

# New isomeric states in $^{255}\text{No}$ and $^{256}\text{No}$ with GABRIELA@SHELS



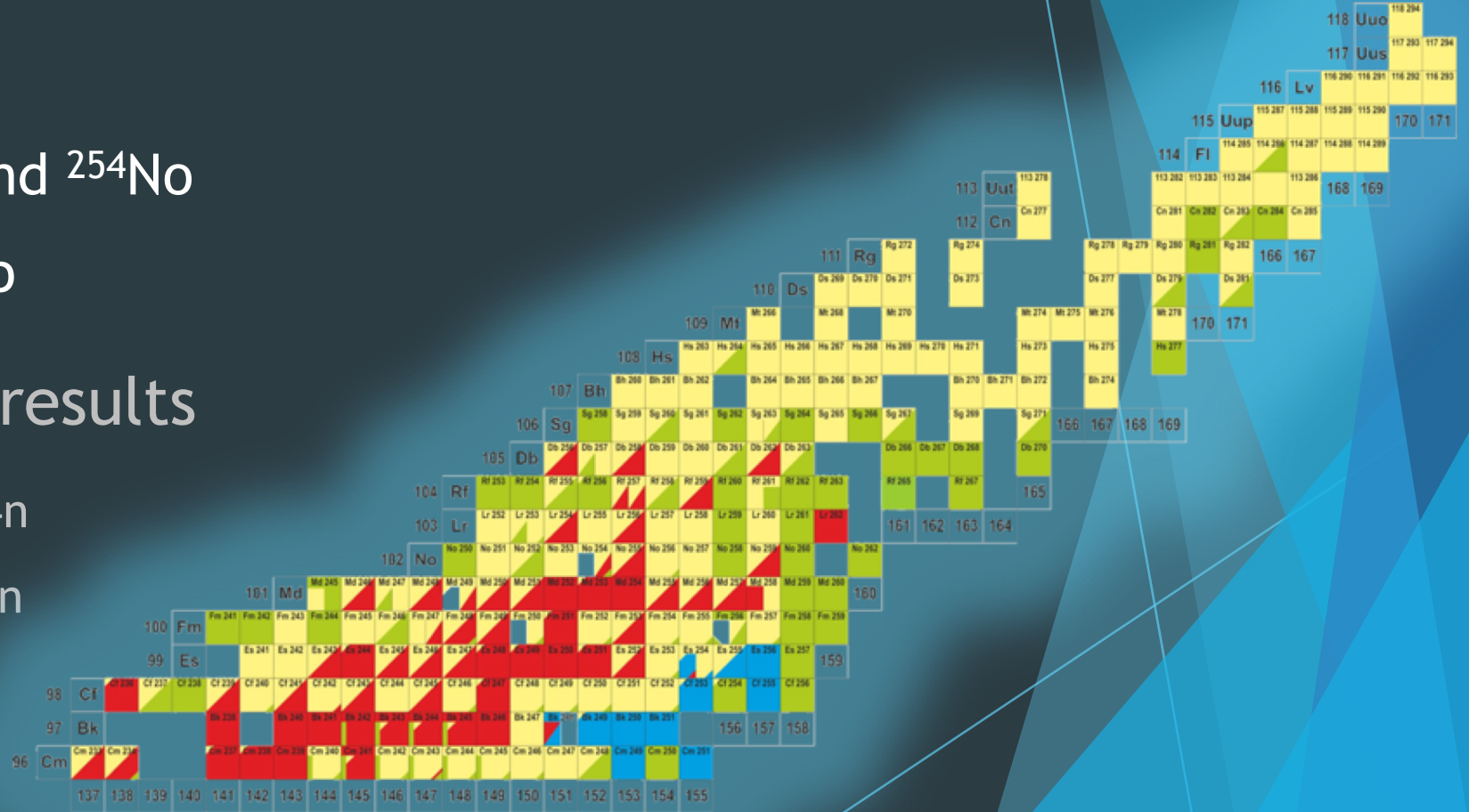
PhD supervisor : Benoit Gall  
Kieran Kessaci

# I. Context

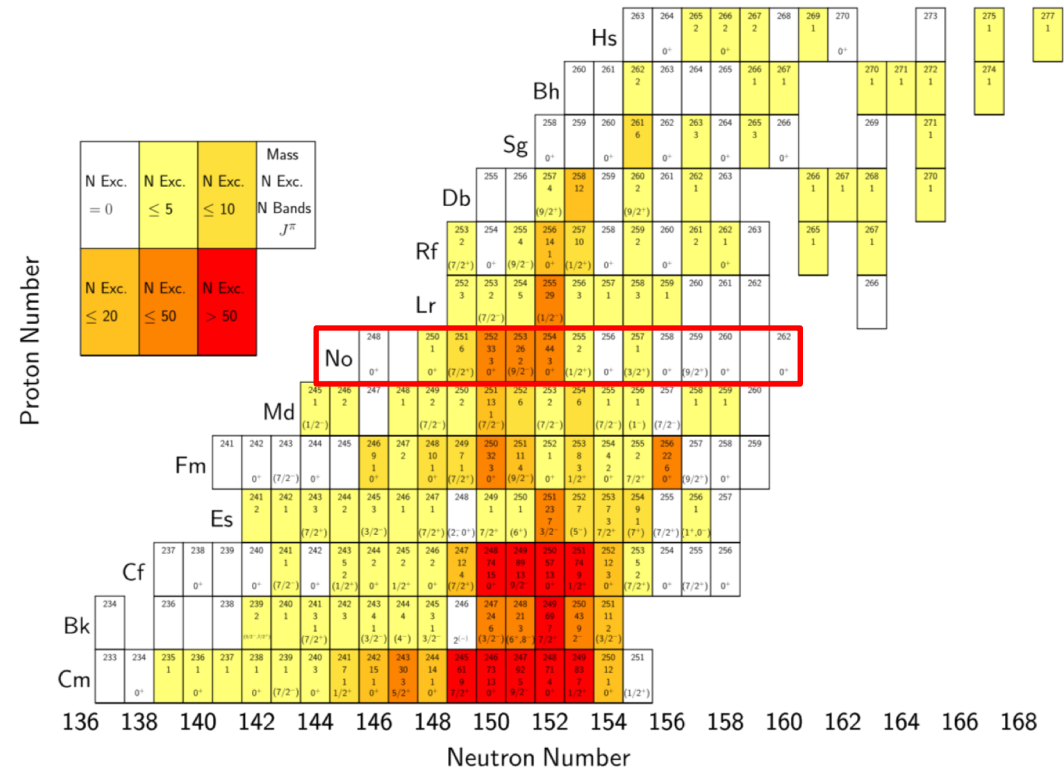
- Spectroscopy around  $^{254}\text{No}$
- Experimental setup

# II. Data analysis and results

- $^{22}\text{Ne} + ^{238}\text{U} \rightarrow ^{256}\text{No} + 4n$
- $^{48}\text{Ca} + ^{208}\text{Pb} \rightarrow ^{255}\text{No} + n$



# Spectroscopy Around $^{254}\text{No}$



- Chart of known excited states in the heavy and superheavy region
- The region around  $^{254}_{102}\text{No}$  was widely studied by cold fusion
- Many rotational structures and high-K isomers were observed
- Informations on **neutron rich isotopes** are scarce
- $^{256}\text{No}$  in **hot fusion** :  $^{22}_{10}\text{Ne} + ^{238}_{92}\text{U} \rightarrow ^{256}_{102}\text{No} + 4n$
- $^{255}\text{No}$  in **cold fusion** :  $^{48}_{20}\text{Ca} + ^{208}_{82}\text{Pb} \rightarrow ^{255}_{102}\text{No} + n$

Ch. Theisen et al. / Nuclear Physics A 944 (2015) 333–375

# Setup

## SHELS : Separator for Heavy Elements Spectroscopy

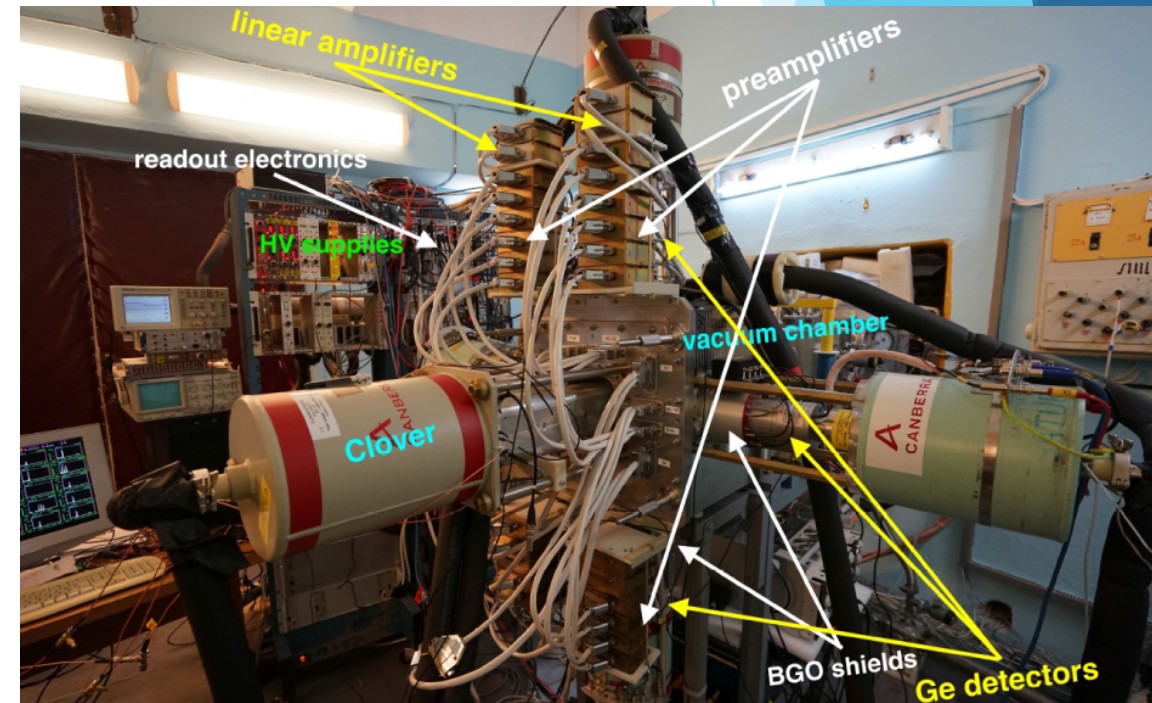
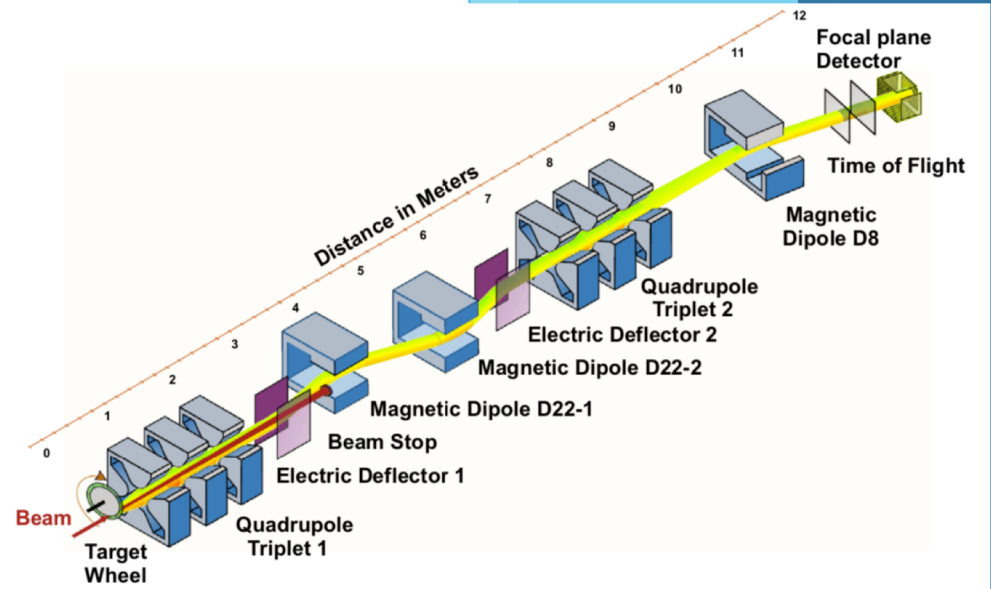
Reaction	ERs transmission	
	Old	New
$^{22}\text{Ne}(^{198}\text{Pt},5-7n)^{213-215}\text{Ra}$	0.03	$0.040 \pm 0.015$
$^{22}\text{Ne}(^{197}\text{Au},4-6n)^{213-215}\text{Ac}$	0.03	$0.065 \pm 0.030$

A. G. Popeko et al, Nuclear Instruments and Methods in Physics Research B 376 (2016) 140–143

- $^{22}_{10}\text{Ne} + ^{238}_{92}\text{U} \rightarrow ^{260-x}_{102}\text{No} + xn$   
 → First asymmetric experiment with this setup

## GABRIELA : Gamma Alpha Beta Recoil Investigations with the Electromagnetic Analyzer

- DSSD + Tunnels + 4 Ge Monocrystals + 1 CLOVER
- One of the ToF foils was unmounted because of the slowness of the recoils  
 → High DSSD threshold (150-200 keV)



A. Yeremin, O. Malyshev and al. - EPJ Web of Conferences 86, 00065 (2015)

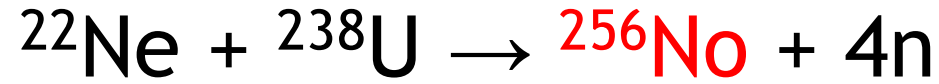
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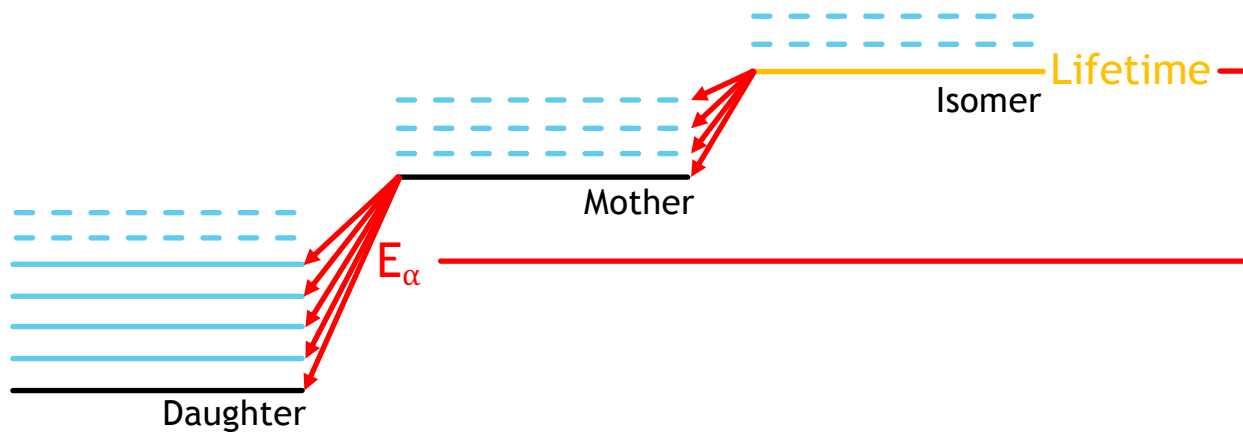
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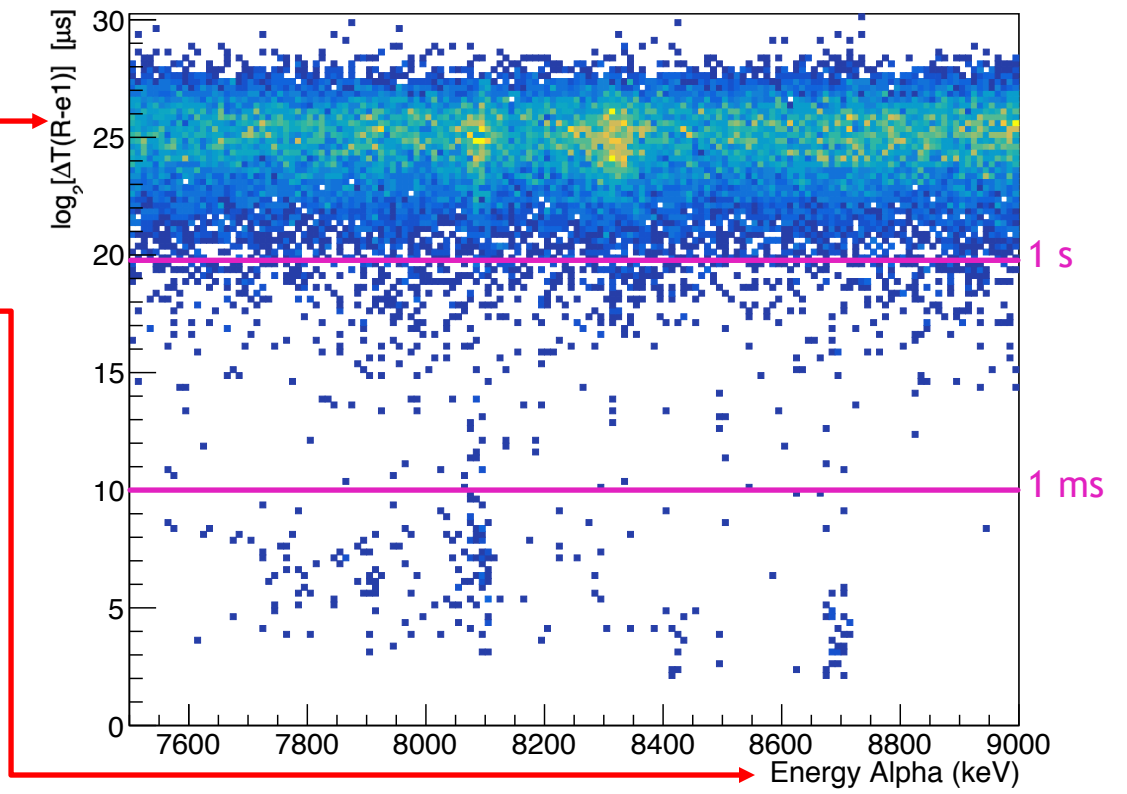




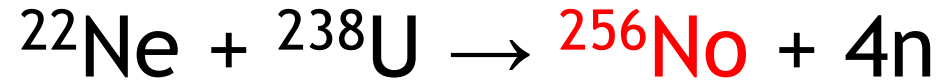
- This plot shows the lifetime of isomers as a function of the subsequent alpha decay energy



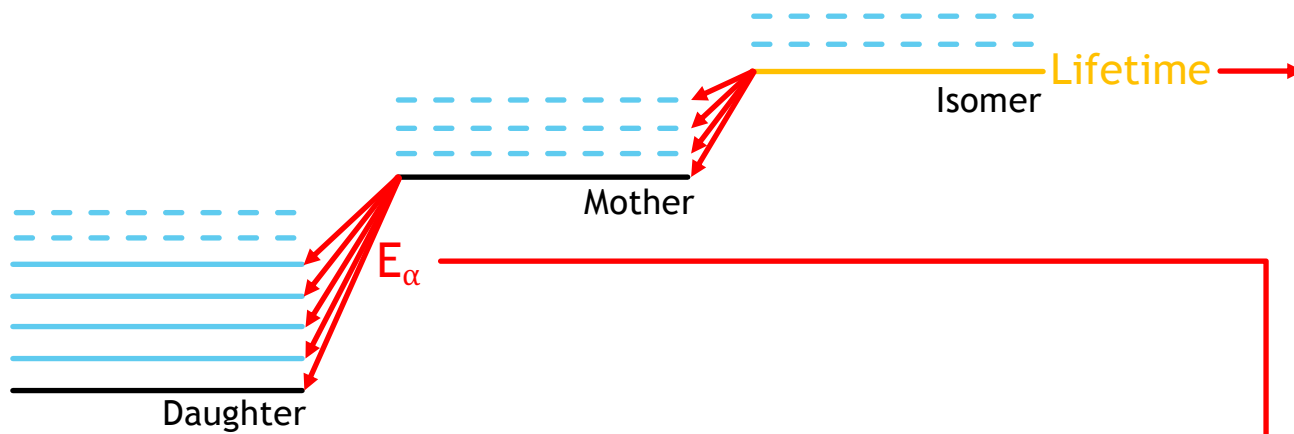
Recoil-Elec Time vs Energy Alpha



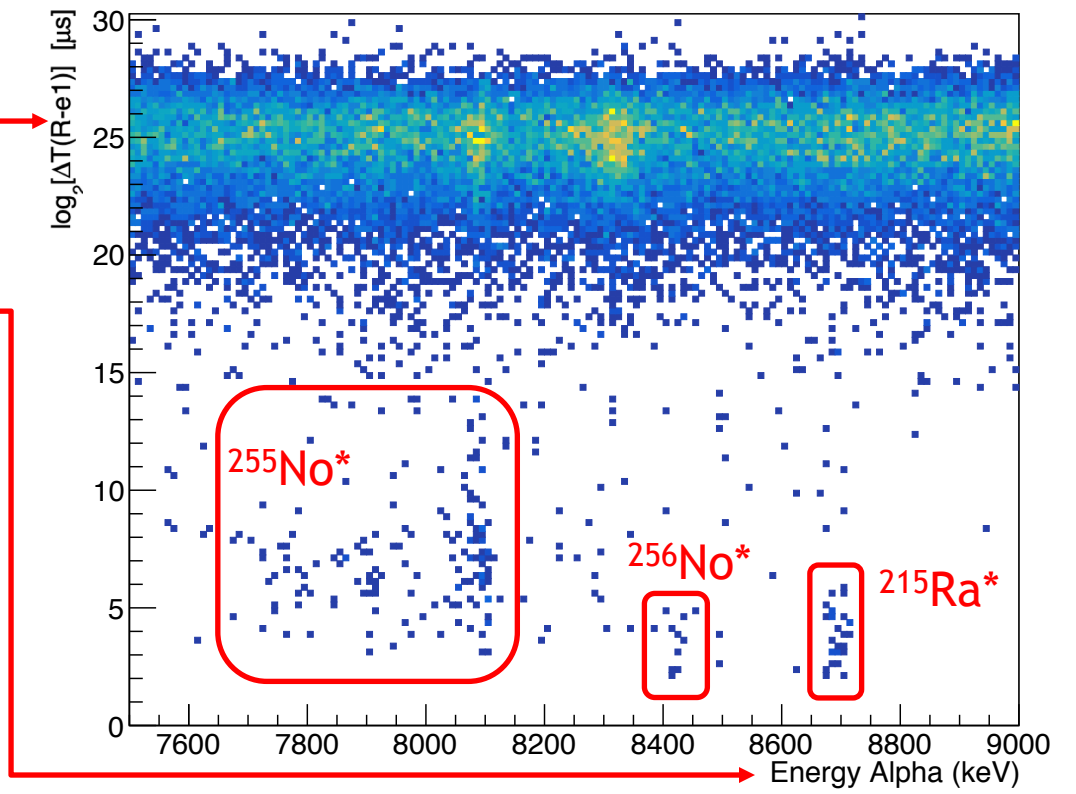
- $^{256}\text{No}$  Alpha decay energy 8430 keV (M. Asai et al.)
- 8430 keV : 15 events of a new isomer in  $^{256}\text{No}$
- Between 7700 and 8150 keV : isomeric decays in  $^{255}\text{No}$



- This plot shows the **lifetime of isomers as a function of the subsequent alpha decay energy**

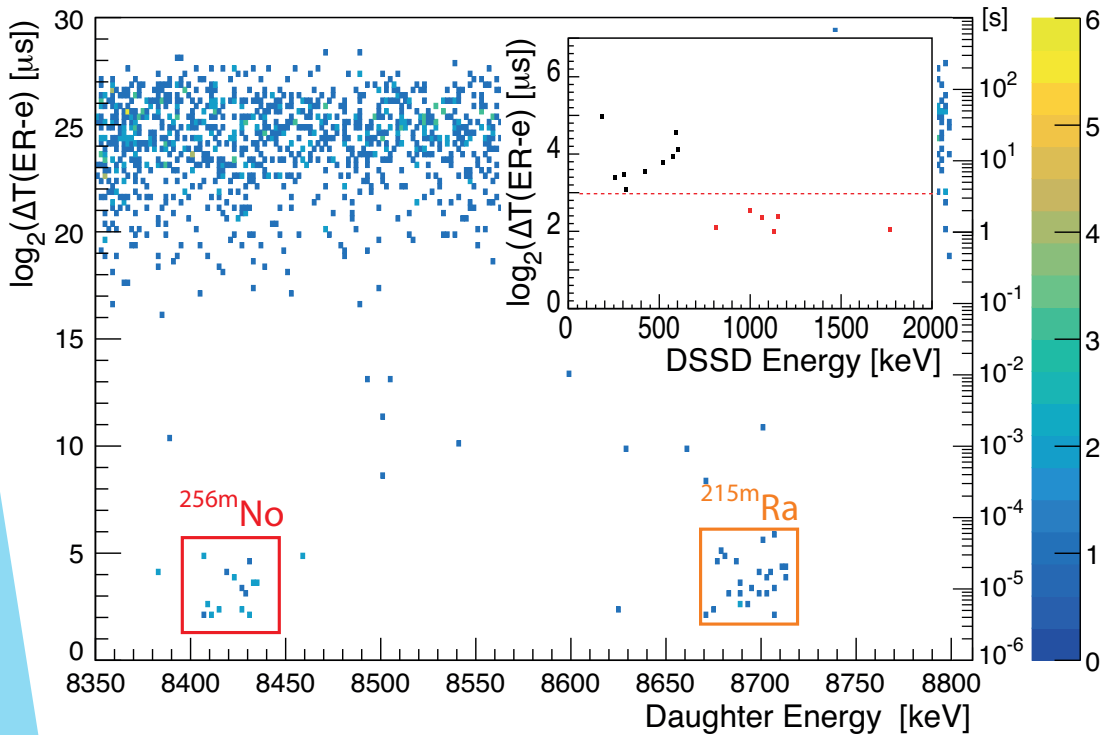


Recoil-Elec Time vs Energy Alpha



- $^{256}\text{No}$  Alpha decay energy 8430 keV (M. Asai et al.)
- 8430 keV : **15** events of a new isomer in  $^{256}\text{No}$
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# $^{256}\text{No}$ Isomeric state(s)



$1 \sigma \rightarrow$  Confidence level 68.27%

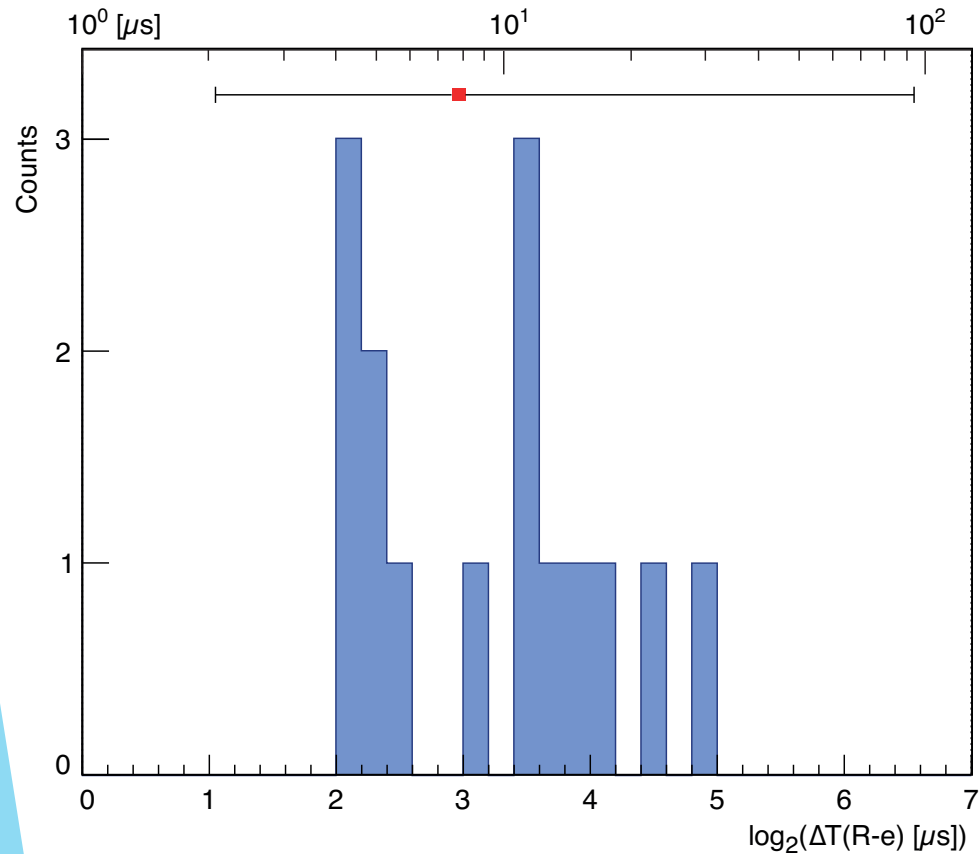
$$T_{1/2} = 7,8^{+2,7}_{-1,6} \mu\text{s}$$

- 15 events over one month of beam-time (identified by the calorimetric method of G.D.Jones)
- 738  $^{256}\text{No}$  implanted in the focal plane  
→ Isomeric ratio  $15/738 \approx 4\%$
- 9 events without pile-up
- K and L X-rays of Nobelium observed  
→ Conversion electrons
- $\gamma$  rays considered with and without add-back mode for the CLOVER detector  
→  $E^* > 1089 \text{keV}$

DSSD energy (keV)	Tunnel energy (keV)	$\gamma$ -ray energy (keV)	Sum (keV)
187	-	-	187
254	101	27	382
421	63	-	484
518	121	-	639
318	211	463 <sup>AB</sup>	992
576	91	127 // 205	999
589	189	255	1033
604	462	23	1089
809 <sup>PU</sup>	86	133	-
999 <sup>PU</sup>	139	127	-
1063 <sup>PU</sup>	227	372 <sup>AB</sup>	-
1131 <sup>PU</sup>	-	307	-
1154 <sup>PU</sup>	28	382	-
1768 <sup>PU</sup>	-	0	-



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1154 <sup>PU</sup>	28	382	-
1768 <sup>PU</sup>	-	0	-

## Inputs :

- $T_{1/2} = 7,8^{+8,3}_{-2,7} \mu\text{s}$
- Isomeric ratio  $\approx 4\%$
- Excitation energy  $> 1089\text{keV}$
- Electron shower up to  $\approx 600\text{keV}$  in the decay

High- $K$ ,  $t_{1/2} = 7.8^{+9.0}_{-2.7} \mu\text{s}$  isomeric state in  $^{256}\text{No}_{154}$

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Accepted in PRC

## Abstract

Isomeric states in  $^{256}\text{No}$  were investigated using internal conversion electron and  $\gamma$ -ray spectroscopy with GABRIELA at the focal plane of the the SHELS recoil separator. The nuclei of interest were produced using the hot fusion-evaporation reaction  $^{238}\text{U}(^{22}\text{Ne}, 4n)^{256}\text{No}$ . The emission of internal conversion electrons and  $\gamma$ -rays occurring between a  $^{256}\text{No}$  implantation and a subsequent alpha decay event were studied, resulting in the observation an isomer with an half life of  $7.8^{+9.0}_{-3.7} \mu\text{s}$ . It is interpreted on the basis of experimental information from internal conversion electron and  $\gamma$ -ray spectra as well as lifetimes and hindrance in the

## Solutions for the observed isomer :

- A 4-qp configuration ?
  - Ratio
  - Electron burst energy
- ? ...But why no 2-qp?
  - ? ...2-qp configuration below threshold ?
- 2 different 2-qp configurations ?
  - Lifetime distribution
  - long unfavored path // to a short
  - ? favored below threshold ?
    - Most likely configuration(s) : **2-qp neutron**

## Require new experiment with :

- Lower thresholds
- Digital electronic ?

## I. Context

- Spectroscopy around  $^{254}\text{No}$
- Experimental setup

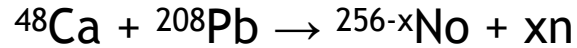
## II. Data analysis and results

- $^{22}\text{Ne} + ^{238}\text{U} \rightarrow ^{256}\text{No} + 4n$
- $^{48}\text{Ca} + ^{208}\text{Pb} \rightarrow ^{255}\text{No} + n$



# $^{255}\text{No}$ Isomeric states

- New results from the cold-fusion experiment



- First issue :
  - $^{254}\text{No}$  and  $^{255}\text{No}$  have common alpha decay energies and common lifetime for the first isomers..

How can we distinguish these isomers ?

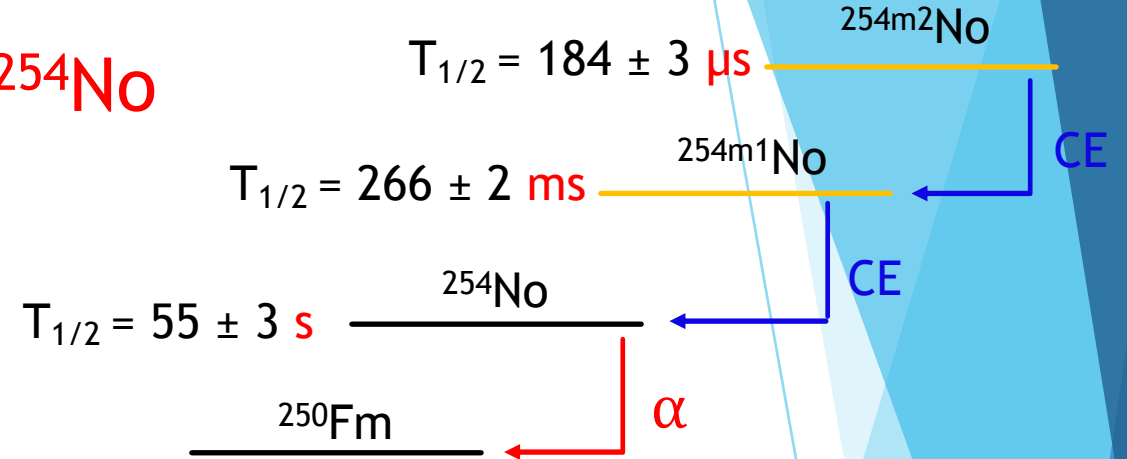
→ Look at the chains up to  $^{251}\text{Fm}$  to clean the data

→ Identification

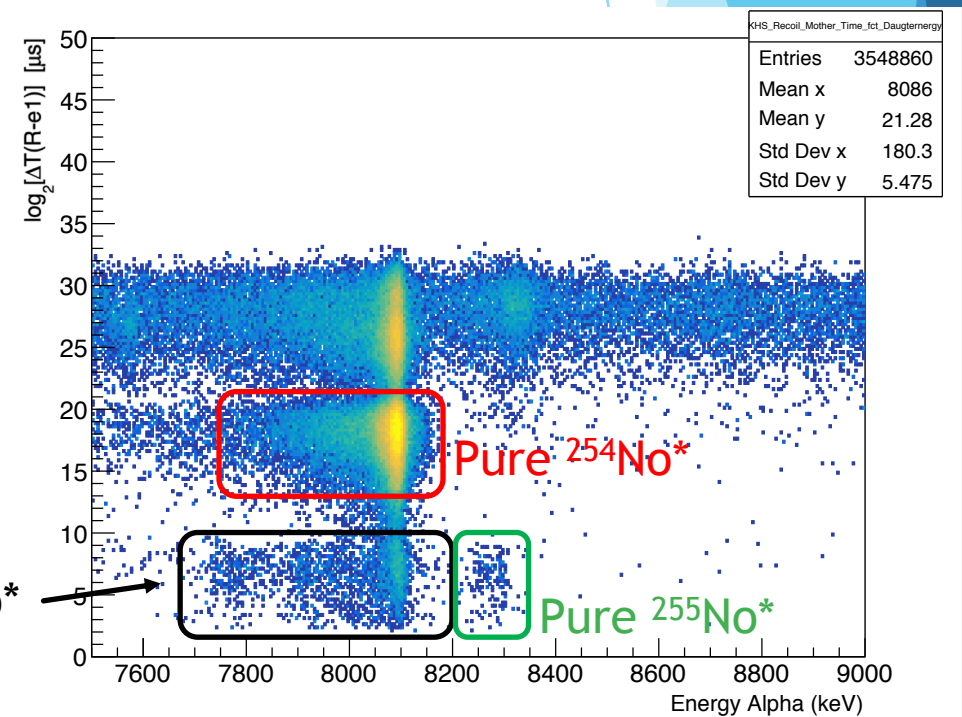
→ Then isolate it by correlations between first decays

→ Study

$^{254}\text{No}$

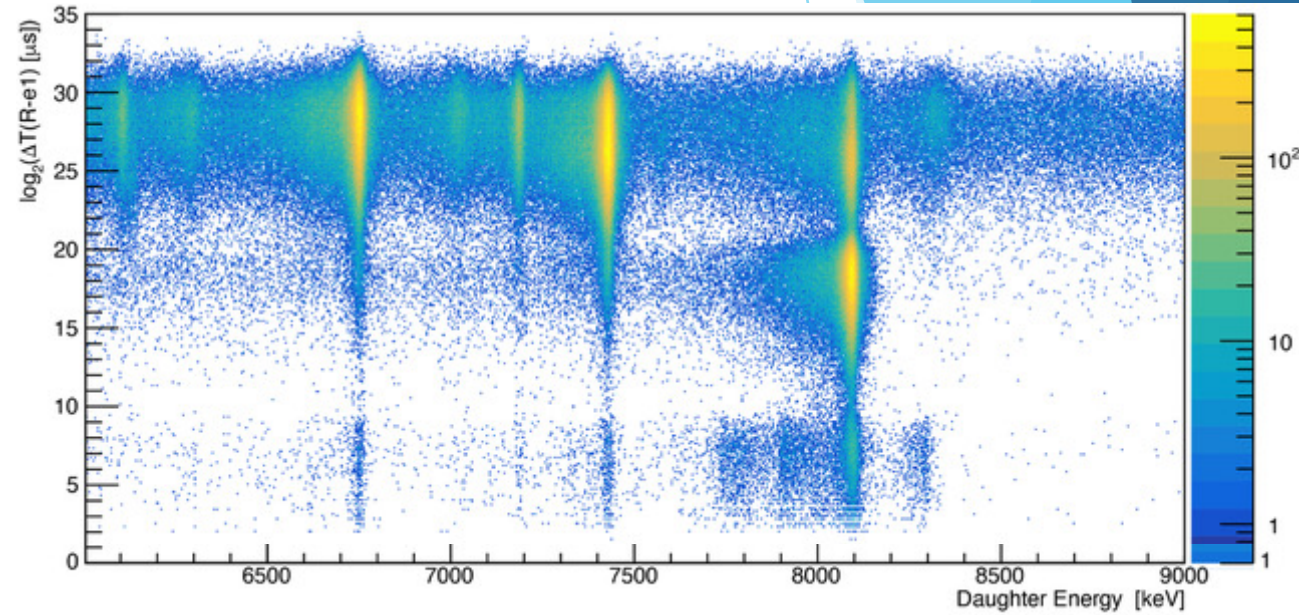
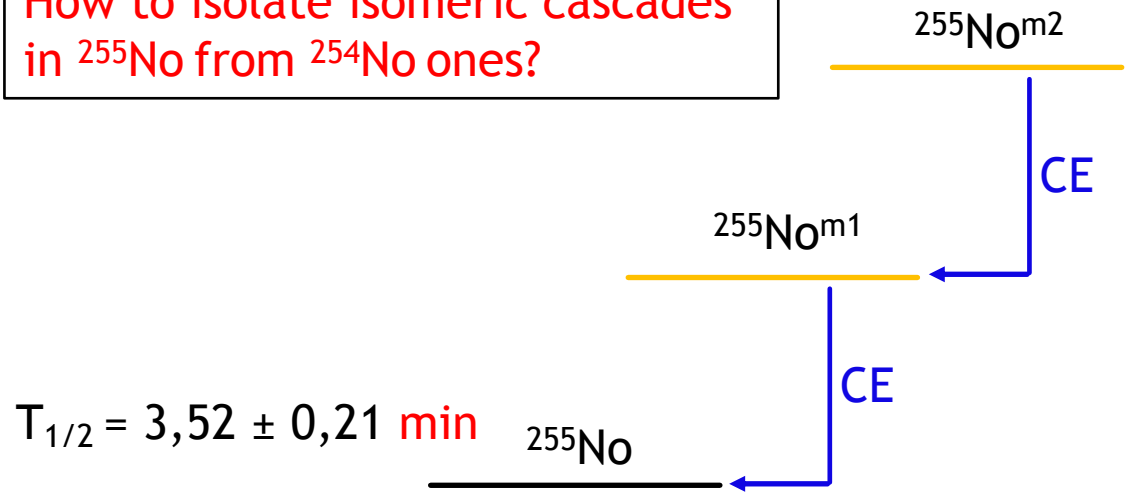


Mixed  $^{254}/^{255}\text{No}^*$



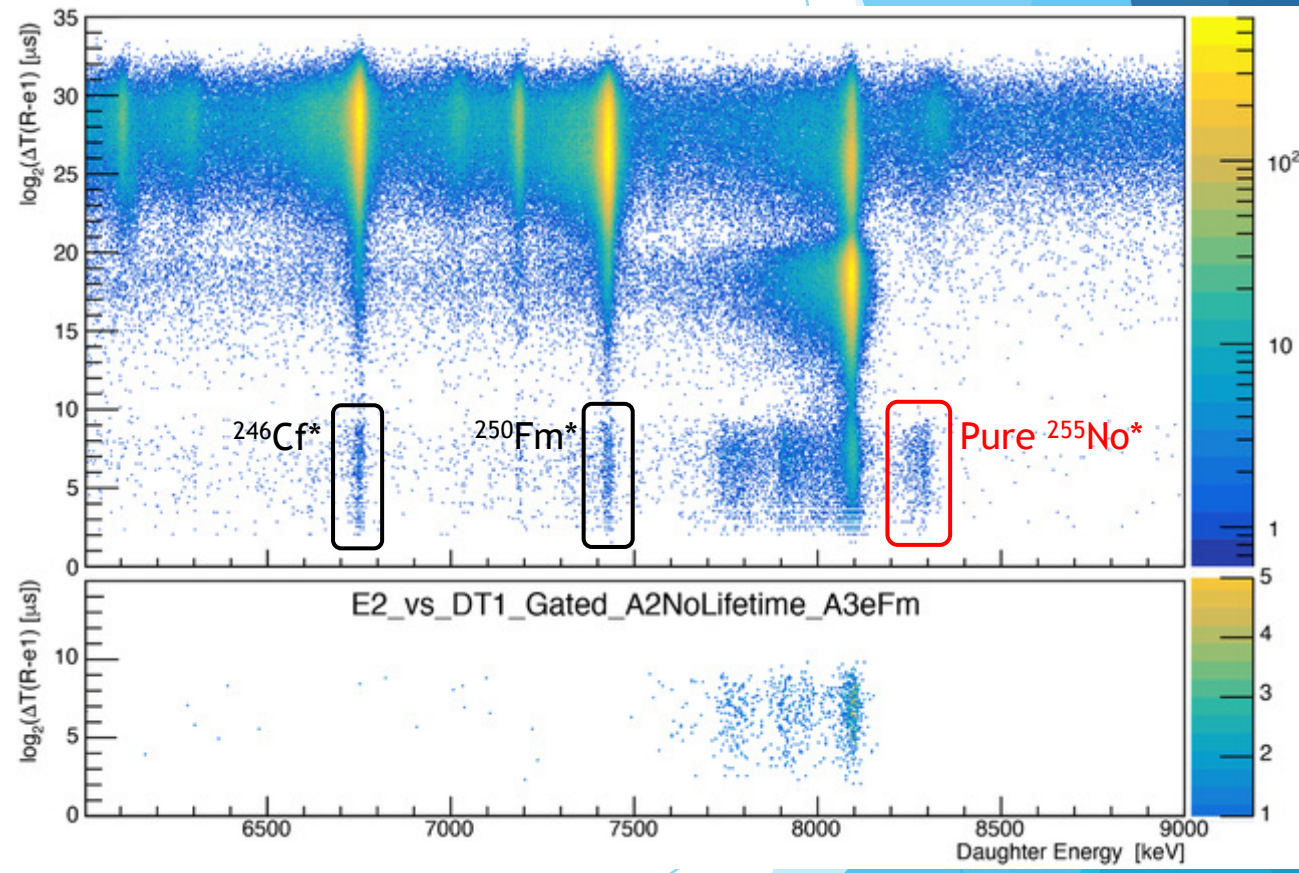
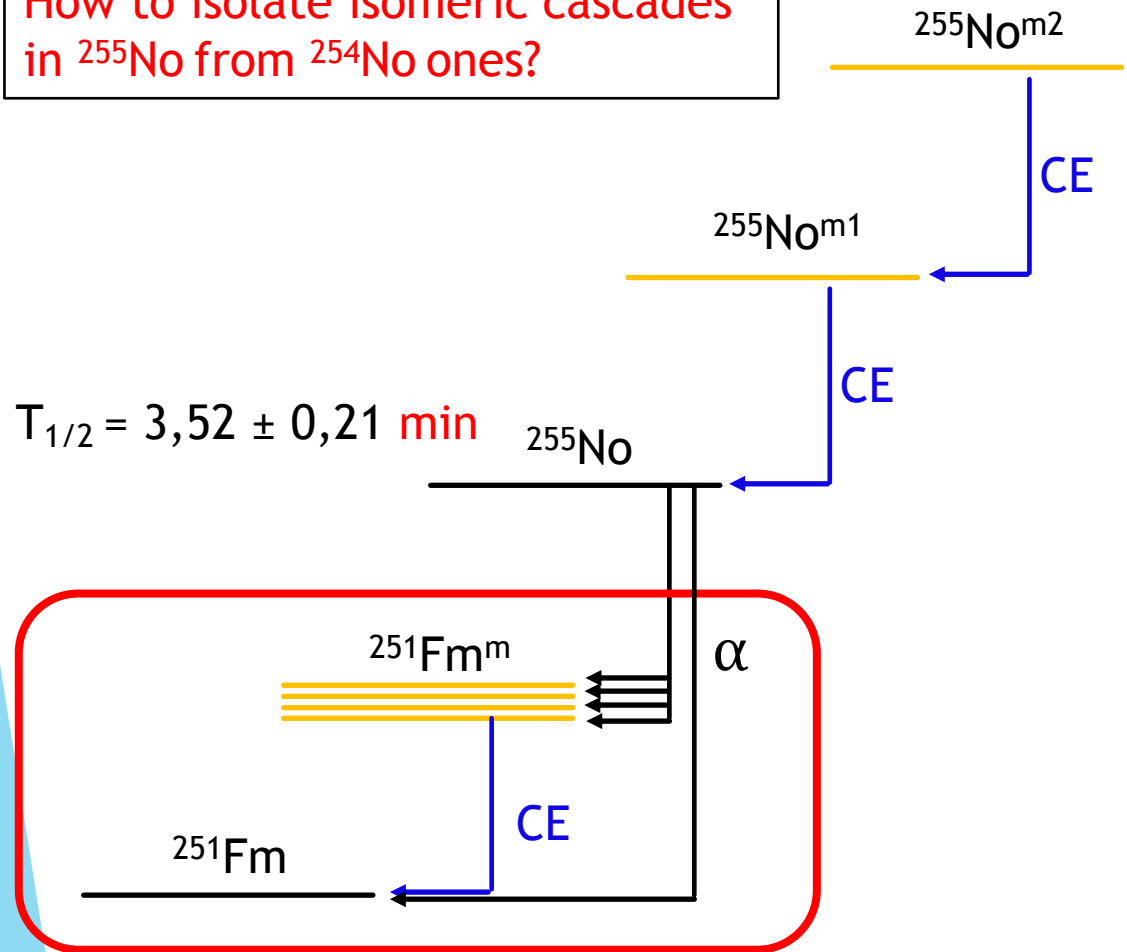
# Identification of isomeric states

How to isolate isomeric cascades in  $^{255}\text{No}$  from  $^{254}\text{No}$  ones?



# Identification of isomeric states

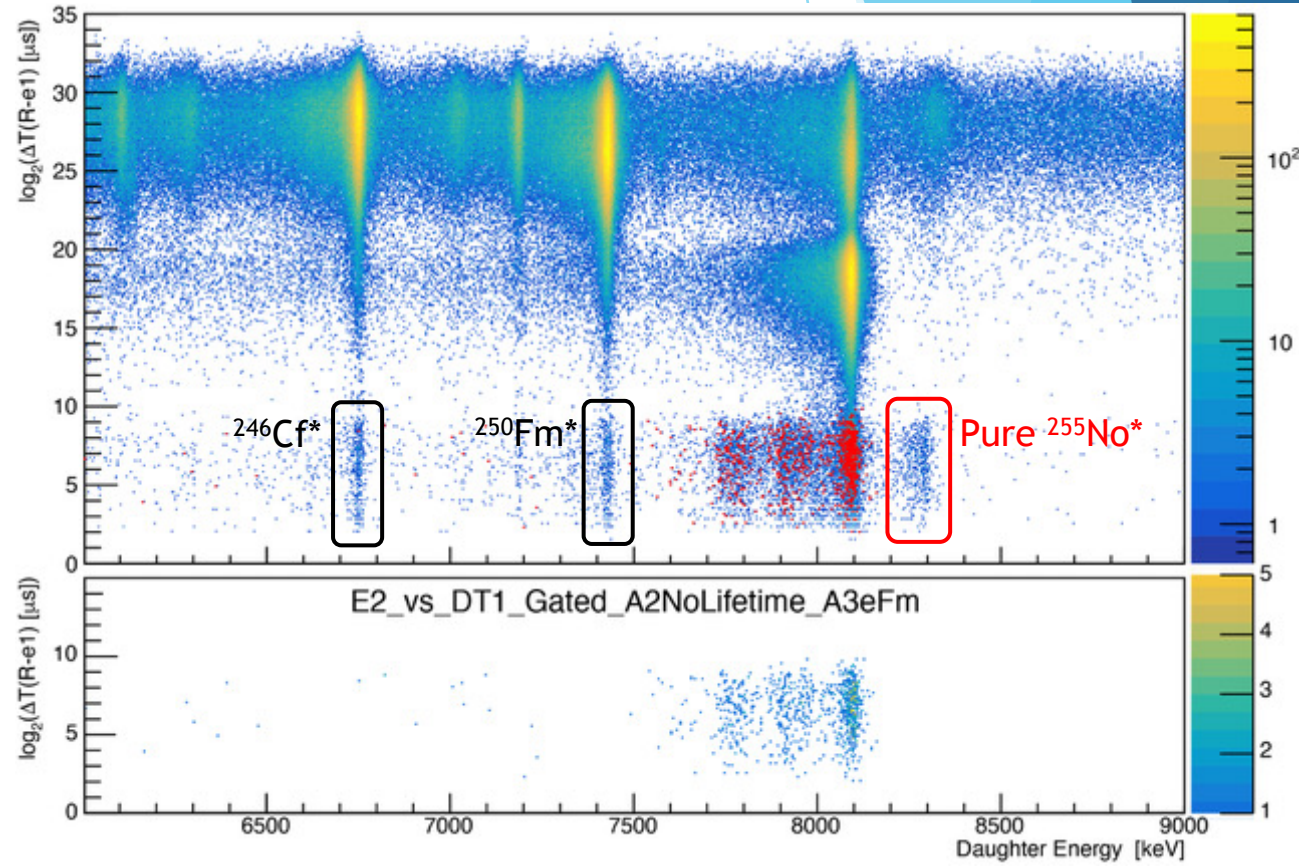
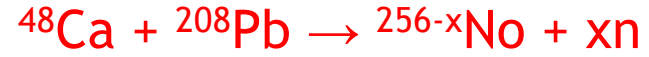
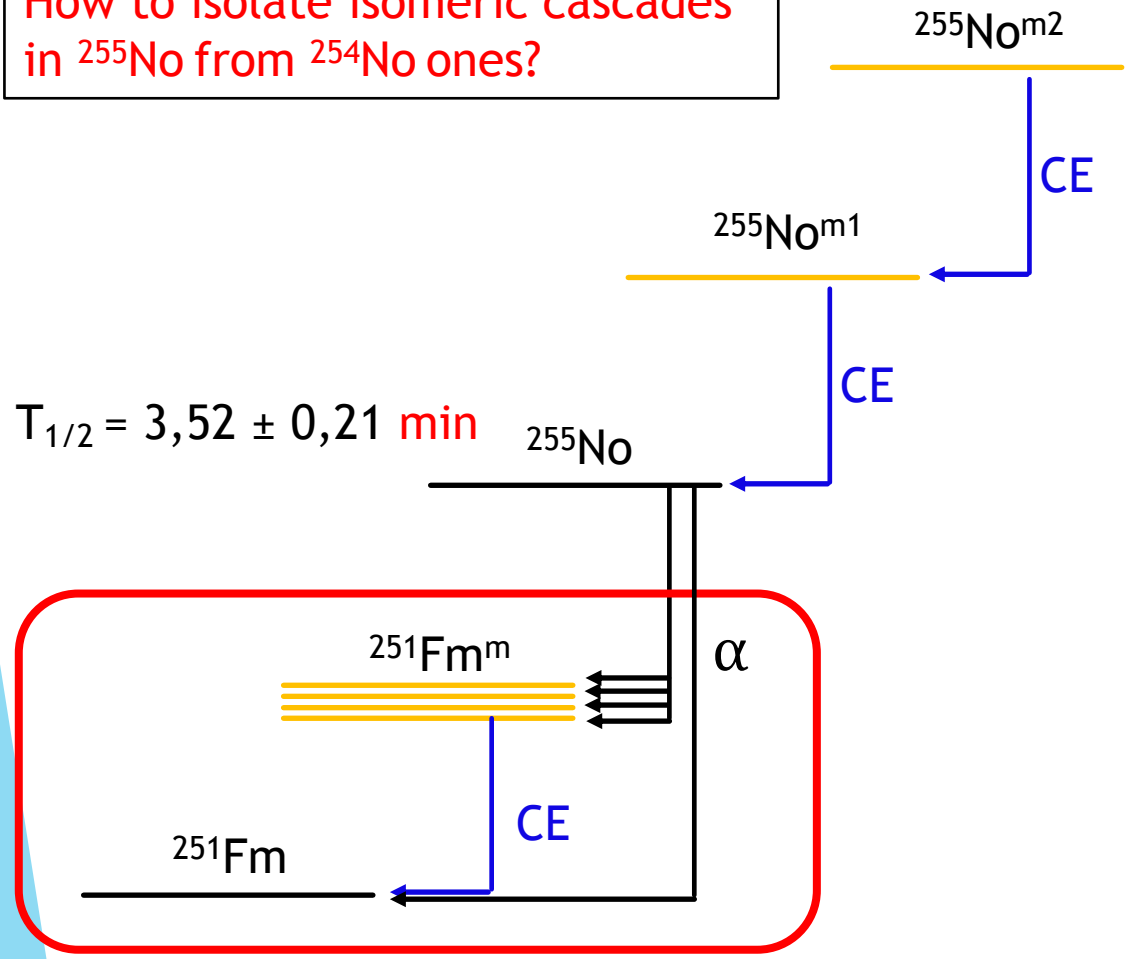
How to isolate isomeric cascades in  $^{255}\text{No}$  from  $^{254}\text{No}$  ones?



Well known  $^{251}\text{Fm}$  → Identification of the decay chain

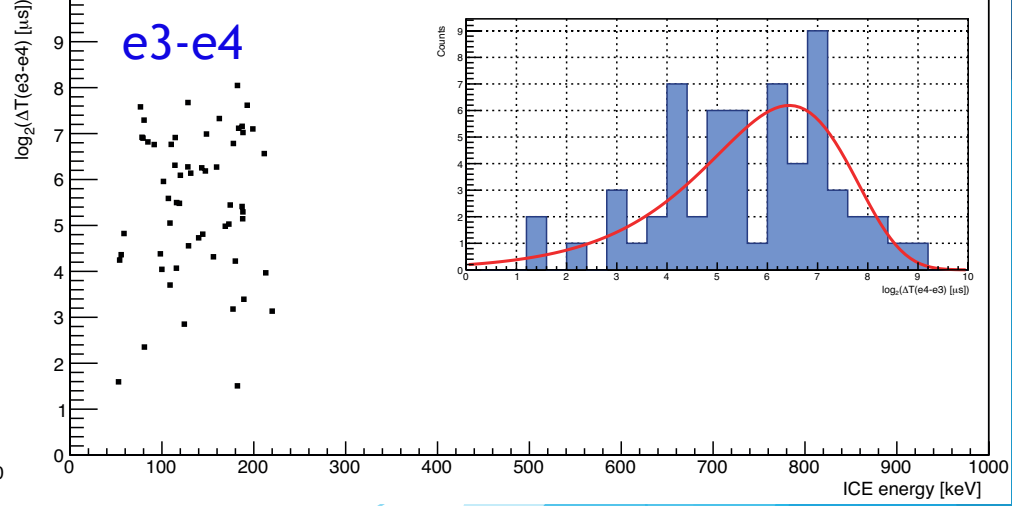
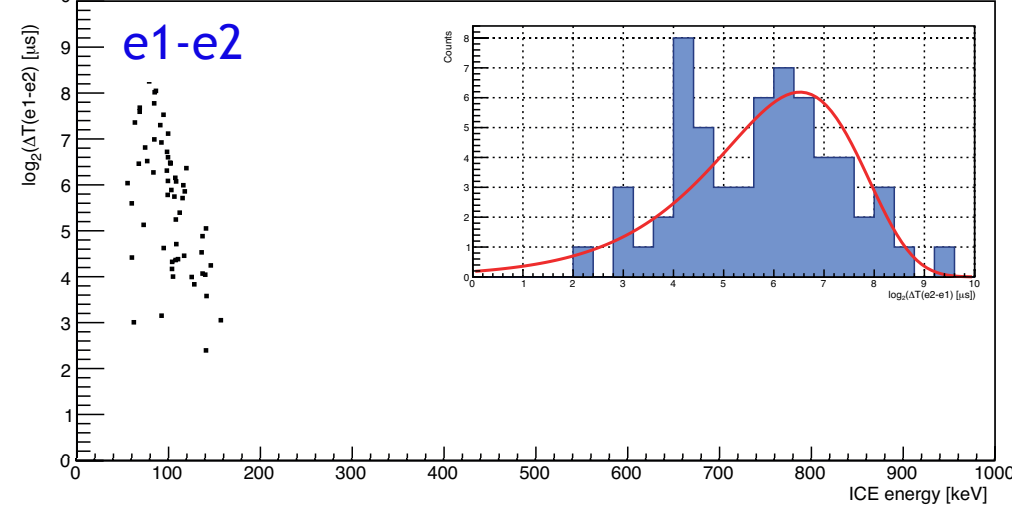
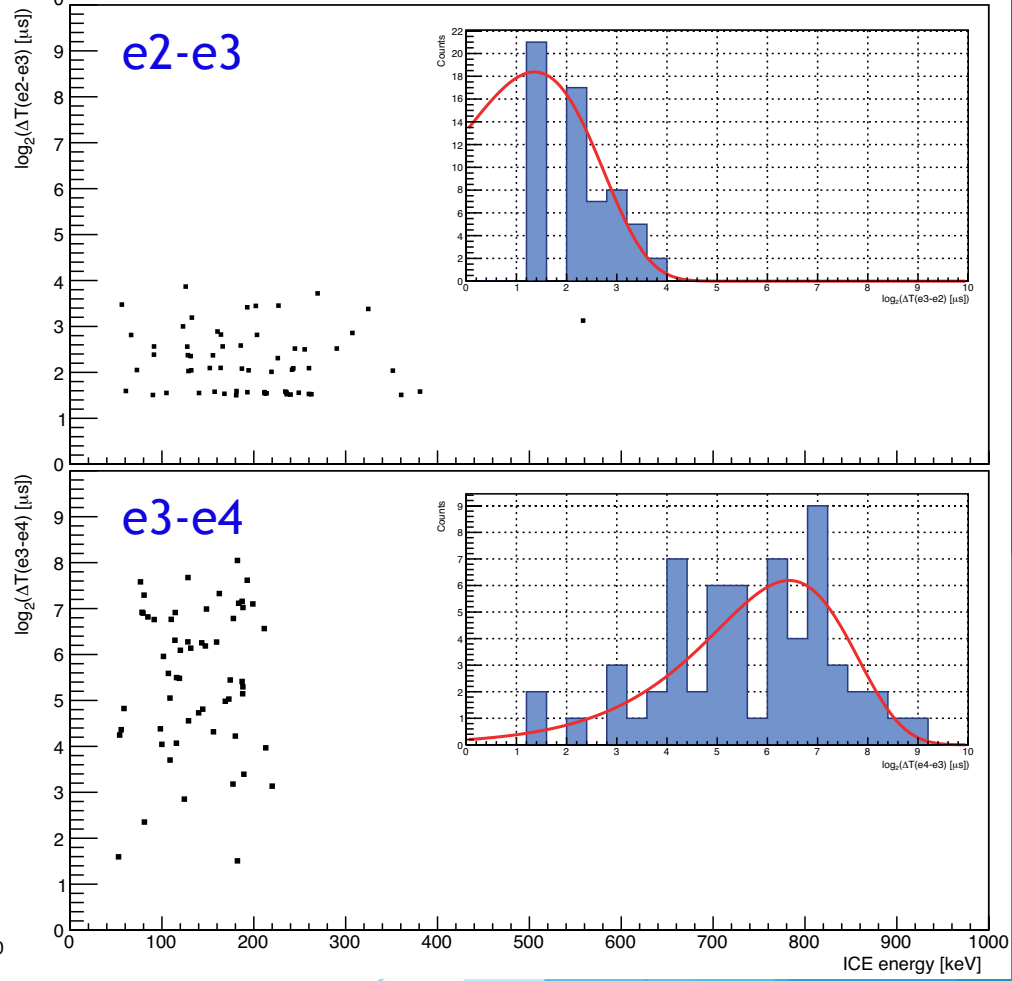
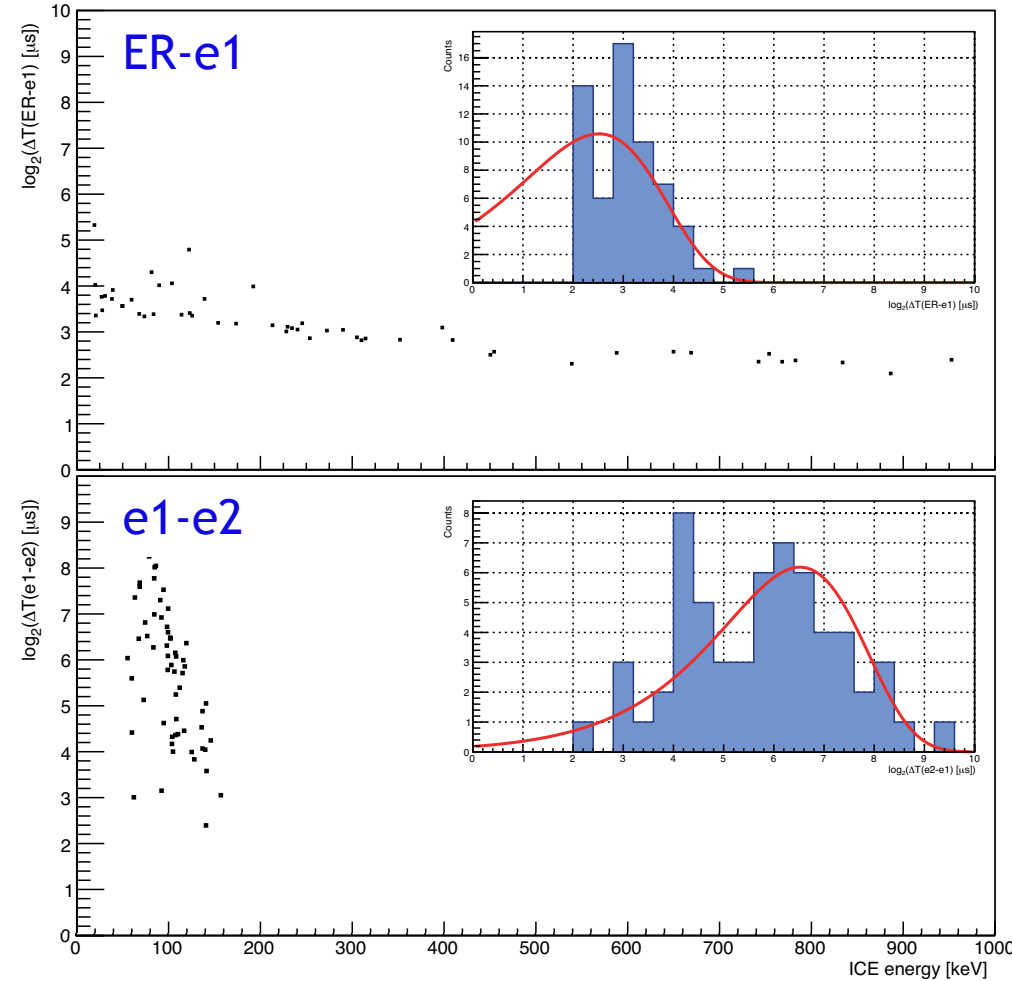
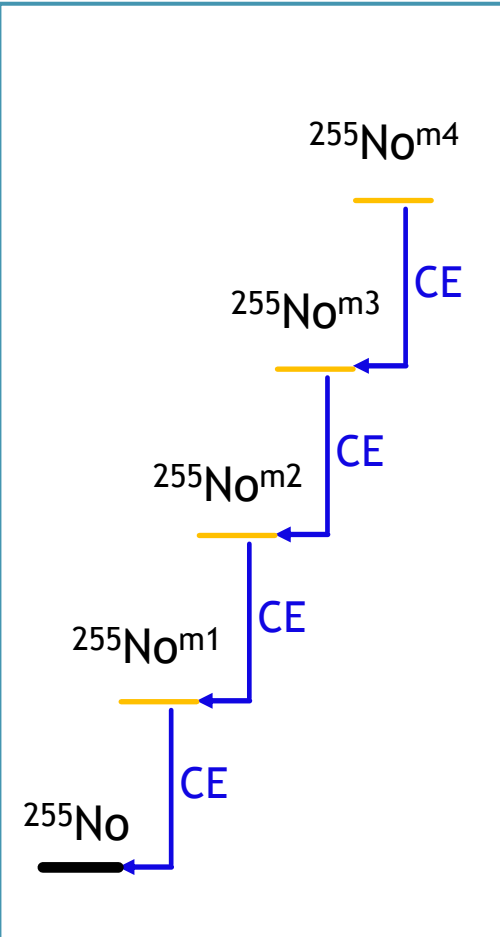
# Identification of isomeric states

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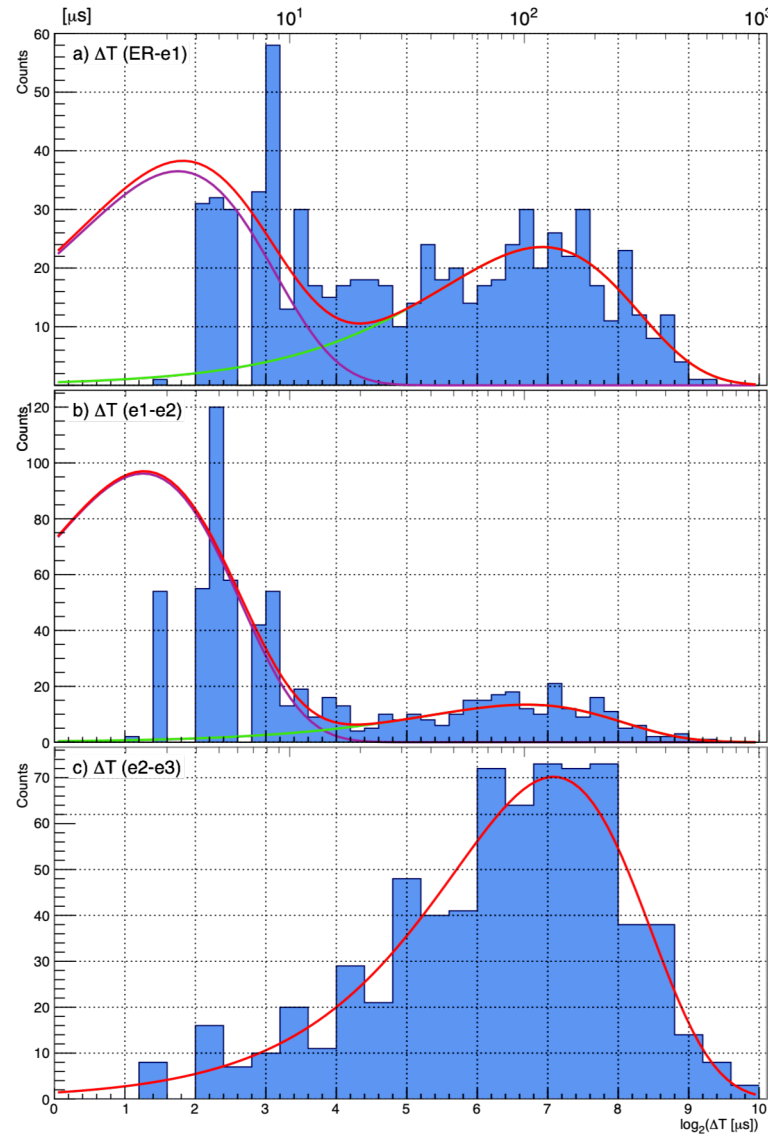
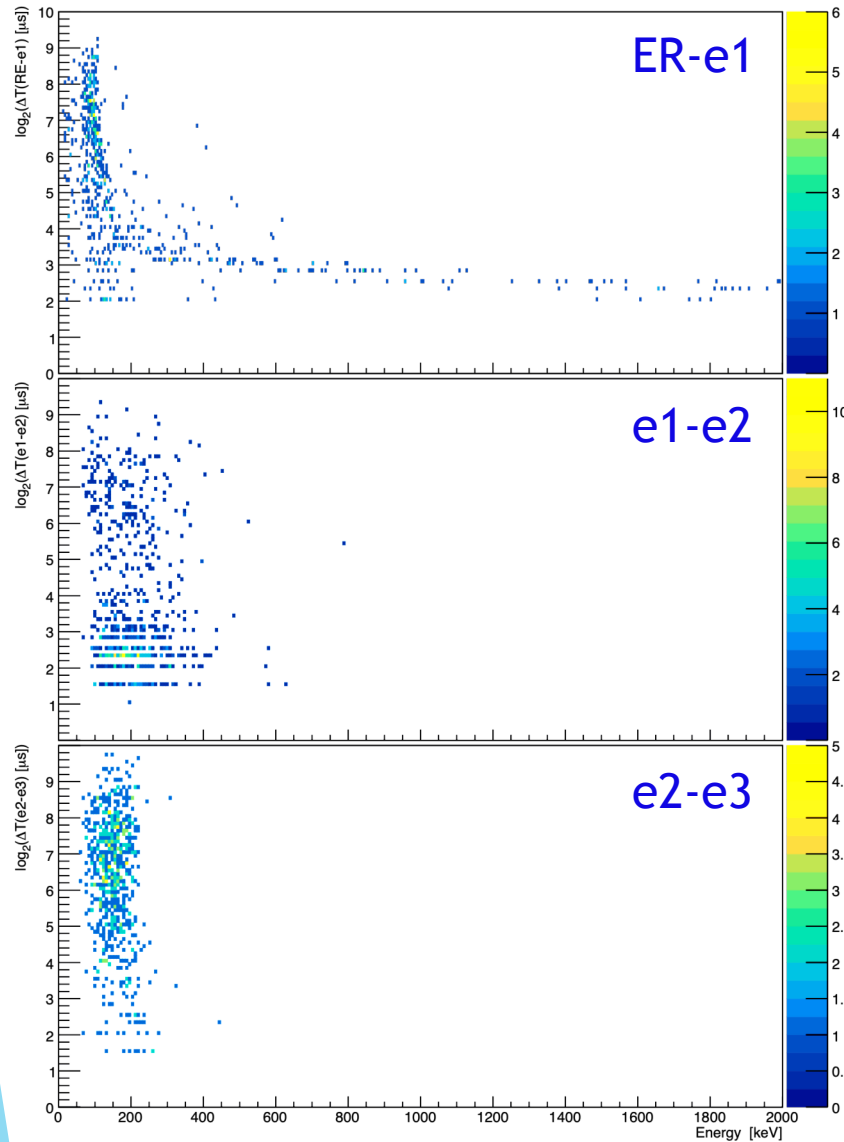
# $^{255}\text{No}$ : 4 Isomeric states



- 60 events
- Too scarce statistics in coincident gamma spectrum to conclude on their configuration



# $^{255}\text{No}$ : Cascades of 3 isomers



Measured properties :

$$T_{1/2}^{4th} = 5 \pm 1 \mu\text{s}$$

$E_{\text{DSSD}}$  : Pile-up default

$$E_{\text{tot}}^* > 2430 \text{ keV}$$

$$T_{1/2}^{3rd} = 92 \pm 13 \mu\text{s}$$

$E_{\text{DSSD}} \geq 130$

$$E_{\text{tot}}^* \geq 1430 \text{ keV}$$

$$T_{1/2}^{2nd} = 2 \pm 1 \mu\text{s}$$

$E_{\text{DSSD}} \geq 400$

$$E_{\text{tot}}^* \geq 1230 \text{ keV}$$

$$T_{1/2}^{1st} = 86 \pm 8 \mu\text{s}$$

$E_{\text{DSSD}} \geq 225 \text{ keV}$

$$E_{\text{tot}}^* \geq 225 \text{ keV}$$

# $^{255}\text{No}$ : Interpretation

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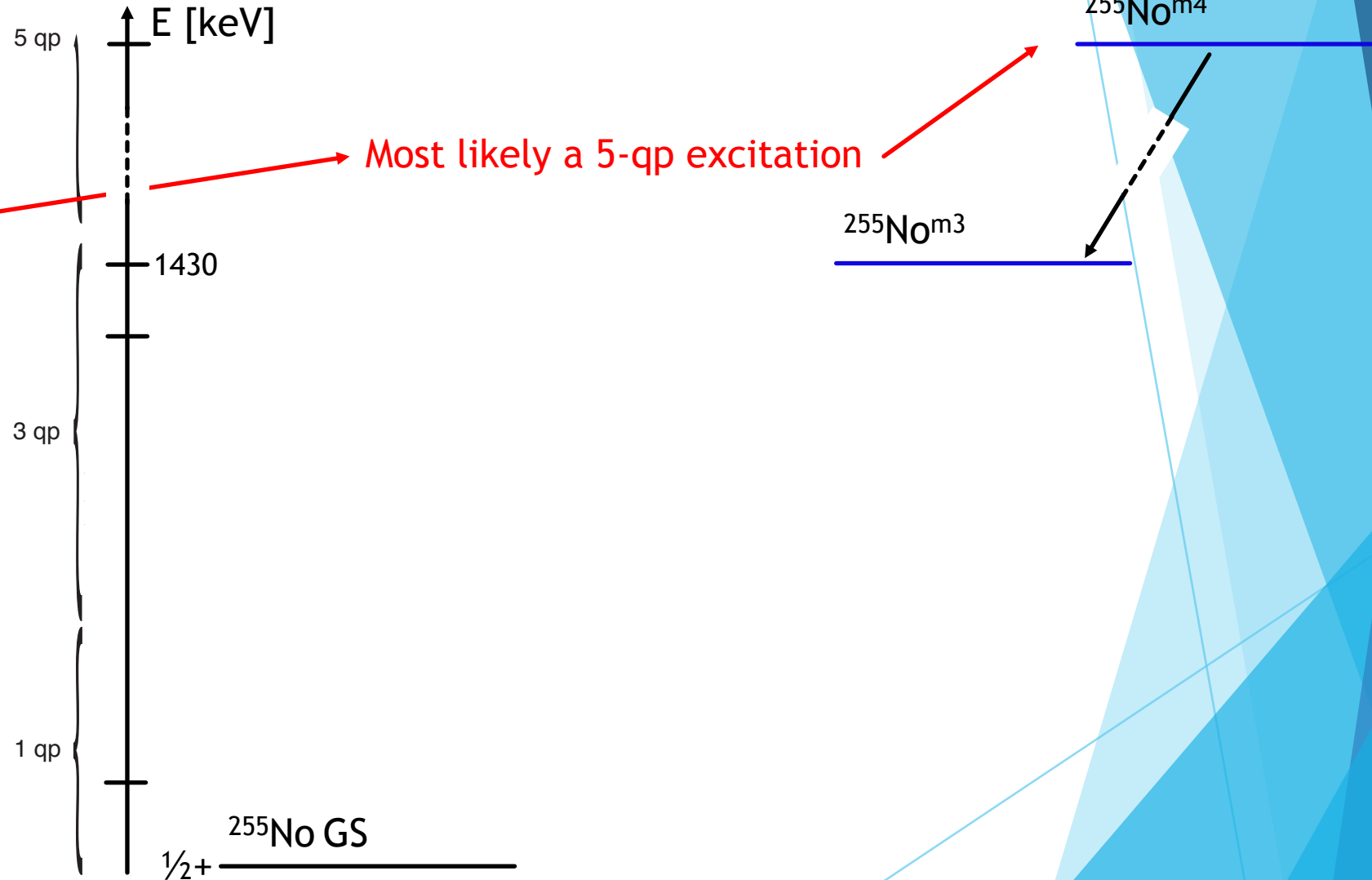
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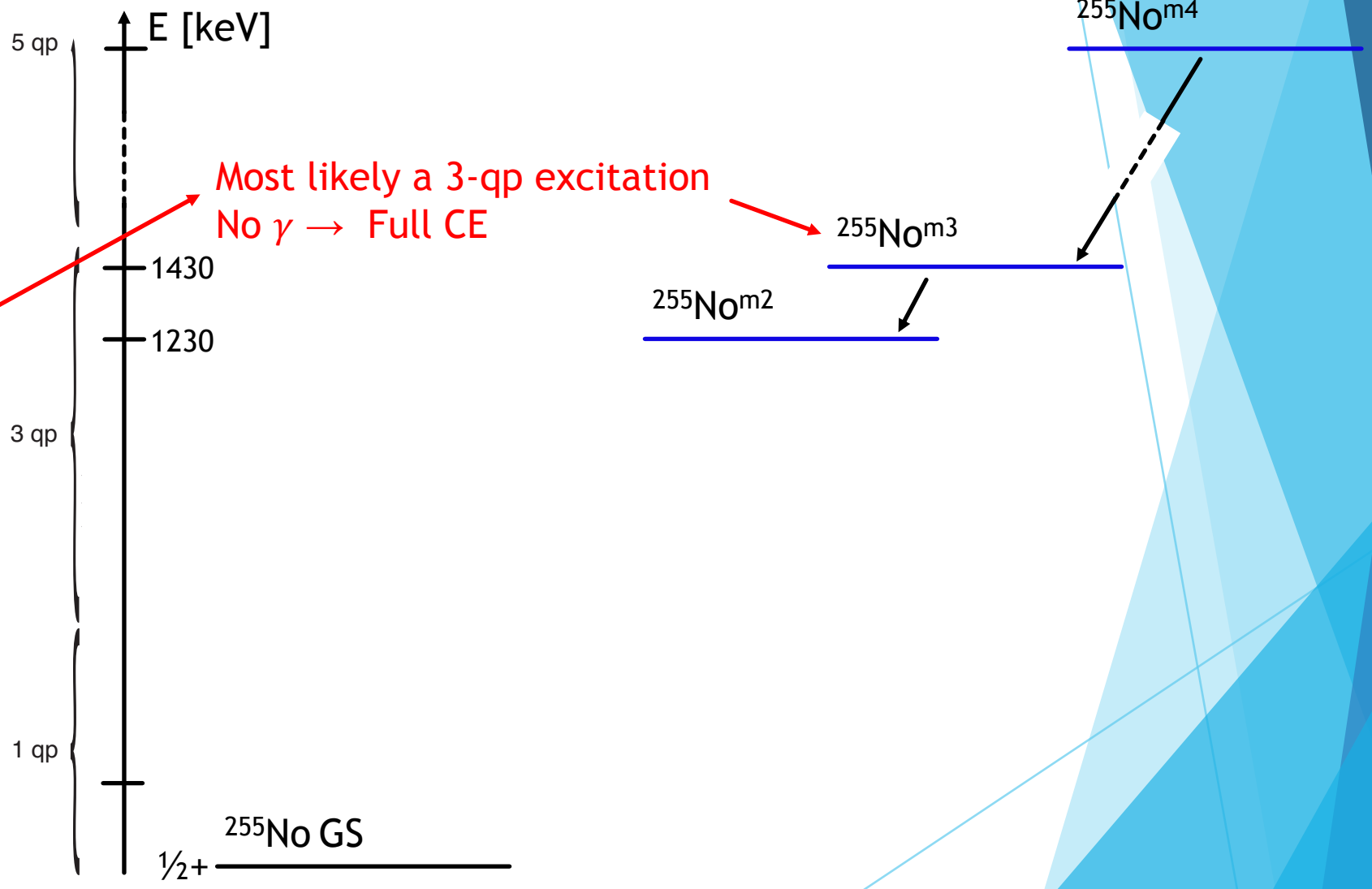
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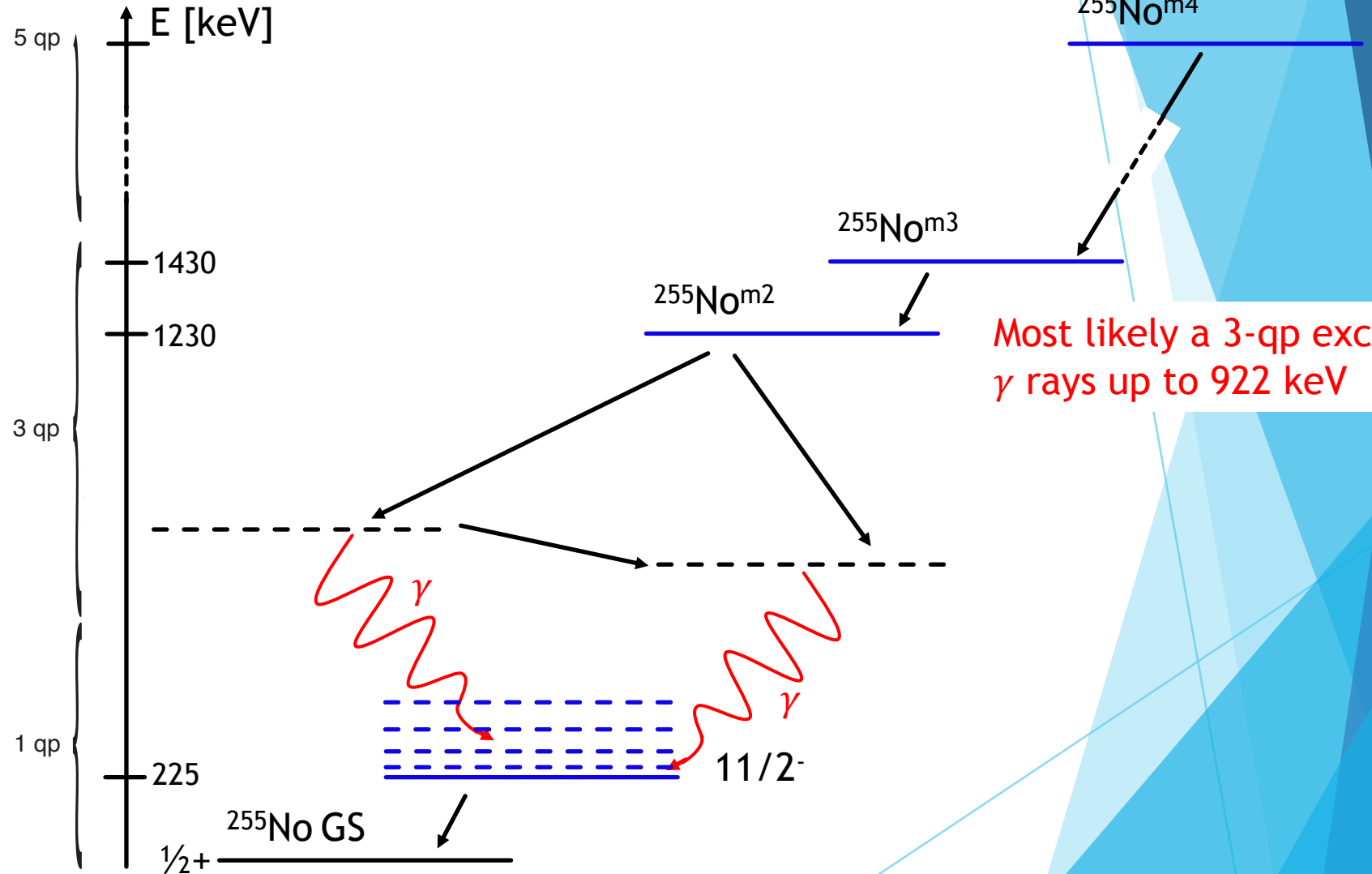
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Most likely a 3-qp excitation  $\gamma$  rays up to 922 keV

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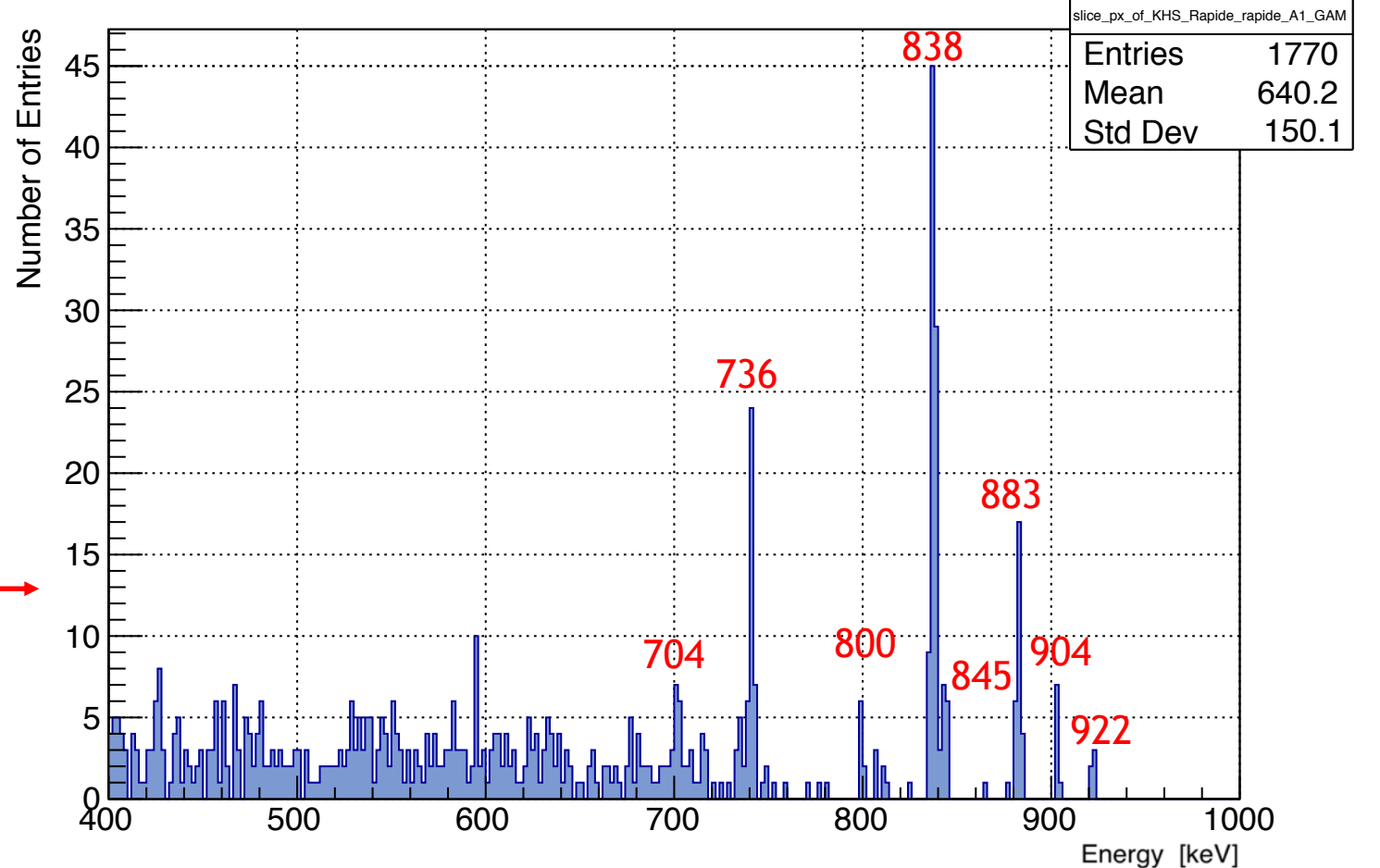
$$E_{tot}^* \geq 1230 \text{ keV}$$

$$T_{1/2}^{1st} = 86 \pm 8 \mu\text{s}$$

$E_{\text{DSSD}} \geq 225 \text{ keV}$

$$E_{tot}^* \geq 225 \text{ keV}$$

Coincident  $\gamma$  rays



# 255No : Interpretation

## Measured properties :

$T_{1/2}^{4th} = 5 \pm 1 \mu s$

$E_{DSSD}$  : Pile-up default

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$T_{1/2}^{3rd} = 92 \pm 13 \mu s$

$E_{DSSD} \geq 130$

$E_{tot}^* \geq 1430 \text{ keV}$

$T_{1/2}^{2nd} = 2 \pm 1 \mu s$

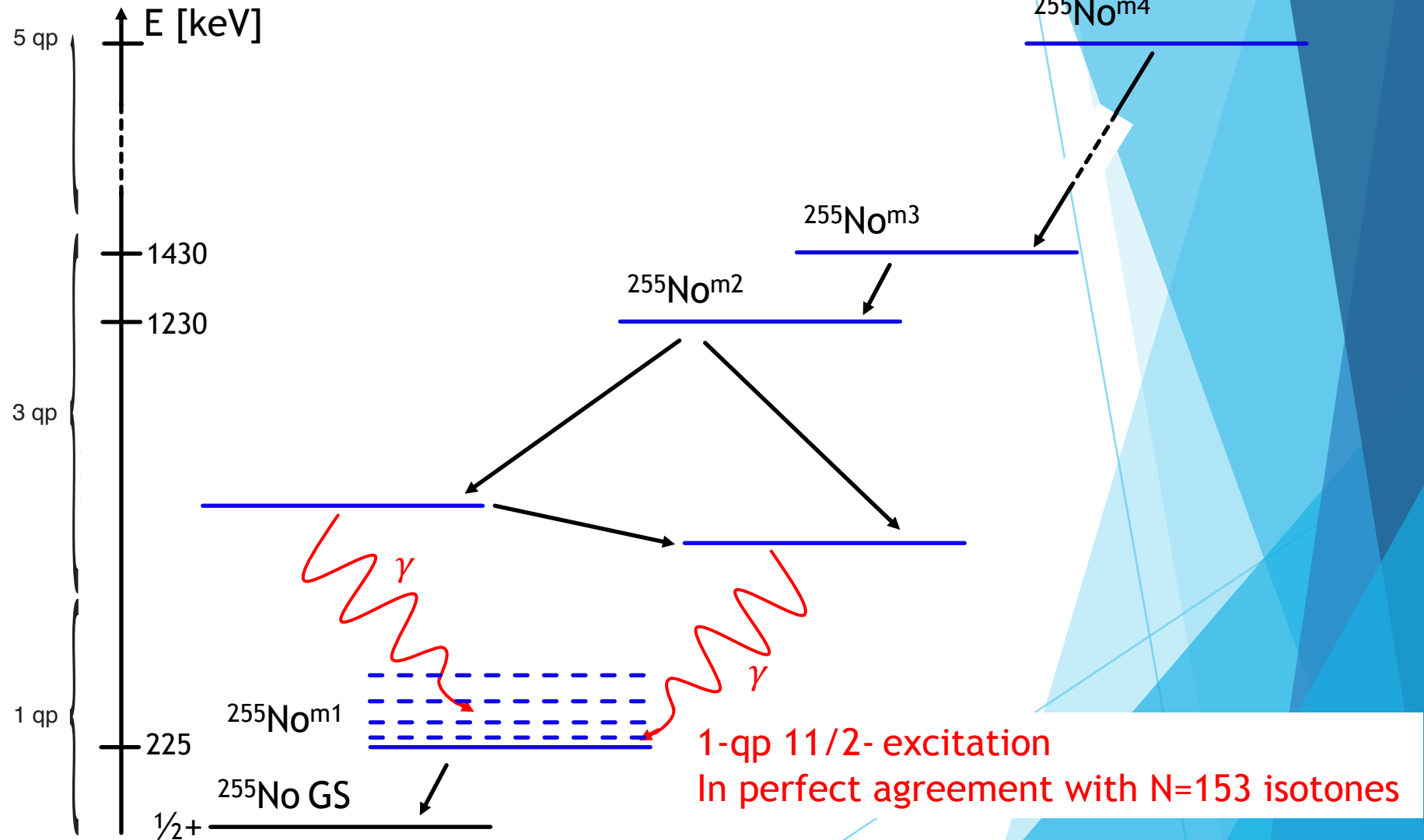
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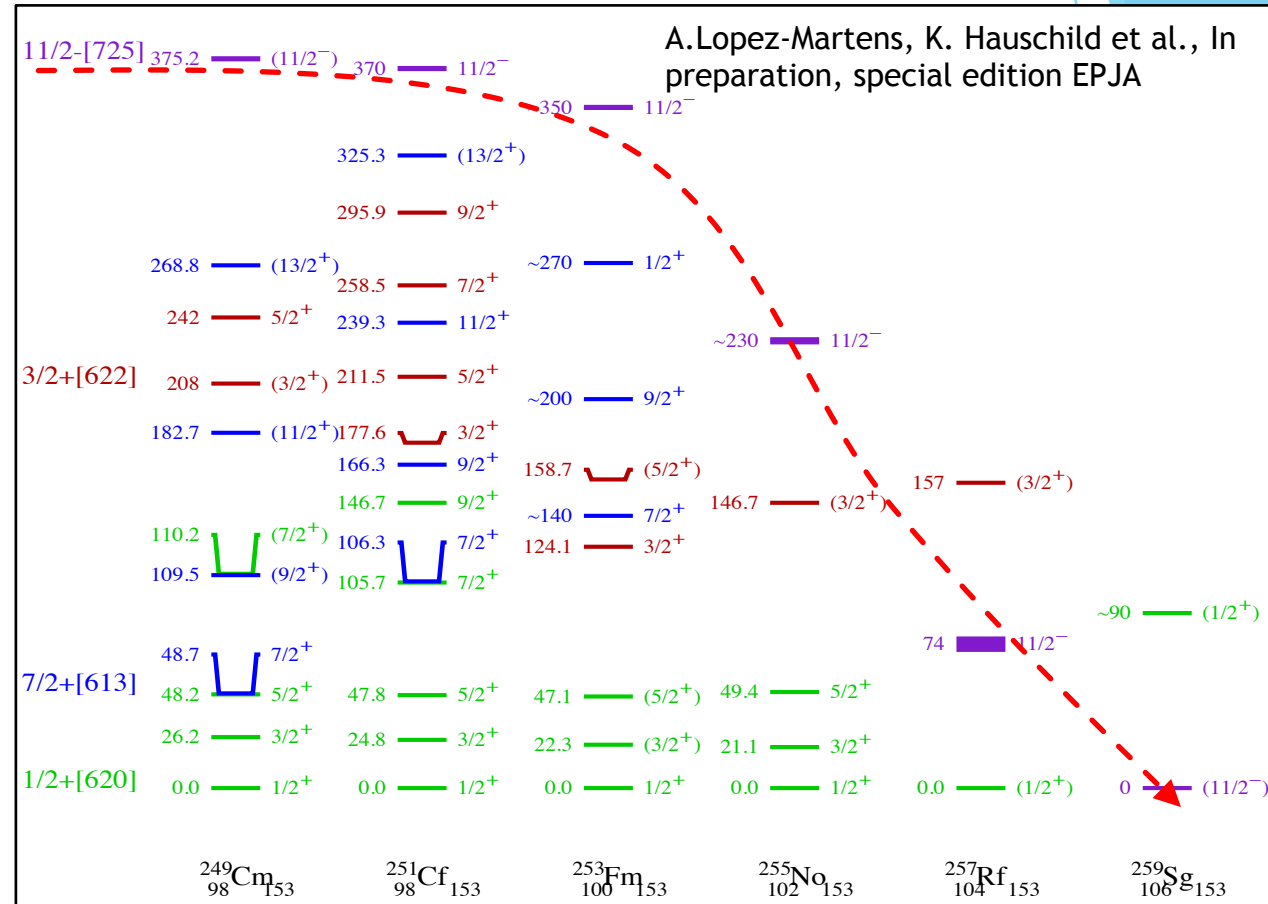
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$$T_{1/2}^{1st} = 86 \pm 8 \mu s$$

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$$E_{tot}^* \geq 225 \text{ keV}$$



1-qp 11/2- excitation  
In perfect agreement with N=153 isotones

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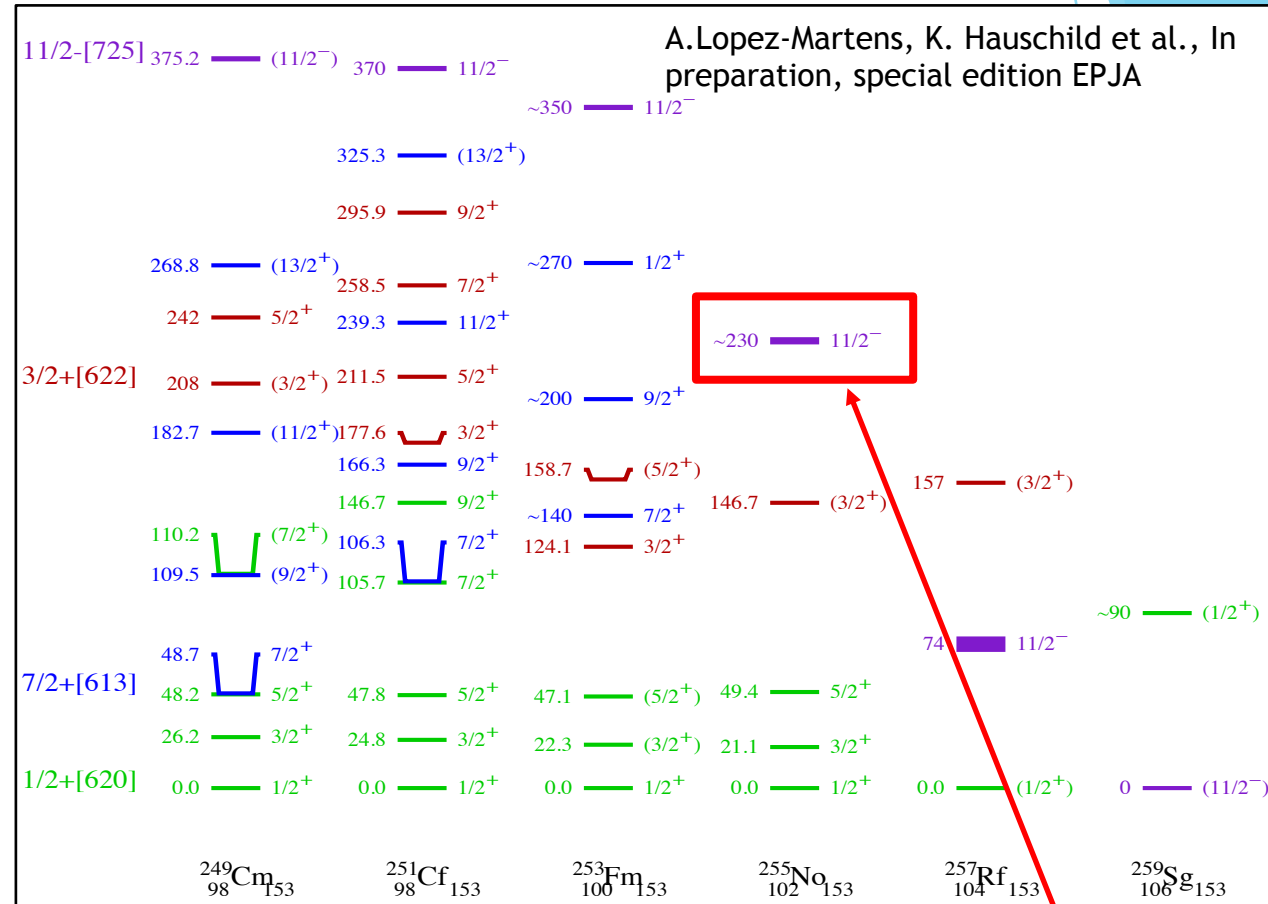
$E_{\text{DSSD}} \geq 400$

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$$T_{1/2}^{1st} = 86 \pm 8 \mu\text{s}$$

$E_{\text{DSSD}} \geq 225 \text{ keV}$

$$E_{\text{tot}}^* \geq 225 \text{ keV}$$



1-qp  $11/2^-$  excitation  
In perfect agreement with N=153 isotones



# $^{255}\text{No}$ : Interpretation

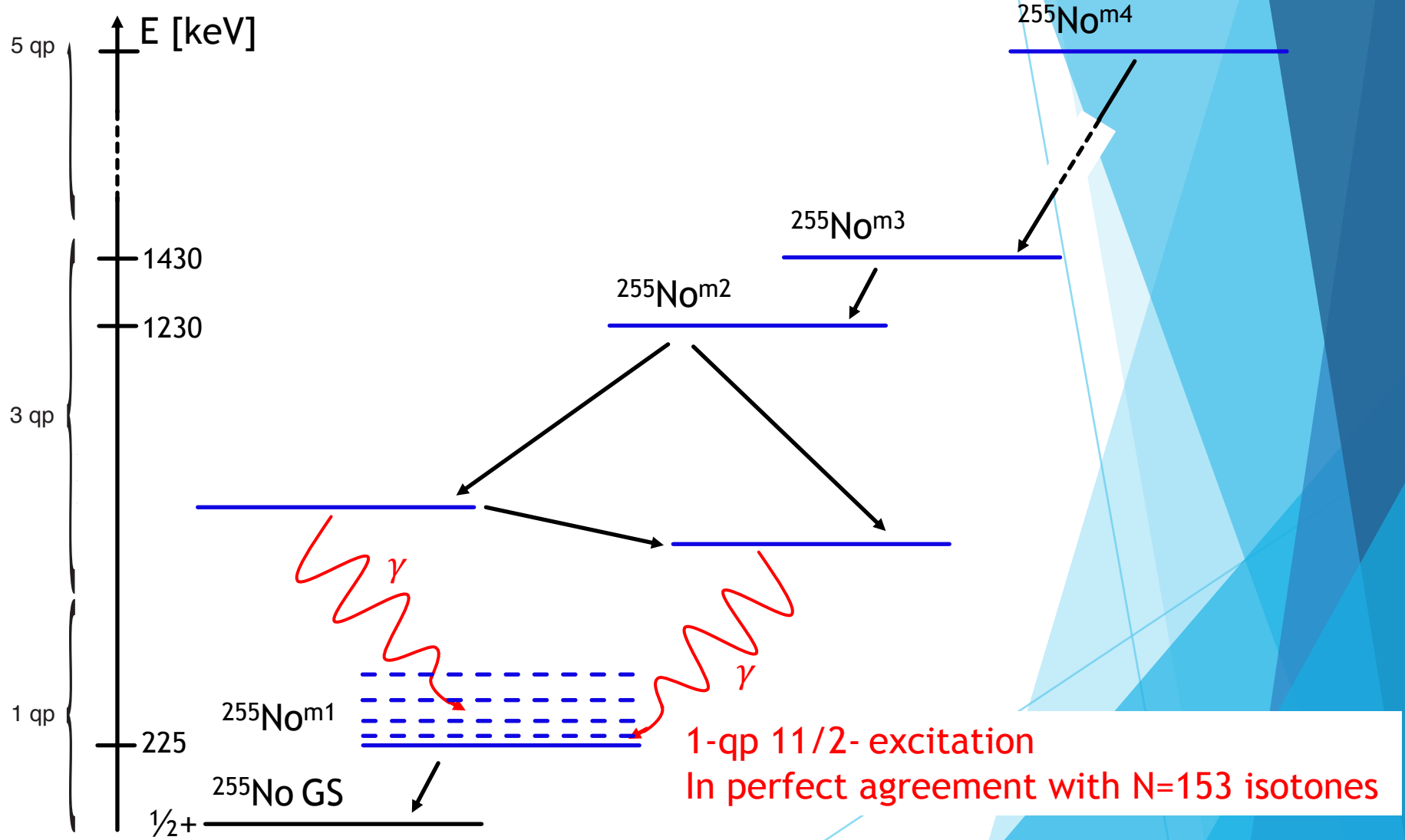
Measured properties :

$T_{1/2}^{4th} = 5 \pm 1 \mu\text{s}$   
 $E_{\text{DSSD}}$  : Pile-up default  
 $E_{tot}^* > 2430 \text{ keV}$

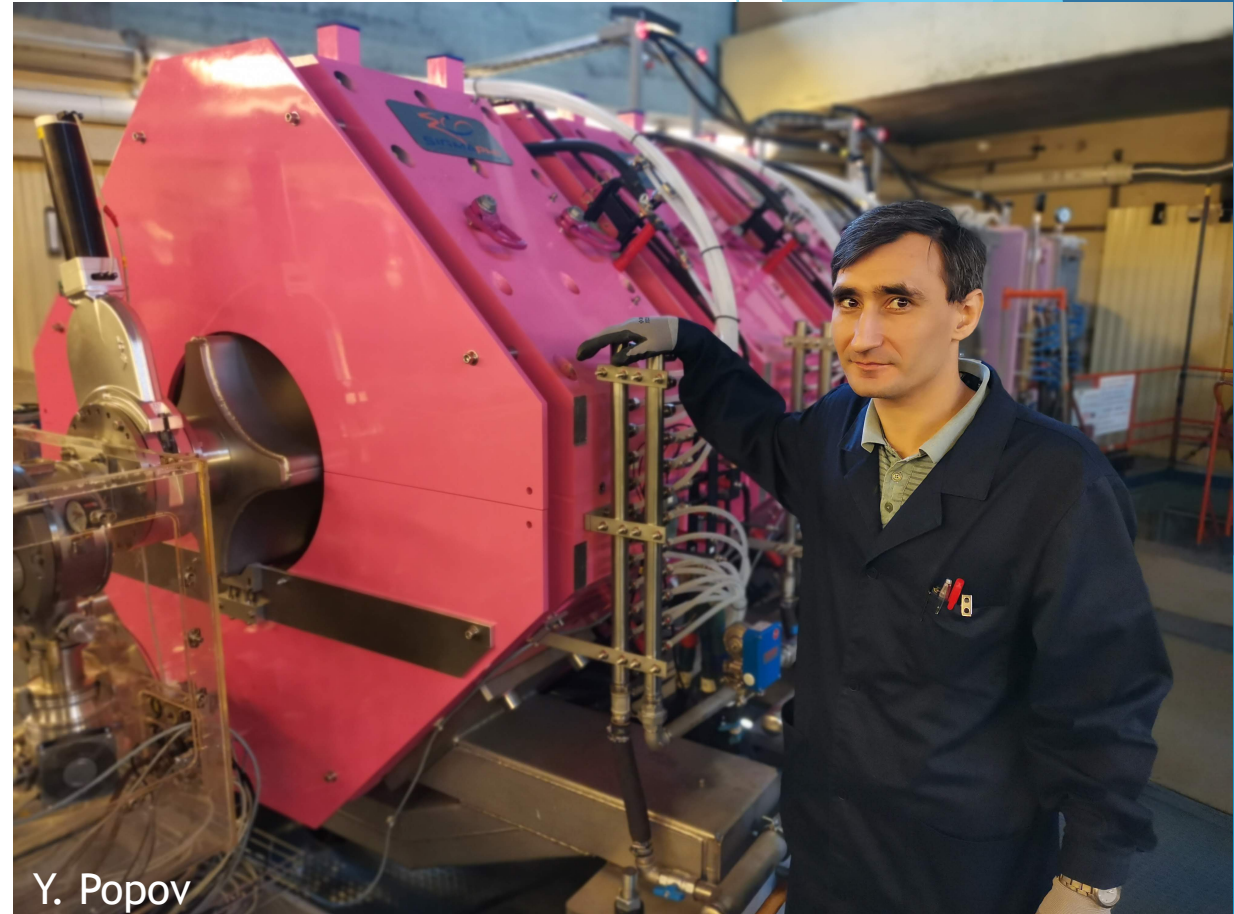
$T_{1/2}^{3rd} = 92 \pm 13 \mu\text{s}$   
 $E_{\text{DSSD}} \geq 130$   
 $E_{tot}^* \geq 1430 \text{ keV}$

$T_{1/2}^{2nd} = 2 \pm 1 \mu\text{s}$   
 $E_{\text{DSSD}} \geq 400$   
 $E_{tot}^* \geq 1230 \text{ keV}$

$T_{1/2}^{1st} = 86 \pm 8 \mu\text{s}$   
 $E_{\text{DSSD}} \geq 225 \text{ keV}$   
 $E_{tot}^* \geq 225 \text{ keV}$

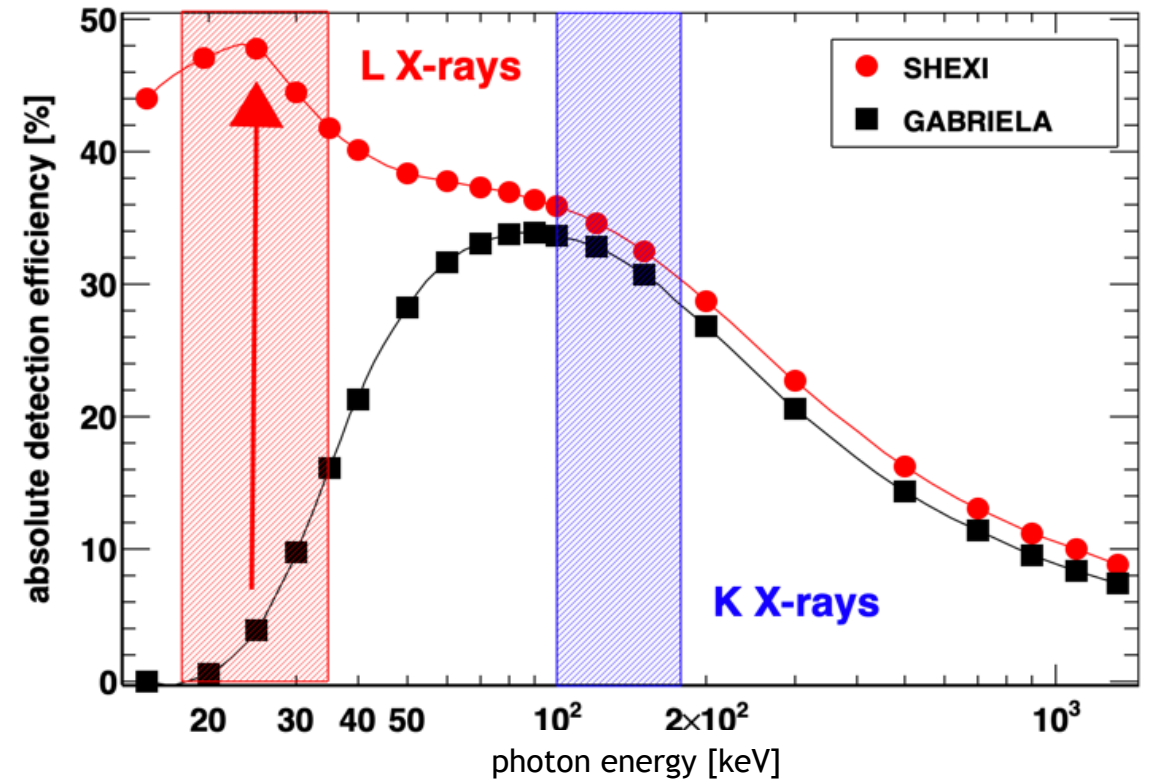


- First spectroscopic studies of  $^{255}\text{No}$  and  $^{256}\text{No}$
- 4 isomeric states identified in  $^{255}\text{No}$
- $^{22}\text{Ne} + ^{238}\text{U} \rightarrow ^{256}\text{No} + 4n$  will be repeated with :
  - Digital electronic
  - Lower conversion electrons thresholds (<100 keV)
  - Higher intensities
  - Upgraded SHELS
- Upgrade of SHELS
  - Entrance quadrupole-triplet upgraded
  - Increased transmission especially for the very asymmetric reactions
- SHEXI project (international ANR)  
Super Heavy Elements X-rays Identification
  - Increased X-rays / CE detection efficiency



Y. Popov

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Collaborators :

- **IN2P3** : B. J. P. Gall, A. Lopez-Martens, O. Dorvaux, K. Hauschild, M. Forge, R. Chakma, Z. Asfari
- **GANIL** : J. Piot
- **FLNR** : A. V. Yeremin, M. L. Chelnokov, V. I. Chepigin, A. V. Isaev, O. N. Malyshev, A. G. Popeko, Y. A. Popov, A. A. Kuznetsova, A. I. Svirikhin, E. A. Sokol, M. S. Tezekbayeva, R. Mukhin
- **Chinese Academy of Science** : B. Ding, Z. Liu, F. Zhang

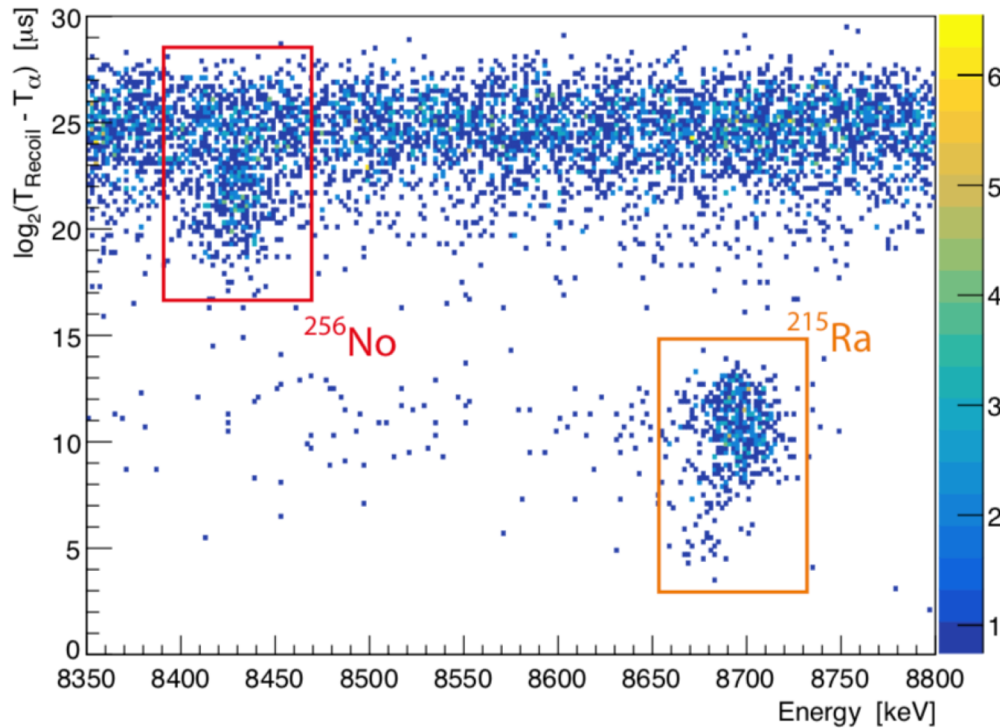


Thank you

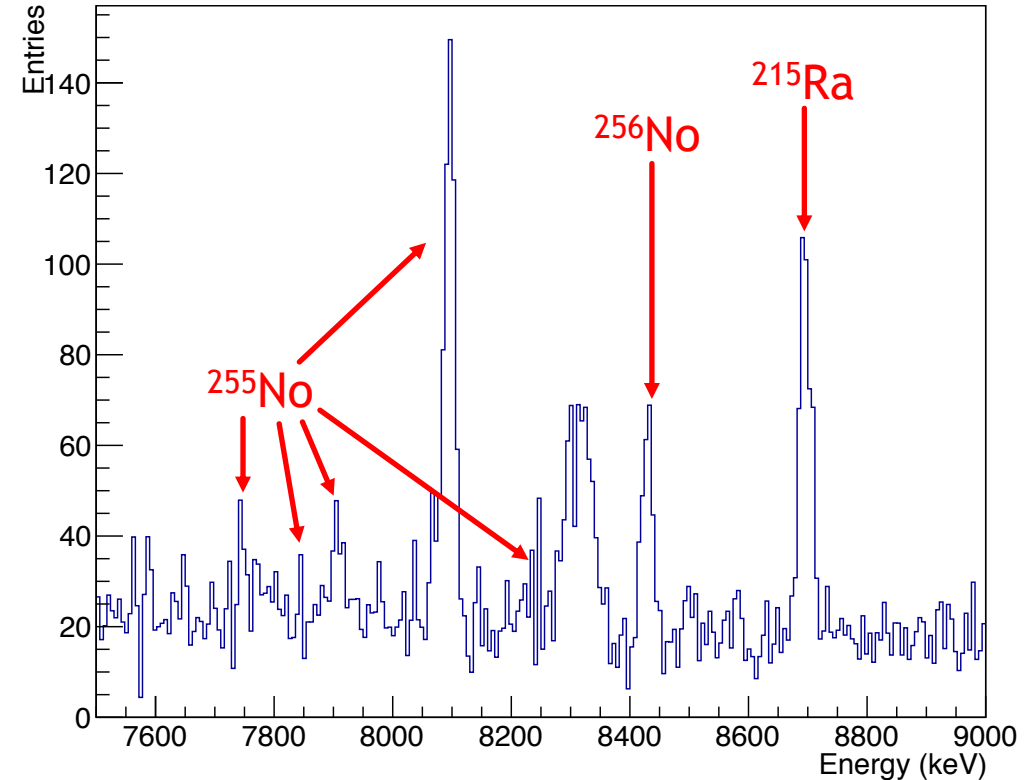
# GS Properties : Decay Energy



- $^{255}\text{No}$  :  $7748 \pm 2$  keV  
 $7843 \pm 4$  keV  
 $7909 \pm 2$  keV  
 $8101 \pm 1$  keV  
 $8232 \pm 8$  keV
- $^{256}\text{No}$  E =  $8444 \pm 10$  keV.  
 $[9]$  E =  $8447 \pm 3$  keV.  
 → Corrected by the method developed by W. J. Huang and G. Audi



Alpha Energy Spectrum

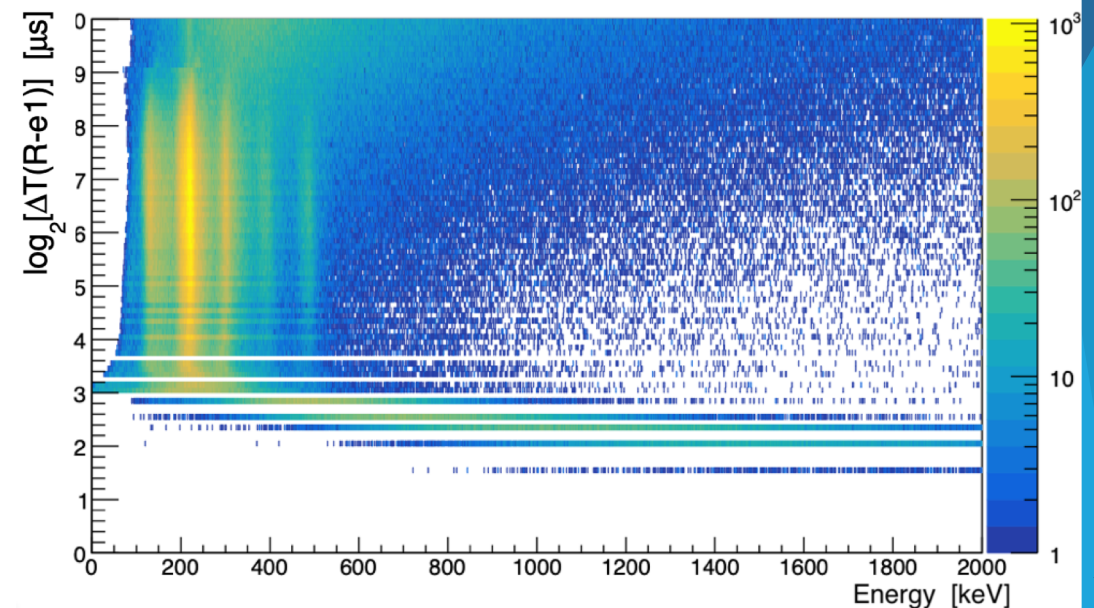
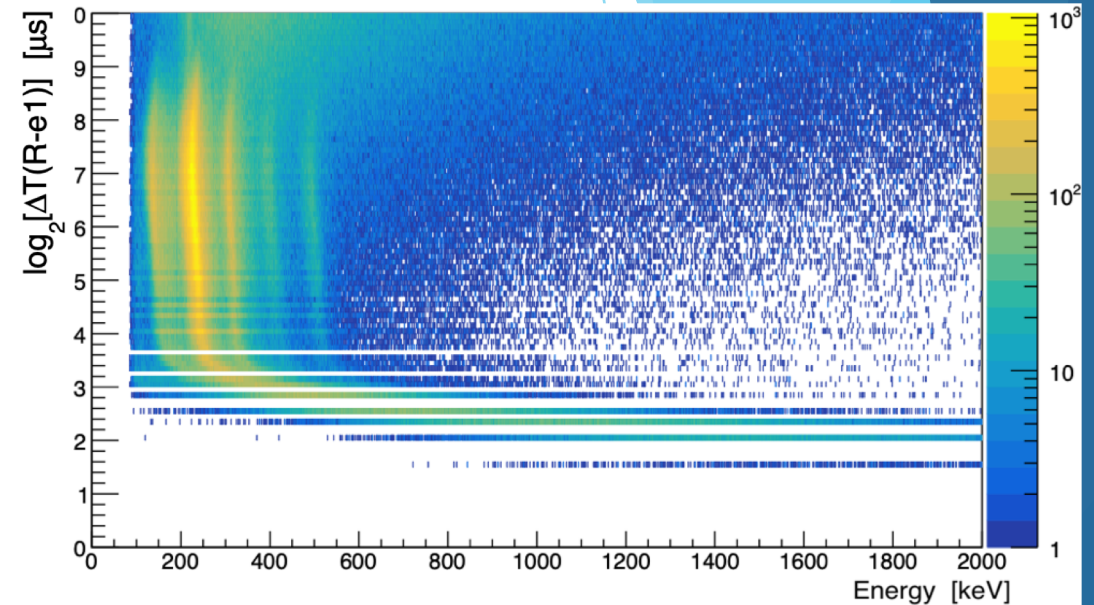


[9] M. Asai et al., JAEA-Review 2016-025 (2016) pp. 9-10.

# Calibration

- Clock of the acquisition system  $1\mu\text{s}$
- Charge collection time up to  $7\text{-}8\mu\text{s}$   
→ Pileup effects for very fast decays
- The electron signal **may be piled on the tail of the implantation** signal leading to an apparent higher energy.
- An **energy correction process** could be applied in a time range between  $\log_2(\Delta T [\mu\text{s}]) = 9$  and  $3$
- Impossible to correct this effect below  $2^3 \mu\text{s}$

	$< 8 \mu\text{s}$	$\geq 8 \mu\text{s}$
Energy		
Time		



# Results : $^{251}\text{Fm}$

- Through the decay of  $^{255}\text{No}$  we can see the X-rays of  $^{251}\text{Fm}$
- These results are in perfect agreement with the study from M. Asai (2011) [9] or K. Rezyunkina (2018) [12]

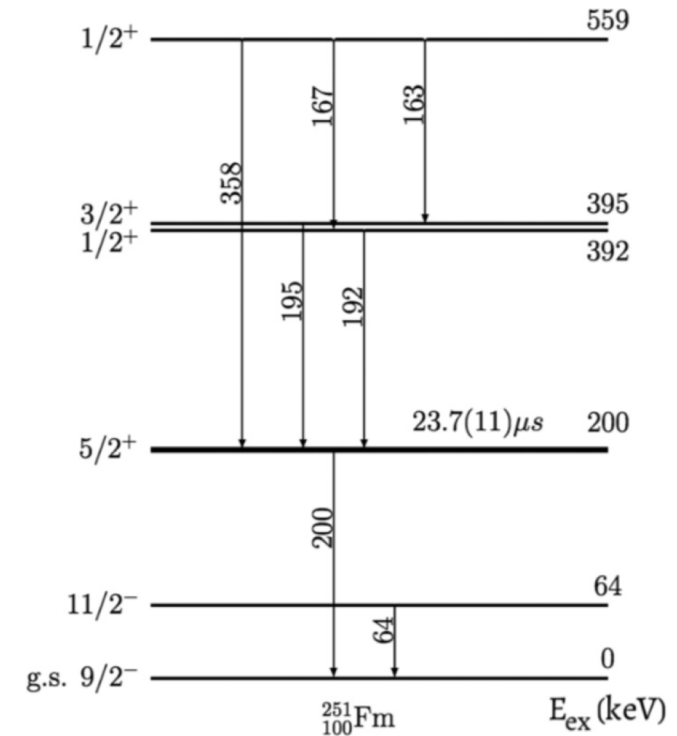
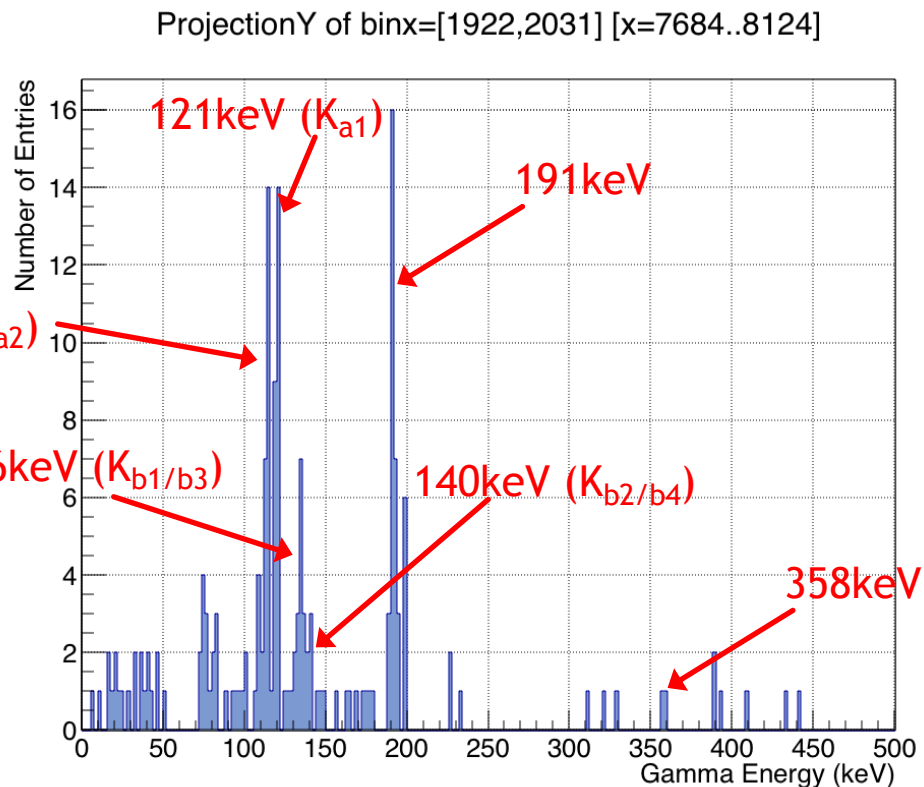


FIG. 2. A simplified level scheme depicting the observed transitions in  $^{251}\text{Fm}$  populated in  $\alpha$  decay of  $^{255}\text{No}$ .

- [9] M. Asai, K. Tsukada, H. Haba and al. - PHYSICAL REVIEW C 83, 014315 (2011)  
 [12] K. Rezyunkina, A. Lopez-Martens, K. Hauschild and al. - PRC 97, 054332 (2018)

## Experimental Conditions



- Hot Fusion
- $^{255}\text{No}$  and  $^{256}\text{No}$  produced
- April 2019
- 3 weeks of beamtime
- $^{238}\text{U}(\text{M})$  Target (99,99%)
- $^{22}\text{Ne}$  Beam
- Intensity between 0.6 and 1.0  $\mu\text{A}$
- Beam Energy 107-112 MeV



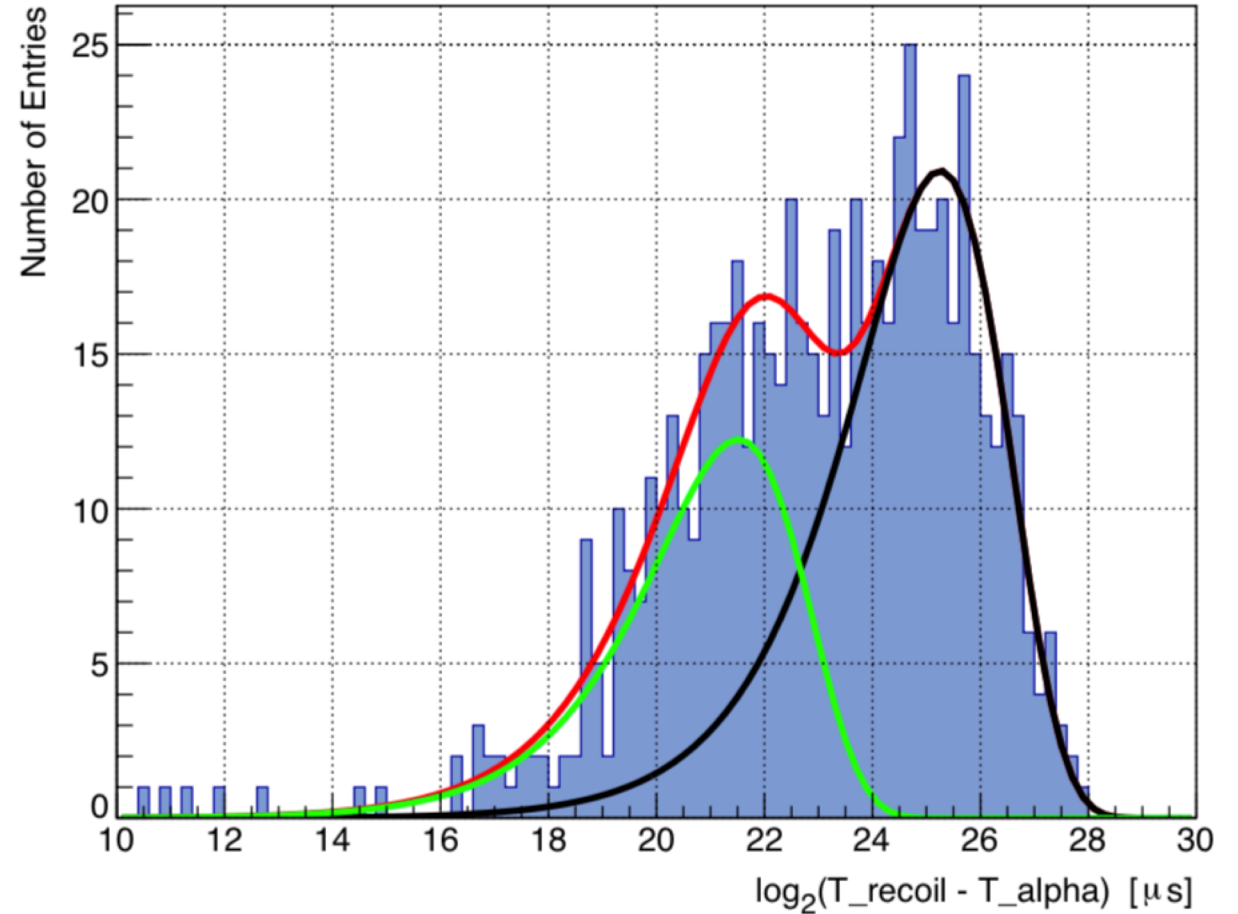
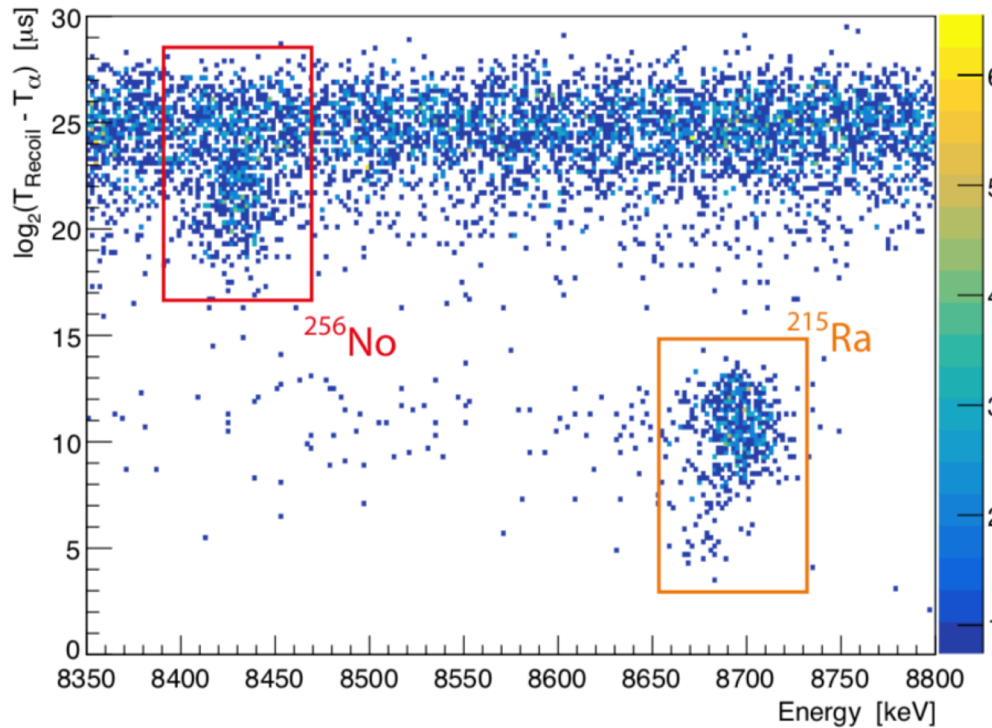
- Cold Fusion
- $^{254}\text{No}$  and  $^{255}\text{No}$  produced
- November/December 2019
- 4 weeks of beamtime
- $^{208}\text{Pb}$  Target (99,99% pure)
- $^{48}\text{Ca}$  Beam
- Intensity between 0.4 and 0.5  $\mu\text{A}$
- Beam Energy 225 MeV







- Half-life of  ${}^{256}\text{No}$ :  $T_{1/2} = \frac{\ln(2)}{\lambda} = 2,79 \pm 0,18 \text{ s}$   
 Literature half-life :  $2,8 \pm 0,3 \text{ s}$  [9]



[10] M. Asai and al. - Physical Review C 83, 014315 (2011)