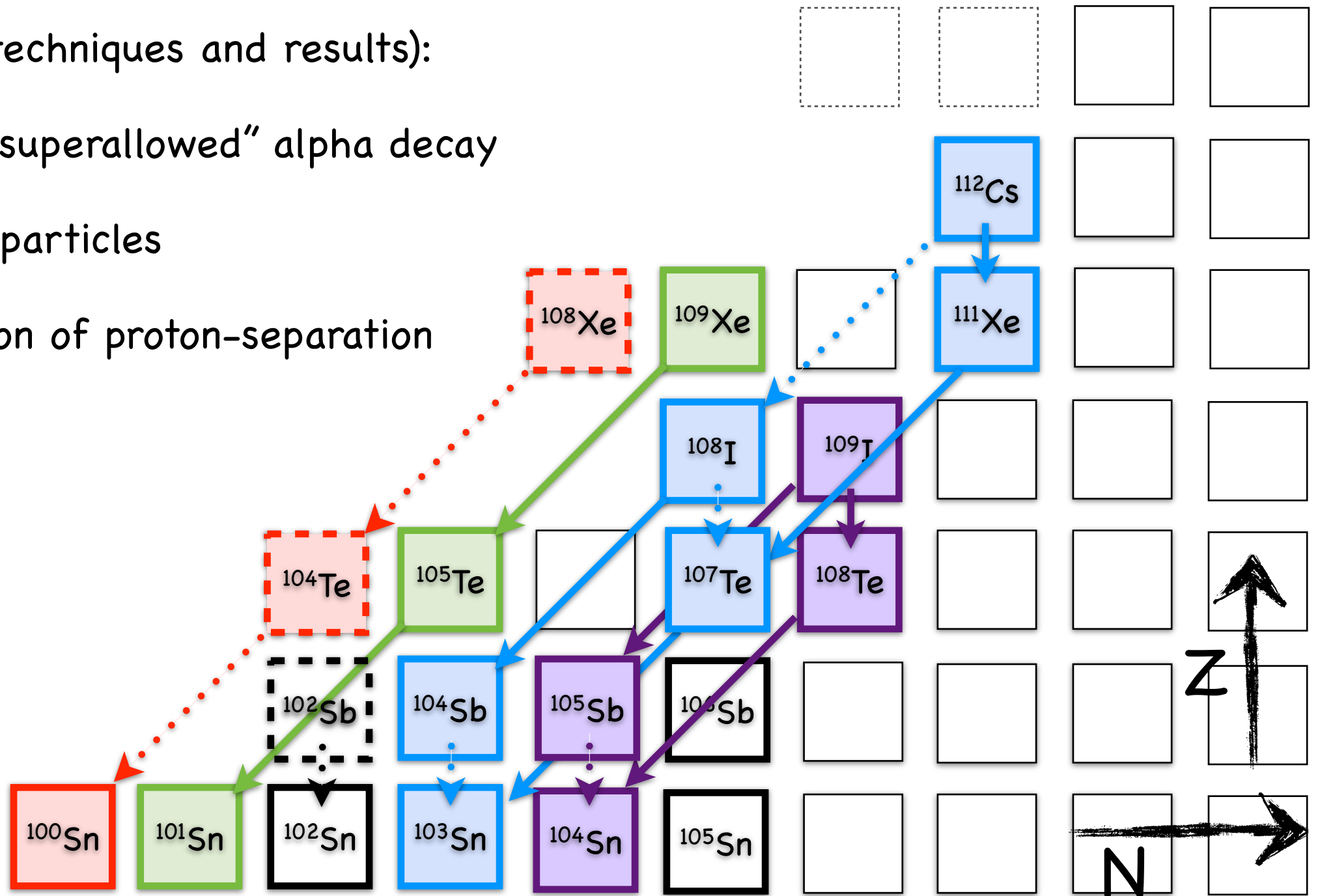


Alpha-decay in the neighborhood of ^{100}Sn , an overview on recent results

Chiara Mazzocchi
IFD-UW

overview

- Introduction
- Experiments (techniques and results):
 - search for "superallowed" alpha decay
 - single level particles
 - determination of proton-separation energies



- Summary and conclusions

alpha and proton decay of exotic nuclei

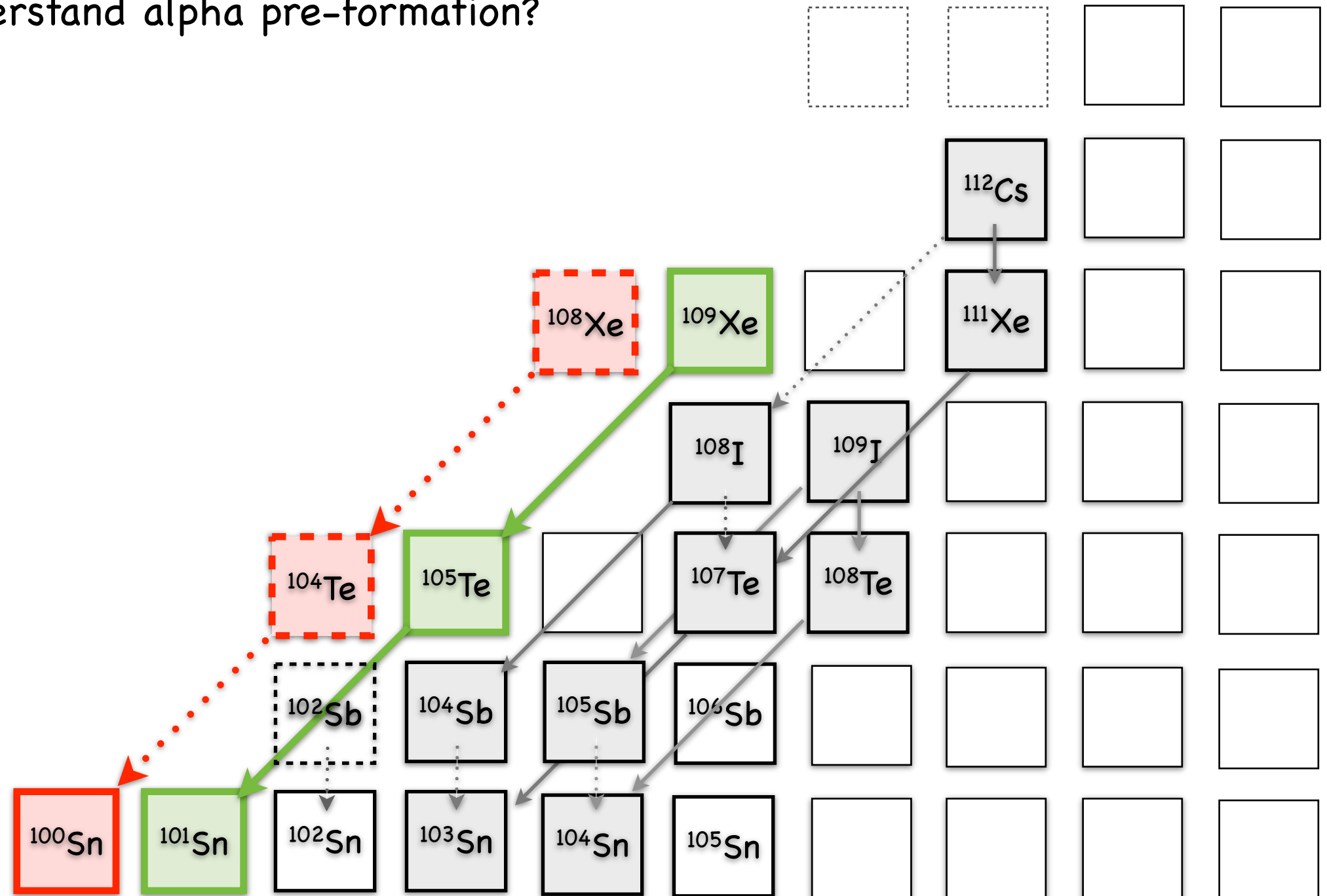
- Experimental determination of the limits of bound nuclei:
 - test of theoretical predictions for the nuclear binding energy at extreme N/Z values (unbound versus nucleon emission)
- Measurement of alpha or proton decay energy:
 - determine the mass excess of nuclei at or beyond the drip-lines
 - measure separation energies for short-lived nuclei with high precision (~ 10 keV) and from just a few ions
- Probe wave functions of nuclear levels involved and study of shell effects
- Experimental determination of mass excess: astrophysically relevant

alpha and proton decay island near ^{100}Sn

- Enhanced alpha decay ($N \sim Z$):

“Superaligned” alpha-decay [Mac Farlane and Siivola, PRL 14 (1965) 114]

-> do we understand alpha pre-formation?



alpha and proton decay island near ^{100}Sn

- Enhanced alpha decay ($N \sim Z$):



“Superallowed” alpha-decay [Mac Farlane and Siivola, PRL 14 (1965) 114]

-> do we understand alpha pre-formation?

$^{104}\text{Te} = ^{100}\text{Sn} + \alpha$
 α made of π and ν
 in the **same parity** orbitals




π $g_{7/2}$ 
 π $d_{5/2}$ 

 ν $d_{5/2}$
 ν $g_{7/2}$

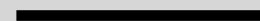

 
 $Z=50$ $N=50$
 ^{100}Sn

superallowed α -decay

$^{212}\text{Po} = ^{208}\text{Pb} + \alpha$
 α made of π and ν
 in **opposite parity** orbitals

π $i_{13/2}$ 
 π $f_{7/2}$ 
 π $h_{9/2}$ 

 ν $j_{15/2}$
 ν $i_{11/2}$
 ν $g_{9/2}$

 
 $Z=82$ $N=126$
 ^{208}Pb

present α -decay reference

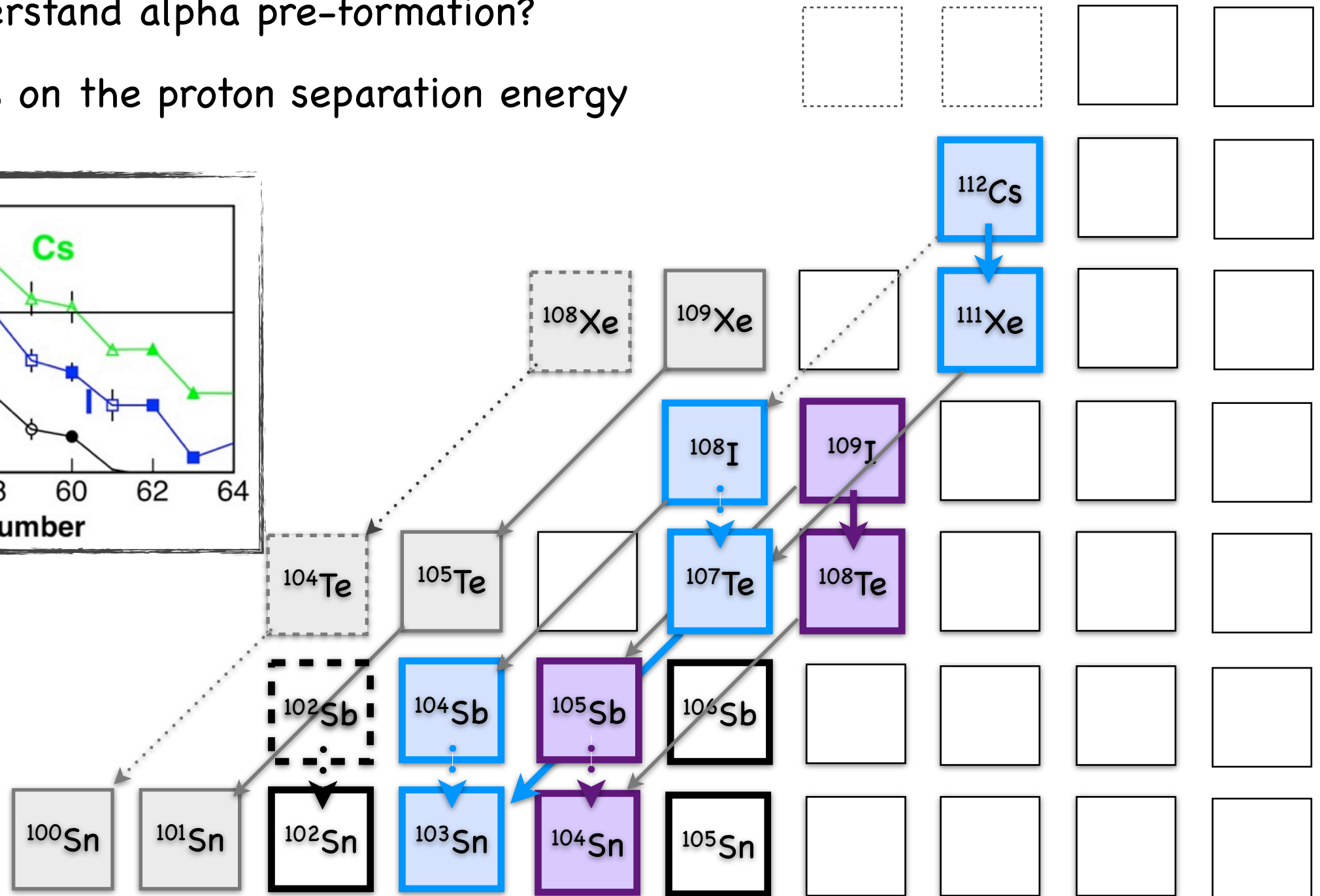
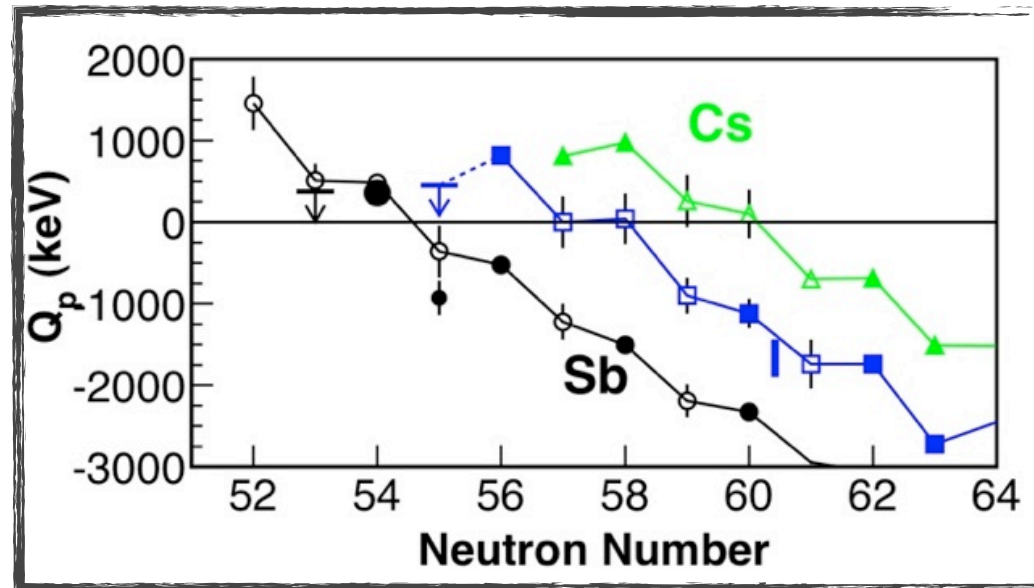
alpha and proton decay island near ^{100}Sn

- Enhanced alpha decay ($N \sim Z$):

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- Odd-even effects on the proton separation energy



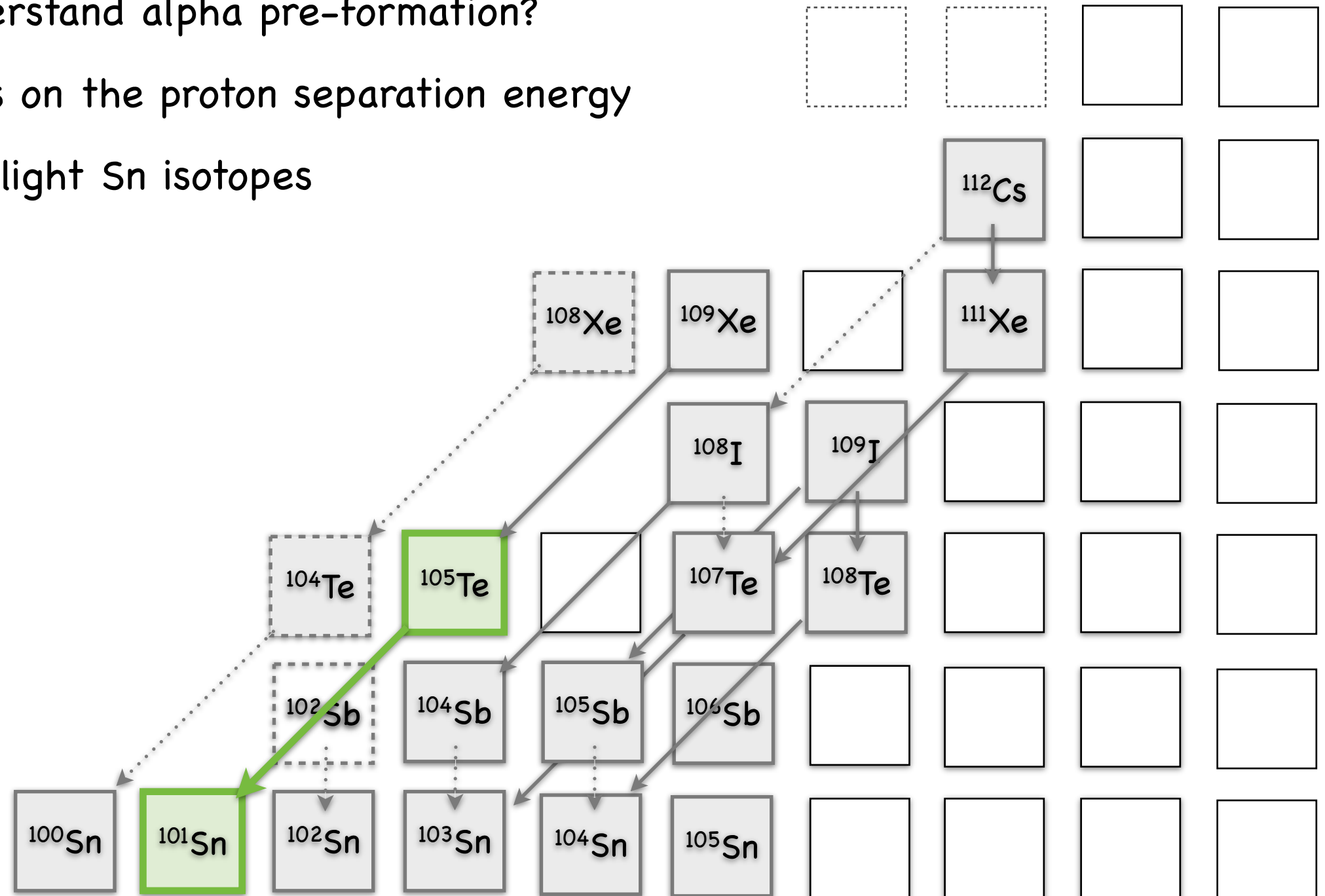
alpha and proton decay island near ^{100}Sn

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-> do we understand alpha pre-formation?

- Odd-even effects on the proton separation energy
- Excited states in light Sn isotopes



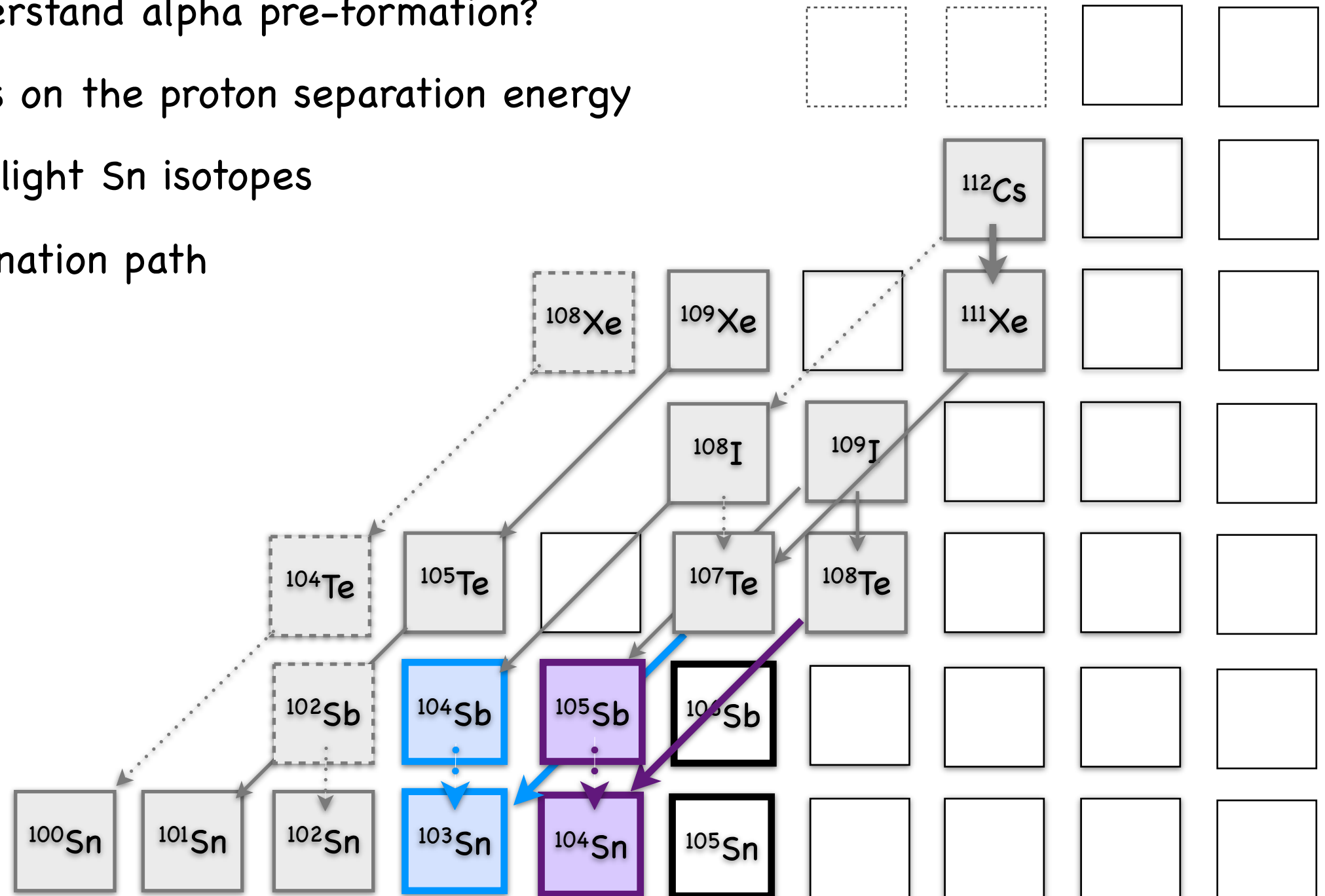
alpha and proton decay island near ^{100}Sn

- Enhanced alpha decay ($N \sim Z$):

“Superaligned” alpha-decay [Mac Farlane and Siivola, PRL 14 (1965) 114]

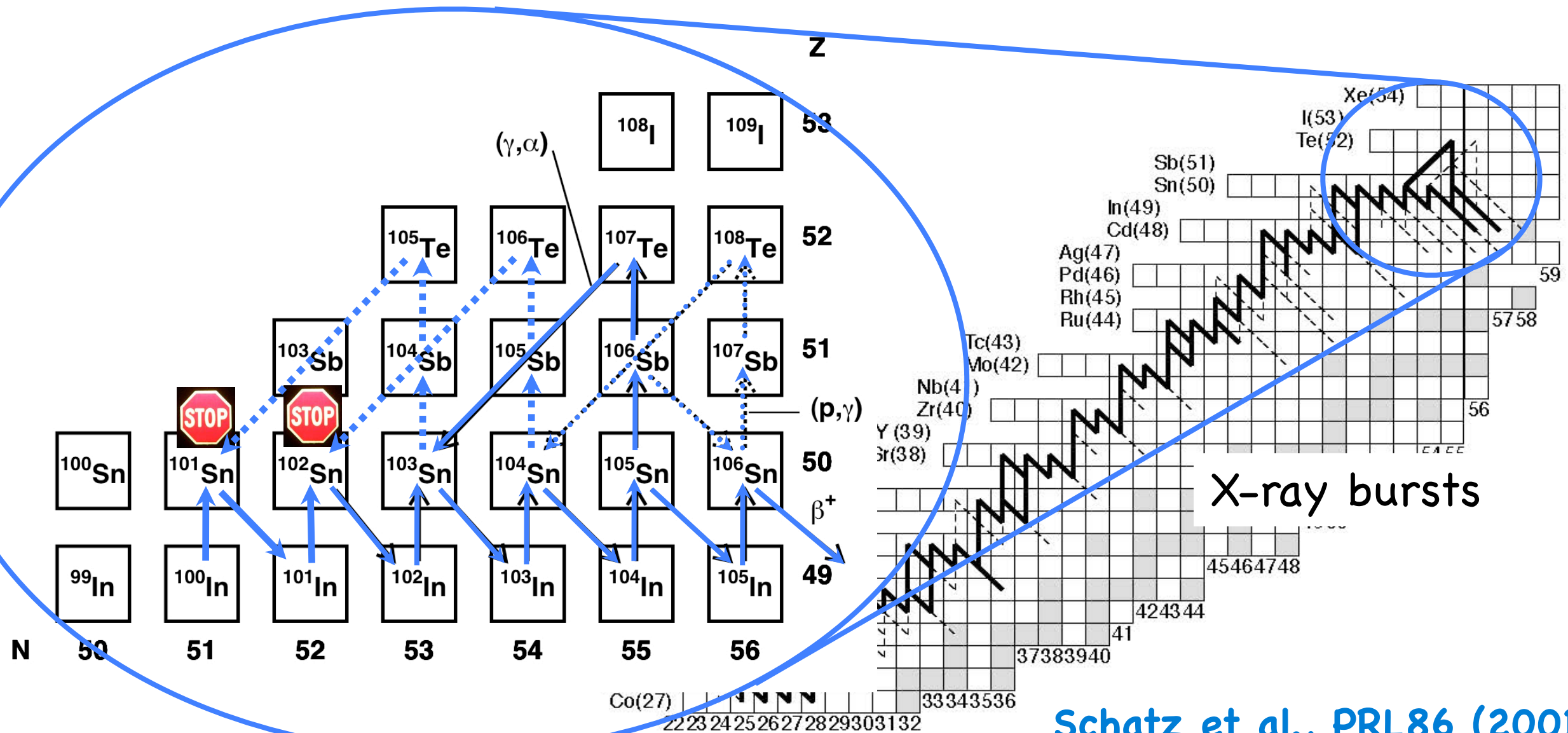
-> do we understand alpha pre-formation?

- Odd-even effects on the proton separation energy
- Excited states in light Sn isotopes
- rp-process termination path



alpha and proton decay island near ^{100}Sn

- Astrophysical interest: rp-process termination path
 - > predicted termination region with cycle around n-deficient Sn-Sb-Te isotopes
 - ⇒ Effectively converts ^1H into ^4He
 - ⇒ Critically depends on Q_p and Q_α !



alpha decay of ^{105}Te

^{105}Te produced directly \rightarrow $^{50}\text{Cr}(^{58}\text{Ni},3n)^{105}\text{Te}$

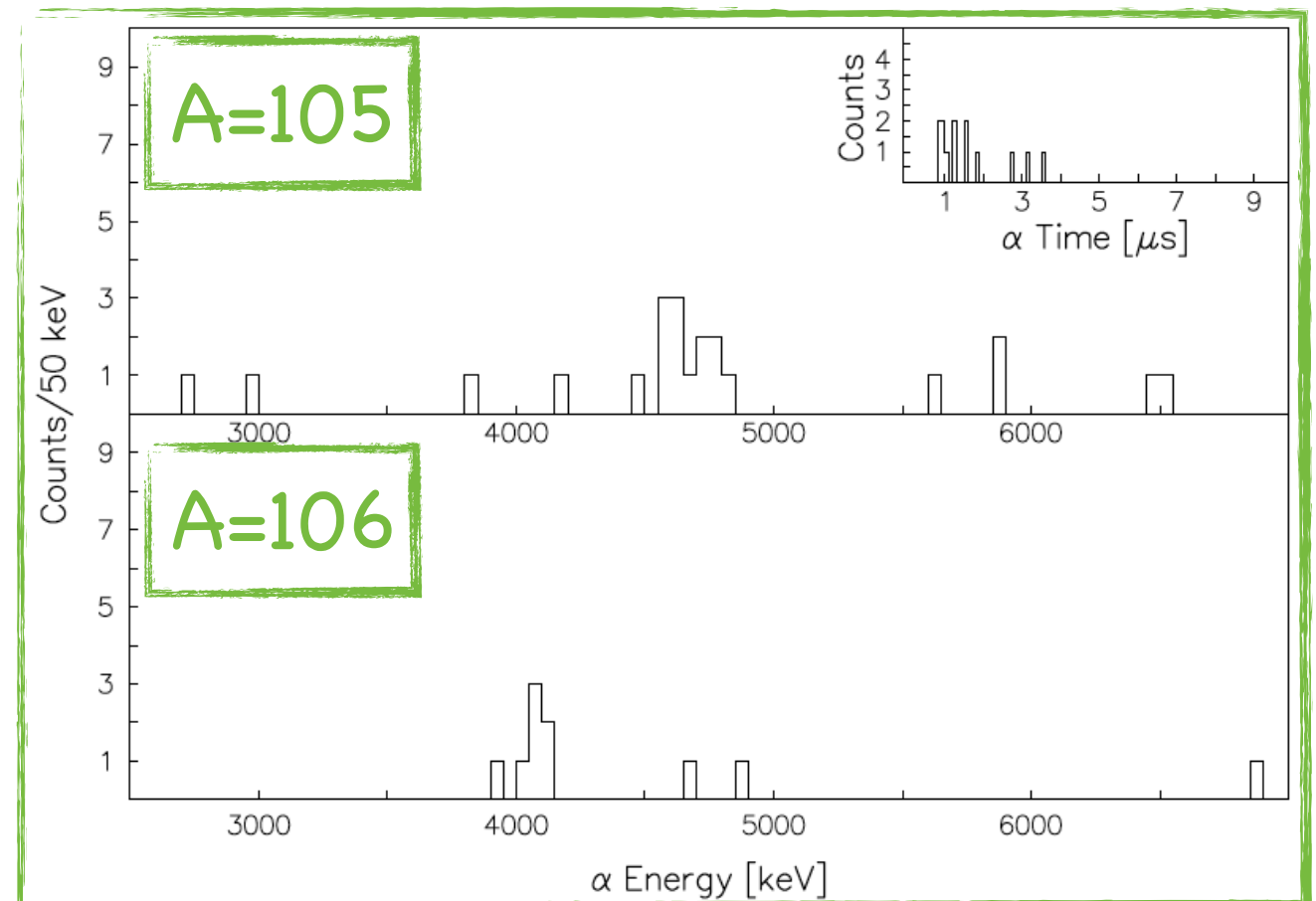
- FMA at Argonne
- DSSD detector + fast recovery electronics after implantation
- $0.6 \mu\text{s} < \text{decay times} < 8 \mu\text{s}$ detected

$\sigma \sim 10 \text{ nbarn}$

$E_\alpha = 4720(50) \text{ keV}$

$Q_\alpha = 4900(50) \text{ keV}$

$T_{1/2} = 0.70^{+0.25}_{-0.17} \mu\text{s}$

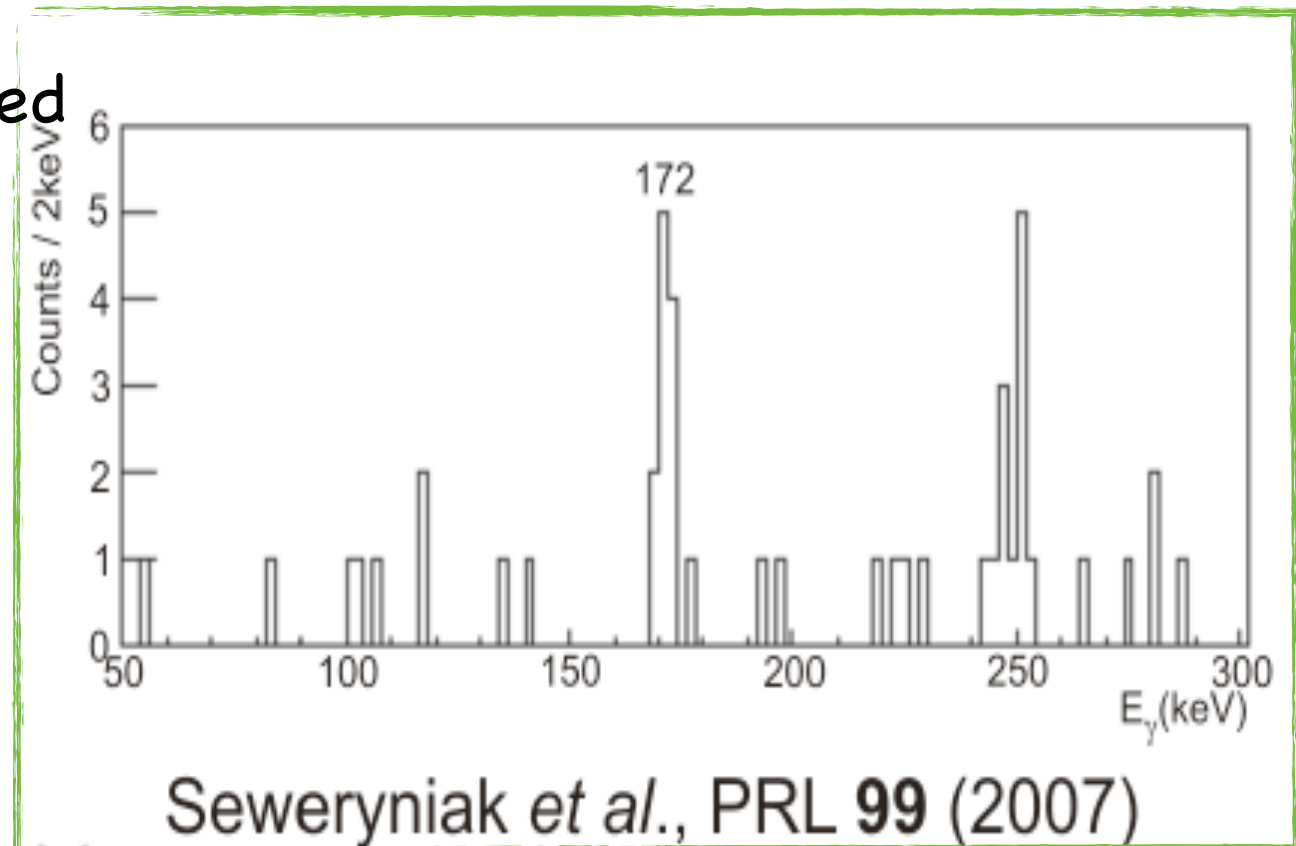


excited state in ^{101}Sn

^{101}Sn produced directly \rightarrow $^{46}\text{Ti}(^{58}\text{Ni},3n)^{101}\text{Sn}$

- HPGe @ target (Gammasphere)
- FMA at Argonne
- DSSD detector @ focal plane
- RDT method: prompt γ rays emitted in the production of ^{101}Sn correlated with β p following decay of ^{101}Sn

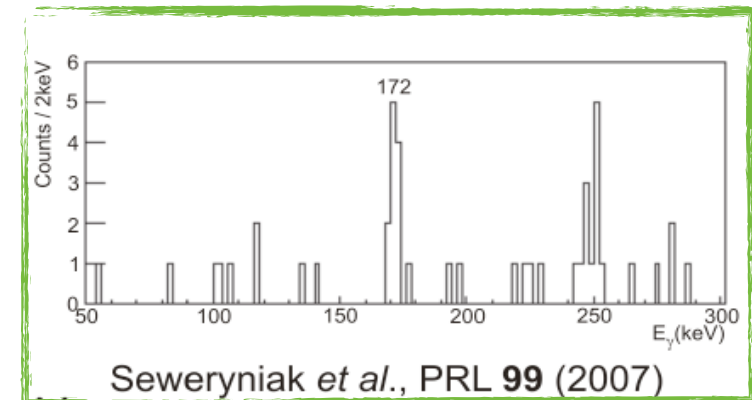
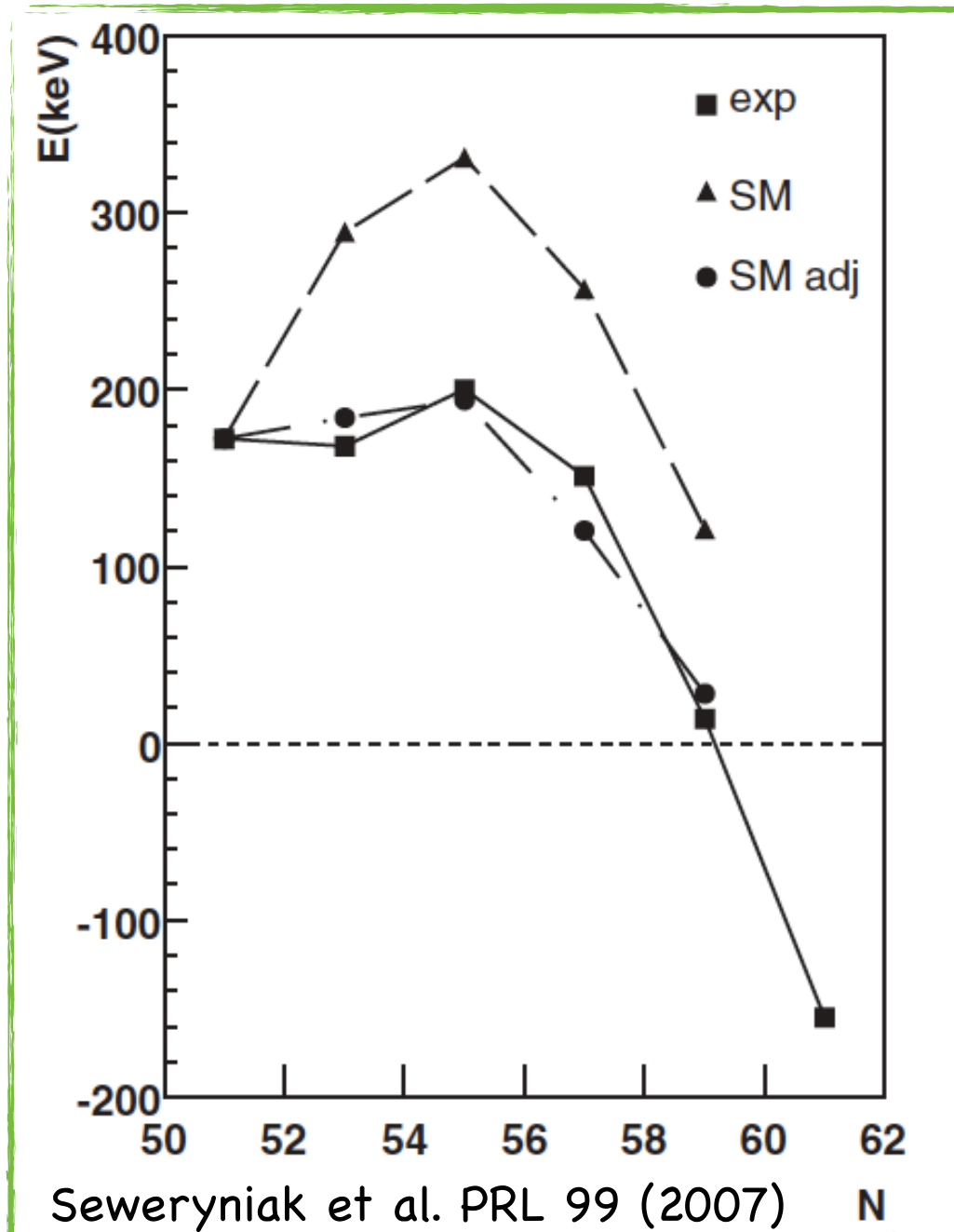
\rightarrow excited state in ^{101}Sn at 172 keV identified



excited state in ^{101}Sn

-> excited state in ^{101}Sn at 172 keV identified:

interpreted as the $g_{7/2} \rightarrow d_{5/2}$ single-neutron states transition



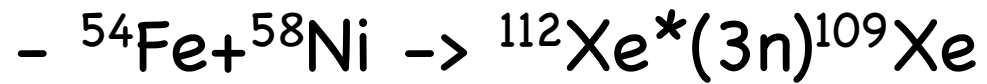
SM matrix elements:

M. Hjorth-Jensen et al., Phys. Rep 261 (1995) 125

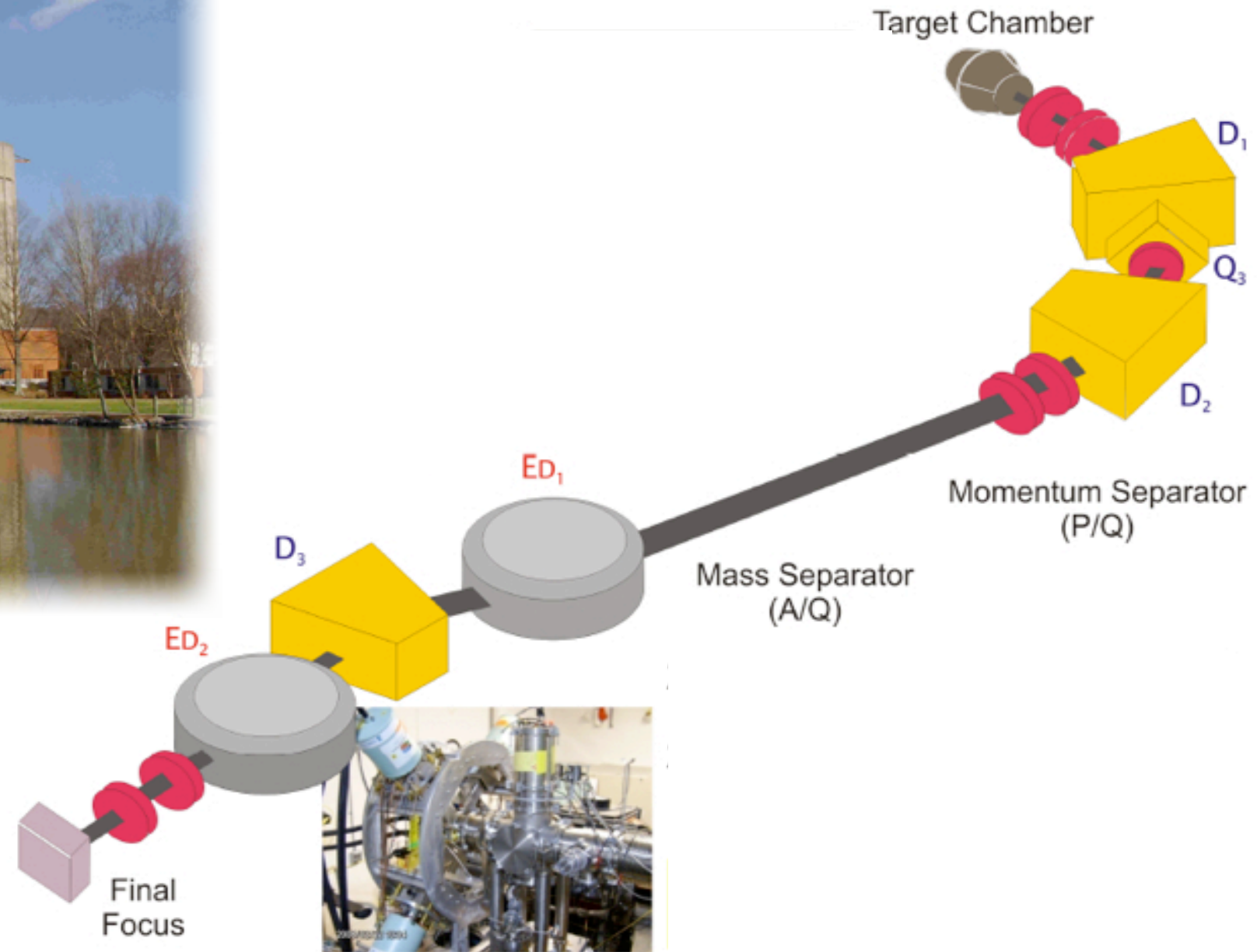
SM adj: $(g_{7/2})^2_{0+}$ reduced by $\approx 30\%$

alpha decay of ^{109}Xe and ^{105}Te

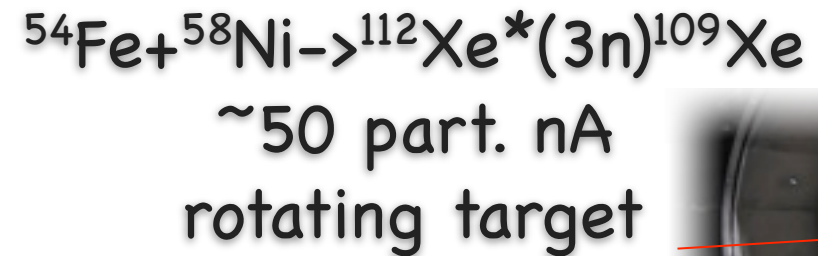
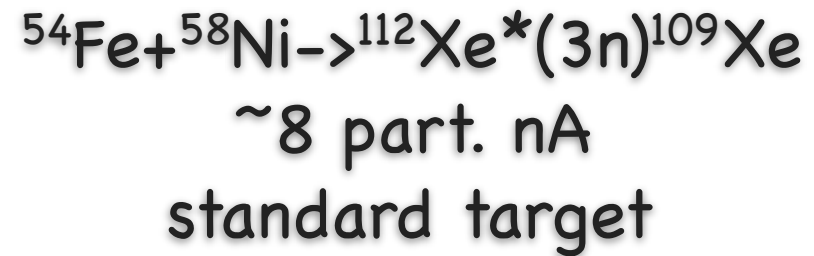
^{105}Te produced as alpha-decay daughter of ^{109}Xe



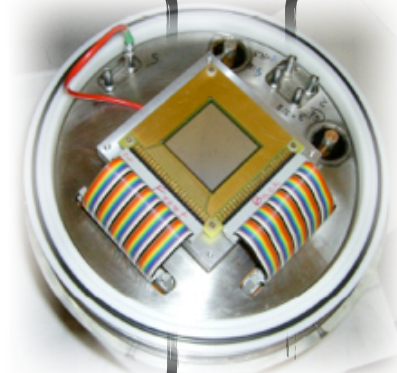
- Recoil Mass Spectrometer at the HRIBF, ORNL



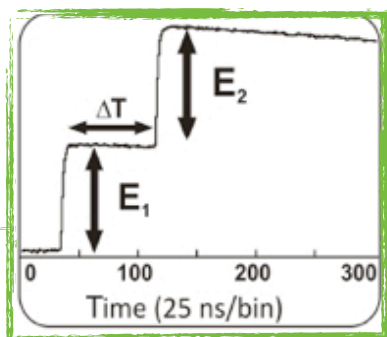
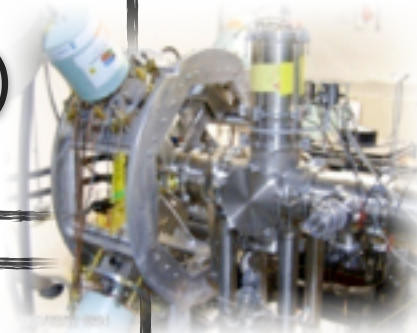
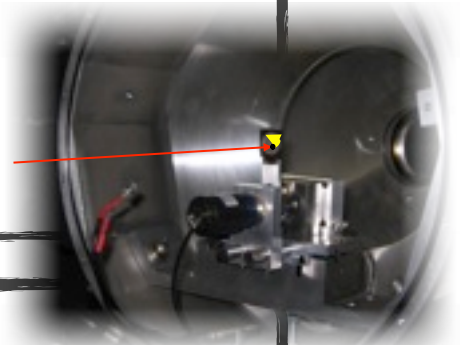
Experimental methods



DSSD (40x40, 65 μm)
+ veto detectors



DSSD (40x40, 65 μm)
+ veto detectors
+ HPGe (11.2% @ 123 keV)



Digital DAQ: alpha catcher mode

The alpha catcher

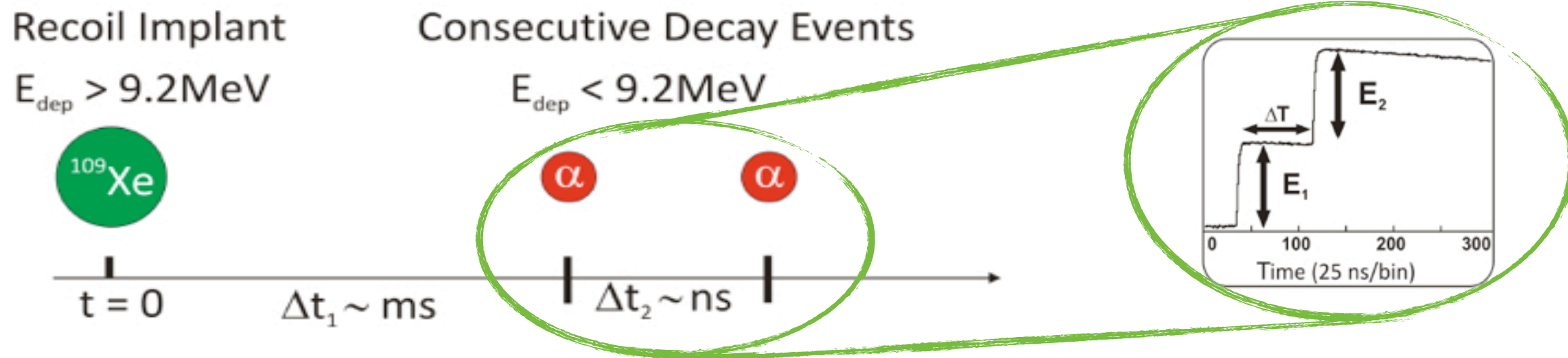
Expected half-lives



New experimental method

DSP-based data acquisition system:

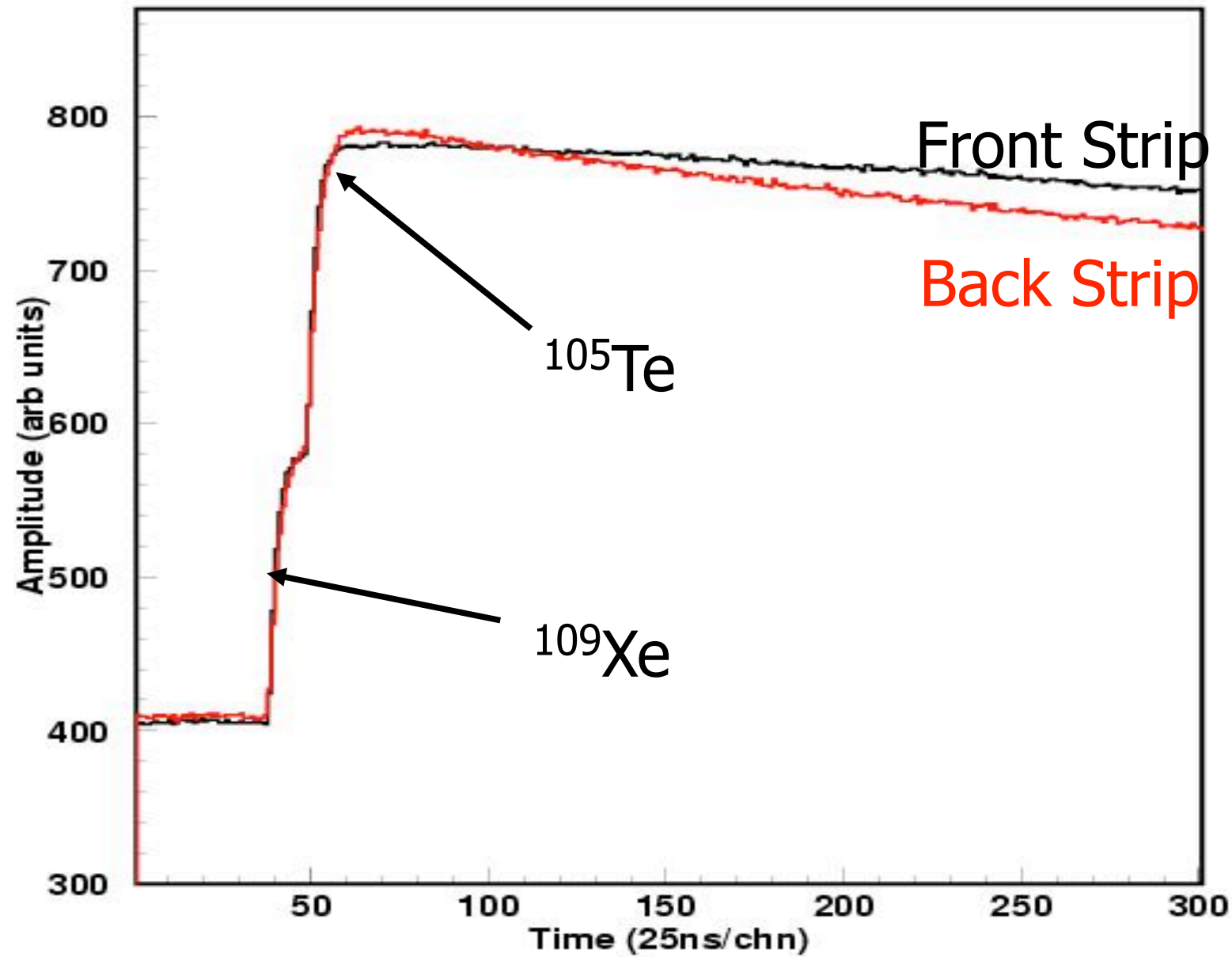
- recording pulse shapes (traces) for single α and pile-up α - α decay events
- method very selective
- very sensitive (ΔT between two pile-up traces covers wide range)
- very small dead time (~ 10 - 15% at ~ 2 kHz ions and ~ 150 Hz traces)



PSA 100% @ 150 ns

alpha decay of ^{109}Xe and ^{105}Te : results

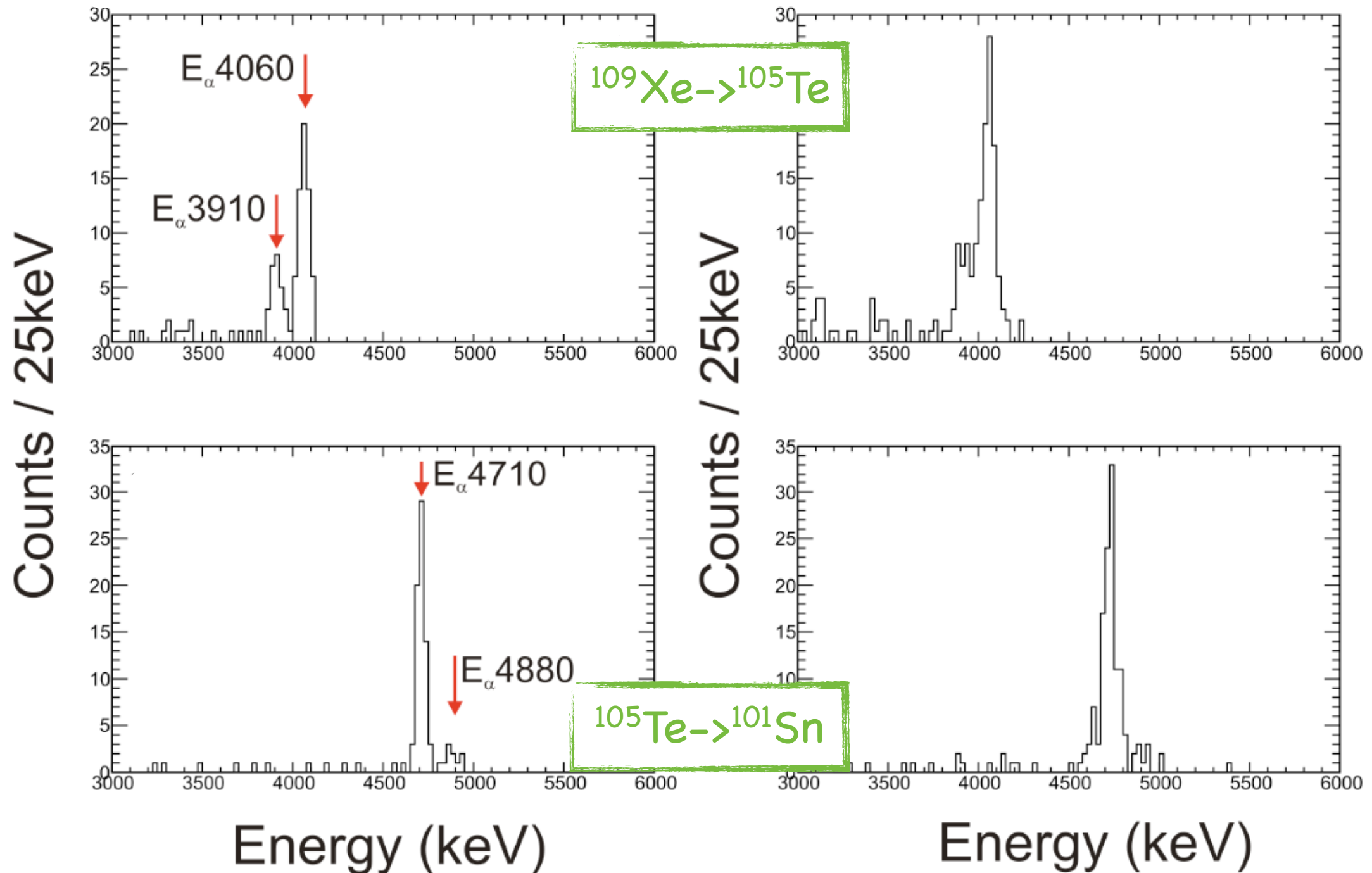
$^{109}\text{Xe} \rightarrow ^{105}\text{Te} \rightarrow ^{101}\text{Sn}$ -> example of α - α pile-up traces



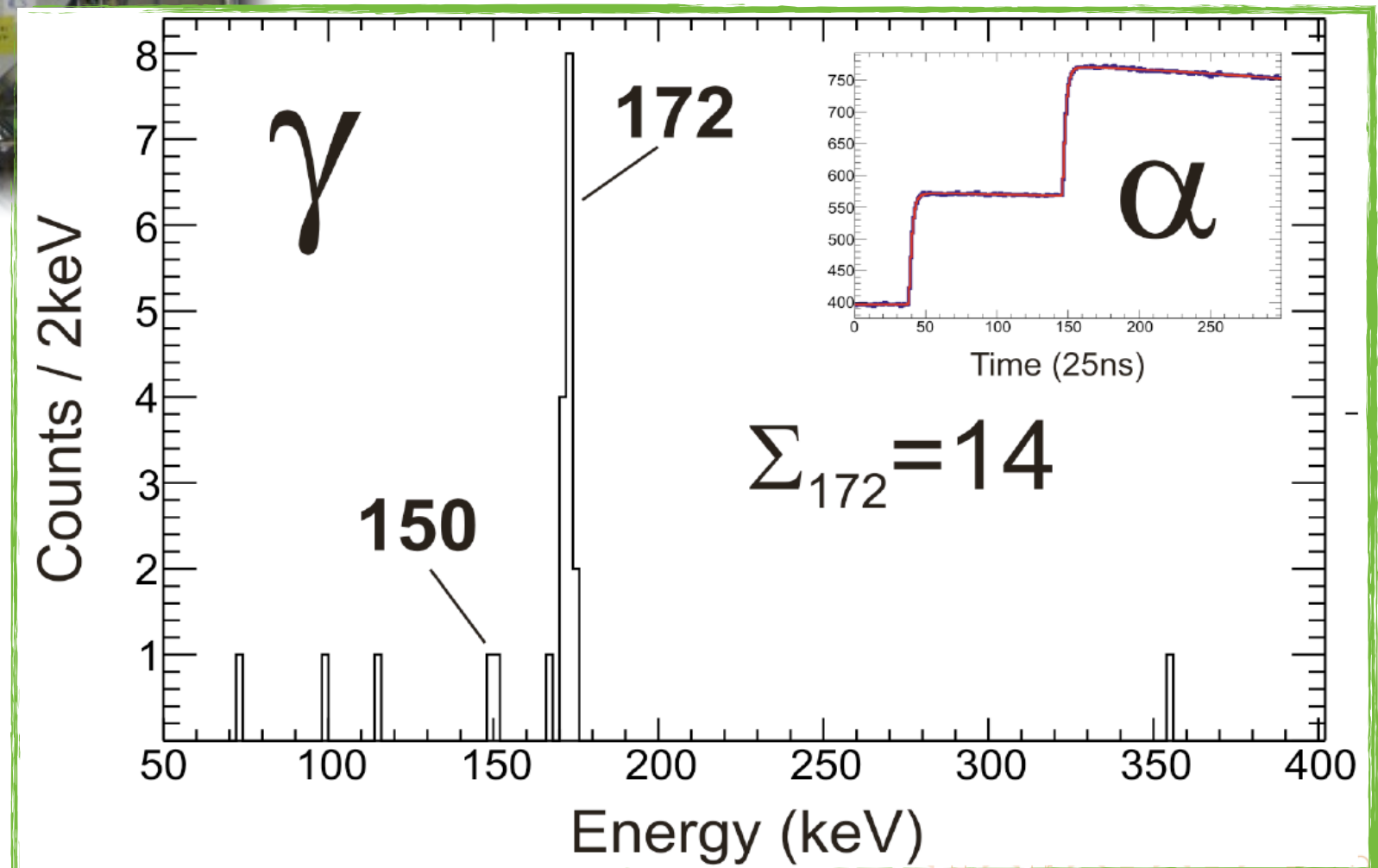
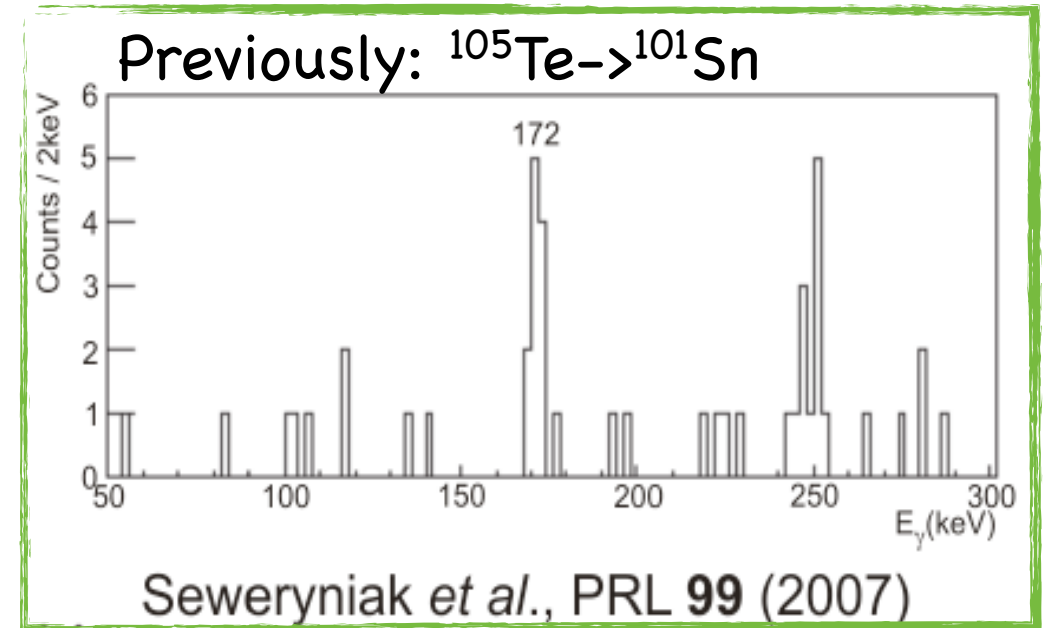
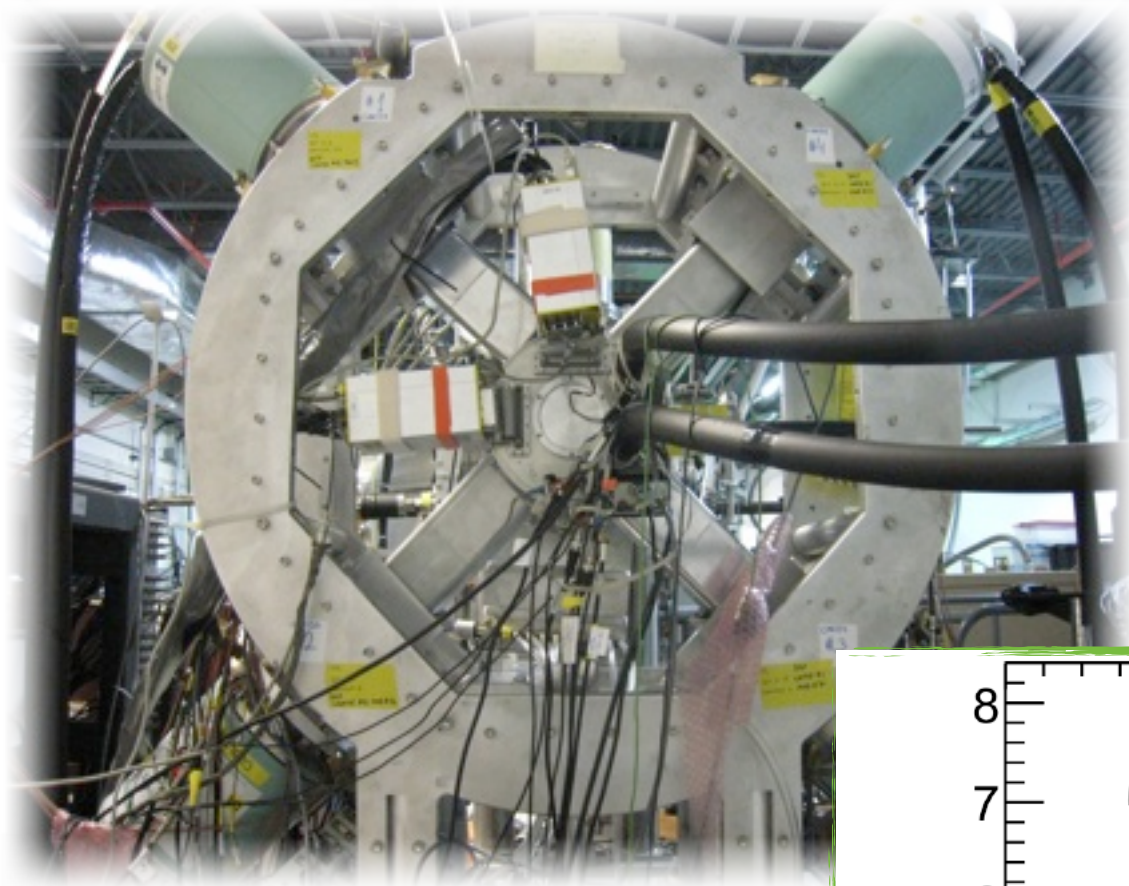
alpha decay of ^{109}Xe and ^{105}Te : results

Exp I: no γ

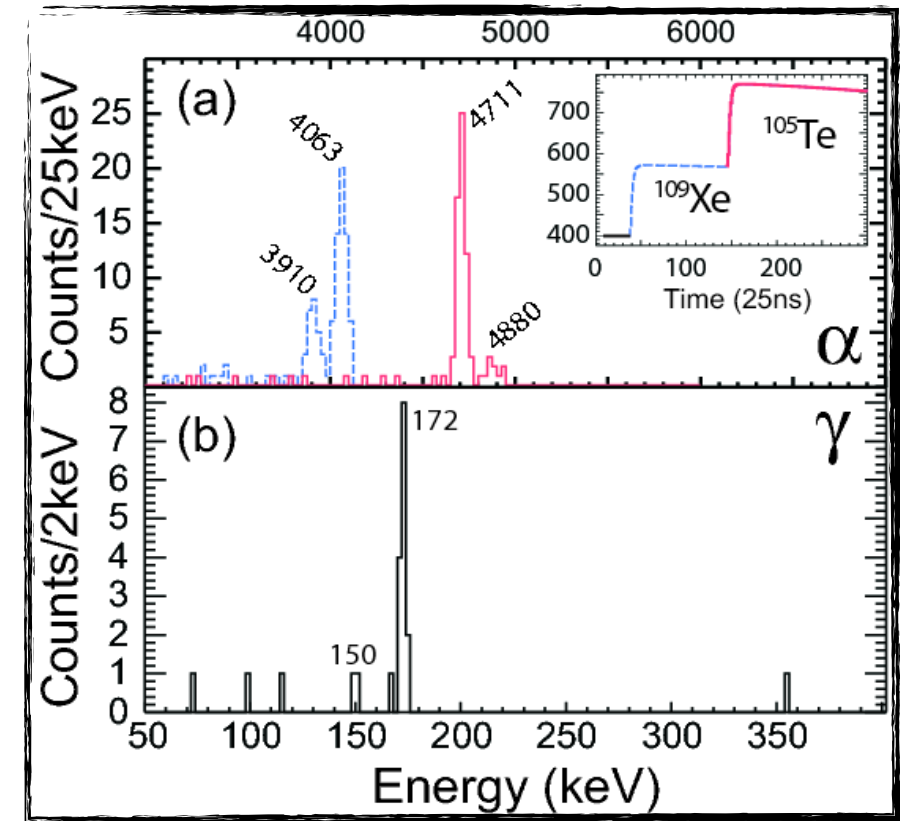
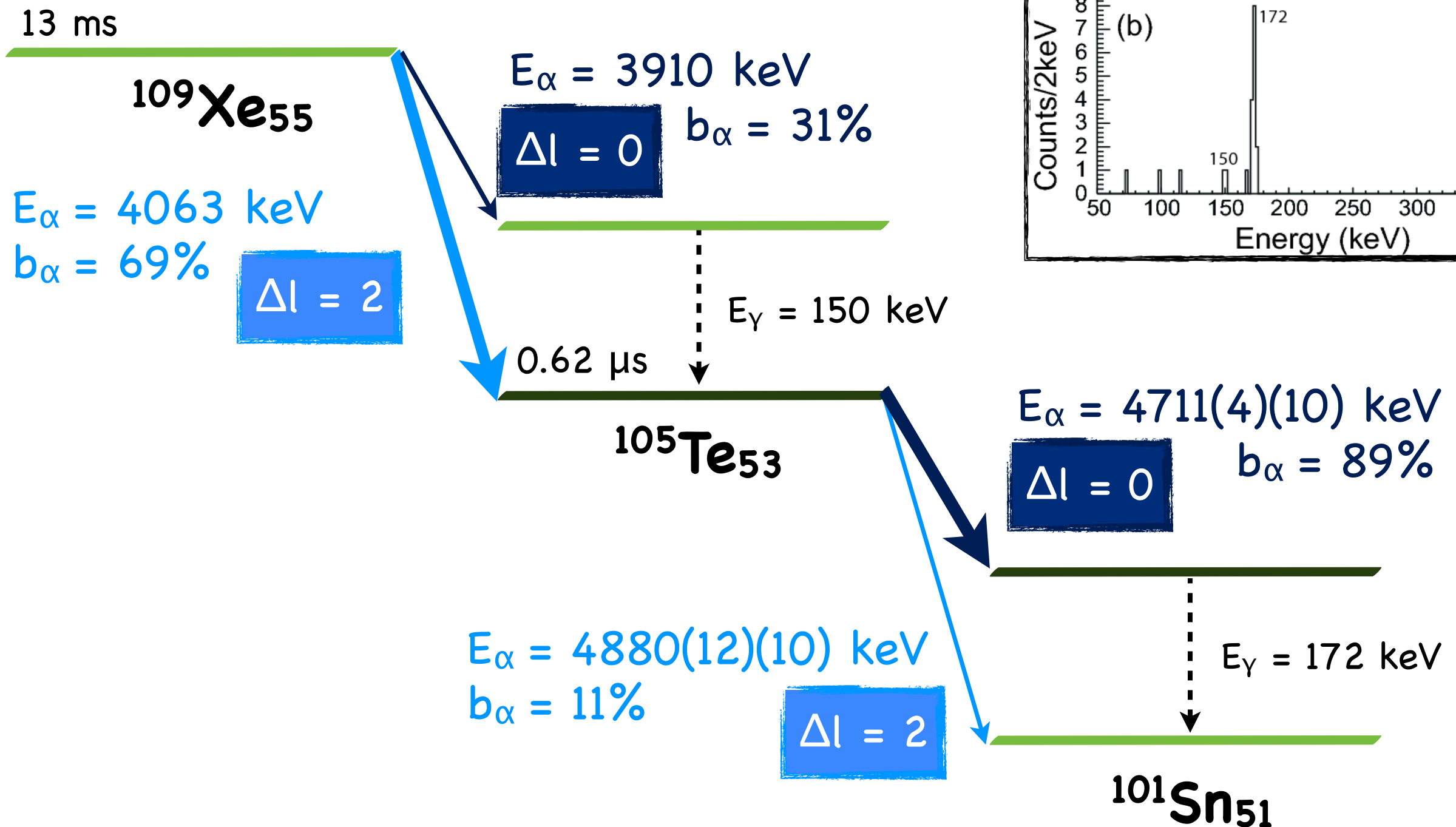
Exp II: with γ



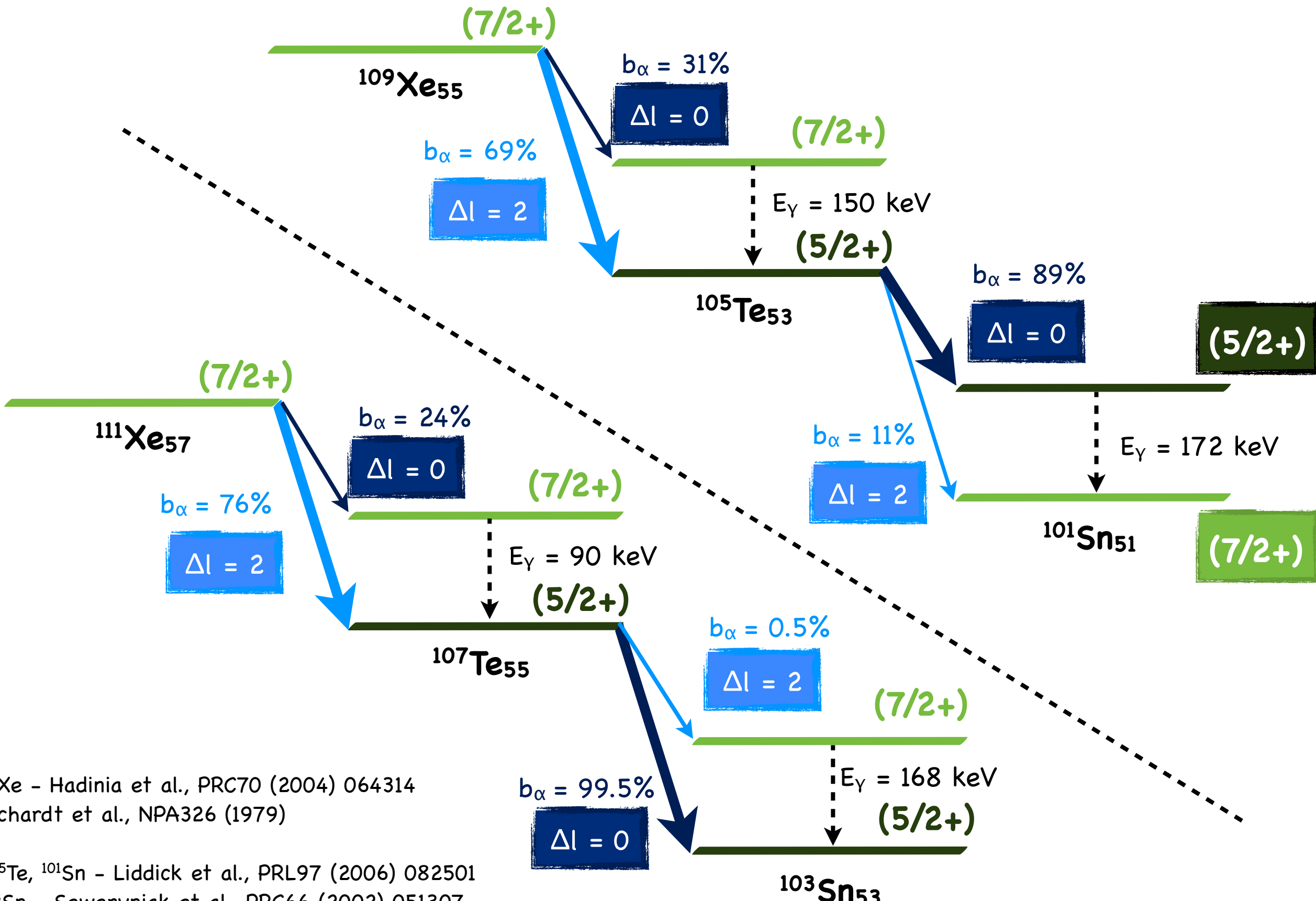
results: the 172 keV gamma transition!



results: main decay path $^{105}\text{Te} \rightarrow ^{101}\text{Sn}^*$



results: ground state spin-switch between ^{103}Sn and ^{101}Sn



^{107}Te , ^{111}Xe - Hadinia et al., PRC70 (2004) 064314

^{111}Xe - Schardt et al., NPA326 (1979)

^{109}Xe , ^{105}Te , ^{101}Sn - Liddick et al., PRL97 (2006) 082501

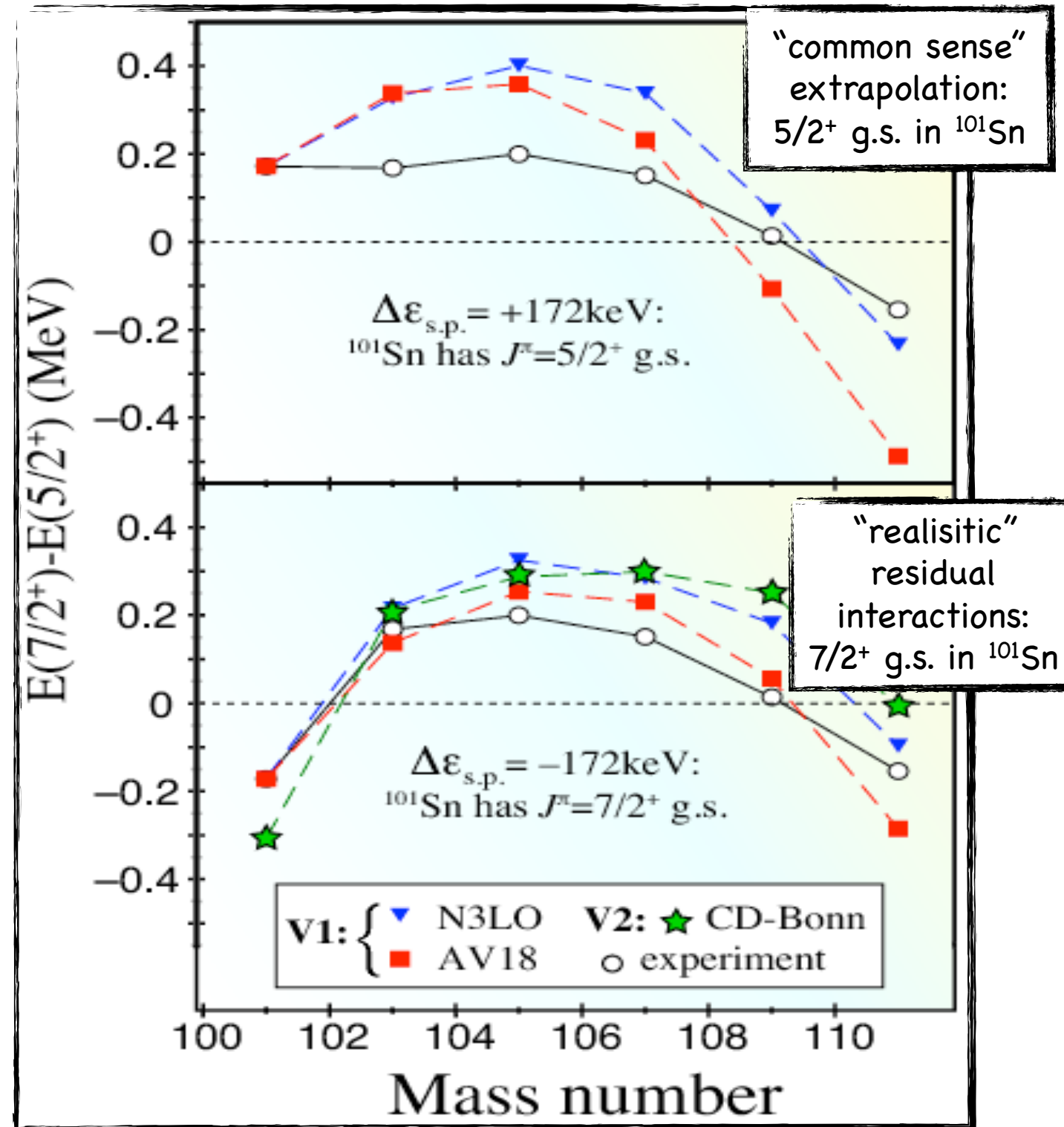
^{107}Te , ^{103}Sn - Seweryniak et al., PRC66 (2002) 051307

^{103}Sn - Fahlander et al., PRC63 (2001) 021307(R)

results: shell-model interpretation

Two-level model:

- truncated configuration space ($g_{7/2}$ and $d_{5/2}$): very small splitting between $g_{7/2}$ and $d_{5/2}$ states (almost degenerate) + large energy separation from higher-lying orbitals
- pairing interaction between the $g_{7/2}$ neutrons is particularly strong
- matrix elements computed from N3LO and AV18 potentials



results: shell-model interpretation

Calculation variant V1:

- ^{100}Sn core
- valence nucleons in $d_{5/2}$, $g_{7/2}$, $d_{3/2}$, $s_{1/2}$ and $h_{11/2}$ shells
- res. interaction based on AV18 or N3LO potential
- neutron $d_{5/2}$ - $g_{7/2}$ splitting $|\Delta\varepsilon_{\text{s.p.}}| \approx 172$ keV

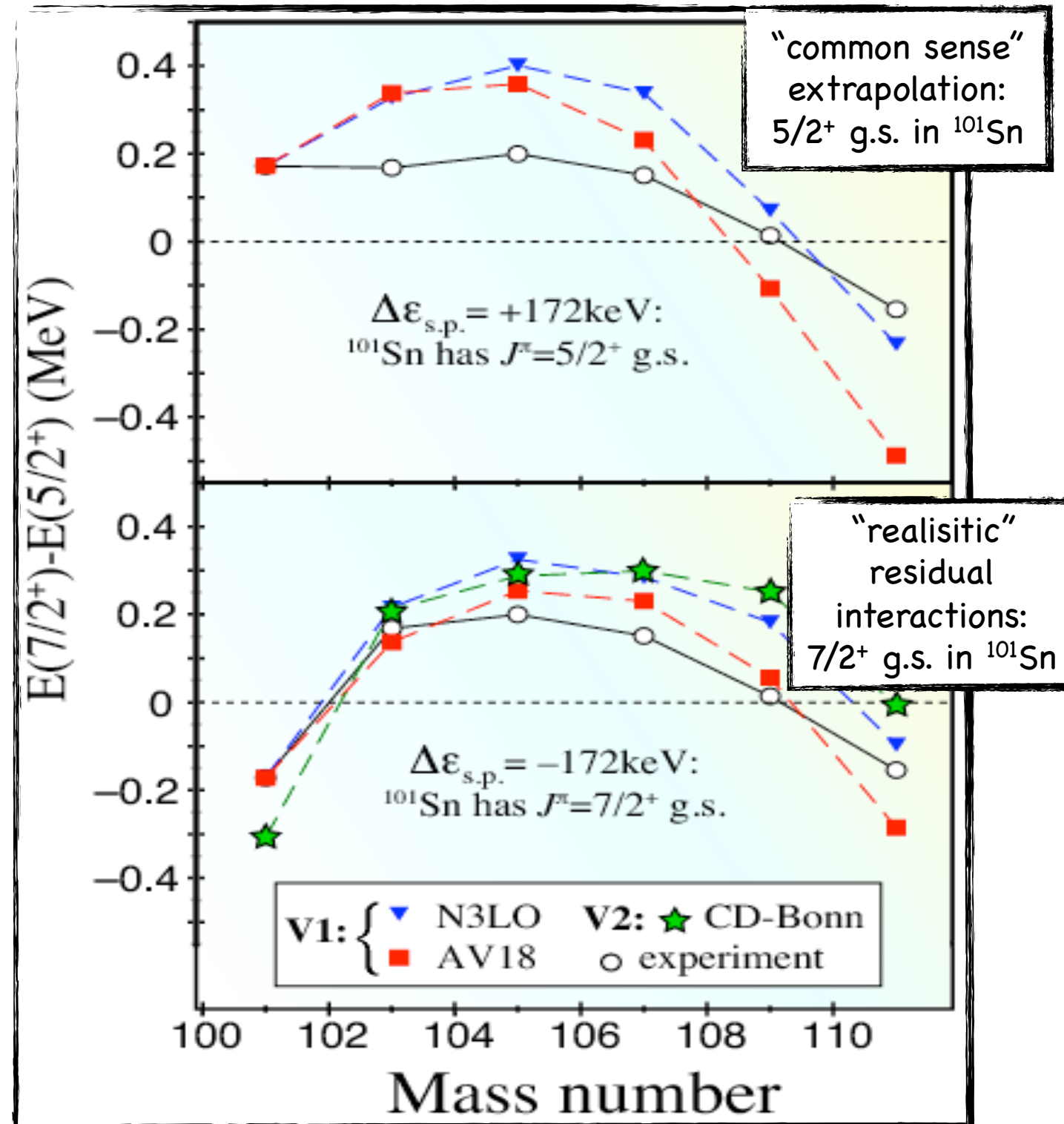
Calculation variant V2:

- ^{88}Sr core
- valence protons in $p_{1/2}$ and $g_{9/2}$ shells and neutrons in $d_{5/2}$, $g_{7/2}$, $d_{3/2}$, $s_{1/2}$ and $h_{11/2}$ shells
- res. interaction derived from CD-Bonn potential

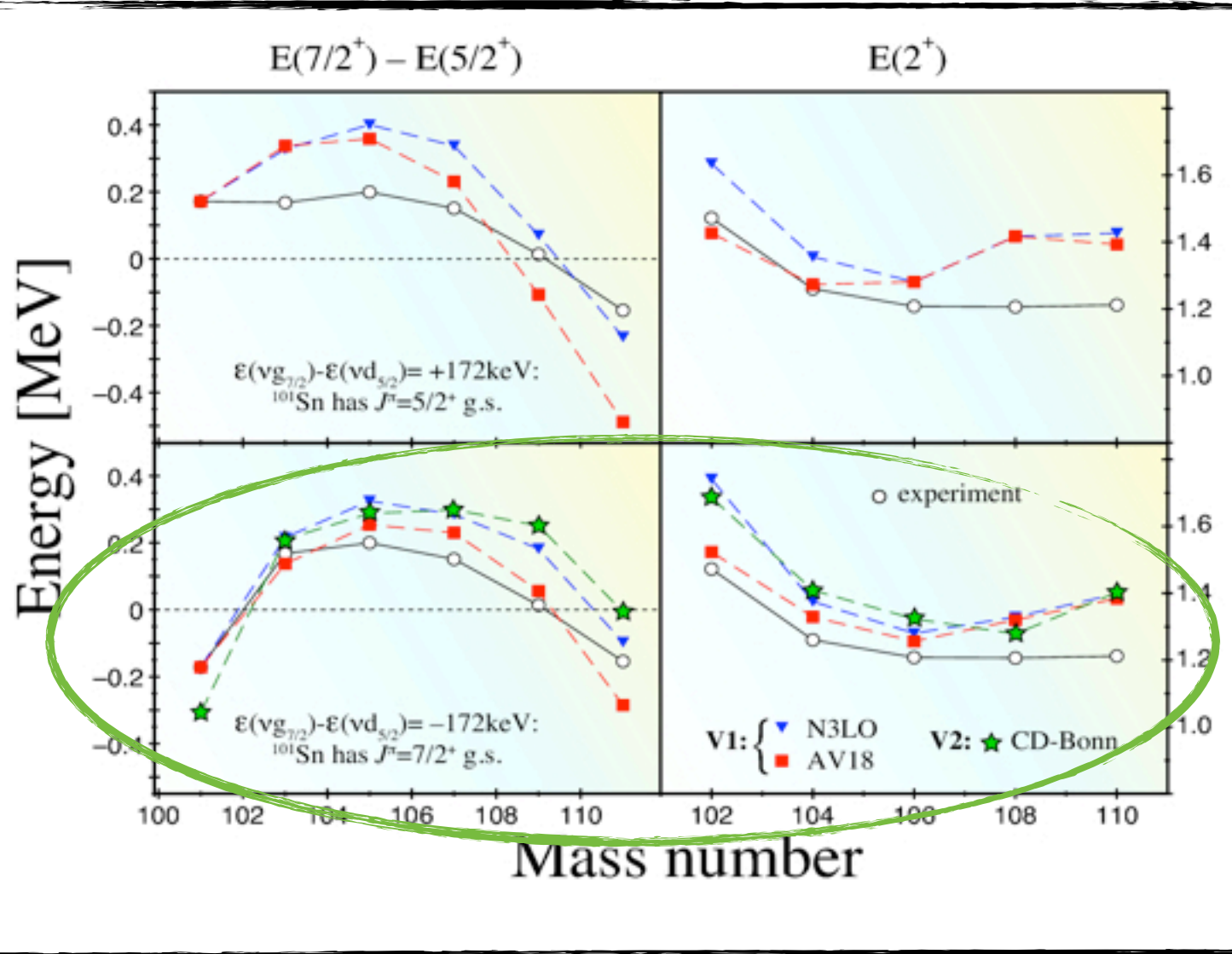
No free parameters

Very robust calculations:

regardless of the g.s. assumed for ^{101}Sn , the g.s. of the heavier odd-A Sn isotopes always turns out to be $5/2^+$



results: shell-model interpretation



well reproduced by V1 and V2

- $E(7/2^+) - E(5/2^+)$ parabolic trend
- crossing between $5/2^+$ and $7/2^+$ g.s. between ^{109}Sn and ^{111}Sn
- energy of lowest 2^+ seniority-two state in even- A Sn isotopes

AV18 for $^{105/107}\text{Te}$ (52 protons+53(55) neutrons)

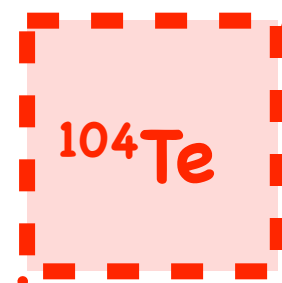
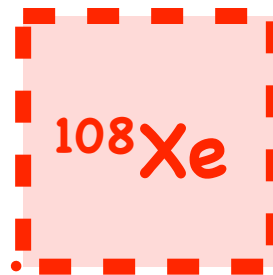
- > predicts robustly $5/2^+$ g.s. and $7/2^+$ excited state (regardless of the choice of the level ordering)
- > no indication of a change in the structure of Te isotopes
- ==> the $5/2^+$ and $7/2^+$ level inversion is very unlikely to occur between ^{109}Xe and ^{105}Te .

alpha decay chain $^{108}\text{Xe} \rightarrow ^{104}\text{Te} \rightarrow ^{100}\text{Sn}$

Production of ^{100}Sn in the superallowed α decay of ^{104}Te :

$$T_{1/2} (\text{th}) \sim 100\text{--}150 \mu\text{s}$$

$$Q_\alpha (\text{th}) = 4.44\text{--}4.65(15) \text{ MeV}$$



$$T_{1/2} (\text{th}) \sim 5 - 50 \text{ ns}$$

$$Q_\alpha (\text{th}) = 5.05\text{--}5.42(7) \text{ MeV}$$

$$Q_\alpha (\text{extr}) > 5.0\text{--}5.2 \text{ MeV}$$



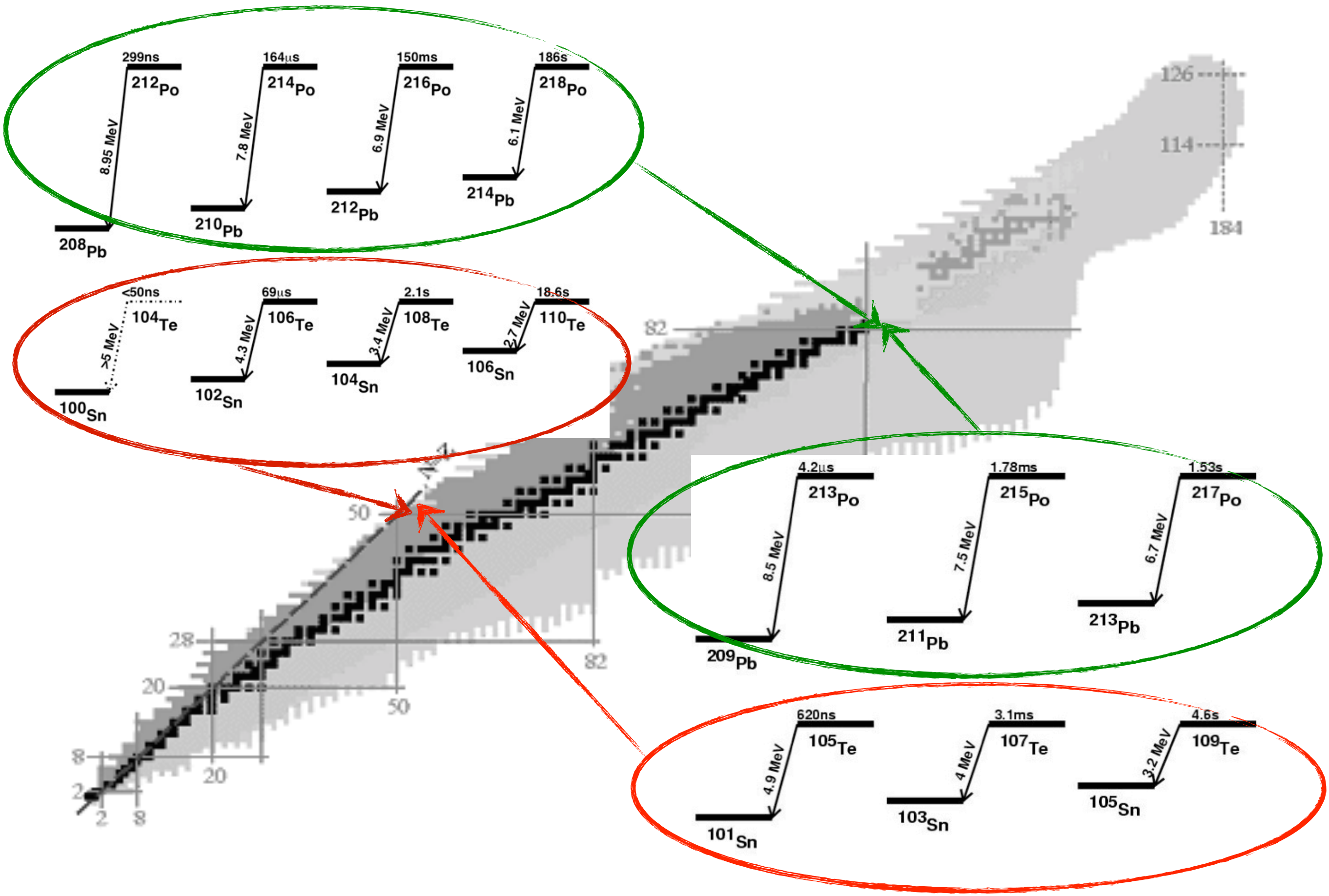
Theory:

Xu and Ren, PRC74, 2006;
Mohr, EPJA31, 2007

Extrapolated limits:

Liddick et al., PRL97, 2006;
Seweryniak et al., PRC73, 2006

magicity of ^{100}Sn



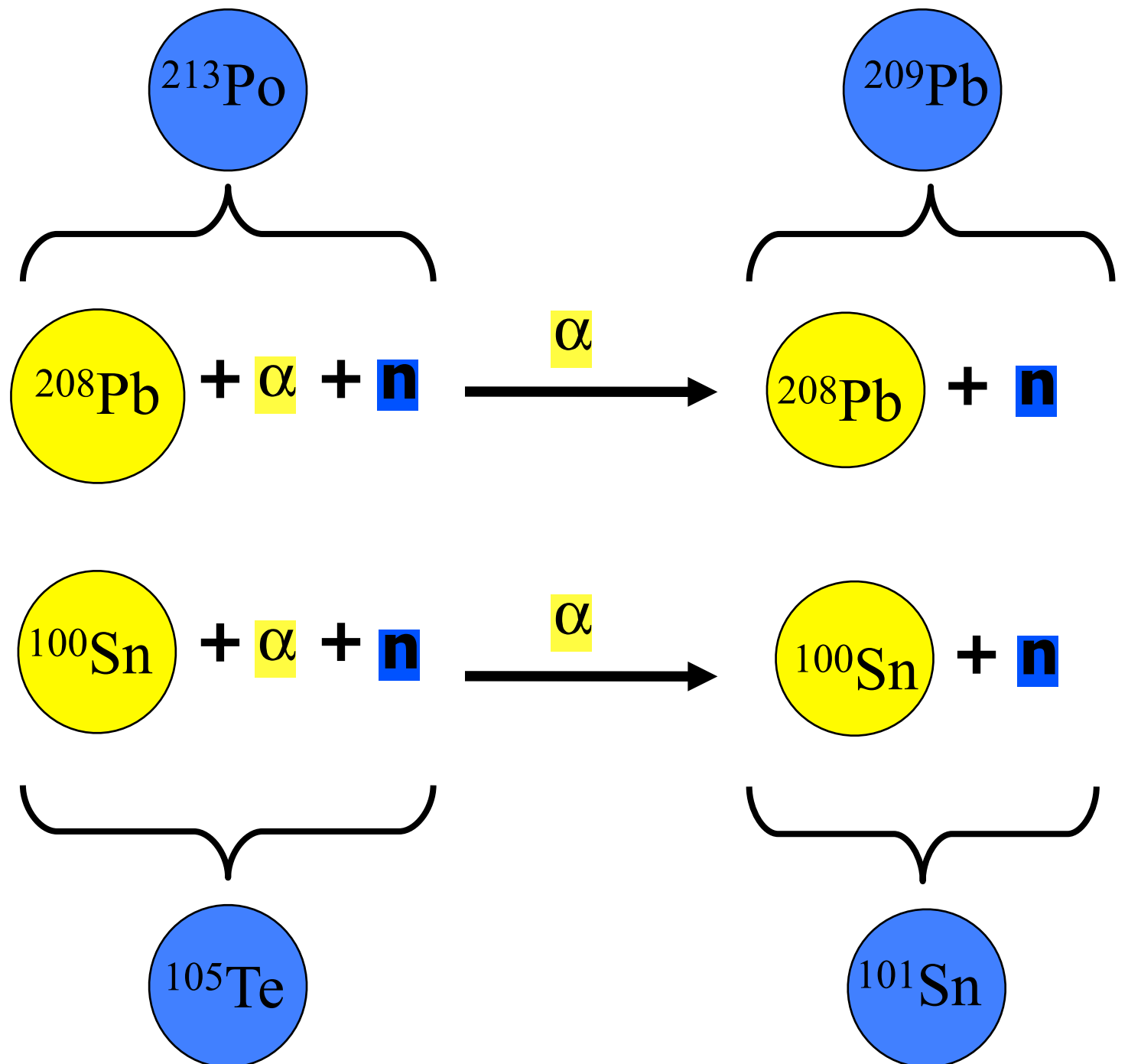
"superallowed" alpha decay?

Reduced decay width

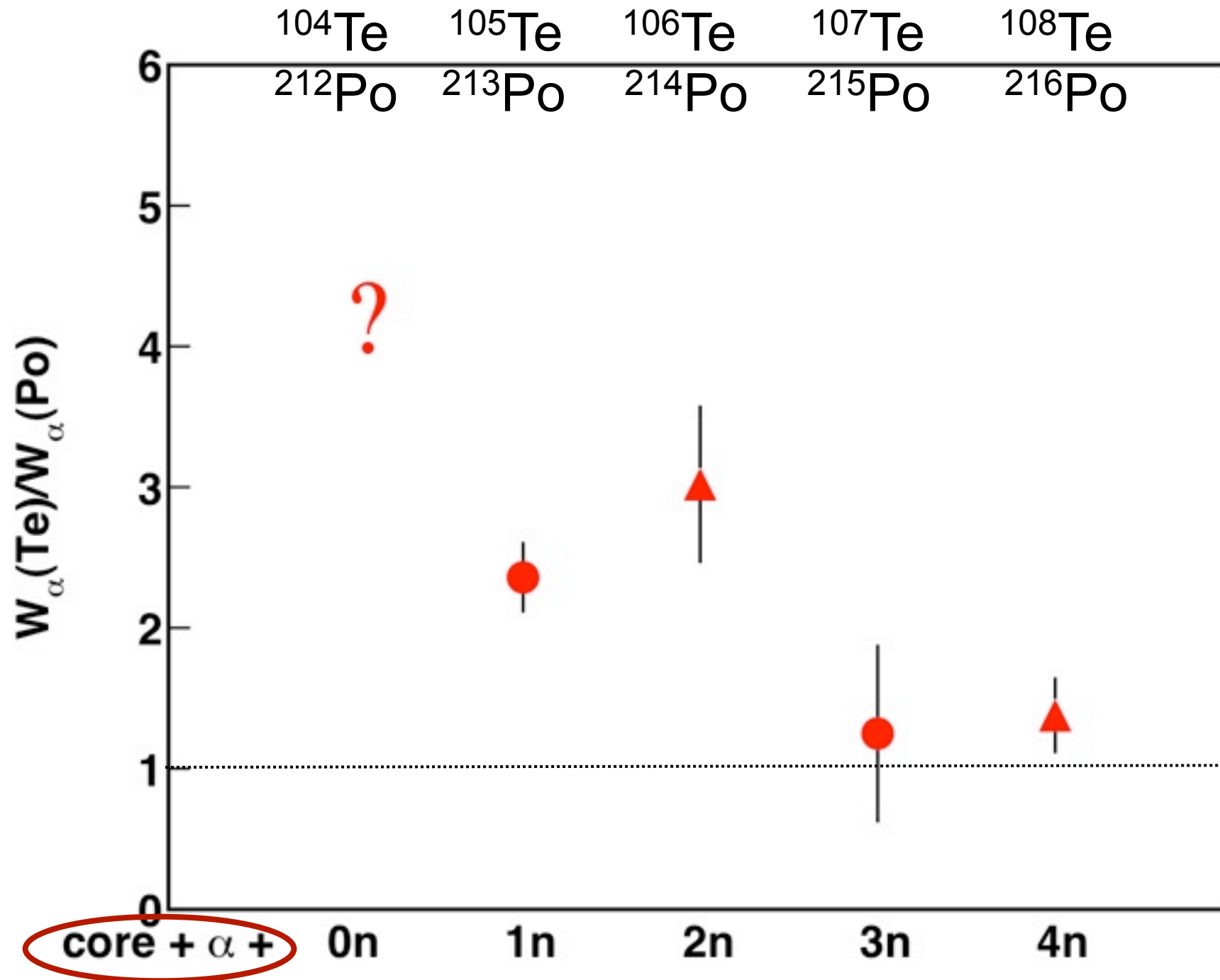
$$\delta^2 = \frac{\lambda_\alpha h}{P}$$

Reduced decay width relative to ^{212}Po :

$$W_\alpha = \frac{\delta^2}{\delta^2(^{212}\text{Po})}$$



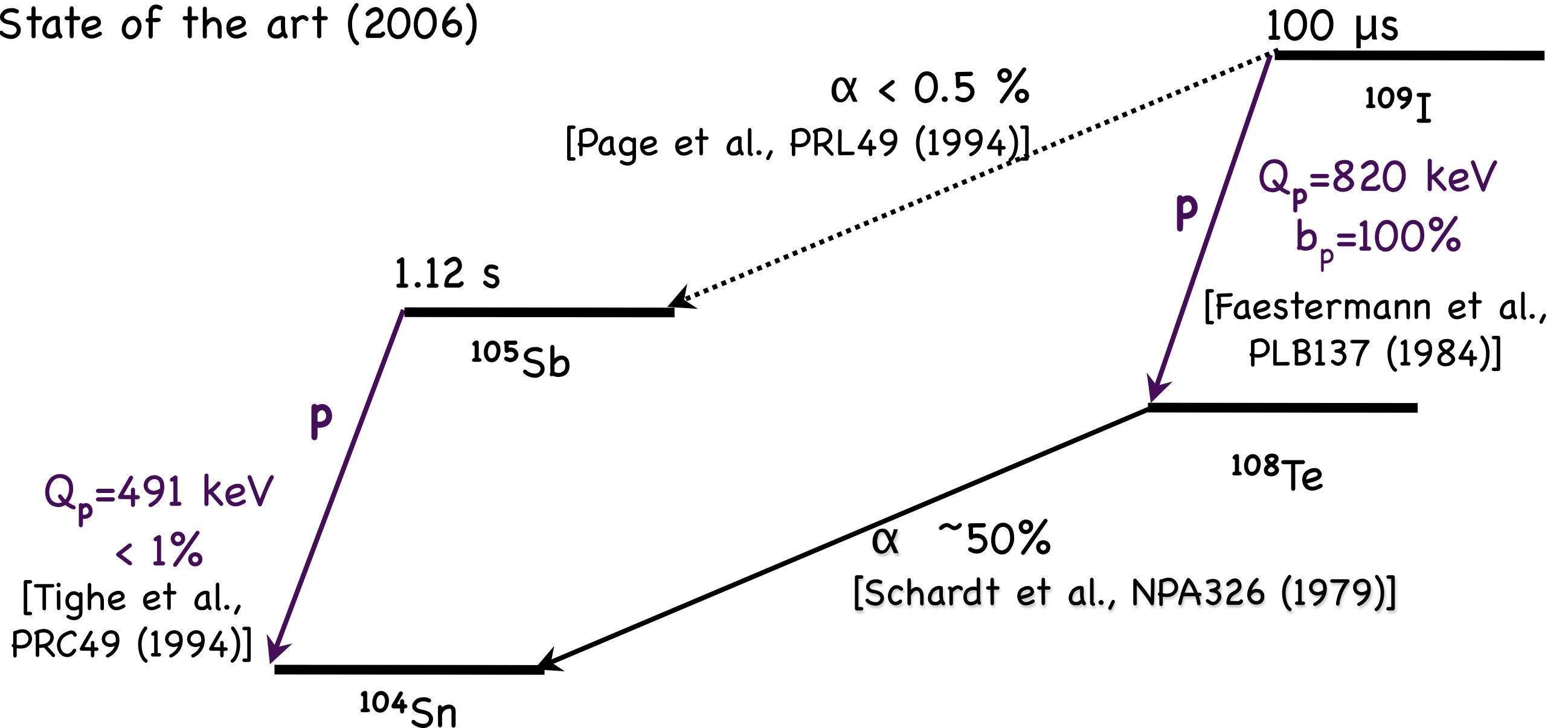
Re-normalized alpha-decay widths ($\ell=0$ transitions)



Superallowed alpha decay? We clearly see an enhancement, but is it already superallowed in $^{105,106}\text{Te}$?
 \Rightarrow Need to measure $^{104}\text{Te} \rightarrow ^{100}\text{Sn}$

alpha decay of $^{109}\text{I} \rightarrow \text{S}_p$ in ^{105}Sb

State of the art (2006)



All other attempts to measure ^{105}Sb proton decay failed:

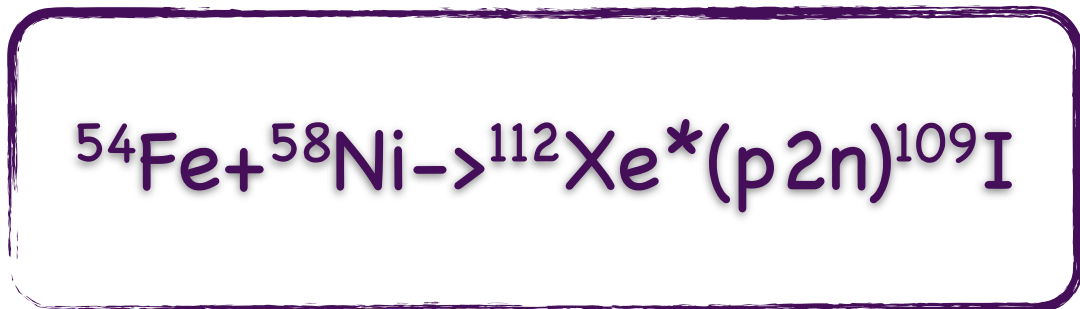
Munich set-up: Gillitzer et al., ZPA326 (1987)

SHIP: Berthes, GSI Report GSI-87-12, 1987

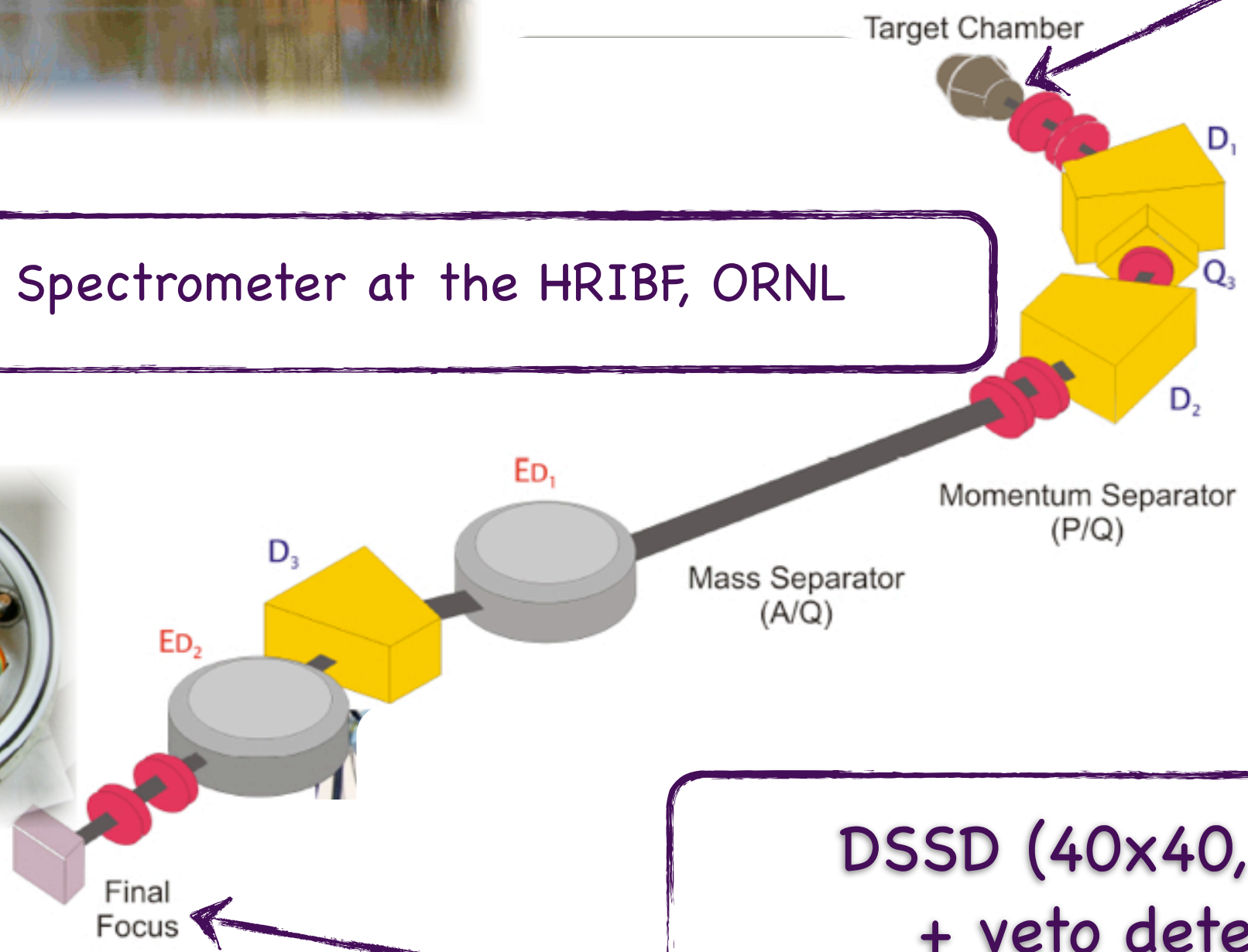
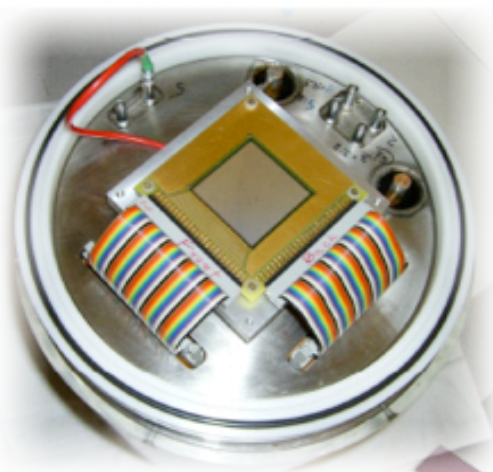
GSI-FRS: Friese et al, Proc. Hirschegg, 1996

GSI-ISOL: Liu et al., PRC72 (2005)

alpha decay of ^{109}I \rightarrow S_p in ^{105}Sb

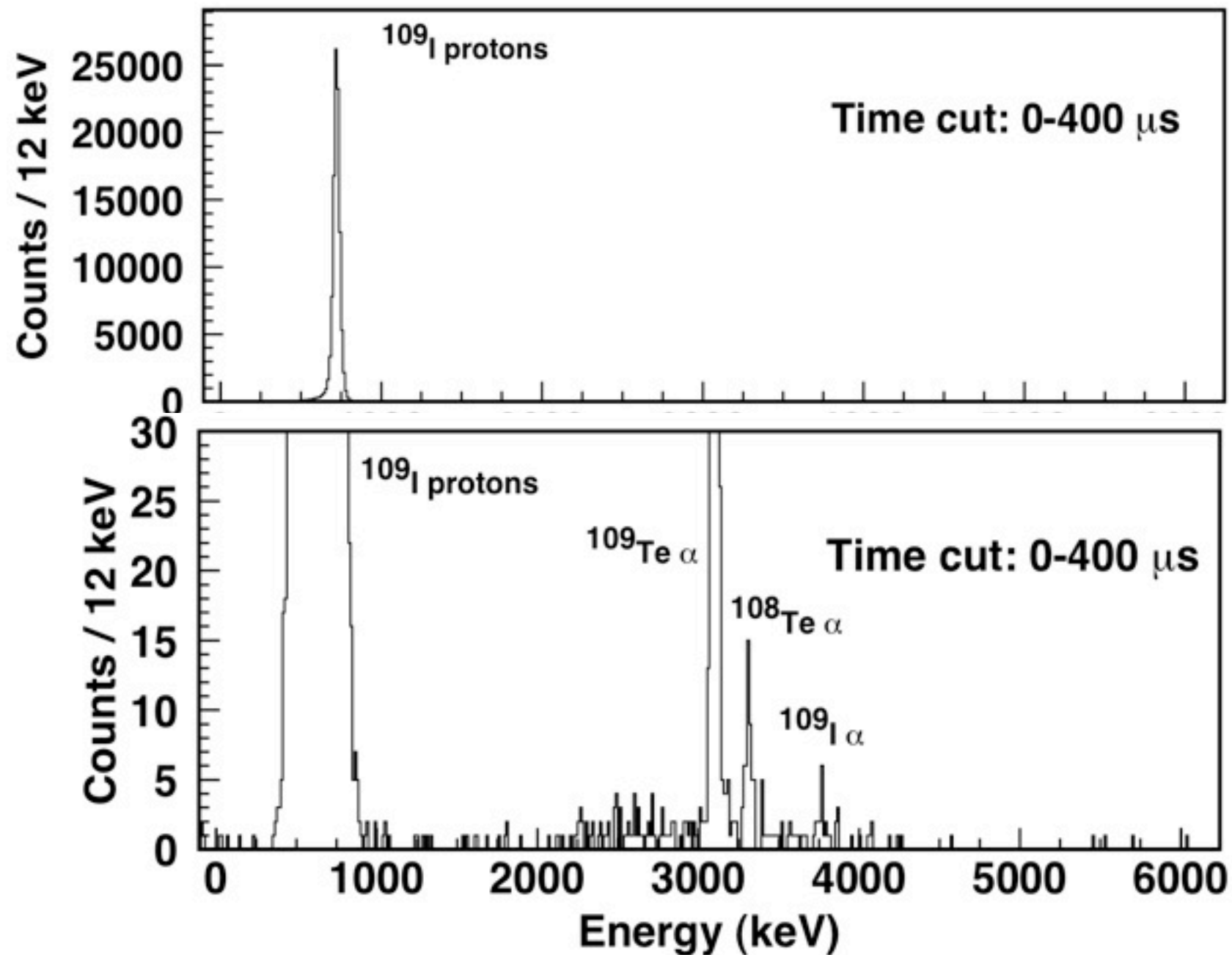


Recoil Mass Spectrometer at the HRIBF, ORNL



DSSD (40x40, 65 μm)
+ veto detectors

alpha decay of ^{109}I : results

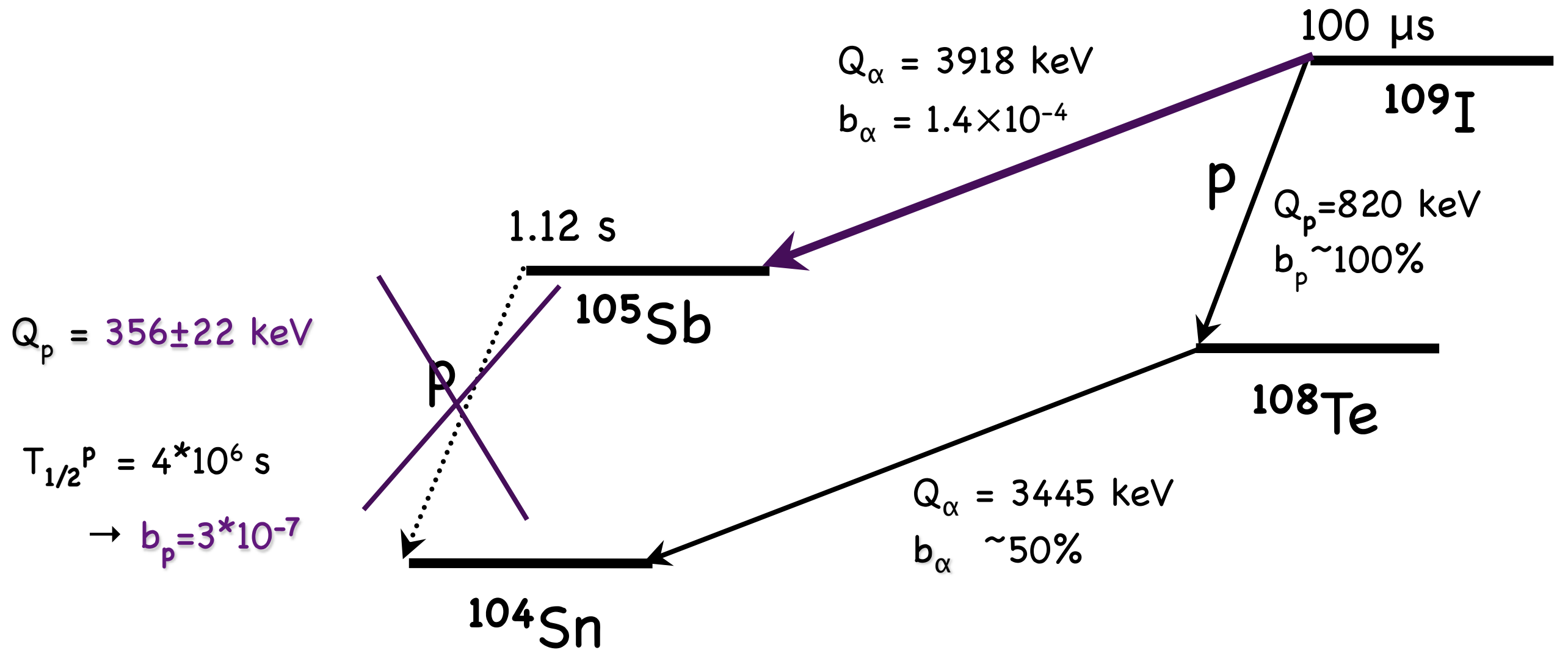


implanted 153 000 ^{109}I ions at RMS at HRIBF

$$E_{\alpha}(^{109}\text{I}) = 3774 \pm 20 \text{ keV} \Rightarrow Q_{\alpha}(^{109}\text{I}) = 3918 \pm 21 \text{ keV}$$

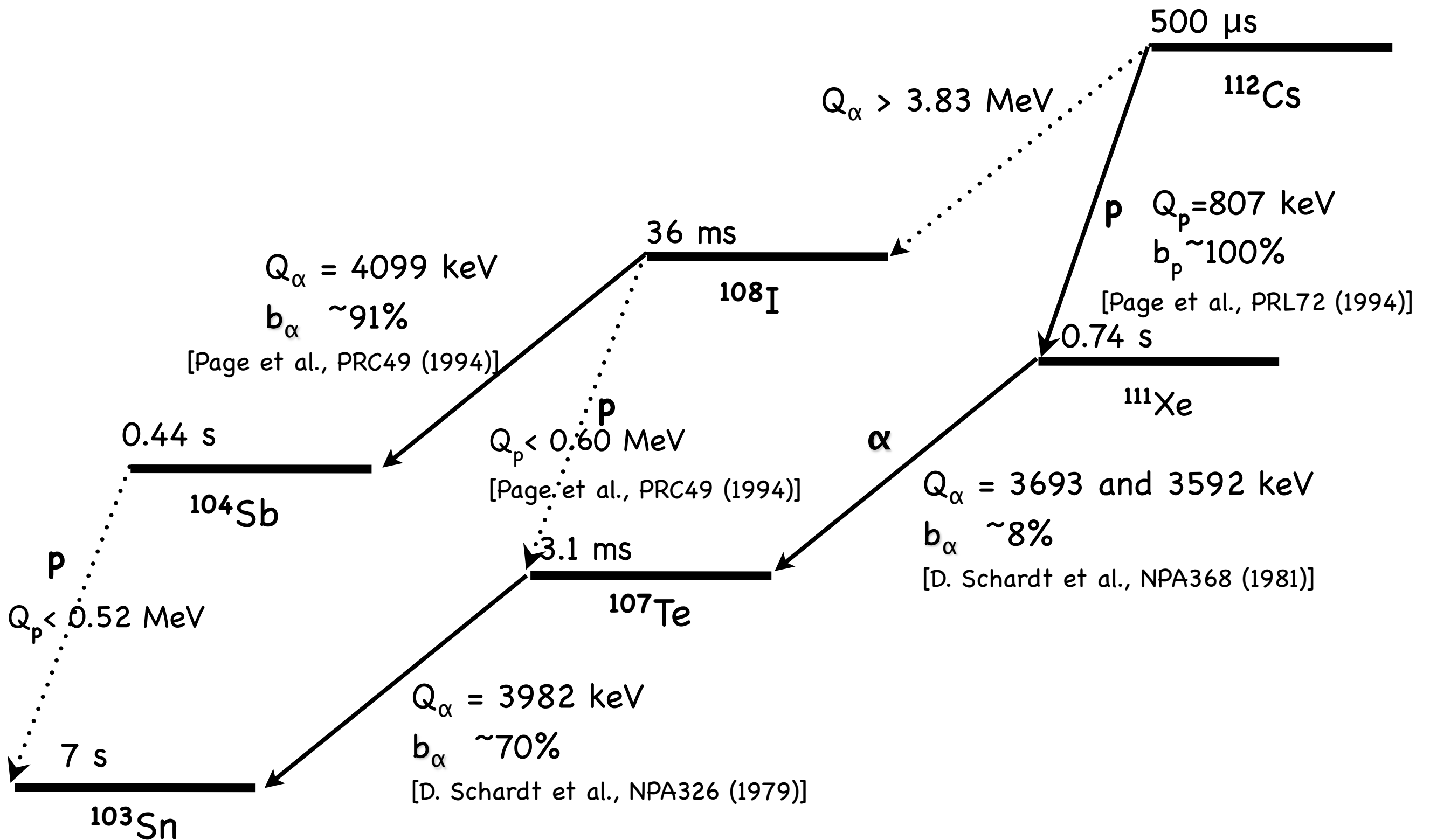
$$b_{\alpha} = (1.4 \pm 0.4) \cdot 10^{-4} \rightarrow T_{1/2}^{\alpha} \sim 1.5 \text{ s}$$

alpha decay of ^{109}I \rightarrow Q_p -value of ^{105}Sb



\Rightarrow Practically **impossible** to observe g.s. proton emission from ^{105}Sb

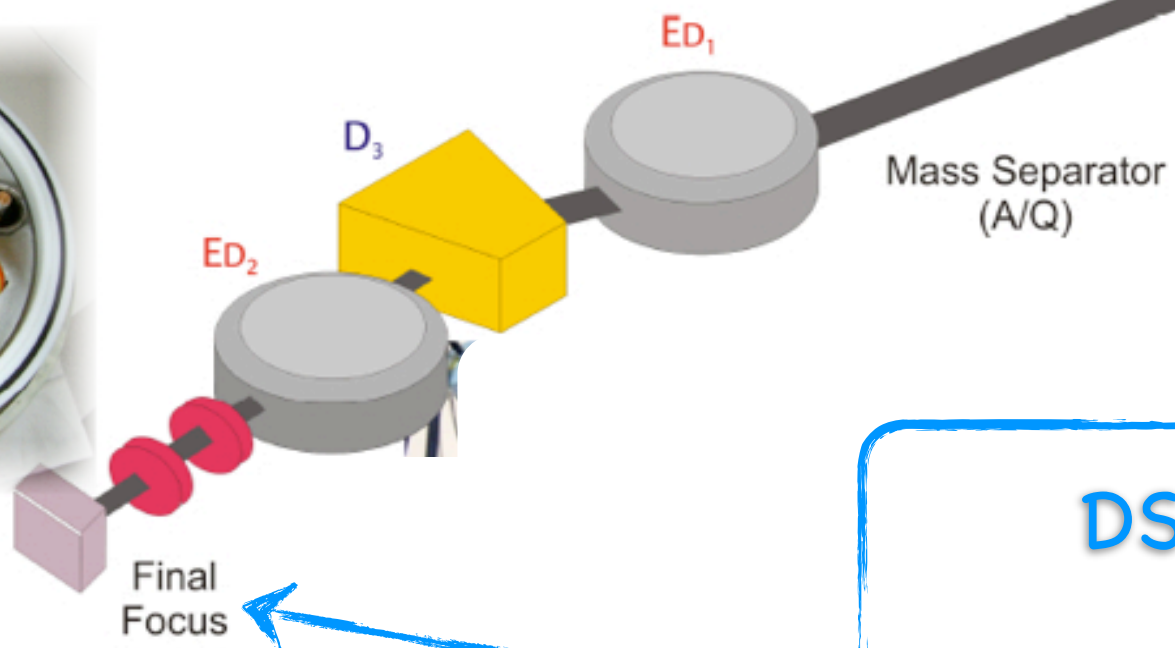
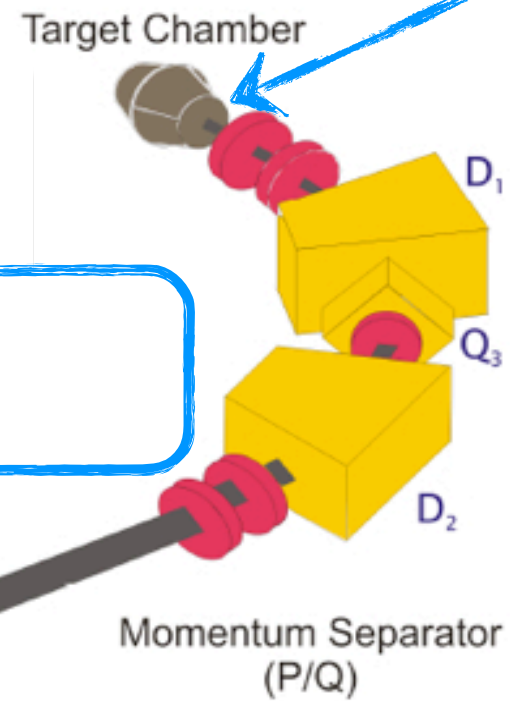
alpha decay of $^{112}\text{Cs} \rightarrow \text{Sp}$ in ^{104}Sb



alpha decay of $^{112}\text{Cs} \rightarrow \text{Sp}$ in ^{104}Sb

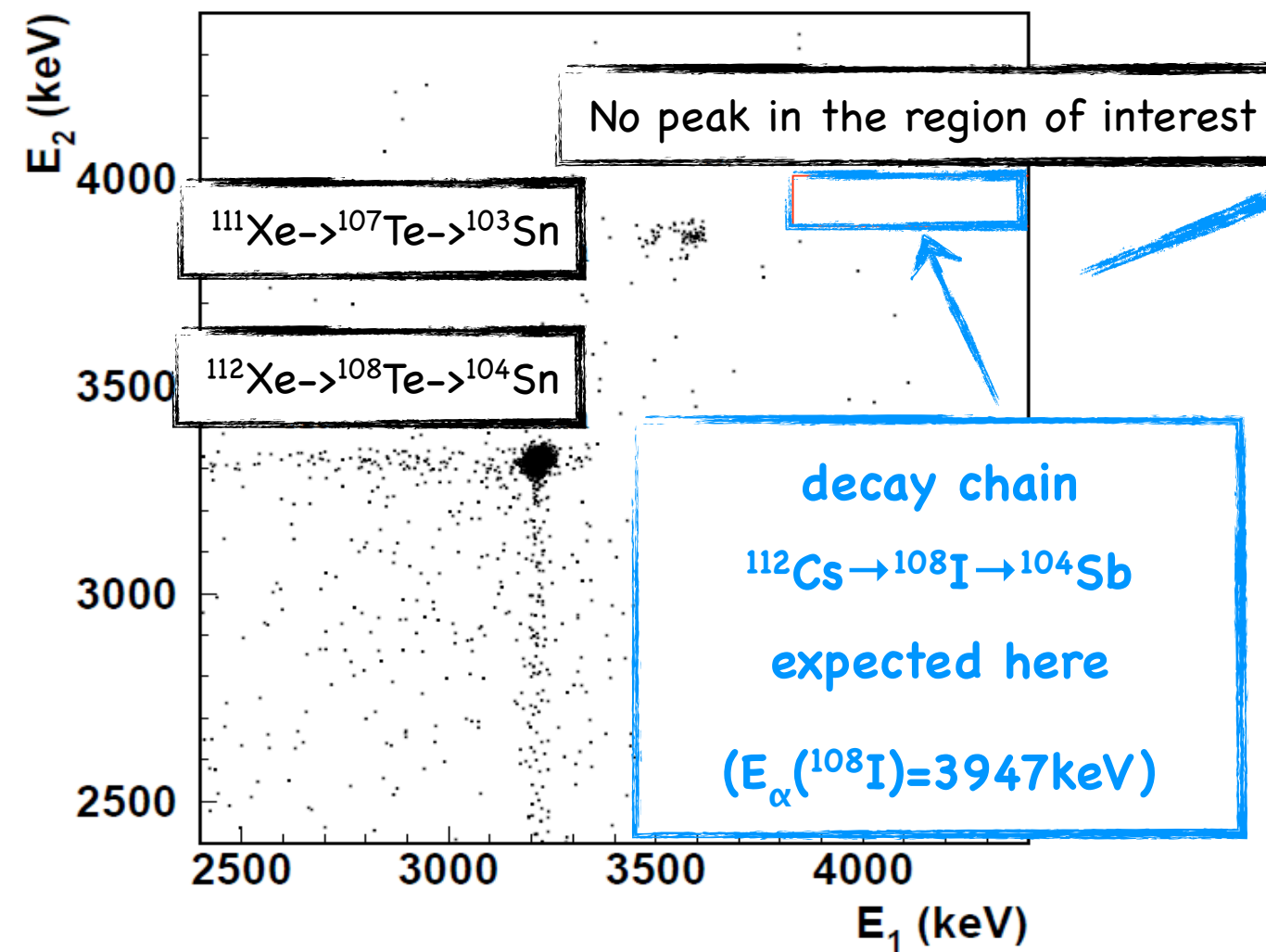


Recoil Mass Spectrometer at the HRIBF, ORNL



DSSD (40x40, 65 μm)
+ veto detectors

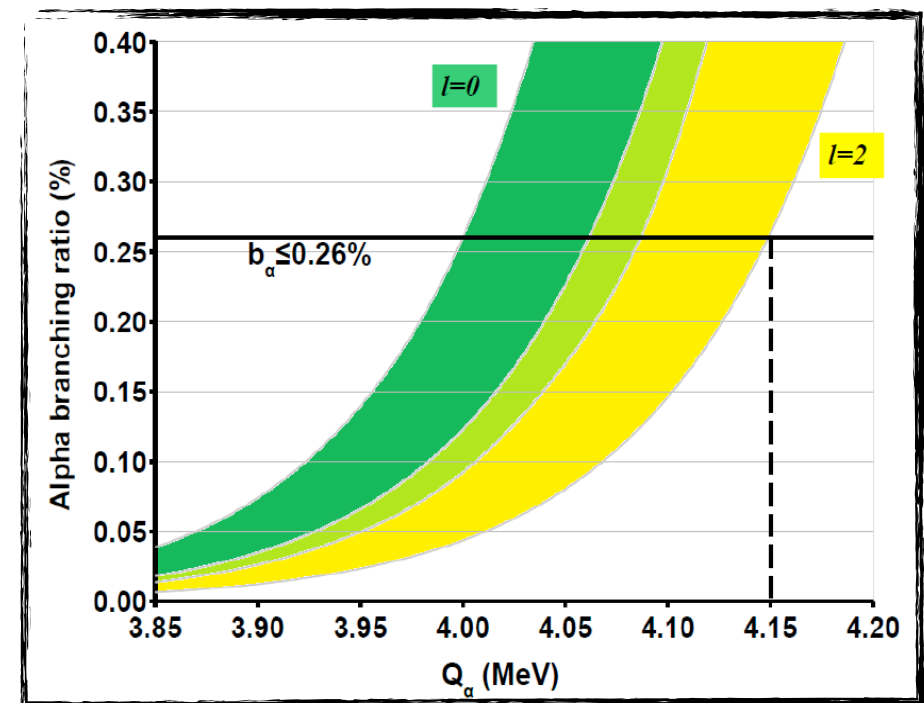
alpha decay of ^{112}Cs : results \rightarrow alpha-alpha correlations



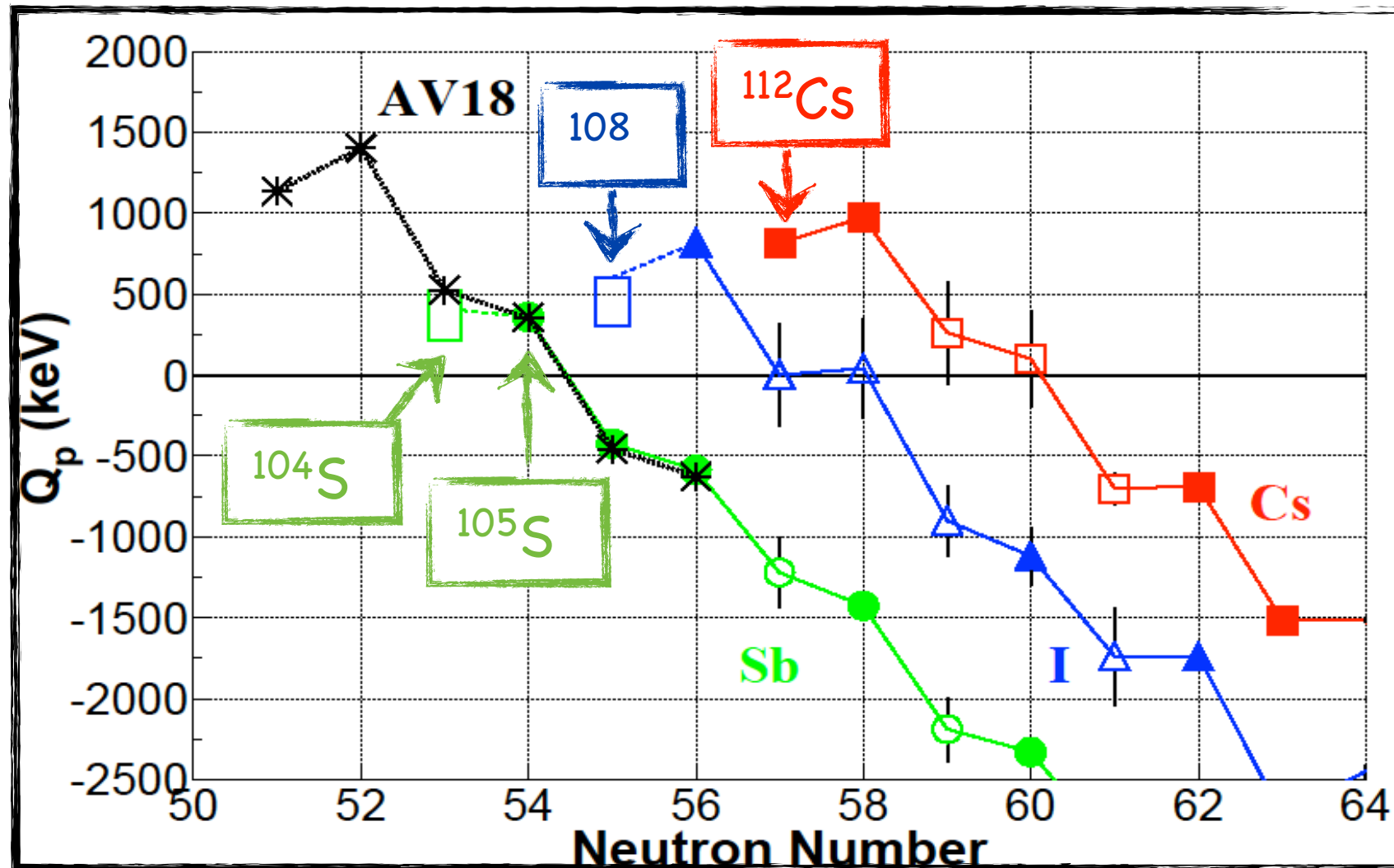
Alpha decay of ^{112}Cs not observed

alpha branching ratio $< 0.26\%$

	Q_p (MeV)	Q_{α} (MeV)
^{104}Sb	0.15-0.52	
^{108}I	0.24-0.60	
^{112}Cs		3.83-4.21

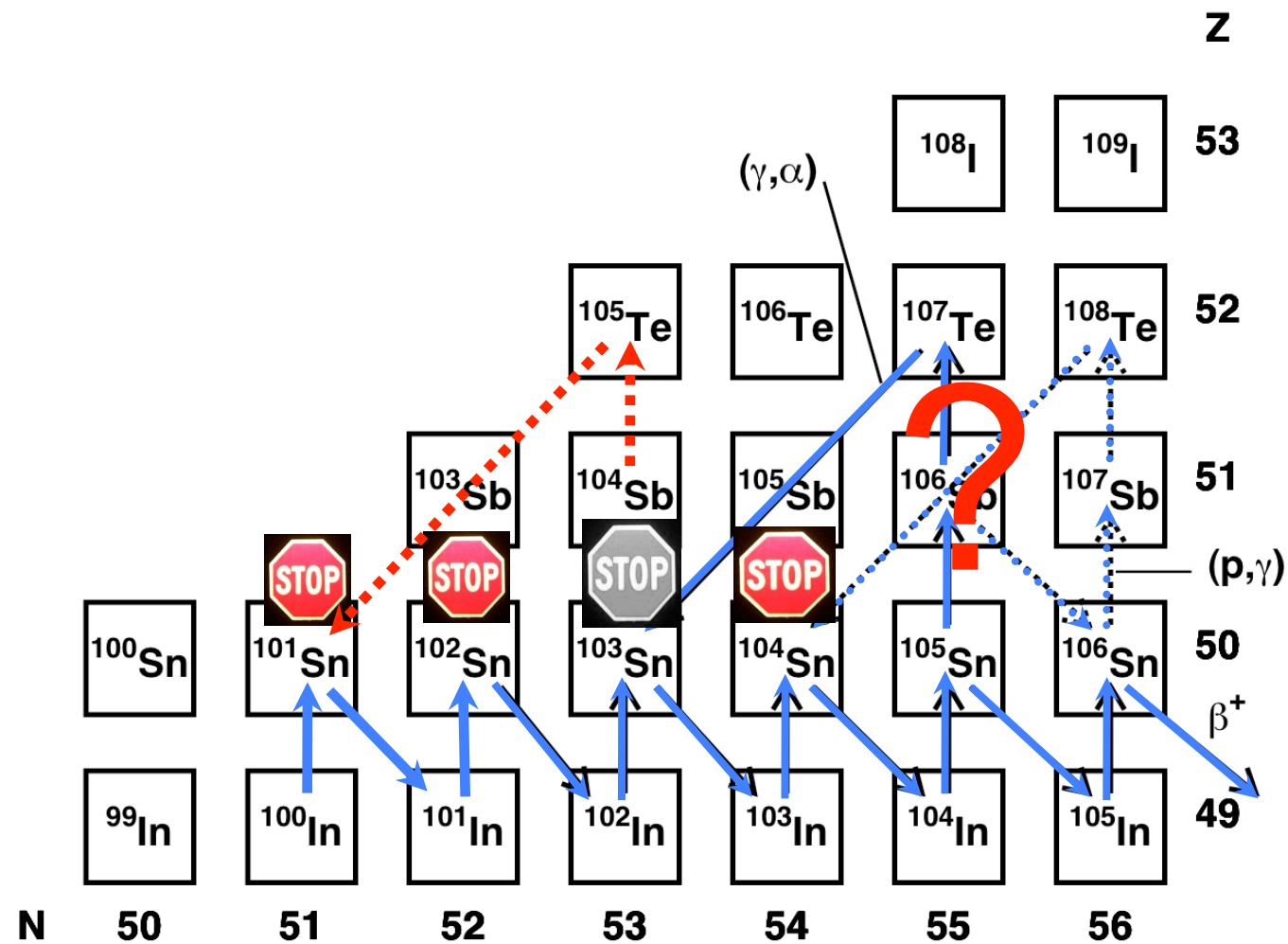


^{109}I and ^{112}Cs results: odd-even effects on S_p energy



- strong staggering of the S_p values for odd-Z isotopes near ^{100}Sn
- calculations with AV18 possible for Z=51 Sb isotopes:
binding energies calculated for Sn and Sb isotopes and S_p values normalized to the measured $S_p(^{105}\text{Sb})$
==> ^{103}Sb will be very unstable ($T_{1/2} \sim \text{ps}$) but thanks to the odd-even effects, ^{102}Sb may be a "longer-lived" proton emitter ($T_{1/2} \sim \text{ns}$)

^{109}I and ^{112}Cs results: rp-process termination

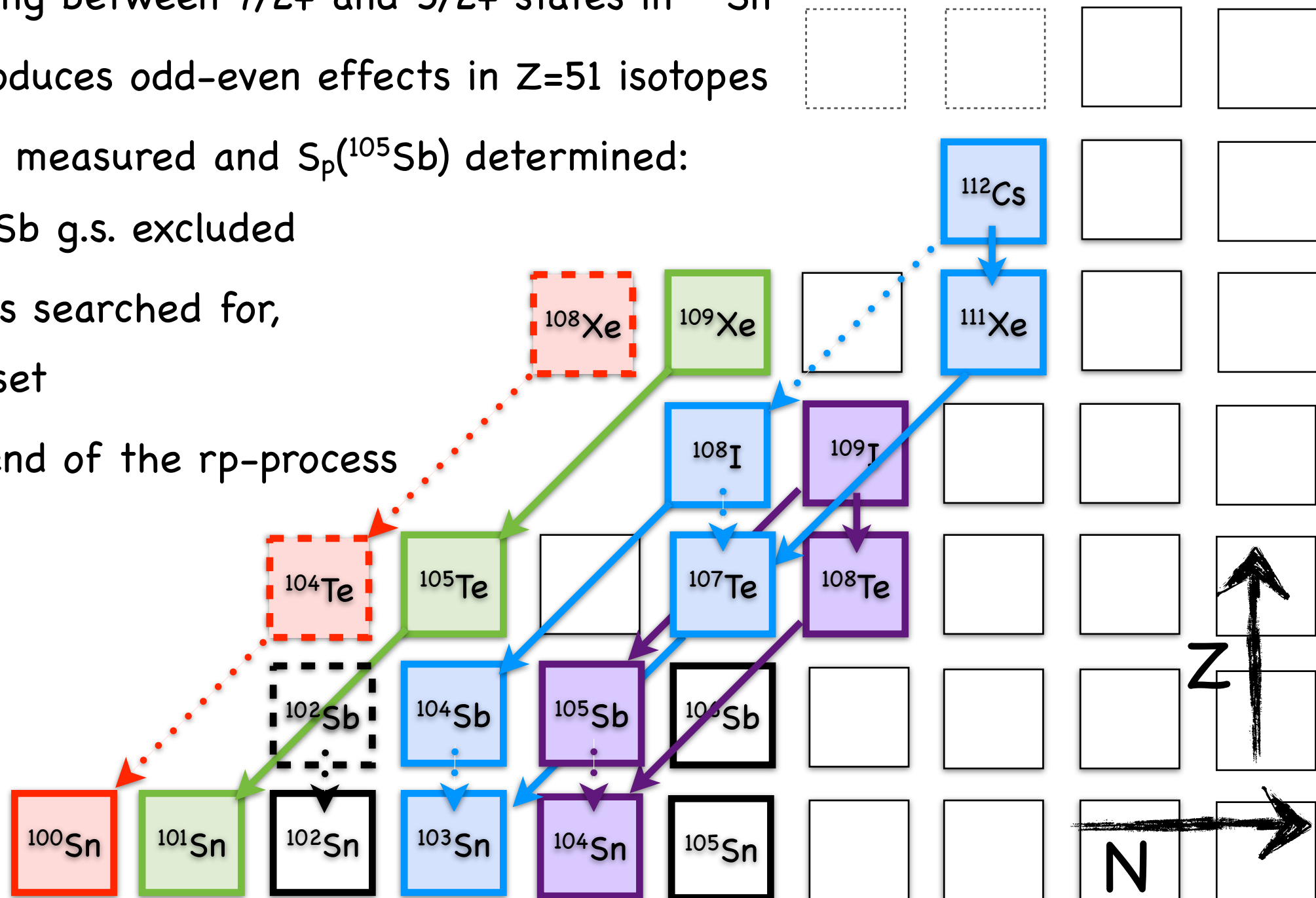


New Q_p values:

- ^{105}Sb excludes formation of Sn-Sb-Te cycle at ^{104}Sn and corresponding enhancement in energy production and X-ray luminosity during the tail end of an X-ray burst
 - ^{104}Sb excludes the formation of the cycle already at ^{103}Sn
 - ^{106}Sb suggests that very little cycling happens at rp-process end [Elomaa et al., PRL 102 (2009)]
- => the rp-process simply dies out

summary

- Fine structure in the alpha decay of ^{105}Te observed (α and γ)
- Observed ordering of $5/2^+$ and $7/2^+$ levels explained by theory (AV18,N3LO...): due to unusually strong pairing interaction between $g_{7/2}$ neutrons and unusually small energy splitting between $7/2^+$ and $5/2^+$ states in ^{101}Sn
- The same SM reproduces odd-even effects in $Z=51$ isotopes
- Alpha decay of ^{109}I measured and $S_p(^{105}\text{Sb})$ determined: proton decay of ^{105}Sb g.s. excluded
- Alpha decay of ^{112}Cs searched for, limits on $S_p(^{104}\text{Sb})$ set
- No cycling at the end of the rp-process



outlook

- Keep searching for the decay chain ($^{112}\text{Ba} \rightarrow$) $^{108}\text{Xe} \rightarrow ^{104}\text{Te} \rightarrow ^{100}\text{Sn}$
- Keep searching for the alpha decay branch in the decay of ^{112}Cs

References

PHYSICAL REVIEW C 73, 061301(R) (2006)

α decay of ^{105}Te

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Received 9 March 2006; published 1 June 2006

PRL 97, 082501 (2006)

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

week ending
25 AUGUST 2006

Discovery of ^{109}Xe and ^{105}Te : Superaligned α Decay near Doubly Magic ^{100}Sn

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PRL 99, 022504 (2007)

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

week ending
13 JULY 2007

Single-Neutron States in ^{101}Sn

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Received April 2007; published 12 July 2007

PRL 105, 162502 (2010)

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

week ending
15 OCTOBER 2010

Orbital Dependent Nucleonic Pairing in the Lightest Known Isotopes of Tin

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(Received 14 August 2010; published 12 October 2010)

PRL 98, 212501 (2007)

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

week ending
25 MAY 2007

α Decay of ^{109}I and Its Implications for the Proton Decay of ^{105}Sb and the Astrophysical Rapid Proton-Capture Process

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(Received 7 March 2007; published 23 May 2007)

Experimental study of the decays of ^{112}Cs and ^{111}Xe

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(Dated: September 27, 2011)

THANK YOU!