



Proposal to the ISOLDE and Neutron Time-of-Flight Committee

Probing the structure of yrast states in even-even $^{214,216,218}\text{Po}$ through fast-timing measurements following the β -decay of $^{214,216,218}\text{Bi}$

Spokespersons:

R. Lica, *IFIN-HH (RO)*

A.N. Andreyev, *University of York (UK)*



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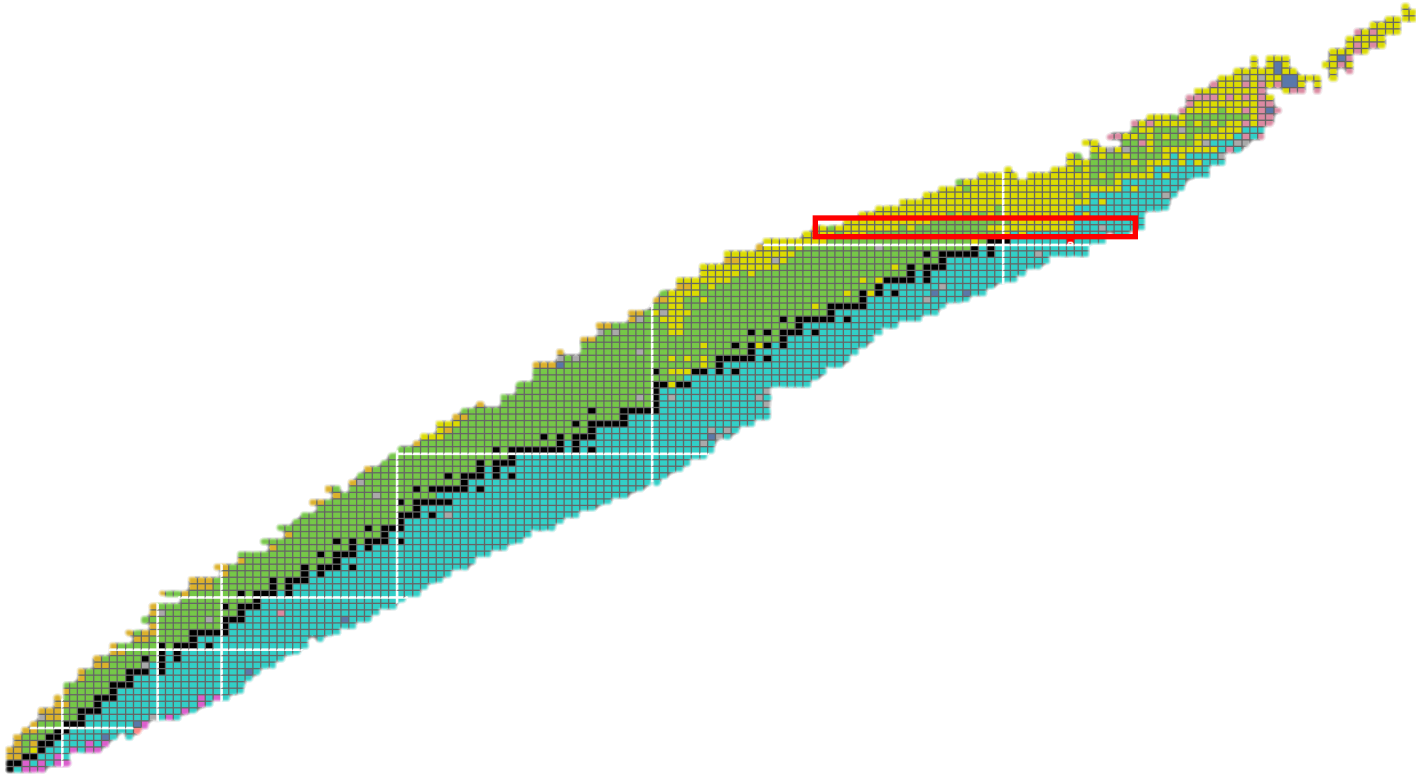
- Physics motivation
 - Previous studies of isomeric states/seniority scheme in even-even Po
 - Recent shell-model calculations
 - β -decay studies of $^{214,216,218}\text{Bi}$ at ISOLDE – need for fast-timing
- Experimental description
 - Beam production
 - Fast-timing measurements at the ISOLDE Decay Station
 - Rate estimations
- Beamtime request

Physics motivation

- Po isotopes

→ text-book example for studying the seniority scheme

→ presence of $\pi(h_{9/2})$ 8^+ isomers in the even-even Po



Physics motivation

- **Po isotopes**

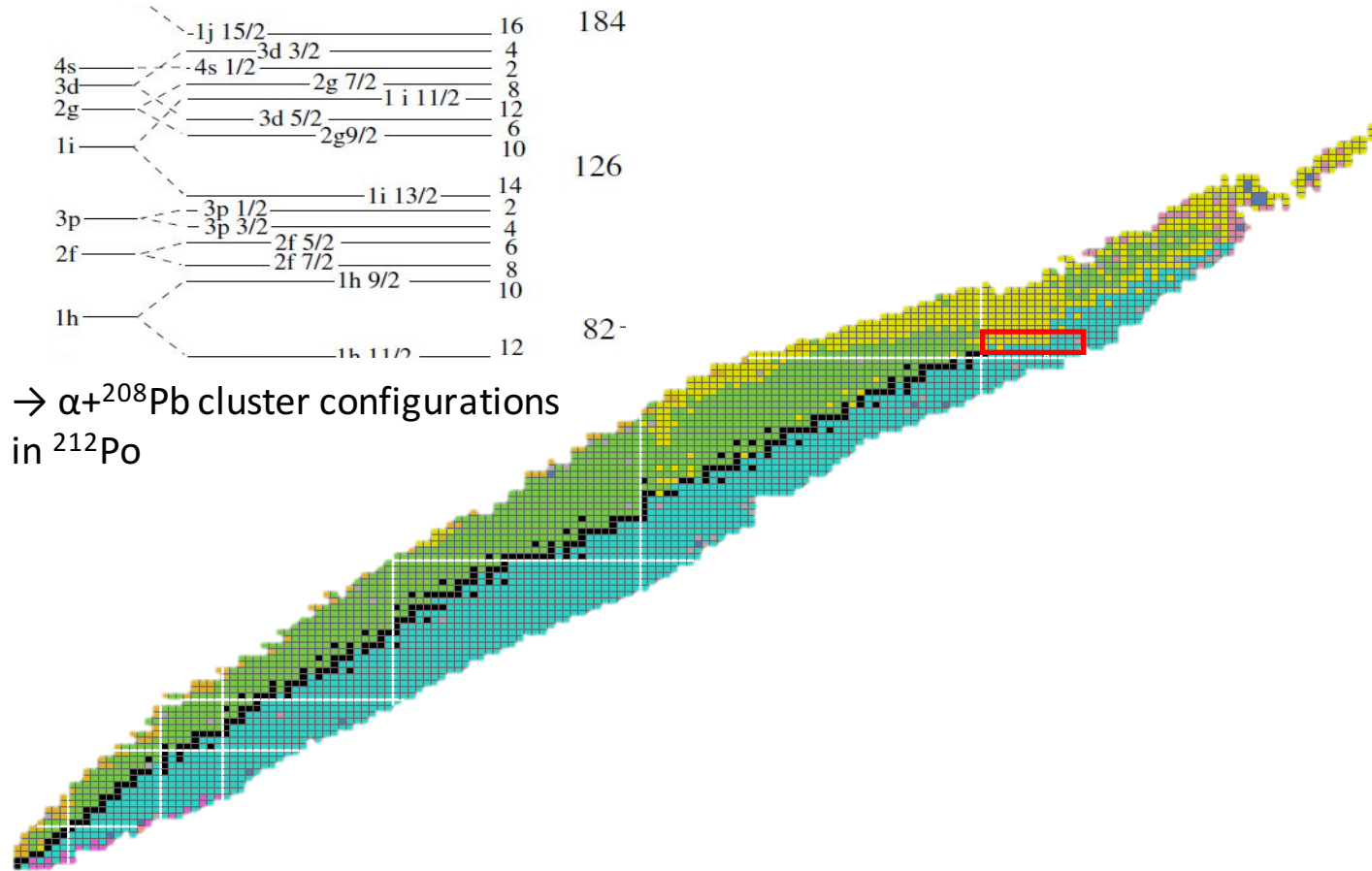
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→ presence of $\pi(h_{9/2})$ 8^+ isomers in the even-even Po

- **Po isotopes with $N > 126$**

→ shell-model test using ^{208}Pb as an inert core

→ study the filling of the $vg_{9/2}$ orbital



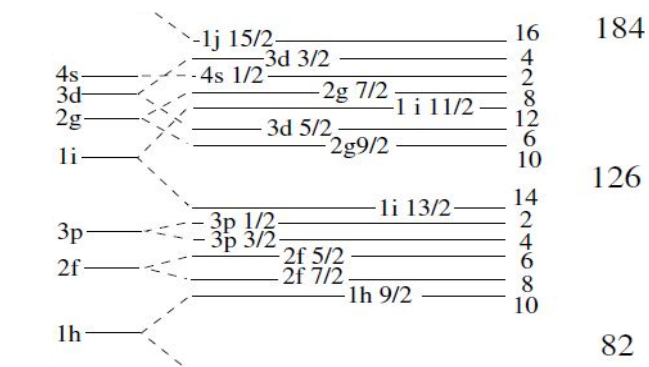
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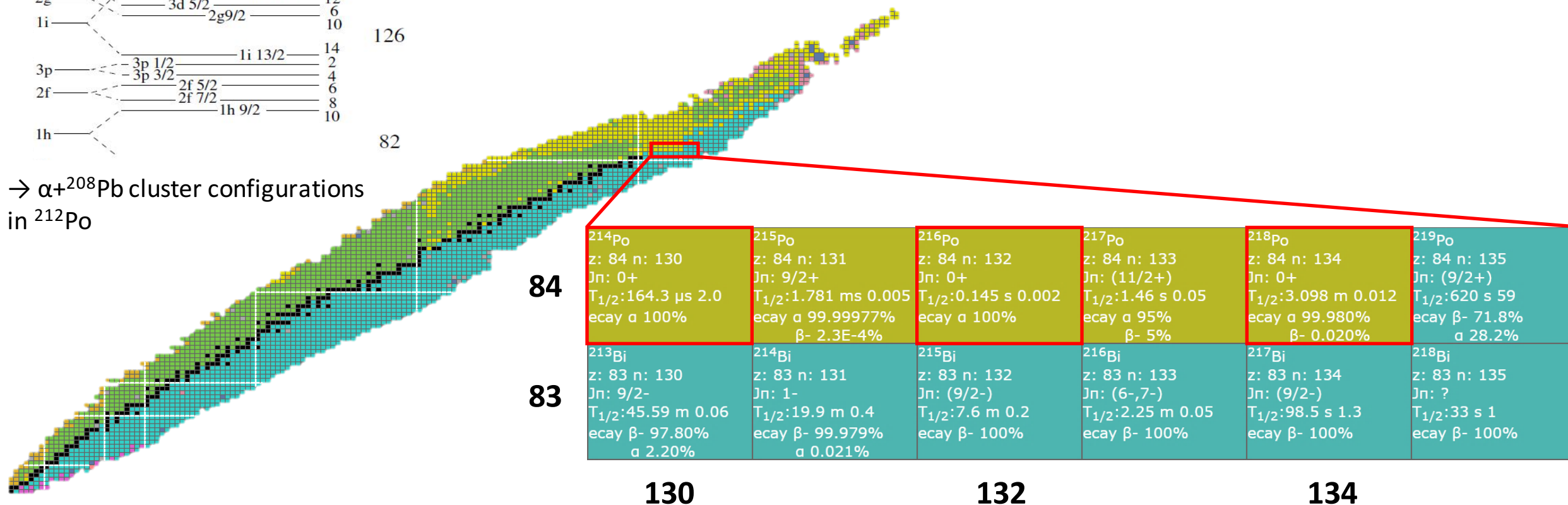
→ shell-model test using ^{208}Pb as an inert core
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→ $\alpha + ^{208}\text{Pb}$ cluster configurations
 in ^{212}Po

- **$^{214,216,218}\text{Po}$**

→ Lack of experimental data for the heavier Po isotopes due to difficulties in producing them using stable beams



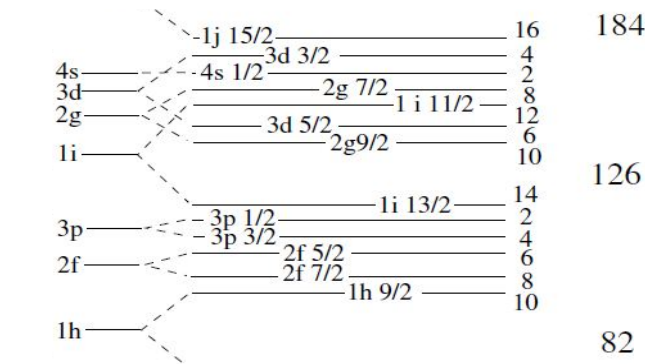
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- **Po isotopes**

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 → presence of $\pi(h_{9/2})$ 8^+ isomers in the even-even Po

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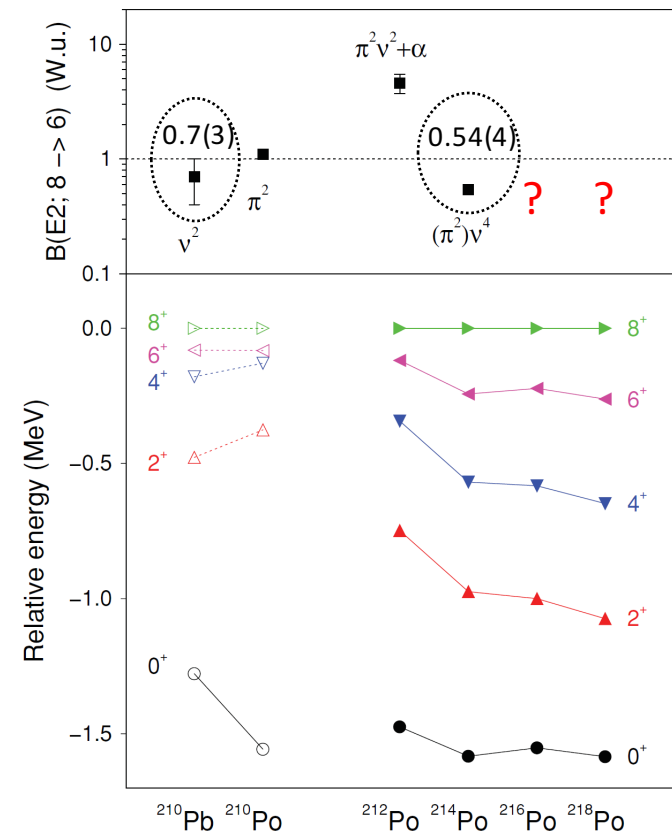


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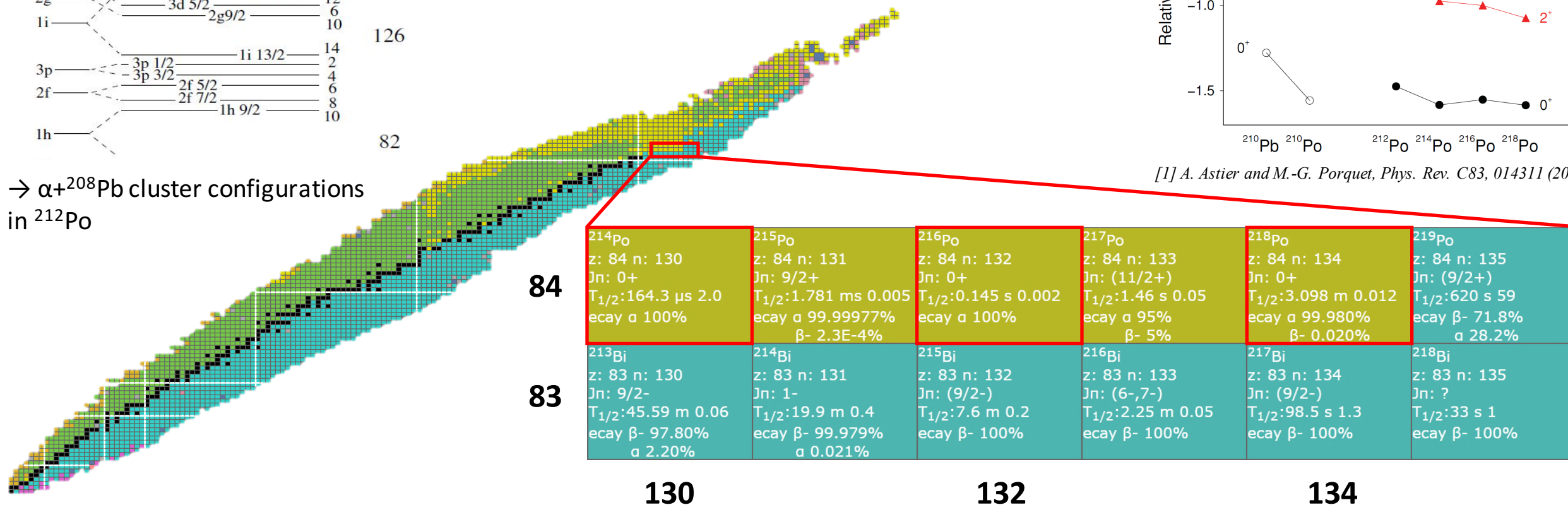
- **$^{214,216,218}\text{Po}$**

→ Lack of experimental data for the heavier Po isotopes due to difficulties in producing them using stable beams

→ Recent measurement by *Astier et al.* [1] of the 8_1^+ state half-life $T_{1/2} = 13(1)$ ns in ^{214}Po indicating a similar excitation mechanism as for ^{210}Pb , one-neutron-pair breaking



[1] A. Astier and M.-G. Porquet, *Phys. Rev. C* **83**, 014311 (2011).



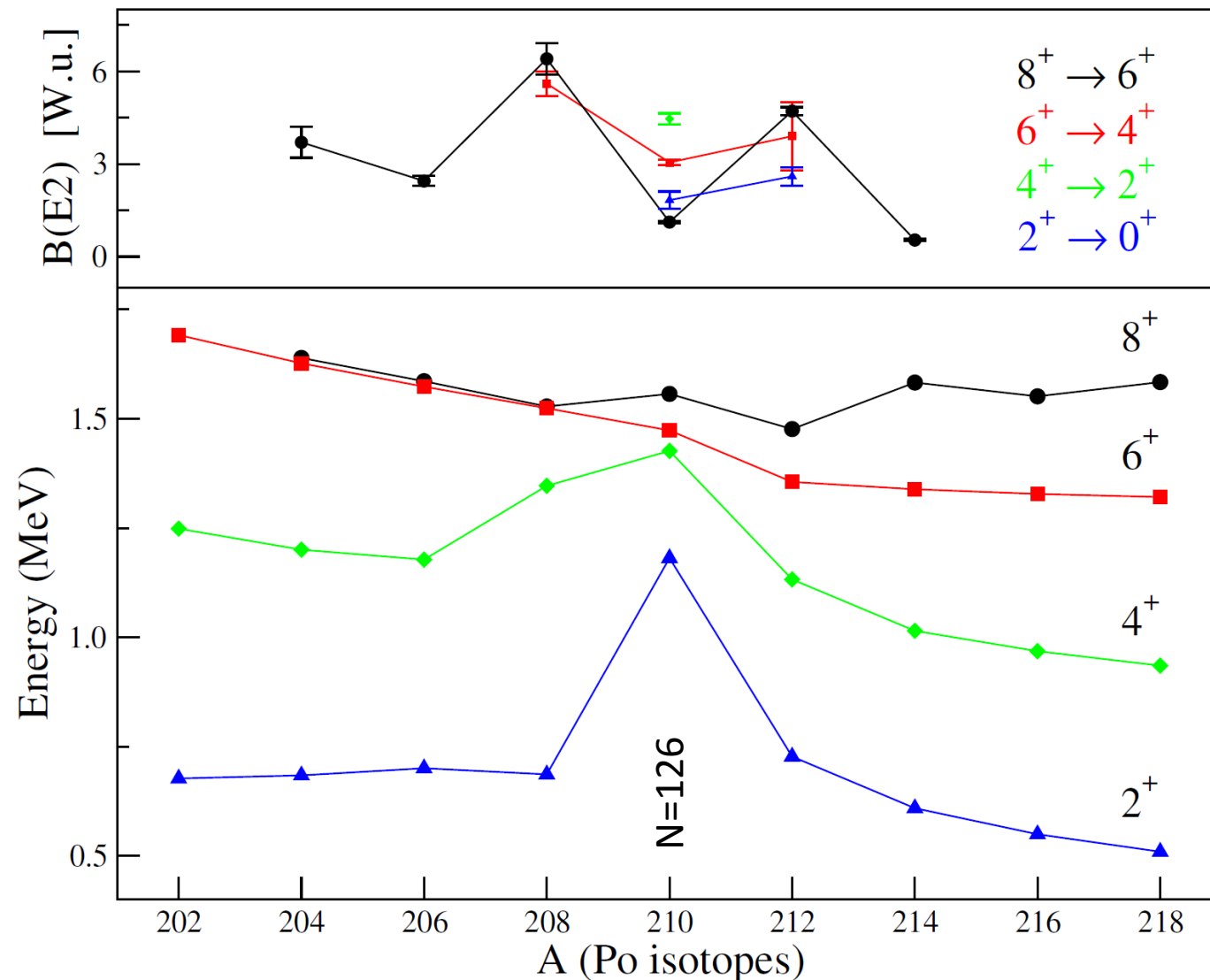
Physics motivation

We updated the B(E2) figure with known experimental data for Po isotopes (ENSDF + Kocheva et al. [1,2])

→ A staggering can be noticed around ^{210}Po for the $8^+ \rightarrow 6^+$ transition probability (present also for the $6^+, 4^+, 2^+$ cases?)

→ The large value measured in ^{212}Po was proposed to be due to the $\alpha+^{208}\text{Pb}$ cluster structures [A. Astier et al., *Eur. Phys. J. A*46, 165-185 (2010)]

→ The first four excited states measured in $^{216,218}\text{Po}$ have similar excitation energies to those known in ^{214}Po , indicating a structural similarity (needs to be confirmed by B(E2) values in $^{216,218}\text{Po}$)



[1] D. Kocheva et al., *Eur. Phys. J. A*53, 175 (2017).

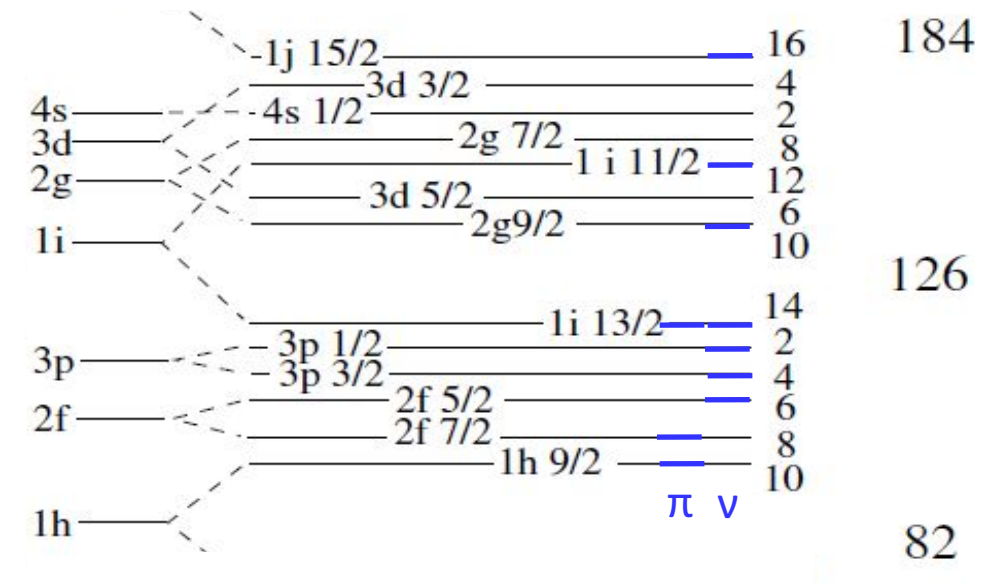
[2] D. Kocheva et al., *Phys. Rev. C*96, 044305 (2017).

Physics motivation

Shell model calculations were recently performed for selected transitions in the Po isotope chain for two model spaces and interactions: [H. Grawe, *Private Communication*, Oct 2017]

$\pi(h_{9/2}, f_{7/2}, i_{13/2}) \nu(p, f_{5/2}, i, g_{9/2}, j_{15/2})$ - denoted by **hfi-gij**, with interaction **PBPKH** [1].
 $\pi(h_{9/2}, f, i_{13/2}, p) \nu(h_{9/2}, p, f, i, g, d, s_{1/2}, j_{15/2})$ - denoted by **r5i-r6j**, with interaction **PBKH7** [2].

- **Non-truncated** calculations were performed for $^{208-212}\text{Po}$. For the other, **truncation** must be applied, which requires tuning of the pairing part of the interaction.
- Excitations across the ^{208}Pb shell closure were blocked.
- Transition rates were calculated with effective operators [3]
 $e_p=1.5 e$; $e_n=0.85 e$; $g_s=0.6 g_s^{\text{free}}$; $g_\pi=1.115$; $g_v=0$



- [1] E.K. Warburton, Phys. Rev. C 44, 233 (1991).
 [2] E.K. Warburton, B.A. Brown, Phys. Rev. C 43, 602 (1991)
 [3] R. Ferrer et al., Nat. Commun. 8, 14520 (2017)
 [4] D.Kocheva et al., Phys. Rev. 96, 044305 (2017)

Physics motivation

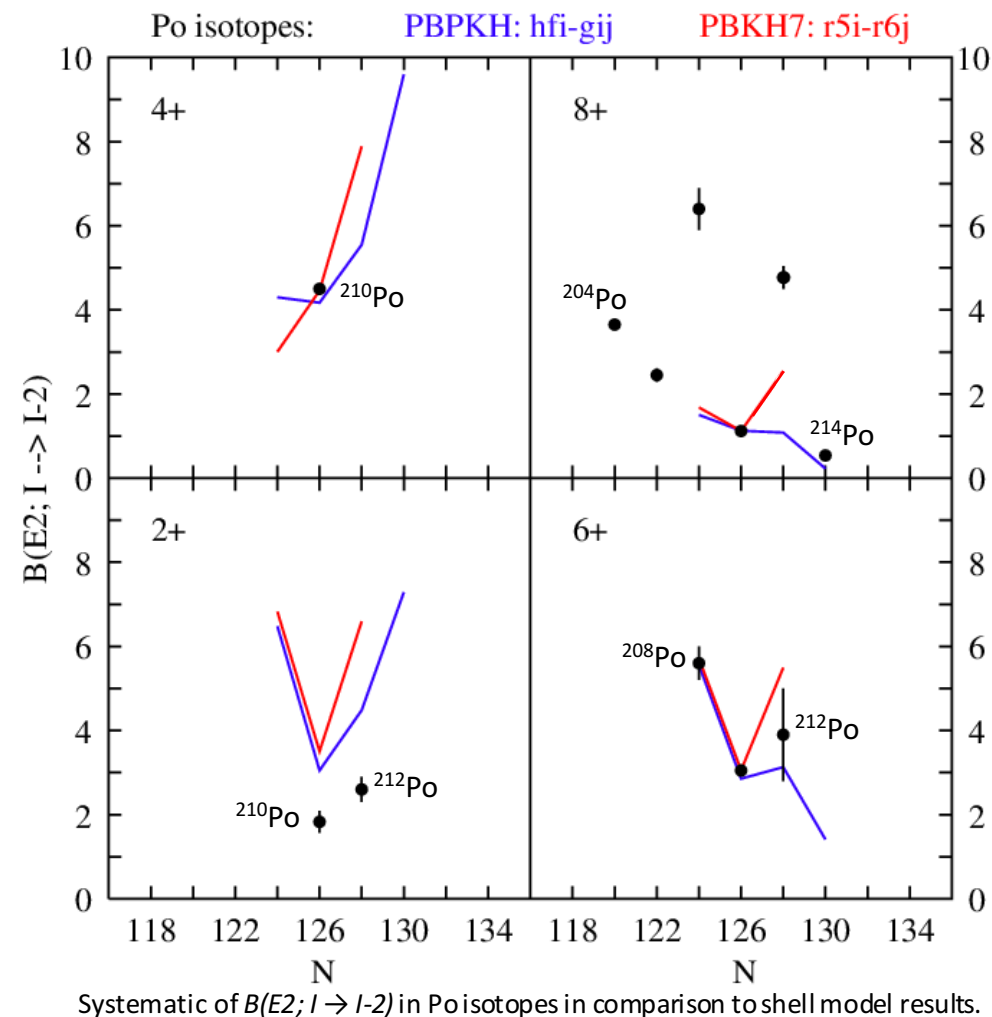
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Observations:

- For **N>126** the importance of truncation and the low-spin N=6 orbits is clearly visible in contrast to earlier statements that a single- or two-orbit model space for protons and neutrons is appropriate [4].
- The importance of precise new lifetime measurements for $^{212-218}\text{Po}$ 6⁺ and 8⁺ states is clearly exhibited in the figure.



- [1] E.K. Warburton, Phys. Rev. C 44, 233 (1991).
- [2] E.K. Warburton, B.A. Brown, Phys. Rev. C 43, 602 (1991)
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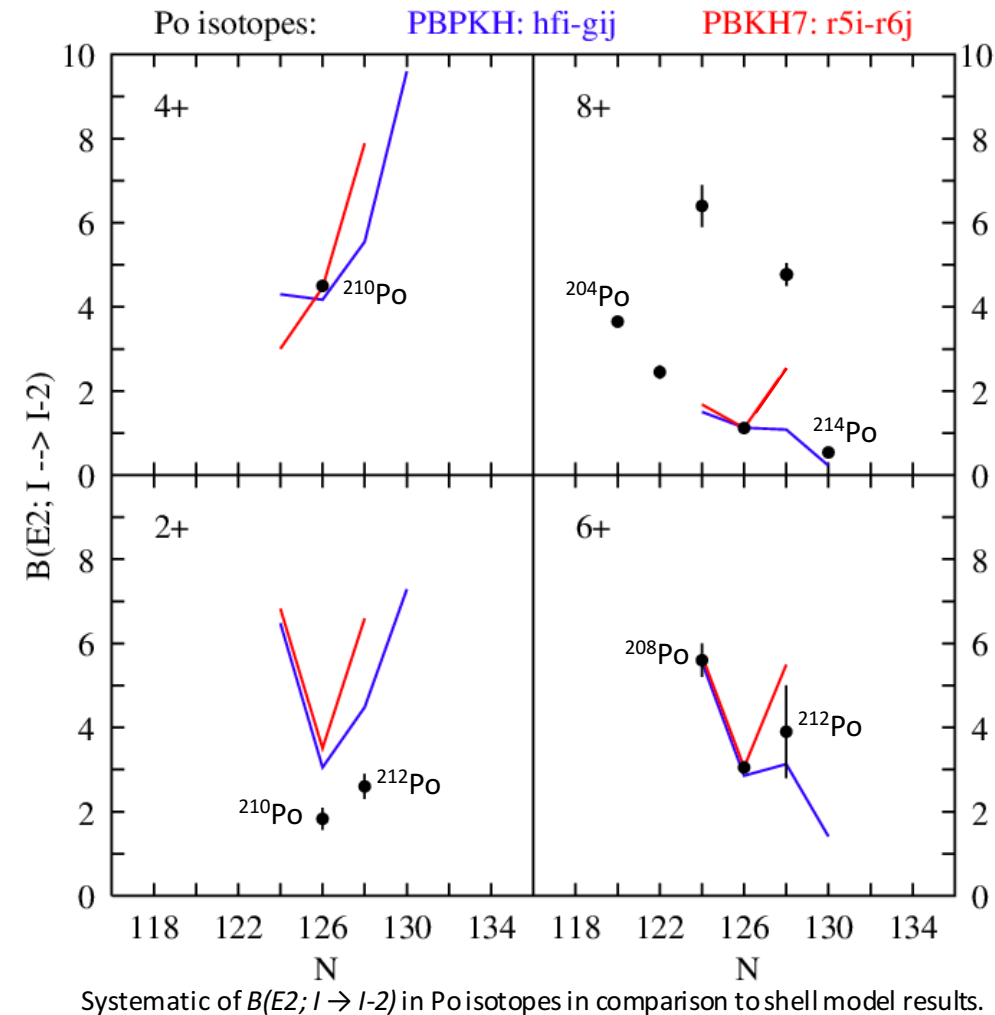
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Conclusion:

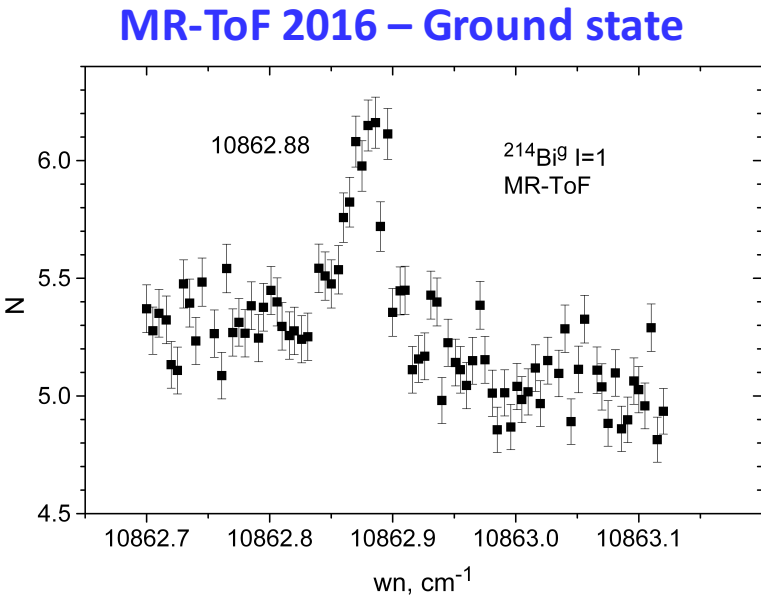
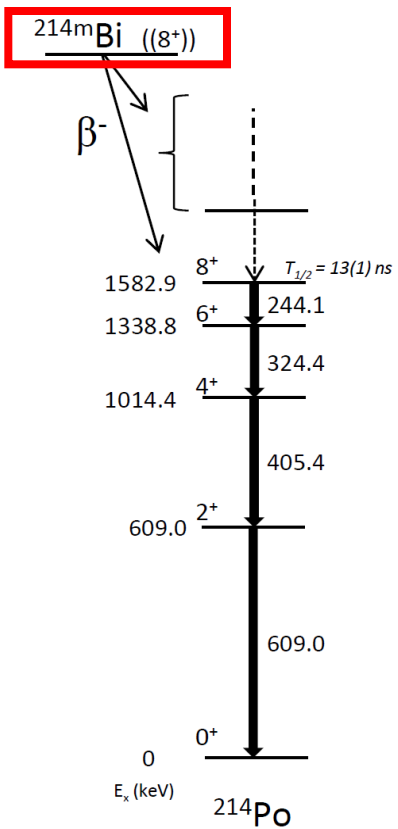
$B(E2)$ values in the Po chain will be decisive to verify shell model interactions and disentangle the correlation of model space and interaction. A staggering except when crossing the N=126 shell closure is not really supported by shell model calculations.



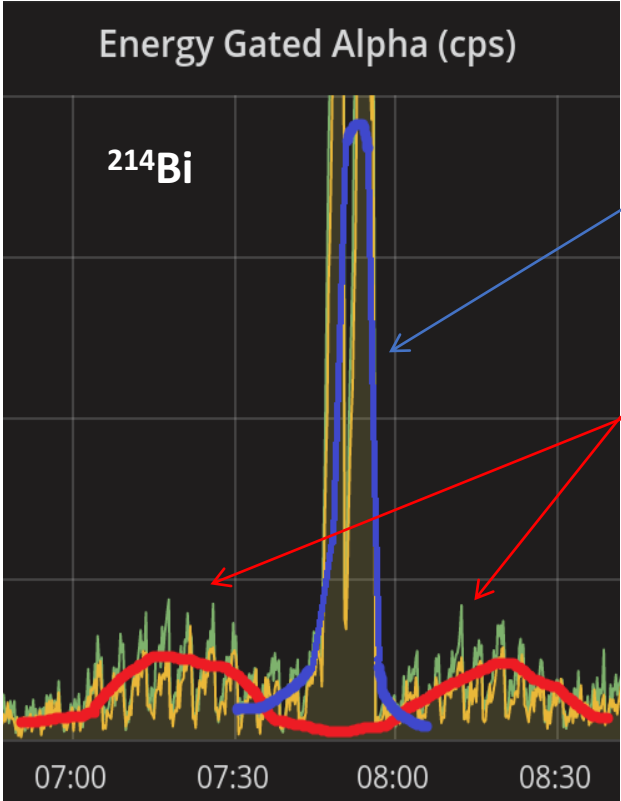
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β -decay studies of $^{214,216,218}\text{Bi}$ at ISOLDE

- ^{214}Bi
- HFS recently studied at ISOLDE (IS608: MR-ToF 2016 and IDS 2017)
 - direct identification and spectroscopy of an 8^+ isomer using RILIS+IDS (including HFS/isomer shift measurements, spin, decay pattern and half-life)

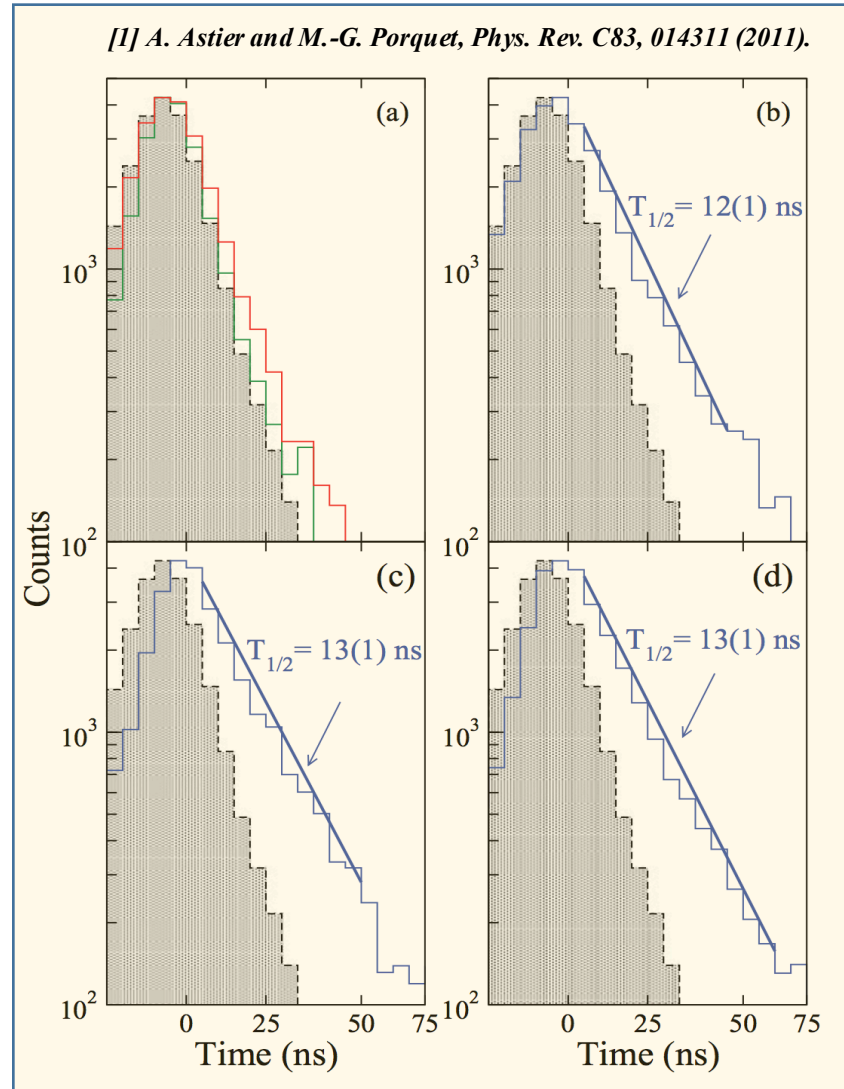
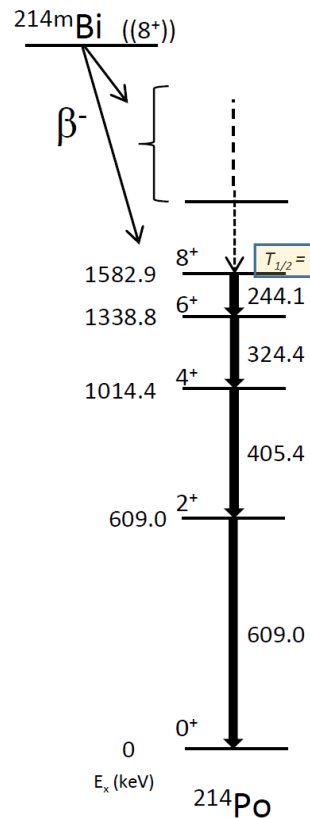


IDS 2017



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 - **direct identification and spectroscopy of an 8^+ isomer using RILIS+IDS**
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Time distributions between the emissions of γ rays of ^{214}Po showing either prompt coincidences [curves in red and green, panel (a)] or delayed ones corresponding to the decay of the 1583-keV state [curves in blue, panels (b), (c), and (d)].

$T_{1/2} = 13(1) \text{ ns}$ using HPGe detectors [1]

→ can be re-checked using fast-timing detectors

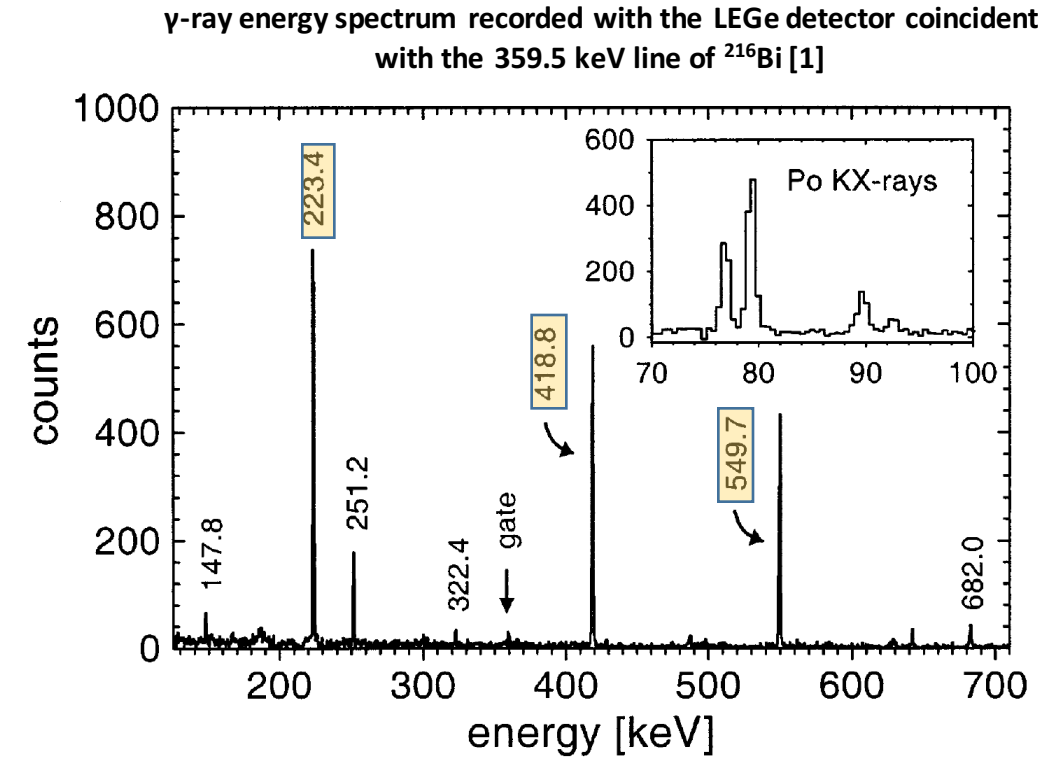
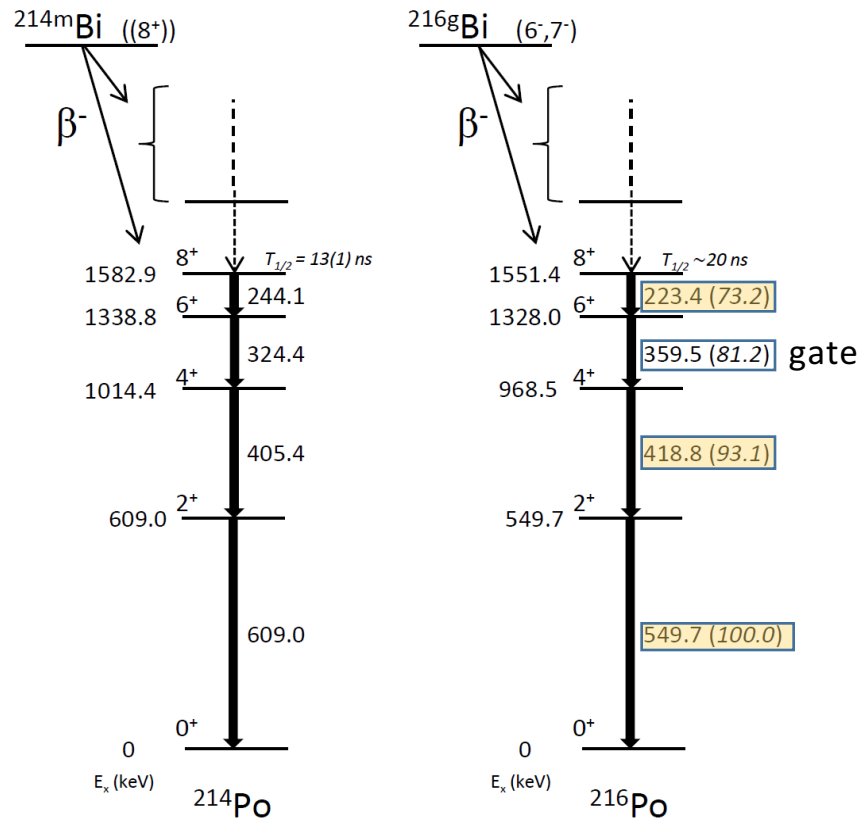
→ $B(E2; 8^+ \rightarrow 6^+) = 0.54(4) \text{ W.u.}$ used to estimate the $T_{1/2}$ of 8^+ states in $^{216,218}\text{Po}$

Lifetimes of $6^+, 4^+, 2^+$ states can be accessed through fast-timing measurement.

β -decay studies of $^{214,216,218}\text{Bi}$ at ISOLDE

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 - **direct identification and spectroscopy of an 8^+ isomer using RILIS+IDS (including HFS/isomer shift measurements, spin, decay pattern and half-life)**

- ^{216}Bi
- the decay populates clearly the yrast band up to the 8^+ state [1] but no lifetimes are known



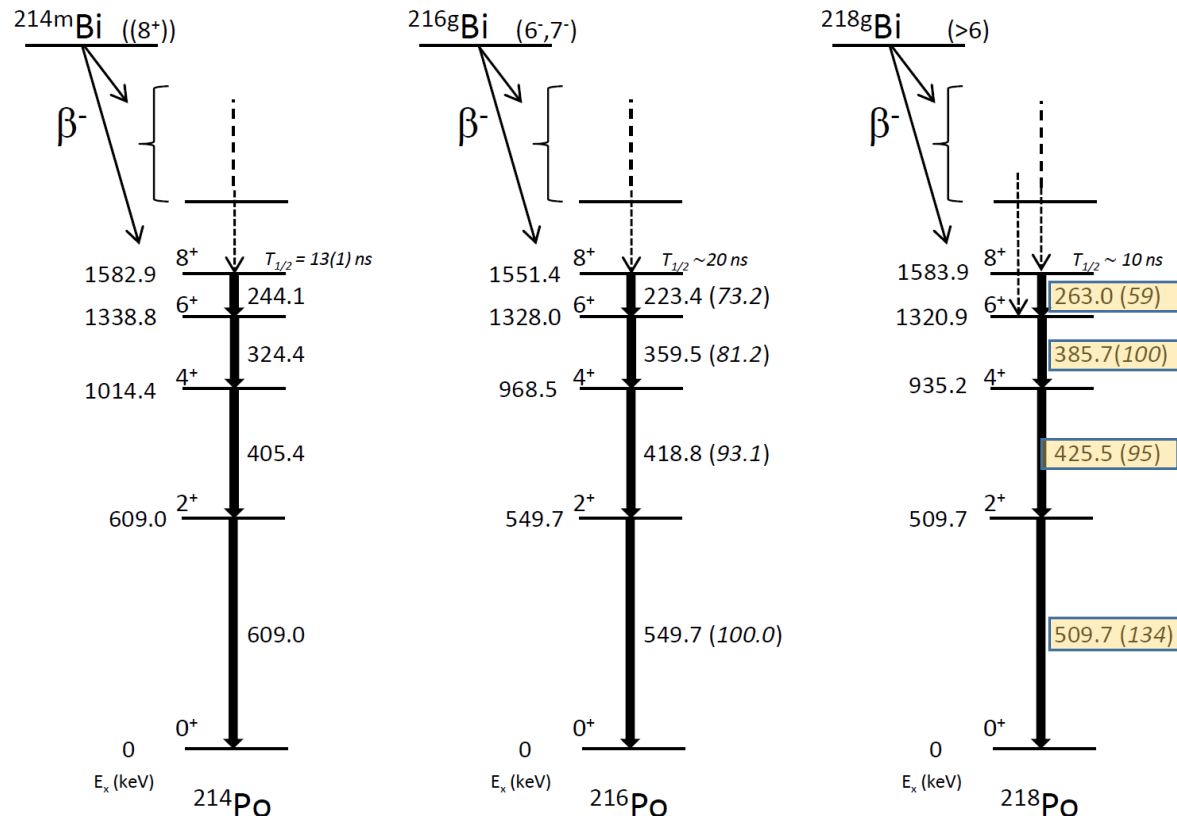
[1] J. Kurpeta et al., Eur. Phys. J. A7, 49-54 (2000).

β -decay studies of $^{214,216,218}\text{Bi}$ at ISOLDE

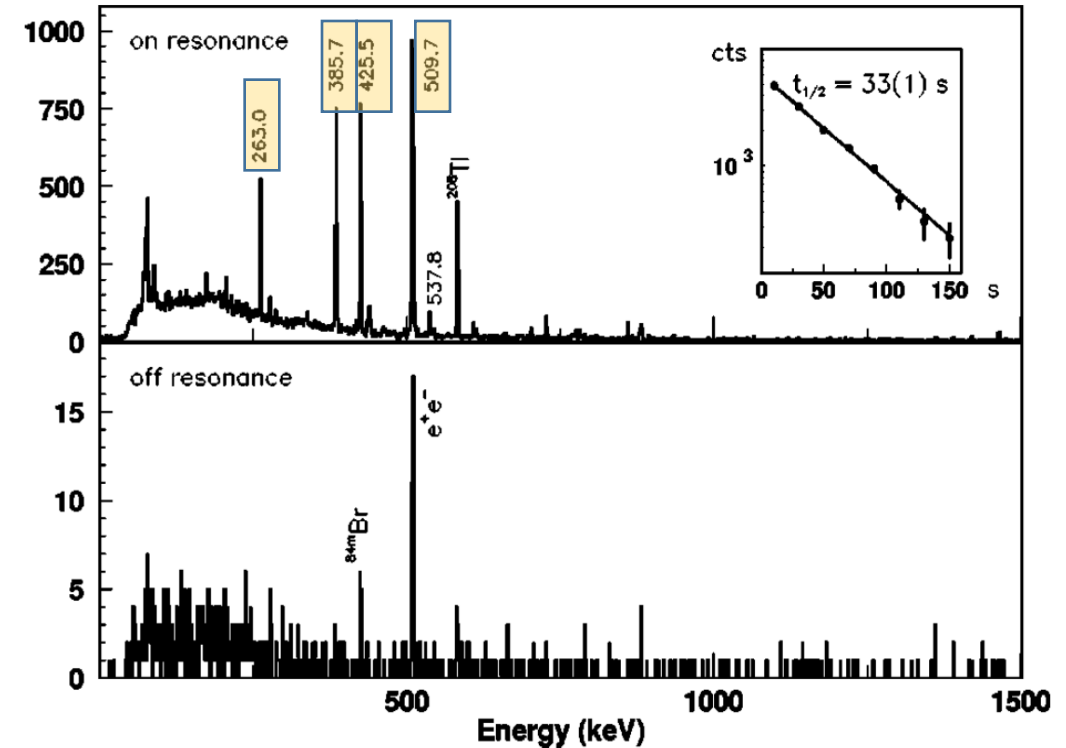
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- ^{216}Bi
- the decay populates clearly the yrast band up to the 8^+ state [1] **but no lifetimes are known**

- ^{218}Bi
- beam intensity of 44(8) ions/ μC [2] using UCx target + RILIS
 - similar decay level scheme as ^{216}Bi but **no known lifetimes**



β -gated γ -ray energy spectrum from ^{218}Bi β -decay with (top) and without (bottom) laser ionization [2]



- [1] J. Kurpeta et al., *Eur. Phys. J. A* **7**, 49-54 (2000).
 [2] H. De Witte et al., *Phys. Rev. C* **69**, 044305 (2004).

Beam production

- Use the same proven method: **UCx** target + **RILIS** [1,2]
- Yields recently extracted during IS608 at MR-ToF in 2016

Isotope	Rate estimate (ions/s)
^{214}Bi	2×10^4
^{216}Bi	2×10^3
^{218}Bi	2×10^2

(2 μA proton current)

[1] H. De Witte, PhD Thesis, KU Leuven (2004)

[2] U. Koster et al., Nucl. Instr. and Meth. B204, 347-352 (2003).

Beam production

- Use the same proven method: **UCx** target + **RILIS** [1,2]
- Yields recently extracted during IS608 at MR-ToF in 2016.
- Short-lived contaminants such as **Fr** can be easily removed using the pulsed release technique and **HRS** (instead of GPS used in 2017 at IDS)

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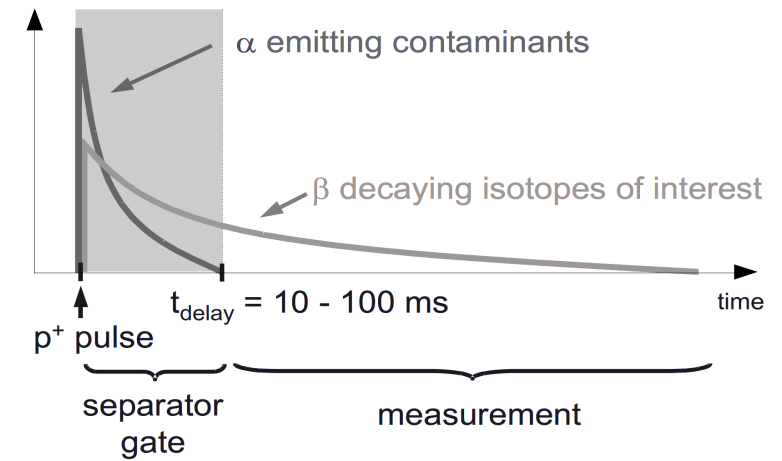
$N=126$

Chart of nuclides for the isotopes north-east of ^{208}Pb [1]

^{213}Ac	^{214}Ac	^{215}Ac 170 ms	^{216}Ac 330 μs	^{217}Ac 69 ns	^{218}Ac 1.1 μs	^{219}Ac	^{220}Ac	^{221}Ac	^{222}Ac	^{223}Ac	^{224}Ac	^{225}Ac	^{226}Ac	^{227}Ac
^{212}Ra	^{213}Ra	^{214}Ra	^{215}Ra 1.6 ms	^{216}Ra 180 ns	^{217}Ra 1.6 μs	^{218}Ra 26 μs	^{219}Ra	^{220}Ra	^{221}Ra	^{222}Ra	^{223}Ra	^{224}Ra	^{225}Ra	^{226}Ra
^{211}Fr	^{212}Fr	^{213}Fr	^{214}Fr 5 ms	^{215}Fr 86 ns	^{216}Fr 700 ns	^{217}Fr 22 μs	^{218}Fr 1 ms	^{219}Fr	^{220}Fr	^{221}Fr	^{222}Fr	^{223}Fr	^{224}Fr	^{225}Fr
^{210}Rn	^{211}Rn	^{212}Rn	^{213}Rn	^{214}Rn	^{215}Rn 2.3 μs	^{216}Rn 45 μs	^{217}Rn 0.54 ms	^{218}Rn 35 ms	^{219}Rn	^{220}Rn	^{221}Rn	^{222}Rn	^{223}Rn	^{224}Rn
^{209}At	^{210}At	^{211}At	^{212}At	^{213}At	^{214}At	^{215}At 0.1 ms	^{216}At 300 μs	^{217}At 32 ms	^{218}At 1.6 s	^{219}At	^{220}At	^{221}At	^{222}At	^{223}At
^{208}Po	^{209}Po	^{210}Po	^{211}Po	^{212}Po	^{213}Po	^{214}Po	^{215}Po 1.7 ms	^{216}Po 150 ms	^{217}Po 1.5 s	^{218}Po 3.1 s	^{219}Po	^{220}Po		
^{207}Bi	^{208}Bi	^{209}Bi	^{210}Bi	^{211}Bi	^{212}Bi	^{213}Bi	^{214}Bi 19.9 m	^{215}Bi 7.7 m	^{216}Bi 2.2 m	^{217}Bi 1.6 m	^{218}Bi 33 s			
^{206}Pb	^{207}Pb	^{208}Pb	^{209}Pb	^{210}Pb	^{211}Pb	^{212}Pb	^{213}Pb	^{214}Pb	^{215}Pb					
^{205}Tl	^{206}Tl	^{207}Tl	^{208}Tl	^{209}Tl	^{210}Tl	^{211}Tl	^{212}Tl							

$Z=82$

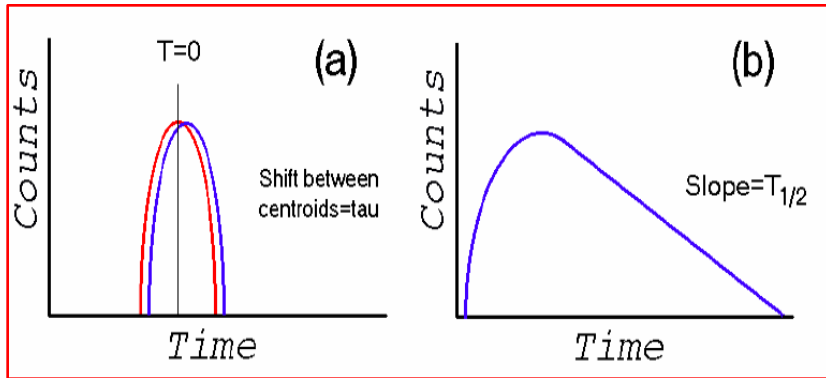
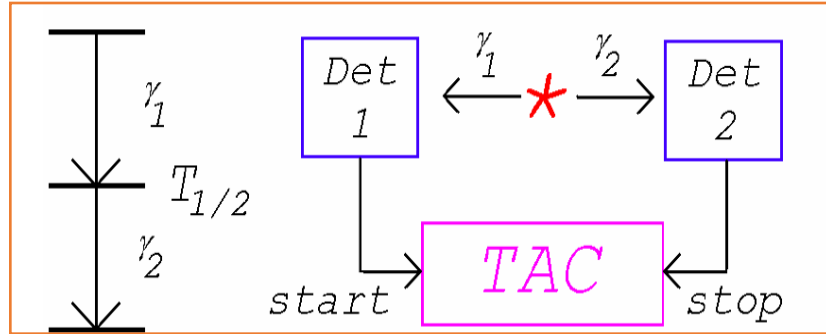
The pulsed release technique [1]: the different time scales for the α decay of the contaminants and the β^- decay under investigation allow for a selective suppression.



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Fast-timing measurements at the ISOLDE Decay station

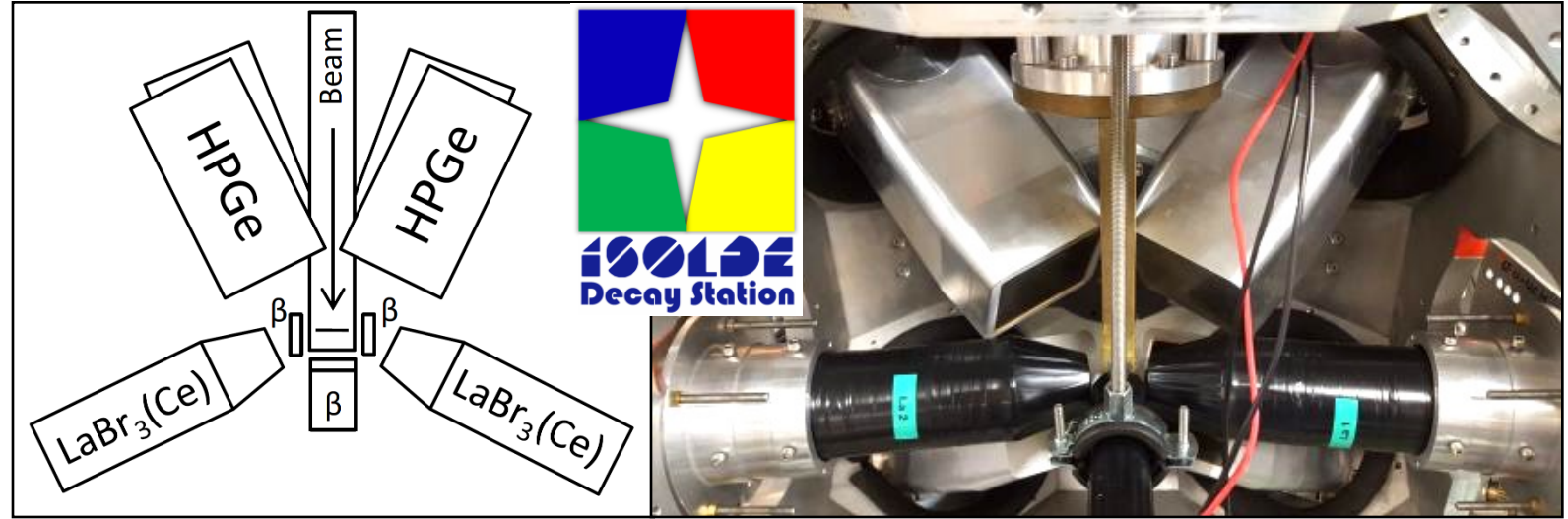


Ranges:

Centroid shift method: - **10 ps - 100 ps**

Slope method - **50 ps - 50 ns** (or longer)

[H. Mach et al. NIMA 280, 49 (1989)]



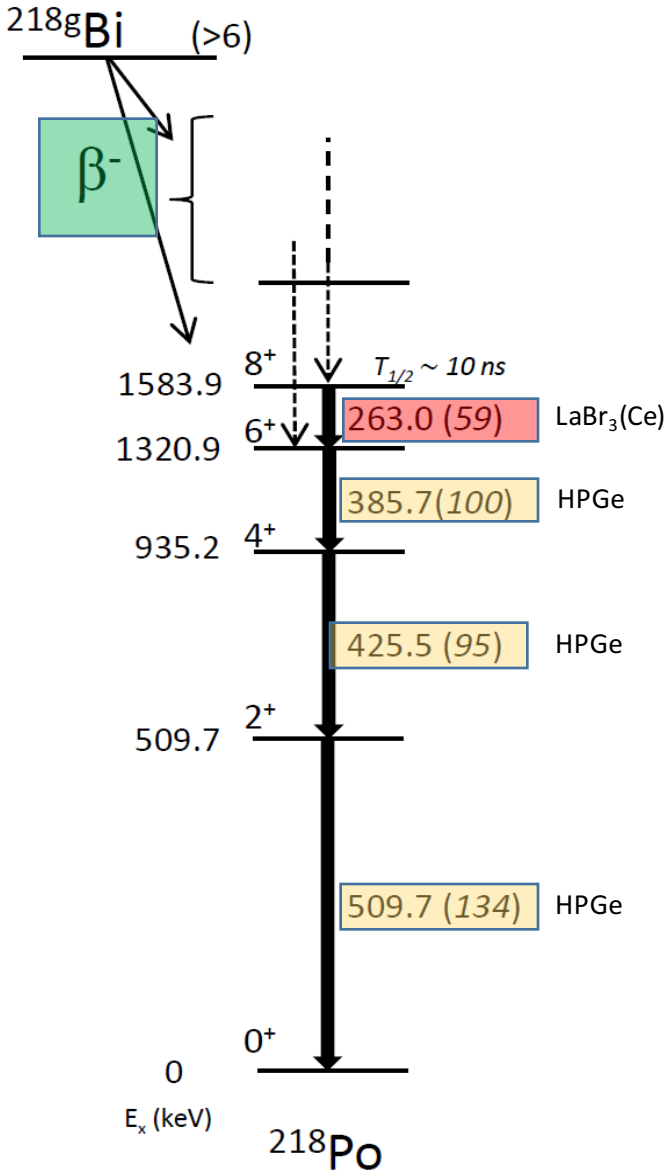
- Well established technique at IDS since 2014 [1,2,3]
- Detection system comprising of:
 - 4 Clover HPGe - 7% abs. eff. at 500keV
 - 2 LaBr₃(Ce) - 3% abs. eff. at 500keV
 - 1 Plastic Scintillator - 20% abs. eff.

[1] R. Lica et al., Phys. Rev. C 93, 044303 (2016).

[2] R. Lica et al., J. Phys. G 44, 054002 (2017).

[3] L.M. Fraile, J. Phys. G 44, 094004 (2017).

Example: lifetime measurement of 8⁺ state in ²¹⁸Po



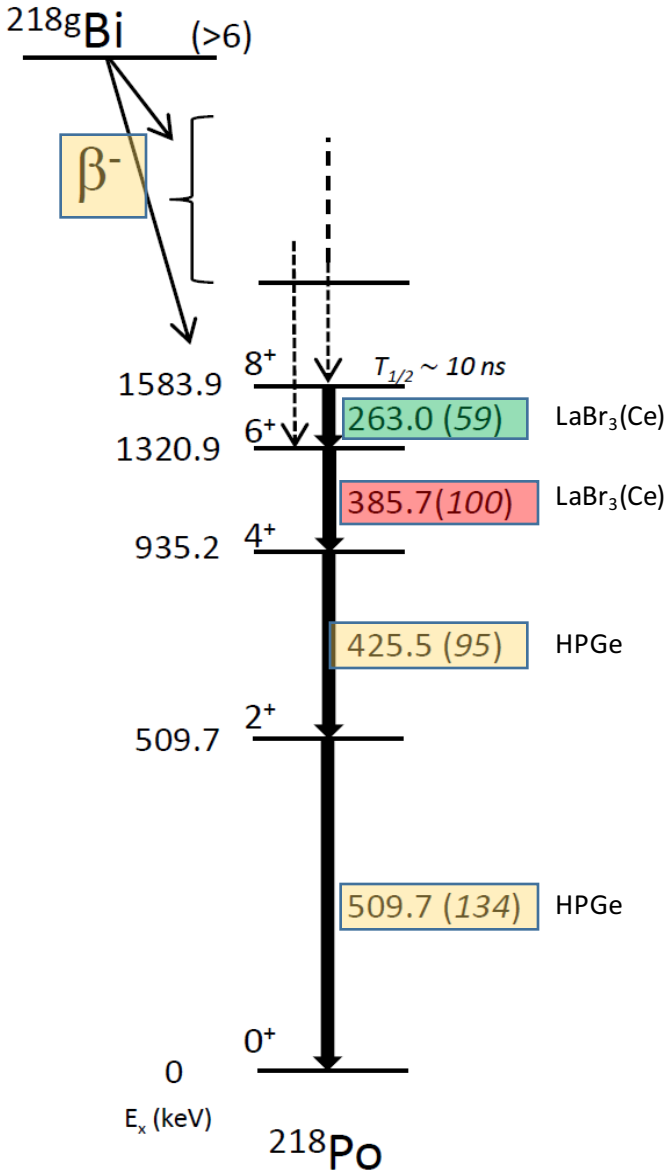
β - γ^{LaBr} - γ^{HPGe} method

Level	Start (eff)	Stop (eff)	Cleaning gate (eff)
8 ⁺	β (20%)	263.0 (2 x 4%)	385.7 or 425.5 or 509.7 (23%)

Rate = 59% * 20% * 8% * 23% * 100 ions/s
= 0.2 counts/s
= 6.1 * 10³ counts/shift

Observation: a conservative rate of 100 ions/s instead of 200 ions/s considering transmission to IDS (70-80%) and beam downtime.

Example: lifetime measurement of 6⁺ state in ²¹⁸Po



γ^{LaBr} - γ^{LaBr} - γ^{HPGe} method

Level	Start (eff)	Stop (eff)	Cleaning gate (eff)
8 ⁺	β (20%)	263.0 (2 x 4%)	385.7 or 425.5 or 509.7 (23%)
6 ⁺ (2 ⁺ , 4 ⁺)	263.0 (4%)	385.7 (3%)	425.5 or 509.7 or β (14%+20%)

Rate = 59% * (4% * 3% * 2) * (14%+20%) * 100 ions/s
= 0.05 counts/s
= 1.4 * 10³ counts/shift

Rate estimates

Nucleus/Yield	J^π	E_γ (keV)	$T_{1/2}$	Events/shift
^{214}Po 10^4 ions/s	2_1^+	609.0	>9 ps	4.9×10^4
	4_1^+	405.4	>68 ps	9.5×10^4
	6_1^+	324.4	>210 ps	1.7×10^5
	8_1^+	244.1	13(1) ns [6]	7.7×10^5
^{216}Po 10^3 ions/s	2_1^+	549.7	>15 ps	5.9×10^3
	4_1^+	418.8	>58 ps	9.7×10^3
	6_1^+	359.5	>120 ps	1.7×10^4
	8_1^+	223.4	~ 27 ns	7.6×10^4
^{218}Po 10^2 ions/s	2_1^+	509.7	>21 ps	6.5×10^2
	4_1^+	425.5	>52 ps	1.1×10^3
	6_1^+	385.7	>86 ps	1.4×10^3
	8_1^+	263.0	~ 12 ns	6.1×10^3

Rate estimates

- Half-lives for yrast states in $^{214,216,218}\text{Po}$ estimated using:

$B(E2) < 10 \text{ W.u.}$ for $2,4,6^+$ states

$B(E2) \sim 0.5 \text{ W.u. [1]}$ for 8^+ states

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	4_1^+	425.5	$>52 \text{ ps}$	1.1×10^3
	6_1^+	385.7	$>86 \text{ ps}$	1.4×10^3
	8_1^+	263.0	$\sim 12 \text{ ns}$	6.1×10^3

**Within the reach of the
fast-timing setup
available at IDS
($> 10 \text{ ps}$)**

Beamtime request: **7 shifts**

- **2 shifts** for ^{218}Bi (in order to reach a statistics > 1000 counts for the time distribution of the 2_1^+ state)
- **1 shift** for ^{216}Bi
- **1 shift** for ^{214}Bi (the incoming rate will be reduced in order to avoid pile-up effects)
- **1 shift** for online fast-timing calibrations using implantation sources (eg. ^{138}Cs , ^{88}Rb , ^{140}Ba)
- **2 shifts** for laser tuning

Nucleus/Yield	J^π	E_γ (keV)	$T_{1/2}$	Events/shift
^{214}Po 10^4 ions/s 1 shift	2_1^+	609.0	>9 ps	4.9×10^4
	4_1^+	405.4	>68 ps	9.5×10^4
	6_1^+	324.4	>210 ps	1.7×10^5
	8_1^+	244.1	13(1) ns [6]	7.7×10^5
^{216}Po 10^3 ions/s 1 shift	2_1^+	549.7	>15 ps	5.9×10^3
	4_1^+	418.8	>58 ps	9.7×10^3
	6_1^+	359.5	>120 ps	1.7×10^4
	8_1^+	223.4	~ 27 ns	7.6×10^4
^{218}Po 10^2 ions/s 2 shifts	2_1^+	509.7	>21 ps	6.5×10^2
	4_1^+	425.5	>52 ps	1.1×10^3
	6_1^+	385.7	>86 ps	1.4×10^3
	8_1^+	263.0	~ 12 ns	6.1×10^3

Observation:

If approved, this experiment can be scheduled together with the remaining 3 shifts of the IS608 experiment (HFS measurements of $^{216,218}\text{Bi}$) because of the following considerations:

- both measurements can be performed using the same fast-timing configuration of IDS
- the stable beam and RILIS tuning will be done only once

Collaboration

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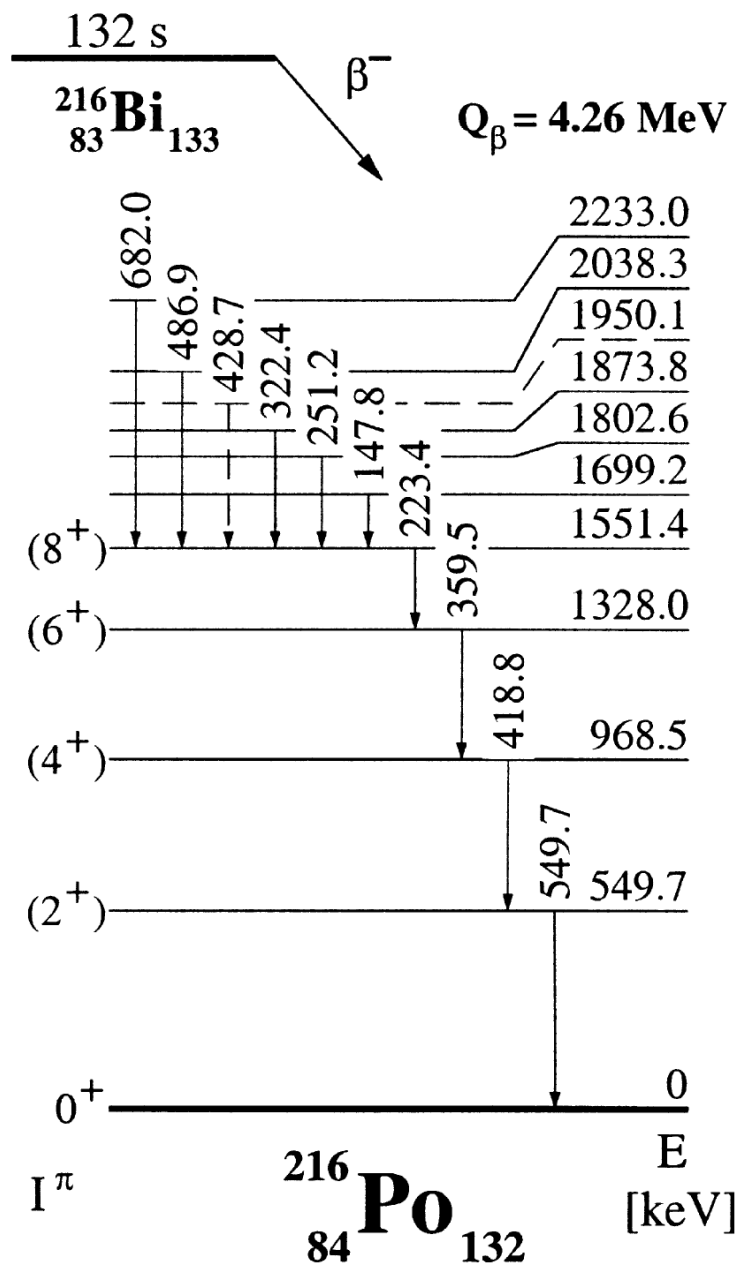


Fig. 3. The decay scheme of ^{216}Bi

