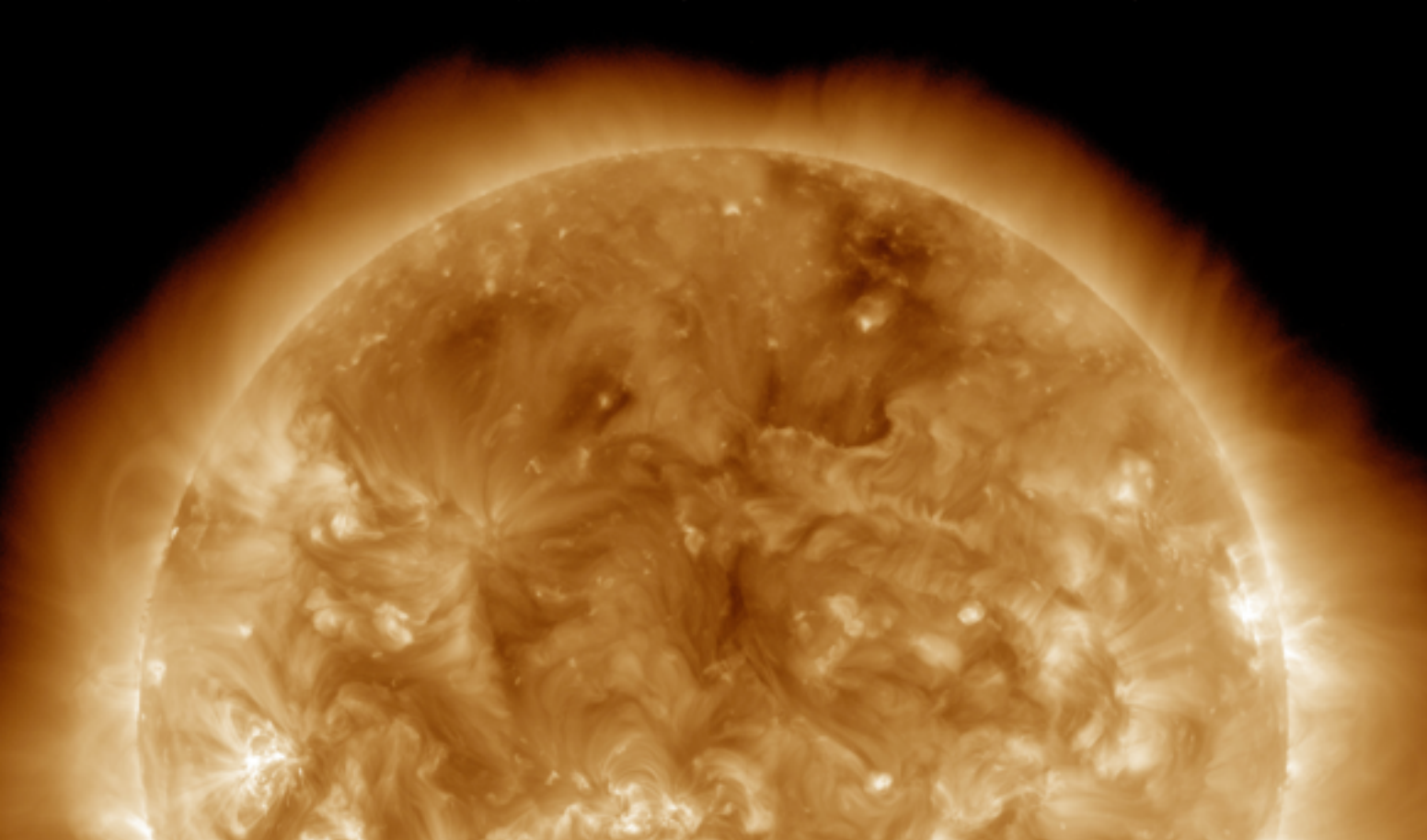


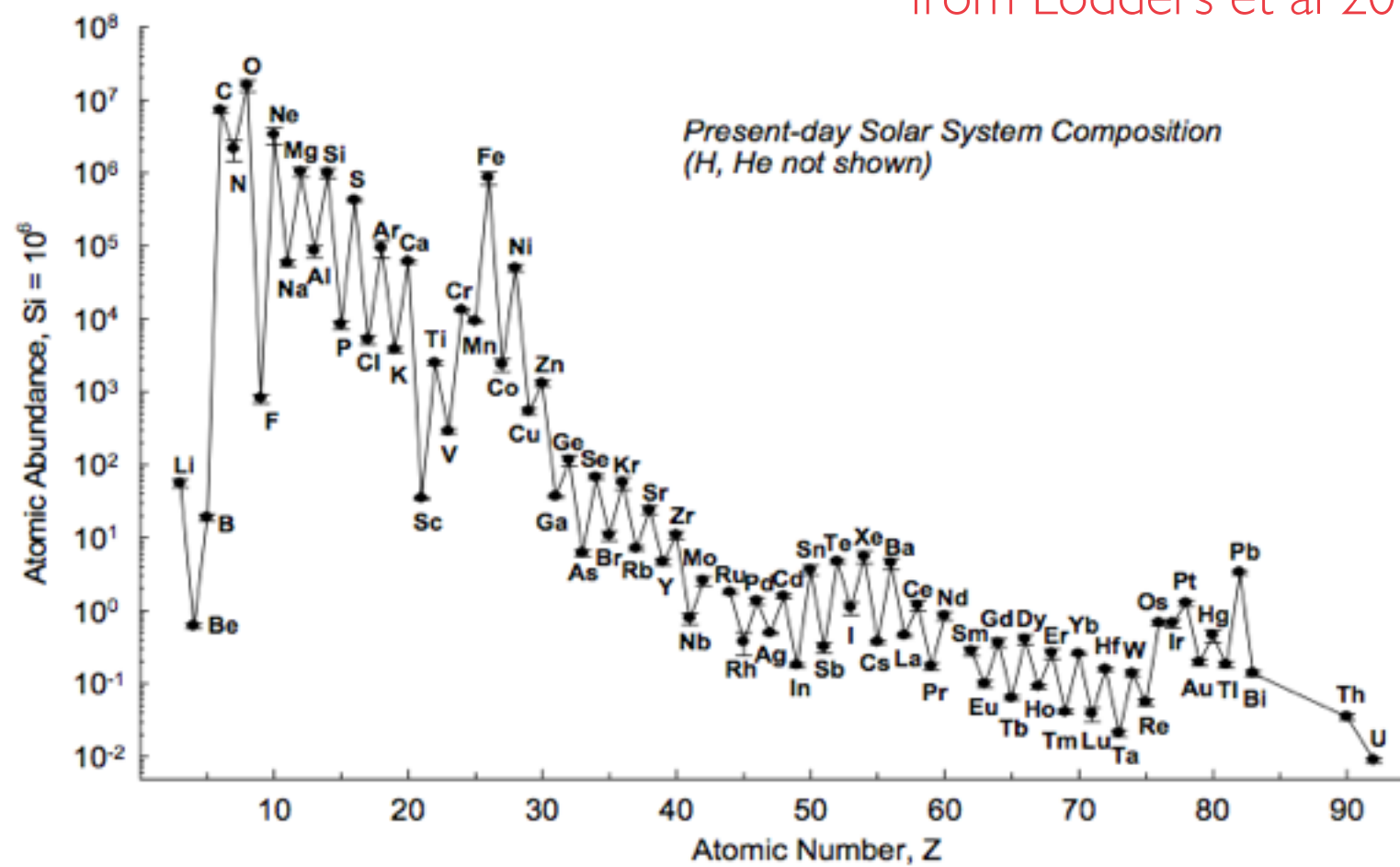


How uncertain are global optical potentials away from stability?

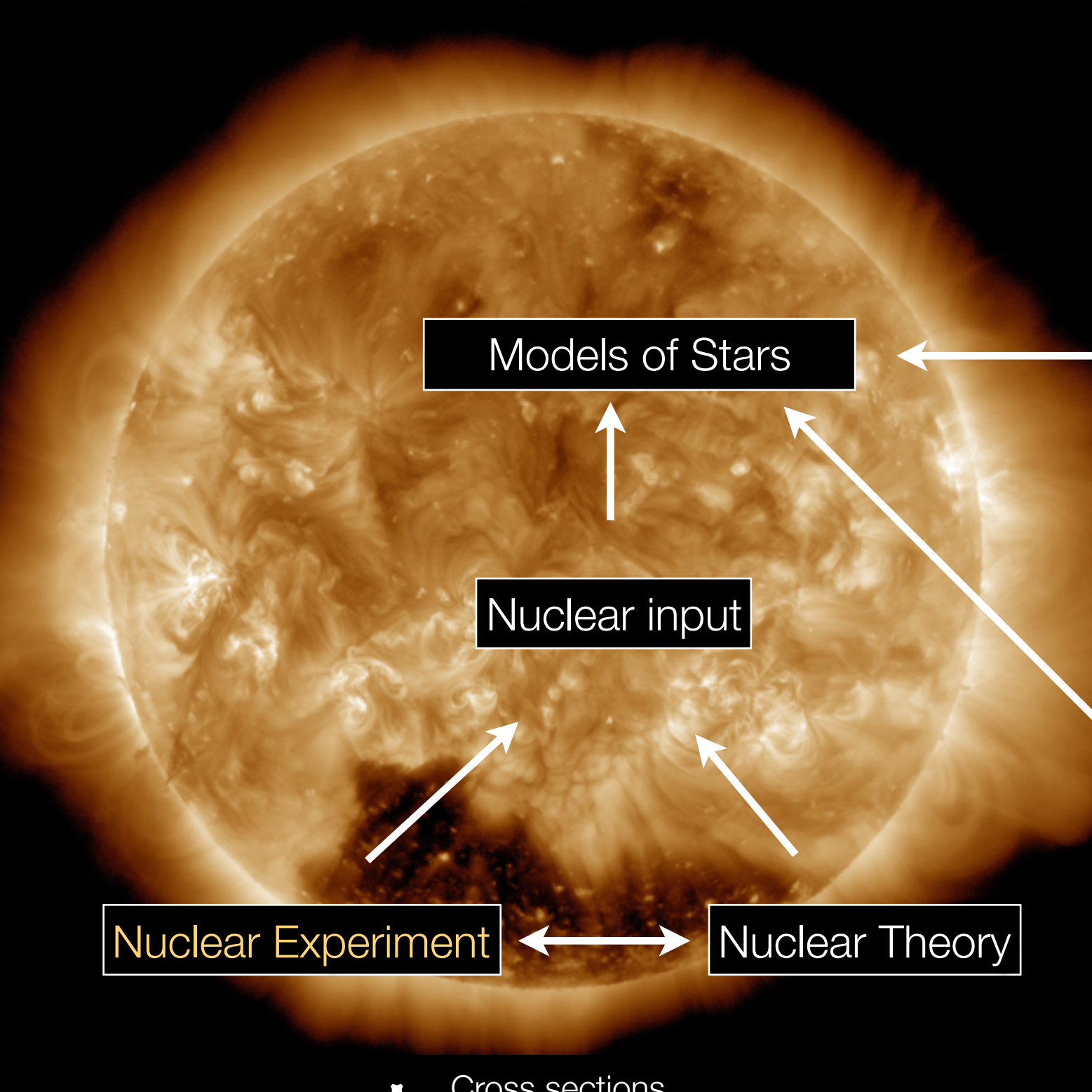




from Lodders et al 2010







Models of Stars

Nuclear input

Nuclear Experiment

Nuclear Theory



Observations

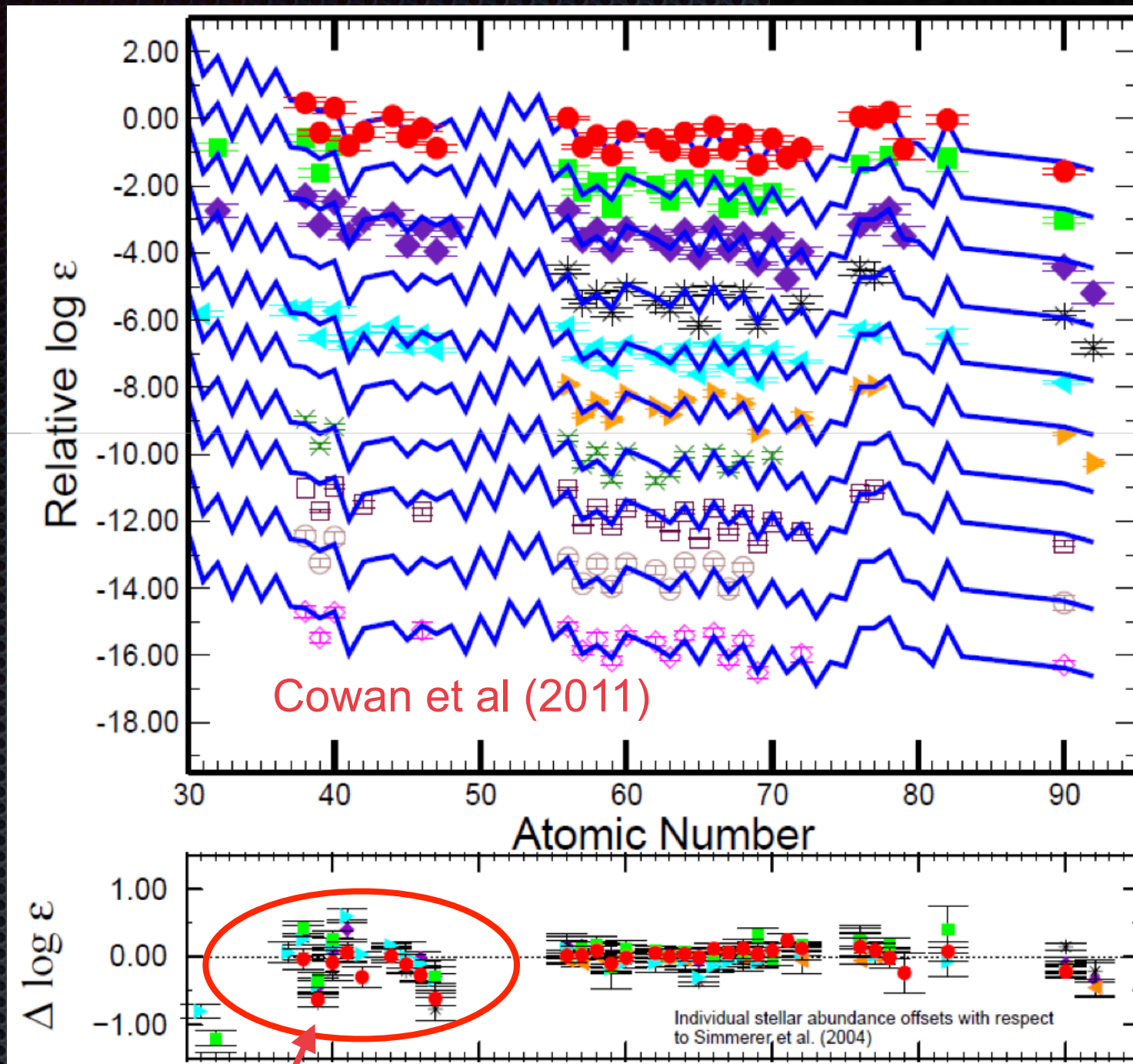
- Spectra (Large telescopes)
- Planetary (earth) matter, Meteorites
- Interstellar medium (space missions)

Galactic Chemical Evolution

- Cross sections
- Nuclear Structure
- Masses

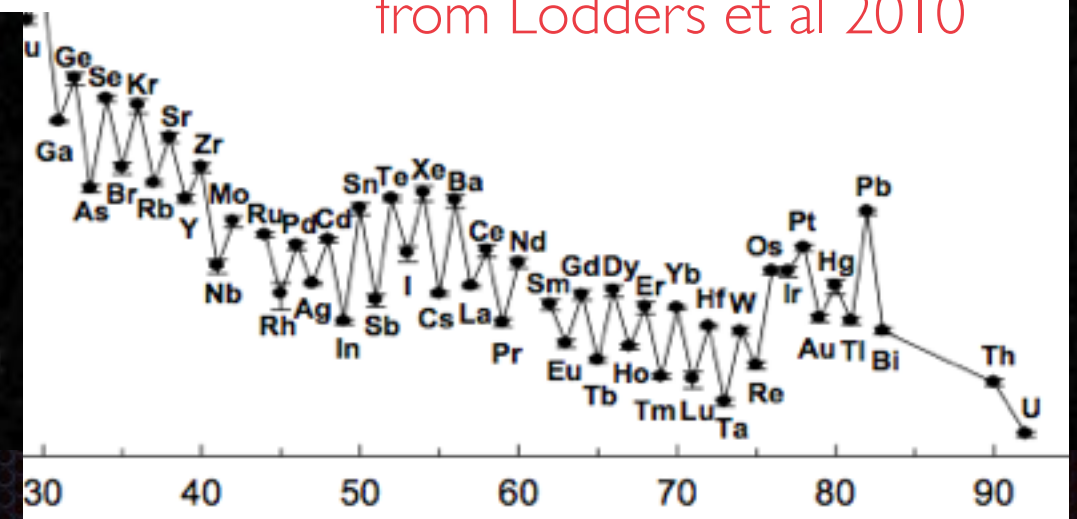


# WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM OLD STARS?

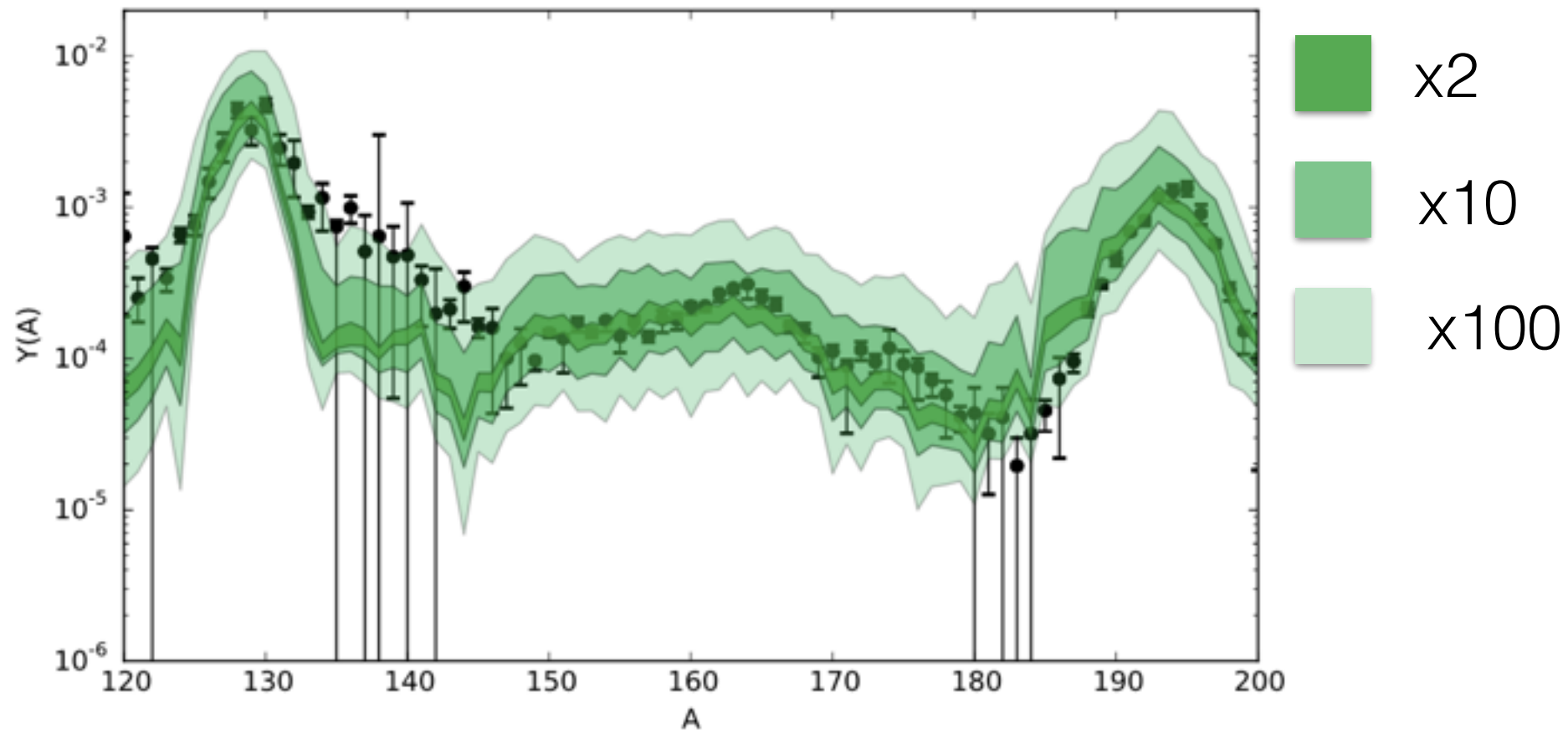


from Lodders et al 2010

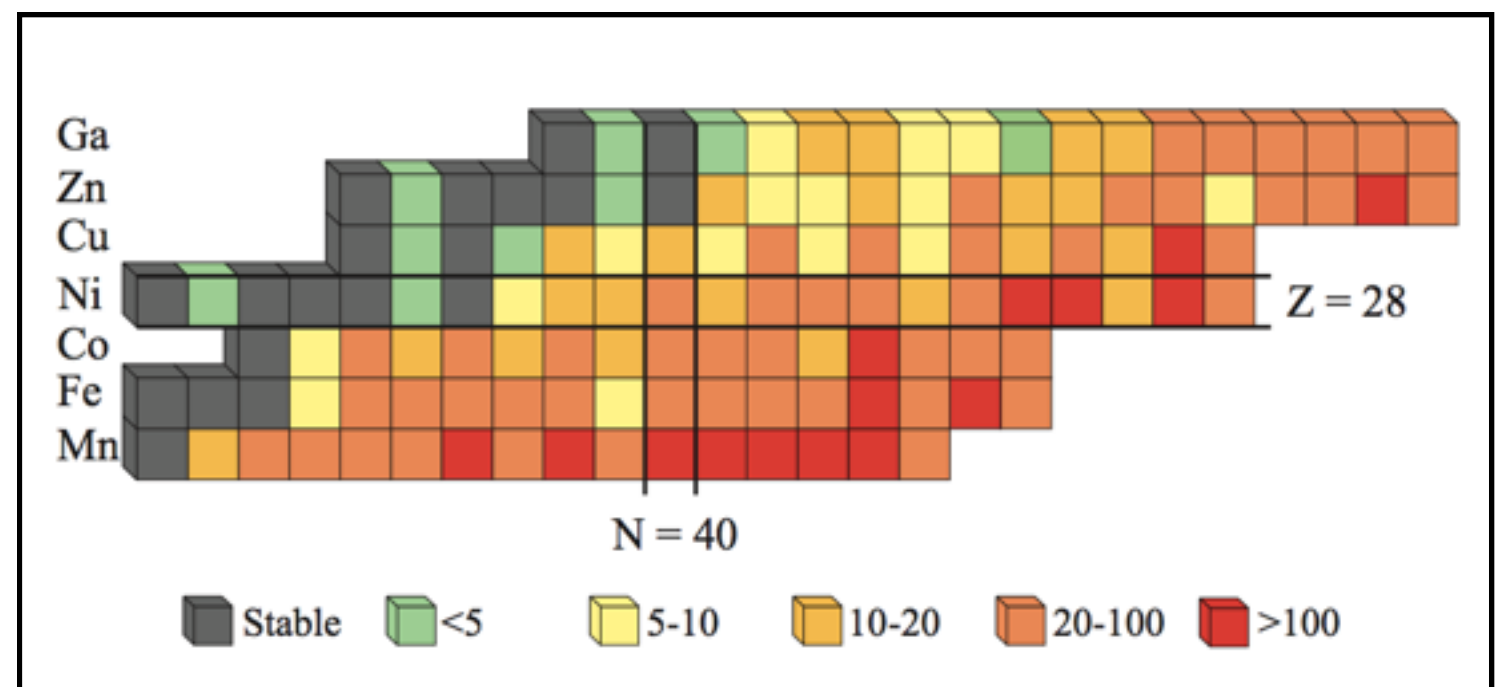
Lighter Element Primary Process  
 (Mechanism unknown)  
 Qian and Wasserburg, 2007  
 Montes et al., 2007



How much reaction rate uncertainty is good enough for the r-process?



How much uncertainty to expect?





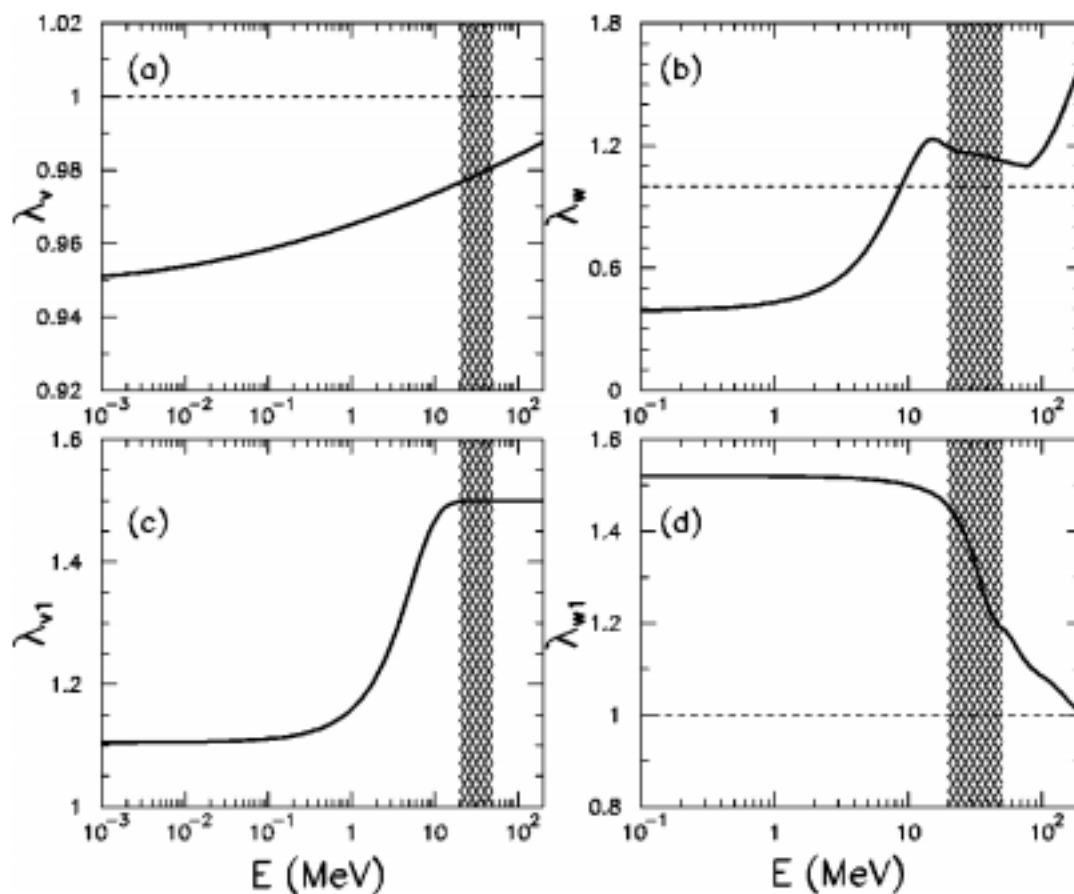
# The isovector imaginary neutron potential: A key ingredient for the r-process nucleosynthesis

S. Goriely<sup>a</sup>, J.-P. Delaroche<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Institut d'Astronomie et d'Astrophysique, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Campus de la Plaine, CP 226, 1050 Brussels, Belgium

<sup>b</sup> DPTA/Service de Physique Nucléaire, CEA/DAM Ile de France, BP 12, 91680 Bruyères-le-Châtel, France

## JLM semi-microscopic Optical Potential,



For  $n + X(A, Z, N)$ :

$$U(E) = \lambda_V(E) [V_0(E) + \lambda_{V_1}(E) \alpha V_1(E)] + i \lambda_W(E) [W_0(E) + \lambda_{W_1}(E) \alpha W_1(E)]$$

gray region: thorough checks with (p,p), (n,n) and (p,n) data, 1.5-10% uncertainty

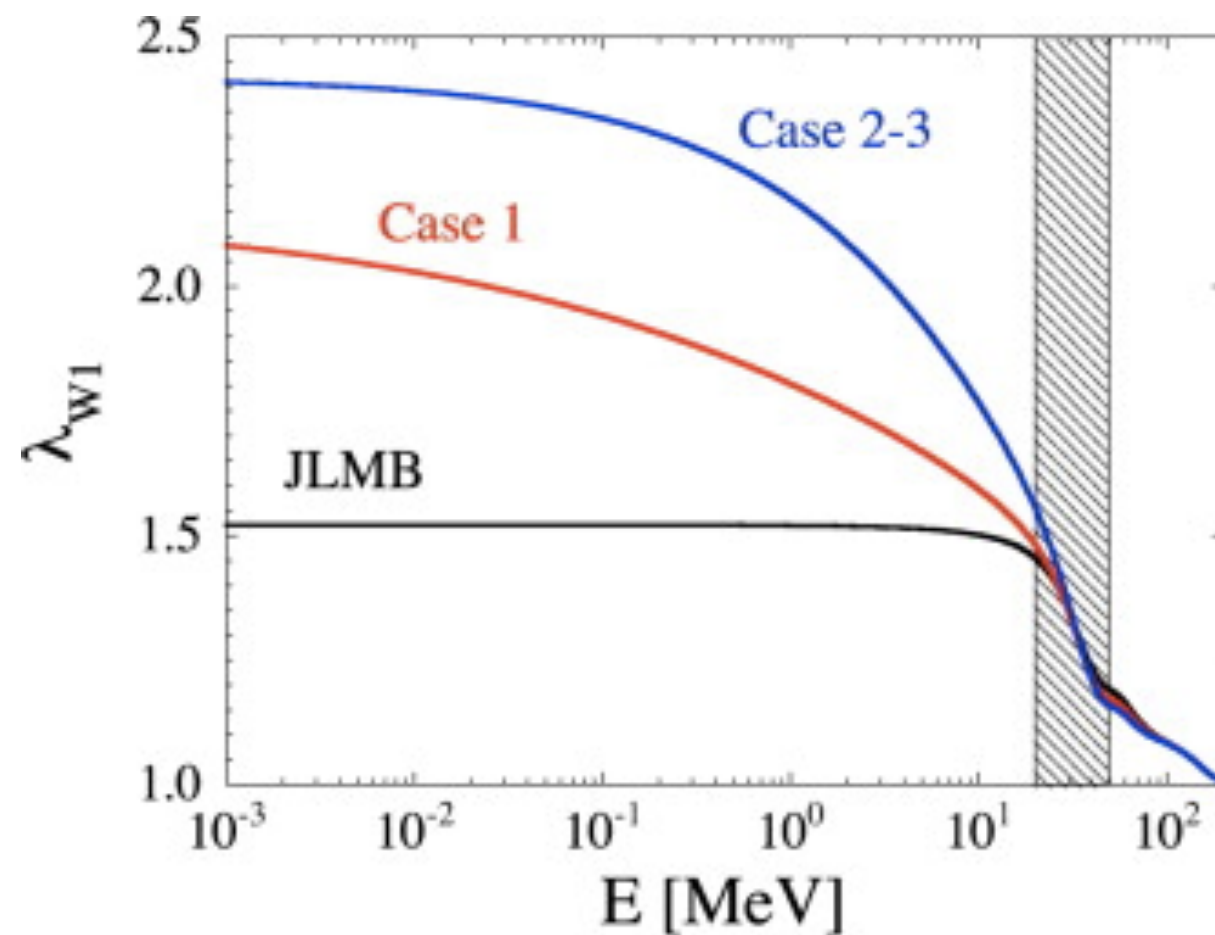
Why not add an energy dependence at low energies by hand?

$$U(E) = \lambda_V(E)[V_0(E) + \lambda_{V_1}(E)\alpha V_1(E)] \\ + i\lambda_W(E)[W_0(E) + \lambda_{W_1}(E)\alpha W_1(E)]$$

**Case 1:** 30% higher  $\lambda_{W_1}$  @ 100keV

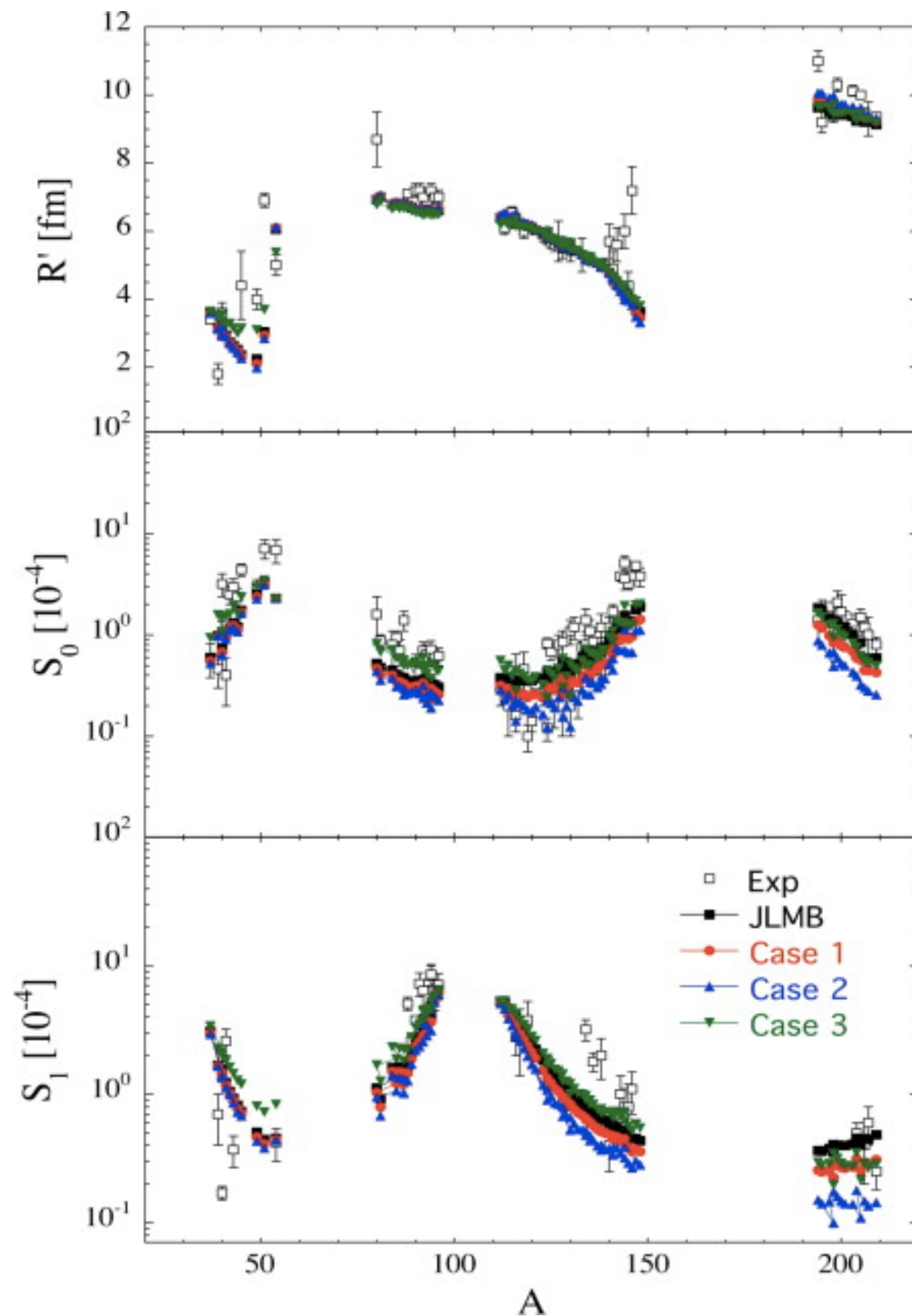
**Case 2:** 50% higher  $\lambda_{W_1}$  @ 100keV

**Case 3:** 50% higher  $\lambda_W$  @ 100keV



(Goriely and Delaroche, PLB653, (2007), 178)

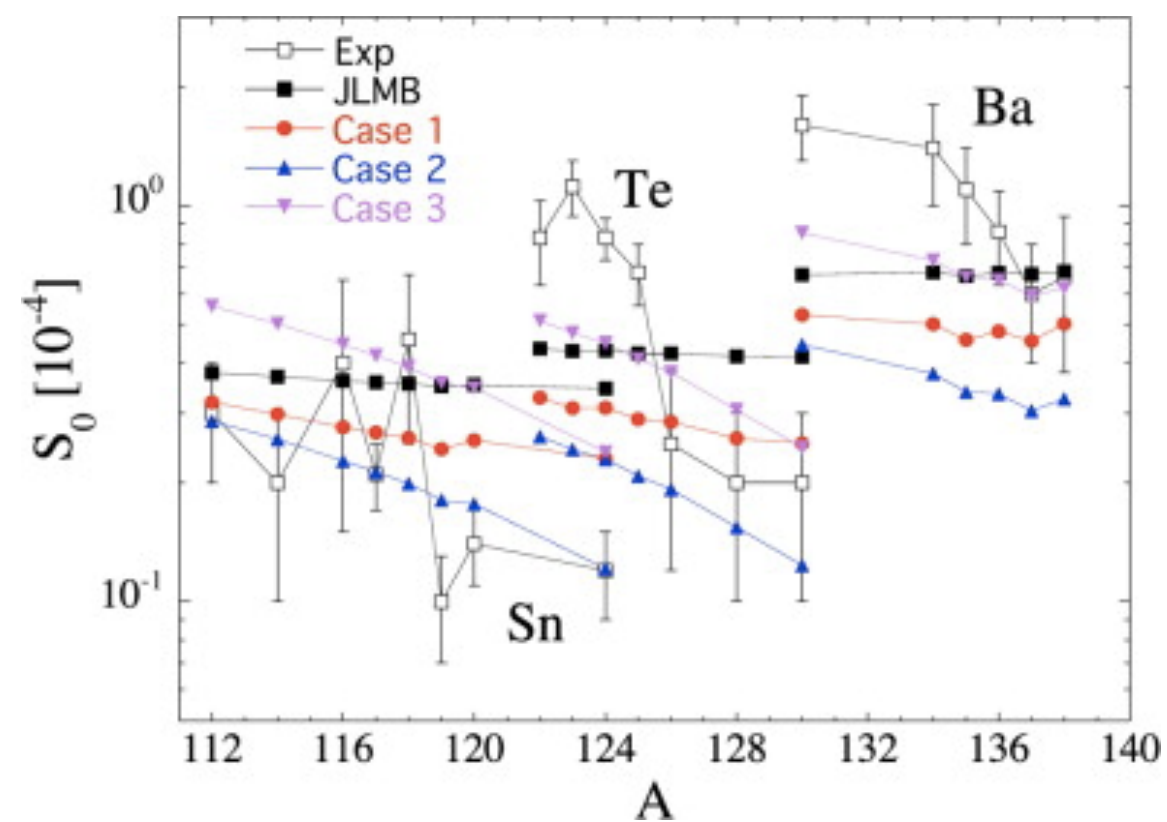
How well does it perform? Neutron strength function as benchmark



(Goriely and Delaroche, PLB653, (2007), 178)

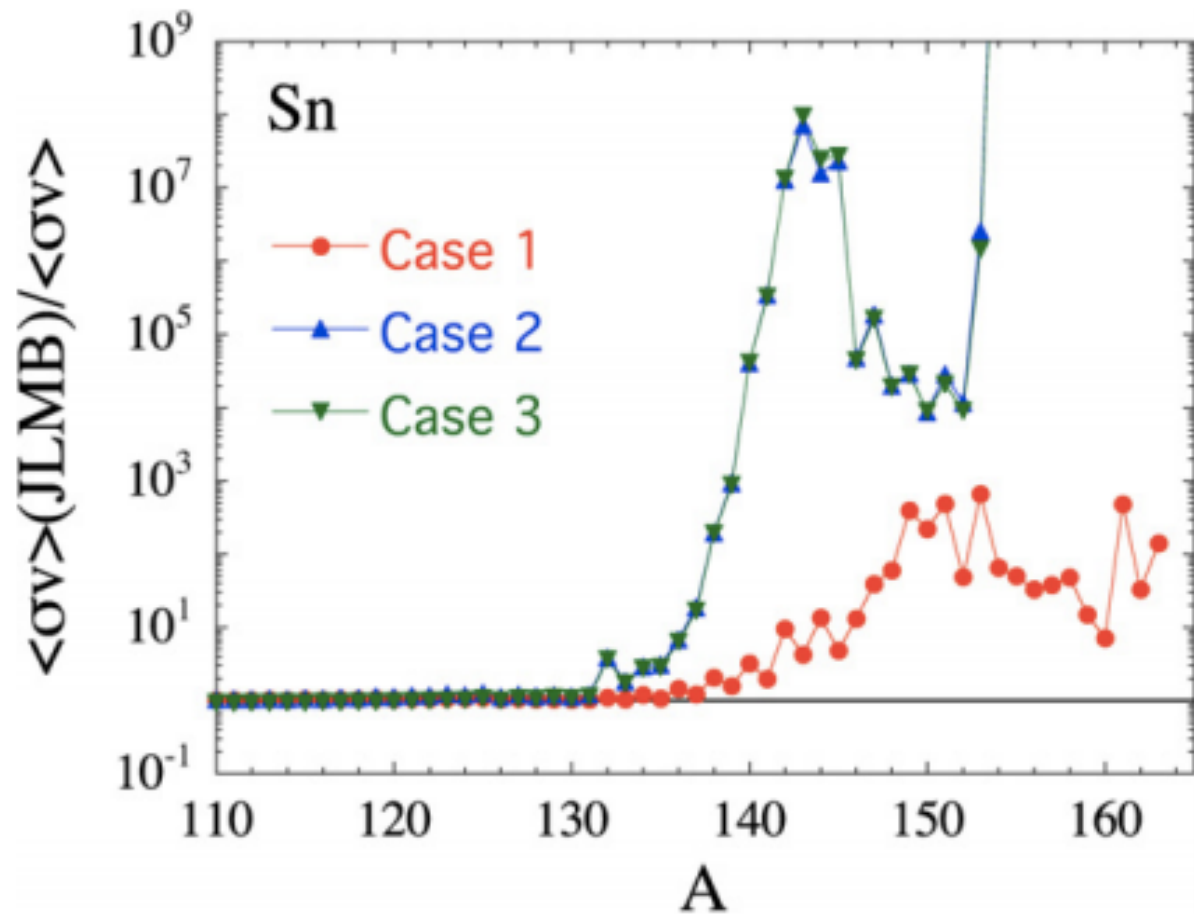


How well does it perform? Neutron strength function as benchmark

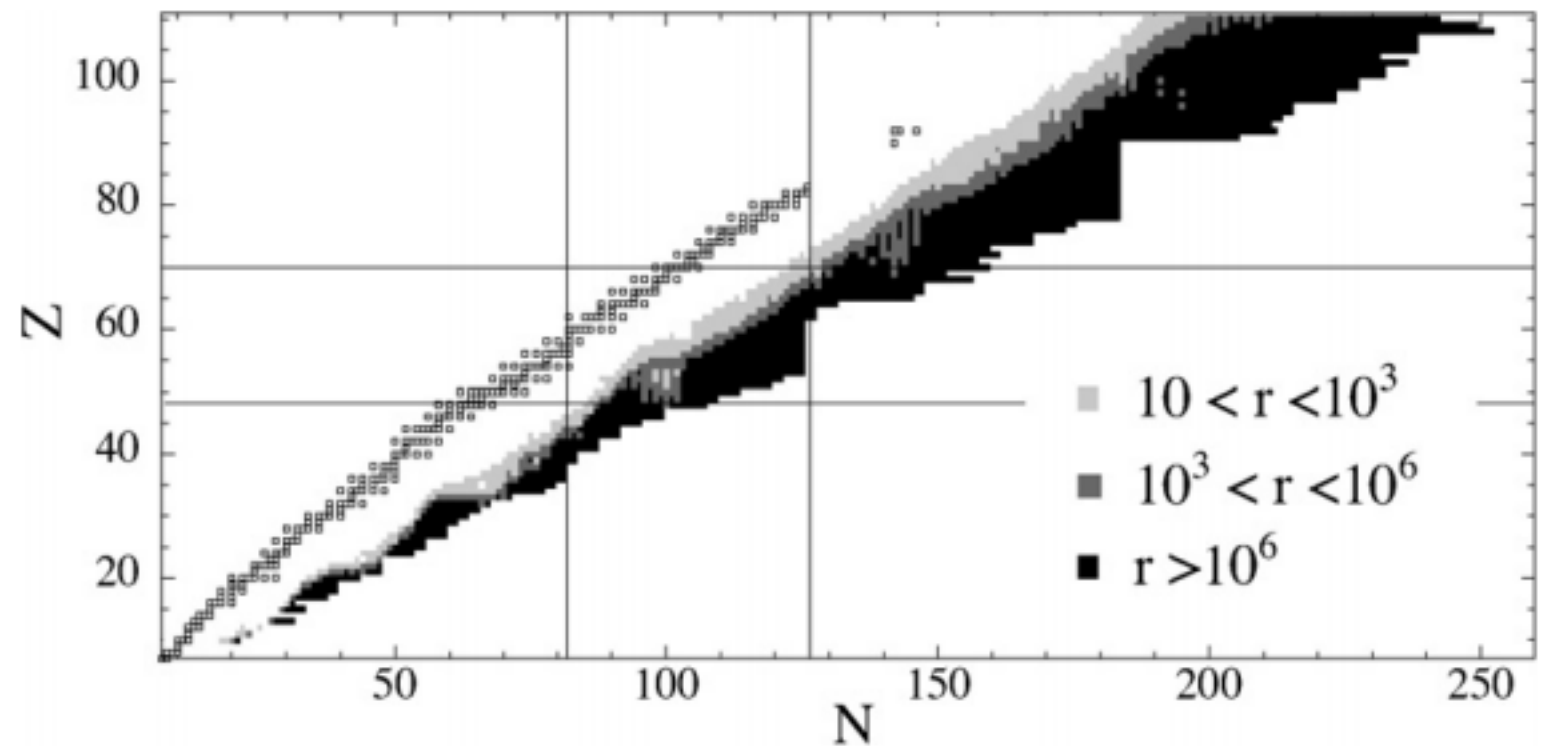


(Goriely and Delaroche, PLB653, (2007), 178)

Is it important for astrophysics?

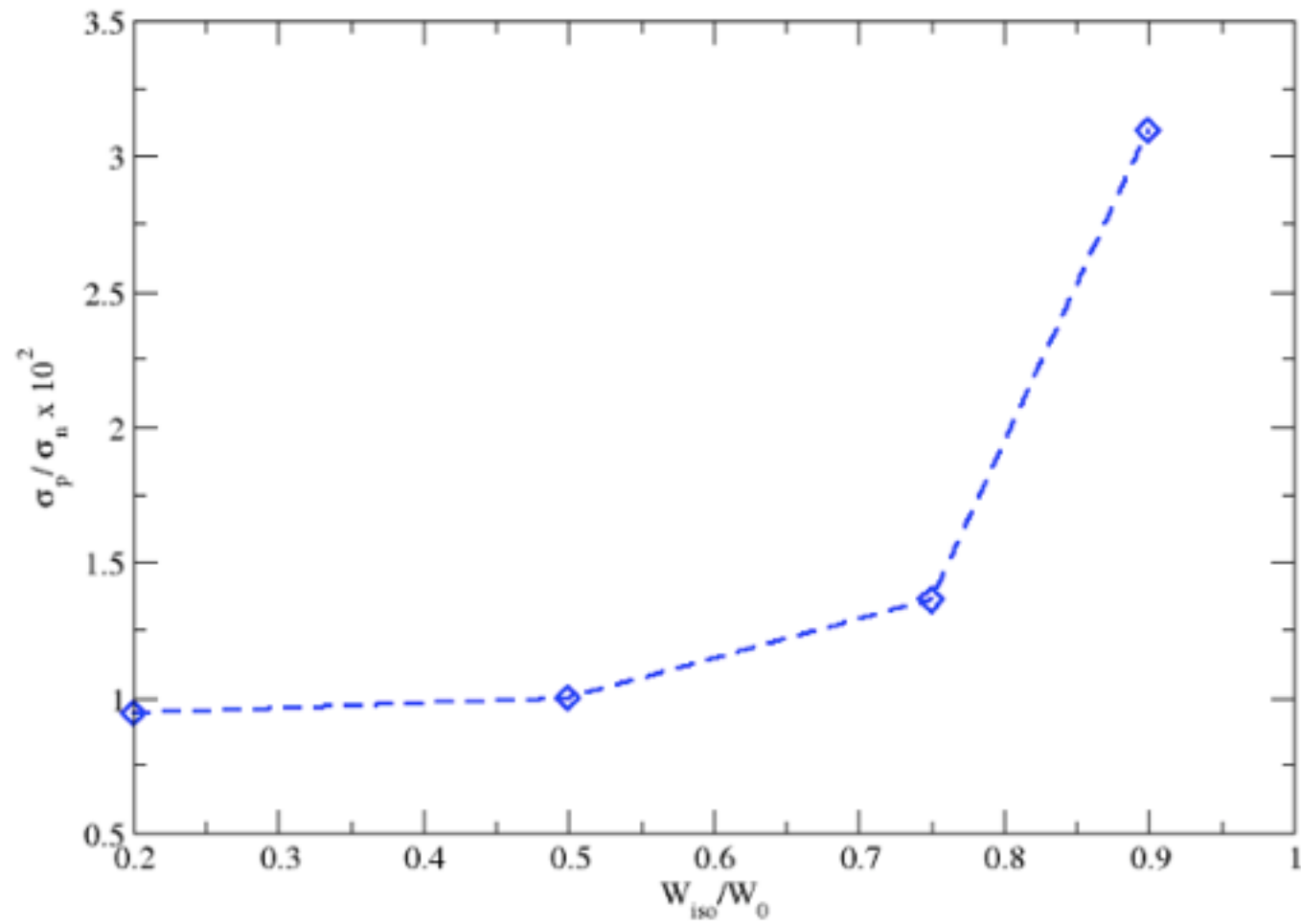


Yes, terrifying!



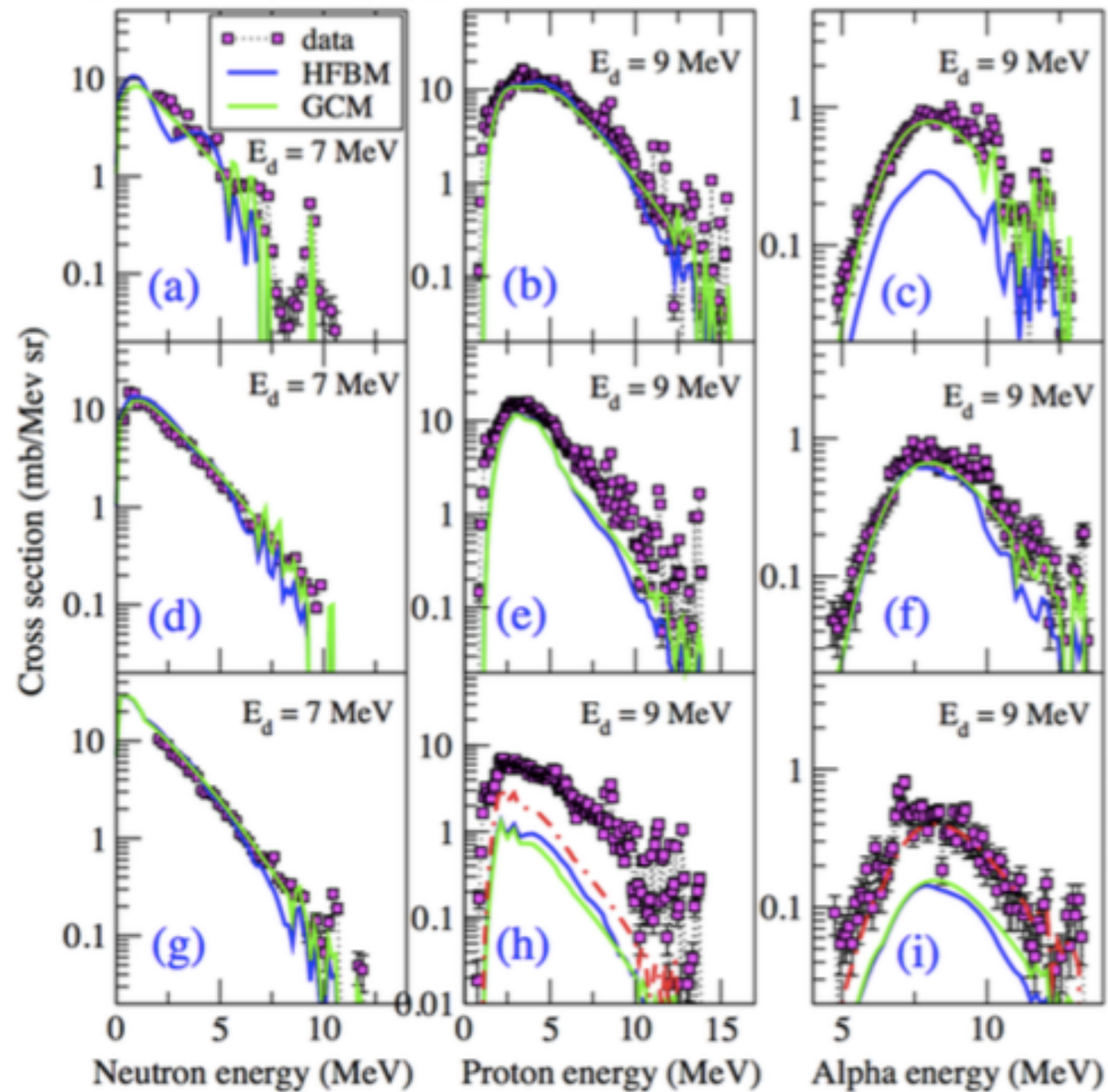


Tweaking the imaginary part and looking at particle production



Hauser Feshbach calculation by A. Voinov

Are there any corroborating experimental hints for such a discrepancy?



$d+^{54}\text{Fe}$

$d+^{56}\text{Fe}$

$d+^{58}\text{Fe}$

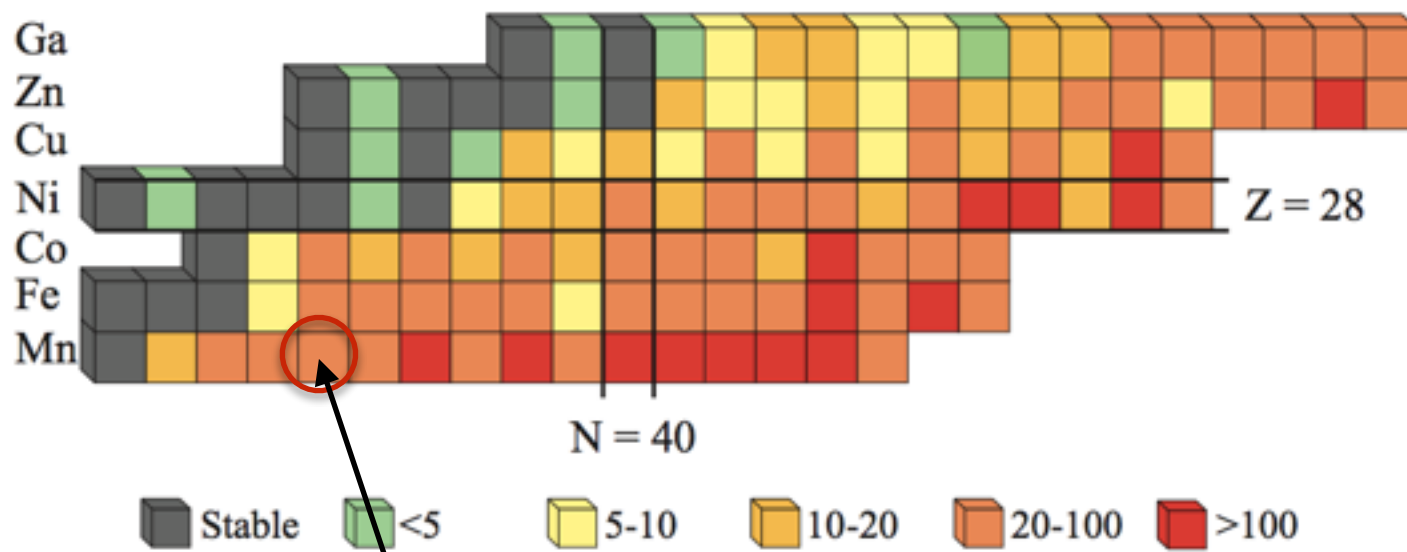
Ramirez, **Voinov**, Grimes et al., Phys. Rev. C 92, 014303, (2015)



# Proposed experiment @ Ohio U accelerator



- $E_{\text{beam}} < 5\text{MeV/u}$
- Experimental setup for particle evaporation measurements
- Region with experimentally constrained level densities



**Better ideas are welcome!**