

# 20-83 Long-lived isomeric states studied via mass spectrometry

Spokespersons: Dominique Curien (IN2P3), Timo Dickel (GSI)

Jianwei Zhao (GSI)





# Isomers and mass spectrometry



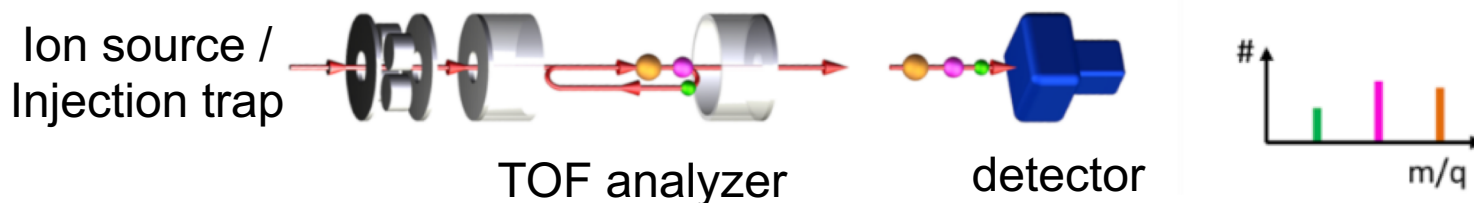
Online and offline experiments  
at FRS Ion Catcher, Germany



Online experiments at TRIUMF's  
Ion Trap for Atomic and Nuclear  
Science (TITAN), Canada

- perform online & offline experiments at GSI & TRIUMF
- search for nuclear isomeric states via the mass spectrometry
- study their properties with advanced theory
- contribute to nuclear structure understanding

## Multiple Reflection Time-of-Flight Mass Spectrometer (MR-TOF-MS)



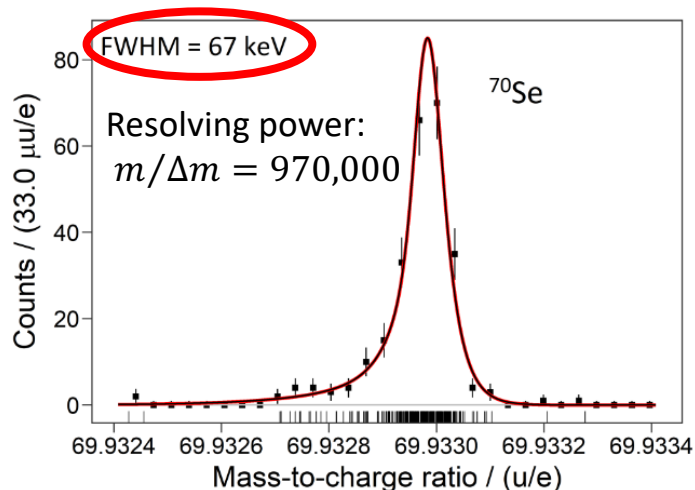
H. Wollnik et al., Int. J. Mass Spectrom. Ion Processes **96** (1990) 267



# Experimental challenges and dealing with them

## Experimental Challenges:

- Short half-lives ( $\sim$  ms)
- Small production cross section ( $\sim$  pbarn- $\mu$ barn)
- Low-lying isomeric states



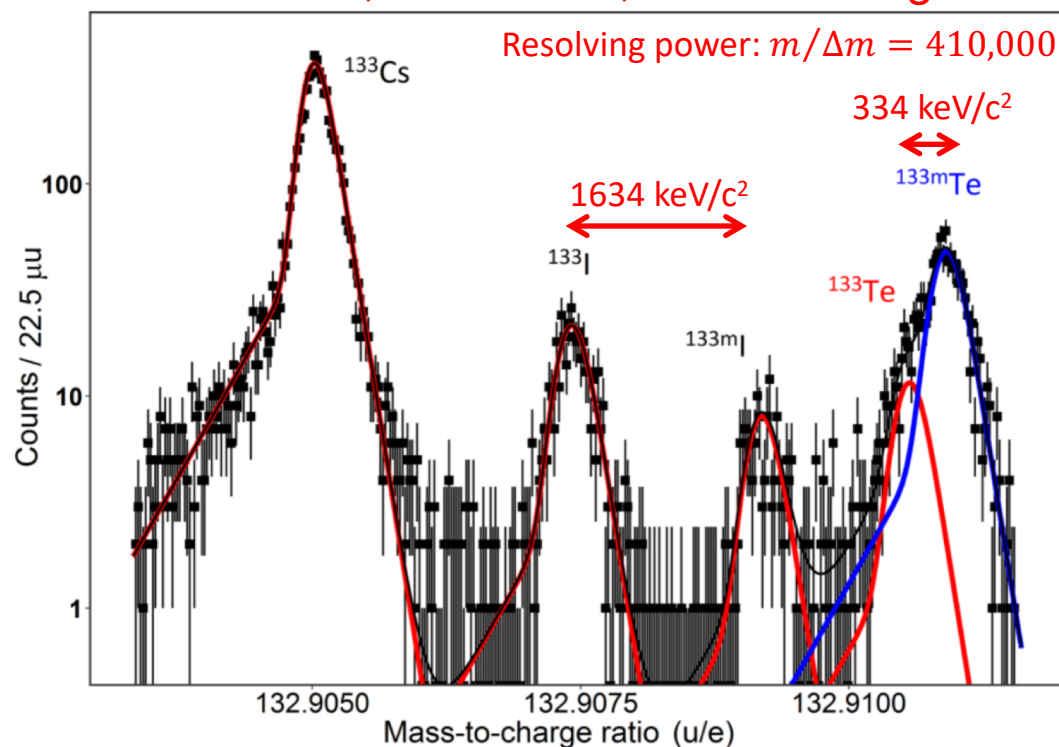
S. Ayet *et al.*, PRC **99** (2019) 064313

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

## Multiple Reflection Time-of-Flight Mass Spectrometer (MR-TOF-MS) :

- **Online:**  $^{220}\text{Ra}$  (17.9 ms) S. Ayet *et al.*, PRC 064313  
 $^{125\text{m}}\text{In}$  (5 ms) C. Izzo *et al.*, PRC 025811
- **Offline:**  $^{215}\text{Po}$  (1.8 ms) A.-K. Rink, PhD thesis, JLU Gießen (2017)

## Sensitive, broadband, non-scanning





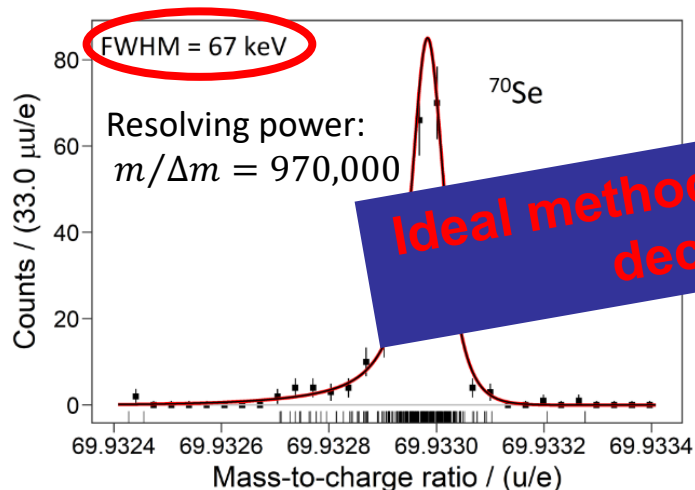
# Experimental challenges and dealing with them

## Experimental Challenges:

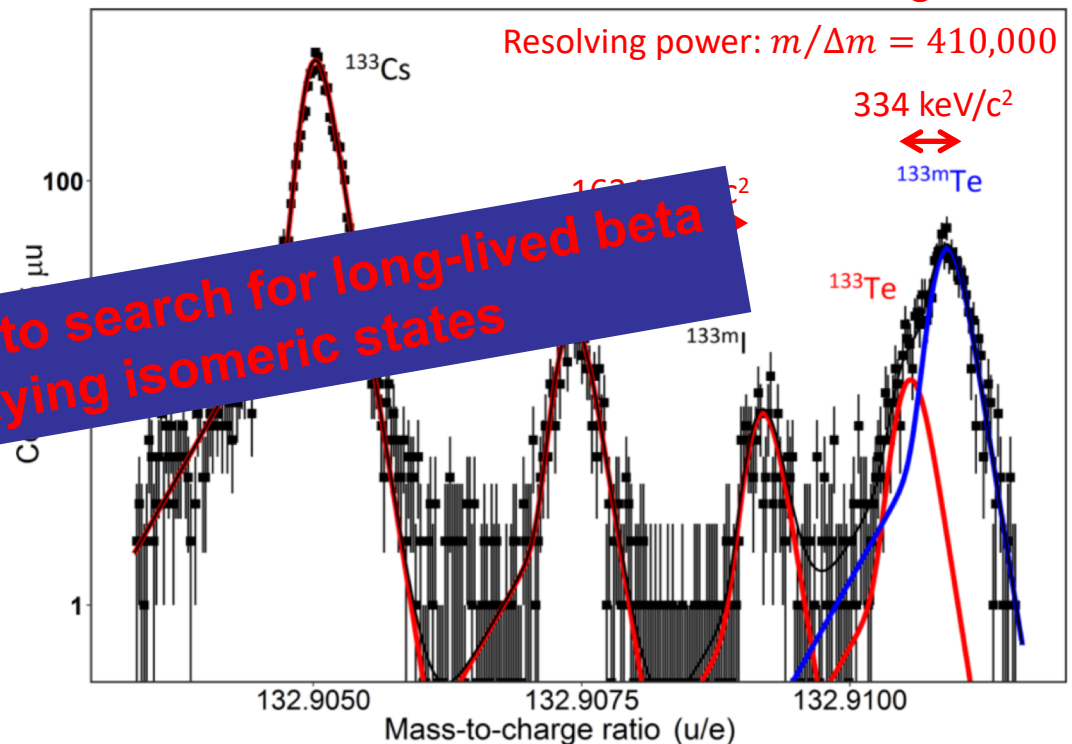
- Short half-lives ( $\sim$  ms)
- Small production cross section ( $\sim$  pbarn- $\mu$ barn)
- Low-lying isomeric states

## Multiple Reflection Time-of-Flight Mass Spectrometer (MR-TOF-MS) :

- **Online:**  $^{220}\text{Ra}$  (17.9 ms) S. Ayet *et al.*, PRC 064313  
 $^{125m}\text{In}$  (5 ms) C. Izzo *et al.*, PRC 025811
- **Offline:**  $^{215}\text{Po}$  (1.8 ms) A.-K. Rink, PhD thesis, JLU Gießen (2017)



Sensitive, broadband, non-scanning



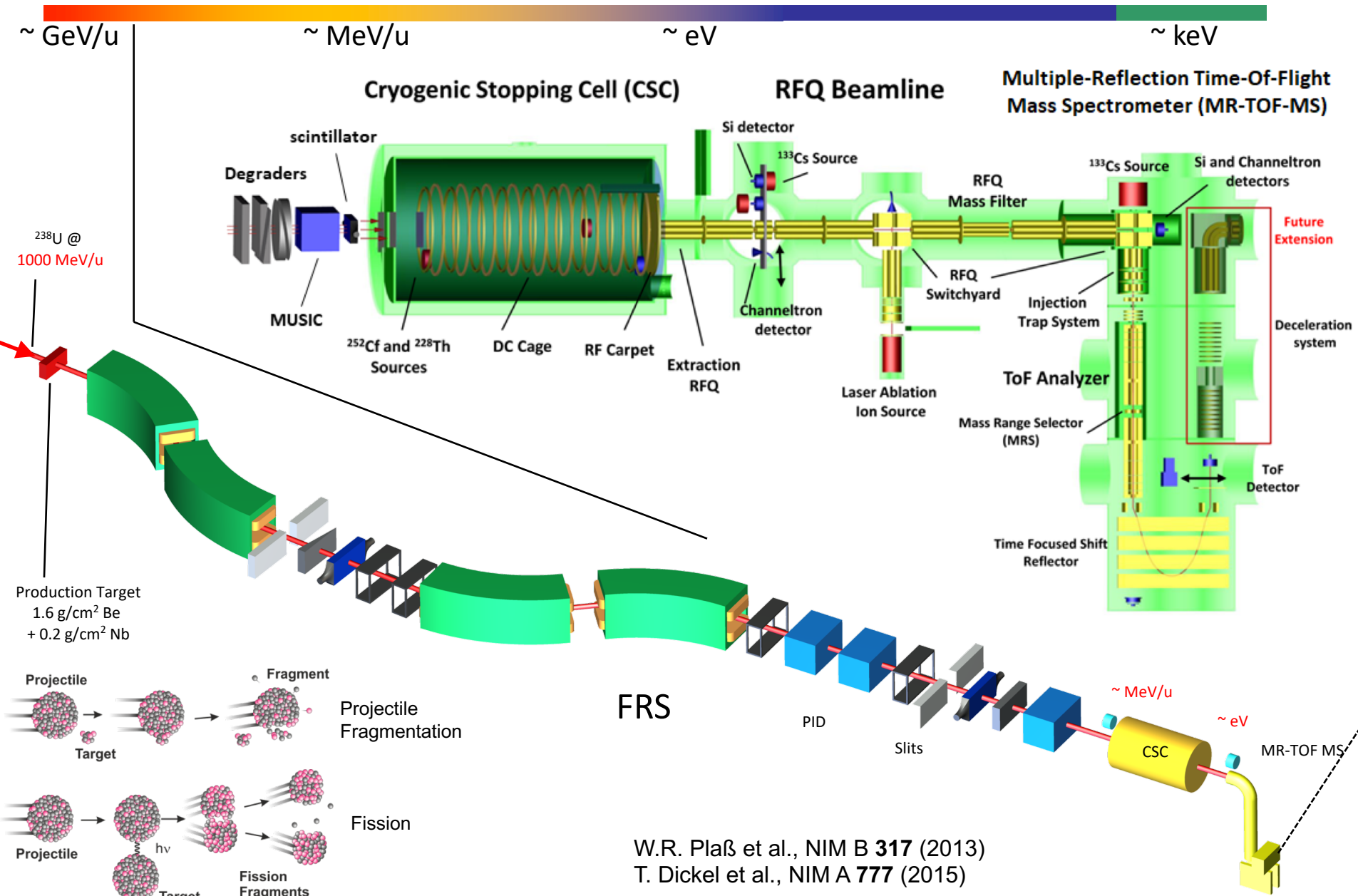
Ideal method to search for long-lived beta decaying isomeric states

S. Ayet *et al.*, PRC **99** (2019) 064313

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



# FRS Ion Catcher: Test Facility for the LEB@SuperFRS



W.R. Plaß et al., NIM B **317** (2013)  
T. Dickel et al., NIM A **777** (2015)



# FRS Ion Catcher



MR-TOF-MS

Low energy  
(~eV)  
beamline

Cryogenic  
stopping  
cell

Standard  
detectors  
for PID

DESPEC

I. Miskun et al., IJMS 459 (2021) 116450  
W.R. Plaß et al., Hypefine Inter. 241 (2020) 1  
E. Haettner et al., NIM A 880 (2018) 138  
S. Purushothaman et al., IJMS 421 (2017) 245  
W. R. Plaß et al., Phys. Scr. T166 (2015) 014069  
W.R. Plaß et al., Int. J. Mass Spectrometry **394** (2013)

F. Greiner et al., NIM B 463 (2020) 324  
M.P. Reiter et al., NIM B 376 (2016) 240  
M. Ranjan et al., NIM A 770 (2015) 87  
S. Purushothaman et al., EPL 104 (2013) 42001  
M. Ranjan et al., Europhys. Lett. 96 (2011) 52001  
W.R. Plaß et al., NIM B **266** (2008)



# The first and second joint publications



Physics Letters B 802 (2020) 135200



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Physics Letters B

[www.elsevier.com/locate/physletb](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/physletb)

## Isomer studies in the vicinity of the doubly-magic nucleus $^{100}\text{Sn}$ : Observation of a new low-lying isomeric state in $^{97}\text{Ag}$

Christine Hornung<sup>a,\*</sup>, Daler Amanbayev<sup>a</sup>, Irene Dedes<sup>b</sup>, Gabriella Kripko-Koncz<sup>a</sup>, Ivan Miskun<sup>a</sup>, Noritaka Shimizu<sup>c</sup>, Samuel Ayet San Andrés<sup>a,d</sup>, Julian Bergmann<sup>a</sup>, Timo Dickel<sup>a,d</sup>, Jerzy Dudek<sup>e,b</sup>, Jens Ebert<sup>a</sup>, Hans Geissel<sup>a,d</sup>, Magdalena Górska<sup>d</sup>, Hubert Grawe<sup>d</sup>, Florian Greiner<sup>a</sup>, Emma Haettner<sup>d</sup>, Takaharu Otsuka<sup>f</sup>, Wolfgang R. Plaß<sup>a,d</sup>, Sivaji Purushothaman<sup>d</sup>, Ann-Kathrin Rink<sup>a</sup>, Christoph Scheidenberger<sup>a,d</sup>, Helmut Weick<sup>d</sup>, Soumya Bagchi<sup>a,d,g</sup>, Andrey Blazhev<sup>h</sup>, Olga Charviakova<sup>i</sup>, Dominique Curien<sup>e</sup>, Andrew Finlay<sup>j</sup>, Satbir Kaur<sup>g</sup>, Wayne Lippert<sup>a</sup>, Jan-Hendrik Otto<sup>a</sup>, Zygmunt Patyk<sup>i</sup>, Stephane Pietri<sup>d</sup>, Yoshiki K. Tanaka<sup>d</sup>, Yusuke Tsunoda<sup>c</sup>, John S. Winfield<sup>d</sup>

<sup>a</sup> II. Physikalisches Institut, Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen, 35392 Gießen, Germany

<sup>b</sup> Institute of Physics, Marie Curie-Skłodowska University, PL-20 031 Lublin, Poland

<sup>c</sup> Center for Nuclear Study, University of Tokyo, Hongo, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113-0033, Japan

<sup>d</sup> GSI Helmholtzzentrum für Schwerionenforschung GmbH, 64291 Darmstadt, Germany

<sup>e</sup> Université de Strasbourg, CNRS, IPHC UMR 7178, F-67 000 Strasbourg, France

<sup>f</sup> RIKEN Nishina Center, 2-1 Hirosawa, Wako, Saitama 351-0198, Japan

<sup>g</sup> Saint Mary's University, NS B3H 3C3 Halifax, Canada

<sup>h</sup> Institut für Kernphysik, Universität zu Köln, D-50937 Köln, Germany

<sup>i</sup> National Centre for Nuclear Research, Hoza 69, 00-681 Warszawa, Poland

<sup>j</sup> TRIUMF, BC V6T 2A3 Vancouver, Canada

Theory by IPHC (J. Dudek et al.)

- $^{97\text{m}}\text{Ag}$  ( $1/2^-$ ) was discovered (the **first isomer** found by MR-TOF-MS)
- better understanding of the isomeric structures around  $^{100}\text{Sn}$



PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS 127, 112501 (2021)

## Mass Measurements of Neutron-Deficient Yb Isotopes and Nuclear Structure at the Extreme Proton-Rich Side of the $N = 82$ Shell

Sönke Beck<sup>1,2,\*</sup>, Brian Kootte<sup>3,4</sup>, Irene Dedes<sup>5,6</sup>, Timo Dickel<sup>1,2</sup>, A. A. Kwiatkowski<sup>3,7</sup>, Eleni Marina Lykiardopoulou<sup>8,3</sup>, Wolfgang R. Plaß<sup>1,2</sup>, Moritz P. Reiter<sup>1,3,9</sup>, Corina Andreoiu<sup>10</sup>, Julian Bergmann<sup>1</sup>, Thomas Brunner<sup>11</sup>, Dominique Curien<sup>12</sup>, Jens Dilling<sup>3,8</sup>, Jerzy Dudek<sup>12,6</sup>, Eleanor Dunling<sup>3,13</sup>, Jake Flowerdew<sup>14</sup>, Abdelghafar Gaamouci<sup>15</sup>, Leigh Graham<sup>3</sup>, Gerald Gwinner<sup>4</sup>, Andrew Jacobs<sup>3,5</sup>, Renee Klawitter<sup>3</sup>, Yang Lan<sup>8</sup>, Erich Leistenschneider<sup>8,3</sup>, Nikolay Minkov<sup>16</sup>, Victor Monier<sup>3</sup>, Ish Mukul<sup>3</sup>, Stefan F. Paul<sup>3</sup>, Christoph Scheidenberger<sup>1,2,17</sup>, Robert I. Thompson<sup>14</sup>, James L. Tracy, Jr.<sup>3</sup>, Michael Vansteenkiste<sup>3</sup>, Hua-Lei Wang<sup>18</sup>, Michael E. Wieser<sup>14</sup>, Christian Will<sup>1</sup> and Jie Yang<sup>6,18</sup>

<sup>1</sup>II. Physikalisches Institut, Justus-Liebig-Universität, 35392 Gießen, Germany

<sup>2</sup>GSI Helmholtzzentrum für Schwerionenforschung GmbH, 64291 Darmstadt, Germany

<sup>3</sup>TRIUMF, Vancouver, British Columbia V6T 2A3, Canada

<sup>4</sup>Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 2N2, Canada

<sup>5</sup>Institute of Nuclear Physics, Polish Academy of Sciences, PL-31 342 Kraków, Poland

<sup>6</sup>Institute of Physics, Marie Curie-Skłodowska University, PL-20 031 Lublin, Poland

<sup>7</sup>Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia V8P 5C2, Canada

<sup>8</sup>Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia V6T 1Z1, Canada

<sup>9</sup>School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh EH9 3FD, Scotland, United Kingdom

<sup>10</sup>Department of Chemistry, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia V5A 1S6, Canada

<sup>11</sup>Physics Department, McGill University, H3A 2T8 Montréal, Québec, Canada

<sup>12</sup>Université de Strasbourg, CNRS, IPHC UMR 7178, F-67 000 Strasbourg, France

<sup>13</sup>Department of Physics, University of York, York YO10 5DD, United Kingdom

<sup>14</sup>Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta T2N 1N4, Canada

<sup>15</sup>Faculté de Physique, University of Science and Technology Houari Boumediene, BP 32, El Alia, 16111 Bab Ezzouar, Algiers, Algeria

<sup>16</sup>Institute of Nuclear Research and Nuclear Energy, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, BG-1784 Sofia, Bulgaria

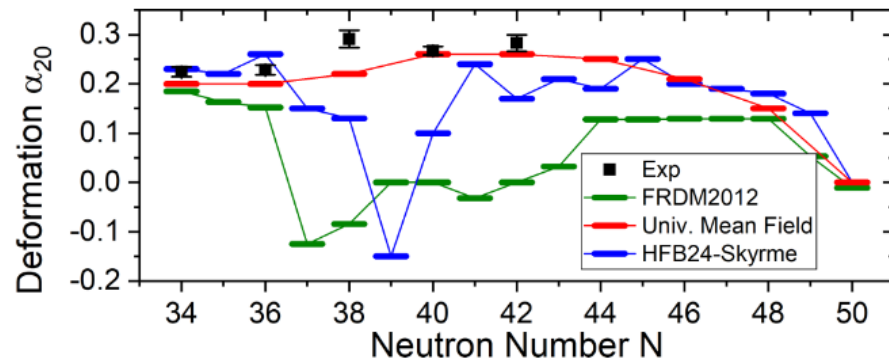
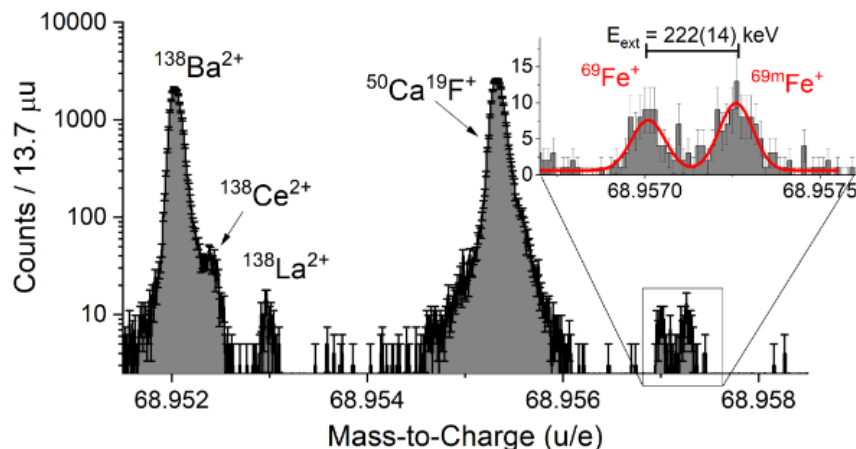
<sup>17</sup>Helmholtz-Forschungsbereich HGF/FAIR (HFHF), GSI Helmholtzzentrum für Schwerionenforschung, Campus Gießen, 35392 Gießen, Germany

<sup>18</sup>School of Physics and Microelectronics, Zhengzhou University, Zhengzhou 450001, China

- reach the proton drip line of Yb with MR-TOF-MS
- isomeric state systematics of the  $N=81$  isotones



# Third joint publication: mapping the N = 40 island of inversion



- MR-TOF-MS mass-selective retrapping for neutron-rich Fe isotopes  
→ signal-to-noise ratios  $\sim 10^{-4}$  for high-precision mass measurements
- a long-lived isomer  $^{69m}\text{Fe}$  ( $T_{1/2} > 100$  ms) newly discovered
- mean-field calculations of deformations in the N=40 island of inversion
- establish a deformation maximum point in the Fe isotopic chain



# Experiment for fission isomer study

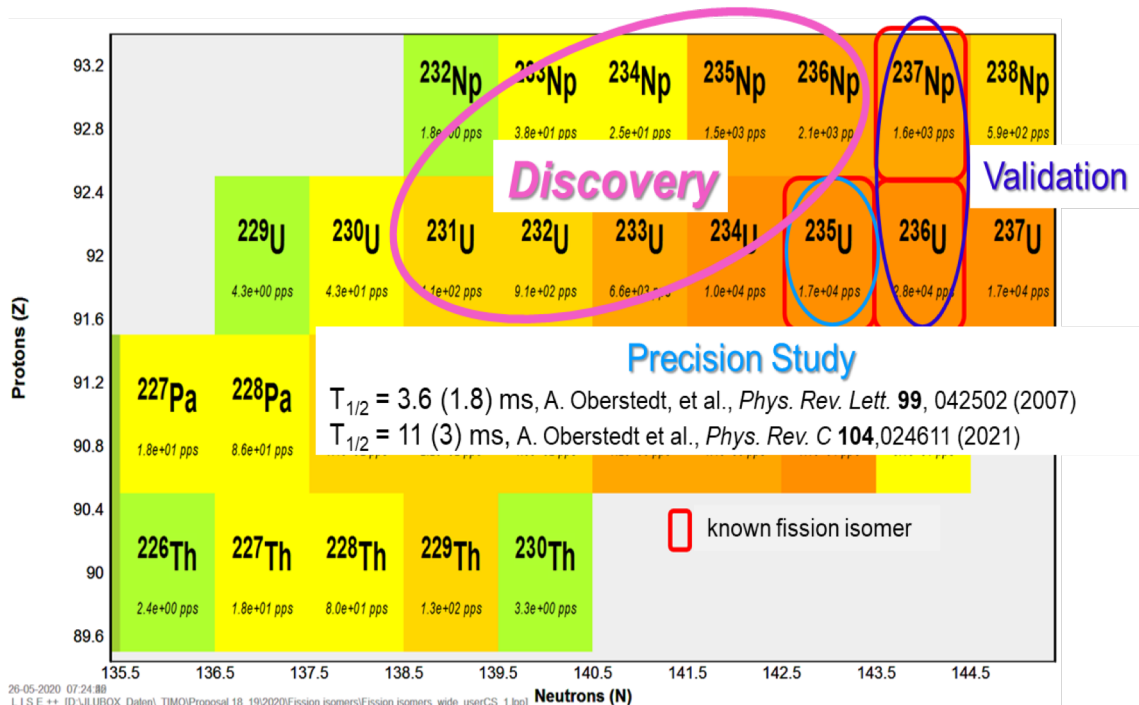
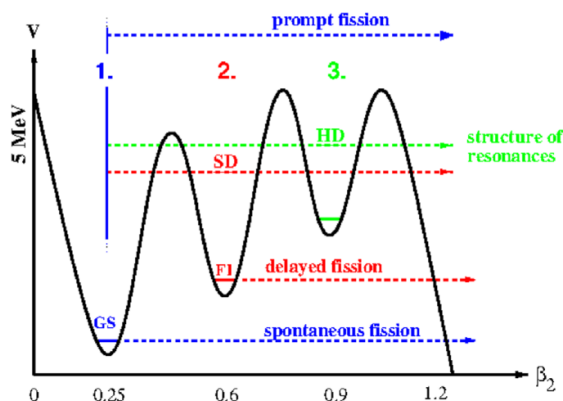
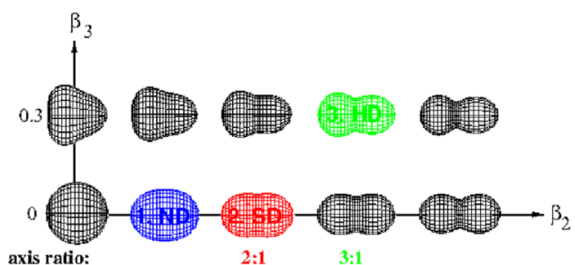
S530 @GSI: "Fission isomer studies with the FRS" (*T. Dickel et al.*)



(Superdeformed) second minimum in potential energy surface appears in actinides → fission isomers.

Ideal testing ground for strongly deformed low-spin nuclei and shell corrections in very heavy systems.

- Fission isomer population with  $^{238}\text{U}$  projectile fragmentation
- $^{235}\text{fU}$ , U and Np isotopes that are so far not well studied
- Data analysis ongoing.

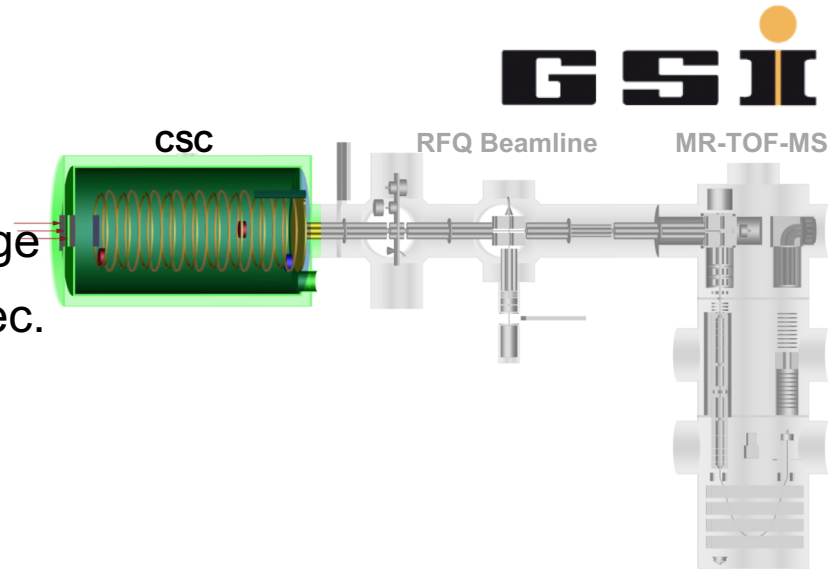




# $^{252}\text{Cf}$ spontaneous fission studies@ FRS Ion Catcher

$^{252}\text{Cf}$  spontaneous fission source (37kBq)  
mounted in the inner chamber of CSC:

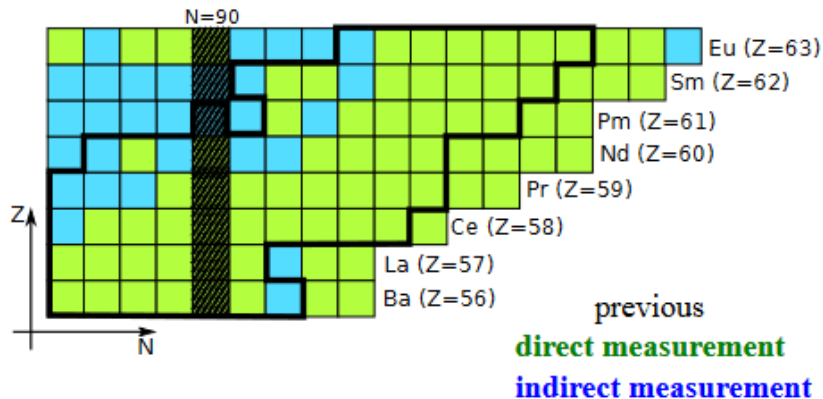
- in-cell produced ions over a broad mass range
- few hundred detected fission products per sec.
  - systematics of spontaneous fission
    - independent fission yields
    - isomer-to-ground ratios



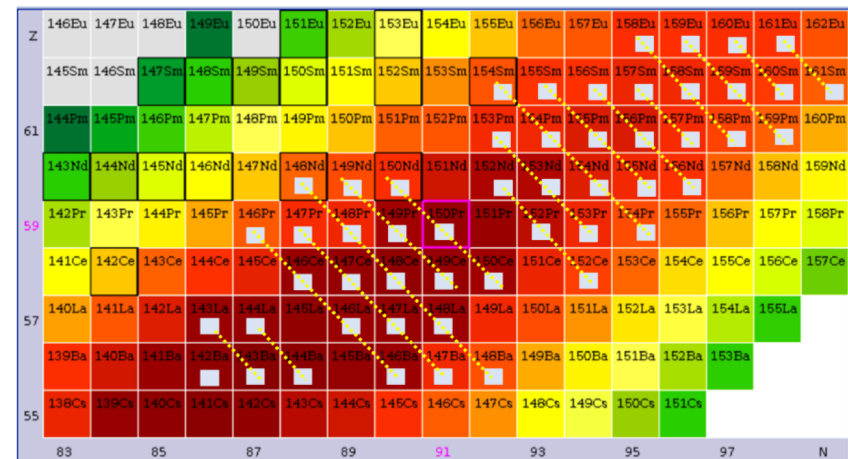
- Shape phase transition at N=90

- first time simultaneous measurement of ~ 70 masses
- first time direct mass measurement of 15 nuclei

**broadband!**



- Independent isotopic fission yields



Y. Waschitz, ND 2022 proceeding submitted

I. Mardor *et al.*, EPJ Web Conf. 239 02004 (2020)

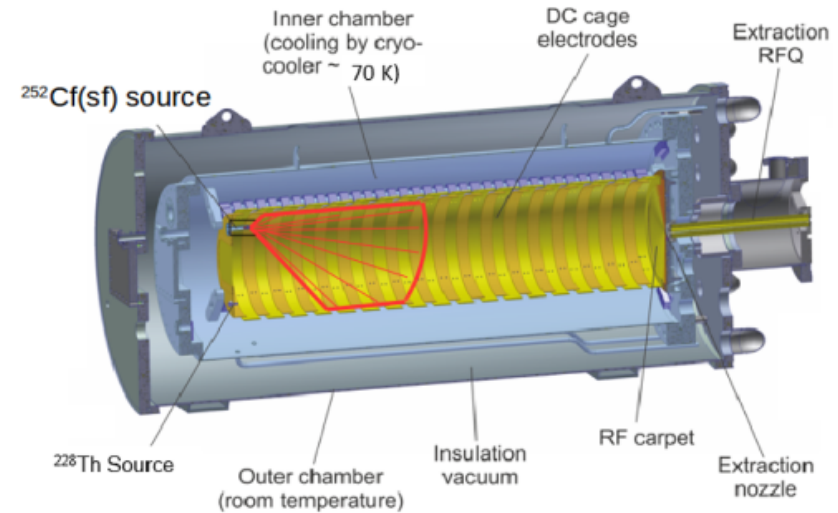
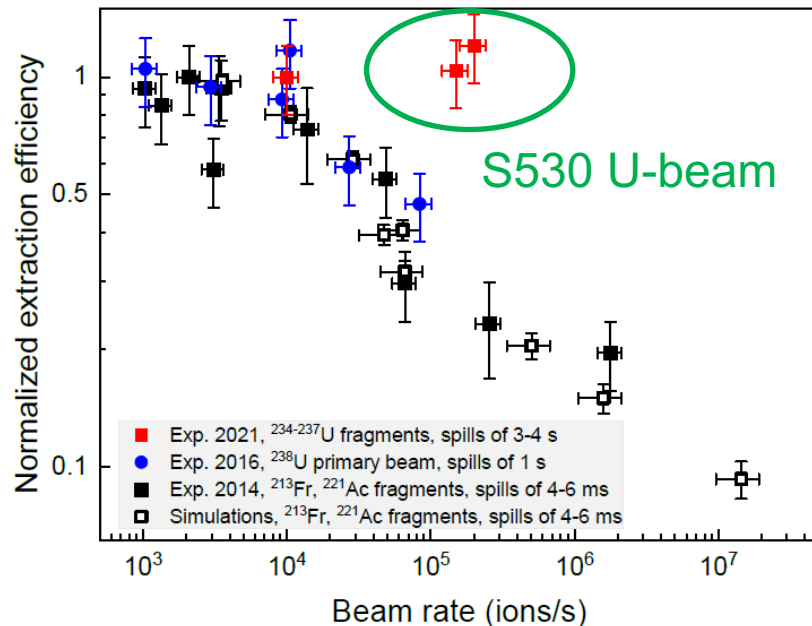
A. Spataru et al, Bulg. J. Phys. 48 (2021) 535



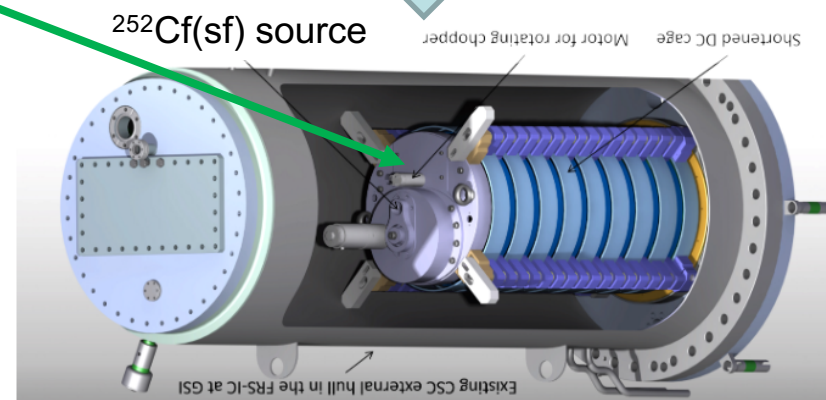
# Latest improvements on CSC: INCREASE and DC-cage

## $^{252}\text{Cf}$ spontaneous fission source

- source mounted in axis with INCREASE
  - large acceptance (FFs rate x5)
- short DC-cage
  - short extraction time (10-20 ms)
  - higher rate capability ( $\sim 2 \times 10^5$  ions/s)



INCREASE



A. Roratu et al, NIMB 512,83 (2022)

Y. Waschitz, ND 2022 proceeding submitted

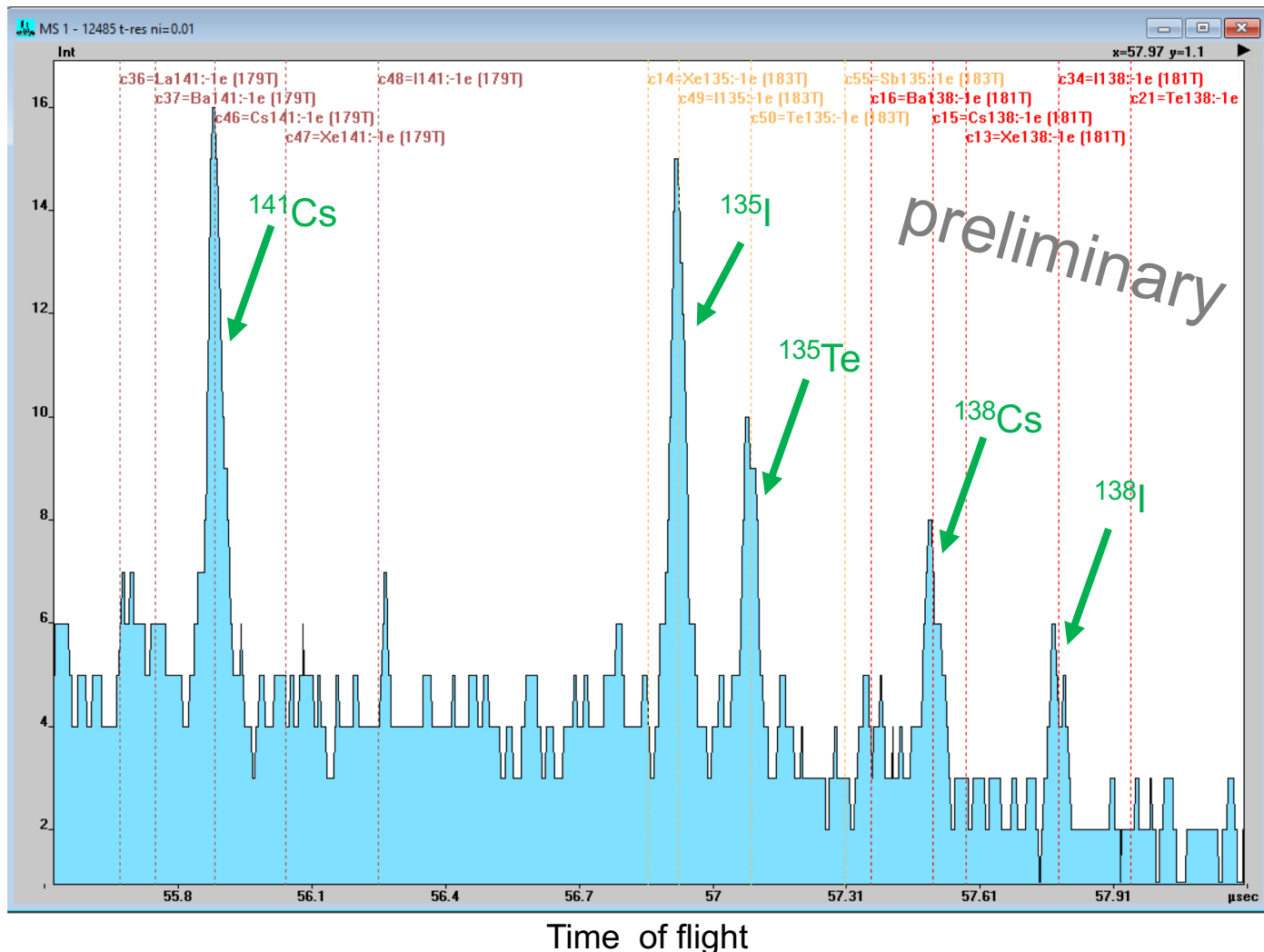


# $^{252}\text{Cf}$ spontaneous fission studies 2022



First spectrum from the October engineering run:

- fission fragments from  $^{252}\text{Cf}$  source seen: e.g.  $^{138,141}\text{Cs}$ ,  $^{135,138}\text{I}$ ,  $^{135}\text{Te}$





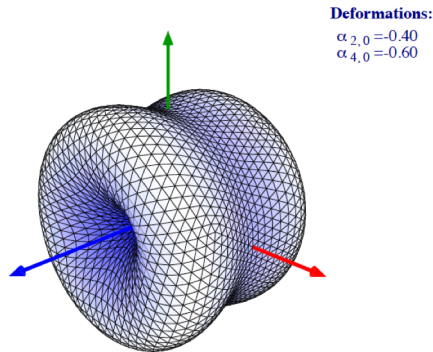




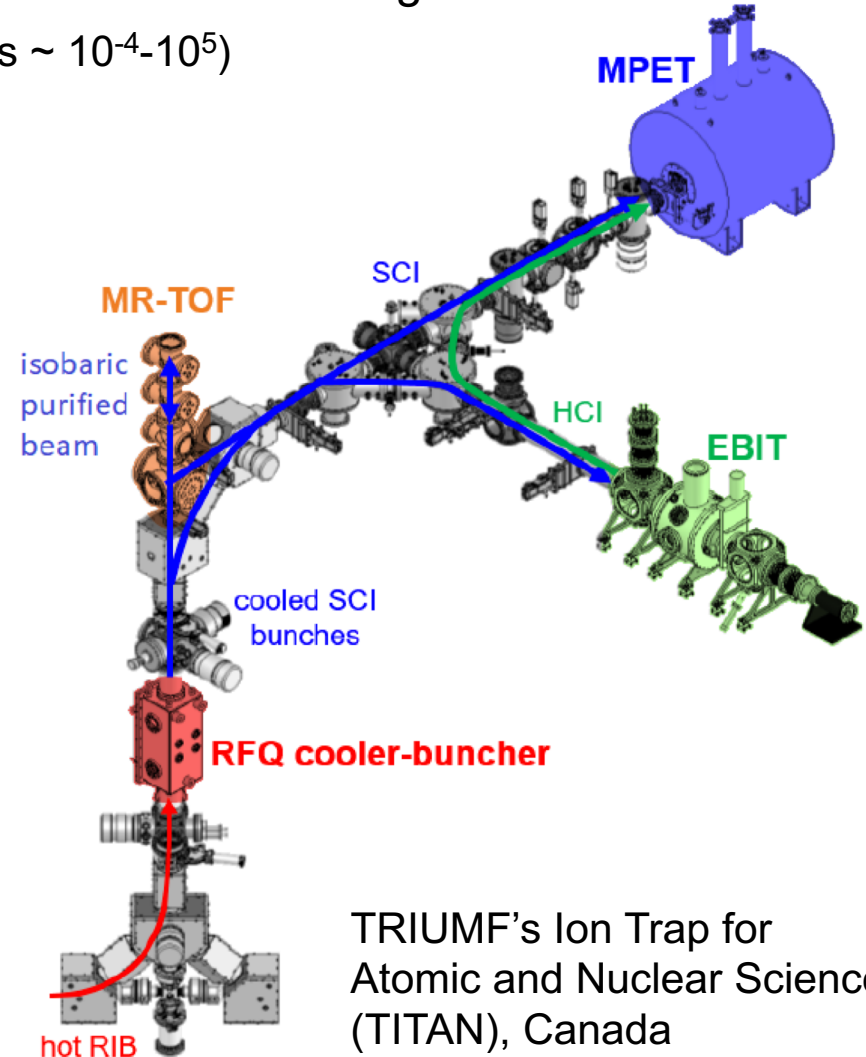
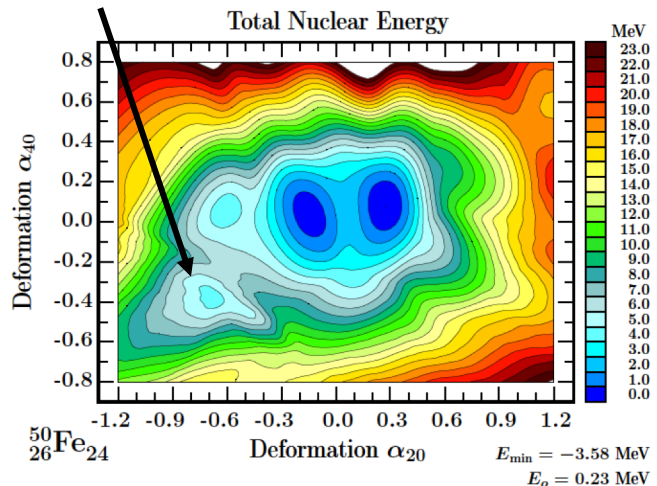
# Plans for 2023: Toroidal isomer studies at TITAN



- toroidal shape isomers predicted in even-even Fe & Cr isotopes
- MR-TOF-MS: isomers' existence and their excitation energies
  - high sensitivity (signal-to-background ratios  $\sim 10^{-4}$ - $10^5$ )
  - high mass resolving power  $\sim 6 \times 10^5$



toroidal shape isomers (mean-field theory by IPHC)



TRIUMF's Ion Trap for Atomic and Nuclear Science (TITAN), Canada



# Summary

## 3 joint publications (PLB, PRL, PRC)

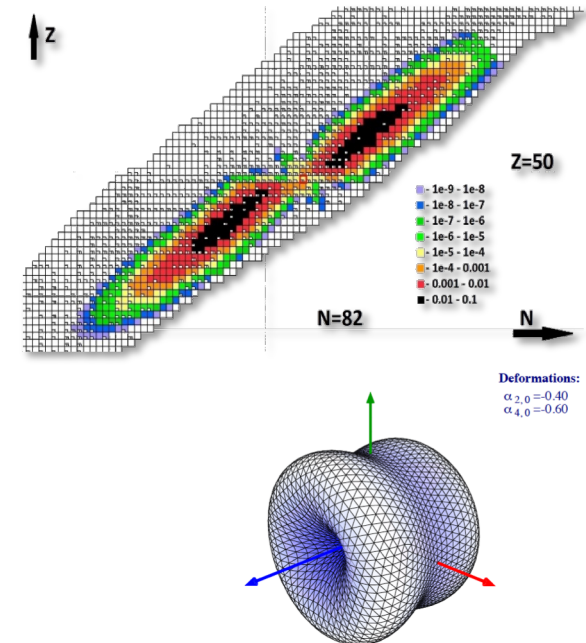
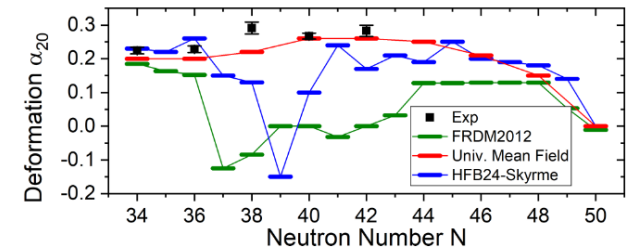
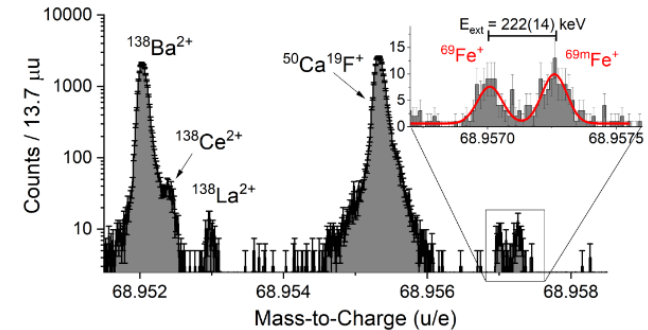
- long-lived isomers ( $^{97m}\text{Ag}$ ,  $^{69m}\text{Fe}$ ) are discovered
- isomeric state systematics of the  $N=81$  isotones
- mapping the  $N = 40$  island of inversion

## Experiments in progress

- online experiment for fission isomer study
- offline experiments with  $^{252}\text{Cf}$  fission source

## Time used in 2022

- 15/15 days to GSI      6/10 days to IPHC





# Summary

## 3 joint publications (PLB, PRL, PRC)

- long-lived isomers ( $^{97m}\text{Ag}$ ,  $^{69m}\text{Fe}$ ) are discovered
- isomeric state systematics of the  $N=81$  isotones
- mapping the  $N = 40$  island of inversion

## Experiments in progress

- online experiment for fission isomer study
- offline experiments with  $^{252}\text{Cf}$  fission source

## Time used in 2022

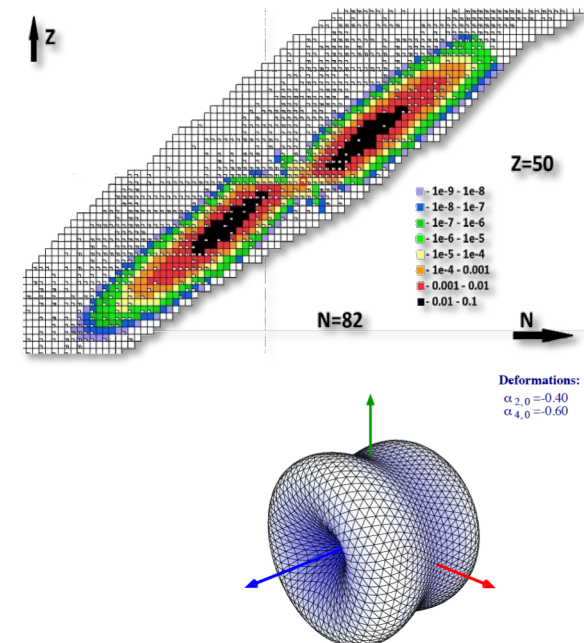
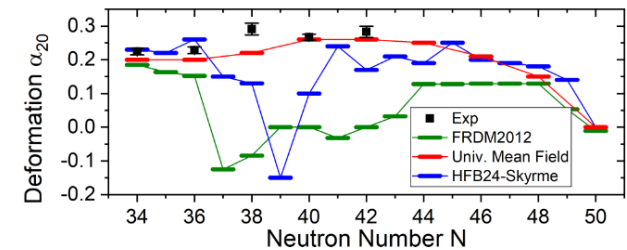
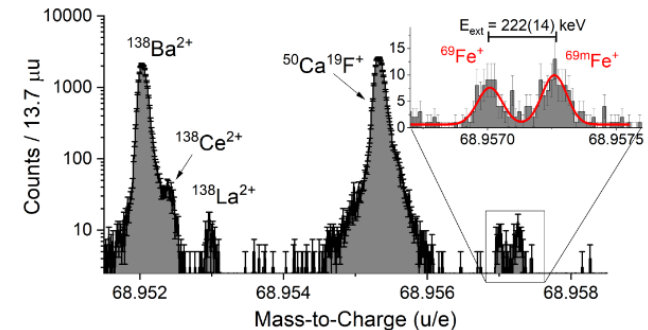
- 15/15 days to GSI      6/10 days to IPHC

## Plans in 2023

- Joint experiments with  $^{252}\text{Cf}$  source @GSI  
tetrahedral-symmetry nuclei  
fission product yield distributions & isomeric yield ratios
- Toroidal isomer studies @TITAN

## Time requested

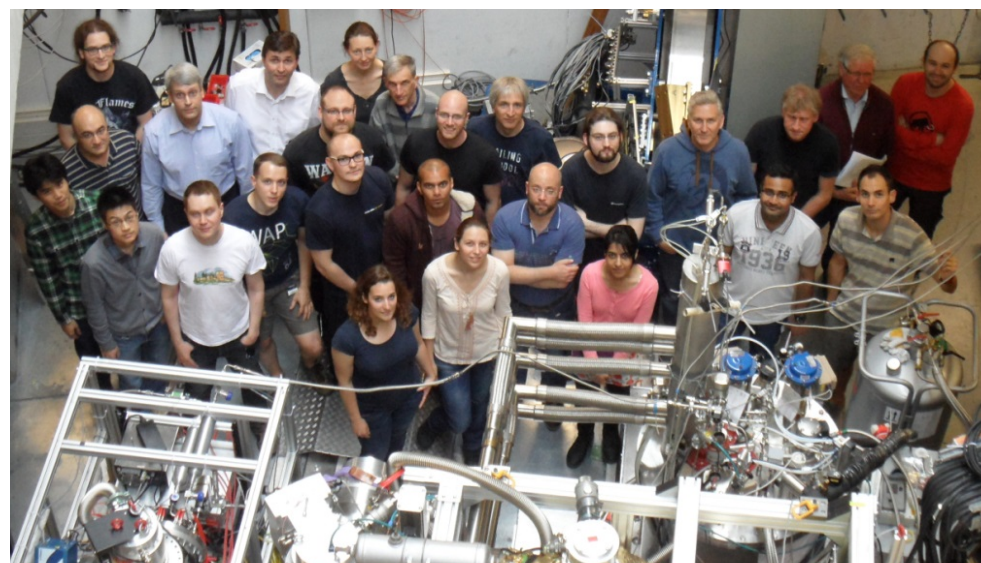
- 20 days to GSI: two experiments
- 8 days to IPHC: data analysis & interpretation





# Acknowledgements

## FRS Ion Catcher Collaboration



## TITAN Collaboration

