#### How to explain the existence of halo, clusters, quasi-molecular structures ?

Modeled from ab-initio approaches ?

Role of nuclear force and symmetries ?

Role of coupling to continuum?



#### clusters





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- Does an island of extra-stability exist for superheavy nuclei ?
- Could we predict its location ?
- Could we synthesize new elements on earth ?
- Which chemical properties ?







Study of the spin orbit force using a bubble nucleus

O. Sorlin (GANIL, presently at CERN)

### THE PITCH

The spin orbit (SO) force plays major role in nuclear structure to create shell gaps that give rise to magic nuclei.



SO force: postulated more than 60 years ago. Theoretical descriptions now exist but predictions differ for ab-normal nuclei

No experiment was yet able to test the SO force in 'extreme' conditions (superheavy elements, nuclear drip-line -> astrophysics)

We propose to use a **'bubble' nucleus** to test the properties of this SO force

Mardi 26 avril 2016 – LAL Orsay



### Layout of the talk

Introduction on the atomic nucleus -> Charge density, orbital occupancies

Probe charge density in <sup>36</sup>S and <sup>34</sup>Si:knockout reactions at NSCL -> Central proton density depletion in <sup>34</sup>Si (i.e. bubble)

Introduction to the spin orbit (SO) force -> Properties and expectations

-> Use a bubble nucleus to constrain unknown properties

Reduced SO interaction between <sup>36</sup>S & <sup>34</sup>Si: (d,p) reaction at GANIL

Conclusions / consequences

*'May the force be with you'* Obi-Wan Kenobi *'Star Wars'* 

## Charge density of the nucleus : $\rho(r)$



#### Charge density of the nucleus : $\rho(r)$



### Charge density depletion in the center of the <sup>205</sup>Tl nucleus



Charge density depletion due to the change in  $3s_{1/2}$  occupancy by 0.7 proton Independent particle model works rather well also in the interior of nucleus



Nuclear density

= superposition of radial vave functions with n,L values

# Probing nuclear orbits with (e,e' p) reaction

Orbital labelling

n,L,J

n nodes (n=0,1,2) L angular momentum (s,p,d,f,g,h...) (-1)<sup>L</sup> parity

|L-s|<J<|L+s| (2J+1) per shell

example : h<sub>11/2</sub>: L=5, J=11/2, L and s aligned contains 12 nucleons



->Nucleons are arranged on shells

- -> Gaps are present for certain nucleon numbers
- $\rightarrow N_p$  detected follows orbit occupancy
- -> Quenching factor of occupancy by about 70%
- -> Mixing with collective states at high E\* •
- -> Study limited (so far) to STABLE nuclei

# Proton density depletion in <sup>34</sup>Si as compared to <sup>36</sup>S?



Amplitude of the central depletion depends on the change in  $2s_{1/2}$  occupancy

But correlations can reduce the amplitude of this depletion

## Probing proton density in<sup>36</sup>S



## Probing proton densities in <sup>36</sup>S

Knock-out reactions at  $\beta \approx 0.4$  $\sigma(n,L) = C^2 S(j,n,L) \sigma_{sp}(j,S_p) R_S$ reaction theory occupancy 36S35p E d<sub>3/2</sub> S<sub>1/2</sub>

#### Gretina array: segmented Ge detectors



In-flight  $\gamma$ -ray detection-> Doppler corrections Segmented Ge cristals -> Interaction position

## Probing proton densities in <sup>36</sup>S



# Probing proton densities in <sup>36</sup>S



Quasi full filling of  $s_{1/2}$  and  $d_{5/2}$  orbits (within errors) Only few scattering to the upper  $d_{3/2}$  orbital.

A. Mutschler et al. PRC (2016)

### Proton density of <sup>36</sup>S



## Probing proton densities in <sup>34</sup>Si



# Probing proton densities in <sup>34</sup>Si



Very weak  $2s_{1/2}$  occupancy -> large central density depletion

A. Mutschler et al. to be sumitted to Nature

## Proton density depletion in <sup>34</sup>Si



Large change in  $2s_{1/2}$  occupancy (1.8) -> central proton depletion in <sup>34</sup>Si -> 'bubble' nucleus But same neutron density profiles for the two N=20 nuclei

### Simplified description of atomic nuclei



$$U(r) = \int_{vol} \rho(r') v(r, r') d^3 r' = \int_{vol} \rho(r') [-v_0 \partial(r - r')] d^3 r' = -v_0 \rho(r)$$

# The spin-orbit (SO) interaction



Reduced SO for bubble and diffuse nuclei

## Proton density depletion in <sup>34</sup>Si



Large change in  $2s_{1/2}$  occupancy (1.8) -> central proton depletion in <sup>34</sup>Si -> 'bubble' nucleus But same neutron density profiles for the two N=20 nuclei



Proton energy -> (binding) energy of orbit Proton angle -> orbital momentum L Cross section -> vacancy of the orbit Appropriate momentum matching required











# Evolution of the p<sub>3/2</sub>-p<sub>1/2</sub> SO splitting



No change in  $p_{3/2}$ - $p_{1/2}$  splitting between <sup>41</sup>Ca and <sup>37</sup>S Large reduction of  $p_{3/2}$ - $p_{1/2}$  splitting between <sup>37</sup>S and <sup>35</sup>Si, no change of  $f_{7/2}$ - $f_{5/2}$ *G. Burgunder et al. PRL 112 (2014) 042502* 

### Density and Isospin dependence of the SO interaction

Knockout reactions from <sup>36</sup>S and <sup>34</sup>Si beams at NSCL / MSU

- -> First 'evidence' of a significant central depletion in the atomic nucleus <sup>34</sup>Si
- -> Asymmetry between proton and neutron density depletions in <sup>34</sup>Si
- -> unique candidate to probe the spin-orbit interaction in 'unusual ' condition
- <sup>34</sup>Si(d,p)<sup>35</sup>Si transfer reaction at GANIL
- -> Show a drastic reduction of SO interaction as compared to N=20 isotones

Better constraints on the models -> choose the correct one(s)

Evaluate the reduction of SO splitting when reaching the neutron drip-line

Consequence for the r-process nucleosynthesis -> neutron-star mergers

Location of 'stable' Super Heavy Elements to be revisited / better constrained ?