Prospects for breakthroughs in understanding nuclei Witold Nazarewicz (FRIB/MSU) 26th International Nuclear Physics Conference, Adelaide, Australia 2016





Creating unfair advantage





The Nuclear Landscape and the Big Questions

- Where did the atoms and atomic nuclei come from?
- How are the nuclei of atoms made and organized?
- What are the fundamental particles and forces at work inside atomic nuclei?
- What are practical and scientific uses of nuclei?



Guiding principle: the scientific method...





Optimizing the cycle





MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

W. Nazarewicz, INPC 2016

Theory

Sociology of the field is changing: large multiinstitutional efforts involving strong coupling between physics, computer science, and applied math





Creating unfair advantage: the whole is greater than the sum of its parts

... and let us not forget about education and training!

TALENT: Training in Advanced Low Energy Nuclear Theory

Training the next generation of nuclear physicists







How are nuclei made?

Hot and dense quark-gluon matter

Hadron structure



Resolutior

Nuclear-Particle Physics



Nuclear structure Nuclear reactions New standard model

Weinberg's Third Law of Progress in Theoretical Physics:

The resolving power of a theoretical model should always be as low as reasonably possible for the question at hand



Linking few-body with many-body



UNIVERSITY

W. Nazarewicz, INPC 2016

Revision of nuclear structure textbook knowledge





ERIB

MICHIGAN STATE

UNIVERSITY

New shell closures at N = 32 & 34?



Revision of nuclear structure textbook knowledge



- ¹⁶O is a textbook doubly-magic nucleus
- ^{24,25,26}O: open quantum systems
- A dineutron in ²⁶O? The lifetime could be as large as 10⁻¹² s.
- Is (doubly-magic) ²⁸O unbound? If so, how much?



FRIB

MICHIGAN STATE

UNIVERSITY

Unification of structure and reactions





MICHIGAN STATE

W. Nazarewicz, INPC 2016 11

Large Amplitude Collective Motion

exceedingly difficult, many fundamental questions remain unsettled



UNIVERSITY

- Fusion **Fission**
- Coexistence phenomena



Quest for understanding the neutron-rich matter on Earth and in the Cosmos Data



MICHIGAN STATE

UNIVERSITY

ERIB



Radioactive ion hear

How can nuclei be exploited to reveal the fundamental symmetries of nature?

Current Ovββ predictions. Les process in the equations of motion, resulting in states configurations and their iterations. Usually, the *There is generally significant*



variation among different calculations of the nuclear matrix elements for a given isotope. For consideration of future experiments and their projected sensitivity it would be very desirable to reduce the uncertainty in these nuclear matrix elements." (Neutrinoless Double Beta Decay NSAC Report 2014)



Precision calculations of nuclear matrix elements based on accurate models of nuclear interactions and currents ($0\nu\beta\beta$, EDM, anapole...)

Uncertainty quantification

"Remember that all models are wrong; the practical question is *how wrong do they have to be to not be useful*" (E.P.

Box)

MICHIGAN STATE

UNIVERSITY

ERIB



- Regression analysis
- Bayesian inference
- Extrapolations
- Model mixing
- Information content of new measurements



In many cases, nuclear modeling MUST involve massive extrapolations...



FRIB

UNIVERSITY



The Future



"It is exceedingly difficult to make predictions, particularly about the future" (Niels Bohr)

Some Anticipated NS&R Greatest Science Hits: by the 28th INPC

- Accessing the neutron drip line up to Mg to test models of nuclear binding with a strong focus on long isotopic chains, in particular Z=²
 The existence (non-existence) of ²⁸O will be confirmed. Data on very neutron test ab-initio, DFT, and reaction models, and help quantifying u
- We will make first direct ch superheavy elements with
- Significant regions of the decay-property measure aspects of r-process mod
- We will improve limits on the measurement of the size of polarizability in neutron-rich restant
- We will compute nuclear matrix elements theoretical uncertainties.

nical characterization of will be discovered.

first time for mass and n to test many critical

nd three-nucleon forces from and electric dipole

cay in complex nuclei and quantify

Some Anticipated NS&R Greatest Science Hits: by the 30th INPC

- Delineation of the neutron drip line up to Zr (A=120) to test models of nuclear binding. Key
 isotopic chains will be measured from pressure to neutron drip-line
- Neutron pairing will be explored
- We will know whether there
- Key regions of the r-proce measurements. In particu region of N=126.
- A new region of nuclear taccessible up to ¹⁰⁰Sn. Ne decays, the role of proton-

MICHIGAN STATE

UNIVERSITY

 Key light-ion fusion reactions, Spectroscopic-quality nuclear en and optimized to data on nuclei with observations – will be developed. nuclei with extreme neutron skins.

ng-lived superheavy nuclei.

mass and decay-property nd ⁷⁸Ni, ¹³²Sn, and in the

on drip-line, will become perallowed Gamow-Teller t the nuclear surface.

will be computed ab-initio. Joted in inter-nucleon interactions Jos, ab-initio theories, and neutron star

Looking into the crystal ball: the 32nd INPC and beyond

- We will understand the QCD origin of nuclear forces. We will develop the predictive abinitio description of light and medium-mass nuclei and their reactions, including electroweak probes. We will construct the spectroscopic-quality energy density functional that will extrapolate in mass, isospin, and angular momentum. We will develop the comprehensive reaction theory consistent with nuclear structure. We will have a comprehensive description of weak transitions in nuclei and utilize them in multi-dimensional stellar evolution simulations.
- We will know if very long-lived superheavy elements exist in Gature. We will understand the mechanism of clustering and other aspects of open Gany-body systems. We will know whether proton-neutron superfluidity exists in Gnite nuclei. We will know the nuclear equation of state for normal and neutron matter from 0.1 to twice the saturation density.
- We will have a quantitative microscopic model of fission that withprovide the missing data for nuclear security, astrophysics, and energy research. We will predict important fusion reaction rates important for fusion research and nuclear forensics. We will improve the sensitivity of EDM searches in atoms by one to two orders of magnitude over current limits.



Nuclei Matter

Our current understanding of nuclei has benefited from technological improvements in experimental equipment and accelerators that have expanded the range of available isotopes and allowed individual experiments to be performed with only a small number of atoms. Concurrent advances in theoretical approaches and computational science have led to a more detailed understanding and pointed toward which nuclei and what phenomena to study, creating conditions for major advances.

Profound intersections

- Astrophysics
- Fundamental Symmetries
- Complex systems
- Computing

MICHIGAN STATE

UNIVERSITY

ERIB

How can the knowledge and technological progress provided by nuclear physics best be used to benefit society?

- Energy (fission, reactions, decays...)
- Security (stewardship, forensics, detection...)
- Isotopes (medicine, industry, defense, applied research...)
- Industry (radiation, ion implantation...)

THE FUTURE IS EXCITING Backup





Rooting nuclei in QCD



Nuclear force/phase shifts from lattice QCD PRL 111, 112503 (2013); PRD 93, 114511 (2016)



LQCD predictions for magnetic moments A<4 PRL113, 252001 (2014)

MICHIGAN STATE

UNIVERSITY

FRIB



"The neutron–proton mass difference, one of the most consequential parameters of physics, has now been calculated from fundamental theories. This landmark calculation portends revolutionary progress in nuclear physics." Wilczek, Nature 520, 303 (2015)

High Performance Computing and Nuclear Theory: Towards the Exascale

"High performance computing provides answers to questions that neither experiment nor analytic theory can address; hence, it becomes a third leg supporting the field of nuclear physics." (NAS Decadal Study Report)

Towards predictive capability...



exp

The frontier: calcium isotopes

Unexpectedly large charge radii of neutronrich calcium isotopes *Nature Physics* **12**, 594 (2016)





Linking ab-initio with DFT

MICHIGAN STATE

UNIVERSITY

ERIB







How can nuclei be exploited to reveal the fundamental symmetries of nature?

Atomic electric dipole moment: the violation of CP-symmetry is responsible for the fact that the Universe is dominated by matter over anti-matter

- Closely spaced parity doublet gives rise to enhanced electric dipole moment
- Large intrinsic Schiff moment
 - ¹⁹⁹Hg (Seattle, 1980's present)
 - ²²⁵Ra (ANL, KVI)
 PRL 114, 233002 (2015) d<5x10⁻²² e cm
 - o ²²³Rn at TRIUMF (E929)
 - o **FRIB**

MICHIGAN STATE

UNIVERSITY

- ²³⁸U beam, beam dump recovery: ²²⁵Ra: 6x10⁹/s,
 ²²³Rn: 8x10⁷/s
- ²³²Th beam: ²²⁵Ra: 5x10¹⁰/s, ²²³Rn: 1x10⁹/s
- 10¹²/s w ISOL target FRIB upgrade





Precision calculations of nuclear matrix elements based on accurate models of nuclear interactions and currents (EDM, $0\nu\beta\beta$)

Weinberg's Laws of Progress in Theoretical Physics From: "Asymptotic Realms of Physics" (ed. by Guth, Huang, Jaffe, MIT Press, 1983)

First Law: "The conservation of Information" (You will get nowhere by churning equations)

Second Law: "Do not trust arguments based on the lowest order of perturbation theory"

Third Law: "You may use any degrees of freedom you like to describe a physical system, but if you use the wrong ones, you'll be sorry!"



Patient: Doctor, doctor, it hurts when I do this! Doctor: Then don't do that.

Profound intersections



Cosmology



Some nuclei are more important than others

Over the last decade, tremendous progress has been made in techniques to produce and describe *designer nuclei*, rare atomic nuclei with characteristics adjusted to specific research needs and applications



J. Phys. G 43, 044002 (2016)

FRIB

UNIVERSITY

CONCEPT PREDICTION FABRICATION