



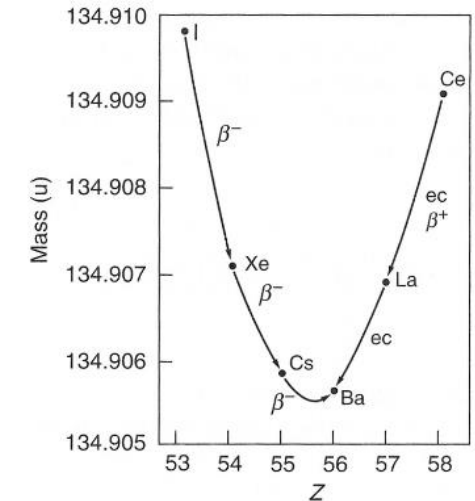
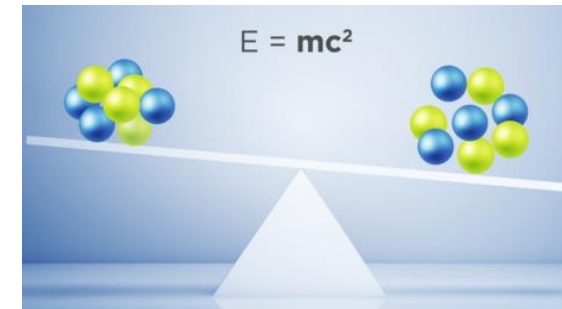
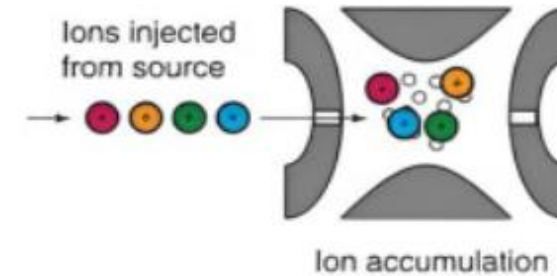
# Experiments with thermalized relativistic beams at GSI and FAIR

**Timo Dickel**  
GSI Darmstadt, JLU Gießen

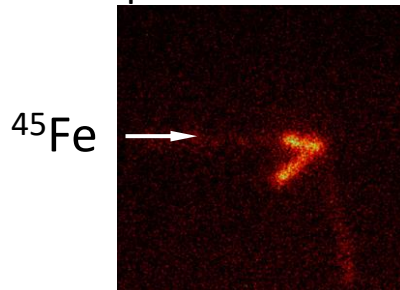


# Why thermalizing relativistic beams?

- Long observation times enable
  - Precision studies
  - Spontaneous decay studies
  - Measurement of ground state properties
  - ...
- Wide variety of experimental techniques
  - Ion trapping
  - Mass Spectrometry
    - Universal and unambiguous identification by mass
  - Laser spectroscopy
  - Background-free decay spectroscopy
  - Rare decay searches



Two proton radioactivity



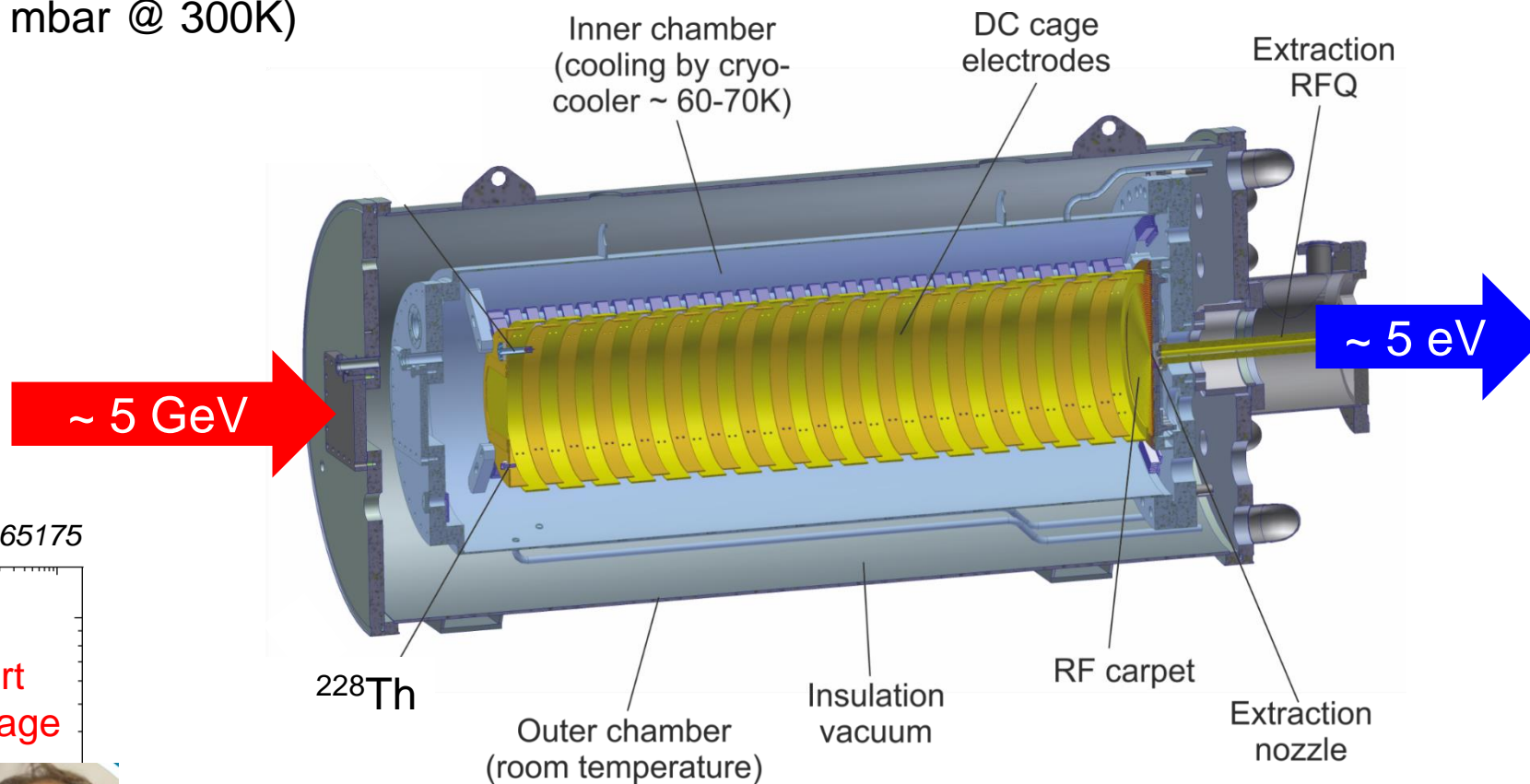
M. Pfützner

## Applications

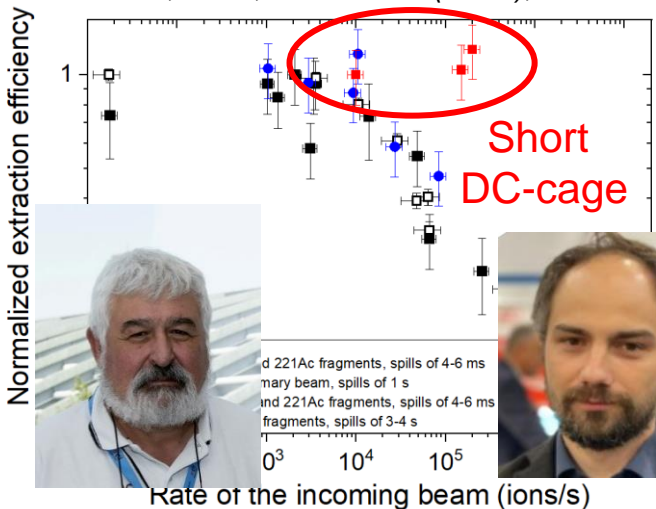
- Radioactive molecules
- Fundamental symmetries and interactions
- ...

# How we thermalize relativistic beams?

- Large beam size (200x100mm<sup>2</sup>)
- First cryogenic stopping cell
- Highest density (700 mbar @ 300K)



J.W. Zhao, et al., NIM B 547 (2024), 165175



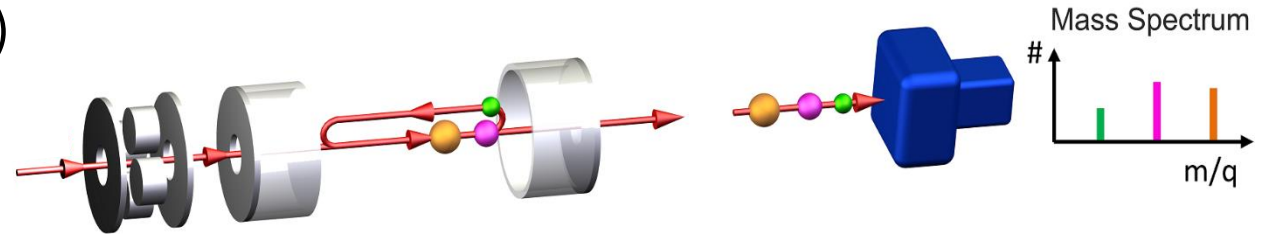
M. Ranjan et al., Europhys. Lett. 96 (2011) 52001  
 S. Purushothaman et al., EPL 104 (2013) 42001  
 M. Ranjan et al., NIM A 770 (2015) 87  
 M.P. Reiter et al., NIM B 376 (2016) 240

# Why multiple-reflection time-of-flight mass spectrometry?

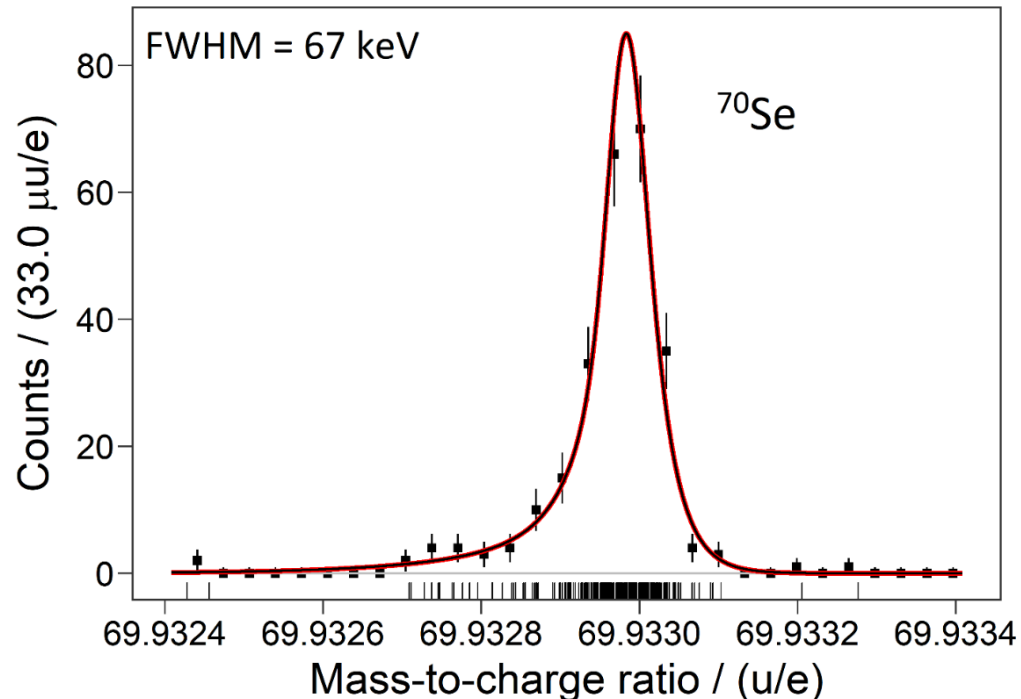
- Higher precision
- Faster measurement
- Higher sensitivity
- Higher rate capability

## Enables high performance

- Fast → access to very short-lived ions ( $T_{1/2} \sim \text{ms}$ )
- Sensitive, broadband, non-scanning  
→ efficient, access to rare ions
- High mass resolving power and accuracy



H. Wollnik et al., Int. J. Mass Spectrom. Ion Processes 96 (1990) 267



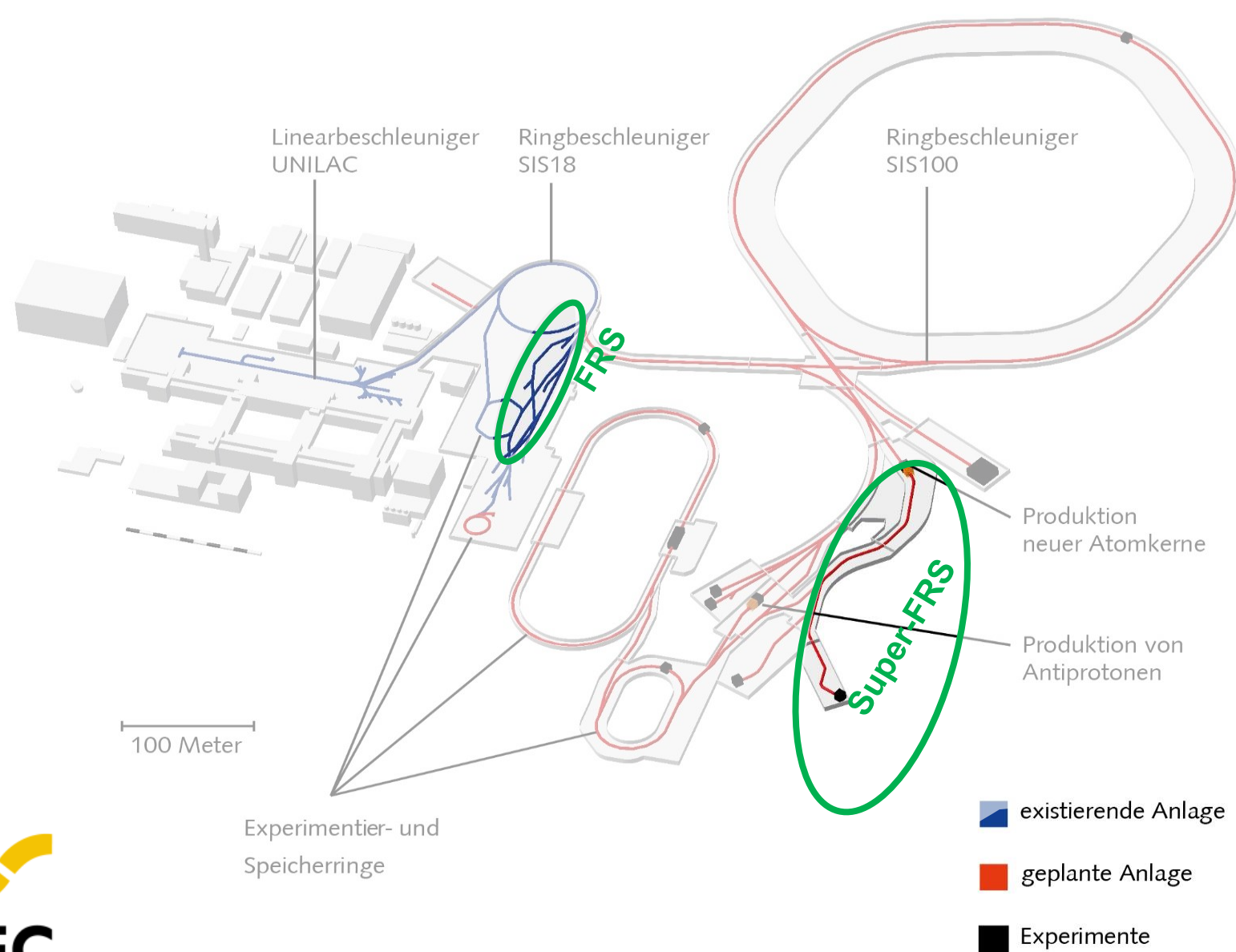
- World record:
  - Mass accuracy down to  $1.7 \cdot 10^{-8}$
  - **MRP of 1,000,000 at total TOF of ~23 ms**

### $^{70}\text{Se}$ :

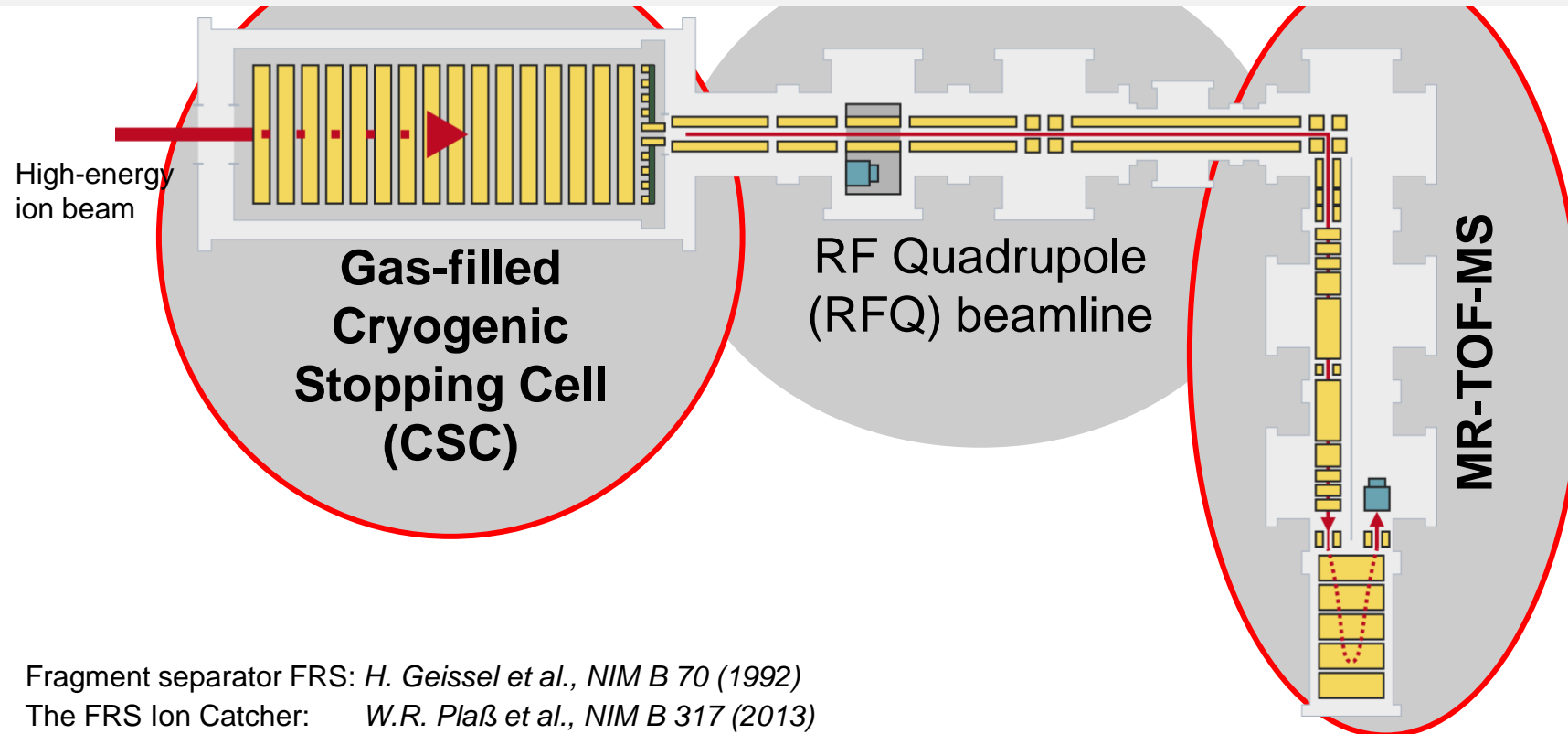
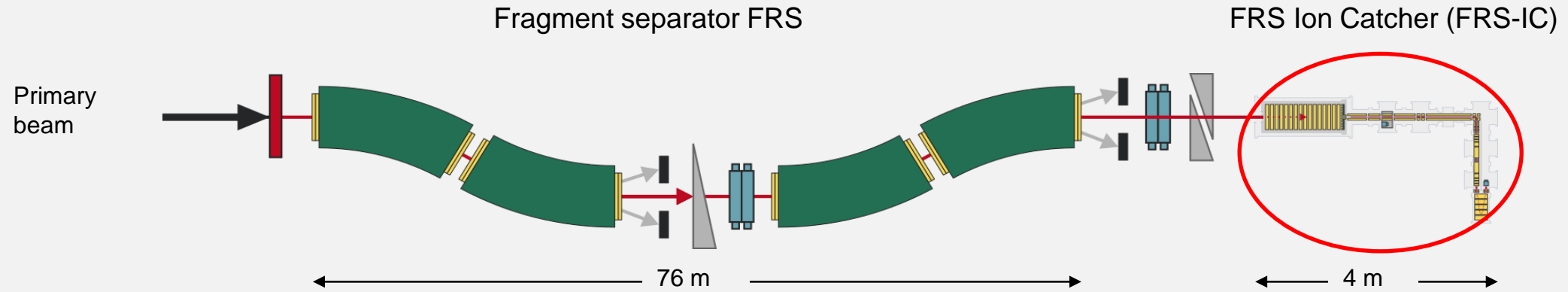
- 485 events collected
- Mass uncertainty **2.6 keV**  
( $\delta m/m = 4.0 \times 10^{-8}$ )

I. Mardor et al., PRC 103, 034319 (2021)

# The FRS and Super-FRS Ion Catcher at GSI/FAIR



# The FRS Ion Catcher at GSI



Fragment separator FRS: *H. Geissel et al., NIM B 70 (1992)*

The FRS Ion Catcher: *W.R. Plaß et al., NIM B 317 (2013)*

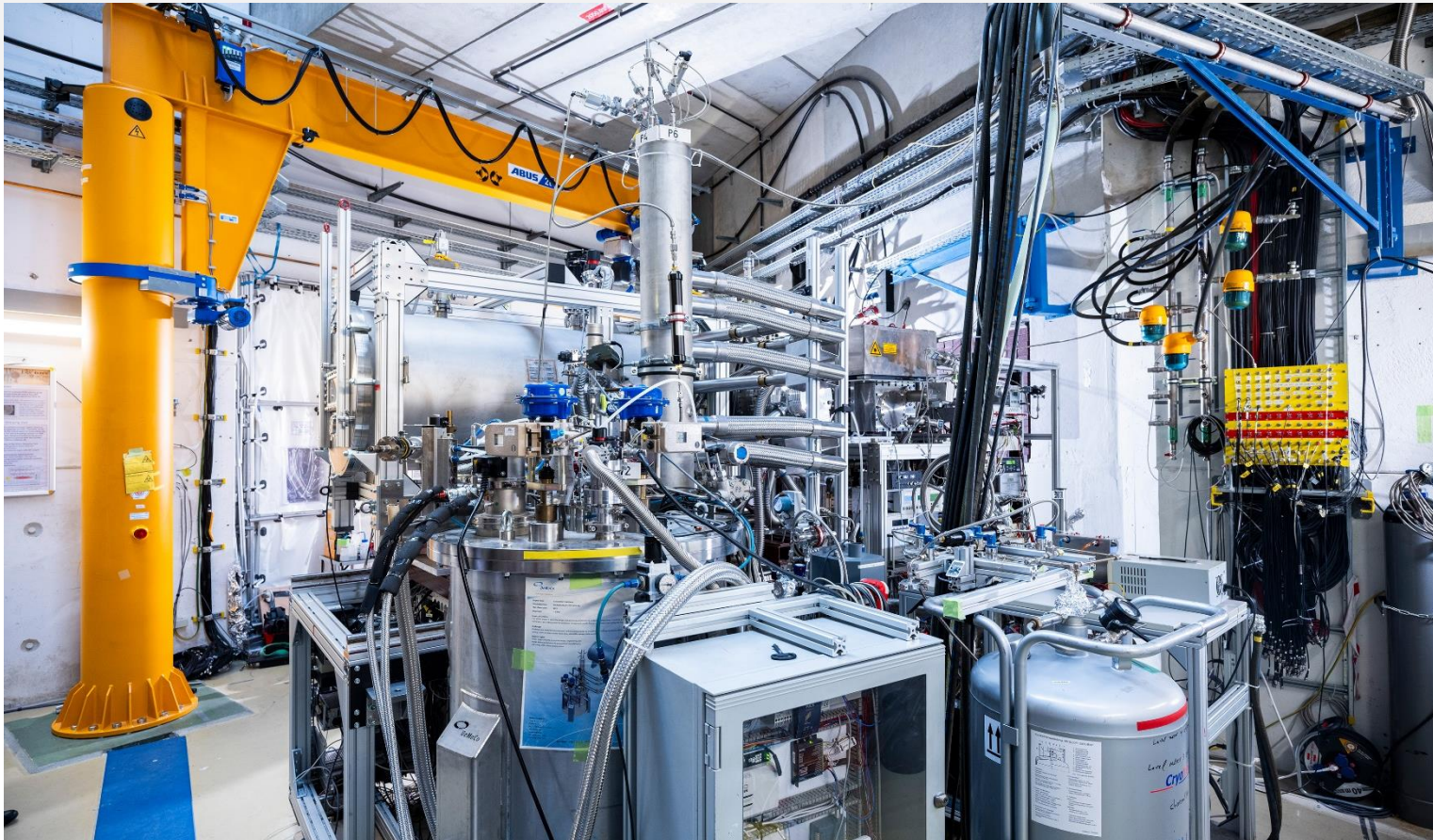
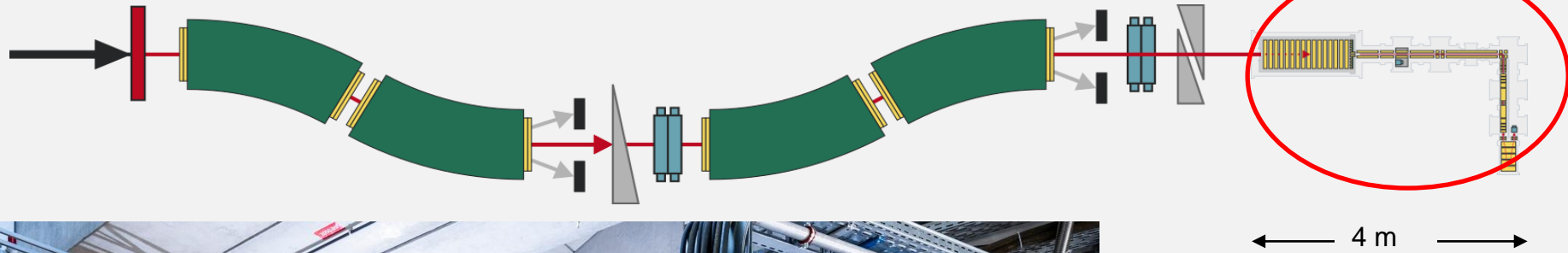


# The FRS Ion Catcher at GSI

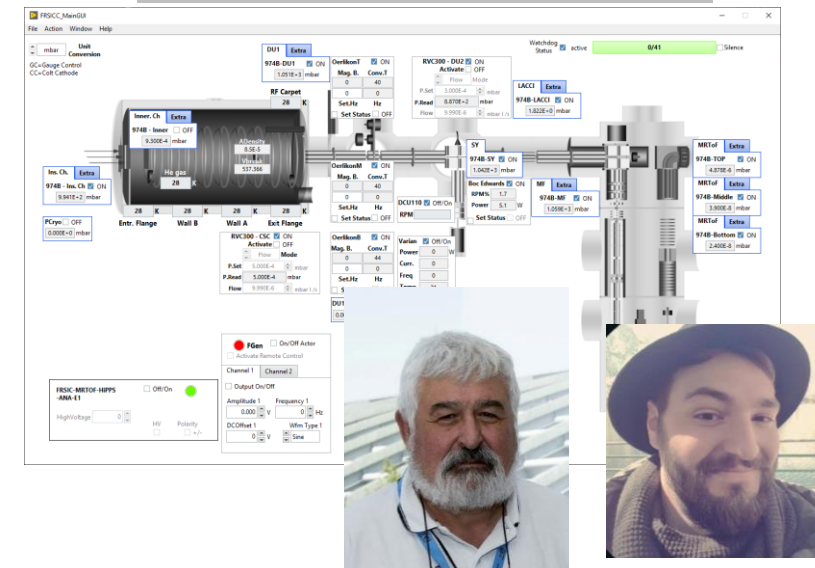
Fragment separator FRS

FRS Ion Catcher (FRS-IC)

Primary beam



Slow-Control

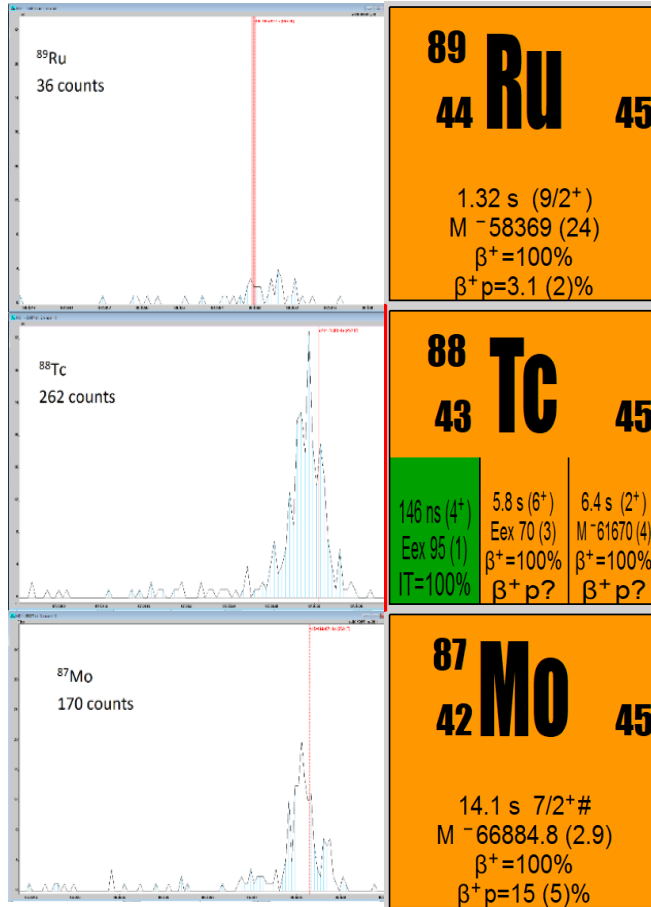


A. N. State et al., NIMA 1034, 166772 (2022)

# FRS and FRS Ion Catcher: Efficient measurement schemes

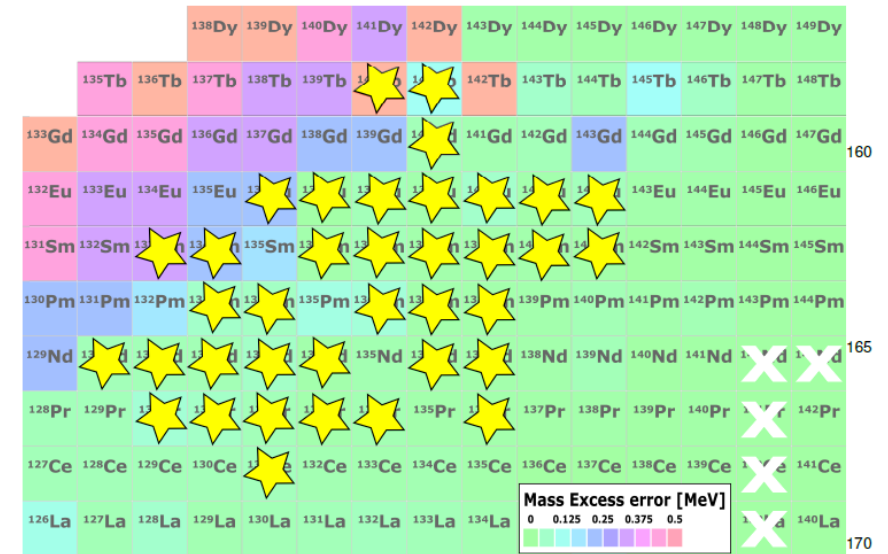
Energy bunching mode  
+ optimize beam energy

max. stopping efficiency for single isotopes



Three isotones in a single setting

Mean Range Bunching (MRB)  
**Simultaneous stopping**  
**of many isotopes**  
 (at slightly reduced efficiency for single isotopes)



**35 nuclides in one(!)**  
**FRS / MR-TOF-MS setting**

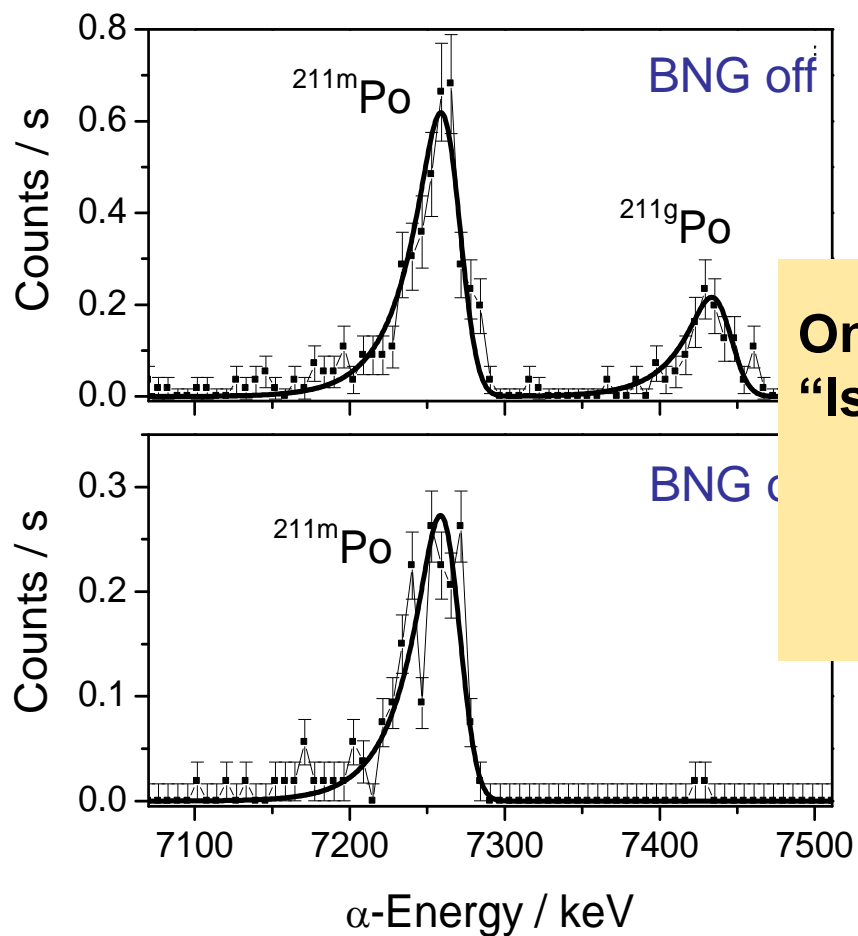
**Broadband mass measurements**  
**→ mapping the mass surface**

T. Dickel et al., NIM B 541 (2023) 275-278



# Separation of isomers

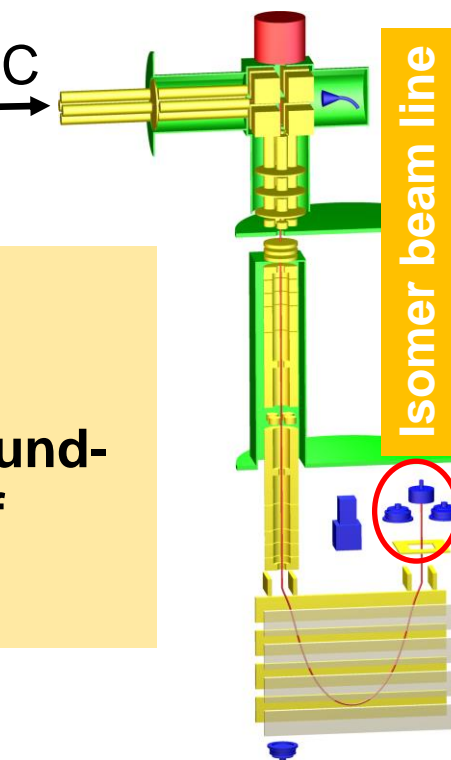
First spatial separation of ground state and isomeric state in an MR-TOF-MS



Ions from the CSC

Ongoing project to implement an  
“Isomer beam line”:

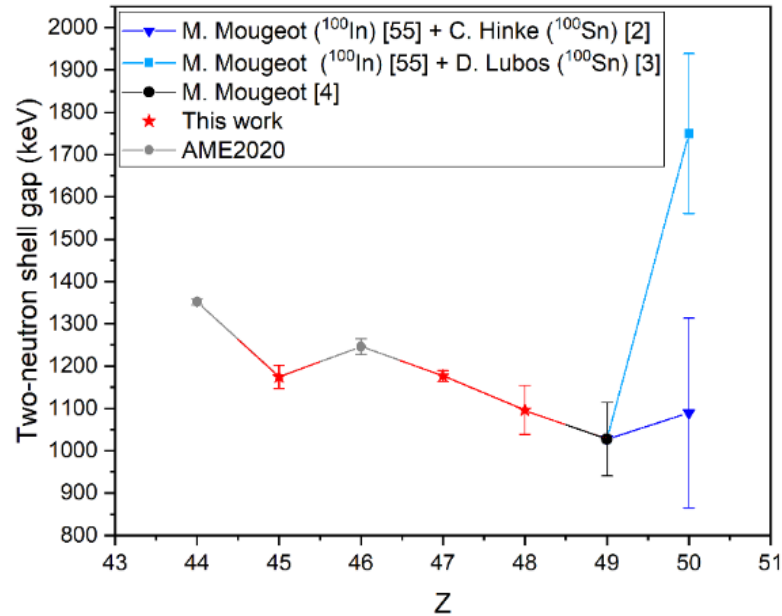
→ Enable dedicated, background-free decay spectroscopy of isomeric states



Separation using the Bradbury-Nielsen gate, measurement using the Si detector

## Shell Gap and Gamov-Teller Strength at $N=50$ and the puzzle of $^{100}\text{Sn}$ mass

### $N+2$ two-neutron shell gap at $N=50$

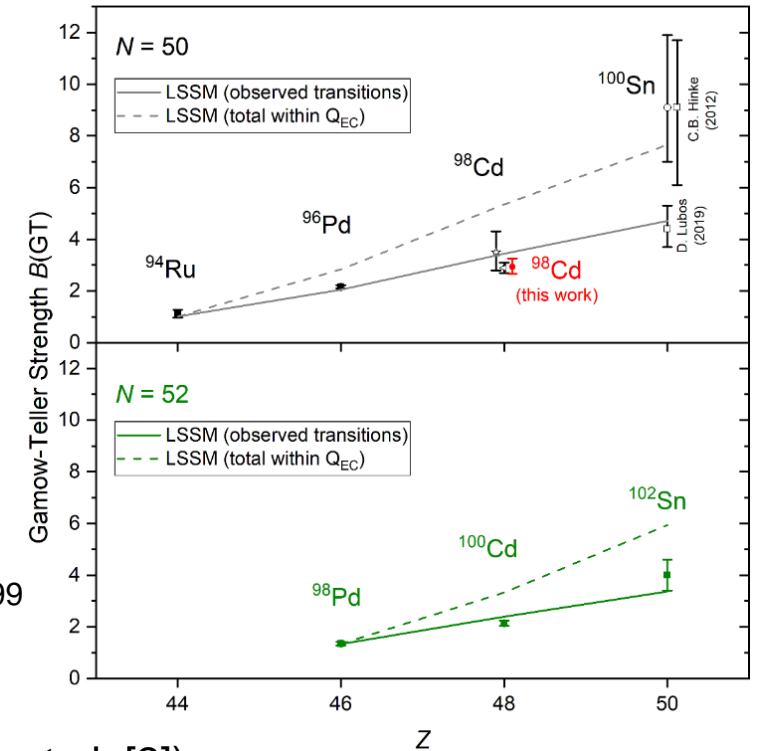


A. Mollaebrahimi *et al.*,  
*Phys. Lett. B* 839 (2023) 137833



- [1] C.Hinke *et al.*, Nature **486** (2012) 341
- [2] D.Lubos *et al.*, PRL **122** (2019) 222502
- [3] M.Mougeot *et al.*, Nature Phys. **17** (2021) 1099

### Gamov-Teller Strength at $N=50, 52$



### $^{100}\text{Sn}$ mass:

New results on discrepancy of  $^{100}\text{Sn}$   $Q_{EC}$  values (Hinke *et al.* [1] and Lubos *et al.* [2])

- In recent work Mougeot *et al.* [3] → value of Hinke *et al.* is favored

#### • This work:

Evolution of two-neutron shell gap at  $N=50$ : Value of Hinke *et al.* [1] is favored.

Evolution of Gamov-Teller Strength at  $N=50$ : Value of Lubos *et al.* [2] is favored.

→ **Overall situation unclear, further experiments required**

$^{99}\text{Sn}$ $\beta^+$	$^{100}\text{Sn}$ $\beta^+$	$^{101}\text{Sn}$ $\beta^+$
$^{98}\text{In}$ $\beta^+$	$^{99}\text{In}$ $\beta^+$	$^{100}\text{In}$ $\beta^+$

# $^{252}\text{Cf}$ - Broadband mass and yield measurements

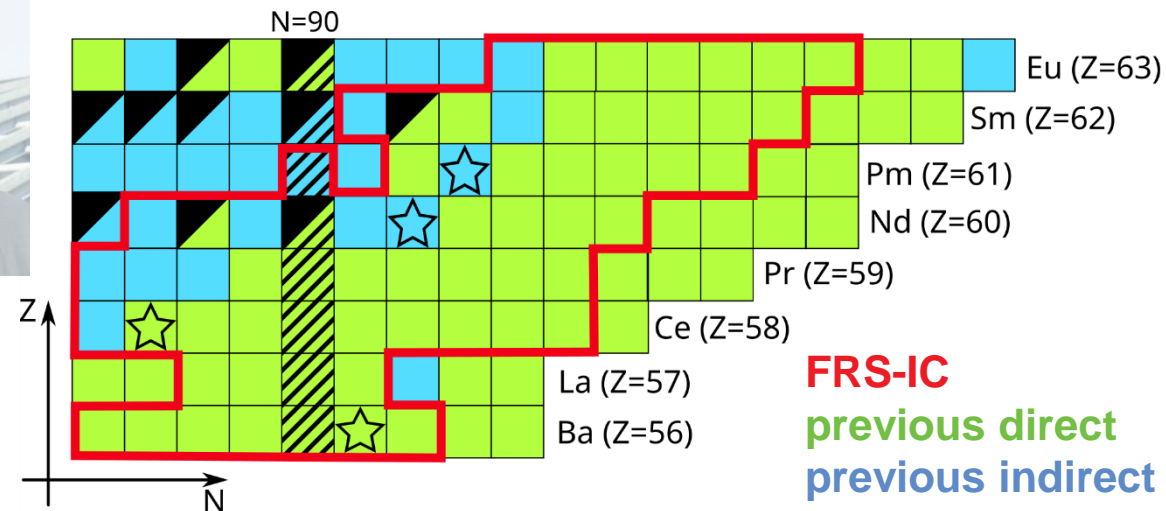
## Broadband mass measurements:

Offline experiment with  $^{252}\text{Cf}$  (20kBq,  $< \mu\text{Cu}$ ):

- first time simultaneous direct measurement of 64 masses,  
**50 in a single setting**,  
 14 first direct  
 4 improved accuracy

A. Spataru et al., *Bulgarian Journal of Physics* vol. 48 (2021) 535

A. Spataru et al., *Phys. Scr.* 99 (2024) 075305



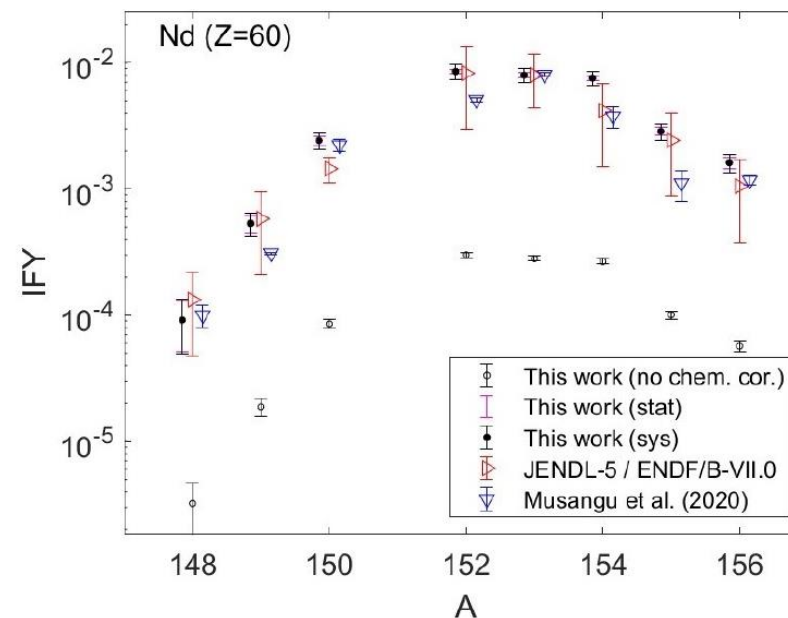
## Yield / cross section measurements:

Developed method for IFY measurement  
 Large chemical efficiency  $C(Z)$

$$\sum IFY(N, Z)_{exp}^{N+Z=A} \cdot C(Z) = \text{frac}(FY_{lit}(A)) \cdot FY_{lit}(A)$$

I. Mardor et al., *EPJ Web of Conferences* 239 (2020)

Y. Waschitz et al., *EPJ Web of Conferences* 284 (2023)

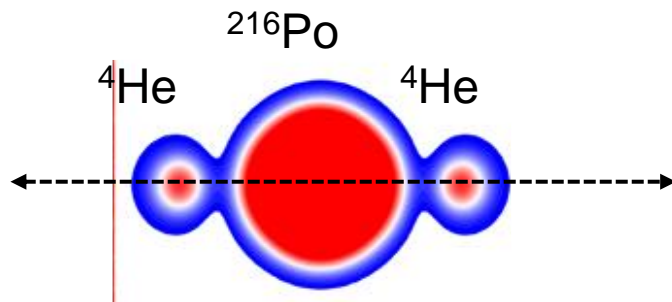




# Search for new radioactive decay modes

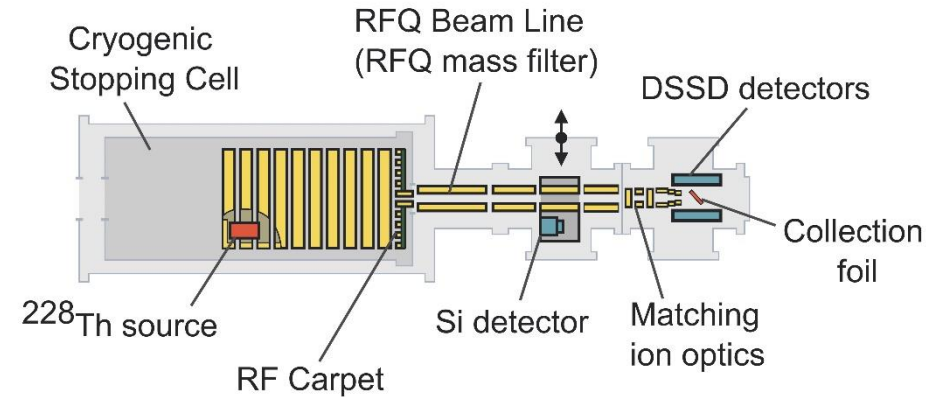
## Double $\alpha$ -decay

- Predicted by theory
- Experimentally not observed yet
- Challenge: expected branching ratio  $\sim 10^{-8}$

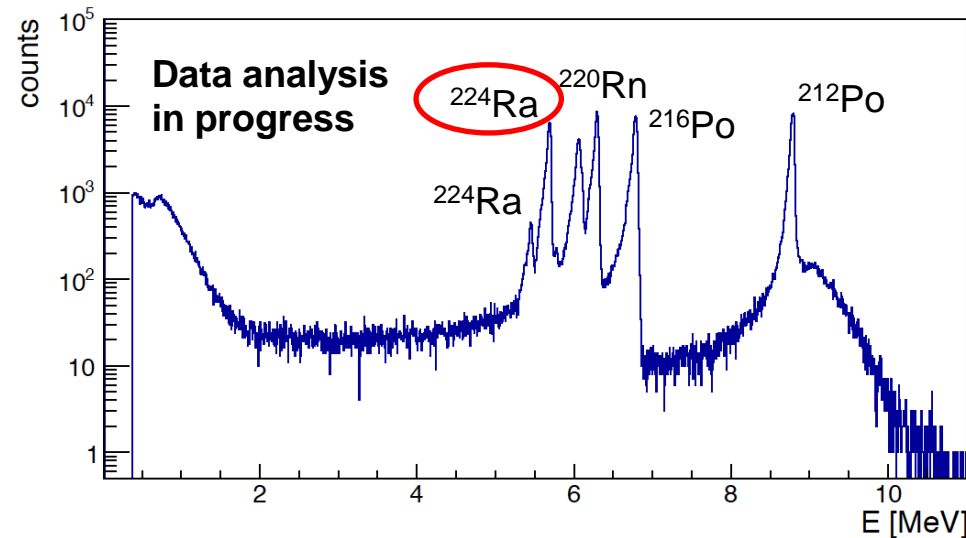


Mercier et al., PRL 127, 012501 (2021)

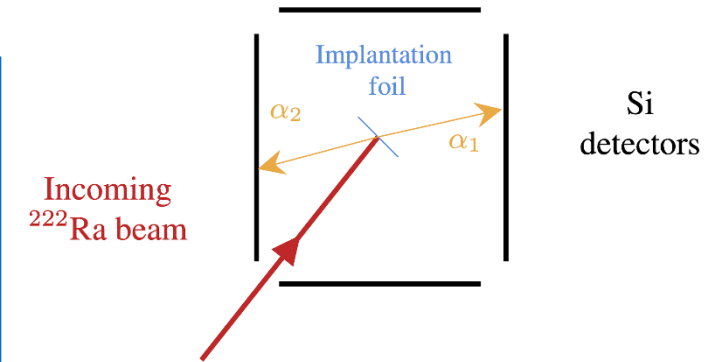
## FRS Ion Catcher



**4 months** of continuous data taking (Feb. – Jul. 2022)



L. Varga et al., NIM A 1063 (2024) 169252



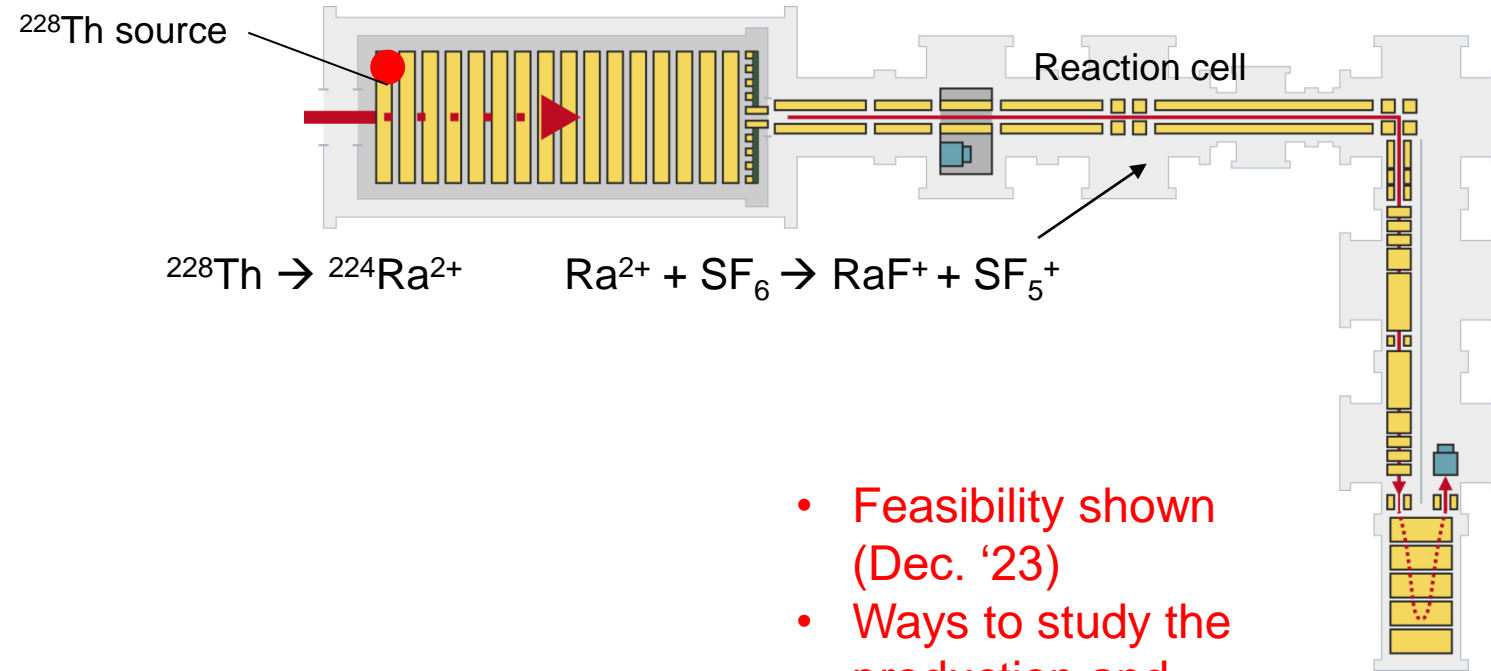
**1 week** experiment (June 2023)

Data analysis in progress

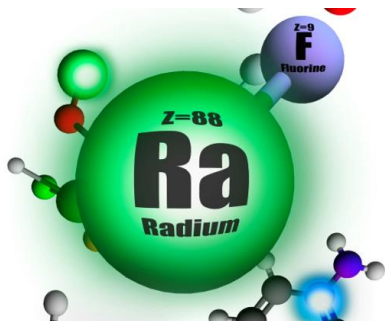
Joined and complementary program focused on "online" isotopes

# Radioactive molecules

- Molecules are interesting laboratories to probe fundamental physics, e.g. electric dipole moment of the electron (eEDM)
- Radioactive molecules with heavy and deformed nuclei, like RaF, provide superior sensitivity for eEDM



- Feasibility shown (Dec. '23)
- Ways to study the production and properties of RM were established
- More to come...



## Collaborators



M. P. Reiter

Philipps



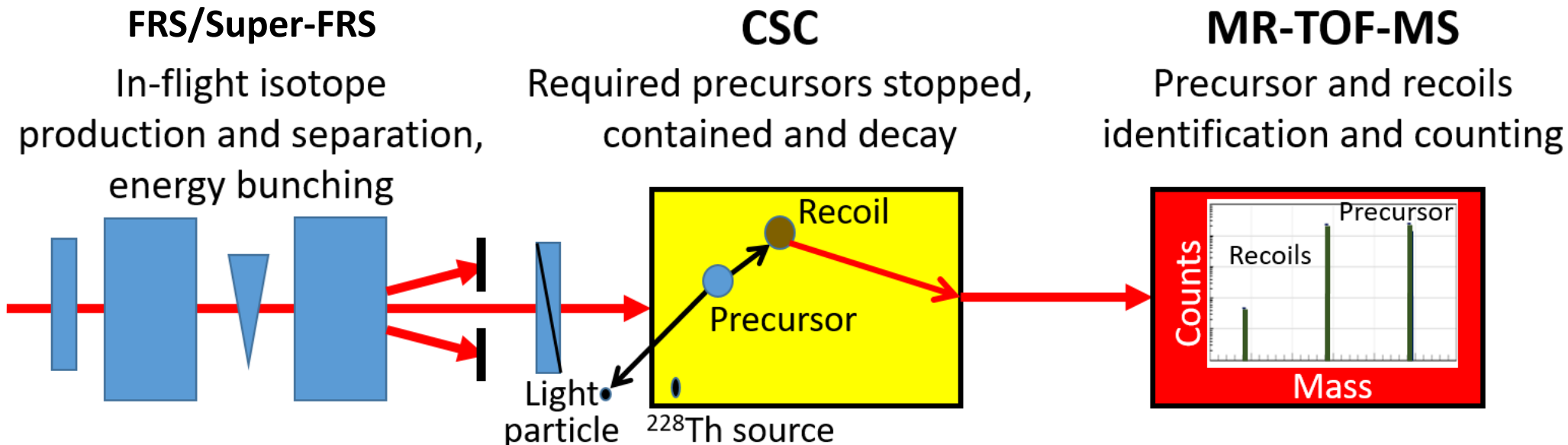
Universität  
Marburg

R. Berger  
(theoretical chemistry)

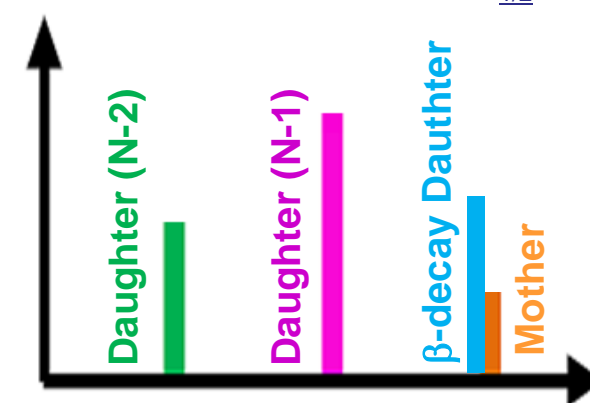
# Future nuclear astrophysics experiments: beta-delayed neutron emission

**Challenge: Detect neutrons**

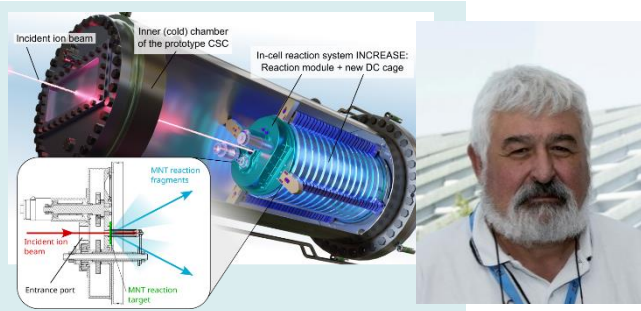
**Solution: Measure mass change instead**



After containment of  $\sim 2t_{1/2}$

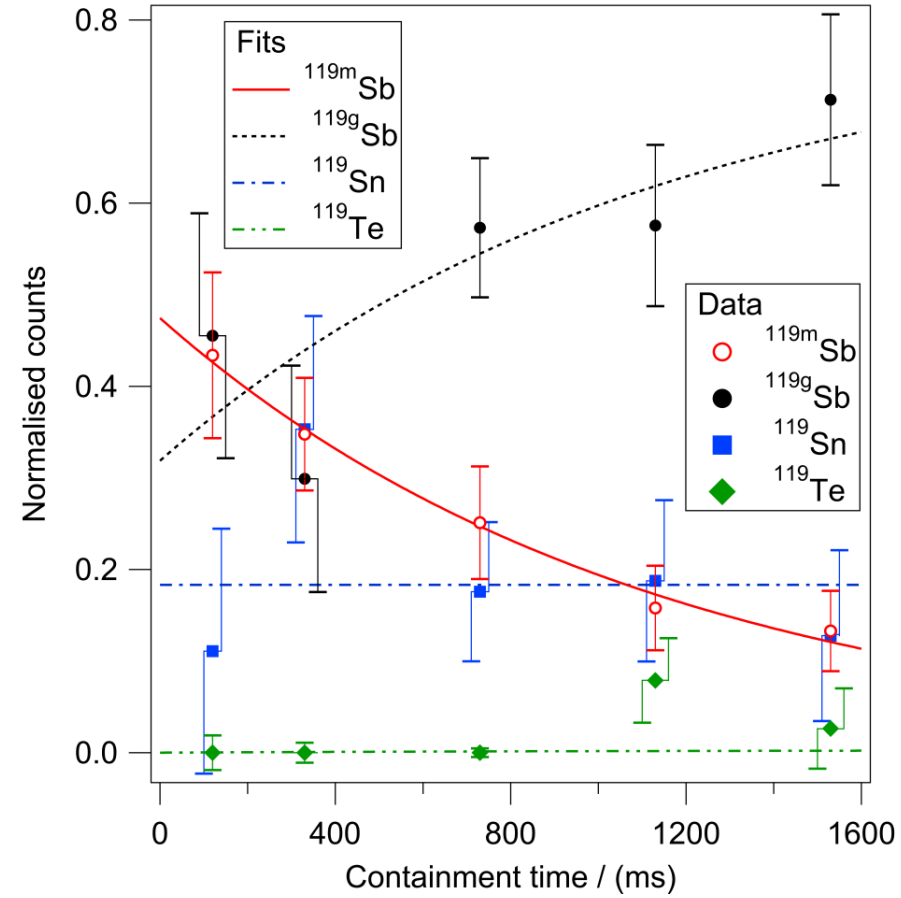
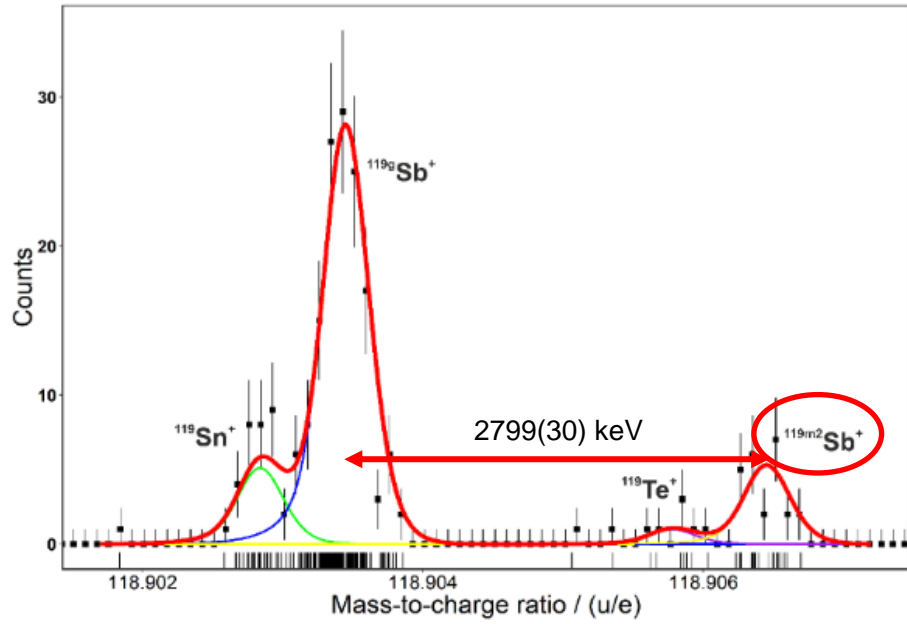


**Stopping cell**  
**→ Active Target**  
See P. Constantin





# Proof-of-concept: Novel method for half-lives and branching ratios (e.g., $P_{xn}$ )



Fits based on solution of radioactive decay laws



## Measured branching

Isomer Transition	$\beta^-$	$\beta^+$
1	0	0

## Half-life

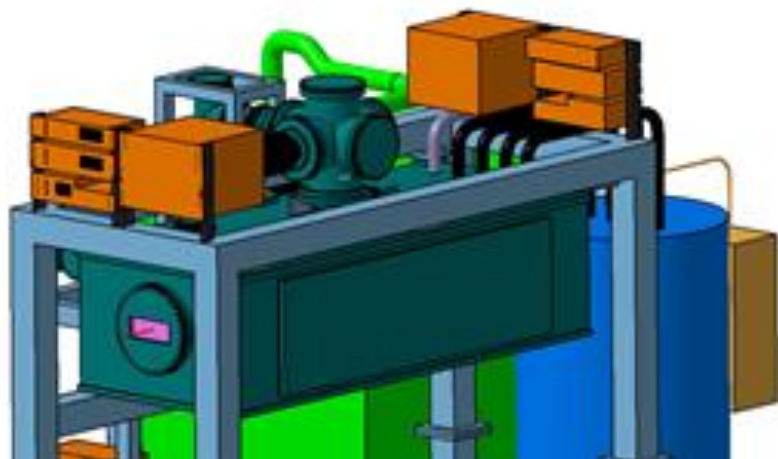
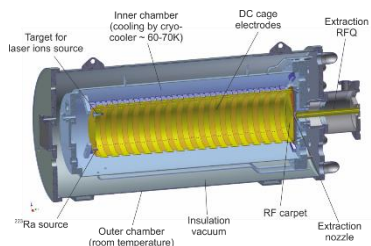
Measured value	Literature value
$776 \pm 181$ ms	$850 \pm 90$ ms

# Outlook – Evolution from FRS to Super-FRS CSC

From FRS-Ion CSC

to

Super-FRS Ion CSC



T. Dickel et al., NIM B 317 (2016) 216-220

- More efficient → Higher sensitivity
- Faster → Access to shorter lived nuclei
- Higher rate capability → New class of experiments

**New scientific opportunities:**

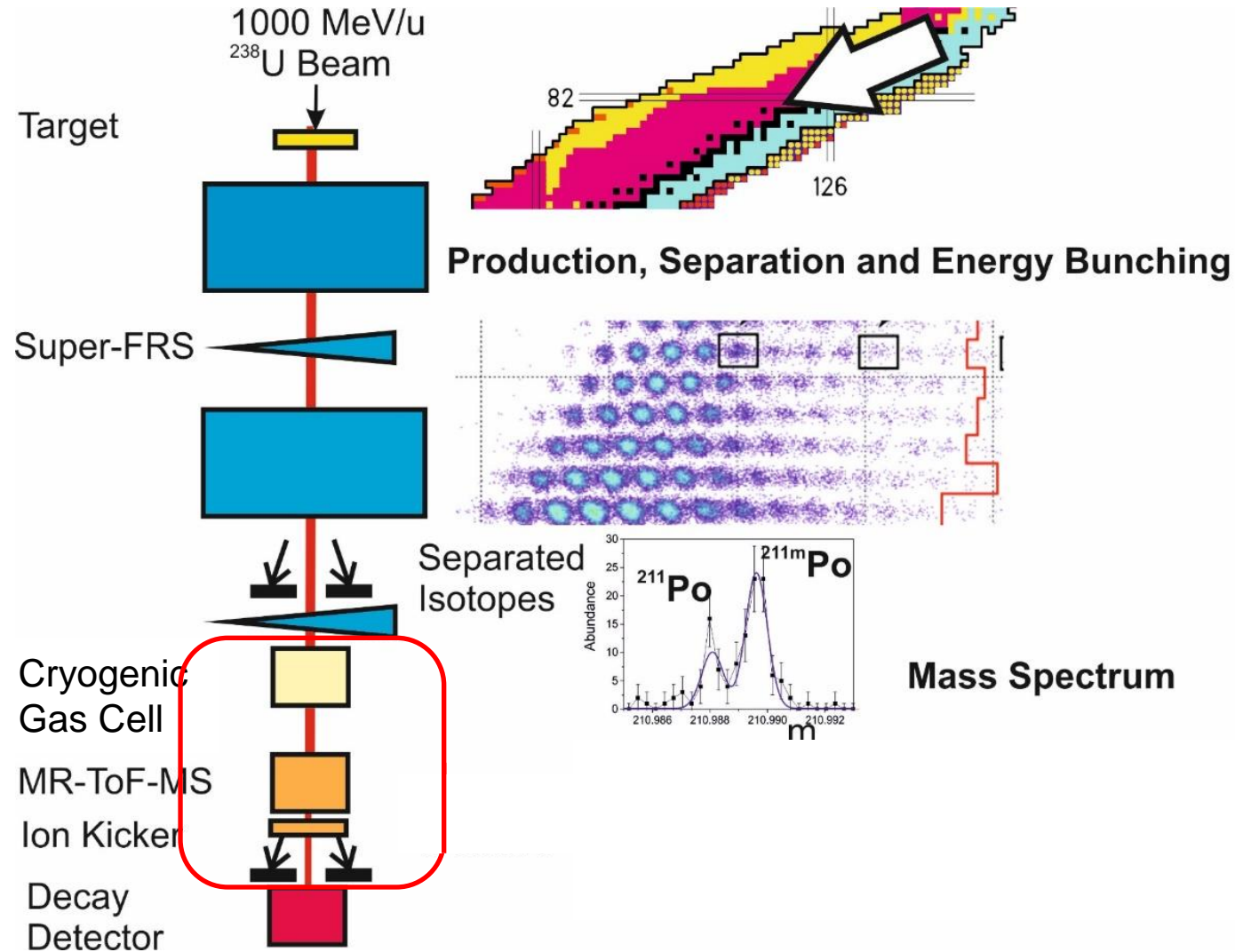
- $\beta$ -delayed neutron emission (one of the first experiments at the Super-FRS)
- MNT reactions with secondary beams
- Mass measurements of more exotic species
- and more...

Same technology used in other projects:

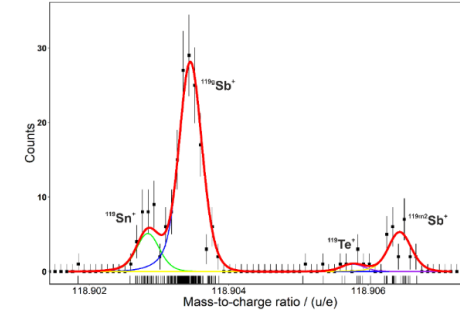
- Photofission @ ELI-NP, Romania
- Neutron-induced fission @ Soreq, Israel



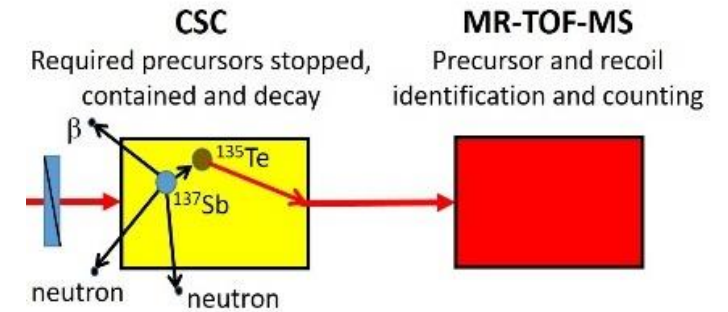
# Summary



## Direct mass measurements



## Measurement of Pn values from beta-delayed neutron emission



## Program without relativistic beams



# Acknowledgements



## Super-FRS Experiment Collaboration



## FRS Ion Catcher Collaboration



FRS



D. Amanbayev, B. Ashrafkhani, O. Aviv, S. Ayet San Andrés, J. Äystö, S. Bagchi, D.L. Balabanski, S. Beck, O. Beliuskina, J. Bergmann, A. Blazhev, Z. Brencic, S. Cannarozzo, O. Charviakova, P. Constantin, D. Curien, I. Dedes, M. Dehghan, T. Dickel, F. Didierjean, G. Duchene, J. Dudek, T. Eronen, T. Fowler-Davis, M. Friedman, Z. Gao, Z. Ge, H. Geissel, S. Glöckner, M. Górski, T. Grahn, F. Greiner, L. Gröf, M. Gupta, E. Haettner, M. Harakeh, C. Hornung, Y. Ito, A. Jaries, A. Jokinen, B. Kaizer, N. Kalantar-Nayestanaki, A. Kankainen, D. Kar, A. Karpov, Y. Kehat, D. Kostyleva, G. Kripkó-Koncz, D. Kumar, K. Mahajan, I. Mardor, A.A. Mehmandoost-Khajeh-Dad, N. Minkov, A. Mollaebrahimi, I. Moore, D. Morrissey, I. Mukha, M. Narang, D. Nichita, Z. Patyk, H. Penttilä, A. Perry, S. Pietri, A. Pikhtev, W.R. Plaß, I. Pohjalainen, S. Pomp, R.K. Prajapat, S. Purushothaman, M.P. Reiter, M. Reponen, S. Rinta-Antila, H. Rösch, A. Rotaru, J. Ruotsalainen, N. Saadon, C. Scheidenberger, P. Schury, A. Shryer, M. Simonov, S.K. Singh, A. Solders, A. Spataru, A. State, Y. Tanaka, P. Thirolf, N. Tortorelli, E. Vardaci, L. Varga, M. Vencelj, V. Virtanen, M. Wada, H. Weick, L. Welde, M. Wieser, M. Will, H. Wilsenach, M.I. Yavor, J. Yu, A. Zadornaya, J. Zhao



The results presented here are based on the experiment 117, that was performed at the FRS at the GSI Helmholtzzentrum für Schwerionenforschung, Darmstadt (Germany) in the context of FAIR Phase-0

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