



Status of and Plans for Light-Element Standards Evaluations at LANL

G. Hale, M. Paris, and H. Sasaki

TM on Neutron Data Standards 2025
IAEA, Vienna, Austria

2025 January 28

LA-UR-25-20810

Status of Light-Element R-matrix Analyses/Evaluations

- n-p (N-N system) scattering up to 100 MeV
- n+³He (⁴He system) cross sections up to 20 MeV
- n+⁶Li (⁷Li system) cross sections up to 8 MeV
- n+¹⁰B (¹¹B system) cross sections up to 1 MeV – work just started with Ian Thompson (LLNL)
- n+¹²C (¹³C system) scattering up to 16 MeV

Charge-Independent Analysis of N-N System up to 100 MeV

Channel	a_c (fm)	l_{\max}
p+p	3.26	3
n+n	3.26	3
n+p	3.26	3
γ +d	84.6	1

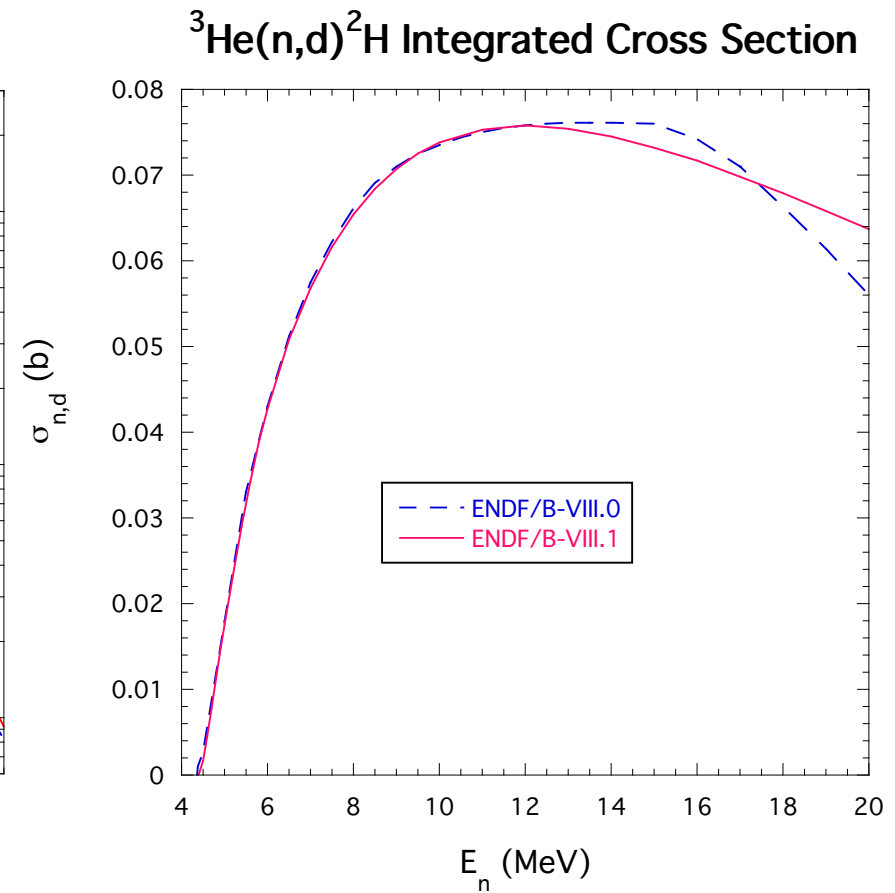
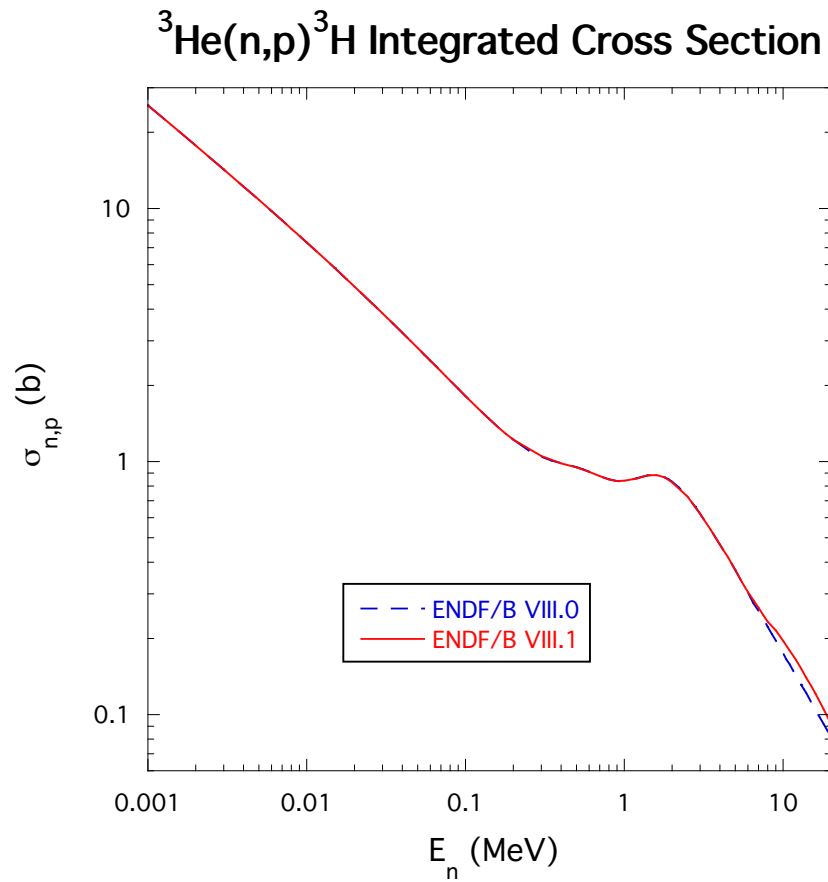
Reaction	# Pts.	χ^2	Observable Types
p(p,p)p	667	1218	$\sigma(\theta), A_y(p), C_{x,x}, C_{y,y}, K_x^{x'}, K_y^{y'}, K_z^{z'}$
n(n,n)n	1	0	$\sigma_{\text{int}}(a_0)$
p(n,n)p	5260	4687	$\sigma_T, \sigma(\theta), A_y(n), C_{y,y}, K_y^{y'}$
p(n, γ)d	82	133	$\sigma_{\text{int}}, \sigma(\theta), A_y(n)$
d(γ ,n)p	84	106	$\sigma_{\text{int}}, \sigma(\theta), \Sigma(\gamma), P_y(n)$
Total	6094	6144	19

free parameters = 50 \Rightarrow $\chi^2/\text{degree of freedom} = 1.0165$

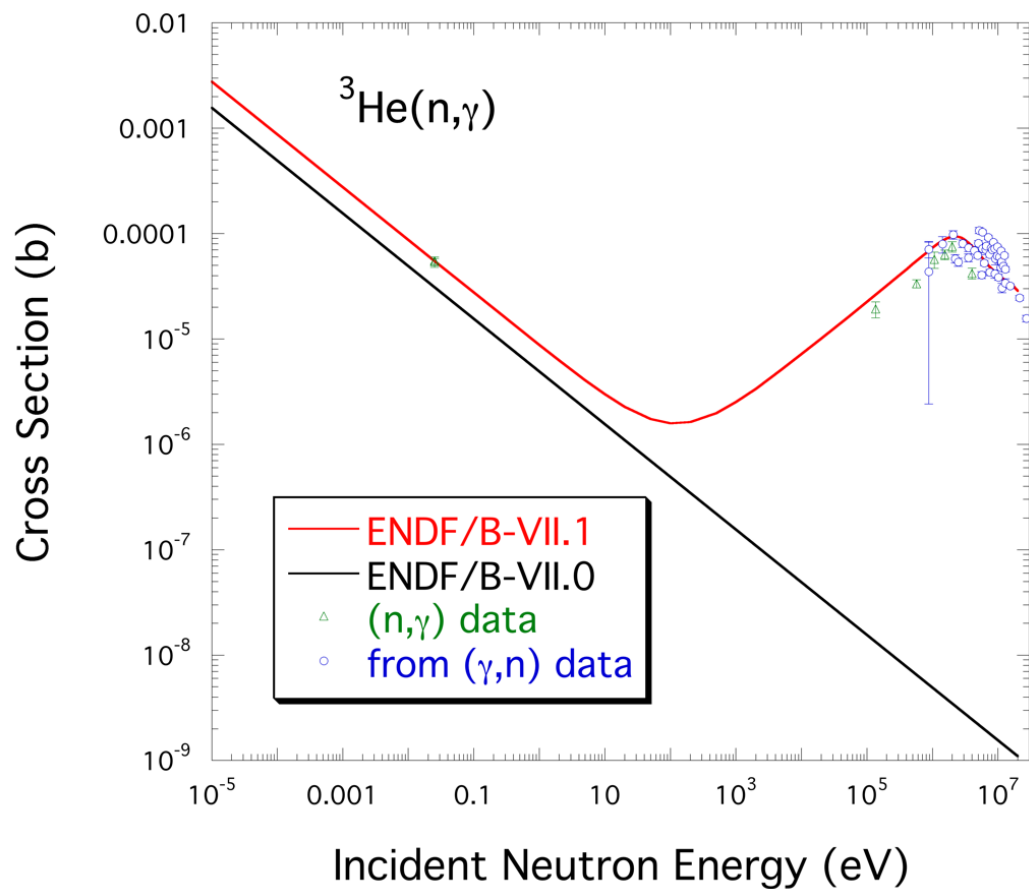
Extending N-N scattering to higher energies

- 100 MeV seems to be the practical upper limit for an R-matrix pole expansion to work. Above that energy, some of the “background” poles remain in the energy range of the data, and cause non-smooth behavior of the phase shifts.
- One possibility is to match the 100-MeV solution to higher-energy phase shifts (e.g., one of the later solutions of Arndt’s group). This was tried before (at a lower matching energy), and it did not work very well because of discontinuities in the matching process.
- Another possibility is to base the parametrization over the whole energy range on \mathbf{R}^{-1} , rather than \mathbf{R} . Then $\mathbf{R}^{-1} = \mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B}E$ (+pole terms in E). This approach was used by the Nijmegen group without the need for pole terms in their analysis of p-p scattering (but only up to 30 MeV).

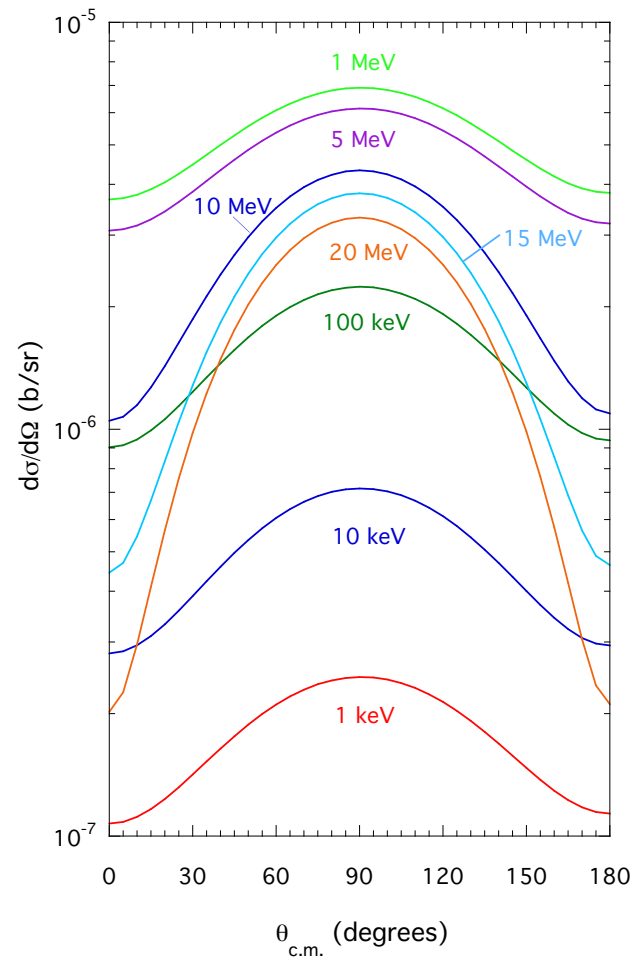
Changes in the $n+{}^3\text{He}$ Reaction Cross Sections



${}^3\text{He}(n,\gamma){}^4\text{He}$ Cross Section



Differential Cross Section



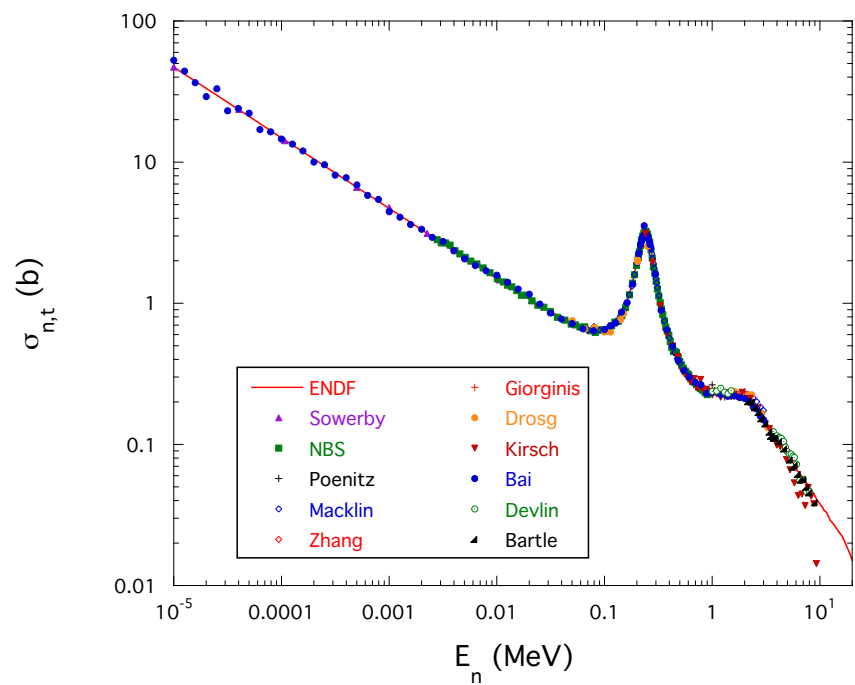
Summary of ${}^7\text{Li}$ R-matrix Analysis

Channel	l_{\max}	a_c (fm)
t+ ${}^4\text{He}$	5	4.0
n+ ${}^6\text{Li}$	3	5.0
d+ ${}^5\text{He}$	1	7.5
n+ ${}^6\text{Li}^*$	1	5.0
p+ ${}^6\text{He}$	1	5.0
n+ ${}^6\text{Li}^{**}$	1	5.5

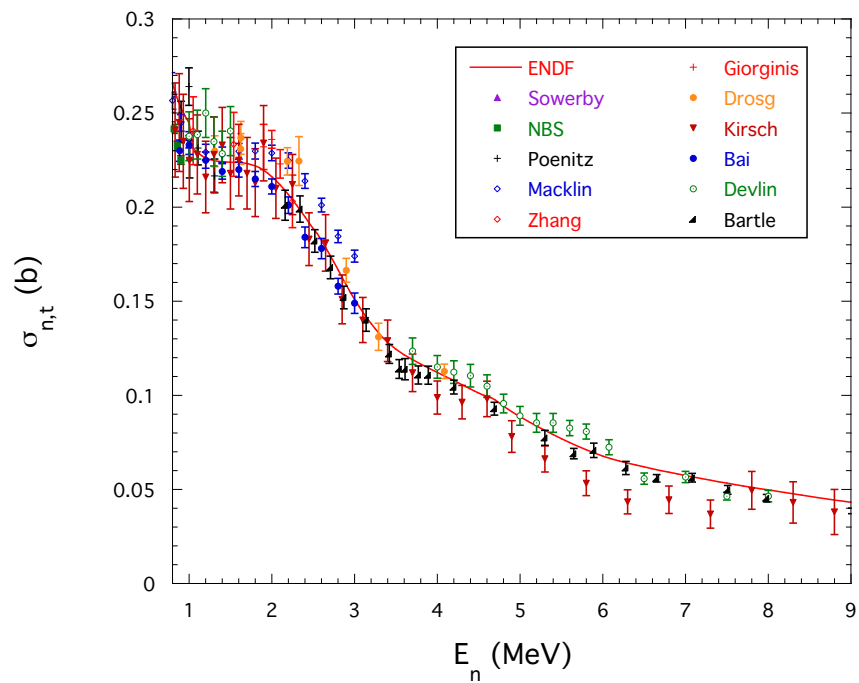
Reaction	Energy range	Observables	# data points	χ^2/point
${}^4\text{He}(t,t){}^4\text{He}$	$E_t = 3\text{-}17$ MeV	$\sigma(\theta), A_y(\theta)$	1689	1.03
${}^4\text{He}(t,n){}^6\text{Li}$	$E_t = 8.75\text{-}14.4$ MeV	$\sigma(\theta)$	39	1.14
${}^4\text{He}(t,n){}^6\text{Li}^*$	$E_t = 8.75\text{-}14.4$ MeV	$\sigma(\theta)$	3	0.42
${}^6\text{Li}(n,t){}^4\text{He}$	$E_n = 0\text{-}8$ MeV	$\sigma_{\text{int}}, \sigma(\theta)$	2840	1.44
${}^6\text{Li}(n,n_0){}^6\text{Li}$	$E_n = 0\text{-}8$ MeV	$\sigma_{\text{int}}, \sigma_T, \sigma(\theta), P_y(\theta)$	1451	1.36
${}^6\text{Li}(n,d){}^6\text{Li}$	$E_n = 0\text{-}8$ MeV	$\sigma_{\text{int}}, \sigma(\theta)$	28	11.9
${}^6\text{Li}(n,n_1){}^6\text{Li}^*$	$E_n = 0\text{-}8$ MeV	$\sigma_{\text{int}}, \sigma(\theta)$	175	2.11
${}^6\text{Li}(n,p){}^6\text{He}$	$E_n = 0\text{-}8$ MeV	$\sigma_{\text{int}}, \sigma(\theta)$	92	1.58
${}^6\text{Li}(n,n_2){}^6\text{Li}^{**}$	$E_n = 0\text{-}8$ MeV	σ_{int}	41	0.30
Totals		17	6358	1.39*

*For 170 free parameters, $\chi^2/\nu = 1.43$

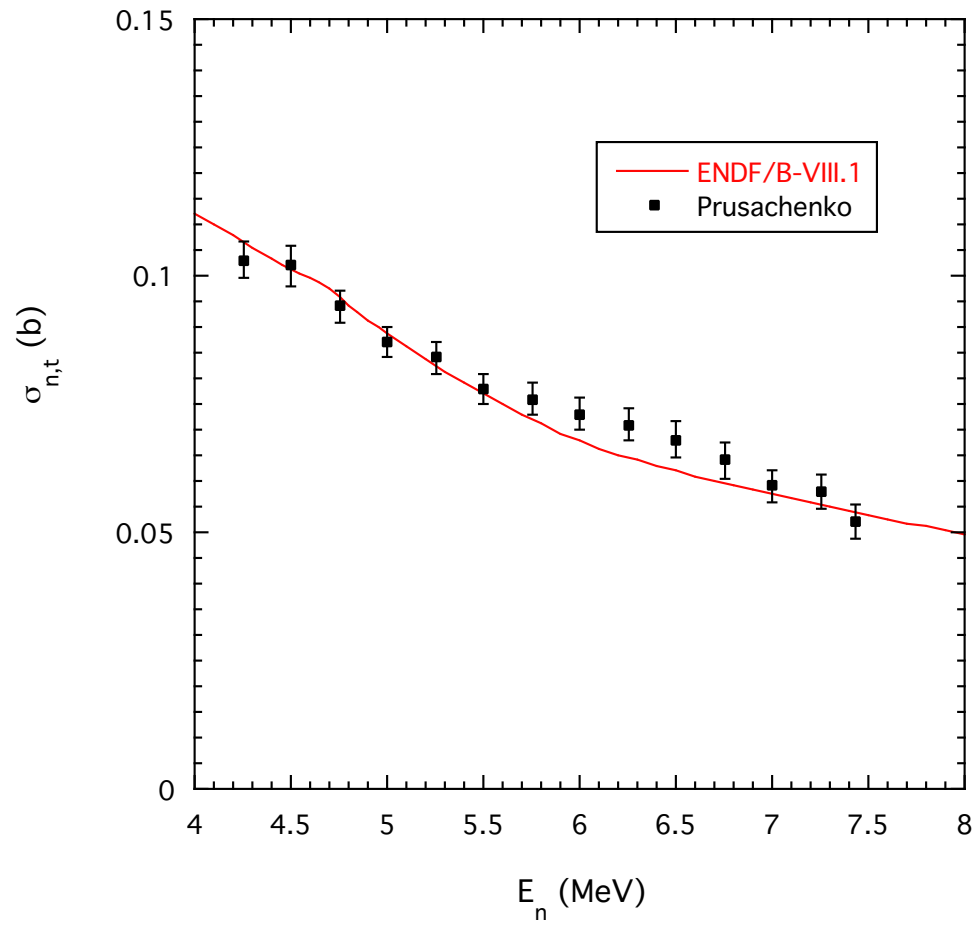
${}^6\text{Li}(n,t){}^4\text{He}$ Cross Section



${}^6\text{Li}(n,t){}^4\text{He}$ Cross Section



${}^6\text{Li}(n,t)\text{He}$ Cross Section



Summary of ^{13}C Analysis

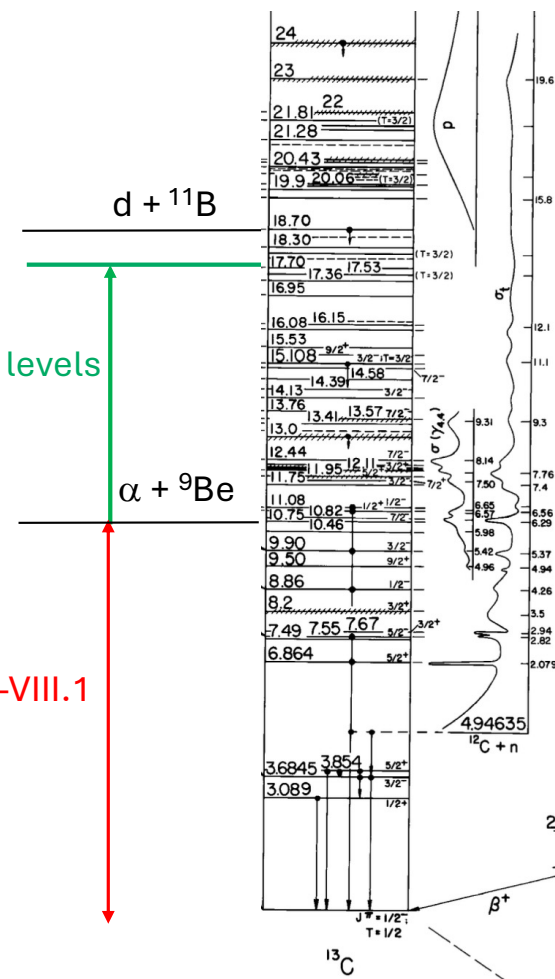
Partition	l_{max}	a_c (fm)
$n + ^{12}\text{C}$	4	4.47
$n + ^{12}\text{C}^*(2^+)$	3	6.10
$\gamma + ^{13}\text{C}$	1	50.0
$\alpha + ^9\text{Be}$	3	5.00

Reaction	Energy range (MeV)	# Exp data points	Observables
$^{12}\text{C}(n, n_0)^{12}\text{C}$	$E_n = 0 - 16.0$	8963	$\sigma_{\text{tot}}, d\sigma/d\Omega, A_y(n)$
$^{12}\text{C}(n, n_1)^{12}\text{C}^*$	$E_n = 4.81 - 16.4$	2494	$\sigma_{\text{int}}(\text{CoGNAC}), d\sigma/d\Omega$
$^{12}\text{C}(n, \gamma)^{13}\text{C}$	$E_n = 0 - 0.2$	7	σ_{int}
$^{12}\text{C}(n, \alpha)^9\text{Be}$	$E_n = 7.24 - 20.0$	149	σ_{int}
$^9\text{Be}(\alpha, n_0)^{12}\text{C}$	$E_\alpha = 0.366 - 3.55$	509	σ_{int}
$^9\text{Be}(\alpha, n_1)^{12}\text{C}^*$	$E_\alpha = 0.266 - 3.55$	509	σ_{int}

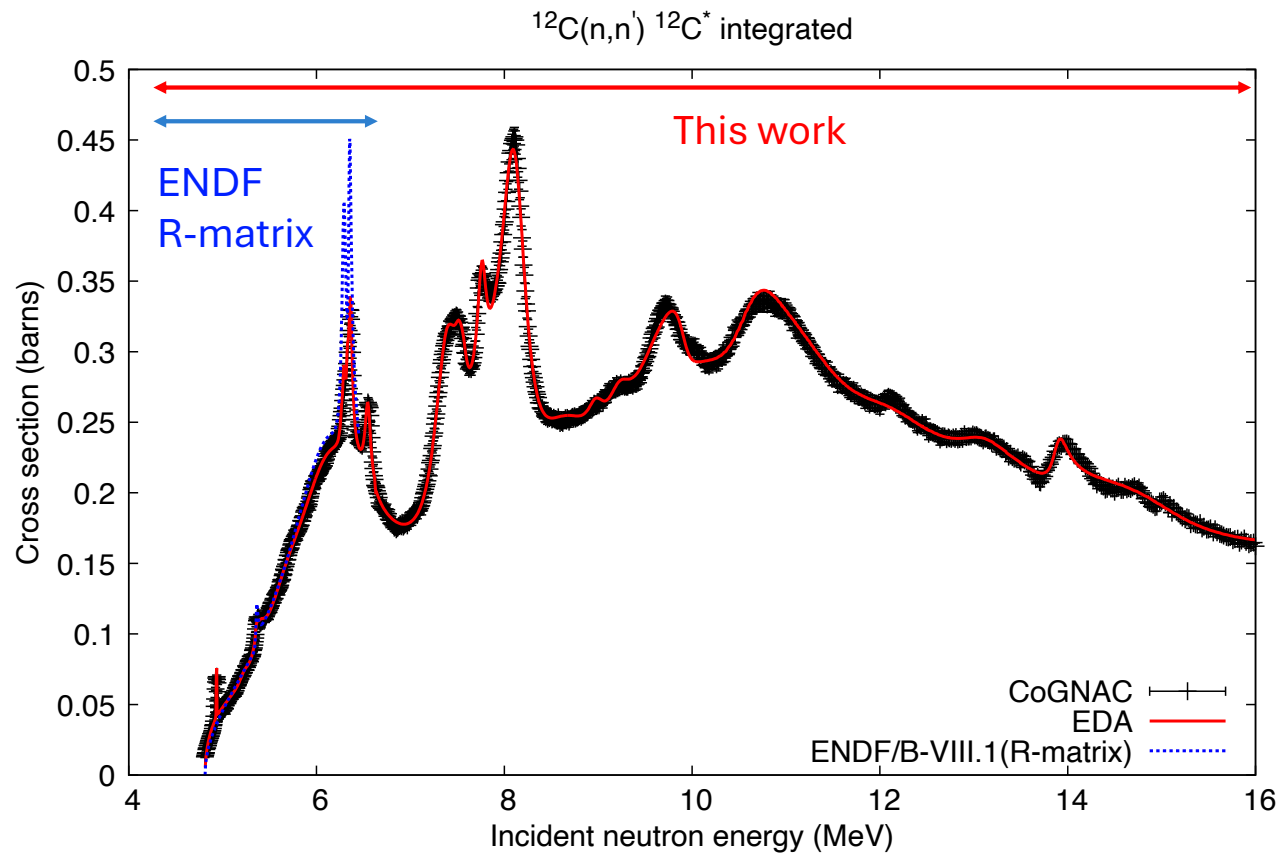
Total 12631

This work adding ~20 levels

ENDF/B-VIII.1

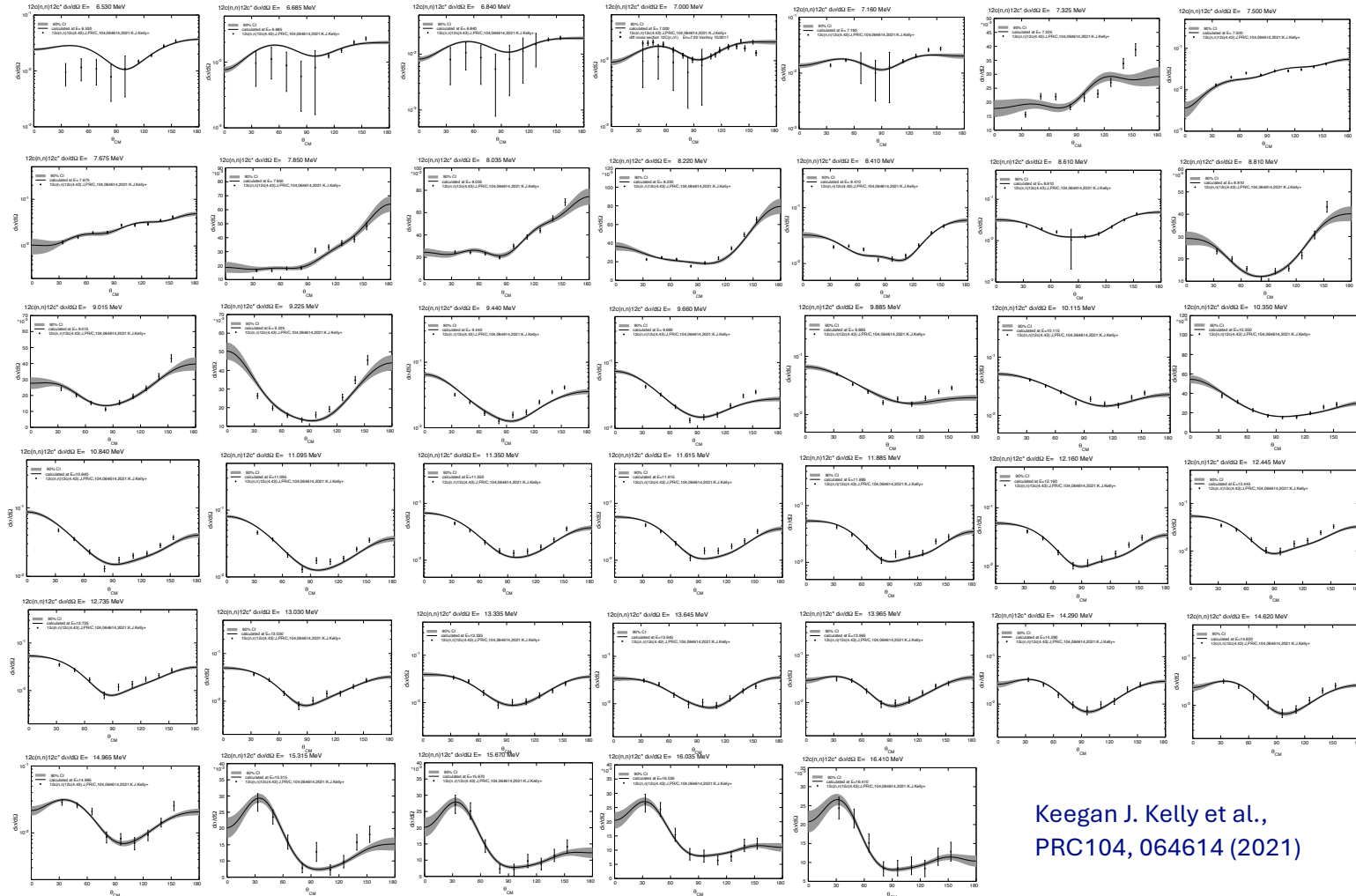


Integrated cross section of inelastic scattering



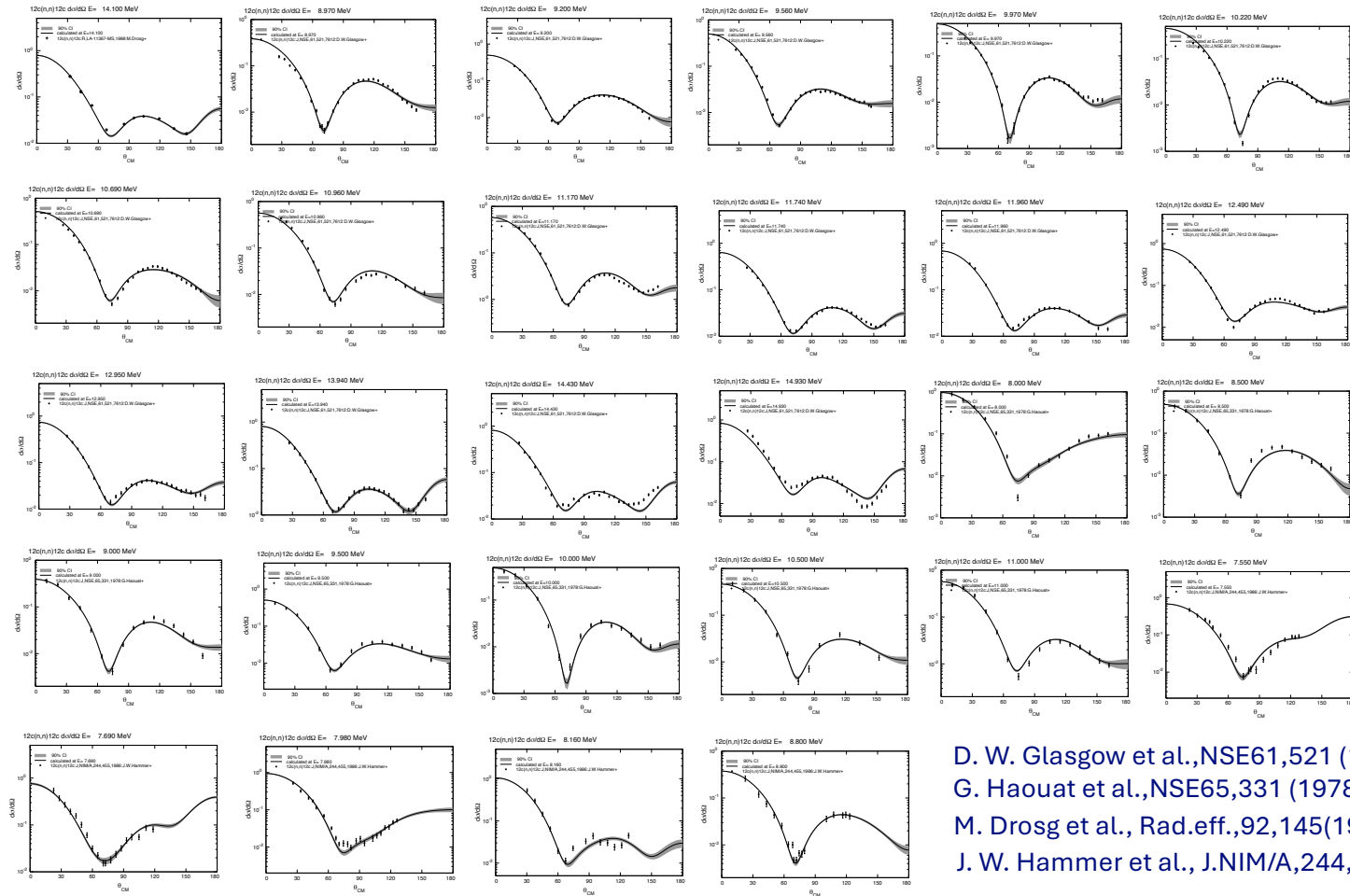
We found R-matrix parameters reproducing CoGNAC data up to 16 MeV neutron

Inelastic differential cross sections (6.53-16.4 MeV)



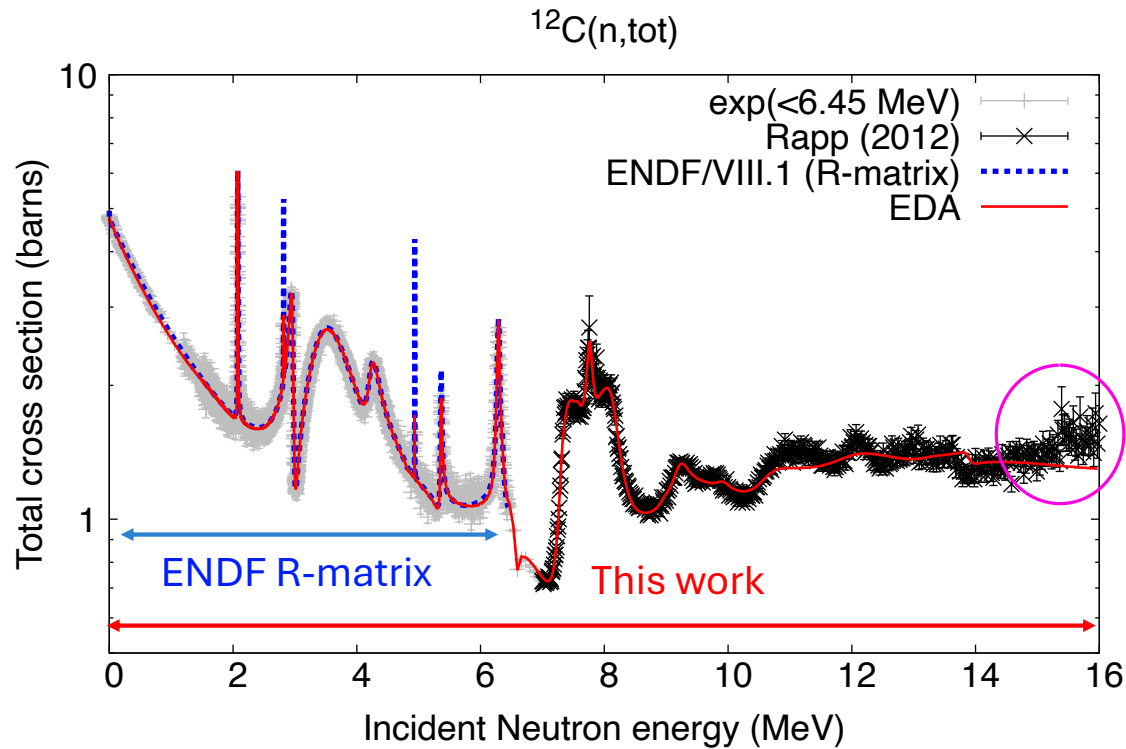
Keegan J. Kelly et al.,
PRC104, 064614 (2021)

Elastic differential cross sections (7.55-14.93 MeV)



D. W. Glasgow et al., NSE61,521 (1976)
 G. Haouat et al., NSE65,331 (1978)
 M. Drosig et al., Rad. eff., 92,145(1988)
 J. W. Hammer et al., J.NIM/A, 244, 455 (1986)

$^{12}\text{C}+n$ Total Cross Section

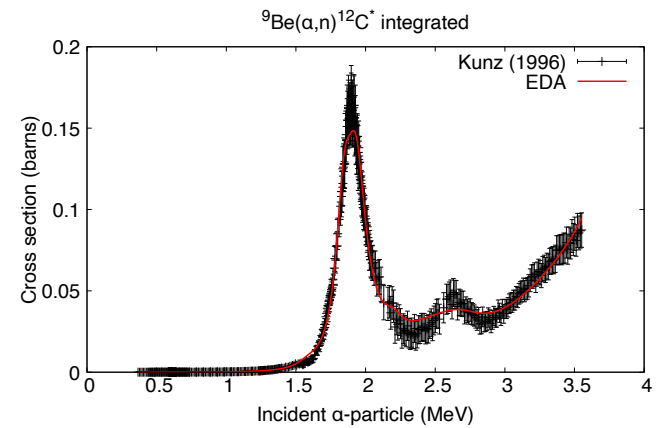
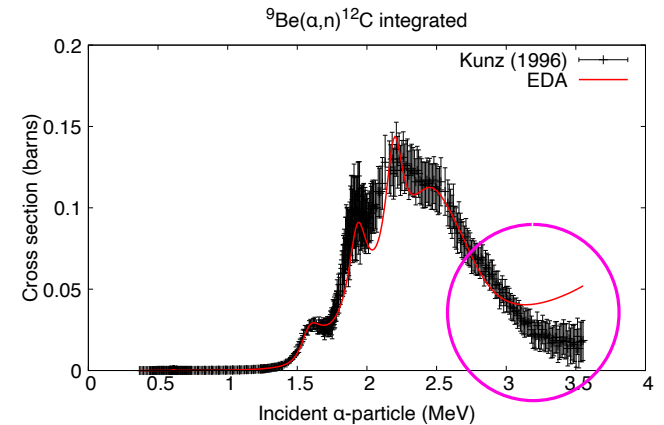
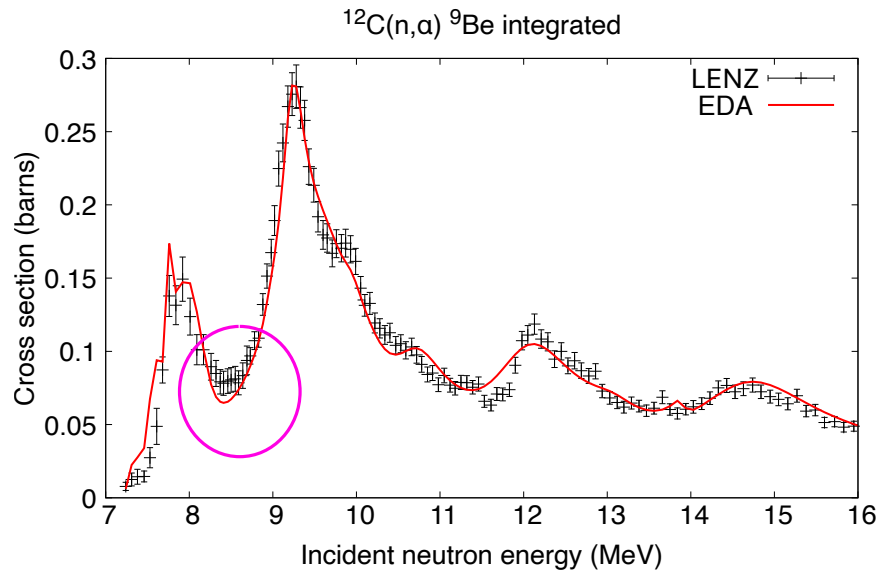


- EDA reproduces sharp peaks below 6.45 MeV
- EDA underestimates above 15 MeV



More elastic scattering data above 15 MeV reduces the discrepancy?
Contributions from the breakup $^{12}\text{C}(n,n'2\alpha)\alpha$ ($\sim 30\%$) and $^{12}\text{C}(n,p)^{12}\text{B}$ ($< 5\%$) ?

Integrated cross sections of $^{12}\text{C}^* + n \rightleftharpoons {}^9\text{Be} + {}^4\text{He}$



EDA can reproduce overall structure of $^{12}\text{C}(n, {}^4\text{He}) {}^9\text{Be}$ and that of ${}^9\text{Be}({}^4\text{He}, n) {}^{12}\text{C}^*$

The fit does not work well around 3.5 MeV α -particle for ${}^9\text{Be}(\alpha, n) {}^{12}\text{C}$ due to the restriction from ~ 8.5 MeV neutron in the inverse reaction

Plans for the coming year

- Decide on the best approach to extend the N-N analysis to 250 MeV.
- Add new data to the ${}^7\text{Li}$ analysis, and possibly extend its energy to 10 MeV.
- A lot of work needs to be done on the ${}^{11}\text{B}$ analysis, with help from Ian Thompson.
- Add new GALINA data to the ${}^{13}\text{C}$ analysis, and assess its suitability for a new evaluation of the n+C standard below 2 MeV. No new work is planned for n+ ${}^{13}\text{C}$ (${}^{14}\text{C}$ system).
- Implement a new approximate method for taking into account the width of an excited-state channel in R-matrix analyses.