

## DESPEC Experiment Highlights from FAIR Phase-0

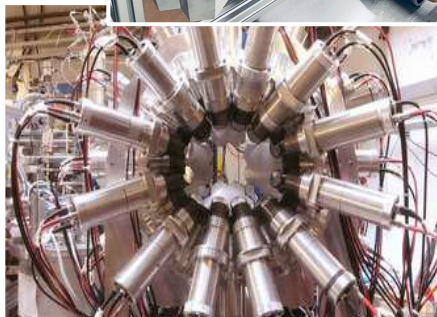
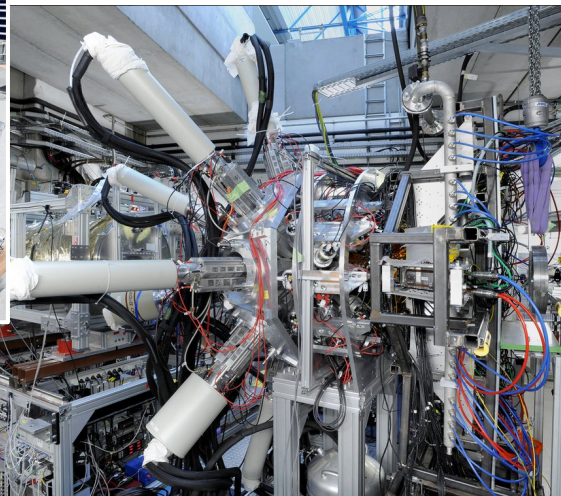
Helena May Albers for the HISPEC/DESPEC Collaboration

*Nuclear Spectroscopy*

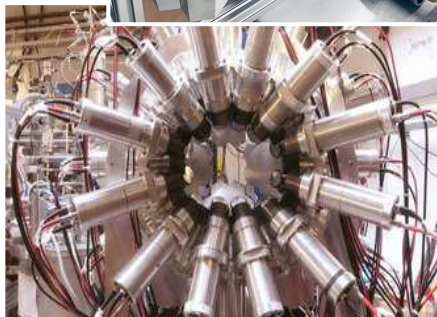
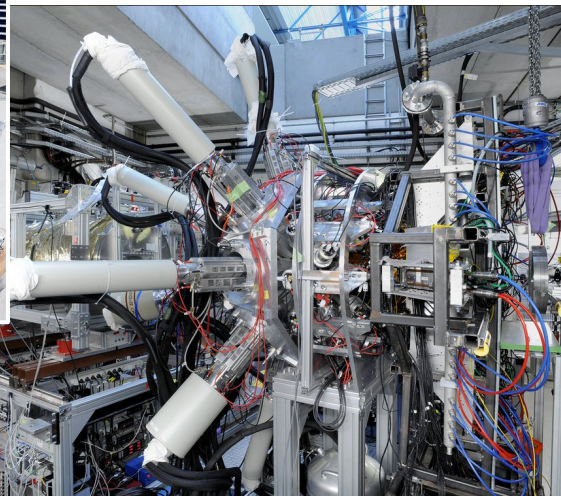
*GSI Darmstadt*



- Introduction to DESPEC and FAIR
- Experimental setups
- Physics highlights
- Upcoming plans



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- **DESPEC** (DEcay SPECTroscopy) is part of the **HISPEC/DESPEC** collaboration at **GSI/FAIR** within the **NUSTAR** pillar
- Shedding light on the evolution of shell structure and exotic nuclear shapes in **uncharted nuclear territory**
- Spectroscopic information for the nucleosynthesis of heavy nuclei
  - GSI/FAIR provides **unique opportunities** for key  $N \sim 126$  nuclei
- Towards a full picture of the beta-decay process around third **r-process peak**
- Nuclear structure around  $^{100}\text{Sn}$  (and  $^{132}\text{Sn}$ )

- Comprehensive decay information from key nuclei at secondary beam yields as low as

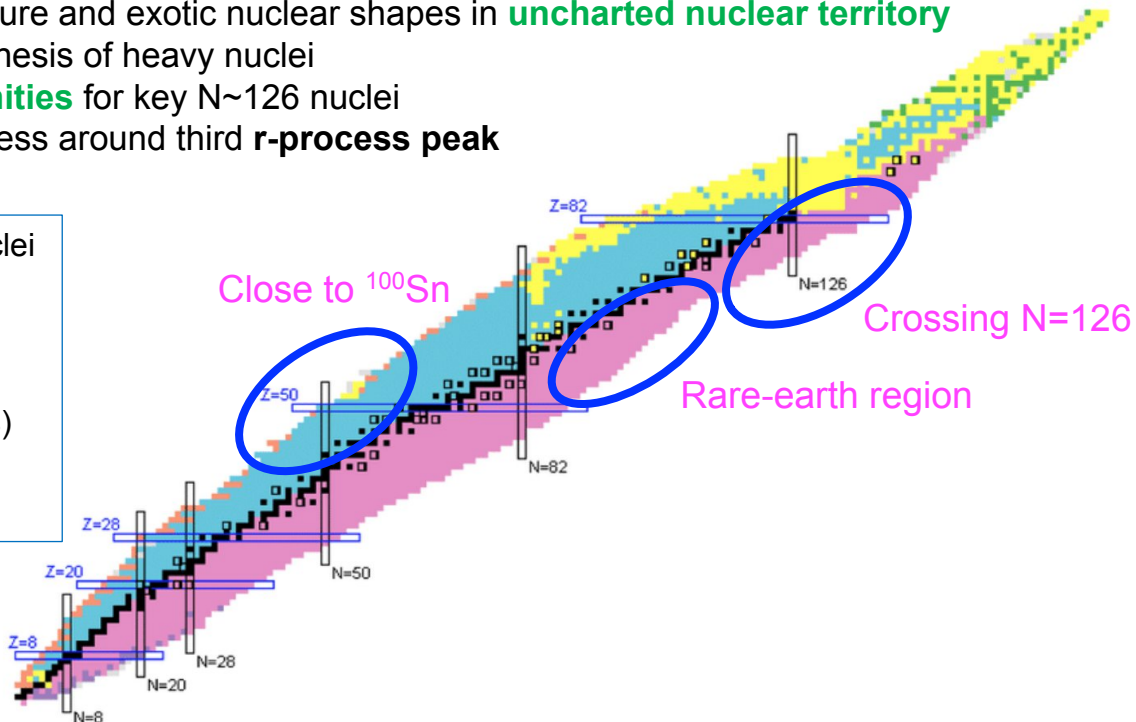
✓ **one ion per hour**

- Sensitive to nuclear lifetimes spanning

✓ **13 orders of magnitude** (10ps-100s)

- Measurement of

✓ **any mode of nuclear decay**



# DESPEC in FAIR Phase-0

FAIR Phase-0 operation began in 2019

FAIR instrumentation and setups at GSI facilities

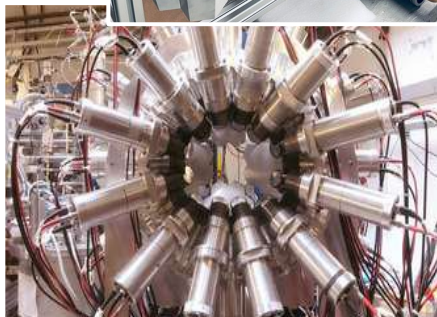
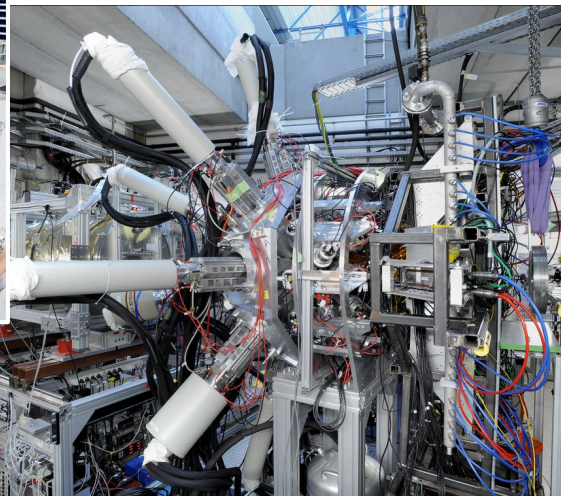
DESPEC (physics) commissioning carried out in early 2020

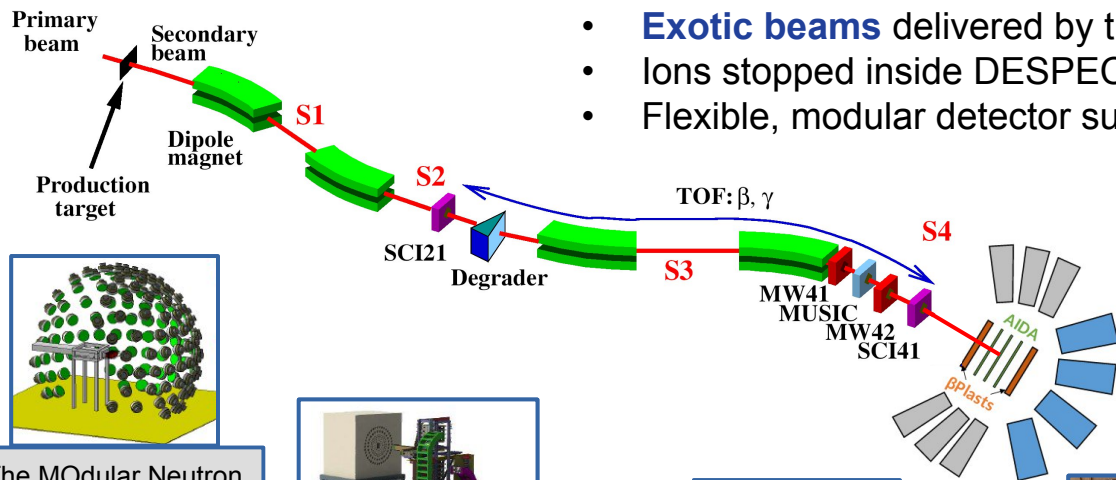
Experimental campaigns in 2021, 2022, and 2024, planned for 2025

Future experiments at new Super-FRS facility starting (Early Science) in 2027



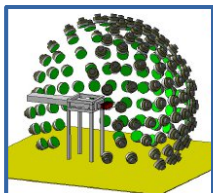
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- **Exotic beams** delivered by the FRagment Separator (FRS)
- Ions stopped inside DESPEC setup
- Flexible, modular detector suite **tailored to physics goals**

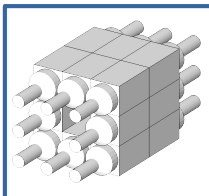
A.K. Mistry *et al.*, The DESPEC setup for GSI and FAIR, NIM A, 166662 (2022)



The MOdular Neutron SpectromETER (MONSTER)



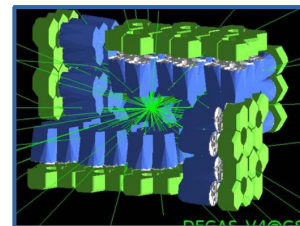
BEta-deLayEd Neutron detector (BELEN)  
48  $^3\text{He}$  cylindrical counters



Decay Total Absorption  $\gamma$ -ray Spectrometer (DTAS)  
 $\text{NaI(Tl)}$  modules



FAst TIMing Array  $\text{LaBr}_3(\text{Ce})$  modules (FATIMA)



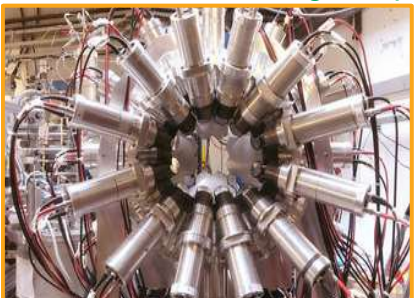
DESPEC Ge Array Spectrometer (DEGAS)

**Seniority transitions and EM transition rates in  $^{94}\text{Pd}$**   
 Górska (GSI), Regan (Surrey), Cederwall (KTH), Jolie (Cologne)

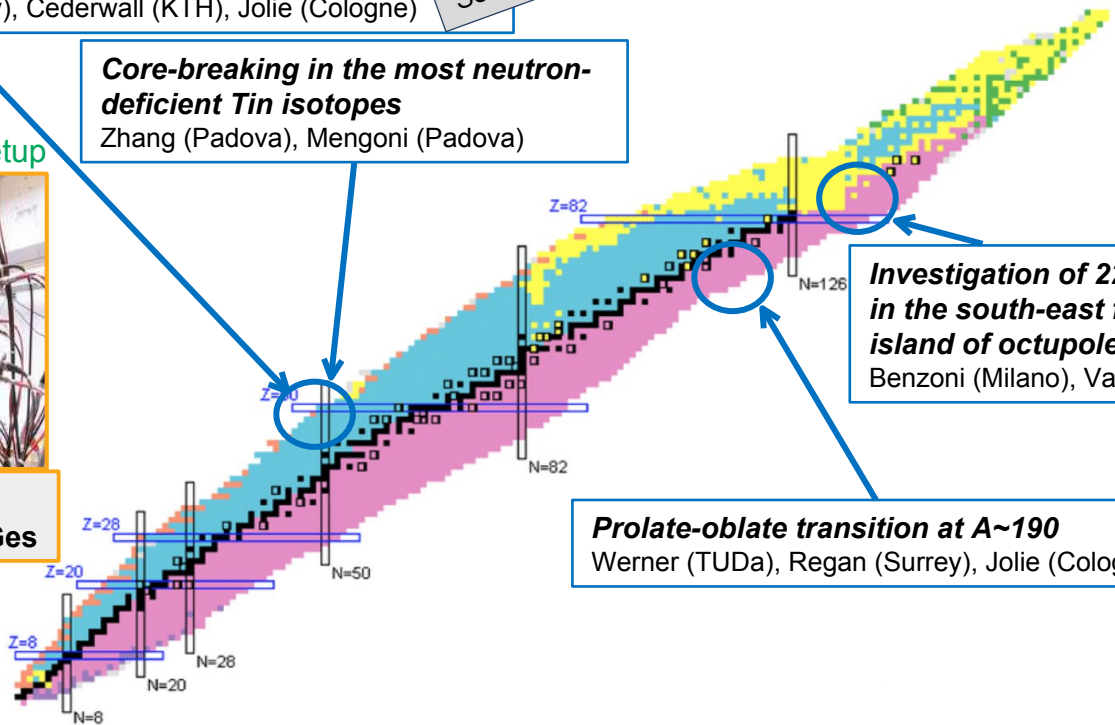
See poster of B. Das

**Core-breaking in the most neutron-deficient Tin isotopes**  
 Zhang (Padova), Mengoni (Padova)

2020-2021: Fast-timing setup



FAst TIMing Array  
 LaBr<sub>3</sub>(Ce) (FATIMA) + HPGe

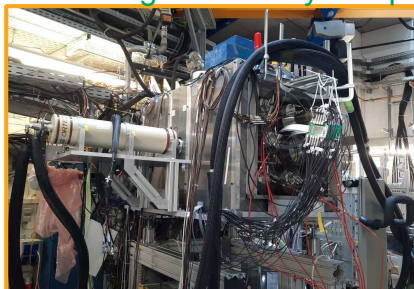


**Investigation of  $220 < A < 230$  Po-Fr nuclei lying in the south-east frontier of the  $A \sim 225$  island of octupole deformation**  
 Benzoni (Milano), Valiente Dobon (Legnaro)

**Prolate-oblate transition at  $A \sim 190$**   
 Werner (TUDa), Regan (Surrey), Jolie (Cologne)

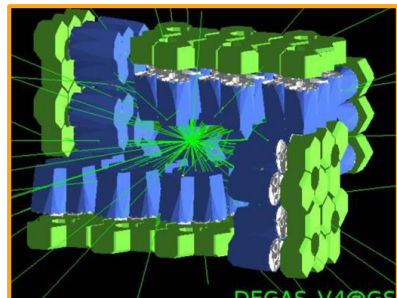


## 2022: High-efficiency setup

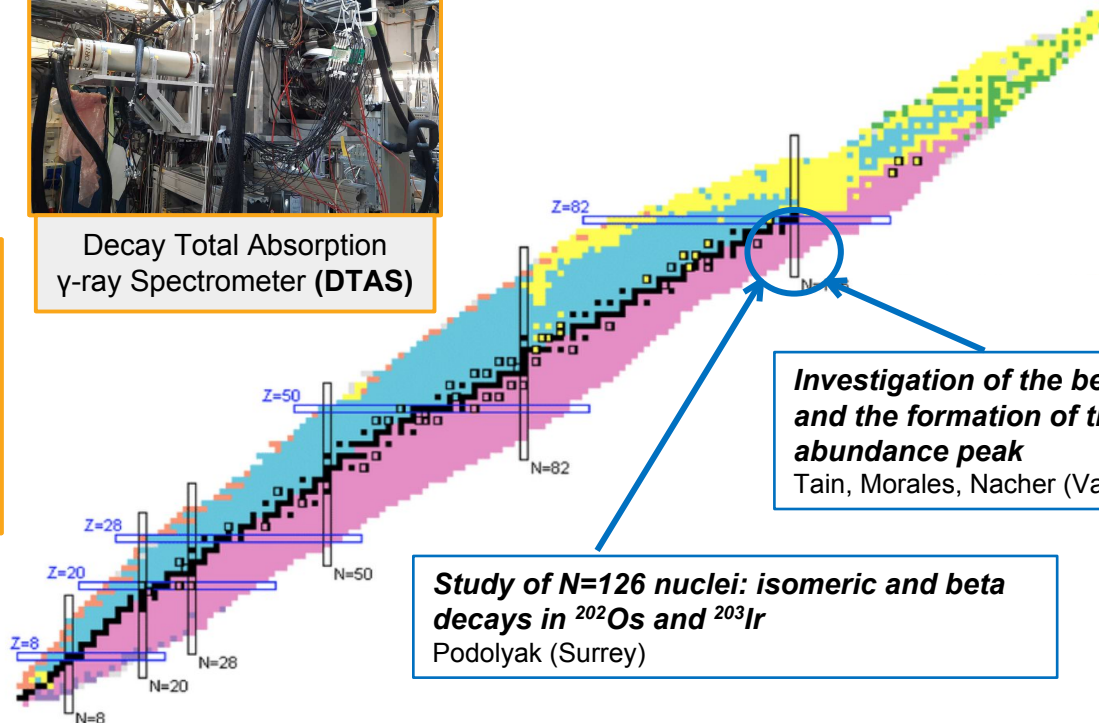


Decay Total Absorption  
γ-ray Spectrometer (**DTAS**)

## 2022: High-precision setup



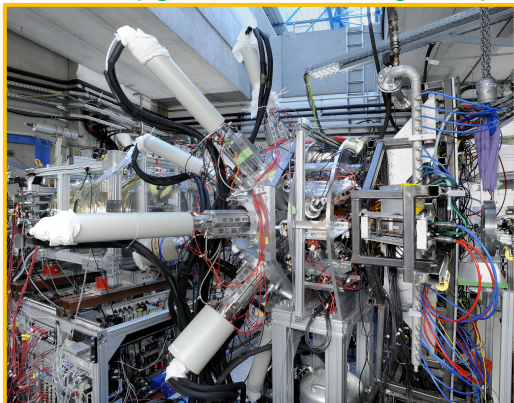
DESPEC Ge Array  
Spectrometer (**DEGAS**)



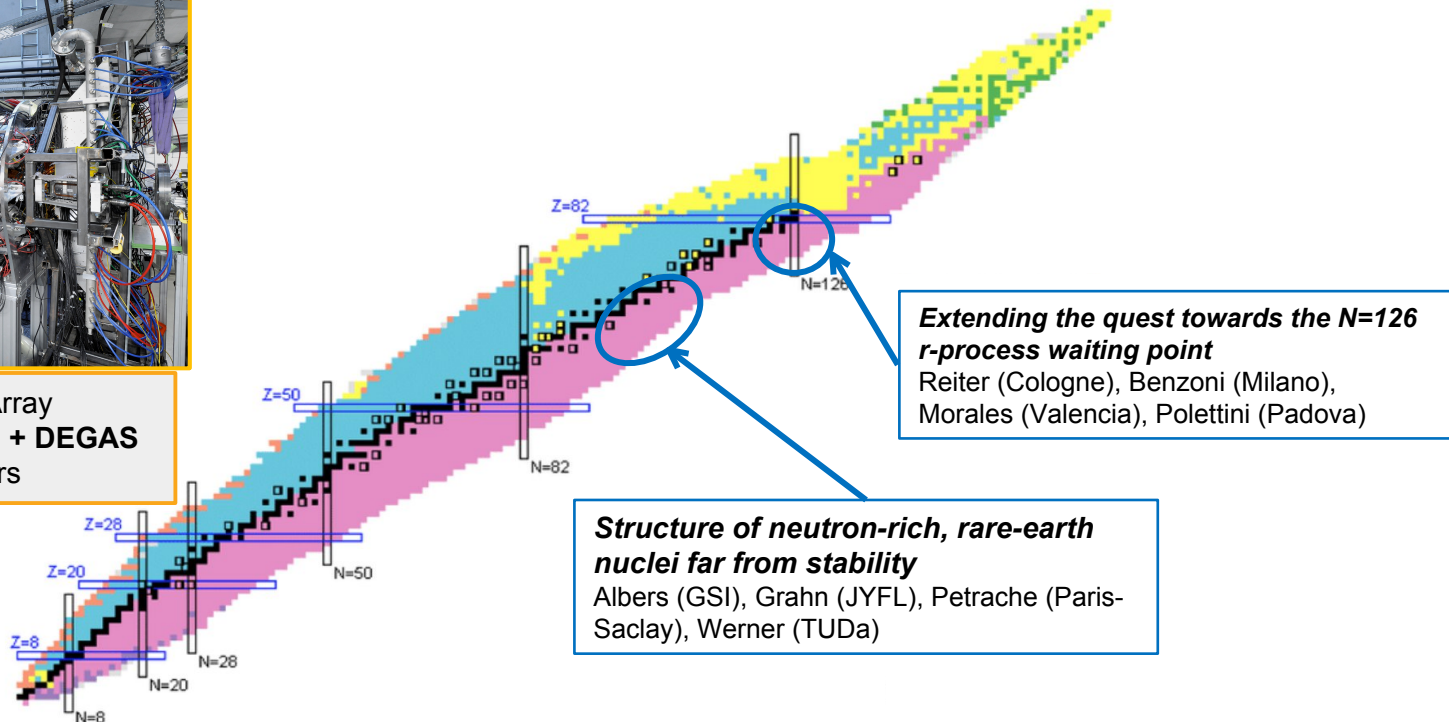
**Investigation of the beta-strength crossing  $N=126$  and the formation of the 3rd r-process abundance peak**  
Tain, Morales, Nacher (Valencia)

**Study of  $N=126$  nuclei: isomeric and beta decays in  $^{202}\text{Os}$  and  $^{203}\text{Ir}$**   
Podolyak (Surrey)

## 2024: Upgraded fast-timing setup



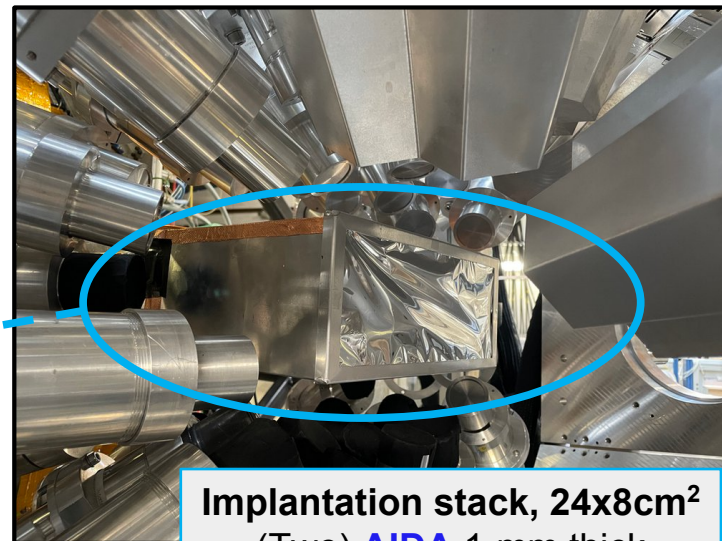
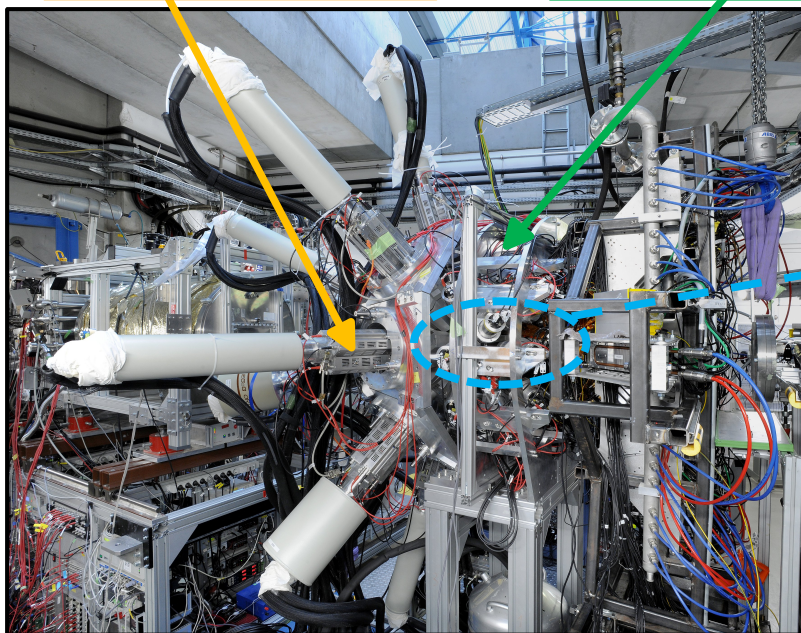
FAst TIMing Array  
LaBr<sub>3</sub>(Ce) (FATIMA) + DEGas  
triple clusters



Hybrid configuration for simultaneous **high-precision spectroscopy** and **fast-timing measurements**

12 **DEGAS** triple-cluster  
HPGe detectors

36 Fast **TIMing** Array (**FATIMA**)  
LaBr<sub>3</sub>(Ce) detector modules

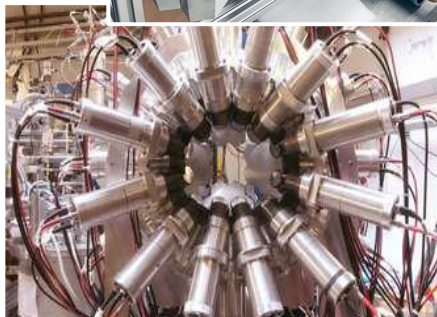
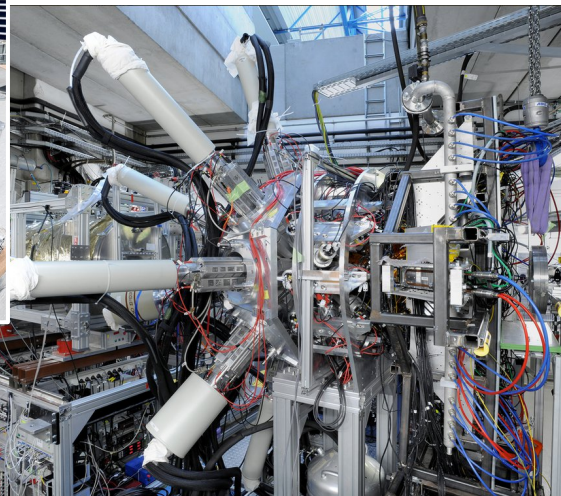


**Implantation stack, 24x8cm<sup>2</sup>**  
(Two) **AIDA** 1-mm thick  
double-sided Si strip detectors

(Two) **βPlast** detectors: 3-mm thick  
fast plastic scintillators

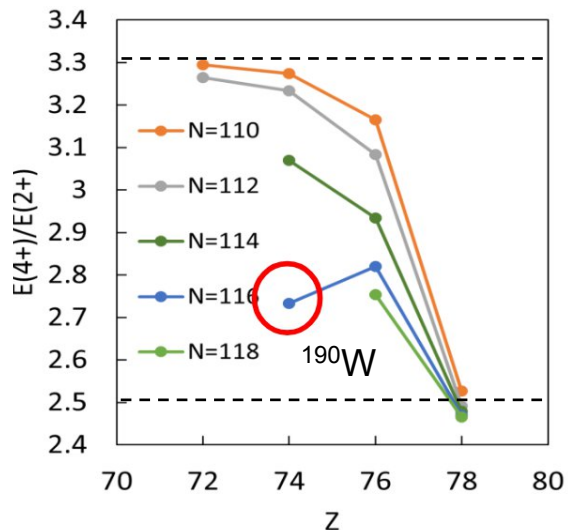
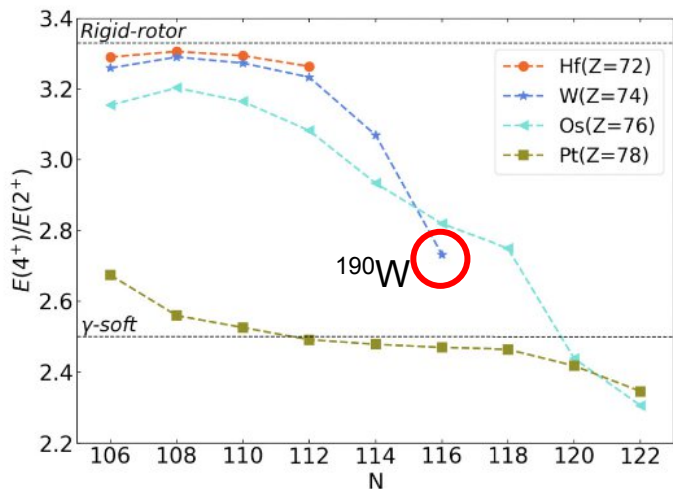
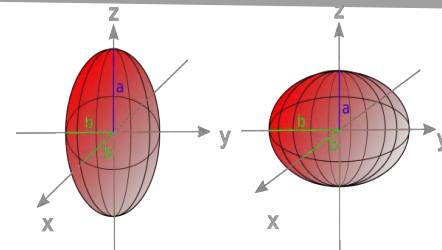


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- **Physics highlights**
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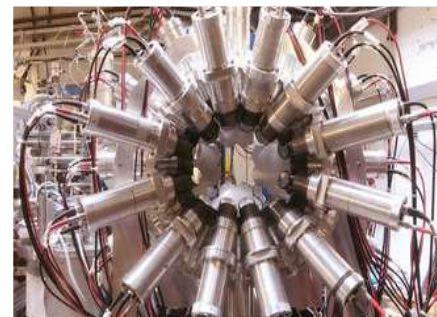


Werner (TU Darmstadt), Regan (Surrey), Jolie (Cologne)

- Ground states of neutron-rich nuclei with  $A \sim 190$  exhibit **evolution from prolate to oblate** deformation
- Steep decrease in  $R_{4/2} = E(4^+_{1})/E(2^+_{1})$  indicates **shape change** at  $^{190}\text{W}$  ( $Z = 74$ ,  $N = 116$ )
- Information on **reduced (quadrupole) transition strength  $B(E2; 2^+_{1} \rightarrow 0^+_{1})$**  required to characterise nature of transition

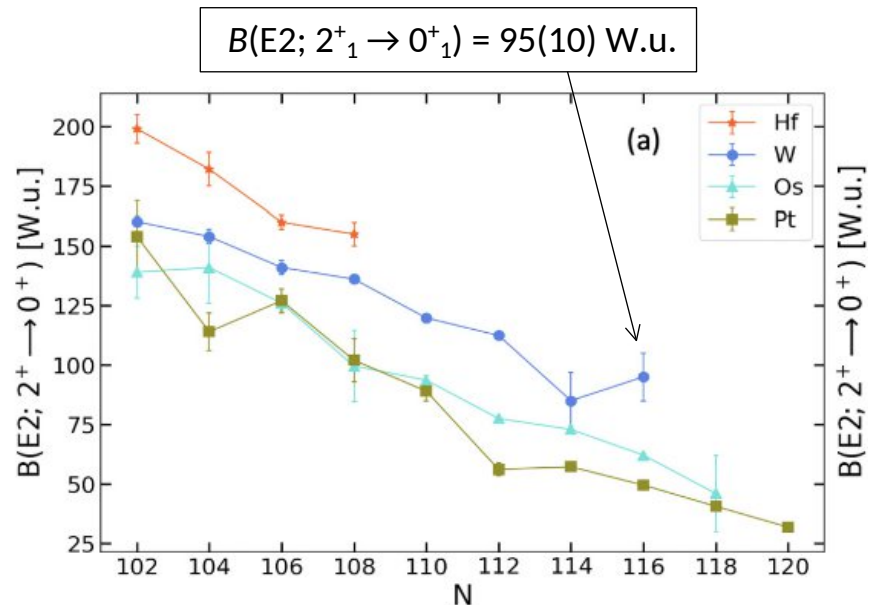
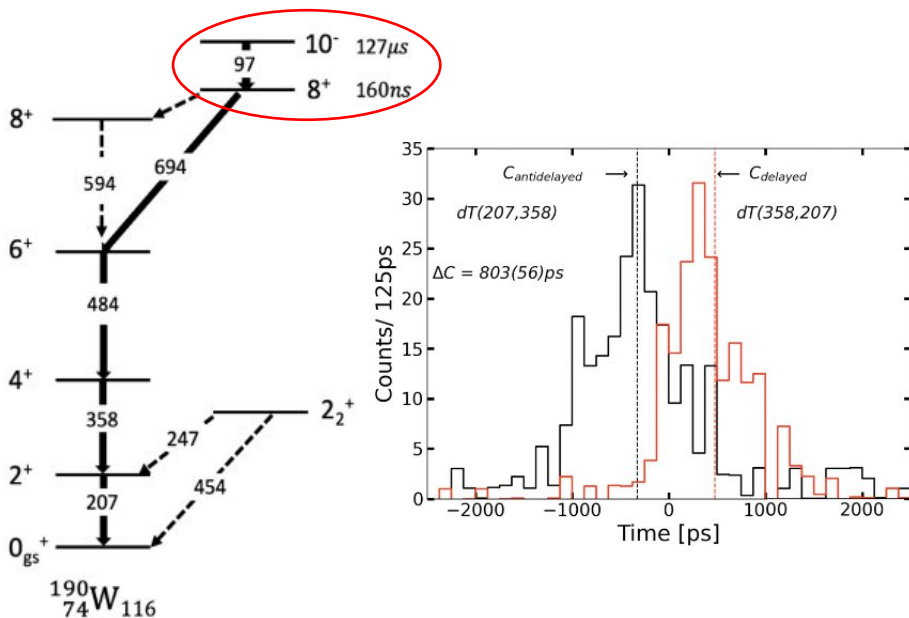


- Fragmentation of  $^{208}\text{Pb}$  @ 1 GeV/u on  $^9\text{Be}$  target
- Nuclei of interest transmitted and identified by FRS and stopped inside DESPEC Fast-Timing Hybrid Array

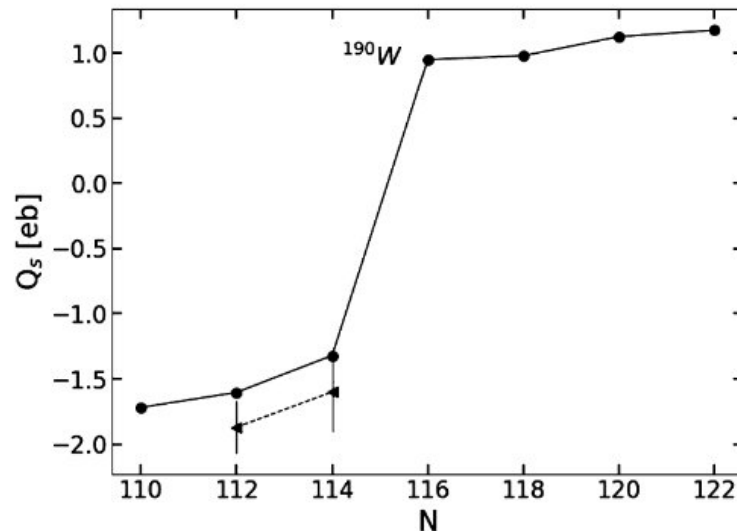
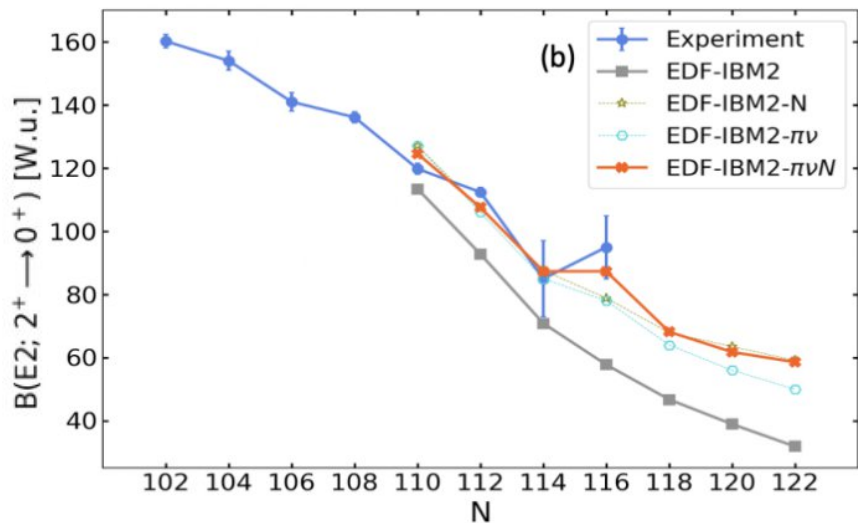


Werner (TU Darmstadt), Regan (Surrey), Jolie (Cologne)

- $^{190}\text{W}$  produced in  $10^-$  isomeric state (neutron  $K^\pi = 10^-, 9/2^- [505] 11/2^+ [615]$  configuration)
- Lifetime of  $2^+_1$  state extracted using Generalised Centroid Difference (GCD) Method



Werner (TU Darmstadt), Regan (Surrey), Jolie (Cologne)

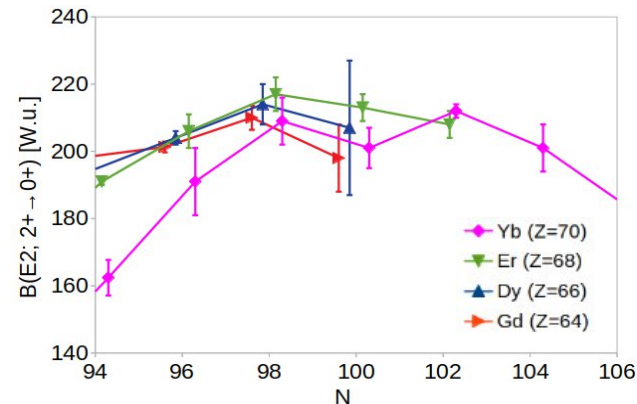
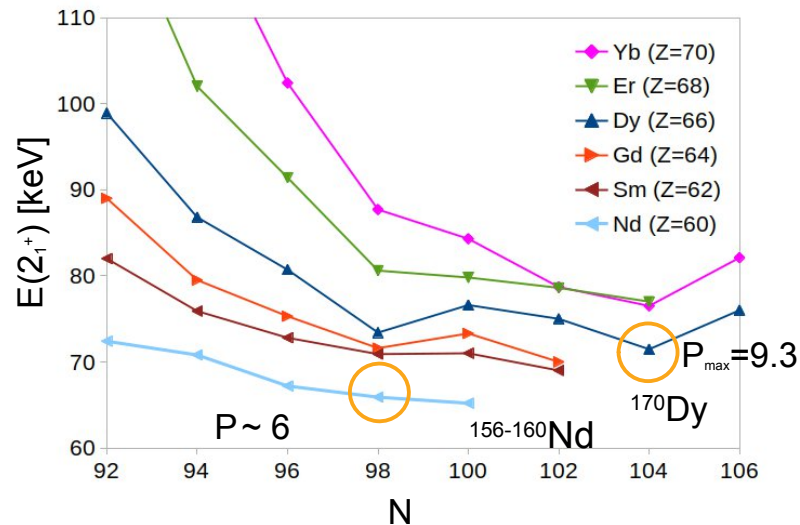


- Combined approach of scaling effective boson charge  $e_B$  and differing values of  $e_\pi$  and  $e_\nu$  best reproduces data
- Continued decrease of  $B(E2)$  values beyond  $N=116$  not in line with expectations of shape transition  
 -> due to approach to  $N=126$  closure (i.e. decreased number of bosons in IBM2)

EDF-IBM2: the effective charges ( $p = n = 0.13$  eb)  
 EDF-IBM2- $\pi\nu N$ : the effective charges ( $p = 0.145$  eb and  $n = 0.2175$  eb)

Albers (GSI), Grahn (JYFL), Petrache (Paris-Saclay), Werner (TUDA)

- Rare-earth nuclei mid-way between  $Z=50,82$  and  $N=82,126$  are **highly collective**
- $^{170}\text{Dy}$  ( $N=104$ ), doubly-midshell, **highest  $N_{\pi}N_{\nu}$**  of any nucleus with  $A < 208$
- $P = N_{\pi}N_{\nu}/(N_{\pi}+N_{\nu})$  highest at  $^{170}\text{Dy}$ ; very low  $2^+_1$  values of Nd chain interpreted as **deformed shell closure** at  $Z=60$  (e.g. Hartley *et al.*, Phys. Rev. C 105 (2022) 014301)



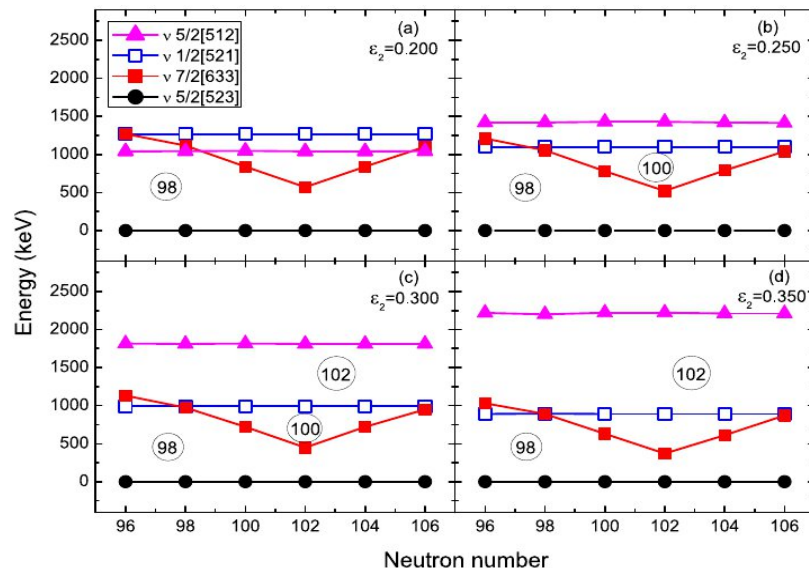
- **Discontinuities** in  $E(2_1^+)$  and  $B(E2; 2_1^+ \rightarrow 0_1^+)$  approaching mid-shell with increasing  $N_{\pi}N_{\nu}$  can indicate deformed shell closure(s)



Albers (GSI), Grahn (JYFL), Petrache (Paris-Saclay), Werner (TUDa)

- Conclusions on presence (and location) of possible deformed shell gaps from various experimental methods (e.g.) isomer decay spectroscopy [2], masses [3],  $\beta$ -decay halflives [4], decay properties [5],...
- PSM calculations location and size of subshell gaps **highly-dependent** on **deformation** and **neutron number** [1]
- Additional spectroscopic data for this region **sovere needed**

- DESPEC experiment using upgraded fast-timing hybrid array
- Neutron-rich nuclei produced via fragmentation of **newly-developed, high-energy ( $\sim 1$  GeV/u)  $^{170}\text{Er}$  beam**
- **Main Experimental Goals:**
  - **Lifetimes** of  $2^+_1$  (and other) states in even-even neutron-rich Dy, Gd and Sm isotopes
  - **Level structures** of poorly-known nuclei after beta decay
  - New data on **isomeric decays**, search for new isomers



[1] Y.X. Liu *et al.*, J. Phys. G: Nucl. Part. Phys. 47, 055108 (2020)

[3] M. Vilen *et al.*, PRL 120, 262701 (2018)

[5] D.J. Hartley *et al.*, PRL 120, 182502 (2018)

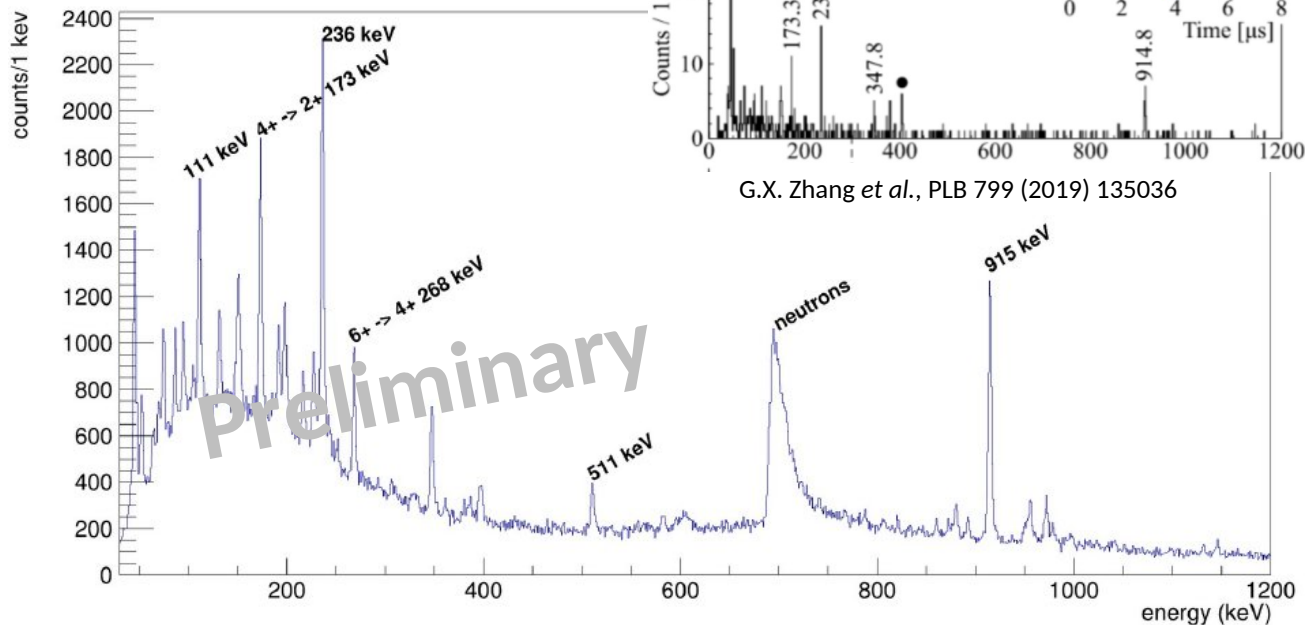
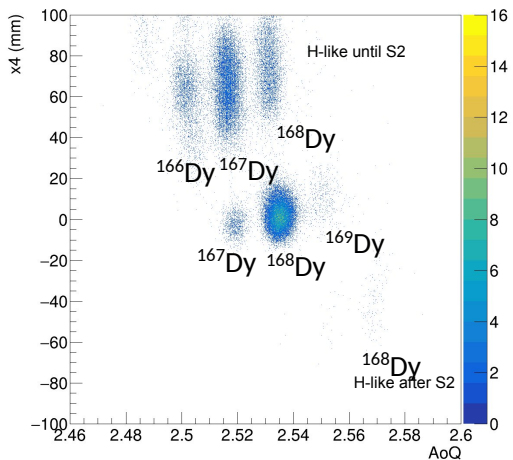
[2] Z. Patel *et al.*, PRL 113, 262502 (2014)

[4] J. Wu *et al.*, PRL 118, 072701 (2017)

Albers (GSI), Grahn (JYFL), Petrache (Paris-Saclay), Werner (TUDA)

DEGAS HPGe spectrum gated on  $^{168}\text{Dy}$ , 0-2.5  $\mu\text{s}$  after implantation

Very clean particle identification achieved:  
Example isotope separation for Z=66 nuclei



Spectra courtesy of Johan Emil Linnestad Larsson and Jeroen Bormans (PhD students, TUDA and GSI)

Albers (GSI), Grahn (JYFL), Petrache (Paris-Saclay), Werner (TUDA)

- $K^\pi = 4^-$ , 0.57- $\mu$ s isomer in  $^{168}\text{Dy}$  observed at RIKEN using U beam [1]
- $K^\pi = 4^-$  and  $6^-$  isomers have been observed in N=102 isotones
- No such  $6^-$  isomer previously observed (expected  $\sim 1.6$  MeV)

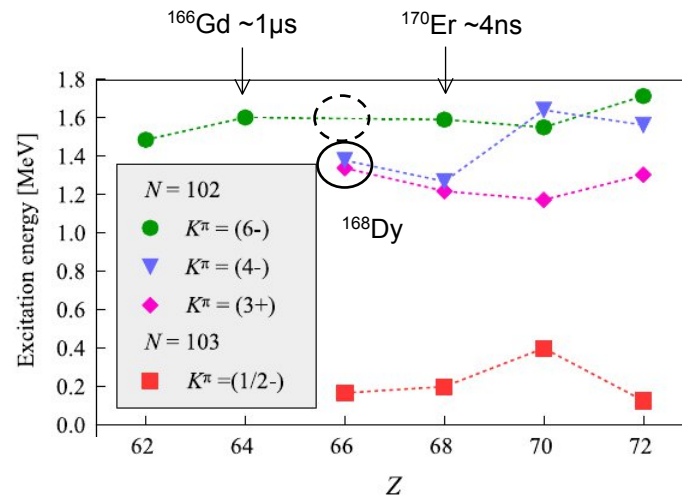
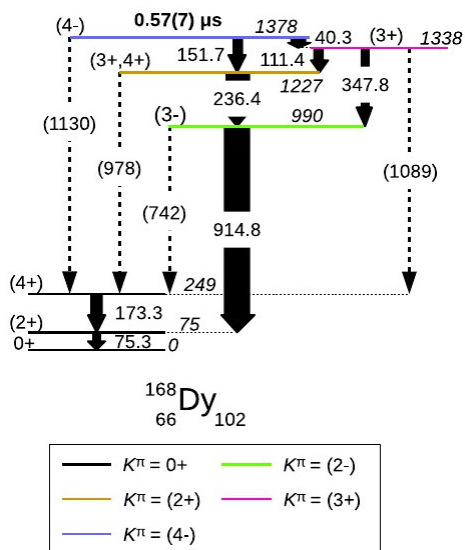


Figure modified from [1]

- **Many new transitions** observed in new data, including  $6^+ \rightarrow 4^+$ , 248-keV transition
- Evidence of **new isomeric state(s)**
- Ongoing work to develop level schemes and measure **lifetimes** with FATIMA

Albers (GSI), Grahn (JYFL), Petrache (Paris-Saclay), Werner (TUDA)

- Level scheme of  $^{157}\text{Sm}$  recently greatly expanded via  $\beta$  decay of  $^{157}\text{Pm}$  (D.J. Hartley *et al.*, Phys. Rev. C 110 (2024) 044319)
- **New transitions** observed and indication of **new  $\sim\mu\text{s}$  isomer** in  $^{157}\text{Sm}$  in DESPEC data
- $K^\pi=15/2^+$  and  $17/2^-$  isomers already observed in heavier Sm isotopes  $^{159,161}\text{Sm}$ , respectively (Z. Patel *et al.*, Phys. Rev. C (2017) 034305)

$^{159}\text{Sm}$  (N=97)

$K^\pi = 15/2^+$

$v: 5/2^-[523]$

$\pi: 5/2^-[532], 5/2^+[413]$

$^{161}\text{Sm}$  (N=99)

$K^\pi = 17/2^-$

$v: 7/2^+[633]$

$\pi: 5/2^-[532], 5/2^+[413]$

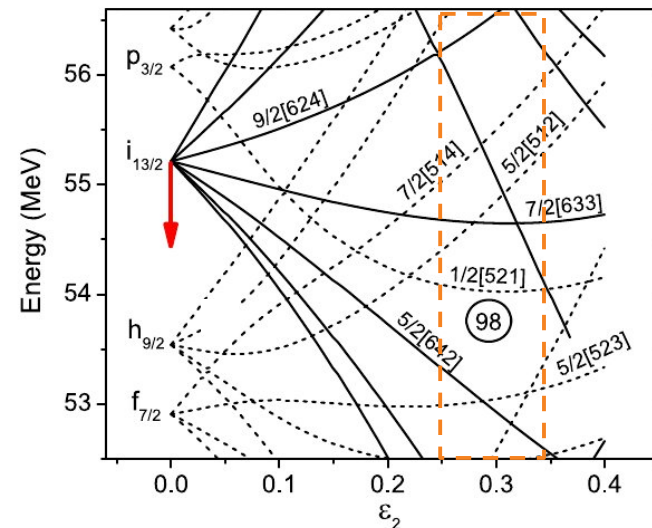
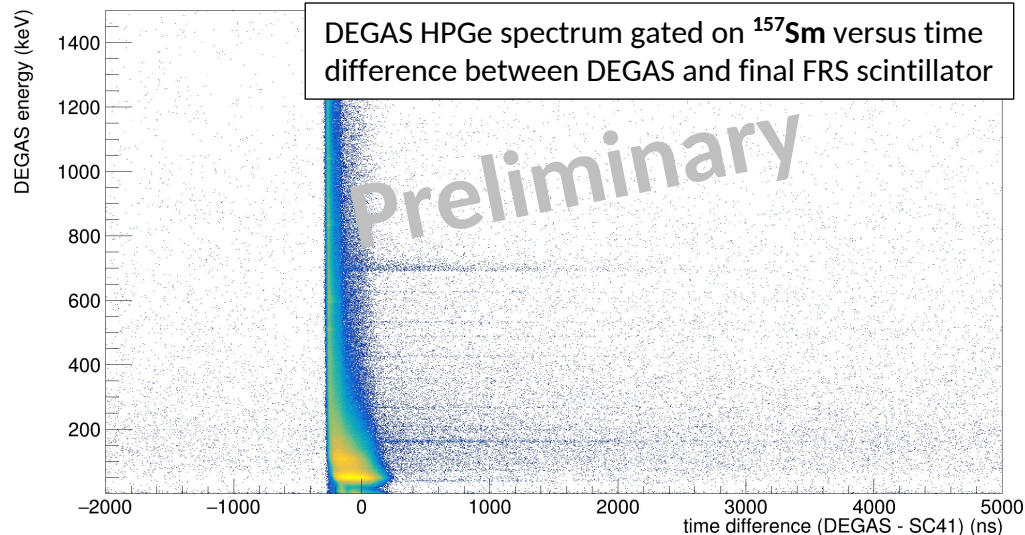
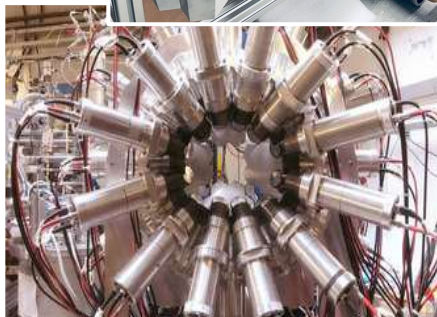
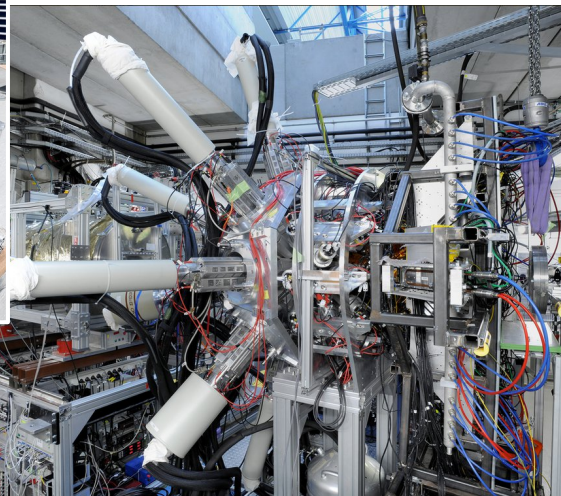


Figure Liu *et al.*, J. Phys. G: Nucl. Part. Phys. 47, 055108 (2020)

Spectra courtesy of Johan Emil Linnestad Larsson and Jeroen Bormans (PhD students, TUDA and GSI)

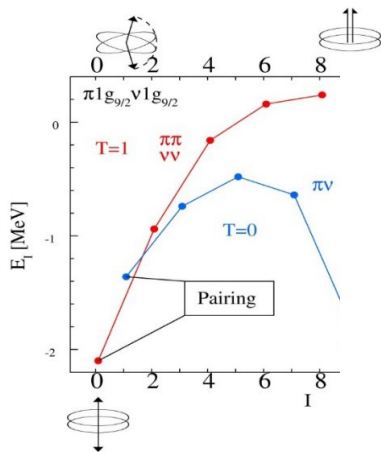
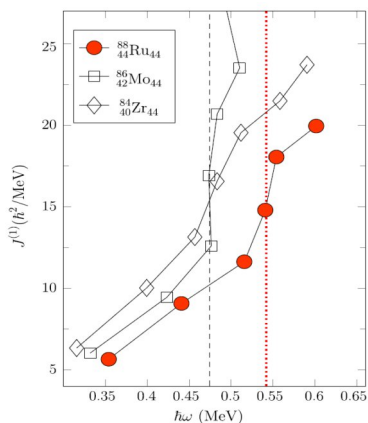
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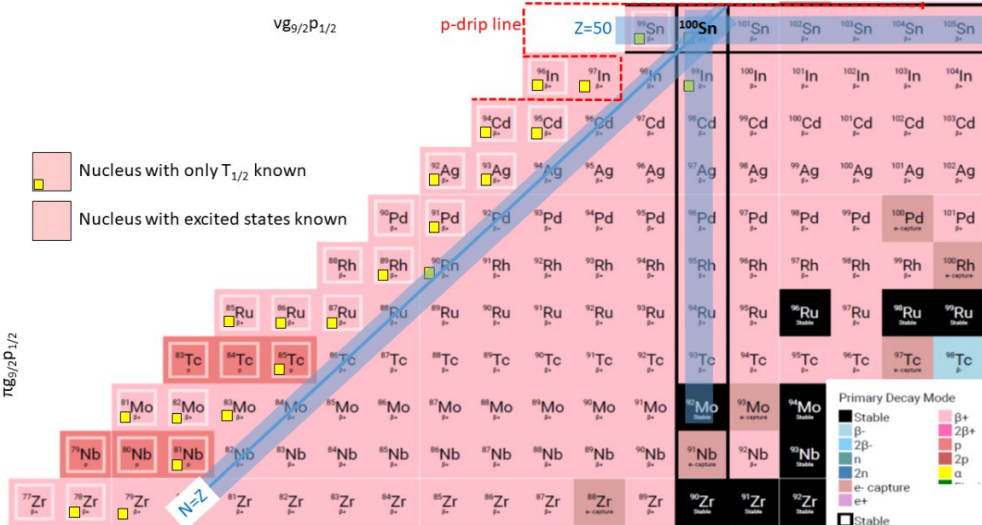
# Interplay of collectivity and single particle properties below $^{100}\text{Sn}$

Cederwall (KTH Sweden), Algora (Valencia), Górska (GSI), Regan (Surrey), Ruotsalainen (JYFL)

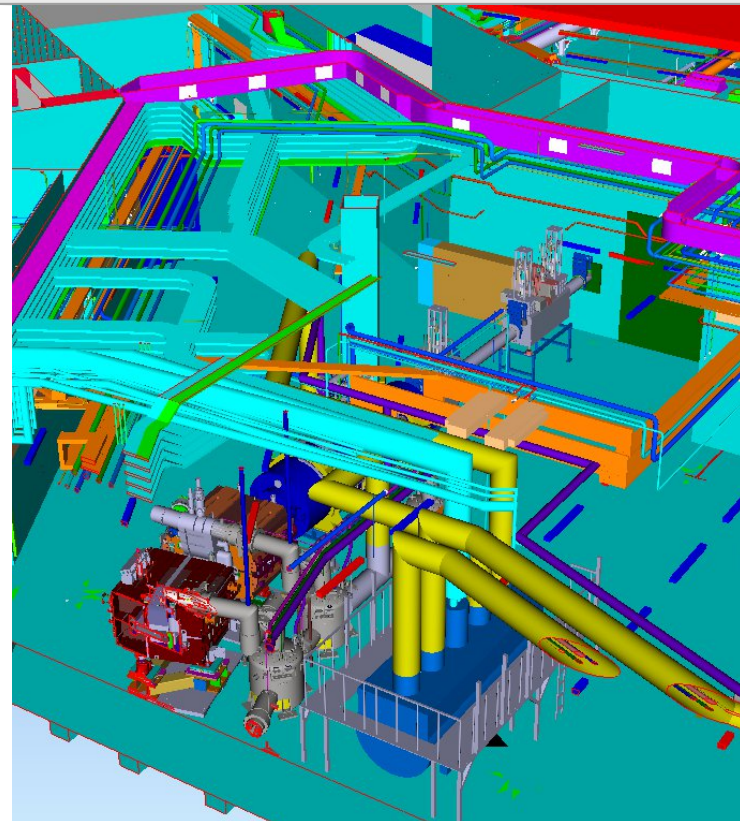
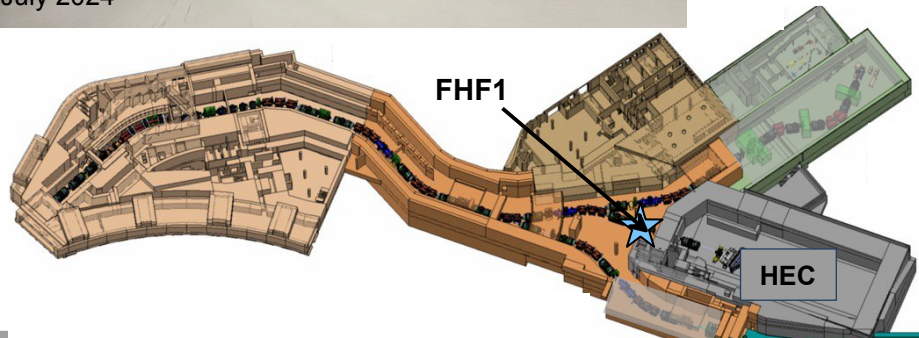
- Region of interest between closed neutron shell at  $N=50$  and  $N=Z$  line
- Rotational band in  $^{88}\text{Ru}$  similar to known states in self-conjugate  $^{84}\text{Mo}$
- ‘Missing’  $16^+$  spin-trap isomer in  $^{84}\text{Mo}$  not yet observed
- Ground-state lifetimes affect rp-process flow and determine directly the amount of nuclei produced in X-ray bursts



- Experiment planned in February 2025, fragmentation of  $^{107}\text{Ag}$
- Full DEGAS Setup in close configuration



B. Cederwall *et al.*, PRL 124 (2020) 062501  
 B. S. Nara Singh, *et al.*, PRL 107 (2011) 172502





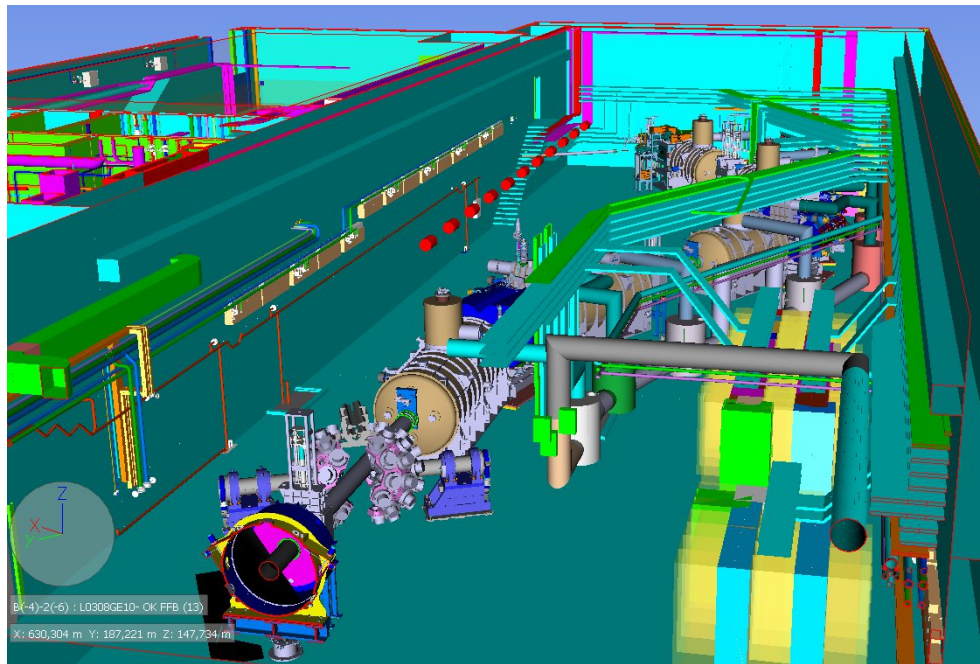
December 2022

**NUSTAR Low-Energy Cave**



July 2024

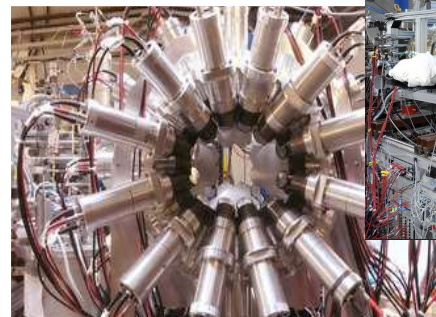
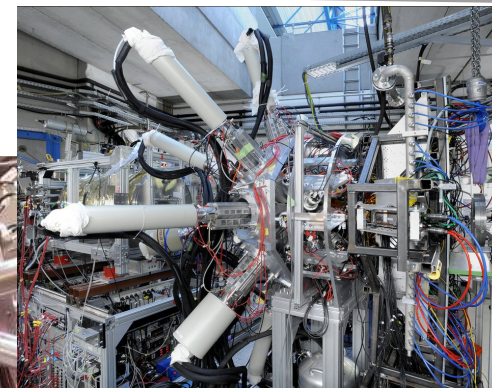




**NUSTAR Low-Energy Cave**

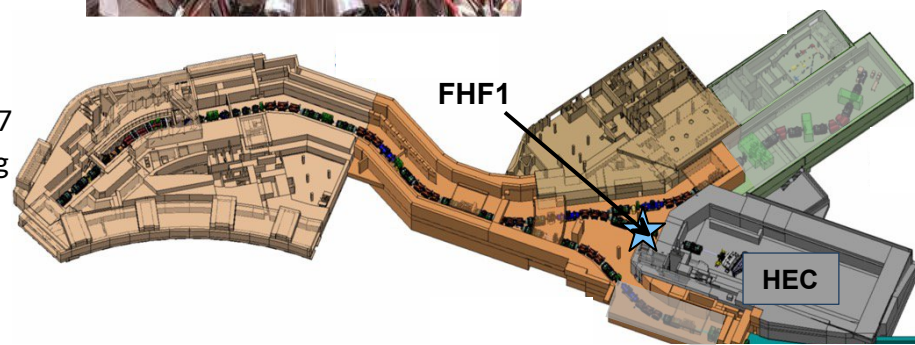
- DESPEC campaigns at GSI/FAIR in 2020-2022 and 2024
- Suite of state-of-the-art detector systems tailored to experimental goals
- **Physics highlights in 2024:**

- ✓  $2^+_{1}$  lifetime of prolate-oblate transitional nucleus  $^{190}\text{W}$  published
- ✓ Rich spectroscopic data collected via fragmentation of  $^{170}\text{Er}$  beam on a number of neutron-rich rare earth isotope data analysis ongoing...



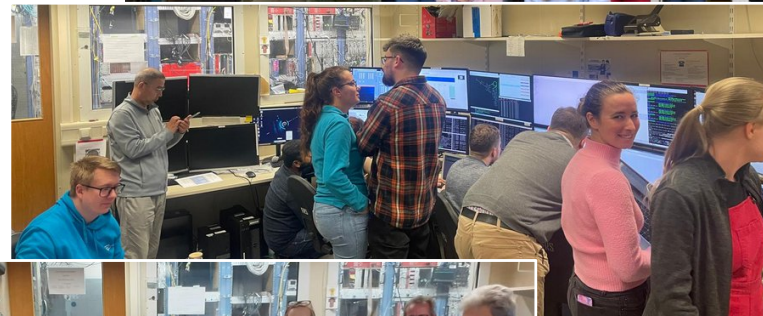
Upcoming...

- Construction of **FAIR progresses well**; new Super-FRS to be operational in 2027 with SIS-100 synchrotron commissioning in 2028
- Current **open PAC Call** for experiments in 2026-2027



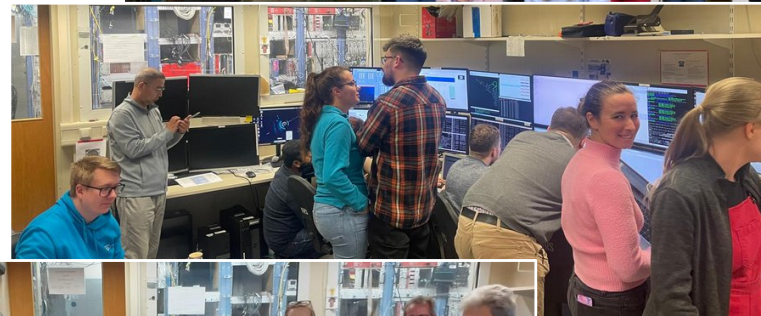
A. Algora, G. Benzoni, B. Bles, J. Bormans, B. Das, D. Das, B. Cederwall, C. Chatel, Z. Chen, T. Davinson, F. Drent, E. Gandolfo, J. Gerl, M. Górska, T. Grahn, H. Heggen, P. Herrmann, N. Hubbard, C. Jones, A. Jungclaus, I. Kojouharov, G. Kosir, N. Kurz, J.E.L. Larsson, G.-s. Li, M. Mikolajczuk, A. Morales, C.M. Petrache, N. Pietralla, Zs. Podolyak, W. Poklepa, M. Polettini, M. Reece, P. Regan, D. Rodriguez, E. Sahin, H. Schaffner, J-L. Tain, J. Vesic, V. Werner, M. Wiebusch, K. Wimmer, A. Yaneva, G. Zhang...

...and many more from the **HISPEC/DESPEC Collaboration**,  
and the **FRS and EE Groups**



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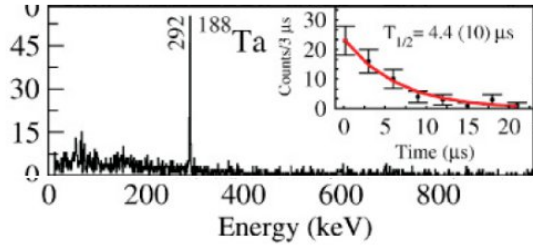
*Thank you*



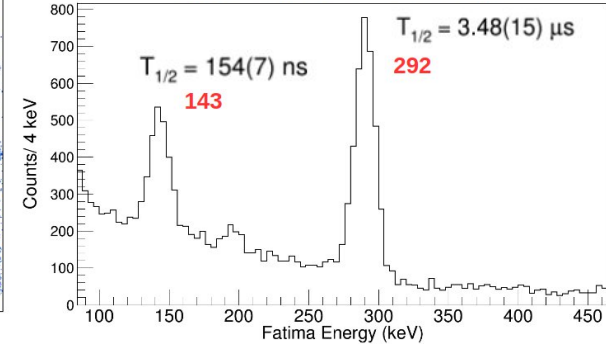
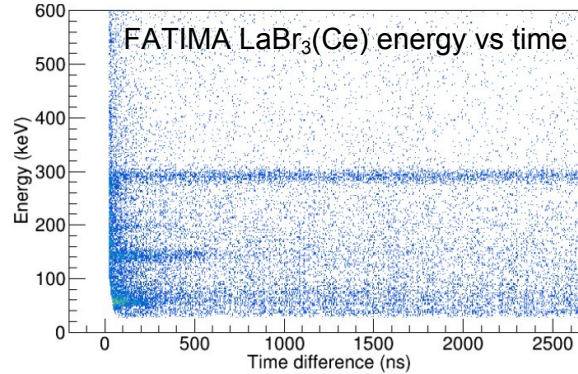
# Isomeric states in $^{188,189}\text{Ta}$

Werner (TU Darmstadt), Regan (Surrey), Jolie (Cologne)

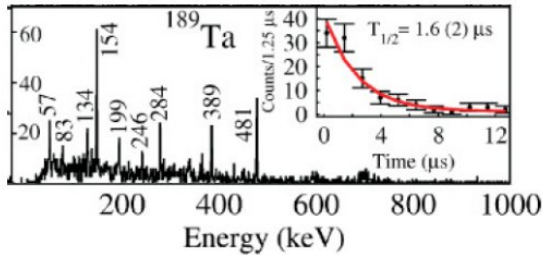
## PRELIMINARY results for $^{188}\text{Ta}$



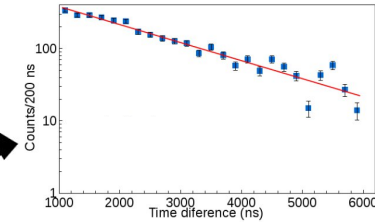
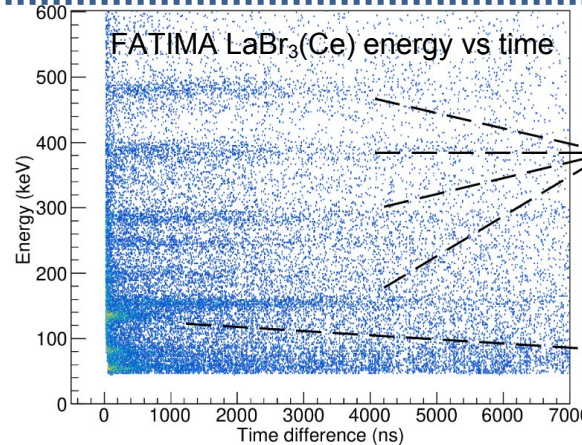
N. Alkhomashi *et al.*, Phys. Rev. C 80, 064308 (2009)



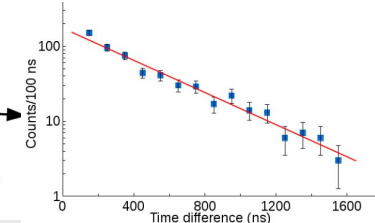
## PRELIMINARY results for $^{189}\text{Ta}$



N. Alkhomashi *et al.*, Phys. Rev. C 80, 064308 (2009)



Isomer "1"  
 $T_{1/2} = 1180(40) \text{ ns}$

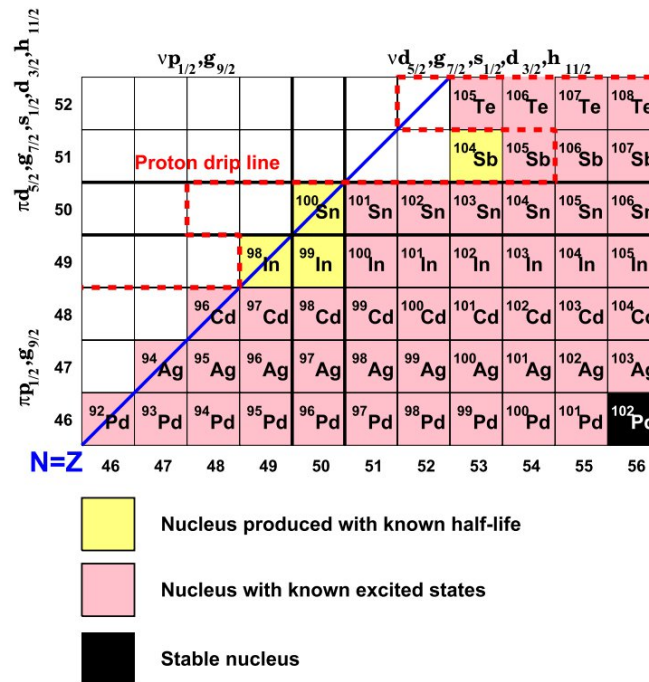
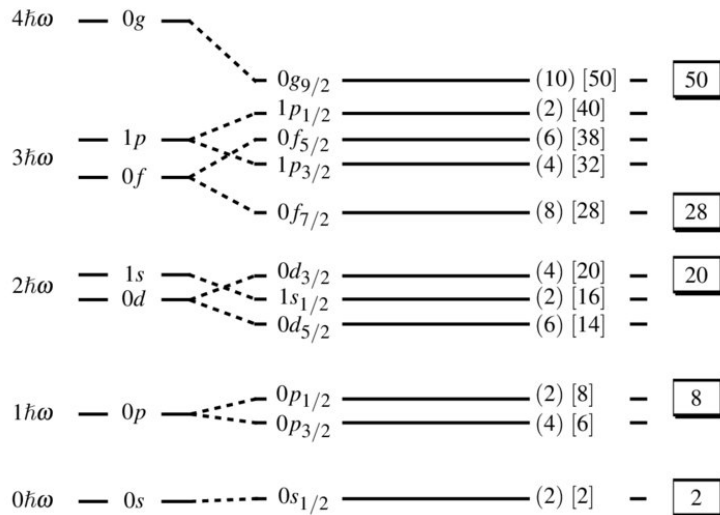


Isomer "2"  
 $T_{1/2} = 230(10) \text{ ns}$

# Seniority transitions and EM transition rates in $^{94}\text{Pd}$

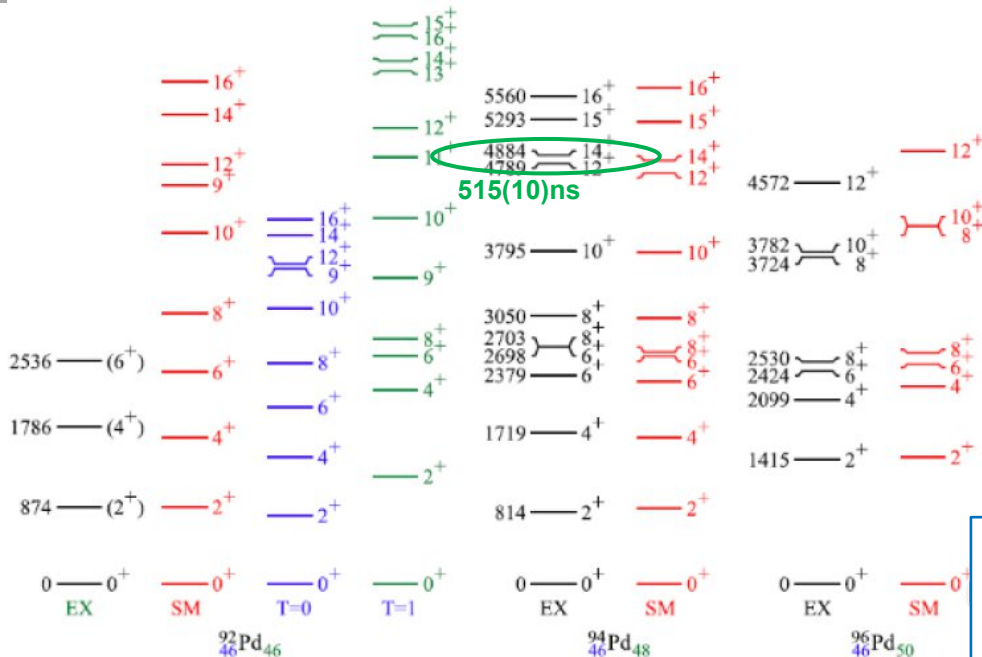
Górska (GSI), Regan (Surrey), Cederwall (KTH), Jolie (Cologne)

- $^{100}\text{Sn}$  region and the  $N=Z$  line
- Hole states - dominated by  $0g_{9/2}$  intruder orbit
- Unique structural features - seniority and parity-changing isomerism, pn pairing and seniority-induced symmetries



# Seniority transitions and EM transition rates in $^{94}\text{Pd}$

Students: A. Yaneva (Cologne), S. Jazrawi (Surrey), M. Mikołajczuk (Warsaw)

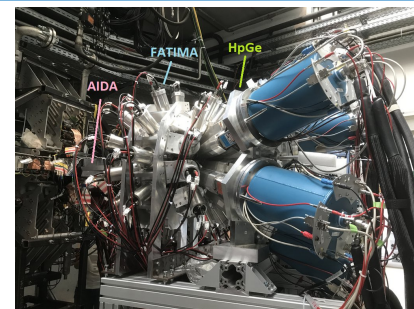


## Main Goals:

- $^{96}\text{Pd}$  – seniority-type level scheme,  $^{92}\text{Pd}$  nearly constant energy spacing:
- $^{94}\text{Pd}$  intermediate nucleus**
- Competition between isoscalar ( $T = 0$ ) and isovector ( $T = 1$ ) components of pn interaction
- Importance of cross shell ( $N, Z = 50$ ) excitations
- B(E2) values of  **$8^+$  and  $6^+$  states** below  $14^+$  isomer
- Stringent test for various models and model spaces

## Experiment:

- Fragmentation of  $^{124}\text{Xe}$  primary beam (982 MeV/u) on a  $^9\text{Be}$  target
- DESPEC ‘fast-timing’ setup
- Hybrid array of HPGe (GALILEO) and  $\text{LaBr}_3$  (FATIMA)



T. Faestermann, M. Górska, H. Grawe, Prog. Part. Nucl. Phys. 69, 85 (2013)

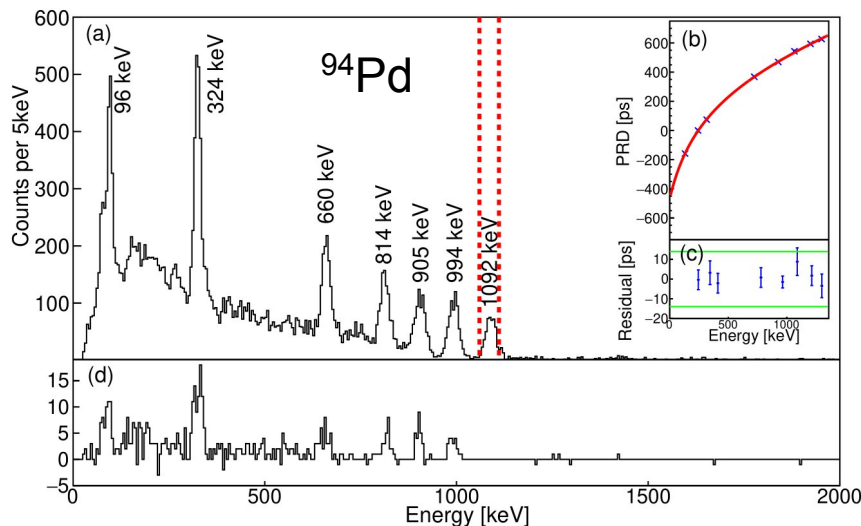
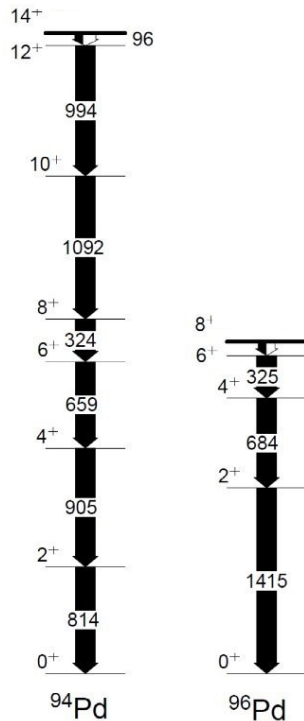
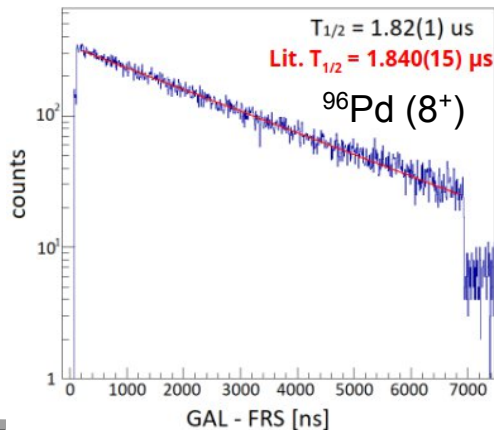
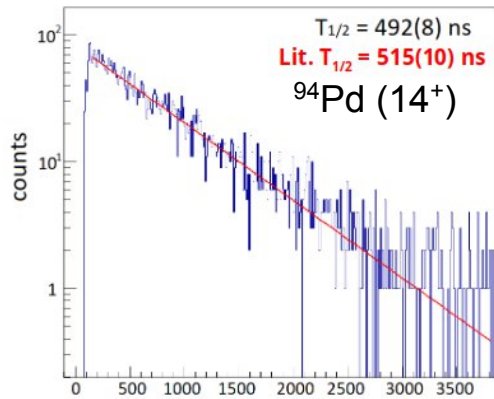
**SM:** R. Gross and A. Frenkel, Nucl. Phys. A 267, 85 (1976)

**Isomer  $T_{1/2}$ :** Häfner *et al.*, Phys. Rev. C 100, 024302 (2019)

(SM: GF interaction in the  $\pi\nu(p_{1/2}g_{9/2})$  model space)



# Seniority transitions and EM transition rates in $^{94}\text{Pd}$

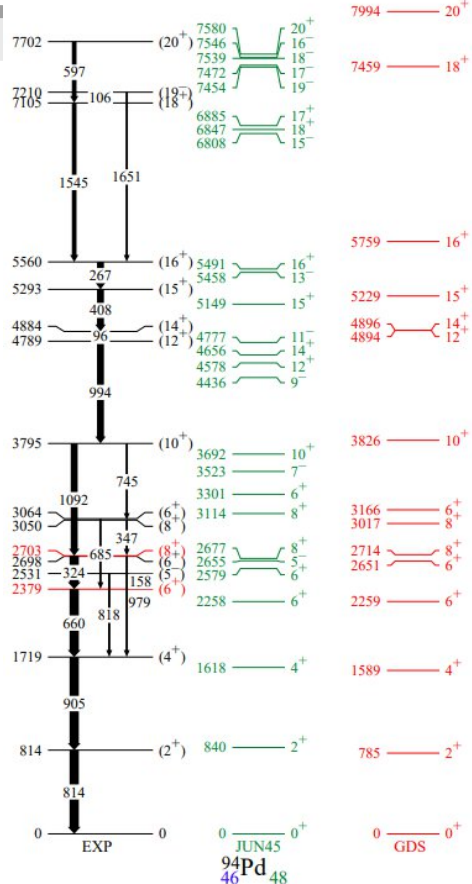


- $^{96}\text{Pd}$  confirmed validity of measurement (S. Jazrawi *et al.*, Radiation Physics and Chemistry 200, 112234 (2022))
- For shorter (ps) lifetimes, Generalized Centroid Shift Method (GCSM) was employed

Lit. isomer half-life values taken from:  
 Häfner *et al.*, Phys.Rev. C 100, 024302 (2019)

A. Yaneva, S. Jazrawi *et al.*, manuscript submitted

# Seniority transitions and EM transition rates in $^{94}\text{Pd}$

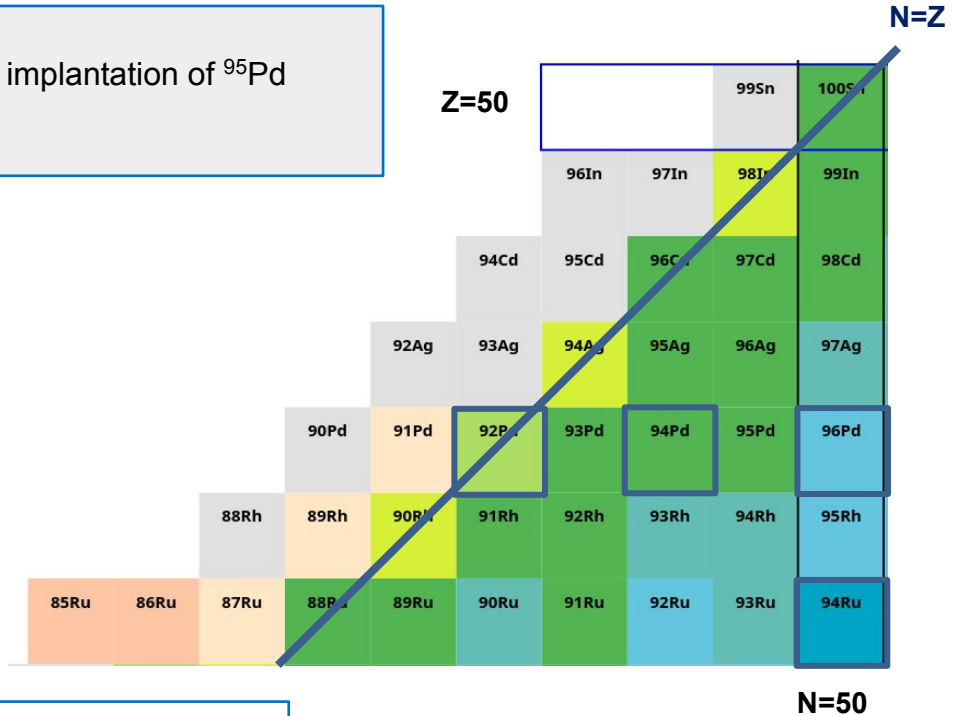
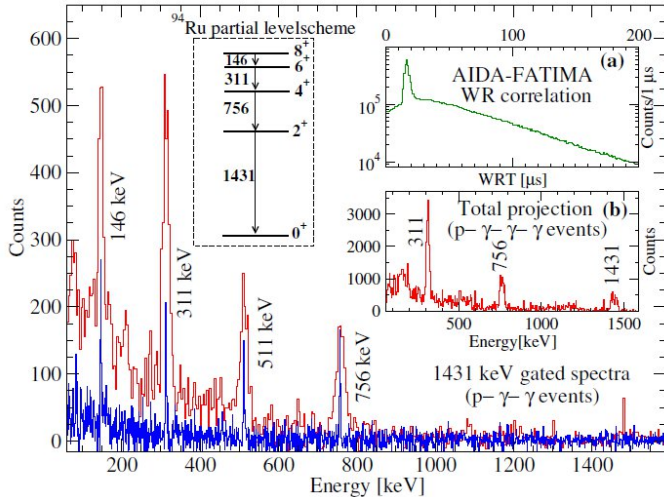


- Excellent reproduction of experimental data by LSSM (GDS) calculation -> importance of core excitations in the structure of  $^{94}\text{Pd}$
- Importance of  $T = 0$  pn interaction component in nuclear structure evolution from  $^{96}\text{Pd}$  to  $^{92}\text{Pd}$

Quantity [ $\text{ns}/e^2 \text{fm}^4$ ]	$I_i^\pi - I_f^\pi$		
	$14^+ \rightarrow 12^+$	$8^+ \rightarrow 6^+$	$6^+ \rightarrow 4^+$
$T_{1/2}$	515(1)	0.755(106)	$\leq 0.05$
$B_{exp}(E2)$	52.1(1)	$205^{+34}_{-25}$	$\geq 90$
$B_{JUN45}(E2)$	113	277	496
$B_{GDS}(E2)$	49	192	548
$B_{g_{9/2}}(E2)$	85	115	307
$B_{g_{9/2}T=0(pn)}(E2)$	63	152	308
$B_{g_{9/2}T=1(pn)}(E2)$	3	12	8
$B_{EXVAM}(E2)$ [21]	56	165	336

# Seniority symmetry-breaking in $^{94}\text{Ru}$

- Lifetimes of states in  $^{94}\text{Ru}$
- Measured after  $\beta$ -delayed proton emission following implantation of  $^{95}\text{Pd}$  ( $21/2^+$  isomer)
- Feeding  $8^+$  isomer in  $^{94}\text{Ru}$  ( $\sim 70 \mu\text{s}$ )



B. Das, B. Cederwall *et al.*, Nature of seniority symmetry breaking in the semimagic nucleus  $^{94}\text{Ru}$ , PRC Letters 105, L031304 (2022)

# Seniority symmetry-breaking in $^{94}\text{Ru}$

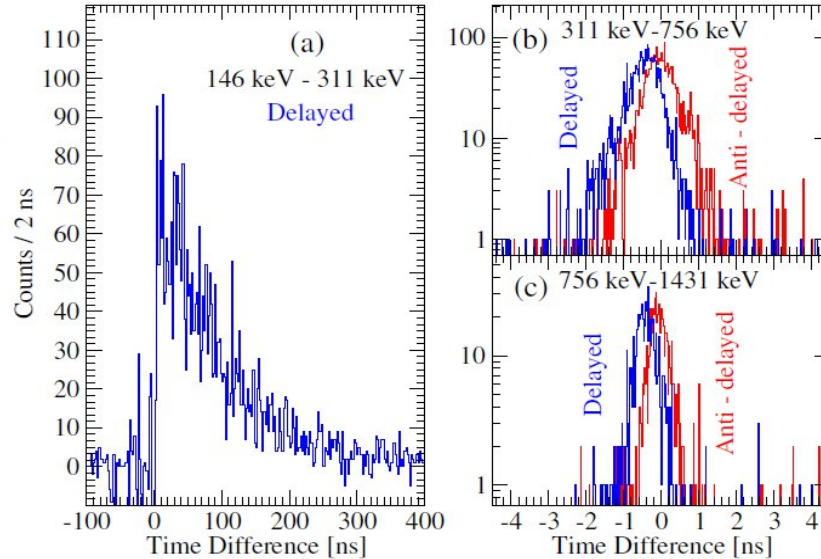


TABLE I. Experimental mean lifetimes and  $B(E2)$  strengths in  $^{94}\text{Ru}$  in comparison with various shell model predictions. Experimental data except for  $8^+ \rightarrow 6^+$  [41, 45] are from the present work.

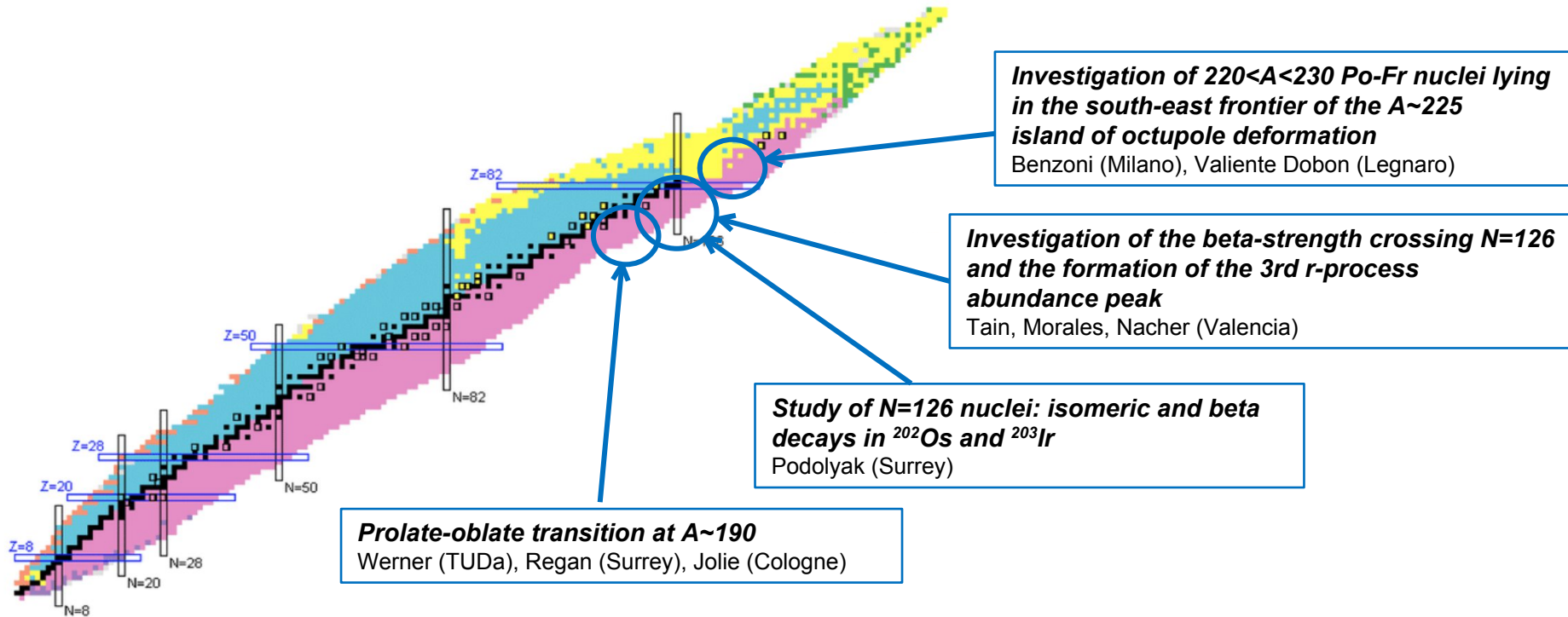
$I_i^\pi \rightarrow I_f^\pi$	$\tau$ [ps]	$B_{\text{EX}}(E2)$ [ $e^2 fm^4$ ]	$B_{\text{SMLB}}(E2)$ [ $e^2 fm^4$ ]	$B_{\text{SDGN}}(E2)$ [ $e^2 fm^2$ ]
$8^+ \rightarrow 6^+$	$102(4) \times 10^6$	0.09(1)	2.0	0.77
$6^+ \rightarrow 4^+$	$91(3) \times 10^3$	3.0(2)	6.1	17.3
$4^+ \rightarrow 2^+$	32(11)	103(24)	6.8	85.2
$2^+ \rightarrow 0^+$	$\leq 15$	$\geq 10$	225	295

B. Das, B. Cederwall *et al.*, Nature of seniority symmetry breaking in the semimagic nucleus  $^{94}\text{Ru}$ , PRC Letters 105, L031304 (2022)

- $v=2$  to  $v=2$  transitions should be strongly suppressed if seniority conserved
- **$4^+ \rightarrow 2^+$  transition strength greatly enhanced!**
- Interpreted as constructive interference between  $v=2$  and  $v=4$  configurations of same spin



# Complementary studies approaching, at and beyond the N=126 closure



# Complementary studies approaching, at and beyond the N=126 closure

