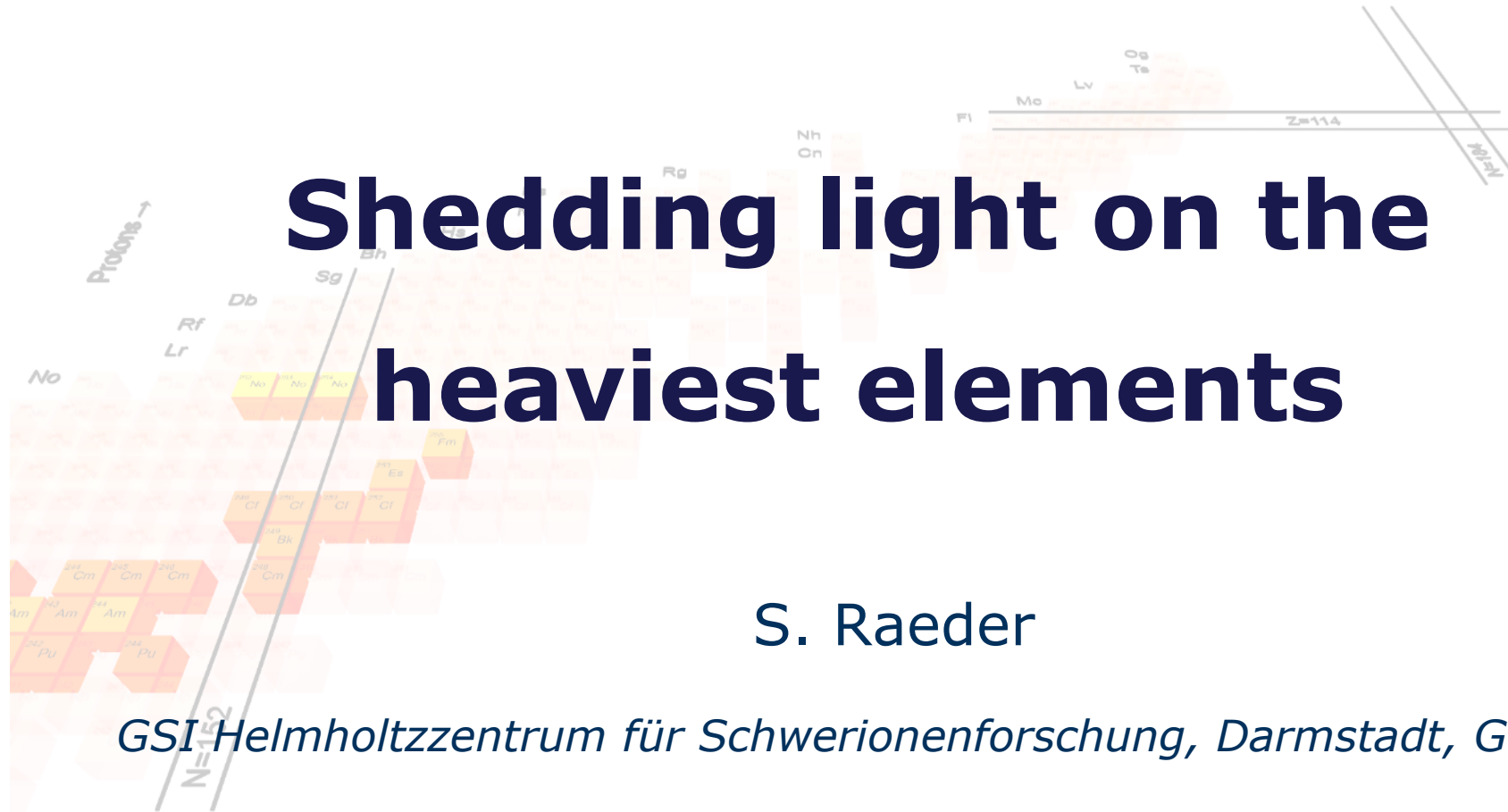


# Shedding light on the heaviest elements

S. Raeder

*GSI Helmholtzzentrum für Schwerionenforschung, Darmstadt, Germany*



# The Periodic Table of Elements

## Elements at the limits of nuclear stability

- Why do SHE exist at all ?
- What is nuclear structure: what is their shape and size ?
- How are they best produced in the lab ?
- How do their atomic and chemical properties compare to known (lighter) elements ?

UNESCO  
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

2019 IYPT  
International Year of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements

1 H																	2 He
3 Li	4 Be											5 B	6 C	7 N	8 O	9 F	10 Ne
11 Na	12 Mg											13 Al	14 Si	15 P	16 S	17 Cl	18 Ar
19 K	20 Ca	21 Sc	22 Ti	23 V	24 Cr	25 Mn	26 Fe	27 Co	28 Ni	29 Cu	30 Zn	31 Ga	32 Ge	33 As	34 Se	35 Br	36 Kr
37 Rb	38 Sr	39 Y	40 Zr	41 Nb	42 Mo	43 Tc	44 Ru	45 Rh	46 Pd	47 Ag	48 Cd	49 In	50 Sn	51 Sb	52 Te	53 I	54 Xe
55 Cs	56 Ba		72 Hf	73 Ta	74 W	75 Re	76 Os	77 Ir	78 Pt	79 Au	80 Hg	81 Tl	82 Pb	83 Bi	84 Po	85 At	86 Rn
87 Fr	88 Ra		104 Rf	105 Db	106 Sg	107 Bh	108 Hs	109 Mt	110 Ds	111 Rg	112 Cn	113 Nh	114 Fl	115 Mc	116 Lv	117 Ts	118 Og
			1964	1968	1974	1981	1984	1992	1994	1994	1996	2001	1999	2004	2000	2010	2006

**Superheavy Elements**  
= transactinides

### Discovered at GSI

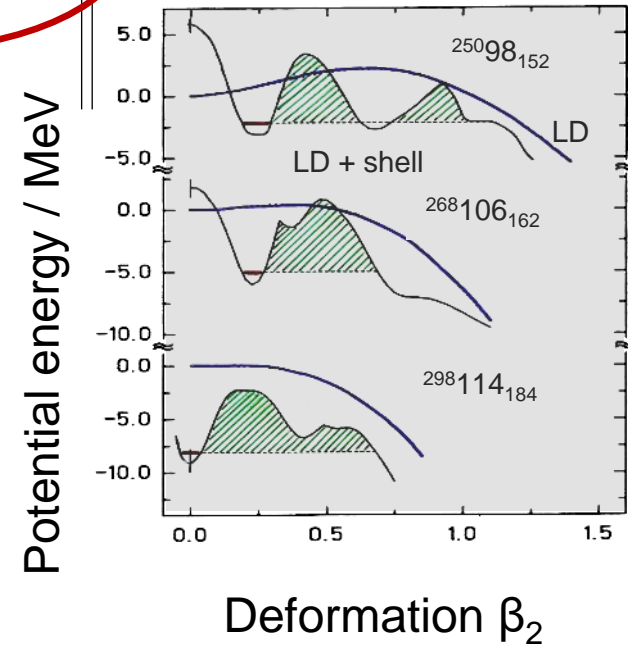
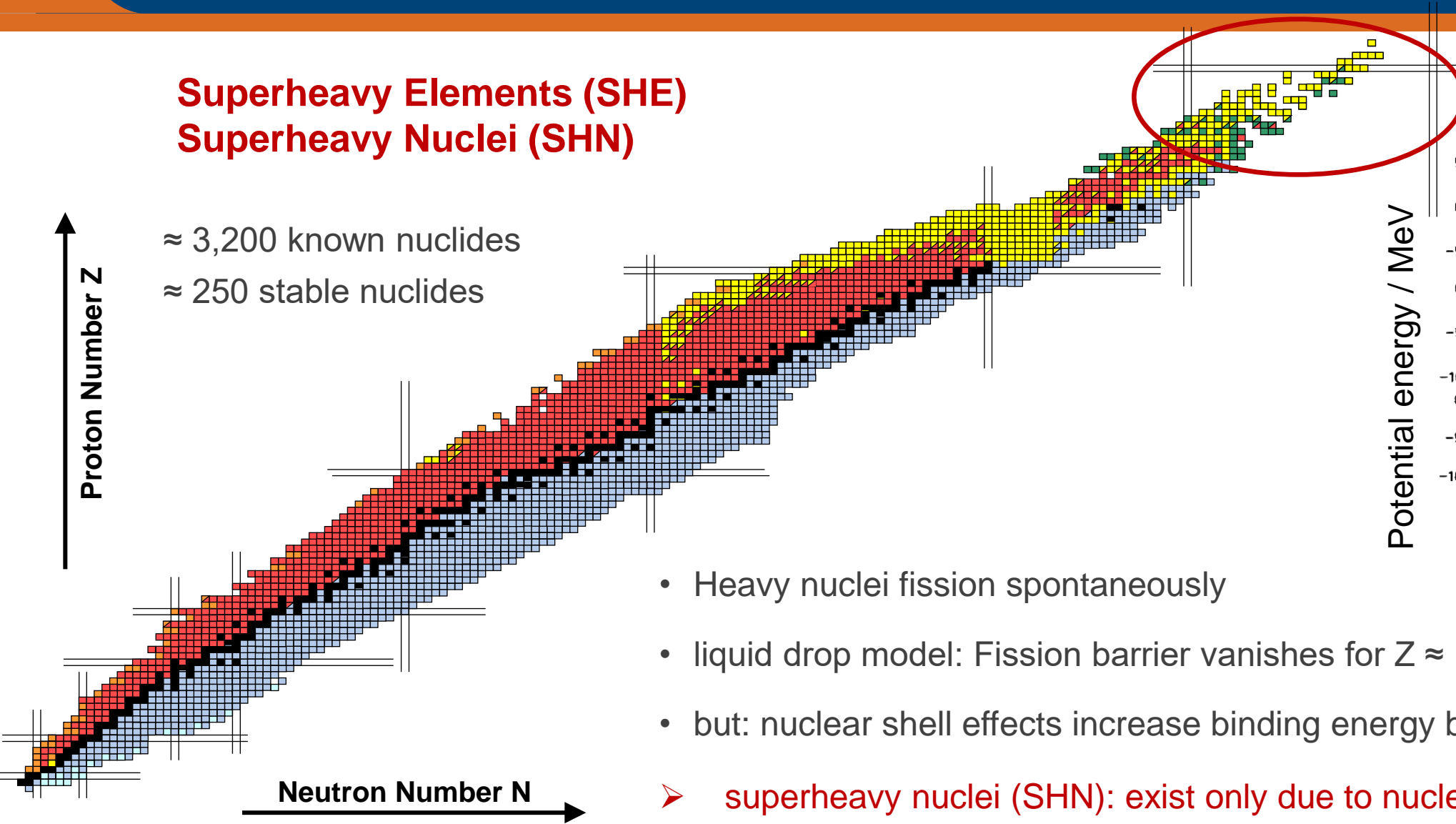
57 La	58 Ce	59 Pr	60 Nd	61 Pm	62 Sm	63 Eu	64 Gd	65 Tb	66 Dy	67 Ho	68 Er	69 Tm	70 Yb	71 Lu
89 Ac	90 Th	91 Pa	92 U	93 Np	94 Pu	95 Am	96 Cm	97 Bk	98 Cf	99 Es	100 Fm	101 Md	102 No	103 Lr

# Chart of Nuclides

## Superheavy Elements (SHE) Superheavy Nuclei (SHN)

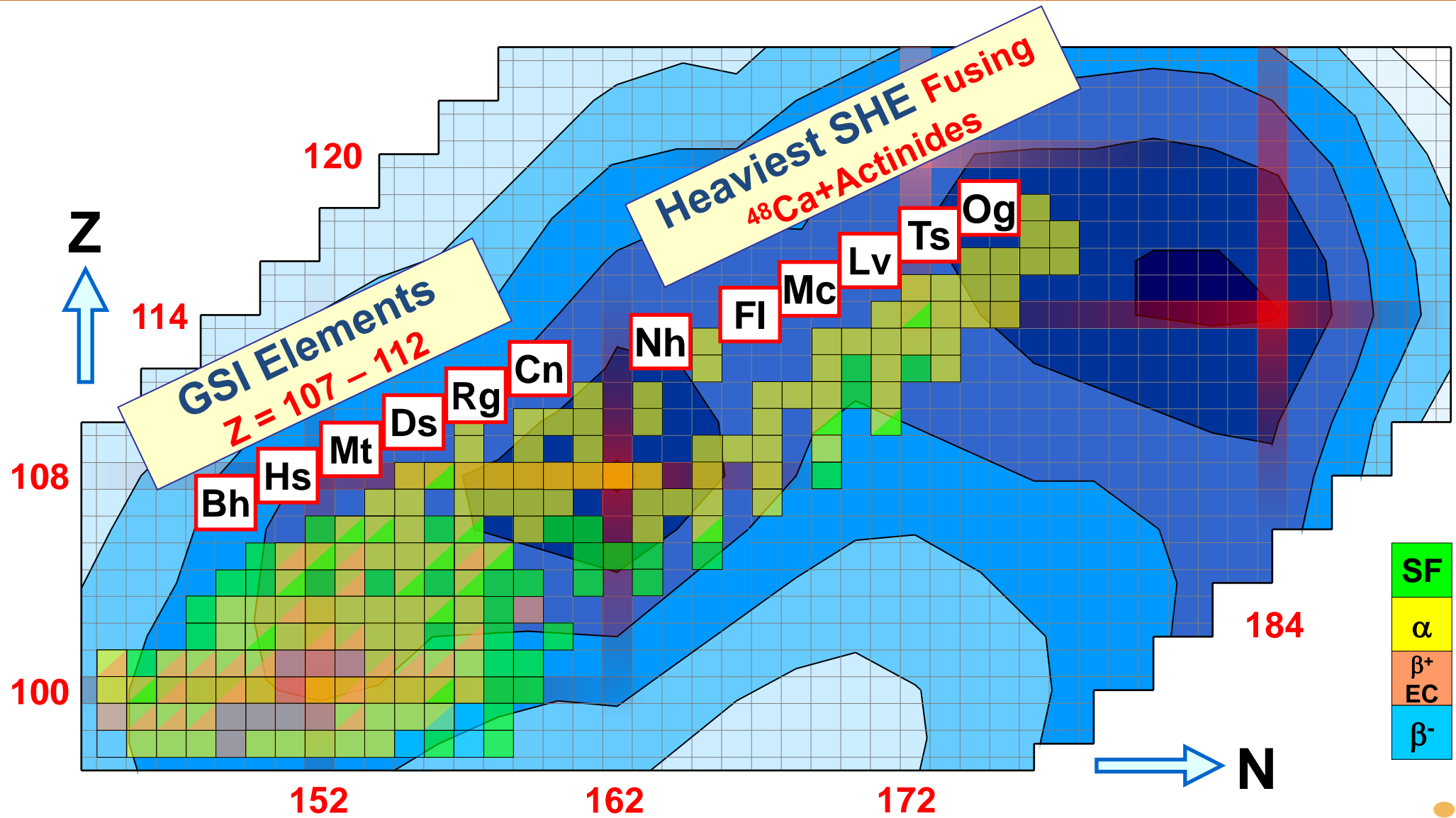
≈ 3,200 known nuclides

≈ 250 stable nuclides



- Heavy nuclei fission spontaneously
- liquid drop model: Fission barrier vanishes for  $Z \approx 104$
- but: nuclear shell effects increase binding energy by several MeV
- **superheavy nuclei (SHN): exist only due to nuclear shell effects**

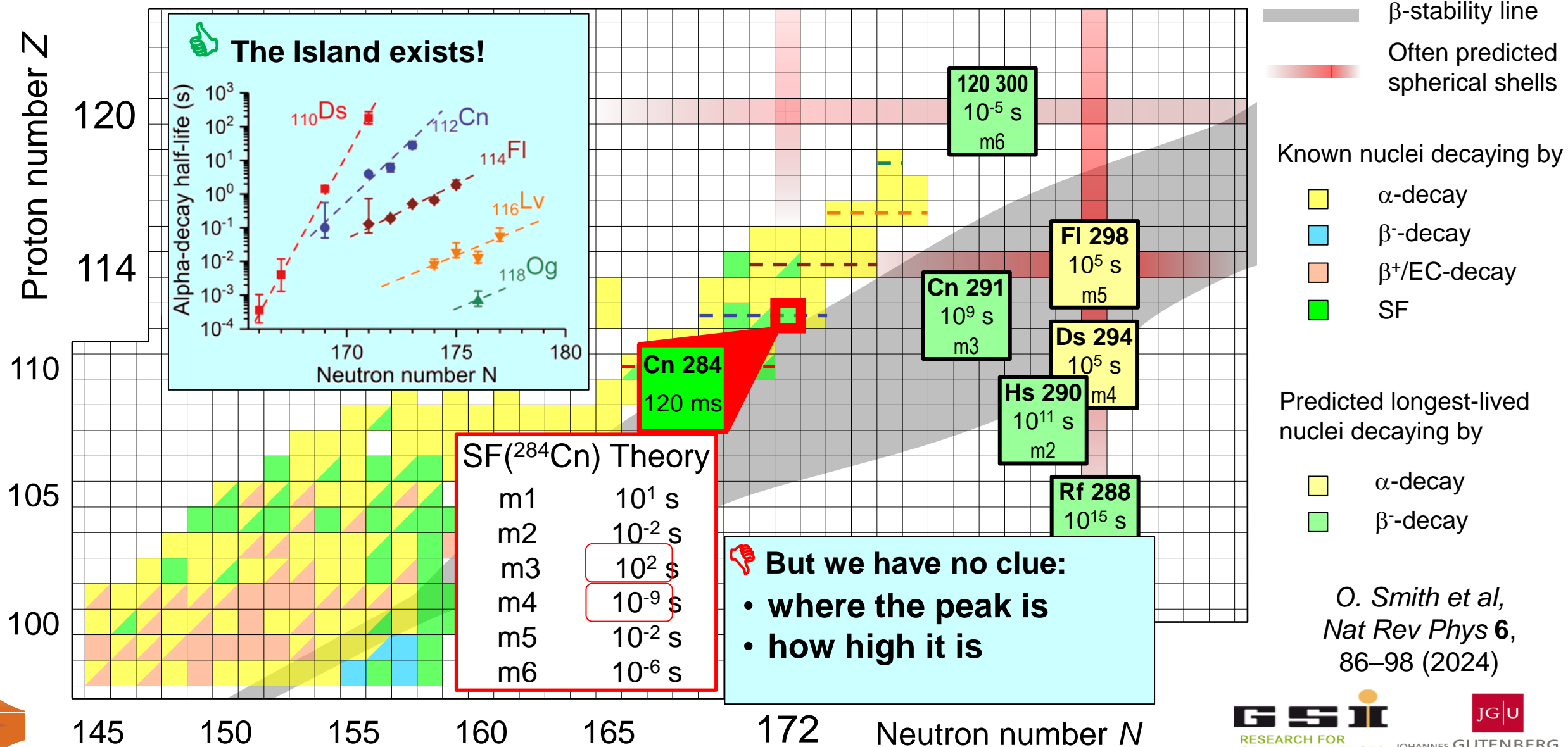
# Superheavy Elements – Present Status



Courtesy of Ch. Düllmann

S. Raeder – 29.05.2024 – ISOL France Workshop Strasbourg

# Island of Stability – Status 2023



# Properties of the heaviest elements

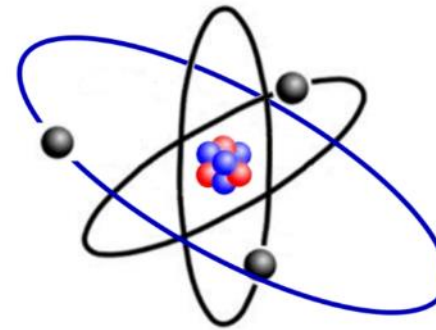
## Laser spectroscopy for fundamental properties

- Understanding of atomic structure & chemical behaviour
- What is nuclear structure: what is their shape and size ?

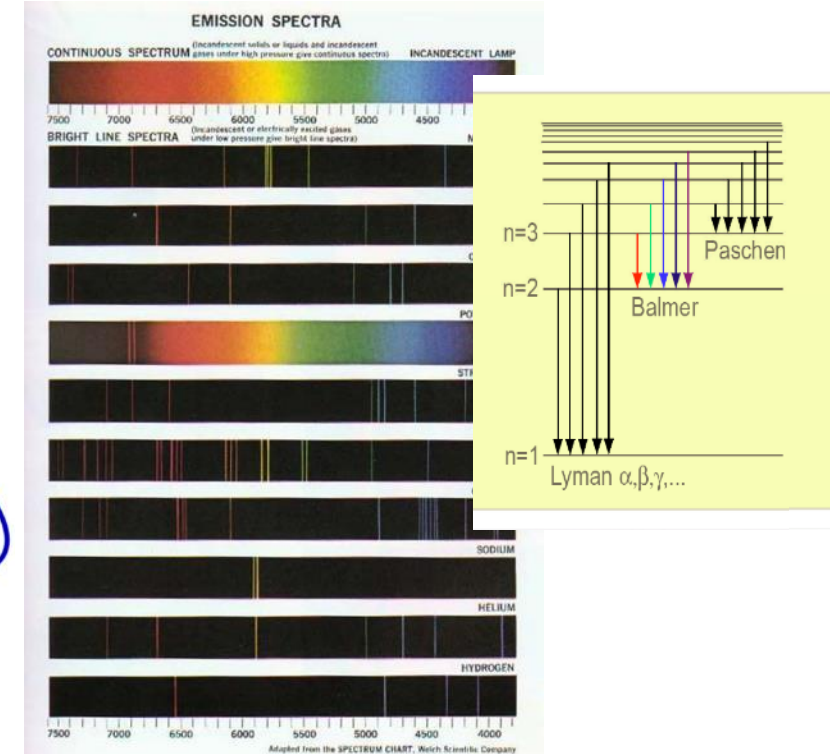
*Atomic structure is linked to light*

1 H																	2 He									
3 Li	4 Be											5 B	6 C	7 N	8 O	9 F	10 Ne									
11 Na	12 Mg											13 Al	14 Si	15 P	16 S	17 Cl	18 Ar									
19 K	20 Ca	21 Sc	22 Ti	23 V	24 Cr	25 Mn	26 Fe	27 Co	28 Ni	29 Cu	30 Zn	31 Ga	32 Ge	33 As	34 Se	35 Br	36 Kr									
37 Rb	38 Sr	39 Y	40 Zr	41 Nb	42 Mo	43 Tc	44 Ru	45 Rh	46 Pd	47 Ag	48 Cd	49 In	50 Sn	51 Sb	52 Te	53 I	54 Xe									
55 Cs	56 Ba											72 Hf	73 Ta	74 W	75 Re	76 Os	77 Ir	78 Pt	79 Au	80 Hg	81 Tl	82 Pb	83 Bi	84 Po	85 At	86 Rn
87 Fr	88 Ra	104 Rf	105 Db	106 Sg	107 Bh	108 Hs	109 Mt	110 Ds	111 Rg	112 Cn	113 Nh	114 Fl	115 Mc	116 Lv	117 Ts	118 Og										
→																										
57 La	58 Ce	59 Pr	60 Nd	61 Pm	62 Sm	63 Eu	64 Gd	65 Tb	66 Dy	67 Ho	68 Er	69 Tm	70 Yb	71 Lu												
89 Ac	90 Th	91 Pa	92 U	93 Np	94 Pu	95 Am	96 Cm	97 Bk	98 Cf	99 Es	100 Fm	101 Md	102 No	103 Lr												

**Electron shell**  
 atomic structure  
 chemical properties  
 → defines the element

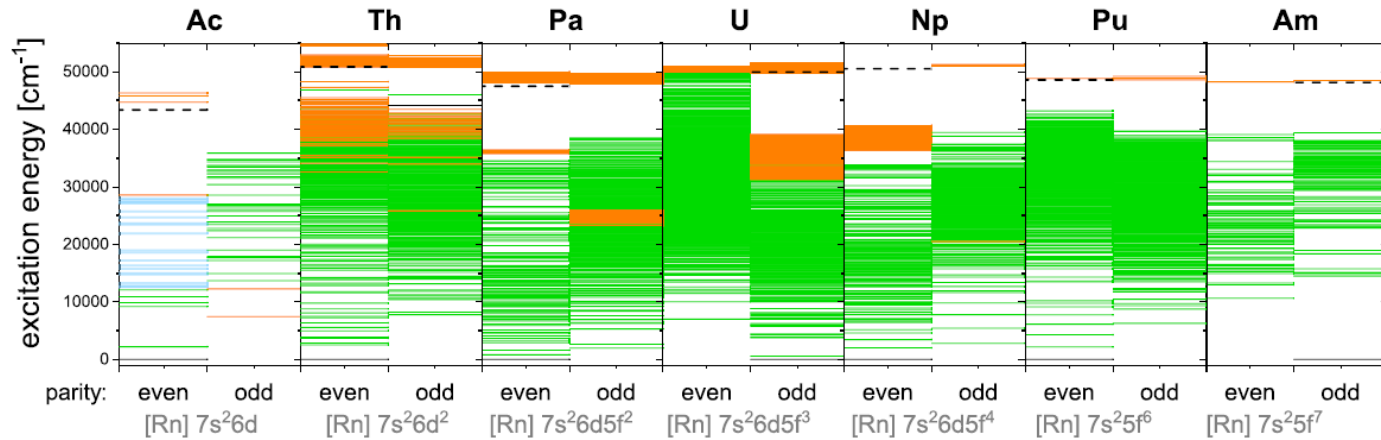


**Nucleus**  
 nuclear structure  
 stability of elements



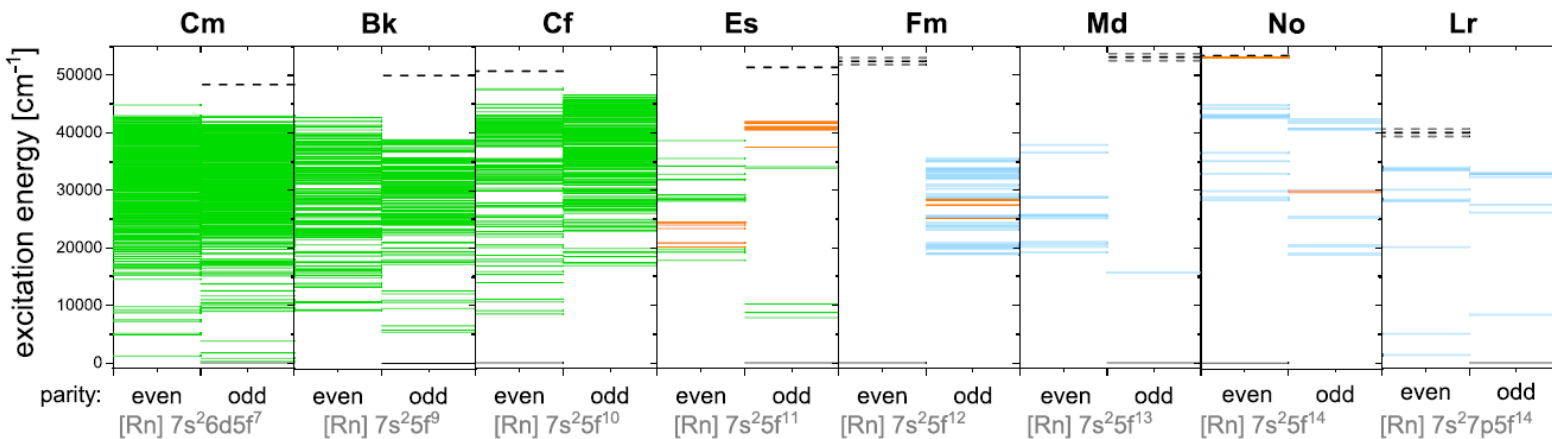
# Density of Atomic Levels in the Actinides

## Overview on atomic levels reported for the heavy actinides



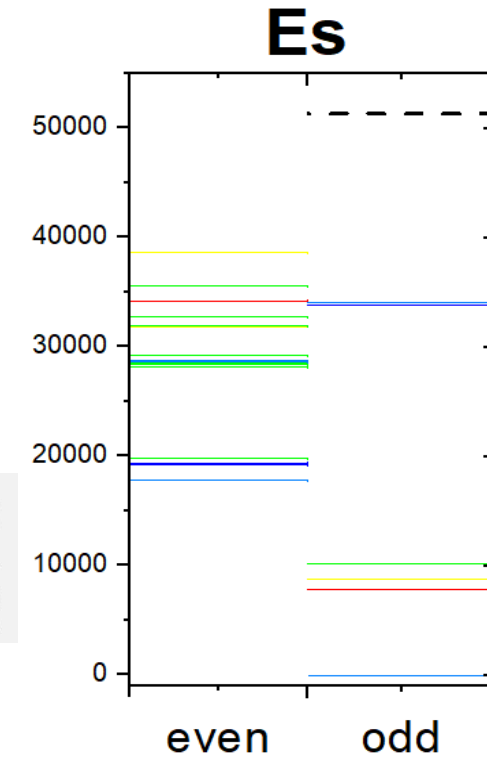
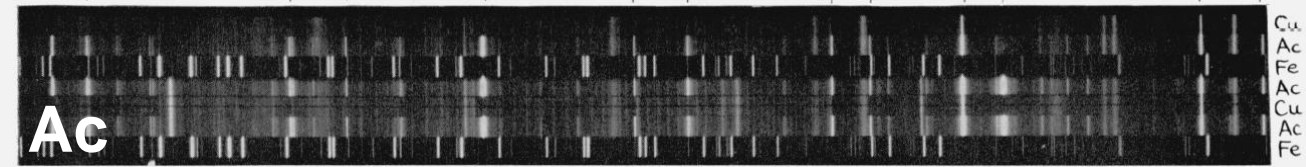
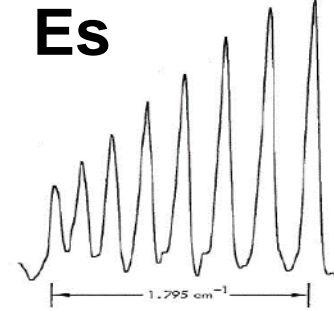
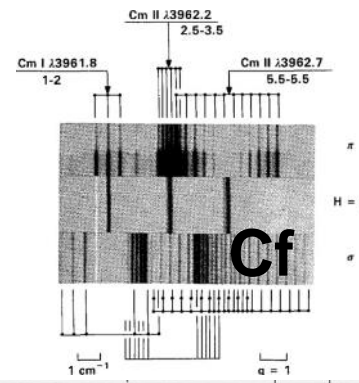
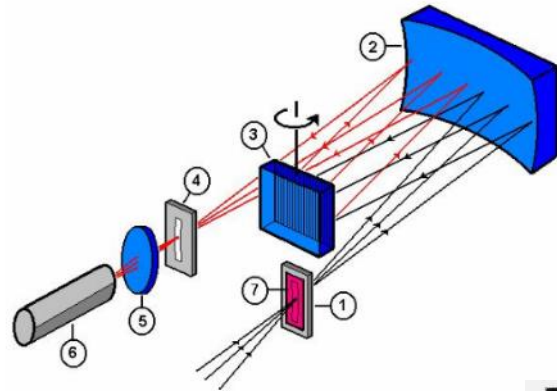
- Atomic structure
- Sparse for heavier element
- For  $Z \geq 100$  only calculations are available

- █ Blaise 1992
- █ Experimental levels
- █ Theory – calculated levels



# $^{99}\text{Es}$ – analysis of fluorescence light

## Spectrometry of light from discharge



- 0.6  $\mu\text{g}$  – 48  $\mu\text{g}$   $^{253}\text{Es}$  ( $10^{16}$  atoms) – 1970's
  - report of ~300 optical lines (Es I & Es II)
  - level assignment from analysis
  - magnetic moment of  $^{253}\text{Es}$  from HFS
  - too little material for Zeemann splitting

[Wor74] Worden E.F., et al. "Hyperfine structure in the  $^{253}\text{Es}$  emission spectrum, III: Extension of the line list, levels of Es i and Es ii, nuclear magnetic-dipole and quadrupole moments\*" *J.Opt. Soc.Am.* 64.1 (1974): 77.



# $^{100}\text{Fm}$ – only possible with laser spectroscopy

2003: First atomic information on Fm

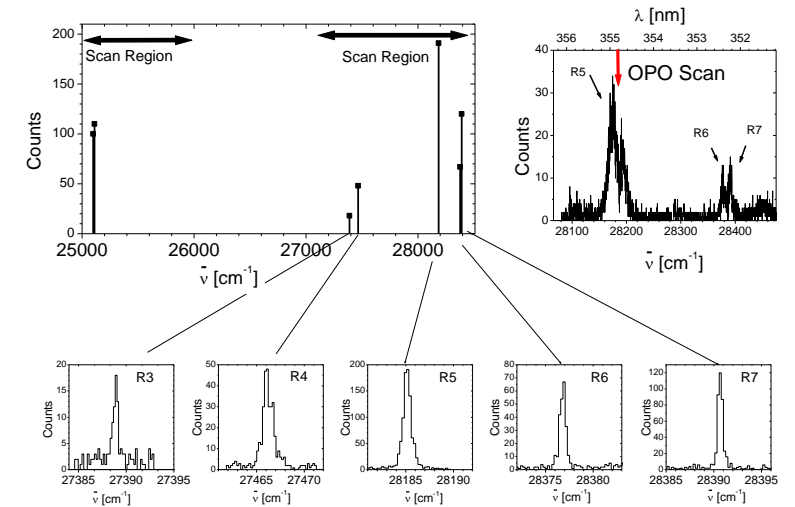
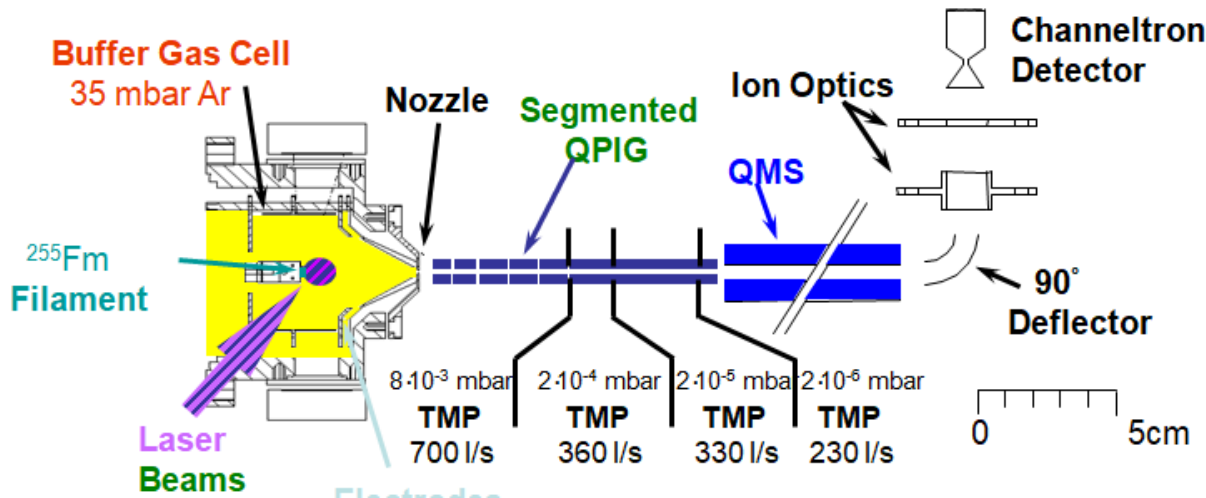
Mainz: Institut für Kernphysik, Institut für Kernchemie

breeding of  $^{255}\text{Es}$   
at Oak Ridge, USA

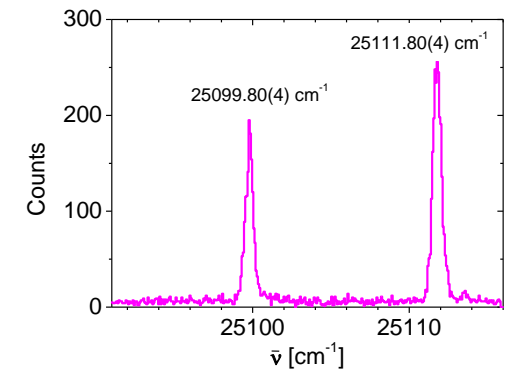
$$\Phi_n = 2.6 \cdot 10^{15} / \text{cm}^2 \cdot \text{s}$$

$$T = 1 \text{ a}$$

4 ng  $^{255}\text{Fm}$  ( $t_{1/2} = 20 \text{ h}$ )  
( $10^{12}$  atoms)



7 atomic transitions

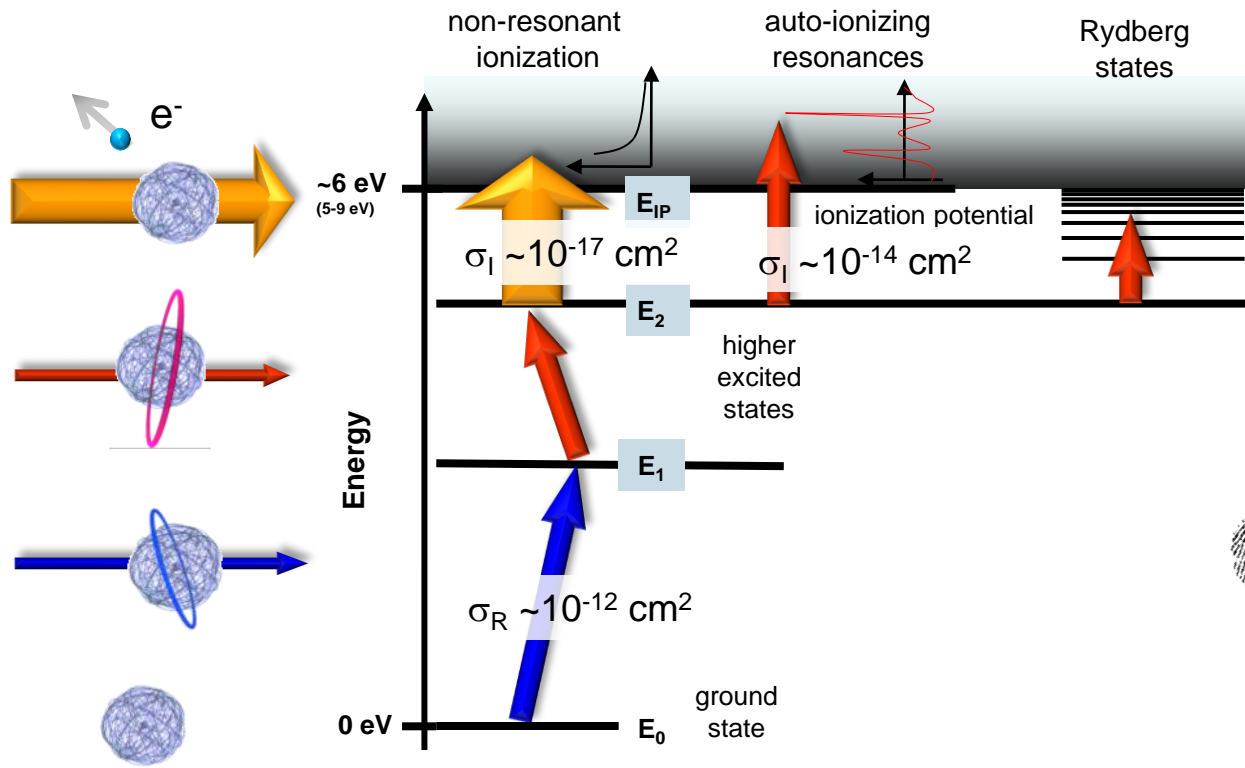


Laser system: 100 Hz, Excimer pumped Dye laser + 50 Hz OPO

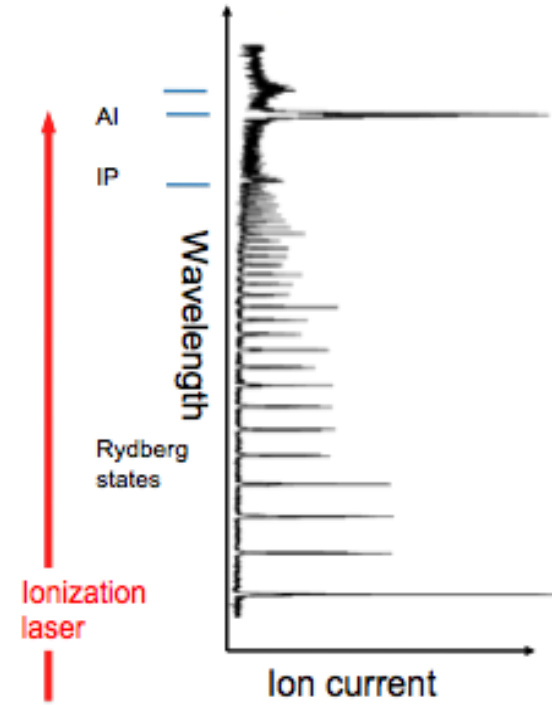
[Sew03] Sewtz, M., et al. "First observation of atomic levels for the element fermium (Z= 100)." *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 90.16 (2003): 163002.

[Bac06] Backe, H., et al. "Laser spectroscopic investigation of the element fermium (Z= 100)." *Laser 2004.* (2006). 3-14.

# Resonance Ionization Spectroscopy

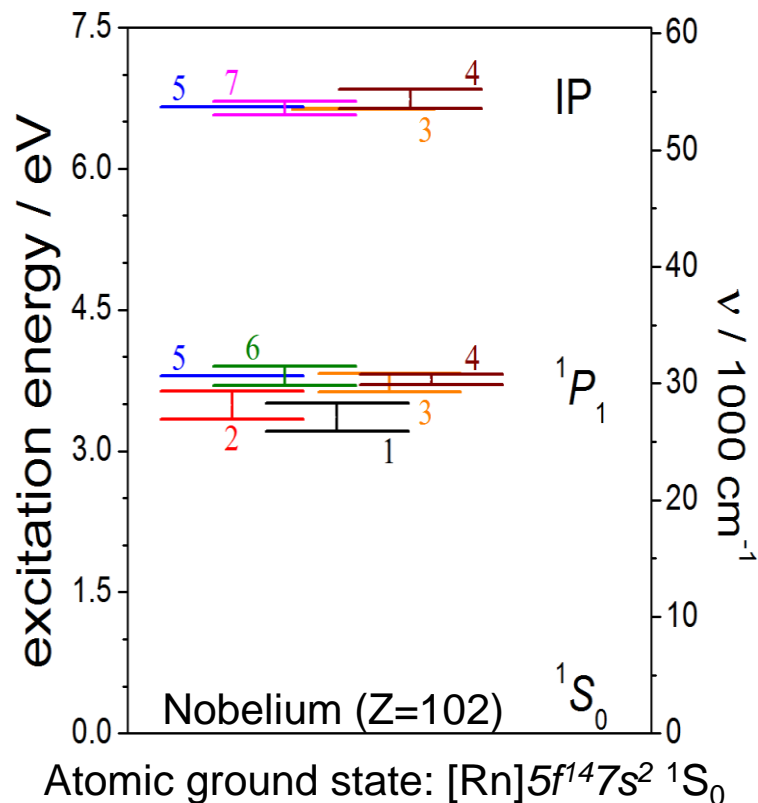


## Atomic properties

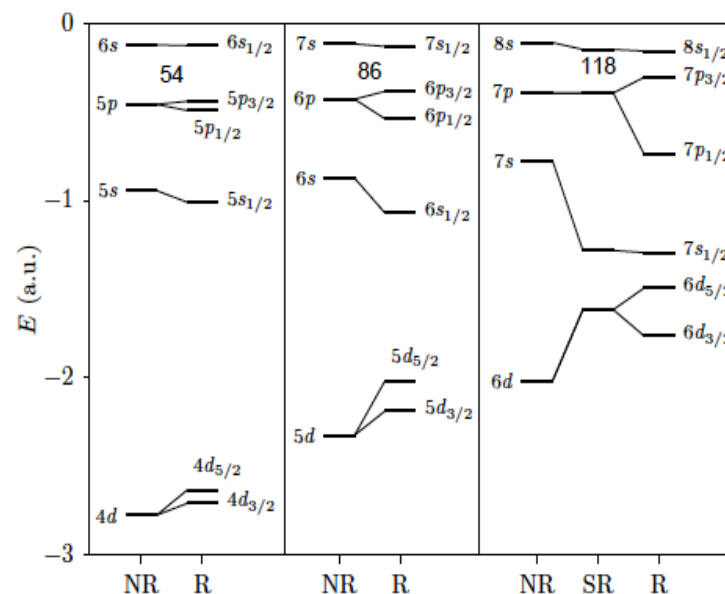


- Resonant laser excitation – selective & efficient
- Efficient excitation schemes generally exist for every element
- Atomic spectra incomplete – development often necessary

# Motivation - Atomic Structure



- $Z\alpha \rightarrow 1$ : large QED contribution & relativistic effects in the electronic structure



*P. Jerabek et al., PRL 120, 053001 (2018)*

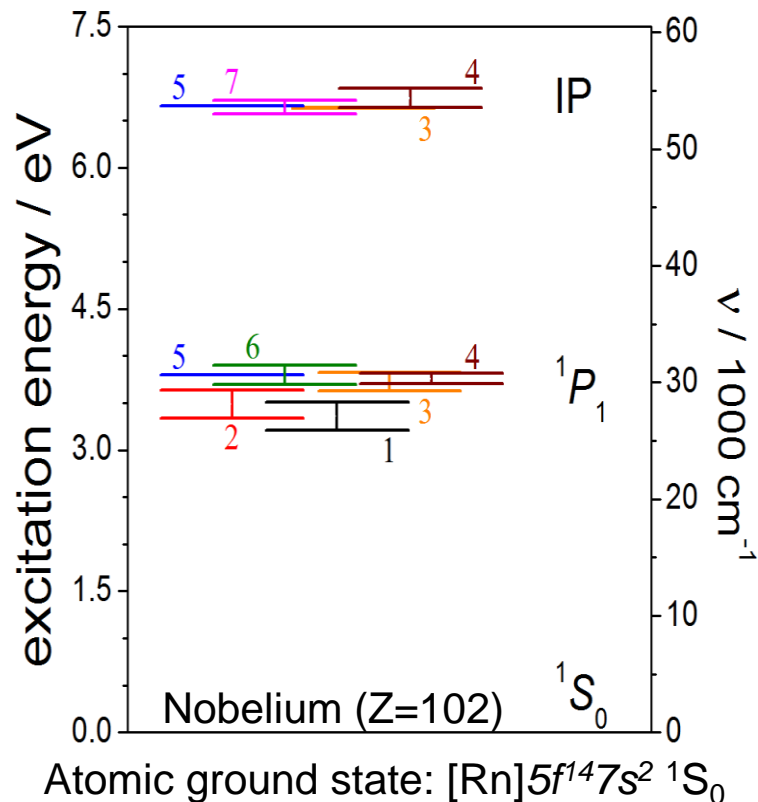
## Model calculations

**1, 2 (MCDF):** S.Fritzsche, Eur. Phys. J. D 33 (2005) 15  
**3 (IHFSCC):** A.Borschevsky et al., Phys. Rev. A 75 (2007) 042514

**4 (RCC):** V.A.Dzuba et al., Phys. Rev. A 90 (2014) 012504  
**5 (MCDF):** Y.Liu et al., Phys. Rev. A 76 (2007) 062503

**6 (MCDF):** P.Indelicato et al., Eur. Phys. J. D 45 (2007) 155  
**7 (extrapolation):** J.Sugar, J. Chem. Phys. 60 (1974) 4103

# Motivation - Atomic Structure



- $Z\alpha \rightarrow 1$ : large QED contribution & relativistic effects in the electronic structure
- Strong electron correlations
- Benchmark predictive power of atomic theory
- Ionization potential (IP)  $\rightarrow$  chemical properties
- Determination of nuclear properties

## Model calculations

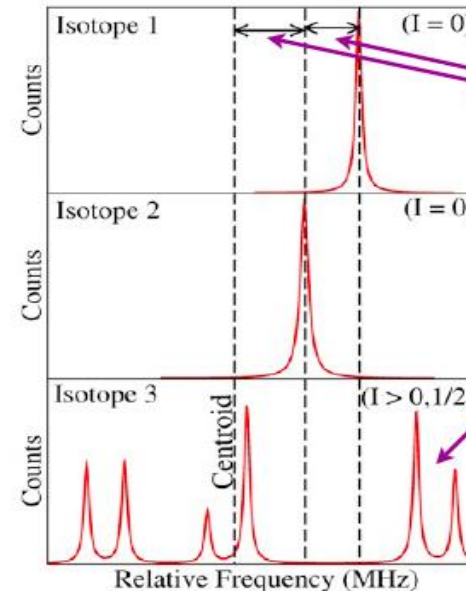
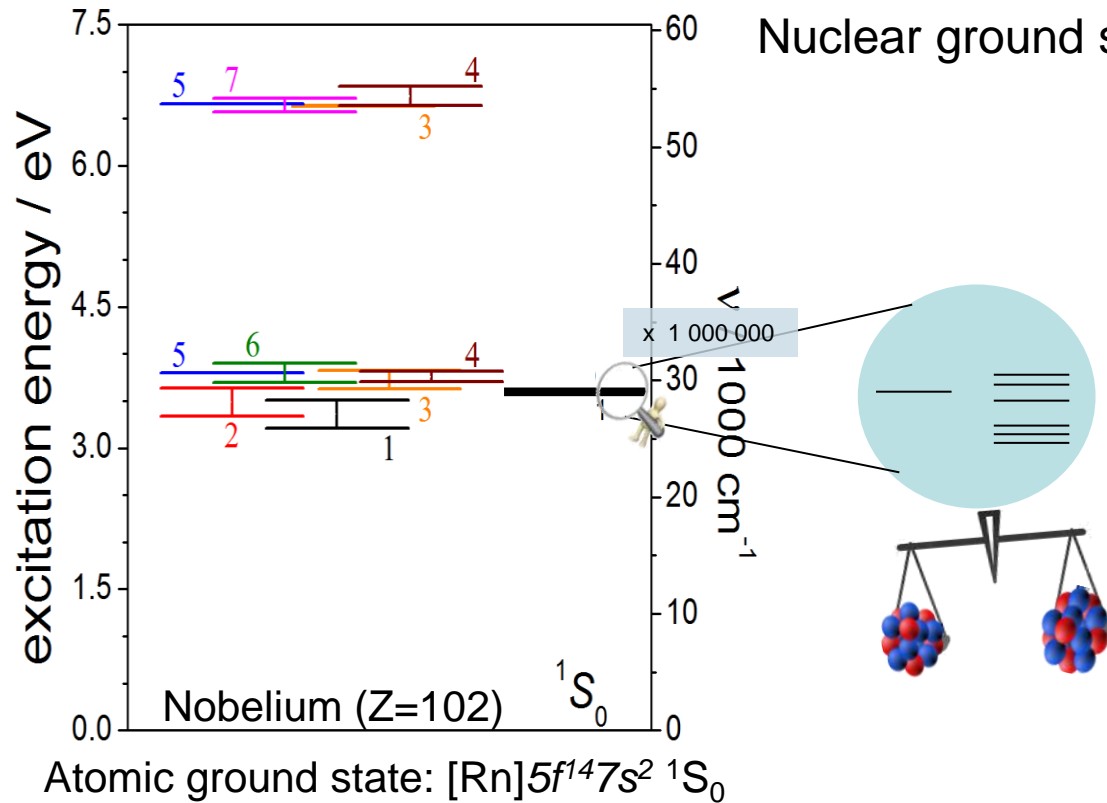
**1, 2 (MCDF):** S.Fritzsche, Eur. Phys. J. D 33 (2005) 15  
**3 (IHFSCC):** A.Borschevsky et al., Phys. Rev. A 75 (2007) 042514

**4 (RCC):** V.A.Dzuba et al., Phys. Rev. A 90 (2014) 012504  
**5 (MCDF):** Y.Liu et al., Phys. Rev. A 76 (2007) 062503

**6 (MCDF):** P.Indelicato et al., Eur. Phys. J. D 45 (2007) 155  
**7 (extrapolation):** J.Sugar, J. Chem. Phys. 60 (1974) 4103

# Motivation – Nuclear Properties

Nuclear ground state properties from



Isotope shift

$\Delta r^2$  Nuclear Shape, deformation

$$\delta \langle r^2 \rangle^{AA'} = \left( \Delta V^{AA'} - \frac{A - A'}{AA'} M \right) \frac{1}{F}$$

Hyperfine splitting (HFS)

Ground state parameters

- $\mu$
- $Q_S \rightarrow \langle \beta_2 \rangle$
- $I$

$$A = \mu \frac{B_e(0)}{IJ} ; \quad B = eQ_s \left\langle \frac{\delta^2 V}{\delta z^2} \right\rangle$$

Model  
calculations

**1, 2 (MCDF):** S.Fritzsche,  
Eur. Phys. J. D 33 (2005) 15

**3 (IHFSCC):** A.Borschevsky et al.,  
Phys. Rev. A 75 (2007) 042514

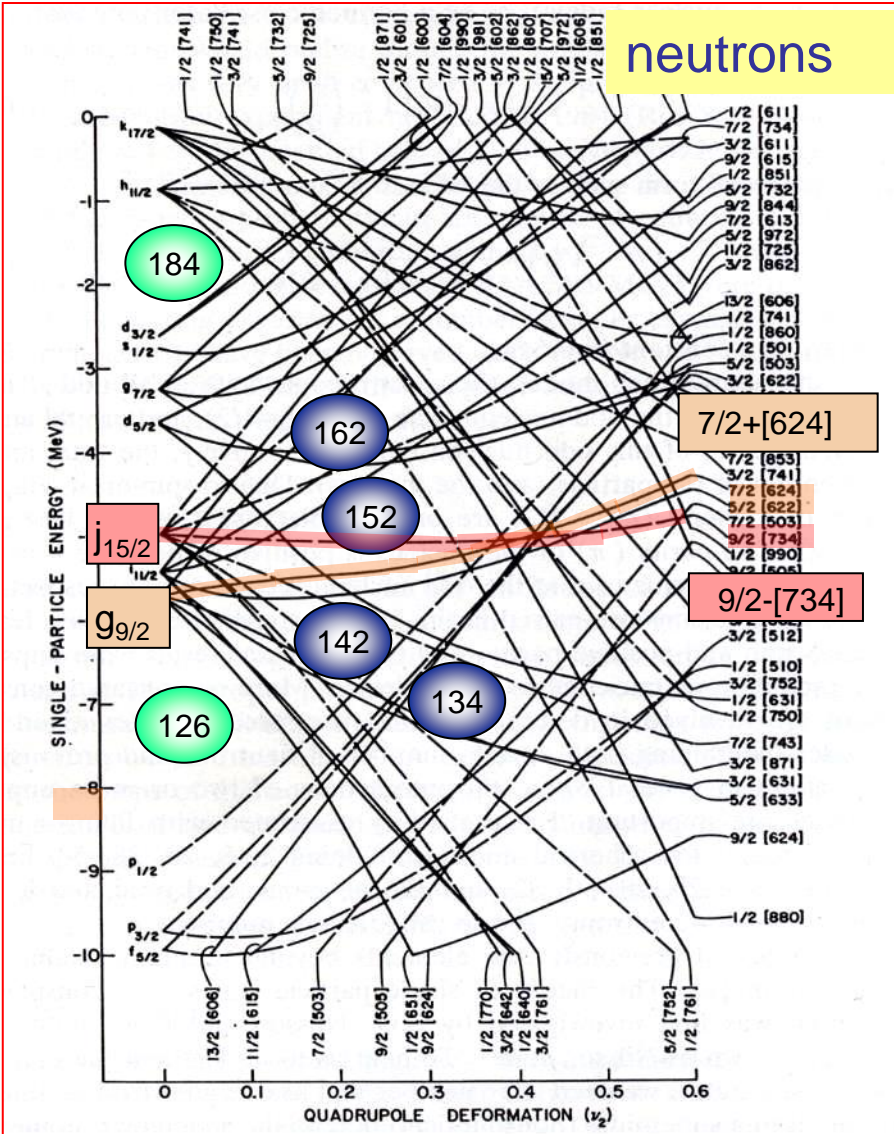
**4 (RCC):** V.A.Dzuba et al.,  
Phys. Rev. A 90 (2014) 012504

**5 (MCDF):** Y.Liu et al.,  
Phys. Rev. A 76 (2007) 062503

**6 (MCDF):** P.Indelicato et al.,  
Eur. Phys. J. D 45 (2007) 155

**7 (extrapolation):** J.Sugar,  
J. Chem. Phys. 60 (1974) 4103

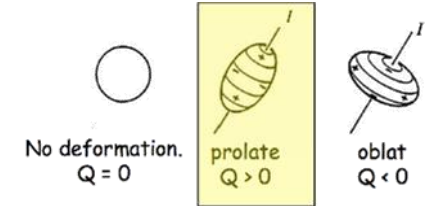
# Nuclear Information from Laser Spectroscopy



Orbital energy changes with deformation – Nilsson model

## Hyperfine structure:

- Deformation ( $Q, \beta_2$ ) from HFS



- Magnetic moments  $\mu = g \cdot I$

Provides g-factors of unpaired nucleon characteristic for the wavefunctions

- Assignment of nuclear Spin  $I$

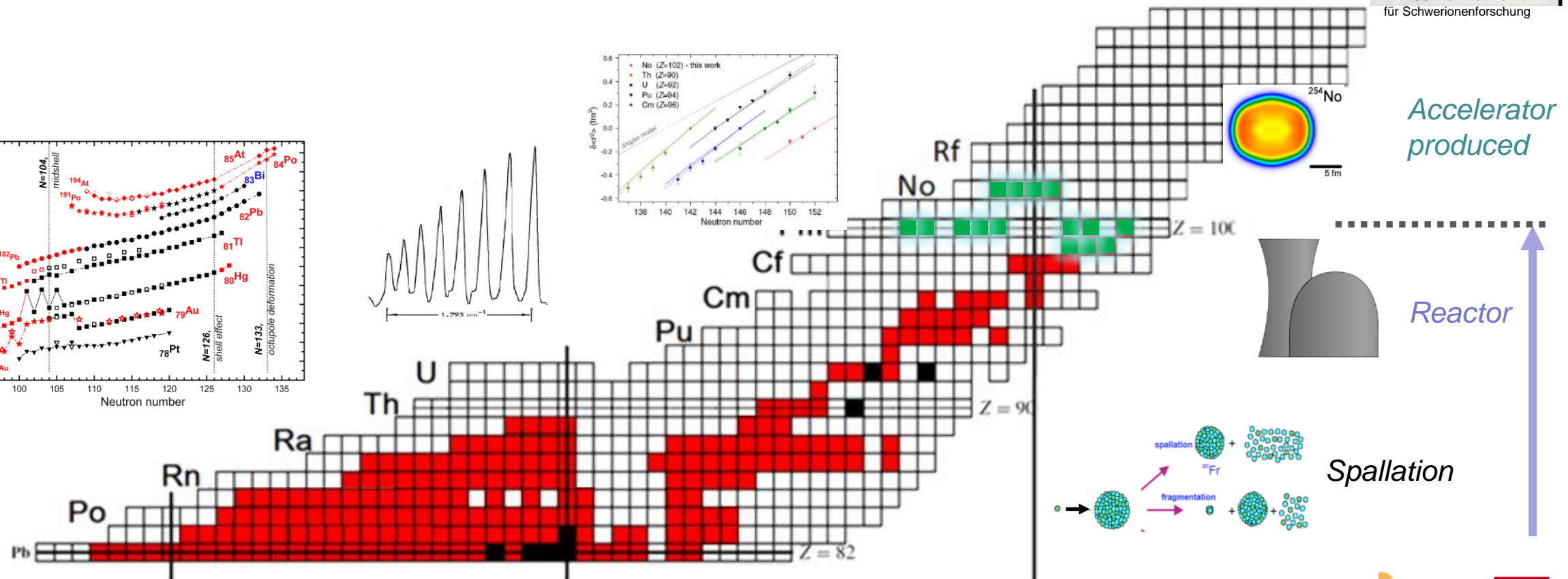
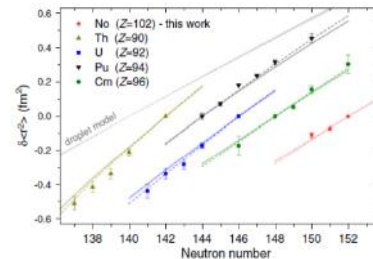
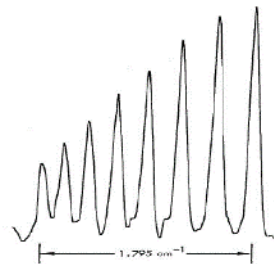
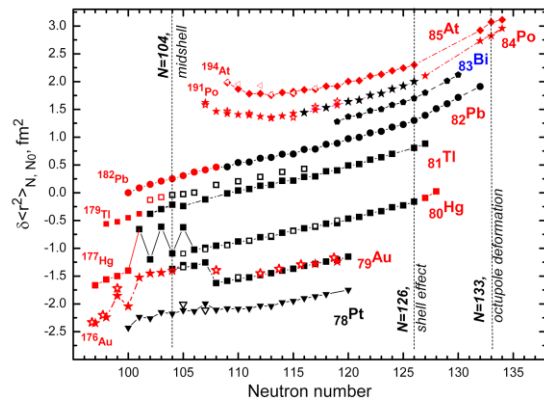
## Charge radii:

- Change in deformation

# Optical Investigation of Heavy Elements

## Laser spectroscopy for fundamental properties

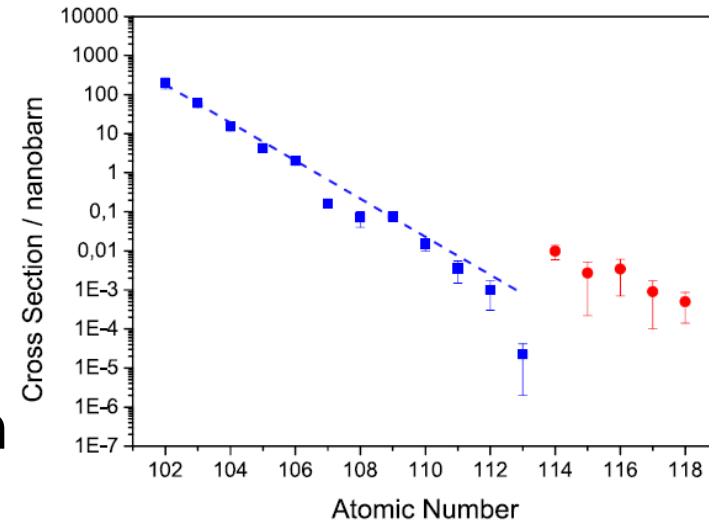
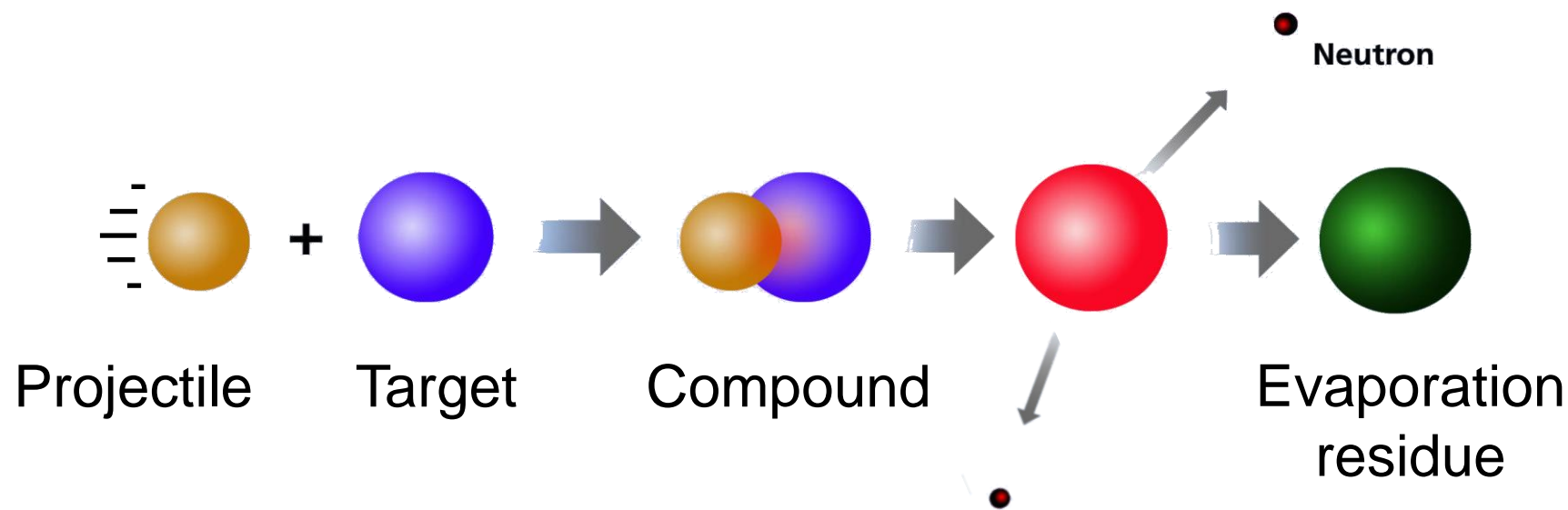
- Understanding of atomic structure & chemical behaviour
- Nuclear structure: what is their shape and size ?



# Production of SHE at GSI



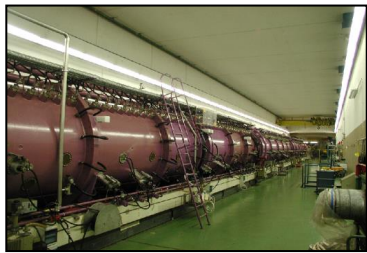
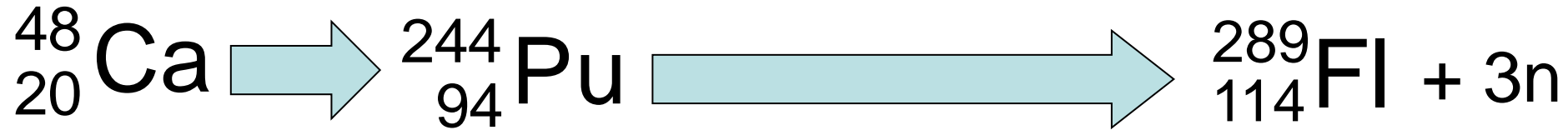
Production through fusion-evaporation reactions



Production cross section

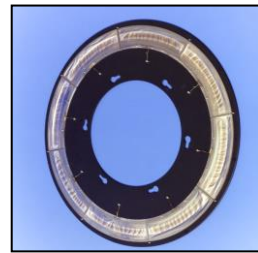


# Production of SHE at GSI



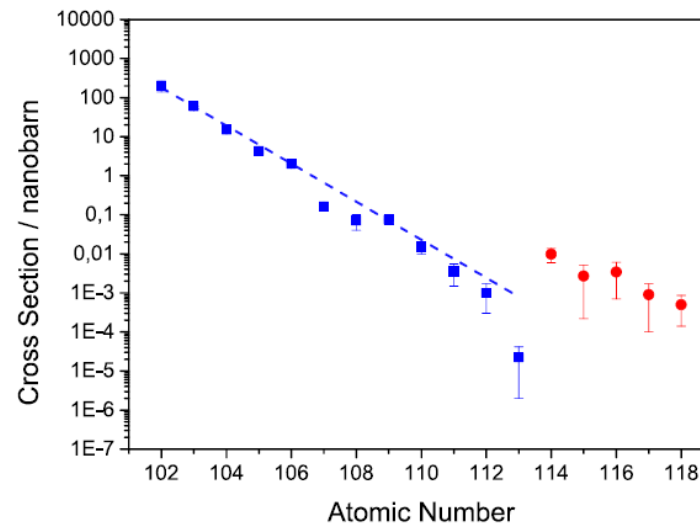
UNILAC

Intensity  
 $10^{13} \text{ } {}_{20}^{48}\text{Ca}^{10+} \text{ s}^{-1}$

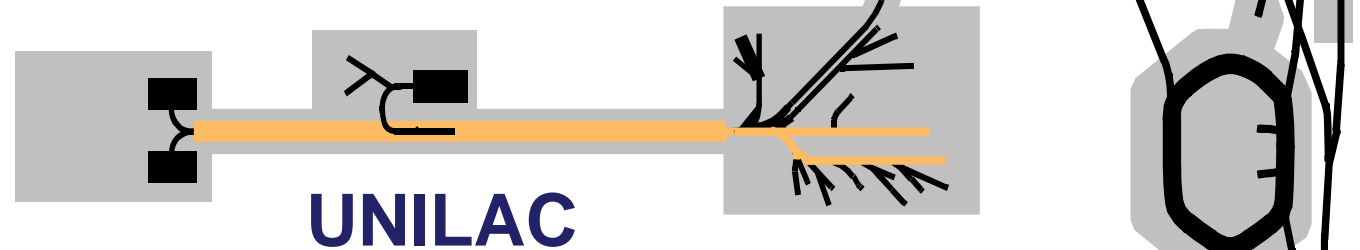


Target

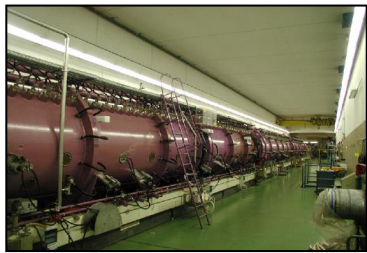
Thickness  
 0.4 -1  $\mu\text{m}$



Production cross section

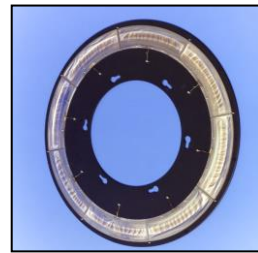


# Production of SHE at GSI



UNILAC

Intensity  
 $10^{13} \text{ } {}_{20}^{48}\text{Ca}^{10+} \text{ s}^{-1}$



Target

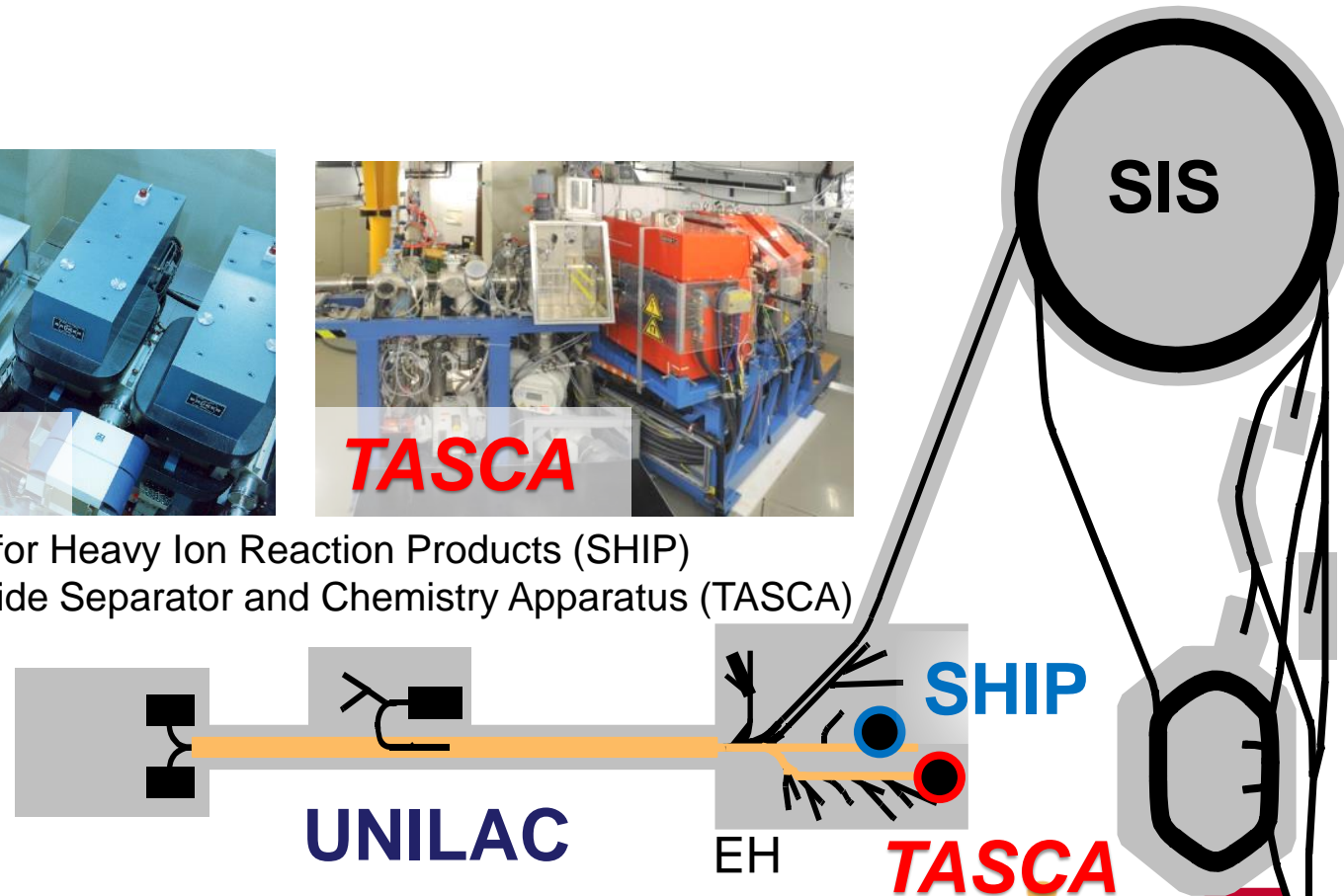
Thickness  
 0.4 -1  $\mu\text{m}$



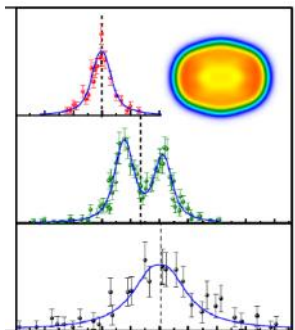
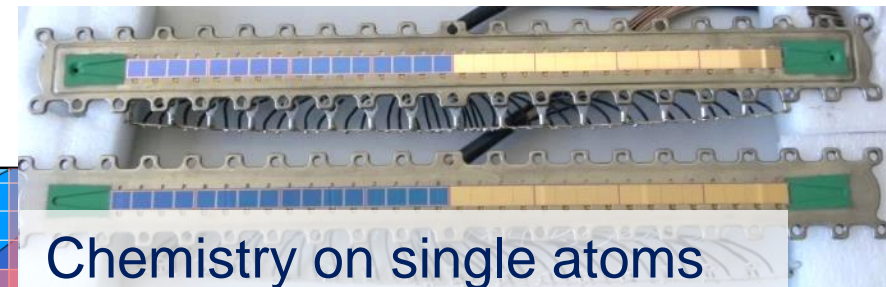
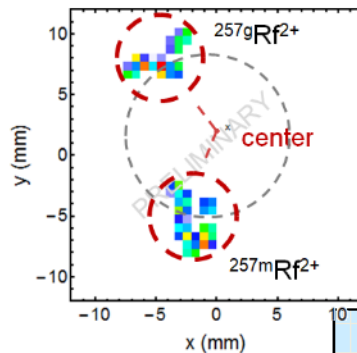
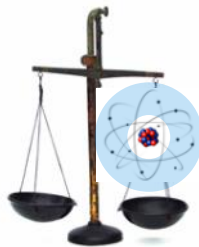
SHIP  
 Separator for Heavy Ion Reaction Products (SHIP)



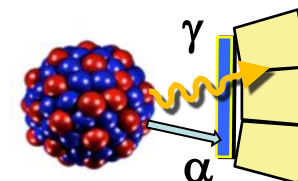
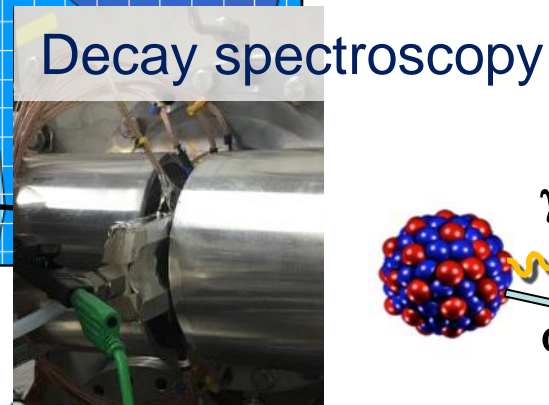
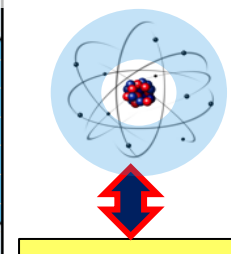
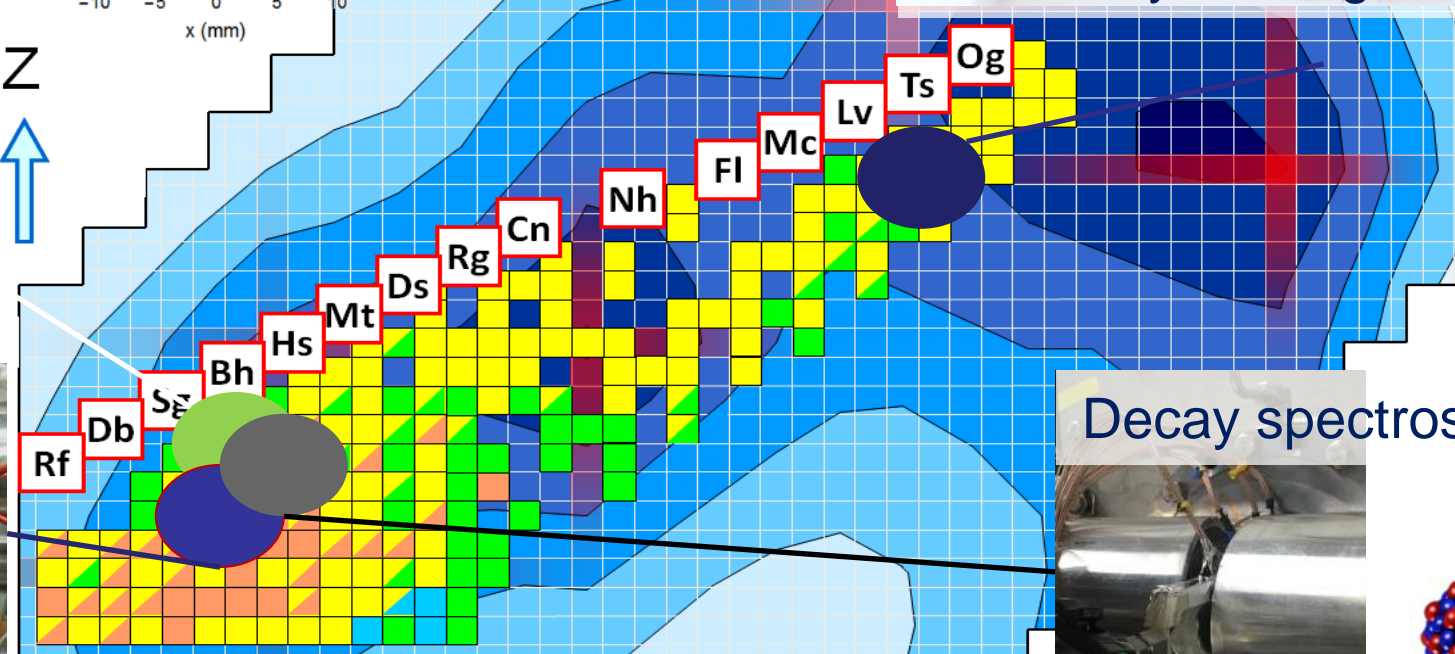
TASCA  
 TransActinide Separator and Chemistry Apparatus (TASCA)



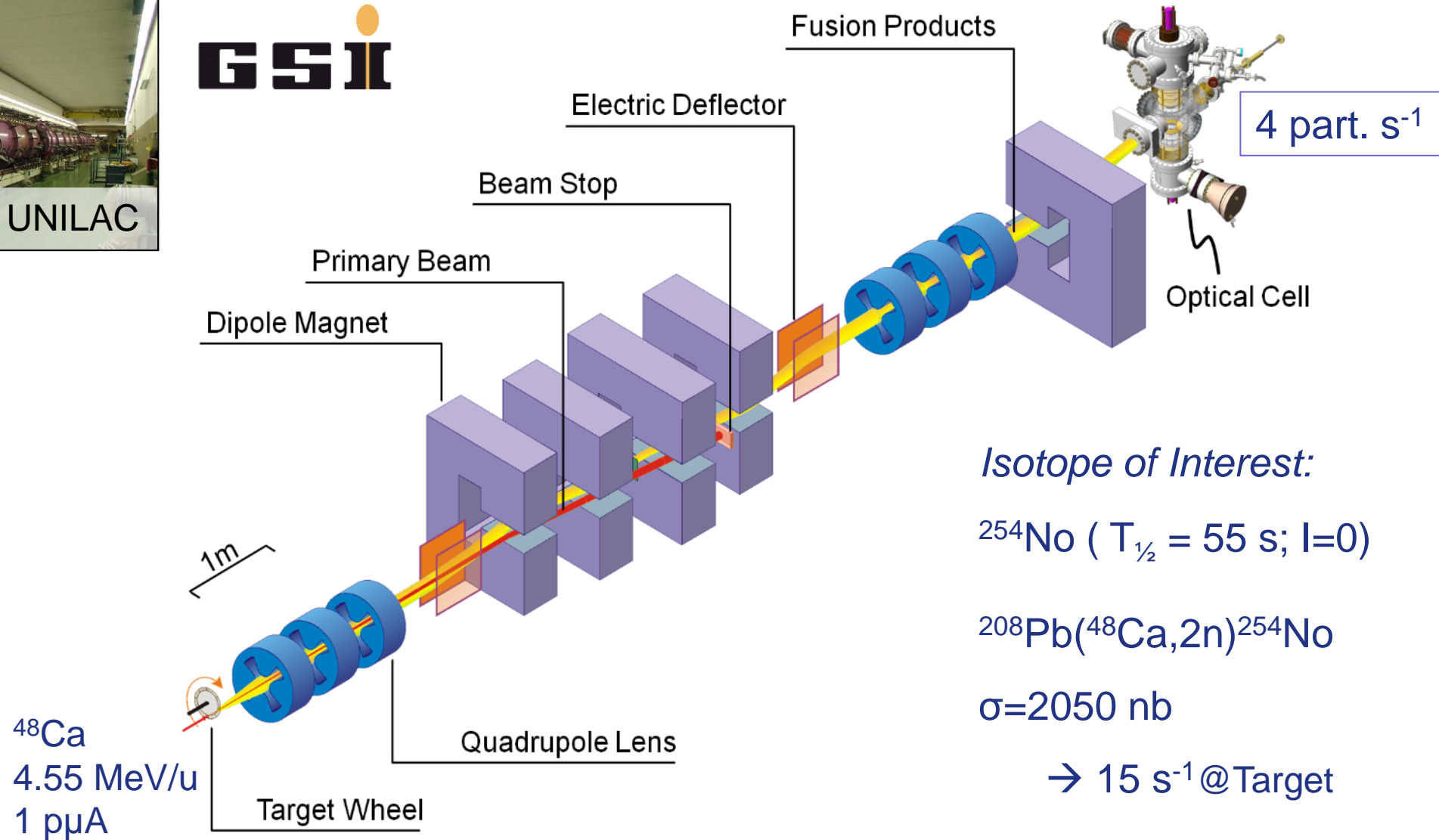
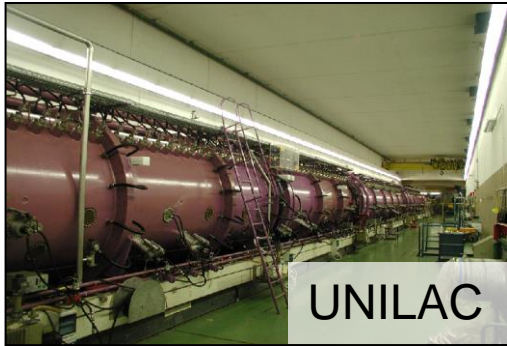
# Superheavy Experiments at GSI



Z  
↑



# Production: Velocity Filter SHIP



*Isotope of Interest:*

$^{254}\text{No}$  ( $T_{1/2} = 55$  s;  $I=0$ )

$^{208}\text{Pb}(^{48}\text{Ca}, 2n)^{254}\text{No}$

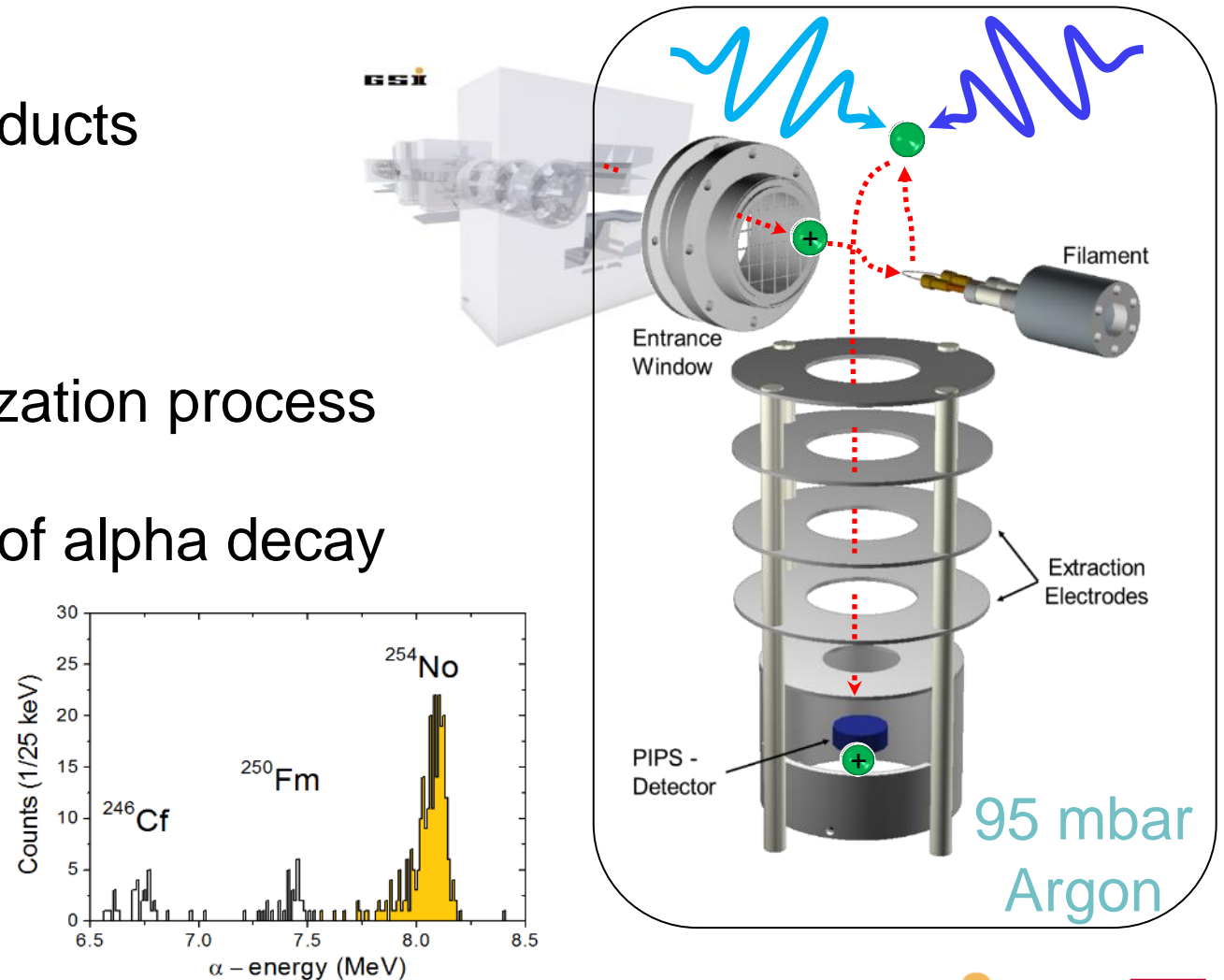
$\sigma = 2050$  nb

$\rightarrow 15$  s<sup>-1</sup> @ Target

# Radiation Detected Resonance Ionization Spectroscopy

## RADRIS Method:

- Thermalizing of incoming fusion products
- Collecting onto thin tantalum wire
- Evaporation and two-step photoionization process
- Transport to detector and detection of alpha decay
- High power 100 Hz Laser system

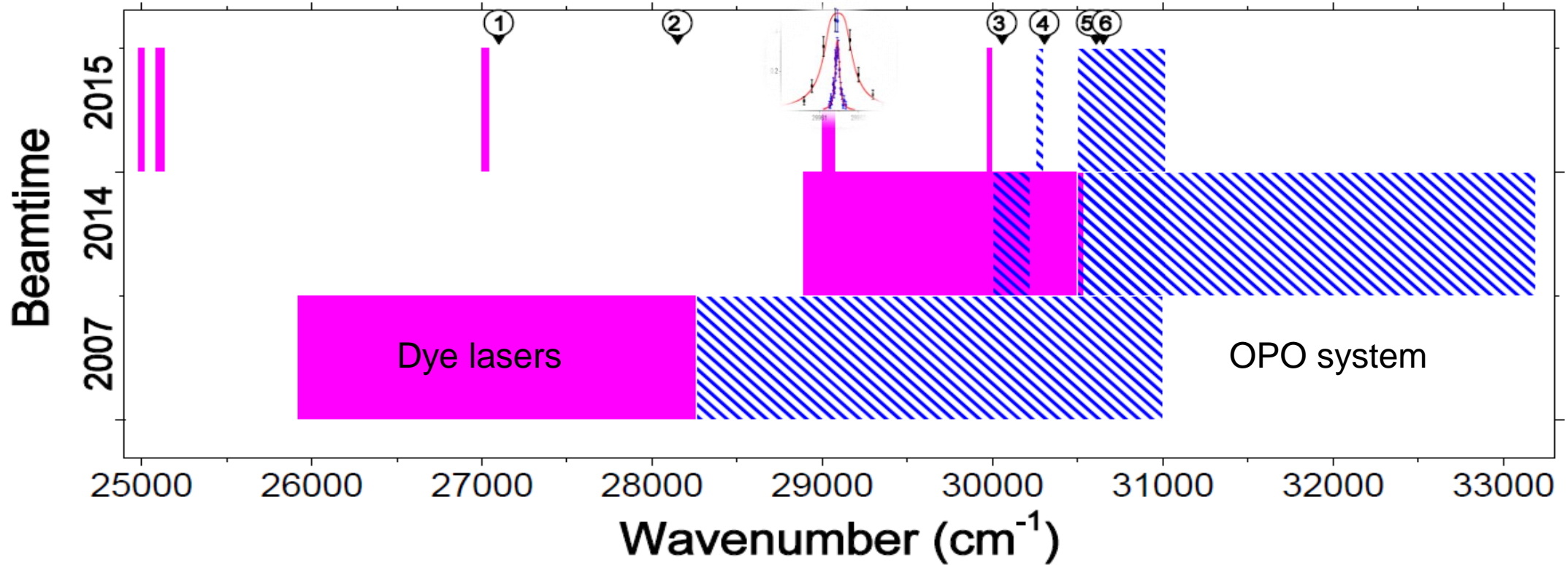
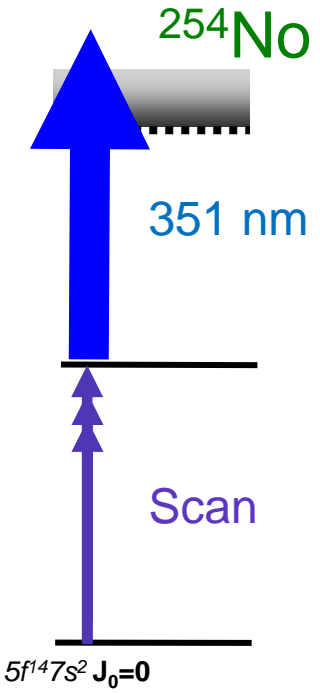


H. Backe et al., *Eur. Phys. J. D* **45**, 99 (2007)

F. Lautenschläger et al., *NIMB* **383**, 115 (2016)

# Level Search in $^{254}\text{No}$

Year	2007	2014
Scan range ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	25920 – 31001	28887 – 33191
Net scan time (h)	39	67



1: MCDF (2005), 2: MCDF (2005), 3: IHFSCC (2007), 4: RCC (2014), 5: MCDF (2007), 6: MCDF (2007)

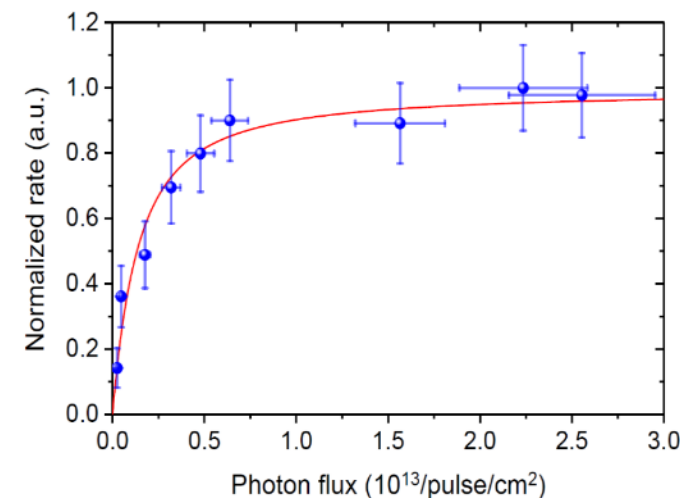
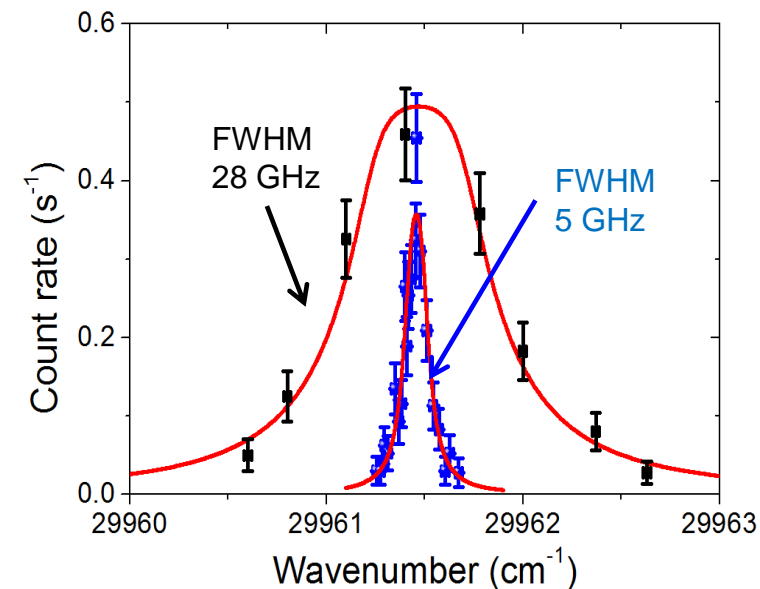
# Nobelium: The Ground-State Transition

## Observed strong atomic ground state transition

- Resolution 5 GHz
- A total efficiency of 6.4(10) % for  $^{254}\text{No}$
- Less than 30 000 atoms were delivered to the cell
- Saturates at low photon fluxes

	$\nu_1$ (cm $^{-1}$ )	$A_{ki}$ (s $^{-1}$ ) x 10 $^8$
Experiment [1]	29,961.457(7) <sub>stat</sub>	4.2 (2.6) <sub>stat</sub>
IHFSCC [2]	30,100(800)	5.0
MCDF [3]	30,650(800)	2.7

Agrees with predicted  $^1S_0 \rightarrow ^1P_1$  transition

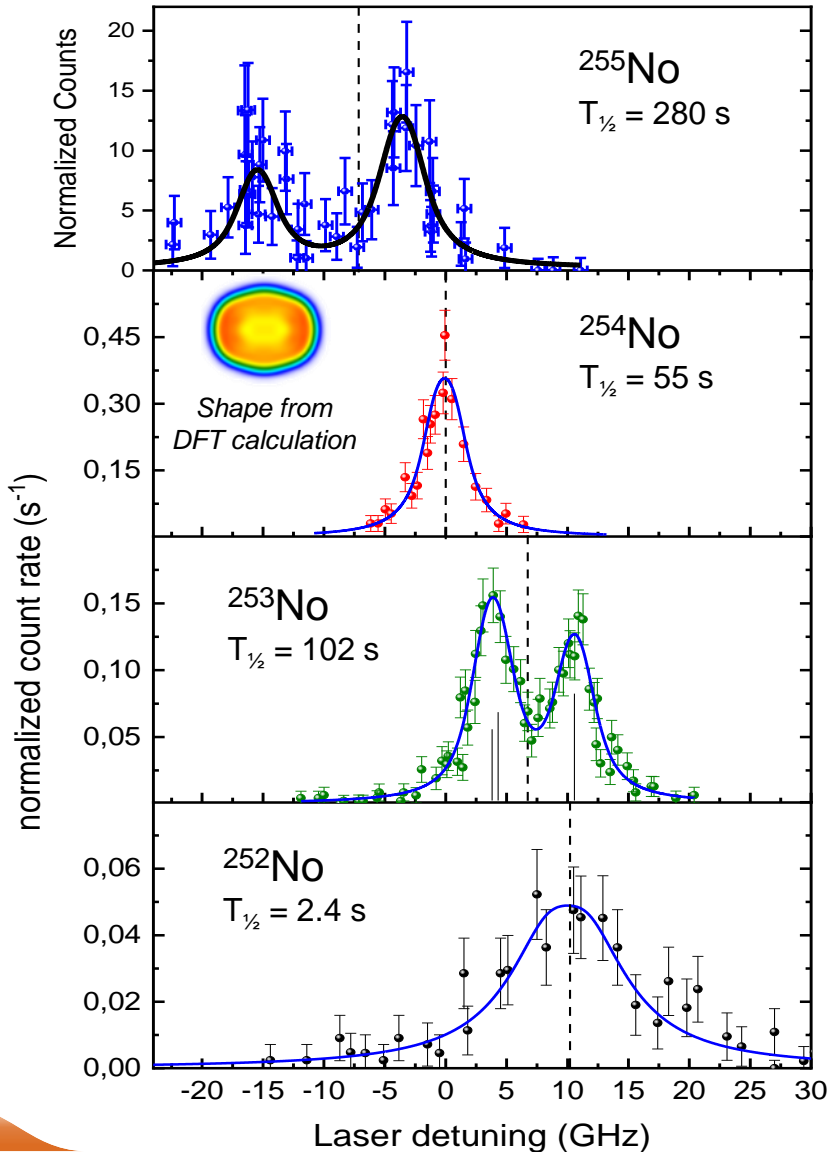


[1] M. Laatiaoui et al., *Nature* 538 (2016) 7626

[2] A. Borschevsky et al., *Phys. Rev. A* **75** (2007) 042514

[3] P. Indelicato et al., *Eur. Phys. J. D* **45**, (2007) 155

# Isotope Shift of $^{252-254}\text{No}$ & HFS in $^{253,255}\text{No}$



- Isotope shift for  $^{252-254}\text{No}$  measured
- Change in charge radii: Input from atomic theory
  - Mass-shift constant: 1044 GHz u
  - Field-shift parameter: -95.8(7.0) GHz/fm

(R. Beerwerth & S. Fritzsche (MCDF), V. Dzuba, M. Safranove (CI), A. Borschevsky (RCC))

nuclear

atomic

properties

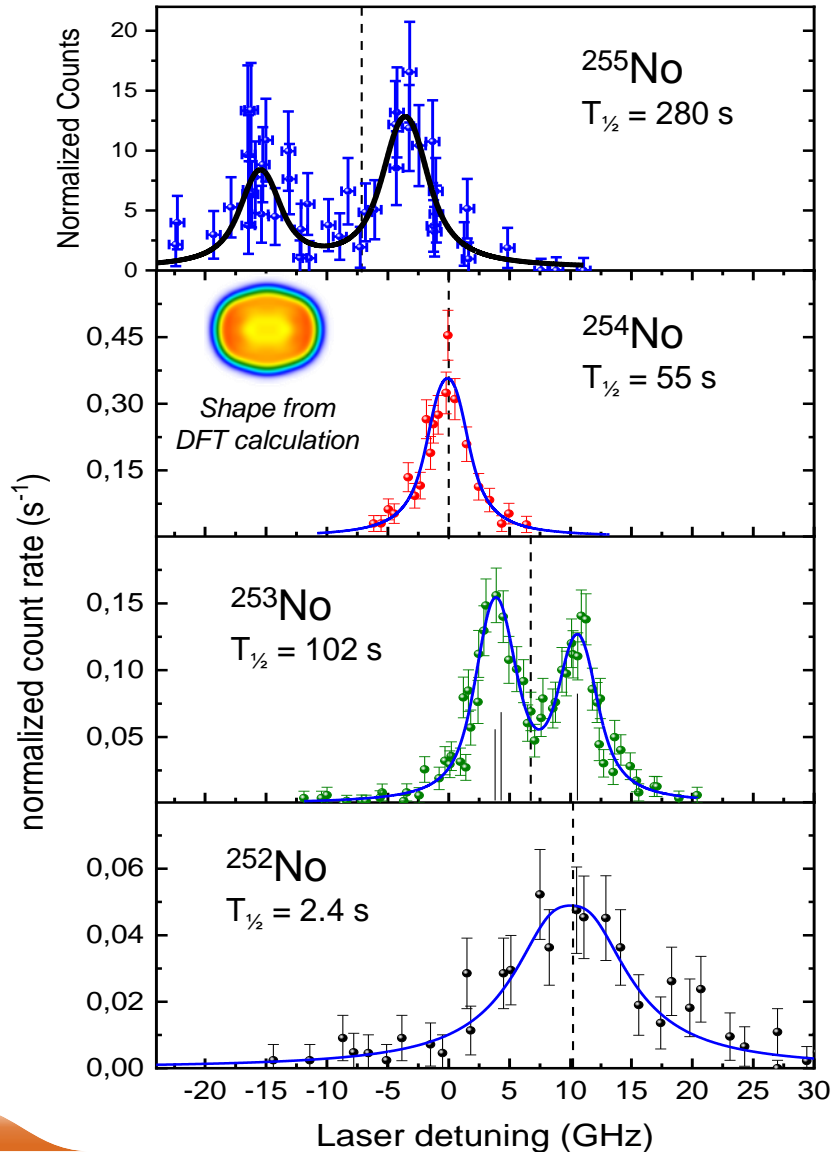
$$\delta \langle r^2 \rangle^{AA'} = \left( \Delta v^{AA'} - \frac{A - A'}{AA'} M \right) \frac{1}{F}$$

experiment

Note: requires high precision atomic calculations !

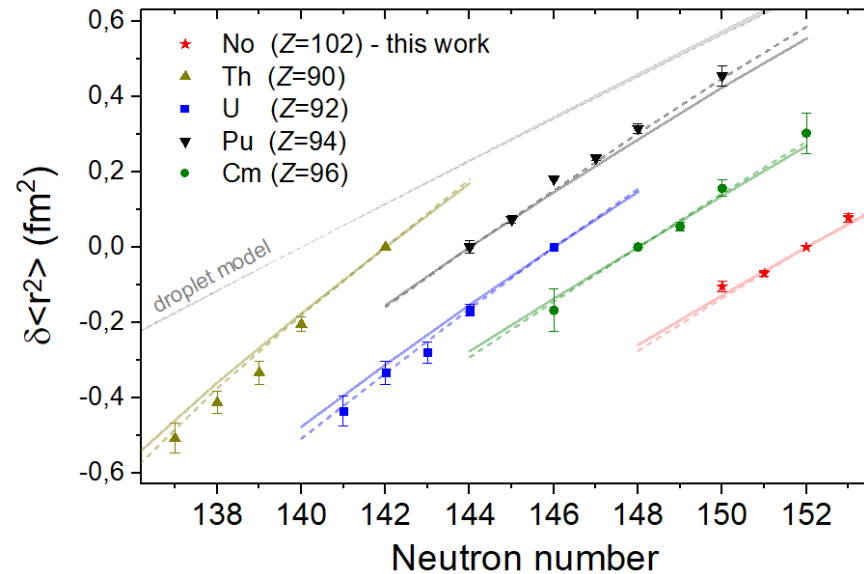


# Isotope Shift of $^{252-254}\text{No}$ & HFS in $^{253,255}\text{No}$



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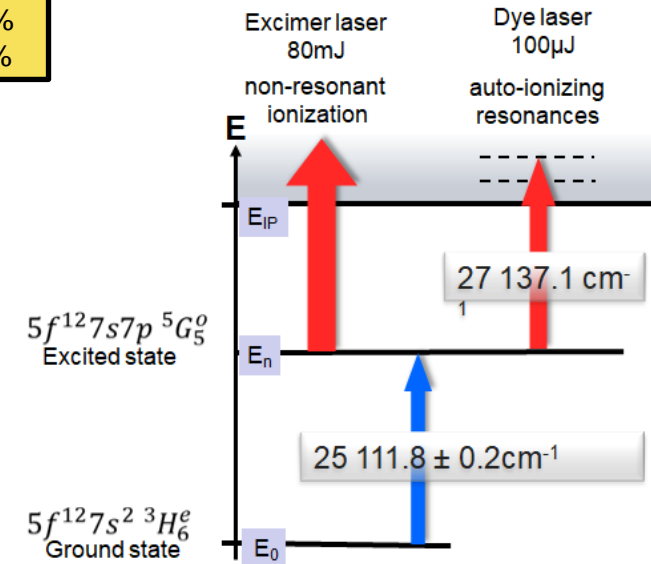
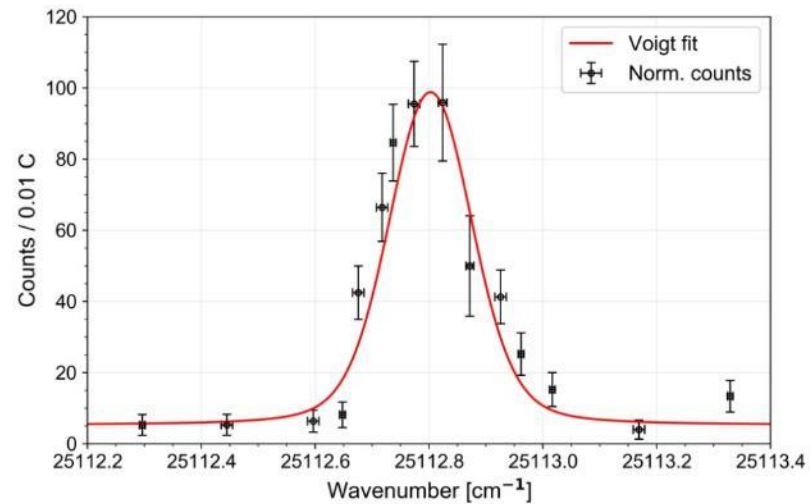
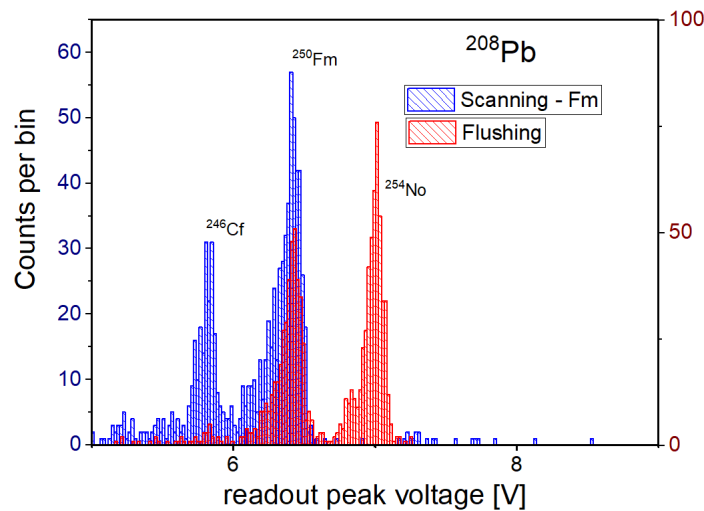
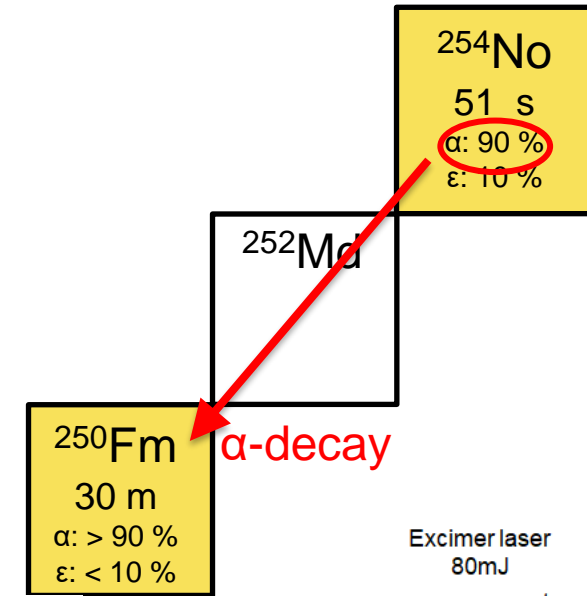


Agrees well with nuclear DFT calculations

# On-line Laser Spectroscopy of Fm Isotopes

## Fm (Z=100) - A new element for RADRIS

- Collection and decay on the filament
  - Direct production difficult
    - Accessing daughter nuclides from No
  - Fm: few atomic levels are known



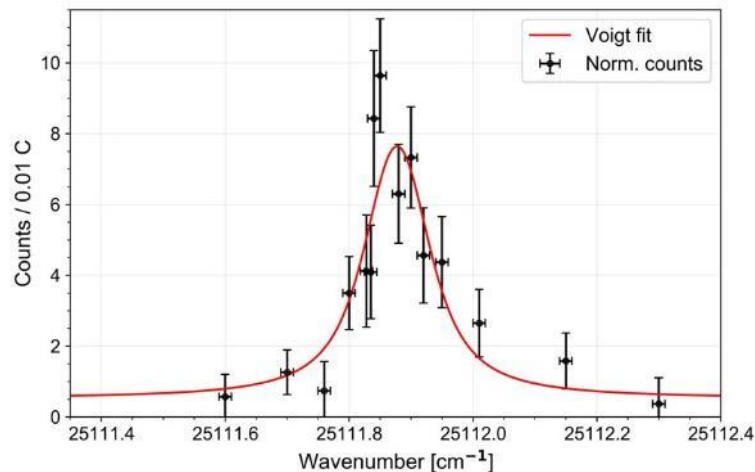
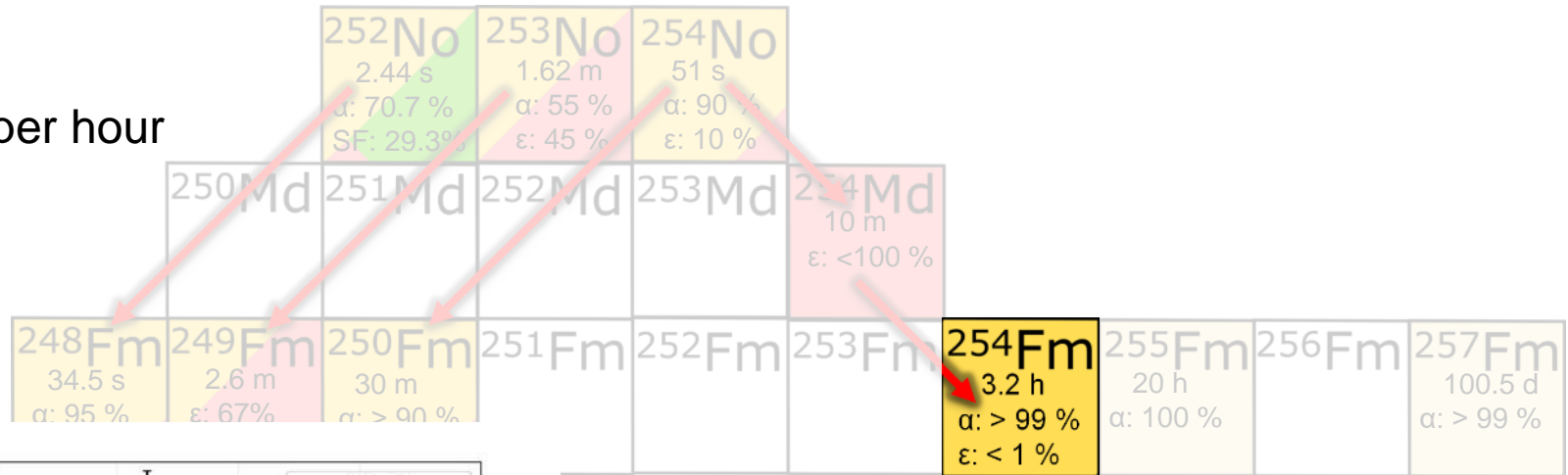
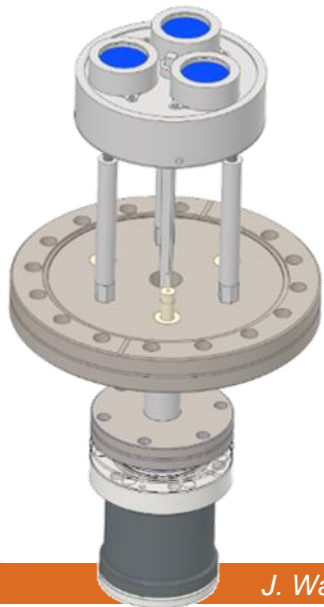
# Accessible Fm isotopes

More Fm isotopes in reach from different No isotopes

Particular challenge:  $^{254}\text{Fm}$

- Count rates of only few events per hour
- Half life of  $>3$  h

→ Dedicated detector setup



- 21 h per data point  
7 h collection – 14 h decay

Longest-lived isotope studied with RADRIS so far with  $T_{1/2}=3.2$  h

# Es – Fm Sample available from Oak Ridge



2019: contact from Florida: Fm sample available

„waste“ in the  $^{252}\text{Cf}$  production process

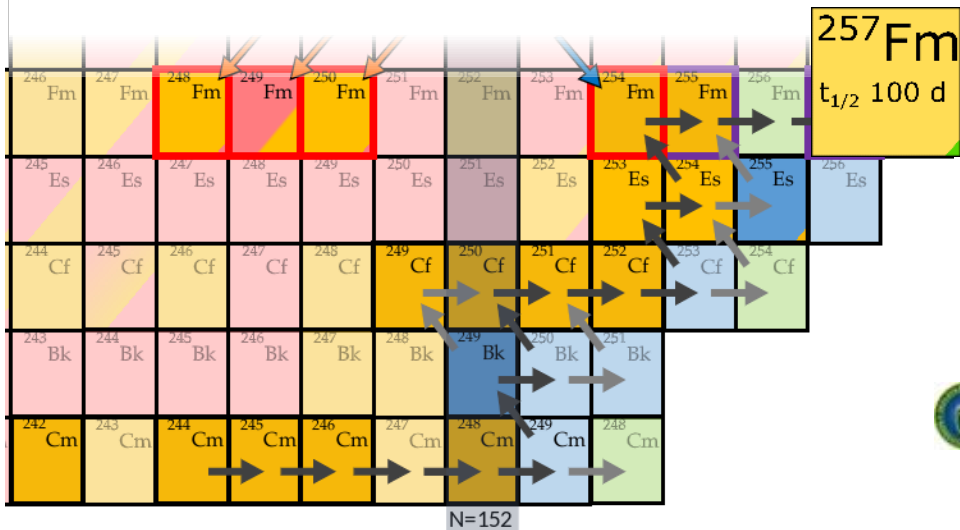
- breeding of  $^{252}\text{Cf}$   
 $\Phi_n = 2.6 \cdot 10^{15}/\text{cm}^2 \cdot \text{s}$   
 $T = 3 \text{ months}$

High Flux Isotope Reactor  
Oak Ridge National Laboratory



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**ENERGY** Office of  
Science



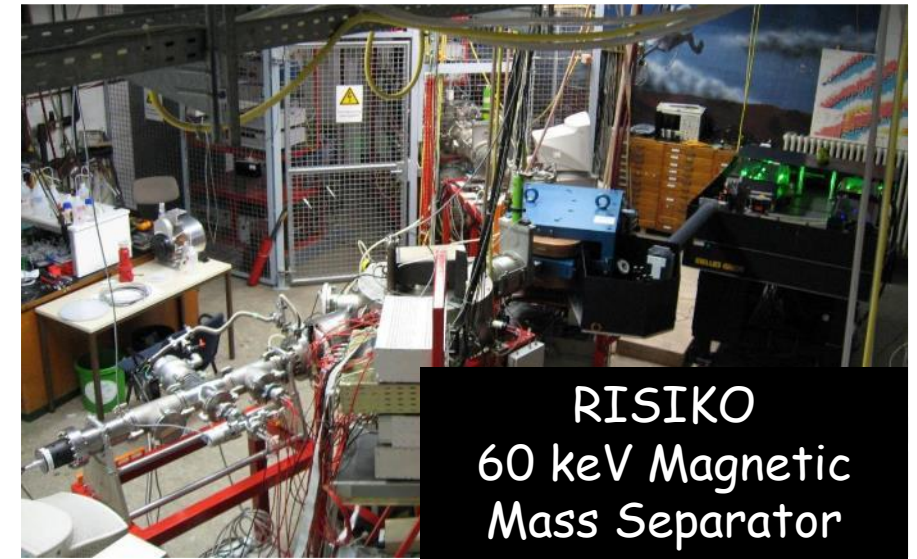
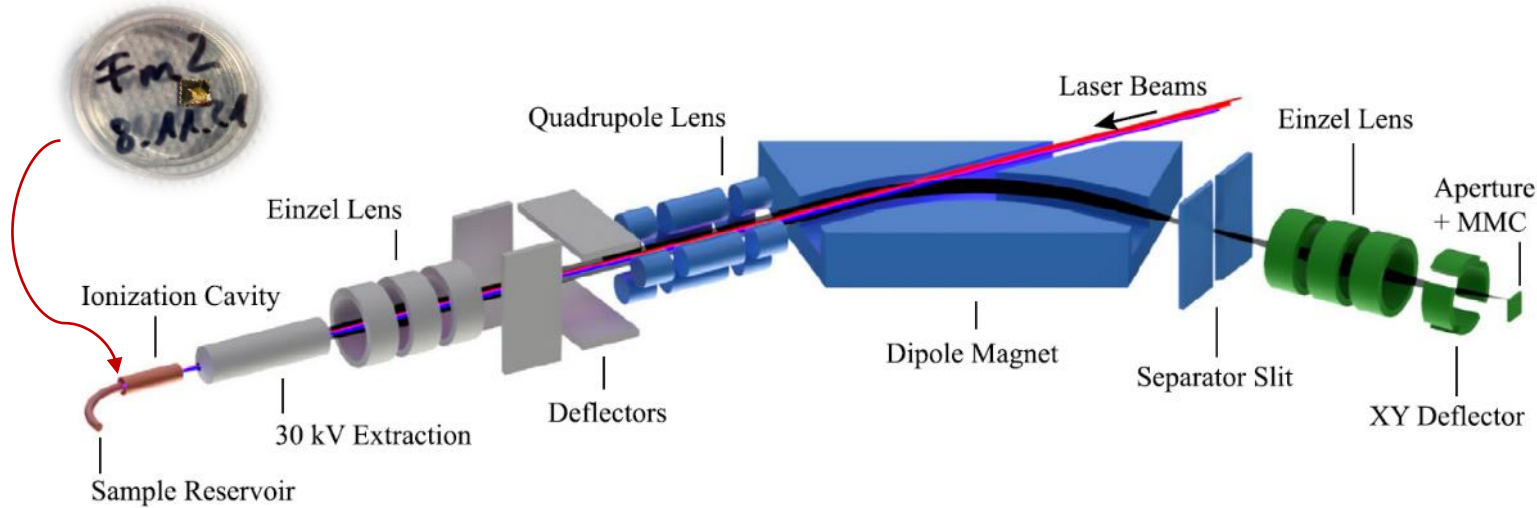
REDC-2606-B		
Cf-249	5.10E-03	µg.
Es-253	2.29E-03	µg.
Es-254	4.02E-03	µg.
<b>Fm-257</b>	<b>1.38E-06</b>	<b>µg.</b>

$T_{1/2} = 30 \text{ d}$   
 $T_{1/2} = 175 \text{ d}$   
 $T_{1/2} = 100 \text{ d}$

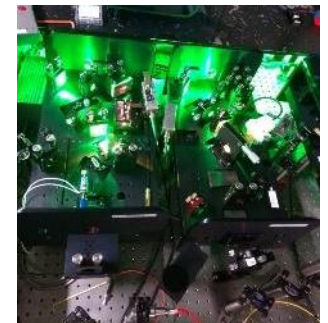
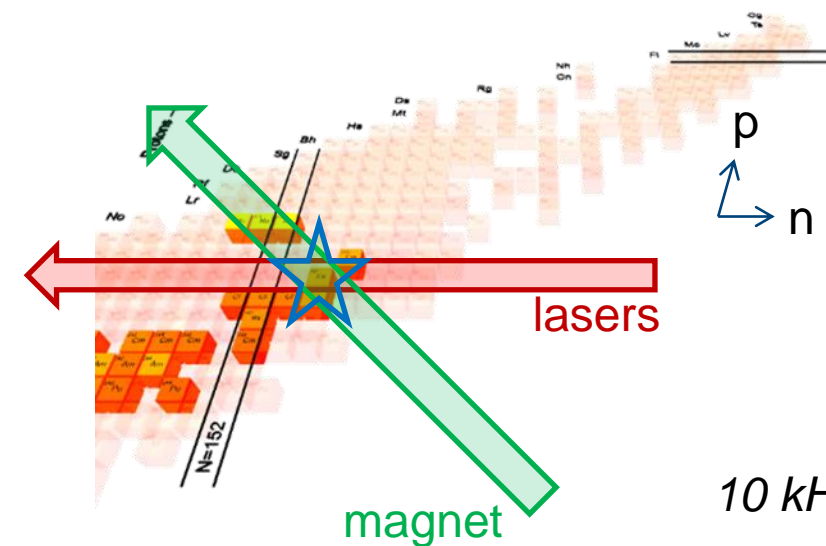
$10^9$  atoms

Radiochemical separation required → JGU - nuclear chemistry

# Hot Cavity Resonance Ionization Spectroscopy



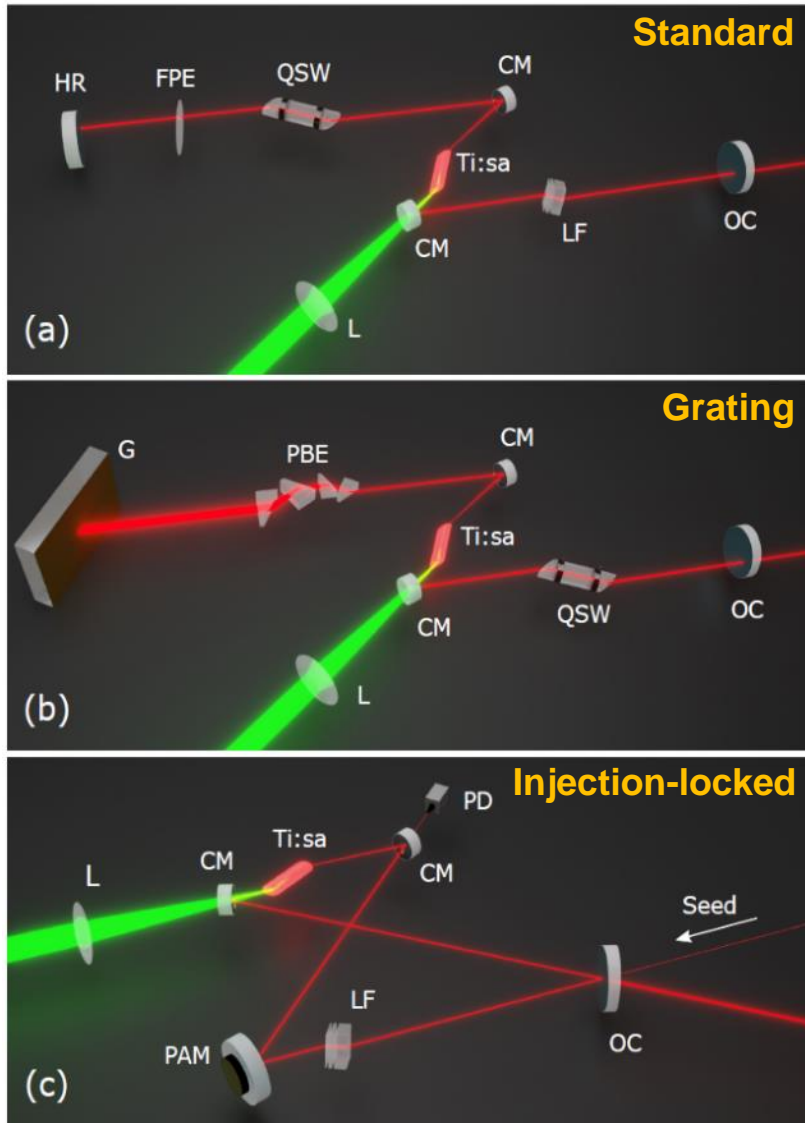
- Used for production of radioactive ion beams
- Laser spectroscopy with high efficiency
- Background from surface ionization
- Resolution limited by source temperature and laser bandwidth



10 kHz Laser system

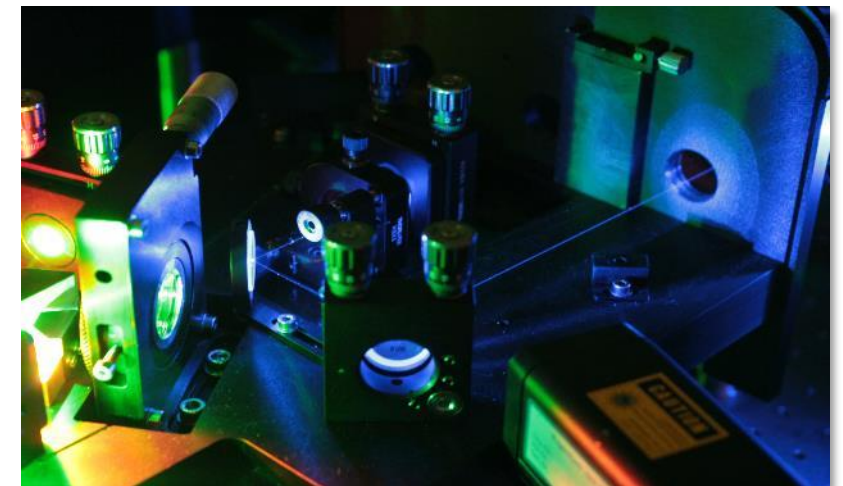
# Ti:sapphire laser system

Three laser types for different applications



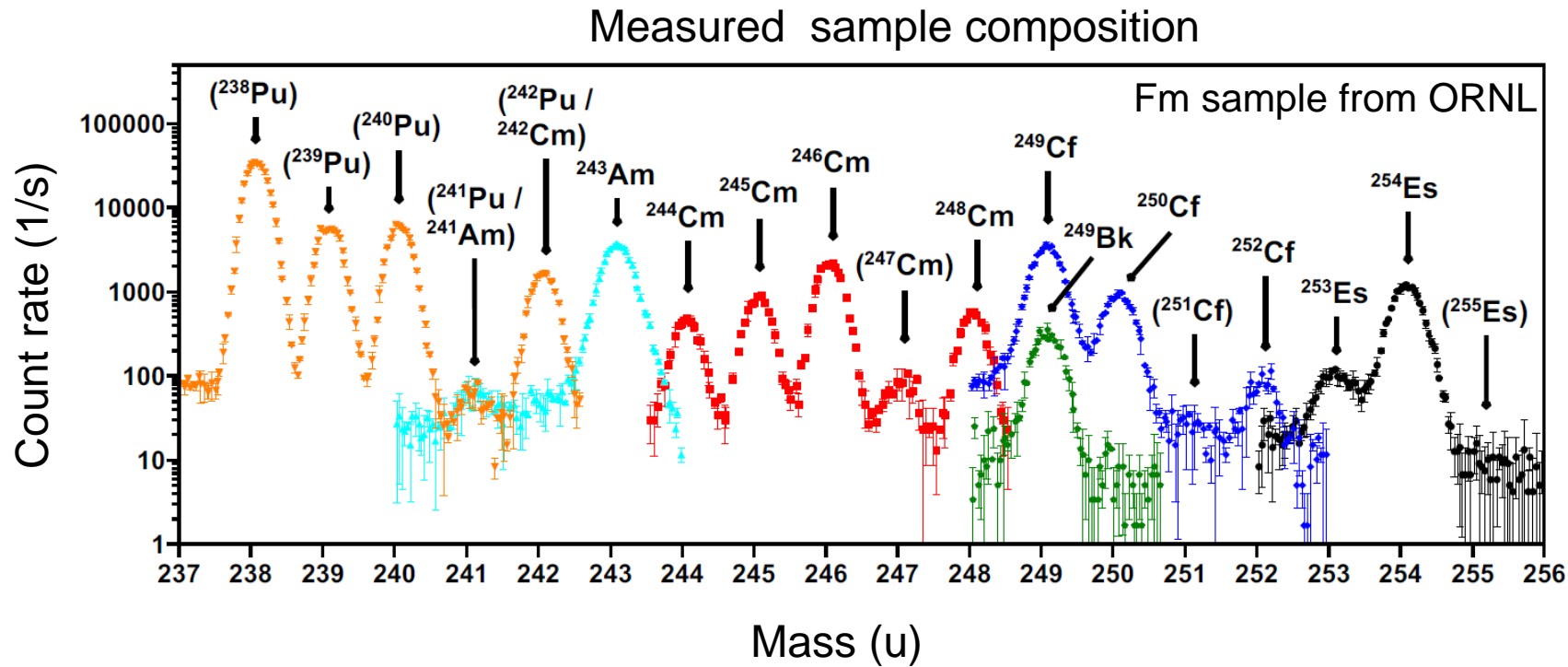
	<b>Standard</b>	<b>Grating</b>	<b>Injection-locked</b>
Repetition rate	10 kHz		
Pulse width	40 to 60 ns		
Avg. Power	<b>3 – 5 W</b>	1 – 2 W	2 – 3 W
Output range	700 – 1020 nm		seed source
Tuning range	100 GHz	<b>700 – 1020 nm</b>	typ. 20 GHz
Spectral bandwidth	1 to 10 GHz	1 to 3 GHz	<b>20 MHz</b>
Application	Laser ion source	BB spectroscopy	HR spectroscopy

Extension of output range by SHG, frequency mixing possible



# Sample Analysis with Laser Ionization

Lasers tuned to resonantly ionize different actinide elements



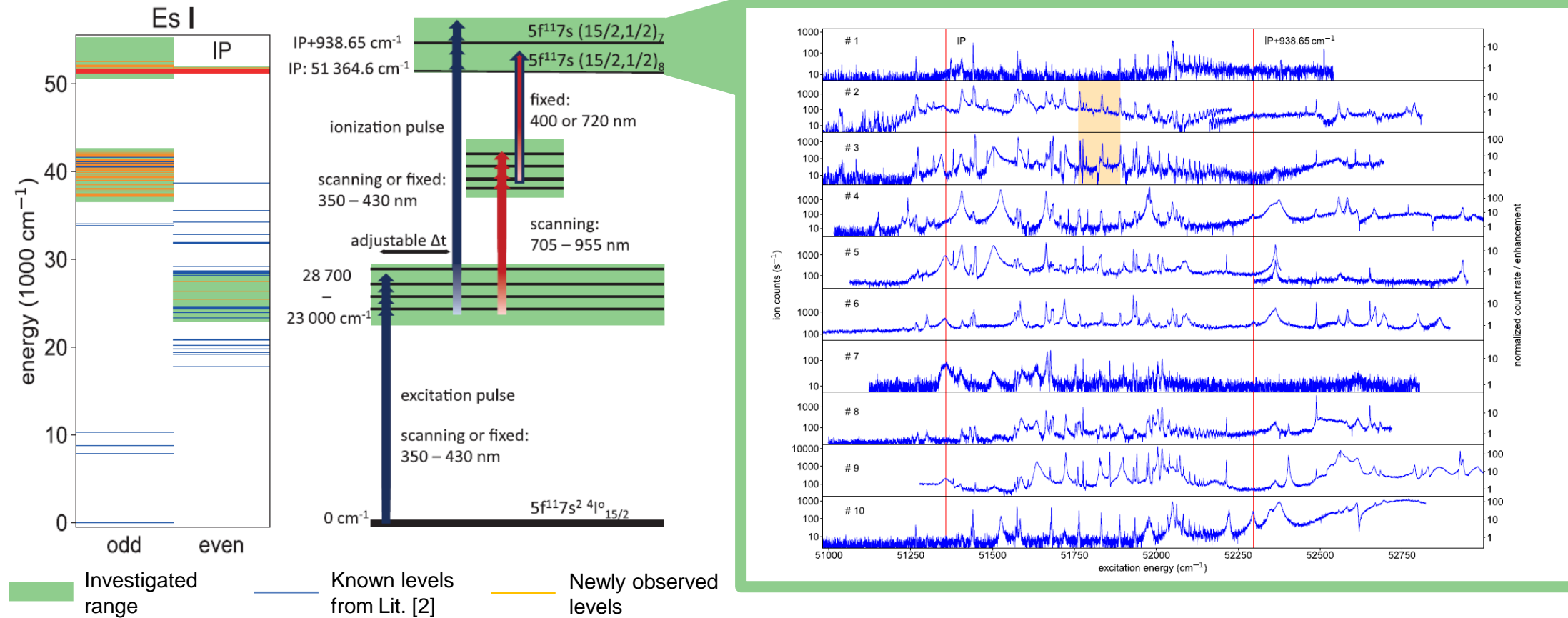
Stated sample composition

REDC-2606-B		
Cf-249	5.10E-03	μg.
Es-253	2.29E-03	μg.
Es-254	4.02E-03	μg.
Fm-257	1.38E-06	μg.

This research is supported by the U.S. DOE, Office of Science, BES Heavy Element Chemistry program. The isotopes used in this research were supplied by the U.S. DOE Isotope Program, managed by the Office of Science for Nuclear Physics.

# Es Laser Ionization Spectroscopy

## Identification of ionization schemes: Investigation of atomic structure in Einsteinium



## Characterization of 10 Levels using only $10^{10}$ atoms (10 pg), revised ionization potential

This research is supported by the U.S. DOE, Office of Science, BES Heavy Element Chemistry program. The isotopes used in this research were supplied by the U.S. DOE Isotope Program, managed by the Office of Science for Nuclear Physics.

F. Weber et al., *Phys. Rev. Res.* **4**, 043053 (2022)

S. Raeder – 29.05.2024 – ISOL France Workshop Strasbourg



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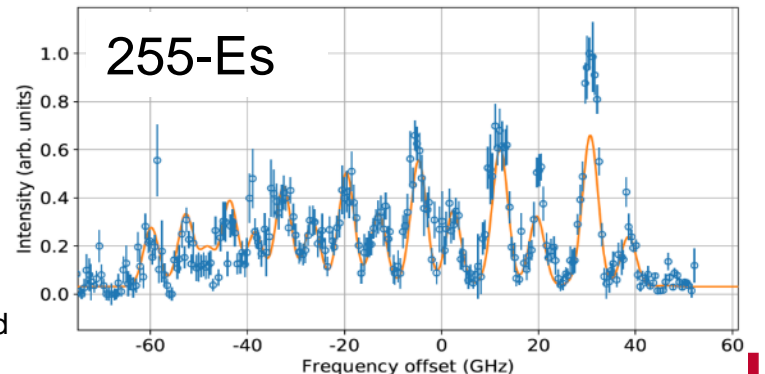
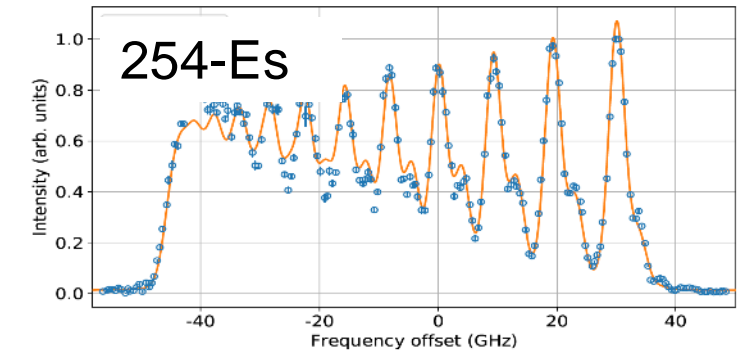
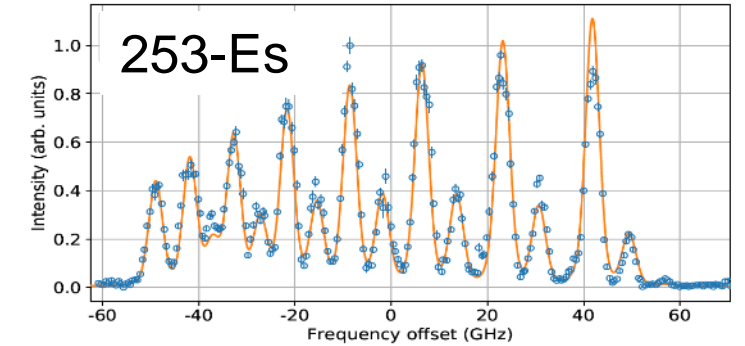
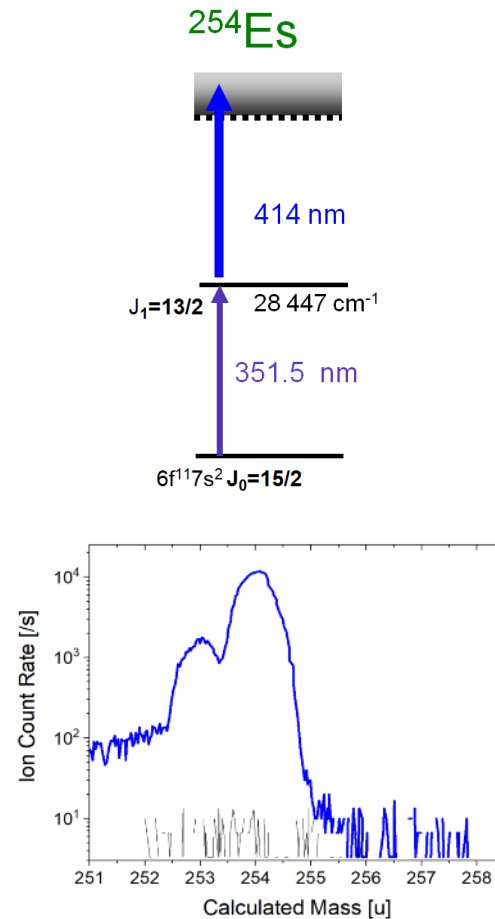
# Hyperfine Structure of Es Isotopes

Atomic structure investigation with 10 pg samples ( $10^{10}$  atoms)

## Hyperfine structure measurements

- Fixed ionization scheme
- Nuclear moments deduced

Isotope	$I$	This work		Literature	
		$\mu_I$ ( $\mu_N$ )	$Q_s$ (eb)	$\mu_I$ ( $\mu_N$ )	$Q_s$ (eb)
$^{253}\text{Es}$	$7/2$			$4.10(7)$ [12]	$6.7(8)^a$ [12]
$^{254}\text{Es}$	$7$	$3.42(7)$	$9.6(1.2)$	$4.35(41)$ [15]	
$^{254m}\text{Es}$	$2$			$2.90(7)$ [12]	$3.8(5)$ [12]
$^{255}\text{Es}$	$7/2$	$4.14(10)$	$5.1(1.7)$		



This research is supported by the U.S. DOE, Office of Science, BES Heavy Element Chemistry program. The isotopes used in this research were supplied by the U.S. DOE Isotope Program, managed by the Office of Science for Nuclear Physics.

S. Nothhelfer et al., Phys. Rev. C 105.L021302 (2022), F. Weber et al., Phys. Rev. Res. 4.4 (2022): 043053.

# Nuclear Properties of Cf Isotopes

PI-LIST ensures higher resolution

Cf samples as low as  $5 \cdot 10^7$  atoms !

Hyperfine structure measurements

- Fixed ionization scheme
- Nuclear moments deduced

→ input from atomic theory

(V. Dzuba et al., CIPT)

Isotope	$I$	$\mu_I$ ( $\mu_N$ )	$\mu_{I,HFB}$ ( $\mu_N$ )	$Q_S$ (eb)	$Q_{S,HFB}$ (eb)
$^{249}\text{Cf}$	9/2	-0.395(18) <sup>†</sup>	-0.731	6.27(31)	6.86
$^{251}\text{Cf}$	1/2	-0.571(26)	-1.015		
$^{253}\text{Cf}$	7/2	-0.731(33)	-0.755	5.53(28)	5.40

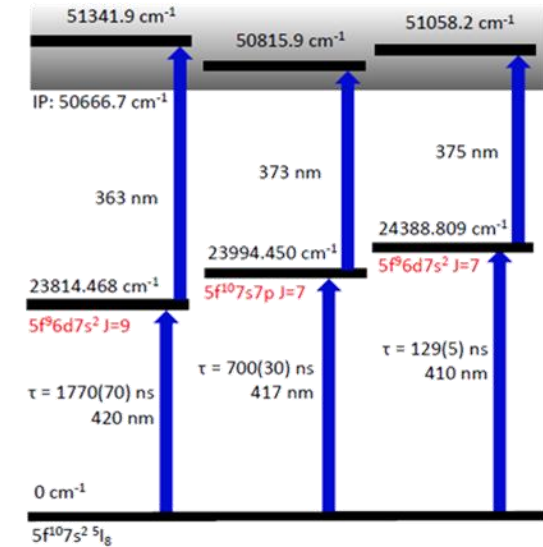
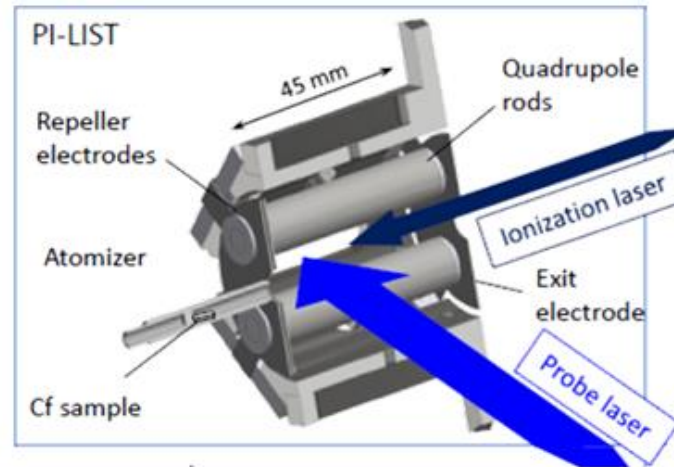
<sup>†</sup> Literature value: 0.28(6) [2]

First values for  $Q_S$  and comparison to HFB calculations (S. Hilaire, S. Goriely, S. Peru)

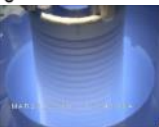
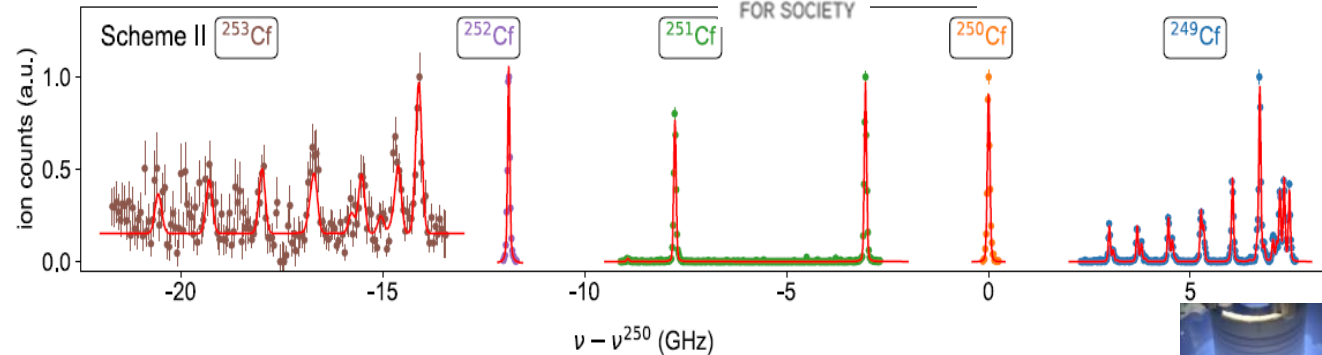
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[1] F. Weber et al., *Phys. Rev. C* 107, 034313 (2023) [2] N. Edelstein, D. G. Karraker, *J. Chem. Phys.* 62, 938 (1975)

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# Deformation of the Actinides

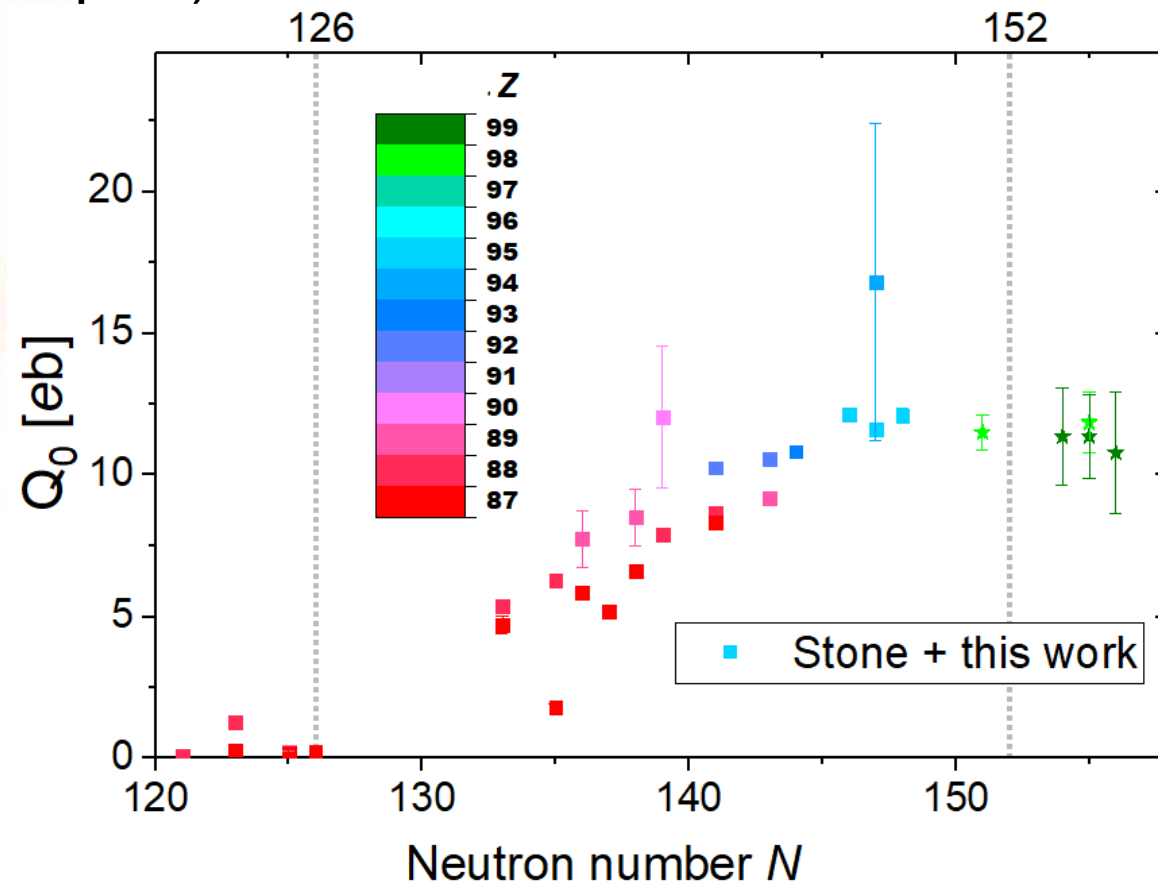
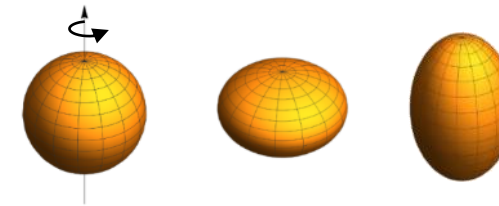
Spectroscopic Quadrupole  $Q_S$  moment  
from Laser spectroscopy (and other techniques)

$$Q_0 = \frac{(I + 1)(2I + 3)}{3K^2 - I(I + 1)} Q_S, \quad \beta = \frac{\sqrt{5\pi}}{3R_0^2 Z} Q_0$$

For well-deformed nuclei

Evaluating the evolution of deformation

- Access to nuclei beyond  $N=152$
- Region of large, stable deformation



# Deformation of the Actinides

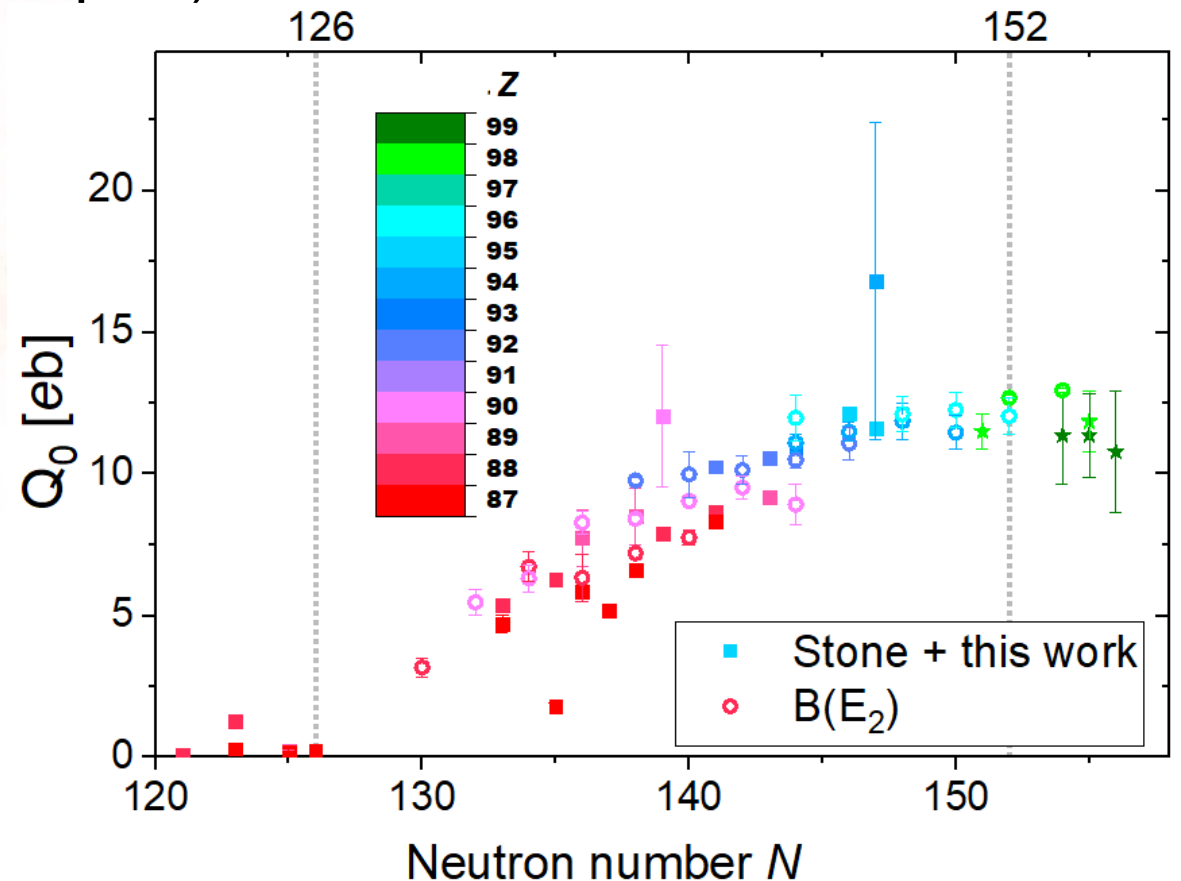
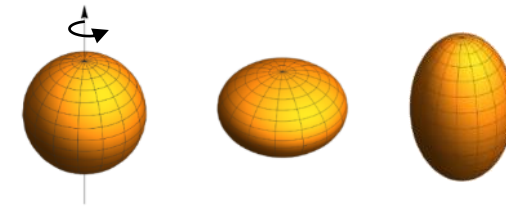
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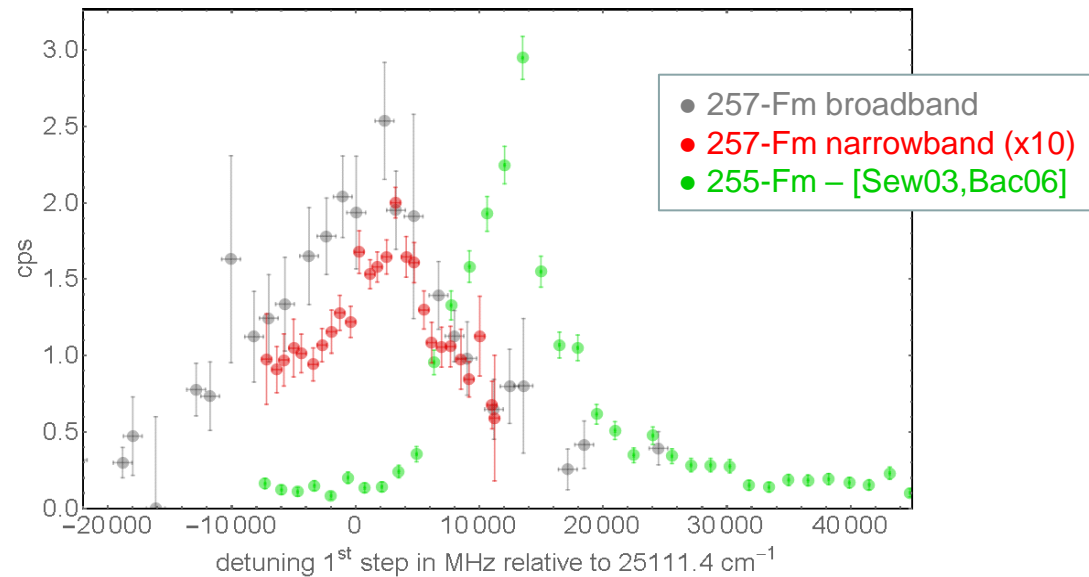
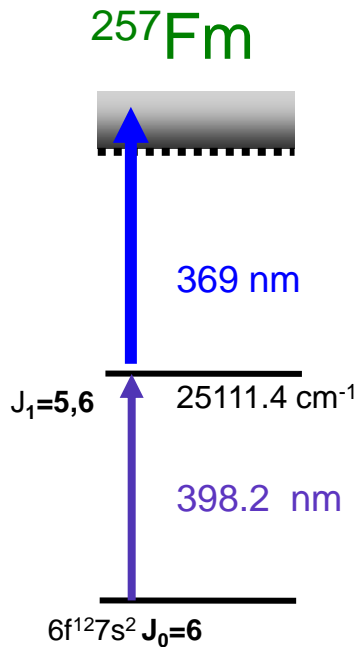
Evaluating the evolution of deformation

- Access to nuclei beyond N=152
- Region of large, stable deformation



# What about Fermium?

- Preparation: Chemical separation to increase the fermium content



REDC-2606-B		
Cf-249	$5.10\text{E-}03$	$\mu\text{g.}$
Es-253	$2.29\text{E-}03$	$\mu\text{g.}$
Es-254	$4.02\text{E-}03$	$\mu\text{g.}$
Fm-257	$1.38\text{E-}06$	$\mu\text{g.}$

→ first laser spectroscopy of  $^{257}\text{Fm}$

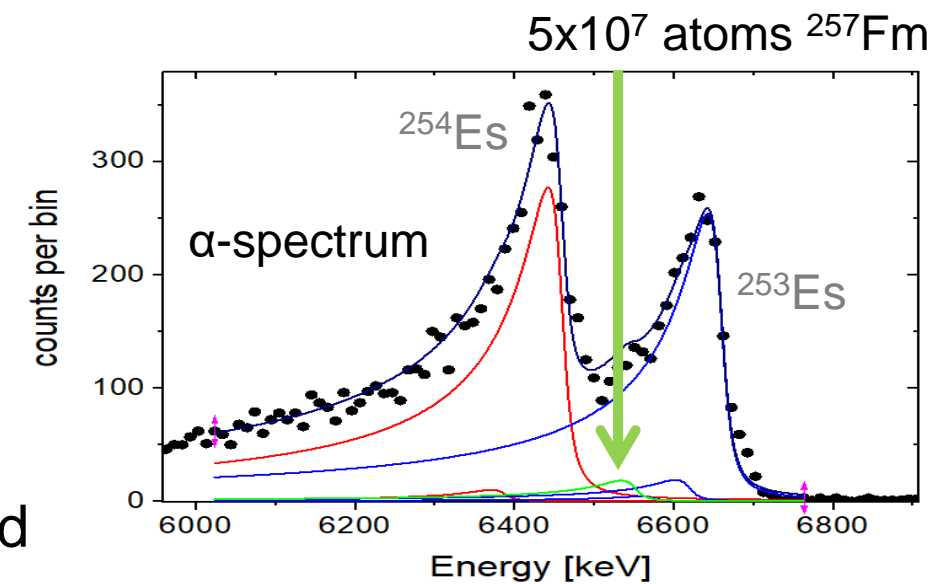
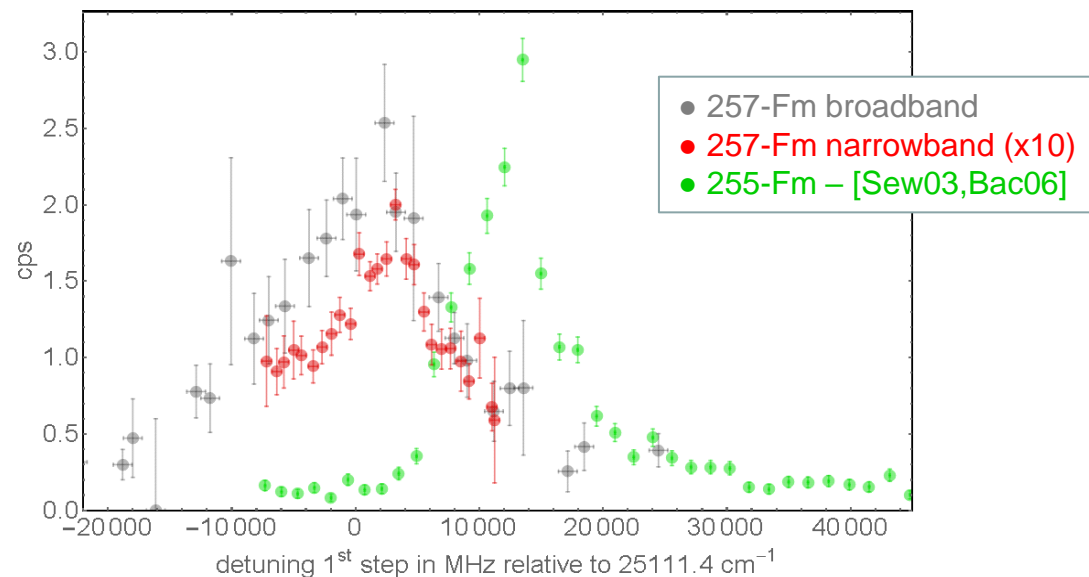
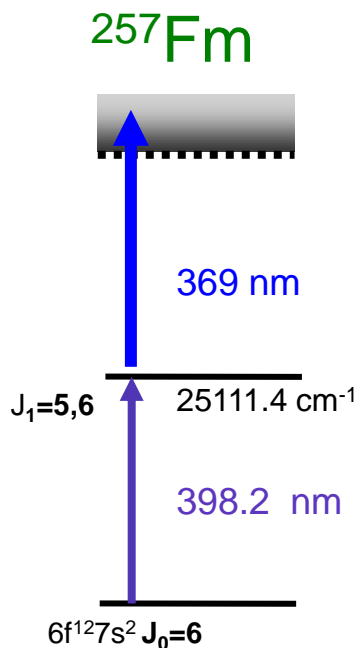
This research is supported by the U.S. DOE, Office of Science, BES Heavy Element Chemistry program. The isotopes used in this research were supplied by the U.S. DOE Isotope Program, managed by the Office of Science for Nuclear Physics.

[Sew03] Sewtz, M., et al. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 90.16 (2003): 163002. -- [Bac06] Backe, H., et al. " *Laser* 2004. (2006). 3-14.

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# Laser spectroscopy of Fm-257

- Preparation: Chemical separation to increase the fermium content



→ first laser spectroscopy of  $^{257}\text{Fm}$

despite a much lower sample size than expected

This research is supported by the U.S. DOE, Office of Science, BES Heavy Element Chemistry program. The isotopes used in this research were supplied by the U.S. DOE Isotope Program, managed by the Office of Science for Nuclear Physics.

[Sew03] Sewtz, M., et al. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 90.16 (2003): 163002. -- [Bac06] Backe, H., et al. " *Laser* 2004. (2006). 3-14.

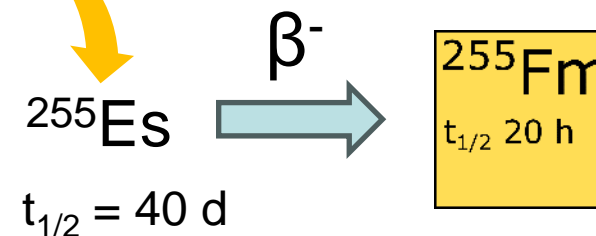
# Fm-255 – boosted sample from ILL



$^{254}\text{Es}$   
Breeding at ILL  
Grenoble, France



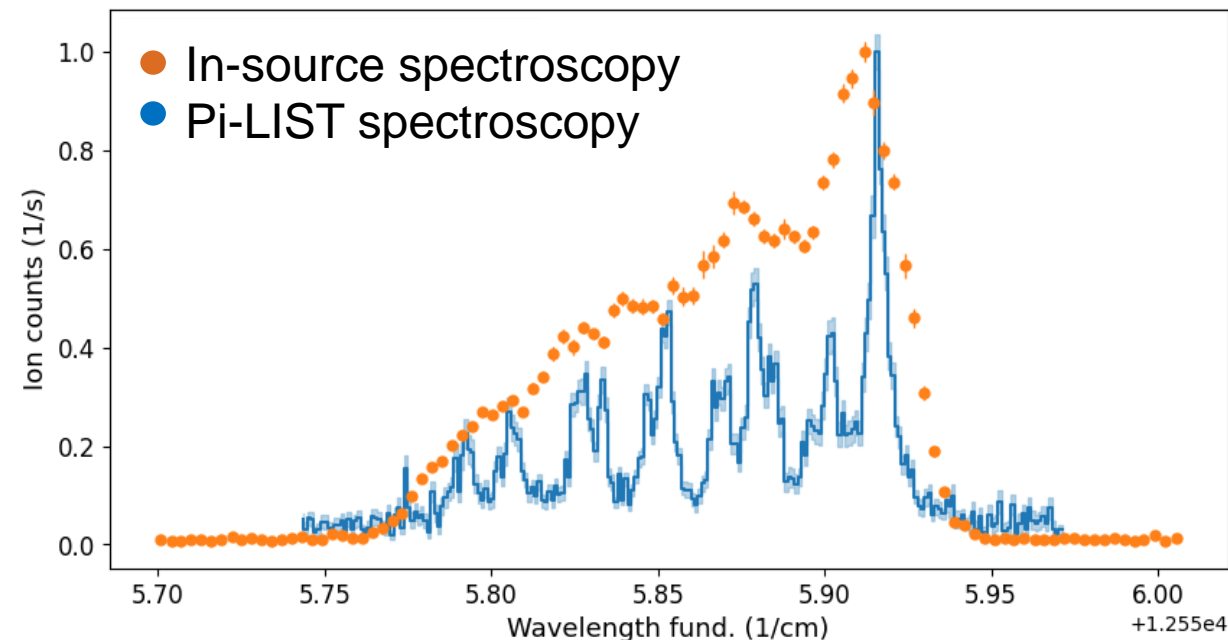
ILL  
NEUTRONS  
FOR SOCIETY



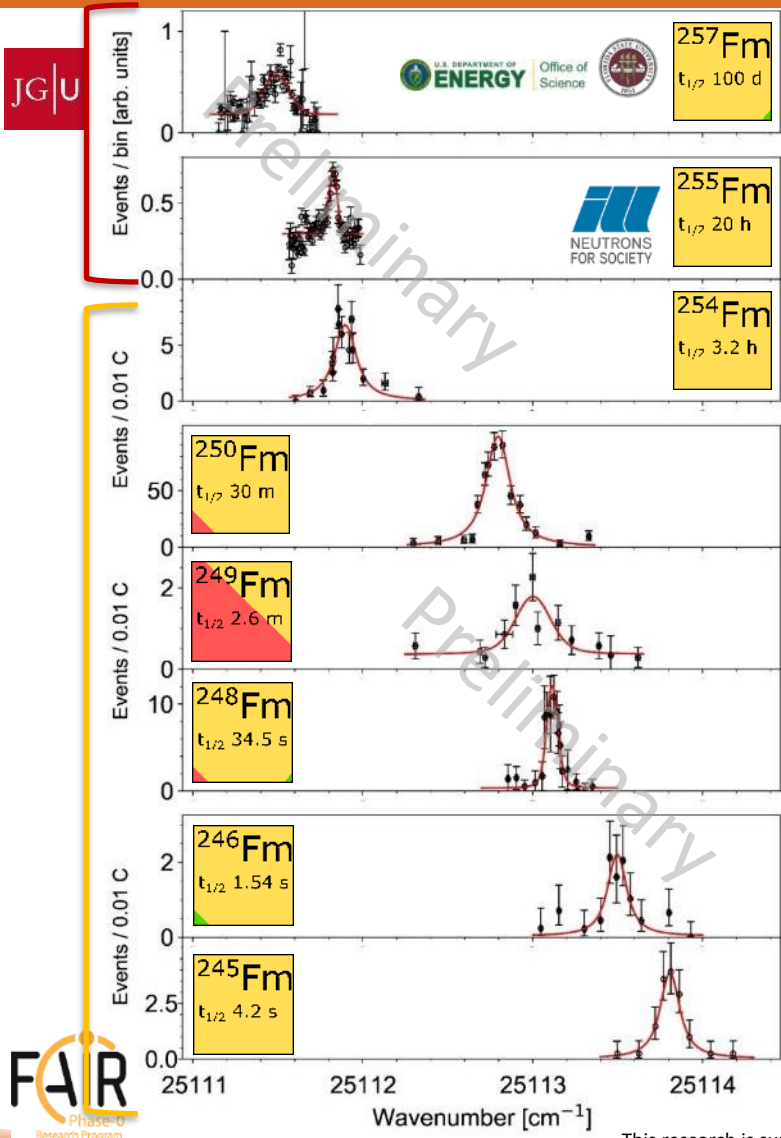
## Chemical separation:

- Increase purity
- Enable multiple separation
- $^{255}\text{Fm}$  generator system
- 2023: 13 samples ( $10^8$  atoms)!

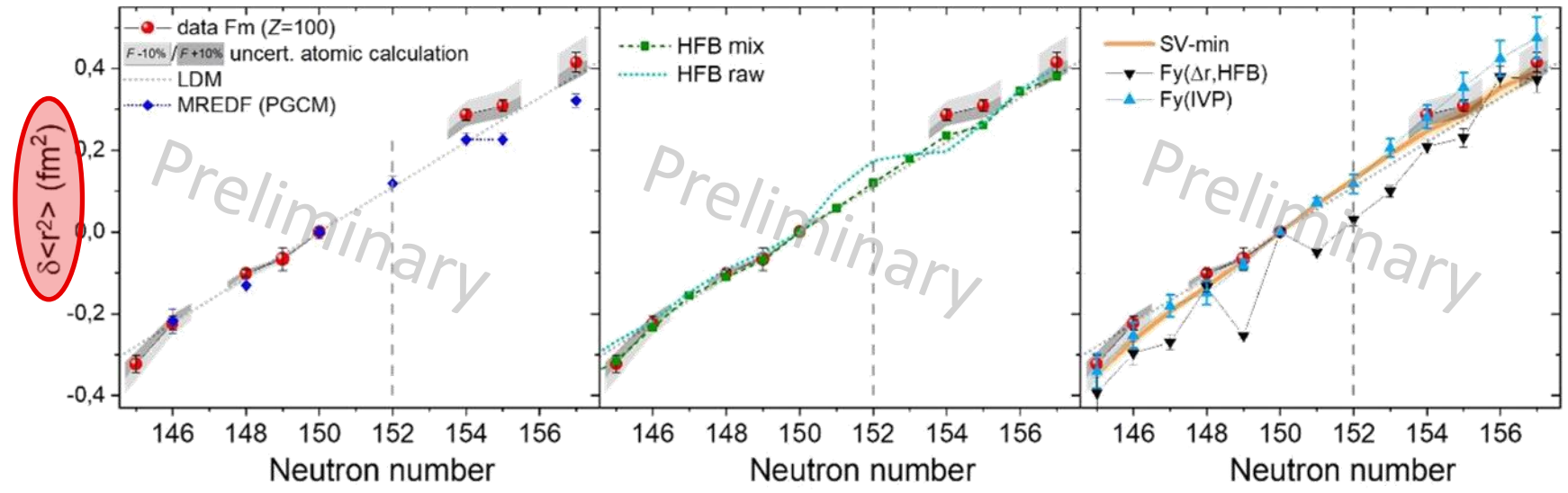
More data available → under analysis



# Fm isotopic chain – change in rms charge radii



Nuclear EDF calculations performed within collaboration by B. Bally, M. Bender, S. Goriely, S. Hilaire, W. Nazarewicz, S. Peru, P.G. Reinhard, W. Ryssens



Isotope shift measured to reference  $^{250}\text{Fm}$

Atomic parameters from theory available:

*S. Allehabi et al., J. Quant. Spec. Rad. Transfer 253, 107137 (2020).*

$$\delta\langle r^2 \rangle^{AA'} = \left( \Delta v^{AA'} - \frac{A - A'}{AA'} M \right) \frac{1}{F}$$

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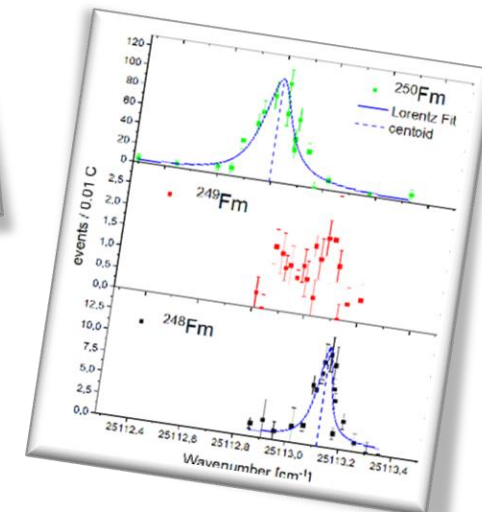
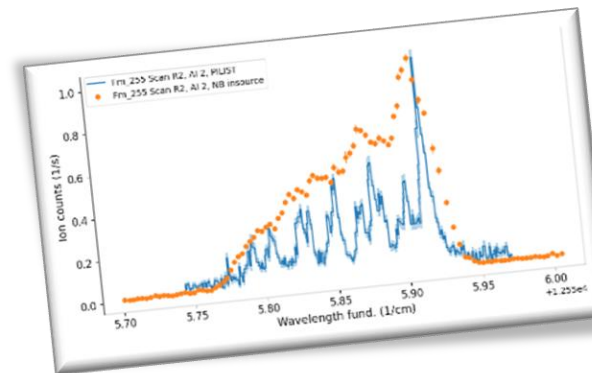
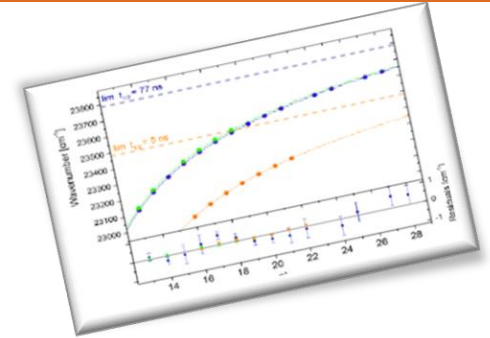
# RADRIS – Perspectives

## Achievements in Laser spectroscopy:

- ✓ a sensitive & versatile tool for investigating atomic & nuclear properties
- ✓ Many atomic levels observed in  $^{254}\text{No}$
- ✓ Differential mean square charge radii extracted for  $^{252-255}\text{No}$  &  $^{248-250,254,255,257}\text{Fm}$
- ✓ Complementary off-line laser spectroscopy
- ✓ Exotic Cf isotopes accessible online ....

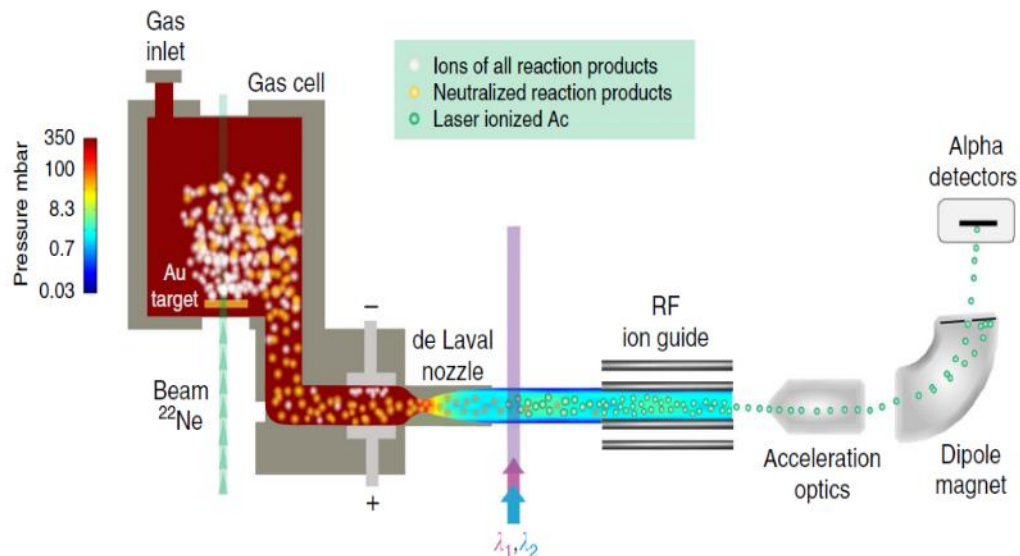
## Limitations of the RADRIS technique

- Collection cycle limits short lifetimes
- Radiation detection difficult for long-lived nuclides
- Gas environment limits the spectral resolution

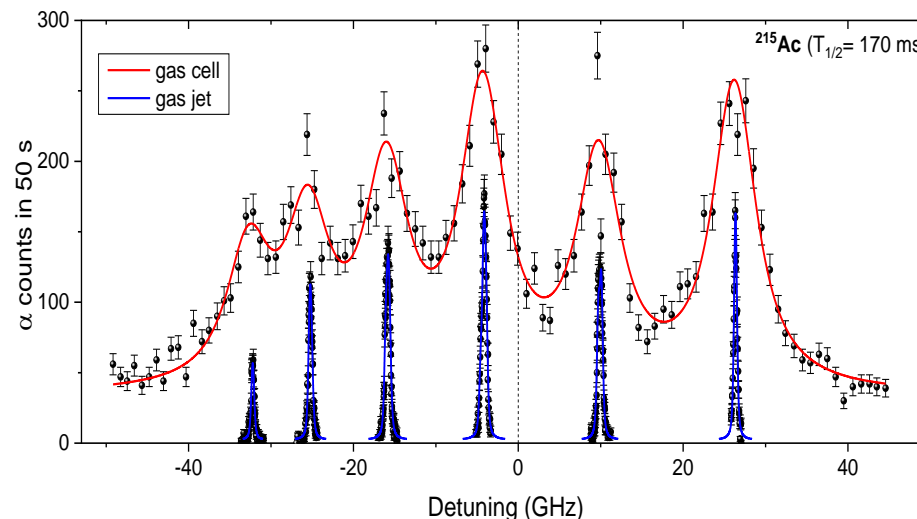


# Gas jet – High Resolution & High Efficiency

## In-Cell vs In-Jet Spectroscopy - $^{215}\text{Ac}$



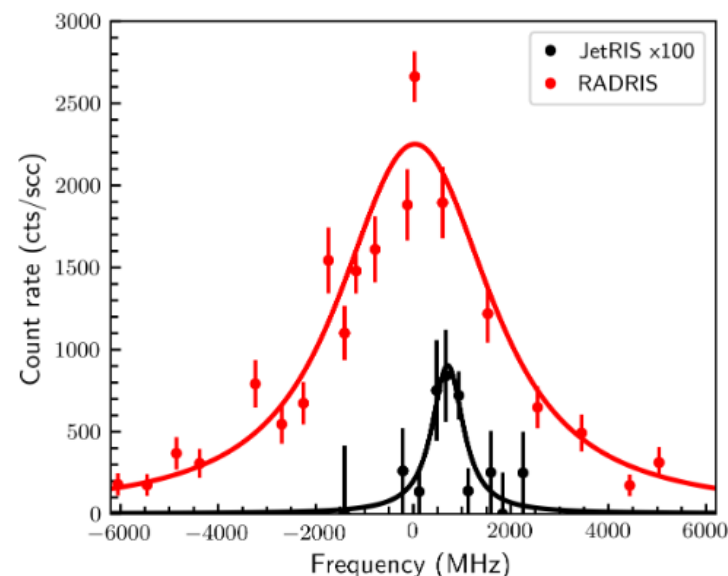
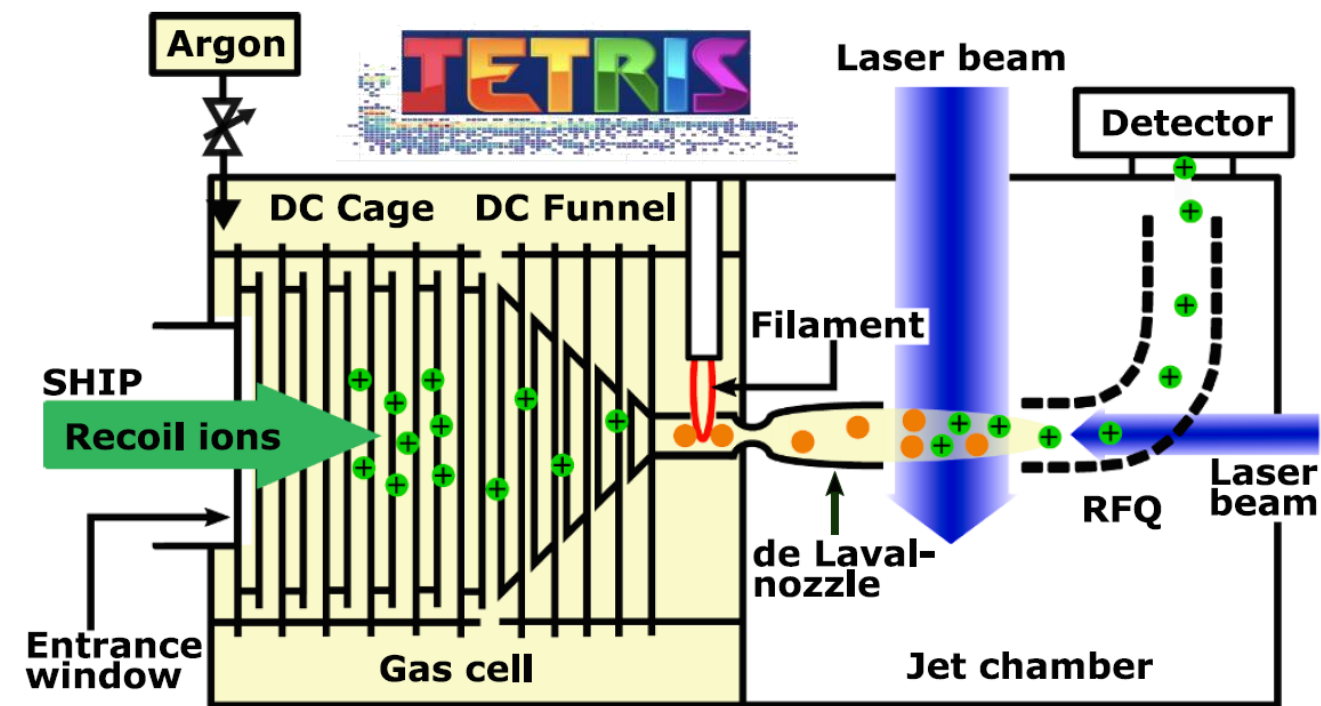
Gas jet schematic used on-line @ LISOL



- Low temperature & low density supersonic gas jets are ideal environments for laser spectroscopy experiments of (trans)actinides

# In-gas-jet laser spectroscopy on $^{254}\text{No}$ at GSI

Combination of high-efficiency RADRIS with high resolution in-jet methods



## Beamtime 2022

- First in-gas-jet laser spectroscopy on  $^{254}\text{No}$  with improved resolution

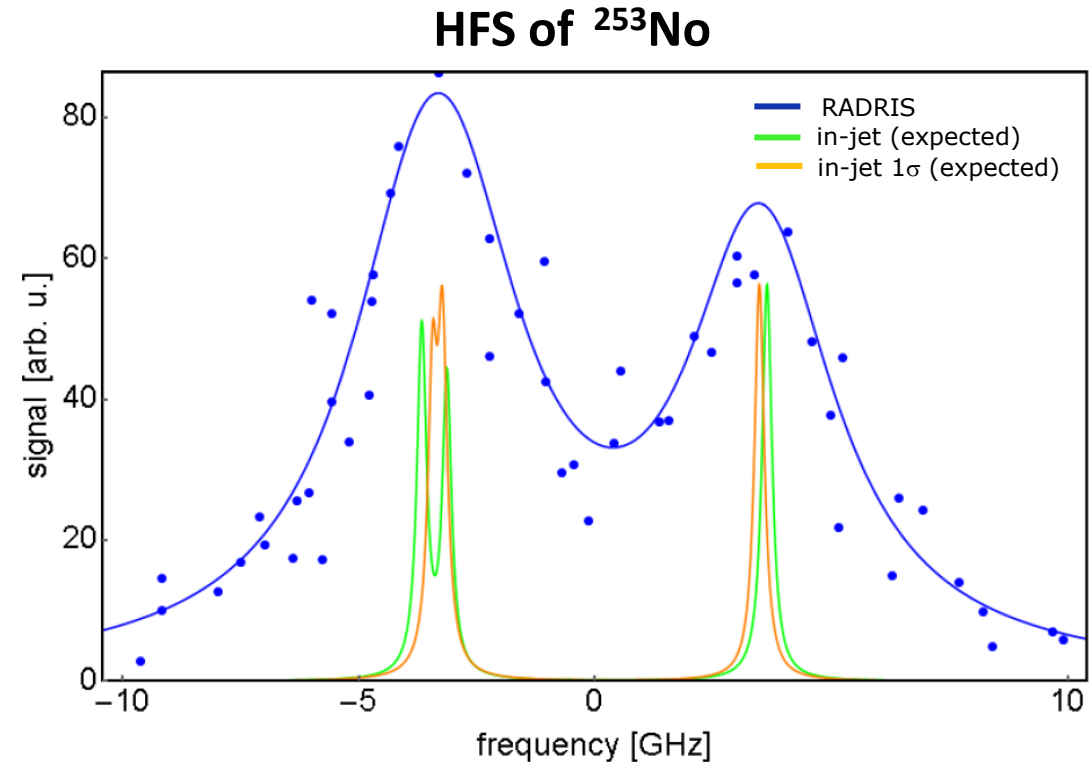
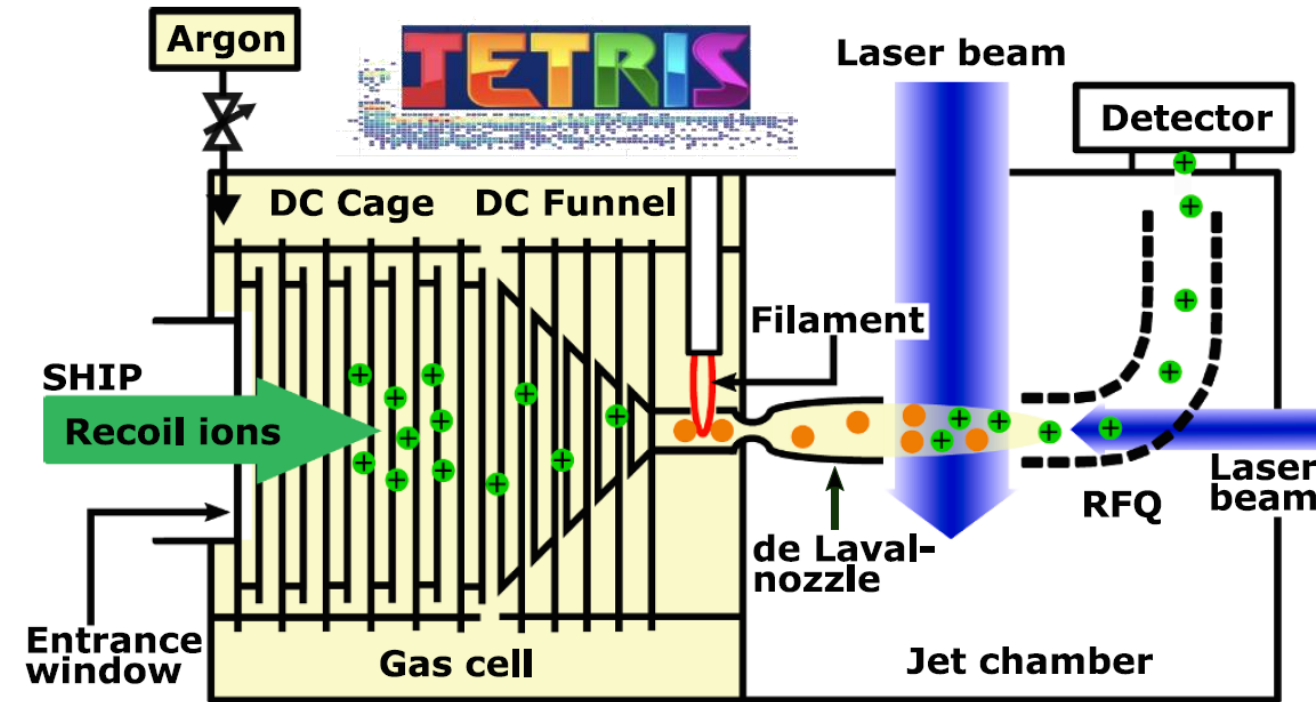
S. Raeder et al., NIM B 463 (2020)(2019) 272 M. Laatiaoui et al., Nature (London) 538, 495 (2016),

J. Lantis et al, Pys Rev Res. Accepted

S. Raeder – 29.05.2024 – ISOL France Workshop Strasbourg

# In-gas-jet laser spectroscopy on $^{253,254m,255}\text{No}$ at GSI

Combination of high-efficiency RADRIS with high resolution in-jet methods



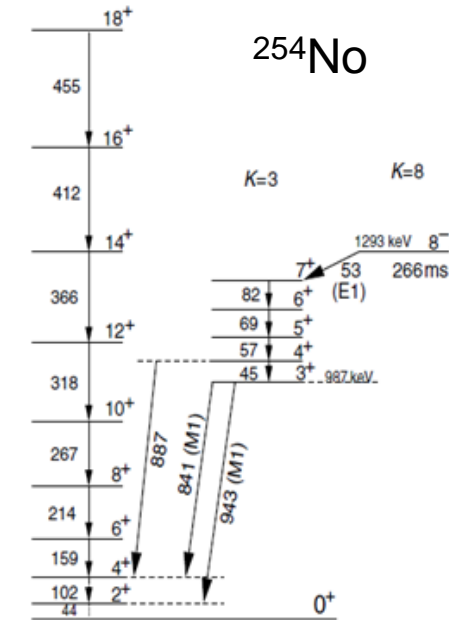
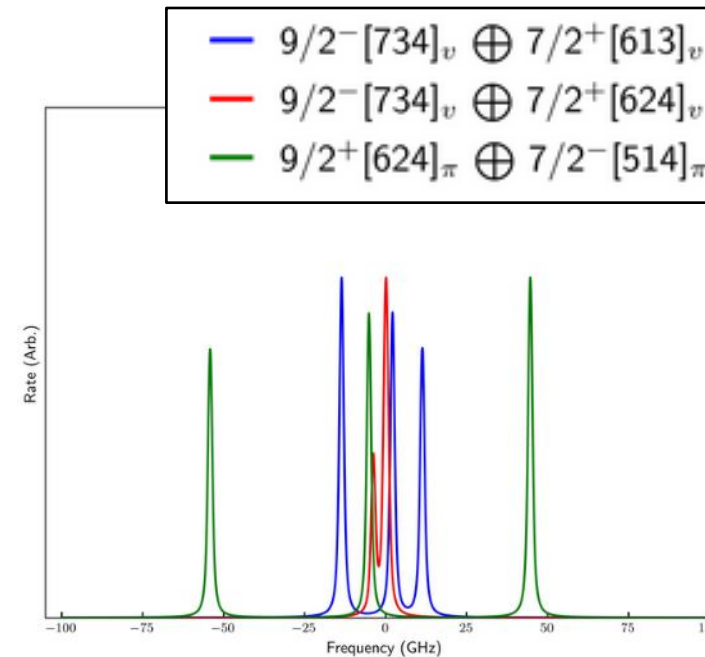
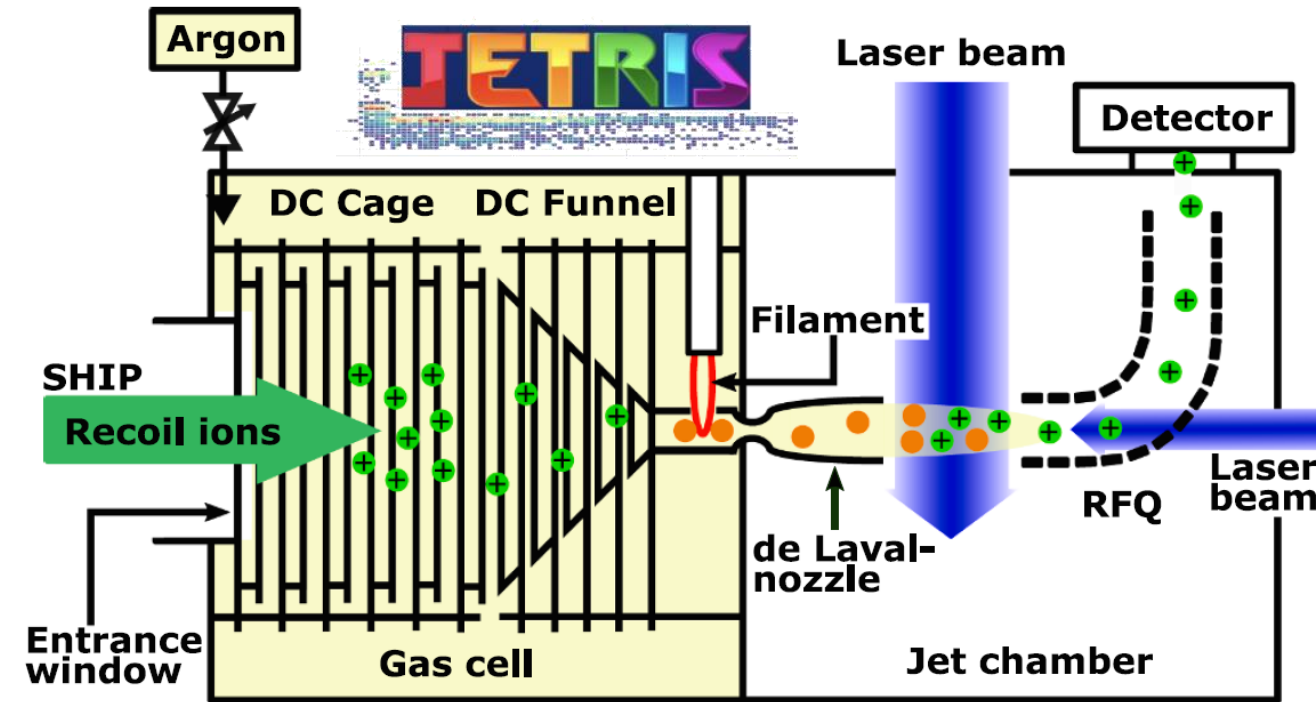
- In-gas-jet laser spectroscopy on  $^{253,255}\text{No}$  will enable improved precision in nuclear deformation to assign Nilsson orbital  $\rightarrow$  validation nuclear models

M. Laatiaoui et al., Nature (London) 538, 495 (2016),  
S. Raeder et al., NIM B 463 (2020)(2019) 272

S. Raeder et al., Phys.Rev.Lett. 120, 232503 (2018)  
R.-D. Herzberg, et al., Nature, 442(7105) 896, 2006

# In-gas-jet laser spectroscopy on $^{253,254m,255}\text{No}$ at GSI

Combination of high-efficiency RADRIS with high resolution in-jet methods



- For  $^{254}\text{No}$  in-jet-spectroscopy will enable to study the nature of the low lying 8<sup>-</sup> K-isomer

M. Laatiaoui et al., Nature (London) 538, 495 (2016),  
S. Raeder et al., NIM B 463 (2020)(2019) 272

S. Raeder et al., Phys.Rev.Lett. 120, 232503 (2018)  
R.-D. Herzberg, et al., Nature, 442(7105) 896, 2006

# Summary

Laser spectroscopy on heavy elements is important for the understanding of atomic/chemical character and for investigations of the nuclei

- RADRIS: First optical transition in a transactinoid element
  - ✓ Differential mean square charge radii extracted ( $^{252-254}\text{No}$ )
  - ✓ First on-line measurements of Fm isotopes
- In-source laser spectroscopy of actinides
  - ✓ Laser spectroscopy with Es ( $10^{10}$  atoms) and  $^{255,257}\text{Fm}$  ( $10^7$  atoms)

Competitive laser spectroscopy program will continue

- ❖ RADRIS & gas jet beamtime running
- ❖ Gas jet: development for improved resolution
- ❖ LRC: new approach to extend the realm of laser spectroscopy

