Recent results of Texas Active Target (TexAT) detector: structure of <sup>13</sup>Be, clustering in <sup>18</sup>Ne, and neutron upscattering on Carbon

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## The role of neutrons in carbon nucleosynthesis

## Clustering in mirror pairs, the case study for A=18

### Structure of <sup>13</sup>Be.



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## High/Low gain regions





### **Mesonance scattering**

## **Past TexAT experiments**

- Resonances in <sup>9</sup>C <sup>8</sup>B(p,p)
- Clustering in <sup>14</sup>O <sup>10</sup>C( $\alpha$ , $\alpha$ ) resonance elastic scattering
- Clustering in <sup>18</sup>Ne <sup>14</sup>O(a,a) resonance elastic scattering
- Structure of <sup>13</sup>Be T=5/2 IAS in <sup>13</sup>B through <sup>12</sup>Be(p,p)
- ♦ Structure of <sup>10</sup>Li T=2 IAS in <sup>10</sup>Be through <sup>9</sup>Li(p,p) and <sup>9</sup>Li(p,n)

### **M** Transfer reactions

- ◆ Structure of <sup>12</sup>B(g.s.) <sup>12</sup>B(d,<sup>3</sup>He)<sup>11</sup>Be
- ◆ Search for excited state in tritium <sup>1</sup>H(<sup>6</sup>He,<sup>4</sup>He)
- **Markov** Fusion reactions
  - $\bullet$  <sup>8</sup>B+<sup>40</sup>Ar fusion
- Ø-delayed charged particle emission
  - (12Ν,β3α) Hoyle state
  - $\blacklozenge$  Search for Efimov effect in <sup>12</sup>C below the Hoyle state.
- Meutron-induced reactions
  - <sup>12</sup>C(n,n')<sup>12</sup>C(Hoyle)





# The role of neutrons in carbon nucleosynthesis



### **Triple-alpha reaction and neutron upscattering**

- Three alphas produce Hoyle state in <sup>12</sup>C (through <sup>8</sup>Be(g.s.))
- Hoyle state can be de-excited by:
  - gamma cascade
  - electron-positron pair
  - neutrons + Hoyle scattering
  - protons + Hoyle scattering
  - α+Hoyle scattering OR decay back to 3α





week ending 15 SEPTEMBER 2017

#### Enhancement of the Triple Alpha Rate in a Hot Dense Medium

Mary Beard,<sup>1,2,\*</sup> Sam M. Austin,<sup>2,†</sup> and Richard Cyburt<sup>2,‡</sup> <sup>1</sup>Department of Physics, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana 46556, USA <sup>2</sup>Joint Institute for Nuclear Astrophysics, National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory, Michigan State University, 640 South Shaw Lane, East Lansing, Michigan 48824-1321, USA (Received 10 March 2017; revised manuscript received 3 July 2017; published 15 September 2017)

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### Enhanced triple- $\alpha$ reaction reduces proton-rich nucleosynthesis in supernovae

Shilun Jin, Luke F. Roberts 🖂, Sam M. Austin & Hendrik Schatz

Nature 588, 57–60 (2020) | Cite this article 4334 Accesses | 9 Citations | 127 Altmetric | Metrics

[M. Beard et al. Phys. Rev. Lett. 119, 112701]



Using Hauser Feshbach XS predictions. High-density environment, large neutron enhancements at low temperature ( $\approx 0.2$  GK (T9))



## **Measuring time-reversed reaction**



#### Time-reversal symmetry

Quantum mechanically we can relate a reaction and the time reverse of that reaction using "detailed balance"



## **TPCs and neutron beams**

TPCs can be well-suited to many different types of neutron-induced measurements

Active-target (gas IS the target and readout medium) TPC filled with  $CO_2$  looking to measure:

- <sup>12</sup>C(n, n<sub>2</sub>)3α inelastic neutron scattering to the Hoyle state
- <sup>12/16</sup>C/O(n, α) hugely important reactions for nuclear data measured parasitically

Can be measured with the TexAT with 50 Torr  $CO_2$  gas. Represents a great opportunity for future measurements with low-energy recoil products - can be well resolved using low pressure TPC.





## **TPCs and neutron beams**

- Edwards Accelerator
   Lab Ohio University
- Deuteron beam from accelerator:  $\approx 10^{13}$  pps
- Neutron beam from *d(d, n)* reaction - scanning from 7.2-10.0 MeV
- $5 \times 10^3$  neutrons/s:  $\sigma(E_n) \approx 200$  keV
- Normalization is a big issue! Use <sup>1</sup>H(n, p)





## Identifying Hoyles with TexAT

### Observing <sup>12</sup>N decay with TexAT





### Typical <sup>12</sup>C(n,n<sub>2</sub>)Hoyle event



- J. Bishop, et al., NIM A964 (2020) 163773.
- J. Bishop, et al., PRC 102 (2020) 041303.
- J. Bishop, et al., PRC Letter 103 (2021)



## <sup>12</sup>C(n,n<sub>2</sub>)Hoyle reaction XS

Reconstruct three  $\alpha$ -particles to make Hoyle state, count the events and neutrons!  ${}^{12}C(n, \alpha_{1,2})^9Be^*$  contribution is removed





Remarkable similarity between the  ${}^{12}C(n, n_2)3\alpha$  and  ${}^{12}C(n, \alpha)$  demonstrates the dominance of the compound nucleus reaction (i.e. make  ${}^{13}C$  and then it decays again)

Understanding the resonances in  $^{13}\mathrm{C}$  we can perform a multi-channel R-Matrix fit using channel data:

- $^{12}C(n, n_0)$
- $^{12}C(n, n_1)$
- $\square$  <sup>12</sup>C( $n, n_2$ )3 $\alpha$
- ${}^{12}C(n, \alpha_0)^9Be$
- <sup>9</sup>Be(α, n<sub>2</sub>)3α

Aim to get the  ${}^{12}C(n_0, n_2)$  and  ${}^{12}C(n_1, n_2)$  cross sections (impossible to measure experimentally - must only be inferred) and their inverses through detailed balance

#### R-Matrix

R-Matrix relates the resonances to the observed cross sections for compound nucleus reactions

Enhancement of the upscattering enhancement is evaluated by the following:

$$R = k_n \rho_n T_9^{-1.5} (2J_i + 1) \times \int_0^\infty \sigma_{nn'}(E) (E - Q) \exp(-11.605 E/T_9) dE, \quad (1)$$

 $k_n = 6.557 \times 10^{-6} \text{ K}^{\frac{3}{2}} \text{ cm}^3 \text{g}^{-1}$ ,  $J_i$  is the spin factor (0 for g.s. to Hoyle, 2 for 2<sup>+</sup> to Hoyle), E is COM energy, Q is the reaction Q-value,  $T_9$  is temperature in GK and  $\sigma$  is our measured XS.

- Higher COM E more important at higher T
- Hoyle  $\rightarrow 2^+_1$  more important by a factor of 5!





J. Bishop

#### nature communications

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Article | Open Access | Published: 20 April 2022

### Neutron-upscattering enhancement of the triple-alpha process

J. Bishop ⊠, C. E. Parker, G. V. Rogachev, S. Ahn, E. Koshchiy, K. Brandenburg, C. R. Brune, R. J. Charity, J. Derkin, N. Dronchi, G. Hamad, Y. Jones-Alberty, Tz. Kokalova, T. N. Massey, Z. Meisel, E. V. Ohstrom, S. N. Paneru, E. C. Pollacco, M. Saxena, N. Singh, R. Smith, L. G. Sobotka, D. Soltesz, S. K. Subedi, A. V. Voinov, J. Warren & C. Wheldon — Show fewer authors

<u>Nature Communications</u> 13, Article number: 2151 (2022) | <u>Cite this article</u> 432 Accesses | 6 Altmetric | <u>Metrics</u>



Enhancement is not as important as previously thought to be! Different astrophysical sites have different temperatures



## Clustering in <sup>18</sup>O-<sup>18</sup>Ne mirrors



## Clustering in <sup>18</sup>O



Molecular-type configuration



### "Shell model" configuration



 $\alpha$ -cluster configuration

Cartoon is borrowed from W. von Oertzen, et al., EPJA 43, 17 (2010)



## Excitation functions for <sup>14</sup>C+α





## Levels in <sup>18</sup>O

E*(MeV)	$J^{\pi}$	$\Gamma_{tot}(keV)$	$\Gamma_{\alpha}(\text{keV})$	θ <sub>α</sub> <sup>2</sup>	 E*(MeV)	$J^{\pi}$	$\Gamma_{tot}(keV)$	$\Gamma_{\alpha}$ (keV)	θ <sub>α</sub> 2
8.04	1	2	2	0.02	12.54	4	6	5	< 0.01
8.21	2+	1.9	1.7	0.03	12.57	6+	71	49	0.38
8.28	3.	8.5	2.9	0.18	12.64	3-	103	5	< 0.01
8.82	2	58	0.3	< 0.01	12.71	3	285	118	0.05
8.96	2*	69	5	0.02	12.90	2*	310	285	0.09
9.19	1	218	199	0.20	12.94	5	38	14	0.02
9.35	3	176	112	0.48	12.96	2+	4788	4788	1.56
9.70	3	137	15	0.04	12.98	3	1039	768	0.32
9.76	1.	679	626	0.46	13.08	5	176	122	0.18
9.79	2	173	90	0.10	13.17	2+	147	129	0.04
9.86	0*	3209	3209	1.85	13.33	1	306	33	< 0.01
10.11	3.	16	7	0.01	13.38	2+	252	215	0.07
10.29	4 <b>+</b>	29	19	0.09	13.45	4 <sup>+</sup>	838	23	0.01
10.40	3.	66	18	0.03	13.48	4+	465	196	0.11
10.42	2*	182	44	0.03	13.69	2*	531	40	0.01
10.80	17	688	629	0.29	13.82	5.	25	2	< 0.01
10.98	2	284	21	0.01	13.89	4 <b>+</b>	60	28	0.01
11.31	2	248	86	0.02	13.96	3	144	74	0.03
11.43	4 <b>+</b>	41	32	0.05	14.01	3	2615	2098	0.70
11.62	3	144	28	0.01	14.07	5.	560	260	0.23
11.63	5	40	31	0.13	14.12	2+	155	96	0.03
11.67	1.	201	117	0.02	14.30	1-	955	403	0.10
11.70	6+	23	12	0.23	14.47	1.	449	228	0.05
11.95	3	561	297	0.17	14.52	4 <b>+</b>	2212	81	0.03
12.12	1.	414	49	0.02	14.70	5.	280	230	0.16
12.21	2*	1073	960	0.37	14.77	4 <b>+</b>	943	446	0.18
12.34	5	39	26	0.06	14.82	5	142	102	0.07
12.46	1	910	271	0.08		_			





## Clustering in <sup>18</sup>Ne





## <sup>14</sup>O+α experiment: event selection



A M

 $^{14}C+\alpha$  excitation function

1600

### <sup>14</sup>O+ $\alpha$ excitation function

80







## Scattering feature in 0<sup>+</sup> wave in A=18





E.D. Johnson,	et al., EPJ	JA, 42 135	(2009)
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16 States were used to fit the data

		0 <sup>+</sup> at 3.67 MeV	E*(MeV)	Jπ	$\Gamma_{\rm tot}({\rm keV})$	$\Gamma_{\alpha}(\text{keV})$	$\theta_{\alpha}^{2}$
60 50	0 = θ <sub>c.m.</sub> = 180 0 = ' Data 🔆	i	8.04	1-	2	2	0.02
400 400 100 120 100 400 400 400 200 400 400 400 120 100 400 400 400 400 400 400 40	E = Best Fit Fit without 0*		8.21	2+	1	1	< 0.01
			8.29	3-	8	2	0.09
	0 E 129 < 0 < 151		8.78	2+	70	1	< 0.01
			8.98	2+	60	4	0.01
			9.17	1-	240	205	0.24
			9.36	2+	24	1	< 0.01
8	$ \begin{array}{c} 100 \\ 121 < \theta_{cm} < 148 \\ 60 \\ 40 \end{array} $	9.39	3-	155	103	0.47	
6			9.69	3-	56	0.1	< 0.01
$ \begin{array}{c} 40 \\ 20 \\ 100 \\ 80 \\ 60 \\ 40 \\ 20 \\ \end{array} $			9.79	2*	263	167	0.20
	$\theta_{c,m} = 90$		9.76	1-	740	658	0.48
			9.90	0*	2100	2100	1.20
			10.10	3-	17	12	0.02
_	2.2 2.4 2.6 2.8 3 3.2 3.4	3.6 3.8 4 4.2 4.4	10.30	4+	23	16	0.08
	$E_{em}(MeV)$		10.34	2+	111	20	0.02



## Comparing the 6<sup>+</sup> states in A=18





## Comparing cluster 1<sup>-</sup> states in A=18

1

18O

10.8(3)	1-	$\theta^2 = 0.29(4)$
9 76(2)	1-	$A^2 = 0.46(4)$

9.19(2) 1-  $\theta^2 = 0.20(1)$ 

<sup>18</sup>Ne

$$0.58(3) \quad 1^{-} \quad \theta^{2} = 0.15(5)$$

$$9.57(2)$$
 1- 0- - 0.51(5)

$$\overline{9.08(2)}$$
 1-  $\theta^2 = 0.21(1)$ 

#### alpha-cluster structure of 18Ne

M. Barbui, <u>A. Volya, E. Aboud, S. Ahn, J. Bishop, V.Z. Goldberg, J. Hooker, C.H. Hunt, H.</u> Jayatissa, <u>Tz. Kokalova, E. Koshchiy, S. Pirrie, E. Pollacco, B.T. Roeder, A. Saastamoinen, S.</u> <u>Upadhyayula, C. Wheldon, G.V. Rogachev</u>

https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2206.10659









## Highlights

- The first detailed, large-scale comparison of cluster states in mirror pairs was performed.
- A direct link between cluster structures in A=18 mirrors was established.
- Evidence for a systematic difference between the mirror systems - the states with larger total widths also get large alpha-core(g.s.) SF factor.



## Structure of <sup>13</sup>Be



## Is the N=8 magicity breaking in <sup>13</sup>Be?



 Naively the g.s. and first excited state in <sup>13</sup>Be should be 5/2<sup>+</sup> and 1/2<sup>+</sup>
 <sup>15</sup>C and <sup>17</sup>O are "good" examples of N=9 nuclei

However:

I<sup>11</sup>Be (N=7) has 1/2<sup>+</sup> g.s., followed by 1/2<sup>-</sup>, so should the g.s. of <sup>13</sup>Be be 1/2<sup>-</sup> with 1/2<sup>+</sup> filled?

Should there be more low-lying states in <sup>13</sup>Be?







G. Randisi, et al. Phys. Rev. C 89, 034320 (2014)



B.R. Marks, et al., Phys. Rev. C 92, 054320 (2015)



 All results are from break up at high energies
 Interpretation is challenging
 No conclusive spin-parity assignments

### Structure of <sup>13</sup>Be through T=5/2 states in <sup>13</sup>B



How well does this work?







### 500 pps of <sup>12</sup>Be beam at 60 MeV


TexAT measurements at TRIUMF

160°-180°



#### **Shell Model with FSU Hamiltonian**

#### 1/2-(1) T=5/2 0 0.436083 I=1 1/2+(1) T=5/2 0.1788 0.283016 l=0 0.0914305 l=1 3/2-(1) T=5/2 1.7761 5/2+(1) T=5/2 1.7819 0.480836 l=2 5/2+(2) T=5/2 2.0454 0.211212 I=2 5/2-(1) T=5/2 2.3707 0.000506811 I=3

#### 0hω and 2hω configurations are

#### mixed in these SM calculations

Cross Section (mb/sr

Cross Section (mb/sr)



5.5

5.5





#### Experiment

# Highlights

- Excitation function for  $^{12}Be+p$  resonance elastic scattering is described by T=5/2 resonances ONLY.
- Ground state appears to be 1/2+, but low SF indicates that N=8 is not a shell closure.
- The role of configuration mixing is significant.
- More states of negative parity may be present and consistent with the data (but not required).



## Summary

- A wide range of experiments with exotic beams can be performed using active targets.
- First measurements with neutron beam in active target indicate that neutron upscattering is not as important in carbon nucleosynthesis as was believed previously.
- A study of clustering in A=18 mirror system <sup>18</sup>O -<sup>18</sup>Ne reveals similarities, but also curious differences
- The first observation of the T=5/2 states in <sup>13</sup>B shed light on the <sup>13</sup>Be structure.





# Structure of light exotic nuclei



# **Theoretical advances**



S. Pieper, et al., PRC 70 054325 (2004)





# A=9 T=3/2 iso-multiplet Where is the 2s1/2 shell?



# We used Active Target detector TexAT to populate resonance in <sup>9</sup>C in <sup>8</sup>B+p scattering

Now is a short technical detour...



A=9 T=3/2





# A=10 T=2 iso-multiplet - what is the ground state?



Very little was known about <sup>10</sup>N

Possibly a state observed at 2.6 MeV above p-decay threshold. [A. Lepine-Szily, et al., PRC 65 (2002)]
 Odd-odd psd-shell challenge to both experiment and theory.





10 I j



A. Lepine-Szily, et al., PRC 65 (2002)

Excitation function for <sup>9</sup>C+p elastic scattering





#### Excitation function for <sup>9</sup>C+p elastic scattering





#### Nordheim rule?

- If  $(l_1 + l_2 + j_1 + j_2)$  is even, then  $I = |j_1 j_2|$ .
- 2. If  $(l_1 + l_2 + j_1 + j_2)$  is odd, then I will be large so we use  $I = (j_1 + j_2)$ .



# Evidence for 1p1/2 - 2s1/2 shell degeneracy in <sup>13</sup>Be



# **TexAT "Hoyle" Publications**

- **I** J. Bishop, et al., NIM A964 (2020) 163773.
- **I** J. Bishop, et al., PRC 102 (2020) 041303.
- J. Bishop, et al., PRC Letter 103 (2021) L051303.
- J. Bishop, et al., Nature Communication 13 (2022)

2151







54

# **Direct measurement of fusion with TPC**







#### Juan Zamora

#### **Direct 8B+40Ar fusion** Valdir Guimarães measurement Yurii Penionzhkevich Charge/pad 200 200150 150Y [mm] [mm] 4000 100 100 3000 1000 50 -100-501000 50 -100-500 100 X [mm] 50 150 200 250 300 100 X[mm] Y [mm]

### **Direct measurement of fusion with TPC**



Target	$R_B$	$V_B$	$\hbar\omega$	Ref.
	[MeV]	[MeV]	[MeV]	
<sup>28</sup> Si	8.15	11.28	3.59	[27]
<sup>40</sup> Ar	8.57	13.87	3.76	This work
<sup>58</sup> Ni	8.90	20.83	4.14	[51]



#### **Direct measurement of fusion with TPC** week ending 26 AUGUST 2011 PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS PRL 107, 092701 (2011) Near-Barrier Fusion of the <sup>8</sup>B + <sup>58</sup>Ni Proton-Halo System E.F. Aguilera,\* P. Amador-Valenzuela, E. Martinez-Quiroz, D. Lizcano, P. Rosales, H. García-Martínez, and A. Gómez-Camacho Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Nucleares, Apartado Postal 18-1027, DF-11801, México J.J. Kolata, A. Roberts, L.O. Lamm,<sup>†</sup> and G. Rogachev<sup>‡</sup> Fusion <sup>8</sup>B+<sup>28</sup>Si - INFN-Italy Physics Department, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana, 46556-5670, USA V. Guimarães (alpha multiplicity - model dependent Fusion <sup>8</sup>B+<sup>58</sup>Ni - ND - USA Fusion suppression above barrier ? (proton multiplicity - model dependent) Fusion enhancement below barrier ? 10 $[2E/(\hbar\omega R_b^2)]\sigma_{fus}$

0.1

0

PHYSICAL REVIEW C 93, 034613 (2016)

#### Above-barrier fusion enhancement of proton-halo systems

E. F. Aguilera,\* P. Amador-Valenzuela, E. Martinez-Quiroz, and J. Fernández-Arnáiz Departamento de Aceleradores, Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Nucleares, Apartado Postal 18-1027, Código Postal 11801 México, Distrito Federal, México

> J. J. Kolata Physics Department, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana 46556-5670, USA

V. Guimarães Instituto de Fisica, Universidade de São Paulo, P.O. Box 66318, 05389-970 São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil (Received 22 October 2015; revised manuscript received 19 February 2016; published 16 March 2016)

<sup>8</sup>B + <sup>28</sup>Si

 $F_{0}(E_{Red})$ 

4

3

2

 $E_{\text{Red}} = (E - V_{\text{b}})/\hbar\omega$ 











# **Tracking in TexAT**







α-cluster parity doublets in <sup>16</sup>O and <sup>20</sup>Ne





#### ... and now back to: A=9 T=3/2 iso-multiplet Where is the 2s1/2 shell?





#### Josh Hooker 2019 graduate





#### <sup>8</sup>B - cumulative tracks



-100

100

50











# IAS in <sup>9</sup>Be





#### References

- E. Koshchiy, GR, E. Pollacco, et al., NIM A 957 (2020) 163398 TexAT
- J. Hooker, GR, E. Koshchiy, et al., PRC 100, (2019) 054618 Structure of <sup>9</sup>C
- J. Hooker, GR, E. Koshchiy, et al., PLB 769 (2017) 62 Structure of <sup>10</sup>N
- C. Hunt, GR, S. Almaraz, et al., PRC 102 (2020) 014615 T=3/2 states in 9Be
- E. Uberseder, GR, V.Z. Goldberg, et al., PLB 754 (2016) Structure of <sup>9</sup>He
- S. Upadhyayula, GR, et al., PRC 101 (2020) 034604 Clustering in <sup>10</sup>Be
- J. Bishop, GR, S. Ahn, et al., NIM A 964 (2020) 163773 Hoyle decay
- J. Bishop, GR, S. Ahn, et al. PRC 102 (2020) 041303 (R) Hoyle decay
- H. Jayatissa, GR, et al., PLB 802 (2020) 135267 <sup>22</sup>Ne(α,γ) reaction rate
- S. Ota, G. Christian, et al., PLB 802 (2020) n/γ br. ratios for <sup>22</sup>Ne(α,γ)
- R. Linares, V. Guimaraes, GR, et al., PRC (2021) submitted <sup>10</sup>C+<sup>208</sup>Pb el.sc.
- J. Zamora, V. Guimaraes, GR, et al., PLB (2021) submitted <sup>8</sup>B+<sup>40</sup>Ar fusion
- J. Bishop, GR, et al., PRL (2021) submitted search for Efimov states in <sup>12</sup>C

#### **TexAT Utilizes GET Electronics**

#### 8 AsAd boards - 2048 channels 2 CoBos, 1 MUTANT GET is used to read out ALL channels microMegas (1024); Si - (256); CsI(TI) - (64)









#### Analysis Computing Infrastructure



- Using "Big Data" tools actively supported and developed by a very large community (but still open source!)
- + HDFS (Hadoop Distributed File System) for all data storage
  - Redundant, fault-tolerant, high-availability distributed file system
- Spark cluster engine handles parallel tasks
  - Spark + PyROOT gives parallel, data local, parallel processing of ROOT trees with TSelectors, similar to PROOF but more general with larger development base
  - Simple Python wrapper (less lines than a Condor script) allows easy batch processing (i.e. Geant4 applications)
- Entire compute/data node environment is contained in a Docker image and runs in a container
  - Setup of entire node after operating system install takes < 5 minutes</li>


## **TexAT designated Cluster architecture**



master users

Data never transferred to/from master, only results (histograms, of example) Data transfer between nodes minimized automatically by Spark software

# TexAT software suite flowchart





## Analysis Computing Infrastructure

Parallel Analysis Example:

~30 GByte data 230,000,000 events 1 Gbit network

### Case 1

- +1 node, 1 core
- All files looped with TChain

No data locality

### Case 2

- +4 nodes, 24 cores
- Each file processed as separate task
- Data locality preferred

 $\begin{array}{r} 870 \text{ seconds} \\ 0.27 \text{ Gbit/s} \end{array} \longrightarrow \begin{array}{r} 90\% \longrightarrow \begin{array}{r} 40 \text{ seconds} \\ 6.0 \text{ Gbit/s} \end{array}$ 

With existing 8 node / 120 cores cluster **260 TB** of data can be **ALL** analyzed in few **days** 

