



Mass Measurements of Exotic Neutron-Deficient Nuclides at IGISOL

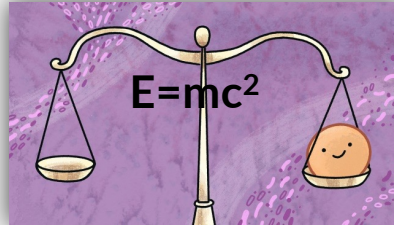
Zhuang Ge

University of Jyväskylä

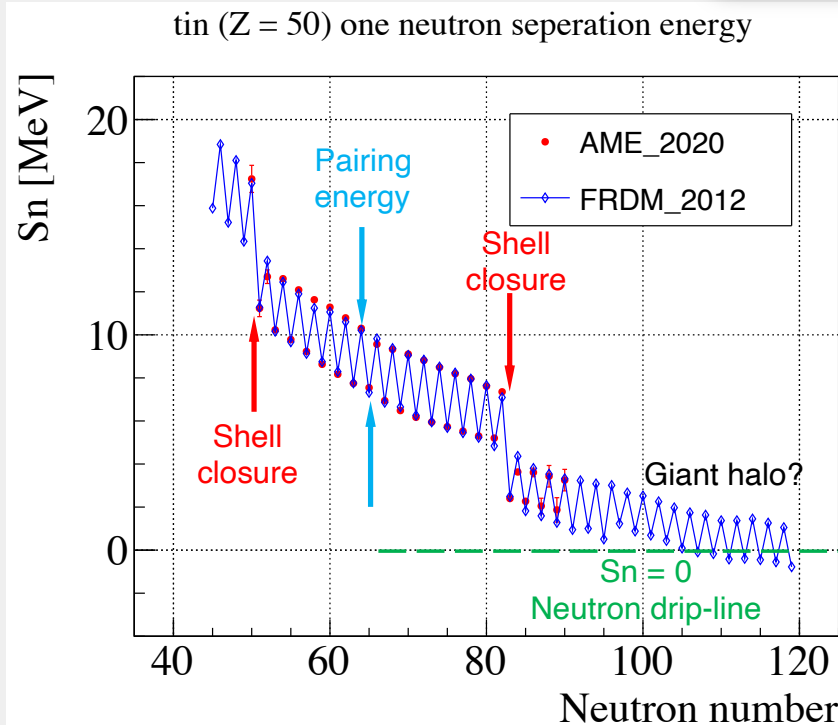


Motivation for mass measurements of neutron-deficient nuclei

Nuclear structure



Nuclear astrophysics



Example:
rp process

X-ray burst



J. Grindlay et al., *Astrophys. J.* 205 (1976) L127.

time-scale $\propto e^{(Q/kT)} / A(Q)$

isotope production $\propto A(Q) \cdot e^{(Q/kT)}$

energy production $\propto A(Q) \cdot Q \cdot e^{(Q/kT)}$

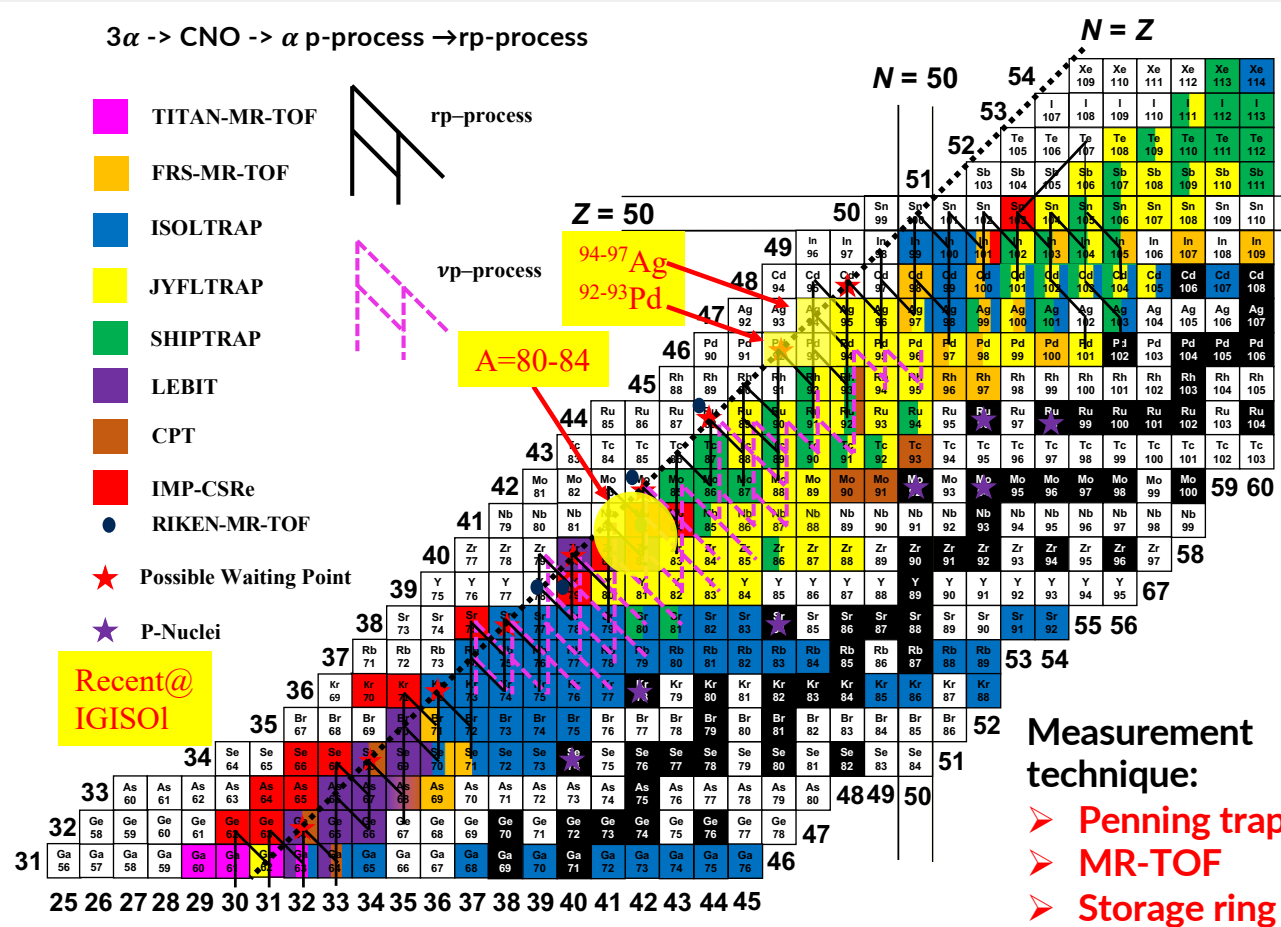
Common parameter: Q (mass difference)

Nuclear mass $\leftrightarrow$ nuclear binding energy:

$$M(N, Z) = Z \cdot m_p + N \cdot m_n - B(N, Z)/c^2$$



Status of mass measurements of neutron-deficient nuclei along N~Z line



Nuclear mass $\leftrightarrow$ nuclear binding energy:

$$M(N, Z) = Z \cdot m_p + N \cdot m_n - B(N, Z)/c^2$$

- C. Weber et al., Phys. Rev. C 78, 054310 (2008)
- A. Kankainen et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 101, 142503 (2008)
- V.-V. Elomaa et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 102, 252501 (2011)
- E. Haettner et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 106, 122501 (2011)
- F. Herfurth et al., Eur. Phys. J. A, 47,75 (2011)
- X. Tu et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 106, 112501 (2011)
- Y.M. Xing, et al., Phys. Lett. B 781 358–363 (2018)
- C. Hornung et al., Physics Letters B 802, 135200 (2020)
- M. Mougeot et al., Nature Physics 17, 1099 (2021)
- Hamaker, et al., Nat. Phys. 17, 1408–1412 (2021).
- A. Mollaebrahimi et al., Phys. Lett. B 839, 137833 (2023)
- L. Nies et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 131, 022502 (2023)
- X. Zhou et al., Nature Physics 19, 1091–1097 (2023)
- Z. Ge, M. Reponen, et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 133, 132503 (2024)
- C. M. Ireland et al., Phys. Rev. C 111, 014314 (2025)
- L. Nies et al., Phys. Rev. C 111, 014315 (2025)
- S. Kimura et al., arXiv:2504.12639v1 (PRL, accepted)
- V. Virtanen, M. Reponen, et al. to be submitted



Mass Measurement Techniques of Exotic N~Z Nuclei

Storage Rings



Isochronous MS

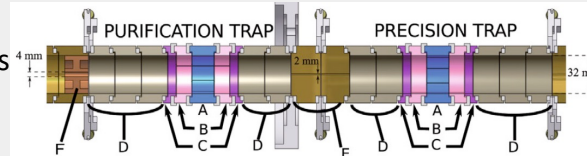
$t_{\text{meas}} \sim 100 \mu\text{s}$
 $m/\Delta m = 2 \cdot 10^5$
 $\delta m/m \sim 10^{-6}$
 broadband
 $\sim 10\text{-}200 \text{ keV}$

1. RIKEN/Rare RI Ring

Penning Trap MS (TOF-ICR and PI-ICR-MS)

TOF-ICR MS

$t_{\text{meas}} \sim 100\text{-}1000 \text{ ms}$
 $m/\Delta m = 10^6\text{-}10^7$
 $\delta m/m < 10^{-7}$
 scanning



PI-ICR MS

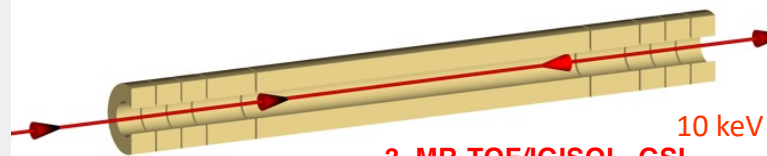
$t_{\text{meas}} \sim 100\text{-}1000 \text{ ms}$
 $m/\Delta m \sim 10^7$
 $\delta m/m < 10^{-8}$
 broadband

10s eV – 10 keV

2. IGISOL/JYFLTRAP

Multiple-Reflection Time-of-Flight MS (MR-TOF-MS)

$t_{\text{meas}} \sim 10 \text{ ms}$
 $m/\Delta m > 10^5$
 $\delta m/m < 10^{-6}$
 Broadband

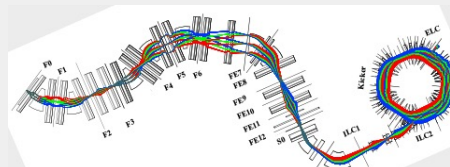


10 keV – 100 keV

3. MR-TOF/IGISOL, GSI

Magnetic-rigidity Time-of-Flight MS

$t_{\text{meas}} < 1 \mu\text{s}$
 $m/\Delta m \sim 10^4$
 $\delta m/m > 10^{-6}$
 Broadband



100 keV – 1000 keV

1. RIKEN/BigRIPS-OEDO-SHARAQ



Mass Measurement Techniques of Exotic N~Z Nuclei

Mass spectrometry	time	Precision	m/ Δ m	Precision	Device example
IMS (Storage Ring)	~ 100 s μ s	10^{-6} - 10^{-7}	$\sim 3 \times 10^5$	10-200 keV	IMP/RIKEN
Penning Trap (TOF-ICR)	> 50 ms	$< 10^{-7}$	$\sim 10^6$	10s eV-few keV	IGISOL/JYFLTRAP
Penning Trap (PI-ICR)	> 50 ms	$< 10^{-8}$	$\sim 10^6$ - 10^7	10s eV-few keV	IGISOL/JYFLTRAP
MR-TOF-MS	~ 10 ms	$< 10^{-6}$	$> 10^5$	10-100 keV	IGISOL, GSI
B ρ -TOF-MS	< 1 μ s	$> 10^{-6}$	$\sim 10^4$	100-1000 keV	RIKEN/BigRIPS-OEDO-SHARAQ

All techniques
have their
advantages

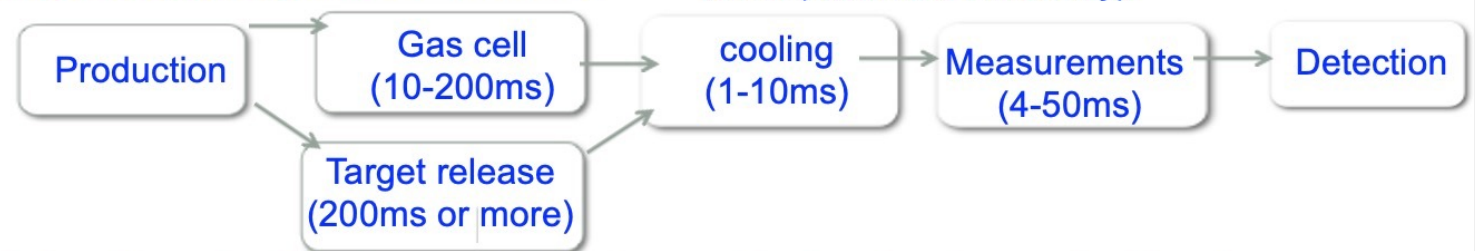
Measurement Schemes

Storage Ring & B ρ -TOF-MS @ In-flight facilities



➤ **background free and single ion sensitivity (event by event PID) of highly charged ions**

MRTOF/Penning-trap @ In-flight/ISOL- facilities



ISOL (chemical sensitivity)

➤ **Cooled and bunched ion beam with backgrounds of molecules and adduct ions**

➤ **Laser ionisation & other techniques for coupling to identify and separate IOI**

The Ion Guide Isotope Separator On-Line facility (IGISOL)

Offline ion source

Dipole magnet

RFQ Cooler-Buncher

Collinear laser spectroscopy

Atom Trap

● Goal: Producing coherent gamma radiation via isomeric decay of ^{135m}Cs in a Bose-Einstein condensate.

MR-ToF

● 200K-300K MRP so far

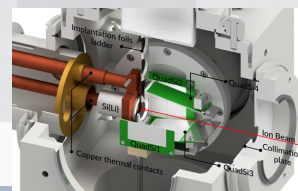
MORA

(Matter's Origin from the RadioActivity of trapped and oriented ions)

Looking for CP violation in nuclear beta-decay via D correlation measurement.

Spectroscopy beamline

- Diagnostics
- Nuclear decay spectroscopy
- Instrument development



FURIOS

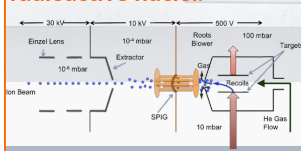
(The Fast Universal Resonant Ion Source)

- A 10 kHz pulsed solid-state Titanium:sapphire laser system

Provides high-power laser beams for very sensitive resonance ionization spectroscopy (RIS).

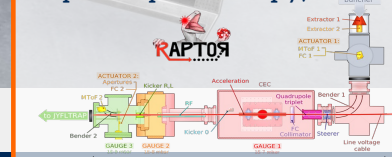
IGISOL

Fast and chemically non-selective way to produce radioactive nuclei.



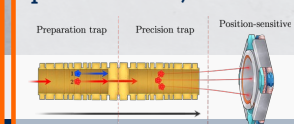
RAPTOR

(Resonance ionization spectroscopy And Purification Traps for spectRoscOPY)



JYFLTRAP

(Penning trap mass spectrometer)



Mass Measurements of Exotic Neutron Deficient Nuclides at IGISOL (Zhuang Ge) EuNP2025 @ Caen, France

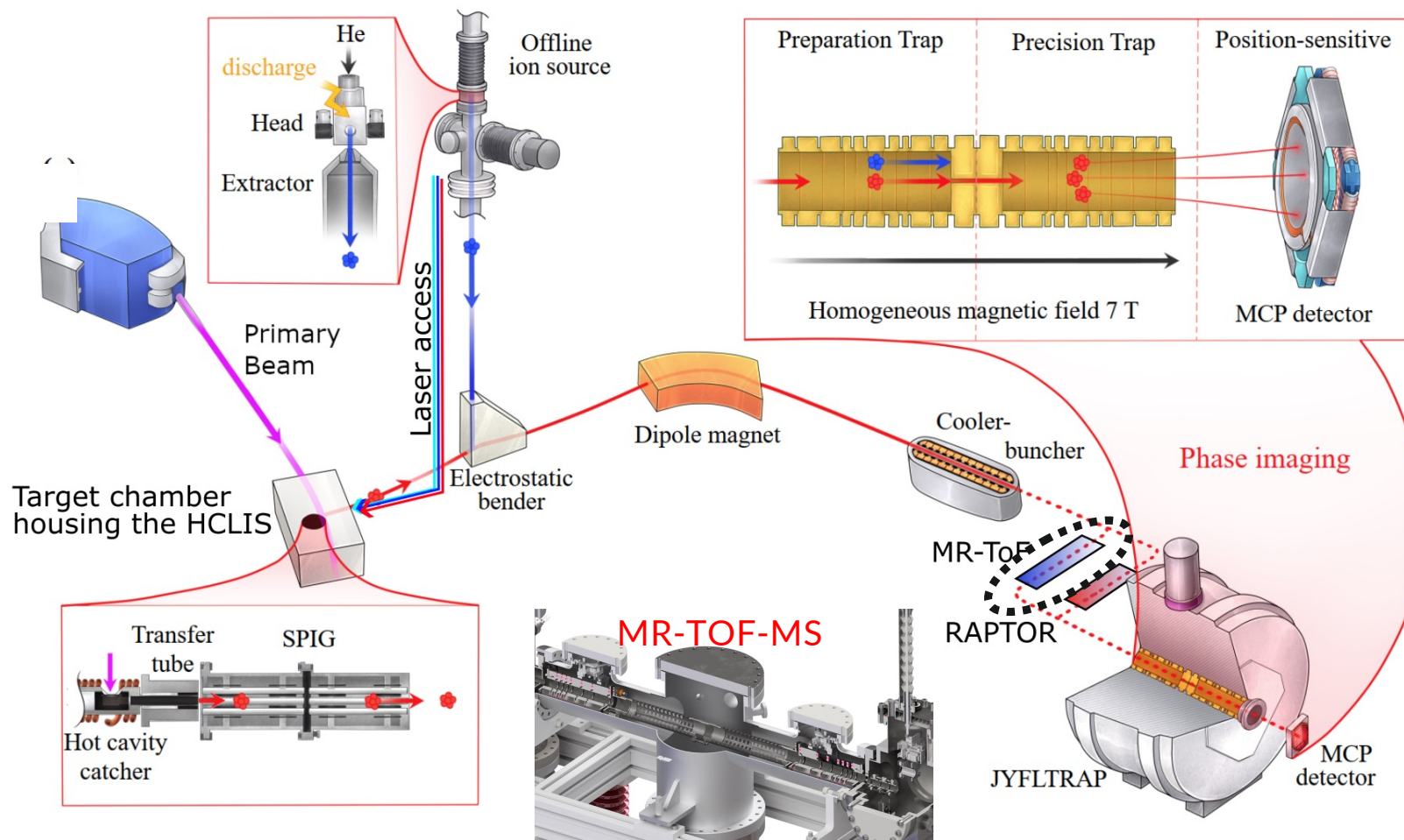


Penning trap and MR-TOF mass spectrometer at IGISOL

T. Eronen et al., EPJA 48 (2012) 46

A. Kankainen et al., Hyperfine Interactions (2020) 241:43

Anu, Arthur's talk



- ❖ Production of $N=Z$ nuclei and the vicinity:
 - Heavy ion induced fusion-evaporation
 - MNT
- ❖ Extraction technique:
 - HIGISOL gas cell
 - MNT gas cell
 - Hot cavity

- ❖ Production of reference nucleus:
 - Co-produced in Target chamber
 - Sparking ion source
 - Surface ion source
 - Laser ablation ion source



Schematic of PI-ICR for ^{95}Ag mass measurements

Hot cavity & in source Laser ionization
Identification/measurement with PI-ICR

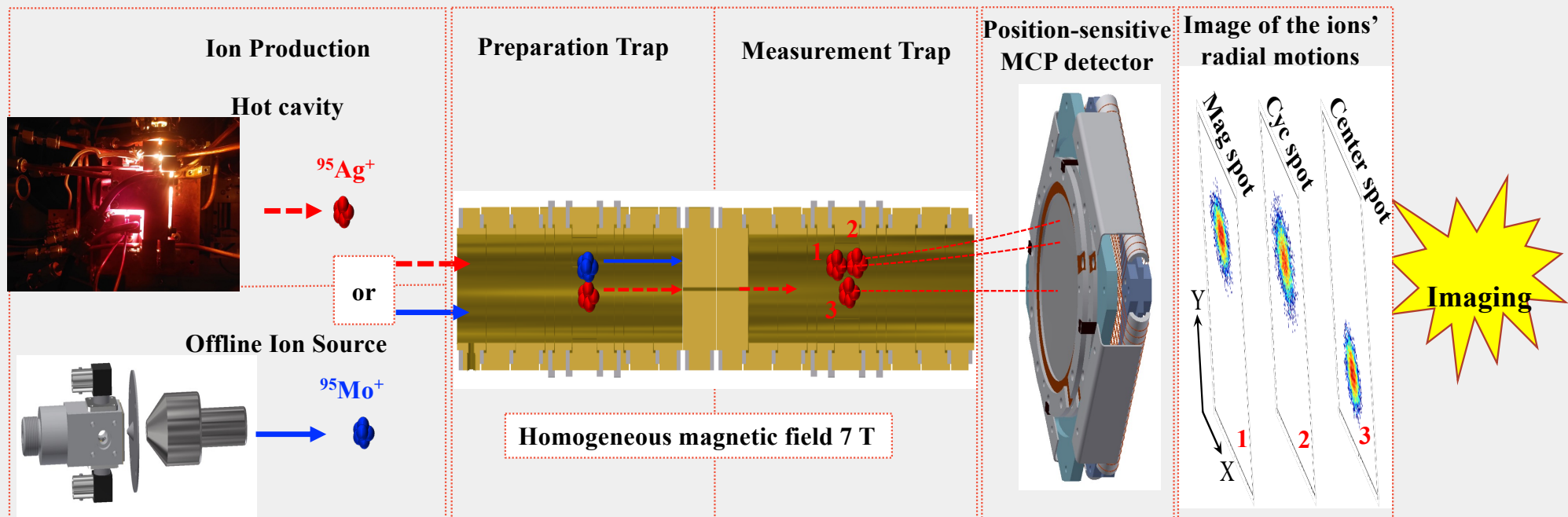
Traps ♥ Lasers

Angle difference between cyclotron and magnetron motion phases:

$$\alpha_c = \alpha_- + \alpha_+$$

cyclotron frequency:

$$\nu_c = \nu_+ + \nu_- = \frac{\alpha_c + 2\pi n}{2\pi t}$$



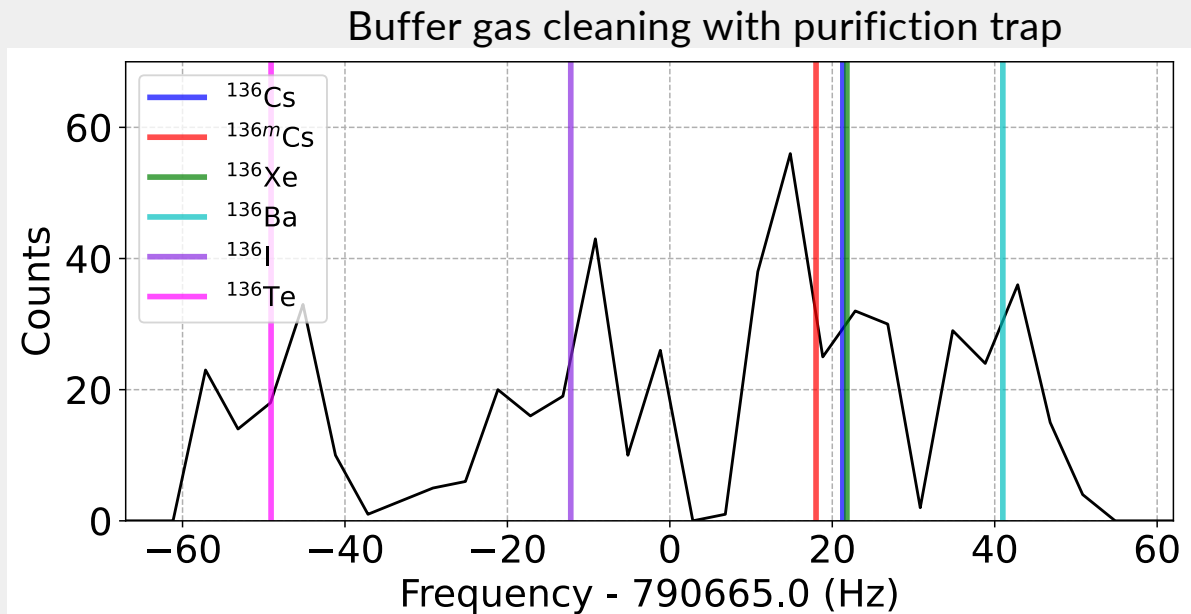
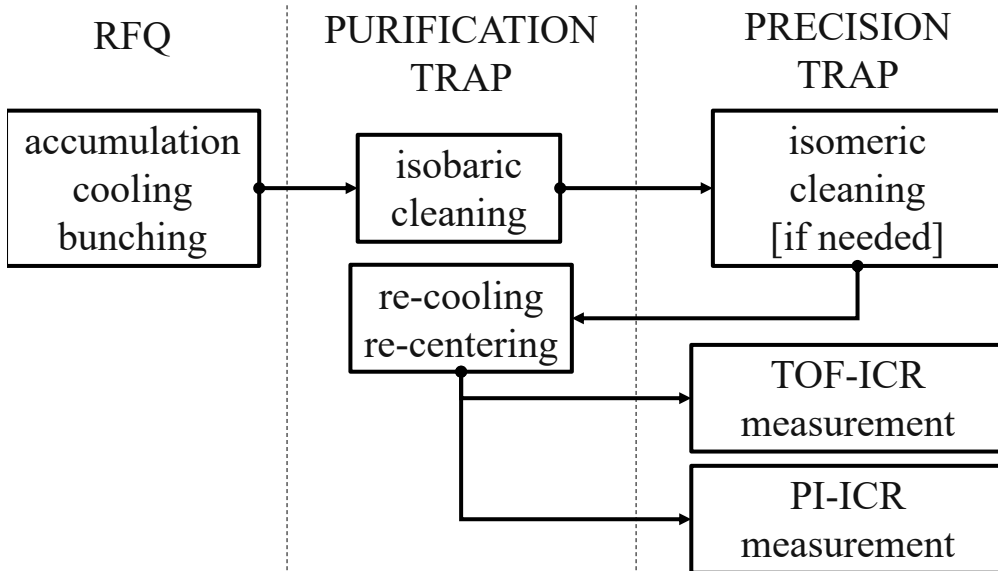


State-of-the-art trap method for purification of isomers

T. Eronen et al., EPJA 48 (2012) 46

Z. Ge, T. Eronen, A. de Roubin et al., Phys. Rev. C 108, 045502 (2023)

Z. Ge, M. Reponen, T. Eronen et al., Phys. Rev. LETTERS 133, 132503 (2024)



Conatminant-free ion sample preparation (especially isomers)



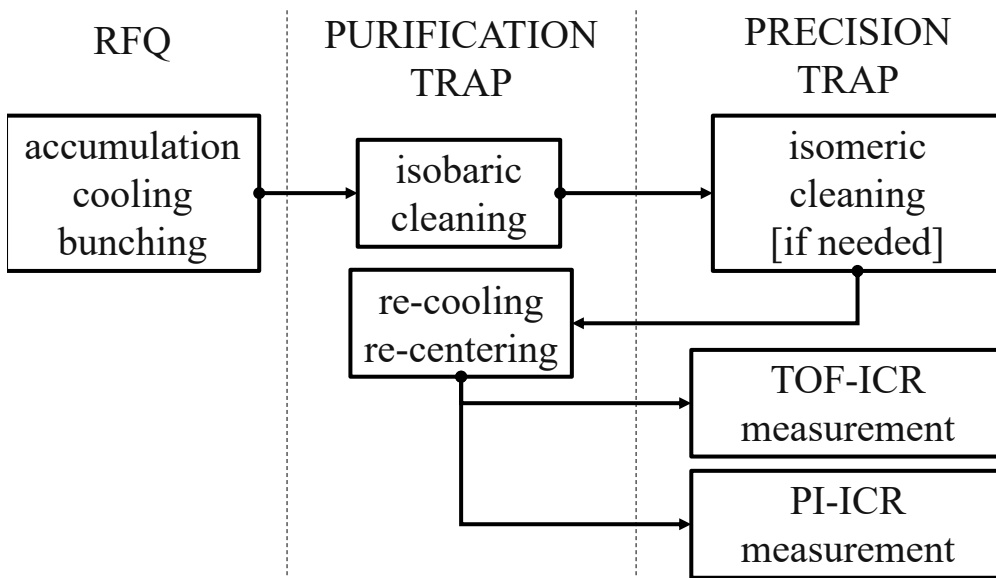


State-of-the-art trap method for purification of isomers

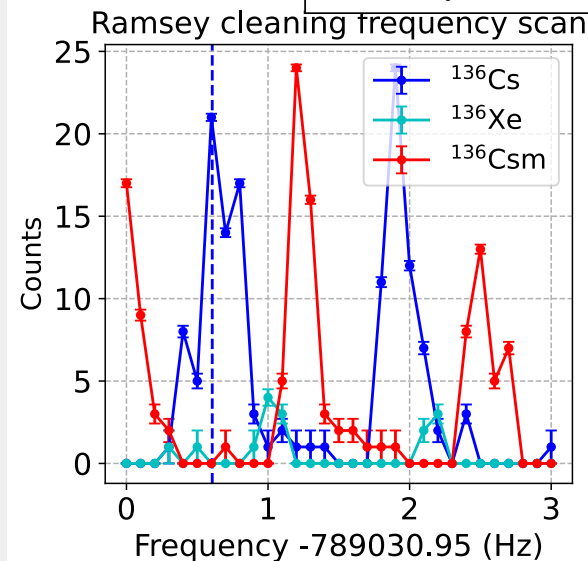
T. Eronen et al., EPJA 48 (2012) 46

Z. Ge, T. Eronen, A. de Roubin et al., Phys. Rev. C 108, 045502 (2023)

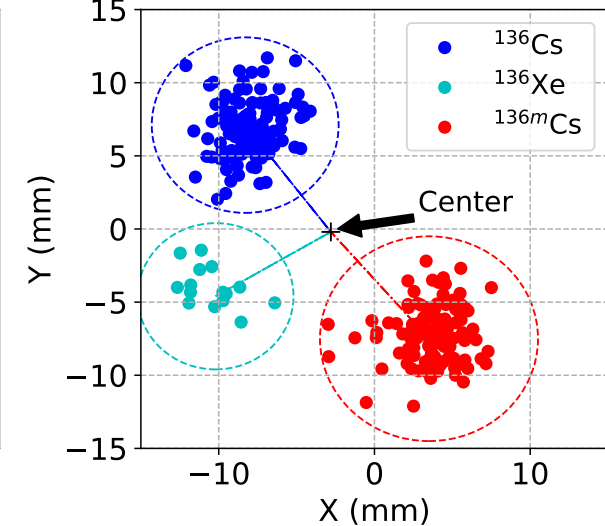
Z. Ge, M. Reponen, T. Eronen et al., Phys. Rev. LETTERS 133, 132503 (2024)



Ramsey cleaning with precision trap



PI-ICR identification



Conatminant-free ion sample preparation (especially isomers):

Coupling of Ramsey cleaning & PI-ICR method for unambiguous cleaning
(to reach 10^{-9} precision for exotic cases)

contaminants of 90 keV ($A=136$) away from ion of interest easy to clean, more than 10^6 resolving power to clean 2 or more closely lying contaminants

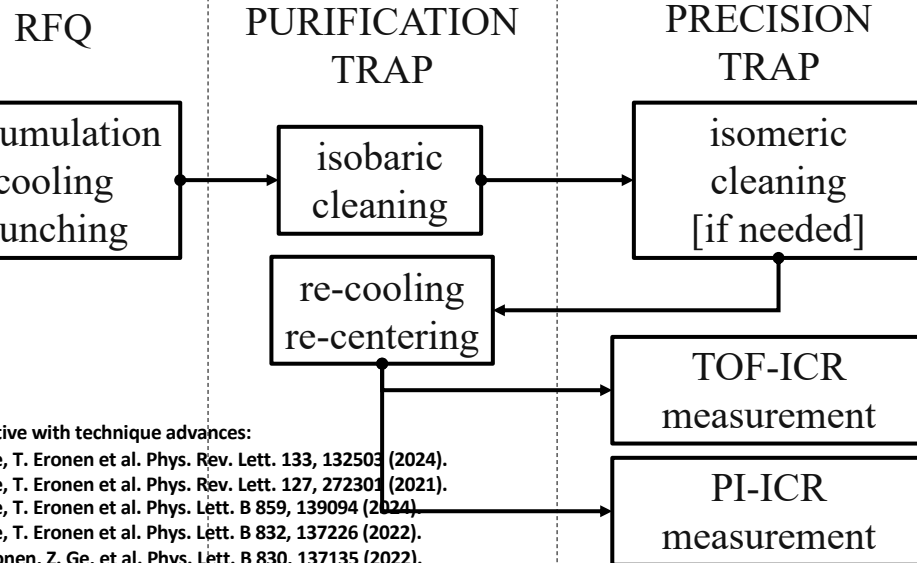


State-of-the-art trap method for purification of isomers

T. Eronen et al., EPJA 48 (2012) 46

Z. Ge, T. Eronen, A. de Roubin et al., Phys. Rev. C 108, 045502 (2023)

Z. Ge, M. Reponen, T. Eronen et al., Phys. Rev. LETTERS 133, 132503 (2024)



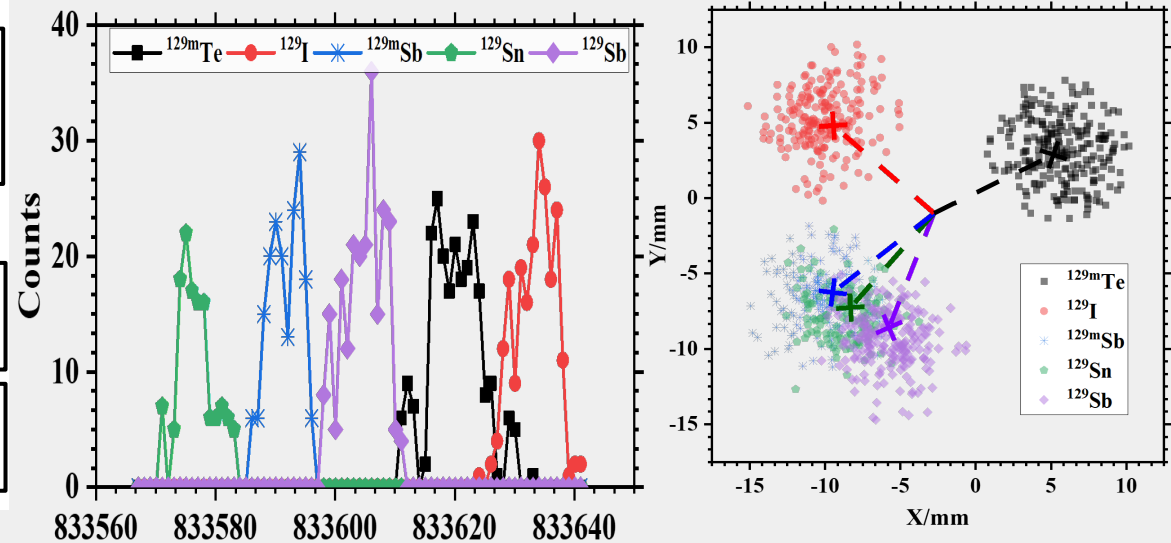
Productive with technique advances:

1. Z. Ge, T. Eronen et al. Phys. Rev. Lett. 133, 132503 (2024).
2. Z. Ge, T. Eronen et al. Phys. Rev. Lett. 127, 272301 (2021).
3. Z. Ge, T. Eronen et al. Phys. Lett. B 859, 139094 (2024).
4. Z. Ge, T. Eronen et al. Phys. Lett. B 832, 137226 (2022).
5. T. Eronen, Z. Ge, et al. Phys. Lett. B 830, 137135 (2022).
6. Z. Ge, T. Eronen et al. Phys. Rev. C 108, 045502 (2023).
7. Z. Ge, T. Eronen et al. Phys. Rev. C 106, 015502 (2022).
8. Z. Ge, T. Eronen et al. Phys. Rev. C 103, 065502 (2021).
9. Z. Ge, T. Eronen et al. Eur. Phys. J. A 60, 104 (2024).
10. Z. Ge, T. Eronen et al. Eur. Phys. J. A 60, 147 (2024).
11. M. Ramalho, Z. Ge, T. Eronen et al. Phys. Rev. C 106, 015501 (2022).

Contaminant-free ion sample preparation (especially isomers):

**Coupling of Buffer gas cleaning & PI-ICR method for unambiguous cleaning
(to reach 10^{-9} precision for exotic cases)**

Buffer gas cleaning coupled with PI-IR method





State-of-the-art trap method for purification of isomers

T. Eronen et al., EPJA 48 (2012) 46

Z. Ge, T. Eronen, A. de Roubin et al., Phys. Rev. C 108, 045502 (2023)

Z. Ge, M. Reponen, T. Eronen et al., Phys. Rev. LETTERS 133, 132503 (2024)

RFQ

PURIFICATION
TRAP

PRECISION
TRAP

accumulation
cooling
bunching

isobaric
cleaning

isomeric
cleaning
[if needed]

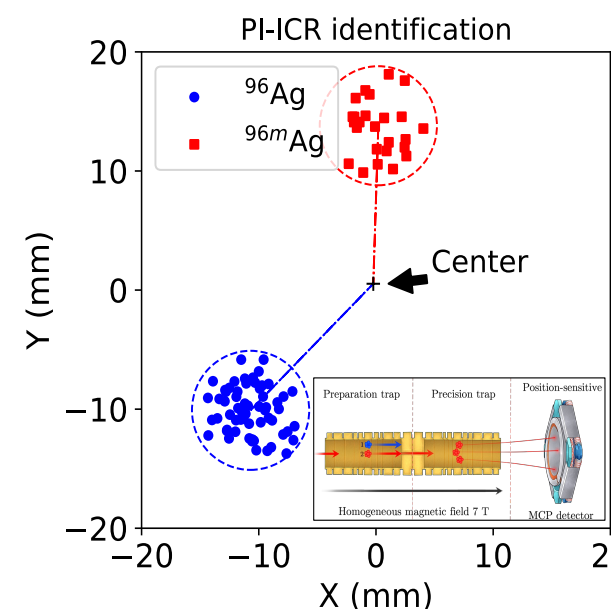
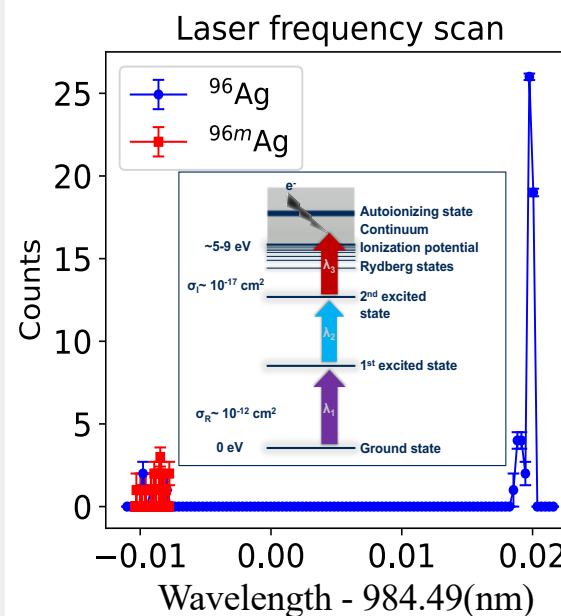
re-cooling
re-centering

TOF-ICR
measurement

PI-ICR
measurement

Productive with technique advances:

1. Z. Ge, T. Eronen et al. Phys. Rev. Lett. 133, 132503 (2024)
2. Z. Ge, T. Eronen et al. Phys. Rev. Lett. 127, 272301 (2021)
3. Z. Ge, T. Eronen et al. Phys. Lett. B 859, 139094 (2024).
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11. M. Ramalho, Z. Ge, T. Eronen et al. Phys. Rev. C 106, 015501 (2022).



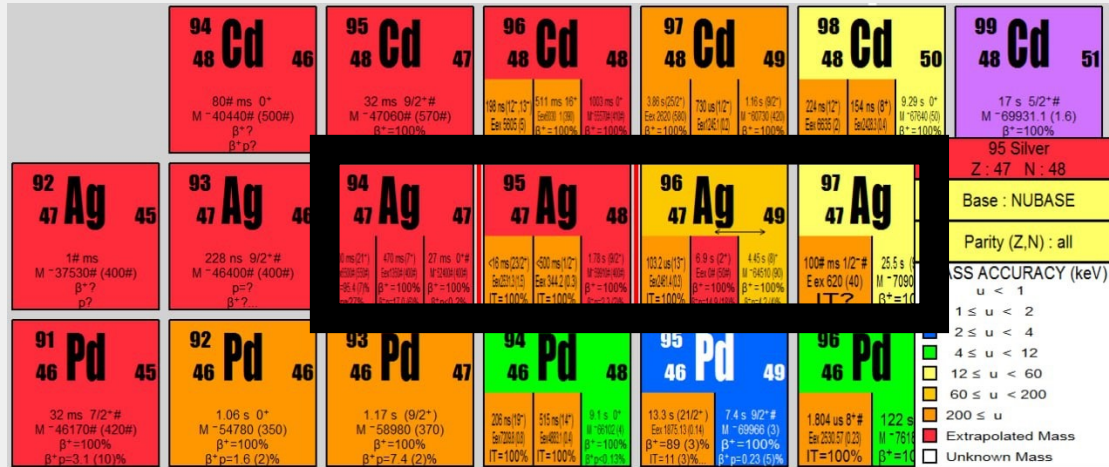
Conatminant-free ion sample preparation (especially isomers):

Coupling of laser frequency scan & PI-ICR method for unambiguous cleaning
And extremely high sensitivity: 1 counts/ 10 min for ^{95}Ag



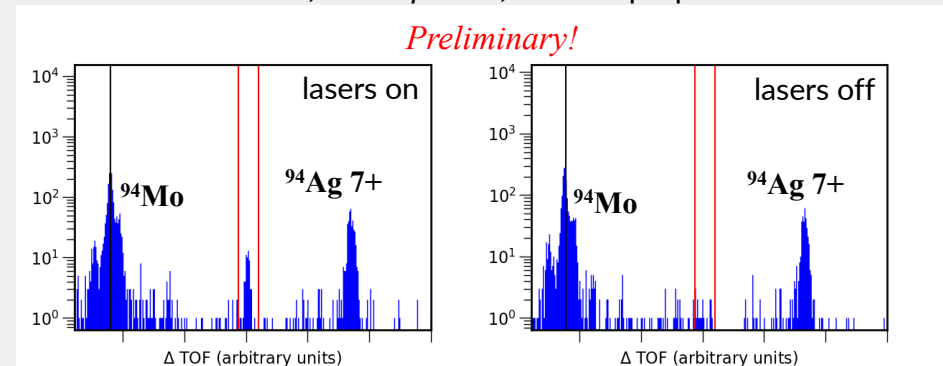
$^{94-97}\text{Ag}$ mass measurements at IGISOL

Z. Ge, M. Reponen, et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 133, 132503 (2024), T. Eronen et al., EPJA 48 (2012) 46



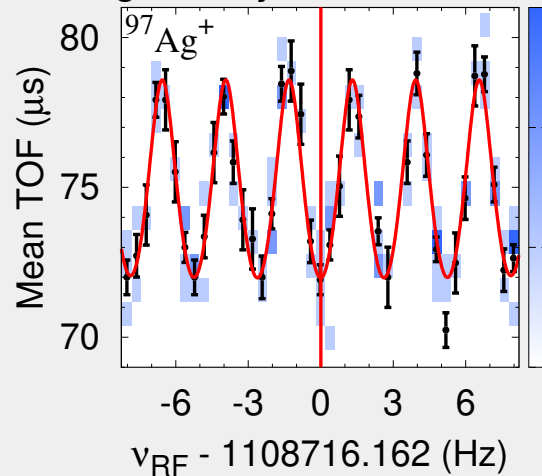
Uncertainty of 10s keV with MR-TOF

V. Virtanen, M. Reponen, et al. in preparation

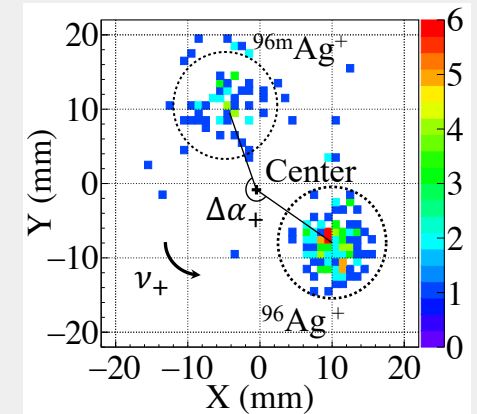
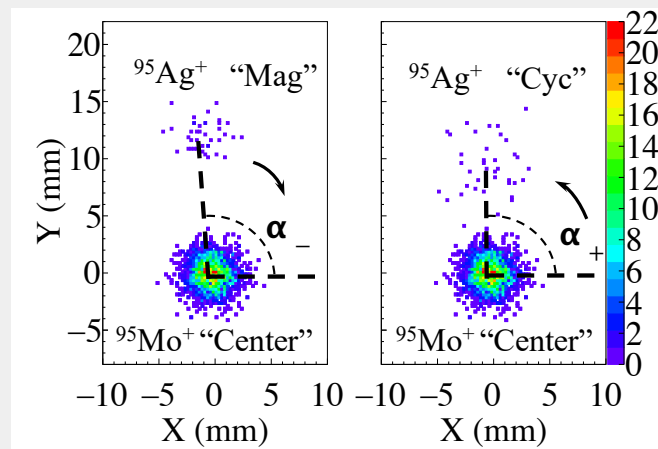


Uncertainty of around 1 keV with Penning Trap

Time-of-Flight Ion-Cyclotron-Resonance (TOF-ICR)



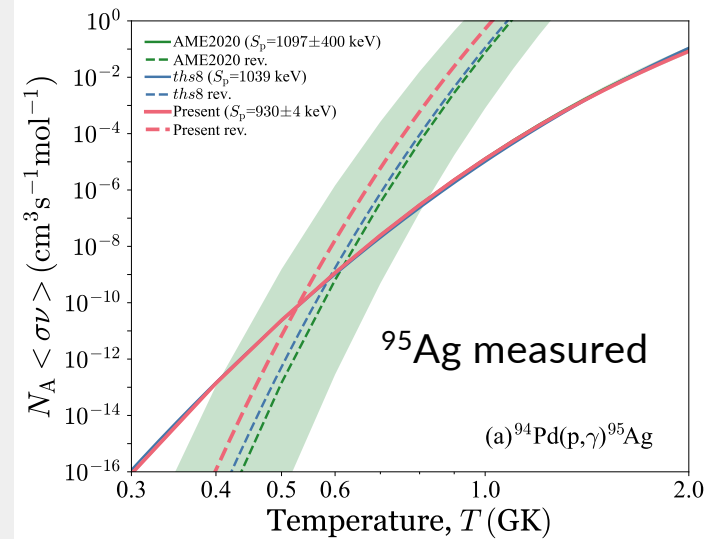
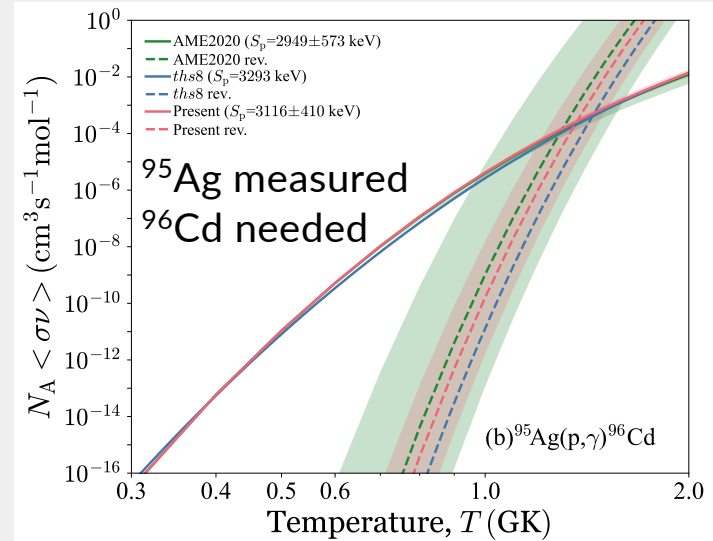
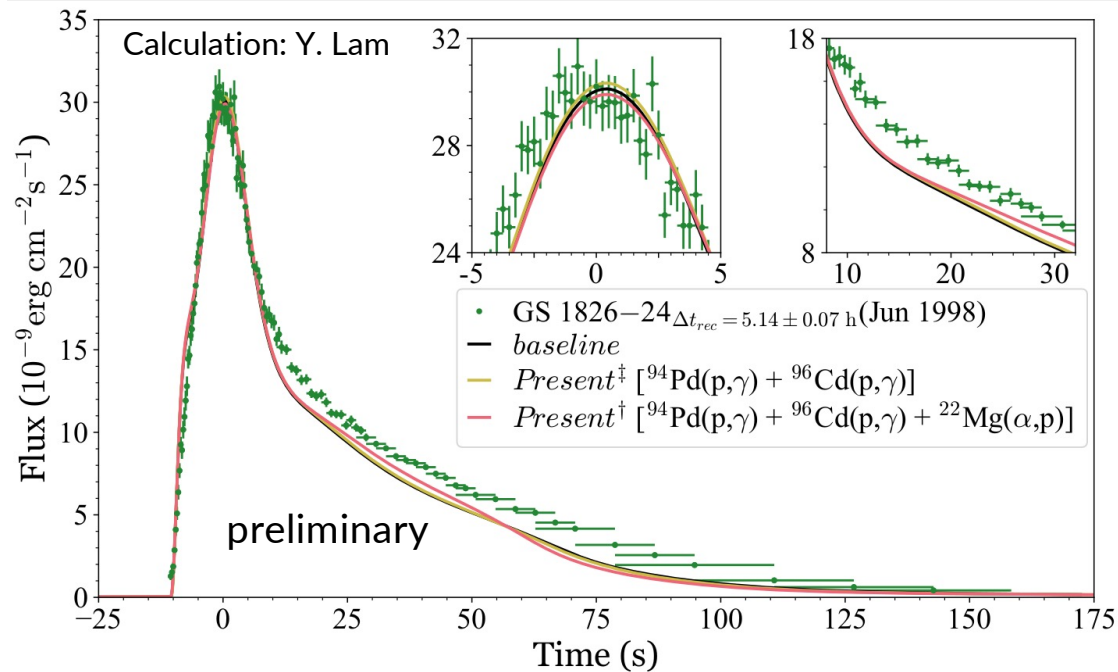
Phase-imaging Ion-Cyclotron-Resonance (PI-ICR)





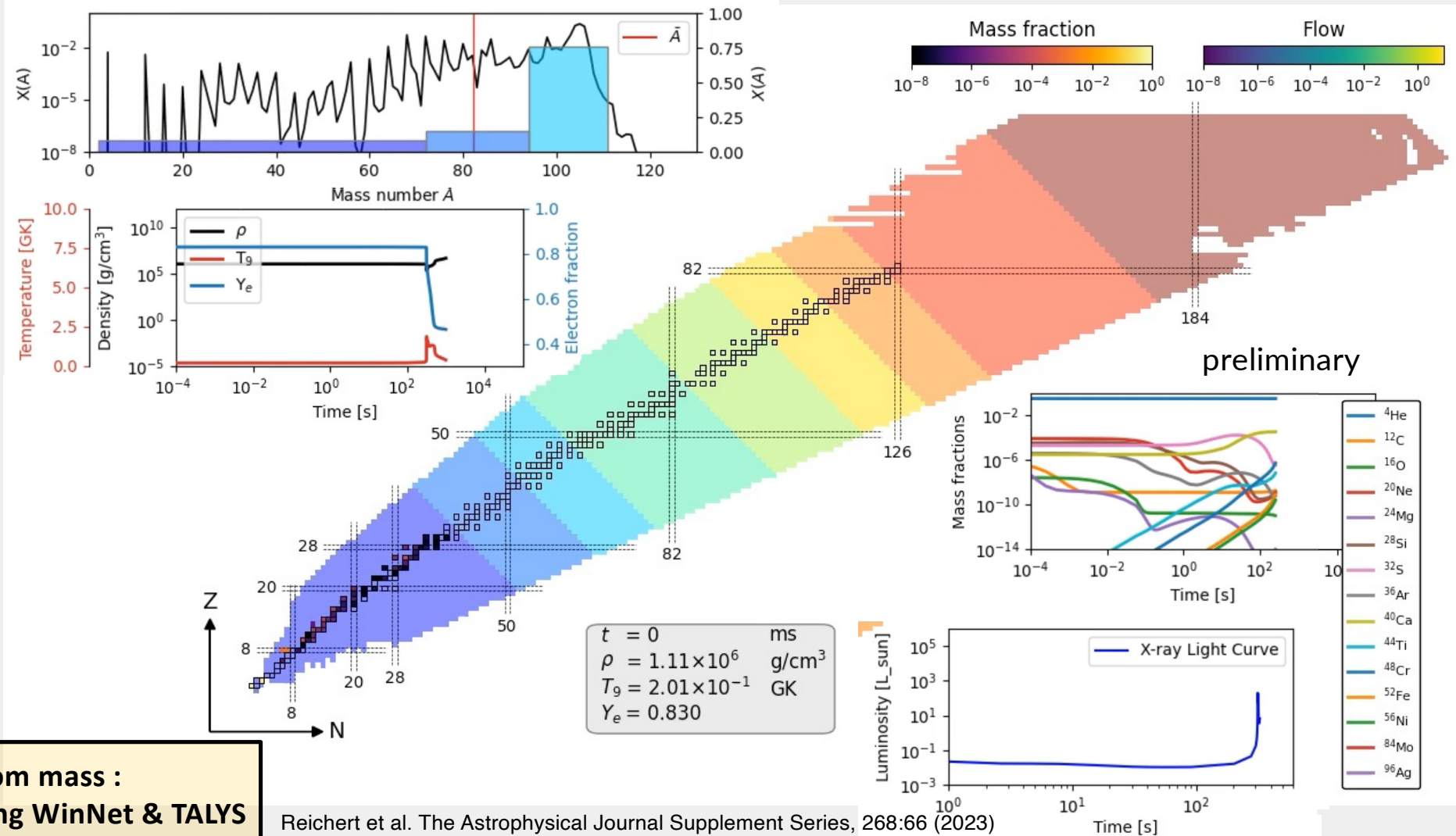
Impacts on the X-ray burst

**Timescale, isotope&energy production:
Exponential dependence on masses!**





rp-process network calculations

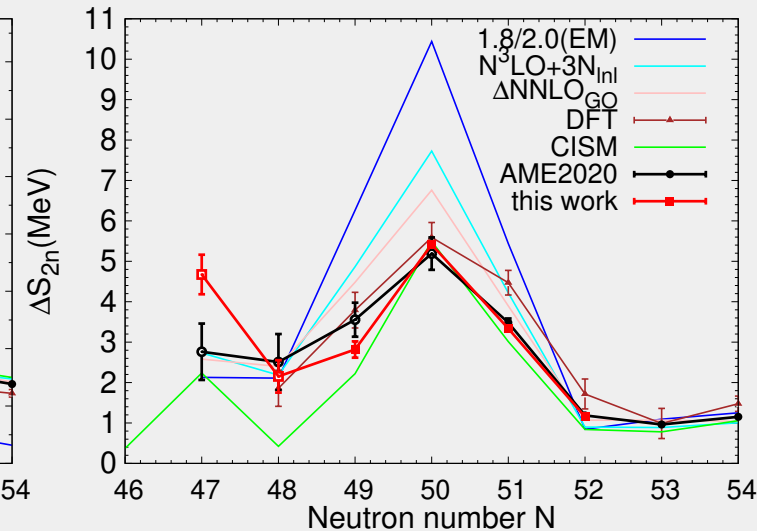
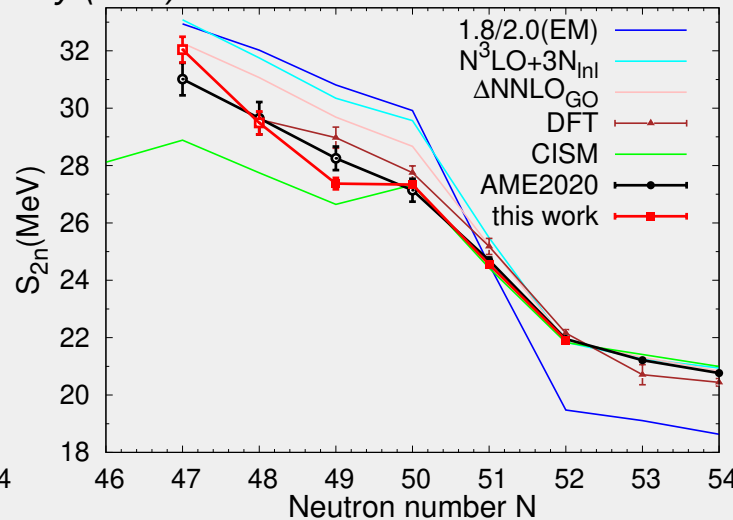
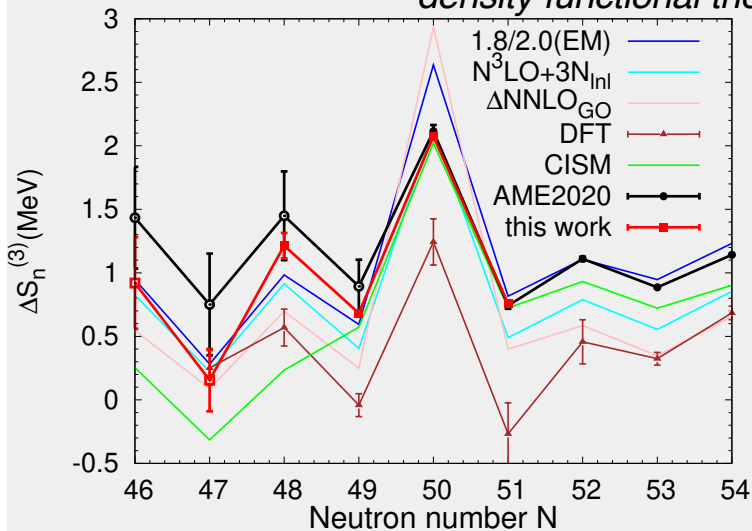




Benchmark theoretical models and isomer as “*astromer*”

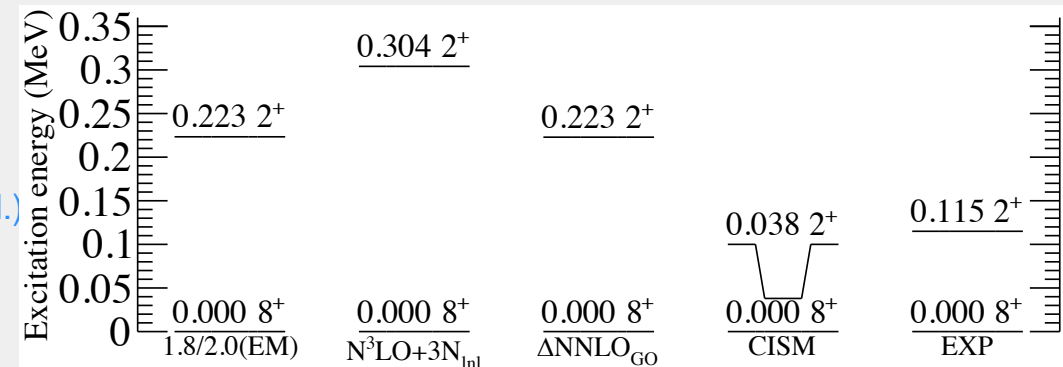
Theory: *ab initio*,
configuration-interaction shell-model (CISM)
density functional theory (DFT)

Z. Ge, M. Reponen, T. Eronen et al., PRL 133, 132503 (2024)
G.W. Misch et al., Eur. Phys. J. Spec. Top. 233, 1075 (2024).



Possible, astrophysical nuclear isomer, “*astromer*”

- Identification of nuclear isomer of ^{96m}Ag , “*astromer*”
- understanding of the nuclear structure at N=50 shell
- **Benchmark** nuclear models and shell model calculations
- Solve the $^{94}\text{Ag}(21^+)$ 2p/p decay puzzle----in process (Ville, Mikael et al.)
- Wigner energy, np-pairing--- other N=Z masses



energy level of ^{96}Ag isomeric state



neutron-deficient nuclei mass measurements outlook

- ❖ Mass measurements with **hot cavity + MR-TOF/Penning trap (published)**
 - ✓ Mass measurements of ground states and isomers of other $N \sim Z$ nuclei: $^{95-97}\text{Ag}$, $^{96\text{m}}\text{Ag}$ ✓ **Published**
- ❖ Mass measurements with **hot cavity + MR-TOF/Penning trap**
 - ✓ Mass measurements of ground states and isomers of other $N=Z$ nuclei by fusion evaporation reactions at IGISOL with MR-TOF:
 ^{94}Ag 21^+ and 7^+ isomeric states, $^{92-93}\text{Pd}$ ✓ **Recent campaigns**
- ❖ **Mass measurements** with HIGISOL gas cell + MR-TOF: **A=80-84** Area (measured by RIKEN)
 - ✓ **N~Z A=80-84** Area (try again with Penning Trap later)
- ❖ **Mass measurements** with HIGISOL/MNT gas cell + Penning Trap, approved proposals
- ❖ **Mass measurements** with Rare RI Ring and BigRISP-OEDO-SHARAQ ($B\rho$ -TOF-MS) @ RIKEN
(8 years pending, 2 times approved 9 days of beam time, wish for next 10 years' plan) **Plans**
- ❖ **Other collaboration efforts:** FRS ion catcher @ GSI
- ❖ **Further combine the measurements to study the Influence of masses on rp-process and vp-process**



Collaboration

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¹⁶Oliver Lodge Laboratory, Oxford Street, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, L69 7ZE, United Kingdom

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Thank you

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