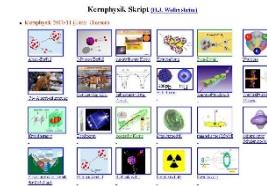


# Outline: Halo nuclei

Lecturer: Hans-Jürgen Wollersheim

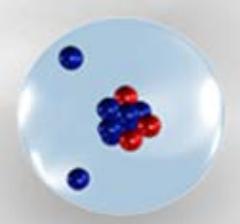
e-mail: [h.j.wollersheim@gsi.de](mailto:h.j.wollersheim@gsi.de)

web-page: <https://web-docs.gsi.de/~wolle/> and click on

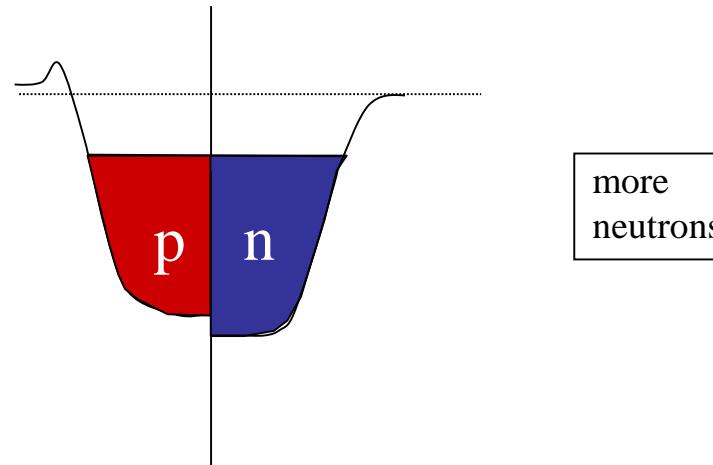


1. total reaction cross section
2. energy eigenvalues
3. radius of the deuteron
4. momentum distribution

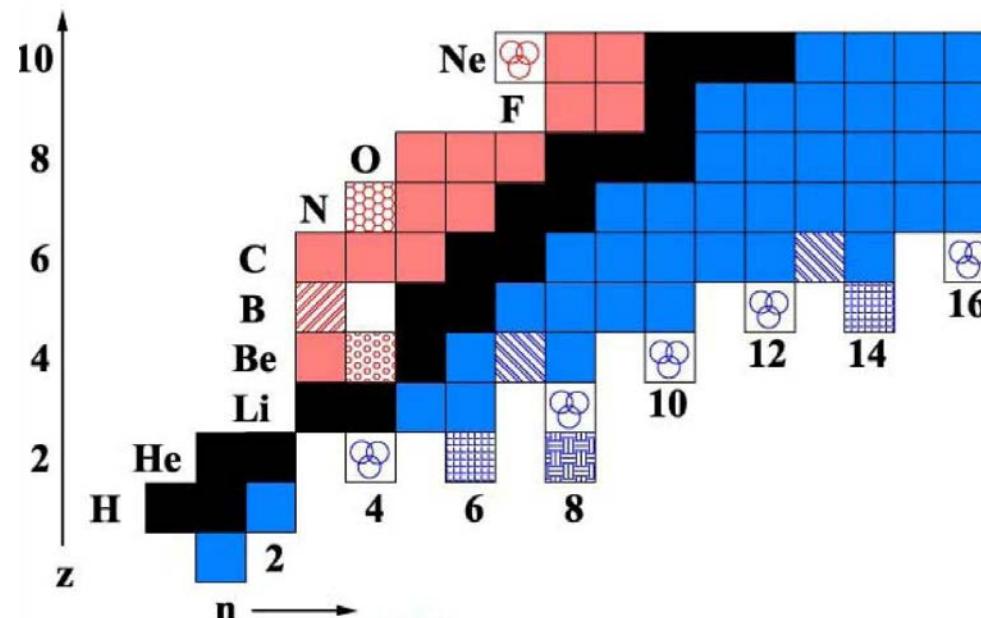
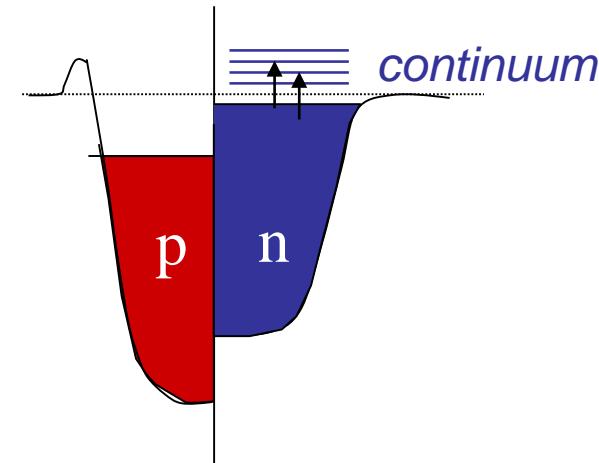
# Limits of stability: Halo nuclei



stable nuclei

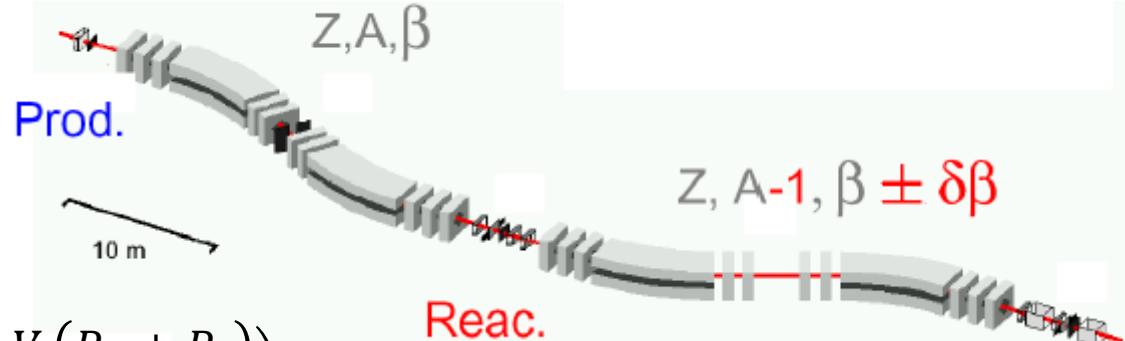


dripline nuclei



# Measurement of the total reaction cross section

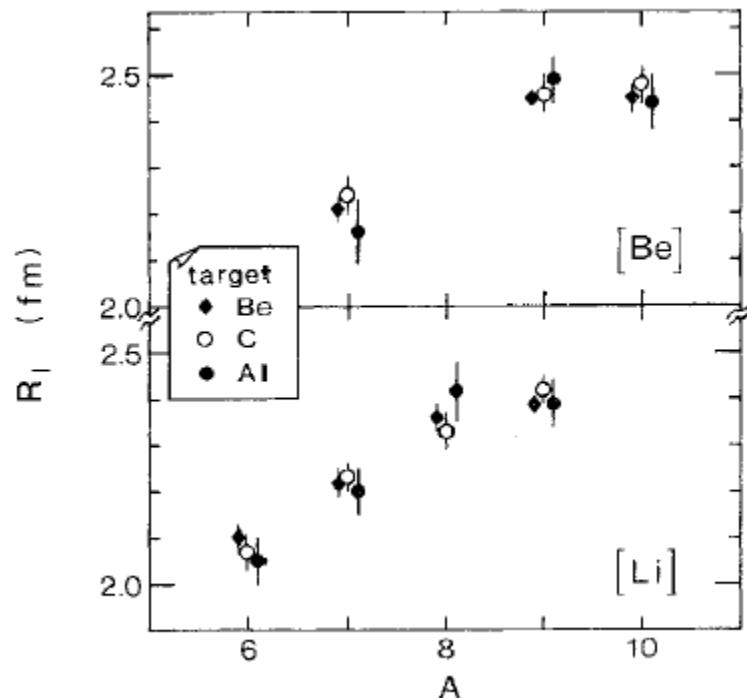
- ❖ 800 MeV/u  $^{11}\text{B}$  primary beam
- ❖ Fragmentation
- ❖ FRagment Separator FRS



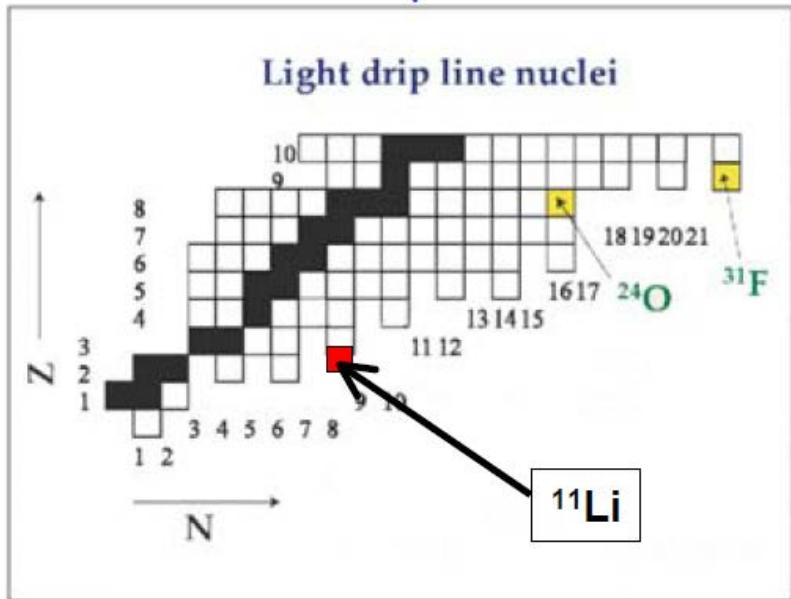
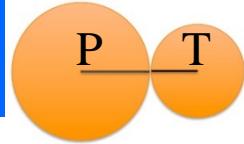
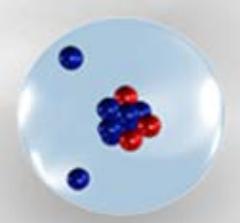
$$\sigma_{reaction} = \pi \cdot [R_p + R_t]^2 \cdot \left( 1 - \frac{V_c(R_p + R_t)}{E_{cm}} \right)$$

TABLE I. Interaction cross sections ( $\sigma_I$ ) in millibarns.

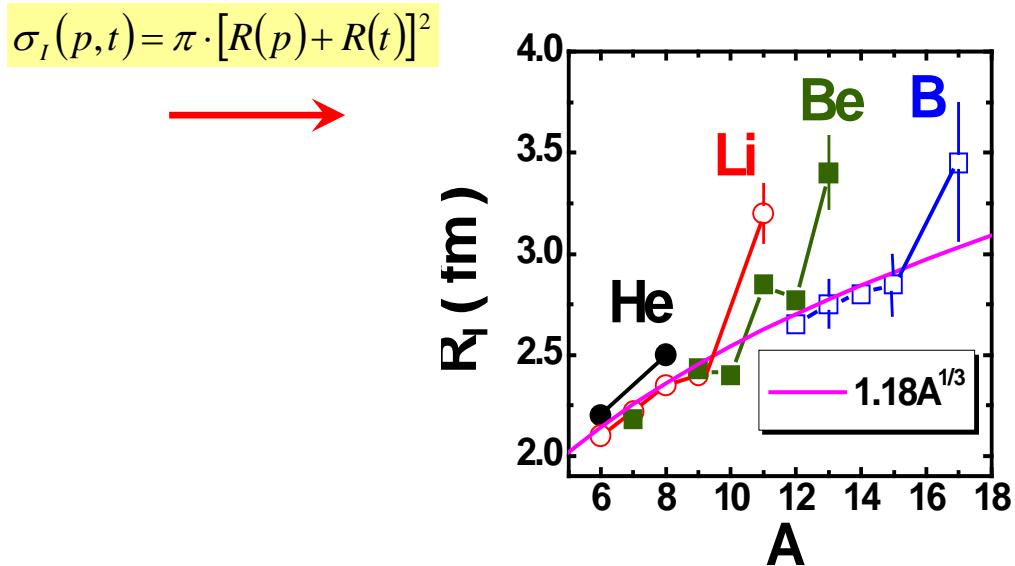
Beam	Target		
	Be	C	Al
$^6\text{Li}$	$651 \pm 6$	$688 \pm 10$	$1010 \pm 11$
$^7\text{Li}$	$686 \pm 4$	$736 \pm 6$	$1071 \pm 7$
$^8\text{Li}$	$727 \pm 6$	$768 \pm 9$	$1147 \pm 14$
$^9\text{Li}$	$739 \pm 5$	$796 \pm 6$	$1135 \pm 7$
$^7\text{Be}$	$682 \pm 6$	$738 \pm 9$	$1050 \pm 17$
$^9\text{Be}$	$755 \pm 6$	$806 \pm 9$	$1174 \pm 11$
$^{10}\text{Be}$	$755 \pm 7$	$813 \pm 10$	$1153 \pm 16$



# Measurement of the total reaction cross section



$$\sigma_I(p, t) = \pi \cdot [R(p) + R(t)]^2$$

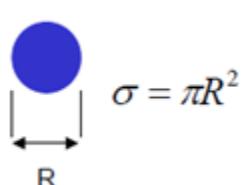


**$^{11}\text{Li}$  is the heaviest bound Li isotope**

$^{10}\text{Li}$  not bound

$S_{2n}(^{11}\text{Li}) = 295(35)$  keV

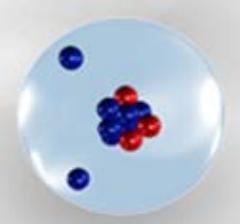
only bound in its ground state



deformation

extended wave function

$$\sigma = \pi(R + \Delta)^2$$



# At the limit of the strong force – halo nuclei

*reason for larger radius?*

*deformation*

*extended wave function*

⇒ measurements of magnetic moment and quadrupole moment

$$\mu(^{11}\text{Li}) = 3.667(3) \cdot \mu_N$$

$$\mu_{sp}(\pi p_{3/2}) = 3.79 \cdot \mu_N$$

$^{11}\text{Li}$  consists in its ground state of paired neutrons and  $p_{3/2}$  proton

➤ *g-factor of nucleons:*

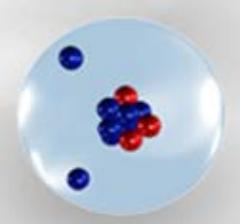
proton:  $g_\ell = 1; g_s = +5.585$

neutron:  $g_\ell = 0; g_s = -3.82$

$$\text{proton: } \langle \mu_z \rangle = \begin{cases} (j + 2.293) \cdot \mu_K & \text{für } j = l + 1/2 \\ (j - 2.293) \cdot \frac{j}{j+1} \cdot \mu_K & \text{für } j = l - 1/2 \end{cases}$$

$$\text{neutron: } \langle \mu_z \rangle = \begin{cases} -1.91 \cdot \mu_K & \text{für } j = l + 1/2 \\ +1.91 \cdot \frac{j}{j+1} \cdot \mu_K & \text{für } j = l - 1/2 \end{cases}$$

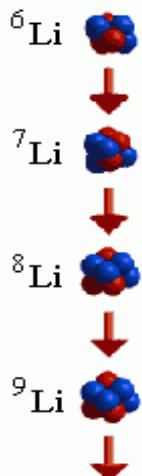
# At the limit of the strong force – halo nuclei



*reason for larger radius?*

*deformation*

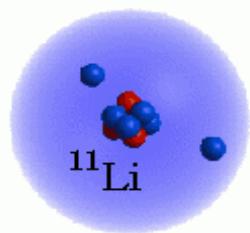
*extended wave function*



⇒ measurements of magnetic moment and quadrupole moment

$$\mu(^{11}Li) = 3.667(3) \cdot \mu_N$$

$$\mu_{sp}(\pi p_{3/2}) = 3.79 \cdot \mu_N$$



$^{11}Li$  consists in its ground state of paired neutrons and a  $p_{3/2}$  proton

$$\frac{Q(^{11}Li)}{Q(^9Li)} = 1.09(5) \quad Q(^{11}Li) = 0.0312(45) b$$



→ spherical and large radius not because of deformation

**HALO:**

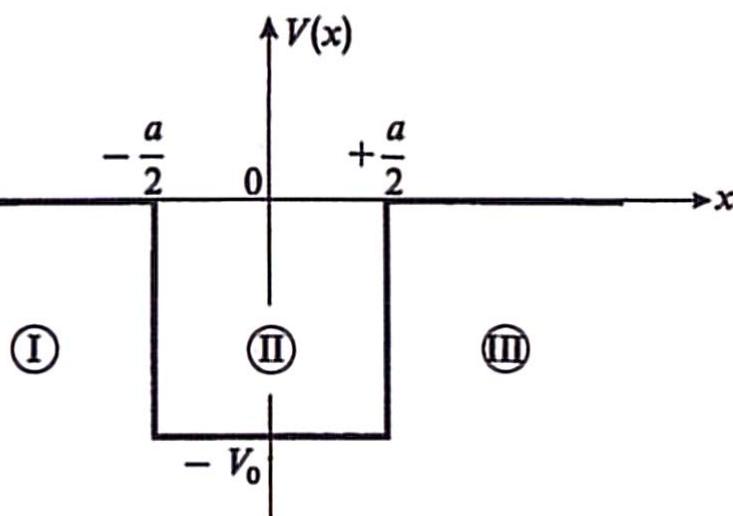


Exotic nuclei with large neutron excess form **nuclei with halo-structure**:  $^{11}Li$  nuclei consist of a normal  $^9Li$  nucleus with a halo of two neutrons. Halo nuclei form borromean states, they are interlocked in such a way that breaking any cycle allows the others to disassociate.

3 borromean rings



# Single particle potential



outside of the square-well potential:

$$\left\{ \frac{d^2}{dx^2} + \frac{2 \cdot m}{\hbar^2} \cdot E \right\} \phi(x) = 0 \quad \kappa^2 = -\frac{2 \cdot m}{\hbar^2} \cdot E$$

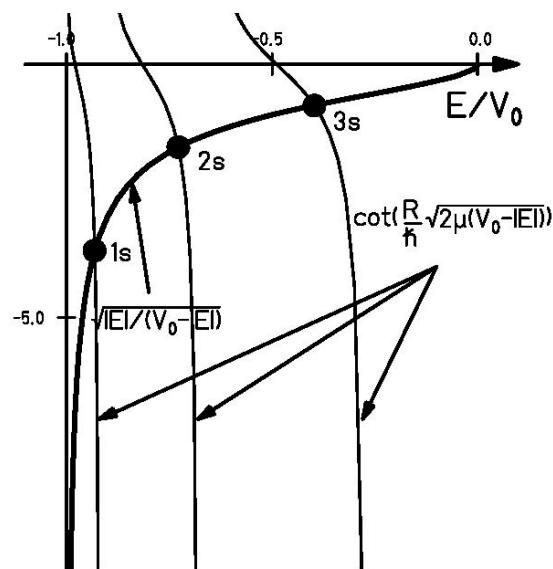
Lösung:  $\phi_a(x) = A \cdot e^{-\kappa \cdot x} + B \cdot e^{+\kappa \cdot x}$

inside of the square-well potential:

$$\left\{ \frac{d^2}{dx^2} + \frac{2 \cdot m}{\hbar^2} \cdot (E + V_0) \right\} \phi(x) = 0 \quad k^2 = -\frac{2 \cdot m}{\hbar^2} \cdot (E + V_0)$$

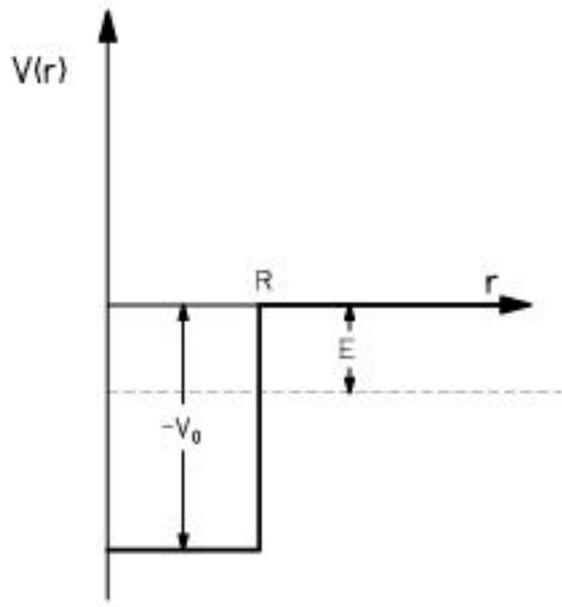
Lösung:  $\phi_i(x) = C \cdot \cos(k \cdot x) + D \cdot \sin(k \cdot x)$

continuity of the wave function:  $\cot\left(k \cdot \frac{a}{2}\right) = -\frac{\kappa}{k}$



graphical solution of  
the eigenvalue problem

# Energy eigenvalues



Schrödinger equation:

$$\left[ -\frac{\hbar^2}{2 \cdot \mu} \nabla^2 + V(r) \right] \psi(r) = E \psi(r)$$

$$\Psi(r) = u_{nl}(r) \cdot Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi)$$

$$\frac{d^2 u}{dr^2} + \frac{2}{r} \frac{du}{dr} + \left[ \frac{2 \cdot \mu}{\hbar^2} (E - V(r)) - \frac{\ell \cdot (\ell + 1)}{r^2} \right] u(r) = 0$$

$$\text{with } \mu = \frac{m_{p,n} \cdot (M_A - m_{p,n})}{M_A} \approx m_{p,n} \quad \left( \approx 931.478 \frac{MeV}{c^2} \right)$$

**$\ell=0$  energies:**

$$\xi \cdot \cot \xi = -\eta \Rightarrow \cot \left( 0.2187 \cdot R \cdot \sqrt{V_0 - |E_{ns}|} \right) = -\sqrt{\frac{|E_{ns}|}{V_0 - |E_{ns}|}}$$

**$\ell=1$  energies:**

$$k \cdot R \cdot \cot(k \cdot R) = 1 + \frac{k^2}{\kappa^2} \cdot (1 + \kappa \cdot R)$$

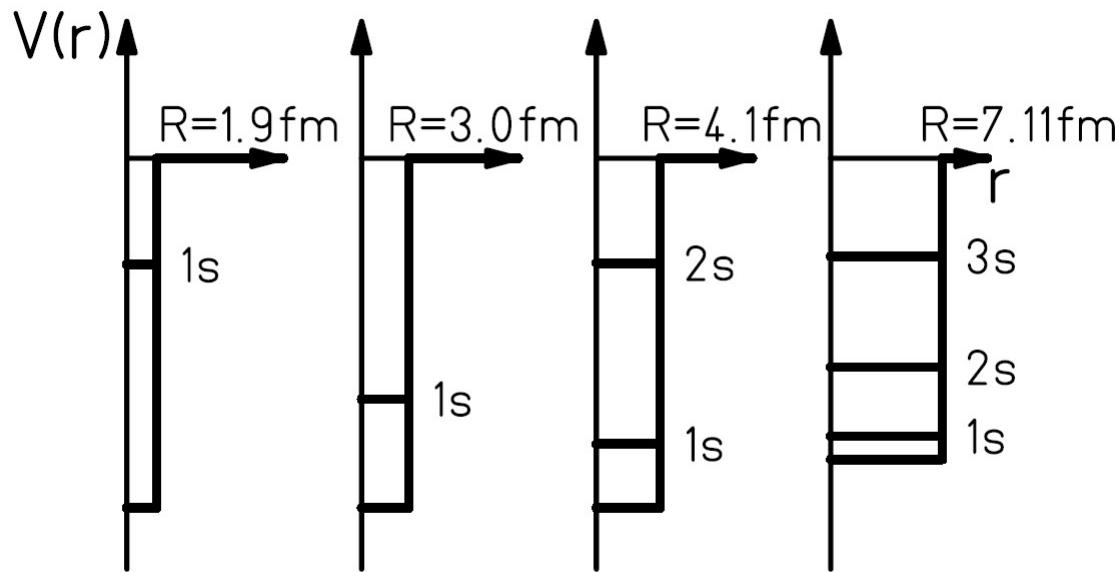
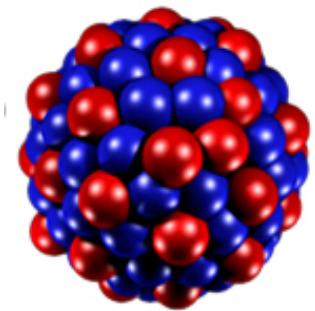
**$\ell=2$  energies:**

$$\frac{1}{1 - k \cdot R \cdot \cot(k \cdot R)} = \frac{3}{k^2 \cdot R^2} \cdot \left( 1 + \frac{k^2}{\kappa^2} \right) + \frac{1}{1 + \kappa \cdot R}$$

Orbital $n\ell$	$E_{nl}$ (MeV) $^{36}\text{Ca}$ $R=3.96\text{fm}$
1s	13.16
1p	26.90
1d	44.26
2s	52.61
1f	65.08

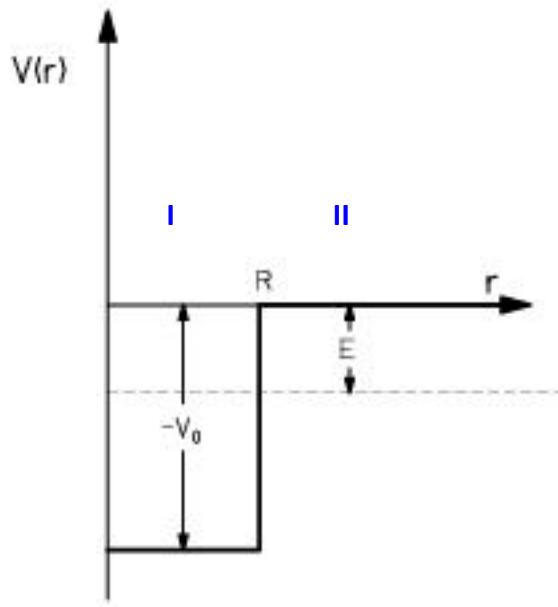
$$V_0 = \left[ 51 - 33.1 \cdot \frac{N - Z}{A} \right] \text{ MeV} \quad R = 1.2 \cdot A^{1/3} \text{ [fm]}$$

# Energy eigenvalues



Energy eigenvalues for  $\ell=0$  in  ${}^4\text{He}$ ,  ${}^{16}\text{O}$ ,  ${}^{40}\text{Ca}$  und  ${}^{208}\text{Pb}$

# Wave function of the deuteron



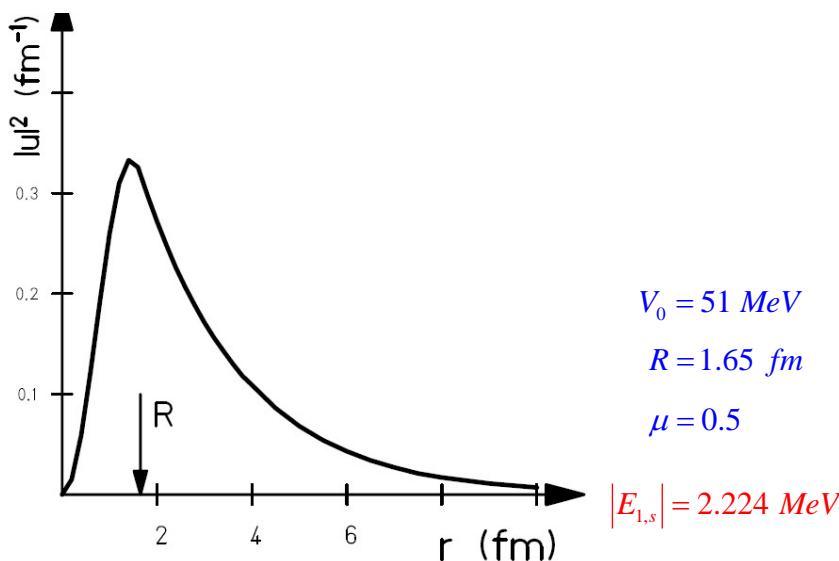
$$u_{n,s}^I(r) = A \cdot \sin(k \cdot r) \quad \text{with} \quad k = \frac{\sqrt{2 \cdot \mu \cdot (V_0 - |E_{n,s}|)}}{\hbar}$$

$$u_{n,s}^{II}(r) = B \cdot e^{\kappa \cdot r} \quad \text{with} \quad \kappa = \frac{\sqrt{2 \cdot \mu \cdot |E_{n,s}|}}{\hbar}$$

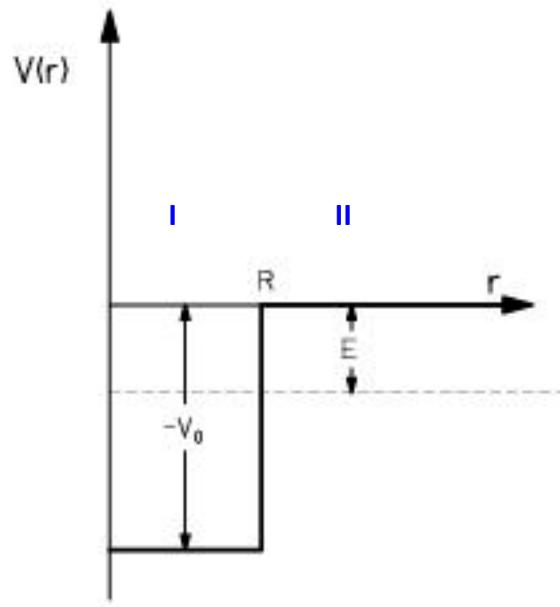
normalization:  $\int_0^{\infty} |u_{n,l}(r)|^2 dr = 1$

$$A = \sqrt{\frac{2 \cdot \kappa}{\kappa \cdot R - \frac{\kappa}{k} \cdot \sin(k \cdot R) \cdot \cos(k \cdot R) + \sin^2(k \cdot R)}}$$

$$B = A \cdot e^{+\kappa \cdot R} \cdot \sin(k \cdot R)$$



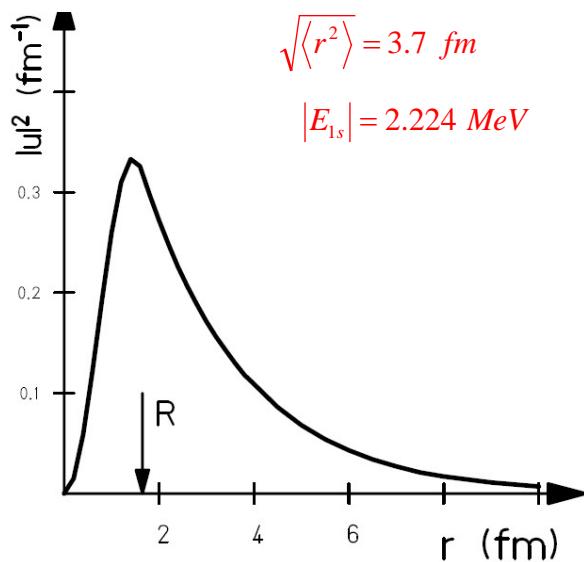
# Radius of the deuteron



$$\langle r^2 \rangle = \frac{\int \Psi^* \cdot r^2 \cdot \Psi \cdot r^2 \cdot dr \cdot d\Omega}{\int \Psi^* \cdot \Psi \cdot r^2 \cdot dr \cdot d\Omega} = \int_0^R A^2 \cdot r^2 \cdot \sin^2(kr) dr + \int_R^\infty B^2 \cdot r^2 \cdot e^{-2\kappa r} dr$$

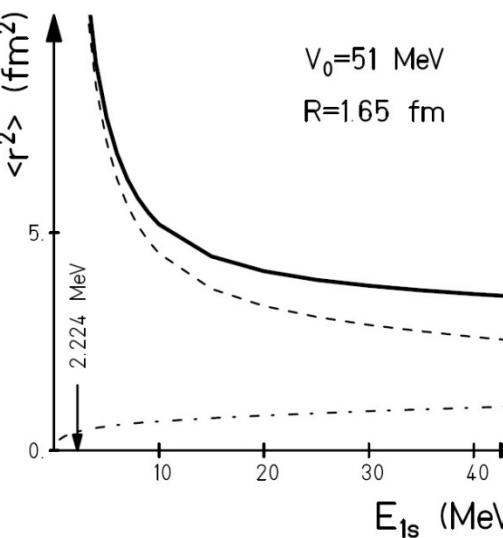
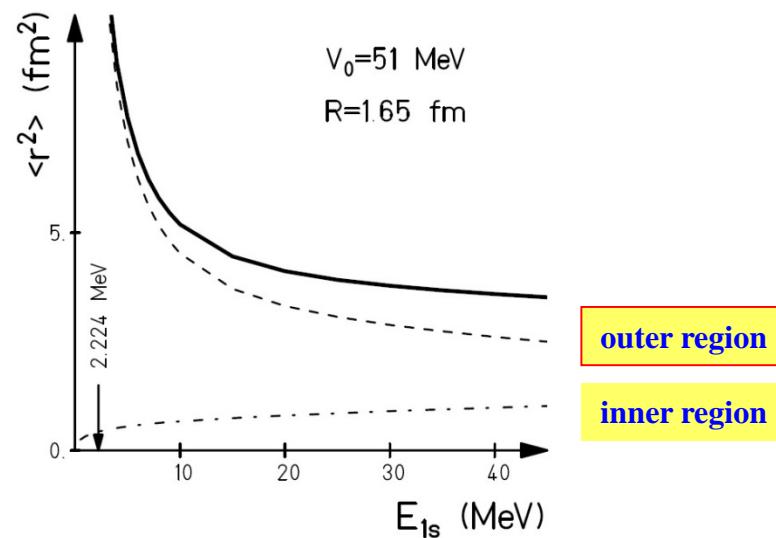
$$A = \sqrt{\frac{2 \cdot \kappa}{\kappa \cdot R - \frac{\kappa}{k} \cdot \sin(k \cdot R) \cdot \cos(k \cdot R) + \sin^2(k \cdot R)}}$$

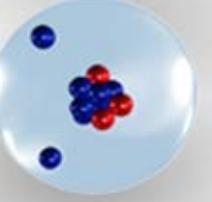
$$B = A \cdot e^{+\kappa \cdot R} \cdot \sin(k \cdot R)$$



$$\sqrt{\langle r^2 \rangle} = 3.7 \text{ fm}$$

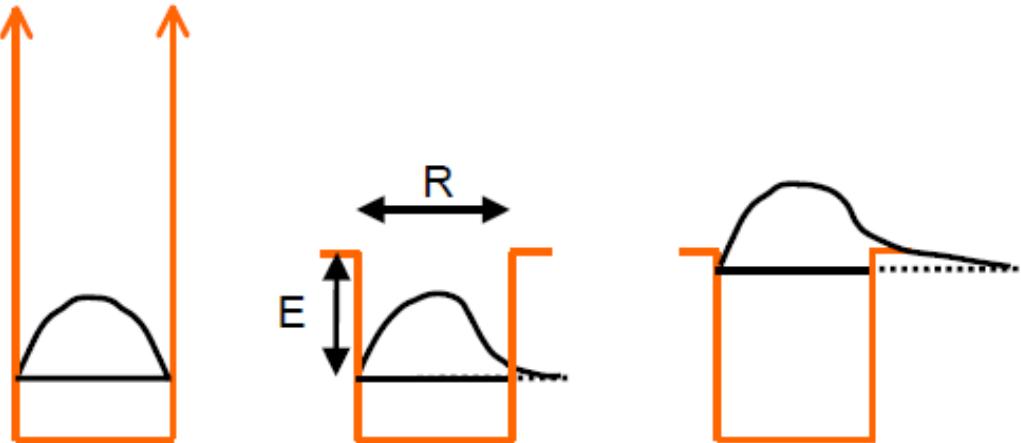
$$|E_{1s}| = 2.224 \text{ MeV}$$





# Limits of stability: halo nuclei

*What can one expect at the neutron-dripline?*



wave function outside of the potential

$$\Psi(r) \propto \frac{e^{-\kappa r}}{r}$$

$$\kappa^2 = \frac{2 \cdot \mu \cdot E}{\hbar^2} \approx 0.05 \cdot E(\text{MeV}) \text{ [fm}^{-2}\text{]}$$

$$\langle r^2 \rangle = \frac{\int r^4 dr (e^{-\kappa \cdot r} / \kappa \cdot r)^2}{\int r^2 dr (e^{-\kappa \cdot r} / \kappa \cdot r)^2}$$

The smaller the binding energy, the more extended the wave function

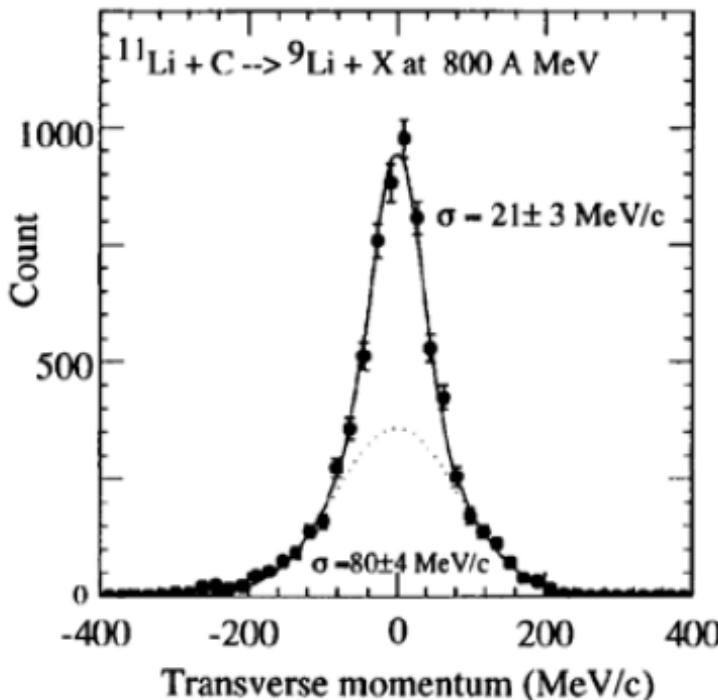
$$\langle r^2 \rangle = \frac{1}{2 \cdot \kappa^2} \cdot (1 + \kappa \cdot R) \approx \frac{\hbar^2}{4 \cdot \mu \cdot S_n}$$

Fourier-transform:

$$|F(p)|^2 = \hbar \cdot \kappa \cdot \frac{1}{\pi^2 \cdot (\kappa^2 \cdot \hbar^2 + p^2)^2}$$

E	$\kappa^2$	$\kappa$	$1/\kappa \sim r$
7 MeV	0.35 fm <sup>-2</sup>	0.6 fm <sup>-1</sup>	1.7 fm
1 MeV	0.05 fm <sup>-2</sup>	0.2 fm <sup>-1</sup>	4.5 fm
0.1 MeV	0.005 fm <sup>-2</sup>	0.07 fm <sup>-1</sup>	14 fm

# Limits of stability: halo nuclei



One can use the arguments of an extended wave function with an exponential decline:

$$S_{2n} = 250(80) \text{ keV}$$

$$\Psi(r) \propto \frac{e^{-\kappa r}}{r}$$

***test of the extended wave function***

***momentum distribution:***

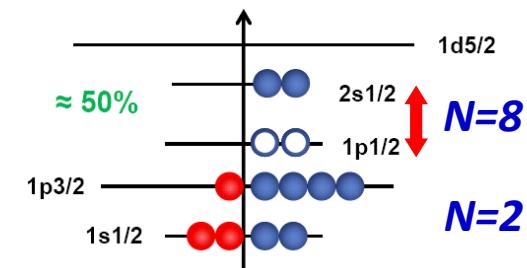
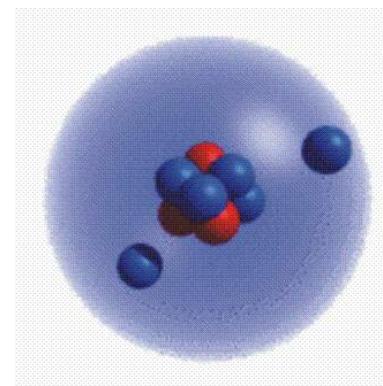
- wider momentum distribution for strongly bound particles
- narrow momentum distribution for weakly bound particles

$$\Delta p \cdot \Delta x \geq \hbar$$

—————  
small → large

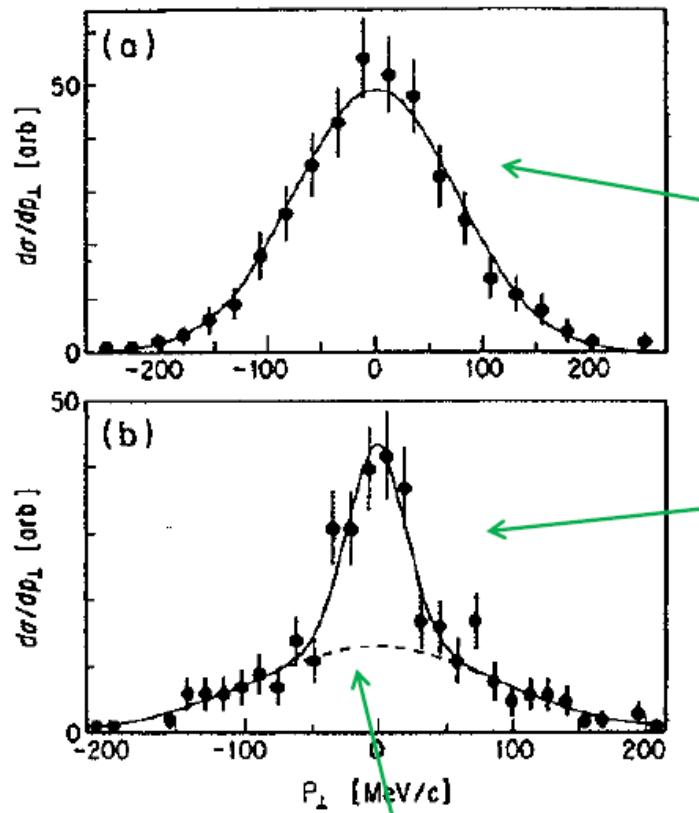
***interpretation:***

One can simplify <sup>11</sup>Li by describing it as a <sup>9</sup>Li core plus a di-neutron

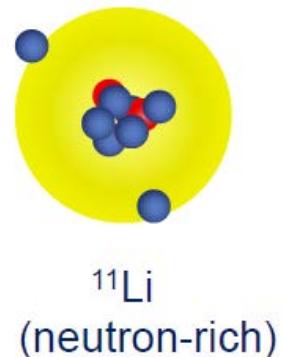


# Discovery of halo nuclei

## 2. Momentum distribution of $^{11}\text{Li}$



wider distribution is similar to Goldhaber  
model



$^6\text{He}$  distribution from  $^8\text{He}$   
similar to Goldhaber model

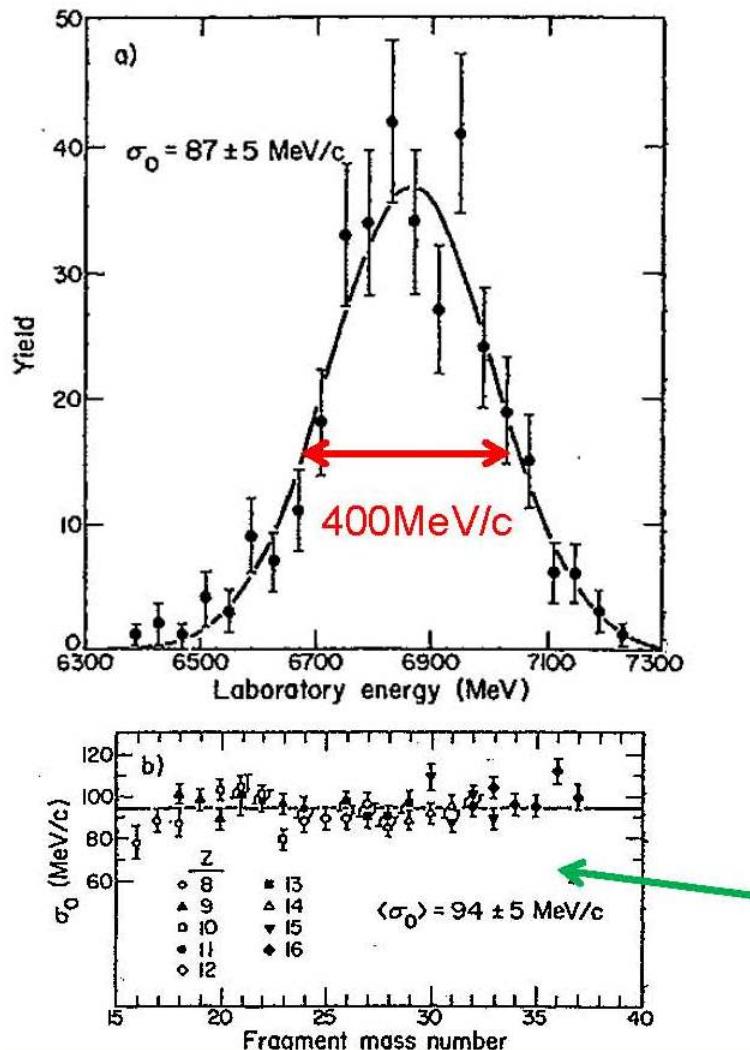
$^9\text{Li}$  distribution from  $^{11}\text{Li}$  (very narrow !)  
uncertainty principle

$$\Delta p \cdot \Delta x \geq \hbar$$

small → large

# Momentum distribution of fragments

example:  $^{34}\text{S}$  fragments from  $^{40}\text{Ar} + \text{C}$  @ 213 AMeV )



$^{34}\text{S}$  fragments:  $400 \text{ MeV}/c$  narrow  
 $^{40}\text{Ar}$  beam:  $26600 \text{ MeV}/c$

Momentum distribution of fragments are represented by a simple formula based on the Goldhaber model

$$\sigma = \sigma_0 \cdot \sqrt{\frac{F \cdot (A - F)}{(A - 1)}}$$

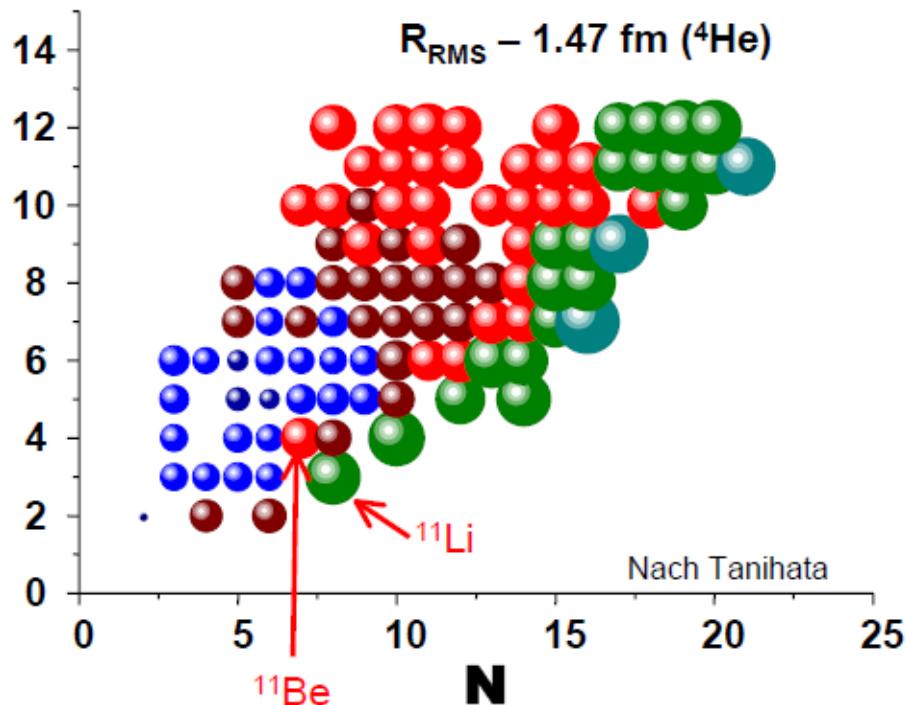
A: beam mass number  
F: fragment mass number

$\sigma_0 = 90 \text{ MeV}/c$

# Limits of stability - halo nuclei

Why is the shell structure changing at extreme N/Z ?

*radii of lighter nuclei*



${}^{11}\text{Li}$        ${}^{208}\text{Pb}$

