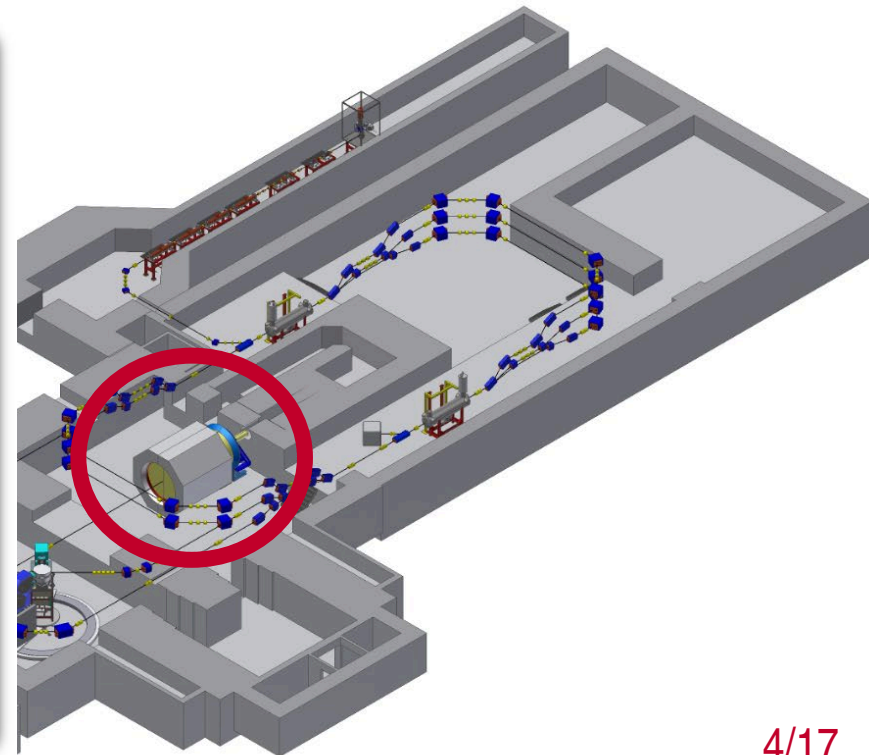
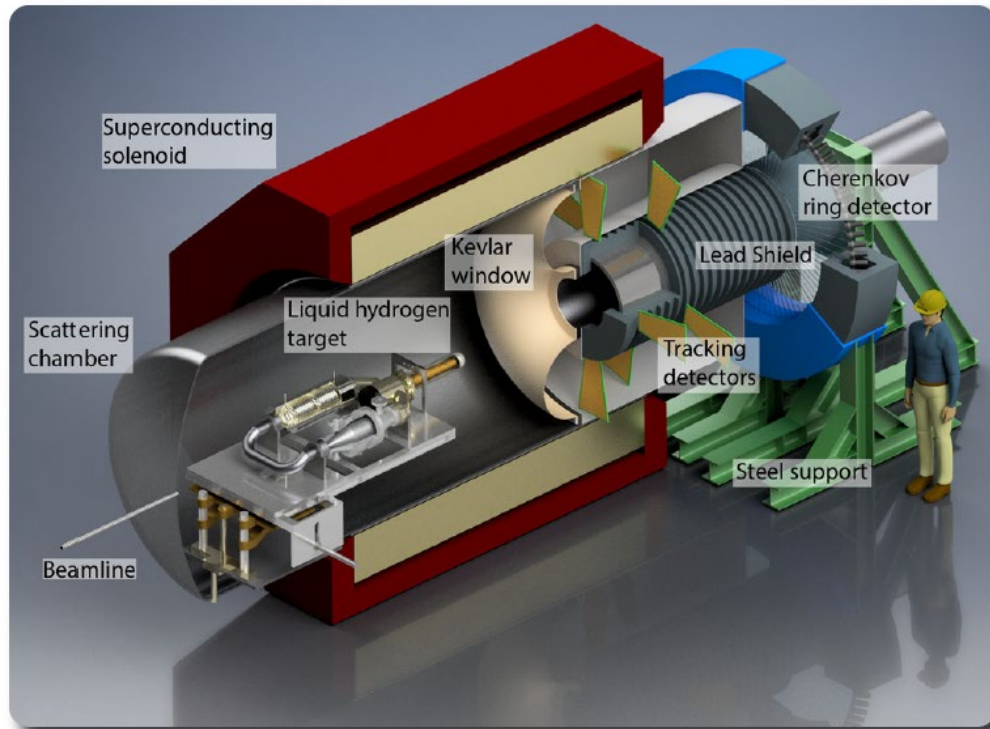
150  $\mu\text{A}$  (pol.) @ 155 MeV

# ultimate determination of the neutron-skin thickness of $^{208}\text{Pb}$



# MREX

(some people call it „P2“)



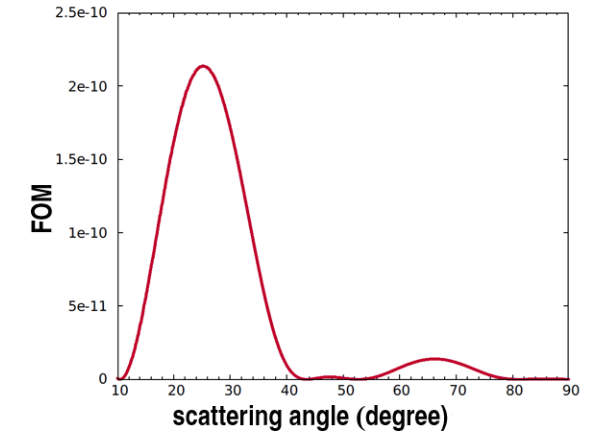
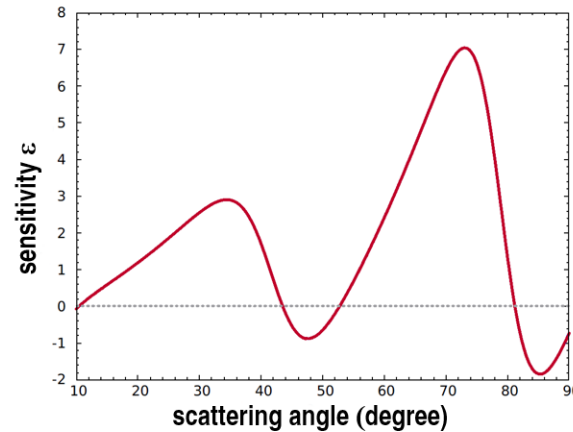
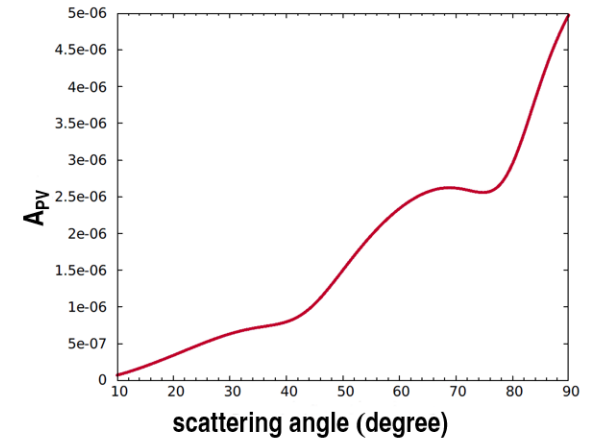
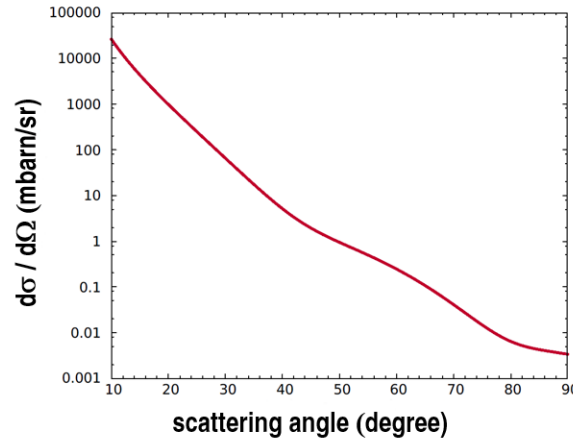
# MREX: Figure Of Merit

**beam**  
energy: 155 MeV  
current: 150  $\mu$ A

**target**  
 $^{208}\text{Pb}$  0.56 g/cm<sup>2</sup>

$A_{\text{PV}}$ : 0.66 ppm  
 $\Delta\theta = 4^\circ$   
polarization: 85%  
q: 86 MeV/c

Chuck Horowitz



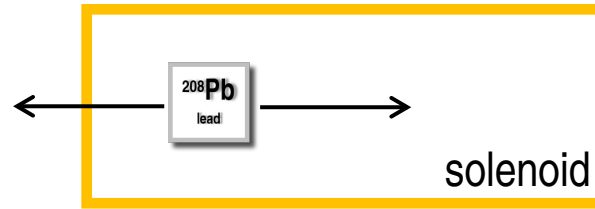
$\pm 0.03$  fm determination of neutron-skin thickness (🕒 60 days)

# MREX: ray trace simulation

vary magnetic field strength  
(0.1 T to 0.6 T)



scan of target position  
(-2500 mm to 0 mm)



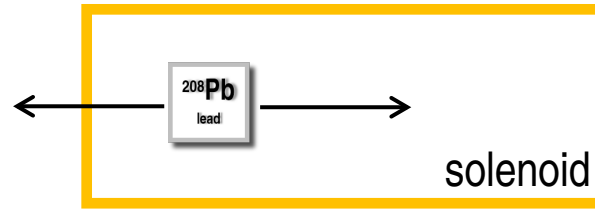


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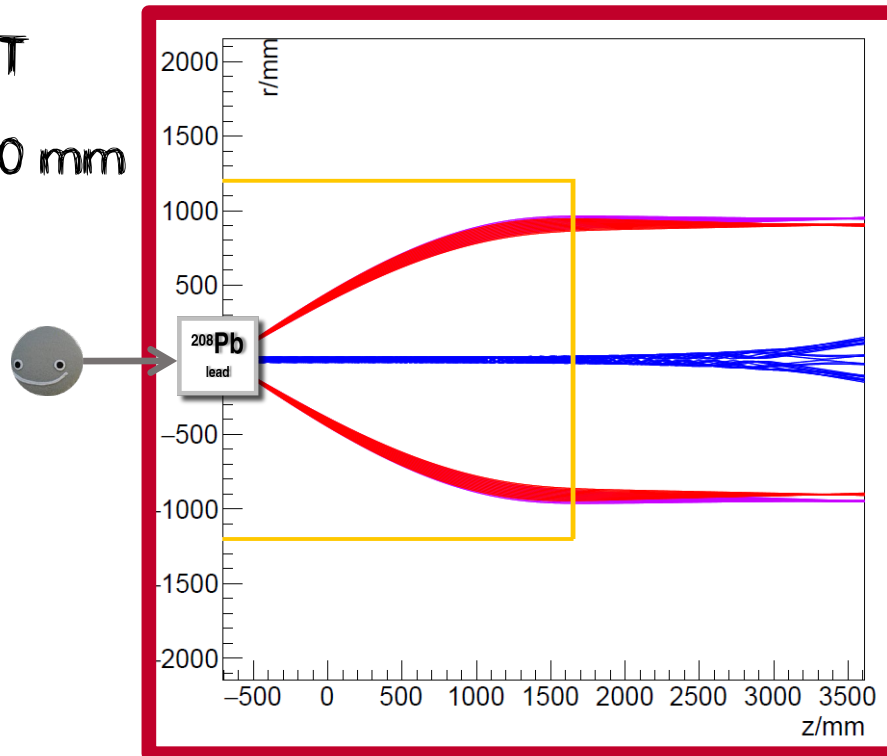


scan of target position  
(-2500 mm to 0 mm)



magnetic field: 0.6 T

target position: -700 mm



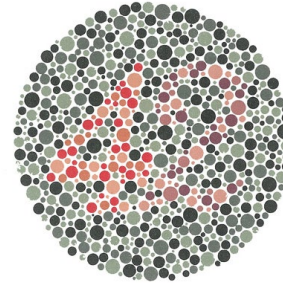
elastic e-Pb scattering  
[30° to 34°]

inelastic e-Pb scattering  
[30° to 34°]

Møller scattering  
[5° to 90°]

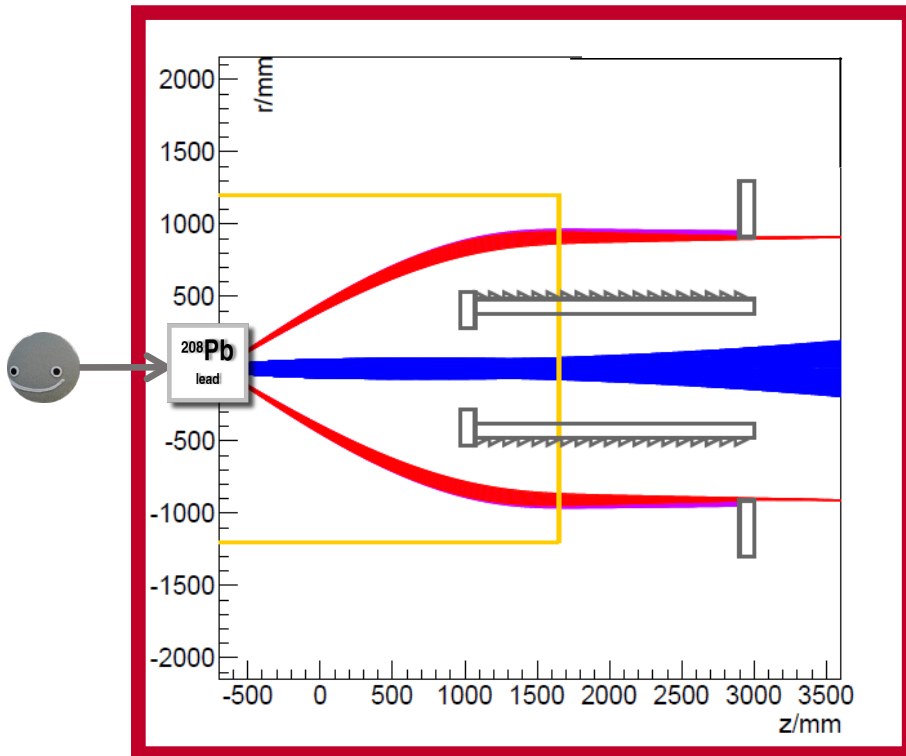
# MREX: ray trace simulation

## P2 shielding and detector configuration



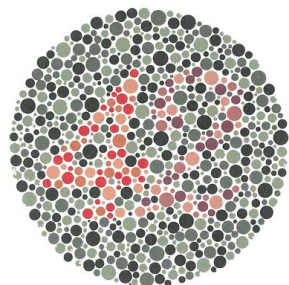
resolve elastic?

$$\Delta E (^{208}\text{Pb}) = 2.7 \text{ MeV}$$



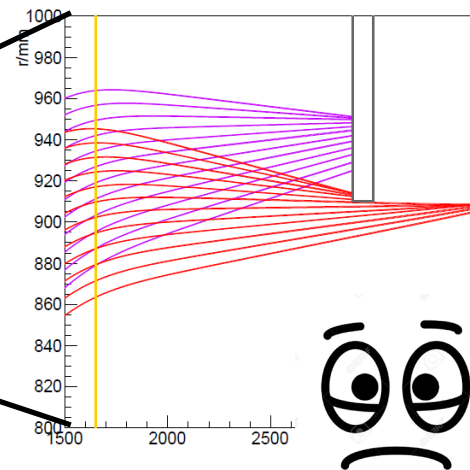
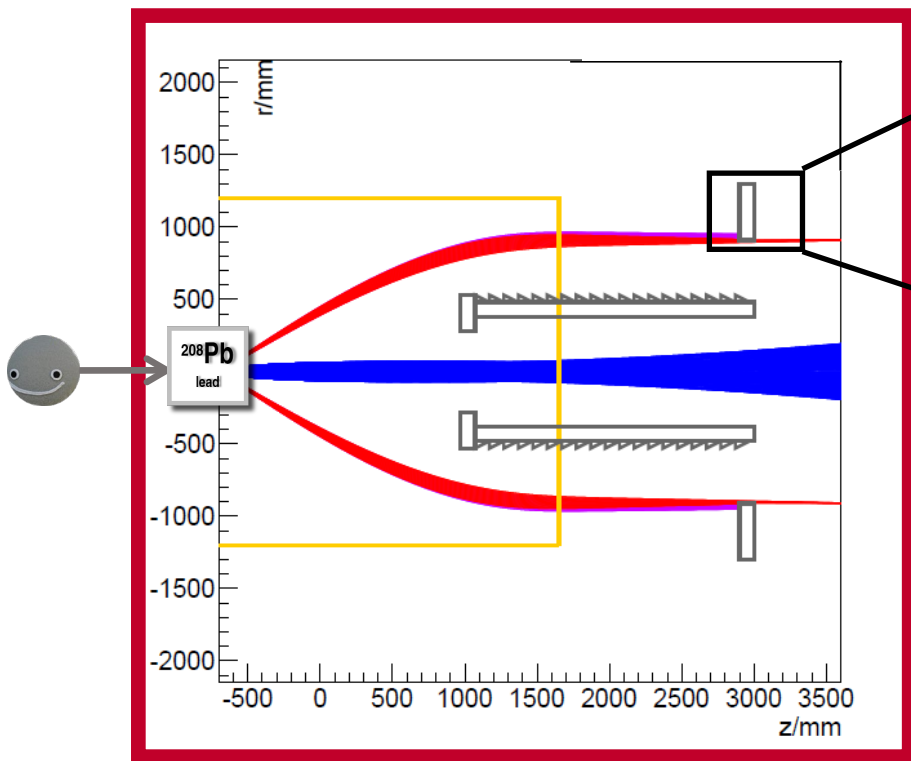
# MREX: ray trace simulation

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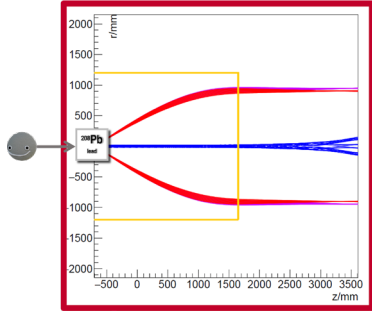


separate shielding needed!



# MREX: work in progress (status 2021)

detector

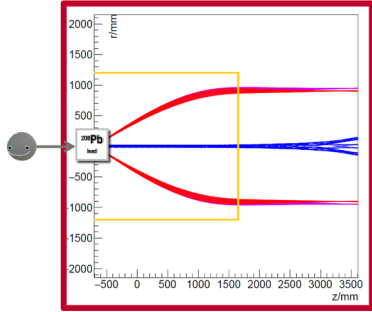


new shielding design

full simulation needed

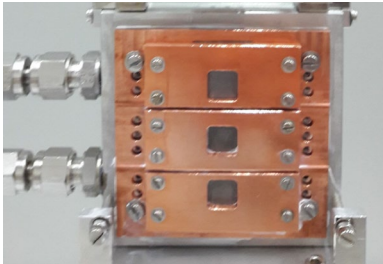
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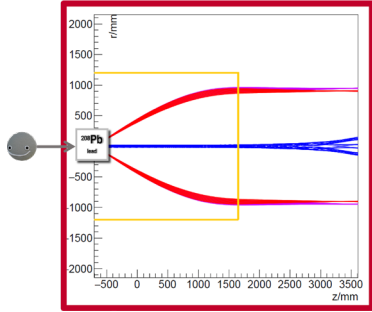
target



commissioning @ A1

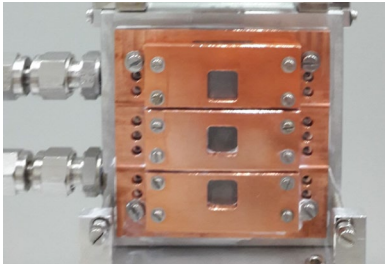
# MREX: work in progress (status 2021)

## detector



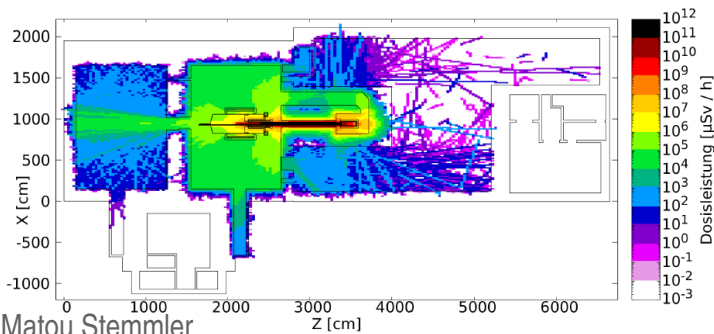
new shielding design  
full simulation needed

## target



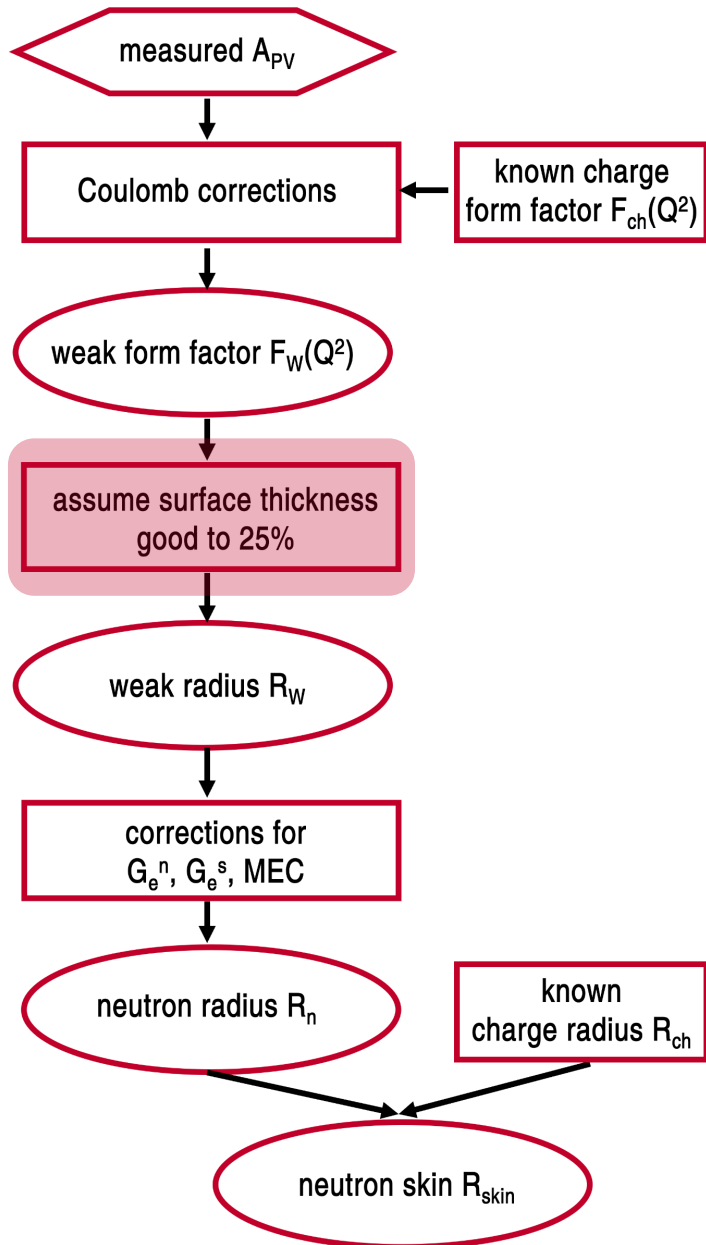
commissioning @ A1

## radiation

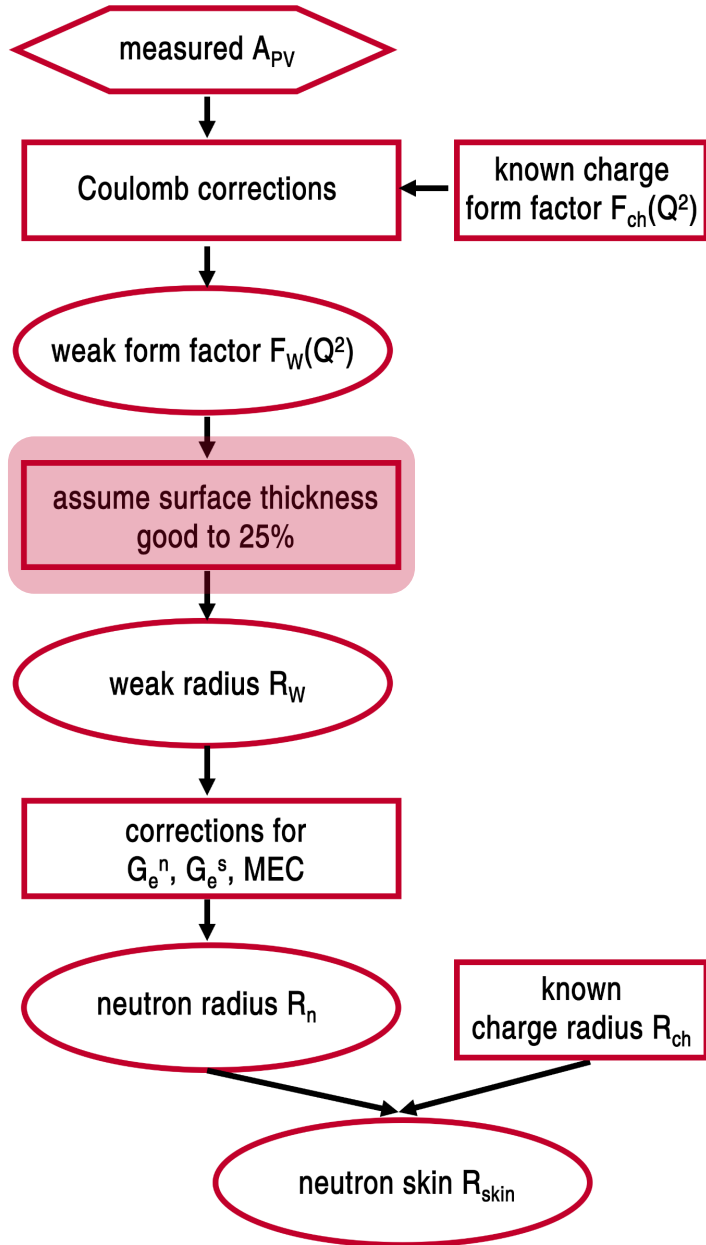


high, but no obstacle

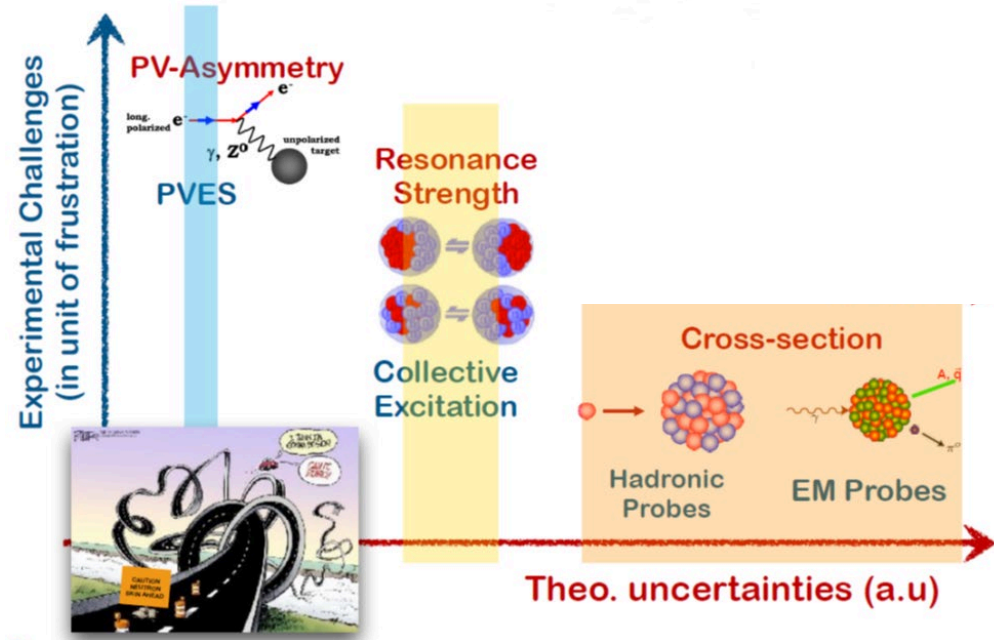
# the long road to the ultimate determination of NSkin



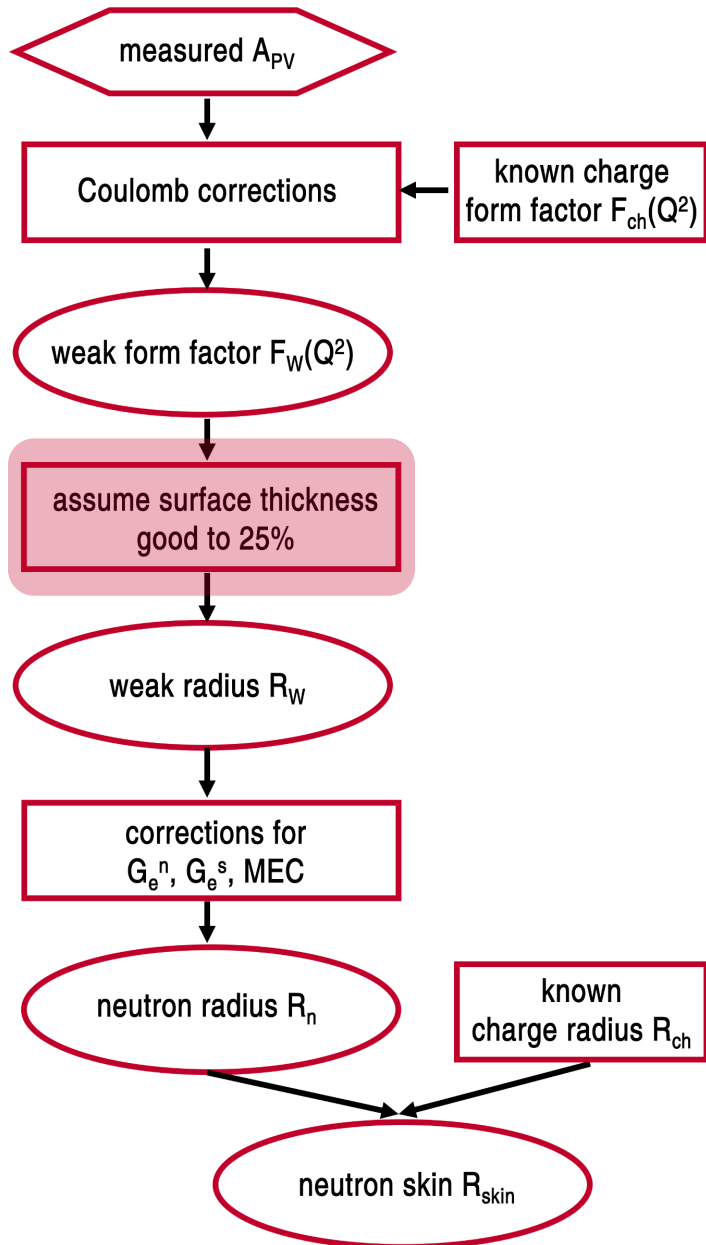
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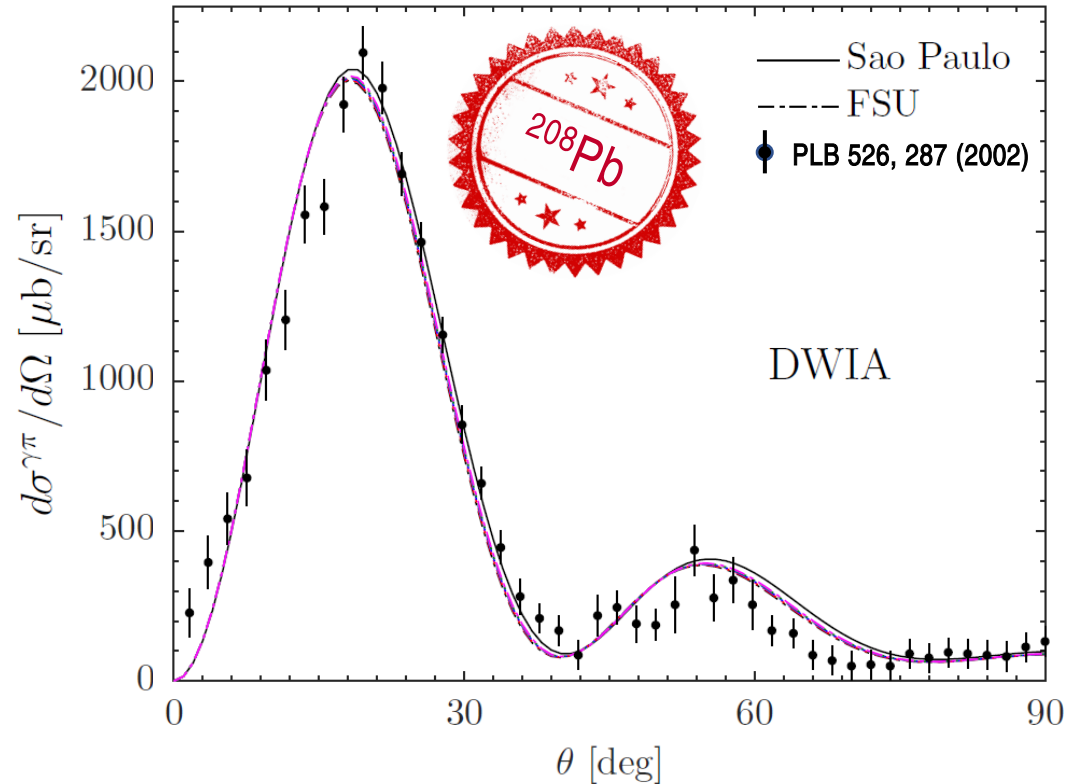
## HIGHWAY TO HELL:



# the long road to the ultimate determination of NSkin



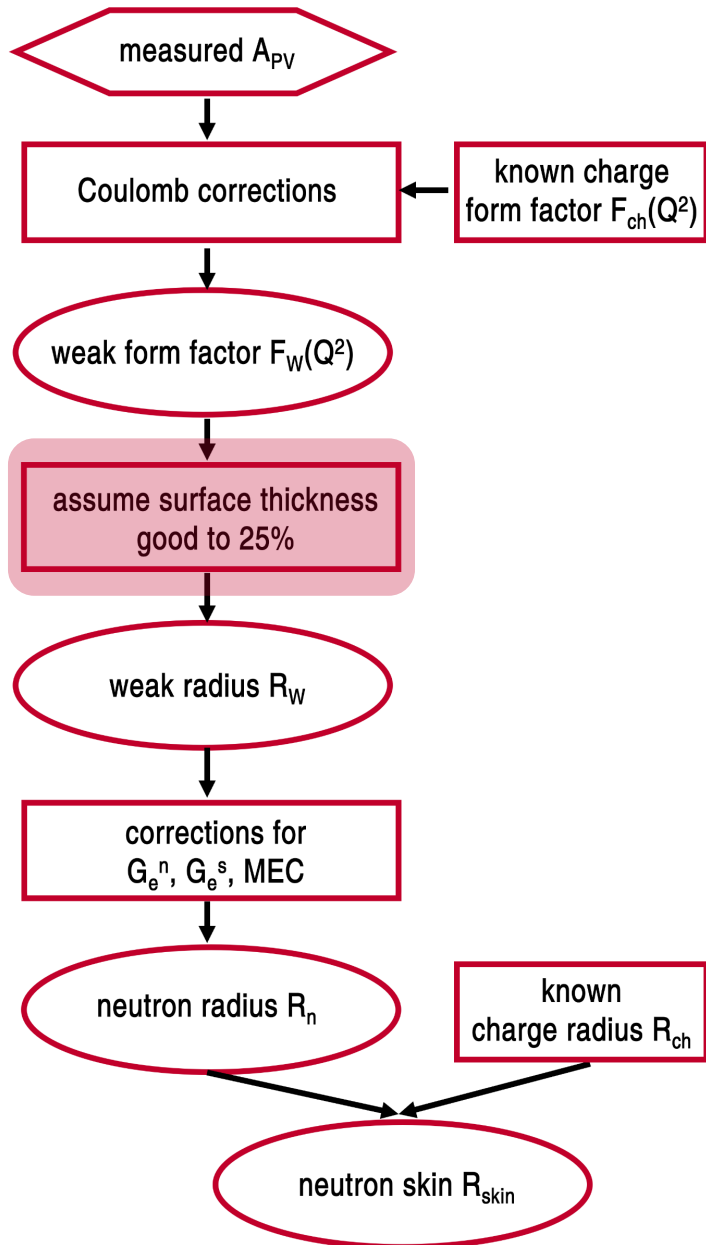
## coherent $\pi^0$ photoproduction



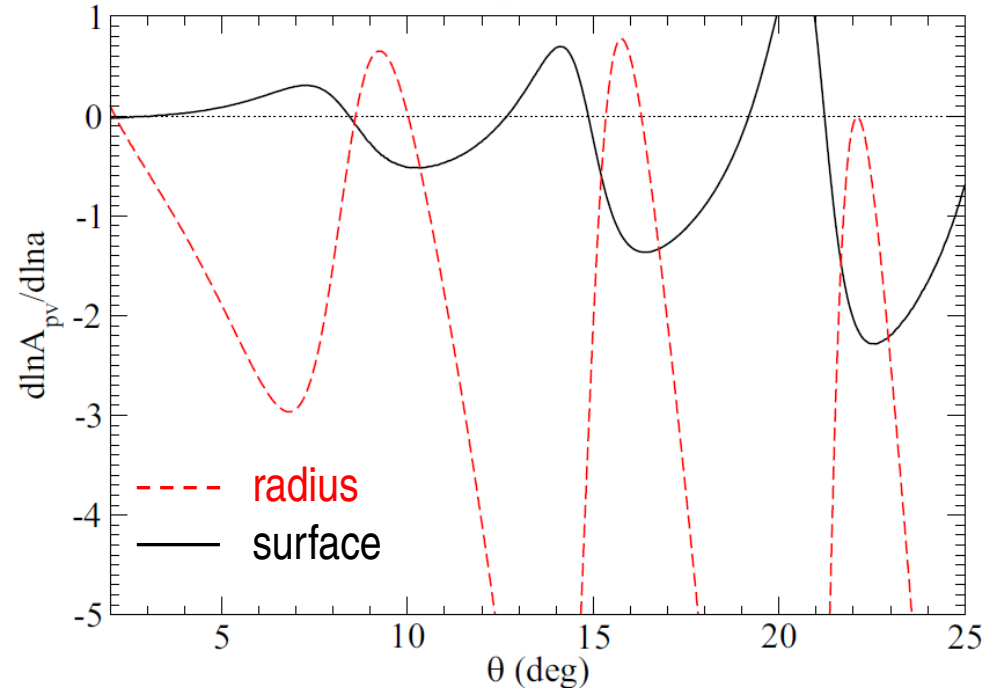
F. Colomer et al., arXiv:2204.13395v1

**FSU band:**  
 $0.176 \text{ fm} < \text{NSkin} < 0.286 \text{ fm}$

# the long road to the ultimate determination of NSkin



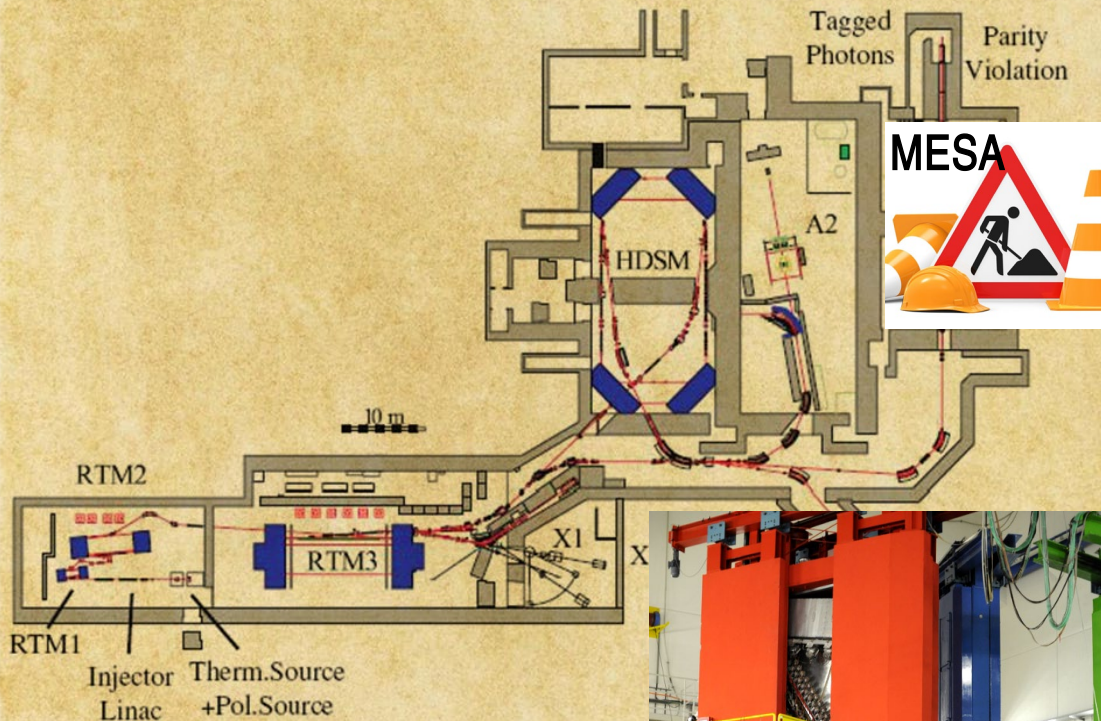
parity-violating electron scattering  
surface sensitivity studies ( $^{208}\text{Pb}$ ):



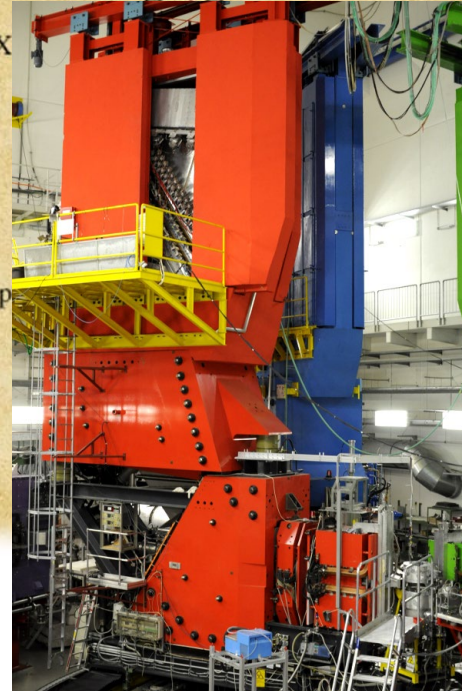
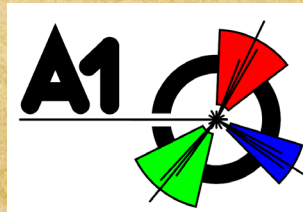
B.T. Reed et al., Phys. Rev. C 102, 064308 (2020)



# determination of the surface thickness of $^{208}\text{Pb}$

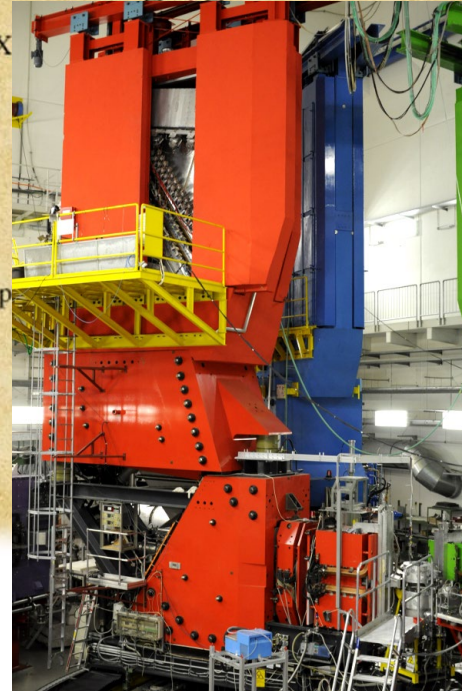
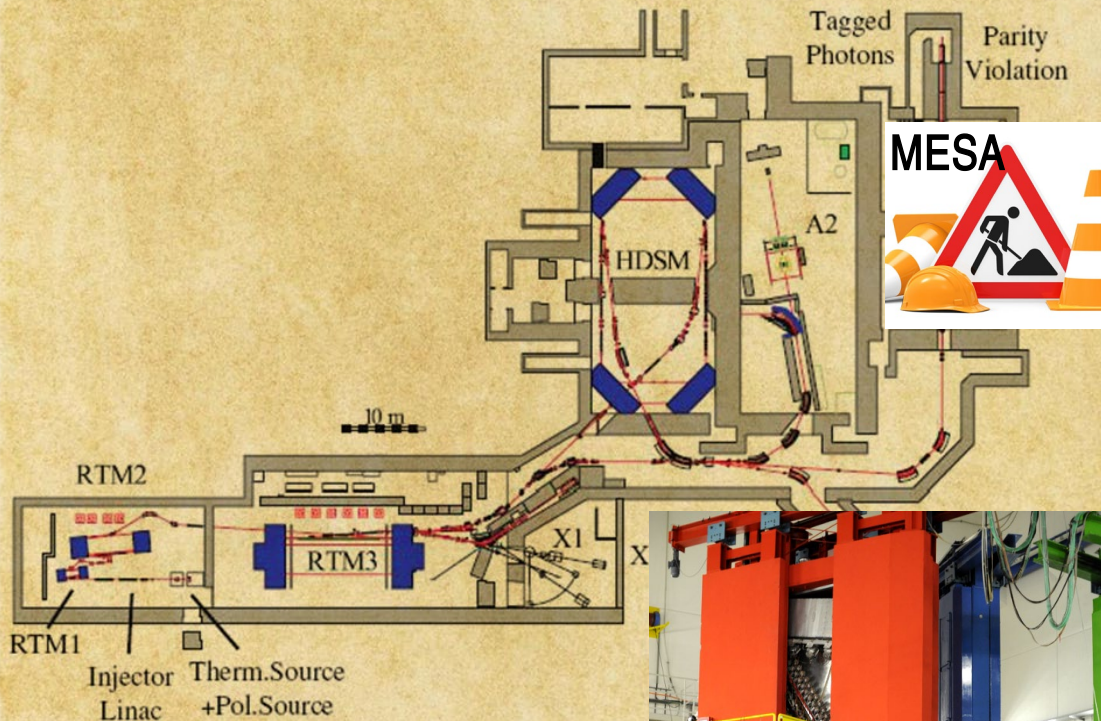


successful measurements  
of transverse asymmetry @ A1:  
 $^{12}\text{C}$ ,  $^{28}\text{Si}$ , and  $^{90}\text{Zr}$   
(Anselm Esser on Tuesday)





# determination of the surface thickness of $^{208}\text{Pb}$



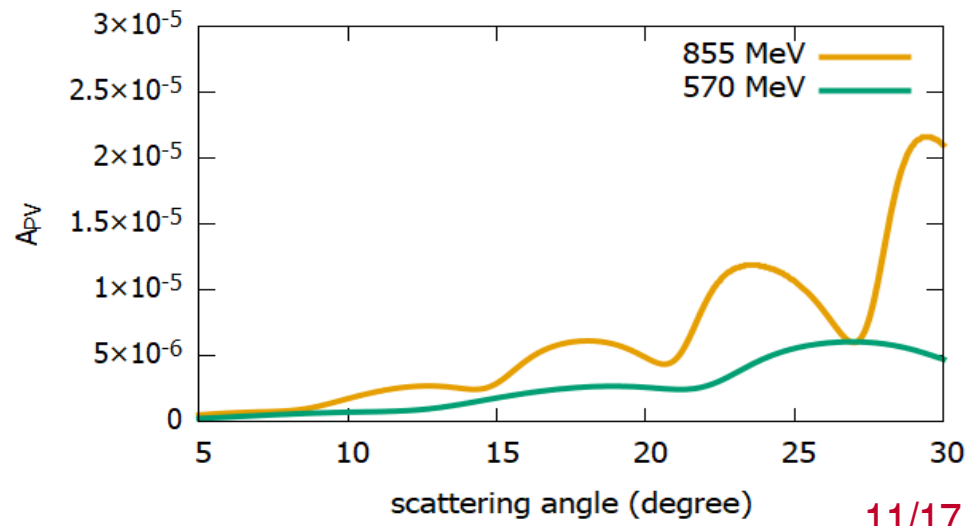
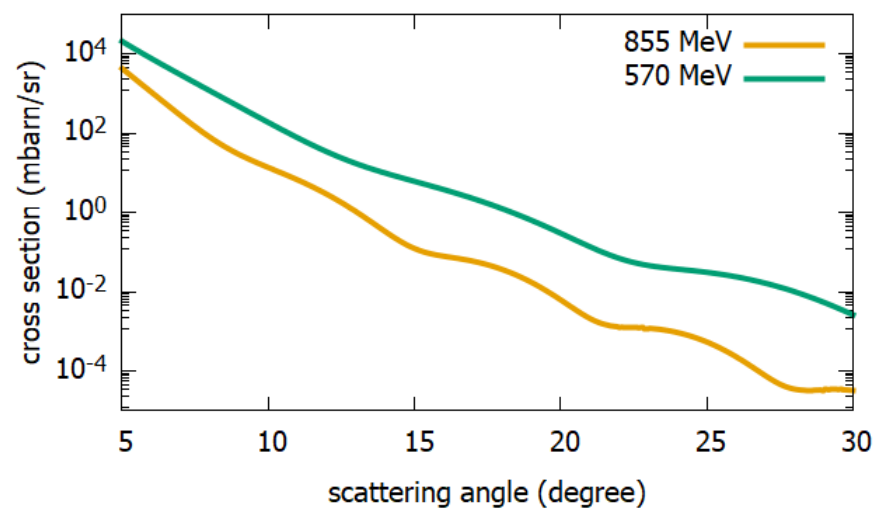
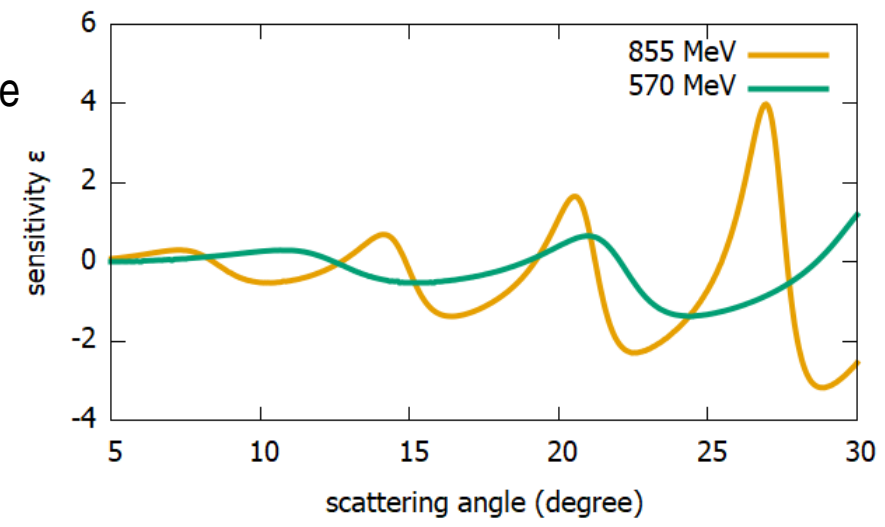
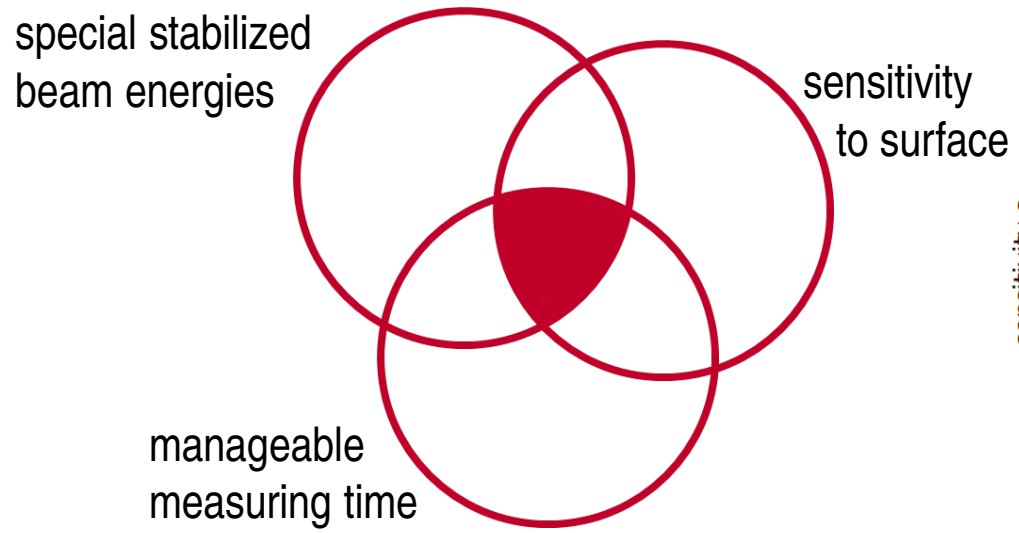
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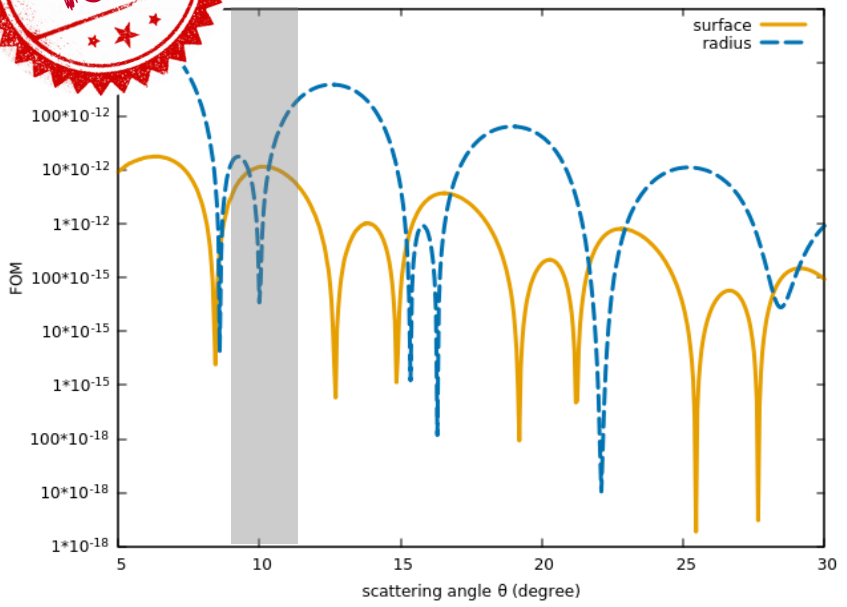
can we do a  
**10%** measurement  
of the surface thickness  
of  $^{208}\text{Pb}$  @ A1?

# A1 : determination of the surface thickness of $^{208}\text{Pb}$

## selection of kinematics



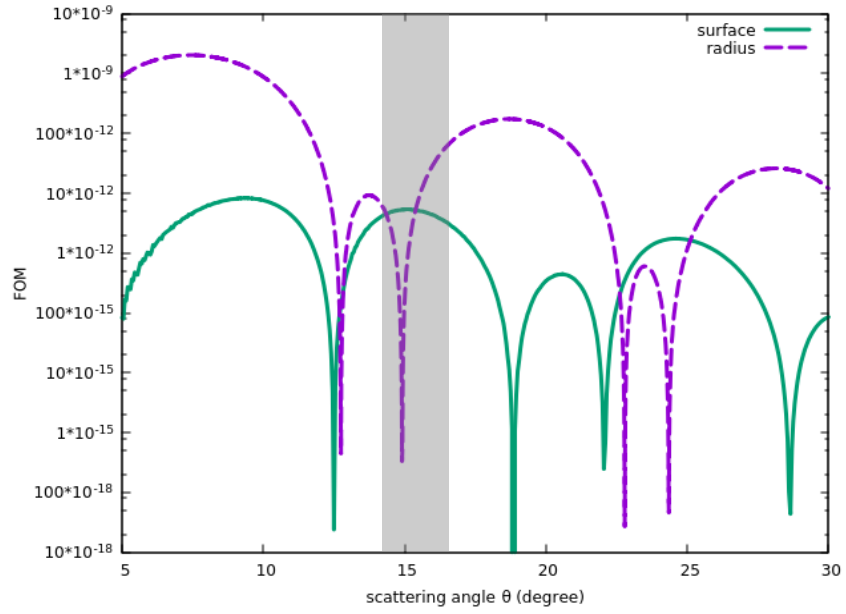
# A1 : determination of the surface thickness of $^{208}\text{Pb}$



855 MeV

specB: 10.35°  
Q<sup>2</sup>: 0.02 GeV<sup>2</sup>/c<sup>2</sup>  
I<sub>beam</sub>: 20μA

running time: 78 days  
☺ time, ☹ modified setup



570 MeV

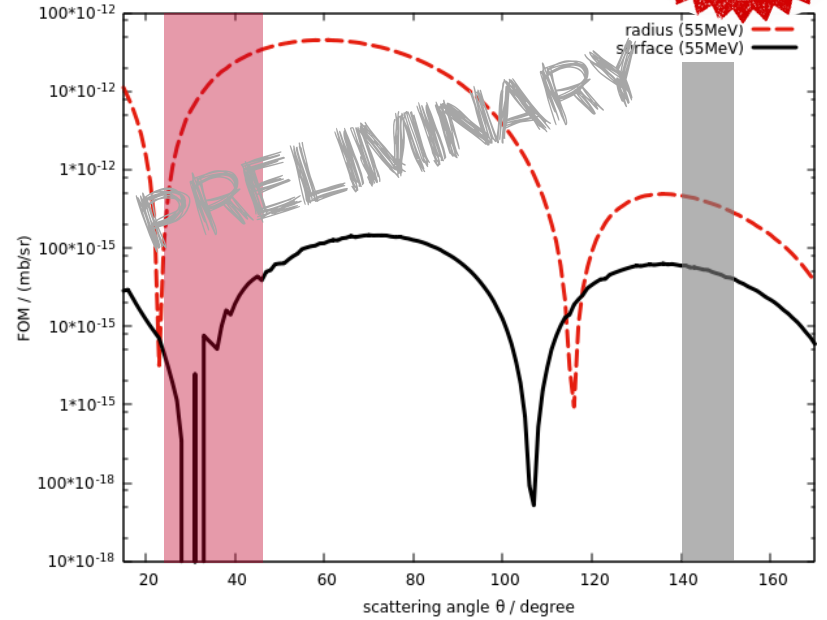
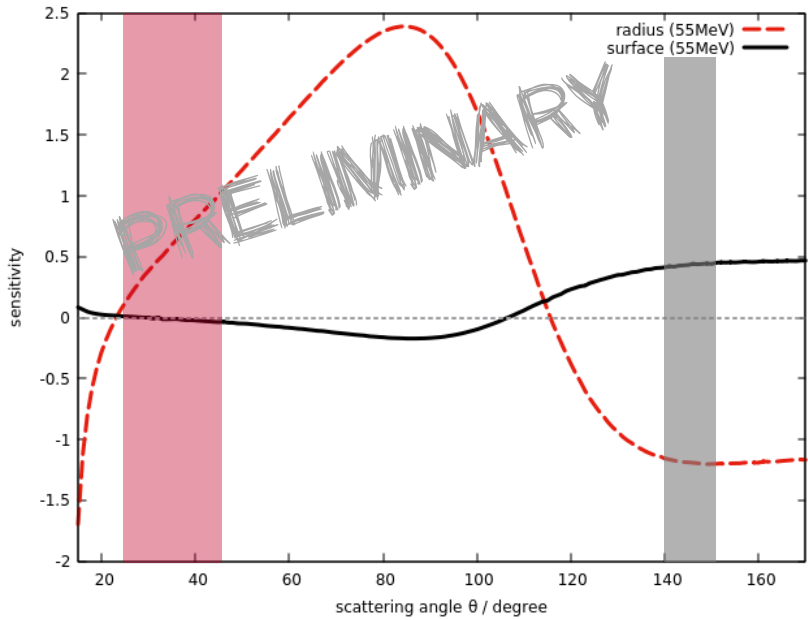
specB: 15.2°  
Q<sup>2</sup>: 0.02 GeV<sup>2</sup>/c<sup>2</sup>  
I<sub>beam</sub>: 20μA

running time: 166 days  
☹ time, ☺ well tested setup

# MREX: determination of the surface thickness of $^{208}\text{Pb}$



can we do it faster with MREX??

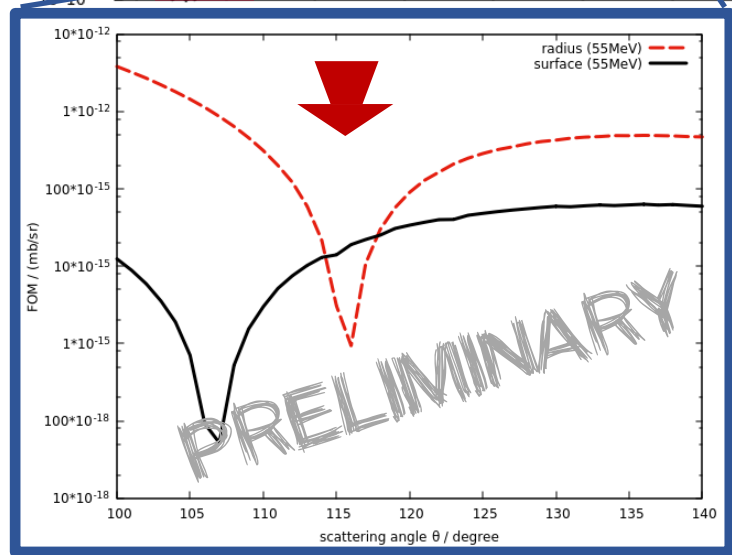
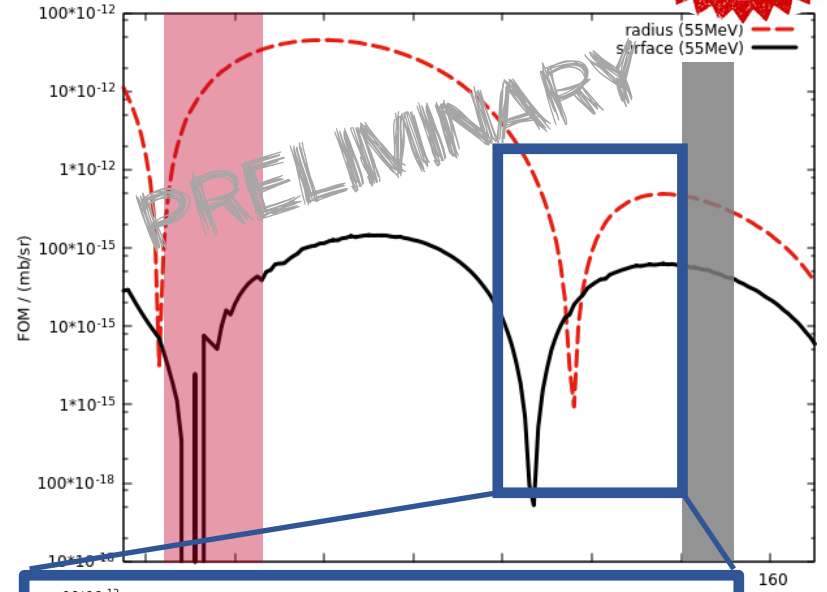
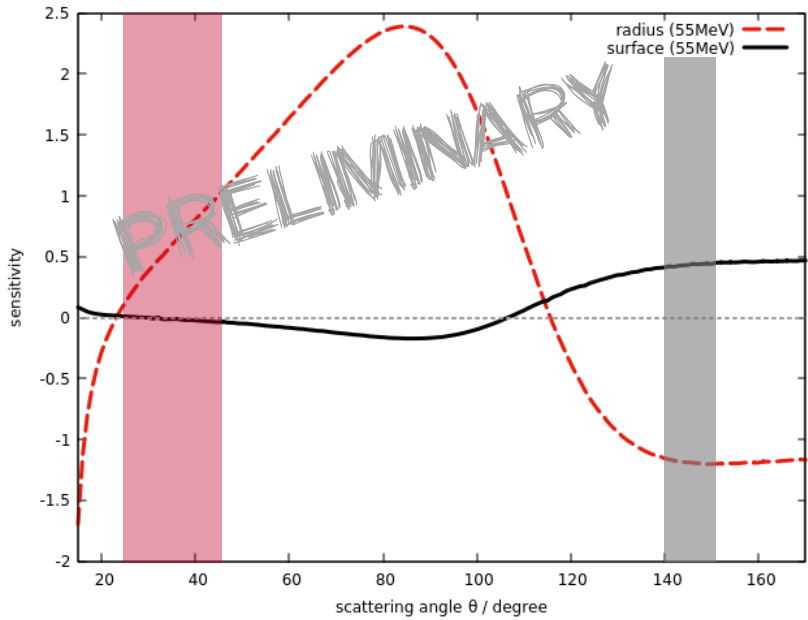




# MREX: determination of the surface thickness of $^{208}\text{Pb}$

55 MeV

can we do it faster with MREX??



possible  
scenarios  
currently



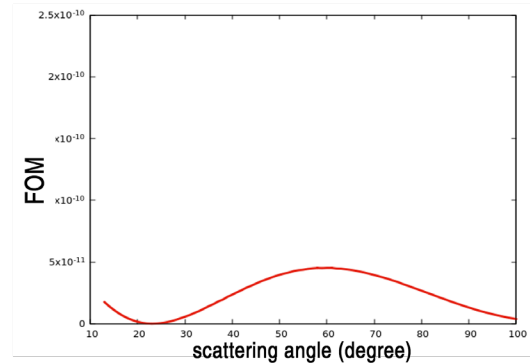
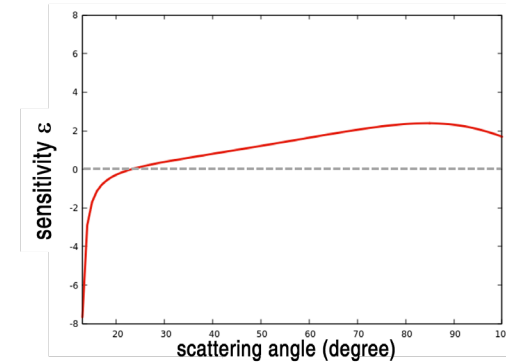
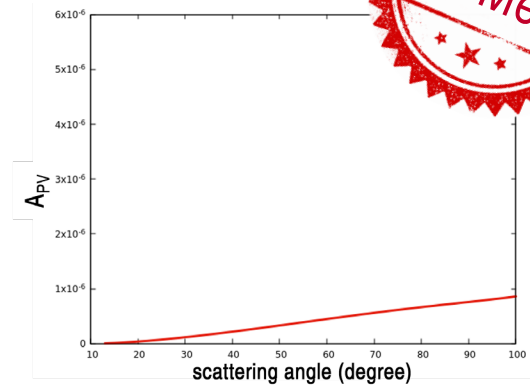
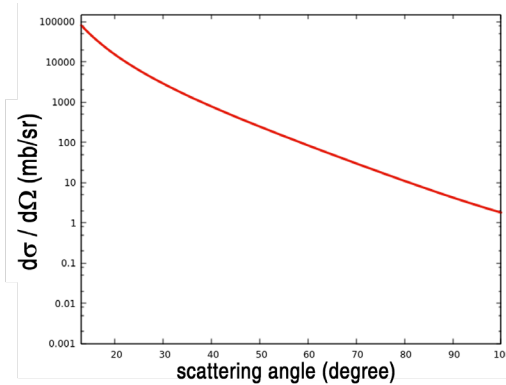
# MREX: neutron-skin thickness



**beam**  
energy: 55 MeV  
current: 150  $\mu$ A

**target**  
208Pb 0.56 g/cm<sup>2</sup>

$A_{PV}$ : 0.49 ppm  
 $\Delta\theta = 4^\circ$   
polarization: 85%



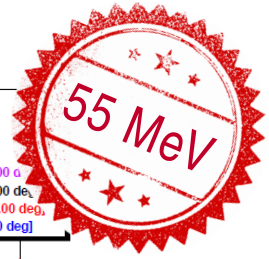
**62° - 66°:**

**$\pm 0.03$  fm determination of neutron-skin thickness (🕒 24 days)**



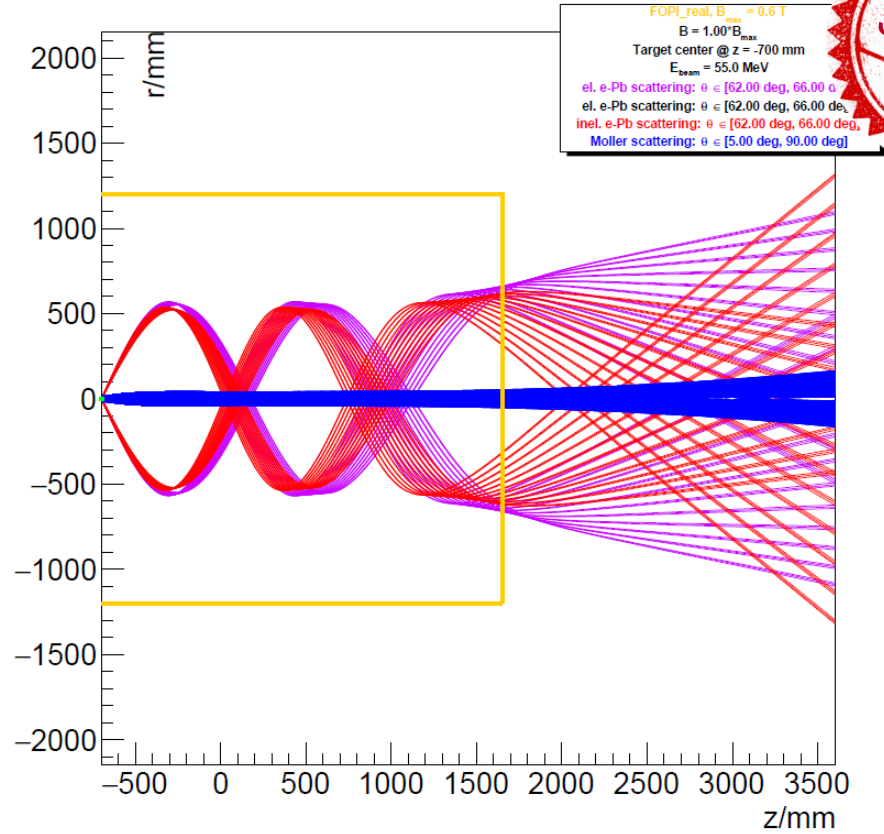


# MREX: neutron-skin thickness



**beam**  
 energy: 55 MeV  
 current: 150  $\mu$ A

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 $^{208}\text{Pb}$  0.56 g/cm<sup>2</sup>  
 $A_{\text{PV}}$ : 0.49 ppm  
 $\Delta\theta = 4^\circ$   
 polarization: 85%



62° - 66°:

$\pm 0.03$  fm de



neutron-skin thickness (🕒 24 days)

# summary



# summary and outlook



# summary and outlook



**TO DO:**  
Make a  
To-Do List!

## THINGS TO DO:



### surface thickness:

- feasibility studies (55 MeV @MREX)
- 10% measurement @ A1 or MREX

### neutron skin thickness:

- efficiency studies (shielding)
- full simulation (rate studies)
- target frame commissioning + implementation in scattering chamber
- $\pm 0.03\text{fm}$  measurement

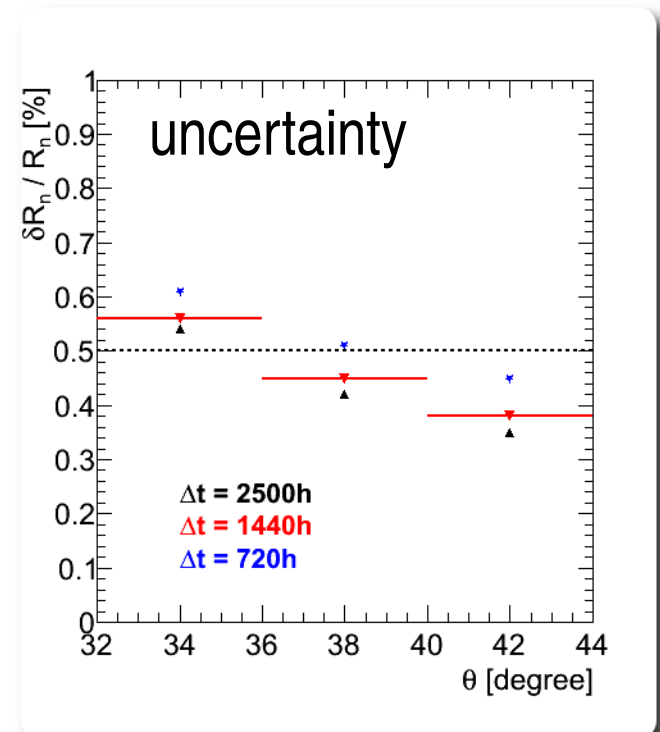
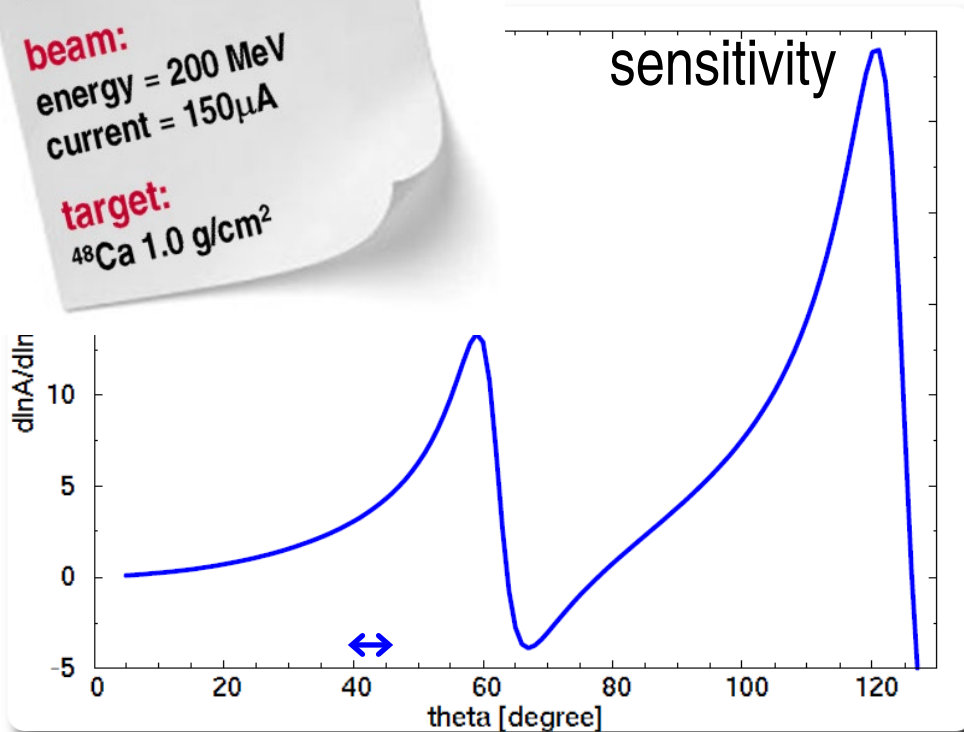
# what about $^{48}\text{Ca}$ ?

## Neutron Skins of Nuclei

May 17 – 27, 2016  
Mainz Institute for Theoretical Physics, Johannes Gutenberg University  
Europe/Berlin timezone

Enter your search term

**General condition:**  
**beam:**  
energy = 200 MeV  
current = 150  $\mu\text{A}$   
**target:**  
 $^{48}\text{Ca}$  1.0 g/cm<sup>2</sup>

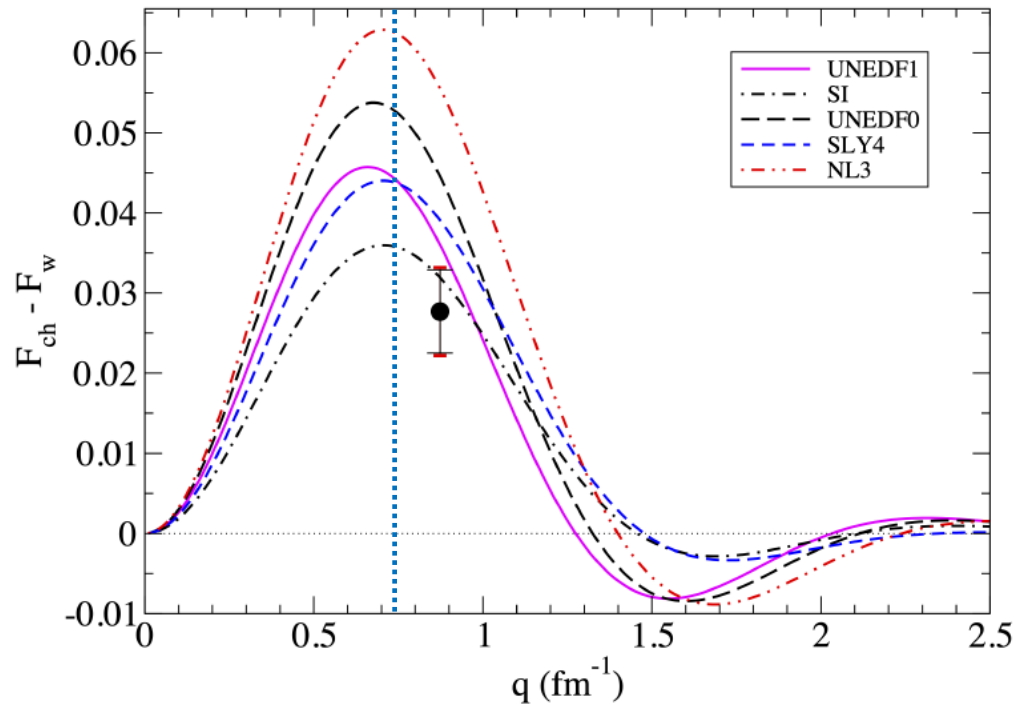


Chuck Horowitz

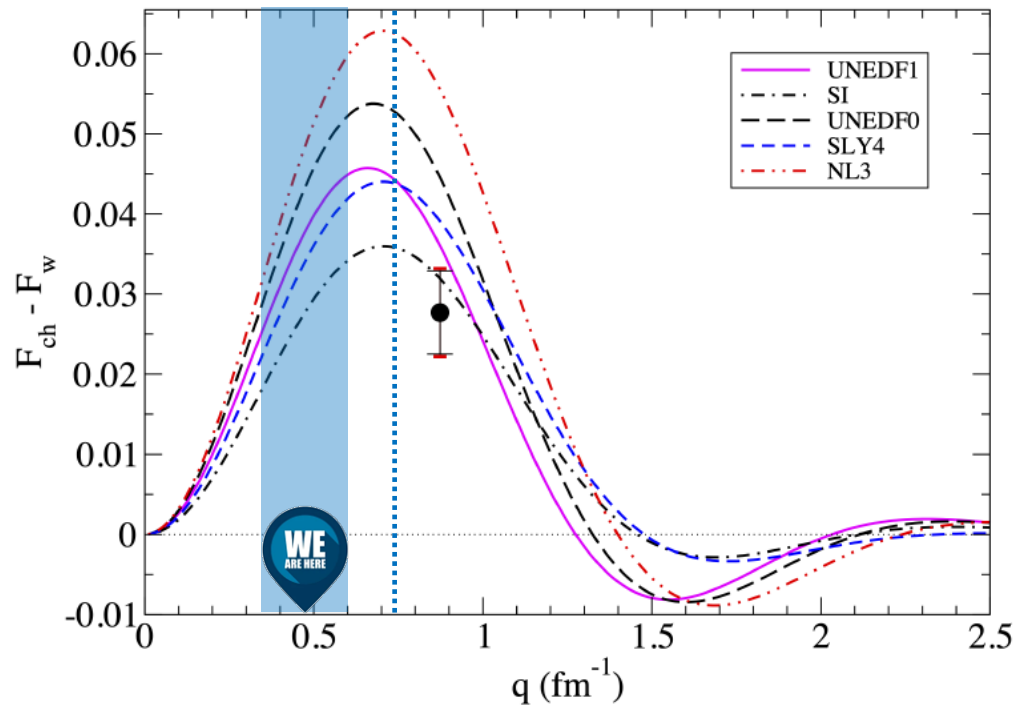
$\Delta\theta=4^\circ$  : expected rate = 0.87 GHz,  $A_{pV} = 2.14$  ppm,  $P = 85\%$ ,  $Q \approx 143$  MeV

60 days  $\rightarrow \delta R_n / R_n = 0.38\%$  ( $^{48}\text{Ca}$  @ 200 MeV)

# what about $^{48}\text{Ca}$ ?



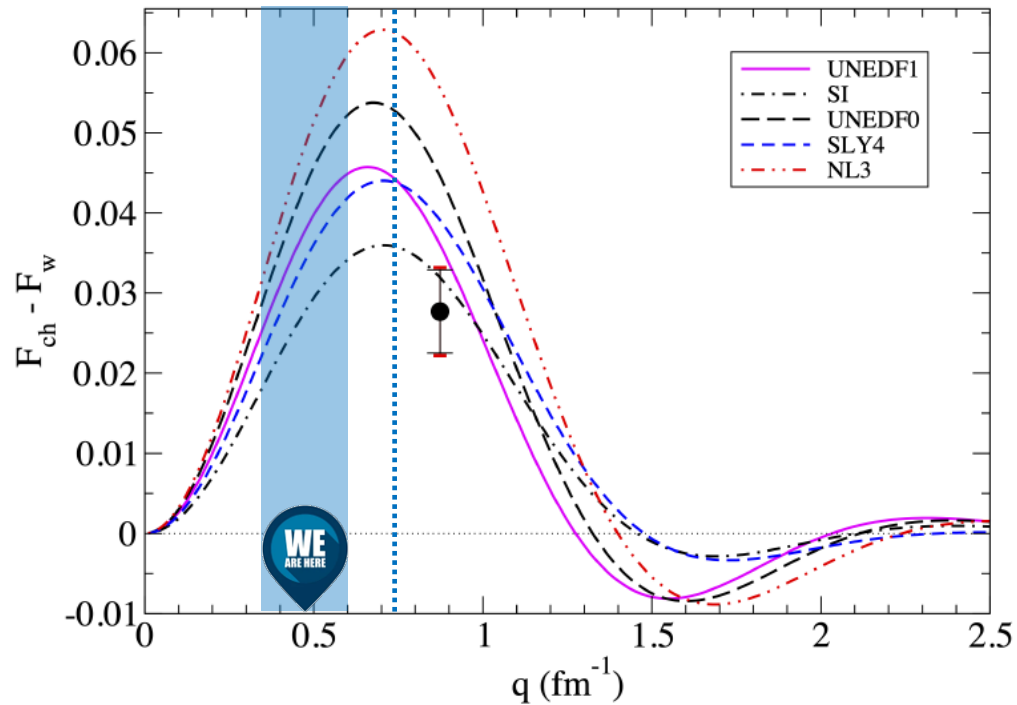
# what about $^{48}\text{Ca}$ ?



detector covers  $25^\circ - 45^\circ$



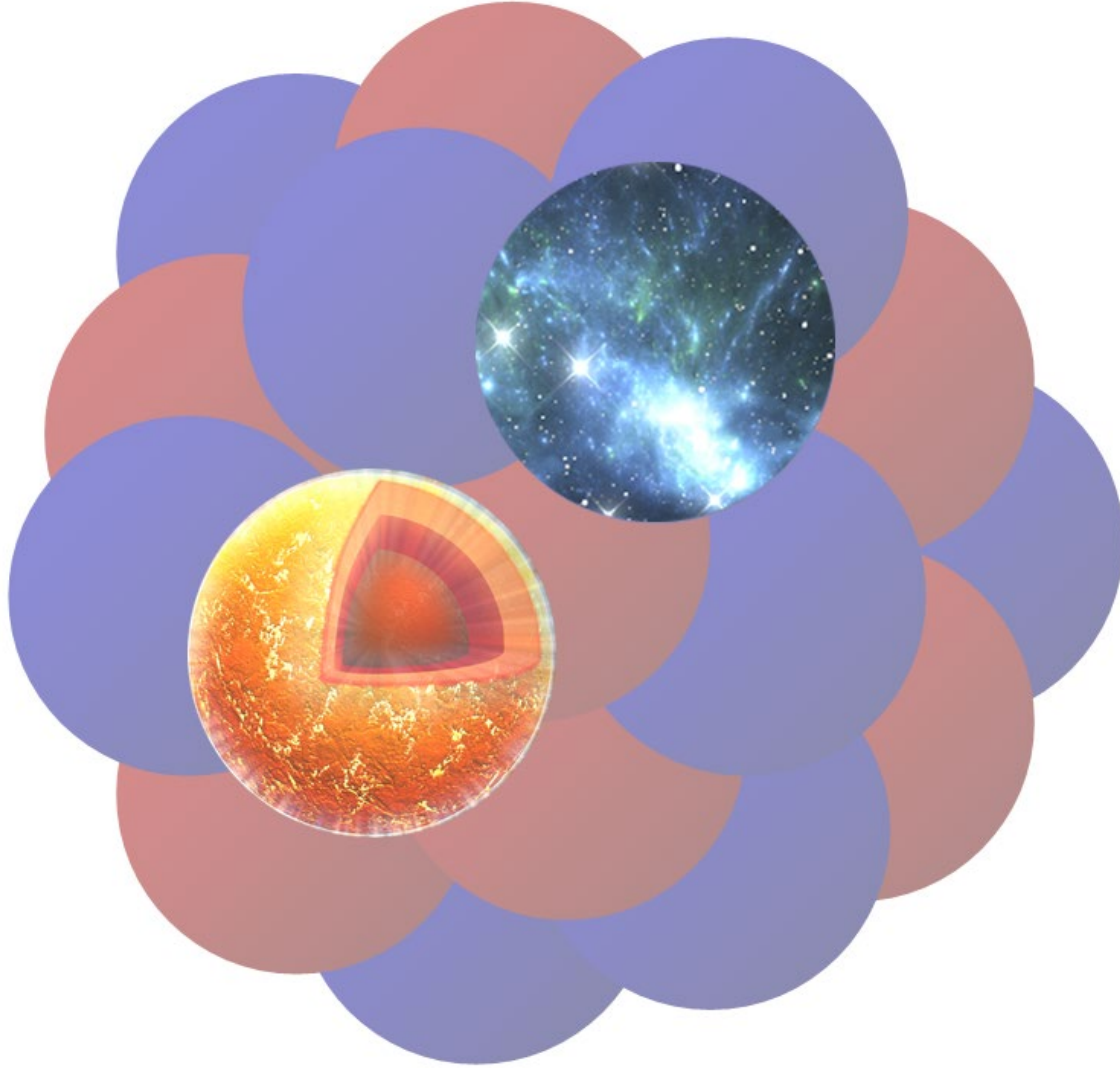
# what about $^{48}\text{Ca}$ ?



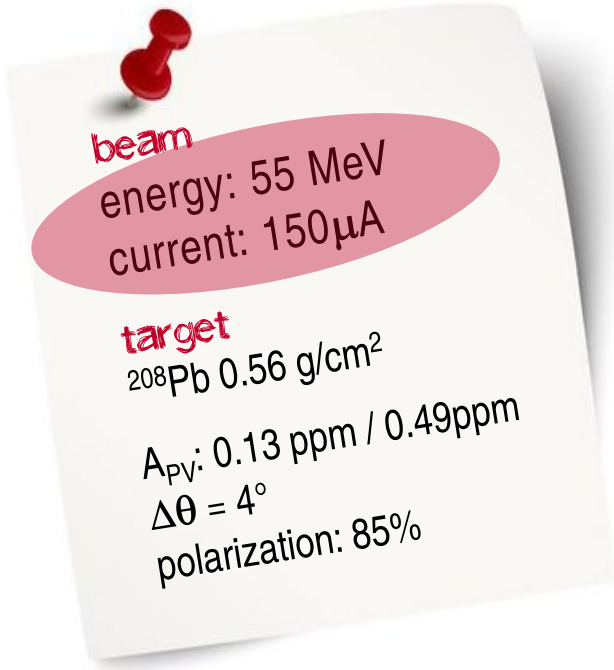
detector covers  $25^\circ - 45^\circ$

how important is a second  $^{48}\text{Ca}$  measurement?

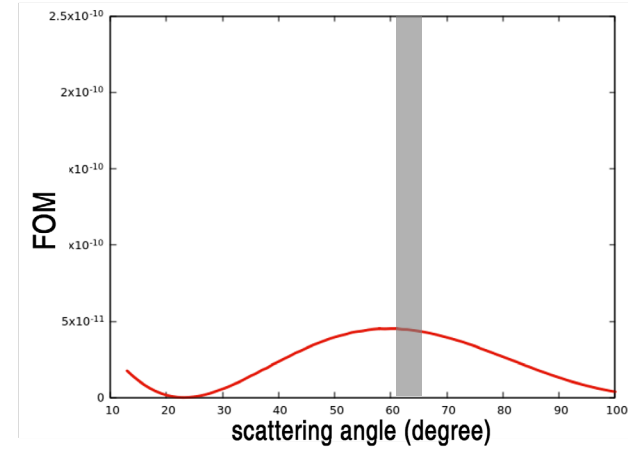
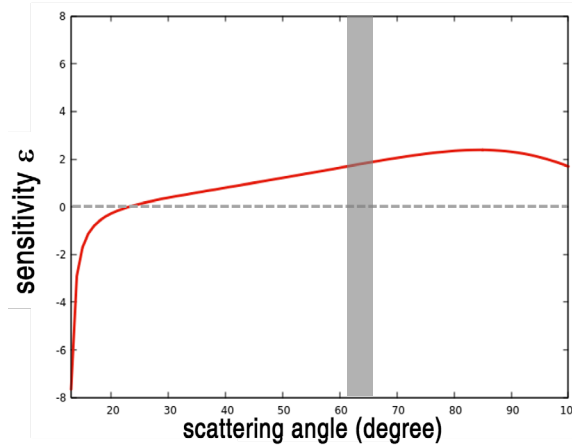
backup



# MREX: Figure Of Merit – 55 MeV



Chuck Horowitz



62° - 66°:

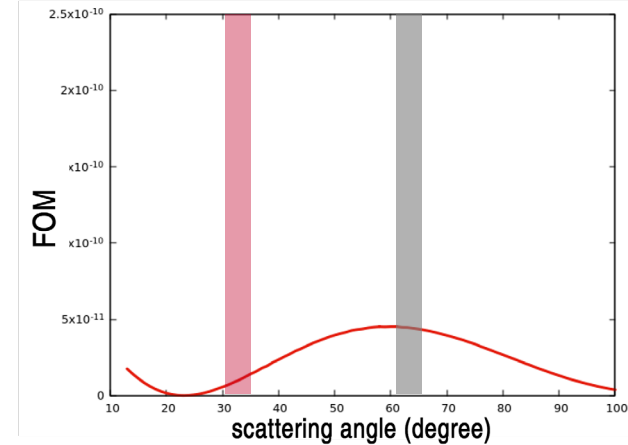
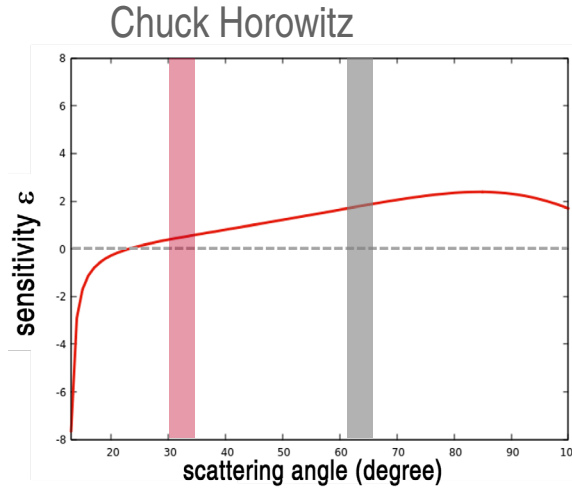
$\pm 0.03$  fm determination of neutron-skin thickness (🕒 24 days)

# MREX: Figure Of Merit – 55 MeV

**beam**  
energy: 55 MeV  
current: 150  $\mu$ A

**target**  
 $^{208}\text{Pb}$  0.56 g/cm<sup>2</sup>

$A_{\text{PV}}$ : 0.13 ppm / 0.49ppm  
 $\Delta\theta = 4^\circ$   
polarization: 85%



62° - 66°: 

$\pm 0.03$  fm determination of neutron-skin thickness (🕒 24 days)

30° - 34°: 

$\pm 0.03$  fm determination of neutron-skin thickness (🕒 220 days)